

ESCWA

Country Profiles 2009



ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Efforts of ESCWA staff from the Statistics Division and the Office of the Executive Secretary, as well as Dr. Yusuf Mansur, Chief Executive Officer of Envision Consulting Group, have resulted in the issuance of this publication. The cover design, maps and layout were prepared by the ESCWA graphic design and publications unit.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was established on 9 August 1973. In recognition of the social component of its work, the Commission was renamed the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on 26 July 1985.

ESCWA covers 14 Arab countries, 13 of which are in Western Asia: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, and the Sudan¹.

ESCWA aims at supporting economic and social development in the countries of the region and facilitating regional cooperation and integration. Distinguished by the power to convene, the Commission provides a regional forum for coordination and forging of common positions among its member countries.

This publication outlines the main social and economic indicators of ESCWA member countries. It was jointly prepared by the Statistics Division and the Office of the Executive Secretary. The data presented by this publication have been collected from diverse United Nations and national sources² and are for the most recent year available at the time of data collection.

It gives me great pleasure to present this publication which has been prepared as an indicative and general source of information highlighting the socio-economic situation of ESCWA member countries, and targeting the broad public.



Bader Omar Al Dafa
ESCWA Executive Secretary

¹ The Sudan became a member of ESCWA in July 2008 pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2008/8.

² All sources used in this publication are listed under the "References and Data Sources" section.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

(..)	Data not available
65+	65 years of age or more
km ²	Square kilometres
%	Percentage
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (Egypt)
COSIT	Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (Iraq)
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPI	Consumer price index
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EDB	Economic Development Board
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDI	Gender-related development index
GDP	Gross domestic product
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
PPP	Purchasing power parity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

MAP/ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES



Map No. 2079 Rev. 9 UNITED NATIONS
January 2008

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section



Bahrain



Palestine



Egypt



Qatar



Iraq



Saudi Arabia



Jordan



The Sudan



Kuwait



Syrian Arab Republic



Lebanon



United Arab Emirates



Oman



Yemen

NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES OF ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Central Informatics Organization, at <http://www.cio.gov.bh/en/default.asp>

Egypt

Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), at <http://www.capmas.gov.eg>

Iraq

Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT)

Jordan

Ministry of Planning, Department of Statistics, at <http://www.dos.gov.jo>

Kuwait

Central Statistical Organization, at <http://scs.mop.gov.kw/>

Lebanon

Central Administration for Statistics, at <http://www.cas.gov.lb/>

Oman

Ministry of National Economy, at <http://www.moneoman.gov.om/>

Palestine

Central Bureau of Statistics, at <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/>

Qatar

Statistical Authority, at <http://www.planning.gov.qa/>

Saudi Arabia

Central Department of Statistics, at <http://www.cds.gov.sa/statistics/indexe.htm>

Syrian Arab Republic

Central Bureau of Statistics, at <http://www.cbssyr.org/>

United Arab Emirates

Central Directorate of Statistics, at <http://www.economy.ae/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Yemen

Central Statistical Organization, at <http://cso-yemen.org/index.php?lng=english&/>

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adult (15+) illiteracy rate: Percentage of the population aged 15 and over which cannot both read and write with understanding over total population in the same age class.

Adult economic activity rate: Percentage of the population aged 15 and over which is economically active according to the International Labour Organization definition, which includes all employed and unemployed persons, including those seeking work for the first time.

Consumer price index (CPI): Measure of the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households.

Gender parity index in primary level enrolment (ratio of girls to boys): Ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary level of education to the number of male students at the level.

Gender-related development index (GDI): Composite index of the standard of living in a country. It aims to show the inequalities between men and women in long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.

Gross domestic product (GDP): Aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs).

Human development index: Composite index combining information on indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income (calculated for 177 countries).

Illiteracy rate (%) (ages 15-24): Percentage of the population aged 15-24 which cannot both read and write with understanding over total population in the same age class.

Infant mortality rate: Number of infants dying before reaching the age of one year per 1,000 live births in a given year.

Inflation rate: Rate of growth (percentage change) of the consumer price index (CPI) in the reference period.

Life expectancy at birth (years): Average number of years that a person at birth can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant.

Maternal mortality ratio: Number of women who die from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, per 100,000 live births.

Median age of total population: Age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups, that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older.

Mortality rate of children under five years old: See “Infant mortality rate”.

Net enrolment ratio in secondary education: See “Net enrolment ratio in primary education”.

Net enrolment ratio in primary education: Ratio of the number of children of official school age (as defined by the national education system) who are enrolled in primary school to the total population of children of official school age.

Per capita gross domestic product (constant US\$2,000): Real gross domestic product at US\$2,000 divided by total population.

Population: Counts all residents, regardless of legal status or citizenship, except for refugees not permanently settled in the country of asylum, who are generally considered part of the population of the country of origin.

Population below purchasing power parity (PPP) US\$1 per day (%): Percentage of the population living on less than US\$1.08 a day in terms of purchasing power parities at 1993 international prices. See “Purchasing power parity”.

Population undernourished: Population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption. The measure of food deprivation is based on the calculation of the average amount of food available for human consumption per person, the level of inequality in access to that food and the minimum number of calories required for an average person.

Purchasing power parity (PPP): Rate of currency conversion that equalizes the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries. In their simplest form, the parities are simply price relatives which show the ratio of the prices in national currencies of the same good or service in different countries.

Real gross domestic product: Gross domestic product evaluated at the prices of the base year. It represents a measure of the volume of production, net of inflation.

Total fertility rate: Total number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if she experienced the currently prevailing age-specific fertility rates throughout her childbearing life.

Unemployment rate: Number of unemployed people divided by the total labour force. Unemployed people are all those who are not employed during a specified reference period but are available for work and have taken concrete steps to seek

paid employment or self-employment. The labour force consists of those who are employed plus those who are unemployed during the relevant reference period. It is the economically active portion of the population. Employment refers to being engaged in an economic activity during a specified reference period or being temporarily absent from such an activity, while economic activity refers to the production of goods and services for pay or profit or for use by own household.

Value added: Value added (at basic prices) is calculated from the production value plus subsidies on products less the purchases of goods and services (other than those purchased for resale in the same condition) plus or minus the change in stocks of raw materials and consumables less other taxes on products which are linked to turnover but not deductible. It represents the value added by the various factor inputs in the operating activities of the unit/country concerned.

Youth unemployment rate, ages 15-24: Number of unemployed people ages 15-24 divided by the labour force of the same age group. See "Unemployment rate".

REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES

Government structure and political situation

Source: www.undp-pogar.org/countries

Demographic indicators

- Demographic indicators:
Total population
Source: United Nations Population Division, Population Prospects
- Human development indicators
Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
Human Development Report 2008 Update

Economic and social indicators

- Economic
Source:
ESCWA (<http://www.escwa.un.org>)
- Employment
Sources:
ESCWA (<http://www.escwa.un.org>)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Education and literacy
Source:
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO) Statistics, (<http://www.uis.unesco.org>)
- Health
Sources:
World Bank Database, World Development Indicators 2008
World Health Organization (WHO), Core Health Indicators Database
(<http://www.who.int/whosis/database/>)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), FAOSTAT Database
(<http://faostat.fao.org/>)

Charts and figures

- Population pyramids
Source: United Nations Population Division, Population Prospects
(<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>)
- Percentage of population by rural/urban status
Source: Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP
(<http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/datasheets>)

- Real GDP growth rates in the ESCWA region
Source: ESCWA, based on national sources and official figures
- Inflation rates
Source: ESCWA, National Accounts Bulletin of the ESCWA Region No. 26
- Data for country groups are weighted averages, where weights for each year are based on GDP in 2,000 constant prices
- GDP per capita in constant US\$2,000
Source: ESCWA, National Accounts Bulletin of the ESCWA Region No. 28
- Value added by economic activity - percentage distribution
Source: United Nations Statistics Division, National Accounts Main Aggregate Database, available at: <http://unstats.un.org>
- Employment rates by sector
Source: Human Development Report 2007/2008

Country Profiles



BAHRAIN

Government structure and political situation

Type of State Constitutional monarchy/unitary

Independence 15 August 1971

Constitution Approved and promulgated on 26 May 1973, suspended on 26 August 1975. The National Action Charter was approved by a national popular referendum on 14-15 February 2001, and a new constitution was issued on 14 February 2002.

Head of State Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa succeeded his late father as emir on 6 March 1999, and became king on 14 February 2002.

Branches **Executive** - King (chief of State); prime minister (head of Government); Council of Ministers (cabinet) is appointed by the king and headed by the prime minister.

Legislative - The bicameral parliament (Al-Majlis al-Watani) consists of a 40-member elected Council of Representatives and a 40-member Shura (Consultative) Council appointed by the king. Members of both chambers serve four-year terms.

Judicial - The judiciary is organized in two branches: the civil law courts and the Shari'a law courts.

Administrative divisions **Five governorates (muhafazat):** Manama, Muharraq, Northern, Central and Southern.

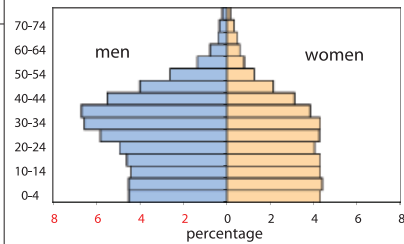
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development
 Ministry of Social Development
 Ministry of Industry and Commerce
 Ministry of Finance
 Economic Development Board (EDB)



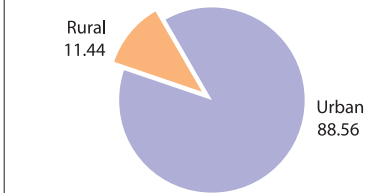
Demographic indicators

Total population, 2009	791,473
Female (%), 2009	42.61
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	1.79
Median age of total population (years), 2005	28.8
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	39
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.29
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	75.64
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	11.2
GDI rank, 2007	33

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

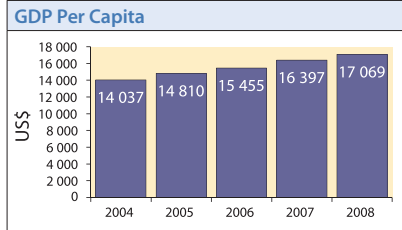


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

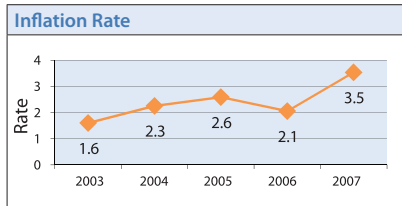
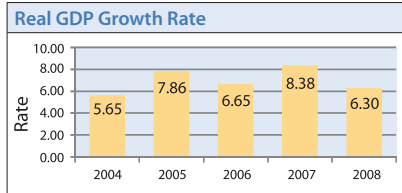


BAHRAIN

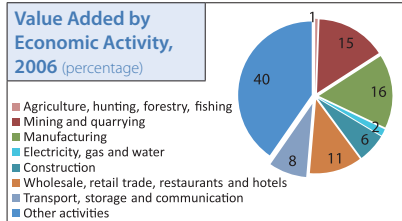
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	21,902
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	31,239
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	6.3
CPI (2000=100), 2008	114.4
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	18,865
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	12,530



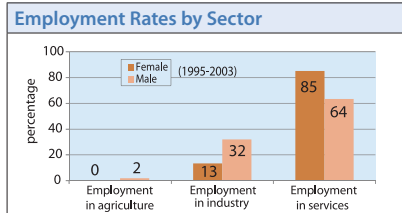
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	63.7
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	84.4
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	33.6
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	2.6
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	0.4
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	9.8
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	10,496
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	29,796
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	40



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2006)	93.4
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006)	32.1
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	9.6
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	13.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	0.2
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	0.2
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure)	..



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.5
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	1.3
Population undernourished (% of total population)	..
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	933



For more information on Bahrain, please go to: www.info.gov.bh/ar/s,69.



Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Republic/unitary
Independence	28 February 1922
Constitution	11 September 1971
Head of State	President: Muhammad Hosni Mubarak, since 14 October 1981
Branches	<p>Executive - The prime minister and the cabinet are appointed by the president.</p> <p>Legislative - Bicameral system; consists of the 454-seat People's Assembly (Majlis al-Sha'b), 444 elected by popular vote and 10 appointed by the president; and the Advisory Council (Majlis al-Shura), which functions only in a consultative role and consists of 264 seats, of which 176 are elected by popular vote and 88 are appointed by the president.</p>



Judiciary - Egyptian law is based on civil law and Islamic legal principles with three levels of ordinary courts: summary and primary; appeals; and cassation. The supreme court, or court of cassation, serves as the final court of appeals for all lower court cases.

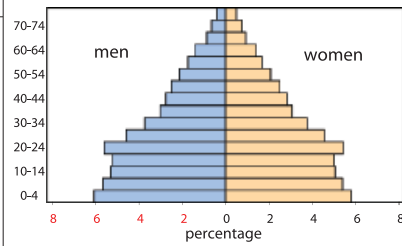
Administrative divisions **26 governorates (muhafazat):** Ad Daqahliyah, Al Bahr al Ahmar, Al Buhayrah, Al Fayyum, Al Gharbiyah, Al Iskandariyah, Al Isma'iliyah, Al Jizah, Al Minufiyah, Al Minya, Al Qahirah, Al Qalyubiyah, Al Wadi al Jadid, Ash Sharqiyah, As Suways, Aswan, Asyut, Bani Suwayf, Bur Sa'id, Dumyat, Janub Sina', Kafr ash Shaykh, Matruh, Qina, Shamal Sina', and Suhaj.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

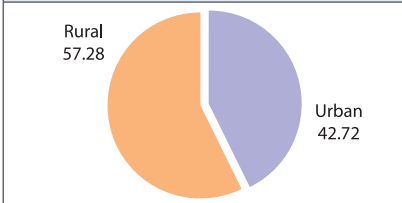
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	82,999,393
Female (%), 2009	49.7
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	1.76
Median age of total population (years), 2005	22.9
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	123
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.89
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	71.34
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	29.3
GDI rank, 2007	-

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

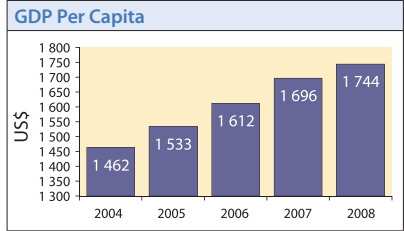


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

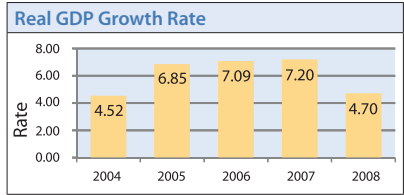


EGYPT

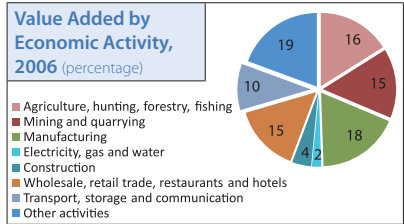
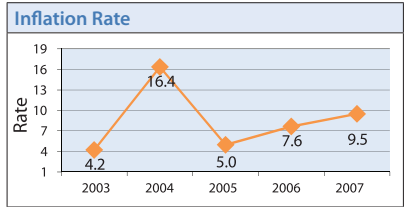
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	160,582
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	142,193
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	4.7
CPI (2000=100), 2008	186.4
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	26,738
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	54,045.8



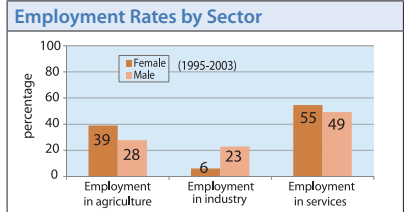
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	47.3
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	71.2
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	23.8
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	9
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	6
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	18.6
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	7,024
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	1,635
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	33



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2002)	80
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2005)	34.7
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	25.4
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	42.2
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	12.1
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	18.2
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2007	3.8
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2007	12.6



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.3
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	3.8
Population undernourished (% of total population), (2003-2005)	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	279



For more information on Egypt, please go to: www.eip.gov.eg/AboutEgypt/GeneralInfo.aspx.





IRAQ

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Republic/federal
Independence	Kingdom: 3 October 1932; Republic: 14 July 1958
Constitution	Provisional Constitution: 16 July 1970; Permanent Constitution: 15 October 2005
Head of State	The National Assembly re-elected President Jalal Talibani on 22 April 2006 for a second term in office.
Branches	Executive - The executive branch consists of the Presidency Council, the Council of Ministers, and its presiding prime minister. The Presidency Council consists of the president and two deputies, to be elected by the National Assembly.



Legislative - The National Assembly elected Dr. Mahmoud Mash-hadani as its speaker on 22 April 2006. The federal legislative authority is made up of the Council of Representatives (parliament) and the Council of Union.

Judiciary - The judiciary is represented by courts of different kinds and levels which issue their rulings according to law. The Iraqi court system is divided into the civil courts, courts of personal status, and criminal courts.

Administrative divisions **18 governorates (muhafazat):** Al Anbar, Al Basrah, Al Muthanna, Al Qadisiyah, An Najaf, At Ta'mim, Babil, Baghdad, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Karbala', Maysan, Ninawa, Salahad Din, Wasit, Irbil, As-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk. The last three are situated in the Kurdish Autonomous Region in the North.

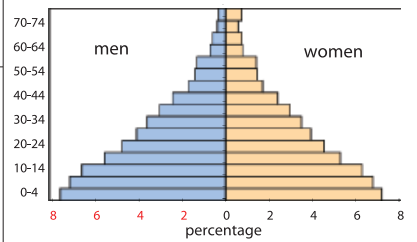
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
- Ministry of Finance

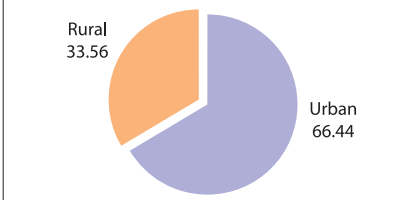
Demographic indicators

Total population, 2009	30,747,296
Female (%), 2009	49.44
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	1.84
Median age of total population (years), 2005	18.9
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	..
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	4.26
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	59.55
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	81.5
GDI rank, 2009	..

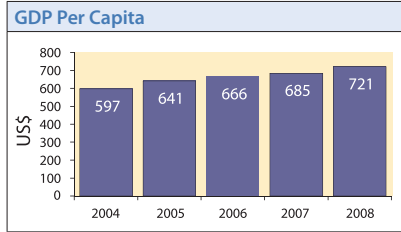
Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



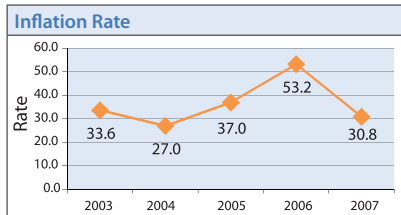
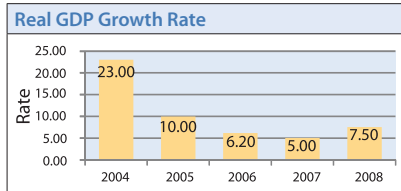
Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



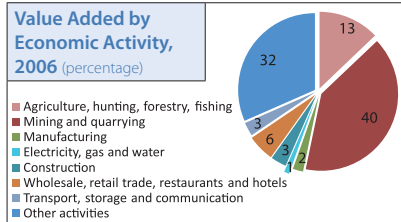
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	89,128
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	21,701
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	7.5
CPI (2000=100), 2008	664
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	61,273
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	21,005



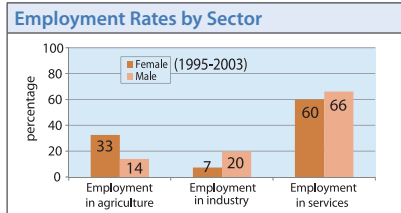
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	28.4
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	47.8
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	8.3
Unemployed (%), total (2006)	17.5
Unemployed (%), male (2006)	16.2
Unemployed (%), female (2006)	22.6
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	1,925
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	374
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	17



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2005)	38.4
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2005)	15.8
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (1995-2004)	15.9
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (1995-2004)	35.8
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (1995-2004)	11.1
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (1995-2004)	19.6
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure)	..



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	3.1
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	1
Population undernourished (% of total population)	..
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	130



For more information on Iraq, please go to: <http://www.mofa.gov.iq/english/aboutiraq/default.aspx?pageid=38>.



JORDAN

Government structure and political situation

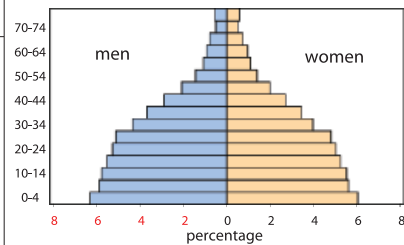
Type of State	Constitutional monarchy/unitary
Independence	25 May 1946
Constitution	1 January 1952
Head of State	King Abdullah II became king on 7 February 1999.
Branches	<p>Executive - The prime minister and the Council of Ministers are appointed by the king to conduct all affairs of the State, internal and external, and are responsible to the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Legislative - The bicameral parliament (Majlis al-Umma) consists of a House of Notables (Senate) of 55 senators, who are appointed by the king for four years, and the House of Representatives (Majlis Al-Nuwaab), a 110-member body popularly elected for four years. Some seats are reserved for religious and ethnic minorities like Christians, Circassians, Bedouins, and Chechens. Six seats are reserved for women.</p> <p>Judiciary - Jordanian law is based on civil law and Islamic legal principles. The court system is divided into religious, civil, and special courts. Religious courts are subdivided into Shari'a courts and tribunals of non-Muslim religious communities; civil courts are arranged in a four-tier hierarchy.</p>



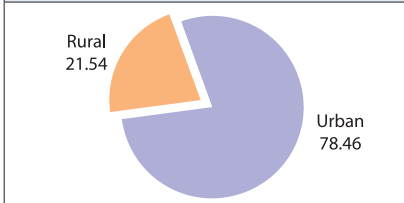
Administrative divisions	12 governorates (muhafazat): Ajlun, Al 'Aqabah, Al Balqa', Al Karak, Al Mafrq, Amman, At Tafilah, Az Zarqa, Irbid, Jarash, Ma'an, and Madaba.
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Ministry of Industry and Trade Ministry of Finance Ministry of Social Development

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	6,316,432
Female (%), 2009	48.7
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	3.04
Median age of total population (years), 2005	21.1
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	96
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	3.13
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	72.54
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	19.4
GDI rank, 2007	87

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



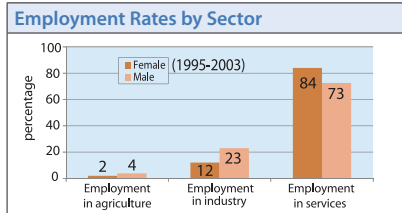
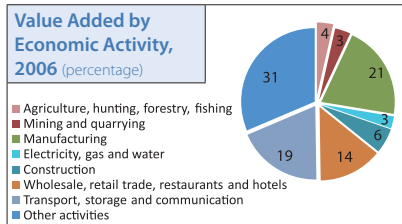
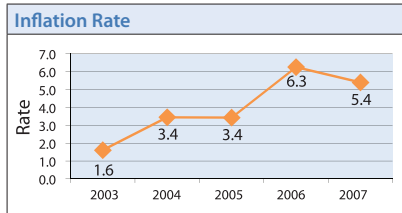
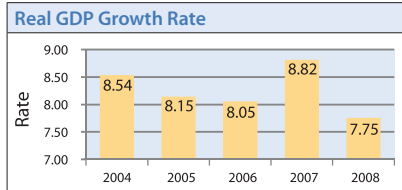
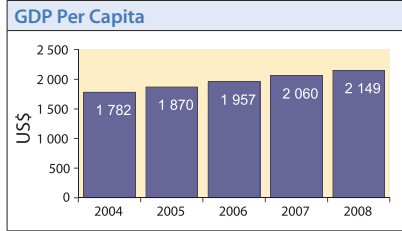
JORDAN

Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	21,259
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	13,187
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	7.75
CPI (2000=100), 2008	145
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	7,781.9
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	16,872.2

Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	39.8
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	64.4
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	14.7
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	13.1
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	10.3
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	25.6
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	374
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	2,566
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	23

Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2007)	83.7
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007)	39.9
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	4.8
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	13
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	1.1
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	1
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 1999	4.9
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 1999	20.6

Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	4.8
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	5.7
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	649



For more information on Jordan, please go to: www.tourism.jo/inside/AboutJordan_ar.asp

Government structure and political situation

Type of State Constitutional monarchy/unitary

Independence 19 June 1961

Constitution 11 November 1962

Head of State Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah became the emir of Kuwait on 29 January 2006.

Branches **Executive** - The emir appoints the prime minister and also appoints and dismisses ministers in consultation with the prime minister.

Legislative - The Kuwaiti legislature is the unicameral National Assembly (Majles al-Ummah) comprised of 50 members elected for a four-year term of office and 15 ministers who are not elected as members of parliament but who sit as ex-officio members.

Judiciary - The judiciary is administered by the Judicial Council, which consists of the president and deputy of the court of cassation, the president and deputy of the court of appeal, the Attorney-General, the president of the Al-Kulliyah Court, and the deputy of the Ministry of Justice.

Administrative divisions **Five governorates (muhafazat):** Al Ahmadi, Al Farwaniyah, Al 'Asimah, Al Jahra', and Hawalli.

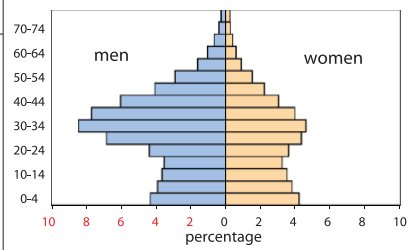
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
Ministry of Planning
Ministry of Finance



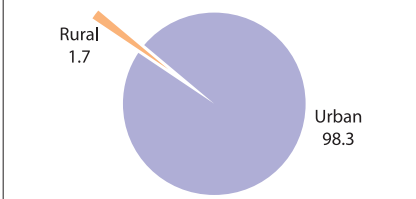
Demographic indicators

Total population, 2009	2,985,046
Female (%), 2009	40.46
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.44
Median age of total population (years), 2005	29.2
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	31
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.18
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	77.59
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	8.1
GDI rank, 2007	34

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

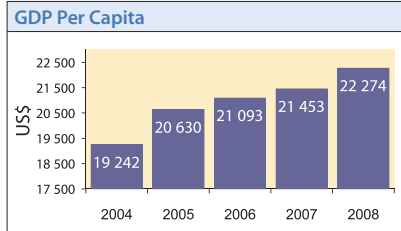


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

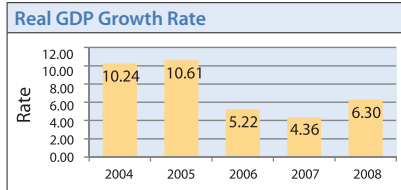


KUWAIT

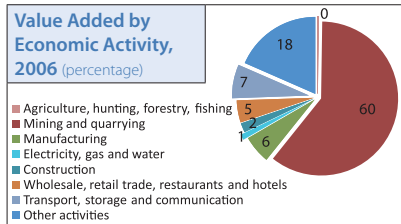
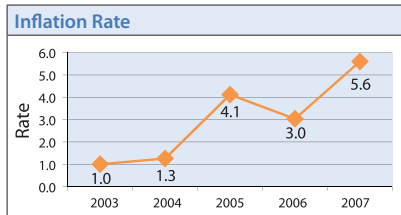
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	147,909
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	65,019
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	6.3
CPI (2000=100), 2008	130.8
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	87,093
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	24,875



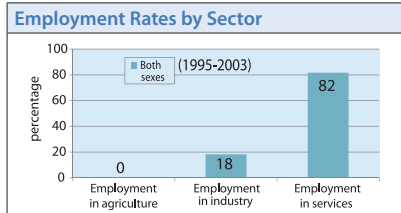
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	66.9
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	81
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	43.1
Unemployed (%), total (2006)	1.3
Unemployed (%), male (2006)	0.8
Unemployed (%), female (2006)	2.9
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	12,623
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	36,403
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	53



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2006)	76.6
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006)	17.6
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	4.8
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	6.9
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	1.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	1.5
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2006	3.6
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2006	12.9



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	1.7
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	0.5
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	490



For more information on Kuwait, please go to: www.e.gov.kw/Default.aspx?pagelid=105.





LEBANON

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Republic/unitary
Independence	22 November 1943
Constitution	The Constitution was adopted on 23 May 1926 and later amended in 1949. The National Reconciliation Agreement (the Taif Accord) of 1989 created a 50-50 balance between Christian and Muslim parliament members, increased the number of seats in parliament, and transferred some powers from the head of State to the prime minister and the cabinet.
Head of State	President: Michel Suleiman, since 25 May 2008

Branches

Executive - The executive branch consists of the prime minister and the Council of Ministers. The prime minister, serving as the president of the Council of Ministers, is the head of Government. According to the Constitution, presidential acts must be countersigned by the prime minister or the ministers concerned, with the exception of the decree appointing the prime minister and the decree accepting the resignation of the Government.

Legislative - An assembly of 128 members elected for four-year terms.

Judiciary - Courts are divided into ordinary courts and religious courts. Ordinary courts are subdivided into criminal and civil departments. The Shari'a courts are divided into Sunni and Shi'a units, which settle matters of personal status in each community. The ecclesiastical courts, composed of various Christian and Jewish divisions, settle matters of personal status for individuals from their respective communities.

Administrative divisions *Six regional governorates (muhafazat):* Beirut, North Lebanon (Ech-Chimal), Mount Lebanon (Jabal Loubnan), South Lebanon (Ej-Jnoub), Bekaa (El-Bekaa), and Al-Nabatiyah.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

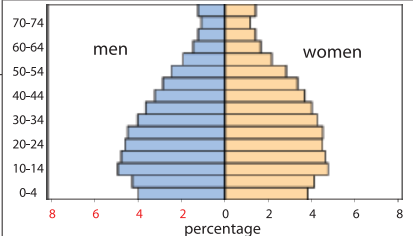
Ministry of Economy and Trade
Ministry of Social Affairs
Ministry of Finance

Demographic indicators

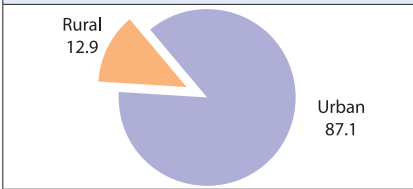
Total population, 2009	4,223,553
Female (%), 2009	51
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	1.05
Median age of total population (years), 2005	27.1
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	83
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.21
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	71.99
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	22
GDI rank, 2007	71



Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



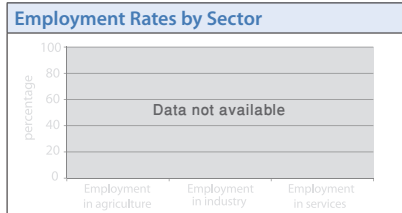
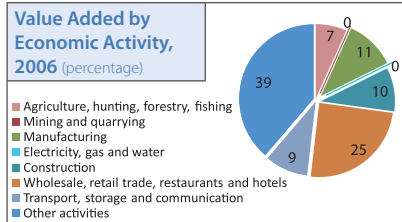
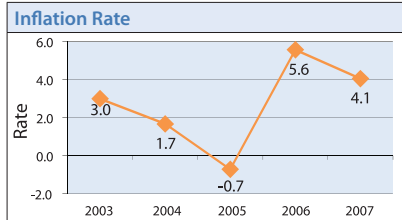
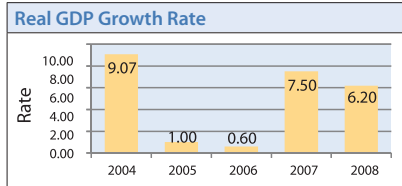
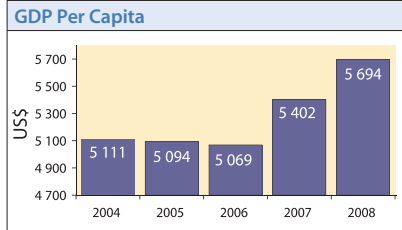
LEBANON

Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	27,195
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	23,878
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	6.2
CPI (2000=100), 2008	130.9
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	3,478.3
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	16,136.7

Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	50.1
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	77.3
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	24.8
Unemployed (%), total, (2004)	7.9
Unemployed (%), male, (2004)	7.3
Unemployed (%), female, (2004)	9.5
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	2,701
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	8,585
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	32

Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008)	74.6
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007)	51.6
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%) (2005-2007), men	6.6
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%) (2005-2007), women	14
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24 (2005-2007), men	1.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24 (2005-2007), women	0.9
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2007	2.7
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2007	9.6

Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	3.8
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	4.9
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	584



For more information on Lebanon, please go to: <http://www.cas.gov.lb/>.



OMAN

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Monarchy/unitary
Independence	In 1970, the country's name was changed from the Sultanate of Masqat and Oman to the Sultanate of Oman.
Constitution	The Basic Law was enacted on 6 November 1996 by Royal Decree No. 101 of 1996.
Head of State	Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said became sultan on 23 July 1970.
Branches	<p>Executive - The sultan also serves as the prime minister and presides over the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>Legislative - The bicameral parliament, which functions mainly in an advisory capacity but has some powers to propose legislation, is composed of an appointed upper house, the Council of State (Majlis ad-Dawla), and a lower chamber, the Shura Council (Majlis ash-Shura), whose members are elected for three-year terms.</p> <p>Judiciary - All civil, criminal and commercial matters fall under the jurisdiction of the courts of first instance. Shari'a courts have jurisdiction over matters of personal status and family law.</p>



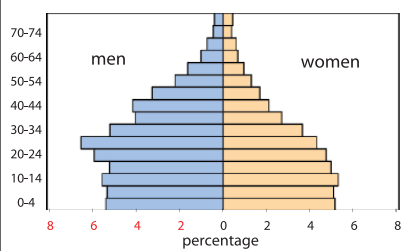
Administrative divisions *Six regions (mintaqat):* Ad Dakhiliyah, Al Batinah, Al Wusta, Ash Sharqiyah, Az Zahirah, and Masqat with two governorates (muhafazat): Musandam, Zufar.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

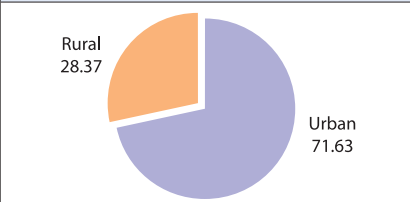
- Ministry of National Economy
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	2,845,415
Female (%), 2009	43.58
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	1.97
Median age of total population (years), 2005	22.5
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	56
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	3
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	75.64
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	12.3
GDI rank, 2007	56

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



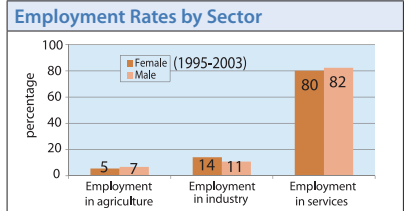
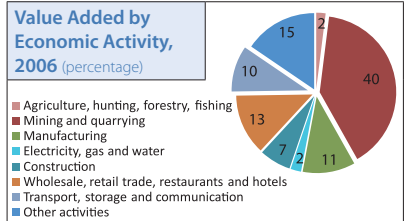
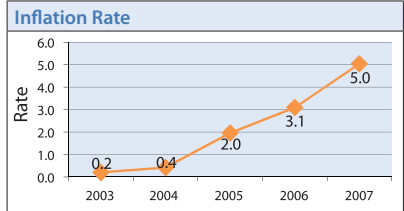
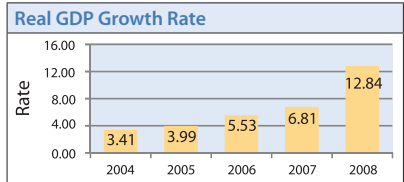
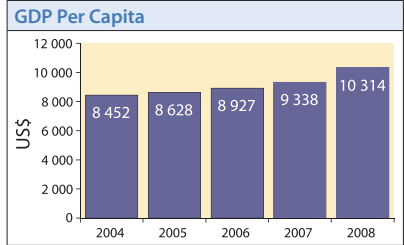
OMAN

Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	60,377
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	28,729
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	12.84
CPI (2000=100), 2008	122.5
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	37,719.1
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	22,924.7

Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	55.2
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	76.6
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	25.8
Unemployed (%), total (2003)	23
Unemployed (%), male (2003)	19.4
Unemployed (%), female (2003)	40.1
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	4,516
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	23,880
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	34

Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008)	78.2
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007)	25.5
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	10.6
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	22.5
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	1.2
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	2.1
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2006	4
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2006	31.1

Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.1
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	0.4
Population undernourished (% of total population)	..
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	390



For more information on Oman, please go to: www.omanet.om/arabic/regions/regions.asp?cat=reg.



PALESTINE

Government structure and political situation

Type of State N/A

Independence On 13 September 1993, the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements was signed by Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Head Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Constitution The Basic Law was ratified on 29 May 2002.

Head of State Mahmoud Abbas was elected president on 9 January 2005.

Branches
Executive - The president, the prime minister and the cabinet form the executive branch. The president appoints the prime minister, who forms the cabinet.

Legislative - The unicameral legislative branch is the Palestinian Legislative Council with 132 elected members. The president serves as the 133rd member.

Judiciary - The judiciary is composed of a hierarchy of courts: magistrate courts, courts of first instance, and courts of appeal.

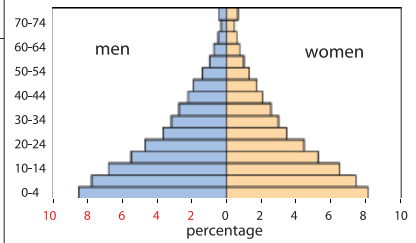
Administrative divisions **16 electoral constituencies:** Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Tubas, Salfit, Ramallah, Gaza North (Jabaliah), Gaza City, Deir el-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development
 Ministry of Planning
 Ministry of National Economy
 Ministry of Social Affairs
 Ministry of Finance

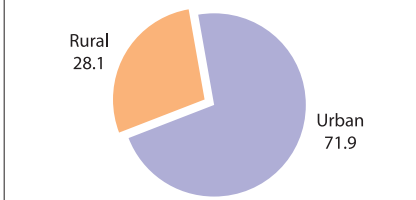


Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	4,277,360
Female (%), 2009	49.1
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	3.2
Median age of total population (years), 2005	16.9
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	110
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	5.09
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	73.42
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	17.5
GDI rank, 2007	..

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

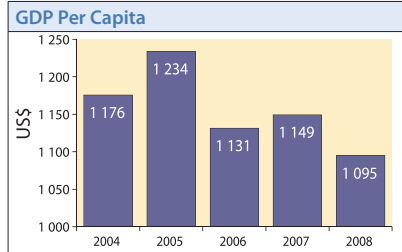


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

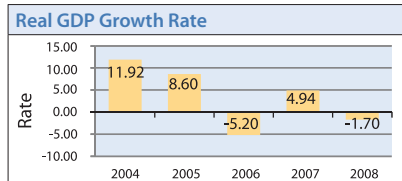


PALESTINE

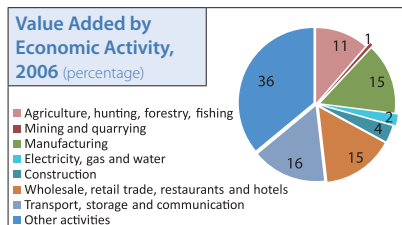
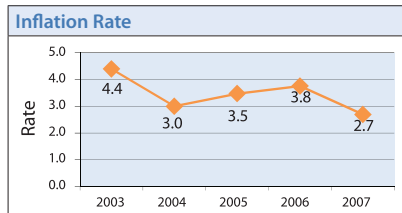
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	5,271
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	4,539
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	-1.7
CPI (2000=100), 2008	139.2
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	426
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	2,710



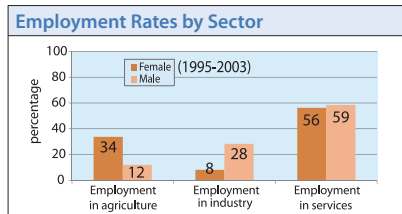
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	41.9
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	67.7
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	15.7
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	21.5
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	22.1
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	19
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	-
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	-
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	23



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2007)	88.6
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007)	46.2
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	2.8
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	9.7
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	0.9
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	1.1
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure)	..



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2004	7.8
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2004	5.2
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	15
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$)	..



Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Monarchy/unitary
Independence	3 September 1971
Constitution	Adopted on 29 April 2003, but not promulgated
Head of State	Since 27 June 1995, Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani
Branches	<p>Executive - Executive authority consists of the emir and the prime minister, whom the emir appoints.</p> <p>Legislative - The Advisory Council (Majlis al-Shura), with the power to legislate and question ministers, consists of 30 elected members and 15 appointed by the emir.</p> <p>Judiciary - The judiciary is organized in a three-tier system: the court of justice, the Shari'a courts of first instance, and the court of cassation. The court of</p>

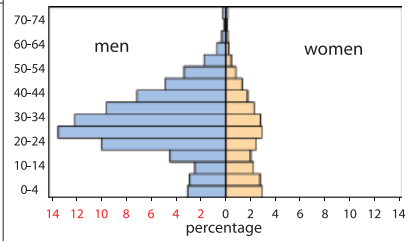


cassation has one chamber for Shari'a cases and one that serves as the appellate court for the court of justice.

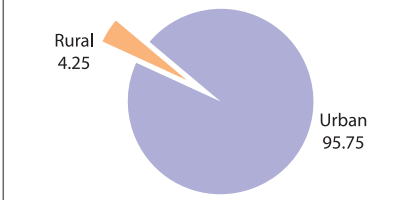
Administrative divisions	Ten municipalities (baladiyat): Ad Dawhah, Al Ghuwayriyah, Al Jumayliyah, Al Khawr, Al Wakrah, Ar Rayyan, Ash Shamal, Jarayan al Batnah, Umm Sa'id, and Umm Salal.
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development	<p>Ministry of Economy and Commerce</p> <p>General Secretariat for Development Planning</p> <p>Ministry of Finance</p>

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	1,409,423
Female (%), 2009	24.58
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.11
Median age of total population (years), 2005	31.1
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	33
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.66
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	75.59
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	8.2
GDI rank, 2007	35

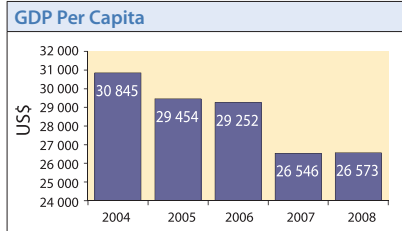
Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



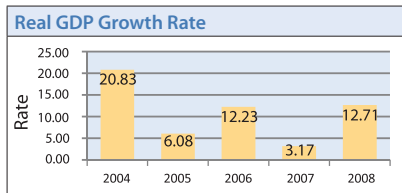
Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



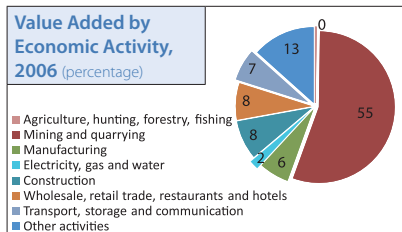
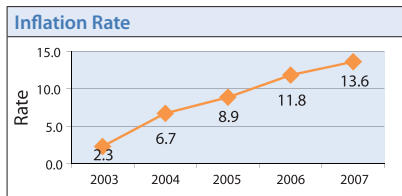
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	100,407
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	34,036
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	12.7
CPI (2000=100), 2008	176.9
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	56,593.6
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	27,900.6



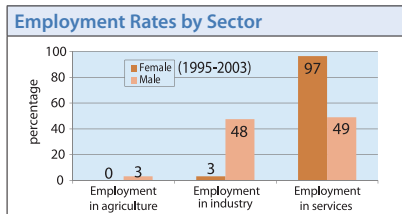
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	85.1
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	94.9
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	49.3
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	0.5
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	0.2
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	2.6
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	9,211
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	37,774
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	52



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008)	79.2
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007)	20
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	6.2
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	9.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	0.9
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	1
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2005	3.3
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2005	19.6



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	3.2
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	0.9
Population undernourished (% of total population)	..
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	1,283



For more information on Qatar, please go to: www.mofa.gov.qa/details.cfm?id=105.

SAUDI ARABIA

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Monarchy/unitary
Independence	23 September 1932
Constitution	The Basic Law was adopted by King Fahd in March 1992, and introduced in 1993.
Head of State	Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz al-Saud ascended the throne on 3 August 2005.
Branches	<p>Executive - The king serves as prime minister.</p> <p>Legislative - The king appoints the 120 members of the Consultative Council (Majlis ash-Shura), which is advisory with no legislative authority, for four-year terms.</p> <p>Judiciary - The judicial system is composed of a four-tiered hierarchy of Shari'a courts.</p>



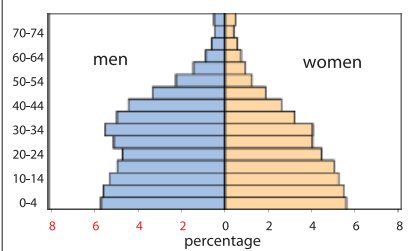
Administrative divisions **13 provinces (mintaqat):** Al Bahah, Al Hudud Ash Shamaliyah, Al Jawf, Al Madinah, Al Qasim, Ar Riyad, Ash Sharqiyah (Eastern Province), 'Asir, Ha'il, Jizan, Makkah, Najran, and Tabuk.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

- Ministry of Economy and Planning
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	25,720,605
Female (%), 2009	45.2
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.24
Median age of total population (years), 2005	23.3
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	59
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	3.35
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	72.78
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	18.8
GDI rank, 2007	60

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

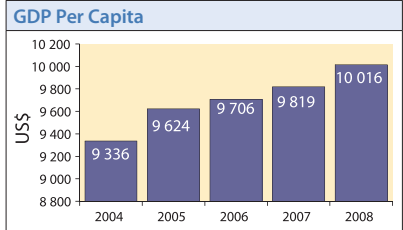


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

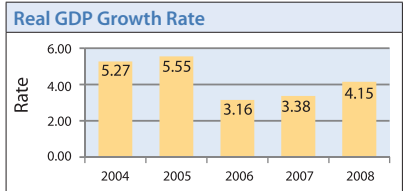


SAUDI ARABIA

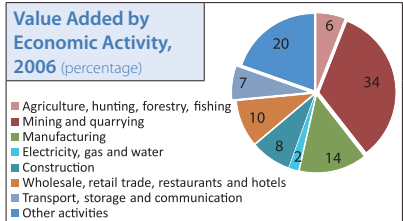
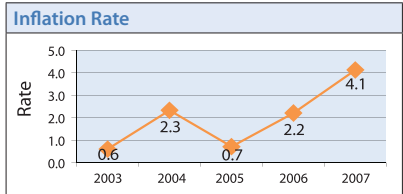
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	467,601
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	252,414
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	4.15
CPI (2000=100), 2008	117.2
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	328,930
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	115,113



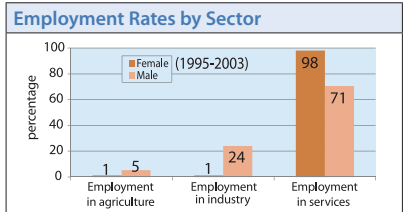
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	54.3
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	80.3
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	19.1
Unemployed (%), total (2007)	5.6
Unemployed (%), male (2007)	4.2
Unemployed (%), female (2007)	13.2
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	4,031
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	25,678
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	24



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2007)	73
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006)	30.2
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	10.9
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	20.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	1.9
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	4.1
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2005	6.8
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2005	27.6



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.6
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	0.8
Population undernourished (% of total population), (2003-2005)	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	570



For more information on Saudi Arabia, please go to: www.chamber.org.sa/dbs/trade_dir/Statistics/statYB2006/Pages/Arabic_English_InformationKSA.htm.



THE SUDAN

Government structure and political situation

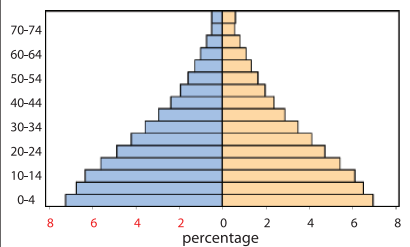
Type of State	Republic
Independence	1 January 1956
Constitution	Constitution implemented on 30 June 1998, partially suspended on 12 December 1999 by President Omar al-Bashir. Under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Interim National Constitution was ratified on 9 July 2005.
Head of State	Omar al-Bashir initially took office in 1989, though he was sworn in as president only in October 1993, then elected in March 1996 for a five-year term and re-elected in December 2000.
Branches	<p>Executive - Chief of State: President Omar al-Bashir (since 16 October 1993); and a cabinet composed of the president, two vice-presidents and two assistants to the president.</p> <p>Legislative - The bicameral National Legislature consists of a Council of States of 50 seats whose members are indirectly elected by State legislatures to serve six-year terms, and a National Assembly of 450 seats whose members are currently appointed in accordance with the 2005 CPA that established a quota system for power sharing.</p> <p>Judiciary - Constitutional court of nine justices, national supreme court, national courts of appeal, and other national courts. The National Judicial Service Commission undertakes overall management of the national judiciary.</p>
Administrative divisions	25 states (<i>wilayah</i> , singular: <i>wilayah</i>): A'ali an Nil (Upper Nile), Al Bahr al Ahmar (Red Sea), Al Buhayrat (Lakes), Al Jazirah (El Gezira), Al Khartoum (Khartoum), Al Qadarif (Gedaref), Al Wahdah (Unity), An Nil al Abyad (White Nile), An Nil al Azraq (Blue Nile), Ash Shamaliyah (Northern), Bahr al Jabal (Bahr al Jabal), Gharb al Istiwayyah (Western Equatoria), Gharb Bahral Ghazal (Western Bahr al Ghazal), Gharb Darfur (Western Darfur), Janub Darfur (Southern Darfur), Janub Kurdufan (Southern Kordofan), Junqali (Jonglei), Kassala (Kassala), Nahr an Nil (Nile), Shamal Bahr al Ghazal (Northern Bahr al Ghazal), Shamal Darfur (Northern Darfur), Shamal Kurdufan (Northern Kordofan), Sharq al Istiwayyah (Eastern Equatoria), Sinnar (Sinnar), and Warab (Warab).
Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development	Ministry of Finance and National Economy Ministry of Foreign Trade Ministry of Investment Ministry of Energy and Mining Ministry of Industry



