



MIGRATION REPORT

Belize 2022 Census

Statistical Institute of Belize



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The Statistical Institute of Belize

1902 Constitution Drive
P.O. Box 617 Belmopan, Belize C.A.

Phone: 501.822.2207/2352
Fax: 501.822.3206

 info@mail.sib.org.bz

 www.sib.org.bz

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Census-taking in Belize has a long-standing history, commencing in 1816, and has significantly evolved into a vital instrument for national planning and development. Conducted every ten years since 1960, initially by the Central Statistical Office and since 2010 by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), this comprehensive Population and Housing Census has become essential for generating demographic, social, and economic data that inform decision-making across public, private, and non-governmental sectors. The 2022 Census was categorized as a de jure enumeration and collected data from residents at their usual places of residence, explicitly excluding military personnel in barracks and diplomatic corps members. Although originally scheduled for 2020, the census faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was ultimately conducted from May 2022 to January 2023, achieving an impressive household response rate of 88% despite challenges such as staff attrition and natural disasters.

Utilizing advanced techniques like Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and applications such as Survey Solutions and SIB Collect, the 2022 census enhanced data accuracy and efficiency. The personnel structure comprised a diverse team from headquarters to regional coordinators, ensuring robust data collection across 170 field teams. Through careful consultation with stakeholders, the census questionnaires were designed to meet international standards, covering key areas like household demographics, economic activities, education, and migration. The census placed special emphasis on migration, gathering detailed data on emigration, internal migration, international migration, and returnees, which is crucial for understanding demographic trends and informing future policy decisions.

The 2022 Census recorded a total population of 397,483, with 11.5% of this figure constituting

foreign-born individuals, marking an 8% decrease since 2010. The census found that the largest groups of immigrants originated from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, which together made up a remarkable 76% of the foreign-born population. Additionally, geographical analysis revealed that a significant number of immigrants were concentrated in the Cayo and Belize districts, areas that also housed a considerable portion of the Belize-born population. The demographic composition indicated that the foreign-born population included an older demographic, particularly individuals aged 45 and above, which contrasts with the younger Belize-born population.

Moreover, the 2022 Census highlighted key insights regarding marital status, migration reasons, and family connections. While a significant percentage of foreign-born individuals did not have children, those who were of reproductive age reported higher rates of live births compared to Belize-born women. The top reasons for migration included family reunification and employment; however, the importance of employment as a motivation for immigration declined since 2010. Notably, the census revealed that the United States continued to be the primary destination for emigrants, mainly driven by educational purposes, underscoring the evolving patterns of migration.

Internal migration patterns were also examined, revealing that 59,365 individuals moved internally within Belize in 2022, which represented 15% of the total population. It was observed that foreign-born individuals were more likely to change their district of residence compared to the Belize-born population. The analysis indicated that the Cayo district remained a popular destination for both native and foreign-born movers, while some districts faced negative net internal migration. Disparities based on age and educational attainment were

significant, with many foreign-born youth dropping out of the education system early compared to their Belize-born peers.

In terms of labour market dynamics, the foreign-born population exhibited higher participation rates within the working-age group but faced limitations concerning educational attainment. A significant proportion of the foreign-born were engaged in low-skilled occupations, with evident differences in labour force participation by gender. The census also examined socioeconomic conditions, revealing that immigrant households were generally smaller than Belize-born households and faced more significant challenges regarding housing quality and access to basic services.

Mortality rates indicated that Belize-born individuals reported higher death incidents within their households compared to foreign-born residents. The reasons for this disparity are unclear, as foreign-born individuals have a higher average age, and a greater share of foreign-born individuals reported chronic illnesses, which has worsened since 2010, indicating an increase in health disparities between the two groups. Moreover, access to health insurance was notably limited among foreign-born individuals, raising concerns over their healthcare access compared to the Belize-born population.

Crime victimization analysis showed a slight prevalence of crime experiences among foreign-born individuals compared to Belize-born counterparts,

although both groups demonstrated a significant decrease in crime incidents since 2010. Robbery and burglary remained the most frequently reported crimes among both groups, whereas foreign-born individuals were less likely to report violent crimes. Reasons for not reporting crime largely stemmed from a lack of confidence in the justice system, highlighting concerns about law enforcement efficacy.

In conclusion, while census data serves as a crucial tool for formulating effective migration policies, the potential for data to become outdated necessitates timely data collection and rigorous analysis. Given that the Population and Housing Census is currently the only source of information on international migrants' characteristics in Belize, it is recommended that the Belize Labour Force Survey (LFS) incorporate migration-related questions to provide more frequent and timely data updates. Although the 2022 census complied with international standards for data collection, it has been noted that essential information related to economic activity indicators, which are vital for understanding migrant integration, was lacking. Future efforts should also explore significant topics such as remittances received from abroad and discrimination against migrants, with suggestions to include a special module in the LFS every three years to gather insights that inform policies aimed at improving migrants' conditions and their integration into Belizean society.

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1. Background, purpose, and objectives

Census-taking in Belize began in 1816, with the first recorded enumeration of both slave and free populations. Over time, it has evolved into a systematic exercise, with the Population and Housing Census being conducted every ten years since 1960, except in 1991. The census is the country's most extensive, complex, and costly statistical operation managed by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB). It gathers key demographic, social and economic data for decision-making in the public, private and social sectors. It is also a valuable source of information for academic research, non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

A national census is a vital tool for government and society due to its comprehensive scope and the depth of information it gathers. Census data help government to allocate resources effectively, ensuring that funds and services are distributed according to the population's needs. It can guide the building of schools, hospitals, and infrastructure in areas where they are most needed. More generally, policymakers rely on accurate census data to inform their decisions on social services, economic policies, and development strategies. It provides a reliable basis for long-term planning and forecasting.

A census also helps to understand the demographic composition of the country, helping to tailor social services to the needs of different groups, such as the elderly, children, and minorities, and ensuring that programs are inclusive and effective. Furthermore, census data is crucial in public health planning, allowing authorities to track population health

trends, forecast healthcare needs, and respond to health crises like pandemics. For the private sector, businesses can use census data to analyse demographics, inform market research, location planning, and investment strategies. This can lead to job creation and economic growth in all sectors.

For purposes of this report, by capturing data on various demographic groups, a census can highlight disparities and help initiate policies focused on equity and inclusion, ensuring that all groups receive appropriate attention and resources. This is particularly relevant, as immigrants represent a dynamic population in Belize, residing unevenly across the country and contributing to the labour force and tax base, while also requiring services and infrastructure.

The 2022 census gives an updated snapshot of this population, and this report highlights the insights that it provides about the location, demographic characterization, and socioeconomic profile of migrants in the country. These include the age and sex composition as well as the marital status and household composition. It also describes migrants' educational attainment, labour market participation, and living conditions. In most cases, these statistics include comparison with the same figures for the Belizean born population, providing a benchmark for the socioeconomic integration of the those born abroad.

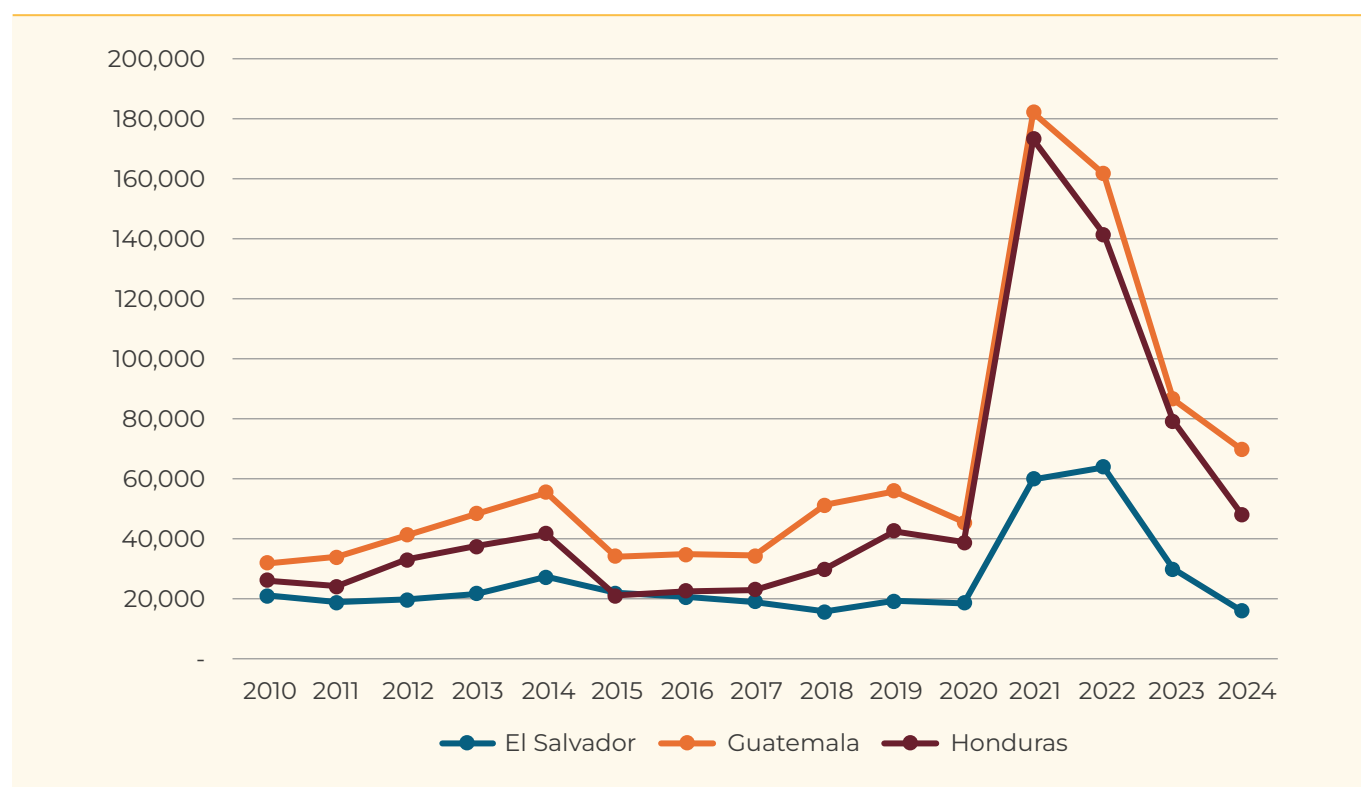
In summary, a national census is a foundational tool that supports effective government functioning, equitable resource distribution, economic development, and informed decision-making. Regarding the foreign-born population, the census gives detailed identification of this large and dynamic group of significant relevance to the country's development.

1.2. Regional context

Belize is situated sharing borders with Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico, which influences the patterns of migration flows through, and to, the country. Economic and social instability in the countries of northern Central America are the largest factors contributing to migration to Belize, with the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras being the source of 75.6% of immigrants. As an illustration, [Figure 1.1](#) shows the numbers of persons from these three countries encountered attempting to migrate to the United States. This level of migratory pressure has also impacted Belize.

The substantial flows of migrants from Belize's neighbours represents a large population of people already in movement or otherwise displaced. In this context, Belize represents an alternative destination away from the situations that the migrants were seeking to leave. Over the twelve years between the 2010 and 2022 censuses, there was a sustained flow of migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras seeking better alternatives. Even when very small percentages choose to relocate to Belize, this can imply meaningful growth in the migrant population of the country.

FIGURE 1.1. Northern Central American Border Encounters in USA



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

1.3. Migration challenges in the region

The pressing issues going forward in the next few years will likely derive from the return of Central American migrants from the United States to unsustainable situations in their home countries, potentially leading them to seek alternatives, of which Belize may be one. Among the three countries of northern Central America, between 2018-2022 (the last five years of the census period) over 860 thousand people were forcibly returned from the United States and Mexico. The combination of transit and return migration in and through Central America has exposed Belize to these larger flows, and some numbers of these people on the move choose to settle in the country.

Even more than the rest of those seeking to migrate, those migrants that find themselves back in their countries of origin without any changes to the situation that they were seeking to leave may be even more motivated to relocate – and are already

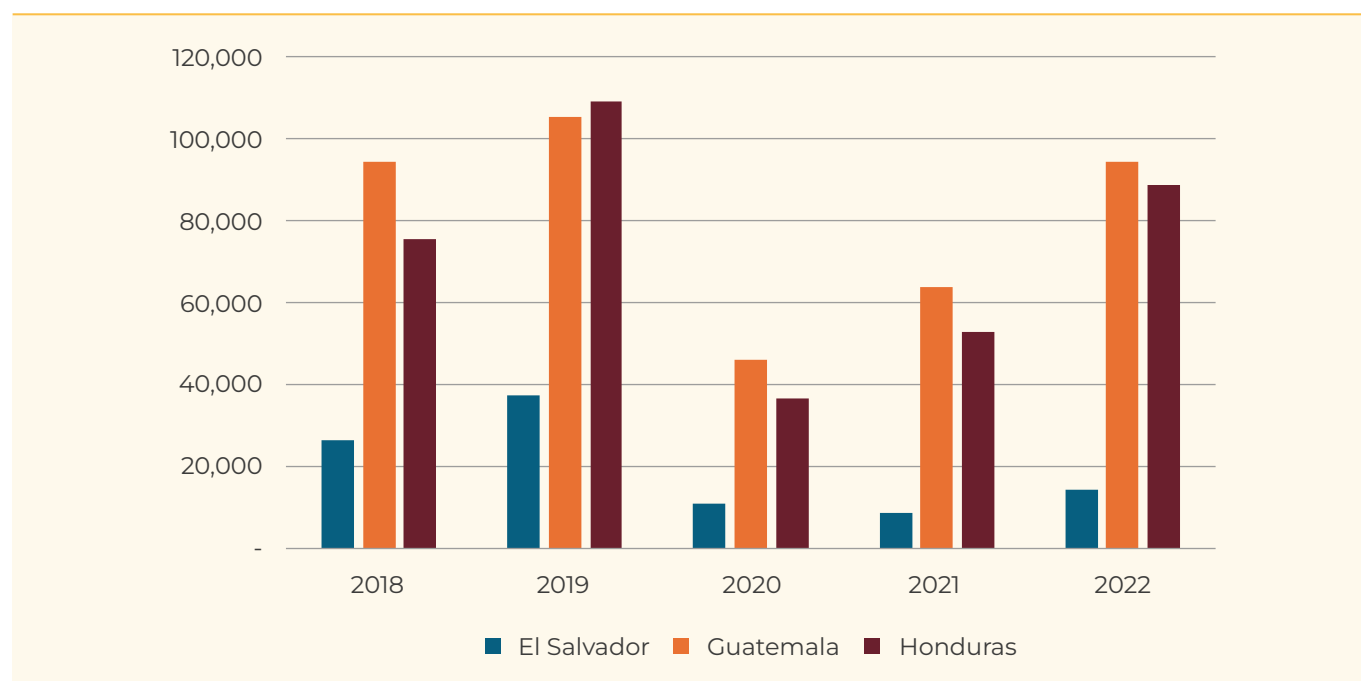
in proximity to Belize. Those that already have family or other contacts in the country will have further incentive to look towards Belize.

1.4. Migration of Belizeans

Belizeans also emigrate and return, and the census captures these movements. The Belizean diaspora abroad can be a source of remittances, which in 2024 reached US\$ 141 million, equivalent to 4.3% of GDP. The diaspora is also a source of human capital, as students go abroad to study and return home with greater skills. Both phenomena can have impacts on the development of the country. Emigrants can gain skills, but if they do not return home these skills make less contribution to the country. Remittances can be a lifeline to raise recipient families out of poverty or contribute to investments in new businesses or other assets.

Belizeans also move about within the country, responding to economic opportunities, among other

FIGURE 1.2. Returnees to Northern Central America



Source: Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

factors. Measurement of these movements in the census can give an idea of the development of different industries in different districts as population moves in response. In 2022, 15% of the population, or nearly 60 thousand people, reported having moved from their district of birth (or of first arrival), with foreign born persons relocating across districts at a higher rate than natives.

At the intersection of Central America and the Caribbean, Latin America and the Commonwealth, Belize is exposed to many patterns of human mobility, including migrants in transit in multiple directions, the free movement regime within the Caribbean, and other connections across the globe. This reality provides both opportunities and challenges for the country, and better data on the aspects of these patterns can lead to better policies to manage the risks and take advantage of the opportunities. The data described below from the 2022 census is an important contribution to that objective.

1.5. Methodology Overview

The 2022 Population and Housing Census, like previous ones, was a *de jure* census, enumerating the population at their usual place of residence. It counted all persons living in households and institutions, whether present or not at the time of survey, regardless of their citizenship. Military personnel and their families living in military barracks or camps, and members of the diplomatic corps living in official residences were excluded.

The census enumeration period took place between May 12, 2022, and January 31, 2023. It was originally scheduled for 2020, but it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and began on May 12, 2022, census day. While planned to last ten weeks, challenges such as staff attrition and natural disasters extended data collection until January 20, 2023. Most regions completed enumeration between August and November 2022. The census had an overall household response rate of 88%, with the remaining 12% due mostly to 'no contacts' and 'refusals'.

1.6. Census Design and Execution

The 2022 census involved a simultaneous listing, enumeration, and interviewing process. The country was divided into small geographic units, called enumeration districts (EDs). Each enumerator was responsible for listing and categorizing all buildings, dwellings, businesses, and institutions in their assigned ED; as well as collecting information on all individuals living in those dwellings. Ideally, every adult in a household could have been interviewed individually. However, a responsible well-informed adult (18 years or older) residing in the household could provide information on behalf of all members if needed.

Data collection was primarily conducted using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology, a face-to-face data collection method.

The SIB employed two main applications:

- **Survey Solutions** (by the World Bank), which was used for listing buildings and dwellings and for asking and recording answers of household and individual questionnaires, featuring built-in validations and offline capabilities.
- **SIB Collect**, a geo-spatial capture application developed by SIB, used for navigation, identification of enumeration areas, and capturing new buildings' geospatial data.

Enumerators were equipped with tablets containing all necessary applications, and additional software like the Census Dashboard facilitated monitoring and management by field supervisors and headquarters staff. This technology allowed interviewers to record answers during the interview and helped assure high quality data.

Data Collection Personnel Structure The census personnel included:



Headquarters Staff:

Core management, support staff (HR, Finance, Admin, IT, GIS), and Editor/Coders.



Nine Regional Offices:

Each with a Regional Census Coordinator (RCC), Assistant Coordinator (ARCC), IT Technicians, and Administrative Assistants.



170 Field Teams:

Each team, led by a field supervisor, consisted of 3-4 interviewers. Teams were expected to list and enumerate an ED within one week.

1.7. Questionnaire Design

The 2022 Census questionnaires were developed through extensive consultation and feedback from various stakeholders. The main objective was to provide detailed information on Belize's population size, structure, geographical distribution and key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. The topics included in the questionnaires were of national importance and ensured historical comparability at both national and international levels.

When selecting questions, international guidelines on topics, questions and categories were followed to ensure comparability of data across countries. For example, a set of standard CARICOM (Caribbean Community) core questions were incorporated in the questionnaire to allow comparisons within the region. Additionally, recommendations by other international organizations – such as, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) – were incorporated to produce harmonized statistical indicators, allowing the situation of Belize to be compared with other nations.

Two questionnaires were used to collect data on households and their members: the Household Questionnaire and the Individual Questionnaire.

The **Household Questionnaire** enumerated all persons living in the household, defined as those

who slept at least 4 nights per week in the household and shared daily meals. It did so by listing all household members and gathering their basic demographic data (age and sex).

The topics covered in this questionnaire included:

- ♦ Listing of household members (age and sex).
- ♦ Housing (general characteristics of the dwelling).
- ♦ Emigration (persons who have permanently moved abroad since the last census).
- ♦ Agriculture (involvement in agricultural activities).
- ♦ Environment (concerns about issues affecting quality of natural resources).
- ♦ Crime (victims of crime within the household).
- ♦ Mortality (death of household members).

The **Individual Questionnaire** captured detailed information of each household member.

The topics covered in this questionnaire were:

- ♦ General Characteristics (relationship to the head of the household, religious affiliation, ethnicity, languages spoken).
- ♦ Migration (movements in and out of the country and within Belize).
- ♦ Disability and health (difficulties due to health problems).
- ♦ Education (highest level of educational attainment, school attendance).
- ♦ Access to the internet (internet use).
- ♦ Training (occupation or job training).
- ♦ Economic activity (participation in the labour force).
- ♦ Income (amount and sources).
- ♦ Marital and union status.
- ♦ Fertility (questions on children born to women aged 15 to 49).

1.8. Internal and international migration

Censuses, together with administrative records and household surveys, are the main sources for monitoring the living conditions of migrants. The main advantage of a census is its universal coverage, which facilitates capturing the full immigrant population. However, censuses also face challenges enumerating vulnerable groups, such as migrants in irregular situation, migrants in transit or forcibly displaced groups. Despite this limitation, censuses are considered one of the most reliable methods for gathering information to understand migrants' characteristics and outcomes.

The 2022 Population and Housing Census examined migration in three areas: emigration (persons who moved abroad); internal migration (people who moved within the country); and international migration (persons who moved or returned to live in Belize). Emigration was assessed in the migration section of the household questionnaire, while internal migration and international migration were examined in the migration section of the individual questionnaire.

Questions on emigration aimed at identifying all persons, who having been usual residents of the household, went to live in another country and were still living abroad at the time of the census. The questionnaire also collected key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of emigrants, the country where household members migrated to; the year of departure; and the main reason for emigrating.

Questions on internal migration aimed at identifying all household members who moved between the district where they were born (or the one where they first arrived for foreign-born) and the district of residence at the time of enumeration. The household respondent was asked for the district of origin (where individuals were born), the district of destination (where they resided at the moment of the

census), the reasons for moving between districts, and the year of arrival in the district of destination of all persons living in the household.

International immigrants were identified based on two questions: the country of birth of household members and mother's country of residence at the time of household members' birth. In this report, we define immigrants or foreign-born individuals by their country of birth. Additionally, the household respondent was asked the year when immigrants arrived in Belize, and the main reason for coming to live in the country.

The questionnaire also gathered information to identify returnees. That is, Belize-born individuals who lived in another country for at least 12 months and returned to live in Belize. Household respondents were asked which country returnees went to live in, the year when they returned to live in Belize, and the reason for coming back to Belize.

1.9. Migration dimensions and indicators

This report presents indicators on migration using data collected during the 2022 census. It offers a comprehensive overview of the migrant population by examining the characteristics of the foreign- and Belize-born population who moved in and out of the country, as well as those who have moved within the country. The indicators show migrants' sociodemographic characteristics, reasons for migrating, and the duration of their stay abroad or the duration of residence in Belize. Furthermore, the report provides insights into the integration of foreign-born individuals, by showing their socio-demographic characteristics, economic activities, living conditions, health status, and more. It also compares the situation of foreign-born individuals with that of their Belize-born counterparts to better understand differences between groups. Additionally, when available, comparisons with data from previous censuses are included to assess changes over time of key indicators.

This report includes 53 indicators, which were grouped into 11 chapters, as shown below. [Chapter 1](#) provides an introduction and overview of this thematic report, part of the series of publications of the 2022 Census. It explains the background and objectives as well as the context and regional migration challenges. [Chapter 2](#) provides a summary

of the census methodology, the census questionnaire design and implementation. Chapters 3 to 10 present the indicators constructed to examine migration. And [Chapter 11](#) concludes providing a summary of the key findings and recommendations on future data collection.

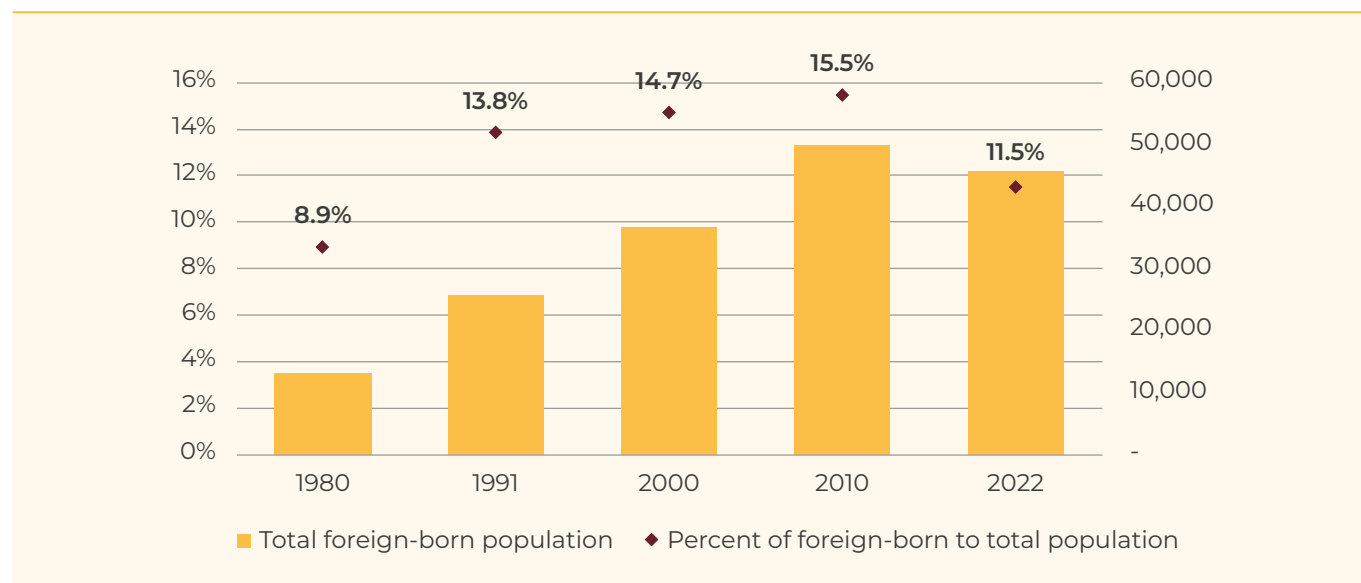
2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND HOUSEHOLDS

2.1. Size and composition of the immigrant population

The 2022 Population and Housing Census in Belize recorded a total population of 397,483. Of these, the number of persons born abroad – those that reported that their country of birth was not Belize – accounted for 45,644 persons. That is, 11.5% of the total population were foreign-born (see [Figure 2.1.1](#) and [Table 2.1.1](#)). Since 2010, when the previous census was conducted, the foreign-born population has decreased by 8% (going from 49,819

to 45,644 people), a drop of 4 percentage points relative to the total population (from 15.5% to 11.5%). The fall in size of the migrant population is contrary to the steady upward trend observed since the 1980 Census, when 8.9% of the population was born outside Belize. Further, while between 1991 and 2010 the intercensal growth rate of the immigrant population was higher than the growth rate of the general population, this was not the case between 2010 and 2022. The intercensal growth rate between the past two censuses was negative for the foreign-born (-8.4%) and positive for the total population (29%).

FIGURE 2.1.1. Total number and share of foreign-born to total population, 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010, 2022.

TABLE 2.1.1. Total number and percentage of foreign-born population and its growth rate, 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010 and 2022

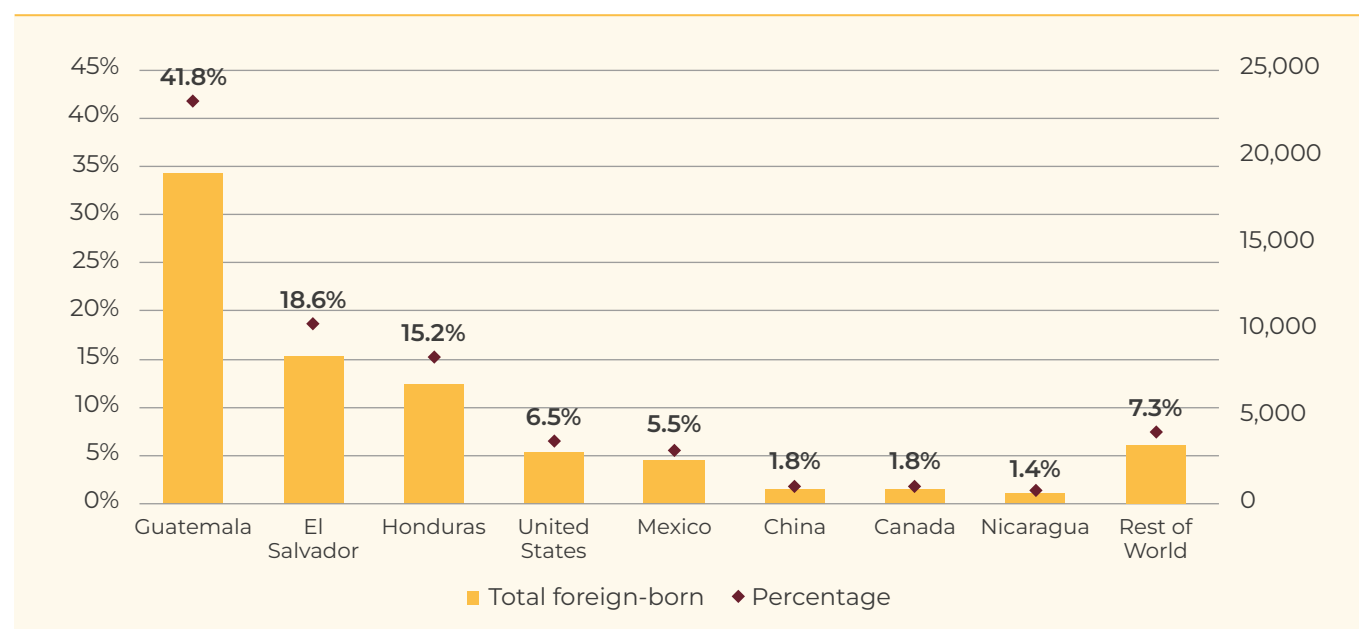
| | 1980 | 1991 | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total population | 144,850 | 185,969 | 248,916 | 322,424 | 397,483 |
| Total foreign-born population | 12,940 | 25,745 | 36,642 | 49,819 | 45,644 |
| Percent of foreign-born to total population | 8.9% | 13.8% | 14.7% | 15.5% | 11.5% |
| Intercensal Belize-born population growth rate | | 21.5% | 32.5% | 28.4% | 29.1% |
| Intercensal foreign-born population growth rate | | 99.0% | 42.3% | 36.0% | -8.4% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 1980, 1991, 2000, 2010, 2022.

The top countries of birth for immigrants living in Belize in 2022 were the Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Three out of four immigrants based in Belize were born in one of three neighbouring countries (76%). Guatemalans represent the largest group of immigrants in the country, with 19,061 persons or 41.8% of the foreign-born population. El Salvadorans are the

second largest group of immigrants, with 8,511 persons or 18.6% of those born abroad. This is followed by immigrants born in Honduras, who accounted for almost 7,000 persons or 15.2%. Other top countries of birth of immigrants include the United States (6.5%) and Mexico (5.5%). The 2022 ranking of countries of birth for immigrants was like the one observed in 2010 and 2000 ([Table 2.1.2](#)).

FIGURE 2.1.2. Foreign-born by country of birth, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 2.1.2. Total foreign-born by country of birth, 2000, 2010 and 2022

| | 2000 | | 2010 | | 2022 | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Guatemala | 15,581 | 42.5% | 20,181 | 40.5% | 19,061 | 41.8% |
| El Salvador | 6,479 | 17.7% | 7,582 | 15.2% | 8,511 | 18.6% |
| Honduras | 5,315 | 14.5% | 7,517 | 15.1% | 6,940 | 15.2% |
| United States | 1,886 | 5.1% | 3,574 | 7.2% | 2,985 | 6.5% |
| Mexico | 2,500 | 6.8% | 3,026 | 6.1% | 2,528 | 5.5% |
| China | 972 | 2.7% | 1,753 | 3.5% | 834 | 1.8% |
| Canada | 473 | 1.3% | 714 | 1.4% | 822 | 1.8% |
| Nicaragua | 306 | 0.8% | 654 | 1.3% | 638 | 1.4% |
| Rest of world | 3,130 | 8.5% | 4,817 | 9.7% | 3,323 | 7.3% |
| Total | 36,642 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

2.2. Distribution of immigrants in districts, urban and rural areas

Cayo and Belize – the two largest districts of the country – host more than half of all immigrants living in the country (58%) ([Figure 2.2.1](#) and [Table 2.2.1](#)). The Cayo district is home to around one-in-three of those born abroad (35.5% or 16,197 persons), and the Belize district hosts around two-in-five (22.1% or 10,088 persons). At the same time, around half of Belize-born persons also live in these two districts (53%). Nevertheless, the foreign-born population is more highly concentrated in the district of Cayo – which borders with Guatemala and hosts the capital city of Belmopan – than the Belize-born population (35.5% and 23.6%, respectively). And those born in Belize are more often found in the Belize district – where Belize city, the largest city in the country is located – (29.2% compared with 22.1% of those born abroad). At the opposite side, the districts with the smallest concentration of foreign-born include Toledo, Corozal and Orange Walk, with 10.8%, 9.5% and 8.6%, respectively. Corozal and Toledo also host the smallest share of Belize-born individuals.

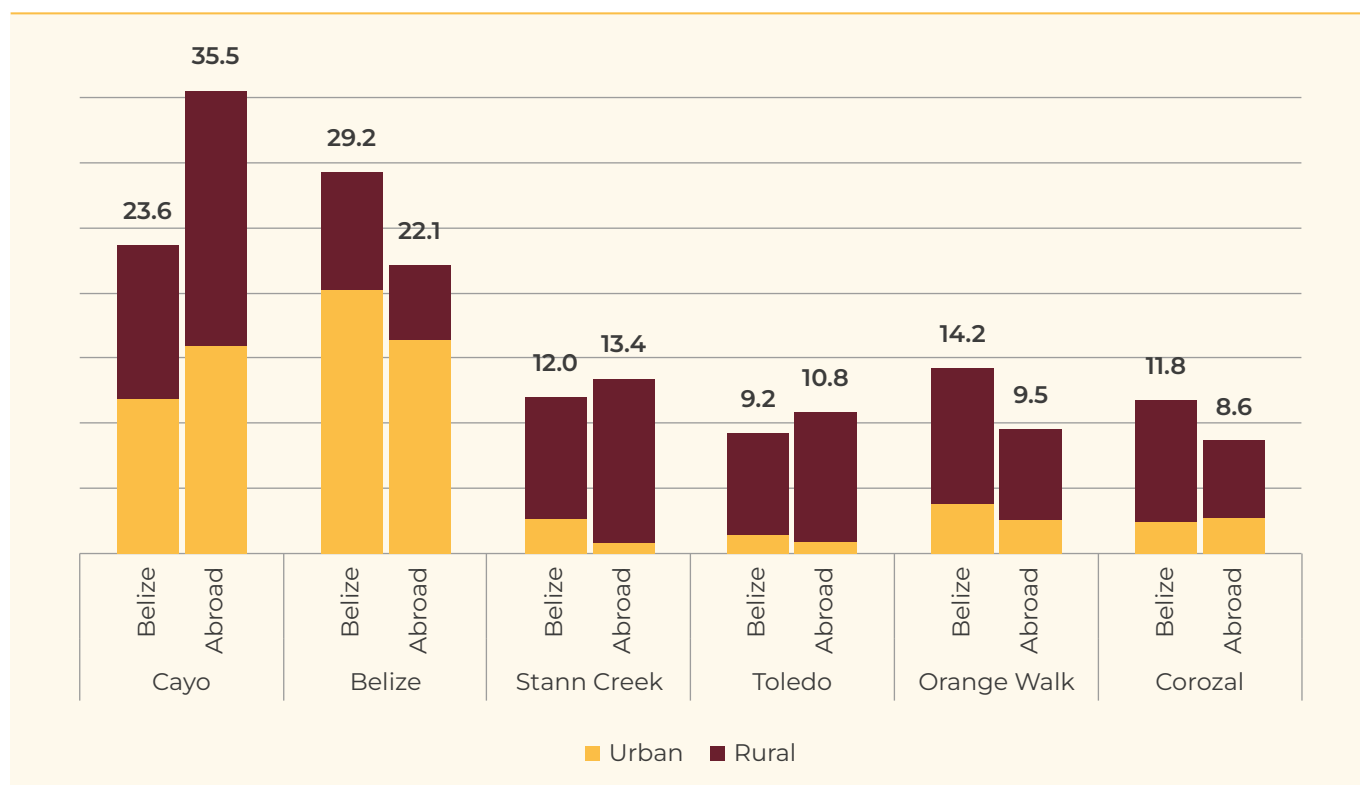
Comparisons between the 2000 and the 2022 Census show an increase of 4.8 percentage points in the share of immigrants living in the Cayo district (from 30.7% to 35.5%) ([Table 2.2.1](#) and [Table A.4.](#)). Similarly, the share of Belize-born living in this district increased over the same period, but at a slower rate, an increase of 3.2 percentage points (from 20.4% to 23.6%). By contrast, the share of foreign-born based in the district of Belize has decreased over time (a drop of 3.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2022), while the share of persons born in Belize living in this district has remained stable (at around 30%). The share of foreign-born also decreased in the Orange Walk district, between 2000 and 2022, with a drop of 3.9 percentage points.

In addition, at the national level, both foreign- and Belize-born populations are more concentrated in rural than in urban areas. In the last census, 61% of foreign-born and 58% of those born in Belize were based in rural settings ([Figure 2.2.2](#)). This pattern was observed in all districts, except in the district of Belize, where foreign- and Belize-born groups were highly concentrated in urban areas (73.9% and 69.3%, respectively); and, in the Cayo district, where foreign- and Belize-born populations were less concentrated in rural areas, especially those born in the

country (49.9% of Belize-born and 55.2% of those born abroad were living in rural areas). Within districts there were some differences in the concentration in rural areas between foreign- and Belize-born. In Stann Creek and Toledo, immigrants were more heavily concentrated in rural areas (94% and 91%,

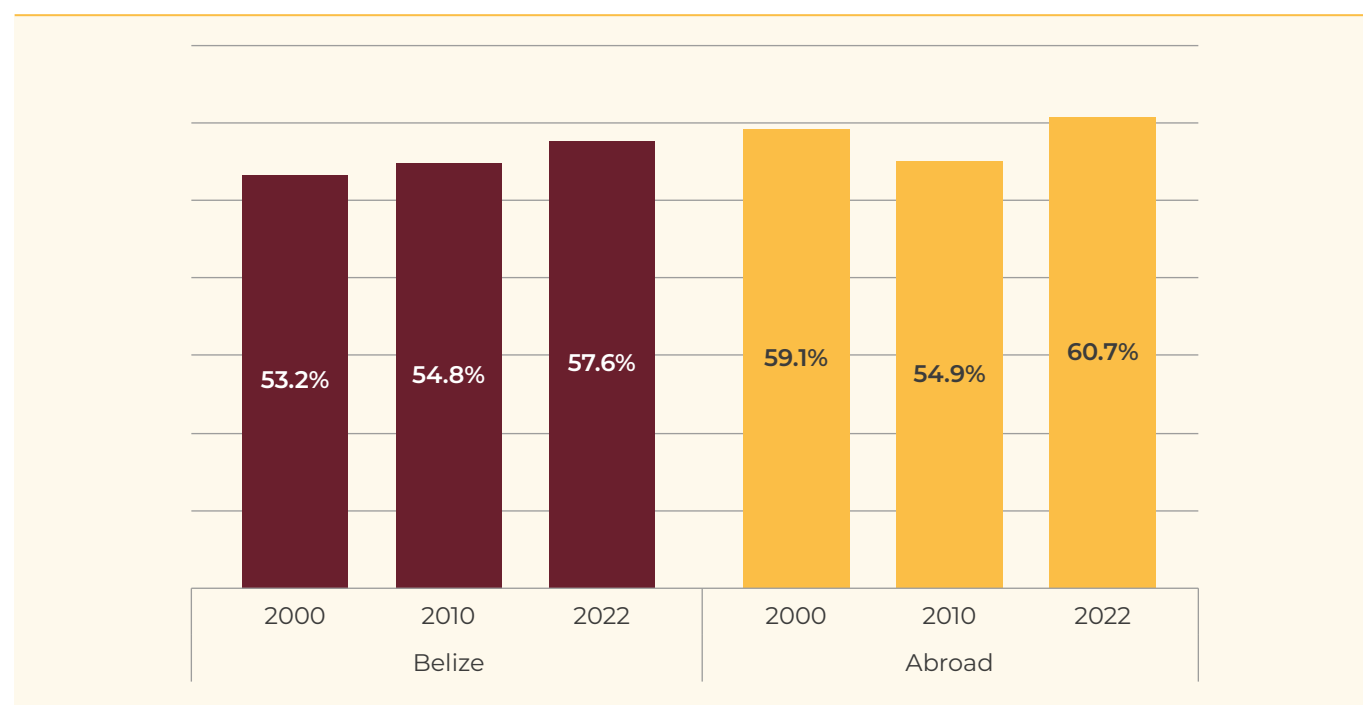
respectively) than those born in Belize (77.9% and 84.5%). On the other hand, in the Corozal district, persons born abroad were less heavily concentrated in rural areas than their Belize-born counterparts (67.9% and 79.5%, respectively).

FIGURE 2.2.1. Share of population by district, urban and rural areas, and by country of birth, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census, 2022.

FIGURE 2.2.2. Share of Foreign- and Belize-born populations living in rural areas, 2000-2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 2.2.1. Population by district, urban or rural area and country of birth, 2000-2022

| | | 2000 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| District | Corozal | 30,986 | 15% | 2,904 | 8% | 36,885 | 14% | 4,090 | 8% | 41,086 | 12% | 3,939 | 9% |
| | Orange Walk | 35,394 | 17% | 4,901 | 13% | 40,462 | 15% | 5,463 | 11% | 49,575 | 14% | 4,339 | 10% |
| | Belize | 62,154 | 29% | 8,370 | 23% | 82,362 | 30% | 12,822 | 26% | 102,022 | 29% | 10,088 | 22% |
| | Cayo | 43,218 | 20% | 11,248 | 31% | 59,516 | 22% | 15,491 | 31% | 82,337 | 24% | 16,197 | 35% |
| | Stann Creek | 20,266 | 10% | 5,161 | 14% | 27,691 | 10% | 6,597 | 13% | 41,765 | 12% | 6,129 | 13% |
| | Toledo | 20,063 | 9% | 4,057 | 11% | 25,412 | 9% | 5,357 | 11% | 32,083 | 9% | 4,952 | 11% |
| | Total | 212,081 | 100% | 36,642 | 100% | 272,328 | 100% | 49,819 | 100% | 348,868 | 100% | 45,644 | 100% |
| Area | Urban | 99,231 | 46.8% | 14,990 | 40.9% | 123,206 | 45.2% | 22,449 | 45.1% | 147,822 | 42.4% | 17,951 | 39.3% |
| | Rural | 112,850 | 53.2% | 21,653 | 59.1% | 149,122 | 54.8% | 27,370 | 54.9% | 201,046 | 57.6% | 27,693 | 60.7% |
| | Total | 212,081 | 100% | 36,642 | 100% | 272,328 | 100% | 49,819 | 100% | 348,868 | 100% | 45,644 | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

2.3. Age composition

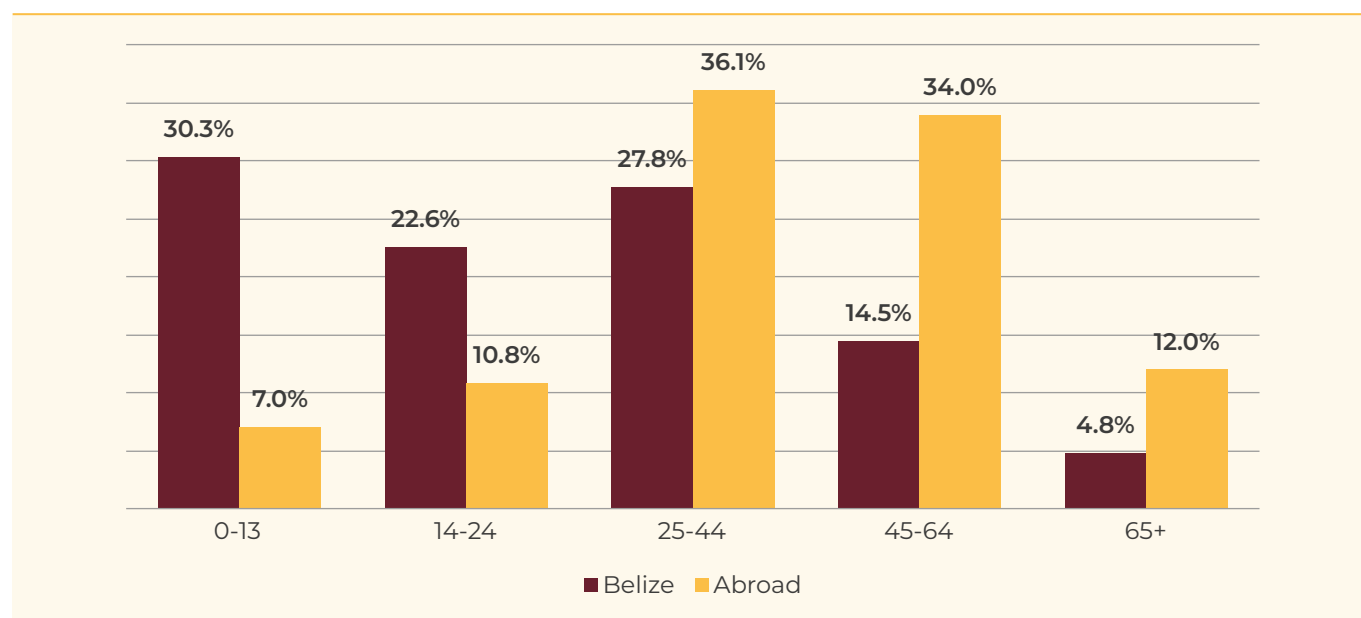
There are important differences in the age composition of immigrants in Belize compared with that of Belize-born individuals ([Figure 2.3.1](#)). First, in 2022, there was a higher share of children (under age 14) and young people (aged 14 and 24) among the Belize-born population than among those born abroad—30.3% and 7% of children, respectively; and 22.6% and 10.8% of youth, respectively. Second, the share of older people (45 and over) among people born in Belize is half the share of the immigrant population (19.3% and 46%, respectively). Third, the population share of working age (14 to 64 years old) is much higher among the foreign-born than among their Belize-born counterparts (80.9% and 64.8%, respectively).

Between the 2010 and 2022 census, the age composition of the foreign- and Belize-born populations

showed an ageing of the population ([Table 2.3.1](#)). This pattern was especially pronounced among the foreign-born. For example, while the median age of the foreign-born persons increased by 9 years (from 34 to 43 years), the one of the Belize-born population increased by 4 years only (from 19 to 23 years). By 2022, the median age of the Belize-born population was almost half that of the foreign-born (23 and 43 years, respectively).

At the same time, while the share of children and youth decreased by 11 percentage points among people born abroad, it decreased by 8 percentage points for those born in Belize. And the share of older people aged 55 and over increased by 11 percentage points among the foreign-born and only by 3 percentage points among their Belize-born peers. These differences are explained by the fact that between censuses there were less immigrants moving to Belize and that those who moved tend to come without young children.

FIGURE 2.3.1. Age groups as percentage of total population by country of birth, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 2.3.1. Age groups and median age of Foreign- and Belize-born, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Total | Percent | Total | Percent | Total | Percent | Total | Percent |
| 0-13 | 102,135 | 37.5% | 5,326 | 10.7% | 105,777 | 30.3% | 3,212 | 7.0% |
| 14-24 | 63,555 | 23.3% | 8,803 | 17.7% | 78,792 | 22.6% | 4,945 | 10.8% |
| 25-34 | 38,498 | 14.1% | 10,795 | 21.7% | 54,878 | 15.7% | 7,331 | 16.1% |
| 35-44 | 28,042 | 10.3% | 9,948 | 20.0% | 42,004 | 12.0% | 9,167 | 20.1% |
| 45-54 | 19,286 | 7.1% | 7,358 | 14.8% | 29,851 | 8.6% | 8,960 | 19.6% |
| 55-64 | 10,317 | 3.8% | 4,520 | 9.1% | 20,690 | 5.9% | 6,538 | 14.3% |
| 65+ | 10,495 | 3.9% | 3,069 | 6.2% | 16,876 | 4.8% | 5,491 | 12.0% |
| Total | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |
| Median Age | 19.0 | | 34.0 | | 23.0 | | 43.0 | |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

2.4. Sex composition

In 2022, women born abroad accounted for 52.5% of the total immigrant population (23,962 persons out of 45,644) (see [Table 2.4.1](#)). This share was slightly higher than the one observed in 2010, when close to half of foreign-born persons of all ages were women (50.2%). Between 2010 and 2022, the percentage of women among the immigrant population grew by 2 percentage points. By contrast, women born in Belize represented a similar share to that of Belize-born men, both in 2022 and in 2010 (50.6% and 50%, respectively).

The percentage of foreign-born women compared to that of foreign-born men varies across different age groups (see [Figure 2.4.1](#) and [Table A.2](#)). Among those under 14 years old, immigrant women and men are equally represented (50%). However, women are overrepresented in the prime working age groups: 56% in the 25- to 34-year-old group and 57% in the 35- to 44-year-old group. Conversely, in the older age groups (65 years and more), immigrant women are underrepresented, making up only 45% of the foreign-born population.

On the other hand, the percentage of women in the Belize-born population was close to 50% for most age groups, except for the 25- to 34-year-old group, where they were somewhat overrepresented (53% of Belize-born were women).

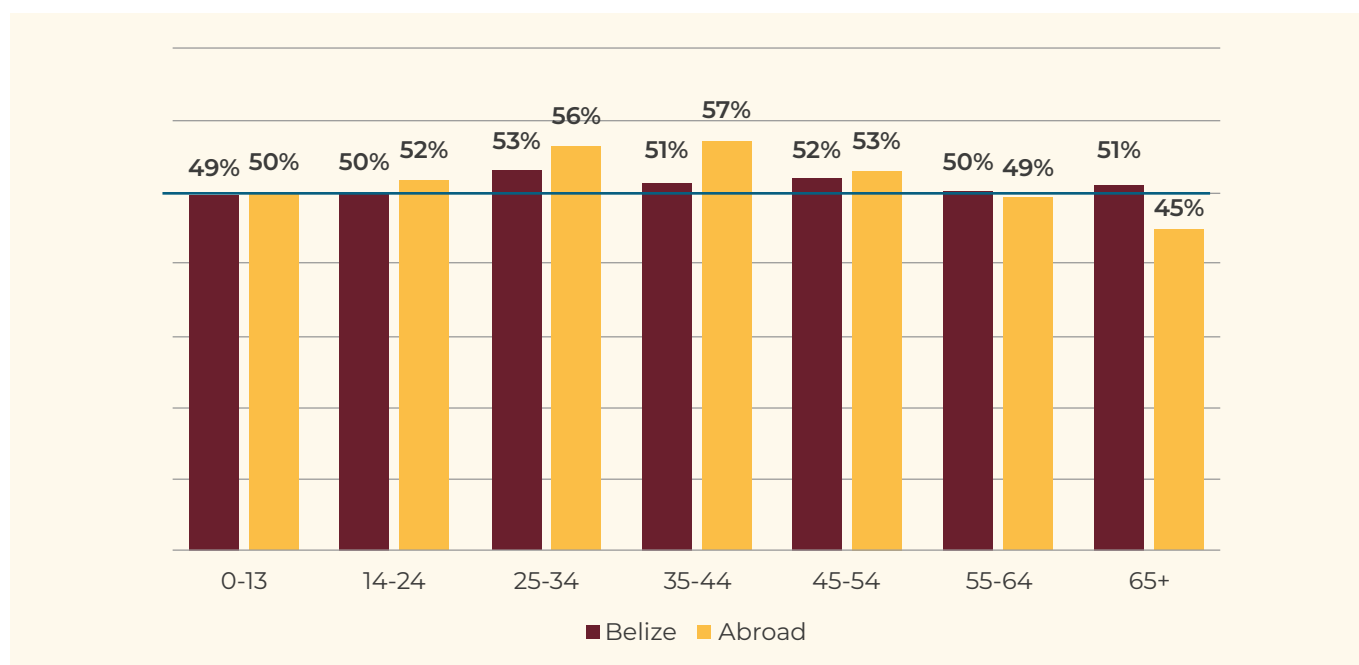
The percentage of women born abroad also varies by their country of birth (see [Figure 2.4.2](#)). Among immigrants born in Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United States, the share of women is comparable to that of men (ranging between 49% and 51%). However, women were overrepresented among immigrants born in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, where they constitute a majority of 53% or more. By contrast, women were underrepresented among immigrants born in China and in other countries of the world, comprising 46% and 45% of the immigrant populations, respectively.

Between the 2000 and 2022 censuses, the proportion of women among immigrants born in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras – the top three countries where immigrants were born – has increased by at least 5 percentage points. The share of women in immigrants of other countries of origin has grown at a smaller scale or has practically not changed over time.

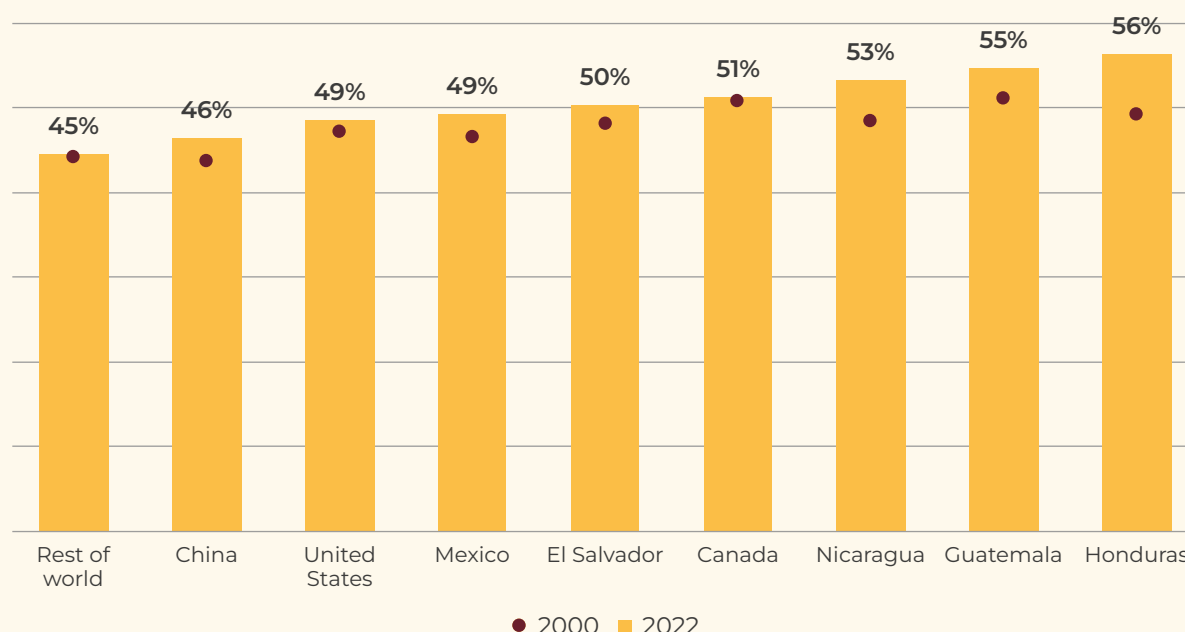
TABLE 2.4.1. Total Foreign- and Belize-born population by sex, 2010 and 2022

| Sex | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Male | 136,259 | 50.0% | 24,795 | 49.8% | 172,472 | 49.4% | 21,682 | 47.5% |
| Female | 136,067 | 50.0% | 25,024 | 50.2% | 176,396 | 50.6% | 23,962 | 52.5% |
| Total | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

FIGURE 2.4.1. Percentage of women by age groups and country of birth, 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

FIGURE 2.4.2. Percentage of women born abroad by country of birth, 2000 and 2022

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000 and 2022.

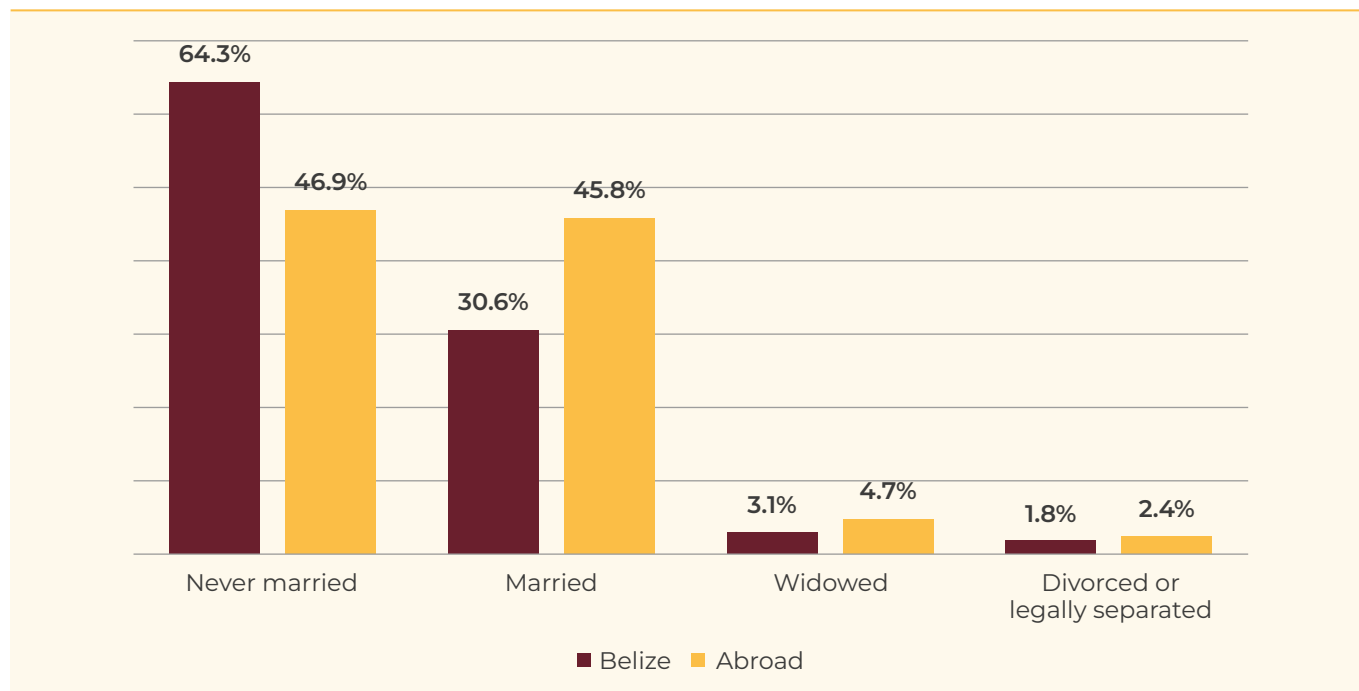
2.5. Marital and union status

In 2022, almost half of immigrants aged 15 plus had never married ([Figure 2.5.1](#) and [Table 2.5.1](#)). However, they were less likely to have never married compared with their Belize-born counterparts (46.9% and 64.3%, respectively). Conversely, people born abroad were more likely to be married (45.8% and 30.6%, respectively), divorced or legally separated (2.4% compared with 1.8% among the Belize-born), or widowed (4.7 % compared with 3.1% among the Belize-born) than those born in Belize.

The marital status of the foreign-born population remained largely unchanged between the two most recent censuses. However, the proportion of never-married individuals among the Belize-born population increased by 4 percentage points (from 60.0% to 64.3%) between 2010 and 2022. Among a slightly older population, those aged 20 plus, the

proportion of never-married individuals is lower, especially for Belize-born individuals ([Table 2.5.2](#)). Never-married rates for people in this age group were 57.7% and 44.5 % for native- and foreign-born, respectively, in 2022.

Regarding union status, people born abroad were more likely to be married and living with their spouse or common-law partner compared to those born in Belize (66.9% and 51.8%, respectively) ([Table 2.5.3](#)). Consequently, foreign-born persons were also less likely to be without a partner or to be in a visiting partner relationship compared to the Belize-born population (26.2% and 39.7% were not in a union, respectively; and 1.8% and 5.4% were in a visiting relationship, respectively). When focusing on the population aged 20 plus, the proportion not in a union is lower ([Table 2.5.4](#)), especially among the Belize-born population. In 2022, the share of Belize-born persons aged 20 plus who were not in a union was 30.4% and the equivalent rate among immigrants was 23.5 %.

FIGURE 2.5.1. Marital status of foreign- and Belize-born individuals aged 15 plus, 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 2.5.1. Marital status of foreign- and Belize-born individuals aged 15 plus, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Never married | 98,161 | 60.0% | 21,047 | 47.9% | 151,286 | 64.3% | 19,735 | 46.9% |
| Married | 55,845 | 34.1% | 19,977 | 45.5% | 72,012 | 30.6% | 19,259 | 45.8% |
| Divorced | 2,345 | 1.4% | 853 | 1.9% | 2,739 | 1.2% | 718 | 1.7% |
| Widowed | 4,945 | 3.0% | 1,392 | 3.2% | 7,189 | 3.1% | 1,985 | 4.7% |
| Legally separated | 1,951 | 1.2% | 560 | 1.3% | 1,478 | 0.6% | 294 | 0.7% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 328 | .2% | 72 | .2% | 455 | .2% | 72 | .2% |
| Total | 163,575 | 100.0% | 43,901 | 100.0% | 235,159 | 100.0% | 42,064 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 2.5.2. Marital status of foreign-born and Belize-born aged 20 plus, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Never married | 67,777 | 51.2% | 17,678 | 43.7% | 114,116 | 57.7% | 17,901 | 44.5% |
| Married | 55,252 | 41.7% | 19,885 | 49.2% | 71,750 | 36.3% | 19,239 | 47.8% |
| Divorced | 2,333 | 1.8% | 852 | 2.1% | 2,738 | 1.4% | 718 | 1.8% |
| Widowed | 4,944 | 3.7% | 1,392 | 3.4% | 7,188 | 3.6% | 1,985 | 4.9% |
| Legally separated | 1,936 | 1.5% | 555 | 1.4% | 1,470 | .7% | 293 | .7% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 181 | .1% | 64 | .2% | 402 | .2% | 71 | .2% |
| Total | 132,423 | 100.0% | 40,427 | 100.0% | 197,664 | 100.0% | 40,207 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 2.5.3. Union status of foreign- and Belize-born individuals aged 15 plus, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Not in a union | 64,138 | 39.2% | 12,802 | 29.2% | 93,466 | 39.7% | 11,028 | 26.2% |
| Married and living with spouse | 49,906 | 30.5% | 17,606 | 40.1% | 64,260 | 27.3% | 16,752 | 39.8% |
| Married and not living with spouse | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5,841 | 2.5% | 1,951 | 4.6% |
| Common-law relationship | 36,369 | 22.2% | 11,620 | 26.5% | 57,653 | 24.5% | 11,371 | 27.0% |
| Visiting partner relationship | 11,276 | 6.9% | 1,307 | 3.0% | 12,623 | 5.4% | 744 | 1.8% |
| Other | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 317 | 0.1% | 81 | 0.2% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,886 | 1.2% | 566 | 1.3% | 999 | 0.4% | 137 | 0.3% |
| Total | 163,575 | 100.0% | 43,901 | 100.0% | 235,159 | 100.0% | 42,064 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

N/A: Not Applicable.

TABLE 2.5.4. Union status of foreign- and Belize-born individuals aged 20 plus, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Not in a union | 38,523 | 29.1% | 10,121 | 25.0% | 60,159 | 30.4% | 9,432 | 23.5% |
| Married and living with spouse | 49,363 | 37.3% | 17,526 | 43.4% | 64,030 | 32.4% | 16,736 | 41.6% |
| Married and not living with spouse | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5,832 | 3.0% | 1,948 | 4.8% |
| Common-law relationship | 34,003 | 25.7% | 11,086 | 27.4% | 55,263 | 28.0% | 11,177 | 27.8% |
| Visiting partner relationship | 8,895 | 6.7% | 1,153 | 2.9% | 11,209 | 5.7% | 697 | 1.7% |
| Other | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 297 | .2% | 80 | .2% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,640 | 1.2% | 541 | 1.3% | 874 | .4% | 136 | .3% |
| Total | 132,423 | 100.0% | 40,427 | 100.0% | 197,664 | 100.0% | 40,207 | 100.0% |

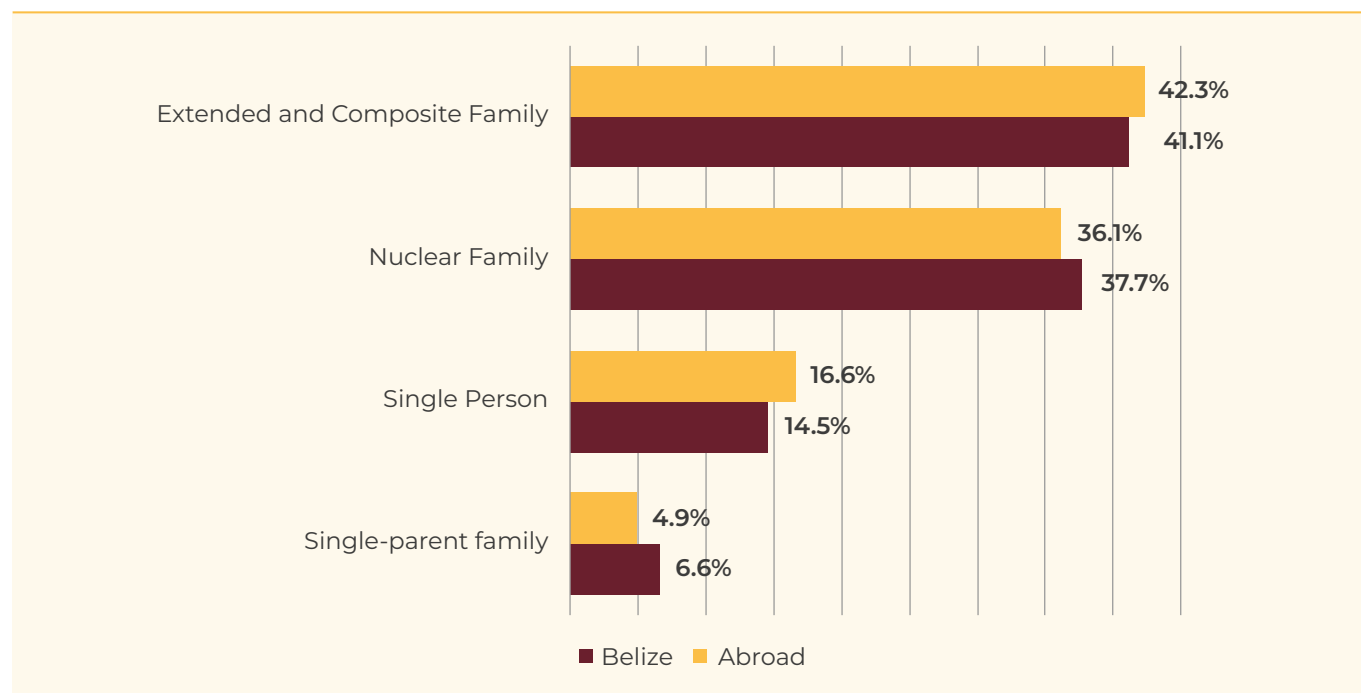
Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

N/A: Not Applicable.

2.6. Household composition

Overall, there were minor differences in the household composition of the foreign- and Belize-born populations in 2022. Extended and composite families were the most common household type for both groups. They accounted for 42.3% of immigrant households and 41.1% of their Belize-born counterparts. This was followed by nuclear

families, which represented 36.1% of foreign-born households and 37.7% of Belize-born households. Disparities between groups were observed in the categories of households headed by one adult only. Immigrants were more likely to live in single-person households than their peers born in Belize, at 16.6% compared to 14.5%. Conversely, foreign-born individuals were less likely to live in single-parent households than those born in the country, with 4.9% and 6.6%, respectively.

FIGURE 2.6.1. Household composition for foreign- and Belize-born households, 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 2.6.1. Household composition for foreign- and Belize-born households, 2022

| | Belize | | Abroad | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Single Person | 12,937 | 14.5% | 3,514 | 16.6% |
| Single Mother | 5,043 | 5.7% | 855 | 4.0% |
| Single Father | 807 | 0.9% | 188 | 0.9% |
| Nuclear Family | 33,553 | 37.7% | 7,630 | 36.1% |
| Extended Family | 35,101 | 39.5% | 8,503 | 40.2% |
| Composite Family | 1,468 | 1.7% | 442 | 2.1% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 26 | 0.0% | 9 | 0.0% |
| Total | 88,935 | 100.0% | 21,140 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

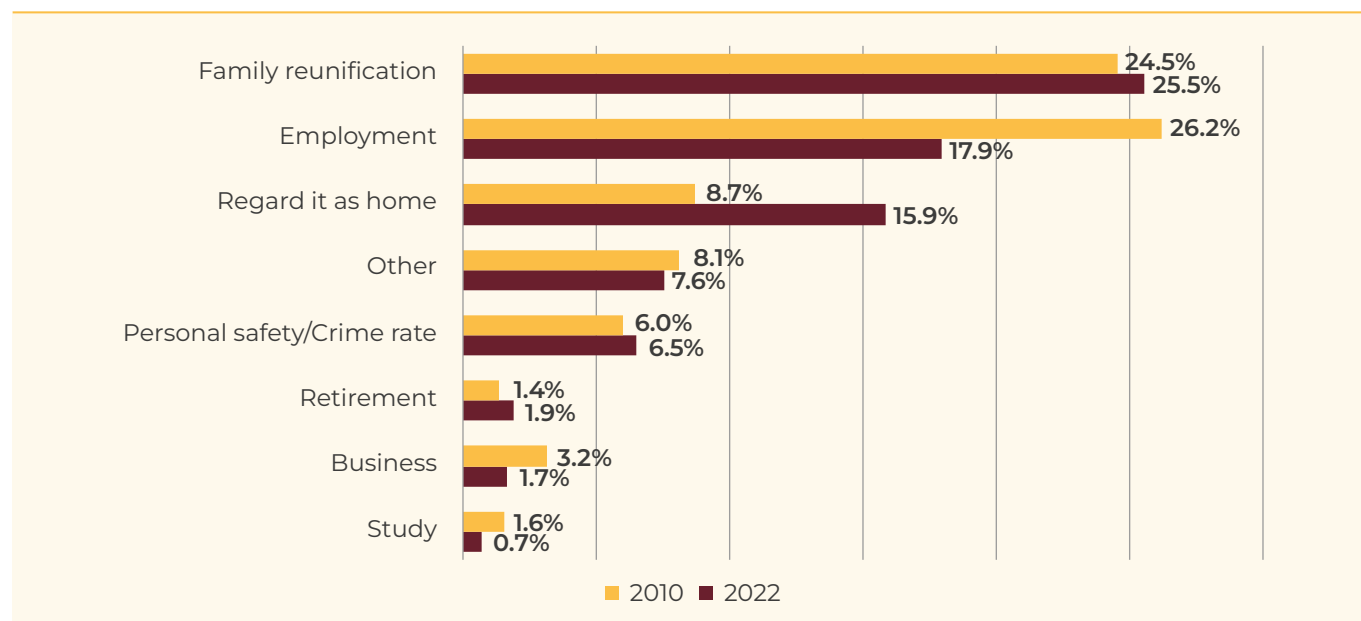
3. REASONS FOR MIGRATING AND YEAR LAST CAME TO BELIZE

This chapter presents the reasons given by migrants for moving to Belize and the year in which immigrants last came to live in Belize. These statistics are disaggregated by country of birth, age, and sex.

3.1. Reasons for immigrating to Belize

In the 2022 census, immigrants reported family reunification (25.5%), employment (17.9%) and considering Belize as home (15.9%) as the top three reasons for moving to Belize ([Table 3.1.1](#) and [Figure 3.1.1](#)). Other possible reasons – such as personal safety, retirement, crime, business, or study – were of less importance. The percentage of immigrants reporting the latter as possible reasons for migrating was less than 5%.

Comparisons over time show that the relative importance of employment as a reason for migrating dropped significantly between 2010 and 2022. While in 2010 it was reported as the top reason for moving to Belize, it dropped to the second most common reason in 2022 (from 26.2% to 17.9%). The fall was evident not only in relative but also in absolute terms. The total number of foreign-born persons who stated migrating in search of employment opportunities dropped from 13,063 to 8,190 persons between the two censuses. At the same time, the relative importance of family reunification slightly increased (from 24.5% and 25.5%). Hence, in 2022, reuniting with family members was the most common reason for moving to Belize. Comparisons with previous censuses must be done with caution. The 2022 census did not include the reason “dependent”, which in previous censuses had been reported as one of the most common reasons for migrating. The omission of this reason may explain the high percentage of “Don’t Know/Not Stated” answers in the last census (22.9%).

FIGURE 3.1.1. Reasons for migrating to Belize, 2010 and 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 3.1.1. Reasons for migrating to Belize, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | 2022 | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Family reunification | 12,225 | 24.5% | 11,655 | 25.5% |
| Employment | 13,063 | 26.2% | 8,190 | 17.9% |
| Regard it as home | 4,332 | 8.7% | 7,242 | 15.9% |
| Personal safety | 2,414 | 4.8% | 2,109 | 4.6% |
| Retirement | 688 | 1.4% | 871 | 1.9% |
| Crime rate | 592 | 1.2% | 867 | 1.9% |
| Business | 1,590 | 3.2% | 774 | 1.7% |
| Study | 789 | 1.6% | 323 | 0.7% |
| Deported/Involuntary return | 82 | 0.2% | 49 | 0.1% |
| Medical | 66 | 0.1% | 28 | 0.1% |
| Dependent | 7,774 | 15.6% | N/A | N/A |
| Other | 3,103 | 6.2% | 3,062 | 6.7% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 3,102 | 6.2% | 10,472 | 22.9% |
| Total | 49,819 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

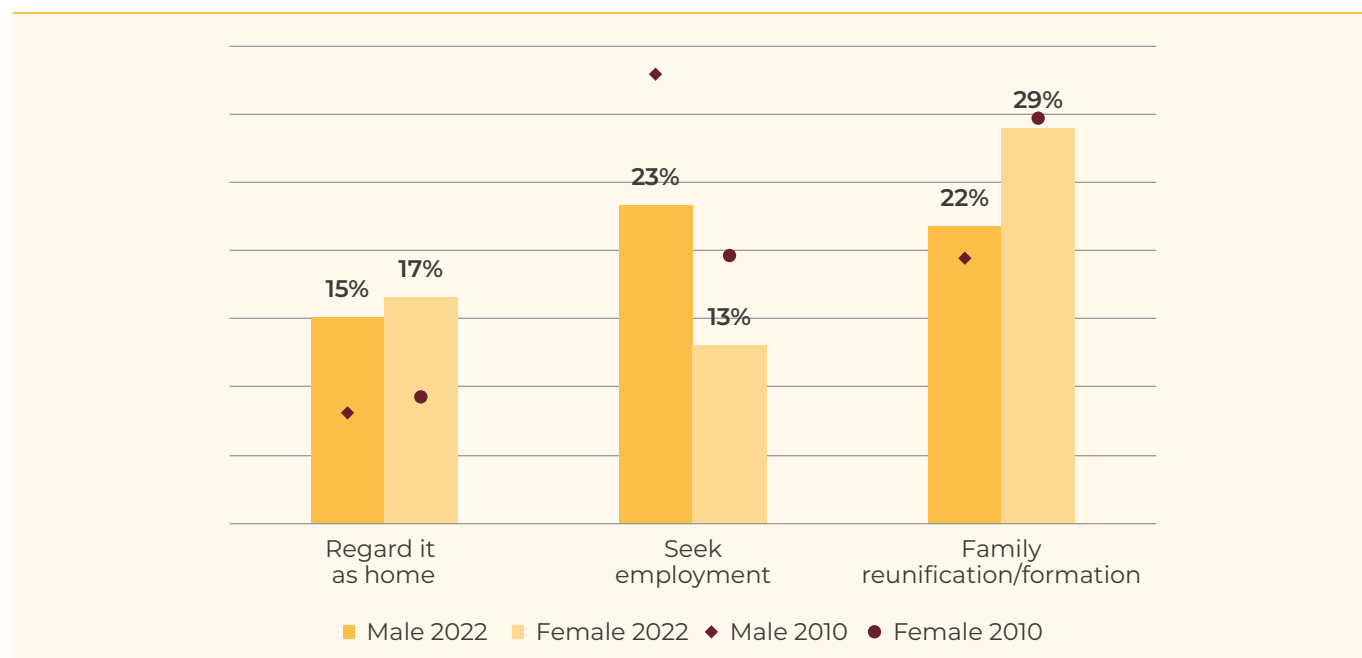
Note: Reasons for migrating are sorted in descending order of the percentage of reasons given in 2022 (except dependent, other, DK).

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

Gender differences were observed in the reasons for migrating to Belize in 2022. Men were more likely to report migrating for employment reasons than women (23% and 13%, respectively). By contrast, women were more prone to report moving to Belize to reunite with family members (29% compared to 22% of men) or because they regarded Belize as home (17% compared to 15% of men). The percentage

of men reporting employment as a reason for migrating dropped by 10 percentage points, from 33% to 23%, between 2010 and 2022 ([Figure 3.1.2](#) and [Table 3.1.2](#)). Similarly, the share of women that stated moving for employment reasons dropped between censuses, but the decline was somewhat smaller, of 7 percentage points, from 20% to 13%.

FIGURE 3.1.2. Reasons for migrating to Belize by sex, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 3.1.2. Reasons for migrating to Belize by sex, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | | | 2022 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Family reunification/formation | 4,805 | 19% | 7,420 | 30% | 12,225 | 25% | 4,713 | 22% | 6,942 | 29% | 11,655 | 26% |
| Seek employment | 8,150 | 33% | 4,913 | 20% | 13,063 | 26% | 5,054 | 23% | 3,137 | 13% | 8,190 | 18% |
| Regard it as home | 2,009 | 8% | 2,323 | 9% | 4,332 | 9% | 3,277 | 15% | 3,965 | 17% | 7,242 | 16% |
| Personal safety | 1,175 | 5% | 1,239 | 5% | 2,414 | 5% | 914 | 4% | 1,195 | 5% | 2,109 | 5% |
| Retirement | 419 | 2% | 269 | 1% | 688 | 1% | 496 | 2% | 376 | 2% | 871 | 2% |
| Crime rate | 314 | 1% | 278 | 1% | 592 | 1% | 453 | 2% | 414 | 2% | 867 | 2% |
| Business | 1,038 | 4% | 552 | 2% | 1,590 | 3% | 529 | 2% | 246 | 1% | 774 | 2% |
| Study | 374 | 2% | 415 | 2% | 789 | 2% | 162 | 1% | 160 | 1% | 323 | 1% |
| Deported/involuntary return | 58 | 0% | 24 | 0% | 82 | 0% | 20 | 0% | 28 | 0% | 49 | 0% |
| Medical | 33 | 0% | 33 | 0% | 66 | 0% | 9 | 0% | 20 | 0% | 28 | 0% |
| Dependent | 3,425 | 14% | 4,349 | 17% | 7,774 | 16% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other | 1,499 | 6% | 1,604 | 6% | 3,103 | 6% | 1,151 | 5% | 1,911 | 8% | 3,062 | 7% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,496 | 6% | 1,606 | 6% | 3,102 | 6% | 4,903 | 23% | 5,569 | 23% | 10,472 | 23% |
| Total | 24,795 | 100% | 25,024 | 100% | 49,819 | 100% | 21,682 | 100% | 23,962 | 100% | 45,644 | 100% |

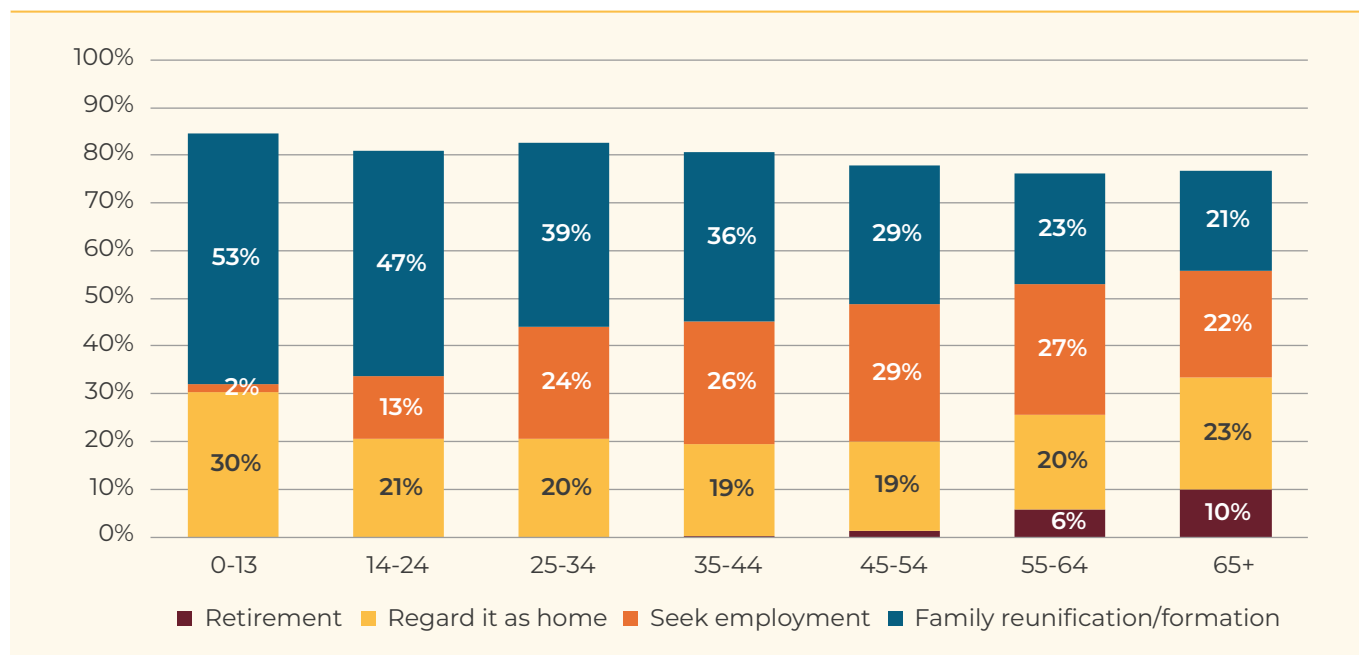
Note: Reasons for migrating are sorted in descending order of the percentage of reasons given in 2022 by the total foreign-born population (except dependent, other, DK).

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

Reasons for migrating also differed by age ([Figure 3.1.3](#)). Most children (53%) and young people (aged 14 to 24) (47%) reported migrating mostly for family reunification or formation. The latter was also the most common reason for those aged between 25 and 34 (39%) and for those aged between 35 and 44 (36%), but the share was somewhat smaller. On the other hand, seeking employment was the most common reason given by immigrants aged 45 to

54 (29%) and 55 to 64 (27%). Around one-in-four of younger immigrants, those between 25 and 34 (24%) and those aged 35 to 44 (26%) stated seeking employment as a reason for moving. In addition, the share that reported that they moved because they “Regard Belize as home” was highest among children (30%). On the other hand, around 10% of immigrants aged 65 plus reported moving for Retirement reasons.

FIGURE 3.1.3. Reasons for migrating to Belize by age, 2022

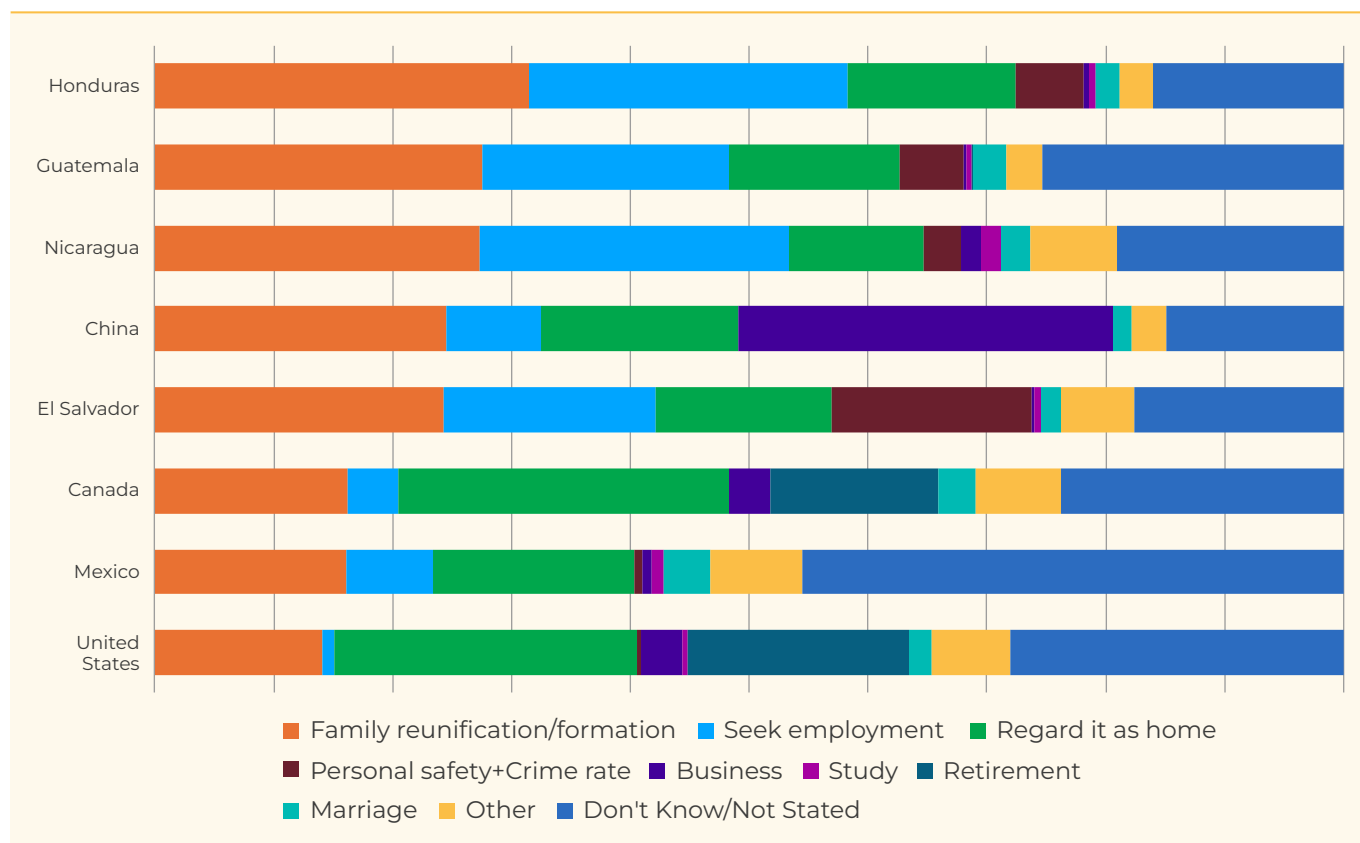


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Family reunification or formation was the most common reason for moving to Belize for immigrants born in Honduras (31.5%), Guatemala (27.5%), Nicaragua (27.3%) and El Salvador (24.3%) ([Figure 3.1.4](#)). In addition, “Regarding Belize as Home” was the top common reason given by persons born in Canada (27.8%), Mexico (17%) and the United States (25.5%). The latter are likely to be the offspring of Belize emigrants who were born in North American countries. Further, pursuing business opportunities was the top reason given by immigrants born in China (31.6%). In addition, a

non-negligible share of migrants born in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua reported that they had migrated to seek employment (26.8%, 20.8% and 26%, respectively). And 16.9% of immigrants from El Salvador reported migrating for personal safety or crime. Comparisons with the previous census (see Annex [Table A.3.](#)) show a decline in seeking employment as the main reason for migrating from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. For example, for Nicaragua, the percentage citing employment dropped from 38% to 26%, a decrease of 12 percentage points.

FIGURE 3.1.4. Reasons for migrating to Belize by country of birth, 2022

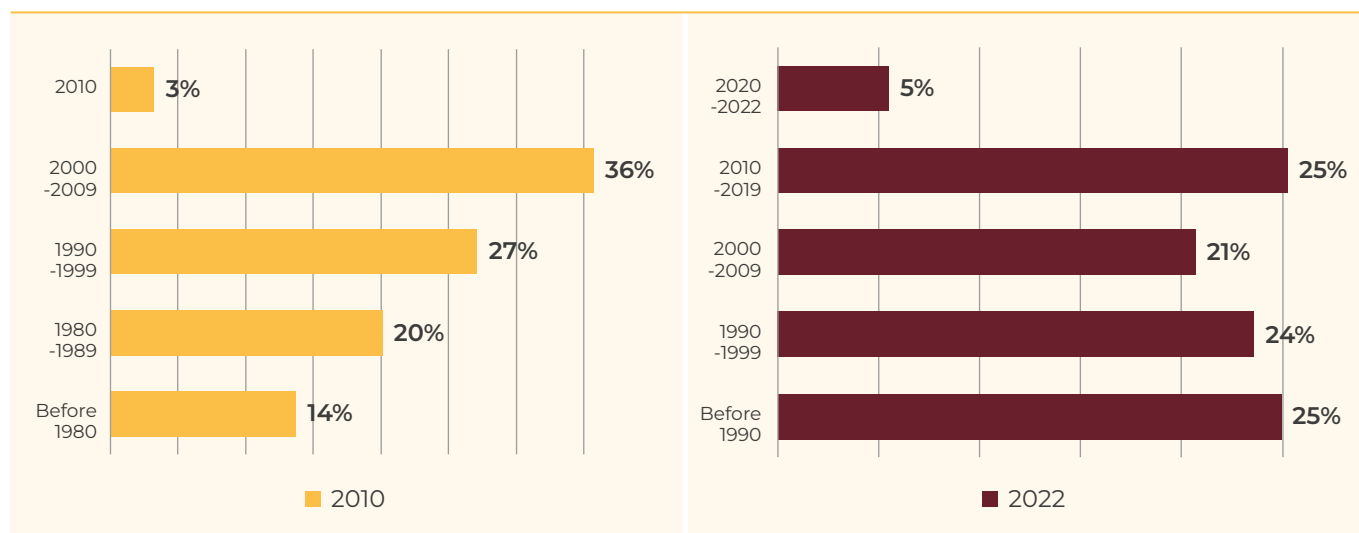


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

3.2. Duration of residence in Belize

In the 2022 census, nearly half of people born abroad reported arriving in Belize before the year 2000 (49%); that is, they had lived in the country for over 20 years (25% before 1990 and 24% between 1990 and 1999) (Figure 3.2.1). Additionally, 21% reported moving to Belize during the first decade of the millennium, between 2000 and 2009. Therefore, a

substantial majority of immigrants had lived in the country for more than 10 years (70%). Conversely, only 30% arrived after 2010, with a small share arriving between 2018 and 2022 (11%). Comparisons of immigrants' duration of residence between the two most recent censuses show that the share of foreign-born individuals who reported moving in the past 5 years dropped from 20% in 2010 to 11% in 2022. This decline was partly linked to the overall decrease in the number and share of foreign-born persons observed in the most recent census.

FIGURE 3.2.1. Share of foreign-born population by year last came to Belize, 2010 and 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 3.2.1. Total foreign-born population by sex and last year came to Belize, 2010 and 2022

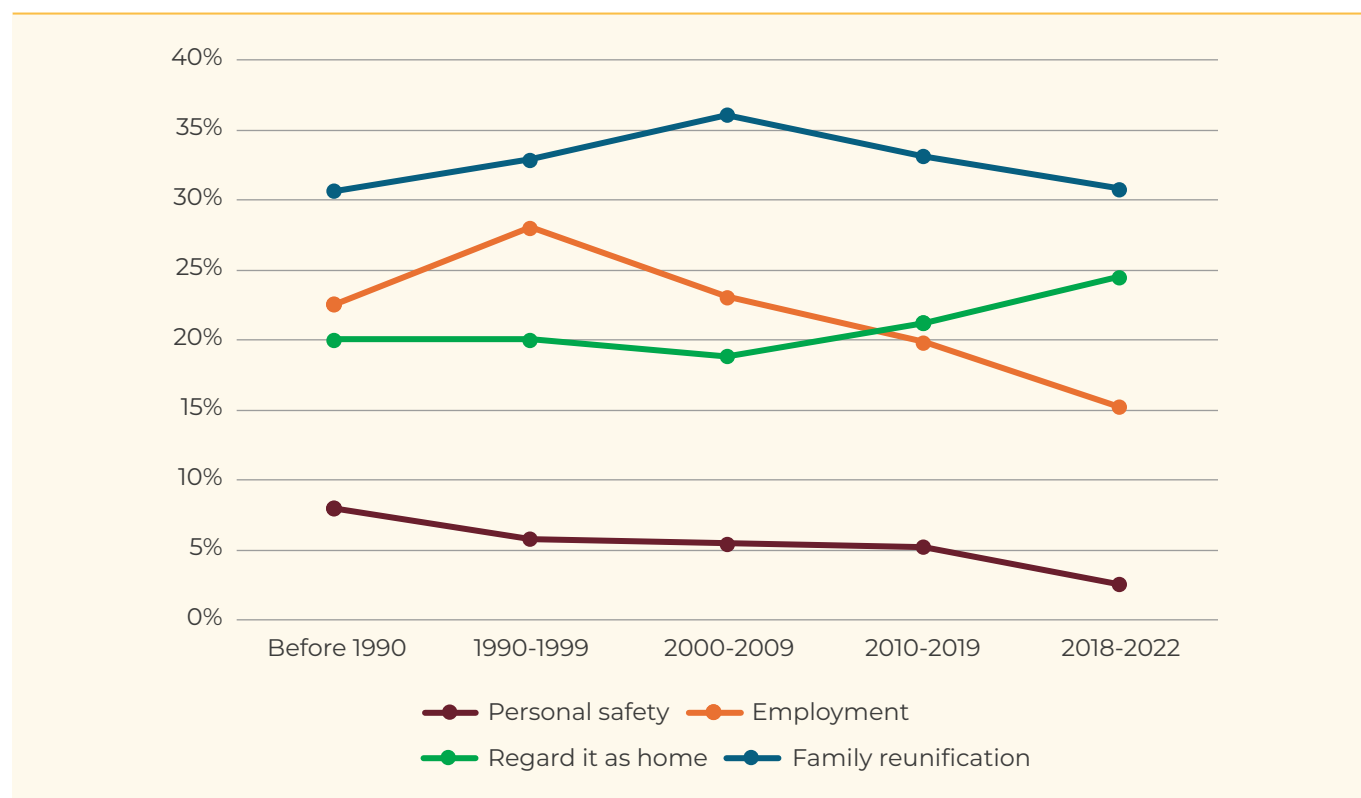
| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | | Male | Female | Total |
| Before 1980 | 3,280 | 3,133 | 6,413 | Before 1990 | 4,277 | 4,405 | 8,682 |
| 1980-1989 | 4,594 | 4,795 | 9,389 | 1990-1999 | 3,839 | 4,374 | 8,213 |
| 1990-1999 | 6,036 | 6,632 | 12,668 | 2000-2009 | 3,249 | 3,953 | 7,202 |
| 2000-2005 | 4,482 | 4,623 | 9,105 | 2010-2017 | 3,263 | 3,667 | 6,930 |
| 2006 | 672 | 736 | 1,408 | 2018 | 513 | 496 | 1,009 |
| 2007 | 966 | 830 | 1,796 | 2019 | 441 | 415 | 856 |
| 2008 | 1,037 | 938 | 1,976 | 2020 | 284 | 287 | 571 |
| 2009 | 1,304 | 1,093 | 2,397 | 2021 | 284 | 336 | 708 |
| 2010 | 852 | 675 | 1,527 | 2022 | 284 | 297 | 636 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,570 | 1,569 | 3,139 | Don't Know/Not Stated | 284 | 5,733 | 10,838 |
| Total | 24,795 | 25,024 | 49,819 | Total | 284 | 23,962 | 45,644 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

The duration of residence in the country varies by sex. Between 2018 and 2022, foreign-born men outnumbered slightly their female counterparts (1,949 men versus 1,830 women) ([Table 3.2.1](#)). Among the 3,779 foreigners who reported moving to Belize during this period, 51.6% were men. However, among those who arrived before 2018, women were in the majority, especially among those who moved between 2000 and 2009. Of the 7,202 foreigners who arrived in this decade, 3,953 were women and 3,249 were men, with women comprising 55% of the group.

The reasons for migrating vary depending on the year immigrants arrived in Belize ([Figure 3.2.2](#) and [Table 3.2.2](#)). In 2022, family reunification was the most common reason for migrating, irrespective of when foreign-born individuals arrived in the country. The share of foreign-born that migrated to reunite with family members was highest among immigrants arriving between 2000 and 2017 (around 35%). The second most common reason for migrating was seeking employment for those who arrived before 2010, whereas for those that arrived after 2010, it was “considering Belize as home”. The relative importance of employment shows a continuous decrease, with fewer recent migrants stating it as a reason for migrating.

FIGURE 3.2.2. Reasons for migrating by last year came to Belize, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 3.2.2. Total foreign-born population by last year came to Belize and reason for migrating, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | | | | 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| | Before 1980 | 1980-1989 | 1990-1999 | 2000-2009 | 2010 | Don't Know/ Not Stated | Total | Before 1990 | 1990-1999 | 2000 - 2009 | 2010-2019 | 2020-2022 | Don't Know/ Not Stated | Total |
| Employment | 1,409 | 2,291 | 3,687 | 4,873 | 551 | 252 | 13,063 | 1,960 | 2,303 | 1,663 | 1,744 | 291 | 229 | 8,190 |
| Family reunification | 1,486 | 2,118 | 3,353 | 4,692 | 394 | 183 | 12,225 | 2,661 | 2,700 | 2,599 | 2,915 | 590 | 190 | 11,655 |
| Dependent | 1,438 | 1,647 | 2,017 | 2,319 | 173 | 178 | 7,774 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Regard it as home | 817 | 795 | 1,148 | 1,372 | 120 | 80 | 4,332 | 1,742 | 1,647 | 1,356 | 1,868 | 469 | 161 | 7,242 |
| Personal safety | 410 | 1,182 | 485 | 270 | 23 | 45 | 2,414 | 692 | 476 | 394 | 460 | 48 | 39 | 2,109 |
| Business | 98 | 205 | 475 | 751 | 39 | 21 | 1,590 | 106 | 134 | 228 | 232 | 64 | 12 | 774 |
| Study | 23 | 60 | 239 | 430 | 30 | 0 | 789 | 43 | 35 | 94 | 121 | 24 | 6 | 323 |
| Retirement | 18 | 36 | 107 | 485 | 40 | 0 | 688 | 14 | 39 | 115 | 479 | 199 | 25 | 871 |
| Crime rate | 79 | 276 | 133 | 88 | 0 | 11 | 592 | 254 | 162 | 143 | 254 | 22 | 31 | 867 |
| Other | 477 | 629 | 845 | 1,171 | 139 | 51 | 3,318 | 1,079 | 658 | 532 | 641 | 195 | 36 | 3,139 |
| Don't Know/ Not Stated | 169 | 149 | 194 | 252 | 18 | 646 | 1,429 | 132 | 59 | 79 | 82 | 11 | 10,110 | 10,472 |
| Total | 6,413 | 9,389 | 12,668 | 16,683 | 1,527 | 1,466 | 48,146 | 8,682 | 8,213 | 7,202 | 8,795 | 1,914 | 10,838 | 45,644 |

Note: Counts below 10 were aggregated with "Other".

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

4. SIZE OF EMIGRANT POPULATION, REASONS FOR EMIGRATING AND YEAR LEFT BELIZE

This chapter summarizes the main reasons for emigrating from Belize and the year in which emigrants left Belize. These statistics are disaggregated by country of destination, age, and sex.

4.1. Size and composition of the emigrant population

In 2022, the number of households with at least one emigrant – a person who moved to live abroad between 2010 and 2022 and who was still living there at the time of the census – was 2,237 (2% of all households) ([Table 4.1.1](#)). The total number of emigrants was 2,970 persons, indicating that households with emigrants had, on average, more than one emigrant (1.3 persons per household). Thus, less than 1% of the population moved abroad since 2010 (0.9%). These numbers are lower than those observed in 2010, when the number of households with emigrants was 3,121 (3.9% of all households) and the number of emigrants was 3,790 (1.4% of the population). By contrast, compared with the year 2000, the number of households and of persons who moved abroad was higher in 2022, but

they comprised a smaller proportion of the total population to that observed in 2000.

In terms of the size of the population of the place of origin, 55% of people moving abroad previously lived in urban areas. Of the 2,970 emigrants, 1,670 persons were from urban areas and 1,300 persons from rural areas. On the other hand, men and women were equally likely to move abroad, with 1,499 women and 1,469 men moving to another country between 2010 and 2022.

Nearly nine-in-ten of those moving from Belize to other countries (88%) were of working-age (between 14 and 64 years old). The youngest group among working-age emigrants (14- to-24-year-olds) accounted for half of the population leaving Belize (50.9%). This group corresponds to the life stages when individuals are either still studying or entering the labour market. The share of emigrants decreases with increasing age. While one-fifth of emigrants were aged 25 to 34 (19.7%), about 10% were in their mid- 30s and 40s, close to 5% among those aged 45 to 54 (4.7%); and less than 3% for those aged 55 and 64. Children under the age of 14 accounted for 6% of emigrants and older adults, aged 65 and over, made up less than 2% (1.6%).

TABLE 4.1.1. Total number of households and Belize-born persons who moved to live abroad and are still living there, 2000- 2022

| | | 2000 | | | 2010 | | | 2022 | | |
|------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural | Total |
| Households | Yes | 1,115 | 437 | 1,551 | 1,832 | 1,289 | 3,121 | 1,234 | 1,003 | 2,237 |
| | % | 4.0% | 1.6% | 2.8% | 4.7% | 3.2% | 3.9% | 2.5% | 1.7% | 2.0% |
| | Total | 28,186 | 27,648 | 55,834 | 39,252 | 40,405 | 79,658 | 50,051 | 60,669 | 110,719 |
| Persons | Yes | 1,693 | 666 | 2,359 | 2,282 | 1,508 | 3,790 | 1,670 | 1,300 | 2,970 |
| | % | 1.7% | 0.6% | 1.1% | 1.9% | 1.0% | 1.4% | 1.1% | 0.6% | 0.9% |
| | Total | 99,231 | 112,850 | 212,081 | 123,206 | 149,122 | 272,328 | 147,822 | 201,046 | 348,868 |

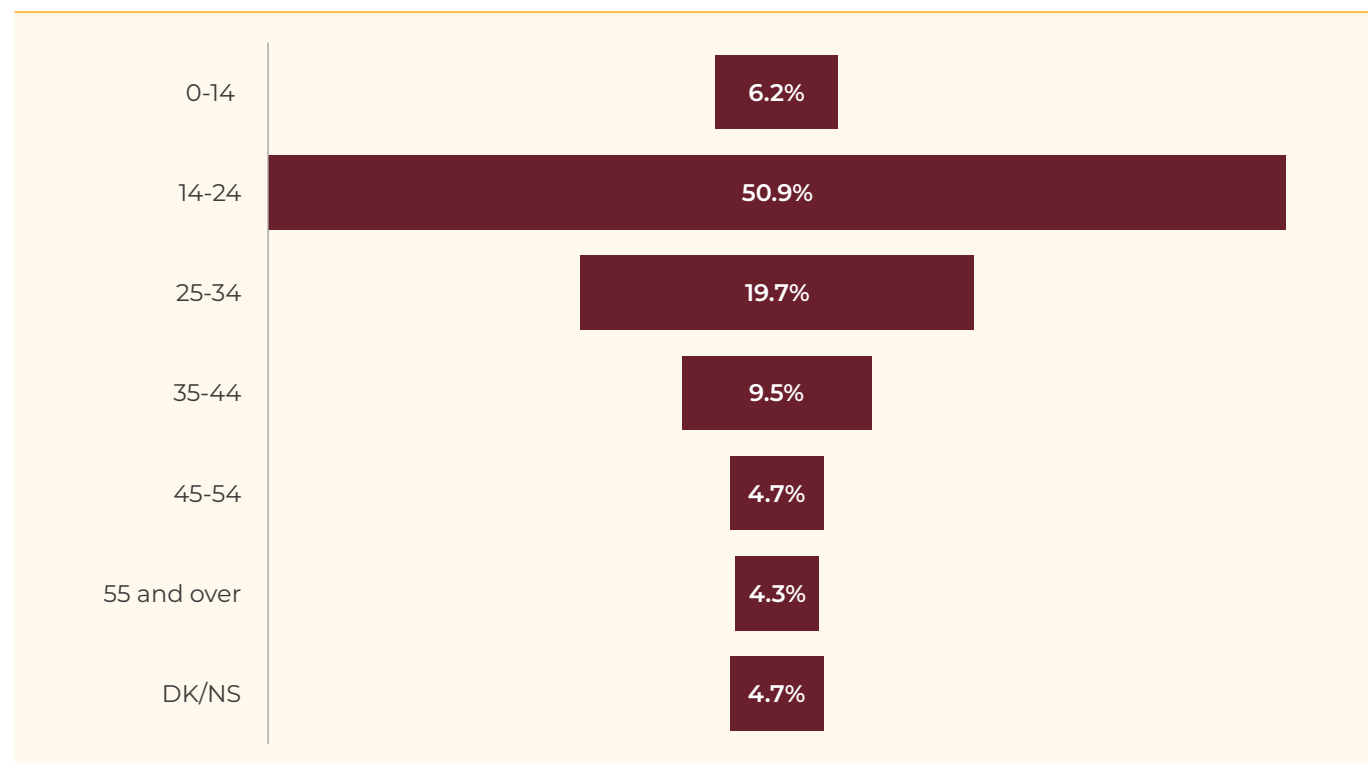
Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010, 2022.

TABLE 4.1.2. Total population living abroad by sex, 2022

| | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Total | 1,469 | 49.5% | 1,499 | 50.5% | 2,970 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

FIGURE 4.1.1. Percentage of Belize-born population living abroad by age group, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

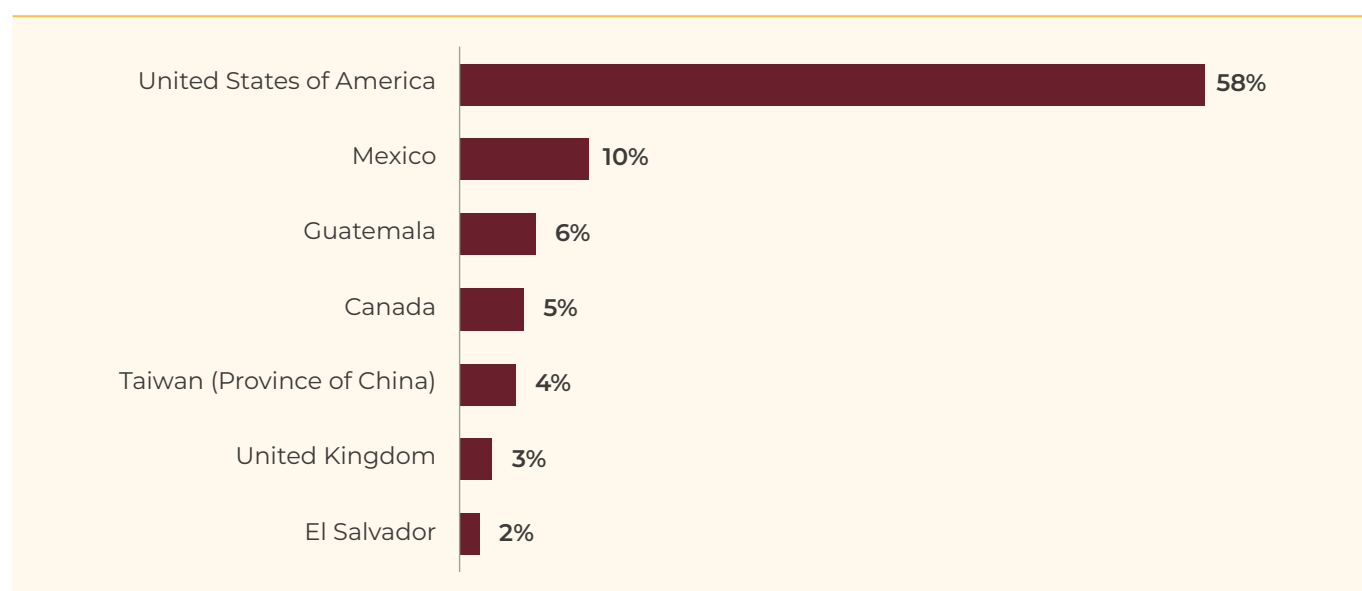
TABLE 4.1.3. Total population living abroad by age group, 2022

| | Count | Percent |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 0 - 14 | 183 | 6.2% |
| 14-24 | 1511 | 50.9% |
| 25-34 | 585 | 19.7% |
| 35-44 | 283 | 9.5% |
| 45-54 | 141 | 4.7% |
| 55 and over | 127 | 4.3% |
| DK/NS | 140 | 4.7% |
| Total | 2,970 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The top country of destination for Belize-born emigrants was the United States ([Figure 4.1.2](#) and [Table 4.1.4](#)). Between 2010 and 2022, 1,724 persons left Belize for the United States. The United States was thus the country of destination for more than half of all persons leaving Belize (58%). The second and third most important countries of destination were the neighbouring countries of Mexico and Guatemala. However, the share of emigrants moving to these countries was significantly lower than the share moving to the US (10% and 6%, respectively). Other countries of destination included Canada (5%), Taiwan (4%), the United Kingdom (3%) and El Salvador (2%). No substantial differences are observed in the country of destination by sex, indicating no difference in the destination country chosen by men and women.

FIGURE 4.1.2. Percentage of Belize-born population living abroad by country of destination, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.1.4. Total Belize-born population living abroad by country of destination and sex, 2022

| | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| United States of America | 830 | 57% | 894 | 60% | 1,724 | 58% |
| Mexico | 153 | 10% | 145 | 10% | 298 | 10% |
| Guatemala | 95 | 6% | 81 | 5% | 176 | 6% |
| Canada | 78 | 5% | 68 | 5% | 147 | 5% |
| Taiwan (Province of China) | 60 | 4% | 70 | 5% | 130 | 4% |
| United Kingdom | 46 | 3% | 29 | 2% | 75 | 3% |
| El Salvador | 22 | 1% | 23 | 2% | 45 | 2% |
| Other | 164 | 11% | 175 | 12% | 338 | 11% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 21 | 1% | 15 | 1% | 36 | 1% |
| Total | 1,469 | 100% | 1,499 | 100% | 2,970 | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

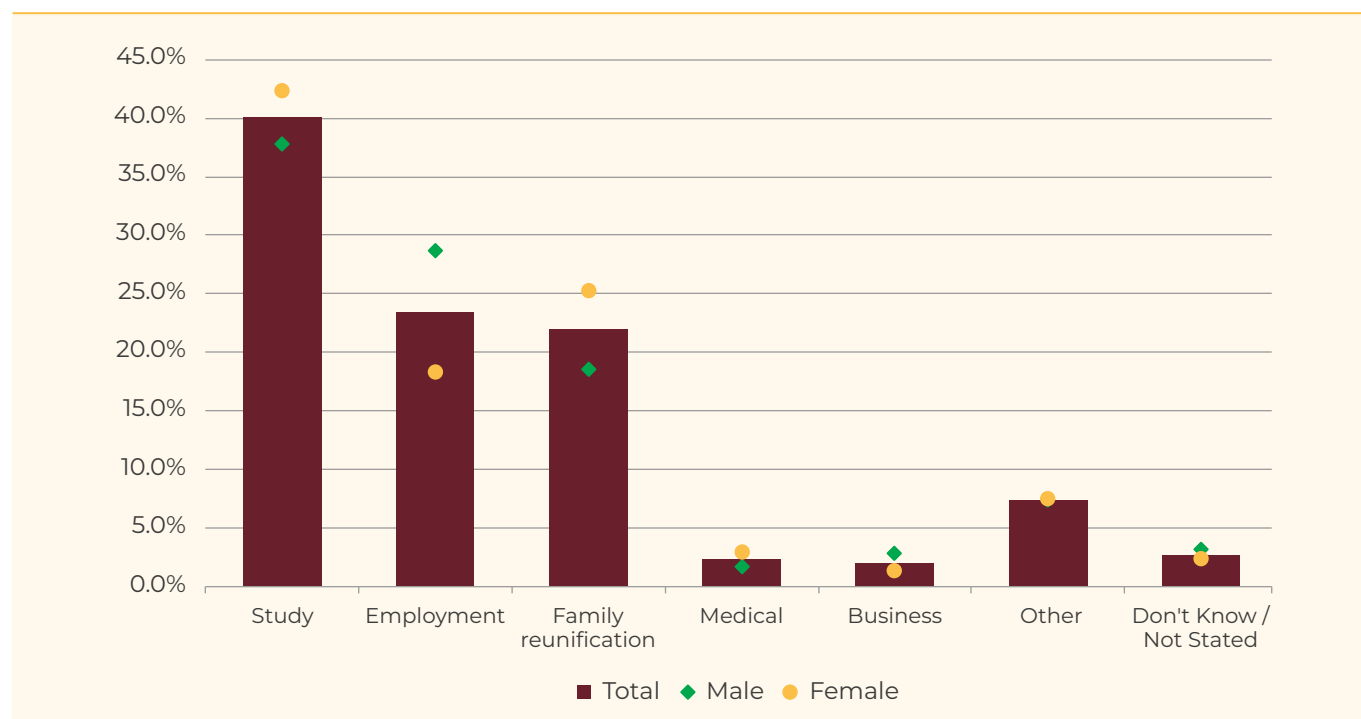
4.2. Reasons for emigrating from Belize

In 2022, the top reason given for emigrating from Belize was to study ([Figure 4.2.1](#)). A total of 1,189 Belize-born persons left the country for study purposes, representing 40% of responses. Employment and family reunification were the second and third most common reasons for leaving Belize between 2010 and 2022 (23% and 22%, respectively). Emigration for medical or business reasons was much less

common, with each accounting for around 2% of responses.

Clear differences can be observed in the reasons for emigrating between women and men. While almost 30% of men emigrated for employment opportunities, only 18% of women did so for the same reason. Conversely, 25% of women left Belize to reunite with family members, compared with only 19% of men. Additionally, a slightly higher share of women left Belize to study compared to men (42% and 38%, respectively).

FIGURE 4.2.1. Percentage of Belize-born population living abroad by country of destination, 2022



Note: Reasons for emigrating are sorted in descending order of the percentage of reasons given by the total population.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.2.1. Total population living abroad by reason for emigrating and sex, 2022

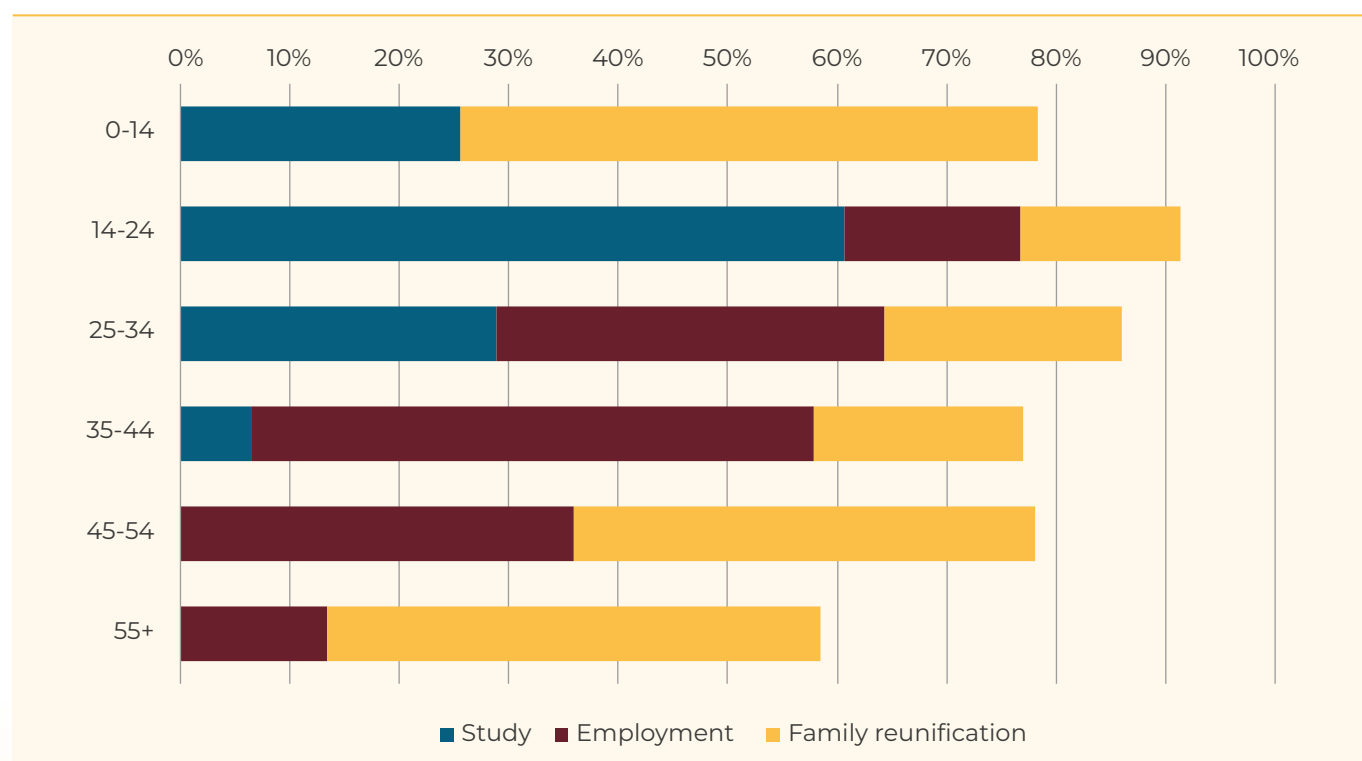
| | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Study | 554 | 37.7% | 635 | 42.4% | 1,189 | 40.1% |
| Employment | 421 | 28.7% | 274 | 18.3% | 695 | 23.4% |
| Family reunification | 272 | 18.5% | 379 | 25.3% | 652 | 22.0% |
| Medical | 25 | 1.7% | 45 | 3.0% | 70 | 2.3% |
| Business | 42 | 2.9% | 20 | 1.3% | 62 | 2.1% |
| Other | 108 | 7.4% | 112 | 7.5% | 221 | 7.4% |
| Don't Know / Not Stated | 46 | 3.1% | 35 | 2.3% | 80 | 2.7% |
| Total | 1,469 | 100.0% | 1,499 | 100.0% | 2,970 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Differences in reasons for moving to other countries are also observed across age groups ([Figure 4.2.2](#) and [Table 4.2.2](#)). Studying was the most common reason for emigrating for young people, especially those aged 14 to 24. More than 60% left the country to pursue studies abroad. Employment, on the other hand, was the top reason for emigrating for

individuals in the early stages of the prime working years. More than half of those aged 35 to 44 (51%) and more than one-third of those aged 25 to 34 (36%) emigrated in search of employment opportunities. Family reunification was the most important reason for emigrating among children (53%) and older adults, aged 45 and over (more than 40%).

FIGURE 4.2.2. Percentage of Belize-born population living abroad by top three reasons for emigrating and age, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.2.2. Total population living abroad by reason for emigrating and sex, 2022

| | Main reason for migrating to another country | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| | Family reunification | Employment | Business | Study | Medical | DK/NS | Total |
| 0-14 | 97 | * | * | 47 | * | 14 | 183 |
| 14-24 | 222 | 242 | 14 | 916 | * | 24 | 1,511 |
| 25-34 | 127 | 208 | 17 | 169 | * | * | 585 |
| 35-44 | 54 | 146 | 17 | 18 | 22 | 11 | 283 |
| 45-54 | 59 | 50 | * | * | * | 0 | 141 |
| 55-64 | 36 | 17 | * | * | * | * | 80 |
| 65 and over | 21 | * | * | * | 14 | * | 47 |
| DK/NS | 37 | 30 | 3 | 37 | 3 | 21 | 140 |
| Total | 652 | 695 | 62 | 1,189 | 70 | 80 | 2,970 |

Note: * missing values.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

4.3. Duration of stay in country of destination

More than half of emigrants from Belize (54.6%) have been abroad for less than five years ([Table 4.3.1](#)). Specifically, 14% left less than one year ago, and 41% moved to another country 1 to 4 years ago. However, a considerable share of emigrants has been away for longer periods: 21% has been away between 5 and 9 years, and 20% left the country more than 10 years ago. The latter group, who has been away for more than 10 years, are considered long-term emigrants who most likely have settled in their country of destination.

TABLE 4.3.1. Population living abroad by year migrated, 2022

| | Year | Count | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| < 1 year | 2022 | 415 | 14.0 |
| 1-4 years | 2018-2021 | 1,206 | 40.6 |
| 5-9 years | 2014-2017 | 621 | 20.9 |
| 10 years + | 2013-2010 | 580 | 19.5 |
| DK/NS | | 148 | 5.0 |
| Total | | 2,970 | 100.0 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Comparisons of duration of stay by sex show no significant differences ([Table 4.3.2](#)). Overall, there is an equal proportion of women and men across the different durations of stay (around 50%). However, the proportion of women is slightly lower (by 2 percentage points) among those who left Belize 10 years ago or more (49%). This suggests that women may be less likely to remain abroad for long-term periods.

The United States is the top country of destination for Belize emigrants, irrespective of the duration of stay ([Table 4.3.3](#)). The percentage of emigrants residing in the United States was higher among those who left Belize a long time ago. For instance, 69% of those who left the country more than ten years ago are based in the United States

([Table 4.3.4](#)). This indicates that long-term emigrants are more likely to stay in the United States more than in other countries. The opposite is true for emigrants moving to Guatemala, where the share of emigrants moving to this country was higher among those who left most recently: 7% for those who moved less than 5 years ago, 6% for emigrants who left between 5 and 9 years ago, and 3% for emigrants who left more than 10 years ago ([Table 4.3.4](#)). A similar pattern can be seen for those who moved to Taiwan, with a smaller share staying for longer durations (5% for those who moved less than 5 years ago compared to 2% who left more than 10 years ago). On the other hand, there is no clear pattern of the duration of stay for emigrants going to Mexico or Canada.

TABLE 4.3.2. Total population living abroad by year migrated and sex, 2022

| Duration | Year | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|------------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| < 5 years | 2022 | 790 | 49% | 830 | 51% | 1,622 | 100% |
| 5-9 years | 2018-2021 | 305 | 49% | 316 | 51% | 621 | 100% |
| 10 years + | 2014-2017 | 293 | 51% | 287 | 49% | 580 | 100% |
| DK/NS | 2013-2010 | 81 | 55% | 67 | 45% | 148 | 100% |
| Total | | 1,469 | 49% | 1,499 | 50% | 2,970 | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.3.3. Population living abroad by year migrated and country of destination, 2022

| Duration | Year | United States of America | Mexico | Guatemala | Canada | Taiwan (Province of China) | Other | Total |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| < 5 years | 2018-2022 | 895 | 165 | 114 | 65 | 88 | 292 | 1,622 |
| 5-9 years | 2014-2017 | 354 | 81 | 39 | 48 | 26 | 72 | 621 |
| 10 years + | 2013-2010 | 397 | 44 | 20 | 24 | 9 | 85 | 580 |
| DK/NS | | 78 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 148 |
| Total | | 1,724 | 298 | 176 | 147 | 130 | 449 | 2,970 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.3.4. Share of population living abroad by year migrated abroad and country of destination, 2022

| Duration | Year | United States of America | Mexico | Guatemala | Canada | Taiwan (Province of China) | Other | Total |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| < 5 years | 2018-2022 | 55% | 10% | 7% | 4% | 5% | 18% | 100% |
| 5-9 years | 2014-2017 | 57% | 13% | 6% | 8% | 4% | 12% | 100% |
| 10 years + | 2013-2010 | 69% | 8% | 3% | 4% | 2% | 15% | 100% |
| DK/NS | | 53% | 5% | 2% | 7% | 5% | 1% | 100% |
| Total | | 58% | 10% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 15% | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Studying is the main reason for emigration, regardless of the length of time emigrants have been away ([Table 4.3.5](#) and [Table 4.3.6](#)). The share of emigrants for educational purposes was higher among those who left for less than 10 years compared to those who have been away for longer; 42% of those who left less than five years ago; 43% of those who left between 5 and 9 years ago; and 33% of those who

moved more than 10 years ago. Conversely, those who left more than 10 years ago are more likely to have moved for family reunification than their peers who left more recently: 20% of those who moved less than 5 years ago, and 28% for emigrants who left more than 10 years ago. This suggests that long-term emigrants are more likely to have moved to reunite with family members than for other reasons.

TABLE 4.3.5. Population living abroad by year migrated and reason for migrating, 2022

| Duration | Year | Study | Employment | Family reunification | Other | DK/NS | Total |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| < 5 years | 2018-2022 | 689 | 386 | 327 | 197 | 22 | 1,622 |
| 5-9 years | 2014-2017 | 264 | 143 | 131 | 72 | 12 | 621 |
| 10 years + | 2013-2010 | 191 | 147 | 160 | 69 | 12 | 580 |
| DK/NS | | 46 | 20 | 34 | 14 | 34 | 148 |
| Total | | 1,189 | 695 | 652 | 352 | 80 | 2,970 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 4.3.6. Share of the population living abroad by year migrated abroad and reason for migrating, 2022

| Duration | Year | Study | Employment | Family reunification | Other | DK/NS | Total |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| < 5 years | 2018-2022 | 42% | 24% | 20% | 12% | 1% | 100% |
| 5-9 years | 2014-2017 | 43% | 23% | 21% | 12% | 2% | 100% |
| 10 years + | 2013-2010 | 33% | 25% | 28% | 12% | 2% | 100% |
| DK/NS | | 31% | 13% | 23% | 10% | 23% | 100% |
| Total | | 40% | 23% | 22% | 12% | 3% | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

5. INTERNAL MIGRATION

This chapter describes the size of the Belize-born population who lives in a district different than the one where they were born, as well as the movements of the foreign-born within the country.. It looks at how these internal movements have evolved over time, whether they are recent or old, and whether there are differences by sex and age.

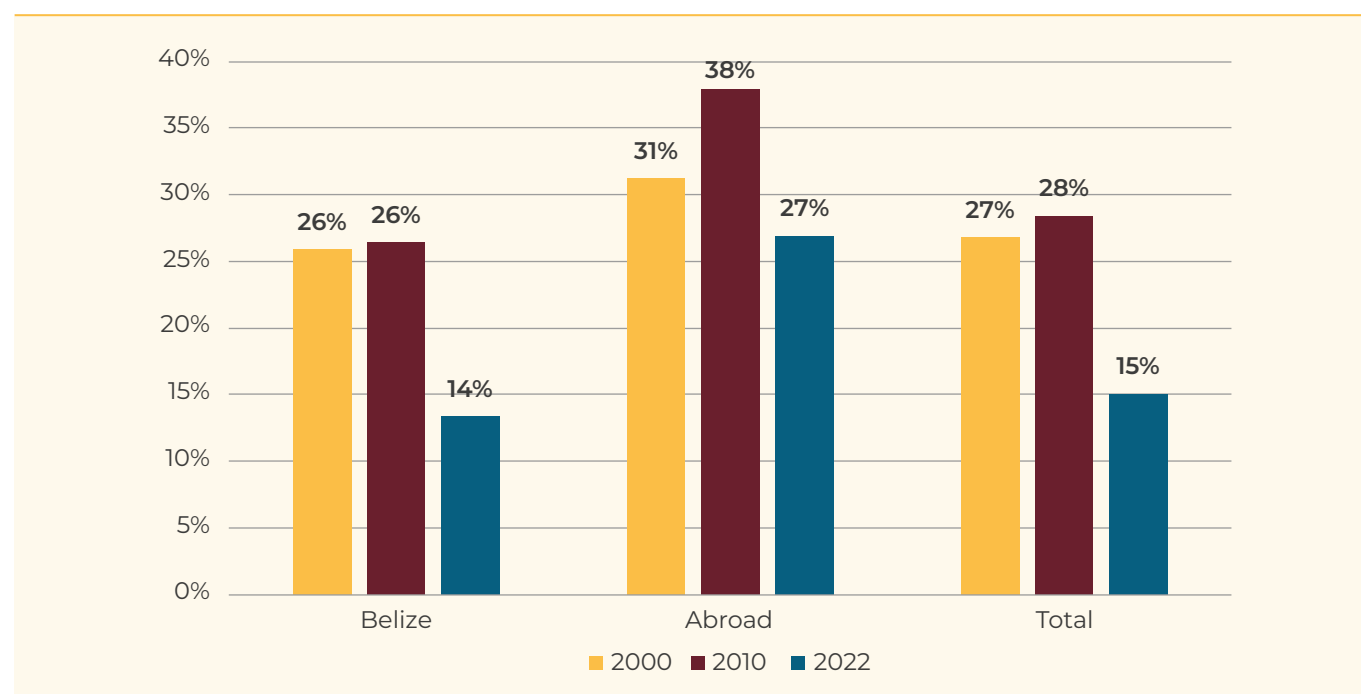
5.1. Size and composition of the internal migrants

In 2022, the total number of persons that had moved internally in Belize – that is, they moved between the district where they were born (or the one where they first arrived for foreign-born) and the current district of residence –was 59,365, representing 15% of the population ([Figure 5.1.1](#) and [Table 5.1.1](#)). The share of internal movers among

the population that was born abroad was twice as high that of individuals born in Belize (27% and 14%, respectively). This indicates that foreign-born persons are more likely to move internally than their Belize-born peers.

Data from previous censuses reveals that the share of internal movers has been higher among foreign-born compared to Belize-born since the year 2000. However, the gap between groups increased in the most recent census (from 5 percentage points in 2000 to 13 percentage points in 2022). Although the share of internal movers reduced for both native- and foreign-born in 2022, the drop was largest for the Belize-born population. Therefore, the differences between groups widened in the last census. While at the beginning of the millennium 26% of Belize-born reported internal movements, the equivalent share was only 14% in 2022.

FIGURE 5.1.1. Percentage of population that has moved internally by country of birth, 2000-2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 5.1.1. Total Belize born and foreign-born population by internal migration status, 2000-2022

| | | 2000 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Mobility status | Moved | 54,734 | 25.8% | 11,382 | 31.1% | 71,300 | 26.2% | 18,722 | 37.6% | 47,196 | 13.5% | 12,169 | 26.7% |
| | Never Moved | 155,919 | 73.5% | 24,602 | 67.1% | 201,029 | 73.8% | 31,097 | 62.4% | 301,148 | 86.3% | 33,372 | 73.1% |
| | Don't Know/ Not Stated | 1,427 | 0.7% | 659 | 1.8% | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% | - | .2% | 102 | .2% |
| | Total | 212,081 | 100.0% | 36,642 | 100.0% | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

5.2. Distribution of internal migrants in districts and main/capital city

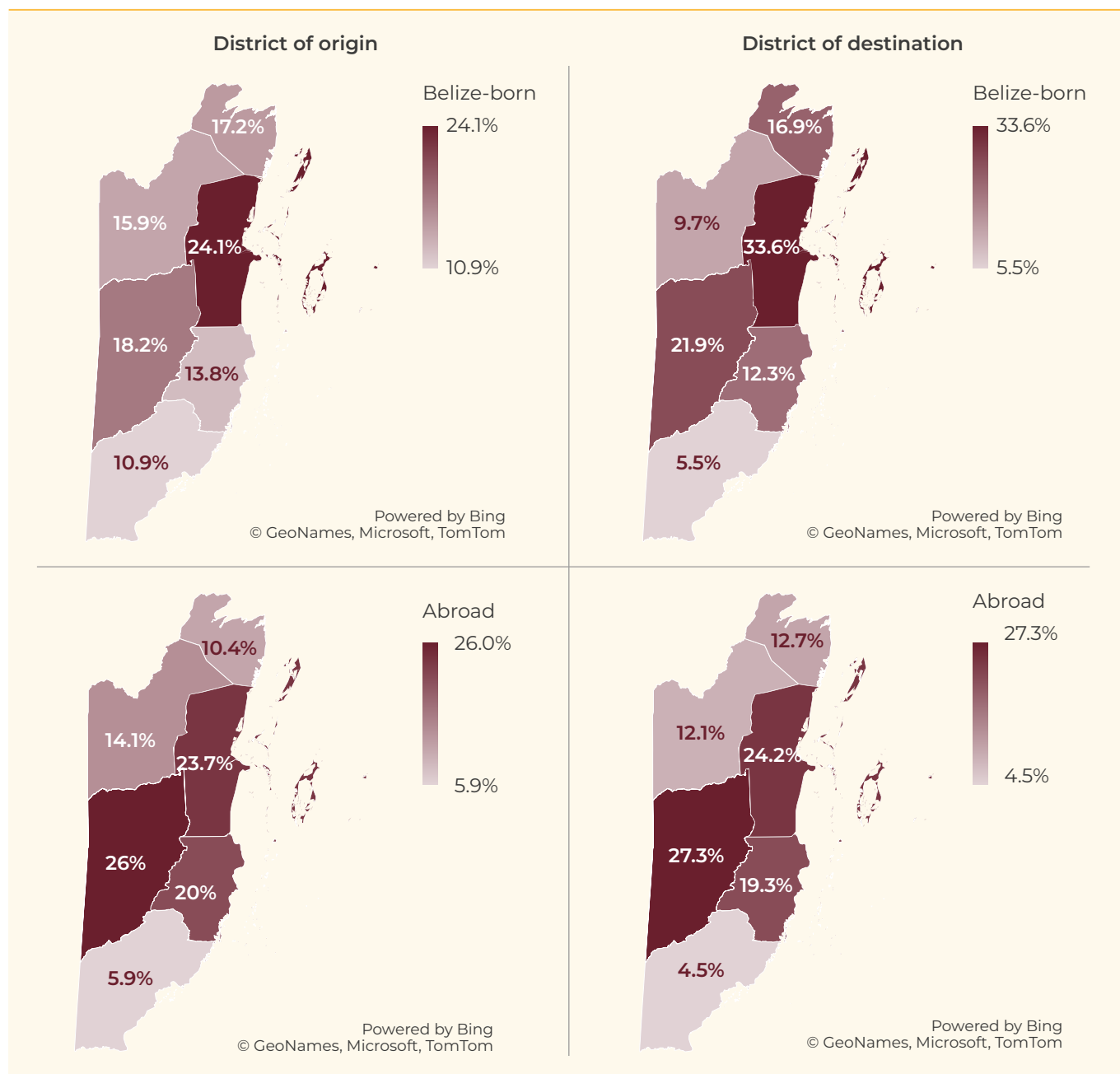
The top district of birth for Belize-born individuals was the district of Belize, with 24% of all Belize-born reported being born in this district ([Figure 5.2.1](#) and [Table 5.2.1](#)). The second most common district of

birth was Cayo (with 18% of the Belize-born), followed closely by the district of Corozal (with 17% of the Belize-born population). At the same time, among those born abroad the most common district of first arrival was Cayo, followed by Belize and then Stann Creek, with 26%, 24%, and 20% of foreign-born arriving for the first time in these districts, respectively.

The most common district of destination for Belize-born people was the district of Belize, where Belize city, the largest city of the country is located ([Table 5.2.2](#)). One-in-three of internal Belize-born movers have changed their residence to this district drawn by increased job opportunities, business prospects and better services. Other important

districts of destinations included Cayo and Corozal, with 22% and 17% of Belize-born individuals moving to these districts, respectively. For the foreign-born population, the top destination districts after arriving in Belize include the districts of Cayo (27%), Belize (24%) and Stann Creek (19%).

FIGURE 5.2.1. District of origin and of destination of those who migrated internally by country of birth, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 5.2.1. Total Belize born and foreign-born population who migrated internally by district of origin, 2000 - 2022

| District last lived | 2000 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | 7,574 | 13.8% | 986 | 8.7% | 8,439 | 11.8% | 1,686 | 9.0% | 8,094 | 17.2% | 1,261 | 10.4% |
| Orange Walk | 7,730 | 14.1% | 1,599 | 14.0% | 9,476 | 13.3% | 2,290 | 12.2% | 7,511 | 15.9% | 1,717 | 14.1% |
| Belize | 12,885 | 23.5% | 1,922 | 16.9% | 20,008 | 28.1% | 4,938 | 26.4% | 11,362 | 24.1% | 2,878 | 23.7% |
| Cayo | 10,215 | 18.7% | 3,258 | 28.6% | 13,828 | 19.4% | 4,737 | 25.3% | 8,610 | 18.2% | 3,161 | 26.0% |
| Stann Creek | 6,499 | 11.9% | 1,826 | 16.0% | 8,081 | 11.3% | 2,822 | 15.1% | 6,495 | 13.8% | 2,438 | 20.0% |
| Toledo | 9,832 | 18.0% | 1,790 | 15.7% | 10,801 | 15.1% | 2,179 | 11.6% | 5,123 | 10.9% | 714 | 5.9% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | - | .0% | - | .0% | 667 | .9% | 68 | .4% | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% |
| Total | 54,734 | 100.0% | 11,382 | 100.0% | 71,300 | 100.0% | 18,722 | 100.0% | 47,196 | 100.0% | 12,169 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 5.2.2. Total Belize born and foreign-born population who migrated internally by district of destination, 2000 - 2022

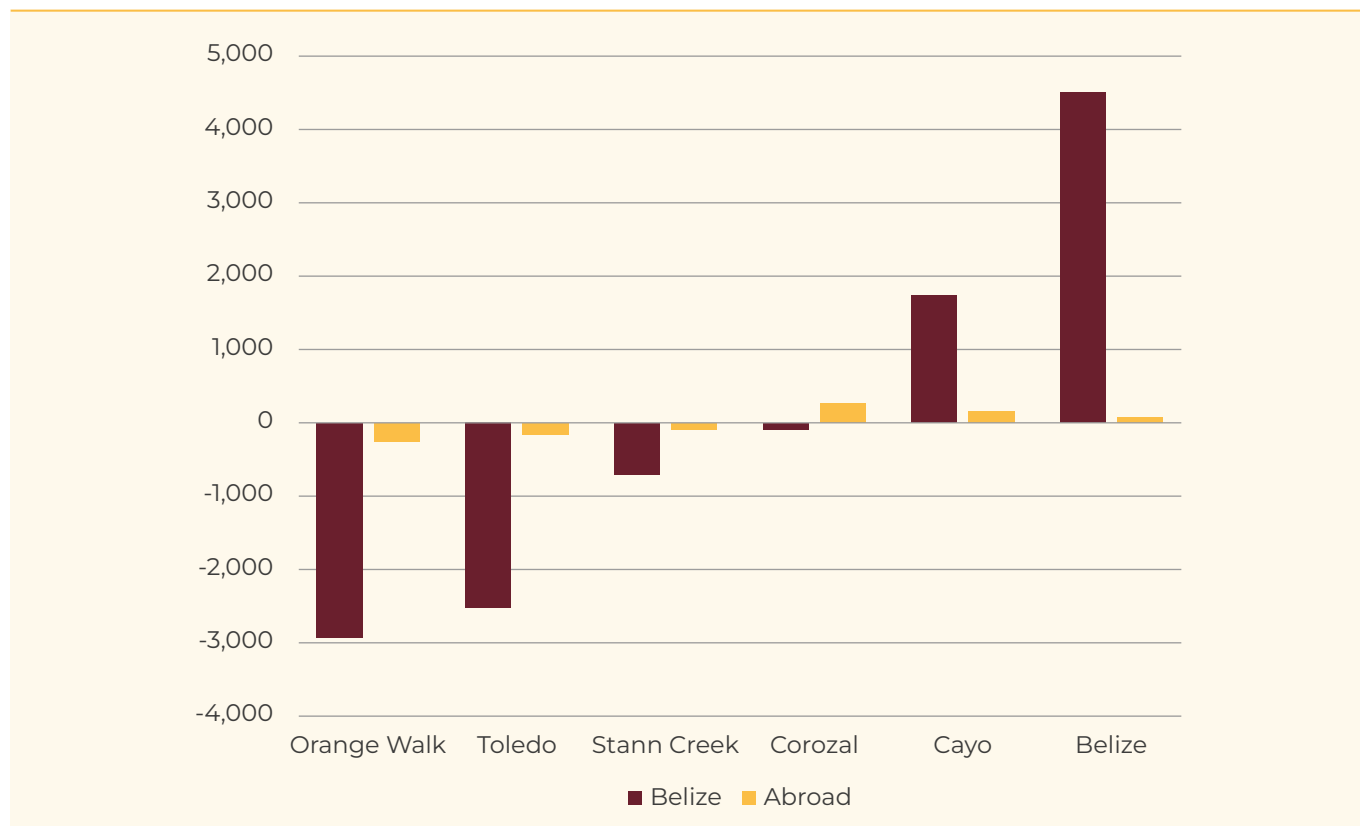
| District of Destination | 2000 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | 6,461 | 11.8% | 1,091 | 9.6% | 7,468 | 10.5% | 1,797 | 9.6% | 7,999 | 16.9% | 1,540 | 12.7% |
| Orange Walk | 6,872 | 12.5% | 1,262 | 11.1% | 7,921 | 11.1% | 2,051 | 11.0% | 4,580 | 9.7% | 1,467 | 12.1% |
| Belize | 15,966 | 29.1% | 1,804 | 15.8% | 20,928 | 29.4% | 4,800 | 25.6% | 15,879 | 33.6% | 2,941 | 24.2% |
| Cayo | 12,219 | 22.3% | 3,821 | 33.5% | 17,558 | 24.6% | 5,317 | 28.4% | 10,350 | 21.9% | 3,316 | 27.3% |
| Stann Creek | 6,572 | 12.0% | 1,476 | 12.9% | 10,094 | 14.2% | 2,344 | 12.5% | 5,789 | 12.3% | 2,352 | 19.3% |
| Toledo | 6,731 | 12.3% | 1,952 | 17.1% | 7,330 | 10.3% | 2,413 | 12.9% | 2,599 | 5.5% | 553 | 4.5% |
| Total | 54,821 | 100.0% | 11,406 | 100.0% | 71,300 | 100.0% | 18,722 | 100.0% | 47,196 | 100.0% | 12,169 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

Net internal migration estimates – the difference between the number of people arriving in a district and the number of people leaving the same district – show that the districts of Belize and Cayo have positive net internal migration ([Figure 5.2.2](#) and [Table 5.2.3](#)). This indicates that more people are entering than leaving these districts. This is especially true for the Belize-born, and particularly so

in the district of Belize, which had a net migration gain of 4,517 Belize-born persons. Conversely, the districts of Orange Walk, Toledo and Stann Creek experienced negative net internal migration; that is, more people moved out than moved in these districts. This was the case for both native- and foreign-born individuals. The district with the greatest population losses was Orange Walk.

FIGURE 5.2.2. Net internal migration by district and country of birth, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 5.2.3. Net internal migration by country of birth, 2022

| District | Place of Birth | | | | Total | |
|-------------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | -95 | -0.2% | 279 | 2.3% | 183 | 0.3% |
| Orange Walk | -2,932 | -6.2% | -250 | -2.1% | -3,182 | -5.4% |
| Belize | 4,517 | 9.6% | 63 | 0.5% | 4,579 | 7.7% |
| Cayo | 1,739 | 3.7% | 156 | 1.3% | 1,895 | 3.2% |
| Stann Creek | -705 | -1.5% | -86 | -0.7% | -791 | -1.3% |
| Toledo | -2,523 | -5.3% | -161 | -1.3% | -2,684 | -4.5% |
| Total | 47,196 | 100.0% | 12,169 | 100.0% | 59,365 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

5.3. Duration of stay in district of destination

In terms of the timing of internal migration, we observe differences between the foreign and Belize-born populations ([Table 5.3.1](#)). The internal movements of the Belize-born were more concentrated

in recent years compared to movements of those born abroad and who moved internally since they arrived in the country. For example, 32% of Belize-born individuals moved internally between 2018 and 2022, whereas this was the case for 22% of the foreign-born. Conversely, while 35% of the foreign-born moved between districts before the year 2000, only 19% of the Belize-born population did so.

TABLE 5.3.1. Total Belize born and foreign-born population who migrated internally by year they last came to current place, 2022

| Year | Place of Birth | | | | Total | |
|---------------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 2022 | 2,928 | 6% | 590 | 5% | 3,518 | 6% |
| 2018-2021 | 12,080 | 26% | 1,897 | 16% | 13,977 | 24% |
| 2010-2017 | 11,269 | 24% | 2,708 | 22% | 13,976 | 24% |
| 2000-2009 | 7,865 | 17% | 2,475 | 20% | 10,341 | 17% |
| 1990-1999 | 4,586 | 10% | 2,272 | 19% | 6,858 | 12% |
| Before 1990 | 4,306 | 9% | 1,930 | 16% | 6,236 | 11% |
| DK/Not Stated | 4,161 | 9% | 298 | 2% | 4,459 | 8% |
| Total | 47,196 | 100% | 12,169 | 100% | 59,365 | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 5.3.2. Population who migrated internally by country of birth and year of arrival at current district and sex, 2022

| | Year | Belize | | | | Abroad | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| < 1 year | 2022 | 1,477 | 6.5% | 1,451 | 6.0% | 328 | 5.6% | 262 | 4.1% |
| 1-4 years | 2018-2021 | 6,084 | 26.6% | 5,996 | 24.7% | 925 | 15.9% | 972 | 15.3% |
| 5-12 years | 2010-2017 | 5,514 | 24.1% | 5,754 | 23.7% | 1,291 | 22.2% | 1,417 | 22.3% |
| 13 years + | Before 2009 | 7,711 | 33.7% | 9,047 | 37.2% | 3,124 | 53.8% | 3,553 | 55.9% |
| DK/NS | | 2,090 | 9.1% | 2,071 | 8.5% | 140 | 2.4% | 158 | 2.5% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

6. EDUCATION

This chapter describes the highest level of educational attainment and the share of persons leaving school at an early age (young people who are neither in education nor training and have gone no further than lower secondary school) and school attendance by educational level for both foreign- and Belize-born populations.

6.1. Educational attainment

The working-age foreign-born population has lower levels of educational attainment compared to their counterparts born in Belize ([Table 6.1.1](#)). In 2022,

36.9% of those born abroad did not complete any education (13.9% or 4,910 persons) or completed pre-primary school only (22.9% or 8,098 persons). By contrast, only 12.3% of the Belize-born reported these very low levels of education (2.3% or 4,414 persons and 10.0% or 19,503 persons, respectively). Furthermore, the percentage of foreign-born individuals who completed secondary education was nearly half that of Belize-born individuals (15.4% or 5,428 persons and 28% 54,431 persons, respectively). Conversely, while 10.6% of the foreign-born population aged 16 to 64 completed tertiary education (3,751 persons), 16.6% of the Belize-born did so (32,406 persons).

TABLE 6.1.1. Total Belize-born and foreign-born population 14 to 64 years, not attending school by highest level of education completed, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| None | 1,986 | 1.5% | 4,821 | 12.4% | 4,414 | 2.3% | 4,910 | 13.9% |
| Pre-Primary | 24,592 | 18.5% | 11,244 | 28.9% | 19,503 | 10.0% | 8,098 | 22.9% |
| Primary | 61,153 | 46.0% | 12,098 | 31.0% | 83,100 | 42.7% | 12,918 | 36.6% |
| Secondary | 25,244 | 19.0% | 4,817 | 12.4% | 54,431 | 28.0% | 5,428 | 15.4% |
| Tertiary | 17,652 | 13.3% | 4,294 | 11.0% | 32,406 | 16.6% | 3,751 | 10.6% |
| Other | 500 | 0.4% | 508 | 1.3% | 521 | 0.3% | 100 | 0.3% |
| Dont Know or Not Stated | 1,822 | 1.4% | 1,185 | 3.0% | 265 | 0.1% | 93 | 0.3% |
| Total | 132,949 | 100.0% | 38,967 | 100.0% | 194,641 | 100.0% | 35,299 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

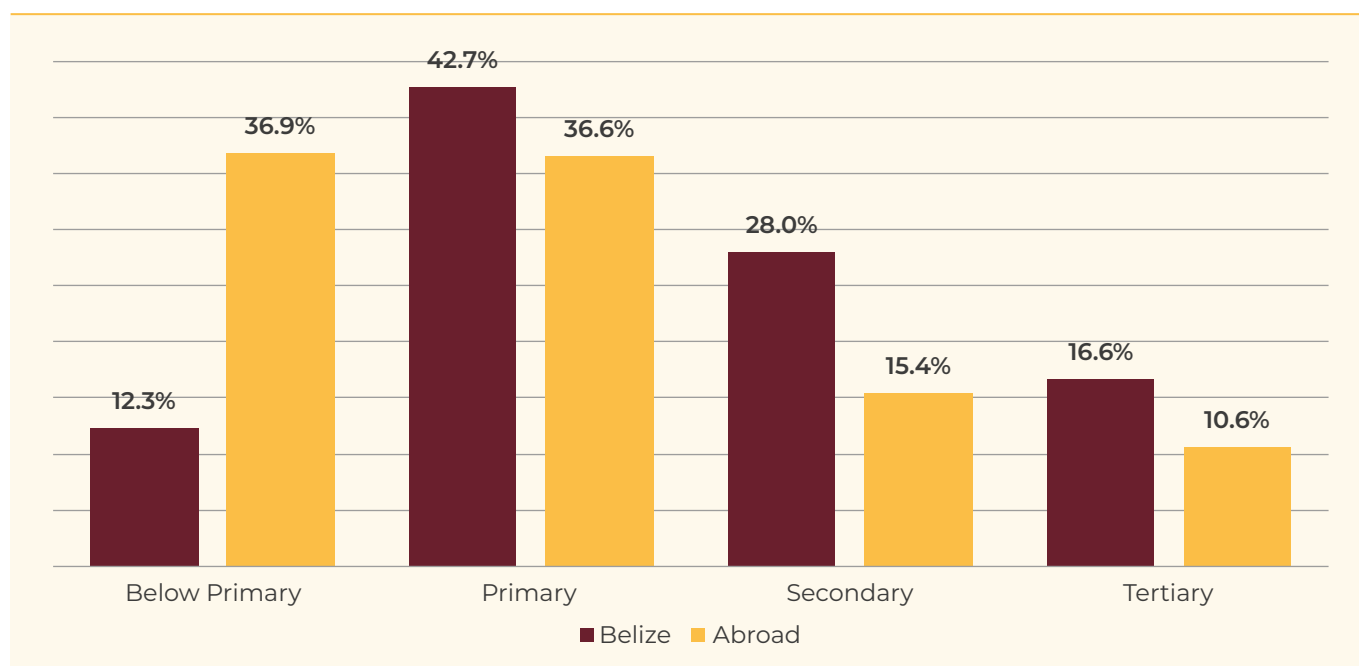
[Figure 6.1.1](#) shows educational levels in 2010 and 2022.

Over time, the share of poorly educated individuals decreased for both foreign- and Belize-born populations. But this decline was more pronounced among the Belize-born population. For instance, the share of those who completed less than primary school reduced by 8 percentage points for the Belize-born (from 20% to 12.3%), while it decreased by 4 percentage points for the foreign-born (from 41.2% to 36.9%). Consequently, between 2010 and 2022, the gap in educational attainment between foreign- and Belize-born increased ([Figure 6.1.1](#)).

This pattern was also observed at the other side of the spectrum. That is, the gap between groups

for the higher levels of education – secondary and tertiary – increased between censuses. The share of working-age individuals who completed secondary school¹ increased by 9 percentage points among those born in Belize (from 19% to 28%), while it only increased by 3 percentage points among immigrants (from 12.4% to 15.4%). Additionally, the proportion of highly educated individuals increased by 3 percentage points among the Belize-born (from 13.3% to 16.6%), whereas it slightly declined among the foreign born (from 11.0% to 10.6%). Thus, differences in educational attainment at the higher schooling levels between the two groups also increased between 2010 and 2022.

FIGURE 6.1.1. Percentage of foreign- and Belize-born population, aged 16 to 64, not attending school by highest level of education completed, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

¹ Comparisons between 2010 and 2022 need to be made with caution. In 2022, vocational studies were included as formal education, while they were not in 2010. Thus, the higher percentage of individuals with secondary schooling in 2022 in part reflects the inclusion of individuals with vocational studies in this category.

6.2. Early school leaving

At the time of the 2022 census, nearly one-third of youth, aged 14 to 24 years old, born in Belize were neither in education nor training and had gone no further than lower-secondary school in their studies (31.2%) ([Figure 6.2.1](#)). This is equal to 24,604 young Belize-born individuals who left the education system prematurely. By contrast, young immigrants were more likely to drop out of school earlier than their Belize-born counterparts: almost half left school before completing lower secondary (49.8%). Differences in early-school leavers were also observed between girls and boys. The share of early-school leavers was lower among girls compared

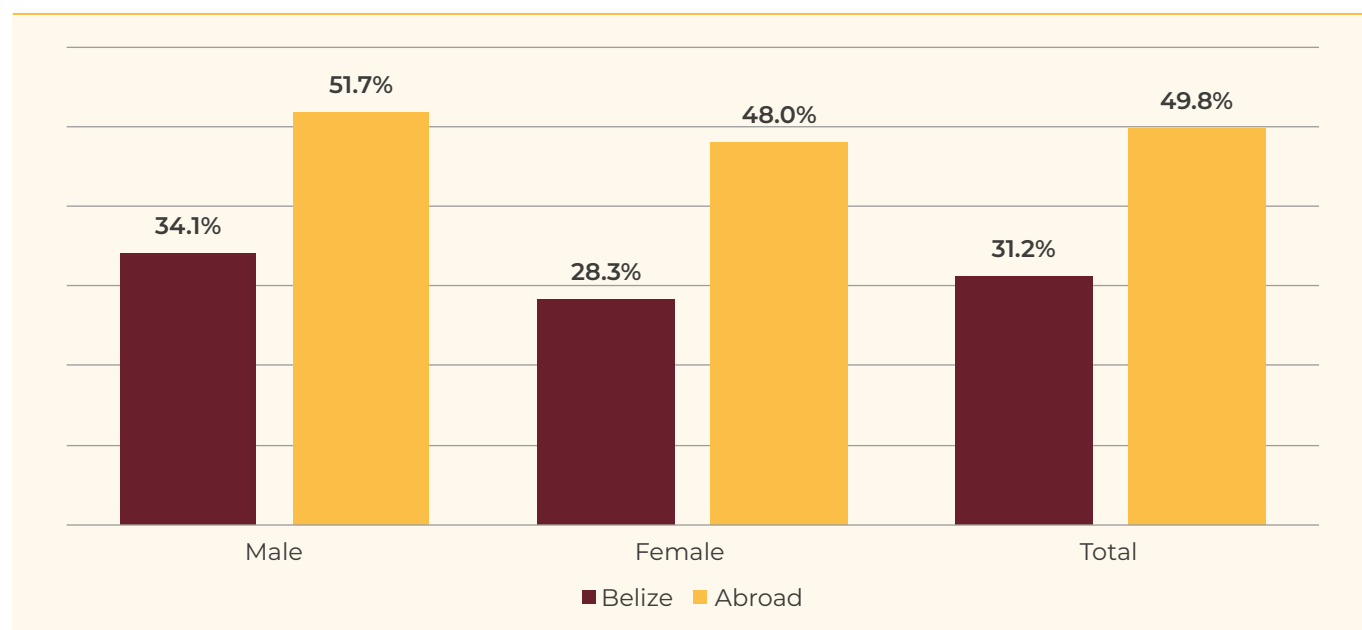
with boys for both Belize-born (28.3% versus 34.1%) and foreign-born youth (48% versus 51.7%).

