

# ITC by Country Report

Belize

05/12/2014



International  
Trade  
Centre

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# 1. Country / Territory Brief

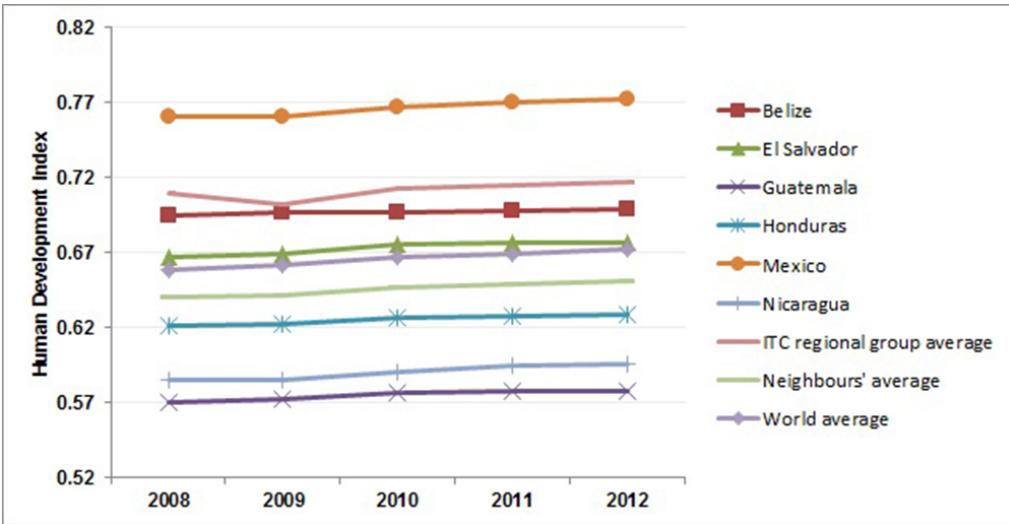


Belize is a small, essentially private enterprise economy that is principally based in tourism. Agriculture, the agro-processing industry, merchandising and an emerging oil industry are also important sectors of the economy. Sugar accounts for nearly half of exports, while the banana industry is the country's largest employer. In recent years, the services sector has overtaken agriculture, fishing and forestry. The country faces development challenges, including high deforestation; economic instability; unemployment; expensive electricity; heavy foreign debt; vulnerability to natural disasters; and weak construction sector. A key trade issue of Belize is the high dependence on tourism from the United States that makes the country vulnerable to downturns in the world economy. Also, they need to diversify the economy with new trading partners and more and better infrastructure.

Based on the ITC 2014-2018 Strategic Approach to the Caribbean Region, ITC will focus on implementing at regional level the recommendations of strategies recently developed by CARICOM for the cultural industries and professional services sectors.

# 2. People and Economy

## 2.1 People

Total population (growth rates per annum)	293,544 in 2012 with growth rates of 2.5% p.a during 2008-2012																																																												
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)	13 in 2012																																																												
Female population	50.0% in 2012																																																												
Population below 15 years of age	36.5% in 2012																																																												
Urban population	45.5% in 2012																																																												
Population living below \$1.25 a day at purchasing power parity (PPP)	N.A.																																																												
Ranking in the Human Development Index (HDI)	96 out of 186 in 2012																																																												
Evolution of the Human Development Index (HDI)	<div><p>The graph displays the Human Development Index (HDI) for Belize and several comparison groups from 2008 to 2012. The Y-axis represents the HDI value, ranging from 0.52 to 0.82. The X-axis shows the years. Belize is represented by a red line with square markers, showing a steady increase from approximately 0.68 in 2008 to 0.69 in 2012. Mexico, represented by an orange line with circle markers, has the highest HDI, starting at about 0.74 and rising to 0.76. The ITC regional group average (pink line) and Neighbours' average (green line) are also shown, along with the World average (purple line with diamond markers) and other regional averages like El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.</p><table><caption>Approximate HDI values from the graph</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Belize</th><th>El Salvador</th><th>Guatemala</th><th>Honduras</th><th>Mexico</th><th>Nicaragua</th><th>ITC regional group average</th><th>Neighbours' average</th><th>World average</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2008</td><td>0.68</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.74</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.69</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.64</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>0.68</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.74</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.68</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.64</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>0.68</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.75</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.69</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.64</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>0.68</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.75</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.70</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.64</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>0.69</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.61</td><td>0.76</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.71</td><td>0.63</td><td>0.64</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>Source: United Nations Development Programme Human Development Indicators Note: The Human Development Index measures the overall development of a nation and ranges from 0 (low level of development) to 1 (highest level of development). The United Nations Development Programme (<a href="http://hdr.undp.org">http://hdr.undp.org</a>) provides a detailed explanation. ITC Regional group refers to ITC definition</p>	Year	Belize	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Nicaragua	ITC regional group average	Neighbours' average	World average	2008	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.74	0.58	0.69	0.63	0.64	2009	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.74	0.58	0.68	0.63	0.64	2010	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.75	0.58	0.69	0.63	0.64	2011	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.75	0.58	0.70	0.63	0.64	2012	0.69	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.76	0.58	0.71	0.63	0.64
Year	Belize	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Nicaragua	ITC regional group average	Neighbours' average	World average																																																				
2008	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.74	0.58	0.69	0.63	0.64																																																				
2009	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.74	0.58	0.68	0.63	0.64																																																				
2010	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.75	0.58	0.69	0.63	0.64																																																				
2011	0.68	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.75	0.58	0.70	0.63	0.64																																																				
2012	0.69	0.67	0.65	0.61	0.76	0.58	0.71	0.63	0.64																																																				
Health	18.3 in 2012																																																												
Education	94 out of 191 in 2012																																																												
Income level	N.A.																																																												
Inequality	N.A.																																																												
Poverty	65 out of 191 in 2012																																																												
Gender	70 out of 191 in 2012																																																												
Sustainability	N.A.																																																												

## 2.2 Economy

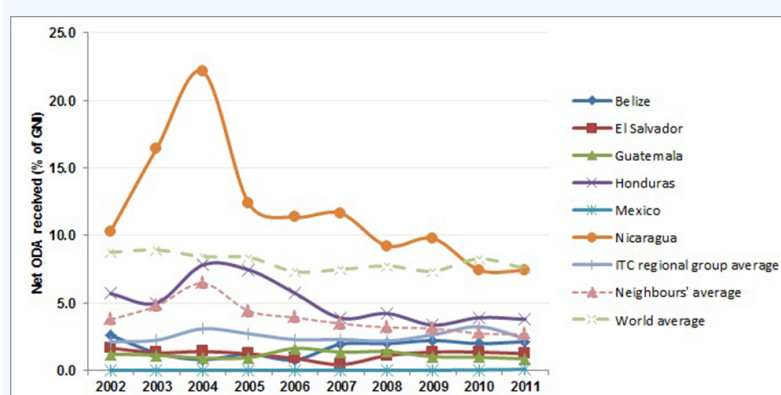
### Added value per sector (current US\$ and % of GDP)

Sector added value	2004		2008		2012	
	US \$	%GDP	US \$	%GDP	US \$	%GDP
Agriculture	150	16.5	144	12.1	N.A.	N.A.
Industry	161	17.7	269	22.7	N.A.	N.A.
Manufacturing	83	9.1	170	14.3	N.A.	N.A.
Services	600	65.8	774	65.2	N.A.	N.A.

Source: World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: Added value is US\$ terms are expressed in million, GDP US\$, and "6,976 to be read 6'976"

### Aid Dependency (Official Development Assistance/Gross National Income)



Source: World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: ITC calculations based on the World Bank WDI. Regional group refers to ITC definition

### Remittances as a Share of GDP Remittances as a Share of GDP

	2004	2008	2012
Remittance (\$ millions)	35	76	N.A.
Remittance (% GDP)	331	561	N.A.

