

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Big Data Analysis Series

Over the past decade (2011-2022) overall, 39% of Pakistani migrants have been elementary workers (laborers, drivers, masons etc.) – **Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment**

Islamabad, September 4, 2023

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its regular analysis of economic and social data, is looking at emigration and remittances by analyzing BE&OE data regarding the emigration of Pakistani migrants. A wide range of data regarding emigration is covered and divided into categories such as 'occupation' and analyzed by demographic factors like 'province' and 'division'. Data is available broadly from the last 50 years.

These insights are important because of the socio-economic impact at home of Pakistanis working overseas. 2022 and 2023 have also seen a record number of Pakistanis travel abroad so Gallup Pakistan aims to explore and analyze these patterns.

The Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BE&OE) data is available [HERE](#)

What data points does this report cover?

This report looks at emigration statistics for Pakistan based on destination country, province, district, category, and occupation. This is combined with data from various other data sources such as the State Bank, World Bank, Economic Survey of Pakistan, ILO, And the Population Census of previous decades. These data sources are then cross-referenced to give a contextual and holistic oversight of the emigration data of Pakistan between 1971 and 2022 regarding emigration growth and remittance growth, trade and emigration, emigration growth by skill level, and province and district-wise growth, etc. Implications of these data points for public safety as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to encourage in relevant circles.

Today's topic is "Emigration"

- 1) **Occupational Category:** The largest sector of Pakistani migrants 39%, moved abroad to work in occupations related to manual labour (Elementary Occupations according to ILO ISCO-08)
- 2) **Trade and Emigration:** The link between the largest trade partners and emigration is a weak one with 61% of migrants in 2020 registered with the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment emigrating to Saudia Arabia. In comparison, it only made up 4% of total imports in 2020.
- 3) **Provinces and Emigration:** Punjab accounts for the largest share of emigrants across the provinces at 53% of the total and Balochistan accounts for the lowest with only 1% of emigrants hailing from there.
- 4) **Skill Wise Labour:** Skilled and Unskilled labour migration have shown the greatest YoY growth between 2011 and 2022.
- 5) **Remittance:** The Gulf accounts for the majority of remittances to Pakistan with \$15.1 billion sent in 2020. This is followed by Europe then North America and finally Asia with the lowest.

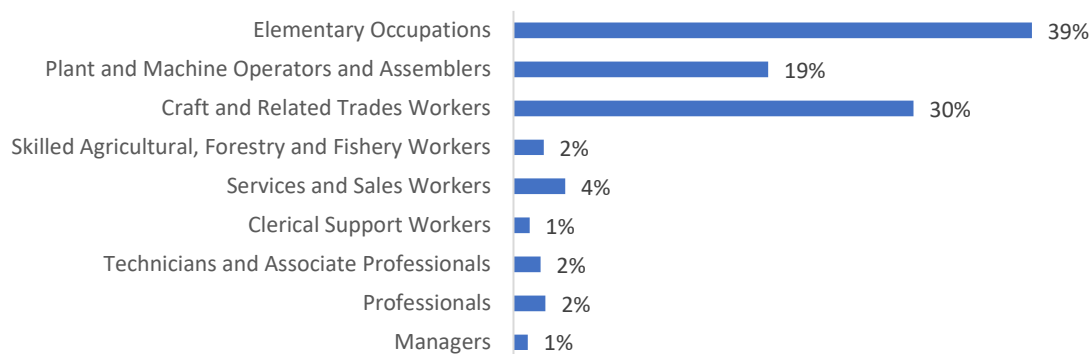
Note: "Gulf Countries" in this report refers to Saudia Arabia, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain

1) Occupational Category:

Low-skill level jobs and those that require physical labor continue to be the main occupations for Pakistani Migrants. Migrants emigrating between 2011 – 2022 have been classified using the ILO ISCO-08 guidelines.

