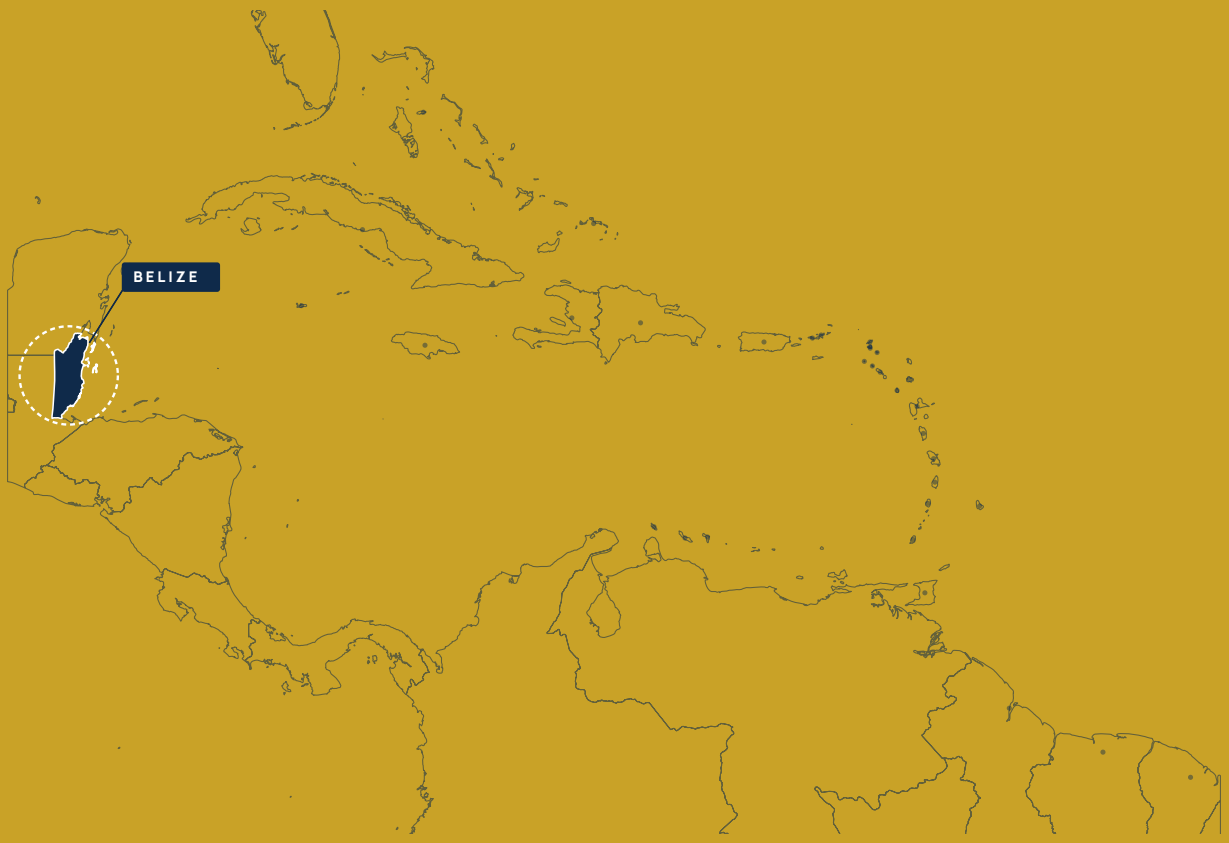


TOTAL BUDGET
BZ$1.90 billion
Expenditure estimates, 2026/27

FISCAL BALANCE
–1.5% of GDP
Projected deficit; primary surplus 1.1%

PUBLIC DEBT
66.6% of GDP
BZ$4.68 billion at Budget; 50% target by 2030

CARIBBEAN TAX SERVICE DESK · MAINLAND CARIBBEAN

Belize
Budget Review 2026/27

What the 2026/27 Budget means for businesses and individuals

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FOREWORD

The 2026/27 Budget leaves tax rates alone and changes how tax is collected. It funds a record capital programme while keeping a primary surplus and a path to lower debt.

