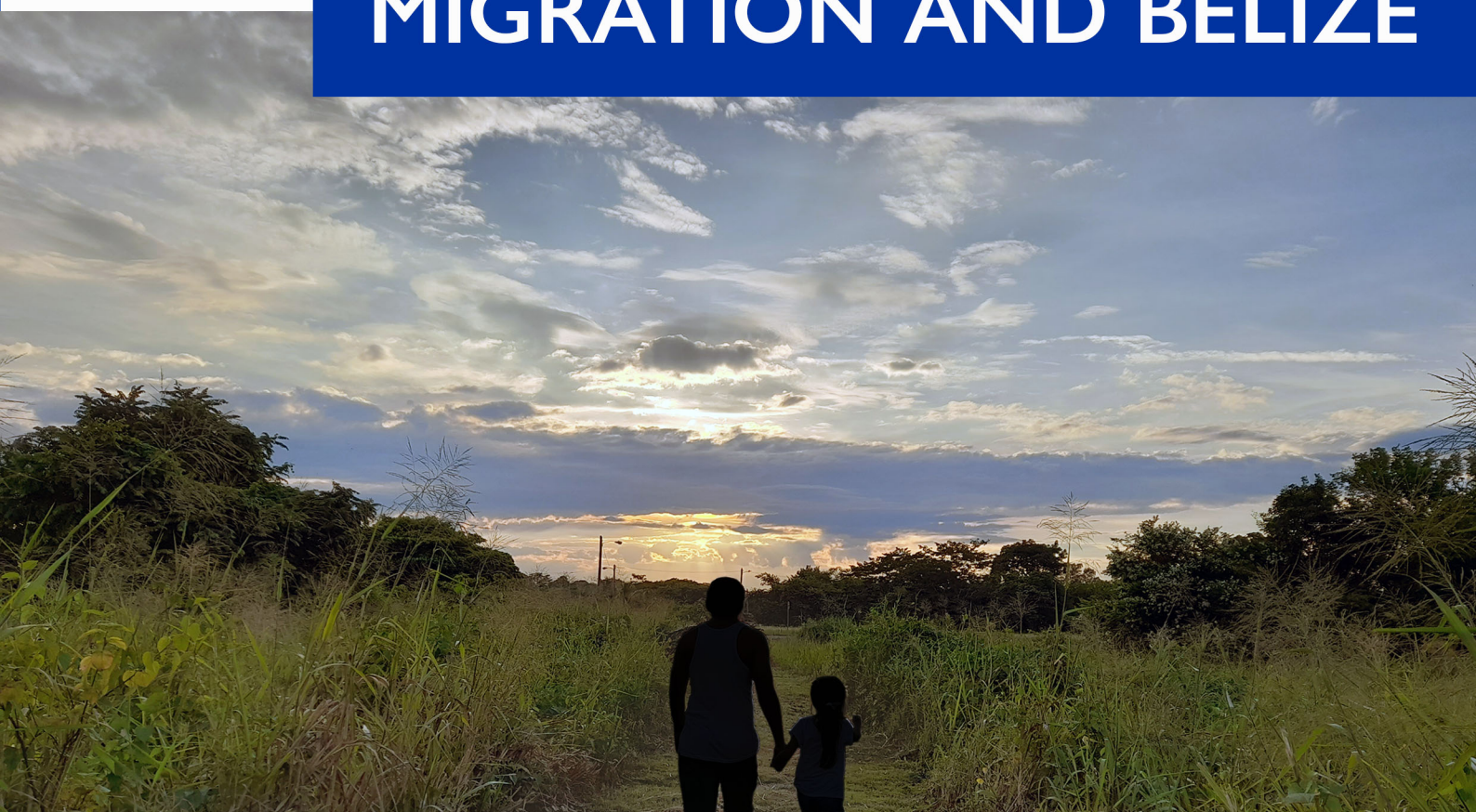


MIGRATION AND BELIZE



Results of the Migration Modules Attached to the 2021 Labor Force Survey

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	III
LIST OF TABLES	V
LIST OF FIGURES.....	VII
LIST OF ACRONYMS	IX
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	XI
INTRODUCTION	1
Background of the Project	1
Background and Objectives of the September 2021 Labour Force Survey.....	1
Questionnaire Content and Design.....	2
METHODOLOGY	3
Population Under Study.....	3
Sampling Methodology	3
WEIGHTING METHODOLOGY	5
Initial Weight	5
Nonresponse Adjustments.....	5
Calibration.....	5
Training Manuals	6
DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES	7
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS.....	8
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN	9
Survey Organization.....	9
Job Descriptions	9
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT	11
KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.....	12
UNDERSTANDING THE FACTORS OF THE MIGRATION PROCESS	13
Background	13
SPECIAL GROUPS	14
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS	15
MAIN SOURCES OF MIGRATION DATA.....	16
MAIN FINDINGS	17
Immigrant Module.....	17
Emigrants	24
LIMITATIONS	29
Representativeness of sample.....	29
CONCLUSION	31
APPENDICES	33
Additional Immigrant Tables and Figures	33
REFERENCES	41

LIST OF TABLES

Table SSC1: First Stage Sample Size Calculation	3
Table SSC2: Number of Sampled Clusters by district and area	4
Table IM01: Immigrant by sex and the main reason for migrating to Belize (%)	19
Table IM02: Immigrants by year of Arrival (%), 2021	19
Table IM03: Immigrant by Status Upon Arrival (%)	20
Table IM04: Immigrant by Current Status in Belize (%)	20
Table IM05: Immigrants by status upon arrival and residence before arrival to Belize (%)	21
Table IM06: Immigrants by Age (%).....	22
Table EM01: Emigrant by country migrated to and legal status (%).....	25
Table EM02: Emigrant by Highest Educational Attainment and Receiving Country (%)	26
Table EM03: Emigrant by the highest level of education and employment status (%)	26
Table EM04: Emigrant by Sex and Receiving Country (%).....	27
Table EM05: Emigrant by sex and main reason for migrating (%).....	27
Table EM06: Number of Emigrants by year of departure (%)	27
Table EM07: Age at time of departure (%)	28
Table IM07: Immigrant by Type of Worker in Main Job and Sex (%)	33
Table IM08.1: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%).....	34
Table IM08.2: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%).....	35
Table IM08.3: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%).....	35
Table IM09: Immigrants by Dwelling Type, Occupancy Type and Sex (%)	36
Table IM10.1: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)	37
Table IM10.2: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)	38
Table IM10.3: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure IM01: Immigrants by Current Area (%).....	17
Figure IM02: Immigrants by Sex (%).....	18
Figure IM03: Immigrants by Country of Birth (%).....	18
Figure IM04: Immigrant by Main Employment Industry (%).....	20
Figure IM05: Immigrants by Route of Entry (%)	21
Figure IM07: Immigrants by the highest level of education attained (%)	22
Figure IM08: Marital Status of Immigrants (%)	23
Figure IM09: Immigrants by Age Group and Sex (%)	23
Figure EM02: Number of Emigrants by Age at time of Departure and Sex (%).....	24
Figure EM03: Emigrant by country migrated to (%)	25
Figure EM04: Highest educational level completed at the time of departure (%).....	26
Figure IM10: Immigrant by Social Security coverage and Sex (%).....	33

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
CAPI:	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing
CATI:	Telephone Assisted Personal Interviewing
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EA:	Enumeration Area
GOB:	Government of Belize
LFS:	Labour Force Survey
PAPI:	Paper Assisted Personal Interviewing
PSU:	Primary Sampling Unit
SIB:	Statistical Institute of Belize
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF:	United Nations International Children's Fund
WAP:	Working Age Population

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two migration modules were introduced in the September 2021 Labour Force Survey (LFS) with the objective of gaining a better understanding of the social, economic, factors of migration in Belize.

The largest proportion of immigrants in the country of Belize were born in Guatemala and approximately 75% of all immigrants living in the country of Belize entered the country by land. It was reported that more than half of all migrants in the country at the time the data was collected were married and the largest share of immigrants who came to Belize first came accompanied by parents/guardians or came to reunify their families. The information showed that three out of every four immigrants in Belize, were authorized to enter the country when they first arrived and four out of every five documented immigrants in Belize who entered the country through regular means remained with this status in September 2021. There exists an equal distribution of male to female immigrants in the country of Belize and approximately 47% of immigrants have been in the country for twenty years or more, most of them being employed in the tertiary industry (services). Only 29% of all immigrants in Belize, had completed secondary education or higher at the time the information was collected in September 2021.

Persons who migrated to the United States from Belize accounted for a little under 70% of all people who left the country. Just under 40% of migrants had completed tertiary education at the time of departure. Though most emigrants left the country to pursue educational opportunities abroad, it was observed that most males migrated for economic reason and the largest proportion of females migrated to pursue further education. Males were more than three times more likely to migrate for employment reasons while females who emigrated also showed a notable inclination to migrate to reunify their families like the findings of those who immigrated. Emigration numbers remained relatively stable during the period under review, the only exception being 2016 where only 2.5% of all emigration activity occurred.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

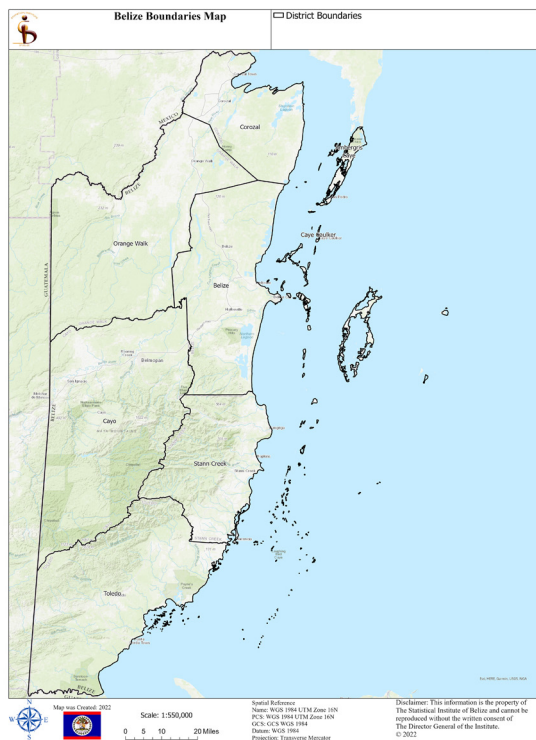
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Belize, through the Integrated Response on Migration Project (IRM) Belize and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered with the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), to include migration modules as part of the September 2021, Labor Force Survey (LFS). This partnership aimed to fill migration data gaps in Belize, in various thematic areas as it relates to migration data. The data collected via the migration modules provides key information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of migrant populations. With the results obtained, the aim is to provide national and local government and key stakeholders with tools to adopt evidence-based policies on human mobility to reduce irregular migration, improve social services for vulnerable migrants, and facilitate community reintegration.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2021 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

The September 2021 Labor Force Survey, conducted by the Statistical Institute of Belize, was used as a vehicle to collect migration data. The LFS is a household survey that collects data on a nationally representative sample of 3,000 households across the country. It is conducted semi-annually and allows for a convenient and cost-effective way to add modules to address data gaps.

The Labor Force Survey serves as one of the main instruments in providing key socio-economic, demographic and labour market indicators for the country. The September 2021 round of the Labor Force Survey included a Training, Housing & Household module, Emigration, Child Morality, Migration, and Disability and Health Module. The Emigration and Immigration modules were incorporated to provide other important indicators that are needed in charting the country's development strategies and monitoring migration indicators.

COVERAGE OF THE SURVEY



A sample size of 3,000 households was randomly selected for the September 2021 LFS. This sample includes both urban and rural areas in all six districts. There was representation from the cayes, where households were selected in San Pedro Town and Caye Caulker. The remaining cayes were not included in the sample frame due to administrative and logistical challenges. The sample of 3,000 households was selected from the Statistical Institute's register of households in the country.

The sampling unit for the LFS is households. The SIB classifies a household as one or more persons living together within the non-institutionalized population at the time of data collection. The criteria used to identify members of the household was persons sleeping most nights of the week (i.e., at least 4 nights per week) and sharing at least one daily meal. The response rate for the 2021 September round of the LFS is 91.2 percent¹. Belize district had the lowest response rate at 86.3 percent due to a larger number of refusals and no contacts compared to the rest of the country. The analysis of this report is based on information captured for 9,328 persons, of which 6,623 (3,178 males and 3,445 females) were 14 years and over.

¹ Note that households where no responses were obtained, that is, with final result codes: vacant dwelling, vacant lot, address not found, and building under construction, were excluded from the calculation of the response rate

QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT AND DESIGN

The Survey collected data via two main questionnaires namely, The Household listing questionnaire and the Individual questionnaire. The Household Questionnaire captures basic demographic information of all household members (including immigrants), alongside an education section that captured information on the educational enrollment level for those that are either currently enrolled or not enrolled in a formal education program, as well as documenting their highest level of education completed. These questions were asked for all members of the household who had reached the mandatory age of school enrollment in Belize which is 5 years but changes in the definition included 4-year-old children who may already be engaged in the school system. The main questionnaire as it is generally referred to, captured the economic activity or inactivity of each member of the household who has reached the age of 14 years and older; meaning that they are eligible for employment. The individual questionnaire also captured information on primary migration indicators such as the year of migration-related activity and demographic information on those involved in these activities.

METHODOLOGY

POPULATION UNDER STUDY

Although the Labour Force Survey collects basic information on all members of households, the migration modules attached to the September 2021 version of the Labour Force Survey questionnaire targeted all migrants regardless of their legal status during the migration process.

For this survey, from the perspective of the country of arrival, an immigrant is defined as a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (International Organization for Migration, 2019). For this survey, from the perspective of the country of departure, an emigrant is defined as a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (International Organization for Migration, 2019). Information regarding both these populations was captured regardless of whether they were legally authorized to enter the receiving country or not.

SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

To select the number of households from which migration information was collected during the September 2021 Labour Force Survey each Administrative District was treated as an independent domain that was stratified into urban and rural areas. The country was then geographically divided into Enumeration Areas that included approximately 150 households each. Enumeration Areas that met or came very close to the 150 household criteria were left as clusters on their own but where this was not possible due to the small number of households within the individual Enumeration Area groupings occurred to created clusters which met the 150 household criteria. These clusters served as the primary sampling units (PSU) at the first stage of sample selection. A random number of households was then drawn from within these clusters for the second stage of sample selection and these served as the secondary sampling unit (SSU).

The sample size was calculated using the following formula

$$n^H = \frac{z^2 * r(1-r) * deff * nrr}{(er)^2 p\tilde{n}}$$

where n^H is the number of households required. A description of the parameters as well as the values used for the calculation is provided in Table SSC1. The indicator used in this sample size formula (r) was the “female employment to population ratio” derived from the September 2019 LFS. The output results are at the national level.

Table SSC1: First Stage Sample Size Calculation

Parameters	Description of Parameters	Output Results
r	Female employment to population ratio	0.4962
e	The relative margin of error	0.06399
Confidence (z): 95%	There is a 95% probability that the confidence interval will contain the true population mean	1.96 ((1.96) ² is approximated to 4)
Design effect ($deff$)	The ratio of the actual variance to the variance expected with a simple random sample	3
p	Females within the Working Age Population (Sub Population)	136 492
nrr	A percentage of non-responses is added to the sample. (Derived from the previous LFS round).	1.05
$p\tilde{n}$	Average household size (Derived from previous LFS round)	3.1
Sample Size		3 000

In the first stage, 120 clusters were selected from within all 6 administrative districts in the urban and rural areas. The probability proportional to size (PPS) without replacement method was used for selecting clusters. This method ensured that larger Primary Sampling Units (PSU) had a greater probability of selection. To allocate the number of clusters for each Urban/Rural area, the square root N proportional method was used. The method consists of first taking the square root of the urban and rural population for each administrative district, summing them up and then assigning that proportion of clusters to each urban-rural stratum. Table SSC2 below shows the distribution of these units by administrative district and urban-rural stratum. These specific clusters were updated during the listing exercises conducted in July 2020 and March 2021. The accepted margin of error used during sample selection was 0.06399 calculated at the national level utilizing the indicator female employment to population ratio.

Table SSC2: Number of Sampled Clusters by district and area

	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo	Total
No. of Clusters	18	20	20	20	24	18	120
Urban	7	7	12	10	9	6	51
Rural	11	13	8	10	15	12	69

For the second stage of selection, 25 households were selected from within each of the Primary Sampling Units (Clusters) selected in the first stage using the Simple Systematic Method. A randomly chosen number was used as a starting point and this resulted in a national sample size of 3,000 households. Knowledgeable members of all 3,000 households served as respondents and were administered questions to determine the migration status of present and past household members associated with each household. After satisfying the conditions of several filter questions, qualifying respondents were administered the migration module embedded in the 2021 September labour force questionnaire to determine their suitability for inclusion in the data that was collected. The tables and figures in this report are the aggregated and anonymized results of the responses from these household members and are presented at the national level.

WEIGHTING METHODOLOGY

The sample weights are utilized in the LFS to compensate for several factors that may result in the differences between the sample and the target population for the Labour Force Survey. These weights are calculated for everyone in the sample. The development of sample weights first begins with the design weight which is used to compensate for the unequal probability of selection and is calculated as the inverse of the probability of selection. The basic weights are then adjusted for non-response and further calibrated such that the survey estimates of the population obtained using those weights conform to the latest September mid-month population estimates. These final weights are then used for tabulation purposes.

INITIAL WEIGHT

The initial weight for each household was computed as part of the two-stage sample design of the Labour Force Survey. The initial design weight is equal to the household's inverse selection probability, and since this weight is the same for all households at the stratum level, the LFS design is considered self-weighted. All members within a household (the one to which they belonged at the time of the sample selection) have the same initial weight. If we let i be a household within stratum h , N_h , the number of households in the stratum and n_h , the number of households in the sample, then the initial or basic weight, w_{hi} , is computed as:

$$w_{hi} = \frac{N_h}{n_h}$$

NONRESPONSE ADJUSTMENTS

After the generation of the basic weights, non-response adjustment weights are derived. The adjustment for non-response consists of transferring the initial weights of the eligible non-responding units to the responding units. The nonresponse adjustment factor for a respondent is therefore defined as the inverse of the weighted non-response rate for the stratum (District by Urban/Rural) in which the household falls. The nonresponse adjusted factor for a respondent i was computed as the ratio of the sum of the base weights from the in-scope sample to the sum of weights of the responding units (r) in each cluster c . The in-scope sample are the results including Complete, Partially Complete, Refusal, No suitable respondent, and No Contact. The nonresponse adjusted factor is defined as:

$$a_{hi} = \frac{\sum w_{hi}}{\sum w_{hi}^r}$$

At this stage of the weighting process, the non-response adjustments (a_{hi}) derived were then multiplied by the design weights (w_{hi}) to produce a new set of weights. Individual weights were utilized in the analysis of information related to immigrants and household weights were utilized in the analysis of information related to the emigrants.

CALIBRATION

Auxiliary data available from the mid-month population estimates at District by Urban/Rural and Sex were used for calibration. A calibration factor, or g weight, was applied to derive estimates based on these mid-month population estimates. Twenty-four (24) different g -weights resulted using population estimates by district, area, and sex. The g weight formula is as follows:

$$g_k = \frac{\bar{N}_l}{\hat{N}_l}$$

where:

l : District by Urban/Rural by Sex;

\bar{N}_l : Size of group l based on mid-month estimates;

\hat{N}_l : Estimated size of l from the sample;

g_k : Calibrated factor or g weight

To derive the final weights, the product of the g weight and non-response adjusted weight was used.

The training manual is the main instrument that is used to train all temporary field staff for all surveys the SIB executes. This manual is produced electronically only and is used to guide the training of field staff. This manual along with other supporting documents, such as the paper version of the questionnaire, a presentation on customer service, major findings from previous surveys, and brief presentations on the apps that are used in data capture all form part of the training. The purpose of the training manual is to cover all areas of the survey and it is hoped that it will provide a useful reference when field staff require a quick reference.

The manual describes the background and objective of the survey and aims to explain the various apps that are utilized throughout the survey period. Every question in the questionnaire along with those included modules is clearly explained, as well as the options used as possible responses to questions asked. The manual provides the trainees with firm techniques on utilizing probing techniques and how to record the most appropriate responses. It also offers an in-dept explanation with the definition of all the concepts used throughout the questionnaire and offers interviewers a clearer understanding of the major groups that exist within populations of interest.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Since September 2020, a hybrid method for collecting data was undertaken in response to COVID-19. For this method, the interviewers first called the household by telephone if a contact number was available and would only follow up with a face-to-face interview in the field if telephone service is not available, if the person makes an appointment or if they otherwise could not be contacted. Data Collection commenced with the primary objective being to capture at least fifty percent or more of the data by telephone. All the information obtained in the telephone and face-to-face interviews were captured in a data collection software called Survey Solutions, developed by the World Bank.

