

IMPORTS UP 11.7%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 12.7% IN JANUARY 2026

IMPORTS

January 2026: Belize’s total imports of goods for the month of January 2026 were valued at \$271.0 million. This represented an increase of 11.7 percent or \$28.5 million from January 2025 when imports were valued at \$242.6 million (see Figure 1). Most commodity categories recorded increased imports for the month, with ‘Machinery and Transport Equipment’ being the largest contributor to the overall rise. In contrast, ‘Manufactured Goods’ registered the most significant decline (see Figure 2).

Crude Materials

Imports of pasture grass seeds during the month drove a \$3.0 million increase in the ‘Crude Materials’ category in January 2026. As there were no recorded imports of this commodity in January 2025, the total for this category rose from \$3.8 million to \$6.8 million.

Other Manufactures

Goods classified as ‘Other Manufactures’ rose by \$1.0 million, from \$16.2 million in January of last year to \$17.2 million in January of this year, on account of greater purchases of prefabricated steel structures.

Food and Live Animals

The ‘Food and Live Animals’ category increased by \$0.5 million, from \$32.4 million to \$32.9 million, attributed to higher imports of wheat, shortening, and coffee.

Designated Processing Areas

Imports into the ‘Designated Processing Areas’ increased from \$2.5 million in January 2025 to \$3.0 million in January 2026, driven primarily by higher purchases of industrial boiler pressure parts.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Manufactured Goods

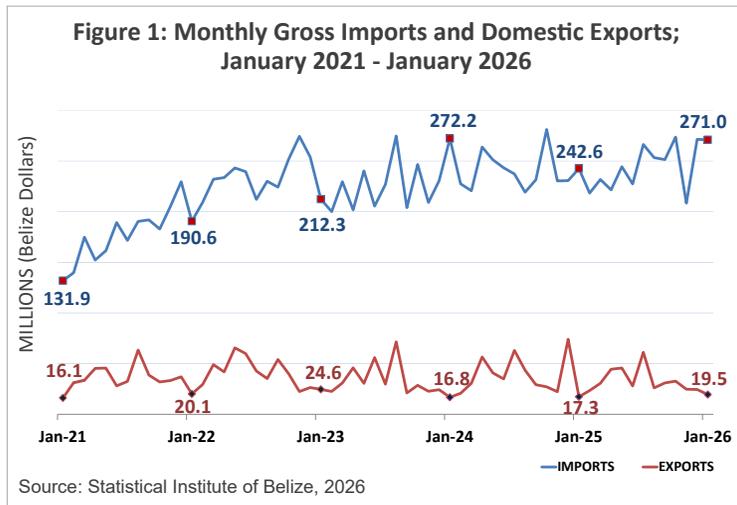
Imports of ‘Manufactured Goods’, including galvanized steel coils, corrugated steel rods, and galvanized steel strips, declined by \$2.7 million during the month, falling from \$36.0 million to \$33.3 million.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

January 2026: Total domestic exports for the month of January 2026 amounted to \$19.5 million, up by 12.7 percent or \$2.2 million when compared to exports from January 2025, which were valued at \$17.3 million (see Figure 1).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

The banana industry recorded a strong start to the year, emerging as the primary contributor to the overall increase in merchandise exports for the month. Earnings from this commodity rose by \$1.7 million, from \$6.1 million in January 2025 to \$7.8 million in January 2026 (see Figure 3). Additionally, sales of pepper sauces grew by \$0.7 million, more than doubling from \$0.4 million in January of last year to \$1.1 million in January of this year, while revenues from black eyed peas were up by \$0.2 million from \$0.07 million to \$0.3 million.



INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Machinery and Transport Equipment

After recording a decline for the year 2025, imports of ‘Machinery and Transport Equipment’ saw a notable uptick at the start of 2026, increasing by \$14.5 million, from \$61.6 million to \$76.1 million. This was primarily attributed to the importation of production machine lines during the month.

