



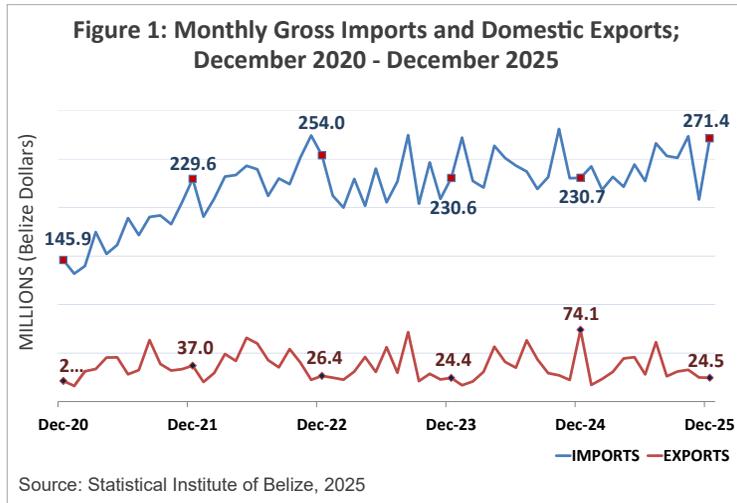
ET EXTERNAL TRADE

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

IMPORTS UP 17.7%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 68.2% IN DECEMBER 2025

IMPORTS

December 2025: Belize's total merchandise imports for the month of December 2025 were valued at \$271.4 million. This represented an increase of 17.7 percent or \$40.7 million from December 2024, when imports were valued at \$230.7 million (see Figure 1).



INCREASING CATEGORIES:

The most significant increases for December 2025 were in the categories of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' and 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants,' while the 'Commercial Free Zone' was the only one that had any notable decline for the month (see Figure 2).

Machinery and Transport Equipment

The category of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' was up by \$11.9 million, from \$52.8 million in December 2024 to \$64.7 million in December 2025. This was the result of several high-value items being imported in December 2025, including a sailing catamaran, commercial kitchen equipment, and an aircraft engine. In contrast, imports during December 2024 consisted mainly of heavy-duty trucks and four-cylinder vehicles which were not of comparable high values.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' increased by \$10.4 million, from \$27.0 million to \$37.4 million, largely driven by higher import volumes of regular, kerosene, and premium fuels, alongside increased imports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Chemical Products

'Chemical Products' rose by \$6.7 million, from \$23.6 million in December 2024 to \$30.3 million in December 2025, driven by increased imports of fertilizers and insecticides.

Food and Live Animals

Due to higher imports of condensed milk, pineapple concentrate, and processed cheese, the 'Food and Live Animals' category increased by \$6.6 million during the month, from \$23.5 million to \$30.1 million.

Manufactured Goods

The category of 'Manufactured Goods' was up by \$4.7 million, from \$34.4 million to \$39.1 million, driven by the importation of galvanized steel coils in December 2025, when no such imports were made in December 2024.

Crude Materials

'Crude Materials' went up by \$2.3 million, from \$3.7 million in December 2024 to \$6.0 million in December 2025, primarily attributed to higher purchases of treated pine lumber.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' increased by \$1.4 million, from \$2.1 million to \$3.5 million, reflecting higher purchases of chemical wood pulp and shrimp feed.

Other Manufactures

Increased purchases of mainly books contributed to a \$1.1 million rise in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$18.3 million in December 2024 to \$19.4 million in December 2025.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Commercial Free Zone

Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' dropped by \$4.1 million, from \$35.5 million in December of 2024 to \$31.4 million in December of 2025, due to lower imports of cigarettes, printed T-shirts, and personal hygiene products.

ANNUAL 2025:

Merchandise imports for the year 2025 amounted to \$2.911 billion, representing a marginal 0.06 percent or \$1.6 million increase from \$2.909 billion recorded during the year 2024.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Manufactured Goods

'Manufactured Goods' was the largest contributor to the overall increase in merchandise imports during the year, increasing by \$25.2 million, from \$391.5 million in 2024 to \$416.7 million in 2025. This was mainly driven by higher imports of galvanized steel coils, building cement, and metal cylinders.

Food and Live Animals

Imports of 'Food and Live Animals' rose by \$15.3 million, from \$329.0 million in 2024 to \$344.3 million in 2025, mainly due to higher purchases of evaporated milk, sweet biscuits, and animal nutrition premixes.

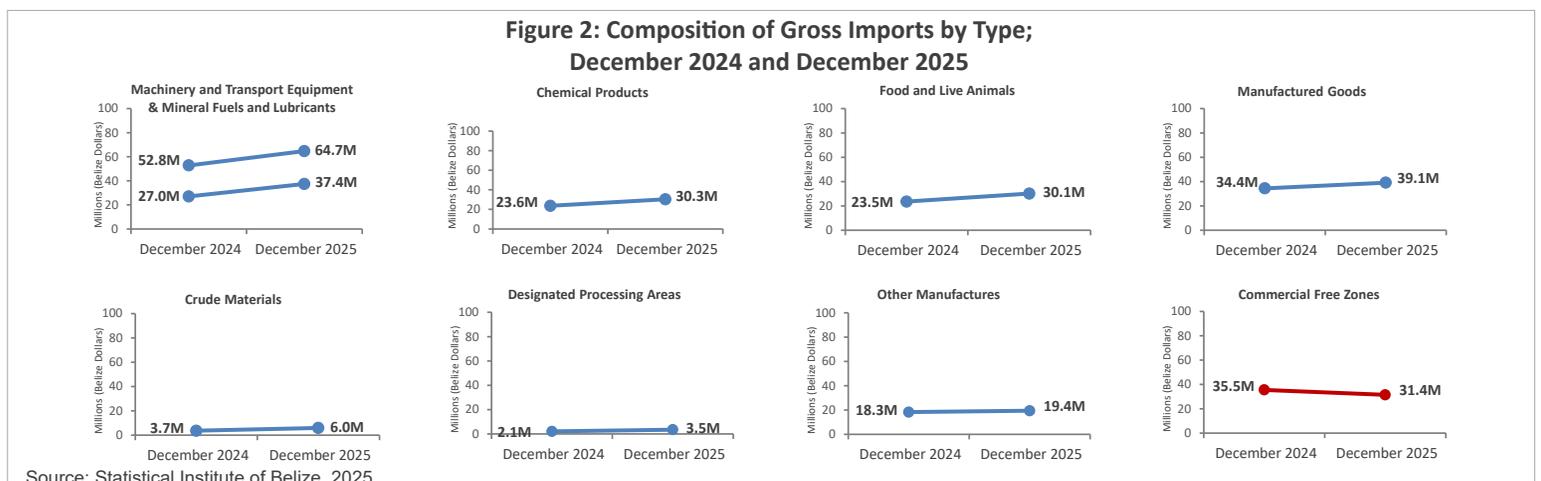
Chemical Products

'Chemical Products' went up by \$8.3 million, from \$271.7 million to \$280.0 million, the result of higher purchases of fertilizers and medicines and healthcare products.

Crude Materials

The category of 'Crude Materials' recorded a \$7.2 million increase for the year, from \$50.8 million in 2024 to \$58.0 million in 2025, reflecting heightened imports of treated pine lumber and used clothing.

Figure 2: Composition of Gross Imports by Type; December 2024 and December 2025



Commercial Free Zone

Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' were up by \$5.6 million for the year, from \$356.0 million in 2024 to \$361.6 million in 2025, owing to increased purchases of cigarettes, tennis shoes, and jerseys.

Beverages and Tobacco

Due mainly to increased imports of beer, 'Beverages and Tobacco' rose by \$0.9 million, from \$56.3 million to \$57.2 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Machinery and Transport Equipment

While 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' was the main contributor to the growth in imports throughout 2024, for the year 2025 this category recorded the largest decline. This reflected the fact that several high-value purchases which boosted imports were purchased in 2024, including an industrial generator and gas turbines, while there were no such items imported in 2025. As a result, this category fell by \$25.8 million, from \$729.1 million in 2024 to \$703.3 million in 2025.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

Notwithstanding the large increases recorded for the last months of the year, annual imports of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' declined by \$16.1 million, from \$416.8 million in 2024 to \$400.7 million in 2025. This reflected lower purchases of regular, kerosene, and premium fuels, combined with a reduction in international fuel prices.

Other Manufactures

'Other Manufactures' fell by \$12.1 million, from \$233.5 million to \$221.4 million, due to reduced purchases of measuring instruments, metal furniture, and plastic crates.

Oils & Fats

The 'Oils & Fats' category declined by \$3.7 million, from \$37.1 million in 2024 to \$33.4 million in 2025, reflecting reduced imports of cooking oils.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Areas' decreased by \$3.5 million, from \$33.6 million to \$30.1 million, driven by lower imports of glass containers.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

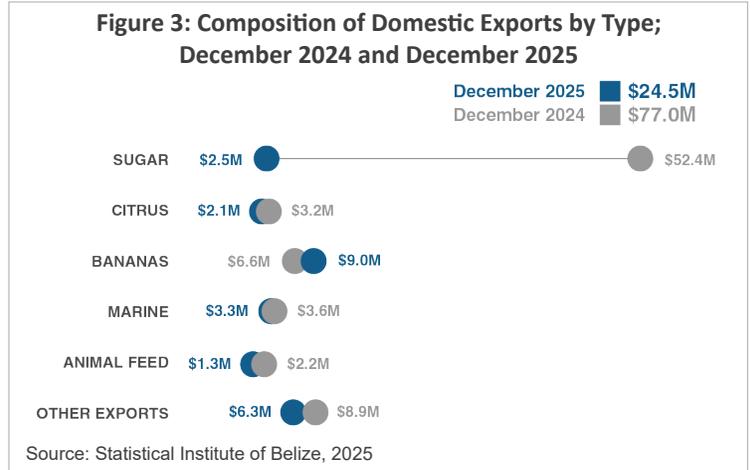
December 2025: Total domestic exports for the month of December 2025 amounted to \$24.5 million, down by 68.2 percent or \$52.5 million, when compared to exports for December 2024, which were valued at \$77.0 million (see Figure 1).

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The month of December 2025 saw the lowest level of merchandise exports for the year. This was largely due to sugar exports being considerably lower than they were in the same month of the previous year, as a bulk shipment of this commodity was dispatched during December 2024, while there were no such large shipments recorded for December 2025. Consequently, sugar earnings were down by \$49.9 million, from \$52.4 million in December 2024 to \$2.5 million in December 2025. Exports of molasses dropped by \$2.7 million, from \$2.8 million to \$0.03 million, while sales of alcoholic beverages were down from \$1.4 million to \$0.2 million. Earnings from citrus products declined by \$1.1 million, from \$3.2 million in December 2024 to \$2.1 million in December 2025, driven by lower sales of orange concentrate. Additionally, animal feed exports decreased by \$1.0 million, from \$2.2 million in December 2024 to \$1.3 million in December 2025, and revenue from marine products was down by \$0.3 million, from \$3.6 million to \$3.3 million, due to weaker lobster tail sales (see Figure 3).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Bananas, on the other hand, recorded the largest increase for the month. Exports of this commodity rose by \$2.4 million, from \$6.6 million in December 2024 to \$9.0 million in December 2025. Additionally, sales of cattle (formal) and pineapple concentrate were up by \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million, respectively (see Figure 3).



MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

The sharp contraction in sugar exports during the month was most evident in earnings from the United Kingdom, which declined by \$49.8 million, from \$54.5 million in December 2024 to \$4.6 million in December 2025. Export earnings from the United States of America decreased by \$4.7 million, from \$8.0 million to \$3.3 million, reflecting the absence of molasses shipments and reduced exports of alcoholic beverages in December 2025. Similarly, weaker sales of orange concentrate and sugar contributed to a \$1.9 million reduction in earnings from CARICOM, which were down from \$8.0 million in December 2024 to \$6.1 million in December 2025. Exports to Central America were also lower, as reduced shipments of animal feed resulted in revenues from this region falling from \$2.8 million to \$1.8 million. In contrast, exports to the Other European Union improved during the month, driven by increased banana sales, which lifted earnings from these countries by \$3.6 million, from \$2.1 million in December 2024 to \$5.6 million in December 2025. Stronger (formal) cattle sales to Mexico resulted in a \$0.7 million increase in revenues from that country, from \$1.2 million to \$2.0 million. Earnings from countries grouped as 'Other' rose from \$0.4 million to \$1.0 million, supported by increased shipments of lobster tails (see Figure 4).

ANNUAL 2025:

Merchandise exports for the year 2025 totaled \$390.0 million, down 16.0 percent or \$74.0 million from 2024, when annual exports were valued at \$464.2 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The decline in export earnings for the year 2025 was largely attributed to sugar, which recorded a strong performance in 2024, when higher volumes were sold at more favorable prices. For 2025, lower quantities were exported at less favourable prices and, as a result, revenues from sugar declined by \$68.6 million, from \$182.3 million to \$113.7 million. Molasses earnings dropped by \$14.9 million, from \$24.9 million in 2024 to \$10 million in 2025, reflecting lower prices for this commodity. Exports of animal feed declined by \$3.9 million, from \$14.9 million to \$11.0 million, and revenues from citrus products fell by \$3.5 million, from \$38.5 million to \$35.0 million, due to reduced shipments of orange concentrate and oranges. Alcoholic beverages saw a sharp decrease of \$7.6 million, from \$9.9 million in 2024 to \$2.3 million in 2025, while pineapple concentrate exports dropped by \$2.0 million, from \$2.5 million to \$0.5 million. Sawn wood sales also declined, from \$4.1 million to \$2.8 million, and pepper sauce exports decreased by \$1.2 million, from \$8.2 million in 2024 to \$7.0 million in 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Conversely, marine products recorded the largest gains for the year, driven by increased sales of lobster products and conch. Revenues from these products rose by \$9.2 million, from \$37.1 million in 2024 to \$46.4 million in 2025. Banana exports increased by \$6.9 million, from \$84.0 million to \$91.0 million. Earnings from red kidney beans were up by \$4.0 million, from \$4.3 million in 2024 to \$8.3 million in 2025, while (formal) cattle exports rose by \$4.3 million, from \$11.9 million to \$16.3 million. Additionally, crude soybean oil exports increased by \$3.0 million, from \$8.4 million during 2024 to \$11.4 million during 2025.

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

