

# 2008 OVERSEAS LABOR MARKET SITUATIONER

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## REGION AND COUNTRY

## LABOR MARKET SITUATION

### MIDDLE EAST

The Gulf States in the Middle East, namely: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman will continue to offer vast employment opportunities in 2008 to foreign labor in the construction, medical, tourism, retail, energy, engineers and planners, telecommunication, operation and maintenance, hotel and restaurant and IT sectors. These sectors are experiencing growth and expansion due to major infrastructure projects , expansion of exploration and production of the oil and gas sectors.

#### KSA

- There is an estimated demand for 50,000 workers for various professionals and skills for the mega projects in the country such as the Economic cities in Rabigh, Jizan, Madinah and Hail; railway projects linking east and west of the Kingdom; petrochemical projects, new hospitals, new universities, and a wave of new industries.
- Major companies like Saudi Aramco and Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC) will require more than 30,000 engineers and 200,000 construction workers until 2010 to work on \$95 million worth of projects.
- The largest new project of Aramco - the \$9,000 million offshore Manifa Field Development Plan called for the construction of a 40-kilometer long causeway from the Saudi Coast which would be used to provide access to Manifa production rigs.

#### QATAR

- Qatar has embarked on one of the most ambitious development in the world today, which encompasses the oil and gas sector, infrastructure, non-oil and gas-related industry, education, health and tourism.
- In the light of the government's policy to provide health care for all the residents of the country, plans are underway to develop the Middle East's largest comprehensive medical facility, the Hamad Medical City Complex. Among the skills in demand are engineers, architects, interior designers, controllers, QA/QC inspectors, mechanical, electrical and plumbing personnel, civil works specialist,

fabrication, welding and piping inspectors, hotel and restaurant crew.

#### UAE

- Al Habtoor Group of companies announced a 6 Billion Dirham expansion project involving the development of new residential, commercial and hospitality projects in two years time.
- *Health Services.* The General Authority for Health Services (GAHS) for Abu Dhabi will take over the operation of 13 government hospitals and primary health centers, constructs hospitals, clinics and health centers to be completed in three (3) years.
- *Tourism Services.* The expansion of Abu Dhabi's international airport and construction of 5-star hotels offer job opportunities for skilled workers in this sector.

#### KUWAIT

- Construction projects are booming in Kuwait.
- The Kuwait Ministry of Housing and Public Works said the construction of 9,625 residential units in Sabah Al Ahmad City will create 11,356 job openings.
- The city project will have state of the art amenities which includes residential, commercial, educational, medical, tourism, and entertainment services.
- The first phase of the Silk City project, which is considered as one of the major additions in the field of development, will be completed in the next 5-7 years. It will be the biggest waterfront project in the world and is expected to generate additional job opportunities in the hotel, restaurant, and cleaning industry.

#### LIBYA

- There are other employment opportunities in the health services, tourism, fisheries, construction, and oil exploration sectors.

#### JORDAN

- There are employment opportunities for nurses and skilled workers in construction and steel production sector.

## ASIA

Based on reports of Philippine Overseas Labor Offices in the region, the demand for OFWs in Asia remained bright despite competition posed by other labor-sending countries and restrictive labor and nationalization policies of some host countries.

The region's continued economic growth has resulted to construction of major infrastructures and industrial projects. Consequently, this has induced a steady increase in the demand for foreign workers such as professionals (engineers, architects, teachers, and IT workers) and skilled workers (hotel and restaurant workers, resort and casino managers, welders, and electricians).

## KOREA

- Korea will continue to hire foreign workers under its Employment Permit System (EPS). It will require skilled workers in the manufacturing, construction, and shipbuilding sectors.

## TAIWAN

- Taiwan remains to be one of the major destinations for Filipino factory workers.
- There are also emerging opportunities for IT and healthcare workers.

## SINGAPORE

- Singapore's hotel and gaming industry offers bright employment prospects for managers, supervisors, and skilled workers, which includes croupiers, dealers, chambermaids, and waiters/waitresses.
- *Construction Sector.* There are demands for architects, engineers, and draftsmen.
- *Health Services.* With the recent signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Nursing Services, Filipino nurses now have easier access to employment opportunities in the ASEAN healthcare sectors. Under the MRA, licensed Filipino nurses will be recognized by the host country and will be allowed to practice their profession in ASEAN member countries and vice versa.

## MALAYSIA

- There is a rising demand for IT and related skills in Penang, Johore, and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

- The construction and shipbuilding and ship repair industries in Johore are also in need of skilled workers.
- Genting Highlands Hotels and Resorts are in need of casino workers and entertainers.
- Filipino nurses now have easier access to the healthcare sector, with the recent signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Nursing Services.

#### BRUNEI

- Brunei's oil and gas, hotel and restaurant, and construction industries present good employment opportunities for skilled workers and professionals such as fabricators, riggers, high pressure operators, managers, and engineers (civil, structural, electrical, and pipe).
- Filipino nurses will be recognized and be allowed to practice their profession in Brunei, as provided by the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Nursing Services.

#### OCEANIA

#### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

- There is a demand for construction, health, IT professionals, and skilled workers in trades, teachers, and hotel and restaurant workers.

#### AMERICAS AND TRUST TERRITORIES

The region will offer employment for construction, health and IT professionals and skilled workers, hotel and restaurant workers, teachers, oil and gas workers due to the labor shortages in the developed economies of Canada and USA and growing economies of Guam and the Carribean.

#### CANADA

- The robust economy of Canada, particularly the Western provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan and the graying population creating labor shortages in various industries is propelling surge in demand for skilled workers and professionals in about 140 occupations for 2006-2016.
- The gas related industries have been booming due to soaring oil prices and strong world demand.

- The province of Saskatchewan in Canada will need 10,000 to 12,000 Filipino skilled workers to fill in the increasing demands of its labor market in the next five years. The labor market of Saskatchewan has a high demand for skilled workers to fill sectors in the services, manufacturing and construction, retail sales and restaurants.

## EUROPE

Europe will offer employment opportunities for construction, health, IT professionals and skilled workers, hotel and food service workers particularly in countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Finland, Belgium, Iceland, Romania, Czech Republic, and Azerbaijan.

### ROMANIA

- There is a labor shortage in the following industries: packaging, road building, bricklaying, security, carpentry, construction, and medical services.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

- With the implementation of a new project called Legal Migration Open Chance that aims to attract highly qualified and skilled workers, Czech Republic is now working on the relaxation of stringent EU-based requirements for the entry of skilled workers and professionals in view of its economy's accelerating demand for workers.

### FRANCE

- Under France's new immigration policy, the government would like to encourage the entry of Filipino professionals and skilled workers. It recently expressed their intention to hire nurses and IT workers. It is interested in forging an agreement with the Philippines toward increasing the number of Filipinos in these sectors.

### NORWAY

- Norway is open to the entry of skilled workers, particularly nurses, caregivers, and those in computer science. Its government estimated that about 3,000 health care workers will be needed possibly in the next 3 years.

## FINLAND

- Finland needs skilled and semi-skilled construction workers and nurses (due to its ageing population).

## POLAND

- The following occupation/skills currently in shortage in Poland: salespeople, sales agents, welders, chefs, construction workers, waiters, bakers, cleaners, cooks, engineers, hotel and office assistants.

## DENMARK

- Denmark has implemented the green card system that will allow highly qualified professionals. The policy will allow foreign workers with specialized skills to go to Denmark. Presently, the most sought after workers and professionals in Denmark are IT specialists, doctors, nurses, statisticians, engineers, mathematicians, physicists, biologists, and geologists. The Ministry of Integration of Denmark has estimated that around 5,000 positions are currently available within the qualified industries.

## ICELAND

- With its new immigration policy, Iceland will allow issuance of residence and work permits to highly skilled workers (in specialist occupations). This is due to its objective to attract more workers in job categories which have skills shortages such as in the healthcare sector.

## ITALY

- The Italian government has decided to increase from 3,000 to 5,000 the annual quota of Filipinos who will be admitted as non-seasonal workers to Italy.

## SPAIN

- Bars and Restaurants association in Sevilla is interested to employ Filipino cooks, waiters, and other related bar and restaurant staff.

## **SEABASED SECTOR**

The demand for Filipino seafarers will remain with the continued hiring of shipping employers from Cyprus, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, USA, Singapore, Korea, Hongkong, Malaysia, and Japan. Japanese ship owners intend to source 8,000 out of 10,000 new requirements for seafarers, on-board Japanese owned vessels.

Source: POLO and Philippine Embassy Reports