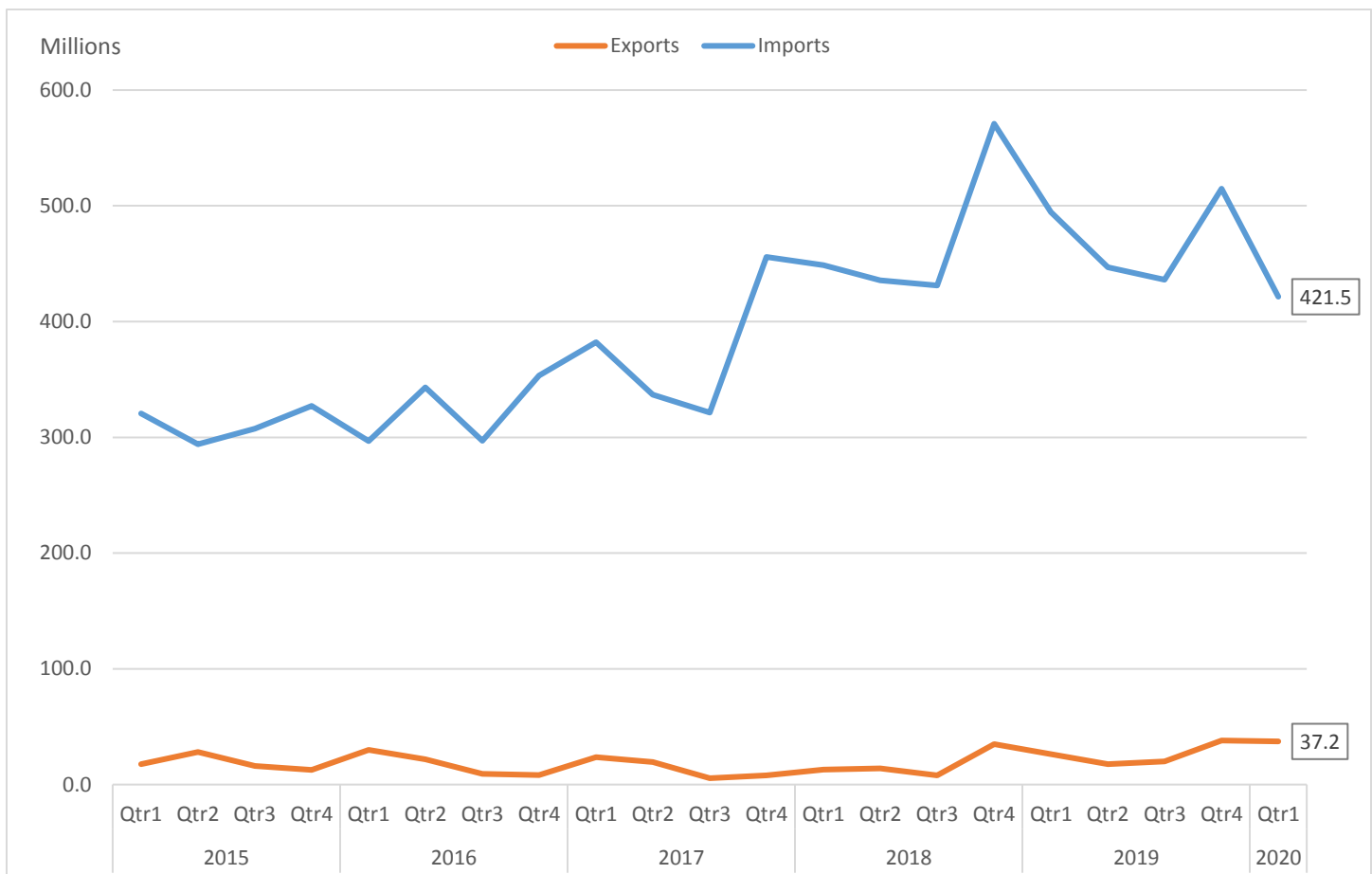


IMPORTS DOWN 14.8%, EXPORTS UP 41.6% IN FIRST QUARTER 2020

In the first three months of 2020, imports fell 14.8% to EC\$ 421.5 million compared to EC\$ 494.6 million for the same period in 2019. This represents the lowest level of imports observed since the third quarter of 2017. Total exports (domestic exports and re-exports) increased 41.6% to EC\$ 37.2 million for the first quarter of 2020 when compared to EC\$ 26.3 million in 2019. It was the second highest level observed over the six-year period (See Figure 1).

The decline in imports was mainly due to a 17.5% or EC\$ 33.9 million decrease in imports from the United States of America (USA), Antigua and Barbuda main trading partner. Imports from the USA excluding petroleum products¹ were valued at EC\$ 159.9 million for the first quarter of 2020 compared to EC\$ 193.8 million for the same period in 2019.

Figure 1: Quarterly Gross Imports and Gross Exports (EC\$ millions): January 2015 to March 2020



Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

¹ Imports disaggregated by country do not include some petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, kerosene and other fuels)

IMPORTS

The overall decrease of imports for the first quarter of 2020 was due to less spending on four main commodity groups, *Machinery and transport equipment*, *Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material*, *Mineral fuels, lubricants, related materials* and *Commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified*.

Machinery and transport equipment

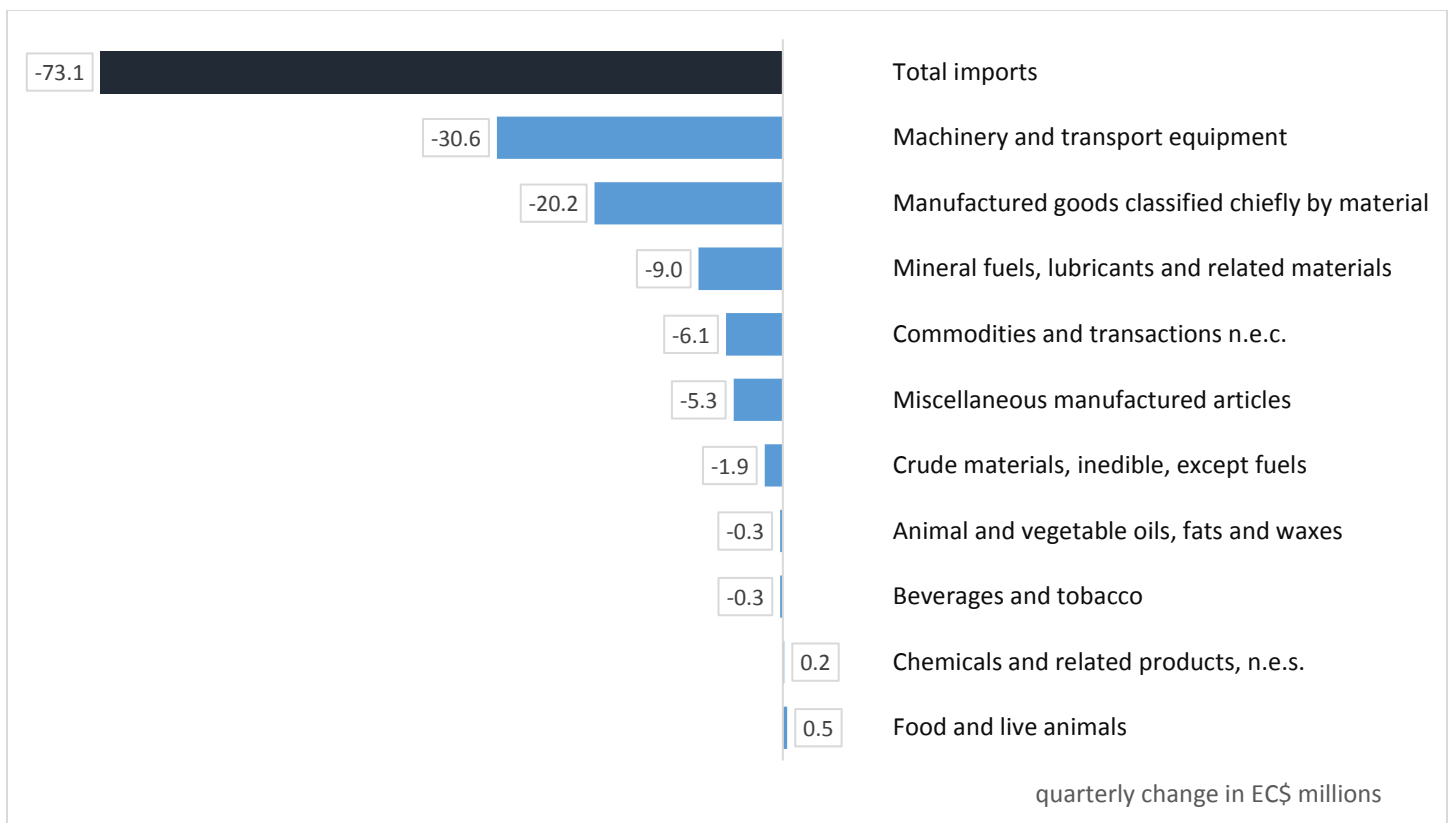
Machinery and transport equipment were valued at EC\$ 93.2 million, a decrease of 24.7% less than the value for 2019 of EC\$ 123.9 million. Imports of vehicles, power generating machinery and other appliances saw notable decreases.

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material fell 27.8 % from EC\$ 72.5 million in 2019 to EC\$ 52.4 million for the first quarter of 2020. There was reduced spending for major items such as doors and windows, building cement, wood and textile products.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials were valued at EC \$79.3 million, a decrease of 10.2% when compared to EC \$88.4 million for the comparable period in 2019. The decline of imports of jet fuel and fuel oil are the major products responsible for the decrease.

Figure 2: Contribution to the quarterly change in imports, by SITC, First Quarter 2020



Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

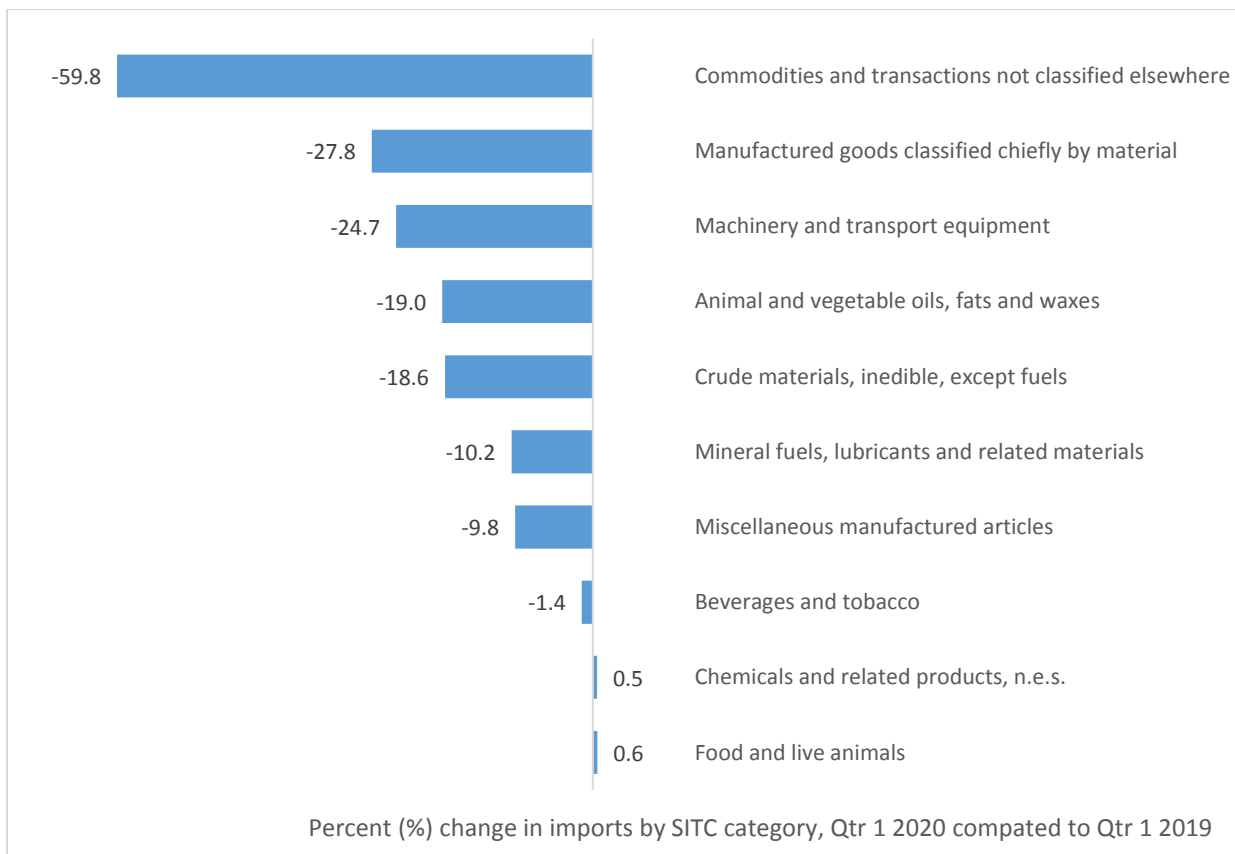
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere

Commodities and transactions not elsewhere classified were valued at EC\$ 4.1 million a decrease of 59.8% less than the value for 2019 of EC\$ 10.2 million. The lower imports reflect a significant decrease in non-monetary gold by EC\$ 6.1 million for the quarter. This was the largest percentage decrease observed over the period.

There were also decreases in four of the other groups, *Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes* (-19.0%), *Crude materials, inedible, except fuels* (-18.6%), *Miscellaneous manufactured articles* (-9.8%) and *Beverages and tobacco* (-1.4%).

In contrast there were slight increases in *Food and live animals* (+0.6%) and *Chemicals and related products* (+0.5%). The increase spending for chicken and other food items, fertilizers and disinfectants respectively are responsible for these slight increases.

Figure 3: Percent change in imports, by SITC, First Quarter 2020 compared to First Quarter 2019

