

Directorate of Economic and Social Analysis

Executive summary of economic and social activities Year 2016

Summary. Global growth is moderate but with positive expectations for the upcoming year. In the national economy the production of goods and services grew 4.9%. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) valued at constant prices in 2007 reached B/.37,471.8 million and B/.55,187.8 million at current prices.

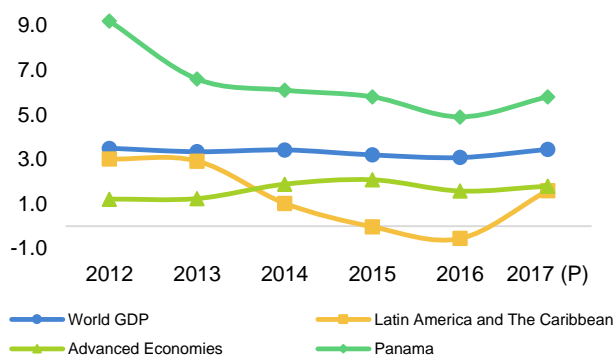
Activities such as electricity, gas and water supply, mining and quarrying, construction, financial intermediation and wholesale and retail trade were among the most dynamic. Meanwhile, fish production, manufacturing and agricultural production decreased.

International Economic Environment

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts global growth at 3.4% by 2017 compared to an estimated 3.1% for 2016, while for advanced economies projected 1.8% from a previous estimation of 1.6% for the end of 2016. Both increases pose a greater economic activity due to the dynamic effect they might exert on commercial activity worldwide, and should improve growth expectations to Latin America which is projected to grow 1.6% during 2017 from a 0.6% drop in 2016. Under these circumstances the projected growth for Panama is 5.8% for 2017 according to the IMF. On the other hand, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) projected a growth of 4.5% for Central America and Dominican Republic by 2017 and 5.9% for Panama, mainly led by the construction sector that is expected to be the most dynamic due to their infrastructure projects.

Economic growth and projections by geographical areas and Panama: Years 2012 - 2017 (P)

(In percentage)



Source: International Monetary Fund.

National Economic Performance

Real GDP growth in 2016 was 4.9%, according to preliminary figures from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).

Gross Domestic Product growth, according to economic activity: Years 2015 and 2016 (P)

(In percentage)

Economic Activities	2015	2016
Total of Gross Domestic Product.....	5.8	4.9
More dynamic:		
Private education.....	5.8	10.9
Supply of electricity, gas and water	13.6	10.6
Central Government	7.5	10.2
Exploitation of mines and quarries .	7.0	8.4
Construction	6.8	8.3
Financial Intermediation	10.4	6.6
Real state, business and rental activities (market)	8.1	5.8
Moderate with slight growth:		
Social and private health service activities.....	11.6	3.6
Wholesale and Retail.....	4.9	3.3
Hotels and restaurants	3.1	2.2
Transportation, storage and communications.....	4.7	1.8
Other community activities, social and personal services	3.6	1.6
Lower Performance:		
Agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry	0.4	-0.1
Manufacturing Industries	-1.3	-2.8
Fishing.....	-4.3	-8.4

Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

The activities that performed best were: Private education (10.9%), Electricity, gas and water supply (10.6%), Central Government (10.2%), Mining and quarrying (8.4%) and Construction (8.3%).

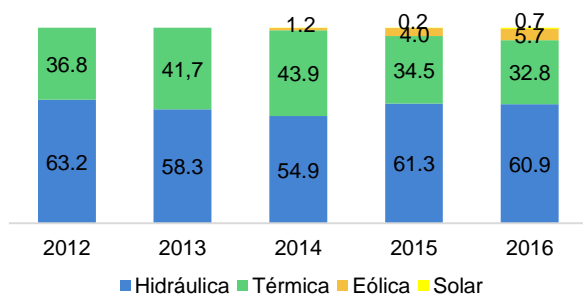
2.1 Private Education

Private education gross value added reached B/.398.3 million, a growth of 10.9% compared to the previous year. This behavior is explained by the income performance generated at high schools and higher education

2.2 Supply of electricity, gas and water

The activity grew 10.6%, due to a higher gross generation of electricity, 610.0 Gwh additional or 6.0% more, from a total of 10,808 Gwh generated from January to December 2016. Net turnover was 8,760 Gwh (2.3% more), energy losses were 1,044 Gwh (8.6% more) and energy exports 398 Gwh (185.4% more). Demand for energy in trade was lower (grew 2.2%) as compared to 2015 (8.9%).