Demographic indicators

Total population, 2009	42,272,435
Female (%), 2009	49.6
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.22
Median age of total population (years), 2005	19.40
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	150
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	4.23
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	58.56
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	64.9
GDI rank, 2007	127

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

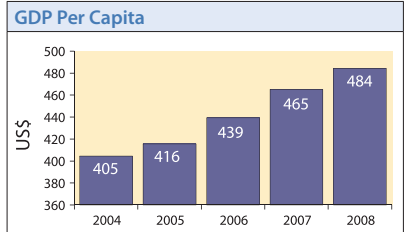


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

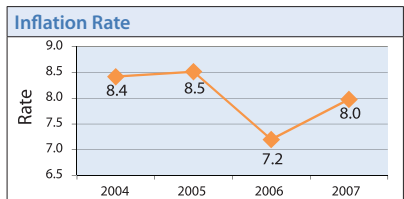
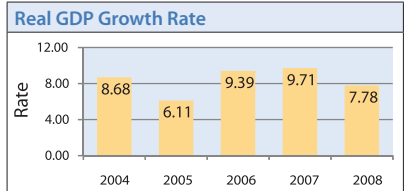
Data not available

THE SUDAN

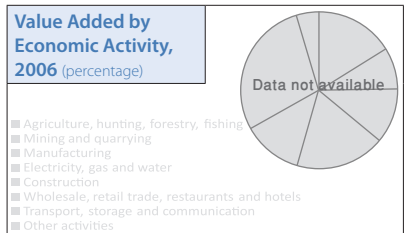
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	61,505
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	10,280
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	7.78
CPI (2000=100), 2008	190.6
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	9,500.9
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	16,416.7



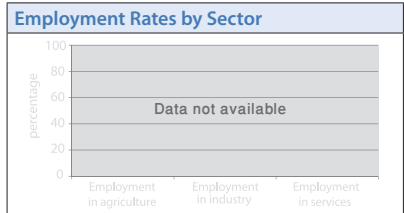
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	51.5
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	71.6
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	31.3
Unemployed (%), total (2006)	17.3
Unemployed (%), male	..
Unemployed (%), female	..
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	832
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2007	3,317
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	44



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education	..
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	..
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (1995-2004)	28.9
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (1995-2004)	48.2
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (1995-2004)	15.4
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (1995-2004)	28.6
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure)	..



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	1.4
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.4
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	21
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	54



For more information on the Sudan, please go to: <http://www.bankofsudan.org/>.



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Republic/unitary
Independence	17 April 1946
Constitution	13 March 1973
Head of State	Bashar al-Assad has been president since 10 July 2000. He was re-elected for a new seven-year term in a public referendum conducted on 17 May 2007.
Branches	<p>Executive - The executive branch consists of the cabinet and prime minister, appointed by the president.</p> <p>Legislative - The unicameral legislature, the People's Council (Majlis al-Shaab), is composed of 250 members elected for four-year terms.</p> <p>Judiciary - The judiciary is composed of separate secular and religious courts. The secular courts, civil and criminal, are divided into a four-tiered hierarchy.</p>



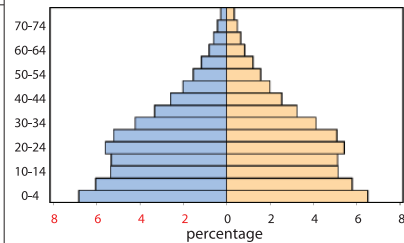
Administrative divisions **14 provinces (muhafazat):** Al Hasakah, Al Ladhqiyyah, Al Qunaytirah, Ar Raqqah, As Suwayda', Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Dimashq, Halab, Hamah, Hims, Idlib, Rif Dimashq, and Tartus.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development

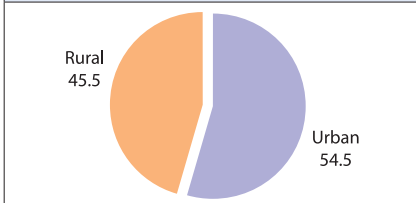
- Ministry of Economy and Trade
- State Planning Commission
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
- Ministry of Finance

Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	21,906,156
Female (%), 2009	49.5
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.52
Median age of total population (years), 2005	20.6
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	107
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	3.08
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	74.14
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2005-2010	16
GDI rank, 2007	98

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Economic indicators

GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	49,277
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	29,043
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	4.5
CPI (2000=100), 2008	161.4
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	14,300
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	18,320

Employment

Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	49.8
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	78.3
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	20.9
Unemployed (%), total (2006)	8.5
Unemployed (%), male (2004)	10.5
Unemployed (%), female (2004)	22
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	1,907
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	5,684
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	27

Education and literacy

Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2008)	67.7
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	..
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	10.3
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	23.5
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	4.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	8
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure)	..

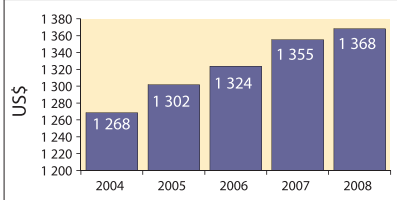
Health

Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2.1
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	2
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	110

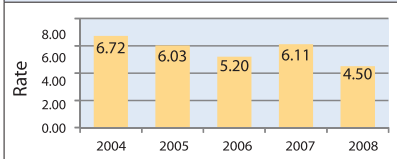
For more information on the Syrian Arab Republic, please go to:

<http://www.syriatourism.org/index.php?module=subjects&func=listpages&subid=119&newlang=ara>

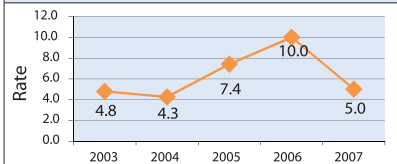
GDP Per Capita



Real GDP Growth Rate



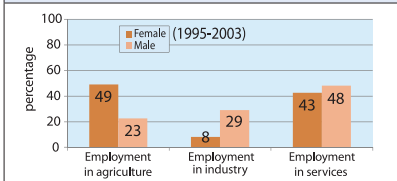
Inflation Rate



Value Added by Economic Activity, 2006 (percentage)



Employment Rates by Sector





UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Federation of Emirates
Independence	2 December 1971
Constitution	Drafted in 2 December 1971, and made permanent on 2 December 1996
Head of State	Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan became head of State on 8 November 2004.

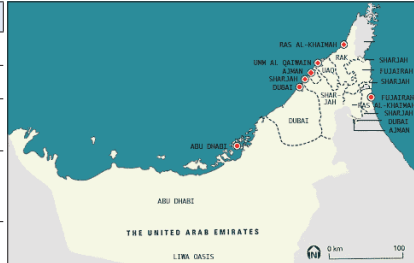
Branches *Executive* - The executive branch is composed of the president, vice-president, and the Federal Supreme Council.

Legislative - The unicameral legislative branch is composed of the Federal National Council (Majlis al-Ittihad al-Watani). The Council has no legislative powers, and serves only in an advisory capacity.

Judiciary - The United Arab Emirates has a federal judiciary encompassing all the emirates except Dubai and Ras al Khaimah. In civil matters, the lowest courts are the courts of first instance, located in each of the emirates. There are separate criminal and Shari'a courts.

Administrative divisions *Seven emirates (imarat):* Abu Dhabi (Abu Zaby), 'Ajman, Al Fujayrah, Sharjah (Ash Shariqah), Dubai (Dubayy), Ra's al Khaymah, and Umm al Qaywayn.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development
 Ministry of Economy
 Ministry of Social Affairs
 Ministry of Finance

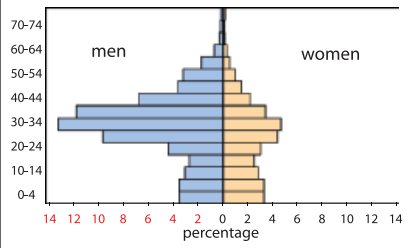


Source: <http://www.uae.int/uae/>

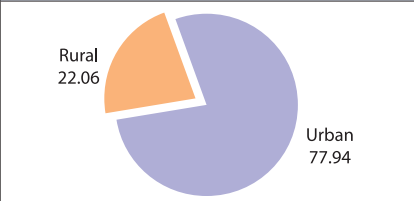
Demographic indicators

Total population, 2009	4,598,602
Female (%), 2009	32.7
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.85
Median age of total population (years), 2005	29.4
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	35
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	2.31
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	78.67
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births), 2005-2010	8.2
GDI rank, 2007	38

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)

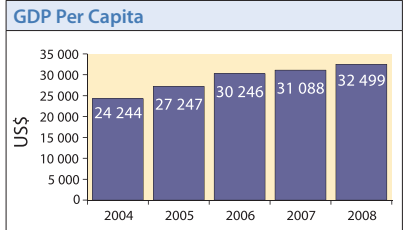


Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009

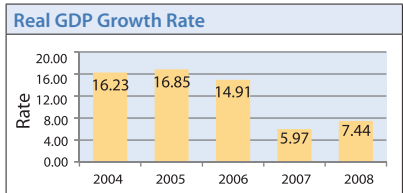


UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

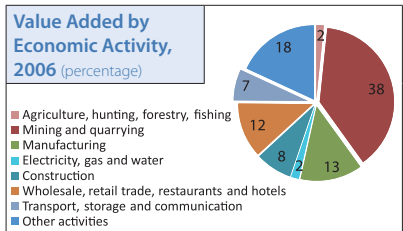
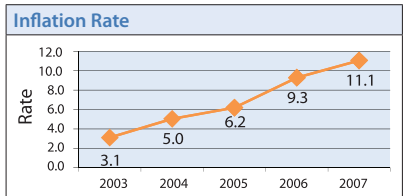
Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	254,394
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	145,754
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	7.44
CPI (2000=100), 2008	166
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	239,213
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	200,327



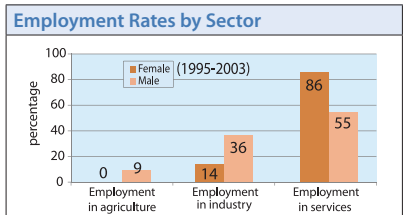
Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	77.7
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	92.5
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	40
Unemployed (%), total (2005)	3.1
Unemployed (%), male (2005)	2.5
Unemployed (%), female (2005)	7.1
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	8,329
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	33,555
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	43



Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2007)	83.8
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2003)	23.2
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	10.5
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	8.5
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	6.4
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	3
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2005	1.4
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2005	28.3



Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	1.9
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2005	0.7
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	< 5
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	625



For more information on the United Arab Emirates, please go to: <http://www.gia.gov.ae/giawebsite/arabic/index.asp>.



Government structure and political situation

Type of State	Republic/unitary
Independence	The Republic of Yemen was established on 22 May 1990.
Constitution	Adopted on 16 May 1991, and amended in 1994 and 2001
Head of State	Ali Abdallah Saleh, since 22 May 1990

Branches
Executive - The prime minister, who is the head of the Government, is appointed by the president. The prime minister, in consultation with the president, selects the Council of Ministers.

Legislative - The bicameral parliament is composed of an 111-member upper house, the Consultative Council, which serves in an advisory capacity and is appointed by the president, and a lower house with legislative powers, the House of Representatives, which is composed of 301 elected members who serve six-year terms.

Judiciary - The judicial system is composed of courts of first instance (Mahkama Ibtida'iyya), which hear civil, criminal, commercial, and family matters.

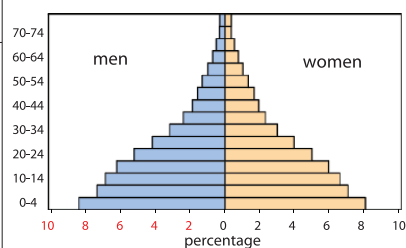
Administrative divisions **20 governorates (muhafazat):** Abyan, 'Adan, Al Bayda', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahrah, Al Mahwit, 'Ataq, Dhamar, Hadhramawt, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Ma'rib, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Ta'izz, Al Daleh, Shabwah, and the capital city of Sana'a.

Key ministries and agencies involved in economic and social development
 Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
 Ministry of Social Affairs
 Ministry of Finance

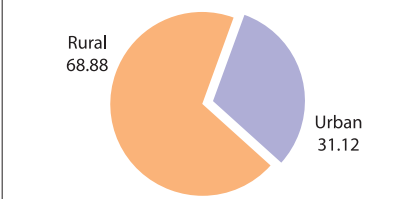


Demographic indicators	
Total population, 2009	23,580,222
Female (%), 2009	49.4
Annual population growth rate (%), 2005-2010	2.97
Median age of total population (years), 2005	16.7
Human development index (rank 1-182), 2009	140
Total fertility rate (children per woman), 2005-2010	5.5
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2005-2010	62.7
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births), 2005-2010	58.6
GDI rank, 2007	122

Population by Sex and Age Group (2009)



Percentage of Population by Rural/Urban Status, 2009



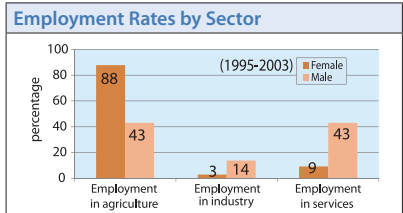
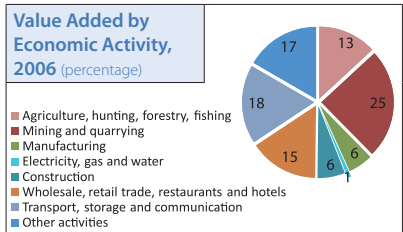
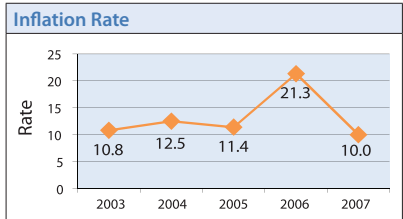
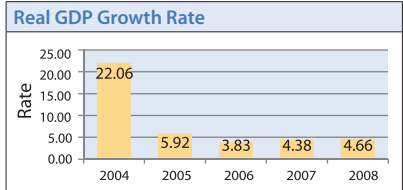
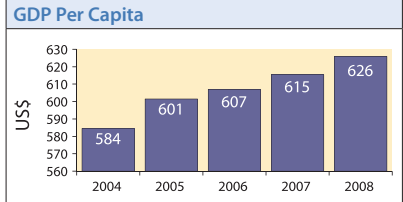
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Economic indicators	
GDP (current US\$ million), 2008	28,748
GDP (constant US\$ million, base year 2000), 2008	14,344
Growth rate of real GDP, 2008	4.66
CPI (2000=100), 2008	249.1
Total exports (US\$ million), 2008	7,631
Total imports (US\$ million), 2008	10,316

Employment	
Adult economic activity rate (%), total (2007)	43.9
Adult economic activity rate (%), male (2007)	66.1
Adult economic activity rate (%), female (2007)	21.6
Unemployed (%), total (2006)	16.1
Unemployed (%), male (2006)	11.9
Unemployed (%), female (2006)	26
Estimated earned income, female (PPP US\$), 2005	424
Estimated earned income, male (PPP US\$), 2005	1,422
Economic activity rate (female rate as % of male rate, aged 15 and older), 2007	33

Education and literacy	
Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (2005)	37.4
Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2006)	9.4
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), men (2005-2007)	23
Adult (15+) illiteracy rate (%), women (2005-2007)	59.5
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, men (2005-2007)	6.6
Illiteracy rate (%), ages 15-24, women (2005-2007)	33.2
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2001	9.6
Public expenditure on education (% of total Government expenditure), 2000	32.8

Health	
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2004	2.1
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP), 2004	3
Population undernourished (% of total population), 2003-2005	32
Health expenditure per capita (PPP US\$), 2005	88



For more information on Yemen, please go to: www.yementourism.com/arabic/yemen/detail.php?ID=1156.