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**MIGRATION MONITORING STUDY, 2008  
EMIGRATION AND REMITTANCES IN THE  
CONTEXT OF SURGE IN OIL PRICES**

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## ABSTRACT

A decade ago, the Centre for Development Studies started migration research based on large-scale field surveys covering the whole of Kerala State as a one-time study. However, it soon developed itself as an ongoing project called Migration Monitoring Study, Kerala (MMS). This report gives the results of the latest of these studies (fourth in the series) carried out during August-December, 2008. It provides the latest hard data on emigration, return emigration and remittances to Kerala.

This study, reminiscent of the preceding ones, has brought out some unexpected goings-on in the migration trend in Kerala.

The first of these unexpected events is the large increase in emigration and return emigration since 2003. The common belief was that emigration from Kerala would decline as a result of the global recession in the Gulf countries and other principal destination countries of Kerala emigrants. Yet, the facts contradict that belief. The number of emigrants from Kerala has increased from 13.6 lakhs in 1998 to 18.4 lakhs in 2003 and to 21.9 lakhs in 2008. Simultaneously, the number of return emigrants has increased from 7.4 lakhs in 1998 to 8.9 lakhs in 2003 and to 11.6 lakhs in 2008. As a result, the number of non-resident Keralites has increased from 21.0 lakhs in 1998 to 27.3 lakhs in 2003 and to 33.5 lakhs in 2008.

While external migration has increased, internal migration has declined. The number of out-migrants from Kerala has declined from 11.2 lakhs in 2003 to 9.14 lakhs in 2008. The number of return out-migrants has declined from 9.9 lakhs in 2003 to 6.9 lakhs in 2008. The traditional tendency of Kerala youths to migrate to Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta etc for employment is giving way to emigration to Dubai, Kuwait, and other cities across the globe.

In 2008, for every 100 households in Kerala, there were 29 emigrants [EMI hereafter], 15 return emigrants [REM hereafter] and 44 non-resident Keralites [NRK hereafter].

The distribution of emigrants and return emigrants by district of origin and country of destination followed the same pattern observed in the earlier reports. No major shifts were observed. Malappuram district, with about 55.4 lakhs NRKs and 89 NRKs per 100 households retained its premier position in the emigration scenario in Kerala. But Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur districts are catching up.

The Gulf region retained its predominant position as the preferred destination of Kerala emigrants. Surprisingly, the declining trend (from 94 percent to 89 percent) observed during 1998-2003 in the proportion of Kerala emigrants in the Gulf did not continue during 2003-08. The proportion of Kerala emigrants in the Gulf remained constant at 89 percent in 2008 as in 2003. Emigration to the Gulf seems to have moved into a faster track in 2007-08.

There were, however, readjustments in the emigration pattern within the Gulf region. Saudi Arabia was the most preferred destination of Kerala emigrants in 1998 with 37.5 percent of emigrants from Kerala selecting Saudi Arabia as their destination. Since then, Saudi Arabia's share of Kerala emigrants had declined to 26.7 percent by 2003 and further to 23.0 percent by 2008. Saudi Arabia is certainly losing its shine for the Kerala emigrants. However, the absolute number of Kerala emigrants in Saudi Arabia has remained stable; it has not declined at all during the 10-year period.

On the other hand, the share of Kerala emigrants to United Arab Emirates (UAE) has enormously increased since 1998. Over the decade UAE's share has increased from 31.0 percent in 1998 to 41.9 percent in 2008.

The Muslim community continues to retain its pre-eminent position in emigration from Kerala. More than 40 percent of the

emigrants from Kerala are Muslims in 2008. Comparable figures are 37.7 percent for Hindus and 21.2 percent for Christians. Nevertheless, the increase in emigration during 2003-08 was much larger among the Hindus than among the other communities. The increase was 44.1 percent among the Hindus, but 12.0 percent among the Muslims and only 1.1 percent among the Christians. Thus, the Hindus of Kerala are catching up with Muslims in external migration. Until now, their dominance was in internal migration.

In spite of the huge increase in the absolute number of emigrants, the proportion of households that has either one or more emigrant or a return emigrant has remained stationary during 1998-2008. The percent of households with one or more emigrant or return emigrant was 26.7 in 1998 and 26.5 in 2008. Thus, even today, nearly three-fourths of Kerala's households are not directly exposed to emigration. This is a very important aspect that has to be taken into consideration in assessing the impact of emigration on Kerala society.

Emigration is expensive. On an average, the cost is Rs 57,000 per head. Much (54 percent) of it is for getting a visa. Ticket is another expensive item (23 percent). Emigrants dip into resources of the family, personal savings and savings of friends in order to emigrate. A few sell or pledge their land or house to raise resources. Others pledge their ornaments. Nobody get either Government or bank assistance for this purpose.

If the increase in the number of emigrants from 18.4 lakhs to 21.9 lakhs between 2003-08 was a surprise, the increase in remittance from 18.4 thousand crores in 2003 to 43.3 thousand crores in 2008 should be mind-boggling. Emigration increased by 19 percent between 2003-08, whereas remittances increased by 135 percent! This happened at a time when global financial crisis should normally have depressed remittances. But in the case of Kerala (and India as a whole), the global crisis has partly contributed to the acceleration in remittances.

A few factors could be cited as reasons for this phenomenal increase.

First could be the increase in oil price from \$50 a barrel to \$140 a barrel, which enabled Dubai and other Gulf countries to undertake construction activities at a pace unheard of earlier. The increased economic activity attracted a larger emigration to the Gulf and enhanced income for the emigrants.

Second, the global financial meltdown and the collapse of many international banks encouraged most Kerala emigrants to park their savings in banks in Kerala. As they were nationalized banks, they were thought to be much safer than the foreign banks.

Third, the exchange value of dollar (and Gulf currencies) increased from about Rs 38 per US dollar to over Rs 50 per US dollar in the course of a year. This 30 percent increase was a major factor in the flow of workers' remittances to Kerala.

However, only about 17.1 percent of the Kerala households in Kerala in 2008 had received remittances from abroad (household remittances); the other 83 percent did not.

In this study, as in earlier studies, a distinction is made between total remittances received in the state and remittances received by the household in the state for subsistence etc. We call the latter as 'Household Remittances'. 'Household Remittances' is only a fraction of the 'Total Remittances'.

Among the three religious groups, the Muslims households received the largest (34.7) proportion of remittances and the Hindus received the lowest (11.3 percent). While about 36 percent of the households in Malappuram district have received remittances, only 1.2 percent of the households in Idukki district have received remittances.

Talukwise total remittances in Kerala varied from Rs, 2,159 crores in Kollam taluk to near zero in Peermade taluk in Idukki district in 2008.

Inflow of about Rs 43,288 crores to the Kerala economy in 2008 by way of remittances has had a very significant effect on the state's economy and the living conditions. For a total population of 3.371 crores in Kerala in 2008, the total remittance of Rs 43,288 crores meant an average per capita remittance received of Rs 12,840. For an average household, the remittance received is Rs 57,215 per year. Remittances thus contributed substantially to the annual income of the households in Kerala.

Remittances were as much as a third (31 percent) of Kerala's National State Domestic Product in 2008. The per capita income of the state was Rs 41,814 excluding remittances, but would be as much as Rs 54,664 if remittances were also included.

The importance of remittances in Kerala is evident from the fact that remittances were 1.74 times the revenue receipt of the state, 5.5 times of the money Kerala received from the Central Government as a budgetary support and 2.3 times the annual non-plan expenditure of the Kerala Government. The remittances were sufficient to wipe out 70 percent of the state's debt in 2008. Remittances were 36 times the export earnings from cashew and 30 times of those from marine products.

But there is a flip side to this rosy picture. As indicated earlier, not all households has directly benefited from remittances; only 17.1 percent. Others could have benefited, but only indirectly.

There is also the regional disparity. While households in Malappuram district had received Rs 1,874 crores as household remittances, those in Idukki district had received only 45 crores.

Thus, the averages for the state mask considerably the disparity experienced by households, by religious groups, districts, taluks, etc.



Emigration from Kerala had been, and still is, predominantly male dominated. Females constituted just 14.6 percent of the Kerala emigrants in 2008. Although the proportion of females among emigrants in 2008 was higher than that in 1998 (9.3 percent), it was lower than that in 2003. The rapid increase in emigration in 2007 and 2008 was particularly male dominated.

90 percent of the male emigrants and 66 percent of female emigrants from Kerala belonged to the age group 15-39 years. A fairly large number of emigrants belonged to very young ages of 0-4 years, but there were few in the 5-14 age groups. Majority of the male migrants from Kerala were unmarried, 63 percents, and majority of the female emigrants were married, 55 percent.

Emigrants were better educated than the general population. They had 1.2 years more of schooling compared to the general population. About 47 percent of the emigrants had a minimum of secondary level education, and 20 percent had a degree. The corresponding percentages in the general population were 34.7 percent for secondary or higher levels, and 10.3 percent for degree level education.

One noteworthy feature of the educational situation of Kerala emigrants is the significant number (149,000 or 6.7 percent of the total) of illiterates among the emigrants in 2008.

Over the years 1998-2008, the educational level of the Kerala emigrants has improved substantially. The proportion with a minimum of secondary level education has increased from 40.5 percent in 1998 to 46.7 percent in 2008. Those with a degree has increased from 10.8 percent in 1998 to 20.0 percent in 2008

About 64 percent of the Kerala emigrants were gainfully employed before emigration, but 87.2 percent of them were gainfully employed at destination. About 20 percent of the emigrants were unemployed before

emigration, but at destination only 1 percent of them were unemployed. As a result of emigration, the number of unemployed persons in Kerala would have decreased by 446,000.

Economic activity is classified into 11 sectors such as job seekers, self-employment, private sector etc. The noteworthy transition in the economic activity of the emigrants was the movement to the "private sector" from other sectors (mostly from job seekers and self-employment) of economic activity. Before emigration their number was 429,000, but after emigration 1,183,000 were employed in private sector. Decrease in unemployment and increase in employment in private sector are the most noteworthy features of employment transition associated with emigration.

As regards internal migration, only about 24 percent of the out-migrants from Kerala were gainfully employed before migration, 25 percent were unemployed and 51 percent were outside the labour force. The unemployment rate among the out-migrants was as high as 51.5 percent compared to 8.7 percent in the general population. One out of two out-migrants was outside the labour force.

At destination states, 56 percent were gainfully employed, just 2.1 percent were unemployed and 42.5 percent were not in the labour force. The unemployment rate was only 3.6 percent.

Thus emigration as well as out-migration of Keralites was a major factor in reducing unemployment rate to a low level of 8.7 percent in Kerala.

One significant aspect of internal migration of Kerala in recent years is the increase in out-migration of students. In 2008, among the 11 sectors of economic activities applied in this study, the "students" category scored the highest number of out-migrants from Kerala, 241,000 out of a total of 914,000 (26.4 percent). Forty percent of the student out-

migrants went to Karnataka and 24 percent went to Tamil Nadu. About 2.4 percent went as far to a state like Jammu and Kashmir.

In the 2003 and the 2007 surveys, students were the second largest group among the out-migrants. In 1998, the students were the third largest group, after unemployed and non-agricultural labour. Thus, over the 10-year period, students have become the major group among the out-migrants from Kerala.

"Students constituted the second largest proportion of out-migrants from Kerala (25.8 percent). Among them 47.5 percent were Christians although in the general population, Christians constituted only less than 20 percent. One of the smallest districts in the state, Pathanamthitta, sent out the largest number of students outside the state (17.2 percent of the total migrant students from the state). These statistics have a story to tell about the inadequacy of post-metric educational facilities in the state" CDS Working Paper 395 (December 2007) pp35-36,

The situation described above is valid in 2008 also. The difference is that students have become the number one group among the out-migrants, not number two. But the geographical and cultural concentration has eased a little. In 2008, only 38.1 percent of the student out-migrants are Christians (compared to 47.5 percent in 2007). It is no longer Pathanamthitta district, but Kottayam district, that sent out the largest proportion of student out-migrants. The three southern Kerala districts, Kottayam, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta, together had send out 36 percent of the student out-migrants from Kerala. Palakkad district s has improved its rank among the districts that have sent out students out of Kerala.

What Pathanamthitta Christians began as a pioneering effort to meet their educational needs, the other communities in other districts are following up now in larger numbers. If the trend during the past 10

years is any guide, out-migration to other states in India and emigration to countries outside India would emerge as a major solution to the shrinking educational opportunities for the young men and women in Kerala, especially for those constrained by the reservation policies of the state.

In the past, the youths of Kerala used to get their education within the state and move out to other states for employment. Now, Kerala youths move out to other states for education and to other countries for employment.

CDS Migration Monitoring Studies monitor not only migration, but also the employment situation in the state. Comparable statistics on employment and unemployment are provided by these studies for the 10-year period 1998-2008.

The number of gainfully employed persons in 2008 was 8.4 million. The decade 1998-2008 saw a systematic decline in the number of employed persons in the state, from 9.9 million in 1998 to 9.7 million in 2003 and to 8.4 million in 2008. The ratio of employed persons to population 15 years or older decreased from 43.4 percent in 1998 to 39.8 in 2003 and further to 32.4 in 2008.

The study revealed that there was a dramatic decline in unemployment rate in Kerala since 2003. In 2008, there were only 787,000 unemployed persons in Kerala, compared to 2,292,000 in 2003. Unemployment had decreased by 1.505 million persons during 2003-08, 602,000 among males and 903,000 among females.

The unemployment rate was just 8.6 percent in 2008, 5.6 among males and 18.2 among females. Five years earlier, in 2003, the rates were 19.2 percent for the total population, 11.2 among males and 41.2 among females. Ten years earlier in 1998, unemployment rate was only 11.2 percent, 7.5 percent among males and 23.1 percent among females.

In 2008, the highest unemployment rate for any district in Kerala was in Pathanamthitta district (11.1 percent). Its neighboring district, Kollam had more or less the same level of unemployment (11.0 percent). Malappuram district and Kasaragode district also had relatively high unemployment rates.

Wayanad district recorded the lowest unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. The rate in Palakkad district was also relatively low, at 6.1 percent. These were the two districts where National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) scheme was introduced first in Kerala

**Concluding Remarks:** According to Migration Monitoring Study 1998, emigration and consequent remittances had provided the single most dynamic factor in the otherwise dismal economic scenario of Kerala in the last quarter of the twentieth century. At that time, remittances were 25 percent of Kerala's NSDP. Ten years later, in 2008, remittances were 31 percent of NSDP. Emigration and remittances continued to remain the single most dynamic factor even in the greatly improved economic scenario of Kerala in the first decade of the 21st century.

There is however one sticky point. While everything about emigration from Kerala is dynamic, there is one element in Kerala's emigration scenario that is absolutely stagnant. The proportion of households with an emigrant or the proportion of households that has received remittances from abroad is absolutely stagnant at about 16-18 percent. This proportion has not moved a bit since 1998. The vast majority of Kerala households, over 80 percent, are still not direct participants of this great phenomenon that is transforming Kerala's economy and society. How to open up KERALA's GULF CONNECTION to a larger segment of Kerala households should be something of a challenge to planners and policy makers in the state.

### **The Migration Monitoring Study 2008 (MMS, 2008)**

The 2008 Migration Monitoring Survey, fourth in the CDS series, conducted ten years after the first survey in 1998, received financial support from the Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs, Government of Kerala. In this survey, the sample size was enhanced to 15,000 households (Table 1) from 10,000 households, the sample size of the earlier three migration surveys. The increase in sample size - with a minimum of 1,000 households in any one district - is expected to yield reliable migration estimates at the district level. However, as the sampling was not proportional, estimation procedure became more complicated (see Table 2, sampling fraction by districts). As in 2003, the 2008 survey also had panel data from 3,168 households. The panel data generated by the MMS 2008 are as follows:

Panel	Number of Households
1998-2008	725
2003-2008	1061
1998-2003-2008	1382
Total	3168

As in the 1998 survey, the 2008 survey also canvassed five types of schedules.