Percentage distribution of gross electricity generation by type of energy: Years 2012-2016



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

A combination of an increased electricity generation by hydro, wind and solar power plants (67.2%) during 2016 and a drop in marginal generation costs (33.7%) contributed to the growth of added value for the supply of electricity. It is worth mentioning that the wind generators had their highest contribution in the first 4 months of the year (342.7 Gwh more) while solar power had it throughout the year (55.1 Gwh more).

Meanwhile, drinking water sales increased by 3.4% mainly due to commercial consumption (3.8%) and residential (3.8%), while industrial consumption decreased (-0.2%).

2.3 Construction

The value added of this activity grew 8.3%, thanks to the contribution provided by the development of public infrastructure, such as: Panama Metro Line 2, Urban Renewal in Colón, sanitation projects, road construction, repairs, and the third Bridge

over the canal, located in Colón, among the most important. Private projects such as the copper mine and the gas power plant in the province of Colón also were among the most dynamic.

As far as private construction is concerned, the districts of Panama and San Miguelito registered a growth of 6.5%, measured by INEC's Construction Census.

Number of projects, investment and declared areas licensed for construction: Years 2012 - 2016^{a/}

Year	Number of projects	Investment (million of dollars)	Area (thousand square meters)
2012	9,703	1,361.3	3,114.5
2013	11,872	1,800.5	3,988.3
2014	13,802	1,917.4	4,228.9
2015	13,828	2,075.5	4,385.5
2016	10,907	2,008.4	4,459.9

^{a/} Corresponds to solicitations for construction permits in the following districts: Aguadulce, Arraijan, Colon, Chitre, David, La Chorrera, Panama, San Miguelito and Santiago.

Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

The investment, calculated through the value of construction permits, amounted B/.2,008.4 million or 3.2% less, accumulated to December. However, there was a growth in the value of permits in the districts of Colón (135.0%), La Chorrera (25.8%), Santiago (6.9%) and David (0.6%). The rest of the districts decreased, especially in Chitre (40.9%) and Aguadulce (32.6%). The construction areas increased 1.7%, driven by residential (1.9%) and commercial (1.3%). On the other hand, the number of buildings declined 21.1%, due to a cumulative reduction in commercial permits in the district of San Miguelito (62.5%).

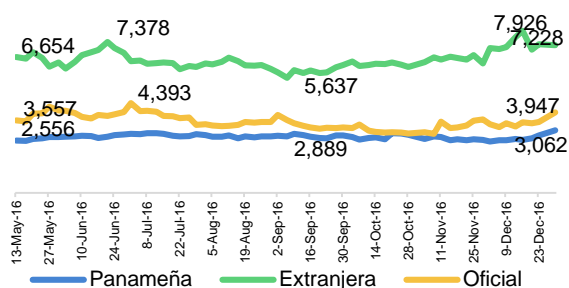
2.4 Financial Intermediation

The positive contribution of Financial Intermediation to GDP was 6.6% during 2016 due to the increase in financial services rendered by the International Banking Center that contributed with 6.1% given the increase of internal loans to the private sector.

At the same time, the average liquidity index for 2016 remained at 60.0%. By type of bank, 72.9% was for the government banks, 66.0% for the foreign private sector and 45.8% for the Panamanian private sector, thus demonstrating the strength of this sector.

Liquid assets of the National Banking System, per month and day of information and by Bank's origin: May to December 30 of 2016

(Million of Balboas)



Source: Office of the Superintendent of Banks in Panama.

Stock exchange transactions accounted for B/.7,376.7 billion throughout the year, a number that exceeds by B/.2,129.8 million or 40.6% the correspondent figure to December 2015.

The boost came from the primary market transactions (B/.532.8 million more), secondary (B/.670.4 million) and from other transactions (B/.926.6 million).

Transactions carried out by the stock exchange according to market and financial instrument: Years 2015 and 2016

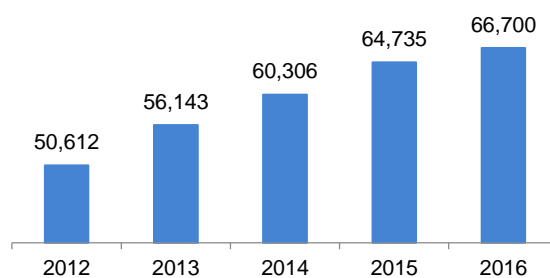
Values and markets	Millions of balboas		Change	
	2015	2016	Absolute	Percentage
TOTAL.....	5,246.9	7,376.7	2,129.8	40.6
Markets				
Primary.....	3,401.1	3,933.8	532.8	15.7
Secondary.....	1,512.5	2,182.9	670.4	44.3
Repurchase...	333.4	1,260.0	926.6	277.9
Entity				
Private.....	3,796.7	4,859.2	1,062.6	28.0
Government..	1,450.3	2,517.4	1,067.1	73.6

Fuente: Stock Exchange of Panama, S. A.

2.5 Wholesale and retail trade

Trade activity grew by 3.3%. Wholesale trade increased by 4.1%, mainly due to the volume of sales on fuels and related products; food, beverages and tobacco; among other. On the other hand, the retail trade increased 1.8%, due to the dynamics in sales of automobile fuels; food, beverages and tobacco in retail stores; and pharmaceutical products; among other.

New vehicle registration: Years 2012 - 2016



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

New car registrations indicate a sales growth in 2016 of 3.0% or 1,965 additional cars sold, to account for 66,700 units of vehicle annual sales.

Meanwhile, foreign trade activities at the Colon Free Zone registered a decrease of 8.3%, mainly affected by the re-exports of textiles and chemical products.

Export main destinations of the Colon Free Zone: Years 2012 – 2016

(In million of balboas)

Destinations	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	14,732.1	12,960.0	11,365.5	10,417.5
Puerto Rico...	3,063.9	2,098.4	1,941.7	1,728.4
Colombia	1,909.1	1,839.5	1,481.5	1,049.8
Panamá	1,278.3	1,243.1	1,060.2	968.2
Costa Rica....	646.3	644.8	639.0	698.5
Venezuela....	1,717.0	1,453.8	745.7	595.9
Dominican Republic.....	524.3	523.5	546.5	535.2
Guatemala....	502.2	468.0	481.5	464.5
United States	479.6	510.9	532.8	422.6
Honduras.....	429.1	359.4	379.0	383.5
Nicaragua.....	224.8	289.2	332.0	340.0
Rest	3,957.6	3,529.5	3,225.7	3,230.9

Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

Sales or re-exports fell 8.3%, following four years of deterioration (2013: -7.6%, 2014: -12.0%, 2015: -12.3%), explained by the protectionist measures applied by Colombia, exchange rate restrictions and monetary devaluation in Venezuela and in general due to the recession or slowdown facing many countries in Latin America.

Exports to our main customers: Puerto Rico (11.0%), Colombia (29.1%) and Venezuela-Venezuela (20.1%), which averaged 41.8% of total sales in the last five years, have decreased; same as local sales to Panama (8.7%).

Other destinations of importance for Panamanian exports are the Central American countries. Some of them increased during 2016: Costa Rica (9.3%), Nicaragua (2.4%) and Honduras (1.2%).

The exported goods were mainly medicines, electric machines, electronics, and audio player devices, textile manufactures, footwear, fragrances and alcoholic beverages.

2.6 Hotels and Restaurants

Production increased by 2.2%, due to the performance of restaurant services, as hotel room availability accounted for 10,369 units (0.8% less) and the occupancy rate was 47.7%, the lowest in the last 4 years.

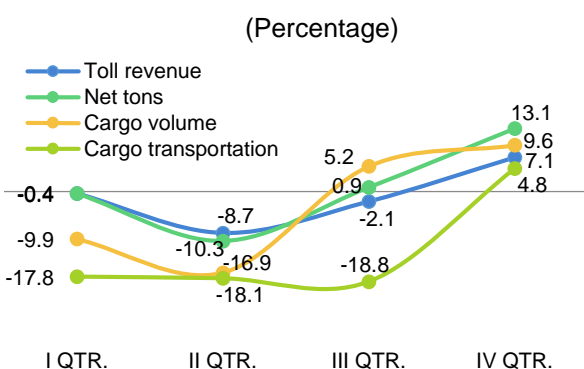
The oversupply of rooms in hotels as well as lodging offered outside the regulatory framework could be some of the causes for this fall, so the Panama Tourism Authority has begun taking corrective measures.

2.7 Transportation, storage and communications

Grew 1.8%, favored by the dynamics of telecommunications (2.7%) and air passenger transportation services, as a result of the inclusion of new destinations at the hub of Tocumen International Airport.

The Panama Canal operations decreased 1.1%, due to a lack in services to ships (8.5% at constant prices); while their toll charge increased (0.7%).

Evolution of the main indicators of Maritime transportation: Years 2016/2015



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute

It should be noted that the fourth quarter performed better as toll revenues increased (7.1%), as well as net tonnage (13.1%) and cargo volume (9.6%). This increase is attributed to the beginning of operations of the third set of locks at the Panama Canal, with the passage of new market segments and greater load capacity vessels, the so

called neo-panamax. In the first six months of operation approximately 500 of these vessels had crossed the canal, mainly container ships and gas carriers, according to the Panama Canal Authority.

The National Port System registered a fall of 12.8%, due to the decrease in TEU containers (9.1%) and bulk cargo handling (17.7%). While general load cargo increased by 12.0%, as reported by INEC's Monthly Economic Indicators.

In the fourth quarter the total cargo load grew 4.8%. This improvement was mainly influenced by the delivery of cargo to Panamanian ports by shipping companies, distributed between Manzanillo International Terminal and Panama Ports Co. Cristobal due to the impact of Hurricane Mathew at Freeport port (Bahamas).

On the last quarter of 2016 TEU container handling also grew (3.6%), but did not compensated for the annual fall.

2.8 Other community activities, social and personal services

Its added value increased 1.6%, where sports events, news agencies and the National Charity Lottery had the greater contributions.

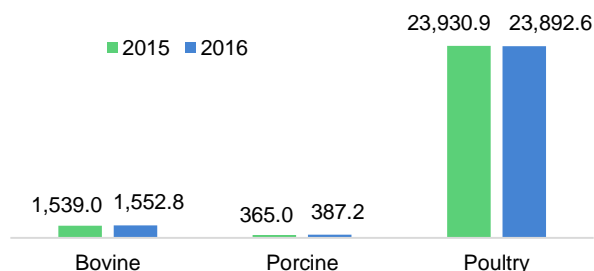
However, bets placed on A-type slot machines (5.9%) and gambling tables (28.5%) decreased.

2.9 Agriculture, livestock, hunting and forestry

Agricultural production registered a decrease of 0.1% due to the low production of vegetables (3.9%) reflected in lower planted and harvested hectares therefore causing a lower production of exportable fruits. Nevertheless, other activities showed growth: rice production (11.5%), corn (8.4%) and potatoes (4.1%).

The livestock sector grew 0.3%, supported by an increase in poultry (6.7%) and pig slaughter (9.0%). While the slaughter of cattle fell 12.7%.

Livestock and poultry: Years 2015 y 2016
(In thousands of heads)



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

However, livestock breed increased by 0.9%, a significant change in the provinces of Chiriquí (3.2%), Los Santos (7.2%) and Darién (9.7%); and that of pigs, grew 6.6%, especially in Los Santos, Chiriquí and Panama West, which all together increased by 5.3% the quantity of bred pigs.

On the export side the quantity of bananas, melons and pineapples decreased by 6.8%, 16.1% and 32.9%, respectively; while watermelon grew 9.2%.

2.10 Manufacturing Industries

The GDP of the manufacturing industry fell 2.8%, mainly due to a decrease in food and beverage production.

On the other hand, the production of evaporated powdered and condensed milk increased (5.9%), pasteurized milk (1.6%) and alcoholic beverages (1.5%) also increased, but did not compensate for the losses.

Additionally, the production of non-metallic minerals such as concrete (12.8%) and gray cement (5.1%) fell.

2.11 Fishing

There was a contraction of 8.4% mainly due to the low catch of commercial species, resulting in less exports of: Shrimp, including shrimp farming species (15.4%), fresh fish fillet, frozen or chilled (17.2%), therefore reducing the rate of growth shown in previous years like 2014 which grew at rates above 25%.

Marine species unloaded at the National Port System showed an increase in tonnage (36.3%), particularly to Vacamonte Port (66.8%), but those of Mensabé (3.4%) and Panama (13.4%) were smaller.

Fiscal update

The non-financial public sector deficit was B/1,350 million (B/.142 million or 11.7% more).

Under the Fiscal and Social Responsibility Law the adjusted deficit was B/.808 million, which was kept within the limits allowed for the fiscal year (1.5% of Gross Domestic Product). Both, income (B/.854 million or 8.0%) and expenditures (B/.996 million or 8.4%) grew. On the income side, Tax collection (B/.466 million or 9.2% more) and the Social Security Fund (B/.331 million or 10.9% more) were the ones that stood out.

Summary of the Non-Financial Public Sector Balance: Years 2015 and 2016

(In million of balboas)

Detail	2015	2016	Variation	
			Absolute	Percentage
INCOME	<u>10,701</u>	<u>11,555</u>	<u>854</u>	<u>8.0</u>
Current income for Central Government.....	10,316	11,069	753	7.3
Other ^{1/}	385	486	101	26.2
EXPENSES.....	<u>11,909</u>	<u>12,905</u>	<u>996</u>	<u>8.4</u>
Current Expenses	8,285	8,972	687	8.3
Capital Expenses	3,624	3,933	309	8.5
Current Savings	<u>2,352</u>	<u>2,530</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>7.6</u>
SUPERÁVIT or DÉFICIT	<u>-1,208</u>	<u>-1,350</u>	<u>-142</u>	<u>11.7</u>
Adjustment (+) to FAP/ Adjustment (-)	-165	-542		
ADJUSTED TOTAL BALANCE	<u>-1,043</u>	<u>-808</u>		

^{1/} Public Enterprises (operational balance), Non-consolidated agencies and other, capital income and donations.

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance.

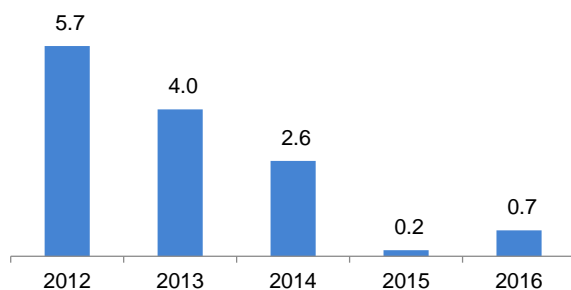
Current savings subsidized 64.3% of investments; debt instruments were used for the rest of the investment, which totaled B/.21,601.6 million.

Cost of Living

4.1 Rate of inflation

The national inflation rate was 0.71%, higher than the one recorded in 2015 (0.17%) but remained for second consecutive year below 1.0% and also below the one experienced in previous years when they surpassed 2.0%. In the districts of Panama and San Miguelito, the price level was 0.38%, about 0.02 percentage points more than twelve months ago, while the urban rest of the country was 0.75% (in 2015 was 0.28%).

National inflation rate, in the Republic of Panama:
Years: 2012 - 2016



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

The most reachable group of items and services were: Transportation (2.0%), Housing, water, electricity and gas (0.98%), Clothing and footwear (0.92%) and Recreation and culture (0.06%). Others showed a higher level of prices, mainly: Restaurants and hotels (5.6%), Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (3.1%) and Health (2.9%).

Price volatility in 2016 (0.24 points) was lower than that of the previous year (0.36 points), 10 of the 12 groups reflected greater price stability, especially Restaurants and hotels, Transportation and Alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

4.2 Food basket

The average annual caloric cost of food for the districts of Panama and San Miguelito was B/.307.50 (B/.6.20 or 2.1% more than in 2015) and urban areas on what is left of the country was B/.280.50 (B/.4.10 or 1.5% more). In the first one, the caloric cost of 14 food items was lower, standing out: American lettuce (5.9%), vegetable oil (4.1%) and yellow cheese (4.0%); and 15 products in the second group, mainly: chicken breast (6.2%), whole chicken (5.7%) and vegetable oil (5.4%).

Social update

5.1 Labor market

Employment contracts

Number of registered employment contracts, by type: Years 2012 – 2016(P)

Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL.....	<u>405,906</u>	<u>436,413</u>	<u>452,437</u>	<u>438,621</u>	<u>440,252</u>
Fixed.....	157,367	171,324	170,469	174,591	179,476
Unlimited ...	100,650	106,096	109,670	107,004	104,352
Fixed project.....	147,889	158,993	172,298	157,026	156,424

Source: Ministry of Labour and Work Development.

In 2016 there were 440,252 labor contract registrations, 1,631 or 0.37% more in comparison with the previous year. Only fixed-term contracts exceeded those counted in 2015 (4.885 or 2.8% more). The amount of registrations at the central offices of Panama stood at 290,367; the number of new registrations processed were 13,418 or 4.8%, reflected in the increase of the three types of registration formats for formal contracting, especially those made for a fixed time period (9.022 or 8.5%). Within the group of regional labor offices the figures (149,885) were below throughout the year (11,787 or 7.3% less), showing a decrease from those in the previous year.

Hired employees and average compensation

Percentage changes in the average employed person and average monthly remuneration paid for some economic activities: January - September 2016/2015



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

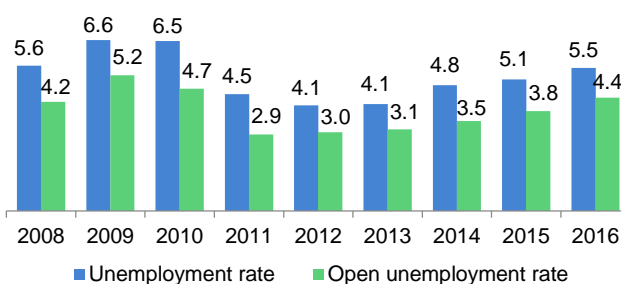
Third quarter data from the Quartely Survey of Employment Sales and Production surveyed by INEC showed that the average number of people employed in companies comprising 5 or more people fell by 1.2%, some 3,543 employees less compared with the average for the same period of the previous year. The economic activity that presented the largest increase in the average number of employees was Wholesale trade (2.9%) and the main decrease was in Hotels and restaurants (5.4%). With the exception of Wholesale Trade (B/.4.93 or 0.4% less), all other activities, included in the Survey, surpassed the average compensation paid, particularly in retail trade (B/.60.96 or 6.8%).

Unemployment rate

Results of the Labor Market Survey of August 2016 indicated that the population aged 15 years and older grew by 63,361 or 2.2% compared to August 2015. The economically active population increased by 47,544 or 2.6%.

The unemployment rate stood at 5.5% (unemployed people increased by 10,684 people); however, despite the increase related to the previous year, there was also an increase in the prospect of finding a job, as the open unemployment rate rose from 3.8% in 2015 to 4.4% in 2016. Meanwhile, hidden unemployment decreased from 24.1% to 20.8%.

Unemployment rate and open unemployment, to August: Years 2008 - 2016



Source: National Statistics and Census Institute.

On the other hand, 36,860 new job openings were generated during 2016, so the number of employed people in the country amounted to 1,770,711. This was also the second largest increase in the number of employed people in the last three years, since in 2015 there were 38,490 and in 2014 were 23,009 newly hired people.

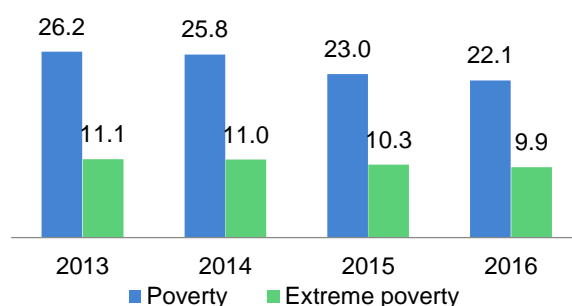
5.2 Standard of living

Based on information of the Multiple Purpose Survey provided by INEC in March 2016, the proportion of people in extreme poverty showed a decrease of 0.3 percentage points in relation to the

previous year, to 9.9%. For the first time extreme poverty levels are below 10%. Meanwhile, the proportion of people in general poverty also declined, from 23.0% to 22.1%, a reduction of 0.9 percentage points.

Without the government's implementation of these social programs the share of extreme poverty would have been 14.3% instead of 9.9%, which means that by providing this income throughout the year 174,050 people did not live below the threshold. Likewise, without the government funds transfers, the proportion of the poor would have been higher, 26.0% instead of 22.1%, thus achieving that 155,677 people did not live under this condition during 2016.

Proportion of people living in Poverty and Extreme Poverty: March 2013 – 2016 (Percentage)



Source: Prepared by the Directorate of Economic and Social Analysis of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, based on the Survey of Multiple Purposes of March, drawn up by the National Institute of Statistics and Census.

5.3 Education

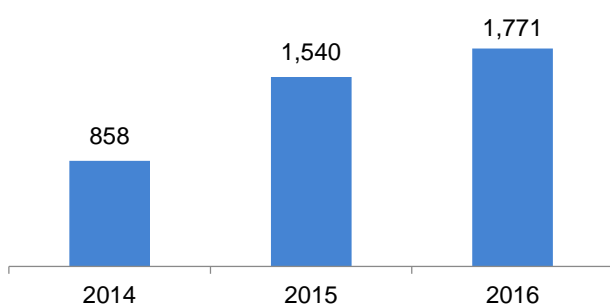
Job Training

The National Institute of Vocational Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH) offered courses to 93,352 people, with an attendance of 54.0% women and 46.0% men. The courses with the highest choice throughout the year were those on the Commerce and services sector, an average of 70 out of 100. The ones with high demand were those on Information Technology and Communications, Languages, and Business Management. The Industrial Sector received 25% and the agricultural sector 5% of those enrolled. Within the province of Panama training centers welcomed 55% of those enrolled nationwide, especially at the training center in Tocumen.

Literacy program

The "Move for Panamá" literacy program taught reading and writing 1,771 people from various rural and marginal urban areas of the country, 68.7% women and 31.3% men. There were 231 more people than in 2015.

Number of people alphabetized by the program
Move for Panama: Years 2014 - 2016



Source: Ministry of Social Development.

The provinces with the highest increasing rate of participants were: Chiriquí (108 people), Panama West (100 more) and Colón (64 more). The population most benefited in 2016 was located at Chiriquí (23.2%), Panama West (13.6%), Bocas del Toro (8.6%) and Ngäbe Buglé (20.4%); and the rest (34.2%), among other provinces and indigenous districts.

5.4 Opportunities Network

The program distributed about B/.38.5 million among an average of 67,634 families facing poverty. These were 249 households or 0.4% more than in 2015, of which 47.9% were paid through banks, key cards or mobile banking, and 52.1% through staff of the Ministry of Social Development in areas of difficult access.

Annual average of benefited households through the Opportunities Network: Years 2014 - 2016

Detail	2014	2015	2016
Total.....	<u>72,801</u>	<u>67,385</u>	<u>67,634</u>
Provinces	50,288	41,947	38,887
Indigenous region	22,513	25,438	28,747

Source: Ministry of Social Development

The number of participating families decreased throughout the provinces (3,060 or 7.3%) and increased in all native areas (3,309 or 13.0%), especially in the Ngäbe Buglé where B/.12.8 million were distributed among an average of 22,663 households (2,871 or 14.5% more) facing extreme poverty.

Changes in the average number of beneficiaries are due to inspections, subject to verification, of household compliance with the correspondent criteria for continuing the benefit, especially for households in extreme poverty.

5.5 Program 120 at 65

The program of economic assistance to people aged 65 and over benefited 123,157 people, 0.01% more than in 2015. According to the number of people receiving this benefit, the Ministry of Social Development paid out B/.181.6 million, B/.28.2 more than in the previous year. The largest proportion of beneficiaries lived in the provinces of Panama and Chiriquí and in the Ngäbe Buglé region.

Number of beneficiaries and funds transfers to the program of Economic Assistance to the Elderly "120 at 65": Years 2014 - 2016(P)

Detail	2014	2015	2016
Beneficiaries (number).....	88,467	123,145	123,157
Funds Transfer (in millions).....	126.2	153.4	181.6

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

5.6 Help for people with disabilities

Guardian Angel Program

A total of B/.12.9 million, 13.2% more than during 2015, was transferred to the beneficiaries of the Guardian Angel program, whose objective was to provide economic assistance (B/.80.0 monthly) to people with some form of severe disability and in conditions of poverty and dependency. In total there were 16,696 beneficiaries, 22.0% more, with the highest number at the province of Panama (4,372 or 26.6% of the total), followed by Chiriquí (3,121 or 18.7% of the total).

Budget executed by the Guardian Angel program:
Years: 2015 y 2016

(In millions of balboas)

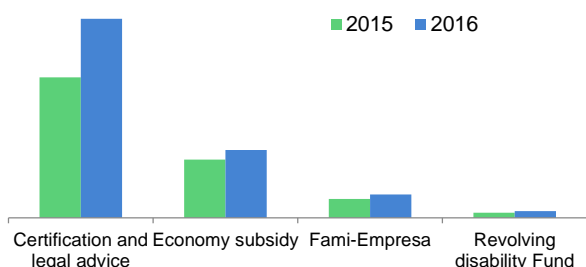
Executed Budget	2015	2016	Percentage Change
Total.....	<u>12.8</u>	<u>15.0</u>	<u>17.2</u>
Logistics.....	1.4	2.1	50.0
Funds Transfers	11.4	12.9	13.2

Source: Ministry of Social Development.

