



Labour Force Survey

April 2026

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.

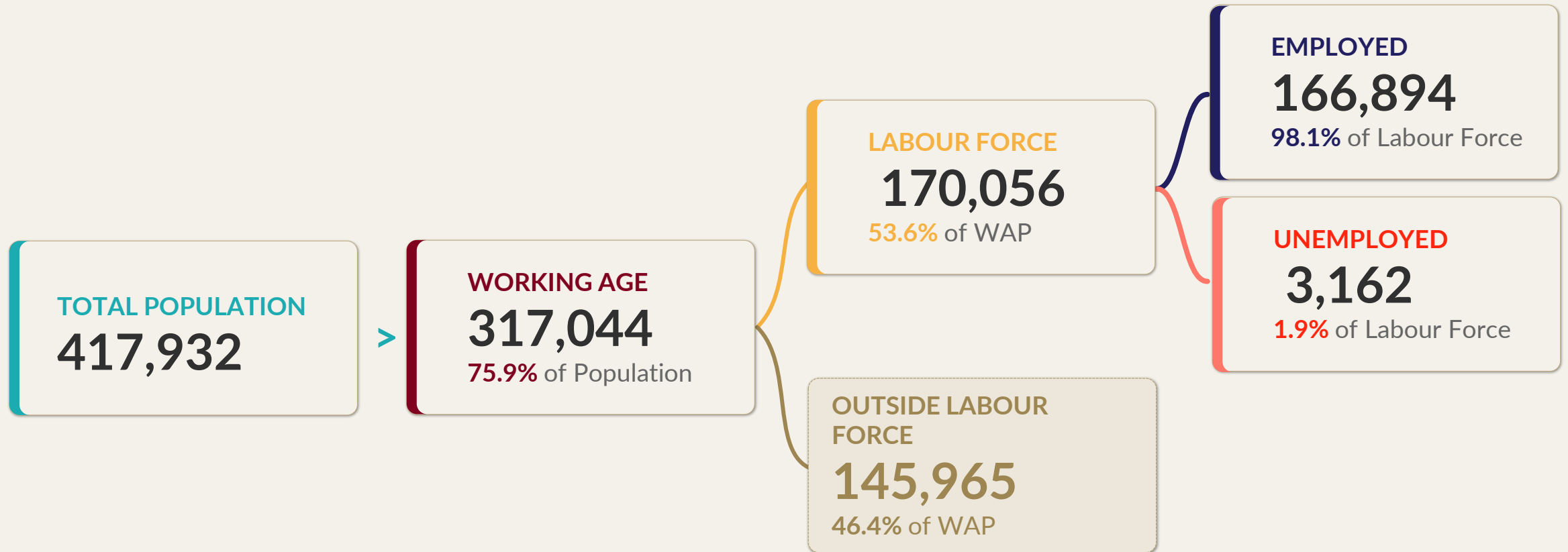
The Importance of the Labour Force Survey

