Philippines - Survey on Overseas Filipinos 2008

National Statistics Office

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Overview

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Overview

ABSTRACT
This report summarizes the findings of the 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF) undertaken by the National Statistics Office as a rider to October 2008 Labor Force Survey.

The survey was designed to gather national estimates on the number of overseas workers, their socio economic characteristics and other information pertaining to the overseas workers who worked or have worked abroad from April to September 2008. The remittances of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in cash or in kind were also accounted for the specified reference period. The SOF data are useful inputs to government planners, migrant advocates, researchers, academes, concerned citizens, and other data users to the formulation of policies and programs for the welfare of the overseas Filipino.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude all our Respondents who generously shared their time and provided the needed information about the survey, and all the NSO Central and Field Office personnel for their untiring efforts and dedication for the completion of the survey.

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Individuals

Scope

NOTES
Data gathered in the survey include the demographic and economic characteristics of OFWs and the remittances they send to their families here in the Philippines. Related

information such as the place of destination, length of stay abroad, type of work abroad, date of departure and return were also included.

The reporting unit was the household hence the statistics emanating from this survey refer to OFWs who are members of private households. Institutional population is not

within the scope of the survey.

Two forms were used in this survey, namely:

(1) SOF Form 1 which gathers the socio- characteristics of overseas Filipino and,

(2) SOF Form 2 which is a control form.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Overseas Filipino Workers		
Overseas Contract Workers		

KEYWORDS
Overseas Filipino Workers, Overseas Contract Workers

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
The geographic coverage consists of the country's 17 administrative regions defined in Executive Order (EO) 36 and 131.
The 17 regions are:

National Capital Region (NCR)

Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)

Region I - Ilocos Region

Region II - Cagayan Valley

Region III - Central Luzon

Region IV-A - CALABARZON

Region IV-B - MIMAROPA

Region V - Bicol Region

Region VI - Western Visayas

Region VII - Central Visayas

Region VIII - Eastern Visayas

Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula

Region X - Northern Mindanao

Region XI - Davao Region

Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN

Caraga

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT
Barangays

UNIVERSE
Overseas Filipinos whose departure occured within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the

past six months (April to September) of the survey period.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
National Statistics Office	

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
National Statistics Office	NSO	

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

The SOF, as a rider to the Labor Force Survey (LFS), used the sampling design of the 2003 Master Sample (MS) for Household Surveys starting July 2003. The design of the Master Sample is described below:

1. Domain
The 2003 MS considers the country's 17 administrative regions as its sampling domain. A domain is referred to as a subdivision of the country in which estimates with adequate level of precision is generated. It must be noted that while there is demand for data at the provincial level (and to some extent municipal and barangay levels), these were not treated as domain because of its large number (more than 80) and the large resource requirement it would entail. Below are the 17 administrative regions of the country:

National Capital Region
Cordillera Administrative Region
Region I - Ilocos
Region II - Cagayan Valley
Region III - Central Luzon
Region IVA - CALABARZON
Region IVB - MIMAROPA
Region V - Bicol
Region VI - Western Visayas
Region VII - Central Visayas
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula
Region X - Northern Mindanao
Region XI - Davao
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN
Region XIII - Caraga
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

2. Sampling Frame
As in most household surveys, the 2003 MS made use of an area sample design. For this purpose, the Enumeration Area Reference File (EARF) of the 2000 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) was utilized as sampling frame. The EARF contains the number of households by enumeration area (EA) in each barangay.

This frame was used to form the primary sampling units (PSUs). With consideration of the period for which the 2003 MS will be in use, the PSUs were formed/defined as a barangay or a combination of barangays with at least 500 households.

3. Sample Size
The 2003 MS consists of a sample of 2,835 PSUs of which 330 were certainty
PSUs and 2,505 were non-certainty PSUs. The entire MS was divided into four
sub-samples or independent replicates, such as a quarter sample contains one
fourth of the PSUs found in one replicate; a half sample contains one-half of the
PSUs in two replicates. The SOF as a rider to the LFS utilizes the full sample.

4. Stratification
The 2003 MS considers the 17 regions of the country as the primary strata. Within each region, further stratification was performed using geographic groupings such as provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs). Within each of these substrata formed within regions, the PSUs were further stratified, to the extent possible, using the proportion of strong houses (PSTRONG), indicator of engagement in agriculture of the area (AGRI), and a measure of per capita income as stratification factors (PERCAPITA).

