



APRIL 2018

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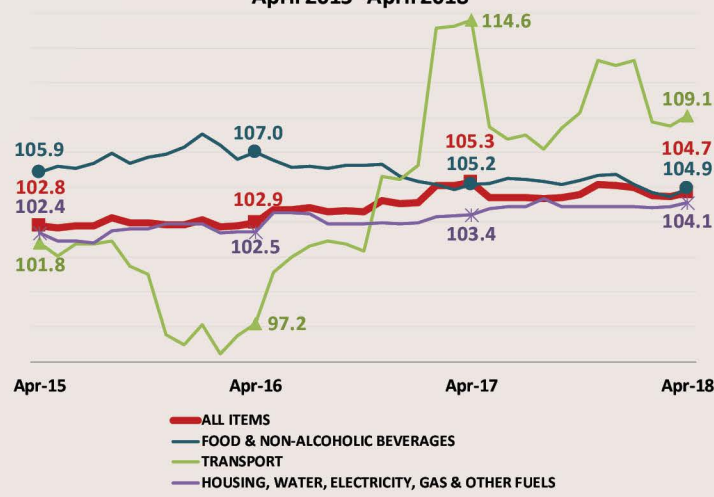
CONSUMER PRICES DOWN 0.5% IN APRIL 2018

ALL-ITEMS: The latest statistics released by the Statistical Institute of Belize show that for the month of April 2018, the All-Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 104.7, a decrease from 105.3 in April 2017 (see Figure 1). This means that Belizean households experienced a 0.5 percent drop, on average, in the cost of regularly purchased good and services when compared to the cost of those same goods and services during April of last year. For the first four months of the year 2018, the country saw a slight decline in consumer prices compared to the same period in 2017, recording a year to date inflation rate of negative 0.2 percent.

TRANSPORT: Despite rising fuel prices, the 'Transport' category recorded an overall decrease of 4.8 percent for the month of April 2018, as international airfares saw a return to relatively normal levels after peaking in the early months of 2017. This was sufficiently significant to offset a 5.3 percent rise in prices for 'Fuel and Lubricants' when compared to April 2017. The average price per gallon of Premium gasoline rose 6.3 percent from \$10.86 in April 2017 to \$11.55 in April 2018, Regular gasoline rose 7.7 percent from \$9.89 to \$10.64, while the price per gallon of Diesel had the highest increase at 12.3 percent from \$9.19 to \$10.33 (see Table 1).

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: The category of 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' saw an overall decline of 0.2 percent during the month (see Figure 1), as lower prices were recorded for some meat products, including beef steak, pigtail and whole chicken, as well as other food and beverage items such as tea, onions, sweet peppers and cabbages (see Table 1). There were, however, some price increases recorded during the month, with red kidney beans, potatoes, limes, other cuts of poultry, and pork chops, seeing higher prices than in April of 2017.

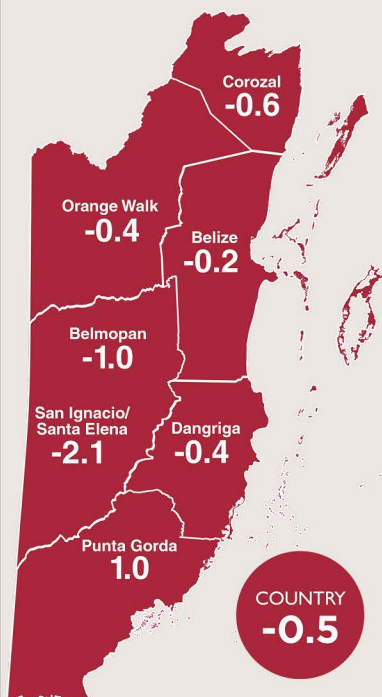
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS: For the month of April 2018, prices for goods and services within the 'Housing Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category saw an overall 0.7 percent increase. The main contributor to this rise was a significant jump of 18 percent in the cost of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) at the start of April 2018. The average cost of a 100-pound cylinder of LPG rose from \$97.81 in April 2017 to \$115.51 in April of 2018 (see Table 1). In addition, 'Home Rental' costs also experienced a slight increase of 0.2 percent in comparison to the same month last year.

Figure 1: Consumer Price Index by Major Categories;
April 2015- April 2018

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

Figure 2: Inflation Rates by Major Categories;
April 2018

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

Figure 3: Inflation Rates by
Municipality (Percent);
April 2018

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

INFLATION BY
MUNICIPALITY:

While all other municipalities saw lower prices on average during the month of April 2018, Punta Gorda Town was the only one for which an overall increase in prices was recorded. Consumers in that municipality experienced higher prices across almost all categories, in contrast to the other municipalities, which saw mostly decreases across the major categories. On the other hand, San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town reported the biggest decline in consumer prices, with an inflation rate of negative 2.1 percent (see Figure 3), mainly due to a drop in food prices that was well above the national average for the month. This was also one of the only municipalities to record a fall in the cost of 'Alcoholic Beverages'.

Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel,
April 2017 and April 2018

Item		April 2017	April 2018	% Change
Ground Beef	1 Lb	5.79	6.14	↑ 6.0
Beef Steak	1 Lb	7.84	7.71	↓ -1.7
Pork Chops	1 Lb	6.95	7.17	↑ 3.1
Pig Tail	1 Lb	4.37	4.19	↓ -4.1
Whole Chicken	1 Lb	2.69	2.55	↓ -5.2
Sugar, White	1 Lb	0.79	0.79	↑ 0.4
Sugar, Brown	1 Lb	0.52	0.51	↓ -1.7
Flour (Gitana)	1 Lb	0.94	0.95	↑ 0.9
Eggs	1 Dozen	3.14	3.17	↑ 1.1
Belikin Beer (w/out bottle)	284 ml	2.90	2.90	↑ 0.1
Milk	1 Litre	2.50	2.54	↑ 1.4
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb	1.44	1.71	↑ 19.0
Yellow Onions	1 Lb	1.76	1.67	↓ -5.0
Sweet Pepper	1 Lb	3.44	3.40	↓ -1.2
Cabbage	1 Lb	1.18	1.16	↓ -2.5
Limes	1 unit	0.42	0.50	↑ 18.9
Potatoes	1 Lb	1.44	1.58	↑ 9.3
Watermelon	1 Lb	0.60	0.64	↑ 7.4
Premium Gasoline	1 Gal	10.86	11.55	↑ 6.3
Regular Gasoline	1 Gal	9.89	10.64	↑ 7.7
Diesel	1 Gal	9.19	10.33	↑ 12.3
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)	100 Lbs	97.81	115.51	↑ 18.1

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize