



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

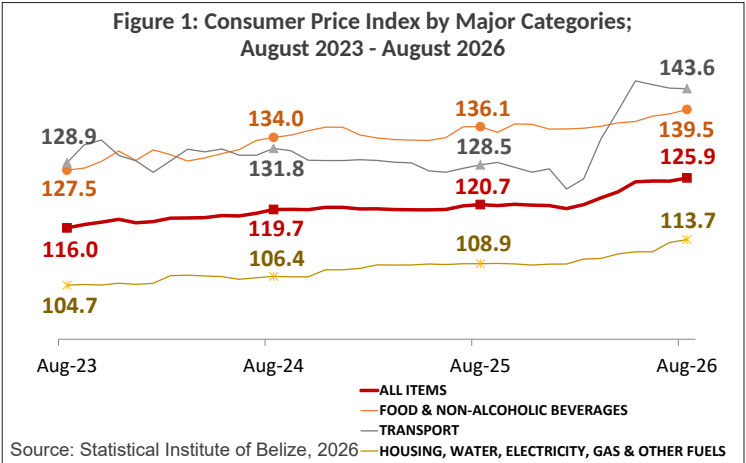
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CONSUMER PRICES UP 4.4% IN AUGUST 2026:
COSTS FOR TRANSPORTATION, RENT, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND FOOD UP

Overall National Inflation Rate¹ (All-Items):

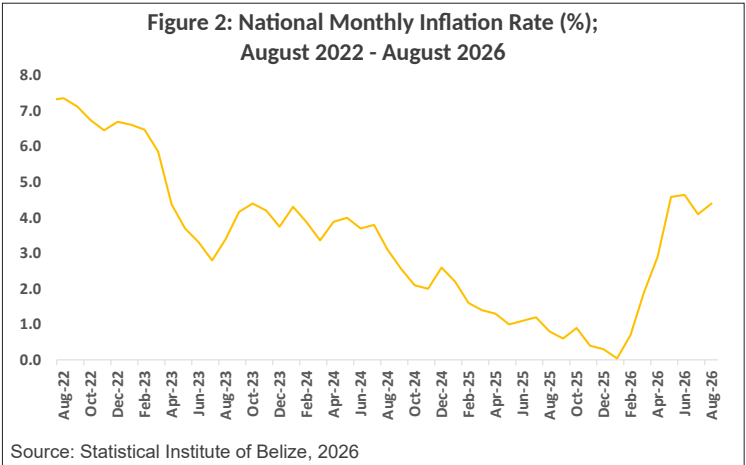
The Statistical Institute of Belize’s monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) survey indicated that, for the month of August 2026, the All-Items CPI, which measures price levels across all categories of regularly purchased consumer goods and services, stood at 125.9. This was an increase from 120.7 recorded in August 2025 (see Figure 1), indicating an overall national inflation rate of 4.4 percent.

The inflationary pressures observed in previous months persisted in August, with ‘Transport’, ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’, and ‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ continuing to account for most of the rise in consumer prices for the month. This reflected increases in the cost of fuel, passenger transport services, rent, water supply, electricity, food, and non-alcoholic beverages. ‘Insurance and Financial Services’ was the only CPI category that did not record an increase, remaining virtually unchanged compared to last August.



Transport:

Prices within the ‘Transport’ category were 11.7 percent higher than they were in August 2025 (see Figure 3), primarily attributed to increases across all types of motor vehicle fuels. Diesel had the largest increase, with the average price per gallon rising by \$3.19, from \$11.84 in August 2025 to \$15.02 in August 2026. Regular gasoline was up by \$2.34, from \$11.82 to \$14.16 per gallon, while Premium gasoline rose by \$1.53, from \$13.21 in August of last year to \$14.74 per gallon in August of this year (see Table 1). Additionally, the costs of passenger transport services rose by 15.2 percent, reflecting higher bus and taxi fares, as well as increased international airfares.



Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages:

‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ recorded an inflation rate of 2.5 percent for the month of August 2026 largely due to higher food prices. Costs within the ‘Food’ sub-category were up by 2.5 percent on average, due to increased prices for meats such as poultry (4.8 percent), sugar (16.6 percent), and bread and bakery products (2.0 percent). Prices for ‘Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ also saw a notable increase, with this sub-category up by 2.5 percent compared to last August, on account of higher costs for instant coffees (11.9 percent) and fruit and vegetable juices (3.5 percent).

Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel (BZ \$); August 2025 and August 2026

Item	Unit of Measurement	Average Prices		% Change
		August 2025	August 2026	
Flour Tortilla	Pack of 5	\$2.29	\$2.33	1.8%
Hotdog Bread	Pack of 8	\$3.03	\$3.05	0.6%
Ground Beef	1 Lb	\$7.63	\$8.42	10.5%
Beef Steak	1 Lb	\$11.36	\$11.61	2.2%
Stew Pork	1 Lb	\$8.14	\$8.59	5.6%
Whole Chicken	1 Lb	\$3.21	\$3.49	8.5%
Chicken Cuts	1 Lb	\$3.67	\$4.02	9.7%
Chicken, Legs	1 Lb	\$3.68	\$3.95	7.3%
Chicken, Wings	1 Lb	\$6.94	\$7.20	3.7%
Chicken, Breast	1 Lb	\$4.92	\$5.18	5.4%
Turkey	1 Lb	\$5.88	\$6.50	10.5%
Whole Fish	1 Lb	\$9.43	\$9.52	1.0%
Natural Milk	1 Liter	\$4.29	\$4.30	0.3%
Pineapples	1 Lb	\$1.29	\$1.24	-3.2%
Lime	1 Unit	\$0.52	\$0.47	-7.9%
Orange	1 Unit	\$0.35	\$0.33	-3.8%
Watermelon	1 Lb	\$0.90	\$0.83	-7.7%
Grapefruits	1 Unit	\$0.67	\$0.60	-11.2%
Apples	1 Unit	\$1.29	\$1.37	6.4%
Grapes	1 Lb	\$10.40	\$11.15	7.2%
Broccoli or Cauliflower	1 Lb	\$5.74	\$5.87	2.1%
Cucumber	1 Lb	\$1.16	\$1.23	5.3%
Tomatoes	1 Lb	\$4.18	\$3.34	-20.1%
Okras	1 Lb	\$3.94	\$3.71	-5.7%
Carrots	1 Lb	\$3.09	\$2.92	-5.6%
Onion	1 Lb	\$3.06	\$2.88	-6.0%
Corn	Pack of 3	\$6.26	\$6.95	11.1%
Irish Potatoes	1 Lb	\$3.03	\$3.43	12.9%
Plantain	1 Unit	\$0.51	\$0.50	-1.7%
Black Beans	1 Lb	\$2.63	\$2.48	-5.7%
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb	\$2.76	\$2.74	-0.5%
Sugar	1 Lb	\$0.84	\$1.05	24.8%
Dry Soup - Ramen	64 Grams	\$1.87	\$1.87	0.3%
Salt	500 Grams	\$1.17	\$1.25	6.6%
Premium Gasoline	1 Gallon	\$13.21	\$14.74	11.6%
Regular Gasoline	1 Gallon	\$11.82	\$14.16	19.8%
Diesel	1 Gallon	\$11.84	\$15.02	26.9%
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	100 Lbs	\$130.04	\$133.58	2.7%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels:

The ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ category was up by 4.4 percent in August 2026 compared to August 2025 (see Figure 3). This was driven by higher electricity costs, reflecting the increased price per kilowatt-hour introduced at the beginning of the year, along with the implementation of the Cost of Power Adjustment during the month. As a result, the electricity bill for a household consuming 225 kilowatt-hours for the month, for example, rose from \$84.25 in August 2025 to \$94.90 in August 2026. Home rental costs also increased over the period, while the cost of water for a household consuming 4,500 gallons per month rose from \$86.38 to \$91.13 between August of last year and August of this year.

Restaurants and Accommodation Services:

Prices for ‘Restaurants and Accommodation Services’ were up by 4.3 percent, driven by a rise in the cost of restaurants and café services (see Figure 3).

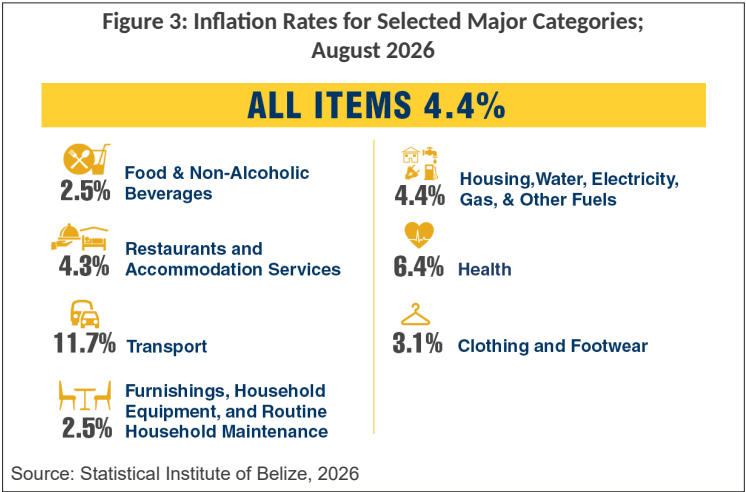
¹ The national inflation rate for the month measures the percent change in the CPI between August 2025 and August 2026.

Health:

'Health' services were 6.4 percent more costly in the month of August 2026 when compared to August 2025, reflecting increased prices for medical services such as hospitalization fees and surgery fees (see Figure 3).

Clothing and Footwear:

Higher prices for men's and women's garments led to a 3.1 percent rise in the 'Clothing and Footwear' category (see Figure 3).

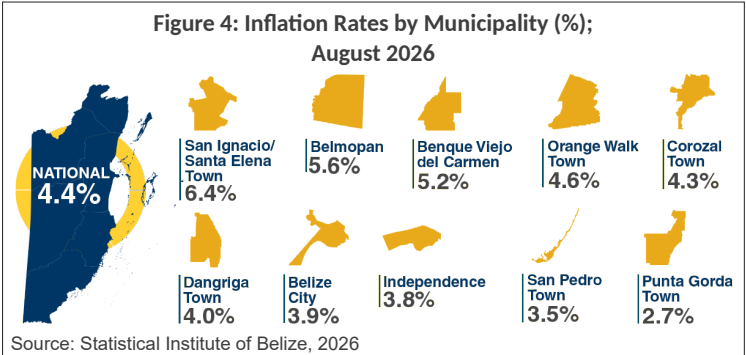


Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance:

'Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' went up by 2.5 percent, mainly due to higher prices for household cleaning and maintenance products, such as laundry bar soaps, liquid detergents, soap powders, dishwashing liquids, and bleach. In addition, the cost of domestic and household services, such as lawn cutting services also increased during the month (see Figure 3).

Inflation Rates by Municipality:

Among the municipalities, San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town recorded the highest increase in consumer prices, with an inflation rate of 6.4 percent for the month of August 2026 when compared to August 2025. Consumers in this municipality experienced above-average price increases for a variety of goods and services, including passenger transport services, food, rent, medical services, restaurants and café services, recreational services, clothing for both males and females, footwear repair, and laundry products.



On the other hand, Punta Gorda Town had the lowest inflation rate of 2.7 percent for the month (see Figure 4). Residents of this community experienced below-average price increases for fuels and lubricants, passenger transport services by road, rent, laundry products, and domestic and household services (see Figure 4).

Month-Over-Month Inflation Rates²:

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.

The month-over-month inflation rate for August 2026, when compared to one month prior in July, was 0.5 percent on average (see Table 2). During this one-month period, the 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category rose by 0.6 percent, primarily due to higher prices for fresh vegetables. 'Restaurant and Accommodation Services' increased by 1.7 percent, due to a rise in costs for restaurant and café services, while the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category rose by 0.5 percent, mainly due to higher electricity rates.

Table 2: Month-Over-Month Inflation Rates by Category (%); August 2026

	Inflation Rate
ALL ITEMS	0.5%
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	0.6%
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.1%
Clothing and Footwear	0.1%
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.5%
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	0.5%
Health	1.0%
Transport	-0.1%
Information and Communication	0.3%
Recreation, Sport and Culture	-0.1%
Education Services	2.4%
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	1.7%
Insurance and Financial Services	0.0%
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	0.6%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

Year-to-Date Inflation Rate³:

The year-to-date inflation rate for the first eight months of 2026, compared to the same period in 2025, stood at 2.9 percent. Prices were up across most of the major CPI categories, with the overall rise in consumer prices for the first eight months of the year primarily driven by the categories of 'Transport', which increased by 7.0 percent, 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' , which rose by 2.2 percent, and 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', which was up by 2.8 percent.

Within 'Transport', costs were up for all types of motor vehicle fuels, as well as for bus and taxi fares and international airfares. The 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' category saw prices increase for most food items, particularly for fresh meats, sugar, and bread and bakery products. Prices were also up for beverages such as instant coffees and fruit and vegetable juices. In the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category, both electricity rates and home rental costs were higher than they were during the first eight months of 2025. Across the other CPI categories, increased costs were seen for restaurant and café services, medical services such as hospitalization and surgery, and garments for both males and females during the period.

In contrast, the 'Information and Communication' category decreased by a marginal 0.3 percent, mainly due to lower prices for cellular phones and television sets during the first eight months of the year (see Table 3).

Table 3: Year-to-Date Inflation Rates by Category (%); August 2026

	Inflation Rate
ALL ITEMS	2.9%
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	2.2%
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	1.5%
Clothing and Footwear	2.7%
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	2.8%
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	1.6%
Health	5.2%
Transport	7.0%
Information and Communication	-0.3%
Recreation, Sport and Culture	0.8%
Education Services	1.0%
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	3.2%
Insurance and Financial Services	0.0%
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	0.5%

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2026

² The month-over-month inflation rate measures the percent 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.

³ The year-to-date inflation rate as of August 2026 measures the percent change in the average CPI for the first eight months of 2026 compared to the average CPI for the first eight months of 2025.