

## SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Economic growth in the Arab States has been uneven and generally failed to meet demand for productive employment and decent work. Economic planning has been largely detached from social policies and governance structures that could increase equality and prosperity. Overdependence on oil, the dominance of low-productivity sectors and a problematic labour market further hamper efforts to move towards sustainable growth that safeguards the well-being of people and the planet. A shift in economic thinking and planning aimed at economic structural transformation is necessary for the region to move forward on SDG 8.

### Key facts

#### GDP per capita

The annual economic growth rate of real GDP per capita was -0.49 per cent in the region between 2013 and 2017, well below the world average of 3.5 per cent. The average for Arab least developed countries was -4.02 per cent, significantly beneath the global target of at least 7 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

The five-year mean in average real GDP per capita growth from 2013 to 2017 was 0.96 per cent for non-conflict Arab countries and -3.44 per cent for countries affected by conflict.<sup>2</sup>

Performance in terms of GDP per capita over the past decade has been slow or weak, with more than half the countries displaying negative trends, including all GCC countries in the last two years.<sup>3</sup>



In oil rich countries, fiscal revenues are generally concentrated in oil revenues. Economic activity in non-oil sectors often depends on oil production. Oil also accounts for the majority of the region's exports.

#### 40% of the population depends on agriculture

Agriculture has only a 7 per cent share of GDP yet it is the main source of employment and livelihoods for about 40 per cent of the population.<sup>4</sup>



**-0.42%**

With the exception of the Maghreb subregion in recent years, labour productivity in the region is well below the world average. The five-year mean annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person averaged -0.42 per cent between 2013 and 2017, compared to a world average of 3.49 per cent.<sup>5</sup>

#### \$614 billion

As a result of conflict, the region has suffered an estimated net loss of \$614 billion in economic activity and an aggregate fiscal deficit of \$243 billion between 2011 and 2016.<sup>6</sup>

The overall employment-to-population ratio was 44 per cent in 2017, significantly below the world average of 58.6 per cent, primarily due to low employment rates for women and youth.<sup>7</sup>

**Only 44% employed**

#### Unemployment

The regional unemployment rate was 10.3 per cent in 2016, the highest rate in the world and almost double the world average.<sup>8</sup>



In 2017, the aggregate rate of women's unemployment was 18.9 per cent compared to 7.6 per cent for men. The labour force participation rate for women stood at 21 per cent compared to 74 per cent for men.<sup>9</sup>



The region's youth unemployment rate in 2017 was the highest in the world at 26.1 per cent, more than double the world average of 12.6 per cent.<sup>10</sup>

**39.3%** Female youth face the greatest chance of being unemployed, with an unemployment rate in 2017 of 39.3 per cent compared to 22.3 per cent for young men.<sup>11</sup>

**80%** In several countries, an estimated 80 per cent of youth work in the informal sector, concentrated in poor-quality, low-productivity work with irregular and insecure income and no access to social security.<sup>12</sup>



Different methodologies estimate informal employment in the region, excluding the agricultural sector, with estimates ranging from 45 per cent to 65 per cent. Maghreb countries have a rate of 53.5 per cent compared to 73.4 per cent in the Mashreq.<sup>13</sup>

The proportion of children engaged in economic activity is 6.1 per cent for the region but 14.8 per cent in the least developed countries. The rate is particularly high in Comoros and the Sudan.<sup>14</sup>



**40% migrant workers** The global average of migrant workers as a proportion of the total workforce is 4.2 per cent, while in the Middle East, the proportion is 40 per cent, the highest share of all global subregions.<sup>15</sup>

