

Deployment of women migrant workers from selected ASEAN Member States, 2000-14

The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database for ASEAN



Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the
Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region
(ASEAN TRIANGLE Project)

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS

The International Labour Migration Statistics Database (ILMS)

collects available data on outward labour migration. The evidence presented is based on the administrative records data collected from ASEAN Member States on ASEAN nationals registering to migrate abroad for employment each year, by sex. Only official data of migrants deployed through regular channels are reported, and analysis presented here is based on this data. Since some migrant women are migrating irregularly, the actual number of women migrants is likely to be underreported.

The ASEAN TRIANGLE

Project (ATP) recommends that administrative records data sources be further improved across all ASEAN Member States. This would include more information on migrant workers' skills (in terms of education and occupation as well as wages) and their economic activity. These should be disaggregated according to sex and age wherever they are published. It is necessary to integrate a gender perspective into migration statistics to develop and implement better labour migration policies oriented toward increased gender equality and empowerment of women migrant workers.

Deployment of women migrant workers from selected ASEAN Member States, 2000-14

The table below presents the total number of deployed migrant workers from the top six ASEAN countries of origin as well as the respective total number and percentage of deployed women migrant workers, where available. The data indicates that Indonesia deployed the highest percentage of women migrant workers in 2014 while Thailand deployed the lowest percentage during the same year.

Table 1: Annual outflows of nationals registering to work abroad by sex, selected ASEAN Member States, 2014¹

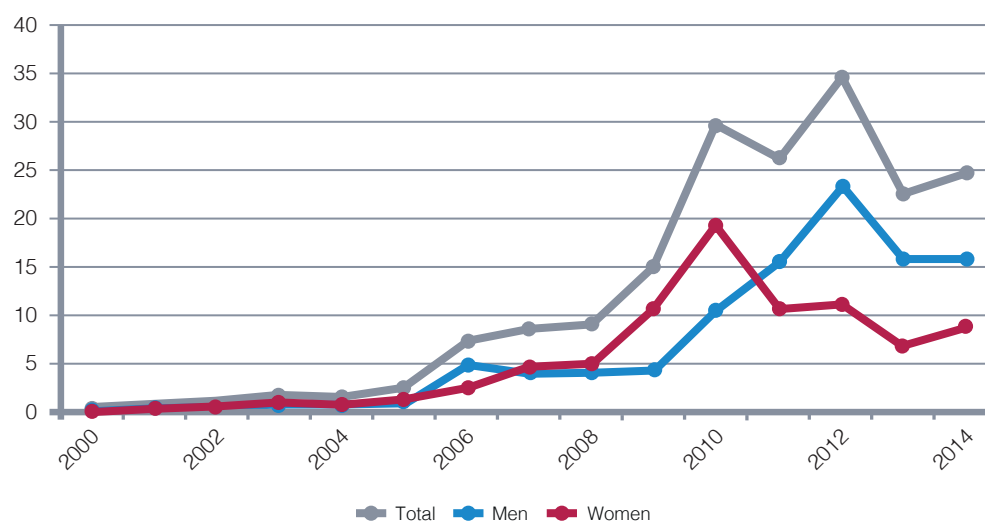
ASEAN country	Total deployment	Deployment of women migrant workers	
		Total	Percentage
Cambodia (2014)	24 700	8 800	35.6
Indonesia (2014)	429 900	243 600	56.7
Lao PDR (2014)	8 300	4 100	49.4
Myanmar (2014)	64 800	12 600	19.4
Thailand (2014)	119 500	23 000	19.2
Viet Nam (2014)	106 800	40 100	37.5

