

COMPENDIUM 1

NATIONAL POPULATION TRENDS: National Size and Growth

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1.1 National Population Size and Adjustment

Guyana is the only English-speaking country on the mainland of South America. The total population on the night of the Census (14th/15th September 2012) was reported as 746,955 persons, marginally down by 4,268 persons when compared to the 2002 Census count of 751,223 persons. The 2012 Census count includes 723,181 persons who were enumerated in their households and another 7,443 persons who were classified as an institutional population. The institutional population includes persons such as the homeless, overnight travelers and other persons who reside in hostels, hospitals, prisons, hotels and lodges, police and military barracks, etc. Guyanese diplomats and their families living abroad were also placed under the institutional population. Additionally, there was a third category comprising a total population of 16,331 persons who were not available to be enumerated after several attempts. The total regional count of this category of persons was derived through estimation based on the reported number of households (Figure 1.1 and Table 1.1).

Notably, it is worth mentioning that the results from the Preliminary Report narrowly differ from those of the Final Report or results by 0.12 percent. The final-results show a lower population count by a difference of 929 persons. This difference is insignificant relative to the total population count.

The summary breakdown of the 2012 Population and Housing Census given by categories of Census respondents is illustrated in Figure 1.1 and classified further by the ten administrative regions in Table 1.1. As expected, the results show that 96.8 percent (723,181) of the respondents comprises of persons who were enumerated in their respective households and 1.0 percent (7,443) enumerated as institutional population. The third category was the ‘no-contact persons’ or those who were not available for the interview. To include them in the Census counts, a non-response weighting adjustment scheme based on the proportion of responding households developed by James Lepkowski (2005, P. 166)¹ was used to derive an estimate. This category accounts for 2.2 percent (16,331 persons).

However, for the ‘no-contact category’, only limited information on the presence of persons in these households was gathered from neighbours. Therefore, where necessary as will be reflected in the analysis, the focus will be on the total 723,181 enumerated household population who directly responded to the entire interview and will exclude the ‘no-contact persons’ and the institutional population, where only brief background information was collected.

¹James Lepkowski,(2005, P.166) Non-Observation Error in Household Surveys in Developing Countries, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America, Published in “Household Sample Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries, available at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/hhsurveys/pdf/Household_surveys.pdf

Figure 1.1: Census Counts by Category of Respondents, Guyana, 2012

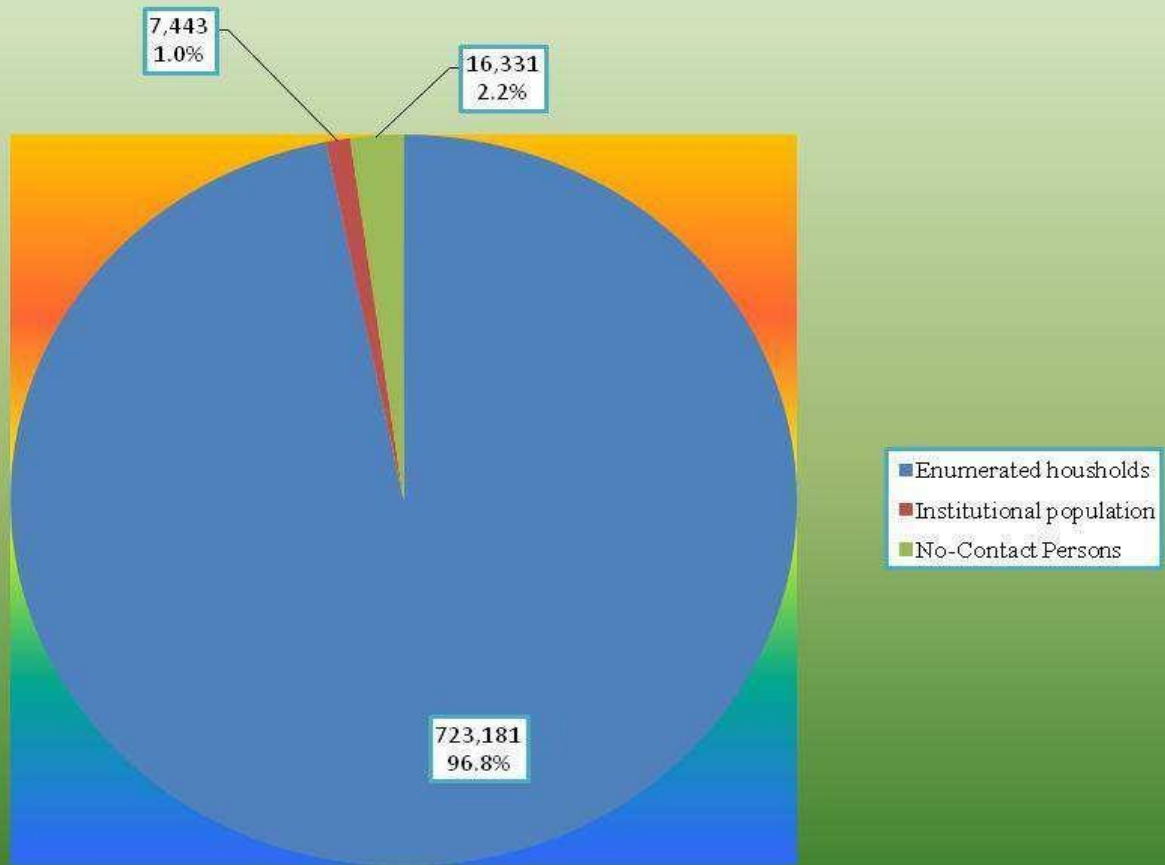


Table 1.1: Population Distribution by Category of Census' Respondents Classified By Administrative Regions, Guyana: 2012								
Region	Absolute Number				Percent			
	Enumerated household population	Institutional population	Estimated No-Contact persons	Total	Enumerated household population	Institutional population	Estimated No-Contact persons	Total
Region 1	27,042	233	368	27,643	97.8	0.8	1.3	100
Region 2	46,014	586	210	46,810	98.3	1.3	0.4	100
Region 3	105,919	205	1,661	107,785	98.3	0.2	1.5	100
Region 4	296,409	3,853	11,301	311,563	95.1	1.2	3.6	100
Region 5	49,174	108	538	49,820	98.7	0.2	1.1	100
Region 6	107,954	917	781	109,652	98.5	0.8	0.7	100
Region 7	17,270	395	710	18,375	94.0	2.1	3.9	100
Region 8	10,892	93	92	11,077	98.3	0.8	0.8	100
Region 9	23,660	360	218	24,238	97.6	1.5	0.9	100
Region 10	38,847	693	452	39,992	97.1	1.7	1.1	100
Guyana	723,181	7,443	16,331	746,955	96.8	1.0	2.2	100

1.2 The Growth of the National Population

1.2.1 National Population Growth and Trends

The 20th century is sometimes remembered in terms of the global changes in the size of the world's population. For Guyana, the population growth and changes since the earliest Censuses in the 1800s right up to the second Census of the 21st century is shown in Table 1.2 and illustrated in Figure 1.2. It shows that the population, though comparatively small relative to the land area, increased at each Census, and the growth rate was significantly high (3.31 percent per annum), particularly between 1841 and 1851. From there it continued with steady increases recording another high growth rate in 1881, partly reflecting the period of the indentured labour flows into the Caribbean.

Accordingly, with the abolition of the slave trade in 1807, Guyana, then a British colony was left with a severe shortage of labour. This was exacerbated by the abolition of slavery in 1834 and to deal with this problem, indentured labourers were brought into Guyana from the 1830s until 1917.

Figure 1.2: Population Growth and Trends, Guyana: 1831 - 2012

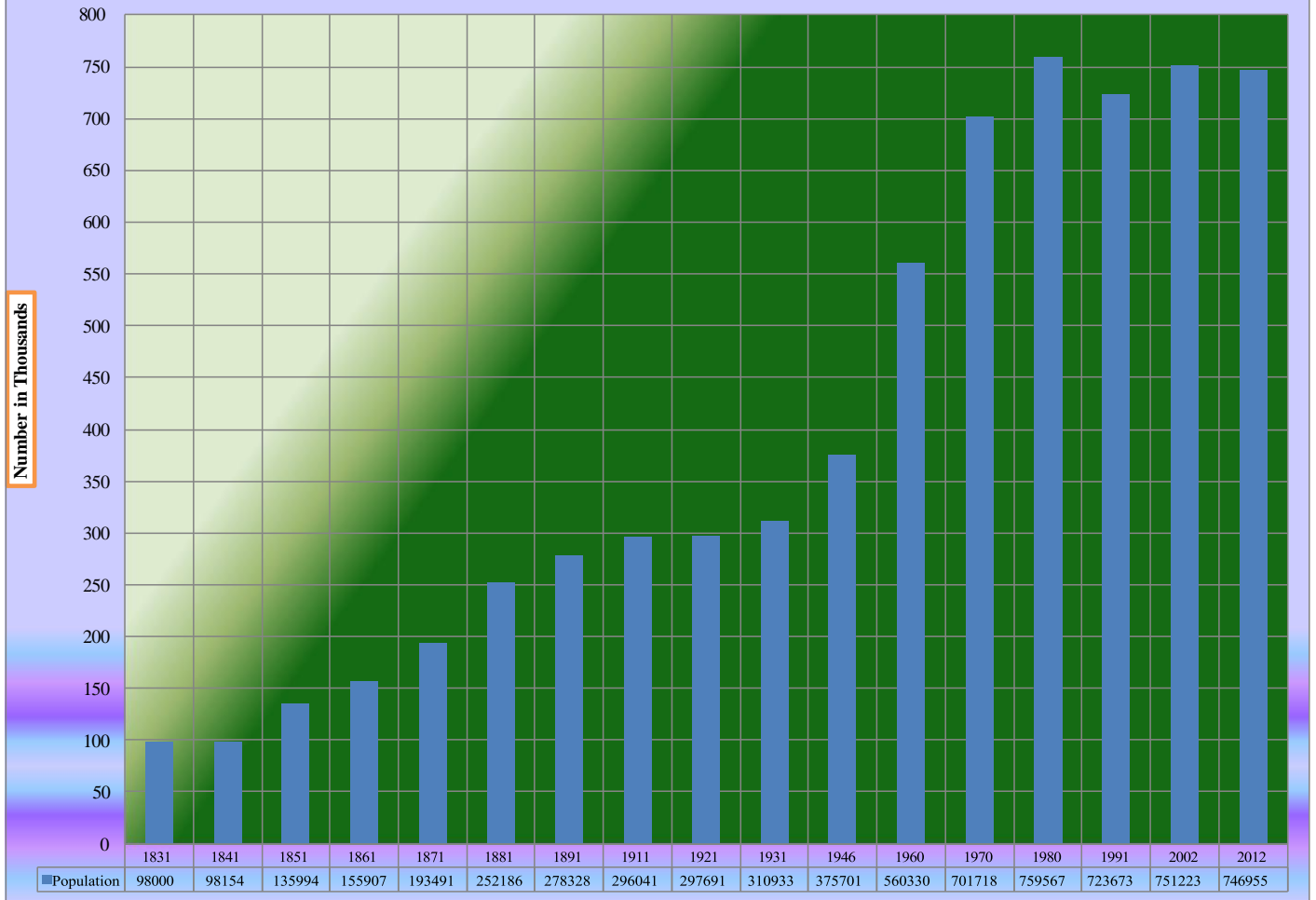


Table 1.2: Population trends and Growth Rate, Guyana: 1831 - 2012					
Census Year	Population	Intercensal period	Change	% Change	Growth Rate
1831	98,000	x	x	x	x
1841	98,154	10	154	0.16	0.02
1851	135,994	10	37,840	38.55	3.86
1861	155,907	10	19,913	14.64	1.46
1871	193,491	10	37,584	24.11	2.41
1881	252,186	10	58,695	30.33	3.03
1891	278,328	10	26,142	10.37	1.04
1911	296,041	20	17,713	6.36	0.32
1921	297,691	10	1,650	0.56	0.06
1931	310,933	10	13,242	4.45	0.44
1946	375,701	15	64,768	20.83	1.39
1960	560,330	14	184,629	49.14	3.51
1970	701,718	10	141,388	25.23	2.52
1980	759,567	10	57,849	8.24	0.82
1991	723,673	11	-35,894	-4.73	-0.43
2002	751,223	11	27,550	3.81	0.35
2012	746,955	10	-4,268	-0.57	-0.06
Source: Bealie, S. T., (2009) CARICOM _2000 Round National Census					
Note: x = not applicable					

The largest increase was recorded between 1946 and 1960 (184,629) and this was followed by another major increase during the intercensal period 1960 to 1970 of 141,388; reflective of the sustained post-war baby boom that took place worldwide. Thereafter, the pattern of the population increase changed dramatically. The absolute increase between 1970 and 1980 was less than half of the increase during the previous intercensal period. Since 1980, the intercensal population changes have shown an undulated pattern of growth as reflected in Table 1.2. In fact, the 1991 Census was the first in the history of Guyana's Census taking that recorded a population decline of approximately 36,000 persons. The population decline at Census 1991 appears to be consistent with the peak emigration flows recorded during the decade of the 1980s as well as a continued falling fertility rate. The decline in population numbers from 1980 to 1991 was reversed between 1991 and 2002, followed by a second decline or a negative increase over the intercensal period (2002-2012) as per Table 1.2 above.

In percentage terms, the rate of decline recorded (2002-2012) was given as -0.06 percent per annum, about one-eighth (1/8th) of the rate recorded for the 1980 to 1991 intercensal period. Like the situation in the 1980s, a net outflow of residents is seen as the primary cause, and accordingly, section 1.2.3 has been created to investigate the effect of overseas migration on the size of the population.

The distribution of the 2012 population by gender indicates that females narrowly outnumbered males by a difference of about 3,345. This situation was a reverse to the gender distribution at the 2002 Census; thus, suggesting that the distribution pattern had returned to what it was two decades and earlier when females outnumbered males (Table 1.3). In summary, the male population is reported presently as 371,805 while the females are 375,150. The detailed analysis of the age and sex composition of the population will be presented in Compendium Two (2).

Census Ref. Date	Number			Percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Sept. 15, 2012	371,805	375,150	746,955	49.8	50.2	100
Sept. 15, 2002	376,034	375,189	751,223	50.1	49.9	100
May 12, 1991	356,540	367,133	723,673	49.3	50.7	100
May 12 1980	376,381	383,186	759,567	49.6	50.4	100
	Number Change			Percentage Change		
Change (2002 - 2012)	-4,229	-39	-4,268	-0.56	-0.01	-0.57
Change (1991 - 2002)	19,494	8,056	27,550	2.69	1.11	3.81
Change (1980 - 1991)	-19,841	-16,053	-35,894	-2.61	-2.11	-4.73
Change (1980 - 2012)	-4,576	-8,036	-12,612	-1.22	-2.14	-3.35

1.2.2 The Growth of Local and Foreign-Born Population

One component of population change is migration, the other two being fertility and mortality. The latter two components will be discussed in the later Compendiums. This section examines the contribution of the foreign-born residents to the total size of the population. It also discusses the age and sex distribution of foreign-born nationals, their country of origin and the effect of overseas migration on the national growth of the population.

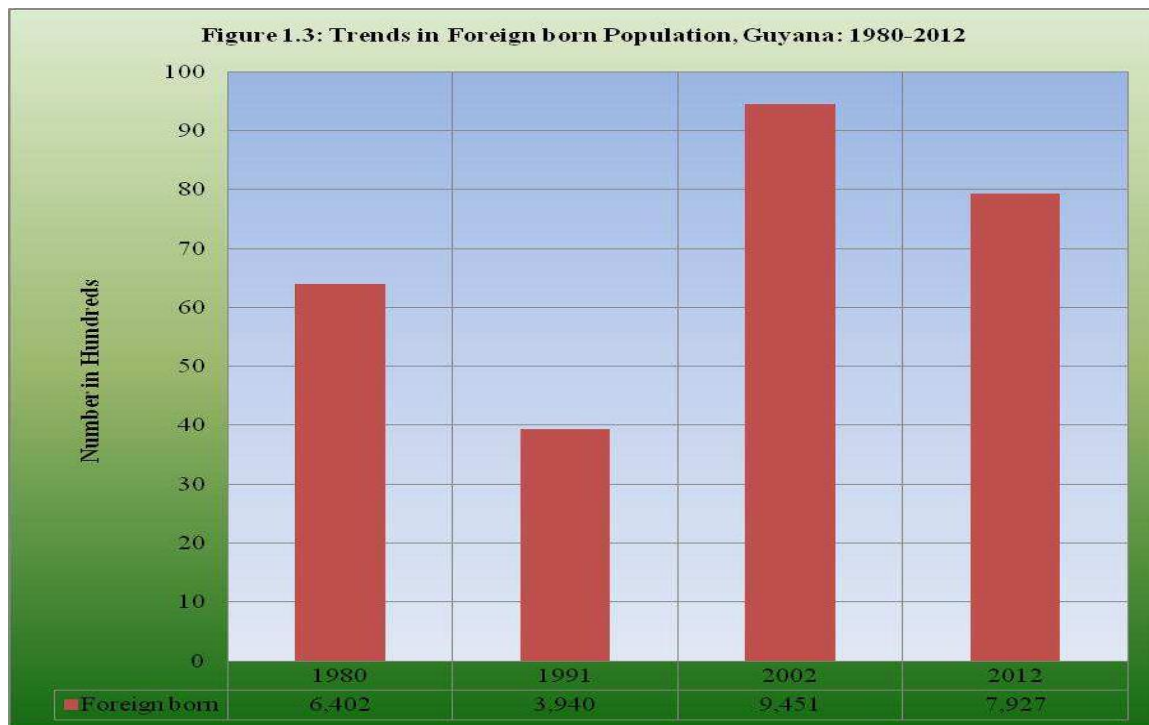
1.2.2.1 Changes in the Size of the Local and Foreign-Born Population

Foreign born residents in Guyana still accounts for a small percentage of the population. As such, their contribution to the size of the population is minimal and had been fluctuating since 1980 (Table 1.4). In addition to those who have been naturalized, foreign born residents presently account for approximately 1.1 percent of the total population. This current figure shows a decline of 15.0 percent compared to ten years ago. However, looking at the recorded number of foreign- born residents at each Census since 1980, a picture emerges that Guyana seems to be a transit point for migrants over the past three decades. Interestingly, about 47.8 percent (3,788) of the foreign-born residents residing in the country in 2012 reported that they had since naturalized.

Table 1.4: Distribution of Local and Foreign-Born population, Guyana: 1980 - 2012

Census Year	Guyanese		Foreign-born		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2012	715,254	98.90	7,927	1.10	723,181	100
2002	728,994	98.74	9,321	1.26	738,315	100
1991	714,558	99.46	3,847	0.54	718,405	100
1980	752,217	99.16	6,402	0.84	758,619	100

Note: This table doesn't include 'No-Contact' and 'Institutional Population'.



The distribution of the local and foreign-born population by age and sex reveals an interesting story. As given in Table 1.5, it indicates that there are more foreign-born males than females in Guyana in contrast to the Guyanese born residents, where females are marginally more than their male counterparts. The two categories have an equal percentage of children and teenagers combined (41 percent) respectively, but with very young children (i.e., below ten years) among the foreign-born exceeding those of Guyanese-born residents by 3.5 percentage points. Besides, the majority (45.8 percent) of the foreign-born residents are concentrated in the prime working age groups, 20-49 years, suggesting that they may have been initially attracted to the country by employment opportunities. However, this statement needs further investigation to verify the working conditions of the migrant workers, the types of work they are engaged in, industries where they are employed, their occupations, etc.