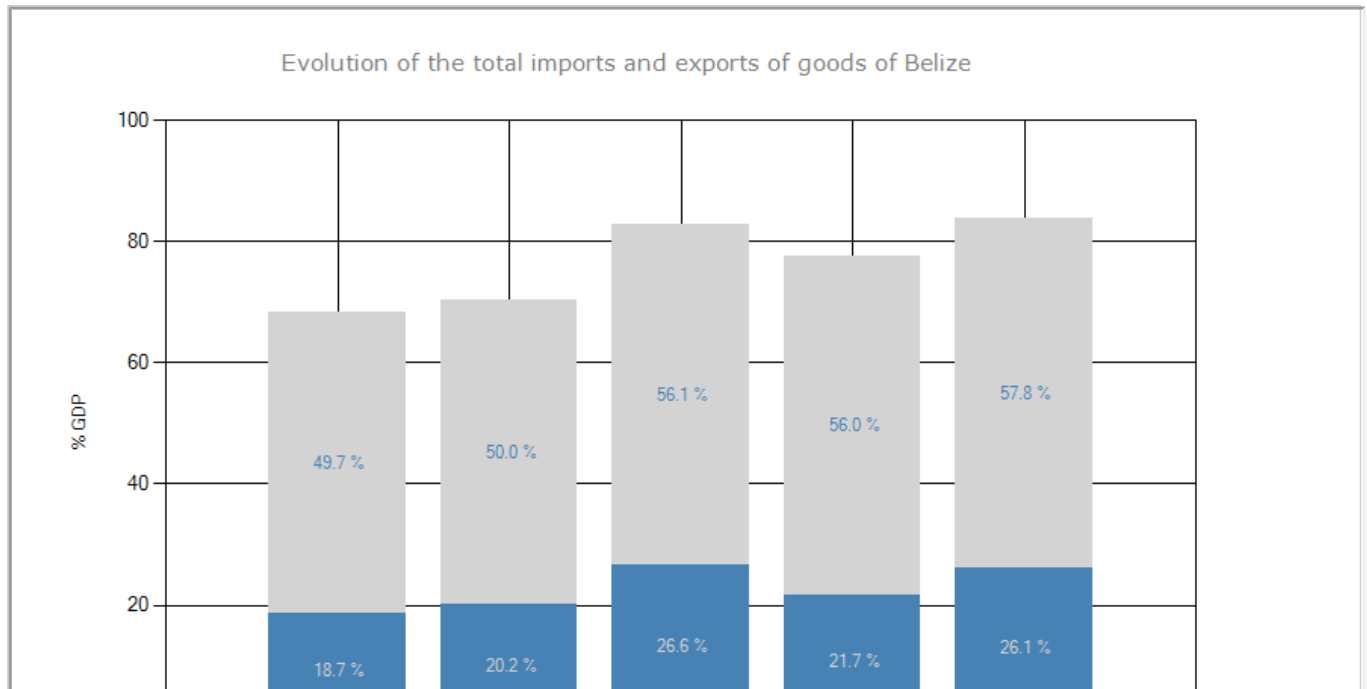
Source: World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI)

Note: ITC calculations based on World Bank WDI, IMF BOP statistics, and "6,976 to be read 6'976"

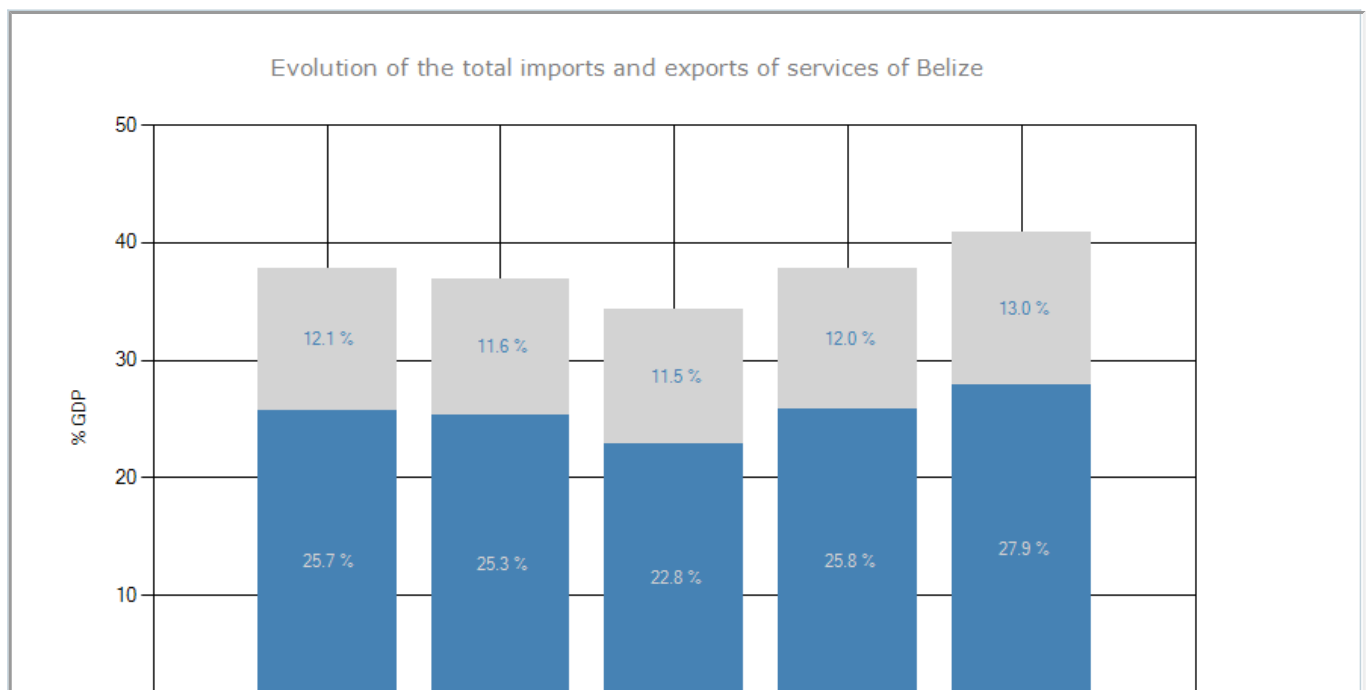
# 3. Trade Performance

## 3.1 General Trade Performance

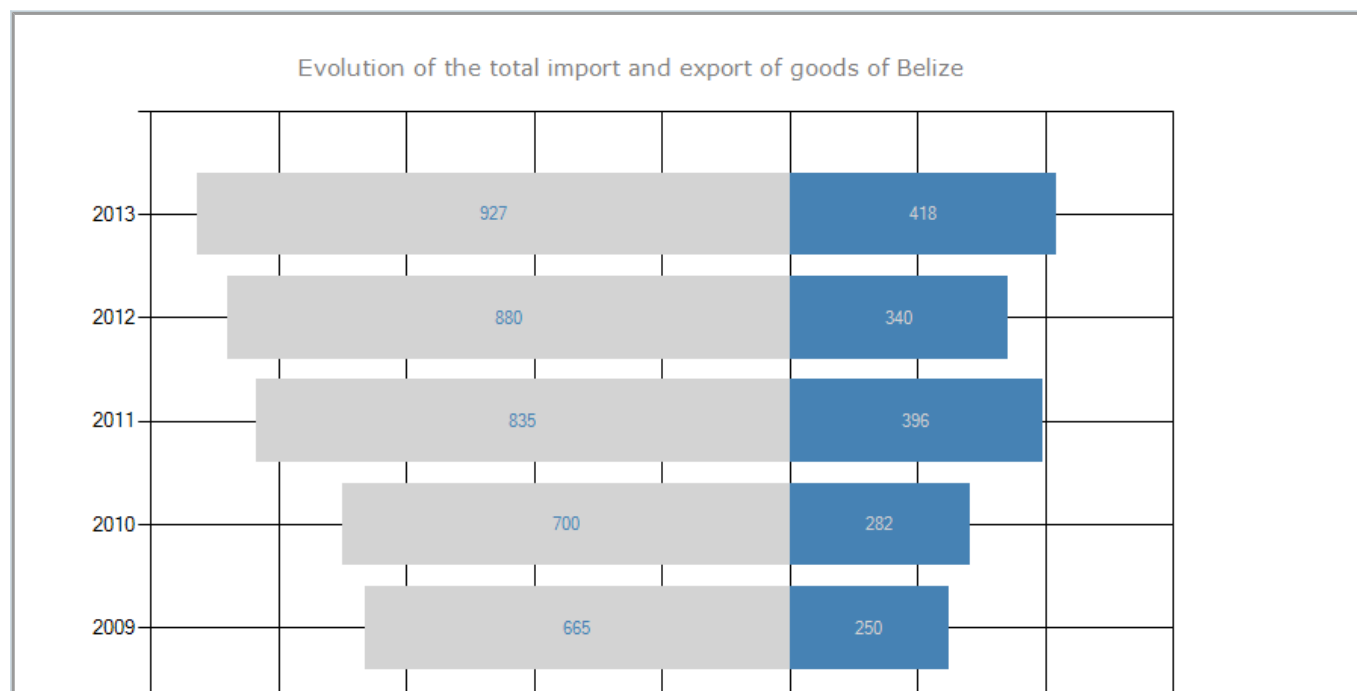
### 3.1.1 Evolution of Trade Ratio to GDP - Goods



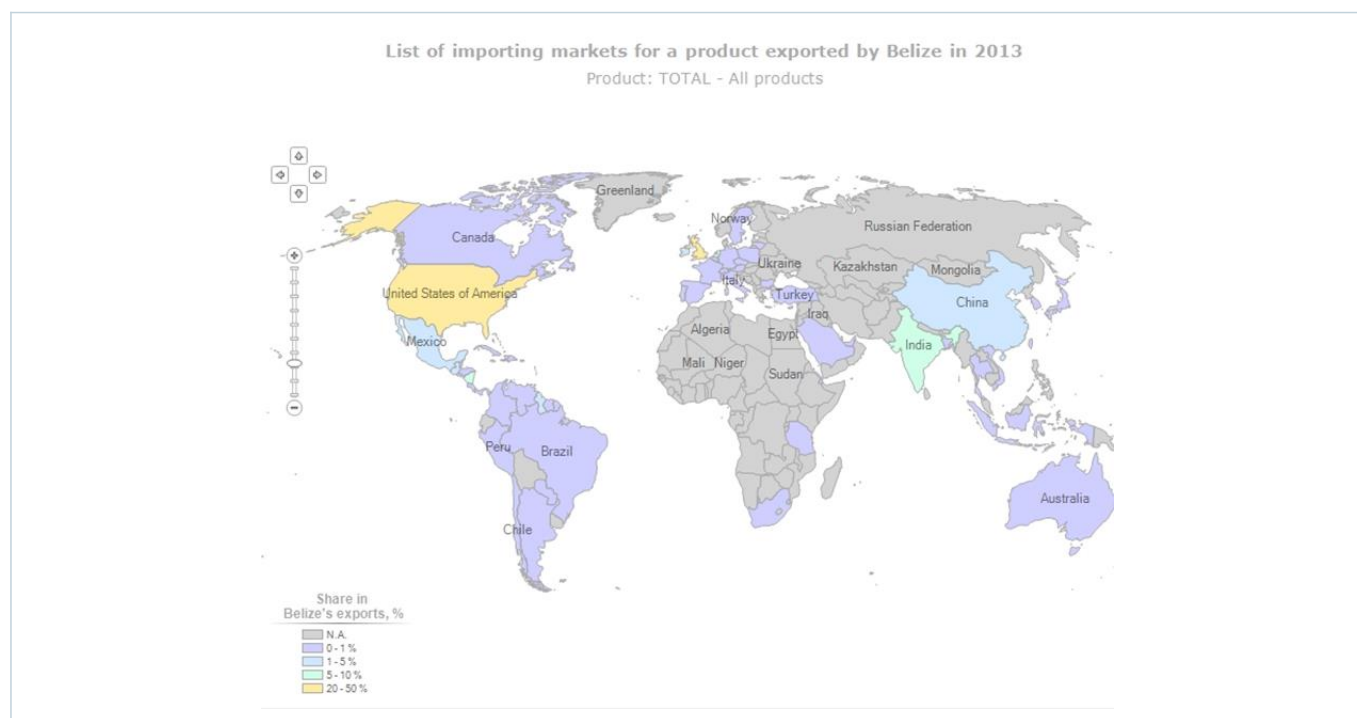
### 3.1.2 Evolution of Trade Ratio to GDP - Services



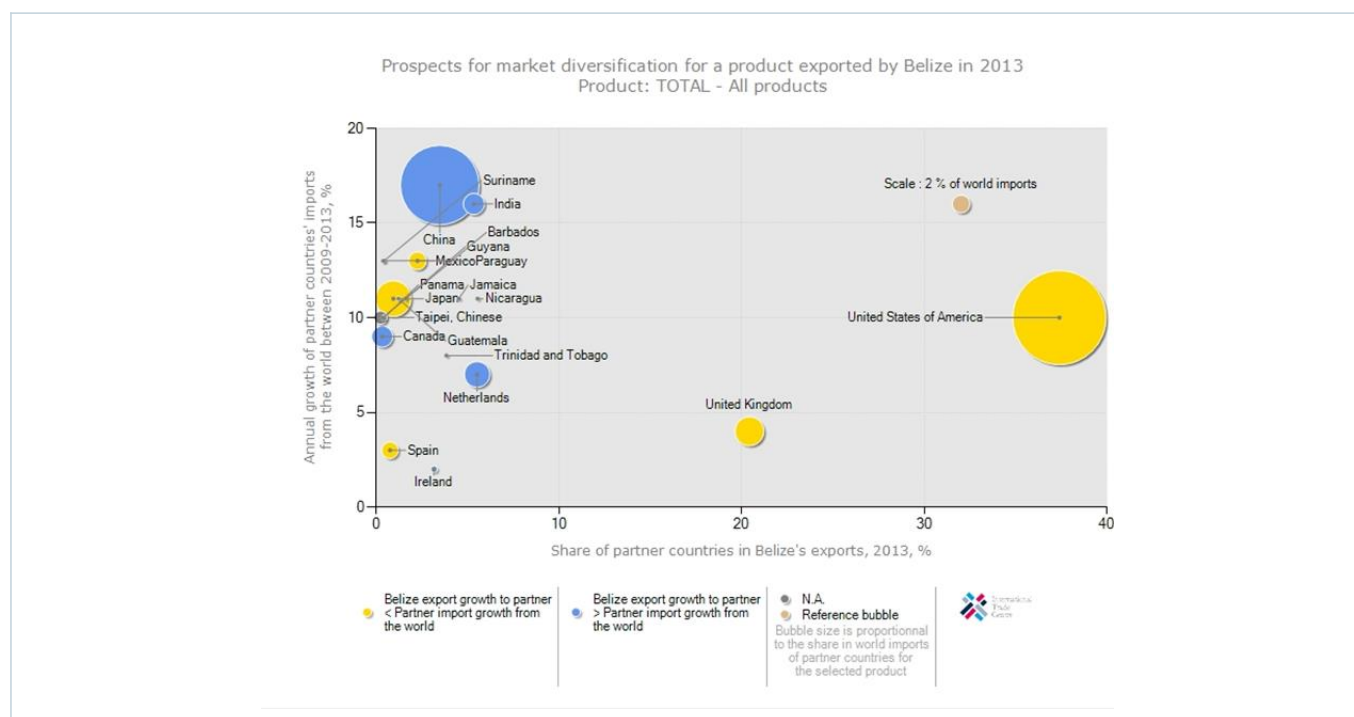
### 3.1.3 Evolution of Total Trade



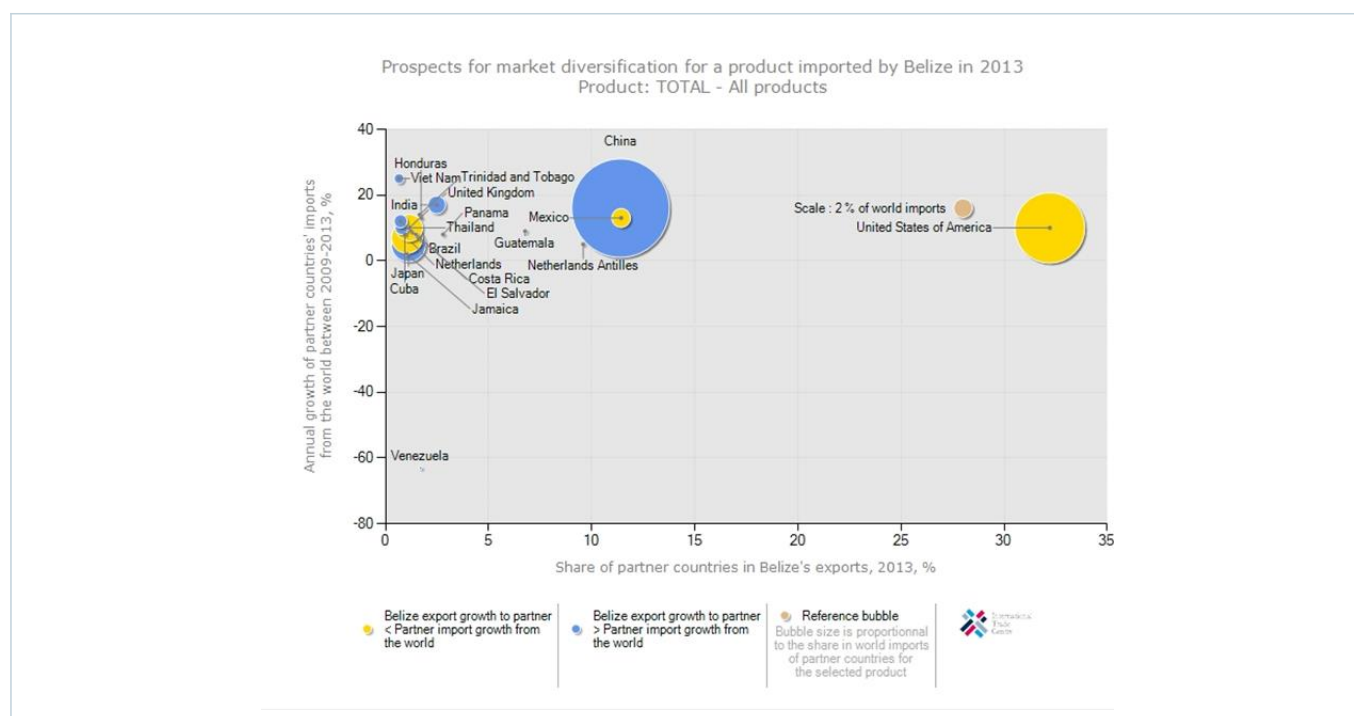
### 3.1.4 Trade Map



### 3.1.5 Export and Import by Leading Destination - Export

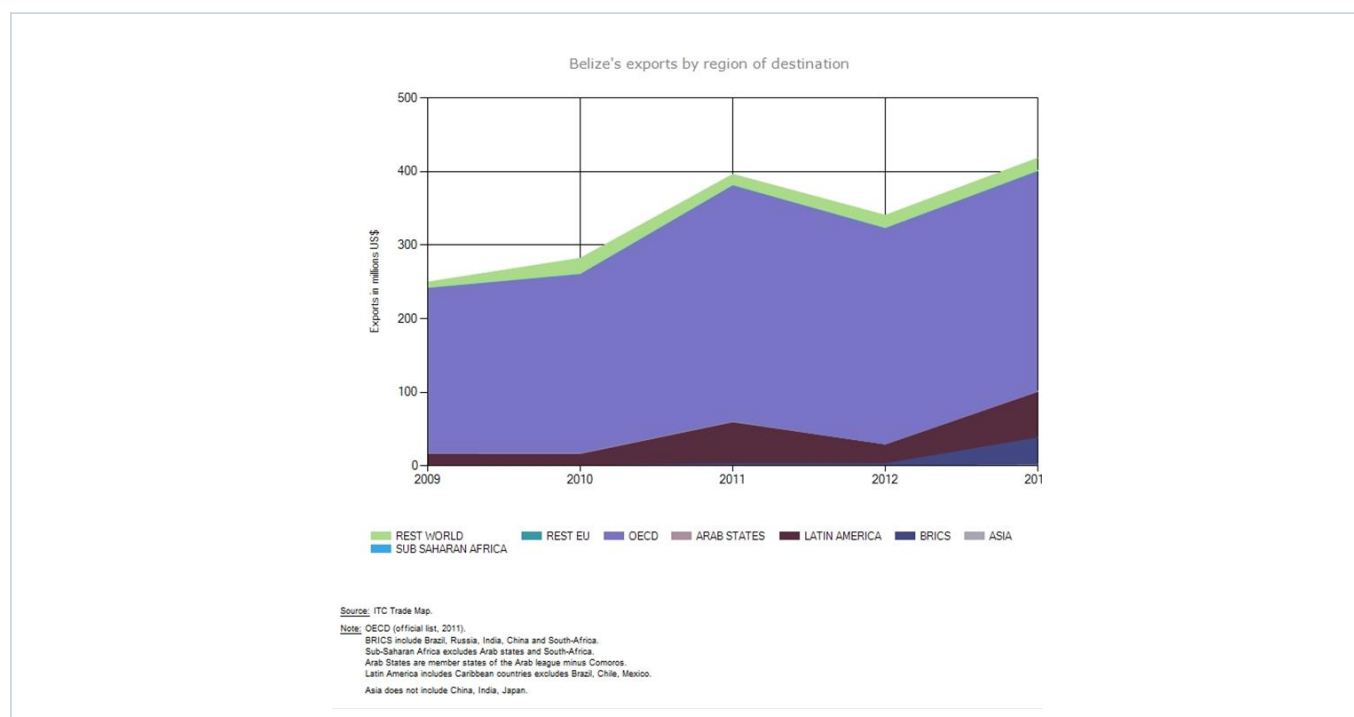


### 3.1.6 Export and Import by Leading Destination - Import

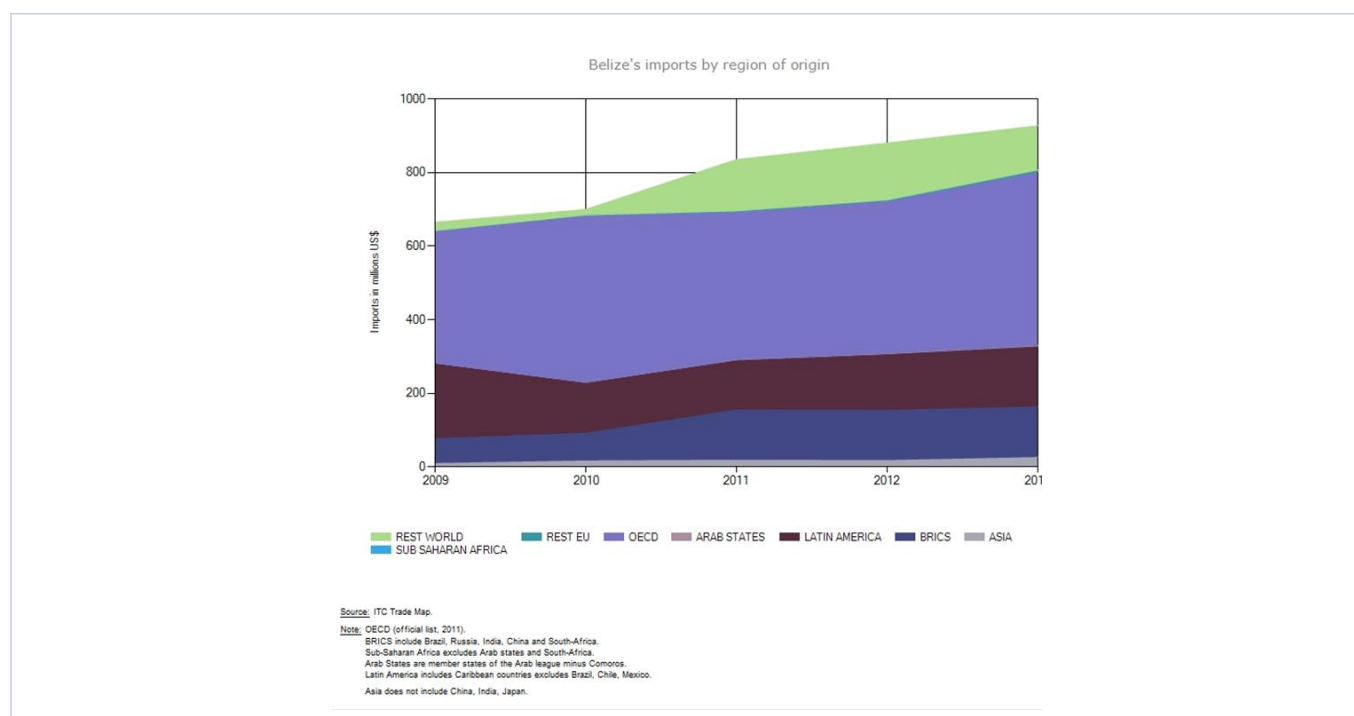




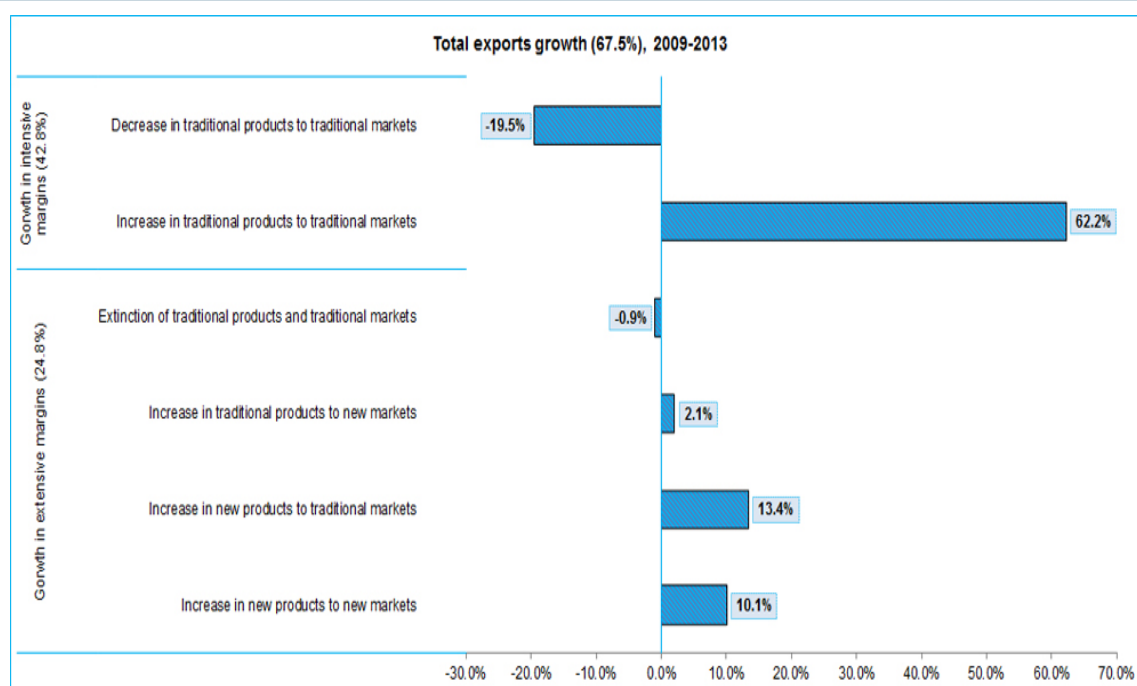
### 3.1.7 Evolution of Exports and Imports by Destination - Export



### 3.1.8 Evolution of Exports and Imports by Destination - Import



### 3.1.9 Total Export Growth



Source: ITC, calculations based on ITC's Trade Competitiveness Map data.

Note: Graph shows decomposition of the country's export growth in value terms by diversification pattern over the indicated period.

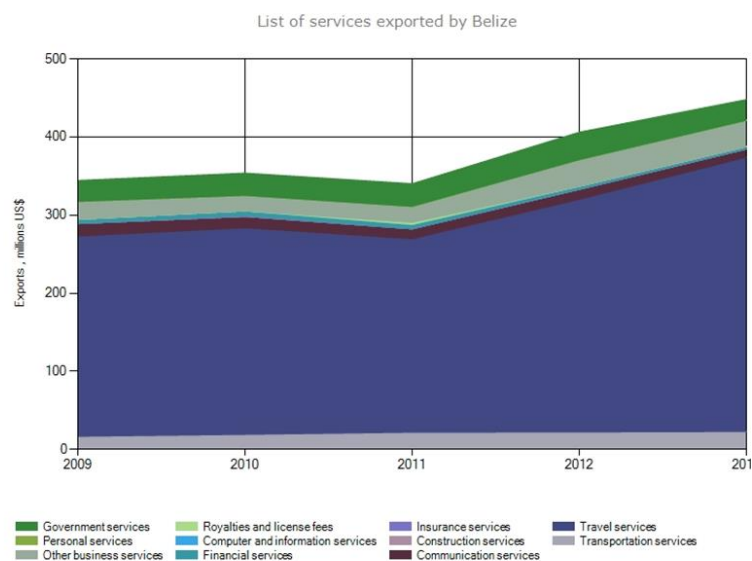
