



### Migration and the Regional Labour Market

According to estimates from the UN Population Division, the working age population in the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East will undergo tremendous - and contrasting - changes over the next twenty years.

Working Age Population (Age group 15-64 years - Medium Variant 2004 Revision - in millions)				
	2005	2025	Change**	in %
<b>Western Mediterranean Basin</b>				
Algeria	21.62	29.34	7.72	36%
Libya	3.86	5.36	1.50	39%
Morocco	20.18	26.82	6.64	33%
Tunisia	6.85	8.45	1.60	23%
	<b>52.50</b>	<b>69.96</b>	<b>17.45</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Eastern Mediterranean Basin</b>				
Egypt	45.65	64.87	19.22	42%
Jordan	3.40	5.53	2.13	63%
Lebanon	2.29	2.92	0.63	28%
Syria	11.43	18.80	7.38	65%
	<b>62.77</b>	<b>92.13</b>	<b>29.36</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Northern Mediterranean Basin</b>				
France	39.46	38.65	-0.81	-2%
Greece	7.51	7.34	-0.17	-2%
Italy	38.35	34.76	-3.59	-9%
Spain	29.80	28.85	-0.94	-3%
Turkey	47.85	62.25	14.40	30%
	<b>162.95</b>	<b>171.85</b>	<b>8.90</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Middle East</b>				
Kuwait	1.93	2.96	1.03	54%
Qatar	0.63	0.83	0.21	33%
Saudi Arabia	14.70	24.69	10.00	68%
United Arab Emirates	3.46	5.29	1.83	53%
Yemen	10.77	21.35	10.58	98%
	<b>31.48</b>	<b>55.12</b>	<b>23.64</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Saharan and Sub-Saharan countries</b>				
Mauritania	1.64	2.88	1.24	75%
Nigeria	69.32	111.97	42.65	62%
Sudan	20.71	32.04	11.33	55%
	<b>91.68</b>	<b>146.90</b>	<b>55.22</b>	<b>38%</b>
	<b>405.59</b>	<b>539.19</b>	<b>133.59</b>	<b>24.78%</b>

Source: UN Population Division, 2004 Revision

While Italy's working age population is expected to decrease by more than 5 million people - or 17% of its actual population - the Maghreb countries' in contrast is expected to grow by 25 million.

### Migration, Economic Growth, Development

Incentives to migrate are strong in the region, not only because of demographic pressures, but also due to a significant economic gap between neighbouring countries and the lack of individual prospects in countries of origin.

There are two main regions of destination, the EU countries and the Arabian Gulf countries. Migrants from the Maghreb and Sub-Sahara head mainly toward Europe, while citizens of the Middle East head towards the Persian Gulf.



Besides making a huge contribution to their host countries' economy, migrants often transfer "back home" part of their income, either as remittances, portfolio investments or foreign direct investment. They establish new trade networks, reinforce the export and tourism industries of their country of origin, and can be a conduit for technological transfer.

Most of these economic effects are not quantifiable. However, below are some figures relating to remittances to the region, based on the IOM 2003 Migration Report (in million USD)

	1975	1980	1985	1995	1999
Egypt	2,696.00	3,496.20	3,742.60	3,279.00	3,772.40
Mali	59.40	67.00	106.92	112.11	83.81
Morocco	1,053.69	967.16	2,006.35	1,969.50	1,938.11
Nigeria	12.80	10.07	10.01	803.55	1,301.06
Tunisia	318.55	270.82	551.04	679.88	761.24

Source: IOM Migration Report 2003, Page 220

## Migration and Society

Many immigrants from the Maghreb have settled permanently in Europe. Others are temporary migrants or seasonal workers.

The following figures for migrants in four EU countries are fairly reliable, as they are based on official censuses, but still they do not include foreigners who have obtained citizenship, or citizens who were born to foreign parents.

	France 1999	Italy 2001	Spain 2001	Greece 2001
Albania	--	173,064	--	438,036
Algeria	477,482	9,971	20,915	267
Egypt	--	27,331	--	7,448
Libanon	--	2,617	--	1,277
Morocco	504,096	180,103	244,630	526
Syria	--	2,144	1,402	5,552
Tunisia	154,356	47,656	--	231
Turkey	208,049	6,066	--	7,881

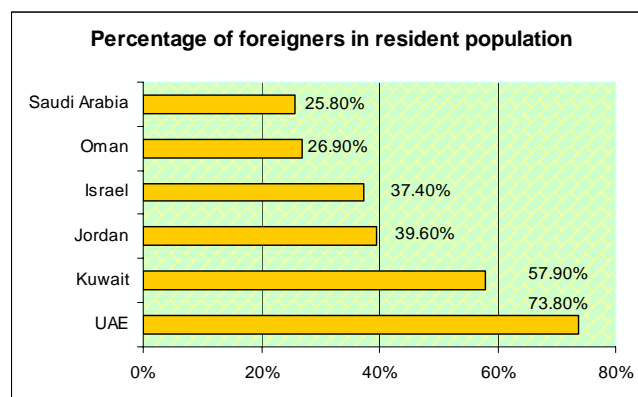
The dominant migration pattern in the Gulf Countries is of single migrant workers on a temporary basis and without the prospect of permanent settlement or naturalization. Censuses for the Gulf Countries are irregular and often hard to obtain.

The following figures for migrant workers for the year 2002 are therefore only estimates.

(in thousands)	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE	Total
Indians	100	295	300	100	1,400	1,000	3,200
Pakistanis	50	100	70	70	1,000	450	1,740
Egyptians	..	275	15	35	1,000	130	1,455
Yemenis	..	..	..	..	1,000	35	1,035
Bangladeshis	..	160	110	..	450	100	820
Sri Lankans	..	160	..	35	350	160	705
Filipinos	..	60	..	50	500	120	730
Jordanians/	..	50	..	50	270	110	480
Syrians	..	95	..	..	170	..	265
Iranians	45	80	..	20	..	40	145
Indonesians	..	..	..	..	250	..	250
Sudanese	..	..	..	..	250	..	250
Kuwaitis	..	..	..	..	120	..	120
Turks	..	..	..	..	100	..	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>2,488</b>	

According to the UNDP, of the ten countries worldwide with the highest percentage of migrants in 2000, six were Middle Eastern. In two - Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates - foreigners made up more than half of the total population.

Some Gulf States have introduced a policy of nationalization of the work-force, with gradually shrinking quotas for foreign workers.



## Undocumented / Irregular Migration

Figures for the stocks of undocumented migrants in Europe are highly unreliable, with estimates varying from 2.6 to 6.4 million, according to a study by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

The ICMPD also estimates irregular flows towards the EU15 at 650,000 for the year 2001, an average of 1,800 new undocumented migrants a day.

The issue of irregular migrants in the Gulf States is also of growing importance, both in terms of control and protection.

## Migration and Human Rights

A specific set of rights exist for migrants whose host country has ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), which entered into force on 1 July 2003.

In the Mediterranean and Middle East region three countries have ratified this Convention:

- Egypt in February 1993
- Morocco in June 1993
- Libya in June 2004

## Migration and Regional Initiatives

Beside bilateral agreements, a number of regional consultative processes have emerged in the Mediterranean region, among which the most comprehensive is the Barcelona Process, linking the European Union and its Mediterranean partners: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey.