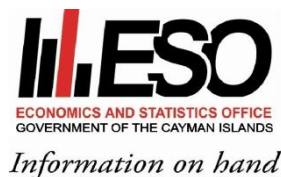




THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' QUARTERLY TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN: JANUARY TO MARCH 2025



This publication is produced by the Economics and Statistics Office from data supplied mainly by the Customs Department. The data presented in this bulletin are preliminary and subject to revision in the subsequent quarterly bulletins and annual report as new information are obtained.

Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Overview

The total value of merchandise imports increased by 13.1 percent to \$477.61 million for the first quarter ending March 2025, compared to the \$422.45 million recorded for the previous corresponding quarter. This performance reflected a 16.1 percent increase in the value of imported non-petroleum goods. However, there was a 6.9 percent reduction in the imports of petroleum and petroleum-related goods imports for the review quarter.

There were increases in SITC categories such as *miscellaneous manufactured articles, food and live animals, manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials, chemicals and related products machinery and transport equipment., beverages and tobacco, machinery and transport equipment, crude materials, inedible, except fuels*. However, there were reductions in the imports of *commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*, for the first three months of 2025.

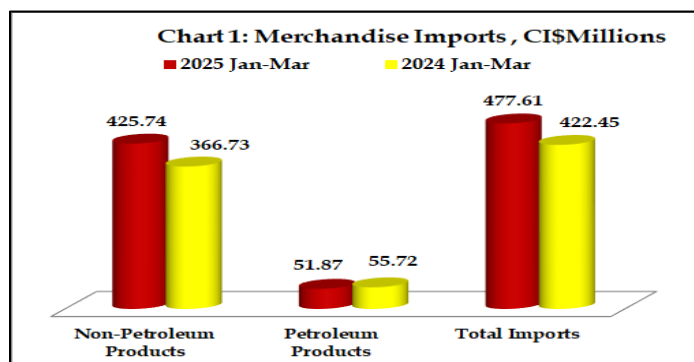


Table 1. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)

	2025 QTR 1	2024 QTR 1	Change
	CIS000		%
Total Imports	477,612.5	422,447.5	13.1%
Capital goods	50,136.0	40,542.6	23.7%
Intermediate goods	137,009.8	108,696.6	26.0%
Consumption goods	212,058.7	172,874.1	22.7%
Motor Spirit	50,040.8	54,106.0	-7.5%
Passenger Motor Vehicles	18,253.1	20,184.6	-9.6%
Goods not elsewhere specified	10,114.1	26,043.5	-61.2%

Broad Economic Classification (BEC) analysis showed that growth was recorded in imports of *consumption goods, intermediate goods, and capital goods* by 22.7 percent, 26.0 percent, and 23.7 percent, respectively. However, there were reductions in the importation of *goods not elsewhere specified, motor spirit, and passenger motor vehicles* by 61.2 percent, 7.5 percent, and 9.6 percent, respectively, for the first three months of the year (see Table 1).

In terms of imports by source country, the main drivers for the growth in imports occurred mainly from the *U.S.A, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Panama*. In contrast, goods imported from *Germany, South Korea, Cuba, and Canada* were lower for the review period (see Table 3).

Imports by Category

Miscellaneous manufactured articles increased by 29.5 percent (\$22.74 million), reflecting growth in *miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s (34.3%), professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus n.e.s (53.5%), photographic apparatus,*

equipment and supplies and optical goods, *n.e.s* (37.1%) and articles of apparel and clothing (17.1%). Additionally, imports of furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings increased by 11.2 percent for the first three months of 2025. Also, imports of prefabricated buildings grew by 33.1 percent.

Food and live animals imports grew by 23.1 percent (\$17.01 million), mainly reflecting the increased importation of *meat and meat preparations* (29.0%), *vegetables and fruit* (22.2%), as well as *dairy products and bird's eggs* by 37.6 percent. Additionally, there was a 22.8 percent, 29.9 percent and an 8.4 percent increase in the imports of *cereals and cereal preparations*, *fish*, and *miscellaneous edible products and preparations*, respectively (see Table 2 and Table 5).

