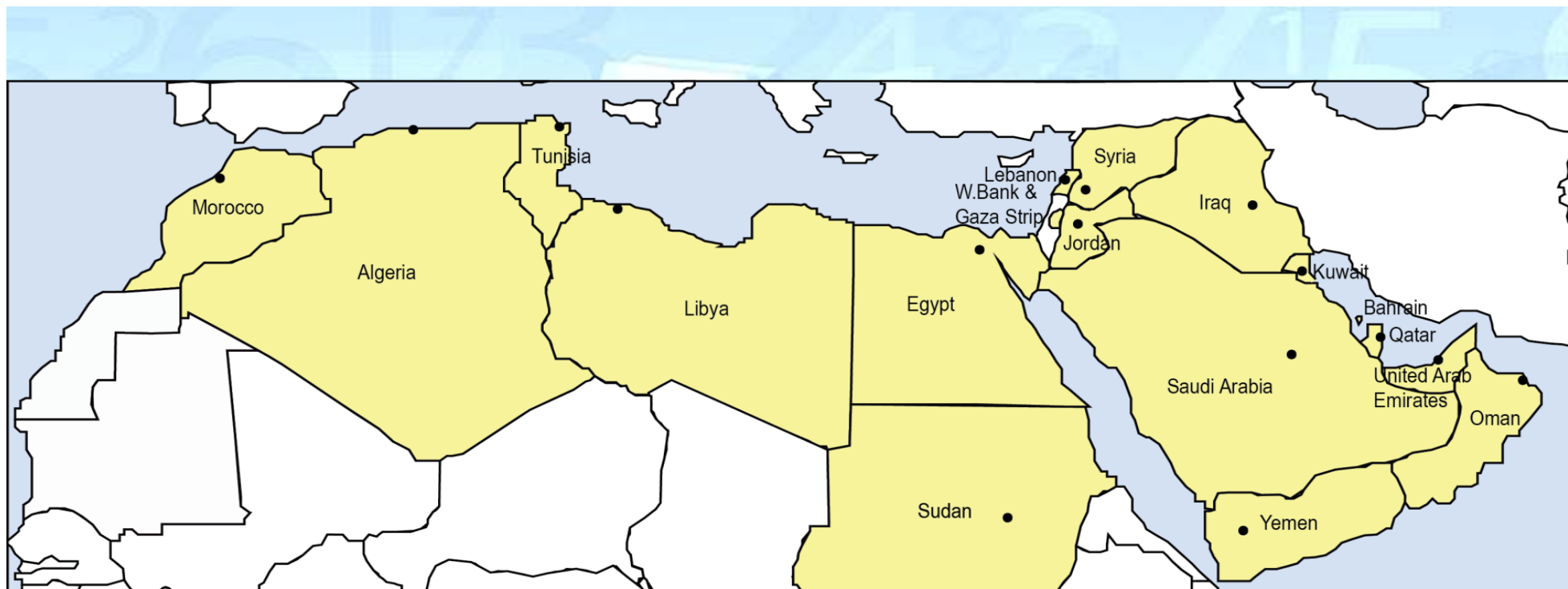




STATISTICAL UPDATE ON ARAB STATES AND TERRITORIES AND NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES

ILO DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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Preface

The recent events in the Arab States and territories and in some North African countries, characterized by widespread social unrest, require a special assessment to help explain the underlying factors. In this regard, it is important to identify and make available to the public the latest regional information in order to have the necessary elements of analysis. It is with this aim that the ILO Department of Statistics is releasing the statistical update on the region using the latest official labour statistics and related economic data available from the countries. Unfortunately, there are many gaps in the available data; we hope that the recent events will highlight the importance of strengthening statistical systems at the national levels in order to produce high quality, timely data

from labour force surveys and other sources which will provide policy makers and constituents with more reliable information on the current labour market situation and outlook.

I want to thank the team responsible for the short-term indicators for their diligent efforts to compile the existing data in such a short period. I particularly want to thank Pablo Fleiss, David Bescond, Stefanie Garry, Valeria Nesterenko and Yves Perardel, who were responsible for evaluating the existing statistical sources and producing the report.

Rafael Diez de Medina, Director
ILO Department of Statistics

Main Findings

Labour market estimates for Arab States and Territories and North African countries over the period 2006 to 2010 indicate that -with the exception of the small Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia- these economies are characterized by high unemployment rates, with significant variations within countries by sex, age and education.

Nonetheless, the global economic crisis has not produced a large negative impact or significant change in trend in most of the analyzed indicators. In fact, most of the countries have experienced economic and employment growth in the last two years.

Average aggregate unemployment rates exceed 9 percent in eight out of eleven countries of the region with available data for 2009/2010. Although women's labour force participation rates are substantially lower than those for men (e.g., on average two out of five women participate in the labour force, compared to four out of five men), women's unemployment rates are significantly higher in most of the countries, in some cases up to three times as high. These findings indicate the existence of sharply differentiated labour market behaviour by sex within the countries which reflect cultural factors as well as possible patterns of discrimination.

The region reports some of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. In many of the countries, youth unemployment rates are at least double the total rates (between two and four out of ten people aged 15 to 25 are unemployed). Here too, sharp differences exist by sex as unemployment rates among young women are, in some countries, two to three times higher than among young men, and five to nine times higher than for the total (youth + adults) unemployed population.

Employment by sector varies by country. Some gulf oil exporter countries have a small primary sector and a relatively large public administration sector, while in North African countries the situation is reversed.

Unemployment is relatively higher for those with medium and advanced levels of education (or high skilled). Thus, the share of high-skilled unemployment in total unemployment is higher, on average, than the share of high-skilled economically active population (EAP) in total EAP.

Economic Context

Country/Year	Pop. (millions)	GDP per Capita (US\$)	GDP Growth (%)					Inflation (%)				
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Egypt	78.3	2,789	↑ 6.8	↑ 7.1	↑ 7.2	↑ 4.7	↑ 5.1	! 7.2	! 8.6	✗ 20.2	! 10.0	✗ 10.7
Sudan	40.1	1,705	↑ 11.3	↑ 10.2	↑ 6.8	↑ 6.0	↑ 5.1	✗ 15.7	! 8.8	✗ 14.9	✗ 11.5	✗ 15.4
Algeria	36.1	4,435	→ 2.0	↑ 3.0	→ 2.4	→ 2.4	↑ 3.3	✓ 3.8	✓ 4.8	✓ 4.9	! 5.8	✓ 4.5
Iraq	32.0	2,564	↑ 6.2	→ 1.5	↑ 9.5	↑ 4.2	→ 0.8	✗ 64.8	✓ 4.7	! 6.8	-4.4	✓ 3.3
Morocco	31.9	3,249	↑ 7.8	→ 2.7	↑ 5.6	↑ 4.9	↑ 3.2	✓ 3.3	✓ 2.0	✓ 4.2	-1.6	✓ 2.2
Saudi Arabia	26.1	16,996	↑ 3.2	→ 2.0	↑ 4.2	→ 0.6	↑ 3.7	✓ 2.9	! 6.5	! 9.0	✓ 4.2	! 5.4
Yemen	24.4	1,282	↑ 3.2	↑ 3.3	↑ 3.6	↑ 3.9	↑ 8.0	! 7.9	✗ 11.2	✗ 10.8	! 8.8	✗ 12.5
Syria	20.6	2,877	↑ 5.0	↑ 5.7	↑ 4.5	↑ 6.0	↑ 3.2	! 6.7	✓ 4.8	✗ 15.4	✓ 1.7	! 6.3
Tunisia	10.5	4,200	↑ 5.7	↑ 6.3	↑ 4.5	↑ 3.1	↑ 3.7	✓ 3.3	! 5.1	✓ 4.0	✓ 4.0	✓ 4.1
Libya	6.6	11,314	↑ 6.7	↑ 7.5	→ 2.3	↓ -2.3	↑ 4.2	! 7.2	! 7.6	! 9.7	✓ 2.8	✓ 2.4
Jordan	6.1	4,500	↑ 7.9	↑ 8.5	↑ 7.6	→ 2.3	↑ 3.1	! 7.5	! 5.1	! 9.1	✓ 2.7	! 6.1
U.A. Emirates	5.1	59,717	↑ 8.8	↑ 6.6	↑ 5.3	↓ -3.2	↑ 3.2	✗ 10.2	✗ 11.7	! 6.6	✓ 1.2	✓ 2.7
Lebanon	3.9	10,044	→ 0.6	↑ 7.5	↑ 9.3	↑ 8.5	↑ 7.5	! 7.2	! 6.0	! 6.4	✓ 3.4	✓ 4.5
Kuwait	3.6	36,412	↑ 5.3	↑ 4.5	↑ 5.0	↓ -5.2	→ 2.0	✓ 3.6	! 7.5	! 9.0	✓ 1.2	✓ 4.1
Oman	3.0	18,657	↑ 5.5	↑ 6.7	↑ 12.9	→ 1.1	↑ 4.2	✓ 4.7	! 9.3	! 7.8	✓ 3.4	✓ 3.4
Qatar	1.7	76,168	↑ 18.6	↑ 26.8	↑ 25.4	↑ 8.6	↑ 16.3	✗ 11.8	✗ 13.8	✗ 15.0	-4.9	✓ 0.4
Bahrain	1.1	20,475	↑ 6.7	↑ 8.4	↑ 6.3	↑ 3.1	↑ 4.1	✓ 2.7	✓ 4.0	! 5.1	✓ 2.8	✓ 2.0

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook

GDP Growth		Inflation	
↓	Negative Growth	✗	Higher than 10%
→	Between 0% and 3%	!	Between 5% and 10%
↑	Higher than 3%	✓	Positive and Lower than 5%

Selected Rates - Latest Data Available

	Latest Year	Labour Force Participation		Employment to Population		Paid to Total Employment		Unemployment		Youth Unemployment	
		Rate (%)	Var. (pp.)	Rate (%)	Var. (pp.)	Rate (%)	Var. (pp.)	Rate (%)	Var. (pp.)	Rate (%)	Var. (pp.)
Algeria	2010	41.7	↑ 0.3	37.6	↑ 0.4	33.4	↑ 0.3	10.0	✓ -0.2	21.5	✗ 0.2
Bahrain	2010							3.7	✓ -0.1		
Egypt	2010 ^a	50.3	↑ 1.2	42.5	↑ 1.5	59.1	↓ -3.2	8.9	✓ -0.5	24.8	✓ -5.1
Iraq	2008 ^b							15.3	n.a.	43.5	n.a.
Jordan	2010	39.5	↓ -0.7	34.6	↓ -0.4	83.5	↑ 0.1	12.5	✓ -0.4	28.1	✗ 1.1
Kuwait	2008 ^c							7.7	n.a.		
Lebanon	2007	43.4	n.a.	39.5	n.a.			9.0	n.a.	22.1	n.a.
Morocco	2010 ^d	49.6	↓ -0.4	44.6	↓ -0.2	44.4	↑ 0.5	9.1	✓ -0.1	17.6	✓ -0.3
Qatar	2009	87.7	↑ 0.3	87.4	↑ 0.3	99.6	↑ 0.1	0.3	! 0.0	1.2	n.a.
Saudi Arabia	2009	49.9	↓ -0.4	47.2	↓ -0.5			5.4	✓ -0.4	29.9	✗ 0.6
Sudan ^e	2008							20.7	✗ 1.3		
Syria	2010	43.7	↑ 0.7	42.0	↑ 0.9	62.7	↑ 0.9	8.4	✗ 0.2	18.3	✓ -0.8
Tunisia	2010	46.9	↑ 0.4	40.8	↑ 0.4			13.0	✓ -0.2	29.4	✓ -1.5
U.A. Emirates	2008	72.6	n.a.	69.7	n.a.	95.8	n.a.	4.0	n.a.	12.1	n.a.
West Bank and Gaza	2010 ^f	39.5	↓ -2.0	29.8	↓ -1.6	67.6	↑ 1.1	23.7	✓ -0.8	40.2	✗ 5.1
Yemen	2009	42.2	↓ -0.6	36.1	↓ -0.4			14.6	✓ -0.3		

Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

Notes a Egypt: 2010 only data for unemployment. Rest of rates correspond to 2007

b Iraq: Data for Youth Unemployment rate correspond to 2006

c: Kuwait: Data refer only to Kuwaiti unemployment

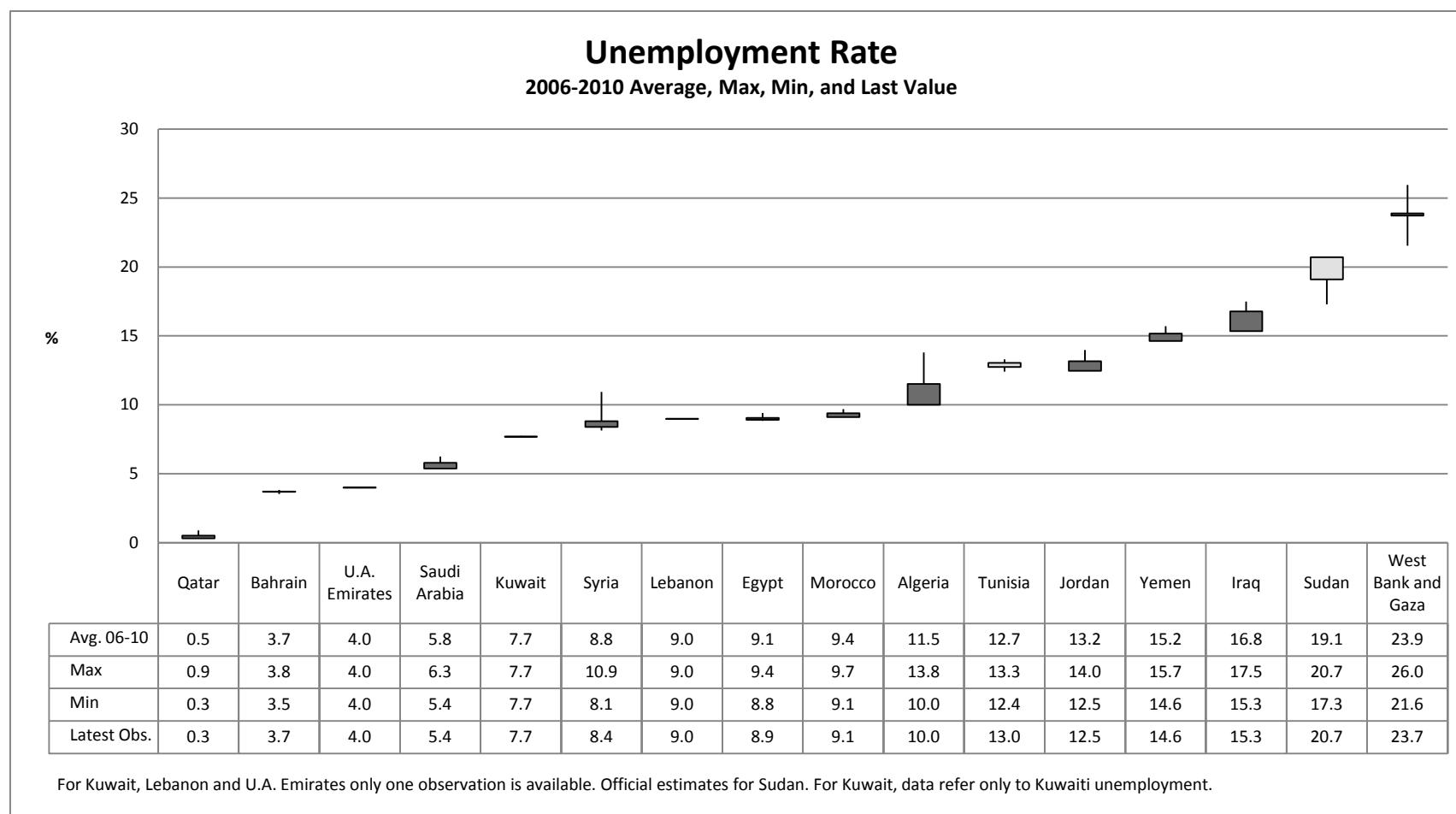
d Morocco: Data for Employment to Population correspond to 2009

e Sudan: Official estimates

f West Bank and Gaza: Data for Youth Unemployment rate correspond to 2008

n.a. Data from the immediately preceding year are not available for computation of annual variation

