# CHAPTER 3
# PRICES, WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT

## Consumer Price Index and Inflation

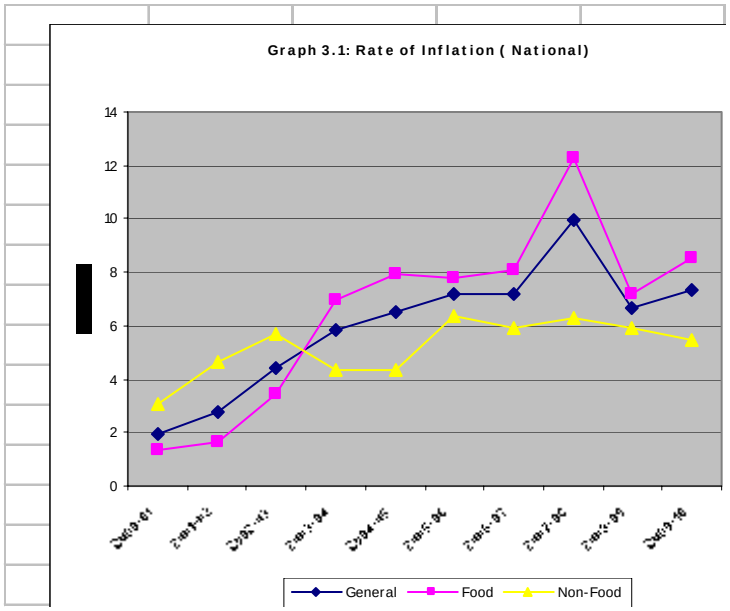
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) computes National Consumer Price Index (CPI) using food and non-food commodities and services utilized by the consumers in their daily life. Using 1995-96 as the base year, the current CPI has been constructed. In order to construct the price index, the commodity and weight of the index basket from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), 1995-96 are used. All rural and urban price indices were compiled using the lists of consumer goods of rural and urban households based on the survey. And finally, the national price index has been computed by taking into account the weighted average of consumption expenditures of the two areas. All indices are shown separately in food and non-food groups which are again divided into a number of sub groups. Consumer Price Index and inflation during FY 2000-01 to FY 2009-10 are shown in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Consumer Price Index and Inflation**

(Base year 1995-96=100)

| Index | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 126.72 | 130.26 | 135.97 | 143.90 | 153.23 | 164.21 | 176.06 | 193.54 | 206.43 | 221.53 |
| (% change) | (1.94) | (2.79) | (4.38) | (5.83) | (6.48) | (7.17) | (7.22) | (9.93) | (6.66) | (7.31) |
| Food | 130.30 | 132.43 | 137.01 | 146.50 | 158.08 | 170.34 | 184.18 | 206.79 | 221.64 | 240.55 |
| (% change) | (1.38) | (1.63) | (3.46) | (6.93) | (7.91) | (7.76) | (8.12) | (12.28) | (7.18) | (8.53) |
| Non-food | 122.25 | 127.89 | 135.13 | 141.03 | 147.14 | 156.56 | 165.79 | 176.26 | 186.67 | 196.84 |
| (% change) | (3.04) | (4.61) | (5.66) | (4.37) | (4.33) | (6.40) | (5.90) | (6.32) | (5.91) | (5.45) |

Source: BBS.




The rate of inflation (national) in FY 2009-10 stood at 7.31 percent which was 6.66 percent in the previous fiscal year. From the above table and graph, it is observed that there has been an increasing trend of inflation from FY 2000-01 to FY 2007-08. In FY 2008-09 the rate of inflation came down but in FY 2009-10 the rate increased again. During this period food inflation was higher than non-food inflation. It is noted that the weight of food and non-food item in the urban-CPI are 48.8 percent and 51.2 percent and that in rural-CPI 62.96 percent and 37.04 percent respectively.

The rate of inflation at the national level in July, 2009 was 3.46 percent on a point-to -point basis. After assumption of office, the present government has taken initiatives to lower the price level and to keep the prices of essential commodities such as rice, edible oil, pulse etc. stable. Despite these initiatives, due to the price hike of essential consumer goods in the international market the rate of inflation stood at 8.7 percent in June, 2010. During this period, food inflation rose to 10.88 percent from 3.34 percent showing a sharp increase. The monthly rate of inflation during FY 2009-10 calculated on a point-to-point basis is presented in Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2: Monthly Rate of Inflation (Point- to- Point) during FY 2009-10**

| Category | | 2009-10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | July'09 | Aug'09 | Sept'09 | Oct.'09 | Nov.'09 | Dec'09 | Jan.'10 | Feb.'10 | Mar.'10 | April'10 | May'10 | June'10 | Average |
| National | General | 3.46 | 4.69 | 4.60 | 6.71 | 7.24 | 8.51 | 8.99 | 9.06 | 8.78 | 8.54 | 8.65 | 8.70 | 7.31 |
| | Food | 3.34 | 4.93 | 4.98 | 7.78 | 7.84 | 9.50 | 10.56 | 10.93 | 10.80 | 10.47 | 10.72 | 10.88 | 8.53 |
| | Non-Food | 3.74 | 4.54 | 4.28 | 5.07 | 6.44 | 7.04 | 6.53 | 6.14 | 5.60 | 5.46 | 5.34 | 5.24 | 5.45 |
| Urban | General | 4.09 | 5.81 | 6.15 | 6.96 | 8.27 | 9.10 | 9.44 | 9.29 | 8.70 | 7.95 | 8.01 | 8.57 | 7.69 |
| | Food | 4.14 | 6.92 | 7.67 | 9.00 | 9.83 | 11.08 | 12.07 | 12.32 | 11.86 | 10.72 | 10.86 | 11.97 | 9.85 |
| | Non-Food | 4.03 | 4.39 | 4.20 | 4.34 | 6.27 | 6.60 | 6.18 | 5.57 | 4.83 | 4.56 | 4.53 | 4.36 | 4.99 |
| Rural | General | 3.21 | 4.25 | 3.99 | 6.62 | 6.83 | 8.27 | 8.81 | 8.96 | 8.81 | 8.78 | 8.91 | 8.74 | 7.16 |
| | Food | 2.99 | 4.07 | 3.83 | 7.26 | 7.00 | 8.82 | 9.92 | 10.34 | 10.35 | 10.36 | 10.66 | 10.40 | 7.96 |
| | Non-Food | 3.62 | 4.60 | 4.30 | 5.34 | 6.51 | 7.20 | 6.65 | 6.35 | 5.89 | 5.79 | 5.64 | 5.58 | 5.62 |

Source: BBS.

## Wage

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has constructed a Wage Rate Index using 1969-70 as the base year. The Wage Rate Index from FY 1999-00 through FY 2008-09 is presented in Table 3.3. It has been observed from the table that the nominal wage rate index is rising continuously and in FY2008-09 the index rose by 18.90 percent compared to the previous fiscal year. The indices of all sectors exceeded by 15 percent in FY 2008-09. Of these, wage rate index of construction and agriculture sectors increased by 21.47 percent and 21.28 percent respectively. Compared to these sectors, wage rate indices of fisheries and industry sectors are slightly lower but have been the highest in the recent period. It is to be noted that, in FY2008-09 the wage rate indices of fisheries and industry sectors increased by 15.45 percent and 17.91 percent respectively.

**Table 3.3: Rate of Increase in Wages**

(Base year 1969-70=100)

| Fiscal Year | Nominal Wage Rate Index | | | | | CPI for industrial labour (national) | Real Wage Rate Index (General) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General | Agriculture | Fisheries | Manufacturing | Construction | | |
| 1999-00 | 2390 (5.80) | 2037 (4.46) | 2220 (3.84) | 2701 (7.10) | 2286 (5.69) | 1973 (2.71) | 121 (2.54) |
| 2000-01 | 2489 (4.14) | 2141 (5.11) | 2292 (3.24) | 2832 (4.85) | 2356 (3.06) | 1999 (1.32) | 125 (3.31) |
| 2001-02 | 2637 (5.95) | 2262 (5.65) | 2411 (5.19) | 3035 (7.17) | 2444 (3.74) | 2024 (1.25) | 130 (4.00) |
| 2002-03 | 2926 (10.96) | 2443 (8.00) | 2563 (6.30) | 3501 (15.35) | 2624 (7.36) | 2068 (2.17) | 141 (8.46) |
| 2003-04 | 3111 (6.31) | 2582 (5.69) | 2775 (8.28) | 3765 (7.55) | 2669 (1.69) | 2129 (2.95) | 146 (3.55) |
| 2004-05 | 3293 (5.85) | 2719 (5.31) | 2957 (6.55) | 4015 (6.64) | 2758 (3.33) | 2216 (4.08) | 149 (2.05) |
| 2005-06 | 3507 (6.50) | 2926 (7.61) | 3133 (5.95) | 4293 (6.92) | 2889 (4.75) | 2351 (6.09) | 149 (0.00) |
| 2006-07 | 3779 (7.76) | 3156 (7.69) | 3332 (6.35) | 4636 (7.99) | 3135 (8.52) | 2524 (7.36) | 150 (0.67) |
| 2007-08 | 4227 (11.85) | 3524 (11.66) | 3669 (10.11) | 5197 (12.10) | 3549 (13.20) | 2740 (8.56) | 154 (2.67) |
| 2008-09 | 5026 (18.90) | 4274 (21.28) | 4236 (15.45) | 6128 (17.91) | 4311 (21.47) | 2885 (5.30) | 174 (12.92) |

