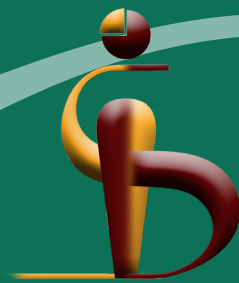


GDP

2nd QUARTER 2017

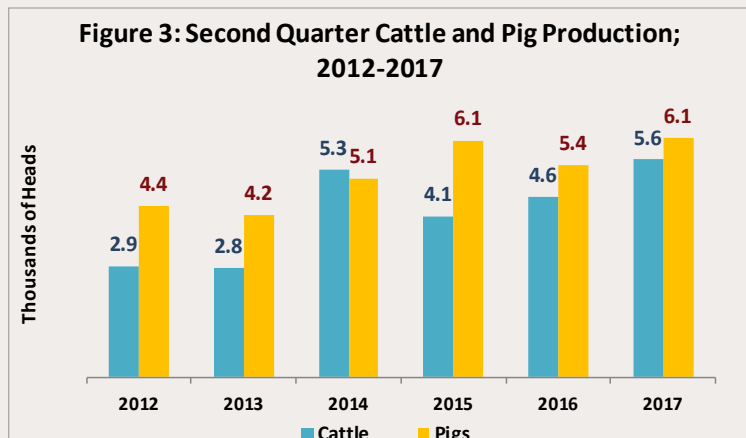
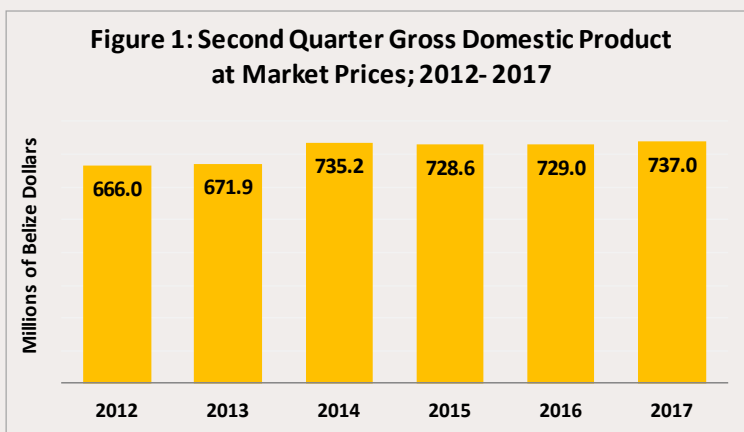


Date of Release: August 30th 2017

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES INCREASE 1.1% IN SECOND QUARTER: GROWTH RECORDED ACROSS SECTORS

The Statistical Institute of Belize’s preliminary Gross Domestic Product estimates for the second quarter of 2017 showed that, during the three months from April to June of this year, the country’s overall level of economic activity increased by 1.1 percent when compared to the same period in 2016. The total value of goods and services produced in Belize was \$737 million, up almost \$8 million from \$729 million in the second quarter of 2016. For the first half of the year, the country’s level of production was 1.1 percent higher than in 2016.

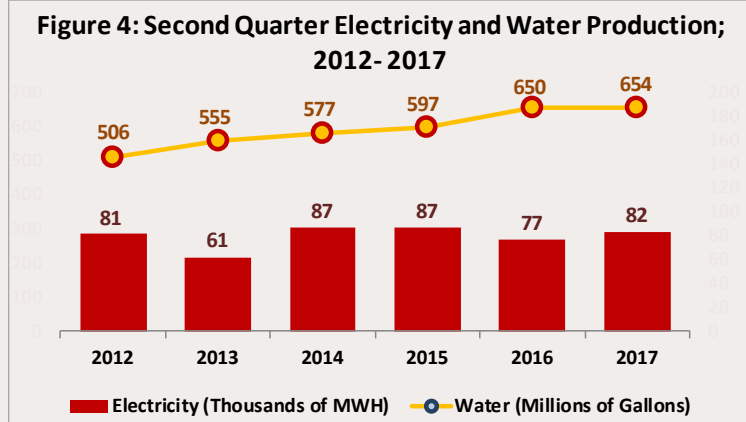
a marginal decrease of 0.3 percent. Beverage production dropped by 13.5 percent, with beer production falling due to reduced consumer demand and an increase in excise tax. Soft drink production also saw a reduction during the quarter, due to a rise in importation of soft drinks. Crude petroleum extraction declined by 18.2 percent because of the natural depletion of reservoirs.



PRIMARY ACTIVITIES: Production in the primary sector experienced an increase of 4.1 percent during the second quarter when compared to the same period last year, as most major industries recorded growth during the quarter. ‘Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry’ recorded an increase of 4.2 percent, while marine exports grew by 4.1 percent as the shrimp industry, still struggling to recover, saw some expansion in production. Sugarcane deliveries increased by 19.4 percent during the quarter, attributable to growing production in the west, while a rise in citrus fruit deliveries was caused by a late blooming of the fruit. Notably, livestock production positively contributed to the growth in the primary sector, with cattle production increasing by 20.8 percent in response to favorable market prices, while pig production grew by 12.8 percent due to increased market demand. These increases were partially offset, however, by a decrease in poultry production. Banana shipments, on the other hand, dropped by 34.4 percent, from 23 thousand metric tons to 19 metric tons, as yields fell short of expectations during the quarter.

TERTIARY ACTIVITIES: The tertiary sector, which accounts for over half of the country’s economic activities, grew by 1.7 percent during the second quarter of 2017. ‘Government Services’ recorded an increase of 2.2 percent, while ‘Transport, Storage and Communication’ saw an increase of 4.4 percent due to an increase in freight. Conversely, the ‘Wholesale and Retail Trade’ sector recorded a decrease of 2.3 percent, as reflected in a 10.2 percent decline in imports for the period.

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES: Secondary activities recorded an increase of 0.7 percent for the second quarter, primarily as a result of continued strong performance in “Electricity and Water.” Electricity generation rose by 5.6 percent compared to the second quarter of 2016, as demand increased and favourable weather conditions positively affected hydroelectric power production. Water distribution, likewise, was up in comparison to the second quarter of 2016, recording an increase of 0.6 percent due entirely to increased demand. Despite an increase of 18.3 percent in the production of sugar and a 30.1 percent increase in the production of citrus concentrate, ‘Manufacturing and Mining’ recorded



‘Accommodation and Food Services’ recorded a decrease of 2.4 percent, despite an increase of 14.2 percent in overnight visitors, with tourists more frequently opting for less costly accommodation options. Cruise passengers recorded a decrease of 4.8 percent, due to the fact that there were two less cruise ship calls in the month of June when compared to the same period of last year.

