

Statistical Institute of BELIZE

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CPI

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

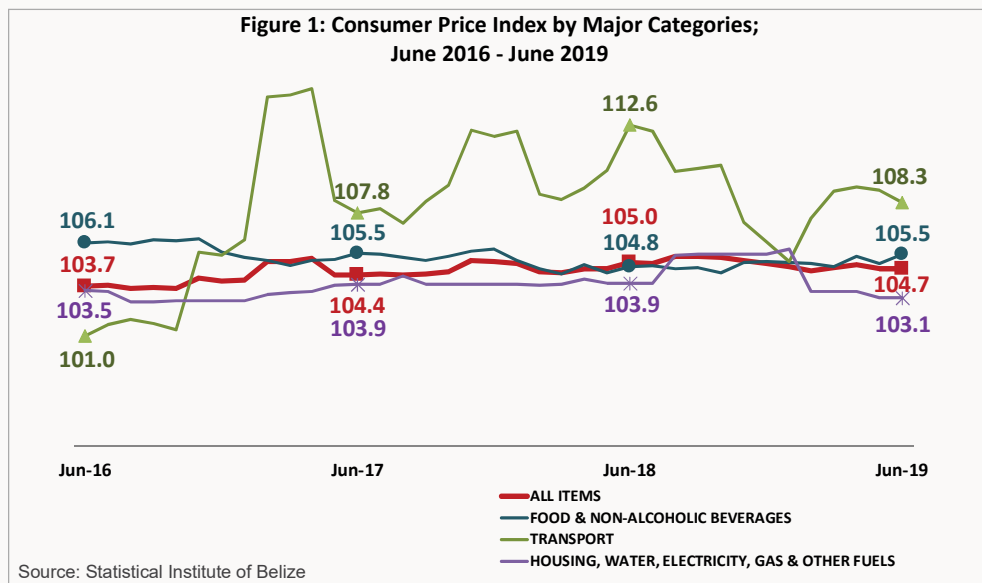
For the month of:
JUNE 2019

CONSUMER PRICES
DOWN
0.3%

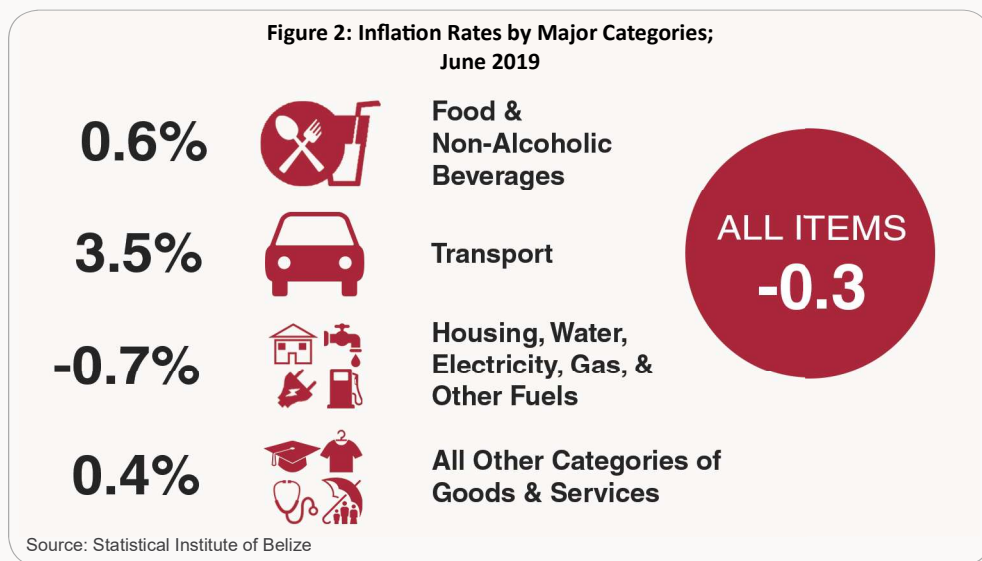
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CONSUMER PRICES DOWN 0.3% IN JUNE 2019: FOOD, ELECTRICITY UP, RENT, FUEL, AIRFARE DOWN

ALL-ITEMS: Results from the Statistical Institute of Belize's monthly Consumer Price Index survey indicated that, for the month of June 2019, Belizean households experienced a small overall decrease of 0.3 percent in the cost of regularly purchased goods and services, when compared to June 2018. The All-Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 104.7 in June 2019, a decline of 0.3 percent from 105.0 recorded in June 2018 (see Figure 1). It was observed that higher prices for food items, electricity, tertiary education and nightclub admissions were offset by lower prices in rent, fuel and international airfares. The cumulative inflation rate for the first six months in 2019, when compared to the same period in 2018, stood at 0.01 percent.



FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: The 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category recorded an overall increase of 0.6 percent in June 2019, when compared to June of last year (see Figure 2). Higher prices were recorded for several items, including onions, eggs, watermelon, pineapple, lettuce, cabbage, as well as several meats such as beef steak, pig tail and whole chicken (see Table 1). Prices within the 'Non-Alcoholic Beverages' sub-category were also up for the month, due to higher soft drink and juice concentrate prices.



TRANSPORT: With prices down on average by 3.5 percent when compared to June 2018, 'Transport' was the main category exerting downward pressure on consumer prices for the month of June 2019 (see Figure 2). This was mainly due to a 4.7 percent decrease in the 'Fuels and Lubricants' sub-category, with all fuel types recording decreases in comparison to the same month last year. At the pump, the average price per gallon of Premium gasoline went down by 1.4 percent from \$11.73 in June 2018 to \$11.56 in June 2019, Regular gasoline declined by 12.1 percent from \$11.41 to 10.03, and the price per gallon of Diesel fell by 5.6 percent from \$10.95 to \$10.33 (see Table 1). Further contributing to the decrease within this category was international airfares, which saw prices going down by 7.4 percent when compared to June 2018. However, the effects of these decreases were somewhat dampened by higher prices recorded for motor vehicle spare parts and accessories, along with increased costs for the maintenance and repair of personal vehicles during June 2019.

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

Item	June 2018	June 2019	% Change
Ground Beef 1 Lb	6.23	5.75	↓ -7.7
Beef Steak 1 Lb	7.86	8.17	↑ 4.0
Pork Chops 1 Lb	6.89	6.73	↓ -2.3
Pig Tail 1 Lb	4.25	4.30	↑ 1.3
Whole Chicken 1 Lb	2.64	2.66	↑ 0.8
Sugar, White 1 Lb	0.79	0.80	↑ 0.9
Sugar, Brown 1 Lb	0.53	0.53	↑ 0.9
Flour (Gitana) 1 Lb	0.95	0.92	↓ -2.8
Rice 1 Lb	1.14	1.13	↓ -1.0
Eggs 1 Dozen	3.20	3.24	↑ 1.3
Natural Milk 1 Litre	2.54	2.52	↓ -0.8
Red Kidney Beans 1 Lb	1.63	1.54	↓ -5.3
Pineapple 1 Lb	1.16	1.38	↑ 18.9
Orange 1 unit	0.13	0.14	↑ 3.8
Watermelon 1 Lb	0.65	0.76	↑ 16.4
Sweet Pepper 1 Lb	3.66	3.88	↑ 6.1
Onions 1 Lb	1.68	1.92	↑ 14.3
Tomato 1 Lb	2.03	1.96	↓ -3.1
Cabbage 1 Lb	1.19	1.39	↑ 16.7
Lettuce 1 Lb	2.28	2.48	↑ 8.8
Limes 1 unit	0.37	0.26	↓ -28.2
Potatoes 1 Lb	1.76	1.65	↓ -5.9
Belikin Beer (w/out bottle) 284 ml	2.96	2.96	0.0
Premium Gasoline 1 Gal	11.73	11.56	↓ -1.4
Regular Gasoline 1 Gal	11.41	10.03	↓ -12.1
Diesel 1 Gal	10.95	10.33	↓ -5.6
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) 100 Lbs	115.08	115.26	↑ 0.2

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS:

The 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category saw a decrease of 0.7 percent when compared to the same month of 2018 (see Figure 2). This was mostly due to a one percent decrease in home rental costs for June 2019, as rental prices in Corozal Town, Belize City, Belmopan City, San Ignacio/Santa Elena and Dangriga Town were all down in comparison to June of 2018. The effect of the decrease in the cost of this item was partly offset by an 11.9 percent increase in electricity rates, which came into effect earlier in the year. Additionally, the cost of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) saw a marginal increase of 0.2 percent for the month, with the average cost of a 100-pound cylinder of LPG up slightly from \$115.08 in June 2018 to \$115.26 in June 2019 (see Table 1).

ALL OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES: Together, the remaining categories of goods and services accounted for a 0.4 percent rise in consumer prices during the month of June 2019 when compared to June 2018 (see Figure 2). Higher entrance fees to sporting events, admission fees to nightclubs, tertiary education tuition costs, health insurance premiums and motor vehicle insurance premiums all contributed to the overall rise in prices for this category.

INFLATION RATES BY MUNICIPALITIES:

Among the country's municipalities, Punta Gorda Town experienced the highest rate of increase in consumer prices for the month of June 2019, with an inflation rate of 2.9 percent. Consumers in this municipality experienced above average increases in food prices, home rental costs and nightclub admission fees. On the other hand, Dangriga Town reported the lowest inflation rate for the month, with prices going down by 5.5 percent on average, as this town recorded reductions in home rental costs and surgery fees.

