

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF WORKERS' REMITTANCES AND LABOUR MIGRATION

QUARTER 1 - 2023



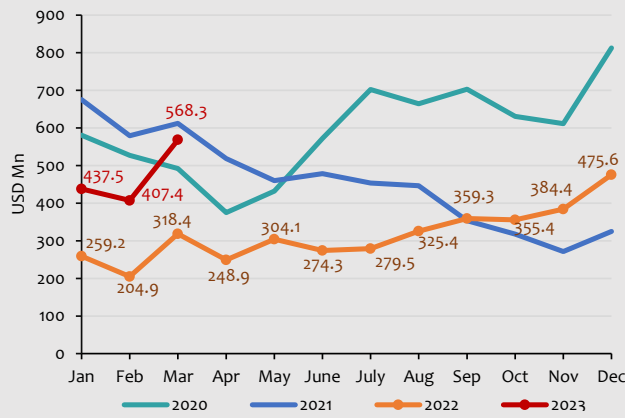
ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Highlights

- Workers' remittances increased to USD 568.3 million in March 2023 from USD 318.4 million in March 2022, recording the highest monthly remittances since April 2021.
- Total workers' remittances during the first quarter of 2023 amounted to USD 1,413.2 million.
- The highest amount of remittances was received from Kuwait followed by Qatar and UAE in the first quarter of 2023.
- Total departures for foreign employment increased in the first quarter of 2023 recording a monthly average of 25,366.

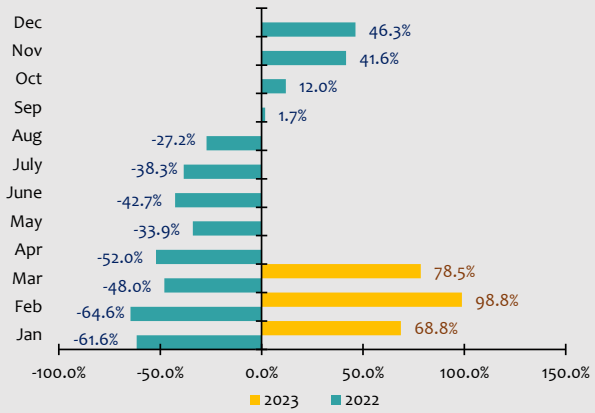
Developments in Workers' Remittance Inflows

Figure 1: Monthly Movement



Source: Licensed Banks

Figure 2: Y-o-Y Growth (%)



Source: Licensed Banks

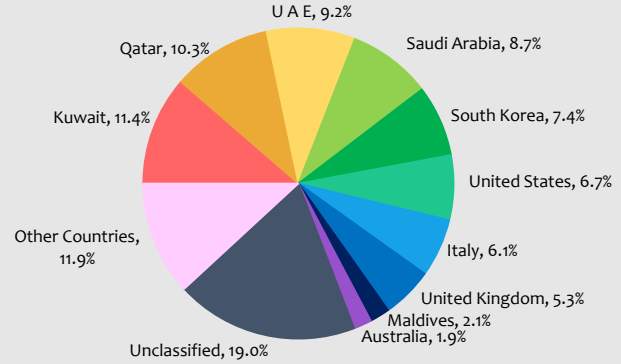
Inflow of workers' remittances further improved in the first quarter of 2023 recording a monthly average of USD 471 million, compared to a monthly average of USD 261 million in the first quarter of 2022.

Figure 3: Workers' Remittance Inflows by Country (January-March 2023) (a)



Source: Licensed Banks

Figure 4: Distribution of Workers' Remittance Inflows by Country (January-March 2023)

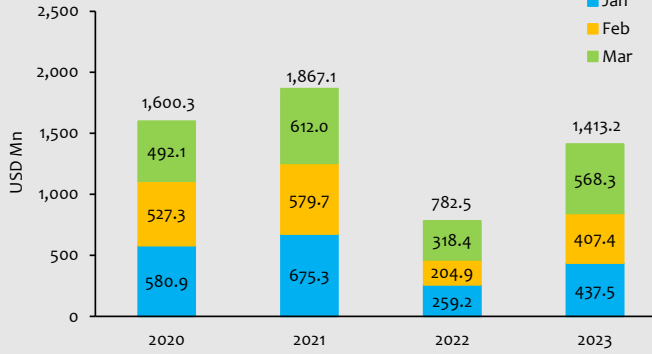


Source: Licensed Banks

The highest volume of workers' remittances was received from Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

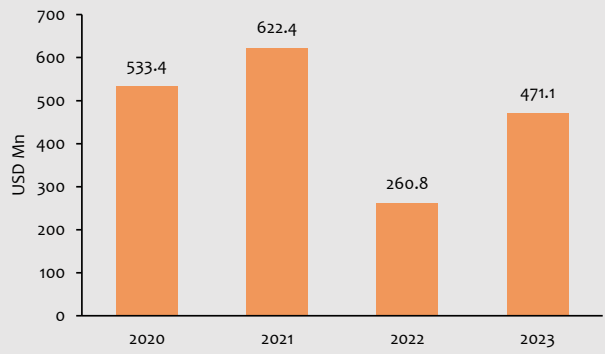
(a) USD 167.7 million received through other countries and USD 268.4 million received through some of the Global remittance channels, Apps and other channels are not included in country-wise workers' remittances

Figure 5: Cumulative Inward Workers' Remittances January-March (2020 - 2023)



Source: Licensed Banks

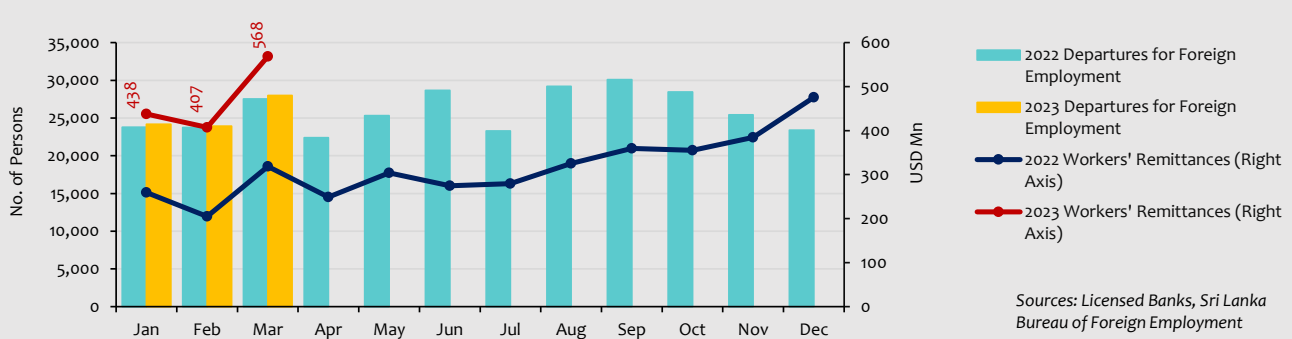
Figure 6: Monthly Average of Workers' Remittances January-March (2020 - 2023)



Source: Licensed Banks

Performance of Workers' Remittances and Departures for Foreign Employment

Figure 7: Workers' Remittances vs Departures for Foreign Employment

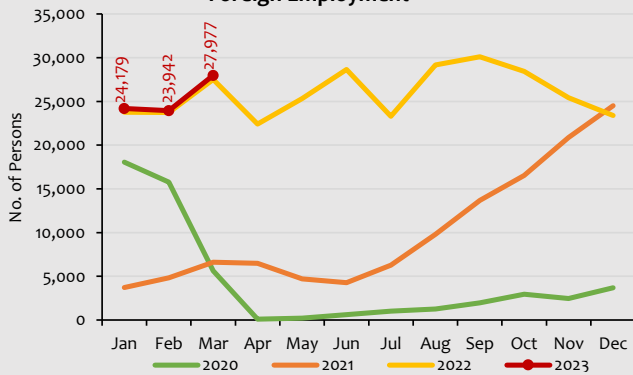


Sources: Licensed Banks, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Workers' remittances remained elevated in recent months in line with higher departures for foreign employment.

Developments in Labour Migration

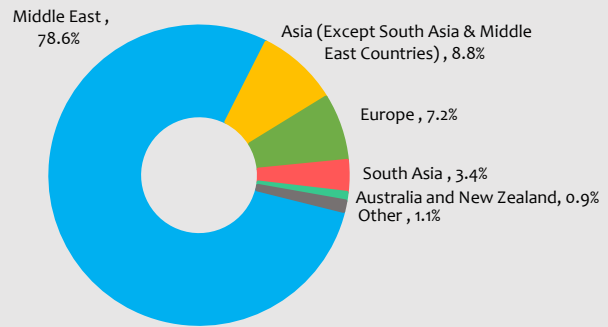
Figure 8: Monthly Movement of Departures for Foreign Employment



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

The total departures for foreign employment in the first quarter of 2023 remained mostly similar to that in the first quarter of 2022.

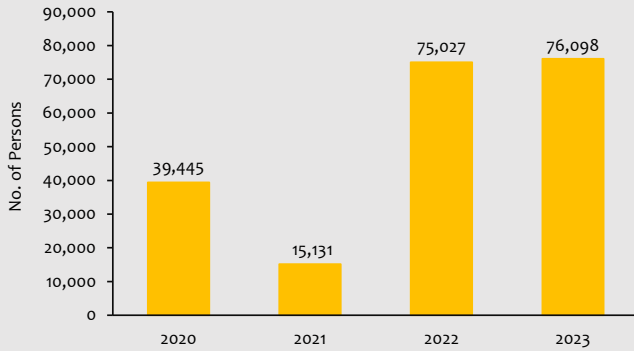
Figure 9: Departures by Region of Destination (January-March 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

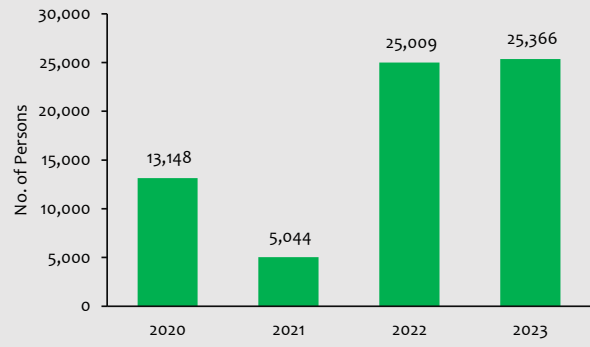
Majority of departures of migrant workers were to the Middle Eastern region (78.6%) but were lower than that of Q4 2022 (84.7%).

Figure 10: Trends in Departures January-March (2020 - 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

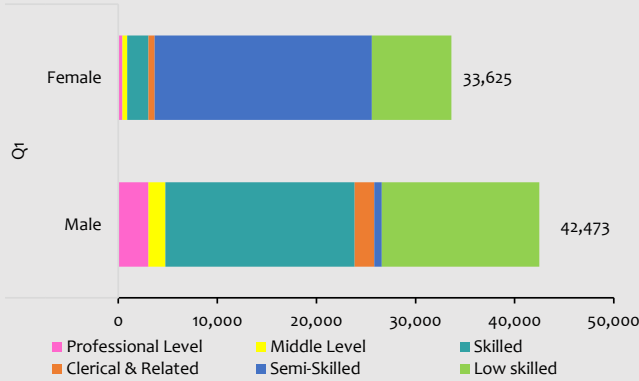
Figure 11: Average of Monthly Departures January-March (2020 - 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

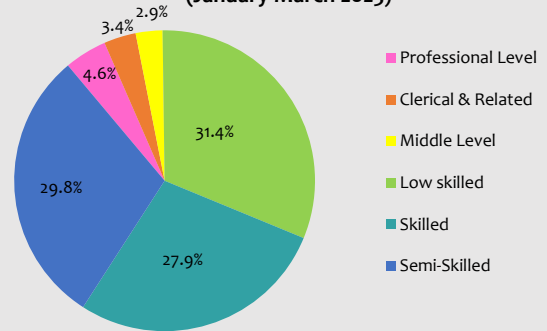
Departures for Foreign Employment by Manpower Level: January-March 2023

Figure 12: No. of Departures by Gender and Employment Category (January-March 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Figure 13: Composition of Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Manpower Level (January-March 2023)



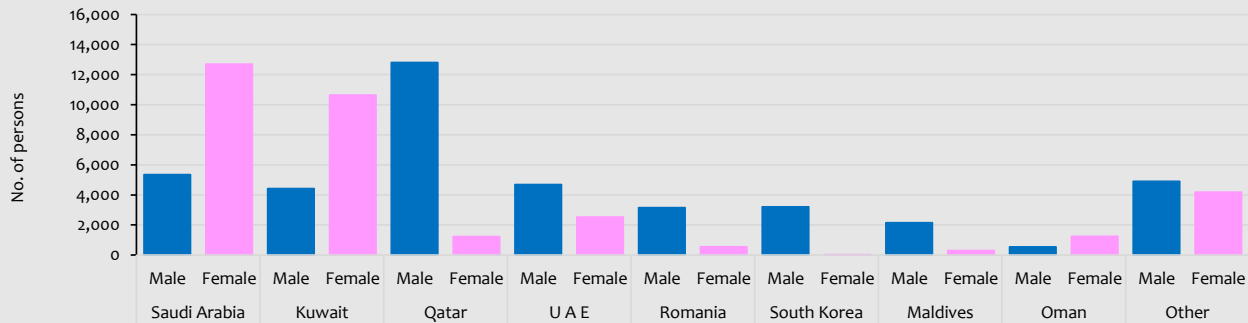
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Female departures for foreign employment are highly concentrated on semi-skilled category, while male departures are concentrated on skilled category.