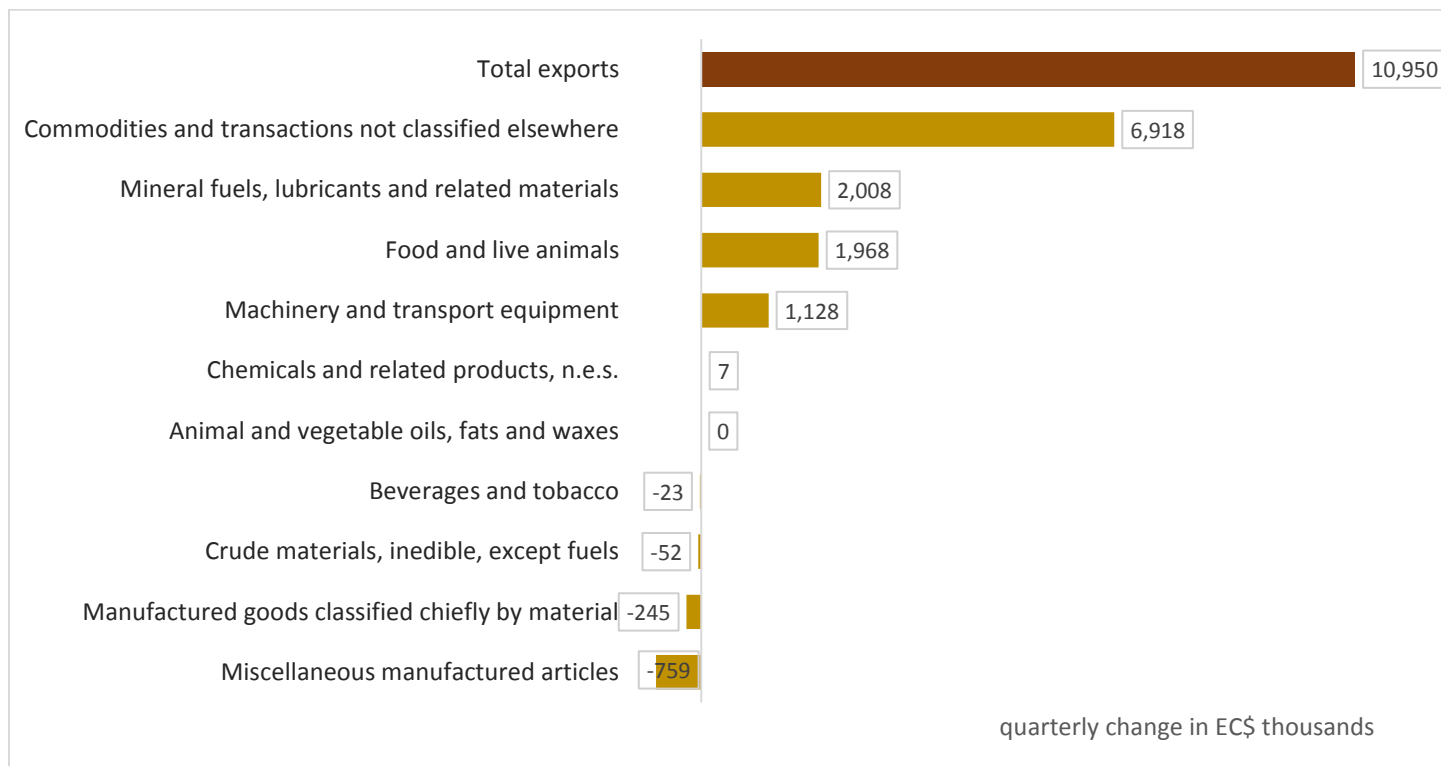


Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

EXPORTS

Domestic exports were valued at EC\$ 3.7 million for the first quarter of 2020 an increase of 97.0% when compared to EC\$ 1.9 million in 2019. Re-exports were valued at EC\$ 33.5 million an increase of 37.3% above the value for 2019 of EC\$ 24.4 million.

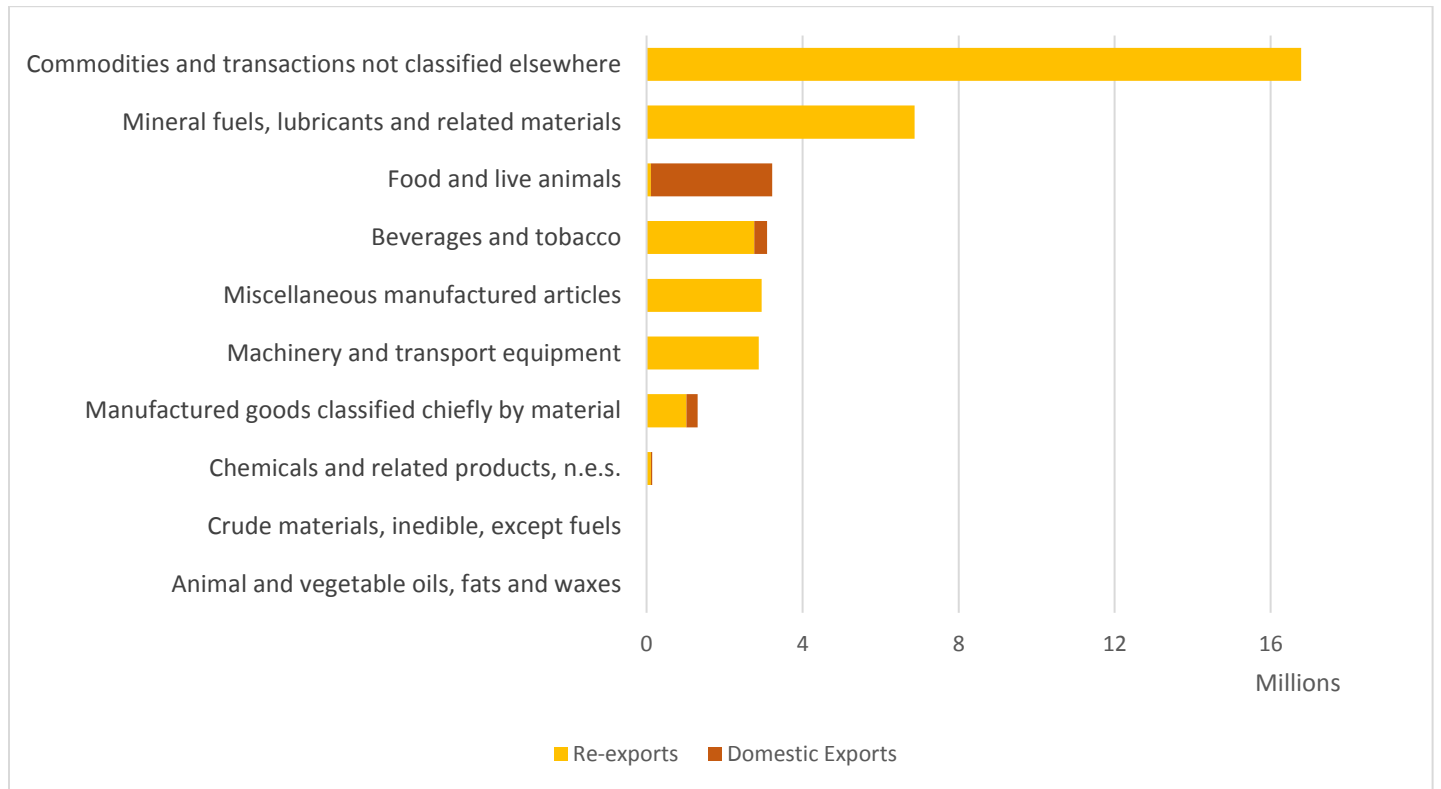
Figure 4: Contribution to the quarterly change in exports, by SITC, First Quarter 2020



Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

An increase in value for domestic exports was primarily due to the increase in exports of sub-category *Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs* which were valued at EC\$ 3.0 million, an increase of 186.6% when compared EC\$ 1.1 million in 2019.

Figure 5: Total exports by type of export by SITC, First Quarter 2020

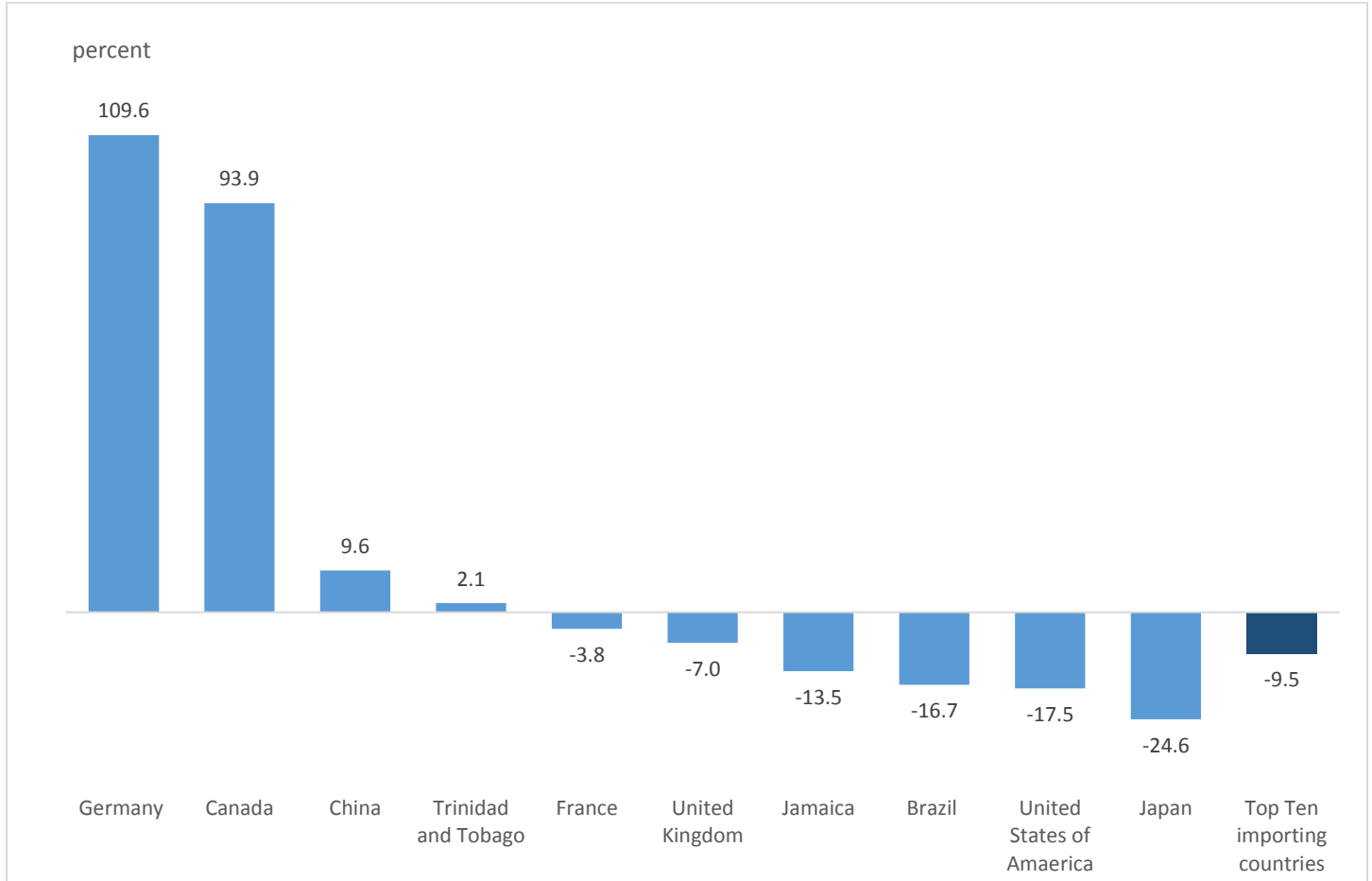


Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

IMPORTS BY COUNTRY

Antigua and Barbuda top ten importing countries for the first quarter of 2020 showed an overall decrease of 9.5% with the largest percentage