

**Australian Government****Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

TIER 2 INDICATOR TECHNICAL NOTE LABOUR MOBILITY

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(A) NUMBER OF PALM SCHEME WORKERS

Data on workers and employers participating in the PALM scheme is published and updated monthly by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). For more information, see the explanatory notes in the data file available on the DEWR PALM scheme website:

www.palmscheme.gov.au/palm-scheme-data.

(B) TOTAL REMITTANCE FLOWS PER YEAR PER COUNTRY

Definition

This indicator is designed to estimate gross cumulative¹ and annual remittance flows from PALM scheme participants to Timor-Leste and the nine Pacific Island countries that currently participate in the PALM scheme. Figures are modelled estimates based on available survey data and PALM scheme worker numbers.

Scope

Includes:

Remittances sent to the Pacific and Timor-Leste by long and short-term PALM scheme participants.

Regular remittances (sent on a consistent schedule i.e. weekly or monthly).

Extra remittances (one-off or irregular transfers) where data is sourced from Cost of Living studies undertaken by the Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program.

¹ Cumulative since April 2022, based on available primary worker data.



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Excludes:

Non-PALM scheme participants, including PALM scheme participant spouses and dependents.

In-kind remittances (goods bought in Australia and shipped).

Funds saved in Australia by participants, including accrued superannuation.

Calculation method

Remittance flows are calculated by multiplying the number of PALM scheme workers from a sending country in a given month by the estimated average remittance for PALM scheme participants from that sending country in that same month. They represent the best available estimate for each country and are not intended to be compared across countries. Values are presented in gross Australian dollars and do not account for transfer costs or exchange rate effects. Figures are presented to three significant figures.

Data Sources

1. Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program, Cost of Living study wave 1 (2020) (CoL wave 1)
2. Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program, Cost of Living study wave 2 (2025) (CoL wave 2)
3. Australian National University/World Bank, Pacific Labour Mobility Survey (2022) (PLMS wave 1)
4. Australian National University/World Bank, Pacific Labour Mobility Survey (expected 2026) (PLMS wave 2) (not yet used but planned for use once data is available)

Prior to and inclusive of December 2020, remittances are calculated on estimates from CoL wave 1.

In January 2023, remittances are calculated using estimates from PLMS wave 1.

In January 2024 and onwards, remittances data for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu is sourced from CoL wave 2, data for Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu is sourced from PLMS wave 1, and data from Fiji, Nauru, and Samoa is approximated from an average of CoL wave 2 and PLMS wave 1 data.

Between each snapshot of input data, monthly data is inferred based on an assumed constant (geometric) growth rate.

Worker numbers are sourced from PALMIS and provided by DEWR.



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Disaggregation

1. This indicator reports on disaggregated data by sending country (noting that for some sending countries the most contemporary per-worker remittance figure used is an average of data from other sending countries).
2. This indicator reports on disaggregated data by gender (noting that remittances data is not differentiated by gender and so results from this calculation are purely driven by the scale of gender data in PALM scheme participation).
3. This indicator reports on disaggregated data by short and long-term PALM (noting that remittances data is not differentiated by short and long-term PALM and so results from this calculation are purely driven by the scale of short and long-term PALM scheme participation).
4. Gross remittance estimates do not account for remittance transfer fees.

Worked Example

To estimate the volume of remittances sent by Solomon Islander PALM scheme participants from April 2022 to December 2025:

1. Take the array of Solomon Islander PALM scheme workers in Australia each month from April 2022 to December 2025.
2. Take the array of estimated monthly remittances per Solomon Islander PALM worker from April 2022 to December 2025.
3. Multiply these two arrays together.