



PRESS RELEASE

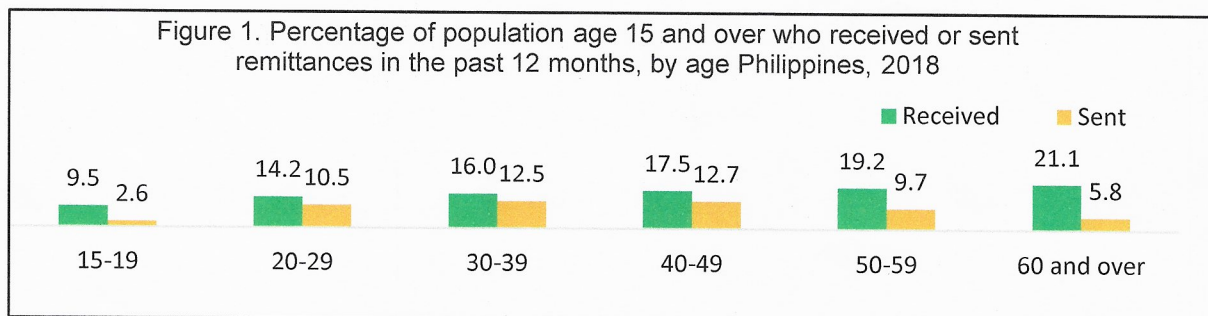
Domestic Remittances are Just as Important as International Remittances (Results from the 2018 National Migration Survey)

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Remittances are often associated with foreign currency inflows, or the money that Filipinos abroad send to their families in the Philippines. However, remittances are money transfers that can come from both domestic and foreign sources. The 2018 National Migration Survey (NMS 2018), the first national survey on the mobility of the Philippine population asked about remittances, or money transfers sent or received by Filipinos.

The survey found that 16 percent of the population aged 15 and over received remittances and 10 percent sent remittances to other family members in the past 12 months (July 2017-June 2018). Among those who reported that they received remittances, about the same percentage got it from either a domestic source or a foreign source (both at 48%), while four percent received from both sources. On the other hand, among those who reported having sent remittances, almost all (98%) sent it to a domestic recipient, i.e. within the Philippines. More females than males received remittances (20% vs. 12%, respectively). Also, slightly higher percentage of females than males sent remittances (11% vs. 9%, respectively) (Table 1).



The percentage receiving remittances increases with age, thus, the age group with the highest percentage receiving remittances were the senior citizens (age 60 and over) at 21 percent. Those in the age groups 30-39 and 40-49 registered the highest percentage who sent remittances (Figure 1 and Table 2).

Money transfer operators (MTO) was the predominant mode for transferring remittances both domestically (90%) and internationally (72%), followed by remittances through banks. Transfers through families and friends were not so common (Table 3).

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Table 1. Remittance origins and destinations by sex

Percentage of population aged 15 years old and over who received or sent remittances in the past 12 months, by sex, according to origin and destination of remittance, Philippines, 2018

Remittances	Males	Females	Both sexes
Received	11.9	20.4	16.2
Did not receive	88.1	79.6	83.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of persons	23,003	23,352	46,355
Origin of remittances received			
Local	46.9	48.5	47.9
Foreign	50.3	47.3	48.4
Both local and foreign	2.8	4.2	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of persons	2,736	4,761	7,498
Sent	8.5	10.5	9.5
Did not send	91.5	89.5	90.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of persons	23,003	23,352	46,355
Destination of remittances sent			
Local	97.5	97.7	97.6
Foreign	2.4	2.2	2.3
Both local and foreign	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of persons	1,951	2,462	4,412

Table 2. Remittances received and sent by background characteristics

Percentage of population age 15 years old and over who received or sent remittances in the past 12 months by background characteristics, Philippines, 2018

Background characteristic	Percent who received	Percent who sent	Number of persons
Age			
15-19	9.5	2.6	5,989
20-29	14.2	10.5	9,994
30-39	16.0	12.5	9,168
40-49	17.5	12.7	8,181
50-59	19.2	9.7	6,699
60 and over	21.1	5.8	6,323
All	16.2	9.5	46,355

Table 3. Remittances received from within and outside the country

Percent distribution of remittance flows received from within and outside the country in the past 12 months, by mode of transfer, Philippines, 2018

Mode of transfer	Percent received from	
	within the country	outside the country
Bank	5.3	26.4
Money transfer operations (MTO)	90.3	72.4
Family/friends	4.6	4.1
Agency/local office	0.5	0.2
Others	0.6	0.5
Number of remittance flows	4,211	4,211