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LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES AND EGYPT'S MIGRATION POTENTIAL

By Mona Amer and Philippe Fargues



The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS)

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) is an interdisciplinary center of the American University in Cairo (AUC). Situated at the heart of the Middle East and North Africa, it aims at furthering the scientific knowledge of the large, long-standing and more recent, refugee and migration movements witnessed in this region. But it also is concerned with questions of refugees and migration in the international system as a whole, both at the theoretical and practical levels.

CMRS functions include instruction, research, training and outreach. It offers a Master of Arts in migration and refugee studies and a graduate diploma in forced migration and refugee studies working with other AUC departments to offer diversified courses to its students. Its research bears on issues of interest to the region and beyond. In carrying it out, it collaborates with reputable regional and international academic institutions. The training activities CMRS organizes are attended by researchers, policy makers, bureaucrats and civil society activists from a great number of countries. It also provides tailor-made training programs on demand. CMRS outreach involves working with its environment, disseminating knowledge and sensitization to refugee and migration issues. It also provides services to the refugee community in Cairo and transfers its expertise in this respect to other international institutions.

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The MPC working paper series, published since April 2013, aims at disseminating high-quality research pertaining to migration and related issues. All EUI members, as well as other external scholars and practitioners, are welcome to submit their work to the series. For further queries, please contact the Migration Policy Centre Secretariat at mpc@eui.eu

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Preface

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) is pleased to publish this study about Labor Market Outcomes and Migration Potential in Egypt. International migration is essentially about the movement of populations in search of job opportunities or of better terms and conditions of employment. Labour market outcomes are considered, therefore, as determinants of migration flows. For four decades, unemployment, underemployment, low wages and deficient terms and conditions of employment were causes that generated the migration of tens of millions of Egyptians to the labor markets, essentially, of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and other Arab countries as well as, in a second instance, of member states of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The study considers the evolution of the Egyptian labor market. It reviews demographic trends, the volume and growth rates of the labor force, and the labor force participation rates (LFPR). The study examines the volume and growth rates of employment. In considering unemployment, it particularly brings out youth unemployment and long-term unemployment. The labor market analysis is gender-sensitive, breaking down indicators according to sex. The study then turns to the characteristics of Egyptian migrants, including the levels of their education attainment, and to their destinations. The third section is about the analysis of the findings of the survey of the orientation of Egyptian youth towards migration carried out in January 2013, two years after the breakout on the January 2011 revolutionary events. The findings of the survey qualify the hypothesis about labor market outcomes as determinants of migration flows. Despite the deteriorating labor market outcomes, Egyptian youth did not desire to migrate more than they did before January 2011. Prospects of an effective participation in the conduct of public affairs and hopes in steady and sustained development that would result in perceptible improvements in standards of living seem to have made youth feel they can and should stay in their country. Economic and political perspectives looked as proximately related in the minds of young Egyptians at the beginning of 2013.

This study was undertaken for CMRS and the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) by Philippe Fargues and Mona Amer. Philippe Fargues is the director of the MPC and a friend and former director of CMRS. He is an eminent international migration scholar, demographer and researcher in the political and social aspect of the phenomenon. Mona Amer is an established academic researcher in labor market studies, especially the Egyptian labor market, and in international labour migration. Their joint study is an example of research on the inter-linkages between the labor market and migration.

The study was jointly financed by the MPC and CMRS. The MPC generously funded the survey of the orientation of Egyptian youth toward migration. The study is a new example of the close cooperation between the MPC and CMRS.



Ibrahim Awad, PhD
Director



Abstract

Will the radical political changes Egypt has gone through since early 2011 have an impact on emigration from the country? This all depends on young Egyptian adults, who are the potential migrants of tomorrow. In order to understand the consequences of the Egyptian revolution on migration, a questionnaire survey was conducted amongst Egyptian youth in 2013. The objective of this paper is to analyse the Egyptian labour market together with Egyptian migration to see whether changing conditions in the labour market, in particular after the revolution of 25 January 2011, may affect migration. This study is divided into three parts. The first analyses recent trends – from 2007 to 2011 – of the labour market and in particular the evolution of the labour force in terms of participation rate and unemployment rate according to gender, age group and educational level. The second part outlines the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Egyptian migrants, in general, and according to region of migration (Gulf Cooperation Countries and other Arab countries as opposed to OECD countries). It also presents an analysis of unemployment against the education and skill levels of Egyptian migrants. Finally, the last part presents the findings of a survey on orientation towards migration of Egyptian youth. This survey was designed by the Migration Policy Centre and was conducted through phone interviews by the Egyptian Centre for Public Opinion Research (Baseera) in 2013.

Keywords

Egypt, Youth, Migration, Labour Market, Political Change



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Introduction

Introduction

Will the radical political changes Egypt has gone through since early 2011 have an impact on emigration from the country? This all depends on young Egyptian adults, who are the potential migrants of tomorrow. In order to understand the consequences of the Egyptian revolution on migration, a questionnaire survey was conducted amongst Egyptian youth in January 2013.

Emigration is a salient feature of contemporary Egypt, playing a critical role in the Egyptian economy and society. Around 10% of Egyptian households have at least one current or former expatriate member or close relative so that a culture of emigration has emerged throughout the country: as many young people are exposed to the emigration of relatives or friends, or hear about emigration through individual, family or community ties, they come to see emigration as a realistic option for themselves.

At the local and national levels, emigration presents an enormous economic opportunity for Egyptian families, communities and, to a certain extent, for the State. Over the past two decades, Egyptians had sent on average between \$5 billion and \$10 billion in annual remittances. In 2010 and 2011 alone, the amount increased as Egyptians remitted respectively over \$12 billion and \$14 billion (or 3% of GDP in 2010),¹ continuing to make labour migration the leading source of the foreign currencies pumped into the Egyptian economy. The importance that the Egyptian authorities give to emigration is demonstrated by the permanence of the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration created under President Mubarak and renewed by the post-revolution government, with an unchanged mandate for facilitating the employment of Egyptian nationals on external labour markets and for liaising with Egyptian expatriates.

The objective of this study is to analyse the Egyptian labour market together with Egyptian migration to see whether changing conditions in the labour market, in particular after the revolution, 25 January 2011, may affect migration. This study is divided into three parts. The first analyses recent trends – from 2007 to 2011 – of the labour market and in particular the evolution of the labour force in terms of participation rate and unemployment rate according to gender, age group and educational level. The second part outlines the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Egyptian migrants, in general, and according to region of migration (Gulf Cooperation Countries and other Arab countries as opposed to OECD countries). It also presents an analysis of unemployment against the education and skill levels of Egyptian migrants. Finally, the last part presents the findings of a Survey on Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth. This survey was designed by the Migration Policy Centre and was conducted through phone interviews by the Egyptian Centre for Public Opinion Research (Baseera) in January 2013.

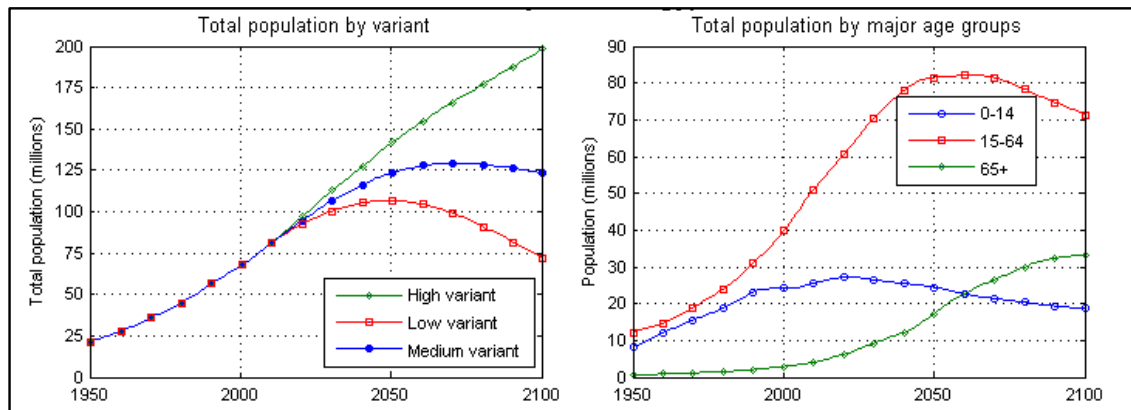
¹ World Bank. Annual remittances data: inflows. Retrieved from <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:22759429~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

1. Evolution of the Egyptian Labour Market

Demographic Trend and Labour Force Population

The Egyptian population has grown strongly since the 1950s. According to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) the population rose from 21.5 million in 1950 to nearly 84 million in 2013. And population growth will continue to be a major concern. Indeed, according to Figure 1 and assuming the medium variant of the United Nations, Egypt's population will continue to increase to 133 million by 2060. It will stabilise until 2085 and then will decline until 2100.

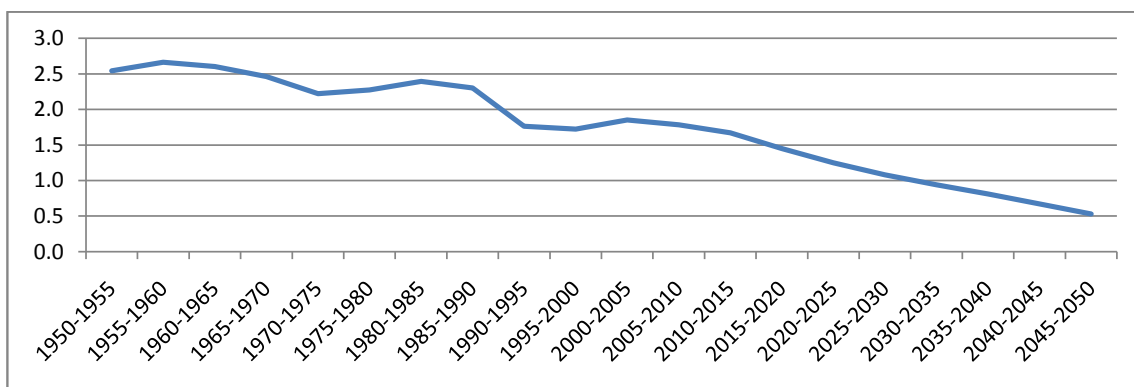
Figure 1: Total Population by variant and by Age Group, 1950-2100



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. New York

Over the very long term the population growth rate follows a downward trend. As shown in Figure 2, the average annual growth of the population decreases from 2.5% in 1950-1955 to 0.5% in 2045-2050. However, this downward trend is not smooth. During certain periods population growth has accelerated, especially in the 1970s and early 2000s.

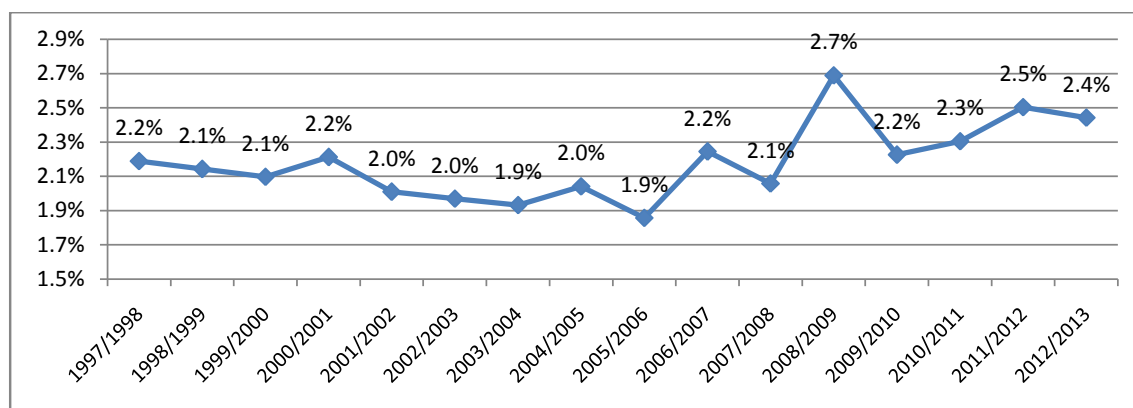
Figure 2: Population Growth Rate, 1950-2050 (in %)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. New York

Zooming in on the recent period (1997-2013), Figure 3 clearly shows that the population growth decreased slightly between 1997/1998 and 2004/2005 from 2.2% to 1.9%. However, the demographic growth has followed an opposite trend from the mid-2000s. This increase in population growth is temporary and probably due to the change of the age structure of the Egyptian population, especially the arrival of a large cohort of young people at the age of having children.

