

## Introduction

Belize is a country in Central America bordering the Caribbean Sea. Neighboring countries include Guatemala and Mexico. The geography of Belize is mainly flat with low mountains in the south. The government system is a parliamentary democracy and a commonwealth realm; the chief of state is the queen of the United Kingdom, and the head of government is the prime minister. Belize has a mixed economic system which includes a private-enterprise system, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Belize is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).



**Location:** Central America

**Capital City:** Belmopan (-6 GMT)

**Chief of State:** Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor General Colville N. Young, Sr.

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Dean Barrow

**Currency:** Belize dollar (BZD)

**Major Languages:** <p>English 62.9% (official), Spanish 56.6%, Creole 44.6%, Maya 10.5%, German 3.2%, Garifuna 2.9%, other 1.8%, unknown 0.3%, none 0.2% (cannot speak)</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Roman Catholic 40.1%, Protestant 31.5% (includes Pentecostal 8.4%, Seventh Day Adventist 5.4%, Anglican 4.7%, Mennonite 3.7%, Baptist 3.6%, Methodist 2.9%, Nazarene 2.8%), Jehovah&#39;s Witness 1.7%, other 10.5% (includes Baha&#39;i, Buddhist, Hindu, Morman, Muslim, Rastafarian), unknown 0.6%, none 15.5%</p>

**Calling Code:** 501

**Voltage:** 110/220

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [belize.gov.bz](http://belize.gov.bz)

Investment Promotion Agency: [belizeinvest.org.bz](http://belizeinvest.org.bz)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$3.22 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	0.88% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$8,590.01 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$1,399,486,309.20 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	6.49% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$0.13 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	1.15% (2017)
Labor force, total:	172,349 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	9.33% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$1.12 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$0.96 billion (2017)

## GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



*\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

## Rankings

Index	Rank
Index of Economic Freedom	123 / 179
KOF Index of Globalization	123 / 185

## U.S. Embassy

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