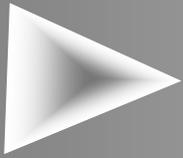


2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos



PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

NEARLY HALF OF THE TOTAL OFWS ARE IN CALABARZON, CENTRAL LUZON AND NCR

Results from the 2008 SURVEY ON OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

The number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who worked abroad at anytime during the period April to September 2008 reached 2.0 million as reported by their families. The 2008 estimate represents an increase of 14.6 percent over the 1.7 million OFWs estimated for the period April to September 2007. The Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) or those with existing work contract abroad comprised 94.0 percent (1.9 million) of the total OFWs during the period April to September 2008. This number is 16.6 percent more than the 1.6 million OCWs for the same period in 2007 (*Table 1*).

There were more male (51.7%) OFWs than females (48.3%) during the period April to September 2008. More than one fourth of the OFWs (25.7%) were in age group 25 to 29 years. Female OFWs were generally younger compared to male OFWs. Of the total number of female OFWs, 28.8 percent belonged to age group 25 to 29 years and 20.3 percent were in age group 30 to 34 years. Meanwhile, male OFWs were almost evenly distributed among the age groups 25 to 29, 30 to 34 and 45 and over (*Table 1*).

About one third (32.4%) OFWs were laborers and unskilled workers, which include domestic helpers, cleaners and manufacturing laborers. Those who worked as trades and related workers comprised 15.7 percent; service workers and shop and market sales workers, 14.3 percent; and plant and machine operators and assemblers, 13.0 percent (*Table 1*).

OFWs from CALABARZON (18.4%), Central Luzon (14.5%) and National Capital Region (14.0%) made up almost half of the total number of OFWs. On the other hand, Caraga reported the smallest share of OFWs at 1.2 percent (*Table 2*).

One out of five (20.4%) OFWs worked in Saudi Arabia. One in every seven OFWs worked in United Arab Emirates. Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Qatar and Taiwan were also popular destinations of OFWs (*Table 2*). OFWs who worked in Europe comprised 9.4 percent while those who worked in North and South America accounted for 8.4 percent.

The total remittance sent by OFWs during the period April to September 2008 was estimated at 141.9 billion pesos, an increase of 32.1 billion pesos from the estimate of 110.0 billion pesos in 2007. Included in the total

remittances are cash sent (73.2%), cash brought home (21.5%) and remittances in kind (5.2%). Of the total cash remittances sent, 76.1 percent through banks, 11.8 percent through door-to-door, 7.5 percent through other means, and the rest (4.6%) through the agency or local office and friends or co-workers. OFWs working in Asia, comprising 78.2 percent of all OFWs, sent the biggest cash remittance of 69.9 billion pesos. Among occupation groups, OFWs working as laborers or unskilled workers posted the highest cash remittance of 19.5 billion pesos (*Table 3*).

CARMELITA N. ERICTA
Administrator

TECHNICAL NOTES

- The data presented in this press release were taken from the 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF). The SOF aims to derive national estimates on the number of Overseas Filipino Workers, their socio-economic characteristics and the amount and mode of remittances, in cash and in kind, received by their families.
- The OFWs covered in this report were those aged 15 years old and over and working abroad during the period April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008.
- OFWs include overseas contract workers (OCWs) who were presently and temporarily out of the country during the reference period to fulfill an overseas contract for a specific length of time or who were presently at home on vacation during the reference period but still had an existing contract to work abroad, and other Filipino workers abroad with valid working visa or work permits. Those who had no working visa or work permits (tourist, visitor, student, medical, and other types of non-immigrant visas) but were presently employed and working full time in other countries were also included.
- The SOF did not ask for the total salary received by the OFWs. Hence, the remittances presented in the results may just be a part of the total salary received by the OFWs.
- Starting July 2003 round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS), the 2003 Master Sample (MS) Design has been adopted. Using this master sample design, the number of samples increased from 41,000 to around 51,000 sample households. The SOF, being a rider of the LFS, has also adopted the new master sample design starting October 2003. Careful evaluation must be made in comparing the results of the 2008 SOF with other SOF results prior to the implementation of the new MS design.

**TABLE 1 Number and Percentage Distribution of Overseas Filipino Workers
by Selected Characteristics, Philippines: 2007 and 2008**

Selected Characteristics	2008	2007
Philippines (in thousands)	2,002	1,747
Type	100.0	100.0
Overseas contract workers	94.0	92.4
Other overseas Filipino workers	6.0	7.6
Sex	100.0	100.0
Male	51.7	50.9
Female	48.3	49.1
Age Group		
<i>Both Sexes</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
15 - 24	10.0	10.0
25 - 29	25.7	24.5
30 - 34	21.0	20.7
35 - 39	15.1	16.3
40 - 44	11.8	11.0
45 and over	16.4	17.5
<i>Male</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
15 - 24	6.7	7.4
25 - 29	22.8	20.3
30 - 34	21.8	20.0
35 - 39	14.7	16.9
40 - 44	13.2	12.5
45 and over	20.8	22.8
<i>Female</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
15 - 24	13.5	12.7
25 - 29	28.8	28.8
30 - 34	20.3	21.3
35 - 39	15.6	15.7
40 - 44	10.3	9.5
45 and over	11.6	12.0
Major Occupation	100.0	100.0
Officials of government and special-interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors	2.7	2.6
Professionals	9.6	8.6
Technicians and associate professionals	6.2	6.3
Clerks	5.6	5.6
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	14.3	14.3
Farmers, forestry workers and fishermen	0.6	0.4
Trades and related workers	15.7	13.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	13.0	13.4
Laborers and unskilled workers	32.4	35.0
Special occupations	--	-

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

The estimates cover overseas Filipinos whose departure occurred within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months (April to September) of the survey year.

Source: National Statistics Office, 2007 and 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos

**TABLE 2 Number and Percentage Distribution of Overseas Filipino Workers
by Region of Origin and Place of Work Abroad, Philippines: 2007 and 2008**

Selected Characteristics	2008	2007
Philippines (in thousands)	2,002	1,747
Region	100.0	100.0
National Capital Region	14.0	16.0
Cordillera Administrative Region	1.9	2.1
I - Ilocos	7.8	7.7
II - Cagayan Valley	5.5	5.9
III - Central Luzon	14.5	14.3
IVA - CALABARZON	18.4	17.7
IVB - MIMAROPA	2.2	1.7
V - Bicol	3.1	3.0
VI - Western Visayas	7.8	8.5
VII - Central Visayas	5.6	5.1
VIII - Eastern Visayas	2.9	2.1
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	1.8	2.0
X - Northern Mindanao	2.8	3.1
XI - Davao	2.8	2.6
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	4.5	4.2
XIII - Caraga	1.2	1.0
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	3.3	3.1
Place of Work	100.0	100.0
Africa	1.5	1.2
Asia	78.2	78.1
East Asia	18.8	20.9
Hong Kong	5.9	6.7
Japan	5.1	5.6
Taiwan	4.2	5.5
Other countries in East Asia (ex. China, South Korea)	3.6	3.1
Southeast and South Central Asia	10.3	10.3
Malaysia	2.6	2.5
Singapore	6.2	6.0
Other countries in Southeast and South Central Asia (ex. Brunei)	1.5	1.7
Western Asia	49.1	46.8
Kuwait	3.7	4.4
Qatar	5.1	4.5
Saudi Arabia	20.4	19.8
United Arab Emirates	14.6	12.1
Other countries in Western Asia (ex. Bahrain, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan)	5.4	6.0
Australia	2.4	1.9
Europe	9.4	9.2
North and South America	8.4	9.3
Other countries	0.2	0.3
Country not reported	-	0.1

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

The estimates cover overseas Filipinos whose departure occurred within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months (April to September) of the survey year.

Source: National Statistics Office, 2007 and 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos

**TABLE 3 Total and Average Remittance of Overseas Filipino Workers
by Selected Characteristics, Philippines: 2007 and 2008**

Selected Characteristics	Total Remittance (In million pesos)		Average Remittance (In thousand pesos)	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Total Remittance	141,904	109,806	83	75
Cash sent	103,928	81,902	63	59
Cash brought home	30,530	22,752	91	87
In kind	7,446	5,152	21	18
Total Cash Remittance	103,928	81,902	63	59
<i>Mode of Remittance</i>				
Banks	79,097	62,930	69	63
Agency/Local office	4,045	2,701	80	71
Friends/Co-workers	741	403	24	17
Door-to-door	12,212	11,473	53	50
Others	7,833	4,396	42	43
<i>Place of Work</i>				
Africa	2,188	1,747	97	98
Asia	69,924	57,676	55	53
East Asia	17,348	16,833	56	56
Southeast and South Central Asia	7,388	5,256	47	39
Western Asia	45,188	35,588	56	53
Australia	3,117	2,132	79	101
Europe	13,072	10,058	82	78
North and South America	11,634	9,709	83	77
Other countries	147	445	59	103
Country not reported	-	135	-	54
<i>Major Occupation</i>				
Officials of government and special-interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors	5,167	4,291	111	107
Professionals	13,237	9,422	86	83
Technicians and associate professionals	8,452	7,880	82	91
Clerks	5,295	3,718	59	50
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	14,014	10,258	61	52
Farmers, forestry workers and fishermen	812	187	98	47
Trades and related workers	18,065	13,220	66	64
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	15,550	15,352	71	77
Laborers and unskilled workers	19,491	17,574	38	37
Special occupations	-	-	-	-

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

The estimates cover overseas Filipinos whose departure occurred within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months (April to September) of the survey year.

Source: National Statistics Office, 2007 and 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos