

Workers' Remittances & Labour Migration

Executive Summary

TOTAL WORKERS' REMITTANCES

USD 2,310.0 Mn

Q2 2026

MONTHLY AVERAGE REMITTANCES

USD 770.0 Mn

+20.1% y-o-y vs Q2 2025

TOP REMITTANCE SOURCE

United Kingdom

USD 270.2 Mn in Q1 2026

TOTAL DEPARTURES FOR
EMPLOYMENT

62,345

Q1 2026 — y-o-y 10.6% decline

MONTHLY AVG. DEPARTURES

20,782

persons / month, Q1 2026

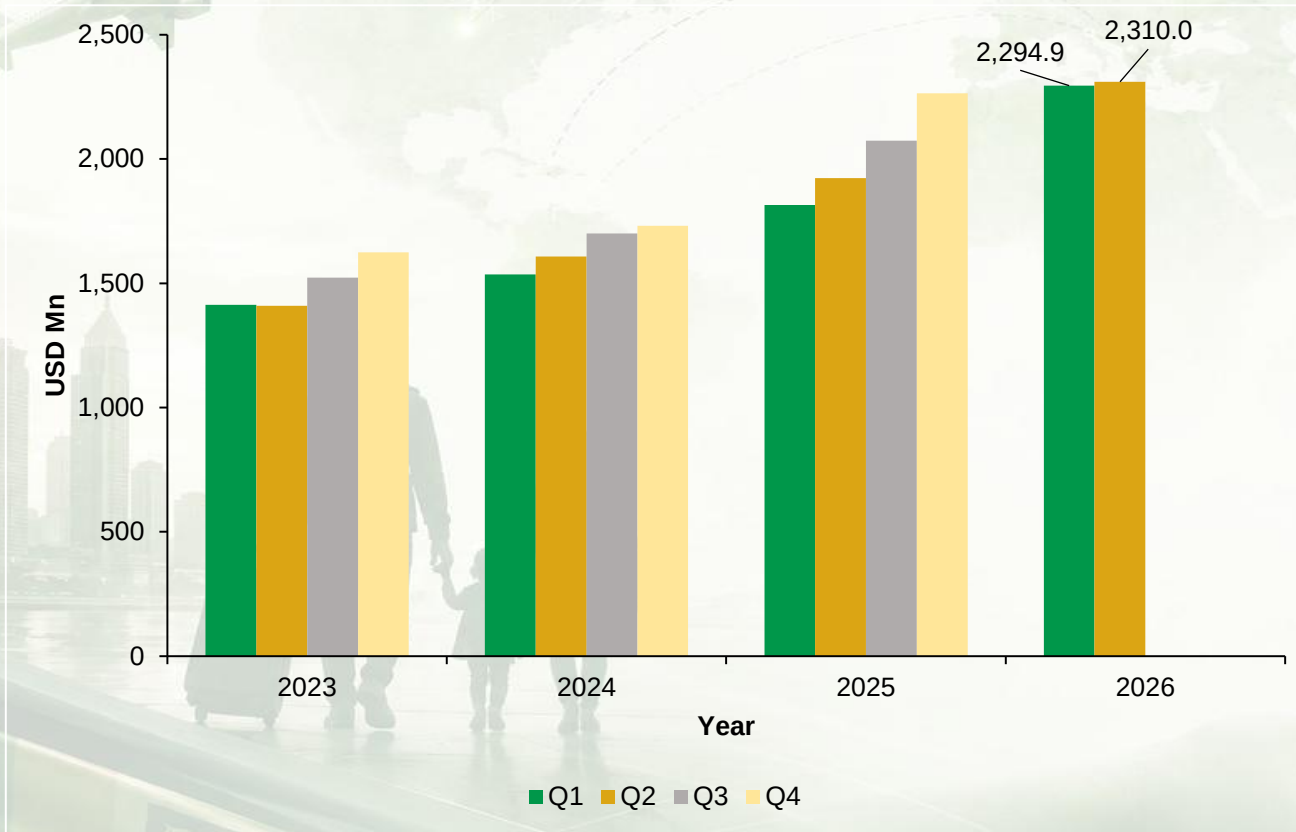
Top Departure by Region

Middle East

USD 72.8% in Q1 2026

Workers' Remittances

Quarterly Workers' Remittances (USD Mn)



Inflow of workers' remittances recorded a monthly average of USD 770.0 Mn during second quarter of 2026, compared to a monthly average of USD 765 Mn in the second quarter of 2025, with a YoY increase of 0.7%.

