

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF WORKERS' REMITTANCES AND LABOUR MIGRATION

QUARTER 2 - 2023



ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

Highlights

- Workers' remittances increased notably to USD 475.7 million in June 2023 in comparison to USD 274.3 million in June 2022.
- Total workers' remittances during the first half of 2023 amounted to USD 2,822.6 million.
- The highest amount of remittances was received from Kuwait followed by Qatar and UAE in the second quarter of 2023.
- Total departures for foreign employment amounted to 146,885 during the first half of 2023 recording a monthly average of 24,481.

Developments in Workers' Remittance Inflows

Figure 1: Monthly Movement

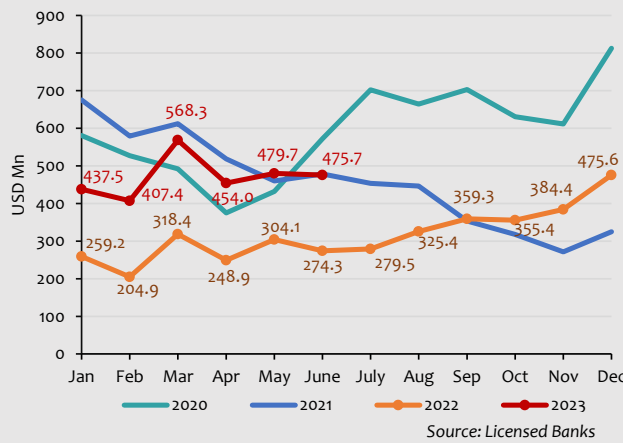
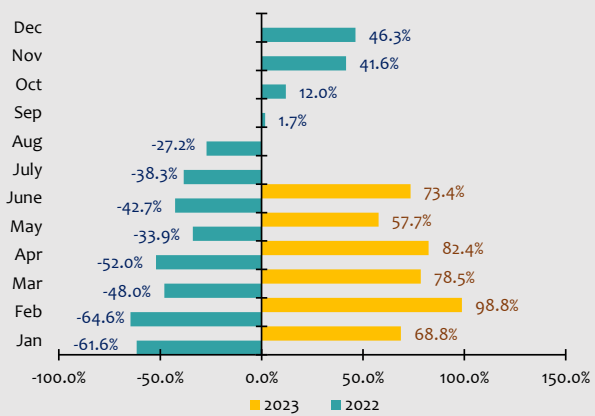


Figure 2: Y-o-Y Growth (%)



Inflow of workers' remittances recorded a monthly average of USD 470 million during the second quarter of 2023, compared to a monthly average of USD 471 million in the first quarter of 2023.

Figure 3: Workers' Remittance Inflows by Country (Q2 2023) (a)

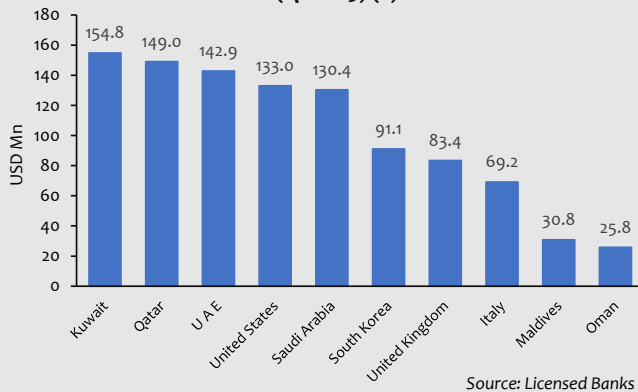
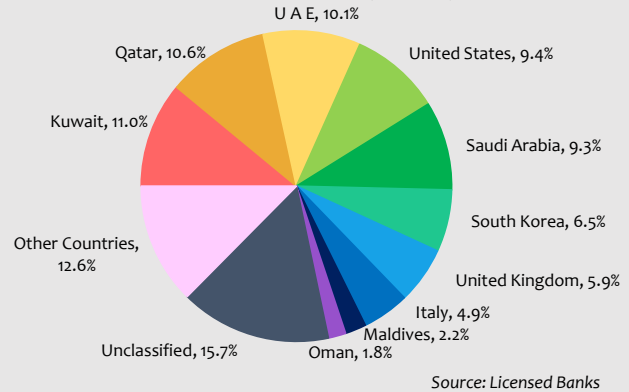


Figure 4: Distribution of Workers' Remittance Inflows by Country (Q2 2023)



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

(a) USD 177.3 million received through other countries and USD 221.6 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-June (2020 - 2023)

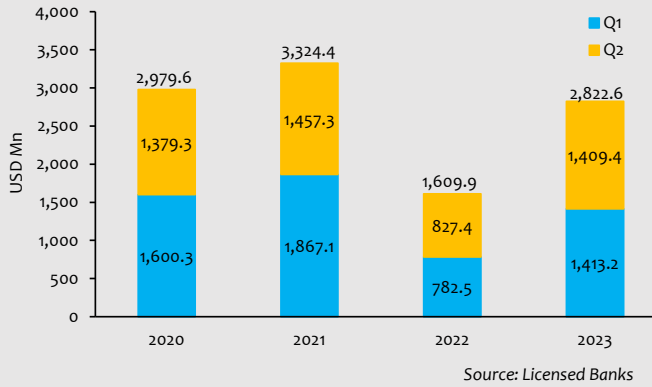
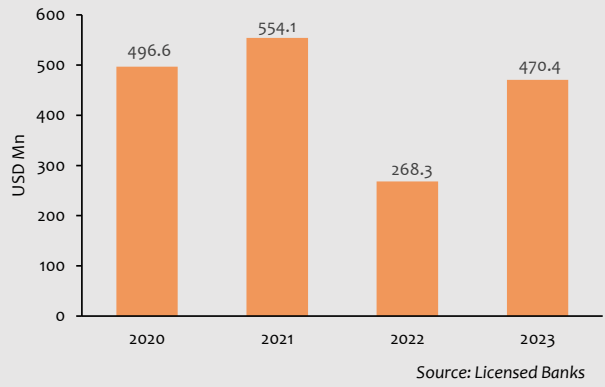
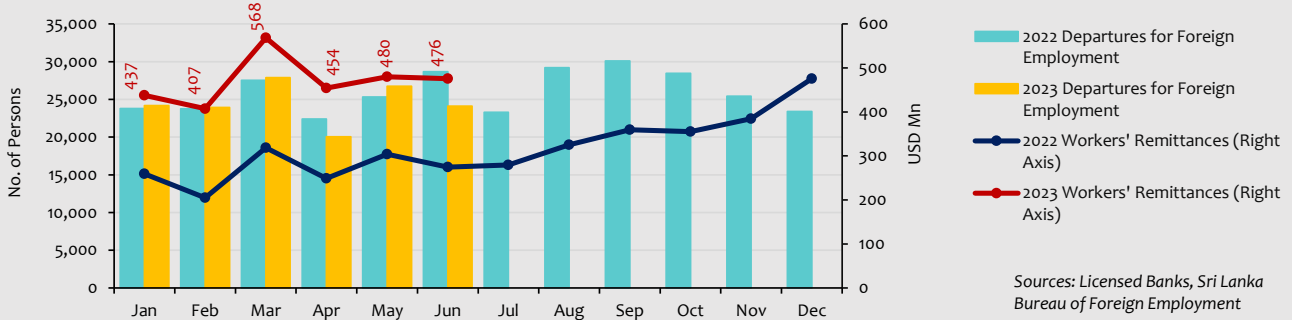


Figure 6: Monthly Average of Workers' Remittances January-June (2020 - 2023)



Performance of Workers' Remittances and Departures for Foreign Employment

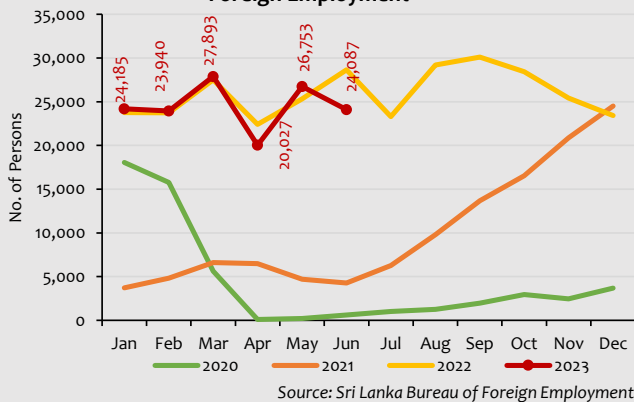
Figure 7: Workers' Remittances vs Departures for Foreign Employment



Workers' remittances remained at similar levels in recent months, however being elevated compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, in line with higher departures for foreign employment.

