



THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' QUARTERLY TRADE BULLETIN: JANUARY TO MARCH 2018

This publication is produced by the Economics and Statistics Office from data supplied 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.

Overview

The total value of merchandise imports increased by 8.9 percent to \$248.22 million for the first quarter ended March 2018 as compared to the \$227.92 million recorded in March 2017. This performance reflected the 7.5 percent increase in the value of imports of non-petroleum goods, along with the 20.0 percent increase in imports of petroleum goods.

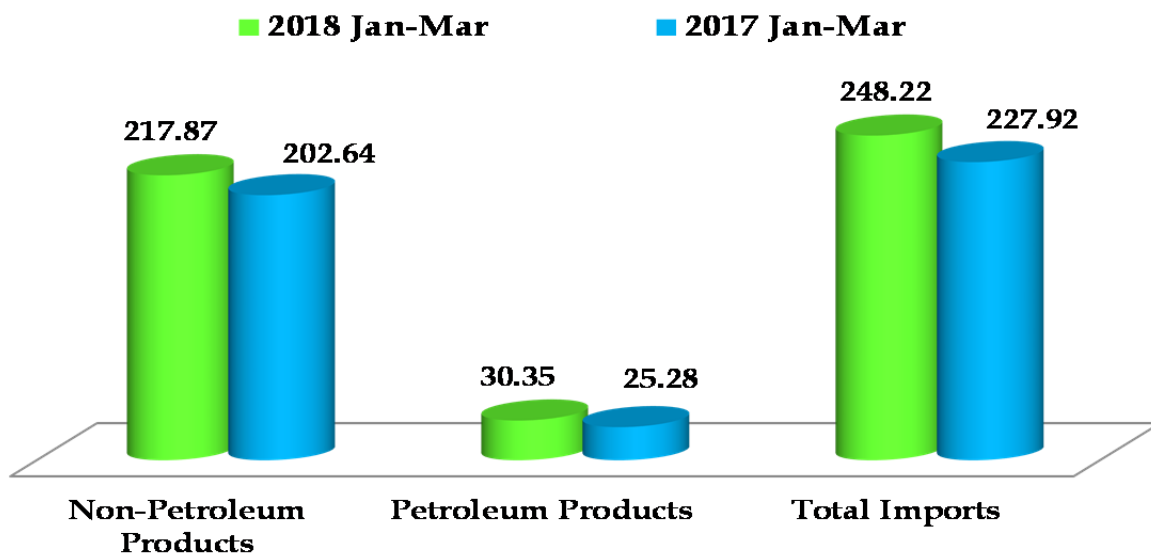
There were increases for all but one SITC category, with *mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, chemicals and miscellaneous manufactured articles* recording the largest increases of 20.0, 48.7 and 15.2 percent, respectively.

In contrast, *commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere*, was reduced by \$2.61 million or 18.7 percent for the March 2018 quarter over the corresponding quarter of 2017 (Table 1).

Imports from the USA, Jamaica, Switzerland and Mexico recorded significant increases, while goods imported from Japan and Canada contracted.

Among categories of imports by Broad Economic Classification, *food and beverages primarily for household consumption* grew by 41.9 percent to \$16.57 million, while *capital goods and consumer goods not elsewhere specified* recorded growth of 32.5 and 14.3 percent respectively.

Chart 1: Merchandise Imports , CI\$Millions



Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

Miscellaneous manufactured articles imports grew largely on account of larger importation of *miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.* by \$4.31 million or 29.0 percent, and *professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s* which increased by \$1.98 million or 150.8 percent.

Beverages and tobacco imports increased by 30.1 percent relative to the same quarter a year ago. This reflected growth in imports of *tobacco and tobacco manufactures* by 109.0 percent or \$1.22 million, and beverages by 18.4 percent or \$1.40 million for the same period.

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials recorded an increase of 6.9 percent settling at \$30.03 million for the quarter. This reflected increases in *manufactures of metals* by 11.9 percent or \$1.62 million over the previous corresponding quarter. However, imports of *paper, paperboard and articles of paper* declined by 15.1 percent.