decrease of 24.6% for Japan, USA (-17.5%) and Brazil (-16.7%). However, there were increases for Germany (+109.6%), Canada (+93.9%) and China (+9.6%).

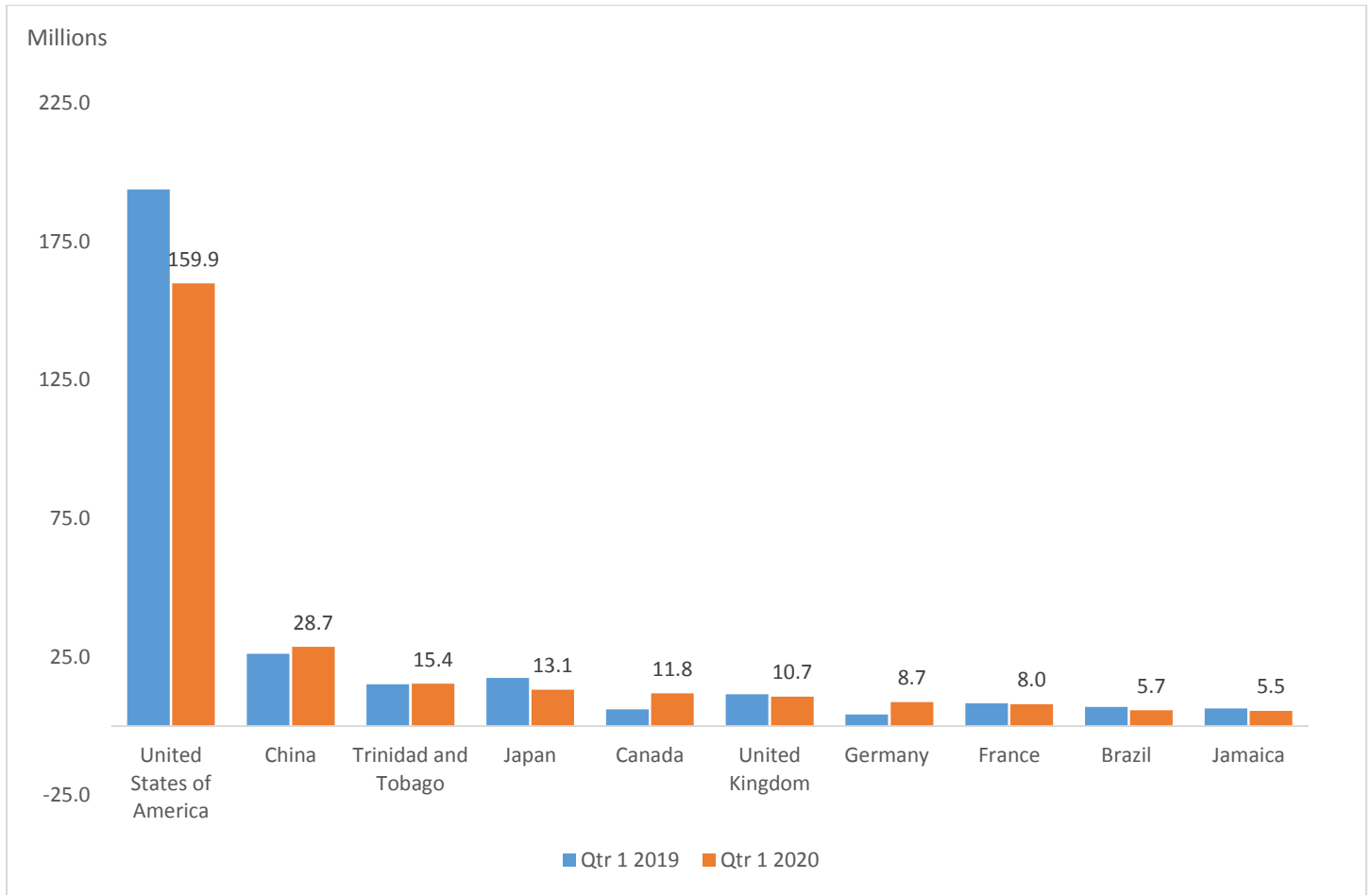
Figure 6: Quarterly change in imports from top ten importing countries, First Quarter 2020 (percent)



Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

These surges were not enough to offset the overall decline (See Figure 7). There were fewer imports of chicken, other food, wood and vehicles. On the other hand, the increases were driven by items such as airline parts, television cameras and prefabricated buildings which are imported occasionally.

