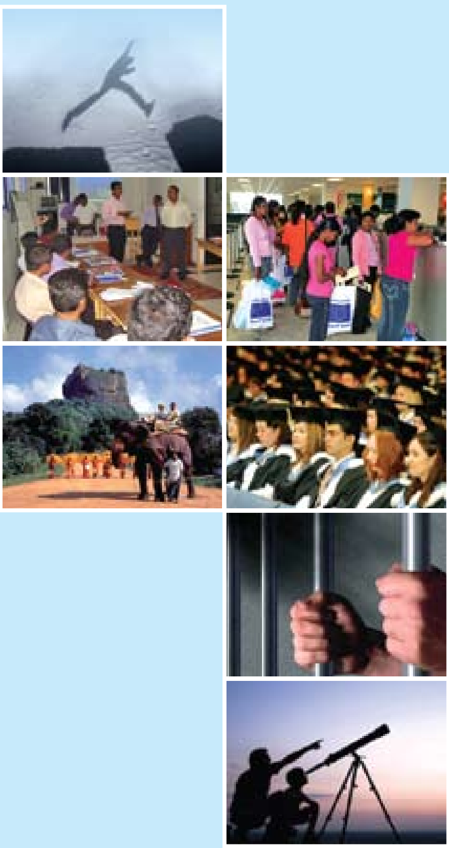
2008

International Migration Outlook Sri Lanka



IOM International Organization for Migration

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

International Migration Outlook – Sri Lanka 2008

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Preface

This is the very first edition of the annual statistical report of the continuous reporting system on “International Migration Outlook in Sri Lanka”. Migration has become the concern of all in some form or another, and it means concern rather than simply interest, because the understanding of migration, and how to take advantage of it, live with it and manage it has not kept pace with the growth of the phenomenon and the complexity of its linkages with other issues.

Understanding of migration by both policy makers and the general public can make the difference between migration having a more positive and negative impact on a region, country or society. Precise and reliable information on international migration trends and the accurate analysis of key migration issues are indispensable to the formulation of effective migration management policies.

Having recognized the importance of international migration for Sri Lanka, this report was initiated with the objective of preparing a comprehensive analysis of the current trends, patterns and changes in migration related sectors such as labour migration, permanent migration, student migration, irregular migration and tourism for the recent years. This report attempts to provide Sri Lanka’s international migration dynamics using the available data. The report acknowledges that there are many gaps in the collection of migration data in Sri Lanka despite recent efforts by the Government for a coordinated approach to data collection. The report by no means provides a total migration picture in Sri Lanka however, it is a progressive step in the right direction for collection and dissemination of migration data for the benefit of policy development and subsequent program intervention for managing migration for the benefit of Sri Lanka.

We hope that the 2008 edition of the International Migration Outlook in Sri Lanka will shed more light on the challenges and opportunities ahead of Sri Lanka toward enhancing migration management approaches that uphold the principle “human and orderly migration benefits migrants and society”.

The International Migration Outlook in Sri Lanka is a result of two years of a capacity building project implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) towards the establishment of a coordinated migration data collection system in Sri Lanka. IOM is especially grateful to the European Commission (EC) and the Government of Australia for generous funding support for this project.

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The authors wish to express their gratitude to all officers concerned with the Department of Immigration and Emigration, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Criminal Investigation Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Tourist Board, Foreign Diplomatic Missions in Colombo, and the International Organization for Migration. In addition, the contributions made by Ms. Dinusha Wijesekara (IPS), Ms. Nilusha Dissanayake (IOM) and Ms. Sharuni Fernando (IOM) are greatly appreciated.

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Executive Summary

The reasons that stimulate people to migrate are numerous and operate in complex and interactive ways at individual, family and socio economic levels.

The dissemination of information and lower transport costs facilitate increased labour mobility and the creation of transitional communities. Workers move to find better employment opportunities and working conditions. While wage differentials are an important incentive, access to higher levels of health and education services, more personal security and generally better quality of life can also be important elements affecting the decision to work abroad (IOM, 2008).

Since the end of the 1990s, issues related to international migration, and more particularly to the international mobility of both highly-qualified workers and unskilled workers, are receiving increasing attention from policy makers.

According to UN estimates, 3 per cent of the world's population (191 million) live in a country other than the one in which they were born in 2005, with one third having moved from a developing country to one that is developed, one third moving from one developing nation to another, and another third originating in the developed world.

International labour migration from Sri Lanka has grown in importance for the last several decades and the numbers have increased more than ten fold during the same period.

The total number of out migrants of Sri Lanka on employment abroad at present is estimated to be 1.8 million (Central Bank, *Annual Report* 2008) while annually the outflow of workers is estimated to be about 250,000 people.

In addition to the large number of temporary migrant workers who have traditionally focused on the unskilled labour market in the Middle East and the other skilled categories to East Asia and the West, there were a significant number of people who migrated during the conflict periods in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country under refugee status to Western countries. There is a growing trend in the number of people migrating for permanent settlement, for educational purposes abroad, and tourism purposes, and there are also irregular migrants who are often difficult to monitor.

Numerous types of international migration statistics are compiled by both government and non-government organizations in Sri Lanka. However, there is a need to strengthen the existing data gathering system for both immigration and emigration data as most of the data go unrecorded under the present scenario.

One of the main problems in terms of numbers that migrate on temporary labour is that only those who registered with the SLBFE are reflected in statistics for temporary migration. These people are mostly unskilled workers, housemaids and semi-skilled workers primarily focusing the Middle Eastern region for employment. Most of the workers in professional, middle level and other skilled categories seek job opportunities directly and migrate under the general emigration laws of the country.

The migrant statistics reported by different sources give contradictory numbers which are questionable. There is no proper recording and reporting mechanism for other types of migrants as well.

It is possible to assume that the actual number of migrant workers is much more than the recorded number due to workers leaving through unauthorized sources and personal contacts and the non-identification of the large number who have secured employment who are not registered with the SLBFE.

In 2007, 23 per cent of the total employment generated and 21 per cent of the labour force in Sri Lanka was represented by foreign employment.

Out migration for temporary contract work on low skilled jobs, targeting the Middle Eastern countries began in late 1970s. Prior to this, professional and technical personnel in small numbers migrating to the developed countries dominated the foreign employment market.

After the employment channels to the oil rich Gulf countries were opened, for the last few decades temporary labour migration has been increasing rapidly and presently over 250,000 persons migrate annually.

The present Government has placed special emphasis on the promotion of high skilled workers as against the low skilled categories of labour migrants.

It is evident that Sri Lanka has a huge mis-match between the international demand for jobs and its supply capabilities. The most pressing issue is the skills mismatch of what is demanded by the foreign countries and what Sri Lankan workers could offer.

Sri Lanka has been traditionally concentrating on the unskilled workers and the housemaids, but present demand is for more skilled and professional categories of workers which require internationally recognized qualifications to enter these markets. On the other hand, in the domestic labour market too there are significant supply gaps.

The International remittances, being the most tangible benefit of migration, plays an important role in the Sri Lankan economy contributing 7 per cent of its GDP, 36 per cent of its export earnings and 36 per cent of current receipts in the Balance of Pyments. Remittances have become the leading source of foreign capital to Sri Lanka, overtaking the official development assistance and foreign direct investment.

Evidence show that low skilled and unskilled categories of migrants are subject to high level of violation of human rights, including labour rights, harassment and abuse at the work place more than skilled professionals (National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka, 2008), especially due to lack of education, training and awareness of the host country laws and working conditions.

It is important to identify the existence of many social problems associated with international migration, particularly the impact on the families left behind by the migrant mothers, which has not been properly addressed at bilateral level or multilateral level.

It is necessary to ensure that rights of the migrant workers are protected, which is something Sri Lanka as a labour sending country alone is not in a position to guarantee, as the understanding and flexibility of the labour receiving country too is a prerequisite.

The internationalization of higher education raises new challenges for policy makers with respect to education policy, as well as the co-ordination of their economic, social, migration and development policies.

The movement of students in large numbers from Sri Lanka is yet another challenge as a country that has invested in free education system since 1945. The strengthening of higher education and training and increasing the quality and capacity in university degree programmes can help to minimize the adverse effects of student emigration and skills shortages.

Sri Lanka needs to identify the domestic skills shortages and the availability of local educational opportunities in order to introduce internationally recognized educational institutions to be established in Sri Lanka.

Re-positioning Sri Lanka tourism in the post-conflict era is vital. The Government has recognized the importance of this task and formulated a new tourism strategy for the country and also intends to target the Northern and Eastern parts of the country for tourism which were earlier untapped. It is important to re-position Sri Lanka in the world leisure market as a safe tourist destination.

The world's population is increasingly mobile. As the level of international migration rises, so does its impact on economic, social, cultural and political policies in most countries of the world.

The phenomenon of international migration brings into play many sensitive issues of national security and identity, of social change and cultural adaptation, and of resource allocation.

All these questions represent important challenges to migration policy makers. Policy choices made now will help to determine whether migration is managed to maximize its benefits, or whether it will continue to be a source of concern, potential social disruption and friction between States. The key is not to prevent mobility, but to manage it better.

Key Migration Indicators

Sri Lanka

Indicator	1995	2008
Population		
Total *(thousands)*	18,872	20,217
Males *(thousands)*	9,642	9,980
Females *(thousands)*	9,230	10,237
Rate of growth per 1,000 population [a]	10.1	8.8
Rate of natural increase per 1,000 population [a]	11.7	13.2
Internal migration stock [b]		
Total *(thousands)*	427.8	368.2
Males *(thousands)*	206.3	171.5
Females *(thousands)*	221.3	196.8
Percentage of population	2.3	1.8
Refugees [c]		
Total *(thousands)*		0.1
Net migration [a]		
Total *(thousands)*	-31.9	-31.9
Rate per 1,000 population	-1.7	-1.6
Number per 100 births	-9.5	-9.6
Remittances		
Total *(million US dollars)*	809.0	2,920.0
Percentage of gross domestic product	6.2	7.2
Per capita *(US dollars)*	42.9	144.4
Projected population in 2050 (UN medium variant)		
Total population *(thousands)*	23,554	
Total population assuming zero migration after 2005 *(thousands)*	25,609	
Area		
Gross *(Sq. Km.)*	65,610	
Excluding inland water *(Sq. Km.)*	62,705	
Climate		
Temperature : Low Country,	min. 24.4 max. 31.7	
Hill Country,	min. 17.1 max. 26.3	
Annual Rainfall (Average)	1,640 mm (2007)	
Social indicators		
Human Development Index (2006)	0.742 (min. 0.0, max. 1.0)	
Life Expectancy, (2006)	71.9 (Male 68.2, Female 75.8)	
Literacy Rate, % (2006) (aged 15 and above)	90.8(Male 92.7, Female 89.1)	

Note : [a] Estimates represent annual average for 1995-2000 and 2000-2005.
[b] Estimated number of non-citizens of the country in 2005.
[c] Estimates prepared by the United Nations Population Division based on data supplied by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2005.

Source: United Nations (2009), International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment, Development of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division.
Central Bank of Sri Lanka, *Annual Report*, Various Issues.
Registrar General’s Department, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka

Category / Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[d]
Total Migration for employment (No.)	182,288	183,988	203,810	208,903	213,553	231,390	202,048	217,406
Male (No.)	59,793	59,751	70,726	74,089	79,979	93,896	90,170	102,629
%	32.8	32.6	34.7	35.5	37.5	40.6	44.7	47.2
Female (No.)	122,395	124,137	132,984	134,714	133,474	137,394	111,778	114,677
%	67.5	67.5	65.3	64.5	62.5	59.4	55.3	52.8
Average No. of migrant travellers for employment per day	499	504	558	572	585	633	551	n.a.
Migration for employment as a % of all departures	34.8	37.2	37.2	35.0	31.4	31.3	n.a.	n.a.
Migrant employment by skills (%)								
Professional	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7
Middle level	2.4	2.0	2.3	3.6	3.1	3.5	3.3	1.8
Clerical & related	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.9	2.0
Skilled labour	20.1	20.0	22.3	22.7	21.4	19.7	22.3	24.4
Unskilled labour	19.3	18.2	17.8	21.2	20.1	18.1	20.3	24.0
Housemaids	54.4	56.0	53.3	48.6	51.6	54.1	49.4	47.0
Estimated stock of foreign employment	853,000	932,500	970,000	1,003,600	1,217,053	1,221,763	1,446,133	n.a.
Foreign employment as a % of total labour force	12.5	13.8	13.6	13.1	15.0	15.0	19.0	n.a.
Foreign employment as a % of total number of employed	13.5	15.0	15.0	14.3	16.6	16.3	20.4	n.a.
Migrant remittances (Rs. Mn.)								
Middle - East	55,252	62,680	75,579	77,584	87,871	111,179	128,282	160,502
Other	32,445	40,500	47,604	58,862	70,420	84,077	96,380	116,226
Middle - East as % of total	62.9	60.7	61.4	56.9	55.5	56.9	57.1	58.0
As a % of Export earnings	21.0	23.3	27.4	27.6	27.1	30.6	31.4	32.3

Note : [d] Provisional.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Global and Regional Indicators

Indicator	World	Asia
Population [a]		
Total *(thousands)*	6,464,750	3,905,415
Males *(thousands)*	3,248,919	1,989,639
Females *(thousands)*	3,215,813	1,915,776
Rate of growth per 1,000 population [b]	12.1	12.1
Rate of natural increase per 1,000 population [b]	12.1	12.5
Internal migration stock		
Total *(thousands)*	190,633.6	53,279.3
Males *(thousands)*	96,115.0	29,486.0
Females *(thousands)*	94,518.6	23,805.3
Percentage of population	2.9	1.4
Refugees [c]		
Total *(thousands)*	13,471.2	7,762.6
Net migration [b]		
Total *(thousands)*	-	-1,297.4
Rate per 1,000 population	-	-0.3
Number per 100 births	-	-1.7
Remittances [d]		
Total *(million US dollars)*	225,810.3	85,854.0
Percentage of gross domestic product	0.6	0.9
Per capita *(US dollars)*	34.9	22.0

Indicator	SAARC Countries						
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Pakistan	Nepal
Population [a]							
Total *(thousands)*	29,863	141,822	2,163	1,103,371	329	1,157,935	27,133
Males *(thousands)*	15,404	72,459	1,096	565,778	169	81,283	13,446
Females *(thousands)*	14,459	69,363	1,067	537,593	160	76,653	13,687
Rate of growth per 1,000 population [b]	45.9	19.1	21.9	15.5	25.2	20.4	21.0
Rate of natural increase per 1,000 population [b]	29.8	19.6	21.9	15.8	25.2	22.8	21.7
Internal migration stock							
Total *(thousands)*	n.a	1,031.9	n.a	5,700.1	n.a	3,254.1	818.6
Males *(thousands)*	n.a	888.8	n.a	3,000.8	n.a	1,794.8	252.7
Females *(thousands)*	n.a	143.0	n.a	2,699.4	n.a	1,459.3	565.8
Percentage of population	n.a	0.7	n.a	0.5	n.a	2.1	3.0
Refugees [c]							
Total *(thousands)*	n.a	20.8	n.a	161.7	n.a	887.9	125.6
Net migration [b]							
Total *(thousands)*	428.0	-70.0	n.a	-280.0	n.a	-362.0	-20.0
Rate per 1,000 population	16.0	-0.5	n.a	-0.3	n.a	-2.4	-0.8
Number per 100 births	32.4	-1.9	n.a	-1.1	n.a	-7.8	-2.5
Remittances [d]							
Total *(million of US dollars)*	n.a	3,372.0	n.a	21,727.0	3.0	3,945.0	785.0
Percentage of GDP	n.a	5.5	n.a	3.2	0.4	4.2	12.1
Per capita *(US dollars)*	n.a	23.8	n.a	19.7	9.1	25.0	28.9

Note: [a] Data based on 2005.
[b] Estimates represent annual average for 1995-2000 and 2000-2005.
[c] Estimates prepared by the United Nations Population Division based on data supplied by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
[d] Based on the data compiled by the World Bank. Data reported under 2005 refer to 2004.
n.a : Due to the lack of data, the imputed numbers are not published.

Source: United Nations (2009), International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment, Development of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division.

Selected Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AHSIB	Police Anti-Human Smuggling Investigation Bureau
ALFEA	Association of Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
BOP	Balance of Payments
CA	Colombo Airport
CBSL	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
CEC	Canadian Education Centre
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CIMA	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IED	Immigration and Emigration Department
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SLBFE	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
SLNPLM	Sri Lanka National Policy on Migration
SLTPB	Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America

1

Introduction

1.0 Introduction

The reasons that stimulate people to migrate are numerous and operate in complex and interactive ways at individual, family and socio-economic levels. The dissemination of information and lower transport costs facilitate increased labour mobility and the creation of transitional communities. Workers move to find better employment opportunities and working conditions. While wage differentials are an important incentive, access to higher levels of health and education services, more personal security and generally better quality of life can also be important elements affecting the decision to work abroad (IOM, 2008).

Since the end of the 1990s, issues related to international migration, and more particularly to the international mobility of both highly-qualified workers and unskilled workers, are receiving increasing attention from policy makers. This reflects among others the increasing international movements that have been taking place following the fall of the Iron Curtain and in conjunction with the growing globalization of economic activity. In addition, demographic imbalances between developed and developing countries and large differences in wages have tended to encourage the movements of workers from economies where they are in surplus to those where they are most in need.

According to an analysis of migration and development prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 3 per cent of the world's population (191 million) live in a country other than the one in which they were born in 2005, with one third having moved from a developing country to one that is developed, one third moving from one developing nation to another, and another third originating in the developed world (United Nations, 2008). A greater share of workers moving to developed countries are college educated, and without migration the size of the labour force in the developed world will begin shrinking drastically beginning in 2010, according to UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (even given the current rate of immigration it is likely to decline, but at a more gradual pace). According to a UN compilation of migration statistics from 228 countries and areas, it indicates that the United States leads the world as a host country, with 38 million migrants in 2005 constituting almost 13 per cent of its population. But the share of the population who are migrants is larger still in Australia (19.6 per cent in 2005) and Canada (18.9 per cent).

In regional terms, however, Europe's migrant population of 64 million in 2005 is almost 50 per cent greater than the 45 million in Northern America. Western Asia, with its oil producing nations, also hosts a considerable share of the world's migrants, totalling 22 million in 2005. In Western Europe, many countries from which migrants departed in large numbers in the past century are now major destinations, especially Italy, Ireland, Portugal and especially Spain. A similar pattern - countries that start by being the origin of large numbers of emigrants and then transition to lower emigration of citizens and increasing inflows of foreigners- has also occurred in some countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (United Nations, 2008).

Asian nations becoming important countries of destination include China, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand, following the lead of Japan. In the meantime, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam remain important origins for international migrants, both moving within Asia and overseas. China is both a major source of migrants and a destination for students and persons with skills. On a smaller scale, Thailand is important both as a host country and as the origin of migrant workers.

International migration flows have increased in magnitude and complexity over the past decades receiving ever more attention at policy level. It has become increasingly significant and potentially a beneficial component of the socio-economic fabric of Sri Lanka. International migration can generate significant welfare gains for migrants as well as to countries of origin and destination in reduction in poverty levels and enhancing the living standards of many. Historically, international movement of persons from Sri Lanka has taken several forms such as settlement migration, employment migration, refugee migration, irregular/clandestine migration, student migration and tourism.

International labour migration from Sri Lanka has grown in importance for the last several decades and the numbers have increased more than ten fold during the same period. The total number of out migrants of Sri Lanka on employment abroad at present is estimated to be 1.8 million (CBSL, *Annual Report* 2008) while annually the outflow of workers is estimated to be about 250,000 people. In addition to the large number of temporary migrant workers who have traditionally focused on the unskilled labour market in the Middle East and the other skilled categories to East Asia and the West, there were a significant number of people who migrated during the conflict periods in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country under refugee status to Western countries. In addition, there is a growing trend in the number of people migrating for permanent settlement and for educational purposes abroad.

Migration from Sri Lanka can be broadly categorized based on the reason for migration as follows:

- for settlement - mostly the skilled personnel.
- for economic reasons (for work)- skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled personnel.
- for political reasons -mainly as refugees or asylum seekers.
- for educational purposes - mainly for undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
- for tourism purposes (visits) - only a very small segment of Sri Lankans travel on luxury tourism. However, a number of Sri Lankans travel as pilgrim tourists, mainly to India and Nepal.

One of the most commonly known causes of migration is the Push-Pull factors of migration. Economic and social push and pull factors in countries of origin and countries of destination, respectively, have been the primary drivers in migratory flows. Changes in host country policies and shifts in source country attitudes have also played a role in driving the growth in cross-border skills flows. Push factors are factors which drive people to leave their country, and the pull factors are factors that attract them to a new country. Most commonly known push factors of migration are elements such as economic, social, and political hardships in the origin country, while the pull factors include the comparative advantages in the richer countries' economic and social policies. Therefore, in Sri Lanka, a combination of push and pull factors have affected the size and direction of migration flows of the country.

Having recognized the importance of international migration for Sri Lanka, the International Migration Outlook Sri Lanka: 2008 was initiated with the objective of preparing a comprehensive analysis of the current trends, patterns and changes in migration related sectors such as labour migration, permanent migration, student migration, irregular migration and tourism for the recent years. There are widespread data gaps in all sectors of migration, although isolated data sets are available from different sources. There is a need to strengthen the National Centre for Migration Statistics for a more integrated data collection mechanism and to disseminate migration statistics in Sri Lanka. This report attempts to fill some of these gaps using the existing data, as the first country report on migration.

The structure of the report is as follows. It initially tries to look at the Institutional Framework for Migration in Sri Lanka and attempts to look at the existing institutional mechanism that manages movement of people to and from Sri Lanka for different purposes. The next chapter is on Labour Migration which provides an overview of the global labour migration, followed by a comprehensive analysis of the existing patterns and trends of labour migration for all types of skill categories for Sri Lanka. This chapter also tries to analyze the demand and supply gaps of the labour market followed by a comprehensive analysis of the extent of harassment experienced by Sri Lankan workers abroad. Other important aspects that are analyzed in this chapter include the brain drain phenomenon, followed by an analysis of the impact of remittances, as well as the economic importance and the impact of remittances on different macroeconomic variables for Sri Lanka. The next chapter which is on Tourism sets out to investigate the complex, often overlooked bi-directional relationship between tourism and migration. The chapter on Student Migration tracks patterns of student movement, and outlines major trends in student mobility and discusses the underlying factors behind the high student migration from Sri Lanka. The next chapter deals with Irregular Migration most often invisible in administrative terms, and often unreported, but which has played an important role, especially during the past conflict affected years in Sri Lanka. The final chapter is on the Way Forward that tries to capture some of the policy issues that need to be addressed in Sri Lanka for better migration management in the future.

2

Institutional Framework for Migration in Sri Lanka

2.0 Institutional Framework for Migration in Sri Lanka

- The main institutional framework for the labour migration process is handled by the Ministry of Foreign Employment and Welfare. This ministry was formed in accordance with the "Mahinda Chinthana" under the gazette extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka published on December 08, 2005. According to "Mahinda Chinthana" several policy areas are stipulated with regard to foreign employment:
  - To open new avenues for skilled labour in fields such as nursing, shipping, computer science, etc., to secure foreign employment.
  - To establish an English medium nursing college, which is aimed at fulfilling the growing demand for nurses in European countries.
  - Youth who are interested in securing employment overseas to be registered at divisional secretariat level and to provide the required training.
  - A bank loan scheme to be introduced to cover the initial expenses of those who secure foreign employment.
  - Welfare projects to be introduced at village level for the benefit of the children of those who are employed abroad.
  - Special arrangements to be made to protect the female expatriate workers.
  - Special housing loan schemes to be arranged through state and private banks, with a 30 per cent contribution being made by the Government through a suitable mechanism.
  - A pension scheme to be introduced for those who are employed abroad.
  - The duty free allowance presently available for returnees from employment abroad to be increased to US$ 5,000. Laws will be amended to allow the use of this facility during the first 6 months from date of returning to Sri Lanka.
- The other key government institutions and agencies involved in migration process are the Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower, Ministry of Internal Administration, Department of Immigration and Emigration,

Department of Registration of Persons, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Child Development and Women Empowerment, and the National Child Protection Authority.

- The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) is the primary regulatory body for overseas employment. SLBFE was established to facilitate safe migration. The major objectives of this institute are to provide protection and welfare to the migrant workers, regularize the labour migration industry and to promote Sri Lankan labour for more overseas employment opportunities. SLBFE has wide scope and mandate to regulate and ensure migration in conditions of dignity, security and equity for Sri Lankan nationals seeking employment overseas. This is reflected in the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act of 1985.[1]
- The private Recruitment Agencies represented by the Association of Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies (ALFEA) also play a major role in promotion of recruitment of labour. Recruitment by the state is mandated to a state run Foreign Employment Agency (Private) Limited functioning under SLBFE, as well as to private recruitment agencies.
- The Sri Lankan diplomatic missions in labour receiving countries have a major role to play in safeguarding migrants' rights. The missions which are located specifically in the Middle Eastern countries which receive the bulk of unskilled labour, need to be geared up for more welfare and protection provision as most of the harassment and exploitation is reported from these countries. The missions should ensure safety and protection of in-service situations as well as in the immediate post-service period (National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka, 2008) - for further details see Chapter 3. In addition, there are international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and many international non-governmental organizations working on migration related issues.

[1] Migrant workers do not fall into the purview of existing laws that govern workers within Sri Lanka. The existing legislation that applies to these workers is the SLBFE Act No.21 of 1985 and Amended Act of 1994, which provides for all categories of migrant workers. Although the Act does not provide for contracts or the rights and privileges of the migrant workers, the Act itself offers wide scope for safeguarding and improving the situation of migrant workers.

- There are two International ILO Conventions that Sri Lanka has ratified for the protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families: Migration for Employment (Revised), Act No.97 of 1949 (adopted in 1990), and Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions), Act No.143 of 1975. In addition, Sri Lanka acceded to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in October 1981.
- The Government of Sri Lanka has entered into several bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding[2] with many host countries with the objectives of ensuring protection for migrant workers and to obtain better quality jobs.

2.1 Salient Features of the National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka National Policy on Labour Migration (SLNPLM) was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare and launched in February 2009. It aims to promote opportunities for all men and women to engage in migration for decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. It also aims to articulate the state policy regarding Sri Lankan citizens engaged in employment in other countries and to recognize the significant contribution of all Sri Lankan migrant workers to the national economy through foreign exchange remittances and other mechanisms (SLNPLM, 2008). The SLNPLM further recognizes that it is essential that labour migration is integrated and mainstreamed in national development, decent work and labour market and poverty reduction policies to underscore the importance for the national economy as brought forward in the Mahinda Chinthana policy document. This policy document is developed in three sections; namely, governance of the migration process, protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families; and linking migration and development process.

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[2] Memoranda of understanding between labour sending parties and labour recruiting parties serve to ensure protection in situation specific work conditions, rights and benefits for workers.

3

Labour Migration

3.0 Labour Migration

Labour migration is defined by the IOM as "movement of persons from their home state to another state or within their own country of residence for the purpose of employment". In general, globalization has increased pressures on domestic labour markets in terms of wages, job security and the upgrading of skills for movement between jobs (IOM, 2008).

Foreign employment has opened doors for many people to find suitable jobs abroad both in the skilled and unskilled areas of employment. Out migration for temporary contract work on low skilled jobs, targeting the Middle Eastern countries began in mid-1970s. Prior to this, professional and technical personnel in small numbers migrating to the developed countries dominated the foreign employment market.[3] After the employment channels to the oil rich Gulf countries were opened, for the last few decades temporary labour migration has been increasing rapidly, and presently over 250,000 persons migrate annually. The present Government has placed special emphasis on the promotion of high skilled workers as against the low skilled categories of labour migrants.

Labour Market in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's total labour force[4] comprised 7.2 million employed in 2007 of which about 394,000 were unemployed. The labour force participation rate (LFPR)[5] is about 50 per cent of which 68 per cent are males and 34 per cent females, and reveals significant disparity between male and female employment patterns. Looking at the sectoral employment scenario, it is evident that the services sector remains the highest contributor to the total employment with a contribution of 41 per cent, followed by 26 per cent employed in the industrial sector, and 33 per cent in agriculture. In the recent past, there has been a steady decline in Sri Lanka's unemployment rate which recorded 6 per cent in 2007 which further reduced to 5.2 per cent in 2008. Presently, the rate of unemployment among

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3 According to SLBFE sources, in 1975, 568 professionals, 288 Middle level workers and from other categories 165 people have migrated.

4 Labour force is defined as persons aged 10 years and above, who are able and willing to work (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, *Annual Report*, 2008).

5 LFPR is expressed as the ratio of the labour force to the population aged 10 years and above.

females is higher (8 per cent) than that of males which is about 3.6 per cent for 2008. In addition, the youth unemployment rate, especially among the educated females was significantly high. The labour market reveals an acute unemployment problem among educated youth which is more severe among females. If we look at the unemployment from the education point of view, the rate is highest among those with General Certificate of Education (Advance Level) qualifications and above, followed by those with General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) qualifications. This persistent mismatch between job market opportunities and the aspirations of the unemployed is one of the major reasons to opt for foreign employment in many cases. Although most contract migrant workers, especially the housemaids and unskilled migrants, prefer to work on “low” ranking jobs abroad they will not be willing to be engaged in the same type of job at home especially due to social and cultural reasons. In the recent past, Sri Lanka is experiencing a further challenge with the mismatch between demand and supply factors in foreign employment opportunities as most of the jobs that are demanded cannot be supplied by Sri Lanka as the required skills are not available with the foreign job seekers. On the other hand, there are domestic labour shortages and supply problems in the domestic labour market that need clear policy direction.

Foreign Employment

Foreign employment opportunities have continuously helped to reduce the domestic unemployment pressure in Sri Lanka. Migrant workers originate not only from the unemployed and underemployed categories but also from the employed workforce. Outflow from the first two categories provide only a partial solution to the unemployment problem in the home country. It has helped to alleviate economic deprivation and frustration associated with unemployment to a significant level but does not offer a permanent solution to the unemployment issues of the country. It has also facilitated to generate outlets for direct employment in supporting activities such as employment agencies, travel services, banking, insurance, cargo activities etc. In addition, inflow of migrant savings opens up investment channels that will create further employment opportunities in the local market.

On the other hand, international migration has posed several social concerns. Forty seven per cent of the Sri Lankan labour migrants are housemaids, who are mainly married women with children. Most often when these females migrate the children are left behind to be looked after by the husband and the relatives. These children are often neglected, many tend to drop out of school, negatively influenced, de-motivated and abused (Centre for Women's Research).

Box 3.1
Some Key Figures on Global Employment in 2005

- **The global labour force**[1] **comprised over three billion workers -** Of these, 84 per cent lived in the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific region, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the transition countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and south-eastern Europe.

- **Women represented around 40 per cent of the world's labour force (1.22 billion)**.

- **2.85 billion individuals aged 15 and above were employed**. However, about half did not earn enough to raise themselves above the poverty line of two U.S. dollars a day. These figures are the same as those of ten years ago. Agriculture had the highest employment share (40.1 per cent) [2] as compared to industry (21 per cent) and services (38.9 per cent).

- **The global unemployment rate was 6.3 per cent** - affecting some 191.8 million people,[3] with young persons accounting for approximately half of the unemployed, a relatively high proportion given that they represented only 25 per cent of the total working age population.

- **86 million persons were identified as migrant workers.**

- **Trans National Corporations** comprised 77,000 parent companies with over 770,000 foreign affiliates, the latter **employing some 62 million workers.**

- **66 million workers were employed in Export Processing Zones (EPZs)**, mainly women.

- **565,000 jobs were available offshore.**

Notes:

1. The "labour force" includes the portion of the population above 5 years of age, either working (employed) or looking for work (unemployed).
2. But there are important regional variations. While in the EU and the U.S. agriculture accounts for less than four per cent of the workforce, it accounts for 50 per cent in developing countries (ILO 2006b).
3. To be employed does not necessarily mean to have decent and productive work that would enable a person to sustain a living.

Source: Adopted from IOM, 2008.

Box 3. 2
Some Key Features of International Labour Migration

- Approximately one-third of the world's migrant workers live in Europe, with slightly fewer residing in Asia and North America. Africa hosts approximately eight per cent of migrant workers, while Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean are each home to three per cent of migrant workers.

- Low-skilled migrant workers still represent the bulk of labour migration flows, but between 1995 and 2000 in a number of countries (e.g., some OECD countries) the arrival of highly educated migrants exceeded that of the low-skilled.

- Almost half of all migrants are women (49.6 per cent), with only slightly more living in developed than in developing countries.

- During the 1990s, most developed economies experienced a significant growth in temporary labour migration and again since 2000. But the number of temporary foreign workers is in general relatively small compared to the size of the destination country's labour market, with the exception of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States.

- Both skilled and low-skilled migrant workers seem to work predominantly in the service sectors of major developed countries, notably in construction, commerce, catering, education, health care, domestic and other services. In developing countries, migrant workers tend to be found mainly in primary activities (agriculture, fishing and mining) and in manufacturing, although the share in services (particularly tourism-related) is rising in several countries.

Source: Adopted from IOM, 2008.

3.1 Historical Overview of Labour Migration from Sri Lanka

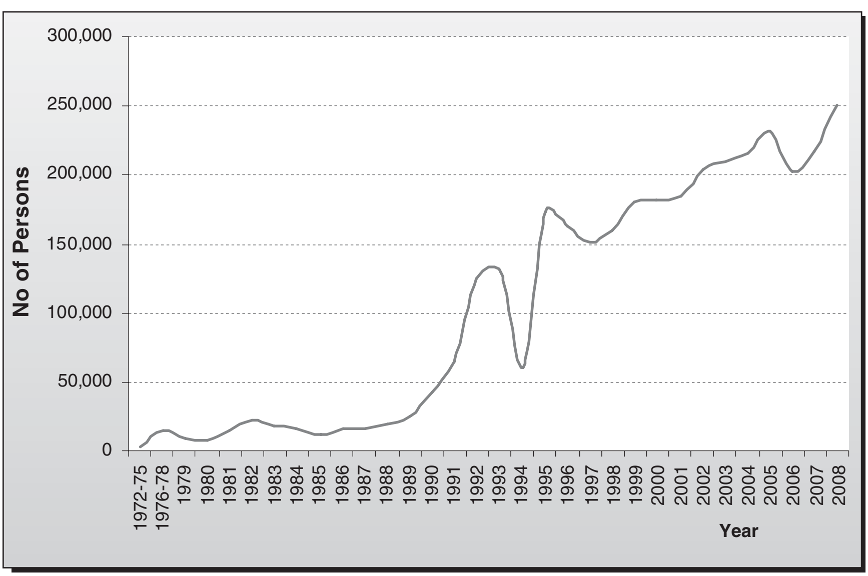
The first instance of outflow of Sri Lankans for foreign employment is reportedly in the first half of the 20th Century, under the British rule, when the Sri Lankan Tamils emigrated to Malaysia in small numbers especially to work in the British rubber plantations. However, after gaining independence in 1948, many people of Burgher origin migrated to Australia and New Zealand. According to the Department of Immigration and Emigration, during 1957-1971, 423,503 Sri Lankans have emigrated although their purpose of migration is not known as records do not reveal this. It has been reported that during the period 1960-1968 about 188 Sri Lankan doctors have been given resident status in Britain. In addition, from 1971-1972 about 379 professionals including doctors, accountants, engineers and university lecturers have left for foreign employment (Ruhunage, 1996).

The two decades following 1972 showed a definite advancement in the labour migration from Sri Lanka. In the middle of 1973 with the oil exporting OPEC countries gaining huge profits from the oil price boom, the resultant economic development in these countries had a tremendous impact on the labour market, turning these countries into virtual open market for migrant labour. It opened up job opportunities to many Asian, Arabian and European workers. This was an opening for labour exporting countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines and India to enter the Middle Eastern employment market by supplying labour. According to the Ministry of Plan Implementation statistics in 1979, 25,875 persons left for employment abroad (Ruhunage, 1996). This increase in out migration from Sri Lanka coupled with the second oil boom in 1979, conducive domestic policy environment such as relaxation of travel and exchange rate restrictions in 1977/78, also contributed positively.

One of the main reasons for the high rate of labour importation by the Arab countries was the social conditions that emerged in the Middle East coupled with their economic development. The shortage of human resources in the Middle East was addressed by the Western countries by filling the gap for the skilled jobs and the shortages in unskilled jobs were filled by the Asians. Another important feature after 1986 is the demand for female garment factory workers that further increased the female bias in the migratory patterns. Most of the females that migrated as factory workers have prior experience in the domestic market and were able to gain better employment prospects abroad. Faced with poverty and with few employment opportunities, this was a good opening for most Sri Lankan migrant workers.

It was evident that initially a high percentage of urban women seeking work abroad originated from low income families having low levels of education. In Colombo and its suburbs, migration initially became a veritable strategy for family survival. In rural areas fewer women initially opted for jobs abroad as these people lacked the financial backing and information on foreign job opportunities. In addition, these rural people were more comfortable with the available welfare facilities that were provided by the state. At present this situation has changed to a heavy outflow of rural migrant women for unskilled jobs abroad.

Figure 3.1
Sri Lankan Labour Migration -1972 to 2008



Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

3.2 Present Trends in Temporary Foreign Employment

According to the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), presently the Sri Lankan migrant population is around 1.8 million. In 2008, foreign employment placements recorded a growth of 15 per cent with a total outflow of 252,021 departures. Of the total migrant population, the female migrants have been dominating the market over several decades (on average about 65 per cent) especially due to the heavy outflow of housemaids to the Middle East. This trend is slowly changing towards more skilled categories migrating where there is more male participation. In 2008 the gender composition changed to be 51:49 where there was 43 per cent drop in departures for housemaids. Although other categories of skilled labour have an increased demand, still the Middle Eastern region dominates the foreign employment market in Sri Lanka accounting to over 90 per cent of the total migrant workforce.

Table 3.1
Departures for Foreign Employment, by Sex: 1986 to 2007

Year	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
1986	11,023	66.98	5,433	33.02	16,456
1987	10,647	66.02	5,480	33.98	16,127
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	28.00	89,636	72.00	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	32.50	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	40.60	137,394	59.40	231,290
2006	90,170	44.65	111,778	55.35	201,948
2007*	102,629	47.23	114,677	52.77	217,306
2008	123,490	49.00	128,530	51.00	252,021

Note : * Provisional.
** Airport Survey-SLBFE 1992-1993.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

In mid-1980s, the female share was about 33 per cent of the total migrants and by 1990 this increased to 64 per cent and to 75 per cent in 1997 which was the peak since 2001. This trend has somewhat changed where male migration has picked up and there is a decline in the share of females in migration. The sudden upward shift in departures in 2002 is mainly due to the direction issued by the Presidential Task Force for compulsory registration for foreign employment. This clearly shot up the migration numbers as more and more migrants came into the documented registered category of migrants. In 2008, female migrants consisted of 51 per cent while male migration was highest ever with a share of 49 per cent.

The foreign employment market for Sri Lankan workers have been dominated by females engaged as housemaids mainly working in the Middle East belonging to the age group 25-39 years. In 2007, out of the total migrants, 53 per cent were females of which 47 per cent went as housemaids. These housemaids posses a higher level of educational attainment compared to many other countries that export housemaids. Most of the housemaids are married with children and a high percentage of migrants come from the lower income groups. The male contribution to foreign employment has been persistently increasing although it has been lower than the female departures. It is evident during the last few years that there has been steady growth in male departures especially to the increased demand for skilled and unskilled jobs for males in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E. and Jordan in the construction and manufacturing sectors. On the other hand, the growth in the female departures for foreign employment has slowed down during the last few years mainly due to the increase in the availability of job opportunities in Sri Lanka and also the government discouragement of mothers with children under 5 years migrating has affected the total female departures.

The housemaid category has the highest stock with 49 per cent of the total migrants of the country in 2007 followed by the skilled category with 22 per cent departures and unskilled with 20 per cent migrants abroad (see Appendix 02 for the Estimated Stock of Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers by Country).

It is evident that total departures for foreign employment has been increasing steadily since 1995, reaching a peak of its departures in 2007 with 217,306 departures. This further increased in 2008 despite the global economic crisis. In 2008, Sri Lanka had 252,021 departures for foreign employment.

Table 3. 2
Estimated Stock of Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers by Manpower Levels and By Gender -2007

Manpower level	Male	Female	Total	%
Professional Level	12,200	2,550	14,750	0.9
Middle level	36,500	10,000	46,500	2.8
Clerical and related	59,300	11,780	71,080	4.3
Skilled	260,400	107,100	367,500	22.4
Semi Skilled[6]	3,100	235	3,335	0.2
Unskilled	250,800	77,990	328,790	20.0
Housemaid	-	810,500	810,500	49.3
Total	**622,300**	**1,020,155**	**1,642,455**	100.0

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

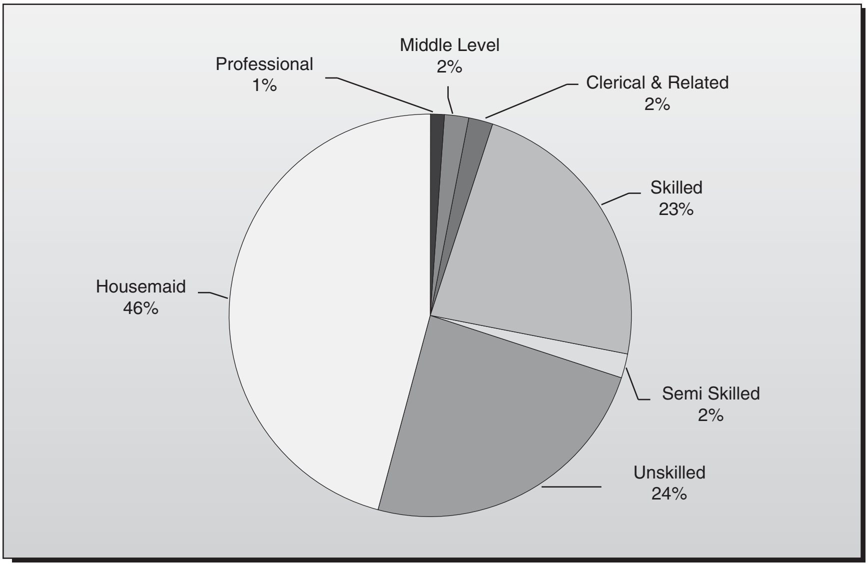
Table 3. 3
Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Manpower Levels 1994 to 2007

Year	Professional Level		Middle Level		Clerical & Related		Skilled		Semi Skilled		Unskilled		Housemaid		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1994	262	0.44	833	1.38	1,559	2.59	12,586	20.92	-	-	8,824	14.67	36,104	60.01	60,168
1995	878	0.51	2,495	1.45	4,594	2.66	27,165	15.75	-	-	23,479	13.61	113,860	66.02	172,471
1996	599	0.37	1,944	1.20	3,371	2.07	24,254	14.92	-	-	21,929	13.49	110,479	67.96	162,576
1997	573	0.38	1,635	1.09	3,579	2.38	24,502	16.30	-	-	20,565	13.68	99,429	66.16	150,283
1998	695	0.43	2,823	1.77	4,896	3.06	31,749	19.87	-	-	34,304	21.46	85,349	53.40	159,816
1999	1,253	0.70	3,161	1.76	6,210	3.46	37,277	20.74	-	-	43,771	24.35	88,063	49.00	179,735
2000	935	0.51	3,781	2.08	5,825	3.20	36,475	20.02	-	-	35,759	19.63	99,413	54.57	182,188
2001	1,218	0.66	3,776	2.05	6,015	3.27	36,763	19.98	-	-	33,385	18.14	102,850	55.89	184,007
2002	1,481	0.73	4,555	2.24	7,239	3.55	45,478	22.32	-	-	36,485	17.90	108,535	53.26	203,773
2003	1,541	0.73	7,507	3.58	6,779	3.23	47,744	22.75	-	-	44,264	21.09	102,011	48.61	209,846
2004	1,827	0.85	6,561	3.06	6,679	3.11	45,926	21.39	-	-	43,204	20.12	110,512	51.47	214,709
2005	1,421	0.61	8,042	3.48	7,742	3.35	46,688	20.19	-	-	41,904	18.12	125,493	54.26	231,290
2006	1,972	0.98	6,638	3.29	7,911	3.92	45,063	22.31	-	-	40,705	20.16	99,659	49.35	201,948
2007*	1,609	0.74	3,835	1.76	4,451	2.05	49,609	22.83	3,435	1.66	52,191	24.02	102,176	47.02	217,306

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

[6] In 2007, the Government introduced a new category of workers called 'semi-skilled' workers to its manpower categories.

Figure 3. 2
Departures by Manpower Levels -2007

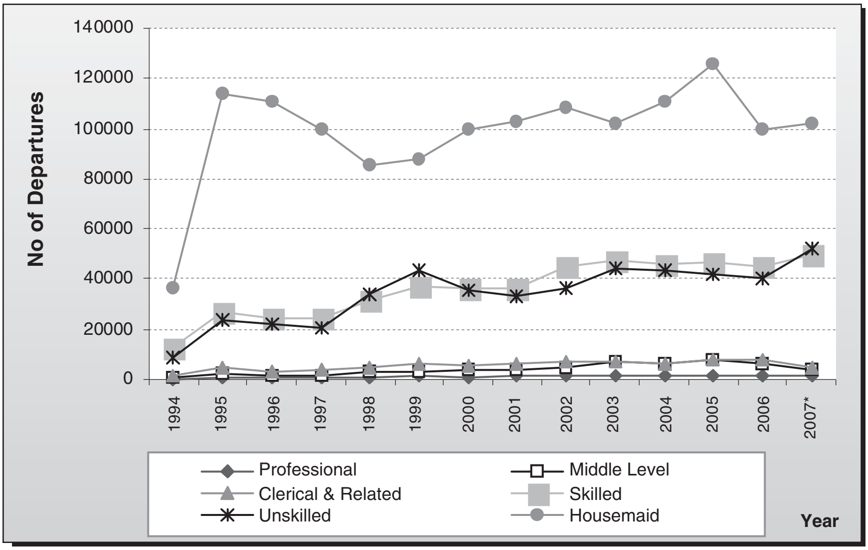


Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

Although there is an increase in the total number of migrants from Sri Lanka, this increase is mainly driven by an increase in the workers in the unskilled category and the housemaids. The number of professionals, middle level and clerical and related migrants recorded a decline in 2007. This decline in skilled categories is mainly due to restrictive migrant laws that were imposed in the wake of the global economic crisis. This trend is further explained in the trend chart below. At the same time, it has to be noted that the data pertaining to professionals, middle level and skilled categories do not give the full picture as most migrants in these groups tend to migrate direct and do not register with SLBFE. Therefore, data pertaining to the skilled categories will be much higher if the direct migrant numbers are added.

In 2007, the skilled labour category accounted for 22.8 per cent while professionals were about 1 per cent, middle level workers contributed 1.7 per cent and clerical and related migrants accounted for 2 per cent. Therefore, all skilled categories together contributed 27.4 per cent to the total departures for employment abroad. A notable characteristic of the skilled categories especially professionals,

Figure 3.3
Trends in Manpower Categories, 1994 to 2007



Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

is that the male departures are higher and often these are single individuals on 2-3 year contracts with a possibility of extending it further. Most of the professional migrants with family tend to depart alone initially and then after few months the family would follow. In this scenario, the possibility of these professionals remitting to the home country is very low. Unlike the unskilled workers or the housemaids who remit 80 per cent of their income back home, the remittance contribution from the skilled categories is very low as most of the time, they tend to consume abroad and save or invest in foreign countries to gain better returns.

The present policy emphasis of Sri Lanka is to concentrate on skilled migration, Sri Lanka should find the "optimum level" of skilled emigration that will create the best feed back results. Return migrants, in particular, bring back their skills and work experience from abroad boosting productivity. In addition, expatriates who remain abroad contribute via worker remittances and there are many instances where skilled migrants assist in transfer of knowledge and technology to the host country which in turn can help to boost productivity and economic development.

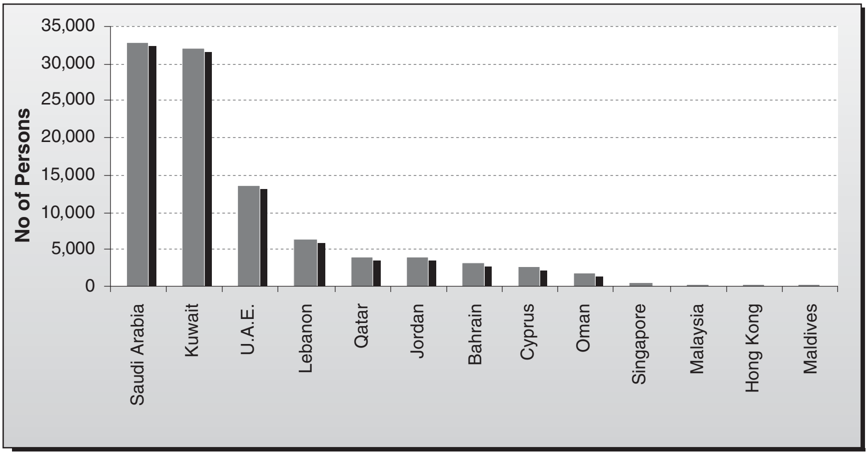
Table 3.4
Destinations of Labour Migrants from Sri Lanka by Country 2003 to 2007*

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Saudi Arabia	76,095	36.26	71,297	33.21	76,210	32.95	61,424	30.42	60,222	27.71
Kuwait	38,623	18.41	36,782	17.13	36,157	15.63	34,697	17.18	40,883	18.81
U.A.E.	32,334	15.41	32,890	15.32	36,371	15.73	33,797	16.74	38,755	17.83
Qatar	23,798	11.34	30,015	13.98	35,953	15.54	31,458	15.58	38,728	17.82
Lebanon	13,207	6.29	17,852	8.31	16,402	7.09	6,889	3.41	6,890	3.17
Jordan	7,082	3.37	8,907	4.15	8,276	3.58	8,136	4.03	8,386	3.86
Oman	4,131	1.97	3,474	1.62	3,562	1.54	4,273	2.12	3,871	1.78
Bahrain	3,731	1.78	3,827	1.78	3,751	1.62	4,400	2.18	5,103	2.35
Maldives	3,193	1.52	2,532	1.18	2,738	1.18	3,467	1.72	3,700	1.7
Cyprus	3,043	1.45	3,138	1.46	2,234	0.97	2,346	1.16	3,001	1.38
South Korea	2,036	0.97	1,304	0.61	4,850	2.1	3,653	1.81	2,676	1.23
Singapore	1,069	0.51	990	0.46	1,017	0.44	954	0.47	940	0.43
Malaysia	239	0.11	241	0.11	1,168	0.5	3,584	1.77	1,035	0.48
Hong Kong SAR	228	0.11	163	0.08	171	0.07	256	0.13	314	0.14
Mauritius	185	0.09	353	0.16	1,057	0.46	891	0.44	944	0.43
Seychelles	128	0.06	52	0.02	596	0.26	378	0.19	326	0.15
Egypt	118	0.06	161	0.07	176	0.08	116	0.06	191	0.09
Libya	58	0.03	35	0.02	37	0.02	27	0.01	52	0.02
Israel	58	0.03	106	0.05	174	0.08	236	0.12	828	0.38
Greece	55	0.03	85	0.04	25	0.01	18	0.01	62	0.03
Pakistan	27	0.01	41	0.02	25	0.01	78	0.04	61	0.03
Others	408	0.19	464	0.21	340	0.14	870	0.42	338	0.13
Total	**209,846**	**100**	**214,709**	**100**	**231,290**	**100**	**201,948**	**100**	**217,306**	**100**

Note: *Provisional.
Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

In 2007, of the total departures for foreign employment about 86.3 per cent of departures for foreign employment were directed to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries - UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. Although continuously Saudi Arabia has secured a significant high share of workers, in the recent past there has been a decline in the rate of growth in the departures and new destinations have become more lucrative especially for semi-skilled workers. Countries like Maldives, Cyprus, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia have gained prominence in the recent past.

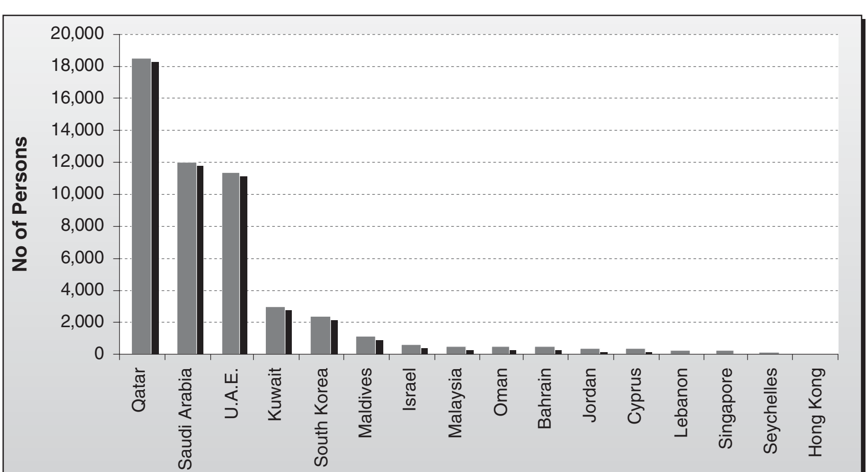
Figure 3.4
Top Destinations for Housemaids in 2007



Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

The high concentration of housemaids in Saudi Arabia (32 per cent) and Kuwait (31 per cent) is clearly visible from the above chart. It is also important to note the new entrants like Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong SAR are becoming more attractive destinations with regard to better pay and better working conditions.

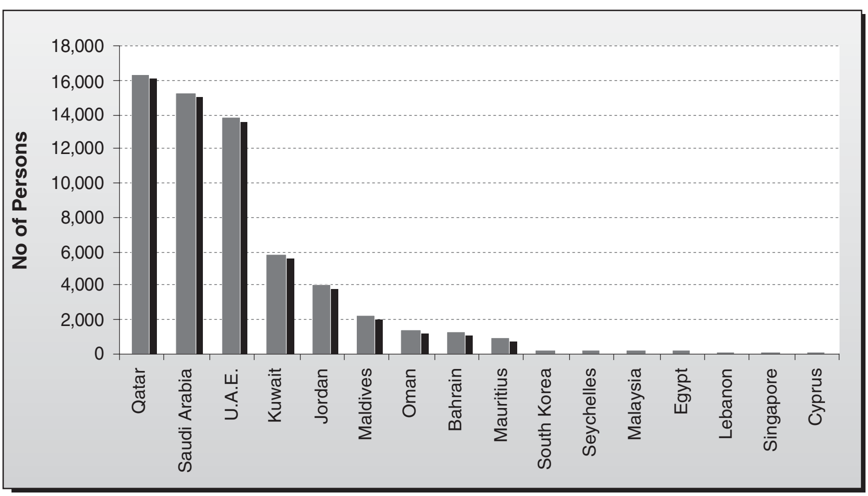
Figure 3. 5
Top Destinations for Unskilled Workers in 2007



Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

Highest number of unskilled workers have migrated to Qatar (18,442 persons with a share of 35 per cent), followed by Saudi Arabia (12,034 persons with a share of 23 per cent), U.A.E. (11,385 persons with a share of 22 per cent), Kuwait (3,033 with a share of 6 per cent) and South Korea (2,375 with a share of 5 per cent). Although unofficial data and evidence reveal that many unskilled people choose countries like Italy, Libya and Cyprus, the official data from the SLBFE shows a much lesser number for these countries as most of these migrants sought illegal means of migrating especially in small boats to enter into these countries and are unregistered with the SLBFE. Often, they by-pass the legal channels of departure from Sri Lanka.

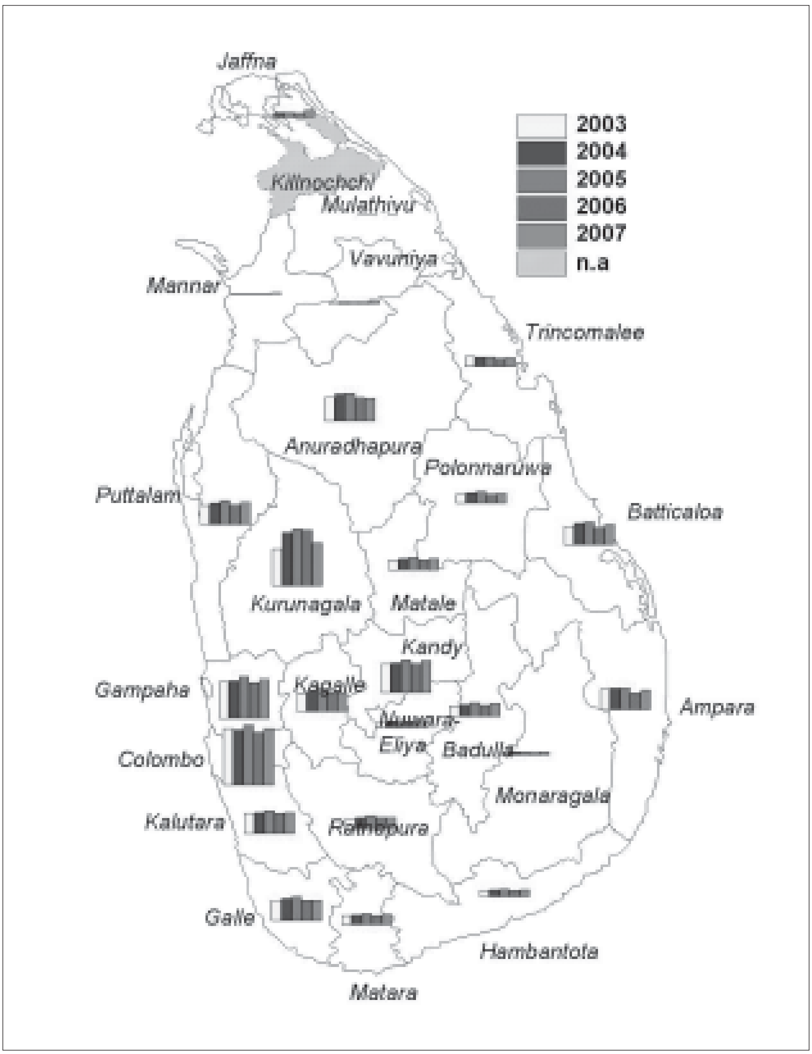
Figure 3. 6
Top Destinations for Semi-skilled, Skilled, Clerical, Middle Level and Professional Workers in 2007



Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

It has to be noted that mainly the unskilled workers and the housemaids register with the SLBFE while the other categories referred to in the above chart tend to find jobs independently using direct channels. Therefore, these workers who migrate independently find job opportunities using direct contacts and do not register with the SLBFE as the existing law that mandates all migrants who go on employment needs registration with SLBFE is not practised and monitored sufficiently. For example for 2007, the SLBFE shows that not a single professional worker has migrated to UK, USA, South Korea, Cyprus, Italy, China and Greece, which is a gross underestimation and contrary to the evidence in the foreign employment patterns for professional workers. This also reflects the earlier mentioned problem of non-availability of data pertaining to skilled categories which needs to be given clear policy attention for the formulation of a comprehensive database.

Map 3.1
Departures for Foreign Employment by Districts 2003 to 2007*



Source: Author's illustration by using the data from Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Colombo, Kurunegala, Gampaha, Kandy and Anuradhapura accounted for 44 per cent of the total departures in 2007. Colombo alone contributed to 12.8 per cent of departures which mainly departed to countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Qatar. Colombo being the capital city of Sri Lanka, access to services and information availability is more. In addition, the availability of recruitment agents in Colombo is clearly higher with 60 per cent of the licensed recruitment agencies located in Colombo while another 10 per cent are in Kurunegala. Lowest departures for foreign employment were seen from Mullativu, Mannar, Monaragala, and Vavuniya districts.[7] Evidence show that most people from the Northern and Eastern parts of the country tend to come to Colombo as a transit point for migration. Lowest departures from Monaragala can be attributed to the high level of poverty prevalent in this area acting as an impediment in financing the initial cost of migration and the lack of economic and information opportunities (see Appendix 03 for the Estimated Stock of Sri Lankan Overseas Workers by District).

3.3 Demand and Supply of Jobs for Sri Lankan Workers Abroad

Sri Lanka has a huge mis-match between the international demand for jobs and its supply capabilities. The most pressing issue is the skills mismatch of what is demanded by the foreign countries and what Sri Lankan workers could offer. Sri Lanka has been traditionally concentrating on the unskilled workers and the housemaids, but present demand is for more skilled and professional categories of workers which require internationally recognized qualifications to enter these markets. On the other hand, in the domestic labour market too there are significant supply gaps. In some skilled categories, such as the health and construction services, the shortage is already being felt. This shortage is partly due to the migration of qualified skilled labour for greener pastures abroad which has adversely affected the domestic labour market lack opportunities in certain fields of study in local universities does not create sufficient numbers to cater to the domestic needs.

[7] There are 587 licensed agencies in Sri Lanka at present. Most agencies charge an agency fee from the job seeking candidate, apart from the fee covering all ticketing and visa costs already billed by the foreign principal. However, there remain a few Recruitment Agencies that does not charge the job seeker apart from the SLBFE stipulated registration fee, and engage in ethical non-exploitative practices. http://www.empro.gov.lk/main.php?pid=Export

Table 3.5
Supply Gap of Sri Lankan Labour for Foreign Jobs

Year	Job Orders Received	Departures	Supply Gap	% Unutilized
1990	183,175	42,625	140,550	76.73
1991	521,615	64,985	456,630	87.54
1992	334,789	33,025	301,764	90.14
1993	242,000	48,753	193,247	79.85
1994	236,590	60,168	176,422	74.57
1995	553,450	118,720	434,730	78.55
1996	505,682	115,446	390,236	77.17
1997	588,574	115,050	473,524	80.45
1998	780,628	112,565	668,063	85.58
1999	667,889	120,627	547,262	81.94
2000	779,716	127,615	652,101	83.63
2001	739,324	132,467	606,857	82.08
2002	309,577	152,974	156,603	50.59
2003	348,079	154,697	193,382	55.56
2004	366,226	156,146	210,080	57.36
2005	418,032	165,707	252,325	60.36
2006	722,267	141,177	581,090	80.45
2007	901,682	146,031	755,651	83.80

Source: Compiled using Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

There are huge gaps in the supply side of Sri Lanka's migrant labour, thus a significant number of job offers to Sri Lanka go unutilized each year. From 1990 to 2007, on average 76 per cent of jobs were unutilized.

In 2007, 83 per cent of the job offers were unfilled which amounted to 755,651 jobs in all manpower levels while in 2006 about 80 per cent of the job orders accounting to 581,090 jobs were unutilized. Continuously from 1990 until 2001 the percentage of utilization of job orders remained above 75 per cent which dropped below 60 per cent thereafter, and again increased to above 80 per cent since 2006.

Although the bulk of Sri Lanka's foreign workers are in the housemaid category and the unskilled category, there are huge untapped job offers where the former category has a supply gap of 307,607 job orders unfilled (80 per cent) while the latter has 116,234 vacancies unfilled (78 per cent), respectively. Of the housemaid category the supply shortage is highest in General Housemaid category and for Non-Muslim Housemaids. (See Appendix 04 for detailed analysis of the Top 50 Jobs that have the Highest Supply Gaps).

Table 3.6
Supply Gap by Skill Level

Manpower Level	2003				2007			
	Job Orders	Departures	Supply Gap	% Un-utilized	Job Orders	Departures	Supply Gap	% Un-utilized
Professional Level	2,604	356	2,248	86	4,789	386	4,403	92
Middle Level	12,490	3,485	9,005	72	8,534	741	7,793	91
Clerical and Related	13,672	2,954	10,718	78	18,107	1,590	16,517	91
Skilled	109,371	33,962	75,409	69	322,934	30,510	292,424	91
Semi-skilled	-	-	-	-	12,640	1,967	10,673	84
Unskilled	61,815	32,021	29,794	48	148,607	32,373	116,234	78
Housemaid	148,127	81,919	66,208	45	386,071	78,464	307,607	80
Total	348,079	154,697	193,382	56	901,682	146,031	755,651	84

Note: Departures are for workers registered with the SLBFE (excludes the direct departures).
* - Only those who have departed with SLBFE registration. In 2007, of the total departures (257,306), about 68 per cent (146,031) were registered and 32 per cent (71,275) were direct departures.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

In the unskilled category the supply gap is most acute for House Boys (supply shortage of 49,912 jobs), General Labourers (supply shortage of 16,877 jobs), Cleaners (supply shortage of 15,915 jobs), and General Helpers (supply shortage of 10,754 jobs).

Although the SLBFE data does not give a full picture of the skilled categories in its data, having recognized the existing data gaps, it has given direction for policy focus.[8] When talking about supply shortage there has to be a close focus on the skilled categories as Sri Lanka intends to promote and improve the quality of the skilled migrants in the future. With regard to professional jobs, the supply gap is about 4,403 jobs while the gap for Middle level workers is about 7,793 job offers (91 per cent), for clerical and related jobs the supply gap is about 16,517 (91 per cent) jobs and for skilled workers this is about 292,424 (91 per cent) job orders unfilled in 2007.

In the professional category overall there were 4,403 job orders unfilled in 2007 which was equally high in 2006 with 4,233 vacancies unfilled. There were 930 vacancies for Civil Engineers unfilled, further 824 jobs for General Accountants, 414 jobs for Mechanical Engineers, and 397 Electrical Engineers were unfilled in 2007.

[8] Most of the migrants for skilled jobs find jobs via direct sources and most often depart without registering with the SLBFE.

3.4 Foreign Workers in Sri Lanka

Table 3.7
Foreigners Working in Sri Lanka, 2005 to 2008

Nationality	2005	2006	2007	2008
Indian	552	552	670	525
Chinese	250	269	251	242
British	161	170	162	112
Japanese	116	99	119	110
Korean	68	87	103	95
Deutsch	66	78	94	85
Bangladesh	102	136	124	72
Maldivian	67	110	151	71
Australian	51	53	60	51
Philippino	51	57	51	43
American	34	40	51	38
Pakistani	46	38	42	35
Dutch	09	34	33	29
Swiss	16	19	20	29
Malaysian	37	37	29	28
Sudanese	10	15	14	27
Canadian	21	29	38	23
Nepalese	13	20	24	19
Singaporean	24	35	24	19
Italian	29	25	29	17
French	22	21	19	13
Danish	22	19	08	14
Myanmar	20	18	14	15
Others	191	191	176	160
Grand Total	**1,956**	**2,152**	**2,306**	**1,872**

Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration.

For the Middle Level jobs there were 7,793 jobs unfilled in 2007 while another 10,932 were unfilled in the previous year. Most acute supply gaps were seen for Quality Controllers (843 jobs unfilled), General Purpose Nurses (390 jobs unfilled), Civil Foreman (352 jobs unfilled) and Electrical Foreman (306 jobs unfilled).

The highest supply gap was visible in the skilled category of foreign workers with a total supply gap of 292,424 job vacancies unfilled for 2007, and 208,970 unfilled in 2006. In 2007, out the 322,934 total job offers only 30,510 jobs were filled. This was more acute with House Drivers (75,476 unfilled), Domestic Cooks (32,886 unfilled), Domestic Tailors (23,756 unfilled), Light Vehicle Drivers (14,438 unfilled), and Machine Operators and Domestic Tailors (12,201 unfilled).

The Table 3.7 shows the visas issued to foreigners working in Sri Lanka from 2005 to 2008, which reveals that throughout the period under consideration the highest number of foreign workers originated from India. In 2007 out of the total foreign workers in Sri Lanka, 28 per cent (525 persons) were Indians while another 12 per cent (242 persons) Chinese, followed by 6 per cent British (112 persons), and 5.8 per cent (110 persons) were Japanese. The overall number of foreign workers in Sri Lanka dropped by 18 per cent in 2007 which can be mainly attributed to the cost cutting measures adopted by local as well as international corporations which in turn limited new recruitment. The overall trend in foreign workers who immigrated to Sri Lanka is that most of them are engaged in the professional and high skilled categories of employment as shown in the Table below which gives the expatriates employed in the BOI companies in Sri Lanka.

Table 3.8
Expatriates/Foreigners in the Board of Investment (BOI) Enterprises as at 05.18.2009 by Sector

Employment Category	No. of Persons
Skilled Worker	1,475
Technician/Supervisor	565
General Manager/Manager	356
Executive Director/ Director	303
Technician/Quality Controller/Supervisor/Designer (Garment)	212
Managing Director/ Chairman	210
Engineer	190
Pilot/Crew Member	93
Cook/Chef	89
Consultant / Project Co-coordinator	86
Chief Executive Officer	65
Nurse/Chemist/Therapist	50
Doctor	43
Lecturer/Professor/Teacher/Faculty Member	40
Accountant/ Financial Controller	33
Software Engineer/System Analyst	23
Architect	4
Other	61
Total	**3,898**

Source: Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.

As of May 2009 there were 3,898 foreigners working for the BOI companies. These workers obtain an annual working visa. Employment of foreign workers in BOI enterprises is mainly for professional and high skilled categories.

3.5 Brain Drain or Brain Gain?

According to the World Migration Report 2008, brain drain is defined as "emigrants of trained and talented persons from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills in the former". On the other hand, brain gain is defined as "immigration of trained and talented persons into a destination country" This is also called "reverse brain drain".

Brain drain can only be said to have occurred where there is clear evidence that migration flows have had adverse consequences for the source economy.

Evidence reveals that about 10 per cent of all highly skilled persons from the developing world live in either North America or Europe. Many Latin American, African and Caribbean countries are having significantly high level of their highly skilled nationals living abroad which pose serious challenges to the socio-economic development of the country of origin.

Sri Lanka has experienced the shortage of skilled personnel in many fields. For example in the Health Sector, there are only 800 specialists doctors in Sri Lanka to serve a population of 18 million people. According to the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health, there were only 0.589 physicians per 1000 population in 2006. This ratio is well below that of many countries with equivalent income levels. Each year around 60 doctors leave for the UK, Australia, Canada and other nations in the developed world to complete a year's compulsory training, but only half of them actually return, exacerbating a growing crisis in health care services. Government in the recent past has been taking several initiatives to encourage the return of such professionals by encouraging them to work in the country at least on a short term basis. But, there is much more to be done in this regard.

According to a study in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD (Dumont and Zurun, 2007), in the health sector for instance, compared to other countries in the region, Sri Lanka has the highest expatriation rate of doctors and the third highest expatriation rate of nurses to OECD countries. This study further stated that it amounted to 4,668 Sri Lankan doctors and 2,032 nurses working in OECD countries. In addition, presently there are over 5,700 job vacancies in the BOI job bank which is unfilled. These are mainly in advertising, apparel, manufacturing, Information Technology, Business Process Outsourcing, Tourism and Jewellery sectors. According to LMI Report[9] in the domestic labour market, in 2007 there were 84,207 total number of vacancies in both government and private sectors. Of which, 16,650 vacancies were in highly skilled jobs, 26,312

[9] LMI Report is a vacancy analysis (http://www.lmi.lk/Bulletin_2007/pages/01.htm) and is a continuous survey of job advertisements from selected weekend newspapers (*Sunday Observer, Silumina* and *Sunday Times*) in which most of the job vacancies are published.

were in skilled occupations while another 39,358 were semi and elementary occupations.

The other high skilled category with high outflow is Accountants. Many Sri Lankan Management Accountants are seeking job opportunities in Australia, Africa, Middle East, UK and Canada. The highest demand for skilled jobs are in finance, information technology, and engineering in the West and the SAARC region as well. For example, out of the qualified Chartered Management Accountants (CIMA) about 50 per cent (1,969 CIMA members) migrate to other countries. Only 1,993 out of total 3,992 CIMA members are working in the island and presently there are 12,150 CIMA students in Sri Lanka (*Sunday Times, Financial Times*, 09 March 2008).

Although Sri Lanka through its well established higher education machinery, turns out a large number of professionals such as Accountants, Doctors, Engineers, Managers etc. each year, its absorption capacity within the country is questionable. Hence the unemployment rate among the educated youth in Sri Lanka is highest among these sub-categories. Unless they are provided with adequate job opportunities it would lead to youth unrest and create an economic burden. Thus foreign employment for educated unemployed sometimes become a safety valve to release the social tensions. In addition, it serves as a 'shock absorber', when the country is undergoing economic downturns. Labour is human capital and like any other capital unit it is also subject to fast obsolescence. The knowledge base of the world changes rapidly, demanding workers to have continuous professional development to keep abreast of the latest developments. The workers in the developed world automatically get exposure to new technology, better work practices and modern management techniques. Evidence show that many such workers from India and China have now returned to their home countries, bringing back new skills and technology they have gained from abroad, thereby, adding more value to the quality and productively of the local labour force. Sri Lanka, in the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts have clearly recognized the importance of its Diaspora assistance in this national task.

3.6 Evidence of Harassment of Migrant Workers

Evidence show that low skilled and unskilled categories of migrants are subject to high level of violation of human rights, including labour rights, harassment and abuse at the work place more than skilled professionals (National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka, 2008), especially due to lack of education, training and awareness of the host country laws and working conditions. Most of the time, the employer also does not educate these migrants and they remain unaware of some of the vital information. These migrant workers are often subject to violence and to appalling working conditions. In 2001, the Centre for Women's Research estimated that around 10 per cent of the approximately 500,000 female migrant workers from Sri Lanka have been victims of some form of physical, psychological or sexual abuse.

Table 3.9
Complaints Received by Country and Sex, 2004 to 2007*

Country	2004			2005			2006			2007*		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Saudi Arabia	402	3,315	3,717	469	3,687	4,156	407	3,829	4,236	516	3,377	3,893
UAE	137	484	621	144	665	809	186	539	725	192	510	702
Bahrain	5	70	75	4	104	108	1	97	98	6	149	155
Oman	7	69	76	6	57	63	9	47	56	13	56	69
Kuwait	67	1,187	1,254	52	1,259	1,311	61	1,361	1,422	70	1,485	1,555
Qatar	448	130	578	623	128	751	461	148	609	338	114	452
Jordan	14	591	605	42	648	690	26	787	813	12	833	845
Singapore	1	14	15	-	32	32	-	14	14	-	12	12
Lebanon	3	990	993	2	1,292	1,294	5	1,365	1,370	5	617	622
Cyprus	5	18	23	8	13	21	1	20	21	1	5	6
Malaysia	3	14	17	44	21	65	899	82	981	1	1	2
South Korea	-	-	0	-	-	0	69	10	79	30	-	30
Maldives	26	5	31	57	1	58	63	2	65	36	1	37
Others	129	219	348	423	149	572	214	126	340	28	37	65
Total	**1,247**	**7,106**	**8,353**	**1,874**	**8,056**	**9,930**	**2,402**	**8,427**	**10,829**	**1,248**	**7,197**	**8,445**

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

Significant number of complaints were received from Saudi Arabia throughout the period under consideration (see Table 3.9). In 2007, about 46 per cent of the complaints were from Saudi Arabia followed by Kuwait recording 18 per cent while Jordan recorded 10 per cent of the total complaints. Comparative figures for the total departures for foreign employment reflect the high share of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait carrying about 46 per cent of the total temporary migrants specifically the unskilled and housemaids. In Jordan although the complaints recorded a high share of the total complaints (about 10 per cent), the total departures to Jordan were only 3 per cent of the total departures. This is the same for Lebanon which had total departures of 3 per cent against a complaints share of 7 per cent. This is a phenomenon that needs urgent and specific policy attention to address issues faced by the migrants. This situation is most acute with females as seen in the Table for all years and for all countries the share of female complaints were higher than the male complaints.

The most common complaint by the migrant workers is the lack of communication of the vital information. In 2007, there were 1,686 complaints of communication problems followed by non-payment of wages (1,495 complaints), and physical and sexual harassment (1,272 complaints) which are the most common problems.

It is evident that many migrant workers especially the low skilled and the unskilled female workers have been exploited and misused by unauthorized recruitment agents. Malpractices by certain private recruitment agencies and the gaps in the existing policy framework have aggravated this situation further. The government together with the SLBFE has taken several measures to mitigate this situation, but still there are many reported cases of abusive and exploitative practices among the unlicensed sub-agents. Urgent policy attention is vital to address problems pertaining to migrant workers in vulnerable situations, who, despite the progressive and proactive measures taken by the Government, including mandatory registration and insurance coverage, are often subject to abuse and sometimes death.

Most of the negotiations at national level are heavily loaded in favour of the host country as international labour transactions are mediated at a buyers market with foreign principals always at an advantage. Thus women, especially housemaids, categorized as unskilled workers are generally considered as a commodity to be bought at the lowest price. Often when regulations are brought in they seem to be discriminatory, e.g., the six monthly pregnancy test for women workers in Singapore and the ban on marriages between migrant females and indigenous males (Dias and Jayasundere, 2001).

Several policy measures have been initiated in Sri Lanka for the protection of migrant workers, namely, registration of all migrant workers at the SLBFE and the licensing of recruitment agencies in terms of the SLBFE Act as well in

Table 3.10
Nature of Complaints

Nature of Complaints	2004	2005	2006	2007*
Lack of communication	2,165	1,755	2,511	1,686
Non-payment of agreed wages	1,626	1,709	1,989	1,495
Harassment (Physical & Sexual)	1,753	1,949	1,766	1,273
Not sent back after completion of contract	206	711	725	922
Not identified	-	1	76	780
Breach of Employment Contract	1,144	1,792	1,152	739
Sickness	610	653	662	672
Stranded without employment	13	541	1,060	484
Death -Natural	153	115	172	199
Death - Accidental	75	62	77	66
Others (Domestic sector)	131	23	92	55
Problem at home (Sri Lanka)	343	516	522	36
Premature Termination	-	1	-	13
Death -Suicide	9	22	7	9
Others (Non-domestic sector)	23	40	10	8
Illegal Money transaction	81	1	1	5
Death - Homicide	8	4	1	3
Death - due to the Lebanon War	-	-	6	-
Stranded -lack of reception on arrival	13	35	-	-
Total	**8,340**	**9,895**	**10,823**	**8,445**

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment data.

establishing model contracts and negotiations on minimum wages are positive steps taken. Despite these mandatory provisions and the existence of a registered Federation of Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies, which is registered under the Companies Act of Sri Lanka, and despite the law on charging fines and convictions and even blacklisting of agencies, a large number of unlicensed employment agencies operate in the country (Dias and Jayasundere, 2001). Most common fraudulent activities that are reported are exploitative practices, exorbitant agency fees far in excess of the SLBFE stipulated amounts, job-substitution and non-adherence to advertised benefits such as over time payments, free medical services and free return air tickets. In addition, many fraudulent cases are reported such as producing fake passports, fake photographs, fraudulently stating the religion as Muslim and substitution of Muslim names for Sinhala or Tamil to gain numerous benefits. There is also exploitation faced by migrant workers in the home country at departure, when financial demands for registration, agents' fees and cost of departure preparations exceed the financial viability of the prospective migrant.

The introduction of model contracts between migrant workers and employers is envisaged to curb exploitation. This system is operational in ten countries: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Bahrain, Jordan, Cyprus and Singapore. As a result of several MOUs signed between SLBFE and recruitment agents in Singapore, Middle East and Hong Kong SAR, it has been made mandatory for employers wishing to hire Sri Lankan housemaids to sign a contract which must be endorsed by the Sri Lankan Embassy before a housemaid leaves the country.

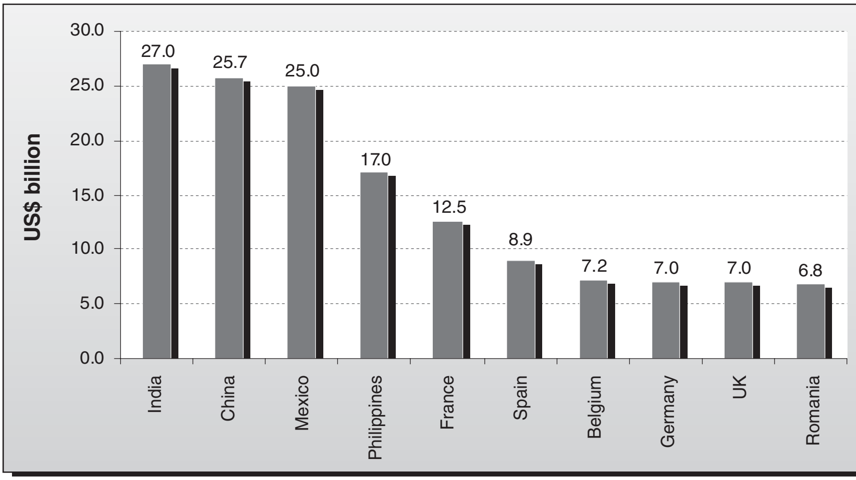
3.7 Impact of Remittances

IOM (2008) has defined Remittances "as Monies earned or acquired by non-nationals that are transferred back to their country of origin". Remittances are person-to-person capital flows, well targeted to the needs of the recipients who are often poor. It is also an important source of external finance for many developing countries including Sri Lanka, with remittances overtaking the inflows of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to the country.

Recorded remittances sent home by migrants from developing countries reached US$ 240 billion in 2007, up from US$ 221 billion in 2006 and more than double the level in 2002. The true size of remittances, including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels, is believed to be even larger. Remittances were more than twice the level of ODA flows to developing countries in 2007. In many poor countries, they are the largest source of external financing (Ratha, 2007).

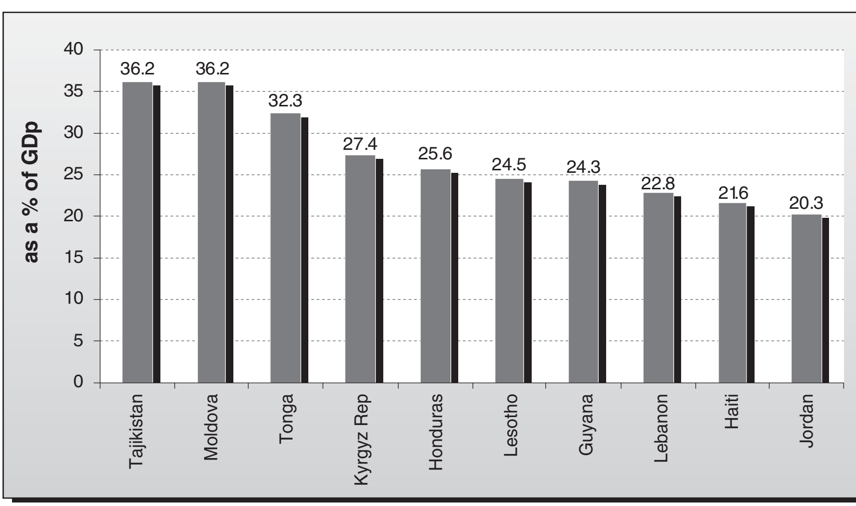
Evidence show that remittances are more evenly distributed across developing countries than private capital flows. The top three remittance recipient countries in 2007 were India, China and Mexico, where each country received over US$ 25 billion. But when analyzed against the share of GDP, poorer countries receive a relatively larger share (see Figure 3.8). Tajikistan and Moldova have the largest GDP share of remittances with 36 per cent followed by Tonga (32 per cent), Kyrgyz Republic (27 per cent), and Honduras (25.6 per cent). See Appendix 4 for the Top 100 countries that receive remittances as a percentage of GDP.