Schedule I dealt with household data and information on migrants. This schedule was canvassed in all the 15,000 sample households. It had 10 blocks. The first block brought out the identifying characteristics of the household. The second block elicited information on members; the third block was for identification of return migrants and their characteristics; in the next block, the number of emigrants and out-migrants and their characteristics were recorded; Blocks five and six provided additional information about households and remittances. Blocks seven and eight elicited information on the cost of migration

and source of financing migration. The last two blocks recaptured the information on emigrants and return emigrants.

Schedule II is focused on return emigrants enumerated in all 15,000 households. It had six blocks: Block one provided s identification of return emigrants from the main module. Blocks 2 to 4 elicited information on the migrant's characteristics before emigration, emigration experience and working and living conditions in the country of destination. Blocks five and six collected information of post-return phases and their future plans.

Schedule III collected information on annual household consumer expenditure, savings and investment behaviour among 3,000 households randomly selected from out of the 15,000 households. Ten households each were canvassed in all 300 localities in Kerala. This module was introduced for the first time in the MMS.

Schedule IV focused on 'migration and the elderly' in 3,000 sample households. It had eight blocks. While the first two blocks collected data on identification particulars of the household and the general information about the elderly, the remaining blocks concentrated on gathering information about living arrangements, economic and financial security, health status and nutrition.

Schedule V focused on women whose husbands were currently away (Gulf wives). This module was canvassed throughout Kerala. The schedule was used to collect information on the characteristics of the women and their husbands, history of the separation of wives, means of communication, remittances and autonomy, bringing up of children, coping with additional responsibilities and problems and prospects of emigration.

### **Sample and Population, 2008**

As mentioned above, the sampling fraction varied s from district to district. Wayanad district had the highest fraction (0.00528) and

**Table 1: Sample Size by Districts of Kerala, 2008**

Districts	Number of sample Households			Number of sample Localities		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Thiruvananthapuram	1200	800	400	24	16	8
Kollam	1150	950	200	23	19	4
Pathanamthitta	1000	900	100	20	18	2
Alappuzha	1000	700	300	20	14	6
Kottayam	1000	850	150	20	17	3
Idukki	1000	950	50	20	19	1
Ernakulam	1200	650	550	24	13	11
Thrissur	1150	850	300	23	17	6
Palakkad	1000	850	150	20	17	3
Malappuram	1150	1050	100	23	21	2
Kozhikode	1150	750	400	23	15	8
Wayanad	1000	950	50	20	19	1
Kannur	1000	500	500	20	10	10
Kasaragod	1000	800	200	20	16	4
TOTAL	15000	11550	3450	300	231	69

Thiruvananthapuram district had the lowest (0.00139). Since sampling fraction varied considerably, simple comparison of the total from sample with the census total was not valid. Estimates from the sample at the state level are obtained as a weighted sum from the district totals. For example in the sample, - the total number of Hindus in Kerala is obtained first by estimating the number of Hindus in each district and the total for Kerala is obtained as a weighted sum from the district totals, the weights being the reciprocal of the sampling fraction (721.5 in the case of Thiruvananthapuram District).



In this paper, most variables are analysed further at two levels on the basis of (i) district and (ii) religion. A necessary input for this analysis is the number of households by district in 2008 and the number of households by religion. The number of households and population by districts in 2008 are given in Table 2. The number of households by district and religion is given in Table 3. These numbers are the basis for the estimation of all the variables such as EMI, REM, Household Remittances, total gainfully employed persons at the state level, total unemployed, employment rate, unemployment rate, etc.

**Table 2: Population, HHs, Sampling Fraction, Raising Factor by District, MMS 2008**

Districts	Population 2008 Census Based	HHS 2008 Census Based	Sample HHs Survey	Samp- ling fraction	Raising Factor
Thiruvananthapuram	3432154	865766	1200	0.00139	721.5
Kollam	2702360	673863	1150	0.00171	586.0
Pathanamthitta	1258357	323664	1000	0.00309	323.7
Alappuzha	2174580	545129	1000	0.00183	545.1
Kottayam	2034582	489996	1000	0.00204	490.0
Idukki	1159103	287827	1000	0.00347	287.8
Ernakulam	3305307	801124	1200	0.00150	667.6
Thrissur	3131320	730886	1150	0.00157	635.6
Palakkad	2777238	590947	1000	0.00169	590.9
Malappuram	4010654	626213	1150	0.00184	544.5
Kozhikode	3058467	655297	1150	0.00175	569.8
Wayanad	859832	189368	1000	0.00528	189.4
Kannur	2511940	527520	1000	0.00190	527.5
Kasaragode	1297935	258184	1000	0.00387	258.2
Kerala	33713826	7565784	15000	0.00198	504.4

The un-weighted estimates are found to be smaller (or underestimates) than weighted estimates in most cases.

**Table 3 Number of Households by District and Religion, 2008**

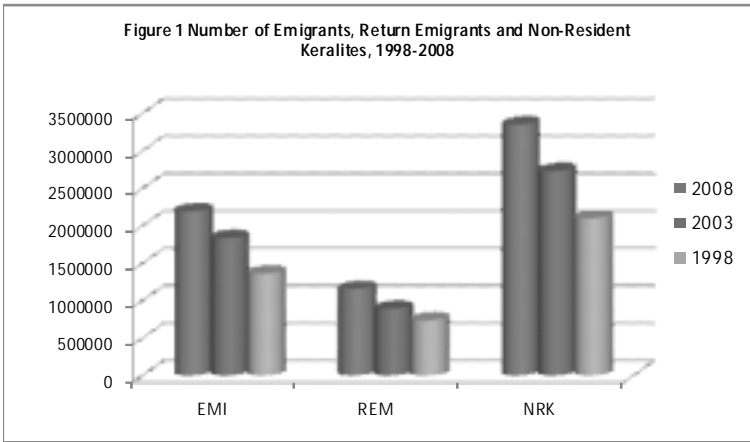
Districts	Hindus	Christians	Muslims	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	495651	222213	147902	865766
Kollam	505690	124811	43362	673863
Pathanamthitta	166040	145325	12299	323664
Alappuzha	415388	101394	28347	545129
Kottayam	243038	217558	29400	489996
Idukki	141611	125205	21011	287827
Ernakulam	381869	269712	149543	801124
Thrissur	411203	171599	148084	730886
Palakkad	436119	20092	134736	590947
Malappuram	169894	21237	435082	626213
Kozhikode	375514	18804	260979	655297
Wayanad	106614	47153	35601	189368
Kannur	391947	51169	84403	527520
Kasaragode	171951	20397	65837	258184
Kerala	4412529	1556669	1596586	7565784

### Emigrants

According to Table 4, the number of Kerala migrants living outside India in 2008 was 21.9 lakhs. The corresponding number in 2003 was 18.4 lakhs and that in 1998 was 13.6 lakhs. During the 10-year period 1998-2008 the number of emigrants from Kerala has increased by 8.3 lakhs. The increase was larger during the earlier 5-year period 1998-2003 compared to that in the later 5-year period, 2003-08 (See Figures 1 and 2).

**Table 4: Number of Emigrants (EMI) 1998, 2003 and 2008**

Districts	EMI				Increase				EMI per 100HHs			
	2008	2003	1998	2003-08	1998-03	1998-08	2008	2003	1998	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	308481	168046	130705	140435	37341	177776	35.6	21.5	19.9			
Kollam	207516	148457	102977	59059	45480	104539	30.8	24.4	18.4			
Pathanamthitta	120990	133720	97505	-12730	36215	23485	37.4	44.3	33.1			
Alappuzha	131719	75036	62870	56683	12166	68849	24.2	15.2	13.2			
Kottayam	89351	106569	35494	-17218	71075	53857	18.2	24.0	9.1			
Idukki	5792	7880	7390	-2088	490	-1598	2.0	2.9	2.9			
Ernakulam	120979	121237	103750	-258	17487	17229	15.1	16.9	17.0			
Thrissur	284068	178867	161102	105201	17765	122966	38.9	27.2	25.6			
Palakkad	189815	177876	116026	11939	61850	73789	32.1	32.6	21.8			
Malappuram	334572	271787	296710	62785	-24923	37862	53.4	45.0	49.2			
Kozhikode	199163	167436	116026	31727	51410	83137	30.4	28.6	22.0			
Wayanad	13996	7704	4552	6292	3152	9444	7.4	4.4	2.9			
Kannur	119119	202414	88065	-83295	114349	31054	22.6	43.2	19.0			
Kasaragode	67851	71449	38747	-3598	32702	29104	26.3	30.6	19.1			
Kerala	2193412	1838478	1361919	354934	476559	831493	29.0	26.7	21.4			



### Return Emigrants

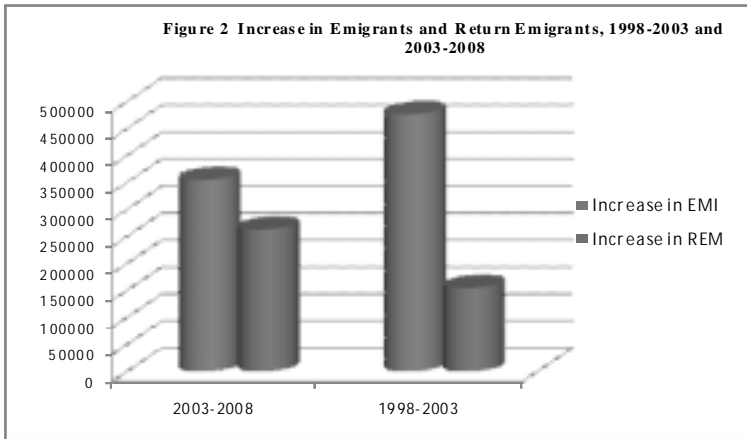
Return migration is an inevitable aspect of any migration process. Migration begets migration; emigration begets return emigration. The larger the emigration, the larger would be return emigration. Return emigration is a built-in aspect of the emigration process. This is particularly true of Gulf migration where almost all emigration is of short duration and temporary in nature. Workers go out on a contract basis for a few years leaving behind their families and return to Kerala when the contract period is over or when they feel that they have earned sufficient income to meet their immediate financial needs.

Return emigration statistics given in Table 5 tell this story convincingly. The increase in return emigration between 2003 and 2008 is commensurate with increase in emigration during the same period.

The number of return emigrants in 2008 was 11.6 lakhs. The corresponding number in 2003 was 8.9 lakhs and that for 1998 is 7.4 lakhs. The number increased by 263,000 during 2003-08 and by 155,000 during 1998-2003. Thus, in the case of REM, the increase in the latter 5-year period was greater compared to the earlier 5-year period.

Table 5: Number of Return Emigrants (REM) 1998, 2003 and 2008

Districts	REM				Increase				REM per 100HHs			
	2008	2003	1998	2003-08	1998-03	1998-08	2008	2003	1998	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	215280	103059	118878	112221	-15819	96402	24.9	13.2	18.1	24.9	13.2	18.1
Kollam	124066	69314	74106	54752	-4792	49960	18.4	11.4	13.2	18.4	11.4	13.2
Pathanamthitta	60554	83502	54537	-22948	28965	6017	18.7	27.7	18.5	18.7	27.7	18.5
Alappuzha	51024	43109	34572	7915	8537	16452	9.4	8.7	7.2	9.4	8.7	7.2
Kottayam	26448	28368	18164	-1920	10204	8284	5.4	6.4	4.6	5.4	6.4	4.6
Idukki	3213	3766	5017	-553	-1251	-1804	1.1	1.4	2.0	1.1	1.4	2.0
Ernakulam	68860	74435	45028	-5575	29407	23832	8.6	10.4	7.4	8.6	10.4	7.4
Thrissur	174655	86029	116788	88626	-30759	57867	23.9	13.1	18.6	23.9	13.1	18.6
Palakkad	85318	55008	39238	30310	15770	46080	14.4	10.1	7.4	14.4	10.1	7.4
Malappuram	219736	141537	123750	78199	17787	95986	35.1	23.5	20.5	35.1	23.5	20.5
Kozhikode	72405	109101	60910	-36696	48191	11495	11.0	18.6	11.5	11.0	18.6	11.5
Wayanad	1930	3852	3327	-1922	525	-1397	1.0	2.2	2.1	1.0	2.2	2.1
Kannur	26416	45394	28263	-18978	17131	-1847	5.0	9.7	6.1	5.0	9.7	6.1
Kasaragode	27222	47468	16667	-20246	30801	10555	10.5	20.3	8.2	10.5	20.3	8.2
Kerala	1157127	893942	739245	263185	154697	417882	15.3	13.0	11.6	15.3	13.0	11.6



### Non-resident Keralites

A 'non-resident Keralite' is a person who is either an emigrant or a return emigrant. The number of Non-Resident Keralites (NRK=EMI+REM) in 2008 was 33.5 lakhs. The corresponding number in 2003 was 27.3 lakhs and that for 1998 was 21.0 lakhs.

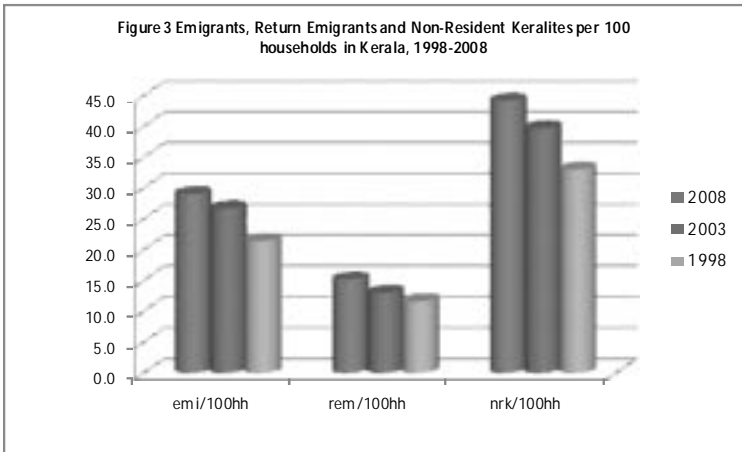
The number of NRKs had increased by 618,000 during 2003-08 and by 631,000 during 1998-2003. Thus in the case of NRKs, the increase in the last 5-year period was lower compared to the earlier 5-year period; however, the difference is not impressive (just 13,000 persons).

### Migrants per Household

The increase in the number of emigrants and return emigrants during 2003-08 was not entirely due to increase in population during the 10-year period. This is indicated by the trend in number of emigrants per 100 households. The number of EMI per 100 HHs increased from 21.4 per cent in 1998 to 26.7 per cent in 2003 and to 29.0 per cent in 2008. The increase during 2003-2008 (2.3 percentage points) was relatively small compared with the increase during 1998-2003 (5.3 percentage points).

**Table 6: Number of Non-Resident Keralites (NRK) 1998, 2003 and 2008**

Districts	NRK		Increase					NRK per 100HHs		
	2008	2003	1998	2003-08	1998-03	1998-08	2008	2003	1998	
Thiruvananthapuram	523761	271105	249583	252656	21522	274178	60.5	34.7	38.0	
Kollam	331582	217771	177083	113811	40688	154499	49.2	35.8	31.6	
Pathanamthitta	181544	217222	152042	-35679	65180	29501	56.1	72.0	51.6	
Alappuzha	182743	118145	97442	64599	20703	85302	33.5	23.9	20.4	
Kottayam	115799	134937	53658	-19138	81279	62141	23.6	30.4	13.7	
Idukki	9005	11646	12407	-2641	-761	-3402	3.1	4.3	4.9	
Ernakulam	189839	195672	148778	-5833	46894	41061	23.7	27.3	24.4	
Thrissur	458723	264896	277890	193827	-12994	180833	62.8	40.3	44.2	
Palakkad	275133	232884	155264	42249	77620	119869	46.6	42.7	29.2	
Malappuram	554308	413324	420460	140984	-7136	133848	88.5	68.5	69.7	
Kozhikode	271568	276537	176936	-4969	99601	94632	41.4	47.2	33.5	
Wayanad	15926	11556	7879	4370	3677	8047	8.4	6.6	5.0	
Kannur	145535	247808	116328	-102273	131480	29207	27.6	52.9	25.1	
Kasaragode	95073	118917	55414	-23844	63503	39659	36.8	50.9	27.3	
Kerala	3350539	2732420	2101164	618119	631256	1249375	44.3	39.7	33.0	



The number of REM per 100 HHs increased from 11.6 per cent in 1998 to 13.0 per cent in 2003 and to 15.1 per cent in 2008. The increase in REM during 2003-2008 (2.1 percentage points) was relatively larger compared with the increase during 1998-2003 (1.4 percentage points).

It is important to note that the rate of increase in emigrants per household has decreased between the two five-year periods, 1998-2003 and 2003-08, while the increase in the rate of return emigrants per household has increased during the same period. This point is important in the context of the global recession.

### **Emigration Trend**

Emigrants by year of emigration is obtained by updating the corresponding table in the report for Kerala Migration Survey 2003 using the information from the year of emigration of EMI and year of first emigration of the REM who were enumerated 2008. The data on the trend is given Table 7.



**Table 7: Trends in Emigration from Kerala, 1982-2008**

Year	EMI	Year	EMI	Year	EMI
1982	230740	1991	566668	2000	1501917
1983	274804	1992	637103	2001	1600465
1984	273342	1993	754544	2002	1717695
1985	313980	1994	819025	2003	1838478
1986	329083	1995	957388	2004	1900113
1987	364909	1996	1062376	2005	1990441
1988	405513	1997	1178589	2006	2093520
1989	449611	1998	1318489	2007	2165782
1990	510214	1999	1412649	2008	2193411

**Migration Estimates and Global Recession: Some Observations**

The estimates of EMI, REM given above are based on a very large sample of households selected at random from all the Taluks in the state. Earlier calculations based on the results of the 2008 survey indicated that a sample of 15,000 households is more than adequate to give a statistically reliable estimate of migration. There is no reason to mistrust the migration estimate given above. Yet, the significant increase in emigration observed in 2008 is somewhat at odds with the common belief that emigration from Kerala should have declined as a result of the global recession that did not spare the Gulf countries and other principal destination countries of Kerala emigrants.

Recent newspaper reports in India and abroad foresaw a dismal future for of the Indian emigrants, especially the vast number of construction workers in Dubai. Dubai was in crisis, said one report:

"The real estate bubble that propelled the frenetic expansion of Dubai on the back of borrowed cash and speculative investment has burst. Banks have stopped lending and the stock market has plunged 70 per cent.

Luxury hotels are three-quarters empty.... At the airport, hundreds of cars have apparently been abandoned in recent weeks. Keys are left in the ignition".

"Those who suffer the most are the construction workers from the Indian subcontinent. The Indian embassy is reportedly anticipating an exodus, with 20,000 seats on flights to India already "bulk booked" for next month".

*"Global financial crisis hits hard in Dubai": Guardian Newspapers Limited, reproduced in The Hindu, February 16, 2009*

Three points are particularly relevant in evaluating the impact of global financial crisis on emigration from Kerala to the Gulf countries.

**First**, the Gulf economy is completely reliant on foreign workers, and this reliance is not likely to go away any time in the near future. Kerala emigrants constitute a very large component of the foreign workers in the Gulf countries.

**Second**, the Gulf economy is not anywhere near a complete standstill. "The building projects still in play are almost the equivalent of the US stimulus package" (**Guardian Report**). These projects would certainly require construction workers, not only architects and software engineers, but also just ordinary workers from Kerala. The Gulf can live without super luxury projects such as "Palm Jumeirah", the Atlantis or the Donald Trump tower. But can they manage without the Indian housemaids, hospital nurses, shop assistants, hotel waiters, bank clerks, and just ordinary construction workers who constitute the bulk of Kerala emigrants?

**Third**, not all Gulf States are hit as hard as the State of Dubai by the depression. Therefore, it need not be all bad news for the Kerala emigrants in the region as a whole.

The main conclusion of this study is that there is no indication currently of any significant slowdown of emigration from the state. There is also no indication of any large-scale return of former emigrants back to Kerala. There is no evidence of an "exodus" of Kerala emigrants from the Gulf region (*returning back to their motherland*) before December 2008. It is, however, possible that the situation might have changed after December 2008.

A few external statistics are available to provide independent support to the conclusions arrived from MMS 2008 about the level of emigration and return emigration.

One is the number of passengers carried by the airlines from Thiruvananthapuram to the Gulf countries. The following data are provided by the Manager of Air India, Thiruvananthapuram.

	No. of Passengers during August-December		
	2007	2008	% increase
Thiruvananthapuram to Gulf Countries (outward)	190,693	193,063	+1.2
Gulf to Thiruvananthapuram (inward)	155,522	172,308	+10.8

These numbers indicate that there was an increase in air traffic between the Gulf and Thiruvananthapuram during the last quarter of 2008. Both outward traffic and inward traffic have increased during August-December 2008 compared to the corresponding period in 2007. It is important to note that there was no decrease in the number of persons who travelled to the Gulf from Thiruvananthapuram. The overall trend provided by these data is more or less in agreement with the trend shown by the MMS, 2008.

A second independent source of supporting data is the number of Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) endorsements given by the

Ministry of Overseas Indians in Kerala. The number of such endorsements in Kerala was 129,083 in 2006, 150,475 in 2007 and 180,703 in 2008. The 2008 number is much larger than the corresponding number in earlier years. There is no evidence of a decline in emigration from Kerala. (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs Annual Report, 2008-2009).

A third is the NRI deposits in commercial banks in Kerala in 2008 and 2007. The deposits totaled Rs. 33,304 crores in March 2007, Rs. 29,890 crores in March 2008, Rs. 31,586 crores in September 2008 and Rs. 34,649 crores in December 2008.

All these figures provide indirect support to the conclusion that emigration from Kerala has not decreased in 2008. Although return emigration had increased, the increase was not an 'exodus' of panic proportions.

Two caveats are required to be mentioned by way of conclusion.

**First**, the data given in this report refers to the pre-December 2008 period. The migration situation in this report could be reflecting the hangover from the \$140 oil price on the Gulf economy. The effect of a \$40 oil price could be different. That will be reflected in the AMS 2009 survey which will begin in a few weeks from now. The data on the number of ECR passports issued in Kerala in the first half of 2009 indicate a significant decline, especially of prospective emigration to the United Arab Emirates, particularly to Dubai.

**Second**, emigration and emigrants' remittances are so critical to the Kerala economy that a more frequent monitoring of the migration situation in Kerala is urgently called for.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

### **Emigrants by District of Origin in Kerala**

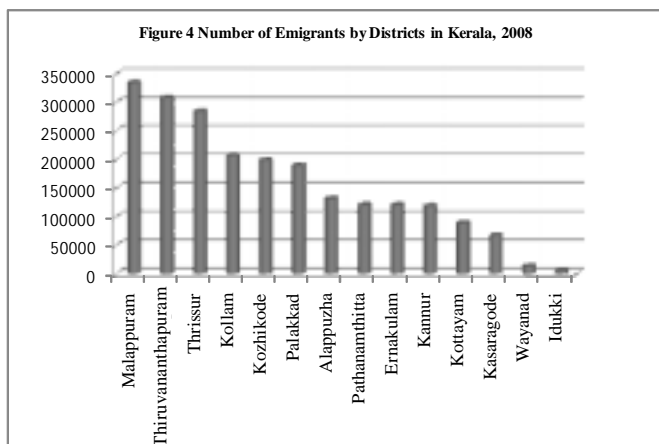
Estimates of the number of emigrants by district is much more reliable in MMS 2008 than in earlier surveys as the number of sample

households now is more than 1,000 in each of the districts. Therefore, migration estimates in earlier surveys in districts with a smaller number of households such as Pathanamthitta district is not as reliable as those with larger number of households such as Thiruvananthapuram district. (See Migration estimates by Taluk in Appendix I)

Table 4 indicates that the largest number of emigrants from Kerala originated from Malappuram district, 335,000 out of a total of 21.9 lakhs for Kerala as a whole (15.3 per cent). Thiruvananthapuram district comes next with an emigration of 308,000 or 14.1 per cent of the total. As in previous years, Wayand and Idukki contain relatively few emigrants (see Figure 4).

Like at the state level, the number of emigrants has increased in most districts. Thiruvananthapuram district showed the largest increase during 2003-2008, 140,000. Next in order was Thrissur district with an increase of 105,000.

During the 10-year period (1998-2008), six districts experienced a decrease in the number of emigrants. The other eight districts showed increases of different magnitudes. The largest increases were in



**Table 8: Percentage Distribution of EMI, REM and NRK by Districts of Kerala, 2008**

Districts	EMI	REM	Difference (REM-EMI)	NRK
Thiruvananthapuram	14.1	18.6	4.5	15.6
Kollam	9.5	10.7	1.2	9.9
Pathanamthitta	5.5	5.2	-0.3	5.4
Alappuzha	6.0	4.5	-1.6	5.5
Kottayam	4.1	2.3	-1.8	3.5
Idukki	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3
Ernakulam	5.5	6.0	0.5	5.7
Thrissur	13.0	15.1	2.1	13.7
Palakkad	8.7	7.4	-1.3	8.2
Malappuram	15.3	19.0	3.7	16.5
Kozhikode	9.1	6.3	-2.8	8.1
Wayanad	0.6	0.2	-0.5	0.5
Kannur	5.4	2.3	-3.1	4.3
Kasaragode	3.1	2.4	-0.7	2.8
Kerala	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0

Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur. Surprisingly, Malappuram district experienced a relative smaller increase of just 63,000 emigrants. The districts which showed significant decreases were Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Kannur.

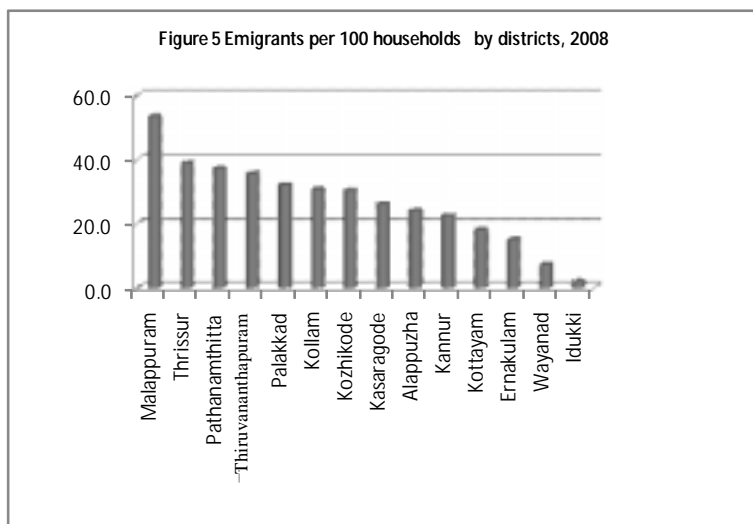
During 1998-2003, only Malappuram showed a decrease in emigration; all the other districts experienced increases of varying magnitudes. For the 10-year period 1998-2008, Idduki was the only district which experienced a decrease in the number of emigrants.

### **Emigration Rate by Districts**

Malappuram district was the source of the largest number of emigrants in 2008; it also was the one with the highest emigration rate

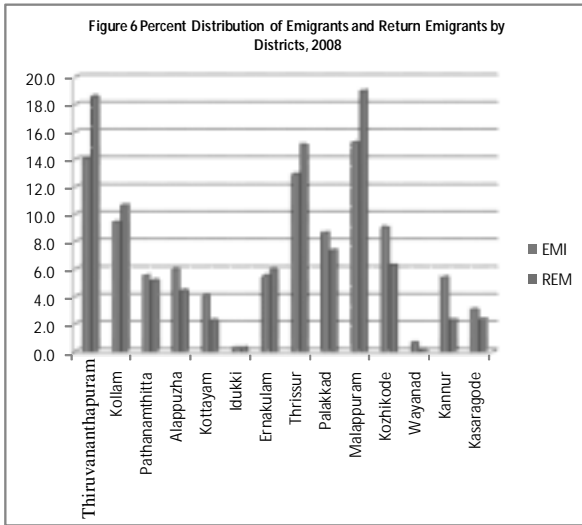
(53.4 emigrants per 100 households). This compares well with 38.9 in Thrissur district, 37.4 in Pathanamthitta district, 35.6 emigrants in Thiruvananthapuram district. These are the districts where the impact of emigration is the highest.

Over the 10-year period 1998-2008 emigration rate in Malappuram had increased from 49.2 per cent to 53.4 per cent. The increase was much larger in some other districts. In Thiruvananthapuram, for example, emigration rate increased from 19.9 per cent in 1998 to 35.6 per cent in 2008. In Thrissur, the rate had increased from 25.6 per cent to 38.9 per cent. The districts that experienced decreases in emigration rate were Ernakulam and Idukki.



### Return Emigrants by District of Residence

Return emigration is a consequence of emigration. As a result, districts that have a large number of emigrants should be expected to have a large number of return emigrants.



This is generally true. However, the emigrants, when they return to their motherland, wish to settle down in more attractive places. This causes variations in the relative composition of return emigrants in different districts. Thiruvananthapuram district contained about 18.6 per cent of the return emigrants but had only 14.1 per cent of the emigrants. This is true of Malappuram district also, wherein 19.0 per cent of the Kerala return emigrants resided, but which sent out only 15.3 per cent of the emigrants. Surprisingly, Kozhikode district is not among the attractive places to the return emigrants for settling down. This is true also of Kannur district. Other unattractive districts for the return emigrants are Alappuzha, Kottayam and Palakkad districts. Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Malappuram are the most attractive districts for the return emigrants to settle down. (See Tables 8 and 9 and Figure 6).

### **Emigrants' Destination Countries**

The beginning of accelerated emigration from Kerala commenced in the 1970s. From that time, Gulf countries have been the principal destination of Kerala emigrants. It was true in 2008 also. Kerala



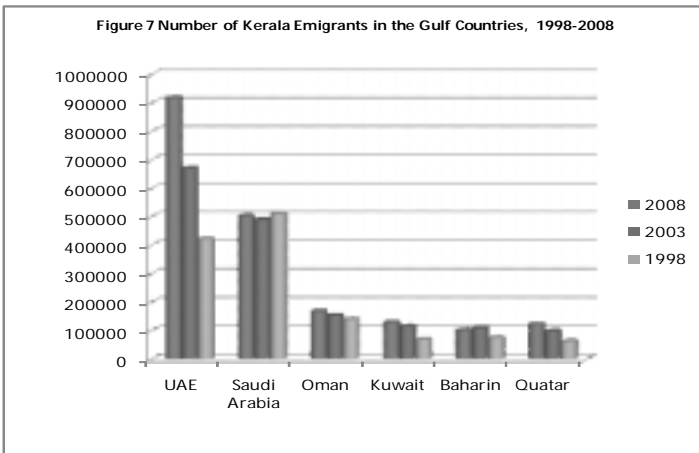
**Table 9: Percentage Distribution of EMI, REM and NRK by Districts, 1998-2008**

Districts	Emigrants			Return Emigrants			Non-Resident Keralites		
	2008	2003	1998	2008	2003	1998	2008	2003	1998
Thiruvananthapuram	14.1	9.1	9.6	18.6	11.5	16.1	15.6	9.9	11.9
Kollam	9.5	8.1	7.6	10.7	7.8	10.0	9.9	8.0	8.4
Pathanamthitta	5.5	7.3	7.2	5.2	9.3	7.4	5.4	7.9	7.2
Alappuzha	6.0	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	5.5	4.3	4.6
Kottayam	4.1	5.8	2.6	2.3	3.2	2.5	3.5	4.9	2.6
Idukki	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.6
Ernakulam	5.5	6.6	7.6	6.0	8.3	6.1	5.7	7.2	7.1
Thrissur	13.0	9.7	11.8	15.1	9.6	15.8	13.7	9.7	13.2
Palakkad	8.7	9.7	8.5	7.4	6.2	5.3	8.2	8.5	7.4
Malappuram	15.3	14.8	21.8	19.0	15.8	16.7	16.5	15.1	20.0
Kozhikode	9.1	9.1	8.5	6.3	12.2	8.2	8.1	10.1	8.4
Wayanad	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Kannur	5.4	11.0	6.5	2.3	5.1	3.8	4.3	9.1	5.5
Kasaragode	3.1	3.9	2.8	2.4	5.3	2.3	2.8	4.4	2.6
Kerala	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

emigration, even today, is essentially emigration to the Gulf countries. In 1998, 93.9 per cent of Kerala emigrants selected one of the Gulf countries as their destination. By 2003, the corresponding percentage declined somewhat to little less than 89 per cent. Between 2003 and 2008, the Gulf's relative importance as a destination region had changed very little. From 89.0 per cent, the percentage had declined to 88.5 per cent, a statistically insignificant change.

The changes in the targets of destination among the Gulf region were more marked. Saudi Arabia was the principal destination in 1998 with 37.5 per cent of emigrants from Kerala emigrating to that country. Since then, Saudi Arabia's share of Kerala emigrants had declined to 26.7 per cent in 2003 and further to 23.0 per cent in 2008. Saudi Arabia is certainly losing its magnetism to attract the Kerala emigrants. However, the absolute number of Kerala emigrants in Saudi Arabia has remained stable; it has not declined at all during the 10-year period.

On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has enormously improved its share of Kerala emigrants since 1998. Over the decade, the UAE's share has increased from 31.0 per cent in 1998 to 41.9 per cent in 2008.





Outside the Gulf region, the principal destination of Kerala emigrants is the United States of America with 102,000 emigrants or 4.7 per cent of Kerala emigrants. Between 2003 and 2008 the share of the USA has declined from 5.3 per cent to 4.7 per cent. The United Kingdom is another important destination of Kerala emigrants.

### **Country of Departure of Return Emigrants**

While 88.5 per cent of the emigrants went to one of the Gulf countries, as much as 95 per cent of the return emigrants turned up from one of the Gulf countries. Emigrants in the USA, Canada, the UK, etc., seldom return. Most of them settle there on a permanent basis.

About 42 per cent of Kerala emigrants resided in the UAE, but only 34 per cent of the return emigrants arrived from UAE. On the other hand, 23 per cent of the emigrants resided in Saudi Arabia, but as much as 33.4 per cent of the return emigrants came back from Saudi Arabia. The average number of years of residence of Kerala emigrants is much lower in Saudi Arabia than in the UAE. Saudi Arabia is not as attractive as the UAE for Kerala emigrants. This is somewhat true of Oman also where 7.6 per cent of the emigrants from Kerala live and from where 12.7 per cent of the return emigrants came back.

If the percentage of Kerala emigrants who reside in a country is greater than the percentage of Kerala return emigrants from that country, then that country is deemed attractive. On the basis of this measure, attractive countries for the Kerala emigrants are UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, USA, Canada, UK, South Africa, Malaysia and Australia

**Table 11: Average Duration in Years of Residence Abroad among Return Emigrants, 2008**

UAE	9.29
Saudi Arabia	7.83
Oman	8.52
Kuwait	7.48
Bahrain	9.48
Qatar	9.69

## Religious Composition

According to the 2001 Census, 56.3 per cent of Kerala's population are Hindus, 19.0 per cent are Christians and 24.7 percent are Muslims. The distribution of emigrants by religion is different from that of the total population. Majority of the emigrants are Muslims. About 41.1 per cent are Muslims, 37.7 per cent of them are Hindus and the remaining 21.2 per cent are Christians (Table 12).

The differences among the three religious groups become all the more glaring when emigrants per 100 households are considered. The number of emigrants per 100 for the Hindu households is 18.7, indicating a significant increase in emigration among the Hindus between 2003 and 2008. It is 29.9 among the Christians indicating a decline in emigration propensity among them. Among the Muslims the percentage of emigrants per household remained constant around 56.4 .

**Table 12: Emigrants, and Emigrants Per 100 households by Religion, 2008**

Religion	Per cent distribution			Emigrants per 100 households	
	1998	2003	2008	2003	2008
Hindus	29.5	31.2	37.7	14.6	18.7
Christians	19.8	25.1	21.2	31.4	29.9
Muslims	50.7	43.7	41.1	56.1	56.4

## Households With and Without Migrants

In 2008, about 18 per cent of the Kerala households had a member living as an emigrant outside India. The corresponding number in 2003 was 18.9 per cent. Similarly, 11.8 per cent of the households had a return emigrant and 26.5 per cent had either a emigrant or a return emigrant or both. These proportions have not changed much since 2003 although there was considerable increase in the number of emigrants, return

emigrants and non-resident Keralites. Migrants per 100 households also increased considerably during this period. Yet, the proportion of household with at least one emigrant has not increased very much. These statistics seem to imply that emigrants from Kerala are not randomly selected. When a new person emigrates, it is more likely that he/she comes from a household that already had sent out an emigrant in the past (Table 13)

**Table 13: Percentage of Households With One or More Migrants, 2003-2008**

Year	EMI	REM	NRK
2008	18.0	11.8	26.5
2003	18.9	11.2	25.8

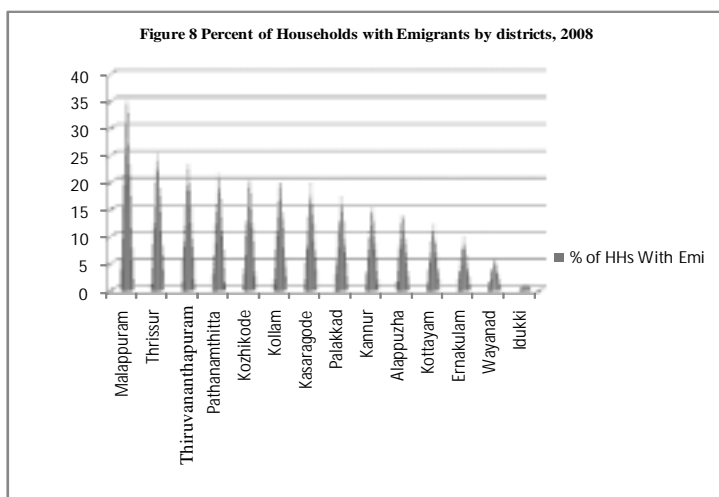
It was mentioned earlier that NRKs per 100 households was as much as 44.1. This, however, does not mean that 44.1 per cent of the households had an NRK. Several households had more than one NRK. In fact, in 2008, only 26.5 per cent of the households had at least one NRK.

It follows from these statistics that a very large proportion of households in Kerala are not directly exposed to emigration. They do not have either an emigrant or a return emigrant.

Religion is an important factor related to emigration in Kerala. The proportion of households with EMI, RMI or NRK is highest among the Muslims and the least among the Hindus. For example, the proportion of households with either an emigrant or return emigrant among Muslims is as much as 52.9 per cent (one out of every two households) compared with only 18 per cent among the Hindus. The broad distribution of households by the number of EMI, REM and NRK by religion is given in Table 14.

**Table 14: Percentage of Households With one or more migrants by Religion, 2008**

Religion	EMI	REM	NRK
Hindus	12.4	7.2	18.1
Christians	16.3	11.0	24.6
Muslims	36.4	25.7	52.9
Total	18.0	11.8	26.5



The district of origin of emigrants is an equally critical variable in determining the proportion of households with an emigrant. In Malappuram district, 36.8 per cent of the households had one or more emigrants. Similarly, in Thrissur district 26.1 per cent of the household had at least one emigrant. On the other hand, in Idukki district only 1.3 per cent of the households had an emigrant. Wayanad also had few households with an emigrant. Surprisingly, Ernakulam district is the third district in the order from the bottom with respect to the proportion of households with at least one emigrant.

## Cost of Migration

Emigration is expensive. It involves considerable financial sacrifices to the emigrant, especially because many of the emigrants from Kerala turn up from poor families. Only a few Kerala emigrants could emigrate without financial support from other sources. Usually the family members or friends help in meeting the expenses connected with emigration.

An emigrant needs funds for buying the air ticket, to pay the cost of visa, passport, emigration clearance, etc. Some of the emigrants need money to pay the recruitment agencies and other intermediaries.

MMS 2008 collected information on the expenses incurred by emigrants and return emigrants. The results are summarised in Table 15.

**Table 15: Average Expenses Incurred for Emigration from Kerala, 2008**

Item	Average in Rs.	Percent
Recruitment Agencies	8087	14.2
Other Intermediaries	2003	3.5
Passport	1170	2.1
Visa	30566	53.8
Ticket	13266	23.3
Emigration Clearance	1425	2.5
Loss due to Fraud	325	0.6
Total	56842	100.0

The most expensive item of expenditure was obtaining visa. On an average, an emigrant spent Rs. 31,000 to acquire a visa. The second most expensive item was the air ticket, which, on an average, cost Rs. 13,000 per emigrant. For some of the emigrants, the employer paid for the air ticket and so the costs came down by that much. Payment to recruiting agencies was another major item of expense.



We have also estimated the average cost of emigration for different migration corridors from Kerala. The lowest cost is estimated for Kuwait with Rs. 53,951 and the highest average cost is reported for Saudi Arabia (Table 16).

**Table 16: Average cost of Emigration for different Migration Corridors from Kerala, 2008**

Countries	Average cost (Rupees)
Kerala-Bahrain	57172
Kerala-Kuwait	53951
Kerala-Oman	56840
Kerala-Qatar	66316
Kerala-Saudi Arabia	74606
Kerala-UAE	61308
Kerala-UK	56589
Kerala-USA	42080

### **Financing Emigration**

As mentioned above, many of the emigrants from Kerala are not wealthy enough to meet all the expenses related to emigration.

More than 42 per cent of the emigrants borrowed money from friends. About 40 per cent used their personal savings. Parents helped in 38 per cent of the cases. Other members of the family were also an important source of funds.

Government help was practically nil for financing emigration. A few of the emigrants mortgaged their assets to get the money needed for emigration. Sale/pledge of ornaments was a very common mode of financing emigration (almost 30 per cent).

### **Characteristics of Migrants**

Migrants are, in general, a discrete group with respect to their socio-economic characteristics. Their composition with respect to sex, age,

**Table 17: Sources of Finances for Emigration, 2008**

Source	Per cent of Emigrants
From Family Members	26.8
Personal Savings	40.1
Parents Savings	37.7
Borrow from Friends	42.1
Loans from money lender	12.6
Loans from Banks	14.1
Sale/Mortgage of Land	4.9
Sale/Mortgage of Other Assets	3.4
Sale/pledge Ornaments	29.2
Government Assistance	0.4
Others	7.0

\*The total exceeds 100 as emigrants use more than one source.

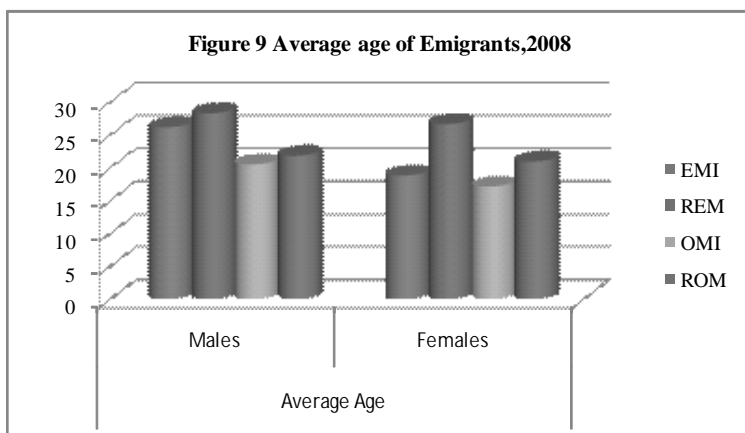
marital status, education and employment is different from those of the non-migrants. The section is devoted to an analysis of these differences.

### **Age Composition of Emigrants**

As with migrants all over the world, emigrants from Kerala are also highly concentrated in the middle age groups. 90 per cent of male emigrants and 66 per cent of female emigrants belong to the age group 15-39 years. A fairly large number of emigrants belong to very young ages 0-4 years, but there are few in the age group 5-14 ages.

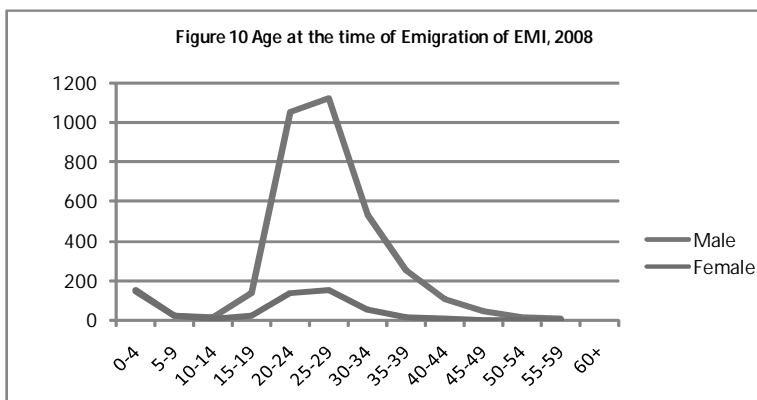
The average age of migrants varies by type of migration. Return emigrants have the highest average age, and out-migrants have the lowest average age. This pattern holds for both males and females.

Between males and females, the average age is higher among males. This is true among all migrant groups. The differences are more among migrants and out-migrants than among the return migrants.



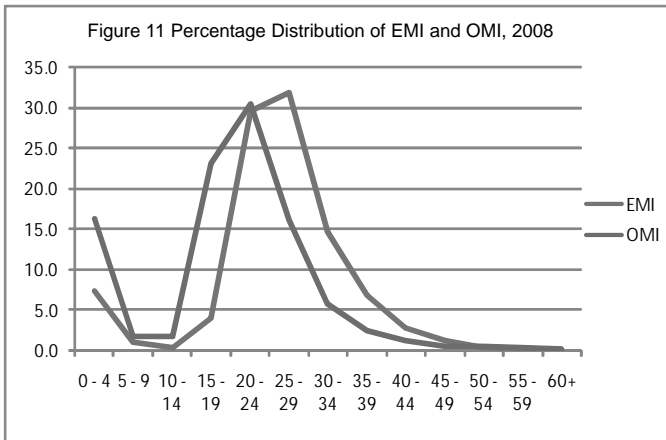
### Emigrants and Return Emigrants

Return emigrants are on the whole older than emigrants, but the difference in average age is not very large. The average age for emigrants is 25.06 and that of return emigrants is 28.07 years, the difference being just 3 years. However, among females the difference is very large: 7.84 years for females. Female emigrants are fewer, but once they emigrate they stay abroad for longer periods of time. They get back to Kerala after a stay abroad, on an average, of 8 years.



## Emigrants and Out-Migrants

The average age of emigrants at the time of emigration is 25.06 years. The corresponding average of out-migrants is 19.27, almost 6 years younger. The difference between the average age of emigrants and out-migrants is much larger among males (5.63 years) compared to 1.67 years among females.



