

Main Findings of the September 2007 Labour Force Survey

According to findings from the September 2007 Labour Force Survey, the estimated population of Belize was 314,000 persons of which approximately 160,000 were females. More than one-third of the population was comprised of children less than 14 years while about 23% were youth.

The total unemployment rate stood at 12.1%; unemployment in the Toledo, Corozal and Belize districts exceeded the national rate, with the highest rate being recorded in Toledo (16.4%) and the lowest in the Orange Walk and Stann Creek districts (10.1%). With a rate of 24%, unemployment among youth was twice that of the overall rate.

Male unemployment was highest in Corozal and lowest in Stann Creek (10.3% versus 3.4%) while female unemployment was highest in Toledo where one-third (33.8%) of the females in the labour force was unemployed. Unemployment in the Stann Creek District was approximately seven times higher for females than for males.

The Belize 2007 Labour Force Survey was conducted in both April and September of this year. In September, the unemployment rate increased by 4 percentage points from what it was in April. Similarly, the youth unemployment rate showed a marked increase from 14.2% to 24.0%. In contrast, the proportion of persons in the working age population who were working and also willing and available to work, i.e. the labour force participation rate had dropped slightly from 61.4% to 59.2%.

This marks the first year since 1994 that the Labour Force Survey was conducted twice.

**Main Labour Force Indicators by District and Sex
2007 September Labour Force Survey**

	Total	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo
Both Sexes							
Total Population	314,275	36,485	47,453	94,097	74,274	32,488	29,478
Population 14 Years and Over	207,025	24,282	33,291	64,669	46,951	20,979	16,853
Labour Force	122,516	14,274	17,804	41,590	26,953	12,747	9,147
Employed Labour Force	107,657	12,266	15,965	36,240	24,113	11,429	7,644
Unemployed Labour Force	14,859	2,008	1,840	5,350	2,839	1,319	1,504
Persons Not in the Labour Force	84,433	10,008	15,487	23,042	19,998	8,192	7,706
Unemployment Rate	12.1	14.1	10.3	12.9	10.5	10.3	16.4
Youth Unemployment Rate	24.0	27.4	22.0	25.4	19.6	24.3	29.2
Labour Force Participation Rate	59.2	58.8	53.5	64.3	57.4	60.8	54.3
Male							
Total Population	154,339	17,003	24,536	45,051	36,499	16,464	14,786
Population 14 Years and Over	100,736	11,388	17,436	30,533	22,015	10,749	8,615
Labour Force	78,092	9,474	13,243	23,292	17,036	8,312	6,735
Employed Labour Force	71,502	8,502	12,323	21,045	15,554	8,032	6,046
Unemployed Labour Force	6,590	973	920	2,247	1,481	280	689
Persons Not in the Labour Force	22,569	1,914	4,194	7,205	4,979	2,398	1,880
Unemployment Rate	8.4	10.3	6.9	9.6	8.7	3.4	10.2
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.7	25.0	17.3	21.7	15.5	12.8	19.0
Labour Force Participation Rate	77.5	83.2	76.0	76.3	77.4	77.3	78.2
Female							
Total Population	159,936	19,482	22,917	49,046	37,775	16,024	14,692
Population 14 Years and Over	106,289	12,894	15,855	34,136	24,936	10,230	8,239
Labour Force	44,424	4,800	4,561	18,298	9,917	4,436	2,412
Employed Labour Force	36,155	3,765	3,642	15,195	8,559	3,397	1,598
Unemployed Labour Force	8,269	1,035	920	3,103	1,358	1,039	814
Persons Not in the Labour Force	61,864	8,094	11,293	15,837	15,019	5,794	5,827
Unemployment Rate	18.6	21.6	20.2	17.0	13.7	23.4	33.8
Youth Unemployment Rate	32.8	31.4	35.1	29.5	27.3	44.5	53.9
Labour Force Participation Rate	41.8	37.2	28.8	53.6	39.8	43.4	29.3

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize