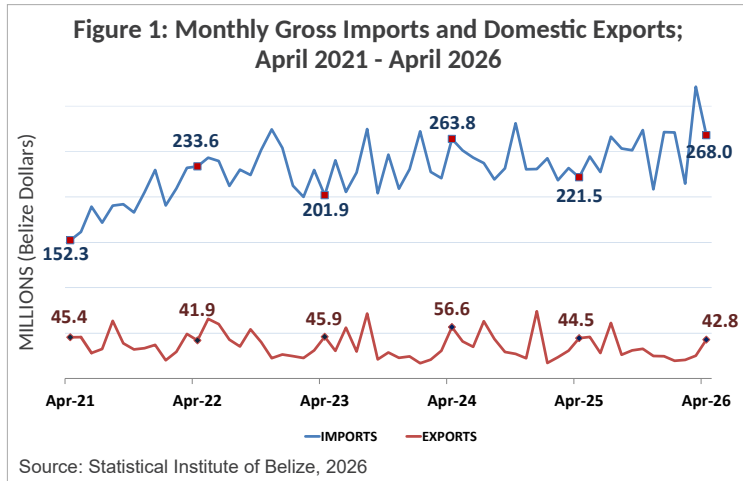


IMPORTS UP 21%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 4.1% IN APRIL 2026

IMPORTS

April 2026: Belize's total merchandise imports for the month of April 2026 were valued at \$268.0 million. This represents an increase of 21.0 percent or \$46.4 million compared to April 2025, when imports were valued at \$221.5 million (see Figure 1).



INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Increases were seen in nearly all commodity categories during the month, the most notable being in 'Mineral Fuels & Lubricants', 'Machinery and Transport Equipment', and 'Other Manufactures'. In contrast, the 'Designated Processing Zone' category recorded the most significant decrease.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

Imports of 'Mineral Fuels & Lubricants' increased by \$15.9 million or 46.5 percent, from \$34.2 million in April 2025 to \$50.2 million in April 2026, the result of higher world market prices for all fuel types.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

The 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category was up by \$9.9 million, from \$52.7 million to \$62.6 million. This increase reflected heightened imports of heavy-duty trucks, aircraft equipment, and air conditioner equipment.

Other Manufactures

Imports of 'Other Manufactures' went up by \$9.3 million, from \$16.5 million in April of last year to \$25.8 million in April of this year, attributed to higher purchases of electrical distribution equipment.

Food and Live Animals

The 'Food and Live Animals' category rose by \$6.6 million, from \$23.0 million to \$29.6 million, reflecting higher imports of food-related products, including corn seeds and processed cheese.

Manufactured Goods

Imports of 'Manufactured Goods' grew by \$3.3 million, from \$33.7 million in April 2025 to \$37.0 million in April 2026, largely due to increased purchases of metal building components and steel corrugated bars.

Crude Materials

The 'Crude Materials' category increased by \$1.0 million, from \$4.9 million to \$5.8 million, reflecting larger imports of treated pine lumber.

Chemicals Products

Imports of 'Chemicals Products' were up by a modest \$0.7 million, from \$21.4 million in April of last year to \$22.1 million in April of this year, the result of increased purchases of fertilizers and PVC pipes.

Beverages and Tobacco

Similarly, the 'Beverages and Tobacco' category went up by \$0.7 million, from \$3.2 million to \$3.9 million, driven by increased imports of alcoholic beverages.

Oils and Fats

'Oils and Fats' rose slightly by \$0.4 million, from \$2.8 million in April 2025 to \$3.1 million in April 2026, primarily due to higher purchases of cooking oils.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Designated Processing Zone

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Zone' fell by \$1.1 million during the month, from \$3.1 million to \$1.9 million, on account of reduced purchases of chemical wood pulp.

FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise imports for the period January to April 2026 totaled \$1.1 billion, an increase of 17.6 percent or \$160.7 million when compared to \$914.3 million recorded during the first four months of 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Machinery and Transport Equipment

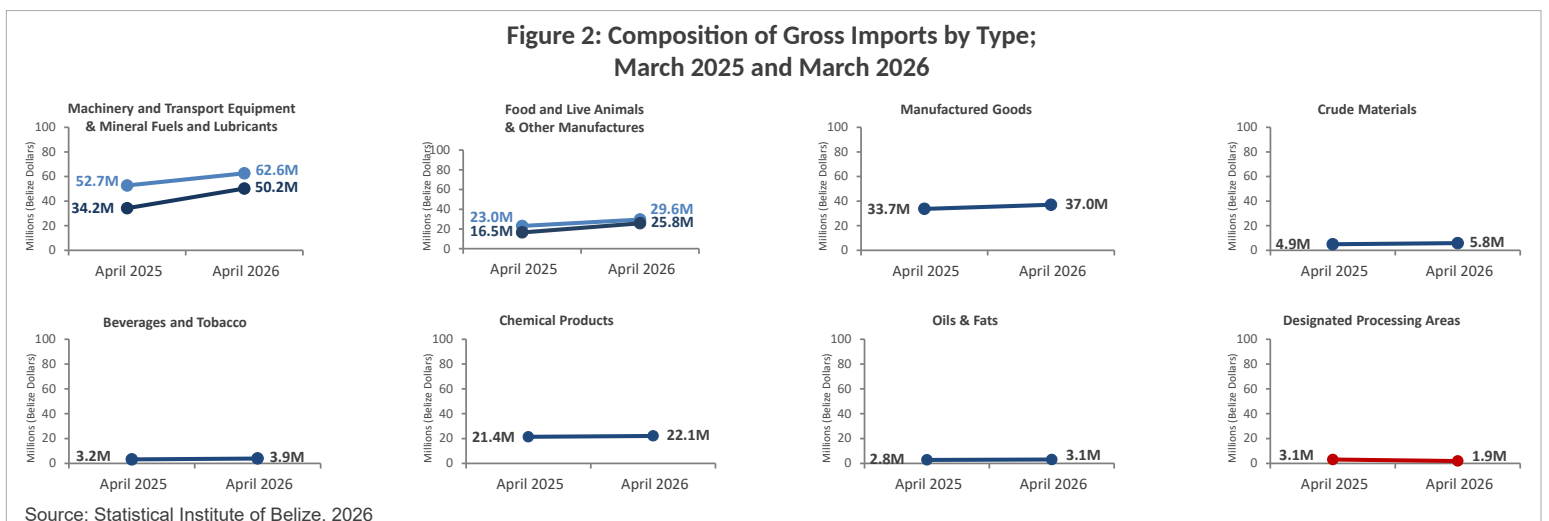
'Machinery and Transport Equipment' increased by a substantial \$46.7 million, from \$222.7 million in the first four months of 2025 to \$269.5 million in the corresponding period of 2026. This was attributed to higher imports of production machinery lines, aircraft, electrical cables and wiring, and 4-cylinder vehicles during the period.

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category rose by \$38.2 million, from \$129.8 million to \$168.0 million, the result of larger imported quantities of premium gasoline, as well as higher world market prices across all major fuel types.

Manufactured Goods

Purchases of 'Manufactured Goods' were up by \$24.7 million, from \$131.4 million during the first four months of 2025 to \$156.1 million during the first four months of 2026. This reflected higher purchases of corrugated steel bars and metal building components, coupled with the fact that, while there were no imports of aluminum steel coils in the first four months of 2025, there were purchases of this item recorded for the same period in 2026.



Other Manufactures

Purchases of goods classified as 'Other Manufactures' increased by \$18.3 million, from \$67.4 million to \$85.7 million, reflecting greater imports of electrical distribution equipment, prefabricated steel structures, and gaming machines.

Commercial Free Zone

Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' rose by \$16.3 million, from \$104.4 million in 2025 to \$120.8 million in 2026, attributed to heightened imports of jerseys, tennis shoes, and T-shirts.

Chemicals Products

Imports of 'Chemicals Products' went up by \$8.7 million, from \$84.1 million to \$92.8 million, reflecting greater purchases of medical laboratory reagents, diagnostic consumables, and fertilizers.

Beverages and Tobacco

The category of 'Beverages and Tobacco' increased by \$5.3 million, from \$18.3 million in 2025 to \$23.6 million in 2026, largely due to higher imports of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Crude Materials

Imports of 'Crude Materials' were up by \$2.9 million, from \$17.1 million to \$20.0 million, reflecting larger purchases of treated pine lumber.

Oils and Fats

As a result of increased imports of cooking oils, the category of 'Oils and Fats' rose by a modest \$0.9 million during the four-month period, from \$11.4 million in 2025 to \$12.3 million in 2026.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Food and Live Animals

Imports of 'Food and Live Animals' declined by \$1.3 million, from \$115.7 million in the first four months of 2025 to \$114.4 million in the first four months of 2026, the result of reduced purchases of orange concentrate over the period.

Designated Processing Zone

Imports into the 'Designated Processing Zone' were down by \$0.4 million, from \$11.0 million in 2025 to \$10.6 million in 2026, reflecting reduced purchases of chemical wood pulp.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

April 2026: Total domestic exports for the month of April 2026 amounted to \$42.8 million, down by 4.1 percent or \$1.9 million when compared to exports for April 2025, which were valued at \$44.6 million.

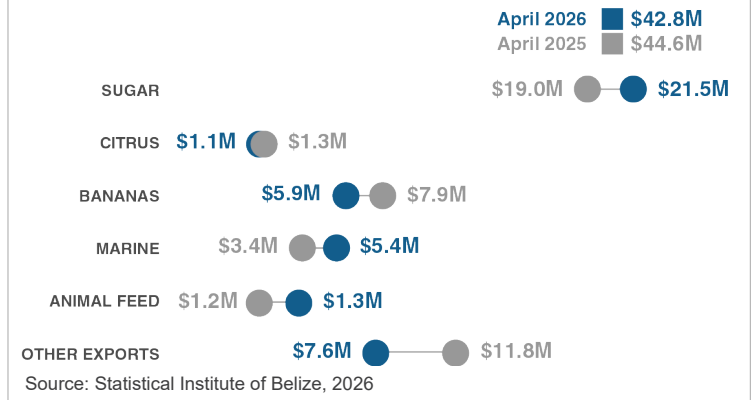
DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The decline in overall export revenues for the month was the result of reduced earnings from several major export commodities. The largest decrease was seen in exports of molasses, which fell by \$2.3 million, from \$2.3 million in April 2025 to virtually no shipments of this commodity in April 2026. Earnings from bananas declined by \$2.0 million, from \$7.9 million to \$5.9 million, reflecting lower export volumes during the month. Sales of red kidney beans fell by \$1.3 million, from \$1.7 million to \$0.3 million, due mainly to reduced quantities of this commodity being exported. Additionally, earnings from formal cattle exports fell by \$0.3 million, from \$2.3 million in April of last year to \$2.0 million in April of this year, while sales of crude soybean oil fell from \$1.3 million to \$1.0 million during the month (see Figure 3).

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

On the other hand, several other commodities had higher earnings for the month of April 2026 relative to April 2025. Sugar exports recorded the largest increase, rising by \$2.5 million, from \$19.0 million to \$21.5 million, boosted by stronger export volumes for the month. Marine products were up by a notable \$1.9 million, from \$3.4 million to \$5.4 million, reflecting higher exports of lobster meat and conch. In addition, animal feed sales rose by a modest \$0.2 million, from \$1.2 million in April 2025 to \$1.3 million in April 2026 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Composition of Domestic Exports by Type; April 2025 and April 2026



MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

Sales of sugar and bananas to the United Kingdom declined considerably during the month, resulting in a \$17.0 million reduction in export earnings from this market, from \$22.0 million in April 2025 to \$5.0 million in April 2026. Similarly, lower exports of red kidney beans led to a \$0.8 million decline in earnings from CARICOM nations, from \$6.4 million to \$5.6 million. Revenues from Central America were down by \$0.3 million, from \$2.3 million in April of last year to \$2.0 million in April of this year, reflecting weaker exports of crude soybean oil to these countries.

On the other hand, earnings from the United States of America rose by \$14.6 million, from \$5.0 million to \$19.5 million, reflecting the improved sales of sugar for the month. Additionally, increased exports of sugar and lobster meat contributed to higher revenues from Other European Union countries, which grew by \$1.8 million, from \$4.3 million in April 2025 to \$6.1 million in April 2026 (see Figure 4).

FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise exports for the period January to April 2026 totaled \$108.2 million, down 7.2 percent or \$8.4 million from the first four months of 2025, when exports were valued at \$116.6 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

For the period January to April 2026, several major export commodities recorded reduced earnings relative to the corresponding period in 2025. Revenues from citrus products registered the largest decline of \$3.0 million, from \$8.1 million in 2025 to \$5.1 million in 2026. This was largely due to reduced exports of orange concentrate, grapefruit concentrate, and orange oils. Sales of red kidney beans were down by \$2.4 million, from \$4.9 million to \$2.5 million, reflecting lower export volumes for this commodity during the period. Similarly, molasses exports fell by \$2.3 million, from \$3.5 million to \$1.1 million, while formal cattle exports declined by \$1.8 million, from \$5.2 million to \$3.4 million. Less favorable world market prices led to a \$0.8 million decline in sugar exports during the first four months of the year, from \$29.0 million in 2025 to \$28.2 million in 2026. Earnings from crude soybean oil fell by \$0.6 million, from \$4.0 million to \$3.4 million, while sawn wood exports declined by \$0.6 million, from \$0.6 million in 2025 to no recorded earnings during the same period in 2026. In addition, sales of pineapple concentrate were down by \$0.4 million, from \$0.4 million during the first four months of 2025 to virtually no exports in 2026.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

In contrast, several export commodities recorded increased earnings during the first four months of 2026 when compared to the same period of last year. Revenues from marine products rose by \$3.7 million, from \$14.0 million to \$17.7 million, reflecting improved sales of lobster meat, conch, shrimp and whole fish. Animal feed exports increased by \$1.4 million, from \$3.7 million to \$5.1 million during the period, while sales of pepper sauces rose by \$0.5 million, from \$2.4 million in 2025 to \$2.9 million in 2026.

Figure 4: Composition of Exports by Destination; April 2026 (Millions of BZ Dollars)



\$19.5M
United States



\$6.1M
European Union



\$5.6M
CARICOM



\$4.97M
United Kingdom



\$2.4M
Mexico



\$2.0M
Central America



\$2.3M
Rest of World

Total= \$42.8M

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026