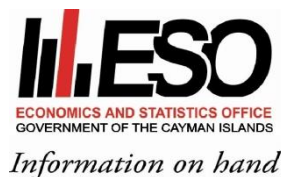




THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' QUARTERLY TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN: JANUARY TO MARCH 2026



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 is obtained.

Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Overview

The total value of merchandise imports decreased by 8.6 percent to \$436.47 million for the first quarter ending March 2026, compared to the \$477.67 million recorded for the previous corresponding quarter. This performance reflected a 10.5 percent decrease in the value of imported non-petroleum goods. However, there was a 6.9 percent growth in the imports of petroleum and petroleum-related imports for the review quarter.

There were decreases in most SITC categories such as *machinery and transport goods, food and live animals, manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials, chemicals and related products, beverages and tobacco, miscellaneous manufactured goods and crude materials, inedible, except fuels*. However, there was an increase in the imports of *commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*, for the first three months of 2026.

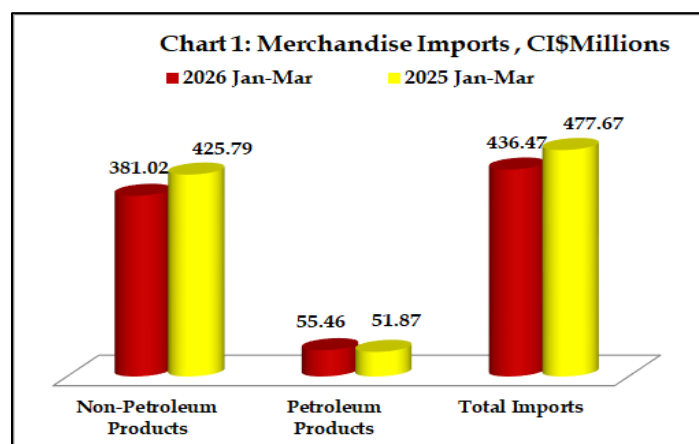


Table 1. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)

	2026	2025	Change
	QTR 1	QTR 1	
	CIS000		%
Total Imports	436,472.6	477,665.9	-8.6%
Capital goods	36,866.0	50,136.0	-26.5%
Intermediate goods	133,643.8	137,063.2	-2.5%
Consumption goods	182,280.8	212,058.7	-14.0%
Motor Spirit	53,959.8	50,040.8	7.8%
Passenger Motor Vehicles	20,041.9	18,253.1	9.8%
Goods not elsewhere specified	9,680.4	10,114.1	-4.3%

Broad Economic Classification (BEC) analysis showed that reductions were recorded in imports of *consumption goods, capital goods and intermediate goods* by 14.0 percent, 26.5 percent, and 2.5 percent, respectively. Also, there were reductions in the importation of *goods not elsewhere specified* by 4.3 percent. However, there was growth in the imports of *motor spirit and passenger motor vehicles* by 7.8 percent, and 9.8 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 reduction in imports occurred mainly from the *U.S.A, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Mexico and Japan*. In contrast, goods imported from *Jamaica, Canada, South Korea, Panama and Cuba* grew during the review period (see Table 3).

Imports by Category

Machinery and transport equipment imports declined by 18.2 percent (\$17.05 million), mainly due to the decreased importation of *general industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s* (36.1%),

power-generating machinery and equipment (72.2%), and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof by 17.5 percent. Additionally, imports of road vehicles declined by 10.1 percent. In contrast, there was a 183.2 percent and 37.2 percent increase in the imports of other transport equipment and machinery specialized for particular industries, respectively (see Table 2 and Table 5).

Food and live animals imports declined by 12.7 percent (\$11.55 million), mainly reflecting the decreased importation of *miscellaneous edible products and preparations* (20.3%), *dairy products and birds' eggs* (27.0%), as well as *meat and meat preparations* by 12.2 percent. Additionally, there was a 8.7 percent, 18.2 percent and a 14.0 percent decrease in the imports of *vegetables and fruit*, *coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof*, and *sugars, sugar preparations and honey*, respectively (see Table 2 and Table 5).