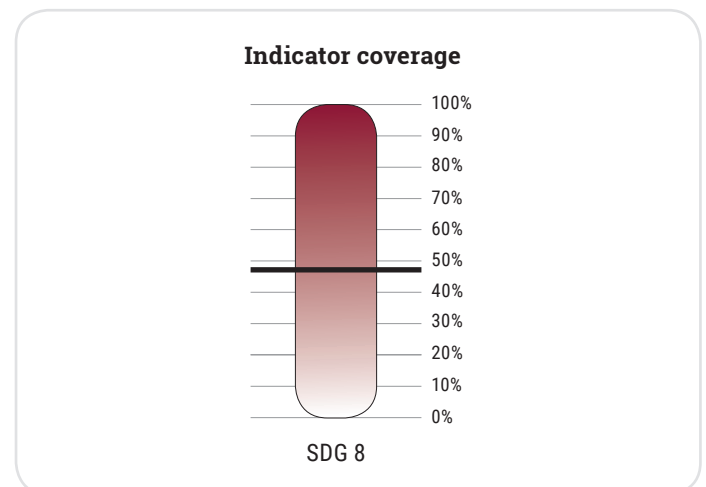
## Measuring SDG 8 in the Arab region according to the global SDG indicator framework

Data are available for 8 out of 17 indicators,<sup>16</sup> covering 7 out of 12 targets under SDG 8.

Promoting inclusive growth and decent work for all cannot be measured mainly through GDP growth and aggregate employment figures. It is critical to adopt inclusive policies that link growth to the creation of decent jobs.

Currently, SDG 8 targets relating to decent work and inclusive labour markets are not adequately measured, given the following obstacles:

- Data are not disaggregated enough, and compliance with labour rights and international conventions is not well captured (targets 8.5 and 8.8).
- The dominant focus on GDP growth and aggregate employment figures in the region marginalizes issues of sustainability (targets 8.4 and 8.9).
- The complexities of defining informality in the economy and measuring its prevalence pose significant challenges to policymakers and practitioners in designing responsive policies.
- Measuring SDG 8 is interlinked with measuring SDG 5 on gender equality, since women's unemployment rates in the region are the highest in the world.



Measuring the amount of unpaid work done by women and girls and assessing the degree to which the labour market is conducive to female employment must be prioritized to assess progress on SDG 8.

- Target 8.6 on youth not in employment, education or training, is of high relevance to the region yet in its current formulation remains generic. More effort is needed to translate the target into more actionable and measurable objectives.

**SDG 8 CONTAINS TWO TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2020**

**TARGET 8.6** - Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

**TARGET 8.b** - Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact

**SDG 8 CONTAINS ONE TARGET TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2025**

**TARGET 8.7** - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

## The main barriers to achieving sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all in the Arab region

SDG 8 twins the concepts of sustainable and inclusive economic growth with decent work. The focus, therefore, is not on just increasing economic growth but on increasing sustainable and inclusive growth designed to create decent work across all segments of society. Progress on SDG 8 is necessary to create prosperous societies.

The achievement of SDG 8 has a direct impact on ending poverty (SDG 1), reducing inequalities (SDG 10), and improving livelihoods and well-being (SDGs 2, 3 and 4). Progress on education (SDG 4) is also of direct relevance to job creation policies and diversification of the economy. The increased economic participation of women has the potential to dismantle a number of other barriers to gender equality (SDG 5). SDG 8 is also interlinked with fiscal policy generally, and the ability of the State and its institutions to provide adequate and inclusive services and infrastructure (SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11).

**Conflict** has resulted in a rise in extreme poverty in the region, and has devastated infrastructure and resources. It has led to a net loss of an estimated \$614 billion in economic activity and an aggregate fiscal deficit of \$243 billion from 2011 to 2016.

Source: ESCWA, 2016.

In calling for sustainable economic growth, and targeting innovation and diversification and a reduced material footprint, implementation of SDG 8 must also go in tandem with implementation of Goals 9, 12, 13 and 14, and with the effective national, regional and global governance necessary to ensure coherence, sustainability, human rights and the standard of 'decency' in decent work for all (SDGs 16 and 17).

### THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING SDG 8 IN THE ARAB REGION

**Rentier economies and inadequate macroeconomic policies**

The region's policy direction has generally focused on increasing growth or revenue with a concentration of wealth among economic and political elites and a widening gap between the rich and poor. Investment has mostly focused on real estate or resource extraction.<sup>17</sup> Arab economies are characterized by overdependence on oil in some countries, the dominance of low productivity sectors and an underinvestment in agriculture even though the sector employs a significant share of the population in many countries.

