



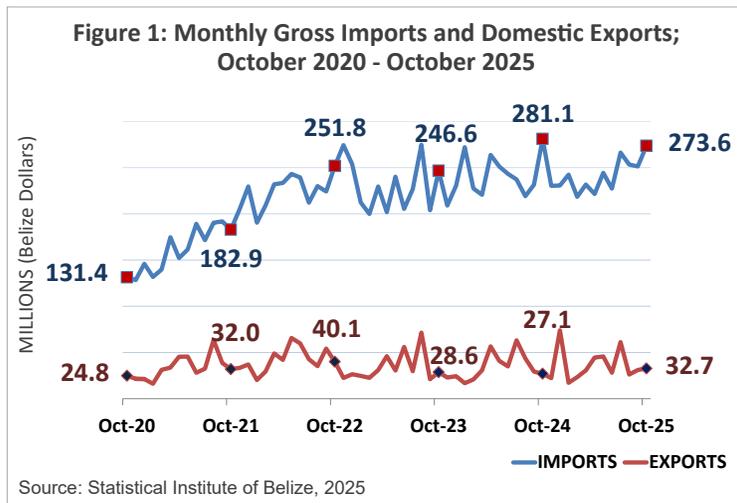
# ET EXTERNAL TRADE

## STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

### IMPORTS DOWN 2.7%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 19.8% IN OCTOBER 2025

#### IMPORTS

**October 2025:** Belize's total merchandise imports for the month of October 2025 were valued at \$273.6 million. This was an increase of 2.7 percent or \$7.5 million from October 2024, when imports were valued at \$281.1 million (see Figure 1).



#### DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Several commodity categories contributed to the overall decline in merchandise imports, with the sharpest decreases observed in 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' and 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants'. Conversely, the categories of 'Manufactured Goods' and 'Crude Materials' saw the most notable increases during the month (see Figure 2).

#### Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' fell by \$7.3 million, from \$67.4 million in October 2024 to \$60.1 million in October 2025, due to reduced purchases of four-cylinder vehicles, medical imaging equipment, and air-conditioning units.

#### Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The category of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' recorded a \$4.7 million decrease, from \$47 million to \$42.3 million. This was the result of reduced purchases of regular fuel coupled with the fact that there were no imports of kerosene fuel during the month.

#### Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' dropped by \$4.6 million, from \$38.4 million in October of last year to \$33.8 million in October of this year, due to lower imports of jerseys, hygiene products, and T-shirts.

#### Other Manufactures

The 'Other Manufactures' category declined by \$2.6 million, from \$24 million to \$21.4 million, driven by reduced imports of lighting fixtures, printed essentials, and plastic bottles.

#### Chemicals Products

Purchases of 'Chemical Products' fell by \$1.7 million, from \$24.6 million in October of 2024 to \$22.9 million in October of 2025, owing to lower imports of fertilizers.

#### Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' decreased by \$0.9 million, from \$2.9 million to \$1.9 million, the result of reduced purchases of chemical wood pulp.

#### INCREASING CATEGORIES:

#### Manufactured Goods

Imports of 'Manufactured Goods' rose by \$5.9 million, from \$36.1 million to \$42 million, largely due to increased purchases of galvanized steel coils, building cement, and glass bottles.

#### Crude Materials

The category of 'Crude Materials' was up by \$4.7 million, more than doubling from \$3.4 million in October 2024 to \$8.1 million in October 2025, primarily attributed to higher purchases of treated pine lumber.

#### Food and Live Animals

'Food and Live Animals' saw an increase of \$2.6 million, from \$30.1 million to \$32.6 million, driven by higher importation of wheat and coffee.

#### Beverages and Tobacco

The 'Beverages and Tobacco' category rose by \$0.6 million, from \$3.9 million in October of last year to \$4.6 million in October of this year, reflecting increased imports of beer.

#### FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR:

Merchandise imports for the first ten months of the year, January to October 2025, amounted to \$2.431 billion, representing a 0.7 percent or \$17.1 million decrease from \$2.448 billion recorded during the same period last year.

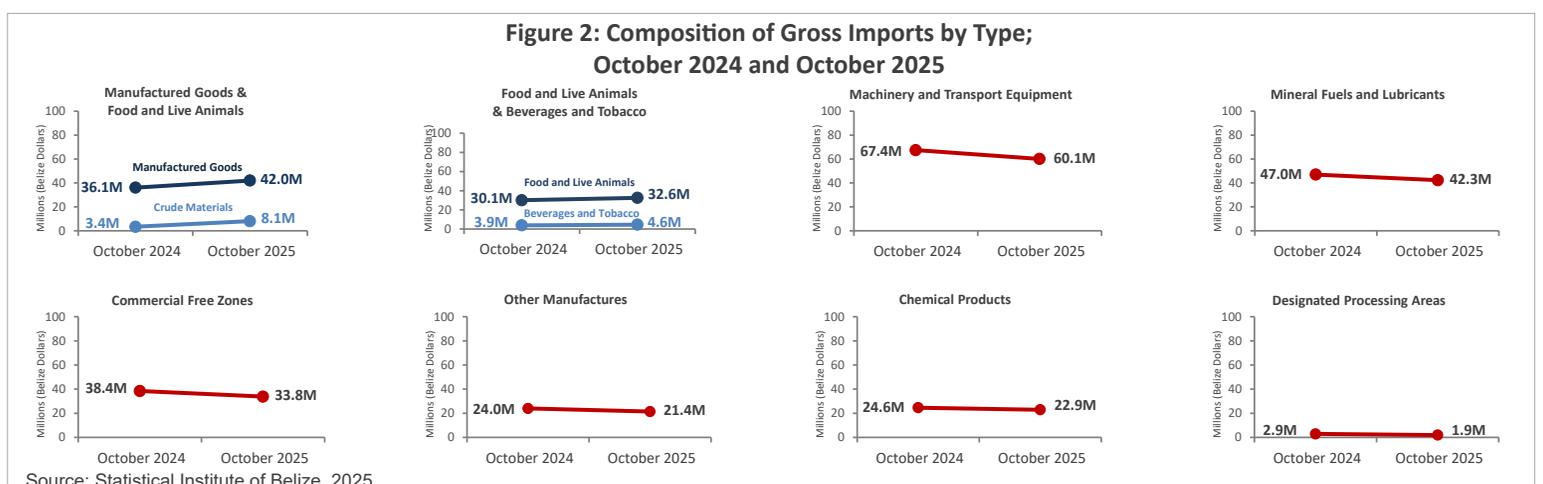
#### DECREASING CATEGORIES:

#### Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The category of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' recorded the largest decline for the first ten months of the year, decreasing by \$37.5 million from \$370.7 million in 2024 to \$333.2 million in 2025. This was mainly driven by lower imports of regular, kerosene, diesel, and premium fuels, combined with a decrease in international fuel prices.

#### Machinery and Transport Equipment

Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' declined by \$21.9 million, from \$614.5 million during the first ten months of 2024 to \$592.6 million during the same period in 2025. This decrease reflects a reduction in high-value purchases during 2025, compared to last year when the country imported various large items such as industrial generators and gas turbines during the same period.



**Other Manufactures**

'Other Manufactures' fell by \$11.4 million, from \$195.1 million to \$183.7 million, due to reduced purchases of measuring instruments, metal furniture, and plastic crates.

**Designated Processing Areas**

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' decreased by \$5.1 million, from \$29.6 million in 2024 to \$24.5 million in 2025, driven by lower imports of glass containers.

**Oils & Fats**

The 'Oils & Fats' category decreased by \$3 million, from \$31.6 million to \$28.7 million, reflecting a decline in imports of cooking oils during the first ten months of the year.

**INCREASING CATEGORIES:**

**Manufactured Goods**

Among the major commodity categories, 'Manufactured Goods' saw the largest increase for the period, rising by \$24.7 million from \$325.5 million to \$350.2 million. This was mainly due to heightened imports of galvanized steel coils, building cement, and metal cylinders.

**Food and Live Animals**

The 'Food and Live Animals' category increased by \$16.4 million, from \$272.9 million in 2024 to \$289.2 million in 2025, the result of greater purchases of wheat, sweet biscuits and groceries.

**Commercial Free Zone**

Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' were up by \$10.3 million, from \$291.8 million to \$302.1 million, owing to increased imports of cigarettes.

**Crude Materials**

Purchases of 'Crude Materials' went up by \$6.4 million during the period, from \$43.4 million in 2024 to \$49.8 million in 2025, reflecting heightened imports of treated pine lumber and used clothing.

**Chemical Products**

Imports of 'Chemical Products' rose by \$3.6 million, from \$224.6 million during the first ten months of last year to \$228.2 million during the first ten months of this year, mainly due to higher purchases of fertilizers.

**DOMESTIC EXPORTS**

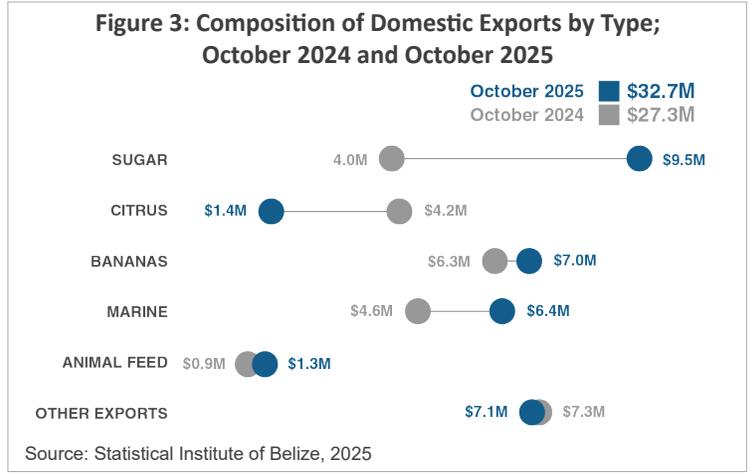
**October 2025:** Total domestic exports for the month of October 2025 amounted to \$32.7 million, an increase of 19.8 percent or \$5.4 million when compared to exports for October 2024, which were valued at \$27.3 million (see Figure 1).

