

Directorate of Economic and Social Analysis

Preliminary report of economic and social activities January to November 2017^a

Summary. The Monthly Index of Economic Activity (IMAE), in its original series, grew 5.31% accumulated from January to November 2017 as a result of the growth in the activity of Transportation, storage and communications. On the other hand, 13.2% more construction permits were approved, totaling B/.1,996.1 million, mainly residential, as those of a commercial type grew to a lesser extent. Meanwhile, commercial activity continued to grow, driven mainly by local wholesale trade. On the Stock Exchange there were transactions for B/.4,542.6 million, mostly in the primary market. The price index of the country to November changed to 0.87%. The registered entries of recruitment contracts recovered during this period accounting to 409,176, some 3,069 more than in 2016. The training on human capital accounted for 9,718 more people enrolled in the different courses offered by the National Institute of Vocational Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH), on the other hand, nearly two thousand people interested in learning to read and write got enrolled in the literacy project Move for Panama.

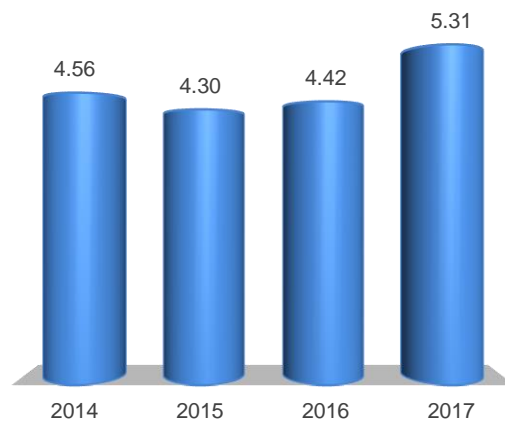
I. Economic Performance

1.1 Monthly index of Economic Activity (IMAE)

In its original series grew 5.31% in the accumulated period from January to November 2017, showing a higher performance than the same period of the previous three years, as a result of the growth of the activity of Transportation, storage and communications, specifically due to the boom of the operations of the Panama Canal and the ports, which were favored by the increase in installed capacity and the improved trade in the world and Latin American countries. The other activities that proven to be the most active were the Construction and Exploitation of mines and quarries, given the development of public and private infrastructure works and also residential and commercial projects.

During 2017 the highest accumulated recorded growth of IMAE was in the month of May (6.25%). For the following months there was a deceleration of the growth rate, mainly due to a slight increase of the commercial activity that was counteracted by the results at the Colon Free Trade Zone and some variables of retail trade, given that Commerce activity has the greatest contribution or weight in the economy.

IMAE Growth:
January to November 2014 – 2017
(Percent)



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

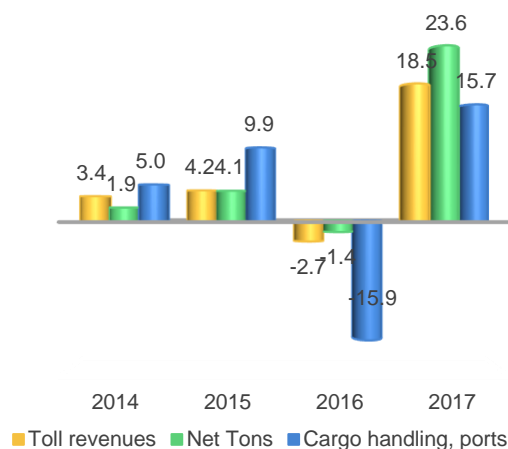
1.2 Transportation, storage and communications

The activity grew. According to the economic indicators of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) there was a bigger traffic of ships (5.6%), toll

^a Unless otherwise stated the variations indicated in this report are estimated in relation to the same period of the previous year.

revenues were B/.2,105.1 million (18.5% more); increasing both the net tons (23.6%) and the volume of cargo (17.8%) that crossed the Panama Canal.

Percentage change of traffic and cargo indicators of the Panama Canal and the national port system: January to November 2014 – 2017



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

The cargo that registered the highest growth on its way through the Panama Canal were: Petroleum products (47.8% more), mainly petroleum liquid gas, diesel and natural gas; and containerized cargo (26.4% more).

The National Port System moved 80.3 million metric tons (15.7% more), as a result of the growth of bulk cargo (20.0% more), which represented 46.6% of the total and cargo in containers (12.3% more), with 52.4% of the total. Regarding general cargo, which corresponded to 0.9% of the total load, grew 8.4%.

The most dynamic ports were: Panama Ports Co. Cristobal (grew 74.8%) and Colon Container Terminal (11.5%).

On the Air Transportation side 8.4 million people (10.5% more) went through the Tocumen International Airport.

1.3 Construction

As of November B/.1996.1 million were approved in construction permits, that is, B/.232.5 million or 13.2% more than previous year. This growth was mainly due to residential permits (18.5%) rather than commercial ones (5.1%). The most prominent increases were in the districts of David (44.2%), Chitré (30.8%) and Arraiján (16.1%).

The number of new buildings increased by 1,897 or 18.9% and the construction areas presented a slight

difference of 510 additional square meters compared to the year before.

Number of construction projects, investment and areas: January to November 2013 - 2017^{a/}

Year	Number of projects	Investment (million of balboas)	Area (thousand square meters)
2013	11,606	1,660.9	3,460.8
2014	12,415	1,834.7	3,966.8
2015	12,490	1,935.4	4,113.1
2016 ^{b/}	10,030	1,763.6	3,921.6
2017 ^{b/}	11,927	1,996.1	3,922.1

^{a/} Corresponds to solicitations for construction permits in the following districts: Aguadulce, Arraiján, Colón, Chitré, David, La Chorrera, Panamá, San Miguelito and Santiago.

^{b/} Except San Miguelito district.

Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

The Municipal Council of San Miguelito decided unanimously to continue with the suspension of construction permits and draft projects around Condado del Rey, Amelia Denis de Icaza and Omar Torrijos neighborhoods until they complete a hydrological and pluvial studies to avoid flooding in those areas.

1.4 Wholesale and retail trade

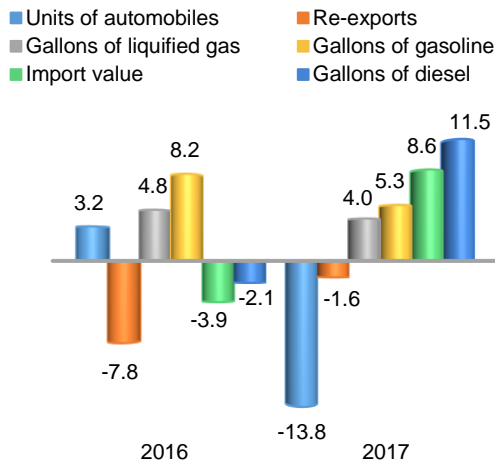
The activity continued to grow, mainly driven by local wholesale trade. In this regard, one of the most important economic indicators, the value of imports, increased by B/.915.6 million or 8.6%: all groups registered growth: consumer goods (10.9%), primarily fuels and non-durable goods; intermediate goods (8.1%) for use in construction and agriculture; and capital goods (5.5%) equipment used in electricity and construction.

Regarding retail trade, fuel sales (in gallons) increased, being the largest increase for diesel (11.5%), recovering from the fall recorded in the previous two years. A dynamic factor in 2017 was the construction of infrastructure works that makes use of machinery and vehicles for earth movement and construction materials. Sales of gasoline (5.3%) and liquid gas (4.0%) also increased.

On the other hand, brand new car sales from January to November totaled 52,969 units, a decrease of 8,486 units or 13.8%. Out of all segments of car sales only SUV'S increased (155 units or 0.9% more), which has maintained a high level of acceptance due to the variety of models and brands

that are offered, so much that its market share expanded from 26.7% in 2013 to 34.5% of total sales in 2017.

Percentage change of some indicators on wholesale and retail trade:
January to November 2016 and 2017



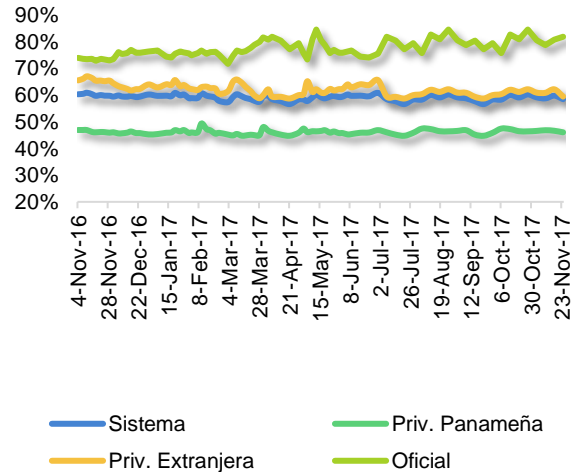
Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

In the Colon Free Zone re-exports decreased by B/.150.3 million or 1.6%, mainly due to sales drops to Puerto Rico (B/.301.0 million), Venezuela (B/.121.1 million) and Colombia (B/.103.2 million), which together contributed with 28.1% to total sales. In the case of the first two countries the deepening of the economic crisis they are facing meant a decline of their purchases abroad.

1.5 Banking

The Liquidity Index of the National Banking System until November was 58.9%. By type of bank was higher in the government 77.8%, followed by foreign private banks with 61.7% and private Panamanian with 46.1%.

Liquidity index of the National Banking System, by month, day of information and by origin of the bank: Years 2016 and 2017



Source: Superintendence of Banks of Panama.

1.6 Stock exchange

A total of B/.4,542.6 million have been traded in securities at the Panama Stock Exchange until November, mainly in the primary market, reflecting a total negotiated amount of B/.2.4259 million, while in the Secondary market was B/.1,552.0 million and B/.564.7 million in buybacks.

In absolute numbers, the quantity of transactions carried out in all markets increased 1.9% and the number of shares traded 262.7%.

Transactions carried out at the Stock Exchange, as per market type: January to November 2015 - 2017

Transactions by type	2015	2016	2017
Transactions by market type in million of balboas	4,871.6	7,024.5	4,542.6
Primary	3,229.3	3,738.2	2,425.9
Secondary	1,399.6	2,122.6	1,552.0
Buybacks	242.7	1,163.7	564.7
Number of transactions	5,974.0	6,826.0	6,958.0
Stock Market			
Value of transactions, million of balboas	146.4	100.7	358.4
Number of shares, thousand units	5,097.0	2,632.5	9,548.3

Source: Stock Exchange of Panama.

Both the primary market of bonds with B/.740.8 million and the negotiable commercial values for B/.676.7 million in the private sector stood out; and the treasury bonds also performed well with a total traded of B/.382.6 million. In the secondary market, the private sector shares stood out with B/.512.3 million and the treasury notes of the public sector with B/.427.7 million. Buyback bonds traded B/.550.8 million.

1.7 Insurance

The insurance companies averaged 1,510,319 policies (56,757 or 3.9% more) and, as a result, income increased totaling B/.1,301.0 million (B/.62.4 million or 5.0% more). Claims payments totaled B/.661.3 million (B/.136.1 million or 25.9% more).

Average subscribed policies,
Premium income and claims payment:
January to November 2016 and 2017

Year	Average subscribed policies	Million of balboas	
		Premium Income	Claims payment
2016	1,453,562	1,238.5	525.2
2017	1,510,319	1,301.0	661.3

Source: Superintendencia of Insurance.

1.8 Manufacturing Industry

The activity registered a diverse performance with increases in most of its activities but with decreases in others. Thus, the supply of natural milk for the production of food (2.0%) and the production of pasteurized milk (2.9%) increased, however, the evaporated, powdered and condensed milk had a slight drop (0.1%).

Percentage change of the quantity produced and exported of some manufacturing goods:
January to November 2015 - 2017

Productos	2015	2016	2017
Natural milk for food processing...	-1.7	-1.9	2.0
Pasteurized milk	8.7	2.6	2.9
Poultry	7.1	5.9	3.7
Pork slaughter (heads)	5.1	9.2	2.5
Alcoholic beverages	-4.4	2.2	7.9
Export of fish flour and fish oil	-42.7	13.6	44.6
Export of beef meat	-18.0	-19.5	29.4

Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

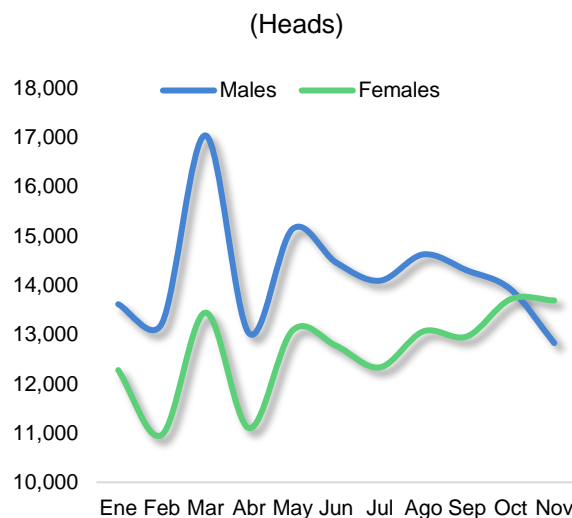
Exports that increased considerably were: fishmeal and fish oil (44.6%), unroasted and decaffeinated coffee (89.8%) and beef (29.4%).

In the domestic production stood out the alcoholic beverages which rose (7.9%).

1.9 Agriculture and livestock

This activity showed positive results during 2017 in some activities such as the slaughter of pigs, the production of chicken meat, and the exports of domestic products. While the slaughter of cattle continued to decline, this time at 1.9%.

Slaughter of cattle, by month and sex: January to November 2017.



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

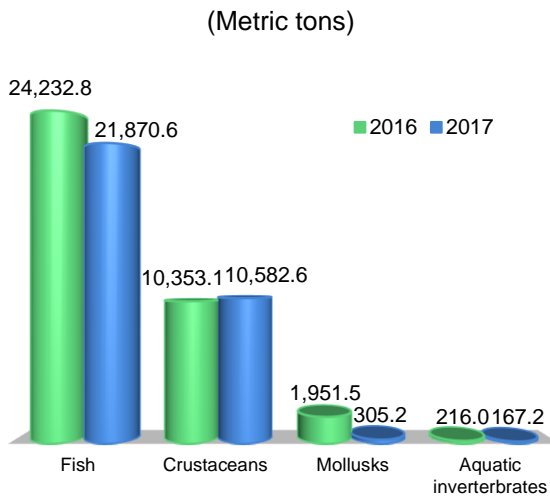
Even though the slaughter of cattle has not recover completely, it showed some improvement compared to last year's figures when it fell 12.2%. More than 9,937 heads of male cattle were slaughtered, compared to females that decreased 15,602 heads, which favors reproduction and breeding stock at the farms, because with fewer females slaughtered, more new breed is expected. Unlike the previous year, when it was evident the decrease in the sacrifice of both males and females, in 2017 it seems to begin to change to a better outlook for this activity.

The slaughter of pigs continued to increase (2.5%), more females (4.0%) than males (1.0%). Same as the production of chicken meat that grew 3.7%. The results were observed in meat exports since they grew 15.1% in total, boosted by sales of both cattle meat (29.3%) and edible offal (3.0%) of both bovine and porcine species.

1.10 Fishing

In the fishing activity the unloading continued with a downward trend (31.9%), as did the exports of fishery products (9.3% gross weight).

Main fishery exports, by tariff category:
January to November 2016 and 2017



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

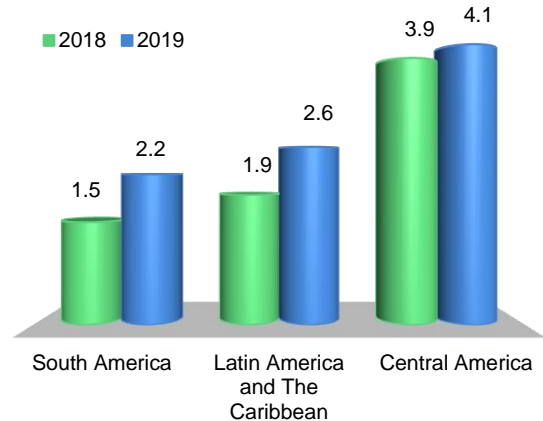
The downturn of fish exports (9.7%) corresponded mainly to fresh or refrigerated fish (6.8%), among them the salmonids (51.1%), cobia fish (1.6%); and frozen fish (17.5%) such as flounders (73.9%), albacore or white tuna (60.7%), swordfish (35.9%) and yellowfin tuna (30.6%). However, the shipment of fish fillets increased (31.5%), since 81.3 metric tons of tilapia fillets were exported, both fresh, chilled and frozen, particularly to the United States of America; 282.8 additional metric tons of dorado fillets were also exported; 170.8 tons of snappers; 136.7 tons of tunas; 21.7 tons of Pacific salmonids; 24.2 tons of trout and 3.2 of swordfish.

II. International Economic Environment

In Latin America and the Caribbean the economic recovery continues due to recent trends in the growth of the global economy and financial markets, according to a forecast from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic issues in January 2018. It also expects this boom to continue during 2018 and 2019. On the other hand, the recovery in commodity prices continues to support the economic improvement of the region.

GDP growth forecast for the Latin America and Caribbean region: Years 2018 and 2019

(Percent)



Source: International Monetary Fund.

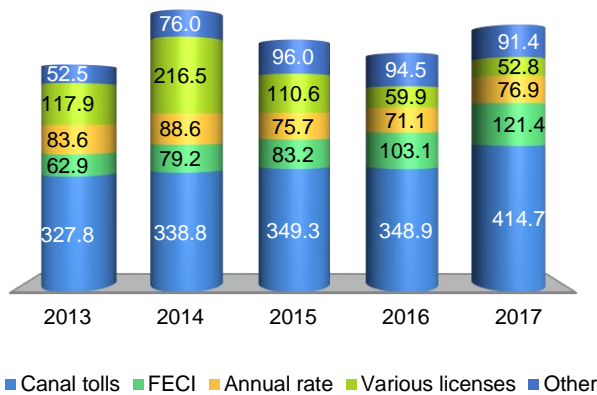
Given the improvements in the global environment, the economic recovery of some countries is gaining momentum, as is the case of Brazil, Argentina and Ecuador. The IMF estimated regional growth to reach 1.3% and expects further activity to reach 1.9% in 2018 and 2.6% in 2019. For South America (excluding Venezuela) the forecast is expected to reach 2.5% growth in 2018 and 2.8% in 2019. For Venezuela it is projected -15% by 2018 due to the economic and political situation it is facing. Central America has good prospects and is expected to grow 3.9% and 4.1% for 2018 and 2019, respectively. The Caribbean, on the other hand, is also expected to improve its growth by 3.9% for 2018 and 4.2% for 2019. Of the countries in South America, Peru leads the IMF projection with 4.0% growth for 2018, together with Colombia and Chile with 3% each for this same period.

Fiscal update

Tax revenues amounted to B/.6,153.9 million, of which B/.5,594.0 million (B/.5.6 million or 0.1% more) were collected in cash. Among the non-tax revenues stood out the additional contribution in fees, duties and others (B/.79.7 million or 11.8% more), mainly because of the increase in tolls at the Panama Canal by B/.65.8 million (18.9%), due to the expansion of the interoceanic route and after a decrease the previous year (0.1%). The increase in income, from the Special Fund for Compensation of Interest, FECCI (B/.18.3 million or 17.8%) was also

outstanding. The debt of the Non-Financial Public Sector amounted to B/.23,465.5 million.

Central Government Tax Revenues in fees, duties and other, by type:
January to November 2013 – 2017



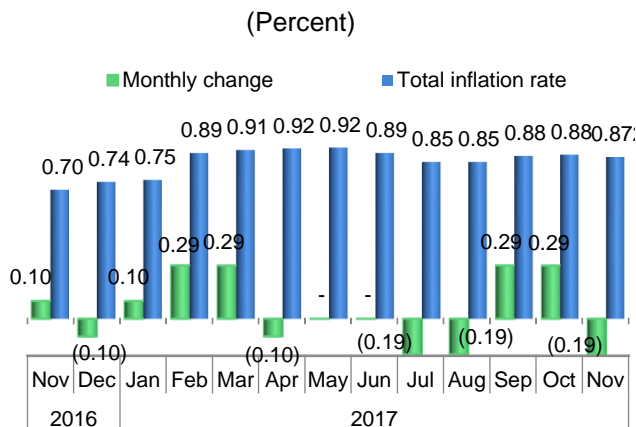
Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

IV. Cost of Living

4.1 Level of Prices

The national inflation rate, from January to November, was 0.87%, 0.01 percentage points less than that calculated to October, mainly because the Food and non-alcoholic drinks group were cheaper than in October (from -0.39% to -0.48%). In 2016, it was 0.70%.

Monthly change of the Price index paid by the local consumer and national inflation rate, per month:
Years 2016 and 2017

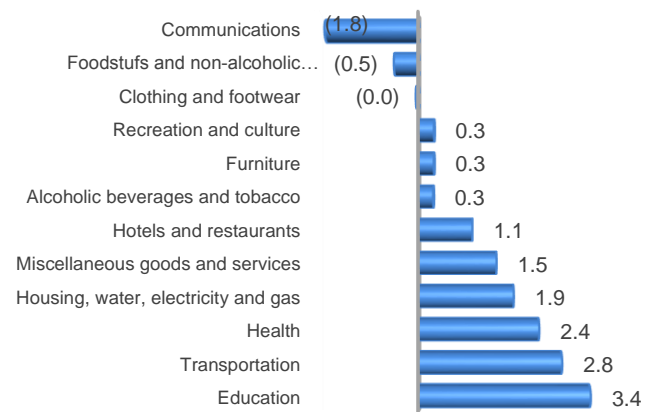


Source: National Statistics and Census Institute and Ministry of Economics and Finance.

A higher price level in 2017 responded to the increase registered in the Transportation group (2.8%, and in 2016 was -2.2%), primarily because of the increases registered in the price of fuel for cars. At the districts of Panama and San Miguelito, the registered rate was 0.34% and in the rest of the country was 1.1%. The previous year was 0.38% and 0.70%, respectively.

There were 3 groups of goods and services, those that make up the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which experienced a lower price level, namely: Communications, because of more affordable prices of telephone equipment (6.6%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages; pork (5.9%) and chicken meat (4.3%) and clothing and footwear because of women's shoes (1.8%). While Education and Transportation, showed the highest increases.

Percentage change of the urban national Price level, according to groups of goods and services:
January to November 2017^{a/}



Source: Ministry of Economics and Finance.

On the other hand, the national urban CPI went from 104.5 in October to 104.3 in November, decreasing 0.19%, according to INEC. Most of the groups of goods and services decreased their price index, among them those with the greatest weight in the structure of the CPI: Food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.10%), cheaper fruits (0.66%) and meats (0.39%), mainly due to the price of chicken that fell 1.7%; and Transportation (1.2%), as road (6.5%) and air (6.5%) passengers were cheaper. The others were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (0.37%), Clothing, footwear, Housing, water, electricity and gas (0.10%, each). Only Furniture (0.30%), Recreation and culture (0.20%) and Miscellaneous goods and services (0.09%) increased; in the other groups

there was no change (Health, Communications, Education and Restaurants and hotels).

4.2 Family Food Basket

The average caloric cost of the food basket at the districts of Panama and San Miguelito was B/.304.98, B/.2.48 less than in 2016 during the same period; the factors (cost of raw materials and climate) that affected the price of food were more moderate during 2017. Of this basket, 29 foodstuffs were more affordable to consumers, the rest (30) increased in cost. The most inexpensive groups were: Meats, Fats, Cereals, Eggs and Vegetables. The basket of the urban rest of the country showed an average cost of B/.279.89, B/.0.56 below the cost experienced in 2016. Of the 50 foodstuffs that comprise the basket, 23 were cheaper. By groups, those of Fats, Meat and Eggs were lower on their caloric cost.

V. Social update

5.1 Employment contracts

The registration of employment contracts showed a recovery compared to the previous year. There were 409,176 registrations, 3,069 or 0.8% more than in 2016.

Number of registered recruitment contracts, according to the type of contract: January to November 2015 – 2017 (P)

Detail	2015	2016	2017 (P)
Total.....	405,902	406,107	409,176
Fixed time hire	160,230	163,484	174,107
Unlimited time hire	99,279	96,586	93,649
Specific job.....	146,393	146,037	141,420

Source: Ministry of Work and Social Development.

The sustainable growth of recruitment contracts at the regional offices, since May, has led to higher compensation during the year. In November, the number of contracts was exceeded by 11,626 or 8.4% the ones in 2016, standing at 149,835 entries. The regional directorates of Veraguas (3,806 more contracts) and Chiriqui (2,912 more contracts) continued to show the highest increases (given the work carried out in the rehabilitation and expansion of the Pan-American highway Santiago-David to four lanes), in conjunction with the Minera Panamá Project (2,655 more contracts).

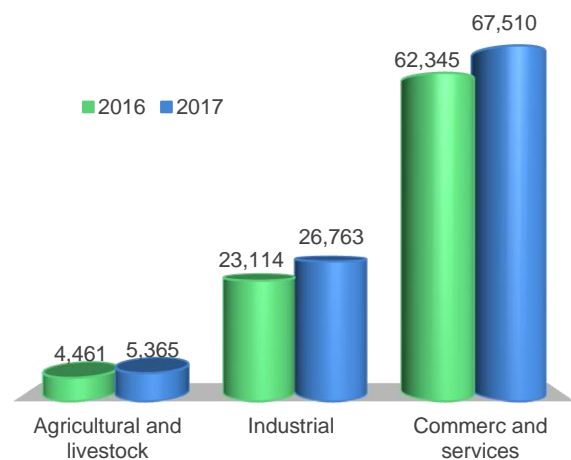
Meanwhile, at the central offices the amount of registered hires were 259,341, driven by the increase in fixed-term hiring (5,173 or 5.0% more), which has led to a total change in the number of registrations that is lower than those reported in previous months.

5.2 Education

Job training

99,638 people enrolled in the different courses offered by INADEH, 9,718 more than in 2016. Crafts courses, Information Technology and Business Management were more sought after by women, while men chose Civil Construction, Electricity, electronics, refrigeration, and Information Technology.

Number of people enrolled in the programs of INADEH, by area:
January to November 2016 and 2017



Source: National Institute of Vocational Training and Human Development.

Commerce and services sector had the highest demand, since 67,510 people (67.8% of the total number of enrollees) chose some of the courses in their training area; while the Industrial sector, captured 26.8% of enrollment and Agriculture accounted for 5.4%.

INADEH authorized the architectural design of the new building of the Training Center at Tocumen in order to change the old structures for a larger and more modern building in line with technological advances and the growing enrollment demand. This new structure will cost approximately B/.7.0 million in its first phase.

Likewise, the design, supply of materials, and labor was authorized for the remodeling of the Gastron-

omy Workshop and restaurant of the INADEH Center of Puerto Escondido at the province of Colón. This with the objective of modernizing and equipping the centers to be able to train the required labor force for the private sector's demand. The project will cost approximately B/.243,000 and should be ready by May 2018.

Literacy project

Number of literate people in the project Move for Panamá, by province and indigenous regions: January to November 2016 and 2017

Provinces and indigenous areas	2016	2017(P)
Total	<u>1,619</u>	<u>1,888</u>
Provincias:		
Bocas del Toro	152	327
Coclé	17	6
Colón	79	31
Chiriquí	384	450
Darién	33	60
Herrera	55	45
Los Santos.....	47	20
Panamá	105	108
Panamá Este	-	15
Panamá Centro	57	49
San Miguelito.....	30	37
Chepo	18	7
Panamá Oeste.....	238	152
Arraiján.....	63	18
La Chorrera	175	134
Veraguas	138	86
Indigenous areas:		
Emberá Wounaan.....	66	-
Ngäbe Buglé.....	305	603

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

The massive "Move for Panama" literacy campaign, developed by the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), aims to benefit people from the country's rural and marginal urban sectors. From January to November 2017, it has taught 1,888 illiterate people to read and write. There were 269 more people, compared to the same period in 2016. The largest increase in the number of people trained was in the Ngäbe Buglé region (298 more people) and in the provinces of Bocas Toro (175), Chiriquí (66) and Darién (27).

Meanwhile, the number of beneficiaries was distributed as follows: 31.9% of the total in the indigenous area Ngäbe Buglé and 23.8% and 17.3% in the provinces of Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro, respectively.

The resources allocated to this program had a budget execution of 87.7% of the assigned budget modified from 2017, unlike during 2016 when it was 84.7%.

5.3 Help for people with disabilities

From January to November, the National Secretariat for Disability (SENADIS) allocated B/.611,814 to favor 908 people with programs who are in a situation of poverty and social vulnerability; while 3,196 people were granted disability certifications and parking permits, 222 or 7.5% more than in the same period of the previous year. Of the total beneficiaries, 2,118 or 51.6% are men and 1,986 or 48.4%, women

Number of beneficiaries and amount allocated by SENADIS according to age groups: January to November 2017

Age groups	Quantity	Amount (thousand of balboas)
Total	<u>908</u>	<u>611.8</u>
De 5 y menos ..	93	56.8
6 – 15	239	155.1
16 – 25	136	74.6
26 – 35	88	56.6
36 – 45	111	99.7
46 – 55	102	72.3
56 – 65	84	54.3
66 y más.....	55	42.5

Source: National Secretariat for Disability.

More resources were allocated to the group from 6 to 15 years (25.3% of the total) and from 36 to 45 (16.3%); followed by groups of 16 to 25 years old (12.2%); and from 46 to 55, (11.8%).

5.4 Fund for housing

B/.52.5 million were allocated for the acquisition of 5,579 housing solutions within these eleven months. There were 248 or 4.7% additional housing solutions delivered compared to the same period of 2016. The number of beneficiaries were 22,653 people with low income (families with monthly income of up to B/.1,200.00).

More housing solutions were registered in Panama Oeste (1,858), Chiriquí (923), Panamá (831), Coclé (651) and Veraguas (639), among which B/.46,036 or 87.7% of the total was distributed.

Number of resolutions issued, beneficiaries and amount of transfers in the Solidarity Housing Fund program: January to November 2016 and 2017

Provinces	2016			2017		
	Number of issued resolutions	Number of beneficiaries	Total Amount (million of bal-boas)	Number of issued resolutions	Number of beneficiaries	Total Amount (million of bal-boas)
Total	<u>5,331</u>	<u>24,622</u>	<u>48.5</u>	<u>5,579</u>	<u>22,653</u>	<u>52.5</u>
Bocas del Toro	11	55	0.1	37	180	0.4
Coclé.....	566	2,825	5.2	651	2,755	6.0
Chiriquí.....	1,109	5,545	10.8	923	4,123	9.1
Herrera.....	304	1,476	2.9	312	1,416	2.9
Los Santos....	266	1,330	2.6	328	1,364	3.2
Panamá.....	472	1,916	4.2	831	3,207	7.9
Panamá Oeste	2,262	9,770	19.3	1,858	6,662	16.6
Veraguas.....	341	1,705	3.4	639	2,946	6.4

^a Aid for B/.5000.00 each. Created in 2009 for five years; nevertheless, to date disbursements continue due to previous commitments.

^b Aid for B/.10,000 each. Started in May 2015 and it will be valid for 5 years.

Source: Ministry of Housing and Territorial Statutes.

5.5 Epidemiology and vector diseases

The number of infected people by mosquito bites *Aedes Aegypti* and *Anopheles* in 2017 was 5,097 cases, 30.6% more. This, despite the fact that it was possible to reduce the number of infected people in the regions of Panama Metro (227), Guna Yala (159), and Chiriqui (54). Meanwhile, those of Ngäbe Bugé, Darién, Bocas del Toro and the individuals infected abroad was lower, between 31 and 15 cases. The health region of Veraguas was the one with the least positive balance (6), attributable to the lower number of containers found with mosquito larvae, according to the authorities of the Ministry of Health (MINSA).

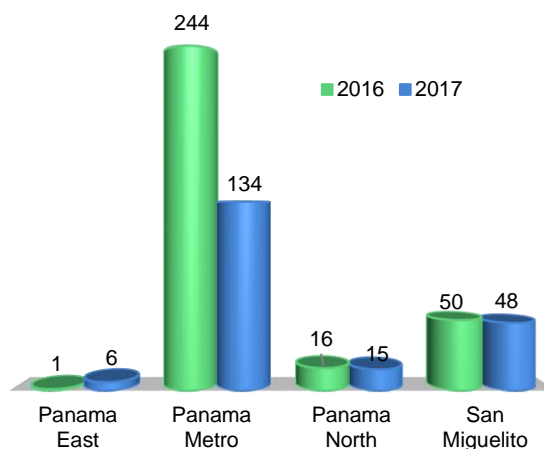
The number of people infected with the Zika virus decreased (162 cases), relative to the same period of 2016, mainly in Guna Yala, Panama Metro and Bocas del Toro. Nevertheless, the Metropolitan Region is the one that concentrated the most cases

(32.0 %). Meanwhile, they were 98 less cases of Malaria, mainly in Eastern Panama (63), Darién (36) and the Ngäbe Buglé area (34).

People infected by the Chikungunya virus totaled 40, concentrated mainly in the Metropolitan region (10 cases), Panama Metro (5), San Miguelito (4) and Herrera (4). In the rest of the regions, the number of cases did not exceed 3.

In total, 4,045 cases of infections due to Dengue were detected; the region of Panama reported 46.0% of the cases, with San Miguelito being the most affected with 49.5%, followed by Panama East 24.5%, and Panama Metro decreased with respect to 2016 by 27.3%. The Department of Epidemiology of MINSA detected a type of dengue 3 which is the most dangerous version of the virus because it is not detected by conventional laboratory tests. They were located in San Miguelito (2) and in West Panama (1).

Confirmed Zika cases in the health region within the Panama province:
January to November 2016 and 2017



Source: Ministry of Health. Epidemiology Department.

MINSA, through its 15 health regions, launched the "D-Day" campaign, in order to avoid the proliferation of *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito breeding sites, seeking to raise awareness among the population. In addition, it has managed to agree with universities and IFARHU training in the vector technical career side to fill in openings at the health Ministry.