



# CPI

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

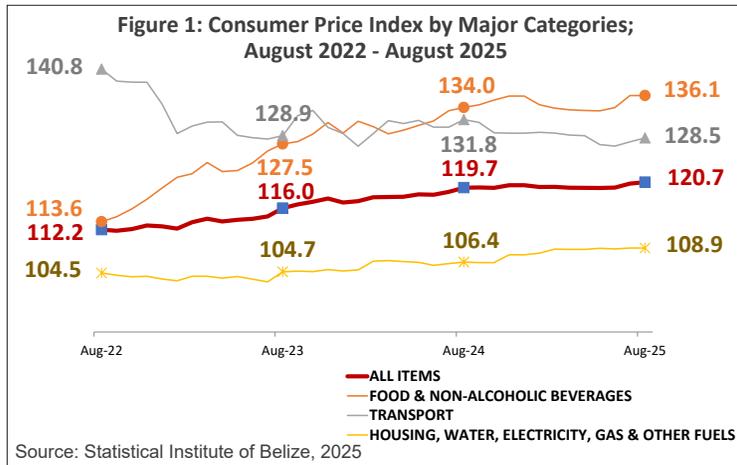
### STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE

#### CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.8% ON AVERAGE IN AUGUST 2025: FOOD, HOME RENTAL, AND LPG COSTS UP, TRANSPORT DOWN

##### Overall National Inflation Rate<sup>1</sup> (All-Items):

The Statistical Institute of Belize's monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) survey indicated that, for the month of August 2025, the All-items CPI, which measures price levels across all categories of regularly purchased consumer goods and services, stood at 120.7. This was an increase from 119.7 recorded in August 2024 (see Figure 1), indicating an overall national inflation rate of 0.8 percent.

For the month of August 2025, several categories recorded increases in consumer prices, with the most significant contributors being 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' and 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages'. Together, these two categories account for almost a half of the average Belizean household's budget.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, notable declines were observed in the categories of 'Transport' and 'Information and Communication,' which served to temper the overall rise in consumer prices for the month.



##### Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels:

Prices within the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category were up by 2.4 percent during the month of August 2025, when compared to August 2024 (see Figure 3). This was primarily attributed to higher costs for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and home rentals. The average cost of a hundred-pound cylinder of LPG rose by \$12.24, from \$117.80 in August 2024 to \$130.04 in August 2025 (see Table 1), while home rental prices were 1.7 percent higher than they were in August of last year.

##### Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages:

'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' recorded an inflation rate of 1.6 percent for the month of August 2025, the result of higher prices across both the 'Food' and 'Non-Alcoholic Beverages' sub-categories.

'Food' costs were up by 1.1 percent on average, due to increased prices for cereal products such as bread and bakery items (2.2 percent) and fresh meats including pork, beef, and poultry (3.1 percent). The 'Non-Alcoholic Beverages' was up by 4.4 percent for the month, attributed to higher prices for purified water (6.4 percent), soft drinks (3 percent), and fruit and vegetable juices (7.9 percent).

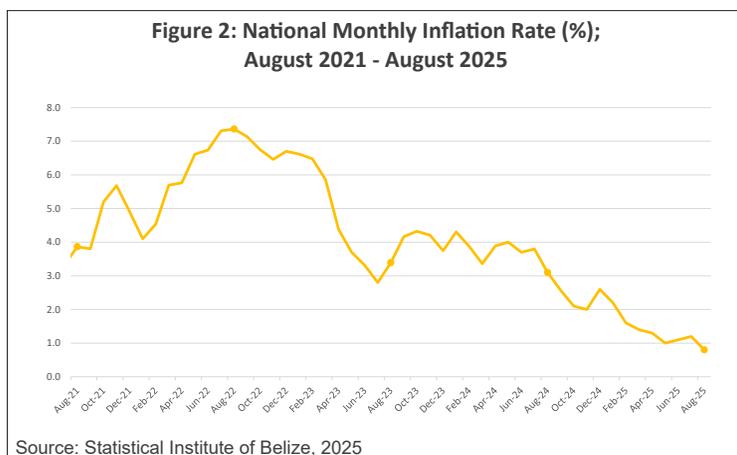


Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel (BZ \$); August 2024 and August 2025

Item	Unit of Measurement	Average Prices		% Change
		August 2024	August 2025	
Hotdog Bread	Pack of 8	\$2.86	\$2.98	4.0%
White Bread	16 oz	\$2.12	\$2.09	-1.5%
Ground Beef	1 Lb	\$7.49	\$7.75	3.4%
Beef Steak	1 Lb	\$9.79	\$10.84	10.7%
Whole Chicken	1 Lb	\$3.17	\$3.21	1.2%
Chicken Cuts	1 Lb	\$3.69	\$3.67	-0.6%
Chicken, Legs	1 Lb	\$3.63	\$3.69	1.7%
Chicken, Wings	1 Lb	\$6.55	\$6.94	6.0%
Chicken, Breast	1 Lb	\$4.49	\$4.87	8.5%
Neck & Back	1 Lb	\$1.31	\$1.33	1.4%
Whole Fish	1 Lb	\$9.64	\$9.39	-2.5%
Natural Milk	1 Liter	\$4.17	\$4.28	2.7%
Pineapples	1 Lb	\$1.22	\$1.29	5.7%
Lime	1 Unit	\$0.52	\$0.50	-3.3%
Orange	1 Unit	\$0.30	\$0.35	15.2%
Watermelon	1 Lb	\$0.82	\$0.89	9.0%
Grapefruits	1 Unit	\$0.64	\$0.67	5.2%
Apples	1 Unit	\$1.28	\$1.28	0.1%
Grapes	1 Lb	\$9.46	\$10.36	9.5%
Broccoli or Cauliflower	1 Lb	\$5.26	\$5.67	7.7%
Lettuce	1 Lb	\$6.49	\$5.80	-10.7%
Cucumber	1 Lb	\$1.10	\$1.16	5.6%
Tomatoes	1 Lb	\$4.18	\$4.23	1.1%
Okras	1 Lb	\$4.09	\$3.94	-3.7%
Carrots	1 Lb	\$2.73	\$3.10	13.8%
Onion	1 Lb	\$2.99	\$3.05	2.2%
Corn	Pack of 3	\$7.31	\$6.24	-14.6%
Irish Potatoes	1 Lb	\$3.02	\$3.05	0.8%
Plantain	1 Unit	\$0.61	\$0.52	-13.9%
Black Beans	1 Lb	\$2.81	\$2.66	-5.1%
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb	\$2.62	\$2.77	5.4%
Sugar	1 Lb	\$0.80	\$0.80	-0.1%
Dry Soup - Ramen	64 Grams	\$2.03	\$1.91	-6.1%
Salt	500 Grams	\$1.13	\$1.19	5.0%
Premium Gasoline	1 Gallon	\$13.83	\$13.21	-4.5%
Regular Gasoline	1 Gallon	\$12.72	\$11.82	-7.1%
Diesel	1 Gallon	\$12.51	\$11.84	-5.4%
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	100 Lbs	\$117.80	\$130.04	10.4%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

##### Restaurants and Accommodation Services:

'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' had an inflation rate of 2.8 percent for the month, driven by a rise in the cost of restaurants and café services (see Figure 3).

##### Health:

The 'Health' category rose by 3.8 percent for the month of August 2025 when compared to August 2024, the result of higher prices for doctors' office visits and medicinal products (see Figure 3).

##### Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services:

Prices for items within the 'Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services' category rose by 1.7 percent during the month, reflecting increases in the cost of personal hygiene products such as deodorants, hand lotions, and perfumes (see Figure 3).

<sup>1</sup> The national inflation rate for the month measures the percent change in the CPI between August 2024 and August 2025.

### Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics:

'Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics' rose by 2.6 percent, mainly due to an increase in the cost of cigarettes (see Figure 3).

### Transport:

On the other hand, the 'Transport' category declined by 2.5 percent (see Figure 3), primarily due to lower prices across all types of motor vehicle fuels. The average price per gallon for regular gasoline recorded the largest drop, falling by \$0.90 from \$12.72 in August 2024 to \$11.82 in August 2025. Diesel prices followed, decreasing by \$0.67 from \$12.51 to \$11.84, while premium gasoline declined by \$0.62, from \$13.83 to \$13.21 per gallon (see Table 1).

Figure 3: Inflation Rates for Selected Major Categories; August 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

### Information and Communication:

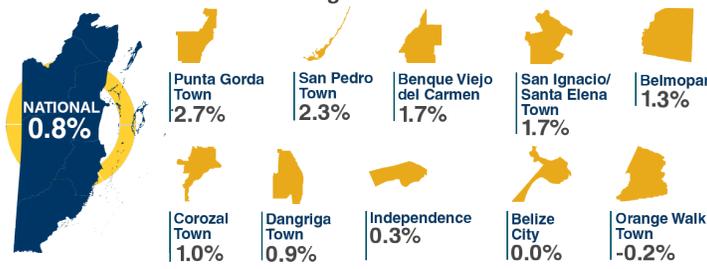
The 'Information and Communication' category recorded a 1.5 percent decrease in August 2025 (see Figure 3), reflecting lower prices for mobile telephone equipment such as cellular phones.

