



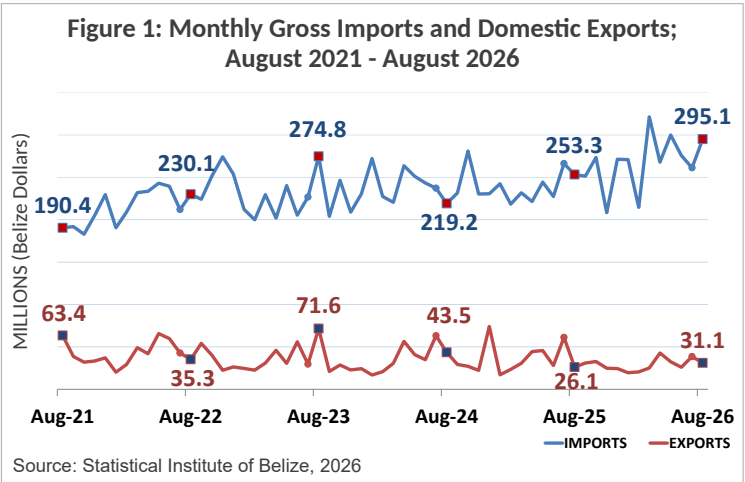
EXTERNAL TRADE

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IMPORTS UP 16.5%, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN 4.9% IN AUGUST 2026

IMPORTS

August 2026: Belize's total imports of goods for the month of August 2026 were valued at \$295.1 million, representing an increase of 16.5 percent or \$41.8 million from the \$253.3 million imported in August 2025. Growth in imports during the month was concentrated primarily in 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants', 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' and 'Manufactured Goods', while goods destined for the 'Commercial Free Zone' recorded a notable decline.



INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

Imports of 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' increased considerably by \$27.2 million, from \$32.6 million in August 2025 to \$59.8 million in August 2026. This was largely due to higher world market prices for key fuels imported during the month.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

The 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category was up by \$18.1 million, from \$56.7 million to \$74.8 million, reflecting increased imports of industrial machinery, power generators, security cameras and transformer stations.

Manufactured Goods

Imports of 'Manufactured Goods' rose by \$13.5 million, from \$30.5 million in August of last year to \$44.0 million in August of this year, owing mainly to increased purchases of galvanized steel and metal structures.

Other Manufactures

Increased imports of prefabricated buildings, water flow meters and printed labels led to a \$2.8 million rise in the 'Other Manufactures' category, from \$16.1 million to \$18.9 million.

Crude Materials

Imports of 'Crude Materials' increased by \$0.9 million, from \$4.6 million to \$5.5 million, owing to greater purchases of treated pine lumber.

Oils and Fats

The 'Oils and Fats' category went up by \$0.4 million, from \$2.2 million in August 2025 to \$2.6 million in August 2026, due to increased imports of cooking oils, including olive oils and canola oils.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the 'Commercial Free Zone' declined by a substantial \$19.5 million, from \$50.4 million in August 2025 to \$30.9 million in August 2026. This was attributed to reduced purchases of cigarettes, clothing, footwear and handbags.

Food and Live Animals

Imports of 'Food and Live Animals' fell by \$0.6 million, from \$27.8 million to \$27.2 million, on account of lower purchases of instant noodles, malt and coffee.

Export Processing Zones

Goods meant for the 'Export Processing Zones' were down by \$0.4 million, from \$2.8 million in August 2025 to \$2.4 million in August 2026, reflecting reduced imports of computers, fertilizers and chemical wood pulp.

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise imports for the first eight months of the year, January to August 2026, amounted to \$2.207 billion, an increase of 15.8 percent or \$301.5 million from \$1.906 billion recorded for the same period in 2025.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Mineral Fuels and Lubricants

The 'Mineral Fuels and Lubricants' category recorded a sizeable increase of \$131.2 million, from \$265.1 million during the first eight months of 2025 to \$396.3 million during the same period of 2026. This was mainly due to higher world market prices for fuels.