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials decreased by 18.1 percent (\$10.58 million) to settle at \$47.69 million for the review quarter. This outcome reflected lower imports of *manufactures of metals n.e.s* by 25.1 percent, *paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard* (26.4%), *non-metallic mineral manufactures* (16.8%), and *iron and steel* by 21.6 percent. Also, there were reductions in imports of *cork & wood manufactures* and *non-ferrous metals* imports by 14.2 percent and 19.1 percent, respectively.

Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. decreased by 15.6 percent (\$6.27 million) for the first quarter of 2026. This reflected reductions in several items such as *essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials et al* (18.9%), *plastics in non-primary forms* (29.9%), *medicinal and pharmaceutical products* (8.8%), and *chemical materials and products, n.e.s* (21.9%). Additionally, the importation of *dyeing, tanning and colouring materials* declined by 12.0 percent for the first three months of 2026.

Beverages and tobacco recorded an overall decline of 22.5 percent. This outcome reflected the 79.3 percent decrease in the importation of *tobacco and*

tobacco manufactures, as well as a 12.2 percent decline in the imports of *beverages*. The reduction in *beverage* imports was due mostly to lower imports for most categories, such as *wines* (37.2%), *beer* (9.8%), *rum* (40.0%), and *spirits & distilled alcoholic beverages* by 12.0 percent. The reduction in imports of *tobacco and tobacco manufactures* mainly reflected the declined imports of *cigarettes containing tobacco* by \$2.2 million, or 81.0% for the review quarter.

Miscellaneous manufactured articles imports declined by 3.6 percent (\$3.54 million), reflecting reductions in *miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s* (12.0%), *photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s* (22.8%), *articles of apparel and clothing* (5.0%), and *footwear* by 28.9 percent. In contrast, imports of *furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings* increased by 29.3 percent for the first three months of 2026. Also, imports of *professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s. prefabricated buildings* grew by 7.4 percent.

Imports of **crude materials, inedible, (except fuel)** was lower by 20.3 percent (\$1.10 million). This decline reflected lower importation of *crude fertilizers* and *crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s* by 28.9 percent, and 23.6 percent respectively.

Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes decreased by 13.8 percent due mostly to the reduced importation of *fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated* by 13.0 percent. Also, *animal oils and fats* imports decreased by 44.8 percent for the first quarter of 2026.

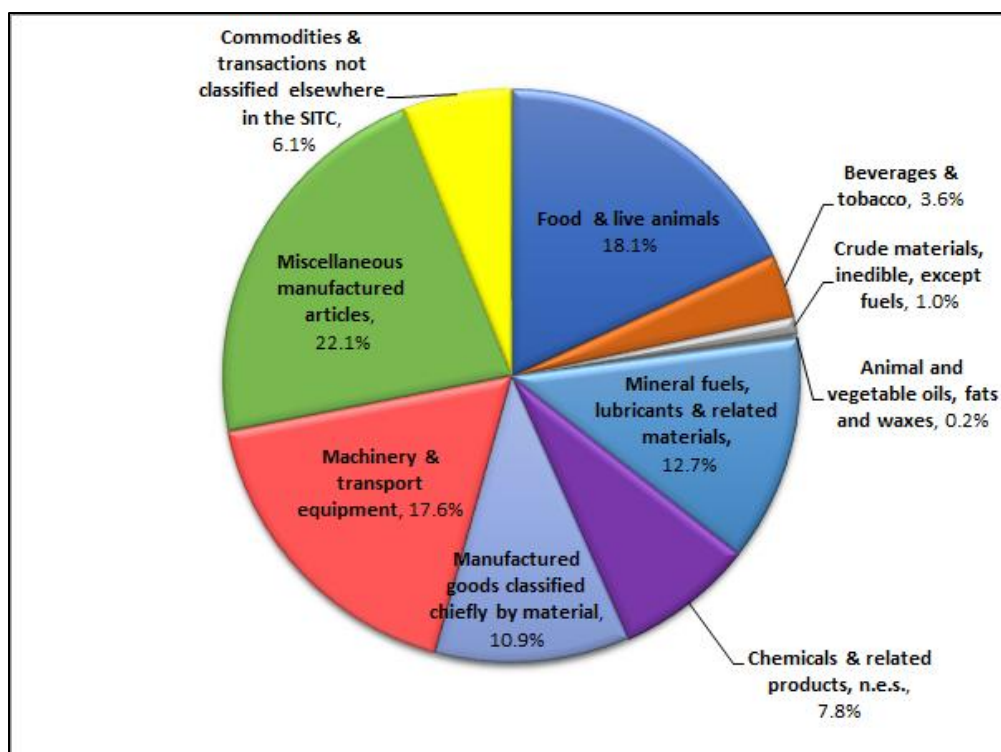
In contrast, **commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere** increased by 60.8 percent relative to the first quarter in 2025. This primarily reflected a 141.5 percent increase in imports of *gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)* to the corresponding period in 2025.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials imports reached \$55.46 million, an increase of 6.9 percent. This increase was mainly driven by growth in the average volumes of all major types of fuel

imported for the first quarter of 2026.

Table 2. Merchandise Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)(Rev 4), C1\$Millions			
Section	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Food and live animals	79.17	90.73	-12.7%
Beverages and tobacco	15.68	20.25	-22.5%
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	4.31	5.41	-20.3%
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.72	0.83	-13.8%
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	33.94	40.21	-15.6%
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	47.69	58.27	-18.1%
Machinery and transport equipment	76.81	93.86	-18.2%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	96.27	99.81	-3.6%
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	26.42	16.43	60.8%
Non-Petroleum Products	381.02	425.79	-10.5%
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*	55.46	51.87	6.9%
Total	436.47	477.67	-8.6%
* Also referred to as petroleum and related oils			

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of Imports by SITC, January-March 2026



Imports by Countries of Origin

Table 3. Imports by Country of Origin, CI\$Million January-March			
Country	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	% change
United States	333.61	382.24	-12.7%
Jamaica	27.40	20.80	31.7%
Japan	4.70	4.74	-0.8%
United Kingdom	9.22	11.50	-19.9%
South Korea	1.87	1.29	45.5%
Cuba	0.82	0.45	83.5%
Canada	4.18	2.59	61.6%
Switzerland	4.48	6.27	-28.5%
Germany	3.20	3.38	-5.3%
Panama	3.62	3.20	13.1%
Mexico	1.00	2.30	-56.5%
Others	42.38	38.91	8.9%
TOTAL IMPORTS	436.47	477.67	-8.6%

For the quarter ending March 2026, the overall decrease in the value of imported goods was driven by the 12.7 percent, or \$48.63 million, decline in imports from the U.S.A. (see Table 3). This outturn reflected decreases in the value of imported *petroleum and petroleum related products, road vehicles, and general industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s.*

Imports from the **United Kingdom** declined by 19.9 percent due to decreased purchases of *tobacco and tobacco manufactures, manufactures of metals, n.e.s.*, as well as *professional scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.*

Cayman's imports from **Switzerland** decreased from \$6.27 million to \$4.48 million, mainly due to lower imports of *photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s., essential oils, as well as paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp.*

There was a 56.5 percent decrease in imports from **Mexico** during the review quarter of 2026, mostly due to the decline in the imports of *road vehicles, beverages, as well as other transport equipment.*

In contrast, imports from **Jamaica** increased by 31.7 percent to \$6.60 million due to the greater importation of *furniture and parts, professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s., cork and wood manufactures, as well as prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s..*

Imports from **Canada** grew by \$1.59 million (61.6%) reflecting the increased imports of *electrical machinery, photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods as well as non-ferrous metals.*

The increase in imports from **South Korea** largely reflected the growth in *road vehicles* purchases for the quarter.