Source: BBS

Note: BBS has not published the consumer price index of industrial labour after FY2005-06. So this data for FY2006-07 to FY 2008-09 has calculated by using the trend analysis of the ratio of CPI and Industrial CPI of FY 2005-06 and before. On the basis this estimated Industrial CPI real wage rate index of FY2006-07 to FY 2008-09 is calculated.

## Labour Force and Employment

In order to assess the overall situation of labour force and employment, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics conducts the Labour Force Survey. Recently, BBS has published a survey report titled 'Report on Monitoring of Employment Survey (MES) 2009'. According to the Survey, the number of economically active population (above 15 years) is 5.37 crore. Out of this, a labour force of 5.10 crore (male 3.85 crore and female 1.25crore) is engaged in a number of professions, the highest (43.53 percent) still being in agriculture. According to the Labour Force Survey, 2005-06, the total labour force of over 15 years of age was 4.74 crore (male 3.61 crore and female 1.13 crore) with agriculture remained the highest (48.10 percent) source of employment. Between the two survey periods, the number of agricultural workers decreased by 4.57 percent. According to MES 2009, it is observed that 39.22 percent of labour force is engaged in self-employment while it was 41.98 percent in FY 2005-06. It may be noted that during the two survey periods, the number of self-employed labour force decreased by 2.76 percent. According to the MES 2009, 20.20 percent of labour force was daily labourers and 21.18 percent unpaid family workers, which was 18.14 percent and 21.73 percent respectively according to the previous survey. The latest survey also indicated that 17.06 percent of the labour force was engaged as full time employees indicating an increase by 3.14 percent. The share of employed labour force (above 15 years) by different sectors

of the economy as per Labour Force Survey 1995-96, 1999-00, 2002-03, 2005-06 and MES 2009 is shown in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4: Share of Employed Labour Force (Above 15 years) by Sector**

| Sector | LFS 1995-96 | LFS 1999-00 | LFS 2002-03 | LFS 2005-06 | MES 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishery | 48.85 | 50.77 | 51.69 | 48.10 | 43.53 |
| Mining & quarrying | - | 0.51 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.20 |
| Manufacturing | 10.06 | 9.49 | 9.71 | 10.97 | 13.53 |
| Power, gas & water | 0.29 | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.20 |
| Construction | 2.87 | 2.82 | 3.39 | 3.16 | 3.92 |
| Trade, hotel & restaurant | 17.24 | 15.64 | 15.34 | 16.45 | 15.29 |
| Transport, maintenance & communication | 6.32 | 6.41 | 6.77 | 8.44 | 8.24 |
| Finance, business & services | 0.57 | 1.03 | 0.68 | 1.48 | 2.35 |
| Commodities & personal services | 13.79 | 13.08 | 5.64 | 5.49 | 5.69 |
| Public administration and defence | - | - | 6.32 | 5.49 | 7.06 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Labour Force Survey, 1995-96 , 1999-00,2002-03 & 2005-06 BBS.

Note: According to Labour Force Survey 2002-03 and 2005-06, population above 15 years of age has been counted as labour force, but in the previous surveys the criterion for counting labour force was population above 10 years.

## Overseas Employment and Remittances

A sizeable number of Bangladeshi labour force are employed in different parts of the world including the Middle East. According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, a total of about 70 lakh Bangladeshi workers went overseas during 1976 to June 2010. A total of 4.27 lakh Bangladeshi workers went abroad for employment in FY 2009-10, which is 34.31 percent lower than the previous fiscal year. To protect the Bangladeshi workers abroad from being retrenched by their employers in the backdrop of global recession, the present government has taken several steps which include:

- strengthening the diplomatic efforts where a significant number of Bangladeshi workers are working including the Middle East
- exploring new labour markets;
- establishing new labour wings in Bangladesh missions in the countries where a significant number of Bangladeshi workers are working.
- regular and intensive monitoring and evaluation of the trend of labour markets; and
- arranging proper training at home for developing skilled labour.

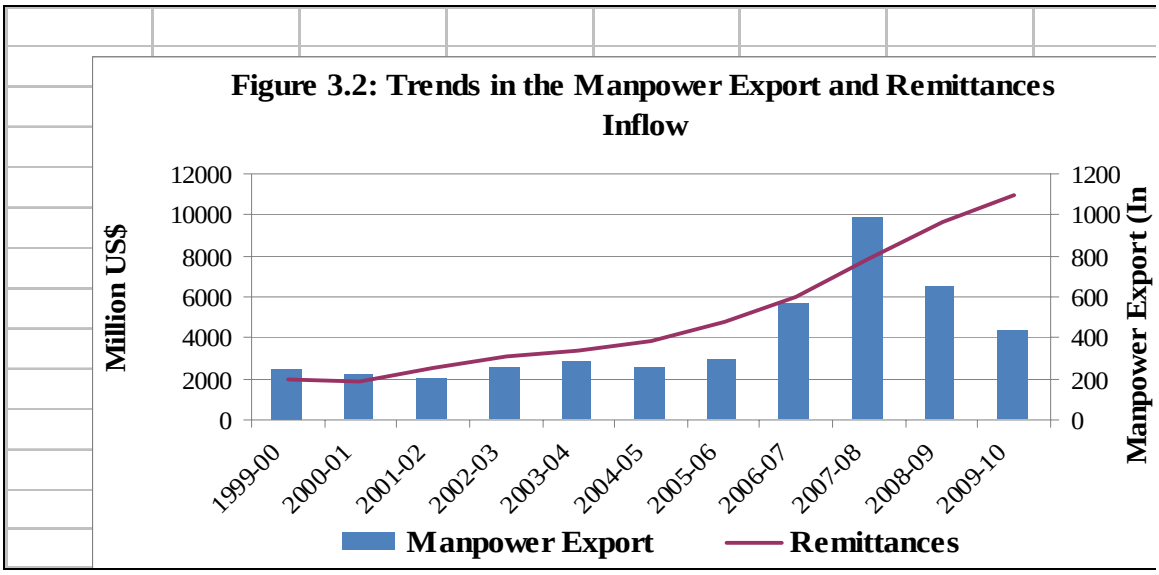
In FY 2008-09, the remittances from expatriate Bangladeshi workers stood at US$ 9689.16 million reflecting 22.42 percent rise over the previous year. In 2009-10, remittances shot up to US$ 10987.4 million reflecting 13.4 percent rise over the preceding year. According to the World Bank report on 'Migration and Remittance Trend 2009' Bangladesh secured 12$^{th}$ position among the

remittance earning countries in 2008. According to World Bank database on remittance, Bangladesh secured the 8th position among such countries in 2009, earning 2.55 percent of world remittances. In this period, Bangladesh's position was 2nd among the SAARC countries and it received about 14.89 percent of South Asian remittances. Several high level committees have been formed to monitor the growth of remittance inflow and to make it sustainable. These committees have been working to ensure growth of manpower export, remittance inflow and its utilization. as well as to deliver necessary recommendations to bring all financial transactions relating to manpower export under the legal banking framework. This has resulted in significant increase in the foreign exchange reserve. The number of expatriate Bangladeshi workers and the amount of remittances in Taka and US dollar are shown in Table 3.5.

**Table 3.5: Number of Expatriate Bangladeshis and their Remittances**

| Fiscal Year | No of employment abroad (000) | Amount of remittance | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Million US$ | Percentage change (%) | Crore Tk. | Percentage change (%) |
| 1999-00 | 248 | 1949.32 | 14.28 | 9825.40 | 19.63 |
| 2000-01 | 213 | 1882.10 | -3.45 | 10266.00 | 4.48 |
| 2001-02 | 195 | 2503.44 | 32.81 | 14390.19 | 40.17 |
| 2002-03 | 251 | 3060.31 | 22.25 | 17719.58 | 23.14 |
| 2003-04 | 277 | 3372.49 | 10.20 | 19872.39 | 12.15 |
| 2004-05 | 250 | 3848.30 | 14.11 | 23646.97 | 18.99 |
| 2005-06 | 291 | 4801.88 | 24.78 | 32274.60 | 36.49 |
| 2006-07 | 564 | 5978.47 | 24.50 | 41298.50 | 27.96 |
| 2007-08 | 981 | 7914.78 | 32.39 | 54293.24 | 31.47 |
| 2008-09 | 650 | 9689.16 | 22.42 | 66674.87 | 22.80 |
| 2009-10 | 427 | 10987.40 | 13.40 | 76010.96 | 14.00 |

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training and Bangladesh Bank.

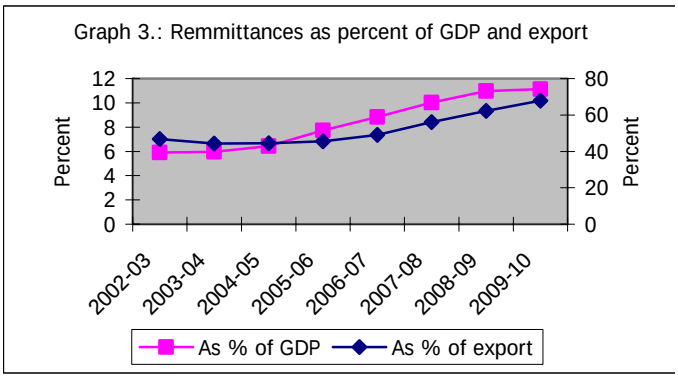


The amount of remittances in terms of GDP and export earnings have also increased over the years. In FY 2003-04 remittances as percent of GDP and export stood at 5.98 percent and 44.47 percent respectively. In FY 2009-10 remittances as percent of GDP and export were 11.13 percent and 67.80 percent respectively. Table 3.6 and Graph 3.3 show remittances in terms of GDP and export earnings for the last few years

**Table 3.6: Remittances as percent of GDP and export**

| Fiscal Year | As Percent of GDP | As percent of Export |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 5.98 | 44.35 |
| 2004-05 | 6.37 | 44.47 |
| 2005-06 | 7.75 | 45.62 |
| 2006-07 | 8.83 | 49.09 |
| 2007-08 | 10.02 | 56.09 |
| 2008-09 | 10.96 | 62.25 |
| 2009-10 | 11.13 | 67.80 |

Source: BBS, EPB, Bangladesh Bank




## Expatriates Classified by Skill

Analysing the statistics of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), it is observed that about half of overseas workers that went abroad are less-skilled. The number of expatriates classified by skill is shown in Table 3.7. From the table, it is observed that the share of professional workers has decreased significantly. However, the shares of skilled and semi-skilled workers are at the satisfactory level.

Table 3.7: Number of Expatriates Classified by Skill

| Calendar Year | Professional | Skilled | Semi-skilled | Less-skilled | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 10669 | 99606 | 26461 | 85950 | 222686 |
| 2001 | 6940 | 42742 | 30702 | 109581 | 188965 |
| 2002 | 14450 | 56265 | 36025 | 118516 | 225256 |
| 2003 | 15862 | 74530 | 29236 | 136562 | 254190 |
| 2004 | 19107 | 81887 | 24566 | 147398 | 272958 |
| 2005 | 1945 | 116393 | 24546 | 112556 | 255440 |
| 2006 | 925 | 115468 | 33965 | 231158 | 381516 |
| 2007 | 676 | 165338 | 183673 | 482922 | 832609 |
| 2008 | 1864 | 281450 | 132825 | 458916 | 875055 |
| 2009 | 1426 | 134265 | 74604 | 255070 | 465365 |
| 2010 (upto June) | 210 | 37434 | 4013 | 157074 | 198731 |

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

There is a significant change in the structure of expatriates classified by skill during the last few years. In 2000 the share of professional expatriates was 5 percent which was negligible in 2009. During the same period, the share of skilled workers came down to 29 percent from 44 percent. On the other hand, the share of less-skilled workers rose to 55 percent from 39 percent.

