



Population movement & Migration in Maldives



Key findings from Census 2022

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Concepts behind different population count

Resident Maldivian Population = 382,639

Concept	Definition
Enumerated population	This is where the person was present at census night (CRT) (Census Reference Time (CRT) : 00:00 hrs of 13 Sept 2022)
Place of birth	Island/country where the person was born
Place of registration	The island where the person is registered at the time of Census. By law, all Maldivians are required to register in a house and upon which their national identity card can be issued.
Usual residence	The island where the person resided at the time of census. Usual residence is determined based on the duration of one year or more. - Place where a person has lived for more than one year or more OR - Place where a person intends to live for more than one year or more (if less than one year in their usual residence) This is also referred to as 'population living in an island'

Resident Maldivian Population = Maldivian

Enumerated population vs usual residents



Enumerated population vs Usual Residents

- Including foreigners, Maale host a population of 210,053 people.
- The population counted during the enumeration process in Maale surpassed the usual residents by an additional 1800 people. This surplus is recognized as a floating or moving population, expected to be present in Maale, at any given point in time
- Apart from Maale, K. Atoll has the greatest number of people residing within an atoll (42,677 people).

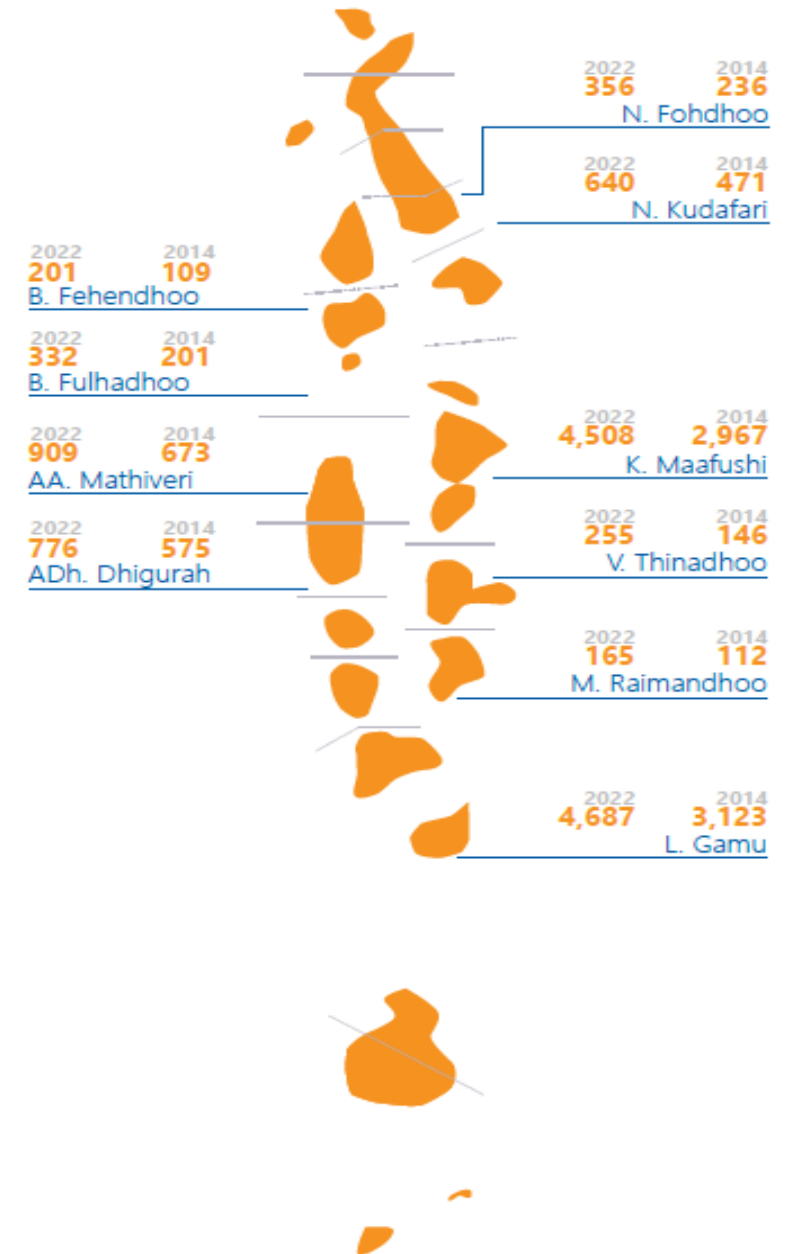
Resident Population by their usual residence and place of enumeration, Census 2022

Locality	Usual Resident Population			Enumerated Population		
	Total	Maldivian	Foreign	Total	Maldivian	Foreign
Republic	515,132	382,639	132,493	515,132	382,639	132,493
Maale	210,053	157,254	52,799	211,908	160,187	51,721
Atolls (Admin and Non-Admin Islands)	305,079	225,385	79,694	303,224	222,452	80,772
HA	15,564	13,834	1,730	15,311	13,544	1,767
HDh	22,976	20,592	2,384	22,845	20,284	2,561
Sh	14,928	13,121	1,807	14,654	12,880	1,774
N	16,912	12,531	4,381	16,637	12,289	4,348
R	23,541	17,723	5,818	23,253	17,498	5,755
B	17,433	10,980	6,453	17,168	10,776	6,392
Lh	12,962	9,017	3,945	13,272	9,184	4,088
K	42,677	19,813	22,864	43,247	20,101	23,146
AA	11,003	7,768	3,235	10,948	7,677	3,271
ADh	15,998	10,295	5,703	15,821	10,138	5,683
V	2,769	1,631	1,138	2,737	1,574	1,163
M	6,186	4,963	1,223	6,086	4,857	1,229
F	5,209	4,574	635	5,123	4,488	635
Dh	9,751	6,640	3,111	9,677	6,484	3,193
Th	10,747	9,488	1,259	10,537	9,225	1,312
L	15,933	13,522	2,411	15,901	13,239	2,662
GA	11,865	8,716	3,149	11,590	8,456	3,134
GDh	13,230	11,288	1,942	13,430	11,412	2,018
Gn	9,550	8,300	1,250	9,177	7,907	1,270
S	25,845	20,589	5,256	25,810	20,439	5,371

Usual Resident population (Maldivian + Foreign)

- B. Fehendhoo saw the highest growth in usual resident population. This was followed by V. Thinadhoo & B. Fulhadhoo
- In all these islands, increase in resident population was mainly due to the increase in foreign population and also by the increase in Maldivian population.

Islands with highest intercensal population growth rate of the usual resident population, 2022



Resident Population in Cities (Maldivian + Foreign)

- Highest growth was seen in Kulhudhuffushi city between the intercensal period
- Most of these gain was from the increase in the foreign population in Kulhudhuffushi city

City	2014			2022			Inter Censal Growth Rate (2014-2022)		
	Resident Popn	Maldivian	Foreign	Resident Popn	Maldivian	Foreign	Resident Popn	Maldivian	Foreign
HDh. Kulhudhuffushi	8,450	8,194	256	10,198	9,378	820	2.4	1.7	14.6
GDh. Thinadhoo	5,260	4,658	602	5,572	4,784	788	0.7	0.3	3.4
Gn. Fuvahmulah	8,556	8,035	521	9,550	8,300	1,250	1.4	0.4	11.0
Addu city	21,367	19,414	1,953	25,249	20,516	4,733	2.1	0.7	11.1

Usual resident population in Maale (Maldivian + Foreign)

Usual residents in Maale by ward, 2014 & 2022

Ward	2014			2022			Intercensal growth rate of usual resident Population (2014-2022)		
	Resident	Maldivian	Foreign	Resident	Maldivian	Foreign	Resident	Maldivian	Foreign
Maale (4 wards)	127,114	104,890	22,224	137,377	99,428	37,949	0.97	-0.67	6.70
Hulhumaale	16,617	14,063	2,554	65,228	51,990	13,238	17.11	16.36	20.59
Villimale	7,734	7,127	607	6,631	5,786	845	-1.93	-2.61	4.14
Total	151,465	126,080	25,385	210,053	157,254	52,799	4.09	2.77	9.17

*Excludes Hulhule population

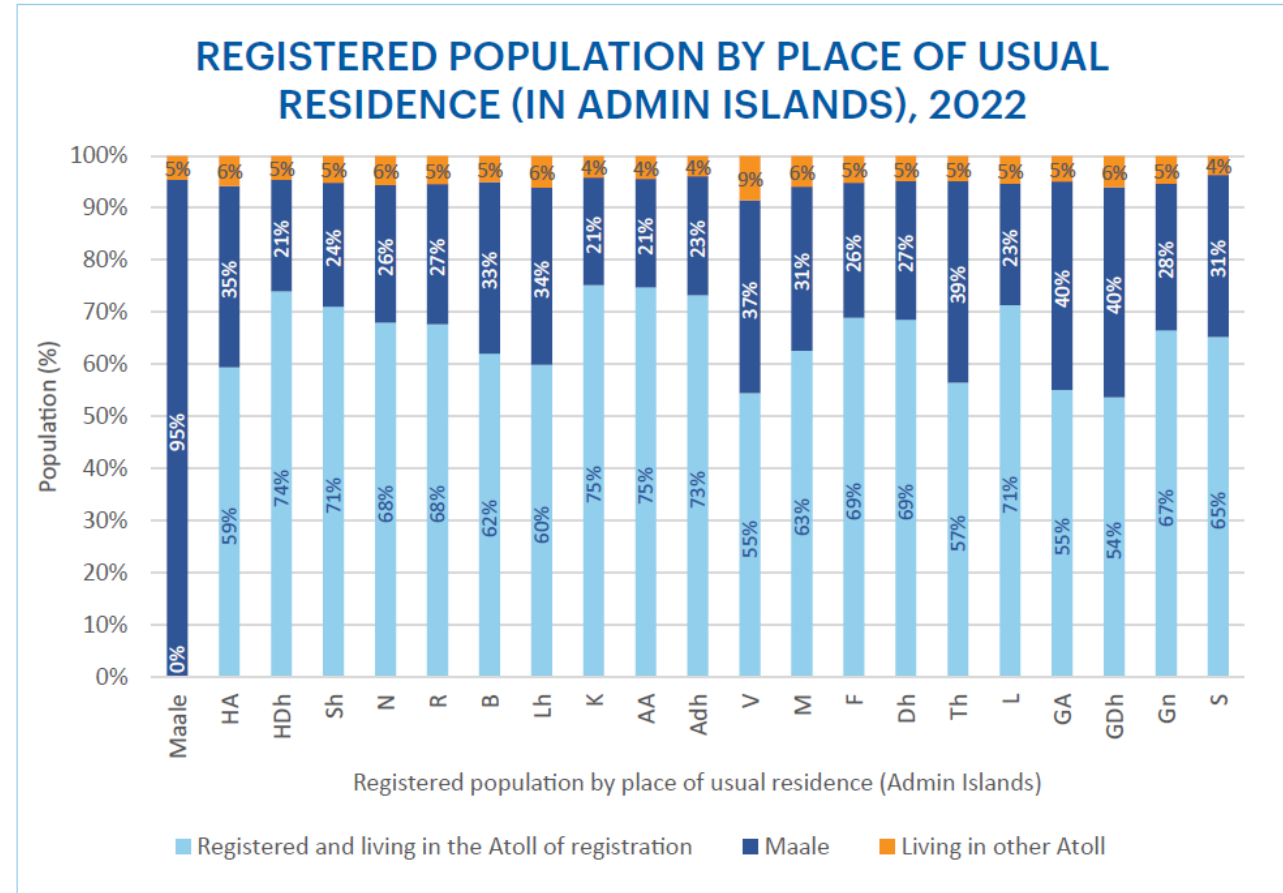
- Maale population saw an increase of 4% annual growth over the past 7 years (Mainly due to growth in foreign population)
- Four wards of Maale saw a modest increase in usual residents, with increase in Foreign population and decline in Maldivian population growth
- Decline in population growth in Villimale
- Hulhumale recorded the highest annual growth rate at 17% - with Maldivian living in the area increasing by 16% annually and the foreign population growth exceeding by 20%

Resident Maldivian Population



Registered population by place of usual residence –at Atoll level

- More than 50% of the population that is registered in each Atoll also lived within the Atoll.
- Out of the registered population in GA & GDh Atoll, 2 in every 5 people was living in Maale.
- Share of population registered and living within the same atoll was higher in central atolls (K, AA & ADh) compared to other atolls.



Registered population by place of usual residence – island level

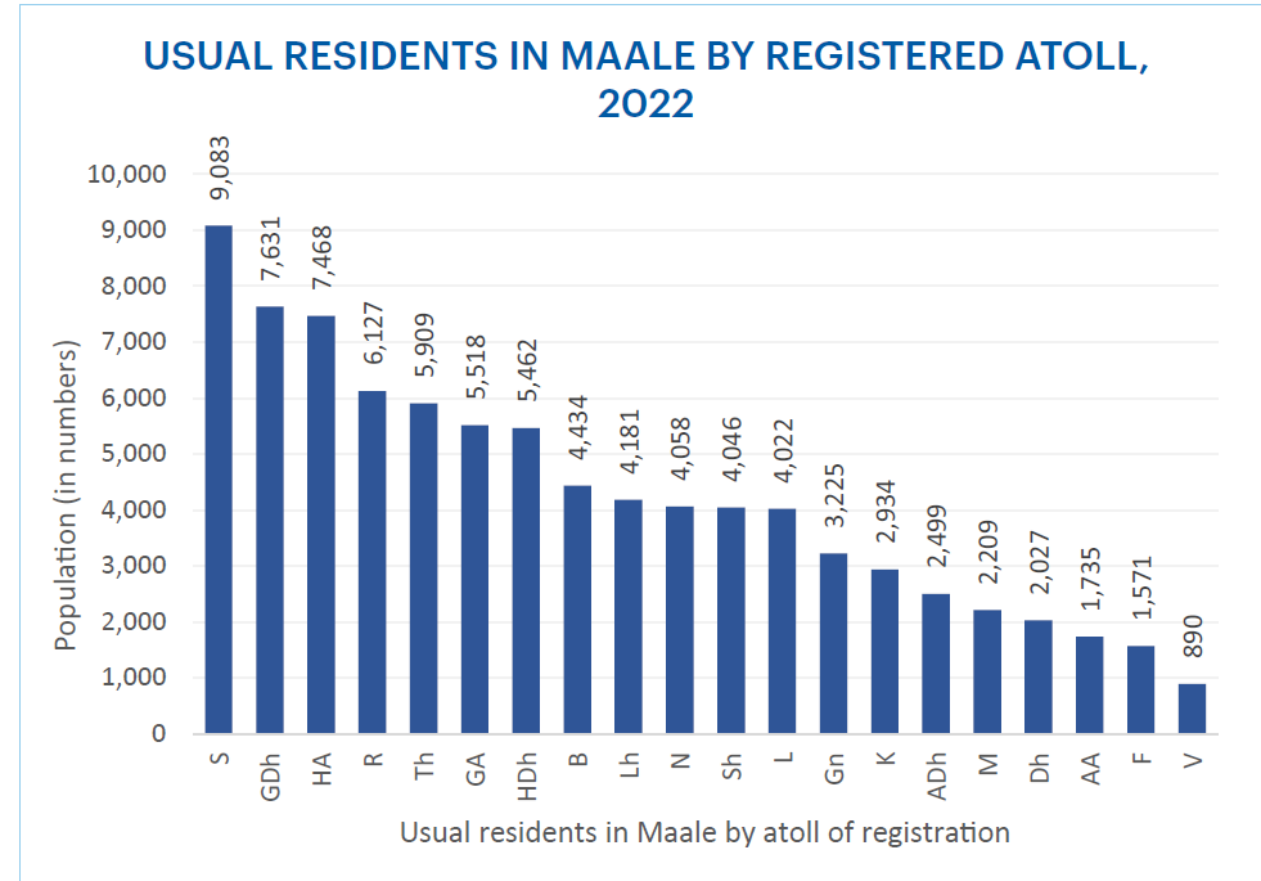
- Islands where most of the registered population reside in the island are mostly located in the central region
- Laamu atoll showed potential to retain its registered population in the island.
- Kulhudhuffushi stood out as the only city with more than 80% of its registered population living in the city.

Islands with the greatest number of registered population living in the island, 2022

1	84% 928 AA. Ukulhas	5	79% 1,001 L. Hithadhoo
2	82% 1,956 K. Maafushi	6	79% 675 AA. Himandhoo
3	80% 8,180 H.Dh. Kulhudhuffushi	7	78% 934 K. Himmafushi
4	80% 1,078 Th. Veymandoo	8	78% 498 Sh. Narudhoo

Usual residents in Maale by place of registration

- More than half of the population living in Maale are registered in other islands
- Majority of those living in Maale was from most populous atolls – Addu City, GDh & HA Atoll.



Usual residents in Maale by place of registration

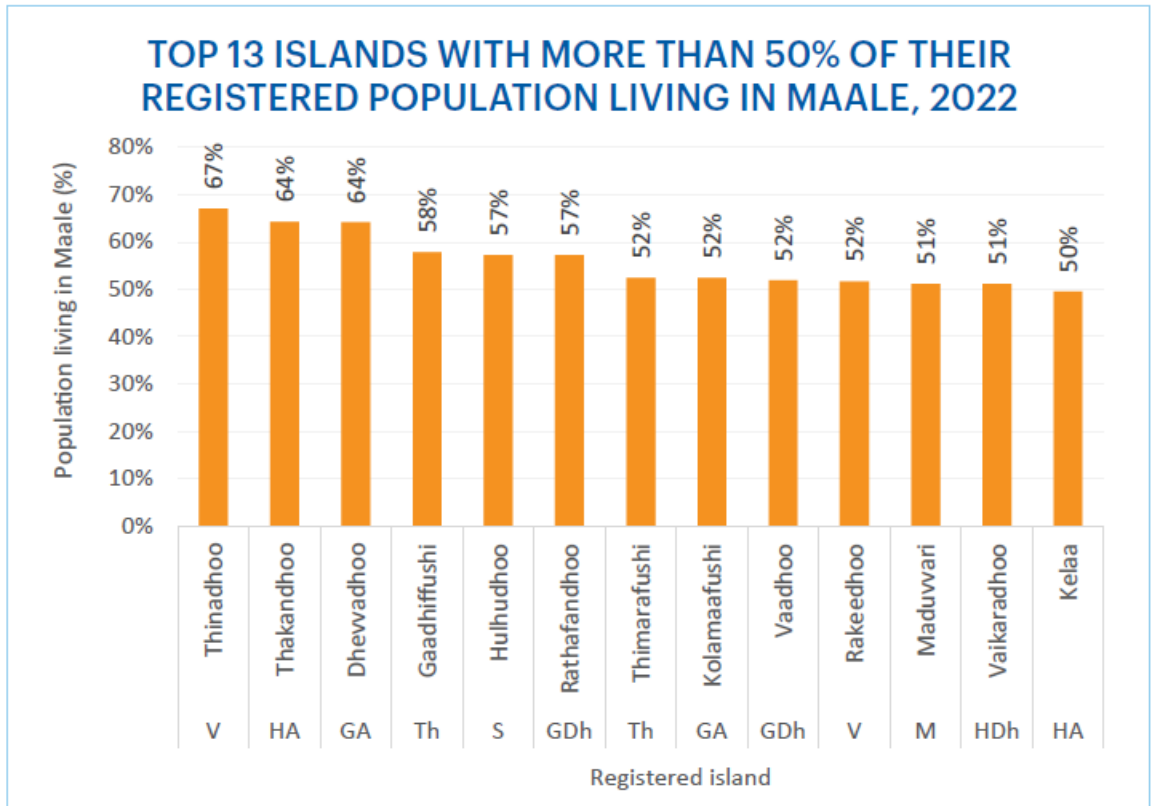
- People from Hithadhoo Avah constitute largest group living in Maale in terms of absolute numbers.
- Southern Atolls contributed to most residents in Maale
- Share of registered population from these islands residing in Maale- one 1 in every 4- person registered in these islands were living in Maale. Eg: even though 1773 people from Hulhudhoo Avah lived in Maale, it accounted to almost half of their registered population living in Maale.

10 Islands with the greatest number of people living in Maale (in absolute numbers) by their island of registration, 2022

Atoll	Island of registration	Population living in Maale by island of registration	Registered Population in each Island	Share of registered population living in Maale
S	Hithadhoo	3,602	15,267	24%
Gn	Fuvahmulah	3,225	12,319	26%
GDh	Thinadhoo	2,616	7,169	36%
Lh	Hinnavaru	2,125	4,725	45%
S	Hulhudhoo	1,773	3,097	57%
S	Feydhoo	1,649	5,122	32%
HA	Hoarafushi	1,479	3,341	44%
GDh	Gadhdhoo	1,370	2,938	47%
Th	Thimarafushi	1,315	2,509	52%
Lh	Naifaru	1,250	5,668	22%

Usual residents in Maale – islands where more than half of their registered population lives in Maale

- 13 islands had more than 50% of their registered population living in Maale
- 16 islands had 40-49% of their registered population living in Maale



Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age



- Maldives has achieved almost 100% birth registration.
- 70 Maldivians are report in the census as not being registered in Maldives
- 55 Children less than 5 years are yet to complete their birth registration.
- Most of the children who are not registered lives in Maale.

Indicators	Resident Maldivian		
	Republic	Male	Atolls
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age			
Proportion of children under 5 years with birth registration	99.8%	99.6%	99.9%

Age	Locality		
	Republic	Maale	Atolls
0	52	43	9
1	0	0	0
2	2	1	1
3	0	0	0
4	1	0	1
5	0	0	0
Total	55	44	11



Note: In census if a person is registered, it would imply birth has been registered and birth certificate has been issued



Migration among Maldivians

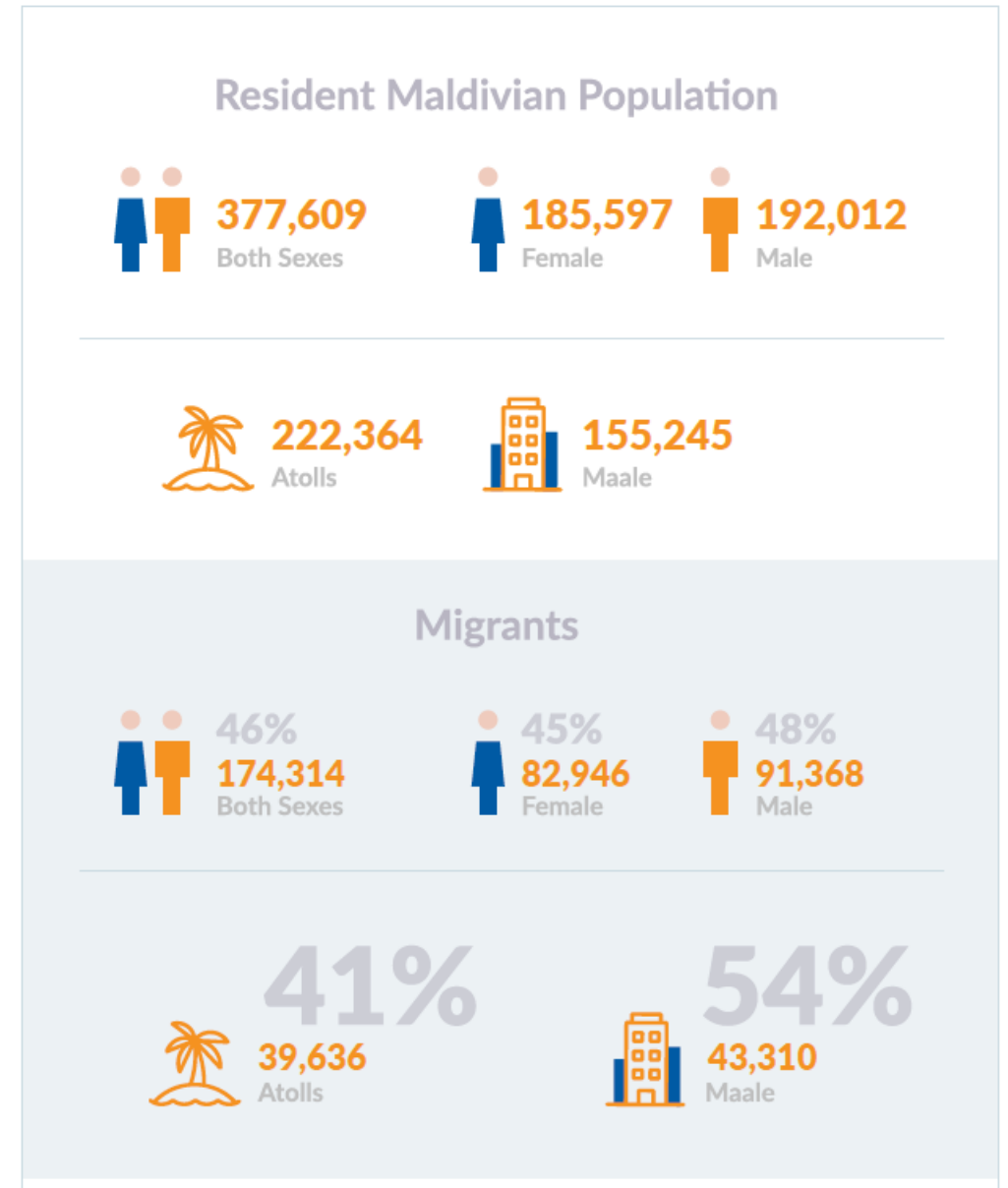


Who is a migrant?

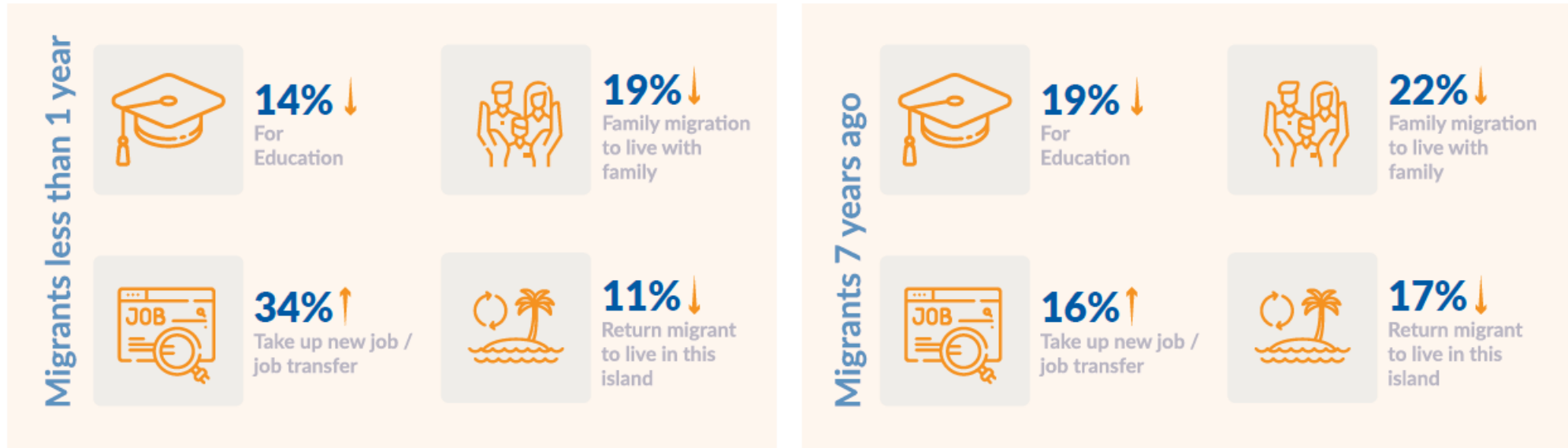
- **Migration among Maldivian was determined based on the change in usual residence. If the person has ever resided in a place (island/country) other than their island of usual residence for one year or more, then an individual is considered as a migrant.**
- **Census captures the most recent migration of a person (eg; if a person has migrated for more than once, information with regard to their most recent migration is collected)**

Migrants - Maldivians

- Close to half of the Maldivian population were migrants.
- More than half of the population in Maale were migrants with female predominant as migrants.
- One in every 3 person was a migrant in Atolls



Why do Maldivians migrate? Past and present



- 7 years ago- primary motive for migration was family migration (22%), education (19%) and return migration (17%).
- At present, employment stood as the primary driver (34%), with family migration (19%) and education (14%).

Migration towards Maale

- Education was the main pull factor to the capital city 7 years ago and it remained same even today.
- Migration due to other reasons (such as medical, as parent/ guardian) increased overtime.

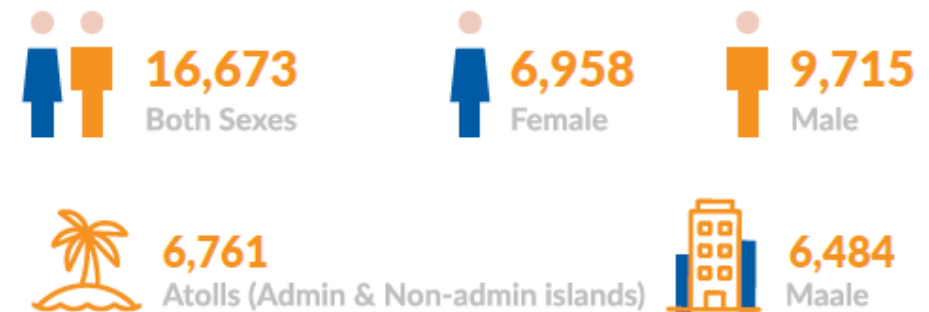
Reason for migration, now and 7 years ago, 2022

Reason for migration	Less than 1 year				7 years ago			
	Republic	Maale	Atolls (Admin & non-admin)	Admin Islands	Republic	Maale	Atolls (Admin & non-admin)	Admin Islands
For education	14%	28%	5%	8%	19%	32%	5%	5%
Take up a new job/ job transfer	34%	13%	47%	20%	16%	14%	18%	9%
Return migrant after completing education	4%	5%	3%	4%	12%	13%	12%	13%
Return migrant to live in this island	11%	6%	14%	21%	17%	8%	27%	30%
Family migration to live with family	19%	26%	15%	22%	22%	24%	21%	23%
Due to marriage	5%	3%	6%	10%	8%	3%	14%	15%
As a parent / guardian	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Medical purpose	5%	9%	2%	4%	2%	3%	0%	1%

Migrants- by duration in current residence (migrants less than 1 year)

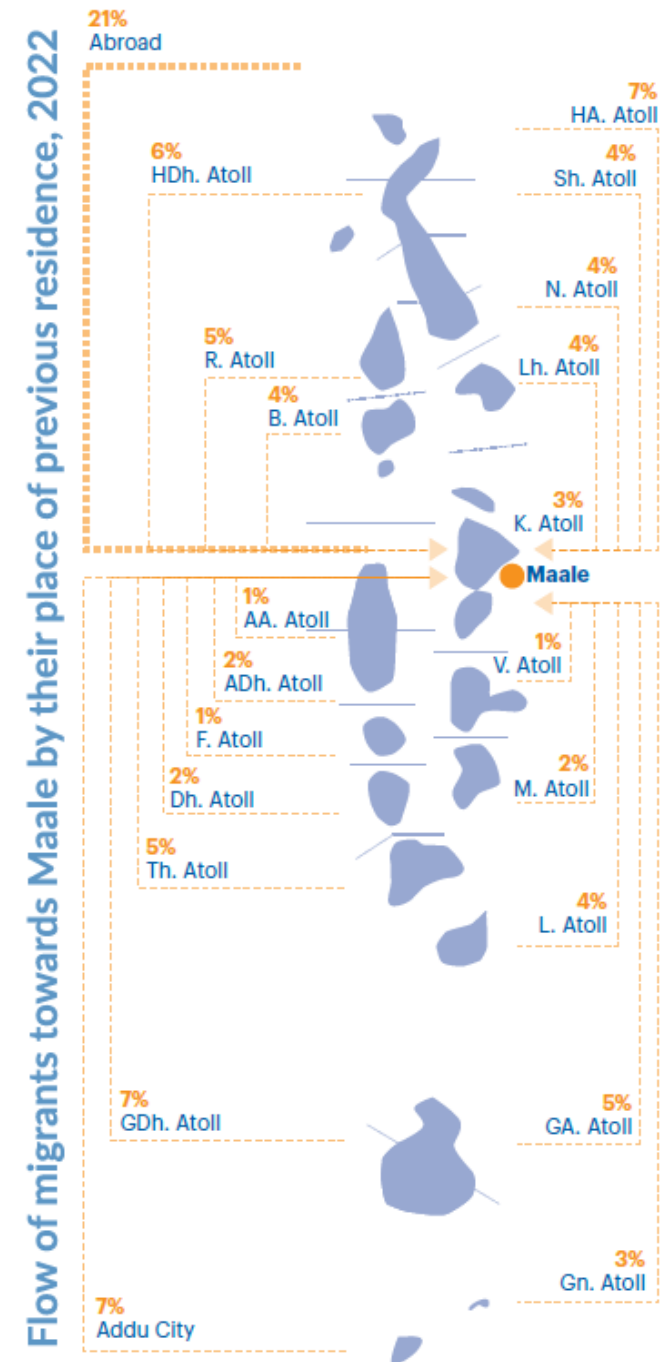
- A total of 16,673 people migrated less than one year ago.
- Maale received 6484 migrants as most recent migrants. This is an addition of 1168 people compared to migrants moving to Maale in 2021.
- This gives a crude estimation of migration to Maale as:
 - Maale can expect to receive 6400 migrants annually
 - Maale can expect to receive 18 migrants per day

Duration in usual residence by locality, 2022 Migrants less than 1 year



Migrants in Maale by their place of previous residence

- Out of the total migrants, close to half of the migrants (48%) resided in Maale
- 1 in 5 migrants in Maale (21%) used to live abroad before moving to Maale.
- Next is people moving from populous Atolls such as GDh (7%), HA (7%), and Addu City (7%)



Movement within Maale (over the past 1 year)



Movement within Maale (in the past 1 year)

- Movement was more frequent in Hulhumale within a year compared to other wards.
- While 68% of the usual residents in Hulhumale resided in Hulhumale 1 year back, the remaining was newcomers, mostly from moving from 4 wards of Maale.



Ward of usual residence	Place residing in Sept 2021						
	Other island	Abroad	Maale (4 wards)	Vilimaale	Hulhule	Hulhumaale	Total
Maale (4 wards)	2%	0%	97%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Vilimaale	3%	0%	3%	93%	0%	1%	100%
Hulhumaale	4%	1%	25%	2%	0%	68%	100%

Foreign migrants



Stock of foreigners in the country

- One in every 4 person living in Maldives is a foreigner.
- About 40% of the foreign population is living in Maale.
- More than half of the foreign population living in Maale are from Bangladesh.
- One in every 5 foreigner living in Maale is from India.

Foreign population in Maldives by nationality, 2022

132,493

Foreign population
in Maldives



79,694
Atolls



52,799
Maale



32,971
India



1,723
Philippines



11,338
Sri Lanka



2,301
Indonesia



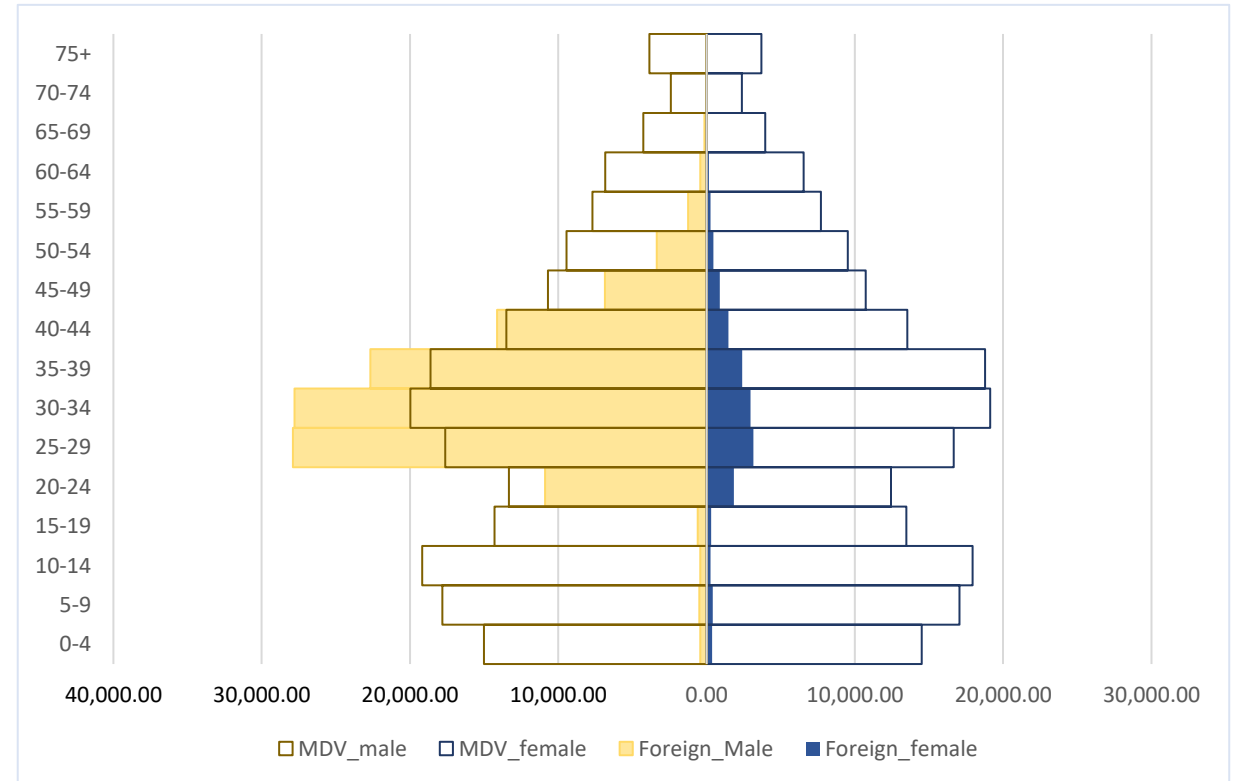
74,815
Bangladesh



5,123
Nepal

Foreigners by age group

- Foreign men outnumbered Maldivian in the prime age of working.
- In the age band of 25-29 years, 10,00 more foreigners were in the country than Maldivians.
- In the age band of 30-34 years, foreign men surpassed Maldivians men by 7000 workers.
- A significant proportion of foreign male continued to work in the country in their late 40's and fifties, while only a few foreign women worked in the country beyond 45 years.



Flow of foreign migrants

- In census, out of the total foreign population 25,000 foreign workers have been living in the country for less than 1 year.
- Out of these 12,000 workers are from India (25% of the foreigners)
- 2022 show a huge influx of foreign workers compare to past few years (might be a jump after COVID)

						
	India	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh	Philippines	Indonesia	Nepal
Duration in Maldives	Total 32,971	Total 11,338	Total 74,815	Total 1,723	Total 2,301	Total 4,222
	0: 12,909	0: 2,508	0: 6,504	0: 301	0: 806	0: 1,270
	1-2: 9,139	1-2: 2,765	1-2: 8,337	1-2: 442	1-2: 801	1-2: 1,112
	3-4: 3,351	3-4: 2,108	3-4: 19,812	3-4: 366	3-4: 327	3-4: 805
	5-6: 2,191	5-6: 1,189	5-6: 15,660	5-6: 236	5-6: 146	5-6: 412
	7-8: 1,235	7-8: 688	7-8: 10,280	7-8: 139	7-8: 89	7-8: 181
	9-10: 1,053	9-10: 561	9-10: 5,147	9-10: 94	9-10: 46	9-10: 122
	10+: 3,093	10+: 1,519	10+: 9,075	10+: 145	10+: 86	10+: 320



Dissemination of Census 2022 Analytical Reports

13 February 2024

Population Dynamics in The Maldives & Population Movement & Migration Dynamics

Maldives Bureau of Statistics

Ministry of Housing, Land & Urban Development



MALDIVES
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Thank you