



#### UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN TO 10.1% IN APRIL 2015: 3,500 MORE PERSONS WORKING

Preliminary results of the April 2015 Labour Force Survey, released today by the Statistical Institute of Belize, show that the total number of employed persons grew by 3,557 to 138,145 from 134,587 in April 2014. The national unemployment rate for this month declined by one percentage point from 11.1 percent to 10.1 percent.

The overall improvement in the country's employment situation was driven by an increase in the number of women with jobs, which grew by almost 5,000 from 46,662 in April 2014 to 51,656 in April 2015. In contrast, the number of employed males declined by more than 1,400 from 87,926 to 86,489. As a result, the female unemployment rate dropped from over 19 percent in 2014 to 15.1 percent in 2015 while joblessness among men rose by about 1 percentage point to 6.8 percent.

The Orange Walk and Cayo districts saw the largest gains in employment, with the number of employed persons increasing by 1,500 in the former and 1,100 in the latter. Corozal and Toledo were the only districts that recorded decreases in employment, with each losing around 200 jobs when compared to last April. The highest rate of unemployment was recorded for the Stann Creek district at 14.6 percent, followed closely by Cayo with a rate of 13.4 percent. These were also the only two districts that saw an increase in the rate of joblessness during April 2015. The total unemployed population totalled about 15,500 persons, of which two thirds had been without jobs for six months or longer.

Over 16 thousand persons, almost 12 percent of the employed labour force, were classified as underemployed, working less than 35 hours per week. Women were twice as likely as men to fall into this category, with an underemployment rate of 17.6 percent, compared to 8.3 percent among males. Among underemployed persons, the average number of hours worked per week was 21.7.

The median monthly income in April 2015 was \$1,192, with males earning about \$90 more than females. More than a half of the country's labour force had completed only a primary level of schooling or less. Just under 20 percent had completed up to a tertiary level degree, with women being twice as likely to have completed this level of education as men.

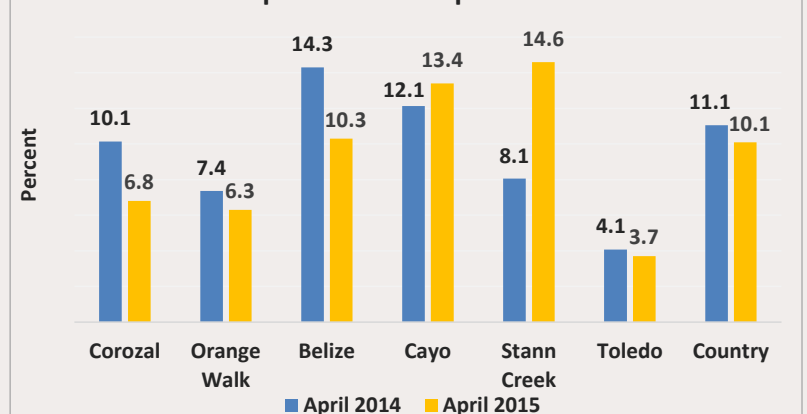
**Table 1: Number of Employed Persons by District;  
April 2014 and April 2015**

District	April 2014	April 2015	Change
Corozal	17,191	16,961	-230
Orange Walk	17,817	19,318	1,501
Belize	45,355	46,213	859
Cayo	29,943	31,045	1,101
Stann Creek	14,115	14,652	537
Toledo	10,166	9,956	-211
<b>Country</b>	<b>134,587</b>	<b>138,145</b>	<b>3,557</b>

**Table 2: Number of Unemployed Persons by District;  
April 2014 and April 2015**

District	April 2014	April 2015	Change
Corozal	1,940	1,246	-694
Orange Walk	1,417	1,288	-129
Belize	7,573	5,320	-2253
Cayo	4,132	4,807	675
Stann Creek	1,236	2,496	1260
Toledo	432	387	-45
<b>Country</b>	<b>16,730</b>	<b>15,544</b>	<b>-1186</b>

**Figure 1: Unemployment Rates by District;  
April 2014 and April 2015**



**Figure 2: Employed and Underemployed Persons by Sex;  
April 2015**