Elementary Occupations made up 39% of migrants followed closely by Crafts and Related Trades Workers at 30%, and finally Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers at 19%. White collar workers comprise a very small minority of migrants during this; managers made up only 1% of them during this time, while Professionals, and Technical and Associate Professionals made up 2%.

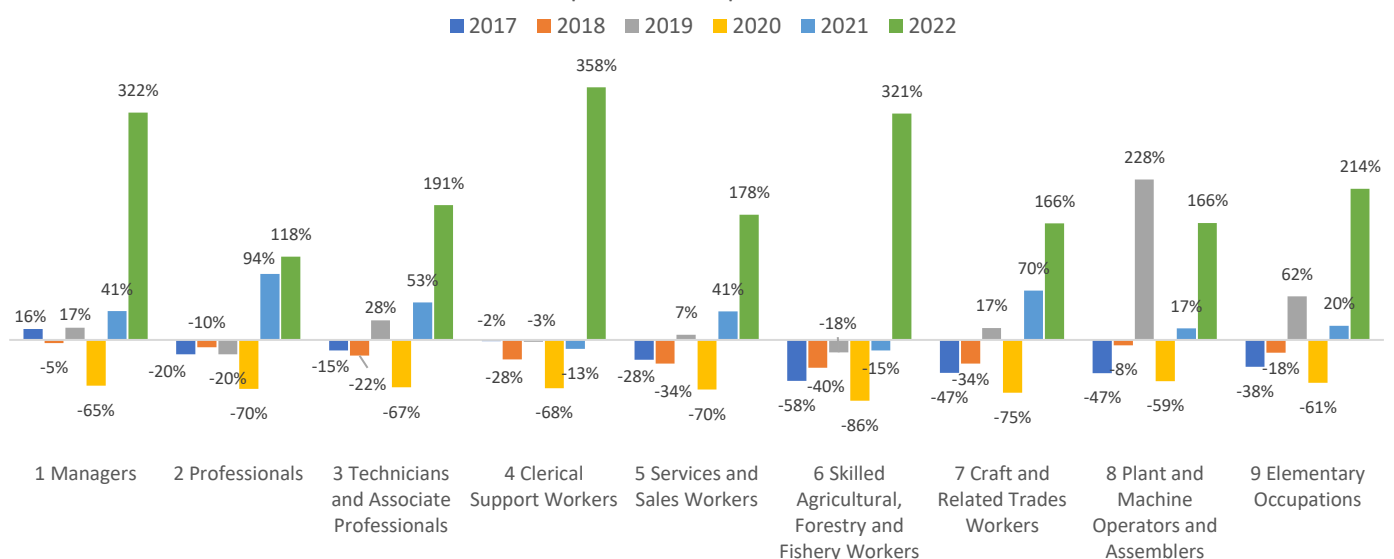
Occupation Groups of Emigrants according to ILO ISCO-08
2011-2022



Source of Emigration Data: Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

Interestingly, the data between 2017 and 2020 shows that higher skill level occupations have grown significantly and faster than many elementary occupations which is an encouraging sign as it shows that Migrants are slowly entering high-value jobs and positions.

2017-2022 Occupational Groups: Year-on-Year Growth



Source of Emigration Data: Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

After the crunch in 2021 there was an increase in emigrants from occupation groups like Managers (emigration grew 41%), Professionals (grew 94%), and Technicians (grew 53%), outpacing Elementary Occupations (grew 20%), and Plant and Machine Operators (grew 17%) Year-on-Year, as well as Skilled Agricultural Workers (decreased 15%) and Service and Sales (decreased 13%). Craft and Related Trades migrants increased by 70%.

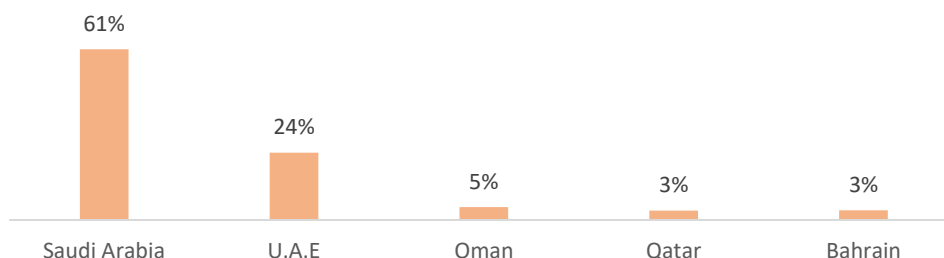
The volume of migrants increased further by 2022 in white collar occupations, with emigrating Managers growing 322%, and Technicians by 191%. Emigration by Craft and Related Trades workers, along with Plant and Machine Operators, grew 166% each. Service and Sales Workers at 178%. Emigration by Managers outgrew every other category in 2022 other than Clerical Support Workers. This trend shows an increase in white collar and higher-salaried workers moving out of the country in search of employment in the past two years.

2) Trade and Emigration:

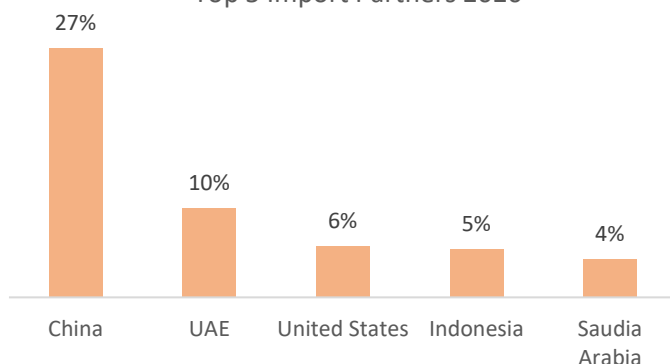
Pakistani emigration patterns show that the link between trade and emigration is extremely weak. The Gulf maintains its position as the most popular destination for emigration; 96% of all Pakistani emigrants in 2020 were headed for Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, all of which fall in this region. Despite this only Saudi Arabia and the UAE are included in Pakistan's top trade partners. Saudi Arabia is our fifth largest import partner with 4% of imports. In 2020, UAE was our 2nd largest import partner with 10% of imports and also our 5th largest export partner with 5% of exports.

Even while emigration to these regions has continued to grow, trade has not increased by the same metrics. Between 2003 and 2018 the total import percentage from the Gulf increased by only 2 % from 22% to 24% with the UAE leading the growth with Saudi Arabia's trade percentage dropping consistently throughout the period. For Exports, the market has again shrunk by 2 % from 8% to 6% and to a further 5% in 2020.

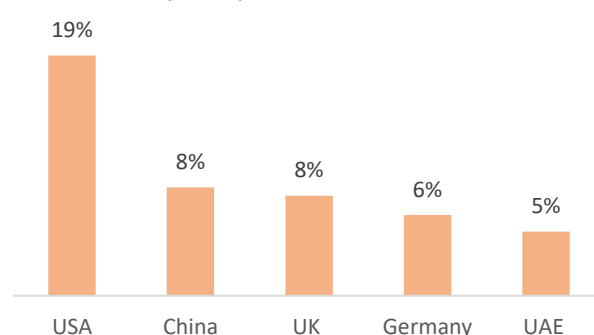
Top 5 Destinations of Pakistani Migrant Workers 2020



Top 5 Import Partners 2020

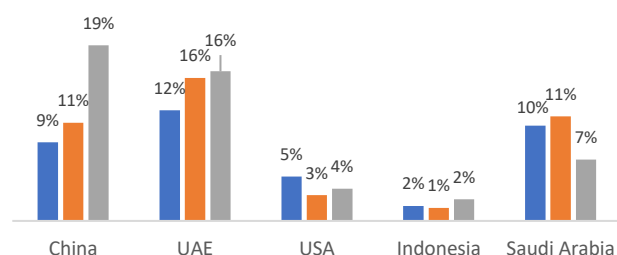


Top 5 Export Partners 2020



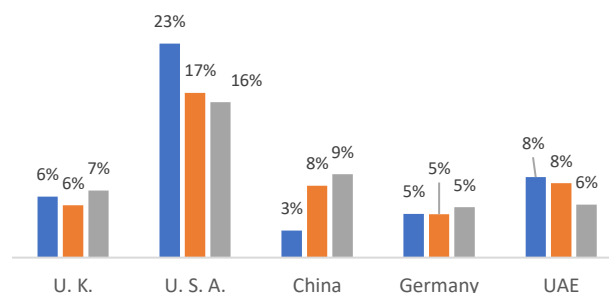
Top 5 Import Partners

■ 2003-2008 ■ 2008-2013 ■ 2013-2018



Top 5 Export Partners

■ 2003-2008 ■ 2008-2013 ■ 2013-2018



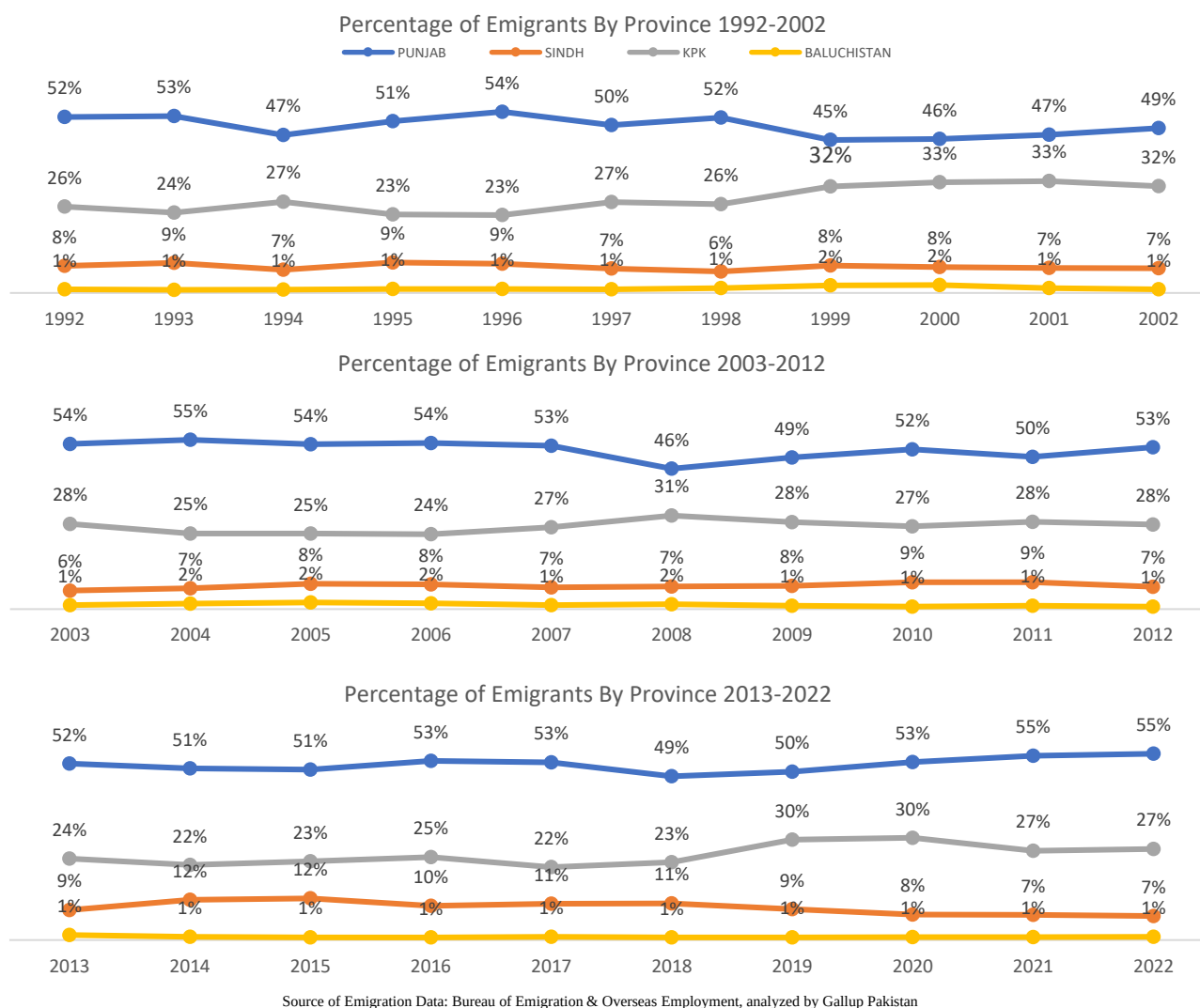
Source of Emigration Data: Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

