



POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION

HOUSEHOLD INCOME & EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2019



National Bureau of Statistics,
Ministry of National Planning, Housing & Infrastructure



(c) NBS Maldives

All rights reserved. Requests for permission to reproduce or translate this publication [whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution] should be addressed to NBS Maldives.

The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the National Bureau of Statistics. Assumptions made within the analysis presented here are not reflective of the position of the Government of the Republic of Maldives.

Written by:	Ms. Fathimath Riyaza
Checked and verified by:	Ms. Aishath Shahuda
Layout and design by:	Aminath Musfiqa Ibrahim



POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION

HOUSEHOLD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY 2019

CONTENTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION	5
2.2 DEFINING ‘USUAL RESIDENCE’ AND A ‘MIGRANT’	7
2.3 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACROSS MALE’ AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS OF ATOLLS	8
2.4 BIRTH REGISTRATION- OF MALDIVIANS	8
2.5 POPULATION LIVING IN MALE’ – MALDIVIANS	10
2.5 POPULATION LIVING IN MALE’ – MALDIVIANS	12
2.7 WHY MALDIVIANS MIGRATE	13
2.8 GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MIGRATION	14
2.9 MIGRATION OF MALDIVIANS FOR KEY REASONS- EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND MARRIAGE	15
2.9.1 MIGRATION FOR EDUCATION	15
2.9.2 MIGRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT	17
2.9.3 MIGRATION FOR MARRIAGE	18
2.10 AVERAGE AGE AT MIGRATION – TO USUAL RESIDENCE	19
2.11 MIGRANTS IN MALE’ AND REASONS	20
2.11 RECENT MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION IN THE PAST	21
2.12 RETURN MIGRANTS	24
2.12 COMMUTING	25

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Maldives has experienced rapid growth in its fertility rate and population in the 1990s. This has resulted in the shift in child population to increase in youth in the 2000s. Today, it still remains as a vibrant young population and is distributed across the country.

The development of a country relies on its population. Population distribution and migration is often associated with economic prosperity, opportunity and wellbeing. This results in population been unevenly distributed and individual ambition takes them to where there is job, other resources and services.

As a result, migration has become an important force in development and a high-priority issue to be dealt in Maldives. Internal migration or movement within country has increased in response to inequitable distribution of resources and services between Male' and Atolls. Male' has witnessed the development of health, educational facilities and jobs, making it one of the most densely populated cities in the world. Recent expansion of land connectivity to Hulhumale' has relieved much of the population living in congested and confined spaces. It is estimated in 'Maldives population projection 2014-2054' that half of the population will live in Male' by 2050.

The current government gives special emphasis on the regional development of the country. It aims to develop growth centres strategically across the nation using connectivity to support the functionality of regions as a unified entity (Maldives Partnership Forum, 2019).

The law mandates all Maldivians to be registered in 'an address' before their National Identity Card can be issued. The birth of a child must be registered with the authorities within 7 days and place of birth might differ from their registered address. The City/Island Councils maintains the records of Maldivians registered in the island but not the population resident/living in the island. There are huge differences in these headcounts, as many people registered in the islands live in islands other than where they are registered, high proportions living in capital Male'.

Globalisation has increased the mobility of labour and Maldives has been experiencing an influx of foreign labour over the past decades. Furthermore, administrative records of foreign migrant workers at island level are not systematically maintained. As such, data needed to assess the impact of migration on the 'place of origin'

and ‘receiving end’ are not readily available through government administrative records. This adds complexity to identifying the population residing in a given island. The decentralisation act mandates councils to maintain registers of resident population, monitoring internal migration and maintaining these data remains a huge challenge. Another aspect is the challenges for councils to maintain records of population employed in tourist resorts and industrial islands within respective Atolls.

Challenges are numerous in managing the foreign workforce as well. If the current trend continues, by 2050, half of Maldives population will consist of foreigners (Maldives Population Projection, 2014-2054). Maldives currently lacks a migration policy or a population policy to gear and manage both internal and international migration. Mismanagement has exacerbated pressure on the receiving end by straining limited infrastructure and social service systems.

The need for understanding migration issues advocates for better migration data. Much of this also requires timely statistics on migration and flow of migrants internally. Data on migration is currently available either through Census or Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

With this regard, this chapter looks at the distribution of population, migration, reason for migration, etc. The results will be presented using the concept of ‘usual residence’ for resident Maldivian.

2.2 DEFINING 'USUAL RESIDENCE' AND A 'MIGRANT'

In order to carry out the analysis on population distribution and migration, key concepts of importance are:

USUAL RESIDENCE- HIES 2019 captured population based on the concept of usual members. Usual members are those residing in a given location irrespective of their place of registration and are considered as residents of that area as per international definition. Usual residence is determined based on the duration he/she has lived in current residence. This means a person is considered as a usual resident if he/she has lived in that area/ island for one year or more and has the intention of living there for more than one year. Then that place/island is considered as the usual residence of that person.

MIGRANT- Migration is determined by 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.

The use of registered address and place of birth is NOT used for defining internal migration due to the nature of the ambiguity involved in them. Birth often takes place in the capital city or regional hospitals and does not reflect the usual residence of the person. Similarly, a person may be registered in an island and might not live there.

Therefore, following the definition used in Census 2014, HIES 2019 also use the change in usual residence for more than one year to define migratory status.

2.3 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACROSS MALE' AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS OF ATOLLS

HIES 2019 estimates a total population of 451,621 in Maldives for 2019. This is including resident Maldivians and Foreigners. Close to half of the population lives in Male' (47% of the population). More female resides in the Atolls than in Male'. As HIES covers only administrative islands, this is owed to the fact that men are working away from home and in resorts, etc.