SIB's Main Household Survey for Employment and Population Insights



The Labour Force Framework

April 2026

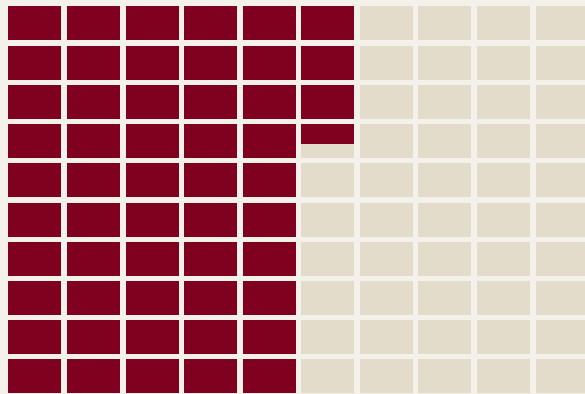


Labour Force

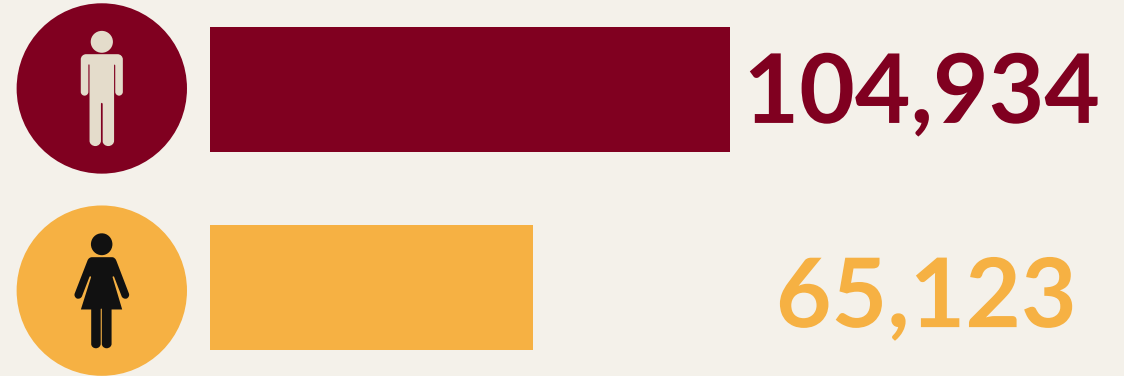
Labour Force, April 2026

170,056

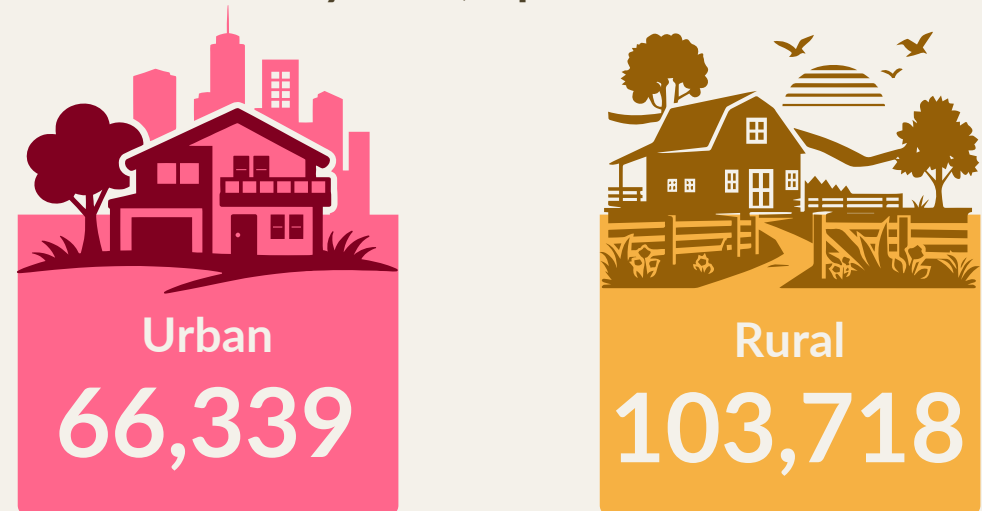
53.6%
of the working
age population



Labour Force by Sex, April 2026

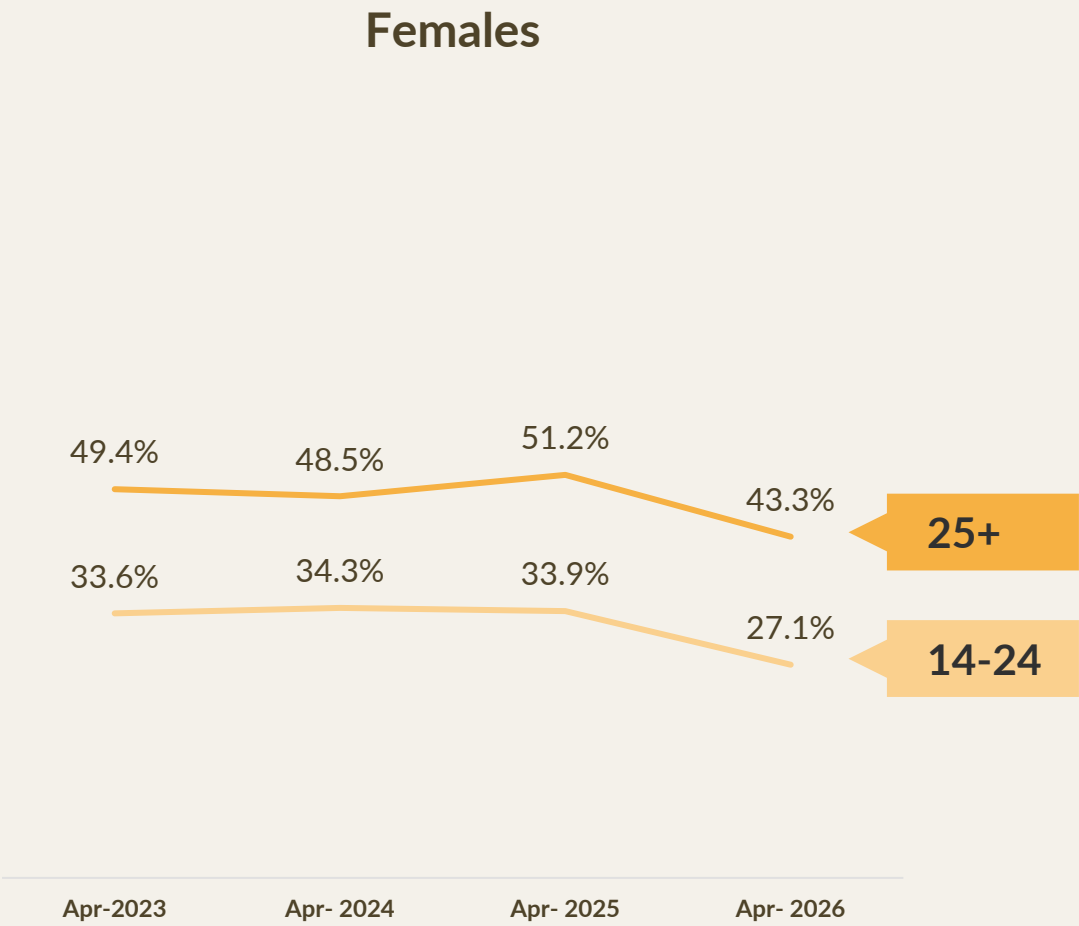
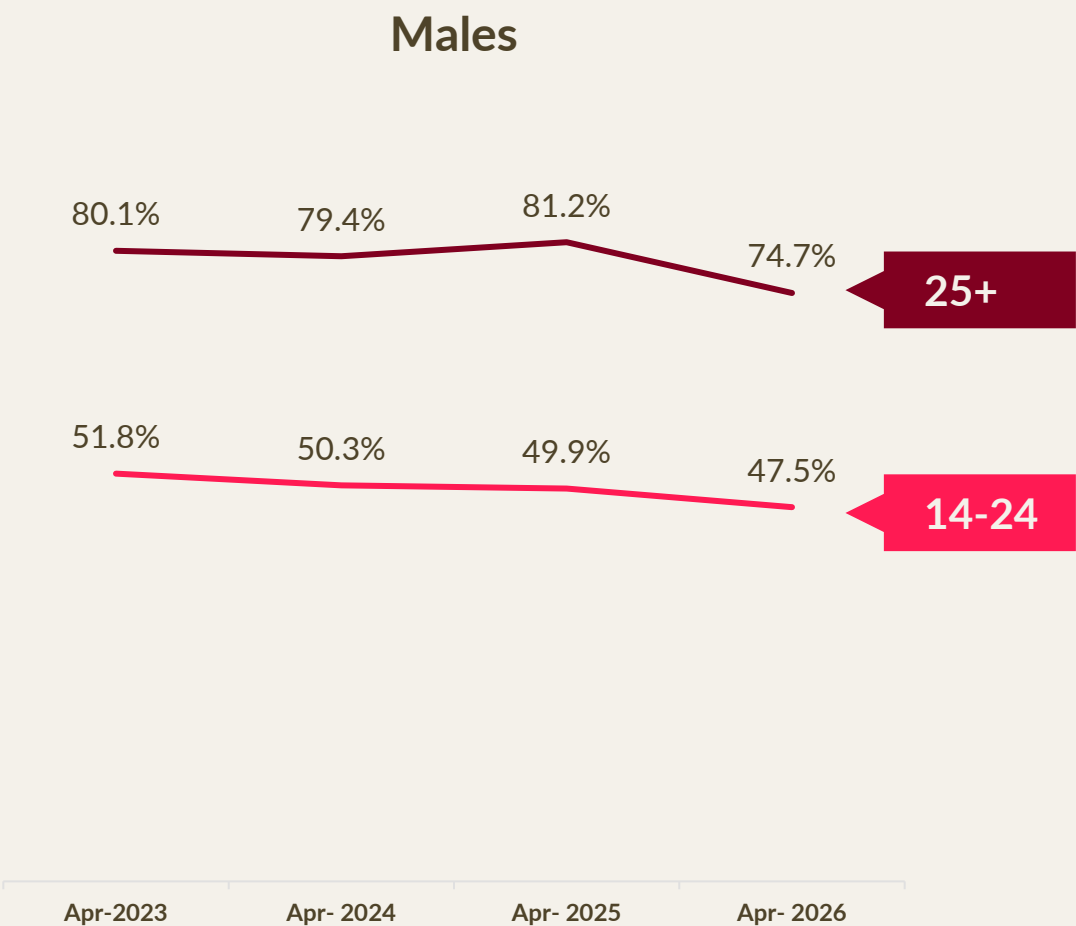


Labour Force by Area, April 2026



Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex and Age Group

April 2023 - 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Unemployment

3,162

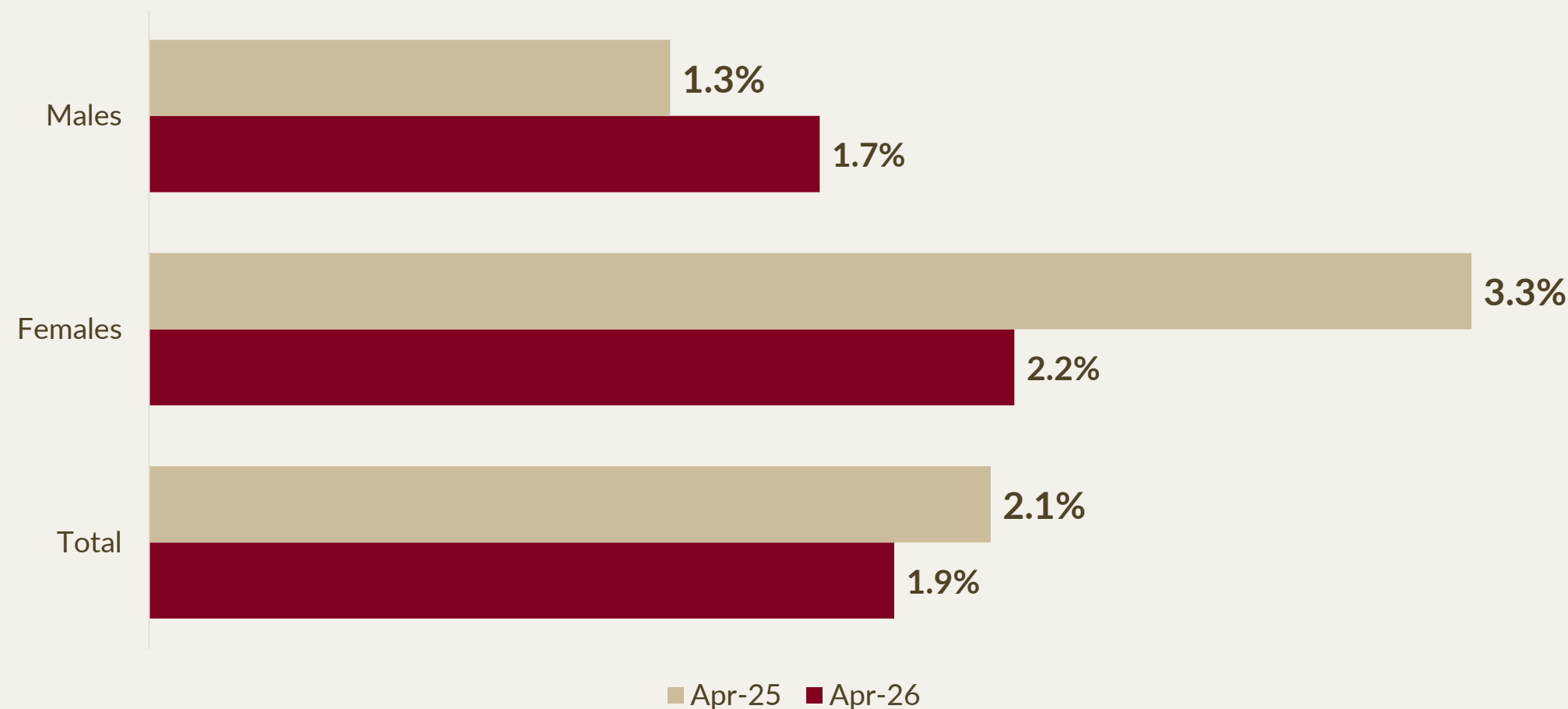