While 23 per cent of the out-migrants are in the age-group 15-19 years, the corresponding proportion for the emigrants in that age-group is only 4 per cent. Whereas 25.8 per cent of the emigrants are 30 years or older at the time of emigration, only 10.6 per cent of the out-migrants are 30 years or older.

## Migrants by Marital Status

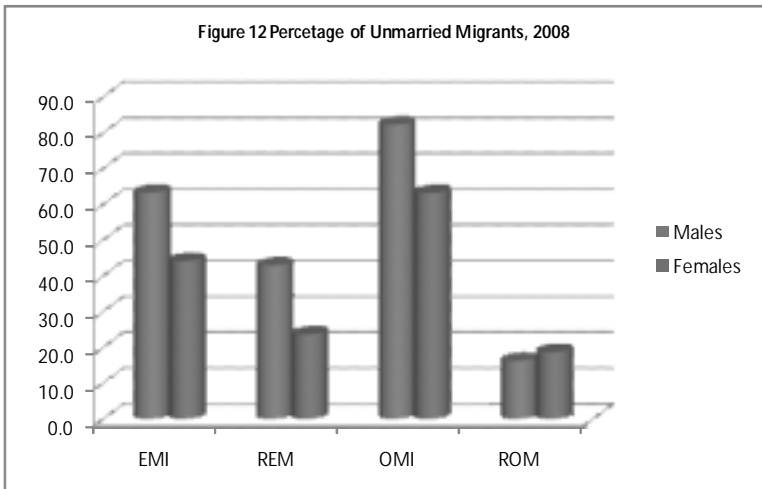
Majority of the male migrants (emigrants and out-migrants) from Kerala are unmarried: 63 per cent of emigrants and 82 per cent of the out-migrants. Majority of the male return emigrants and out-migrants to Kerala are married.

In the case of females, majority of the international migrants, both emigrants and return emigrants, are married: 55 per cent of emigrants and 69 per cent of the return-emigrants. As far as internal migration is



concerned, while majority of the female return out- migrants are married (75 per cent), majority of the female out-migrants are not married: only 36 per cent of them are married.

Widowed, divorced, separated persons are very few among emigrants and out-migrants, but there are about 15 per cent of such persons among male return out-migrants and 7 per cent among return emigrants. Those among migrants, internal and external, whose marriage gets dissolved for one reason or other, tend to return back to Kerala.



### **Educational Attainment of Migrants**

Table 19 gives the educational attainment of migrants of all types. It also provides a comparison with the educational attainment of the general population. Migrants are, on the average, better educated than the general population. One measure of the level of education is the average years of schooling. According to this index, return out-migrants are better educated than all the other migrant and non-migrant groups. They have, on an average, 9.2 years of schooling compared with 7.7 years of schooling for the general population.

Another way of measuring the educational level of a population is to compute the proportion of them with a minimum of secondary level of education. According to this computation, out-migrants have higher level of educational attainment than the other four groups. About 58.5 per cent of out-migrants have a minimum of secondary level of education. The lowest percentage is reported by the return emigrants, just 32.4 per cent. This is lower than the average figure of the general population (34.7 per cent)

Emigrants are better educated than return emigrants, and out-migrants are better educated than return out-migrants. Among the four migrant groups, return emigrants have the lowest average years of schooling.

**Table 19: Percent Distribution of Migrants and Population by Educational Attainment, 2008**

Educational status	EMI	REM	OMI	ROM	Pop. 15+
Illiterate	6.8	1.7	15.8	1.6	5.4
Literate without education	0.1	1.7	0.2	0.6	2.6
Primary not completed	2.8	6.3	2.9	4.5	7.4
Primary	5.0	13.8	2.2	5.3	13.6
Upper primary	38.6	44.1	20.4	38.4	36.4
Secondary	26.7	22.0	31.9	31.5	24.4
Degree	20.0	10.3	26.6	18.0	10.3
Secondary +Degree	46.7	32.4	58.5	49.5	34.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Years of Schooling	8.9	8.1	8.7	9.2	7.7

Among out-migrants 26.6 per cent have a degree. No other group has as high a proportion of degree-holders as out-migrants. In the general population (15+ years), only 10.3 per cent (less than half as much as among the out-migrants) have a degree. Internal migrants have a higher proportion of secondary certificate holders than external migrants.

### Trend in Educational Attainment of Migrants

Data from MMS 1998, 2003, and 2008 do not indicate a systematic trend in the educational attainment of migrants. The recent migrants are not necessarily better educated than those who went abroad in earlier years

**Table 20: Percentage with Secondary or Higher Levels of Education, 1998-2008**

Year	Trend in Educational attainment of Migrants			
	Secondary +		Degree	
	EMI	OMI	EMI	OMI
1998	40.5	69.3	10.8	13.4
2003	50.3	69.7	19.3	22.8
2008	46.7	58.5	20.0	26.6

Although there is a general increase in the proportion of migrants with a minimum of secondary level education, the trend is not linear. In the case of degree holders, the increase was more systematic. The proportion of degree-holders among migrants was the highest in 2008 and the lowest in 1998.

### Economic Activity Before and After Emigration

About 64 per cent of the emigrants from Kerala were gainfully employed before emigration, 20 per cent were unemployed and 16 per cent were outside the labour force. The unemployment rate was 24.2 per cent compared to 8.7 per cent in the general population.

At destination countries, roughly 87 per cent of the Kerala emigrants were gainfully employed, just one per cent was unemployed and about 12 per cent were not in the labour force. The unemployment rate was just 1.1 per cent.

The distribution of emigrants by economic activity before emigration from Kerala and after emigration at destinations is given in



Table 21. The largest number of emigrants came from labourers in non-agriculture (31.6 per cent). Emigrants also included about 20.3 per cent each from job-seekers and 19.6 per cent from those working in the private sector.

**Table 21: Distribution of Emigrants by Economic Activity Before and after Emigration, 2008**

	Emigrants		Percent of Total	
	In Kerala	In Destinations	In Kerala	In Destinations
Gainfully employed	1397451	1912388	63.7	87.2
Unemployed	445913	21912	20.3	1.0
Outside Labour force	350048	259112	16.0	11.8
Total	2193412	2193412	100.0	100.0
Unemployment Rate (% of Labour Force)			24.2	1.1

At the destination countries, 54 per cent were employed in the Private Sector and 26 per cent were working as labourers in non-agriculture.

A cross-classification of emigrants by sector activity before and after emigration indicates that, out of a total of 446,000 emigrants who were jobseekers only 10,000 remained as jobseekers at the destination countries. From among the persons who were seeking jobs in Kerala before emigration, the survey results show that 63,000 got employment as non-agricultural labourer, 32,000 were employed in the private sector, 16,000 were self-employed, 15,000 in Government services, etc. About 10,000 remained job seekers (unemployed) even after emigration.

From among the 694,000 persons who were in non-agriculture labour in Kerala, the survey results show that 426,000 remained in non-agriculture, 255,000 were absorbed in the private sector and about 8,000 became self-employed. Out of the total 2,193,412 emigrants, 1,040,830

**Table 22: Economic Activity of Emigrants Before and After Emigration. 2008**

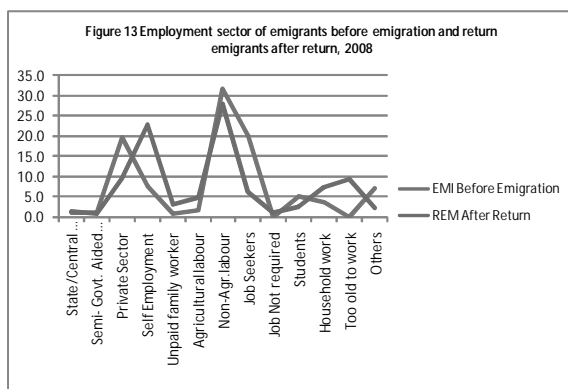
Employment sector	Before (in Kerala)	After (at Destination)	Before (in Kerala)	After (at Destination)
State/Central Government	26295	43824	1.2	2.0
Semi- Govt. Aided school	22460	36703	1.0	1.7
Private Sector	429479	1183259	19.6	53.9
Self Employment	170915	70667	7.8	3.2
Unpaid family worker	19721	4382	0.9	0.2
Agricultural labour	34512	3835	1.6	0.2
Non-Agr.labour	694069	569717	31.6	26.0
Job Seekers	445913	21912	20.3	1.0
Job Not required	1096	2191	0.0	0.1
Students	109561	123256	5.0	5.6
Household work	79980	70119	3.6	3.2
Too old to work	0	2191	0.0	0.1
Others	159411	61354	7.3	2.8
Total	2193412	2193412	100.0	100.0

(47 per cent) did not change their sector of activity after emigration, but the other 53 per cent changed from one sector to the other

### **Emigrants and Return Emigrants**

A comparison of the sector of economic activity of emigrants before emigration and of return emigrants after they returned (not the same cohort) is presented in Figure 13. There are some significant differences. The proportion of job seekers was 20.3 per cent before emigration, but it was only 6.3 per cent among the return emigrants. Similarly, the proportion employed in the private sector was 19.6 per cent before emigration, but was 9.7 per cent among the returnees. On the other hand, the proportion of self-employed, which was only 7.8 per cent before emigration went up to 22.9 per cent among the returnees.

The categories "too old to work" and "household work" are much higher among the returnees compared with emigrants. The proportion of persons in "non-agricultural labour" remained fairly stable, although there was a small decrease.



### Households With and Without Migrants

Compared to households in Kerala with an international migrant, there are fewer households in Kerala with an internal migrant. The proportion of households with an internal migrant is less than 7 per cent.

**Table 23: Percentage of Households with Migrants, 2008**

	Percent
OMI	6.8
ROM	6.3
ISM	12.0
ISM+NRK	36.0
EMI	18.0
REM	11.8
NRK	26.7
EMI+OMI	23.7
REM+ROM	17.8

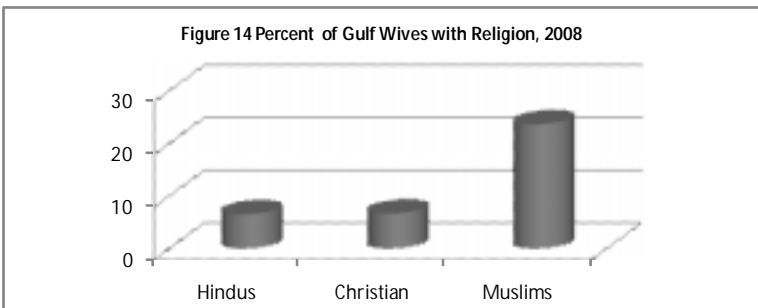
Table 23 indicates that more than a third of the Kerala households have a migrant, as an emigrant, out-migrant, return emigrant or return out-migrant. A large proportion of it is external migration. About 27 per cent of the households have an international migrant; only 6.3 per cent of the households have an internal migrant.

An important aspect of migration from Kerala is that the proportion of households with migrants is fairly stable. More new migrants turn up from households which already have a migrant. Not many new households join the group.

### GULF WIVES

"Gulf Wives" are defined as married women in Kerala whose husbands work/live outside India. A rough estimate places the number of Gulf Wives in Kerala in 2008 at 1.06 million. This was more or less the case in 2003 also. There has been no noticeable increase in the number of Gulf Wives, although the number of emigrants have increased significantly. Gulf Wives constitute 10.8 per cent of currently married women in Kerala. One in 10 married women living in Kerala has her husband working abroad.

The proportion of Gulf wives varies from below one per cent in Idukki district to 25.8 per cent in Malappuram district. One in four married women living in Malappuram district has her husband working



abroad. The proportion of Gulf wives is highest among the Muslims with one out four married women having her husband working abroad. The proportion is nearly the same among both Hindus and Christians, that is, about 6.5 per cent.

**Table 24: Number and Per cent of Gulf Wives, 2008**

Districts	No of GW	% GW
Thiruvananthapuram	149345	14.7
Kollam	85551	11.1
Pathanamthitta	45637	12.1
Alappuzha	43610	7.0
Kottayam	26950	4.7
Idukki	2303	0.8
Ernakulam	36718	3.8
Thrissur	137915	15.6
Palakkad	69732	9.4
Malappuram	242862	25.8
Kozhikode	115104	12.9
Wayanad	7954	3.6
Kannur	63302	9.2
Kasaragode	35629	11.0
Kerala	1062612	10.8

### **Sex Composition**

Emigration from Kerala has been and still is dominated by males. Among the emigrants from Kerala in 2008, the proportion of females was only 14.6 per cent. Although this proportion is much higher than the corresponding proportion 1998, it was lower than that in 2003. Surprisingly, there was a decline in the proportion of women emigrants between 2003 and 2008.

The dominance of males among emigrants is reflected also among return emigrates. The proportion of females among the return emigrants was only 11.8 per cent, down from 15.3 in 2003.

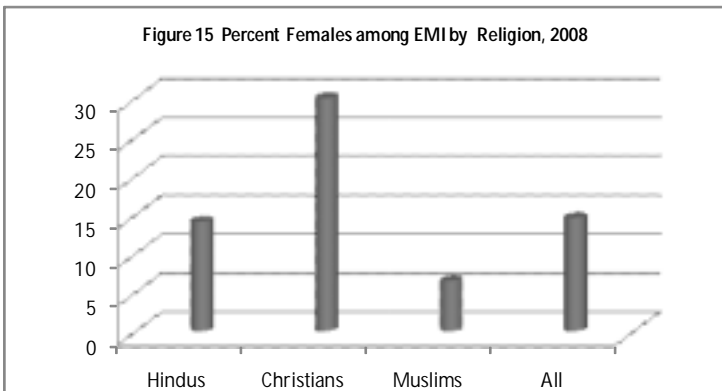
**Table 25: Sex Compositions of Migrants, 1998-2008**

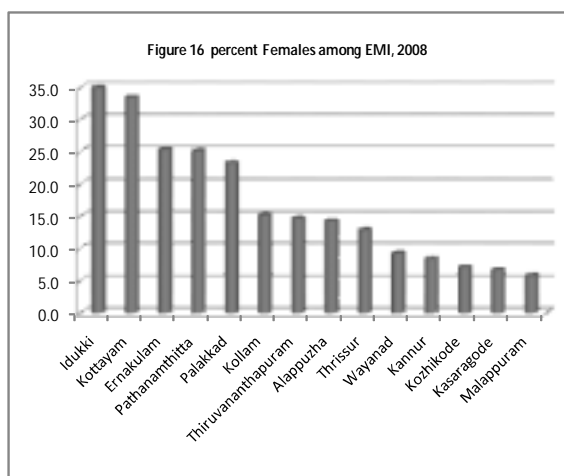
Emigration status	Percent of Females Among		
	2008	2003	1998
Emigrants	14.6	16.8	9.3
Return Emigrants	11.8	15.3	10.9
Out-Migrants	36.3	34.9	24.1
Return Out-Migrants	30.8	27.0	29.2

### District-Wise Variation

The proportion of females among emigrants varies widely by district of origin and by religion. Christian emigrants constituted the highest proportion of females (30 per cent) and Muslim emigrants, the lowest (6.5 per cent). The average for Kerala is 14.6 per cent.

South Kerala Districts have a relatively higher proportion of females among their emigrants than districts in the North. In this respect, Idukki and Kottayam districts lead all other districts. Malappuram and Kasaragode districts have the lowest proportion of female emigrants.





### Variation by Country of Destination

The proportion of females among emigrants varies by country of destination. A higher proportion of females among the emigrants from Kerala go to non-Arab countries such as USA, UK, etc. Among the Arab countries, Kuwait has the highest proportion of females among their emigrants from Kerala, and Saudi Arabia has the lowest.

**Table 26: Percent of Females among Emigrants by Country of Residence, 2008**

Countries	Percent of Females among EMI
USA	46.5
UK	46.5
Kuwait	25.0
Bahrain	13.0
UAE	11.2
Qatar	9.1
Oman	8.6
Saudi Arabia	7.9

## Remittances

With the information available from MMS 2008 or other sources such as Reserve Bank of India or IMF data on workers remittance, it is not possible to arrive at a precise estimate of remittances to Kerala state, or as a matter of fact, for any other state in India. In the KMS (1998), SMS (2003) and MMS (2007), several methods were tried and a final estimate was computed on an ad hoc basis. The same approach is followed in this study also.

Household Surveys like MMS are not designed to measure Total Remittances\* to the state. However a part of the total remittances to the state is sent to households through different channels for different household purposes. It is possible through MMS to make an estimate of this part of the total remittances. This estimate (Household Remittances) along with a few other variables that are known to be correlated to Total Remittances are used to arrive at an approximation of the Total Remittances to the state.

\* *In this study, as in earlier studies, a distinction is made between total remittances received in the state (Total Remittances) and remittances received by the household in the state for subsistence, etc. We call the latter Household Remittances. Household Remittances are only a fraction of the Total Remittances.*

## Household Remittances

A part of the total remittances to Kerala from emigrants abroad are received by members of the emigrant households in different forms. This is referred to in MMS 2008 as Household Remittances (HR).

In this study, a concerted effort was made to get information about all the usual types of household remittances from abroad, cash, goods, etc. For that purpose, a number of questions were asked in the survey:

Has any member of the household received cash from their relatives from abroad in the past one year?. This



question was followed by asking about the various goods that the household could have received from their relatives abroad. Their total value (in rupees) was assessed. Additional questions were asked to get information on money received from abroad for construction or purchase of a house, purchase of land, car, etc. Similarly information about the amount received for the education of children, medical expenses, payment of dowry, debt repayment, etc., were collected. Household remittances was the total of all these items. According to Table 27, the total of all household remittances (HR) in Kerala in 2008 was Rs. 12,511 crores.

This estimate may be compared with household remittances of Rs. 7,965 crores in 2003 and Rs. 3,530 crores in 1998. Thus, there was a 57 per cent increase in household remittances during 2003-08.

**Table 27: Trend in Household Remittances, 1998-2008**

	Rs (crores)	Percent increase
1998	3,530*	.....
2003	7,965	127.6
2008	12,511	57.1

\* Questions used to assess household remittances in 1998 were not strictly comparable to those asked in 2003 and 2008. The questions in 2003 and 2008 were the same.

Most of the household remittances (82.4 per cent) was received by the households for their regular household expenses such as subsistence. Another 10.1 per cent was used for building or purchasing a house or buying land. About 4 per cent was received as gifts from abroad. (Table 29).

**Table 28: Household Remittances by Religion and District (crores), 2008**

Districts	Hindus	Christians	Muslims	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	656	352	380	1388
Kollam	891	307	96	1294
Pathanamthitta	277	332	30	639
Alappuzha	350	160	59	570
Kottayam	240	394	22	656
Idukki	17	26	2	45
Ernakulam	295	263	305	862
Thrissur	726	213	784	1723
Palakkad	382	34	581	997
Malappuram	138	29	1707	1874
Kozhikode	265	0	888	1153
Wayanad	26	27	111	164
Kannur	383	102	324	809
Kasaragode	121	15	201	337
Kerala	4767	2254	5490	12511
Percent	58.3	20.6	21.1	

**Table 29: Household Remittances by Type, Kerala, 2008**

	in Crores	Percent
Cash for HH consumption	10306	82.4
Goods Received as gift	515	4.1
For house construction/buy	1265	10.1
Car	121	1.0
Shares/bonds	13	0.1
For starting Enterprise	5	0.0
Dowry payment	55	0.4
Education	50	0.4
Medical expenses	53	0.4
Repaying debt	94	0.8
Others	34	0.3
Total HH Remittances	12511	100.0

## End Use of Household Remittances

Households make use of remittances for many purposes. The proportions of households that used remittances for subsistence, education, etc., are given Table 30.

**Table 30: Proportion of HHs that used Remittances for Various Purposes, 2008**

End Use	% of HHs*
Subsistence	78.4
Education	38.9
Repaying Debt	36.7
Bank Deposit	14.6
Buying/building houses	9.4
Land Reclamation	5.6
Dowry Payment	3.1
Purchase of land	2.6
Business	0.4
Others	6.3

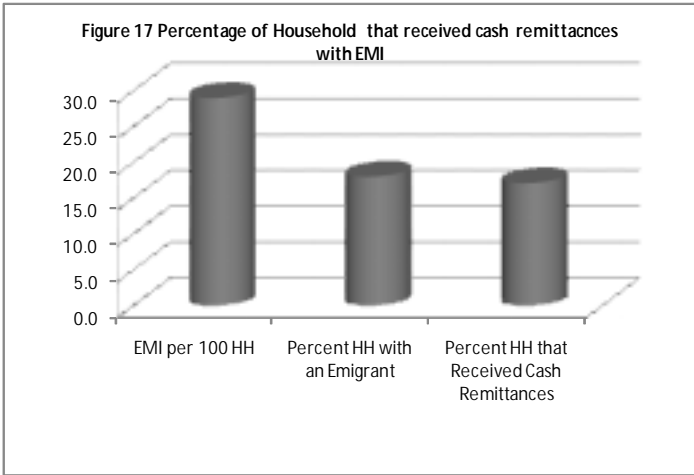
*\*As the HHs use remittances for more than one purpose, these proportions will not add to hundred, and the sum will be greater than 100.*

## Number of Households Receiving Remittances.

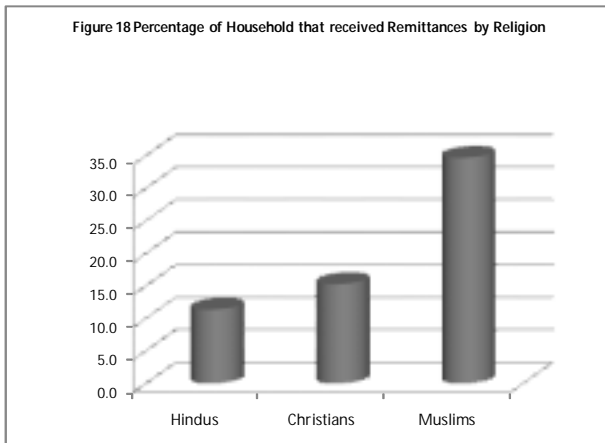
In 2008, the emigration rate per 100 households was 29, but only 18 per cent of the households had at least an emigrant because some had more than one emigrant. The proportion of households that received remittances was even smaller. Only 17.1 per cent of the households had received remittances in cash from their relatives abroad (Figure 17).

## Variation by Religion

Among the three religious communities, the Muslims had the largest proportion of households that received remittances and the



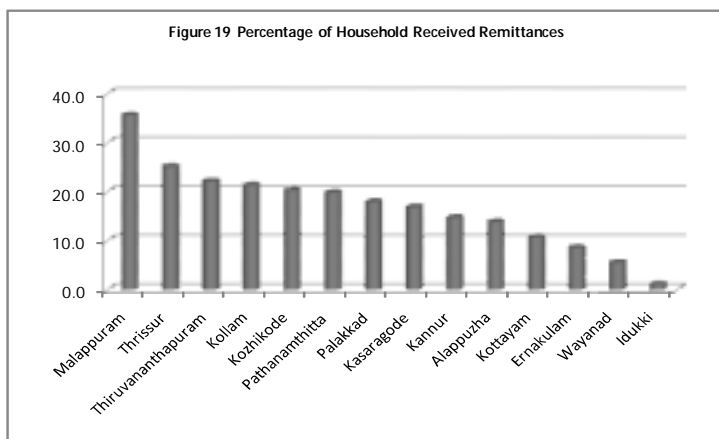
Hindus had the smallest proportion of households that received remittances.



### Variation by Districts

There are wide variations in the proportion of households that received cash remittances. In Malappuram district, more than one-third of the households (35.7 per cent) had received cash remittances. The

corresponding proportion was 25.2 per cent in Thrissur, 22.3 per cent in Thiruvananthapuram district, 21.4 per cent in Kollam, and 20.3 per cent in Kozhikode.district. Strangely, in Ernakulam District only 8.7 per cent of the households have received cash remittances from abroad. Idukki district has the lowest proportion of households that received cash remittances (1.2 per cent), preceded by Waynad (5.6 per cent).



## Total Remittances

Before the launching of the first KMS in 1998, it was a common practice to estimate Total Remittances (TR) to Kerala by multiplying the total remittances to India (which is available from the Reserve Bank or IMF sources) by the proportion of Kerala emigrants to the total number of emigrants from India. In those days, this latter proportion also was not available, but it was arbitrarily assumed at 25 per cent. Thus, Total Remittances to Kerala was assumed then as 25 per cent of remittances to India. This ratio was however reduced progressively to 20 per cent by the year 2000.

In this study, we follow the procedure which was followed in the earlier MMS. The 'Total Remittances' is estimated by three different methods. Among them, the one with the most credibility is accepted.

### Remittances to Kerala: Estimates by Different Methods, 2008

- 1 20 Percent Rule
 

Remittances India		Rs 221,220
Remittance to Kerala	=	221220*0.2
	=	44,244 crores
- 2 ECR Passports Method\*

The proportion of ECR passports holders who emigrated from Kerala (Kerala/India) in various years is given below. This proportion is multiplied by the total remittances to India to get an estimate of TR to Kerala.

Year	ECR ratio* all-India remittances	Total Remittances
2008	0.21294	47,108 crores
2007-08	0.19974	44,187 crores
2006-08	0.19326	42,754 crores
2005-08	0.19985	44,212 crores

### 3. Regression Method

In this method, the ratio of Total Remittances to Household Remittances (TR/HR) is estimated by assuming that it is a linear function of:

- (1) Total number of emigrants, and
- (2) Total NRE deposits in Kerala Banks in December 2008

Results of these calculation are given below:

Number of Emigrants	=	2,193,412
Total NRE Deposit	=	34,649 crores
Regression estimate of the ratio TR/HR	=	3.460
Household Remittances	=	12,511 crores (see below)
Total Remittances	=	3.46*12,511
	=	43,288 crores

Among the three estimates, the one based on the regression method was accepted (using household remittances (Rs. 12,511 crores), Emigrants in 2008 (2193412) and NRI deposits in Kerala Banks in December 2008 (34,649 crores).

The Total Estimated Remittances to Kerala in 2008 = Rs 43,288 crores. This is the estimate used throughout this study

### **Trend in Total Remittances**

A major finding of MMS 2008 is the phenomenal increase in the remittances to Kerala in the past five years. While the increase in 'Total Remittances' to Kerala during 1998-2003 was only 35 per cent, it went up during the next five years (2003-08) by as much as 135 per cent (it had more than doubled).

**Table 31: Total Remittances and TR per Household, 1998-2008**

Years	Total Remittances		
	Crores	Percent Increase	Per Household (Rs)
1998	13,652		21,469
2003	18,465	35.2	24,444
2008	43,288	134.4	57,215

A number of factors could be cited as reasons for this phenomenal increase

*\* Our experience with estimating total remittances to Goa and Kerala states indicates that the ECR Passport Method gives a good first approximation of total remittances to a state. One advantage of this method is that it is possible to estimate 'Total Remittances' to all major states in India, even to states that have not carried out an emigration survey. These estimates are worked out and given in Table 32. Compared to a total remittance of Rs. 42,922 crores to Kerala, Tamil Nadu received Rs. 41,400 crores, Andhra Pradesh received Rs.28,559 crores and Uttar Pradesh received Rs.28,249 crores, etc. Remittances to other states are given in Table 32.*





First, the increase in oil prices could be a major reason. Increase in oil price from \$50 a barrel to \$140 a barrel during 2006-08 enabled Dubai and other Gulf countries to undertake construction activities at a pace unheard of earlier. The increased economic activity resulted in larger emigration to the Gulf and enhanced income for the emigrants.

Second, the global financial meltdown and the collapse of many international banks prompted most Kerala emigrants to park their savings in banks in Kerala which, being nationalised, were thought to be much safer than foreign banks.

Third, the exchange value of the dollar increased from about Rs. 38 per US dollar to over Rs. 50 per US dollar during 2007-08. The exchange values of Gulf currencies also increased correspondingly. As the emigrants received their salaries in Gulf currencies, this 30 per cent increase was a major factor in the flow of workers remittances to Kerala.

#### **Total Remittances by Districts\***

*\* It is not possible to cross-classify the 'Total Remittances' by district, religion or any such variables. But such cross-classification is possible for 'Household Remittances' which is computed from estimated survey results. What is done below as cross-classification of 'Total Remittances' is actually a computation of 'Total Remittances' at the state level calculated on the basis of per cent distribution of 'Household Remittances' by districts, religion, etc. For example, 'Total Remittances' for Thiruvananthapuram district is obtained by multiplying percentage of 'Household Remittances' in Thiruvananthapuram district by 'Total Remittances' for Kerala.*

'Total Remittances' by district are given in Table 33. Remittances vary considerably among districts. Malappuram district leads all the other districts in the matter of receipt of remittances from abroad. It received a total of Rs 6,486 crore as remittances. Thrissur district comes next with remittances amounting to Rs. 5,961 crore. Thiruvananthapuram

district with Rs 4,801 crore is the third. Idukki and Wayanad come last. While Malappuram accounts for 15 per cent of the state's remittances, Idukki accounts for less than half a per cent.

**Table 33: Total Remittances (crores) and Remittances per Household by Districts, 2008**

Districts	Total Remittances	Percent	Per HH
Malappuram	6486	15.0	103585
Thrissur	5961	13.8	81588
Thiruvananthapuram	4801	11.1	55465
Kollam	4477	10.3	66460
Kozhikode	3988	9.2	60861
Palakkad	3448	8.0	58365
Ernakulam	2984	6.9	37254
Kannur	2800	6.5	53090
Kottayam	2271	5.2	46351
Pathanamthitta	2211	5.1	68361
Alappuzha	1970	4.6	36159
Kasaragode	1164	2.7	45077
Wayanad	571	1.3	30099
Idukki	156	0.4	5390
Kerala	43288	100.0	57227

The average remittance per household in Malappuram was more than Rs 1 lakh (Rs103,585) which is nearly double the state average (Rs 57,227). The other districts with high average remittance per household were Thrissur, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Kozhikode. The average remittances per household in Idukki district was less than a tenth of the state average, and of the districts of Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Kozhikode.

## Remittance by Religion

The Total Remittance of Rs 43,288 crores to the Kerala State consists of Rs 16,493 crores received by Hindu households, Rs 7,800 crores received by Christian households and Rs 19,000 crores received by Muslim households. The average remittances per household was Rs 37,385 among Hindus, 50,107 among Christians and as much as 119,004 among Muslims.

The per centage increase in remittances during 2003-08 was much larger among the Hindus than among the other two communities. It was 201 per cent among the Hindus compared with an increase of 67 per cent among the Christians and 129 per cent among the Muslims. The average for the three communities together was an increase of 135 per cent.

**Table 34: Total Remittances and Remittances per HH by Religion, 2003-2008**

Religion	Remittances (Crores)		Remittances per HH	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
Hindus	5475	16,493	6,134	37,385
Christians	4679	7,800	13,760	50,107
Muslims	8311	18,995	24,351	119,004
Total	18,465	43,288	11,586	57,227

## Macro-Economic Impact of Remittances

Remittances inflow of about Rs 43,288 crores to Kerala should have a very significant effect on the state's economy and the living condition of its citizens.

For a total population of 3.371 crores in Kerala in 2008, the total remittance of Rs 43,288 crores meant an average per capita remittance of Rs 12,840. For a household, average remittance works out at Rs 57,227 per year. Remittances thus make a substantial contribution to the annual income to many of the households in Kerala.

Remittances can also be weighed against the macroeconomic indicators of the state. Remittances to Kerala in 2008 were as much as a third (31 per cent) of Kerala's NSDP. The per capita income of the state was Rs 41,814 without including remittances, but was as much as Rs 54,664 when remittances were also included. As mentioned above, on an average, Kerala households have received Rs 57,227 as remittances from abroad.

**Table 35: Macro-Economic Impact of Remittances on Kerala Economy, 1998-2008** [in crores]

Indicators	1998	2003	2008
Remittances	13652	18465	43288
NSDP	53552	83783	140889
Per Capita Income	16062	25764	41814
Modified NSDP	67204	102248	184177
Revenue Receipt of Government	7198	10634	24936
Transfer from Central Government	1991	2653	7861
Government Non-Plan Expenditure	5855	9908	18934
State Debt	15700	31060	61653
Receipt from Cashew Export	1317	1217	1198
Receipt from Marine Products	817	995	1431
Modified Per Capita Income	20157	31442	54664
Remittances as per cent of NSDP (%)	25.49	22.04	30.73
Remittances as ratio of Revenue Receipt	1.90	1.74	1.74
Remittances as ratio of Transfer from Centre	6.86	6.96	5.51
Remittances as ratio of Government Expenditure	2.33	1.84	2.29
Remittances as ratio of State Debt	0.87	0.59	0.70
Remittances as ratio of Receipt from Cashew Export	19.37	15.17	36.13
Remittances as ratio of Receipt from Marine Export	16.71	18.56	30.25

The importance of remittances in Kerala is evident from a few other statistics also. Remittances were 1.74 times the revenue receipt of the state in 2008. This ratio had remained the same in 2003. Remittances to Kerala were 5.5 times the funding Kerala got from the Central Government and 2.3 times the annual non-plan expenditure of the Kerala Government. The remittances were sufficient to wipe out 70 per cent of the state's debt in 2008. Remittances were 36 times the export earnings from cashew and 30 times of those from marine products.

But there is a flip side to this rosy picture. As indicated earlier, not all households have directly benefited from remittances. Only 17.1 per cent of the households have benefitted directly from household remittances. Many others could have benefited indirectly from the large flow of remittances to Kerala

If we consider household remittances alone, the average remittances per household were Rs 16,536 per household (average for all households). But if we take only those households that had actually received remittances (numbering about 1,292,741 out of a total of 7,565,784 households) the average per household would increase to Rs 96,780. Thus, 17.1 per cent of Kerala households had received on an average Rs 96,780 per HH as remittances, while the vast majority of the household (82.9 per cent) had received no remittances at all.

There is also the regional disparity in the receipt of remittances. While households in Malappuram district had received Rs 1,874 crores (as just household remittances), those in Idukki district had received only Rs. 45 crores. Thus, the averages for the state mask the considerable disparity by households, by religious groups, by districts, taluk, etc.

### **Employment and Unemployment**

The employment and unemployment situation in Kerala has undergone very significant changes during the 10-year period 1998-2008.

The number of persons in employable ages (fifteen years and older) has seen moderate increase since 1998. There were 25.80 million such persons in 2008. The corresponding number was 22.89 million in 1998 and 24.30 million in 2003. The increase was 1.5 million during 2003-08 and 1.4 million during 1998-03. Increase in the number of persons of employable age has not resulted in increase in the number of employed persons.

### Gainfully Employed Persons

There were 8.36 million gainfully employed persons in Kerala in 2008, 6.56 million males and 1.80 million females. They constituted 32.5 per cent of the '15 years and older' population. The rate was 53.2 per cent among males and 13.4 per cent among females.

**Table 36: Population by Employment Status for Kerala, 1998-2008**

	Year	Total	Males	Females
Total Population	2008	33776235	16402660	17373574
	2003	32562108	15816526	16745582
	1998	31375332	15240069	16135263
Total 15+ Population	2008	25802495	12344920	13457575
	2003	24303967	11611481	12692486
	1998	22895679	10937569	11958110
Gainfully Employed	2008	8360472	6561038	1799434
	2003	9682609	7824048	1858561
	1998	9946586	7925187	2021399
Unemployed	2008	787113	388006	399107
	2003	2292393	989763	1302630
	1998	1243414	636301	607113
Labour Force	2008	9147585	6949044	2198541
	2003	11975002	8813811	3161191
	1998	11190000	8561488	2628512
Not in Labour Force	2008	16654529	5395495	11259034
	2003	12328966	2797670	9531295
	1998	11701519	2371921	9329598

The number of gainfully employed persons in Kerala underwent significant decreases since 1998. The decrease was from 9.947 million in 1998 to 9.682 million in 2003 and further to 8.360 million in 2008. Thus the decrease during the 10-year period 1998-2008 was 1.586 million persons. The decrease was much larger in the recent 5-year period (1.322 million) than in the first 5-year period (265,000). The number of employed persons decreased by 3.6 per cent during 1998-2003 compared with a decrease of 11.0 per cent during 2003-08.

**Table 37: Percent of Population 15+ and their Employment status, 2008**

		Total	Males	Females
Total 15+ Population	2008	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2003	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1998	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gainfully Employed	2008	32.5	53.2	13.4
	2003	39.8	67.4	14.6
	1998	43.4	72.5	16.9
Unemployed	2008	3.1	3.1	3.0
	2003	9.4	8.5	10.3
	1998	5.4	5.8	5.1
Not in Labour Force	2008	64.5	43.7	83.7
	2003	50.7	24.1	75.1
	1998	51.1	21.7	78.0
Unemployment Rate	2008	8.60	5.58	18.15
	2003	19.14	11.23	41.21
	1998	11.11	7.43	23.10

### Employment by Age

The proportion of persons employed in 2008 increases from less than 10 per cent in the 15-19 age group to 58.8 per cent in the 35-39 age group. At higher ages, it decreases steadily to near zero at very old age.

**Table 38: Employment Rate and Percentage Employed by Age, 2008**

Age	Employment Rate	Per cent Employed
15-19	9.6	2.3
20-24	34.9	9.5
25-29	50.6	13.0
30-34	57.0	12.9
35-39	58.8	12.8
40-44	57.2	11.9
45-49	56.2	11.6
50-54	55.3	9.8
55-59	45.7	7.7
60-64	31.4	4.2
65-69	21.9	2.4
70-74	13.3	1.1
75-79	8.2	0.4
80+	3.5	0.2
Total	32.5	100.0

Among the 5-year age groups, the largest proportion of working population is in the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups. The proportion starts increasing from the 15-19 age group, reaches a maximum at 25-34 age span and then decreases steadily to near zero at very old ages

### **Employment by Education**

On the whole, there is no consistent relationship between the employment rate and the level of education. The employment rate is 45.6 per cent among degree holders. It is only 42.1 per cent among upper primary completed, and 29.7 per cent among those with just completed secondary school. The pattern is the same for males and females; the difference is only in the overall level.



**Table 39: Employment Rate by Education, 2008**

Educational Status	Males	Females	Persons
Illiterate	12.6	10.1	11.2
Literate without education	55.6	19.1	33.2
Primary not completed	26.4	9.4	17.5
Primary	58.4	14.0	35.6
Upper primary	72.4	12.6	42.1
Secondary	49.2	11.1	29.7
Degree	65.1	28.2	45.6
Others	60.1	40.8	51.4
Total	53.2	13.4	32.5

### Employed Persons by Sector of Activity

In 2008, the majority of the employed persons worked as labourers in the non-agricultural sector, i.e., 37.2 per cent of the total. Next in importance was self-employment which absorbed 20.6 per cent of the total. A third important sector of economic activity in Kerala was labour in the agricultural sector which employed 15.8 per cent of the total. Private sector absorbed an almost equal proportion (15.0 per cent) of employed persons.

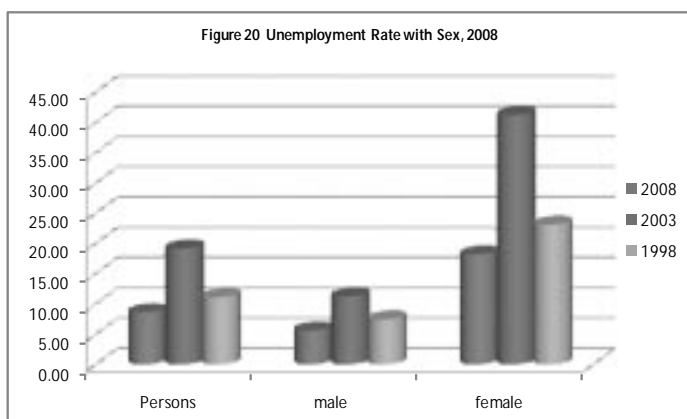
There were not many changes during the period 2003-2008 in the proportion of gainfully employed persons. The most significant change was the increase in this proportion in the private sector. From 6.4 per cent in 2003, the private sector's share increased to 15.0, an increase of 8.6 percentage points. This increase was compensated mostly by a decrease in the proportion of labour engaged in non-agriculture. On the whole, government and semi-government jobs lost ground and labour in agriculture gained ground, as indicated by an increase of 2.4 percentage points during the period 2003-2008.

**Table 40: Sector of Employment of Gainfully Employed Persons (Percent), 2003-2008**

Employment Status	2008			2003		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
State/Central Government	6.4	5.1	11.0	8.1	6.6	14.5
Semi- Govt. Aided school	2.5	1.8	5.1	4.0	3.0	8.0
Private Sector	15.0	13.6	20.4	6.4	5.4	10.3
Self Employment	20.6	22.7	12.7	22.3	24.4	13.4
Unpaid family worker	2.5	2.0	4.2	2.2	2.0	3.4
Agricultural labour	15.8	13.7	23.6	13.4	12.1	18.6
Non-Agr.labour	37.2	41.0	23.0	43.7	46.5	31.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

## Unemployment

In 2008, there were 787,000 unemployed persons in Kerala of whom 388,000 were males and 399,000 were females. The unemployment situation in 2008 was dramatically different from that in 2003, but was closer to that in 1998. The number of unemployed person in 2003 was very much higher, 2,292,000. The number of unemployed person had decreased by 1.505 million during 2003-08. The decrease was 602,000 among males and 903,000 among females. The decline was 61 per cent among males and 69 per cent among females.



The unemployment rate defined as the proportion of the number unemployed to the number in the labour force was just 8.6 per cent in 2008. The rate was 5.6 among males and 18.2 among females.

Five years earlier, in 2003 the rates were 19.2 per cent, 11.2 per cent among males and 41.2 per cent among females. Ten years earlier, in 1998, the unemployment rate was only 11.2 per cent, i.e., 7.5 per cent among males and 23.1 per cent among females.

Decline in unemployment rate during 2003-2008 was more dramatic than the increase in unemployment rate during 1998-2003. The rate in 2008 was very much lower than the rate in 1998. The unemployment situation in Kerala has eased very much in 2008.

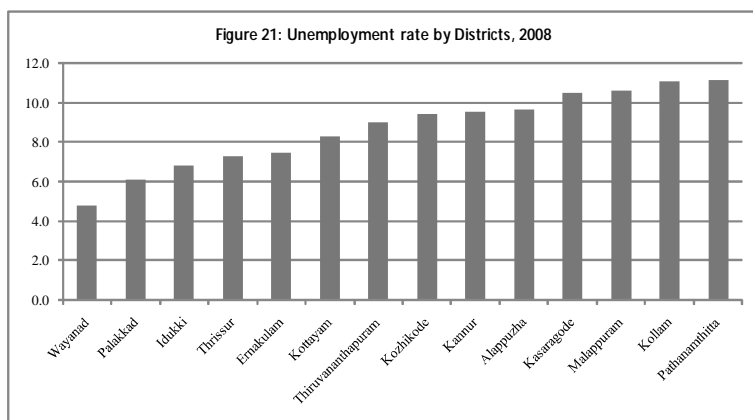
## Unemployment by Districts

Unemployment rate by districts in 2008 did not vary as much as it did in 2003. In 2008, the highest rate (11.1 per cent) was Pathanamthitta district. Its neighbouring district Kollam had more or less the same level of unemployment (11.0 per cent). Malappuram and Kasaragode districts also had a relatively high unemployment rate. Wayanad district had the lowest rate of unemployment at 4.7 per cent. The rate in Palakkad district was also relatively low at 6.1 per cent. Figure 21 shows the district-wise unemployment rates in 2008 placed in ascending order.

For comparison, the total unemployment in 2008 and the corresponding rates in 2003 and 1998 are also shown in Figure 20.

**Table 41: Unemployment Rate by Sex and District, Kerala 1998-2008**

Districts	2008			2003	1998
	Males	Females	Persons	Persons	Persons
Thiruvananthapuram	5.1	19.6	9.0	34.3	8.8
Kollam	6.9	22.5	11.0	15.0	7.0
Pathanamthitta	7.3	23.9	11.1	22.9	12.9
Alappuzha	7.6	14.4	9.6	21.7	14.5
Kottayam	5.1	21.7	8.2	16.5	6.8
Idukki	4.3	13.4	6.8	9.6	12.1
Ernakulam	3.4	19.1	7.4	24.5	14.8
Thrissur	5.0	15.0	7.2	10.4	10.8
Palakkad	5.2	8.7	6.1	11.2	14.1
Malappuram	7.7	29.2	10.6	12.3	10.1
Kozhikode	4.5	33.2	9.4	13.1	13.1
Wayanad	4.3	6.1	4.7	13.2	12.0
Kannur	4.5	28.4	9.5	25.5	16.1
Kasaragode	8.5	15.1	10.5	27.7	5.8
Kerala	5.6	18.2	8.6	19.2	11.2



### Unemployment by Religion

Unemployment rate by religion varied somewhat within a narrow range. The rate was highest among the Muslims and lowest among the Christians. In 2003, Christians had the highest rate and Muslims had the lowest. The situation in 2008 was somewhat similar to that in 1998 when Muslims had the highest unemployment rate.

**Table 42: Unemployment by Religion, 1998-2008**

Religion	2008	2003	1998
Hindus	8.0	18.9	11.3
Christians	7.8	20.7	10.1
Muslims	11.6	18.4	12.0
Total	8.6	19.2	11.2

Differentials in unemployment by religion vary by district of residence. In most districts, Muslims experienced the highest unemployment rate. Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur districts were exceptions. In Thiruvananthapuram, the unemployment rate was highest among the Christians and in Kannur it was highest among the Hindus.

**Table 43: Unemployment Rate by Religion and Districts. 2008**

Districts	Hindus	Christian	Muslim	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	8.3	10.4	8.8	9.0
Kollam	10.4	12.7	13.2	11.0
Pathanamthitta	11.6	9.7	17.6	11.1
Alapuzha	9.3	10.2	12.7	9.6
Kottayam	7.3	8.6	12.5	8.2
Idukki	5.5	7.7	11.0	6.8
Ernakulam	7.2	5.8	11.1	7.4
Trissur	6.7	5.8	11.7	7.2
Palakkad	5.0	6.7	9.5	6.1
Malappuram	7.8	6.1	12.2	10.6
Kozhikode	8.4	6.8	10.9	9.4
Wayanad	3.9	4.4	8.2	4.7
Kannur	10.1	5.9	8.7	9.5
Kasaragode	8.0	5.2	20.1	10.5
Kerala	7.8	8.0	11.8	8.6
Weighted Average	8.0	7.8	11.6	8.6

### Unemployment by Sex

The unemployment rate in 2008 was higher among females than among the males. The rates were 5.6 among males and 18.1 among females. In 1998 and 2003 also the position was the same: 11.2 for males and 41.2 for females in 2003 and 7.5 for males and 23.1 for females in 1998.

