STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

ET
EXTERNAL TRADE

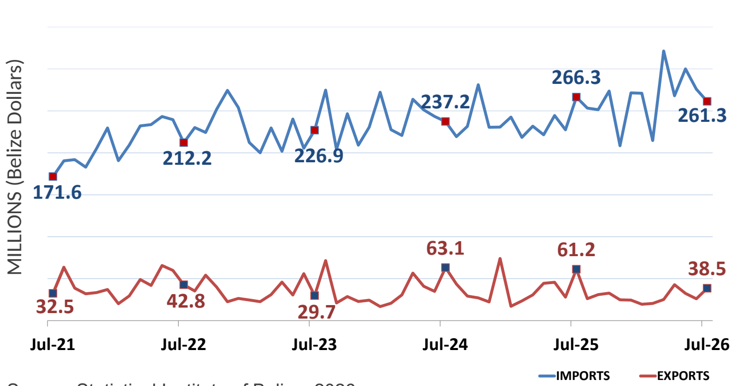
ET RELEASE FOR:
JULY 2026
PUBLISHED ON:
AUGUST 26TH, 2026

IMPORTS DOWN 1.9%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 18.6% IN JULY 2026

IMPORTS

July 2026: Belize's total imports of goods for the month of July 2026 were valued at $261.3 million, representing a decrease of 1.9 percent or $5.0 million from the $266.3 million imported in July 2025. The overall decline was driven mainly by reduced imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' as well as lower spending on 'Food and Live Animals' and 'Other Manufactures'. Nonetheless, there were notable increases in imports of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' and 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' during the month.

Figure 1: Monthly Gross Imports and Domestic Exports; July 2021 - July 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Commercial Free Zone
Goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' declined considerably by $16.3 million, from $40.0 million in July 2025 to $23.7 million in July 2026. This was due mainly to reduced imports of cigarettes, tennis shoes and clothing.

Food and Live Animals
Imports of 'Food and Live Animals' fell by $10.5 million, from $36.2 million to $25.6 million, owing largely to lower purchases of wheat, instant noodles and coffee.

Other Manufactures
The 'Other Manufactures' category decreased by $2.3 million, from $21.7 million in July 2025 to $19.4 million in July 2026, as the country imported fewer electricity meters and medical instruments.

Beverages and Tobacco
Imports of 'Beverages and Tobacco' went down by $0.5 million, from $5.6 million to $5.1 million, owing mainly to reduced purchases of cigarettes.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants
The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category increased by $11.2 million, from $33.5 million in July 2025 to $44.8 million in July 2026. This was attributed to greater imports of diesel at higher prices, along with larger purchases of liquefied propane and butane. Additionally, there was some premium fuel imported in July 2026, while there were no imports of this commodity in July 2025.

Machinery and Transport Equipment
Imports of 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' grew by $9.0 million, from $59.8 million to $68.8 million, due to increased purchases of power generators, four-cylinder vehicles, and an all-terrain mobile crane.

Export Processing Zones
Goods destined for the 'Export Processing Zones' rose by $1.5 million, from $1.8 million in July of last year to $3.3 million in July of this year, reflecting greater imports of heat exchange units, shrimp feed and glass jars.

Crude Materials
Imports of 'Crude Materials' increased by $1.2 million, from $4.7 million to $5.9 million, owing to higher purchases of treated pine lumber.

Chemical Products
The 'Chemical Products' category went up by $1.1 million, from $23.3 million in July 2025 to $24.4 million in July 2026, due mainly to increased purchases of diagnostic testing kits.

Manufactured Goods
Imports of 'Manufactured Goods' grew from $36.2 million to $37.0 million, resulting largely from heightened spending on corrugated steel rods and glass bottles during the month.

FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise imports for the first seven months of the year, January to July 2026, amounted to $1.912 billion, an increase of 15.7 percent or $259.7 million from $1.653 billion recorded for the same period in 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