Food and live animals recorded a 0.1 percent (\$0.06 million) overall growth due to increases in the imports of *vegetables and fruit* and *meat and meat preparations* by 65.3 percent and 39.3 percent, respectively. However, there was a partially offsetting decline in the imports of *miscellaneous edible products and preparations* by 51.8 percent.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials recorded an increase of 20.0 percent to reach \$30.35 million. This growth largely reflected an increase of 18.6 percent in the average price of fuel. However, there was a marginal reduction of 0.85 percent in the overall volume of mineral fuel mainly due to lower quantities of imported diesel fuel.

Imports of **machinery and transport equipment** increased by 2.0 percent, largely on account of larger importation of *telecommunication and sound-recording equipment* by 78.8 percent, and *general industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s* by 52.7 percent.

Crude materials (except fuel) imports had a positive growth of 6.3 percent, which reflected increases in *cork and wood* and *crude animal and vegetable materials* imports of 16.1 percent and 34.4 percent, respectively.

Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes recorded an increase of 117.9 percent to \$0.3 million due to increased importation of refined or fractioned fixed vegetable fats and oils.

Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. increased by 48.7 percent over the previous corresponding quarter. This reflected growth in various items such as essential oils, medicinal and pharmaceutical product.

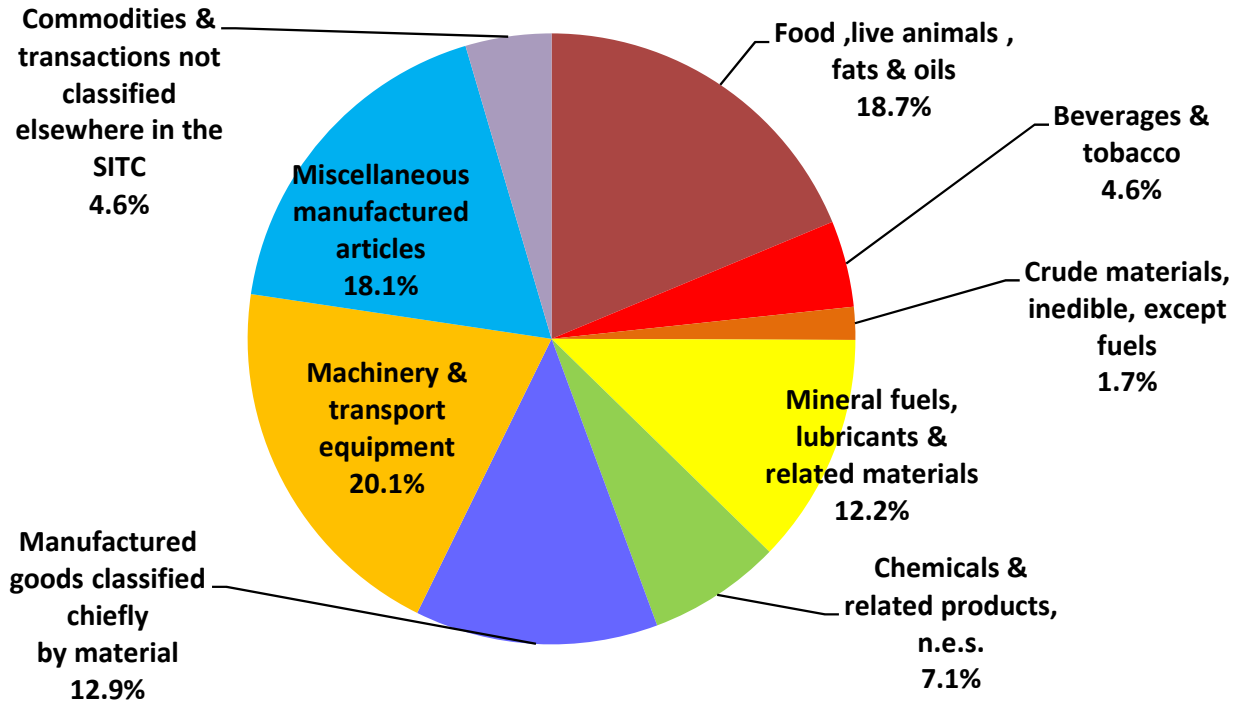
In contrast to the above increases, *commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere* declined by \$2.61 million or 18.7 percent. Imports of postal packages and personal effects are among those with significant declines.

Table 1. Merchandise Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) (Rev 4), CUS\$ Million

Section	2018 JAN	2018 FEB	2018 MAR	2018 Qtr 1	2017 JAN	2017 FEB	2017 MAR	2017 Qtr 1	% Change
Food and live animals	14.78	13.49	17.96	46.22	13.95	14.11	18.10	46.16	0.1%
Beverages and tobacco	4.85	2.57	3.94	11.35	2.77	2.82	3.14	8.73	30.1%
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1.62	1.00	1.68	4.30	0.92	1.34	1.79	4.05	6.3%
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0.13	0.06	0.11	0.30	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.14	117.9%
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	6.23	5.51	5.83	17.57	3.45	3.43	4.93	11.82	48.7%
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12.16	9.70	10.24	32.10	8.85	10.38	10.80	30.03	6.9%
Machinery and transport equipment	16.62	14.01	19.17	49.80	16.55	13.88	18.38	48.81	2.0%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	12.53	15.26	17.09	44.88	11.61	13.09	14.25	38.95	15.2%
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	3.11	5.36	2.88	11.35	4.78	4.51	4.66	13.95	-18.7%
Non-Petroleum Products	72.02	66.96	78.89	217.87	62.91	63.63	76.10	202.64	7.5%
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials*	12.97	6.66	10.72	30.35	8.37	9.24	7.67	25.28	20.0%
Total	85.00	73.61	89.61	248.22	71.28	72.87	83.78	227.92	8.9%

* Also referred to as petroleum and related oils

Chart 2: Percentage Share of Imports by SITC Section, Jan - March, 2018



Imports by Countries of Origin

For the quarter ending March 2018, the overall increase in the value of goods imported was driven by the 10.60 percent or \$20.2 million rise in imports from **USA**, Cayman's leading trading partner. Total imports from the USA was valued at \$210.80 million, compared to \$190.59 million in 2017. This outturn reflected increase in the value of fuels, beverages, manufactured goods among other goods.

Cayman's imports from **Jamaica** grew from \$2.34 million to \$7.72 million, mainly due to higher imports of food and live animals, machinery and transport equipment and manufactured goods.

There was also a significant increase in imports from **Switzerland**, amounting to \$1.9 million to settle at \$2.04 million largely due to higher imports of cigarettes and watches.

The 48.9 percent upsurge in imports from **Cuba** for the first quarter was on account of the increased value and quantity in the imports of cigars.

The total imports from **Mexico** amounted to \$2.21 million, 161.8 percent increase over the comparable quarter of 2017. This was mainly due to the higher importation of vehicles. In contrast, imports from **Japan** fell by 28.1 percent primarily due to a significant reduction in the number of vehicles imported from this country.

TABLE 2. Imports by Country of Origin, CI\$Million

Country	2018 1st Qtr	2017 1st Qtr	<i>% change 1st Qtr</i>
USA United States	210.80	190.59	10.6%
JAM Jamaica	7.72	2.34	229.9%
JPN Japan	2.40	3.34	-28.1%
GBR United Kingdom	2.68	3.31	-19.0%
KOR South Korea	1.77	1.37	29.2%
CUB Cuba	0.55	0.37	48.9%
CAN Canada	0.80	0.81	-1.5%
CHE Switzerland	2.04	0.14	1325.5%
DEU Germany	1.06	0.84	26.3%
PAN Panama	1.12	0.91	22.2%
MEX Mexico	2.21	0.84	161.8%
Others	15.08	23.05	-34.6%
TOTAL IMPORTS	248.22	227.92	8.9%

Imports by Broad Economic Categories

Analysis of imports by final use, that is by broad economic categories (BEC) shows that during the first quarter, only two of the categories of imports contracted.

Capital goods and parts, (except transport equipment) recorded the highest increase of 32.5 percent, largely reflecting the increases in telecommunications equipment, general industrial machinery and equipment and professional, scientific equipment.

Fuel and lubricants showed a sizeable growth of 19.6 percent, with motor spirits imports growing by 16.4 percent to a value of \$28.51 million.