Commercial Free Zone

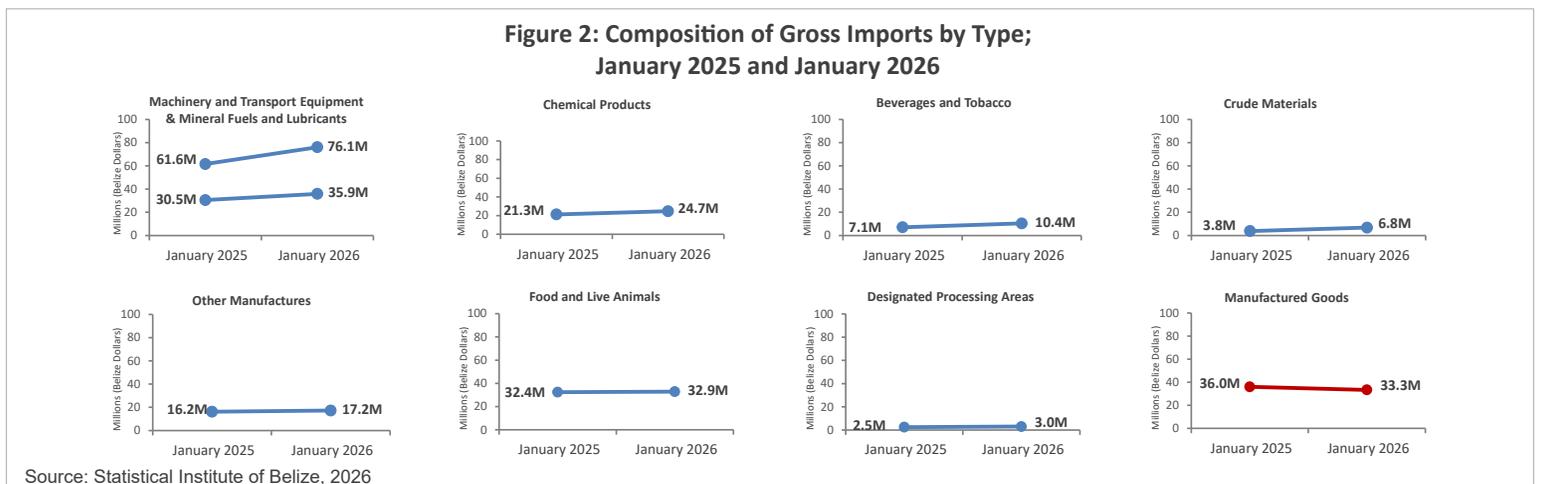
Goods destined for the ‘Commercial Free Zone’ saw a \$5.4 million increase during the month, from \$30.5 million to \$35.9 million, driven by higher imports of jerseys, T-shirts, and tennis shoes.

Chemical Products

Owing to the increased purchases of fertilizers, the ‘Chemical Products’ category rose by \$3.4 million, from \$21.3 million in January 2025 to \$24.7 million in January 2026.

Beverages and Tobacco

As a result of greater imports of cigarettes, the ‘Beverages and Tobacco’ category went up by \$3.3 million, from \$7.1 million to \$10.4 million.



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Conversely, exports of marine products declined during the month, from \$3.9 million in January 2025 to \$3.6 million in January 2026, mainly due to reduced sales of lobster products. Similarly, earnings from sugar were down by \$0.2 million, from \$1.3 million to \$1.1 million (see Figure 3).

MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

A notable rise in exports of bananas and sugar to the ‘Other European Union’ market, generated a \$2.8 million increase in revenue from that region, from \$2.1 million in January 2025 to \$4.9 million in January 2026. Similarly, higher exports of mainly conch and pepper sauces to the United States of America resulted in a \$0.8 million rise in earnings from this country, from \$3.5 million to \$4.4 million. In contrast, reduced sugar exports to CARICOM countries led to a decline in revenues from that region, from \$4.3 million in January of last year to \$3.8 million in January of this year. Lower exports of lobster products also contributed to a \$0.4 million decrease in earnings from ‘Other Countries’ over the same period. Additionally, revenue from the United Kingdom contracted by \$0.4 million, from \$4.0 million in January 2025 to \$3.6 million in January 2026, reflecting a reduction in banana exports to this region (see Figure 4).

