

Gallup Pakistan Big Data Analytics Report on Labor Export from Pakistan

A PERIODIC REVIEW OUTLINING TRENDS BETWEEN 1971-2020

GALLUP
PAKISTAN

Affiliated with Gallup International

Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

MORE REPORTS ON LABOUR MIGRATION

REPORT	LINK
Labor Migration Trend Data (1971-2014)	https://gallup.com.pk/post/11835
Global Immigration Index -2012	https://gallup.com.pk/post/8223
A case study of Pakistani Labor in the Gulf - 2008	https://gallup.com.pk/post/11829
Guest workers – A study of Overseas Pakistanis - 1987	https://gallup.com.pk/post/11825
Socio-Economic Impact of International Labor Migration – A Study Based on Pakistani Experience - 1984	https://gallup.com.pk/post/11833

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **SECTION I:** NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT THROUGH BUREAU OF EMIGRATION & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1971-2020 (UPTO November) **COUNTRY WISE**
- **SECTION II:** WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1981-2014 (UPTO November) **PROVINCE WISE**
- **SECTION III:** WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1981-2020 (UPTO November) **DIVISION WISE**
- **SECTION IV:** NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS PROCEEDED ABROAD FOR EMPLOYMENT REGISTERED BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1971-2020 (UPTO November) **OCCUPATIONAL GROUP – WISE**
- **SECTION V:** WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1971-2020 (UPTO November) **CATEGORIES WISE**

Labor export and it's importance to Pakistan

Since 1971, more than 11 million Pakistanis have legally proceeded to over 50 countries for employment with most (96%) migration concentrated to the Gulf Cooperation Countries with Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates hosting the majority of these 96%. After India, Pakistan is the 2nd largest South Asian country to send labour to the GCC, majority of which is low skilled workers. Export of manpower has been of extreme importance to Pakistan as foreign remittances contribute a lot to the dwindling economy of the country. Additionally, overseas remittances are an important source of foreign exchange earnings and help stabilize the economy by covering up trade deficit.

Following 2015, there has generally been a downward trend in migration across the world due to economic slowdown, US immigration policies, reduction in oil prices in Gulf countries, political instability and reduction in construction projects etc. Moreover, GCC countries have also adopted Gulfization policy according to which locals are prioritized over expats in the job market.

There is a need to understand the changing dynamics of the Gulf countries, as most of the manpower from Pakistan migrates to these countries, to meet the demand of manpower in the future. After the fall in oil prices, Gulf countries are introducing projects in the services sector to revamp their economies which would mean an increased demand for skilled workers. There is a dire need for skill development, skill matching as well as certification of workers in Pakistan to meet demand of foreign employers. Additionally, the share of women migrants remains to be very low currently and this needs to be boosted to enhance participation of women.

Additionally, Pakistan formed the Emigration Ordinance in 1979 and since its formation it has undergone only one amendment. This ordinance does not address many issues such as human and health rights of workers overseas, the need for female skilled workers or research or data collection of labour market trends. The series of irregularities and gaps has led to exploitation of Pakistani workers over the years. Pakistan needs to have a formally approved labour emigration policy in place.

KEY FINDINGS

1. According to the annual migration trend of Pakistan, migration increased following the year 2010. The numbers declined following 2015 with 2020 having exceptionally low numbers.
2. It is essential to notice that the number of Pakistani workers that have registered for employment to Muslim countries is much larger than that of those migrating to Non-Muslims ones. Out of Muslim countries the largest influx has been in Saudi Arabia followed by the United Arab Emirates. Other countries with large number of Pakistani workers include Qatar, Oman, Malaysia, Kuwait and Bahrain.
3. The countries with the least number of Pakistani workers registered for employment include West Africa, Switzerland, Sierra Leone, Morocco, Croatia amongst others.
4. During the year 2020, 56% of all registered workers from Pakistan were registered for employment in Saudi Arabia.
5. During the year 2020, 53% of all overseas migrations took place from the province of Punjab. This was followed by Sindh (30%). The least number of workers were from the Federal Capital and Baluchistan.

KEY FINDINGS

1. In the year 2020, division wise, the greatest number of emigrants were from Gujranwala (15%). This is followed by Malakand (13%)
2. **Occupation wise, the greatest number of workers registered overseas for employment were skilled and unskilled workers across the years. The proportion of emigrants who were highly skilled is very less. This trend has maintained over the years.**
3. **42% of all emigrants from the year 2020 were laborers, 32% of them were drivers and only 1% of them were doctors and engineers each.**

Acknowledgement

- **Note:** The data used in this report has been taken from the Bureau of Immigration website and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://gallup.com.pk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LabourMigrationTrendData1971-2020.pdf>

- **Note on the data usage by Gallup Pakistan Data Analytics Team:**

The Bureau of Immigration records exit of economic migrants from Pakistan. In the case of labor related low skill jobs , it is perceived that the registration (and thus reporting here) is generally more complete than for skilled and highly skilled workers , who may not be registering with the Bureau of Immigration and therefore being undercounted here. Moreover, the data does not include family members who may be proceeding abroad in certain cases. Lastly, this count does not necessarily include people who may be permanently resettling abroad for example taking on a citizenship.

NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT THROUGH BUREAU OF EMIGRATION & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD 1971-2020 (UPTO November) COUNTRY WISE

SECTION

1

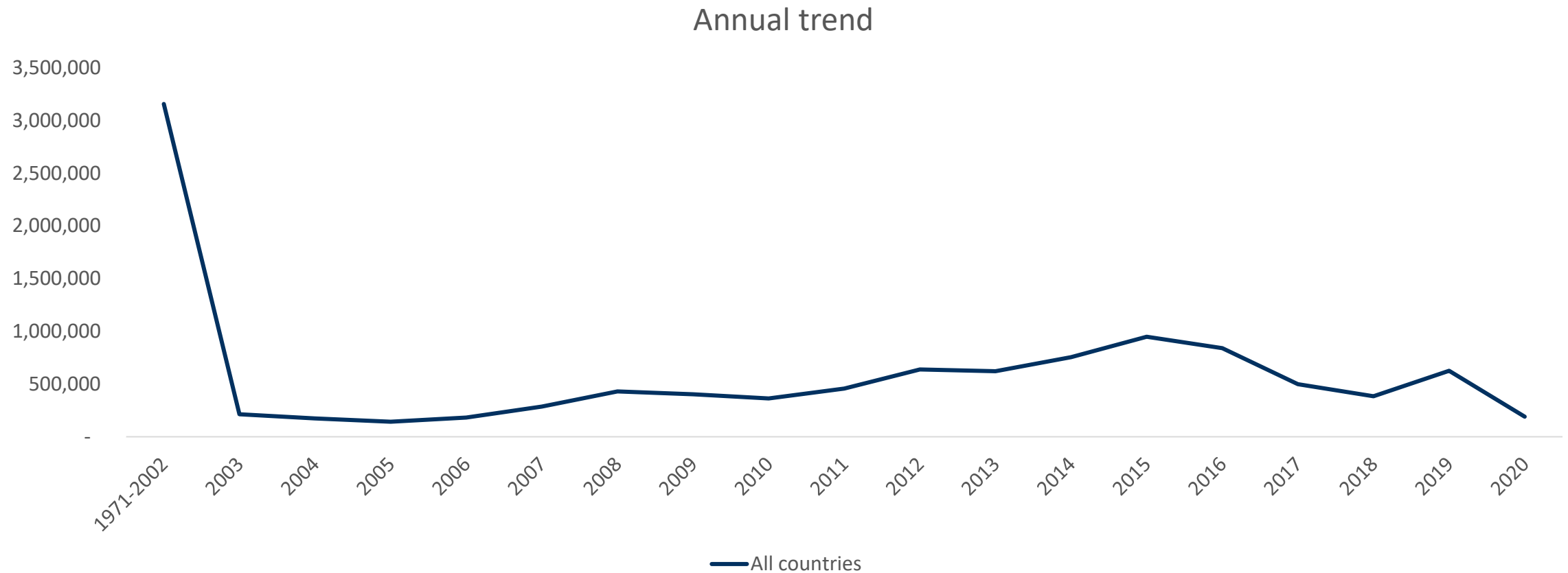
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

GALLUP
PAKISTAN

Affiliated with Gallup International

Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

Migration from Pakistan was high following 2012 but the numbers reduced after 2016 with 2019 being an exception



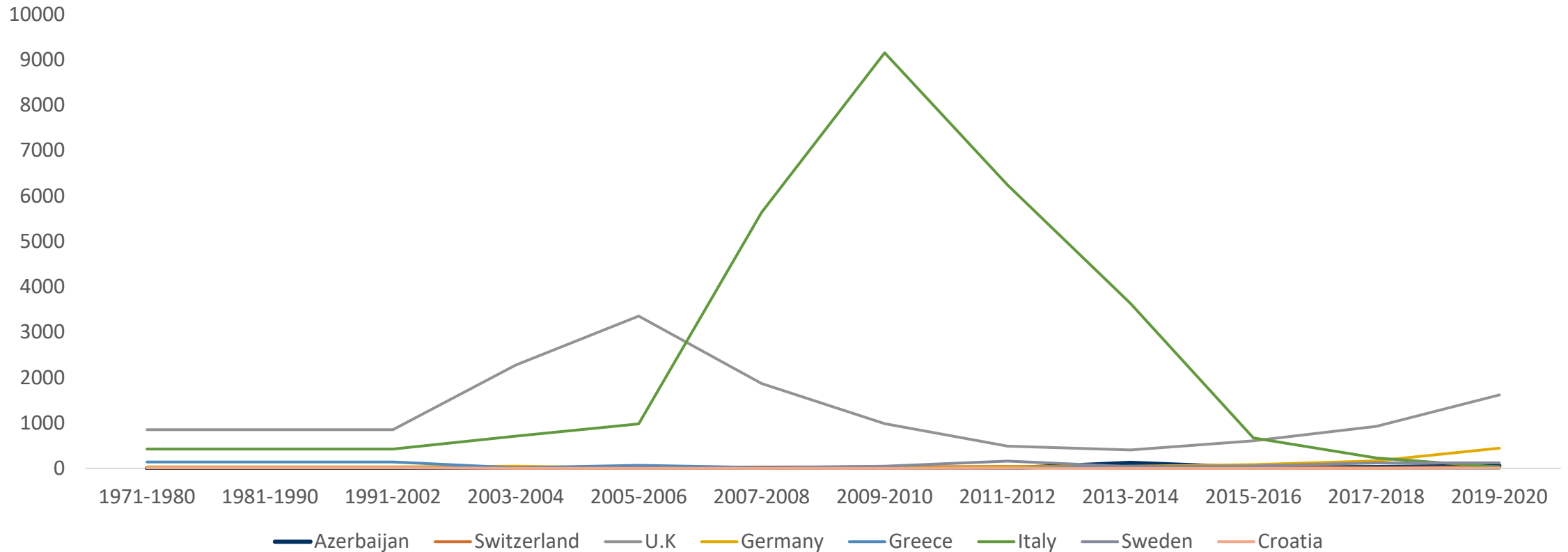
NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan (Bureau of Emigration, BOE)

Following 2005, there was a surge of Pakistani migrants to Italy with numbers declining again after 2010. Generally, low number of migrations to Europe

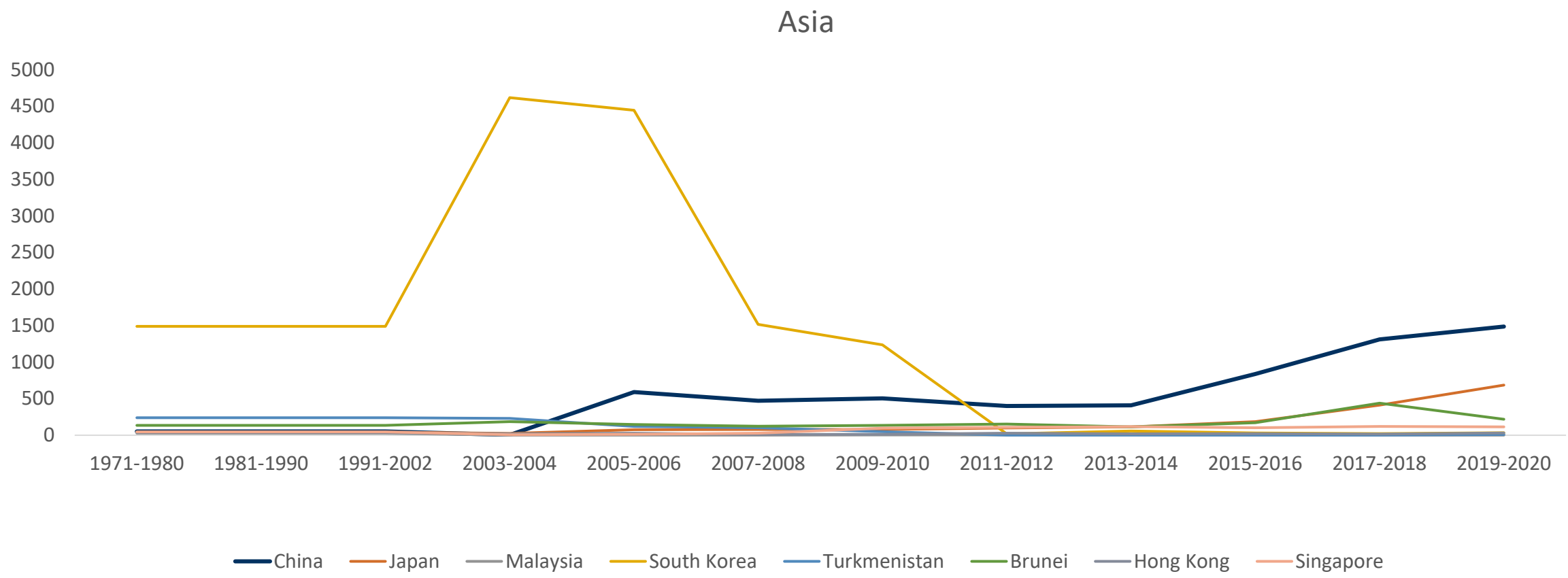
Europe



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Migration to other Asian countries remains low. South Korea saw a surge of Pakistani migrants during 2002-2006



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

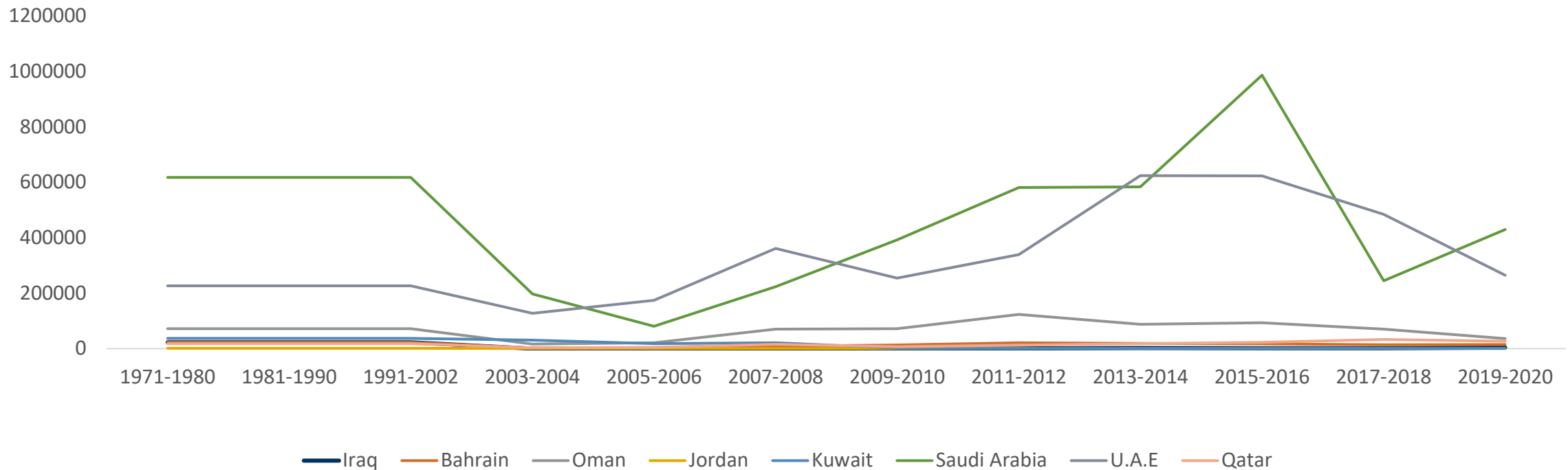
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan (Bureau of Emigration, BOE)



