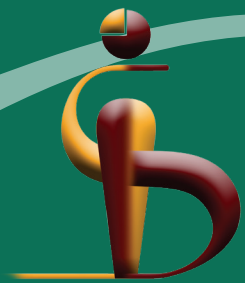


# GDP

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2017

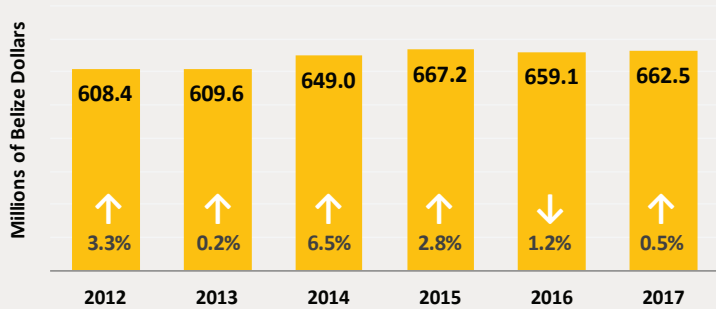


Date of Release: November 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

**ECONOMY GROWS 0.5% IN THIRD QUARTER 2017: TERTIARY ACTIVITIES UP, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ACTIVITIES DOWN.**

Preliminary estimates by the Statistical Institute of Belize indicate that, for the three months from July to September 2017, the country's level of economic activity increased by 0.5 percent when compared to the same period in 2016. The total value of goods and services produced in Belize was \$662.5 million, up \$3.4 million from \$659.1 million in the third quarter of 2016 (see Figure 1). For the first nine months of the year, the country's level of production was also 0.5 percent higher than in 2016.

**Figure 1: Third Quarter Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices; 2012- 2017**

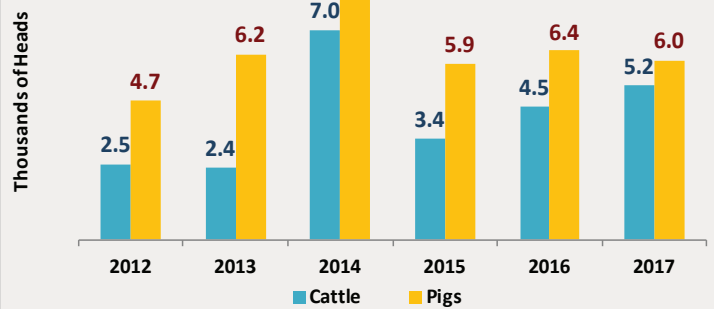


**PRIMARY ACTIVITIES:** The primary sector, which accounts for almost 10 percent of the country's economic activity, experienced a decline of 2.2 percent during the third quarter when compared to the same period in 2016. Marine exports fell by 16.4 percent, contributing significantly to a 15 percent decline in the "Fishing" sector, as the shrimp industry continues to struggle towards recovery. Banana shipments dropped by 4 percent, from 24 thousand metric tons to 23 thousand metric tons, as the industry continues to recover from the effects of Hurricane Earl in 2016. These declines were partially offset by an 8 percent increase in the livestock industry, as cattle production rose by 15.9 percent while poultry production was up by 7.1 percent compared to the third quarter of 2016.

**SECONDARY ACTIVITIES:** Secondary activities recorded an overall decrease of 4 percent in the third quarter of 2017. The "Electricity and Water" sector saw a decline of 2.1 percent, due to a 3.1 percent decrease in electricity generation when compared to the same period of 2016. This was as a result of decreased hydroelectric generation during the quarter, in response to a reduction in demand. Water distribution, on the other hand, recorded an increase of 4.4 percent due to an increase in household demand during the summer months. "Manufacturing and Mining" activities declined by 12.6 percent, largely due to a 17.5 percent reduction in beverage production during the quarter. Beer production was down by 8.3 percent compared to the same quarter of 2016, due to an increase in excise tax and, by extension, the price of beer, while soft drink production dropped by 28.8 percent, corresponding to an increase in soft drink imports. Crude petroleum extraction fell by 20.4 percent due to the continued natural depletion of

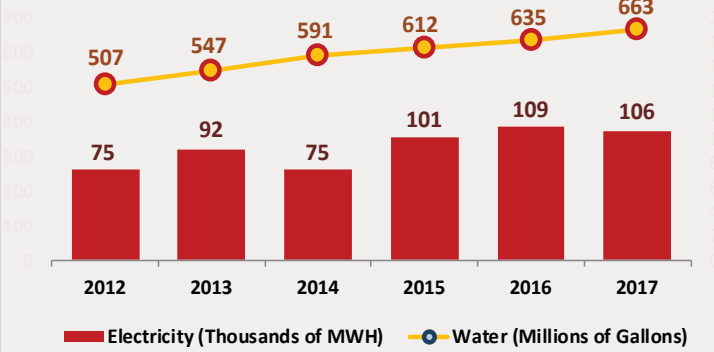
reservoirs. On the other hand, construction activities saw an increase of 4 percent, owing to ongoing works on infrastructural development and private construction, as evidenced by a 20.5 percent growth in the importation of cement during the quarter. This was also reflected in an increase in the number of building plans approved by the Central Building Authority.

**Figure 3: Third Quarter Cattle and Pig Production; 2012-2017**



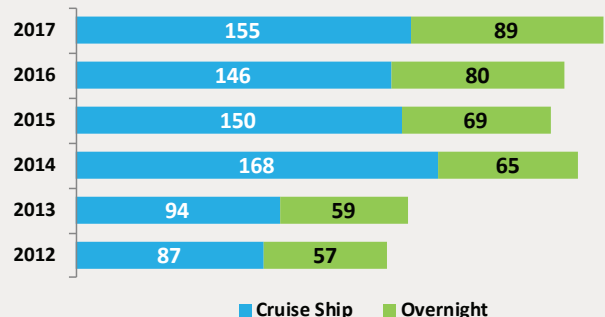
**TERTIARY ACTIVITIES:** The tertiary sector, which accounts for more than half of Belize's total economy, grew by 2.6 percent during the third quarter of 2017 when compared to the same period in 2016. "Wholesale and Retail Trade" was up by 2.9 percent, while "Transport, Storage and Communication" increased by the same percentage, as a result of an increase in freight. "Accommodation and Food Services" recorded an increase of 0.9 percent as the number of overnight visitors

**Figure 4: Third Quarter Electricity and Water Production; 2012- 2017**



rose by 10.9 percent and cruise passenger increased by 6.1 percent during the quarter. It should be noted that, notwithstanding the growing numbers of tourists visiting the country, hotel room revenues were down in comparison to the third quarter of 2016, indicative of the trend towards lower cost vacation rentals as opposed to traditional hotels and resorts.

**Figure 5: Third Quarter Tourist Arrivals (Thousands of Tourists); 2012 - 2017**



## GDP GROWTH RATE BY SECTOR THIRD QUARTER 2017

