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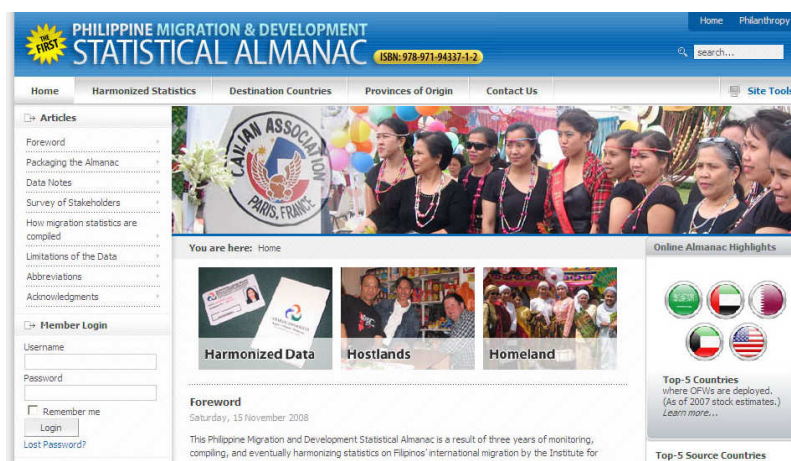


A policy brief on overseas Filipinos' households at home

by **MARIANNE GRACE C. DE VERA** (June 2009)

Ms. de Vera is a graduating Political Science student of the University of Santo Tomas (batch 2010) and a summer 2009 intern of the Institute.

Data in this policy brief can be found in the *Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac*. See the Almanac at <http://almanac.ofwphilanthropy.org>



OVERSEAS migration by Filipinos not only reflects the reality that Filipino workers seek greater opportunities that a homeland may not be able to provide. Overseas migration may also showcase a “rational” decision by Filipino households to maximize whatever opportunities are present overseas to boost their incomes: something that probably these households cannot get through their employed family members at home.

This condition even becomes relevant in today’s coordinated global economic recession, as displaced workers’ loss of jobs and sustained incomes abroad will ultimately impact their families.

So, how do households with members who are overseas fare?

Household demographics

Citing the triennial Family Income and Expenditures Survey, migrant households increased from 1.105 million in 2000 to 1.601 million in 2006. These households have at least four household members left behind [see *Table 1*].

Not surprisingly, given the fact that those who leave overseas are mostly female, males left behind are the household heads [see *Table 2*]. Household heads, citing separate data from the Labor Force Survey, make nearly half of those left behind in terms of their relationship to the one who is overseas [see *Table 3*].

There are more migrant household heads left behind who are high school graduates and college undergraduates. Even the number of migrant household heads who are elementary graduates is not far behind the number of migrant household heads who are college graduates [see *Table 4*]. In 2003, the National Capital Region, and the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, Davao and Caraga regions had the highest numbers of household heads who were high school graduates. However, in 2006, region of Caraga and Western Visayas increased their number of college graduates beating the number of high school graduates record of 2003.

**Table 1: Number and average sizes of households receiving assistance from abroad
Family Income and Expenditures Survey**

Region	Year 2000			Region	Year 2003			Region	Year 2006		
	Total	Mean	Median		Total	Mean	Median		Total	Mean	Median
Philippines	1,105,414	4.6	4.2	Philippines	1,310,163	4.6	4.6	Philippines	1,601,497	4.5	4.0
National Capital Region	220,699	4.6	4.2	National Capital Region	219,842	4.4	4.4	National Capital Region	249,906	4.4	3.8
Cordillera Administrative Region	24,801	4.8	4.3	Cordillera Administrative Region	27,354	4.6	4.7	Cordillera Administrative Region	31,631	4.5	3.9
Region I - Ilocos Region	131,725	4.6	4.1	Region I - Ilocos Region	136,652	4.4	4.5	Region I - Ilocos Region	173,530	4.4	3.9
Region II - Cagayan Valley	39,579	4.1	3.7	Region II - Cagayan Valley	53,271	4.2	4.1	Region II - Cagayan Valley	62,808	4.1	3.6
Region III - Central Luzon	161,191	4.3	4.0	Region III - Central Luzon	250,998	4.7	4.8	Region III - Central Luzon	259,643	4.6	4.2
Region IV - Southern Luzon	192,769	4.4	3.8	Region IV - Southern Luzon (Calabarzon)	213,590	4.3	4.3	Region IV - Southern Luzon (Mimaropa)	270,524	4.2	3.8
Region V- Bicol	29,229	5.4	5.0	Region V- Bicol	21,006	4.4	4.4	Region V- Bicol	28,441	4.7	4.4
Region VI - Western Visayas	107,779	4.9	4.5	Region VI - Western Visayas	40,283	4.8	5.0	Region VI - Western Visayas	47,872	4.6	4.1
Region VII - Central Visayas	59,816	4.7	4.2	Region VII - Central Visayas	102,556	4.7	4.8	Region VII - Central Visayas	129,395	4.4	4.0
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	27,298	5	4.6	Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	75,811	4.9	5.1	Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	103,065	4.6	4.0
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	23,813	5.6	5.2	Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	34,883	4.7	4.7	Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	47,664	4.6	4.2
Region X - Northern Mindanao	14,888	4.9	4.4	Region X - Northern Mindanao	19,522	5.2	5.3	Region X - Northern Mindanao	35,106	5.3	4.7
Region XI - Davao	33,759	5.4	5.0	Region XI - Davao	27,888	4.7	4.6	Region XI - Davao	44,152	4.4	3.9
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	20,272	5	4.5	Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	35,671	5.0	5.0	Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	41,945	4.8	4.5
Region XIII - Caraga	11,744	4.9	4.6	Region XIII - Caraga	25,984	4.7	4.6	Region XIII - Caraga	38,889	4.7	4.2
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	6,052	5.6	5.1	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	15,922	4.9	4.9	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	19,992	5.1	4.4
					8,929	4.4	4.5		16,931	4.8	4.4

Details may not add up due to rounding off.

Source: National Statistics Office – Family Income and Expenditures Survey

See the Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac (<http://almanac.ofwphilanthropy.org>)

Table 2: Gender of head of household receiving cash, gifts and other forms of assistance from abroad, 2003 and 2006

Region	Total		Male		Female	
	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006
Total	1,310,163	1,601,497	741,441	899,055	568,722	702,442
National Capital Region	219,842	249,906	91,487	115,398	128,355	134,509
Cordillera Administrative Region	27,354	31,631	17,862	20,621	9,492	11,011
I - Ilocos	136,652	173,530	87,218	108,711	49,434	64,820
II - Cagayan Valley	53,271	62,808	41,196	45,707	12,075	17,101
III - Central Luzon	250,998	259,643	169,166	138,594	81,831	121,050
IVA - CALABARZON	213,590	270,524	92,076	130,514	121,514	140,010
IVB - MIMAROPA	21,006	28,441	12,178	17,830	8,829	10,612
V - Bicol	40,283	47,872	20,931	30,532	19,352	17,340
VI - Western Visayas	102,556	129,395	59,313	76,365	43,243	53,031
VII - Central Visayas	75,811	103,065	45,542	59,216	30,269	43,849
VIII - Eastern Visayas	34,883	47,664	21,428	31,788	13,455	15,876
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	19,522	35,106	12,969	26,899	6,553	8,207
X - Northern Mindanao	27,888	44,152	14,247	23,670	13,641	20,482
XI - Davao	35,671	41,945	22,729	27,388	12,942	14,556
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	25,984	38,889	16,113	23,104	9,871	15,785
XIII - Caraga	15,922	19,992	10,396	11,439	5,525	8,553
ARMM	8,929	16,931	6,589	11,280	2,340	5,651

Details may not add up due to rounding off.

