

The US/Mexico Cycle END *of* AN ERA

Quantitative Research Study
Preliminary Findings and Insights

December, 2013



About Return Migration

Return migration is significant and it represents a **reverse population movement**:

- Between 2005 and 2010, 1.39 million people moved from the U.S. to Mexico.
- 70% (985,000) were returning migrants.
- 30% U.S.-born family members of Mexican migrant workers.
- By 2010 the U.S.- born population living in Mexico grew 115% to 739,000 compared with 343,000 in 2000.
- Of those, 77% (570 thousand) were under 18 years of age.
- 300,000 such minors moved between 2005 and 2010.

Motivation For The Study

A quantitative research study was commissioned by MATT.org in collaboration with Southern Methodist University and the Honorable Government of Jalisco, Mexico. A key objective of this collaboration is to:

Formulate and implement adequate policies to address the opportunities and challenges generated by return migration.

To this end, the organizations commissioned the current exploratory study to gather the appropriate data to understand the phenomenon of return migration well enough to formulate appropriate policies.

What We Don't Know

- Why are people returning to Mexico?
- How much of return migration is forced? How much is voluntary?
- What happens to them once they are back in Mexico? Do they use their skills and experiences acquired in the U.S.? Do they bring back capital? Do they invest?
- Do they want to remain in Mexico? Or return to the U.S.?
- What are the factors that are compelling them to stay in Mexico or re-emigrate to the U.S?

Key Insights

Why are people returning to Mexico?

- **Economic factors such as the U.S. recession and political factors such as immigration policy in both countries certainly have an impact on return migration patterns.**
- **The migration experience illustrates respondents' optimism that each move will incrementally improve their lives. Quality of life may be perceived as better in the U.S., but many are drawn emotionally to return to Mexico after 1-5 years, and most enjoy slightly higher incomes in Mexico upon their return than what they were earning in Mexico prior to migration.**

How much of return migration is forced?

- **Deportations account for only 11% of all return migration in the current study.**
- **Those who were deported comprised a little less than half of those who left the U.S. under adverse circumstances.**
- **The vast majority decided to return to Mexico of their own accord; the vast majority of those expressed nostalgia as the key factor in their motivation to return.**

Are the skills and experiences acquired in the U.S. used in Mexico?

- **Per education criteria based on Mexican government guidelines, respondents tended to be at the lower end of the economic scale. Most were undocumented and worked in low-wage jobs. For the most part, they were able to acquire only minimal skills and experience in the U.S., including learning English.**
- **However, two thirds of respondents perceived their experiences in the U.S. as helpful in adapting to life in Mexico. Half believe their quality of life improved while living in the U.S., and slight increases in household income of return migrants were noted.**

Is capital being brought into Mexico? Are investments being made?

- **Just over half of respondents reported that their economic situation is better now than when they migrated to the U.S. More importantly, ownership of assets such as a home, a car and electronic equipment rises considerably after return migration. But most do not invest in businesses in Mexico, and those who do invest very little.**
- **It is important to note that while only 1% of respondents identified themselves as “entrepreneurs”, nearly half were self-employed or employed in the informal economy upon their return to Mexico.**

Is there a desire to remain in Mexico?

- **The results of the study show significant difficulties experienced by return migrants in adapting to life back in Mexico. Few receive support services for reintegration from government or community based organizations; most rely on family and friends to help them through the transition.**
- **Nonetheless, there is a strong desire to remain in Mexico; 54% intend to stay in Mexico permanently and 17% state they will never return to the U.S.**

Key Findings

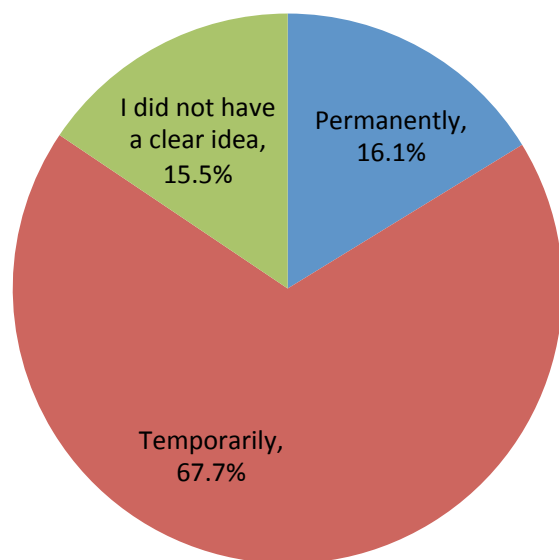
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The Impetus for Emigration

The Decision to go Norte

- When they originally migrated to the U.S., two thirds (68%) of migrants had the intention of staying only temporarily.

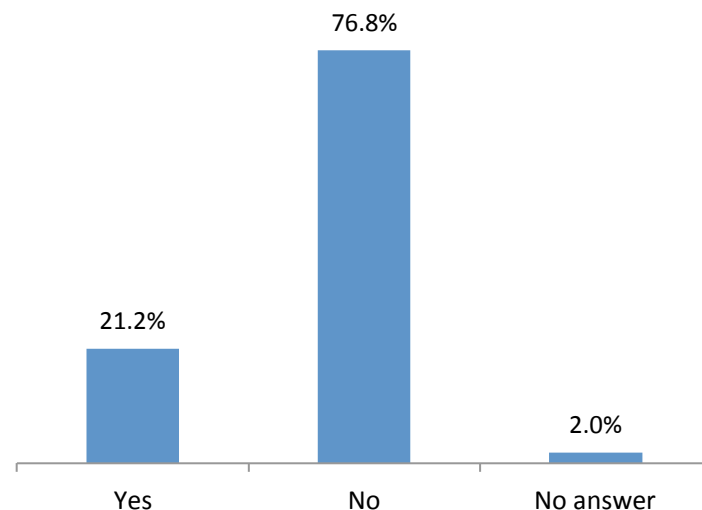
**Intention to Stay in the U.S.
When Migrated**



About 2 in 10
Migrants Later
Decide to Stay
Permanently in
the U.S.



**Reassessed and Decided to Stay
Permanently**

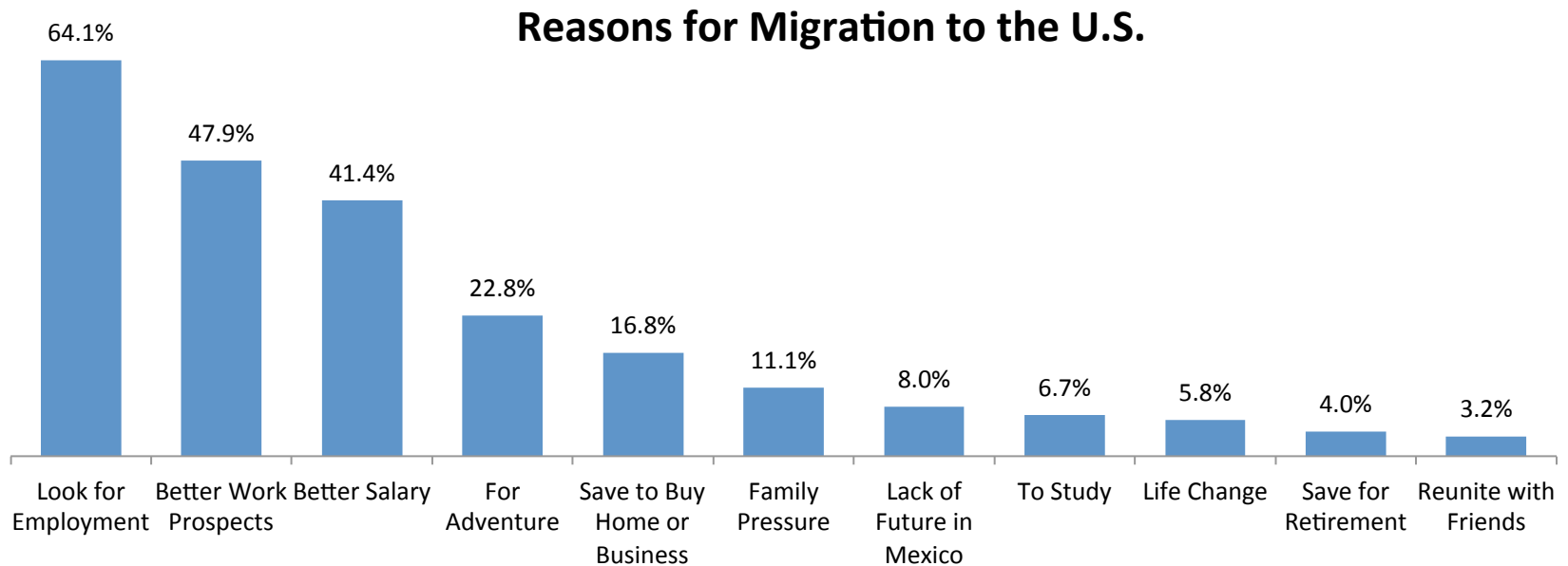


E1. Intention to stay in the U.S. when first emigrating ... Cuando fue a los Estados Unidos por primera vez, ¿lo hizo con intención de estar allí permanente, temporalmente o no tenía idea clara?

E2. Changed decision and decided to remain permanently in the U.S. ¿En algún momento usted cambio de decisión y decidió quedarse permanentemente?

Search for Better Economic Prospects a Key Driver for Move to U.S.

- Saving for a home, business or retirement was a distant second in terms of motivators.

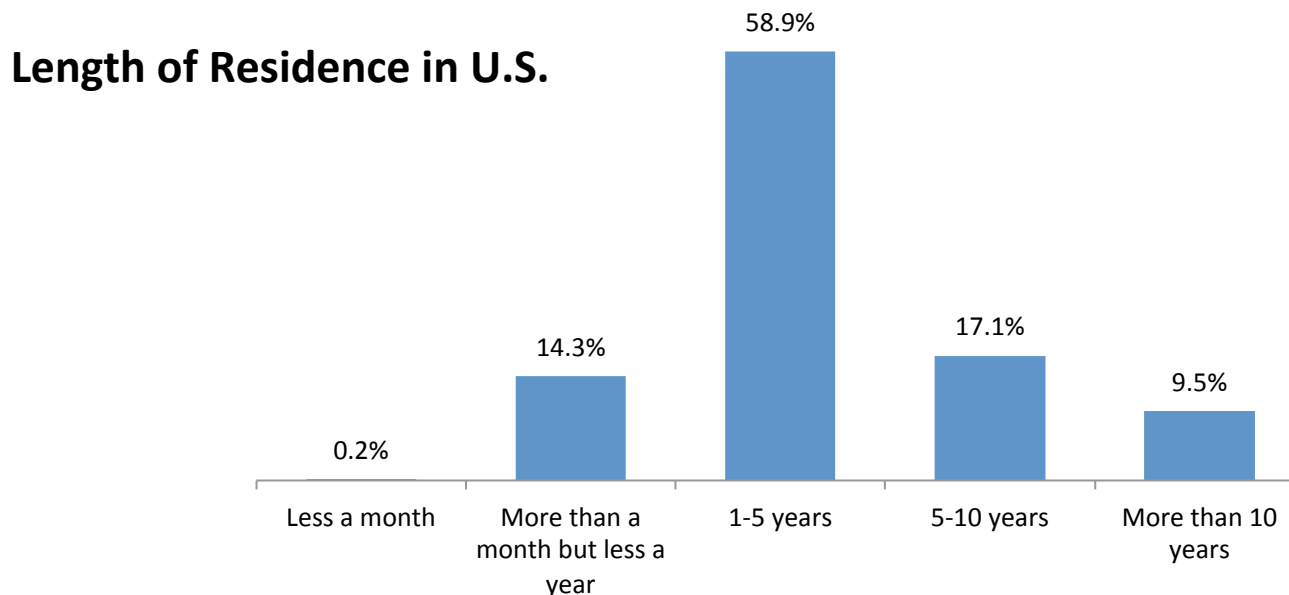


E3. Emigration was driven by the goal of ... ¿Cuáles fueron las tres principales razones por las que usted decidió ir ...

The U.S. Experience

Length of Residence in U.S. Relatively Short

- Six in ten (58.9%) of respondents lived in the U.S. for 1-5 years before returning to Mexico; only one fourth (26.6%) lived in the U.S. for 5 years or more.

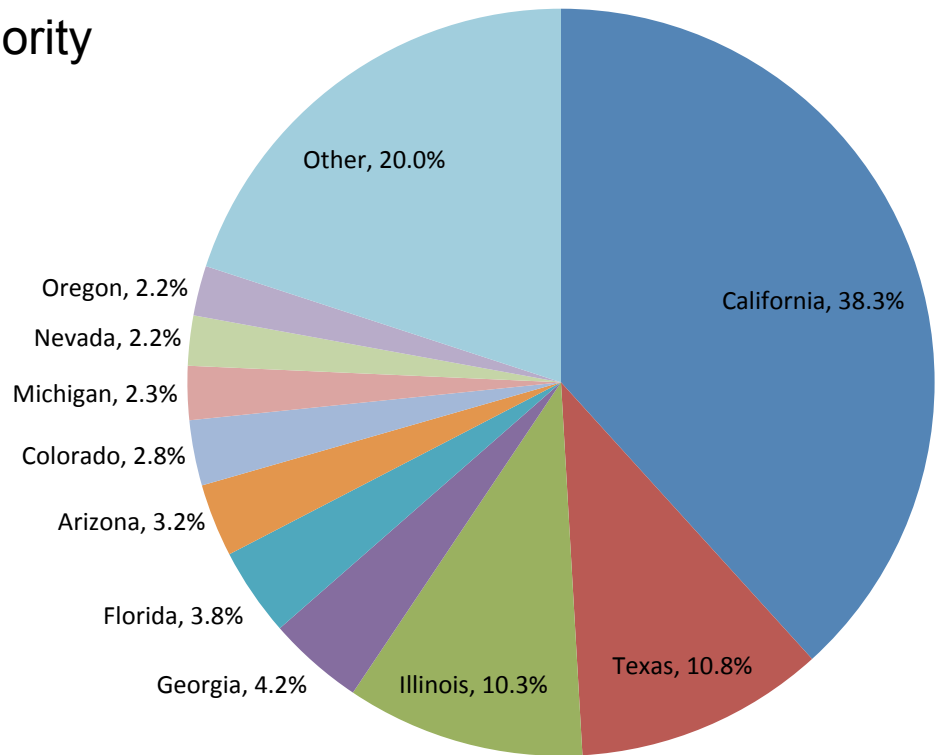


A5. Amount of time spent in the U.S. (Last time of residence) ¿Por cuánto tiempo permaneció en los Estados Unidos la última vez que vivió allí?

California, Texas, and Illinois are Primary Destinations in the U.S.

- The traditional destinations in the U.S. continue to draw the majority of Mexican immigrants.

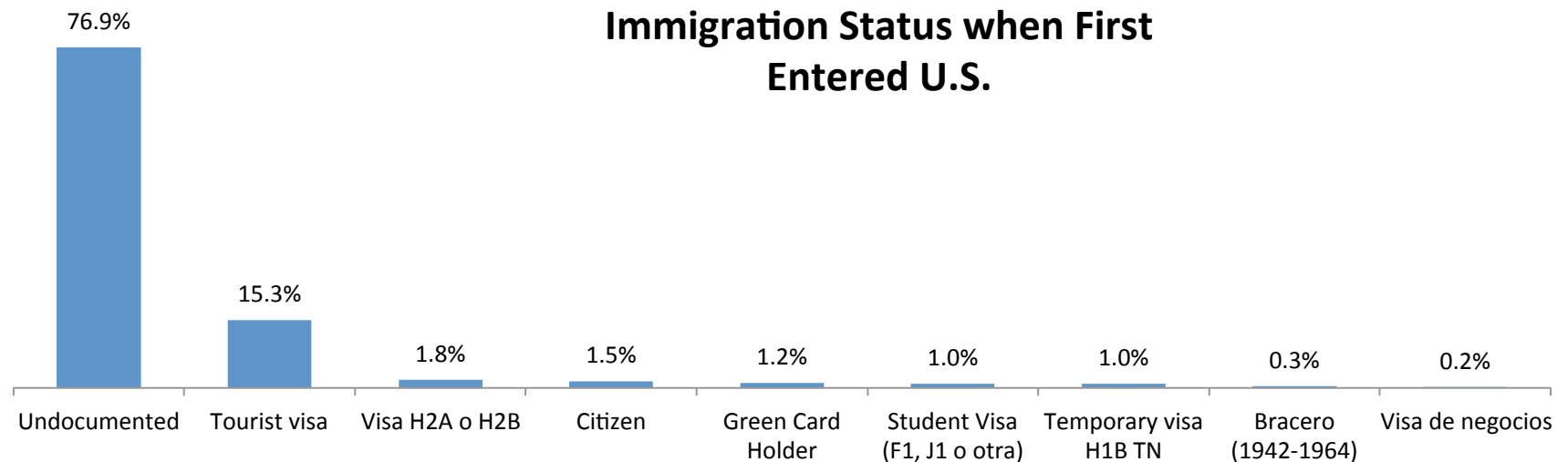
Destination States in the U.S.



F1. Last U.S. state of residence. Mencione el último estado donde vivía en los Estados Unidos.

Majority of Respondents Initially Entered the U.S. Illegally

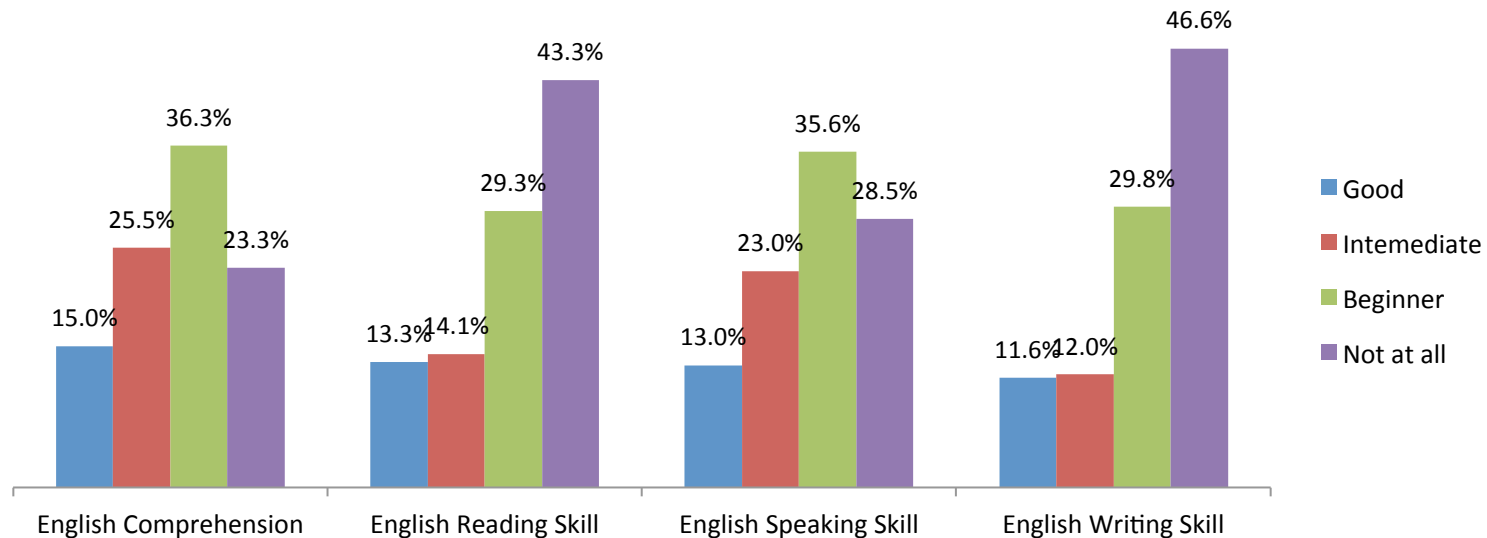
- More than three fourths (76.9%) of respondents were undocumented when they arrived in the U.S.
- Lack of legal status has substantial repercussions in their access to employment and educational opportunities.



Limited English-Language Skills Acquired During U.S. Residency

- After living in the U.S., almost half of all respondents can not read (43.3%) or write (46.6%) in English – most likely due to low education level and types of jobs / social environment encountered in the U.S.

English Language Skills

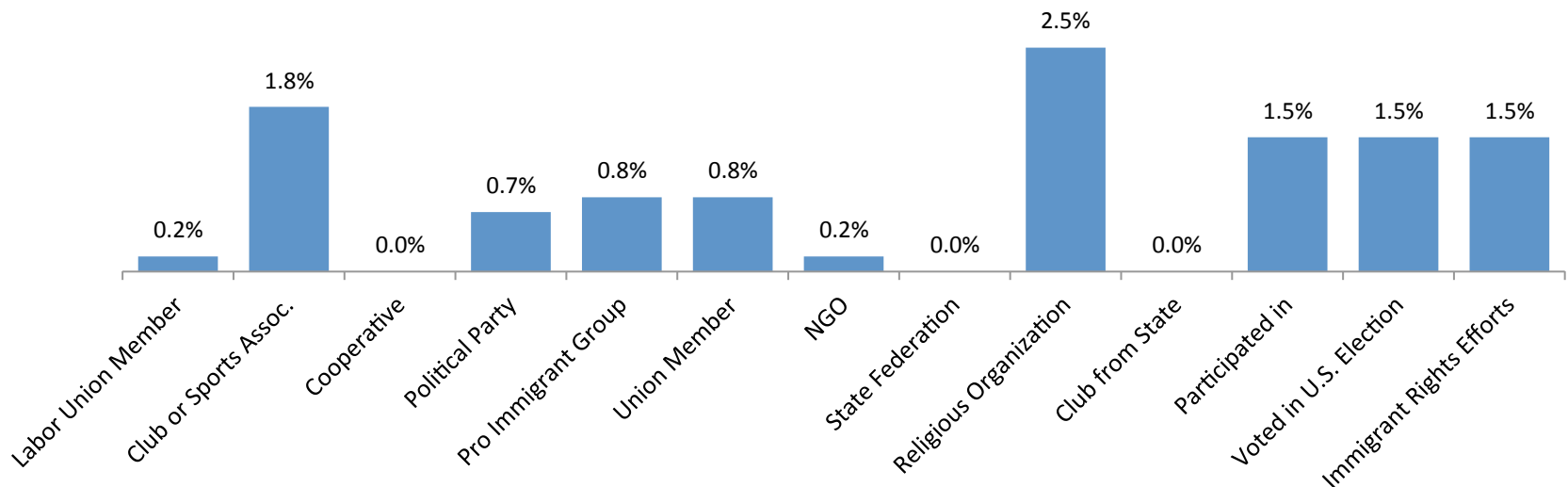


B2. Can understand English ...Por favor especifique su nivel de conocimiento del ingles. ¿Puede...

Limited Participation in Civic Organizations

- Very limited interaction and participation in civic organizations limits opportunities for growth and integration into U.S. culture.

Civic Involvement / Participation

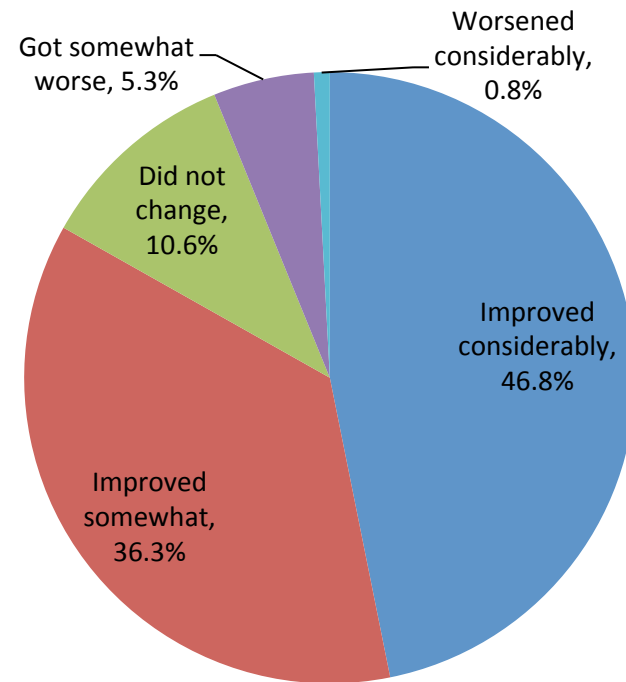


G7. Civic involvement while in the U.S. Cuando estaba en los Estados Unidos, ¿era miembro de...

Improved Quality of Life Despite Lack of Documentation, Civic Participation

- Nearly half (46.8%) of respondents report that their quality of life improved considerably while living in the U.S.

Perceived change in Quality of Life - U.S. vs. Mexico before Emigration

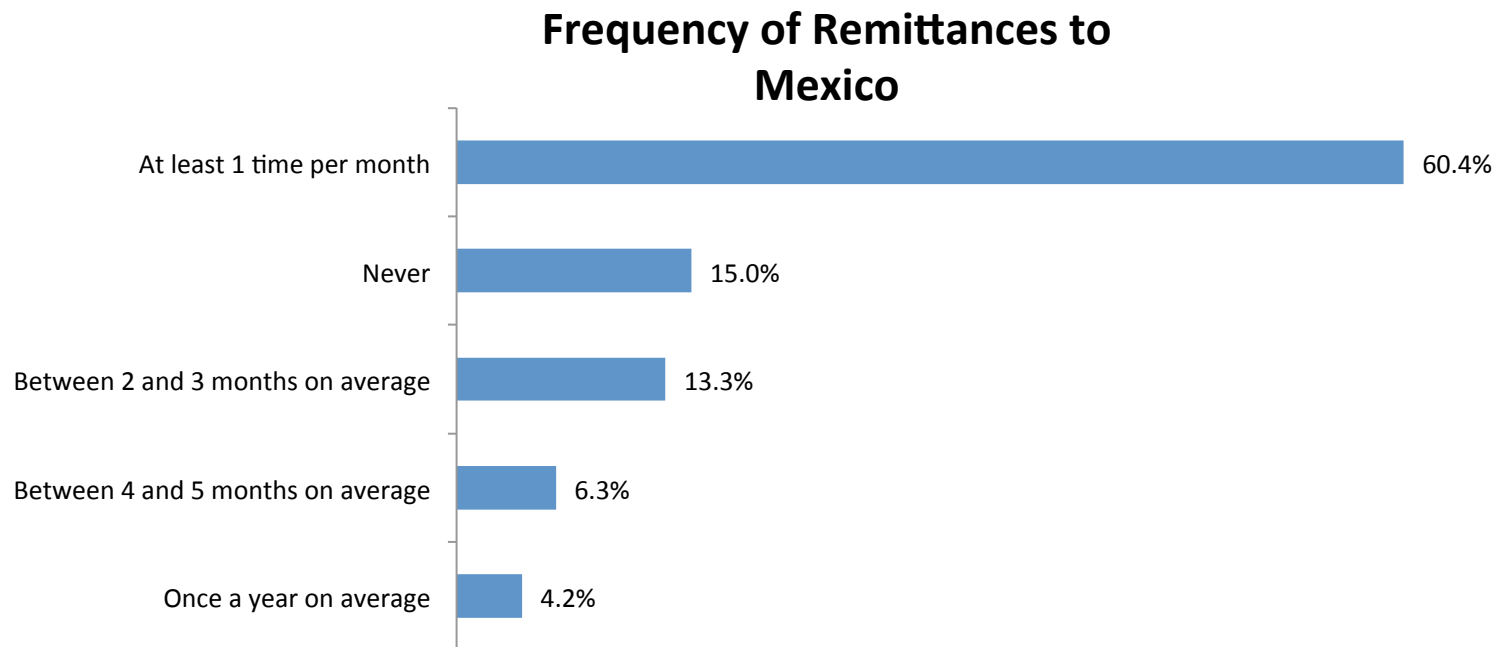


17. Quality of life in the U.S. vs quality of life before emigrating. Desde su punto de vista, ¿cómo cambió su calidad de vida mientras estuvo en los Estados Unidos con respecto a su calidad de vida en México?

Remittance Behavior

Frequency of Remittances

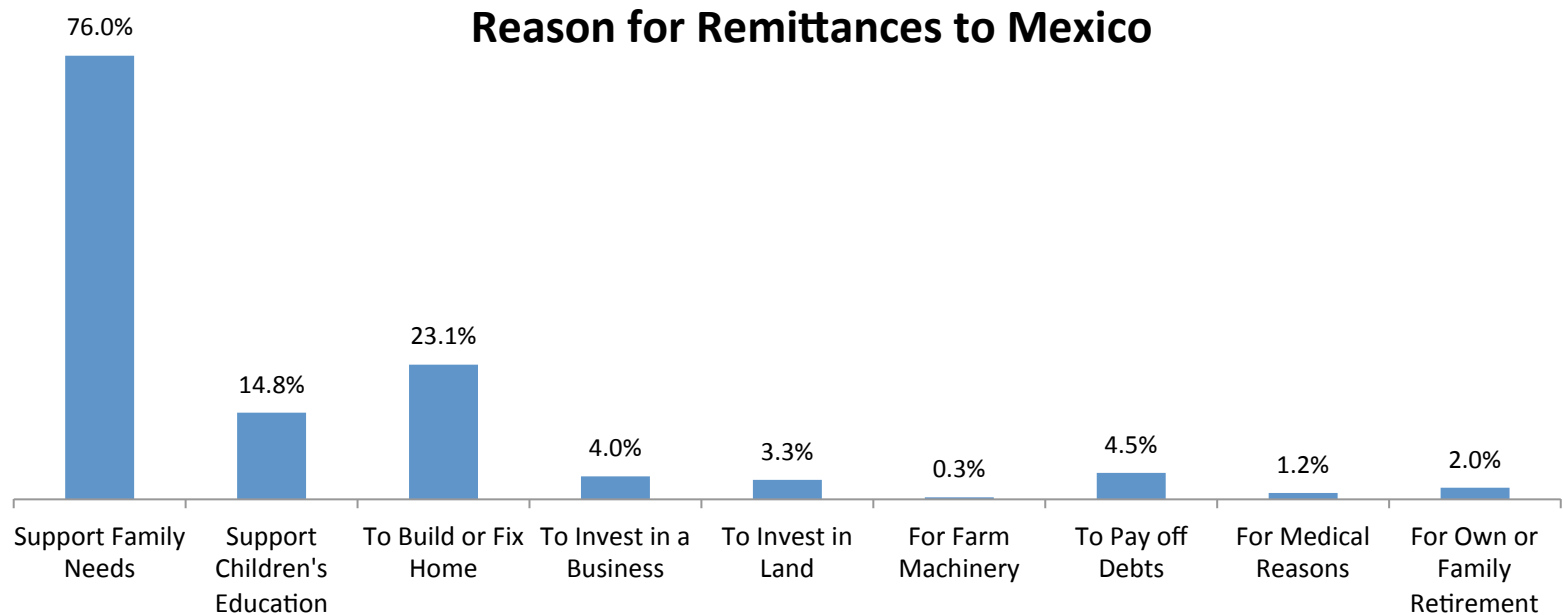
- The majority of respondents (60%) sent funds to Mexico at least once per month; only 15% never sent funds.



J1. Regularity of remittances sent Mientras estaba en los Estados Unidos, ¿que tan seguido mandaba dinero a México? ¿Diría usted....

Remittances Support Families – and to a Lesser Extent Investments

- Primary reasons for sending remittances were to support the needs of family/children, and to build/fix a home.

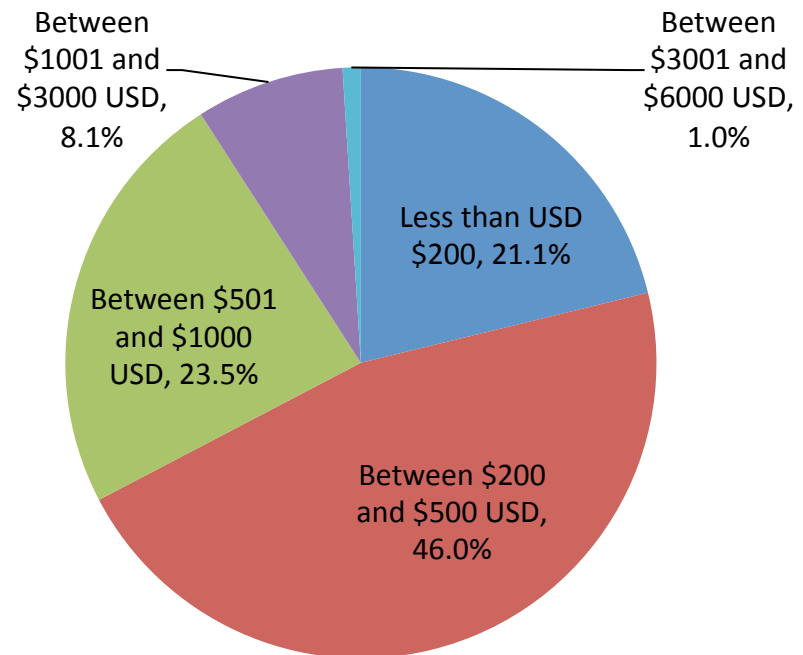


J2. What were the main reasons for remittances? ¿Cuáles eran las razones principales por las que usted mandaba remesas? ...

Remittance Amounts Are Significant

- Nearly half of all respondents (46%) report sending between \$200 and \$500 per month.

Monthly Remittance Amount



J3. Amount in dollars of remittances sent to Mexico while in the U.S. ¿Cúanto mandaba en promedio en US Dólares? ¿Diría usted...

Planning a Return to Mexico

Return Migrants not connecting with Government Assistance/Information

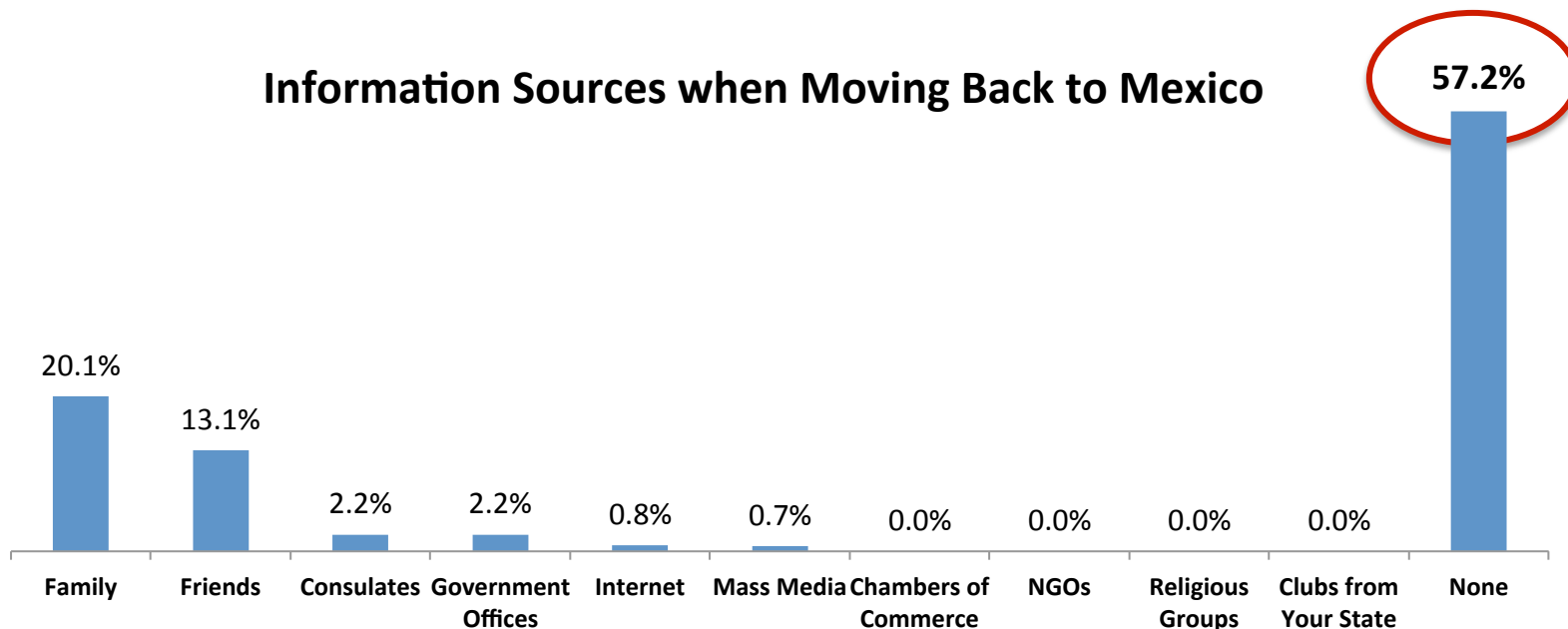
- Only 13 respondents (2%) reported having benefitted from a return migration program implemented by the Mexican Government.

| Program | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Oportunidades | 3 |
| Paisano | 2 |
| PAL | 1 |
| PAL/Oportunidades | 1 |
| PROCAMPO | 1 |
| Registry for children/Registro para mis hijos | 1 |
| Renewal of children's studies/ Revalidación de estudios de mis hijos | 1 |
| Auto import/importación de auto | 1 |
| No charge to move furniture/no cobraron a pasar los muebles | 1 |
| Don't remember/No recuerda | 1 |

L5. Benefited from a government program after return. Program 1 ¿Usted se benefició de algún programa de retorno implementado por el gobierno?

Many Return Migrants Receive Little or No Information to Facilitate Return

- Family and friends are the primary – often sole – source of information regarding return migration.

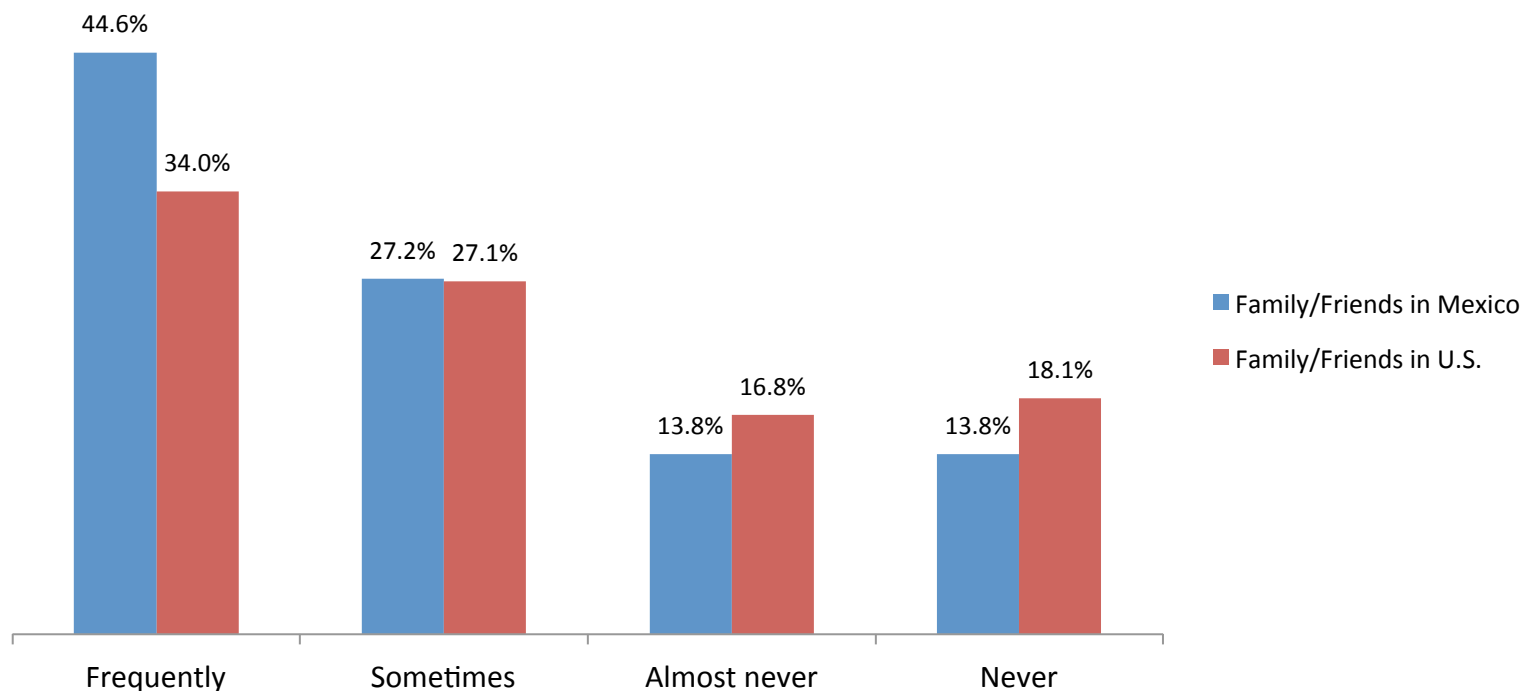


L3. Information to facilitate return was provided by ... Si usted obtuvo alguna información que le facilitara su retorno a México...

Family and Friends in Mexico

Help Ease the Transition

- Return migrants were more likely to discuss their return with family and friends in Mexico than those in the U.S.



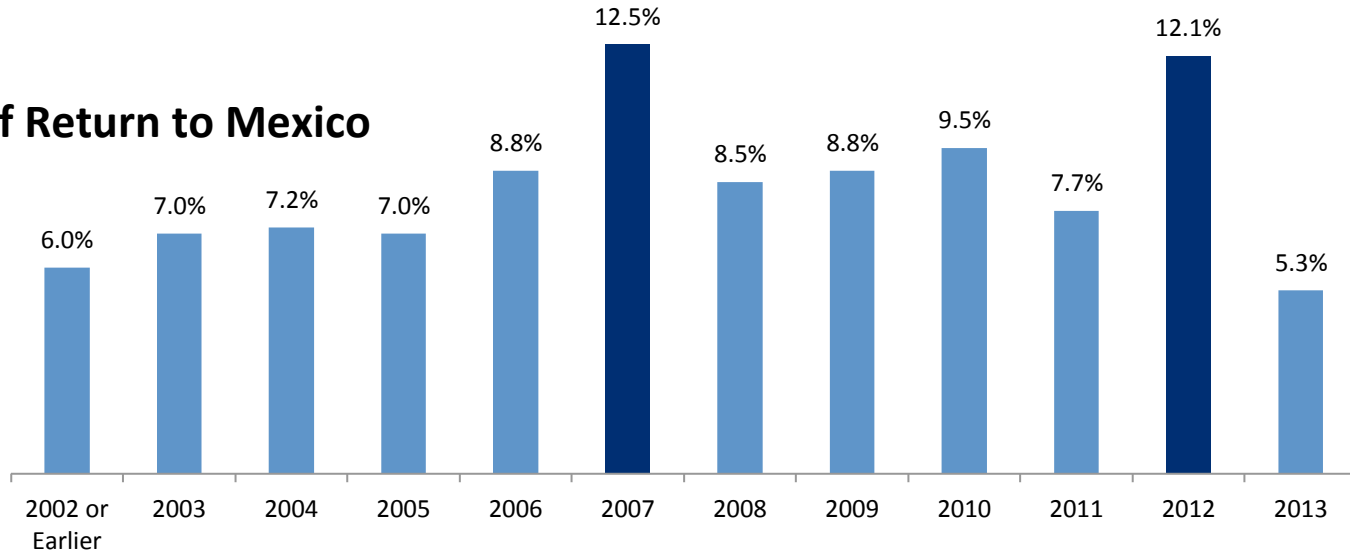
L4. Frequency of conversation with family and friends about return before returning Antes de regresar por última vez, ¿que tan seguido platicó con sus familiares/amigos en México / US

Returning to Mexico

Return Migration Spikes in 2007 and 2012

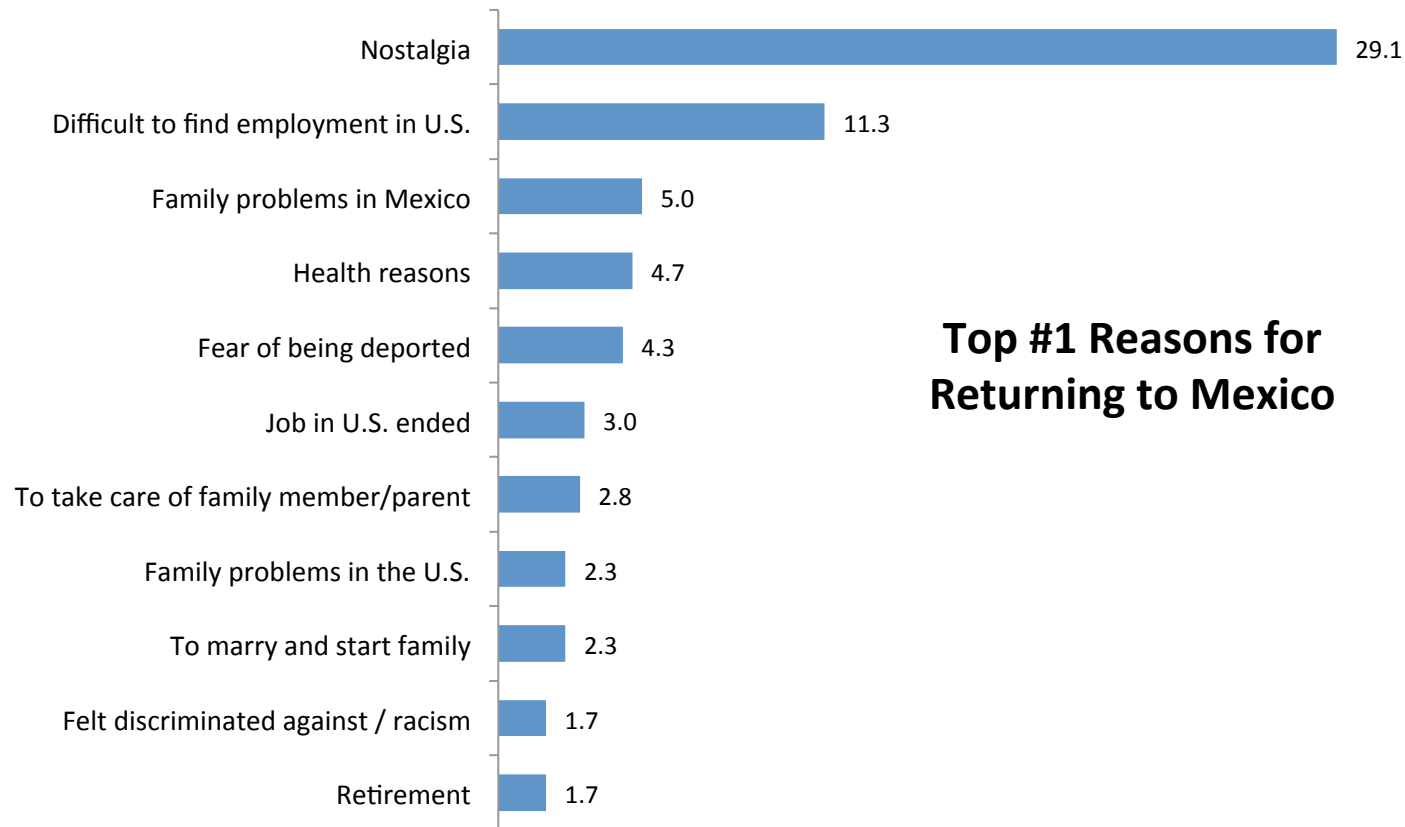
- A spike in returns in 2007 corresponds to the onset of the economic downturn in the U.S.
- A sweeping reform of Mexico's immigration law in April 2011 facilitated the return and reintegration of Mexicans abroad and likely influenced the 2012 spike.

Year of Return to Mexico



K1. Year of return to Mexico ¿En qué año regresó a México?

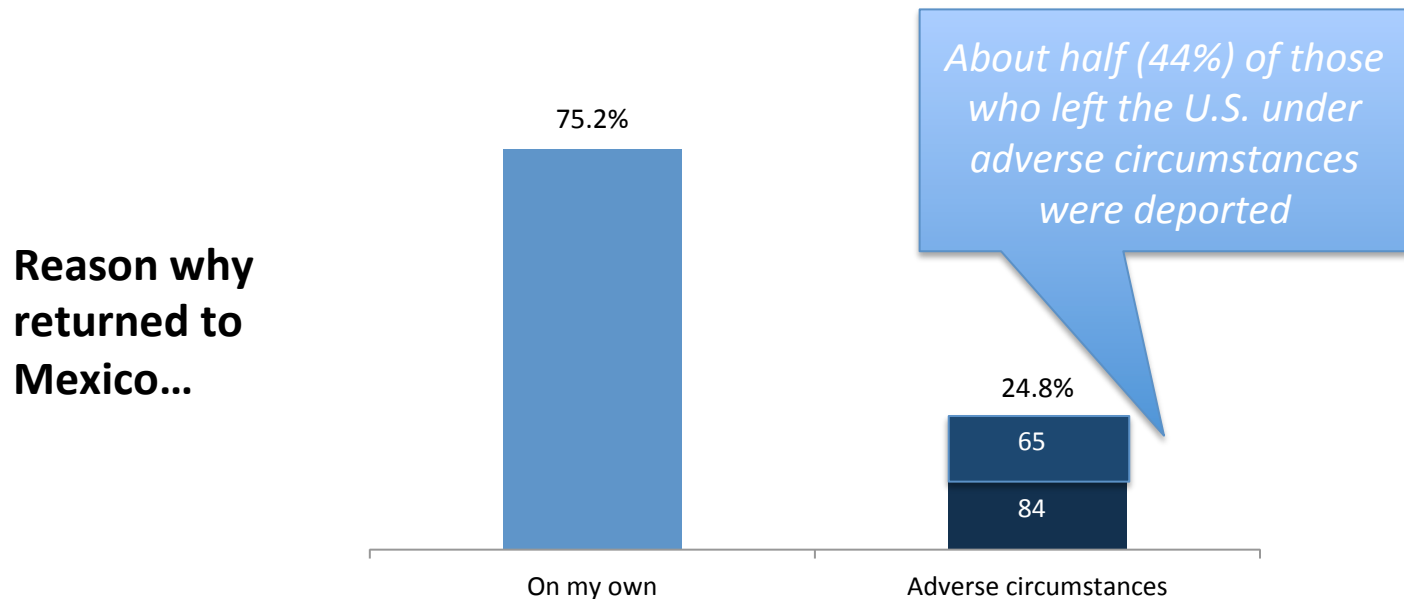
Nostalgia is a Strong Driver for Return Migration



L6 Returned to Mexico / Regresó a Mexico porque...

Deportation Not a Major Factor in Decision to Return to Mexico

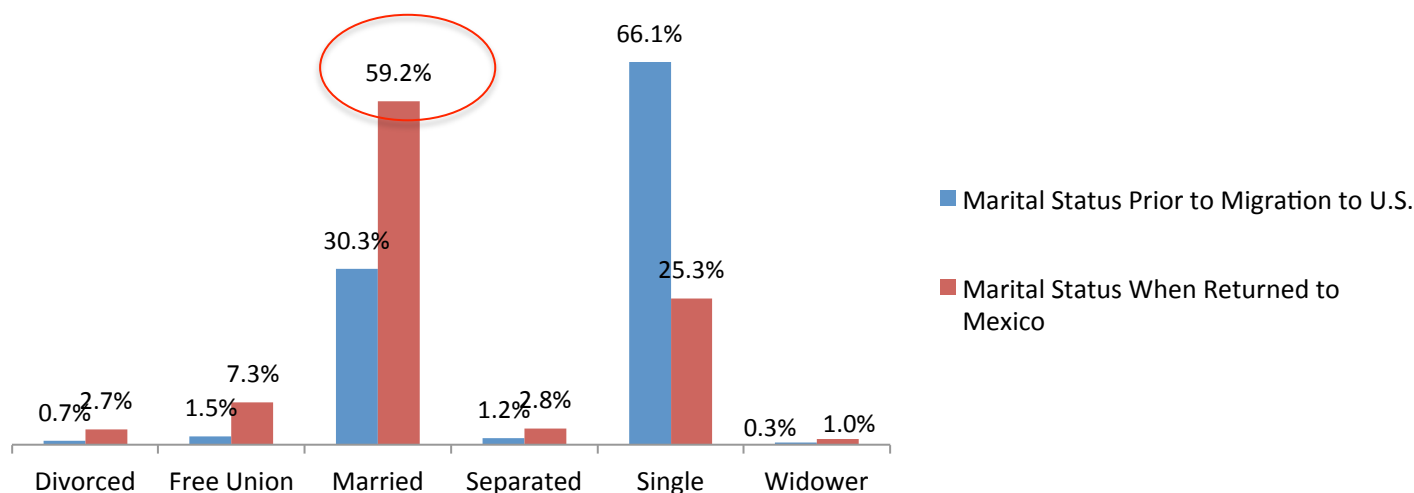
- Those who returned to Mexico through deportation account for only about one in ten (11%) respondents overall.
- A majority of respondents (75%) noted that they were self-motivated to return to Mexico.



Respondents More Likely to Return to Mexico Married

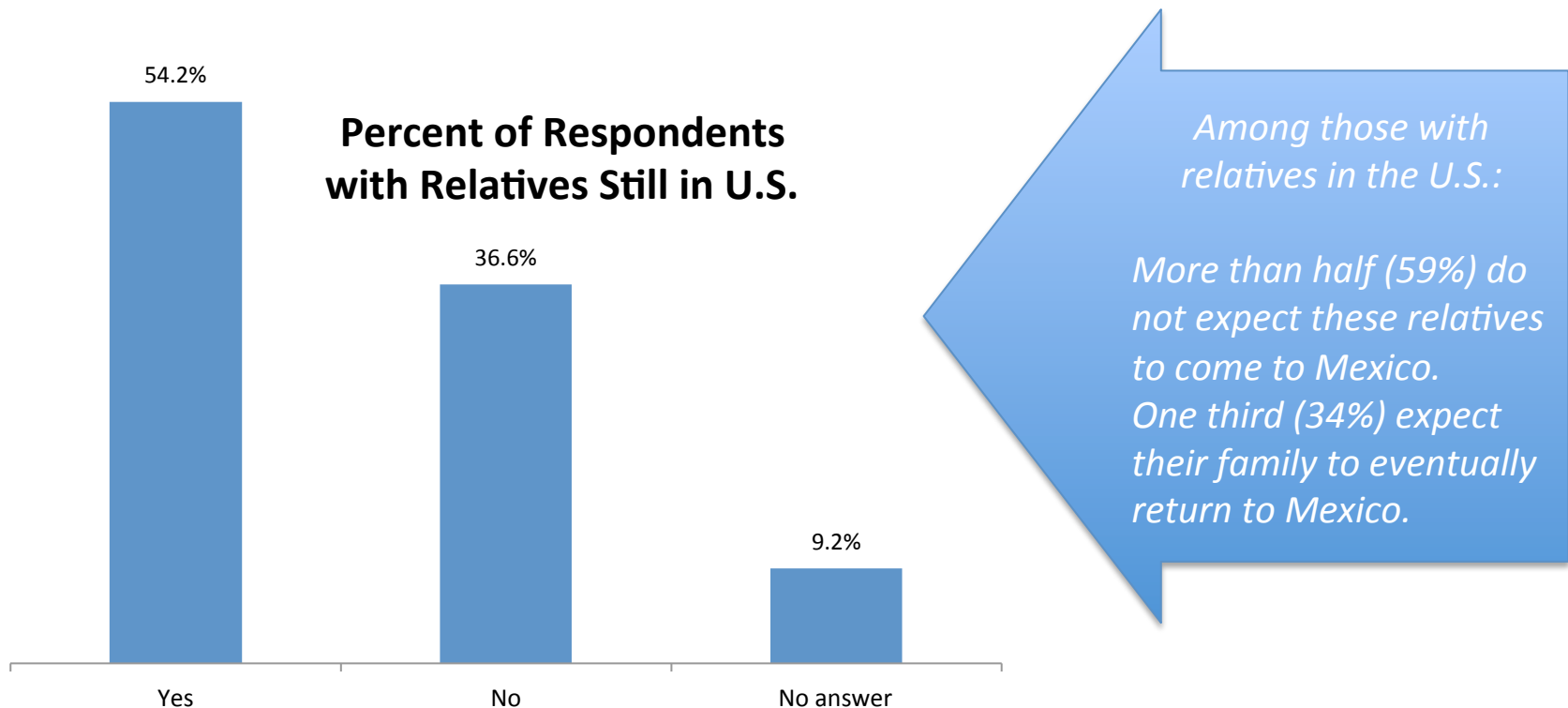
- Respondents were twice as likely to be married than single when they returned to Mexico. Close to 90% of spouses are also Mexican nationals.

Marital Status Prior to Migrating to U.S. and Upon Return to Mexico



A7. Marital status before emigrating ¿Cuál era su estado civil antes de su primer o único ingreso a los Estado...- Antes de irse . A7. Marital status after return ¿Cuál era su estado civil después de regresar - Estado Civil. A8. Spouse citizenship (SI CASADO/A) ¿Cuáles de las siguientes nacionalidades tiene su esposo/a?

More than Half of Return Migrants Left Family Behind in U.S.

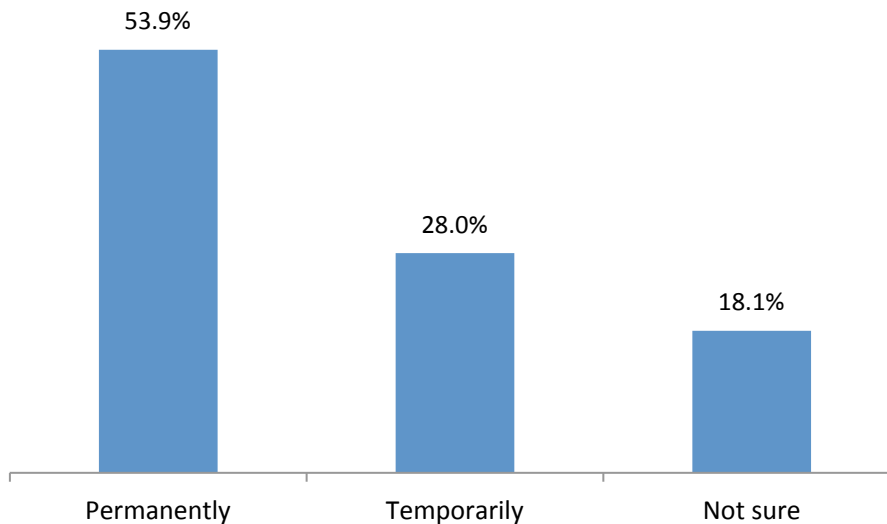


K12. Left other family members in the U.S. Dejó usted a otros familiares en Estados Unidos? K13. Anticipates that other family members will return to Mexico ¿Anticipa usted que algunos de los miembros de su familia que están en los Estados Unidos regresarán?

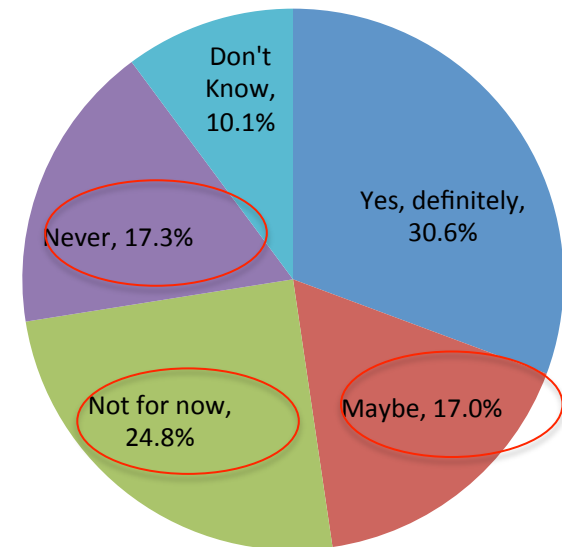
Return Migrants are back in Mexico for the Long Haul

- More than half (53.9%) intend to stay in Mexico permanently.
- Nearly two in ten (17.3%) state they will never return to the U.S.

Intention to stay in Mexico is High



Limited Drive to Return to U.S.



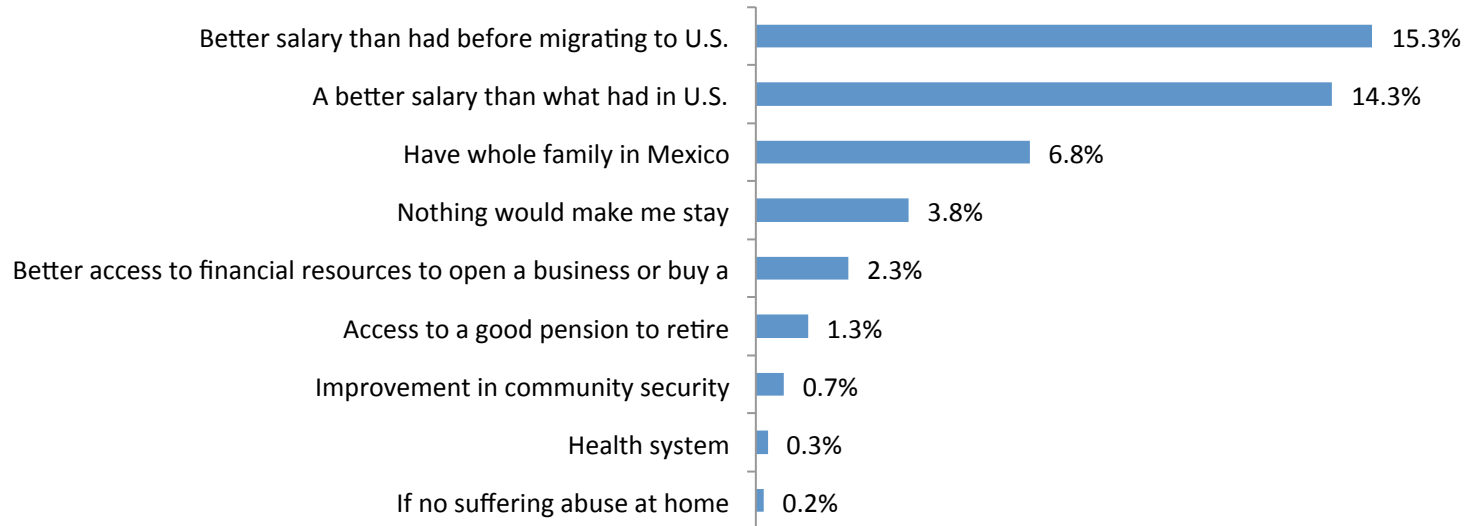
L20. Intention to stay in Mexico...Cuando usted regresó a México (si fueron varias veces última vez), ¿usted tenía la intención de quedarse aquí...

L21. Has intention to return to the U.S. ... ¿Hoy en día, tiene usted intención de emigrar otra vez a los Estados Unidos?

Jobs and Family Would Keep Respondents in Mexico after Return Migration

- The most compelling reasons for staying in Mexico would be better salaries than previously in either Mexico or the U.S.
- Keeping the family together would also motivate respondents to stay.

Top #1 Reasons for Staying in Mexico

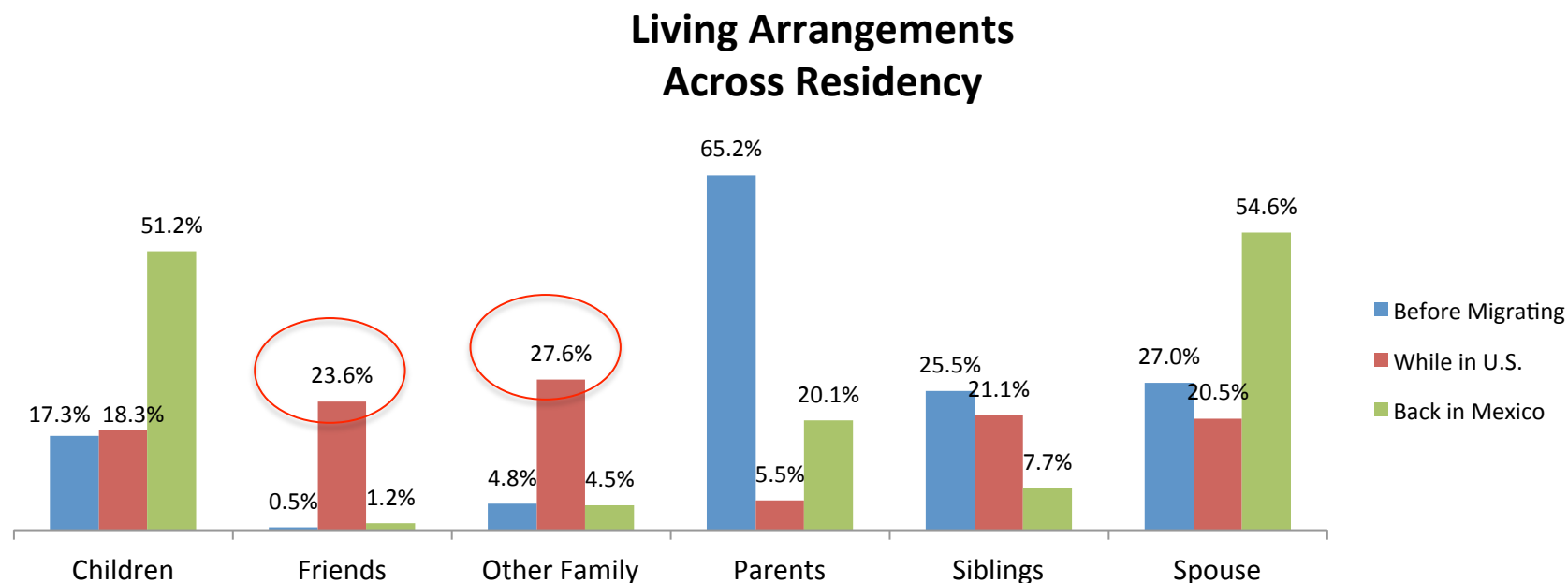


L24. Would remain in Mexico with... ¿Cuáles serían los tres principales factores que le harían quedarse en Mexico?

The Return Migrant Experience

Return Migrants More Likely to Live with Spouses and Children

- U.S. living arrangements are less formal or traditional than what is seen in Mexico either before or after return migration.

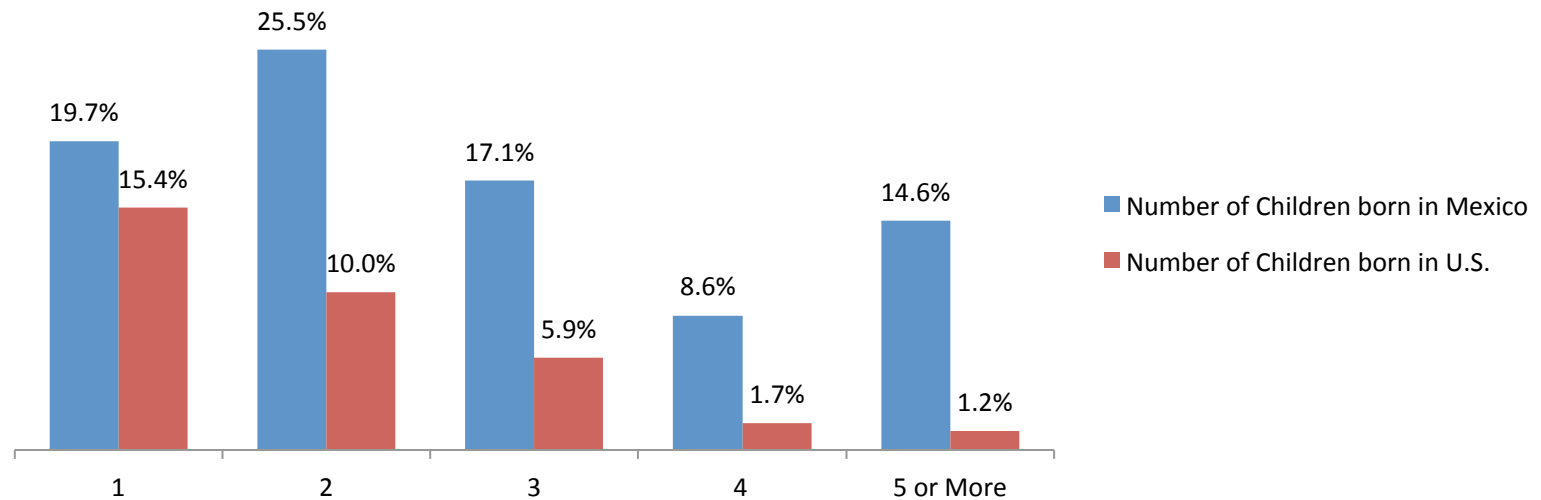


D3. With whom lived before migrating / In U.S. / Today ¿Con quien vivía antes de emigrar a los EE.UU.? / Mientras estuvo en EE.UU. / Hoy

More Children Born in Mexico than in the U.S.

- Respondents reported more children born in Mexico – perhaps due to the short average residencies in the U.S.

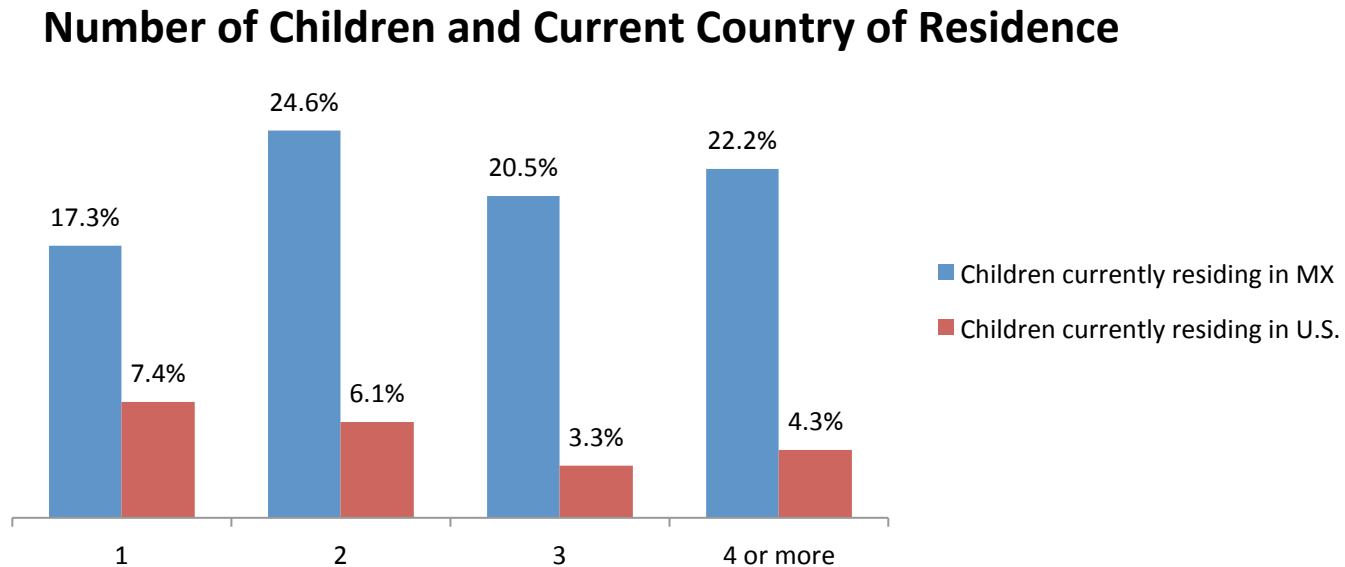
Children Born in Mexico or U.S.



A10: How many of your children were born in Mexico? In the U.S.?

Regardless of Country of Birth, Most Children Live in Mexico with Parents

- Return migrant families in Mexico tend to be largely intact, with majority of children living in Mexico with respondents.

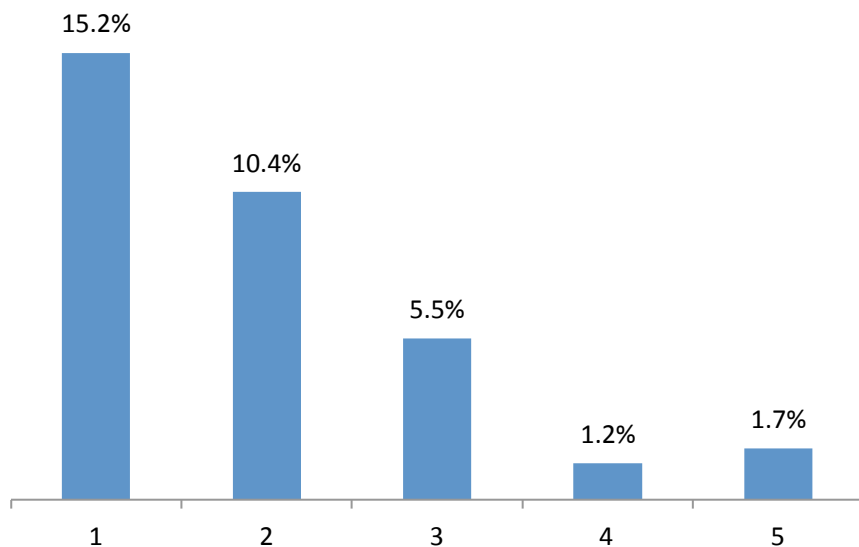


A10: How many of your children are currently residing in the United States or in Mexico?

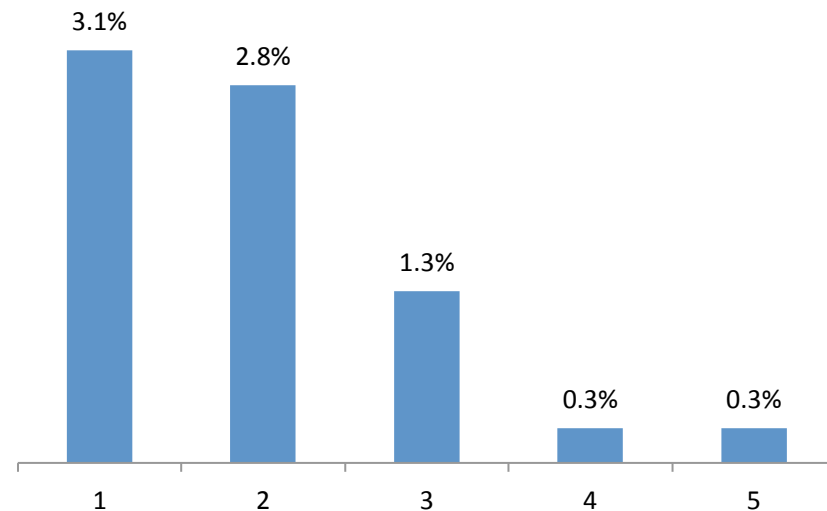
Few Children Return to U.S., Despite U.S. Citizenship

- Although many respondents have children that are legal U.S. residents, few report their children returning to the U.S. after their return migration.

