



# **2022 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**

## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MIGRATION



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## **Introduction**

This report provides an overview of information on migration from the 2022 Population and Housing Census (PHC). Migration is the process of moving from one district or province to another (internal migration) and from one country to another (international migration).

Migration, along with fertility and mortality, is an important component of population dynamics. In-migration boosts the population while out-migration decreases it. Data on internal and international migration along with fertility and mortality are also fundamental to prepare accurate population estimates for planning purposes.

Unlike the unique events of births and deaths that define an individual's lifetime, migration can be a multiple event. It is within this context that questions with different reference points in terms of population mobility were asked during the census. Questions which were asked include usual place of residence at birth, usual place of residence during the last census in August 2012 and usual place of residence in the last twelve months.

The population census is the only source that asks an entire population, once in every 10 years, about their migration behavior and as such provides a valuable source of information for assessing the impact that migration has on the size and composition of local populations. Despite their utility, the data have limitations in that they are collected once per decade and therefore only provide a snapshot of migration.

### **Definitions of Key Concepts and Terms**

**Migration** is the process of moving from one district or province to another (*internal migration*) and from one country to another (*international migration*). International Migration is designated as *emigration* from the standpoint of the country from which the movement occurs and as *immigration* from that of a receiving country.

**Migrant** refers to any person who is moving or has moved away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status; whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the causes of the movement are; or what the length of the stay is. When this movement happens within the same country, the person is regarded as an *out-migrant* in the area of origin and as an *in-migrant* in the area of destination.

**Non- Migrant** is defined as a person who was enumerated in the place where he/she was born.

**Place of Birth** for the 2022 PHC, refers to the district or country of usual residence of the mother of the individual at the time of the birth.

**Recent Migrant.** A person who changed his or her usual place of residence in the last twelve months preceding the census night.

**Lifetime Migrant.** A person whose place of residence at the census date differs from his/her place of birth.

**Intercensal Migration.** Movement during the intercensal period from the area of residence in August 2012 to the area of residence in April 2022

**Usual Residence** is defined for the 2022 PHC purposes as the place at which a person lived at the time of the census and had been there for some time or intended to stay for some time.

A threshold of 12 months was applied, to collect usual residence data on the place at which the person had lived continuously for most of the last 12 months.

**Place of previous [usual] residence** refers to the district or country in which the individual resided immediately prior to migrating into the district or country of present usual residence. One year before enumeration was asked in the 2022 ZPHC.

**Migrant Stocks** refers to persons who have spent at least 1 year of their lives in a place (country, province or district) other than the one in which they live at the time the data are gathered

**Area of origin** refers to the district or country from which a move is made.

**Area of destination** refers to the district or country in which a move terminates.

**In-Migrant** is a person who enters a district by crossing its boundaries from some district but within the same country.

**Immigrant** is an international migrant entering a district from a place outside the country.

**Out – Migrant** is a person who departs from a district by crossing its boundary to another district within the same country.

**Emigrant** is an international migrant, departing from an area / district in a country by crossing an international boundary.

**Net Migration** refers to the balance of movements in opposing directions. With reference to a specific area, it is the difference between in-migration and out-migration.

**Net Interprovincial Migration** Net interprovincial migration represents the difference between in-migrants and out-migrants for a given province. Net interprovincial migration is represented as a number or a rate, and can be positive or negative indicating gains and losses respectively.

**Net in-migration** is when in-migration exceeds out-migration in a district. It takes a positive (+) sign.

**Net out-migration** is when out-migration exceeds in-migration in a district. It takes a negative (-) sign.

### Internal Migration

This section focuses on the movement of people across administrative boundaries within Zimbabwe. The internal migration is categorized as lifetime, inter-censal and recent migration.

### Lifetime Inter-Provincial Migration

Lifetime migration occurs between birth and time of the census. A lifetime migrant is one whose current province of residence is different from his or her province of birth, regardless of intervening migration. Harare province had the highest number of lifetime in-migrants (**1,037,907**) while Manicaland province had the largest number of lifetime out-migrants (**586,930**), (Figure 1).

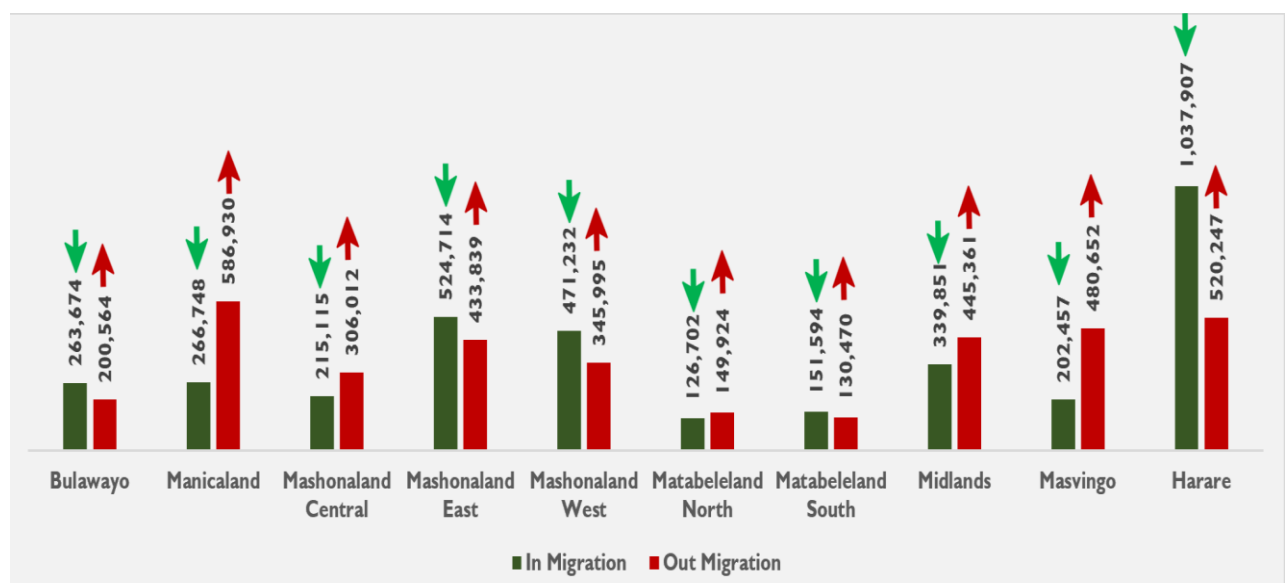


Figure 1: Distribution of Lifetime Migrant Inflows and Outflows by Province

## Lifetime Net Migration

Five provinces including Harare and Bulawayo were net gainers while the other five remaining provinces including Manicaland and Masvingo experienced net loss of migrants (-13.6% for males and -12.5% for females) and (-15.2% for males and -14.4% for females) respectively, meaning that they experienced more out-migration than in-migration, (Figure 2).