Table 1.1: Distribution of population by locality and sex, 2019

Sex	Resident Population			Resident Maldivian		
	Republic	Male'	Atolls	Republic	Male'	Atolls
Both Sexes	451,621	214,502	237,119	434,944	206,182	228,762
Female	236,016	109,779	126,237	230,315	106,034	124,281
Male	215,544	104,662	110,882	204,568	100,087	104,481
Sex Not Stated	61	61		61	61	

Note: Only foreigners living in normal housing or in collective living quarters with less than 10 people is included here. Exclude locals and foreigners residing in resorts and industrial islands.

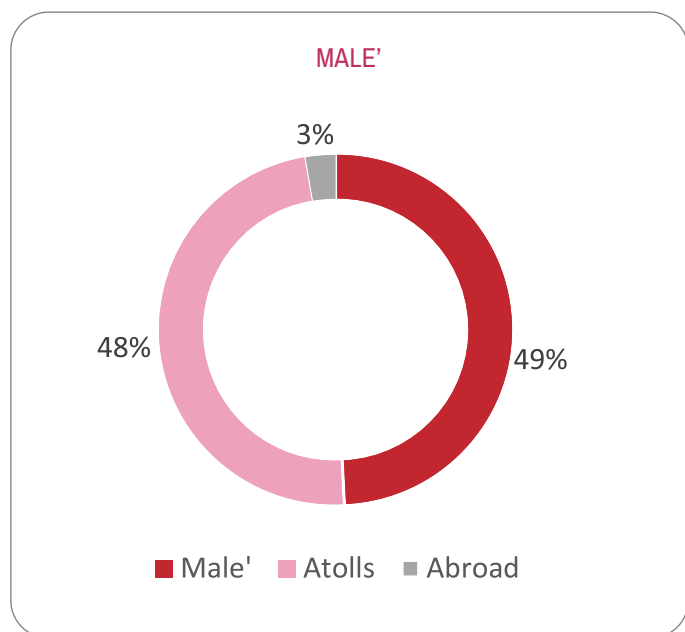
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.4 BIRTH REGISTRATION- OF MALDIVIANS

Information with regard to place of birth provides additional insight into the extent of migration taking place in the country. Place of birth also gives a sense of movement within the population with regard to access to birth delivery.

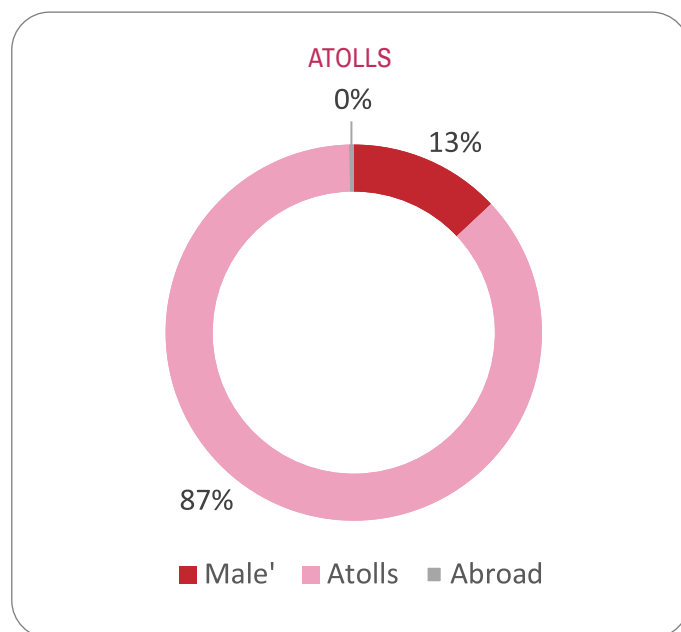
Among those living in Male' close to half have stated their place of birth is Male' while at the same time 48% also stated they have been born in other islands. This indicates the extent of migration towards the capital city. Among those living in the Atolls, 13% are born in Male'.

Figure 1.1: Population living in Male' by place of birth, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.2: Population living in the Atolls by place of birth, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

While identifying place of birth has its value, the registration of birth is of equal importance. Every child has the right to a legal identity. Birth registration is mandatory in Maldives and admission to school is granted with a birth certificate together with other legal documents.

Information from civil registration and vital statistics is essential for providing social assistance, inheritance, attending school and for future job prospects.

Everyone has rights to an official identification and in order to leave no one behind, SDG 16.9.1 reports on the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority.

Since HIES 2019 did not ask each individual for their legal document, place of registration has been used as a proxy to measure this indicator. The law mandates each individual (of Maldivian nationality) to be registered in a house or at an address in the country. This process has to be completed before birth certificate can be issued

and before national identity card is issued¹. Therefore, if a person is registered, it would imply birth has been registered and birth certificate has been issued. The issuance of National Identity card has increased over the years with the introduction of universal health coverage and as many public/ private services depends on the use of NID card.

Birth registration is high in Maldives. The result shows that less than 1% of children under 5 years remain without being registered with a civil authority.

Table 1.1: Distribution of population by locality and sex, 2019			
SDG Indicator 16.9.1	Girls	Boys	Both Sexes
Population under 5 with birth registration	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.5 POPULATION LIVING IN MALE’ – MALDIVIANS

Male’, the capital city of Maldives is regarded as the socio-economic hub of the country. Without any other part of the country with similar levels of essential services; quality health care and education, water and sanitation, prospects for decent job opportunities, pull towards Male’ area continued to increase over the years. Major infrastructure and construction projects continuing in Male’ area leads to a huge foreign migrant work force. Internal migration of the local population from other islands to Male’ area continued to increase as well, leaving their homes in the islands vacant and living in small confined spaces, mostly in rented accommodation. Most migrant workers occupy sub-standard accommodation and crowded labour quarters.

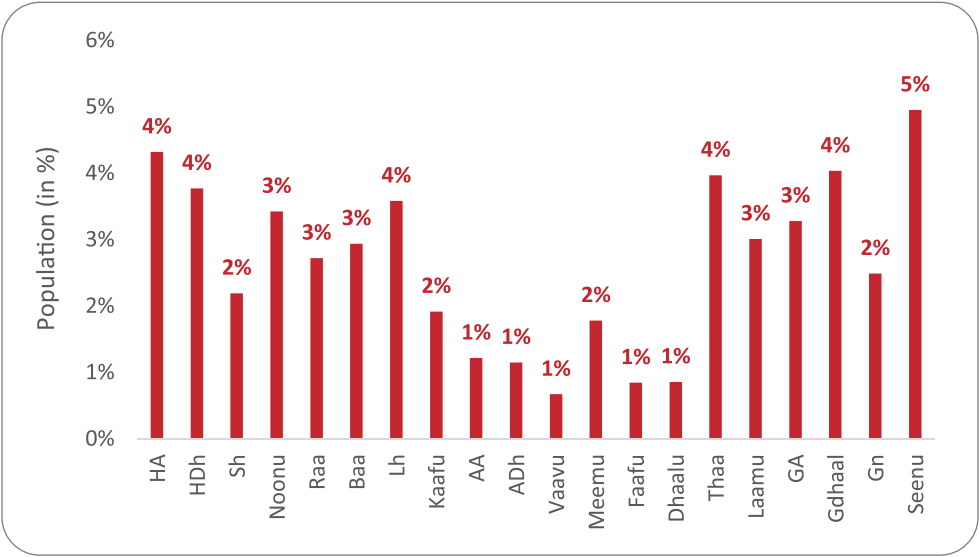
Today, many are taking residence in Hulhumale’, considered as another ward of Male’, reclaimed to ease congestion in the capital, has more than double the area of Male’. Since late 2018 it is connected to Male’ via a bridge, just twenty minutes ride away. The government has huge projects to expand the infrastructure, hous-

¹ Upon submission for birth certificate, an ID number is given to each individual. ID card (hard copy) is issued once the birth is registered, birth certificate is issued and house registration is done.

ing schemes and other industrial development projects in Hulhumale’, which is attracting more and more people to migrate towards Male’ area.

Male’ currently exhibits 47% of the country’s population. Figure 1.3 presents the population living in Male’ (usual residents) by their place of registration. Among those residing in Male’ majority (47%) are registered in Male’. This means the rest are registered in other islands yet living in Male’. In other words, for each registered person in Male’, there is a person registered in another island who is living in Male’. Among those living in Male’ and registered in other Atolls, majority are from the most populous Atolls in the country (Addu city, Gaafu Dhaalu, Haa Alif, Haa Dhaalu). This also shows that Male’ has 2 times more residents than its registered population.

Figure 1.3: Population living in Male’ by place of registration, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

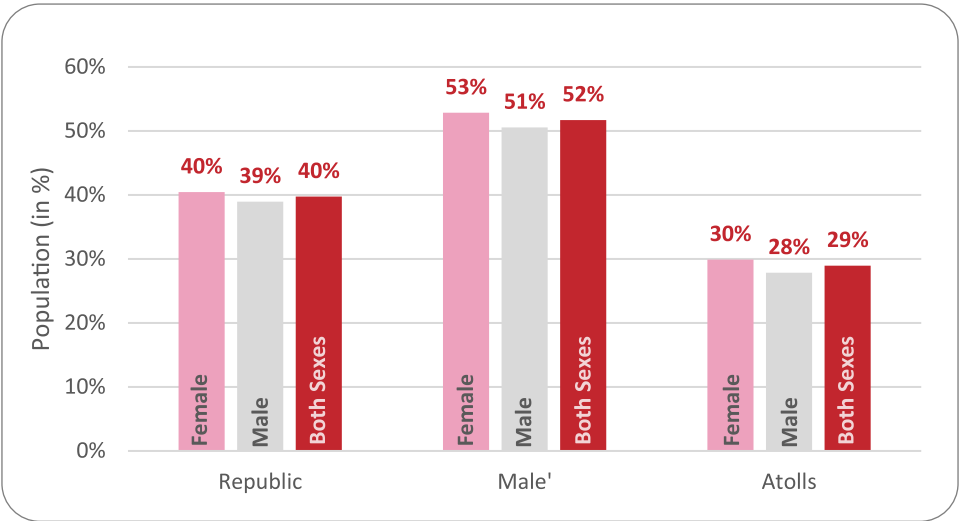
2.6 MIGRATION- AMONG MALDIVIANS IN ADMINISTRATIVE ISLANDS

Migration is one of the main factors which effects population distribution across the country. Population moves from one location to other to seek better social services, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, etc.

A person is considered as a migrant if the person has ever resided in a place (island/country) other than their island of usual residence for one year or more.

In total, 40% of the resident Maldivians have migrated at some point in their life. Migration is more among females than among males within the 187 administrative islands ². Migration is more towards the capital city Male', where more than half of the population are migrants. Internal migration also takes place within the Atolls, where one third of the population are migrants as well.

Figure 1.4: Migrant population by sex and locality, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

² As resorts and industrial islands are not covered in the survey, this might not give the true extent of migration among men as they mostly work in the resorts. Resort Employees Survey 2019, estimates a total of 44,954 employees working in the 147 tourist resort islands across the country. <http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/employment-in-tourist-resorts-2019/>

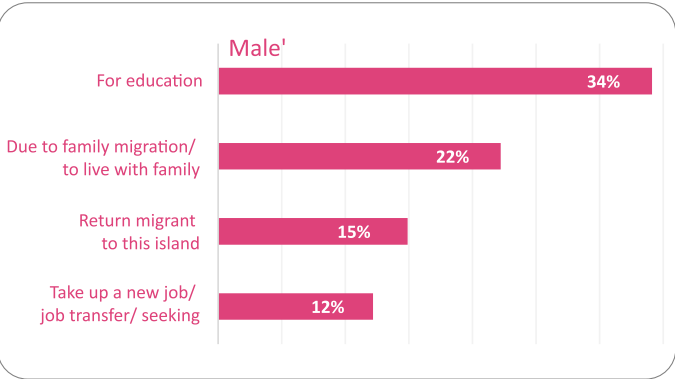
2.7 WHY MALDIVIANS MIGRATE

People migrate from one place to another for various reasons such as for jobs, education, to start a family, etc. Internal migration among Maldivians is common and people may migrate several times. For those persons who have changed their island of residence for more than once, the reason for the most recent migration is taken.

Figure 1.5 presents why people migrate to Male' by main 4 reasons. Education remains as the main reason why people migrate to Male'. Almost 1 in 3 migrants comes to Male' for education. Quality education together with different opportunities for higher education is available in Male' and those pursuing further education tend to migrate to Male' due to this. Migration due to family migrating is also one of the main reasons why people migrate towards Male'. When family migrates, this leads to children/spouse and relatives migrating with them. This results in group migration towards Male'. Return migrants are also significant, and includes those who re-turn back home after studying abroad or those who have been away for long term medical treatment, employment, etc. About 12% of the migrants are coming to Male' for better employment opportunities.

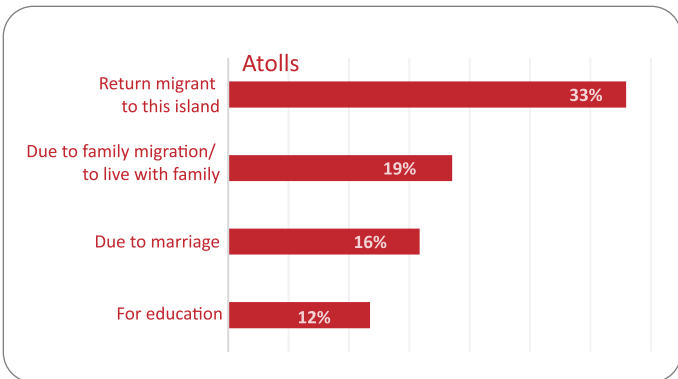
Figure 1.6 shows the main reasons why migration take place in the administrative islands of Atolls. One in 3 migrants migrate to Atoll as return migrants. These might be those who has been away for education, medical purpose, employment, etc. Migration due to marriage is among the main cause for changing residence in the Atolls. While education remains as the main reason for migration to Male', this comes as the fourth main reason for migration to and within the Atolls.

Figure 1.5: Main 4 reasons why people migrate to Male', 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.6: Main 4 reasons why people migrate to Atolls, 2019



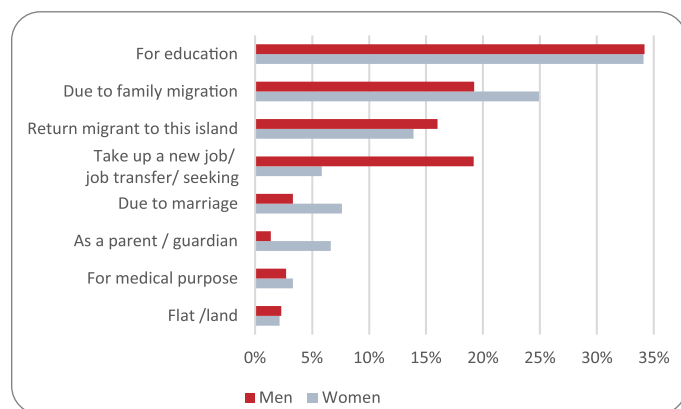
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.8 GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MIGRATION

Women dominate as migrants to administrative islands in the country. Women's migration to Male' is centric to their gender roles. Their migratory movements are defined by having to move with their family, marriage or as a parent or guardian for their children or parents. The proportion of men and women migrating for education is almost at the same level.

Similar result is observed in the Atolls, where same pattern of migratory movement is seen among women. Gender difference is observed among those migrating for employment as men are mostly driven to Male' and to Atolls for employment.

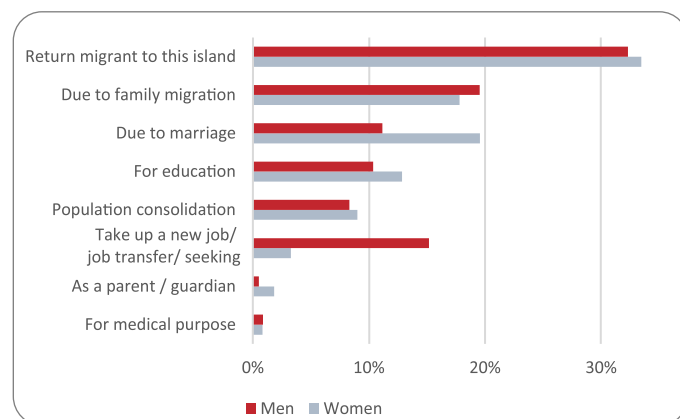
Figure 1.7: Reasons why men and women are migrating to Male', 2019



* Percentages are out of male/female totals

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.8: Reasons why men and women are migrating to/within Atolls, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.9 MIGRATION OF MALDIVIANS FOR KEY REASONS- EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND MARRIAGE

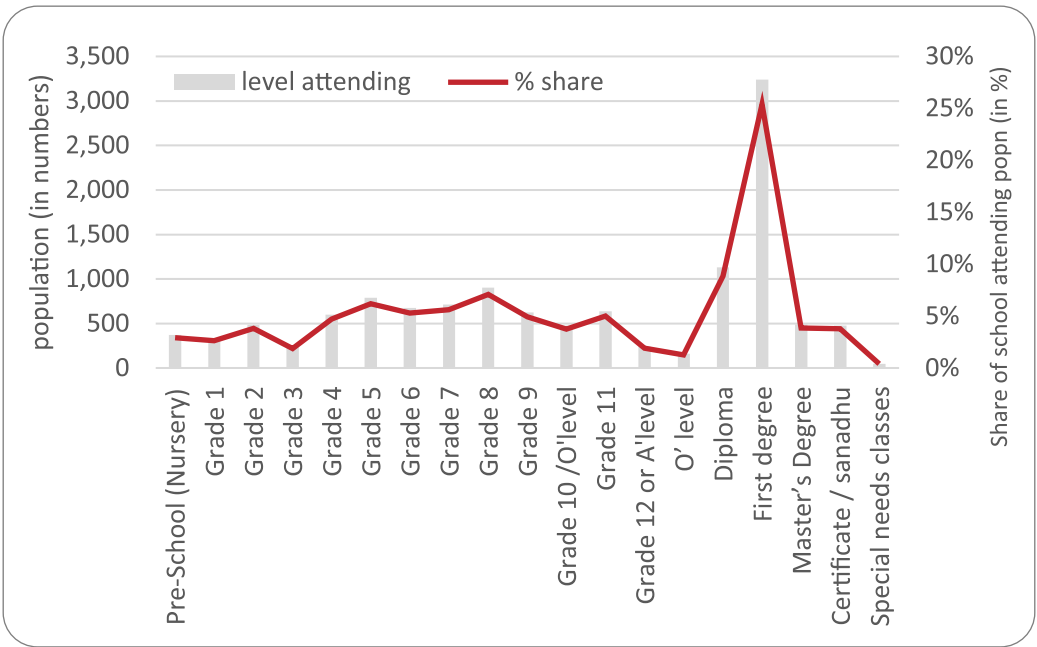
As highlighted in section 2.8, population migrate mainly for education, marriage and employment. This section will have a brief look at each of these causes:

2.9.1 Migration for education

The main reason for migration across the country is education. In most of the islands, universal education is up to Grade 10 and beyond that, it requires them to take up residence in an island which offers higher education.

Among those who have migrated for educated, 49% were attending educational institution, with over a third (29%) attending degree and above graduate courses, another 9% studying for Diploma, certificates showing migration for higher education is an important aspect.

Figure 1.9: Current school attendance of among Maldivians who have migrated for educated by sex (for 5-28 years), 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

By looking at the level of education achieved by those who have migrated for education, many have achieved primary and above education.

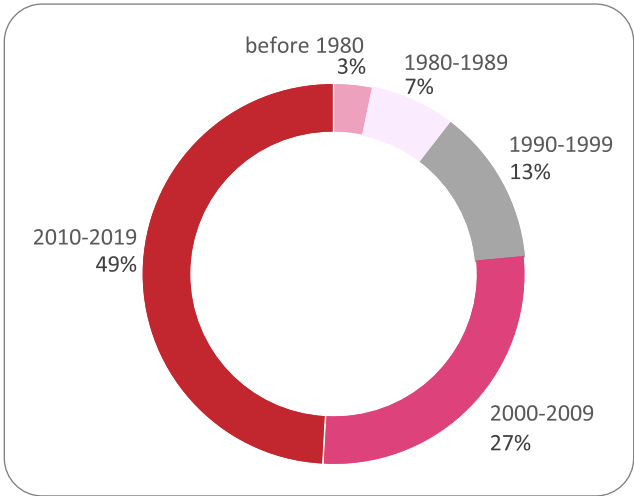
Table 1.3: Educational attainment of those who have migrated for education, 2019

Educational Attainment	Female	Male	Both Sexes
Primary education	10%	8%	9%
Secondary education	38%	35%	37%
Higher secondary education	10%	18%	14%
Certificate/ Diploma	29%	22%	26%
Degree & above	13%	15%	14%
Never attended	1%	0%	0%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Among those who migrated for education across the country, close to half migrated during the past ten years and less than 5 percent migrated prior to 1980.

Figure 1.10: Migration for education over the years, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.9.2 Migration for employment

Employment remains as the fourth main reason why people migrate. This section looks at detail on migration for employment, their current status and labour force participation rate.

Out of the total migrants, 11% stated their main reason as migration for employment. Majority of the migrants for employment are males (18%) than females (5%). More migration for employment has taken place towards Male' than to Atolls.

Among those who migrated for employment or to seek job, higher percent remains to be employed (83%). Employment is high among men than women. Labour force participation is at its highest among men at 93% while it remains low for women and with 35% of the female population outside labour force.

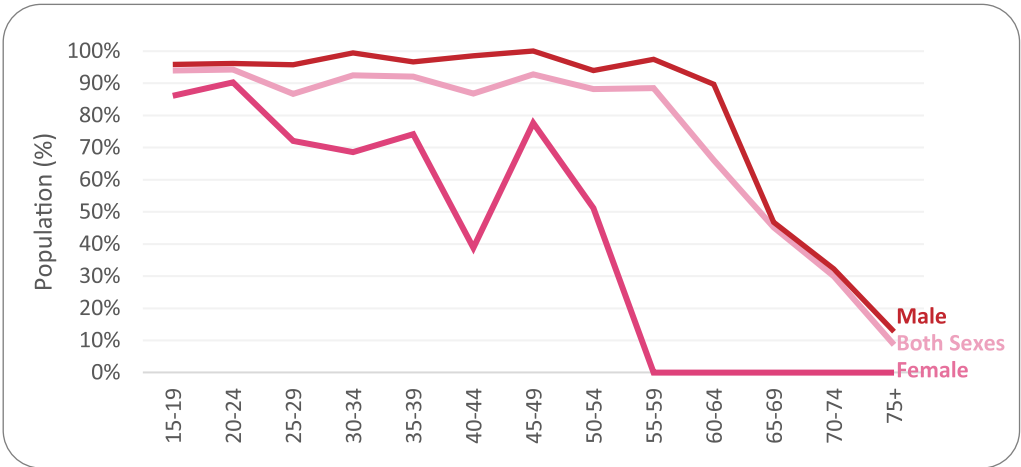
Table 1.4: Employment status indicators for those who migrated for employment, 2019

Employment status indicators	Migrants for employment		
	Female	Male	Both Sexes
15+ population	4,497	14,116	18,614
Labour force	2,928	13,172	16,101
Employed	2,815	12,630	15,445
Unemployed	114	542	656
Outside Labour Force	1,569	944	2,513
Labour force participation Rate	65%	93%	86%
Employment to population ratio	63%	89%	83%
Unemployment rate	4%	4%	4%
Population outside labour force	35%	7%	14%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Figure 1.11 examines the labour force participation rate among migrants for employment across different age groups. Among those who migrated for employment, the labour force participation rate remains high even into adult and elderly ages. These might be people who have migrated previously and still continues to be employed in the workforce. Female labour force participation tends to drop after the age of 50 and remains outside the labour force.

Figure 1.11: Labour force participation rate among migrants for employment, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.9.3 Migration for Marriage

Out of the total migrants, 10% of them have migrated for marriage. Many of them are migrating to the atolls due to marriage than moving towards the capital city for marriage.

Among those who have migrated for marriage, majority remains married while 5% of them have gotten divorced over the years.

Table 1.5: Marital status among those who have migrated for marriage, 2019

Marital Status	Republic		
	Female	Male	Total
Never married	0%	0%	0%
Married	92%	95%	93%
Divorced	5%	4%	5%
Widowed	3%	1%	2%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.10 AVERAGE AGE AT MIGRATION – TO USUAL RESIDENCE

HIES 2019 collected information on the duration they have been residing in their place of usual residence. Based on this information and person's age, the age at which the person migrated to their usual residence was derived.

The result shows that migration starts at a young age towards capital city, Male'. The average age of migration to Male' is at 22 years. Men migrate earlier than women.

Childhood migration is more towards Male' for studies and boys leave their island of previous residence at an early age than girls. Employment brings in migrants in their youth to Male'. Those migrating to marry are within the average age of marriage in the country. Those migrating as parent/ guardian is mostly to educate their children or as a guardian for someone undergoing long-term medical treatment. They are most likely to be of adult ages and is similar in Male' and Atolls. Migration for medical purpose starts at an adult age and the average age of migration for medical is at 41 years. This implies that the population starts to experience co-morbid conditions at an adult age and requires continuous treatment at an early age too.

Table 1.6: Average age at migration by reason for migration, 2019

Average age by reason for migration	Male'			Atolls		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
For education	16	14	15	19	18	18
Take up a new job/ job transfer/ seeking	24	23	23	26	30	29
Return migrant to this island	28	25	26	25	28	26
Due to family migration/ to live with family	26	17	23	19	15	17
Due to marriage	23	22	23	25	28	26
As a parent / guardian	35	37	36	35	38	36
For medical purpose	44	38	41	33	36	35
Population consolidation	26	31	27	25	27	26
Flat /land	33	38	35	29	36	34
Low Rent	44	57	51	31	47	36
Average age at initiation of migration	24	20	22	23	25	24

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

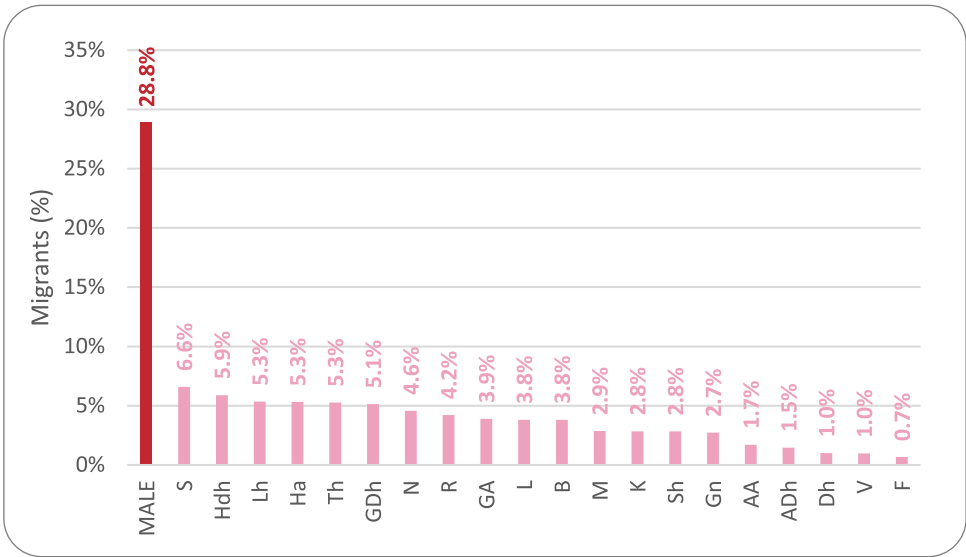
As the initiation of migration to current residence starts at an early age, it has its implication on the place of origin. When young people migrate, the elderly population is left behind in the islands and the vulnerabilities associated with it present challenges for future population dynamics.

2.11 MIGRANTS IN MALE' AND REASONS

More than half of the population in Male' are migrants (52% are migrants). As Male' has become the host for many migrants coming from Atolls, this section examines the locality of the migrants by their place of registration.

Most of the migrants in Male' are registered in Male' itself (29% of the migrants in Male'). This might be as re-turn migrants or have lived their life in a different place previously, before migrating to Male'. About 7% of the migrants in Male' are from Addu City, followed by other populous Atolls in the country. The share of migrants from Faafu Atoll is the least. Migration to Male' from central atolls is less compared to the flow of migrants from North and Southern atolls in the country.

Figure 1.12: Migrants in Male' by their place of registration, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Table 1.7 depicts the main reason why people from most populous Atolls migrate to Male'. People from Addu City and Thaa Atoll migrate to Male' due to family migration or their preference for living in the capital city. Education becomes the second main reason for them to migrate to Male'.

On the other hand, people from Haa Dhaal, Lhaviyani, Haa Alif and Gaafu Dhaal Atoll migrate mainly for education. Based on the profile of migrants for education (section 2.9.1), migration to Male' is mainly for primary and lower secondary education. This highlights that the quality of education takes precedent over provision of education.

Table 1.7: Reasons for migration to Male' from Atolls, 2019

Migrants in Male' by place of registration	Main 5 reasons for migration					
	For education	Take up a new job/ job transfer	Return migrant to this island	Due to family migration/ to live in this island	Due to marriage	As a parent / guardian
Male'	20%	10%	34%	20%	4%	3%
Addu City	25%	17%	13%	32%	6%	5%
Haa Dhaal	30%	15%	5%	28%	8%	8%
Lhaviyani	45%	11%	2%	24%	5%	8%
Haa Alif	44%	12%	4%	18%	6%	6%
Thaa	27%	12%	9%	36%	6%	3%
Gaafu Dhaalu	41%	6%	10%	26%	5%	5%

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.11 RECENT MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION IN THE PAST

Information collected on the duration in current residence allows us to determine most recent migrants and the reason for their change in residence. Those whose duration in current residence is less than one year has been considered as recent migrants.

The results show that during the past one year close to 9,000 people migrated across the country. The flow of migrants is more towards Male' than to Atolls. This also gives a crude estimation of migration to Male', where Male' receives 5,700 migrants annually. This also implies Male' can expect to receive 16 migrants per day from

the Atolls on average. If the flow of migration continues as it is, most of the islands will lose its population at a faster rate unless regional development comes into effect.

Table 1.8: Duration spend in current residence by migrants, 2019

Duration in current residence	Migrants		
	Republic	Male'	Atolls
Less than 1 year	9,075	5,715	3,360
1-4 years	47,581	27,581	20,000
5-9 years	37,803	25,123	12,680
10-19 years	44,465	25,597	18,868
20+ years	33,802	22,479	11,324
NA	154	134	20
Total	172,879	106,628	66,251

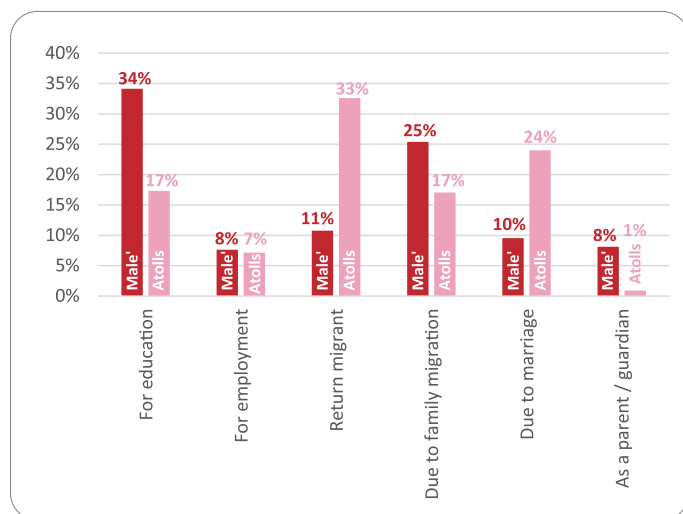
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

Information on the duration spent in current residence also allows us to reflect on the changes in the flow of migrants by purpose. Over the period of five years, the reason why people migrate remained the same but varied considerably. When we look at the reason for migration 5 years back, education remained as the main reason for migrating to Male'. This contributed to being close to one third of the migrant population coming into Male'.

This was followed by family migration and employment. The paradigm has shifted in its shares when it comes to recent migration. More and more people are coming to Male' due to family migration, employment and education (Figure 1.14). Increase in return migrants is seen over the years and those migrating to Male' due to marriage has reduced in proportion.

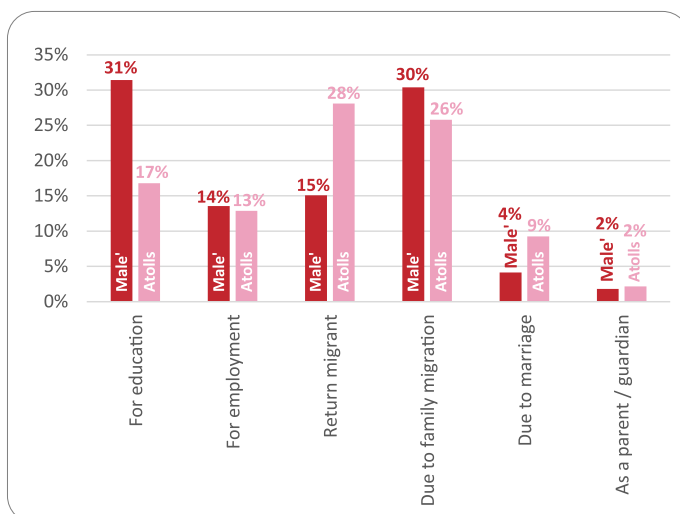
In the past (5 years back) migration to Atolls was dominated by return migrants. Today, return migrants and movement due to family migration has become common. Migration for education within the Atolls remains in same proportion. However, increase in employment opportunities was seen, leading to considerable proportion migrating for jobs.

Figure 1.13: Reasons for migration five years ago, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

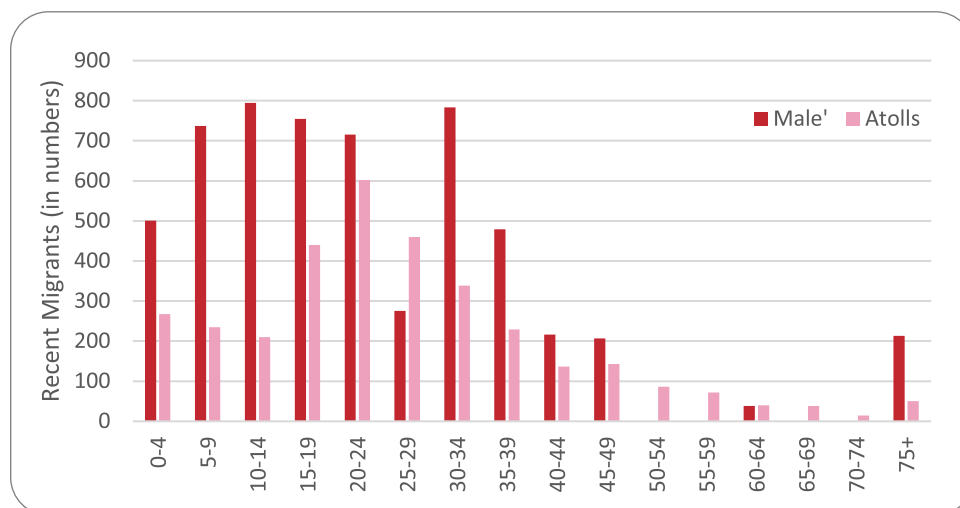
Figure 1.14: Reason for recent migration (past 1 year), 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

The average age of a recent migrant in the country was 24 years in 2019. It varied considerably between Male' and Atoll, with 23 years in Male' compared to 26 years for those moving to the Atolls. Among recent migrants to Male', 1 in 3 migrants accounted as children and 60% of the migrants is between the ages of 15 to 64 years (known as the working age group). A significantly smaller fraction was elderly migrants to Male' (4%). In the Atolls, 72% of the recent migrants were of working age population.

Figure 1.15: Recent migrants by age group to Male' and Atolls, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

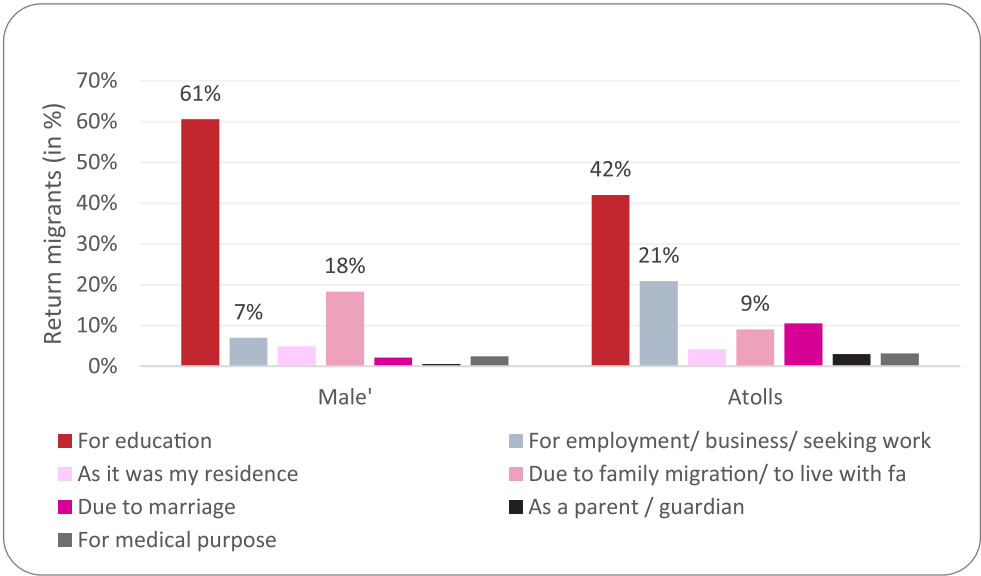
2.12 RETURN MIGRANTS

One of the main reasons for migration accounted as ‘return migration’. Return migration as defined by IOM is ‘in a general sense, the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure’ (IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019). This could be within country or across borders.

Approximately 76% of the return migrants in Male’ stated their previous place of residence as abroad. About 5% of the return migrants in Male’ came from Alif Dhaal Atoll, presumably from the resorts. Summing up to this, HIES also collected information on the reason why they lived in their previous residence. Return migrants in Male’ mainly lived in their previous residence for education and having to migrate with family. This indicates migration was short term and upon completion of studies many have returned back to home.

When it comes to Atolls, more than half of the return migrants accounted for those coming from Male’. A higher proportion stated that their main reason for residing in their previous residence as education. A significant proportion was also away from home for employment purpose.

Figure 1.15: Recent migrants by age group to Male’ and Atolls, 2019



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019

2.12 COMMUTING

HIES 2019 introduced a section on ‘commuting’. Commuting includes journeys taken on a daily basis for work, education, shopping, etc. Due to the geographic nature of the country, commuting has become an integral part of everyday life of Maldivians. Many people commute from their island to resorts for job. With the opening up of Sinamale’ bridge, it has increased commuting within Male’ area. Daily ferries operation within atolls where people can visit health facilities, do their weekly shopping, visit relatives, etc.

The results showed that men commute more than women. In Male’ 1 in every 10 women commute on a daily basis while 3 in 10 men commute daily. Among those who commute in Male’, majority commute for work/business and education. Significant proportion of women also commute as parent/guardian with their kids/ family members. Except for Friday, men commute on average 6 days while women commute on 5 days.

The proportion of population commuting in the Atolls is significantly less. Majority of the men commute for work (80%). Women commute for various purposes such as for work, education, and to visit family members.

Table 1.9: Key indicators on commuting, 2019

Indicators	Male'		Atolls	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Population commuting	13%	25%	1%	4%
Reason for commuting				
Work /Business	50%	75%	43%	80%
Education	24%	16%	29%	7%
Health	1%	1%	5%	2%
Visit family	9%	4%	18%	8%
Personnel/ household shopping	1%	1%	2%	1%
Parent / guardian	12%	2%	3%	0%
Other reason	3%	3%	1%	1%
Average number of days commuted	5	6	4	5

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2019



National Bureau of Statistics

Ministry of National Planning, Housing & Infrastructure,
Dharul Eman Building (7, 8, 9th Floor),
Majeedhee Magu,
Male 20345,
Republic of Maldives

info@stats.gov.mv

<http://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv>



facebook.com/NBSMaldives



[@statsmaldives](https://twitter.com/statsmaldives)