

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FLIGHTS PASSENGER DEPARTURE SURVEY

AUGUST 2020

Economics and Statistics Office



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1 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan City, China. A novel coronavirus was identified as the cause by Chinese authorities on January 7, 2020, and was temporarily named “2019-nCoV”. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. The new virus was subsequently named the “COVID-19 virus”.

On March 11, 2020, the rapid increase in the number of cases outside China led the WHO to announce that the outbreak could be characterized as a global pandemic. By then, more than 118,000 cases had been reported in 114 countries, and 4,291 deaths had been recorded.

By mid-March 2020, the WHO European Region had become the epicentre of the epidemic, reporting over 40 percent of globally confirmed cases. The USA implemented a ban on travellers originating in China, followed by a ban on travellers from Europe.

Advice for the public

WHO encouraged individuals to take care of their health and protect others by:

- washing hands frequently with water and soap or using hand-sanitizing gel;
- maintaining social distancing (keeping a distance of 1 metre (3 feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing);
- avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth;
- following respiratory hygiene (covering your mouth and nose with your folded elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze, then disposing of the used tissue immediately);
- seeking medical care early if you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing; and
- Staying informed and following advice given by your health care provider, national and local public health authority, or employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Cayman Islands COVID-19 initial response

To curb the spread of the virus, the Cayman Islands implemented public health measures to limit the spread of the virus while investing in the health care sector to improve its ability to manage the pandemic. These measures include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Travel restrictions on high-risk countries followed by the complete closure of the islands air and seaports to passengers;
- ✓ Cruise ships ban beginning March 14, 2020;
- ✓ Airports closure to regional and international travellers starting Sunday, March 22, 2020;
- ✓ A nationwide closure of all schools;



- ✓ Closure of all non-essential business in tandem with a “shelter in place order” (hard and soft curfew policy); and
- ✓ A ban on public gatherings of over fifty (50) persons which was later reduced incrementally to two (2) persons.

Cayman Islands Air-Bridge

The Cayman Islands government established an air bridge to meet domestic air transport needs in the absence of commercial air transport. The air-bridge was used for incoming essential supply (medical supplies and equipment), returning Caymanians, expatriate workers leaving the jurisdiction, and residents with emergency travel needs. During the period, approximately 66 international flights departed (excluding private aircraft) the Cayman Islands.

The closure of the airports and the curtailment of international travel was expected to exert a debilitating impact on the tourism sector, and an exodus of expatriate workers from the Cayman Islands. This expectation led to the development of the Covid-19 passenger departure survey, geared to capture labour market information on residents leaving the Cayman Islands during the airport closure.

Table 1: Air passengers movement, March 23 – August 31 2020

March 23, 2020 (Date of Airports Closure) - August 31, 2020			
	Departures	Arrivals	Change (Arrivals - Departures)
Total	6,895	2,602	(4,293)
Residents	4,460	1,364	(3,096)
Caymanian	1,165	719	(446)
Permanent Resident	759	172	(587)
Work Permit/Dependants	2,536	473	(2,063)
Non Residents	2,435	1,238	(1,197)
Visitors	2,234	1,052	(1,182)
In Transit	147	144	(3)
Other ¹	54	42	(12)

¹ Include members of the British Army

Source: Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control and ESO



2 POPULATION

In the Fall Labour Force Survey 2019, the Cayman Islands population was estimated at 69,914. The Spring Labour Force Survey (LFS) was suspended as it was approximately 25 percent completed when the stay at home requirement was implemented. As a result of the absence of Spring LFS 2020, the mid-year population is estimated based on administrative data (births and deaths), change in the stock of work permits, and the estimated population at the end of 2019.

The mid-year population as of June 2020 is estimated at 64,958. Caymanians are estimated at 37,887 (or 58.3%) while Non-Caymanian is 27,071 (or 41.7%).

3 COVID-19 PASSENGER DEPARTURE SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Since the closure of the airports, for the period March 23 to August 31, 2020, there have been a total of 6,895 persons who departed the islands. Of this number, some 4,460 were residents (Caymanians, Permanent Residents, Work Permit holders and their dependents) and 2,435 were visitors.

The passenger departure survey began May 1, 2020, at the Owen Roberts International Airport, to interview as many passengers as possible embarking on scheduled flights organized by the government of the Cayman Islands. A total of 4,410 persons were interviewed between the period May 1 and August 31, of which 3,883 (88%) were residents, while visitors accounted for the remaining 524 (12%). Therefore the survey captured 87.1 percent (3,883/4,460) of residents travelling on emergency flights.

The following analysis in this report is based on the results of the passenger departure survey.

3.2 TRAVELLERS BY DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

The majority of residents (93.1%) who exited the Cayman Islands during the survey period resided in the three largest districts of George Town (57.5%), West Bay (24.8%), and Bodden Town (10.8%) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Passengers by Districts

	Total	Resident	Visitor	Other	Resident by District	
Total	4,410	3,883	524		George Town	2,231
George Town	2,486	2,231	255	-	West Bay	964
West Bay	1,086	964	122	-	Bodden Town	420
Bodden Town	496	420	73	3	North Side	61
North Side	90	61	29	-	East End	108
East End	119	108	11	-	Cayman Brac	64
Cayman Brac	90	64	26	-	Little Cayman	35
Little Cayman	43	35	8	-		

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.3 DWELLING OWNERSHIP

The number of residents with rented accommodation who departed the Cayman Islands was 2,372, or 65.5 percent of total dwelling ownership, while another 1,063 persons or 29.4 percent owned accommodation with or without a mortgage. The largest share of travellers with rental housing accommodation was from George Town, followed by West Bay, and Bodden Town, with 60.9 percent, 25.4 percent, and 7.3 percent, respectively.

Table 3: Dwelling Ownership and District

	Bodden Town	Cayman Brac	East End	George Town	Little Cayman	North Side	West Bay	Grand Total
Dwelling Ownership	396	62	100	2,069	34	59	899	3,619
Owned with/without mortgage	183	19	30	532	5	26	268	1,063
Rented	173	34	61	1,444	25	33	602	2,372
Other	40	9	9	93	4	-	29	184
Percentage contribution (%)								
Dwelling Ownership	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Owned with/without mortgage	46.2	30.6	30.0	25.7	14.7	44.1	29.8	29.4
Rented	94.5	54.8	61.0	69.8	73.5	55.9	67.0	65.5
Other	23.1	14.5	9.0	4.5	11.8	-	3.2	5.1

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.4 SEX AND STATUS

The number of male residents stood at 2,013 or 51.8 percent, while females totalled 1,870 or 48.2 percent. The vast majority of persons exiting the Islands were Non-Caymanians, 2,971 (or 76.5%), and 912 Caymanians (or 23.5%).

Non-Caymanians work permit holders totalled 2,357 (or 79.3%) followed by Permanent Residence holders and Dependants. In addition, the largest share of individuals departing the Cayman Islands on the emergency flights were male work permit holders.

Table 4: Sex and Status

	Total	Male	Female
Total	3,883	2,013	1,870
Caymanian	912	401	511
Non Caymanian	2,971	1,612	1,359
Permanent Resident	326	161	165
Work Permit Holder	2,357	1,323	1,034
Dependant	288	128	160

3.5 AGE

Work permit holders between the age range 25 and 54 accounted for 62.6 percent or 2,429 persons embarking on the emergency flights. The age group 0-24 consisted of 22.6 percent, or 877 of Caymanian passengers had the largest share, which is in line with the age group of returning students.

Table 5: Passengers by Age, Sex, and Status

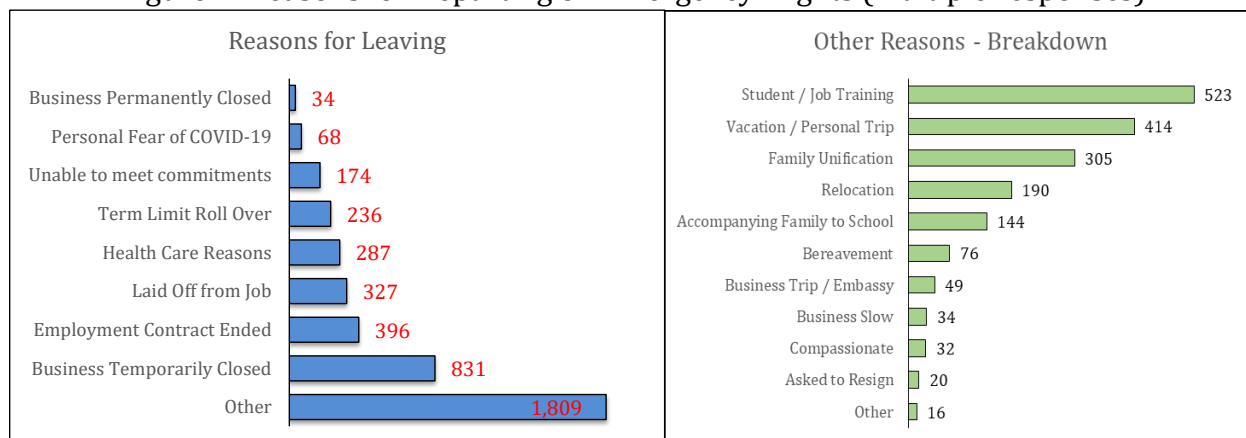
	Total	Male	Female	Caymanian	Non-Caymanian		
					Permanent Resident	Work Permit Holder	Dependant
Total	3,883	2,013	1,870	912	326	2,357	288
0 - 14	264	130	134	104	31	-	129
15 - 24	613	283	330	353	61	142	57
25 - 34	975	518	457	69	25	863	18
35 - 44	823	477	346	69	50	683	21
45 - 54	631	309	322	119	74	416	22
55 - 64	404	201	203	109	51	220	24
65 +	173	95	78	89	34	33	17

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.6 REASONS FOR LEAVING

The reasons for leaving the Cayman Islands was a multiple response question on the survey, respondents overwhelming response to this survey question was “other” which included a variety of other reasons (see Figure 1 for breakdown).

Figure 1: Reasons for Departing on Emergency Flights (multiple responses)



Source: Economics and Statistics Office

In addition, 20.0 percent or (831) of the total responses (4,162) said they were leaving because of the temporary closure of their place of work (see Figure 1). This was followed by employment contract ended (9.5%), laid off (7.9%), health care reasons (6.9), term limit roll-over (5.7%), unable to meet commitment (4.2%), fear of COVID-19 (1.6%), and business permanently closed (0.8%).

An evaluation of responders selecting two choices (see Table 6): 19 persons reported that their employment contract ended simultaneously with temporary business closure. Eighty (80) respondents responded that they were unable to meet financial commitment due to temporary business closure. At the same time, 14 persons who were laid-off from their jobs were unable to meet financial commitments.

Table 6: Reasons for Departing on Emergency Flights (2 responses matrix)

2 Choices	Employment Contract Ended	Term Limit/Roll Over	Health Care	Unable to meet commitments	Personal Fear of COVID-19	Business Temporarily Closed	Business Permanently Closed	Laid Off from Job	Other
	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Employment Contract Ended	70								
Term Limit/Roll Over	10	22							
Health Care	-	-	7						
Unable to meet commitments	8	1	1	112					
Personal Fear of COVID-19	3	1	-	-	22				
Business Temporarily Closed	19	3	1	80	8	163			
Business Permanently Closed	1	-	-	1	-	-	5		
Laid Off from Job	21	6	1	14	2	34	2	82	
Other	8	1	4	7	8	18	1	2	49

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.7 FUTURE PLANS

The vast majority of persons leaving the Cayman Islands plan to return to the jurisdiction as approximately 84.9 percent of persons expressed their interest in returning when the survey question “do you plan on returning to the Cayman Islands” was answered. Approximately 588 persons (or 15.1%) had no plans to return to the Cayman Islands. Of all the respondents departing on the emergency flights, 2,357 or (60.7%) were work permit holders, of which 81.7 percent plan to return to the Cayman Islands.