### Unemployment by Age

The majority (54.6 per cent) of the unemployed persons in 2008 were below 25 years. Nearly 43 per cent were in a specific 5-year age

group (20-24 years). Unemployment rate was the highest in the 15-19 age group. It decreased as age advanced. After age 30, there were very few persons who were unemployed.

**Table 44: Unemployment Rate and Percent Unemployed by Age, 2008**

Age	Unemployment Rate	Percent Unemployed
15-19	31.8	11.5
20-24	29.9	43.1
25-29	15.4	25.2
30-34	7.0	10.4
35-39	3.7	5.3
40-44	2.1	2.7
45-49	0.4	0.5
50-54	0.6	0.6
55-59	0.5	0.4
60-64	0.5	0.2
65-69	0.0	0.0
70-74	0.4	0.0
75-79	0.0	0.0
80+	0.0	0.0
Total	8.6	100.0

### **Unemployment by Education**

On the whole, the unemployment rate in 2008 increased with the level of education. The unemployment rate was 21.7 per cent among degree holders. It was only 14.8 per cent among secondary school graduates, and 2.7 per cent among those with just primary level education.

**Table 45: Unemployment Rate by Educational Levels, 2008**

Educational Level	Males	Females	Persons
Illiterate	0.2	0.5	0.4
Literate without education	1.3	0.6	1.1
Primary not completed	1.3	3.4	1.9
Primary	1.8	5.9	2.7
Upper primary	4.3	12.5	5.6
Secondary	9.8	31.1	14.8
Degree	12.5	35.6	21.7
Total	5.6	18.1	8.6

**Table 46: Employment and Unemployment Rate by districts, 2008**

Districts	Districts	Males	Females	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	Employment Rate	50.73	14.40	31.75
	Unemployment Rate	5.08	19.63	8.98
Kollam	Employment Rate	55.72	15.49	34.81
	Unemployment Rate	6.86	22.53	11.02
Pathanamthitta	Employment Rate	51.44	11.04	29.89
	Unemployment Rate	7.26	23.93	11.10
Alappuzha	Employment Rate	52.75	18.00	34.31
	Unemployment Rate	7.62	14.38	9.61
Kottayam	Employment Rate	54.20	9.91	31.53
	Unemployment Rate	5.12	21.71	8.25
Idukki	Employment Rate	60.73	22.23	42.35
	Unemployment Rate	4.32	13.40	6.77
Emakulam	Employment Rate	55.52	16.17	35.92
	Unemployment Rate	3.39	19.08	7.41
Thrissur	Employment Rate	51.56	11.73	30.19
	Unemployment Rate	4.96	14.97	7.24

*cont'd.....*



Palakkad	Employment Rate	54.36	15.89	34.38
	Unemployment Rate	5.20	8.72	6.07
Malappuram	Employment Rate	42.79	4.49	22.35
	Unemployment Rate	7.68	29.17	10.59
Kozhikode	Employment Rate	54.14	7.04	29.43
	Unemployment Rate	4.46	33.23	9.36
Wayanad	Employment Rate	58.06	20.35	39.19
	Unemployment Rate	4.27	6.07	4.74
Kannur	Employment Rate	53.86	9.53	30.31
	Unemployment Rate	4.46	28.36	9.50
Kasaragode	Employment Rate	51.94	18.52	34.35
	Unemployment Rate	8.50	15.14	10.48
KERALA	Employment Rate	53.15	13.37	32.47
	Unemployment Rate	5.58	18.15	8.59

The pattern was the same for males and females; the difference was only in the overall level.

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**Appendix I: Migration Estimates by Taluk and District, 2008**

Sl. No.	Taluks	REM	EMI	ROM	OMI
1	Chirayinkeezhu	61668	97967	3448	753
2	Nedumangad	31714	39145	14396	16124
3	Thiruvananthapuram	84469	131783	22581	55453
4	Neyyattinkara	37430	39585	11497	8236
	<b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>	<b>215280</b>	<b>308481</b>	<b>51922</b>	<b>80565</b>
5	Karunagapally	12056	17070	9059	9820
6	Kunnathur	2822	8078	11692	15963
7	Pathanapuram	13746	20313	506	6430
8	Kottarakara	27220	60715	7688	13891
9	Kollam	68222	101340	9423	11764
	<b>Kollam</b>	<b>124066</b>	<b>207516</b>	<b>38368</b>	<b>57869</b>
10	Thiruvalla	23268	43994	29072	35768
11	Mallappally	8751	22852	14542	18682
12	Ranni	3216	9642	5186	4201
13	Kozhenchery	15505	19888	10131	11181
14	Adoor	9813	24614	8921	23397
	<b>Pathanamthitta</b>	<b>60554</b>	<b>120990</b>	<b>67851</b>	<b>93230</b>
15	Cherthala	8095	13488	11110	7988
16	Ambalapuzha	9332	13714	9519	8974
17	Kuttanad	2109	18239	7010	24629
18	Karthikapally	19564	46110	23019	22596
19	Chengannoor	5883	20255	25890	10527
20	Mavelikara	6042	19913	5361	24593
	<b>Alappuzha</b>	<b>51024</b>	<b>131719</b>	<b>81909</b>	<b>99308</b>
21	Meenachil	6477	11844	6430	7733
22	Vaikom	4114	17368	14066	15323
23	Kottayam	13187	30313	24317	20753
24	Changanaserry	1741	18225	14004	8893
25	Kanjirapally	928	11602	7834	6207

Sl. No.	Taluks	REM	EMI	ROM	OMI
	<b>Kottayam</b>	<b>26448</b>	<b>89351</b>	<b>66651</b>	<b>58908</b>
26	Devikulam	0	235	260	0
27	Udumbanchola	1341	4219	3979	1006
28	Thodupuzha	1872	1337	1070	0
29	Peerumade	0	0	0	0
	<b>Idukki</b>	<b>3213</b>	<b>5792</b>	<b>5308</b>	<b>1006</b>
30	Kunnathunad	1308	14543	5505	10346
31	Aluva	10310	15623	4365	2130
32	Paravoor	3244	20319	1153	4687
33	Kochi	7431	3974	9762	7346
34	Kanayannur	36396	52156	23794	22358
35	Moovattupuzha	7854	10888	1884	4611
36	Kothamangalam	2317	3475	0	8109
	<b>Ernakulam</b>	<b>120979</b>	<b>120979</b>	<b>46463</b>	<b>59586</b>
37	Thalappilly	45287	84803	18024	15427
38	Chavakad	35262	44630	12110	15288
39	Thrissur	42140	53802	57876	9917
40	Kodungalloor	23489	51834	7955	5228
41	Mukundapuram	28477	48999	41668	14225
	<b>Thrissur</b>	<b>174655</b>	<b>284068</b>	<b>137634</b>	<b>60085</b>
42	Ottapalam	49238	52620	14852	19510
43	Manarkad	10313	16459	7250	7889
44	Palakkad	8310	90843	55748	114801
45	Chittur	9580	9771	18967	38975
46	Alathur	7877	20123	30479	36119
	<b>Palakkad</b>	<b>85318</b>	<b>189815</b>	<b>127296</b>	<b>217294</b>
47	Ernad	59636	67766	7915	4125
48	Nilambur	19540	23918	1289	3440
49	Perunthalmanna	38866	73692	2697	1384
50	Tirur	61376	96767	3211	3163

Sl. No.	Taluks	REM	EMI	ROM	OMI
51	Thirurangadi	17757	42818	0	5846
52	Ponnani	22561	29611	0	25381
	<b>Malappuram</b>	<b>219736</b>	<b>334572</b>	<b>15113</b>	<b>43339</b>
53	Vadakara	23585	63562	1081	5799
54	Quilandy	12976	52102	0	5578
55	Kozhikode	35844	83499	16272	34756
	<b>Kozhikode</b>	<b>72405</b>	<b>199163</b>	<b>17352</b>	<b>46133</b>
56	Mananthavady	0	3154	1417	4048
57	Sultanbethery	503	4971	5903	5592
58	Vythiri	1427	5871	1036	2787
	<b>Wayanad</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>13996</b>	<b>8356</b>	<b>12427</b>
59	Thaliparambu	8336	36280	10081	27329
60	Kannur	7491	47582	6136	9035
61	Thalassery	10589	35257	1347	11046
	<b>Kannur</b>	<b>26416</b>	<b>119119</b>	<b>17564</b>	<b>47410</b>
62	Kasaragode	12180	31804	744	21532
63	Hosdurg	15042	36047	3665	15694
	<b>Kasaragode</b>	<b>27222</b>	<b>67851</b>	<b>4409</b>	<b>37226</b>
	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>1183186</b>	<b>2193412</b>	<b>686198</b>	<b>914387</b>

Sample household number FSU Schedule Number **KERALA MIGRATION SURVEY 2008****STATE OF KERALA - INDIA**

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA  
AND  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CDS),  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**Schedule 1****FOR PANEL SAMPLES ONLY**Type of Sample Household [Code: Original – 1, Substituted – 2] If Original Household – Previous Questionnaire Number **MIGRATION STATUS: Write the number of Migrants ( REM, EMI, ROM, OMI )**

1. Return migrants from outside India (REM) Q – 16
2. Emigrants living outside India (EMI) Q – 22
3. Return migrants from other states in India (ROM) Q – 16
4. Out-migrants living in other states in India (OMI) Q – 22
5. Women left behind Q – 9

## MIGRATION SURVEY

### Schedule 1

### BLOCK - 1

#### Identification Particulars

District..... Taluk .....

City/Panchayat..... Locality (rural-1, urban-2).....

Ward Number..... Ward Name.....

House No. / House Name..... Name of Informant .....

Details about visits to the household	1	2
Date (s) of Interview		
Name of Investigator		
Name of the Supervisor		
Time Taken		

*Notes: The respondent should be the Head of the household. If the head of the household is not present, the information should be collected from the immediate responsible person.*

## Block - 2: HOUSEHOLD DETAILS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Serial No.	Name of members of Household (Head of the HH first)	Relation with the Head (Code)	Sex (Male - 1 Female - 2)	Date of Birth (Month and Year)	General Educational Status (See code)	Activity status (See code)	Marital Status (See code)	Married women whose husband residing outside India (Yes-1, No-2)
01								
02								
03								
04								
05								
06								
07								
08								

Codes:	Column - 03	Column - 06	Column - 07	Column - 08
Head of the HH	1	Illiterate	1	Never married
Husband/Wife	2	Literate without school Education	2	Married
Unmarried children	3	Primary not completed	3	Widow / Widower
Married children	4	Primary	4	Divorced
Son-in-law/Daughter-in-law	5	Upper Primary up to Secondary	5	Separated
Grand child	6	Secondary passed but have no Degree	6	
Father/Mother/Mother-in-law	7	Degree holders	7	
Servant	8	Others (specify).....	8	
Others	9		9	







**Block -5: Household**

29. Is your house electrified?
- Yes-1 No-2
30. What type of fuel is used for cooking?
- Wood-1 Kerosene - 3 Others-5 (specify)
- Electricity-2 L.P. Gas - 4
- 30.1 Any Child aged below 18 studying in Boarding School
- (Code Yes - 1, No - 2)
31. Type of house which the household is now occupying
- Luxurious-1, Very Good (2 bed rooms with attached bathrooms, concrete roof, Mosaic floor) - 2, Good (1 bed room, brick and cement walls, concrete or tile roof)-3, Poor (Brick walls, cement floor, tin or asbestos roof) - 4
- Kutchra (Mud walls, Mud floor & Thatched roof) - 5
32. Does any member of this household own:
- 32.1 House  (Yes - 1, No - 2)
- 32.2 Land  (Yes - 1, No - 2)
- 32.3 If Yes for Land, how many cents
33. Does the household own any of the following
- |                           |                              |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Motor car              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Taxi / Truck / Lorry   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Motor Cycle /Scooter   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Telephone (land phone) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Mobile Phone           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Television             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. MP3/DVD/VCD            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Refrigerator           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Electric Cooking Oven  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Microwave Oven        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Baking Oven           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Computer/Laptops      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
34. What is your religion?
- (Hindu - 1, Christian - 2, Muslim - 3, Sikhs-4, Others -5 )
- 35.1 If Hindu, which caste do you belong to?
- Nair -1 Viswakarma/Barber/Washerman - 5
- Ezhava - 2 Scheduled Caste/Tribe - 6
- Brahmin -3 Others (Specify) - 7
- Nadar - 4
- 35.2. If Christian, which denomination do you belong to?
- Syrian Malabar Catholic - 1 Orthodox Syrian - 5
- Malankara Syrian Catholic - 2 Marthoma Syrian - 6
- Latin Catholic - 3 C.S.I. - 7
- Jacobite Syrian - 4 S C - 8
- Others (Specify) - 9
- 35.3 If Muslim, which sect do you belong to
- Shiya Muslim - 1 Sunni Muslim - 2

### Block – 6 Questions to the members of the Household

36. Did anyone in your family receive money or goods or gifts other than cash from persons residing abroad during the last 12-month period?

Yes-1  (If Yes, go to Q.37) No-2  (If No, go to Q.40)

37. If Yes, total amount of money received last year Rs. ....

38. If any goods/gifts received, specify by  mark

- (1) Clothes   
 (2) Gold ornaments   
 (3) Small electrical equipments   
 (4) MP3/VCD/DVD   
 (5) Others (Specify)   
 Total value Rs. ....

39. In what ways did you use the money? (Tick the appropriate)

- (1) For day-to-day household expenses   
 (2) Education of children   
 (3) To repay debts   
 (4) To purchase land   
 (5) Dowry payment of relatives   
 (6) To build/purchase new house/renovation of old house   
 (7) To embark new business/enlarging the existing one   
 (8) To Maintain agricultural land   
 (9) Deposited in bank   
 (10) Others (Specify).....

**Interviewer to Note** – Only amounts which are not included in Q. 37, 38 should be included in the Q. No 40 and 41

40. Did anyone in your family residing abroad bring money to build house / to purchase land during last one year? (Code: Yes-1, No-2)

If Yes, how much? Rs. ....

41. Did anyone in your family bring money last one year for any purpose, which is not included above?

Item	Amount in Rs.
To buy a Car / Scooter / Taxi etc	
To invest in share / Bonds / mutual funds etc	
To start a small enterprise	
Dowry	
Education	
Medical Expenses	
Repayments of Debts	
Others (Specify )	

### Block -7: Expenses Incurred for Emigration

(For those who had gone abroad - On the basis of block 3 and 4 )

Q.42	Return migrants from abroad and Emigrants			
Name				
Serial No – From Block 3 or Block 4				
a. Payment to recruitment agencies				
b. Payment to other Intermediaries				
c. Passport				
d. Visa				
e. Air ticket				
f. Emigration Clearance				
g. Loss due to fraud (Rs.)				
Total				

### Block -8: Sources of financing for going abroad

(  the relevant items)

Q. 43				
a. From other members of family				
b. Personal Savings				
c. Parents Savings				
d. Borrowing from friends / relatives				
e. Loans from moneylenders				
f. Loans from Bank				
g. Sale / mortgage of landed Property				
h. Sale / pledging of financial assets				
i. Sale / pledging of ornaments or Jewellery				
j. Government assistance				
k. Other sources (specify).....				

### Block – 9: Information on Emigrants and Out-Migrants

Q.44 Out Migrants living in other states in India

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sl No. From Block 4				
Name				

Q.45 Emigrants living out side India

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sl No. From Block 4				
Name				

### Block –10: Information on Returnees

Q.46 Return migrants from other states in India

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sl No. from Block 2				
Name from Block 2				

Q.47 Return migrants from out side India

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sl No. from Block 2				
Name from Block 2				

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