Number of Children with US Citizenship



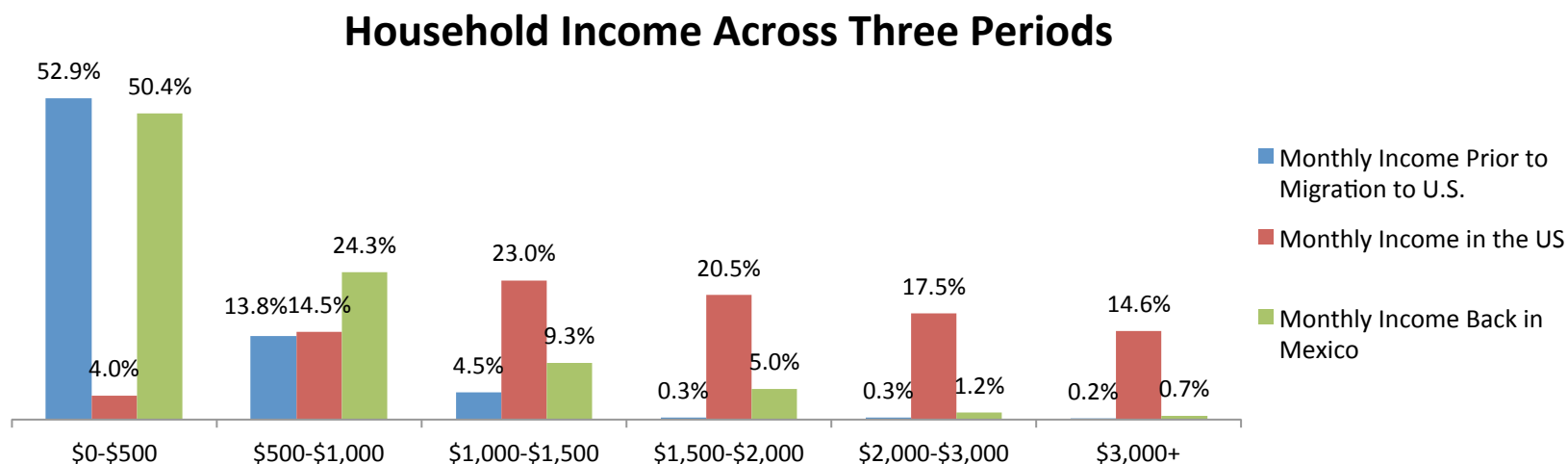
**Number of Children that Returned to U.S.
after Return Migration to Mexico**



A10: How many of your children have U.S. citizenship? A10: How many of your children returned to the United States after you returned to Mexico?

Household Income Shows Slight Increase Upon Return to Mexico

- Monthly household income increases slightly upon return to Mexico. However, more than half (52.9%) of the population continues to earn less than \$500 per month.



D7a. Total monthly household income before emigrating / In U.S. / Today ¿Cuántos eran los ingresos totales ganados mensualmente antes del primer viaje / en EE.UU. / Hoy

Exchange rate Peso =0.078 Dollar.

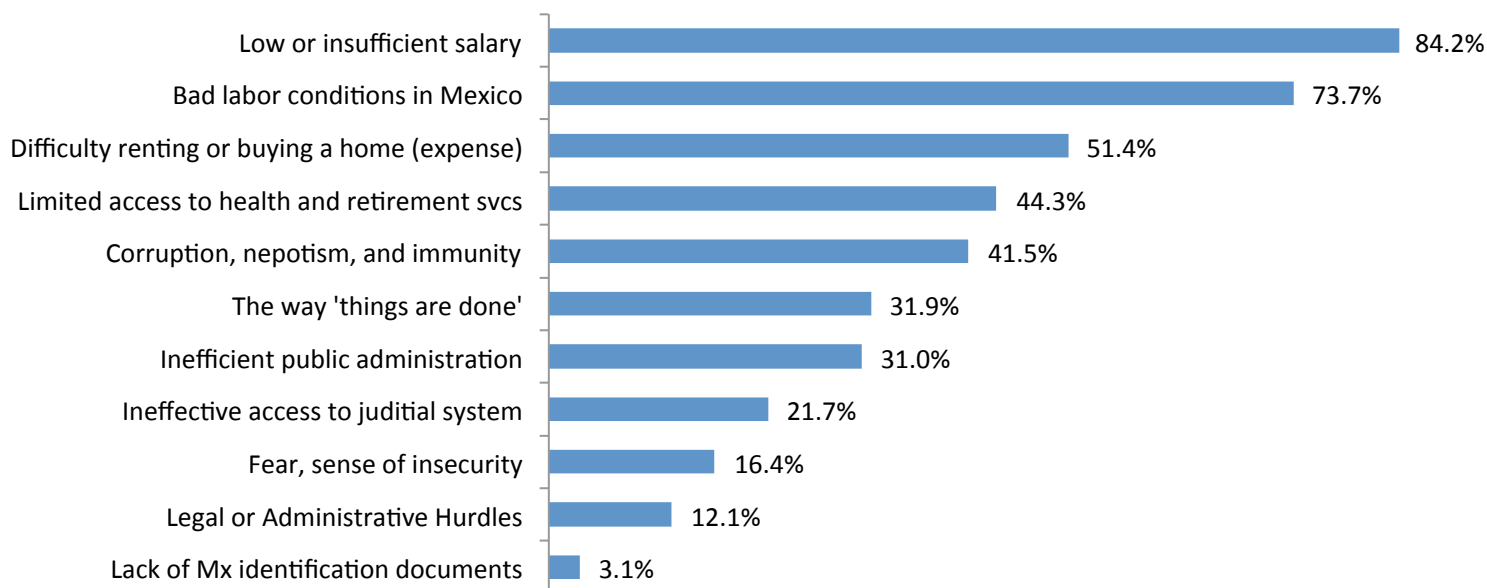
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A Difficult Transition

More Than Half of Return Migrants Encounter Adversities in Mexico

- Among those who encountered difficulties in Mexico, a majority centered on economic issues such as low salary and poor labor conditions.

Adversities Encountered Back in Mexico

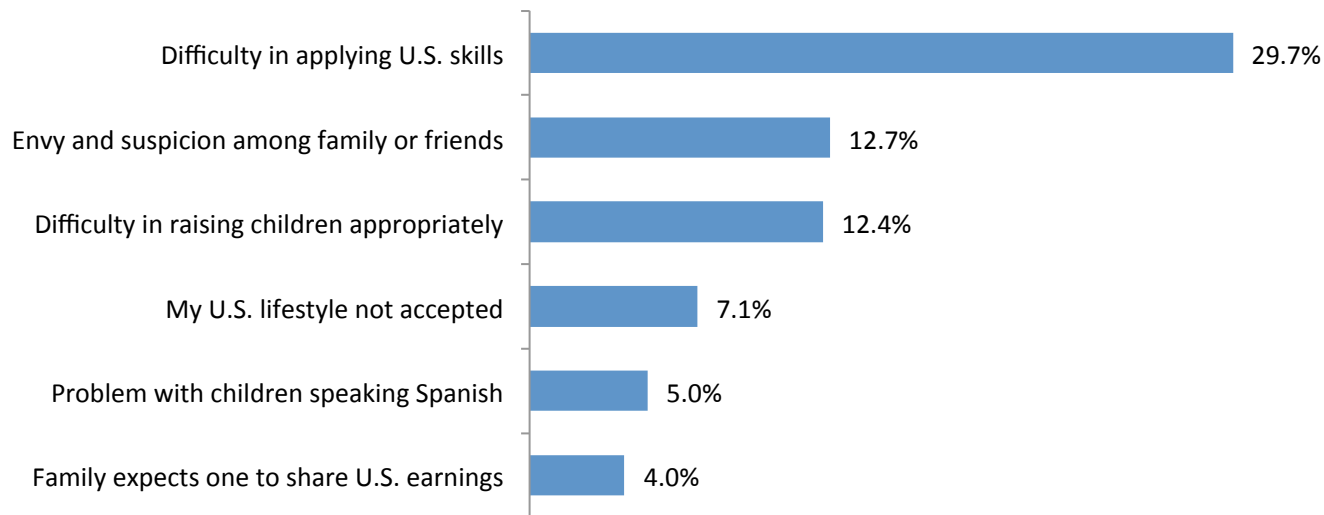


N4. Has confronted difficulty for due to ... Por cada una de las siguientes dificultades, dígame si la ha enfrentado ...-

Fitting in and Raising Children Also Difficult for Some

- Those who noted they faced adversities noted personal issues of adapting to family and work life in Mexico.

Personal / Family Adversities Encountered Back in Mexico

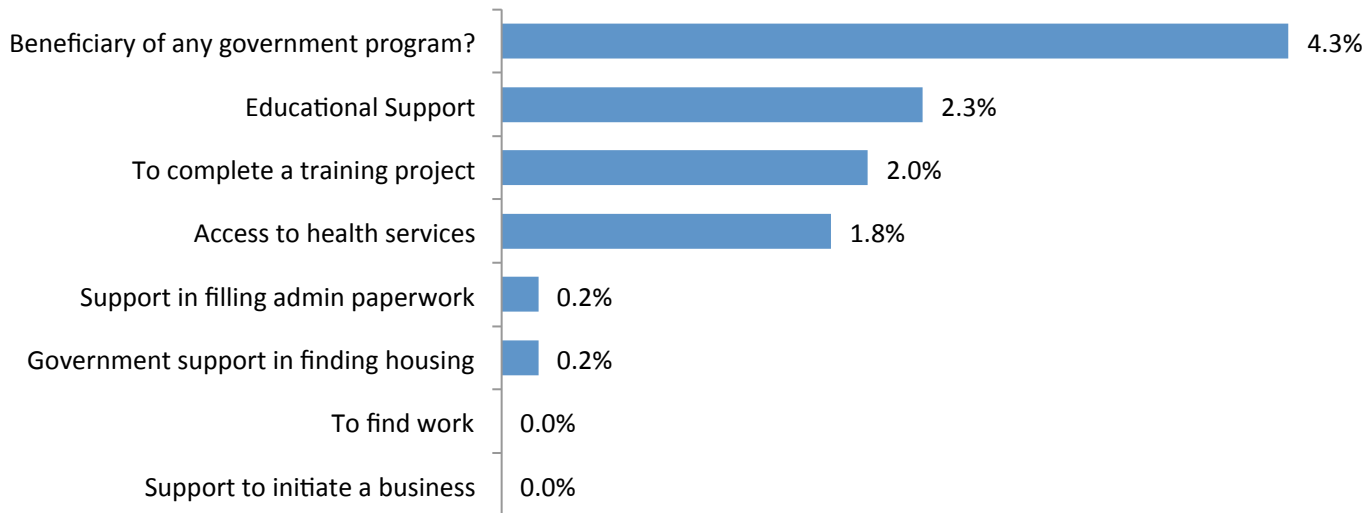


N4. Has confronted difficulty for due to ... Por cada una de las siguientes dificultades, dígame si la ha enfrentado ...-

Reintegration Support Upon Return to Mexico is Scarce

- Return migrants receive little to no help from established government and public entities.

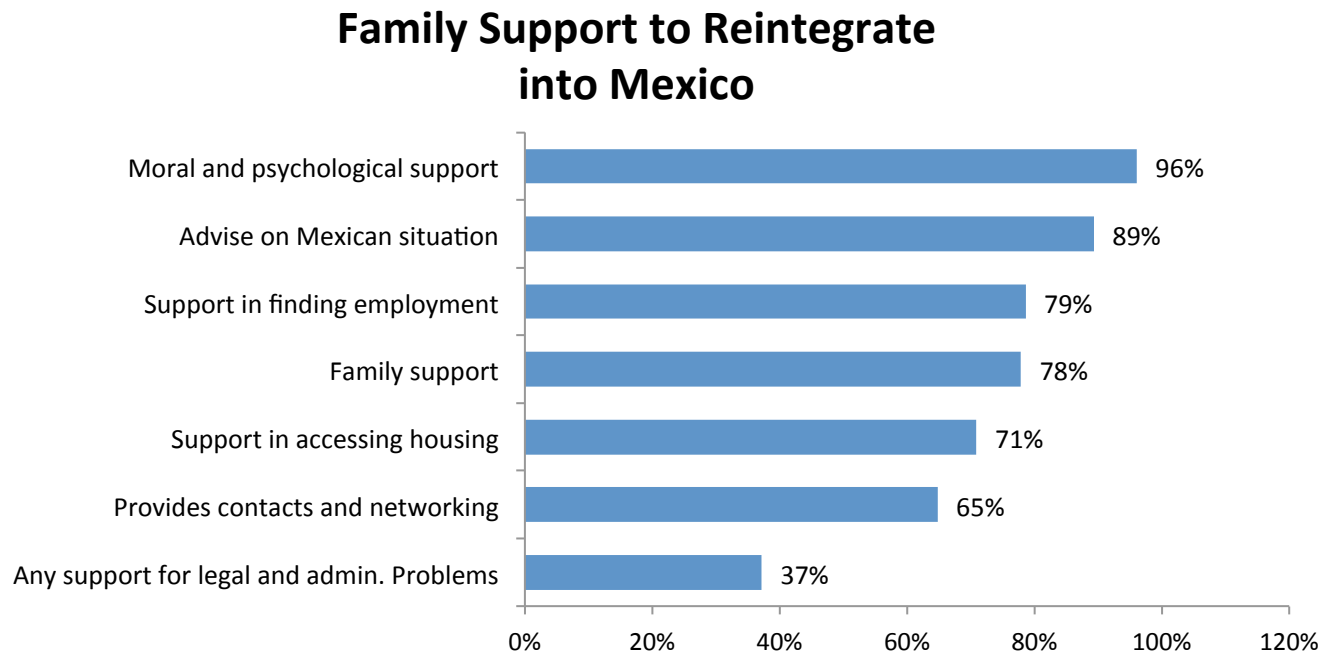
Reported Support in Mexico



N7. Reintegration has been facilitated by ¿Qué tipo de apoyo ha recibido?

Family in Mexico Fulfills Orientation and Counseling Duties during Re-entry

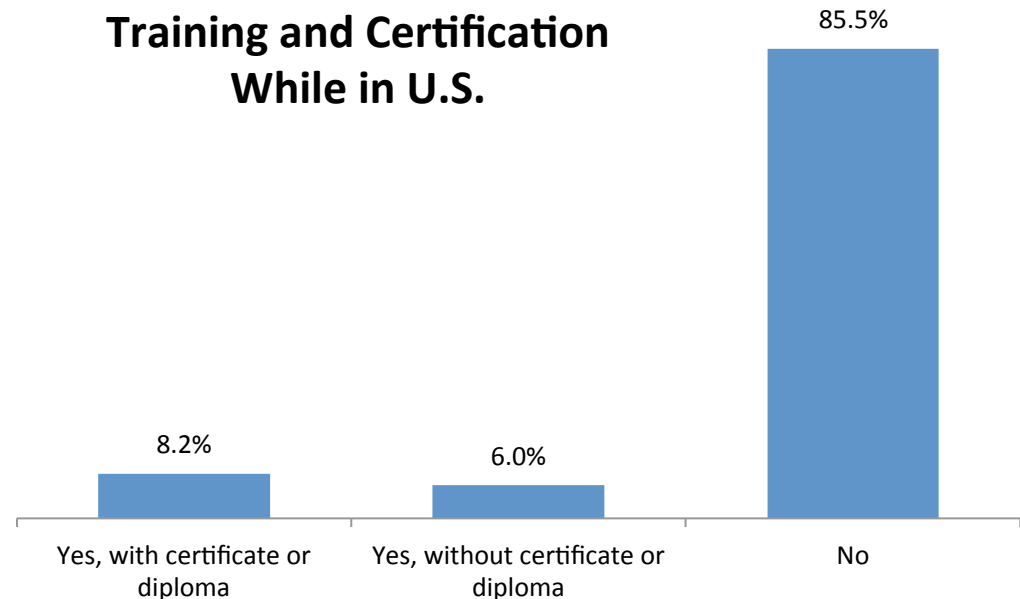
- Return migrants rely on family and friends to provide guidance and direction when returning to Mexico.



N8. Received family support after return ¿Su familia lo apoyó a usted cuando regresó?

Few Migrants Received Training or Certification in the U.S.

- Respondents received limited vocational or professional training while living in the U.S.
- The most-mentioned certifications included High School diplomas, English-language certification, and various trade school degrees.

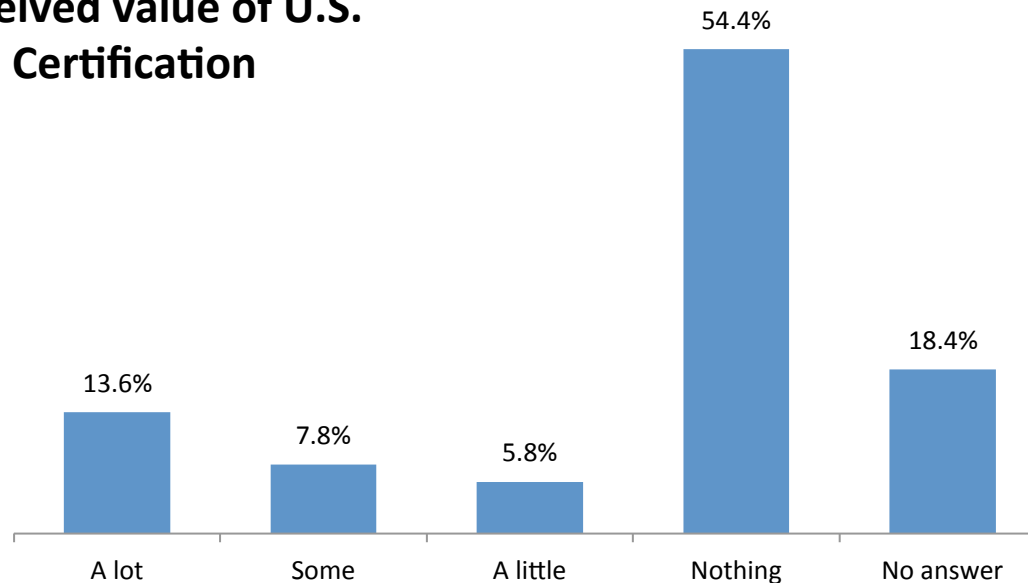


H1. Received vocational training while in the U.S. ¿Usted recibió algún tipo de formación vocacional cuando estuvo en los Estados Unidos? H2. Type of diploma or certificate professional training ¿Qué tipo de entrenamiento adquirió?

Those who Received U.S. Certifications Did Not See Any Advantage in Mexico

- This is likely due to relatively low-level types of certifications obtained in the U.S. (high school diploma, English-language courses, etc.)

**Perceived value of U.S.
Certification**

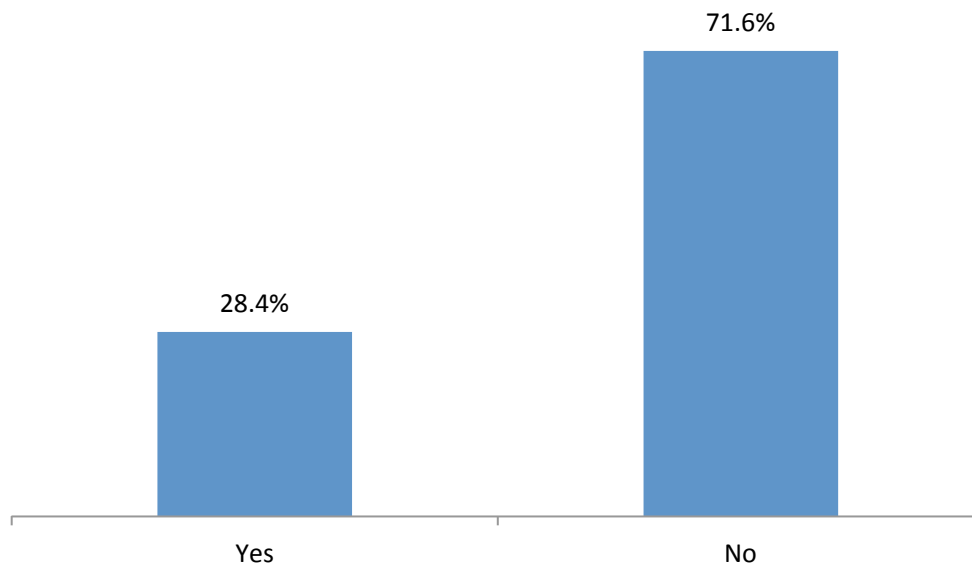


M2. Advantages in Mexico provided by having obtained a U.S. diploma ¿El diploma (as) que usted obtuvo, le ha traído mucho, algo, un poco ó nada de ventajas financieras o profesionales en México?

Transfer of U.S.-Acquired Skill Set to Current Work in Mexico is Difficult

- Only about one-fourth (28.4%) of respondents are utilizing skills learned in the U.S. in their current work in Mexico.

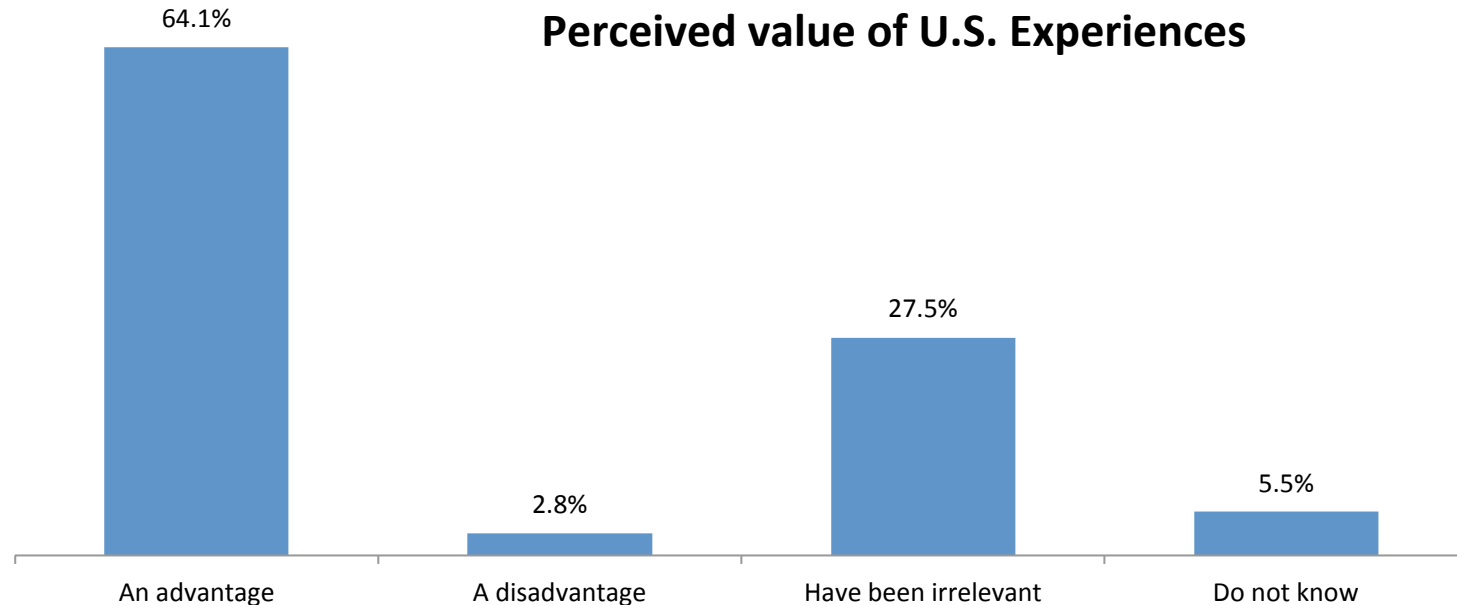
Utilization of Skills Learned in the U.S.



M10. Applies skills acquired while in the U.S. in current job En la realización de su trabajo actual, ¿usted aplica algún tipo de conocimientos que adquirió en los Estados Unidos?

Nevertheless, U.S. Experience Seen as Valuable in Re-Adaptation Process

- Two thirds (64.1%) of respondents positively perceived their experiences in the U.S. as helpful in their adaptation to life in Mexico.



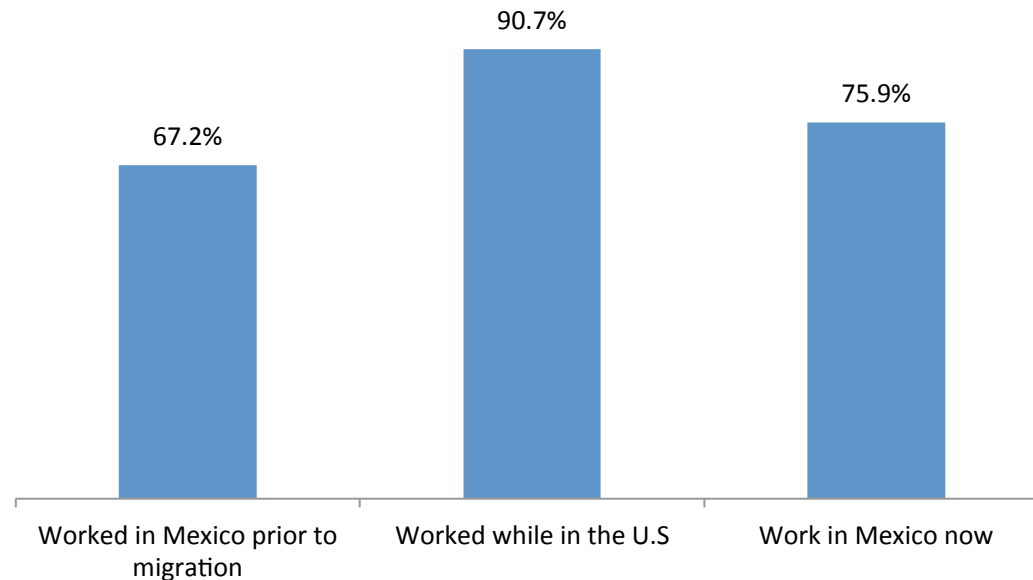
N1. Experiences acquired in the U.S have represented for re-adaptation in Mexico ...¿Qué piensa de la experiencia (as) que usted adquirió en los Estados Unidos? ¿Diría que le han representado en su adaptación a México...

Business Investment & Entrepreneurship

Workforce Participation Peaks While in the U.S.

- Nearly all respondents (91%) worked during their stay in the U.S.
- Employment levels are higher back in Mexico than prior to U.S. migration.

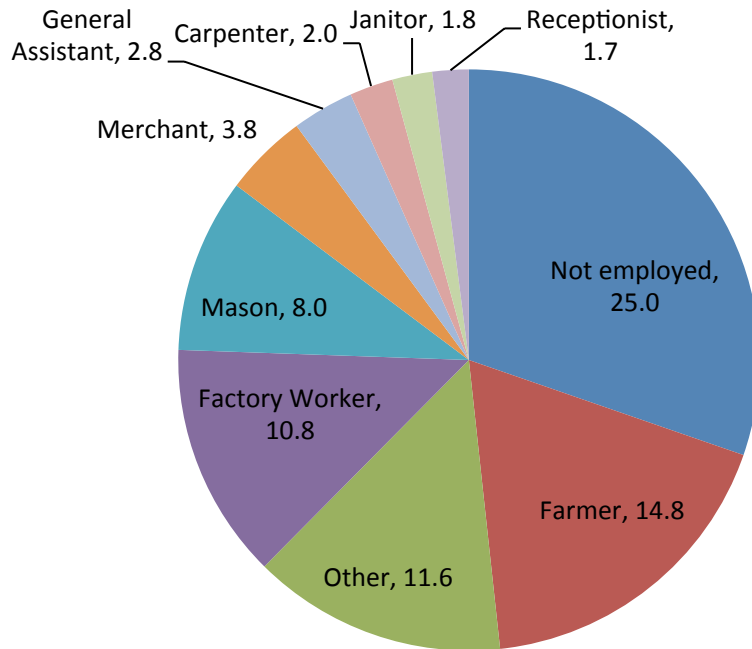
Workforce Presence Across Countries



C1. Worked continuously in Mexico before emigrating Usted trabaja (trabajaba) de forma continua...en México antes de emigrar (primer viaje)? ... While in the US ... Back in Mexico

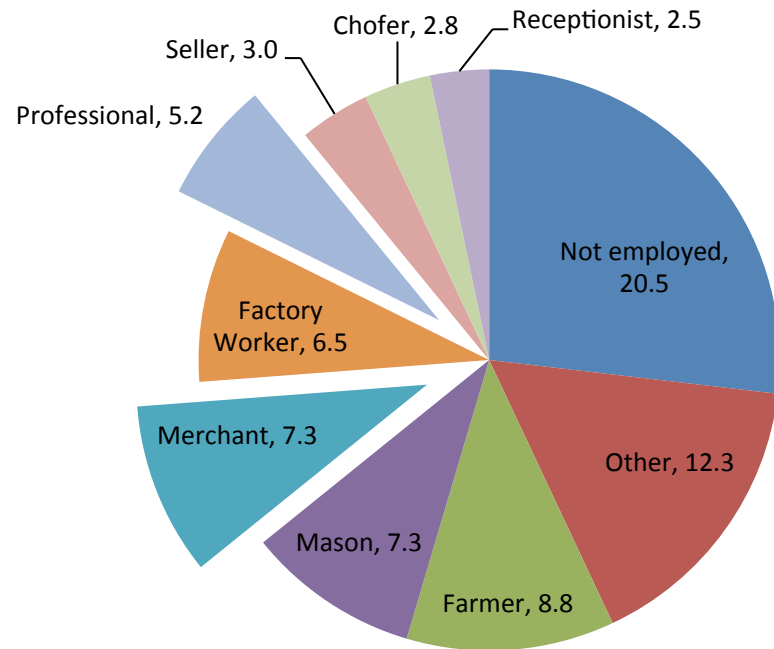
Agriculture/Blue Collar Occupations Prevalent; Some Growth in Key Sectors

