TRANSNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE
TRACIT.ORG

COUNTRY PROFILE

BELIZE

Belize is a critical transit point connecting North America to key Central American trade routes, facilitating the movement of both legitimate and illicit goods. Belize is considered a moderately high risk jurisdiction for illicit trade, driven by the under-monitoring of the Corozal Free Zone and weak oversight at borders and popular transit points. These shortfalls lead to high exposure to a wide range of illicit goods

AT A GLANCE

103rd
GLOBAL RANK

4th
REGIONAL RANK

43.9
SCORE OUT OF 100

STRONGEST AREA
Taxation and Economic Environment

WEAKEST AREA
Supply Chain Intermediaries

OVERVIEW

Belize's moderately high-risk assessment can be attributed to its relatively low scores across the six categories reviewed by the TRACIT Illicit Trade Index, which evaluates the country's vulnerability to illicit trade. Belize's total score of 43.9 translates to it ranking in the bottom third of countries on the Index. Belize's middling performance compared to Central American countries reflects uneven institutional capacity and critical gaps in supply-chain oversight.

KEY VULNERABILITIES

- Critically weak supply chain oversight
- Under regulation in the Corozal Free Zone
- Poor border enforcement along both land & coastal borders

KEY SECTORS AFFECTED

- Illicit Tobacco
- Illicit Alcohol
- Counterfeit Goods

MAJOR DRIVER

The Corozal Free Zone

Weak oversight and lax regulations allow high volumes of goods to enter, exit, and move "in transit" with minimal scrutiny.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen governance and oversight of the Corozal Free Zone (CFZ).
- Grant the Belize Customs and Excise Department unrestricted ex-officio inspection authority over the entire CFZ perimeter.
- Rationalize excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol to reduce smuggling incentives.
- Create a specialized inter-agency task force to address illicit trade-related corruption.