

SELECTED FOOD IMPORTS REVIEW TO THE USVI FROM UNITED STATES & FOREIGN REGIONS

2023

JANUARY TO DECEMBER



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

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 into the U.S. Virgin Islands.

USVI IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS 2023

In 2023, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) experienced a slight decline in food import value, which decreased by \$2.7 million—from \$150.9 million in 2022 to **\$148.2 million**—marking a 1.8% decrease.



This slight decrease reflects a modest reduction in item expenses over the period, indicating possible shifts in purchasing patterns, inflation rate, or supply issues that could impact the import (\$) value. Significant reductions in the import value of Confectionery (72.3%), Cocoa (36.7%), Eggs (30.6%), Pork (29.4%), and Seafood (24.2%) food products primarily drove the decline.

Despite a decline in overall import expenditure, several food categories saw significant value increases. Alcoholic Beverages rose by \$42.4 million (28.6% of total selected imports), followed by Beef & Veal at \$17.2 million (11.6%). Other increases included Poultry (\$16.3 million, 11%), Cane Molasses (\$10.1 million, 6.8%), Fish (\$8.4 million, 5.7%), and Vegetables at \$6.1 million, accounting for 6.3% of the selected imports total, respectively.

In 2023, the U.S. imported approximately 8.8 million kilograms (kg) of protein products, 850,000 kg in eggs, and 5.6 million kg of fruits and vegetables. These figures only represent imports from the United States, as quantity data from other countries are not recorded.

Table 1: 2021-2023 Selected Food Imports by Food Group and Preservation Requirements

SELECTED FOOD	FRESH/ CHILLED/ FROZEN	PREPARED & PRESERVED	2023	2022	%CHG.
Proteins					
Beef & Veal	\$16,490,000	\$688,000	\$17,178,000	16,937,000	1.4%
Poultry	\$12,886,000	\$3,419,000	\$16,305,000	19,292,000	-15.5%
Fish	\$6,716,251	\$1,713,154	\$8,429,405	9,831,824	-14.3%
Seafood	\$2,733,932	\$685,525	\$3,419,457	4,512,150	-24.2%
Pork	\$2,609,000	\$265,000	\$2,874,000	4,070,000	-29.4%
Lamb, Sheep, Goat	\$714,000	-	\$714,000	871,000	-18.0%
Fruits & Vegetables					
Fruits	\$4,266,082	\$1,877,000	\$6,143,082	5,506,714	11.6%
Vegetables	\$4,308,706	\$4,957,760	\$9,266,466	9,808,843	-5.5%
Dairy					
Eggs	\$2,636,000	-	\$2,636,000	3,801,000	-30.6%
Butter	-	\$684,000	\$684,000	773,000	-11.5%
Cheese	-	\$5,678,000	\$5,678,000	5,880,000	-3.4%
Milk	-	\$3,941,997	\$3,941,997	3,792,566	3.9%
Starches					
Pasta	-	\$1,708,941	\$1,708,941	1,512,000	13.0%
Rice	-	\$1,308,318	\$1,308,318	1,351,000	-3.2%
Beverages					
Juices	-	\$5,948,000	\$5,948,000	4,275,600	39.1%
Alcoholic Beverages	-	\$42,397,742	\$42,397,742	41,000,709	3.4%
Water	-	\$5,832,040	\$5,832,040	6,331,460	-7.9%
Coffee & Teas	-	\$879,394	\$879,394	874,412	0.6%
Sweeteners					
Sugars & Sweeteners	-	\$1,052,000	\$1,052,000	945,566	11.3%
Cane Molasses	-	\$10,089,062	\$10,089,062	5,322,681	89.5%
Confectionary	-	\$698,689	\$698,689	2,526,591	-72.3%
Cocoa	-	\$1,077,659	\$1,077,659	1,702,387	-36.7%
TOTAL	\$53,359,971	\$94,901,281	\$148,261,252	\$150,918,503	-1.8%

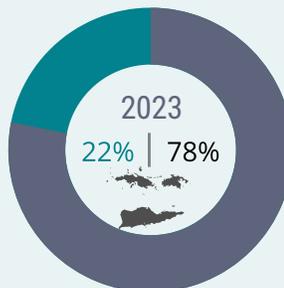
Please note: The Food Imports Report classifies imported food products into two main categories based on their preservation requirements: "Fresh/Chilled/Frozen" (FCF) and "Prepared & Preserved" (P&P). FCF products include fresh food items that need to be kept chilled or frozen during and after importation. 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 U.S. AND FOREIGN CATEGORY 2021- 2023

Table 2: Selected Food Imports for 2022-2023 by Category and Foreign Regions

FOOD CATEGORY	2023 U.S.	2023 FOR.	2023 CATEGORY TOTAL	2022 CATEGORY TOTAL
Proteins	\$37,672,000	\$452,862	\$38,124,862	\$55,513,974
Fruits & Veg.	\$14,702,000	\$707,548	\$15,409,548	\$15,315,557
Dairy	\$10,290,000	\$13,997	\$10,303,997	\$14,246,566
Starch	\$2,966,000	\$51,259	\$3,017,259	\$2,863,000
Beverages	\$36,394,000	\$18,663,176	\$55,057,176	\$52,492,679
Sweeteners	\$2,747,000	\$10,170,410	\$12,917,410	\$10,497,225
Total Food Imports	\$104,771,000	\$30,059,252	\$134,830,252	\$150,929,001

Figure 2: Imports from U.S. & Foreign Regions



The United States remained the primary source of the U.S. Virgin Islands' food imports in 2023, accounting for 77.7% of the total market, with imports valued at \$104.8 million. The remaining 22.3%, or approximately \$30.1 million, originated from foreign regions—reflecting a significant 38.6% increase in the value of non-U.S. food imports compared to 2022. Among these, South-Central America contributed 50.7% and Europe 40.1% to the total value of imported food products. In 2023, the highest value of imported food in the US Virgin Islands was for beverages, especially alcoholic beverages. They accounted for \$55.1 million, which is equivalent to 40.8% of all food imports.

2021-2023 TOTAL IMPORTS TO THE USVI

The total import value of all items, including items not listed in this report, to the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2023 totaled **\$4.1 billion**, a 16.2% decrease compared to 2022.

Figure 3: Total U.S.V.I Imports: 2021 - 2023

