



from Sri Lanka started in 1970's with the oil boom in the Middle Eastern countries. Both skilled and unskilled workers migrated to Middle East for economic purposes and continue to do so even

today. Currently 1.9 Million Sri Lankans are migrant workers and it is estimated that around 800 people are leaving the country, on a daily basis, mainly for work.

Within South Asia, urbanization has been relatively slow. For Sri Lanka, official estimates indicate the share of the population living in towns and cities in 1960 was around 16% of the total

population and after 56 years, in 2016, it has changed only by 2% to 18%. The numbers have actually fallen slightly between 2000 and 2010. It is also interesting to note that in 1960's and 80's the main internal migration was from rural to rural. This was mainly due to agricultural purposes. Then this trend changed to rural to urban, mainly towards the Economic Zones established