



PRESS RELEASE

12 Percent of Filipino Households Have an OFW Member (Results from the 2018 National Migration Survey)

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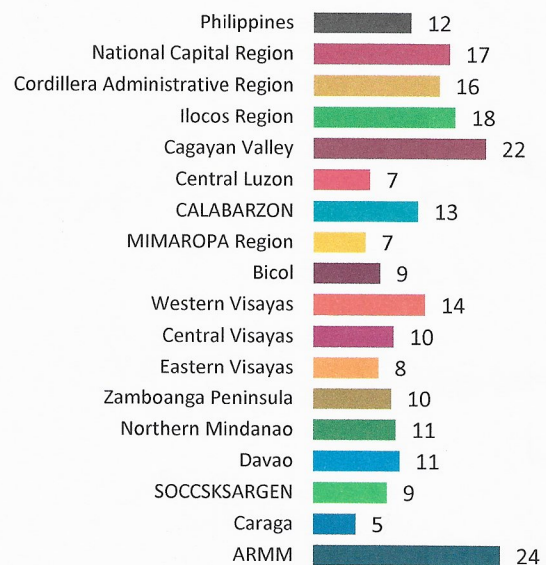
International labor migration has been a part of Filipino family life. The 2018 National Migration Survey (NMS) found that 12 percent of Filipino households had a member who was or had been an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW).

ARMM tops the rest of the regions in terms of highest percentage (24%) of households with current or former OFW member, followed by Cagayan Valley (22%) and the Ilocos Region (18%). In contrast, Caraga (5%), MIMAROPA (7%) and Central Luzon (7%) had the lowest percentage of households with current or former OFW member (Figure 1).

One-fourth or 25 percent of the households belonging to the highest wealth quintile have at least one current or former OFW member compared to only four percent of the households belonging to the lowest wealth quintile (Table 1).

The NMS also collected information of Filipinos currently overseas at the time of the study. In all, nine percent of households have at least one member currently overseas. Meanwhile, only one percent of households had emigrant in the last five years; i.e., those who used to live in the household but were already living permanently abroad.

Figure 1. Percentage of Households with OFW (current or before) by Region, Philippines, 2018



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Table 1. Households with Overseas Filipinos, Overseas Filipino workers, and emigrants

Percentage of households with Overseas Filipinos (OF), Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and household members who permanently moved overseas within the last 5 years by place of residence, region and wealth quintile, Philippines, 2018

Background characteristic	Percent			Number of households
	with OF	with OFW (current OR before)	with emigrants in the last 5 years	
Place of residence				
Urban	9.0	13.3	1.5	15,974
Rural	8.3	11.6	1.4	18,961
Region				
National Capital Region	9.2	17.3	1.2	4,565
Cordillera Administrative Region	11.0	16.0	2.9	627
I - Ilocos Region	11.8	18.0	2.4	1,736
II - Cagayan Valley	16.1	21.9	1.5	1,216
III - Central Luzon	8.8	7.2	0.8	3,779
IVA - CALABARZON	7.6	13.3	3.5	5,098
MIMAROPA Region	5.9	6.6	0.9	1,095
V - Bicol	4.6	8.5	0.3	1,909
VI - Western Visayas	13.2	14.2	0.9	2,618
VII - Central Visayas	6.0	10.2	1.0	2,606
VII - Eastern Visayas	6.3	8.3	0.3	1,528
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	7.1	9.9	0.3	1,263
X - Northern Mindanao	6.5	10.5	0.4	1,573
XI - Davao	7.3	11.0	0.3	1,837
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	12.4	9.4	2.2	1,625
XIII - Caraga	5.9	5.4	2.0	920
ARMM	6.9	23.8	1.6	940
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	3.5	4.3	0.4	7,090
Second	6.0	7.2	0.7	7,031
Middle	7.2	10.4	0.8	7,050
Fourth	10.9	15.8	2.0	6,988
Highest	15.7	24.8	3.3	6,776
All	8.6	12.4	1.4	34,935

Definition of Terms

Overseas Filipino (OF). A Filipino who is outside of the Philippines. In the survey, this is measured based on the question "Is (NAME OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBER) currently outside the Philippines?"

Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). A Filipino who is engaged in or has been engaged (in the past 12 months) in a remunerated activity in a state of which he/she is not a legal resident, or on board a vessel navigating the foreign seas other than a government ship used for military or noncommercial purposes or on an installation located offshore or the high seas.

The measure of OFW in this report is based on the question "Was/Is (NAME OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBER) an OFW? Responses could be either of the following: (1) Yes, currently within the last 12 months; (2) Yes, prior to the last twelve months; and (3) No.

Former household members now living abroad (Emigrants). All household respondents were asked if there were members who used to live in the household in the past 5 years but are now living permanently abroad.