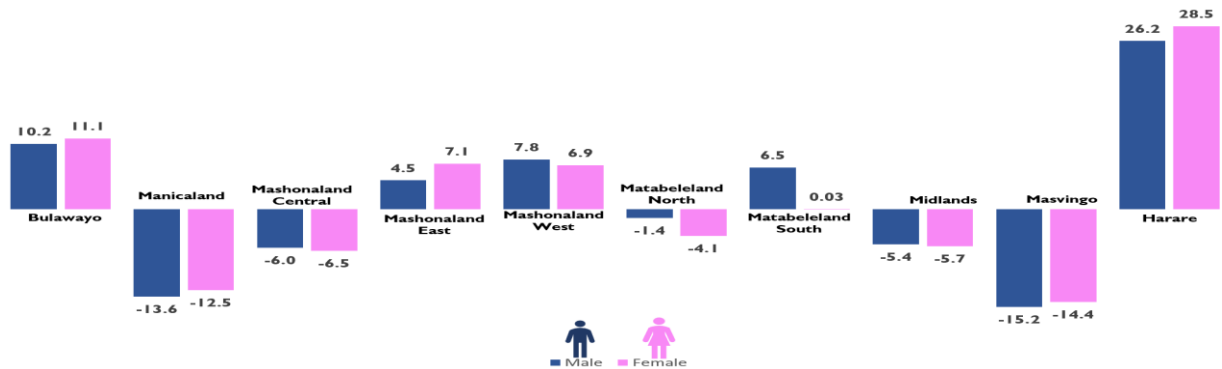


Figure 2: Lifetime Net Migration Rates by Province and Sex

## Inter-Censal Provincial Migration

Between 2012 and 2022, Harare province had the greatest number of both in-migrants (351,569) and out-migrants (317,599). In comparison with other provinces other than Harare, Manicaland province had the largest number of out-migrants (276,588).

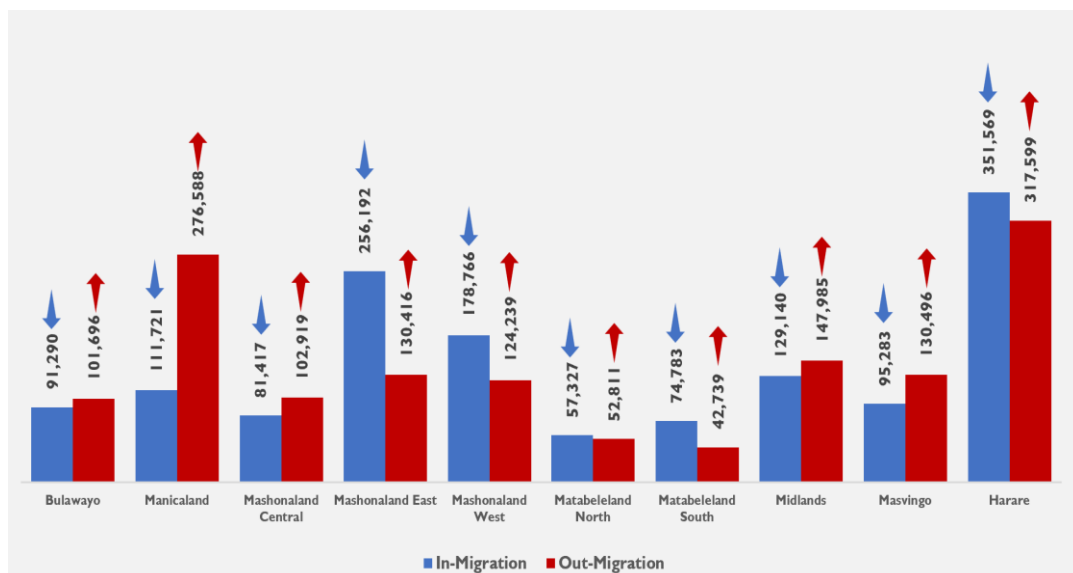


Figure 3: Inter-Censal Migration In-Flows and Out-Flows by Province

## Inter-Censal Net Migration

Between 2012 and 2022, Mashonaland East Province was the greatest net gainer of migrants of 11.7 percent for males and 11.6 percent for females. Manicaland province experienced a net loss of -10.9 percent for males and -9.1 percent for females, (Figure 4).

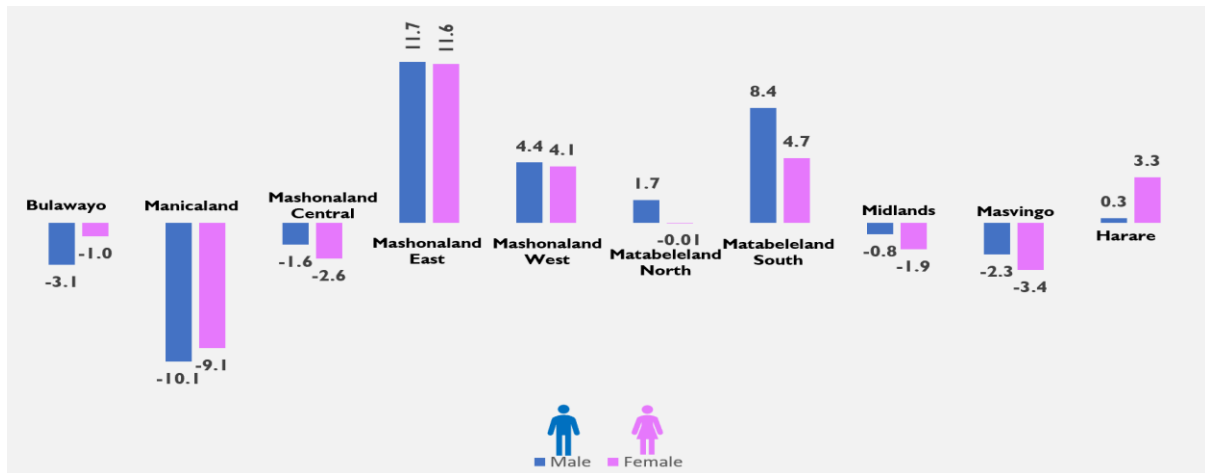


Figure 4: Inter-Censal Net Migration Rates by Province

## Recent Inter-Provincial Migration

Recent migration highlights the most recent patterns of human mobility in the country. The population whose province of residence in April 2021 was different from their province of enumeration in April 2022 constituted recent inter provincial migrants.

In the last 12 months, Harare and Bulawayo provinces had greater out-migration flows than in-migration flows. The other remaining provinces save for Matabeleland South, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central generally recorded greater in-migration flows than out-migration, (Figure 5)



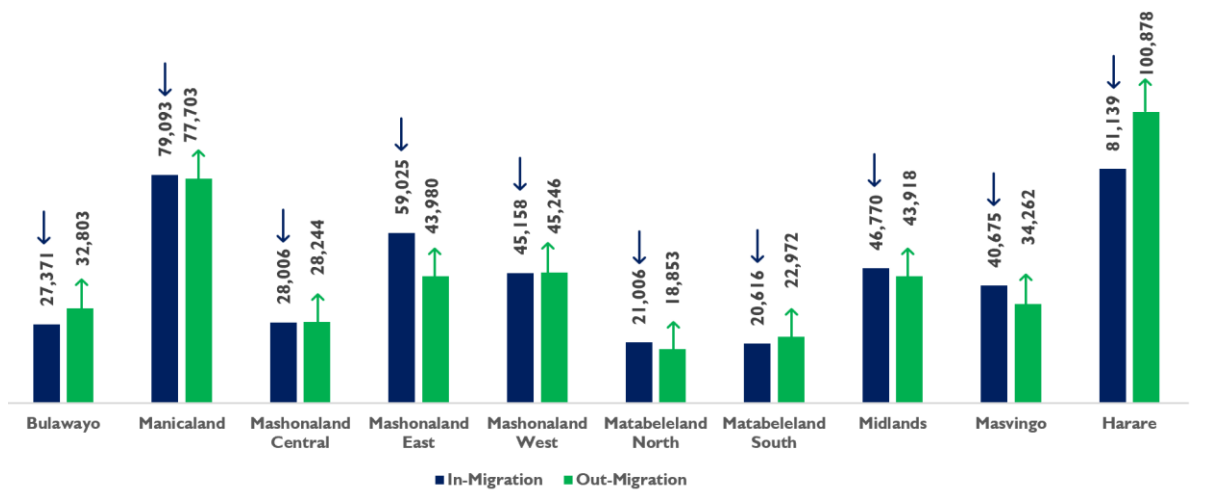


Figure 5: Recent Inter-Provincial Migration by Province

### Recent Inter-Provincial Migration Rate

Mashonaland East province was the greatest net gainer with 0.9 percent for males and 1 percent for females. Bulawayo and Masvingo provinces had net losses with -0.8 percent for males and -0.9 percent for females, (Figure 6).

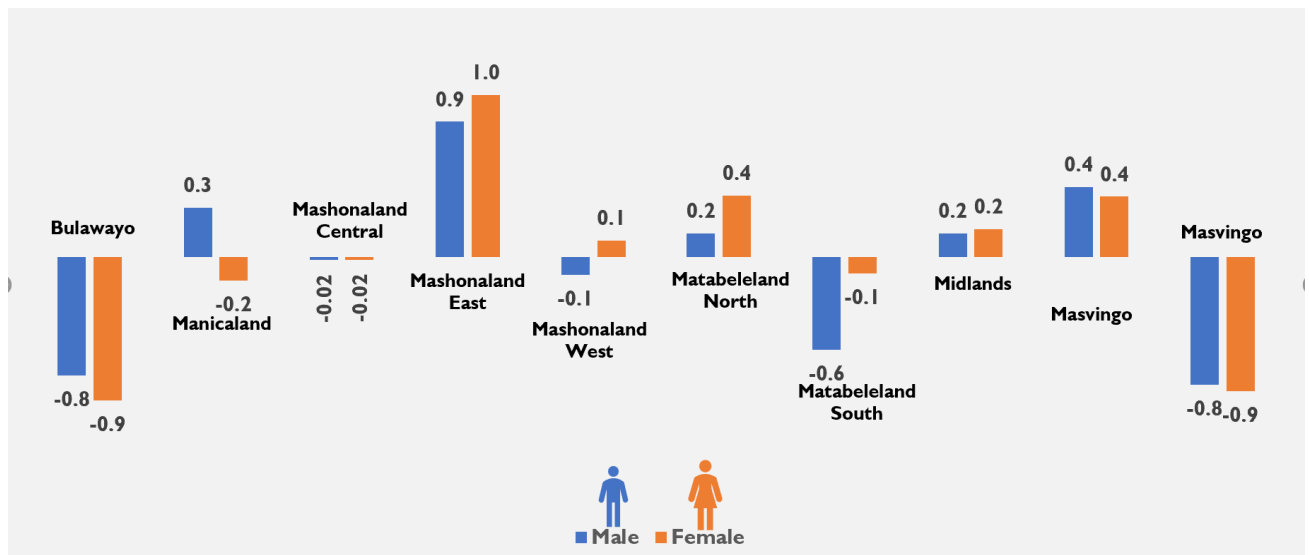


Figure 6: Recent Inter-Provincial Migration by Province and Sex

## International Migration



During the 2022 Population and Housing Census, data on international migration was collected for persons who moved into Zimbabwe from other countries and from Zimbabwe to other countries. The data collected enables production of statistics on stock of foreign-born population (country of birth), stock of foreigners (citizenship) and emigrants.

### Immigrants

The 2022 PHC recorded a total of 236,246 persons who were born outside the country. The highest number of the foreign-born population was born in South Africa, 137,594. Of the 137,594 persons born in South Africa, 23,476 persons were residing in Matabeleland South.

The highest number of foreign-born population were recorded in Harare Province, 37,209. Of the 37,209 persons residing in Harare, 16, 018 were born in South Africa, (*Table 1*).

Table 1: Stock of Foreign-born (Country of birth)

Country of birth 	Province of Residence 											Total
	Bulawayo	Manicaland	Mash. Central	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mat. North	Mat. South	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare		
South Africa	17,840	8,735	2,072	8,874	6,058	16,907	23,476	14,521	23,093	16,018		<b>137,594</b>
Botswana	1,693	570	271	1,008	750	1,179	2,693	1,617	610	1,722		<b>12,113</b>
Malawi	940	1,009	1,724	2,568	3,402	323	252	814	309	3,966		<b>15,307</b>
Mozambique	363	12,019	8,909	5,293	4,904	162	164	964	1,413	4,724		<b>38,915</b>
Namibia	77	64	31	131	80	20	14	113	59	325		<b>914</b>
Zambia	903	415	1,037	1,039	2,957	670	279	1,056	285	2,726		<b>11,367</b>
United Kingdom	348	95	50	120	126	69	20	73	71	1,480		<b>2,452</b>
United States of America	64	45	14	41	55	24	9	28	10	333		<b>623</b>
Canada	16	3	7	5	10	7	-	10	7	67		<b>132</b>
China	48	64	128	119	262	268	49	339	18	718		<b>2,013</b>
Australia	14	8	7	12	9	8	2	7	1	95		<b>163</b>
Other African Countries	294	6,251	86	231	204	104	137	114	79	2,688		<b>10,188</b>
Other European Countries	205	80	60	239	132	89	37	75	43	947		<b>1,907</b>
Other American Countries	48	14	8	30	33	5	8	25	19	121		<b>311</b>
Asian Countries	204	108	32	78	110	185	36	123	67	1,266		<b>2,209</b>
Other Countries	5	1	1	4	4	4	3	3	-	13		<b>38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,062</b>	<b>29,481</b>	<b>14,437</b>	<b>19,792</b>	<b>19,096</b>	<b>20,024</b>	<b>27,179</b>	<b>19,882</b>	<b>26,084</b>	<b>37,209</b>		<b>236,246</b>

### Emigrants

Data on the number of persons who used to be members of the 2022 PHC households and were living outside the country was collected. It was not possible to count migrants whose households were no longer in existence during the time of the census.

Households with emigrants constituted 13.6 percent (520,240) of all households enumerated during the 2022 PHC. Matabeleland South province had the largest proportion; 33 percent, of households that experienced loss of members through emigration while Matabeleland North and Masvingo provinces experienced a loss of 24 percent and 23, (*Figure 7*).

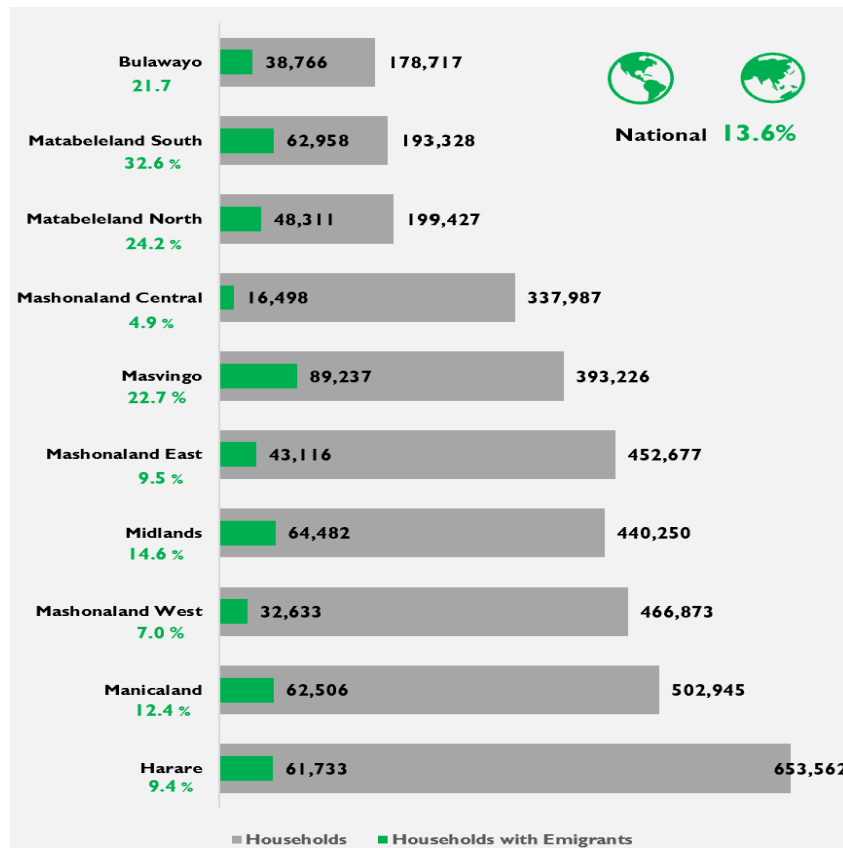


Figure 7: Number of Households with Emigrants by Province

### Age on Departure and Sex Composition of Emigrants

Figure 8 shows the distribution of emigrants at the time of departure by age group and sex. A total of 908,914 people emigrated from Zimbabwe at the time of the census. There were more males, 59 percent than females, 41 percent among the emigrants at the time of their departure. For both males and females, the highest proportion, 28 percent of emigrants were from the 20 to 24 years age group (149,273 males and 101,534 females). The number of emigrants declined by age and very few emigrants, 2 percent emigrated after attaining age 50 years and above.

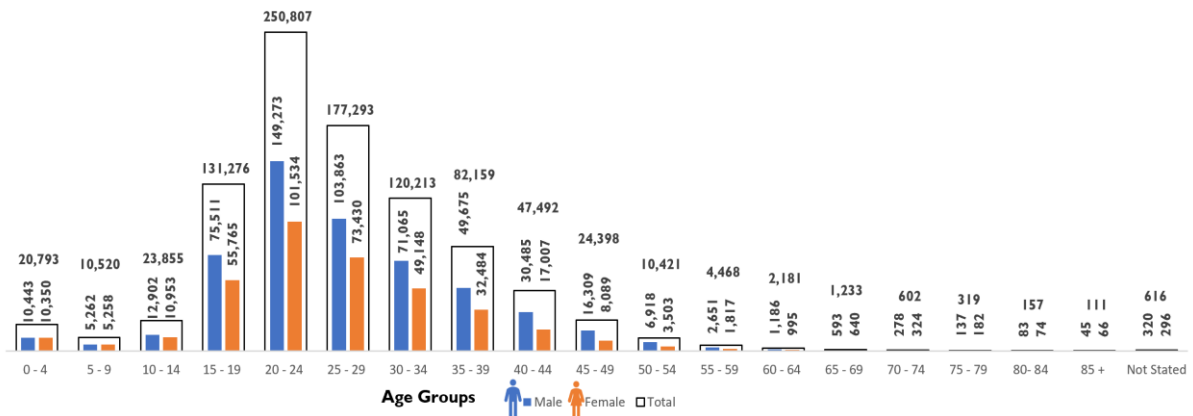


Figure 8: Distribution of Emigrants at Time of Departure by Age Group and Sex

Figure 9 shows the distribution of emigrants at the time of departure by province and sex. The highest percentage, 17 percent (153,384 of emigrants) was from Masvingo Province. Mashonaland Central Province accounted for the least percentage of emigrants (3% or 23,050 emigrants). There were more male than female emigrants for each of the 10 provinces.

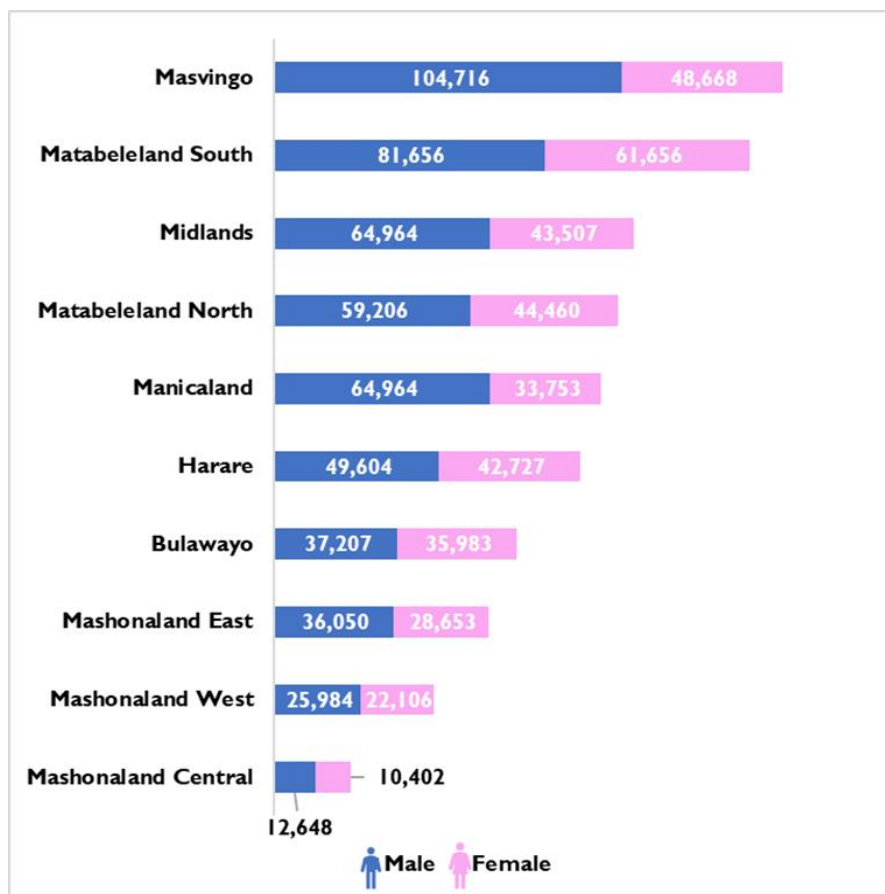
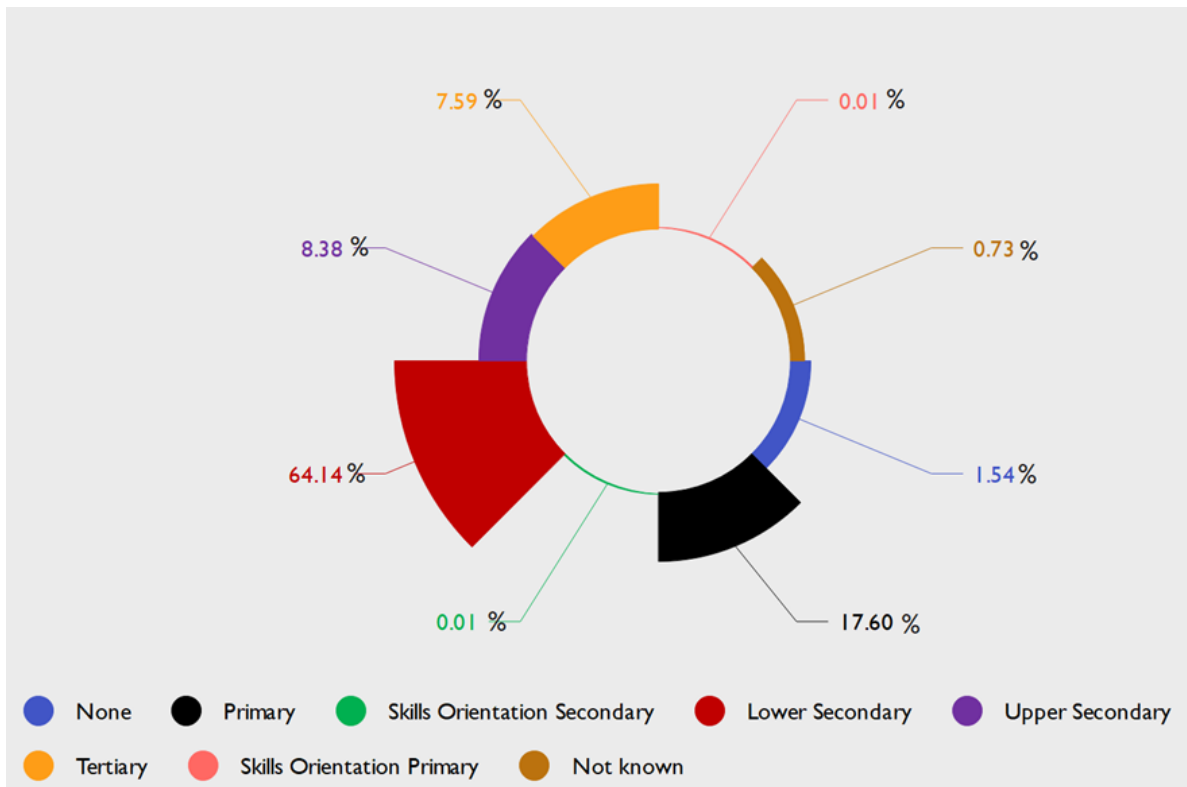


Figure 9: Distribution of Emigrants by Province and Sex at Time of Departure

## Highest Level of Education Completed and Sex

The highest proportion of emigrants, 64 percent, had completed lower secondary level of education followed by 18 percent who had completed primary level of education prior to their departure. The proportion of emigrants who had not completed any level of education prior to departure was 2 percent (*Figure 10*).



*Figure 10: Distribution of Emigrants 3 Years and Above by Highest Level of Education Completed at Time of Departure*

The highest number of both male and female emigrants had completed lower secondary level of education. Except for the skills orientation Primary level of education, there were more males than females among emigrants at all levels of education at the time of departure, (*Figure 11*).

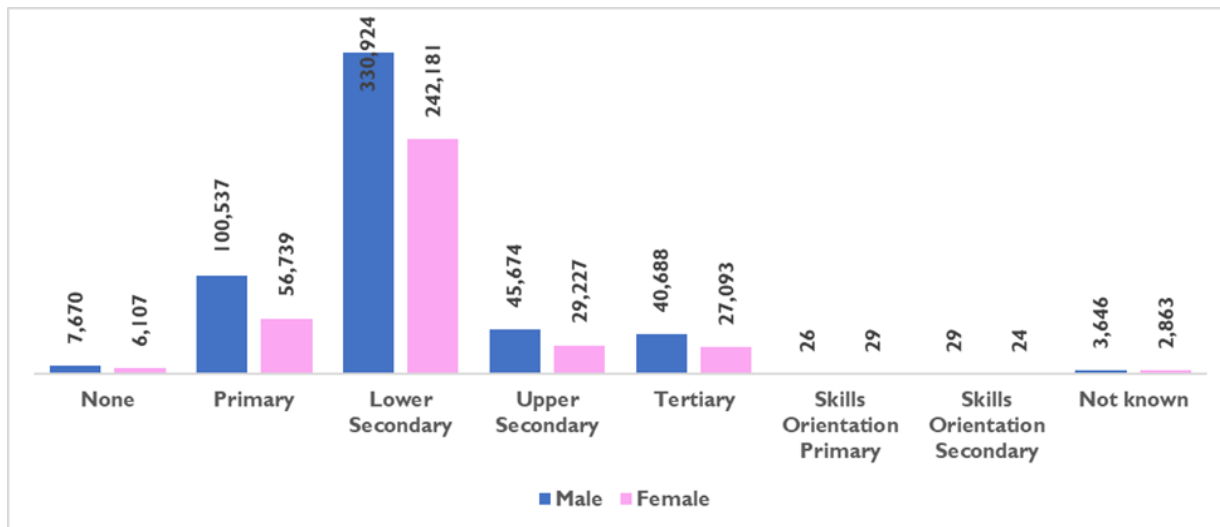


Figure 11: Distribution of Emigrants 3 Years and Above by Highest Level of Education Completed and Sex at Time of Departure

## Reasons for Emigrating

Table 2 shows the distribution of emigrants by province and reason for emigrating. Most of the persons, 84 percent (761,548 out of 908,907) emigrated for employment reasons while 9 percent and 5 percent emigrated for family reasons and study/education respectively. Masvingo and Matabeleland South provinces had relatively more people who had emigrated for employment purposes than other provinces. Harare and Bulawayo provinces had relatively more people who had emigrated for education or training purposes.

Table 2: Distribution of Emigrants at Time of Departure by Province and Reason for Emigrating

Province	Reasons For Emigrating								Total
	Employment	Settlement	Family reasons	Education / Training	Social displacement	Natural disaster	Health	Other	
Bulawayo	59,525	827	4,777	6,215	47	72	230	1,497	73,190
Manicaland	80,146	810	12,620	3,012	86	118	398	1,527	98,717
Mashonaland Central	17,457	265	3,274	1,431	33	29	102	459	23,050
Mashonaland East	52,307	533	6,934	3,535	52	78	273	991	64,703
Mashonaland West	38,237	448	5,297	2,948	69	112	233	743	48,087
Matabeleland North	93,418	808	5,357	2,535	49	79	237	1,183	103,666
Matabeleland South	128,855	1,002	6,275	4,218	114	225	362	2,260	143,311
Midlands	93,805	621	8,382	3,426	86	339	336	1,474	108,469
Masvingo	131,578	940	15,365	2,725	81	465	445	1,785	153,384
Harare	66,220	1,125	9,081	13,358	136	48	496	1,866	92,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,548</b>	<b>7,379</b>	<b>77,362</b>	<b>43,403</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>13,785</b>	<b>908,907</b>

Employment, education/Training and Family were the 3 major reasons for emigrating from Zimbabwe for both males and females. Ninety percent of male emigrants and 75 percent of female emigrants departed the country in search of employment. There were relatively more females; 16 percent, than males; 4 percent who emigrated for family reasons. Overall, 9 percent of emigrants departed for family reasons (*Figures 12a-c*).

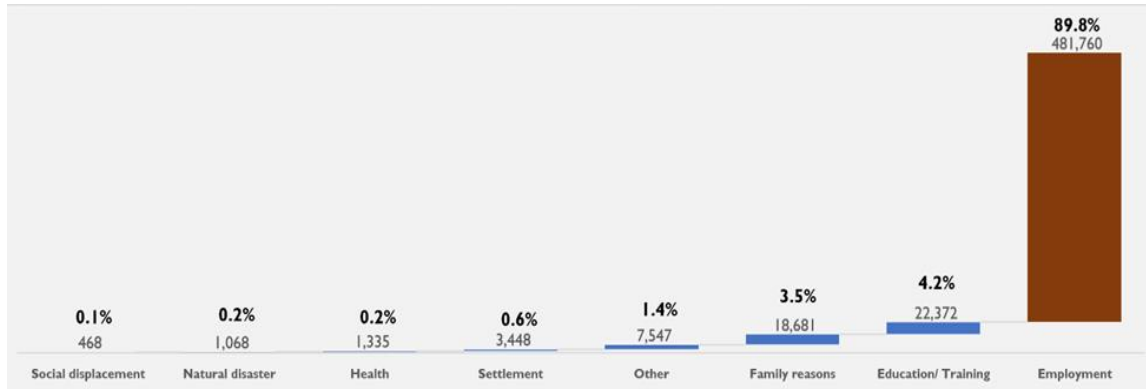


Figure 12a: Male Emigrants by Main Reason for Departure

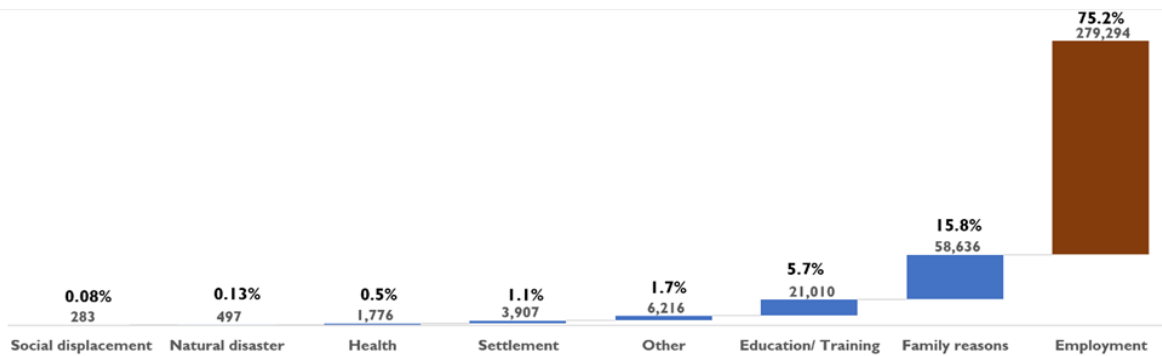


Figure 12b: Female Emigrants by Main Reason for Departure

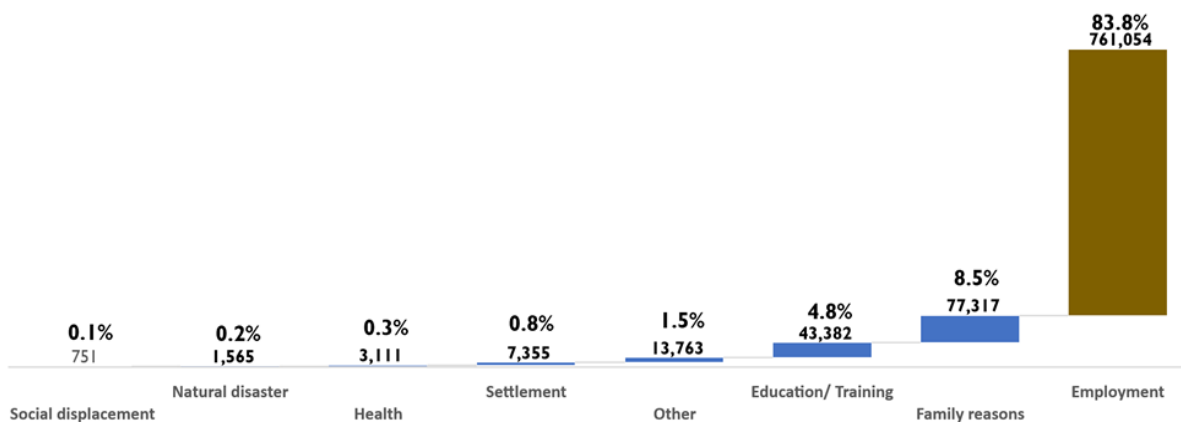


Figure 12c: Total Emigrants by Main Reason for Departure

Employment, Education/Training and Family were the 3 major reasons for emigrating from Zimbabwe for both rural and urban areas.

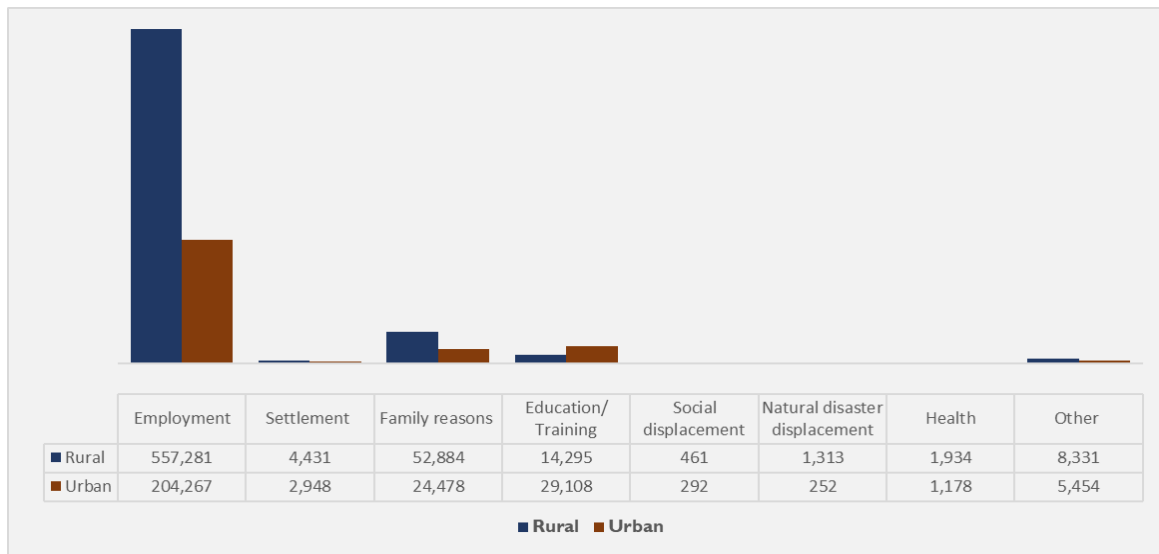


Figure 13: Emigrants by Main Reason for Departure and Rural/Urban

### Year of Departure from Zimbabwe and Country of Destination

Figure 14 shows that the number of emigrants was increasing since the 1980's. There was a sharp increase on the number of emigrants between 1980 and 1990 that was followed by a sharp decline between 1990 and 2000. There was a steady increase in the number of emigrants between 2001 to 2015 and thereafter there was a sharp increase that reached a peak in 2021.

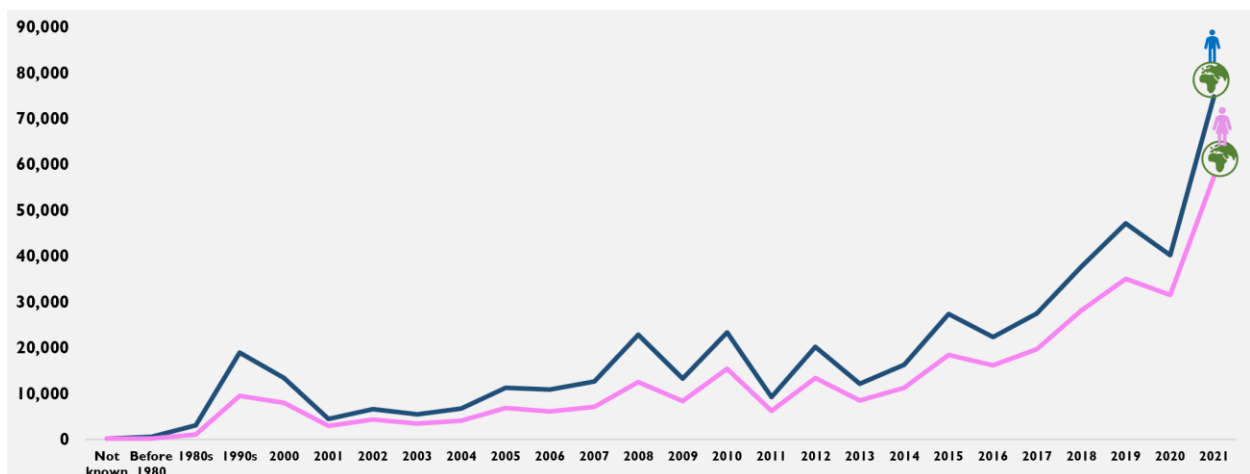


Figure 14: Number of Emigrants by Year of Departure and Sex



## Emigrants by Country of Residence

The data indicate that the most emigrants from Zimbabwe were based in the Southern African region and in particular South Africa with 773,246 and Botswana with 47,928. For overseas countries, the United Kingdom had 23,166 emigrants (*Table 3*).

Table 3: Distribution of Emigrants by Country of Residence and Sex

Country of Residence	Male	Female	Total
South Africa	461,293	311,953	<b>773,246</b>
Botswana	28,680	19,248	<b>47,928</b>
Malawi	613	467	1,080
Mozambique	5,911	3,566	9,477
Namibia	3,496	2,164	5,660
Zambia	3,266	1,810	5,076
United Kingdom	10,573	12,593	<b>23,166</b>
United States of America	4,369	4,196	8,565
Canada	1,689	1,731	3,420
China	1,151	916	2,067
Australia	3,225	3,248	6,473
Other African Countries	4,239	1,968	6,207
Other European Countries	4,146	4,608	8,754
Other American Countries	242	203	445
Asian Countries	3,857	3,108	6,965
Other Countries	16	18	34
Not Stated	232	118	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>536,998</b>	<b>371,915</b>	<b>908,913</b>

## Employment Status

Ninety percent of the emigrants 10 years and above were not working at the time of departure (Figure 15).

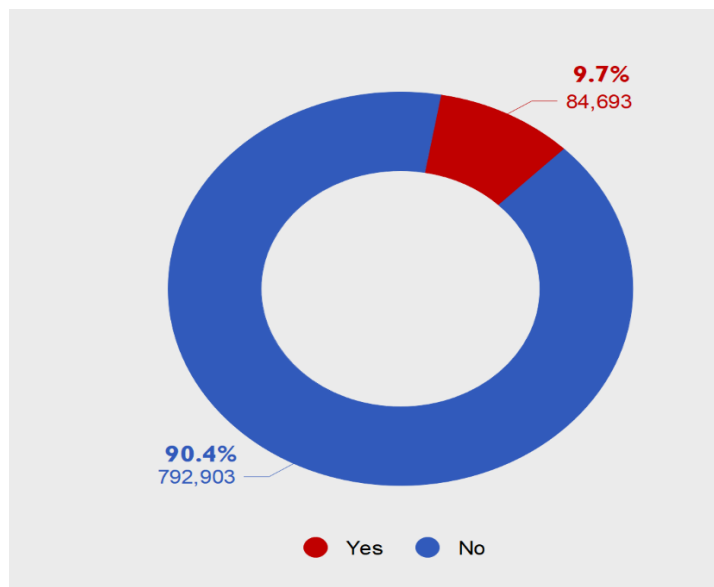





Figure 15: Emigrants at Time of Departure by Employment Status

## Occupational Classification of Emigrants

Professionals, Service and Sales workers and Craft and related trades workers accounted for 58% of the emigrants (Table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of Emigrants at Time of Departure by Occupational Classification and Sex

Occupation	Male	Female	Total
Manager	5,580	3,260	8,840
Professionals 	12,764	9,462	<b>22,226</b>
Technicians and associate professionals	4,214	1,929	6,143
Clerical support workers	1,772	1,817	3,589
Service and sales workers 	7,314	8,920	<b>16,234</b>
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	929	216	1,145
Craft and related trades workers 	9,472	1,164	<b>10,636</b>
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,498	269	7,767
Elementary occupations	5,182	2,545	7,727
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,725</b>	<b>29,582</b>	<b>84,307</b>