

# Knowledge Brief

February 2024

No: 2024:112

## Pakistan's Emigration: Trends & Insights

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In recent times, Pakistan has witnessed a significant trend in emigration as millions of its citizens actively seek opportunities abroad. This trend is a direct response to the challenges the country currently grapples with, including a burgeoning population, economic instability that has resulted in limited domestic job prospects, and the impact of soaring inflation. These factors have together fueled the increasing wave of emigration from Pakistan. In 2020, nearly 6.3 million Pakistani immigrants were residing abroad, making Pakistan one of the top ten immigrant populations globally. Out-migration has consistently increased over the two decades, with a substantial 86 percent increase in migrant growth compared to 2000.

**Table 1:** A snapshot of migrant stocks in thousands (1990-2020)

|               | 1990      | 1995        | 2000   | 2005     | 2010         | 2015        | 2020   |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|--------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| World         | 3341.1    | 3340.2      | 3406.4 | 3777.8   | 4790.6       | 5798.2      | 6328.4 |
| Year 2020     |           |             |        |          |              |             |        |
| Gulf States   | Bahrain   | Kuwait      | Oman   | Qatar    | Saudi Arabia | UAE         |        |
|               | 104.7     | 339.0       | 250.1  | 235.5    | 1483.7       | 996.3       |        |
| East Asia     | China     | Hong Kong   | Japan  | Malaysia | Singapore    | South Korea |        |
|               | 3.4       | 7.9         | 16.4   | 85.0     | 126.8        | 10.7        |        |
| Europe        | Denmark   | Ireland     | Norway | Sweden   | UK           | Italy       | Greece |
|               | 14.3      | 10.6        | 21.1   | 16.6     | 537.0        | 124.8       | 8.8    |
|               | Spain     | Belgium     | France | Germany  | Netherlands  | Switzerland |        |
|               | 63.8      | 13.2        | 27.2   | 79.2     | 14.1         | 5.4         |        |
| North America | Canada    | USA         |        |          |              |             |        |
|               | 217.8     | 408.4       |        |          |              |             |        |
| Asia Pacific  | Australia | New Zealand |        |          |              |             |        |
|               | 82.5      | 5.9         |        |          |              |             |        |

**Source:** UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "International Migrant Stock, retrieved from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock>

The statistics provided by the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BEOE) further highlight the current scale of this emigration phenomenon. Several news sources have reported on the BEOE data that the outmigration from Pakistan remains consistent in comparing the 2023 and 2022 statistics, challenging the perception of a rise in emigration<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The author acknowledges the feedback provided by Dr. Dure-Nayab and Shahid Mahmood.

<sup>2</sup> For instance see <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1107801-are-pakistanis-really-leaving>

For instance, in the year 2023, 862,625 people have already emigrated compared to 832,339 people in 2022, suggesting a 3.6 percent increase from the previous year. These statistics indeed warrant a deeper analysis of ongoing migration trends, narrated below.

