



JUNE 2018

Date Published:  
JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2018

## CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.6% IN JUNE 2018

**ALL-ITEMS:** For the month of June 2018, the results of the Statistical Institute of Belize's monthly Consumer Price Index survey showed that, on average, Belizean households experienced a 0.6 percent increase in the cost of regularly purchased goods and services when compared to the same month last year. The All-Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 105.0, an increase from 104.4 in June 2017 (see Figure 1). For the first six months of the year, a year to date inflation rate of 0.02 percent was recorded.

**TRANSPORT:** The greatest contributor to the overall rise in consumer prices was a 4.5 percent increase in the 'Transport' index. This increase was mainly due to a significant rise in prices for all types of motor vehicle fuel, as evidenced by a 10.3 percent increase in the 'Fuel and Lubricants' sub-category. The price per gallon of Premium gasoline rose 10.5 percent from \$10.62 in June 2017 to \$11.73 in June 2018. Regular gasoline rose 14.4 percent from \$9.97 to \$11.41, while the price per gallon of Diesel saw the most significant increase of 20.6 percent, from \$9.08 to \$10.95 (see Table 1). International airfare prices, after declining for several months earlier in the year, were up 3.6 percent compared to June of last year. In addition, the purchase prices for new motor vehicles increased by almost 3 percent on average, while the cost of vehicle maintenance and repairs was up by 4.9 percent.

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** Continuing the trend of previous months, 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' continued to see a moderate reduction during the month of June. Prices within the 'Food' sub-category declined by a marginal 0.4 percent, due to decreases in the average prices of several meat products, including beef steak, pork chops and pigtail. These were enough to offset increases in the average cost of several fruits and vegetables, including a 13.4 percent increase in the price per pound for red kidney beans, a 22.4 percent increase in the price per pound for pineapples, and a 15 percent increase in the price per pound for potatoes (see Table 1). Non-Alcoholic Beverages also recorded a 2 percent decrease during the period, as a result of a fall in the price of coffee and tea compared to June of last year.

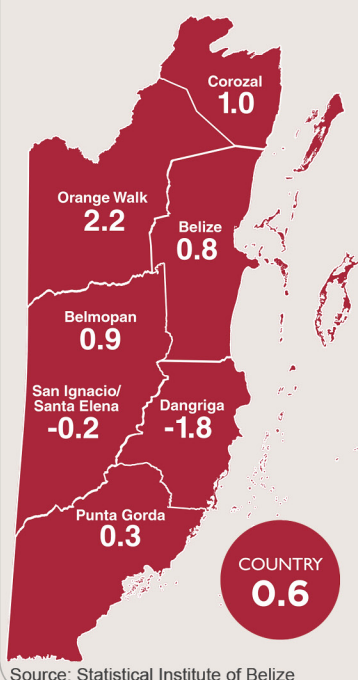
**HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS:** A drop in average home rental costs coupled with rising prices for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) resulted in a slight overall increase of 0.03 percent in the 'Housing Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' category during the month. While home rental costs were 0.4 percent lower than they were in June 2017, this reduction was overshadowed by a 14.7 percent rise in the cost of Liquefied Petroleum Gas. The average cost of a 100-pound cylinder of LPG rose from \$100.37 in June 2017 to \$115.08 in June of 2018 (see Table 1).

**ALL OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES:** Together, the remaining categories of goods and services saw a 0.7 percent rise in consumer prices in the month of June. In particular, doctors' consultation fees, entrance fees to sporting events and facilities, and motor vehicle insurance premiums were all up when compared to June of last year.

**INFLATION RATES BY MUNICIPALITIES:**

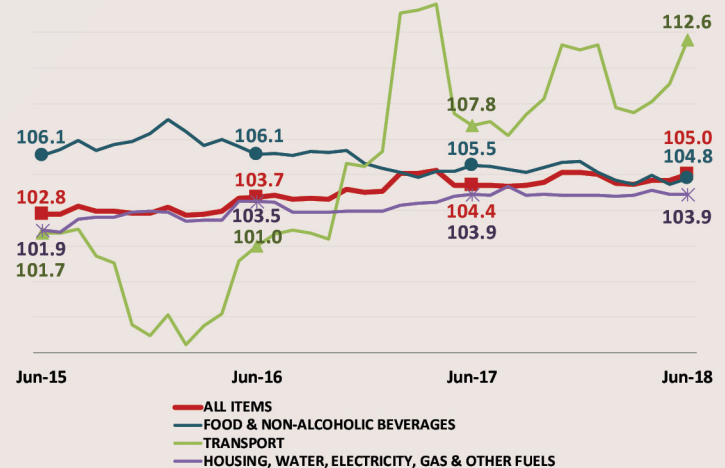
For two consecutive months, Orange Walk Town has reported the highest rate of increase in consumer prices, with an inflation rate of 2.2 percent, as households in that municipality experienced higher than average increases in the cost of food items. Dangriga Town, on the other hand, once again had the lowest inflation rate, with consumers in that town seeing on average a 1.8 percent decrease in the prices of goods and services, due to a decline in home rental costs in comparison to the same period last year (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Inflation Rates by Municipality (Percent); June 2018**



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

**Figure 1: Consumer Price Index by Major Categories; June 2015 - June 2018**



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

**Figure 2: Inflation Rates by Major Categories; June 2018**



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize

**Table 1: Average Prices of Selected Foods and Fuel, June 2017 and June 2018**

Item		June 2017	June 2018	% Change
Ground Beef	1 Lb	5.99	6.23	↑ 3.9
Beef Steak	1 Lb	8.10	7.86	↓ -3.0
Pork Chops	1 Lb	7.09	6.89	↓ -2.8
Pig Tail	1 Lb	4.41	4.25	↓ -3.6
Whole Chicken	1 Lb	2.64	2.64	↑ 0.1
Sugar, White	1 Lb	0.81	0.79	↓ -1.8
Sugar, Brown	1 Lb	0.52	0.53	↑ 0.7
Flour (Gitana)	1 Lb	0.95	0.95	0.0
Eggs	1 Dozen	3.10	3.20	↑ 3.3
Belikin Beer (w/out bottle)	284 ml	2.94	2.96	↑ 0.8
Natural Milk	1 Litre	2.48	2.54	↑ 2.2
Red Kidney Beans	1 Lb	1.44	1.63	↑ 13.4
Pineapple	1 Lb	0.95	1.16	↑ 22.4
Sweet Pepper	1 Lb	3.98	3.66	↓ -8.1
Cabbage	1 Lb	1.14	1.19	↑ 4.2
Limes	1 unit	0.33	0.37	↑ 11.3
Potatoes	1 Lb	1.53	1.76	↑ 15.0
Watermelon	1 Lb	0.60	0.65	↑ 9.0
Premium Gasoline	1 Gal	10.62	11.73	↑ 10.5
Regular Gasoline	1 Gal	9.97	11.41	↑ 14.4
Diesel	1 Gal	9.08	10.95	↑ 20.6
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)	100 Lbs	100.37	115.08	↑ 14.7

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize