



BUREAU OF
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STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Manila, Philippines

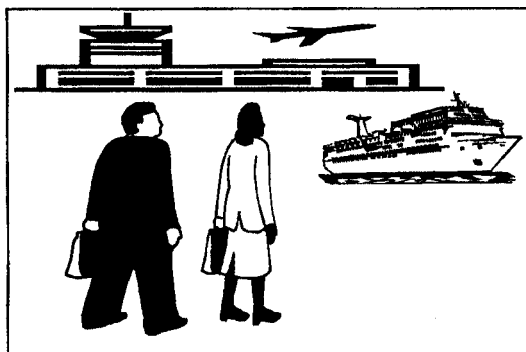
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OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ... according to the 1995 census



A little over one percent of the population work overseas

The recent mid-decade census enumerated 782,297 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) out of the 68.6 million population (1.1 %). More than half of them (425,121) are men while 45.7 percent (357,176) are women.

Distribution of Overseas Filipino Workers By Sex and Age Group, 1995

Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Number	782,297	425,121	357,176
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
10 - 19	4.3	3.1	5.6
20 - 24	12.9	9.1	17.4
25 - 34	38.8	36.7	41.2
35 - 44	28.1	32.4	23.1
45 & over	15.9	18.6	12.7

Source of data: National Statistics Office,
1995 Population Census.

Less than three-fifths of the overseas workers were below 35 years old (56.0 %). The proportions of the OFWs which recorded a low of 4.3 percent for those below 20 years old peaked up to 38.8

In September 1995, the National Statistics Office (NSO) conducted a Census of Population

(POPCEN). The 1C¹ census conducted since 1903, it provides information on the size and distribution of the population and statistics on the demographic, social, economic and cultural characteristics of the Philippines. One of the items of inquiry, included for the first time in the population census, is on overseas employment.

*For purposes of enumeration in the POPCEN, an **overseas worker** is a household member who is currently out of the country due to overseas employment. He or she may or may not have a specific work contract or may be presently at home on vacation but has an existing overseas employment to return to. "TNT" workers are **included** if the household still considers them as members of the household and if their names are mentioned when asked about the names of household members. However, immigrants are **excluded**.*

This issue is the first of a four-part series on the POPCEN dealing with labor concerns.

percent in the age group 25-34 then tapered down to 15.9 percent in the age bracket 45 and over. This indicates that the overseas Filipino workforce is relatively young.

Compared to their male counterparts, the proportional shares of female workers in the age brackets below 35 years were higher. However, from age groups above 35 years, there were larger proportions of men in overseas work than women. Around 64 percent of females were less than 35 years old against the 48.9 percent of males. This means that there were more young women OFWs than men.

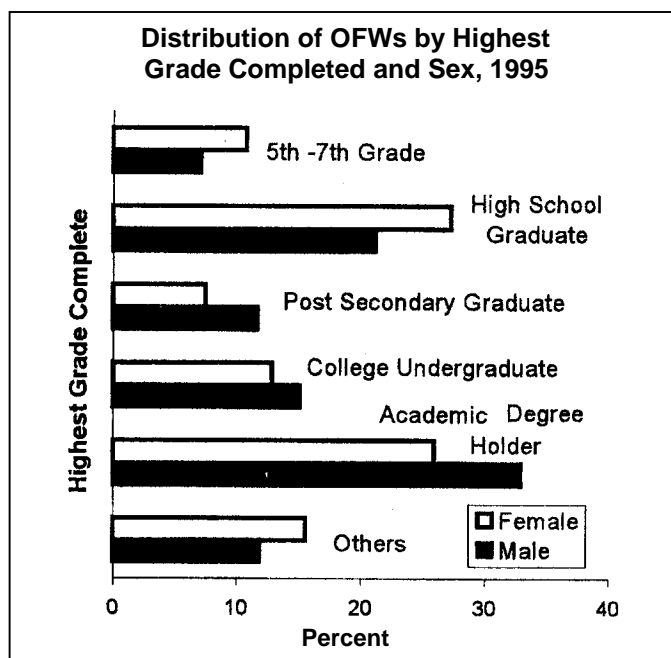
**Close to 25 percent of OFWs are high school graduates
while 30 percent are college degree holders**

While most of the OFWs are educated, there were around 8,600 (1.1%) of them without formal schooling or only had some pre-school education. Less than 12 percent of the workers reached the elementary grades and another 31.2 percent entered high school with 24.0 percent completing secondary education.

Those with post secondary education made up 11.1 percent of the total OFWs. Around 44 percent went to college with 29.7 percent attaining college degrees. Less than half of one percent (2,949) undertook higher education (Table 1).

Some appreciable differences in education exist between men and women OFWs. There were more male workers with higher educational attainment than women as 61.6 percent of them have reached at least post secondary level compared to 47.8 percent of female OFWs.

Relative to their respective totals, women workers who have completed high school shared 27.3 percent against the 21.2 percent of men workers. On the other hand, male graduates of post secondary



*Source of data; National Statistics Office,
1995 Population Census.*

training made up 11.7 percent while females, 7.5 percent. For men workers with college degrees, their share stood at 32.9 percent against the 25.9 percent of women OFWs.

NCR, Regions I, III and IV are the top exporters of Filipino manpower

Around 68 percent or 533,000 OFWs come from the National Capital Region (23.3%), Region IV (19.0%), Region III (14.2%) and Region I (11.6%). The rest of the regions provided from 7.4 percent (Region VI - 58,073) to as little as 0.8 percent (Caraga - 6,390) to the overseas employment pool.

The top four (4) regions are also the main sources of male workers at 73.2 percent (311,111). For female OFWs, these regions accounted for 62.1 percent (221,906). Region I, nevertheless, edged out Region IV as the second biggest sender of women overseas workers (Table 2).

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**TABLE 1 – DISTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS BY SEX
AND HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED, 1995**

Highest Grade Completed	Number			Percent		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
TOTAL	782,297	425,121	357,176	100.0	100.0	100.0
No Grade Completed	8,026	3,514	4,512	1.0	0.8	1.3
Pre-school	580	241	339	0.1	0.1	0.1
Elementary	90,782	40,977	49,805	11.6	9.6	13.9
1st - 4th Grade	21,929	10,646	11,283	2.8	2.5	3.2
5th - 7th Grade	68,853	30,331	38,522	8.8	7.1	10.8
High School	244,044	115,654	128,390	31.2	27.2	35.9
Undergraduate	56,276	25,517	30,759	7.2	6.0	8.6
Graduate	187,768	90,137	97,631	24.0	21.2	27.3
Post Secondary	86,922	56,093	30,829	11.1	13.2	8.6
Undergraduate	10,292	6,265	4,027	1.3	1.5	1.1
Graduate	76,630	49,828	26,802	9.8	11.7	7.5
College Undergraduate	110,291	64,204	46,087	14.1	15.1	12.9
Academic Degree Holder	232,638	139,983	92,655	29.7	32.9	25.9
Post Baccalaureate	2,949	1,692	1,257	0.4	0.4	0.4
Not Stated	6,065	2,763	3,302	0.8	0.6	0.9

Source of data: National Statistics Office, 1995 Population Census.

**TABLE 2 – DISTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
BY SEX AND REGION, 1995**

Region	Number			Percent		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
TOTAL	782,297	425,121	357,176	100.0	100.0	100.0
National Capital Region	182,335	118,192	64,143	23.3	27.8	18.0
Cordillera Administrative Region	20,822	5,787	15,035	2.7	1.4	4.2
Region I	90,994	33,427	57,567	11.6	7.9	16.1
Region II	32,256	7,803	24,453	4.1	1.8	6.8
Region III	110,792	67,891	42,901	14.2	16.0	12.0
Region IV	148,896	91,601	57,295	19.0	21.5	16.0
Region V	18,798	8,849	9,949	2.4	2.1	2.8
Region VI	58,073	31,566	26,507	7.4	7.4	7.4
Region VII	28,683	18,849	9,834	3.7	4.4	2.8
Region VIII	14,033	7,082	6,951	1.8	1.7	1.9
Region IX	16,083	6,538	10,265	2.1	1.5	2.9
Region X	8,487	4,527	3,960	1.1	1.1	1.1
Region XI	19,391	7,828	11,563	2.5	1.8	3.2
Region XII	12,234	5,232	7,002	1.6	1.2	2.0
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	13,310	6,571	6,739	1.7	1.5	1.9
Caraga	6,390	3,378	3,012	0.8	0.8	0.8

Source of data: National Statistics Office, 1995 Population Census.