### 3.1.10 Marginal Export Growth

From 2009 to 2013, the country's total export in value Increased by 67.5%		
Marginal Growth Due to	US\$ change	% change
Growth due to world trade's growth	121,802.6	48.8
Growth due to product specialisation	-5,001.0	-2.0
Growth due to geographic specialisation	-7,834.0	-3.1
Growth due to competitiveness	59,530.4	23.8
Sum of the marginal growths	168,498.0	67.5

Source: ITC, calculations based on ITC's Trade Competitiveness Map data.

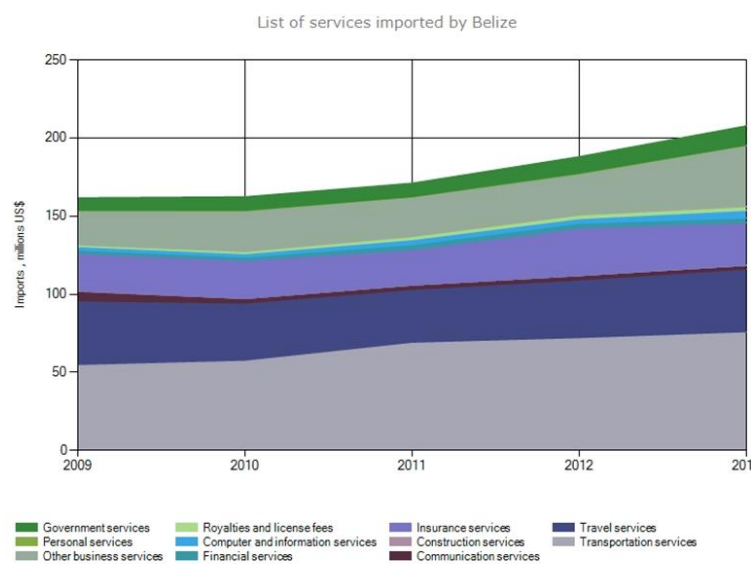
Note: Graph shows decomposition of the country's export growth in value by structural driving effects over the indicated period. Values are in US\$ thousands.

### 3.1.11 Composition of Trade in Services - Export



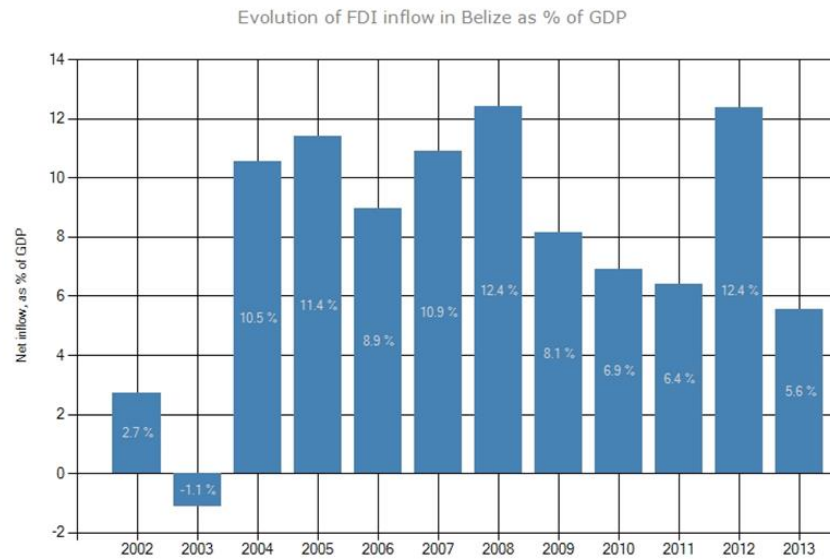
Source: ITC Trade Map.

### 3.1.12 Composition of Trade in Services - Import



Source: ITC Trade Map.

### 3.1.13 Evolution of FDI



Source: ITC based on World Bank WDI.

## 3.2 Sector Trade Performance

### 3.2.1 Sectoral Diversification in Products - Export

Sectoral diversification in products for Belize's exports

Sector	Average share of sector in country's exports 2009-2013	Share of top 3 detailed products (HS6) in sector's exports		Sector's leading exported product HS6
		2009	2013	
Processed food	33.2 %	93.3 %	83.2 %	<a href="#">170111</a> Raw sugar, cane
Minerals	29.9 %	99.9 %	98.8 %	<a href="#">270900</a> Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals in primary forms, crude
Fresh food	27.6 %	78.1 %	71.5 %	<a href="#">080300</a> Bananas including plantains, fresh or dried
Unclassified products	4.2 %	99.0 %	100.0 %	<a href="#">999999</a> Commodities not elsewhere specified
Non-electronic machinery	1.9 %	100.0 %	89.9 %	<a href="#">843049</a> Boring or sinking machinery nes, not self-propelled
Wood products	1.5 %	71.1 %	77.6 %	<a href="#">440721</a> Mahogany Swietenia spp., sawn or chipped lengthwise, or peeled,
Miscellaneous manufacturing	0.5 %	83.5 %	66.8 %	<a href="#">950430</a> Games, coin or disc-operated, other than bowling alley equipment
Basic manufactures	0.3 %	100.0 %	83.3 %	<a href="#">252329</a> Portland cement nes
Transport equipment	0.3 %	100.0 %	46.3 %	<a href="#">890399</a> Rowing boats, canoes, sculls and other pleasure boats
IT & consumable electronics	0.2 %		83.7 %	<a href="#">852990</a> Parts suitable for use solely or principally with the apparatus of headings 85.07 to 85.28
Chemicals	0.2 %	100.0 %	57.4 %	<a href="#">300590</a> Dressings & similar articles, impregnated or coated with preparations, nes
Leather products	0.0 %		100.0 %	<a href="#">420221</a> Handbags with outer surface of leather
Electronic components	0.0 %	100.0 %	72.3 %	<a href="#">850680</a> Primary cells & primary batteries nes
Textiles	0.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	<a href="#">630190</a> Blankets (of electric) and travelling rugs, of other textile materials
Clothing	0.0 %	100.0 %	77.8 %	<a href="#">610910</a> T-shirts, singlets and other vests, of cotton, knitted

Source: ITC Trade Competitiveness Map.

Note: HS codes refer to the revision 2007.

N/A in non-listed table means not elsewhere specified

### 3.2.2 Sectoral Diversification in Products - Import

Sectoral diversification in products for Belize's imports

Sector	Average share of sector in country's imports 2009-2013	Share of top 3 detailed products (HS6) in sector's imports		Sector's leading imported product HS6
		2009	2013	
Unclassified products	19.6 %	93.0 %	100.0 %	<a href="#">999999</a> Commodities not elsewhere specified
Minerals	16.4 %	97.6 %	97.1 %	<a href="#">271019</a> Other petroleum oils and preparations
Processed food	12.1 %	21.9 %	22.6 %	<a href="#">240220</a> Cigarettes containing tobacco
Chemicals	10.2 %	19.7 %	19.9 %	<a href="#">300490</a> Medicaments nes, in dosage
Basic manufactures	7.9 %	33.3 %	37.9 %	<a href="#">252329</a> Portland cement nes
Non-electronic machinery	6.5 %	21.9 %	13.4 %	<a href="#">840710</a> Aircraft engines, spark-ignition reciprocating or rotary type
Miscellaneous manufacturing	5.8 %	22.9 %	24.6 %	<a href="#">711319</a> Articles of jewellery & parts thereof of precious metal w/ precious metal
Transport equipment	5.2 %	36.4 %	45.9 %	<a href="#">870421</a> Diesel powered trucks with a GVW not exceeding five to
Wood products	3.1 %	58.0 %	52.4 %	<a href="#">481910</a> Cartons, boxes and cases, of corrugated paper or paper
Electronic components	3.0 %	22.2 %	22.4 %	<a href="#">854449</a> Electric conductors, for a voltage not exceeding 80 V, nes
IT & consumable electronics	2.8 %	41.5 %	39.5 %	<a href="#">851762</a> Machines for the reception, conversion and transmission of
Clothing	2.4 %	21.5 %	26.6 %	<a href="#">610990</a> T-shirts, singlets and other vests, of other textile materials, knitted
Fresh food	2.3 %	63.2 %	62.2 %	<a href="#">100110</a> Durum wheat
Leather products	1.5 %	59.9 %	52.0 %	<a href="#">640299</a> Footwear, outer soles/uppers of rubber or plastics, nes
Textiles	0.6 %	24.4 %	28.3 %	<a href="#">630790</a> Made up articles, of textile materials, nes, including dresses

Source: ITC Trade Competitiveness Map.

Note: HS codes refer to the revision 2007.

N/A in non-listed table means not elsewhere specified

### 3.2.3 Sectoral Diversification in Destinations - Export

Sectoral diversification in destination for Belize's exports

Sector	Sector's export growth in value (% p.a) 2009-2013	Share of top 3 importing countries in sector's exports		List of the top 3 importing countries	
		2009	2013	2009	2013
Non-electronic machinery	642.4 %	100.0 %	97.1 %	Guatemala	Nicaragua ; United States of America ; Canada
Transport equipment	323.0 %	100.0 %	83.6 %	Guatemala	United States of America ; Mexico ; Honduras
Unclassified products	252.6 %	100.0 %	83.6 %	United States of America ; Mexico ; Guatemala	India ; China ; United States of America
Basic manufactures	202.0 %	100.0 %	96.1 %	United States of America	Jamaica ; United States of America ; Guatemala
Clothing	184.4 %	100.0 %	69.4 %	United States of America	United States of America ; Nicaragua ; Bangladesh
Chemicals	165.2 %	100.0 %	93.5 %	Mexico ; United States of America	United States of America ; Mexico ; China
Miscellaneous manufacturing	156.7 %	100.0 %	93.9 %	Cayman Islands ; United States of America	United States of America ; Netherlands ; United Republic of Tanzania
Electronic components	142.4 %	100.0 %	88.6 %	Trinidad and Tobago	United States of America ; Canada ; Mexico
Wood products	14.3 %	79.4 %	87.6 %	United States of America ; China ; Netherlands	United States of America ; China ; Trinidad and Tobago
Processed food	8.5 %	81.5 %	77.5 %	United Kingdom ; United States of America ; Netherlands	United Kingdom ; United States of America ; Netherlands
Fresh food	8.0 %	84.6 %	67.6 %	United Kingdom ; United States of America ; Mexico	United States of America ; United Kingdom ; Ireland
Minerals	4.1 %	99.9 %	99.2 %	United States of America ; Guatemala ; El Salvador	United States of America ; Guatemala ; Taiwan, Province of China
Textiles	-42.6 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	Canada	United States of America ; Guatemala

Source: ITC Trade Competitiveness Map.