The completed interviews were reviewed by the interviewers and then verified by the zone supervisor, either by listening to the recordings stored by the interviewer or by weekly field visits that included the verification of data by face-to-face interviews. The interviewer, once satisfied with the content of the data recorded, uploads the questionnaire on the institute's server via Surveys Solutions. These uploaded questionnaires were then checked by editors who reviewed each questionnaire ensuring that it was consistent and logical. Random verification of the final data was then made by either a zone supervisor or the head editor, who had also formed the first line of reference for both the interviewers and the editors.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

The SIB used various applications to conduct the September Labour Force Survey. These applications were adopted and designed to ensure reliable data quality in all areas of the study.

The first application the trainees, who would become the data collectors, were exposed to was Zoom. Zoom is a cloud-based video communication application used by trainers to train participants. Each day at an agreed time, trainees would log on using equipment provided by the institute and be trained by experienced staff who have over the years become intimately acquainted with the entire scope of the survey. The trainees, besides being trained on the purpose of the survey and how best to capture the data most accurately, were also trained to utilize the main software used to collect data, Survey Solutions. Survey Solutions is a tool developed by the World Bank for data capture. There are three levels associated with the application. At the HQ level, the questionnaire is designed, assignments are uploaded, user accounts are created, these created accounts are in turn used by data collectors and editors to input and verify information collected in the field. The software allows for the download of the dataset (SPSS, excel format) at different points in time during data collection.

Interviewers were also equipped with utilization knowledge of the Cube ACR software. Cube ACR is an application that records two-way communication between the interviewer and interviewee. This assists supervisors in verifying the data captured. A sample of households would then be selected from each interviewer, these recordings would then be listened to validate the flow and quality of the interview to offer meaningful assessment and feedback. Any errors heard over the telephone would then be pointed out for correction. These recordings would then be stored on a secure Google Drive Account. Interviewers save all recordings from the Cube ACR in the “cloud” provided by Google. The SIB continues its transition to paperless VRs and sample listings and, these documents are also shared through Google Drive. This meant that the field staff had to also be exposed to how best to access this tool. Other useful tools that interviewers were trained to utilise were SIB Collect, WhatsApp, the LFS dashboard, the training application and the Editor/Coder Code Search Application.

SIB collect is an application that was developed by the SIB. It assists the field staff in locating households using GPS technology. For each Enumeration District (ED), there is a corresponding map that demarcates each ED boundary, shows satellite imagery, polygons for every building within the ED, and highlights the polygons (or buildings) sampled for the survey.

WhatsApp is a social media application that has proven to be beneficial in assisting with the communication between interviewers and supervisors. Groups are formed to share common questions, experiences, provide explanations, or any other content useful before and during data collection.

The LFS dashboard is used by all field staff, interviewers use it to track households that need callbacks. Editors/coders use it to check which households are pending and write notes where errors or inconsistencies are present. Supervisors use it to monitor completeness and monitor main indicators during collection. The dashboard was also useful in generating field check tables.

The Training application was created for participants during training. Users/participants are created here. Modules and quizzes were also created as per items covered in the training agenda. Each participant could interact with the application by filling out a multiple-choice questionnaire (daily quizzes) and filling out an evaluation form at the end of the training.

The Editor/Coder Code Search Application was developed by SIB to provide coders with easy reference to common codes. Though it is still being developed, editors/coders and supervisors rely on the system for its array of available pdf manuals.

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

The publicity campaign used for the survey was mainly done using radio and social media platforms. In the radio advertisements, the campaign targeted the population that would mainly listen to the main newscast each day. This radio spot is considered one of the best mediums to capture a wide audience. The Social media platform also captured a wide cross-section of the population since social media has become a widely utilized medium of information sharing. Interviewers used for previous listing exercises were also asked to provide information to the public to introduce them to the requirements and use of the survey.

Recruitment

SURVEY ORGANIZATION

Temporary survey staff were selected from the pool of persons that assisted in the April round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) and with assistance from the Human Resources Department of the Statistical Institute of Belize qualified candidates were recruited to perform the data collection, editing and coding processes. The goal was to recruit field supervisors, interviewers and relief interviewers for each district and Editor/Coders for the entire country.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Field Supervisor

Reports to: Zone supervisor

Duties & Responsibilities

- Assign households and distribute all necessary fieldwork materials to the interviewers.
- Ensure that all households are visited and accompany interviewers to households that have refused to participate in the survey, to seek the household's cooperation.
- Check all questionnaires and point out any errors to interviewers.
- Check the application for any rejected questionnaires and show interviewers any errors daily.

Requirements:

- Minimum of Associate Degree
- Must be fluent in English (field supervisors may require the ability to speak fluent Spanish/Ketchi/Mopan)
- Logistically sound, coordinate travel plan to the sampled areas to maximize efficiency
- Have excellent communication skills (be able to speak clearly, persuasively, and precise in asking questions)

Interviewer

Reports to: Field Supervisor/Zone supervisor

Duties & Responsibilities

- Contact selected households via phone. Face to face contact when not available via telephone and Collect information on **ALL** respondents in the household

Requirements:

- Minimum of high school diploma
- Fluent in English (interviewers may require the ability to speak fluent Spanish/Ketchi/Mopan)

Driver

Reports to: Field Supervisor

Duties & Responsibilities

- Safely transport SIB officers, field staff and other authorized persons to and from designated destinations in a safe, timely and courteous manner.
- Perform routine maintenance checks on vehicles daily and before trips outside of duty station. Notify headquarters of any damage or mechanical malfunction of the vehicle that may occur and maintain and update log of all driving assignments.

Requirements:

- Three years' work experience
- Fluent in English
- Live in the assigned area of work

Possess a valid driver's license. Be able to drive standard transmission

Editor/Coder

Reports to: Editors'/Coders' Supervisor

Duty Station: Belmopan

Duties & Responsibilities

- Check questionnaires for completeness and accuracy and provide comments through the software covered in training
- Ensure that descriptions for industry and occupation are adequate for coding
- Code all completed questionnaires

Requirements:

- Minimum of Associate Degree or 3 years of experience as editor/coder
- Must be computer literate

Editors'/Coders' Supervisor

Reports to: Headquarter Staff

Duty Station: Belmopan

Duties & Responsibilities

- Address any queries brought up by editors/coders
- Update control form to track errors in the questionnaires checked
- Ensure that questionnaires are complete and error free before approving for payroll
- Record and report to supervisor common errors observed for each interviewer

Requirements:

Minimum of Associate Degree or 3 years of experience as editor/coder
Working knowledge on computer systems

Duration of Survey

- The data collection period was from September 5th, 2021 to October 2nd, 2021.
- Employment for editors/coders started September 7th, 2021 and ended October 26th, 2021
- Training of Field Staff occurred from August 22nd, 2021 to September 3rd, 2021

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

The Emigration and Migration modules were added to the September 2021 Labour Force Survey through an initiative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to monitor migration patterns. Several feedbacks were made during the preparation of the questionnaire and during the virtual training which allowed for changes in the questionnaire before the final version of the instrument for data collection.

The Ministry of Human Development was sought to provide information related to the assistance programme available to citizens after the Food Pantry was discontinued. Checks were also made with Belize Social Security Board for contributing members paying into the fund and qualifying for benefits as employed persons.

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

This section explains the key concepts and definitions related to the working-age population, the employed, the unemployed, the underemployed and others

Household:

A household consists of one or more persons living together within the non-institutionalized population i.e. sleeping most nights of a week (at least 4 nights per week) AND sharing at least one daily meal. Note that sharing a meal does not necessarily mean everyone in the household joins in the same meal at the same time. Sharing a meal should also take into account if the member of the household accesses the food prepared or groceries bought by other members of the household.

Head of Household:

Every household must have a head of household. The reason we ask for a household head is so that each of the other persons in the household can have a point of reference to tell us how the household is comprised. In a one-person household, that person is the head.

Employed Persons:

Employed persons are all those of working age who during the reference week were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. "Pay or profit" refers to work done in exchange for payment in the form of wages or salaries or, in the form of profits derived through business transactions from the goods and services produced. It includes payment in cash or in-kind (whether actually received or not) payable directly to the person performing the work or indirectly to a household or family member.

Unemployed Persons:

Unemployed persons are all those of working age who (a) were not in employment, (b) carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period and (c) were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity.

Immigrant:

From the perspective of the country of arrival, a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (International Organization for Migration, 2019).

Emigrant:

From the perspective of the country of departure, a person who moves from his or her country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence (International Organization for Migration, 2019).

Working-Age Population (WAP):

Internationally, the working-age population (WAP) is recognized as persons 15 years and older; however, this is not the same for Belize. In Belize, the WAP includes all those persons who are 14 years of age and older. The Belize Education Act, Chapter 36, of 2000, dictates the compulsory school age as 5 to 14 years for children.

UNDERSTANDING THE FACTORS OF THE MIGRATION PROCESS

BACKGROUND

According to Brown (2006), there exists a myriad of factors that affect the decision of individuals to migrate. One such factor includes dissatisfaction with aspects of the social context within which a person resides (Brown, 2006). Another factor that could affect migration is the perception of the positive conditions obtained in places outside of the territory such as better working conditions and education opportunities. A society's cultural orientation towards migration can be a driving factor that propels the migratory processes that individuals practice (Bhugra & Becker, 2005). Simply possessing a passport, and making investments in the future, especially if the family is abroad can affect the decision to migrate. One often overlooked and seldom discussed migration factor involves the formulation of arrangements that govern the social, economic, cultural, and political relations between countries (Bhugra & Becker, 2005). This includes the spatial and social accessibility of one country to the other and the integration of personal networks. Other deciding factors could even include the value of migrating versus the risk associated with the migration process (Bhugra & Becker, 2005).

The socio-historical factors affecting the post-colonial countries in America and the Caribbean have acted as a significant determinant in the movement of largescale professional manpower (International Labour Organization, 2006). During the colonial era accessing the requisite training and education to enter a profession was restricted to certain classes of entire societies. This led to many persons first entering a country, through legal means, to acquire required skills and upon completion, determine that it simply benefits them to stay in that country and eventually encourage other family members to join them. Countries such as Canada and several European countries have encouraged this type of migration by investing in facilities that assist persons who are interested in this type of migration. This is especially true if the individual possesses a skill that the host country views as a priority area that will accelerate the development of the host country (International Labour Organization, 2006).

Bad economic policies have forced many countries into the brink of imminent social and economic collapse. International policy factors such as those which led to the spiralling oil prices during the 1970s and the almost simultaneous fall on the global market of the prices of the primary products exported by the Caribbean and Latin American countries, coupled with political dishonesty, fiscal inefficiencies, and the resulting build-up of massive debt in the region have only helped to bolster the movement of individuals. Policies promoting regional integration such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) have also ushered in a new era in the movement of skilled workers into and out of the borders of the countries of its twelve participant states (Caribbean Community, 2002). This arrangement among the CARICOM members exists to promote the creation of a single economic space by removing restrictions and promoting the free movement of goods, services, human capital, and technology. It promotes the rights of citizens of CARICOM to establish a business within the established borders of any participating member country (Caribbean Community, 2002).

SPECIAL GROUPS

According to UNHCR (2021), Belize is home to more than 2,400 registered refugees and asylum seekers, and an additional estimated 3,400 persons in need of international protection. 548 asylum seekers benefitted from community empowerment and protection -activities across different host communities and 71 were provided with legal counselling and assistance between April and June. 374 refugees and asylum-seekers received multipurpose cash to cover basic needs of food, rent and medicine during the months of April, May, and June. These individuals are primarily persons who are outside their country of nationality and are unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or the fear of persecution. Many individuals in Latin America and the Caribbean have historically faced specific types of persecution based mainly on race, nationality, religion, being a member of a social group or simply their public opinion. According to United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2021), as of mid-year 2021, 4.4 million displaced persons have been classified as asylum-seekers across the globe.

Belize has also opened its borders and created mechanisms for persons to take advantage of many of the benefits of temporary migration (UNHCR, 2021). Temporary migrants are simply those persons who have gained entrance into the country using legally granted work permits and student visas. These are a category of persons who are usually admitted for a special purpose and a precise period.

The Government of Belize (2018) has stated in its National Security and Defence Strategy that the country of Belize has had to find creative ways of addressing the issues surrounding the entrance of undocumented immigrants into the country . This is a phenomenon that has proven to be a very arduous task to properly address due to the location of the country and its very porous artificial borders. Undocumented immigrants are those who have entered a host country without proper documentation, persons who come into the country with proper documents as visitors but choose to violate the terms of their admission and persons who enter the country with false documents. Official records and reports generally do not serve as a good source of information on persons who enter illegally or those who enter with falsified documents.

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

According to van de Werfhorst & Heath, (2019), observed levels of migration in different host societies result from two separate factors. The primary factor involves the idea that some populations generally have a higher propensity to migrate than others, and the second, involves the idea that migrants tend to choose host countries based on the expected returns to the skills they possess. These determinants which affect whether a person decides to migrate include the age of the individual, the life cycle of the individual, the gender of the individual, and the education and occupation status of the individual.

The youth population are persons aged 15–24 and The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2013) reports this population as being “The largest group of individuals migrating each year and they do so mainly in search of decent work and better living conditions, education, family reunification and for humanitarian reasons. In 2010, some 3.6 million young people were enrolled in tertiary education abroad.” Bouchoucha (2012) after studying the motivating factors of migrants in Tunisia concluded that the migration of both sexes is influenced by the tradition and the social values that determine the roles of the sexes and that social stereotypes influenced the migratory behaviour of both sexes and determine their reasons for migrating. She found that within the study population the reproductive role of the sexes was a determinant in the decision to migrate. Women, for example, migrate for family reasons, while men migrate mainly to work (Bouchoucha, 2012). Women, especially married women, migrated mainly to reunify their families or to join their husbands in host countries (Bouchoucha, 2012). Generally, unmarried persons despite their sex also showed a preference for migrating for economic reasons, as well as for education-related pursuits (Bouchoucha, 2012).

The reports highlighted the intrinsic effect of marital status and the reproductive role of women on the probability to migrate and noted that single women are more likely than their unmarried counterparts to emigrate regardless of their qualifications and are highly influenced by “the socio-economical and familial context in which the decision of migration is developed” (Bouchoucha, 2012).

According to The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2021), the advent of COVID-19 has led to a record drop in migration flows but despite this massive decline, asylum-seeking remained at high levels. The OECD also noted that women accounted for more than half of resident migrants in most countries and that migrants contributed more in taxes than they received in benefits, health and education.

MAIN SOURCES OF MIGRATION DATA

There are five main sources of statistical data collected on migrants, but the primary source is through the administrative operations of immigration officials as persons enter the country by sea and air. The second data collection method involves the collection of information in special or periodic inquiries regarding migration, such as the registration of aliens or a count of citizens who have migrated to other countries. The third method involves the use of information collected from population registers. The reliability of data collected through the use of population registers is heavily dependent on the strict adherence to laws that require that both local-born and foreign-born persons residing in the country register with the local authorities. The fourth involves the use of statistics on passports or applications for passports, visas, work permits, and other documents for international migration. All of the previously mentioned data collection approaches would not be effective methods of data collection for a country like Belize because they can only effectively track persons who have entered the country using the facilities available through legal means of entry. The second data collection flaw associated with these four methods is that they all require that persons voluntarily report their immigration status to the same individuals who are likely to be the enforcers of immigration policies which could see them being deported from the country in which they are located. These data collection methods simply do not usually provide adequate data to describe the level of movement across borders, and the profile of temporary immigrants, emigrants, refugees, and illegal immigrants.

The fifth and most used form of migrant data collection involves the use of statistics obtained in censuses or periodic national population surveys. This occurs using inquiries related to the previous residence of individuals, their place of birth, and their nationality or citizenship. The migrant information collected for this report, for example, utilized information collected from the migration module of the September round of the 2021 Labour Force Survey.

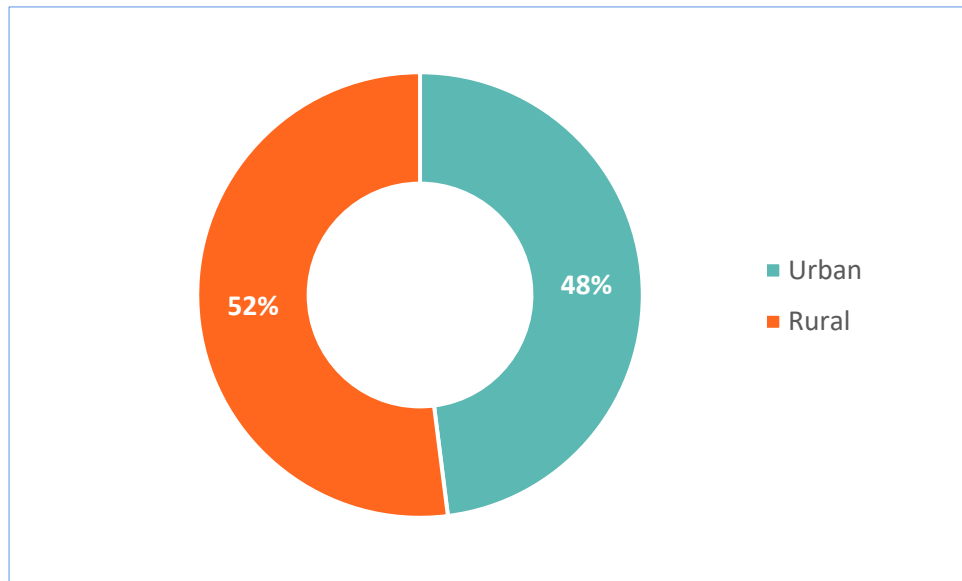
MAIN FINDINGS

IMMIGRANT MODULE

Immigrants by current district and district upon arrival

The results obtained from the immigration module in the 2021 Labour Force Survey suggest that approximately 52 percent of all migrants live in the Rural Areas in September of the said year, while 48 percent were estimated to live in the Urban Areas of the country in September 2021. (see Figure IM01).

Figure IM01: Immigrants by Current Area (%)



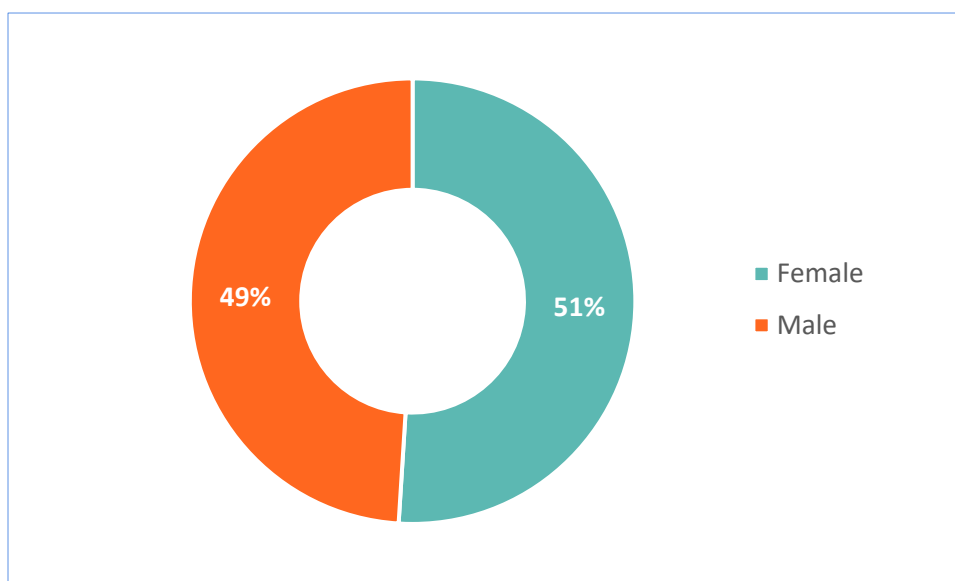
Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Immigrants according to sex

The information collected indicates a nearly equal distribution of male to female immigrants in the country of Belize. This distribution was the same as the population distribution of the entire country of Belize during the 2010 Population and Housing Census (Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010).

Figure IM02: Immigrants by Sex (%)



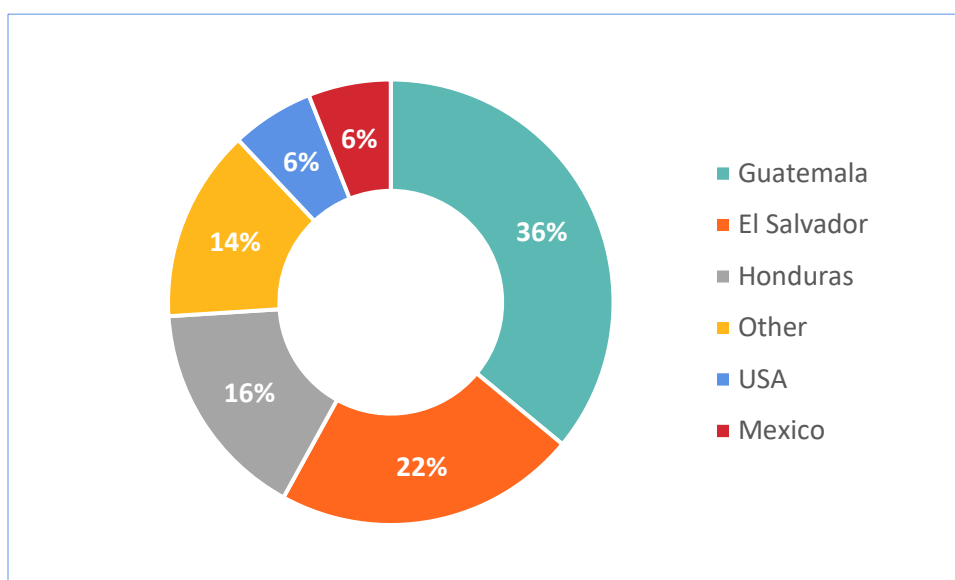
Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Immigrants by country of birth

As it relates to the country of birth, approximately 36% of immigrants in the country of Belize were born in Guatemala, which is the country closest in proximity to the Cayo district, where the largest number of migrants are located. The second most common country of origin for immigrants was Honduras, which accounted for an estimated 16 percent (see Figure IM03).

Figure IM03: Immigrants by Country of Birth (%)



Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Reason for Migrating

In September 2021, a large share of immigrants came to Belize accompanied by parents or guardians (29%), for family reunification (28%), or employment (27%). The most commonly reported reason for migrating, being accompanied by a parent or guardian, suggests an immigrant subpopulation that most likely did not have control over whether they wanted to migrate to Belize (See Table IM01); followed by those who came to reunify their families and seek employment. The least reported reason for migrating to Belize was to access the medical services available within the country.

When analysing by sex, the most common migration reason reported by females was to reunify their families (37.6%); this figure was double that of males (18.1%). Next, 26.7% of females migrated by accompanying parents, and 21.6% migrated for employment. For male immigrants, the largest share came to Belize accompanied by a parent (32.3%), and a similar amount of male migrants came to Belize seeking employment opportunities (32.5%).

Table IM01: Immigrant by sex and the main reason for migrating to Belize (%)

		Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Reason for Migrating	Family Reunification	18.1%	37.6%	28.1%
	Employment	32.5%	21.6%	26.9%
	Business	2.6%	.9%	1.7%
	Study	2.0%	1.5%	1.8%
	Medical	0.0%	.2%	0.1%
	Crime Rate	15.8%	10.2%	12.9%
	Accompanied The Parent/Guardian	32.3%	26.7%	29.4%
	Other (Specify)	13.9%	14.1%	14.0%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.2%	.4%	0.3%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021. Percentages will sum to more than 100 because some respondents had multiple reasons for migrating to Belize and were allowed to select all those reasons, as such, there were more responses than respondents.

Immigrants by years residing in Belize

Table IM02 indicates that approximately 47% of immigrants have been in the country for twenty years or more. In September 2021, approximately 24% of immigrants within the borders of Belize entered the country after 2010. The small proportions of immigrant activity between 2020 to 2021 may be explained by two possible factors. The first was brought to light by the UNHCR (2021), which reported slower rates of global migration since the Covid-19 pandemic began in late 2019. Secondly, this immigration information was collected in September of 2021 and lacks data for the last quarter of the year.

Table IM02: Immigrants by year of Arrival (%), 2021

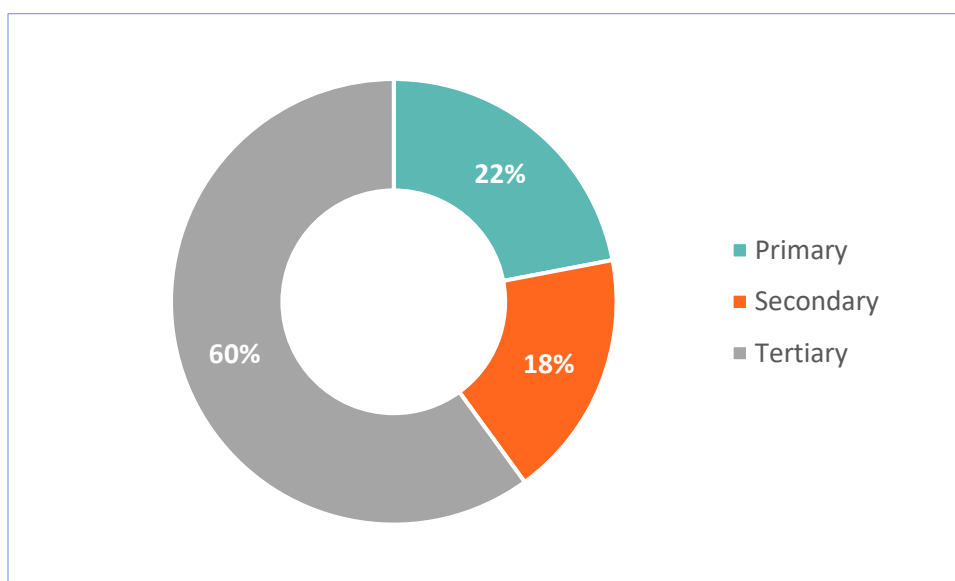
Year of Arrival	Total	100.0%
Before 1990		26.6%
Between 1990 and 1999		20.1%
Between 2000 and 2010		28.8%
2011		2.0%
2012		2.7%
2013		2.3%
2014		3.0%
2015		2.0%
2016		2.4%
2017		3.4%
2018		1.9%
2019		3.5%
2020		.7%
2021		.6%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

In September 2021, most immigrants in the labour force were employed in the tertiary industry (services) of Belize, with 60% of the immigrant labour force in this sector. The Primary (Agriculture) and Tertiary (Service) sectors respectively account for approximately 22% and 60% of immigrant labour in Belize (see Figure IM04).

Figure IM04: Immigrant by Main Employment Industry (%)



Source: IB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table IM03: Immigrant by Status Upon Arrival (%)

Status upon arrival	Total	100.0%
Regular (authorized to enter the country)		73.2%
Irregular (not authorized to enter the country)		23.0%
Other (specify)		2.6%
DK/NS		1.2%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table IM04: Immigrant by Current Status in Belize (%)

Current Status in Belize	Total	100.0%
Regular (documented)		86.8%
Irregular (undocumented)		12.2%
Other (specify)		1.0%
DK/NS		.1%

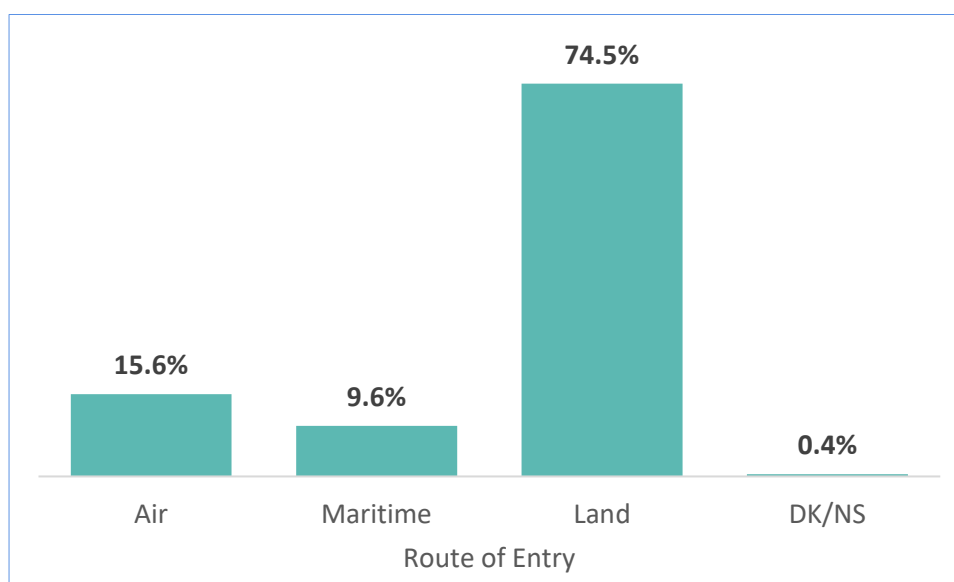
Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Immigrants by status

Table IM03 indicates that almost three out of every four immigrants residing in Belize were authorized to enter the country when they first arrived. Four out of every five documented immigrants in Belize who entered the country through regular means remained with this status in September 2021. Approximately 23 percent of documented immigrants within the borders of Belize were not authorized to enter the country when they first arrived but that number fell to a little over 17% in September 2021. Approximately 34 percent, or one in three immigrants, who are presently undocumented were authorized to enter the country when they first arrived. Approximately 65 percent of all immigrants who are presently undocumented were not authorized to enter the country when they first arrived. Approximately 47 percent of all immigrants who currently possess some other status in the country of Belize were authorized to enter the country when they first arrived.

Figure IM05: Immigrants by Route of Entry (%)



Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Immigrants by route of entry

While at the national level the smallest portion of immigrants came by sea accounting for approximately 1 out of every 10 immigrants (9.6%), approximately 75% of all immigrants living in the country of Belize entered the country by land.

Table IM05: Immigrants by status upon arrival and residence before arrival to Belize (%)

		Have you ever lived in another country other than your country of birth or Belize for 3 months or more?			
		Total	Yes	No	Don't Know/ Not Stated
Status upon arrival	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Regular (Authorized To Enter The Country)	73.2%	93.9%	72.4%	100.0%
	Irregular (Not Authorized To Enter The Country)	23.0%	6.1%	23.7%	0.0%
	Other (Specify)	2.6%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table IM06: Immigrants by Age (%)

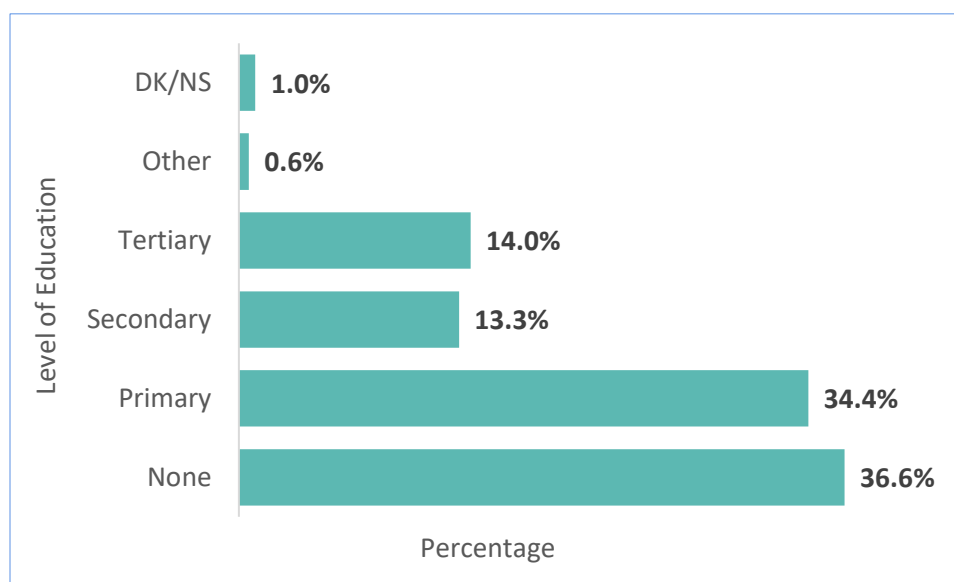
Age Group	Total	100.0%
0 thru 9		4.3%
10 thru 19		6.7%
20 thru 29		12.2%
30 thru 39		19.9%
40 thru 49		23.5%
50 thru 59		18.2%
60 thru 69		8.9%
70 thru 79		4.5%
80+		1.7%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

A country of transit is defined by the International Organization for Migration (2003) as a country through which a person or a group of persons pass on any journey to the country of destination or from the country of destination to the country of origin or of habitual residence. Of all immigrants living in Belize that previously lived in a territory other than their country of birth (for three months or more), 94 percent were authorized to enter the country of Belize upon arrival. Just under 3 out of every 4 immigrants who did not live in another country other than their country of birth migrated to Belize using legal means of entry when they first arrived (see Table IM05).

The Statistical Institute of Belize (2020) defines the working-age population (WAP) as all persons in the country who are 14 years or older. In September 2021, almost 3 out of every 4 immigrants within the country were age 20 or older but younger than 60. 23.5% of all immigrants in the country were between the ages of 40 and 49 (see Figure IM09). The data collected in September 2021 also showed that a little more than 7 out of every 10 immigrants were not covered by Social Security in Belize. 81% of female immigrants were not covered by Social Security in Belize (see figure IM10).

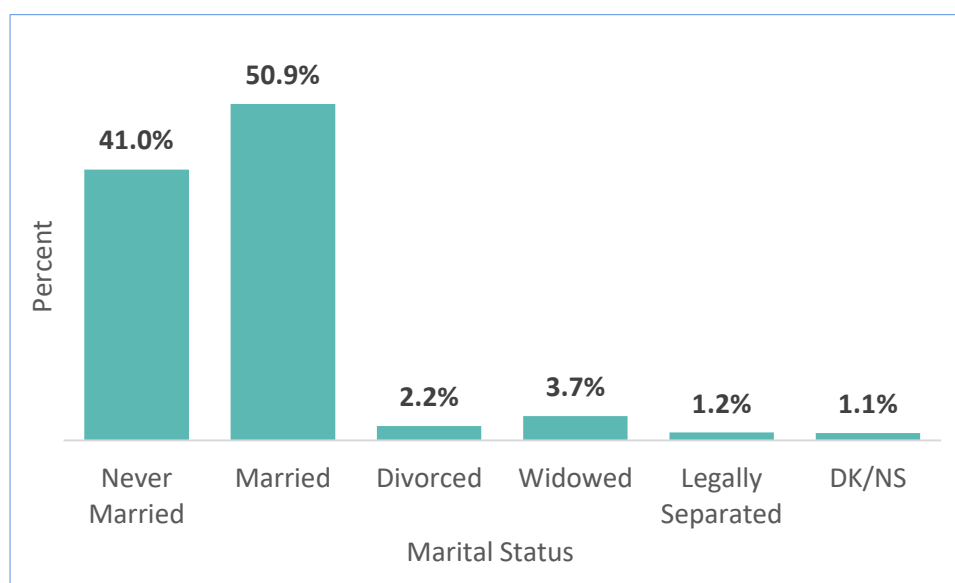
Figure IM07: Immigrants by the highest level of education attained (%)

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Educational Attainment according to Statistics Canada (2021) refers to “the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed. Only 29% of all immigrants in Belize, have completed secondary education or higher (see fig. IM07). Education is mandatory in Belize up to age 14 or the completion of primary education. The Government of Belize (2000) describes a child of compulsory school age as “any person who is between five years and fourteen years of age”. The Ministry of Education in Belize has made it a policy as part of its fulfilment of the country’s obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and Goal 4 of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (2015), to ensure that all children have a right to quality education. According to Ms. Nelma Mortis, Manager Orange Walk District Education Centre, this has created an environment where schools in the country of Belize regularly cooperate with immigration officials to facilitate access to education for children who attend primary and secondary schools despite their immigration status (Mortis, 2021). The fees that primary schools in Belize charge immigrants is the same as the fees of persons born in Belize but schools generally charge immigrants a higher rate for access to education at the secondary level (Mortis, 2021).

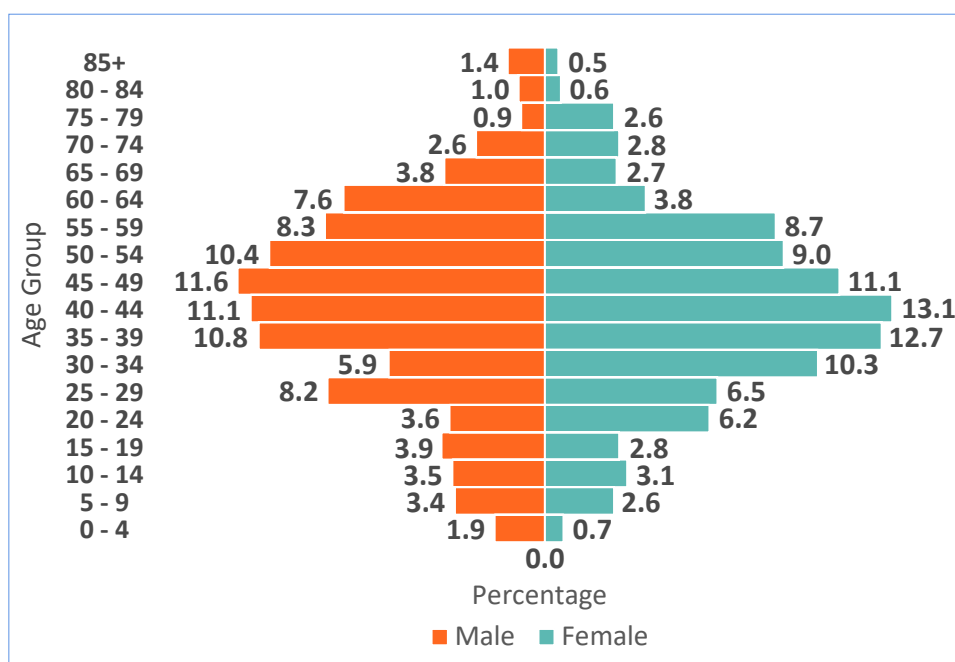
Figure IM08: Marital Status of Immigrants (%)



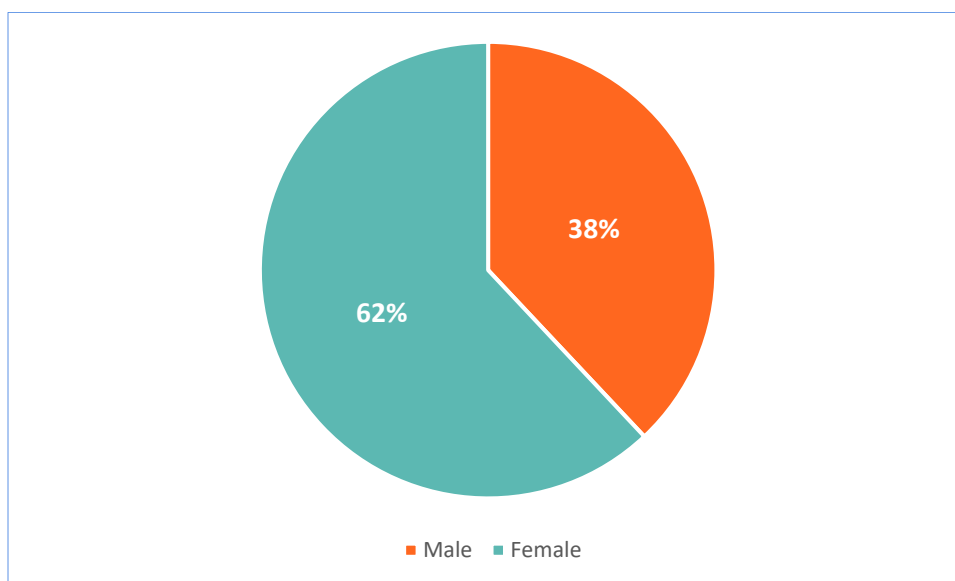
Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics weighted to national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Figure IM09: Immigrants by Age Group and Sex (%)

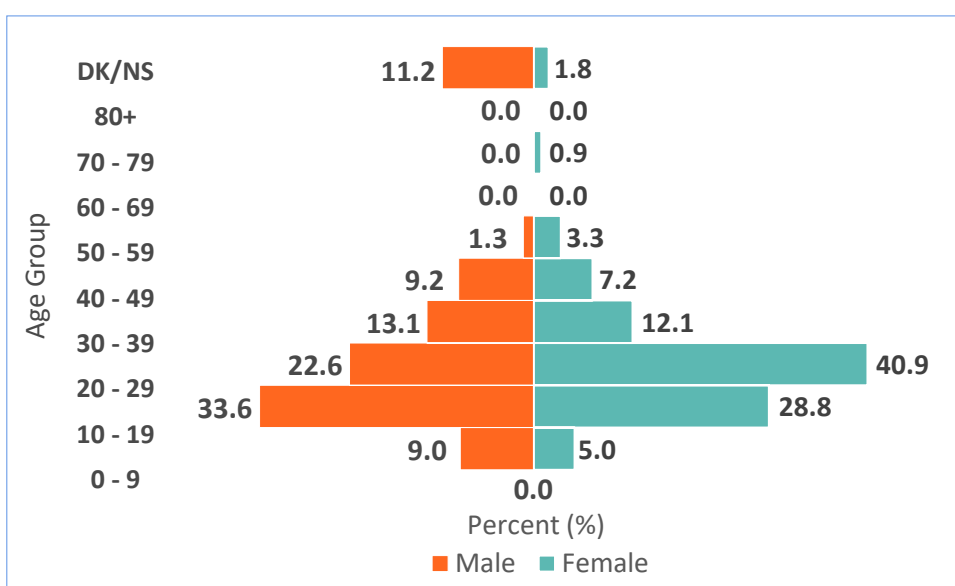


Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021 Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Figure EM01: Number of Emigrants by Sex (%)

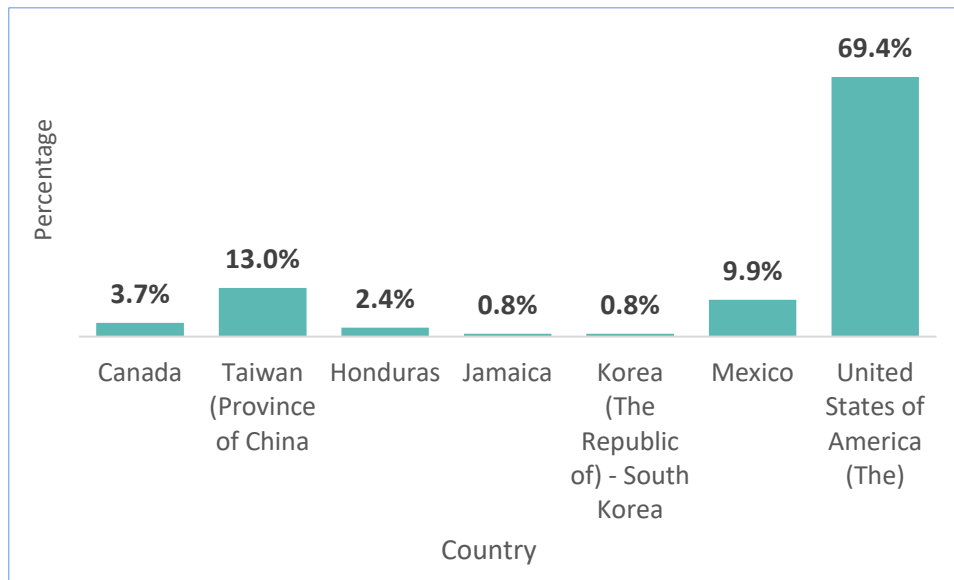
Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Figure EM02: Number of Emigrants by Age at time of Departure and Sex (%)

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Figure EM03: Emigrant by country migrated to (%)

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

The Inter-American Development Bank (2016) found that 7 out of every 10 persons from the Caribbean with tertiary education have migrated to OECD countries. The September 2021 migration results showed that approximately 3 out of every 5 emigrants were females and most persons who left the country of Belize settled in the United States when they departed Belize. Persons who migrated to the United States from Belize accounted for a little under 70% of all people who left the country. Global migration policies are extremely skewed toward person who are skilled and whom immigration officials believe will not be a burden on the host country and America is no exception (Brown, 2006). This could help to explain why so many persons with secondary education or higher have migrated to the United States of America where just a little under 4 out of every 5 emigrants from Belize were authorized to enter at the time of departure (see table EM01). The Inter-American Development Bank (2016) found that 65 percent of Belize's Labour Force that have migrated to OECD member countries between 1965–2000 had completed tertiary education while only 7 percent had completed primary education.

The September 2021 migration information shows that three out of every five migrants who settled in the United States when they left the country had completed secondary education or higher. It is also noteworthy that more than 95% of the persons who migrated to Taiwan had completed Tertiary education.

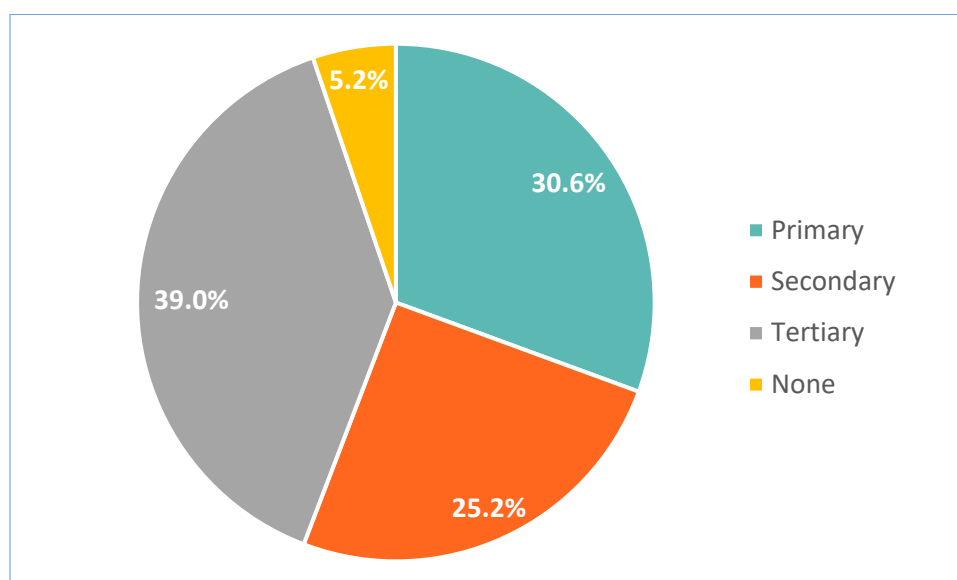
Table EM01: Emigrant by country migrated to and legal status (%)

		Legal Status	
		Regular (Authorized to enter)	Irregular (Not authorized to enter)
Receiving Country	Total	81.0%	19.0%
	Canada	100.0%	0.0%
	Taiwan (Province of China)	100.0%	0.0%
	Honduras	100.0%	0.0%
	Jamaica	100.0%	0.0%
	Korea (South Korea)	100.0%	0.0%
	Mexico	55.1%	44.9%
	United States of America	79.0%	21.0%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Figure EM04: Highest educational level completed at the time of departure (%)



Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Just under 2 out of every 5 emigrants had completed tertiary education at the time of departure and a little more than half of all persons who emigrants and were unemployed at the time of departure had completed tertiary education. A little under 40% of migrants had completed tertiary education at the time of departure. Interestingly, this only goes to cement the findings of both the IDB (2016) and Brown (2006), both of which found that as educational attainment increases so does the likelihood of migrating.

Table EM02: Emigrant by Highest Educational Attainment and Receiving Country (%)

		Highest Level of Education Completed				
		Total	None	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Receiving Country	Total	100.0%	5.2%	30.6%	25.2%	39.0%
	Canada	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.4%	19.6%
	Taiwan (Province of China)	100.0%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	95.3%
	Honduras	100.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
	Jamaica	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Korea (South Korea)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Mexico	100.0%	16.4%	40.4%	10.4%	32.9%
	United States of America	100.0%	5.1%	35.9%	29.0%	30.0%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table EM03: Emigrant by the highest level of education and employment status (%)

		Employment status at the time of departure		
		Total	Employed	Unemployed
Highest Level of Education Completed	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	None	.9%	0.0%	1.2%
	Primary	29.0%	30.3%	28.6%
	Secondary	27.5%	56.7%	18.2%
	Tertiary	42.6%	13.0%	52.1%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table EM04: Emigrant by Sex and Receiving Country (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Receiving Country	Total	100.0%	37.8%	62.2%
	Canada	3.7%	.7%	3.0%
	Taiwan (Province of China)	13.0%	5.3%	7.7%
	Honduras	2.4%	1.2%	1.2%
	Jamaica	.8%	0.0%	.8%
	Korea (South Korea)	.8%	.8%	0.0%
	Mexico	9.9%	3.9%	6.0%
	United States of America	69.4%	25.9%	43.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

There were not many significant differences between the emigration patterns of males and females but, where the differences begin to emerge, however, is when the purpose of migration is analysed. Though most emigrants left the country to pursue educational opportunities abroad, it was observed that most males migrated for economic reasons and the largest proportion of females migrated to pursue further education. Males were more than three times more likely to migrate for employment reasons while females who emigrated also showed a notable inclination to migrate to reunify their families just as those who immigrated did.

Table EM05: Emigrant by sex and main reason for migrating (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Reason for migration	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Family Reunification	27.5%	19.7%	32.2%
	Employment	26.1%	45.2%	14.5%
	Study	31.7%	26.1%	35.2%
	Other (Specify)	7.8%	0.0%	12.6%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	6.8%	9.0%	5.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics weighted to national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Table EM06: Number of Emigrants by year of departure (%)

Year of Departure	Total	100.0%
	2011	3.1%
	2012	1.0%
	2013	11.1%
	2014	13.3%
	2015	8.7%
	2016	2.5%
	2017	7.6%
	2018	11.9%
	2019	12.1%
	2020	26.3%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	2.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics weighted to national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

Despite the global downturn in migration activity reported by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2021), the data collected in September 2021 indicates that more than a quarter of all emigration since 2011 occurred in 2020 (see table EM06). Emigration numbers remained relatively stable during the period under review, the only exception being 2016 when only 2.5% of all emigration activity occurred. According to the Migration Policy Institute (2016), the year 2016 represented a shift in the immigration paradigm in the United States of America's migration policy. During this period the incoming president began "sketching a vision of immigrants and refugees as threats requiring heightened scrutiny and the construction of walls to deter entry". These actions may have been a prime determining factor affecting the decision to migrate or not. Just as was expected based on previously mention demographic data the age group 20 to 29 has lost the most persons to emigration.

Table EM07: Age at time of departure (%)

Age Group	Total	100.0%
	0 thru 9	6.5%
	10 thru 19	30.6%
	20 thru 29	34.0%
	30 thru 39	12.5%
	40 thru 49	8.0%
	50 thru 59	2.5%
	70 thru 79	.6%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	5.4%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 80. Statistics weighted to national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021.

LIMITATIONS

Household surveys like the Labour Force Survey (LFS) have recognized limitations on how robust the methodology and estimates obtained are. This section details a brief overview of issues that are of interest to the data user.

