Annual Statistical Report of Foreign Employment 2025

This is the thirtieth series of annual statistical report published by the
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
That provides a continuous review of the trend and development of the foreign employment industry in Sri Lanka.

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OUTWARD LABOUR MIGRATION IN SRI LANKA- 2025

2025 Highlights



Total Registration of Migrant Employees with the SLBFE = 311,223



Foreign Exchange Earnings = US$ Million 8076.2



Gender Contribution

- Male Migrant Workers Contribution 190,881
- Female Migrant Workers Contribution 120,342 in 2025



No. of Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies = 995



No. of Participants for Training Courses

- Domestic trainings = 28,898
- Non-domestic training = 55,648



Recruitment Channels

Approximately 202,591 Workers Recruited Through Private Sources

Through Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies 108,632 workers



Major destinations

of Sri Lankan Employees

Kuwait =77,657 U.A.E = 59,611 Qatar = 44,914 K.S.A. = 36,441

Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE by Gender 1986-2025

Year	Male		Female		Total
	No	%	No	%	
1986	11,023	76.25	3,433	23.75	14,456
1987	10,647	75.37	3,480	24.63	14,127
1988	8,309	45.09	10,119	54.91	18,428
1989	8,680	35.11	16,044	64.89	24,724
1990	15,377	36.08	27,248	63.92	42,625
1991	21,423	32.97	43,560	67.03	64,983
1992	34,858	27.99	89,636	72.01	124,494♣
1993	32,269	25.00	96,807	75.00	129,076♣
1994	16,377	27.22	43,791	72.78	60,168
1995	46,021	26.68	126,468	73.32	172,489
1996	43,112	26.52	119,464	73.48	162,576
1997	37,552	24.99	112,731	75.01	150,283
1998	53,867	33.71	105,949	66.29	159,816
1999	63,720	35.45	116,015	64.55	179,735
2000	59,793	32.82	122,395	67.18	182,188
2001	59,807	32.5	124,200	67.50	184,007
2002	70,522	34.61	133,251	65.39	203,773
2003	74,508	35.51	135,338	64.49	209,846
2004	80,699	37.59	134,010	62.41	214,709
2005	93,896	40.6	137,394	59.40	231,290
2006	90,170	44.65	111,778	55.35	201,948
2007	103,476	47.37	114,983	52.63	218,459
2008	128,232	51.19	122,267	48.81	250,499
2009	119,381	48.31	127,745	51.69	247,126
2010	136,850	51.16	130,657	48.84	267,507
2011	136,307	51.84	126,654	48.16	262,961
2012	144,135	51.03	138,312	48.97	282,447
2013	175,185	59.75	118,033	40.25	293,218
2014	190,217	63.26	110,486	36.74	300,703
2015	172,788	65.59	90,655	34.41	263,443
2016	160,306	66.02	82,510	33.98	242,816
2017	139,268	65.69	72,724	34.31	211,992
2018	129,712	61.41	81,499	38.58	211,211
2019	122,257	60.2	80,830	39.80	203,087
2020	32,500	60.51	21,211	39.49	53,711
2021	81,110	66.34	41,154	33.66	122,264
2022	186,947	60.12	124,006	39.88	310,953
2023	164,681	44.66	132,906	55,34	297,587
2024	186,658	59.32	128,012	40.68	314,670
2025	190,881	61.33	120,342	38.67	311,223

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE
♣ Airport Survey-SLBFE

Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE by Country and Manpower Level 2025

Country	Skilled			Low Skilled			Total
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
Kuwait	57,406	15,013	72,419	1,299	3,939	5,238	77,657
U A E	13,672	29,056	42,728	3,849	13,034	16,883	59,611
Saudi Arabia	13,821	13,720	27,541	780	8,120	8,900	36,441
Qatar	4,270	28,029	32,299	996	11,619	12,615	44,914
Maldives	1,222	6,820	8,042	376	2,650	3,026	11,068
Romania	679	5,874	6,553	1,080	4,964	6,044	12,597
Israel	104	7,047	7,151	1,614	4,487	6,101	13,252
Japan	2,084	7,008	9,092	297	1,701	1,998	11,090
Oman	3,802	2,145	5,947	268	813	1,081	7,028
South Korea	8	616	624	151	5,719	5,870	6,494
Jordan	1,869	1,057	2,926	366	343	709	3,635
Bahrain	1,549	1,480	3,029	119	571	690	3,719
Cyprus	2,415	463	2,878	151	771	922	3,800
United Kingdom	987	974	1,961	48	76	124	2,085
Singapore	976	1,035	2,011	295	88	383	2,394
Malaysia	586	585	1,171	148	511	659	1,830
Seychelles	59	1,059	1,118	40	134	174	1,292
Lebanon	958	20	978	8	146	154	1,132
Serbia	30	751	781	89	301	390	1,171
Russia	428	869	1,297	29	166	195	1,492
New Zealand	66	583	649	3	81	84	733
Australia	138	556	694	7	42	49	743
Turkey	5	645	650	34	938	972	1,622
Bangladesh	25	405	430	2	20	22	452
Hong Kong	296	54	350	166	60	226	576
Iraq	5	114	119	0	144	144	263
Canada	55	128	183	6	17	23	206
Ireland	54	358	412	1	25	26	438
Mauritius	119	87	206	5	4	9	215
Malta	45	162	207	13	46	59	266
Lithuania	7	93	100	2	1	3	103
India	24	144	168	0	9	9	177
Papua New Guinea	7	175	182	1	7	8	190
Fiji	8	99	107	0	3	3	110
Bulgaria	4	13	17	8	44	52	69
Poland	10	121	131	2	24	26	157
Vietnam	11	105	116	0	8	8	124
Ethiopia	3	67	70	0	1	1	71
Others	243	1430	1673	39	294	333	2006
Total	**108,050**	**128,960**	**237,010**	**12,292**	**61,921**	**74,213**	**311,223**

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Total Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE by Manpower Level 1994-2025

Year	Skilled	%	Low skilled	%	Total
1994	51344	85.33	8,824	14.67	60,168
1995	148992	86.38	23,497	13.62	172,489
1996	140647	86.51	21,929	13.49	162,576
1997	129718	86.32	20,565	13.68	150,283
1998	125512	78.54	34,304	21.46	159,816
1999	135964	75.65	43,771	24.35	179,735
2000	146429	80.37	35,759	19.63	182,188
2001	150622	81.86	33,385	18.14	184,007
2002	167288	82.1	36,485	17.9	203,773
2003	165582	78.91	44,264	21.09	209,846
2004	171505	79.88	43,204	20.12	214,709
2005	189386	81.88	41,904	18.12	231,290
2006	161036	79.74	40,912	20.26	201,948
2007	162784	74.51	55,675	25.49	218,459
2008	185934	74.23	64,565	25.77	250,499
2009	190,938	77.26	56,188	22.74	247,126
2010	202,153	75.57	65,354	24.43	267,507
2011	195,101	74.19	67,860	25.81	262,961
2012	216,073	76.5	66,374	23.5	282,447
2013	218,829	74.63	74,389	25.37	293,218
2014	217,207	72.23	83,496	27.77	300,703
2015	180,611	68.56	82,832	31.44	263,443
2016	167,234	68.87	75,582	31.13	242,816
2017	147,641	69.64	64,351	30.36	211,992
2018	156,739	74.21	54,472	25.79	211,211
2019	148,949	73.34	54,138	26.66	203,087
2020	38,935	72.49	14,776	27.51	53,711
2021	88,658	72.51	33,606	27.49	122,264
2022	207,369	66.69	103,584	33.31	310,953
2023	208,465	70.05	89,122	29.95	297,587
2024	244,364	77.66	70,306	22.34	314,670
2025	237,010	76.15	74,213	23.85	311,223

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Registration of Male Migrant Employees with the SLBFE by Manpower Level 1994-2025

Year	Skilled		Low-skilled		Total
	No	%	No	%	
1994	9572	58.45	6,805	41.55	16,377
1995	26,430	57.43	19,591	42.57	46,021
1996	24,472	56.76	18,640	43.24	43,112
1997	20,760	55.28	16,792	44.72	37,552
1998	29,314	54.42	24,553	45.58	53,867
1999	33,608	52.74	30,112	47.26	63,720
2000	33423	55.90	26,370	44.10	59,793
2001	34,223	57.22	25,584	42.78	59,807
2002	41,392	58.69	29,130	41.31	70,522
2003	43,671	58.61	30,837	41.39	74,508
2004	46,887	58.10	33,812	41.9	80,699
2005	55,344	58.94	38,552	41.06	93,896
2006	53,245	59.05	36,925	40.95	90,170
2007	53,201	51.41	50,275	48.59	103,476
2008	70,304	54.83	57,928	45.17	128,232
2009	69,920	58.57	49,461	41.43	119,381
2010	81,020	59.20	55,830	40.80	136,850
2011	79,014	57.97	57,293	42.03	136,307
2012	87,698	60.84	56,437	39.16	144,135
2013	111,140	63.44	64,045	36.56	175,185
2014	119,083	62.60	71,134	37.40	190,217
2015	100,177	57.98	72,611	42.02	172,788
2016	95,256	59.42	65,050	40.58	160,306
2017	84,939	60.99	54,329	39.01	139,268
2018	84,317	65.00	45,395	35.00	129,712
2019	78,852	64.50	43,405	35.50	122,257
2020	20,948	64.46	11,552	35.54	32,500
2021	54,350	67.01	26,760	32.99	81,110
2022	118,979	63.64	67,968	36.36	186,947
2023	106,859	64.89	57,822	35.11	164,681
2024	127.922	68.53	58,736	31.47	186,658
2025	128,960	67.56	61,921	32.44	190,881

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Registration of Female Migrant Employees with the SLBFE by Manpower Level 1994-2025

Year	Skilled		Low-skilled		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
1994	41,772	95.39	2,019	4.61	43,791
1995	122,562	96.91	3,906	3.09	126,468
1996	116,175	97.25	3,289	2.75	119,464
1997	108,958	96.65	3,773	3.35	112,731
1998	96,198	90.80	9,751	9.20	105,949
1999	102,356	88.23	13,659	11.77	116,015
2000	113,006	92.33	9,389	7.67	122,395
2001	116,399	93.72	7,801	6.28	124,200
2002	125,896	94.48	7,355	5.52	133,251
2003	121,911	90.08	13,427	9.92	135,338
2004	124,618	92.99	9,392	7.01	134,010
2005	134,042	97.56	3,352	2.44	137,394
2006	107,791	96.43	3,987	3.57	111,778
2007	109,583	95.30	5,400	4.70	114,983
2008	115,630	94.57	6,637	5.43	122,267
2009	121,018	94.73	6,727	5.27	127,745
2010	121,133	92.71	9,524	7.29	130,657
2011	116,087	91.66	10,567	8.34	126,654
2012	128,375	92.82	9,937	7.18	138,312
2013	107,689	91.24	10,344	8.76	118,033
2014	98,124	88.81	12,362	11.19	110,486
2015	80,434	88.73	10,221	11.27	90,655
2016	71,978	87.24	10,532	12.76	82,510
2017	62,702	86.22	10,022	13.78	72,724
2018	72,422	88.86	9,077	11.14	81,499
2019	70,097	86.72	10,733	13.28	80,830
2020	17,987	84.80	3,224	15.20	21,211
2021	34,308	83.36	6,846	16.64	41,154
2022	88,390	71.28	35,616	28.72	124,006
2023	101,606	76.45	31,300	23.55	132,906
2024	116,442	90.96	11,570	9.030	128,012
2025	108,050	89.79	12,292	10.21	120,342

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE through Private Sources (Self basis) & Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies by Gender 1997-2025

Year	Private Sources (Self-Basis)			Through Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1997	10,048	25,185	35,233	27,504	87,546	115,050
1998	18,918	28,335	47,253	34,949	77,614	112,563
1999	29,123	29,985	59,108	34,597	86,030	120,627
2000	27,157	27,416	54,573	32,636	94,979	127,615
2001	26,620	24,920	51,540	33,187	99,280	132,467
2002	28,030	22,769	50,799	42,492	110,482	152,974
2003	32,487	22,662	55,149	42,021	112,676	154,697
2004	34,563	24,000	58,563	46,136	110,010	156,146
2005	40,146	25,437	65,583	53,750	111,957	165,707
2006	36,579	24,192	60,771	53,591	87,586	141,177
2007	45,646	26,298	71,944	57,830	88,685	146,515
2008	59,504	30,022	89,526	68,728	92,245	160,973
2009	59,137	31,422	90,559	60,244	96,323	156,567
2010	73,735	33,274	107,009	63,115	97,383	160,498
2011	80,267	36,401	116,668	56,040	90,253	146,293
2012	72,331	34,947	107,278	71,804	103,365	175,169
2013	79,393	33,362	112,755	95,792	84,671	180,463
2014	87,815	36,059	123,874	102,402	74,427	176,829
2015	114,873	31,821	146,694	57,915	58,834	116,749
2016	119,847	34,987	154,834	40,459	47,523	87,982
2017	109,474	34,199	143,673	29,794	38,525	68,319
2018	109,502	35,006	144,508	20,210	46,493	66,703
2019	100,428	33,381	133,809	21,829	47,449	69,278
2020	26,605	9,041	35,646	5,895	12,170	18,065
2021	63,377	17,082	80,459	17,733	24,072	41,805
2022	139,313	48,344	187,657	47,634	75,662	123,296
2023	114,872	39,187	154,059	49,809	93,719	143,528
2024	148,106	45,724	193,830	38,552	82,288	120,840
2025	151,831	50,760	202,591	39,050	69,582	108,632

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE through Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies (LFEAs) by country and Manpower Level 2025

Country	Skilled			Low Skilled			Total
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
Kuwait	43,993	1,841	45,834	241	772	1,013	46,847
Saudi Arabia	10,577	4,191	14,768	318	2,483	2,801	17,569
Qatar	1,310	2,962	4,272	196	2,315	2,511	6,783
Romania	443	4,327	4,770	886	3,446	4,332	9,102
U A E	3,111	2,284	5,395	1,016	3,662	4,678	10,073
Jordan	1,314	692	2,006	227	216	443	2,449
Oman	2,052	176	2,228	69	178	247	2,475
Japan	847	1,164	2,011	0	2	2	2,013
Maldives	22	348	370	2	346	348	718
Cyprus	713	125	838	25	259	284	1,122
Serbia	8	600	608	66	243	309	917
Russia	401	851	1,252	23	146	169	1,421
Bahrain	508	57	565	8	37	45	610
Singapore	125	66	191	225	5	230	421
Turkey	0	594	594	30	931	961	1,555
Israel	62	2,728	2,790	37	437	474	3,264
Malaysia	200	19	219	2	2	4	223
South Korea	0	170	170	0	0	0	170
Lebanon	310	0	310	0	17	17	327
Mauritius	114	34	148	4	0	4	152
Lithuania	1	59	60	1	0	1	61
Bulgaria	0	0	0	4	25	29	29
Hong Kong	34	0	34	7	2	9	43
Hungary	1	20	21	3	10	13	34
Seychelles	12	32	44	3	2	5	49
Fiji	1	3	4	0	0	0	4
Malta	0	6	6	2	2	4	10
United Kingdom	7	4	11	0	0	0	11
Other	20	119	139	1	40	41	180
Total	**66,186**	**23,472**	**89,658**	**3,396**	**15,578**	**18,974**	**108,632**

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Migrant Employees' Registration with the SLBFE through private sources by country 2025

Country	Skilled			Low Skilled			Total
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
U A E	10,561	26,772	37,333	2,833	9,372	12,205	49,538
Qatar	2,960	25,067	28,027	800	9,304	10,104	38,131
Kuwait	13,413	13,172	26,585	1,058	3,167	4,225	30,810
Saudi Arabia	3,244	9,529	12,773	462	5,637	6,099	18,872
Maldives	1,200	6,472	7,672	374	2,304	2,678	10,350
Israel	42	4,319	4,361	1,577	4,050	5,627	9,988
Japan	1,237	5,844	7,081	297	1,699	1,996	9,077
South Korea	8	446	454	151	5,719	5,870	6,324
Oman	1,750	1,969	3,719	199	635	834	4,553
United Kingdom	980	970	1,950	48	76	124	2,074
Bahrain	1,041	1,423	2,464	111	534	645	3,109
Romania	236	1,547	1,783	194	1,518	1,712	3,495
Cyprus	1,702	338	2,040	126	512	638	2,678
Singapore	851	969	1,820	70	83	153	1,973
Malaysia	386	566	952	146	509	655	1,607
Seychelles	47	1,027	1,074	37	132	169	1,243
Lebanon	648	20	668	8	129	137	805
Jordan	555	365	920	139	127	266	1,186
New Zealand	66	583	649	3	81	84	733
Australia	138	556	694	7	42	49	743
Bangladesh	25	405	430	2	20	22	452
Hong Kong	262	54	316	159	58	217	533
Canada	55	128	183	6	17	23	206
Iraq	5	114	119	0	144	144	263
Ireland	43	332	375	1	25	26	401
Malta	45	156	201	11	44	55	256
India	24	144	168	0	9	9	177
Papua New Guinea	7	174	181	1	7	8	189
Poland	10	121	131	2	24	26	157
Vietnam	11	105	116	0	8	8	124
Fiji	7	96	103	0	3	3	106
Ethiopia	3	67	70	0	1	1	71
Indonesia	10	84	94	0	4	4	98
Germany	43	66	109	2	2	4	113
Serbia	22	151	173	23	58	81	254
Thailand	26	68	94	0	4	4	98
Pakistan	14	51	65	4	6	10	75
Uzbekistan	0	10	10	0	1	1	11
Egypt	13	26	39	1	4	5	44
Cayman Islands	5	34	39	1	9	10	49
Cambodia	9	32	41	0	13	13	54
Croatia	10	25	35	1	14	15	50
Lithuania	6	34	40	1	1	2	42
Kenya	0	38	38	1	5	6	44
Bosnia	0	13	13	0	0	0	13
Other	144	1,006	1,150	40	232	272	1,422
Total	**41,864**	**105,488**	**147,352**	**8,896**	**46,343**	**55,239**	**202,591**

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE

Registration of Migrant Employees with the SLBFE by district, Manpower level and Gender 2024 & 2025

District	2024					2025				
	Skilled		Low Skilled		Total	Skilled		Low Skilled		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male		Female	Male	Female	Male	
Ampara	2,417	10,184	108	4,806	17,515	2,041	10,205	148	4,863	17,257
Anuradhapura	7,913	4,247	520	1,763	14,443	7,092	4,441	525	1,830	13,888
Badulla	3,704	2,258	363	1,018	7,343	3,542	2,306	440	1,112	7,400
Baticaloa	3,635	8,236	154	5,979	18,004	3,512	8,414	153	5,954	18,033
Colombo	10,857	15,694	1,367	4,885	32,803	10,636	14,872	1,509	4,987	32,004
Galle	6,149	7,627	780	3,796	18,352	5,558	7,351	883	4,021	17,813
Gampaha	10,682	15,630	1,770	5,677	33,759	10,299	15,615	1,970	6,208	34,092
Hambantota	2,217	2,567	320	1,710	6,814	2,130	2,855	370	1,940	7,295
Jaffna	309	2,055	36	985	3,385	246	1,905	39	894	3,084
Kalutara	6,277	7,498	781	3,203	17,759	5,812	7,415	769	3,497	17,493
Kandy	8,617	10,721	757	4,704	24,799	8,081	10,552	778	4,838	24,249
Kegalle	4,555	4,601	423	2,020	11,599	4,233	4,682	468	2,231	11,614
Kilinochchi	227	216	8	126	577	196	230	4	129	559
Kurunegala	13,952	10,292	1,321	4,520	30,085	11,681	10,432	1,319	4,714	28,146
Mannar	275	292	3	125	695	268	229	12	123	632
Matale	4,615	3,403	265	1,534	9,817	4,039	3,288	291	1,546	9,164
Matara	2,381	3,234	319	2,172	8,106	2,347	3,778	377	2,584	9,086
Monaragala	1,307	985	111	520	2,923	1,280	1,136	140	624	3,180
Mullaitivu	250	195	11	116	572	290	212	7	114	623
Nuwaraeliya	5,119	2,055	237	1,041	8,452	5,359	2,236	206	1,141	8,942
Polonnaruwa	3,938	2,317	273	970	7,498	3,321	2,469	279	1,027	7,096
Puttalam	7,191	6,455	947	3,014	17,607	6,486	6,402	827	3,003	16,718
Ratnapura	4,692	2,788	454	2,107	10,041	4,621	3,278	493	2,428	10,820
Trincomalee	4,305	3,610	212	1,573	9,700	4,098	3,846	259	1,732	9,935
Vavuniya	858	762	30	372	2,022	882	811	26	381	2,100
Total	**116,442**	**127,922**	**11,570**	**58,736**	**314,670**	**108,050**	**128,960**	**12,292**	**61,921**	**311,223**

Source-Information Technology Division-SLBFE