Other imported **consumer goods** increased by 14.3 percent with the increase reflected in the semi-durable (41.1%) and non-durable (22.2%) goods sub-categories, while durable goods fell by 9.4 percent.

Transport equipment and parts fell by 19.7 percent, largely reflecting the decline in the value of passenger vehicles and industrial equipment. In contrast, parts and accessories grew by 18.8 percent and stood at a value of \$5.52 million in the review period.

Table 3. Merchandise Imports by Broad Economic Classification (BEC) (Rev 4)

CIS\$Million									
Broad Economic Categories	2018			2018	2017			2017	2018/2017
	JAN	FEB	MAR	Qtr 1	JAN	FEB	MAR	Qtr 1	%Chg
1.1 Food and beverages	17.61	15.34	21.29	54.24	16.57	16.15	20.69	53.40	1.6%
11. Primary	6.20	5.19	6.27	17.65	3.99	3.43	4.57	11.99	47.2%
111. Mainly for industry	0.42	0.28	0.38	1.08	0.10	0.08	0.13	0.31	250.8%
112. Mainly for household consumption	5.78	4.91	5.88	16.57	3.89	3.35	4.45	11.68	41.9%
12. Processed	11.41	10.15	15.03	36.59	12.58	12.72	16.12	41.41	-11.6%
121. Mainly for industry	0.86	0.63	0.75	2.24	0.42	0.70	0.45	1.56	43.5%
122. Mainly for household consumption	10.55	9.52	14.27	34.34	12.16	12.02	15.67	39.85	-13.8%
2. Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified	14.87	15.95	15.65	46.46	11.15	13.03	15.04	39.21	18.5%
21. Primary	1.01	0.56	1.22	2.79	0.72	1.06	1.27	3.05	-8.7%
22. Processed	13.86	15.39	14.43	43.68	10.42	11.97	13.77	36.16	20.8%
3. Fuels and lubricants	12.99	6.58	10.60	30.17	8.36	9.16	7.71	25.24	19.6%
31. Primary	0.29	0.20	0.17	0.67	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.18	262.0%
32. Processed	12.70	6.38	10.42	29.50	8.31	9.11	7.63	25.05	17.8%
321. Motor spirit	12.25	6.31	9.95	28.51	8.29	8.67	7.55	24.50	16.4%
322. Other	0.45	0.08	0.47	0.99	0.02	0.45	0.08	0.55	81.5%
4. Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof	16.06	7.89	11.77	35.72	9.52	7.84	9.59	26.95	32.5%
41. Capital goods (except transport equipment)	14.19	5.21	8.71	28.11	5.90	5.26	6.62	17.78	58.1%
42. Parts and accessories	1.86	2.68	3.06	7.61	3.62	2.58	2.97	9.17	-17.1%
5. Transport equipment, and parts and accessories thereof	4.73	6.79	7.37	18.90	7.63	6.73	9.18	23.54	-19.7%
51. Passenger motor cars	2.49	3.49	3.07	9.05	4.20	4.15	5.76	14.11	-35.9%
52. Other	0.87	1.60	1.86	4.32	2.01	1.16	1.61	4.78	-9.5%
521. Industrial	0.63	0.93	0.59	2.15	1.35	0.63	0.76	2.74	-21.5%
522. Non-industrial	0.24	0.67	1.27	2.18	0.66	0.53	0.85	2.04	6.7%
53. Parts and accessories	1.38	1.70	2.44	5.52	1.42	1.42	1.81	4.65	18.8%
6. Consumer goods not elsewhere specified	17.53	17.96	20.23	55.71	14.22	16.34	18.19	48.74	14.3%
61. Durable	5.07	5.94	6.55	17.57	6.04	6.63	6.72	19.38	-9.4%
62. Semi-durable	3.95	6.01	7.00	16.97	3.44	4.15	4.43	12.03	41.1%
63. Non-durable	8.50	6.00	6.67	21.17	4.74	5.55	7.04	17.33	22.2%
7. Goods not elsewhere specified	1.21	3.11	2.70	7.02	3.84	3.62	3.39	10.84	-35.3%
TOTAL	85.00	73.61	89.61	248.22	71.28	72.87	83.78	227.92	8.9%

