



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Philippine Overseas Labor Office
Tokyo, Japan



LABOR MARKET PROFILE

As of December 2020

Submitted by:

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I. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic disrupted labor markets globally during 2020 and Japan was not spared as the country-imposed border restrictions to contain the spread of the virus is still in effect. The impact was on different levels such as workers were furloughed, lost jobs, contract not renewed, on work from home mode, which was a new experience for most of the workers, and temporary displacement. Some businesses had to shutter their doors while others scrambled to design new protocols to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus in the workplace.

Some of the hardest hit industries were leisure and hospitality, which include jobs such as waiters, chefs, bartenders, retailers, professionals, and business services. In Japan, affected industries were those employed on leisure, food, accommodation, entertainment, and tourism-related businesses including travel. Whereas the demand of service workers for health industry, farmers for livestock and cultivation, construction workers, and, high-wage jobs such as engineers, teachers, interpreters/translators, superintendents, and IT specialists are steadily increasing.

At onset, many countries are still reverberating not only from the economic impact but also on all facets of life, and unfortunately with the new covid variants, the future is not yet known to anyone.

II. PHILIPPINE LABOR LANDSCAPE IN JAPAN UNDER THE POLO TOKYO JURISDICTION

The data released by the Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice (ISA-MOJ) as of December 2020 show a total 25,009 overseas Filipino workers under the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), Tokyo jurisdiction. This number only included temporary workers whose visa categories should pass through Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) processes before deployment. These are visa holders of professor, instructor, highly-skilled professional type 1 and 2, legal services, medical services, specialist in technologies/humanities/international services, entertainer, researcher, nursing care, skilled labor, specified skilled worker, technical intern training types i-iii (b) or the supervising organization type, and designated activities under the following programs; Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Program (PJEPA); Project to Accept Foreigners conducting housekeeping services in the National Strategic Special Zones (NSSZ); Foreign Shipbuilding Workers Acceptance Program (FSWAP); Foreign Construction Workers Acceptance Program (FCWAP); and; domestic workers hired by diplomats. However, the number of these five programs, with designated activities visas, is inclusive of all the 47 prefectures.

For data inclusive of all Filipino migrant workers regardless of visa category, a total of 159,991 or 55.2 percent from the 289,926 Filipinos under Tokyo jurisdiction.

For the latter part of 2020, POLO Tokyo identified emerging markets in the fields of sports such as professional basketball players and in engineering industry of wind turbine installation such as onshore technical field advisor.

Finally, on top of the growing demand of SSWs, the labor market landscape in tertiary and quaternary sectors recorded accelerating job order requests for Filipino