

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

Data in this report are collected by the Census Bureau and is compiled by the Bureau of Economic Research

# 2021

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

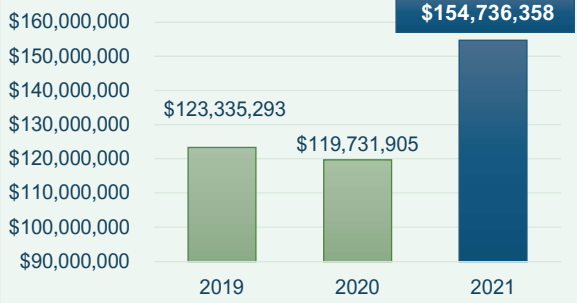


The "Selected Food Import Review" annual review is a data report on often imported food items from the United States and Foreign countries to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The table and graphs in this report display the increases and decreases of commonly imported food products to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS TO THE USVI: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

In 2021, the value of the USVI's food imports increased by \$35 million to \$154.7 million from \$119.7 million in 2020. This value represents a 29.2% increase over 2020 and a 25.5% increase over the 2019 pre-pandemic food imports (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Total Food Imports 2019-2021



The value growth can be traced primarily to imports of Beverage products (see Table 1), particularly Alcoholic Beverages (\$49.3 million), which grew by 64.7%, and Meats (\$51.2 million) which increased by 19.4%. Imports of Fruits and Vegetables (\$11.7 million) grew by 18% while Dairy products (\$10.3 million) grew by 7.7 in 2021. The two food items that declined were Rice, whose value decreased by 13.5%, and Juices by 6.2%.

Food Imports (\$116.3 million) from the United States were up by 21.9% from 2020 levels. Higher imports of Alcoholic Beverages and Meats were the main growth driver. Imports from foreign regions (\$38.4 million) rose 58.2%, driven by Alcoholic Beverages and Sugar & Sweeteners (see Table 2).

Table 1: 2020-2021 Selected Food Imports by Food Group and Preservation Requirements

Food Category	Fresh/Chilled/ Frozen	Prepared & preserved	Total 2021	Total 2020	%Chg.
<b>Meats</b>					
Beef & Veal	\$16,752,000	\$563,000	<b>\$17,315,000</b>	\$14,308,000	21.0
Poultry	\$13,435,000	\$3,174,000	<b>\$16,609,000</b>	\$14,326,000	15.9
Fish	\$6,507,983	\$1,998,503	<b>\$8,506,486</b>	\$7,998,496	6.4
Seafood	\$2,868,800	\$850,000	<b>\$3,718,800</b>	\$2,869,316	29.6
Pork	\$3,940,000	\$222,000	<b>\$4,162,000</b>	\$2,810,000	48.1
Lamb, Sheep, Goat	\$925,000	\$0	<b>\$925,000</b>	\$607,000	52.4
<b>Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b>					
Fruits	\$3,590,000	\$1,693,186	<b>\$5,283,186</b>	\$5,039,875	4.8
Vegetables	\$2,696,513	\$3,756,326	<b>\$6,452,839</b>	\$4,871,819	32.5
<b>Dairy</b>					
Butter	\$435,000	\$0	<b>\$435,000</b>	\$263,000	65.4
Cheese	\$4,766,000	\$0	<b>\$4,766,000</b>	\$4,378,000	8.9
Eggs	\$1,463,000	\$0	<b>\$1,463,000</b>	\$1,382,000	5.9
Milk	\$3,679,892	\$0	<b>\$3,679,892</b>	\$3,585,000	2.6
<b>Starch</b>					
Pasta	\$0	\$1,423,000	<b>\$1,423,000</b>	\$1,354,341	5.1
Rice	\$0	\$1,210,000	<b>\$1,210,000</b>	\$1,399,000	-13.5
<b>Beverages</b>					
Juices	\$0	\$4,276,327	<b>\$4,276,327</b>	\$4,557,144	-6.2
Alcoholic Beverages	\$0	\$49,346,960	<b>\$49,346,960</b>	\$29,967,812	64.7
Water	\$0	\$6,681,882	<b>\$6,681,882</b>	\$5,838,290	14.4
Coffee & Teas	\$0	\$550,829	<b>\$550,829</b>	\$260,919	111.1
<b>Sweeteners</b>					
Sugars & Sweeteners	\$0	\$1,042,216	<b>\$1,042,216</b>	\$824,577	26.4
Cane Molasses	\$0	\$14,989,370	<b>\$14,989,370</b>	\$11,412,460	31.3
Confectionary	\$0	\$477,029	<b>\$477,029</b>	\$447,840	6.5
Cocoa	\$0	\$1,422,542	<b>\$1,422,542</b>	\$1,231,016	15.6
<b>Total Food Imports 2021</b>			<b>\$154,736,358</b>	<b>\$119,731,905</b>	<b>29.2</b>

**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 need to 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. AND FOREIGN REGIONS 2021

Table 2: Food Imports by Food Group from U.S. & Foreign Regions 2021

Food Category	2021 U.S.	2021 For.	Category Total
Meats	\$51,043,000	<b>\$193,286</b>	\$51,236,286
Fruits & Vegetables	\$11,297,000	<b>\$439,025</b>	\$11,736,025
Dairy	\$10,339,000	<b>\$4,892</b>	\$10,343,892
Starch	\$2,633,000	<b>\$0</b>	\$2,633,000
Beverages	\$38,131,000	<b>\$22,724,998</b>	\$60,855,998
Sweeteners	\$2,854,000	<b>\$15,077,157</b>	\$17,931,157
<b>Total Food Imports</b>	<b>\$116,297,000</b>	<b>\$38,439,358</b>	<b>\$154,736,358</b>

Figure 2. Total U.S. & Foreign Food Imports 2021

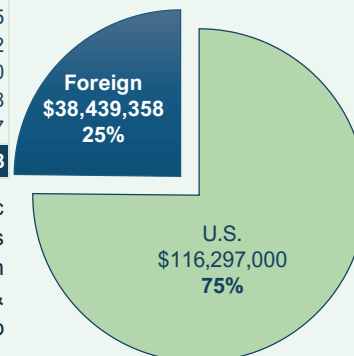


Table 2 shows that in 2021, Beverages, specifically Alcoholic Beverages accounted for 15% of foreign food products imported to the USVI. Most of the imports were from South/Central America (7%) and Europe (7%). Sugars & Sweeteners also from South/Central America (10%) made up 12% of all imported foods from foreign regions, totaling 25% (Figure 2.).

## 2019-2021 TOTAL IMPORTS TO THE USVI:

US Virgin Islands Total imported items including food imports and other products not listed in this report **increased 35.1% to \$3.7B in 2021** from \$2.7B in 2020, shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Total Imports 2019-2021