Table 1.5: Distribution of Population By Place of Birth, Age and Sex, Guyana: 2012

Age Group	Place of Birth								
	Guyanese Born			Foreign Born			Grand Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-9	69,058	67,252	136,310	962	825	1,787	70,020	68,077	138,097
10-19	80,837	78,896	159,733	771	727	1,498	81,608	79,623	161,231
20-29	53,356	55,961	109,317	908	867	1,775	54,264	56,828	111,092
30-39	48,975	51,193	100,168	574	457	1,031	49,549	51,650	101,199
40-49	43,651	43,835	87,486	544	283	827	44,195	44,118	88,313
50-59	31,559	32,537	64,096	321	162	483	31,880	32,699	64,579
60-69	16,406	17,643	34,049	162	100	262	16,568	17,743	34,311
70-79	7,511	9,061	16,572	79	57	136	7,590	9,118	16,708
80+	2,631	4,088	6,719	53	50	103	2,684	4,138	6,822
NS	473	331	804	15	10	25	488	341	829
Total	354,457	360,797	715,254	4,389	3,538	7,927	358,846	364,335	723,181
	Percentage								
0-9	9.66	9.40	19.06	12.14	10.41	22.54	9.68	9.41	19.10
10-19	11.30	11.03	22.33	9.73	9.17	18.90	11.28	11.01	22.29
20-29	7.46	7.82	15.28	11.45	10.94	22.39	7.50	7.86	15.36
30-39	6.85	7.16	14.00	7.24	5.77	13.01	6.85	7.14	13.99
40-49	6.10	6.13	12.23	6.86	3.57	10.43	6.11	6.10	12.21
50-59	4.41	4.55	8.96	4.05	2.04	6.09	4.41	4.52	8.93
60-69	2.29	2.47	4.76	2.04	1.26	3.31	2.29	2.45	4.74
70-79	1.05	1.27	2.32	1.00	0.72	1.72	1.05	1.26	2.31
80+	0.37	0.57	0.94	0.67	0.63	1.30	0.37	0.57	0.94
NS	0.07	0.05	0.11	0.19	0.13	0.32	0.07	0.05	0.11
Total	49.56	50.44	100	55.37	44.63	100	49.62	50.38	100

Note: This table doesn't include 'No-Contact' and 'Institutional Population'.

1.2.2.2 Foreign Born Citizens by Country of Origins

Guyana being a member of CARICOM, the citizens from the region dominate the foreign-born residents. CARICOM member states accounted for about 41.1 percent (3,256) of the foreign-born residents reported in the 2012 Census, down from 44.9 percent (4,512) in 2002 Census. By inspection, the closeness of Guyana to its neighbouring countries is evidently shown during the past two intercensal periods (Table 1.6). Accordingly, Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela rank first, second and third respectively in the size of their citizens residing in Guyana. Suriname alone consisted of 28.2 percent in 2002, but at Census 2012, Suriname's dominant share had been reduced to 17.8 percent. Expectedly, there had been a compensatory rise in the proportional shares of other countries of CARICOM and further afield.



Besides Guyana's immediate neighbours and CARICOM member states, another country whose citizens make up nearly one-tenth of the foreign-born residents is the United States of America (USA). The proportion of United States of America citizens had remained somehow stable and at Census 2012 comprised 8.9 percent of the total foreign-born residents. The United States' proportional share is almost twice as high as United Kingdom (UK) and Canada combined (4.8 percent). This may be due to a higher incidence of Guyanese re-migrants from the USA who having obtained their US citizenship and retired from their jobs in the USA, reside once again in Guyana. China, also with a historical link to Guyana contributed about 7.7 percent to the foreign- born population (See Figure 1.4 and Table 1.6).

In all, foreign-born females were marginally less when compared to the males. They comprise about 46.5 percent (4,678) in 2002 but by 2012, their proportion had marginally declined to 44.6 percent (3,538).

Table 1.6: Distribution of Foreign-Born Residents by Country of Birth, Guyana: 2002 & 2012

No	Country of Birth	Number						Percent					
		2002			2012			2002			2012		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1	Antigua and Barbuda	56	66	122	131	105	236	0.56	0.66	1.21	1.65	1.32	2.98
2	Bahamas	1	3	4	7	2	9	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.11
3	Barbados	160	136	296	226	170	396	1.59	1.35	2.94	2.85	2.14	5.00
4	Belize	2	5	7	17	10	27	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.21	0.13	0.34
5	Dominica	9	5	14	11	8	19	0.09	0.05	0.14	0.14	0.10	0.24
6	Grenada	30	22	52	30	28	58	0.30	0.22	0.52	0.38	0.35	0.73
7	Haiti	14	4	18	21	9	30	0.14	0.04	0.18	0.26	0.11	0.38
8	Jamaica	65	55	120	72	59	131	0.65	0.55	1.19	0.91	0.74	1.65
9	Montserrat	13	6	19	9	6	15	0.13	0.06	0.19	0.11	0.08	0.19
10	Saint Kitts and Nevis	19	17	36	21	31	52	0.19	0.17	0.36	0.26	0.39	0.66
11	Saint Lucia	179	136	315	125	102	227	1.78	1.35	3.13	1.58	1.29	2.86
12	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	78	28	106	50	37	87	0.78	0.28	1.05	0.63	0.47	1.10
13	Suriname	1,373	1,460	2,833	673	740	1,413	13.65	14.52	28.18	8.49	9.34	17.83
14	Trinidad and Tobago	292	256	548	282	226	508	2.90	2.55	5.45	3.56	2.85	6.41
15	Other CARICOM States	12	10	22	26	22	48	0.12	0.10	0.22	0.33	0.28	0.61
	Sub-Total CARICOM	2,303	2,209	4,512	1,701	1,555	3,256	22.90	21.97	44.87	21.46	19.62	41.07
16	Brazil	723	499	1,222	557	408	965	7.19	4.96	12.15	7.03	5.15	12.17
17	Canada	141	133	274	99	87	186	1.40	1.32	2.73	1.25	1.10	2.35
18	China	374	268	642	380	232	612	3.72	2.67	6.38	4.79	2.93	7.72
19	India	70	45	115	245	95	340	0.70	0.45	1.14	3.09	1.20	4.29
20	United Kingdom	215	190	405	119	77	196	2.14	1.89	4.03	1.50	0.97	2.47
21	United States of America	457	369	826	396	308	704	4.55	3.67	8.21	5.00	3.89	8.88
22	Venezuela	632	636	1,268	407	408	815	6.29	6.33	12.61	5.13	5.15	10.28
23	All other countries	462	329	791	485	368	853	4.59	3.27	7.87	6.12	4.64	10.76
	Sub-Total	3,074	2,469	5,543	2,688	1,983	4,671	30.57	24.55	55.13	33.91	25.02	58.93
	Grand Total	5,377	4,678	10,055	4,389	3,538	7,927	53.48	46.52	100	55.37	44.63	100