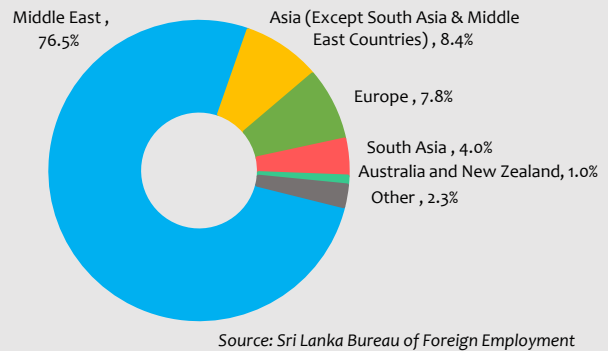
Developments in Labour Migration

Figure 8: Monthly Movement of Departures for Foreign Employment



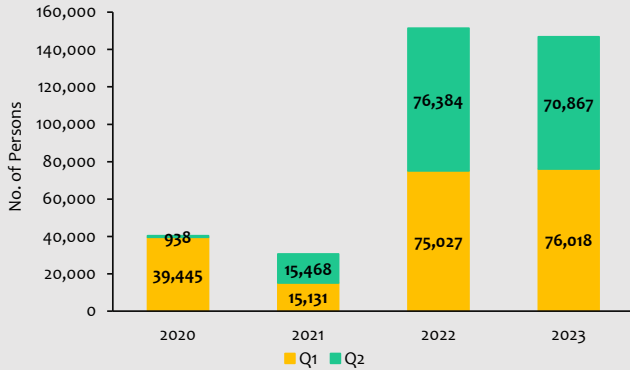
The total departures for foreign employment in the second quarter of 2023 declined marginally when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

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



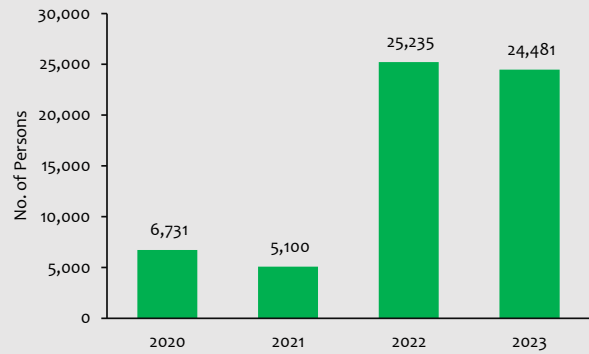
Majority of departures of migrant workers were to the Middle Eastern region (76.5%) during the first half of 2023.

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



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

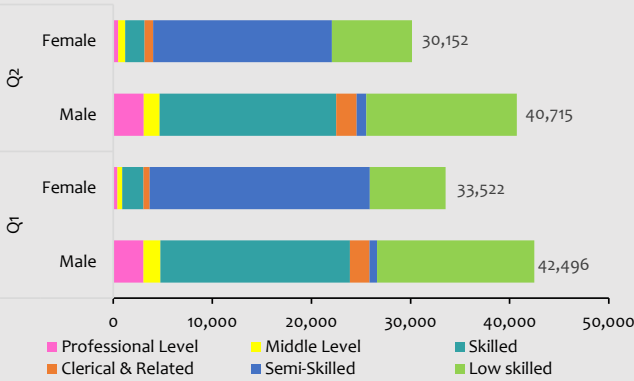
Figure 11: Average of Monthly Departures January-June (2020 - 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

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

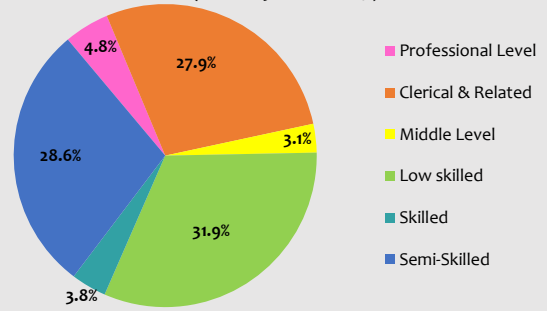
Figure 12: No. of Departures by Gender and Employment Category (January-June 2023)



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.

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

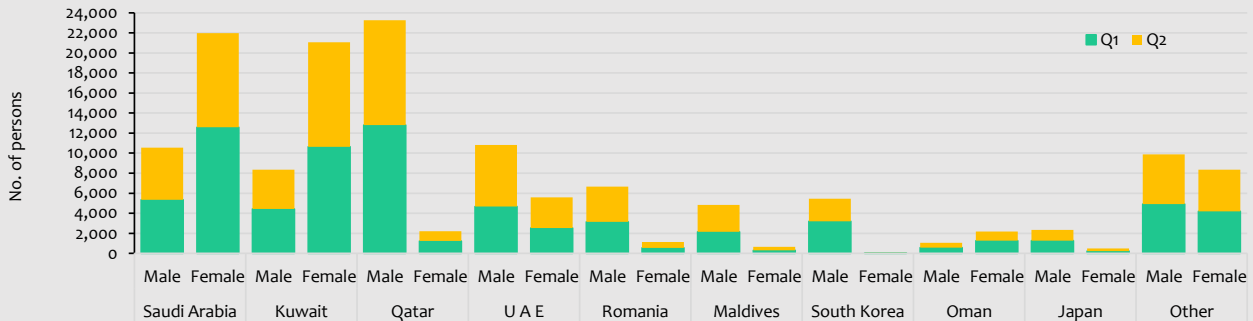


Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

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-June 2023

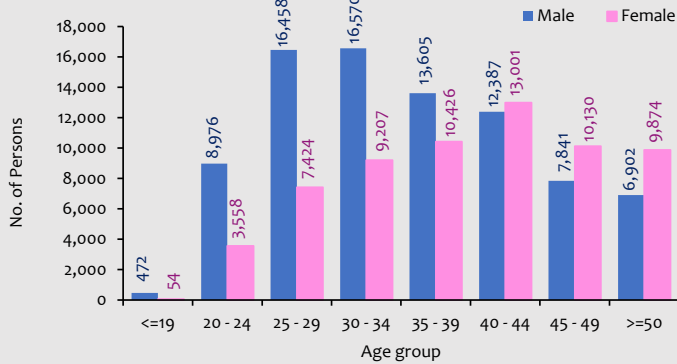
Figure 14: Gender-wise Departures by Country (January-June 2023)



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

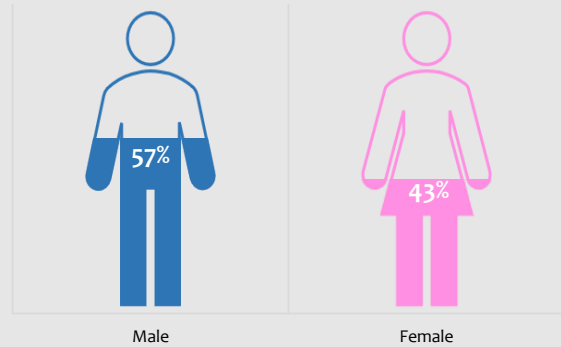
Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Age Group and Gender: January-June 2023

Figure 15: Total Departures for Employment by Age



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Figure 16: Total departures for employment by Gender

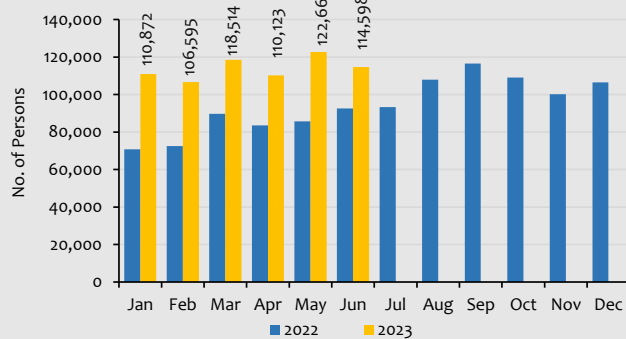


Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

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

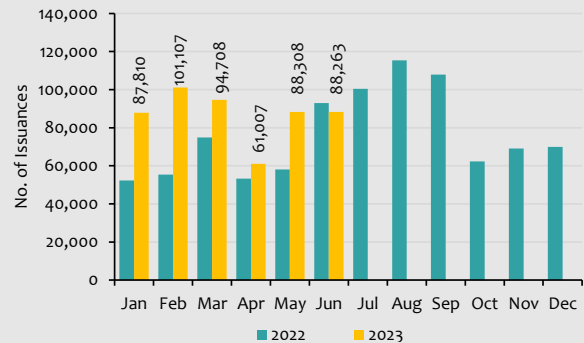
Total Departures (including departures for foreign employment) and Passport Issuances

Figure 17: Total Departures by Sri Lankans (Monthly)



Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

Figure 18: Passport Issuances (Monthly)



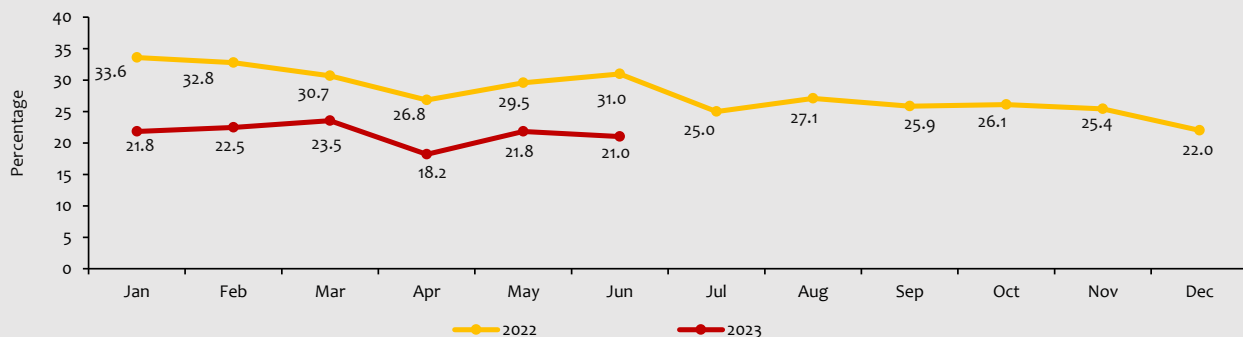
Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

Total monthly departures are high throughout the first half of 2023.

In line with the higher departures for foreign employment, passport issuances increased in the first half 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

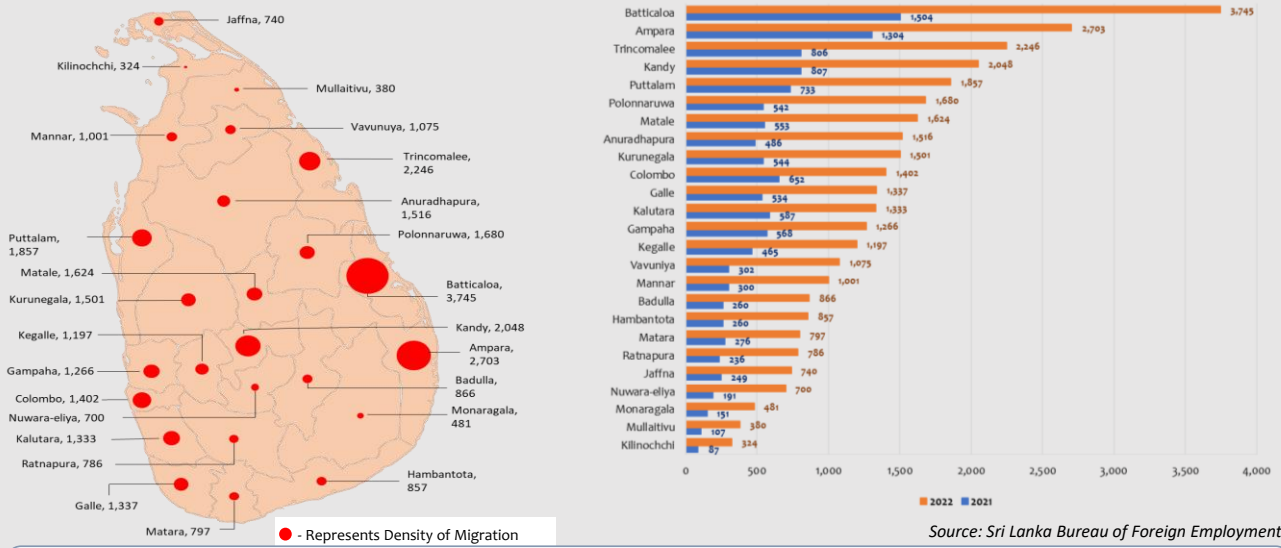


Migrant workers as a percentage of total departures of Sri Lankans are relatively low in the first half of 2023, compared to corresponding period of 2022.

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

