

**Title: Philippine Migration, Remittances, and Overseas Filipino Workers**

**Teacher:** Anne Sharkey, Huntley High School

**Summary:**

This lesson took part as an activity within the Population and Migration Unit of an AP Human Geography course. Previously in the unit, we have introduced the concepts of push and pull factors, forces of migration, migration transition, and characteristics of migrants as well as global migration patterns throughout history. This activity will introduce the issues that migrants will face looking at obstacles personally as well as issues that are created for society. The lesson will go through the push/pull factors for migration for the Philippines, the situations of Overseas Foreign/Filipino Workers, and the pro/con of remittances. The main purpose of this lesson is for students to gain a greater understanding of push and pull factors and to be able to evaluate for positive and negative effects. The students should be able to gain an understanding of the reasons for moving and the effects but also lead to questions concerning the involvement of the home government, the foreign governments, and on social and cultural aspects of the family. The students will be able to gain understanding of demographic information in order to understand the reasons for these migrations and the subsequent problems that are faced. The students will also have the opportunity to discuss potential solutions to problems that could lead to the development of nations making it so Overseas Filipino Workers are not necessary for the economy.

**Content Area:**

Human Geography, High School

*Due to the specificity of this lesson to the AP Human Geography curriculum, the lesson will reflect specific pieces of information that may not be useful in all classroom settings for different courses. There are, however, segments of the lesson that can be placed within a course removing some of the data analysis and instead having information presented as a more general discussion especially as a general discussion of migration, push and pull factors, economics, or aspects of Philippine modern history.*

**Duration:**

Approximately three 45 minute lessons

**Lesson Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Discuss the push and pull factors for migrants from the Philippines
- Define the term “remittances”
- Issues of remittances for Overseas Filipino Workers
- Discuss the consequences of migration for temporary workers and their families
- Evaluate the potential for human rights issues of remittances and OFWs

**Procedures:**

**Prior to Lesson:**

- Teacher should read through background on the Philippines and Remittances (SEE APPENDIX #1)
- PowerPoint Presentation (SEE APPENDIX #2)
- Copy/Handout Worksheet (SEE APPENDIX #3)

**Day 1:**

- Population Data and Analysis of Migration Statistics for the Philippines (SEE APPENDIX #4)
  - *For this segment, the students would be familiar with terms concerning population and migration as well as the different aspects of demographic transition. The students should come to the conclusion that the Philippines is early in Stage 3 of Demographic Transition with the beginning of changes to population, urbanization, contraception, and a reasonably low fertility rate overall. Some of the social changes that occur lead to transitions for many middle class Filipinos to gain in society; however, due to the poverty and lack of jobs, the population is still looking for outlets for workers and migrants.*

- Discussion of Push and Pull Factors for Migrants
  - While looking at the demographic information, the students should be completing the chart marking down ideas for why the Filipinos are leaving the Philippines as well as the draws to other nations.
  - What would be reasons why the Filipino government would encourage migration overseas for labor? What data would show this?
    - *Unemployment, underemployment, increased population growth puts pressures on society*
  - What would be reasons why the Filipino people would choose to move overseas? What data would show this?
    - *Unemployment, too many mouths to feed, costs of education or medical needs*
  - What stage of demographic transition do you believe the Philippines to be?
    - *The students should come to the conclusion that the Philippines is early in Stage 3 of Demographic Transition with the beginning of changes to population, urbanization, contraception, and a reasonably low fertility rate overall. Some of the social changes that occur lead to transitions for many middle class Filipinos to gain in society; however, due to the poverty and lack of jobs, the population is still looking for outlets for workers and migrants.*
  - Where would migrants from these countries go? Why would they choose these locations? What would be the pull factors?
    - *Better economic opportunity, family or population already in those regions, not too far away, more jobs available*
- Go through definition of “Overseas Foreign Worker” & “Remittances”
  - OFWs: Filipinos working abroad that are expected to return permanently either upon the expiration of a work contract or upon retirement and often send money back to the Philippines to support their family
  - Remittances: money or payment sent to someone else—in the case of OFW migrants, it is often money sent from the host country to the home country for family
- Go through infographic showing who the OFWs are and where they are going
- Video Clips: Scenes from “The Learning”
  - <http://www.pbs.org/pov/learning/>
  - Film Summary: One hundred years ago, American teachers established the English-speaking public school system of the Philippines. Now, in a striking turnabout, American schools are recruiting Filipino teachers. **The Learning** is the story of four Filipina women who reluctantly leave their families and schools to teach in Baltimore. With their increased salaries, they hope to transform their families’ lives back in their impoverished country. But the women also bring idealistic visions of the teacher’s craft and of life in America, which soon collide with Baltimore’s tough realities. *A co-production of CineDiaz and ITVS in association with The Center for Asian American Media, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and American Documentary | POV. (90 minutes)*
    - “*It Would Be Worth It To You*”: This video clip goes through the feelings and beliefs of the life as an OFW by the individuals before they leave to teach in Baltimore. These teachers were recruited by the Baltimore, Maryland school districts in order to move and teach for a year or two. While watching this clip, the students should complete the first part of the chart looking at the feelings of the OFW and the families concerning the migration.
      - *OFW: Nervous, excited, “it would be worth it,” financial needs (poverty, give better future to the children, support family), mixed feelings about leaving family*
      - *Family in Philippines: Others taking care of children when they are gone, don’t want her to leave, crying children, want toys, “she has to go”*
    - “*Working in Baltimore to Send Money Back Home*”: This video clips goes into the lives of the women as they are in Baltimore teaching. For the sake of time and the fact that a lot of the video doesn’t tie directly to the topic, you can skip forward from about 2 minutes in to the 4 minute mark in order to get to the point of them talking to their families back home and talking about the money they are sending. The students should complete the second part of the chart going into detail concerning what is happening to both groups while the OFW is overseas.

- *OFW: talk to baby every day, crying, missing a lot of moments with family, 180,000 peso v. 3 million teaching in Baltimore, 25x more than what earned in Philippines, send \$1700 or \$1800 a month*
- *Family in Philippines: missing family, living without mother, rest of family raising without mother*
- *“The Fruits of Baltimore”*: This video clip goes through the stories of the women once they have returned home. Some are conversations with their families, going shopping, or in one instance planning to continue to support their parents while the husband and child move with the OFW to Baltimore to keep working.
  - *OFW: already have items—don’t need them; hard to argue with family; raised standard of living, supporting more than just immediate family (Aunts/Uncles/Cousins); spending too much—almost \$500; paying for tuition for school; won’t give allowance this month; “for my family, everything is worth it, all of it”, cost a lot, “where will I find money for this?”; trying to figure out where to go and what to do next—education; not really responsibility but doing it cause love family; cannot be the only one who works to go from “rags to riches”; don’t work in America to buy whatever we want but rather what we need*
  - *Family in the Philippines: improved housing, some family moving with—husband and baby, parents stay in nice house; “all of our hardships have been exchanged for a better life”; “didn’t know what else to do”; taken over responsibilities of the family*
- Discuss the effects of OFWs and Migration on the individual and family (see information above)

## **Day 2:**

- Brainstorm the effects of OFWs and Remittances on the home country (Pro/Con) prior to reading article
- Go through infographic showing how much is sent in remittances to the Philippines, where the remittances come from, and Top Professions of OFWs
  - Discussion: Why these places and why would these workers chose to move? *Places of greater opportunity—Stage 3 & 4 nations; probably better economies or at least better jobs available (or any jobs available); maybe already have family in these locations; For upper degrees maybe no jobs in Philippines after get education, for unskilled work—some could be those with education who can’t find jobs in those fields back home (teachers, nurses, doctors now working as domestic help); or even underemployed (doctors being nurses or caregivers overseas)*
- Discussion: *What are the issues if the government pushes the population to emigrate?*
  - *While the inability to move or migrate is a human rights issue (i.e. refugees, asylum seekers, etc.), the encouragement of migration by a government also causes human rights issues*
    - *Poor conditions of working—human trafficking & exploitation*
    - *Gov’t not providing jobs within country as more \$ is made outside country*
- Explain Human Rights to the Students
  - *Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. (UN OHCHR) Human rights can include anything from making sure that the population is safe, has access to food and water, have access to education, have the ability to live where they want within their country, and that they have the right to live their life personally in a way that they desire.*
  - *What factors explain why teachers in the Philippines earn salaries that are below the poverty line while the same teachers working in the United States can make nearly 25 times more?*
  - *What policies, choices or institutions do you think perpetuate that disparity?*
  - Make sure the students are clear about what could be considered Human Rights issues so they know how to answer the last questions on the worksheet
- Read article “Positive and Negative Effects of Remittances” (SEE APPENDIX #5)
  - Students should complete the chart and final response questions on Pro/Con of OFWs and Remittances

- *Pros: contribute to MDGs, boosting household income, improved health, greater school enrollment, invest in funds/banks, possibility for new loans from banks if invest money, business start-ups, gets money directly to families so don't worry about corruption, greater money through remittances than from foreign aid groups; education and training for young people in these families*
- *Cons: exchange rate increases leading to inflation; belief that will bring all families from "rags to riches"; some family removes themselves from work force as have income without working in Philippines; spending money on luxury goods from abroad rather than necessities; invest in bad investments; buy products with little value to the family; push families to keep members working overseas in order to keep family wealth going; strong consumer culture created with negative influence; labor shortages for some fields in Philippines as more go overseas for higher jobs instead—drives up wages and competitiveness; creation of programs by the government possibly reduced; families divided and separated; human rights issues; abuses and possible rape etc.*
- Complete Response Questions:
  - *Looking at the issues of encouraged migration and remittances, are there human rights abuses that could be found? What rights should individuals have within the Philippines and how are these being violated?*
  - *Do you feel that in the end the Philippines will gain from migrants and having remittances sent back home or will they continue to struggle? Explain citing examples and specific information.*

### **Day 3:**

- Discuss response questions concerning positive and negative effects of remittances and OFWs
- Discuss human rights issues of remittances and government approved OFW migration
- Watch film *"Modern Day Slaves"*
  - The film depicts the story of Filipino Overseas Workers who leave their home country to find work in another country. Many of them work as domestic helpers and are known to be called Modern Day Slaves. They earn a few dollars to support themselves and send the rest of their earnings back home by way of remittances. They seek higher wages and hope to multiple their earnings by a factor of 300% to 500% compared to what they will earn back home. The film follows the story of several Filipino OFW of different socio-economic backgrounds. Stories of rape, severe physical and mental torture, and beheading outlines how laws on human rights are violated and the awful consequences of human trafficking as OFWs are easy targets for exploitation. The film also explores how the Philippine government actively encourages citizens to leave their country as foreign workers.
  - <http://www.moderndayslavesmovie.com/>
  - This film is available for purchase online but is not available freely on the internet. You can purchase an educational license and show the film in class.
  - NOTE: This film does depict reenactments of multiple scenes that are physical and graphic in nature—torture, abuse, rape, etc. These are actions that are done against some OFWs and though while not for a lot, do depict some of the actions. You can skip these scenes if necessary for your classroom.

### **Resources and Materials Needed:**

- Appendix 1: Background and Pre-Lesson Information (*for teacher use*)
- Appendix 2: "Philippines and Remittances" PowerPoint Presentation
- Appendix 3: Philippine Migration and Remittance Worksheet
- Appendix 4: Philippine Demographic Information
- Appendix 5: Article "Positive and Negative Effects of Remittances"
- Video Clips (online): "The Learning"
- Video (purchased): "Modern Day Slaves"

### **Assessments:**

- Completion of the worksheet and participation in the class discussion
- Participation in response questions
- Chapter Quiz & Unit Test on Migration (*created by teacher*)

## **STANDARDS:**

### **AP Human Geography:**

AP College Board: Content Standards for AP Human Geography

#### II-C: Population and Migration

1. Types of Migration: Transnational, Internal, Chain, Step, Season Agriculture (eg. Transhumance), & Rural to Urban
2. Major Historical Migrations
3. Push and Pull Factors, and Migration in relation to employment and quality of life
4. Refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons
5. Consequences of Migration: Socioeconomic, Cultural, Environmental, and Political; Immigration Policies; Remittances

### **Illinois State Standards:**

#### **STATE GOAL 15: Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States.**

- A. Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.
  - 15.A.4a Explain how national economies vary in the extent that government and private markets help allocate goods, services and resources.
  - 15.A.5b Analyze the impact of economic growth.
  - 15.A.4d Explain the effects of unemployment on the economy.
- E. Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy.
  - 15.E.4b Describe social and environmental benefits and consequences of production and consumption.

#### **STATE GOAL 16: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.**

- A. Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation.
  - 16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).
- C. Understand the development of economic systems.
  - 16.C.5b (W) Describe how historical trends in population, urbanization, economic development and technological advancements have caused change in world economic systems.
  - 16.C.5c (W) Analyze the relationship between an issue in world economic history and the related aspects of political, social and environmental history.
- E. Understand Illinois, United States and world environmental history.
  - 16.E.4b (W) Describe how migration has altered the world's environment since 1450.

#### **STATE GOAL 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.**

- A. Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on the Earth.
  - 17.A.4a Use mental maps of physical features to answer complex geographic questions (e.g., how physical features have deterred or enabled migration).
  - 17.A.4b Use maps and other geographic instruments and technologies to analyze spatial patterns and distributions on earth.
- B. Analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of the Earth's physical systems.
  - 17.B.4b Analyze trends in world demographics as they relate to physical systems.
- C. Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.
  - 17.C.4b Analyze growth trends in selected urban areas as they relate to geographic factors.
  - 17.C.5b Describe the impact of human migrations and increased urbanization on ecosystems.
- D. Understand the historical significance of geography.
  - 17.D.4 Explain how processes of spatial change have affected human history (e.g., resource development and use, natural disasters).
  - 17.D.5 Analyze the historical development of a current issue involving the interaction of people and geographic factors (e.g., mass transportation, changes in agricultural subsidies, flood control).

## **REFERENCES/MATERIALS:**

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## **APPENDIX #1**

### **TEACHER BACKGROUND AND PRE-LESSON INFORMATION**

#### **General History of the Philippines:**

*The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century; they were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935 the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Manuel QUEZON was elected president and was tasked with preparing the country for independence after a 10-year transition. In 1942 the islands fell under Japanese occupation during World War II, and US forces and Filipinos fought together during 1944-45 to regain control. On 4 July 1946 the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence. A 20-year rule by Ferdinand MARCOS ended in 1986, when a "people power" movement in Manila ("EDSA 1") forced him into exile and installed Corazon AQUINO as president. Her presidency was hampered by several coup attempts that prevented a return to full political stability and economic development. Fidel RAMOS was elected president in 1992. His administration was marked by increased stability and by progress on economic reforms. In 1992, the US closed its last military bases on the islands. Joseph ESTRADA was elected president in 1998. He was succeeded by his vice-president, Gloria MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, in January 2001 after ESTRADA's stormy impeachment trial on corruption charges broke down and another "people power" movement ("EDSA 2") demanded his resignation. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2004. Her presidency was marred by several corruption allegations but the Philippine economy was one of the few to avoid contraction following the 2008 global financial crisis, expanding each year of her administration. Benigno AQUINO III was elected to a six-year term as president in May 2010. The Philippine Government faces threats from several groups, some of which are on the US Government's Foreign Terrorist Organization list. Manila has waged a decades-long struggle against ethnic Moro insurgencies in the southern Philippines, which has led to a peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front and ongoing peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The decades-long Maoist-inspired New People's Army insurgency also operates through much of the country. The Philippines faces increased tension with China over disputed territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea.<sup>1</sup>*

#### **Background on Overseas Filipino Workers (Overseas Foreign Workers or Temporary Foreign Workers):**

*Overseas Filipino Workers (or OFWs) are workers that often remain citizens of their home country but are working for a series of years within another nation and often sending money back to family or others in their home country. OFWs can be assumed to return to the Philippines upon completion of their jobs or upon retirement. OFWs are in all regions of the world including especially other Southeast Asian nations, Southwest Asia (Middle East), and the West including especially the United States. OFWs are from a variety of income levels with the movement of middle class individuals through the "Brain Drain" of the population with the movement of a larger percent of doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, and other professionals moving overseas as the most recent trend. There are also a large number of workers that are involved in construction and various trade industries, especially in the Middle East. OFWs were encouraged during the Marcos Martial Law period with the decreases in the economy as a way for the unemployed male population to gain jobs and move elsewhere; however, the reliance of families on OFW labor and remittances has created a system of families needing to send members overseas in order to increase the status of their family and gain education. The government of the Philippines has overhauled their labor migration policies in order to make it so it is easier for populations to go overseas for a few years, and recently, there are changes in more policies to encourage and allow the migration of women as OFWs. The OFWs often face issues of citizenship and human rights abuses due to their precarious nature in their host countries. OFWs have been characterized in some regions as modern day slaves due to the harsh conditions, taking of passports, limiting movement, etc. as conducted in some regions by some employers in order to keep control of the OFW population. The OFWs are also categorized by long hours, poor jobs, under-employment for some educated individuals as they have to go to school again in their host country, abuse, or lack of healthcare and benefits. The OFWs are also often not given the chance to return to the Philippines or remain in contact with families back in the Philippines, or are unable to do so because of the cost and amount of money that is sent back to the Philippines.*

#### **Background on Remittances:**

*Each year, billions of dollars are sent by migrant workers to their home countries, with some estimates putting the total value of remittances at more than \$200 billion. For some countries, remittances make up a sizable portion of GDP. Remittances are*

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<sup>1</sup> "Philippines," CIA World Factbook. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>

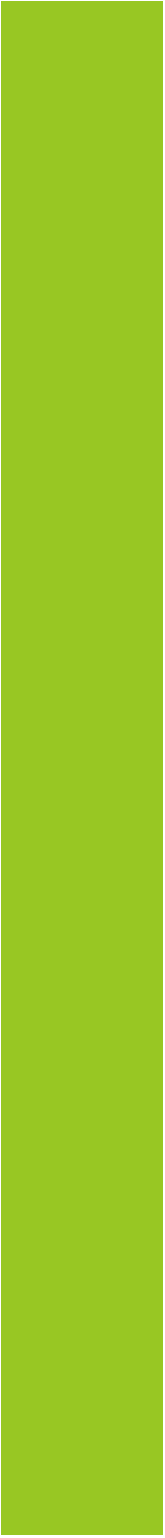
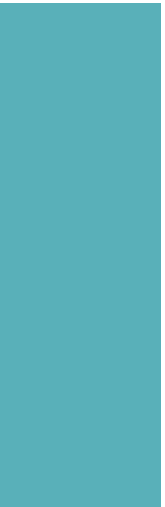
*funds transferred from migrants to their home country. They are the private savings of workers and families that are spent in the home country for food, clothing and other expenditures, and which drive the home economy. For many developing nations, remittances from citizens working abroad provide an import source of much-needed funds. In some cases, funds from remittances exceed aid sent from the developed world, and are only exceeded by foreign direct investment (FDI).<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Brent Radcliffe, "Introduction to Remittances," Investopedia. <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/10/introduction-remittances.asp>



# PHILIPPINE MIGRATION AND ISSUES OF REMITTANCES AND HUMAN RIGHTS



# Background on the Philippines

- Archipelago of about 7,000 islands in Southeast Asia
- Colonized by Spain and then the United States



# Development and Population Patterns



A great majority of the country is rural; however, the large percent of the population live in larger cities



# Philippine Migration Background

- Migration from the Philippines has existed in 4 major stages:
  1. 1500s-1900s: to Mexico, California, Europe, etc. for jobs and with Spanish trade systems
  2. 1900-1940: Filipino migration as US colony increases to work in agricultural fields
  3. 1940s-1970s: Migration decreases with quota system and independence of Philippines from US
  4. 1970s-Present: Former Filipino Pres. Marcos instituted policy to encourage emigration to stimulate the economy

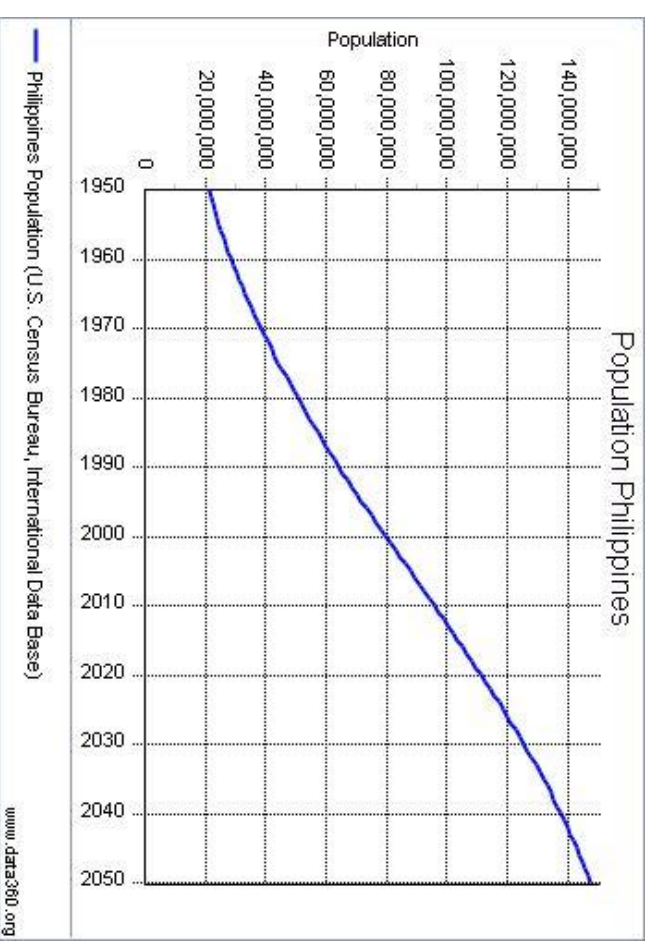
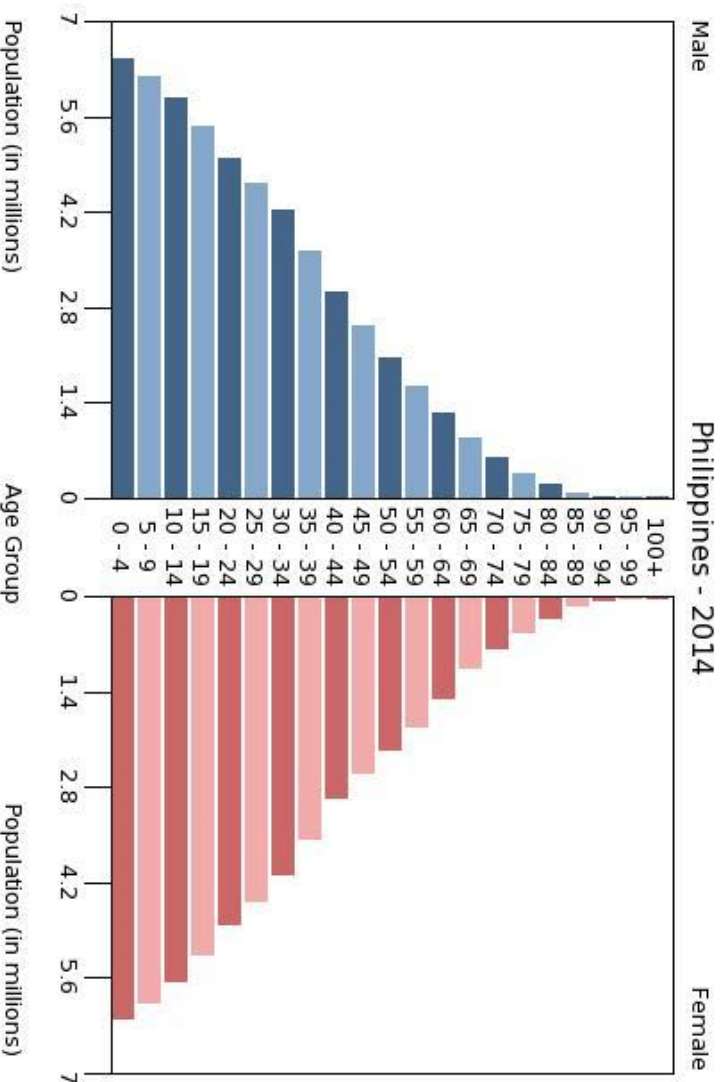
# Why would a country want their population to emigrate?

- Looking through the data and information packet, come up with a list of reasons for why the Philippines would want their people to move and work elsewhere?
- ▣ What stage of demographic transition do you think the Philippines is?
- ▣ What are the push factors?
- ▣ What are the pull factors?



## Population Statistics:

- **Total Population: 100,998,376**
- **CDR: 6.11 deaths/1,000 population**
- **CBR: 24.27 births/1,000 population**
- **Fertility Rate: 3.09 children born to a woman**
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate: 48.9%**
- **Infant Mortality Rate: 22.34 deaths/1,000 live births**
- **Population Growth Rate: 1.61%**



## Total Dependency Ratio: 57.6%

- **Youth Dependency Ratio: 50.3%**
- **Elderly Dependency Ratio: 7.2%**

## Age Structure of the Philippines:

**0-14 years: 34.02%**  
**15-24 years: 19.18%**  
**24-54 years: 36.72%**  
**55-64 years: 5.8%**  
**65 years and over: 4.28%**

# Reasons for Emigration

- In the mid-1970s, the increase of a government push for emigration is related to the potential opportunities for young men unemployed by stagnant economy of the Philippines
- Regulate and encourage labor outflows through laws and making sure migrants are protected as temporary workers

# Push Factors

- Rapid Population Growth:
  - ▣ Urban Crowding, Traffic Congestion, Squatter Areas/Slums, Unemployment
- Uneven Population Distribution:
  - ▣ Large number of people in the urbanized areas, Emphasized Industry over Agriculture
- Labor Oversupply and Unemployment
  - ▣ Jobless growth—even if the economy is improving, there aren't any more jobs created in the areas with high populations



# Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs)

- OFWs: Filipinos working abroad that are expected to return permanently either upon the expiration of a work contract or upon retirement and often send money back to the Philippines to support their family
- Remittances: money or payment sent to someone else—in the case of OFW migrants, it is often money sent from the host country to the home country for family

# Profiling the Overseas Filipino Worker

## Who are they?

Male: **52.2%**



Female: **47.8%**



Service and production (laborers) account for 80% of all OFWs. Women are mostly employed as domestic workers.

Between 25-29 years old



Between 30-34 years old



- Over 70% are between the ages of 25-44 years old
- Women outnumber men in all age groups below 40. Women outnumber men particularly from age 23.
- Men outnumber women among OFWs over 40.
- The feminization of migration limited to migrant women below 34 years old.

The largest number of all OFWs generally come from the 25-29 age group.



How many are deployed each year?



In 2002, there were 891,908 OFWs who left the country. In 2012, this number increased to 1,802,031.

Where do they go?

CANADA

ITALY

HONGKONG

SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

KUWAIT

BAHRAIN

QATAR

SAUDI ARABIA

UNITED ARAB  
EMIRATES





# 2.56 million

About 2.56 million Filipino families  
have at least one family member  
working abroad.

They are called Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) families.



# The Effects of Migration: Remittances



- Remittances are transfers of money across national boundaries by migrant workers.
- Remittance flows have grown in the world economy over the longer-term as the scale of migration between countries has grown

# The Learning—Stories of Filipino Migration

- [“It Would be Worth it to You?”](#)
- [“Working in Baltimore to Send Money Back Home”](#)
  - ▣ Watch 0-2:00, skip to 4:00 to end
- [“The Fruits of Baltimore”](#)

"It Would Be Worth It To You," PBS: POV: Documentaries with a Point of View,  
[http://www.pbs.org/pov/learning/add\\_video1.php#.Vg3BCfIVikq](http://www.pbs.org/pov/learning/add_video1.php#.Vg3BCfIVikq)



How are the different aspects of life affected by the different groups? How do they feel about going overseas?

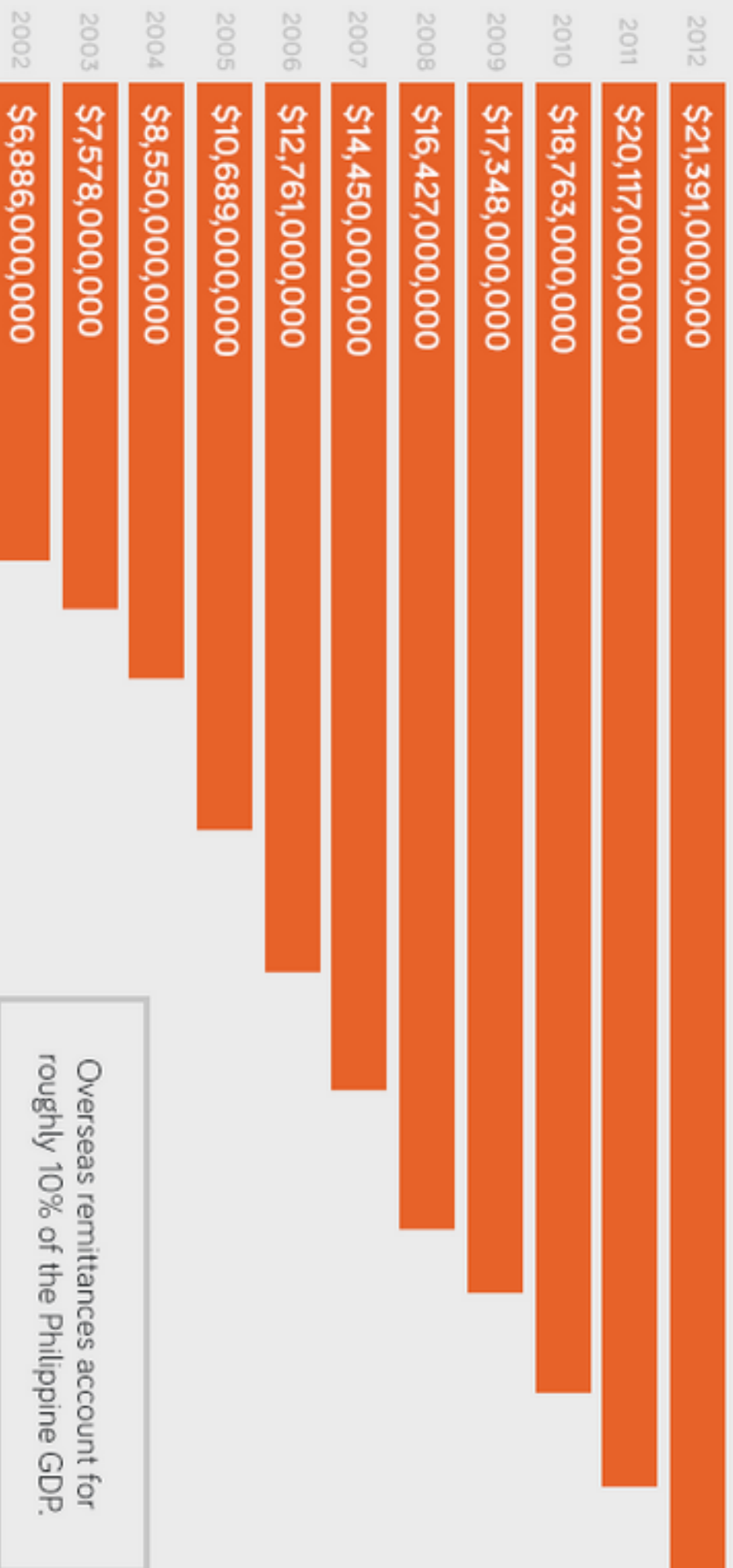
	OFW	Family in Philippines
Before (Clip 1)		
During (Clip 2)		
After (Clip 3)		



# How are the different aspects of life affected by the different groups? How do they feel about going overseas?

OFW		Family in Philippines
Before (Clip 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nervous</li><li>• Excited</li><li>• “Will be worth it”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taking care of family when gone</li><li>• Excited to have more \$</li></ul>
During (Clip 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missing Family</li><li>• Make 25x amount of back in PH</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missing OFW</li></ul>
After (Clip 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cannot move family from “rags to riches” alone</li><li>• Lots of pressures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spending lots of money</li><li>• Lots of “needs”</li><li>• Grateful to OFW</li><li>• Large family present—many dependents?</li></ul>

## How much do they send back in remittances?



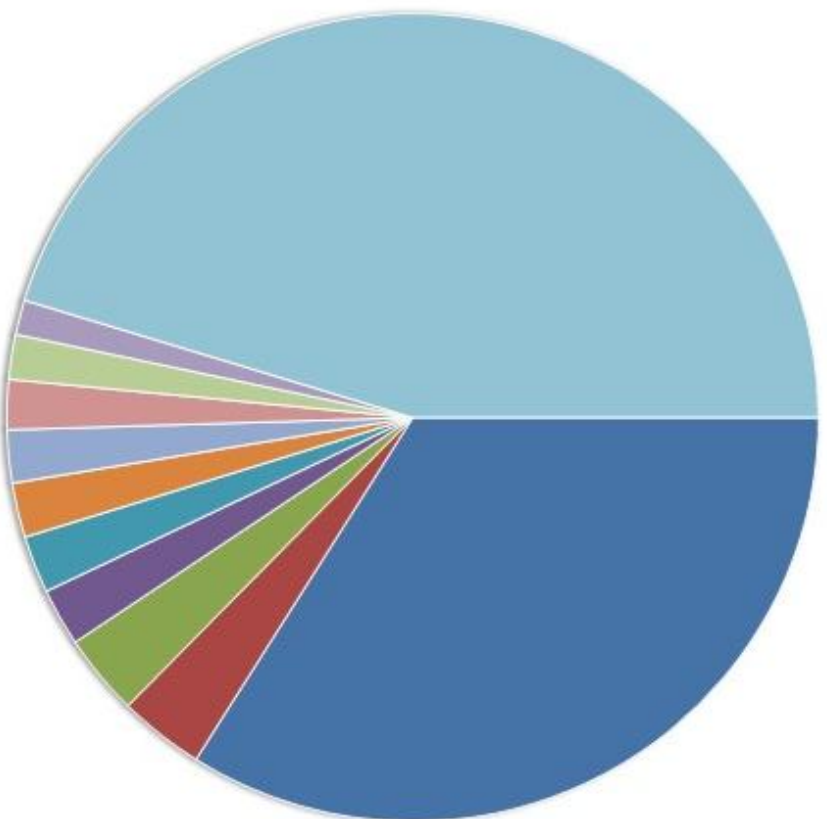
Overseas remittances account for roughly 10% of the Philippine GDP.

Where do the remittances come from?



# Top 10 Professions of OFW

- What do you notice about the jobs that are completed by OFWs?



■ Household Service Workers

■ Welders and Flame-Cutters

■ Nurses Professional

■ Laborers/Helpers General

■ Waiters, Bartenders and Related Workers

■ Caregivers and Caretakers

■ Charworkers, Cleaners and Related Workers

■ Cooks and Related Workers

■ Wiremen and Electrical Workers

■ Other Occupational Categories

■ Plumbers and Pipe Fitters

# Demographics of Philippine Migration

Top ten destination countries (2012 deployment)

Country	Number	Percentage of total
1. Saudi Arabia	330,040	23%
2. United Arab Emirates	259,546	18%
3. Singapore	172,690	12%
4. Hong Kong	131,180	9%
5. Qatar	104,622	7%
6. Kuwait	75,286	5%
7. Taiwan	41,491	3%
8. Malaysia	38,407	3%
9. Italy	25,261 <sup>*</sup>	2%
10. Bahrain	22,271	2%
Other Destinations (source: POEA)	233,871	16%

<sup>\*</sup>"History of Philippine Migration," Center for Migrant Advocacy, accessed September 30, 2015, <http://centerformigrantadvocacy.com/history-of-philippine-migration/>



# Top 10 remittance corridors, 2010

Source:  :Recipient  :\$bn



Sources: IMF; World Bank; The Economist

# What are the issues if the government pushes the population to emigrate?

- While the inability to move or migrate is a human rights issue (i.e. refugees, asylum seekers, etc.), the encouragement of migration by a government also causes human rights issues
  - ▣ Poor conditions of working—human trafficking & exploitation
  - ▣ Gov't not providing jobs within country as more \$ is made outside country

# Human Rights Issues

- *Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. (UN OHCHR)*
- *Human rights can include anything from making sure that the population is safe, has access to food and water, have access to education, have the ability to live where they want within their country, and that they have the right to live their life personally in a way that they desire.*



# The Human Rights side of Remittances

- What factors explain why teachers in the Philippines earn salaries that are below the poverty line while the same teachers working in the United States can make nearly 25 times more?
- What policies, choices or institutions do you think perpetuate that disparity?

# The Pros/Cons of Remittances

Using the reading, answer the questions and the chart concerning the positive and negative aspects of remittances.

Positive Aspects of Remittances & Overseas Temporary Migration	Negative Aspects of Remittances & Overseas Temporary Migration

# References:

- ❑ "History of Philippine Migration," Center for Migrant Advocacy, accessed September 30, 2015, <http://centerformigrantadvocacy.com/history-of-philippine-migration/>
- ❑ "It Would Be Worth It To You," PBS: POV: Documentaries with a Point of View, [http://www.pbs.org/pov/learning/add\\_video1.php#.Vg3BCfIVikq](http://www.pbs.org/pov/learning/add_video1.php#.Vg3BCfIVikq)
- ❑ "Labor Export as Government Policy: The Case of the Philippines," Migration Policy Institute, accessed September 30, 2015, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/labor-export-government-policy-case-philippines>

**Migration Issues: Remittances & the Philippines**

**Push and Pull Factors:** Read through the “Philippine Demographic Information” in order to determine the push and pull factors for the Philippines.

<b>Push Factors:</b> <i>What information on the chart shows reasons for why people would want to leave the Philippines</i>	<b>Pull Factors:</b> <i>What information on the chart shows reasons for why people would want to go to the Philippines?</i>

What stage of demographic transition do you believe the Philippines to be? Why? What data gives you this impression?

Overseas Foreign Workers (Overseas Filipino Workers):

Remittances:

**“The Learning”:** While watching the film clips, add information to the chart below showing the different impacts of migrant workers and remittances at each stage. How do the different individuals feel about the possibility of going overseas? How are the different aspects of life affected?

	<b>Overseas Worker</b>	<b>Family in Philippines</b>
<i>Before (Clip 1)</i>		
<i>During (Clip 2)</i>		
<i>After (Clip 3)</i>		

*Pros & Cons of OFWs & Remittances: While going through the rest of the presentation and using the reading, complete the chart showing the positive and negative issues created by the use of remittances.*

Positive Aspects of OFWs & Remittances:	Negative Aspects of OFWs & Remittances:

### Remittance and Migration as Human Rights Issues

*Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. (UN OHCHR)*

*Human rights can include anything from making sure that the population is safe, has access to food and water, have access to education, have the ability to live where they want within their country, and that they have the right to live their life personally in a way that they desire.*

Looking at the issues of encouraged migration and remittances, are there human rights abuses that could be found? What rights should individuals have within the Philippines and how are these being violated?

Do you feel that in the end the Philippines will gain from migrants and having remittances sent back home or will they continue to struggle? Explain citing examples and specific information.

# Philippine Demographic Information

## Population Statistics:

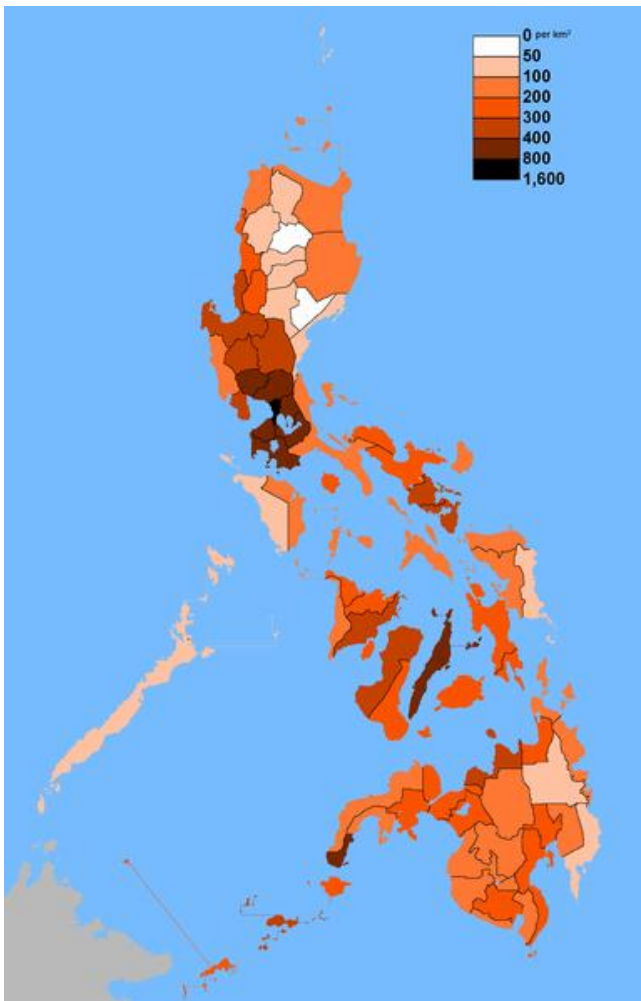
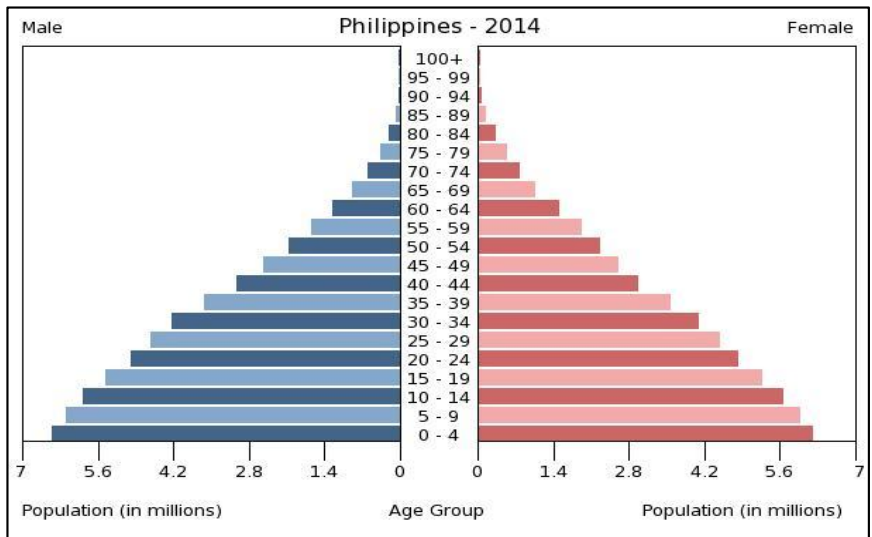
- **Total Population:** 100,998,376
- **CDR:** 6.11 deaths/1,000 population
- **CBR:** 24.27 births/1,000 population
- **Fertility Rate:** 3.09 children born to a woman
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate:** 48.9%
- **Infant Mortality Rate:** 22.34 deaths/1,000 live births
- **Population Growth Rate:** 1.61%

## Total Dependency Ratio: 57.6%

- **Youth Dependency Ratio:** 50.3%
- **Elderly Dependency Ratio:** 7.2%

## Age Structure of the Philippines:

0-14 years: 34.02%  
 15-24 years: 19.18%  
 24-54 years: 36.72%  
 55-64 years: 5.8%  
 65 years and over: 4.28%



## Labor Force Characteristics

Indicator	Jul 2015
Employment Rate	93.5
Underemployment Rate	21.0
Labor Force Participation Rate	62.9
Unemployment Rate	6.5

# Philippines, The

East Asia and Pacific

LOWER MIDDLE INCOME

Population (millions, 2009)	92.0
Population growth (avg. annual %, 2000–09)	1.9
Population density (people per km <sup>2</sup> , 2008)	303.0
Labor force (millions, 2008)	37.7
Unemployment rate (% of labor force, 2008)	7.4
Urban population (% of pop., 2009)	65.7
Surface area (1,000 km <sup>2</sup> , 2008)	300.0
GNI (US\$ billions, 2009)	160.4
GNI per capita, Atlas method (US\$, 2009)	1,790
GDP growth (avg. annual %, 2005–09)	4.4
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of pop., 2005)	22.6
Age dependency ratio (2009)	61.5

## Migration

### EMIGRATION, 2010

- Stock of emigrants: **4,275.2 thousands**
- Stock of emigrants as percentage of population: **4.6%**
- Top destination countries: the United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Italy, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom

### SKILLED EMIGRATION, 2000

- Emigration rate of tertiary-educated population: **13.7%**
- Emigration of physicians: **20,149** or **17.5%** of physicians trained in the country (Source: Bhargava, Docquier, and Moullan 2010)

## Remittances

US\$ millions	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010e
<b>Inward remittance flows<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>10,243</b>	<b>11,471</b>	<b>13,566</b>	<b>15,251</b>	<b>16,302</b>	<b>18,642</b>	<b>19,766</b>	<b>21,311</b>
<i>of which</i>								
Workers' remittances	7,681	8,617	10,668	12,481	13,255	14,536	15,141	—
Compensation of employees	2,558	2,851	2,893	2,758	3,030	4,092	4,585	—
Migrants' transfers	4	3	5	12	17	14	40	—
<b>Outward remittance flows</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>—</b>
<i>of which</i>								
Workers' remittances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Compensation of employees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Migrants' transfers	18	17	15	20	35	44	58	—

a. For comparison: net FDI inflows US\$1.4 bn, net ODA received US\$0.1 bn, total international reserves US\$37.5 bn, exports of goods and services US\$61.5 bn in 2008.

## **APPENDIX #5**

### ***“Post 2015 SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]: Not just about cheaper labor and larger remittances, but the human cost of migration”<sup>1</sup>***

*United Nations: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

NEW YORK / GENEVA (24 October 2014) – Development targets that pay no attention to which groups are being left behind can be met without having any real impact on ensuring a more equal and just world, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Francois Crépeau, told today the UN General Assembly. In his latest annual report, Mr. Crépeau called on Governments worldwide to fully include the human rights of migrants in the post-2015 UN development agenda. “The focus should not be on simply reducing the cost and increasing the flow of remittances, but rather on the human cost of migration,” he said.

“We all know and applaud that migrants are drivers and enablers of development. Migrants contributed to efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals by, among other things, boosting household income, resulting in improved health and greater school enrolment,” he said. “Governments must therefore also recognise and applaud migrants as human beings.”

“If the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status, are effectively promoted, respected and protected within well governed migration processes, such development outcomes can be greatly enhanced,” the independent expert highlighted. However, the Special Rapporteur warned, migrants’ contribution to development frequently comes at a human cost, especially for those in an irregular situation who are often constrained by circumstances to perform tasks at whatever financial, physical or even psychological cost. Mr. Crépeau’s report also discusses how States are, in turn, ineffective when it comes to monitoring and sanctioning businesses that exploit migrants for their cheap labour, often in dirty, difficult and dangerous working conditions.

In many countries, the most marginalized and exploited migrants are those who are in an irregular situation, have a precarious labour contract, are low-skilled, are children or adolescents, are women, in particular in domestic work, or are working in the construction, hospitality, extraction, fishing and agricultural sectors. “Such migrants experience multiple forms of discrimination, on the basis of nationality, legal status, sector of work, sex, age and ethnic, linguistic or religious identity,” he said. The independent expert expressed concern that the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (Post 2015 SDGs) have been viewed by some as an economic growth agenda, not explicitly aligned with human rights which, in his view, are essential for sustainable development. “The post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals are an opportunity for governments to show their commitment to human rights—that they are indeed indivisible and universal-applicable to all regardless of one’s immigration status,” he stressed.

### ***The Positive and Negative Effects of Remittances on Economic Development<sup>2</sup>***

The funds that are exchanged and are sent back to the Philippines can have positive effects on the growth of their home country. The money sent can fund investments, be deposited by the families increasing the credit and financial opportunities of the families as well as others who could gain from investments in the banks through short or long-term loans. The funds also allow families to be stronger consumers and finance their needs and even spend the new finances on luxury goods. The majority of remittance income is consumed in the purchase of products increasing spending in the local economy. Remittance incomes can also provide funds for business start-ups for the families. In order for these changes to occur, it means that the families not only have to receive the funds, but also to get them and invest them wisely. The top recipients of migrant remittances in 2012 were India (\$70 billion), China (\$66 billion), Philippines (\$24 billion), Mexico (\$24 billion), and Nigeria (\$21 billion).

The impact of remittances makes a difference on the local economy, but remittances are also impacted by what is going on economically back home. When the country of origin of the migrant workers is a poor country which knows a period of economic crisis, these workers send more remittances to help their families to overcome these difficulties more easily. When families are in times of need, especially when the government is not providing support for the family, the remittances can reach the family personally making a difference when other aid given may not reach the individual due to corruption or waste at the national level or through aid organizations. Oftentimes the amount given in remittances is more than the amount of official development assistance with more than three times the remittances reaching individuals in recent years.

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<sup>1</sup> “Post 2015 SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]: Not just about cheaper labor and larger remittances, but the human cost of migration,” *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights*. October 24, 2014. Accessed on October 1, 2015. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15208&LangID=E>

<sup>2</sup> Excerpts and Summary from Hadeel S. Yaseen, “The Positive and Negative Impact of Remittances on Economic Growth in MENA Countries,” *The Journal of International Management Studies*, Volume 7, Number 1, April, 2012.



One of the key and most important roles of remittances is their significant and powerful contribution to fight positively against poverty. Remittances are besides constructive to the economic development when part of these funds contributes, in the families of the emigrated workers, to support the building of human capital while allowing to pay expenditure for education and training for the young people living in these families. As a consequence, in certain countries, remittances can in reality contribute to the accumulation of human capital, and then to the growth of total factor productivity of the local economy. However, besides these positive aspects of the links between remittances and growth, one can find, in the appropriate literature, a fairly vast number of theoretical analysis and empirical studies which depict the negative aspects of the remittances for the home countries of the migrant workers as we shall explain it now.

The negative effects of remittances can be developed around three major areas: the penalties created with the conversion of money and the exchange rate of the home country, the spending of the funds by the family and the workers on products rather than investment, and lastly, the effects of remittances in terms of lacking family members in the home country.

The common consequences of the remittances flows on the exchange rate of the local currency and on the domestic price level is a rise of both, the exchange rate being defined as the price in terms of the local currency, of the foreign currencies of the countries where live the migrant people for each increase of foreign currencies rises on average the central bank reserves, therefore, grow which obliges the bank to issue new local money leading to inflation.

The remittances, in some ways can also make the families who profit from the incomes and are living in the home country to become accepting of the funds from overseas to believe that the funds from the OFW will bring the family from “rags to riches” all by itself leading to sometimes having the family withdraw from the workforce of the home country. This can also lead to the increased spending on luxury goods often imported from abroad, or on very showy products that have little value to the family, or in badly studied investments that lead to a waste of the funds. Not only can this lead to family members in the home country not being involved in the local economy but can push individuals to have to keep working overseas to support the family despite possibly gaining tens of times the wealth earned in the Philippines. As a result, families rely on a continual stream of family members that live and work overseas to support the larger family without contributions back home and with living at a much higher level than before. Personal spending increases creating a stronger consumer culture that isn’t always positive looking at the development of a poor country into a wealthier nation. Overall the economic background of families with OFWs increases, the spending on education and health care increases compared to those who do not have access to migrants.

The remittance might also have an impact on the income distribution and inequalities of wealth between families who are able to send individuals abroad to work and those who are not able. The wealth gained is in such extremes compared to any possibilities of living and working in the home country leading to a creation of new income groups and socioeconomic divisions within society. While the funds that do reach home are spent on land and housing as the best opportunity compared to poor populations in those areas, the remittances therefore are put to unproductive uses for the family in the immediate. This may provide better housing for the family, and though this is a major part of getting out of poverty for families, it also leads to an increase in prices and leads to a large portion of the remittances to not enter the local economy to other families in need but rather to companies and corporations that are more developed.

The limitations of remittances also are found when a large outflow of workers from the home country can cause labor shortages in the local economy driving up wages and worsening competitiveness in the search for jobs. Even with the growth of the economy technically through the income coming from the remittances, the growth is jobless as far as the economy back home as population increases in the home country. It is also clear that the remittance income cannot make up for the building of infrastructure of well-targeted overseas aid, and government or private investment. When the government realizes that the needs of the people are often being met by these funds, the creation of programs to help individuals can be reduced as well. Some areas or regions of the country are also possibly out of reach geographically giving fewer chances for individuals to take part in migration or remittances. This disparity in opportunity for migration leads to further differences between rural and urban areas as well as between different classes.

Remittances also cause social and cultural problems in the Philippines as families are divided and separated through the sending of family members overseas to work. The dividing of the family due to OFW means that children are raised without their parent(s) and often times are left with other family members. Human rights issues also arise as government aid and programs are developed but not to the fullest extent due to the funds coming in through the OFWs. When a government is more willing to encourage the population to go overseas rather than develop programs to encourage employment and build jobs, the human rights of the population are not given by the government. The opportunities for other issues to arise for the OFWs increases as well with the lack of strong laws to protect the workers leading to potential issues of human trafficking, sex trafficking, indentured servitude, abuse, denial of passports, inability to gain citizenship in host countries and many other issues.