Figure 7: Imports for Top Ten Countries, First Quarter 2019 and First Quarter 2020



Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

TRADE WITH CARICOM MEMBER STATES

Imports

Total imports from CARICOM member states for the first quarter of 2020 were valued at EC\$ 36.4 million, a 1.1% decrease when compared to EC\$ 36.8 million for the same period in 2019.

Some of the products imported in 2019 were either not imported or imported in smaller quantities in 2020. These include food items, beverages, paint and natural sand (See Table 1).

Despite the overall decrease in imports, Antigua and Barbuda main trading partner in CARICOM Trinidad and Tobago showed an increase of 2.1% with imports valued at EC\$ 15.4 million when compared to EC\$ 15.1 million in 2019. The higher imports of steel, aerated beverages, toilet paper and biscuits were the main products responsible for the increase.

Table 1: Imports from CARICOM Countries

Imports	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 1 2019
	2019	2020	to Qtr 1 2020
	EC\$ 000		% change
Total Imports	36,792	36,372	-1.1
Trinidad and Tobago	15,065	15,380	2.1
Jamaica	6,404	5,539	-13.5
Barbados	5,557	4,920	-11.5
VC	2,768	3,039	9.8
Guyana	1,118	1,575	40.9
St. Lucia	1,952	1,552	-20.5
Dominica	997	1,284	28.8
Grenada	1,169	1,196	2.4
Montserrat	1,040	900	-13.4
St. Kitts and Nevis	393	462	17.6
Rest of CARICOM	328	524	59.5

VC: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

Exports

Total exports were valued at EC\$ 5.1 million an increase of 141.9%, when compared to EC\$ 2.1 million for the same period in 2019 (See Table 2).

Domestic exports were valued at EC\$ 0.3 million, an increase of 185.5% when compared to EC\$ 0.1 million for 2019. The increase of exports to St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia of Rum and other spirits, galvanize and decaffeinated roasted coffee were the main products exported.

Re-exports were valued at EC\$ 4.8 million, an increase of 139.5% with the comparable period for 2019 of EC\$ 2.0 million. Re-exports of products such as other vehicles, diesel oil, alcoholic beverages and other articles of tin to Dominica, St. Lucia, Bahamas and St. Kitts and Nevis are the main trading partner for Antigua and Barbuda.

Table 2: Exports to CARICOM Countries

Total exports	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 1 2019
	2019	2020	to Qtr 1 2020
	EC\$ 000		% change
Total exports	2,098	5,075	141.9
St. Lucia	327	2,406	634.7
St. Kitts and Nevis	456	1,246	173.3
Dominica	269	467	73.3
Montserrat	214	347	61.8
Bahamas	81	256	217.8
VC	187	241	29.0
Jamaica	1	50	4291.6
Grenada	220	34	-84.4
Trinidad and Tobago	108	20	-82.0
Barbados	232	8	-96.5
Rest of CARICOM	2	0	-85.3

VC: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

TRADE WITH OECS MEMBER STATES

Imports

Total imports from OECS countries were valued at EC\$ 8.4 million, a minor increase of 0.6% or EC\$ 47,500 when compared to 2019.

The increase of imports of items such as flour, aerated beverages, doors and windows, gravel broken or crushed and water paint from Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Monserrat and Dominica represented the main imports from OECS countries (See Table 3).

Table 3: Imports from OECS Countries

Imports	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 1
	2019	2020	2020
	EC\$ 000		% change
Total Imports	8,387	8,435	0.6
VC	2,768	3,039	9.8
St. Lucia	1,952	1,552	-20.5
Dominica	997	1,284	28.8
Grenada	1,169	1,196	2.4
Montserrat	1,040	900	-13.4
St. Kitts and Nevis	393	462	17.6
Anguilla	69	0	-99.4

VC: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

Exports

Total exports were valued at EC\$ 4.8 million, an increase of 123.9% when compared to EC\$ 2.1 million in 2019

Domestic exports were valued at EC\$ 0.4 million, an increase of 231.2% when compared to EC\$ 0.1 million in 2019. The increase exports of rum and other spirits, galvanize, roasted coffee and water to St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Anguilla the main trading partner countries in the OECS region.

Re-exports were valued at EC\$ 4.4 million, an increase 118.0% when compared to EC\$ 2.0 million in 2019.

Table 4: Exports to OECS Countries

Total exports	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 1
	2019	2020	2020
	EC\$ 000		% change
Total exports	2,140	4,790	123.9
Anguilla	466	49	-89.5
Dominica	269	467	73.3
Grenada	220	34	-84.4
St. Kitts and Nevis	456	1,246	173.3
St. Lucia	327	2,406	634.7
Montserrat	214	347	61.8
VC	187	241	29.0

VC: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table 5: Merchandise trade: Standard International Trade Classifications (SITC)

SITC Sections	Qtr 1	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 4	Qtr 1
	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020
	EC\$ millions			% Change	
Total imports	494.6	514.9	421.5	-18.1	-14.8
Food and live animals	83.3	86.4	83.8	-3.0	0.6
Beverages and tobacco	20.0	27.4	19.7	-28.0	-1.4
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	10.5	9.7	8.5	-11.7	-18.6
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	88.4	1.2	79.3	6589.3	-10.2
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1.6	33.5	1.3	-96.2	-19.0
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	30.3	68.7	30.4	-55.7	0.5
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	72.5	105.6	52.4	-50.4	-27.8
Machinery and transport equipment	123.9	72.9	93.2	27.9	-24.7
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	54.0	21.8	48.7	123.5	-9.8
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	10.2	87.6	4.1	-95.3	-59.8
Total exports	26.3	38.0	37.2	-2.1	41.6
Food and live animals	1.3	1.6	3.2	105.1	157.3
Beverages and tobacco	3.1	2.0	3.1	51.7	-0.7
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0.1	0.0	0.0	-89.4	-98.1
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	4.9	5.2	6.9	32.6	41.2
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	0.1	0.1	0.1	67.0	5.5
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1.6	1.2	1.3	5.9	-15.8
Machinery and transport equipment	1.7	1.0	2.9	189.7	64.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3.7	2.2	3.0	31.5	-20.4
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	9.9	24.7	16.8	-32.0	70.1

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table 6: Imports (excluding mineral fuels) from Top Ten Countries

Imports	Qtr 1 2019	Qtr 1 2020	Qtr 1 2019 to Qtr 1 2020
	EC\$ millions		% change
Total Imports²	408.2	344.4	-15.6
United States of America	193.8	159.9	-17.5
China	26.2	28.7	9.6
Trinidad and Tobago	15.1	15.4	2.1
Japan	17.4	13.1	-24.6
Canada	6.1	11.8	93.9
United Kingdom	11.5	10.7	-7.0
Germany	4.2	8.7	109.6
France	8.3	8.0	-3.8
Brazil	6.9	5.7	-16.7
Jamaica	6.4	5.5	-13.5
Rest of the World	112.4	76.9	-31.6

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

Table 7: Exports to Top Ten Countries Qtr 1 2019 and 2020

Exports	Qtr 1 2019	Qtr 1 2020	Qtr 1 2019 to Qtr 1 2020
	EC\$ millions		% change
Total Exports	26.3	37.2	41.6
United Arab Emirates	9.9	16.8	70.1
Dutch St. Marteen	1.4	4.2	196.1
Netherlands	2.7	3.3	19.4
Hong Kong	0.5	2.6	393.1
United States of America	6.9	2.4	-64.6
St. Lucia	0.3	2.4	634.7
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.5	1.2	173.3
Colombia	0.0	1.1	-
Dominica	0.3	0.5	73.3
Guadeloupe	0.2	0.5	126.8
Rest of the World	3.6	2.3	-35.7

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

² Imports do not include some petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, kerosene and other fuels)

Methodology and Explanation

International Merchandise Trade Statistics is compiled by the Economic and Business Section within the Statistics Division, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance.

Trade System

The General Trade System is used to compile this bulletin. Under this system all goods are recorded as imports when they enter Antigua and Barbuda while all goods leaving the country are recorded as exports.

Coverage

This bulletin does not include Trade in Services.

Included in this report are goods acquired by all categories of travelers, non-monetary gold and goods dispatched or received through postal or courier services.

Goods excluded are goods in transit or transshipment, goods temporarily admitted or dispatched and monetary gold.

Note

Tables showing imports disaggregated by country do not include some petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and fuel oil.

Data Source

Customs records are the main data source. These records are based on documents for the importation and exportation of goods which are recorded by importers or brokers into the computerized system using the appropriate tariff codes.

Classification

The tariff codes are based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) 2007. The harmonized system is used to collect, compile and disseminate merchandise trade statistics, which is converted into classification system to be used for analysis. The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev4 is one such classification is used to display the information in this bulletin.

Valuation

All values are in Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC\$). Imports are valued at cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f.) which is the value calculated after it is received at the port. It does not include duties or levies. The exports are valued free on board (FOB).

Definitions

Domestic exports: goods produced or manufactured in the domestic market.

Re-exports: export of foreign goods that were previously recorded as imports.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CARICOM: Caribbean Community

OECS: Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

SITC: Standard International Trade Classification

n.e.s.: not elsewhere specified

Data Revision

The data compiled in the bulletin is preliminary data subject to revision based upon updated data that is provided by the Custom and Excise Division. The Division finalizes the figures when compiling the annual international merchandise trade statistics.

Further Information:

Additional information on International Merchandise Trade Statistics are available at the Statistics Division website at www.statistics.gov.ag

Economic and Business Statistics Section
Statistics Division
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance
First Floor, ACT Building
Church and Market Street
St. Johns, Antigua

Phone: +1 (268) 562 7496
Email: info.stats@ab.gov.ag