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials increased by 21.7 percent (\$10.40 million) to settle at \$58.27 million for the review quarter. This outcome reflected higher imports of *manufactures of metals n.e.s* by 20.3 percent, *paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard* (38.1%), *non-ferrous metals* (112.9%), and *non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s* by 16.9 percent. There was also growth in imports of *iron and steel* and *textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products* imports by 25.7 percent and 15.8 percent, respectively.

Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. increased by 29.4 percent (\$9.14 million) for the first quarter of 2025. This reflected growth in several items such as *medicinal and pharmaceutical products* (46.9%), *essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials et al* (31.2%), and *chemical materials and products, n.e.s* (57.6%). In contrast, the importation of *plastics in non-primary forms* and *inorganic chemicals* decreased by 12.0 percent and 15.5 percent, respectively.

Beverages and tobacco recorded an overall growth of 38.2 percent. This outcome reflected the 31.1 percent increase in the importation of *beverages*, as well as a 97.1 percent growth in *tobacco and tobacco manufacturers*. The increase in *beverage* imports was due mostly to higher imports for most categories,

such as *wines, holding 2 litres or less* (63.2%), *rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugar-cane products* (122.9%), and *spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages; n.e.c* (53.9%). Imports of *non-alcoholic beverages; other than non-alcoholic beer and waters; mineral and aerated, including natural or artificial*, increased by 50.4 percent, and 29.8 percent, respectively, for the review quarter.

Machinery and transport equipment imports grew by 2.6 percent (\$2.36 million), mainly due to the increased importation of *general industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s* (30.2%), *telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment* (24.4%), and *office machines and automatic data-processing machines* by 34.3 percent. Additionally, imports of *power-generating machinery and equipment* grew by 16.5 percent. In contrast, there was a 74.7 percent and 10.2 percent decrease in the imports of *other transport equipment and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s.,* respectively (see Table 2 and Table 5).

Imports of **crude materials, inedible, (except fuel)** grew by 30.1 percent (\$1.25 million). This increase reflected higher importation of *crude fertilizers, crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s* and *cork and wood* by 32.1 percent, 10.0 percent, and 149.6 percent respectively.

Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes increased by 3.4 percent due mostly to the growth in the importation of *fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated* by 2.9 percent. Also, *animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes of animal or vegetable origin* imports increased by 15.7 percent for the first quarter of 2025.

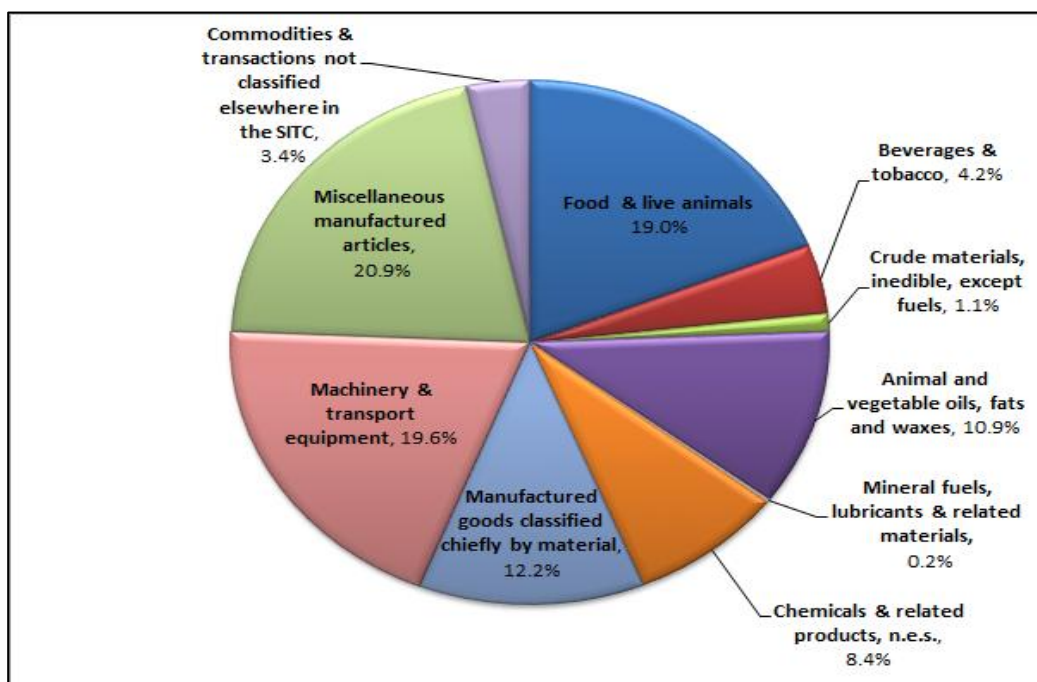
In contrast, **commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere** declined by 36.7 percent relative to the first quarter in 2024. This primarily reflected a 61.5 percent decrease in imports of *special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind*. However, there was a \$6.86 million increase in the importation of *gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)* to the corresponding period in 2024.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials imports reached \$51.87 million, a decrease of 6.9 percent. This reduction was mainly driven by the

decrease in the average volumes of all major types of petroleum products imported. However, the average price increased for all major types of fuel, except aviation fuel, during the quarter.

Table 2. Merchandise Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)(Rev 4), C1\$Millions			
Section	2025 Qtr 1	2024 Qtr 1	% Change
Food and live animals	90.73	73.72	23.1%
Beverages and tobacco	20.25	14.65	38.2%
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	5.41	4.16	30.1%
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.83	0.80	3.4%
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	40.21	31.07	29.4%
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	58.27	47.87	21.7%
Machinery and transport equipment	93.81	91.45	2.6%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	99.81	77.07	29.5%
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	16.43	25.96	-36.7%
Non-Petroleum Products	425.74	366.73	16.1%
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*	51.87	55.72	-6.9%
Total	477.61	422.45	13.1%
* Also referred to as petroleum and related oils			

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of Imports by SITC, January-March 2025



Imports by Countries of Origin

Table 3. Imports by Country of Origin, CI\$Million January-March			
Country	2025 Qtr 1	2024 Qtr 1	% change
United States	382.19	337.13	13.4%
Jamaica	20.80	14.81	40.4%
Japan	4.74	4.87	-2.6%
United Kingdom	11.50	7.18	60.2%
South Korea	1.28	2.24	-42.7%
Cuba	0.45	1.38	-67.6%
Canada	2.59	2.97	-12.8%
Switzerland	6.27	4.09	53.2%
Germany	3.38	5.60	-39.7%
Panama	3.20	2.24	42.7%
Mexico	2.30	3.18	-27.6%
Others	38.91	36.75	5.9%
TOTAL IMPORTS	477.61	422.45	13.1%

For the quarter ending March 2025, the overall increase in the value of imported goods was driven by the 13.4 percent, or \$45.06 million, growth in imports from the U.S.A. (see Table 3). This outturn reflected increases in the value of imported miscellaneous manufactured articles, non-monetary gold, and *general industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s.*

Cayman's imports from **Jamaica** grew from \$14.81 million to \$20.80 million, mainly due to higher imports of *beverages, furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings*, as well as *non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.*

Imports from the **United Kingdom** grew by 60.2 percent due to increased purchases of *tobacco and tobacco manufactures, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, manufactures of metals, n.e.s* as well as *road vehicles*.

There was a 53.2 percent increase in imports from **Switzerland** during the review quarter of 2025, mostly due to the growth in the imports of *photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks; essential oils; and paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, paper or paperboard*.

In contrast, imports from **Germany** declined by 39.7 percent to \$3.38 million due to the lower importation of *power generating machinery and equipment, road vehicles, general industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s*, as well as *electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances n.e.s*, and *electrical parts thereof*.

Imports from **South Korea** contracted by \$0.96 million (42.7%) reflecting the decreased imports of *road vehicles, vegetables and fruit*, as well as *special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind*.

Table 4. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)			
CIS\$000, January- March			
Broad Economic Categories	2025 QTR 1	2024 QTR 1	2025/2024 % Change
1 Food and beverages	105,724.23	85,082.40	24.3%
11. Primary	29,099.57	23,182.08	25.5%
111. Mainly for industry	2,188.03	1,560.15	40.2%
112. Mainly for household consumption	26,911.53	21,621.92	24.5%
12. Processed	76,624.66	61,900.32	23.8%
121. Mainly for industry	6,682.75	5,885.36	13.5%
122. Mainly for household consumption	69,941.91	56,014.96	24.9%
2. Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified	95,881.91	73,503.59	30.4%
21. Primary	4,502.75	3,502.28	28.6%
22. Processed	91,379.16	70,001.31	30.5%
3. Fuels and lubricants	51,605.71	55,724.09	-7.4%
31. Primary	-	-	-
32. Processed	51,605.71	55,724.09	-7.4%
321. Motor spirit	50,040.84	54,106.02	-7.5%
322. Other	1,564.88	1,618.08	-3.3%
4. Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof	60,609.38	50,729.67	19.5%
41. Capital goods (except transport equipment)	44,081.43	35,721.95	23.4%
42. Parts and accessories	16,527.95	15,007.72	10.1%
5. Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof	40,855.67	41,117.06	-0.6%
51. Passenger motor cars	18,253.07	20,184.64	-9.6%
52. Other	8,438.27	9,810.68	-14.0%
521. Industrial	6,054.58	4,820.61	25.6%
522. Non-industrial	2,383.69	4,990.07	-52.2%
53. Parts and accessories	14,164.32	11,121.74	27.4%
6. Consumer goods not elsewhere specified	112,821.56	90,247.19	25.0%
61. Durable	37,410.45	26,748.98	39.9%
62. Semi-durable	37,581.13	31,949.56	17.6%
63. Non-durable	37,829.98	31,548.65	19.9%
7. Goods not elsewhere specified	10,114.05	26,043.53	-61.2%
TOTAL	477,612.51	422,447.53	13.1%

Imports by Broad Economic Categories

Analysis of imports by **Broad Economic Categories (BEC)** or final use reflected mixed outcomes in the major categories for the first quarter of 2025 (see Table 4).

Consumer goods not elsewhere specified increased by 25.0 percent to \$112.82 million, with the increase mainly reflecting *durable, non-durable* and *semi-durable* goods by 39.9 percent, 19.9 percent, and 17.6 percent, respectively, over the corresponding quarter of 2024.

Imports of **industrial supplies not elsewhere specified** increased by 30.5 percent, primarily from the larger imports of *processed industrial supplies* (30.5%) and *primary industrial supplies* (28.6%).

Food and beverages imports increased by 24.3 percent (\$20.64 million) reflecting increases in both *primary* (25.5%) and *processed* food and beverage (23.8%). *Primary* and *processed* food and beverage for *household consumption* grew by 24.5 and 24.9 percent, respectively. Additionally, *primary* and *processed* food and beverage mainly for *industrial consumption* grew by 40.2 and 13.6 percent, respectively.

Imports of **Capital Goods (except transport equipment) and parts and accessories thereof** grew by \$9.88 million or 19.5 percent for the first three months of 2025. This was due mainly to the 23.4 percent growth in *capital goods (except transport equipment)* as well as *parts and accessories* of capital goods, which grew by 10.1 percent.

In contrast, imports of **goods not elsewhere specified** declined by \$15.93 million or 61.2 percent for the first three months of 2025.