Annual Totals (USD Mn)

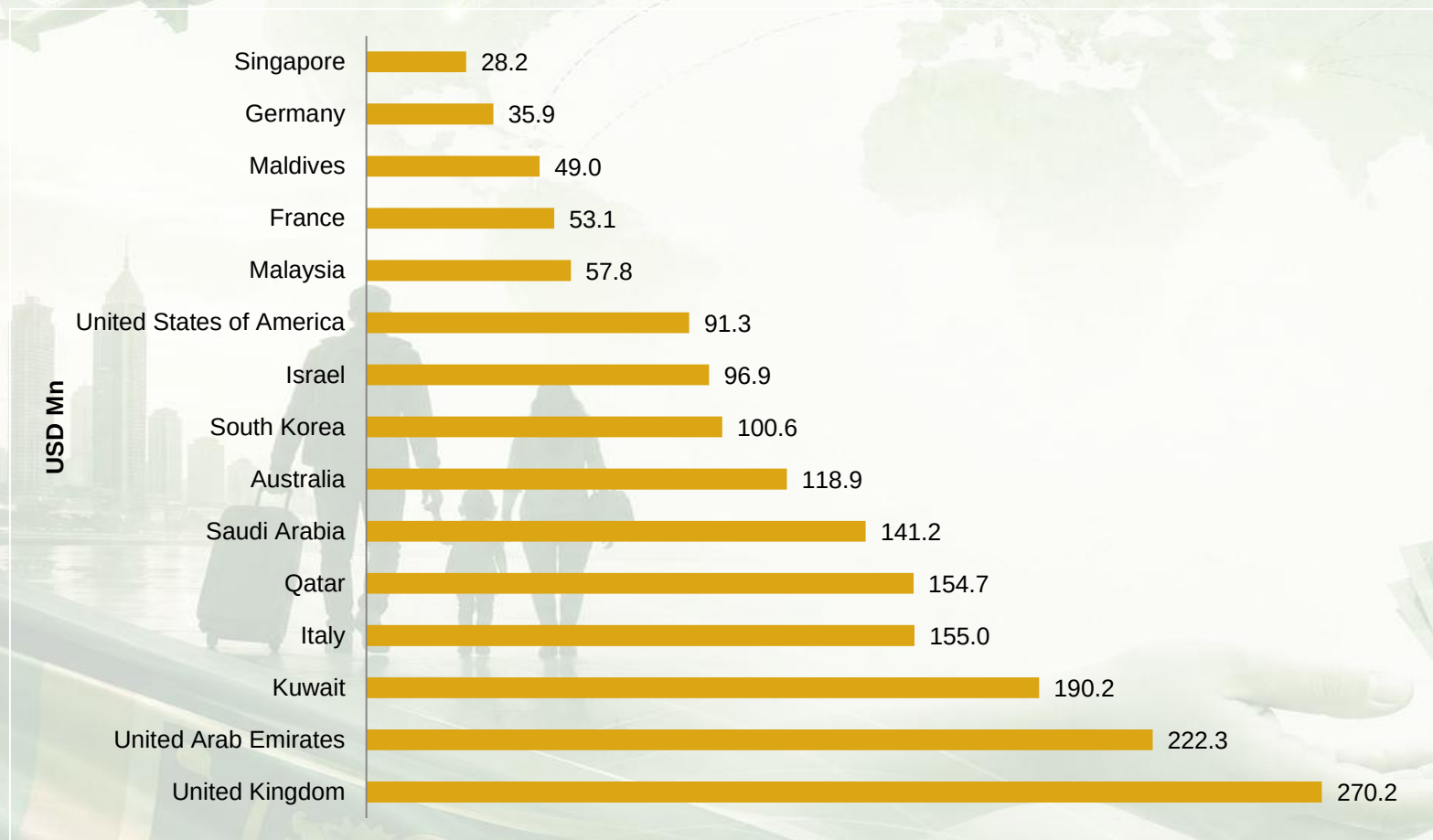
2023	5,969.6
2024	6,575.4
2025	8,076.2
2026 (Jan-Jun)	4,604.9

Monthly Average

	Q1	Q2
2023	471	470
2024	512	536
2025	605	641
2026	765	770

United Kingdom, UAE and Kuwait Led Remittance Inflows

Workers' Remittance Inflows by Country - Q1 2026



Other Countries

USD 266.1 mn (11.6%)

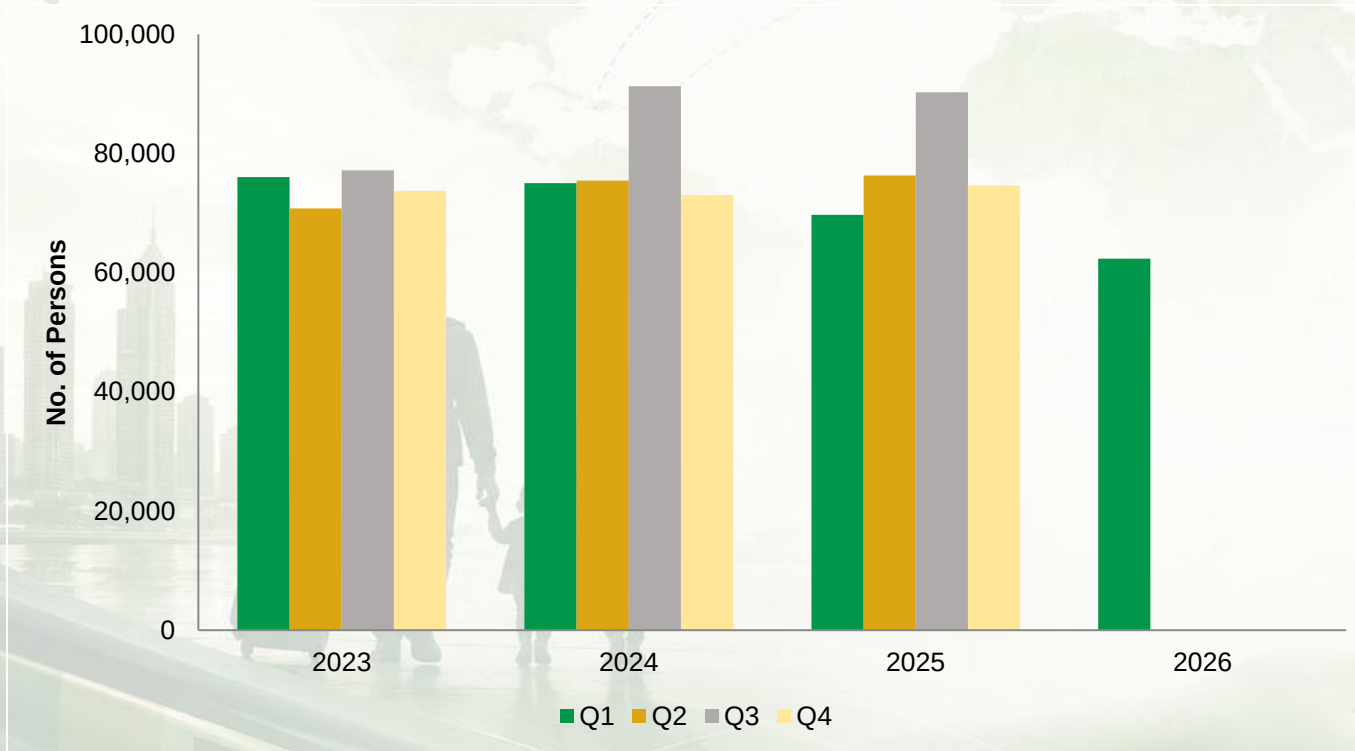
**Via global remittance channels
& apps**

USD 263.4 mn (11.5%)

US & UK remittances mainly include amounts diverted from other source countries via cross-border forex arrangements.

Departures for Foreign Employment Declined YoY

Quarterly Departures for Foreign Employment



Annual Totals (Persons)

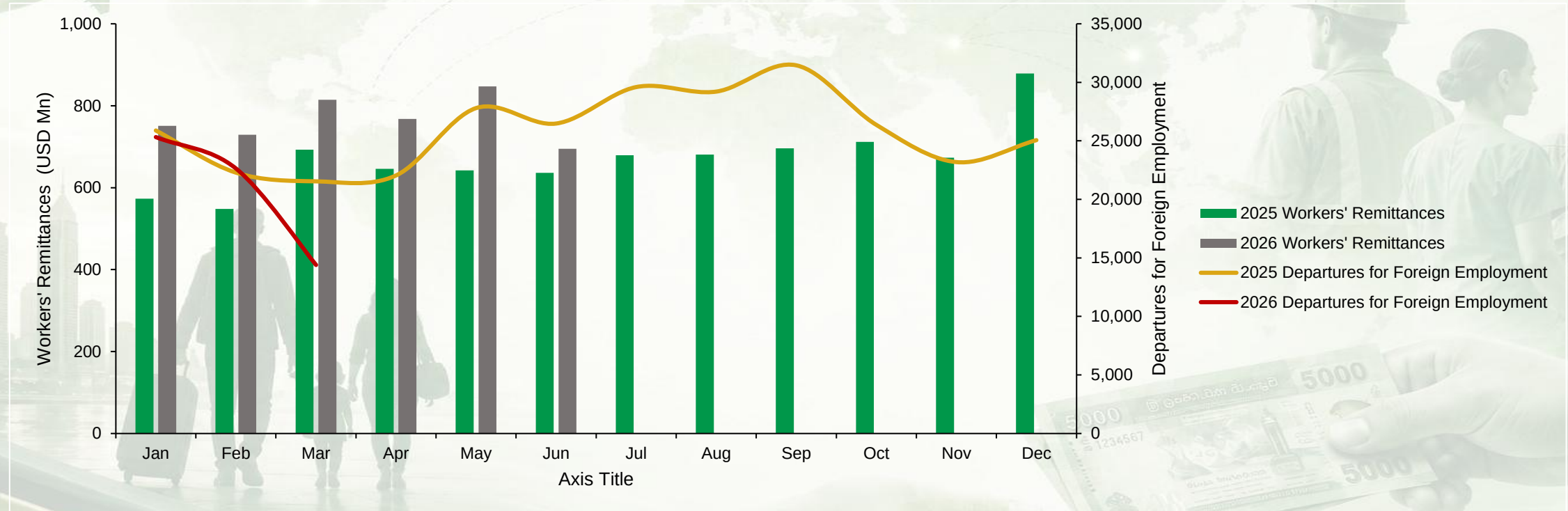
2023	297,656
2024	314,786
2025	310,915
2026 (Jan-Mar)	62,345

Monthly Average

	Q1
2023	25,341
2024	25,015
2025	23,240
2026	20,782

Performance of Workers' Remittances and Departures for Foreign Employment

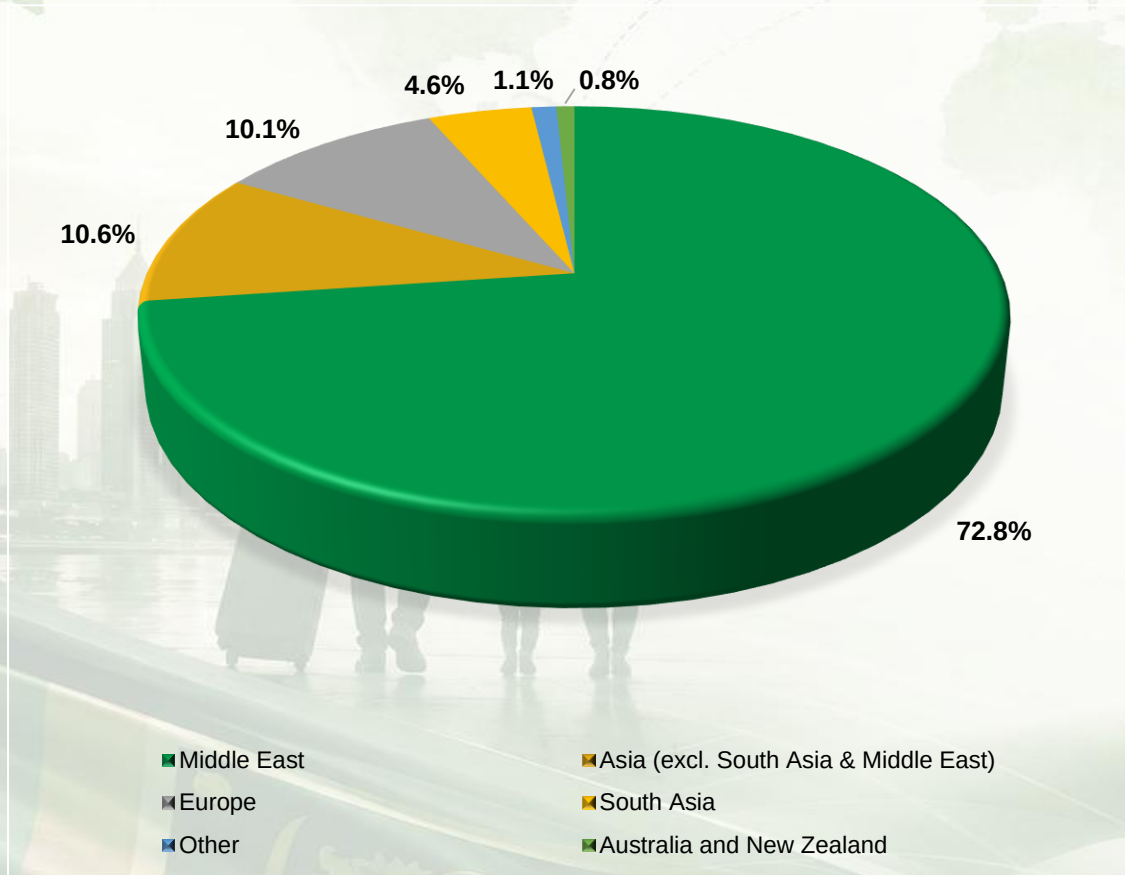
Workers' Remittances vs Departures for Foreign Employment



Workers' remittances showed strong growth in 2026, reaching USD 4.61 billion during January–June, compared with USD 3.74 billion during the same period in 2025. Monthly remittances remained above the previous year throughout the first half, with May recording the highest growth. Meanwhile, departures for foreign employment were broadly stable in January and February but declined significantly in March, falling to 14,398 from 21,545 a year earlier. Overall, the strong increase in remittances despite lower departures in March suggests improved earnings and higher remittance inflows per worker.

Middle East Remains the Dominant Destination

Departures by Region of Destination (Jan-Mar 2026)



Majority of departures of migrant workers during the first quarter of 2026 were to the Middle Eastern region (72.8%)

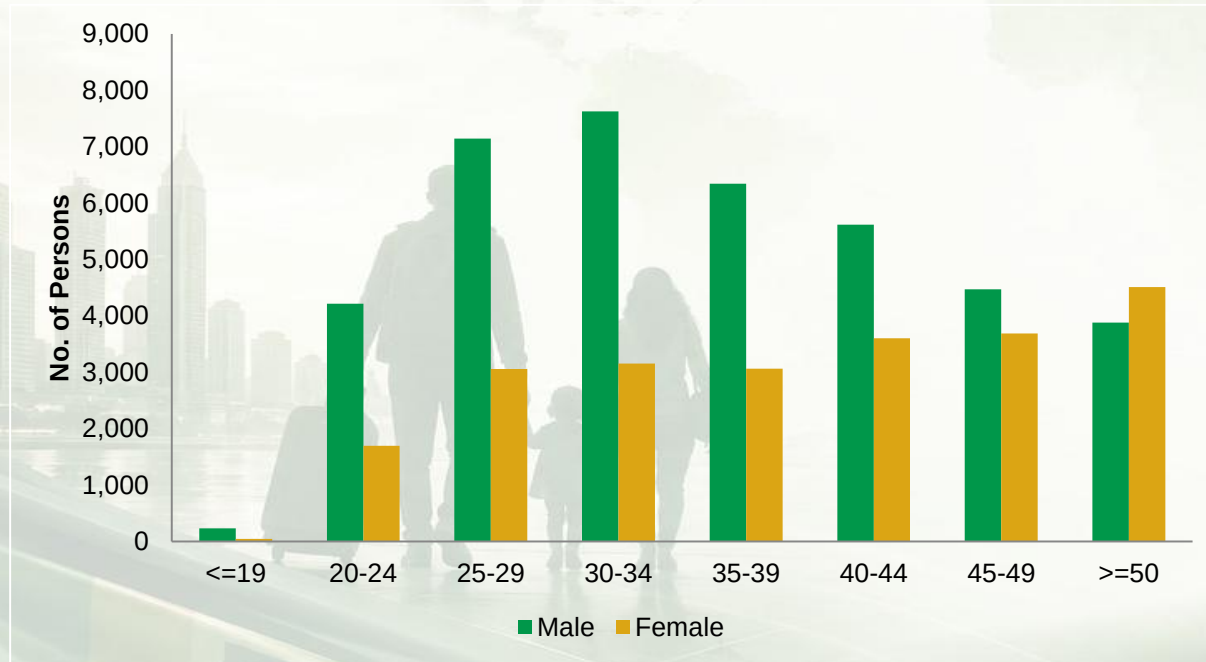
No. of Departures by Gender and Employment Category (Jan-Mar 2026)



Both male and female departures for foreign employment were highly concentrated in skilled category.

Total Departures for Foreign Employment by Age Group and Gender

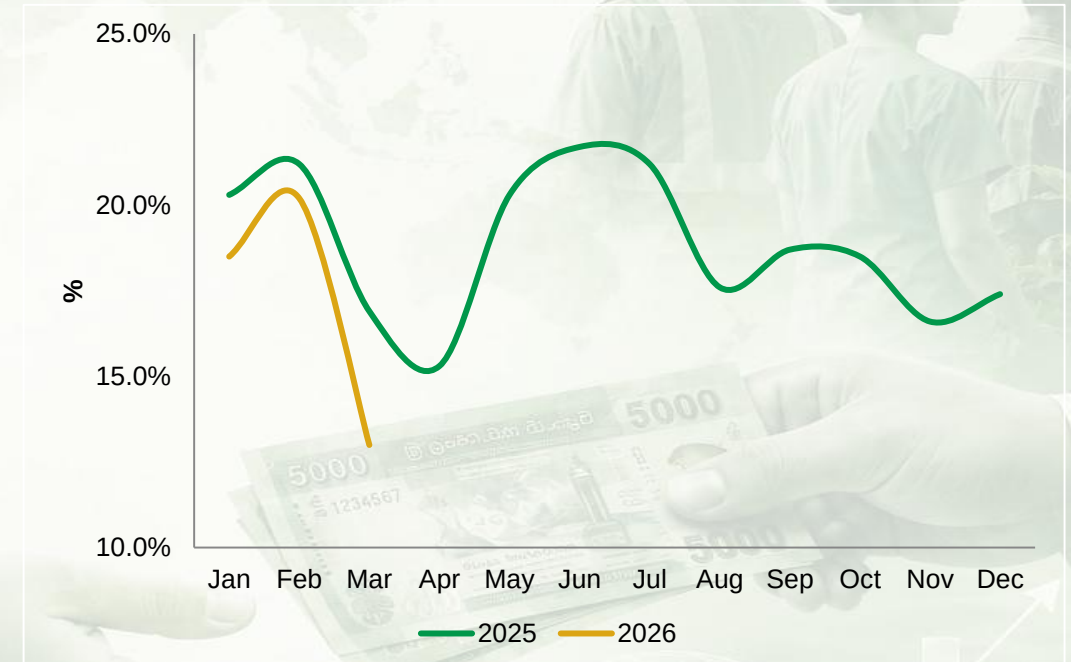
Departures by Age Group & Gender (Jan-Mar 2026)



The highest concentration was recorded among males aged 30–34, accounting for 19% of male departures, while females aged 50 and above represented 20% of female departures.

Departures for Foreign Employment Vs Total Departures by Sri Lankans

Migrant Workers as % of Total Departures



The share of migrant workers among total Sri Lankan departures during the first three months of 2026 remained slightly below the corresponding level recorded in the same period of 2025.



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