



STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE



Labour Force Survey
September 2024



PRESENTATION OUTLINE




1 Introduction and background of the Labour Force Survey

2 Labour Force Status

3 Labour Underutilization

4 Youth NEET

The Labour Force

-  Collects information on **employed and unemployed populations**.
-  Conducted **bi-annually** (April for high season, September for low season).
-  **Sample: 3,000 households** randomly selected nationwide.

The Importance of the Labour Force Survey

SIB's Main Household Survey for Employment and Population Insights



Highlight of Results

September 2023 and September 2024

Main Indicator	September 2023	September 2024	Difference
National Population	405,594	412,319	▲ 6,725
Working Age Population	72.3%	72.4%	▲ 0.1%
Labour Force Participation rate	57.2%	56.3%	▼ 0.9%
Labour Force	167,650	166,206	▼ 1,444
Employed	161,048	162,759	▲ 1,711
Unemployed	6,602	3,447	▼ 3,155
Unemployment rate	3.9%	2.1%	▼ 1.8%
Persons Not in the Labour Force	125,545	129,007	▲ 3,462

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Labour Force

166,206
( 1,444 persons)

Labour Force September 2024



100,070
Males



66,136
Females



Urban

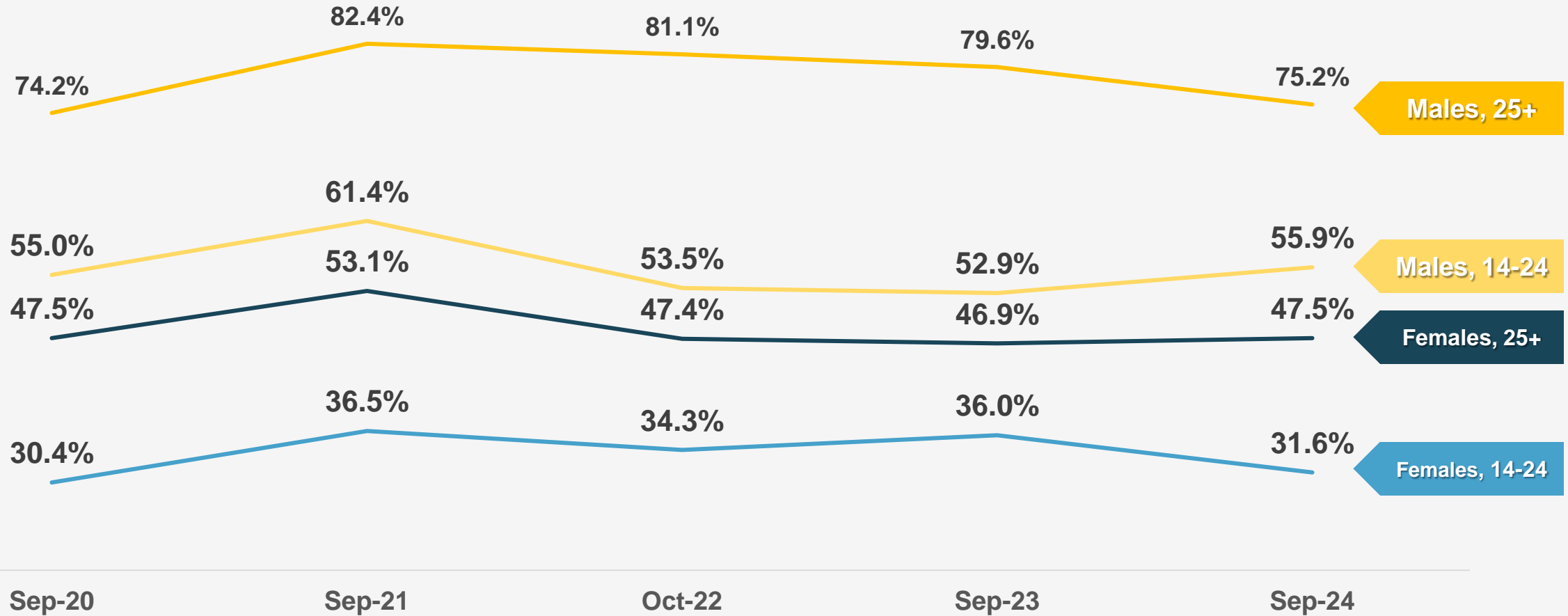
78,787



Rural

87,419

Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex and Age Group September 2020-2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

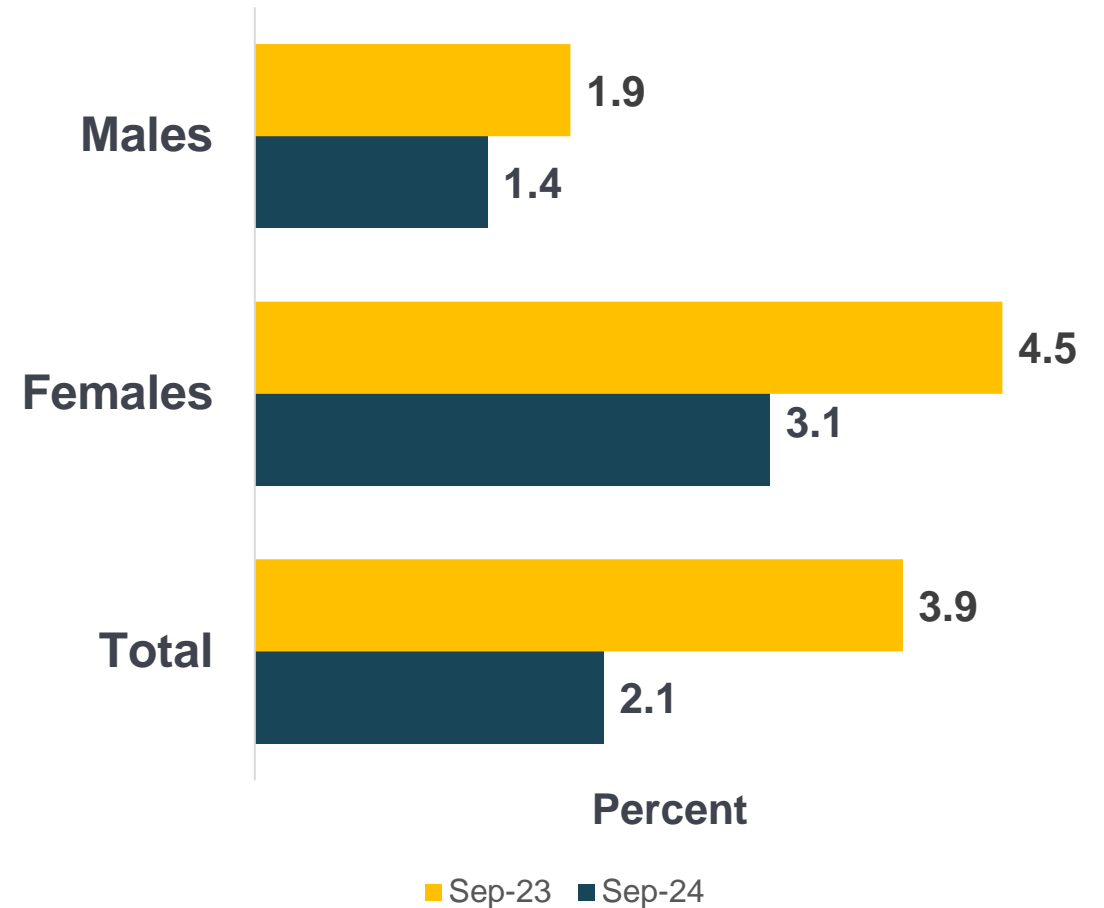
Unemployment

2.1%

( 1.8 percentage points)

