

THE USVI'S UNITED STATES & FOREIGN REGIONS SELECTED FOOD IMPORTS REVIEW

All data in the report Data are produced by the Census Bureau and are compiled by the Bureau of Economic Research

2020

JANUARY TO DECEMBER



The Selected Food Import Annual Review is a data report on often imported food items from the United States and Foreign countries to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The table and graphs in this report display the increases and decreases of commonly imported food products to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS TO THE USVI: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020

In 2020, the USVI spent \$119.7 million on imported food products (Table 1). Meats accounted for \$42.9 million or 36% of the total value of food imports, followed by Beverages \$40.6 million or 34%, Sweeteners \$13.9 million or 12%, fruits and Vegetables \$9.9 million or 8%, Dairy \$9.6 million or 8%, and Starches \$2.7 million or 2%.

Figure 1: Total Food Imports 2018-2020



The value of food imports fell by \$3.6 million (2.9%) from \$123.3 million in 2019 (Figure 1). The largest decreases were Coffee and Teas (65.9%) followed by Butter (47.6%); Lamb, Goat, and Sheep (31.9%); Confectionary (27.3%); Vegetables (22.7%); Alcoholic Beverages (21.1%); Seafood (18.1%); and Beef and Veal (14.1%). Conversely, imports of Cane Molasses increased by 240.5%, Pork (49.8%), Sugars & Sweeteners (34.2%), and Fruits (26.7%).

The United States accounted for \$95.4 million or 80% of the USVI's food imports in 2020, while foreign regions accounted for \$24.3 million or 20% (Figure 2).

Table 1: 2019-2020 Selected Food Imports by Food Group and Preservation Requirements

| Food Category | Fresh/Chilled/ Frozen | Prepared & preserved | Total 2020 | Total 2019 | %Chg. |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Meats | | | | | |
| Beef & Veal | \$13,761,000 | \$547,000 | \$14,308,000 | \$16,652,000 | -14.1 |
| Poultry | \$11,495,000 | \$2,831,000 | \$14,326,000 | \$14,582,000 | -1.8 |
| Fish | \$5,922,496 | \$2,076,000 | \$7,998,496 | \$8,192,524 | -2.4 |
| Seafood | \$2,197,316 | \$672,000 | \$2,869,316 | \$3,505,335 | -18.1 |
| Pork | \$2,453,000 | \$357,000 | \$2,810,000 | \$1,876,000 | 49.8 |
| Lamb, Sheep, Goat | \$607,000 | \$0 | \$607,000 | \$891,000 | -31.9 |
| Fruits & Vegetables | | | | | |
| Fruits | \$3,440,875 | \$1,599,000 | \$5,039,875 | \$3,979,301 | 26.7 |
| Vegetables | \$2,664,601 | \$2,207,218 | \$4,871,819 | \$6,305,558 | -22.7 |
| Dairy | | | | | |
| Butter | \$263,000 | \$0 | \$263,000 | \$502,000 | -47.6 |
| Cheese | \$4,378,000 | \$0 | \$4,378,000 | \$4,268,000 | 2.6 |
| Eggs | \$1,382,000 | \$0 | \$1,382,000 | \$1,113,000 | 24.2 |
| Milk | \$3,585,000 | \$0 | \$3,585,000 | \$3,747,413 | -4.3 |
| Starch | | | | | |
| Pasta | \$0 | \$1,354,341 | \$1,354,341 | \$1,343,405 | 0.8 |
| Rice | \$0 | \$1,399,000 | \$1,399,000 | \$1,463,000 | -4.4 |
| Beverages | | | | | |
| Juices | \$0 | \$4,557,144 | \$4,557,144 | \$4,234,695 | 7.6 |
| Alcoholic Beverages | \$0 | \$29,967,812 | \$29,967,812 | \$37,969,722 | -21.1 |
| Water | \$0 | \$5,838,290 | \$5,838,290 | \$5,976,031 | -2.3 |
| Coffee & Teas | \$0 | \$260,919 | \$260,919 | \$765,230 | -65.9 |
| Sweeteners | | | | | |
| Sugars & Sweeteners | \$0 | \$824,577 | \$824,577 | \$614,333 | 34.2 |
| Cane Molasses | \$0 | \$11,412,460 | \$11,412,460 | \$3,351,241 | 240.5 |
| Confectionary | \$0 | \$447,840 | \$447,840 | \$615,719 | -27.3 |
| Cocoa | \$0 | \$1,231,016 | \$1,231,016 | \$1,387,786 | -11.3 |
| Total Food Imports 2020 | | | \$119,731,905 | \$123,335,293 | -2.9 |

Please note: The Food Imports Report classifies imported food products into two main categories based on their preservation requirements: "Fresh/Chilled/Frozen" (FCF) and "Prepared & Preserved" (P&P). FCF products include fresh food items that must be kept chilled or frozen during and after importation. P&P products, on the other hand, are foods that are well-preserved without the need for cold or chilled temperatures, such as those that are packed in cans or airtight bags.

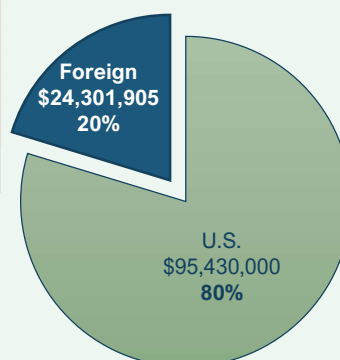
USVI FOOD IMPORTS BY CATEGORY FROM U.S. & FOREIGN REGIONS 2020

Table 2: Food Imports by Food Group from U.S. & Foreign Regions 2020

| Food Category | 2020 U.S. | 2020 For. | Category Total |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Meats | \$42,838,000 | \$80,812 | \$42,918,812 |
| Fruits & Vegetables | \$9,826,000 | \$85,694 | \$9,911,694 |
| Dairy | \$9,608,000 | \$0 | \$9,608,000 |
| Starch | \$2,743,000 | \$10,341 | \$2,753,341 |
| Beverages | \$27,935,000 | \$12,689,165 | \$40,624,165 |
| Sweeteners | \$2,480,000 | \$11,435,893 | \$13,915,893 |
| Total Food Imports | \$95,430,000 | \$24,301,905 | \$119,731,905 |

Beverages are the highest imported Food product from foreign regions, imported from Europe, and South/Central America at \$12.7 million. Sugars and sweeteners, also imported from South/Central America and Europe valued at \$11.4 million in 2020 imports value as seen in Table 2. Central America was the largest foreign supplier (\$18.1 million, or 15%), and Europe (\$5.8 million, or 5%).

Figure 2. Total U.S. & Foreign Food Imports 2020



2018 to 2020 TOTAL IMPORTS TO THE USVI:

US Virgin Islands imported items including food imports and other products not listed in this report declined 25.6% totaling \$2.7B in 2020 from \$3.6B in 2019 as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Total Imports 2018-2020

