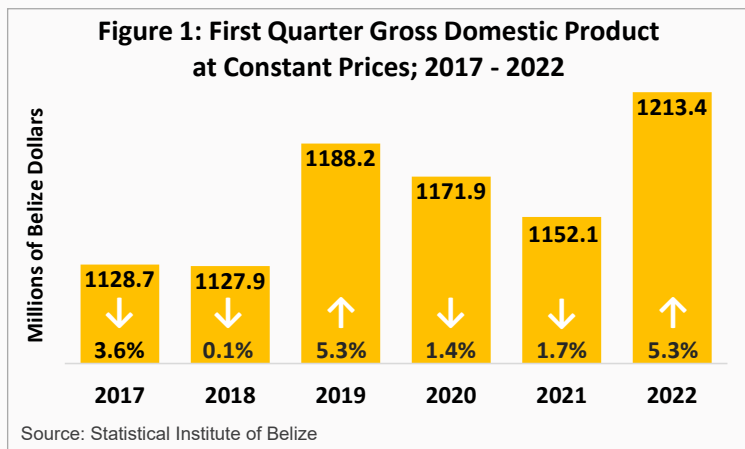




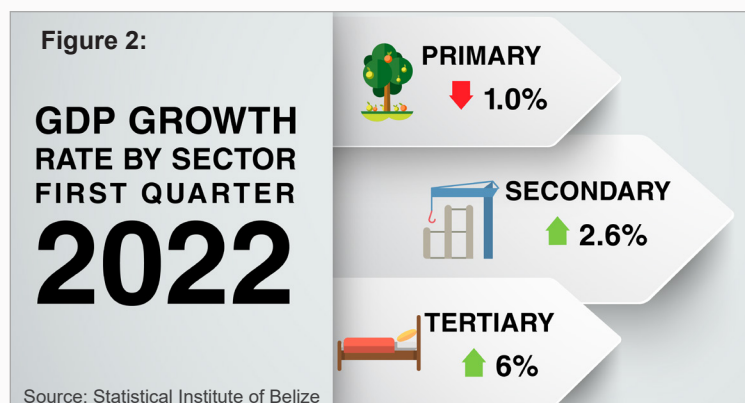
### ECONOMY IMPROVED BY 5.3% IN FIRST QUARTER 2022: PRIMARY ACTIVITIES DOWN, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SECTORS UP.

#### METHODOLOGICAL NOTE:

As of the end of June 2022, the Statistical Institute of Belize introduced an upgraded Gross Domestic Product (GDP) compilation methodology, accompanied by a revised GDP series. The GDP estimates for the first quarter of 2022 given below have been compiled using this updated methodology. The SIB has also conducted parallel compilation, utilizing both the previously used and the newly introduced methodologies, for the past several quarters. As a result, the below estimates for the first quarter of 2022 are fully comparable with the revised first quarter 2021 estimates.

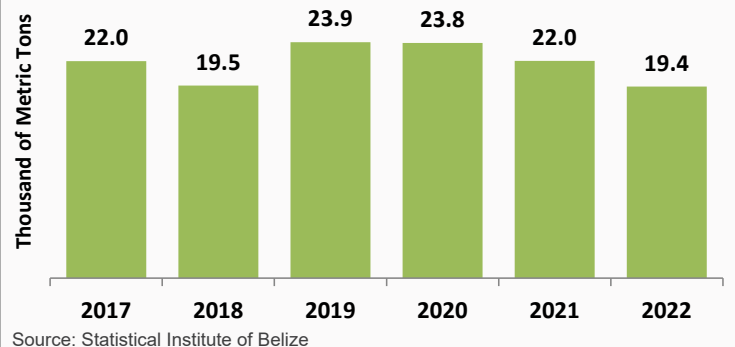


**FIRST QUARTER 2022:** During the first quarter months of January to March 2022, the total value of goods and services produced within Belize was estimated at \$1,213.4 million<sup>1</sup>, up 5.3 percent or \$61.3 million from \$1,152.1 million produced in the same period of 2021 (see Figure 1). This represented the highest level of production for any first quarter on record and surpassed the pre-pandemic production levels recorded for the first quarter of 2019. Moreover, revised quarterly estimates indicated that, by the end of 2021, the country's economic output had effectively recovered to levels exceeding those recorded for pre-pandemic 2019.



For the first quarter of 2022, the tertiary sector grew by 6 percent, boosted by strong performances in the 'Wholesale and Retail Trade', 'Transport', and tourism industries, and was the largest contributor to the estimated growth for the first three months of the year. Activities within the secondary sector were up by 2.6 percent, as the 'Manufacturing' and 'Construction' industries saw increases, while reduced production of some agricultural

**Figure 3: First Quarter Banana Production; 2017 - 2022**

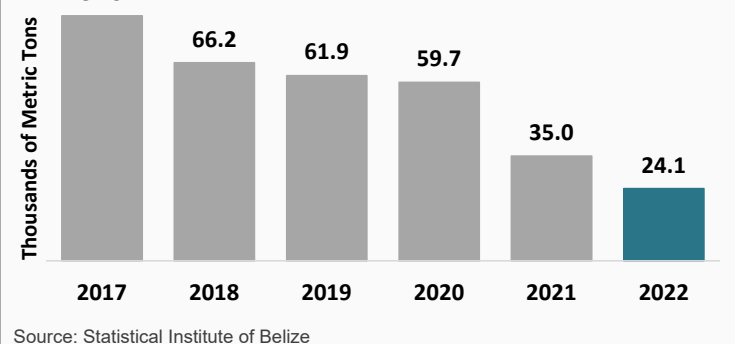


and marine products led to a 1 percent contraction within the primary sector. 'Taxes on Products' were up by 14.6 percent during the quarter.

#### PRIMARY ACTIVITIES:

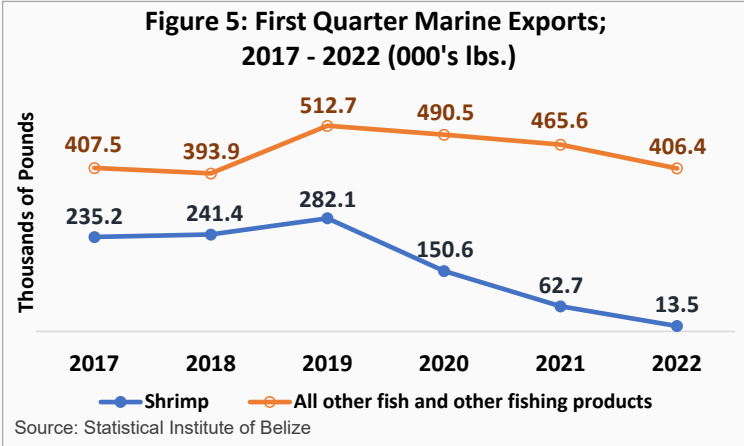
For the first quarter of this year, production within the primary sector totaled \$158.2 million, a reduction of 1 percent or \$1.6 million compared to the first quarter of 2021. Banana production was down by 11.8 percent, from 22 thousand metric tons in the first quarter of 2021 to 19.4 thousand metric tons for the first quarter of 2022 (see Figure 3). Citrus fruit deliveries saw an even sharper decline of 31.2 percent, from 35 thousand metric tons to 24.1 thousand metric tons (see Figure 4), attributed to a shortage of workers for this industry. Fishing activities fell by 14 percent, due mainly to a 79 percent reduction in shrimp production (see Figure 5).

**Figure 4: First Quarter Citrus Production; 2017-2022**



Notwithstanding the overall contraction within the sector, however, increases were seen among some of the primary industries. Sugarcane production was up by 3.2 percent, from 758 thousand metric tons in the first quarter of 2021 to 782.6 thousand metric tons in the first quarter of 2022. Livestock activities grew by 5 percent during the quarter, as pig production rose by a notable 22.3 percent and poultry production increased by 5 percent, in response to heightened local demand. These increases offset a reduction in the cattle industry, where production, although well above historical levels, was 26.2 percent lower than in the first quarter of last year, when a significant spike in cattle exports was recorded.

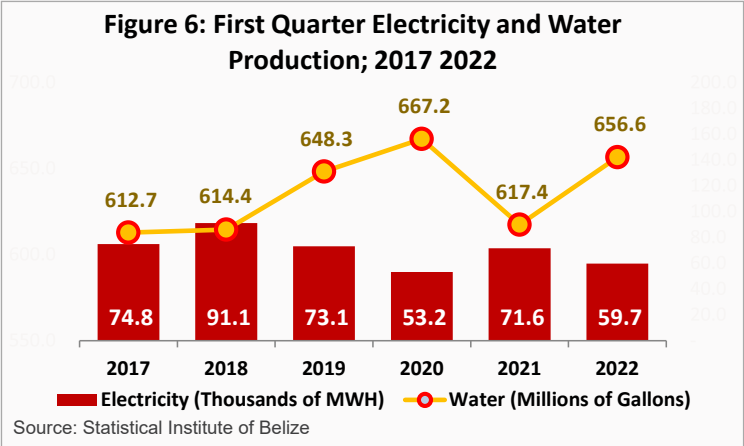
<sup>1</sup> Quarterly GDP estimates reflect production in constant prices, that is, with the appropriate adjustments made for inflation.



**SECONDARY ACTIVITIES:**

Activities within the secondary sector increased by 2.6 percent overall compared to the first quarter of last year, with production totaling an estimated \$183.9 million for the first quarter of 2022. This increase was driven in large part by the ‘Manufacturing’ industry, which grew by 5.1 percent. Beverage production rose by 12 percent due to an increase in demand, including demand by the tourism sector. Flour production was up by 8.8 percent, also in response to a rise in demand. Citrus concentrate production, on the other hand, decreased by a significant 29.3 percent, from 664 thousand gallons in the first quarter of 2021 to 469 thousand gallons in the same period of 2022, as a result of the notable drop in citrus fruit deliveries.

The ‘Construction’ industry recorded growth of 6.5 percent, from \$54.4 million to \$57.9 million, as reflected by an increase in loans for building and construction. The ‘Electricity’ industry saw a 16.5 percent decrease, from \$24.8 million to \$20.7 million, as water levels at the hydroelectric dams were being managed in anticipation of further global fuel price increases. The ‘Water’ industry, on the other hand grew by 6.4 percent, due to a rise in consumption during the quarter (see Figure 6).



**TERTIARY ACTIVITIES:**

Production within the tertiary sector was valued at \$749.2 million for the first quarter of 2022, up by 6 percent or \$42.7 million from the \$706.5 million produced in the first quarter of 2021. Most notable within this sector was the ‘Hotels and Restaurants’ industry, for which output more than tripled, from \$17.4 million to \$63.5 million, as cruise tourism resumed and overnight tourist arrivals continued to rise (see Figure 7a and Figure 7b). The ‘Wholesale and Retail Trade’ industry grew by 12.8 percent, from \$149.5 million to \$168 million, while the ‘Transport’ industry rose by 5.1 percent, from \$54.5 million to \$57.2 million, as a result of an increase in the movement of both merchandise and passengers. Production of government services was up by 3.8 percent, from \$56.5 million in the first quarter of 2021 to \$58.7 million in the first quarter of 2022.