**Top 10 Occupations at Departure
From Mexico**



C2. Occupation before emigrating

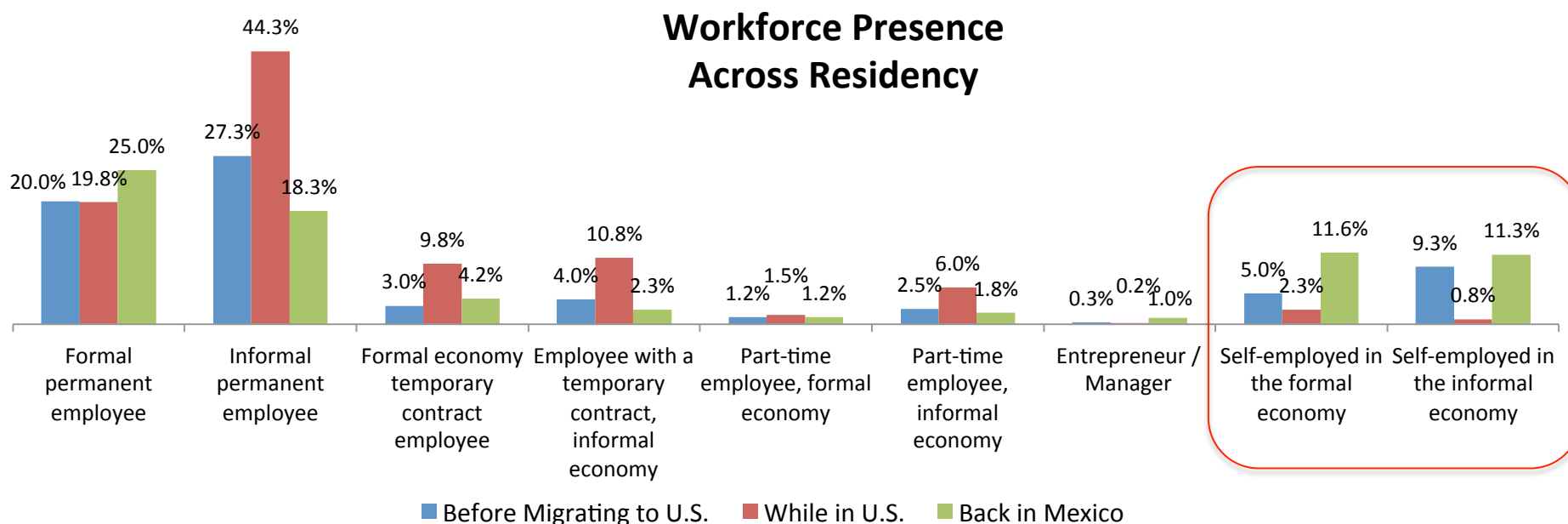
Top 10 Occupations Today



C2. Occupation Today

Few Self-Reported Entrepreneurs... but Many Self-Employed

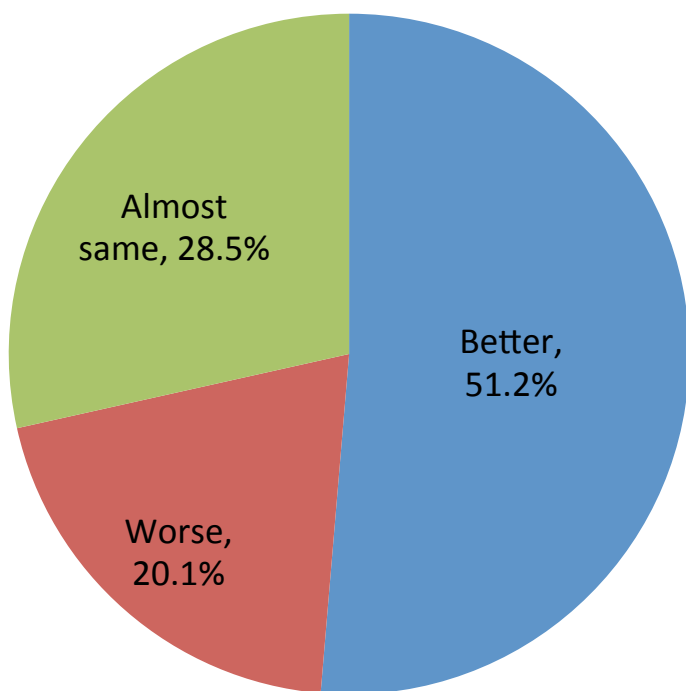
- Upon return to Mexico, there is a significant spike in the ranks of the Self-Employed, as well as greater participation in the Formal Permanent Employee workforce.



C5a. Employment situation before emigration / in the U.S. / Today Especifique estado de empleo antes de emigrar / en EEUU / Hoy

Overall, a Reported Improvement in Economic Situation

**Change in Economic Situation
From Migration to Today**

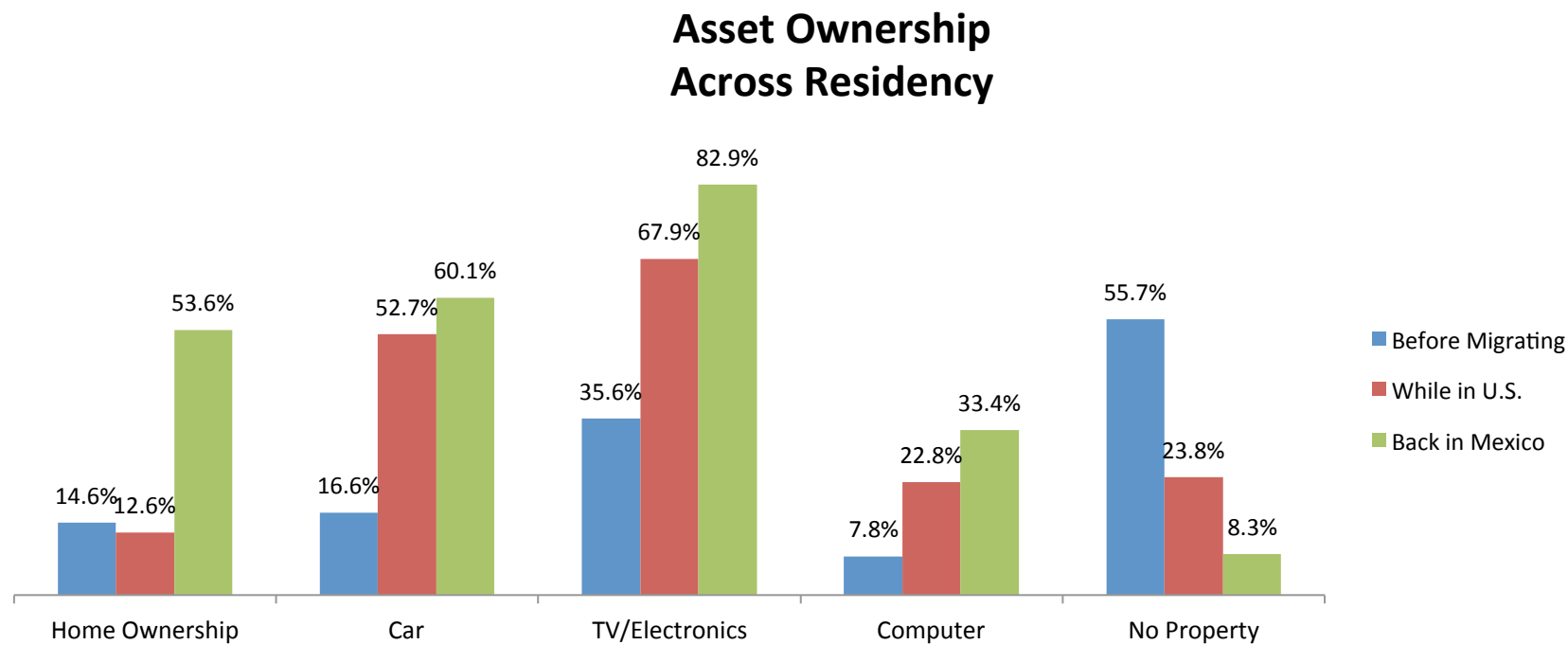


Just over half of respondents reported that their economic situation is better since they first migrated to the U.S.

D1. Change of economic situation since first emigration to the U.S. until today Cómo ha cambiado su condición económica desde su primer viaje a EE.UU hasta ahora? Diría que...

Changes in Assets and Ownership

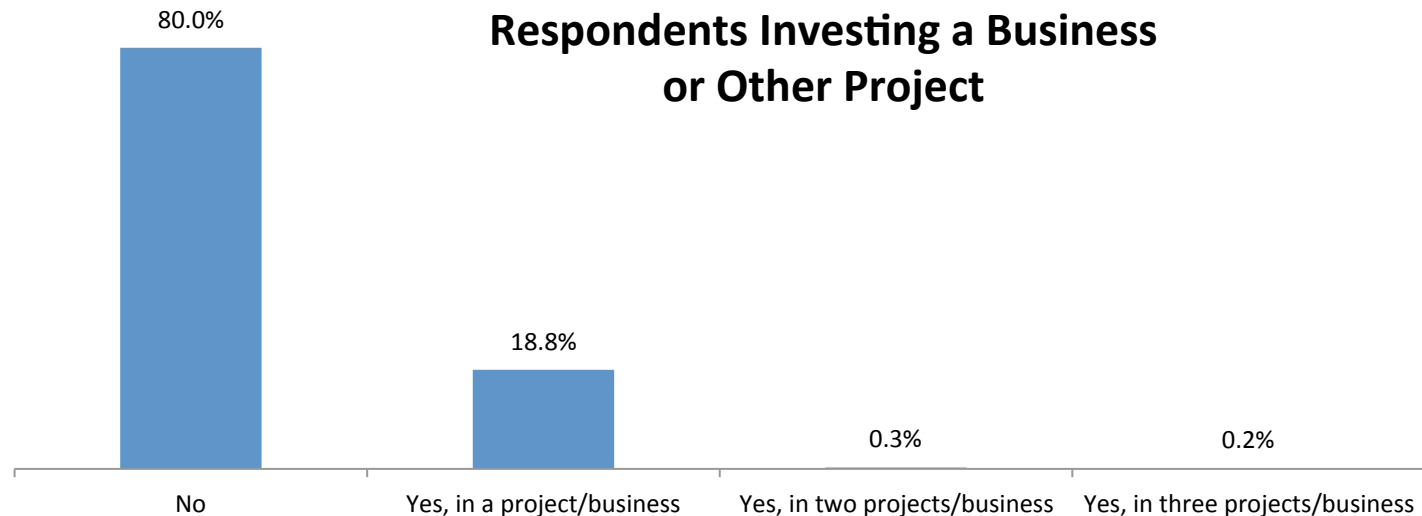
- After return migration, the change in ownership of key assets is dramatic, particularly home ownership. More than half of return migrants own a home back in Mexico.



D2a a. Asset ownership before emigration / in U.S. / Today ¿Usted tenía algún tipo de bienes antes de emigrar a los EE.UU? En EE.UU / Hoy

Two in Ten Migrants Invest in a Business or Project Upon Their Return

- However, the majority of return migrants do not invest in a business or a project upon their return.



M13. Decision to invest after return Después de que regresó, ¿usted hizo algún tipo de inversion en México?

Business Investments Upon Return to Mexico

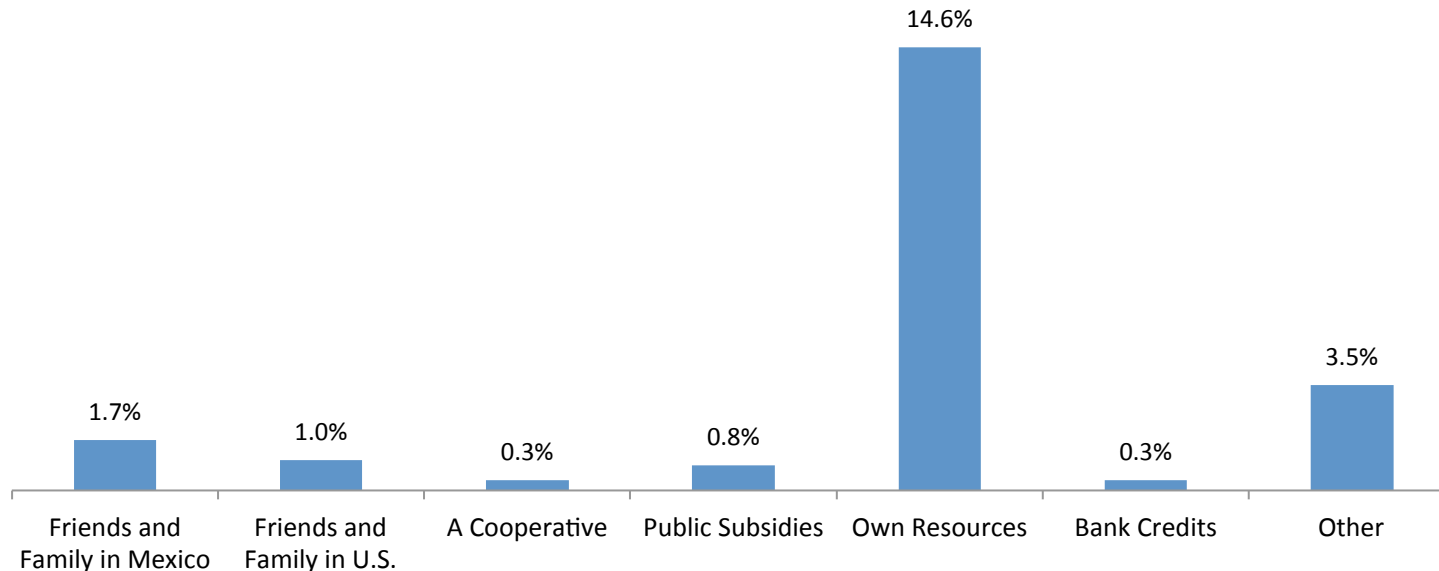
- The investment made in business development is relatively low.
- The most frequent investment amounts in a business were 100,000 Pesos (~ US\$ 7,753) and 50,000 Pesos (~US\$ 3,876)
- The average investment amount is 71,705 Pesos (~US\$ 5,560).

| Investment per Project (Pesos) | Percent of Projects |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 100,000 | 12.1% |
| 50,000 | 11.2% |
| 10,000 | 8.6% |
| 30,000 | 6.0% |
| 40,000 | 6.0% |
| 20,000 | 5.2% |
| 60,000 | 5.2% |
| 25,000 | 4.3% |
| 200,000 | 4.3% |
| 15,000 | 3.4% |

M14. Amount of investment project 1 ¿Cuánto ha invertido en cada proyecto? (PESOS)

Sources for Business Investment

- Business start-ups are for the most part self-funded; return migrants seem to have limited banking and financing resources.



M15. Financial resources to support investment projects . ¿De dónde han provenido los recursos financieros para apoyar los proyectos?

Type of Business Investments

- Open-ended questions regarding the types of businesses funded in Mexico resulted in a wide variety of responses.
 - Primary presence in retail establishments with a low cost of entry:
 - Clothing and shoe retail
 - Food
 - Snacks
 - Auto purchase for use as taxi
 - Truck purchase for agricultural and hauling work
 - Farming and farm animals

Demographics

Participant Profile

Exploratory study - 601 interviews with return migrants in three types of localities:

1. Metropolitan area: Guadalajara and nearby municipalities.
2. Middle size city: Lagos de Moreno.
3. Rural area: municipalities in Los Altos de Jalisco.

We pre-established gender and education criteria based on Mexican statistical data.

Demographics

Location

25% from Lagos de Moreno

25% from Los Altos

50% from Guadalajara

Education

66% Elementary and middle school

24% High school

10% Undergraduate and graduate

Age

95% working age 18-34 and 35-49