



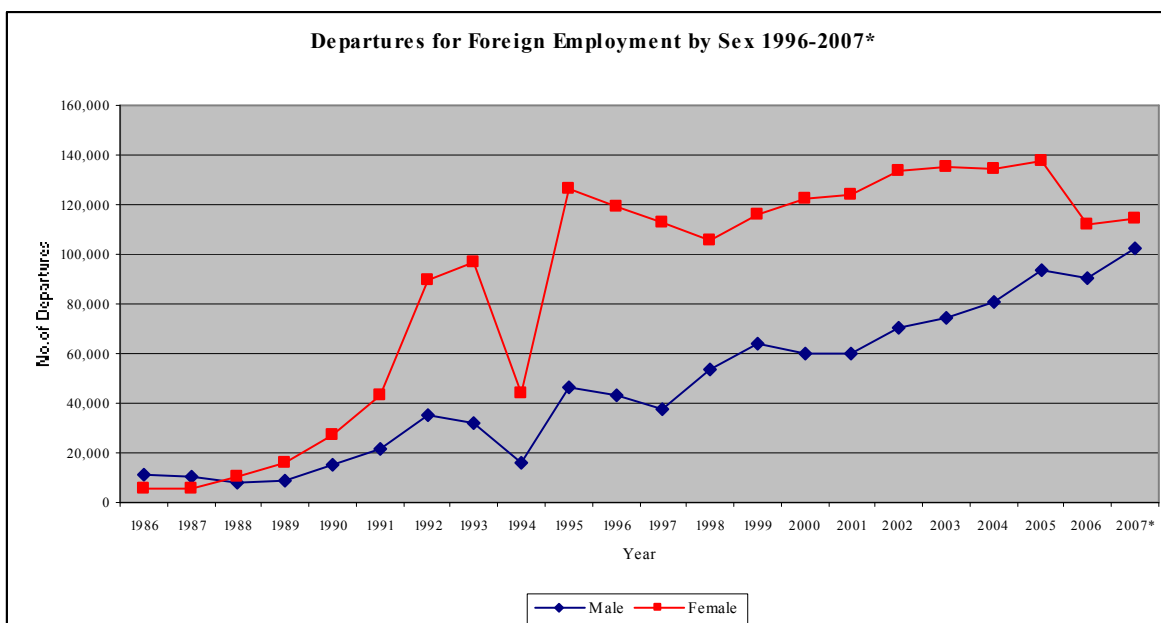
Departures for Foreign Employment 1986 - 2007*

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

*Provisional

Source: Information Technology Division-SLBFE

♣ Airport Survey-SLBFE 1992-1993





It is seen that there was an increase in the total departures for foreign employment in 2007, when compared with 2006. It also reveals that, in 2006, total departures for foreign employment were 217,306, which was the highest for the period of 2006-2007.

The share of females, which was 24 percent for the period of 1986-87, had been increased from 55 percent in 1988 to 75 percent in 1997, and now it has been decreased to 53 percent in 2007.

For the past decade male share of total departures increased steadily and it reached 47 per cent in 2007. It was 25 per cent in 1997, and now it fluctuates around 47 percent. The number of male employees abroad has been increased by 12,459 people while female employees has been increased to 2,899 people. However even in such a conditions appears that number of female sector employees still remains higher than that of male sector.

In early stages of the industry, the male migration was recorded as the highest. However, it has gradually changed into female dominancy since 1988. But since 2001 the situation has changed and male migration is gradually increased. As per the direction of the presidential Task Force, compulsory registration for foreign employment was initiated in 1995. As a result the sudden increase was visible in the documented migration flow since 1995. The Airport survey conducted by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (1990-1994) does not reveals such a sudden actual increase. According to the Airport survey, nearly 125,000 persons migrated for foreign employment annually, and 55 per cent of that had not registered with the Bureau of Foreign Employment. The migration statistics before 1995 have shown low migration rates due to large number that have migrated without registering at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment whose statistics are not counted for. This clearly indicates that the sudden boom in 1995 was not due to a sudden increase of departures, But as a result of increase in documented migration .

