Highlights ....

- Workers’ remittances increased notably to USD 482.4 million in September 2023 in comparison to USD 359.3 million in September 2022.
- Total workers’ remittances in 2023 up to September amounted to USD 4,345.1 million.
- The highest amount of remittances was received from Kuwait followed by UAE and Qatar in the third quarter of 2023.
- Total departures for foreign employment amounted to 224,133 up to September of 2023 recording a monthly average of 24,904.

Inflow of workers’ remittances recorded a monthly average of USD 507 million during the third quarter of 2023, compared to a monthly average of USD 470 million in the second quarter of 2023.

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

(a) USD 100.4 million received through other countries and USD 287.2 mn received through some of the Global remittance channels, Apps and other channels are not included in country-wise workers’ remittances.

(b) Remittances from the United States and the United Kingdom mainly includes remittances diverted from other source countries through the United States and the United Kingdom, which is a part of the mechanism of cross border forex transactions arrangements.
Performance of Workers’ Remittances and Departures for Foreign Employment

Developments in Labour Migration

Workers’ remittances remained broadly stable in recent months, however at elevated levels compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Majority of departures of migrant workers from January to September of 2023 were to the Middle Eastern region (77.4%).

The total departures for foreign employment in the third quarter of 2023 declined when compared to the third quarter of 2022.
Figure 9: Trends in Quarterly Departures January-September (2020 - 2023)

Figure 10: Monthly Average of Departures January-September (2020 - 2023)

Departures for Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment by Manpower Level: January-September 2023

Figure 11: No. of Departures by Gender and Employment Category (January-September 2023)

Figure 12: Composition of Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Manpower Level (January-September 2023)

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

Figure 13: Gender-wise Quarterly Departures by Country (January-September 2023)

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Age Group and Gender: January-September 2023

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

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

Departures for Foreign Employment Vs Total Departures by Sri Lankans

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

Note: Total departures include all Sri Lankan departures.
The highest percentage of migration in comparison to the population of each district was reported from Batticaloa in 2021 and 2022.

**Global Comparison**

Figure 20: Inflow of Workers’ Remittances in South Asian Countries - 2021 & 2022