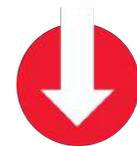


# The U.S./Mexico Cycle: The End of an Era.



*Research Study Findings  
January 14, 2014*



MATT is a bi-national non-profit that is dedicated to leading the conversation on the issues that are having a profound effect on both the U.S. and Mexico.



# The End of an Era

- Over the past three decades the U.S. experienced a cycle of migration that brought a record number of Mexicans to the U.S. By 2007, 12.6 million Mexicans were residing in this country.
- This immigration trend was shifting. Mexicans stopped emigrating to the U.S. in large numbers, while concurrently those in the U.S. decided to go back home.
- Between 2005-2010, 1.4 million people moved from the U.S to Mexico, most of them migrant workers and their families.
- This return migration signals the end of an era in the U.S./Mexico migration cycle.

# The Return Migration Era

Since 2010, MATT, through its initiative *Yo Soy Mexico*, has been working in Mexico with federal and state governments, private sector, academia and other non-for-profits to successfully address this new phenomenon.

# The Return Migration Era

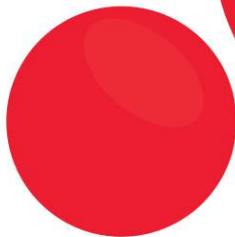
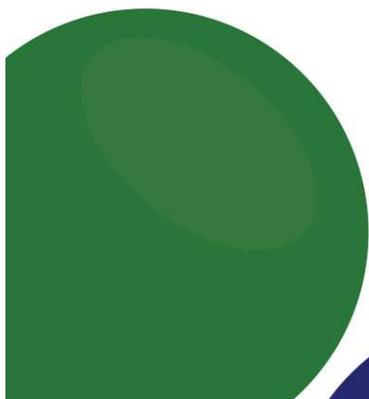
- Mexico is currently engaged in designing policies to address the recent return migration phenomenon.
- Limited data and understanding about the return population poses a challenge when designing appropriate policies.

# The Return Migration Era

**MATT conducted a first of its kind study about this migration shift to better understand the following:**

- The reasons why immigrants are returning
- How many returned on their own and how many were forced to return
- Their life back in Mexico
- If they plan to return to the U.S.
- Their view of the U.S.

# A Few Notes



# The Study

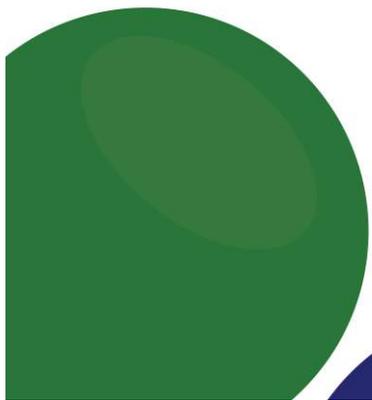
- Conducted in collaboration with Southern Methodist University and the Government of Jalisco, Mexico.
- Conducted in Jalisco due to it having the highest return migrant population in Mexico.
- Conducted 600 in-person, in-depth interviews.

# The Study

## Demographics

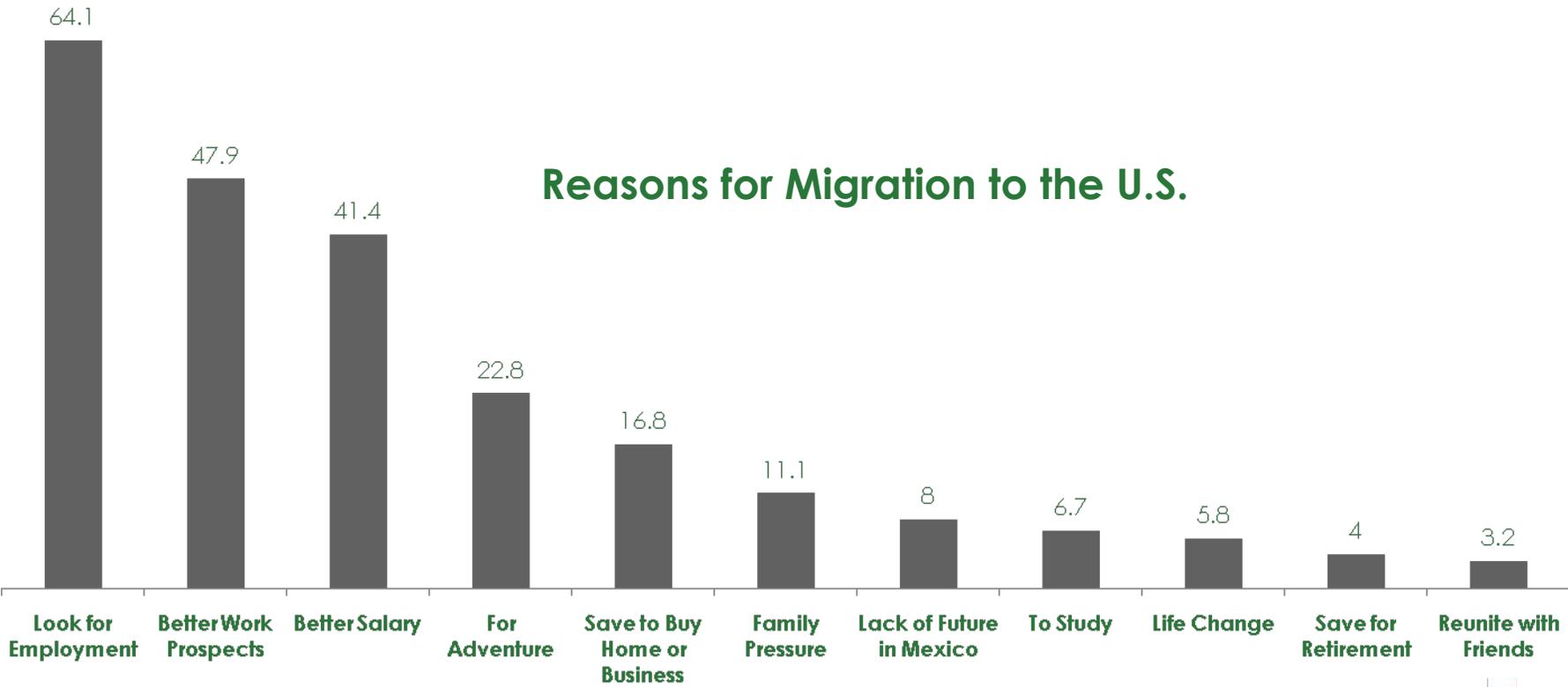
- **Location**
  - 50% from Guadalajara (metropolitan)
  - 25% from Lagos de Moreno (mid-size)
  - 25% from Los Altos de Jalisco (rural)
- **Education**
  - 66% Elementary and middle school
  - 24% High school
  - 10% Undergraduate and graduate
- **Gender**
  - 70% male
  - 30% female
- **Age**
  - 95% working age, 18 to 49

# The Findings



# Economics Drove Immigration to the U.S.

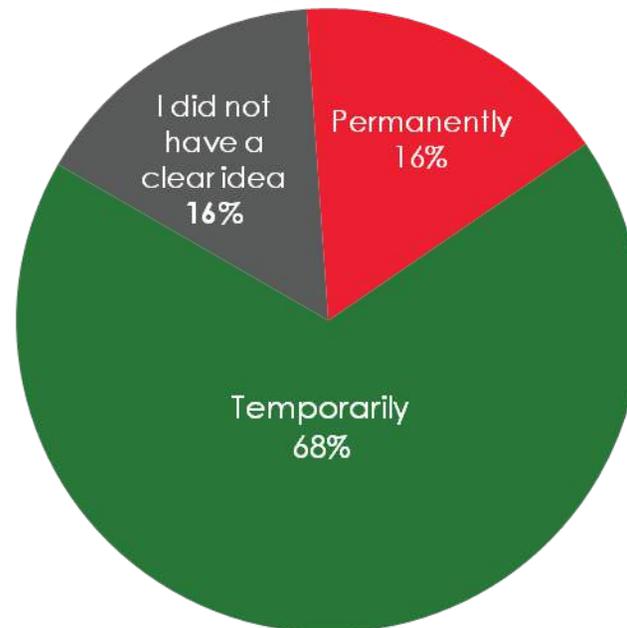
As is widely known, economic reasons largely drove this migration cycle to the U.S.



# Most Were Circular Migrants

- Mexican migration has been historically circular and most of the people we surveyed intended to follow that pattern.
- This is confirmed by the fact that 68% of this population intended to migrate temporarily.

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



# What encouraged them to settle down?

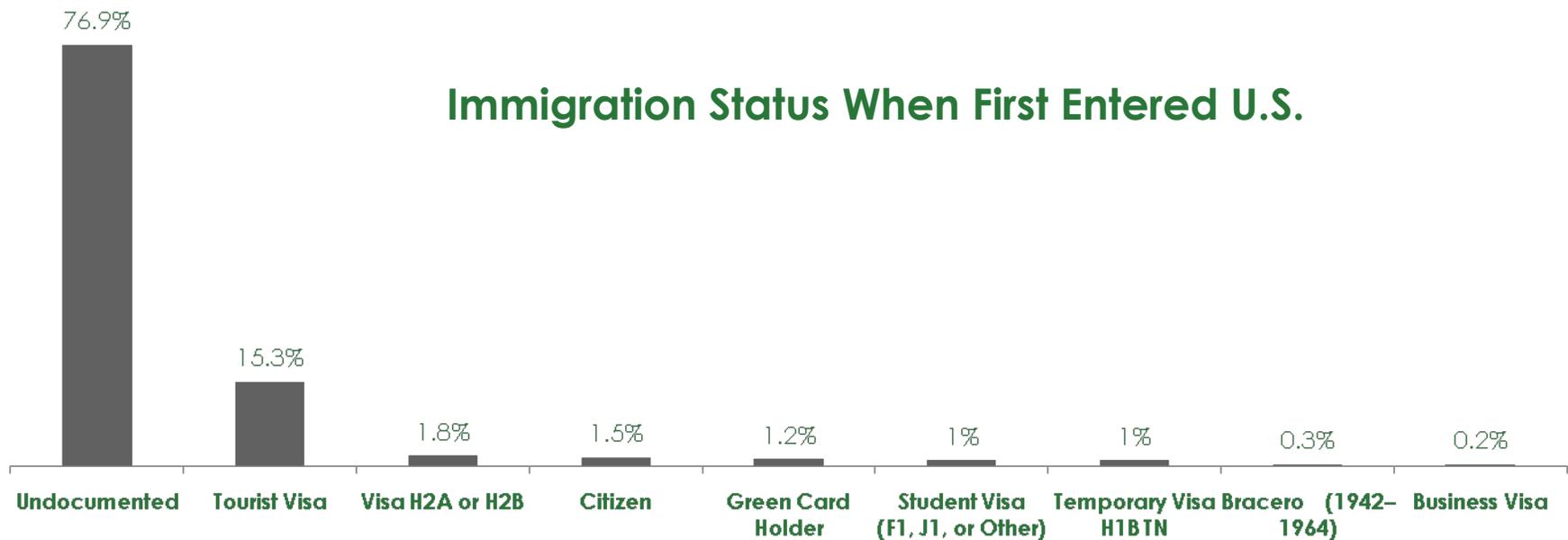
Possibly a change of the institutional context they faced:

## Among them:

- Border enforcement
- Change in immigration policies
- Increased interior enforcement

# Status Upon Entry

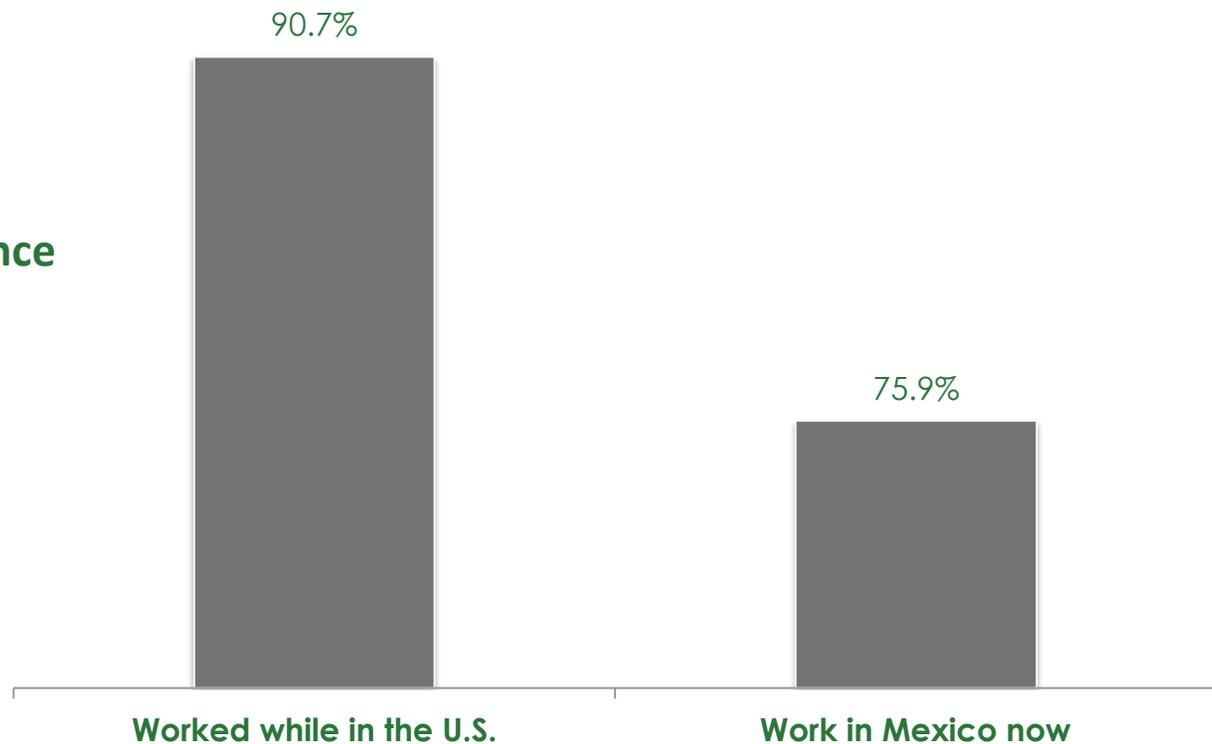
More than three quarters were undocumented when they arrived.



# While Here, Most Were Employed

During their stay, 91% worked and held jobs.

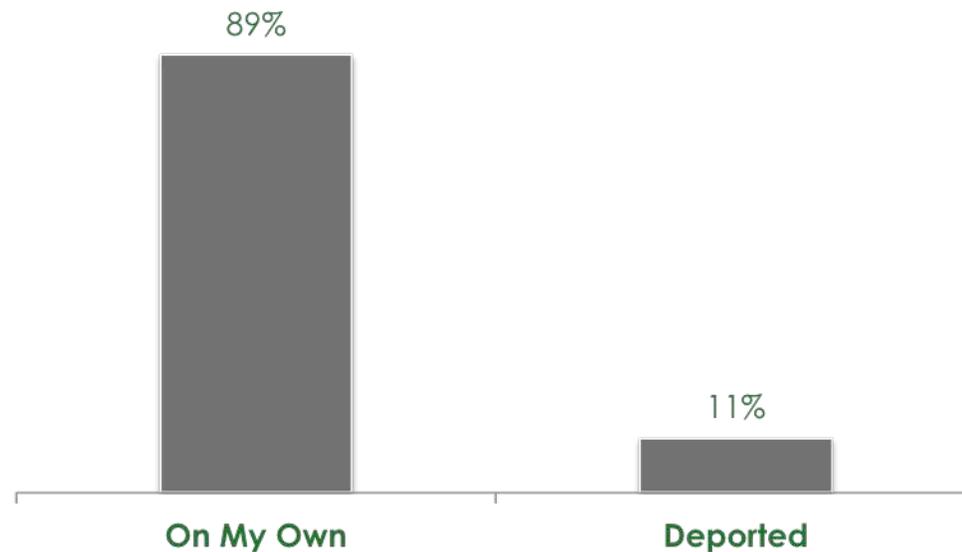
## Workforce Presence Across Countries



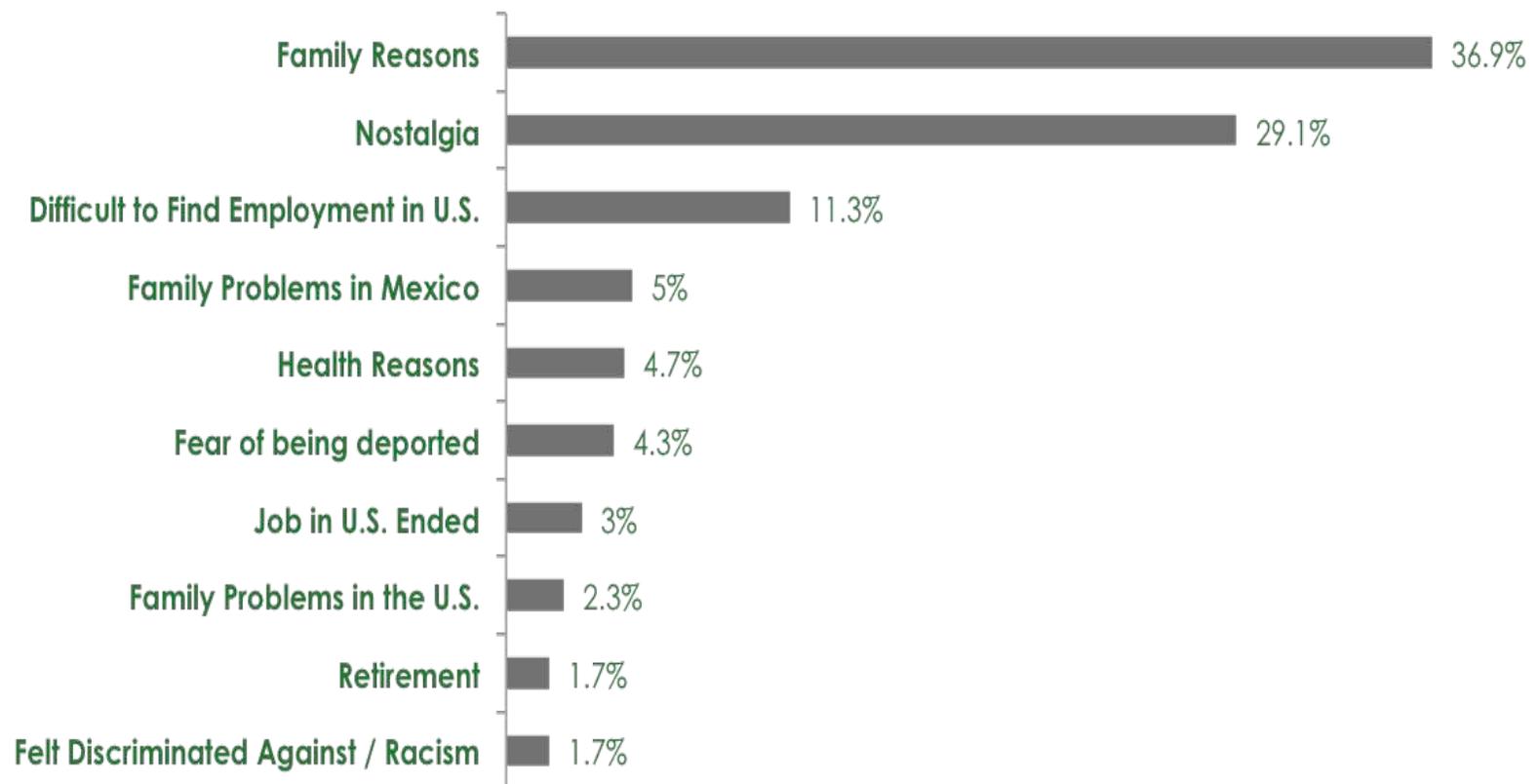
# Most Chose to Return on their own

- 89% of returning migrants indicated that they returned on their own to Mexico.
- Only 11% cited deportation as a reason for their return.

## Why They Returned



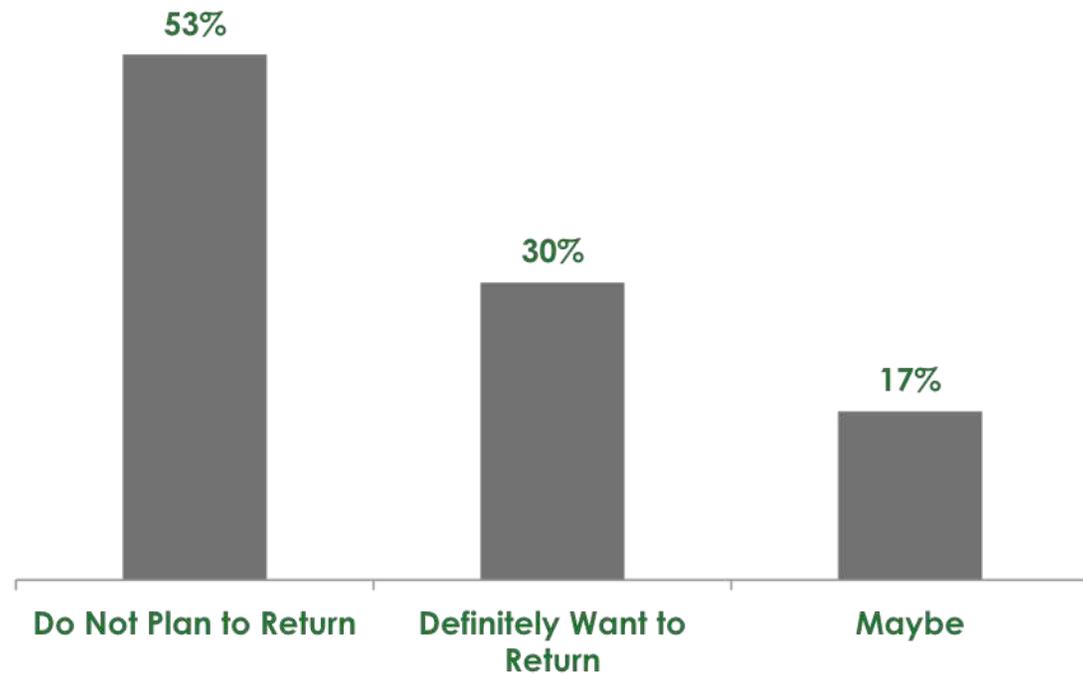
# Nostalgia and Family Cited as Main Reason for Return to Mexico



# Intention to Return to the U.S.

- 53% do not plan to return to the U.S.
- 30% indicate they will definitely return.
- Most who plan to return wish to do so legally.

