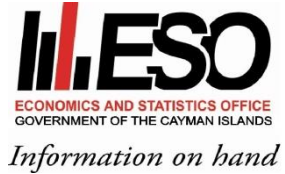




# THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' QUARTERLY TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN: JANUARY TO MARCH 2019



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 grew by 11.2 percent to \$271.34 million for the first quarter ended March 2019 compared to the \$244.02 million recorded in March 2018. This performance reflected a 12.7 percent growth in the value of imported non-petroleum goods, along with a 1.2 percent increase in imports of petroleum and petroleum-related goods.

There was growth for most SITC categories, particularly *machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods classified chiefly by material and miscellaneous manufactured articles*, which reflected increases of 36.6 percent, 23.9 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively. However, *commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere* and *Beverages & Tobacco* declined by 30.1 and 12.3 percent, respectively, for the review quarter

over the corresponding quarter of 2018 (Table 1).

In terms of imports by source country, the USA, Mexico, U.K. and Canada recorded notable increases, while goods imported from Jamaica, Panama, Switzerland and South Korea contracted for the review quarter (see Table 3).

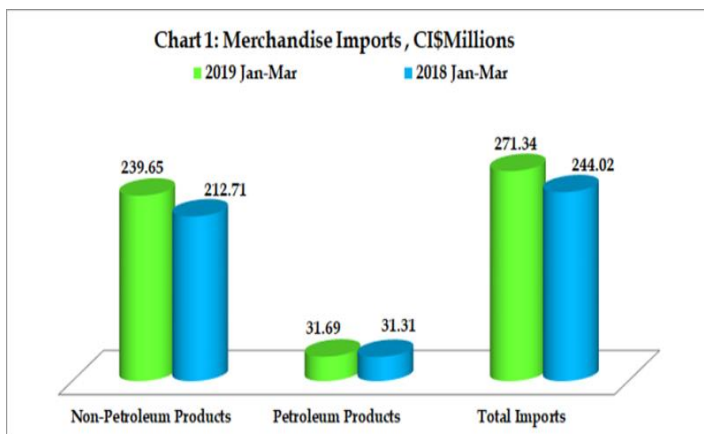
**Table 1. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)**

	2019	2018	%
	QTR 1	QTR 1	Change
CIS '000			
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>271,338.3</b>	<b>244,021.4</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Capital goods	29,975.0	21,227.0	41.2
Intermediate goods	74,042.4	63,763.1	16.1
Consumption goods	119,964.3	113,902.8	5.2
Motor Spirit	31,034.0	30,104.5	3.1
Passenger Motor Vehicles	10,981.7	10,269.4	6.9
Goods not elsewhere specified	5,340.8	4,754.6	12.3

Analysis of imports by Broad Economic Classification showed that growth was recorded in all the major categories. Significant increases were recorded in imports of *capital* and *intermediate* goods by 41.2 and 16.1 percent, respectively (see Table 1). Imports of *consumer* goods grew by 5.2 percent for the first quarter of 2019.

### Imports by Category

Imports of **machinery and transport equipment** grew by 36.6 percent (\$16.8 million), largely on account of the increased importation of *electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s.* by 72.4 percent, *road vehicles* by 18.7 percent and *other transport equipment* by 244.0 percent (see Table 2



and Table 5).

**Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials** recorded growth of 23.9 percent (\$6.23 million) to settle at \$32.31 million for the first quarter of 2019. This reflected increases in *iron and steel of metals* by 112.0 percent or \$1.53 million over the previous corresponding quarter. Growth was recorded in the importation of other goods such as *non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.*(35.4%), *textile yarn, fabrics and related materials* (57.1%) and *cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)* (56.7%).

**Miscellaneous manufactured articles** imports grew by 7.3 percent (\$3.85 million), which reflected increases in *furniture and parts thereof* and *prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.* by 46.0 percent and 41.5 percent, respectively. There was also an 11.0 percent growth in imports of *photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies n.e.s.* In contrast, articles of apparel and clothing accessories fell by 1.4 percent to \$12.09 million.