Other Aid

4,338 people that had some disabilities were favored with this aid and were also under some kind of poverty and social vulnerability, 1,085 or 33.4% more than in 2015; of which 2,211 or 51.0% are men and 2,127 or 49.0% are women.

Assistance programs for people with disabilities at national level: Years 2015 y 2016



Source: National Secretariat for Disability.

The aid totaled B/.721,817 (9.7% more); B/.300,379 for the acquisition of technical aids (prosthesis, wheelchairs, hearing aids, among other) for 97 people (24 or 32.9% more); B/.273,088 for the creation of 339 family businesses (66 more) to include people with disabilities into the productive system; and B/.148,350 to cover health and education expenses for 989 persons (137 or 16.1% more). In addition, 2,913 certificates of disability and parking permits were issued (858 or 41.8% more).

5.7 Adult Health

Main medical services provided at Santo Tomas Hospital: Years 2013 – 2016

Medical services	2013	2014	2015	2016
External consultation	247,062	253,349	285,811	275,779
Emergencies	83,274	83,819	82,700	79,121
Hospitalizations	28,694	28,773	27,451	27,714
Surgeries	19,849	18,497	16,494	16,263

Source: Santo Tomas Hospital.

At Santo Tomás Hospital, 275,779 people (10,032 or 3.5% less) were taken care for external consultations within the different medical specialties offered by the hospital; 79,121 cases (3,579 or 4.3% less) in the emergency room; 27,714 persons in the different rooms (263 or 1.0% less) and approximately 16,263 surgical procedures were performed (231 or 1.4% less).

5.8 Epidemiology

4,349 was the number of cases due to virus transmission through Aedes aegypti mosquito bites, according to data from the Ministry of Health, a 45.9% higher than 2015.

Dengue was the one with the greatest contamination with 2,897 cases (679 more). Those infected with the Zika virus were 679, 640 more since the virus appeared in November 2015. In regards with the Chikungunya virus infection cases ranged from 4 to 11 throughout the year. The regions with the highest infestation (66.9%) by some of the above referred viruses were: Bocas del Toro, Panama Metro, West Panama, San Miguelito and the Kuna Yala region.

5.9 Caring Housing Fund

B/.57.6 million were invested to acquire 6,288 housing solutions nationwide, 3,051 or 94.3% more than in 2015, for the benefit of 31,440 low-income people, 15,152 or 93.0% more.

Number of certifications issued, beneficiaries and amount of transfers from the Caring Housing Fund: Years 2015 y 2016

Detail	2015	2016
Certifications issued ^{1/}	3,237	6,288
Beneficiaries.....	16,288	31,440
Total (millions of balboas) ^{1/}	20.9	57.6

^{1/} Includes the bonus of 5 thousand and ten thousand balboas.

Source: Ministry of Housing and Land Use.

This bond is deducted from the price of the house which shall not exceed B/.50,000.00 and must have an area of at least 50 square meters.

Panama West registered the largest number of housing solutions (2,649) benefiting 13,245 people; while Bocas del Toro, the lowest count on housing solutions, accounted for 17, (13 more than 2015).

5.10 Environment

Through the Sanitation Project of the City and the Panama Bay 75.6 million cubic meters of wastewater were sanitized during 2016, representing 12.6 million cubic meters more than 2015. The quantity of sanitary wastewater per month was, on average, 18.8% of the water consumed and invoiced per month, in 2015 the average was 16.2%.

The Basic Health program 100/0, has built 7,721 health units, 35,970 units already began construction, and 44,809 were given the order to proceed. So far, a population of 555,656 people has been estimated to be targets of this program.



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Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas

Dulcideo de la Guardia
Ministro
Iván Zarak
Viceministro de Economía
Eyda Varela de Chinchilla
Viceministra de Finanzas

Dirección de Análisis Económico y Social
Raul Moreira Rivera
Director
Margarita Aquino Cornejo
Subdirectora