**Figure 3.4.1: Oversease Employment by Professions in 2000**

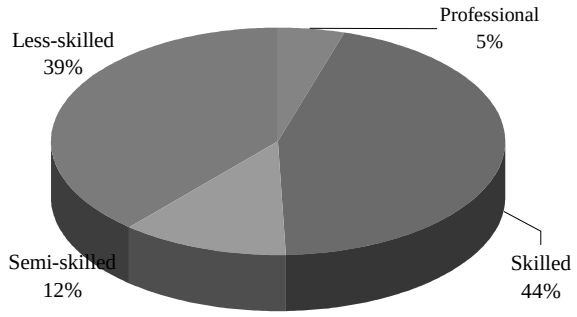
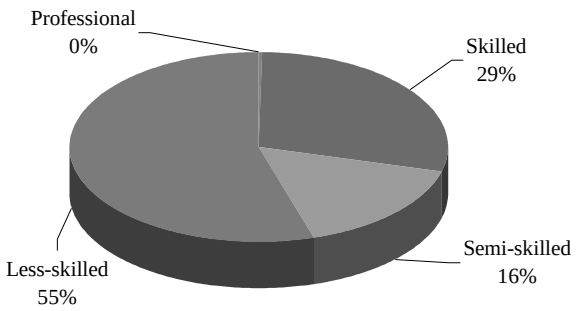



**Figure 3.4.2: Oversease Employment by Professions in 2009**




It has been observed that, most of the expatriates are working in Saudi Arabia, U.A.E, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Singapore. Besides, new employment opportunities have also been created for Bangladeshi workers in Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, South Korea, Brunei, Mauritius, Italy and other countries. Since the beginning of manpower export in 1976 till June 2008, different countries in the Middle East were the destinations of about 80 percent of total manpower exported. The number of expatriate Bangladeshis by country is shown in Table 3.8 and graphs 3.5.1 and 3.5.2.

**Table 3.8: Number of Expatriate Bangladeshis by Country**

| Calendar Year | Saudi Arabia | Kuwait | UAE | Bahrain | Oman | Malaysia | Singapore | Others | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 144618 | 594 | 34034 | 4637 | 5258 | 17237 | 11095 | 5213 | 222686 |
| 2001 | 137248 | 5341 | 16252 | 4371 | 4561 | 4921 | 9615 | 6656 | 188965 |
| 2002 | 163254 | 15767 | 25438 | 5370 | 3927 | 85 | 6870 | 4545 | 225256 |
| 2003 | 162131 | 26722 | 37346 | 7482 | 4029 | 28 | 5304 | 11148 | 254190 |
| 2004 | 139031 | 41108 | 47012 | 9194 | 4435 | 224 | 6948 | 25006 | 272958 |
| 2005 | 80425 | 47029 | 61978 | 10716 | 4827 | 2911 | 9651 | 37903 | 255440 |
| 2006 | 109513 | 35775 | 130204 | 16355 | 8082 | 20469 | 20139 | 44032 | 381516 |
| 2007 | 204112 | 4212 | 226392 | 16433 | 17478 | 273201 | 38324 | 52457 | 832609 |
| 2008 | 132124 | 319 | 419355 | 13182 | 52896 | 131762 | 56581 | 68836 | 875055 |
| 2009 | 14666 | 10 | 258348 | 28462 | 41704 | 12402 | 39581 | 80141 | 475278 |
| 2010 (up to June) | 4490 | 22 | 110199 | 10756 | 12267 | 291 | 18696 | 41103 | 202824 |

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

During the current decade, there has been a significant change in the structure of the expatriate Bangladeshis by country. In 2000, about 66 percent Bangladeshi workers went to Saudi Arabia and this rate decreased to 3 percent in 2009. On the other hand, in 2000, about 15 percent of the total exported manpower went to the UAE which climbed to 54 percent in 2009. During the same period, the manpower exports in Oman increased significantly. In 2000, about 2 percent Bangladeshi workers went to the rest of the world which increased to 9 percent in 2009. It indicates that the overseas labour market is expanding gradually.