↓	Negative Variation	✗	Increase in Unemployment
→	No Variation	!	No Variation
↑	Positive Variation	✓	Decrease in Unemployment

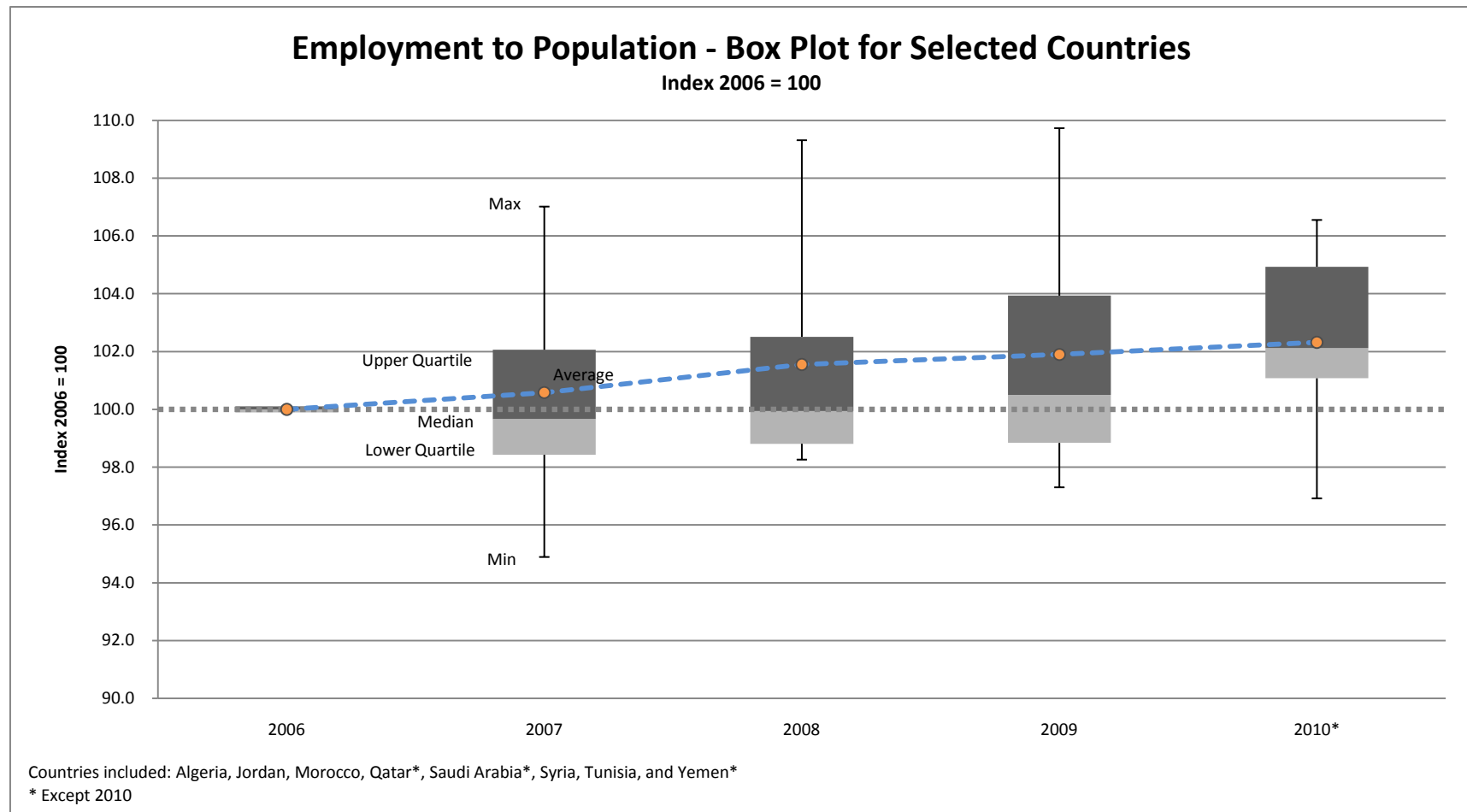


Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

The graph shows the average, maximum, minimum, and latest observation for all the countries and territories of the region with at least one observation in last 5 years.

The extremes of the line represent the max and the min (thus showing intra-period fluctuation), while the down bars indicate the difference between average and latest observation.

Light grey implies that average is lower than latest (e.g., Sudan), while dark grey implies a higher value for the average with respect to latest observation.

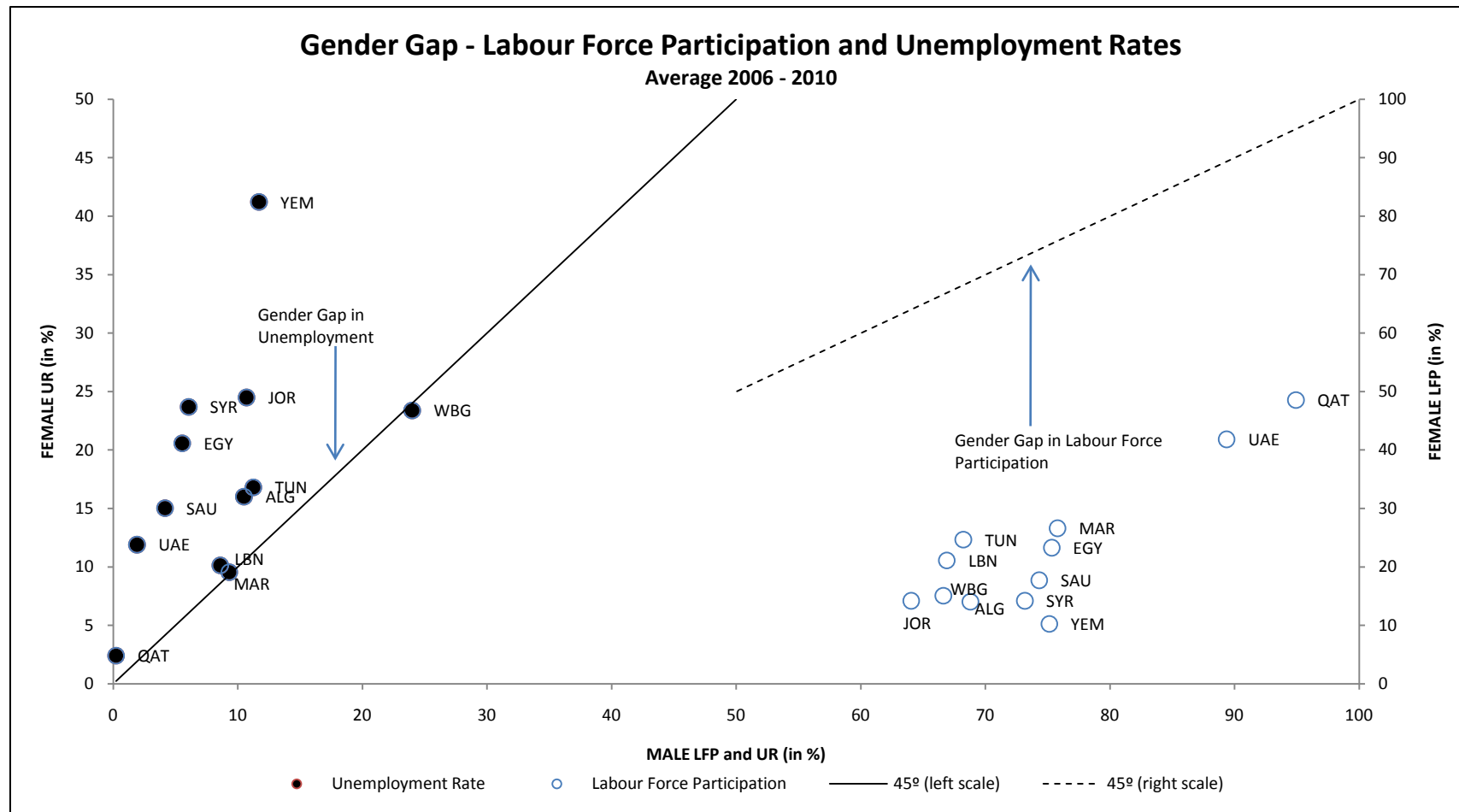


Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

A box plot graphically depicts groups of data through five-number summaries: the smallest observation (sample minimum), lower quartile (Q1), median (Q2), upper quartile (Q3), and largest observation (sample maximum).

The length of the rectangle represent the inter-quartile distance. In this graph, the average for each period (dot and dashed line) has also been included.

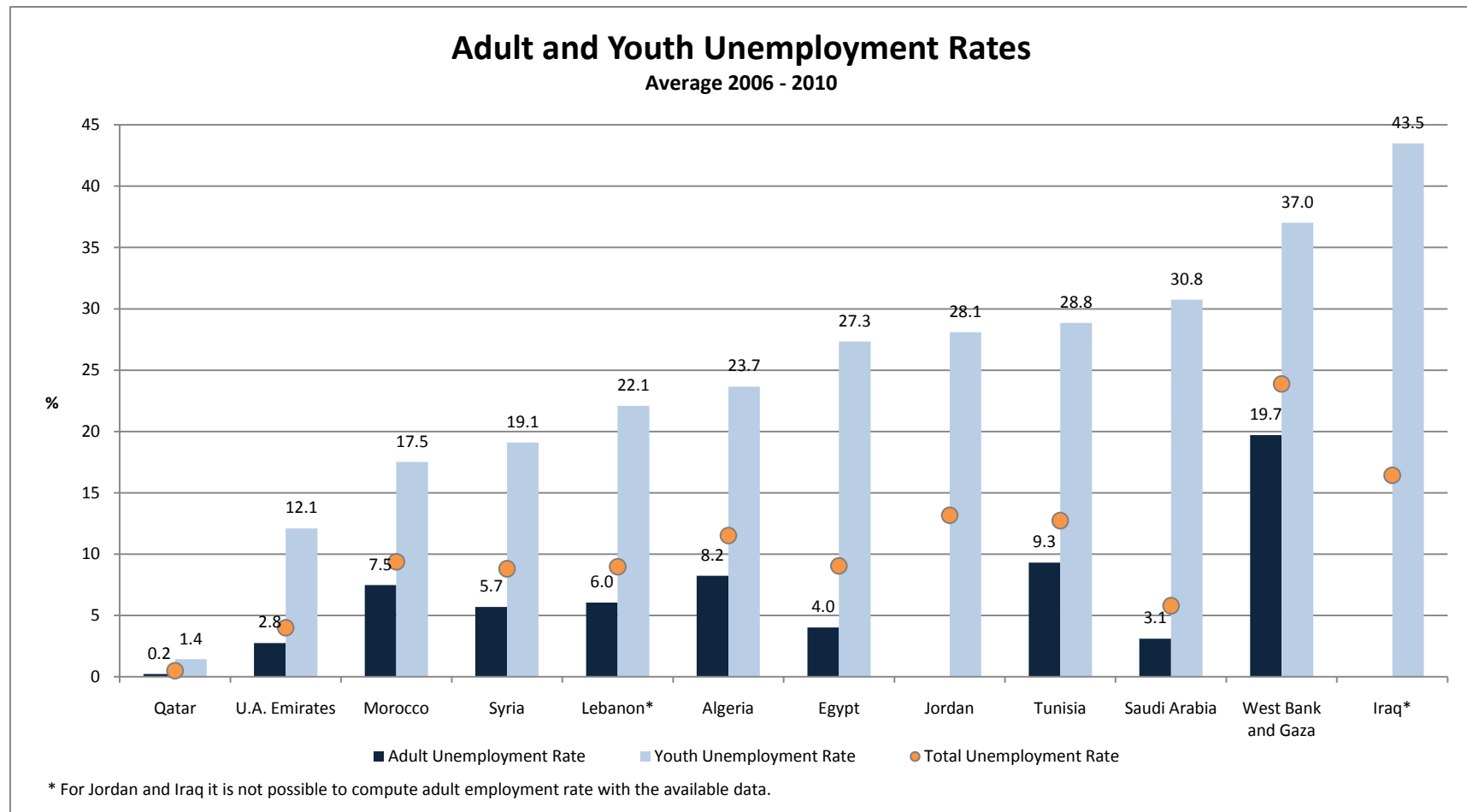
By construction, in 2006 for all countries, the ratio of employment to population has been converted to 100.



Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

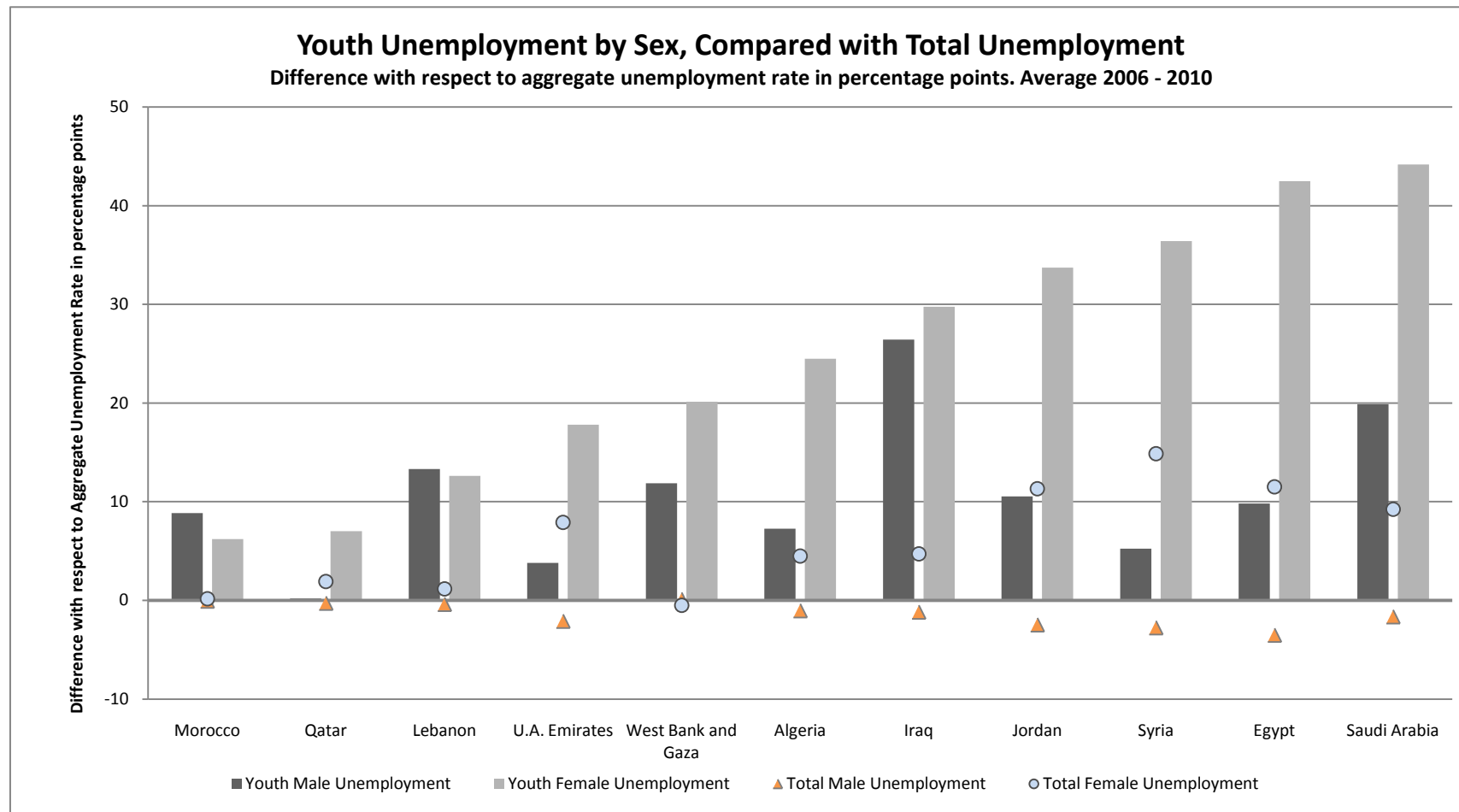
This graph describes the gender gap both in labour force participation and unemployment rate. Horizontal axis shows both male unemployment and labour force participation, while left and right axis represent female unemployment and labour force participation respectively. The two lines are 45° lines, each with respect to an axis.

On the right, the white points below the dashed line indicate that Women participation is extremely low compared with men's. On the left, the black points above the line show that unemployment for women is higher than for men in most of the countries.



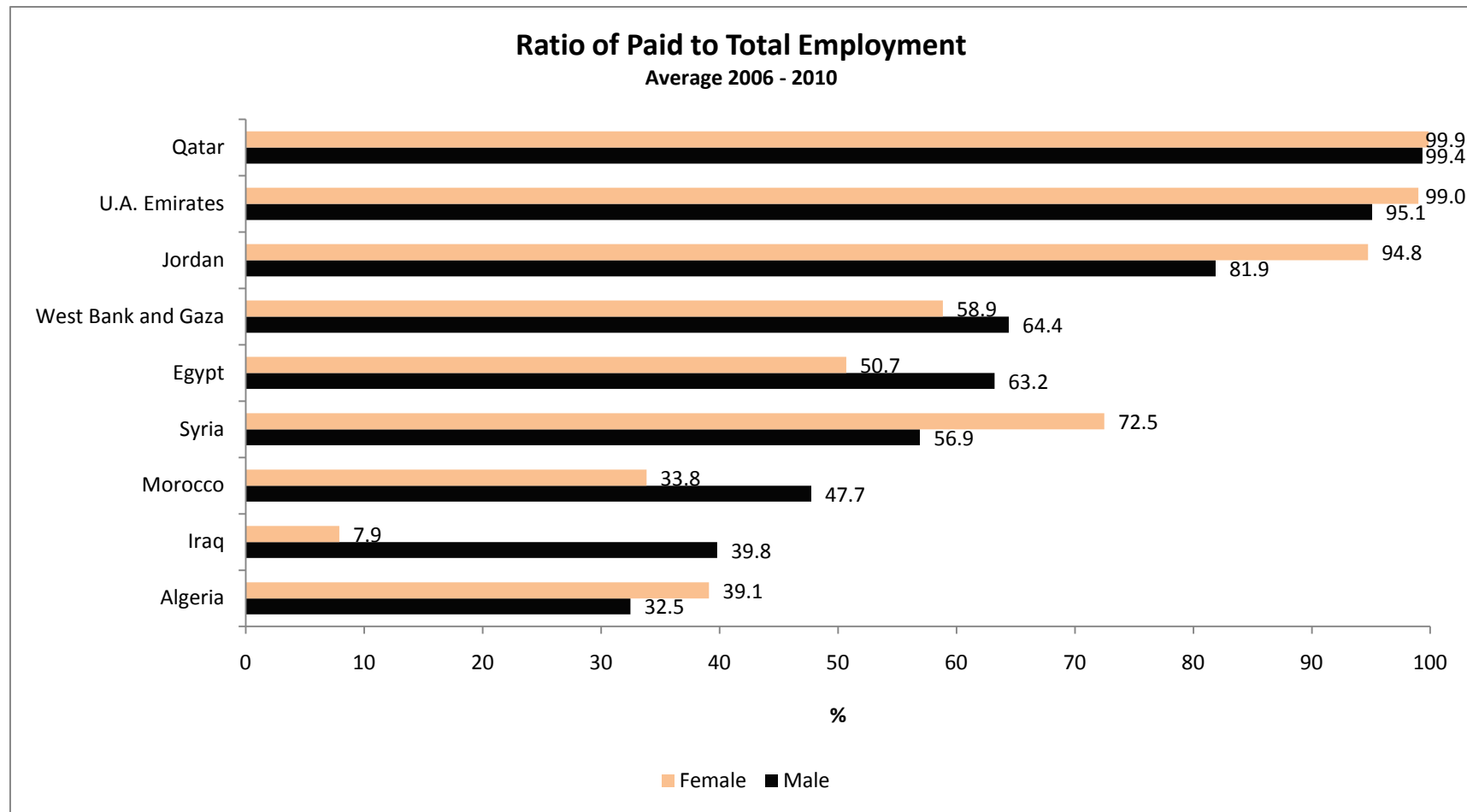
Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

This graph compares adult (i.e., people aged 25+) versus youth (i.e., people aged 15 to 24) rates of unemployment. It also displays the total rate of unemployment. In many countries, youth unemployment rates are several times higher than the rates for adult population.



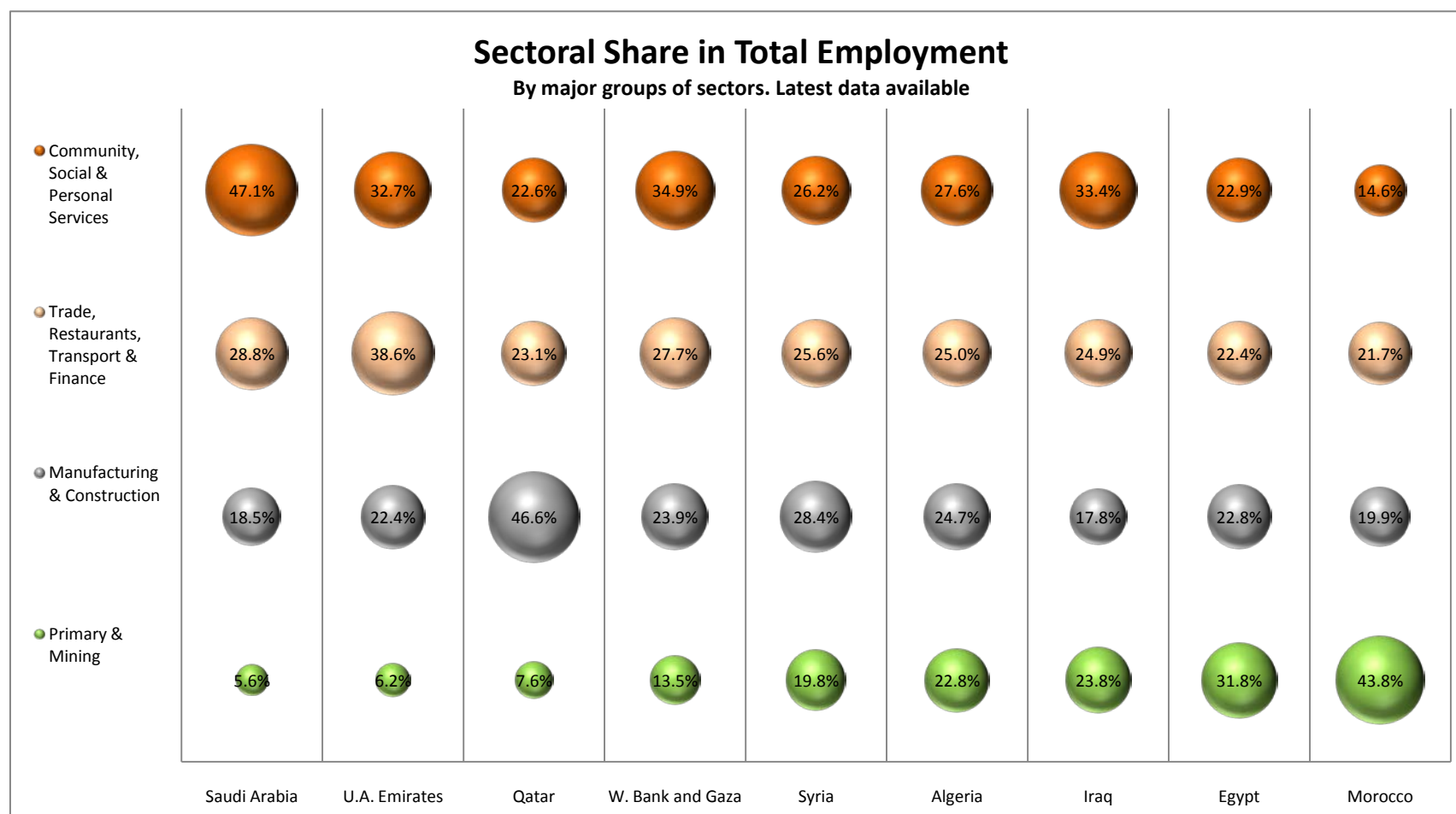
Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

This graph disaggregate the data of youth unemployment by sex, compared to aggregate rate of unemployment. Also, it shows the differences with respect to the aggregate rate for total (youth + adults) male (triangles) and female (circles) unemployment. As aggregate national rate of unemployment is the benchmark, values below 0 indicate that for this particular group, unemployment rates are lower than aggregate rate. Above 0, a value of (for example) 30, implies that for this particular group, unemployment rate is 30 percentage points above the aggregate rate.



Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

This graph displays the ratio of paid employment to total employment by sex. Paid employment is defined as jobs where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts which give them a basic remuneration which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work.



Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

Notes Major groups of sectors are classified according to ISIC rev 3. Primary and Mining includes ISIC A, B, C; Manufacturing and Construction includes ISIC D, E, F; Trade, Restaurants, Transport and Finance includes ISIC G, H, I, J, K; Community, Social and Personal Services includes ISIC L, M, N, O, P, Q.

The area of the bubbles is equivalent to the share of the employment in a particular major group in total employment. For more information about ISIC classification see http://laborsta.ilo.org/classification_E.html

A. Share of Economically Active Population by Education Level in Total Economically Active Population

Level/Country	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Syria
Less than basic	1.4	8.3	34.5	24.5	16.2	22.9
Basic	48.9	48.0	44.1	34.7	34.7	49.8
Intermediate	12.2	18.7	11.8	23.8	28.4	18.9
Advanced	37.4	24.9	9.6	17.0	20.7	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

B. Unemployment Rate by Education Level

Level/Country	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Syria	Algeria	Tunisia	W. Bank and Gaza
Less than basic	7.6	5.0	2.1	0.1	0.4	7.3	1.9	5.7	23.1
Basic	11.5	8.8	11.1	0.2	2.6	6.0	7.6	9.2	27.2
Intermediate	8.3	9.7	18.3	0.6	7.3	17.1	8.9	13.7	23.6
Advanced	15.1	11.1	17.8	0.4	11.3	11.9	20.3	22.9	24.8
Total	12.5	9.0	9.1	0.3	5.4	8.4	10.0	13.0	23.7

C. Share of Unemployed by Education Level in Total Unemployment

Level/Country	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Syria
Less than basic	0.9	4.5	7.6	4.7	1.2	18.7
Basic	45.4	45.8	51.6	23.4	16.7	33.6
Intermediate	8.2	19.8	22.7	47.9	38.5	36.3
Advanced	45.5	29.9	18.1	23.9	43.6	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ILO, Department of Statistics

Notes Latest available data is presented in all tables