



# STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE



**Labour Force Survey**  
*September 2025*



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1** Introduction and Background  
of the Labour Force Survey

**2** Labour Force Status

**3** Questions & Comments

# *The Labour Force*

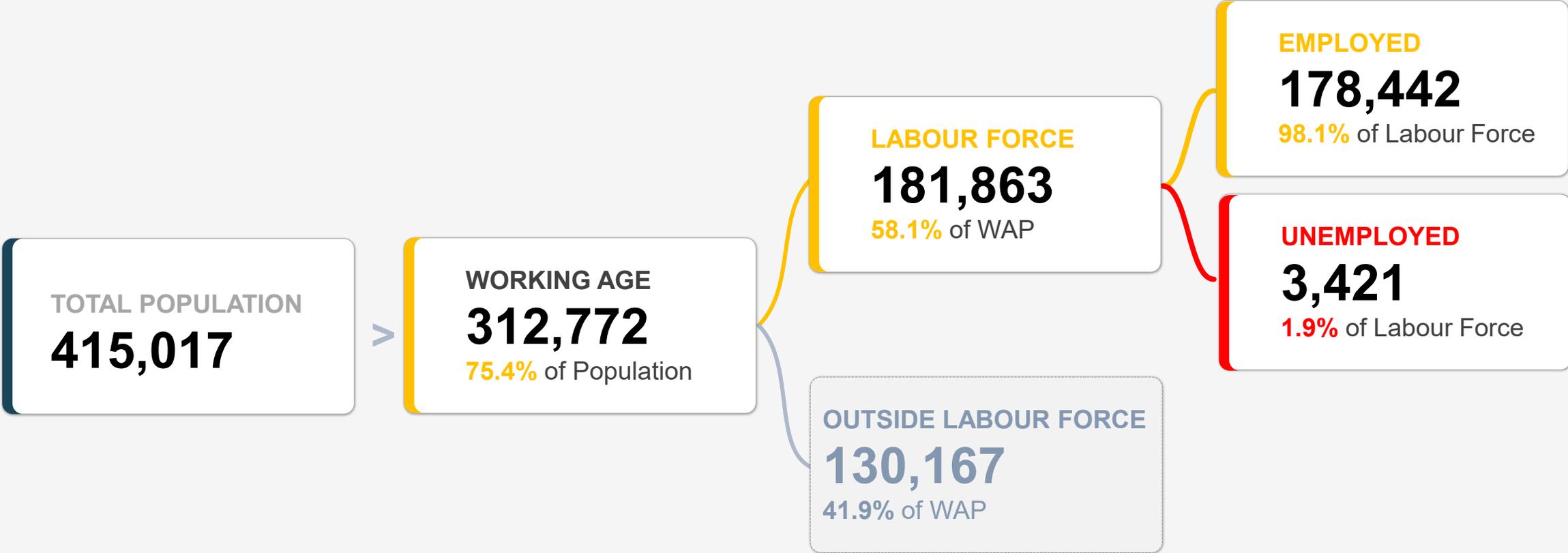
-  Collects information on **employed and unemployed populations**.
-  Conducted **bi-annually** (April for high season, September for low season).
-  **Sample: 3,000 households** randomly selected nationwide.

## *The Importance of the Labour Force Survey* *SIB's Main Household Survey for Employment and Population Insights*



# The Labour Force Framework

September 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

**Labour Force**  
**181,863**  
persons or  
**58.1%** of WAP

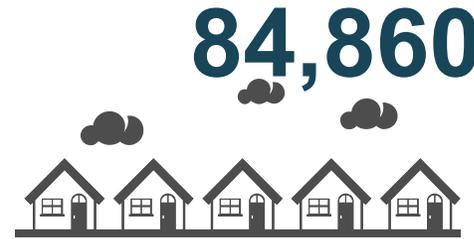
**Labour Force**  
September 2025



**105,161**  
Males



**76,701**  
Females



Urban

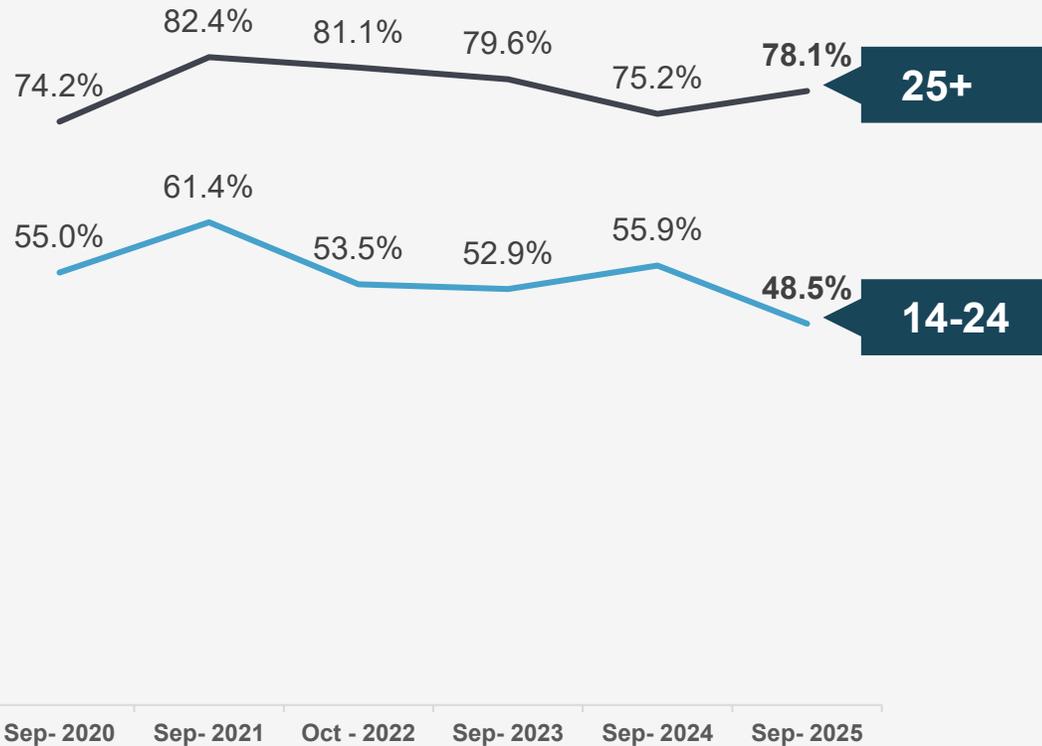


Rural

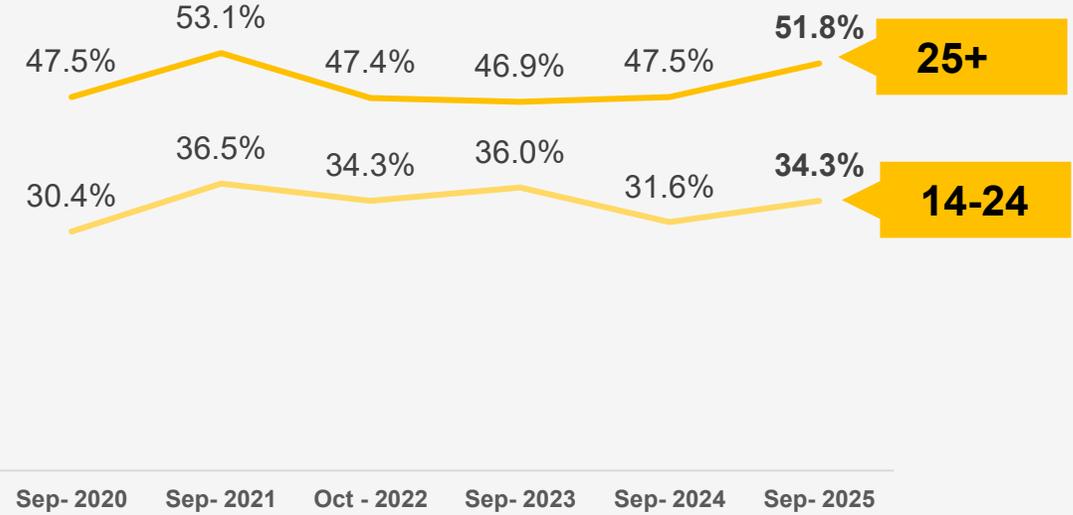
# Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex and Age Group

## September 2020 - 2025

### Males



### Females



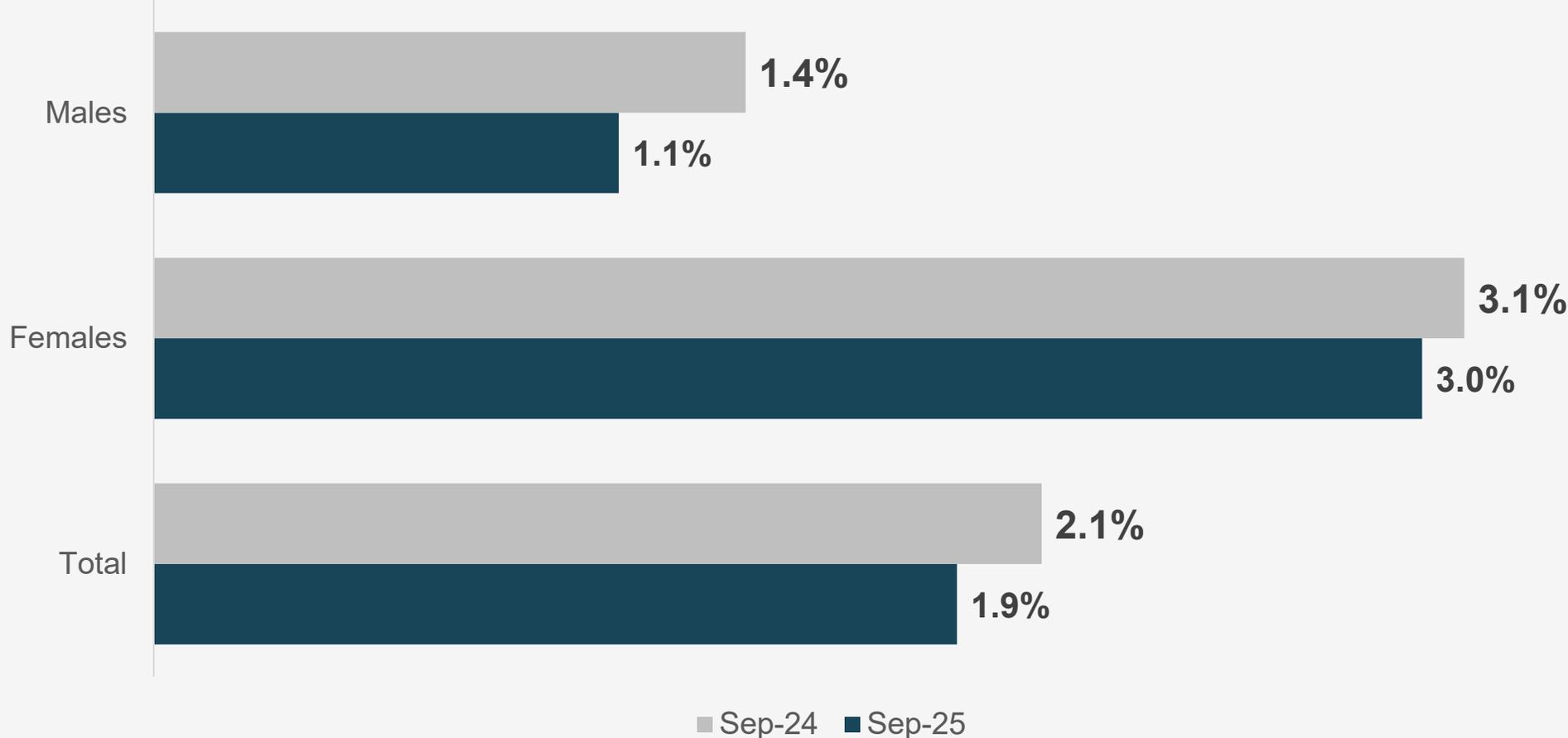
# Unemployment

**3,421**  
persons or  
**1.9%** of the  
Labour Force

## Unemployed

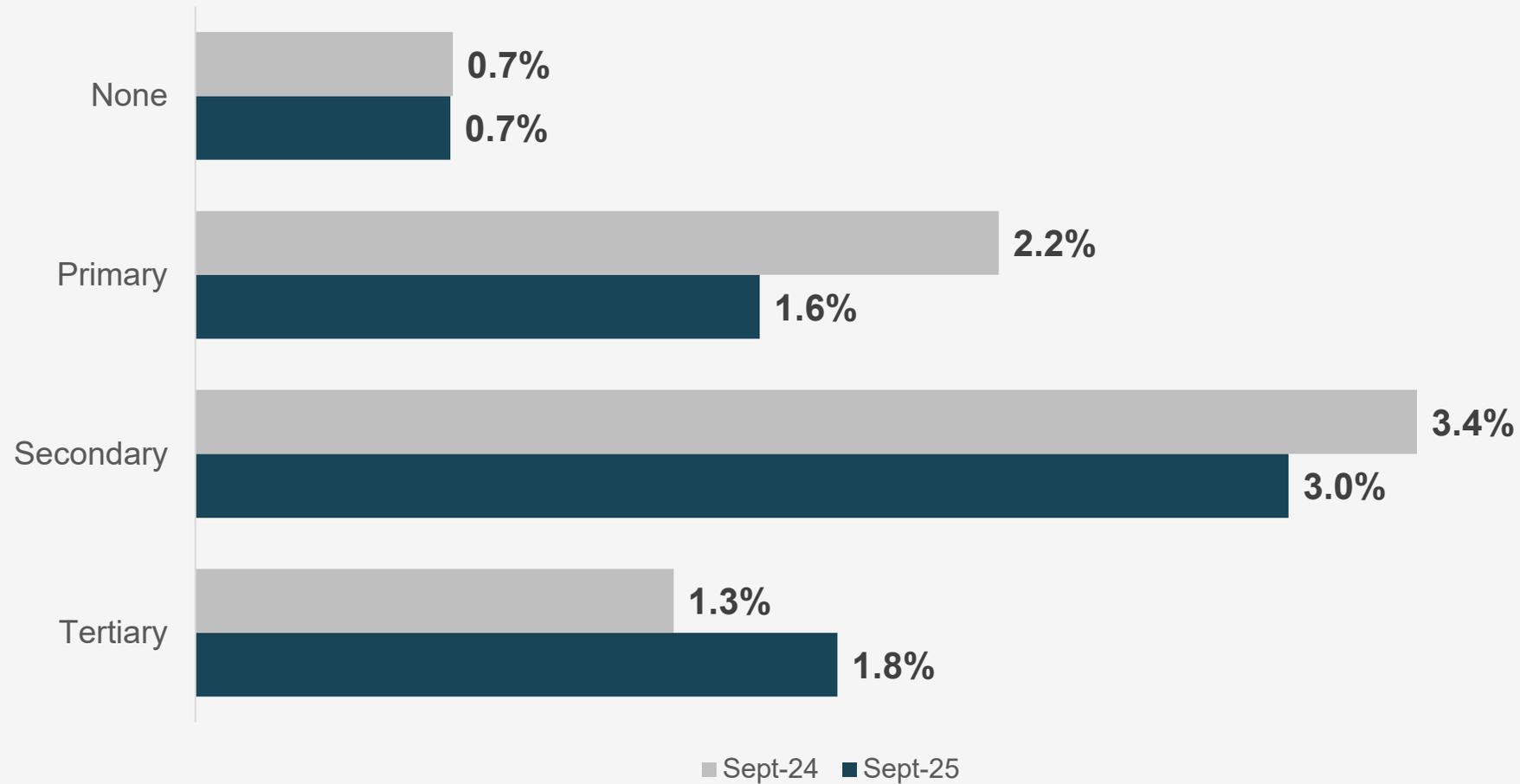
- **Without** work
- **Actively looked** for work in the last 4 weeks
- **Available to start** within the next 2 weeks

## Unemployment Rates by Sex September 2024 and September 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

## Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed September 2024 and September 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

# Employment

**178,442**  
persons or  
**98.1%** of the  
Labour Force

## Employed Persons

September 2025



**104,054**

**Males**

**(58.3%)**



**74,387**

**Females**

**(41.7%)**

- Almost half (48.6%) of all **employed persons** were between the ages of **25 and 44 years**.
- Completed **primary-level** education: **35.0%**
- Completed **secondary-level** education: **26.9%**
- Completed **tertiary-level** education: **24.7%**

# Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Major Industry

## September 2025



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

# Informal Employment

**64,129** persons  
or **35.9%** of all  
employed  
persons

## Informal Employment September 2025



**39,670**  
**Males**  
(61.9%)



**24,460**  
**Females**  
(38.1%)



**39,732**

**Rural**



**24,397**

**Urban**

## Informally Employed Persons

September 2025

- Almost **half (46.5%)** of all persons in informal employment were **35 to 44 years old** or **55 years and older**.
- **19.3%** were in **'Wholesale and Retail trade; Repairs'** and **18.7%** were in **'Community, Social & Personal Services'**.
- **61.8%** were **'Self-employed'** while **32.3%** were **'Employees'**.

# Underemployment

**2,465** persons or  
**1.4%** of all  
employed persons

## Underemployed Persons

September 2025

- 38.8% worked as **'Service and Sales Workers'** while 37.0% were in **'Elementary Occupations'**
- 34.1% were employed in **'Community, Social & Personal Services'**, and 22.4% were employed in the **'Tourism'** industry.

## Comparison between Types of Employment

### September 2025

Type of employment	Largest share of educational attainment	Average monthly income	Average hours worked per week
<b>All employed</b>	<b>Primary (35.0%)</b>	<b>\$1,551</b>	<b>42.7</b>
Formal employment	Tertiary (32.5%)	\$1,671	45.3
Informal employment	Primary (46.1%)	\$1,313	38.1
Underemployment	Secondary (36.7%)	\$1,234	17.4

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

# Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNLF)

**130,167**  
persons or  
**41.9%** of WAP

## PNLF

September 2025



**45,016**

**Males**  
(34.6%)



**85,151**

**Females**  
(65.4%)

37.6% were youths.

32.1% were 55 years and older.

55.2% had never worked.

78.2% depended on family support for finances.

Main reasons for not seeking work:

Personal/family duties: **35.5% (89.5% F)**

In school/training: **10.1% (50.5% F)**

# Youth NEET

# 24.8%

(18,887 persons)

## Youth NEET September 2025

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

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



**6,155**

**Males**

(32.6%)



**12,731**

**Females**

(67.4%)

## Summary of Results

September 2024 and September 2025

Main Indicator	September 2024	September 2025	Difference (%)
National Population	412,319	415,017	▲ 2,698
Working Age Population	298,379	312,772	▲ 14,392
Labour Force	166,206	181,863	▲ 15,683
Persons Outside the Labour Force	129,007	130,167	▲ 1,089
Labour Force Participation rate	56.3%	58.1%	▲ 1.8
Unemployment rate	2.1%	1.9%	▼ 0.2
Underemployment rate	2.2%	1.4%	▼ 0.8
Informal Employment	35.6%	35.9%	▲ 0.3
Average Monthly Income	\$1,530	\$1,551	▲ \$21
Average hours worked weekly	39.8	42.7	▲ 2.9 hours

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, September 2025.

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