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Belize *CPI*

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JANUARY 2014

January Inflation Rate 1.8 Percent

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January 2014 stood at 103.7 (February 2011 = 100), up 1.8 percent from 101.8 in January 2013. This was a continuation of the trend observed from the latter part of 2013, in which the rate of inflation began to accelerate after remaining relatively flat for several months. Prices for Food and Transport, the major contributors to this month's inflation, were up by 4 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Among Food items, vegetable prices accounted for most of the increase, rising by an average of 21 percent compared to a year ago. Most notably, the average price for tomatoes more than doubled, while those for sweet peppers, cabbage, red kidney beans and black beans all rose by at least 20 percent (see Table 1).

While fuel prices recorded little difference from last January, international airfares increased by 29 percent. Similarly, due to higher drivers' license fees across the country, the index for that item rose by 38 percent. These resulted in an overall increase in prices for transportation services.

Across the seven municipalities shown in Table 2, Belmopan and Corozal Town had the highest inflation rates. Orange Walk Town and Punta Gorda Town recorded the lowest rates.

February 26, 2014

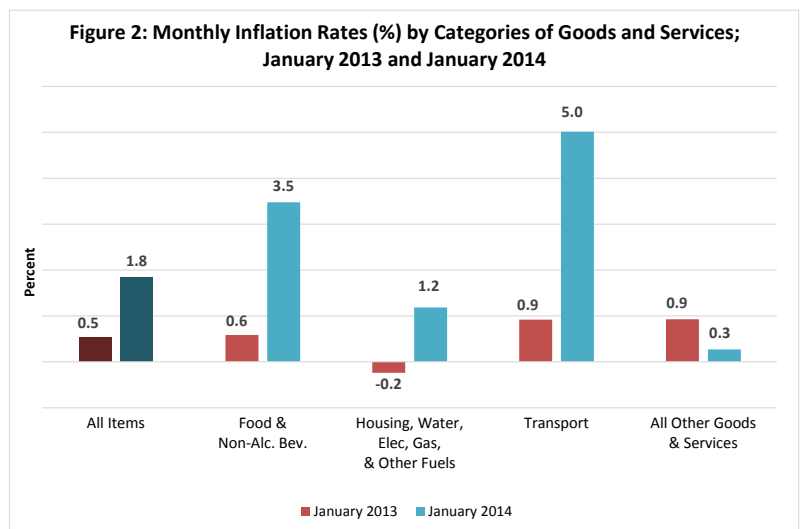
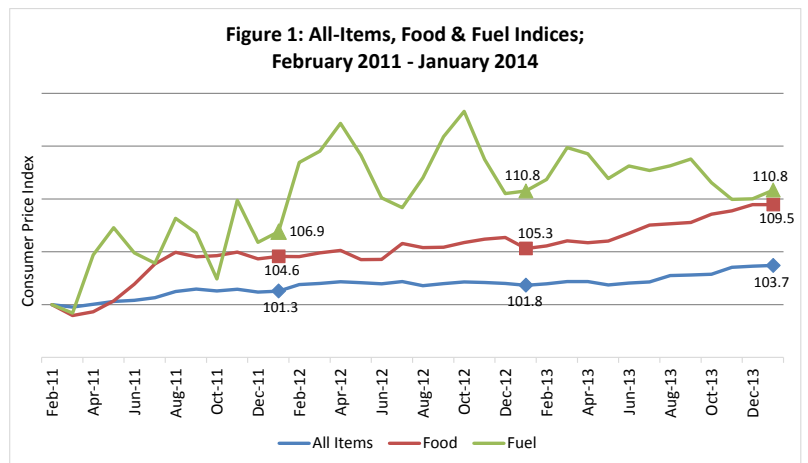


Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel, January 2013 and January 2014

Item	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	% Change
Ground Beef	1 Lb 4.25	5.33	↑ 25.5
Beef Steak	1 Lb 6.02	6.67	↑ 10.8
Rice (Retail)	1 Lb 1.06	1.08	↑ 1.2
Flour (Gitana)	1 Lb 0.92	0.94	↑ 2.6
White Sugar	1 Lb 0.52	0.52	0.0
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb 2.16	2.88	↑ 33.5
Black Beans	1 Lb 1.51	1.82	↑ 20.1
Eggs	1 Dozen 3.29	3.58	↑ 8.8
Condensed Milk (Dutch Lady)	397 G 2.43	2.44	↑ 0.4
Milk (La La Light)	1 L 3.14	3.15	↑ 0.4
Tomatoes	1 Lb 1.55	3.45	↑ 123.2
Yellow Onions	1 Lb 2.03	1.94	↓ -4.6
Sweet Pepper	1 Lb 3.29	5.65	↑ 72.0
Cabbage	1 Lb 1.03	1.55	↑ 50.4
Whole Chicken	1 Lb 2.63	2.81	↑ 7.1
Premium Gasoline	1 Gal 11.38	11.49	↑ 0.9
Regular Gasoline	1 Gal 10.98	11.10	↑ 1.1
Diesel	1 Gal 10.90	10.85	↓ -0.4
Butane	100 Lbs 109.76	117.79	↑ 7.3

Table 2: Inflation Rates by Municipality; January 2013 and January 2014

Municipality	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014
National	0.5	1.8
Corozal Town	0.6	2.5
Orange Walk Town	1.9	1.2
Belize City	0.1	1.8
Belmopan	0.0	2.7
San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town	0.6	1.9
Dangriga	1.2	1.9
Punta Gorda Town	-0.2	1.3

For more information contact **Diana Castillo-Trejo** at telephone numbers **822-2207/2352** or e-mail at info@mail.org.bz. An Excel version of the tables contained in this release can be downloaded from our website at www.sib.org.bz