

MEASURING THE ECONOMIC GAINS FROM GLOBAL MIGRATION - THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

(Last of a three-part series)



This three-part report is a follow up to the earlier LABSTAT Updates series entitled "THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT: UNDERSTANDING ITS TREND AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE (see Vol. 10 Nos. 5-9). The last part of this series presents statistics on the demographic profile of Filipinos working overseas and how this profile has changed over the years.

Overview

The set of statistics used in this article was derived mainly from the results of the *Survey on Overseas Filipinos* (SOF) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO). Additional information was obtained from administrative-based data compiled by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) - as presented in the *2005 Compendium of Overseas Employment Statistics*.

The SOF is a rider survey to the October round of the Labor Force Survey each year. The survey was first introduced as the *Survey of Overseas Workers* (SOW) in 1991 and later renamed as SOF in 1993. Its main objective is to provide estimates as well as the socio-economic characteristics of household members who are working or had worked abroad during the last six months preceding the survey period.

Care should be made in comparing SOF estimates from the POEA data series. SOF data are "stock" concept while POEA data are "flow" concept. Moreover, the two sources of data differ widely in terms of coverage, reference period, terms and definitions as well as methodologies used in data collection.

One of the advantages of SOF over administrative-based statistics is that it provides more information on the socio-economic characteristics of the workers and their families which is not available from administrative data.

On the other hand, SOF can not capture temporary migrants who have relocated their entire families abroad. This is because SOF is a sample survey of households and as such, households that have temporarily moved out of the country can no longer be covered by the survey.

Demographic Profile of Overseas Filipino Workers

By Age Group

Temporary migration is greatest among the population at their prime working age. As can be noted in Table 1, the median age of Filipinos working abroad in 2004 belonged to the age bracket 25 to 34 years old which comprised the biggest proportion at 40.3 percent of the total distribution. Ranking next at 30.1 percent were those in the age bracket 35 to 44 years old. The young adults or those 15 to 24 years old comprised only 11.6 percent while those 45 years old and over accounted for 18.1 percent.

TABLE 1 - Number of Filipinos Working Overseas by Age Group, Philippines 1993 and 2004
(In thousands except percent)

AGE GROUP	1993		2004	
	No.	%	No.	%
All Age Group	941	100.0	1,063	100.0
15-24	150	15.9	123	11.6
25-34	403	42.8	428	40.3
35-44	264	28.1	320	30.1
45 and over	119	12.6	192	18.1
Not Reported	6	0.6		

Source: National Statistics Office, Survey of Overseas Filipinos (SOF).

Compared to 1993 SOF data, the age distribution has shifted towards older population over the years. While the bulk of the OFWs then were already in the age groups 25 to 34 years old (42.8%) and 35 to 44 years old (28.1%), the share of young adults (15 to 24 years old) was slightly higher at 15.9 percent while the share of those 45 years old and over were lower at 12.6 percent.

By Sex

The sex distribution of overseas Filipino workers has also been shifting over the past 12 years. In 1993, the males outnumbered females by a large margin. In particular, 59.3 percent of overseas workers were male and 40.7 percent female. This means a ratio of two females for every three males.

TABLE 2 - Number of Filipino Working Overseas by Sex, Philippines: 1993 and 2004
(In thousands except percent)

SEX	1993		2004	
	No.	%	No.	%
Both Sexes	941	100.0	1,063	100.0
Male	558	59.3	525	49.4
Female	383	40.7	538	50.6

Source: National Statistics Office, Survey of Overseas Filipinos (SOF).

Since then, however, the share of female workers has gone up steadily until 2004 when the ratio almost balances out between male (49.4%) and female (50.6%). This means that over the period under review, the participation or share of male in overseas employment has gone down by as much as 10.0 percentage points (59.3% to 49.4%) in favor of female (40.7% to 50.6%).

The increasing participation of Filipino women in overseas employment is underscored by the recent POEA statistics on deployment for new hires landbased workers. In 2004, a total of 281,812 new hires landbased workers were deployed of which only 25.7 percent were male and the large majority (74.3%) were female.