There are no new taxes and no rate changes. Instead, the Budget makes electronic invoicing mandatory for GST-registered businesses, begins a review of the GST structure, moves land tax collection to the Belize Tax Service and prepares the Service to become a semi-autonomous revenue authority. Capital spending reaches a record BZ$606.8 million, and public pay rises by 4%.

This review sets out the figures, the measures and their timing, and what they mean for each sector. It should be read with our Belize Doing Business Guide and Belize Tax Guide.

Belize is served by Dawgen Global's Caribbean Service Desk, managed from our headquarters in Kingston, with tax matters handled by our Caribbean Tax Service Desk. We would be glad to help you work through the impact on your business.

Dr. Dawkins Brown, Ph.D., MCMI, ACFE

Executive Chairman, Dawgen Global

How to use this guide

This review summarises the 2026/27 Budget and what it means for businesses and individuals in Belize. It is general information, current to October 2026; measures may change as they pass into law. Our companion Doing Business and Tax Guides give the wider picture. Speak to us before you act.

OVERVIEW

01 Budget at a glance

The 2026/27 Budget, "Budgeting for Belizean Prosperity", was presented to the National Assembly on 10 March 2026 by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon. John Briceño. The fiscal year runs from 1 April to 31 March. The Belize dollar is fixed at BZ$2 to US$1.

TOTAL BUDGET
BZ$1,902.9m
Recurrent BZ$1,296.1 million; capital BZ$606.8 million

REVENUE AND GRANTS
BZ$1,792.6m
Up 8.5%; tax revenue BZ$1,581.8 million

FISCAL BALANCE
−1.5% of GDP
Overall deficit of BZ$110.3 million

PRIMARY SURPLUS
1.1% of GDP
BZ$79.4 million, before interest

CAPITAL PROGRAMME
BZ$606.8m
A record, and 32% of total spending

PUBLIC DEBT
66.6% of GDP
BZ$4.676 billion; target about 50% by 2030

Five key messages

- **No new taxes.** Business tax, income tax and GST rates are unchanged.
- **A new way of collecting tax.** Mandatory e-invoicing for GST-registered businesses, a GST review and a semi-autonomous revenue authority.
- **Record investment.** Capital spending rises by a third, led by highways, bridges, health and energy.
- **Higher public pay.** A 4% rise for public officers, teachers and security staff under a three-year agreement.
- **Debt on a downward path.** A primary surplus each year, with debt falling towards 50% of GDP by 2030.

ECONOMY

02 Economic context

Growth has slowed from its post-pandemic pace, unemployment is at a record low, and higher fuel prices pushed inflation up during 2026.

REAL GDP
+1.4%
April–June 2026, year on year; Budget forecast 2.3% for 2026

INFLATION
4.4%
August 2026; 1.1% for 2025 as a whole

UNEMPLOYMENT
2.0%
2025 average, a record low

TOURISM
504,900
Stay-over arrivals in 2025, preliminary; 870,500 cruise visitors

RESERVES
4.5 months
Import cover, end-2025

CREDIT RATINGS
B3 / B–
Moody's (upgraded September 2026) and S&P, both stable

At Budget

Nominal GDP was about BZ$7.0 billion in 2025. Credit to the private sector rose 7.5% and the banking system held excess liquidity of BZ$720.2 million. The current account deficit widened to 5.0% of GDP.

Since the Budget

In April–June 2026, services grew 3.4%, led by wholesale and retail trade and public administration, while primary production fell 6.1% and industry 6.4%. Electricity generation rose 10.8%.

Ratings

S&P Global affirmed Belize at B– with a stable outlook on 18 August 2026. Moody's upgraded Belize from Caa1 to B3, stable, on 18 September 2026.

Fuel prices

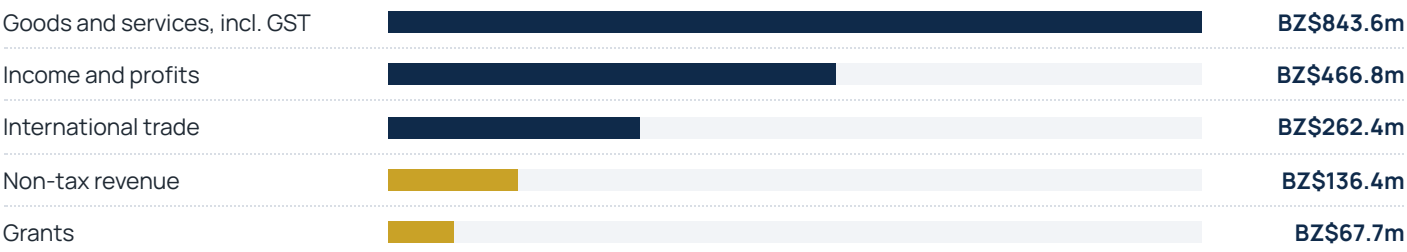
Transport prices were 11.7% higher in August 2026 than a year earlier, with diesel up 26.9%. Average inflation for January to August 2026 was 2.9%.

PUBLIC FINANCES

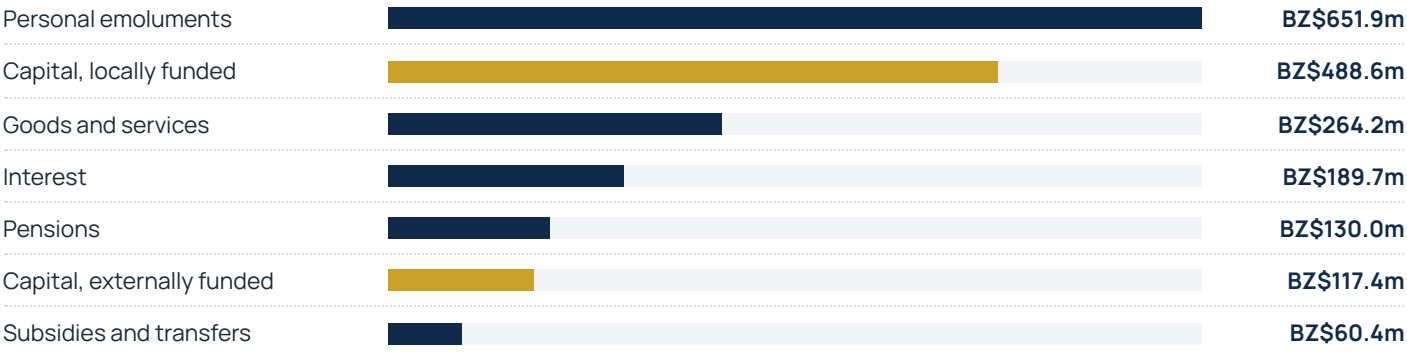
03 Fiscal framework

BZ$ million	2025/26 projected outturn	2026/27 budget
Revenue and grants	1,653.4	1,792.6
of which tax revenue	1,465.0	1,581.8
Expenditure	1,687.5	1,902.9
of which recurrent	1,229.3	1,296.1
of which capital	458.2	606.8
Primary balance	97.7 (1.4%)	79.4 (1.1%)
Overall balance	−34.1 (−0.5%)	−110.3 (−1.5%)

Where the money comes from: revenue and grants BZ$1,792.6 million



Where it goes: expenditure BZ$1,902.9 million



Outturn against the previous budget

For 2025/26 the Government projected a primary surplus of 1.4% of GDP, against a target of 1.52%, and an overall deficit of 0.49%, better than the 0.60% targeted. Gold bars show non-tax revenue, grants and capital spending.

BUSINESS TAX

04 Tax measures for businesses

There are no changes to business tax, income tax or GST rates. The Budget's tax measures are about administration, and they will change how businesses report.

Measure	What changes	Effective	Who is affected
Electronic invoicing	E-invoicing becomes mandatory, overseen by the Belize Tax Service with IDB and CIAT support. FAQs were issued in June 2026; technical rules and the timetable are still to come.	Rollout expected by 2027	GST-registered businesses
GST structure review	Review of which supplies are standard-rated and zero-rated. No changes yet.	During 2026/27	All GST-registered businesses
Revenue authority	**Proposed:** the Belize Tax Service becomes a semi-autonomous revenue authority	Expected from 2027	All taxpayers
Land tax collection	Collection moves from the Lands Department to the Belize Tax Service; valuations stay with Lands	2026/27	Landowners
Tax administration funding	Externally funded support for tax administration, digital innovation and financial management	2026/27	Taxpayers using online services

Unchanged

Business tax of 1.75% to 19% on gross receipts by activity, with 15% for banks; 40% income tax on petroleum operations; GST at 12.5% with registration at BZ$75,000; withholding of 15% and 25% on payments to non-residents.

Incentives

The Fiscal Incentives Act, 2023, Designated Processing Areas and Commercial Free Zones continue. The MSME tax amnesty of 2025 gave approved small businesses a one-year business tax exemption.

INDIVIDUALS

05 Tax measures for individuals and households

Personal tax is unchanged. Households benefit mainly through public pay, health coverage and social programmes.

Annual income (resident employees)	Income tax
BZ$29,000 or less	None
BZ$29,001 to BZ$32,000	25% after the basic deduction, less a transitional credit
Above BZ$32,000	25% of income above BZ$20,000

Unchanged since the threshold rose from BZ$26,000 on 1 January 2025. Social security contributions are also unchanged, with insurable earnings capped at BZ$520 a week.

Public sector pay

- 4% rise for public officers, teachers and security staff in 2026/27, after 4.5% in 2025/26
- Salaries and pensions of about BZ$780 million, about 11% of GDP
- A review of public pension age, contributions and benefits

Social programme	2026/27
National Health Insurance	BZ$57.0 million; extended to all of Cayo District
Healthy Start school feeding	About BZ$10 million, reaching about 20,000 students
Low-income housing	BZ$8.0 million
Food assistance	BZ$3.5 million
Internet for schools	BZ$2.2 million for 283 schools

Minimum wage

The minimum wage is BZ$5.00 an hour. **Proposed:** a rise to BZ$6.00 was announced in September 2026; it takes effect only when the new order is made.

INDIRECT TAXES

06 Indirect taxes, customs and other revenue

Taxes on goods and services, mostly GST, raise more than half of all tax revenue. Rates are unchanged, but GST is under review.

Item	Position in the 2026/27 Budget	Estimate
General sales tax	12.5% standard rate unchanged; review of standard and zero-rated items; e-invoicing for registered businesses	BZ$843.6m, all goods and services taxes
Excise duty	No published rate changes on alcohol, beer, cigarettes, soft drinks or vehicles	Included above
Import duty and trade taxes	CARICOM tariff, revenue replacement duty and 3% environmental tax unchanged	BZ$262.4m
Land and property	Land tax collection moves to the Belize Tax Service	BZ$9.0m
Licences	No published changes	BZ$33.3m
Property income and royalties	Non-tax revenue: BZ$31.4m property income and BZ$21.3m royalties	BZ$52.7m

Hydro Belize

The sale of shares in Hydro Belize brought BZ$134.8 million of equity proceeds, and a bond offering of about BZ$100 million was expected.

Administration

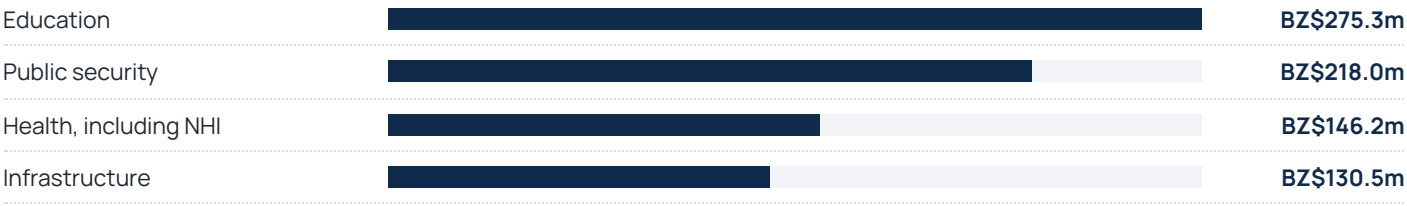
The Belize Tax Service runs filing and payment through its online platform. Monthly business tax, GST, PAYE and withholding remain due by the 15th.

SPENDING

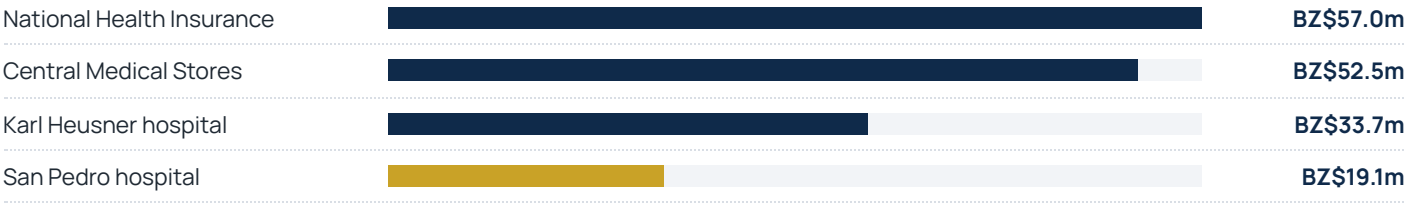
07 Spending priorities and capital programme

Capital spending reaches a record BZ$606.8 million. Roads, bridges, health and energy lead the programme.

Largest sector budgets, 2025/26 projected outturn



Health in 2026/27



Major projects

George Price Highway · Philip Goldson Highway · BELCAN Bridge · Santa Familia Bridge · Belize City Swing Bridge · Corozal to Sarteneja road · San Pedro hospital · Port of Belize upgrade

Other announced items

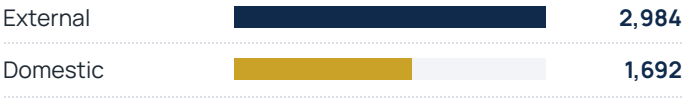
- About BZ$46 million for road, street and drain maintenance
- Over 100 MW of new solar and hydro capacity within two to three years
- MCC compacts: US$53.8 million for education and US$41.7 million for energy

DEBT

08 Debt, financing and fiscal rules

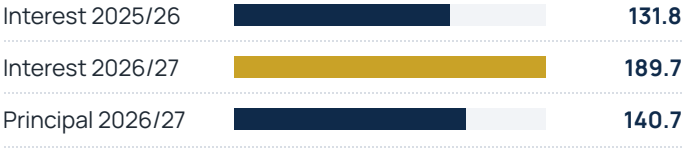
Debt is moderate and mostly external. The plan relies on primary surpluses to bring it down to about 50% of GDP by 2030.

Public debt at Budget, BZ$ million



Total BZ$4.676 billion, about 66.6% of GDP: 64% external and 36% domestic.

Debt service, BZ$ million



Interest rises by about 44%. The average borrowing rate was 3.5% in 2025/26.

Financing 2026/27

The financing requirement, including principal repayments, is BZ$251.0 million, about 3.3% of GDP: BZ$117 million from external loans and BZ$133 million from domestic sources.

Fiscal targets

A primary surplus of 1.5% to 2.0% of GDP over the medium term, with debt falling to about 50% of GDP by 2030.

Risks to watch

Salaries and pensions take about 60% of recurrent spending. Fuel prices, tourism demand, interest costs and storms could all weaken the outturn.

SECTOR IMPACT

09 What it means for your sector

Sector	What the Budget means
Tourism and hospitality	No new taxes on visitors. Arrivals were strong in 2025. E-invoicing will apply to GST-registered hotels and tour operators.
Financial services	Business tax on banks stays at 15%. High excess liquidity and growing private credit; the Government will also borrow BZ$133 million locally.
Construction and real estate	A record capital programme in highways, bridges, drains, health and housing. Land tax will be collected by the Belize Tax Service.
Distribution and retail	E-invoicing and the GST review will change systems and possibly pricing. Wholesale and retail trade grew 5.5% in April–June 2026.
Agriculture and fishing	Primary production fell in April–June 2026. Support for small farmers and land surveys continues.
Energy	Over 100 MW of planned solar and hydro capacity and an MCC energy programme. Fuel prices remain a cost pressure.
Technology and digital	Funding for digital innovation and school internet. E-invoicing creates demand for compliant systems.
SMEs	Prepare for e-invoicing if GST-registered. A higher minimum wage has been announced but is not yet in force.
Employers generally	No change to PAYE or social security. Public pay rises may raise wage expectations.

ACTION PLAN

10 Action points and key dates

Businesses

- [ ] Review invoicing systems against the e-invoicing FAQs
- [ ] Watch for the e-invoicing technical rules and timetable
- [ ] Check GST coding ahead of the GST review
- [ ] Keep business tax, GST and PAYE filings current by the 15th
- [ ] Plan for public tenders under the capital programme
- [ ] Budget for a possible minimum wage rise

Individuals

- [ ] File 2026 income tax returns by 31 March 2027, where required
- [ ] Expect land tax demands from the Belize Tax Service
- [ ] Check National Health Insurance registration

Date	What happens
10 March 2026	Budget presented
1 April 2026	Fiscal year 2026/27 begins; 4% public pay rise for the year
June 2026	E-invoicing FAQs issued
15th of each month	Business tax, GST, PAYE and withholding
During 2026/27	GST review; land tax collection moves to the Belize Tax Service
31 March 2027	Annual returns for 2026; fiscal year ends
From 2027	E-invoicing rollout and revenue authority expected
July 2028	George Price Highway section to Belmopan due
2030	Debt target of about 50% of GDP

Dates assume a calendar basis year.

YOUR PARTNER

11 How Dawgen Global helps

Our Caribbean Tax Service Desk, managed from Kingston, helps businesses and individuals turn the Budget into a plan.

Budget impact assessment

Modelling the measures against your costs, prices, margins and tax position.

Tax planning and restructuring

Classifying receipts, group structure, dividends and cross-border payments.

Compliance updates and payroll changes

E-invoicing readiness, GST coding, monthly returns and payroll systems.

Incentives and concessions

Fiscal incentives, Designated Processing Areas and Commercial Free Zones.

Cash flow and pricing reviews

Forecasts, repricing for cost changes, and working capital.

Engagement with the tax authority

Rulings, objections, audits and correspondence with the Belize Tax Service and Customs.

Start with a conversation

Tell us how the 2026/27 Budget affects your plans, and we will set out the steps for your situation. Some regulated services are performed by affiliated firms; we will advise you of the arrangements when you make a request. Fees are tailored to each client's circumstances and set out in an engagement letter. Email **belize@dawgen.com** or **info@dawgen.global**, or call (876) 926-5210.

Talk to the Caribbean Tax Service Desk about the 2026/27 Budget

Contact

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Key official sources

- Ministry of Finance (mof.gov.bz)
- National Assembly of Belize (nationalassembly.gov.bz)
- Government Press Office (pressoffice.gov.bz)
- Belize Tax Service (bts.gov.bz)
- Customs and Excise Department (customs.gov.bz)
- Central Bank of Belize (centralbank.org.bz)
- Statistical Institute of Belize (sib.org.bz)
- Social Security Board (socialsecurity.org.bz)



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