Even periods of relatively positive growth prior to the economic downturn of 2008 did not significantly improve the incomes of the poor or generate the necessary decent work opportunities for a growing and educated labour force. Existing industries are mainly in services, generating high demand for low-skilled workers with generally low labour productivity. In the GCC countries, low-skilled workers are predominantly migrant workers; the subregion faces significant challenges in nationalizing its labour force.



### Structural challenges of the labour market



The region is not producing enough decent jobs or jobs in the formal sector. It has the highest unemployment rate in the world as well as the highest rates of unemployed women and youth. Unemployment among educated youth is particularly worrisome, signalling a disjunction between education and the labour market. Rates of informal employment are significant. An estimated 80 per cent of youth work in the informal sector where they endure precarious work, irregular and insecure income, and limited access to social security.<sup>18</sup>

While there is a mismatch between education and the needs of the labour market, insufficient labour demand remains the major challenge. The population has been growing significantly, exceeding 414 million in 2017, and accentuating the need to create more and better job opportunities. A lack of economic diversification and inactive labour market policies in most countries hinder progress, while the private sector falls short of its potential due in part to corruption and a confluence of political and economic interests that limit market competitiveness.<sup>19</sup>

Even though agriculture continues to play a large role as an employer, policies to revitalize and increase efficiency and productivity are not in place. Such policies would work in conjunction with development policies that bridge urban, peri-urban and rural divides (SDGs 2 and 11) to create better opportunities across localities.

### Weak integration into regional and global value chains



Macroeconomic policies, outdated market regulations, the absence of innovative investment strategies, inadequate transport networks and cumbersome logistical infrastructure hold back trade in the region as well as meaningful integration into global value chains. Weak industrial capacities and inadequate competitiveness are other factors. Arab countries have the lowest rate of intraregional trade in the world, and are less open to trade with the rest of the world than rapidly growing economies.<sup>20</sup>

One major challenge is limited investment in research and development. Expenditure as a proportion of GDP is 0.64 per cent in the region, significantly lower than the world average of 1.73 per cent (SDG indicator 9.5.1).<sup>21</sup> The number of researchers per 1 million inhabitants is 744, well below the world average of 1,267, and the average in Europe and North America of 3,615 (SDG indicator 9.5.2).<sup>22</sup>

Improved investment is a policy choice. It is necessary to support innovation and entrepreneurship, absorb the potential and capacities of youth, create a conducive environment for the development of new industries and integrate countries further into global value chains.

### Weak coherence between economic policies, educational strategies and the science-industry interface



While insufficient labour demand is a major barrier to achieving progress on SDG 8, other challenges stem from mismatches between supply and demand, and the difficulties youth face in the school-to-work transition. Without corrective actions, such mismatches will only intensify, especially as the region works to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship, diversify its economies, and capitalize on opportunities for green industries and digital economies.<sup>23</sup> The current state of education, especially public education, does not support a transition to innovative research and industry.

The 18 per cent share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) is worrying. The rate is 10 per cent for men and 27 per cent for women.<sup>24</sup> Strategies for higher education and vocational training are not sufficiently linked to labour and economic policies, and do not prioritize the transfer and localization of knowledge. Research and development cannot be managed separately from educational reform if the goal is to encourage creativity and innovation, and the uninhibited search for knowledge.

### The arrested employment of women



Labour force participation in the Arab region is lower than the rest of the world due mainly to the lower participation of women. Though the rate has risen over the past 15 years—a growth of 10 per cent between 2011 and 2017—overall it remains very low, reaching only 21 per cent in 2017.<sup>25</sup> Young educated females comprise the largest share of working-age people who are unemployed. This arrested potential is detrimental. A 2015 study covering a number of Arab countries calculated a potential gain of \$2.7 trillion and a 47 per cent boost in GDP by 2025 if women enjoy the same economic opportunities as men.<sup>26</sup>

Morocco's recent successful insertion into the **global value chain for automobiles** exemplifies how an individual country may expand trade despite a global trade slowdown. It also indicates the untapped potential for Arab countries to participate in the international economy. To diversify its sources of growth through the development of its automobile industry, Morocco launched the Renault factory in Tangier in 2012. Since then, automobile manufacturing has grown by more than 20 per cent per year, emerging as a major driver of Morocco's exports. The anticipated start of automobile production by Peugeot Citroen should help Morocco further consolidate its position.

Source: ESCWA, 2018a.

## At risk of being left behind

High unemployment among **youth** is a significant burden not only on young people but on society as a whole. It has exacerbated income inequality, stunted social mobility and led to social discontent. In the last decade, frustrated youth, facing other challenges, including limited political participation, have been at the forefront of the Arab uprisings and calls for change. Many also choose to migrate, regularly or irregularly, and sometimes with dangerous or fatal consequences.

With high rates of unemployment and limited access to resources such as land and credit, **women** contend with very low levels of economic participation. The consequences are economic dependence privately and marginalization publicly. Women report that their inability to make independent decisions, move about freely or access safe transport as well as harassment in the workplace are the main impediments to stronger labour market participation.<sup>27</sup>

The absence or inadequacy of social protection floors in the region is a major hurdle to eliminating poverty under SDG 1 and to achieving SDG 8. **Workers in the informal and agricultural sectors** combined constitute the majority of workers in many countries, but lack job and financial security. This has implications for food security and access to education and health care. A lack of pension plans, sick leave and other provisions compounds the precariousness of their situation.

While some countries have instituted employment quota systems for persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, many challenges remain. The absence or weak enforcement of anti-discrimination laws that hold employers to account is one challenge. Low literacy and educational levels among **persons with disabilities** mean that many do not have the requisite skills to enter the labour market. Some social assistance

frameworks and insurance schemes tie disability benefits to the inability to work, acting as a disincentive to labour force participation. A lack of access to transport, buildings and other facilities further constrains their chances. In 9 of the 10 Arab countries for which data are available, the employment rate for persons with disabilities is no higher than 14 per cent for women and 34 per cent for men, and often much lower than that.<sup>28</sup>

**Migrant workers** in the region often lack access to basic services and rights, and are unprotected from arbitrary, exploitative or unfair working conditions. In many Arab countries, their work is mainly regulated by the *kafala* system, under which a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor for their contract period. This leaves a large margin for exploitation and abuse,<sup>29</sup> given an imbalance between the rights and abilities of workers and employers to terminate an employment relationship and be mobile in the labour market.

**Female migrant domestic workers**, mainly from Africa and Asia, are at an even higher risk, bound as they are to their employers' private homes, and in most cases they are not covered by national labour laws.

Many countries in the region have seen an influx of **refugees**. They often work illegally in the informal sector, where they have no access to social protection and are not covered by national labour laws. The rise of conflicts and instability has also placed more children in a vulnerable situation and increased the prevalence of child labour.

Source: ESCWA, 2016.

## What the region can do to accelerate progress on SDG 8

Ensuring sustainable growth, enhancing productivity, creating decent jobs and increasing prosperity for all demand a structural transformation in the region's dominant economic paradigm. Further, policies must empower youth and women, end corruption and discrimination, and pave the way for a vibrant private sector and the spread of innovation and enterprise. The following can support this transformation.

### 1. Pursue fiscal and regulatory policy reform:

- Introduce a comprehensive set of macroeconomic policies and fiscal reforms to drive employment growth and generate new employment opportunities for the growing number of educated youth.
- Incentivize domestic investment and foreign direct investment in high-value-added areas.
- Make greater efforts to forge agreements between countries to foster full regional integration and increased access to global value chains.
- Lift regulatory barriers to competition to stimulate the growth of the private sector.
- Adopt measures to end corruption and increase the transparency of business dealings.

### 2. Engage in economic restructuring to develop sectors that are sustainable, inclusive and productive:

- Diversify the economy and boost investments in non-oil sectors (industry, manufacturing) that generate alternative sources of revenue, and increase the region's capacity to innovate.
- Shift to more sustainable production and industries, and capitalize on opportunities for green industry.
- Promote the creation of decent jobs in the formal private sector to enhance productivity and reduce informality.
- Invest in agriculture; enhance efficiency and productivity in line with the sustainable use of land, water and energy; and increase the transfer of knowledge and technology for more sustainable and productive agriculture.
- Boost investment in cultural industries and sustainable and heritage tourism to empower local communities.

### 3. Improve the regional ecosystem for knowledge production, research and innovation:

- Ensure quality education for all and lifelong learning in tandem with active labour market policies and diversification of the economy.
- Increase investment in research and development.
- Strengthen the links among research centres, academia and productive sectors, and promote technology transfers, especially on issues related to sustainable development.
- Establish national and regional funds to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Enhance the profile of researchers in universities, incentivize high-quality research and promote frequent science-industry dialogues as well as higher education and industry dialogues.
- Facilitate the school-to-work transition to accommodate new entries to the labour market and reduce unemployment among young people.

### 4. Eliminate limitations on the participation of women across different industries and sectors:

- Incorporate gender-based budgeting in fiscal budgets associated with legislative and institutional labour market reforms to increase female participation.
- Reform laws, including personal status laws, that discriminate against women, and address practices that hinder women's access to land, economic resources and financial services.
- Address gaps in labour laws to ensure working environments are conducive to the participation of women, and criminalize discrimination on the basis of sex as well as harassment in the workplace.
- Lift restrictions on the work of all civil society organizations, including organizations for women's rights; enable national women's machineries to effectively promote inclusive social change and counter the marginalization of women in the economy and the public sphere.

### 5. Improve labour laws and protect labour rights:

- Reform laws in line with international rights and standards, and expand legal protections.
- Improve labour migration governance by reforming the kafala system, and address discrimination against migrant workers as well as domestic workers.

# SDG 8 targets and indicators in the Arab region

## Target

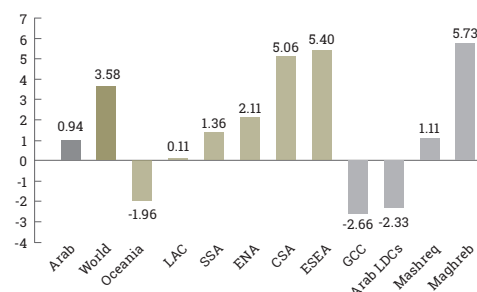
**8.1**  
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

## Indicator

**8.1.1**  
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

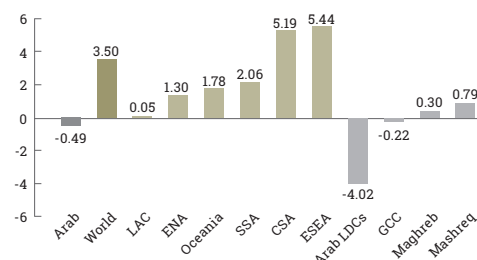
## Data

Figure 1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (percentage)



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for all Arab countries in 2017.

Figure 2 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (percentage), five-year means, 2013–2017

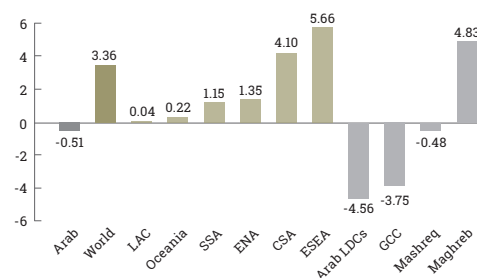


Note: All geographical means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a). Country values are five year means, 2013–2017.

**8.2**  
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

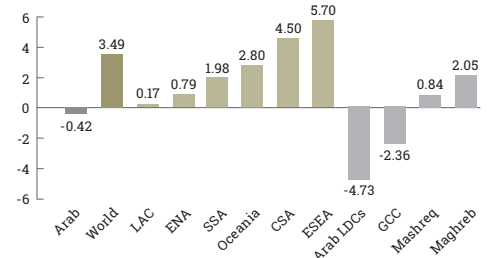
**8.2.1**  
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Figure 3 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (percentage)



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2016) total employed people (ILO, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for all Arab countries in 2017 except for the United Arab Emirates.

Figure 4 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (percentage), five-year means, 2013–2017



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2016) total employed people (ILO, 2019). Country values are five year means, 2013-2017.

**8.3**

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

**8.3.1**

Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.4**

Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

**8.4.1**

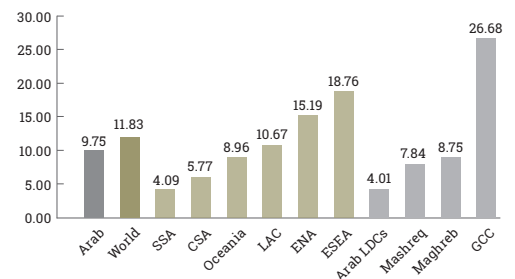
Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.4.2**

Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Figure 5 Domestic material consumption per capita (metric tons)



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of all Arab countries in 2017 except the State of Palestine. According to UNSTATS metadata, "Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) is a territorial (production side) indicator reporting the apparent material consumption of a national economy...DMC reports the actual amount of material in an economy...A country can, for instance, have a very high DMC because it has a large primary production sector for export or a very low DMC because it has outsourced most of the material intensive industrial process to other countries" (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). This indicator is the exact repetition of SDG indicator 12.2.2.



**8.5**

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

**8.5.1**

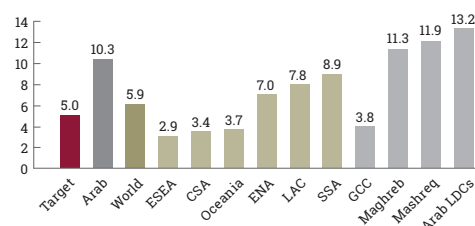
Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.5.2**

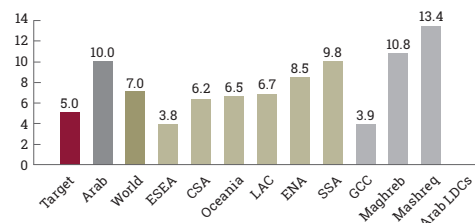
Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Figure 6 Unemployment rate (percentage)



Note: This indicator addresses adults who are 15 years old and older. The target value (5 per cent) is set as the average natural rate of unemployment (the minimum unemployment rate possible) in the world over the last 100 years (see the annex for more details). Since there are only 117 countries covered by the ILO labour force survey from which the labour force weight comes, we use the alternative 2016 total labour force modelled estimates for construction of geographical aggregates (ILO, 2019; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Lebanon and Sudan (2009), Iraq, Kuwait and Syrian Arab Republic (2011), Libya and Bahrain (2012), Jordan and Yemen (2014), Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates (2016).

Figure 7 Unemployment rate (percentage), five-year means, 2013–2017



Notes: Country values are five-year means from 2013 to 2017; however, given unavailable data, this leads to 71 lost observations (9 of them among Arab States).

**8.6**

By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

**8.6.1**

Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

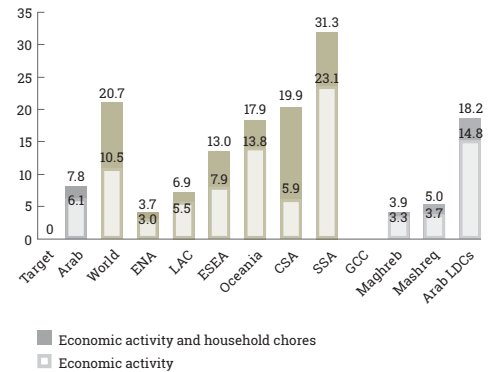
**8.7**

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

**8.7.1**

Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Figure 8 Proportion of children engaged in economic activity, and Proportion of children engaged in economic activity and household chores (percentage)



Note: We visualize and analyse these two subindicators using a stacked bar chart where the "proportion of children engaged in economic activity and household chores" is a broader measure of the child labour problem, and actually includes the "proportion of children engaged in economic activity". Moreover, it is more informative and interesting to evaluate both subindicators than to evaluate one and omit the other (see the annex for more details). The age group covered by these two subindicators is children age 5–14 years for some observations, and children age 5–17 years for other observations. These two series together cover only 71 low- and middle-income countries globally, including nine Arab countries. Only one country from Oceania is covered; no GCC country is covered. All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) estimates for the population age 5–17 years (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: State of Palestine (2010), Iraq, Mauritania and Tunisia (2011), Algeria and Comoros (2012), Egypt and Sudan (2014), Jordan (2016).

**8.8**

Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

**8.8.1**

Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.8.2**

Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.9**

By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**8.9.1**

Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

**8.9.2**

Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

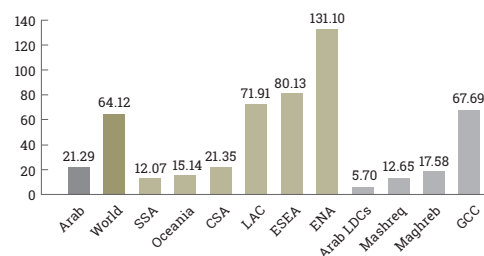
**8.10**

Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

**8.10.1**

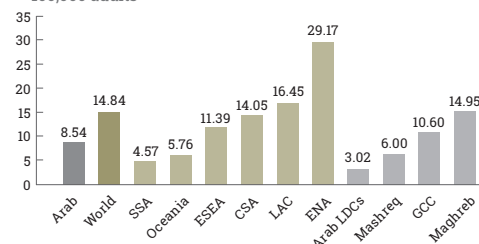
Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Figure 9 Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest estimates for the adult population 15 years of age and older (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Libya and Syrian Arab Republic (2012), Egypt, Iraq, Sudan and Yemen (2015), Algeria Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates (2016).

Figure 10 Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults

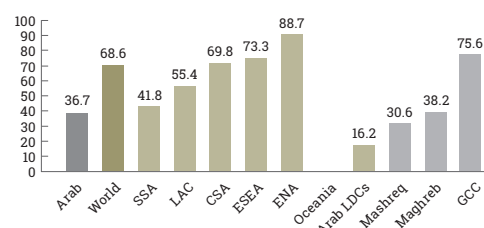


Note: All means are population weighted using the latest estimates for the adult population 15 years of age and older (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Libya (2012), Syrian Arab Republic (2013), Egypt, Sudan and Yemen (2015), Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates (2016).

**8.10.2**

Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

Figure 11 Proportion of adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (percentage)



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest estimates for the adult population 15 years of age and older (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Djibouti, Comoros, Oman, Qatar and Syrian Arab Republic (2011), Somalia, Sudan and Yemen (2014), Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates (2017).

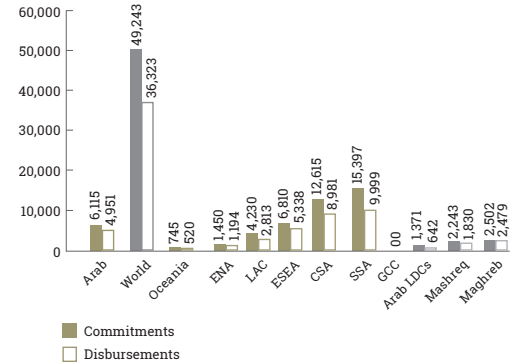
**8.a**

Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

**8.a.1**

Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

Figure 12 Total Aid for Trade commitments (millions of constant 2017 United States dollars) and total Aid for Trade disbursements (millions of constant 2017 United States dollars)



Note: This indicator only covers recipient countries and excludes the 33 donor countries from different regions that are listed by the OECD and Slovenia. We visualize and analyse these two subindicators separately in order to compare the amounts of total official flows committed and the amounts of total official flows disbursed for every region/subregion (see the annex for more details). Aggregates are the total sum of country values (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following countries in 2017: Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