Machinery and Transport Equipment

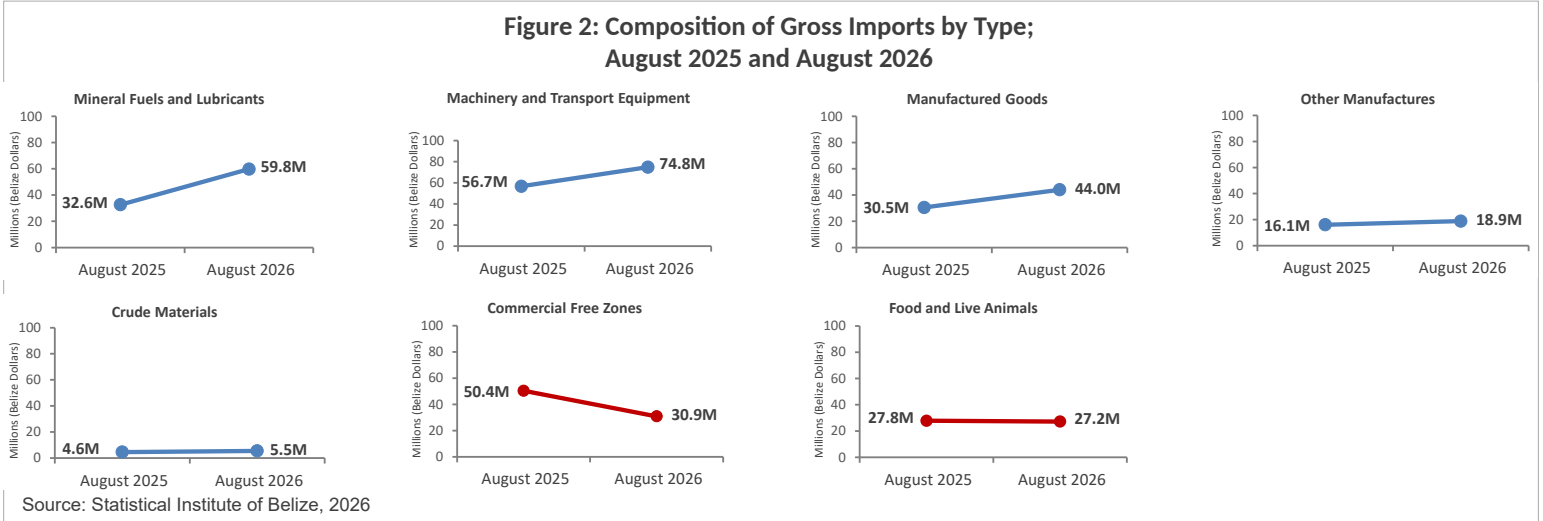
The 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' category grew by \$87.8 million, from \$452.6 million in 2025 to \$540.4 million in 2026, reflecting increased purchases of industrial machinery and parts, generators and a high-value airplane.

Manufactured Goods

Imports of 'Manufactured Goods' rose by \$32.8 million, from \$272.1 million during the first eight months of 2025 to \$304.9 million during the same period of 2026. This was due to greater purchases of metal structures, corrugated steel rods and galvanized steel.

Chemical Products

Greater imports of fertilizers, diagnostic and laboratory reagents, and herbicides, drove the 'Chemical Products' category up by \$27.8 million, from \$184.3 million to \$212.1 million.



Other Manufactures

Increased purchases of electricity meters, prefabricated buildings and articles made of plastic led to a \$19.7 million growth in ‘Other Manufactures’, from \$145.2 million in 2025 to \$165.0 million in 2026.

Beverages and Tobacco

Imports of ‘Beverages and Tobacco’ increased by \$7.4 million, from \$35.6 million in the first eight months of last year to \$43.0 million in the first eight months of this year, due to higher purchases of alcoholic beverages and food supplement drinks.

Crude Materials

Spending on ‘Crude Materials’ went up by \$6.2 million, from \$37.3 million in 2025 to \$43.4 million in 2026, owing mainly to heightened imports of treated pine lumber, grass seeds and table salt.

Food and Live Animals

Higher purchases of coffee, lard and chips led to a \$4.4 million increase in the ‘Food and Live Animals’ category, from \$232.0 million in 2025 to \$236.4 million in 2026.

Export Processing Zones

Imports into the ‘Export Processing Zones’ increased by \$2.6 million, from \$19.8 million to \$22.4 million, due to larger purchases of shrimp feed, glass jars and boiler parts.

Oils and Fats

With greater spending on cooking oils, including olive oils and soybean oils, imports of ‘Oils and Fats’ increased by \$1.7 million, from \$22.2 million in 2025 to \$23.8 million in 2026.

DECREASING CATEGORIES: Commercial Free Zone

Imports into the ‘Commercial Free Zone’ declined by \$20.4 million, from \$237.4 million during the first eight months of 2025 to \$217.0 million during the same period of 2026. This decrease was mainly due to reduced purchases of cigarettes, fans, footwear and personal care items.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

August 2026: Domestic merchandise exports for the month of August 2026 totaled \$31.1 million, down by 4.9 percent or \$1.6 million when compared to August 2025, when exports were valued at \$32.7 million.