Figure 3. 7
Top Recipients of Remittances, by US$ Billion – 2007



Source: World Bank, 2007.

Figure 3. 8
Top Recipients of Remittances, by Share of GDP - 2007

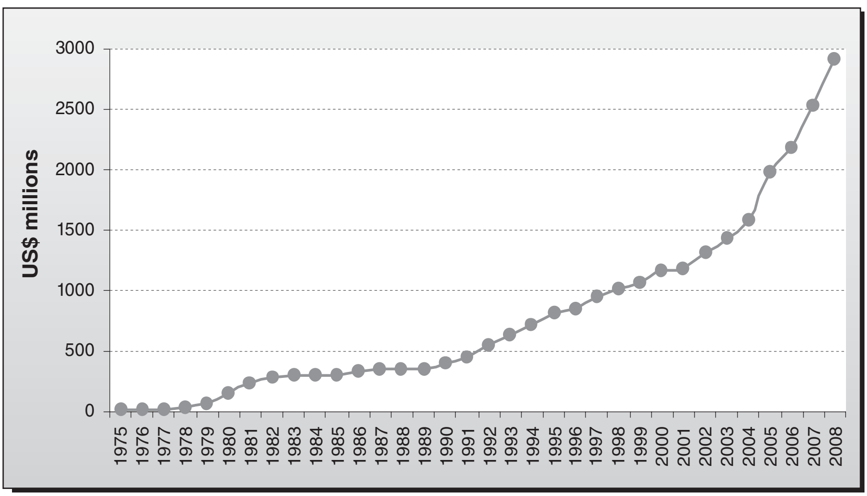


Source: World Bank, 2007.

3.8 Contribution of Remittances to the Sri Lankan Economy

Reported worker remittances increased at an average annual rate of 10 per cent over the last 30 years. Since the mid-1990s, remittances constitute the largest source of foreign financing of the country (see Figure 3.9 and Figure 3.10). In 2008, worker remittances amounted to 7.1 per cent of GDP and 36 per cent of the total export earnings. From US$ 9 million in 1975 remittances have continuously increased to US$ 292 million in 1985, to US$ 809 million in 1995, and increased to US$ 2.9 billion in 2008.

Figure 3. 9
Inflow of Remittances 1975 to 2008

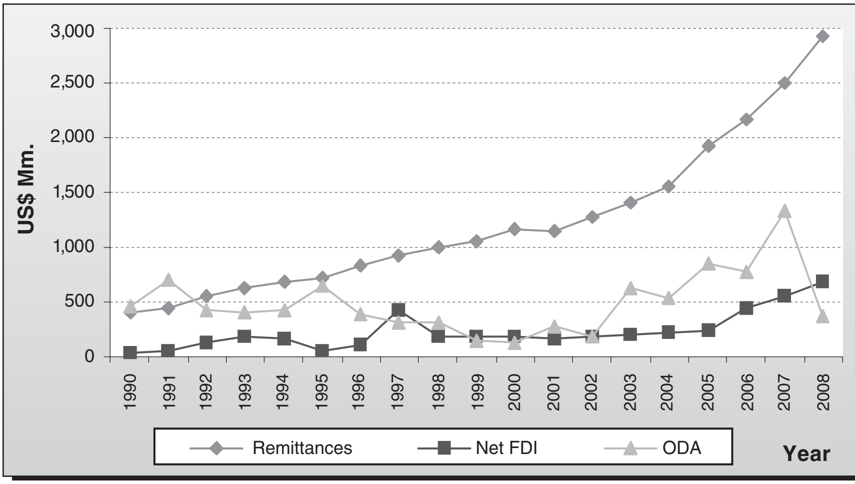


Source: Central Bank *Annual Reports*, various issues.

Compared to other capital inflows such as FDI and ODA, remittances have proved to be a more stable form of capital in Sri Lanka and this is true of many developing countries. With the global trend of shrinking foreign aid coupled with a decline in FDI due to the global economic crisis, remittances have proved to be more stable.

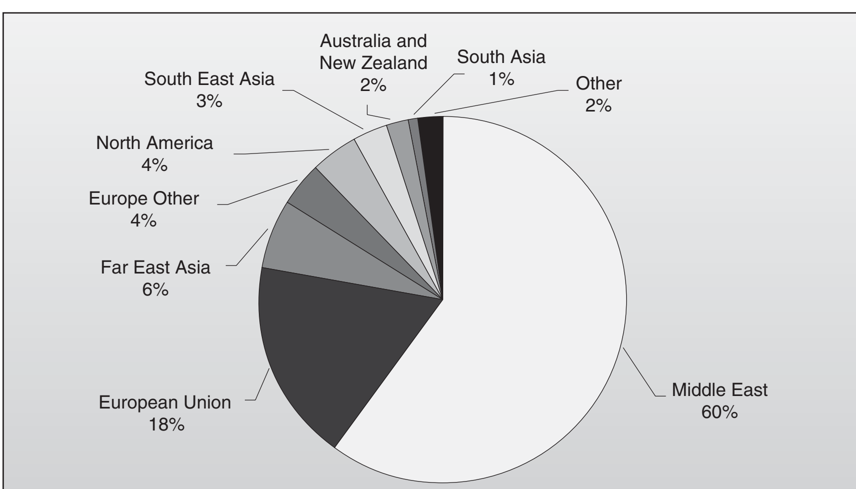
Remittances have been one of the more stable forms of capital inflows to Sri Lanka and a bulk of the remittances originate from the Middle Eastern housemaids and the unskilled workers. In 2007, 60 per cent of the remittances came from the Middle East while another 18 per cent was from the European Union and 6 per cent from the Far East Asian countries (see Figure 3.11).

Figure 3. 10
Foreign Capital inflows 1990 to 2008



Source: Central Bank *Annual Reports*, various issues.

Figure 3. 11
Remittances to Sri Lanka by region -2007



Source: Central Bank *Annual Report*, 2008.

Studies have shown that, unlike private capital flows, remittances have the tendency to increase when the recipient economy suffers an economic downturn such as financial crisis, natural disaster or political conflict. This in turn has proved correct in Sri Lanka. Although it was fighting a war against terrorism for the last three decades, evidence show that there has been a continuous growth in the international remittances. This can be further proved with the Tsunami catastrophe where there was a huge inflow of remittances to the country. Migrants send more funds during difficult times at home to help dependents and this in turn helps to smoothen consumption and contribute to the stability of recipient economies by compensating for foreign exchange losses due to macroeconomic shocks.

Presently, remittance inflows have contributed to support Sri Lanka's Balance of Payments (BOP) in the wake of a deteriorating trade balance situation. With a significant proportion spent on import of crude oil and intermediate imports against declining export earnings, it has pressurized the trade balance further. In the recent past remittances have played an important role in balancing the BOP pressures in Sri Lanka. Presently, remittances contribute 36 per cent of the export earnings and it is about 21 per cent of the import expenditure.

Another important phenomenon of the impact of remittances is its ability in reducing poverty in the recipient country. Remittances directly augment the income of the recipient households. The World Bank in one of their studies have shown that remittances, in addition to providing financial resources for poor households, affect poverty and welfare through indirect multiplier effects. In Sri Lanka it has been proved that children of remittance recipient households have a lower school drop-out rate and also these households have higher birth weights and better health indicators than non-remittance recipient households. Remittances are also associated with increased household investments in education, entrepreneurship and health- all of which have a high social return in most circumstances.

Another important aspect of the international remittances is the remittance infrastructure in the country. As is the case in most South Asian countries, informal remittances are commonplace, having long been used to facilitate trade between distant regions where conventional banking instruments are either absent or

Table 3.11
Worker Remittances in Relation to Selected Macro Variables (1978 to 2008)

		US$ Million				Percentages to			
Year	WREM	EXP	IMP	CRBP	GDP	EXP	IMP	CRBP	GDP
1978	39	845.1	1,025.4	1,067	2,733	4.61	3.80	3.65	1.43
1979	60	981.4	1,449.4	1,378	3,365	6.11	4.14	4.36	1.78
1980	152	1,064.7	2,051.2	1,634	4,025	14.28	7.41	9.30	3.78
1981	230	1,065.5	1,876.9	1,770	4,416	21.59	12.25	12.99	5.21
1982	286	1,013.7	1,994.1	1,800	4,769	28.21	14.34	15.89	6.00
1983	294	1,064.1	1,921.3	1,870	5,168	27.63	15.30	15.72	5.69
1984	301	1,462.3	1,928.1	2,302	6,043	20.58	15.61	13.07	4.98
1985	292	1,315.3	2,044.3	2,114	5,978	22.17	14.26	13.80	4.88
1986	326	1,209.7	1,973.2	2,087	6,405	26.95	16.52	15.62	5.09
1987	350	1,395.7	2,075.1	2,324	6,680	25.08	16.87	15.06	5.24
1988	358	1,477.2	2,240.2	2,454	6,978	24.24	15.98	14.59	5.13
1989	358	1,547.1	2,226.5	2,506	6,987	23.14	16.08	14.28	5.12
1990	401	1,983.9	2,686.4	3,096	8,033	20.21	14.93	12.95	4.99
1991	442	2,039.5	3,036.6	3,287	9,000	21.67	14.56	13.45	4.91
1992	548	2,460.8	3,505.4	3,883	9,703	22.27	15.63	14.11	5.65
1993	683	2,863.7	4,011.3	4,405	10,354	23.85	17.03	15.50	6.60
1994	715	3,208.6	4,767.3	4,988	11,718	22.28	15.00	14.33	6.10
1995	809	3,806.6	5,311.1	5,822	13,030	21.25	15.23	13.90	6.21
1996	852	4,095.1	5,438.8	5,917	13,898	20.81	15.67	14.40	6.13
1997	942	4,639.0	5,863.8	6,715	15,092	20.31	16.06	14.03	6.24
1998	1,023	4,797.8	5,889.5	6,978	15,761	21.32	17.37	14.66	6.49
1999	1,072	4,610.1	5,979.3	6,826	15,712	23.25	17.93	15.70	6.82
2000	1,166	5,522.3	7,319.8	7,811	16,596	21.11	15.93	14.93	7.03
2001	1,185	4,816.9	5,974.4	7,457	15,750	24.60	19.83	15.89	7.52
2002	1,309	4,699.0	6,105.6	7,361	16,537	27.86	21.44	17.78	7.92
2003	1,438	5,133.3	6,671.9	8,163	18,882	28.01	21.55	17.62	7.62
2004	1,590	5,757.2	7,999.8	9,034	20,663	27.62	19.88	17.60	7.70
2005	1,991	6,346.7	8,863.2	9,983	24,406	31.37	22.46	19.94	8.16
2006	2,185	6,882.7	10,253.0	6,883	28,267	31.75	21.31	31.74	7.73
2007	2,527	7,640.0	11,296.5	7,640	32,351	33.08	22.37	33.08	7.81
2008	2,920	8,136.7	14,008.0	8,137	40,714	35.89	20.85	35.89	7.17

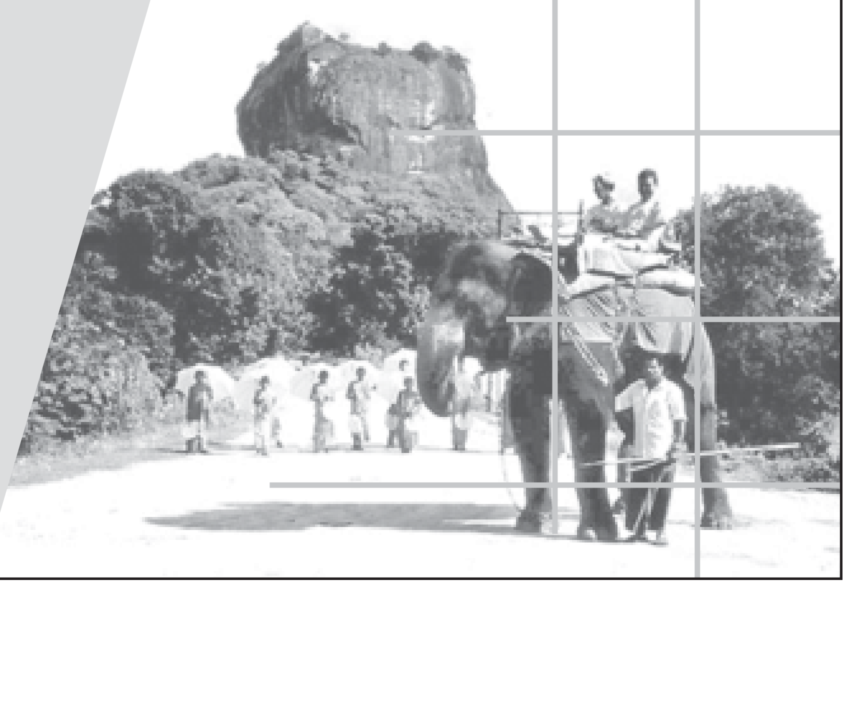
Notes: WREM = Worker Remittances.
EXP = Export Earnings.
IMP =Import Payments.
CRBP = Current Receipts in Balance of Payments.
GDP = Gross Domestic Product.

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, *Annual Reports*, various issues.

weak (World Bank, 2005). World Bank has estimated that unrecorded remittances are highly volatile and could have reached as much as 45 per cent of total private remittances in Sri Lanka in the mid-1990s. There is a tremendous need to make formal remittance channels more accessible to the rural areas in Sri Lanka including the northern and eastern parts of the country. It should be made cheaper and more convenient for both migrants and to the recipients. Rural bank branch network needs to be strengthened to access a wider population. In addition, microfinance institutes and the postal network have to be given the powers to receive international remittances as these are more reachable by the migrant households in Sri Lanka.

4

Tourist Arrivals



4.0 Tourist Arrivals

The complex mutual inter-relationships of tourism and migration have been explored since the early 1990s. Short-term travel, generally not exceeding 6 to 12 months, occurs in much larger scale than for any other form of mobility, although this type of movement is not usually addressed in migration related research and generally dealt with as an entirely separate policy category (IOM, 2008). It is important to investigate the complex, often overlooked bi-directional relationship between tourism and migration. It is observed that many flows for leisure and business purposes are related to, or are inspired by, earlier migratory movements and that, in turn, tourist movements may, subject to certain conditions, lead to longer term migration.

Many flows for leisure and business are unrelated to earlier migration movements, but others spring from, or are related to, former migration patterns. Increasing disposable incomes in many parts of the world are enabling more people to explore experience and appreciate different cultures, histories, environments and societies. However, many such movements do not arise spontaneously and are linked to earlier migration flows. In turn, tourist movements can generate new or additional forms of migration as people decide to move to what were originally their holiday destinations or to other parts of their own country (IOM, 2008). Various researchers have examined the manner in which migration can generate tourist flows, in particular through the geographical expansion of friendship and kinship networks. Such tourist flows are significantly shaped by the particular characteristics of migrant populations, such as composition, duration and direction, with each round of migration generating new spatial patterns of friendship and kinship networks, which potentially represent visiting friends and relatives tourism flows (Feng and Page, 2000).

Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes. Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries globally, including in the developing world (Tosun, 2001). The World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people who “travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty-four (24) hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited", *World Tourism Organization (1995)*. Tourism has become a popular global leisure activity. It has grown faster than world gross domestic product since the 1950s with expenditure on tourist goods and services representing some 8 per cent of total world export receipts and 5 per cent of world GDP (*World Tourism Organization*, 2003). In 2007, internationally, there were over 903 million international tourist arrivals, with a growth of 6.6 per cent as compared to 2006. International tourist receipts were US$ 856 billion in 2007. Despite the uncertainties in the global economy, international tourist arrivals during the first four months of 2008 followed a similar growth trend than the same period in 2007 (*World Tourism Organization, 2008).*

Table 4. 1
International Tourist Arrivals, 1990 to 2005

	International Tourist Arrivals (millions)			Change (%)		Share (%)
	1990	2000	2005	2003/02	2005/04	2005
World	439.4	686.8	806.3	-1.8	5.5	100
Europe	252.6	396.7	449.0	1.0	4.1	55.7
Asia and the Pacific	59.1	115.5	154.3	-8.2	6.9	19.1
America	100.3	116.1	137.1	-4.8	5.3	17.0
Middle East	8.3	17.0	21.9	-2.1	6.9	2.7
Africa	10.0	17.7	20.3	1.1	8.2	2.5
Origin not specified*	9.2	13.3	23.6	-	-	2.9
Same region/inter-region	350.8	540.9	634.1	-1.4	-	78.6
Other regions	79.4	133.0	148.6	-3.5	-	18.4

Note : * Countries for which a specific region of origin could not be allocated.
Source: UNWTO, 2005.

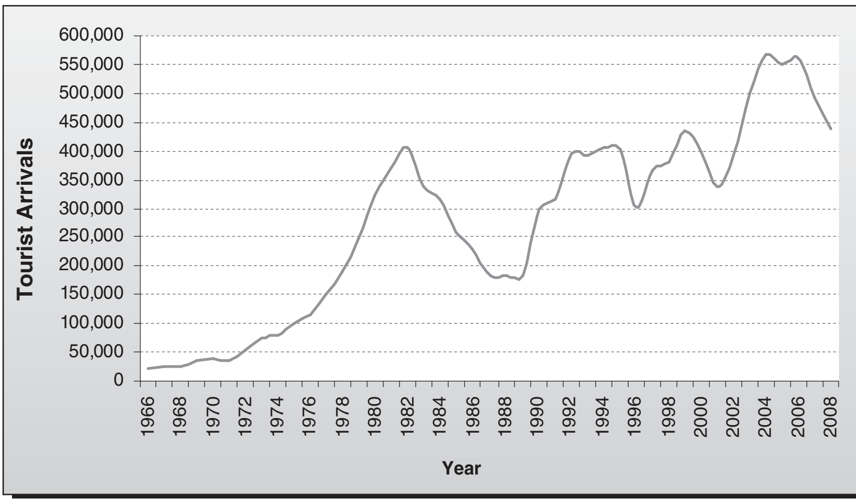
As shown in the above Table, international tourists still originate mainly from the industrialized European countries (55.7 per cent), the Americas (17 per cent) and Asia and the Pacific (19.1 per cent). However, over the last decades and with rising levels of disposable incomes, many emerging economies have shown rapid growth as sources of tourism, in particular in Northeast and Southeast Asia, central and eastern Europe, the Middle East and Southern Africa. By region, Africa recorded the largest increase in relative terms (8.2 per cent), followed by Asia and the Pacific (6.9 per cent), and the Middle East (6.9 per cent). The most striking trend in international tourist arrivals is the high level of inter-region travel which records about 79 per cent of the total arrivals.

However, as a result of the economic crisis of 2008, international travel demand suffered a strong slowdown beginning June 2008, with growth in international tourism arrivals worldwide falling to 2 per cent during the summer months, while growth from January to April 2008 had reached an average 5.7 per cent compared to its 2007 level. Growth from 2006 to 2007 was only 3.7 per cent, as total international tourism arrivals from January to August were 641 million tourists, up from 618 million in the same period in 2007 (World Tourism Organization, 2008).

There is a widespread view among the tourism analysts that international visitors are very concerned about their personal safety and thus this industry can only thrive under peaceful conditions (Hichcock, et al. 1993). Sri Lanka, for example, had been among those affected by armed conflict and civil unrest. Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka declined to their lowest levels in recent decades (see Figure 4.1) – 182,620 in 1987 – as a result of the past ethnic conflict in the north which started in 1983 and the subsequent youth uprising of 1987/1989 in the south. However, the number of tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka escalated with the progress of the past peace dialogue with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which began initially in 1994. According to the Sri Lanka Tourist Board (2007), between 1994 and 2002, with some fluctuation, 380,769 tourists arrived in Sri Lanka on average per annum. Presently, the total tourist arrival to Sri Lanka (2008) is 438,475. Therefore, it is evident that both tourist arrivals to the country and the foreign exchange earnings from tourism have stagnated over the past few years. Although Sri Lanka has tried to promote more and more tourists to Sri Lanka based on different themes like “Sun and Sand”, “Eco-Tourism” and “Sri Lanka my dream home” etc., none of these programmes have gained momentum to give stimulus to the industry.

Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during 2006 amounted to 559,603. This was an increase of 10,295 (or 1.9 per cent) compared to the 259,308 tourist arrivals in 2005, which was immediately after the *tsunami* disaster. However, tourist arrival to Sri Lanka decreased by 11.7 per cent in 2007 and it further declined by 11.2 per cent in 2008 (see Appendix 5). The negative travel advisories issued by key generating markets and the uncertain security situation, contributed mainly to the decline in arrivals during 2007 to 2008.

Figure 4. 1
Tourist Arrivals by Year – 1966 to 2008



Source: Based on Sri Lanka Tourist Board, *Annual Reports*, Various Issues.

Analysis of the composition of international tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka for early 2000s, reveal that there is heavy concentration of tourists from the Western Europe, especially the UK and Germany. This trend has gradually changed its focus by 2008, where tourists from India topped the arrivals to Sri Lanka. However, according to ADB (1998), the purpose of visit for most tourists from India and Maldives are trade, medical treatment, visiting relatives and higher education, although most of these tourists have stated the purpose of visit as "pleasure" in the disembarkation form at the airport.[10] Other strong sources of tourist arrivals are from U.K, Maldives, Germany, Australia, Russia, U.S.A, Netherlands, France and Canada.

[10] Of the total tourist arrivals in 2008, 70 per cent (321,079) arrived for pleasure purposes, 8.5 per cent (37,261) for private and official business purposes, 8.3 per cent (36,304) were visiting friends and relatives, 2.6 per cent (11,523) visited for religious and cultural purposes while 1.3 per cent (5,867) had come for conventions and meetings (see Appendix 4.4).

Table 4. 2
Composition of the Tourist Arrivals in Sri Lanka as a % of Total Arrivals in each year (2000 to 2008)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North America	4.33	4.84	5.05	5.02	5.26	8.46	6.31	5.74	5.54
Canada	1.88	2.32	2.11	2.23	2.58	3.86	2.61	2.40	2.34
U.S.A	2.46	2.52	2.94	2.79	2.67	4.60	3.70	3.34	3.20
Latin America & the Caribbean	0.09	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.80	0.85
Western Europe	65.19	60.72	50.94	50.97	50.24	41.36	40.82	39.36	38.13
France	6.52	6.23	5.08	5.71	5.30	4.85	4.06	1.64	2.42
Germany	17.64	17.92	14.03	11.77	10.29	8.44	8.47	7.09	6.98
Netherlands	5.65	3.34	2.99	3.63	3.79	2.76	3.46	3.55	2.97
U.K	21.18	20.35	17.18	18.63	18.84	16.86	15.78	19.04	18.55
Eastern Europe	1.71	2.09	2.05	2.12	2.52	1.69	2.54	5.16	6.69
Russia	0.89	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.88	0.67	1.43	2.76	3.60
Middle East	1.09	1.59	1.64	1.35	1.68	1.86	1.82	2.75	3.81
Africa	0.22	0.27	0.39	0.38	0.31	0.43	0.57	0.61	0.54
Asia	22.83	26.53	36.26	35.43	34.62	40.57	43.24	40.63	40.13
India	7.95	10.08	17.79	18.10	18.57	20.63	22.94	21.47	19.44
Maldives	1.98	2.66	2.51	2.31	2.65	4.47	4.44	5.98	7.20
Australasia	4.55	3.85	3.39	4.61	4.93	5.38	4.45	4.65	4.88
Australia	4.11	3.36	2.85	3.99	4.11	4.73	3.90	4.10	4.46

Source: Based on Sri Lanka Tourist Board, *Annual Reports*, Various Issues.

The significant feature in the pattern of current market development is the decrease in tourist arrivals from Western Europe and increase in tourist arrivals from Asia. A total of 200,676 tourist arrivals from Western Europe in 2002 decreased to 165,822 in 2008. On the other hand, a total of 142,578 tourist arrivals from Asia in 2002 increased to 175,944 in 2008. Another market which has performed extremely well is Eastern Europe with 2 per cent market share in 2002 which increased to 6 per cent in 2008. The other recent significant contributors were Australasia with 4.8 per cent and Middle East with 3.8 per cent. This is in line with the Market strategy and Action Plan for 2008-2010, which focuses four key markets; India, UK, Russia and the Middle East, that have shown a growth potential.

In the Asian region, India dominates with Maldives second and Japan third. There were 69,996 Indian tourist arrivals recorded in 2002 and it increased to 88,628 in 2008. There is significant improvement in the arrivals from Maldives as well. A total of 9,855 tourist arrivals from Maldives in 2002 was increased to 31,458 in 2008. Among the Asian region, Japan was the second best tourist market in 2002 and in 2008 Japan was the third best tourist market. A total of 13,566 tourist arrivals from Japan in 2002 decreased to 10,578 in 2008 (see Appendix 8 and Appendix 9). In recent years, Sri Lankan Airlines has been offering attractive packages to draw tourists, especially focusing the SAARC countries. In order to cater to the demand of Indian traffic, Sri Lankan Airlines has significantly increased its flights to India. During 2000 to 2004, the number of Indian destinations to which Sri Lankan Airlines flies has gone up from 5 to 9, and the number of flights increased from 29 to 60 per week. In fact, India's air service agreement with Sri Lanka is a highly liberal bilateral air service agreement which offers unlimited access to air service to/from 18 destinations in India.

As shown in the Table 4.3, tourist arrivals and the foreign exchange earnings increased gradually from 2000 to 2006. However, after 2006 there was a decreasing trend of tourist arrivals and the foreign exchange earnings. The tourism sector was severely affected by the war against terrorism in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country. In addition, there was civil unrest in 1983 and 1989 followed by the Tsunami catastrophe in the recent past that added to the slowdown of the tourist industry in Sri Lanka.

Table 4. 3
Volume & Value of Tourism - 2000 to 2008

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008**
Tourist Arrivals	400,414	336,794	393,171	500,642	566,202	549,308	559,603	494,008	438,475
Excursionist Arrivals	44,518	60,084	63,560	82,066	115,095	119,618	128,719	98,432	87,695
Official Receipts									
Rs. mn.	19,162.2	18,863.3	24,202.0	32,810.0	42,666.3	36,377.3	42,585.50	42,519.30	34,604.33
US$ mn.	252.8	211.1	253.0	340.0	416.0	362.3	410.3	384.4	319.5
SDR Units (mn.)	191.9	165.7	179.3	242.6	298.6	244.6	278.3	250.9	202.1
Receipt per Tourist per day (in US $)	62.3	63.1	63.4	66.8	72.2	74.6	83.4	79.1	76.7

Notes: * Revised; ** Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, and Department of Immigration & Emigration.

The average annual earnings from tourism during 2000-2008 account for about US$ 327 million and the average receipts per tourist per day is about US$ 70. According to the Central Bank (2008), at the beginning of the year 2007, arrivals were mainly affected by the travel advisories issued by some major tourist generating countries and as the year progressed, these factors were combined with the global recession that resulted from financial market turmoil. This low earnings from tourism is expected to improve with the post-conflict developments.

However, according to Central Bank (2008), the Sri Lanka Tourist Development Authority has taken several measures to promote tourism. The Market Strategy Action Plan for 2008-2010 has been focusing several markets and several steps have been taken to revitalize the tourism industry in the Eastern Province. The government also offered a stimulus package in January 2009 to help revive the ailing tourism industry, which included rescheduling of loans, waiving off the fuel surcharge and Economic Service Charge (ESC). The rapid slowdown of international tourism growth since mid-2008, may continue into 2009 reflecting the impact of the deterioration of the global economic situation. However, with the end of the war against terrorism after more than three decades, the tourism sector is expected to emerge rapidly as one of the thrust sectors of the economy.

Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) is to launch a global promotion campaign under a new brand this year. SLTPB expects to get the Sri Lankan citizens involved in the making of the new brand to give an added boost. Under its local activation campaign named ‘Making of the Small Miracle’ Sri Lanka Tourism hopes to engage locals and encourage them to feel part of the initiative of revitalizing tourism in the post-conflict era. To this end, the SLTPB has already organized Hikkaduwa and Negombo Beach Festivals, Kandy Festival, Tea Festival and Jazz Festival and also hopes to promote several key events such as the Galle Literary Festival, the Colombo Fashion Week, and the Colombo Marathon in a bid to attract more tourists to the country. In addition, Sri Lanka should look at some of its best tourist development sites such as Arugam Bay, Passekudah, Trincomalee, Nilaveli and Kalpitiya for further development.

5

Student Migration

5.0 Student Migration

International student mobility is the main form of cross-border higher education. In 2004, there were 2.7 million students worldwide studying outside their own countries; in other words, which is almost three times as many as 20 years ago.[1] According to (IOM, 2008), in the OECD area, Europe is the main destination with 1.2 million students, or 52 per cent of foreign students (Table 5.1). It is the leading host region for students from Europe and Africa and is also attractive to students from the Americas and Asia. North America is host to 31 per cent of the global foreign students, and the Asia-Pacific region to the remaining 17 per cent.

Table 5. 1
Destinations of Foreign Students Studying in OECD Countries by Origin, 2004 (%)

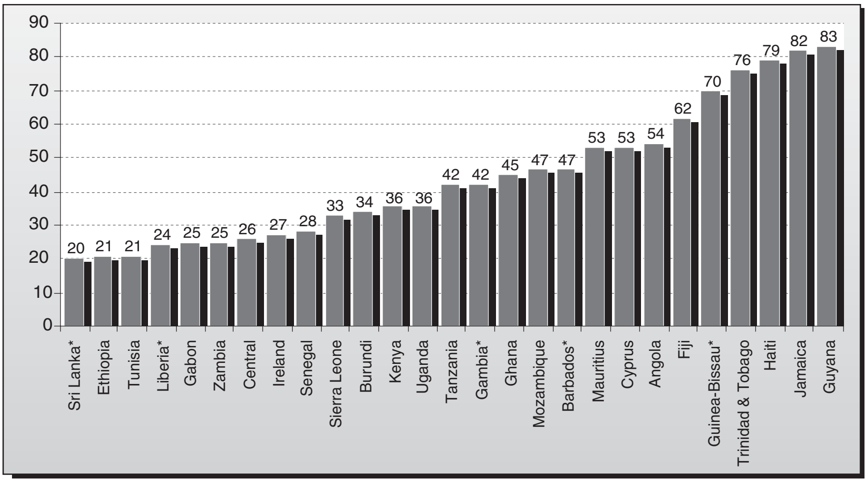
	Destination			
	North America	Europe	Asia-Pacific	OECD
Africa	20	77	3	100
North America	44	43	13	100
South America	56	41	2	100
Asia	40	32	28	100
Europe	16	81	3	100
Oceania	27	19	54	100
World	**31**	**52**	**17**	**100**

Source: OECD.

As shown in the Figure 5.1, countries like Guyana and Jamaica are the top two countries which their graduates living in an OECD country. It shows that mainly the African countries are having high proportions of students going into OECD for educational purposes. Sri Lanka too has 20 per cent of graduates living in the OECD. Sri Lanka is placed in the 27 position among the entire word of their graduates living in an OECD country.

[11] OECD (2006).

Figure 5. 1
Countries with over 20 % of their Graduates Living in an OECD Country



Note: Calculations using the Barro and Lee database on the human capital stock. The Cohen and Soto database is otherwise used for all countries for which data are available. The findings from the two databases are not perfectly comparable. It should be noted that the data reflect (accumulated) stocks, not flows.

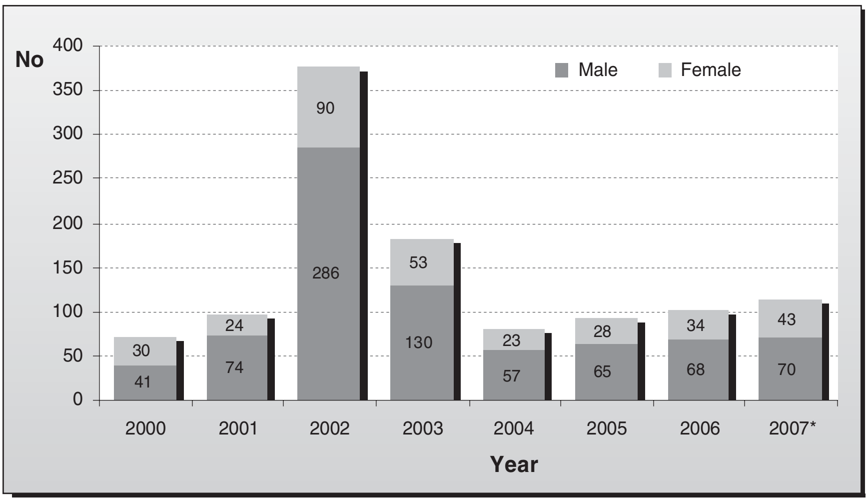
Source: IOM (2008) report based on the OECD migration data base.

There is a growing tendency for Sri Lankan students to migrate to most western countries for educational purposes and then later obtain employment and residency in these countries. As only 14 per cent of those who qualify annually at the Advance Level examination can enter the local universities in Sri Lanka, significant numbers seek opportunities aboard. As the educated and highly skilled personnel find if difficult to find suitable jobs within the country there is growing interest to seek greener pastures abroad.

In the analysis of student migration from Sri Lanka there are huge data gaps as neither the inflow nor the outflow of foreign student movements are monitored and recorded in a methodical manner. There is no single authority that records this flow of migrants. Therefore, for the purpose of this report we approached the individual foreign missions in Sri Lanka, and based on these responses the following section will look into the existing trends and patterns of student migration. Due to data limitations, student migration to UK, Canada, USA, Pakistan and Bangladesh will be discussed in this report.

5.1 Student Migration to Canada

Figure 5. 2
Student Migration to Canada 2000 to 2007



Note: * only include 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada.

The data presented in Figure 5.2 shows that there are 1,116 student visas granted by the Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka during 2000- 2007 second quarter, at an average rate of 140 student visas per year. It is evident that the student visas issued in 2002 and 2003 are relatively high. In 2002 there were 286 of male student visas and 90 female student visas issued, followed by 130 male student visas and 53 of female student visas in 2003. In 2002/03 student migration to Canada was significantly high, while for all the other years under consideration it was at a stable level. The high outflow of students to Canada in 2002 is in line with the increase in the overall student numbers in Canada fuelled by the new regulation that was introduced in 2002 to the effect that students were able to study up to 6 months without study permits (student visas). According to the Canadian Education Centre (CEC) Network several countries' student migration to Canada flourished during this time, including India (667 per cent increase), Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia and Korea.

Table 5. 2
Student Migration to Canada by Type of Study 2000 to 2007

Year	Type of Study			
	Vocational/ Technical	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Other
2000	16	13	24	18
2001	31	21	20	26
2002	251	60	40	18
2003	135	21	18	9
2004	24	30	24	2
2005	35	22	26	9
2006	4	6	6	85
2007*	13	5	9	86

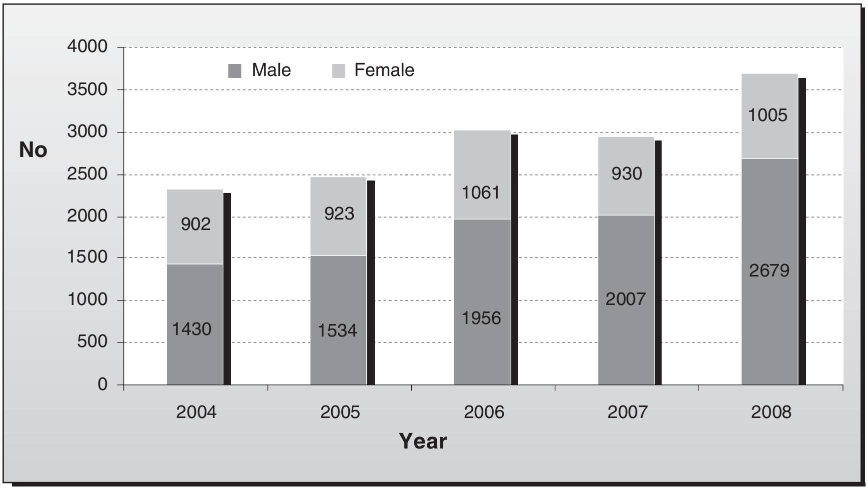
Note: * only include 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka.

Analysis of the type of study engaged by the Sri Lankan students in Canada reveals that in 2006/07, there has been a sharp drop in students leaving for undergraduate studies (5 students) and postgraduate studies (9 students), while for vocational education there were 13 students and the balance is categorized as 'other'. As discussed before, in 2002/03 where the overall outflow of students to Canada has increased, it shows that the bulk of students migrated for vocational and technical education, while the numbers for undergraduate and postgraduate studies too are relatively high for this year.

5.2 Student Migration to the United Kingdom

The number of foreign students studying in the UK has trebled since the beginning of the 1980s. This has mainly been because of EU student exchange programmes. The imbalance between arrivals and departures of students has grown even faster. Students from developing countries make up a small proportion of the total and some countries such as Nigeria and Sri Lanka have seen their numbers fall over the last 20 years, reflecting the increasing difficulty that students from these sources faced in raising the necessary funds to pay student tuition fees and to gain bursaries to cover the high cost of living in the UK. Recent changes to legislation have not only increased Britain's global share of foreign student numbers, but have also created conditions where it is probable that more will wish to stay in the UK after their studies are complete (Findlay, 2001).

Figure 5. 3
Sri Lankan Student Migration to UK by British Missions Worldwide 2000 to 2008



Source: British Missions Worldwide in Sri Lanka.

From 2004-08, about 14,427 Sri Lankan student visas to UK were granted. During this period, there has been a high outflow of male students going to UK which recorded a growth of 33 per cent in 2008 against 8 per cent growth for female student migrants to UK.

5.3 Student Migration to Other Countries[12]

In 2008 student migration to USA recorded 13.6 per cent growth, accounting for 1,076 student visas which was only 947 in 2007. In addition, in 2007 4,017 students have migrated to Australia of which 64 per cent were male students (Appendix 13). The outflow to Bangladesh witnessed a remarkable upward shift from 2007 to 2008 with a growth of 309 per cent. In 2007, 82 students went to Bangladesh which increased to 336 students in 2008. The migration to Pakistan for studies showed a marginal increase from 146 students to 164 students in 2008. In addition, there have been 1,000 Indian student visas issued in 2007, while it increased to 1,500 in 2008 (Appendix 14).

[12] Due to data limitations this section will deal only with student migration pertaining to USA, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

5.4 Inflow of Foreign Students to Sri Lanka

As shown in Appendix 15, on average during the past four years there has been an annual inflow of 185 foreign students to Sri Lanka. In 2007 there were 253 foreign students in the country and in 2008 it was 142 students. Forty seven per cent of the foreign students to Sri Lanka are of Maldivian origin while another 11 per cent came from China, followed by 9 per cent Indian students, and another 9 per cent from the Republic of Korea. Most of these Asian students are attracted to Sri Lanka mainly due to proximity reasons, mutual student exchange programmes operation via state universities, and numerous scholarship schemes.

However, the growing numbers of students from developing countries going to developed countries for tertiary education adds to the concerns on brain drain. The enrolment of non-OECD students in EU institutions increased by 55 per cent between 1990 and 2001 (OECD, 2003).[13] Many non-OECD tertiary level students are likely to remain in the host country after completion of studies, as the requirements to obtain permanent residency status have been considerably relaxed (Hugo, 2005)[14] and host countries are increasingly recognizing the potential they have to offer. This pull factor is compounded by push factors which discourage return home: prior work experience is often crucial for students to reintegrate in the local labour market (Black et al., 2005)[15] and that return is also most likely if there are more and better opportunities for employment in the home country.

13 OECD (2003).

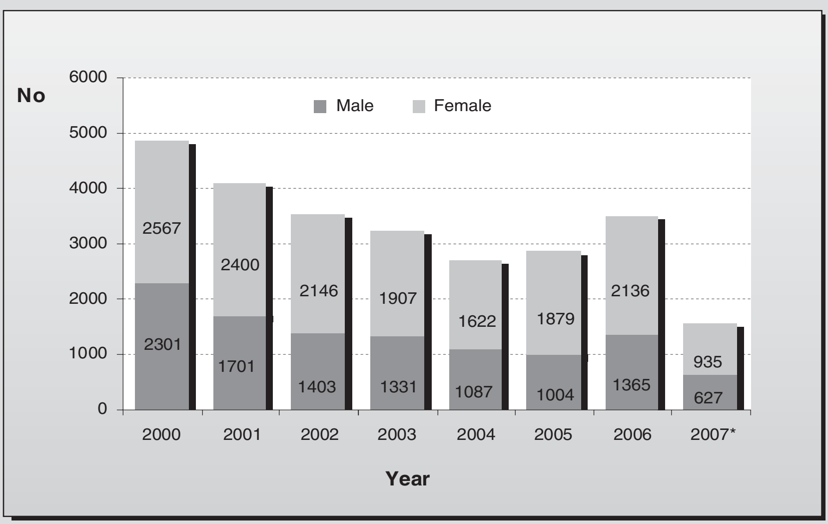
14 Hugo, G., (2005).

15 Black and Castaldo (2005).

Box 5.1
Permanent Resident Visas for Selected Countries

Due to the data limitations this study will discuss specifically permanent migration to Canada, UK, USA and Australia. The flow of Sri Lankans for Canadian Permanent Residency during 2000 – 2004 has continuously declined. By 2004, the total migrating on permanent basis declined by 44 per cent. This trend witnessed a reversal in 2005 onwards with the escalation of the conflict situation in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka as more and more people living in these areas were attracted to countries like Canada, USA, Norway, Sweden, etc. From 2000 to 2007 second quarter, 26,411 people have migrated to Canada on permanent basis.

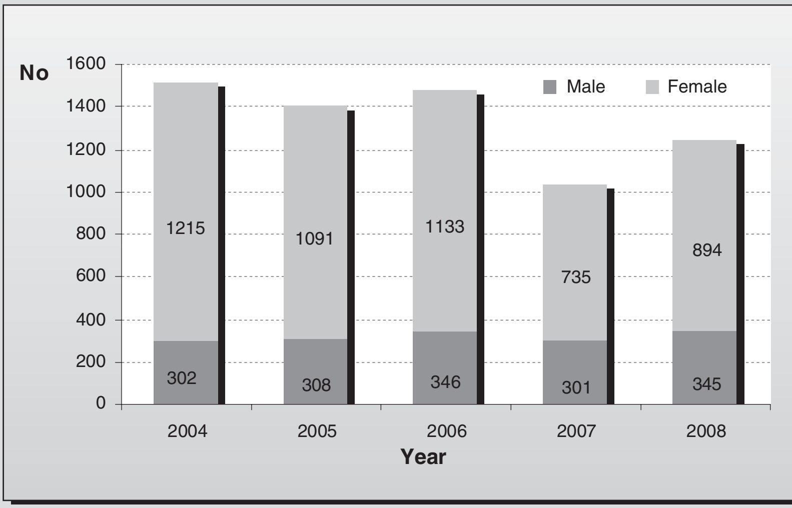
Figure 5. 4:
Flow of Sri Lankans to Canada for Permanent Residence by Sex 2000 to 2007



Note: * 2007 data only includes 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka.

Box 5. 1
Permanent Resident Visas for Selected Countries ….. contd

Figure 5. 5:
UK Settlements by Sex 2004 to 2008



Source: British Missions Worldwide in Sri Lanka.

The data presented in Figure 5.5 shows that 6,670 settlement visas were granted by the British Missions Worldwide for Sri Lankans during 2004-08 at an average rate of 1,300 visa per year. During the period, a significantly higher number of settlement visas were granted to females than the males. This was three times higher between 2004 and 2006, and in 2007 and 2008 it was almost double.

In addition, there have been 778 immigration visas to USA in 2007, while this was for 785 people in 2008. Eight hundred and three Sri Lankans migrated to Australia on family visa category in 2008. Of the 803 family visas, 64 per cent family visas were issued to females. In addition, in year 2008 the Australian embassy granted 3,550 visas under the skill category, and of them the majority are males.

Note: * 2007 data only include 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka.

6

Irregular Migration

6.0 Irregular Migration

Irregular migration is a complex concept that requires clear policy attention. There is no universally accepted definition of irregular migration. According to IOM, 2004 irregular migration is: "Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries." From the perspective of destination countries it is illegal entry, sojourn or work in a country, meaning that the migrant does not have the necessary authorization or documents required under that country's immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, irregularity is, for example, seen in cases, when a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving the country.

The term "irregular migration" is commonly used to describe a variety of different phenomena involving people who enter or remain in a country of which they are not a citizen in breach of national law. These include migrants who enter or remain in a country without authorization and those who are smuggled or trafficked across an international border. These different forms of irregular migration are often clustered together under the alternative headings of unauthorized, undocumented or illegal migration. (Roman, 2008). For that reason by definition irregular migration is difficult to measure.

However, there is evidence that 10-15 per cent of migration today involves migration under irregular situations (ILO, 2006)[16] – entering or working in countries without authorization. Irregular migration leads to high levels of exploitation, forced labour, and abuse of human rights. According to rough approximations however, one-third to one-half of entries into developing countries is irregular—this represents a 20 per cent increase over the past years IOM (2003). It is estimated that the United States and the European Union host approximately ten to eleven million and seven to eight million irregular migrants respectively.[17]

[16] ILO (2006) FACTS ON Labour Migration, International Labour Office, Switzerland. This is available at : http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—dgreports/—dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_067570.pdf.

[17] Migration Policy Institute (2005) "The Global Struggle with Illegal Migration: No End in Sight," 1 September.

However, the largest number of irregular migrants is hosted by less developed countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa GCIM (2005). It is estimated that about half of all irregular migrants are smuggled and that smuggling as a business, generates about US$ 10 billion a year (IOM 2003).

IOM (2006) highlighted Kazakhstan as a transit country for irregular migrants from South and Southeast Asia (especially from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and a destination country for labour migrants from Central Asia. Most of the migrants from South and Southeast Asia arrived in Kazakhstan via other Central Asia countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on motor vehicles or on foot.

Table 6.1
Number of Arrests at Colombo Airport by Reason

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Forged Visa	13	11	8	17	35	84	55	70	109	**402**
Forged Passport	20	64	78	57	83	202	175	135	162	**976**
Forged Document	23	33	18	9	15	39	23	18	10	**188**
Facilitator	6	11	6	3	2	43	4	5	12	**92**
Total	**62**	**119**	**110**	**86**	**135**	**368**	**257**	**228**	**293**	**1,658**

Source: Criminal Investigation Department.

As shown in Table 6.1, during the period 2000-2008 nearly 1,658 people were arrested at the Colombo Airport (CA). This shows that the number of arrested people at CA in 2000 was 62 people and it increased to 368 people in 2005. However, the number of arrested people gradually declined to 228 in 2007 and slightly increased to 293 in 2008. Of the 293, arrested in 2008, 162 people were arrested due to forged passports and another 109 people were arrested due to forged visas. Looking at the arrested people by gender and age, it is clear that the considerable proportion of the arrested people were male and aged below 30 years (Table 7.2).

Table 6. 2
Number of Arrests at Colombo Airport by Sex and Age

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	55	100	82	80	100	320	201	170	253
Female	7	19	28	6	35	48	56	58	40
Under 30 years	49	98	102	70	105	345	210	200	253
Above 30 years	13	21	8	16	30	23	47	28	40

Source: Police Anti-Human Smuggling Investigation Bureau (AHSIB).

As shown in Table 6.3, during the period 2003-2008 nearly 16,291 Sri Lankans were deported from other countries. On average, 2,715 people are deported annually. The list of the number of persons deported by country is given in Appendix 16. During the period, majority of the deported persons came from Malaysia Japan, Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong SAR and U.K respectively. According to discussions the authors had with the AHIBU Officials, the primary reason for this deportation is due to forged documents.

Table 6. 3
Top Twenty Destinations having the Highest Deportation

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Malaysia	161	443	358	643	754	404	2,763
Japan	98	361	537	445	603	397	2,441
Singapore	203	266	222	454	388	237	1,770
Korea	111	216	364	298	225	216	1,430
Hong Kong SAR	135	219	488	195	83	38	1,158
U K	165	157	140	304	226	59	1,051
UAE	26	62	160	114	254	187	803
Thailand	62	123	195	140	58	55	633
Germany	150	132	104	104	28	7	525
Egypt	-	151	140	18	20	53	382
India	27	86	46	51	73	61	344
Qatar	13	22	64	90	98	49	336
Switzerland	105	65	70	23	40	2	305
France	11	58	71	72	40	10	262
Canada	31	81	47	17	43	20	239
Saudi Arabia	76	-	13	12	76	46	223
Kuwait	7	5	23	35	58	30	158
Italy	21	37	11	36	33	15	153
USA	29	31	13	36	26	10	145
Maldives	19	2	24	41	23	28	137
Rest of the world	168	145	179	175	246	120	1,033
Total	**1,618**	**2,662**	**3,269**	**3,303**	**3,395**	**2,044**	**16,291**

Source: AHIBU.

Table 6. 4
Total Number of Deported Sri Lankan Persons from SAARC Countries

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
India	27	86	46	51	73	61	344
Maldives	19	2	24	41	23	28	137
Nepal	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
Pakistan	-	-	1	6	2	-	9
Total	46	88	78	98	99	89	498

Source: Criminal Investigation Department.

Table 6.4 shows that the number of persons who had been deported from the SAARC countries increased significantly from 46 persons in 2003 to 99 persons in 2007. However, in 2008 this number has decreased to 89 persons. During the period 2003-2008, majority of the deported persons came from India and Maldives. Of the total number of Irregular migrants in 2008, 4.3 per cent were from the SAARC region.

Box 6.1
Human Smuggling

People smuggling usually takes place for financial or material gain, which is a form of illegal entry of an individual into a country of which he is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident. Irregular migration and people smuggling are not new phenomena, but the last two decades have seen dramatic changes in their form. Globalization has driven more migrants to seek better employment or living conditions, reduced the costs of migration and facilitated the organization of people smuggling (Interpol, 2008). During the past decade, human smuggling across national borders grew from a low-level border crossing activity in a handful of countries to a diverse multi-billion dollar business spanning the entire globe. New laws and the expansion of new enforcement and management agencies with enormous budgets, and multilateral programs around the world are currently being developed to combat human smuggling.

Until recently, the term smuggling of migrants was not officially defined and was used interchangeably with the term trafficking in persons Even after the Protocol's adoption, the definition of smuggling of migrants was often viewed as “a work in progress” (Koslowski and Kyle, 2001).

Box 6.1
Human Smuggling…….contd

The *IOM* uses the definition applied in the Smuggling Protocol,[18] which defines the smuggling of migrants as, "Procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident."[19] On the other hand, Interpol defines smuggling in a very similar way as, "…the procurement, for financial or material gain, of the illegal entry into a state of which that person is neither a citizen nor a permanent resident".[20]

Evidence shows that majority of the smuggled migrants transiting through Central Asia come from South Asia[21] especially from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In 2001, there were around 100 people from Sri Lanka caught in Northern Kazakhstan and 25 of them were repatriated back to Colombo (information from IOM, Almaty). Around 150 migrants from Sri Lanka also arrived in Tajikistan with student visas (IOM, 2006). They often enter Central Asia with student, tourist or business visas.

Based on the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) cases and interviews by IOM (2006) highlighted that Smugglers organized travel for the *Sri Lankan* migrants; they took their passports, lodged them in an isolated house and kept them locked in a truck during the transport. It was noted that students from South East Asia, especially from Sri Lanka (en route via Iran and Afghanistan) and Bangladesh study in higher education institutions in Tajikistan. They arrive in Tajikistan with student visas obtained prior to their arrival.

[18] IOM (2004).
[19] Smuggling Protocol, Article 3 (a).
[20] Interpol, (2003).
[21] http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2003/prelims.asp.

Box 6. 2
Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the third largest and fastest criminal industry in the world, outranked only by arms and drug dealing. Trafficking in persons includes forced domestic labour, prostitution, or involuntary marriage, and organ removal. Nearly all countries face the problem of human trafficking in some way or another. The United Nations estimates that trafficking in persons generates $7 to $10 billion annually. The UN estimates that up to one million people are trafficked throughout the world each year. Given its current growth rate, which is fuelled by its high profitability, low investigation rate and low prosecution rate, human trafficking is expected by some to take over drug trafficking as the second largest criminal industry in the world within the next decades.

The United States has placed Sri Lanka together with India and 51 other countries, including China, Pakistan and Bangladesh on the "*Tier 2 Watch List*". However, since 1956, the Government of Sri Lanka has sought to protect women, children and young persons against forced employment. The Government of Sri Lanka has taken steps to strengthen its policies and laws to protect the rights of women and children. Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Sri Lanka prohibits all forms of trafficking through an April 2006 amendment to its penal code, which prescribes punishment of up to 20 years imprisonment. These penalties are sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other grave offences such as rape.

Main government institutions involved in this endeavour are the National Child Protection Authority, Department of Probation and Child Care, Child and Women Desks of Sri Lanka Police Department, and Department of Labour. Many local and international non-governmental organizations have also collaborated with the government in this task.

Box 6.2
Human trafficking…….contd

In recent years, Sri Lanka made modest efforts to prevent trafficking. In August 2007, the SLBFE implemented the compulsory registration of all migrants to ensure that migrant workers understand the terms of their contracts and also enable them to keep a track of the movement of persons. As stated before, this initiative has its limitations but it's a correct step forward. The government conducted 26 awareness campaigns on child sexual exploitation among teachers, students, hotel staff, and taxi drivers employed in the tourism industry. In February 2008, the government established a hotline for complaints about child labour, sexual exploitation, and other abuses. In addition, recently Sri Lanka drafted a national policy on labour migration that has given attention to prevent trafficking of Sri Lankan migrants and it developed a national anti-trafficking task force that should become operational in the coming year.

In addition, in May 2009, Immigration and Emigration Department (IED) of Sri Lanka opened a National Resource Centre to counter trafficking with the support of the IOM. This centre is housed at the IED and intends to offer comprehensive training to IED staff, promote research and enhance information sharing among stakeholders on human trafficking. Also, it will provide appropriate assistance and redress to victims of human trafficking. It will also enable the development of a referral system.

6.1 Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Migration, whether voluntary or forced, has always been a characteristic of individual and collective human behaviour. Today refugee flow has been a feature and consequences of conflict within and between societies. According to the recently released UNHCR annual report "Global Trends",[22] 16 million refugees and asylum seekers are uprooted within their own countries. The new report stated that 80 per cent of the world's refugees are in developing nations, as are the vast majority of internally displaced people – a population with whom the

[22] http://www.unhcr.org/4a2fd52412d.html.

UN refugee agency is increasingly involved. Many have been uprooted for years with no end in sight.

However, as the report highlighted, the refugee population under UNHCR's mandate last year dropped for the first time since 2006 because of voluntary repatriation and because of the downward revision in estimates of refugees and people in "refugee-like situations" from Iraq and Colombia. The 2008 refugee figure was 10.5 million, down from 11.4 million in 2007. But the number of asylum seekers making individual claims rose for a second year, to 839,000 – up 28 per cent. South Africa (207,000) was the largest single recipient of individual claims, followed by the United States (49,600 – UNHCR estimate), France (35,400), and Sudan (35,100).

Developing countries hosted 80 per cent of all refugees, underscoring the disproportionate burden carried by those least able to afford it as well as the need for international support. Major refugee-hosting countries in 2008 included Pakistan (1.8 million); Syria (1.1 million); Iran (980,000); Germany (582,700); Jordan (500,400); Chad (330,500); Tanzania (321,900); and Kenya (320,600). Major countries of origin included Afghanistan (2.8 million) and Iraq (1.9 million), which together account for 45 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility. Other countries of origin included Somalia (561,000); Sudan (419,000); Colombia, including people in refugee-like situations (374,000), and D.R. Congo (368,000). UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said[23] that in 2009, they have already seen substantial new displacements, namely in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Somalia, while some displacements may be short-lived, others can take years and even decades to resolve.

There has been a continuous increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers from Sri Lanka due to the conflict in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country. As at January 2009, there were 137,752 refugees[24] from Sri Lanka and 7,057 asylum seekers[25] originated from Sri Lanka. In addition, there were

[23] http://www.unhcr.org/4a2fd52412d.html.

[24] Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. It also includes persons in a refugee-like situation whose status has not yet been verified.

[25] Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the procedure.

Table 6.5
Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Sri Lanka during 2000 to 2008

Asylum country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Refugee population – Main countries in 2008									
India	64,743	64,061	63,767	60,922	57,274	50,730	69,609	72,934	73,286
France	15,183	15,774	15,938	15,062	15,304	15,602	15,669	16,605	18,102
Germany	-	-	17,403	15,121	12,850	15,304	5,832	6,388	6,594
Canada	10,591	13,161	12,873	12,563	12,062	11,076	9,877	21,279	20,442
U.K	10,605	11,760	9,545	7,993	8,064	8,098	8,223	8,554	8,725
Other	23,038	17,664	13,713	10,349	8,496	7,329	7,756	9,188	10,596
Total refugees	124,160	122,420	133,239	122,010	114,050	108,139	116,966	134,948	137,745
Total Asylum applications	17,053	15,190	10,917	6,161	6,029	6,298	7,343	5,980	7,057

Source: Various UNHCR Statistical Yearbooks.

269 refugees and 393 asylum seekers residing in Sri Lanka. The most preferred countries for refugee from Sri Lanka in 2008 were India, Canada, France, United Kingdom and Germany (Table 6.5), where India remains the most favourable destination since the last decade especially due to the geographical proximity and socio-cultural affiliations. For example, in the year 2008, there were more than 73,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India which is nearly 3 to 4 times higher than any other country. According to the UNHCR, a total of 17,053 asylum applications were reported in 2000 which declined to 5,980 in 2007. However, currently Sri Lanka's war against LTTE terrorists has come to an end and the security situation has also improved significantly, which in turn would result in a decline in refugees and asylum seekers from Sri Lanka.

7

Way Forward

7.0 Way Forward

Strengthening the Migration Statistics for Sri Lanka

One of the main problems in terms of numbers is that only those who registered with the SLBFE are reflected in statistics for temporary labour migration. These people are mostly unskilled workers, housemaids and semi-skilled workers primarily focusing the Middle Eastern region for employment. As most of the workers in professional, middle level and other skilled categories seek job opportunities direct and migrate under the general emigration laws of the country, these people do not register with the SLBFE and there is no proper recording and data reporting of the same. The migrant statistics reported by different sources give contradictory numbers which are questionable. There is no proper recording and reporting mechanism for other types of migrants as well. It is possible to assume that the actual number of migrant workers is more than the recorded number due to workers leaving through unauthorized sources and personal contacts and the non-identification of the large number who have secured employment who are not registered with the SLBFE.

Numerous types of international migration statistics are compiled by both government and non-government organizations in Sri Lanka. There is a need to strengthen the National Centre for Migration Statistics for a more integrated data collection mechanism and to disseminate migration statistics in Sri Lanka. All foreign missions based in Sri Lanka and abroad need to adopt a coordinated approach in this regard. This is of critical importance for better planning and decision making in international migration management of Sri Lanka.

The occupational categorization adopted by the SLBFE is not in line with the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)[26] which makes international comparisons further difficult. Therefore, the need to adapt to ISCO

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[26] The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) is one of the main international classifications for which the International Labour Organization (ILO) is the main authority responsible. It belongs to the international family of economic and social classifications. The International Standard Classification of Occupations is a tool for organizing jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job. http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/index.htm.

standards and categorization is vital as these are jobs that are directly dealing on an international platform.

Migrant Welfare and Social Aspects

Challenges in migration are mainly related to those who migrate for employment and among them most hardships are faced by those who go to the Middle East and particularly the female domestic workers and the unskilled workers. Most of the reported cases of exploitation, non-payment or under-payment of salaries, physical abuse etc. have been reported from the housemaid category, and often the labour receiving countries have not taken strict measures to curtail this situation. It is necessary to ensure that rights of the migrant workers are protected, which is something Sri Lanka as a labour sending country alone is not in a position to guarantee. The understanding and flexibility of the labour receiving country too is a prerequisite, which can be developed through bilateral and multilateral collaboration.

It is important to identify the existence of the many social problems associated with migration, particularly because of the families left behind by the migrants to the Middle East, as well as those who have gone to Italy, Cyprus etc., which have not been properly addressed at bilateral level or multilateral level. There is a notion in Sri Lanka that labour receiving countries are “heavens” and one can earn so much to live comfortable for the rest of their life. But it is only when they reach these destinations that they realize the reality. This situation is further fuelled by the need to come out of poverty, lack of opportunities and lack of correct information on migration.

The protection and welfare of the Sri Lankan migrant workers is a shared responsibility of both the Sri Lankan authorities and the authorities in the host country. Although the Sri Lankan missions especially in the Middle East are actively involved in the welfare of the migrant workers, still there are wide ranging gaps that need to be addressed. For example, in the case of death or sexual abuse migrant workers face many social and legal barriers in the host countries which need to be closely focused by the Sri Lankan missions in these countries.

Finding the Optimum Level of Migration

Like most social processes, the net impact of migration especially the skilled categories of labour results in both positive and negative economic and social gains. The most direct effect of skilled emigration is to reduce the number of educated workers who are critical to productivity and development and on the other hand, it sets in play a number of forces that can increase economic growth. In the efforts for better migration management, it is necessary to identify whether or not high skilled emigration ends up being a medium to long-term drag on Sri Lanka's economic growth. Grand policies of retention through building educational institutions and assisting in economic development are the best long-term response to brain drain. In order to find the correct balance of skilled migration, Sri Lanka needs to focus on education reforms, targeted training and economic development in order to gain best results in the long-term. With the present Government emphasis on skilled migration, it is vital to find the "optimum level" of skilled migration that would create the best feedback results in the future.

With the domestic labour shortages in some sectors, such as health and construction sectors, it is important to identify the domestic labour needs vis-à-vis foreign employment opportunities to gain the best sustainable results from international migration.

Human Capital Development is a crucial aspect of labour mobility to address the policy that could maximize the beneficial effects of labour migration and minimize the risks to migrants, their families and development efforts of home and host countries. More coherent skills training and employment distribution and retention strategies can help avoid brain drain.

Contribution of Sri Lankan Diaspora

It is important to recognize the potential contribution of the Sri Lankan Diaspora community in rebuilding Sri Lanka after three decades of war against terrorism. The President of Sri Lanka has made an open invitation to all Sri Lankans living abroad to come back and help the country's reconstruction efforts. The Diaspora can either come back to the homeland to join the development efforts or contribute via funding; both envisage having positive economic gains for the country.

Access to Remittances Infrastructure

With regard to the inflow of remittances, there is a tremendous need to make formal remittance channels more accessible to the rural areas in Sri Lanka including the northern and eastern parts of the country. Remittance channels should be made more accessible and convenient for both migrants and to the recipients. Rural bank branch network needs to be strengthened to access a wider population. In addition, microfinance institutes and the postal network have to be given the powers to receive international remittances as these are more reachable by the migrant households in Sri Lanka.

Strengthening the Institutional Mechanism

Another challenge faced by Sri Lanka is that although it has ratified many international conventions on labour and migration and also has entered into many bilateral agreements, the most crucial destinations the Middle Eastern countries have signed only memoranda of understanding (MOU) with Sri Lanka which need to be tightened to gain the best results for the bulk of Sri Lanka's migrants who are located in these countries.

The open visa policy adopted by Sri Lanka in 2000 has shown serious negative repercussions on the country's national security and government revenue. This policy was initiated with the objective of nurturing positive international relations with other nations especially for better tourism and trade relations. With the open visa policy, the visa fee chargeable on each visa issued by Sri Lanka which was also scrapped, creating loss of millions of revenue to the government. On the national security front, Sri Lanka needs to manage its borders better as the country still needs to be vigilant on potential threats from terrorism. Therefore, tightening its borders with enhanced security measures and improving the technological capacity is crucial.

The security of international travel depends on trustworthy documents and systems of international cooperation and information exchange. International standards are necessary for an effective global passport and visa system. Introducing special features such as fingerprint or the iris detection system to ensure genuine travel documentation is important.

Managing Irregular Migration

Given the vast number of irregular migrants moving into and out of the country either through unofficial channels or taking up unauthorized residence and employment or lapsing into irregularity after regular entry, leads to high vulnerability of these migrants to exploitation, victimization and abuse. Meanwhile, irregular migrants tend to enter foreign territories not only by risking their lives but also most often get caught in illegal activities such as human and drug smuggling and trafficking, money laundering and terrorism. In order to minimize the rate of irregular migration and related activities, it is important for Sri Lanka to work in partnership with countries of origin, transit and destinations in tightening its border controls and address issues relating to migration and border security.

It is evident that a significant number of irregular migrants deal with travel agents via telephone but do not actually have any face-to-face interaction, which makes evasion easier for the fraudulent agents. Therefore, there is a necessity to improve systems and processes and use of advanced technology at key institutions such as the Katunayake International Airport, the Airlines, Department of Immigration and Emigration, SLBFE, etc. Introducing coordinated data sharing and analysis together with the interconnectivity between migration enforcement agencies will be beneficial in the delivery of solutions to border control challenges. Introducing more awareness programmes to educate the public of risk of irregular migration should be undertaken in a regular manner to reduce the rate of irregular migration.

Managing Student Migration

The internationalization of higher education raises new challenges for policy makers with respect to education policy, as well as the coordination of their economic, social, migration and development policies. The movement of students in large numbers from Sri Lanka is yet another challenge as a country that has invested in a free education system since 1945. The strengthening of higher education and training and increasing the quality and capacity in university degree programmes can help to minimize the adverse effects of student migration and skills shortages. Sri Lanka needs to identify the domestic skills shortages and the availability of local educational opportunities in order to introduce internationally recognized educational institutions in Sri Lanka.

Attracting Tourists

Re-positioning Sri Lanka tourism in the post conflict era is vital. The Government has recognized the importance of this task and formulated a new tourism strategy for the country and also intend to target the Northern and Eastern parts of the country for tourism which were earlier untapped. It is important to re-position Sri Lanka in the world's leisure market as a safe tourist destination.

Having recognized that international migration has profound long- term benefits, immigration policies of developed countries should facilitate the movement, yet they should incorporate mechanisms that encourage developing country economic growth. Developed countries in this respect should encourage temporary and return migration.

Prospects for the free movement of labour should be envisaged not only from the perspective of economic gains and losses but also from social and political angles. From the domestic perspective, economic benefits will always be weighed against social implications and security concerns, all of which need to be clearly addressed to gain long-term sustainable results.

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Appendix

Appendix 1
Arrivals and Departures of Sri Lankans at the CA-2001 to 2007

Arrivals of Sri Lankans (Unclassified) at the Airport Colombo 2001 to 2007*

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
January	41,941	38,206	45,433	46,845	49,254	56,926	60,162
February	28,436	37,433	39,608	43,900	57,267	47,560	51,010
March	46,882	51,590	49,866	50,142	56,080	59,879	66,700
April	49,549	38,531	42,221	50,632	60,488	66,219	72,659
May	40,332	36,554	39,753	51,384	55,072	56,879	60,162
June	44,800	45,865	51,859	62,250	61,820	64,749	69,091
July	45,251	49,116	70,367	64,704	68,961	67,818	74,107
August	40,276	48,686	53,038	54,637	59,001	65,154	76,810
September	34,788	41,815	35,623	51,002	51,762	55,978	65,103
October	31,200	38,399	42,375	51,180	50,012	53,157	62,389
November	34,359	40,068	42,203	49,038	54,174	62,578	64,335
December	39,839	50,414	59,212	70,577	70,728	77,524	90,440
Total	**477,653**	**516,677**	**571,558**	**646,291**	**694,619**	**734,421**	**812,968**

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Immigration & Emigration Department.

Departures of Sri Lankans for All Purposes from Airport Colombo 2001 to 2007*

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*
January	36,197	48,616	50,292	56,920	54,662	63,269	65,129
February	41,317	42,245	42,270	49,338	61,501	56,837	65,410
March	36,890	33,519	43,642	52,301	57,427	57,690	68,587
April	44,289	43,600	38,858	50,652	62,031	63,846	73,572
May	42,346	45,373	43,086	54,648	58,351	58,193	57,964
June	44,412	44,349	50,047	54,949	59,994	58,550	62,378
July	42,676	46,641	62,770	55,845	65,032	62,147	70,108
August	50,802	55,968	64,776	68,188	65,718	73,336	89,582
September	41,619	58,092	55,395	70,193	71,540	72,482	81,191
October	38,740	41,230	54,478	61,713	64,971	61,674	68,685
November	38,895	42,538	43,594	47,299	49,756	57,443	67,134
December	35,871	45,489	50,571	57,085	66,705	71,268	85,355
Total	**494,054**	**547,660**	**599,779**	**679,131**	**737,688**	**756,735**	**855,095**

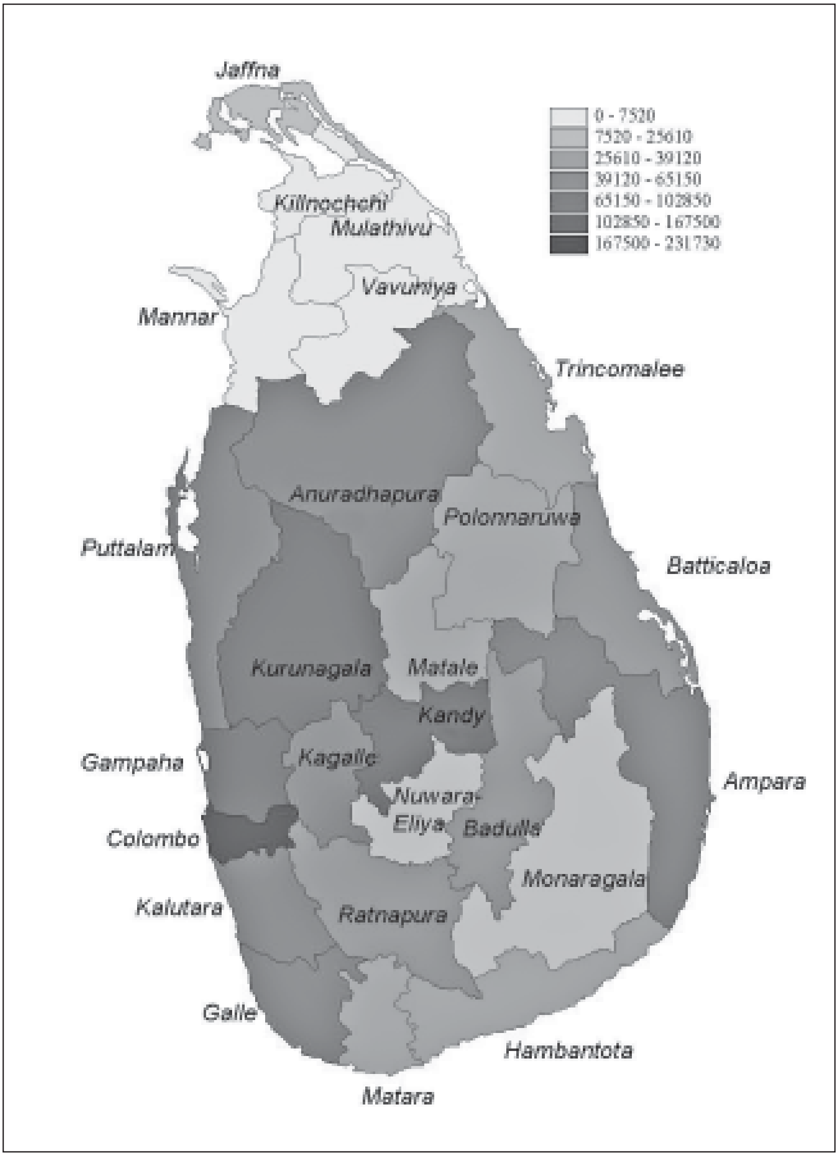
Note: * Provisional.
Source: Immigration & Emigration Department.

Appendix 2
Estimated Stock of Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers by Country and Sex, 2007

COUNTRY	2007 Estimated Stock		
	Male	Female	Total
Saudi Arabia	210,160	307,583	517,743
Kuwait	92,211	216,316	308,527
U.A.E.	102,904	135,697	238,601
Qatar	103,838	29,547	133,385
Lebanon	20,351	96,680	117,031
Italy	15,018	45,209	60,227
Jordan	20,981	56,577	77,558
Oman	13,102	34,013	47,115
Bahrain	13,016	31,824	44,840
Cyprus	8,769	17,222	25,991
Maldives	11,954	5,336	17,290
Singapore	4,361	14,881	19,242
South Korea	9,780	2,330	12,110
Hong Kong SAR	837	3,175	4,012
Malaysia	3,286	1,828	5,114
Mauritius	1,848	2,386	4,234
Greece	457	490	947
Egypt	333	745	1,078
Seychelles	544	74	618
Libya	398	59	457
Africa	194	63	257
Pakistan	176	148	324
Israel	950	1,072	2,022
Syria	115	142	257
United States	110	35	145
China	112	33	145
Ireland	121	35	156
South Yemen	117	36	153
United Kingdom	77	130	207
Kenya	90	131	221
Others	2,046	402	2,448
TOTAL	**638,256**	**1,004,199**	**1,642,455**

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Appendix 3
Map of Estimated Stock in Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers by District 2007



Source: Authors' illustration by using the data from Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Appendix 4
Demand and Supply Gap of Labour Migrants from Sri Lanka (Top 50 Jobs that have the Highest Supply Gap)

Manpower Level - Professional Level

Job	2006			2007*		
	Job Orders	Departures	Gap	Job Orders	Departures	Gap
Engineer - Civil	825	43	782	973	43	930
Accountant - General	889	105	784	957	133	824
Engineer - Mechanical	301	11	290	428	14	414
Engineer - Electrical	413	10	403	424	27	397
Engineer - Planning	24	2	22	133	5	128
Engineer - Ship	0	0	0	126	0	126
Engineer - Site	20	0	20	104	0	104
Manager - General	208	32	176	121	20	101
Engineer - Quality Control	47	5	42	99	2	97
Architect - General	19	1	18	85	3	82
Engineer - Project	53	5	48	75	8	67
Doctor	124	27	97	83	17	66
Accountant - Chief	0	0	0	52	2	50
Engineer - Chief	5	2	3	47	0	47
Engineer - HVAC	16	0	16	49	2	47
Lecturer - General	0	12	-12	45	0	45
Estimator	26	1	25	45	1	44
Engineer - Electronics	26	1	25	44	1	43
Accountant - Chartered	62	2	60	40	4	36
Engineer - Safety	15	2	13	35	0	35
Engineer - A/C & Ref.	12	0	12	34	1	33
Manager - Hotel	51	4	47	47	14	33
Administrator - System	3	3	0	39	7	32
Accounting - Executive	40	11	29	41	11	30
Engineer - Maintenance	27	4	23	32	2	30
Professor/Lecturer - University	0	0	0	34	4	30
Engineer - Plumbing	8	1	7	29	0	29
Accountant - Senior	34	6	28	30	4	26
Engineer - Service	16	1	15	28	3	25
Consultant - Education	0	0	0	30	6	24
Engineer - Sales	95	1	94	28	5	23
Engineer - Material	15	1	14	24	2	22
Engineer - Soil	0	0	0	22	0	22
Manager - Bank	0	0	0	21	0	21
Manager - Bar	1	1	0	21	1	20

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Communication	1	2	-1	17	0	17
Engineer - Structural	3	1	2	16	0	16
Manager - Front Office	47	3	44	19	3	16
Physiotherapy	160	0	160	19	3	16
Accountant - Cost	4	0	4	19	4	15
Engineer - Cost Control	3	0	3	16	1	15
Manager - Finance	23	2	21	19	6	13
Engineer - Technical	2	0	2	13	1	12
Manager - Administration	14	4	10	11	0	11
Engineer - Equipment	14	1	13	10	0	10
Engineer - Road	0	0	0	11	1	10
Engineer - Instrumentation	1	1	0	9	0	9
Engineer - Irrigation	0	0	0	9	0	9
Manager - Construction	0	0	0	10	1	9
Agronomist/Agriculturist	5	2	3	8	0	8
Horticulturist	1	1	0	9	1	8
Other	1,199	308	891	149	23	126
Total	**4,852**	**619**	**4,233**	**4,789**	**386**	**4,403**

Note: * Provisional.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Middle Level

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Controller - Quality	783	52	731	887	44	843
Surveyor - Quantity	398	36	362	804	52	752
Nurse - General Duty	714	22	692	406	16	390
Foreman - Civil	226	2	224	363	11	352
Foreman - Electrical	217	6	211	314	8	306
Nurse - Professional	374	13	361	246	11	235
Supervisor - Site	0	0	0	218	11	207
Foreman - Mechanical	70	3	67	202	6	196
Adviser - Service	0	0	0	204	9	195
Programmer - Computer	208	13	195	193	9	184
Associate I	0	0	0	253	74	179
Assistant - Manager	100	15	85	191	16	175
Draughtsman - Auto Cad	125	3	122	182	15	167
Leader - Team	68	12	56	184	18	166
Executive - Marketing	55	11	44	178	16	162
Surveyor - Land	160	9	151	159	9	150

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Manager - Project	0	0	0	145	2	143
Assistant - Accountant	84	7	77	152	16	136
Surveyor - General	92	19	73	139	3	136
Draughtsman - General	116	12	104	136	2	134
Nurse - Staff	10	2	8	138	10	128
Officer - Administrative	23	3	20	109	15	94
Foreman - Pipe laying	120	5	115	97	4	93
Captain	0	0	0	107	15	92
Officer Shipment Control	0	0	0	92	0	92
Assistant - Accounts	0	0	0	100	16	84
Teacher - General	90	43	47	81	10	71
Artist - General	99	7	92	69	1	68
Foreman - H.A. A/C	38	0	38	68	0	68
Manager - Sales commercial	0	0	0	74	7	67
Nurse - Midwife	26	0	26	61	1	60
Manager - Marketing	0	0	0	59	1	58
Foreman - Ducting	23	5	18	55	2	53
Auditor - Night	22	0	22	51	3	48
Officer - Labour	1	0	1	46	0	46
Analyst - Systems	6	3	3	55	16	39
Assistant - Engineer	24	2	22	43	4	39
Manager - Product	0	0	0	45	7	38
Specialist - Marketing	0	0	0	69	34	35
Controller - Finance	43	6	37	41	7	34
Controller - Material	7	4	3	32	0	32
Manager - Reservation	0	0	0	32	1	31
Teacher - Languages	49	58	-9	33	2	31
Draughtsman - Architectural	0	0	0	30	0	30
Foreman - Painting	15	0	15	32	2	30
Manager - Catering	0	0	0	30	0	30
Administrative Assistant	0	0	0	46	17	29
Auditor - General	27	9	18	39	10	29
Manager - F & B	0	0	0	32	3	29
Officer - Public Relations	53	24	29	46	17	29
Manager - Contract	0	0	0	27	0	27
Other	8,205	1,333	6,872	1,139	188	951
Total	**12,671**	**1,739**	**10,932**	**8,534**	**741**	**7,793**

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Clerical & Related

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Checker - Final	1,189	176	1,013	2,056	155	1,901
Operator - Computer	1,132	68	1,064	1,255	71	1,184
Supervisor - General	1,168	100	1,068	1,070	84	986
Storekeeper	1,134	107	1,027	1,018	69	949
Service Agent	6	4	2	816	9	807
Beautician	935	6	929	665	12	653
Foreman - General	0	0	0	591	22	569
Receptionist - General	320	38	282	544	33	511
Clerk - General	532	60	472	523	44	479
Secretary - General	578	29	549	469	29	440
Commis - 1st	376	85	291	488	65	423
Cashier - General	513	49	464	478	76	402
Checker - Quality	692	37	655	434	46	388
Cutter - Garment	0	0	0	378	20	358
Supervisor - Garment	200	31	169	318	12	306
Supervisor - House Keeping	141	16	125	283	20	263
Commis - 2nd	221	33	188	267	19	248
Officer - Security	105	16	89	250	22	228
Supervisor - Production	147	8	139	224	10	214
Supervisor - Line	173	14	159	220	30	190
Commis - 3rd	173	31	142	188	29	159
Chef - Demy	168	8	160	164	12	152
Supervisor - Cleaning	205	26	179	156	17	139
Supervisor - Catering/F & B	153	15	138	151	15	136
Chef - Pastry	76	5	71	148	14	134
Supervisor - Security	90	1	89	133	1	132
Supervisor - Service	5	2	3	127	2	125
Merchandiser	110	6	104	135	13	122
Supervisor - Quality Control	99	8	91	125	7	118
Supervisor - Technical	17	10	7	126	15	111
Sales - Representative	108	31	77	123	14	109
Clerk - Accounts	114	13	101	106	6	100
Officer - Personnel	6	1	5	98	1	97
Officer - Safety	90	3	87	99	3	96
Sales - Executives	0	0	0	178	85	93
Operator - Data Entry	90	9	81	94	8	86
Supervisor - Electrical	101	2	99	89	3	86
Supervisor - Sales	43	15	28	83	2	81
Charge hand - Plumbing	0	0	0	80	0	80
General - Assistant	273	73	200	200	123	77

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Supervisor - H.V.A.C.	25	1	24	78	1	77
Charge Hand - Electrical	15	0	15	75	1	74
Supervisor - Civil	71	0	71	73	3	70
Supervisor - Maintenance	25	5	20	75	8	67
Supervisor - Laundry	112	6	106	73	7	66
Assistant - Servery	284	131	153	66	1	65
Chef - Souse	44	7	37	71	6	65
Supervisor - Plumbing	24	0	24	66	1	65
Bookkeeper - General	49	0	49	63	2	61
Clerk - Administrative	47	11	36	95	34	61
Clerk Stores	42	14	28	63	3	60
Other	14,860	2,747	12,113	2,359	305	2,054
Total	27,081	4,058	23,023	18,107	1,590	16,517

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Skilled

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Driver - House	62,325	3,480	58,845	79,078	3,602	75,476
Cook - Domestic	20,550	334	20,216	33,215	329	32,886
Tailor - Domestic	17,872	42	17,830	23,779	23	23,756
Driver - Light Vehicle	12,458	3,110	9,348	18,969	4,531	14,438
Operator - Machine	15,710	5,184	10,526	17,426	5,225	12,201
Mason - General	8,158	1,170	6,988	12,008	1,257	10,751
Electrician - General	7,152	1,099	6,053	11,610	1,270	10,340
Welder - General	5,163	751	4,412	8,758	878	7,880
Fitter - Plumber/Pipe	7,412	670	6,742	8,720	873	7,847
Driver - Heavy Vehicle	7,331	2,553	4,778	9,799	2,707	7,092
Carpenter - Joiner	5,667	844	4,823	6,868	794	6,074
Cook - General	4,321	478	3,843	5,969	432	5,537
Worker - Security/Fire Preve	3,499	573	2,926	5,638	603	5,035
Mechanic - General	3,207	518	2,689	5,619	723	4,896
Painter - General	2,022	344	1,678	4,634	436	4,198
Fixer - Steel	3,933	521	3,412	4,367	299	4,068
Carpenter - Furniture (wood)	890	116	774	4,326	409	3,917
Tinker	963	83	880	2,942	72	2,870
Tailor - Female	1,951	3	1,948	2,912	61	2,851
Technician - General	0	0	0	3,234	396	2,838

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Technician - AC & Ref.	0	0	0	2,965	229	2,736
Driver - Trailer	2,082	347	1,735	2,852	319	2,533
Carpenter - Shuttering	2,083	194	1,889	2,172	191	1,981
Painter - Spray	1,547	194	1,353	2,056	219	1,837
Tailor - General	1,246	142	1,104	1,423	64	1,359
Bar bender	1,074	60	1,014	1,206	48	1,158
Electrician - Auto	826	35	791	1,162	85	1,077
Fabricator - Aluminum	844	24	820	1,099	28	1,071
Mechanic - Diesel Equipment	842	90	752	1,131	69	1,062
Mason - Tile Fixer	854	68	786	1,060	58	1,002
Operator - Crane & Hoist	645	42	603	956	18	938
Operator - Heavy Equipment	1,231	138	1,093	1,052	130	922
Laundryman	936	47	889	881	27	854
Driver - Truck	922	514	408	1,079	235	844
Fabricator	1,018	111	907	855	45	810
Operator - Excavate	531	37	494	801	40	761
Electrician - Building	868	51	817	736	40	696
Operator - Other Machinery	299	47	252	735	48	687
Operator - Fork Lift	365	19	346	707	42	665
Gardener	595	212	383	614	14	600
Checker - Line	175	13	162	603	44	559
Fabricator - Steel	269	13	256	545	10	535
Mason - Plastering	256	19	237	546	16	530
Rigger/Cable Splicer	402	14	388	540	30	510
Carpenter - Finishing	275	8	267	532	32	500
Chef	0	0	0	488	39	449
Operator - Dozer	247	3	244	451	18	433
Mechanic - A/C & Refrigerator	660	59	601	459	31	428
Machinist	163	1	162	427	35	392
Operator - Bochco	147	8	139	388	8	380
Other	27,751	6,167	21,367	22,541	3,378	19,163
Total	**239,737**	**30,767**	**208,970**	**322,934**	**30,510**	**292,424**

Note: * Provisional.
Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Semi Skilled

Job	2006			2007*		
	Job Orders	Departures	Gap	Job Orders	Departures	Gap
Sales - Worker	0	0	0	5,664	952	4,712
Ironer	0	0	0	1,002	57	945
Room boy	0	0	0	521	76	445
Assistant - Office	0	0	0	505	73	432
Assistant - Cook	0	0	0	450	56	394
Mason - Assistant	0	0	0	268	17	251
Assistant - Shuttering Carpenter	0	0	0	245	1	244
Electrician - Assistant	0	0	0	207	13	194
Seaman	0	0	0	194	1	193
Assistant - Technician	0	0	0	178	12	166
Attendant - Room	0	0	0	274	114	160
Lifeguard	0	0	0	180	30	150
Assistant Steel Fixer	0	0	0	140	3	137
Assistant - Plumber	0	0	0	135	10	125
Crew Member	0	0	0	297	172	125
Assistant - Mechanic	0	0	0	128	17	111
Assistant -Store Keeper	0	0	0	116	8	108
Attendant - Pool	0	0	0	107	10	97
Assistant - Spray Painter	0	0	0	95	8	87
Serviceman	0	0	0	88	8	80
Laminator	0	0	0	94	17	77
Assistant - Mechanic	0	0	0	72	9	63
Assistant - Welder	0	0	0	71	9	62
Attendant - Library	0	0	0	58	0	58
Timekeeper	0	0	0	63	5	58
Attendant - Food Service	0	0	0	62	4	58
Asst. Insulator	0	0	0	50	0	50
Aligner	0	0	0	50	0	50
Butler	0	0	0	58	10	48
Assistant - Production	0	0	0	49	5	44
Worker - Production	0	0	0	133	92	41
Bosun	0	0	0	40	0	40
Assistant - Technician	0	0	0	40	0	40
Yardman	0	0	0	35	1	34
Waiter - Head	0	0	0	38	5	33
Attendant - Laundry	0	0	0	36	5	31
Assistant - Operation	0	0	0	30	0	30
Loader - Catering	0	0	0	30	0	30
Assistant - Shop	0	0	0	34	6	28
Assistant - Housekeeper	0	0	0	30	2	28

Job	2006			2007*		
	Job Orders	Departures	Gap	Job Orders	Departures	Gap
Cutter -Vegetable	0	0	0	26	1	25
Attendant - Public Area	0	0	0	28	3	25
Assistant - Waiter	0	0	0	26	1	25
Maker - Pizza	0	0	0	28	4	24
Signalman	0	0	0	36	13	23
Warehouse Man	0	0	0	62	39	23
Executive - Housekeeper	0	0	0	24	2	22
Assistant - Personal	0	0	0	37	16	21
Service Provider	0	0	0	22	1	21
Assistant - Food Service	0	0	0	35	15	20
Other	0	0	0	449	64	385
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12,640**	**1,967**	**10,673**

Note: * Provisional.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Unskilled

Job	2006			2007*		
	Job Orders	Departures	Gap	Job Orders	Departures	Gap
House Boy	45,462	1,553	43,909	51,435	1,523	49,912
Labourer - General	27,331	10,673	16,658	29,956	13,079	16,877
Cleaner	16,267	6,711	9,556	22,214	6,299	15,915
Helper - General	8,197	2,012	6,185	14,776	4,022	10,754
Office Boy	0	0	0	3,565	345	3,220
Helper - Domestic	3,304	1,050	2,254	3,769	1,133	2,636
Waiter - General	0	0	0	2,904	434	2,470
Helper - Garment	740	92	648	1,559	147	1,412
Labourer - Building	2,225	977	1,248	2,145	784	1,361
Labourer - Farm	1,532	195	1,337	1,192	208	984
Labourer - Cleaning	1,636	752	884	1,731	763	968
Helper - Plumber	69	17	52	744	102	642
Helper - Carpenter	185	10	175	731	145	586
Helper - Steel Fitter	15	4	11	588	6	582
Waitress	0	0	0	595	19	576
Janitor	742	278	464	945	380	565
Servant	0	0	0	482	41	441
Helper - Electrical	110	60	50	430	53	377
Housekeeper	0	0	0	444	78	366
Kitchen Boy/Girl	969	64	905	394	38	356
Worker - Factory	**0**	**0**	**0**	**577**	**269**	**308**

Job	2006 Job Orders	2006 Departures	2006 Gap	2007* Job Orders	2007* Departures	2007* Gap
Caregiver	0	0	0	386	107	279
Barrister	0	0	0	276	38	238
Helper - Mason	105	23	82	260	24	236
Sales - Helper	0	0	0	312	76	236
Labourer - Skilled	240	23	217	286	63	223
Caregiver - Female	0	0	0	639	426	213
House Keeping Attendant	0	0	0	214	41	173
Washer	0	0	0	172	13	159
Helper - Stores	231	61	170	186	29	157
Helper - Mechanic	503	37	466	240	96	144
Operator - Fuel Filling	0	0	0	190	62	128
Helper - Machine	279	1	278	126	3	123
Busboy	0	0	0	132	10	122
Caregiver -Male	74	29	45	155	45	110
Groom	230	10	220	140	33	107
Worker - Gypsum	0	0	0	104	3	101
Care Taker	0	0	0	134	34	100
Tea Boy	172	17	155	109	16	93
Helper - Industrial	293	78	215	272	183	89
Worker - Fish	0	0	0	89	2	87
Helper - A/C	84	17	67	257	175	82
Helper - Fabricator	30	1	29	81	0	81
Renter - Vehicle	0	0	0	80	0	80
Watcher	25	2	23	80	0	80
Shepard Boy	0	0	0	90	12	78
Janitress	157	66	91	136	63	73
Labourer - Gold Smith	39	3	36	72	1	71
Helper - Technical	83	13	70	70	5	65
Labourer - Unskilled	112	27	85	63	0	63
Other	2,718	1,219	1,499	2,080	945	1,135
Total	114,159	26,075	88,084	148,607	32,373	116,234

Note: * Provisional.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Manpower Level - Housemaid

Job	2006			2007*		
	Job Orders	Departures	Gap	Job Orders	Departures	Gap
Housemaid - General	109,776	48,899	60,877	105,660	47,385	58,275
Housemaid - Non Muslim	84,009	18,897	65,112	99,958	19,560	80,398
Housemaid - Muslim	89,402	5,042	84,360	125,017	5,037	119,980
Housemaid - Christian	23,290	4,433	18,857	34,490	6,030	28,460
Babysitter/Nanny	14,830	232	14,598	20,497	403	20,094
Housemaid - Couple	16	7	9	35	0	35
Housemaid - English Speaking	645	187	458	217	37	180
Housemaid - Arabic Speaking	460	11	449	197	11	186
Care Taker	650	53	597	0	0	0
Concierge	2	0	2	0	0	0
Room Maid	4	2	2	0	0	0
Caregiver - Female	206	56	150	0	0	0
Caregiver	31	0	31	0	0	0
Servant	450	101	349	0	0	0
Not Identified	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Total	323,771	77,920	245,851	386,071	78,464	307,607

Note: * Provisional.

Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Appendix 5
Top 100 Countries Receiving Remittances

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Remittances as a share of GDP, 2007 (%)
Algeria	790	670	1,070	1,750	2,460	2,060	1,610	2,120	2,262	1.6
Albania	598	699	734	889	1,161	1,290	1,359	1,071	1,071	10.1
Argentina	86	190	189	274	312	432	541	604	604	0.2
Armenia	87	94	131	162	435	498	658	846	864	9.0
Australia	1,903	1,783	1,795	2,326	2,837	2,990	3,131	3,862	3,862	0.4
Austria	1,441	1,519	1,711	2,309	2,480	2,941	2,639	2,945	2,945	0.8
Azerbaijan	57	104	181	171	228	693	813	1,287	1,410	4.4
Bangladesh	1,968	2,105	2,858	3,192	3,584	4,314	5,428	6,562	8,979	9.5
Belarus	139	149	141	222	257	255	340	354	354	0.8
Belgium	4,005	3,811	4,674	5,990	6,863	7,242	7,488	8,562	8,562	1.9
Benin	87	84	76	55	63	173	224	224	271	4.1
Bolivia	127	135	113	159	211	346	612	927	927	6.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,595	1,521	1,526	1,749	2,072	2,043	2,157	2,520	2,600	0.0
Brazil	1,649	1,775	2,449	2,822	3,575	3,540	4,253	4,382	4,500	0.3
Bulgaria	58	71	1,177	1,718	1,723	1,613	1,707	2,086	2,200	5.7
Cambodia	121	133	140	138	177	200	297	353	353	4.2
China	6,244	8,385	13,012	17,815	19,014	20,337	23,319	32,833	34,490	1.1
Colombia	1,610	2,056	2,480	3,076	3,190	3,346	3,928	4,523	4,523	3.0
Costa Rica	136	198	250	321	320	420	513	635	635	2.3
Croatia	641	747	885	1,085	1,222	1,222	1,234	1,394	1,500	2.9
Czech Republic	297	257	335	499	815	1,026	1,190	1,332	1,410	0.8
Denmark	667	699	785	941	1,075	866	986	989	1,150	0.3
Dominican Republic	1,839	1,982	2,195	2,325	2,501	2,719	3,084	3,414	3,524	9.3
Ecuador	1,322	1,421	1,438	1,633	1,838	2,460	2,934	3,094	3,200	6.9
Egypt, Arab Rep.	2,852	2,911	2,893	2,961	3,341	5,017	5,330	7,656	9,476	6.0
El Salvador	1,765	1,926	1,953	2,122	2,564	3,030	3,485	3,711	3,804	18.4
Estonia	3	9	19	51	167	264	402	426	426	2.3
Ethiopia	53	18	33	47	134	174	172	359	359	2.0
Finland	473	491	477	526	666	693	698	772	772	0.3
France	8,631	9,194	10,353	11,311	12,277	11,945	12,304	13,746	13,746	0.5
French Polynesia	..	..	..	509	598	557	601	666	730	0.0
Georgia	274	181	231	235	303	346	485	696	696	6.8
Germany	3,644	3,933	4,685	5,783	6,581	6,703	7,207	8,570	8,650	0.3
Greece	2,194	2,014	1,659	1,564	1,242	1,220	1,543	2,484	2,484	0.7
Guatemala	596	634	1,600	2,147	2,627	3,067	3,700	4,254	4,440	10.6
Guyana	27	22	51	99	153	201	218	278	278	23.5
Haiti	578	624	676	811	932	985	1,063	1,222	1,300	20.0
Honduras	416	540	718	867	1,175	1,821	2,391	2,625	2,801	24.5
Hong Kong, China	136	153	121	120	240	297	294	348	374	0.2
Hungary	281	296	279	295	307	280	363	413	413	0.3
India	12,890	14,273	15,736	20,999	18,750	21,293	25,426	35,262	45,000	3.1
Indonesia	1,190	1,046	1,259	1,489	1,866	5,420	5,722	6,174	6,500	1.5
Iran, Islamic Rep.	536	682	851	1,178	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,115	1,115	0.5
Ireland	252	244	316	337	414	513	532	580	641	0.2
Israel	328	499	410	423	714	850	944	1,041	1,041	0.6
Italy	1,937	2,266	2,263	2,140	2,173	2,395	2,625	3,165	3,210	0.2
Jamaica	892	1,058	1,261	1,399	1,623	1,784	1,946	2,144	2,214	19.4
Japan	1,374	1,984	1,821	1,078	931	1,080	1,380	1,577	1,577	0.0
Jordan	1,845	2,011	2,135	2,201	2,330	2,500	2,883	3,434	3,434	22.7
Kenya	538	550	433	538	620	805	1,128	1,588	1,673	5.4

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Remittances as a share of GDP, 2007 (%)
Korea, Rep.	735	652	662	827	800	848	994	1,128	1,128	0.1
Kyrgyz Republic	9	11	37	78	189	322	481	715	715	19.0
Latvia	72	112	138	173	229	381	482	552	583	2.1
Lebanon	1,582	2,307	2,544	4,743	5,591	4,924	5,202	5,769	6,000	24.4
Lesotho	252	209	194	287	355	327	361	443	443	28.7
Lithuania	50	79	109	115	325	534	994	1,427	1,427	3.8
Luxembourg	579	577	826	1,033	1,130	1,269	1,372	1,565	1,690	3.3
Macao, China	..	..	..	161	355	588	511	511	511	0.0
Macedonia, FYR	81	73	106	174	213	227	267	267	315	3.6
Malaysia	981	792	959	987	1,128	1,281	1,535	1,700	1,810	1.0
Mexico	7,525	10,146	11,029	16,556	1,9861	23,062	26,877	27,144	26,212	3.0
Moldova	179	243	324	487	705	920	1,182	1,498	1,550	38.3
Morocco	2,161	3,261	2,877	3,614	4,221	4,590	5,451	6,730	6,730	9.0
Nepal	111	147	678	771	823	1,212	1,453	1,734	2,254	15.5
Netherlands	1,157	1,357	1,215	2,024	2,164	2,197	2,475	2,548	2,548	0.3
New Caledonia	..	..	..	448	493	512	535	586	600	0.0
New Zealand	452	1,034	1,381	1,065	958	739	650	650	650	0.5
Nicaragua	320	336	377	439	519	616	698	740	771	12.1
Nigeria	1,392	1,167	1,209	1,063	2,273	3,329	5,435	9,221	9,979	6.7
Norway	246	254	302	392	465	505	524	613	650	0.2
Pakistan	1,075	1,461	3,554	3,964	3,945	4,280	5,121	5,998	7,025	4.2
Paraguay	278	264	202	222	238	269	472	469	469	3.2
Peru	718	753	705	869	1,133	1,440	1,837	2,131	2,200	1.9
Philippines	6,212	6,164	9,735	10,243	11,471	13,566	15,251	16,291	18,268	11.6
Poland	1,726	1,995	1,989	2,655	4,728	6,482	8,496	10,496	11,000	2.6
Portugal	3,406	3,566	2,858	3,042	3,304	3,101	3,334	3,945	4,220	1.8
Romania	96	116	143	124	132	4,733	6,718	8,533	9,000	5.6
Russian Federation	1,275	1,403	1,359	1,453	2,495	2,919	3,091	4,100	4,500	0.3
Senegal	233	305	344	511	633	789	925	925	1,000	8.5
Serbia and Montenegro	1,132	1,698	2,089	2,661	4,129	4,650	4,703	4,910	5,100	0.0
Slovak Republic	18	24	24	424	529	946	1,088	1,483	1,500	2.0
Slovenia	205	201	217	238	266	264	282	284	300	0.7
South Africa	344	297	288	435	523	658	734	834	850	0.3
Spain	4,517	4,720	5,178	6,568	7,528	7,961	8,885	10,687	10,900	0.7
Sri Lanka	1,166	1,185	1,309	1,438	1,590	1,991	2,185	2,527	2,720	8.1
Sudan	641	740	978	1,223	1,403	1,016	1,179	1,769	1,850	3.7
Sweden	510	543	540	578	420	612	595	775	818	0.2
Switzerland	1,119	1,301	1,372	1,706	1,890	1,828	1,903	2,035	2,420	0.4
Syrian Arab Republic	180	170	135	889	855	823	795	824	850	2.2
Tajikistan	..	..	79	146	252	467	1,019	1,691	1,750	45.5
Thailand	1,697	1,252	1,380	1,607	1,622	1,187	1,333	1,635	1,800	0.7
Tunisia	796	927	1,071	1,250	1,432	1,393	1,510	1,716	1,870	5.0
Turkey	4,560	2,786	1,936	729	804	851	1,111	1,209	1,209	0.2
Uganda	238	342	421	306	311	323	665	849	875	7.2
Ukraine	33	141	209	330	411	595	829	4,503	5,000	3.9
United Kingdom	3,614	4,825	4,485	5,029	6,351	6,302	6,975	8,234	8,234	0.3
United States	2,835	2,931	2,811	2,813	2,822	2,890	2,880	2,972	2,972	0.0
Vietnam	..	2,000	2,714	2,700	3,200	4,000	4,800	5,500	5,500	7.9
West Bank and Gaza	859	409	334	472	455	598	598	598	598	0.0
Yemen, Rep.	1,288	1,295	1,294	1,270	1,283	1,283	1,283	1,283	1,283	6.1

Source: World Bank.

Appendix 6
Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence - 2002 to 2008

Country of Residence	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NORTH AMERICA	**19,866**	**25,110**	**29,759**	**46,457**	**35,323**	**28,355**	**24,311**
Canada	8,301	11,164	14,633	21,185	14,623	11,869	10,258
U.S.A.	11,565	13,946	15,126	25,272	20,700	16,486	14,053
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	**555**	**634**	**741**	**705**	**775**	**3,962**	**3,739**
WESTERN EUROPE	**200,295**	**255,169**	**284,440**	**227,191**	**228,445**	**194,448**	**167,187**
Austria	6,117	7,310	8,633	4,127	4,662	3,580	2,651
Belgium	4,767	4,304	5,582	3,855	6,333	4,669	2,378
Denmark	1,968	2,720	3,269	3,781	3,531	1,796	1,320
Finland	729	1,106	1,989	1,150	1,244	497	468
France	19,989	28,585	29,996	26,653	22,693	8,091	10,594
Germany	55,170	58,908	58,258	46,350	47,402	35,042	30,625
Italy	12,177	15,654	18,862	10,192	12,424	11,451	9,126
The Netherlands	11,748	18,197	21,455	15,156	19,360	17,526	13,030
Norway	2,889	3,674	3,477	4,330	3,054	2,304	1,613
Spain	2,328	2,780	3,010	1,781	2,367	2,484	2,282
Sweden	2,487	3,880	7,979	5,402	5,524	4,851	3,711
Switzerland	9,375	11,240	10,610	8,399	7,727	4,917	5,326
U.K.	67,533	93,278	106,645	92,629	88,306	94,060	81,331
Others	3,018	3,533	4,675	3,386	3,818	3,180	2,732
EASTERN EUROPE	**8,079**	**10,633**	**14,336**	**9,290**	**14,221**	**25,573**	**29,440**
Russia	2,946	3,686	5,000	3,704	7,985	13,621	15,797
Others	5,133	6,947	9,336	5,586	6,236	11,952	13,643
MIDDLE EAST	**6,492**	**6,789**	**10,463**	**10,236**	**10,345**	**13,554**	**16,776**
AFRICA	**1,611**	**1,991**	**1,855**	**2,340**	**3,235**	**2,712**	**2,141**
South Africa	660	980	987	1,107	1,116	933	756
Others	951	1,011	868	1,233	2,119	1,779	1,385
ASIA	**143,064**	**177,351**	**198,068**	**223,351**	**242,132**	**202,480**	**173,042**
Bangladesh	1,521	1,830	1,721	2,316	2,456	1,665	1,564
China (P.R.)	4,338	7,251	9,088	9,668	16,274	11,949	9,812
Hong Kong, China	3,759	3,075	1,538	1,069	973	186	537
India	69,960	90,603	105,151	113,323	128,370	106,067	85,238
Indonesia	1,476	1,395	1,466	1,669	5,042	1,404	1,157
Japan	13,602	17,115	19,641	17,148	16,189	14,274	10,075
Korea (South)	2,616	2,709	4,531	6,056	5,298	4,870	4,300
Malaysia	9,651	9,331	10,132	11,578	9,713	6,704	5,188
Maldives	9,861	11,583	15,013	24,576	24,831	29,539	31,564
Nepal	789	980	883	1,071	1,146	885	860
Pakistan	6,756	9,704	9,638	11,029	11,145	10,204	7,885
Philippines	1,641	2,433	1,808	2,366	3,474	2,162	1,693
Singapore	7,599	8,444	8,546	11,156	7,012	5,688	5,802
Thailand	3,945	5,999	5,035	5,424	5,460	2,467	3,583
Taiwan (P.C)	3,432	2,547	1,907	2,720	2,565	2,553	1,907
Others	2,118	2,352	1,970	2,182	2,184	1,863	1,877
AUSTRALASIA	**13,209**	**22,965**	**26,540**	**29,738**	**25,127**	**22,924**	**21,839**
Australia	11,217	19,958	23,247	25,986	21,849	20,241	19,536
New Zealand	1,920	2,858	3,184	3,617	3,147	2,627	2,240
Others	72	149	109	135	131	56	63
Total	**393,171**	**500,642**	**566,202**	**549,308**	**559,603**	**494,008**	**438,475**

Source: Monthly Bulletin, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority-December 2008.

Appendix 7
Tourist Arrivals by Country of Nationality - 2002 to 2008

Country of Nationality	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NORTH AMERICA	20,004	25,099	30,654	46,727	35,688	28,338	23,203
Canada	8,337	11,109	14,974	21,335	14,863	11,862	9,745
U.S.A.	11,667	13,990	15,680	25,392	20,825	16,476	13,458
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	**549**	**636**	**715**	**732**	**805**	**4,104**	**3,721**
WESTERN EUROPE	**200,676**	**255,179**	**285,366**	**227,558**	**228,666**	**195,813**	**165,822**
Austria	6,144	7,337	8,625	4,148	4,677	3,573	2,684
Belgium	4,731	4,268	5,718	3,891	6,373	4,653	2,394
Denmark	1,980	2,732	3,496	3,793	3,540	1,782	1,336
Finland	726	1,103	1,989	1,150	1,244	498	489
France	19,980	28,576	30,422	26,641	22,703	9,540	10,703
Germany	55,137	58,875	58,932	46,320	47,296	35,016	30,154
Italy	12,171	15,648	17,984	10,147	12,353	11,451	9,137
Netherlands	11,763	18,212	21,487	15,252	19,460	17,532	13,180
Norway	2,892	3,677	3,444	4,333	3,057	2,304	1,620
Spain	2,349	2,801	2,987	1,781	2,369	2,481	2,251
Sweden	2,523	3,916	8,140	5,462	5,579	4,824	3,745
Switzerland	9,312	11,177	10,687	8,339	7,729	4,911	5,261
U.K.	67,932	93,306	107,042	92,929	88,531	94,089	80,214
Others	3,036	3,551	4,413	3,372	3,755	3,159	2,654
EASTERN EUROPE	**8,046**	**10,600**	**14,259**	**9,305**	**14,236**	**25,485**	**29,352**
Russia	2,943	3,683	4,985	3,719	8,000	13,530	15,831
Others	5,103	6,917	9,274	5,586	6,236	11,955	13,521
MIDDLE EAST	**6,462**	**6,759**	**9,486**	**10,230**	**10,191**	**13,587**	**16,701**
AFRICA	**1,545**	**1,925**	**1,759**	**2,337**	**3,163**	**2,991**	**2,354**
ASIA	**142,578**	**177,377**	**196,023**	**222,844**	**241,954**	**200,697**	**175,944**
Bangladesh	1,518	1,851	1,760	2,325	2,466	1,668	1,438
China (P.R.)	4,350	7,380	9,424	9,818	16,364	10,413	10,015
Hong Kong, China	3,582	3,150	916	1,219	1,083	210	421
India	69,996	90,639	104,390	113,023	128,520	105,906	88,628
Indonesia	1,473	1,392	1,426	1,639	4,940	1,404	1,258
Japan	13,566	17,178	19,747	17,163	16,217	14,274	10,578
Korea (South)	2,607	2,700	4,597	6,023	5,318	4,860	4,102
Malaysia	9,603	9,283	9,939	11,668	9,823	6,666	5,021
Maldives	9,855	11,577	15,201	24,396	24,505	29,550	31,458
Nepal	786	977	890	1,077	1,152	885	897
Pakistan	6,726	9,674	9,629	11,056	11,165	10,173	7,702
Philippines	1,626	2,418	1,807	2,360	3,480	2,106	1,520
Singapore	7,578	8,423	7,866	10,796	6,662	5,691	5,702
Thailand	3,954	6,008	5,209	5,409	5,475	2,517	3,510
Taiwan (P.C.)	3,417	2,532	1,929	2,705	2,580	2,544	1,988
Others	1,941	2,195	1,293	2,167	2,204	1,830	1,706
AUSTRALASIA	**13,311**	**23,067**	**27,940**	**29,575**	**24,900**	**22,993**	**21,378**
Australia	11,334	20,075	24,471	25,836	21,665	20,241	19,145
New Zealand	1,920	2,858	3,331	3,608	3,127	2,655	2,148
Others	57	134	138	131	108	97	85
Total	**393,171**	**500,642**	**566,202**	**549,308**	**559,603**	**494,008**	**438,475**

Source: Monthly Bulletin, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority-December 2008.

Appendix 8
Top Ten Source Markets by Country of Residence (2007 and 2008)

	2007		2008		
Market	**Total Arrivals**	**Percentage Share**	**Market**	**Total Arrivals**	**Percentage Share**
India	106,067	21.4	India	85,238	19.4
U.K.	94,060	19	U.K.	81,331	18.5
Germany	35,042	7.0	Maldives	31,564	7.2
Maldives	29,539	5.9	Germany	30,625	7.0
Australia	20,241	4.0	Australia	19,536	4.5
Netherlands	17,526	3.5	Russia	15,797	3.6
U.S.A	16,486	3.3	U.S.A	14,053	3.2
Japan	14,274	2.8	Netherlands	13,030	3.0
Russia	13,621	2.7	France	10,594	2.4
China (P.R)	11,949	2.4	Canada	10,258	2.3
Total	**358,805**	**72.0**	**Total**	**312,026**	**71.1**

Source: Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

Appendix 9
Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence & Purpose of Visit - 2008

Country of Residence	Total	Pleasure	Private and Business	Convention and Meetings	Visiting Friends and Relations	Religious and Cultural	Others
NORTH AMERICA	**24,311**	**15,145**	**2,016**	**224**	**4,968**	**623**	**1,335**
Canada	10,258	6,202	518	75	2,681	154	628
U.S.A.	14,053	8,943	1,498	149	2,287	469	707
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	**3,739**	**3,073**	**190**	**19**	**202**	**48**	**207**
WESTERN EUROPE	**167,187**	**143,360**	**7,922**	**682**	**9,649**	**1,498**	**4,076**
Austria	2,651	2,426	81	4	78	6	56
Belgium	2,378	2,031	171	25	97	14	40
Denmark	1,320	1,045	125	1	77	8	64
Finland	468	380	37	2	25	6	18
France	10,594	9,127	473	69	488	139	298
Germany	30,625	26,729	1,384	105	1,184	318	905
Italy	9,116	7,886	551	49	262	88	280
Netherlands	13,030	11,695	394	53	620	71	197
Norway	1,613	1,094	153	12	220	17	117
Spain	2,282	1,878	137	20	143	19	85
Sweden	3,711	2,859	299	39	325	43	146
Switzerland	5,326	4,597	211	11	296	40	171
U.K.	81,331	69,332	3,670	282	5,706	706	1,635
Others	2,742	2,281	236	10	128	23	64
EASTERN EUROPE	**29,443**	**27,085**	**821**	**94**	**376**	**346**	**721**
Russia	15,797	14,706	348	39	147	205	352
Others	13,646	12,379	473	55	229	141	369
AFRICA	**2,141**	**988**	**276**	**49**	**138**	**500**	**190**
MIDDLE EAST	**16,776**	**13,368**	**1,065**	**66**	**417**	**72**	**1,788**
ASIA	**173,039**	**105,568**	**23,927**	**4,529**	**13,731**	**8,241**	**17,043**
China (PR)	9,812	6,380	2,251	159	379	68	575
Hong Kong, China	537	407	91	10	8	3	18
India	85,238	51,795	12,495	2,129	6,404	6,181	6,234
Indonesia	1,157	771	146	41	96	9	94
Japan	10,075	7,048	1,806	119	553	103	446
Korea (South)	4,300	2,681	812	50	318	77	362
Malaysia	5,185	3,109	1,050	117	462	135	312
Maldives	31,564	17,824	1,799	1,014	3,442	449	7,036
Pakistan	7,885	4,543	921	297	705	892	527
Philippines	1,693	930	305	54	171	12	221
Singapore	5,802	3,868	1,007	93	559	102	173
Thailand	3,583	2,622	323	61	115	52	410
Taiwan (P.C.)	1,907	1,345	283	71	65	47	96
Others	4,301	2,245	638	314	454	111	539
AUSTRALASIA	**21,839**	**12,492**	**1,044**	**204**	**6,823**	**195**	**1,081**
Australia	19,536	11,114	898	164	6,256	177	927
New Zealand	2,240	1,357	141	33	561	18	130
Others	63	21	5	7	6	0	24
Total	**438,475**	**321,079**	**37,261**	**5,867**	**36,304**	**11,523**	**26,441**

Source: Monthly Bulletin, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority - December 2008.

Appendix 10
Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence & Occupation – 2008

Country of Residence	Total	Businessmen	Professionals	Executives	Scientists & Technicians	Educationists	Other Occupation	No Occupation	Retired Persons
NORTH AMERICA	**24,311**	**3,237**	**2,794**	**4,108**	**2,068**	**2,038**	**3,801**	**4,903**	**1,362**
Canada	10,258	1,452	920	2,123	814	1,127	956	2,245	621
U.S.A.	14,053	1,785	1,874	1,985	1,254	911	2,845	2,658	741
LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	**3,739**	**345**	**287**	**258**	**425**	**214**	**1,680**	**356**	**174**
WESTERN EUROPE	**167,187**	**19,379**	**14,533**	**26,773**	**14,145**	**9,428**	**42,115**	**25,948**	**14,866**
Austria	2,651	410	587	811	301	187	10	12	333
Belgium	2,378	125	712	341	256	314	139	124	367
Denmark	1,320	52	196	199	142	64	411	187	69
Finland	468	87	31	36	24	30	190	36	34
France	10,594	1,741	1,008	1,254	451	265	4,777	687	411
Germany	30,625	2,874	1,811	3,952	2,354	2,145	11,118	4,587	1,784
Italy	13,030	1,024	420	911	547	507	6,964	2,145	512
Netherlands	9,116	914	1,847	2,701	897	997	88	758	914
Norway	1,613	740	71	241	195	84	84	124	74
Spain	2,282	874	174	278	244	102	409	178	23
Sweden	3,711	325	179	578	400	247	1,184	687	111
Switzerland	5,326	410	831	439	348	247	2,406	500	145
U.K.	81,331	9,145	6,354	14,875	7,887	4,125	13,546	15,412	9,987
Others	2,742	658	312	157	99	114	789	511	102
EASTERN EUROPE	**29,443**	**2,575**	**3,677**	**2,897**	**2,536**	**902**	**12,630**	**2,898**	**1,328**
Russia	15,797	921	2,478	1,212	1,458	354	7,116	1,784	474
Others	13,646	1,654	1,199	1,685	1,078	548	5,514	1,114	854
AFRICA	**2,141**	**749**	**93**	**313**	**188**	**111**	**95**	**559**	**33**
MIDDLE EAST	**16,776**	**2,745**	**1,320**	**568**	**802**	**431**	**7,981**	**2,145**	**784**
ASIA	**173,039**	**34,397**	**10,155**	**20,043**	**11,843**	**12,013**	**40,871**	**39,249**	**4,468**
China (PR)	9,812	812	250	1,145	1,458	314	2,568	2,354	911
Hong Kong, China	537	36	9	34	9	19	410	15	5
India	85,238	19,874	5,641	9,687	5,874	6,784	12,609	22,358	2,411
Indonesia	1,157	654	29	46	41	41	212	121	13
Japan	10,075	987	500	2,008	987	929	2,081	2,421	162
Korea (South)	4,300	68	343	274	287	142	2,300	878	8
Malaysia	5,185	1,878	263	1,352	701	178	105	521	187
Maldives	31,564	2,985	1,654	2,658	569	2,745	14,213	6,325	415
Pakistan	7,885	1,784	713	674	677	511	1,139	2,354	33
Philippines	1,693	874	41	187	99	40	322	111	19
Singapore	5,802	1,352	197	1,352	721	110	1,391	601	78
Thailand	3,583	1,147	56	68	96	29	1,919	235	33
Taiwan (P.C.)	1,907	1,025	48	247	125	46	134	214	68
Others	4,301	921	411	311	199	125	1,468	741	125
AUSTRALASIA	**21,839**	**3,651**	**2,183**	**3,535**	**1,778**	**1,007**	**4,884**	**3,739**	**1,062**
Australia	19,536	3,125	2,009	3,145	1,547	897	4,534	3,325	954
New Zealand	2,240	514	166	387	225	107	326	411	104
Others	63	12	8	3	6	3	24	3	4
Total	**438,475**	**67,078**	**35,042**	**58,495**	**33,785**	**26,144**	**114,057**	**79,797**	**24,077**

Source: Monthly Bulletin, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority - December 2008.

Appendix 11
Seasonal Variation in Traffic Flow - 1967 to 2008

(Seasonal Indices) (1)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Seasonality ratio(2)	Coefficient of Seasonal Variations(3)
1967	128	117	119	101	97	64	82	101	82	87	94	127	1.3	22
1968	113	117	112	88	84	59	84	88	87	109	98	161	1.6	25
1969	132	123	112	82	79	58	72	84	78	107	120	153	1.5	27
1970	134	141	125	85	97	56	67	87	80	88	95	145	1.4	28
1971	179	199	156	47	29	29	57	75	57	78	121	173	2.0	60
1972	123	125	119	66	70	50	79	99	73	96	132	168	1.7	33
1973	145	129	121	84	66	50	91	103	64	91	110	146	1.5	30
1974	154	136	139	90	46	47	76	87	70	88	118	149	1.5	37
1975	137	121	130	68	65	56	69	100	62	87	131	174	1.7	44
1976	158	153	135	90	62	46	43	35	68	107	137	166	1.7	47
1977	137	141	143	77	59	43	77	87	59	90	134	153	1.5	37
1978	144	140	128	73	55	44	82	97	64	89	129	155	1.6	36
1979	136	121	122	90	63	51	81	97	71	93	123	152	1.5	30
1980	135	126	128	81	73	57	86	102	74	88	108	142	1.4	27
1981	146	127	124	92	70	54	92	106	78	87	96	127	1.5	26
1982	121	118	124	88	85	77	91	101	88	89	99	119	1.2	16
1983	175	156	159	116	117	87	89	30	36	58	73	104	1.7	45
1984	127	122	123	89	69	68	101	104	82	98	105	112	1.3	19
1985	134	126	139	92	65	52	86	94	71	85	108	148	1.5	30
1986	172	159	151	101	68	50	64	79	65	66	94	131	1.7	41
1987	167	156	150	106	54	50	67	75	66	80	93	135	1.7	40
1988	134	126	128	91	73	76	116	123	98	110	69	56	1.3	25
1989	84	80	104	80	83	75	99	112	93	98	123	169	1.7	25
1990	107	106	109	92	74	73	106	108	90	93	99	143	1.4	18
1991	109	106	103	78	67	66	115	109	94	95	107	151	1.5	22
1992	108	118	101	86	64	70	103	122	91	97	109	125	1.3	18
1993	131	123	116	91	68	62	101	100	84	94	107	123	1.3	21
1994	134	121	122	83	64	63	104	97	91	98	98	126	1.3	22
1995	137	127	119	100	73	67	107	107	92	91	84	95	1.4	21
1996	123	117	105	81	70	78	101	98	92	93	99	142	1.4	20
1997	107	115	112	88	73	76	101	105	98	93	105	128	1.3	16
1998	117	111	102	81	64	71	93	99	100	100	121	142	1.4	21
1999	122	114	113	95	69	72	92	107	93	97	115	111	1.2	16
2000	130	130	121	101	70	66	100	104	93	80	98	105	1.3	20
2001	157	166	158	131	96	101	102	56	42	46	62	83	1.4	43
2002	86	97	101	83	81	80	109	108	101	111	114	129	1.5	15
2003	97	94	98	81	72	76	105	101	86	120	132	138	1.4	23
2004	106	92	81	65	64	68	107	103	109	126	138	140	1.4	26
2005	114	115	120	109	96	96	121	116	84	85	82	86	1.1	15
2006	112	113	117	107	94	94	119	114	83	83	81	84	1.2	15
2007	137	105	85	80	64	75	107	109	90	90	110	148	1.5	25
2008	156	111	104	81	85	77	90	84	81	96	101	134	1.6	24

Note: (1) Seasonal indices are compiled by taking average arrivals per month as 100.
(2) Seasonality ratio = Highest Monthly Arrival / Average Arrival per month.
(3) Coefficient of Seasonal Variation is obtained by calculating the standard.

Source: Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

Appendix 12
Student Visa Issued to Sri Lankans by Canada 2000 to 2007

Year	Male	Female	Total
2000	41	30	71
2001	74	24	98
2002	286	90	376
2003	130	53	183
2004	57	23	80
2005	65	28	93
2006	68	34	102
2007*	70	43	113

Note: * only include 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka.

Flow of Permanent Residents by Sex 2000 to 2007

Year	Male	Female	Total
2000	2,301	2,567	4,868
2001	1,701	2,400	4,101
2002	1,403	2,146	3,549
2003	1,331	1,907	3,238
2004	1,087	1,622	2,709
2005	1,004	1,879	2,883
2006	1,365	2,136	3,501
2007*	627	935	1,562

Note: * only include 1st and 2nd quarters.
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka.

Appendix 13
Visas Issued to Sri Lankans by British Missions Worldwide

Category	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
EEA Family Permits	109	588	136	769	167	999	138	952	211	1,044	232	1,105	321	1,251	247	1,045	207	912
Family visit	-	-	5	13	266	409	1,201	2,002	2,753	4,069	3,745	5,182	5,188	7,575	4,871	7,116	4,250	6,572
Highly Skilled Migrant	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	56	33	106	22	112	34	162	52	189*	114*
Other non-settlement									222	786	325	944	371	1,041	544	1,262	644	1,377
Other visitor									8,947	7,100	7,202	5,812	7,702	5,413	6,513	4,506	6,070	4,260
Settlement									302	1,215	308	1,091	346	1,133	301	735	345	894
Student									1,430	902	1,534	923	1,956	1,061	2,007	930	2,679	1,005
Transit	1,524	1,229	1,601	1,443	1,826	1,786	1,262	1,439	523	427	645	514	603	386	575	236	362	189
Work permit	116	47	118	41	173	50	192	52	299	264	477	423	605	501	573	336	429	207
Working Holidaymaker	16	8	20	12	16	11	508	225	547	293	125	60	163	56	65	38	69	44
Total									15,290	16,133	14,699	16,076	17,367	18,451	15,858	16,256	15,244	15,574
Grand total							31,423		30,775		35,818		32,114		30,818			

Note: * Includes 103 (m) + 26(f) visas issued under PBS Tier 1 category which replaced the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme.
NB. Under the Points Based System, Tier 2 will in effect replace the Work Permit category, Tier 4 will replace the Student category, and Tier 5 will replace previous temporary employment categories such as short-term work permits. The Working Holiday Maker category has been abolished. 'Other non-settlement' covers numerous categories such as the dependants of students, work permit holders etc.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
*Asylum claims in UK	6,395	5,510	3,130	705	330	395	525	990	1,465

Note: * Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
Source: British Missions Worldwide in Sri Lanka.

Appendix 14
Visas Issued to Sri Lankans by United States of America and Australia

United States of America

	2007	2008
Student Visas	947	1,076
Immigration Visas	778	787
Employment Visas	387	343

Source: Embassy of the United States of America in Sri Lanka.

Australia

	2008		2009*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Student Visas	2,575	1,442	1,989	1,189
Family Visas	289	514	283	584
Skill Visas	1,923	1,627	1,573	1,336
Special Eligibility	2	0	2	3

Note: * from 2009 January to April.
Source: Australian Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Appendix 15
Visas Issued to Sri Lankans by Selected SAARC Country Embassies

Bangladesh

	Student Visa					
	Sex		Type of Study			
	Male	Female	Vocational/ Technical	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Other
2007	6	35	-	40	1	-
2008	38	130	-	168	-	-

	Employment Visa	
	Male	Female
2007	280	10
2008	269	6

Source: Embassy of Bangladesh in Sri Lanka.

Pakistan

	Student Visa					
	Sex		Type of Study			
	Male	Female	Vocational/ Technical	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Other
2007	30	43	-	67	6	-
2008	30	52	-	68	14	-

	Employment Visa		Permanent resident visa	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2007	69	32	6	17
2008	35	15	5	15

Source: Embassy of Pakistan in Sri Lanka.

India

	Student Visa*	Employment Visa**
2007	1,000	659
2008	1,500	782

Note: * Most of the applicants who apply for student visa are male and they follow Bachelor's degree in Arts, Commerce, Social Sciences, Engineering, Medical and Hotel Management courses.

** Most of the applicants who apply for employment visa are male and majority of them work in garment export companies in India.

Source: High Commission of India.

Nepal

Embassy of Nepal mainly issues tourist visas and as per the record 7,386 number of tourist visas were issued to Sri Lankan nationals in year 2008.

Appendix 16
Country-wise Student Migration

Nationality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
USA	1	1	3	1	1
Australian	3	3	3	4	2
Bangladesh	7	4	7	4	6
Bhutan	2	2	3	3	0
British	5	16	7	4	1
Canadian	2	4	6	3	1
Chinese	11	14	14	15	4
Democratic Republic Korea	2	1	0	0	0
Danish	1	1	0	0	0
Deutsch	0	5	2	1	0
Indian	7	13	22	13	2
Irish	3	2	1	0	0
Italian	2	2	3	0	1
Japanese	4	5	3	3	0
Maldivian	58	104	147	67	27
Myanmar	2	1	2	3	2
Netherlands	1	0	0	0	0
Nepal	5	3	2	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	2	1	0
Norwegian	0	1	0	0	0
Pakistani	4	7	4	3	2
Polish	1	0	0	0	0
Republic Of Korea	8	14	14	13	5
Russian	1	0	0	1	0
South African	0	2	0	0	0
Maldavian	3	3	1	0	0
British	2	2	0	0	0
Austrian	0	0	2	0	0
French	0	0	1	1	0
Ghanaian	0	0	2	1	0
Taiwanese	0	0	1	0	0
Thai	0	0	1	0	1
Austrian	0	0	0	0	1
Total	**136**	**211**	**253**	**142**	**56**

Note: * from 2009 January to March.

Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration.

Appendix 17
Number of Illegal Entrants from Sri Lanka, based on Country of Deportation

No.	Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
01.	Australia	67	11	16	03	09	—	106
02.	Austria	—	02	02	—	01	03	08
03.	Bangladesh	—	—	—	—	01	—	01
04.	Bosnia	—	—	—	—	—	02	02
05.	Bulgaria	—	—	—	—	02	—	02
06.	Brazil	—	—	01	—	—	—	01
07.	Cambodia	01	—	04	04	—	01	10
08.	Canada	31	81	47	17	43	20	239
09.	Cyprus	05	27	18	22	25	11	108
10.	Czechoslovakia	01	03	01	—	—	—	05
11.	China	09	02	25	17	04	05	62
12.	Denmark	05	03	01	03	—	03	15
13.	Egypt	—	151	140	18	20	53	382
14.	France	11	58	71	72	40	10	262
15.	Finland	03	—	01	—	01	—	05
16.	Ghana.	—	—	—	—	—	02	02
17.	Germany	150	132	104	104	28	07	525
18.	Greece	02	03	08	01	03	04	21
19.	Hong Kong SAR	135	219	488	195	83	38	1,118
20.	Holland	—	—	—	—	01	—	01
21.	India	27	86	46	51	73	61	344
22.	Iraq	—	—	—	—	20	—	20
23.	Iran	—	—	—	—	18	—	18
24.	Ireland	—	—	04	—	—	—	04
25.	Italy	21	37	11	36	33	15	153
26.	Indonesia	01	02	05	18	04	06	36
27.	Israel	02	—	—	—	01	02	05
28.	Japan	98	361	537	445	603	397	2,441
29.	Jordan	—	03	10	13	37	10	73
30.	Kuwait	07	05	23	35	58	30	158
31.	Kenya	—	06	04	02	01	08	21
32.	Laos	—	—	—	—	02	08	10
33.	Libya	—	—	—	—	01	02	03
34.	Korea	111	216	364	298	225	216	1,430
35.	Lebanon	02	15	07	03	10	03	40
36.	Madagascar	01	—	02	01	02	—	06
37.	Maldives	19	02	24	41	23	28	137
38.	Malta	—	—	03	01	—	—	04
39.	Malaysia	161	443	358	643	754	404	2,763

No.	Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
40.	Mauritius	—	—	—	—	04	01	05
41.	Norway	43	23	14	04	03	02	89
42.	Nepal	—	—	07	—	—	—	07
43.	Newzeland	03	06	14	04	03	02	32
44.	Netherlands	07	07	06	06	—	—	26
45.	Nigeria	--	--	01	--	03	--	04
46.	Oman	--	08	03	04	02	--	17
47.	Pakistan	--	--	01	06	02	--	09
48.	Poland	05	07	03	03	16	04	38
49.	Philippines	01	--	--	01	03	04	09
50.	Qatar	13	22	64	90	98	49	336
51.	Spain	--	01	01	06	09	--	17
52.	Syria	--	02	--	06	05	09	22
53.	South Africa	--	05	01	--	06	08	20
54.	Singapore	203	266	222	454	388	237	1,770
55.	Switzerland	105	65	70	23	40	02	305
56.	Saudi Arabia	76	--	13	12	76	46	223
57.	Sharjah	--	02	--	06	05	09	22
58.	Sudan	--	--	--	--	02	--	02
59.	Sweden	08	03	03	01	02	01	18
60.	Thailand	62	123	195	140	58	55	633
61.	Taiwan	--	02	06	20	16	04	48
62.	Tunisia	--	--	--	--	04	01	05
63.	Turkey	--	02	06	20	16	04	48
64.	Uganda	01	--	--	--	01	--	02
65.	U K	165	157	140	304	226	59	1,051
66.	UAE	26	62	160	114	254	187	833
67.	USA	29	31	13	36	26	10	145
68.	Ukraine	01	--	--	--	--	--	01
69.	Vietnam.	--	--	01	--	01	--	02
70.	Yemen	--	--	--	--	--	01	01
	Total	**1,618**	**2,662**	**3,269**	**3,303**	**3,395**	**2,044**	**16,294**

Source: AHIBU.

Appendix 18
Number of Arrests at CA by Country

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sri Lanka	62	118	108	82	118	329	239	202	276
Pakistan	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	1	-		-	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	-
Germany	-	-	-	2	3	2	-		-
Iran	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	9	12
China	-	-	-	-	5	25	14	13	1
Malaysia	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
U.K.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	**62**	**119**	**110**	**86**	**135**	**368**	**257**	**231**	**293**

Source: Criminal Investigation Department.

Migration Terminology[27]

asylum seeker: A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than her/his own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. *See also refugee*.

bilateral labour migration agreements: Formal mechanisms concluded between states, which are essentially legally binding treaty commitments concerned with inter-state cooperation on labour migration. The term is also used to describe less formal arrangements regulating the movement of workers between countries entered into by states as well as a range of other actors, including individual ministries, employer organizations, etc.

border management: Facilitation of authorized flows of persons across a border and the detection and prevention of irregular entry of non-nationals into a given country.

brain drain: Emigration of trained and talented persons from the country of origin to another country resulting in a depletion of skills resources in the former.

brain gain: Immigration of trained and talented persons into a destination country. Also called "reverse brain drain".

citizen: See national.

citizenship: See nationality.

diaspora: Diasporas are broadly defined as individuals and members of networks, associations and communities who have left their country of origin, but maintain

[27] All the terms in this section are adapted from the terms found in a similar section in IOM(2008) World Migration Report: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy, Vol. 4, International Organization for Migration, 17 route des Morillons, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

links with their homelands. This concept covers more settled expatriate communities, migrant workers based abroad temporarily, expatriates with the citizenship of the host country, dual citizens, and second-/third-generation migrants.

dual/multiple nationality: Simultaneous possession of the nationality of two or more countries by the same person. See also nationality.

emigration: The act of departing or exiting from one state with a view to settling in another.

entry: Any entrance of a non-national into a foreign country, whether voluntary or involuntary, authorized or unauthorized.

exploitation: The act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one's own benefit (e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs). See also forced/compulsory labour, slavery, trafficking in persons.

globalization: A process of interaction and integration among the people, corporations, and governments of different states; a process driven by international trade and investment and aided by information technology. This process has effects on the environment, culture, political systems, economic development and prosperity, and human well-being in societies.

highly skilled/qualified migrant: While there is no internationally agreed definition, two overlapping meanings are often intended. In very general terms, a highly skilled migrant is considered to be a person with tertiary education, typically an adult who has completed a formal two-year college education or more. In a more specific sense, a highly skilled migrant is a person who has earned, either by tertiary level education or occupational experience, the level of qualifications typically needed to practice a profession.

illegal migrant/migration: See irregular migrant/migration.

international migration: Movement of persons who leave their country of origin, or the country of habitual residence, to establish themselves either permanently or temporarily in another country.

irregular migrant: A person who, owing to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry, or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The definition covers inter alia those persons who have entered a transit or host country lawfully but have stayed for a longer period than authorized or subsequently taken up unauthorized employment. See also undocumented migrant, illegal migrant, clandestine migration.

irregular migration: Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the origin, transit and destination countries.

labour migration: Movement of persons from their home state to another state or within their own country of residence for the purpose of employment.

less/low-skilled and semi-skilled migrant worker: There is no internationally agreed definition of a less or low-skilled and semi-skilled migrant worker. In broad terms, a semi-skilled worker is considered to be a person who requires a degree of training or familiarization with the job before being able to operate at maximum/optimal efficiency, although this training is not of the length or intensity required for designation as a skilled (or craft) worker, being measured in weeks or days rather than years, nor is it normally at the tertiary level. Many so-called "manual workers" (e.g. production, construction workers) should therefore be classified as semi-skilled. A less or low-skilled worker, on the other hand, is considered to be a person who has received less training than a semi-skilled worker or, having not received any training, has still acquired his or her competence on the job.

migrant worker: A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national (Art. 2(1), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990).

migration: A process of moving, either across an international border, or within a state. It includes migration of refugees, displaced persons and migrants moving for other purposes.

migration management: A term used to encompass numerous governmental functions within a national system for the orderly and humane management of cross-border migration, particularly managing the entry and presence of foreigners within the borders of the state and the protection of refugees and others in need of protection. It refers to a planned approach to the development of policy, legislative and administrative responses to key migration issues.

national: A person, who, either by birth or naturalization, is a member of a political community, owing allegiance to the community and being entitled to enjoy all its civil and political rights and protection; a member of the state, entitled to all its privileges. A person enjoying a nationality of a given state.

nationality: Legal bond between a person and a state. Under Art. 1, Hague Convention on Certain Questions Relating to the Conflict of Nationality Laws, 1930, "it is for each state to determine under its own laws who are its nationals. This law shall be recognized by other states in so far as it is consistent with international conventions, international custom, and the principles of law generally recognized with regard to nationality".

permanent residence: The right, granted by the authorities of the destination country to a non-national, to live and work therein on a permanent (unlimited or indefinite) basis.

push-pull factors: Migration is often analysed in terms of the "push-pull model," which looks at the push factors, which drive people to leave their country, and the pull factors, which attract them to a new country.

refugee: A person, who "owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" (Article 1A(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).

remittances: Monies earned or acquired by non-nationals that are transferred back to their country of origin.

seasonal migrant worker/migration: A migrant worker whose work, or migration for work that, by its character is dependent on seasonal conditions and is performed only during part of the year (Art. 2(2)(b), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990).

skilled migrant: A migrant worker who, because of his/her skills or acquired professional experience, is usually granted preferential treatment regarding admission to a host country.

terrorism: Any act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act is to intimidate a population, or compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing an act (Art. 2(1)(b), International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, 1999).

trafficker, human: An intermediary who is moving people in order to obtain an economic or other profit by means of deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation.

trafficking in persons: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerabilit or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (Art. 3(a), Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000).

travel documents: All documents which are acceptable proof of identity for the purpose of entering another country. Passports and visas are the most widely used forms of travel documents.

visa: An endorsement by a consular officer in a passport or a certificate of identity that indicates that the officer, at the time of issuance, believes the holder to fall within a category of non-nationals who can be admitted under the state's laws.

Numerous types of international migration statistics are compiled by both government and non-government organizations in Sri Lanka. There is a need to strengthen the National Centre for Migration Statistics for a more integrated data collection mechanism and to disseminate migration statistics in Sri Lanka. This is of critical importance for better planning and decision making in international migration management in Sri Lanka.

The migrant statistics reported by different sources give contradictory numbers which are questionable. There is no proper recording and reporting mechanism for all types of migration such as labour, tourists, students, permanent or irregular migrants. It is possible to assume that the actual number of migrant workers is much more than the recorded number due to workers leaving through unauthorized sources and personal contacts and the non-identification of the large number who have secured employment independently.

International labour migration from Sri Lanka has grown in importance for the last several decades and the numbers have increased more than ten fold during the same period. The total number of out migrants of Sri Lanka on employment abroad at present is estimated to be 1.8 million, while annually the outflow of workers is estimated to be about 250,000 people.

The phenomenon of international migration brings into play many sensitive issues of national security and identity, of social change and cultural adaptation, and of resource allocation. All these questions represent important challenges to migration policy makers. Policy choices made now will help to determine whether migration is managed to maximize its benefits, or whether it will continue to be a source of concern, potential social disruption and friction between States. The key is not to prevent mobility, but to manage it better.

Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

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