### Inflation Rates by Municipality:

Among the municipalities, Punta Gorda Town recorded the highest increase in consumer prices, with an inflation rate of 2.7 percent for the month of August 2025. Consumers in this municipality experienced above-average price increases for a variety of goods and services, including food, non-alcoholic beverages, restaurants and café services, LPG, personal care products, school uniforms, footwear for men, domestic services, and cigarettes.

On the other hand, Orange Walk Town reported the lowest inflation rate and was the only municipality to report a year-over-year decrease in prices, with an inflation rate of -0.2 percent (see Figure 4). Residents of this community experienced lower prices for fuel, female garments, fresh vegetables, cigarettes, and household cleaning and maintenance products.

Figure 4: Inflation Rates by Municipality (%); August 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

### Month-Over-Month Inflation Rates<sup>2</sup>:

While inflation rates are generally calculated as the percent change in prices for specific items between the current time period and the same period of the previous year, another useful measure for tracking short-term changes in consumer prices is the month-over-month or inter-monthly inflation rate, which measures the percent change in prices between the previous month and the current month.

Over the one-month period between July 2025 and August 2025, consumer prices rose by 0.2 percent on average (see Table 2). The 'Transport' category recorded a month-over-month increase of 0.5 percent, primarily due to a rise in diesel prices between July and August, coupled with an increase in the cost of purchasing new motor vehicles. In addition, 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' rose by 0.8 percent, as a result of a rise in prices for restaurant and cafe services during the one-month period.

Table 2: Month-Over-Month Inflation Rates by Category (%); August 2025

Category	Inflation Rate
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	0.01%
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.9%
Clothing and Footwear	0.3%
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.0%
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	0.6%
Health	1.6%
Transport	0.5%
Information and Communication	-0.2%
Recreation, Sport and Culture	-0.8%
Education Services	0.1%
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	0.8%
Insurance and Financial Services	0.0%
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	-0.2%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

### Year-to-Date Inflation Rate<sup>3</sup>:

The year-to-date inflation rate for the first eight months of 2025, when compared to the same period in 2024, stood at 1.3 percent. Most of the major CPI categories recorded increases during this period, with the overall rise largely influenced by three key categories: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' which was up by 2.3 percent, 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' which rose by 2.4 percent, and 'Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services' which increased by 3 percent. Together, these categories were responsible for more than ninety percent of the overall year-to-date increase in consumer prices.

Within the 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category, higher prices were noted across most food items, with the sharpest increases seen in bread and bakery products, fresh fruits, and meats. Prices were also up for fruit and vegetable juices, purified water, and soft drinks. In the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category, both home rental costs and LPG prices were higher than they were during the first eight months of last year. Additionally, within the 'Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services' category, items such as deodorants, lotions, and perfumes all recorded price increases in 2025 when compared to the first eight months of 2024.

Other notable changes included a 2.1 percent rise in 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services,' driven by higher prices for restaurant and café services. The 'Furnishings, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance' category had a year-to-date inflation rate of 1.6 percent, reflecting higher costs for household cleaning and maintenance products and domestic services. The 'Clothing and Footwear' category rose by 1.7 percent, led by higher prices for men's garments and footwear.

In contrast, the 'Transport' category declined by 1.5 percent, mainly due to lower fuel prices during the first eight months of the year 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024. Similarly, the 'Information and Communication' category recorded a decrease of 1.6 percent, owing to reduced prices for cellular phones and television sets during the period. (see Table 3).

Table 3: Year to Date Inflation Rates by Category (%); August 2025

Category	Inflation Rate
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	2.3%
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	2.0%
Clothing and Footwear	1.7%
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	2.4%
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	1.6%
Health	0.8%
Transport	-1.5%
Information and Communication	-1.6%
Recreation, Sport and Culture	0.7%
Education Services	-0.2%
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	2.1%
Insurance and Financial Services	-0.4%
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.0%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2025

<sup>2</sup> The month-over-month inflation rate measures the percentage change in prices between the previous month and the current month. It is useful for capturing short-term price changes but is also affected by seasonal price movements.

<sup>3</sup> The year-to-date inflation rate as of August 2025 measures the percent change in the average CPI for the first eight months of 2025 compared to average CPI for the first eight months of 2024.