**Food and live animals** recorded overall growth of 4.4 percent (\$2.05 million) due to increases in the imports of *cereal and cereal preparations* (37.7%), *meat and meat preparations* (18.2%) and *fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates* (14.8%). However, there was a partially offsetting decline in the imports of *miscellaneous edible products and preparations* and *vegetables and fruit* by 15.9 and 3.4 percent, respectively.

**Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.** increased by 6.7 percent (\$1.2 million) over the first quarter of 2018. This reflected growth in several items such as *essential oils* (20.5%), *dyeing tanning and colouring materials* (42.8%) and *plastics in non-primary forms* (17.9%). In contrast, there was a notable reduction in *chemical materials and products, n.e.s.* by 40.9 percent.

**Crude materials, inedible, (except fuel)** imports grew by 12.5 percent, which reflected increases in *crude animal and vegetable materials* and *cork and wood* imports of 39.9 percent and 18.4 percent,

respectively.

**Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes** recorded an increase of 32.6 percent to \$0.3 million due to rise in the importation of refined or fractioned fixed vegetable fats and oils.

**Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials** reached \$31.69 million, an increase of 1.2 percent. This growth was driven mainly by the increase in the volume of fuel imports, notwithstanding the fall in prices on the international market.

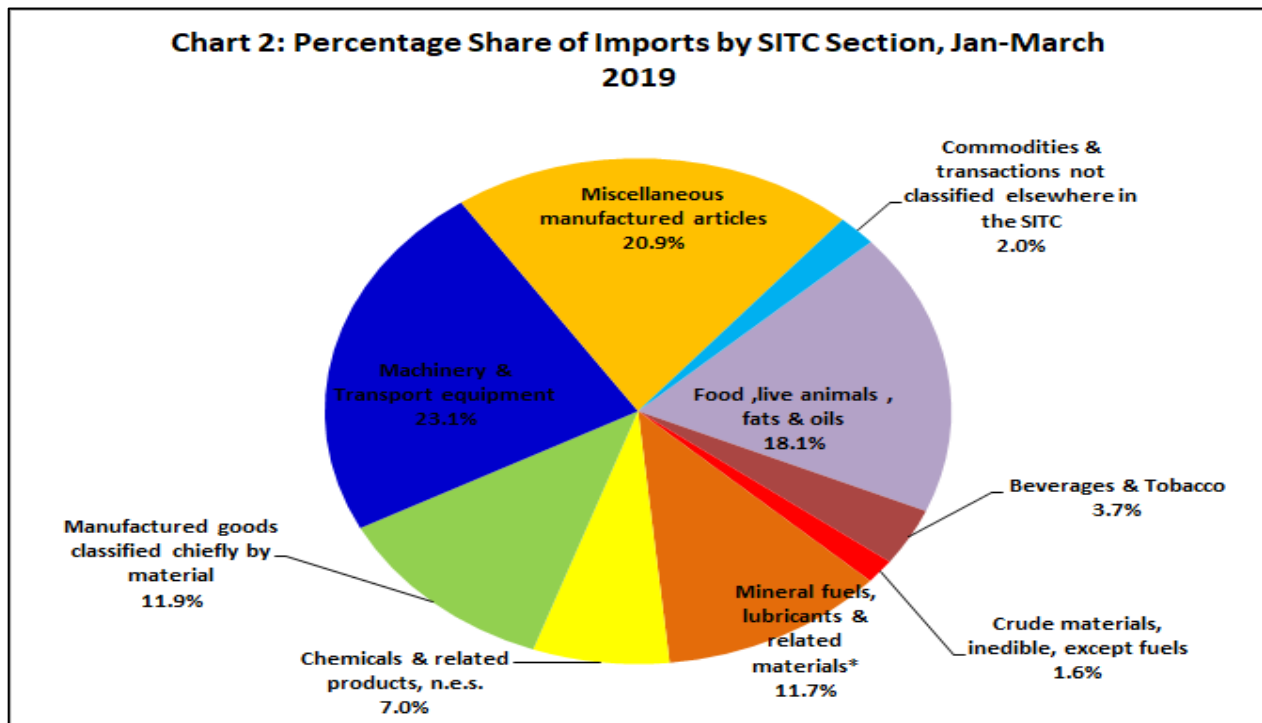
In contrast to the above increases, imports of **commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere** and **beverages and tobacco** dipped by 30.1 and 12.3 percent relative to the same quarter in 2018. The decline in imports of **commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere** reflected reduced imports of *special commodities and transactions not classified according to kind* and *non-monetary gold* by 40.0 and 24.1 percent, respectively. The drop in *beverages and tobacco imports* resulted from the reduced growth in imports of *tobacco and tobacco manufactures* by 44.4 percent or \$1.04 million, and *beverages* by 4.0 percent or \$0.36 million for the same period.