Large majority of Pakistani workers migrate to the Gulf countries with Saudi Arabia and UAE being most popular choices

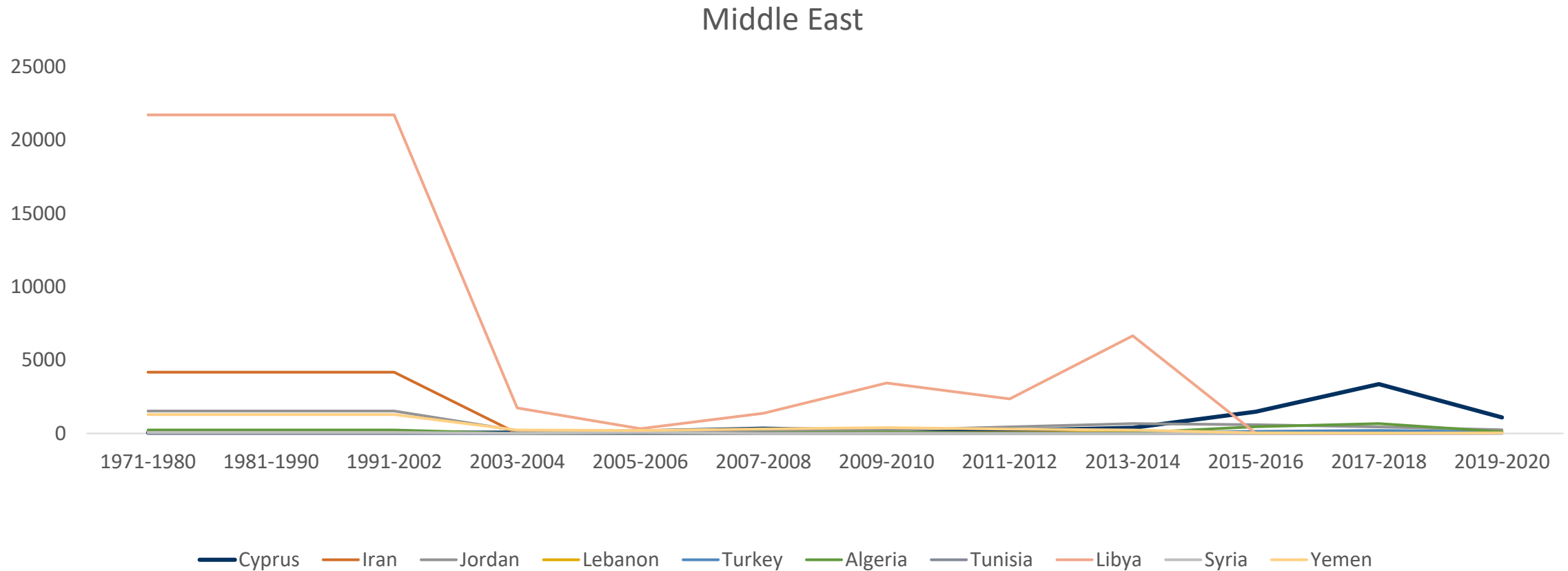
Gulf countries



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002 , for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

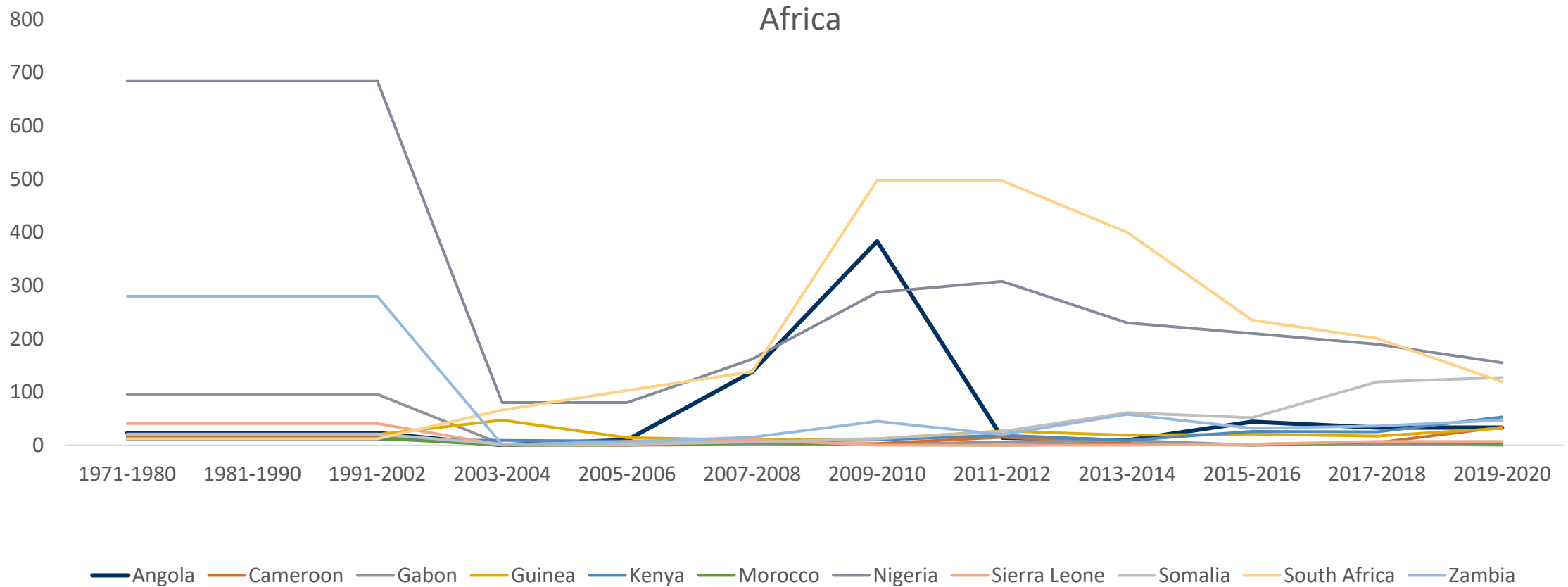
Low number of migrations to other regions of Middle East



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

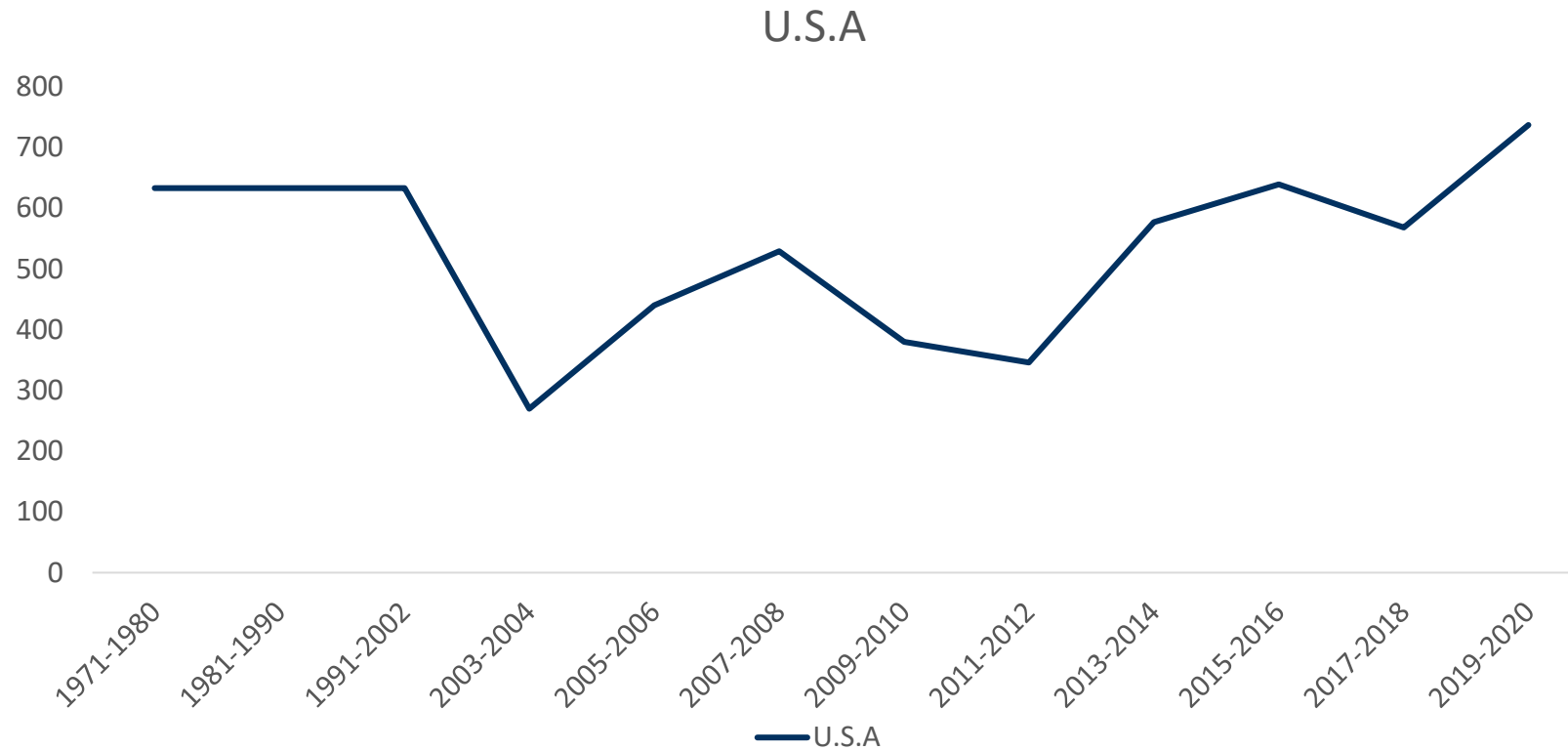
Migrations to Africa have generally been low over the years. More people have migrated to South Africa and Nigeria compared to other African countries.



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

The numbers of registered Pakistani workers in USA have generally been low. The highest number was 737 which was observed in 2019-20



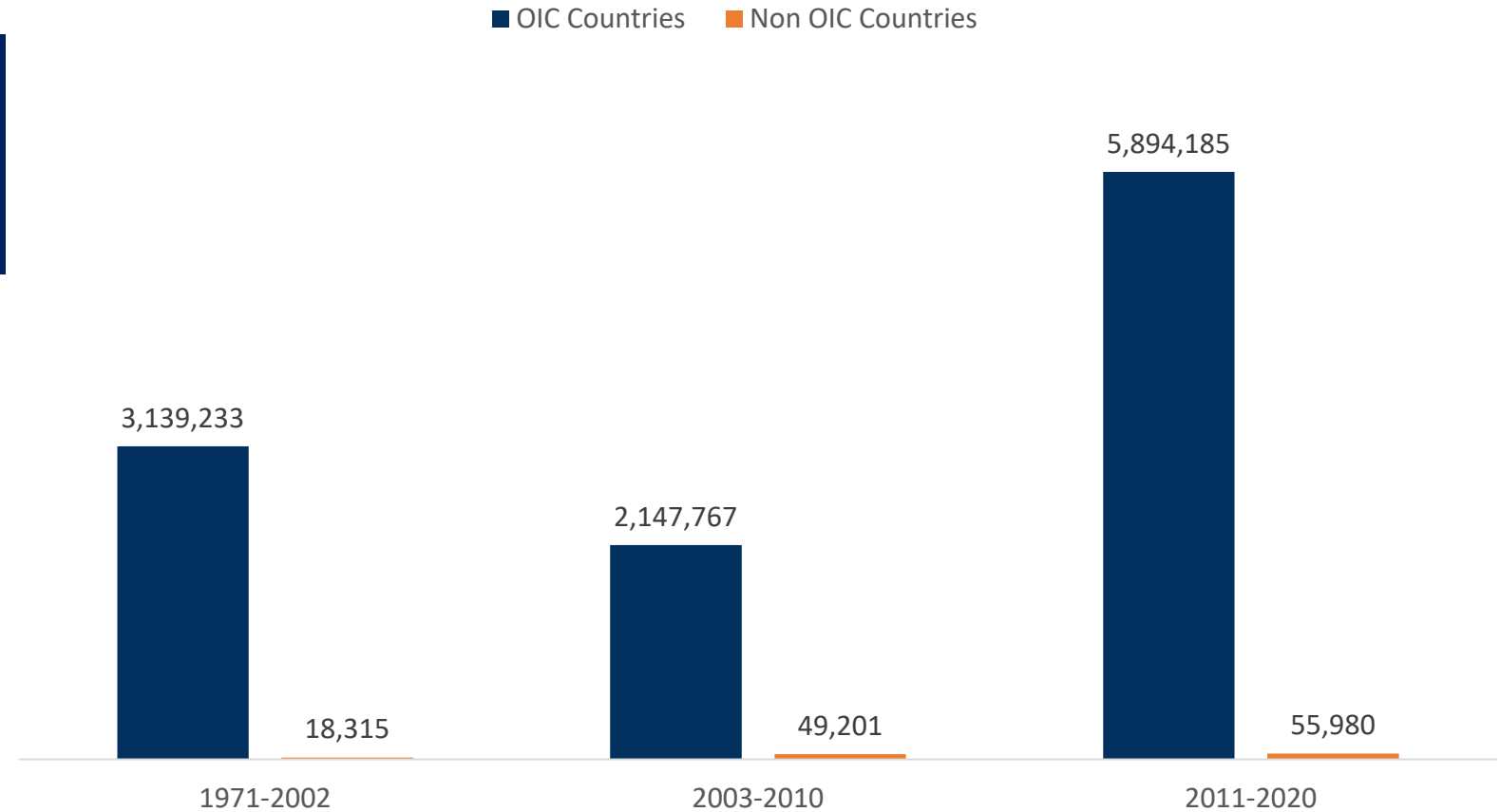
NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE)

Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Massive difference observed between the number of people who migrate to OIC Countries and those who migrate to Non OIC ones.

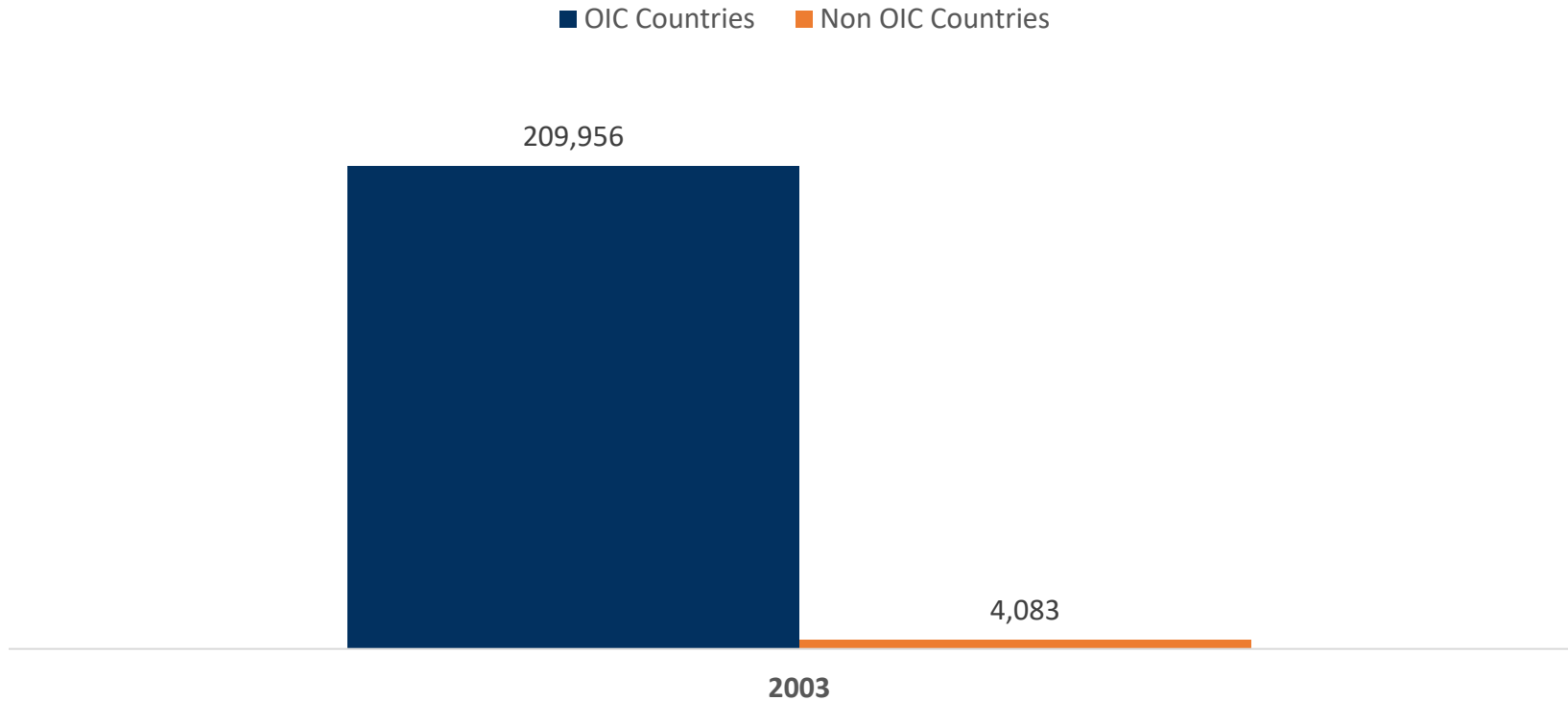
Average number of migrations per 10 years

1. OIC Countries = 2,236,237
2. Non OIC Countries = 24,699



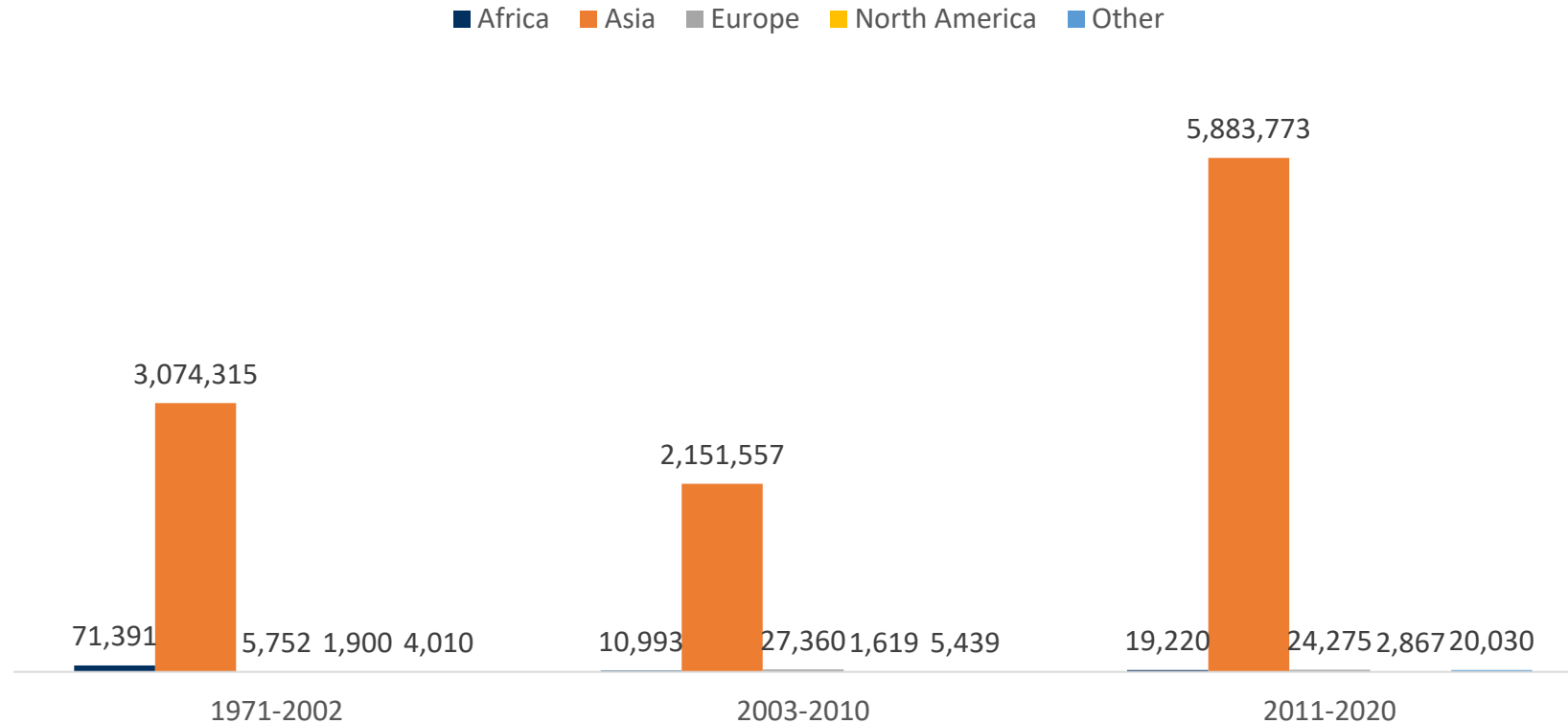
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

In the year 2003, 51 times more people migrated to OIC countries as compared to Non OIC ones



Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

The number of migrants in Asia from Pakistan have increased in the last decade despite a dip between 2003 and 2010

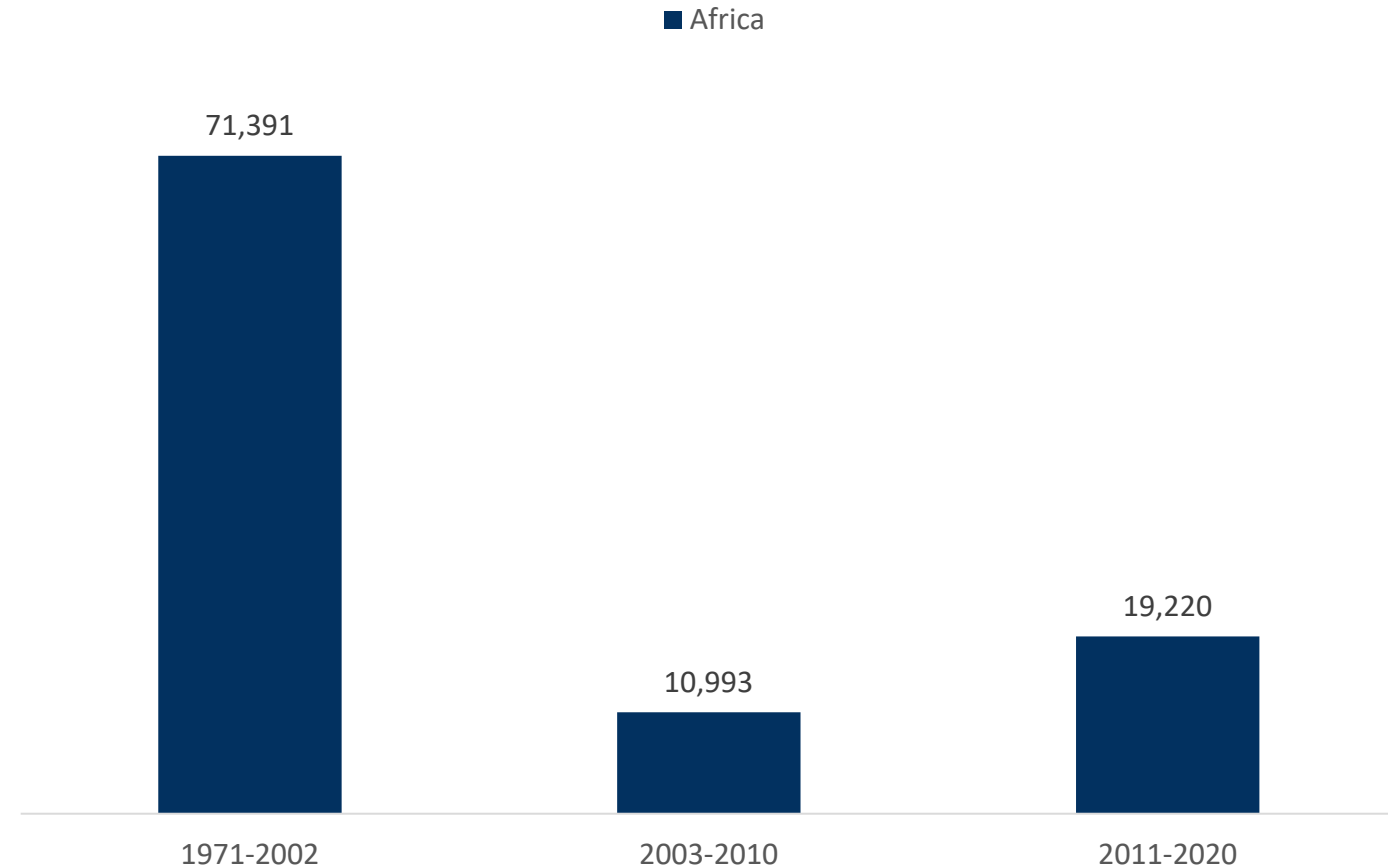


Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Despite relatively large number of migrants moving to Africa in the early decades, the numbers have decreased significantly after 2002 with only a slight increase after 2011.

Average number of migrants to Africa per year

1. 1971-2002 = 2,231
2. 2003-2010 = 1,374
3. 2011-2020 = 1,922

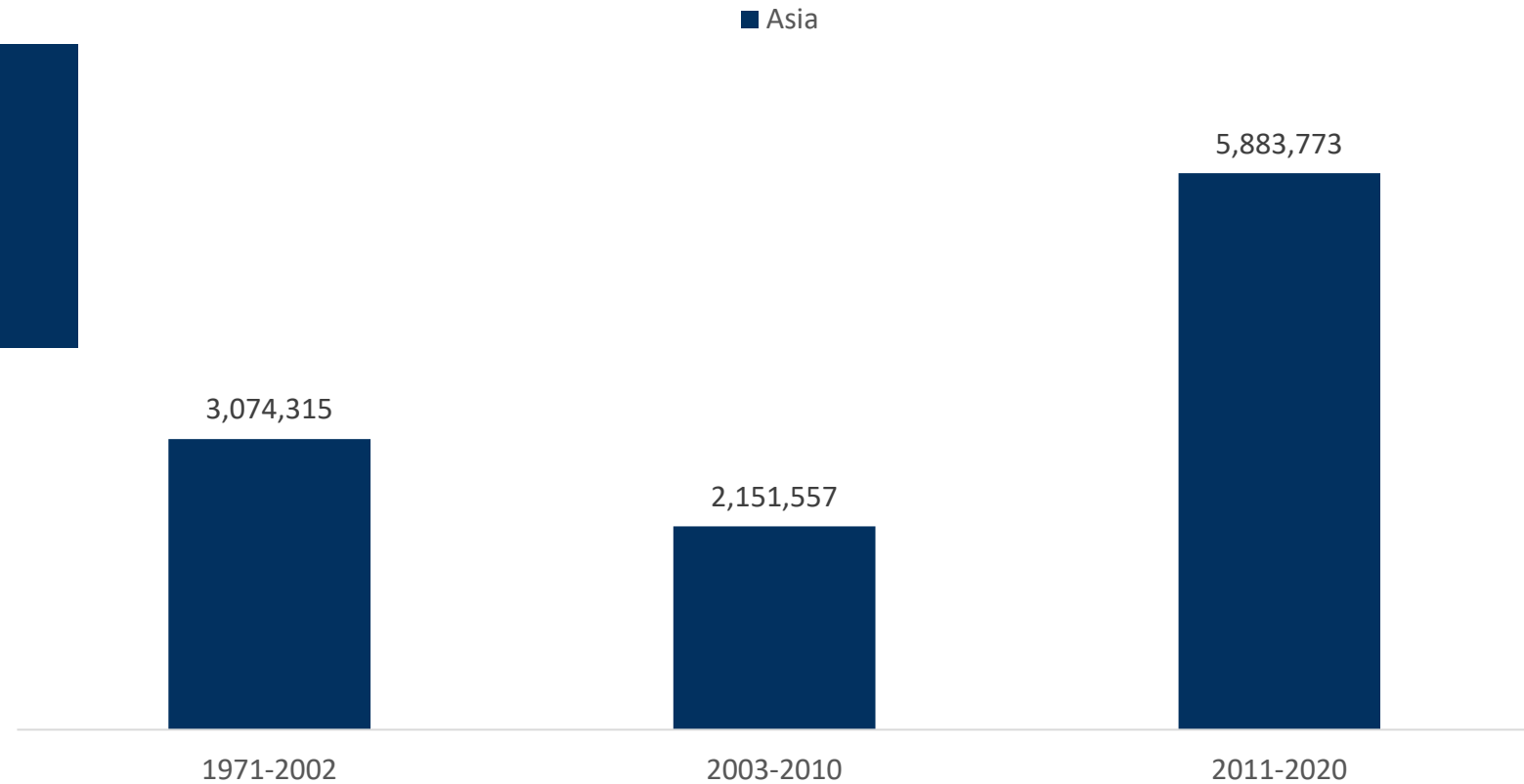


Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

The maximum number of people migrate within Asia. 5,883,773 people migrated to other parts of Asia from Pakistan

Average number of migrants to Asia per year

1. 1971-2002 = 9,607
2. 2003-2010 = 268,945
3. 2011-2020 = 588,377

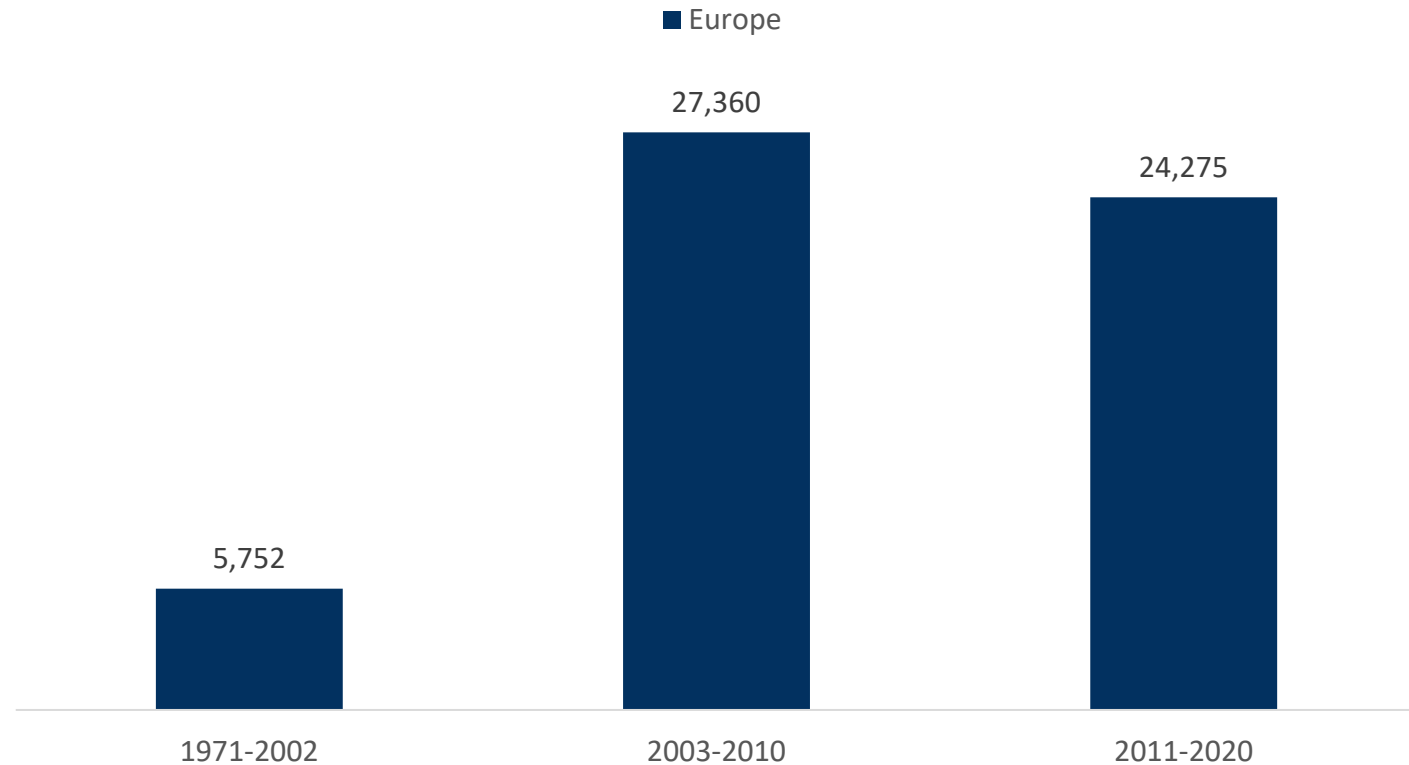


Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

An increasing number of people migrated to Europe till 2010 after which the numbers have declined slightly.

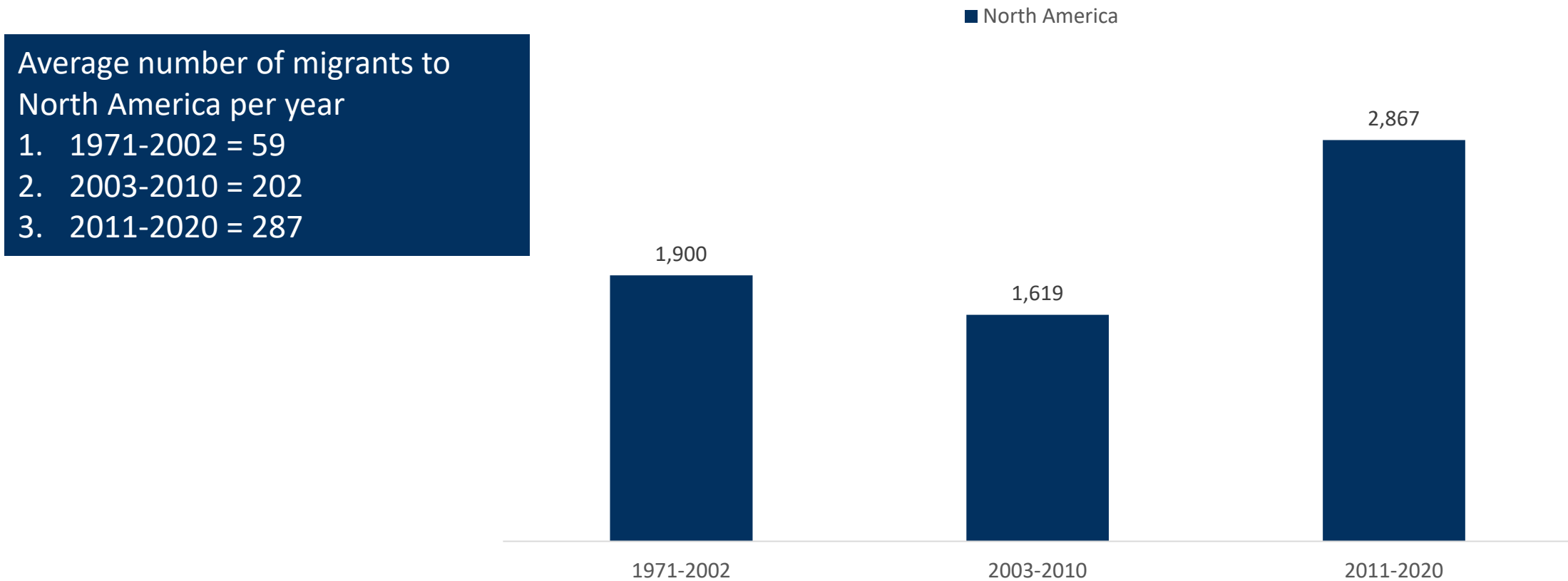
Average number of migrants to Europe per year

1. 1971-2002 = 180
2. 2003-2010 = 3,420
3. 2011-2020 = 2,478



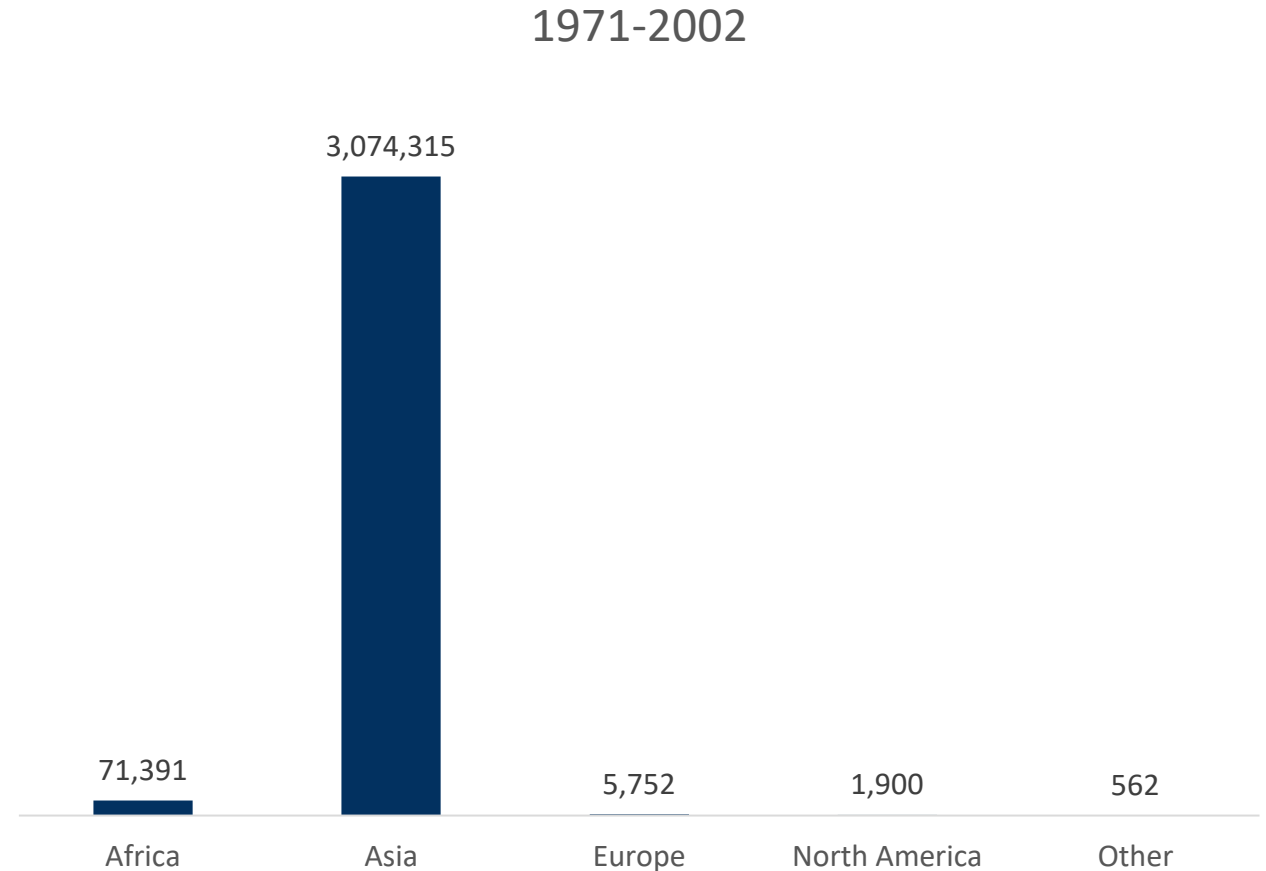
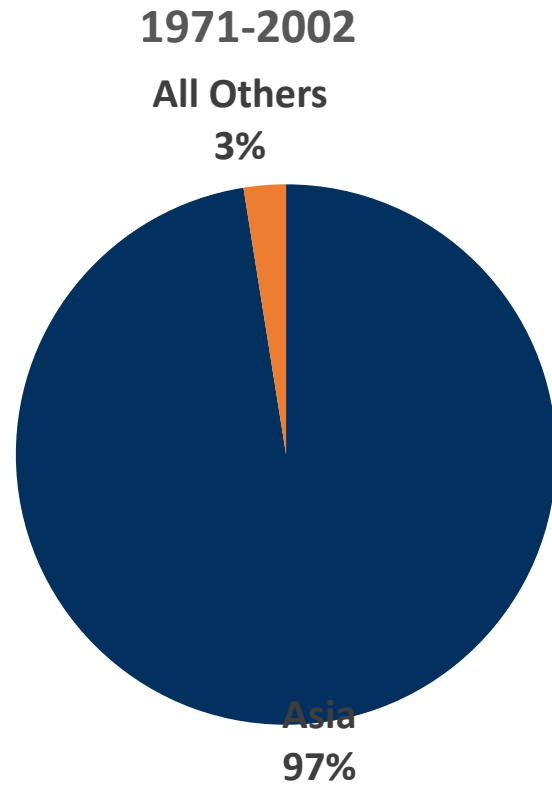
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

The maximum number of people migrated to North America from Pakistan between 2011-2020



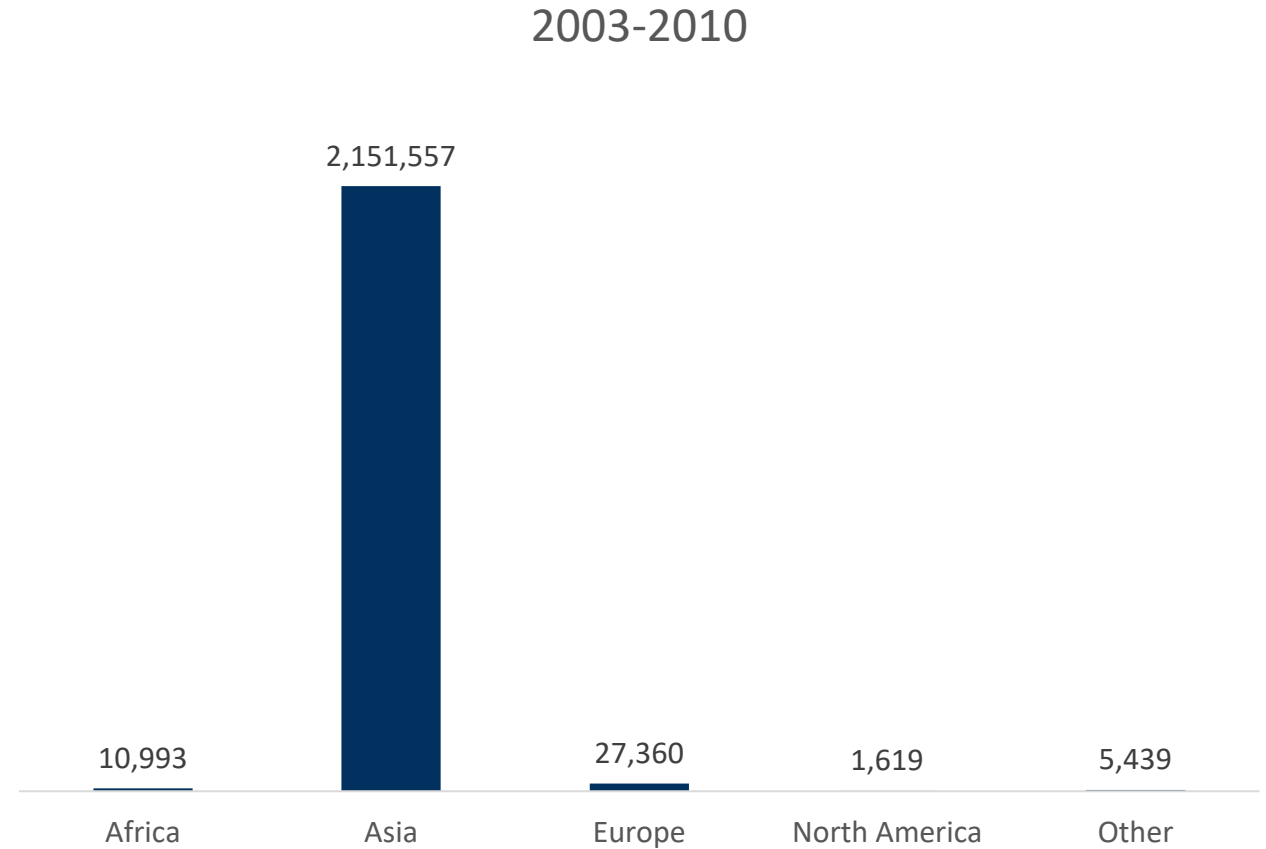
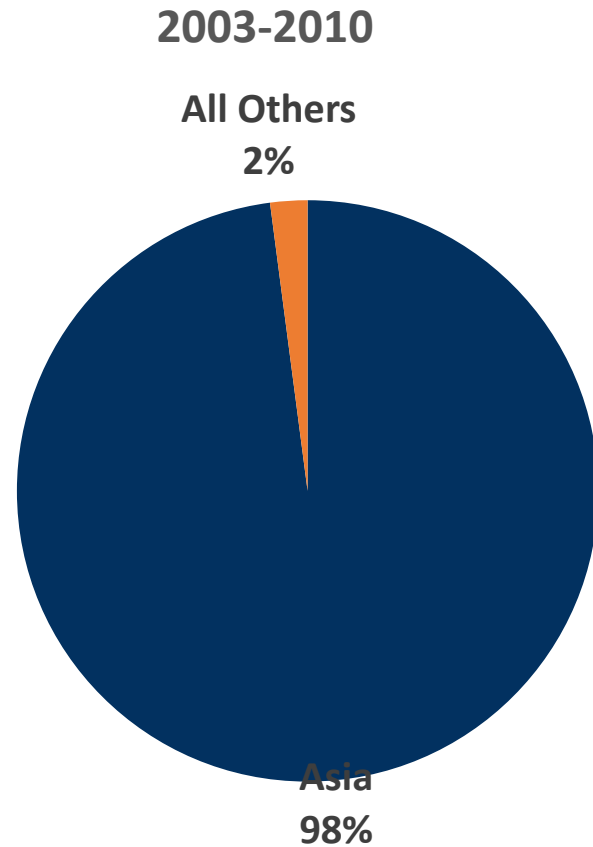
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Between 1971-2002, 97% of migrants from Pakistan migrated within Asia



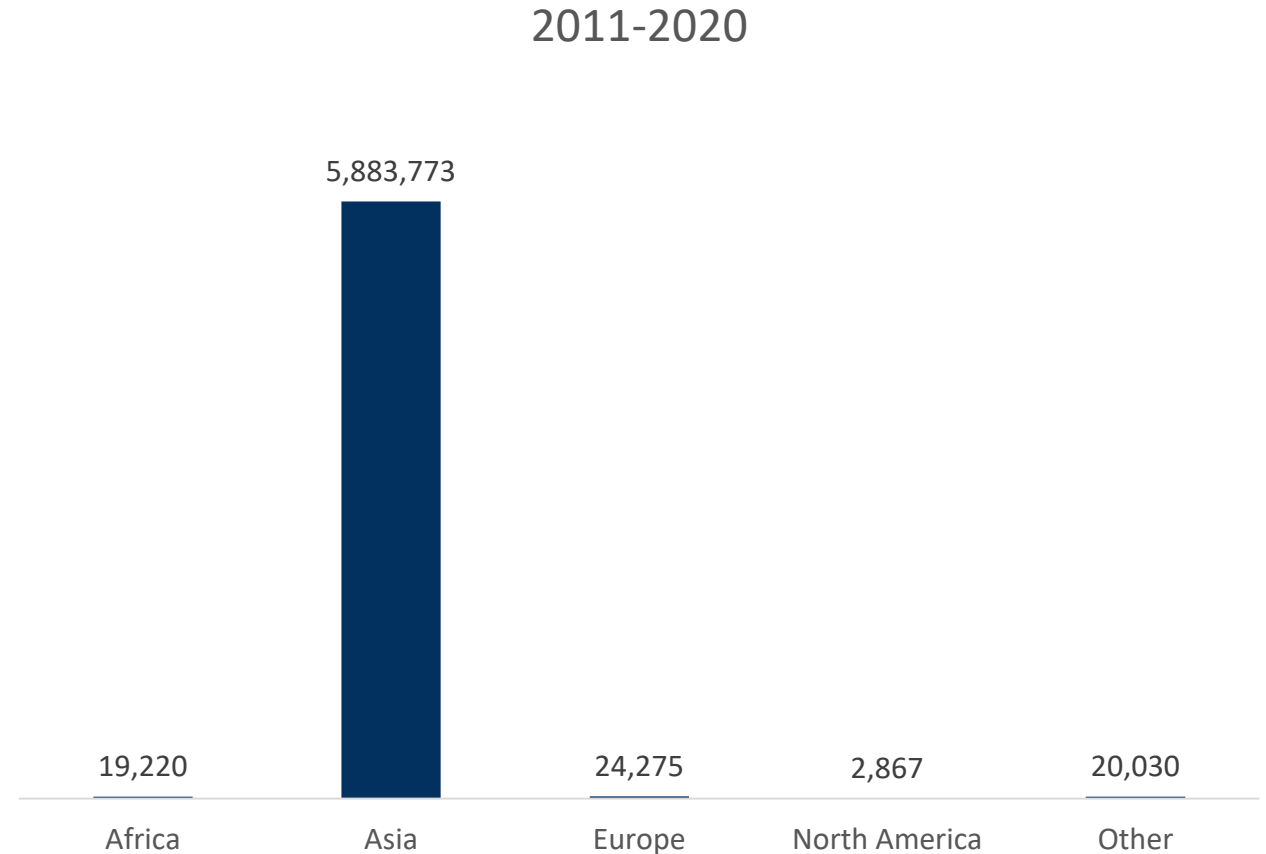
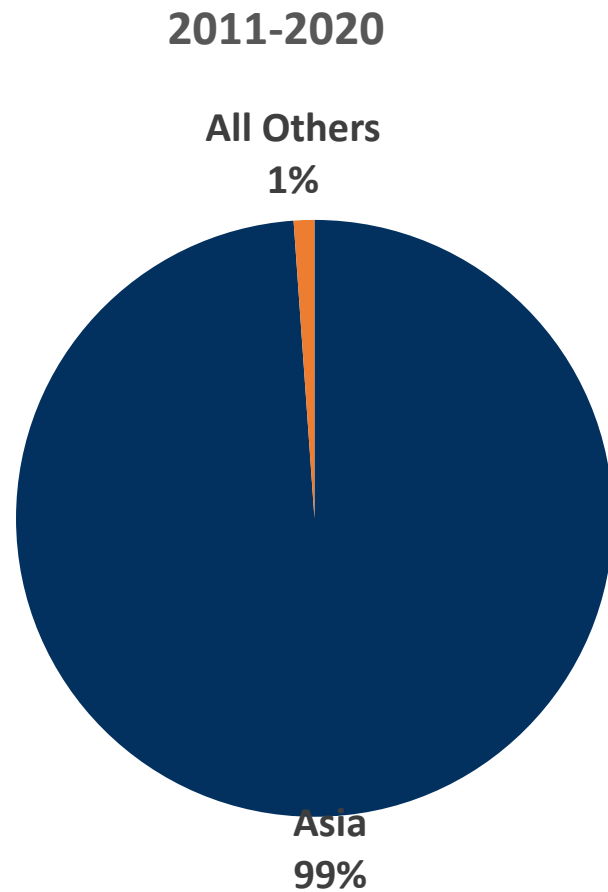
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Between 2003-2010, 98% migrated within Asia while the remaining 2% migrated to other continents



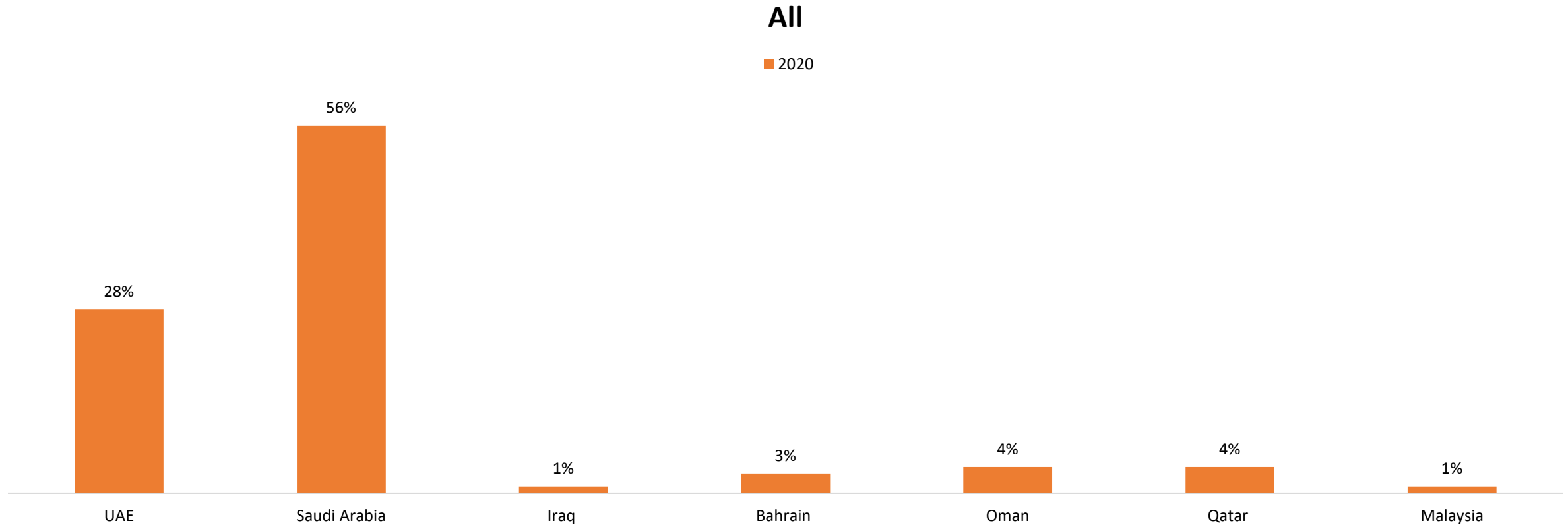
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

in the time period of 2011-2020, the number of migrants moving to parts of Asia increased further. 99% of all migrants from Pakistan migrated within Asia



Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

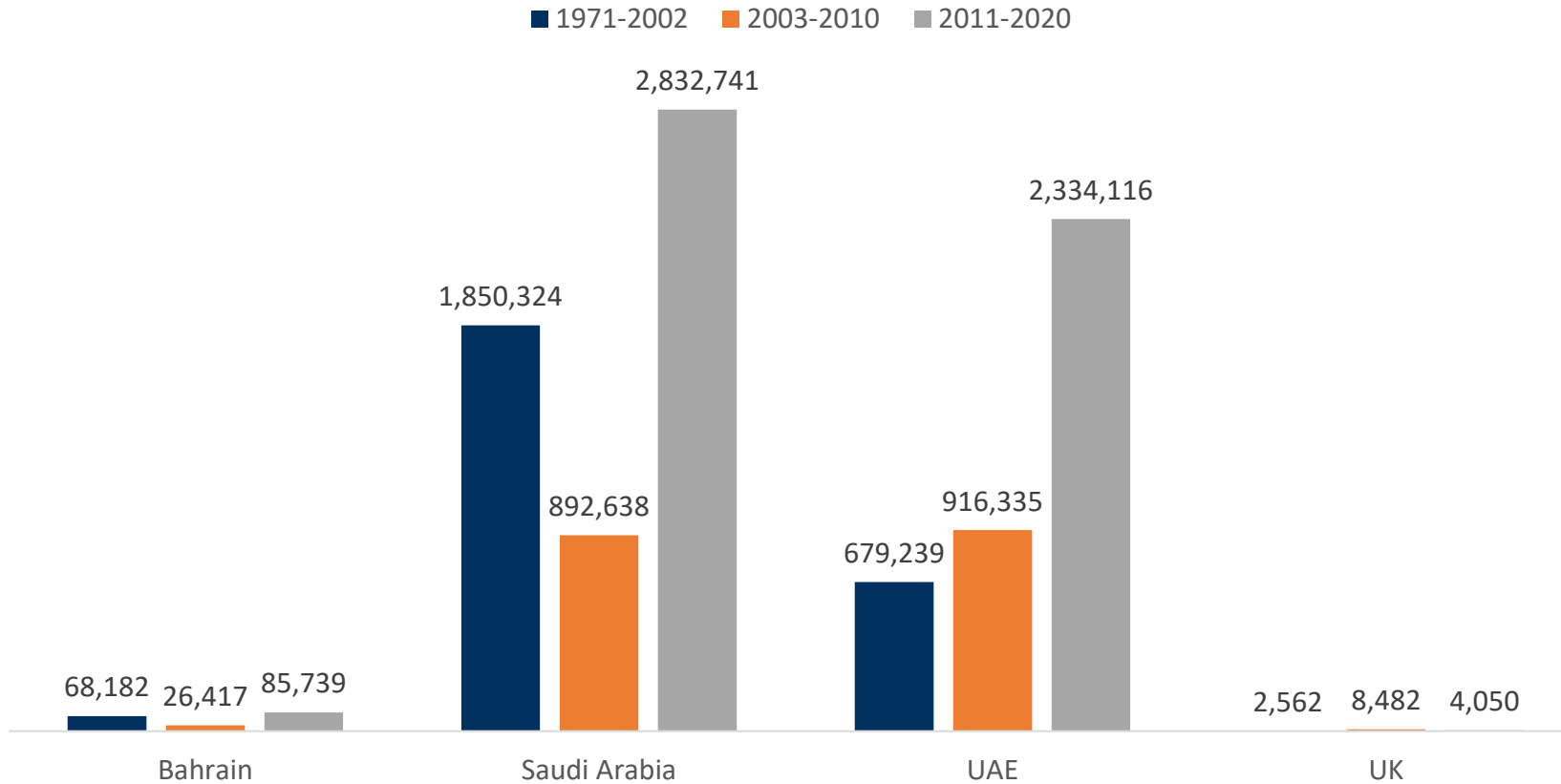
56% OF ALL PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE YEAR 2020 HAVE MIGRATED TO SAUDI ARABIA



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

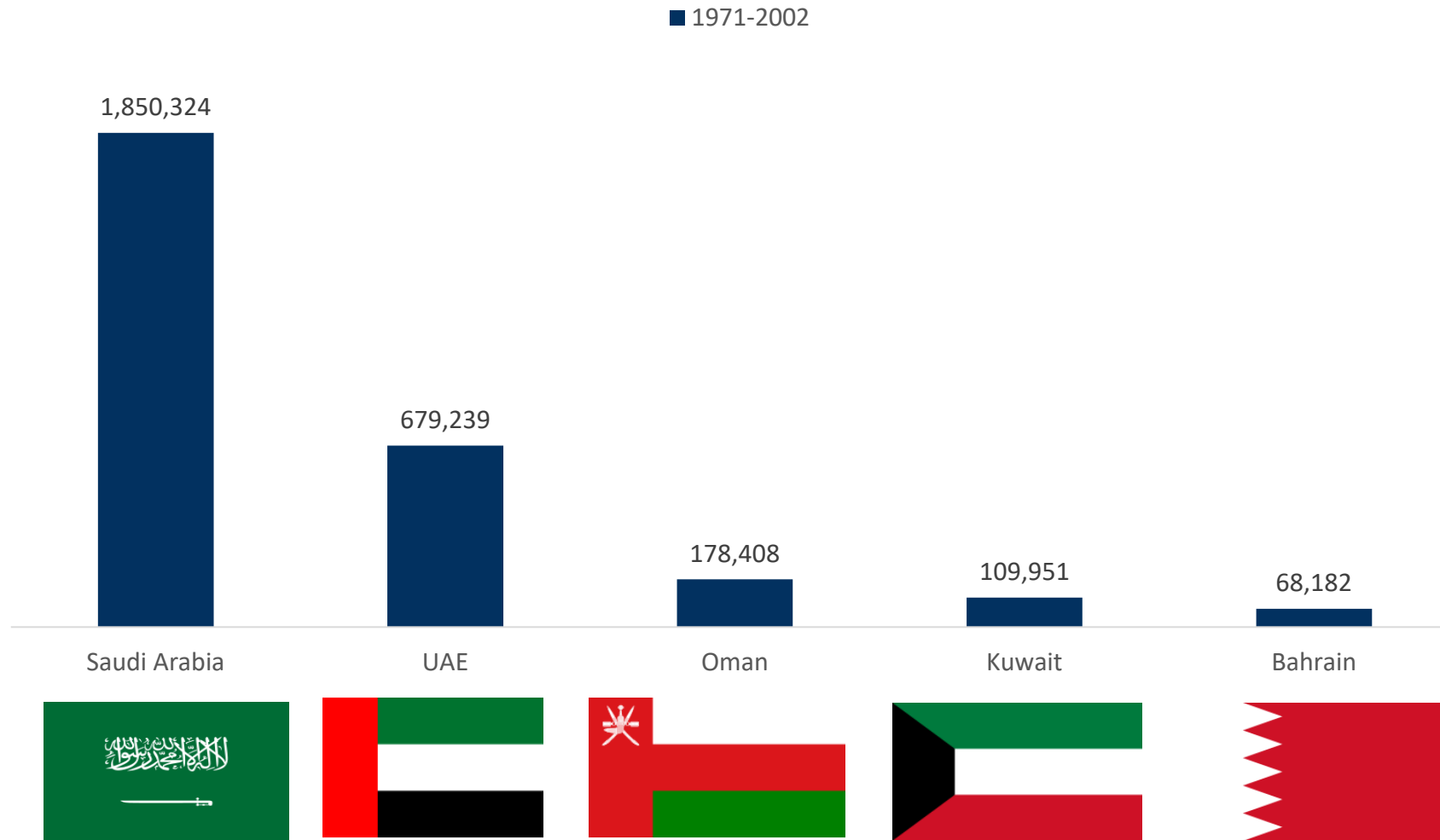
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Overall, migration in the last decade has been on a rise. UK is amongst the few exceptions in this regard



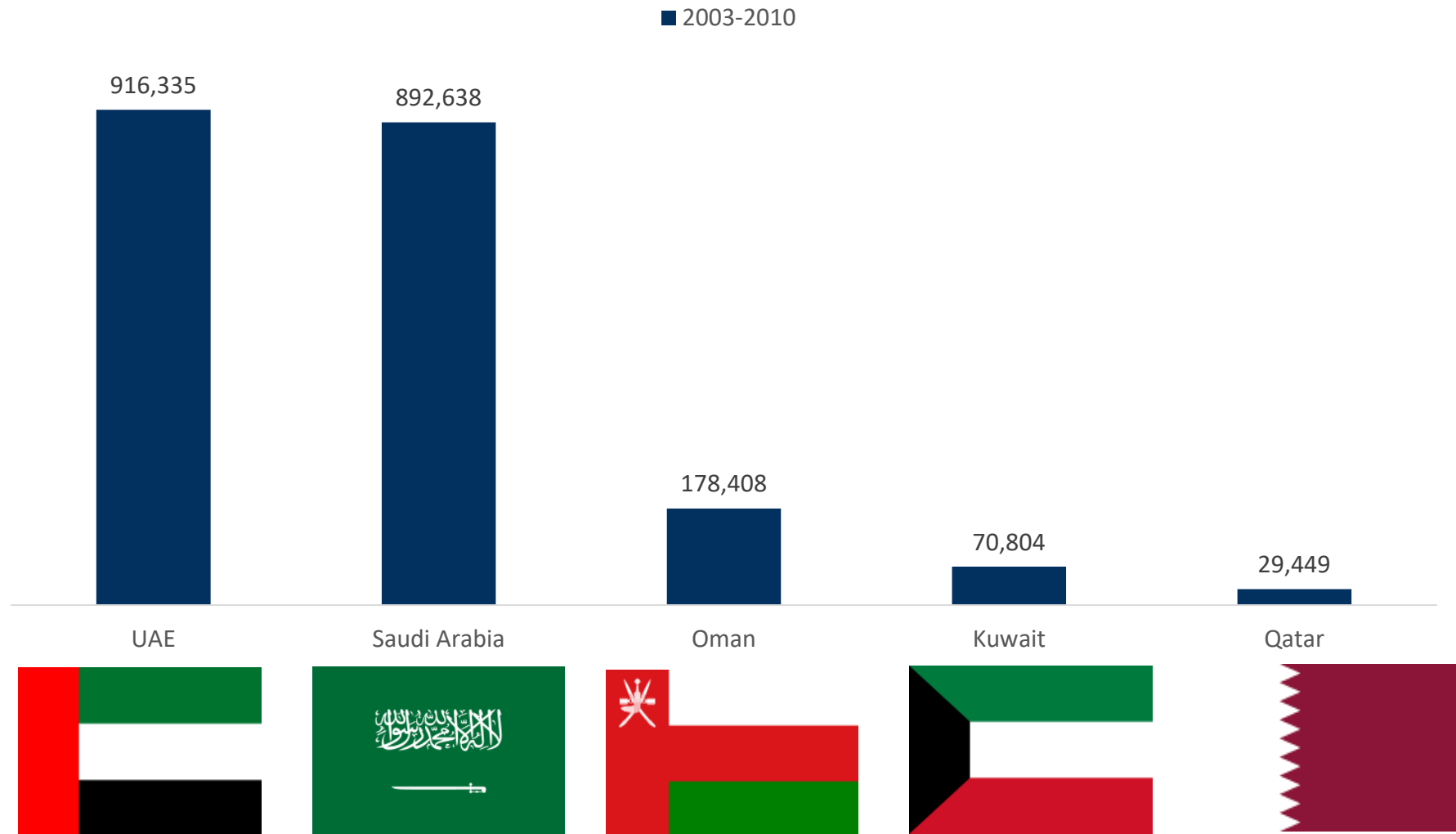
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Top 5 migration destinations (1971-2002)



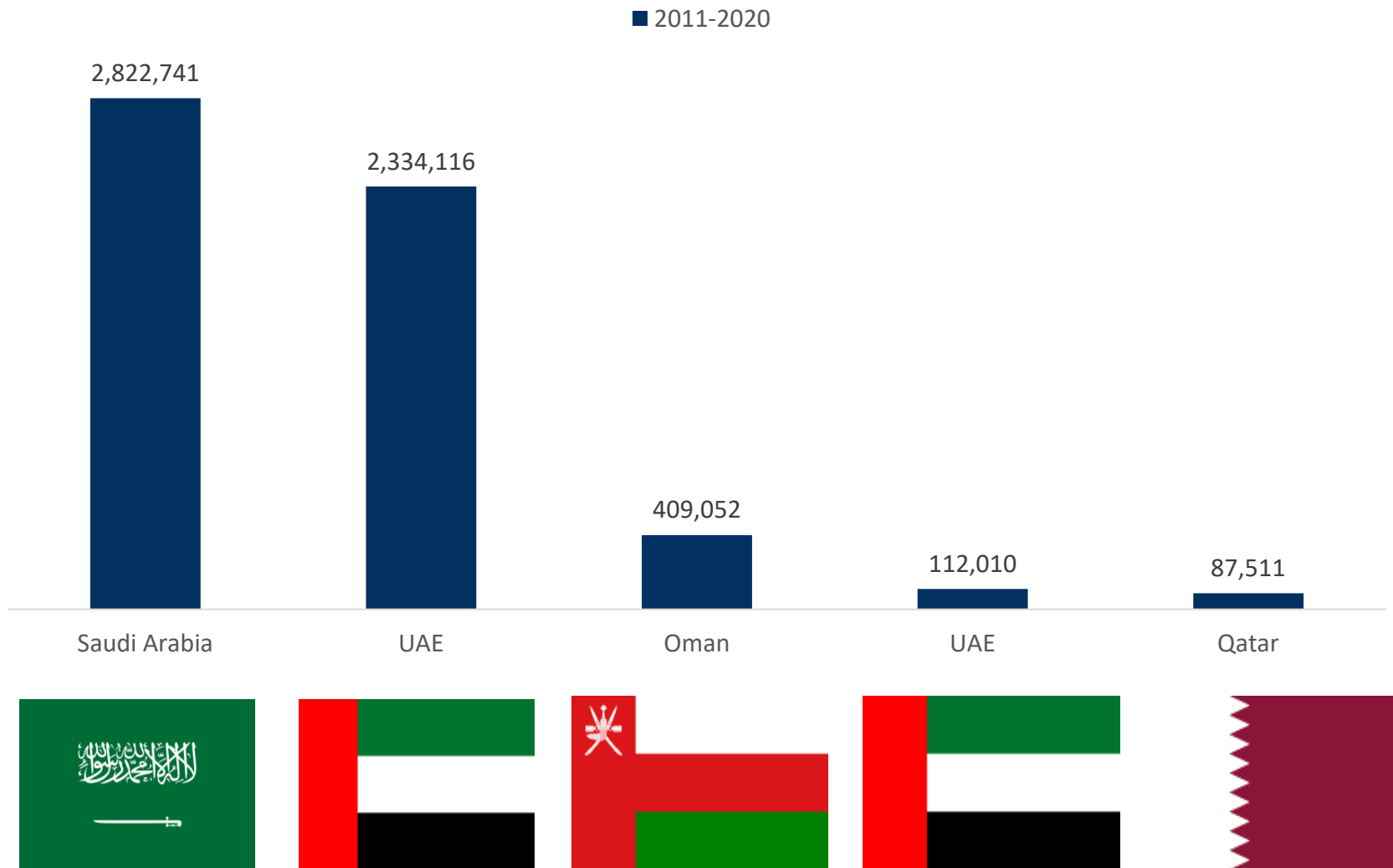
Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Top 5 migration destinations (2003-2010)



Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002 are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

Top 5 migration destinations (2011-2020)



Note: According to the policy of the Bureau of Immigration, single year entries before the year 2002, for country wise data, are no longer present on the website which is why the years 1971-2002 are clubbed together.

**WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION &
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD
1981-2014 (UPTO November) PROVINCE WISE**

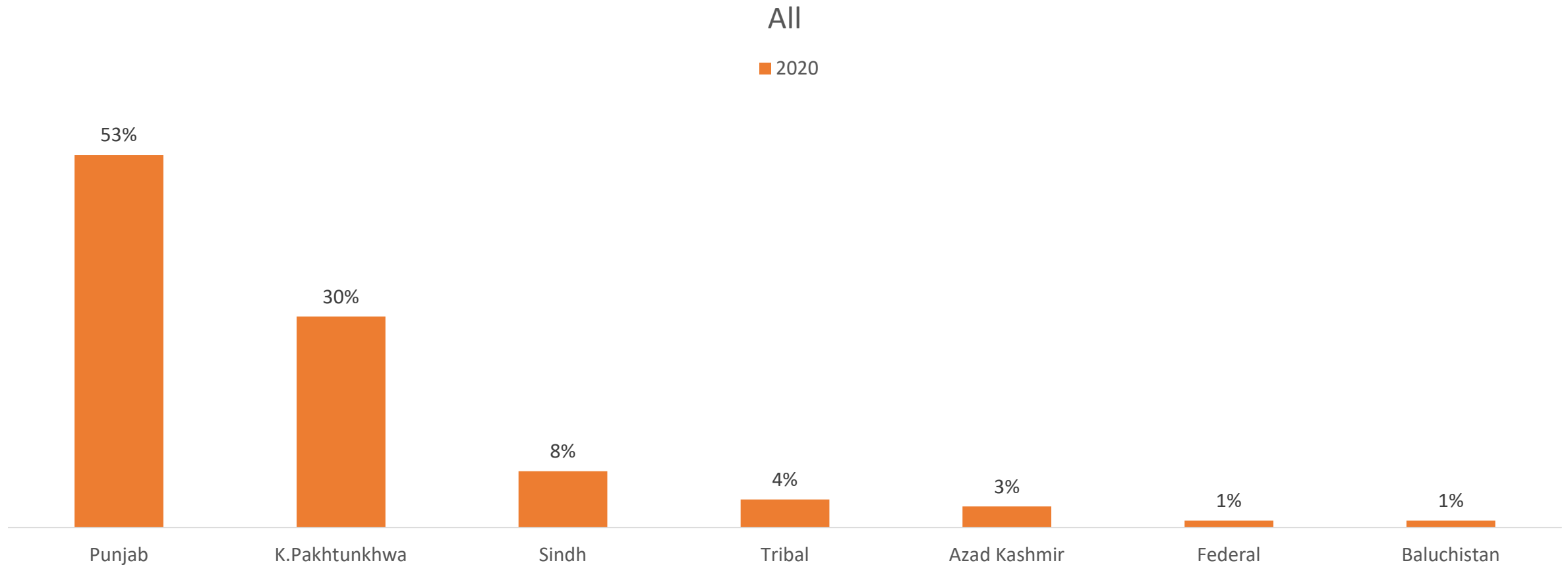
**SECTION
2**

GALLUP
PAKISTAN

Affiliated with Gallup International

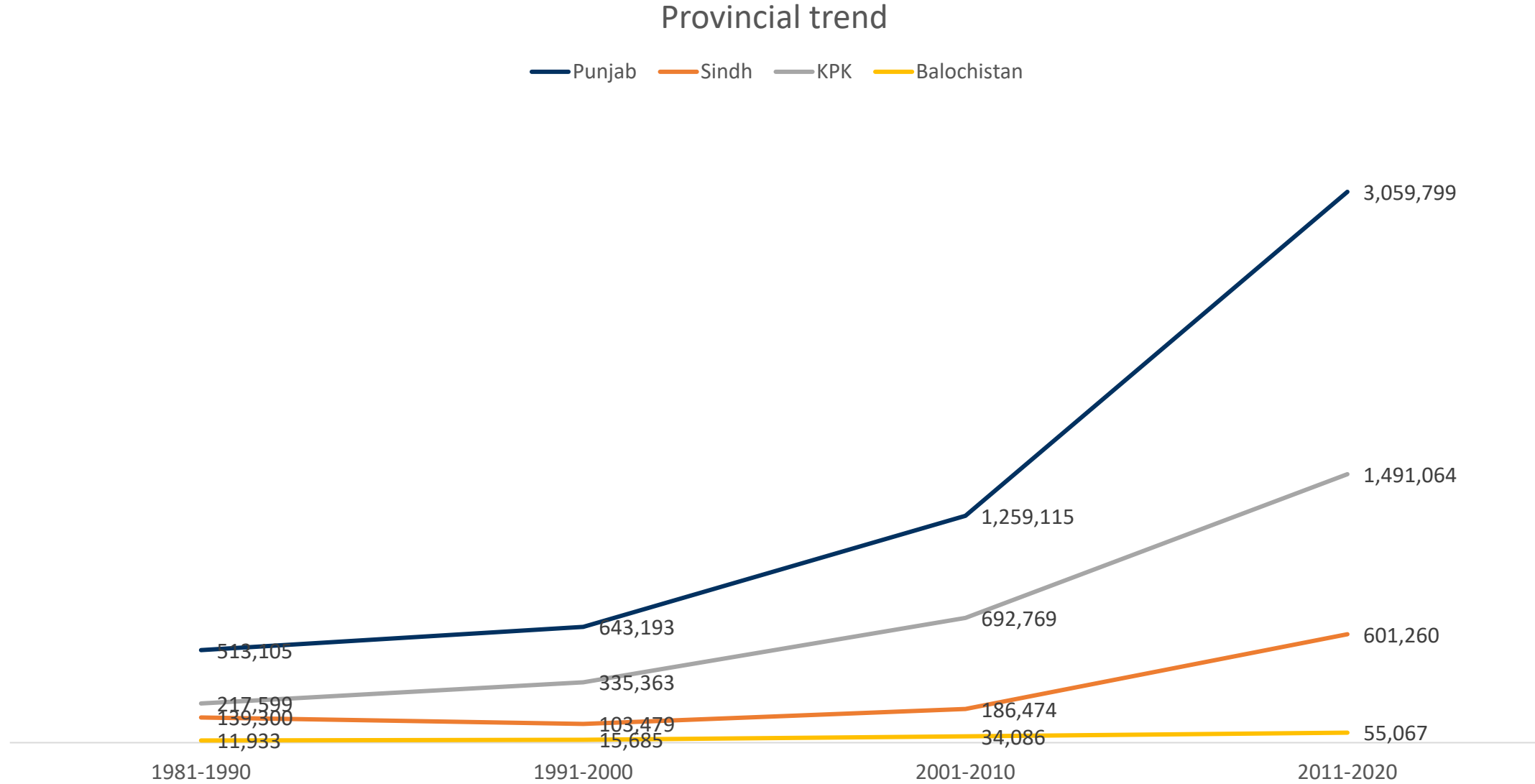
Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

53% of all overseas migrations took place from Punjab in the year 2020



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (COUNTRY WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

The greatest increase of migrants has been in Punjab amongst all provinces



Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

**WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION &
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD
1981-2020 (UPTO November) DIVISION WISE**