persons or

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

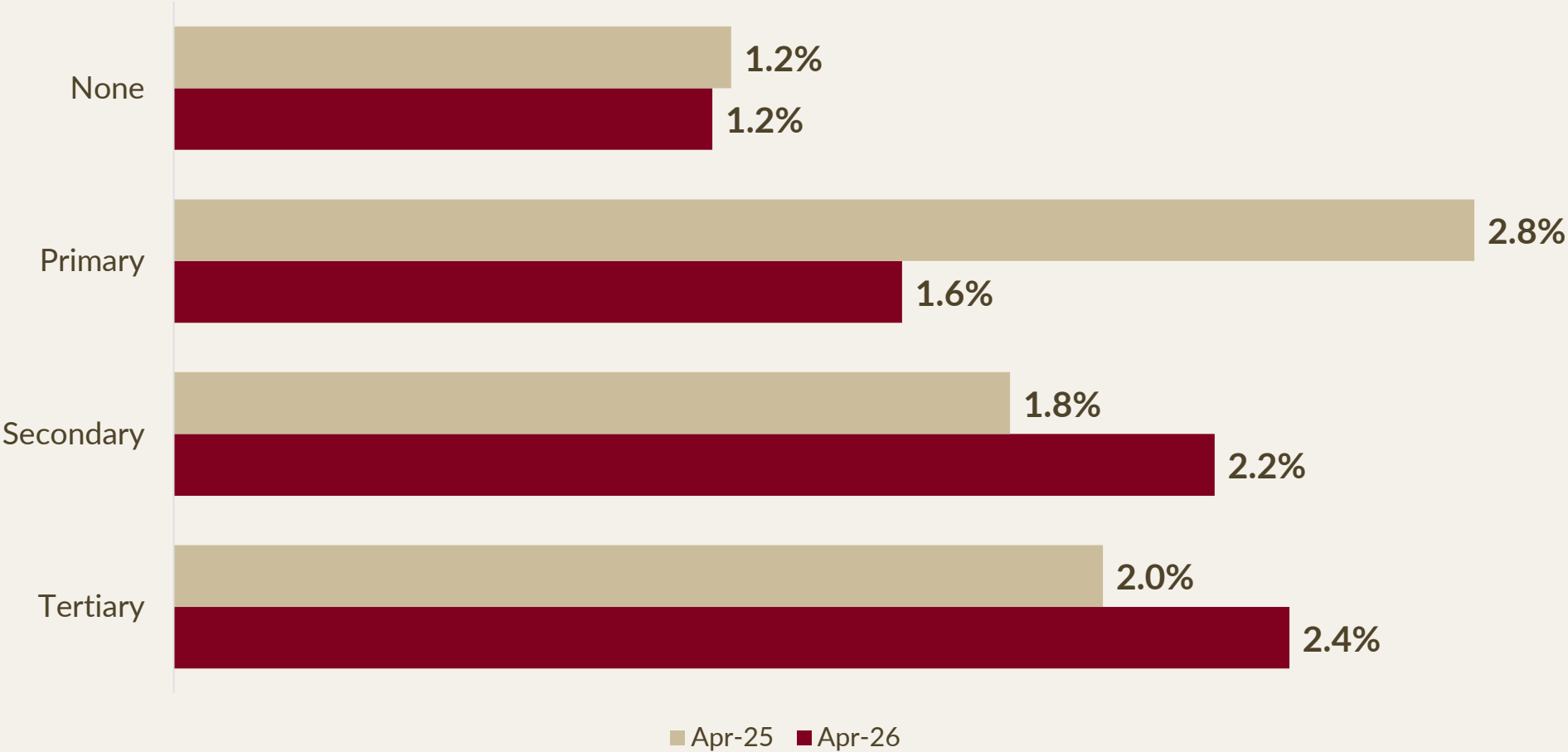
Unemployment Rates by Sex
April 2025 and April 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed

April 2025 and April 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Employment

166,894
persons or
98.1% of the
Labour Force

Employed Persons April 2026



103,178

Males
(61.8%)



63,716

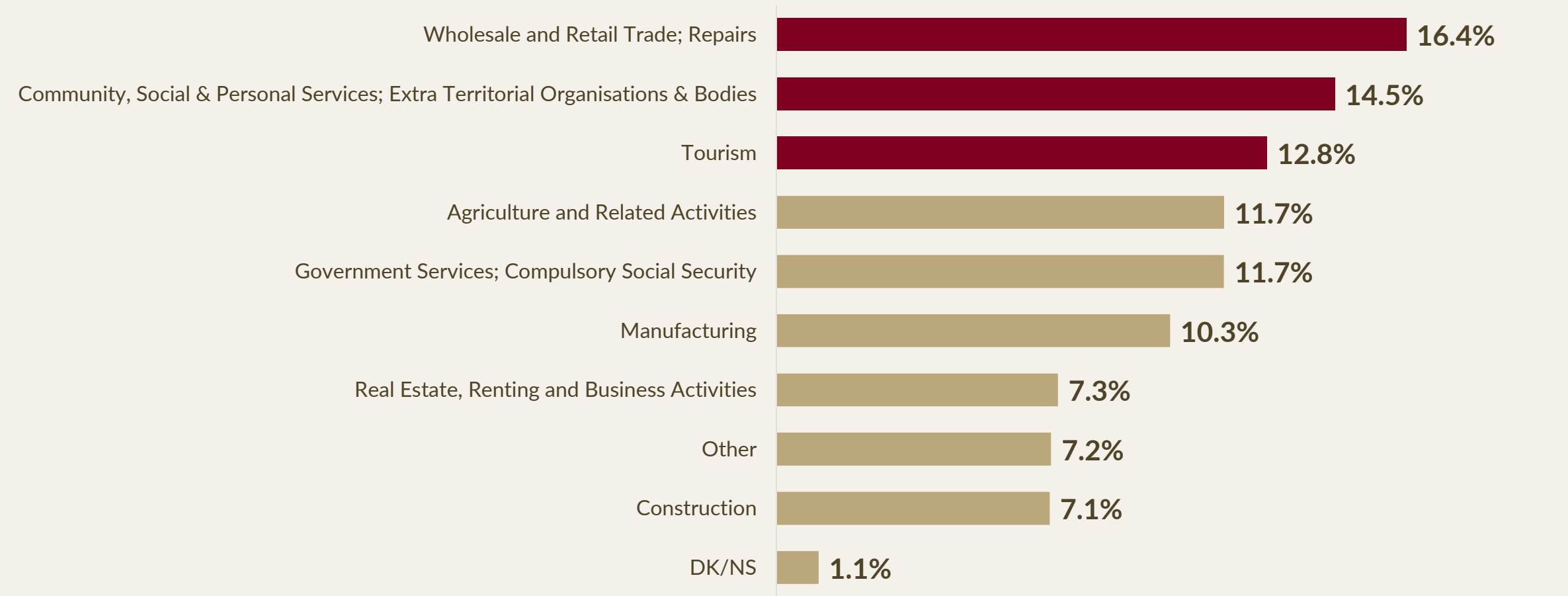
Females
(38.2%)

- Over half (51.8%) of all **employed persons** were between the ages of **25 and 44 years**.
- Completed **primary-level** education: **35.6%**
- Completed **secondary-level** education: **27.5%**
- Completed **tertiary-level** education: **21.7%**
- **72.0%** were **Employees**, while **26.1%** were **Self-employed**.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Major Industry

April 2026



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

**Informal
Employment**
56,966
persons or
34.1% of all
employed
persons

Informal Employment
April 2026



34,747
Males
(61.0%)



22,219
Females
(39.0%)



37,246
Rural



19,720
Urban

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Informally Employed Persons

April 2026

45.0%

Almost **half** of all persons in informal employment were **25 to 34 years old** or **55 years and older**.

20.4%

were in '**Wholesale and Retail trade; Repairs**'

20.1%

were in '**Agriculture and Related Activities**'.

57.3%

were '**Self-employed**'

37.5%

were '**Employees**'

Underemployment

1,142
persons or 0.7%
of all employed
persons

Underemployed Persons

April 2026

- 28.6% worked as 'Service and Sales Workers' while 27.3% were in 'Elementary Occupations'
- 41.1% were employed in 'Agriculture and Related Activities', and 19.2% were employed in the 'Community, Social & Personal Services;' industry.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026

Comparison between Types of Employment

April 2026

Type of employment	Largest share of educational attainment	Average monthly income	Average hours worked per week
All employed	Primary (35.6%)	\$1,528	42.5
Formal employment	Tertiary (30.2%)	\$1,613	44.8
Informal employment	Primary (45.9%)	\$1,297	37.5
Underemployment	Secondary (37.3%)	\$603	13.9

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Persons Not in the Labour Force (PNLF)

145,965
persons or
46.4% of WAP

PNLF

April 2026



48,320
Males
(33.1%)



97,645
Females
(66.9%)

- 30.6% were youths.
- 34.7% were 55 years and older.
- 58.6% had never worked.
- 74.8% depended on family support for finances.
- 45.1% stopped working due to retiring or being too old

Main reasons for not looking for work:

Personal/family duties: **33.3%**

In school/training: **10.5%**

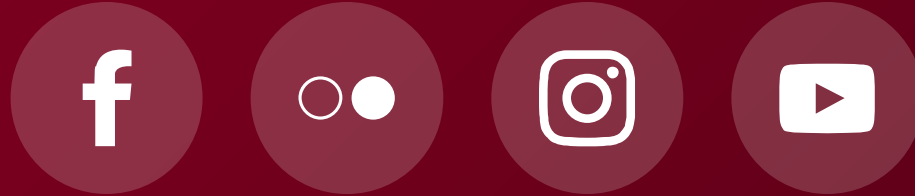
Summary of Results

April 2025 and April 2026

Main Indicator	April 2025	April 2026		Difference
National Population	416,218	417,932	▲	1,714
Working Age Population	310,101	317,044	▲	6,943
Labour Force	183,368	170,056	▼	13,312
Persons Outside the Labour Force	125,608	145,965	▲	20,357
Labour Force Participation rate	59.1%	53.6%	▼	5.5
Unemployment rate	2.1%	1.9%	▼	0.2
Underemployment rate	1.8%	0.7%	▼	1.1
Informal Employment	37.5%	34.1%	▼	3.4
Average Monthly Income	\$1,498	\$1,525	▲	\$27
Average hours worked weekly	41.5	42.5	▲	1 hour

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize. Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

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