TABLE 6.2.1. Total Belize born and foreign-born early school leavers, 2022

| Early school leavers | Place of Birth | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Male | 13,498 | 34.1% | 1,236 | 51.7% |
| Female | 11,106 | 28.3% | 1,227 | 48.0% |
| Total | 24,604 | 31.2% | 2,463 | 49.8% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

FIGURE 6.2.1. Percentage of Foreign- and Belize-born early school leavers by sex, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

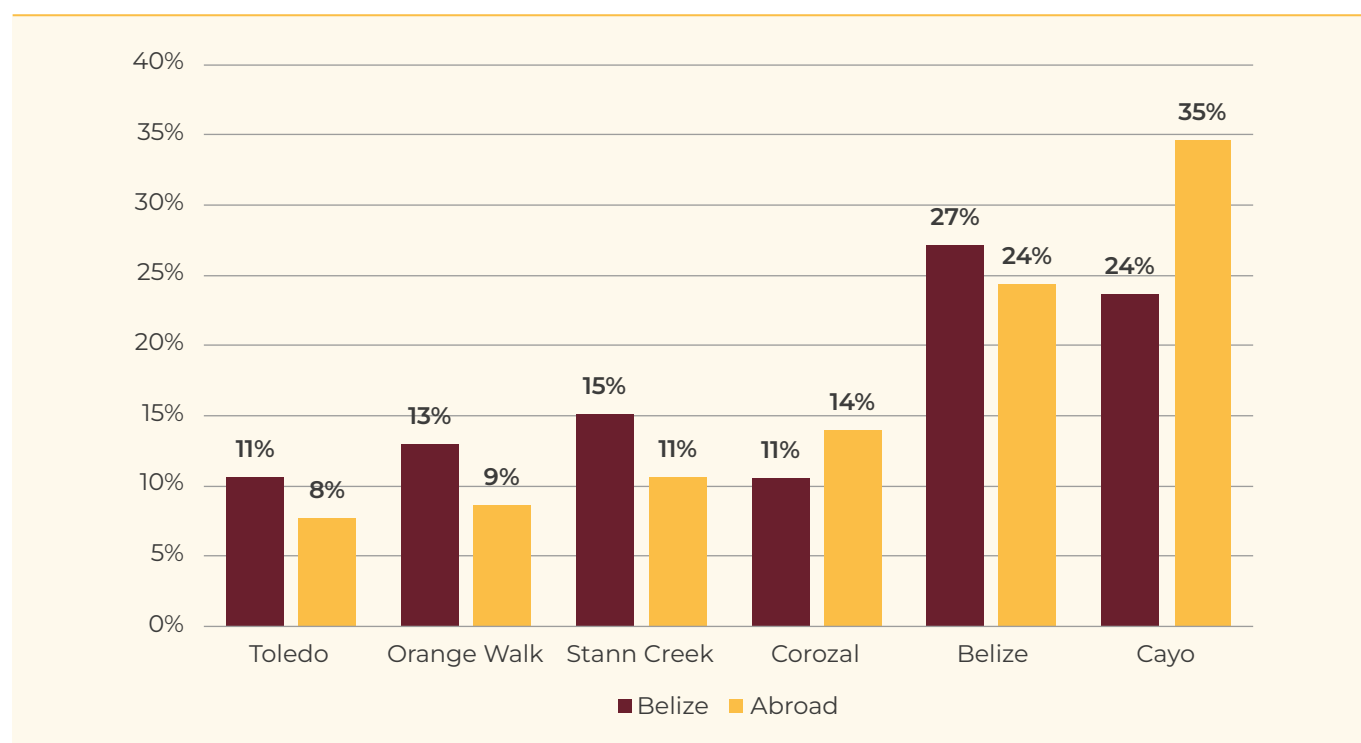
6.3. Proportion of children, aged 5 to 17, attending school

In 2022, a total of 3,175 foreign-born children, aged 5 to 17, were attending school at the time of the census ([Table 6.3.1](#)). The number of foreign-born girls and boys attending school was more or less equal: 52% were girls (1,639 girls) and 48% were boys (1,536 boys). The distribution of foreign-born students across districts portrayed the geographical distribution of the total foreign-born population ([Figure 6.3.1](#)). That is, districts with the highest number of foreign-born residents – Cayo and Belize – provided educational services to the highest

number of students (1,101 and 776 students, respectively). On the other hand, the districts with the fewest born-abroad residents – Orange Walk and Toledo – also had the smallest number of immigrant students (274 and 243 students, respectively).

The number of foreign-born children and adolescents that reported attending school in the 2022 census was 65% lower to the one reported in the 2010 census (3,175 and 5,268 students, respectively) ([Table 6.3.1](#)). This decline is in part due to the drop in the number of immigrants between 2010 and 2022. However, the reduction rate in the student population was much higher than that of the total foreign-born population.

FIGURE 6.3.1. Percentage of foreign- and Belize-born children aged 5-17 currently attending school by district, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 6.3.1. Total and percentage of foreign- and Belize-born children aged 5-17 currently attending school by district and sex, 2010 and 2022

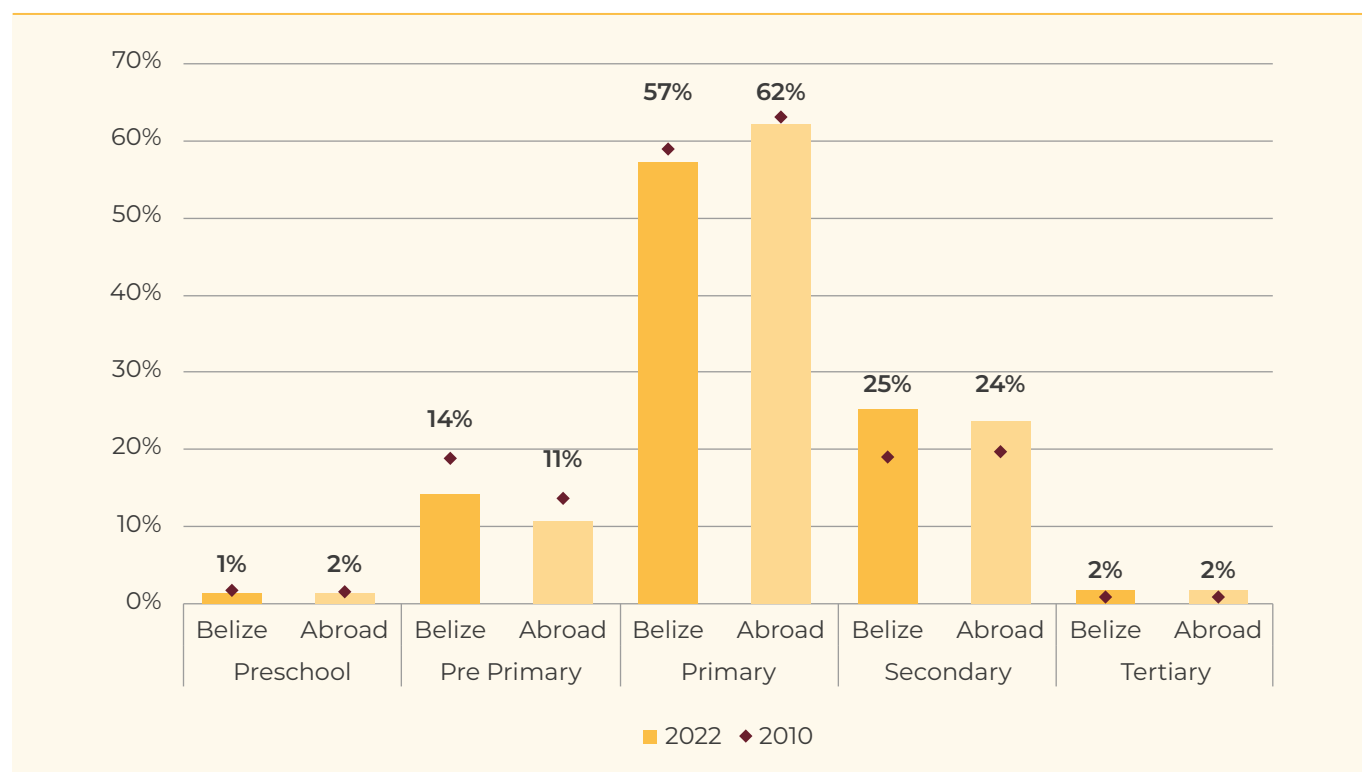
| | | Belize | | | | | | Abroad | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 2010 | Corozal | 4,565 | 11.4% | 4,520 | 11.3% | 9,086 | 11.4% | 207 | 8.0% | 235 | 18.8% | 441 | 8.4% |
| | Orange Walk | 5,253 | 13.1% | 5,076 | 12.7% | 10,329 | 12.9% | 187 | 7.2% | 193 | 7.2% | 380 | 7.2% |
| | Belize | 11,124 | 27.7% | 11,273 | 28.2% | 22,399 | 28.0% | 713 | 27.4% | 752 | 28.2% | 1,466 | 27.8% |
| | Cayo | 9,961 | 24.8% | 9,944 | 24.9% | 19,905 | 24.9% | 900 | 34.6% | 922 | 34.6% | 1,823 | 34.6% |
| | Stann Creek | 4,662 | 11.6% | 4,635 | 11.6% | 9,297 | 11.6% | 324 | 12.5% | 338 | 12.7% | 662 | 12.6% |
| | Toledo | 4,549 | 11.3% | 4,459 | 11.2% | 9,008 | 11.3% | 270 | 10.4% | 226 | 8.5% | 496 | 9.4% |
| | Total | 40,115 | 100.0% | 39,908 | 100.0% | 80,025 | 100.0% | 2,601 | 100.0% | 2,667 | 100.0% | 5,268 | 100.0% |
| 2022 | Corozal | 4,599 | 10.5% | 4,451 | 10.5% | 9,050 | 10.5% | 223 | 14.5% | 221 | 13.5% | 444 | 14.0% |
| | Orange Walk | 5,785 | 13.2% | 5,433 | 12.8% | 11,218 | 13.0% | 137 | 8.9% | 137 | 8.4% | 274 | 8.6% |
| | Belize | 11,643 | 26.6% | 11,733 | 27.7% | 23,376 | 27.2% | 357 | 23.2% | 419 | 25.6% | 776 | 24.4% |
| | Cayo | 10,346 | 23.6% | 9,985 | 23.6% | 20,332 | 23.6% | 532 | 34.6% | 570 | 34.8% | 1101 | 34.7% |
| | Stann Creek | 6,761 | 15.5% | 6,217 | 14.7% | 12,977 | 15.1% | 155 | 10.1% | 183 | 11.1% | 337 | 10.6% |
| | Toledo | 4,620 | 10.6% | 4,487 | 10.6% | 9,108 | 10.6% | 133 | 8.7% | 109 | 6.7% | 243 | 7.6% |
| | Total | 43,754 | 100.0% | 42,306 | 100.0% | 86,060 | 100.0% | 1,536 | 100.0% | 1,639 | 100.0% | 3,175 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

In 2022, most immigrant children attending school were enrolled in primary school institutions (62% or 1,973 students) ([Table 6.3.2](#) and [Figure 6.3.2](#)). An additional 24% (751 students) was enrolled in secondary school institutions; 13% (390 children) in preschool education, and 2% (54 students) in tertiary education services. The distribution of Belize-born students by school level was similar to that of foreign-born, with most students enrolled

in primary school level and very few in tertiary education. Gender differences in school attendance by educational level were minor, with gaps reaching a maximum of 2 percentage points. Over time, an increase in the share of students attending secondary school level was evident for both foreign- and Belize-born groups between 2010 and 2022 (4 and 6 percentage points, respectively).

FIGURE 6.3.2. Share of foreign- and Belize-born children aged 5-17 currently attending school by school level and sex, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

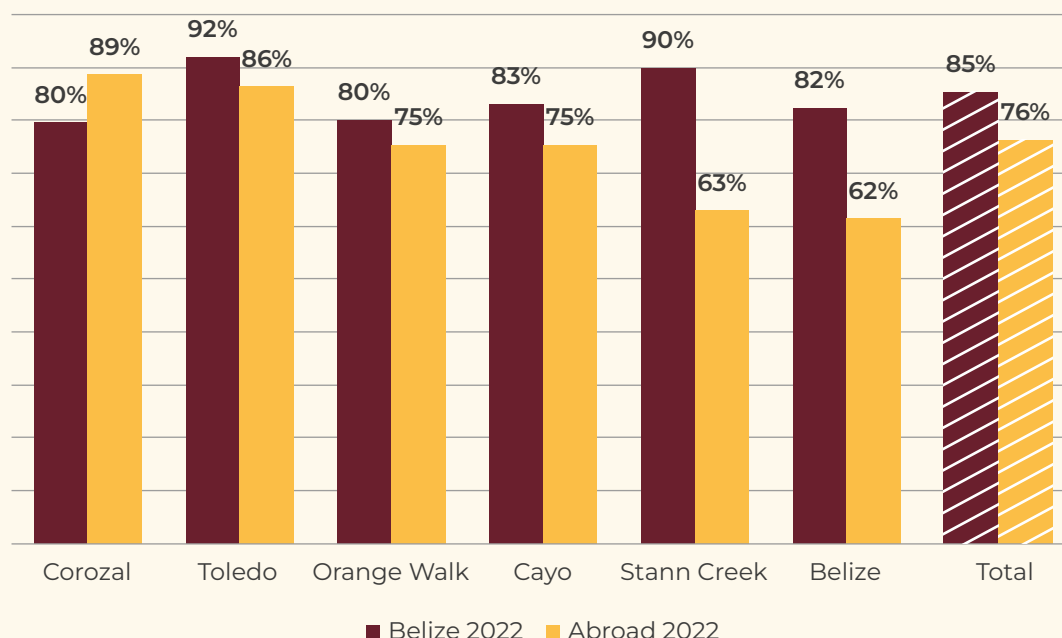
TABLE 6.3.2. Total foreign- and Belize-born children aged 5-17 currently attending school by school level and sex, 2010 and 2022

| | | Belize | | | | | | Abroad | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 2010 | Preschool | 733 | 2% | 682 | 2% | 1,415 | 2% | 39 | 2% | 44 | 2% | 83 | 2% |
| | Pre Primary | 7,794 | 19% | 7,356 | 18% | 15,150 | 97% | 363 | 14% | 361 | 14% | 724 | 14% |
| | Primary | 23,904 | 60% | 23,169 | 58% | 47,076 | 59% | 1,641 | 63% | 1,681 | 63% | 3,321 | 63% |
| | Secondary | 7,117 | 18% | 8,086 | 20% | 15,203 | 19% | 514 | 20% | 527 | 20% | 1,041 | 20% |
| | Tertiary | 302 | 1% | 432 | 1% | 734 | 1% | 19 | 1% | 29 | 1% | 47 | 1% |
| | Other | 264 | 1% | 182 | 0% | 446 | 1% | 25 | 1% | 25 | 1% | 50 | 1% |
| | Total | 40,115 | 100.0% | 39,908 | 100.0% | 80,025 | 100.0% | 2,601 | 100.0% | 2,667 | 100.0% | 5,268 | 100.0% |
| 2022 | Preschool | 634 | 1% | 582 | 1% | 1,216 | 1% | 26 | 2% | 22 | 1% | 48 | 2% |
| | Pre Primary | 6,383 | 15% | 5,883 | 14% | 12,266 | 14% | 188 | 12% | 154 | 9% | 342 | 11% |
| | Primary | 25,349 | 58% | 23,852 | 56% | 49,201 | 57% | 940 | 61% | 1,034 | 63% | 1,973 | 62% |
| | Secondary | 10,694 | 24% | 11,055 | 26% | 21,749 | 25% | 358 | 23% | 393 | 24% | 751 | 24% |
| | Tertiary | 595 | 1% | 865 | 2% | 1,459 | 2% | 20 | 1% | 34 | 2% | 54 | 2% |
| | Other | 99 | 0% | 69 | 0% | 168 | 0% | 4 | 0% | 3 | 0% | 6 | 0% |
| | Total | 43,754 | 100.0% | 42,306 | 100.0% | 86,060 | 100.0% | 1,536 | 100.0% | 1,639 | 100.0% | 3,175 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

School participation rates among children aged 5 to 17 were lower among the immigrant population than among the Belize-born in 2022 (by 9 percentage points) ([Figure 6.3.3](#) and [Table 6.3.3](#)). While 76% of foreign-born children reported attending school, 85% of those born in Belize did so. School attendance rates and the gap between foreign- and Belize-born students varied widely across districts. The highest share of attendance rates for

foreign-born children were observed among those living in Corozal (89%) and Belize (87%). Conversely, the lowest attendance rates among immigrant children were seen in the Toledo district (62%) and Stann Creek (63%). In these districts, the school attendance gap between the two groups was also the widest – with differences of at least of 20 percentage points.

FIGURE 6.3.3. School attendance rates of 5- to 17-year-olds by district, 2022

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The share of children attending school in 2022 was slightly lower than in 2010 both for foreign- and Belize-born populations ([Table 6.3.3](#)). Overall participation rates dropped by 2 percentage points for both groups between the two censuses. The district with the largest decline in participation

rates of foreign-born students was Stann Creek, where rates fell by 13 percentage points (from 76% to 63%). By contrast, Toledo and Cayo experienced the largest declines in school attendance rates among Belize-born children, with drops of 5 and 3 percentage points, respectively.

TABLE 6.3.3. Share of children aged 5 to 17 attending school by district and sex, 2010 and 2022

| | | Belize | | | | | | Abroad | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 2010 | Corozal | 4,565 | 81.5% | 4,520 | 80.5% | 9,086 | 81.0% | 207 | 84.2% | 235 | 83.0% | 441 | 83.6% |
| | Orange Walk | 5,253 | 81.0% | 5,076 | 80.1% | 10,329 | 80.5% | 187 | 74.4% | 193 | 77.1% | 380 | 75.8% |
| | Belize | 11,124 | 92.6% | 11,273 | 94.1% | 22,399 | 93.3% | 713 | 86.2% | 752 | 88.0% | 1,466 | 87.1% |
| | Cayo | 9,961 | 86.0% | 9,944 | 87.0% | 19,905 | 86.5% | 900 | 77.1% | 922 | 76.2% | 1,823 | 76.6% |
| | Stann Creek | 4,662 | 91.0% | 4,635 | 91.8% | 9,297 | 91.4% | 324 | 72.7% | 338 | 79.6% | 662 | 76.1% |
| | Toledo | 4,549 | 88.0% | 4,459 | 86.4% | 9,008 | 87.2% | 270 | 66.0% | 226 | 64.3% | 496 | 65.2% |
| | Total | 40,115 | 87.2% | 39,908 | 87.6% | 80,025 | 87.4% | 2,601 | 77.7% | 2,667 | 79.0% | 5,268 | 78.4% |
| 2022 | Corozal | 4,599 | 80.0% | 4,451 | 79.1% | 9,050 | 79.6% | 223 | 89.1% | 221 | 88.2% | 444 | 88.7% |
| | Orange Walk | 5,785 | 79.9% | 5,433 | 80.2% | 11,218 | 80.1% | 137 | 72.8% | 137 | 78.2% | 274 | 75.4% |
| | Belize | 11,643 | 91.4% | 11,733 | 92.6% | 23,376 | 92.0% | 357 | 85.5% | 419 | 87.3% | 776 | 86.5% |
| | Cayo | 10,346 | 82.2% | 9,985 | 83.9% | 20,332 | 83.0% | 532 | 72.6% | 570 | 77.9% | 1101 | 75.2% |
| | Stann Creek | 6,761 | 89.8% | 6,217 | 90.0% | 12,977 | 89.9% | 155 | 58.4% | 183 | 67.4% | 337 | 62.9% |
| | Toledo | 4,620 | 83.1% | 4,487 | 81.7% | 9,108 | 82.4% | 133 | 64.4% | 109 | 58.3% | 243 | 61.5% |
| | Total | 43,754 | 85.1% | 42,306 | 85.7% | 86,060 | 85.4% | 1,536 | 74.6% | 1,639 | 78.2% | 3,175 | 76.4% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

7. LABOR MARKET PARTICIPATION

This chapter presents the labor market integration of foreign- and Belize-born populations as well as the industries and occupations in which participants were employed.

7.1. Working-age population

In 2022, the foreign-born population had a higher share of individuals of working age (14 to 64 years old) compared to the Belize-born (80.9% and 64.8%, respectively). Differences in age distribution between the two groups were also evident within the working-age population ([Table 7.1.1](#) and [Figure 7.1.1](#)). For instance, in 2022, foreign-born individuals were heavily concentrated in the primary working ages between 25 and 54 (69%), with the highest concentration among those aged 40 to 54 (37%). By contrast, Belize-born individuals were more present in the early stages of the labor market:

35% were aged 14 to 24 and another 35% were 25 to 39 years. At the same time, there are more people aged 55 to 64 among foreign- than Belize-born populations (18% and 9%, respectively).

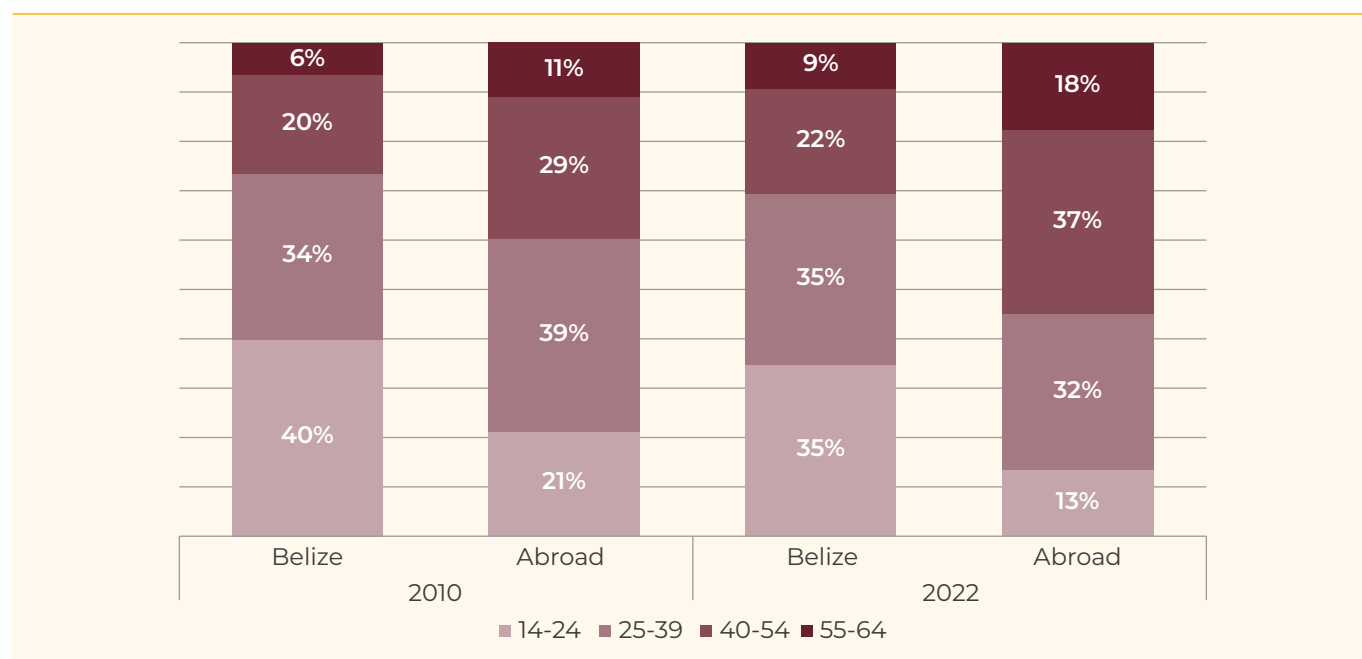
Between 2010 and 2022, it is possible to observe a change in the age distribution of the working-age population. For both foreign- and Belize-born groups, the share of those entering the labor market (aged 14 to 24) decreased significantly (by 5 percentage points for Belize-born and 8 percentage points for foreign-born). Conversely, the share of those in the late stages of their working lives (aged 55 to 64) and of those in the second half of the prime working years (aged 40 to 54) increased for both foreign- and Belize-born groups (7 and 8 percentage points for foreign-born and 3 and 2 percentage points for Belize-born). The latter suggests ageing of the working-age population between the two past censuses, especially among the foreign-born.

TABLE 7.1.1. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born persons of working-age (14 to 64 years), 2010 and 2022

| | | Belize | | | | | | Abroad | | | | | |
|------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 2010 | 14-24 | 31,584 | 40% | 31,972 | 40% | 63,555 | 40% | 4,268 | 21% | 4,535 | 22% | 8,803 | 21% |
| | 25-34 | 18,845 | 24% | 19,653 | 24% | 38,498 | 24% | 5,038 | 25% | 5,757 | 27% | 10,795 | 26% |
| | 35-44 | 13,929 | 18% | 14,113 | 18% | 28,042 | 18% | 4,764 | 23% | 5,185 | 25% | 9,948 | 24% |
| | 45-54 | 9,823 | 12% | 94,63 | 12% | 19,286 | 12% | 3,742 | 18% | 3,616 | 17% | 7,358 | 18% |
| | 55-64 | 5,242 | 7% | 5,074 | 6% | 10,317 | 6% | 2,532 | 12% | 1,988 | 9% | 4,520 | 11% |
| | Total | 79,423 | 100% | 80,275 | 100% | 159,698 | 100% | 20,343 | 100% | 21,081 | 100% | 41,424 | 100% |
| 2022 | 14-24 | 39,547 | 36% | 39,246 | 34% | 78,792 | 35% | 2,389 | 14% | 2,556 | 13% | 4,945 | 13% |
| | 25-34 | 25,777 | 23% | 29,101 | 25% | 54,878 | 24% | 3,199 | 19% | 4,132 | 21% | 7,331 | 20% |
| | 35-44 | 20,397 | 18% | 21,607 | 19% | 42,004 | 19% | 3,928 | 23% | 5,239 | 26% | 9,167 | 25% |
| | 45-54 | 14,340 | 13% | 15,510 | 13% | 29,851 | 13% | 4,215 | 25% | 4,745 | 24% | 8,960 | 24% |
| | 55-64 | 10,424 | 9% | 10,266 | 9% | 20,690 | 9% | 3,316 | 19% | 3,221 | 16% | 6,538 | 18% |
| | Total | 110,484 | 100% | 115,730 | 100% | 226,215 | 100% | 17,047 | 100% | 19,893 | 100% | 36,940 | 100% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

FIGURE 7.1.1. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons of working age (14 to 64 years), 2010 and 2022



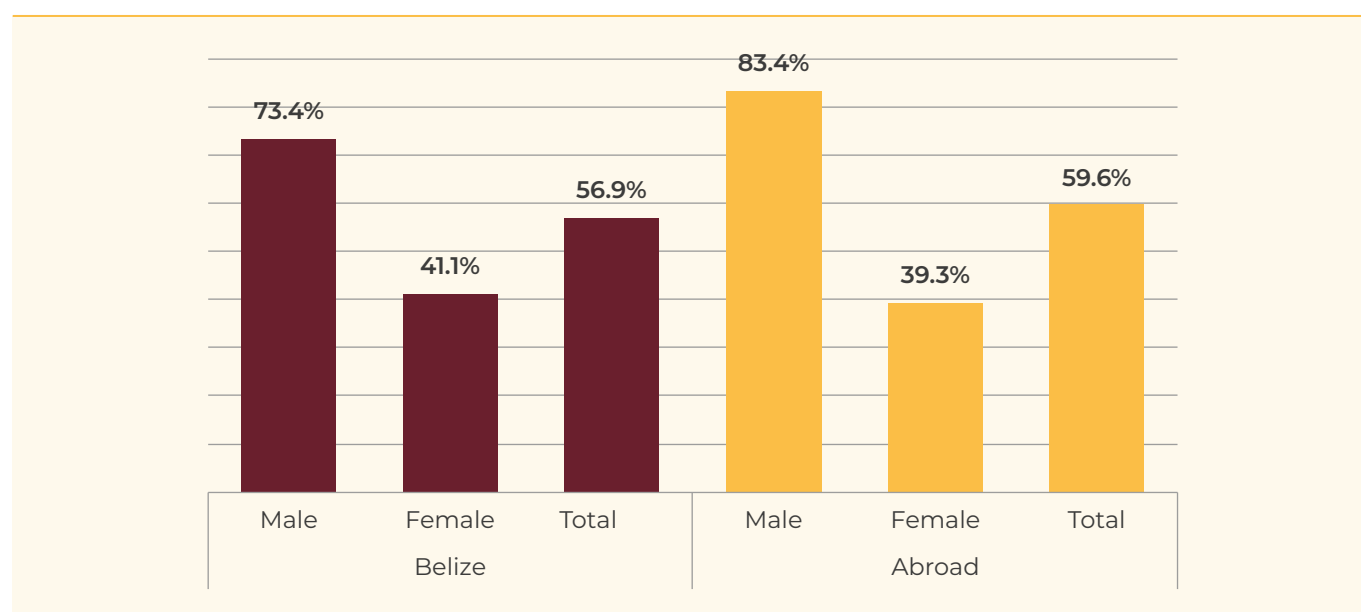
Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

7.2. Labor market participation

In 2022, the labor market participation of immigrants was nearly 60%, which was slightly higher than the participation rate of the Belize-born population, of 57% ([Figure 7.2.1](#) and [Table 7.2.1](#)). The differences in activity rates between foreign- and Belize-born groups were particularly pronounced among men. The participation rate of foreign-born

men was 83% and that of their Belize-born peers was 73%; that is a 10-percentage point difference. Conversely, foreign-born women were somewhat less likely to be active in the labor market compared to Belize-born women, with participation rates of 39.3% and 41.1%, respectively. Gender gaps in participation rates were significant for both groups, but they were especially pronounced among the foreign-born, with a 44-percentage point difference compared to a 32-percentage point difference among their Belize-born counterparts.

FIGURE 7.2.1. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in the labour force by sex, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.1. Total foreign and Belize-born population aged 14 to 64 years in the labour force by sex, 2022

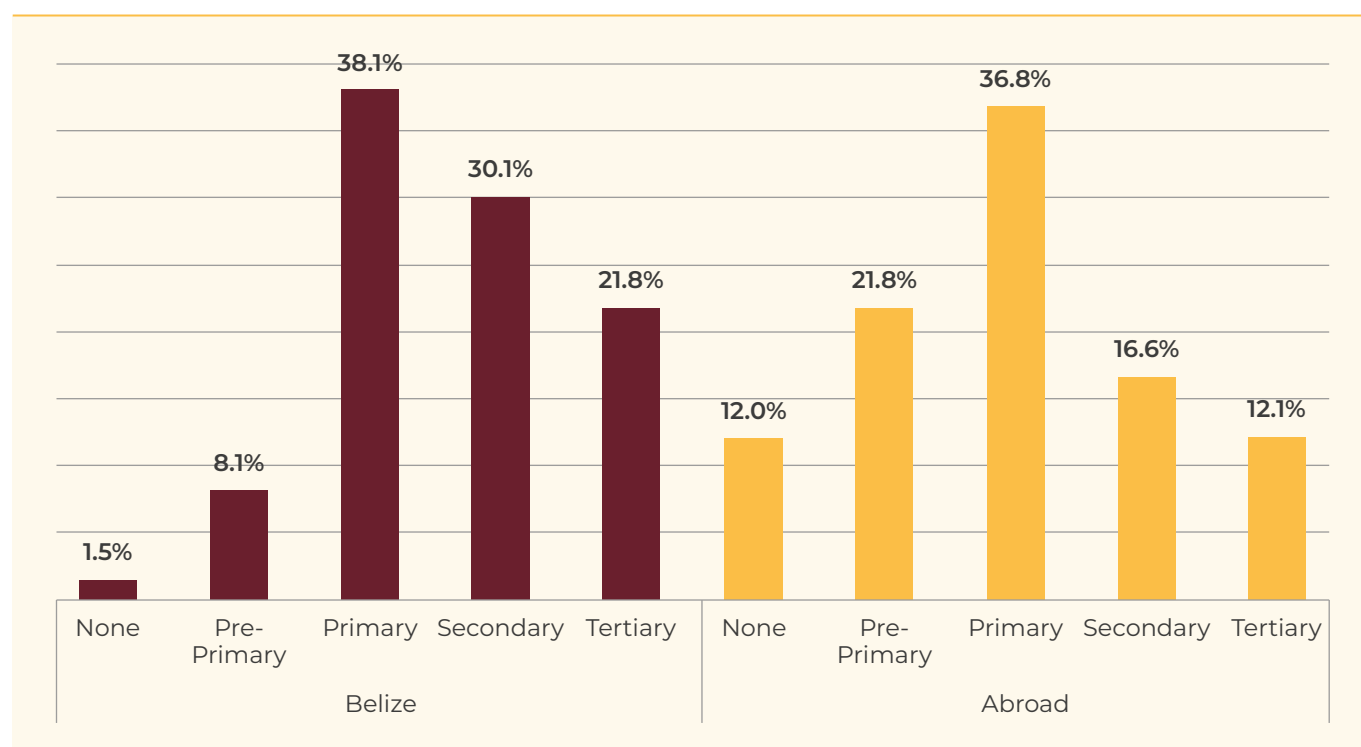
| | Belize | | | Abroad | | |
|--------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| | Working age | Labour Force | Labour Force Participation Rate | Working age | Labour Force | Labour Force Participation Rate |
| Male | 110,484 | 81,108 | 73.4% | 17,047.5 | 14,218.0 | 83.4% |
| Female | 115,730 | 47,610 | 41.1% | 19,892.9 | 7,815.9 | 39.3% |
| Total | 226,215 | 128,718 | 56.6% | 36,940.4 | 22,033.9 | 59.6% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The educational attainment of the foreign-born population active in the labor force at the time of the 2022 census mirrored that of the total foreign-born population. That is, the educational levels of those born abroad and economically active were concentrated among the lower levels: 36.8% had completed up to primary school level (8,113 persons), 21.8% had completed up to pre-primary school level (4,801 persons), and 12% had no

education (2,649 persons)). Conversely, only 12% of the foreign-born labor force had a bachelor's degree or more (2,676 persons). Comparisons between the foreign- and Belize-born active populations show that the latter had a larger share of highly educated individuals (21.8% had a bachelor's degree or more) and a lower proportion with little or no education (8.1% completed up to pre-primary school level and 1.5% had no education).

FIGURE 7.2.2. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in the labour force by educational attainment, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.2. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born population in the labor force by educational attainment, 2022

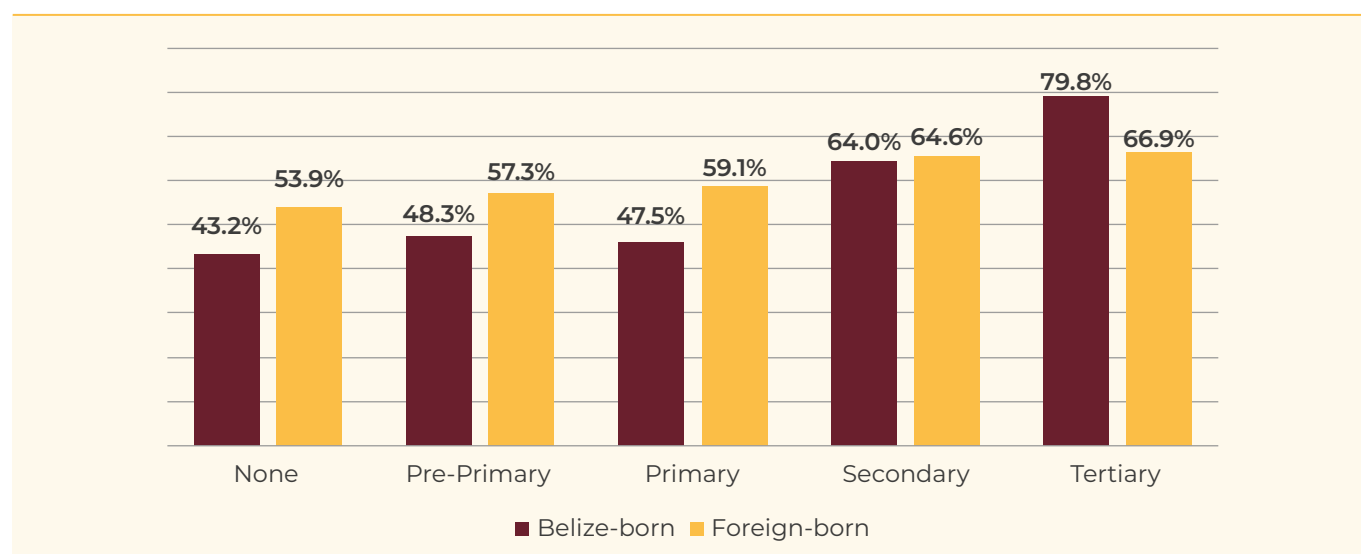
| | Belize | | Abroad | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| None | 1,915 | 1.5% | 2,649 | 12.0% |
| Pre-Primary | 10,487 | 8.1% | 4,801 | 21.8% |
| Primary | 49,003 | 38.1% | 8,113 | 36.8% |
| Secondary | 38,728 | 30.1% | 3,665 | 16.6% |
| Tertiary | 28,027 | 21.8% | 2,676 | 12.1% |
| Other | 323 | .3% | 53 | .2% |
| Dont Know or Not Stated | 235 | .2% | 76 | .3% |
| Total | 128,718 | 100.0% | 22,034 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Labor force participation was lowest among individuals with low levels of completed education regardless of where they were born ([Figure 7.2.3](#)). Among foreign-born individuals, the participation rate of those with no education was close to 54%, over 13 percentage points lower than the participation of the highly educated (53.9% versus 66.9%). Among the Belize-born, differences in participation rates between those without formal education and the highly educated were even more pronounced (43.2% and 79.8%). Further, the gap in

participation rates between foreign- and Belize-born were generally wider among the highly educated. Belize-born individuals were 10 percentage points more likely to be economically active than their foreign-born peers (66.9% versus 79.8%). At the same time, among those with little or no education, the foreign-born were more likely to participate in the labour market than their Belize-born counterparts. For example, among those with no education, 53.9% of foreign-born were economically active compared to 43.2% of those born in Belize.

FIGURE 7.2.3. Labour Force Participation by Educational Attainment, 2022

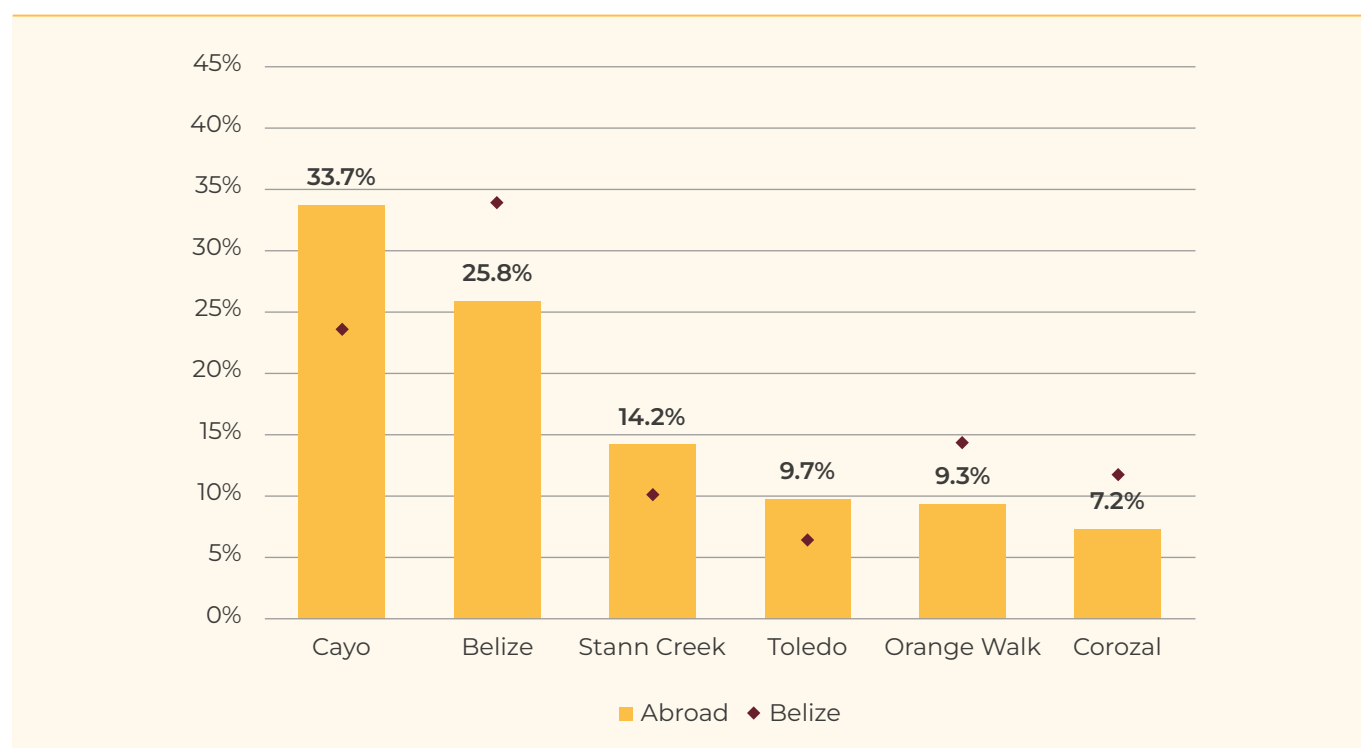


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The distribution of the foreign-born economically active population across districts reflects the geographic distribution of the total foreign-born population across the country ([Figure 7.2.4](#) and [Table 7.2.3](#)). In 2022, more than half of all foreign-born who were participating in the labor force resided either in Cayo (33.7% or 7,419 persons) or in Belize (25.8% or 5,693 persons), the two districts with the highest proportion of foreign-born persons (see [section 3.2](#) in Chapter 3). Conversely, the districts with the smallest concentration of economically active foreign-born individuals

included Toledo, Orange Walk and Corozal, with 9.7% (2,148 persons), 9.3% (2,056 persons) and 7.2% (1,596 persons), respectively. Gaps in the distribution of the labor force between foreign- and Belize-born were largest in Cayo (10 percentage points) and Belize (8 percentage points). However, the difference between foreign- and Belize-born was reversed in these districts. In Cayo, the foreign-born labor force had a higher share compared to the Belize-born (33.7% versus 23.6%), while in Belize, the opposite was true (25.8% versus 33.9%).

FIGURE 7.2.4. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in the labor force by district, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.3. Total foreign- and Belize-born population aged 14 to 64 in the labor force by district, 2022

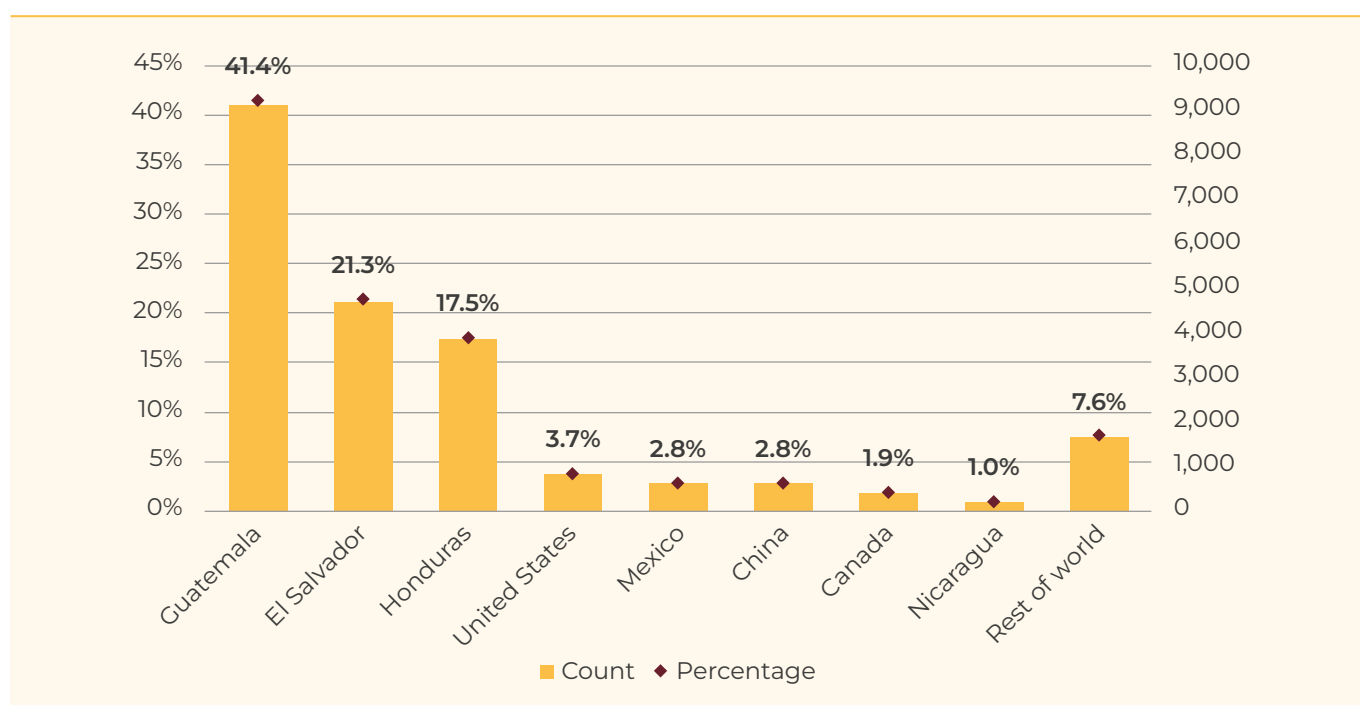
| | Belize | | Abroad | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Cayo | 30,329 | 23.6% | 7,419 | 33.7% |
| Belize | 43,663 | 33.9% | 5,693 | 25.8% |
| Stann Creek | 12,966 | 10.1% | 3,122 | 14.2% |
| Toledo | 8,211 | 6.4% | 2,148 | 9.7% |
| Orange Walk | 18,408 | 14.3% | 2,056 | 9.3% |
| Corozal | 15,142 | 11.8% | 1,596 | 7.2% |
| Total | 128,718 | 100.0% | 22,034 | 100.0% |

Note: Labor force participation by district is sorted in descending order of the participation rate of the foreign-born.
Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The distribution of the labor force by country of birth reflected that of the total foreign-born population ([Figure 7.2.5](#) and [Table 7.2.4](#)). In 2022, the largest share of economically active foreign-born individuals was born in Guatemala (41.4% or 9,119 persons). This was followed by those born in

El Salvador (21.3% or 4,700 persons) and then closely by those born in Honduras (17.5% or 3,852 persons). The percentage of the foreign-born labor force born in other countries was of much smaller size: less than 4% in the United States, Mexico, China, Canada, and Nicaragua.

FIGURE 7.2.5. Share of foreign- and Belize-born working-age persons in the labor force by country of birth, 2022.



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

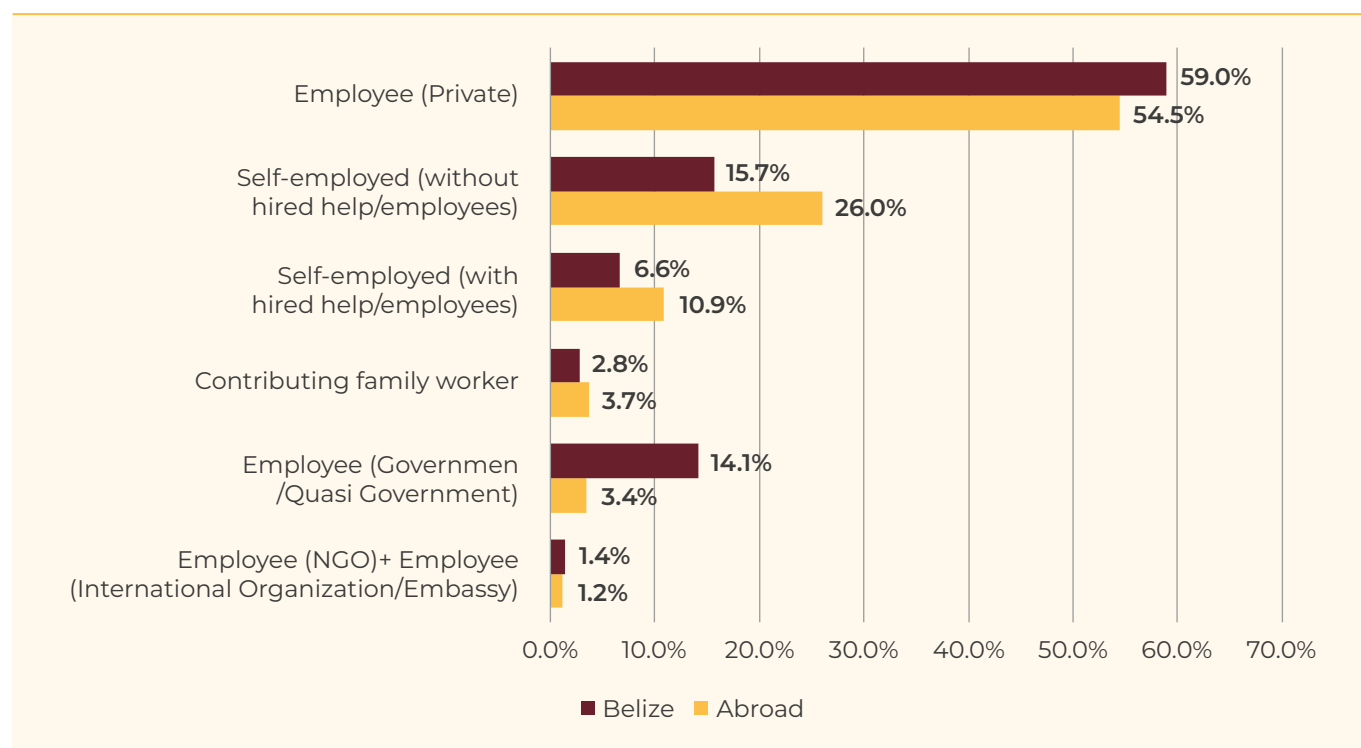
TABLE 7.2.4. Total foreign- and Belize-born population aged 14 to 64 in the labor force by country of birth, 2022

| | Count | Percent |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Guatemala | 9,119 | 41.4% |
| El Salvador | 4,700 | 21.3% |
| Honduras | 3,852 | 17.5% |
| Mexico | 825 | 3.7% |
| China | 625 | 2.8% |
| United States | 612 | 2.8% |
| Nicaragua | 413 | 1.9% |
| Canada | 216 | 1.0% |
| Rest of world | 1,673 | 7.6% |
| Total | 22,034 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

In terms of the category of employment of immigrants, more than half reported working as an employee in the private sector (54.5% or 12,748 persons) at the time of the 2022 census ([Figure 7.2.6](#) and [Table 7.2.5](#)). In addition, one-third of foreign-born stated being self-employed – either working on their own (26% or 6,076 persons) or with hired employees (10.9% or 2,540 persons). By contrast, a small percentage was employed by the public sector (3.4% or 805 persons) or by an international organization or embassy (1.2% or 279 persons). The gaps in category of workers between foreign- and Belize-born persons were largest among self-employed (15 percentage points) and employees in the public sector (10 percentage points). While foreign-born individuals were more likely to be self-employed compared to their Belize-born counterparts (36.9% and 22.3%, respectively), the opposite was true for employees in the public sector (3.4% and 14.1%, respectively).

FIGURE 7.2.6. Share of foreign- and Belize-born working-age persons in employment by category of worker, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.5. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in employment by category of worker, 2022

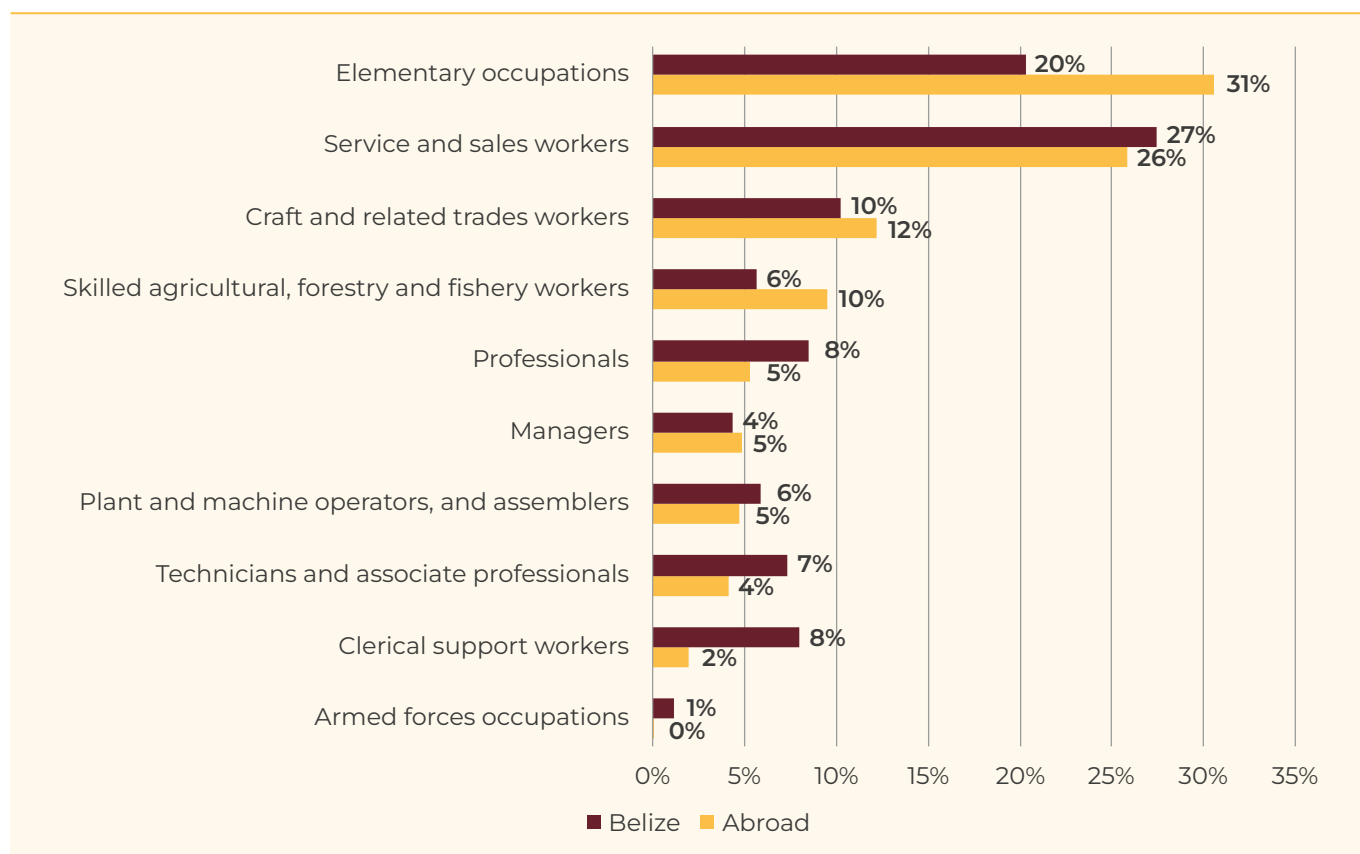
| Category of worker | Belize | | Abroad | |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Self-employed (with hired help/employees) | 8,539 | 6.6% | 2,540 | 10.9% |
| Self-employed (without hired help/employees) | 20,460 | 15.7% | 6,076 | 26.0% |
| Employee (Government/Quasi Government) | 18,383 | 14.1% | 805 | 3.4% |
| Employee (NGO)+ Employee (International Organization/Embassy) | 1,762 | 1.4% | 279 | 1.2% |
| Contributing family worker | 3,699 | 2.8% | 870 | 3.7% |
| Employee (Private) | 76,689 | 59.0% | 12,748 | 54.5% |
| Paid apprentice/Intern | 121 | .1% | 22 | .1% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 338 | .3% | 60 | .3% |
| Total | 129,992 | 100.0% | 23,400 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Foreign-born workers were more likely than their Belize-born counterparts to perform jobs classified as “elementary occupations”; that is, jobs that require low levels of skills and that involve the performance of simple and routine tasks ([Figure 7.2.7](#) and [Table 7.2.6](#)). In 2022, around one-in-three immigrants worked in such kind of jobs compared to one-in-five Belize-born workers (31% or 7,157 workers versus 20% or 26,418 workers). This occupation category was the most common type

among foreign-born individuals. The second most common category was ‘Services and Sales Workers’, which employed one-in-four foreign-born workers (26% or 6,050 persons). Conversely, foreign-born workers were less likely than Belize-born to be in occupations that require high levels of skills, such as professionals, technicians, and associate professionals. For example, whereas 5% of immigrants worked as “Professionals”, 8% of Belize-born did so.

FIGURE 7.2.7. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in employment by main occupation, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.6. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in employment by main occupation, 2022

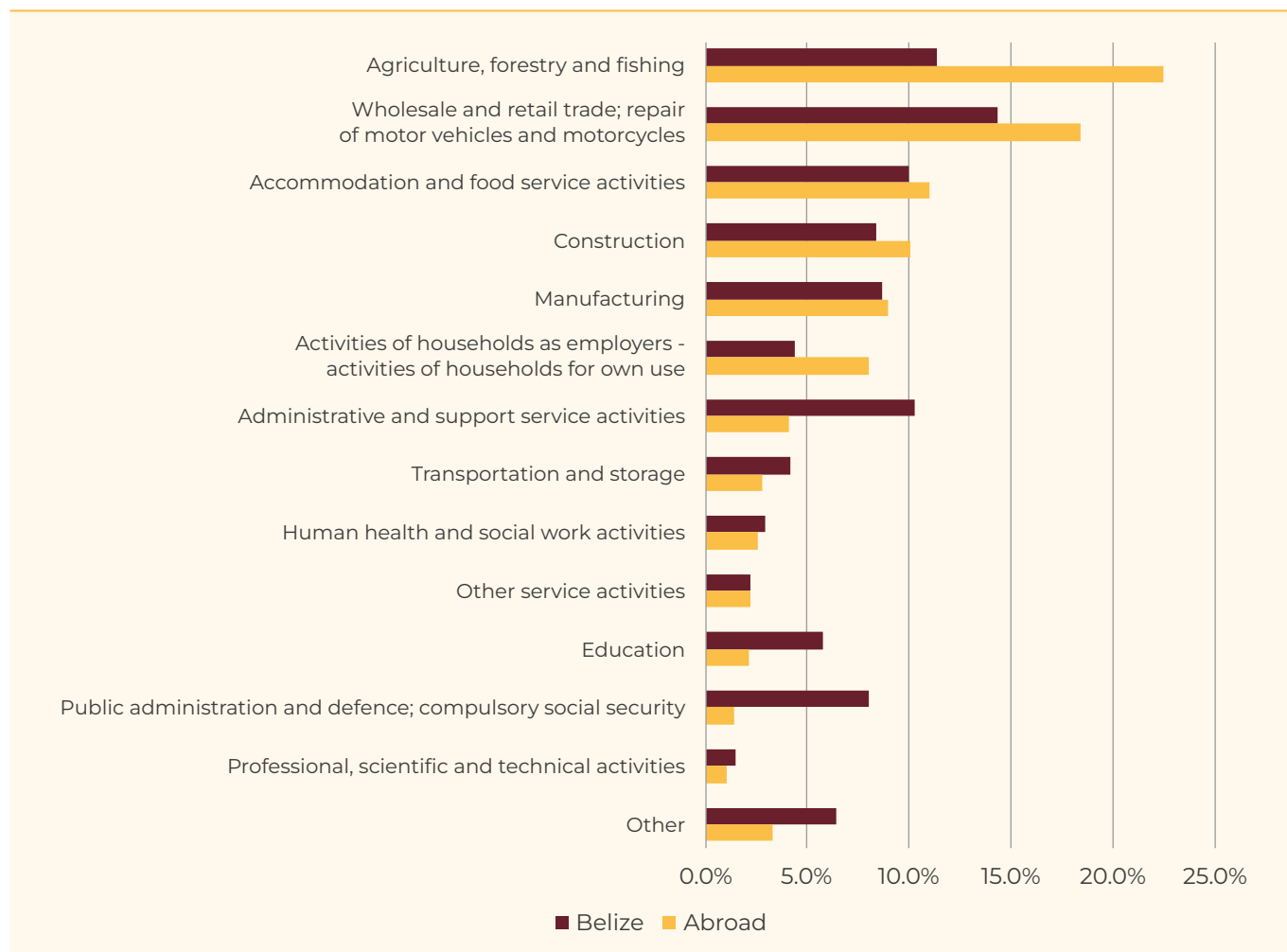
| Main Occupation | Belize | | Abroad | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Armed forces occupations | 1,475 | 1.1% | 4 | .0% |
| Managers | 5,639 | 4.3% | 1,140 | 4.9% |
| Professionals | 11,018 | 8.5% | 1,238 | 5.3% |
| Technicians and associate professionals | 9,511 | 7.3% | 960 | 4.1% |
| Clerical support workers | 10,390 | 8.0% | 455 | 1.9% |
| Service and sales workers | 35,703 | 27.5% | 6,050 | 25.9% |
| Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers | 7,307 | 5.6% | 2,229 | 9.5% |
| Craft and related trades workers | 13,288 | 10.2% | 2,845 | 12.2% |
| Plant and machine operators, and assemblers | 7,608 | 5.9% | 1,098 | 4.7% |
| Elementary occupations | 26,418 | 20.3% | 7,157 | 30.6% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,634 | 1.3% | 225 | 1.0% |
| Total | 129,992 | 100.0% | 23,400 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

In 2022, the main industry employing foreign-born individuals was “Agriculture, forestry and fishing”, with 22.5% of foreign-born (5,258 persons) working in this sector ([Figure 7.2.8](#) and [Table 7.2.7](#)). This was followed by the “Wholesale and retail trade; repairs of motor vehicles and motorcycles” industry, which employed 18.4% of those born abroad (4,306 persons). The next largest employers of immigrants were the “Accommodation and food service activities” sector, with 11% of foreign-born employed persons (2,570 persons); and the “Construction” and

“Manufacturing” industries, with each employing around 10% of foreign-born persons (2,355 and 2,102 persons, respectively). The largest difference between foreign- and Belize-born workers was in “Agriculture, forestry and fishing”, where foreign-born individuals were twice as likely to be employed than their Belize-born counterparts (22.5% versus 11.3%). Additionally, Belize-born workers were less concentrated in a few sectors as those born abroad were.

FIGURE 7.2.8. Share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in employment by industry, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.2.7. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born persons in employment by industry, 2022

| Main Industry | Belize | | Abroad | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 14,714 | 11.3% | 5,258 | 22.5% |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 18,597 | 14.3% | 4,306 | 18.4% |
| Accommodation and food service activities | 12,986 | 10.0% | 2,570 | 11.0% |
| Construction | 10,865 | 8.4% | 2,355 | 10.1% |
| Manufacturing | 11,247 | 8.7% | 2,102 | 9.0% |
| Activities of households as employers - activities of households for own use | 5,688 | 4.4% | 1,871 | 8.0% |
| Administrative and support service activities | 13,337 | 10.3% | 952 | 4.1% |
| Transportation and storage | 5,403 | 4.2% | 658 | 2.8% |
| Human health and social work activities | 3,776 | 2.9% | 599 | 2.6% |
| Other service activities | 2,888 | 2.2% | 511 | 2.2% |
| Education | 7,449 | 5.7% | 494 | 2.2% |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 10,439 | 8.0% | 335 | 1.4% |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities | 1,934 | 1.5% | 240 | 1.0% |
| Other | 8,384 | 6.4% | 773 | 3.3% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 2,285 | 1.8% | 378 | 1.6% |
| Total | 129,992 | 100.0% | 23,400 | 100.0% |

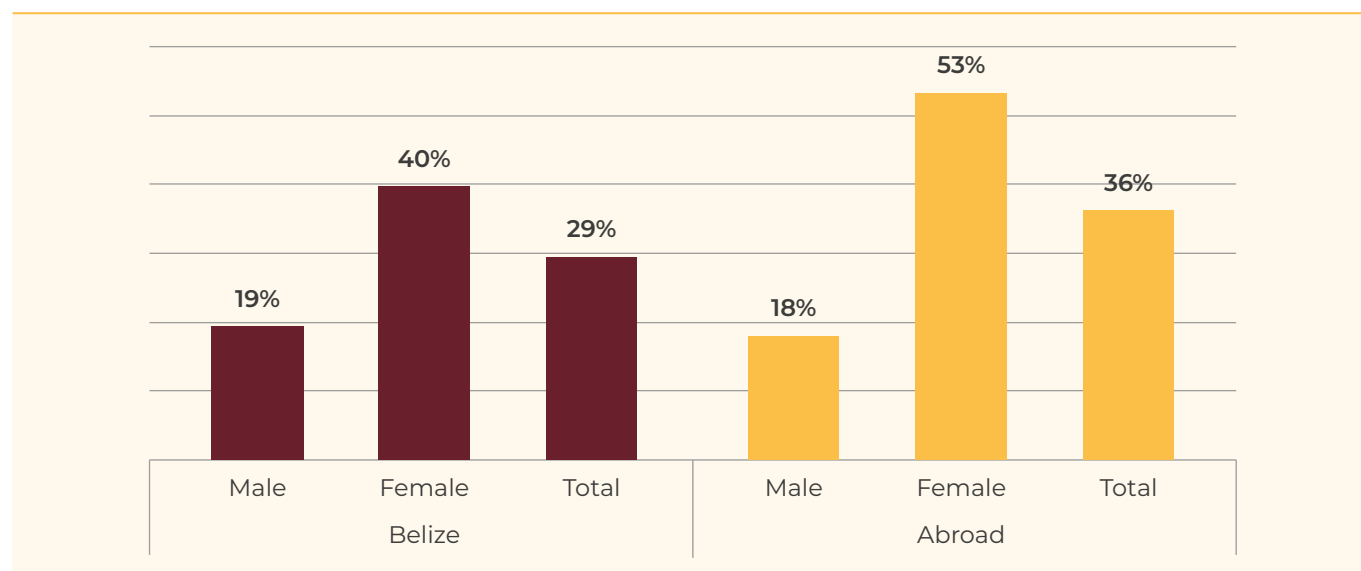
Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

7.3. Youth not in employment, education, or training

More than one-in-three foreign-born individuals aged 15 to 24 were neither in education, employment, or training (NEET) at the time of the 2022 census (36.3% or 1,794 young persons) ([Figure 7.3.1](#) and [Table 7.3.1](#)). For Belize-born youths, this percentage

was somewhat lower at 29.5% (23,241 young persons). The differences in NEET rates between foreign- and Belize-born youth were significant among women but not among men. Over half of foreign-born women were classified as NEET (53%), compared to 40% of Belize-born women. Among young men, NEET rates were very similar between the two groups: 18% for foreign-born and 19% for Belize-born.

FIGURE 7.3.1. Share of foreign- and Belize-born youth not in employment, education, or training (14-to-24-year-olds), 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 7.3.1. Total number and share of foreign- and Belize-born youth not in employment, education, or training (14-to-24-year-olds), 2022

| 2022 | Belize | | | | | | Abroad | | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Male | | Female | | Total | | Male | | Female | | Total | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Population not in employment, education or training | 7,677 | 19.4% | 15,564 | 39.7% | 23,241 | 29.5% | 431 | 18.0% | 1,363 | 53.3% | 1,794 | 36.3% |
| Total Population aged 14 - 24 | 39,544 | 100.0% | 39,242 | 100.0% | 78,786 | 100.0% | 2,389 | 100.0% | 2,556 | 100.0% | 4,945 | 100.0% |

Note: NEET not possible from 2010 Census as the training question was "Have you ever completed any training...". Therefore we do not know if they were currently attending training.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

7.4. Overqualifications

In 2022, foreign-born individuals were less likely to be highly educated (i.e., with at least tertiary education) and work in low- or medium-skilled jobs (i.e., jobs with skill levels 4 to 9 of ISCO classification) than their Belize-born counterparts (4% and 8%,

respectively). The share of overqualified individuals was low for both groups, but it was especially low for the foreign-born population. Immigrants are less likely to work in jobs at skill levels below their educational attainment than the Belize-born because the share of highly educated is smaller among the former (10.6% and 16.6%, respectively) (see [section 6.1](#)).

TABLE 7.4.1. Percentage of highly educated foreign- and Belize-born population who work in low- or medium-skilled jobs, 2022

| | Employed | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----|--------|----|
| | Belize | | Abroad | |
| Overqualified 14 to 64 | 10,055 | 8% | 826 | 4% |
| Total employed population 14 to 64 | 126,763 | | 21,817 | |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

This chapter provides a description of housing and living conditions of foreign- and Belize-born persons. It presents several indicators that show the quality of housing and access to services.

8.1. Overcrowded housing

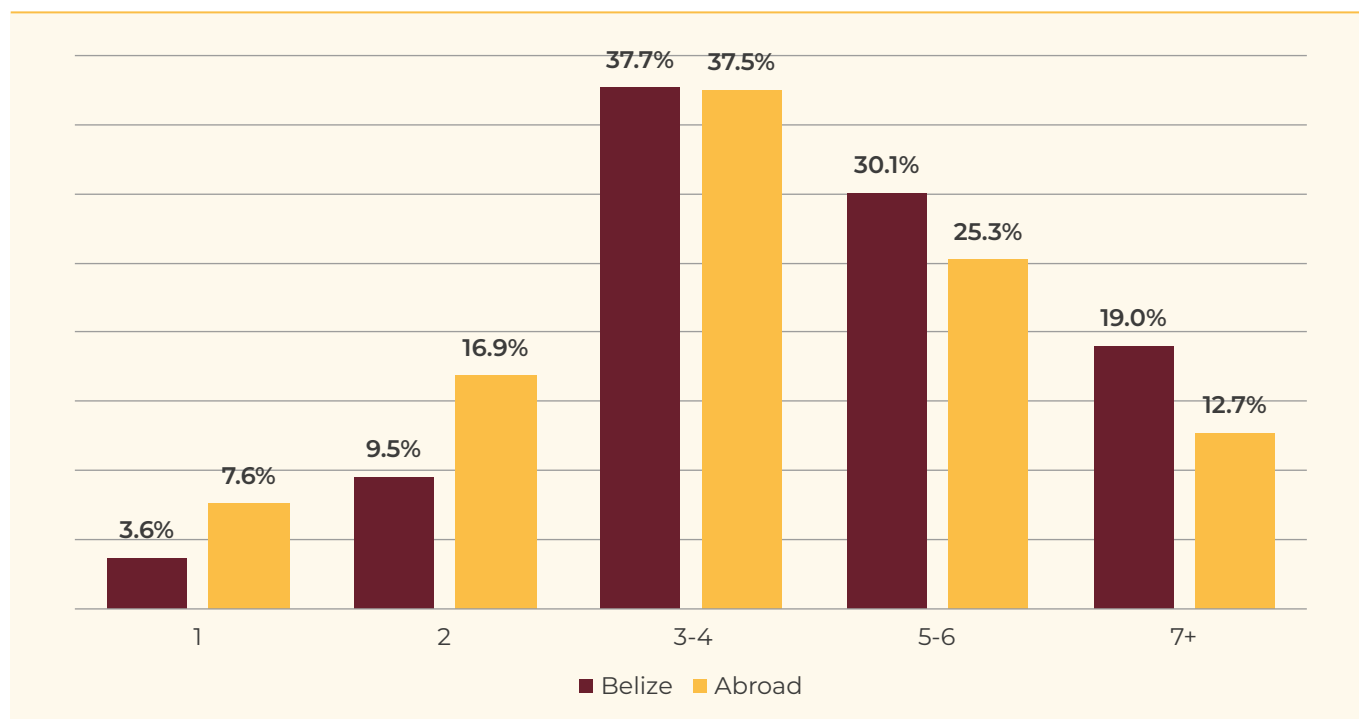
Immigrant households tend to be smaller than Belize-born households ([Figure 8.1.1](#), [Figure 8.1.2](#), and [Table 8.1.1](#)). In 2022, while 25% of the former were integrated by at most 2 people (7.6% with one person and 16.9% with 2 persons), this was the case for 13.1% of the latter (3.6% and 9.5%). Conversely, the opposite was true among households with 5 or more members. While around 40% of foreign-born households were of large size (25.3% had 5-6 persons and 12.7% had 7 persons or more), this was the case for nearly 50% of Belize-born households (30.1% had 5-6 persons and 19.0% had 7 persons or more). Further, average household sizes corroborate the difference in size between the two groups ([Figure 8.1.2](#)). Belize-born households were larger in size than their foreign-born counterparts in 2022, with 4.8 and 4.2 persons per household, respectively.

Nationally, the average household size in Belize was 3.6 persons.

The average household size of foreign-born households differed across districts, ranging between 3.8 members per household in the Belize district to 4.6 in Toledo ([Figure 8.1.2](#) and [Table 8.1.1](#)). Similarly, the average household size of Belize-born households varied across districts, with the smallest household size in the Belize district and the largest in Toledo (4.4 and 5.3 persons per household, respectively). The greatest discrepancies in average household size between foreign- and Belize-born were observed in Toledo, Stann Creek and Corozal, precisely the districts where the average household size of Belize-born households was the largest.

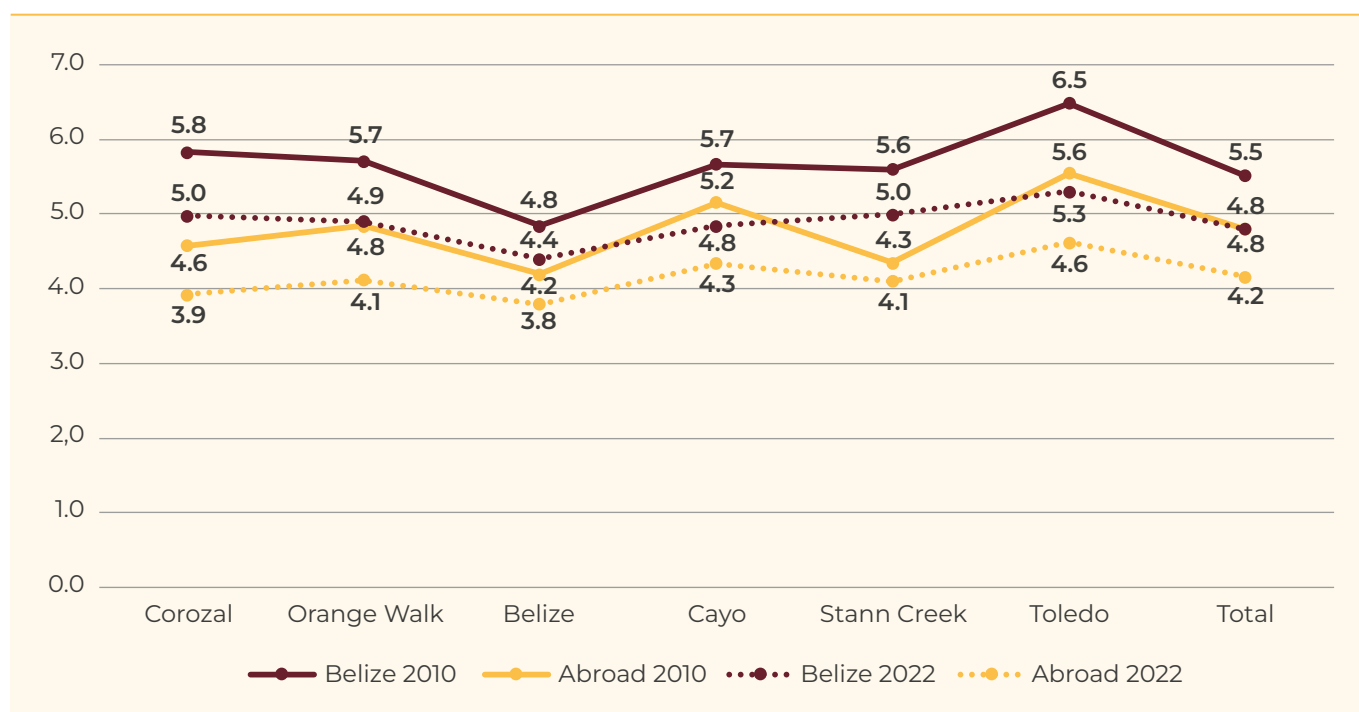
Over time, it is possible to observe that household sizes have decreased significantly for both populations. While, in 2010, the average size of immigrant households was of 4.8 persons; it was 4.2 in 2022. At the same time, the average size of Belize-born households dropped between censuses from 5.5 persons per household in 2010 to 4.8 persons in 2022.

FIGURE 8.1.1. Proportion of foreign- and Belize-born households by household size, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

FIGURE 8.1.2. Average household size for foreign- and Belize-born populations, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 8.1.1. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by household size, 2010 and 2022

| | | | | Corozal | Orange Walk | Belize | Cayo | Stann Creek | Toledo | Total |
|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|---------|-------------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|---------|
| 2010 | Belize | Household Size | | 5.8 | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 6.5 | 5.5 |
| | | Household Size groups | 1 | 528 | 633 | 4,136 | 1,131 | 1,211 | 518 | 8,157 |
| | | | 2 | 1,875 | 2,049 | 7,995 | 3,118 | 1,979 | 1,059 | 18,075 |
| | | | 3-4 | 10,527 | 11,438 | 28,954 | 16,841 | 6,975 | 4,905 | 79,639 |
| | | | 5-6 | 11,944 | 13,850 | 25,072 | 19,854 | 8,387 | 7,300 | 86,406 |
| | | | 7+ | 12,011 | 12,491 | 16,206 | 18,572 | 9,140 | 11,630 | 80,051 |
| | | | Total | 36,885 | 40,462 | 82,362 | 59,516 | 27,691 | 25,412 | 272,328 |
| | Abroad | Household Size | | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 4.8 |
| | | Household Size groups | 1 | 224 | 265 | 964 | 615 | 831 | 326 | 3,225 |
| | | | 2 | 604 | 622 | 1,940 | 1,536 | 1,048 | 513 | 6,264 |
| | | | 3-4 | 1,422 | 1,794 | 4,872 | 4,750 | 1,844 | 1,265 | 15,946 |
| | | | 5-6 | 1,093 | 1,679 | 3,507 | 4,651 | 1,641 | 1,344 | 13,915 |
| | | | 7+ | 747 | 1,103 | 1,539 | 3,938 | 1,234 | 1,909 | 10,469 |
| | | | Total | 4,090 | 5,463 | 12,822 | 15,491 | 6,597 | 5,357 | 49,819 |
| 2022 | Belize | Household Size | | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 4.8 |
| | | Household Size groups | 1 | 1,087 | 1,180 | 5,795 | 2,330 | 1,662 | 651 | 12,706 |
| | | | 2 | 3,669 | 4,060 | 12,845 | 7,093 | 3,421 | 2,217 | 33,306 |
| | | | 3-4 | 15,843 | 19,165 | 41,302 | 31,148 | 13,651 | 10,493 | 131,602 |
| | | | 5-6 | 11,911 | 15,881 | 27,444 | 26,594 | 12,832 | 10,240 | 104,901 |
| | | | 7+ | 8,577 | 9,289 | 14,636 | 15,172 | 10,198 | 8,481 | 66,353 |
| | | | Total | 41,086 | 49,575 | 102,022 | 82,337 | 41,765 | 32,083 | 348,868 |
| | Abroad | Household Size | | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| | | Household Size groups | 1 | 325 | 360 | 857 | 1,007 | 598 | 325 | 3,473 |
| | | | 2 | 826 | 702 | 1,921 | 2,505 | 1,097 | 668 | 7,719 |
| | | | 3-4 | 1,505 | 1,694 | 4,258 | 5,906 | 2,122 | 1,632 | 17,117 |
| | | | 5-6 | 874 | 1,084 | 2,262 | 4,423 | 1,481 | 1,409 | 11,534 |
| | | | 7+ | 409 | 498 | 790 | 2,356 | 831 | 918 | 5,801 |
| | | | Total | 3,939 | 4,339 | 10,088 | 16,197 | 6,129 | 4,952 | 45,644 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

In 2022, 12.3% of foreign-born individuals lived in overcrowded housing – defined as living in dwellings where more than three persons shared one bedroom (equivalent to 5,603 persons, [Table 8.1.2](#)). This overcrowding rate was slightly lower than that among the Belize-born population, which stood at 13.4%. Additionally, there were practically no differences between the two groups in terms of acute overcrowding – defined as living in dwellings where more than five persons shared one bedroom. Specifically, 3.1% of foreign-born individuals

experienced acute overcrowding, compared to 2.9% of Belize-born individuals.

Between the 2010 and 2022 censuses, both populations saw a significant decrease in overcrowding. For foreign-born individuals, the overcrowding rate dropped from 21.5% to 12.3%. Similarly, among Belize-born individuals, it decreased from 24% to 13.4%. This is explained by the substantial decrease in household size of both populations ([Table 8.1.1](#)).

TABLE 8.1.2. Foreign- and Belize-born persons living in overcrowded housing, 2010 and 2022

| | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Overcrowded - more than 3 persons per bedroom | Not Overcrowded | 205,757 | 75.6% | 38,783 | 77.8% | 301,710 | 86.5% | 39,967 | 87.6% |
| | Overcrowded | 65,440 | 24.0% | 10,731 | 21.5% | 46,748 | 13.4% | 5,603 | 12.3% |
| | DK/NS | 1,131 | .4% | 305 | .6% | 410 | .1% | 74 | .2% |
| | Total | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |
| Acute Overcrowded - more than 5 persons per bedroom | Not Acutely Overcrowded | 249,612 | 91.7% | 45,869 | 92.1% | 338,439 | 97.0% | 44,154 | 96.7% |
| | Acutely Overcrowded | 21,585 | 7.9% | 3,645 | 7.3% | 10,019 | 2.9% | 1,416 | 3.1% |
| | DK/NS | 1,131 | .4% | 305 | .6% | 410 | .1% | 74 | .2% |
| | Total | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

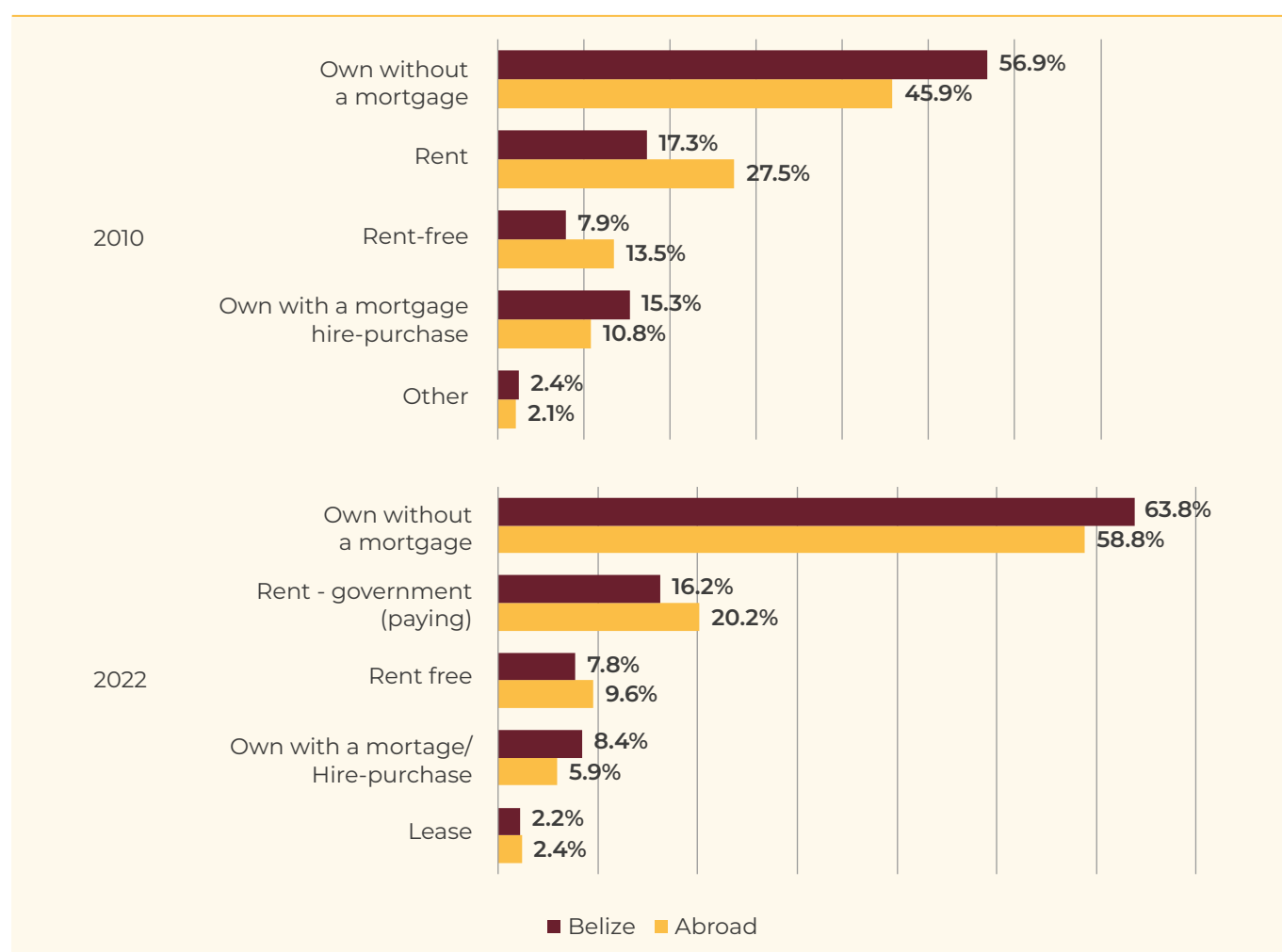
8.2. Housing conditions

The most common dwelling tenure of both foreign- and Belize-born households was ownership without mortgage. Belize-born households were more likely to own the dwelling where they lived than their foreign-born peers. Nearly three in four Belize-born households owned their dwelling (63.8% without mortgage and 8.4% with mortgage), while this was the case in two out of three foreign-born households (58.8% without mortgage and 5.9% with mortgage). Conversely, the share of households that rented a dwelling, either government (paying), for free or on lease, was more common

among foreign-born households compared to Belize-born ones (32.3% and 26.6%, respectively).

The share of households owning their dwelling without a mortgage increased between 2010 and 2022 for both foreign- and Belize-born households. However, it increased more sharply among immigrant households, by almost 13 percentage points, compared with 7 percentage points among the Belize-born. Conversely, a smaller share of foreign- and Belize-born households was renting or owning with a mortgage in 2022 compared with 2010. Foreign-born households experienced a notable decline in the share renting, from over 40% in 2010 to 30% in 2022.

FIGURE 8.2.1. Dwelling tenure of foreign- and Belize-born households by district, 2010 and 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 8.2.1. Dwelling tenure of foreign- and Belize-born households by district, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 4,362 | 10.6% | 407 | 10.3% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 26,738 | 65.1% | 2,349 | 59.6% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 3,960 | 9.6% | 707 | 18.0% |
| | Rent free | 3,101 | 7.5% | 302 | 7.7% |
| | Lease | 2,498 | 6.1% | 136 | 3.4% |
| | Other | 426 | 1.0% | 38 | 1.0% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 4,217 | 8.5% | 302 | 7.0% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 33,848 | 68.3% | 2,513 | 57.9% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 5,277 | 10.6% | 779 | 17.9% |
| | Rent free | 3,967 | 8.0% | 501 | 11.5% |
| | Lease | 1,956 | 3.9% | 205 | 4.7% |
| | Other | 311 | 0.6% | 39 | 0.9% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 10,146 | 9.9% | 682 | 6.8% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 52,860 | 51.8% | 4,211 | 41.7% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 27,205 | 26.7% | 3,894 | 38.6% |
| | Rent free | 10,036 | 9.8% | 802 | 7.9% |
| | Lease | 735 | .7% | 133 | 1.3% |
| | Other | 1,039 | 1.0% | 366 | 3.6% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 7,814 | 9.5% | 1,056 | 6.5% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 54,004 | 65.6% | 10,327 | 63.8% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 13,557 | 16.5% | 2,905 | 17.9% |
| | Rent free | 4,879 | 5.9% | 1,446 | 8.9% |
| | Lease | 1,146 | 1.4% | 240 | 1.5% |
| | Other | 936 | 1.1% | 224 | 1.4% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |

TABLE 8.2.1. Dwelling tenure of foreign- and Belize-born households by district, 2022 (2 of 2)

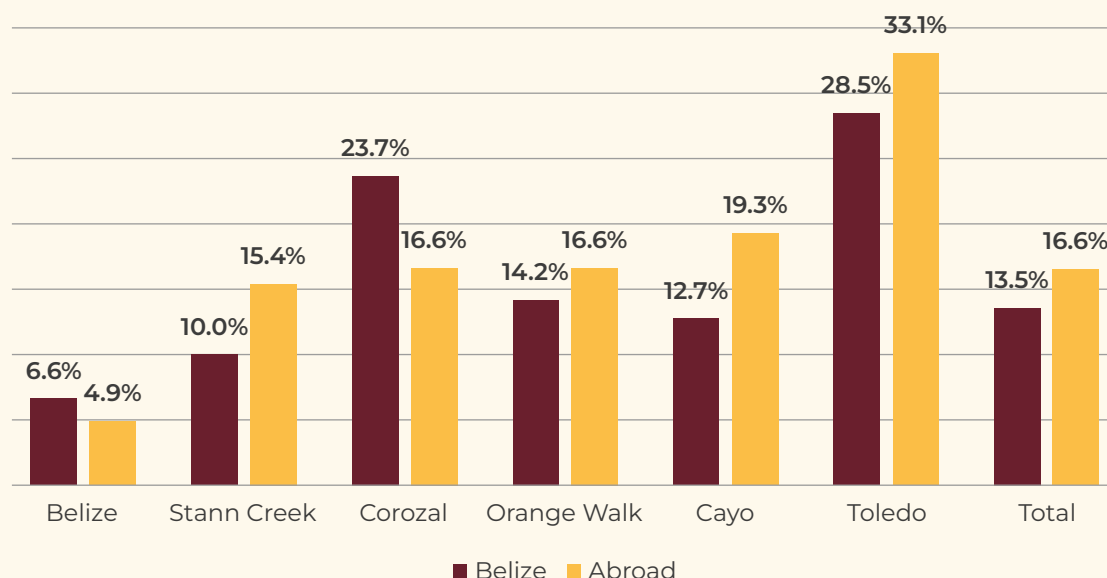
| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Stann Creek | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 2,069 | 5.0% | 168 | 2.7% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 29,193 | 69.9% | 3,852 | 62.8% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 6,593 | 15.8% | 942 | 15.4% |
| | Rent free | 3,069 | 7.3% | 943 | 15.4% |
| | Lease | 512 | 1.2% | 113 | 1.8% |
| | Other | 330 | 0.8% | 110 | 1.8% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 683 | 2.1% | 79 | 1.6% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 26,037 | 81.2% | 3,601 | 72.7% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 24 | .1% | 1 | .0% |
| | Rent free | 1,996 | 6.2% | 371 | 7.5% |
| | Lease | 832 | 2.6% | 254 | 5.1% |
| | Other | 385 | 1.2% | 33 | 0.7% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |
| Total | Own with a mortgage/Hire-purchase | 29,291 | 8.4% | 2,694 | 5.9% |
| | Own without a mortgage | 222,680 | 63.8% | 26,852 | 58.8% |
| | Rent - private (paying) | 56,616 | 16.2% | 9,228 | 20.2% |
| | Rent free | 27,047 | 7.8% | 4,364 | 9.6% |
| | Lease | 7,679 | 2.2% | 1,081 | 2.4% |
| | Other | 3,427 | 1.0% | 811 | 1.8% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

The foreign-born were more likely than the Belize-born to live in households with substandard housing conditions; that is, without exclusive access to a toilet facility, if the cooking fuel was other than gas or electricity, and if the drinking water was not piped (16.6% and 13.5%, respectively). The proportion of immigrant living in households with lack of access to basic services – toilet facility, gas or electricity as cooking fuel and piped drinking

water – varied widely across districts. While one-in-three immigrants based in the Toledo district lived in households with substandard conditions, 5% of those in the Belize district lived in such conditions. Gaps in housing conditions between foreign- and Belize-born were largest in Cayo and Corozal (close to 7 percentage points) and smallest in Belize (2 percentage points).

FIGURE 8.2.2. Share of foreign- and Belize-born households with substandard housing conditions (lacking one or more of the basic services: toilet, cooking fuel, water) by district, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Overall, differences in access to basic services and the housing materials were of somewhat better quality among Belize-born households than immigrant households. However, the differences between groups, though favouring the population born in Belize, were in general small. Further, the housing conditions improved for both groups between the 2010 and the 2022 census; and these improvements occurred at a similar rate. Among foreign-born households, the percentage with drinking water from a bottled/purified source or a piped system increased by 8 percentage points, from 79% to 87%. Similarly, the share using gas or electricity as their main cooking fuel rose by 7 percentage points during this period, from 77% to 85%. And the proportion without access to a toilet facility in their dwelling decreased from almost 4% in 2010 to 2% in 2022.

Most households, irrespective of the country where respondents were born, reported that their main source of drinking water was bottled or purified water (67% of foreign-born and 73% of Belize-born) (see [Table A.5](#)). The second most common source was water from a public utility piped into their dwellings or yards (20% and 17% of foreign- and Belize-born households, respectively). And, the third

source, though far less common than the top two, was drinking water from private catchments (6% for both groups of households).

The overwhelming majority of households reported that Belize Electricity Limited was their main source of electricity (see [Table A.6](#)). This share was, however, somewhat higher among Belize-born households, with 87.1% compared with 82.1% of their foreign-born counterparts. Conversely, households with persons born outside the country were somewhat more likely to use solar energy, drop from a neighbour or candles than native-born households.

Flush toilets linked to a septic tank were the most common type of toilet facility for both foreign- and native-born households (63.5% and 66.1%, respectively) (see [Table A.7](#)). However, the share of households using flush toilets, either linked to a septic tank or to a BWS sewer system, was higher among households with people born in Belize, at 74% compared with 68.9% of immigrant households. On the other hand, foreign-born households were somewhat more likely to use pit latrines (29.1%) than native-born households (27.4%). Notable differences in the main type of toilet facility were observed across districts. This was particularly so in the Cayo district,

where foreign-born households were more likely to use pit latrines than their Belize-born counterparts, with a gap of 10 percentage points.

The most common type of cooking fuel among foreign- and native-born households was butane (see [Table A.8](#)). This share was somewhat higher among households with members born in Belize (87.9%) than among those with members born abroad (83.6%). By contrast, a higher share of foreign-born households reported using wood or charcoal as their main cooking fuel, at 14% compared with 10.8% of their Belize-born counterparts. Once again, differences between groups were largest in the Cayo district, with a gap of more than 7 percentage points that disadvantaged immigrant households.

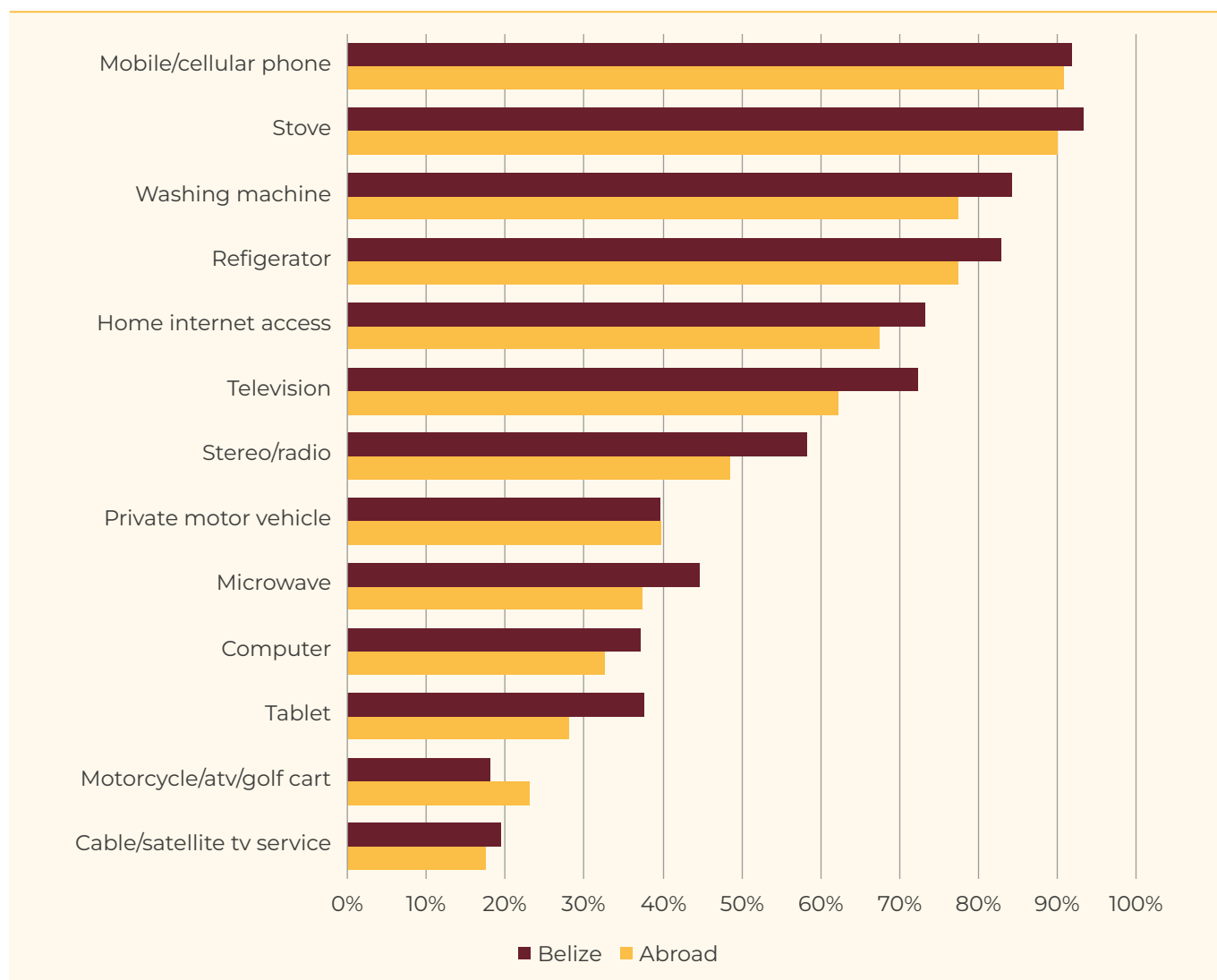
There were minor differences between groups regarding the main types of floor materials in their dwellings (see [Table A.9](#)). Most households, regardless of country of birth, reported that the primary floor material was concrete, followed by wood. A small percentage mentioned earth or sand as the main material, with this share being almost twice as large among foreign-born households (4.9%) compared to those with household members born in the country (2.7%).

Similarly, most households, irrespective of country of birth, indicated that the main material used for outer walls was concrete, followed by wood (see [Table A.10](#)). Foreign-born households were less likely to have outer walls made of concrete compared to their native-born peers (48.7% vs. 53.1%), and more likely to have outer walls made of wood (38.1% vs. 33.9%). For this indicator, disparities between migrants and native-born were also largest in the Cayo district (a gap of more than 8 percentage points).

8.3. Ownership of assets

In 2022, foreign-born individuals reported owning less assets than their Belize-born counterparts ([Figure 8.3.1](#)). Overall, the differences between groups were minor, except on ownership of items considered less essential, such as televisions, radios/stereos, microwaves, and tablets. On the other hand, there were no differences in the ownership of private motor vehicles. And a larger share of foreign-born households compared to Belize-born owned motorcycles (23.1% compared to 18.1% among Belize-born).

FIGURE 8.3.1. Percentage of persons living in foreign- and Belize-born households with selected assets, 2022



Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

9. MORTALITY, FERTILITY AND HEALTH

9.1. Mortality

The number and share of persons reporting that at least one household member had died in the past year was higher among native- than foreign-born individuals (2.3% or 8,145 persons and 1.8% or 822 persons, respectively). The difference in mortality between groups cannot be attributed to a difference in age composition given that foreign-born individuals were older than their Belize-born counterparts (See [section 2.3](#)). Another alternative explanation could be that the migrant population was healthier than their native-born counterparts; and, hence had lower risks of mortality. However, [section 9.3](#) shows that immigrants were more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and to have less access to health services than their peers born in Belize. Another possible explanation for the difference observed could be under-reporting of deaths among the foreign-born.

9.2. Fertility

Foreign-born women in reproductive age were less likely to report being childless than their Belize-born peers at the time of the 2022 census (19.5% compared to 40.4%) ([Table 9.2.1](#)). Further, while the share of childless foreign-born women remained unchanged between the 2010 and 2022 censuses, it increased by 5 percentage points among the Belize-born (from 35.2% to 40.4%). At the same time, the share of women aged 15 to 29 reporting having had 5 live births or more was higher among foreign- than Belize-born women (13.6% versus 6.2%). Over time, this percentage dropped notably for both groups. Between 2010 and 2022, it declined by 6.8 percentage points for foreign-born (from 20.4% to 13.6%) and by 5.5 percentage points for Belize-born (from 11.7% to 6.2%).

TABLE 9.1.1. Total number of foreign-born persons and Belize-born persons belonging to households for which at least one household member had died within the previous twelve months 2022

| | Place of Birth | | | | Total | |
|-------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 8,145 | 2.3% | 822 | 1.8% | 8,967 | 2.3% |
| No | 340,302 | 97.5% | 44,762 | 98.1% | 385,064 | 97.6% |
| DK/NS | 421 | .1% | 60 | .1% | 481 | .1% |
| Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% | 394,512 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE 9.2.1. Foreign- and Belize-born women aged 15-49 by number of total live births 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| 0 | 23,823 | 35.2% | 3,258 | 19.0% | 38,049 | 40.4% | 2,762 | 19.5% |
| 1 | 11,147 | 16.5% | 2,441 | 14.2% | 17,700 | 18.8% | 2,190 | 15.5% |
| 2 | 10,247 | 15.1% | 3,046 | 17.8% | 16,956 | 18.0% | 3,196 | 22.6% |
| 3 | 7,769 | 11.5% | 2,577 | 15.0% | 10,832 | 11.5% | 2,590 | 18.3% |
| 4 | 4,775 | 7.1% | 1,815 | 10.6% | 4,826 | 5.1% | 1,488 | 10.5% |
| 5+ | 7,932 | 11.7% | 3,498 | 20.4% | 5,883 | 6.2% | 1,930 | 13.6% |
| DK/NS | 2,032 | 3.0% | 500 | 2.9% | - | .0% | - | .0% |
| Total | 67,727 | 100.0% | 17,135 | 100.0% | 94,245 | 100.0% | 14,156 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

9.3. Health

In 2022, the share of individuals diagnosed with at least one chronic illness by a health professional (e.g. doctor, psychologist, or psychiatrist) was significantly higher among foreign-born individuals compared to their Belize-born counterparts. That is, while 18.5% of immigrants (or 8,453 individuals)

were diagnosed with a long-term illness, this was the case for 12.8% of Belize-born persons (or 44,728 persons). In 2010, the prevalence of chronic illnesses was also higher among those born abroad: 12.4% compared to 11.5% among Belize-born. However, the difference between groups was smaller: 0.9 percentage points difference compared to 5.7 percentage points in 2022. This indicates that health disparities between the two groups have widened since the 2010 census.

TABLE 9.3.1. Total number and percentage of foreign- and Belize-born persons diagnosed with a long-term or chronic illness, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 31,197 | 11.5% | 6,176 | 12.4% | 10,777 | 3.1% | 1,631 | 36% |
| No | 239,609 | 88.0% | 43,386 | 87.1% | 337,956 | 96.9% | 43,990 | 96.4% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,522 | .6% | 257 | .5% | 135 | .0% | 22 | .0% |
| Total | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

The most common type of chronic illness identified in the 2022 census was hypertension, followed by diabetes for both foreign- and Belize-born populations ([Table 9.3.2](#)). However, prevalence rates differed between foreign- and Belize-born groups, with the former reporting higher rates than the latter. Specifically, 8.8% of foreign-born individuals were diagnosed with hypertension, compared to 5.2% of the Belize-born population. Similarly, 6.2% of foreign-born individuals were diagnosed with diabetes, while only 3.4% of Belize-born had this illness. Additionally, immigrants were more likely

than Belize-born individuals to have been diagnosed with other chronic illnesses, such as arthritis/rheumatism, heart disease, kidney disease, or cancer. The exception was asthma, with higher prevalence rates among Belize-born individuals compared to immigrants (2.3% and 1.7%, respectively). These differences between groups were also observed in the 2010 census. Over time, however, the prevalence rates of the top chronic illnesses – hypertension and diabetes – increased significantly, particularly among immigrants, for whom rates more than doubled between 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 9.3.2. Total number and percentage of foreign- and Belize-born persons diagnosed with a chronic illness by type of illness, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Hypertension | 8,145 | 3.0% | 1,673 | 3.4% | 17,997 | 5.2% | 4,022 | 8.8% |
| Diabetes | 6,044 | 2.2% | 1,352 | 2.7% | 12,000 | 3.4% | 2,847 | 6.2% |
| Arthritis/rheumatism | 2,485 | .9% | 651 | 1.3% | 5,697 | 1.6% | 1,350 | 3.0% |
| Asthma | 6,464 | 2.4% | 619 | 1.2% | 7,948 | 2.3% | 758 | 1.7% |
| Heart disease | 1,712 | .6% | 486 | 1.0% | 2,392 | .7% | 611 | 1.3% |
| Kidney disease | 1,145 | .4% | 331 | .7% | 2,254 | .6% | 558 | 1.2% |
| Cancer | 434 | .2% | 145 | .3% | 863 | .2% | 239 | .5% |
| Glaucoma | 335 | .1% | 53 | .1% | 899 | .3% | 173 | .4% |
| Sickle cell anemia | 506 | .2% | 61 | .1% | 953 | .3% | 148 | .3% |
| Spina bifida | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 528 | .2% | 86 | .2% |
| Dementia | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 521 | .1% | 82 | .2% |
| Autism | 104 | .0% | 10 | .0% | 909 | .3% | 73 | .2% |
| Lupus | 73 | .0% | 15 | .0% | 295 | .1% | 53 | .1% |
| Down syndrome | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 713 | .2% | 51 | .1% |
| Other longstanding disease | 7,660 | 2.8% | 1,565 | 3.1% | 8,030 | 2.3% | 1,310 | 2.9% |

Note: Chronic illnesses are sorted in descending order of the prevalence of the foreign-born population in 2022.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

Access to health or life insurance was more limited among the foreign-born population compared to the Belize-born population ([Table 9.3.3](#)). In 2022, over 60% of immigrants were not covered by an insurance (61.7% or 28,174 persons). This was the case for around half of the Belize-born (56.8% or 198,278 persons). Among foreign-born individuals with insurance, the majority were covered by Social Security Insurance (67.2%). Additionally, 11.8% had National Health Insurance; another 11% had access to health insurance private schemes (7% by Individual Health Insurance and 4% by Group

Health and Life Insurance); and the remaining 10% had private life insurance (7.5%) or other insurance schemes (2.5%). The largest discrepancies between foreign- and Belize-born individuals were in access to National Health Insurance and Social Security Insurance. The percentage of foreign-born individuals covered by National Health Insurance was almost one-third that of Belize-born (11.8% and 29.1%, respectively), and there was a 10-percentage point gap in access to Social Security Insurance between the two groups (67.2% for foreign-born and 57.4% for Belize-born).

TABLE 9.3.3. Total number and percentage of foreign- and Belize-born persons with access to health or life insurance and type of coverage, 2022

| | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Not covered | 198,278 | 56.8% | 28,174 | 61.7% |
| Covered | 150,590 | 43.2% | 17,470 | 38.3% |
| Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Insurance type by those who are covered

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Social Security Insurance | 86,466 | 57.4% | 11,734 | 67.2% |
| National Health Insurance | 43,819 | 29.1% | 2,056 | 11.8% |
| Individual Life Insurance | 6,638 | 4.4% | 1,313 | 7.5% |
| Individual Health Insurance | 5,065 | 3.4% | 1,222 | 7.0% |
| Group Health and Life Insurance | 5,247 | 3.5% | 699 | 4.0% |
| Endowment Insurance | 2,224 | 1.5% | 231 | 1.3% |
| Any other Insurance | 1,133 | 0.8% | 214 | 1.2% |
| Total | 150,590 | 100.0% | 17,470 | 100.0% |

Note: Insurance type is sorted in descending order of the insurance coverage of the foreign-born population.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

10. CRIME

10.1. Crime

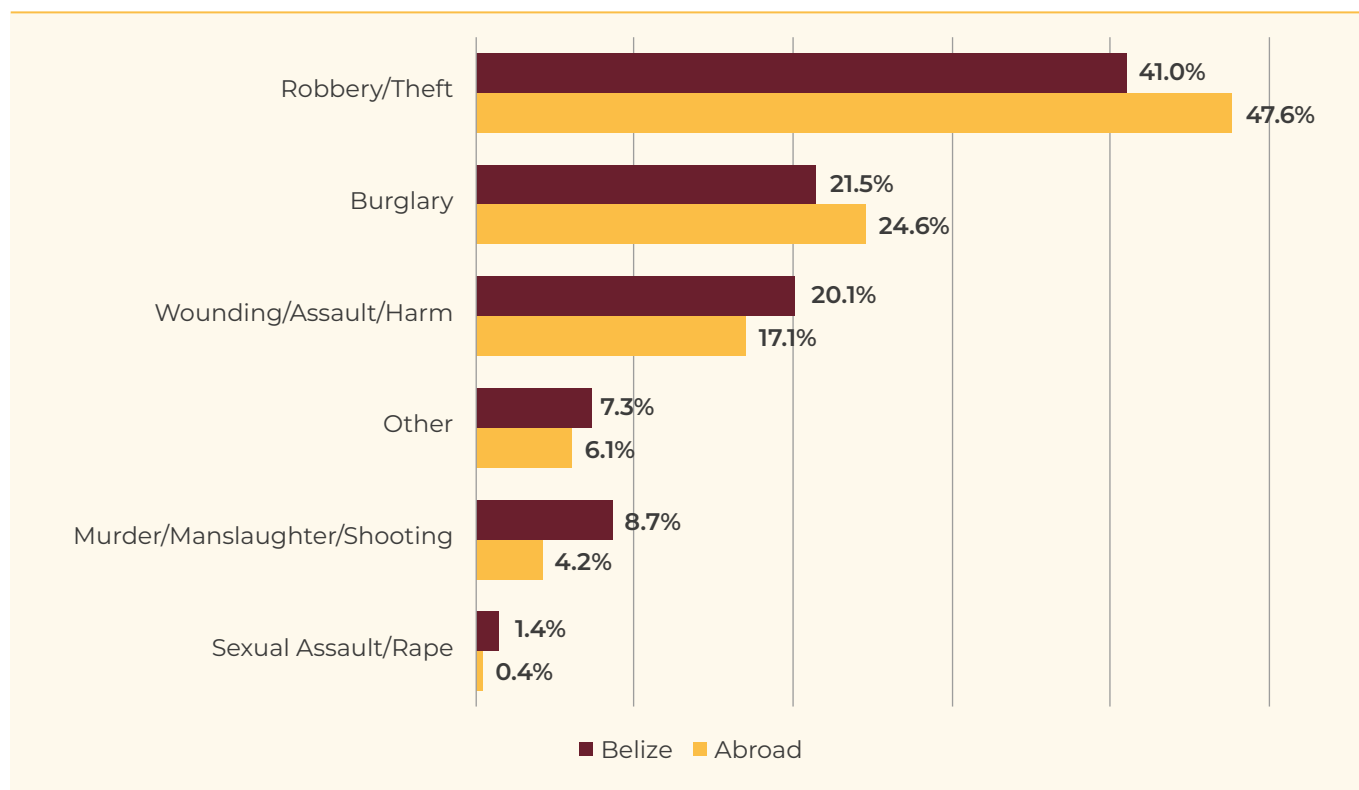
In 2022, foreign-born persons were slightly more likely than their Belize-born counterparts to report that themselves or a household member had been a victim of crime in Belize in the past 12 months. Among the 45,644 foreign-born individuals residing in Belize, 2.4% (1,095 persons) reported experiencing a crime incident compared to 1.8% (6,394 persons) of Belize-born persons. Similarly, in 2010, a higher proportion of immigrants than Belize-born reported being victims of crime (6.9% and 6.2%, respectively). Both groups, however, experienced a significant decrease in crime prevalence between censuses, with foreign-born seeing a drop from 6.9% to 2.4%. A possible explanation for the large difference in crime rates between censuses is that the 2022 census specifically asked about crime experienced in Belize, whereas the 2010 census did not specify place of crime. Consequently, the 2010 figures may include crimes that occurred to individuals while abroad.

In 2022, robbery was the most common type of crime experienced in Belize in the past 12 months among both foreign- and Belize-born individuals ([Figure 10.1.1](#) and [Table 10.1.2](#)). However, immigrants were more likely to be victims of this crime, with 47.6% of foreign-born victims reporting robbery as the most recent crime compared to 41% of Belize-born victims. Burglary was the second most common crime affecting both groups. Similarly, immigrants were more likely to report experiencing this type of crime than their Belize-born peers (24.6% compared to 21.5%). The third most common crime was wounding/assault /harm, where foreign-born individuals were less likely to report being victims compared to those born in Belize (17.1% and 20.1%, respectively). Further, foreign-born individuals were less likely to report being victims of more violent crimes such as murder/manslaughter/shooting (4.2% versus 8.7%) or sexual assault (0.4% versus 1.4%). These patterns were also observed in 2010, when a higher percentage of immigrants reported being victims of robbery and burglary compared to Belize-born individuals, while a lower percentage reported being victims of wounding/assault /harm, murder/manslaughter/shooting and of domestic violence.

TABLE 10.1.1. Foreign- and Belize-born population victim of crime in Belize in the past year, 2010 and 2022

| Household member has been a crime victim | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|--|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 9,541 | 6.6% | 2,849 | 6.8% | 6,394 | 1.8% | 1,095 | 2.4% |
| No | 134,310 | 93.2% | 38,975 | 92.9% | 342,293 | 98.1% | 44,514 | 97.5% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 285 | .2% | 112 | .3% | 181 | .1% | 35 | .1% |
| Total | 144,135 | 100.0% | 41,936 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

FIGURE 10.1.1. Type of crime among foreign- and Belize-born, 2022


Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 10.1.2. Type of crime among foreign- and Belize-born, 2010 and 2022

| Type of crime | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Robbery/Theft | 6,813 | 40.5% | 1,592 | 46.0% | 2,623 | 41.0% | 521 | 47.6% |
| Burglary | 4,905 | 29.2% | 1,101 | 31.8% | 1,372 | 21.5% | 269 | 24.6% |
| Wounding/Assault/Harm | 2,297 | 13.7% | 346 | 10.0% | 1,287 | 20.1% | 187 | 17.1% |
| Murder/Manslaughter/Shooting | 1,012 | 6.0% | 132 | 3.8% | 553 | 8.7% | 46 | 4.2% |
| Sexual Assault/Rape | 276 | 1.6% | 73 | 2.1% | 93 | 1.4% | 5 | 0.4% |
| Domestic Violence | 454 | 2.7% | 62 | 1.8% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other | 861 | 5.1% | 115 | 3.3% | 466 | 7.3% | 67 | 6.1% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 206 | 1.2% | 38 | 1.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 16,825 | 100.0% | 3,459 | 100.0% | 6,394 | 100.0% | 1,095 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

Foreign-born individuals were slightly less likely to report being victims of crime than their Belize-born counterparts ([Table 10.1.3](#)). Among the 1,065 foreign-born persons who experienced a crime incident, 60% reported it to the police (656 victims). In contrast, 65.7% of victims born in Belize reported such incidents (4,201 victims). Since 2010, the crime-reporting rate for Belize-born remained practically unchanged (66.4% in 2010), while the rate for foreign-born decreased by almost 6 percentage points (from 65.9% in 2010).

The main reason for which crime was not reported was the lack of confidence in the administration of justice ([Table 10.1.4](#)). More than half of both foreign- and Belize-born individuals cited this as the top reason for not reporting (54.8% and 55.3%, respectively). The second most common reason was being

afraid of the perpetrator, with 12.5% of immigrants and 15% of Belize-born persons providing this answer. Assessing changes over time is limited given that the 2022 questionnaire had a reduced list of reasons for not reporting crime. It seems that the share of individuals lacking confidence in authorities increased for both groups. For foreign-born persons, this share increased from 35.3% in 2010 to 54.8% in 2022, a difference of almost 20 percentage points. For Belize-born, a similar rise was observed, from 35.6% in 2010 to 55.3% in 2022. However, if the percentage that reported that the police was not serious enough in 2010 was added to the lack of confidence in the same year, the percentage of people citing lack of capacities of authorities in 2010 would increase to levels even higher to those observed in 2022 (58.9% and 59.2% for foreign- and Belize-born, respectively).

TABLE 10.1.3. Foreign- and Belize-born persons who were victims of crime and reported it, 2010 and 2022

| Crime reported to police | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 11,165 | 66.4% | 2,279 | 65.9% | 4,201 | 65.7% | 656 | 60.0% |
| No | 5,313 | 31.6% | 1,137 | 32.9% | 2,161 | 33.8% | 435 | 39.7% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 346 | 2.1% | 42 | 1.2% | 32 | 0.5% | 4 | 0.3% |
| Total | 16,825 | 100.0% | 3,459 | 100.0% | 6,394 | 100.0% | 1,095 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE 10.1.4. Main reason crime was not reported among foreign- and Belize-born, 2010 and 2022

| Main reason crime was not reported | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| No confidence in the administration of justice | 1,893 | 35.6% | 401 | 35.3% | 1,195 | 55.3% | 238 | 54.8% |
| Not serious enough | 1,264 | 23.8% | 262 | 23.0% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Afraid of perpetrator | 288 | 5.4% | 73 | 6.5% | 325 | 15.0% | 54 | 12.5% |
| Perpetrator is family/friend | 255 | 4.8% | 24 | 2.1% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Settle outside of court | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 169 | 7.8% | 26 | 6.0% |
| Too time consuming | 802 | 15.1% | 199 | 17.5% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Other | 631 | 11.9% | 134 | 11.8% | 431 | 19.9% | 104 | 23.9% |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 181 | 3.4% | 43 | 3.8% | 42 | 1.9% | 12 | 2.8% |
| Total | 5,313 | 100.0% | 1,137 | 100.0% | 2,161 | 100.0% | 435 | 100.0% |






Note: There are differences in the two census questionnaires in these questions, and comparisons are not straightforward.

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

11. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report presents an overall picture of international and internal migration in Belize using data collected during the 2022 Population and Housing Census. It shows the size and composition of the migrant population, their distribution across the country and the reasons for which people moved in, out and within the country. It also examines the integration of the foreign-born population residing in Belize, by comparing their characteristics and outcomes with those of their Belize-born counterparts. The publication provides a set of indicators on demographic traits, education, economic activity, living conditions, health, mortality, fertility, and crime. This section presents a summary of the main findings. It then discusses how the findings could influence policies. And concludes by highlighting the research areas for further investigation and improvement.

11.1. Summary of findings

-  The 2022 Population and Housing Census recorded 45,644 foreign-born individuals living in Belize, representing 11.5% of the total population. Most of these immigrants were born in the neighbouring countries of Guatemala (42%), El Salvador (19%), and Honduras (15%). Together, these three countries accounted for 76% of all immigrants residing in Belize. Furthermore, these countries have consistently been the top three countries of birth of migrants since the 2000 census.
-  The three most common reasons that immigrants reported for moving to Belize in 2022 included family reunification (26%), employment (18%) and consider Belize as home (16%). The relative importance of employment as a reason for migrating dropped from being the top reason for moving to Belize in 2010 to being the second most common reason in 2022 (from 26% to 18%). This drop in ranking was especially true among immigrants born in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
-  Over half of the foreign-born population resided in the two largest and most populated districts of the country, Cayo and Belize, in 2022 (58%). Similarly, Belize-born individuals were also concentrated in these districts (53%). However, migrants were more likely to be based in the district of Cayo, where the capital city is located (36% in Cayo and 22% in Belize), whereas people born in Belize were more likely to live in the district of Belize (24% in Cayo and 29% in Belize).
-  The socio-demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population differed in several ways from those of the Belize-born population. The most significant difference was in terms of age. Immigrants tend to be older: they had a median age of 43, while people born in Belize had a median age of 23. The age gap is due to three factors. First, the immigrant population was heavily concentrated in the working-ages (14 to 64 years), with around 81% falling in this age group, compared with 65% of the Belize-born population. Second, there was a significantly lower share of children (under age 14 years) among those born abroad, with only 7% in this group compared with 30% of those born in Belize. Third, the share of older people (aged 65 years or more) among foreign-born was more than twice the share of people born in the country (12% and 5%, respectively).
-  Women were slightly overrepresented among the foreign-born, making up 53% of this group. This trend was particularly observed in the prime working-age categories, where 56% of foreign-born persons aged 25 to 34 years and

57% of those aged 35 to 44 years were women. This overrepresentation of women was particularly true among immigrants from Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, with shares of 55%, 56%, and 53%, respectively.

In terms of education, the foreign-born population experienced poorer educational outcomes than their Belize-born counterparts. For example, more than one in three working-age migrants had very low levels of educational attainment (completed up to pre-primary school), compared with around one in ten individuals born in Belize (37% and 12%, respectively). Additionally, foreign-born children (aged 5 to 17 years) reported lower school attendance rates than their Belize-born peers (76% and 85%, respectively). And young immigrants were more likely to drop out of school early compared with Belize-born youth: 50% left school before completing lower secondary education, while only 30% of native-born students did the same.

In terms of labour force participation, nearly 60% of immigrants were economically active, a share slightly higher than that of the Belize-born population, of 57%. This difference was mainly driven by the higher activity rates of foreign-born men: 83% of foreign-born men were active, compared with 73% of Belize-born men. By contrast, among youth aged 15 to 24 years, foreign-born individuals were more likely to be neither in education, employment, or training (NEET) compared with Belize-born youth, with rates of 36% and 30%, respectively. The differences in NEET rates were largely due to the gap between foreign- and native-born women rather than men. More than half of foreign-born young women were classified as NEET, which is 10 percentage points higher than the share among their Belize-born peers.

Overall, living conditions were somewhat poorer for foreign-born households than for their Belize-born counterparts. For instance, immigrant households were less likely to own the dwelling where they lived and to own household assets and appliances than people born in Belize. Similarly, immigrant households were somewhat more likely to live in dwellings with substandard housing conditions (lacking one or more of basic services), at 17% compared


to 14% for the Belize-born group. In addition, people born abroad were more likely to live in a household where someone had been victim of crime compared with people born in the country, 2.4% versus 1.8%. The gaps in living conditions varied significantly across districts. In terms of substandard housing, they were largest in Cayo and Corozal, (differences close to 7 percentage points), and they were smallest in Belize (2 percentage points).

In terms of health, the foreign-born population generally experienced poorer health and had less access to health services compared to the Belize-born population. Nearly 20% of immigrants had been diagnosed with a long-term illness at the time of the census. This compares with 13% of Belize-born individuals. While access to health or life insurance was limited for both foreign- and native-born groups, it was slightly higher among those born abroad, at 62% compared to 57% for those born in the country.

In terms of emigration, 2,237 households (or 2% of all households) had at least one emigrant leaving the country between 2010 and 2022. The total number of emigrants was estimated at 2,970 persons, representing 0.75% of the total population. Nearly nine in ten emigrants (88%) were of working-age (between 14 and 64 years old), with young people aged 14- to-24 years accounting for half of those leaving (51%). The top destination for Belize-born emigrants was the United States, followed by Mexico and Guatemala (58%, 10% and 6%, respectively). In 2022, the main reason given for emigrating from Belize was to study, reported by 40% of respondents. Employment and family reunification were the second and third most common reasons for leaving Belize, at 23% and 22%, respectively.

In terms of internal migration, the total number of persons that moved internally in Belize between 2010 and 2022 was 59,365, representing 15% of the population. The foreign-born population was more likely to move internally than Belize-born individuals, with the share of internal movers being twice as high among migrants than among those born in Belize (27% and 14%, respectively). The most common districts of destination for the foreign-born included the districts of Cayo (27%), Belize (24%)

and Stann Creek (19%). For Belize-born people, the top district of destination was the district of Belize (34%).

-  Net internal migration estimates show that the districts of Belize and Cayo have positive net internal migration, particularly the district of Belize, which had a net migration gain of 4,517 Belize-born persons. Conversely, the districts of Orange Walk, Toledo and Stann Creek experienced negative net internal migration.

11.2. Recommendations on research areas for further investigation and improvement

- ✱ Census data play a critical role in designing evidence-based migration policies. The drawback of census data is that it may go out of date between the time the data is gathered, and the time policymakers use it to make informed and relevant decisions. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen the capacity for collecting, processing, analyzing, and publishing census results in a timely fashion. This is particularly important when assessing migration patterns, as they are continuously changing across the region.
- ✱ Currently, the Population and Housing Census is the primary source available for assessing the characteristics and outcomes of international migrants in Belize. To provide more opportune data on migrants, the Belize Labour Force Survey (LFS) could include a section to identify key migration characteristics of all household members, in addition to including the country of birth, it could also include the country of previous usual residence, year of arrival, and reasons for migrating. This addition to the LFS would offer biannual data on international migration, eliminating the need to wait for the next census to obtain information on migrants.
- ✱ International recommendations on the collection and classification of data, such as those made by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) or the International Labor Organization (ILO), were implemented to the 2022 census. However, further efforts could be made to improve data collection. Beyond occupations and industry of employment, this report does not present information on indicators related to economic activity – such as employment, unemployment, underemployment, informal jobs – because of the paucity of data. This is a big gap since these indicators are key to understanding migrants' integration. While there are challenges in measuring time-sensitive indicators such as the unemployment rate in a census that takes months to collect, it would be useful to identify methods for more precisely estimating them to enable better comparison between the Belize-born and those born abroad, and it should implement methods that enhance high quality standards on the production of these data.
- ✱ To assess changes over time, it is important to ensure that questions on core topics remain unchanged in future census questionnaires. This includes maintaining the phrasing of questions, the answer categories, and the target population. At the same time, it is important to revisit the census questionnaires during the census development stage to account for changes in circumstances, behaviors, and attitudes. The data collected must ensure comparability without sacrificing usefulness and relevance.
- ✱ Future topics worth investigating to better understand migrants' conditions include displacement due to natural disasters and discrimination. Including a special module on these topics in the LFS, asked once every three years, could provide valuable insights into the actions needed to improve the integration and living conditions of migrants (Measures of multidimensional poverty and food insecurity were included in the census, but were not available at the time this report was drafted). Separately, it would be useful for the SIB to coordinate with the relevant ministries to compile statistics based on administrative records on entry, exit, and the type of residence permits that foreigners receive, as well as processes of naturalization.

- ✱ Better data allows policymakers to make better decisions. In the case of international migration, having better data will guide policies to ensure Belize can reap the greatest rewards from the successful integration of international migrants to their benefit and the benefit of the country as whole.

ANNEX

TABLE A.1. Population by district, area, and country of birth, 2000-2022

| | | 2000 | | | | 2010 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Urban | 7,073 | 22.8% | 910 | 31.3% | 8,601 | 23.3% | 1,640 | 40.1% | 8,413 | 20.5% | 1,263 | 32.1% |
| | Rural | 23,913 | 77.2% | 1,994 | 68.7% | 28,284 | 76.7% | 2,450 | 59.9% | 32,673 | 79.5% | 2,676 | 67.9% |
| | Total | 30,986 | 15% | 2,904 | 8% | 36,885 | 14% | 4,090 | 8% | 41,086 | 12% | 3,939 | 9% |
| Orange Walk | Urban | 12,161 | 34.4% | 1,575 | 32.1% | 11,999 | 29.7% | 1,696 | 31.0% | 13,293 | 26.8% | 1,176 | 27.1% |
| | Rural | 23,233 | 65.6% | 3,327 | 67.9% | 28,463 | 70.3% | 3,767 | 69.0% | 36,282 | 73.2% | 3,162 | 72.9% |
| | Total | 35,394 | 17% | 4,901 | 13% | 40,462 | 15% | 5,463 | 11% | 49,575 | 14% | 4,339 | 10% |
| Belize | Urban | 48,464 | 78.0% | 6,771 | 80.9% | 59,149 | 71.8% | 9,715 | 75.8% | 70,682 | 69.3% | 7,454 | 73.9% |
| | Rural | 13,690 | 22.0% | 1,599 | 19.1% | 23,213 | 28.2% | 3,107 | 24.2% | 31,340 | 30.7% | 2,634 | 26.1% |
| | Total | 62,154 | 29% | 8,370 | 23% | 82,362 | 30% | 12,822 | 26% | 102,022 | 29% | 10,088 | 22% |
| Cayo | Urban | 19,922 | 46.1% | 4,125 | 36.7% | 30,287 | 50.9% | 7,643 | 49.3% | 41,221 | 50.1% | 7,263 | 44.8% |
| | Rural | 23,296 | 53.9% | 7,123 | 63.3% | 29,229 | 49.1% | 7,848 | 50.7% | 41,117 | 49.9% | 8,934 | 55.2% |
| | Total | 43,218 | 20% | 11,248 | 31% | 59,516 | 22% | 15,491 | 31% | 82,337 | 24% | 16,197 | 35% |
| Stann Creek | Urban | 7,686 | 37.9% | 1,080 | 20.9% | 8,470 | 30.6% | 1,107 | 16.8% | 9,240 | 22.1% | 365 | 6.0% |
| | Rural | 12,580 | 62.1% | 4,081 | 79.1% | 19,221 | 69.4% | 5,490 | 83.2% | 32,525 | 77.9% | 5,763 | 94.0% |
| | Total | 20,266 | 10% | 5,161 | 14% | 27,691 | 10% | 6,597 | 13% | 41,765 | 12% | 6,129 | 13% |
| Toledo | Urban | 3,925 | 19.6% | 528 | 13.0% | 4,700 | 18.5% | 649 | 12.1% | 4,974 | 15.5% | 429 | 8.7% |
| | Rural | 16,138 | 80.4% | 3,529 | 87.0% | 20,713 | 81.5% | 4,708 | 87.9% | 27,109 | 84.5% | 4,523 | 91.3% |
| | Total | 20,063 | 9% | 4,057 | 11% | 25,412 | 9% | 5,357 | 11% | 32,083 | 9% | 4,952 | 11% |
| Total | Urban | 99,231 | 46.8% | 14,990 | 40.9% | 123,206 | 45.2% | 22,449 | 45.1% | 147,822 | 42.4% | 17,951 | 39.3% |
| | Rural | 112,850 | 53.2% | 21,653 | 59.1% | 149,122 | 54.8% | 27,370 | 54.9% | 201,046 | 57.6% | 27,693 | 60.7% |
| | Total | 212,081 | 100.0% | 36,642 | 100.0% | 272,328 | 100.0% | 49,819 | 100.0% | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2000, 2010 and 2022.

TABLE A.2. Age groups and median age of foreign- and Belize-born by sex, 2010 and 2022

| | 2010 | | | | | | 2022 | | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Belize | | | Abroad | | | Belize | | | Abroad | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 0-13 | 38% | 37% | 102,135 | 11% | 11% | 5,326 | 31% | 29% | 105,777 | 7% | 7% | 3,212 |
| 14-24 | 23% | 23% | 63,555 | 17% | 18% | 8,803 | 23% | 22% | 78,792 | 11% | 11% | 4,945 |
| 25-34 | 14% | 14% | 38,498 | 20% | 23% | 10,795 | 15% | 16% | 54,878 | 15% | 17% | 7,331 |
| 35-44 | 10% | 10% | 28,042 | 19% | 21% | 9,948 | 12% | 12% | 42,004 | 18% | 22% | 9,167 |
| 45-54 | 7% | 7% | 19,286 | 15% | 14% | 7,358 | 8% | 9% | 29,851 | 19% | 20% | 8,960 |
| 55-64 | 4% | 4% | 10,317 | 10% | 8% | 4,520 | 6% | 6% | 20,690 | 15% | 13% | 6,538 |
| 65+ | 4% | 4% | 10,495 | 7% | 5% | 3,069 | 5% | 5% | 16,876 | 14% | 10% | 5,491 |
| Total | 136,259 | 136,067 | 272,328 | 24,795 | 25,024 | 49,819 | 172,472 | 176,396 | 348,868 | 21,682 | 23,962 | 45,644 |
| Median Age | 19.00 | 19.00 | 19.00 | 35.00 | 34.00 | 34.00 | 22.00 | 23.00 | 23.00 | 44.00 | 42.00 | 43.00 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2010 and 2022.

TABLE A.3. Reasons for migrating by age group, 2010 and 2022 (1 of 2)

| Absolute numbers | 2010 | | | | | | | | 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| | 0-13 | 14-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Total | 0-13 | 14-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Total |
| Seek employment | 37 | 1,516 | 3,343 | 3,546 | 2,605 | 1,329 | 686 | 13,063 | 29 | 459 | 1,350 | 1,878 | 2,076 | 1,415 | 982 | 8,190 |
| Family reunification /formation | 1,771 | 2,838 | 2,863 | 2,194 | 1,237 | 766 | 555 | 12,225 | 944 | 1,669 | 2,219 | 2,600 | 2,091 | 1,203 | 930 | 11,655 |
| Dependent | 1,640 | 2,082 | 1,727 | 1,054 | 627 | 385 | 258 | 7,774 | | | | | | | | |
| Regard it as home | 468 | 692 | 834 | 769 | 717 | 443 | 409 | 4,332 | 544 | 729 | 1,176 | 1,391 | 1,337 | 1,031 | 1,035 | 7,242 |
| Personal safety | 59 | 197 | 418 | 554 | 560 | 354 | 272 | 2,414 | 81 | 212 | 276 | 413 | 446 | 376 | 306 | 2,109 |
| Business | 0 | 100 | 316 | 459 | 394 | 216 | 98 | 1,590 | 0 | 16 | 92 | 170 | 245 | 168 | 83 | 774 |
| Study | 134 | 382 | 152 | 56 | 43 | 19 | 0 | 789 | 21 | 156 | 54 | 43 | 24 | 11 | 13 | 323 |
| Retirement | 0 | 0 | 12 | 28 | 127 | 265 | 253 | 688 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 99 | 305 | 440 | 871 |
| Crime rate | 15 | 52 | 87 | 149 | 139 | 83 | 66 | 592 | 47 | 67 | 138 | 167 | 218 | 124 | 105 | 867 |
| Deported/ Involuntary return | 15 | 13 | 18 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 49 |
| Medical | 0 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Other | 93 | 320 | 565 | 736 | 631 | 447 | 347 | 3,103 | 130 | 227 | 434 | | 653 | 561 | 515 | 3,062 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,092 | 610 | 448 | 380 | 261 | 197 | 114 | 3,102 | 1,415 | 1,411 | 1,592 | 1,873 | 1,755 | 1,342 | 1,084 | 10,472 |
| Total | 5,326 | 8,803 | 10,795 | 9,948 | 7,358 | 4,520 | 3,069 | 49,819 | 3,212 | 4,945 | 7,331 | 9,167 | 8,960 | 6,538 | 5,491 | 45,644 |

TABLE A.3. Reasons for migrating by age group, 2010 and 2022 (2 of 2)

| Share | 0-13 | 14-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Total | 0-13 | 14-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Seek employment | 1% | 19% | 32% | 37% | 37% | 31% | 23% | 13,063 | 2% | 13% | 24% | 26% | 29% | 27% | 22% | 8,190 |
| Family reunification /formation | 42% | 35% | 28% | 23% | 17% | 18% | 19% | 12,225 | 53% | 47% | 39% | 36% | 29% | 23% | 21% | 11,655 |
| Dependent | 39% | 25% | 17% | 11% | 9% | 9% | 9% | 7,774 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | |
| Regard it as home | 11% | 8% | 8% | 8% | 10% | 10% | 14% | 4,332 | 30% | 21% | 20% | 19% | 19% | 20% | 23% | 7,242 |
| Personal safety | 1% | 2% | 4% | 6% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 2,414 | 4% | 6% | 5% | 6% | 6% | 7% | 7% | 2,109 |
| Business | 0% | 1% | 3% | 5% | 6% | 5% | 3% | 1,590 | 0% | 0% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 774 |
| Study | 3% | 5% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 789 | 1% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 323 |
| Retirement | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 6% | 9% | 688 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 6% | 10% | 871 |
| Crime rate | 0% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 592 | 3% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 867 |
| Deported/ Involuntary return | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 82 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 49 |
| Medical | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 66 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 28 |
| Other | 2% | 4% | 5% | 8% | 9% | 10% | 12% | 3,103 | 7% | 6% | 8% | 0% | 9% | 11% | 12% | 3,062 |
| Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,092 | 610 | 448 | 380 | 261 | 197 | 114 | 3,102 | 1,415 | 1,411 | 1,592 | 1,873 | 1,755 | 1,342 | 1,084 | 10,472 |
| Total | 5,326 | 8,803 | 10,795 | 9,948 | 7,358 | 4,520 | 3,069 | 49,819 | 3,212 | 4,945 | 7,331 | 9,167 | 8,960 | 6,538 | 5,491 | 45,644 |

TABLE A.4. Reasons for migrating by country of birth, 2010 and 2022

| | | Guatemala | El Salvador | Honduras | United States | Mexico | China | Canada | Nicaragua | Rest of world | Total |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010 | Employment | 5,849 | 2,008 | 2,876 | 173 | 342 | 360 | 48 | 253 | 1,154 | 13,063 |
| | Family reunification | 5,462 | 1,694 | 2,099 | 660 | 476 | 431 | 83 | 181 | 1,138 | 12,225 |
| | Dependent | 3,656 | 1,086 | 946 | 509 | 743 | 162 | 126 | 73 | 473 | 7,774 |
| | Regard it as home | 1,652 | 529 | 536 | 538 | 417 | 72 | 175 | 31 | 383 | 4,332 |
| | Personal safety | 974 | 1,103 | 183 | 27 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 50 | 2,414 |
| | Business | 122 | 52 | 71 | 181 | 29 | 579 | 47 | 0 | 504 | 1,590 |
| | Study | 206 | 43 | 151 | 46 | 24 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 235 | 789 |
| | Retirement | 0 | 0 | 11 | 399 | 0 | 0 | 93 | 0 | 162 | 688 |
| | Crime rate | 224 | 268 | 51 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 592 |
| | Deported/ Involuntary return | 41 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 |
| | Medical | 13 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 66 |
| | Other | 947 | 534 | 290 | 498 | 191 | 39 | 118 | 71 | 492 | 3,103 |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 1,036 | 239 | 287 | 532 | 742 | 38 | 25 | 23 | 180 | 3,102 |
| | Total | 20,181 | 7,582 | 7,517 | 3,574 | 3,026 | 1,753 | 714 | 654 | 4,817 | 49,819 |
| 2022 | Employment | 3,957 | 1,517 | 1,860 | 31 | 185 | 67 | 36 | 166 | 372 | 8,190 |
| | Family reunification | 5,242 | 2,064 | 2,184 | 419 | 406 | 205 | 133 | 174 | 828 | 11,655 |
| | Dependent | 2,740 | 1,262 | 982 | 761 | 429 | 138 | 228 | 72 | 631 | 7,242 |
| | Regard it as home | 804 | 914 | 293 | 10 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 43 | 2,100 |
| | Personal safety | 52 | 20 | 30 | 104 | 21 | 263 | 29 | 11 | 244 | 774 |
| | Business | 87 | 49 | 36 | 14 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 94 | 316 |
| | Study | 10 | 0 | 0 | 556 | 0 | 0 | 116 | 0 | 172 | 854 |
| | Retirement | 224 | 521 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 851 |
| | Crime rate | 16 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 |
| | Deported/ Involuntary return | 533 | 139 | 143 | 57 | 98 | 13 | 26 | 15 | 155 | 1,178 |
| | Medical | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| | Other | 565 | 513 | 181 | 197 | 196 | 24 | 59 | 47 | 178 | 1,961 |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 4,822 | 1,502 | 1,111 | 838 | 1,151 | 124 | 196 | 121 | 607 | 10,472 |
| | Total | 19,061 | 8,511 | 6,940 | 2,985 | 2,528 | 834 | 822 | 638 | 3,323 | 45,644 |

TABLE A.5. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main access to drinking water, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Bottle/purified water | 30,934 | 75.3% | 3,288 | 83.5% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 1,678 | 4.1% | 105 | 2.7% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 595 | 1.4% | 56 | 1.4% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 5,746 | 14.0% | 378 | 9.6% |
| | Other | 2,123 | 5.2% | 110 | 2.8% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 10 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Bottle/purified water | 43,697 | 88.1% | 3,692 | 85.1% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 1,591 | 3.2% | 196 | 4.5% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 182 | 0.4% | 34 | 0.8% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 3,574 | 7.2% | 326 | 7.5% |
| | Other | 514 | 1.0% | 90 | 2.1% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 17 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Bottle/purified water | 93,561 | 91.7% | 9,528 | 94.5% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 2,246 | 2.2% | 157 | 1.6% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 77 | 0.1% | 13 | 0.1% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 5,219 | 5.1% | 322 | 3.2% |
| | Other | 900 | 0.9% | 59 | 0.6% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 19 | 0.0% | 8 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Bottle/purified water | 65,815 | 79.9% | 11,856 | 73.2% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 9,235 | 11.2% | 2,071 | 12.8% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 268 | 0.3% | 118 | 0.7% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 4,315 | 5.2% | 1,339 | 8.3% |
| | Other | 2,665 | 3.2% | 802 | 5.0% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 39 | 0.0% | 11 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.5. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main access to drinking water, 2022 (2 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Stann Creek | Bottle/purified water | 13,311 | 31.9% | 1,342 | 21.9% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 23,092 | 55.3% | 3,451 | 56.3% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 1,044 | 2.5% | 529 | 8.6% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 421 | 1.0% | 91 | 1.5% |
| | Other | 3,879 | 9.3% | 715 | 11.7% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 18 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Bottle/purified water | 6,147 | 19.2% | 786 | 15.9% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 20,154 | 62.8% | 3,033 | 61.3% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 1,919 | 6.0% | 501 | 10.1% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 1,434 | 4.5% | 204 | 4.1% |
| | Other | 2,428 | 7.6% | 427 | 8.6% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 2 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |
| Total | Bottle/purified water | 253,466 | 72.7% | 30,492 | 66.8% |
| | Public piped into dwelling or yard | 57,995 | 16.6% | 9,014 | 19.7% |
| | Protected or unprotected dug well | 4,085 | 1.2% | 1,252 | 2.7% |
| | Private catchment, not piped (vat, drum, water tank, etc) | 20,709 | 5.9% | 2,661 | 5.8% |
| | Other | 12,509 | 3.6% | 2,204 | 4.8% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 103 | 0.0% | 21 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE A.6. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main source of lighting, 2022 (1 of 3)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Electricity from BEL | 34,762 | 84.6% | 3,477 | 88.3% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 1,699 | 4.1% | 149 | 3.8% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 1,370 | 3.3% | 73 | 1.9% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 2,395 | 5.8% | 139 | 3.5% |
| | Candle | 393 | 1.0% | 46 | 1.2% |
| | None | 237 | 0.6% | 34 | 0.9% |
| | Other | 213 | 0.5% | 21 | 0.5% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 17 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Electricity from BEL | 41,708 | 84.1% | 3,524 | 81.2% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 2,904 | 5.9% | 337 | 7.8% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 1,190 | 2.4% | 105 | 2.4% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 1,992 | 4.0% | 137 | 3.1% |
| | Candle | 423 | 0.9% | 95 | 2.2% |
| | None | 205 | 0.4% | 36 | 0.8% |
| | Other | 1,128 | 2.3% | 105 | 2.4% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 24 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Electricity from BEL | 98,259 | 96.3% | 9,434 | 93.5% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 475 | 0.5% | 187 | 1.8% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 1,982 | 1.9% | 314 | 3.1% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 454 | 0.4% | 43 | 0.4% |
| | Candle | 267 | 0.3% | 27 | 0.3% |
| | None | 357 | 0.3% | 22 | 0.2% |
| | Other | 204 | 0.2% | 53 | 0.5% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 24 | 0.0% | 8 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.6. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main source of lighting, 2022 (2 of 3)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Cayo | Electricity from BEL | 72,203 | 87.7% | 13,067 | 80.7% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 2,207 | 2.7% | 916 | 5.7% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 3,089 | 3.8% | 881 | 5.4% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 812 | 1.0% | 234 | 1.4% |
| | Candle | 565 | 0.7% | 233 | 1.4% |
| | None | 715 | 0.9% | 221 | 1.4% |
| | Other | 2,681 | 3.3% | 633 | 3.9% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 65 | 0.1% | 12 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |
| Stann Creek | Electricity from BEL | 37,870 | 90.7% | 4,811 | 78.5% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 734 | 1.8% | 325 | 5.3% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 1,483 | 3.6% | 446 | 7.3% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 237 | 0.6% | 62 | 1.0% |
| | Candle | 970 | 2.3% | 388 | 6.3% |
| | None | 265 | 0.6% | 49 | 0.8% |
| | Other | 188 | 0.5% | 46 | 0.7% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 18 | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Electricity from BEL | 19,422 | 60.5% | 3,139 | 63.4% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 7,570 | 23.6% | 883 | 17.8% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 1,565 | 4.9% | 220 | 4.4% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 1,194 | 3.7% | 150 | 3.0% |
| | Candle | 1,486 | 4.6% | 377 | 7.6% |
| | None | 439 | 1.4% | 72 | 1.4% |
| | Other | 404 | 1.3% | 110 | 2.2% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 2 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.6. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main source of lighting, 2022 (3 of 3)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Total | Electricity from BEL | 304,224 | 87.2% | 37,453 | 82.1% |
| | Electricity - Solar energy | 15,589 | 4.5% | 2,796 | 6.1% |
| | Electricity - drop from a neighbor | 10,680 | 3.1% | 2,039 | 4.5% |
| | Kerosene lamp/gas lamp | 7,083 | 2.0% | 764 | 1.7% |
| | Candle | 4,105 | 1.2% | 1,166 | 2.6% |
| | None | 2,219 | 0.6% | 433 | 0.9% |
| | Other | 4,819 | 1.4% | 967 | 2.1% |
| | Don't Know/Not Stated | 150 | 0.0% | 26 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE A.7. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by type of toilet facility, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 26,140 | 63.6% | 3,012 | 76.5% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 9,923 | 24.2% | 629 | 16.0% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 4,682 | 11.4% | 270 | 6.9% |
| | None | 182 | .4% | 10 | .3% |
| | Other | 160 | .4% | 17 | .4% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 34,731 | 70.1% | 2,930 | 67.5% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 11,602 | 23.4% | 1,054 | 24.3% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 3,071 | 6.2% | 310 | 7.1% |
| | None | 92 | .2% | 31 | .7% |
| | Other | 78 | .2% | 13 | .3% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Flush toilet linked to BWS sewer system | 22,946 | 22.5% | 2,006 | 19.9% |
| | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 75,133 | 73.6% | 7,561 | 75.0% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 2,207 | 2.2% | 323 | 3.2% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 892 | .9% | 115 | 1.1% |
| | None | 472 | .5% | 32 | .3% |
| | Other | 371 | .4% | 51 | .5% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Flush toilet linked to BWS sewer system | 4,598 | 5.6% | 449 | 2.8% |
| | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 57,905 | 70.3% | 10,165 | 62.8% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 13,998 | 17.0% | 3,943 | 24.3% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 5,515 | 6.7% | 1,484 | 9.2% |
| | None | 143 | .2% | 116 | .7% |
| | Other | 179 | .2% | 40 | .2% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.7. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by type of toilet facility, 2022 (2 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Stann Creek | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 26,788 | 64.1% | 3,642 | 59.4% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 12,250 | 29.3% | 2,013 | 32.8% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 2,279 | 5.5% | 403 | 6.6% |
| | None | 343 | .8% | 53 | .9% |
| | Other | 105 | .3% | 18 | .3% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 10,007 | 31.2% | 1,674 | 33.8% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 15,819 | 49.3% | 2,049 | 41.4% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 3,673 | 11.4% | 727 | 14.7% |
| | None | 2,535 | 7.9% | 496 | 10.0% |
| | Other | 48 | .2% | 7 | .1% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |
| Total | Flush toilet linked to BWS sewer system | 27,543 | 7.9% | 2,454 | 5.4% |
| | Flush toiled linked to septic tank | 230,705 | 66.1% | 28,986 | 63.5% |
| | Pit latrine, elevated or ventilated | 65,799 | 18.9% | 10,011 | 21.9% |
| | Pit latrine, not ventilated and not elevated | 20,112 | 5.8% | 3,308 | 7.2% |
| | None | 3,766 | 1.1% | 738 | 1.6% |
| | Other | 942 | .3% | 146 | .3% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE A.8. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by type of cooking fuel, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Wood/charcoal | 7,190 | 17.6% | 534 | 13.7% |
| | Electricity | 184 | 0.5% | 50 | 1.3% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 33,221 | 81.5% | 3,300 | 84.6% |
| | Other | 146 | 0.4% | 15 | 0.4% |
| | Total | 40,741 | 100.0% | 3,899 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Wood/charcoal | 3,332 | 6.8% | 480 | 11.1% |
| | Electricity | 345 | 0.7% | 92 | 2.1% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 45,570 | 92.3% | 3,732 | 86.5% |
| | Other | 99 | 0.2% | 11 | 0.3% |
| | Total | 49,346 | 100.0% | 4,315 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Wood/charcoal | 1,234 | 1.2% | 279 | 2.8% |
| | Electricity | 929 | 0.9% | 183 | 1.8% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 98,508 | 97.6% | 9,450 | 94.9% |
| | Other | 257 | 0.3% | 50 | 0.5% |
| | Total | 100,927 | 100.0% | 9,962 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Wood/charcoal | 4,910 | 6.0% | 2,003 | 12.4% |
| | Electricity | 1,688 | 2.1% | 351 | 2.2% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 74,898 | 91.3% | 13,528 | 83.8% |
| | Other | 507 | 0.6% | 257 | 1.6% |
| | Total | 82,003 | 100.0% | 16,139 | 100.0% |
| Stann Creek | Wood/charcoal | 3,685 | 8.9% | 740 | 12.2% |
| | Electricity | 211 | 0.5% | 43 | 0.7% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 37,343 | 90.4% | 5,248 | 86.8% |
| | Other | 87 | 0.2% | 19 | 0.3% |
| | Total | 41,326 | 100.0% | 6,049 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.8. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by type of cooking fuel, 2022 (2 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Toledo | Wood/charcoal | 17,119 | 53.6% | 2,305 | 47.1% |
| | Electricity | 39 | 0.1% | 14 | 0.3% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 14,772 | 46.2% | 2,567 | 52.5% |
| | Other | 38 | 0.1% | 5 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 31,968 | 100.0% | 4,891 | 100.0% |
| Total | Wood/charcoal | 37,470 | 10.8% | 6,341 | 14.0% |
| | Electricity | 3,396 | 1.0% | 732 | 1.6% |
| | Butane (LPG) | 30,431 | 87.9% | 37,824 | 83.6% |
| | Other | 1,133 | 0.3% | 357 | 0.8% |
| | Total | 346,311 | 100.0% | 45,254 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE A.9. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main floor material, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Concrete | 25,860 | 62.9% | 2,132 | 54.1% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 3,362 | 8.2% | 267 | 6.8% |
| | Earth/sand | 664 | 1.6% | 87 | 2.2% |
| | Tile | 10,879 | 26.5% | 1,435 | 36.4% |
| | Other | 322 | 0.8% | 18 | 0.5% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Concrete | 29,171 | 58.8% | 2,515 | 58.0% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 6,927 | 14.0% | 562 | 13.0% |
| | Earth/sand | 883 | 1.8% | 146 | 3.4% |
| | Tile | 12,294 | 24.8% | 1,089 | 25.1% |
| | Other | 300 | 0.6% | 26 | 0.6% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Concrete | 38,608 | 37.8% | 3,358 | 33.3% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 39,389 | 38.6% | 4,095 | 40.6% |
| | Earth/sand | 173 | 0.2% | 69 | 0.7% |
| | Tile | 22,970 | 22.5% | 2,502 | 24.8% |
| | Other | 882 | 0.9% | 63 | 0.6% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Concrete | 47,695 | 57.9% | 9,554 | 59.0% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 17,348 | 21.1% | 3,432 | 21.2% |
| | Earth/sand | 992 | 1.2% | 496 | 3.1% |
| | Tile | 16,019 | 19.5% | 2,663 | 16.4% |
| | Other | 285 | 0.3% | 52 | 0.3% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.9. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main floor material, 2022 (2 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Stann Creek | Concrete | 23,730 | 56.8% | 4,091 | 66.7% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 14,008 | 33.5% | 1,269 | 20.7% |
| | Earth/sand | 1,028 | 2.5% | 348 | 5.7% |
| | Tile | 2,927 | 7.0% | 413 | 6.7% |
| | Other | 71 | 0.2% | 7 | 0.1% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Concrete | 20,117 | 62.7% | 3,019 | 61.0% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 4,568 | 14.2% | 617 | 12.5% |
| | Earth/sand | 5,784 | 18.0% | 1,090 | 22.0% |
| | Tile | 1,495 | 4.7% | 210 | 4.2% |
| | Other | 120 | 0.4% | 16 | 0.3% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |
| Total | Concrete | 185,180 | 53.1% | 24,668 | 54.0% |
| | Wood/ plywood | 85,602 | 24.5% | 10,243 | 22.4% |
| | Earth/sand | 9,524 | 2.7% | 2,237 | 4.9% |
| | Tile | 66,583 | 19.1% | 8,314 | 18.2% |
| | Other | 1,980 | 0.6% | 183 | 0.4% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

TABLE A.10. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main outer wall material, 2022 (1 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Corozal | Wood or plywood | 4,975 | 12.1% | 449 | 11.4% |
| | Concrete | 28,891 | 70.3% | 2,975 | 75.5% |
| | Sheet metal | 2,982 | 7.3% | 172 | 4.4% |
| | Wood and concrete or sheet metal | 628 | 1.5% | 55 | 1.4% |
| | Other | 3,610 | 8.8% | 288 | 7.3% |
| | Total | 41,086 | 100.0% | 3,939 | 100.0% |
| Orange Walk | Wood | 8,549 | 17.2% | 865 | 19.9% |
| | Concrete | 29,061 | 58.6% | 2,553 | 58.8% |
| | Sheet metal | 8,161 | 16.5% | 512 | 11.8% |
| | Wood and concrete | 1,483 | 3.0% | 147 | 3.4% |
| | Other | 2,321 | 4.7% | 261 | 6.0% |
| | Total | 49,575 | 100.0% | 4,339 | 100.0% |
| Belize | Wood | 36,923 | 36.2% | 3,727 | 37.0% |
| | Concrete | 54,562 | 53.5% | 4,966 | 49.2% |
| | Sheet metal | 3,626 | 3.6% | 775 | 7.7% |
| | Wood and concrete | 2,247 | 2.2% | 253 | 2.5% |
| | Other | 4,663 | 4.6% | 367 | 3.6% |
| | Total | 102,022 | 100.0% | 10,088 | 100.0% |
| Cayo | Wood | 28,501 | 34.6% | 6,609 | 40.8% |
| | Concrete | 45,257 | 55.0% | 7,519 | 46.4% |
| | Sheet metal | 2,610 | 3.2% | 768 | 4.7% |
| | Wood and concrete | 4,877 | 5.9% | 1,004 | 6.2% |
| | Other | 1,092 | 1.3% | 297 | 1.8% |
| | Total | 82,337 | 100.0% | 16,197 | 100.0% |

TABLE A.10. Total foreign- and Belize-born population by main outer wall material, 2022 (2 of 2)

| | | Place of Birth | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Belize | | Abroad | |
| | | Count | Percent | Count | Percent |
| Stann Creek | Wood | 21,392 | 51.2% | 2,874 | 46.9% |
| | Concrete | 16,304 | 39.0% | 2,617 | 42.7% |
| | Sheet metal | 832 | 2.0% | 147 | 2.4% |
| | Wood and concrete | 2,099 | 5.0% | 362 | 5.9% |
| | Other | 1,138 | 2.7% | 128 | 2.1% |
| | Total | 41,765 | 100.0% | 6,129 | 100.0% |
| Toledo | Wood | 18,008 | 56.1% | 2,877 | 58.1% |
| | Concrete | 11,320 | 35.3% | 1,592 | 32.1% |
| | Sheet metal | 301 | 0.9% | 52 | 1.1% |
| | Wood and concrete | 2,023 | 6.3% | 364 | 7.4% |
| | Other | 430 | 1.3% | 67 | 1.4% |
| | Total | 32,083 | 100.0% | 4,952 | 100.0% |
| Total | Wood | 118,350 | 33.9% | 17,403 | 38.1% |
| | Concrete | 185,394 | 53.1% | 22,221 | 48.7% |
| | Sheet metal | 18,513 | 5.3% | 2,426 | 5.3% |
| | Wood and concrete | 13,358 | 3.8% | 2,186 | 4.8% |
| | Other | 13,254 | 3.8% | 1,408 | 3.1% |
| | Total | 348,868 | 100.0% | 45,644 | 100.0% |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, Population and Housing Census 2022.

