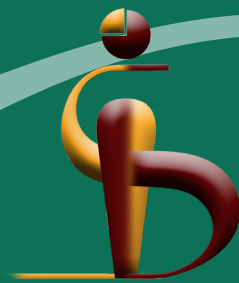


GDP

1ST QUARTER 2016

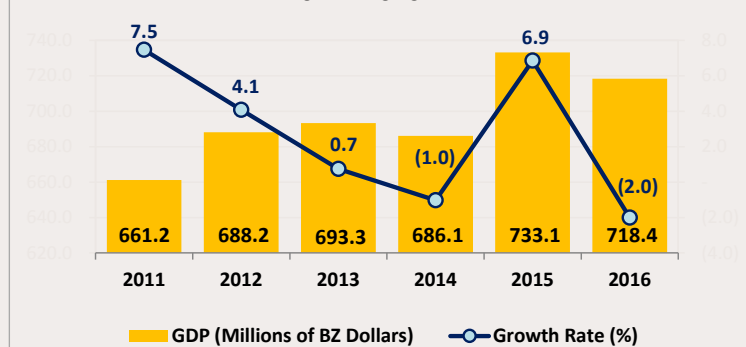


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ECONOMY SHRINKS 2% IN FIRST QUARTER: SLOWDOWN IN AGRICULTURE, MARINE AND MANUFACTURING

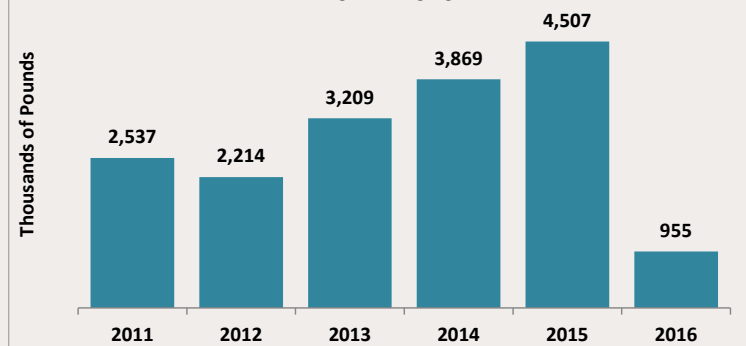
For the first three months of 2016, Belize's economy saw a 2 percent decline in the overall level of production when compared to the same period in 2015. Latest figures released by the Statistical Institute of Belize show that in the first quarter of this year the total value of goods and services produced in Belize was \$718 million, down \$14.7 million from \$733 produced in the first quarter of 2015.

Figure 1: First Quarter GDP at Market Prices: 2011 - 2016



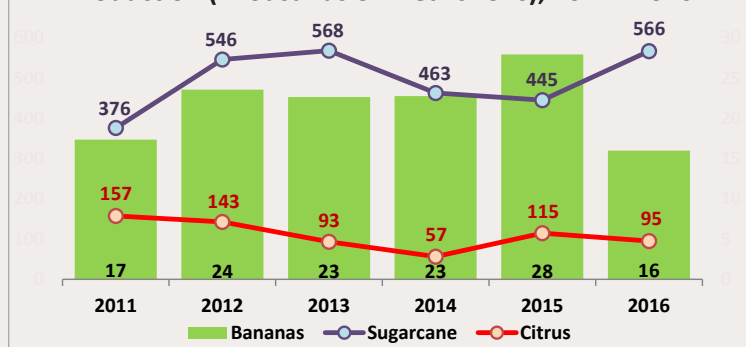
PRIMARY ACTIVITIES: Production in the primary sector dropped sharply during the first quarter, falling by 34.1 percent compared to the same period last year, following a slowdown in both the agriculture and fisheries industries. Marine exports plummeted from 4.5 million pounds to less than 1 million pounds, as the decline in shrimp production continued to have a major effect on the sector. Banana shipments dropped by 42 percent, from 28 thousand metric tons to 16 thousand metric tons, due to the closure of one of the major banana farms and the lingering effects of flooding in late 2015. Citrus production also declined during the period, down by 17 percent from 115 metric tons in the first quarter of 2015 to 95 metric tons during the first three months of 2016, as a result of the smaller crops and aging fruit trees.

Figure 2: First Quarter Marine Exports; 2011 - 2016



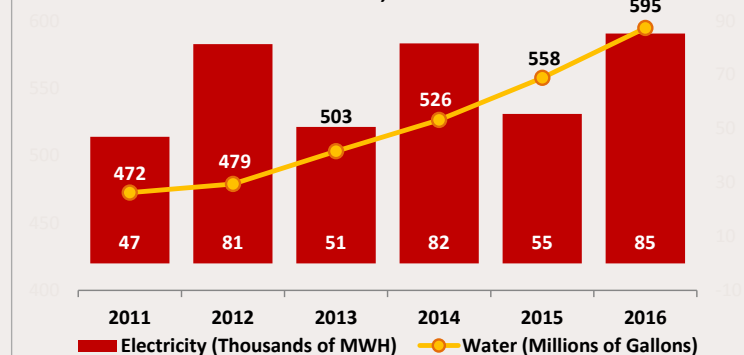
The only significant growth observed within the primary sector was for sugarcane, which saw deliveries to the factory rising by 27 percent. Livestock production was also up during the quarter, with poultry production rising by 7 percent and that of swine increasing by 16 percent.

Figure 3: First Quarter Sugarcane, Citrus and Banana Production (Thousands of Metric Tons); 2011 - 2016



SECONDARY ACTIVITIES: For the first quarter of 2016, secondary activities saw an overall increase of 4.2 percent. This was the result of continued strong performances in "Electricity and Water" and "Construction". Rains during the early part of the period resulted in high water levels in the dams and a 54 percent jump in hydroelectricity generation. Water distribution rose by almost 7 percent in the first three months of the year, with coverage being expanded to communities in the Belize River Valley and other areas of the country. Construction increased by a healthy 12 percent compared to the first quarter of 2015, as infrastructure development projects continued across the country. Beverage production rose by 13 percent, mainly due to increases in the production of both soft drinks and beer.

Figure 4: First Quarter Electricity and Water Production; 2011 - 2016



Notwithstanding these increases, growth in the secondary sector was dampened by an 18 percent drop in crude petroleum extraction, with the Spanish Lookout field being the only site that remains in operation at this time. Despite the increase in sugarcane deliveries, sugar extraction during the period January to March 2016 was 4 percent lower than in the same period of 2015, as a result of lowered cane purity due to rainy weather and the inclusion of stand-over sugarcane in deliveries for the period.

TERTIARY ACTIVITIES: Industries within the tertiary sector, which accounts for a half of the country's total economy, experienced growth of 4 percent during the first quarter of 2016. Despite a decline of about 15 thousand in the number of cruise ship passengers visiting the country, overnight visitors rose by more than 17 thousand, resulting in a moderate growth of 5 percent in "Accommodation and Food Services". "Wholesale and Retail Trade" recorded a 2 percent increase in activity, while "Government Services" rose by almost 12 percent during the quarter.

Figure 5: First Quarter Tourist Arrivals (Thousands of Tourists); 2011 - 2016