DECREASING CATEGORIES:

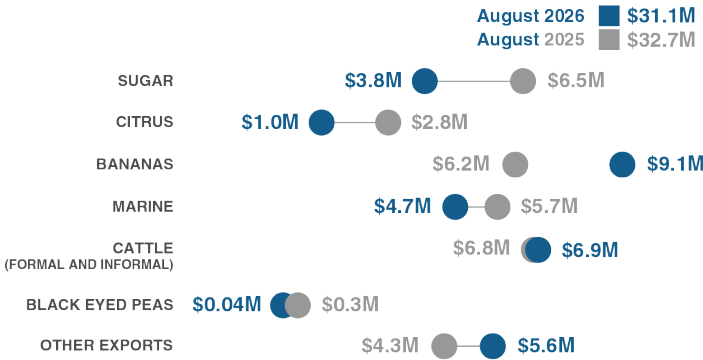
Earnings from sugar declined by \$2.7 million, from \$6.5 million in August 2025 to \$3.8 million in August 2026, as exported quantities of this commodity were down by more than one-third. Citrus products also saw a notable decrease, with revenues falling by \$1.8 million, from \$2.8 million to \$1.0 million, largely due to reduced exports of orange concentrate. Earnings from marine products declined by \$1.1 million, from \$5.7 million in August of last year to \$4.7 million in August of this year, owing mainly to reduced exports of lobster products. Additionally, revenues from black-eyed peas decreased from \$0.3 million in August 2025 to less than \$0.1 million in August 2026.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Despite the overall decline in domestic exports, banana earnings rose by \$2.8 million, from \$6.2 million in August of last year to \$9.1 million in August of this year. Revenues from animal feed also increased slightly, from \$0.3 million to \$0.5 million.

Other notable increases included alcoholic beverages, with earnings valued at \$0.4 million in August 2026, compared to August 2025 when there were no exports of this commodity. Revenues from crude soybean oil also went up by \$0.2 million, from \$1.1 million to \$1.4 million.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

MAJOR DESTINATIONS:

Export revenues from the United States of America declined by \$1.1 million, from \$4.8 million in August 2025 to \$3.7 million in August 2026. This was due to an absence of orange oil and cacao bean exports during the month, as well as reduced sales of lobster products, plantains and papayas to that country. Similarly, earnings from the Other European Union diminished by \$1.1 million, from \$6.8 million to \$5.7 million, owing to decreased exports of sugar. Revenues from CARICOM countries were down by \$0.3 million, from \$7.2 million to \$6.9 million, as a result of lower exports of orange concentrate.

Conversely, earnings from the United Kingdom rose by \$1.7 million, from \$3.4 million in August 2025 to \$5.0 million in August 2026, reflecting increased exports of bananas to this market. Revenues from Mexico also went up by \$0.5 million, from \$0.8 million to \$1.3 million, due to increased sales of crude soybean oil and formal exports of cattle. Notably, earnings from countries other than Belize’s major export destinations were down by \$1.1 million, from \$2.2 million in August of last year to \$1.2 million in August of this year, owing to reduced sales of lobster products.

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR: Merchandise exports for the period January to August 2026 totaled \$272.8 million, a decrease of 14.0 percent or \$44.6 million from \$317.4 million recorded for the same period in 2025.

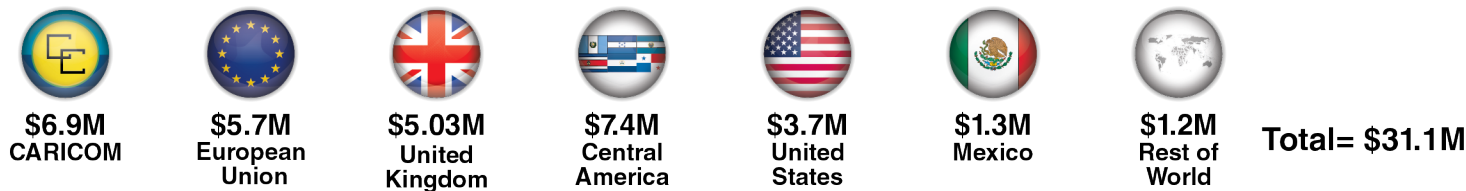
DECREASING CATEGORIES:

Sugar earnings fell by a substantial \$29.5 million, from \$94.6 million in the first eight months of 2025 to \$65.1 million in the first eight months of 2026, as exported quantities of this product dropped by 30 percent. Revenues from citrus products also declined notably, falling by \$14.2 million, from \$24.1 million to \$9.9 million, due mainly to reduced exports of orange concentrate and orange oil. Additionally, red kidney bean exports decreased by \$3.4 million from \$7.8 million in 2025 to \$4.4 million in 2026.

INCREASING CATEGORIES:

Notwithstanding the overall decline in domestic exports, earnings from cattle (formal and informal) increased by \$1.4 million, from \$47.8 million in 2025 to \$49.2 million in 2026, while revenues from bananas rose by \$0.9 million, from \$60.8 million to \$61.8 million. Earnings from marine products also went up by \$0.9 million, from \$28.6 million in the first eight months of last year to \$29.5 million in the first eight months of this year, as exports of whole lobsters, shrimp and whole fish more than offset reduced sales of lobster tails and conch during the period.

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



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026