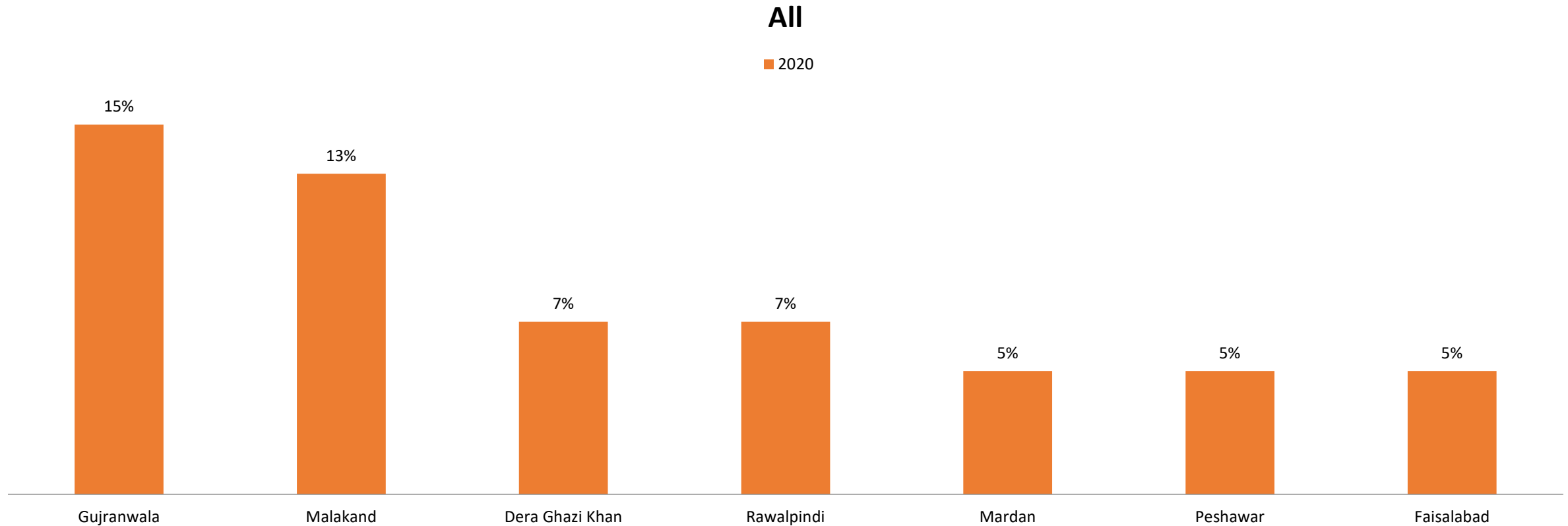
**SECTION
3**

GALLUP
P A K I S T A N

Affiliated with Gallup International

Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

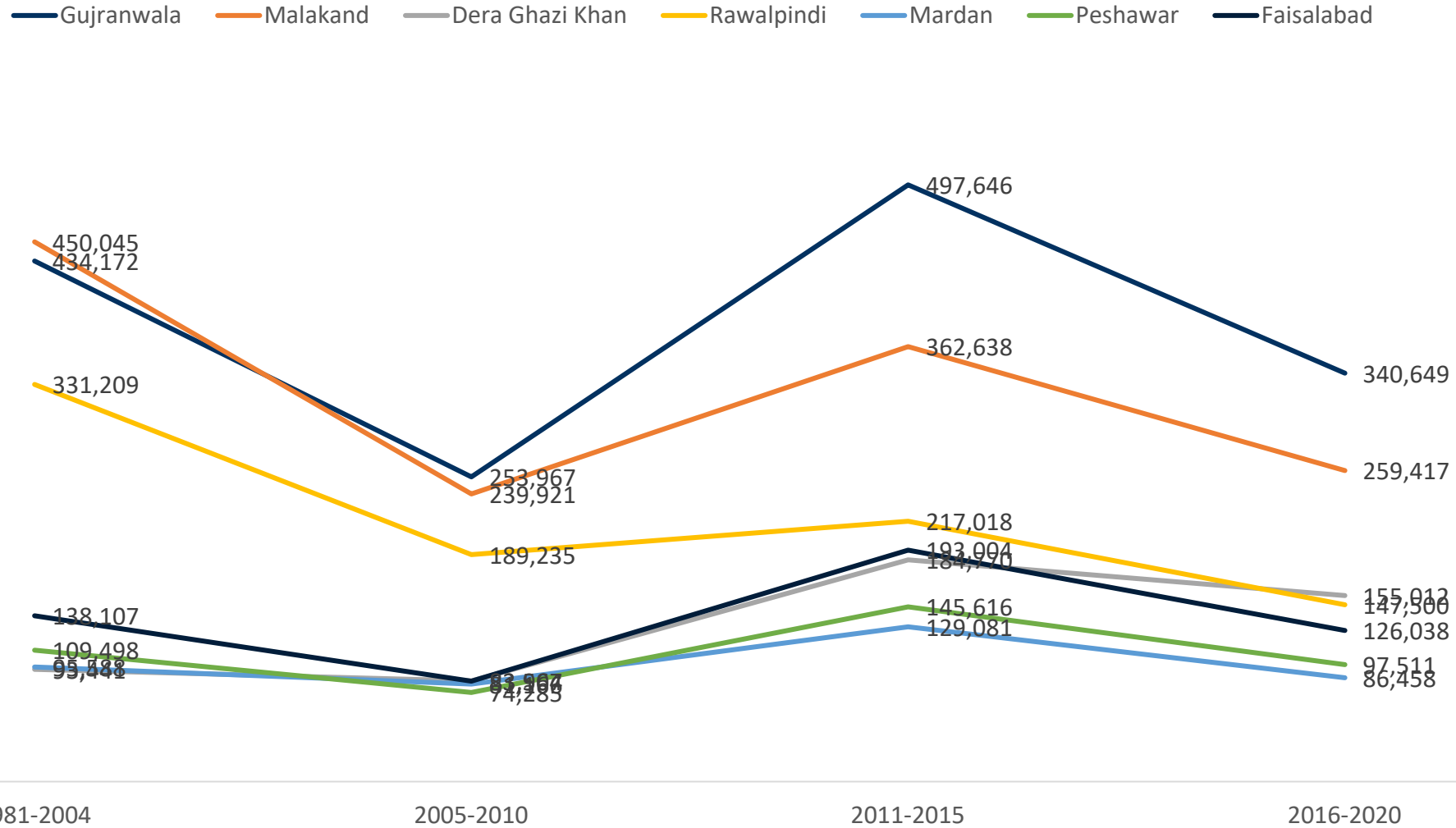
In the year 2020, division wise, the greatest number of emigrants were from Gujranwala followed by Malakand.



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (DIVISION WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

2010 onwards, migration increased most significantly from Gujranwala and Malakand. There has been an overall decline in migration after 2015

TREND ACROSS THE YEARS



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (DIVISION WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

**NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS PROCEEDED ABROAD
FOR EMPLOYMENT REGISTERED BY BUREAU OF
EMIGRATION AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING
THE PERIOD 1971-2020 (UPTO November)
OCCUPATIONAL GROUP - WISE**

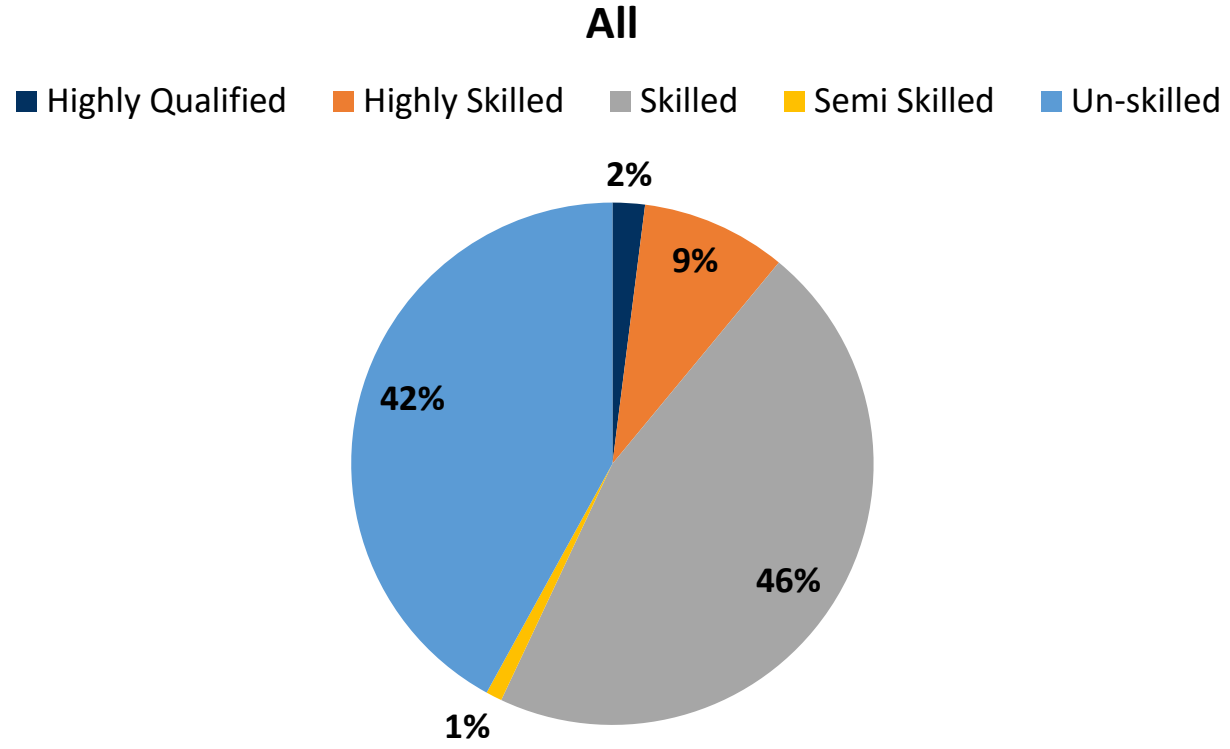
**SECTION
4**

GALLUP
PAKISTAN

Affiliated with Gallup International

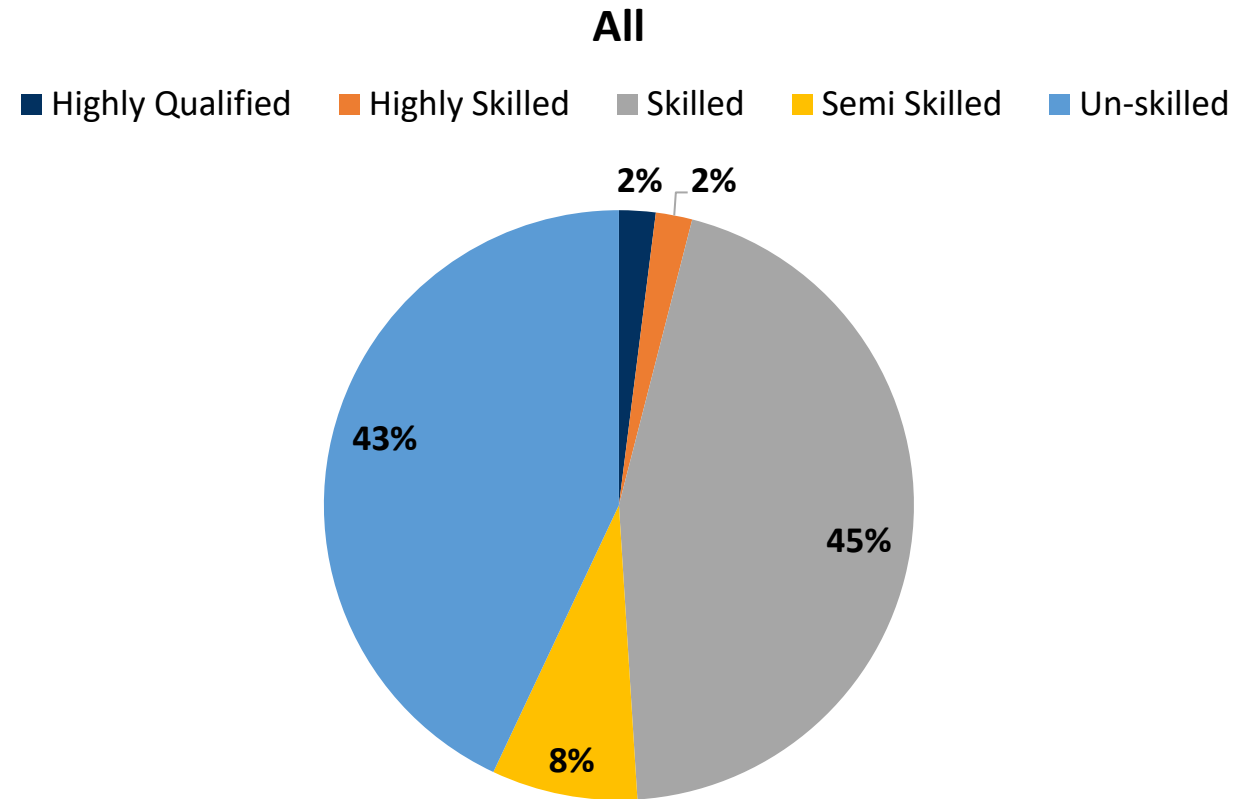
Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

45% and 43% of Pakistani workers registered in the year 2020 were skilled and un-skilled respectively. A very minor proportion of Pakistanis who move abroad for employment are either highly qualified or highly skilled



NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (OCCUPATION GROUP WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2010

In the ten years following 2010 trends have not changed much, with roughly the same proportion of people in each category.

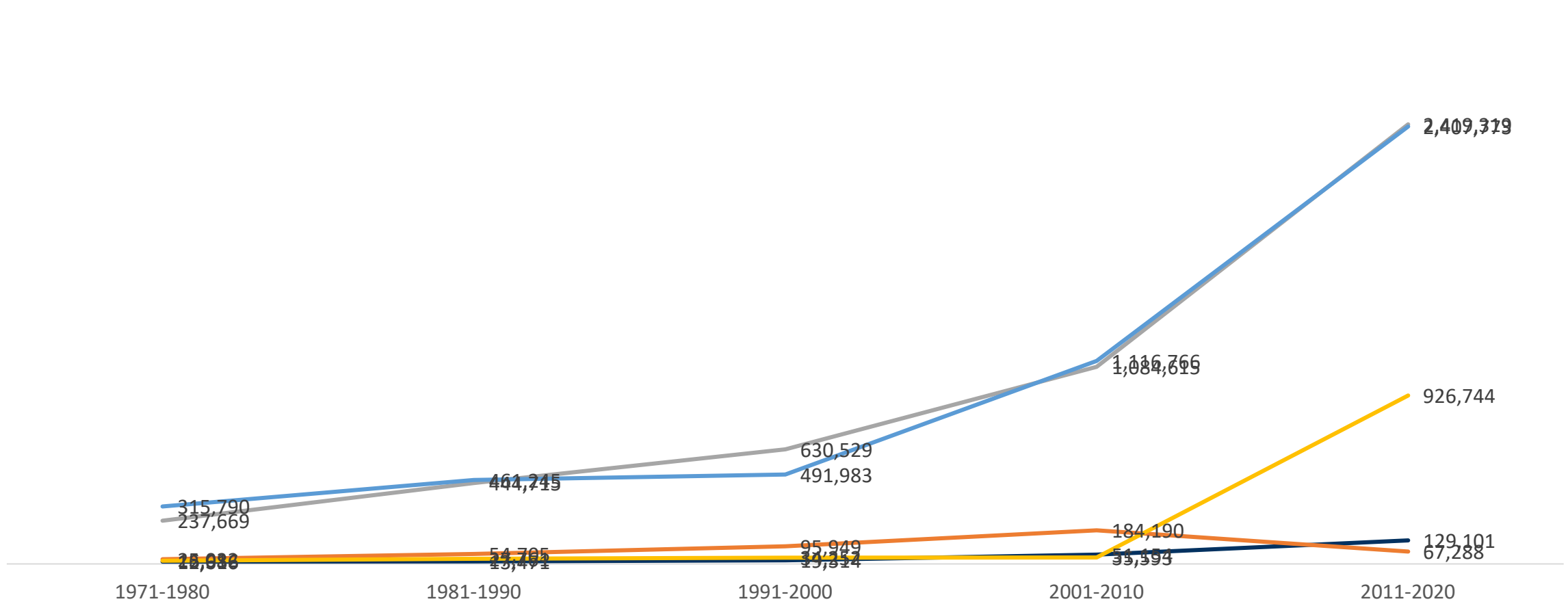


NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (OCCUPATION GROUP WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

Following the time period of 2001-2010, there has been a significant increase in the number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled migrants from Pakistan

TREND OF THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS MOVING ABROAD FOR EMPLOYMENT BASED ON SKILL

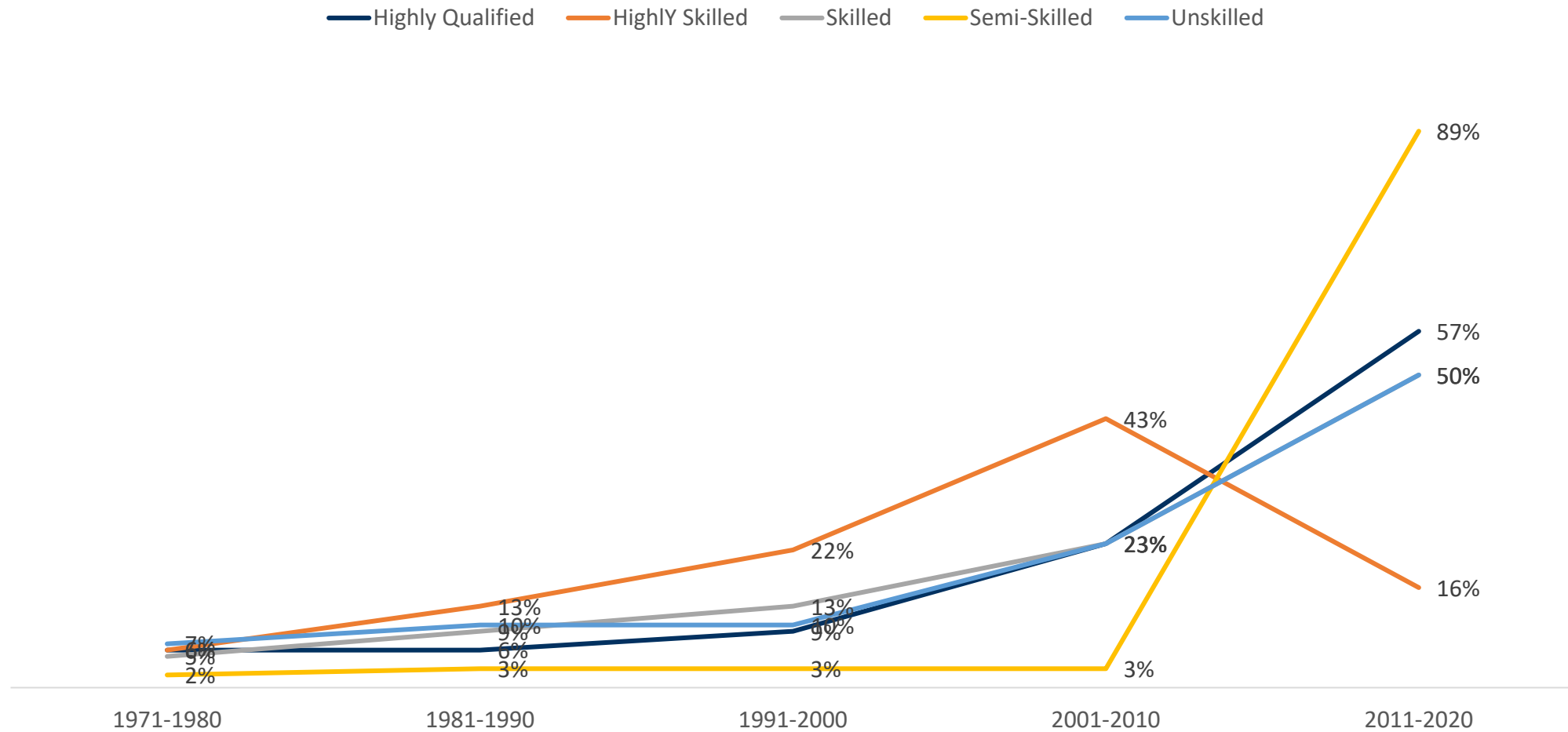
— Highly qualified — Highly skilled — Skilled — Semi skilled — Un-skilled



Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

Following the time period of 2001-2010, there has been a significant increase in the number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled migrants from Pakistan

TREND OF THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS MOVING ABROAD FOR EMPLOYMENT BASED ON SKILL



Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

**WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS
EMPLOYMENT BY BUREAU OF EMIGRATION &
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DURING THE PERIOD
1971-2020 (UPTO November) CATEGORIES WISE**

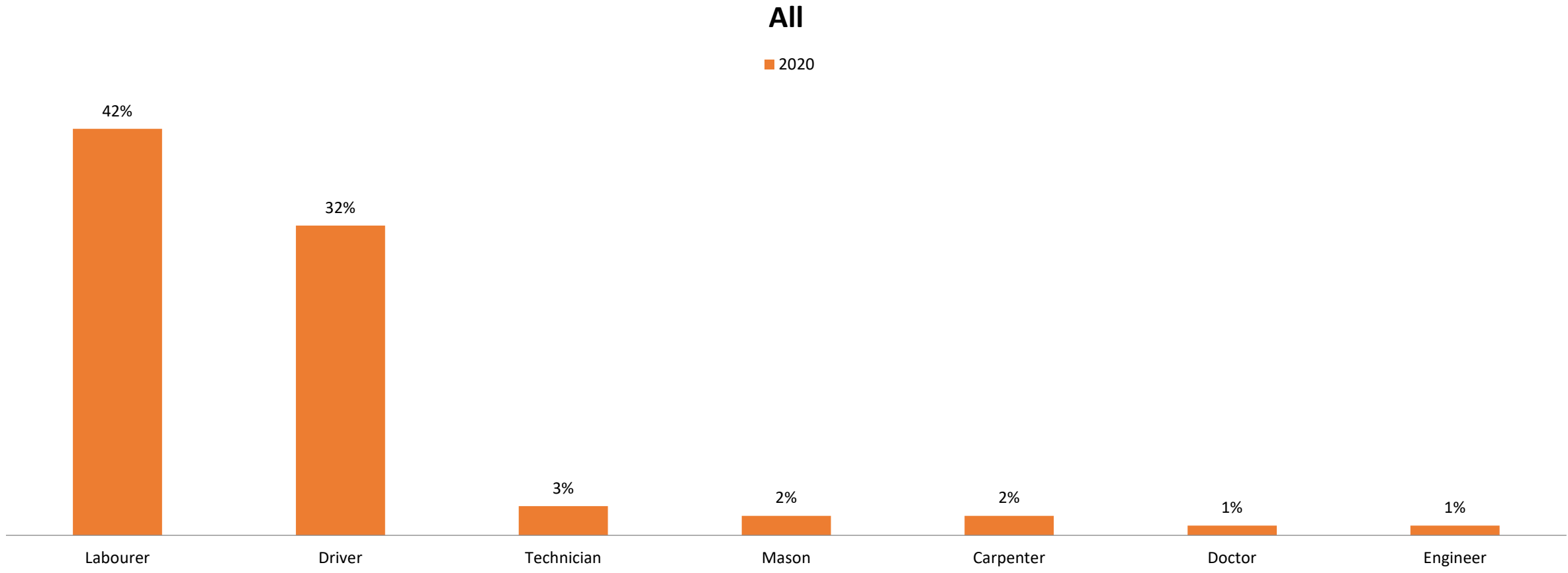
**SECTION
5**

GALLUP
P A K I S T A N

Affiliated with Gallup International

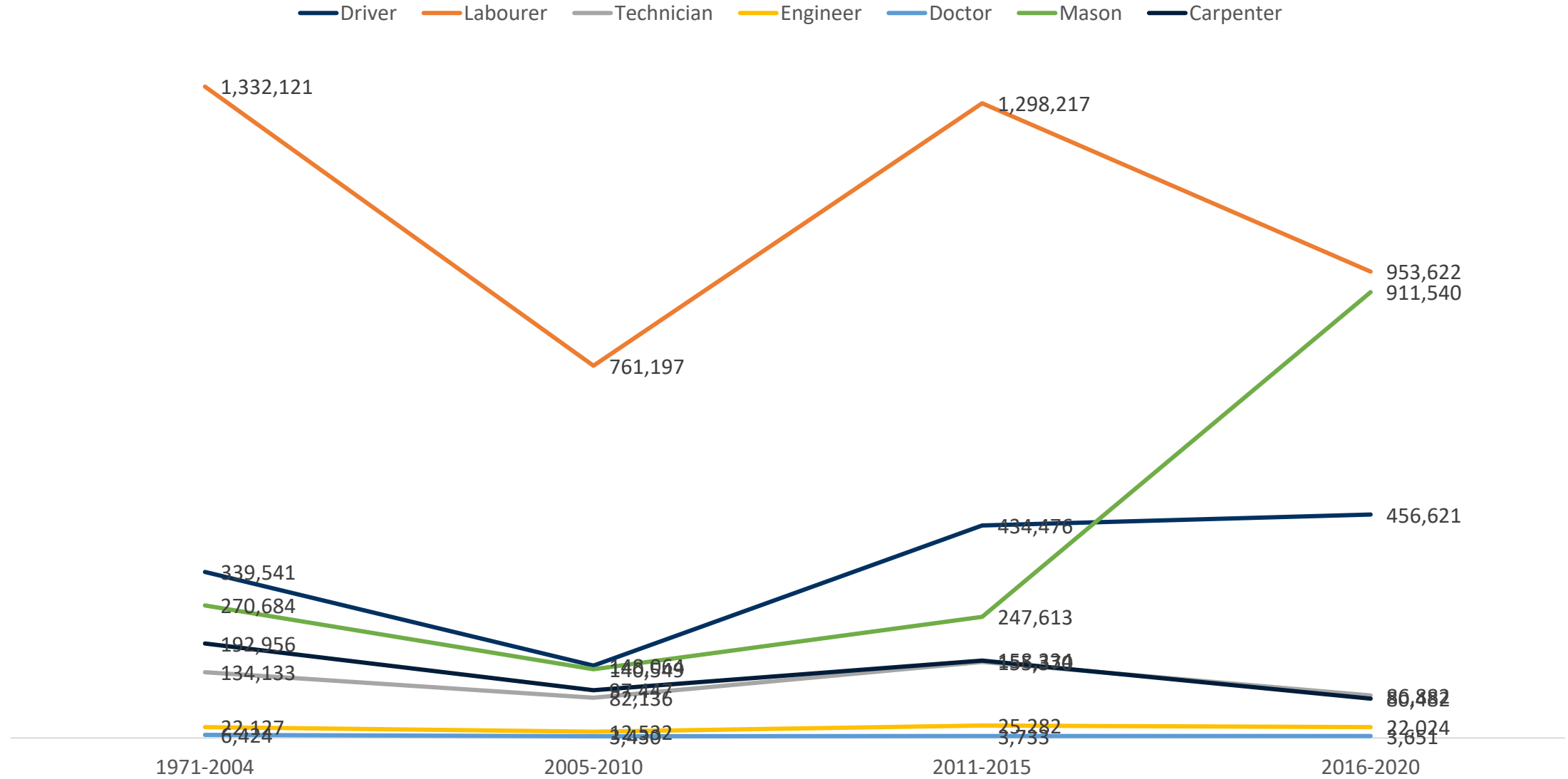
Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

42% AND 32% OF ALL EMIGRANTS WERE LABOURERS AND DRIVERS RESPECTIVELY. THERE WAS A VERY LESS PROPORTION OF HIGHLY SKILLED OR HIGHLY QUALIFIED EMIGRANTS



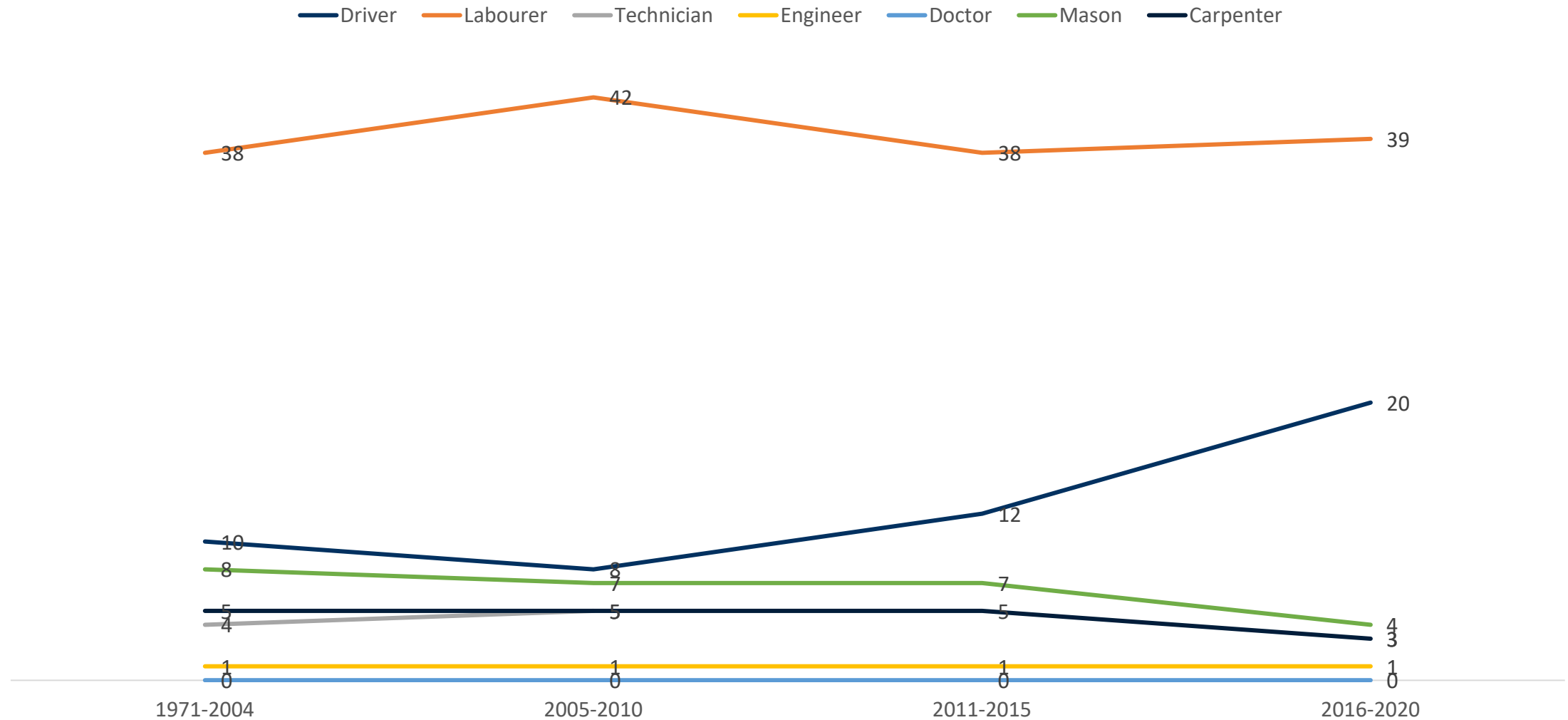
NUMBER OF PAKISTANI WORKERS REGISTERED FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT (CATOGORIES WISE) FOR THE YEAR 2020

THE NUMBER OF DRIVER MIGRATING FROM PAKISTAN HAVE INCREASED FOLLWOG 2010. THE NUMBER OF LABOURERS ALSO INCREASE POST 2010 BUT DECLINED AFTER 2015



Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

Over the years, the proportion of laborers amongst all migrants remains high. The proportion of drivers who migrate from Pakistan has increased over time. The number of doctors and engineers remains consistently low over the span of 5 decades



Source: Bureau of Emigration (BOE), Government of Pakistan

METHODOLOGY

GALLUP
P A K I S T A N

Affiliated with Gallup International

Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

Classification of countries: OIC and Non OIC

OIC COUNTRIES		NON OIC COUNTRIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria Azerbaijan Bahrain Brunei Cameroon Gabon Guinea Iran Iraq Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Libya Malaysia Morocco Nigeria Oman Qatar Saudi Arabia Sierra Leone Somalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudan Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Uganda UAE Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angola China Croatia Cyprus Gen Island Germany Greece Hong Kong Italy Japan Kenya Singapore South Africa Spain Sweden Switzerland Syria Tanzania United Kingdom United States of America West Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zambia

Classification of countries: Continents

Asia	Europe	Africa	America
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunei • China • Cyprus • Hong Kong • Japan • Malaysia • South Korea • Syria • Turkmenistan • Yemen <p>MIDDLE-EASTERN COUNTRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahrain • Kuwait • Iraq • Iran • Oman • Saudi Arabia • UAE • Qatar • Cyprus • Iran • Jordan • Lebanon • Tunisia • Libya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan • Croatia • Germany • Greece • Italy • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria • Angola • Cameroon • Gabon • Guinea • Kenya • Morocco • Nigeria • Sierra Leone • Sudan • Tanzania • Tunisia • West Africa • Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA

GALLUP

PAKISTAN

Affiliated with Gallup International

Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

Gallup Pakistan is not related to Gallup Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. USA. We require that our surveys be credited fully as Gallup Pakistan (not Gallup or Gallup Poll). We disclaim any responsibility for surveys pertaining to Pakistani public opinion except those carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association.

Contact Details:

Islamabad : +92 51 2655630

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

www.gallup-international.com