Table 2. Merchandise Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)(Rev 4), CISMillion

Section	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	%
	JAN	FEB	MAR	Qtr 1	JAN	FEB	MAR	Qtr 1	Change
Food and live animals	16.50	15.14	17.17	48.81	15.01	13.52	18.22	46.75	4.4%
Beverages and tobacco	2.91	3.54	3.55	10.01	4.91	2.57	3.93	11.41	-12.3%
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1.16	1.44	1.64	4.24	1.22	0.95	1.60	3.77	12.5%
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.39	0.13	0.06	0.11	0.30	32.6%
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	6.39	6.11	6.61	19.11	6.72	5.51	5.68	17.91	6.7%
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	11.64	9.71	10.97	32.31	9.18	8.29	8.62	26.08	23.9%
Machinery and transport equipment	23.91	18.00	20.76	62.66	12.72	14.01	19.15	45.88	36.6%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	19.44	18.97	18.25	56.66	17.70	16.63	18.48	52.81	7.3%
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	2.46	1.74	1.25	5.45	2.64	2.99	2.17	7.80	-30.1%
<b>Non-Petroleum Products</b>	<b>84.54</b>	<b>74.76</b>	<b>80.34</b>	<b>239.65</b>	<b>70.22</b>	<b>64.53</b>	<b>77.96</b>	<b>212.71</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
<b>Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>17.15</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>31.69</b>	<b>13.93</b>	<b>6.66</b>	<b>10.72</b>	<b>31.31</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.90</b>	<b>91.91</b>	<b>82.53</b>	<b>271.34</b>	<b>84.16</b>	<b>71.18</b>	<b>88.68</b>	<b>244.02</b>	<b>11.2%</b>

\* Also referred to as petroleum and related oils

Chart 2: Percentage Share of Imports by SITC Section, Jan-March 2019



## Imports by Countries of Origin

For the quarter ending March 2019, the overall increase in the value of goods imported was driven by the 11.5 percent or \$23.81 million growth in imports from the USA (see Table 3), Cayman's leading trading partner. Total imports from the USA was valued at \$230.95 million, compared to \$207.13 million in 2018. This outturn reflected an increase in the value of fuels, general industrial machinery, and electrical machinery and appliances.

Cayman's imports from Mexico grew from \$2.21 million to \$3.74 million, mainly due to higher imports of cement and ceramic tiles as well as road vehicles.

There were also increases in imports from the UK, amounting to \$1.22 million to settle at \$3.90 million largely due to higher telecommunications equipment and medicinal products.

The 73.3 percent upsurge in imports from Canada for the first quarter of 2019 reflected increased imports of building material such as doors, windows and frames as well as some aluminium products.

Imports from Germany increased by 96.1 percent arising from the importation of road vehicles and chemical-related products.

**Table 3. Imports by Country of Origin, C1\$Million  
January- March**

Country	2019	2018	% change
United States	230.95	207.13	11.5%
Jamaica	7.52	7.72	-2.5%
Japan	3.53	2.40	46.7%
United Kingdom	3.90	2.68	45.7%
South Korea	0.98	1.77	-44.8%
Cuba	0.64	0.55	17.5%
Canada	1.38	0.80	73.3%
Switzerland	1.45	2.04	-28.7%
Germany	1.65	1.06	56.2%
Panama	0.51	1.12	-54.7%
Mexico	3.74	2.21	69.3%
Others	15.08	14.54	3.7%
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS</b>	<b>271.34</b>	<b>244.02</b>	<b>11.2%</b>

## Imports by Broad Economic Categories

Analysis of imports by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) or final use shows that all major categories recorded growth during the first quarter of 2019 (see Table 4).

**Capital goods** recorded a large increase of 45.2 percent, reflecting growth in parts and accessories of capital goods, and instruments and appliances such as photographic instruments and medical instruments and appliances.

The 30.0 percent growth in **Transport equipment, parts and accessories thereof** was driven by the 157.5 percent increase in other non-industrial transport equipment such as

motorboats and some types of motor vehicles. Food and Beverages grew by 3.0 percent primarily from the increase in processed food for household consumption by 9.6 percent for the quarter. However primary food and beverage was lower by 11.0 percent due to the reduction in related primary food mainly for household consumption

**Consumer goods not elsewhere specified** grew by 2.3 percent to \$61.65 million with the increase reflected in durable and semi-durable goods by 1.5 percent or 13.4 percent, respectively. In contrast, imports of Non-durable goods fell by 10.0 percent for 2019.

**Table 4. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)**  
CI\$000, January-March

Broad Economic Categories	2019 Qtr 1	2018 Qtr 1	2018/2017 %Chg
<b>1.1 Food and beverages</b>	<b>56,428.47</b>	<b>54,796.75</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>11. Primary</b>	<b>15,785.38</b>	<b>17,729.98</b>	<b>-11.0%</b>
111. Mainly for industry	1,294.63	1,114.13	16.2%
112. Mainly for household consumption	14,490.75	16,615.85	-12.8%
<b>12. Processed</b>	<b>40,643.09</b>	<b>37,066.77</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
121. Mainly for industry	2,431.04	2,212.80	9.9%
122. Mainly for household consumption	38,212.05	34,853.97	9.6%
<b>2. Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified</b>	<b>50,470.89</b>	<b>45,824.22</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
21. Primary	2,812.86	2,383.30	18.0%
22. Processed	47,658.03	43,440.92	9.7%
<b>3. Fuels and lubricants</b>	<b>31,673.30</b>	<b>31,087.78</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
31. Primary	1.04	-	-
32. Processed	31,672.26	31,087.78	1.9%
321. Motor spirit	31,034.03	30,104.55	3.1%
322. Other	638.23	983.23	-35.1%
<b>4. Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof</b>	<b>40,870.04</b>	<b>28,142.27</b>	<b>45.2%</b>
41. Capital goods (except transport equipment)	27,996.06	20,362.02	37.5%
42. Parts and accessories	12,873.98	7,780.25	65.5%
<b>5. Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof</b>	<b>24,901.55</b>	<b>19,161.11</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
51. Passenger motor cars	10,981.73	10,269.43	6.9%
52. Other	<b>7,587.27</b>	<b>3,043.24</b>	<b>149.3%</b>
521. Industrial	1,978.97	864.96	128.8%
522. Non-industrial	5,608.30	2,178.28	157.5%
53. Parts and accessories	6,332.55	5,848.43	8.3%
<b>6. Consumer goods not elsewhere specified</b>	<b>61,653.22</b>	<b>60,254.69</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
61. Durable	19,874.26	19,580.02	1.5%
62. Semi-durable	25,065.19	22,112.32	13.4%
63. Non-durable	16,713.78	18,562.34	-10.0%
<b>7. Goods not elsewhere specified</b>	<b>5,340.83</b>	<b>4,754.59</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271,338.30</b>	<b>244,021.41</b>	<b>11.2%</b>