3) Provinces and Emigration:

The breakdown of emigration by province lets us know how much each region is being represented in the overall emigrating population.

Some Provinces are represented fairly with their share of emigrants close to their proportion of population relative to the country. According to the 2017 Census, Punjab is home to 53% of the population, thus matching the emigration rate. Sindh is home to 23% of the population yet is represented by only 11% of migrants. KP is on the other hand over-represented with 23% of emigrants relative to 15% of the population. Balochistan only represents 1% of emigrants with 6% of the population. Others are represented by 13% of migrants despite only housing 3% of the population. Sindh and KP have shown the most significant changes in representation. In 1981 Sindh and KP were responsible for 15% and 25% of migrants.

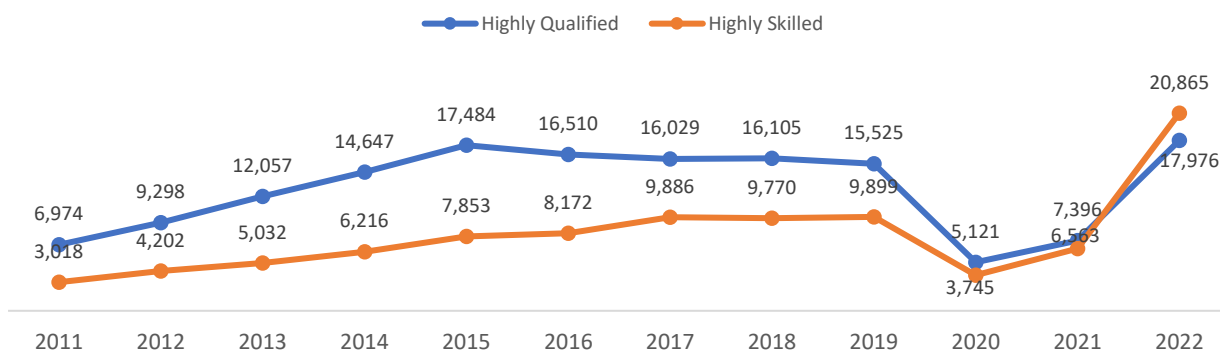
These numbers changed significantly in the early 90s and early 2010s. Sindh's share started to decline in 1991 and plummeted to just 6% of the share in 2003. KP on the other hand experienced a rise during the same period with a peak share of 33% reached in 2000. These numbers returned close to 1981 numbers only after 2013, when Sindh's share picked up again and stabilized around 12-13%. In 2013 to 2022, the trend largely remained stable, except for when KP experienced a steep rise in 2019 from 23% of the share to 30%.



