

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

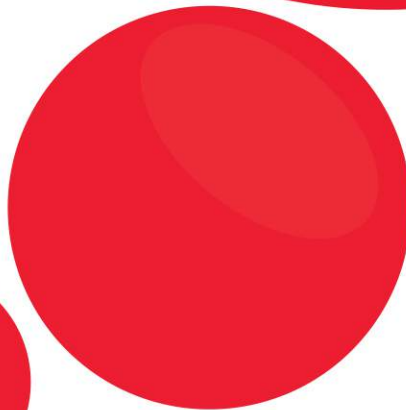
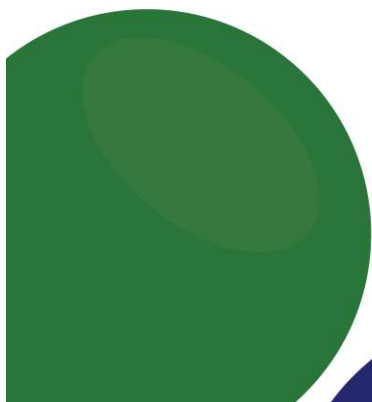
- Mexico is currently engaged in designing policies to address the recent return migration phenomenon.
- Limited data and understanding about the return population poses a challenge when designing appropriate policies.

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

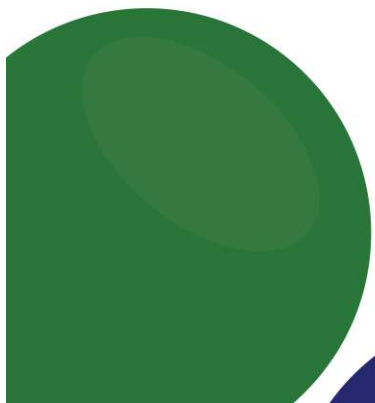
- Conducted in collaboration with Southern Methodist University and the Government of Jalisco, Mexico.
- Conducted in Jalisco due to it having the highest return migrant population in Mexico.
- Conducted 600 in-person, in-depth interviews.

The Study

Demographics

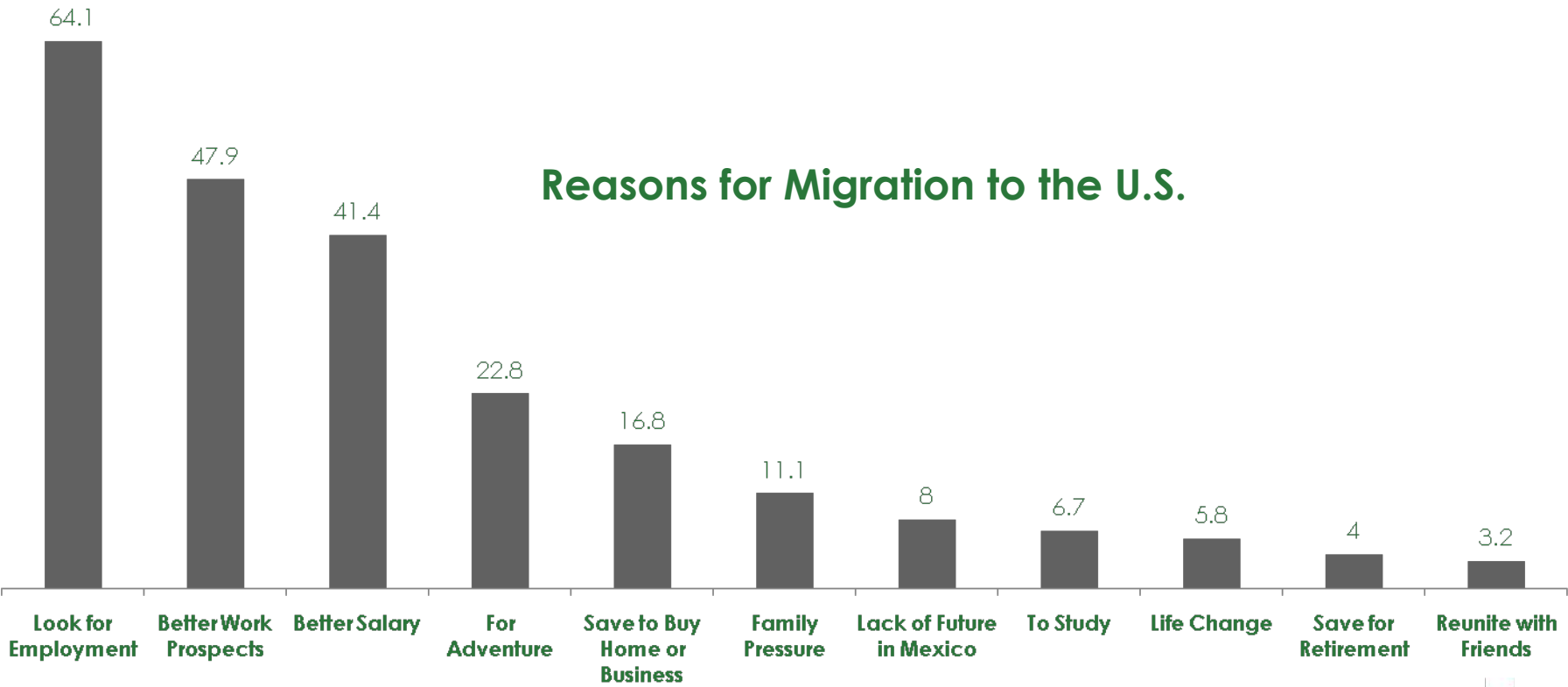
- **Location**
 - 50% from Guadalajara (metropolitan)
 - 25% from Lagos de Moreno (mid-size)
 - 25% from Los Altos de Jalisco (rural)
- **Education**
 - 66% Elementary and middle school
 - 24% High school
 - 10% Undergraduate and graduate
- **Gender**
 - 70% male
 - 30% female
- **Age**
 - 95% working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

The Findings



Economics Drove Immigration to the U.S.

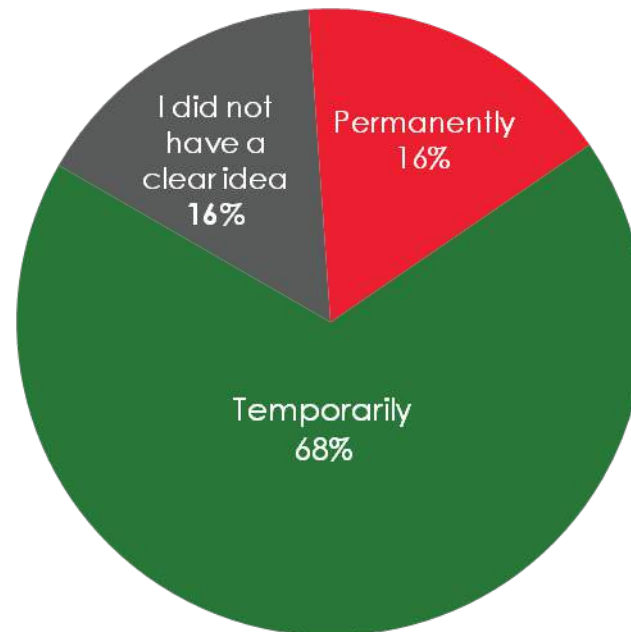
As is widely known, economic reasons largely drove this migration cycle to the U.S.



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?

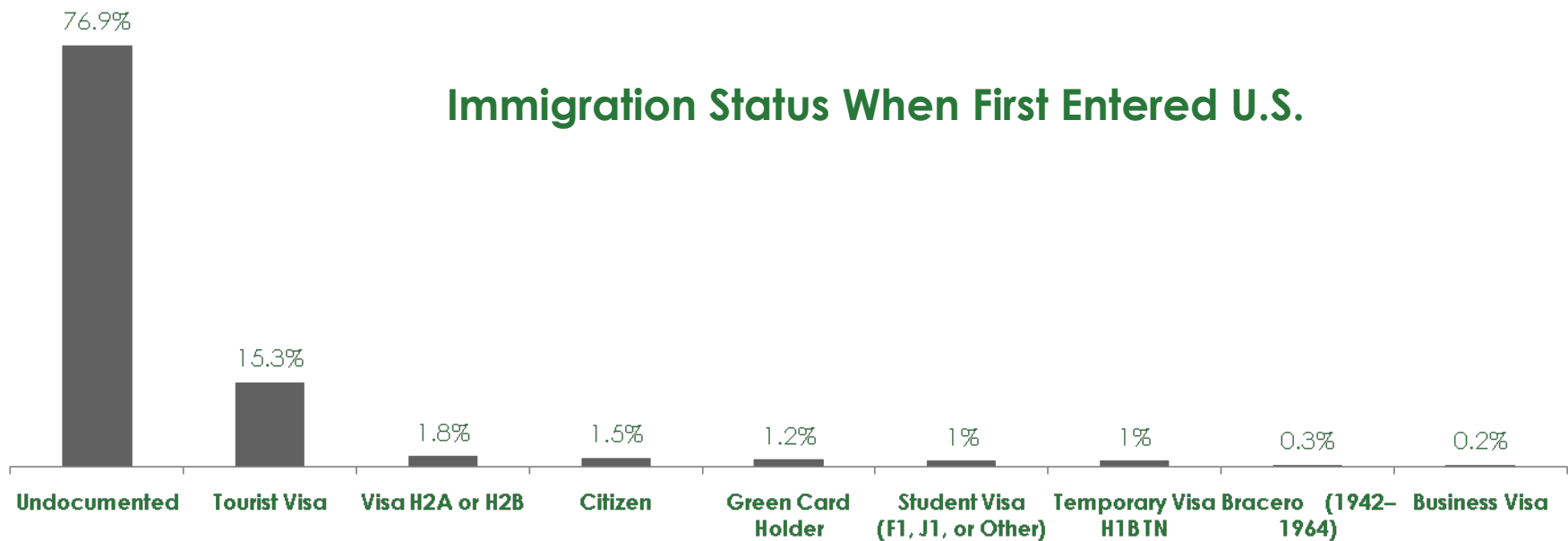
Possibly a change of the institutional context they faced:

Among them:

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

Status Upon Entry

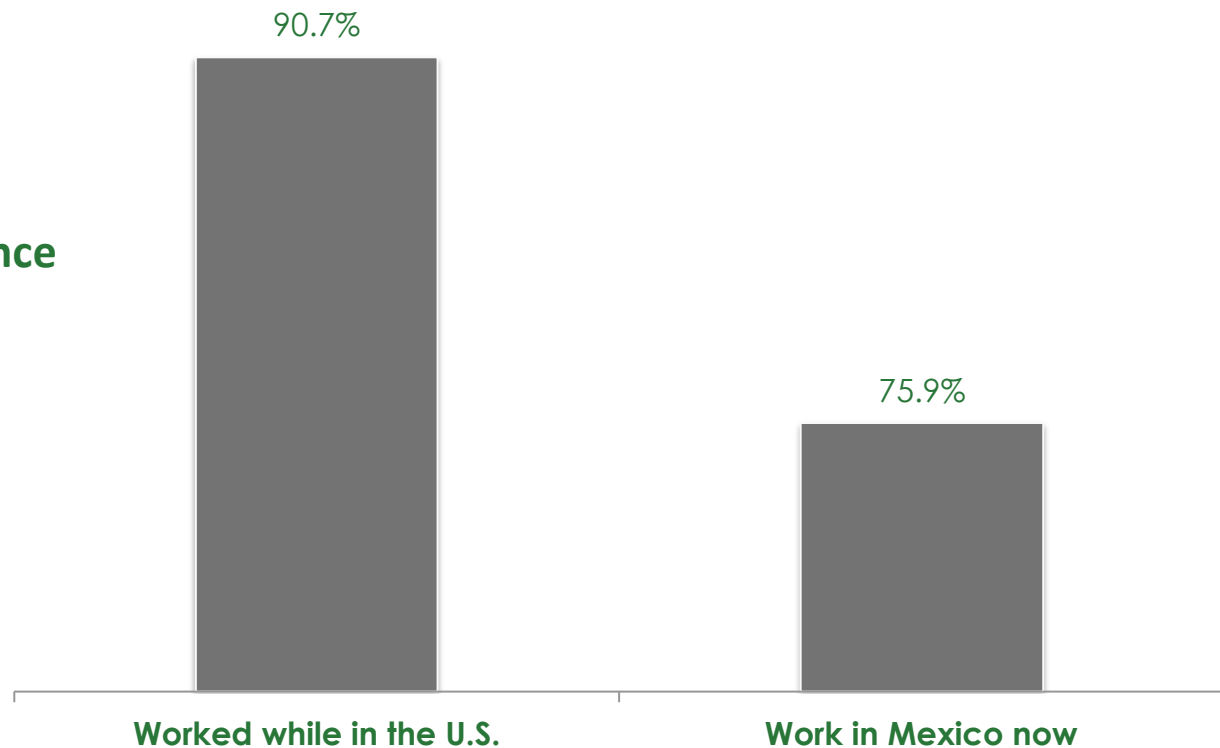
More than three quarters were undocumented when they arrived.



While Here, Most Were Employed

During their stay, 91% worked and held jobs.

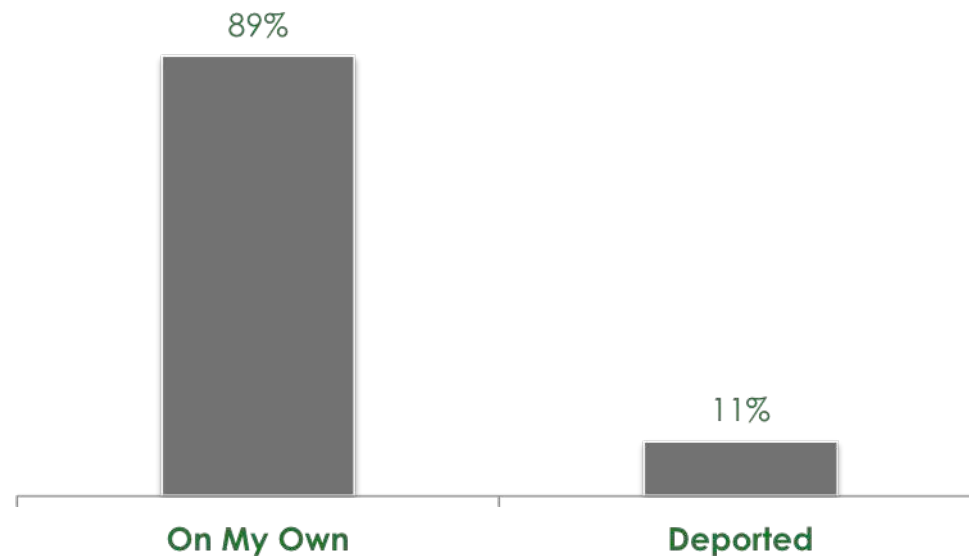
Workforce Presence Across Countries



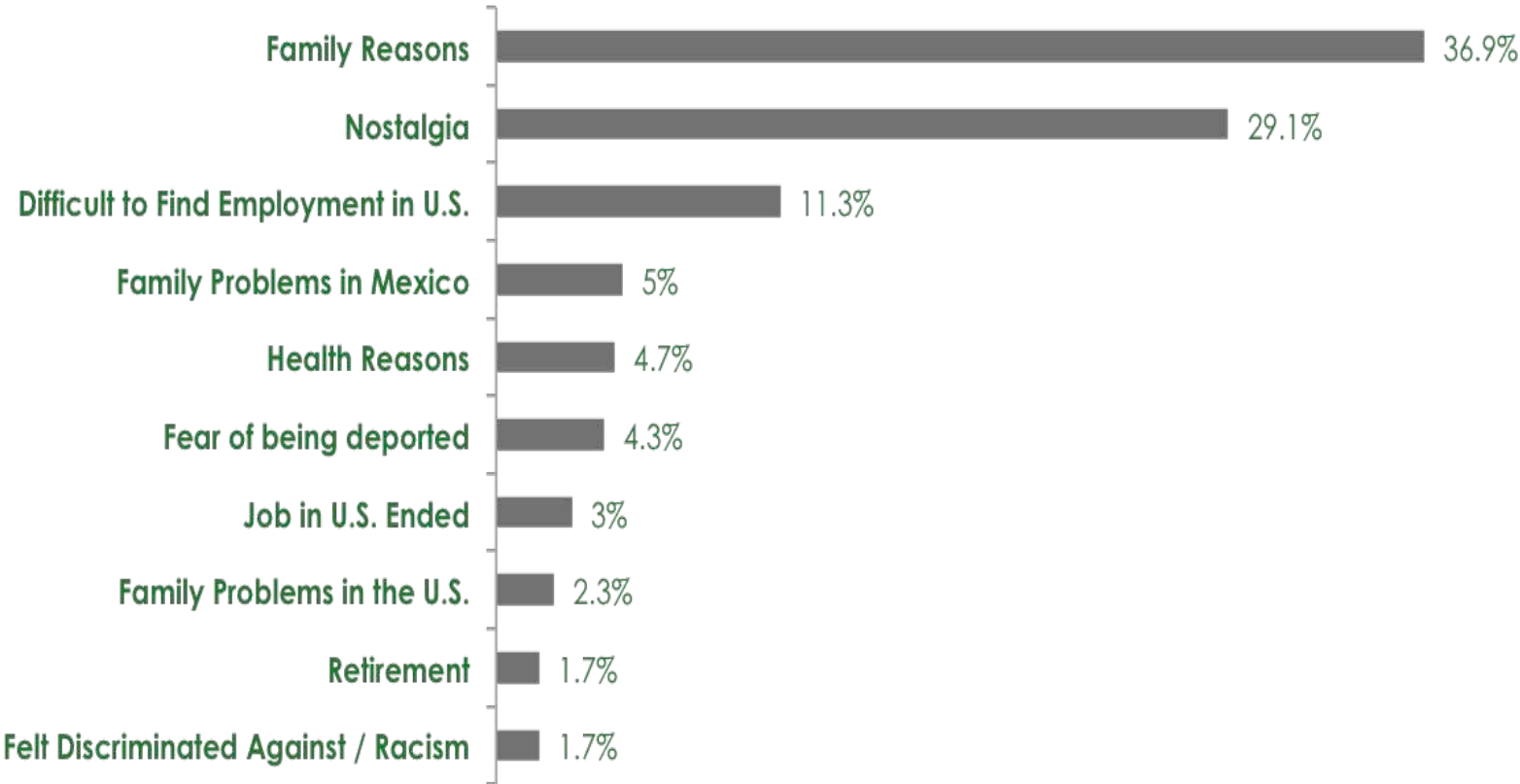
Most Chose to Return on their own

- 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



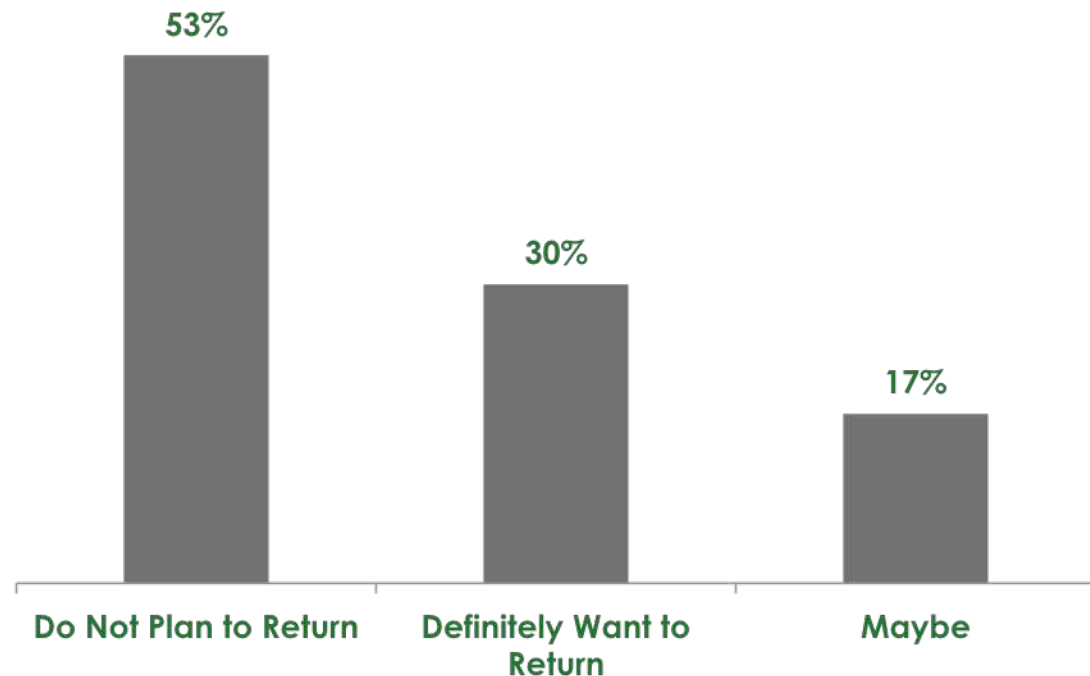
Nostalgia and Family Cited as Main Reason for Return to Mexico



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.

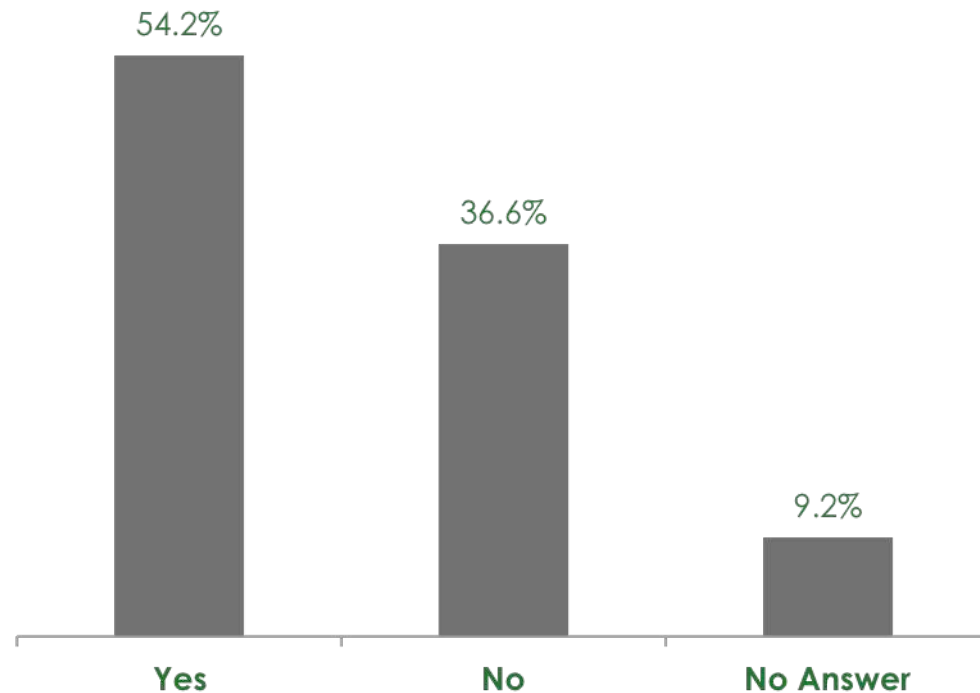
Intention to Return to the U.S.



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.



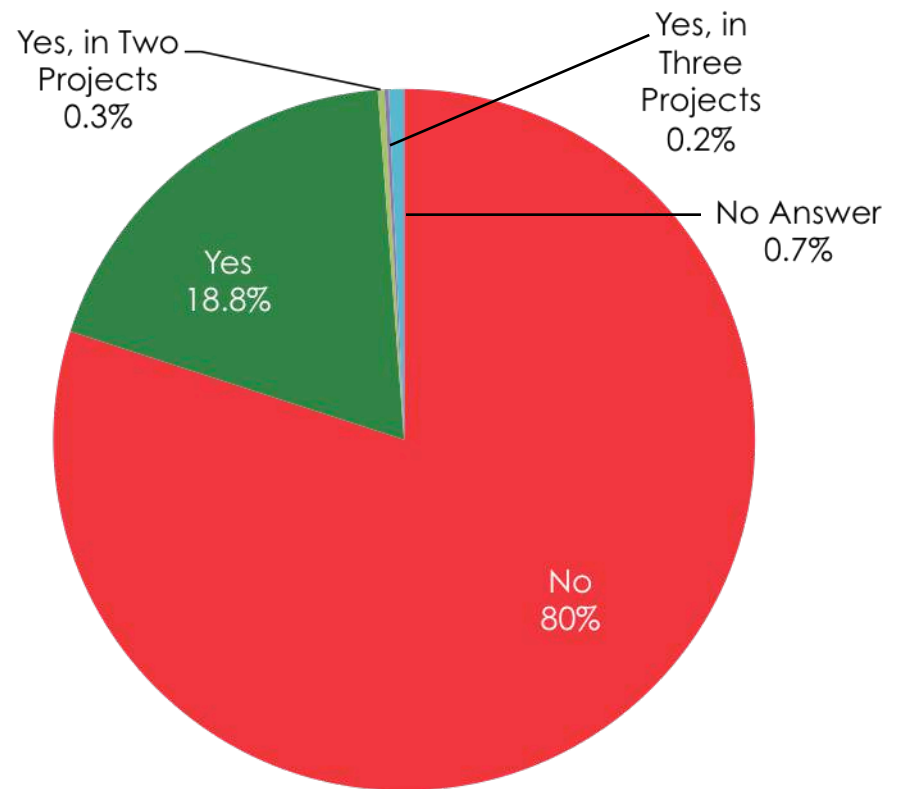
Most Viewed U.S. Positively

- 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!



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210-270-0300

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