

# Statistical Institute of BELIZE

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# CPI

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

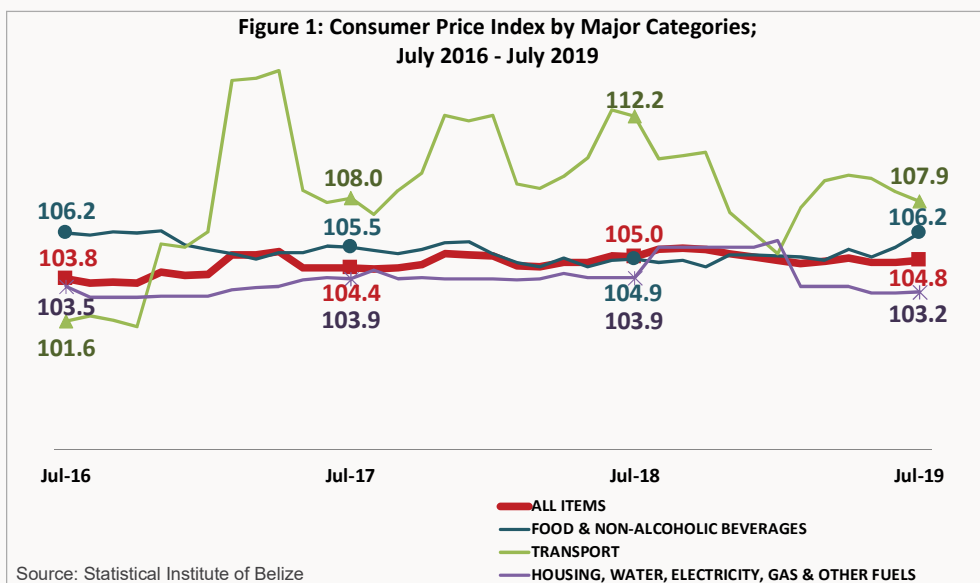
For the month of:  
**JULY 2019**

CONSUMER PRICES  
DOWN  
**0.2%**

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## CONSUMER PRICES DOWN 0.2% IN JULY 2019: FOOD, ELECTRICITY, LPG UP; RENT, FUEL, AIRFARE DOWN

**ALL-ITEMS:** The latest results of the Statistical Institute of Belize's monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) survey shows that the All-Items CPI, which summarizes all categories of good and services, stood at 104.8 in July 2019, a decrease of 0.2 percent from 105.0 in July 2018 (see Figure 1). This indicates that, on average, Belizean households experienced a very small decrease of 0.2 percent in the prices of regularly purchased goods and services. Higher prices for various food items, electricity, tertiary education, nightclub admissions, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) were offset by lower prices in rent, fuel and international airfares. Further, the cumulative inflation rate for the first seven months in 2019, when compared to the same period of 2018, was a negligible -0.02 percent.



**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** The 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category recorded an overall increase of 1.2 percent in July 2019, when compared to July 2018 (see Figure 2). Higher prices were observed for several items including beef steak and eggs, as well as various fruits and vegetables such as pineapples, oranges, watermelons, sweet peppers, onions, cabbages, lettuce and tomatoes. Notably, these fruits and vegetables saw significant price increases for the month, with most rising by well over 10 percent compared to July of last year. These higher prices were, however, partly offset by decreased prices for limes, red kidney beans, potatoes, pork chops, whole chicken and ground beef (see Table 1).

**Figure 2: Inflation Rates by Major Categories; July 2019**



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

**TRANSPORT:** Notwithstanding an almost 8 percent increase in the cost of maintenance and repair of personal vehicles, 'Transport' was the main category exerting downward pressure on the country's rate of inflation for the month of July 2019, with an overall decrease of 3.6 percent (see Figure 2). This was mainly due to a 5.1 percent decrease in the 'Fuels and Lubricants' sub-category, with all fuel types recording lower prices in comparison to the same month last year. At the pump, the average price per gallon of Premium gasoline went down by 9.1 percent from \$11.77 in July 2018 to \$10.70 in July 2019, Regular gasoline declined by 6 percent from \$11.14 to 10.47, while the price per gallon of Diesel fell by 6.9 percent from \$10.81 to \$10.07 (see Table 1). Also contributing to the decrease within this category were international airfares, which saw prices go down by 7.4 percent when compared to July 2018.

**Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel (BZ \$), July 2018 and July 2019**

Item	July 2018	July 2019	% Change
Ground Beef 1 Lb	5.76	5.45	↓ -5.4
Beef Steak 1 Lb	7.82	8.04	↑ 2.9
Pork Chops 1 Lb	6.92	6.64	↓ -4.1
Pig Tail 1 Lb	4.27	4.29	↑ 0.4
Whole Chicken 1 Lb	2.63	2.57	↓ -2.0
Sugar, White 1 Lb	0.79	0.79	0.0
Sugar, Brown 1 Lb	0.52	0.54	↑ 4.4
Flour (Gitana) 1 Lb	0.95	0.92	↓ -2.8
Rice 1 Lb	1.19	1.15	↓ -3.4
Eggs 1 Dozen	3.15	3.20	↑ 1.4
Natural Milk 1 Litre	2.53	2.51	↓ -0.8
Red Kidney Beans 1 Lb	1.59	1.48	↓ -6.8
Pineapple 1 Lb	1.22	1.42	↑ 16.7
Orange 1 unit	0.13	0.14	↑ 9.1
Watermelon 1 Lb	0.63	0.70	↑ 10.7
Sweet Pepper 1 Lb	4.18	4.76	↑ 13.8
Onions 1 Lb	1.81	2.08	↑ 14.9
Tomato 1 Lb	1.98	2.39	↑ 20.6
Cabbage 1 Lb	1.35	1.81	↑ 34.5
Lettuce 1 Lb	2.42	2.97	↑ 23.0
Limes 1 unit	0.30	0.24	↓ -17.8
Potatoes 1 Lb	1.69	1.78	↑ 5.8
Belikin Beer (w/out bottle) 284 ml	2.92	2.96	↑ 1.4
Premium Gasoline 1 Gal	11.77	10.70	↓ -9.1
Regular Gasoline 1 Gal	11.14	10.47	↓ -6.0
Diesel 1 Gal	10.81	10.07	↓ -6.9
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) 100 Lbs	114.65	115.85	↑ 1.1

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

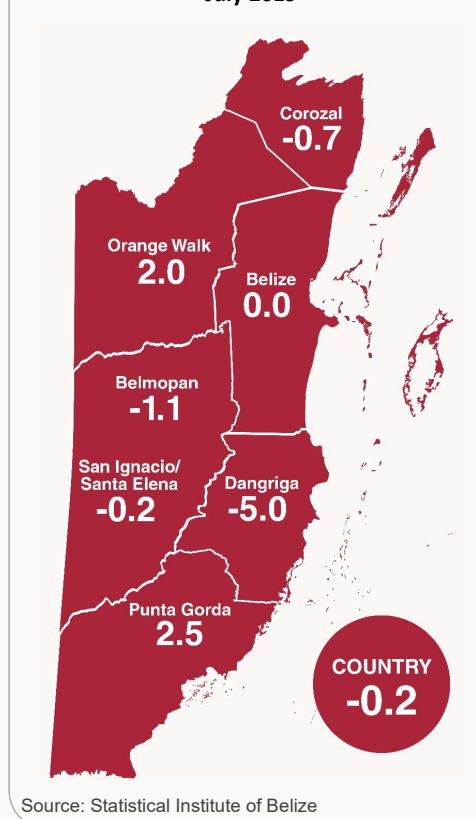
## HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS:

For the month of July 2019, the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category saw an overall decrease of 0.7 percent when compared to the same month of 2018 (see Figure 2). Home rental costs, which holds the largest share of any individual item within the average household budget, recorded a 1.2 percent decrease on average. In five of the country's municipalities, namely Corozal Town, Belize City, Belmopan, San Ignacio/Santa Elena and Dangriga, prices for this item were down in comparison to July of 2018. Nonetheless, this decrease was partially offset by an 11.9 percent increase in electricity tariffs, resulting from rate increases that took effect in January 2019. Additionally, LPG prices were 1.1 percent higher than they were in July 2018, with the average cost of a 100-pound cylinder up from \$114.65 in July 2018 to \$115.85 in July 2019 (see Table 1).

**ALL OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES:** Prices across the remaining categories which make up 'All Other Categories of Goods and Services' saw a 0.4 percent increase on average during the month of July 2019 (see Figure 2). Higher prices for school fees, particularly for tertiary, pre-primary and primary level institutions, motor vehicle and health insurance premiums, entrance fees to sporting events and admission fees to nightclubs all contributed to the overall rise for this category.

## INFLATION RATES BY MUNICIPALITIES:

**Figure 3: Inflation Rates by Municipality (Percent); July 2019**



With an inflation rate of 2.5 percent, Punta Gorda Town experienced the highest rate of increase in consumer prices for July 2019. Consumers in this municipality saw above average increases in prices for food items, home rental costs and admission fees to nightclubs, when compared to July of 2018. Meanwhile, Dangriga experienced a negative inflation rate for the month, with prices going down by 5 percent on average. Consumers in this municipality experienced decreases in home rental costs and in prices for outpatient medical services, such as surgery, and lab fees (see Figure 3).