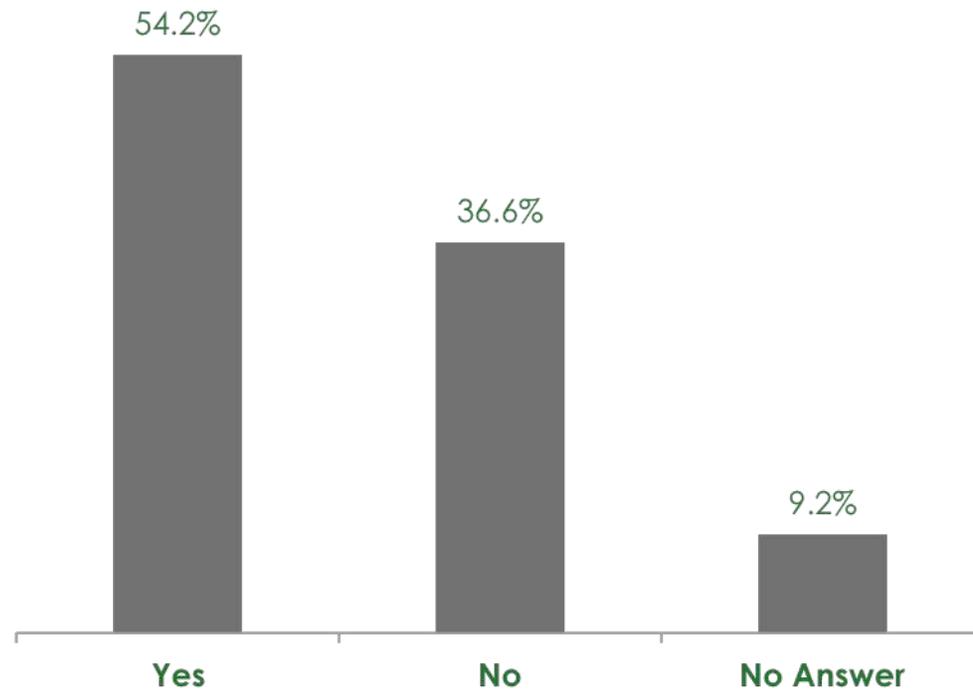
**Intention to Return to the U.S.**



# Many Left Family Behind in the U.S.

More than half reported that although they moved back to Mexico, they left family behind in the U.S.

**Percent of Respondents With Relatives Still in the U.S.**



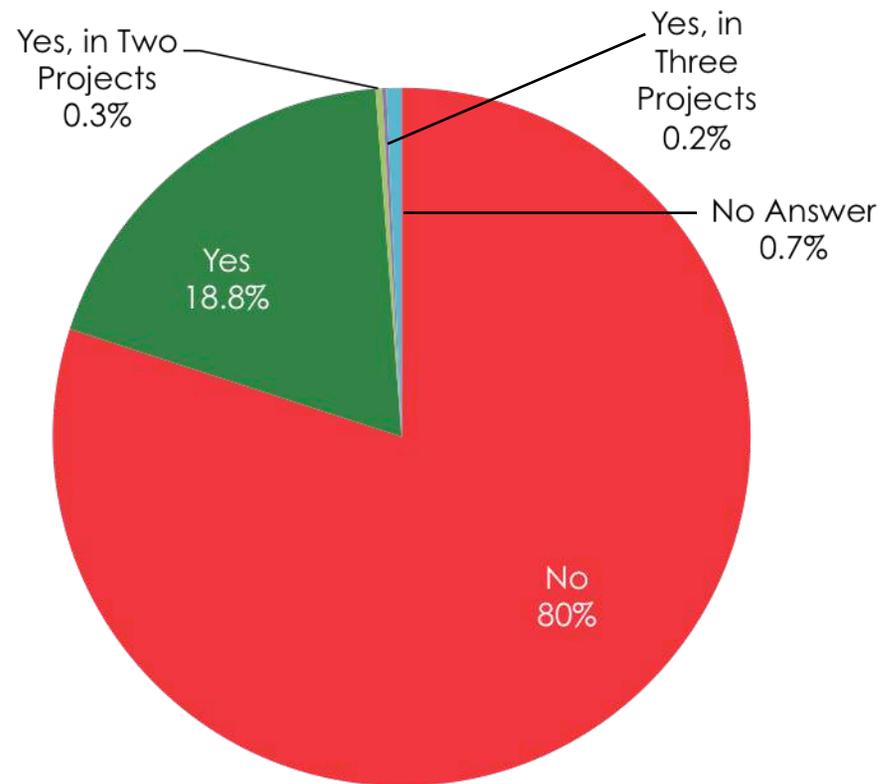
# Most Viewed U.S. Positively

- 88% reported that the quality of their experience with the U.S. society was positive.
- They expressed an appreciation for the U.S. as a land of laws and processes.
- They had a positive experience with law enforcement.
- They don't blame the U.S. for their situation and they take personal responsibility for their actions.

# Contributing to the Economy

Upon their return home:

- 20% invested in businesses
- More identified as self-employed



**After 5 years, 75% reported they still have their business.**

# An Invitation

MATT wishes to make the raw data available to interested parties so that further analysis can take place, leading to a more robust dialogue on this issue.

- \* **The raw data will be available for download at [MATT.org](https://matt.org).**

**Thank You!**



**www.MATT.org**  
**210-270-0300**

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