Key facts about women's migration from Cambodia

In 2014, 35.6 per cent (8,800) of Cambodian nationals registering to work abroad were women compared to 64.8 per cent (19,300) in 2010. The number of Cambodian women migrant workers rose steadily between 2006 and 2010 – exceeding the number of men for 4 years – but has significantly fallen since. A possible explanation for the decline is the legal moratorium imposed by the Cambodian Government on domestic workers migrating to work in countries with known labour abuse cases. Cambodia and Malaysia are currently renegotiating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the recruitment of Cambodian domestic workers sent to Malaysia and a MoU for workers in all sectors, with a conclusion expected in the near future. In 2014, Cambodia formally sent domestic workers to Singapore for the first time. The main destination countries in 2014 included Thailand (MoU on cooperation in employment of workers, 2003), Malaysia (MoU on recruitment procedures for Cambodian nationals for employment in Malaysia) and the Republic of Korea (through the Employment Permit System). The main sectors of employment for Cambodian women migrants are manufacturing (Malaysia and the Republic of Korea) and agriculture (Malaysia and the Republic of Korea) (ILO, 2015a).

¹ Sources: ILO, ILOSTAT (Special collections: Migration). National administrative records.

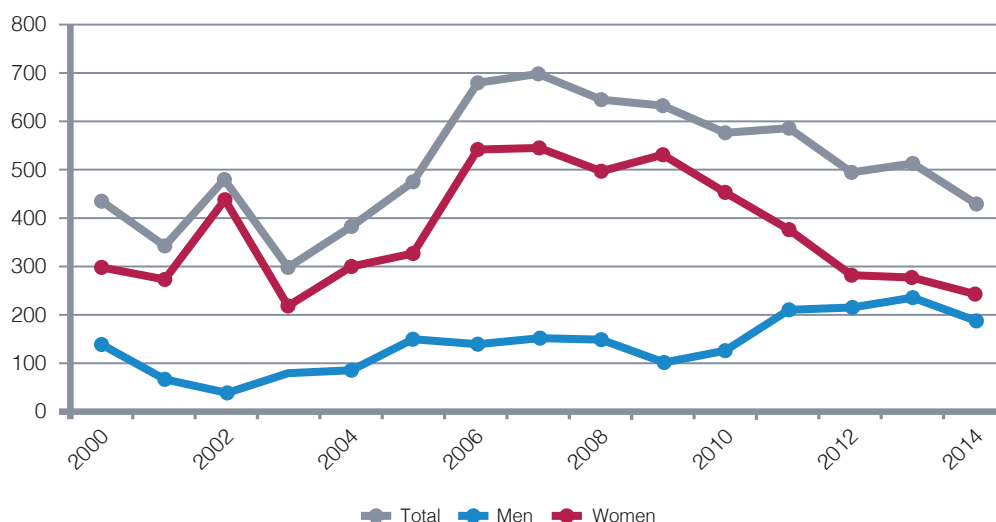
Figure 1: Deployment of women migrant workers from Cambodia, 2000-14



Key facts about women's migration from Indonesia

The number of women leaving Indonesia to work abroad each year has fallen dramatically since 2009. In that year, 83.7 (529,000) per cent of Indonesian migrants registering to work abroad were women compared with only 56.7 (243,600) per cent in 2014. Women's migration rose steeply from 2003 until 2009 but fell significantly after that and is still on the downward trend. In 2013 and 2014 the number of men and women registering to work abroad was almost equal. The MoU between Indonesia and Malaysia was put on hold in 2009 due to reported cases of abuse of domestic workers during employment, but was re-signed in 2011, explaining the decrease in women's migration during that period. The main destination countries and territories in 2014 included Malaysia (MoU on the recruitment of Indonesian workers, for general workers, 2004, and MoU on the recruitment and placement of Indonesian domestic workers, 2006 and an additional protocol in 2011), Taiwan (China) (Taiwan-Indonesian memorandum on labor affairs, 2004), the United Arab Emirates (MoU between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates in the Field of Manpower Agreement, 2007) and Saudi Arabia (MoU on domestic workers, 2014). While the MoU between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia was signed in 2014, it never came into full force. In May 2015, Indonesia decided to ban the deployment of migrant domestic workers to Gulf Countries. Since 2013, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam have been negotiating a MoU on domestic workers. The main sectors of employment for Indonesian women migrants are domestic work and agriculture (ILO, 2015b).

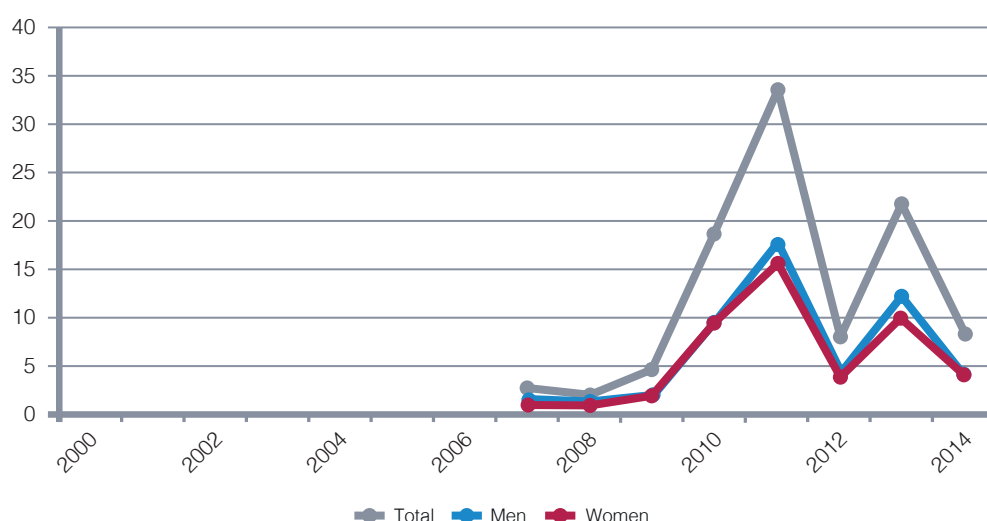
Figure 2: Deployment of women migrant workers from Indonesia, 2000-14



Key facts about women's migration from Lao PDR

In 2014, 4,100 Lao women were deployed to work abroad (49.4 per cent of the total), almost equal to the number of men migrant workers (4,200). The spikes in the numbers in 2010, 2011 and 2013 are due to a change in the methodology used for counting Lao migrant workers in Thailand for the “National Verification Process” and not because of an actual increase of registered migrants in that particular year. Hence, the numbers of migrant registered to work in 2009, 2012 and 2014 shown here are closer to the true flow of registered outward migrant workers. The main destination country in 2014 was Thailand (MoU on Employment Cooperation, 2002, which excludes domestic workers). As evidenced by deployment figures provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare covering a period of October 2014 – May 2015, the main sectors of employment for Lao women migrants are services (1,500 to Thailand), industry (961 to Thailand), agriculture (153 to Thailand).

Figure 3: Deployment of women migrant workers from Lao PDR, 2000-14



Key facts about women's migration from Myanmar

In 2014, 12,600 women from Myanmar registered to work abroad (19.4 per cent of the total), much smaller than the number of men (52,200). Before 2008, less than 10,000 nationals from Myanmar registered to work abroad every year. The number rose above 10,000 for the first time in 2008, though declined again by fifty percent of that in 2010. However, this number has rapidly increased since 2011. In Myanmar's case, women were prohibited from registering to work abroad before 2009 so the entire flow was dominated by men as a matter of default. Overall, the outflow of women from Myanmar registering to work abroad has been rather low compared to men and compared to the outflow of women from other ASEAN Member States. The main destination countries for registered women migrant workers in 2013 included Thailand (Memorandum of understanding on Employment Cooperation, 2003) and Malaysia (ILO, 2015c). The main sectors of employment for women migrants from Myanmar are domestic work and construction (Thailand).

