

GUATEMALA COUNTRY REPORT



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NAVARRA CENTER
FOR **INTERNATIONAL**
DEVELOPMENT



CINDERE
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN PARA EL
DESARROLLO REGIONAL



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UPDATED IN OCTOBER 2022

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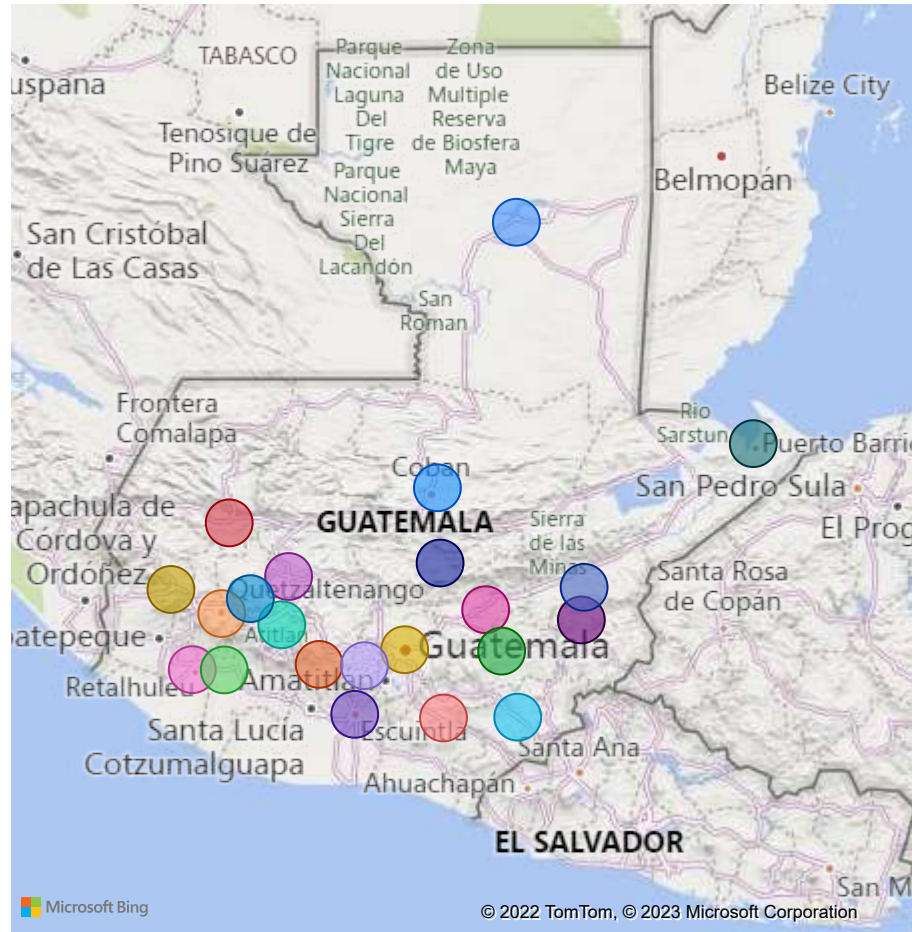
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1.COUNTRY OVERVIEW



TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

22 departments and 340 municipalities



POLITICAL SYSTEM

Presidential Republic



ALEJANDRO GIAMMATTEI

President (2020-2024)



MULTI- ETHNIC POPULATION

More than 16 million people
Mayas, Garífunas, Xinkas and Ladinos.



PLURILINGUAL POPULATION

25 languages, 22 of the Mayan linguistic family, Garífuna, Xinka and Spanish.



1.COUNTRY OVERVIEW

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

1523 - 1524

Colonization period

1821

First and official independence.

1844 - 1944

Military governments and caudillos.

1944 - 1954

Revolution and social reforms.

1954 - 1960

Counterrevolutionary governments.

1960/62 - 1996

Internal armed conflict.

1985

Current constitution.

1986

New democratic era.

1990-1996

Peace agreements.

2007 - 2019

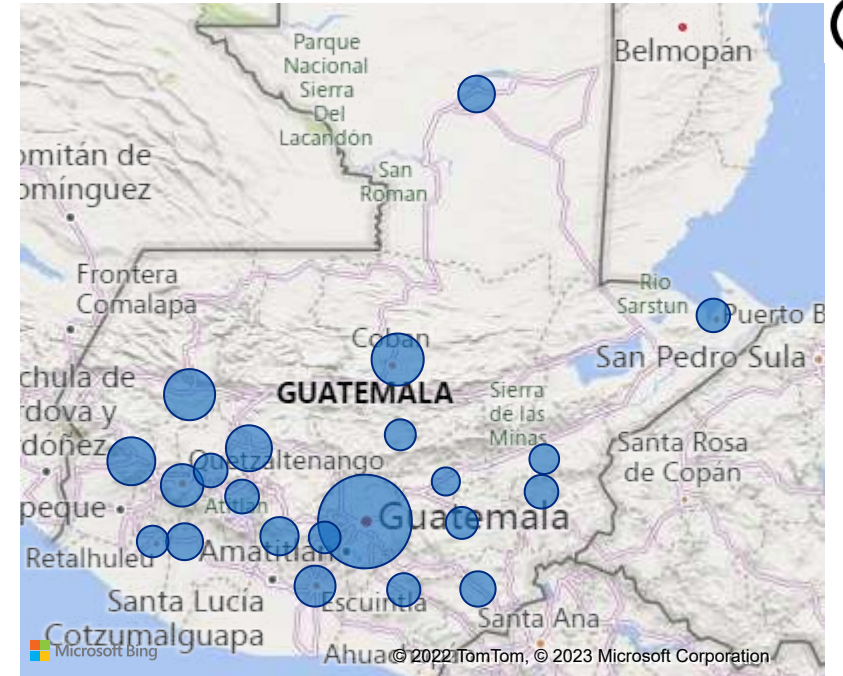
International Commission Against
Impunity in Guatemala.

2020

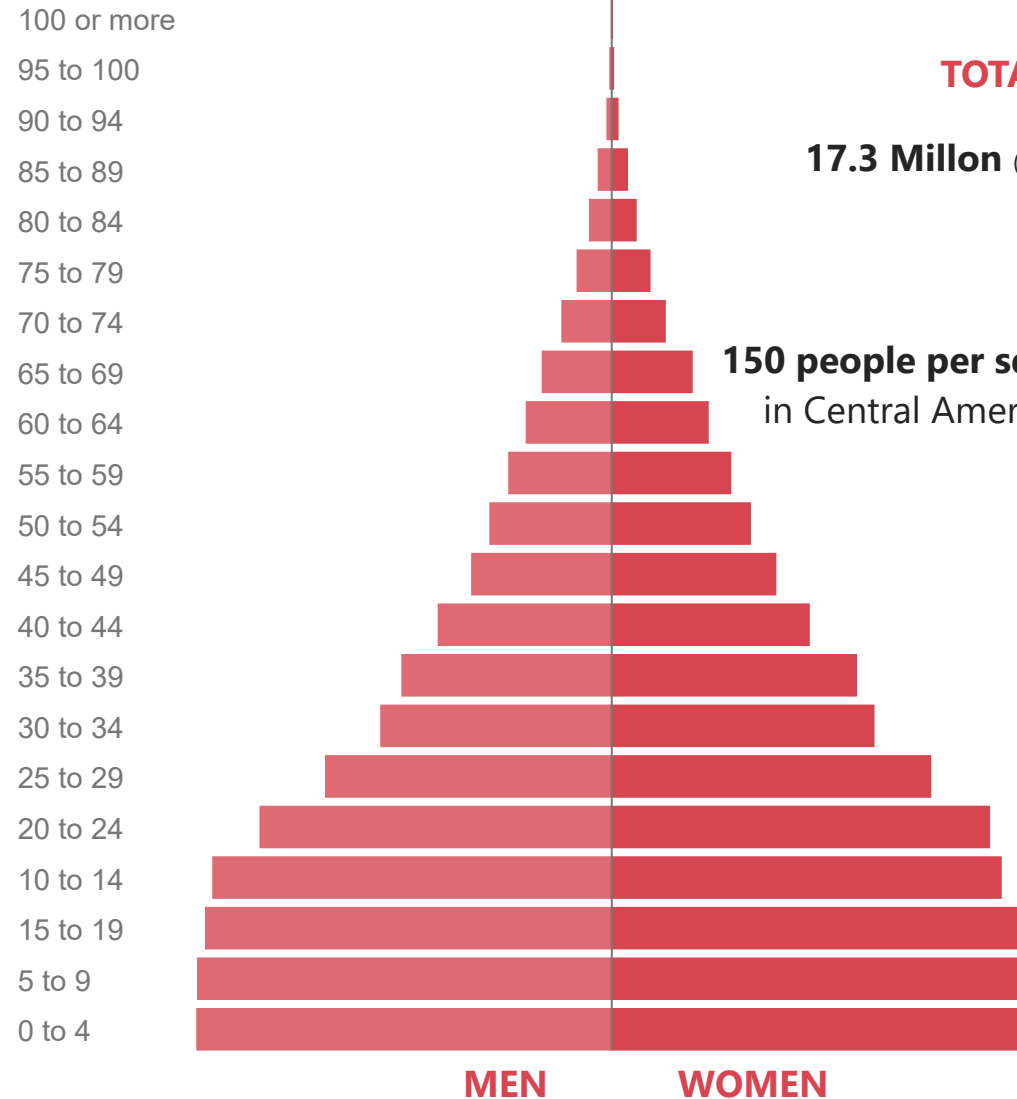
In March, the pandemic and restrictions
caused by COVID-19 are announced.

2. DEMOGRAPHY

To select more than one year use the combination ctrl + click.



POPULATION PYRAMID

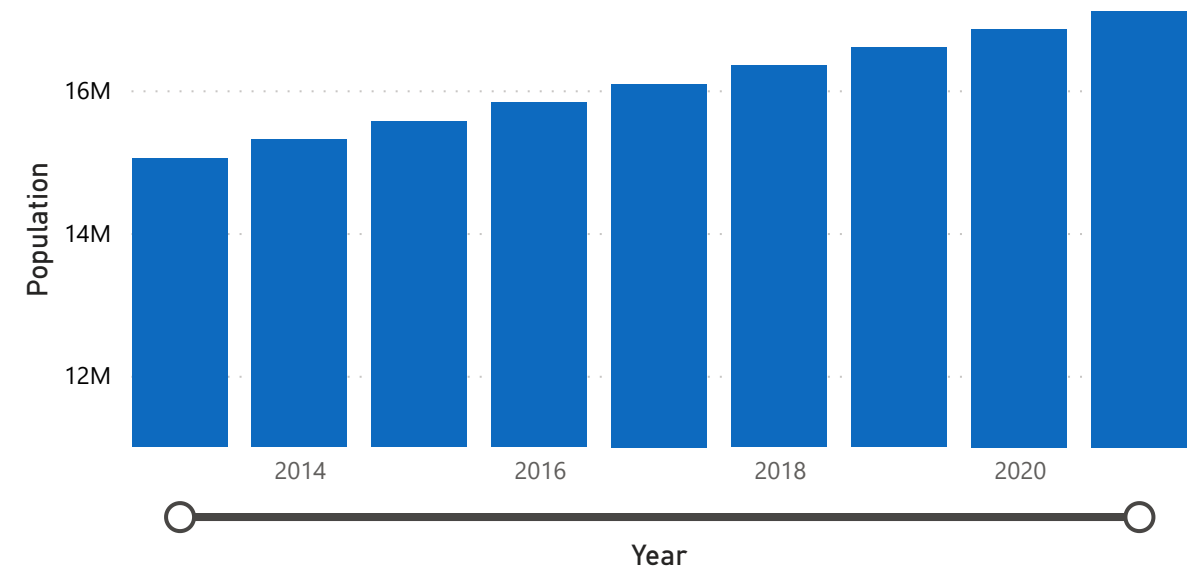


TOTAL POPULATION

17.3 Million (2018 census projections).

DENSITY

150 people per square km, the second highest in Central America, only behind El Salvador.



2. DEMOGRAPHY

Year
All



AVERAGE AGE

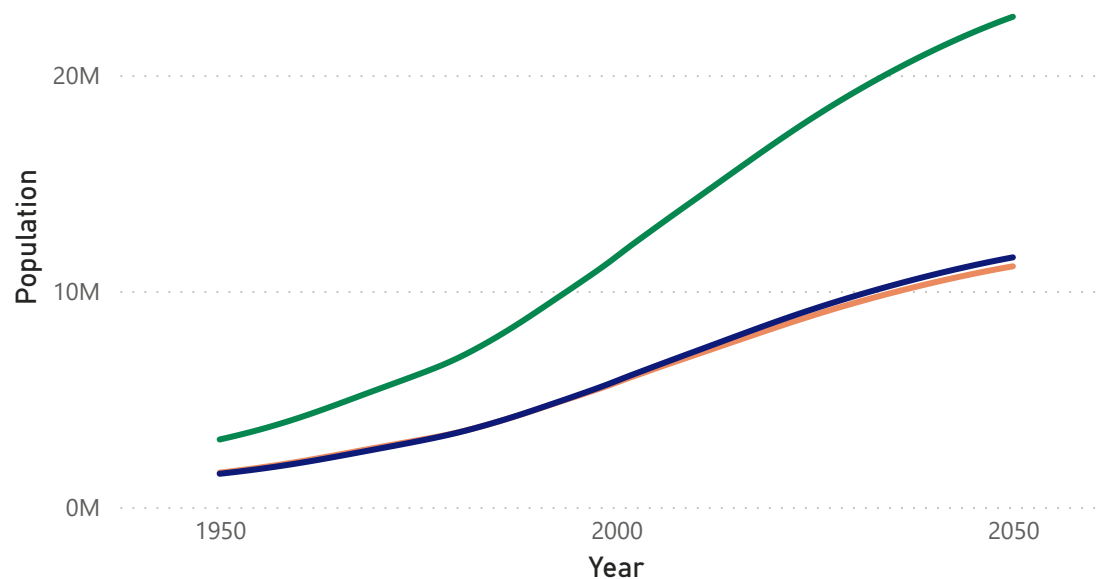
55% of the population is under 25 years of age.

GENDER

48.5% of the population are men and 51.5% women.

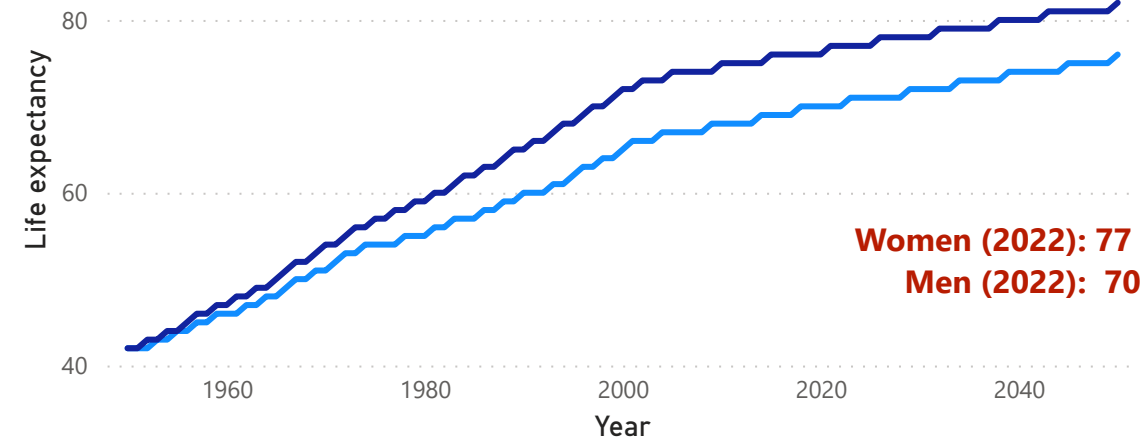
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Both genders Mens Womens



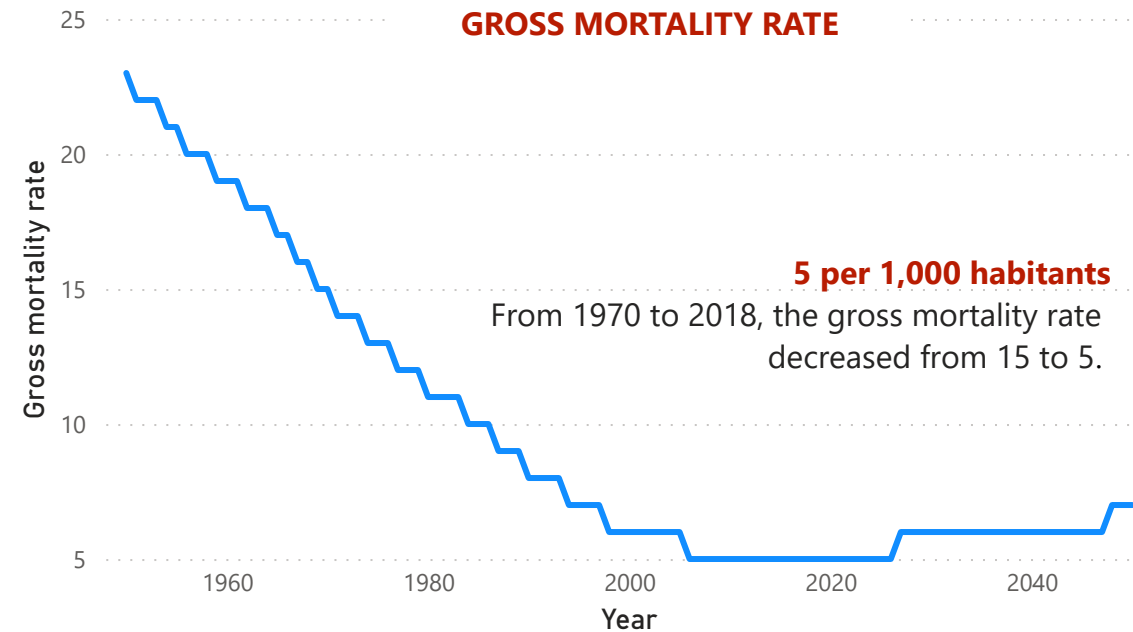
Mens Womens

LIFE EXPECTANCY



Women (2022): 77
Men (2022): 70

GROSS MORTALITY RATE



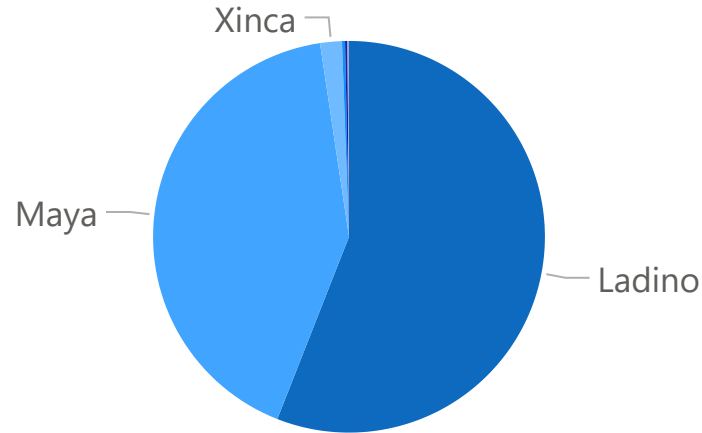
5 per 1,000 habitants

From 1970 to 2018, the gross mortality rate decreased from 15 to 5.