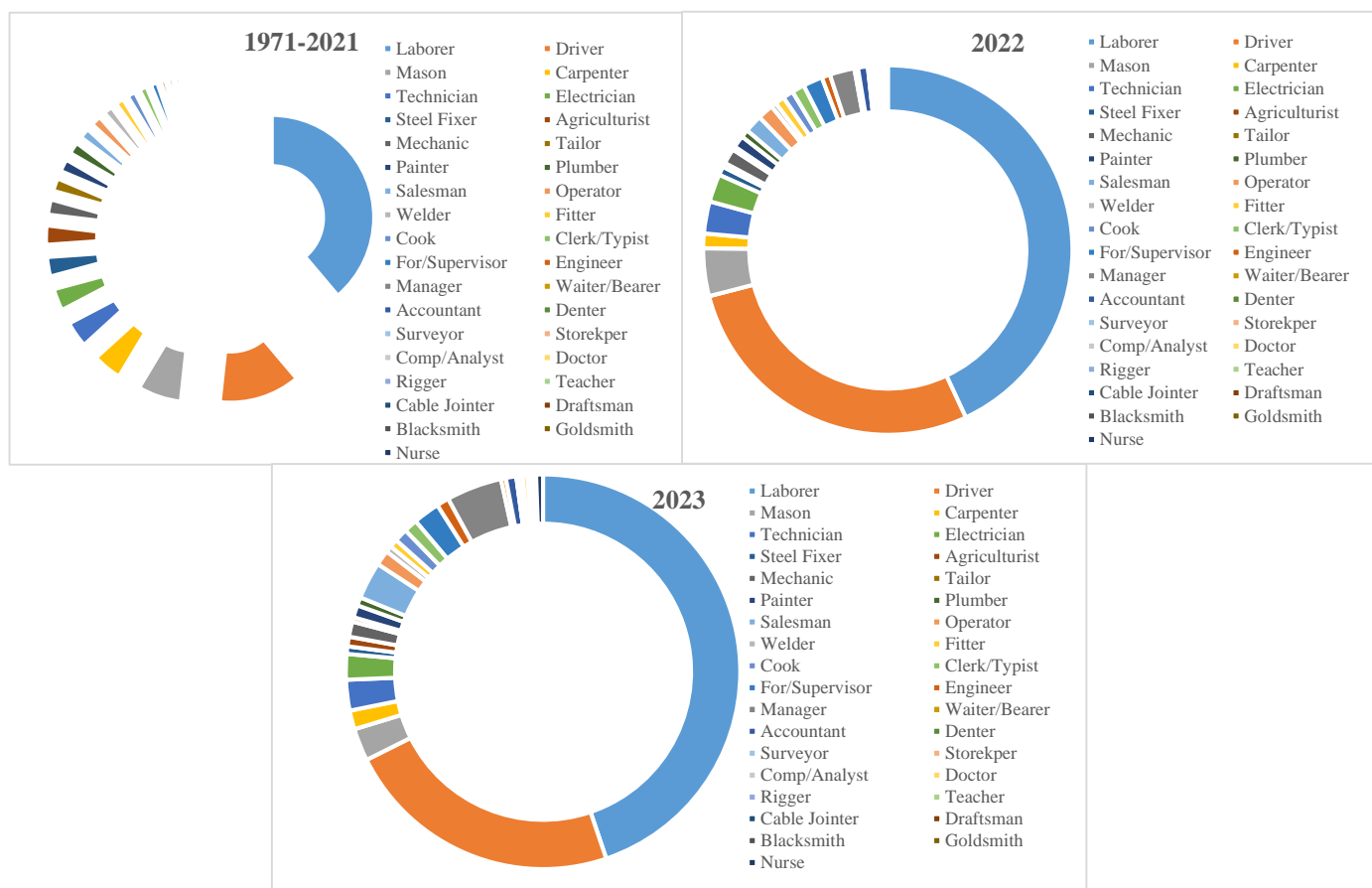
- ***BEOE's annual placement data reveals that nearly 96 percent of the Pakistani diaspora managed by the BEOE from 1971 to 2023 were placed in the Persian Gulf region, Notably in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It depicts only a partial narrative, as it doesn't include the various migratory movements linked to immigration to other prominent destinations such as the United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), Canada, Australia, Italy, Germany, Spain, Norway, and Ireland, among others. Apart from the data, it doesn't report data on prominent destinations.***
- ***Beyond the Gulf countries, notable migration patterns emerge in destinations like Malaysia and the UK. The UK. is more likely to stand out as a case of recent brain drain (See Table 2).***
- ***Statistics depict cumulative annual migration flows without any data on the return of migrants to their home countries. This is significant because the absence of a naturalization pathway in Gulf countries is expected to increase the number of returning emigrants.***
- ***BEOE's data comprises a significant portion of unskilled and semi-skilled workers (See Figure 1), missing the emigration of professionals such as doctors, teachers, IT experts and others. Also, it doesn't cover movements related to family reunification, education and the settlement of asylum seekers in Western countries in particular.***

**Table 2:** Missing Skilled Workers' Destinations: Out-migration from Pakistan to various countries from 1971 to 2023 (in thousands)

