

CPI

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CONSUMER PRICES UP BY 0.9% IN JUNE 2016

During the month of June 2016, prices of goods and services purchased by Belizean households were an average of 0.9 percent higher than they were in June 2015. According to the latest statistics on consumer prices released by the Statistical Institute of Belize, the All-Items Consumer Price Index stood at 103.7, up from 102.8 in last June. For the first half of this year, a year-to-date inflation rate of 0.5 percent was recorded.

Despite higher prices for both regular gasoline and diesel fuel during the month, the 'Transport' category saw an overall decline of 0.7 percent. The effect of these price increases was overshadowed by premium gasoline prices and international airfares, which remained lower than they were one year ago.

'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' recorded an overall increase of 1.6 percent, as home rental prices rose by more than 2 percent in comparison to June 2015. This was offset by lower electricity tariffs, which were down by 16 percent compared to last June, as well as a steep drop in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices, from \$110 twelve months ago to \$84 in June 2016.

Prices for 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages', on average, were virtually unchanged when compared to the same period of last year. While higher prices were seen for fruits, beef, pork and sugar, decreases were recorded in the prices of eggs, chicken and fresh vegetables.

Across 'All Other Categories of Goods and Services', prices rose by an average of 1.5 percent, as a result of higher health insurance premiums, hairdressing prices, doctor's consultation fees, and women's clothing prices, when compared to June of last year.

All municipalities recorded increases in consumer prices with the exception of Dangriga, which saw a marginal deflation of 0.1 percent as a result of lower food prices for the month of June. Corozal Town, Punta Gorda and Orange Walk Town recorded the highest inflation rates, with these municipalities having above average increases in fuel, food and home rental prices.

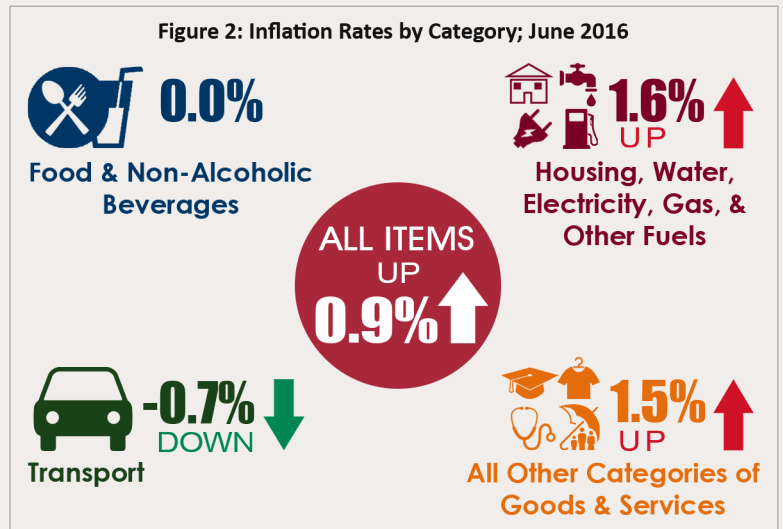
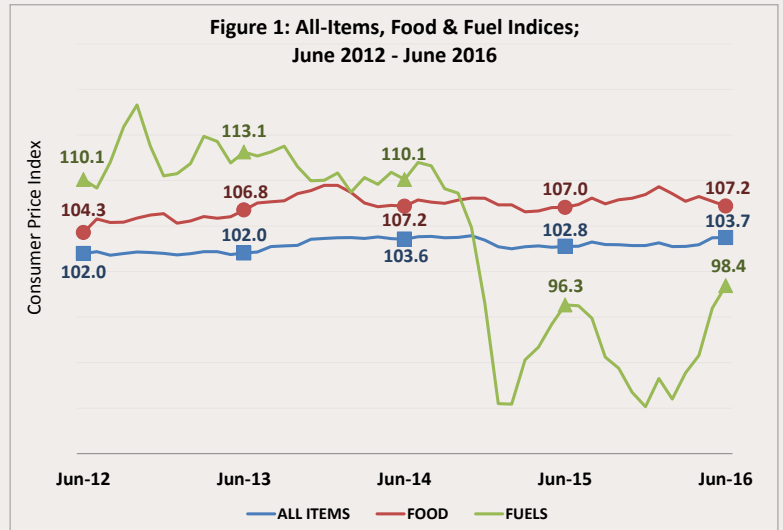


Figure 3: Inflation Rates by Municipality (Percent); June 2016

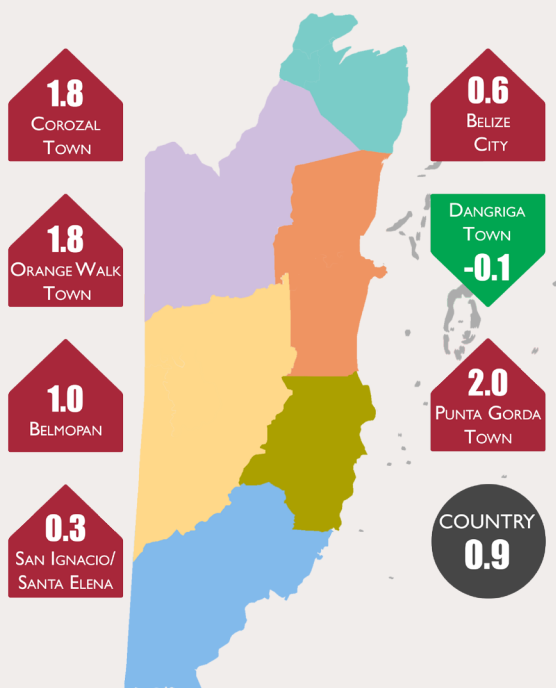


Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel, June 2015 and June 2016

Item	June 2015	June 2016	% Change
Ground Beef 1 Lb	5.43	5.91	↑ 8.8
Pork Chops 1 Lb	6.86	6.78	↓ -1.3
Pig Tail 1 Lb	5.95	4.40	↓ -26.0
Whole Chicken 1 Lb	2.74	2.69	↓ -2.0
Chicken Breast 1 Lb	3.32	3.45	↑ 3.9
Rice (Retail) 1 Lb	1.11	1.09	↓ -1.9
Flour (Gitana) 1 Lb	0.93	0.93	0.0
Red Kidney Beans 1 Lb	1.46	1.39	↓ -4.8
Eggs 1 Dozen	3.56	3.17	↓ -10.8
Condensed Milk (Dutch Lady) 397 G	2.49	2.44	↓ -2.1
Milk (La La Light) 1 Litre	3.06	2.84	↓ -7.1
Mixed Vegetables (Del Monte) 411 G	2.39	2.40	↑ 0.4
Yellow Onions 1 Lb	1.96	1.73	↓ -11.5
Sweet Pepper 1 Lb	4.35	3.22	↓ -26.0
Cabbage 1 Lb	1.01	1.32	↑ 31.0
Carrots 1 Lb	1.47	1.37	↓ -6.3
Potatoes 1 Lb	1.64	1.52	↓ -7.3
Watermelon 1 Lb	0.71	0.61	↓ -14.7
Premium Gasoline 1 Gal	9.68	8.94	↓ -7.6
Regular Gasoline 1 Gal	9.32	9.43	↑ 1.2
Diesel 1 Gal	7.87	8.49	↑ 7.9
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) 100 Lbs	109.91	83.90	↓ -23.7