Table 4. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)			
CI\$000, January- March			
Broad Economic Categories	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	2026/2025 % Change
1 Food and beverages	91,954.65	105,723.86	-13.0%
11. Primary	24,975.40	29,099.43	-14.2%
111. Mainly for industry	1,655.09	2,188.02	-24.4%
112. Mainly for household consumption	23,320.31	26,911.41	-13.3%
12. Processed	66,979.25	76,624.43	-12.6%
121. Mainly for industry	5,307.34	6,682.73	-20.6%
122. Mainly for household consumption	61,671.91	69,941.70	-11.8%
2. Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified	100,744.99	95,881.78	5.1%
21. Primary	3,147.25	4,502.74	-30.1%
22. Processed	97,597.74	91,379.04	6.8%
3. Fuels and lubricants	55,262.21	51,605.71	7.1%
31. Primary	-	-	-
32. Processed	55,262.21	51,605.71	7.1%
321. Motor spirit	53,959.78	50,040.84	7.8%
322. Other	1,302.43	1,564.87	-16.8%
4. Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof	47,155.86	60,662.67	-22.3%
41. Capital goods (except transport equipment)	33,248.56	44,081.37	-24.6%
42. Parts and accessories	13,907.30	16,581.30	-16.1%
5. Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof	36,713.61	40,855.62	-10.1%
51. Passenger motor cars	20,041.92	18,253.07	9.8%
52. Other	5,945.15	8,438.27	-29.5%
521. Industrial	3,617.38	6,054.58	-40.3%
522. Non-industrial	2,327.78	2,383.69	-2.3%
53. Parts and accessories	10,726.54	14,164.28	-24.3%
6. Consumer goods not elsewhere specified	94,956.44	112,821.21	-15.8%
61. Durable	28,447.56	37,410.42	-24.0%
62. Semi-durable	33,871.81	37,580.96	-9.9%
63. Non-durable	32,637.07	37,829.83	-13.7%
7. Goods not elsewhere specified	9,684.56	10,113.98	-4.2%
TOTAL	436,472.33	477,664.83	-8.6%

Imports by Broad Economic Categories

Analysis of imports by **Broad Economic Categories (BEC)** or final use reflected reductions in most categories for the first quarter of 2026 (see Table 4).

Consumer goods not elsewhere specified decreased by 15.8 percent to \$94.96 million, with the decrease mainly reflecting *durable, non-durable* and *semi-durable* goods by 24.0 percent, 13.7 percent, and 9.9 percent, respectively, over the corresponding quarter of 2025.

Imports of **Capital Goods (except transport equipment) and parts and accessories thereof** declined by \$13.51 million or 22.3 percent for the first three months of 2026. This was due mainly to the 24.6 percent reduction in *capital goods (except transport equipment)* as well as *parts and accessories* of capital goods, which shrunk by 16.1 percent.

Food and beverages imports decreased by 13.0 percent (\$13.77 million) reflecting decreases in both *primary* (14.2%) and *processed* food and beverage (12.6%). *Primary* and *processed* food and beverage for *household consumption* declined by 13.3 and 11.8 percent, respectively. Additionally, *primary* and *processed* food and beverage mainly for *industrial consumption* were lower by 24.4 and 20.6 percent, respectively.

The 10.1 percent reduction in **Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof** was driven by the 24.3 percent decline in *parts and accessories* of transport equipment, as well as a 40.3 percent reduction in the importation of *industrial transport equipment*. However, these reductions were partially offset by growth in imports of *passenger motor cars* by 9.8 percent for the review quarter of 2026.

Imports of **Goods not elsewhere specified** declined by 4.2 percent for the first three months of 2026.

However, imports of **Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified** increased by 5.1 percent, primarily from the larger imports of *processed industrial supplies* (6.8%), while imports of *primary industrial supplies* declined by 30.1 percent.

Imports of **Fuels and lubricants** increased by 7.1 percent due primarily to the higher importation of *processed fuels and lubricants* especially *motor spirit*, which increased by 7.8 percent. This more than offset the 16.8 percent reduction in *other processed fuels*.

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

	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	2026/25 %Chg
<u><i>Food and Live Animals</i></u>			
Live animals other than animals of division 03	49.63	136.47	-63.6%
Meat and meat preparations	15,725.73	17,917.94	-12.2%
Dairy products and birds' eggs	8,082.91	11,065.43	-27.0%
Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	6,573.69	6,773.97	-3.0%
Cereals and cereal preparations	9,813.21	10,185.99	-3.7%
Vegetables and fruit	19,730.48	21,618.51	-8.7%
Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	1,328.44	1,544.02	-14.0%
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	3,281.67	4,010.09	-18.2%
Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	2,791.18	2,664.78	4.7%
Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	11,797.27	14,808.92	-20.3%
<u><i>Beverages & Tobacco</i></u>			
Beverages	15,036.30	17,117.00	-12.2%
Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	646.45	3,129.25	-79.3%
<u><i>Crude Materials, inedible, except fuels</i></u>			
Hides, skins and furskins, raw	-	-	-
Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits	63.38	81.50	-22.2%
Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	14.90	28.27	-47.3%
Cork and wood	687.08	424.71	61.8%
Pulp and waste paper	0.17	7.75	-97.8%
Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	1.86	5.22	-64.4%
Crude fertilizers, other than those of Division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	2,401.18	3,377.87	-28.9%
Metalliferous ores and metal scraps	7.84	0.15	5223.6%
Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	1,134.69	1,485.49	-23.6%
<u><i>Mineral Fuels, lubricants & related materials</i></u>			
Coal, coke and briquettes	72.57	63.32	14.6%
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	54,360.84	50,868.37	6.9%
Gas, natural and manufactured	1,022.31	942.52	8.5%
<u><i>Animal & Vegetable oils, fats and waxes</i></u>			
Animal oils and fats	15.39	27.86	-44.8%
Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	600.36	689.92	-13.0%
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.	101.32	113.64	-10.8%

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

	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	2026/25 %Chg
<i><u>Chemicals & related products, n.e.s</u></i>			
Organic chemicals	235.22	171.50	37.2%
Inorganic chemicals	521.70	504.14	3.5%
Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	4,657.04	5,294.94	-12.0%
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	12,181.37	13,358.02	-8.8%
Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	9,193.72	11,339.52	-18.9%
Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)	119.26	59.85	99.3%
Plastics in primary forms	192.62	229.89	-16.2%
Plastics in non-primary forms	3,371.07	4,810.67	-29.9%
Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	3,466.60	4,441.29	-21.9%
<i><u>Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials</u></i>			
Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins	93.69	87.14	7.5%
Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	3,099.81	1,972.23	57.2%
Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	4,983.54	5,810.58	-14.2%
Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	5,174.12	7,025.80	-26.4%
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	3,132.26	3,312.89	-5.5%
Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	8,139.20	9,778.47	-16.8%
Iron and steel	4,396.25	5,606.49	-21.6%
Non-ferrous metals	2,697.24	3,335.81	-19.1%
Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	15,978.67	21,341.23	-25.1%
<i><u>Machinery & transport equipment</u></i>			
Power-generating machinery and equipment	2,002.52	7,201.26	-72.2%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	3,561.15	2,595.12	37.2%
Metalworking machinery	951.38	1,233.04	-22.8%
General industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts, n.e.s.	10,203.15	15,965.77	-36.1%
Office machines and automatic data-processing machines	5,021.44	5,970.27	-15.9%
Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	6,730.49	8,274.47	-18.7%

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

	2026 Qtr 1	2025 Qtr 1	2026/25 %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)	16,883.78	20,462.51	-17.5%
Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	27,720.90	30,836.58	-10.1%
Other transport equipment	3,738.93	1,320.12	183.2%
<i><u>Miscellaneous manufactured articles</u></i>			
Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	3,022.31	2,586.48	16.9%
Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	19,679.66	15,223.96	29.3%
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	1,023.64	1,109.92	-7.8%
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	16,974.44	17,867.46	-5.0%
Footwear	911.91	1,282.19	-28.9%
Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	8,986.74	8,370.23	7.4%
Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	9,292.94	12,043.85	-22.8%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	36,374.09	41,325.30	-12.0%
<i><u>Commodities & transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC</u></i>			
Postal Packages not classified according to kind	332.58	316.53	5.1%
Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	7,770.64	8,723.37	-10.9%
Coin (other than gold coin), not being legal tender	840.99	150.23	459.8%
Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)	17,474.43	7,236.72	141.5%
All Commodities	436,472.33	477,664.83	-8.6%

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 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 goods 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 used in the Cayman Islands.

Customs Tariff Law (2023 Revision) (CTL)

The CTL is based on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (2023) 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 when 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.

**Economics and Statistics Office
3rd Floor, Government Administration Building
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
KYI-9000**

Phone: (345) 949-0940

Fax: (345) 949-8782

www.eso.ky

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