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SAMPLE

The LFS was utilized as a vehicle to collect migration data. The sample is randomly chosen, which is designed to produce national and economic and labour market statistics and offers a cost-effective way of obtaining migration data. Like all sample surveys, the findings are estimates for the whole population and these results might vary from the true values in the population because: (1) The sample frame does not contain information about the emigrant population and could not be incorporated as part of the sample design.. (2) Some individuals refuse to take part in the survey or may refuse to release information about household members who migrated to other countries. If these persons are systematically different from the people who are interviewed, this represents a potential source of bias in the data. However, for the purpose of the LFS, these persons were assumed to be similar to the respondents and the sample weights were adjusted for this non-response in the analysis.

Insufficient cases for disaggregation for Emigration

Though the sample is designed to capture information that can be disaggregated at the national and district level, the data user is advised to be mindful of the number of cases captured from the emigration module when performing analysis on certain variables. This is particularly common in variables with several categories.

CONCLUSION

Most immigrants in Belize were born in Guatemala, which is the country closest in access and proximity to the Cayo district. Approximately 75% of all immigrants living in Belize entered the country by land. It was reported that the largest share of immigrants who came to Belize first came accompanied by parents/guardians or came to reunify their families. The information showed that three out of every four immigrants in Belize, were authorized to enter the country when they first arrived and four out of every five documented immigrants in Belize who entered the country through regular means remained with this status in September 2021.

Seventy percent of all persons that left the country of Belize migrated to the United States. Males migrated mainly for economic reasons and the largest proportion of females migrated to pursue further education. Emigration numbers remained relatively stable during the period under review, the only exception being 2016 when only 2.5% of all emigration activity occurred.

APPENDICES

ADDITIONAL IMMIGRANT TABLES AND FIGURES

Employment

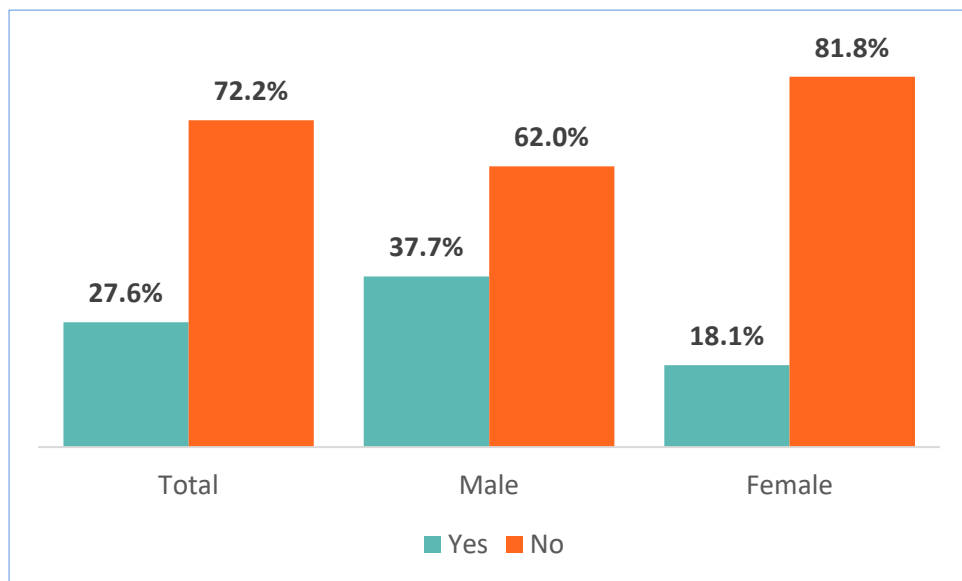
Table IM07: Immigrant by Type of Worker in Main Job and Sex (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Type Of Worker In The Main Job	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Self-Employed (With Hired Help/Employees)	12.3%	13.6%	10.4%
	Self-Employed (Without Hired Help/Employees)	33.2%	28.4%	40.5%
	Employee (Government/Quasi Government)	4.0%	3.5%	4.9%
	Employee (NGO)	.2%	0.0%	.5%
	Contributing Family Worker	4.5%	3.7%	5.8%
	Employee (Private)	45.5%	50.8%	37.5%
	Paid Apprentice/ Intern	.2%	0.0%	.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Figure IM10: Immigrant by Social Security coverage and Sex (%)



Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM08.1: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%)

Difficulty Seeing With Glasses	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	87.2%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	10.6%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	1.9%
	Cannot Do It At All	.1%
Difficulty Hearing With An Aid	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	94.5%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	4.1%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	1.1%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM08.2: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%)

Difficulty Walking Or Climbing Stairs	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	89.7%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	7.2%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	2.3%
	Cannot Do It At All	.4%
	Not Applicable Because Of Age	.1%
Difficulty Remembering Or Concentrating	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	90.4%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	8.2%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	.9%
	Cannot Do It At All	.2%
	Not Applicable Because Of Age	.1%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM08.3: Immigrant by Type of Disability and Level (%)

Difficulty With Self-Care	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	96.9%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	1.5%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	.6%
	Cannot Do It At All	.2%
	Not Applicable Because Of Age	.5%
Difficulty Communicating	Total	100.0%
	Missing	.3%
	No, No Difficulty	93.8%
	Yes, Some Difficulty	3.8%
	Yes, Lots Of Difficulties	.9%
	Cannot Do It At All	.7%
	Not Applicable Because Of Age	.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM09: Immigrants by Dwelling Type, Occupancy Type and Sex (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Dwelling Type	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Undivided Private House	81.9%	80.2%	83.4%
	Part Of A Private House	4.7%	5.4%	4.1%
	Apartment/Condominium	4.1%	3.5%	4.7%
	Double House/Duplex	3.2%	3.6%	2.8%
	Combined Business And Dwelling	3.8%	4.0%	3.6%
	Barracks	1.3%	2.0%	.6%
	Other (Specify)	1.0%	1.3%	.7%
Occupancy Type	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Own/Hire-Purchase	56.4%	54.1%	58.5%
	Lease	3.3%	3.4%	3.1%
	Rent -Private	26.2%	27.1%	25.4%
	Rent - Government	.8%	.7%	.9%
	Rent Free	12.1%	13.4%	10.8%
	Squat	.9%	.9%	1.0%
	Other	.3%	.4%	.3%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM10.1: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Main Source Of Lighting	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Electricity From BEL	86.2%	85.6%	86.8%
	Electricity From Another Source	6.8%	7.6%	6.1%
	Gas/Kerosene Lamp	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%
	Candle	1.7%	1.8%	1.5%
	None	1.0%	.9%	1.1%
	Other (Specify)	1.7%	1.5%	1.9%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.1%	.1%	.1%
Main Type Of Toilet Facility	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Water Closet Linked To BWS Sewer System	10.1%	10.2%	10.0%
	Water Closet Linked To Septic Tank	63.8%	61.7%	65.8%
	Pit Latrine, Ventilated And Elevated	8.2%	8.6%	7.9%
	Pit Latrine, Ventilated And Not Elevated	2.9%	2.5%	3.2%
	Pit Latrine, Elevated And Not Ventilated	5.8%	6.2%	5.5%
	Pit Latrine, Not Ventilated And Not Elevated	7.2%	8.7%	5.8%
	None	1.2%	1.5%	1.0%
	Other (Specify)	.6%	.5%	.6%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.1%	.1%	.1%
Main Type Of Fuel Used For Cooking	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Gas (Butane/Biogas)	81.3%	79.5%	82.9%
	Wood/Charcoal	15.2%	15.9%	14.5%
	Electricity	2.5%	2.6%	2.3%
	Does Not Cook	1.0%	1.9%	.2%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.1%	.1%	.1%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

Table IM10.2: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Main Source Of Water	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Public Piped Into Dwelling	60.8%	60.1%	61.5%
	Public Piped Into Yard Only	12.0%	12.1%	12.0%
	Private Piped Into Dwelling Or Yard	13.3%	12.1%	14.5%
	Public Standpipe	.3%	.3%	.2%
	Protected Dug Well	4.3%	5.4%	3.2%
	Unprotected Dug Well	1.1%	1.4%	.9%
	Private Catchment, Not Piped ²	2.5%	2.8%	2.3%
	River/Creek/Spring/Stream/Pond	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%
	Other	1.7%	1.9%	1.4%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.1%	.1%	.1%
Main Source Of Drinking Water	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Bottled/Purified Water	64.4%	61.5%	67.2%
	Public Piped Into Dwelling Or Yard	18.7%	20.2%	17.3%
	Private Piped Into Dwelling Or Yard	2.5%	2.8%	2.1%
	Public Standpipe	.5%	.6%	.4%
	Protected Dug Well	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%
	Unprotected Dug Well	.5%	.6%	.4%
	Private Catchment, Not Piped	7.6%	7.8%	7.4%
	River/Creek/Spring/Stream/Pond	.8%	.9%	.6%
	Other	3.1%	3.5%	2.8%
	Don't Know/ Not Stated	.1%	.1%	.1%
Outer Wall Materials	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Palmetto/Wild Cane/Sticks	.7%	.5%	.9%
	Bamboo/Palmetto With Mud/White Lime	.2%	.2%	.2%
	Plywood	6.0%	5.9%	6.1%
	Carton/Cardboard	.6%	.6%	.6%
	Reused Wood	7.9%	8.8%	7.1%
	Cement/Concrete	45.7%	43.1%	48.2%
	Cement Blocks	4.2%	3.1%	5.2%
	Wood Planks/Shingles	24.2%	27.1%	21.5%
	Wood And Concrete	5.7%	5.7%	5.6%
	Stucco	.3%	.2%	.3%
	Other (Specify)	4.4%	4.6%	4.2%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

² Private catchments not piped include vat, drum, water tank, etc.

Table IM10.3: Selected Housing Characteristics by Sex of Immigrant (%)

		Sex		
		Total	Male	Female
Main Floor Material	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Earth/ Sand	5.9%	6.8%	5.0%
	Wood Planks	12.8%	14.0%	11.7%
	Plywood	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%
	Parquet Or Polished Wood	.2%	.4%	.1%
	Vinyl Or Asphalt Strips/Marley	7.4%	8.3%	6.5%
	Ceramic Tiles/Cement Tiles	25.9%	23.9%	27.9%
	Cement/Concrete	43.3%	42.3%	44.2%
	Carpet	.8%	.8%	.7%
	Other (Specify)	1.3%	1.0%	1.5%

Source: SIB, Labour Force Survey, September 2021

Notes: Unweighted N= 1137. Statistics are weighted to the national level using sampling weights provided by the Labour Force Survey 2021

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