Table 7: Returning to the Cayman Islands

	Grand Total	Caymanian	Non-Caymanian		
			Dependant	Permanent Resident	Work Permit Holder
No	588	49	77	30	432
Yes	3,295	863	211	296	1,925
Grand Total	3,883	912	288	326	2,357

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.8 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Approximately 77.8 percent of survey respondents were considered employed as at March 15, 2020, with the remaining 22.2 percent considered as unemployed. Most persons were employees (2,665), while 150 were self-employed with or without employees. In addition, 804 respondents were classified as unemployed as at the reference date (March 15, 2020). Additionally, the number of unemployed persons increased after the reference date, as some employed at the time were exiting the country due to self-imposed and mandatory roll-over, employment contract ended, business permanently closed, and persons laid off from their jobs.

Table 8: Employment Status as at March 15, 2020

	Total	Male	Female	Caymanian	Non-Caymanian		
					Permanent Resident	Work Permit Holder	Dependant
Total	3,619	1,883	1,736	808	295	2,357	159
Employed	2,815	1,554	1,261	336	154	2,306	19
Employee (work for someone)	2,665	1,458	1,207	242	132	2,279	12
Self-Employed with employees	75	53	22	49	10	12	4
Self-Employed with no employees	75	43	32	45	12	15	3
Unemployed	804	329	475	472	141	51	140

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

Table 9: Employment Status and Dwelling Ownership

	Total	Owned with/		
		without mortgage	Rented	Other
Total	3,619	1,063	2,372	184
Employed	2,815	467	2,185	163
Employee (work for someone)	2,665	359	2,146	160
Self-Employed with employees	75	59	16	-
Self-Employed with no employees	75	49	23	3
Unemployed	804	596	187	21

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.9 INDUSTRY

Accommodation and food services activities accounted for 37.1 percent of persons leaving the Cayman Islands on emergency flights. This was followed by employees of households (domestic helpers, gardeners, etc.) with 8.2 percent, wholesale and retail trade 8.0 percent, and professional, scientific, and technical activities (mainly legal and accounting) with 7.4 percent (or 207 persons).

Table 10: Employment by Industry

Industry	Total		Sex		Status	
	#	%	Male	Female	Caymanian	Non Caymanian
Total	2,815	100.0	1,554	1,261	336	2,479
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	36	1.3	36	-	1	35
Manufacturing	24	0.9	14	10	2	22
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	15	0.5	14	1	3	12
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	6	0.2	2	4	5	1
Construction	152	5.4	143	9	26	126
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	226	8.0	121	105	27	199
Transportation and storage	143	5.1	105	38	16	127
Accommodation and food service activities	1,044	37.1	649	395	27	1,017
Information and communication	39	1.4	25	14	12	27
Financial and insurance activities	95	3.4	55	40	37	58
Real estate activities	26	0.9	12	14	15	11
Professional, scientific and technical activities	207	7.4	117	90	74	133
Administrative and support service activities	100	3.6	47	53	4	96
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	53	1.9	28	25	19	34
Education	126	4.5	31	95	23	103
Human health and social work activities	69	2.5	26	43	19	50
Arts, entertainment and recreation	114	4.0	75	39	14	100
Other service activities	110	3.9	49	61	11	99
Activities of households as employers	230	8.2	5	225	1	229

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

Table 11: Employment Industry by Reasons for Leaving (in percent)