| <b>Destinations</b> | <b>1971-2015</b> | <b>2016</b>  | <b>2017</b>  | <b>2018</b>  | <b>2019</b>  | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2021</b>  | <b>2022</b>  | <b>2023</b>  | <b>Total</b>   |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Saudi Arabia        | 4429.5           | 462.6        | 143.4        | 100.9        | 332.8        | 136.4        | 155.8        | 514.9        | 427.0        | 6703.2         |
| U.A.E               | 2885.3           | 295.6        | 275.4        | 208.6        | 211.3        | 53.7         | 27.4         | 128.5        | 229.9        | 4315.8         |
| Oman                | 652.7            | 45.1         | 42.4         | 27.2         | 28.4         | 10.3         | 38.4         | 82.4         | 60.0         | 986.9          |
| Qatar               | 125.4            | 9.7          | 11.6         | 21.0         | 19.4         | 7.4          | 38.0         | 58.0         | 55.1         | 345.6          |
| Bahrain             | 143.6            | 8.2          | 7.9          | 5.7          | 8.2          | 7.8          | 13.0         | 13.7         | 13.3         | 221.5          |
| Kuwait              | 181.5            | 0.8          | 0.8          | 0.5          | 0.1          | 0.4          | 1.6          | 2.1          | 2.3          | 190.1          |
| Iran                | 12.7             | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 13.2           |
| Iraq                | 70.9             | 0.5          | 0.6          | 0.8          | 2.3          | 1.2          | 2.8          | 2.4          | 4.3          | 85.8           |
| Jordan              | 6.8              | 0.3          | 0.3          | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.3          | 0.3          | 0.2          | 8.7            |
| South Korea         | 15.4             | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.5          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 2.0          | 1.6          | 19.8           |
| Malaysia            | 69.6             | 10.6         | 7.2          | 9.9          | 11.3         | 2.3          | 0.1          | 6.2          | 20.9         | 138.1          |
| Singapore           | 0.6              | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 1.1            |
| China               | 2.9              | 0.5          | 0.5          | 0.9          | 1.3          | 0.3          | 0.6          | 0.7          | 1.8          | 9.3            |
| Hong Kong           | 0.4              | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.9            |
| Japan               | 0.7              | 0.1          | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.4          | 0.4          | 0.0          | 0.9          | 1.2          | 4.0            |
| Germany             | 0.3              | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.3          | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.7          | 0.7          | 2.7            |
| Greece              | 0.5              | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.6          | 2.9          | 4.1            |
| Cyprus              | 2.0              | 1.0          | 1.7          | 1.6          | 1.0          | 0.2          | 2.0          | 2.9          | 2.9          | 15.3           |
| Italy               | 28.1             | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.4          | 1.4          | 30.3           |
| Romania             | 0.0              | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 3.3          | 4.9          | 8.2            |
| Spain               | 2.1              | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.2          | 0.4          | 0.4          | 0.8          | 0.4          | 4.5            |
| Sweden              | 0.4              | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.9            |
| Switzerland         | 0.2              | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.3            |
| Türkiye             | 0.3              | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          | 0.2          | 0.8          | 1.9            |
| UK                  | 12.2             | 0.3          | 0.3          | 0.6          | 0.9          | 0.8          | 1.0          | 2.9          | 16.4         | 35.6           |
| US                  | 4.8              | 0.3          | 0.2          | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.3          | 0.6          | 0.8          | 0.9          | 8.7            |
| Libya               | 81.1             | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.1          | 0.2          | 0.1          | 81.5           |
| Others              | 41.5             | 3.1          | 3.3          | 3.4          | 6.5          | 2.8          | 5.3          | 7.3          | 13.0         | 86.2           |
| <b>Total:</b>       | <b>8771.6</b>    | <b>839.4</b> | <b>496.3</b> | <b>382.4</b> | <b>625.9</b> | <b>225.2</b> | <b>288.3</b> | <b>832.3</b> | <b>862.6</b> | <b>13324.0</b> |

**Source:** Author calculation from (BEOE) dataset.

**Figure 1: Missing Professionals in the Data: Share of Occupational Composition and Trends of Out-migrants (1971-2023)**



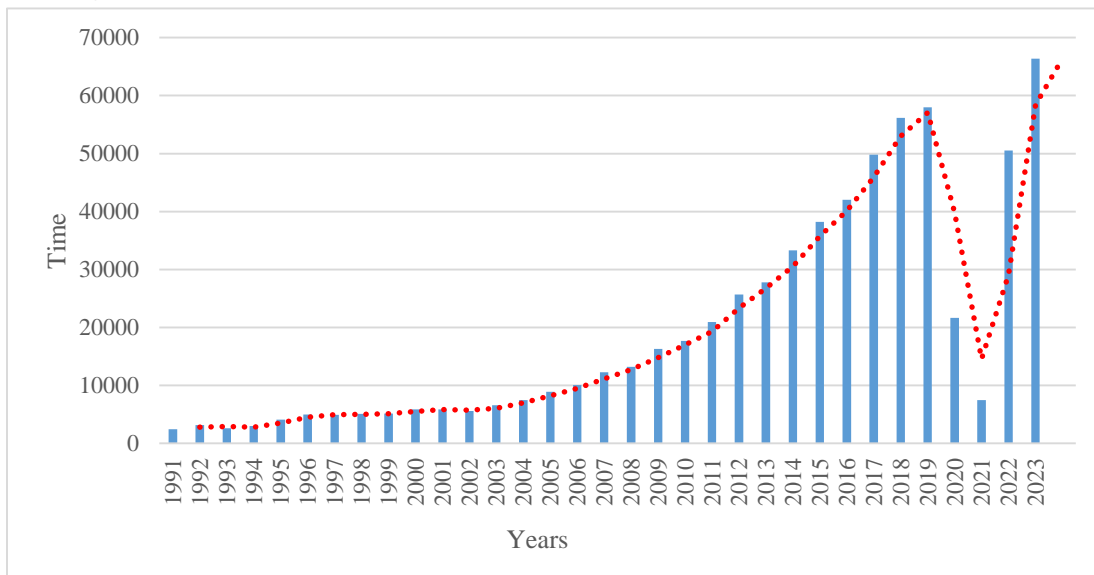
**Source:** Author calculation from (BEOE) dataset.

On the other hand, the UNDESA statistics show that most Pakistani migrants (54 percent) resided in the Gulf States. Saudi Arabia and the UAE had the largest Pakistani migrant populations, with 1.5 million and nearly 1 million migrants, respectively. Europe is the second most preferred region, attracting 15 percent of Pakistani migrants, primarily in the UK. North America, particularly the US, accounted for 10 percent of the migrants, while the remaining migrants settled in various other destinations (See Table 1).

This indicates that the current migration wave is not confined solely to unskilled and semi-skilled workers heading to the Gulf countries, as reported in Figure 1. The data reveals Pakistan's historical pattern of exporting low-skilled workers, such as laborers, drivers, masons, and carpenters. However, it's important to note that there is also a rising trend of qualified and educated young individuals seeking opportunities in Western countries and selected East Asian nations, which may not be fully reflected in the BEOE dataset.

We have compiled data on several significant Pakistani migrant destinations not entirely represented in the BEOE dataset. Among these countries, Australia has recently emerged as a prominent hub for skilled professionals and students. From 1991 to 2019, as depicted in Figure 2, there was a gradual and consistent increase in total arrivals. The number nearly tripled during this period, indicating a growing trend of international mobility, increased travel, and potentially heightened interest in Australia for various purposes, including work, study, and family reunification. However, in 2020, there was a significant drop in visa applications due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in travel restrictions, lockdowns, and reduced international mobility. While 2021 witnessed a modest recovery, the number of applications remained relatively low compared to the pre-pandemic years.

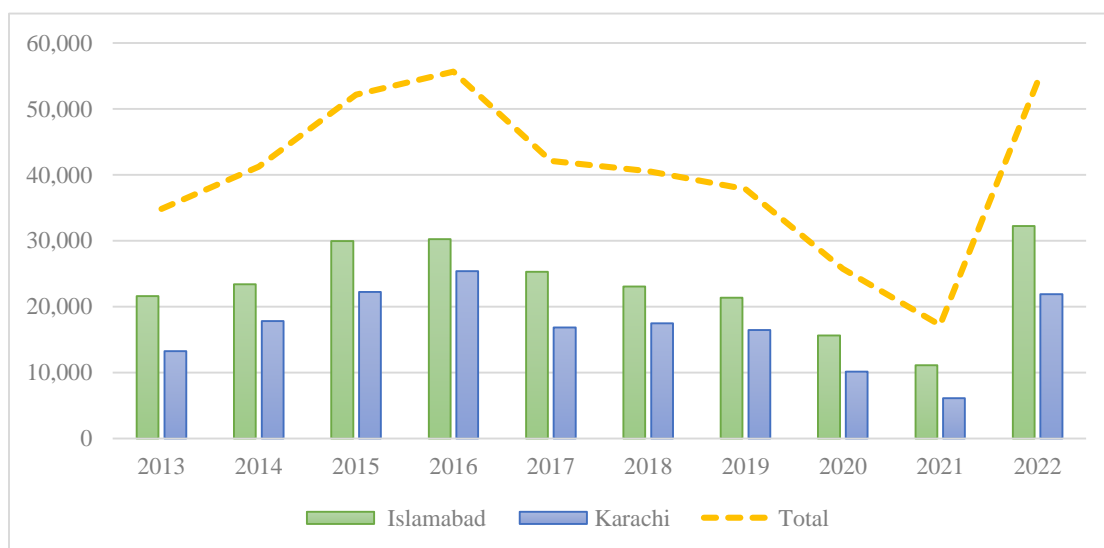
**Figure 2: Total Arrival of Pakistanis to Australia, 1991 to 2023**



**Source:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas Arrivals and Departures, 15 January 2024

- *A remarkable resurgence occurred, with arrivals increasing roughly sixfold compared to 2021. By December 2023, there was a 31 percent increase in total arrivals compared to December 2022, indicating a robust recovery in international mobility and a return to pre-pandemic levels of interest in Australia for various purposes (Figure 2).*
- *These trends are not represented in the BEOE dataset, as Australia is notably absent from its list of destination countries even though Pakistan consistently ranked in the top 10 countries from 2016 to 2022 in Australia's Skill Stream Outcome program.*

**Figure 3: Nonimmigrant Visas Issued by Issuing Office, 2013 to 2022**



**Source:** US Department of State "Table XVIII. Nonimmigrant Visas Issued by Issuing Office."

Retrieved from [https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2022AnnualReport/FY22\\_TableXVIII.pdf](https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports/FY2022AnnualReport/FY22_TableXVIII.pdf)

The trends in overall visa issuance by the US show a consistent increase from 2013 to 2016, followed by a dip in 2017-2019, a notable drop in 2020, likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a substantial surge in 2022. A recent statement from the US embassy in Pakistan states that

*“Demand for U.S visas is the highest it has ever been. We are processing more visa applications than ever before and are working hard to bring down visa appointment wait time”*

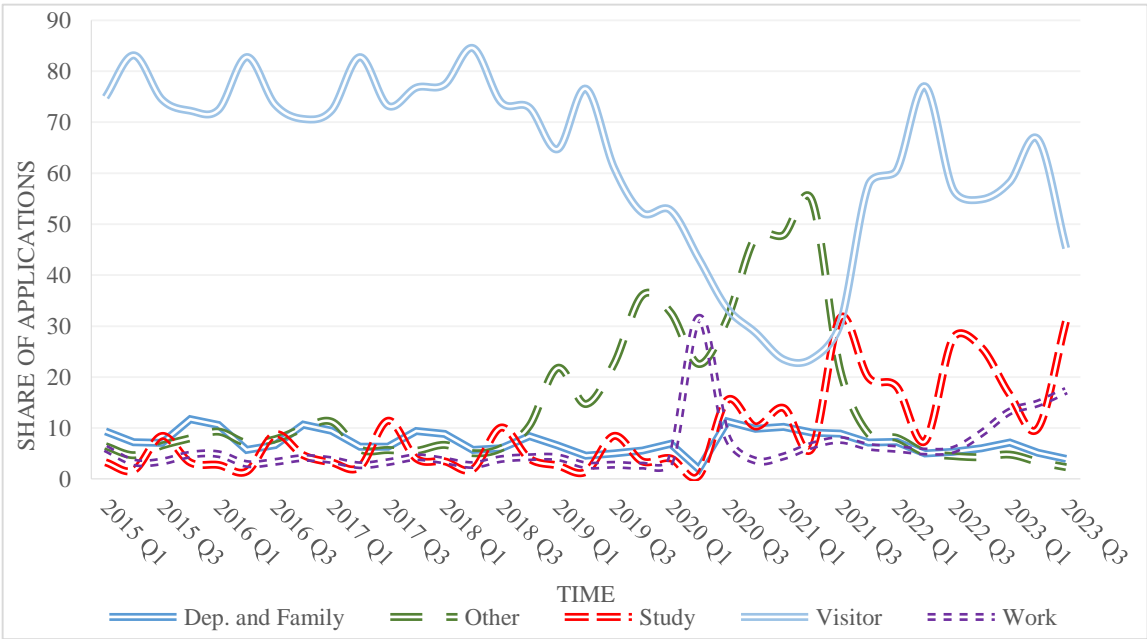
Similarly, not only in the US but also within the North American region, Pakistan ranked among the top 10 countries with immigrants residing in Canada. According to Statistics Canada's 2021 Census of Population, this constitutes 2.7 percent of the immigrant population, emphasizing the significant presence of Pakistani diaspora in Canada.

The emigration flows to the United Kingdom are shown in Figure 4 and Table. 3-4.

- A considerable increase in work and student-related visas to the UK shows an upward trend over the years, both in absolute and relative terms (See Figure 4 and Table 3). Work-related visas also register the highest number of applications, with a favorable acceptance rate.
- In terms of ranking, Pakistan stood first among countries applying for family visas to the UK. It secures the fourth position in worker, work, and student visas and stands fifth in visitor visas (See Table 4).

**Significant changes were observed in the total number of visa applications, reflecting an overall increase of around 34 percent in comparing the three quarters of 2023 to their corresponding quarters in 2022. Notably, work-related visas and study categories exhibited remarkable growth rates of roughly 268 percent and 51 percent, respectively.**

**Figure 4:** Distribution of each visa category (2015Q1 to 2023Q3)



**Source:** Author calculations based on Home Office, UK, Immigration System Statistics.

**Table 3:** Entry Clearance Visa Outcome across visa categories (2015Q1 to 2023Q3)

| Time    | Dep. and Family | Other | Study | Visitor | Work  | Total |
|---------|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 2018 Q1 | 2216            | 1675  | 867   | 19339   | 901   | 24998 |
| 2018 Q2 | 2312            | 2054  | 776   | 34144   | 1109  | 40395 |
| 2018 Q3 | 2181            | 2197  | 3663  | 26809   | 1422  | 36272 |
| 2018 Q4 | 2333            | 2883  | 1109  | 20164   | 1183  | 27672 |
| 2019 Q1 | 2200            | 7275  | 886   | 21587   | 1418  | 33366 |
| 2019 Q2 | 2321            | 7427  | 719   | 38624   | 1361  | 50452 |
| 2019 Q3 | 2378            | 10694 | 3996  | 28835   | 1324  | 47227 |
| 2019 Q4 | 2297            | 14816 | 1421  | 21450   | 1079  | 41063 |
| 2020 Q1 | 2482            | 11768 | 1456  | 18980   | 1305  | 35991 |
| 2020 Q2 | 3               | 35    | 1     | 67      | 49    | 155   |
| 2020 Q3 | 1792            | 4965  | 2447  | 5305    | 1308  | 15817 |
| 2020 Q4 | 2930            | 14053 | 3061  | 8527    | 1070  | 29641 |
| 2021 Q1 | 2903            | 13556 | 3944  | 6648    | 1258  | 28309 |
| 2021 Q2 | 1906            | 11458 | 1263  | 4940    | 1374  | 20941 |
| 2021 Q3 | 2268            | 5471  | 8059  | 7763    | 1953  | 25514 |
| 2021 Q4 | 2279            | 2840  | 6358  | 18379   | 2022  | 31878 |
| 2022 Q1 | 2615            | 2891  | 6488  | 21662   | 2113  | 35769 |
| 2022 Q2 | 2435            | 2529  | 3606  | 37563   | 2634  | 48767 |
| 2022 Q3 | 3036            | 2579  | 15751 | 32386   | 3264  | 57016 |
| 2022 Q4 | 2704            | 1919  | 11527 | 24503   | 4010  | 44663 |
| 2023 Q1 | 3434            | 2309  | 7976  | 27998   | 6361  | 48078 |
| 2023 Q2 | 3184            | 2089  | 6144  | 41172   | 9164  | 61753 |
| 2023 Q3 | 3193            | 1872  | 25012 | 36431   | 13936 | 80444 |

**Source:** Home office, UK, Immigration System Statistics.

**Table 4:** Visa applications and outcomes in the year ending September 2023

| Category              | Rank | Applications | Applications resolved <sup>(a)</sup> | Application granted | Grante rate (in percent) |
|-----------------------|------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Work visa             | 4    | 33471        | 32624                                | 29644               | 91                       |
| Worker Visa           | 4    | 30868        | 29504                                | 27197               | 92                       |
| Temporary Worker Visa | 17   | 1179         | 1173                                 | 1047                | 89                       |
| Student Visa          | 4    | 50317        | 49499                                | 47900               | 97                       |
| Family Visa           | 1    | 12265        | 16248                                | 15038               | 93                       |
| Visitor Visa          | 5    | 130104       | 142049                               | 89097               | 63                       |

**Note:** The worker visa category primarily includes visas for skilled professionals and health and care workers, while the work visa category includes visas such as the Graduate Visa, Start-up Visa, and Global Talent Visa, among others. <sup>(a)</sup>Visa outcomes are based on the date of the decision on the application and do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. **Source:** Home office, Immigration System Statistics.

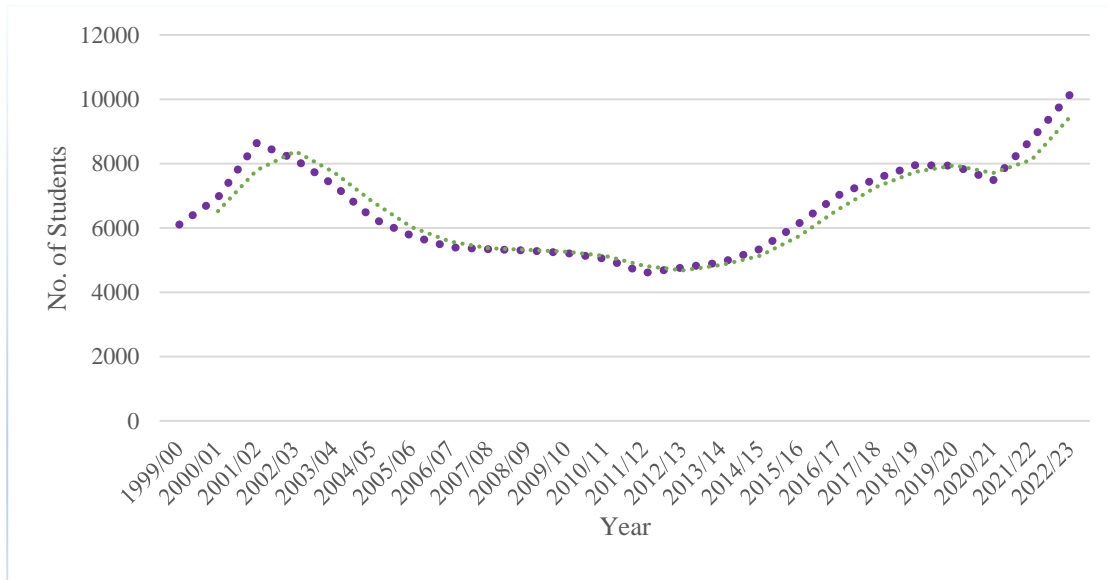
Another crucial avenue of migration is educational mobility, which has recently seen a substantial surge in the number of Pakistani students studying abroad. These students often opt for Western nations, primarily with the intention of pursuing permanent residency.

Prominent destinations include the UK, Australia, the US, Canada, and Germany, among others. Recently, China, Malaysia, Japan, and South Korea have also emerged as top choices for Pakistani students seeking educational

opportunities. To put it in perspective, Student mobility from Pakistan to the US gradually increased until the early 2010s, with some fluctuations.

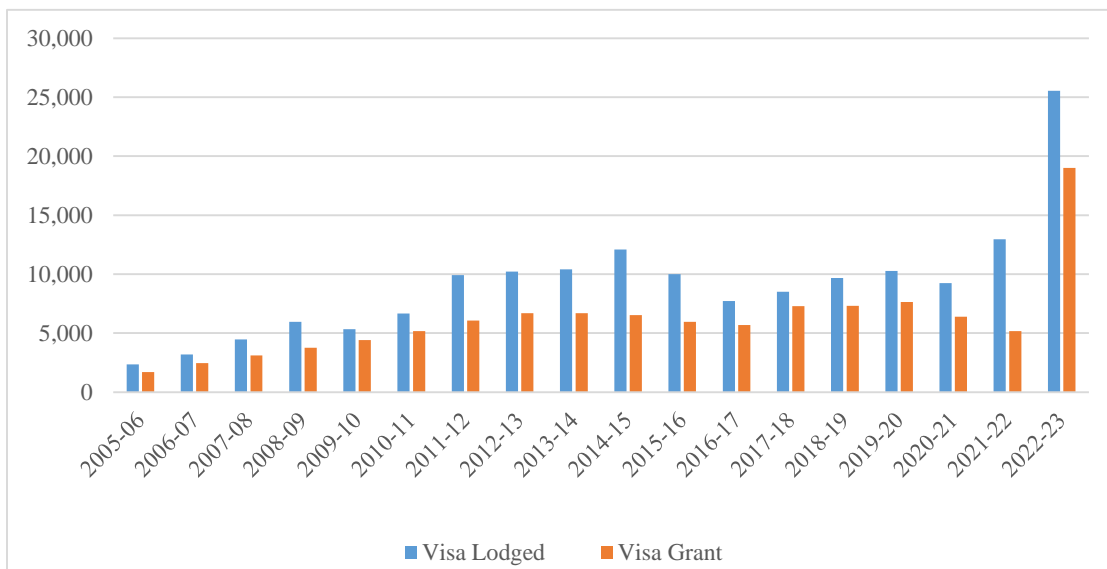
- The most significant growth in 2022/23, reaching 10,164 students, with roughly 16 percent growth, indicate a growing interest in US education among Pakistani students in recent years (Figure 5).
- In the case of Australia, a significant change occurred in 2022-23 when the number of student visas granted in 2022 surged by around threefold compared to 2021, indicating a resurgence in international student mobility.
- During the year 2022-23, the student visa category to the UK has a high number of applications and enjoys a relatively high approval rate of 97 percent (Table 4)

**Figure 5:** Overall Student Mobility to the US (1999-00 to 2022-23)



Source: Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Retrieved from <https://opendoorsdata.org/data/international-students/all-places-of-origin>

**Figure 6:** Student visas Lodged and granted



Source: Department of Home Affairs, Student visa program, retrieved from <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/student-visas>



Lastly, the BEOE effectively documents the majority of annual departures of Pakistani workers via legal channels; it does not capture risky irregular journeys across land and sea routes to reach Europe. Although the number of undocumented migrants from Pakistan remains relatively small compared to regular labor migration flows, addressing this issue has gradually gained prominence from a policy standpoint. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Pakistan's ranking among the nationalities of migrants arriving in Europe climbed from ninth place in 2016 to seventh position in 2023.

The number of applicants who applied for first-time asylum in the EU (27) witnessed a substantial increase from 14,535 in 2013 to 32,975 in 2022. Notably, the year 2022 witnessed a remarkable surge, marking a 57 percent increase compared to 2021 within the EU countries and a 48 percent increase in non-EU countries (Table 5).

**Table 5:** Asylum Seekers from Pakistan in the EU 27 and UK (2013-2022)

|                     | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| European Union (27) | 14535 | 16560 | 43155 | 43895 | 26475 | 23235 | 24345 | 15915 | 21045 | 32975 |
| Italy               | 3175  | 7095  | 10275 | 13470 | 9470  | 7445  | 7305  | 4960  | 6880  | 11370 |
| Greece              | 1325  | 1125  | 1505  | 4420  | 8345  | 7185  | 6420  | 3515  | 3415  | 2555  |
| France              | 1735  | 2135  | 1805  | 1835  | 1500  | 3070  | 4610  | 3555  | 3730  | 3765  |
| Germany             | 4100  | 3970  | 8200  | 14485 | 3670  | 2210  | 2175  | 1015  | 1255  | 1595  |
| Austria             |       | 330   | 2890  | 2415  | 1445  | 160   | 255   | 145   | 1315  | 7900  |
| Hungary             | 3055  | 310   | 15010 | 3650  | 100   | 20    | 25    | 25    | 0     | 0     |
| Ireland             | 90    | 290   | 1350  | 235   | 195   | 240   | 205   | 85    | 55    | 240   |
| Spain               | 95    | 135   | 105   | 175   | 200   | 360   | 495   | 700   | 1415  | 485   |
| Cyprus              | 55    | 65    | 120   | 205   | 190   | 580   | 1120  | 490   | 995   | 2000  |
| others              | 905   | 1105  | 1895  | 3005  | 1360  | 1965  | 1735  | 1425  | 1985  | 3065  |
| Non-EU              |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| United Kingdom      | 4576  | 3976  | 3365  | 3774  | 3193  | 2625  | 2617  | 1572  | 1159  |       |
| others              | 325   | 225   | 700   | 210   | 195   | 860   | 205   | 105   | 110   | 125   |
| Total               | 19436 | 20761 | 47220 | 47879 | 29863 | 26720 | 27167 | 17592 | 22314 | 33100 |

**Source:** Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/migration-asylum/asylum/database>.

UK data retrieved from the Migration Observatory <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migration-to-the-uk-asylum/>

- This data only captures the number of asylum applications, while accurately counting irregular migrants remains challenging due to their efforts to evade detection, reluctance to participate in surveys, and avoidance of public services.
- This category also includes those who enter Europe with a visa but overstay their allowed stay after the visa expires. This trend continued into 2023, as evidenced by the initial half-year statistics, suggesting that the previous record from 2022 is likely to be surpassed.
- Italy, Greece, France, Germany, and Hungary emerged as the primary destinations for Pakistani asylum seekers. Many of these temporary refugees later intended for permanent residence in these countries or used it as a transit point to reach other European nations.

The statistics the BEOE report will likely be lower than the true scale of migration trends. This is primarily because these statistics do not reflect much about current migration patterns towards Western countries. Recent times have witnessed a significant shift in the migration landscape, with many skilled workers actively seeking opportunities in Western nations. The key reasons for this shift are the marked decrease in white-collar workers' purchasing power, the limited job prospects



for university graduates in the labor market, and the declining level of trust in institutions, all contributing to the current surge in immigration.

To further elaborate, let's consider Mr. Y as an example. In 2018, Mr. Y earned 150,000 PKR, roughly 1,239 US\$, when the exchange rate was 121. However, in 2023, even though the salary increased to 200,000 PKR, the exchange rate plummeted to 280. As a result, the earnings went down to 714 US\$. This decline is not solely attributed to the exchange rate but is markedly impacted by the prevailing domestic inflation rates. According to World Development Indicators, the inflation rate was 5 percent in 2018 and surged to 20 percent in 2022, with a continued rise of around 30 percent in 2023. This shows how people's ability to buy things with their money has diminished over six years, and it's one reason prompting their inclination to emigrate to Western countries in particular.

The aspirant migrant's motivation, besides competitive salaries and life standards, is that they prefer to settle with their families—a choice often unavailable in the Gulf States. This is also discussed in the PIDE basic survey, which shows that with the prospect of better income, the desire to emigrate in pursuit of gaining more respect emerges as the second most frequent reason, accounting for 44 percent of those who desire to leave the country. Besides that, the survey also reveals that when we examine the income quintiles and the percentage of people who wish to leave the country, the desire to emigrate increases with rising income. However, this increase is not of a significant magnitude.

As a policy recommendation, it is imperative to establish a thorough and regularly updated migration data system that covers all facets of migration, including returnees, beyond the current data derived mainly from the protectorate office. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development collaborate with various departments and agencies involved in migration, including the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE), Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), Protectorate of Emigrants Pakistan Abroad (POEPA), National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Federal Investigation Agency, Ministry of Interior, and others. This collaboration aims to establish a coordination mechanism to institutionalize procedures for regularly collecting data and develop common standards and classifications based on international benchmarks. This initiative is crucial for formulating effective migration policies and governance, particularly in addressing concerns about the potential brain drain. A robust and centralized migration data system will enhance the accuracy of information and contribute to evidence-based policymaking in managing migration effectively.

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