

Statistical Institute of BELIZE

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Belmopan, Belize C.A.



CPI

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

For the month of:
APRIL 2019

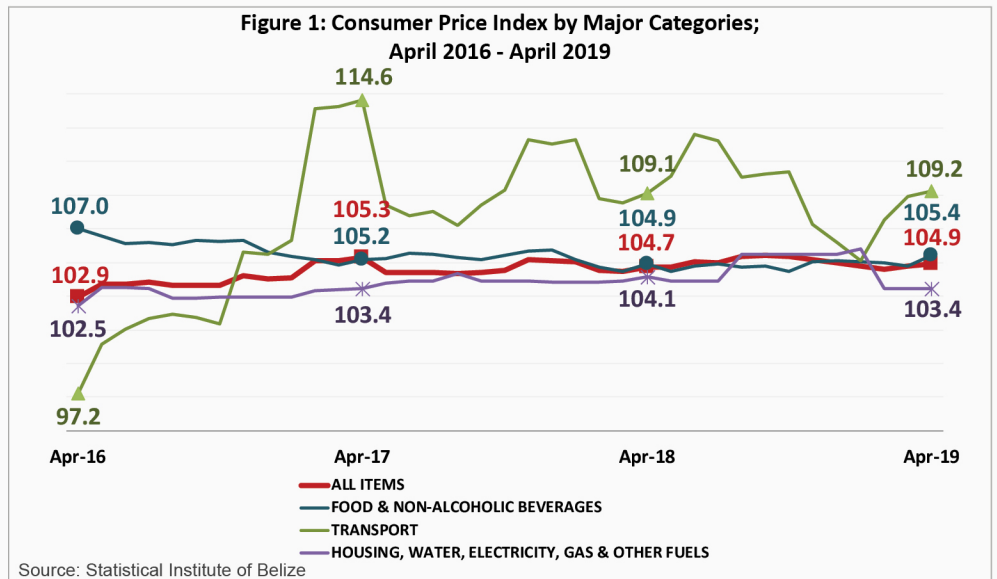
CONSUMER PRICES
UP BY
0.2%

Date published:
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CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.2% IN APRIL 2019: FOOD & ELECTRICITY UP, RENT DOWN

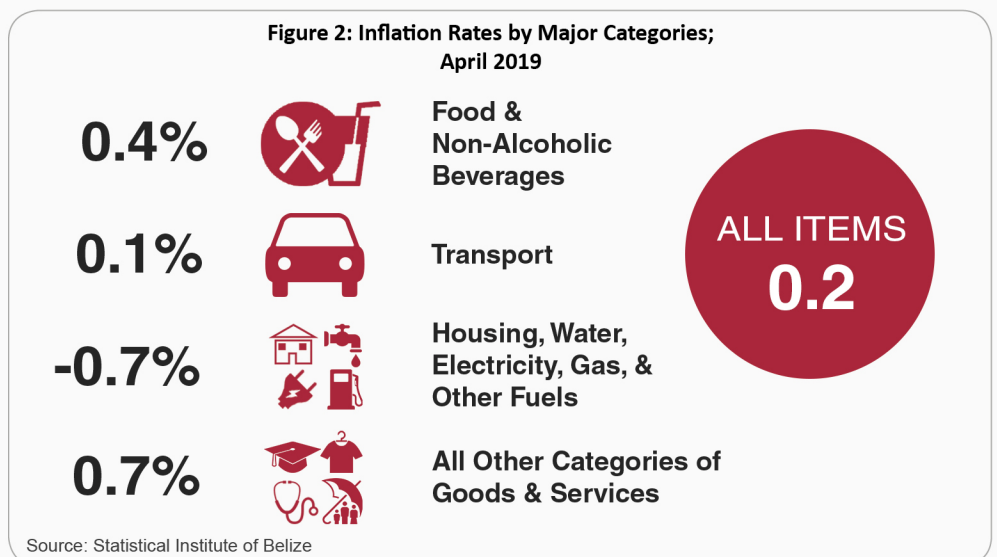
ALL-ITEMS:

For the month of April 2019, results from the Statistical Institute of Belize's monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) survey show that the All-items CPI stood at 104.9, an increase of 0.2 percent from 104.7 in April 2018 (see Figure 1). This indicates that, on average, Belizean households experienced a marginal increase of 0.2 percent in the prices of regularly purchased goods and services in the month of April 2019 when compared to the same month in 2018. Higher prices were observed for various food items, electricity, recreation and cultural services, and education services. However, these were offset by lower home rental costs and prices for items such as furniture and furnishings. The cumulative inflation rate for the first four months of 2019, when compared to the same period in 2018, stood at 0.1 percent.



FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

The 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category recorded an overall increase of 0.4 percent in April 2019, when compared to April of last year (see Figure 2). Higher prices were observed for several items including beef steak, whole chicken, rice, and eggs, as well as various fruits and vegetables such as pineapples, watermelons, sweet peppers, onions, tomatoes and cabbages. These increases were, however, partly offset by decreased prices for ground beef, pork chops, natural milk, red kidney beans, and limes (see Table 1).



TRANSPORT:

Prices within the 'Transport' category saw an overall increase of 0.1 percent for the month of April 2019 (see Figure 2). This was mainly due to higher prices for the servicing of motor vehicles, which were up by 3.4 percent compared to April of last year, coupled with a 0.8 percent increase in international airfares. Notwithstanding these increases, the 'Fuels and Lubricants' sub-category saw a marginal decline during the month. At the pump, the average price per gallon of Premium gasoline went down by 5 percent from \$11.55 in April 2018 to \$10.97 in April 2019, while Regular gasoline went up slightly by 0.1 percent from \$10.64 to \$10.66, and Diesel prices rose by 0.1 percent from \$10.33 to \$10.34 (see Table 1).

Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel, April 2018 and April 2019

Item		April 2018	April 2019	% Change
Ground Beef	1 Lb	6.14	5.80	↓ -5.5
Beef Steak	1 Lb	7.71	7.94	↑ 3.0
Pork Chops	1 Lb	7.17	7.04	↓ -1.9
Pig Tail	1 Lb	4.19	4.25	↑ 1.4
Whole Chicken	1 Lb	2.55	2.65	↑ 3.8
Sugar, White	1 Lb	0.79	0.79	↑ 0.3
Sugar, Brown	1 Lb	0.51	0.53	↑ 3.3
Flour (Gitana)	1 Lb	0.95	0.92	↓ -2.7
Rice	1 Lb	1.13	1.19	↑ 4.9
Eggs	1 Dozen	3.17	3.31	↑ 4.5
Natural Milk	1 Litre	2.54	2.46	↓ -2.9
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb	1.71	1.57	↓ -8.6
Pineapple	1 Lb	1.02	1.16	↑ 13.5
Orange	1 unit	0.14	0.15	↑ 9.2
Watermelon	1 Lb	0.64	0.93	↑ 44.4
Sweet Pepper	1 Lb	3.40	3.65	↑ 7.2
Onions	1 Lb	1.67	1.97	↑ 17.9
Tomato	1 Lb	1.62	1.97	↑ 21.8
Cabbage	1 Lb	1.16	1.26	↑ 8.9
Lettuce	1 Lb	2.14	2.29	↑ 7.1
Limes	1 unit	0.50	0.39	↓ -21.3
Potatoes	1 Lb	1.58	1.56	↓ -0.8
Belikin Beer (w/out bottle)	284 ml	2.90	2.94	↑ 1.5
Premium Gasoline	1 Gal	11.55	10.97	↓ -5.0
Regular Gasoline	1 Gal	10.64	10.66	↑ 0.1
Diesel	1 Gal	10.33	10.34	↑ 0.1
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)	100 Lbs	115.51	115.30	↓ -0.2

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS:

For the month of April 2019, the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category saw a decrease of 0.7 percent when compared to the same month in 2018 (see Figure 2). This was mostly due to a one percent decrease in home rental costs, as lower prices were recorded in Belmopan, Belize City and Dangriga Town. A small decline was also noted in the cost of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) for the month, with the average cost of a 100-pound cylinder of LPG falling by 0.2 percent, from \$115.51 in April 2018 to \$115.30 in April 2019 (see Table 1). These decreases were able to overshadow a rise in electricity prices, which were up by 11.9 percent in comparison to April 2018, as a result of rate increases that went into effect in July 2018 and January 2019.

ALL OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES:

Prices across the remaining categories which make up 'All Other Categories of Goods and Services' saw a 0.7 percent increase on average during the month of April 2019 (see Figure 2). Higher school fees, particularly for secondary and tertiary level institutions, motor vehicle insurance and health insurance premiums, and entrance fees to sporting events all contributed to the overall increase among these categories for the month. Nonetheless, some small decreases were seen in prices for furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings, and small household appliances, when compared to April of last year.

INFLATION RATES BY MUNICIPALITIES:

With an inflation rate of 3.0 percent, Punta Gorda Town experienced the highest rate of increase in consumer prices for April 2018. Consumers in this town saw above average increases in prices for food items, doctor consultation fees, hospital room accommodations, and home rental costs. On the other hand, Dangriga Town saw consumer prices going down by 5.8 percent for the month, as this town recorded a reduction in home rental costs when compared to April of last year (see Figure 3).