Figure 4: Deployment of women migrant workers from Myanmar, 2000-14

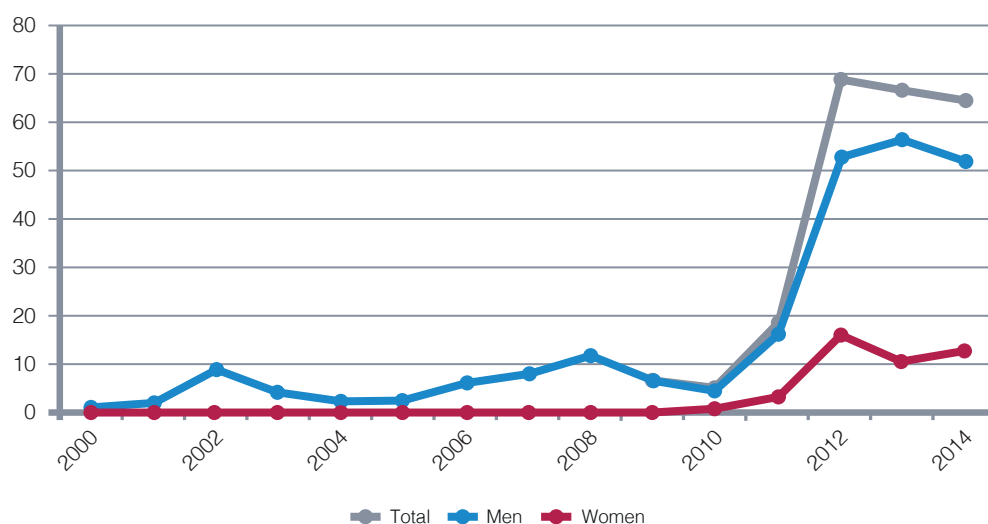
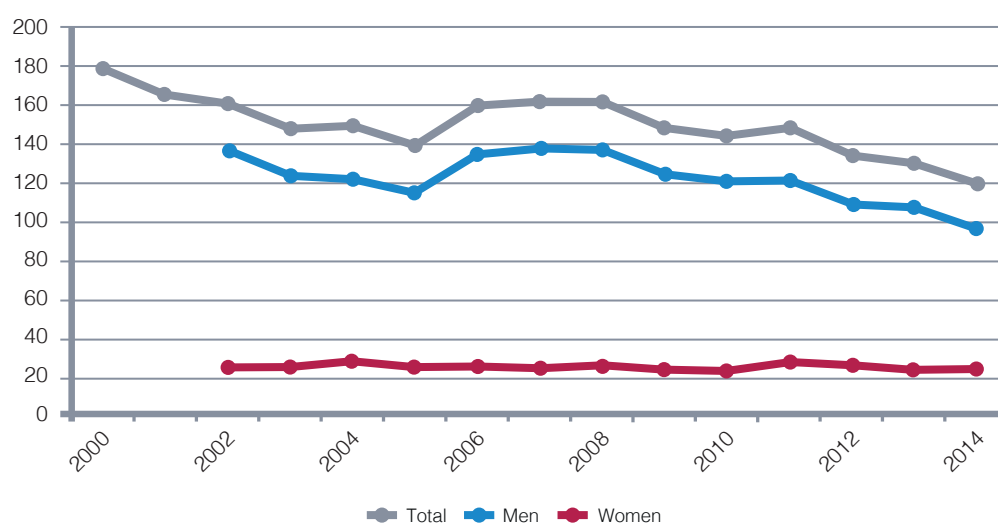


Image © Adri Berger/ILO

Key facts about women's migration from Thailand

In 2014, 23,000 Thai women registered to work abroad (19.2 per cent of the total) compared to 96,500 men. The overall outflow of women registering to work abroad from Thailand has been relatively consistent over time and always small in comparison to the number of men. The main destination countries and territories in 2013 included Taiwan (China), Japan, Hong Kong (SAR), the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America (IOM, 2014). The main sectors of employment for women migrants from Thailand are manufacturing, services and sales, professional services (technicians and associates), agriculture, forestry and fishing (IOM, 2014).

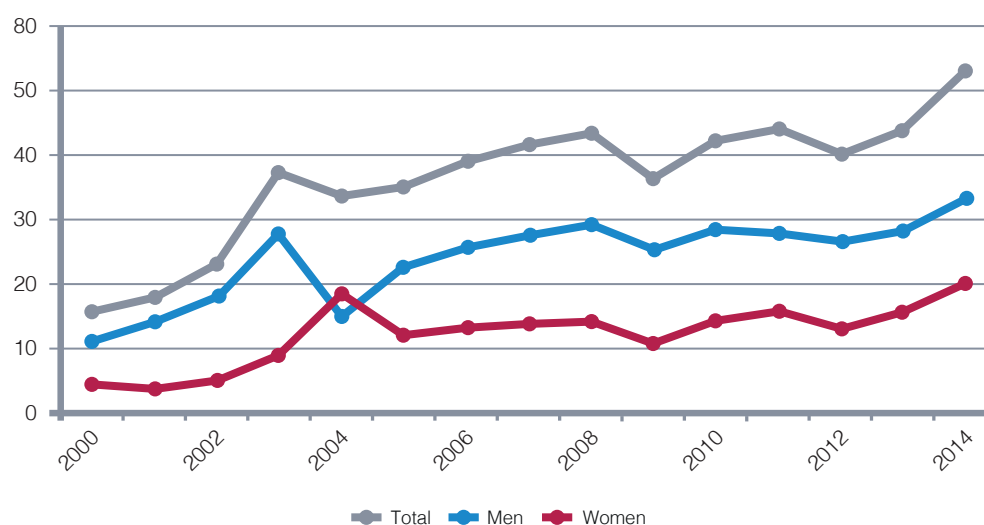
Figure 5: Deployment of women migrant workers from Thailand, 2000-14



Key facts about women's migration from Viet Nam

In 2014, 40,100 Vietnamese women registered to work abroad (37.5 per cent of the total), an increase of 26 per cent over 2013 numbers. The overall outflow of women registering to work abroad from Viet Nam had been fairly consistent at around 30,000 since 2007. The number of men over this same period has generally been greater. The main destination countries and territories in the first half of 2015 included Taiwan (China), Japan (including trainees and skilled workers), Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and the Republic of Korea (ILO, 2015d). The main sectors of employment for women migrants from Viet Nam are manufacturing (Taiwan (China), Malaysia, Republic of Korea) and domestic work (Taiwan (China)) (Bowen and Duong, 2012).

Figure 6: Deployment of women migrant workers from Viet Nam, 2000-14



Sources

Bowen, Ruth and Do Van Huong, 2012: Women in International Labour Migration from Viet Nam: A Situation Analysis. <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/~media/5af7fa72a64f47a68e2492c4fa30e31c.pdf>

ILO, 2015a: GMS TRIANGLE Project: Cambodia. Quarterly Briefing Note. January – March 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/presentation/wcms_368565.pdf

ILO, 2015b: Indonesia: Decent work for Indonesian migrant workers. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_366945.pdf

ILO, 2015c: GMS TRIANGLE Project: Myanmar. Quarterly Briefing Note. January – March 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/presentation/wcms_368571.pdf

ILO, 2015d: GMS TRIANGLE Project: Viet Nam. Quarterly Briefing Note. April – June 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/presentation/wcms_380801.pdf

IOM, 2014: Thailand Migration Report. http://th.iom.int/images/report/TMR_2014.pdf

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR (MoLSW), 2015: Personal Communication

Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project)

The ILMS Database gathers together official government data from a number of statistical sources on international migrant workers' stocks and flows within the region as well as on countries' nationals living or working abroad. It is the first of its kind in the region. The ILMS fills an important knowledge gap, creating a powerful research tool through which policymakers and others can profile and monitor the international migrant labour force within the region.

The ILMS Database is published at a critical time for the ASEAN region, as economic development, regional integration, and demographic factors continue to drive intra-regional labour mobility. The ILMS Database was created by the ILO's project on Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project), which is funded by the Canadian Government. It was developed through extensive collaboration with both the ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILMS Database can be accessed from three portals online:

ILOSTAT:	www.ilo.org/ilostat
APMigration:	http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics
ASEAN Statistics:	http://www.asean.org/resources/category/asean-statistics

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, 11th Floor
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel.: +66 2 288 1234
Email: BANGKOK@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/asia

Copyright © International Labour Organization 2015
Cover image Copyright © Rex Billie Cabangcal/ILO 2013



DECENT WORK

A better world starts here.