PSTRONG is defined to be the percentage of occupied housing units that are classified as made of strong materials in terms of both the roof and outer walls, based on the data from the 2000 CPH. A roof is considered made of strong material if it is made of either galvanized iron, aluminum, concrete/clay tile, half galvanized-half concrete, or asbestos. The outer wall is considered made of strong material if it is made of concrete, brick, stone, wood, half concrete-half wood, galvanized iron, asbestos or glass.

AGRI was determined in the following way: initially, an indicator variable was computed at the barangay level. That variable has the value 1 if more than 50 percent of the households in the barangay were engaged in agriculture or fisheries and 0 otherwise, based on the 2000 CPH Barangay Schedule. To obtain a measure at the PSU level, a weighted average of the barangay indicator variable was computed for all the barangays within the PSU, weighted by the total number of households in the barangay. Thus, the value of AGRI at the PSU level lies between 0 and 1.

PERCAPITA is defined as the total income of the municipality divided by the total population in that municipality. Note that the PERCAPITA value of the PSUs is the same if the PSUs are in the same municipality. The data on municipal income refer to year 2000 and were taken from the Department of Finance. However, if the 2000 municipal income was not reported to the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), 2001 income was used. If no 2000 or 2001 municipal income was reported, the income classification from the BLGF for this municipality was obtained. Using the data on income, which are presented in income intervals, the average of the lower and the upper values of the income interval for the municipal class to which this municipality belongs were determined.

5. Sample Selection

The 2003 MS consists of a sample of 2,835 PSUs. The entire MS was divided into four sub-samples or independent replicates, such as a quarter sample contains one fourth of the total PSUs; a half sample contains one-half of the four subsamples or equivalent to all PSUs in two replicates.

The final number of sample PSUs for each domain was determined by first classifying PSUs as either self-representing (SR) or non-self-representing (NSR). In addition, to facilitate the selection of subsamples, the total number of NSR PSUs in each region was adjusted to make it a multiple of 4.

SR PSUs refers to a very large PSU in the region/domain with a selection probability of approximately 1 or higher and is outright included in the MS; it is properly treated as a stratum; also known as certainty PSU. NSR PSUs refers to a regular too small sized PSU in a region/domain; also known as non certainty PSU. The 2003 MS consists of 330 certainty PSUs and 2,505 non-certainty PSUs.

To have some control over the sub-sample size, the PSUs were selected with probability proportional to some estimated measure of size. The size measure refers to the total number of households from the 2000 CPH. Because of the wide variation in PSU sizes, PSUs with selection probabilities greater than 1 were identified and were included in the sample as certainty selections.

At the second stage, enumeration areas (EAs) were selected within sampled PSUs, and at the third stage, housing units were selected within sampled EAs. Generally, all households in sampled housing units were enumerated, except for few cases when the number of households in a housing unit exceeds three. In which case, a sample of three households in a sampled housing unit was selected at random with equal probability.

An EA is defined as an area with discernable boundaries within barangays consisting of about 150 contiguous households. These EAs were identified during the 2000 CPH. A housing unit, on the other hand, is a structurally separate and independent place of abode which, by the way it has been constructed, converted, or arranged, is intended for habitation by a household.

Response Rate

Survey on Overseas Filipinos is a rider to the October round of the Labor Force Survey every year.

Column 11 of the Labor Force Survey questionnaire (ISH Form 2) is used to identify the overseas contract worker and other overseas Filipino worker among the household members.

All of these household members have a corresponding SOF questionnaires and these questionnaires are all responded.

Weighting

Calculation of Basic Weights:

Following a standard approach, the weights to be used in analyzing surveys based on the 2003 MS are developed in three stages.

First, base weights are computed to compensate for the unequal selection probabilities in the sample design.
Second, the base weights are adjusted to compensate for unit non-response.
Third , the non-response adjusted weights are further adjusted to make some weighted sample distributions to conform to some known population totals.

Final Survey Weight

The final survey weight assigned to each responding unit is computed as the product of the base weight, the non-response adjustment, and the population weighting adjustment. The final weights should be used in all analyses to produce valid estimates of population parameters.

Questionnaires

Overview

SOF Form 2 is the household (HH) control form. It should be properly filled up since this is the basis for determining households with members who are overseas. Only those sample HHs with members overseas shall be given SOF Form 1, that is, those HHs that responded "YES" to the question, "Is there a family member who left for abroad at anytime during the period October 2003 to September 2008" in column 4 of SOF Form 2.

Take note that there may be overseas Filipinos (OF) who were listed as OFs in Column 11 of ISH Form 2 (Labor Force Survey Questionnaire) though their departure may be outside the 5-year reference period since there is no cut-off period for LFS (Labor Force Survey) In this case, list the OF in the control form but do not assign an SOF Form 1. Put the necessary remarks in SOF Form 2. Give particular attention also to previous OFs who went abroad anytime in October 2003 to September 2008 and are now regular members of the HH (with code "5" in Column 11 of ISH Form 2). They should be reported in SOF Form 2 and be assigned an SOF Form 1.

SOF Form 1 is a two-page questionnaire designed to gather data on the number and socioeconomic characteristics of overseas Filipinos and their remittances.

Each sample HH of the ISH with family members who left for abroad during the reference period should be given one (1) SOF questionnaire. SOF Form 1 allows the
recording of answers for only one person in the sample HH. In cases where there are more than one family member who left abroad, additional questionnaire/s are needed, thereby asking the same set of questions for each person who left for abroad.

The entries for the marital status and highest grade completed may not be consistent with the entries in ISH Form 2 since these refer to the status of the person at the time of departure. Note that the entry in the highest grade completed in LFS should be equal or higher than that
reported in SOF.

Sof Forms 1 and 2 are provided as external resources.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start
2008-10-08

End
2008-10-30

Cycle
N/A

Time Periods

Start
2008-10-08

End
2008-10-30

Cycle
N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

Training:

There are three levels of training:
1. The first level involves the training of task force members conducted at the Central Office participated by selected central office personnel, selected regional or provincial staff.

2. The second level training is held at the Regional Offices participated by the Provincial Statistical Officers, Regional Statisticians, and Provincial Statisticians. Regional or provincial staff who attended the Task Force Training will act as trainers during the second level training.

3. The third level training is held at the Provincial Offices participated by the District Statistics Officers, Statistical coordination Officers and hired Statistical Researchers. The provincial staff who attended the second level training will act as trainers in this level of training.

Enumeration:
The enumeration period will start on the second week up to the end of October including Saturdays. The total mandays given to each enumerator to complete his/her workload will depend on the assigned sample areas but must not go beyond 21 days.

Survey on Overseas Worker Filipinos is a rider to the Labor Force Survey (LFS). All households from the sample barangays/EAs shall be administered with the LFS questionnaire (ISH Form 2) with an output of six to eight households per day.

A courtesy call to the head of the Barangay were done to inform that there is an on-going survey in their area.

There was no translation of questionnaire into local dialect.

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Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
National Statistics Office	NSO	

Supervision

The Regional Directors (RDs), Provincial Statistical Officers (PSOs) , Provincial Statisticians and selected District Statistics Officers (DSOs)/ Statistical Coordination Officers (SCOs) were provided funds for supervision. It is expected that there should always be strict supervision on the conduct of the survey.

Prior to start of field supervision, all field personnel who are authorized to supervise the survey operation were required to prepare an itinerary of travel to insure effective and close supervision of the enumerators. A copy of the itinerary of travel were required to be available in the field office so that in case some problems or other matters require the attention of a supervisor, then he can be located easily.

It is the responsibility of the supervisors to give prompt action to problems in the field. The RDs, PSOs and their assistants should visit enumerators (ENs) within their jurisdiction to find out for themselves if instructions are being followed.

Central Office Statisticians were assigned to provinces to supervise and monitor the conduct of the survey.

Data Processing

Data Editing

Prior to the submission of questionnaires to the Central Office, It is the responsibility of each interviewer to review each questionnaire when the interview is finished. The review must be done before leaving the HH to make sure that all answers are clear, legible and complete. Also check that skipping instructions are correctly followed.

Manual processing was done at the Central Office. This process includes the folioing of the questionnaires, completeness and consistency checking of the responses, editing and coding of responses. This is done prior to machine processing.

Other Processing

For data entry, CSPro Version 2.6 was used. Data entry of the questionnaires was done at the Central Office.

Machine processing includes data entry, completeness check, consistency checking, matching of selected data items to the Labor Force Survey questionnaires and tabulation.

When the generated tables showed inconsistencies, selected data items were subjected to further scrutiny and validation. The cycle of generation of consistency tables and data validation were done until questionable data items were verified.

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

Please visit the NSO Website for the press and special release of the 2008 Survey on Overseas Filipinos.
(http://www.census.gov.ph)