**Table 4. Merchandise Imports by Standard International
Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000**

	2018	2017	2018/2017
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Chg %
Live animals other than animals of division 03	96.5	31.9	202.9%
Meat and meat preparations	7,098.4	5,095.8	39.3%
Dairy products and birds' eggs	5,466.8	4,181.1	30.7%
Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	3,732.9	3,183.2	17.3%
Cereals and cereal preparations	3,564.5	3,699.9	-3.7%
Vegetables and fruit	13,469.0	8,146.6	65.3%
Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	686.3	539.7	27.2%
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	1,436.7	998.3	43.9%
Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	1,114.5	450.0	147.7%
Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	9,558.6	19,836.1	-51.8%
Beverages	9,011.0	7,608.0	18.4%
Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	2,338.9	1,118.9	109.0%
Hides, skins and furskins, raw	0.0	1.0	-100.0%
Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits	31.8	69.7	-54.4%
Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	8.2	0.3	2664.6%
Cork and wood	1,426.0	1,228.2	16.1%
Pulp and waste paper	97.9	44.1	122.0%
Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	64.7	319.3	-79.7%
Crude fertilizers, other than those of Division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	1,963.3	1,918.3	2.3%
Metalliferous ores and metal scraps	88.5	6.0	1376.9%
Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	624.7	464.7	34.4%
Coal, coke and briquettes	3.8	5.6	-32.0%
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	29,446.1	24,821.6	18.6%
Gas, natural and manufactured	889.4	455.7	95.2%
Electric current	11.7	0.0	-
Animal oils and fats	7.1	4.1	72.9%
Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	286.2	117.6	143.4%

**Table 4. (cont'd) Merchandise Imports by Standard International
Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000**

	2018	2017	2018/2017
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Chg %
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.	10.6	17.8	-40.6%
Organic chemicals	199.4	86.6	130.3%
Inorganic chemicals	275.4	257.3	7.0%
Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	2,300.3	1,052.7	118.5%
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	4,716.6	3,896.2	21.1%
Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	4,801.0	4,162.3	15.3%
Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)	99.5	114.1	-12.8%
Plastics in primary forms	230.7	121.8	89.4%
Plastics in non-primary forms	1,610.4	846.9	90.2%
Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	3,334.3	1,278.6	160.8%
Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins	23.6	22.1	6.7%
Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1,275.4	1,351.6	-5.6%
Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	1,441.9	1,446.9	-0.3%
Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	5,797.0	6,824.9	-15.1%
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	1,690.5	1,550.3	9.0%
Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	4,013.2	3,732.6	7.5%
Iron and steel	1,296.8	1,010.1	28.4%
Non-ferrous metals	1,335.4	483.5	176.2%
Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	15,224.1	13,605.5	12%
Power-generating machinery and equipment	1,904.5	2,194.0	-13%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	1,974.9	1,934.8	2%
Metalworking machinery	346.3	716.6	-52%
General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.	8,421.1	5,516.5	53%
Office machines and automatic data-processing machines	3,285.2	3,376.9	-3%
Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	10,387.0	5,810.0	79%

**Table 4. (cont'd) Merchandise Imports by Standard International
Trade Classification (SITC) 2 Digit, CI\$000**

	2018	2017	2018/2017
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Chg %
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counterparts, n.e.s., of electrical household-type equipment)	7,301.1	8,051.5	-9%
Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	14,825.1	19,598.8	-24.4%
Other transport equipment	1,352.7	1,612.7	-16%
Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	1,230.7	1,423.7	-14%
Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	6,963.7	8,139.7	-14%
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	387.8	259.0	49.7%
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	7,396.8	6,747.0	9.6%
Footwear	700.5	726.8	-3.6%
Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	3,299.3	1,315.5	151%
Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	5,721.0	5,468.8	5%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	19,176.7	14,868.5	29%
Postal Packages not classified according to kind	479.3	531.2	-9.8%
Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind	5,992.8	9,940.6	-39.7%
Coin (other than gold coin), not being legal tender	193.5	152.0	27.4%
Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)	4,680.8	3,328.9	40.6%
Total	248,220.2	227,920.9	8.9%

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 travelers, 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, a number of import documents do not provide codes, or provide improper codes. Over the years, this issue required the ESO to vigilantly verify codes and provide missing ones. ESO continues to review the imports data with the aim of improving 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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