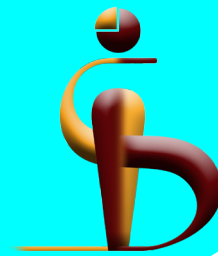


Belize



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Labour Force Survey

APRIL 2014

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More Construction and Agriculture Jobs - 600 Less in Unemployment Line

Official estimates released by the Statistical Institute of Belize today show the national unemployment rate dipped to 11.1 percent in April this year from 11.7 percent twelve months earlier.

As shown in Figure 2, only the Belize District experienced a higher rate of unemployment in April this year when compared to the same month last year. This increase was due mostly to workers entering the labour force at a much faster rate than jobs were being created in the district. It is believed that the heightened construction activity in Belize City may have made many residents more hopeful about obtaining employment.

In other districts, the rate of joblessness fell or remained the same. In Toledo and Stann Creek, the unemployment rate fell by as much as one half. The decrease in the Toledo rate can be attributed to unemployed workers dropping out of the labour force. On the other hand, the Stann Creek unemployment rate fell because of a significant increase in job opportunities in the agriculture sector.

Nationally, the number of unemployed workers fell by about 600 to approximately 16,700 while the number of employed workers expanded by 3,200 to roughly 134,600. The Belize and Stann Creek districts accounted for the largest growth in jobs, the majority of which were produced in the construction and agriculture sectors. The Belize District, in particular, accounted for two out of every three new jobs countrywide. There were very minimal changes in the number of employed workers in the other districts.

Interestingly, nearly all of the additional jobs in April 2014 went to men. The unemployment rate among women was about three times that of men, at 19.4 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. The youth unemployment rate improved slightly from 22 percent to 20 percent.

Garifuna workers continued to experience the highest rate of unemployment despite their rate falling by as much as 4 percentage points from a year ago. Creole workers experienced the second highest rate at 16 percent while Maya workers again recorded the lowest unemployment rate, 4.5 percent.

The share of employment in the goods-producing sectors increased from 31 percent to 36 percent, reflecting increases in construction and agricultural jobs. As in April 2013, the vast majority of the unemployed population were interested in working in the services sector.

In April 2014, the median monthly income of employed workers fell by almost \$100 to \$895, indicating that the majority of new jobs were low-paying ones. However, when the comparison is made with September last year, it shows virtually no change in the median monthly income in the last six months. Men continue to earn almost \$200 more per month than women.

Table 1: Number of Employed Persons by District;
April 2013 and April 2014

District	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Change
Corozal	17,601	17,191	-410
Orange Walk	17,428	17,817	+389
Belize	43,200	45,355	+2,155
Cayo	29,918	29,943	+25
Stann Creek	13,065	14,115	+1,050
Toledo	10,157	10,166	+10
Country	131,369	134,587	+3,219

Table 2: Number of Unemployed Persons by District;
April 2013 and April 2014

District	Apr 2013	Apr 2014	Change
Corozal	2,251	1,940	-311
Orange Walk	2,053	1,417	-636
Belize	5,627	7,573	+1,946
Cayo	4,254	4,132	-122
Stann Creek	2,299	1,236	-1,063
Toledo	883	432	-451
Country	17,367	16,730	-637

Figure 1: Distribution of Employed Persons by Category of Employer;
April 2013 and April 2014

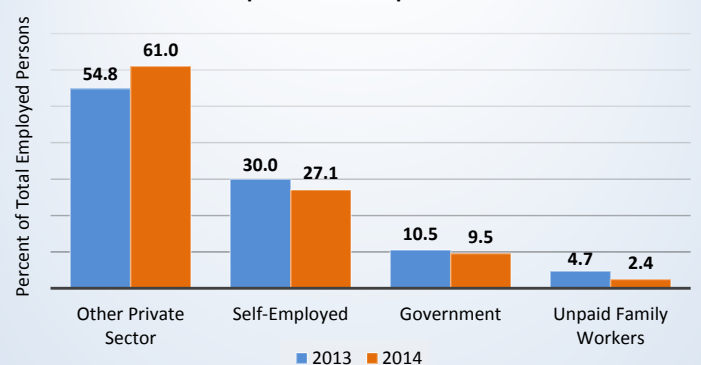


Figure 2: Unemployment Rates by District;
April 2013 and 2014