2. DEMOGRAPHY

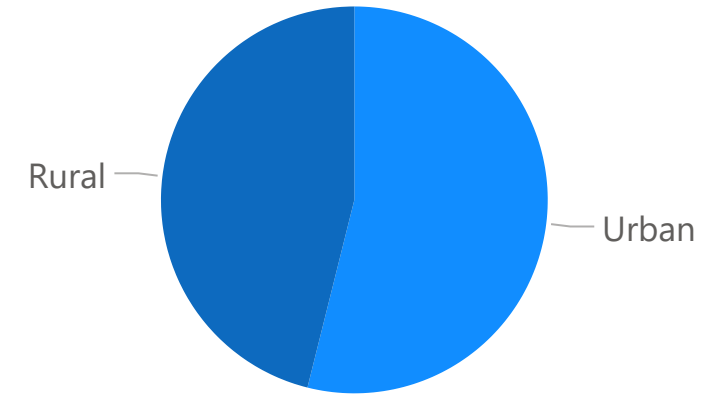
ETHNICITY



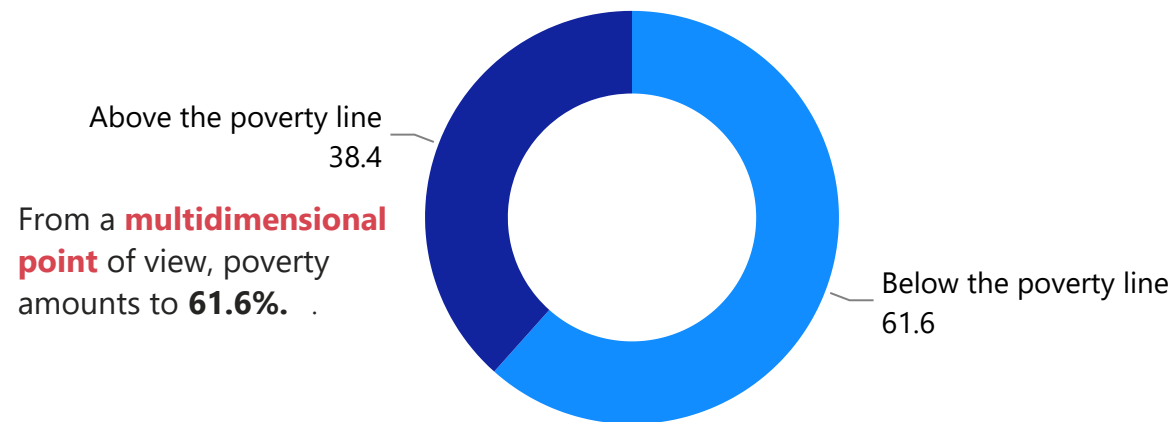
In **Guatemala** there are 5.9 million indigenous people, representing **43.8%** of the total population. These include the Mayan, Xinca and Garífuna populations.

The **rural population** in Guatemala has been **declining**. In 2000, **54.7%** of the population lived in rural areas. In 2019 it was **46.1%**

AREA

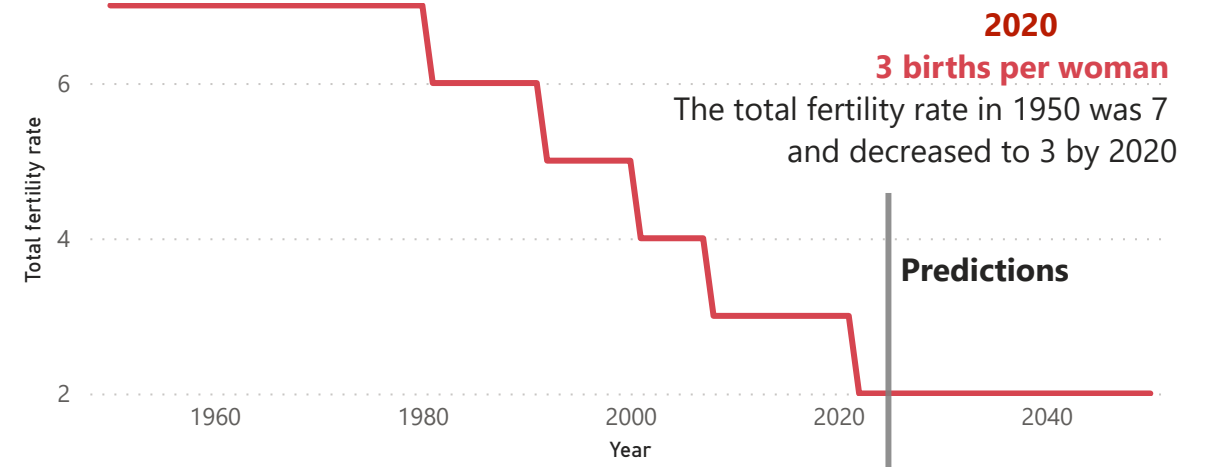


POVERTY



From a **multidimensional point** of view, poverty amounts to **61.6%**.

GLOBAL FERTILITY RATE

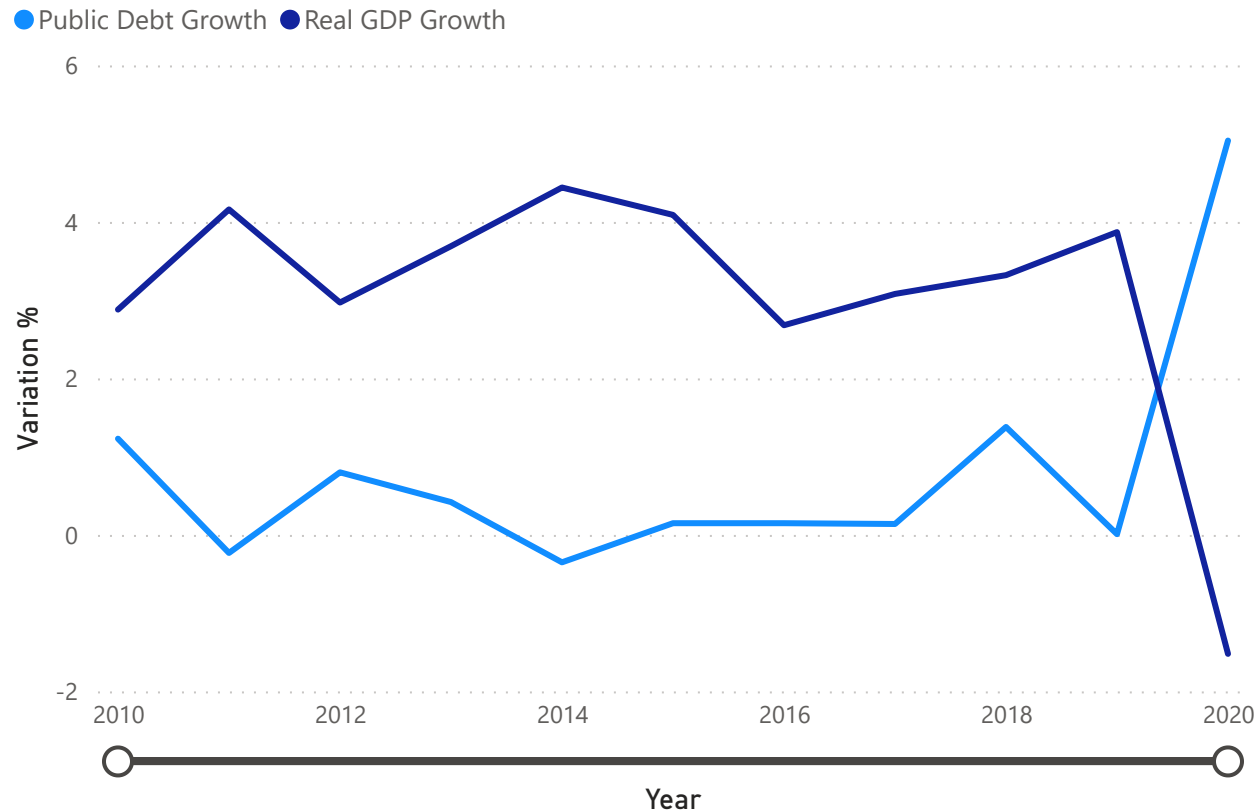


3. MACROECONOMICS

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

REAL GROWTH RATE AND PUBLIC DEBT

Year
All



The graph presents a harsh reality for **Guatemala's economy**. The **COVID-19** pandemic ended a very long period (at least 10 years) of sustained economic growth.

Moreover, **this growth was not drowned by debt, which means that Guatemala's net growth was positive.**

Nevertheless, Guatemala was one of the countries that suffered the least from **COVID**, with **just a 1.5% drop compared to a regional average of 6.7%.**

More good news is that **Guatemala posted a strong recovery in 2021, with 8%**, and is on track to meet its 3.4% target for 2022, a World Bank report says.



3. MACROECONOMICS

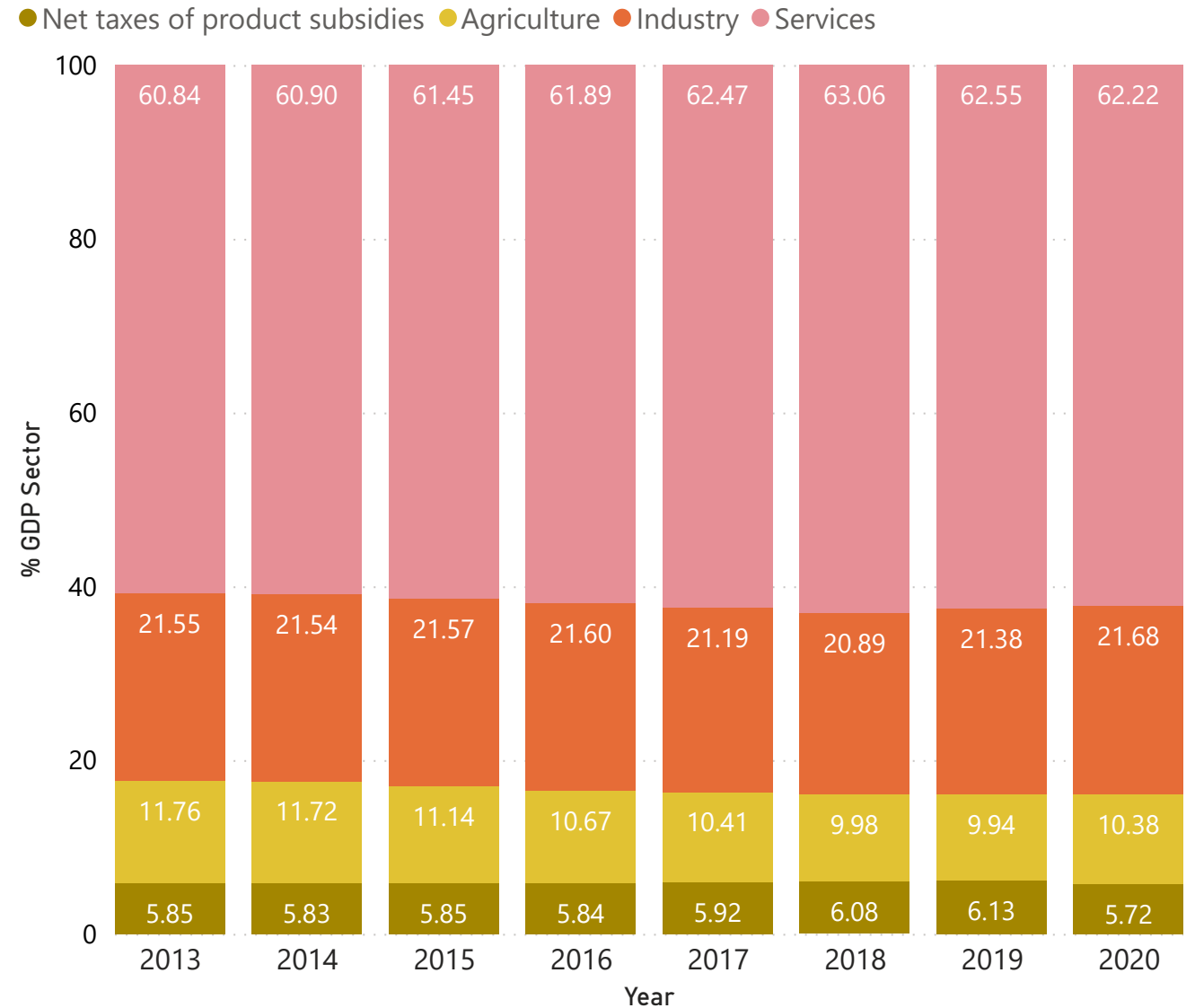
GDP BY SECTOR (% OF GDP)

The graph shows the sectorial decomposition of Guatemala's GDP.

This has remained constant throughout the last 10 years, and in fact, **shows that Guatemala has been able to move away from agriculture as a main component, to services.**

This is a much studied fact in **the literature of economic growth**, and serves as a promising signal.

The economic sector that generates the most employment in **Guatemala is the service sector followed by the agricultural sector.**





3. MACROECONOMICS

The performance Guatemala has on the macro level has been slow to translate into the micro level.

The **above graph shows the evolution of GDP per capita growth and the rate of inflation**, which is the change in the level of prices.

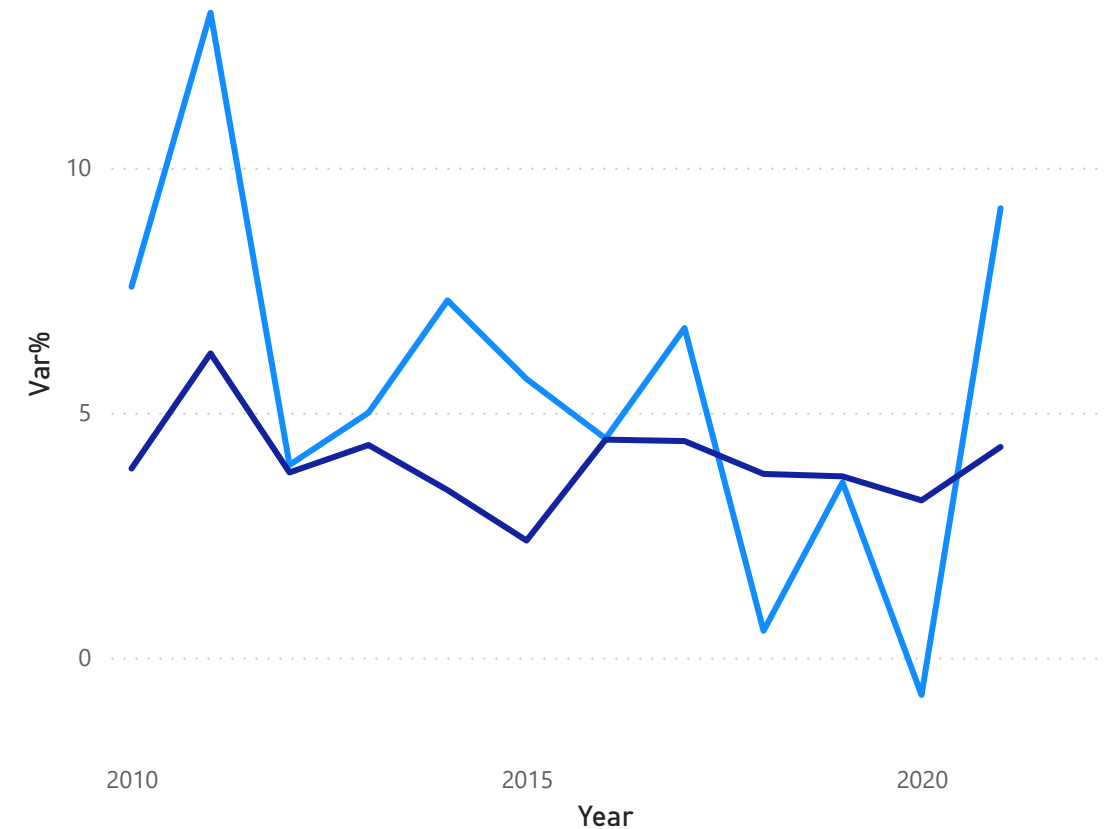
The **fact that inflation is higher than the rate at which GDP per capita** grows means that, over the last 10 years, the real purchasing power of Guatemalans has decreased.

This, if **sustained in the long run**, could lead to **potential problems**.

Year

INFLATION AND GDP PER CAPITA

● Nominal GDP per capita ● Inflation



3. MACROECONOMICS

Year

All



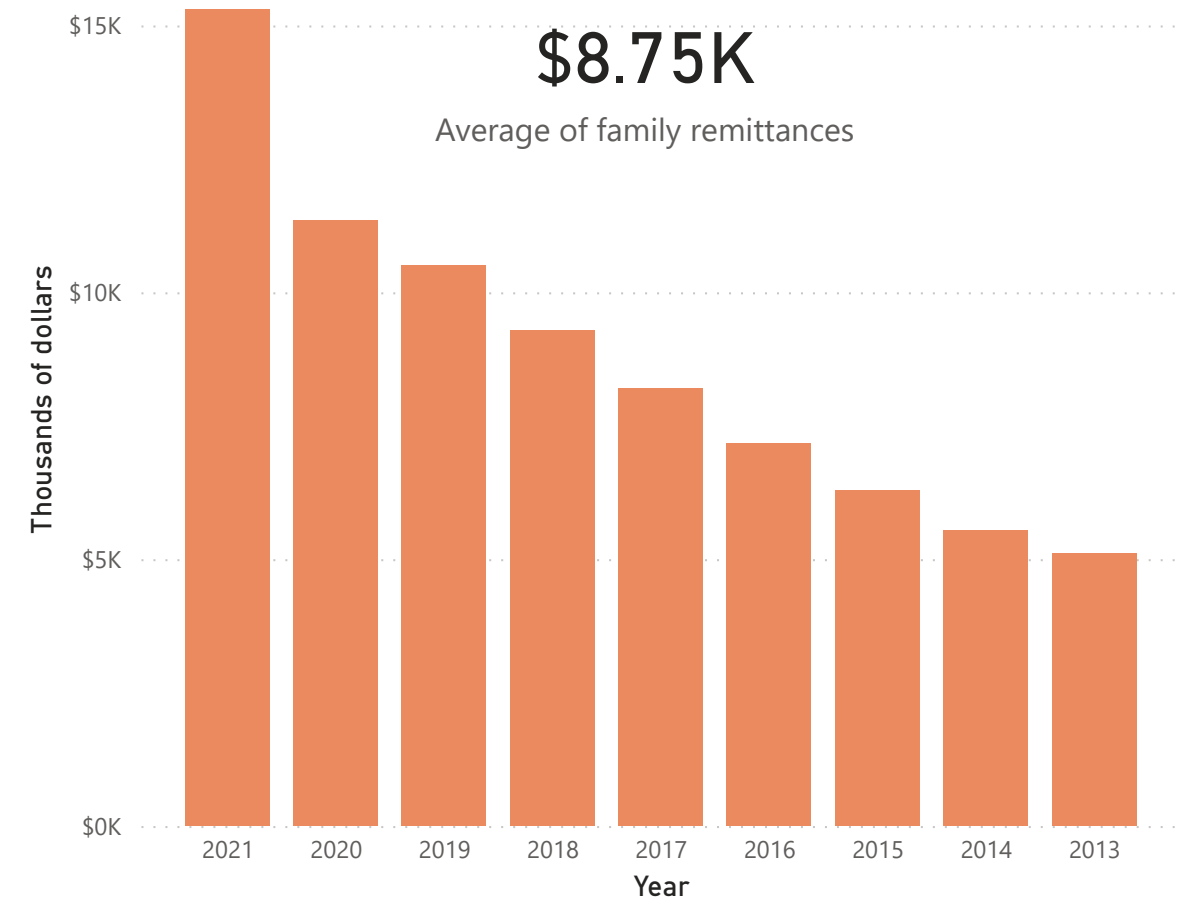
INCOME FROM FAMILY REMITTANCES

The **emigrant population of Guatemala** is mainly concentrated in the **United States**.

Remittances are one of the main sources of **income** in the country.

From 2013 to 2020, these have doubled, from **US\$ 5,105,189** to **US\$ 15,295.7**

INCOME FROM FAMILY REMITTANCES (Thousands of dollars)



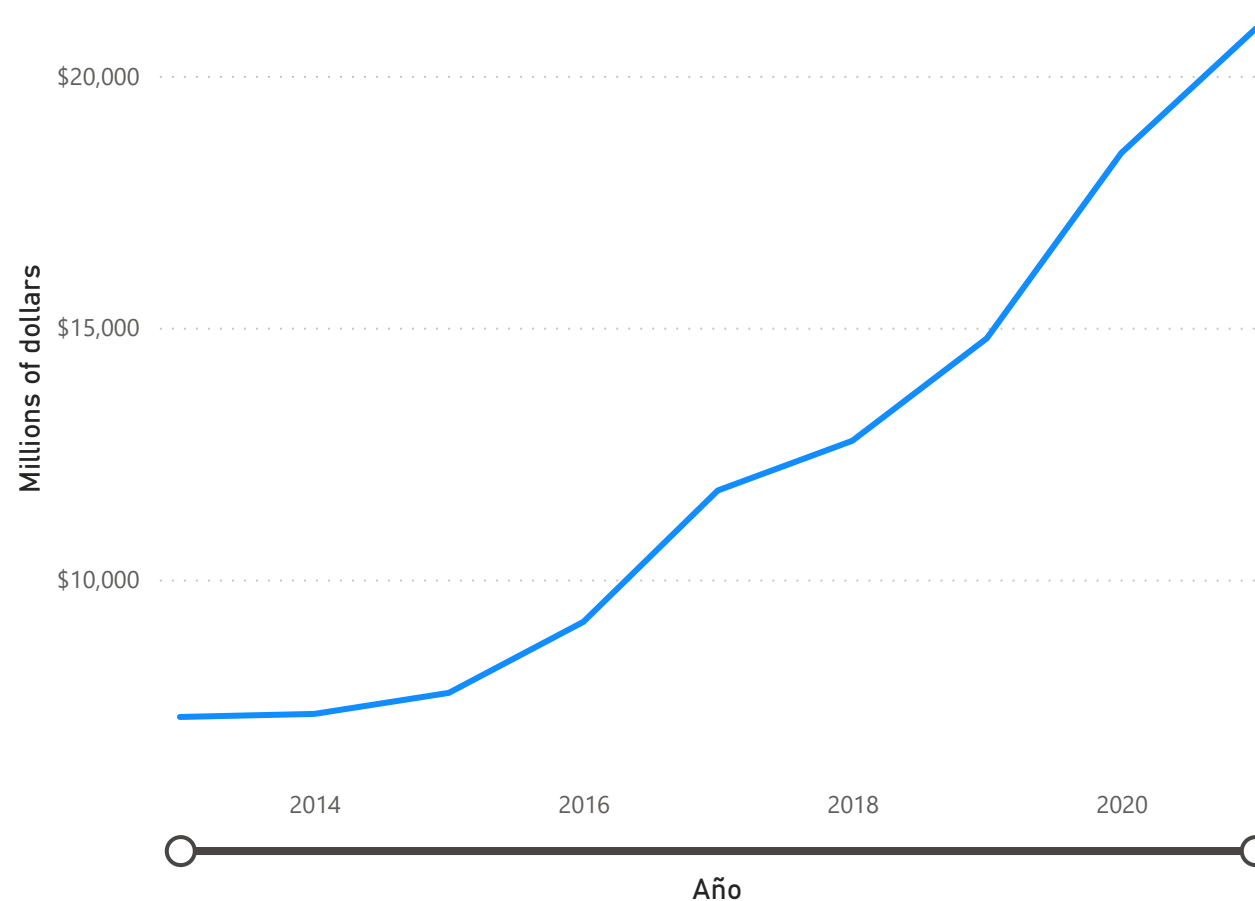
3. MACROECONOMICS

Year

All



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY RESERVES
(Millions of dollars)



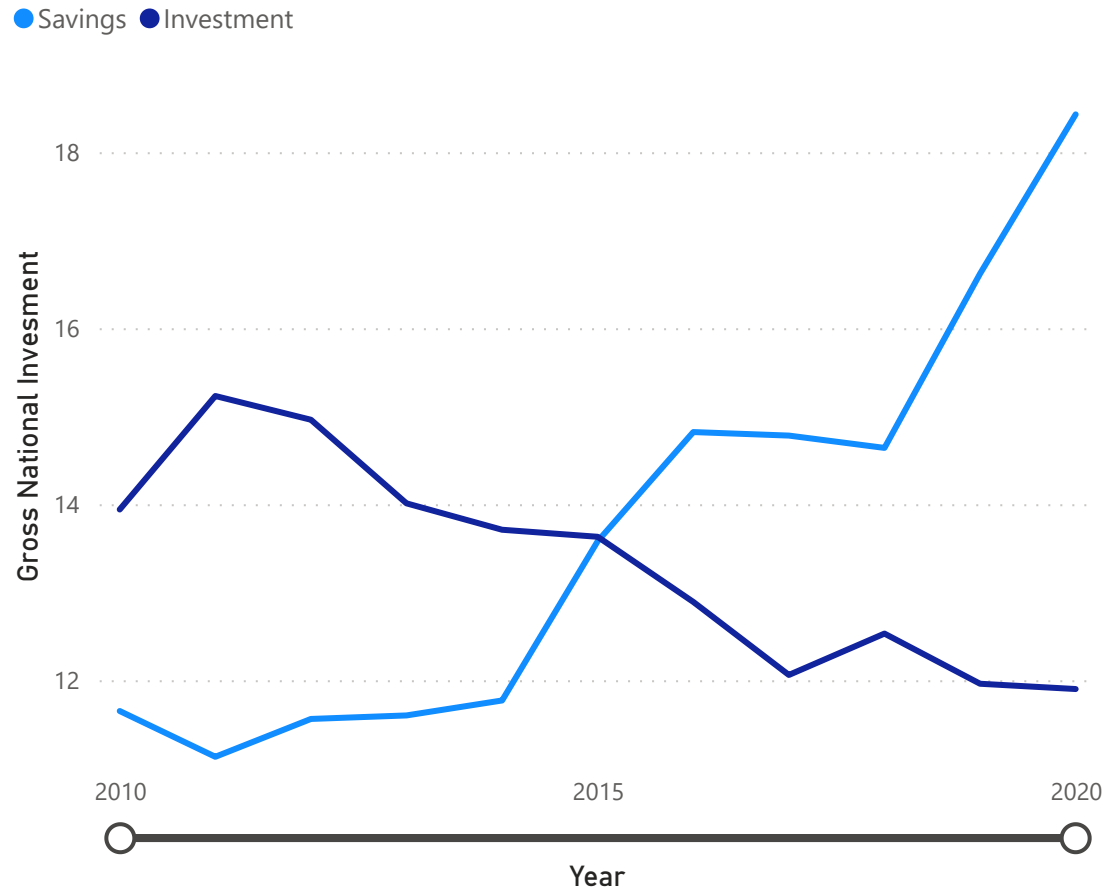
Since 2013 there has been a significant growth going from **7,272.6** million dollars to **20,939.6** million dollars for the year 2021. Which is equivalent to **24% of GDP**.

\$12.25K

Average of international monetary reserves

3. MACROECONOMICS

GROSS NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND SAVINGS AS % OF GDP



The graph shows the evolution of two key macroeconomic variables: investment and savings. **Before 2015, Guatemala did not have enough savings to finance its investment, which meant that it had to take on debt, or allow foreign direct investment to come into the country.**

As the graph on debt growth shows, debt did not increase as much, so we can conclude that FDI increased, which means that Guatemala was doing a good job in terms of attracting investors. The activities that mostly concentrate foreign direct investment are found. **1. Manufacturing industries 2. Trade and vehicle repair. 3. Financial and insurance activities.**

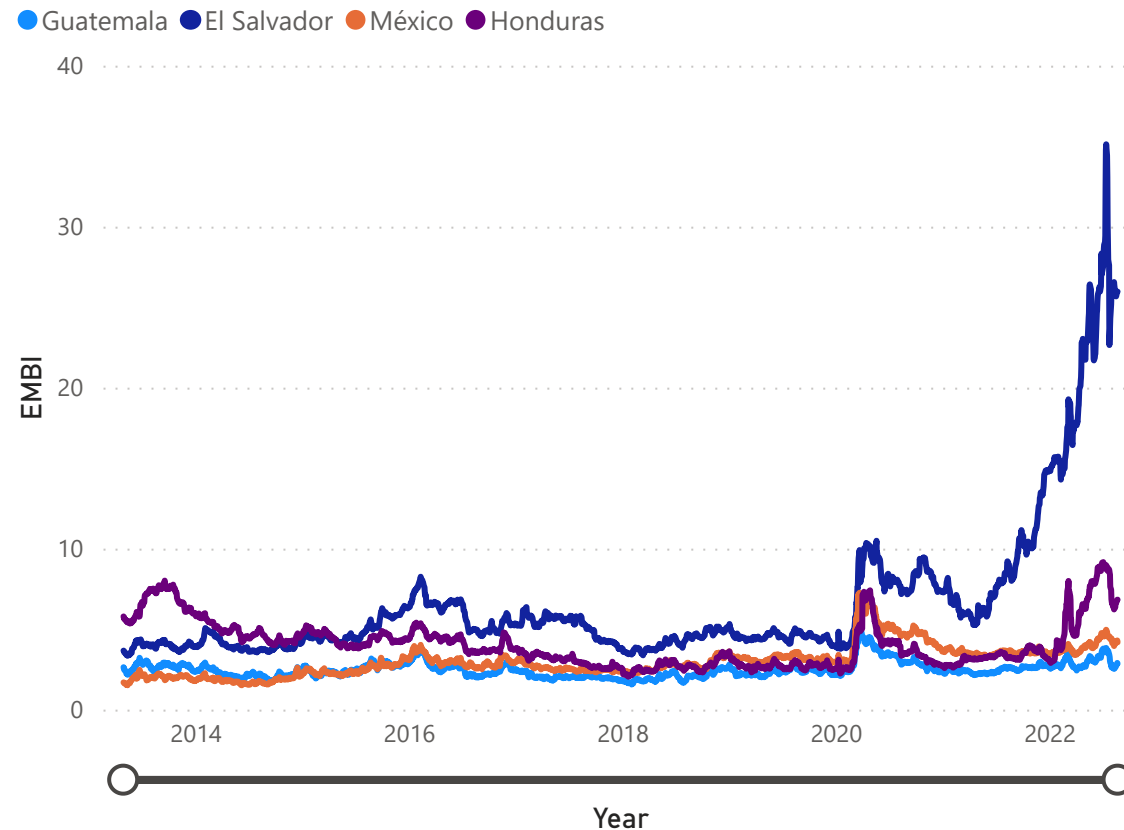
After 2015, though, savings began to increase and investment began to stagnate. **In order to keep with growth, Guatemala will have to find a way to increase their investment again.**



3. MACROECONOMICS

RISK CREDIT

EMBI INDEX



The graph shows the evolution of a measure of financial risk for developing countries. This measure comes from the **EMBI (Emerging Markets Bond Index)**, elaborated by JP Morgan.

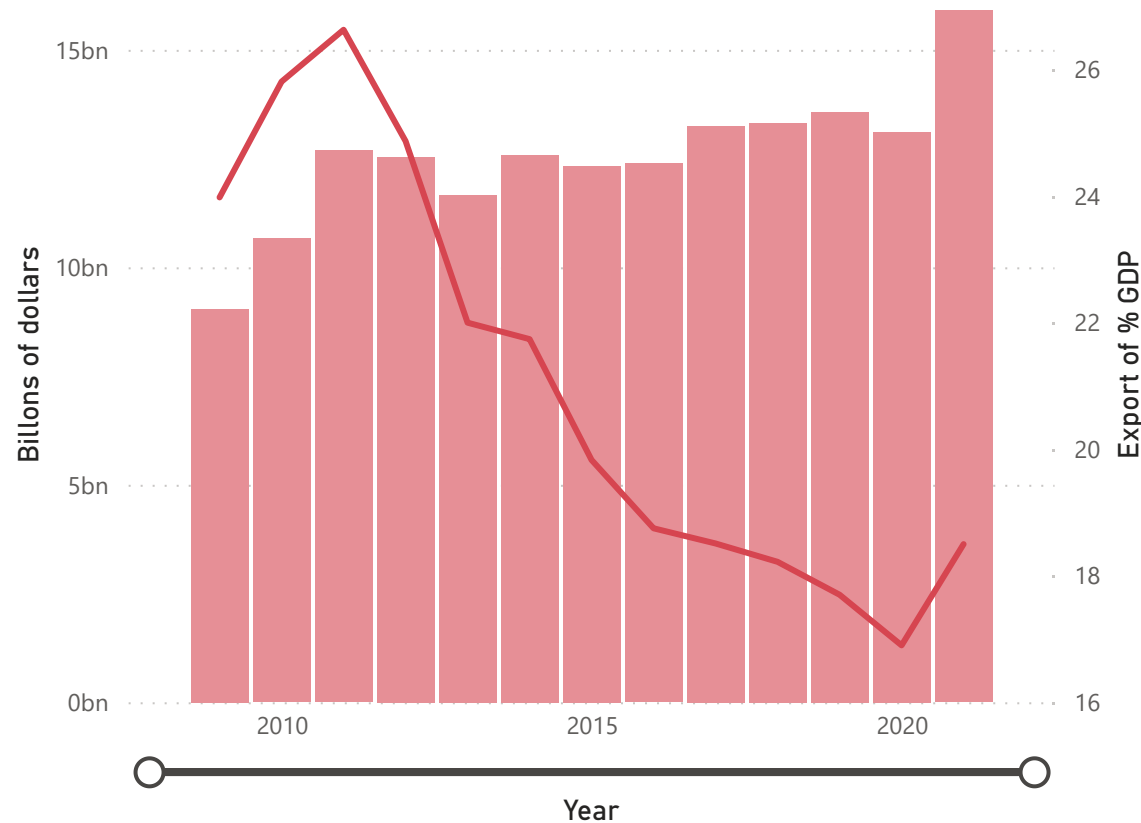
The clear thing about this graph is that Guatemala has managed to control its risk, when compared to other regional countries, like, for example, Mexico. **This attracts investors, as they perceive Guatemala to be a relatively safer investment.**



4. COMMERCE

VALUE OF EXPORTS (Billions of dollars / % GDP)

● Exports in US\$ ● Exports as % GDP



Year
All

EXPORTS

Guatemala has been a **member of the World Trade Organization** (WTO) since the 21st of July of 1995 and a member of the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade** (GATT) since the 10th of October of 1961.

Agreements:

- **Europe:** Guatemala is in a **Free Trade Agreement** with the **European Union** since 29 June 2012.
- **North America:** Guatemala is in a **Free Trade Agreement** with the **United States of America** since 05 August 2004.
- **Asia (most):** Guatemala is in a **Free Trade Agreement** with most of **Asia** and especially with **China** since 22 September 2005.
- **Central America:** Guatemala is in a **Customs Unions Agreement (CACM)** with countries of Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) since the 13th of December of 1960.

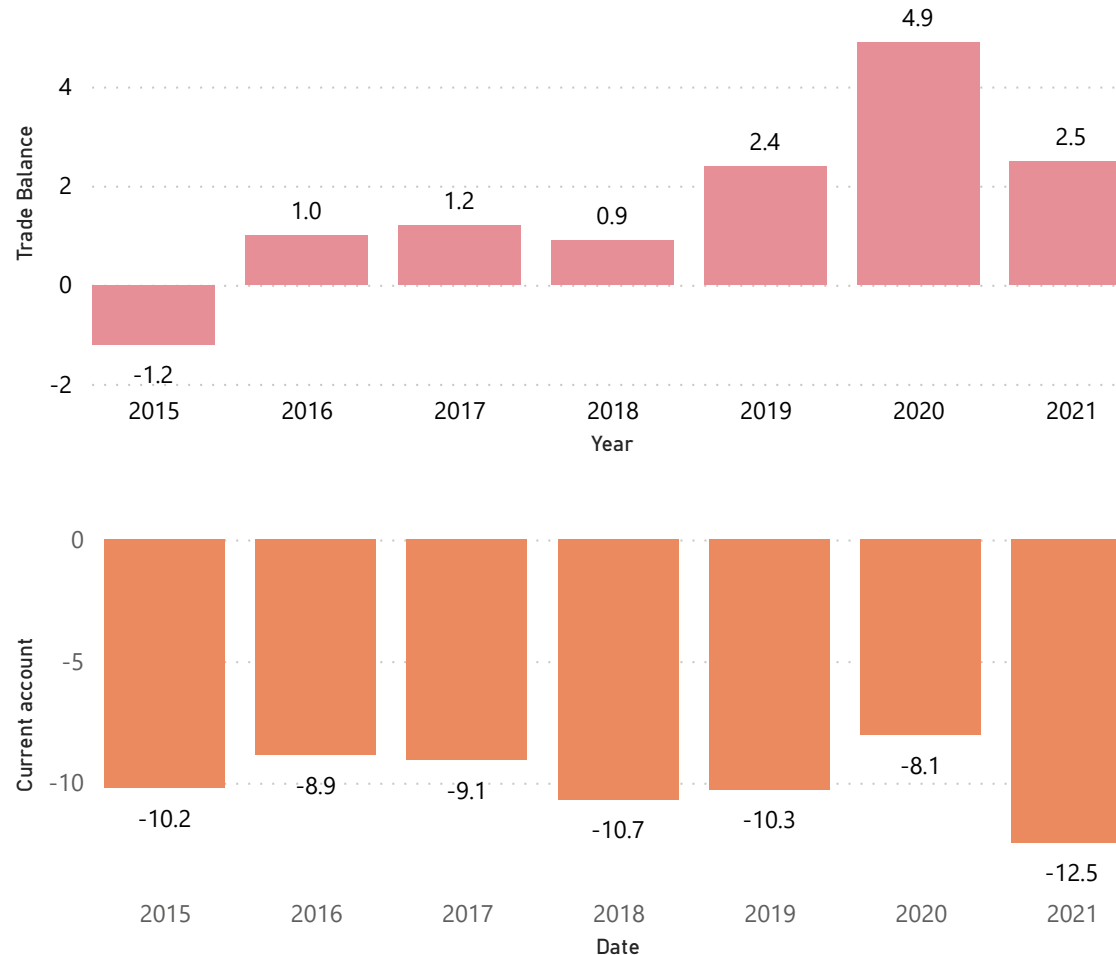
The **lack of adequate conditions to promote exports and a clear competitiveness agenda** has meant that exports have not been able to increase substantially.



4. COMMERCE

Year
All

TRADE BALANCE AND CURRENT ACCOUNT Millions of dollars



While the **current account** indicates whether a country is a net lender to the rest of the world (positive current account) or a net borrower of the rest of the world (negative current account), the ratio of the **current account balance to the GDP** provides an indication of the country's level of international competitiveness.

The current account to GDP in Guatemala had an increasing trend up until the COVID-19 pandemic which means that country's level of international competitiveness increased. Moreover, the **trade balance**, which is the imported goods subtracted from the exported goods, has almost always been negative for Guatemala.

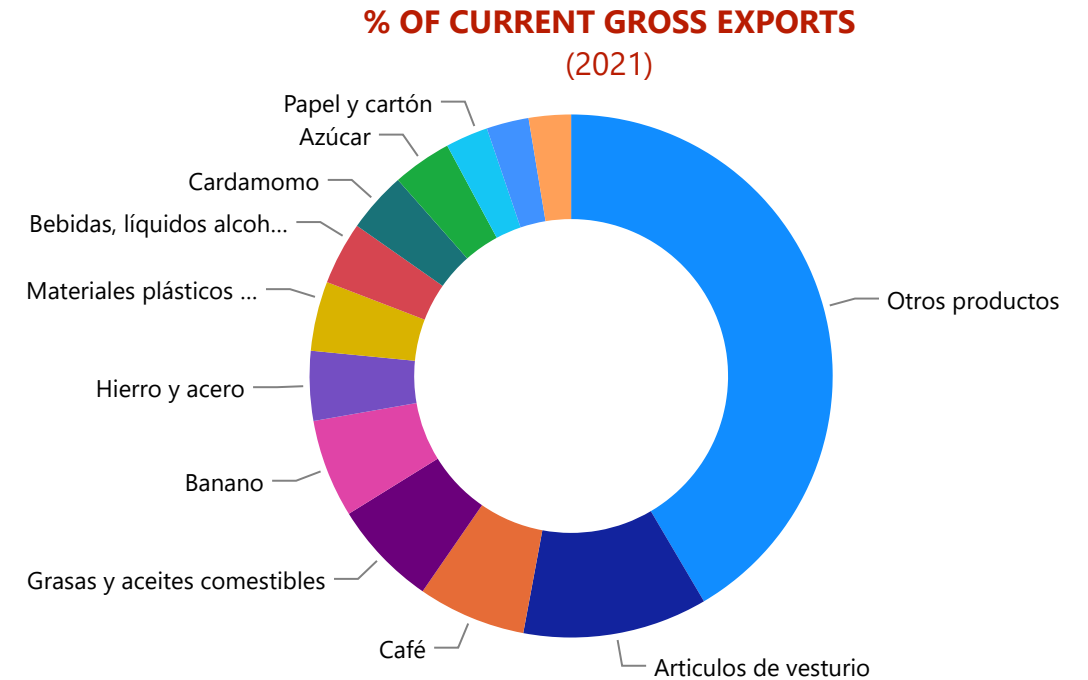
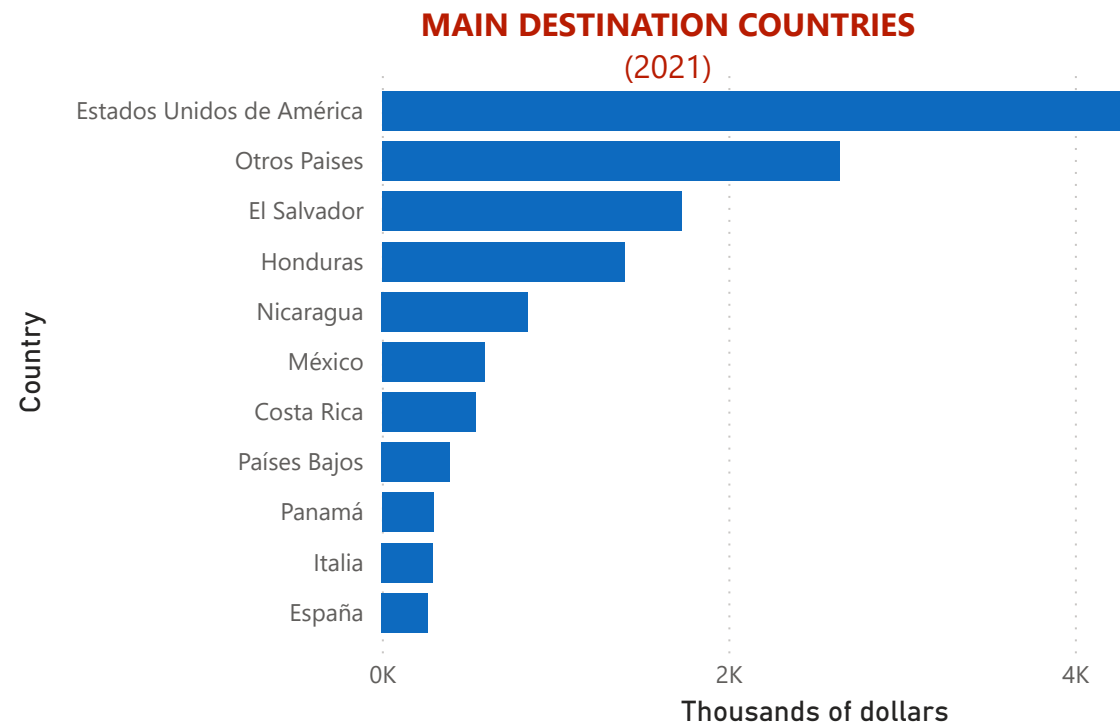


4. COMMERCE

EXPORTS

Overall, the **US** represents Guatemala's largest export connection. By region, Guatemala exports most to **Saudi Arabia** in Asia, to the Netherlands in Europe, to **Egypt** in Africa, to the **United States** in North America, and to **Chile** in South America.

Guatemala's main exports are **Bananas** and **Nutmeg**. These goods represent 9.5% and 9.4% of the country's exports, respectively.



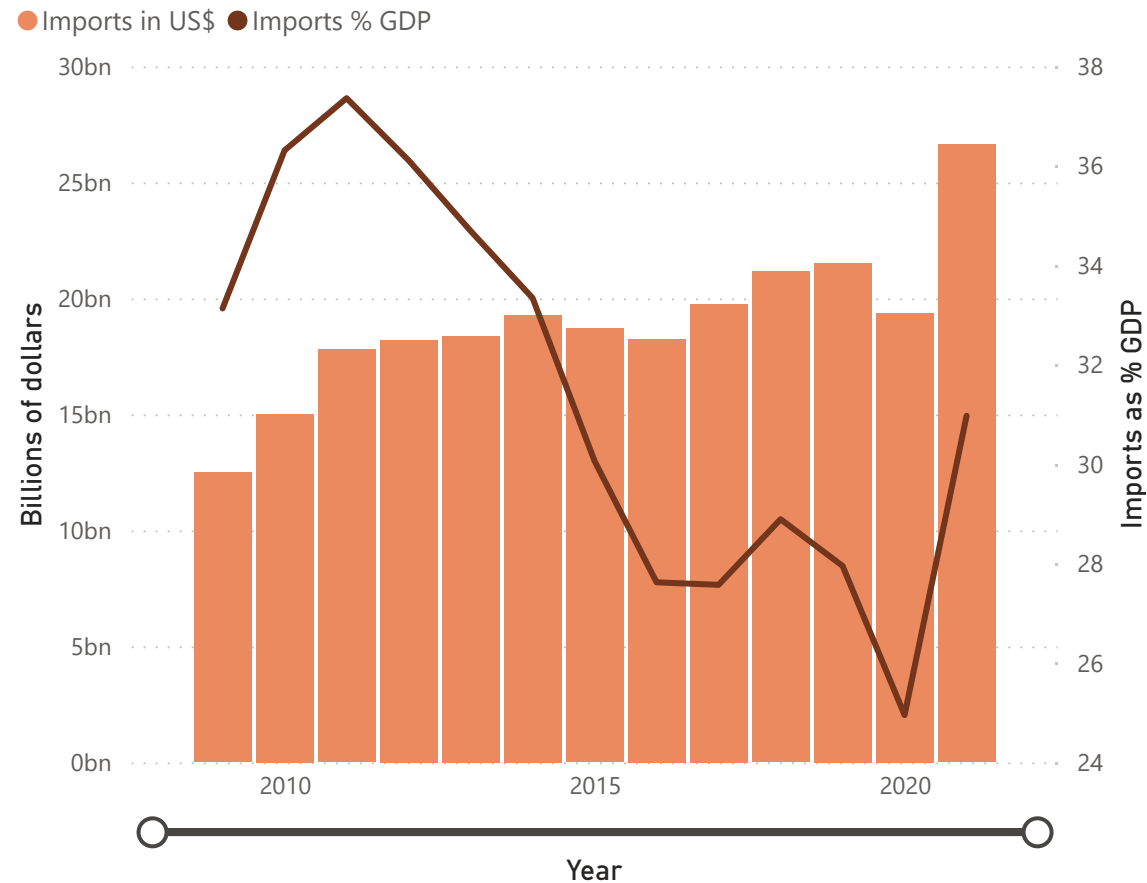


4. COMMERCE

Year

All

VALUE OF IMPORTS (Billions of dollars / % GDP)



IMPORTS

Guatemala is the **second largest importer in Central America**, only behind Panama.

Imports **increased 46%** between 2020 and 2021.

In the period from 2016 to 2021, imports at current prices have **increased 56%**.

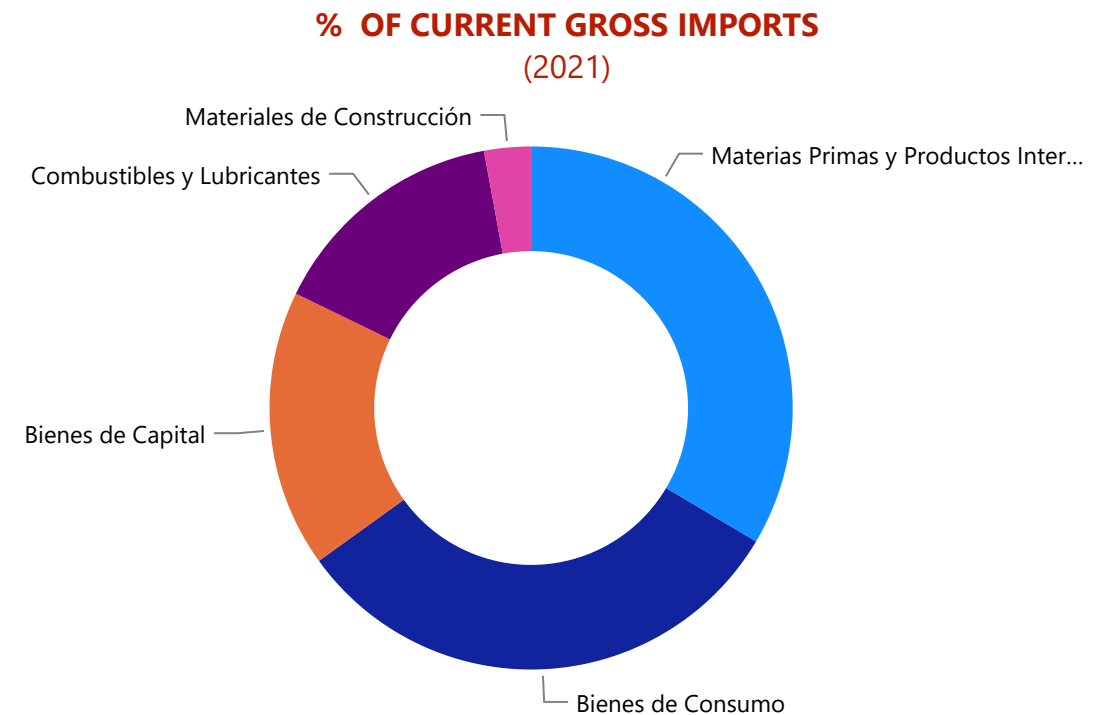
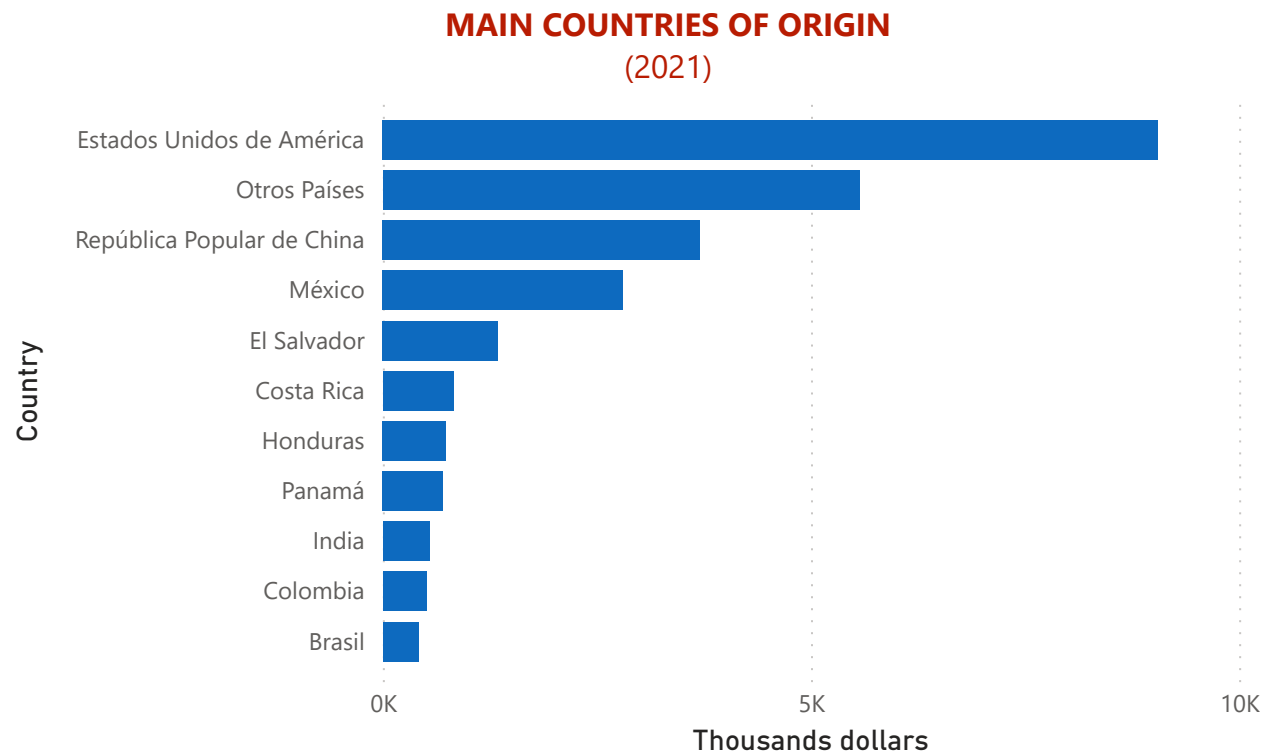


4. COMMERCE

IMPORTS

Overall the **US** represents Guatemala's largest import connection. By region, Guatemala imports most from **China** in Asia, from **Germany** in Europe, from **Egypt** in Africa, from the **US** in North Africa, and from **Colombia** in South America.

Guatemala's main import is **Petroleum oil**. This goods represent around 9% of the imports of the country.



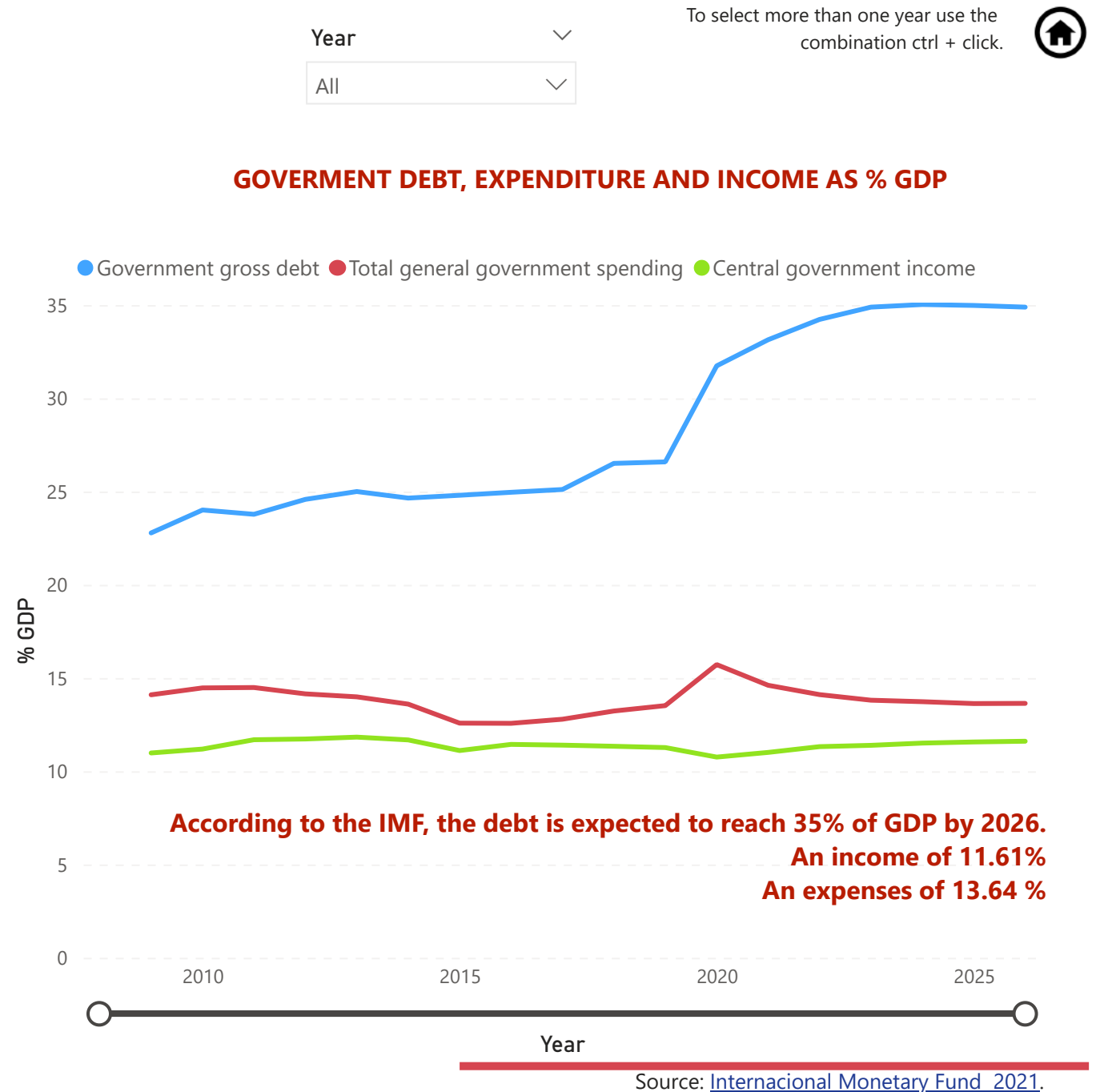
5. PUBLIC FINANCES

For the last **10 years**, and according to IMF **projected the coming 4 years**, Guatemala will have a government deficit.

Economically, this need not be a bad thing on its own. As we saw in the macroeconomic section, **Guatemala's GDP grew faster** than its debt right up until the pandemic.

This means that the government made good investment decisions which helped the country grow.

According to IMF sources, Guatemala is expected to have a 2% deficit for the next 4 years.



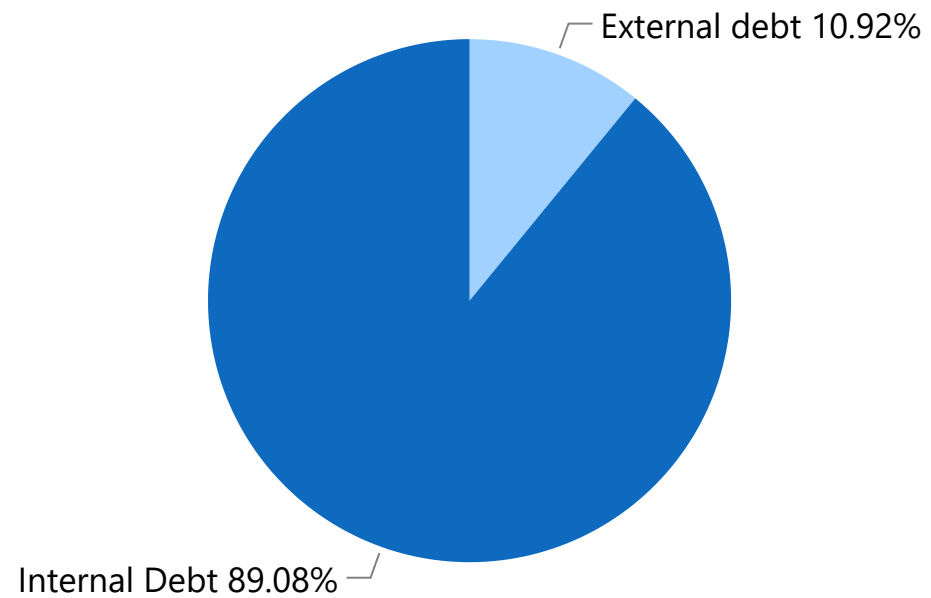


5. PUBLIC FINANCES

DEBT IN THE YEAR

2016

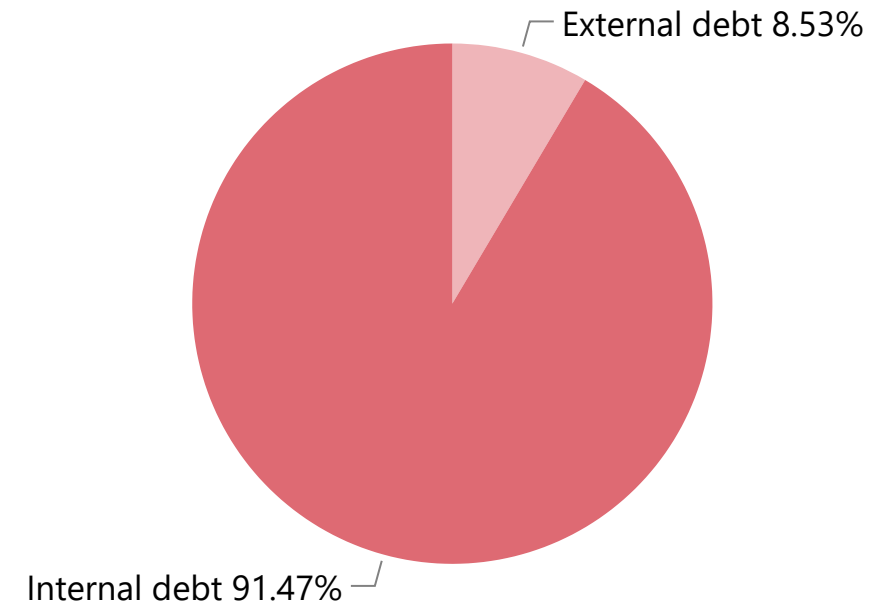
Figures in US\$



DEBT IN THE YEAR

2021

Figures in US\$



The **internal debt** in Guatemala has increased comparing the years 2016 and 2021.

6. FINANCIAL MARKETS

The **highest interest rate** presented in Guatemala was in 2000.

Interest rates in Guatemala have remained stable between **12 and 13%**

In December 2018, borrowers faced a weighted **average annual interest rate of 15.7%.**

Some banks charge more than **30% on consumer loans or microloans.**

14.20

Average interest rate

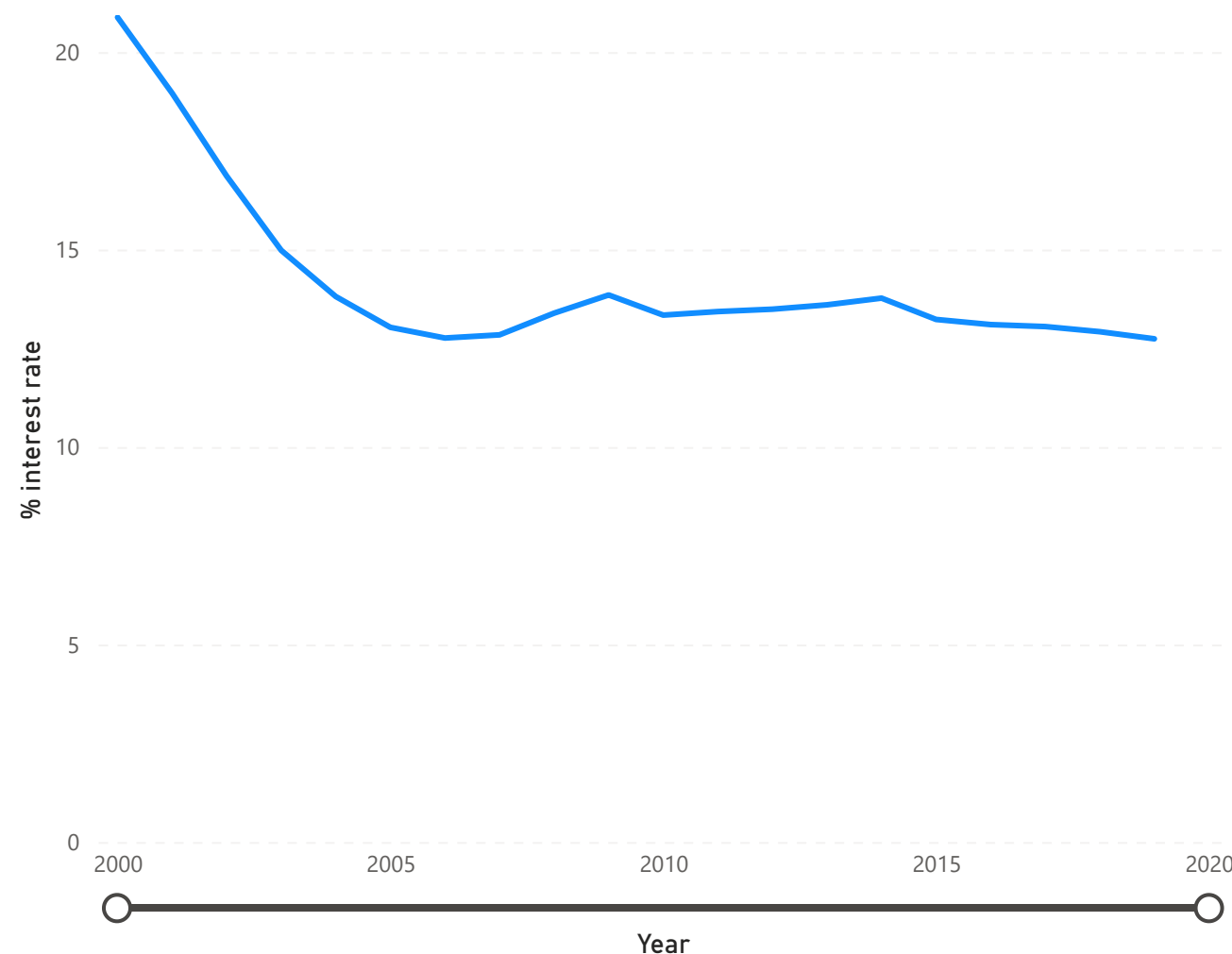
Year

All

To select more than one year use the combination ctrl + click.



% INTEREST RATE





6. FINANCIAL MARKETS

CAPITAL MARKET AND INVESTMENT

Guatemala's **capital markets** are weak and inefficient because they lack a securities regulator.

The **Central Bank of Guatemala (Banguat)** and the **Superintendency of Banks (SIB)** were drafting a draft capital market law updated to April 2019.

Guatemala **lacks a market for publicly traded stocks**, which raises the cost of capital and complicates mergers and acquisitions.

BANKING AND MONETARY SYSTEM

In general, the banking system **remains stable**.

According to information from the SIB, the **17 commercial banks** in Guatemala had an estimated **USD 43.75 billion** in assets in 2018.

The **six largest banks control about 89%** of total assets.

In addition, Guatemala has **13 non-bank financial institutions**, which mainly carry out investment banking and medium and long-term loans, and three exchange houses.

Access to financial services is very high in Guatemala City, as well as in the main cities of the region.



7. COMPETITIVENESS AND DOING BUSINESS

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX

Guatemala is the most competitive country in the Northern Triangle.

Its best performance is in the **product market category** (46/141). In the pillar of **size of the market**, Guatemala is ranked 75/141.

Its two worst scores are in the **quality categories of institutions** (121/141) and the **labor market** (122/141).

GLOBAL POSITION: 98/141
SCORE: 53.5/100

GCI	Score over 100 pts.	Rank over 141
Product Market	59.00	46
Size of the market	51.20	75
Finance system	57.50	81
Macroeconomic Stability	74.80	81
Health	74.00	88
Business Dynamism	55.80	96
Innovation Capability	31.50	98
Score GCI	53.50	98
Infrastructure	55.90	102
Skills	51.40	103
ICT adoption	37.70	110
Institutions	42.40	121
Labour market	50.90	122



7. COMPETITIVENESS AND DOING BUSINESS

DOING BUSINESS INDEX

With respect to the **Doing Business Index**, Guatemala' most prominent pillars are getting **credit** and getting **electricity**. In these categories the country ranks 15th and 46th, respectively.

The worst performing doing-business categories of the country are resolving debts and implementing contracts. In the aforementioned categories the country ranks 157th and 176th, respectively.

For more information on how to do business in the country of Guatemala, visit the website of the chamber of commerce of the country: [Camara de Comercio de Guatemala - Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala | Devex](#).

GLOBAL POSITION: 96/190
SCORE: 62.6/100

Index	Score over 100 pts.	Rank over 190
Enforcing Contracts	34.50	176
Resolution of insolvency	27.60	157
Protection of minority investors	30.00	153
Construction permit management	65.30	118
Tax payment	70.30	104
Opening a business	86.80	99
Doing Business	62.60	96
Property registration	64.90	89
Trading across borders	77.20	82
Getting Electricity	84.20	46
Getting credit	85.00	15



8. EDUCATION

ACCESS BEYOND PRIMARY EDUCATION

The country's literacy rate is close to 81%, according to the World Bank.

Education beyond primary level is not free. There are a big drop in school enrollment from elementary to high school.