Nearly 60% of departures for foreign employment is concentrated in the semi-skilled and low skilled categories.

Trend of Gender-wise Departures by Country: January-March 2023

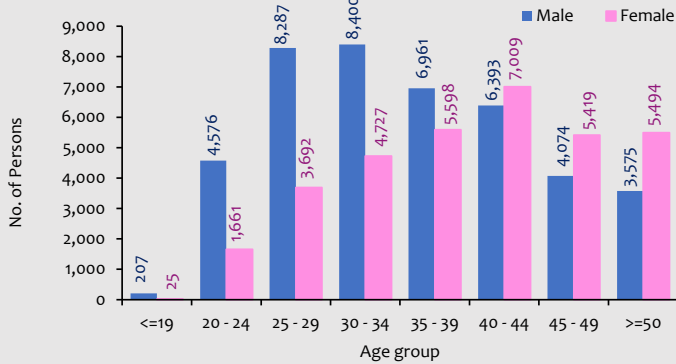
Figure 14: Gender-wise Departures by Country (January-March 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

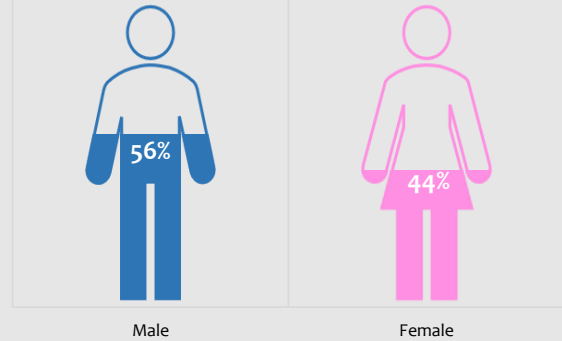
Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Age Group and Gender: January-March 2023

Figure 15: Total Departures for Employment by Age



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Figure 16: Total departures for employment by Gender

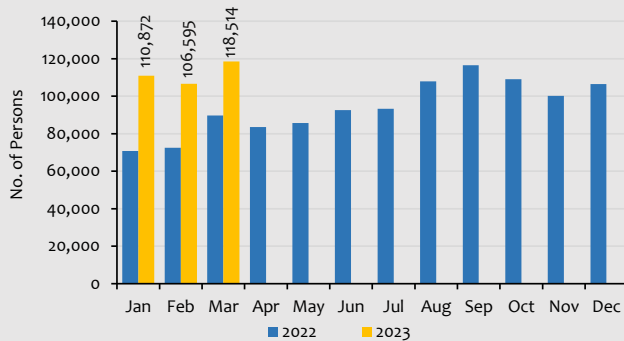


Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Highest percentage of male migrant workers (20%) are in the age group of 30 - 34 years whereas most of the female workers (21%) are in age group of 40 - 44 years.

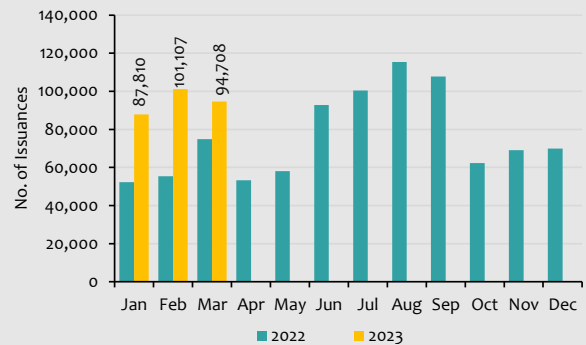
Total Departures (including departures for foreign employment) and Passport Issuances

Figure 17: Total Departures by Sri Lankans (Monthly)



Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

Figure 18: Passport Issuances (Monthly)



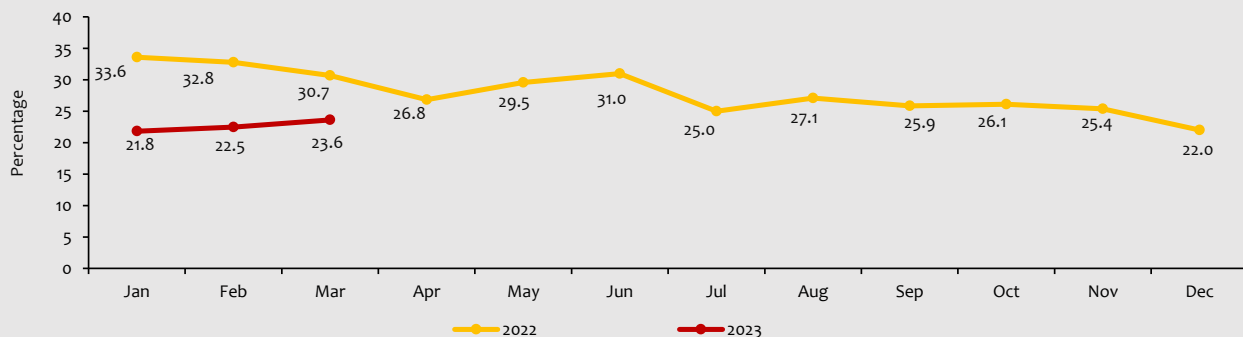
Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

Total monthly departures are high throughout the Q1 of 2023.

In line with the higher departures for foreign employment, passport issuances increased in Q1 of 2023.

Departures for Foreign Employment Vs Total Departures by Sri Lankans

Figure 19: Migrant Workers as a percentage of Total Departures by Sri Lankans

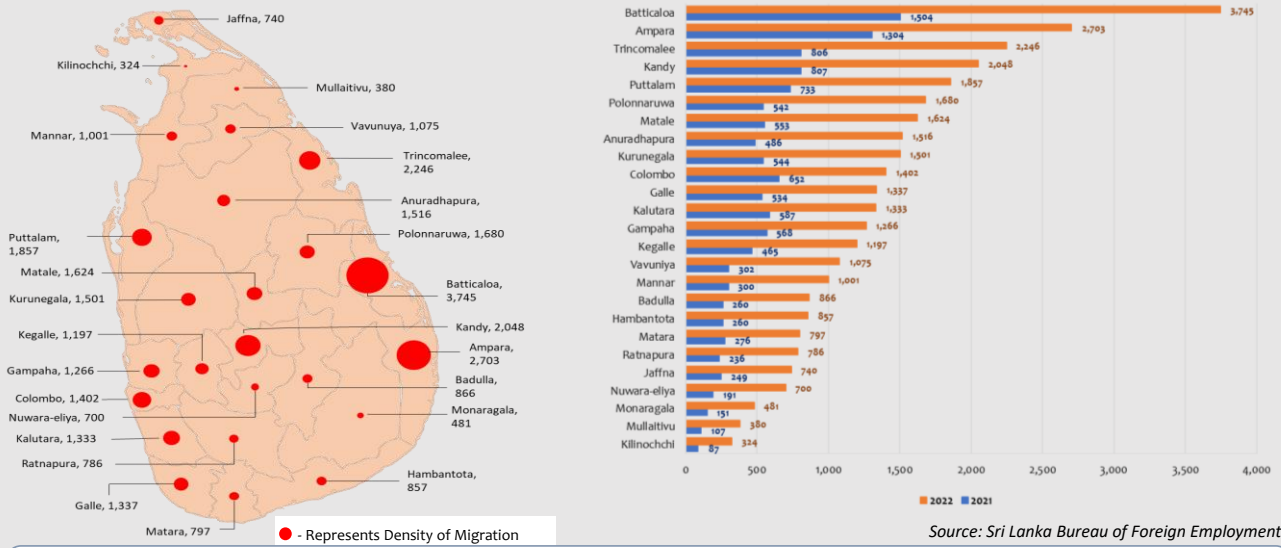


Migrant workers as a percentage of total departures of Sri Lankans are relatively low in the first quarter of 2023, compared to corresponding period of 2022.

Note: Total departures include all Sri Lankan departures

Density of Migrant Worker Departures

Figure 20 : Departures for Foreign Employment per 100,000 Population by District



The highest percentage of migration in comparison to the population of each district was reported from Batticaloa in 2021 and 2022.

Global Comparison

Figure 21: Inflow of Workers' Remittances in selected South Asian Countries - 2020 & 2021