Note: Other CARICOM States includes the Associate Member States: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands

1.2.3 The Effect of Overseas Migration on the Size of the Population

In Guyana, the widespread postulation is that the overseas migration of citizens had played a significant role on the decline in the size of the population over the last three decades. This section is designed to lead the discussion on this assumption. This presumed high level of overseas migration is believed to have a negative impact on the country through brain drain of skilled labour. However, this report is limited to the volume of migration. The correlation between the international outflow of citizens, the state of the overall economy and the reasons for migration are beyond the scope of this analysis. A further independent study to investigate the causal effects of migration on the country would certainly be recommended.

1.2.3.1 The frame of the migration investigation

Firstly, data on arrivals and departures of Guyanese citizens over the period, 2007 to 2012 collected from responses of the households in the 2012 Census formed the basis of the analysis. Those who arrived or departed prior to 2007 were excluded. As such, departures and arrivals are defined as follows:

A). Departures: Guyanese citizens who departed from their respective households to live permanently abroad, i.e., between 2007 and 2012 and for whom respondents from their respective households attested to their departures and gave some basic characteristics of them during the 2012 Census; and

B). Arrivals: Guyanese citizens who have ever lived outside of Guyana for a continuous period 2007 to 2012 but who returned and were living as individual members within their respective households on or prior to Census night, 2012.

The difference between the reported arrivals and departures during the period 2007-2012 has been used as a proxy to estimate the net migration of Guyanese citizens, disaggregated at regional level. These differences could be negative or positive depending on the direction of the migration flow and labeled as:

- A = arrival of native-born population (2007 – 2012);
- D = departure of native-born population (2007 – 2012); and
- N = non-migrant/native born population who didn't move.

To arrive at a workable formula, we have:

- ❖ 1). $\sum(N_i + A_i) =$ Total native born resident population
- ❖ 2). $\sum(N_i + A_i + D_i) =$ Total native born population (i.e., whether in Guyana or abroad)
- ❖ 3). $A_i - D_i =$ Net migration
- ❖ 4). the subscript i represents arrivals, departures or non-migrants in anyone of the ten administrative regions.

1.2.3.2 Overseas Migration of Guyanese Citizens

The data generated on overseas migration in Guyana from 2007 to 2012 is reflected in Table 1.7 and graphically illustrated in Figure 1.5. One of the reasons for the downward trend of the population is migration, but from the information provided by those respondents who answered on behalf of their migrated relatives or other occupants of their households, the impact and magnitude of migration appear to be much lower than the prevailing situation.

Firstly, the result reveals that about 98 percent of the native-born Guyanese did not travel overseas or come from overseas during the period under review. The overall volume of net migration was reported as -1,906, representing -0.26 percent of the total native-born population. Apportioning the overseas migration by gender, the data also revealed that a total of 4,001 females departed against total returnees or arrivals of 2,200 females. As for the males, the magnitude of their departures was not significantly different from the arrivals as compared to the females. Hence, from a compilation of the responses of households the net number of Guyanese women travelling overseas far exceeded the number for their male counterparts. In summary, for every 100 males departing in 2012, there was a corresponding departure of nearly 124 females and for every 100 males arriving/returning there was an equivalent of 70 females. By disaggregation, the volume of net overseas migrations was reported as -1,801 for females and - 105 for the males.

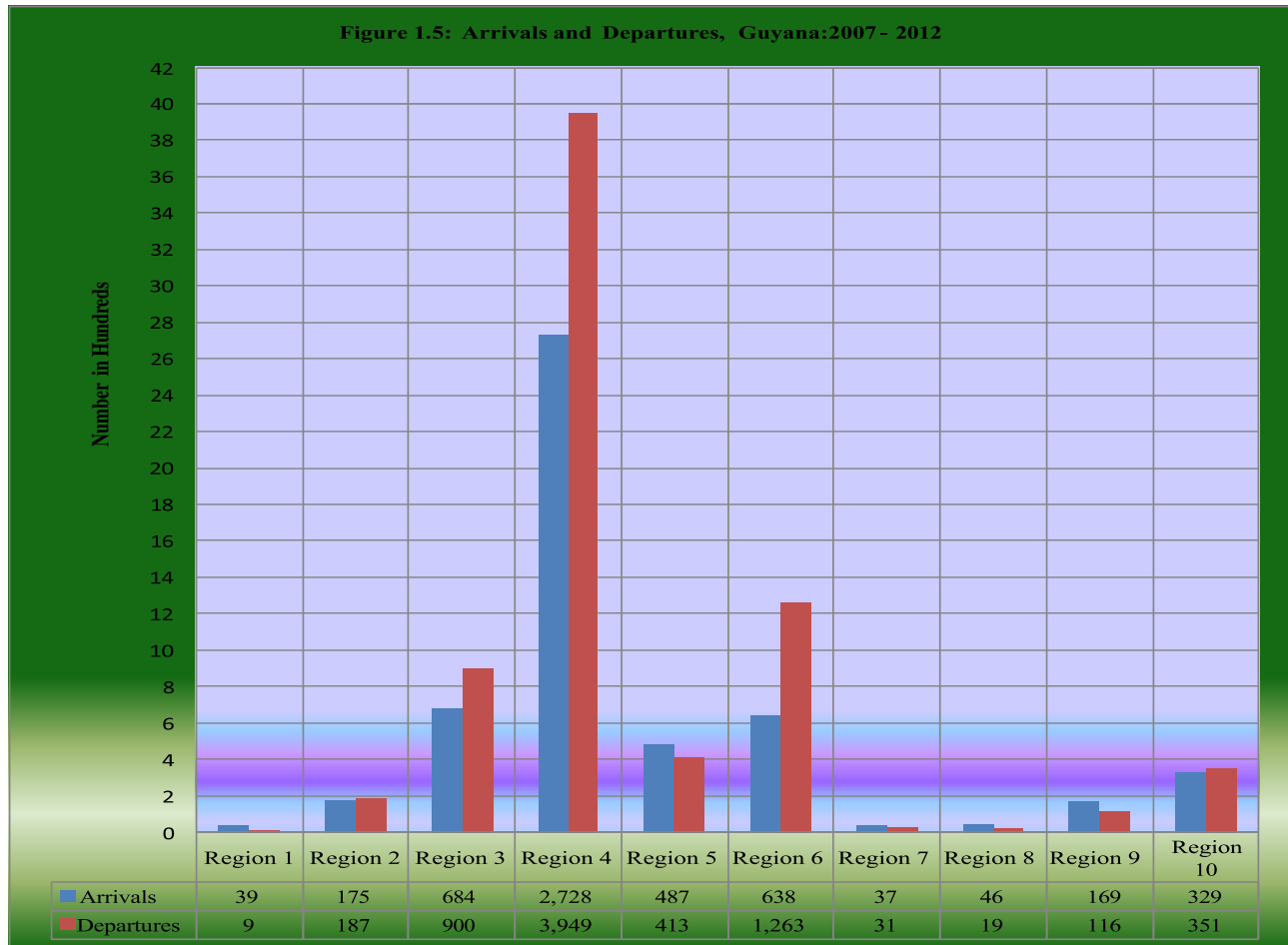
Secondly, the result shows hinterland and coastland variation. The four Hinterland Regions (1, 7, 8 & 9) ultimately attracted incoming overseas Guyanese, that is, residents from those hinterland regions who migrated and have returned to stay. In contrast, respondents in the coastland regions answering on behalf of their migrated relatives or other occupants of the households said a significant number of their members had migrated overseas to stay. As such, negative net migration rates were reported in five of the six administrative regions along the coastland (2, 3, 4, 6 & 10). The situation in Region 3 was almost identical to the entire country, while Regions 2 and 10 negative rates were way below the overall national average (See Table 1.7 and Figure 1.5).

From the pattern of the negative migration rates, the following facts about the population have been systematically observed. Except in Regions 2, 3 and 10, two of the three remaining coastland regions (Regions 4 and 6) which showed evidence of negative net migration had concomitantly exhibited a decline in the size of their populations when compared to 1980, at which time the decennial Census count recorded Guyana's highest population size. Region 5 also recorded a decline in its population from the 1980 level, even though it recorded a positive net migration from 2007 to 2012. The declining population growth rate was more pronounced in Region 6 than in any other region. Also, it is important to note that the coastland regions had shown a sizeable number of vacant and closed buildings in 2012 (See Appendix A.8 in the Preliminary Report, Page 40) in conjunction to the population decline.

Table 1.7: Calculation of Overseas Migration Rates Based on the Number of Native-Born Population Classified By Region of Residence and Sex, Guyana: 2012

Region	Absolute Number					Migration Rates/100			
	Non-migrant	Arrival	Departure	Total native born	Net-Migration	Non-migrant	In-Migrant	Out-Migrant	Net Migration
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)=(2)-(3)	(6)=(1)/(4)	(7)=(2)/(4)	(8)=(3)/(4)	(9)=(5)/(4)
	Both Sexes								
Region 1	26,836	39	9	26,884	30	99.82	0.15	0.03	0.11
Region 2	45,536	175	187	45,898	-12	99.21	0.38	0.41	-0.03
Region 3	104,189	684	900	105,773	-216	98.50	0.65	0.85	-0.20
Region 4	289,546	2,728	3,949	296,223	-1,221	97.75	0.92	1.33	-0.41
Region 5	48,331	487	413	49,231	74	98.17	0.99	0.84	0.15
Region 6	106,547	638	1,263	108,448	-625	98.25	0.59	1.16	-0.58
Region 7	16,849	37	31	16,917	6	99.60	0.22	0.18	0.04
Region 8	10,700	46	19	10,765	27	99.40	0.43	0.18	0.25
Region 9	23,257	169	116	23,542	53	98.79	0.72	0.49	0.23
Region 10	38,131	329	351	38,811	-22	98.25	0.85	0.90	-0.06
Total	709,922	5,332	7,238	722,492	-1,906	98.26	0.74	1.00	-0.26
	Males								
Region 1	13,993	23	3	14,019	20	99.8	0.16	0.02	0.14
Region 2	22,874	105	80	23,059	25	99.2	0.46	0.35	0.11
Region 3	51,883	396	404	52,683	-8	98.5	0.75	0.77	-0.02
Region 4	140,163	1,567	1,735	143,465	-168	97.7	1.09	1.21	-0.12
Region 5	24,072	277	192	24,541	85	98.1	1.13	0.78	0.35
Region 6	53,180	401	581	54,162	-180	98.2	0.74	1.07	-0.33
Region 7	8,728	25	9	8,762	16	99.6	0.29	0.10	0.18
Region 8	5,809	31	10	5,850	21	99.3	0.53	0.17	0.36
Region 9	11,970	105	62	12,137	43	98.6	0.87	0.51	0.35
Region 10	18,653	202	161	19,016	41	98.1	1.06	0.85	0.22
Total	351,325	3,132	3,237	357,694	-105	98.2	0.88	0.90	-0.03
	Females								
Region 1	12,843	16	6	12,865	10	99.83	0.12	0.05	0.08
Region 2	22,662	70	107	22,839	-37	99.23	0.31	0.47	-0.16
Region 3	52,306	288	496	53,090	-208	98.52	0.54	0.93	-0.39
Region 4	149,383	1,161	2,214	152,758	-1,053	97.79	0.76	1.45	-0.69
Region 5	24,259	210	221	24,690	-11	98.25	0.85	0.90	-0.04
Region 6	53,367	237	682	54,286	-445	98.31	0.44	1.26	-0.82
Region 7	8,121	12	22	8,155	-10	99.58	0.15	0.27	-0.12
Region 8	4,891	15	9	4,915	6	99.51	0.31	0.18	0.12
Region 9	11,287	64	54	11,405	10	98.97	0.56	0.47	0.09
Region 10	19,478	127	190	19,795	-63	98.40	0.64	0.96	-0.32
Total	358,597	2,200	4,001	364,798	-1,801	98.30	0.60	1.10	-0.49

The fact that the incoming citizens exceeded outgoing citizens in all the hinterland regions was not unexpected, primarily because those regions form the boundaries to the neighbouring countries. As a result of their proximity to the border countries, it was quite easier for citizens there to engage in regular common border crossings and perhaps at the time of Census report themselves as re-migrants.



However, while outward migration emerges as the predominant factor in the overall migration flows, the resultant total of 7,238 departures against 5,332 arrivals, compiled from household responses for the period 2007 to 2012, giving a net overseas migration total of -1,906 seems in retrospect to be significantly understated and must be interpreted with caution. For instance, information emanating from the United States Embassy in Guyana revealed that a total of 5,185 permanent visas were issued to Guyanese in 2010 alone. This category of U.S. Visa allows the holder a permanent resident status in the United States. It could be that the actual situation was understated due to two major factors:

Firstly, unlike buildings, only the occupants can move or migrate. As such, if significant number of the overseas migrants were previously occupants of the vacant and closed buildings that were recorded in sizeable amounts in 2012, it would have been impossible to determine their migration status, as the existence of those vacant and closed building precluded the obtaining of any direct information on the former members of those households, specifically their migration status and location on Census night. For instance, vacant and closed buildings combined accounted for 10.3 percent (22,561) of the total building stocks in the country in 2012 (See Appendix A.8 in the Preliminary Report, Page 40).

Secondly, if a considerable number of the respondents forgot and/or deliberately refused or were reluctant to disclose the information about their migrated members, the migration status of those members would consequently be omitted.

In conclusion, though, the data generated on migration suggests a strong degree of underreporting, the pattern of migration exhibited (i.e., regional, coastal/hinterland) is informative for planning purposes. Furthermore, there is a high level of vacant and closed buildings across regions, but the data presently available does not allow a rigorous correlation between vacant and closed buildings and outward migration flows. This finding points to the needs for further research, using available administrative data from all sources and even a special migration survey here in Guyana and in the main location of our Diasporas.