Source: National Statistics Office – Family Income and Expenditures Survey

See the Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac (<http://almanac.ofwphilanthropy.org>)

Table 3: Overseas Filipino Workers by relationship to household head

Year	Head / Spouse	% share	Son/ Daughter	% share	Son/Daughter in Law	% share	Others	% share	Total
1988	223,215	50.1	171,424	38.5	32,093	7.2	18,884	4.2	445,615
1989	247,372	50.5	188,998	38.6	29,552	6.0	24,263	4.9	490,185
1990	279,105	56.7	159,544	32.4	27,124	5.5	26,294	5.3	492,067
1991	257,165	47.5	203,989	37.7	47,293	8.7	32,676	6.0	541,123
1992	333,592	47.3	273,092	38.8	49,592	7.0	48,324	6.9	704,600
1993	360,578	48.1	280,271	37.4	59,678	8.0	48,919	6.5	749,445
1994	353,734	44.2	344,386	43.0	62,810	7.9	39,125	4.9	800,055
1995	366,725	41.9	391,560	44.7	67,093	7.7	49,637	5.7	875,015
1996	345,948	41.6	369,466	44.4	75,876	9.1	41,162	4.9	832,452
1997	435,863	47.3	336,056	36.5	70,629	7.7	78,997	8.6	921,544
1998	407,316	41.5	417,386	42.6	78,501	8.0	77,267	7.9	980,470
1999	404,033	42.5	389,274	41.0	80,109	8.4	76,710	8.1	950,126
2000	408,695	44.2	367,402	39.7	80,619	8.7	68,110	7.4	924,825
2001	432,599	41.7	423,539	40.8	89,713	8.7	91,072	8.8	1,036,924
2002	458,036	44.8	413,566	40.4	95,722	9.4	55,820	5.5	1,023,145
2003	484,926	48.6	346,993	34.8	69,490	7.0	96,052	9.6	997,461
2004	475,774	46.3	375,300	36.5	80,027	7.8	95,944	9.3	1,027,044

Source: National Statistics Office – Labor Force Surveys (various years) in Manolo Abella and Geoffrey Ducanes (2008)

See the Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac (<http://almanac.ofwphilanthropy.org>)

Educational attainment of household head of families receiving cash, gifts and other forms of assistance from abroad

	Total households		No Grade Completed		Elementary Undergraduate		Elementary Graduate		High School Undergraduate		High School Graduate		College Undergraduate		College graduate		MA and PhD students/graduates	
	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003	2006	2003
Total	1,601,085	1,310,163	16,825	19,763	198,578	159,241	227,991	204,991	169,695	133,232	398,327	337,295	311,703	239,390	273,034	213,484	4,931	2,767
NCR	249,906	219,842	568	1,150	9,416	10,789	13,351	18,938	24,071	18,867	74,845	61,372	62,913	56,238	64,743	52,132	0	356
CAR	31,631	27,354	601	349	4,468	5,113	5,337	4,351	1,850	3,608	7,447	4,011	4,818	5,710	6,292	4,214	819	0
I – Ilocos	173,119	136,652	1,603	1,040	19,258	18,766	30,957	32,251	19,018	12,623	52,964	45,987	27,740	15,019	21,580	10,967	0	0
II - Cagayan Valley	62,808	53,271	348	1,391	9,781	8,399	13,723	8,693	8,834	8,172	14,474	12,632	8,260	7,534	7,389	6,171	0	278
III - Central Luzon	259,643	250,998	0	2,113	31,837	27,093	50,656	46,734	31,289	22,247	74,359	79,270	40,845	43,175	30,656	29,360	0	1,006
IVA - CALABARZON	270,524	213,590	1,209	2,103	27,939	26,142	34,430	32,115	20,953	17,347	74,443	60,255	66,560	46,019	44,992	29,609	0	0
IVB - MIMAROPA	28,441	21,006	320	1,299	6,418	4,689	7,615	5,890	2,175	2,222	5,713	2,692	2,544	2,094	3,657	2,120	0	0
V – Bicol	47,872	40,283	786	387	5,152	4,717	9,562	8,888	4,786	3,761	7,810	7,843	10,457	7,959	9,319	6,334	0	394
VI - Western Visayas	129,395	102,556	1,625	1,205	22,916	14,020	22,249	12,293	8,517	12,256	23,930	24,171	22,691	17,806	25,467	20,805	1,999	0
VII - Central Visayas	103,065	75,811	1,500	1,624	13,521	13,082	8,903	10,652	13,972	9,197	18,333	7,701	21,365	15,668	25,471	17,474	0	413
VIII - Eastern Visayas	47,664	34,883	0	655	10,789	5,079	7,342	7,044	8,098	6,538	6,907	5,428	8,060	4,660	6,054	5,158	415	321
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	35,106	19,522	2,483	1,036	6,933	1,893	5,115	3,529	2,688	1,156	4,858	2,348	7,333	3,171	5,698	6,389	0	0
X - Northern Mindanao	44,152	27,888	0	0	2,692	3,936	5,010	2,417	6,396	3,825	10,684	6,082	10,099	4,362	8,419	7,267	854	0
XI - Davao	41,945	35,671	421	681	7,058	5,306	4,712	4,472	4,656	2,989	11,117	10,496	7,803	5,228	5,802	6,498	377	0
XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	38,889	25,984	3,132	1,557	8,701	5,513	4,860	2,740	6,071	5,345	5,157	3,078	5,555	1,241	4,946	6,510	467	0
XIII - Caraga	19,992	15,922	0	208	3,920	2,341	2,702	2,414	4,308	1,640	3,183	3,337	3,323	3,507	2,556	2,475	0	0
ARMM	16,931	8,929	2,230	2,965	7,780	2,364	1,468	1,570	2,012	1,439	2,104	591	1,337	0	0	0	0	0

Details may not add up due to rounding off.

Source: National Statistics Office – Family Income and Expenditures Survey (2003 and 2006)

See the Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac (<http://almanac.ofwphilanthropy.org>)

Household incomes and employment statuses

Although most of the heads of migrant households have finished high school, they belong to the highest income groups due, of course, to remittances.

In both 2003 and 2006, a seventh of migrant households belong to the highest income groups, while two-tenths of migrant households belong to middle-income groups [see *Figures 1 and 2*].

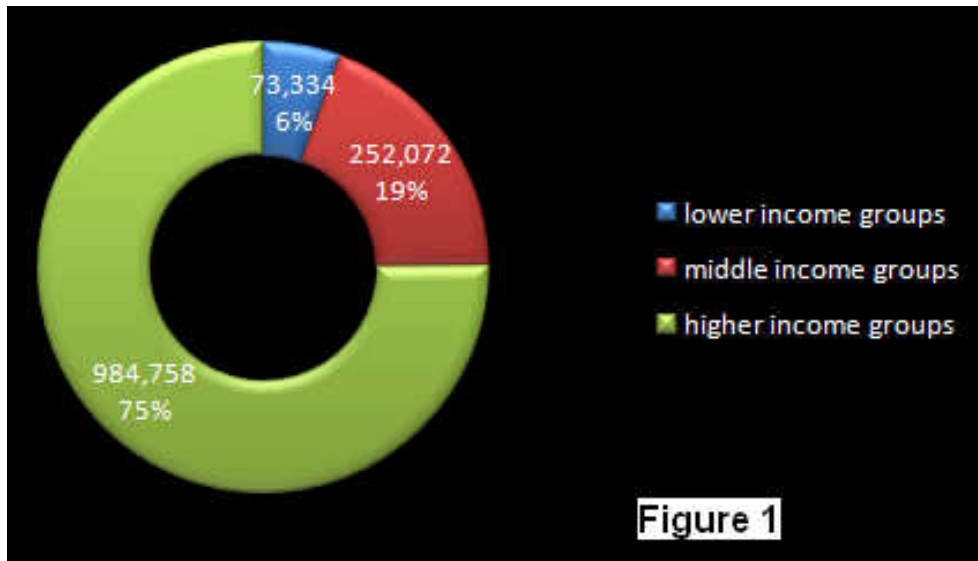


Figure 1: Income levels of migrant households, 2003

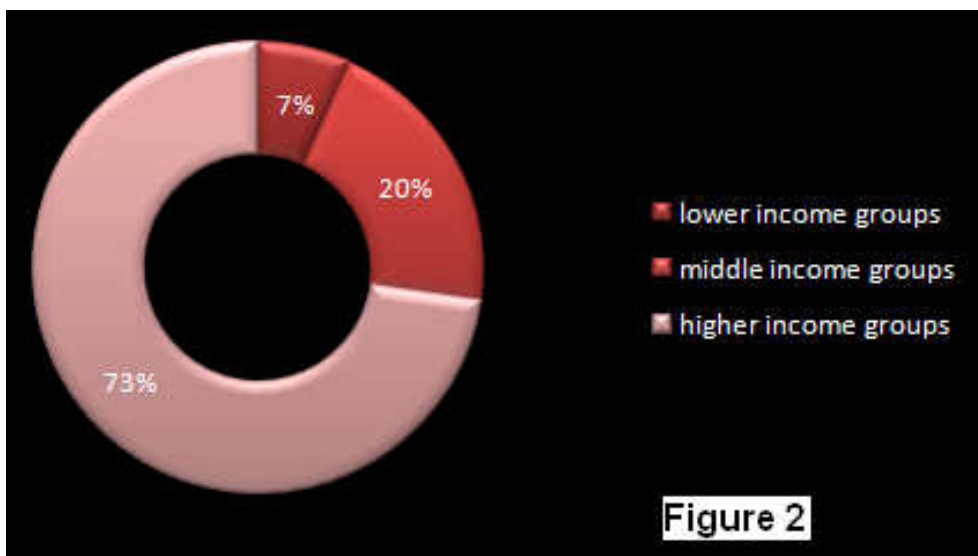


Figure 2: Income levels of migrant households, 2006

Meanwhile, the heads of both migrant and non-migrant households “cannot find work”. However, heads of migrant households had a lower unemployment percentage share (32.6 percent) compared to non-migrant households (34.6 percent) in 2003. This implies that since migrant households received a considerable amount of remittances, it can already make them self-employed. Figures 3 and 4 (covering the years 2003 and 2006) showed that most of the employed heads of households were “self-employed” (27 percent).

Data also show that most of migrant household heads (43 percent) were unemployed in 2003 and 2006. The rest (57 percent of the total) were employed: 27-28 percent of these employed migrant household heads were self employed; 13 percent of these household heads worked for private establishments; and some 9 to 10 percent of migrant household heads were employers in family-operated businesses [see also *Figures 3 and 4*].

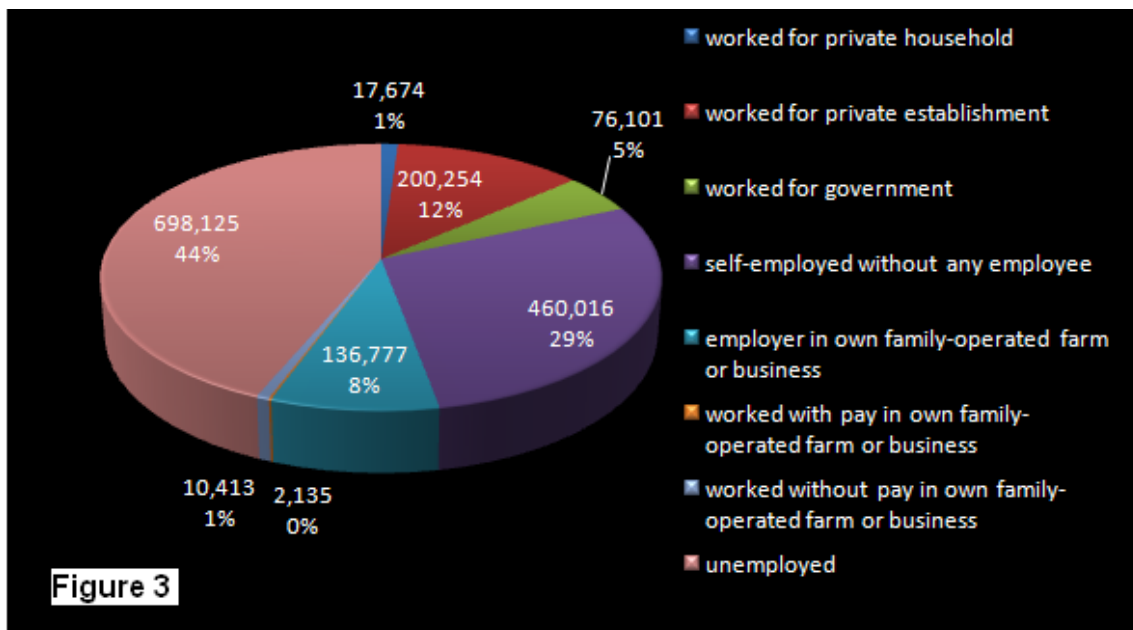


Figure 3: Employment status of the head of the migrant household, 2006

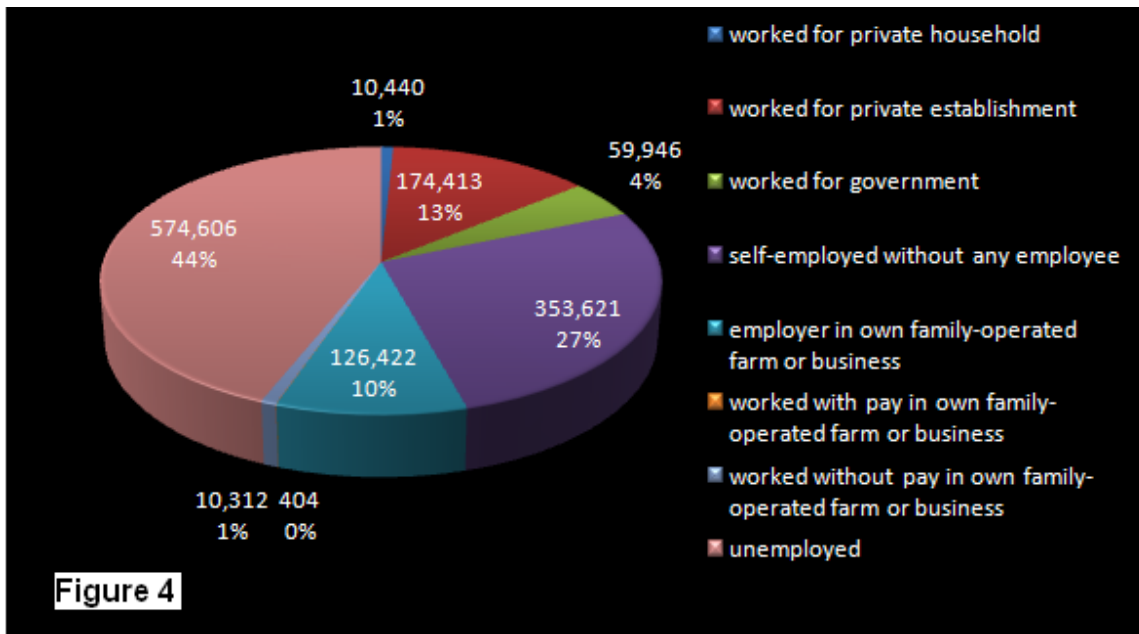


Figure 4: Employment status of the head of the migrant household, 2003

The family's good

Overseas Filipino workers, thanks to their remittances, have helped provide families left behind with a stable source of income. Many will tell you that without remittances, families left behind would have not been better off. Some of these households even became self-employed and entrepreneurial, that being an indirect benefit of remittances.

But imagine if the global economic crisis drags on: what would households receiving these incomes from abroad do —especially if they have a history of not saving much from the remittances coming in?

Migrant households are, more importantly, affected also by what is happening at home —especially by unemployment. One would wish that some members of the migrant households left behind will work so that wages here at home add up to the remittances received from abroad. This ideal situation will see these families becoming less dependent on remittances from abroad and hopefully prepare for the permanent return of the one who is abroad —a reflection that perhaps government's employment planners can think about.