**8.b**

By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

**8.b.1**

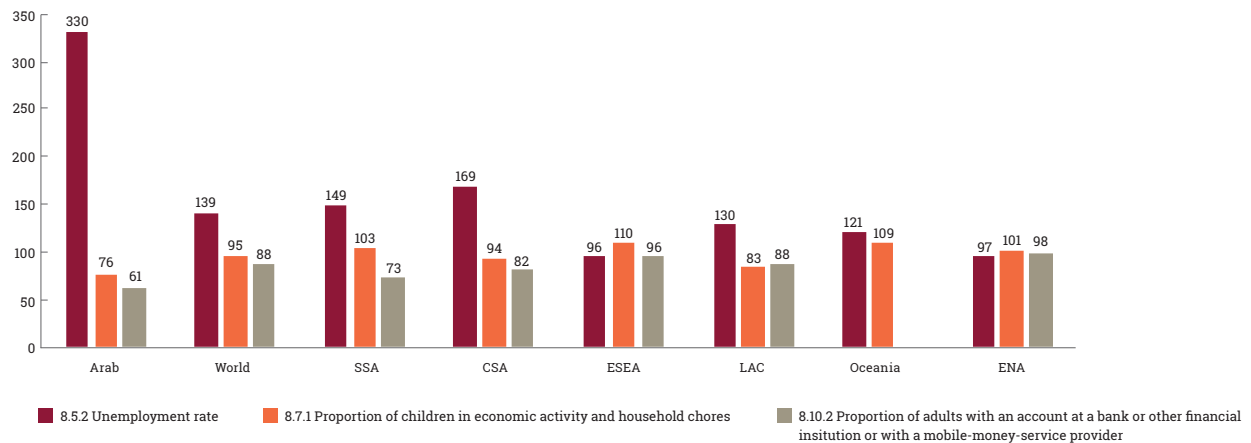
Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

Note: Central and Southern Asia (CSA); Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (ESEA); Europe and Northern America (ENA); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); Arab Least Developed Countries (Arab LDCs); Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand); Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

All figures are based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (United Nations Statistics Division, 2018) except for updated data (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a) on the following indicators: 8.1.1 [Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (percentage) and annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (percentage), five-year means 2013–2017], 8.2.1 [Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (percentage) and annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (percentage), five-year means, 2013–2017], 8.4.2 [Domestic material consumption per capita (metric tons)], and 8.a.1 [Total official flows committed for aid for trade (constant 2017 United States dollars, millions), and total official flows disbursed for aid for trade, by recipient (constant 2017 United States dollars, millions)].

Figure 13 Gender inequality under SDG 8 (female-to-male ratios in percentages)



Note: Central and Southern Asia (CSA); Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (ESEA); Europe and Northern America (ENA); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); Arab Least Developed Countries (Arab LDCs); Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand); Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

All means of these ratios are weighted by the same weighting variables used for their corresponding series, i.e., for indicator 8.5.2, all means are population weighted using 2016 total labour force modelled estimates (ILO, 2019; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a); for indicator 8.7.1, all means are population weighted using the latest (2015) estimates for the population age 5–17 years (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a); and for indicator 8.10.2, all means are population weighted using the latest (2015) estimates for the population 15 years of age and older (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a).

## ENDNOTES

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1. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 2.
2. Calculated by ESCWA based on United Nations Statistics Division 2019a. Conflict countries include Iraq, Libya, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Non-conflict countries are the other 16 Arab states. All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b).
3. Calculated by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States based on United Nations, 2017.
4. ESCWA and FAO, 2017.
5. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 4.
6. ESCWA, 2016.
7. Calculated by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States based on ILO, 2018a.
8. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 6.
9. Calculated by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States based on ILO, 2018c.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Kabbani, 2019.
13. Chen and Harvey, 2017.
14. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 8.
15. ILO, 2018b. The regional country grouping for this statement is per the referenced report and includes: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
16. According to the methodology used in this report.
17. UNDP, 2016.
18. Kabbani, 2019; Gatti and others, 2014.
19. World Economic Forum, 2018.
20. ESCWA, 2017.
21. Calculated by ESCWA; see the chapter on SDG 9.
22. Ibid.
23. ESCWA, 2019a.
24. ILO, 2017a. The regional country grouping for this statement is per the referenced report.
25. Calculated by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States based on ILO, 2017b.
26. McKinsey & Company, 2015.
27. ESCWA, 2019b.
28. ESCWA, 2018b.
29. ESCWA and IOM, 2017.

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