**TABLE 3 - Deployed New Hires
Landbased Overseas Filipino Workers By
Sex, Philippines: 2004**

SEX	Number	Percent
Both Sexes	281,812	100.0
Male	72,355	25.7
Female	209,457	74.3

Source: *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.*

By Major Occupation Group

For the purpose of this paper, POEA data on occupation was used for two reasons. First, occupational employment data is best gathered from personal records (i.e., from administrative records or through the conduct of establishment survey) rather than from the memory recall of a respondent in a household survey answering for all working members of the family. Second, comparable data series is not available from the SOF due to the break in the data series in 2001 as a result of the adoption of the 1992 Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC).

Table 4 presents comparative statistics on the distribution of deployed landbased workers (new hires) by broad occupational groupings for 1993 and 2004. For both years, the distribution was largely dominated by three major occupational groups. In 1993, production workers accounted for the biggest grouping (36.4%) followed closely by service workers (34.9%) and professional and technical workers (25.3%). The ranking was significantly altered in 2004 as service workers occupied the biggest share (40.2%) and professional and technical workers now ranking second (33.4%). On the other hand, the share of production workers fell to only 22.6 percent.

**TABLE 4 - Percent Share of Deployed
Landbased Workers by Major
Occupation Group, Philippines:
1993 and 2004**

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP	1993	2004
ALL OCCUPATIONS	<u>256,197</u> 100.0	<u>281,812</u> 100.0
Professional and Technical Workers	25.3	33.4
Administrative and Managerial Workers	0.1	0.2
Clerical Workers	1.6	1.9
Sales Workers	1.0	1.4
Service Workers	34.9	40.2
Agricultural Workers	0.7	0.2
Production Workers	36.4	22.6

Note: *Details may not add up to total due to rounding.*

Source: *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.*

Of the seven major occupational groupings listed in 2004, four were dominated by female workers, namely: professional and technical workers (85.5%), clerical workers (58.1%), sales workers (69.9%) and services workers (90.0%). On the other hand, male dominated the following occupations: administrative and managerial workers (70.4%), agricultural workers (96.9%) and productions workers (67.3%).

TABLE 5 - Percent Share of Deployed Landbased Workers by Major Occupation Group and Sex, Philippines: 2004

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP	Male	Female
ALL OCCUPATIONS	72,355	209,457
Professional and Technical Workers	13,677 (14.5%)	80,470 (85.5%)
Administrative and Managerial Workers	398 (70.4%)	167 (29.6%)
Clerical Workers	2,230 (41.9%)	3,093 (58.1%)
Sales Workers	1,189 (30.1%)	2,761 (69.9%)
Service Workers	11,343 (10.0%)	102,080 (90.0%)
Agricultural Workers	661 (96.9%)	21 (3.1%)
Production Workers	42,855 (67.3%)	20,864 (32.7%)

Source: *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.*

Average Remittances Sent Home

The average amount of remittances sent home by OFWs over the six-month period April to September 2004 amounted to P72,800. The bulk of this amount (77.9% or P56,700) was cash sent home while the rest were cash brought home (17.3% or P12,600) and in kind (4.8% or P3,500).

TABLE 6 - Average Amount of Remittances by Modes and Sex, Philippines: April–September 2004
(In pesos)

ITEM	Both Sexes	Male	Female
TOTAL	72,795	93,613	51,420
Cash Sent	56,687	71,848	41,156
Cash Brought Home	12,593	18,115	6,932
In kind	3,513	3,733	3,287

Source: *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.*

Male OFWs sent bigger amount of remittances than their female counterpart. On the average, male OFWs sent home an average amount of P93,600 or about twice the amount sent home by female OFWs (P51,400).

By mode of remittances, the bulk of the earnings were sent through banks (75.6%). The rest were sent through “door to door” delivery service (20.4%), agency/local office (3.1%), friends/co-workers (0.6%), and other means (0.2%).

TABLE 6 - Average Amount of Remittances Sent Home by Modes and Sex, Philippines: April–September 2004
(In pesos except percent)

ITEM	Both Sexes	Male	Female
TOTAL	56,687	71,848	41,156
	100.0	100.0	100.0
Banks	75.6	76.2	74.5
“Door to Door”	20.4	19.4	22.3
Agency/Local Office	3.1	3.7	0.2
Friends/Co-Workers	0.6	0.4	1.0
Others	0.2	0.3	0.1

Source: *Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.*

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