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

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019/2018</b>
	<b>Qtr 1</b>	<b>Qtr 1</b>	<b>Chg %</b>
<b><i>Food and live animals</i></b>			
Live animals other than animals of division 03	45.9	96.5	-52.5%
Meat and meat preparations	8,401.1	7,105.1	18.2%
Dairy products and birds' eggs	5,673.7	5,467.5	3.8%
Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	4,275.8	3,723.3	14.8%
Cereals and cereal preparations	4,908.3	3,564.6	37.7%
Vegetables and fruit	13,025.9	13,491.2	-3.4%
Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	633.8	688.1	-7.9%
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	1,982.6	1,451.9	36.6%
Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	1,408.2	1,116.6	26.1%
Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	8,450.2	10,047.2	-15.9%
<b><i>Beverages &amp; tobacco</i></b>			
Beverages	8,705.8	9,069.4	-4.0%
Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	1,303.6	2,343.8	-44.4%
<b><i>Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</i></b>			
Hides, skins and furskins, raw	4.7	0.0	-
Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits	96.6	10.5	816.0%
Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	16.2	8.2	98.6%
Cork and wood	1,323.4	1,117.3	18.4%
Pulp and waste paper	2.3	1.8	25.3%
Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	25.7	64.5	-60.2%
Crude fertilizers, other than those of Division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	1,744.1	1,923.7	-9.3%
Metalliferous ores and metal scraps	156.7	20.7	655.7%
Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	868.2	620.8	39.9%
<b><i>Mineral fuels, lubricants &amp; related materials</i></b>			
Coal, coke and briquettes	13.1	3.8	244.2%
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	31,203.2	30,418.8	2.6%
Gas, natural and manufactured	475.9	889.4	-46.5%
Electric current	0.0	0.0	-
<b><i>Animal &amp; Vegetable oils, fats and waxes</i></b>			
Animal oils and fats	0.5	0.0	3059.2%
Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	366.8	285.5	28.4%
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.	26.5	11.3	133.5%
<b><i>Chemicals &amp; related products, n.e.s</i></b>			
Organic chemicals	208.8	199.5	4.7%
Inorganic chemicals	250.9	275.4	-8.9%
Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	3,301.1	2,310.9	42.8%
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	5,420.6	5,177.5	4.7%
Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	5,613.5	4,659.1	20.5%
Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)	165.7	99.5	66.6%
Plastics in primary forms	267.9	226.0	18.5%
Plastics in non-primary forms	1,907.5	1,618.2	17.9%
Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	1,975.3	3,341.6	-40.9%

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

	<b>2019 Qtr 1</b>	<b>2018 Qtr 1</b>	<b>2019/2018 Chg %</b>
<b><i>Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</i></b>			
Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins	44.9	23.8	88.9%
Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1,588.6	1,277.5	24.4%
Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	2,744.2	1,750.7	56.7%
Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	3,778.9	2,925.3	29.2%
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	2,706.6	1,723.3	57.1%
Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	5,624.2	4,154.3	35.4%
Iron and steel	2,889.5	1,362.9	112.0%
Non-ferrous metals	963.9	1,093.6	-11.9%
Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	11,972.1	11,772.0	1.7%
<b><i>Machinery &amp; transport equipment</i></b>			
Power-generating machinery and equipment	1,421.2	1,972.4	-27.9%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	2,700.2	1,959.9	37.8%
Metalworking machinery	179.4	346.3	-48.2%
General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.	10,187.1	8,469.0	20.3%
Office machines and automatic data-processing machines	5,202.4	3,578.0	45.4%
Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	7,472.1	5,627.9	32.8%
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counterparts, n.e.s., of electrical household-type equipment)	13,047.6	7,568.5	72.4%
Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	17,815.9	15,006.2	18.7%
Other transport equipment	4,636.4	1,347.7	244.0%
<b><i>Miscellaneous manufactured articles</i></b>			
Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	1,692.5	1,196.5	41.5%
Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	10,133.9	6,942.5	46.0%
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	688.0	451.6	52.3%
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	12,094.9	12,272.2	-1.4%
Footwear	940.9	706.4	33.2%
Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	3,863.1	3,937.6	-1.9%
Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	7,030.4	6,335.9	11.0%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	20,215.9	20,968.0	-3.6%
<b><i>Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC</i></b>			
Postal Packages not classified according to kind	472.9	479.2	-1.3%
Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	2,146.0	3,577.1	-40.0%
Coin (other than gold coin), not being legal tender	89.2	129.7	-31.2%
Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)	2,745.5	3,616.2	-24.1%
Miscellaneous Items	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>271,338.3</b>	<b>244,021.4</b>	<b>11.2%</b>

## 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, bank notes 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 computerized 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

The task of the ESO, therefore, 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 minimize 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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