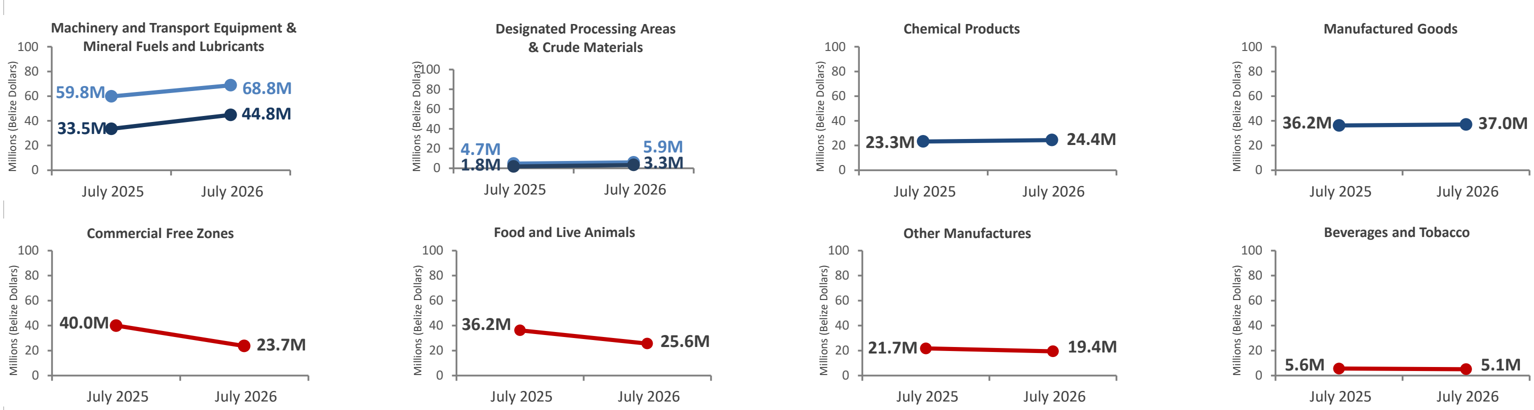
Mineral Fuels and Lubricants
Imports of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' were up by a considerable $104.0 million, from $232.5 million during the first seven months of 2025 to $336.5 million during the same period of 2026. This was mainly due to higher prices across the major fuel types, including diesel, regular, kerosene and premium fuels.

Machinery and Transport Equipment
The 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category rose by $69.7 million, from $396.0 million in 2025 to $465.7 million in 2026, reflecting higher imports of food preparation machinery, power generators and an airplane.

Chemical Products
Increased purchases of fertilizers, diagnostic testing kits, herbicides and other products drove the 'Chemical Products' category up by $28.1 million, from $159.2 million to $187.3 million.

Manufactured Goods
The category of 'Manufactured Goods' rose by $19.3 million, from $241.6 million during the first seven months of 2025 to $260.9 million during the first seven months of 2026. This was attributed to greater purchases of corrugated steel rods, metal structures and glass bottles.

Figure 2: Composition of Gross Imports by Type; July 2025 and July 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

Other Manufactures

Greater imports of electricity meters, prefabricated buildings and wall panels led to a $16.9 million rise in 'Other Manufactures', from $129.1 million to $146.0 million.

Beverages and Tobacco

'Beverages and Tobacco' rose by $7.7 million, from $31.4 million in 2025 to $39.1 million in 2026, owing to higher purchases of alcoholic beverages and food supplement drinks.

Crude Materials

Larger imports of treated pine lumber resulted in a $5.3 million increase in the 'Crude Materials' category, from $32.7 million to $37.9 million.

Food and Live Animals

The 'Food and Live Animals' category was up by $5.0 million, from $204.2 million in 2025 to $209.2 million in 2026, the result of increased imports of coffee, lard, milk and wheat.

Export Processing Zones

Goods destined for the 'Export Processing Zones' increased by $3.0 million, from $17.0 million during the first seven months of 2025 to $20.0 million during the same period of 2026. This was driven by greater imports of boiler parts, glass jars and shrimp feed.

Oils and Fats

Imports of 'Oils and Fats' rose by $1.2 million, from $20.0 million to $21.2 million, due to increased purchases of cooking oils during the first seven months of the year.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

July 2026: Domestic exports for the month of July 2026 totaled $38.5 million, down by 37.2 percent or $22.8 million when compared to July 2025, when exports were valued at $61.3 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

The substantial decline in domestic export earnings for the month of July was driven primarily by a sharp reduction in sugar sales. Earnings from this commodity fell by $18.8 million, from $35.8 million in July 2025 to $17.0 million in July 2026, as exported quantities decreased by more than 50 percent.

Citrus products also recorded a notable decline, with earnings falling by $2.4 million, from $3.5 million to $1.1 million, mainly due to reduced exports of orange concentrate. Similarly, revenues from molasses dropped from $2.0 million in July 2025 to less than $0.1 million in July 2026, owing to a decrease in exported quantities during the month. Earnings from marine products were down by $1.3 million, from $6.5 million to $5.3 million. This was mainly due to a decline in sales of lobster tails, coupled with the fact that, while there were shipments of shrimp recorded for July of last year, there were no exports of this product during July of this year.

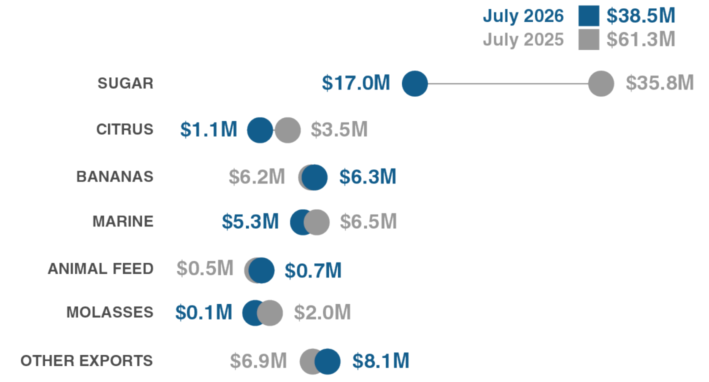
Additionally, exports of red kidney beans went down from $0.7 million to $0.5 million, while earnings from black eyed peas decreased from $0.2 million in July of 2025 to $0.1 million in July of 2026.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Notwithstanding the overall decline in domestic exports, banana earnings recorded a marginal increase of $0.1 million, from $6.2 million in July 2025 to $6.3 million in July 2026. Revenues from animal feed also increased slightly, from $0.5 million to $0.7 million, as this commodity benefited from improved export prices during the month.

Among the country's other exports, earnings from cattle (formal) rose considerably by $1.6 million, from $0.9 million in July of last year to $2.4 million in July of this year. Revenues from crude soybean oil also increased slightly, from $0.7 million to $0.8 million.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

Earnings from the United Kingdom were down by a substantial $18.0 million, from $21.2 million in July 2025 to $3.2 million in July 2026, owing to reduced exports of sugar to this market. Similarly, revenues from the United States of America fell by $4.4 million, from $24.0 million to $19.6 million, due to decreased sugar sales and the absence of molasses exports during the month.

Lower exports of orange concentrate led to a $2.1 million decline in earnings from CARICOM countries, from $8.5 million in July of last year to $6.4 million in July of this year. Conversely, revenues from Mexico more than doubled, rising by $1.7 million from $1.2 million to $2.9 million, driven by increased exports of cattle (formal) and crude soybean oil to this country.

FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise exports for the period January to July 2026 totaled $205.2 million, a decrease of 18.6 percent or $47.0 million from $252.1 million recorded for the same period in 2025.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

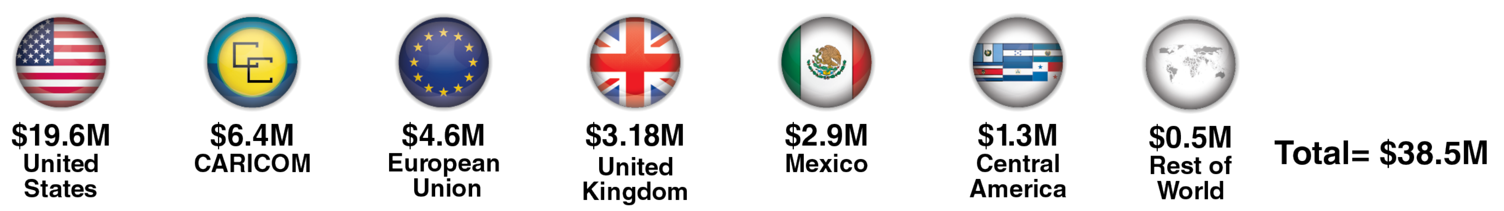
Earnings from sugar declined by a considerable $26.8 million during the first seven months of the year, from $88.1 million in 2025 to $61.3 million in 2026, as exported quantities of this commodity dropped by almost 30 percent over the period. Citrus products also recorded a substantial decrease, with revenues falling by $12.4 million, from $21.3 million to $8.9 million, mainly due to reduced sales of orange concentrate and orange oil. Banana earnings declined slightly by $1.9 million, from $54.6 million during the first seven months of 2025 to $52.7 million during the same period of 2026.

Other export commodities were also down during the first seven months of the year. Earnings from red kidney beans fell by $3.3 million, from $7.5 million in 2025 to $4.2 million in 2026, owing to a considerable reduction in exported quantities. Revenues from formal cattle exports decreased by $2.7 million, from $8.5 million to $5.8 million, while earnings from crude soybean oil went down by $1.2 million, from $6.6 million in 2025 to $5.3 million in 2026.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Notwithstanding the reductions recorded across several key export commodities, earnings from marine products rose by $2.0 million, from $22.8 million during the first seven months of 2025 to $24.8 million during the first seven months of 2026. This increase was mainly attributable to higher exports of whole lobsters during the period.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026