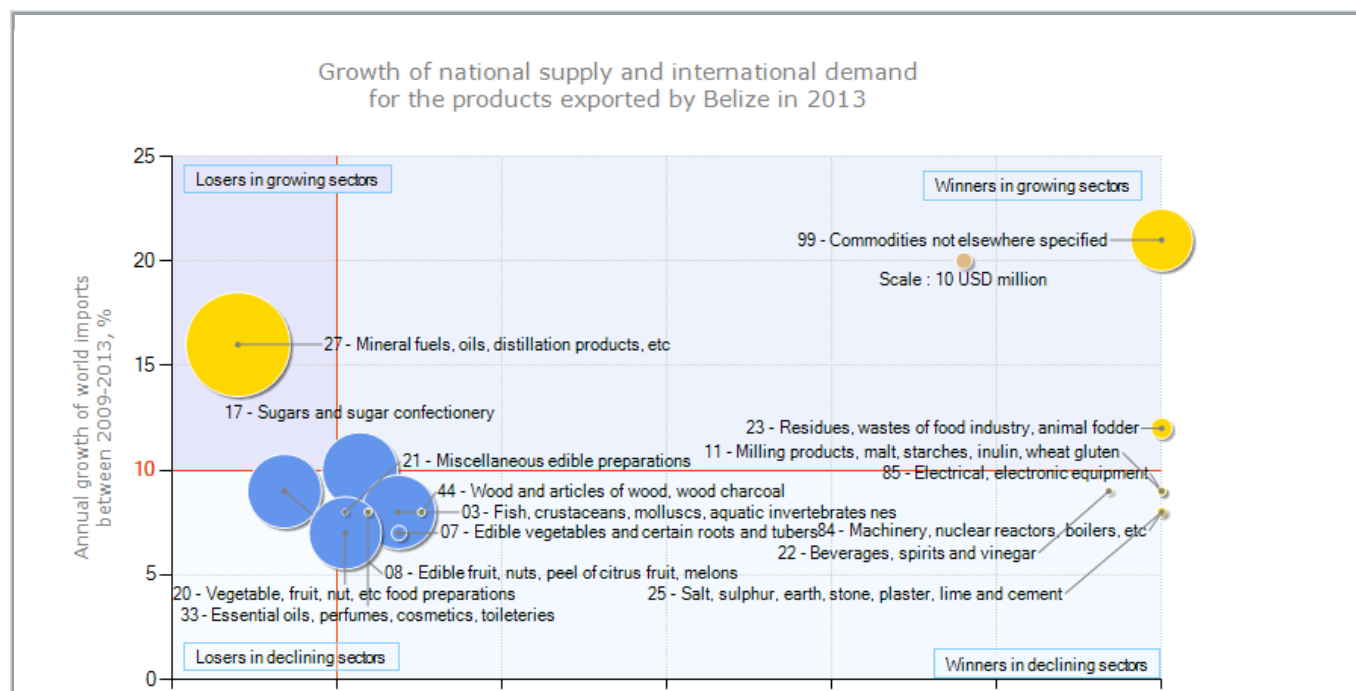
### 3.2.4 Sectoral Diversification in Destinations - Import

Sectoral diversification in origin for Belize's imports

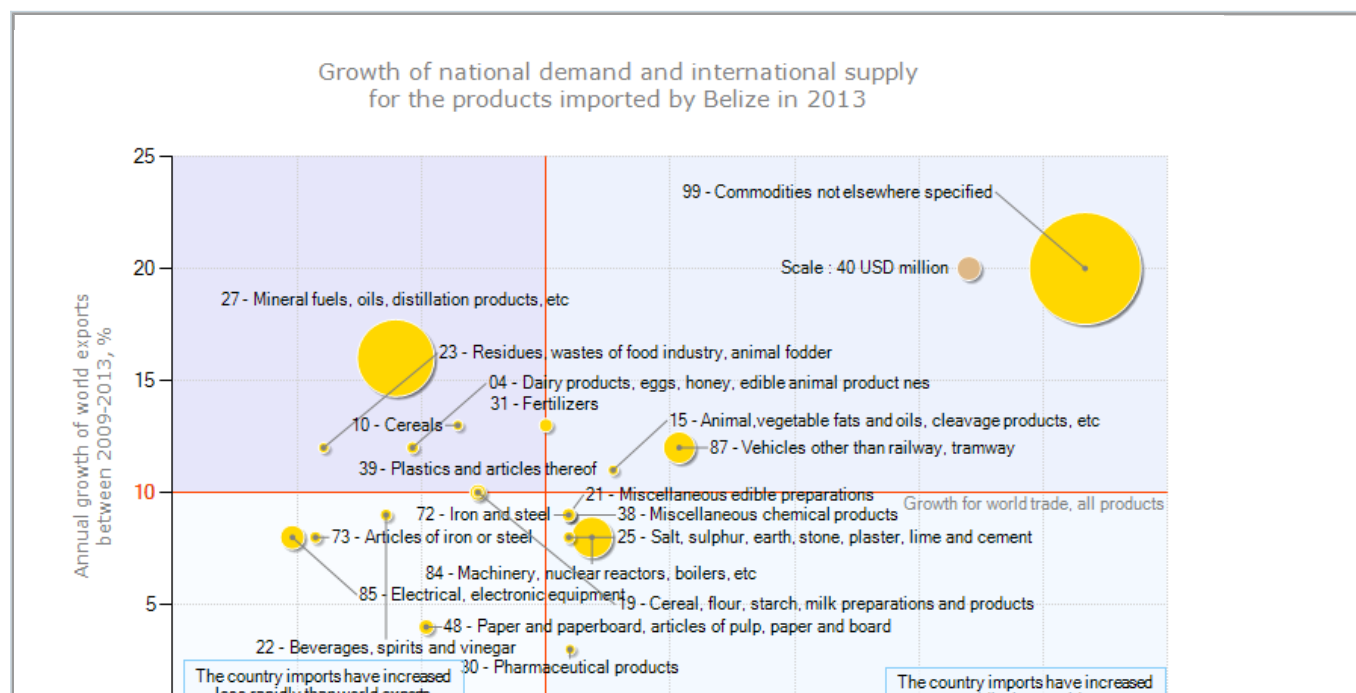
Sector	Sector's import growth in value (% p.a) 2009-2013	Share of top 3 supplying countries in sector's imports		List of the top 3 supplying countries	
		2009	2013	2009	2013
Unclassified products	24.2 %	66.4 %	60.6 %	United States of America ; Panama ; China	China ; United States of America ; Panama
IT & consumable electronics	15.7 %	94.0 %	92.2 %	United States of America ; China ; Panama	United States of America ; China ; Mexico
Transport equipment	12.3 %	78.9 %	73.4 %	United States of America ; Japan ; China	United States of America ; Japan ; Thailand
Fresh food	8.7 %	90.8 %	90.5 %	United States of America ; Mexico ; Brazil	United States of America ; Mexico ; Brazil
Textiles	8.6 %	73.6 %	70.2 %	United States of America ; China ; Guatemala	United States of America ; China ; Guatemala
Miscellaneous manufacturing	8.2 %	63.2 %	71.8 %	United States of America ; Mexico ; China	United States of America ; Mexico ; Guatemala
Minerals	7.2 %	77.2 %	80.0 %	Cuba ; Venezuela ; Netherlands Antilles	Netherlands Antilles ; Venezuela ; Honduras
Chemicals	7.1 %	69.7 %	68.9 %	United States of America ; Guatemala ; Mexico	United States of America ; Guatemala ; Mexico



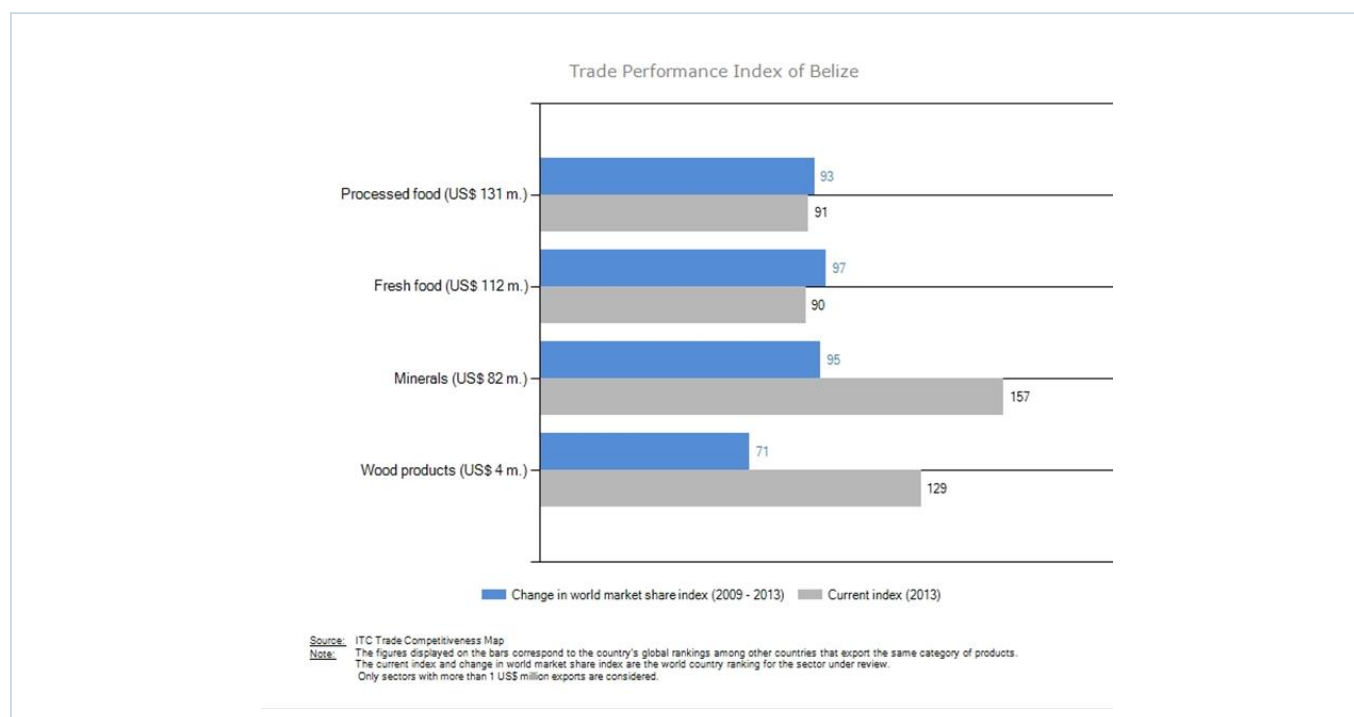
### 3.2.5 Sectors by World Demand - Export



### 3.2.6 Sectors by World Demand - Import



### 3.2.7 Trade Performance Index





# 4. Trade Strategy and Policy

## 4.1 Trade and Development Strategies

Year	Strategy name	Sector
2011	<a href="#">Horizon 2030 - Long-Term Development Plan</a> Horizon 2030 aims at establishing long-term development goals, targets, and indicators that...	
2010	<a href="#">Belize's National Policy on Responsible Tourism</a> The plan provides directions to the development of sustainable tourism in Belize...	Tourism
2010	<a href="#">Information Communication Technology National Strategy</a> The strategy outlines the current state of ICT in Belize and it...	Information Communication Technology
2006	<a href="#">UNDAF Belize 2007-2011</a> The UNDAF frames the UN assistance to Belize around three main programme...	
2003	<a href="#">National Food and Agriculture Policy</a> The document outlines the main challenges posed by the globalization process and...	Sugar Cane Industry, Citrus, Banana, Rice, Fruits and Vegetables, Corn, Sorghum,...

# 4.2 Domestic and Foreign Market Access

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# 4.3 Trade Facilitation

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## 4.4 Business and Regulatory Environment

### Multilateral Trade Instruments

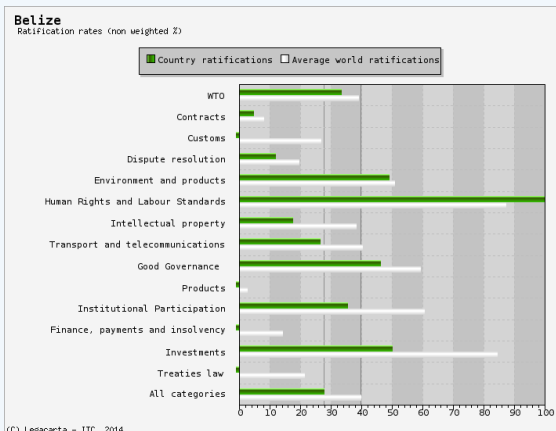
#### Abstract

The *Trade Treaties Map* tool is a web-based system on multilateral trade treaties and instruments designed to assist trade support institutions (TSIs) and policymakers in optimizing their country's legal framework on international trade

Instrument ratified :	75 / 266 instruments		
Ratification rate :	28.2%		
Weighted score :	40.8/100		
		Ratification Rate Rank	Weighted Score Rank
In World :		147 / 193	133 / 193
In Region :	Central America	8 / 8	8 / 8
In Development level :	Developing country	73 / 88	67 / 88

#### Graph

Presents a visual illustration breaking down a country's ratification level according to various categories and compares it to the world average.



#### Instruments ratified

[Click here for a full list and more details about these multi-lateral trade instruments](#)



# 5. ITC and the Country/Territory

## 5.1 ITC Projects

### 5.1.1 Current projects

ITC Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico

### 5.1.2 Recent projects

No Recent Projects Found!

## 5.2 Events

### 5.2.1 Upcoming events

No data

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### 5.2.2 Recent events

[Introduction to ITC's Trade Tools for BELTRADE and JEA](#)15/09/2014-**Geneva**

[Introduction to ITC's Market Analysis Tools for GIZ Staff](#)15/09/2014-**Frankfurt**

[MAR Tools Webinar for WVEF Participants \(Session I\)](#)26/08/2014-**Belize City**

[NTM Coding Training at ITC HQ](#)25/08/2014-**Geneva**

## 5.3 ITC Contacts

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# 6. Trade Information Sources and Contacts

## 6.1 Trade Information Sources

This section provides a list of country specific print and online publications on trade-related topics, including both ITC and external sources.

### 6.1.1 ITC publications

**Belize : National Export Strategy : Scope, Focus and Process**



Paper presented at ITC Regional Executive Forum : 'Small States in Transition : From Vulnerability to Competitiveness' , Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 18-21 January 2004 - reviews the...

[Read more](#)

**Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and other Trade Policy Related Business Advocacy: A Case Study, CARICOM, with Special Reference to Trinidad and Tobago**



Paper exploring the CARICOM's (Caribbean Community and Common Market) current Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations with special reference to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, and the structure...

[Read more](#)



Paper contributed by Belize National Strategy Team, presented at ITC Executive Forum : 'Bringing the Poor into the Export Process : Linkages and Strategic Implications', Berlin, Germany, 27-30 September, 2006...

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**Building Institutional Capacities : Finding the Right Focus, Gearing up for Export Success. - Belize**



Paper presented at ITC World Export Development Forum : 'Bringing down the Barriers - Charting a Dynamic Export Development Agenda', Montreux, Switzerland, 8-11 October, 2007 - looks at capacities and...

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**Strategic Vision for Tourism : Belize**



Paper contributed by Belize national team, presented at ITC Executive Forum's 2005 Consultative Cycle on Innovations in Export Strategy : 'Building the Tourism Mega-Cluster: What Works and What Doesn't' ,...

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Paper focusing on the status of e-Trade readiness of the 13 member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - outlines basic e-Trade readiness factors for each country; assesses extent of...

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**Belize : The National Trade Support Network : Where Should its Focus Be and What Services Should it Provide to the Business Community**



Paper contributed by Belize National Team, presented at ITC Regional Executive Forum : 'Export Strategy in a Changing Business Environment', Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 11-14 June, 2003 -...

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## 6.1.2 Selected printed information sources

- [2011 Opportunities for Trade in Services of Canada](#)
- [2006 - Nurse, Keith The Cultural Industries in CARICOM : Trade and Development Challenges](#)
- [2010 The Economic Partnership Agreement : Towards a New Era for Caribbean Trade](#)
- [2010 - Ramdoo I; Walker A Implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement in the East African Community and the CARIFORUM Regions : What is in it for the Private Sector?](#)
- [2011 CARICOM's Papaya Trade](#)
- [2011 CARICOM's Nutmeg Trade](#)
- [2008 Caribbean Region : Review of Economic Growth and Development](#)
- [2005 Multilateralism and Regionalism : The New Interface](#)
- [2006 Directory: Importers and Exporters of Belize](#)
- [2006 Belize Business Directory](#)
- [2009 Assessment of the Energy Services Sector in the Caribbean](#)
- [2010 Trade Policy Review : Belize](#)

## 6.1.3 Selected online information sources

- [The National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade](#)
- [Caribbean Community](#)
- [Unidad Regional de Asistencia Técnica](#)

- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
- Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)
- Caribbean Community Secretariat: Statistics
- Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

## 6.2 Trade Contacts

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National Garifuna Council	Pablo Lambey Garifuna Cultural Center 59 Commerce Street	Dangriga	501 6 69 0639		<a href="mailto:ngcbelize@gmail.com">ngcbelize@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://ngcbelize.org">http://ngcbelize.org</a>
Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry	#4792 Coney Drive	Belize City	+501 223 5330	+501 223 5333	<a href="mailto:bcci@belize.org">bcci@belize.org</a>	<a href="http://www.belize.org">http://www.belize.org</a>