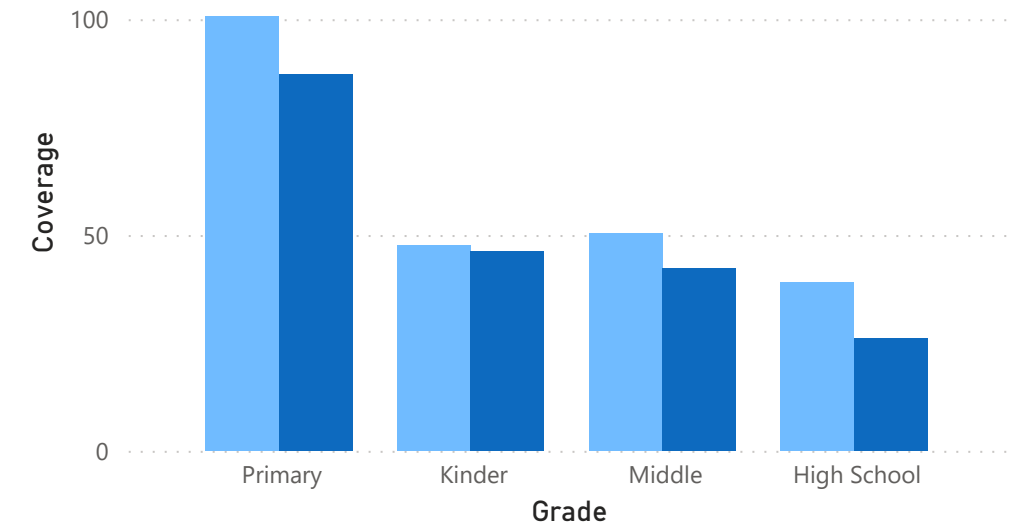
The number of children placed out of the education system has decreased significantly from 296,224 (2016) to 246,359 (2020). **The opposite has occurred for adolescent students: those out of school have increased from 362,426 (2016) to 402,899 (2020).**

Grade

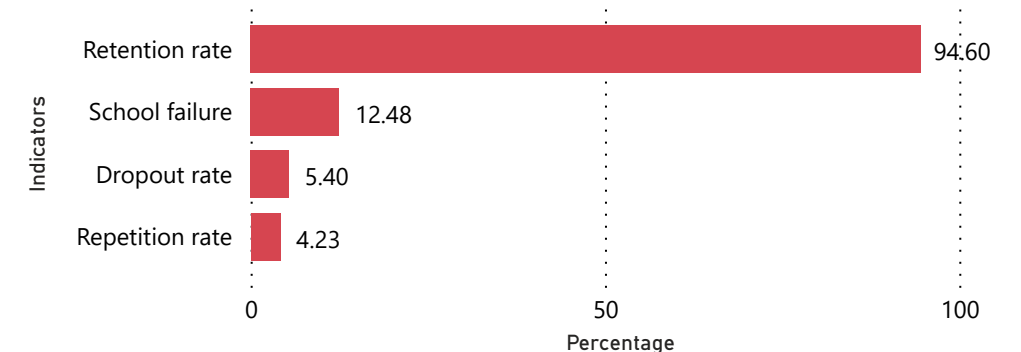
Pre-primary: 4-6 years	Secondary: 13-18 years
Primary: 7-12 years	Tertiary: 18-23 years

EDUCATION COVERAGE BY ACADEMIC LEVEL

Indicators ● Gross coverage rate ● Net coverage rate



RETENTION, DROPOUT AND REPETITION BY ACADEMIC LEVEL





8. EDUCATION

The **Human Development Index** is a composite measure that **uses four indicators as dimensions of human development:** mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, life expectancy at birth, and gross national income per capita, scoring each country by 0 to 1.

Guatemala experienced its **minimum in 1990 with a total score of 0.481 and its maximum in 2019 with a 0.663.**

Compared to other countries, Guatemala's score is lower than the world average (0.724) and also lower than the Latin American average (0.755).

In 2019, the expected years of schooling for Guatemalan students is 10.8 and the years in middle school is 6.6.

Therefore, a great advance in schooling is expected in the coming years for children who are entering school now with respect to those who are leaving school.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

SCORE: 0.663 / 1

POSITION: 127

8. EDUCATION



Year

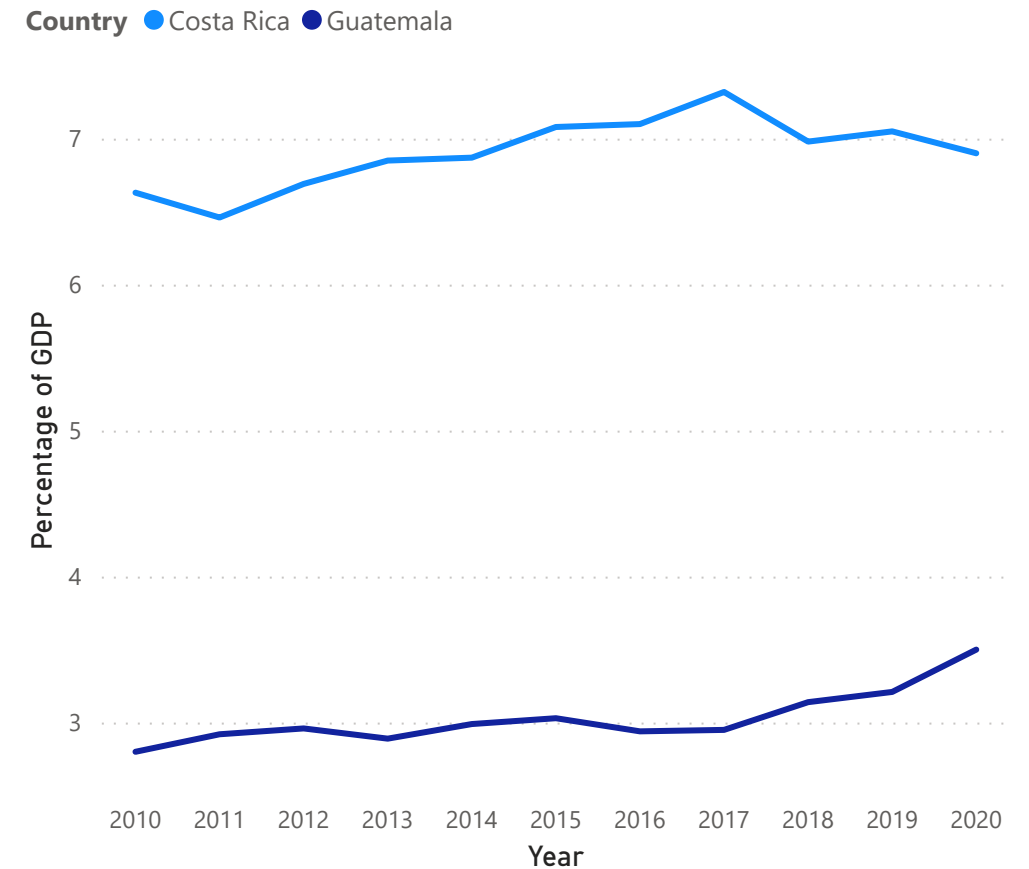
All

SPENDING

Guatemala is the country that invests the least in education as a percentage of GDP with an average of **3.5%**, while **Costa Rica** invests **6.90%**



PUBLIC SPENDING ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP





8. EDUCATION

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

Although **43.8%** of Guatemala's population is indigenous, the percentage of representation is much lower at all levels of education.

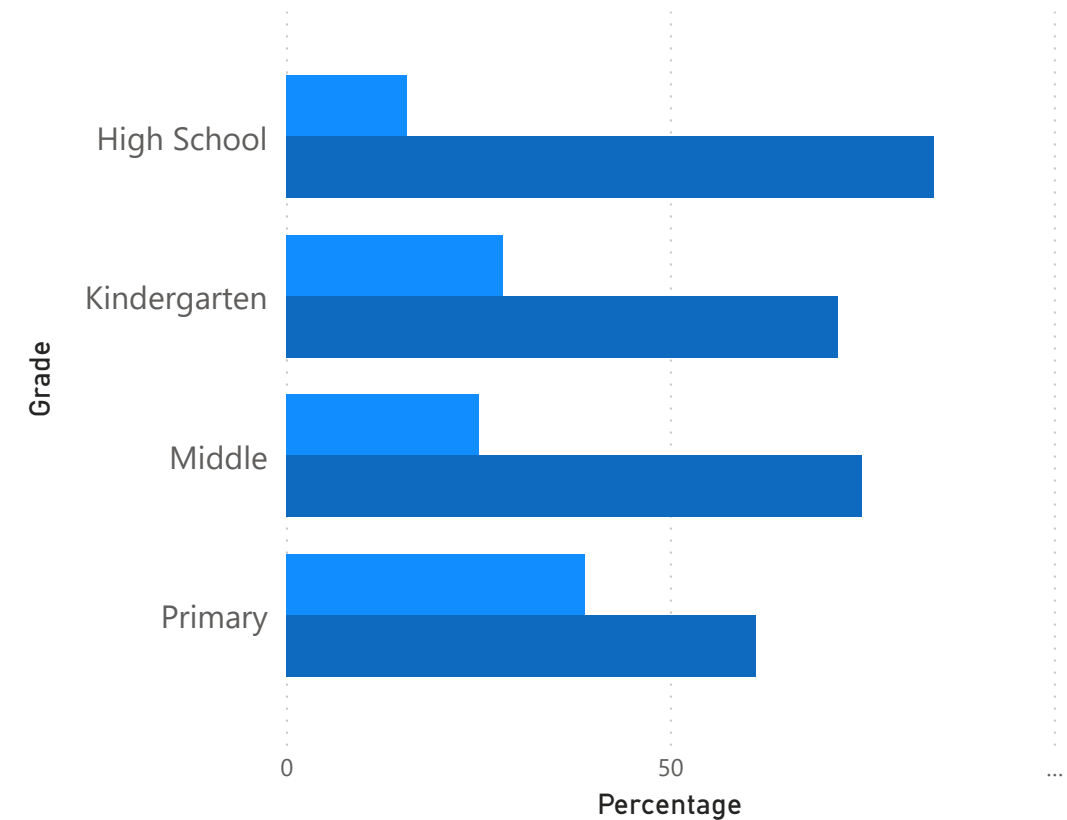
In addition to the lack of public schools in areas with an indigenous majority, classes are generally offered in Spanish, despite the fact that the Mayan, Garífuna and Xinka populations are not fluent in Spanish.

Grade

High School	Middle
Kindergarten	Primary

% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED BY TYPE OF POPULATION AND LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Population ● Indigenous ● Non Indigenous





8. EDUCATION

PISA ASSESSMENT

MATHS

In the case of mathematics, **89% of Guatemalan first grade students are below the acceptable level established by the PISA-D study.**

The average for the region is 88%, although that of Latin America is 69% and that of the OECD countries is 23%

SCIENCES

For science, the population with low results is **77%, the region evaluated is 82%, the Latin American average is 58% and the OECD 21%.**

READING

In reading, although the figure improves, it is still low. **70% of the students are below the regular level established by the study.**

The rest of the countries incorporated by PISA with the same characteristics is 77% with a bad evaluation. Latin America has 52% of bad evaluations and the members of the OECD 20%.



9. HEALTH

Indicator	Guatemala	Average Central america
▼		
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH (% OF GDP)	1.80	3.40
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO REPORTED	108.00	74.00
LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (<2500 G) (%)	12.70	10.80
HOSPITAL CHILDBIRTHS (%)	69.20	79.40
DEATH RATE OF < 5 YEARS REPORTED	28.20	23.60

KEY HEALTH DATA

In **per capita spending on health**, the government of Guatemala is in the middle of the Northern Triangle, with 470 USD.

However, if we look at the entire Latin American region, this is **only one third of the average spending**. In addition, up to 54% of total health spending ends up coming out of the pocket of Guatemalans, who must use their savings more than any other citizen to meet health demands.

The country has a **worse average than the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in all categories** from the number of beds, doctors and nurses to public spending on health and what each citizen must put out of his pocket.

Guatemala has the worst record in the entire region in beds by hospitals and nurses. There are only 0.4 beds for every 1,000 inhabitants, up to 3 times less than neighboring El Salvador, while there is not even 1 nurse for every 100 inhabitants, averages up to ten times worse than those in Honduras, the next most vulnerable country in the world. all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The most **common chronic diseases in Guatemala are hypertension, diabetes and asthma**.



9. HEALTH

COVID-19

Guatemala faced the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic with a health system that was insufficient to meet the population's demand. In fact, in 2020 it had only 0.5 hospital beds per 1000 inhabitants.

For critical care, especially relevant in times of coronavirus, the country does not offer public data on health or intensive care beds or ventilators. However, at the request of **El Periódico**, the **Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance** revealed that it had **676 ventilators as of May 2020, a figure of only four available for every 100,000 Guatemalans.**

Likewise, in intensive care, the president announced the creation of three temporary centers that increased the number of ICU beds to **634, resulting in 4.3 units per 100,000 people.**

Guatemala has reached a total of 18,000 deaths from COVID-19, although the actual numbers are probably higher, and only 33% of its population has received both doses of the vaccines.



9. HEALTH

COVID-19

March 13, 2020: first official case of coronavirus in Guatemala.

182,836 - cases in the first year.

1,084,50 - cumulative incidence per 100,000 inhabitants in the first year.

40,50 - mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants in the first year.

3.7% - Fatality in the first year.

Guatemala has a similar incidence to the rest of the countries of the Northern Triangle. The low **mortality rate compared** to European countries may be due to the fact that more than 50% of the cases have been concentrated between the ages of **20-39 years**, which, being younger, **reduces the risk of becoming seriously ill**.



10. STATE OF DEMOCRACY

KICKBACK IN PERCEPTION

According to Transparency International, Guatemala is one of the countries that falls in the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#): 8 points since 2012, with a score of 25 out of 100 and position 150 out of 180 countries. It also worsens, perhaps more markedly, its improvement in democracy, where it has dropped its score from 4.97 to 4.62. Its score has dropped in just two years from 4.26 to 4.62.

Only Costa Rica and Panama have improved in the Corruption Perceptions Index in 2021. Meanwhile, **El Salvador (34 points), Honduras (23) and Nicaragua (20) continue to worsen.** On the other hand, in the index of the Intelligence Department of The Economist magazine, the falls in democratic quality of these countries are also being registered, producing an impact on the overall average. The country where the fall is being greater is Nicaragua, where Nicaragua's dictatorship has been punished with a drop from 3.60 (2020) to 2.69 (2021).

The setback in Guatemala is caused by the institutional weakening of the State and by the lower credibility and political stability of the country. **Transparency International also denounces that the efforts of recent years to combat corruption and impunity have failed.**






10. STATE OF DEMOCRACY

CENTRAL AMERICA NORTHERN TRIANGLE

DEMOCRACY AND CORRUPTION

In Central America, the countries that have fallen notably in recent years in the Corruption Perceptions Index are Nicaragua (20), **Guatemala (25) and Honduras (23) out of 100 points**. On the other hand, in The Economist's Democracy Index, the countries that have experienced the largest drops are the same: Nicaragua (2.69), Guatemala (4.62) and Honduras (5.10).

		GUATEMALA			HONDURAS			NICARAGUA		
										
		POSITION		SCORE	POSITION		SCORE	POSITION		SCORE
GLOBAL DEMOCRACY INDEX 2020	2020	Nº	97	4.97	Nº	88	5.36	Nº	120	3.6
	2021	Nº	99	4.62	Nº	92	5.1	Nº	140	2.69
PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION INDEX 2020	2020	Nº	149	25	Nº	157	24	Nº	159	22
	2021	Nº	150	25	Nº	157	23	Nº	164	20



10.STATE OF DEMOCRACY

According to Freedom House, while it is true that Guatemala holds generally free elections, organized crime and corruption largely influence government action. **The organization reports that violence and crime are widespread and that victims have little recourse to justice.** It also explains that journalists, activists and public officials who confront crime are at risk of being attacked.

Freedom in the world (2022) : 51/100
(partly free)

Political rights: 21/40

Civil liberties: 30/60

Freedom House does not present data on Internet freedom in Guatemala or other Central American countries such as Honduras, El Salvador and Panama.



10.STATE OF DEMOCRACY

The right to press freedom is constantly violated in Guatemala because journalists who investigate corruption and human rights violations often suffer reprisals and harassment campaigns.

World Press Freedom Index 2022:

SCORE: 47.93/ 100

POSITION: 124/180

There are **both public and private media in Guatemala and in recent years there has been an increase in the number of alternative digital media that are committed to investigation.**

Reporters Without Borders reports that there is currently a journalist in prison in Guatemala. **During the first six months of 2022, no journalist has been murdered.**



10.STATE OF DEMOCRACY

GLOBAL BAROMETER OF CORRUPTION

46% percentage of people who think that corruption has increased in the last twelve months.

25% percentage of users of public services who paid a bribe in the last twelve months.

The distrust and discredit of institutions in Guatemala is such that **51% of citizens think that the police are corrupt.**

This figure rises to **56% in the case of members of government and 59% in the case of members of parliament.**



11.INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESS

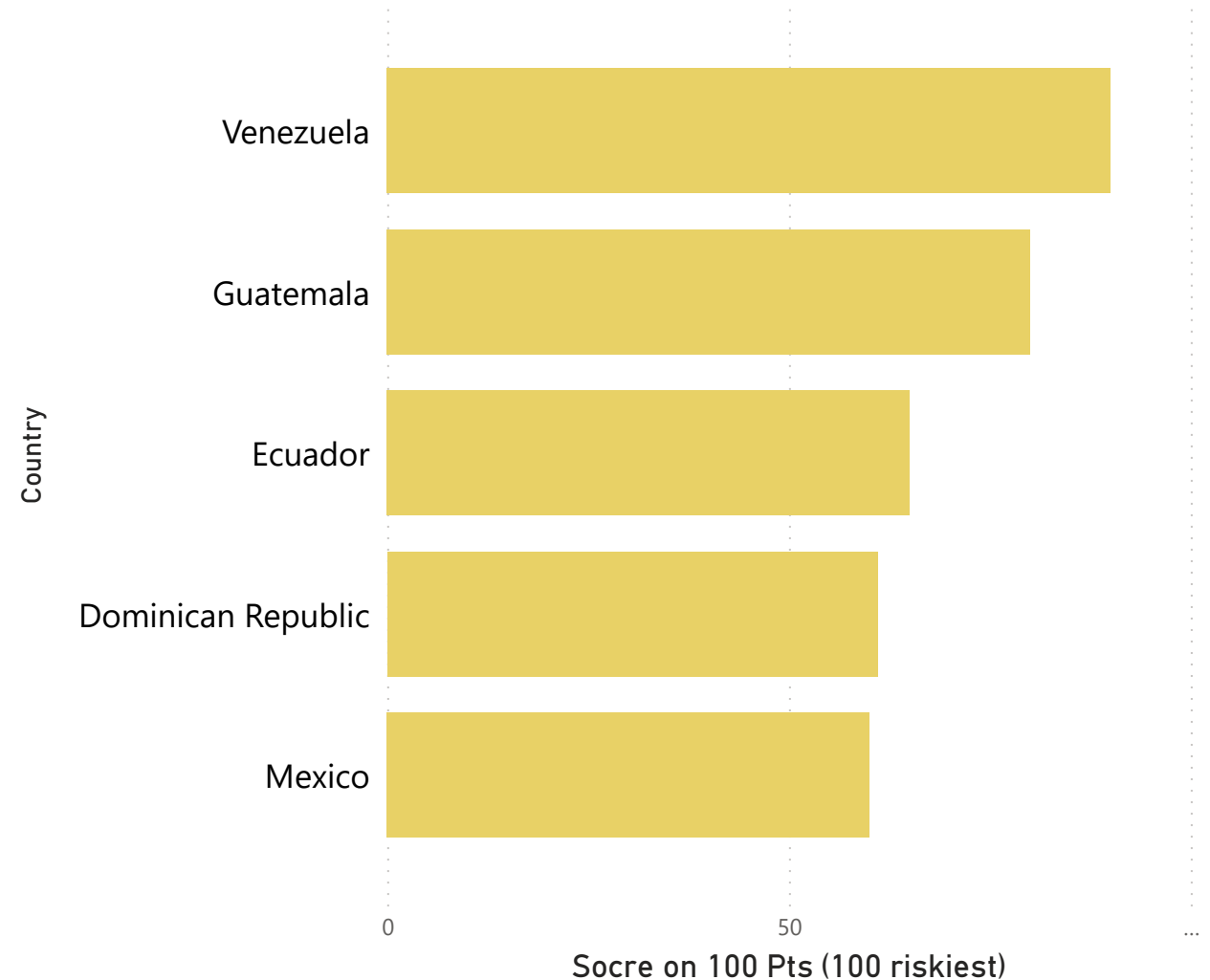
Institutional weakness in Guatemala

The **indicators analyzed in the previous slides show how democracy and corruption levels in Guatemala are not at their best.**

The democratic opening that took place in the 1980s brought with it greater access to political power, but not substantial improvements in the problems of corruption, clientelism or judicial independence.

The **problem of institutional weakness in Guatemala impacts both the country's economic performance and the quality of democracy.** In fact, only Venezuela presents a higher risk of government effectiveness compared to Guatemala (80/100). This means that the Guatemalan state's capacity to implement and enforce laws is more limited than in most Latin American countries.

GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS RISK





11. INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESS

The 2015-2016 **United Nations Development Program Report** explained that **Guatemala's institutional quality has always been weak and has had limited resources.**

In its findings, it acknowledged that Guatemala is not able to meet the needs of a large part of the population. **In addition, the World Bank's efficiency indicator rated Guatemala in 2018 as a weak state.**

Some **problems that are pointed out regarding the weakness of the Guatemalan state are that it is oversized in areas such as Health or Education**, with duplication and dispersion of functions, that it is poorly designed, with institutions created without a specific function, that there is a concentration of state resources in the country's capital and that there is no strategic planning at the national level.

According to Moody's, Guatemala's institutional strength remains weak, especially in some areas such as rule of law, government effectiveness and control of corruption.



12. MIGRATION

MIGRATION OF THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

With **7.2% of the world's population**, the Caribbean, Central America and North America are home to almost **25% of all the world's migrants and experience unique migratory flows**, according to the International Organization for Migration. 6 million of them have left the three countries of **the Northern Triangle: El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala**.

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) notes that **Central Americans** have significantly **lower incomes and higher poverty rates** than all foreign populations and US-born populations.

The United States Census Bureau estimates that by 2015, approximately **6.2 million people who were born in Central America or reported Central American** ancestry are living in the United States.

GUATEMALANS LIVING ABROAD

2.23M

Millions of Guatemalans abroad



6 out of 10 Guatemalans who are abroad are men.

12. MIGRATION

MIGRATION OF THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

From 1980 to 2015, the size of the Central American immigrant population grew almost tenfold. Immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras accounted for **almost 90% of total population growth since 1980**.

94.3% of these people are between 18 and 40 years old; 5.8% are girls, boys or adolescents who migrated with traffickers (coyotes).

The **US Customs and Border Protection Service** encountered **1,956,51 individuals trying to enter along the southwest border throughout 2021**. In total, it represented an increase of more than **300% compared to 2020**, a year characterized by mobility restrictions derived from the pandemic.

The main reasons for migration include:

1. Violence
2. Natural disasters
3. Food insecurity
4. Poverty
5. Lack of opportunities

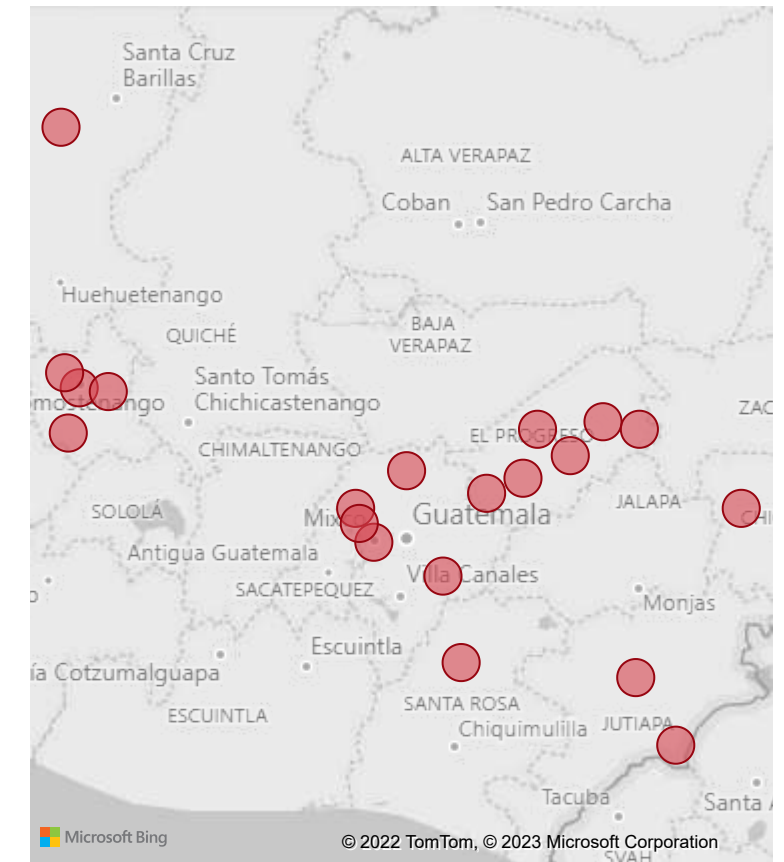
**GUATEMALA COUNTRY REPORT
NCID - CINDERE**

Municipality

All



TOP 20 MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCEIVED HUMAN MOBILITY



Source: [Centro de Estudios de Guatemala, 2018.](#)
Source: [US. Customs and Border Protection, 2021.](#)
Source: [International Organization for Migration, 2016](#)



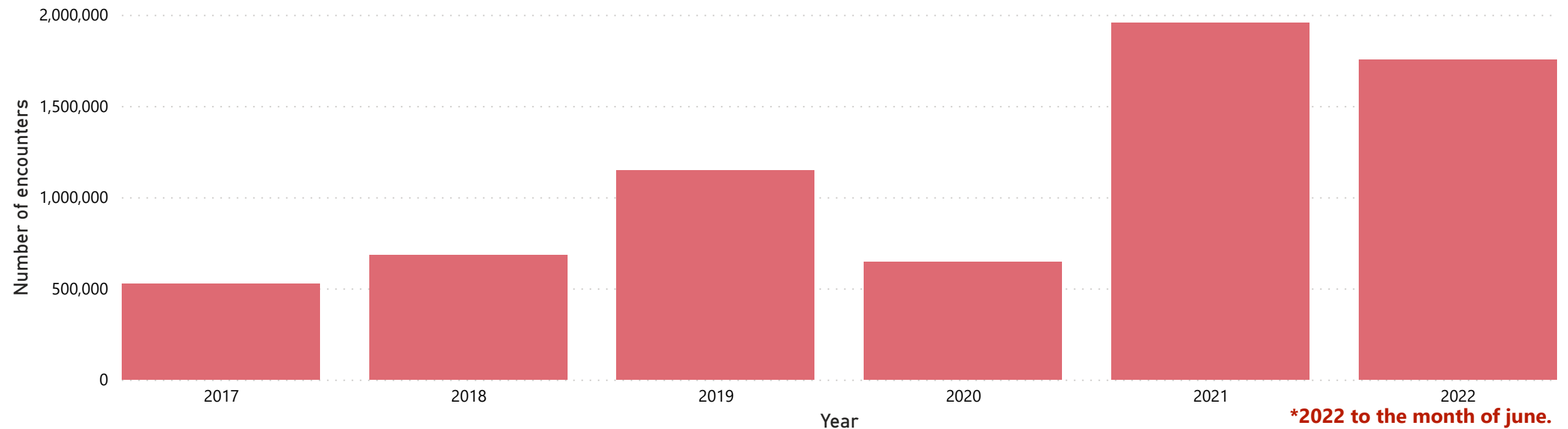
12. MIGRATION



MIGRATION OF THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

According to the **US Customs and Border Protection Service**, in the year 2020. **646,822 encounters** with migrants were registered, taking into account the limited mobility restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far in 2022 there are already **1,753,754**, indicating that **President Joe Biden's** less restrictive policies on migration could be leading to more arrivals at U.S. borders.

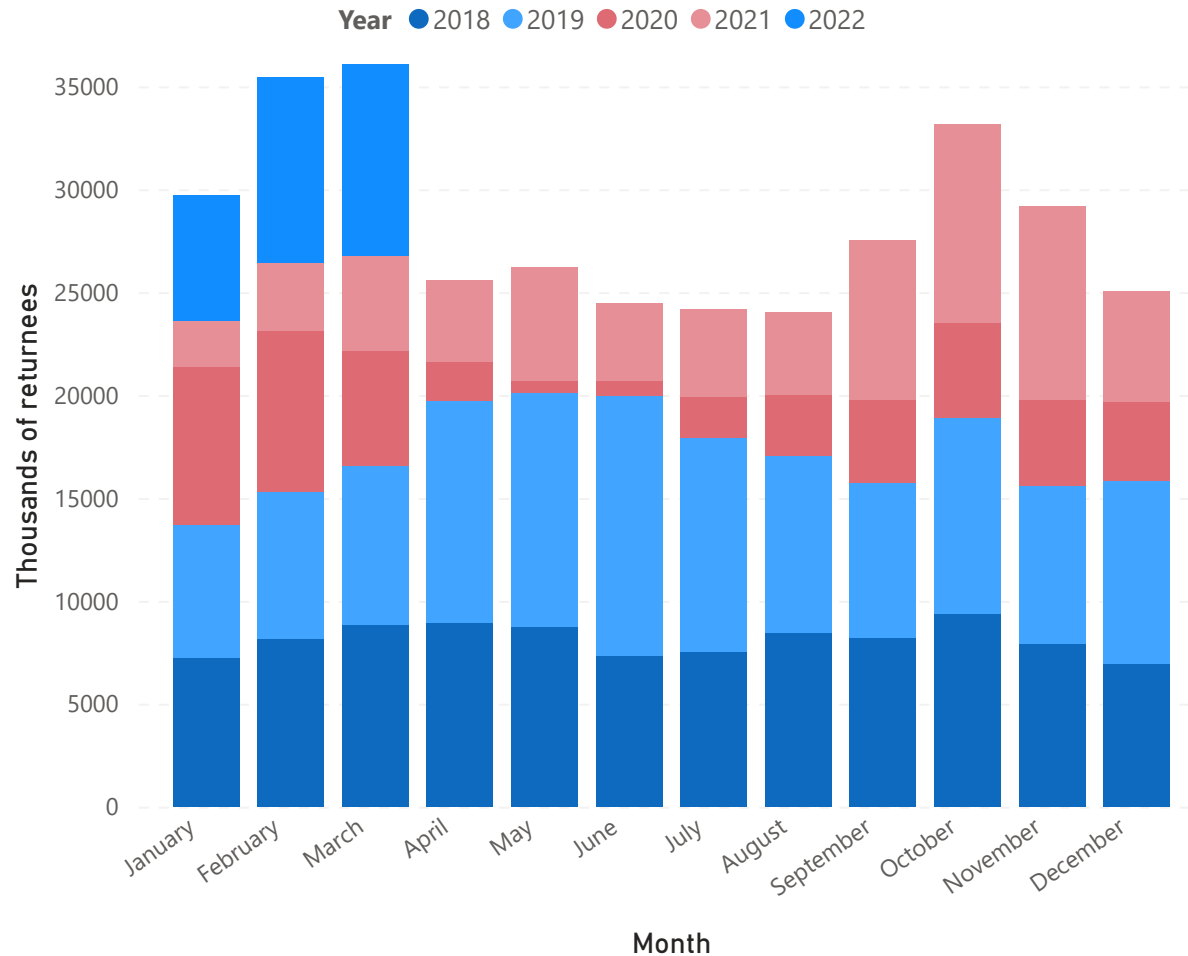




12. MIGRATION

Year, Quarter, Month
All

PEOPLE RETURNED TO GUATEMALA



he year 2019 was the year with the highest number of returnees to Guatemala, but **2022 presents in these first months of the year numbers that triple those registered last year and for the moment surpass the record of 2019.**

Between **January and March 2022, 24,429 Guatemalans were returned from Mexico and the United States.**

Returnees to Guatemala have increased by 140.8%. **While those arriving from the United States have increased by 683.9%, increasing mainly children and adolescents, in the case of Mexico it has increased by 57.4%, with a similar increase in both adults and children and adolescents.**

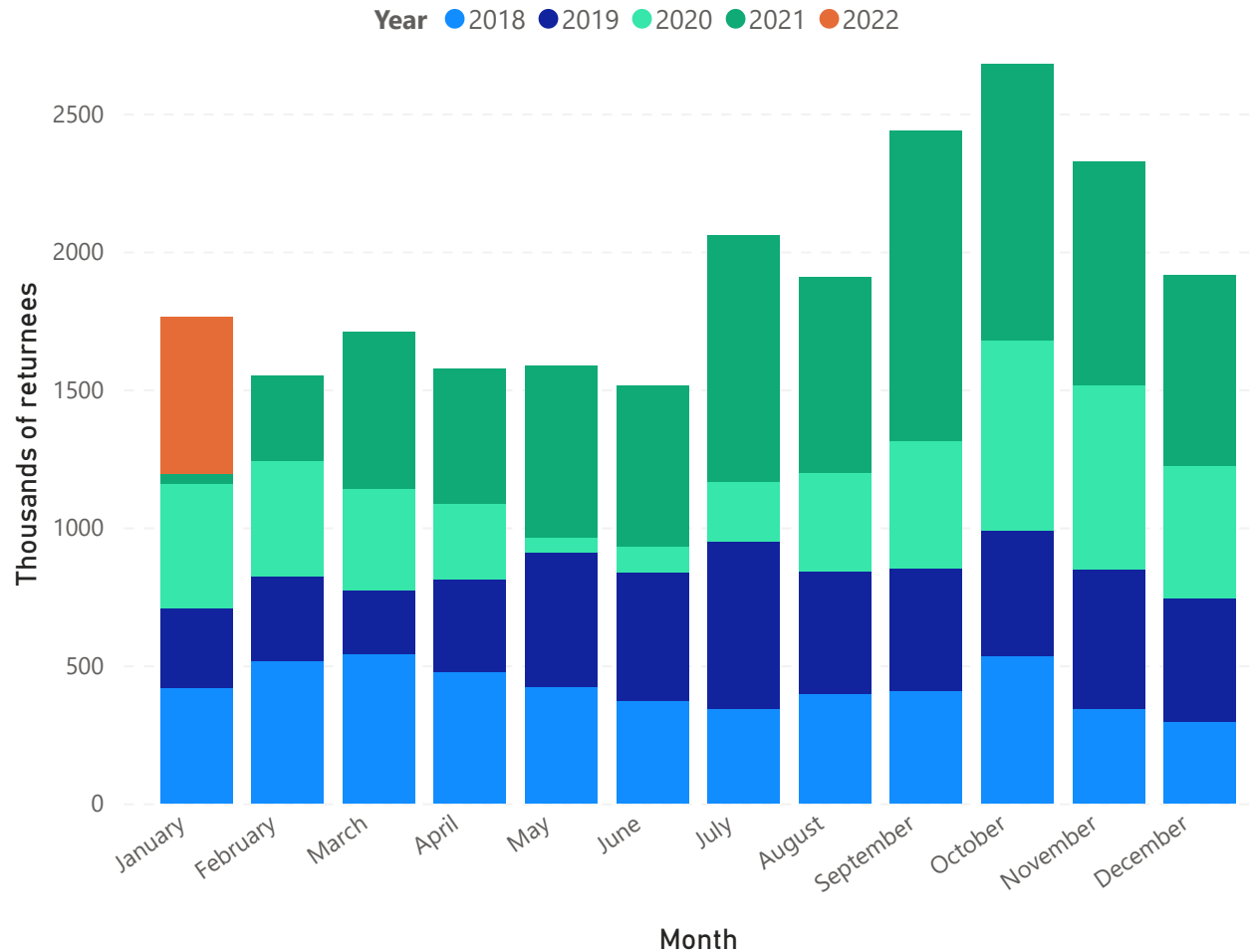
12. MIGRATION

Year, Quarter, Month
All

To select more than one year use the combination ctrl + click.



GUATEMALA: UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDHOOD



UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDHOOD

The southwest border of the United States continues to see a significant increase of unaccompanied children from Central America at the southwest border, with nearly **19 thousand in March 2021, when a 100% increase was experienced over the previous month and all records were broken.** A total of 122,000 unaccompanied minors entered throughout 2021.

569 unaccompanied Guatemalan children were returned in January 2022, an increase of 1359% over January 2021.

UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDHOOD MOTIVATION TO MIGRATE



Employment



Family reunification



Education



423

Boys



146

Girls

GUATEMALA: UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDHOOD BY GENDER



13. MALNUTRITION

GENERAL INFORMATION



The **problem of malnutrition is, even today, one of the main causes of infant mortality and morbidity in the world.** One third of the deaths of children under 5 years of age, equivalent to more than 2.5 million children, is related to malnutrition.

Most of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. To make matters worse, between 2000 and 2016, nearly 200 million children under the age of five were stunted or wasted.

The **most pressing concern in Guatemala** is chronic malnutrition in children.

1. When it comes to chronic malnutrition, **treatment must be given before children are 2 years old.**

2. Otherwise, brain development is **permanently affected because this is the peak growth period for this organ.**

3. **Its most visible symptom is growth retardation.** If a child's height is less than 70 and 80 cm at the age of 1 and 2, respectively, they are most likely chronically malnourished.