The 0.6 percent reduction in **transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof** was driven by the 52.2 percent decline in *other non-industrial* transport equipment and parts, as well as a 9.6 percent reduction in the importation of *passenger motor cars*. However, these reductions were partially offset by growth in imports of *other industrial* transport equipment and parts as well as other *parts and accessories* by 25.6 percent and 27.4 percent, respectively.

Fuels and lubricants imports declined by 7.4 percent due primarily to the lower importation of *processed fuels and lubricants* like *motor spirit* (7.5%) and *other fuels* (3.3%).

**Table 5. Merchandise Imports by Standard International
Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000, January-March**

	2025 Qtr 1	2024 Qtr 1	2025/24 %Chg
<u>Food and Live Animals</u>			
Live animals other than animals of division 03	123.63	63.84	93.6%
Meat and meat preparations	17,917.97	13,885.10	29.0%
Dairy products and birds' eggs	11,065.47	8,039.35	37.6%
Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	6,774.00	5,212.84	29.9%
Cereals and cereal preparations	10,186.04	8,296.85	22.8%
Vegetables and fruit	21,618.63	17,685.68	22.2%
Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	1,544.03	1,097.13	40.7%
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	4,010.11	3,393.37	18.2%
Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	2,753.90	2,352.44	17.1%
Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	14,834.19	13,688.44	8.4%
<u>Beverages & Tobacco</u>			
Beverages	17,117.01	13,057.65	31.1%
Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	3,129.26	1,587.85	97.1%
<u>Crude Materials, inedible, except fuels</u>			
Hides, skins and furskins, raw	-	-	-
Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits	81.50	66.56	22.5%
Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	28.27	7.17	294.0%
Cork and wood	424.71	170.14	149.6%
Pulp and waste paper	8.01	-	-
Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	81.83	6.00	1263.1%
Crude fertilizers, other than those of Division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	3,377.87	2,557.75	32.1%
Metalliferous ores and metal scraps	0.17	-	-
Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	1,485.50	1,350.03	10.0%
<u>Mineral Fuels, lubricants & related materials</u>			
Coal, coke and briquettes	63.32	58.08	9.0%
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	50,868.37	54,572.69	-6.8%
Gas, natural and manufactured	942.52	1,085.37	-13.2%
<u>Animal & Vegetable oils, fats and waxes</u>			
Animal oils and fats	27.86	35.48	-21.5%
Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	689.93	670.65	2.9%
Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes of animal or vegetable origin; inedible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils, n.e.s.	113.64	98.23	15.7%

**Table 5. Merchandise Imports by Standard International
Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000, January-March**

	2025 Qtr 1	2024 Qtr 1	2025/24 %Chg
<u>Chemicals & related products, n.e.s</u>			
Organic chemicals	171.50	101.02	69.8%
Inorganic chemicals	504.14	596.88	-15.5%
Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	5,264.42	4,058.97	29.7%
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	13,334.92	9,078.07	46.9%
Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	11,333.03	8,641.03	31.2%
Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)	28.30	93.61	-69.8%
Plastics in primary forms	229.89	273.55	-16.0%
Plastics in non-primary forms	4,805.76	5,460.60	-12.0%
Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	4,358.16	2,764.79	57.6%
<u>Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials</u>			
Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins	94.48	81.12	16.5%
Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1,972.23	1,648.89	19.6%
Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	5,810.68	6,070.42	-4.3%
Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	7,047.27	5,101.20	38.1%
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	3,393.79	2,929.88	15.8%
Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	9,773.82	8,358.62	16.9%
Iron and steel	5,585.93	4,443.98	25.7%
Non-ferrous metals	3,415.97	1,604.25	112.9%
Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	21,212.93	17,629.47	20.3%
<u>Machinery & transport equipment</u>			
Power-generating machinery and equipment	7,208.87	6,186.26	16.5%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	2,514.58	3,078.53	-18.3%
Metalworking machinery	1,233.04	1,111.56	10.9%
General industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts, n.e.s.	15,787.11	12,122.52	30.2%
Office machines and automatic data-processing machines	5,941.07	4,424.71	34.3%
Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	8,276.06	6,654.41	24.4%

