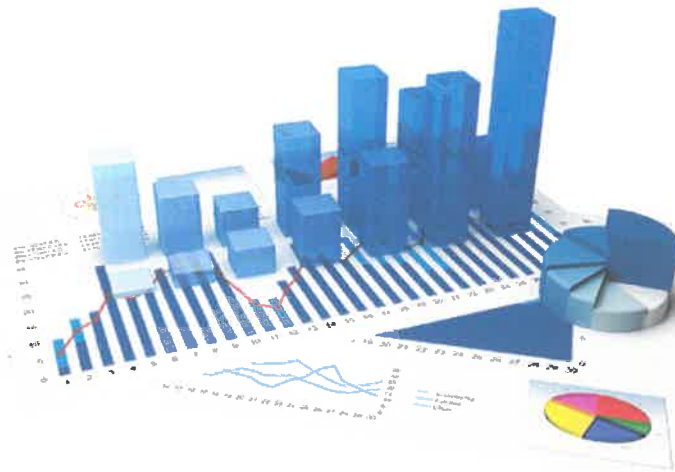




Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS LABOR OFFICE
Tokyo, Japan



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

as of December 2018

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TRENDS IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND TECHNICAL INTERN TRAINEES IN JAPAN (as of December 2018)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Japan Labor Market

Japan has had strict laws regarding the employment of foreigner workers, although exceptions were made provided that the workers have graduated in a four-year degree course in university or have at least 10 years of related experience for skilled workers.

Excepted categories have included highly-skilled professionals engaged in commercial activities, researchers, professional entertainers, engineers and others specializing in advanced technology, foreign-language teachers, and others with special skills unavailable among Japanese nationals.

It's shrinking population has triggered the country's worst labor crunch and since the world's third-largest economy is rapidly aging, on the back of high life expectancy and falling birth rates which resulted to fewer workers in various industries.

In 2017, the government strengthened the female labor force participation through the help of companies which offered expanded child care options, child care leave and other family benefits, as well as diversified employment patterns.

In 2018, the government paved the way for workers to stay employed until age 70 if they chose, as part of its effort to reshape the workforce.

On the same year, the government recorded an increase of 534,769 or 7.9 percent, accounting for a record of 2.05 percent of the total work force. Companies are required by law to hire people with disabilities and fines are imposed if companies fail to achieve the legally set threshold.

Finally, in December 2018, Japan passed the bill to revise the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law, which will bring more foreign workers into Japan. This formally opens the labor market to semi-skilled foreign workers under the 14 identified job categories in April 2019.

B. Labor Market of Overseas Filipino Workers in Japan

As of December 2018, Statistics of Filipino Workers in Japan released by the Ministry of Justice, Japan in August 2019, an increase of 15 percent from the previous year to 44,067 was recorded.

There's a steady growth of demand of Filipino workers as shown on the 2018 Year-End Report of POLO, Tokyo. It recorded a 1,356 employer/companies for registration and 7,922 individual contracts verified which constitute to a 26,022-manpower requirement.

The presentation and analysis of data provide the bird's-eye-view of the Filipino workers in Japan including the salary range and qualifications/requirements for job/visa. This LMI will provide POEA and other stakeholders a guide on labor and migration policies unique to Japan labor market.

II. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Statistical data of the total number of Filipinos who are holders of working visa from the Ministry of Justice as of December 2018 released August of 2019 were tabulated and analyzed to get the labor market landscape of Filipinos working in Japan.

Table 1. Total Number and Percentage of Overseas Filipino Workers and Intern Trainees in a Five-Year Period (2014-2018).

Categories	Total Number of Overseas Filipino Workers and Trainees					Percentage of Increase from 2017-2018 (one-year period)	Percentage of Increase from 2014-2018 (five-year period)
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
Professionals	4,546	5,544	6,810	8,088	9,687	19.8%	113%
Skilled Workers	1,787	1,624	2,025	3,456	4,218	22.0%	136%
Household Service Workers	936	889	868	976	1,703	74.5%	82%
Intern Trainees under the TITP-b	11,842	16,626	21,291	26,038	28,459	9.3%	140%
Total	19,111	24,683	30,994	38,558	44,067	14.3%	130%

Figure 1. Comparative Percentage of Overseas Filipino Workers and Intern Trainees in the periods of 2017-2018 and 2014-2018.

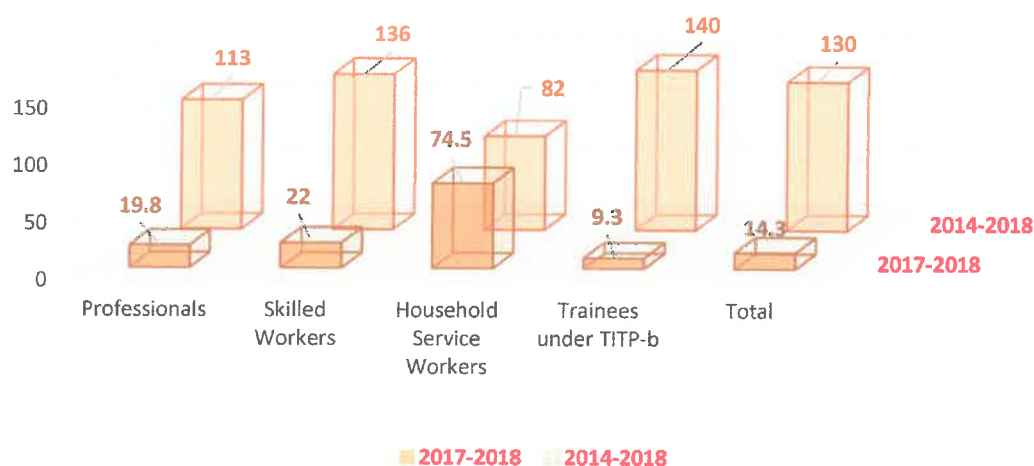


Table 1 presents the total number and percentage of Filipino workers in the three (3) job categories; namely: a. professionals, b. skilled workers, and c. household service workers; and intern trainees under Japan's Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) type b or intern trainees under the supervision of supervising organizations.

Figure 1 shows the comparative percentage of workers and intern trainees in a five-year period from 2014 to 2018. Figure 2 further shows the range of increase from 82 percent in the household service workers category, 113 percent in the professionals, 136 percent in the skilled workers, and, 140 percent increase in the intern trainees under the TITP-b from 2014 to 2018, respectively.