**Figure 3.5.1: Oversease Employment by Country in 2000**

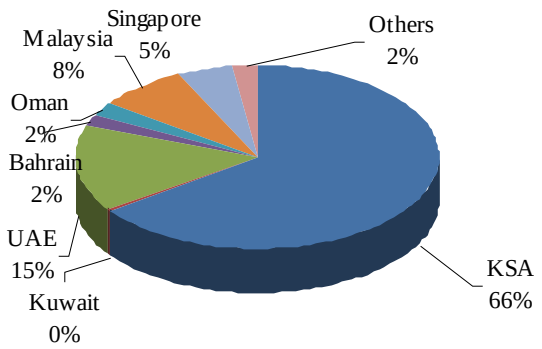
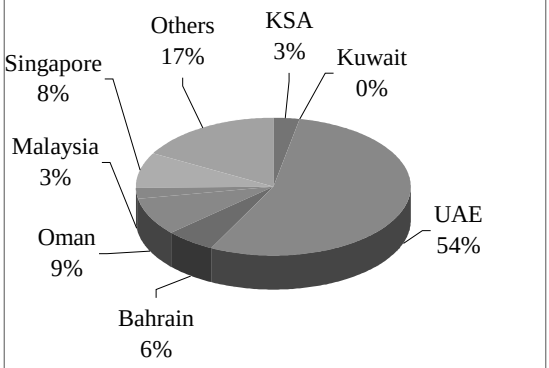



**Figure 3.5.2: Oversease Employment by Country in 2009**



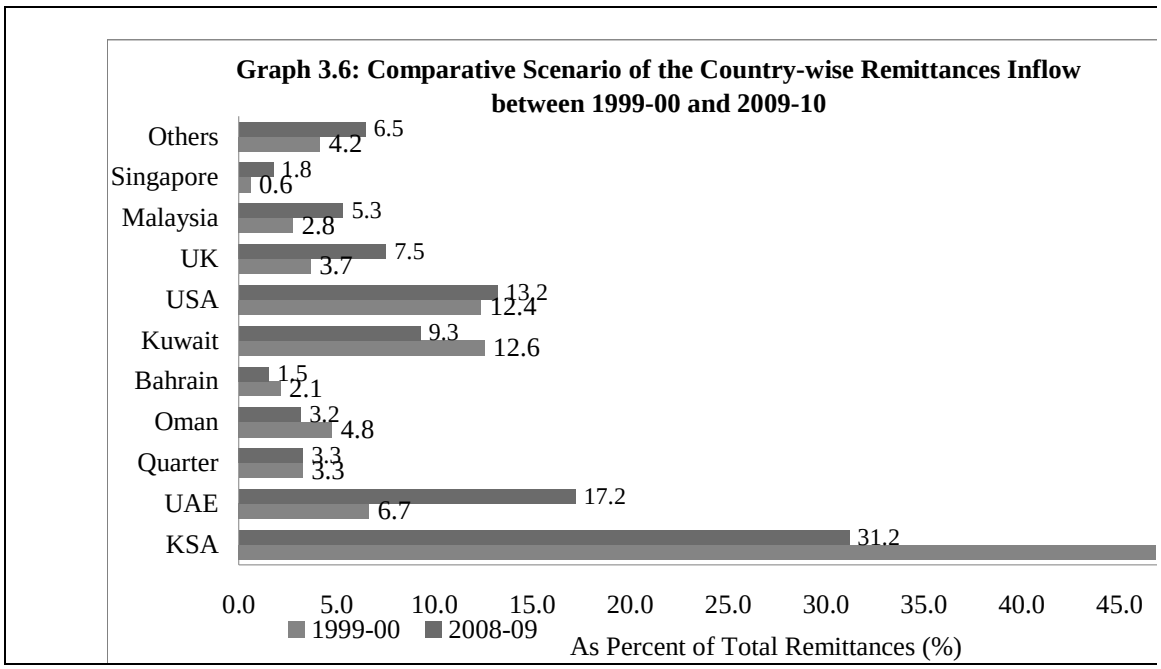

Middle Eastern countries together constitute the major sources of total remittances for Bangladesh. Individually, Saudi Arabia stands top of the list followed by UAE and the USA. Country-wise remittances of expatriate Bangladeshi workers over the last few years are shown in Table 3.9.

**Table 3.9: Country wise Remittances**

(in million US$)

| FY | KSA | UAE | Qatar | Oman | Bahrain | Kuwait | USA | UK | Malaysia | Singapore | Others | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-00 | 916.01 | 129.86 | 63.73 | 93.01 | 41.80 | 245.01 | 241.30 | 71.79 | 54.04 | 11.63 | 81.14 | 1949.32 |
| 2000-01 | 919.61 | 144.28 | 63.44 | 83.66 | 44.05 | 247.39 | 225.62 | 55.70 | 30.60 | 7.84 | 59.91 | 1882.10 |
| 2001-02 | 1147.95 | 233.49 | 90.60 | 103.27 | 54.12 | 285.75 | 356.24 | 103.31 | 46.85 | 14.26 | 65.29 | 2501.13 |
| 2002-03 | 1254.31 | 327.40 | 113.55 | 114.06 | 63.72 | 338.59 | 458.05 | 220.22 | 41.40 | 31.06 | 99.61 | 3061.97 |
| 2003-04 | 1386.03 | 373.46 | 113.94 | 118.53 | 61.11 | 361.24 | 467.81 | 297.54 | 37.06 | 32.37 | 123.18 | 3372.27 |
| 2004-05 | 1510.45 | 442.24 | 136.41 | 131.32 | 67.18 | 406.80 | 557.31 | 375.77 | 25.51 | 47.69 | 147.60 | 3848.29 |
| 2005-06 | 1696.96 | 561.44 | 175.64 | 165.25 | 67.33 | 494.39 | 760.69 | 555.71 | 20.82 | 684.84 | 238.81 | 4801.88 |
| 2006-07 | 1734.70 | 804.84 | 233.17 | 196.47 | 79.96 | 680.70 | 930.33 | 886.90 | 11.84 | 80.24 | 339.32 | 5978.47 |
| 2007-08 | 2324.23 | 1135.14 | 289.79 | 220.64 | 138.20 | 863.73 | 1380.08 | 896.13 | 92.44 | 130.11 | 444.38 | 7914.78 |
| 2008-09 | 2859.09 | 1754.92 | 343.36 | 290.06 | 157.45 | 970.75 | 1575.22 | 789.65 | 282.20 | 165.13 | 501.33 | 9689.16 |
| 2009-10 | 3427.10 | 1890.30 | 360.90 | 349.10 | 170.10 | 1019.20 | 1451.90 | 827.50 | 587.10 | 193.50 | 710.70 | 10987.40 |

Source: Bangladesh Bank




It is evident from Graph 3.6 that despite significant decline in the share of remittances, the highest amount of remittance is still coming from Saudi Arabia. In FY 1999-00, about 47 percent of the total remittances was received from Saudi Arabia which declined to 31.19 percent in FY2009-10. On the other hand, during the same period, the share of remittance from the UAE came down to 17.20 percent from 6.7 percent. Remittance inflows from the USA and UK grew significantly over the same period.

**Steps Taken for Increasing Remittance Inflows**

The government has taken several important steps for quick transmission of remittances through banking channel. These include

- Bangladesh bank has simplified the approval policy of drawing arrangements between exchange houses operating abroad and banks in Bangladesh;
- Establishment of exchange houses/branch offices abroad by local banks is being encouraged to expedite remittance collections. Under this arrangement, some banks have already established their offices abroad to collect remittances on their own;
- 18 local banks have been allowed to establish 37 exchange houses/branch offices/representative offices abroad for collecting remittances and their onward transmission to the country;

- Some micro-finance institutions have been involved for smooth delivery of inward remittances to widen the distribution network and to accelerate and simplify the delivery process;
- 5 banks (Dhaka Bank Ltd, Trust Bank Ltd., Mercantile Bank Ltd., Citibank and Sonali Bank Ltd.) have been allowed to distribute remittance through the outlets of mobile phone operators recently and to enhance the network of remittance distribution;
- Automated clearing house will be made fully operational very soon which will encourage remitters to use formal channel;
- Decision has been taken to set up a bank named 'Non-resident Welfare Bank' to help the wage earners;
- With a view to encouraging the workers to remit their earnings through the banking channel, the government has been extending CIP facilities and special citizen facilities for Bangladeshi expatriates;
- Steps have been taken to ensure rehabilitation and further training for the Bangladeshi workers returned from abroad;
- Diplomatic efforts have been strengthened to prevent retrenchment abroad and to explore new markets for Bangladeshi workers;
- Steps have been taken towards promoting 'National Skill Development Council' with the objective of developing skilled labour forces to meet the demand of the international market.