	Employment Ended	Term Limit Roll Over	Health Care	Unable to meet commitments	Personal Fear	Business Temporarily Closed	Business Permanently Closed	Laid Off	Other
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2.4	1.3	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.3	-	0.6	1.0
Manufacturing	0.3	2.2	1.0	0.6	6.0	0.2	2.9	0.6	1.0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8	-	1.0	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.9
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Construction	10.7	7.0	9.4	4.8	4.0	2.4	-	1.9	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	8.9	15.9	7.3	12.5	4.0	5.4	8.8	12.5	6.6
Transportation and storage	2.4	4.8	4.7	9.5	2.0	7.1	14.7	9.3	3.5
Accommodation and food service activities	28.5	21.6	14.1	42.3	52.0	66.5	52.9	54.3	17.2
Information and communication	0.8	-	2.1	-	2.0	-	-	1.3	3.0
Financial and insurance activities	1.8	1.8	6.3	0.6	2.0	-	-	-	8.0
Real estate activities	0.3	0.9	1.6	-	2.0	0.1	-	-	2.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	4.2	1.3	10.9	0.6	6.0	0.6	-	2.9	17.2
Administrative and support service activities	6.5	7.5	2.6	3.6	4.0	2.0	-	2.9	3.1
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1.3	-	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	4.0
Education	6.8	1.3	5.7	1.2	2.0	1.0	-	0.6	8.5
Human health and social work activities	2.4	0.9	6.3	1.2	4.0	-	-	1.0	4.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	4.5	1.3	2.6	8.9	2.0	6.2	11.8	2.2	3.0
Other service activities	5.0	7.0	3.6	6.5	4.0	3.2	8.8	2.6	3.8
Activities of households as employers	12.6	25.1	11.5	6.0	2.0	3.7	-	7.0	6.1

Source: Economics and Statistics Office

3.10 UNEMPLOYED AND REASONS

Approximately 57.5 percent of unemployed persons leaving the Cayman Islands were students in training, with another 20.9 percent retired individuals. The bulk of the Caymanians travelling were students in training (71%), Caymanian retirees slightly outpaced their non-Caymanian counterparts with 53.6 percent and 46.4 percent, respectively.

Table 12: Unemployed as at March 15, 2020

	Total	Male	Female	Caymanian	Non-Caymanian		
					Permanent Resident	Work Permit Holder	Dependant
Total	804	329	475	472	141	51	140
Did not want to work	10	4	6	3	3	2	2
Elderly	5	2	3	5	-	-	-
Home/Family Duties	115	13	102	28	27	13	47
Other	38	22	16	8	4	25	1
Retired	168	74	94	90	53	3	22
Student/in training	462	211	251	335	54	5	68
Temporary Illness	4	1	3	1	-	3	-
Infirm/Disabled	2	2	-	2	-	-	-

Source: Economics and Statistics Office



4 COVID-19 PASSENGER DEPARTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

COVID-19 Passenger Departure Questionnaire
Survey Conducted in 2020
 Please fill out one questionnaire per person.

1. What district do you reside in?
 George Town West Bay Bodden Town North Side
 East End Cayman Brac Little Cayman

2. Which of the following best describes the ownership of the dwelling unit you previously occupied?
 Owned with/without mortgage Rental Unit Other (*Subsidized Rental, Rent Free*)

3. What is your sex? Male Female

4. Which age group do you currently fall in?
 0 - 14 15 - 24 25 - 34 35 - 44 45 - 54 55 - 64 65+

5. Which of the following best describes your status in the Cayman Islands?
 Caymanian Permanent Residence (PR) Work Permit Holder Non Caymanian

6. What is your reason for leaving the country? (*multiple responses allowed*)
 Employment contract ended Term Limit/Roll Over Health Care
 Unable to meet rent/utilities commitments Personal fear of contracting COVID-19
 Business Temporarily Closed Business Permanently Closed Laid Off

7. Do you plan on returning to the Cayman Islands? Yes No

The next set of questions are for persons who are aged 15+

8. Which of the following best described your economic status as of March 15th 2020?
 Employee (work for someone) Self-Employed with no employees
 Self-Employed with employees Unemployed

For employed persons only

9. What is/was your occupation at your place of employment? If occupation is not available please give a summary of your main duties.

Official use only

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10. What is the industry that classifies where your work was carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, forestry and fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining and quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing
<input type="checkbox"/> Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	<input type="checkbox"/> Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (air, sea and Land) and storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation and food service activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Information and communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial and insurance activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Real estate activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional, scientific and technical activities (legal & accounting, finance, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative and support service activities (security guards, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Human health and social work activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, entertainment and recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other service activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Worked in a private households	

For unemployed persons only

11. What is the MAIN reason you are not working?
 Student/in training Home/Family Duties Retired Elderly
 Temporary Illness Infirmed/Disabled Did not want to work

Thank you for participating in this survey