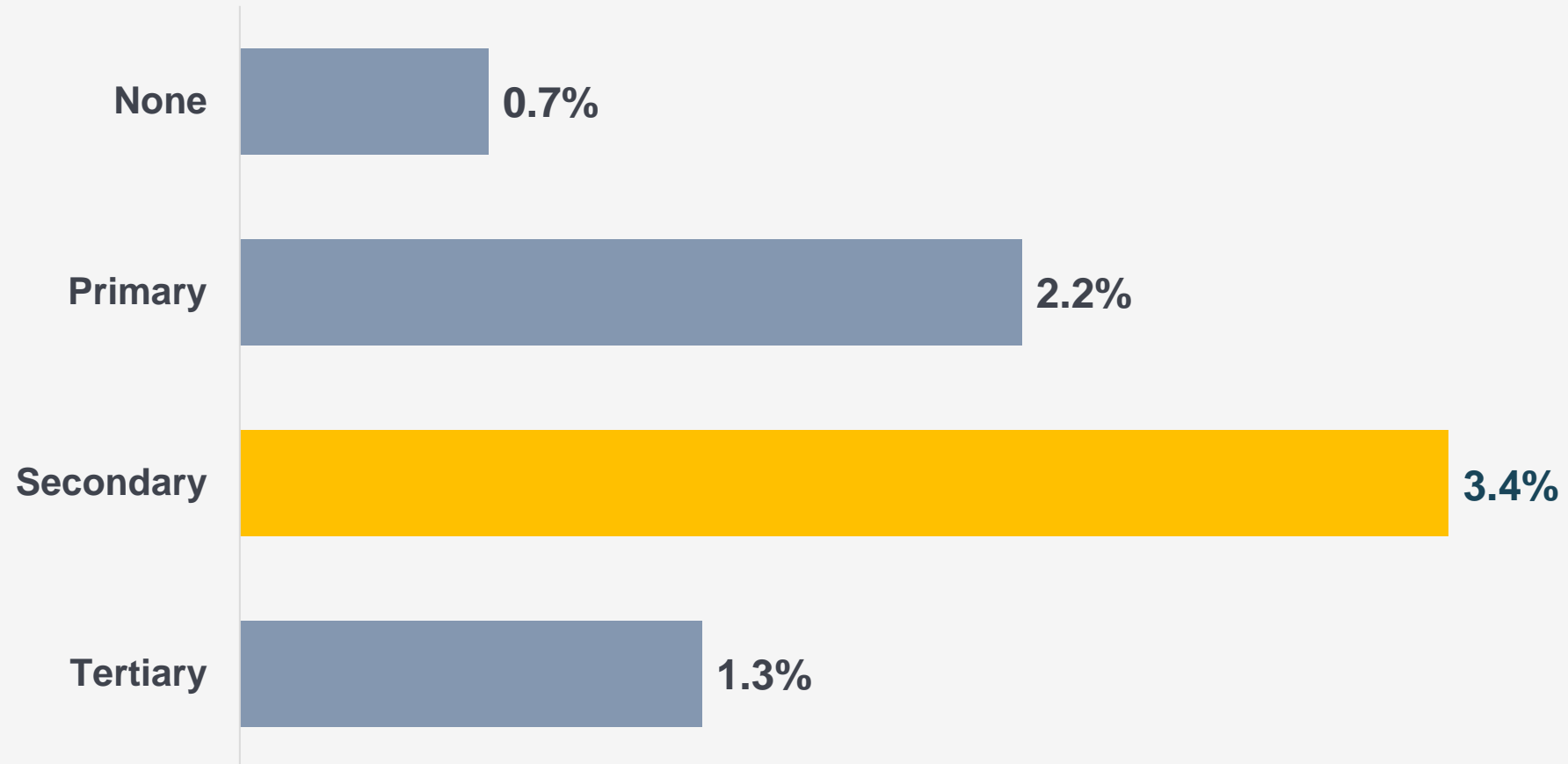
Unemployment Rates by Sex

September 2023 and September 2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed September 2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Employed Persons

162,759

( 1,711 persons)

Employed Persons September 2024



98,703
Males
(60.6%)



64,056
Females
(39.4%)

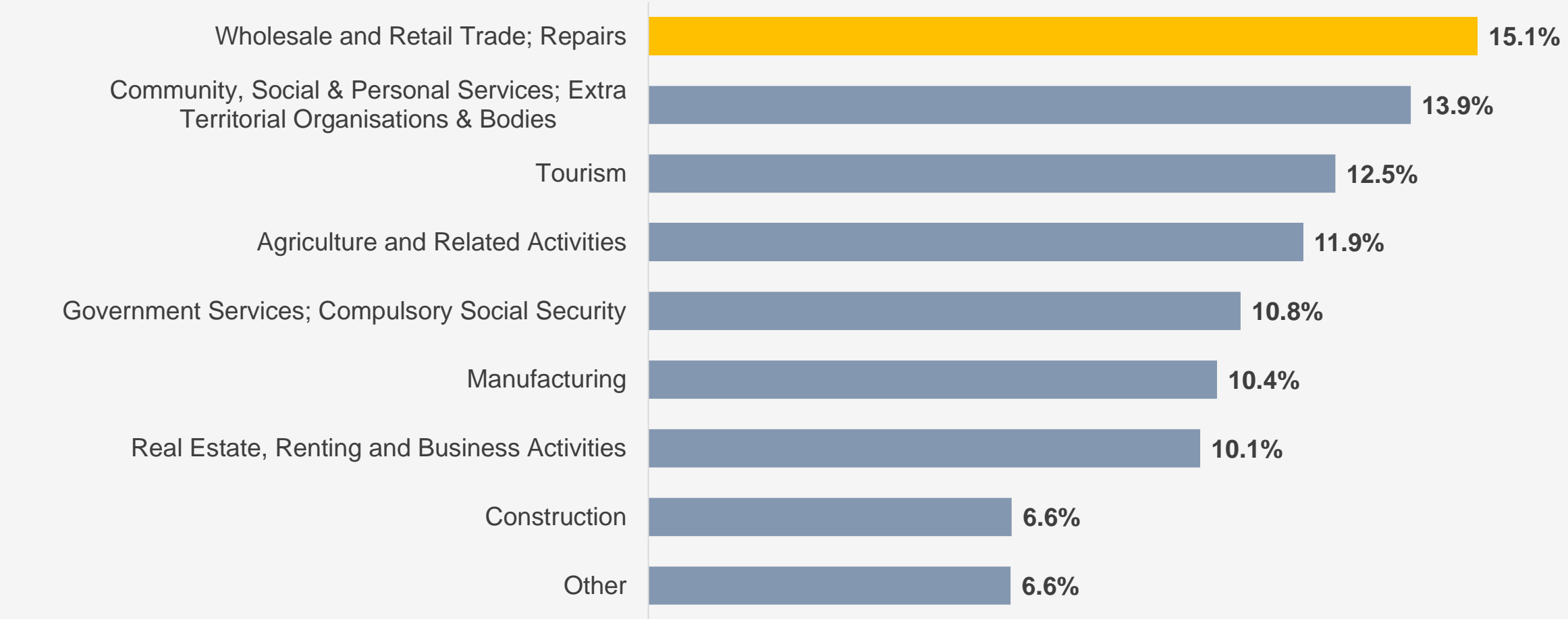
- ✓ Almost **half** of all **employed persons** were ages **25 to 44 years**.
- ✓ **33.9%** had completed **primary-level** education, **26.9%** had completed **secondary-level** education while **24.3%** completed **tertiary-level** education.

Employed
39.8 hours
per week on average

Average income for
Employed persons
\$1,530 monthly

Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Major Industry

September 2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Informal Employment

57,893 or 35.6%
of all employed persons
(**↓2,010 persons**)

Informal Employment September 2024



38,650
Males
(66.8%)



19,243
Females
(33.2%)



Rural

35,079



Urban

22,815

Informally Employed Persons

September 2024

- ✓ Almost half of all persons in informal employment were **35 to 44 years old or 55 years and older**.
- ✓ **22.9%** were in 'Agriculture and Related Activities' and **17.4%** were in 'Wholesale and Retail trade; Repairs'.
- ✓ **37.7%** were '**Employees**' while **62.3%** were '**Self-employed**'.

Informally Employed

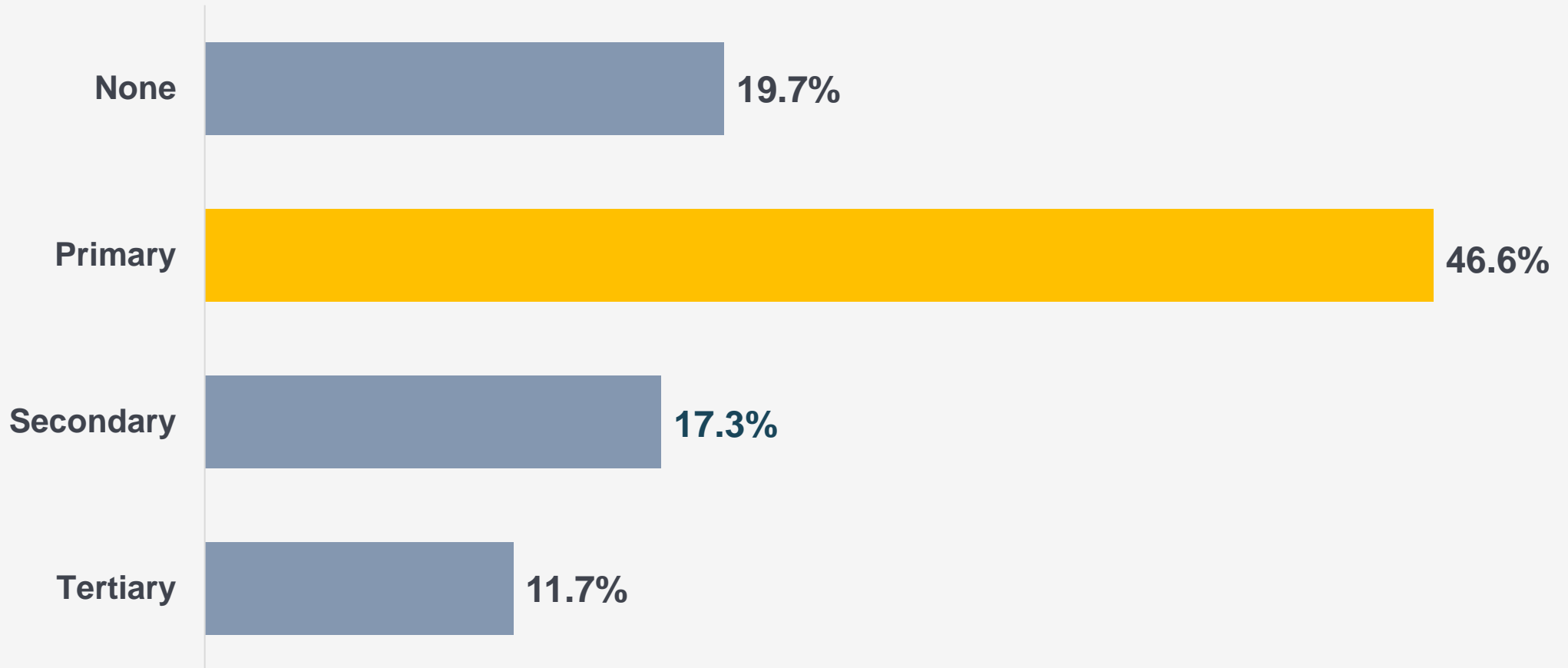
34.5 hours

per week on average

**Average income for
informally employed**

\$1,329 monthly

Distribution of informally employed persons by highest level of education completed September 2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Underemployed Persons

3,555

( 3,639 persons)

Underemployed Persons

September 2024

2.2% of employed persons in September 2024.
Males – 1.4%, Females – 3.5%

34.4% of underemployed persons worked as
‘Services and Sales workers’ while **23.3%** of
underemployed persons worked in **‘Elementary
Occupations’**.

37.3% of underemployed persons worked in the
‘Tourism’ industry.

Underemployed
15.6 hours
per week on average

Average income for
underemployed
\$1,352 monthly

Comparison between Types of Employment

September 2024

Type of employment	Largest share of educational attainment	Average monthly income	Average hours worked per week
All employed	Primary (33.9%)	\$1,530	39.8
Formal employment	Secondary (32.2%)	\$1,628	42.7
Informal employment	Primary (46.6%)	\$1,329	34.5
Underemployment	Primary (54.3%)	\$1,352	15.6

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNLF)

129,007
( **3,462 persons**)

PNLF

September 2024



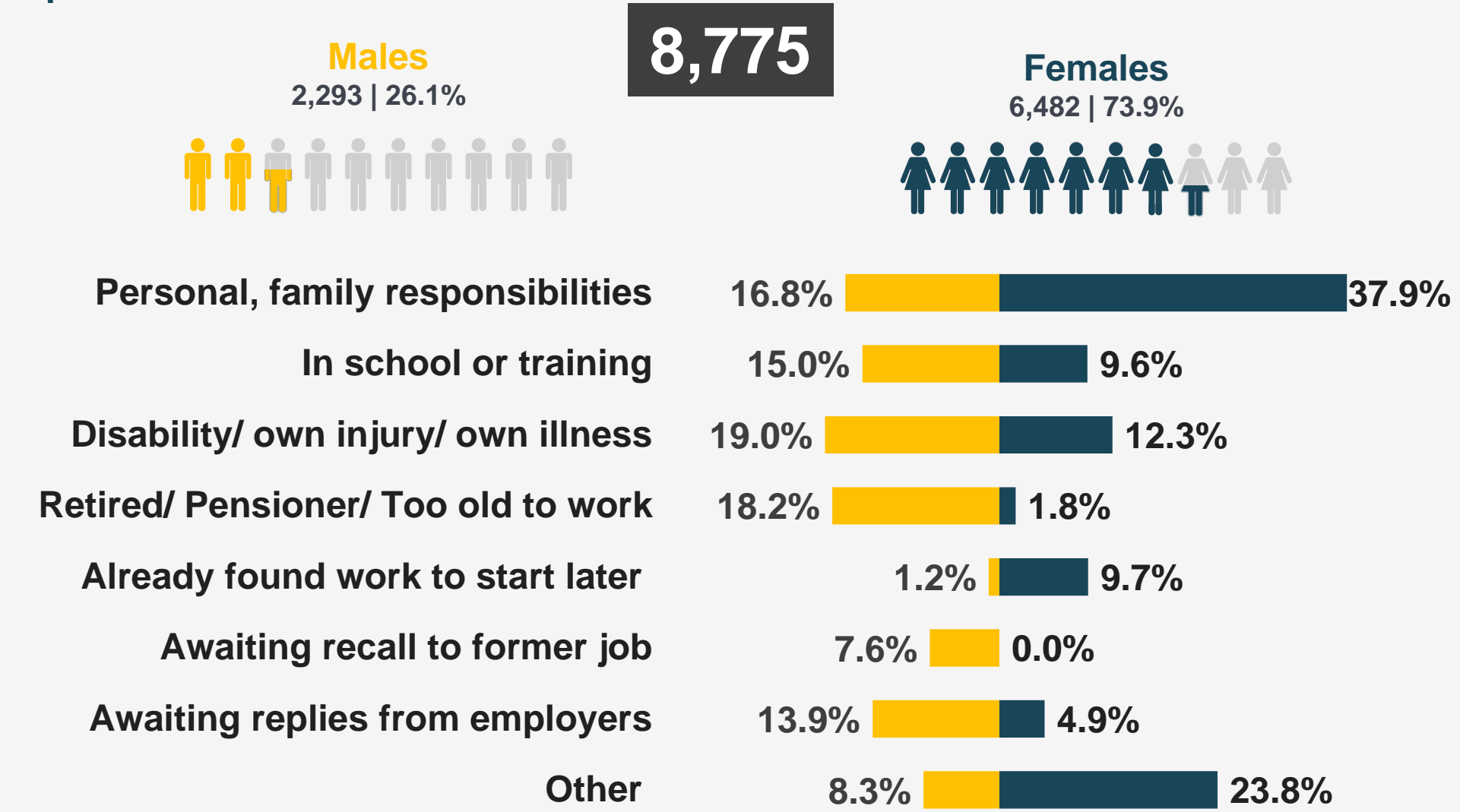
43,404
Males
(33.6%)



85,604
Females
(66.4%)

- **33.7%** were youths.
- **32.4%** were 55 years and older.
- Almost **60%** have never worked before.
- **28%** did not look for jobs **and** were unavailable to start working
- **37.3%** cited personal or family responsibilities as the main reason for not being in the LF.
- **19.2%** said they were in school or training.

Potential Labour Force
September 2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Labour Underutilization

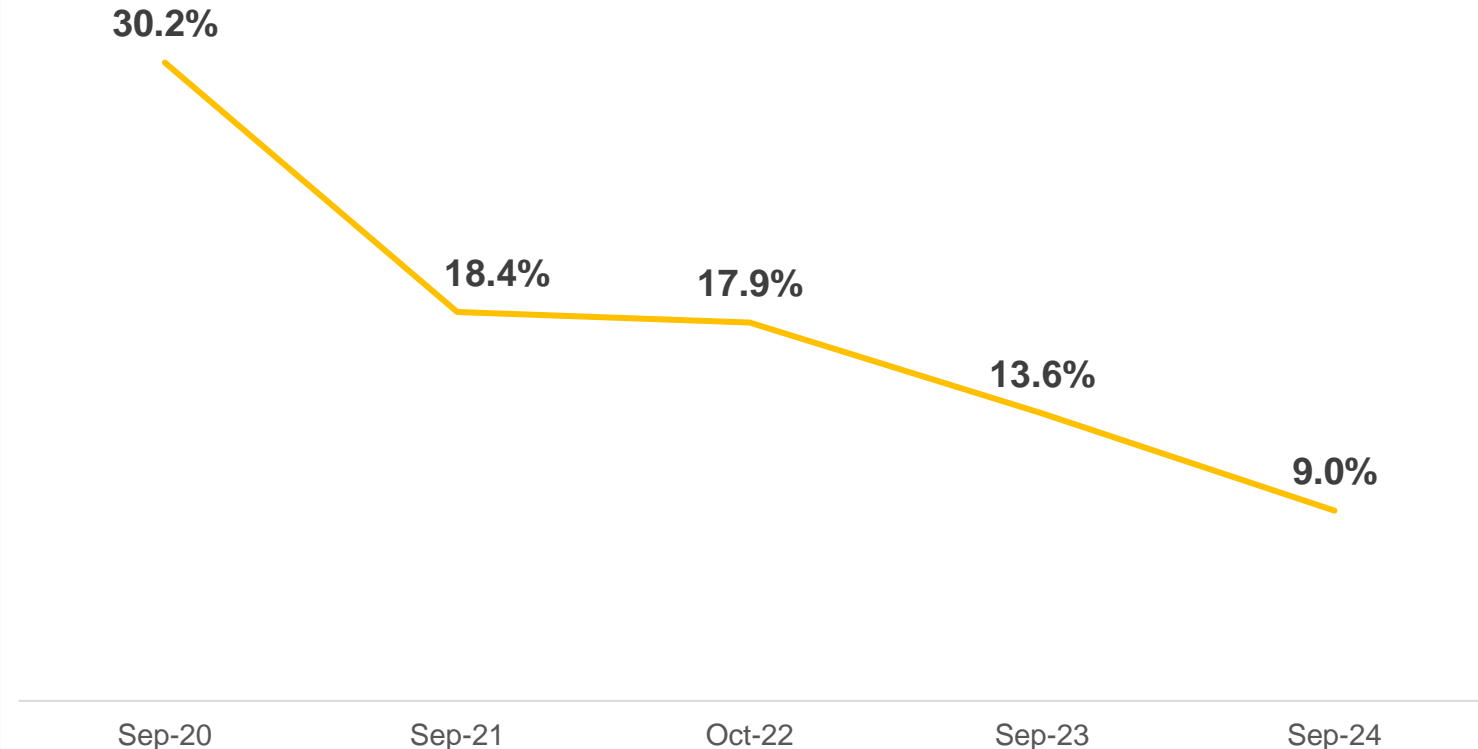
9%

(15,777 persons)

The labour underutilization rate includes all persons who have an unmet want for work, that is the **unemployed**, the **potential labour force**, and the **underemployed** over the **labour force** and the **potential labour force**.

Labour Underutilization Rates

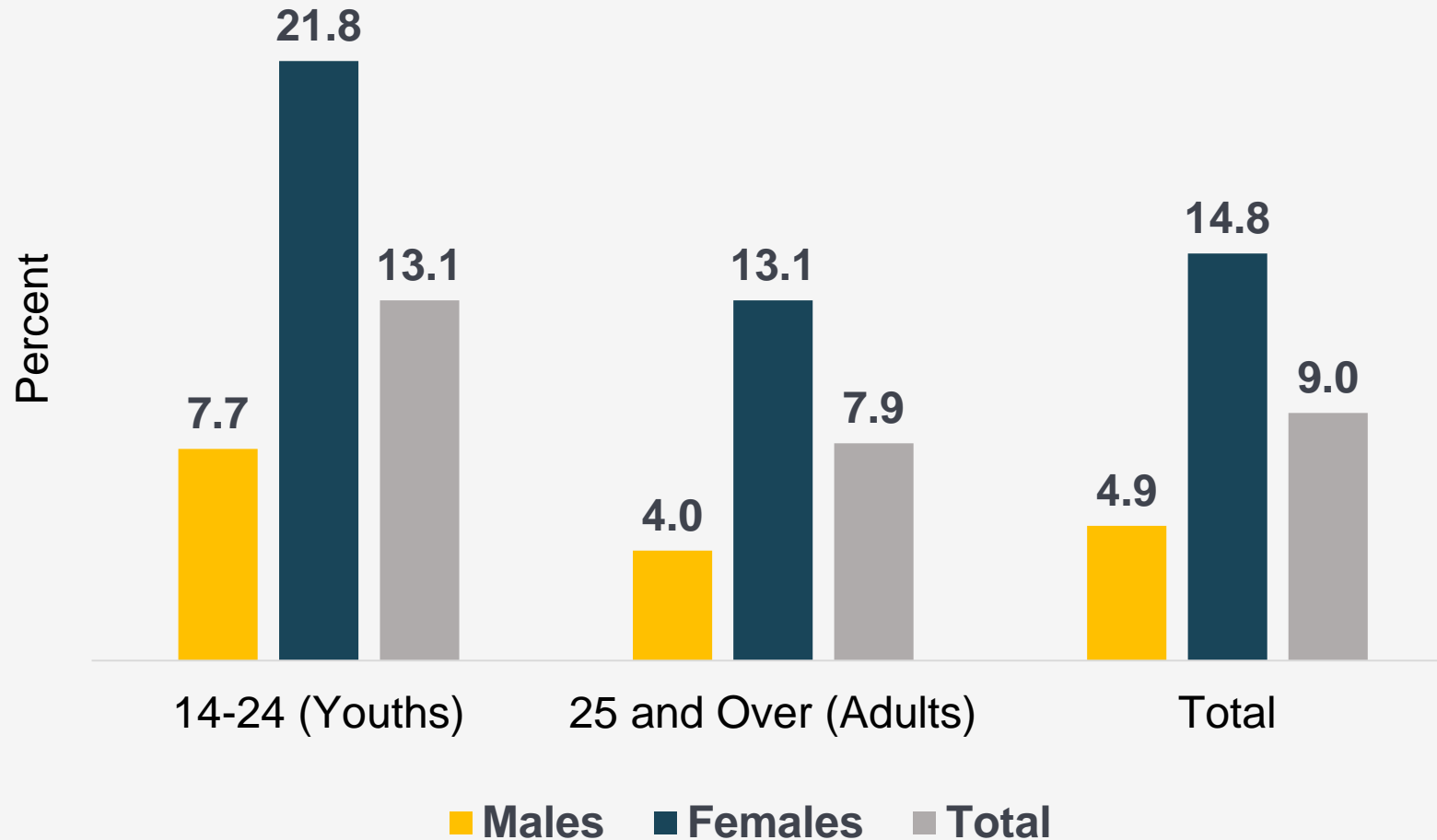
September 2020-2024



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Labour Underutilization by Sex and Age Group

September 2024



Young females 14-24 had the highest labour underutilization rate at **21.8%**.

Youth NEET

26.1%

(18,720 persons)

Youth NEET
September 2024

✓ The share of youths **15 to 24 years old** who are either

**NOT in EMPLOYMENT,
NOT in EDUCATION,
NOT in TRAINING.**



5,628
Males
(30.1%)



13,092
Females
(69.9%)

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Summary of Results

September 2023 and September 2024

Main Indicator	September 2023	September 2024	Difference (%)
Labour Force Participation rate	57.2%	56.3%	▼ 0.9
Unemployment rate	3.9%	2.1%	▼ 1.8
Underemployment rate	4.5%	2.2%	▼ 2.3
Potential Labour Force	8.3%	6.8%	▼ 1.5
Labour Underutilization rate	13.6%	9%	▼ 4.6
Informal Employment	37.2%	35.6%	▼ 1.6
Average Monthly Income	\$1,382	\$1,530	▲ \$148
Hours Worked	43.1	39.8	▼ 3.3 hours

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2024.

Follow us on social media



<http://www.facebook.com/belizestatistics/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/belizestatistics/>
<https://www.instagram.com/belizestatistics/>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBHNJCdb0DY1GtPHh2KtvYA>

Sign up to receive emails of our releases

<http://www.sib.org.bz/contact-us>

For more information, visit our website

<http://www.sib.org.bz>