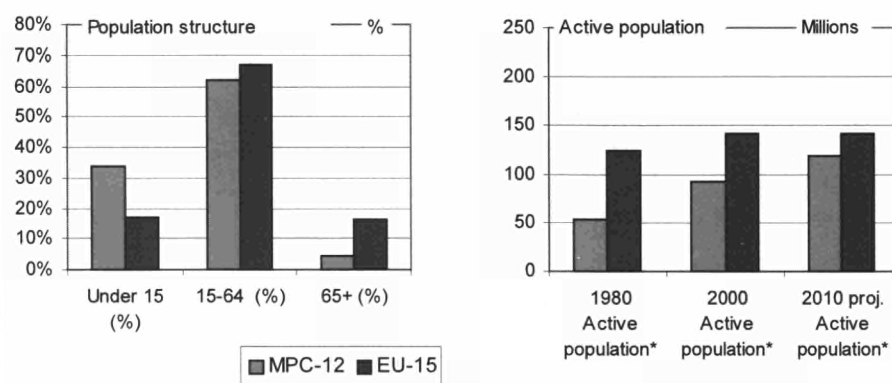


Active population and labour market in the Mediterranean countries

Stéphane QUEFELEC

The population of the Mediterranean countries¹ is currently relatively young, and it is forecast that the rates of growth in the active population of these countries will be amongst the highest in the world between 2000 and 2010. This stands in stark contrast to the trend observed in the EU, where less young people are arriving on the labour market, large numbers are retiring and the active population will stagnate over the years to come. In several Mediterranean partner countries (MPC), the proportion of women in the active population active is below the average for the other main regions of the world. The labour market in the MPC (with the exception of Malta and Cyprus) is also characterised by high rates of unemployment, particularly amongst young people.

Figure 1 - Mediterranean countries and EU-15: Population structure by age (% in 2001 and active population (millions))



Sources : NSIs in the Mediterranean countries, Eurostat, World Bank.

* PS not included in 1980 and 2010; MT and CY not included in 2010.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 24/2002

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A young population ...

In 2001, the number of children per woman in most of the Mediterranean countries was between 1.8 and 3.6 (with the exception of the Palestinian Authority at 5.9) and the annual population growth rate was between 0.6 and 2.8%. These figures are much lower than in 1980 (fertility rate of 5 to 7 children per woman in 1980, depending on the country), which shows that most of the MPC have entered a phase of demographic change.

However, these general observations conceal variable growth rates for different age groups. For example, the former high fertility rates are now reflected in the forecasts for rapid growth in the working-age population (15-64). In fact, the under-15 age group accounted for around 34% (and up to 47% in the case of the Palestinian Authority) of the total population in the Mediterranean countries in 2001 (as against around 17% in the EU).

It should also be noted that whilst the percentage of women in the active population of the MPC is much lower than that recorded in other regions of the world, it has been rising over the last 20 years.



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¹ The 12 Mediterranean partner countries (MPC) involved in the partnership are : Algeria (DZ), Morocco (MA), Tunisia (TN), Egypt (EG), Jordan (JO), Lebanon (LB), Syria (SY), Israel (IL), Palestinian Authority (PS), Cyprus (CY), Malta (MT) and Turkey (TR). The 12 MPC participate to the euro-mediterranean regional statistical cooperation programme, MEDSTAT. Unless otherwise stated, figures given here are provided to Eurostat, under the framework of MEDSTAT, by official national administrations. Figures for the EU are taken from Eurostat databases. This publication was produced in the framework of the **Med-IS sub-programme**.

... and strong growth in the active population over the next 10 years

The increase in female activity rates, combined with the large numbers of young people entering the labour market, are the reasons for the increase in the active population of the Mediterranean countries forecast for 2010. Unlike the EU, most of the MPC should record higher active population growth rates between 2000 and 2010 than any other region of the world. The active population of the MPC should increase over these ten years from 93 million to 118 million (excluding Cyprus, Malta and the Palestinian Authority), whereas the figure for the EU should remain virtually stable at 141 million.

Employment in 2001

Employment increased in all the Mediterranean countries except Turkey in 2001. Although it rose in most countries in 2001, the growth rate was sometimes lower than for the previous year. This was the case in Cyprus, Israel and Syria, as well as in EU-15, whilst it fell significantly in the Palestinian Territories and was also down in Turkey.

These trends can be linked to economic activity: whereas in 2000, all the Mediterranean countries saw an increase in GDP, several of them went into recession in 2001 or experienced a slowdown in growth, as did the world economy as a whole. Tunisia and Morocco alone stand out for having recorded higher rates of growth in employment in 2001 than in 2000. They also recorded the highest GDP growth rates of all the MPC in 2001. At the other end of the scale, the Palestinian Territories and Turkey, whose economies went into recession, lost 89 000 and 211 000 jobs respectively in 2001.

Services up and agriculture down

The sectoral breakdown of the labour force has followed the same pattern in almost all the MPC for which figures are available: the proportion working in agriculture has fallen and the numbers working in the services sector has risen.

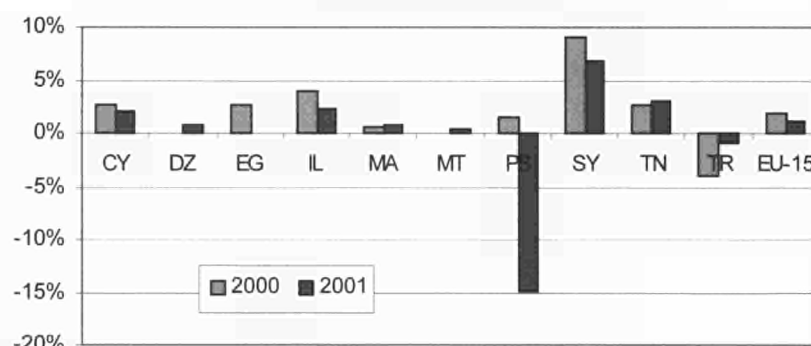
Table 1 - Structure of the active population

	Population aged 15 - 64		Active population						
	millions		Total			Average annual growth rate		Proportion of women in active pop.	
			millions						
	1980	2000	1980	2000	2010	1980-2000	2000-2010	1980	2000
Turkey	24.9	41.9	18.7	31.3	37.1	2.6	1.7	35.5	37.6
Egypt	23.1	38.7	14.3	24.4	32.2	2.7	2.8	26.5	30.4
Morocco	10.2	17.6	7.0	11.5	14.7	2.5	2.5	33.5	34.7
Algeria	9.3	18.6	4.8	10.2	14.6	3.7	3.5	21.4	27.6
Syria	4.2	9.1	2.5	5.2	7.5	3.7	3.8	23.5	27.0
Tunisia	3.5	6.2	2.2	3.8	4.8	2.7	2.4	28.9	31.7
Israel	2.3	3.9	1.5	2.7	3.5	3.1	2.5	33.7	41.2
Lebanon	1.6	2.7	0.8	1.5	2.0	2.9	2.6	22.6	29.6
Jordan	1.0	2.8	0.5	1.5	2.0	5.2	3.4	14.7	24.6
Cyprus	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	:	2.0	:	33.4	40.2
Malta	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	:	:	:	25.8	29.8
Palestinian Auth.	:	1.7	:	0.7	:	:	:	:	15.4
Total MPC-12	80.6 *	143.7	52.7 *	93.3	118.4**	:	:	:	:
Comparisons:									
World	2 601	3 806	2 036	2 943	3 380	1.8	1.4	39.1	40.6
East Asia/Pacific	820.4	1 239.7	719.3	1 051.7	1 170.0	1.9	1.1	42.5	44.4
Europe/Central Asia	274.2	318.4	214.1	238.1	249.0	0.5	0.4	46.7	46.3
Latin America/ Carib.	201.0	324.9	129.8	222.1	269.1	2.7	1.9	27.8	34.8
South Asia	510.7	817.4	388.7	602.6	739.9	2.2	2.1	33.8	33.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	197.0	346.3	172.0	290.5	363.5	2.6	2.2	42.0	42.0
EU	185.1	204.6	123.4	141.0	141.2	0.7	0.0	36.4	41.3

* Excl. the Palestinian Authority. ** Excl. the Palestinian Authority, Cyprus and Malta

Sources: World Bank; Palestinian Authority, Cyprus and Malta: national NSIs

Figure 2 - Annual growth in employment in 2000 and 2001 (change over previous year in %)



Sources: MPC NSIs, Eurostat.

Table 2 - Employment by sector of economic activity, in %

	Agriculture			Industry			Construction			Services		
	1995	2000	2001	1995	2000	2001	1995	2000	2001	1995	2000	2001
Algeria	17.4	15.7	21.1	13.3	12.6	13.8	13.3	11.7	10.4	56.0	60.0	54.7
Egypt	33.4	29.6	:	15.6	13.4	:	6.4	7.9	:	44.6	49.1	:
Israel	2.9	2.2	1.9	20.7	18.0	17.5	7.2	5.3	5.2	69.2	74.5	75.4
Jordan	6.9	5.5	4.1	15.7	14.5	15.1	10.1	7.3	6.7	67.3	72.7	74.1
Morocco	:	47.1	45.2	:	13.0	12.8	:	6.0	6.4	:	33.8	35.5
Malta	1.7	1.7	2.1	23.2	26.2	24.1	4.6	6.9	7.7	70.5	65.2	66.1
Palest. Aut.	12.7	13.7	12.0	18.0	14.3	14.0	19.2	19.7	14.6	25.6	29.9	34.5
Syria	28.6	32.0	26.9	17.3	13.1	12.2	12.6	12.4	11.2	41.5	42.5	49.7
Tunisia	21.9	22.1	22.0	21.8	20.5	21.7	13.2	12.7	12.2	43.1	44.7	44.1
Turkey	43.4	34.5	35.4	16.2	18.2	18.3	6.1	6.4	5.3	34.3	40.9	41.0
Cyprus	10.5	5.4	4.9	16.3	14.1	14.0	9.8	10.0	10.0	63.4	70.5	71.1
EU-15	5.2	4.3	4.3	21.0	19.5	19.2	7.4	7.2	7.2	66.3	68.9	69.3

Sources: MPC NSIs, Eurostat.

Algeria: the 2001 figures are for the third quarter and the 2000 figures for the first quarter. The figures in the 1995 column refer to 1996 (source: Statistical Yearbook, ONS, 1998).
Tunisia: the figures in the 1995 column are for 1994.

The breakdown of the labour force by sector does, however, vary considerably from country to country, highlighting the very different national characteristics of the MPC economies.

There are two groups of countries which stand out: the first is made up of Turkey and Morocco where agriculture accounts for a substantial proportion of the labour force (45% and 35% compared to 4% in the EU). The second includes Cyprus, Malta, Israel and Jordan where the services sector employs a greater proportion of the active population than in Europe (66% to 75%). The other countries fall somewhere in between these two groups.

High unemployment

With the exception of Malta and Cyprus, all the Mediterranean countries recorded higher unemployment rates than EU-15 in 2001 (7.4%). There were only three countries where the unemployment rates were lower than in 1995. Jordan, Algeria and the Palestinian Authority had the highest rates of between 26% and 30%. Unemployment was even higher amongst young people, particularly in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and the Palestinian Territories.

Although women often face a higher risk of unemployment than men, in five of the twelve Mediterranean countries the female unemployment rate was lower than the rate for men in 2001.

Trends in employment and unemployment are linked to economic growth. The dynamism of the economy will play a part in determining how well the labour market absorbs the large number of new workers entering the active population in the MPC.

> ESSENTIEL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Sources of data on MPC countries: National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in the countries, unless otherwise indicated. Table 1, active population of Figure 1 (including forecasts): source: World Development Indicators database, World Bank other than data for Malta, Cyprus and the Palestinian Authority (NSIs). EU-15 figures: Eurostat.

Data comparability: Since the information was supplied by official national sources, most of the data were produced using internationally recognised standards and methodologies. There is thus some degree of comparability, but it is not total. Data harmonisation is one of the objectives of MEDSTAT.

Figure 1: The population structure was calculated using figures supplied by the NSIs in the countries for 2001, except for Lebanon whose figures refer to 1999, and Tunisia, Greece and the United Kingdom whose figures relate to 2000.

Definitions: Total employment: In the sense of the ILO (International Labour Organisation), all persons aged 15+, who during the reference period worked at least one hour for wage or salary or other remuneration as employees,

entrepreneurs, members of cooperatives or contributing family workers. **The unemployed:** all persons aged 15+, who have no work, are ready to take up a job within a fortnight and have been actively seeking a job over the past four weeks. **Unemployment rate:** the number of unemployed as a percentage of the active population (excluding the population living in collective households). **Active population:** the total number of employed and unemployed persons. **Annual youth unemployment rate:** the percentage of the population without employment aged from 15 to 24 in the active population, classified by sex.

Employment and unemployment, country notes: **CY:** The unemployment data for 1991-1999 are based on the number of registered unemployed. The data for 2000 and 2001 are derived from the national labour force survey (LFS). Employment by sector: 1995, full-time equivalent employment; 2000 and 2001: Labour force survey. **DZ:** 1997 and 2001: The figures refer to the third quarter. 2000: The figures refer to the second quarter. Youth unemployment: Figures for the first quarter of 2000 for young people aged 15-24. Employment by sector: the figures in the 1995 column refer to 1996 (source: Statistical Yearbook, ONS, 1998). The figures for

2001 relate to the third quarter and those for 2000 to the first quarter. **EG:** 1993-1995: the figures refer to the population aged 12-64. 1996: the figures refer to the population aged 15+. 1997-2000: the figures refer to the population aged 15-64. Source: National employment survey. **IS:** 1995: Revised definition of work characteristics. Beginning of 1998, revised methodology. **JO:** Source: Survey of employment and unemployment, annual report 2001. **MA:** Source: 1994: General census of the population and dwellings. 1995, 1999-2001: National survey of employment. **SY:** 1993-2000: the figures refer to the population aged 10+. Source: Internal survey on migration, 2000. 2001: the figures refer to the population aged 15+. Source: national survey of employment, 2001. **TN:** Actively-employed population. Source: Employment survey. Youth unemployment refers to young people aged 18-24. **TR:** Average of the household labour force surveys from April to October for 1996-1999 and the results of the annual household labour force survey for 2000. **PS:** Employment by sector: source: NSI website. The figures refer to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

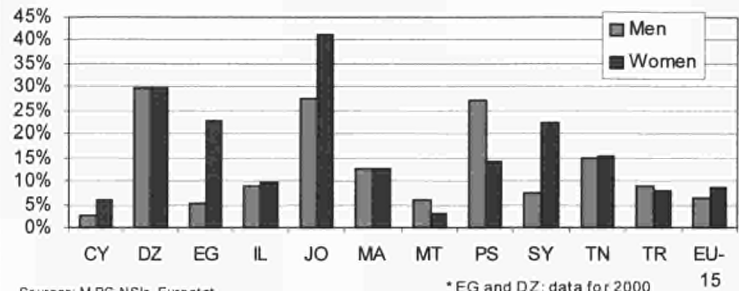
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Table 3 - Annual unemployment rate in %, 1993-2001

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cyprus	2,7	2,7	2,6	3,1	3,4	3,4	3,6	4,9	4,0
Algeria	23,2	24,4	28,1	29,7	26,4			29,8	27,3
Egypt	10,9	11,0	11,1	8,9	8,4	8,2	8,1	9,0	
Israel	10,0	7,8	6,9	6,7	7,7	8,5	8,9	8,8	9,3
Jordan	18,7	15,0	14,2	12,0	13,2	12,6	10,3	13,7	29,7
Morocco		16,0	16,0	17,8			13,9	13,6	12,5
Malta	5,2	4,8	4,2	5,0	5,5	5,6	5,8	5,0	5,1
Palest. Aut.			18,2	23,8	20,3	14,4	11,8	14,1	25,5
Syria	8,4		7,0			8,9	9,5	9,5	10,3
Tunisia		15,6			15,7		15,8	15,6	15,0
Turkey	8,8	8,4	7,5	6,5	6,7	6,8	7,7	6,6	8,5
EU-15	10,1	10,5	10,1	10,2	10,0	9,4	8,7	7,8	7,4

Sources: MPC NSIs, Eurostat.

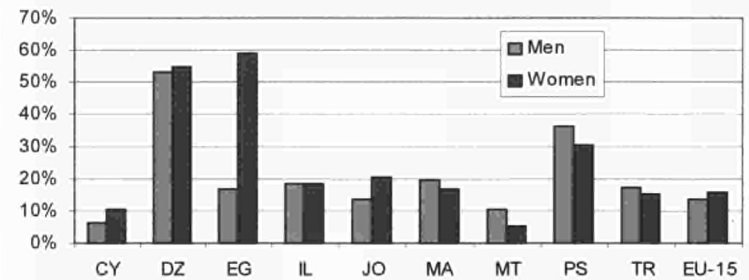
Figure 2 - Total annual unemployment rate by sex (%), in 2001*



Sources: MPC NSIs, Eurostat.

* EG and DZ: data for 2000

Figure 3 - Annual unemployment rate (%) for young people aged under 25, by sex, in 2001*



Sources: MPC NSIs, Eurostat.

* EG and DZ: data for 2000.

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