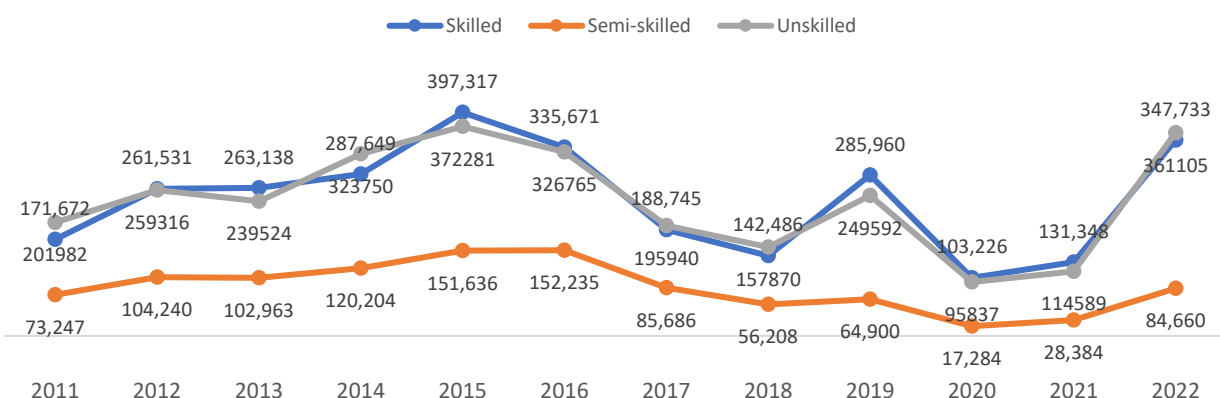
4) Skill Wise:

In 2022, 10,580 Highly Qualified Individuals went abroad, followed by 14,302 Highly Skilled, 216,385 Skilled, 56,276 Semi-skilled, and 246,516 Unskilled workers. The classifications were taken from the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment. The growth patterns, although quite different for each segment, show relatively the same amount of growth for all years. Growth dipped between 2015 to 2018 along with 2020 but shows a sharp upturn in 2022. The dip and subsequent rise of 2020 and 2022 may be explained by the Coronavirus and the subsequent travel restrictions.

Highly Qualified and Highly Skilled Emigrants - 2011-2022



Skilled and Semi-skilled, and Unskilled Emigrants - 2012-2022



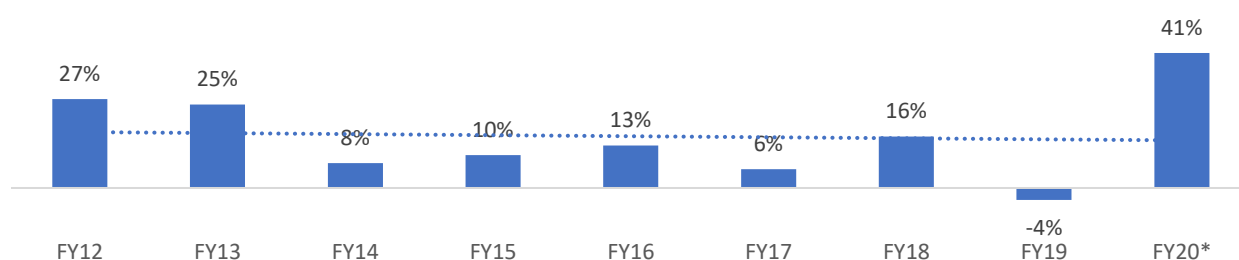
Source of Emigration Data: Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

5) Remittances:

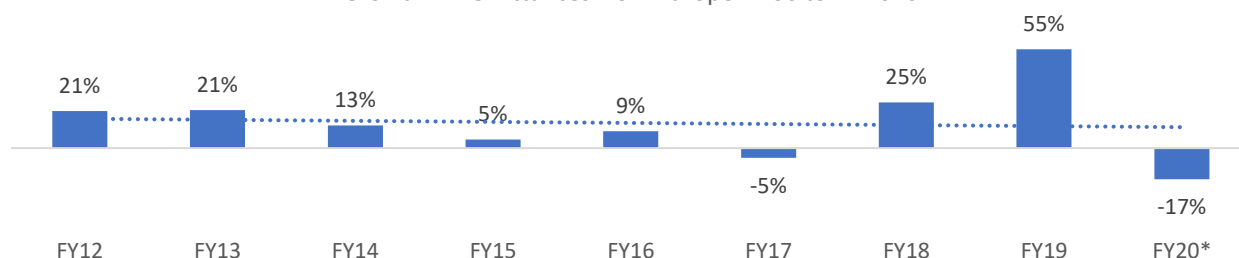
Remittances to the country have grown considerably in the last decade. Remittances stood at \$13.2 billion in Financial Year (FY) 2012 and increased to \$23.1 billion in FY 2020, growing around 75% in 8 years.

Most of these remittances have come from 4 main regions: the Gulf, North America, Europe, and Asia. These regions contributed a combined \$12.6 billion in 2012 and \$22.2 billion in 2020. Further subdividing these contributions for 2020 shows the Gulf at \$15.1 billion, North America at \$2.1, Europe at \$4.6 billion, and Asia at \$344 million. While Asia and Europe show stable rates of growth throughout this time period with Asia experiencing only one year of negative growth in FY 19 at -4% and Europe twice in FY 17 and FY 20 at -5% and -17%. The Gulf and North America show a decreasing rate of growth consistently for this period with the Gulf achieving low growth rates throughout the decade and two consecutive declines of -5% and -6% in FY 16 and FY 17. North America shows the worst trend with low growth throughout and 4 years of negative growth in FY13 at -6%, FY 16 at -6%, FY 17 at -2% and FY 20 with a massive decrease of -41%.

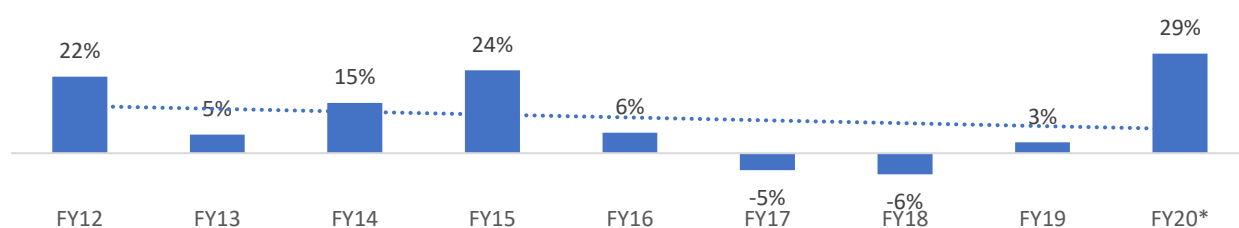
Growth in Remittances from Asia FY 06 to FY 2020



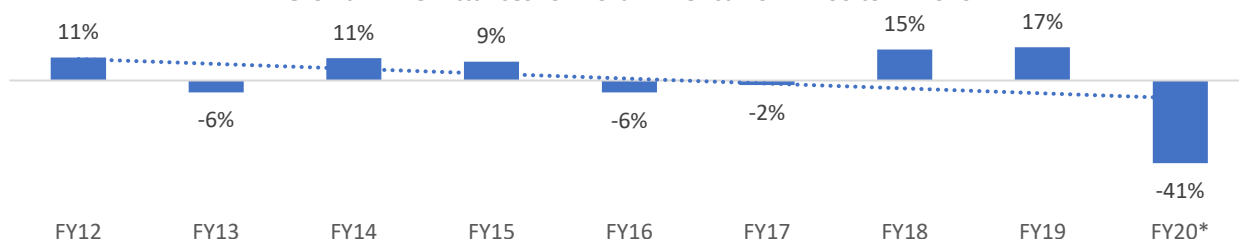
Growth in Remittances from Europe FY 06 to FY 2020



Growth in Remittances from the Gulf YOY FY 06 to FY 2020



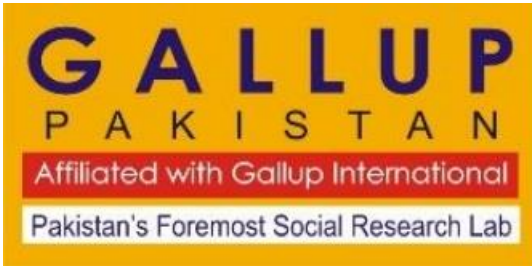
Growth in Remittances for North America YoY FY 06 to FY 2020



Source of Emigration Data: Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment, analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

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