**INCREASING CATEGORIES:**

For the month of October 2025, sugar and marine products were the primary contributors to overall export growth. Sugar exports more than doubled, increasing by \$5.4 million from \$4.0 million in October of last year to \$9.5 million in October of this year. Earnings from marine products rose by \$1.8 million during the month, from \$4.6 million to \$6.4 million, reflecting improved sales of lobster meat and conch. Banana exports grew by \$0.7 million, from \$6.3 million in October of last year to \$7.0 million in October of this year. Revenues from cattle and pepper sauces were both up by \$0.4 million, with the former rising from \$0.9 million to \$1.3 million, while the latter increased from \$0.5 million to \$0.9 million (see Figure 3).

**DECREASING CATEGORIES:**

On the other hand, citrus products were the only major export commodity to record a decrease for the month. Revenues from this commodity fell by \$2.8 million, from \$4.2 million in October 2024 to \$1.4 million in October 2025, mainly due to lower shipments of orange concentrate (see Figure 3).



**MAJOR DESTINATIONS:**

The rise in sugar exports during the month was reflected in increased earnings from the United Kingdom, which went up by \$5.3 million from \$5.8 million in October 2024 to \$11.2 million in October 2025. Similarly, improved sales of this commodity to the 'Other European Union' countries resulted in a \$1.6 million increase in earnings from this region, from \$3.6 million to \$5.1 million. Heightened exports of cattle to Mexico led to a \$0.8 million rise in revenues from this country, from \$1.0 million in October of last year to \$1.8 million in October of this year. Earnings from 'Other' countries were up from \$1.1 million to \$1.8 million, on account of increased shipments of lobster meat. Revenues from Central America rose by \$0.8 million, from \$1.1 million to \$1.9 million, reflecting improved animal feed exports to the region. Conversely, reduced sales of orange concentrate resulted in a \$3.5 million decrease in earnings from CARICOM, with exports to these countries falling from \$8.9 million in October 2024 to \$5.3 million in October 2025 (see Figure 4).

**FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR:**

Merchandise exports for the period January to October 2025 totaled \$340.7 million, down 6.6 percent or \$24.1 million from the first ten months of last year, when exports were valued at \$364.8 million.

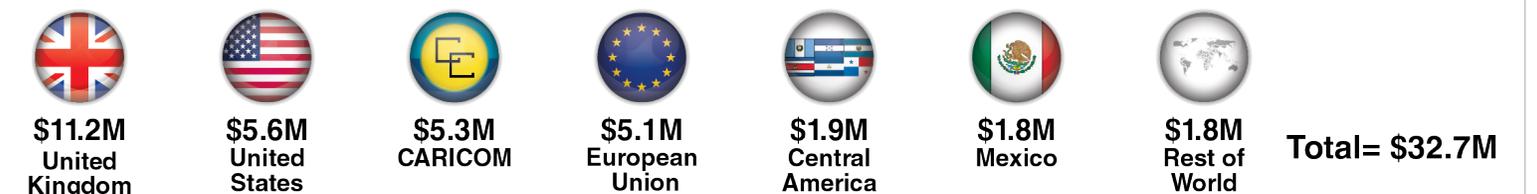
**DECREASING CATEGORIES:**

Notwithstanding the strong performance of sugar during the month of October, this commodity was the largest contributor to the overall decline in export earnings during the first ten months of the year. Earnings from sugar decreased by \$20.6 million from \$128.4 million in 2024 to \$107.8 million in 2025, the result of less favourable market prices. This was followed by molasses, which was down by \$11.5 million from \$21.4 million to \$9.9 million, also driven by lower market prices. 'Alcoholic Beverages' recorded a notable decrease of \$5.8 million, from \$7.8 million in the first ten months of last year to \$2 million in the first ten months of this year. Exports of animal feed declined by \$2.7 million from \$11.5 million in 2024 to \$8.8 million in 2025, while lower shipments of orange concentrate and oranges led to a \$2.0 million reduction in citrus exports, from \$31.7 million to \$29.7 million. Additionally, sales of pepper sauces were down by \$0.9 million, from \$7.2 million in the first ten months of 2024 to \$6.3 million in the first ten months of 2025.

**INCREASING CATEGORIES:**

Conversely, marine products recorded the largest improvement in export earnings during the ten-month period, reflecting increased shipments of lobster products and conch. Revenues from these products rose by \$10 million from \$29.1 million in 2024 to \$39.1 million in 2025. Earnings from red kidney beans were up by a notable \$3.8 million, from \$4.3 million to \$8.1 million, while exports of cattle rose by \$3.1 million, from \$9.5 million in 2024 to \$12.6 million in 2025. Banana exports grew by \$3 million, from \$72.5 million during the first ten months of last year to \$75.6 million in the first ten months of this year. Additionally, sales of crude soybean oil rose by \$2.5 million, from \$7.2 million in 2024 to \$9.7 million in 2025.

Figure 4: Composition of Exports by Destination; October 2025 (Millions of BZ Dollars)



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025