

Women Migrant Workers of Sri Lanka

Statistics

Departures for Foreign Employment by Sex - 1986-2005

Year	Female %	Male %
1986	33	67
1987	34	66
1988	55	45
1989	65	35
1990	64	36
1991	67	33
1992	65	35
1993	65	35
1994	73	27
1995	73	27
1996	74	27
1997	75	25
1998	66	34
1999	65	35
2000	67	33
2001	68	32
2002	65	35
2003	65	35
2004	62	38
2005	59	41

Major Destinations for Housemaids (Rank)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	SA	SA	SA	SA	UAE
2	Kuwait	Kuwait	Kuwait	Kuwait	Kuwait
3	UAE	UAE	UAE	UAE	UAE
4	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar	Qatar
5	Lebanon	Lebanon	Lebanon	Lebanon	Lebanon
6	Jordan	Jordan	Oman	Jordan	Jordan

7	Bahrain	Bahrain	Bahrain	Bahrain	South Korea
8	Maldives	Cyprus	Maldives	Cyprus	Bahrain

Distribution of Manpower Levels of Female Migrant Workers (Per cent)

Category	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Prof.	0.03	0.07	0.14	0.10	0.14
Middle level	0.3	0.46	0.47	1.64	0.65
Clerical	0.81	1.11	1.23	1.06	0.55
Skilled	9.91	9.26	11.19	11.90	4.93
Unskilled	7.67	6.28	5.52	9.92	2.44
Housemaids	81.2	82.81	81.45	75.37	91.28

Middle East Remittances as Per Cent of Total Remittances

Year	%
1996	58.1
1997	61.0
1998	61.2
1999	61.7
2000	63.0
2001	61.0
2002	61.0
2003	57.0
2004	56.0
2005	57.0

Estimated Stock of Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers - 2005

Country	Male	Female	Total
SA	141,085	239,701	380,786
Kuwait	35,267	166,860	202,127
UAE	68,889	102,669	171,558
Lebanon	96,577	22,192	118,769
Italy	7,168	86,208	93,376
Jordan	15,007	45,212	60,219
Oman	8,333	42,594	50,927
Bahrain	9,025	31,001	40,026
Qatar	6,810	24,577	31,387
Cyprus	3,960	13,485	17,445

Maldives	12,228	4,623	16,911
Singapore	2,682	13,209	15,891
South Korea	6,176	1,718	7,894
Hong kong	304	2,649	2,953
Malaysia	2,507	1,049	3,556
Mauritius	392	930	1,322
Greece	391	424	815
Egypt	88	500	588
Others	2,007	1,946	3,953
Total	420,926	800,837	1,221,763

(Source: for all statistics: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment)

Contact CENWOR for additional information

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Macroeconomic Importance of Worker Remittances

In 2005 worker remittances

- from the Middle East were 56.78% of total private remittances
- were 19.4% of total current account inflows
- were 76% of the trade balance
- were 197.3% of loans and grants
- were 21.5% of total imports
- were 8.1% of the Gross Domestic Product

(Source: Annual Report 2005, Central Bank of Sri Lanka)

[[Government Policy](#)] [[Statistics](#)] [[Foreign Employment Bureau](#)] [[Violence Against Migrant Workers](#)]

[[Voting Rights for Migrant Workers](#)] [[From the Newspapers](#)] [[NGOs](#)]

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