13. MALNUTRITION

CONSEQUENCES

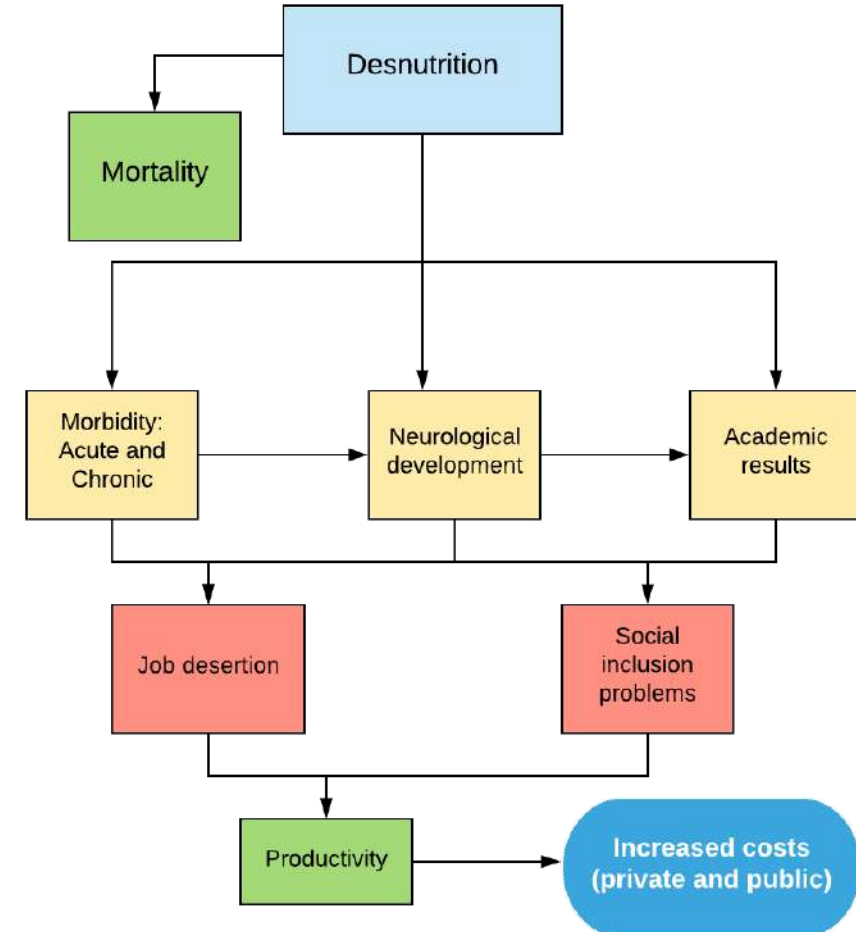


The **consequences of chronic malnutrition** are not limited to **childhood**. It has **permanent consequences**.

1. **Short-term** consequences related to mortality, morbidity and disability.

2. In the **long term**, the consequences will be: lower height, cognitive capacity, economic productivity, and vulnerability to metabolic and cardiovascular diseases.

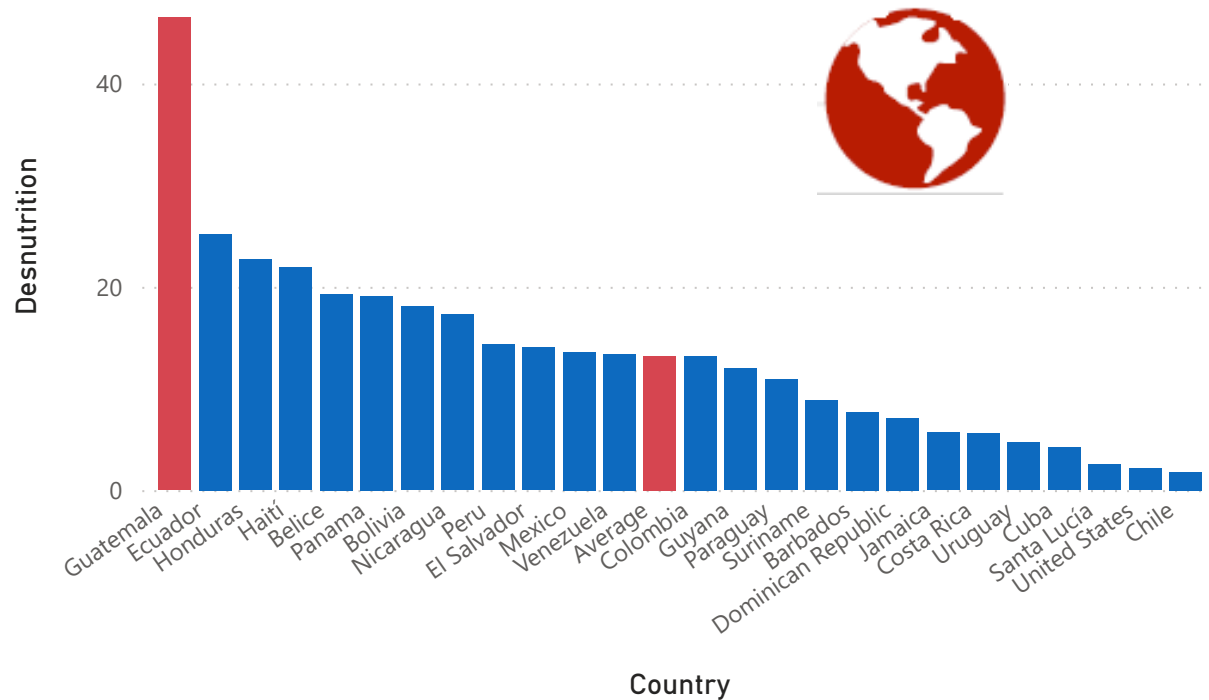
3. **Intergenerational** consequences, since undernutrition can become a circle that can transcend between generations, from a health perspective to the medium and long-term economic effects for households.



13. MALNUTRITION

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CHRONIC MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN <5 YEARS
OLD IN LATIN AMERICA (%)



In Guatemala, **46.5%** of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. This means that a total of **1,051,232 children are malnourished.**

GUATEMALA COUNTRY REPORT
NCID - CINDERE

THE GUATEMALA EMERGENCY

Malnutrition is concentrated in poor rural areas, where the majority of the indigenous population lives, and in the Dry Corridor.

However, the most affected departments are in the west of the country: **Totonicapán (70%), Quiché (69%), Huehuetenango (68%) and Sololá (66%).**



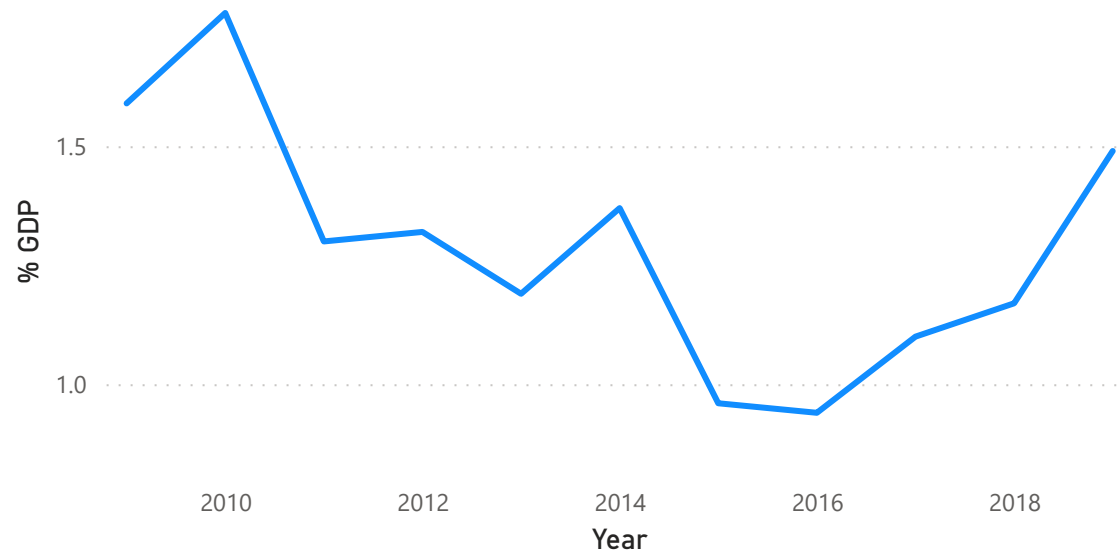
Source: [Panamerican Health Organization, 2021.](#)
Source: [Maternal and Child Health Survey, 2017.](#)



13. MALNUTRITION

STATE (IN) ACTION

PUBLIC SPENDING ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION AS % OF GDP



Despite marginal increases since 2016, Guatemala lacks coordination in its public sector.

1. Spending on nutrition is lower than other countries.
2. There are no significant changes in recent years.



A POSSIBLE WAY OUT

In Latin America, Peru has struggled against child malnutrition with relative success, and its case is similar to that of Guatemala due to its similar impact on the rural poor and indigenous population.

1. Between 2008 and 2016, **Peru reduced** chronic malnutrition in the **28% to 13%**.
2. Through a **strategic plan** that included social pressure initial, a strategy that spanned three administrations and the capacity building for households.
3. The **key was empowering parents with campaigns information**, better access to health services and monetary incentives.
4. **Greater resources were allocated to local governments** in based on your results.



14. NCID- CINDERE WORK



The **NCID** is associated with **Centro de Investigación para el Desarrollo Regional (CINDERE)** of the Universidad del Istmo in Guatemala, with which they carry out joint research on health, education, security, migration, governance and competitiveness in Guatemala and the Northern Triangle.

CINDERE: WORLD'S BEST NEW THINK TANK



CINDERE has been listed as **Amongst the world's best new think tanks in the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report** prepared by the University of Pennsylvania (USA) among more than **8,000 research centers around the world.**



14. NCID- CINDERE WORK



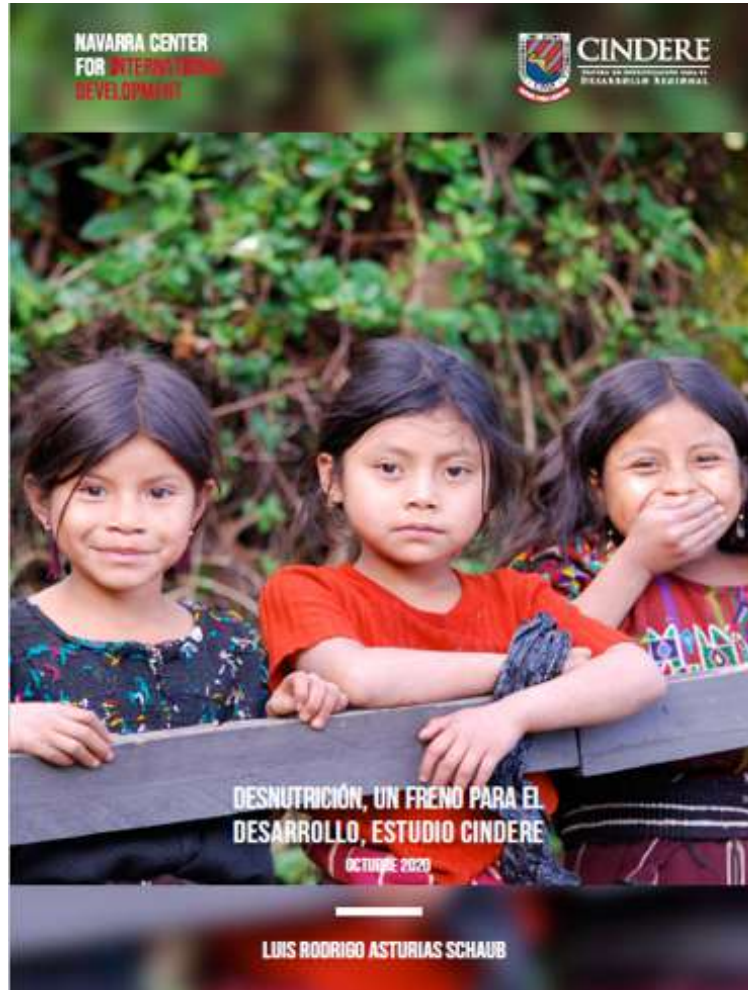
Through applied research and the generation of ideas of a high academic level, **CINDERE develops measurable proposals** for analysis in these areas:

1. Primary health: chronic malnutrition
2. Quality of education
3. Security
4. Migration
5. Competitiveness of the national economy and companies
6. Generation of quality employment and entrepreneurship



14. NCID- CINDERE WORK

MALNUTRITION: HINDERING DEVELOPMENT



GUATEMALA COUNTRY REPORT NCID - CINDERE

The researcher **Rodrigo Asturias** published a [paper](#) on the **state of malnutrition in Guatemala**.

One of the main challenges in the development of Guatemala is chronic malnutrition since 46.5% of children under 5 years of age suffer from it. This is the highest rate in Latin America and the sixth in the world. **Good nutrition at the beginning of life** and, in particular, during the thousand days that elapse between conception and the second year of life of the child, translates into greater growth, cognitive development and good health, guaranteeing benefits in the short and long term .

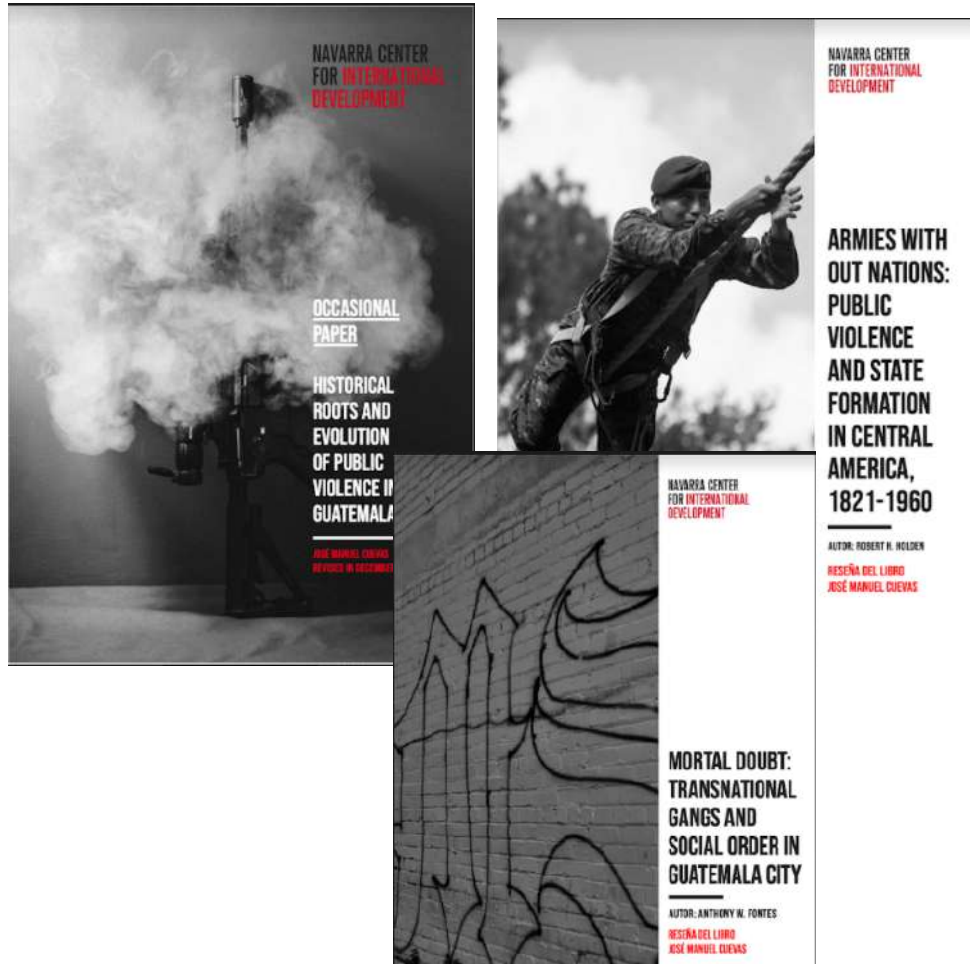
Likewise, **its importance is closely linked to indicators related to the quality of life of the countries, as well as its relationship with poverty levels.**

The study highlights the need to approach the problem from a scientific perspective that guarantees a measurable and successful impact in favor of child nutrition and the development of Guatemala.



14. NCID- CINDERE WORK

HISTORICAL ROOTS OF PUBLIC VIOLENCE



Likewise, in line with another of the center's priority research topics, researchers from the **NCID-CINDERE** have also studied the **history of violence in Guatemala**.

The study **Historical roots and evolution of public violence in Guatemala** affects the history of the country to understand why more than twenty years after the end of the armed conflict, Guatemala is still far from eradicating violence. Also, within the framework of this project, they have read and reviewed the books **Armies Without Nations: Public Violence and State Formation in Central America, 1821-1960**, by the author Robert H. Holden and the book **Mortal Doubt: Transnational Gangs and Social Order in Guatemala City** by the author Anthony W. Fontes.



14. NCID- CINDERE WORK

APPEARANCES IN THE MEDIA



The **NCID-CINDERE** has among its objectives to generate debate in society around the topics of interest and study. In total, opinion and analysis columns have been published in various media in Guatemala and Spain such as **Prensa Libre**, **Perspectiva** and **esglobal** on malnutrition, inclusive development, public violence and the various characteristics of the Corredor Seco.





14. NCID- CINDERE WORK

APPEARANCES IN THE MEDIA

¡GUATEMALA, EL FUTURO ES HOY!

Más de 1 millón de mensajes transmitidos.



Guatemala, the future is today! It was an informative, descriptive and awareness campaign on the main challenges facing Guatemala. **The campaign was carried out during the months of May, July, August and October.**

In alliance with the Fundación Ciudades Conectadas, UNDP and CINDERE-NCID.

Results achieved:

Videos, infographics, dashboards and communication spots were created. Where data and characteristics of the problem were presented and communicated.





NAVARRA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



October 2022.

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