Table 5. Merchandise Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000, January-March

	2025 Qtr 1	2024 Qtr 1	2025/24 %Chg
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counterparts, n.e.s., of electrical household-type equipment)	20,384.70	22,706.13	-10.2%
Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	30,839.56	29,949.85	3.0%
Other transport equipment	1,320.12	5,215.91	-74.7%
<u>Miscellaneous manufactured articles</u>			
Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	2,580.60	1,939.21	33.1%
Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	15,179.67	13,649.02	11.2%
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	1,063.94	643.85	65.2%
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	17,809.00	15,212.70	17.1%
Footwear	1,282.16	1,017.38	26.0%
Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	8,103.17	5,278.00	53.5%
Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	12,043.86	8,781.75	37.1%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	41,015.93	30,545.56	34.3%
<u>Commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC</u>			
Postal Packages not classified according to kind	316.53	299.24	5.8%
Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	9,720.62	25,250.08	-61.5%
Coin (other than gold coin), not being legal tender	150.23	27.18	452.8%
Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)	7,236.72	378.65	1811.2%
All Commodities	477,612.51	422,447.53	13.1%

Methodology, Explanatory Notes and Definitions

The Foreign Trade Statistics is produced by the Economics and Statistics Office (ESO).

System of Trade

The “General Trade System” is the system of coverage used in the tabulation of merchandise in this report. Under this system, all goods entering the Cayman Islands are recorded as imports, while all goods leaving the country are recorded as exports.

Coverage

This report covers merchandise trade of good imported only. Trade- in-services are not included. Included in this report are:

- Returned goods, used goods, waste scrap, bunker, stores ballast and dunnage
- Estimates of good acquired by travellers for their own use, which falls below the Custom threshold.

Excluded are goods in transit or other trans-shipments not destined for the Cayman Islands’ market, monetary gold and bullion, banknotes and coins in circulation.

Valuation

All values are shown in Cayman Islands dollars (CI\$). Imports are valued at cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f) which is the value up to the time of delivery at the port. It includes incidental charges but excludes customs or any other duty paid on arrival.

Sources

The merchandise import statistics are primarily obtained from the computerised records maintained by the Customs Department. These records are based on documents on the importation of goods as completed by importers or their agents who are required to record the appropriate statistical tariff code using the Cayman Islands

Customs Tariff Law (2017 Revision) (CTL)

The CTL is based on the Harmonised System Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (sixth edition, 2017) of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Classification

Therefore, the task of the ESO is mainly to incorporate and check the credibility of the data and convert them into classification systems that can be useful for analysis. The process of classification is a time-intensive, laborious task as there have been a significant number of goods that are not classified or misclassified. The objective of the classification process has been to minimise the number of such cases; over the years, the number of commodities that are not classified by HS codes has diminished. In addition to the classification by SITC codes, ESO also classifies all imported commodities by Broad Economic Category (BEC) based on international guidelines issued by the United Nations (UN).

Beginning in the first quarter of 2018 and for comparative quarters, the data obtained from Customs is converted to the Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 4). Additionally, the imports are also classified by the Broad Economic Category (Revision 4). In previous publications, SITC (Rev 3) and BEC (Rev 4) were used by the ESO.

Limitations

In the Cayman Islands, several import documents do not provide codes or provide improper codes. Over the years, this issue required the ESO to verify codes and provide missing ones vigilantly. ESO continues to review the imports data to improve the accuracy, reliability and proper classification of the data.

Full details of the quantity and value of all imports are not available. This will require an upgrade of the current administrative system based at the Cayman Islands Customs Department. At present, only a small proportion of commodities have both quantity and value of imports. It must be noted that the goods may not always be recorded they arrive on Island, but when the declarations are logged at Customs. Thus, there may be included some goods which arrived at the end of the previous period but are accounted for in the current period.

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