Figure 3: Rate of Growth of the Egyptian Population, 1997–2013

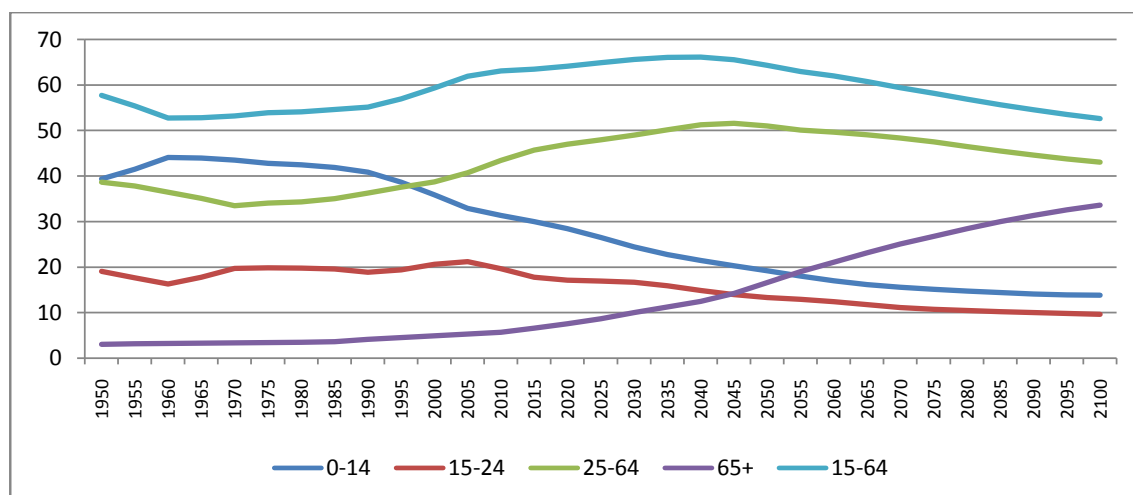


Source: Authors' calculations based on IDSC and CAPMAS (2013)

Window of Opportunity and Youth Bulge

As shown in Figure 4, and based on estimates and projections (medium variant assumption) of the Population Division of the United Nations, Egypt entered the third phase of the demographic transition during the second half of the 1990s. This stage is characterised by a decrease in the proportion of children under the age of 15 and offset by an increase in the share of the population aged 15 years and over. This phase allows for the opening of a 'window of opportunity' due to a reduction of the pressure on the education system and an increase in the working-age population, which can result in an increase in production and economic growth. One of the challenges of this current period is the pressure on the labour market of a large cohort of young people aged 15 to 24 and in transition from school to work. Indeed, the graph shows that the youth share is high (about 20% of the population since the mid-60s). We also see that it reached its peak during the first decade of the 2000s.

Figure 4: Egypt Population by Age Group, 1950–2100 (in %)



Source: Authors' calculations based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011): *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*. New York

In addition to insufficient economic growth and labour demand, the insertion into the labour market of this large young cohort is thus a major challenge and results in high unemployment rates among young people seeking their first job. Figure 1 shows that the share of young people (under 25 years) will continue to decline until 2100, but that the share of the 25–64 year olds will start to decline from 2045, which will lead to an accelerated phase of the aging of the Egyptian population in the labour force.

Labour Force

The following results are based on the Labour Force Sample Surveys (LFSS) from 2007 to 2011 carried out by CAPMAS. These surveys are conducted on a quarterly basis and allow an analysis of the evolution of the labour force, unemployment and employment by gender, educational level and economic activity.

Table 1 presents the volume and rate of growth of the labour force from 2007 to 2011. These are measured taking into account the broad definition of economic activity (including subsistence activities) and the standard definition of unemployment: not participating in any economic activity, willing to work, available for work, seeking a job and not finding one. This table shows that the Egyptian labour force was made up of 27 million persons in 2011, with the male labour force (20.5 million) almost three times higher than the female labour force (6.6 million). 2007-2011 the total labour force grew by 8.7%, increasing more rapidly among women (+10.8%) than among men (+8.1%). It is difficult to identify a trend in the growth rate of the labour force as it varies sharply from one year to another especially among women.

Table 1: Volume and Growth Rate of the Labour Force (15-64) by Gender, 2007-2011

Volume	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	18 973 424	19 558 349	19 742 653	20 082 469	20 509 220
Female	5 934 561	5 801 597	6 326 715	6 210 010	6 576 207
Total	24 907 985	25 359 946	26 069 368	26 292 479	27 085 427

Growth Rate	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2007-2011
Male	3.1%	0.9%	1.7%	2.1%	8.1%
Female	-2.2%	9.1%	-1.8%	5.9%	10.8%
Total	1.8%	2.8%	0.9%	3.0%	8.7%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Table 2 indicates that the labour force participation rate is relatively low in Egypt (52.2% in 2011). But this overall participation rate masks, once again, gender disparities. While male participation rate is high (78.3% in 2011), female participation rate is very low (25.6%), which is one of the characteristics of the labour markets of the Middle East and North Africa region. 2007-2011 the participation rate grew more slowly (+2.6%) than the labour force itself(+8.7%) due to a rapid growth in the working age population (15-64 year olds).

Table 2: Labour Force Participation by Gender (15-64), 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	0.760	0.768	0.768	0.786	0.783
Female	0.248	0.237	0.252	0.245	0.256
Total	0.509	0.508	0.513	0.517	0.522

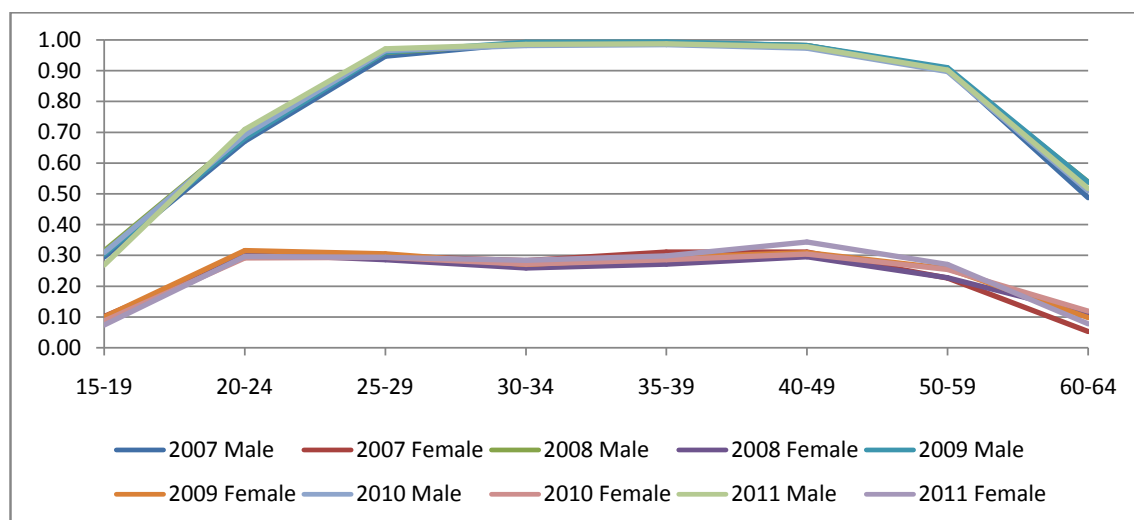
Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Participation rates by age group (Figure 5 and Table 1A) show that the female curve pattern is quite similar to the male curve, but it is much flatter. Male participation is relatively low among the youngest age groups (fewer than 25 years old who are mostly at school) and then increases to reach almost universal participation among those aged 25 to 49. It eventually decreases by the age of 50 (early retirement) and decreases at an accelerating rate among men aged 60 to 64 years (retirement age).

The trend of male participation rates by age is very stable from 2007 to 2011.

The female participation rate is lower than that of men in all age groups. The female participation rate is extremely low among those aged 15 to 19 due to the school enrolment of a significant portion of the youngest women. It then reaches a first peak (note though a low peak at around 30%) among the age group 20-24 and then decreases slightly among those aged 25-29 and 30-34 (corresponding with the age at marriage and the age of childbearing). It rises slightly among the age groups 35-39 and 40-45 and then decreases sharply among the 50-59 and 60-64 year olds years to achieve an extremely low rate of about 8% there. Over the period 2007-2011 the female labour forces varies very little by age except that the participation rate of women aged 40-64 years increased slightly.

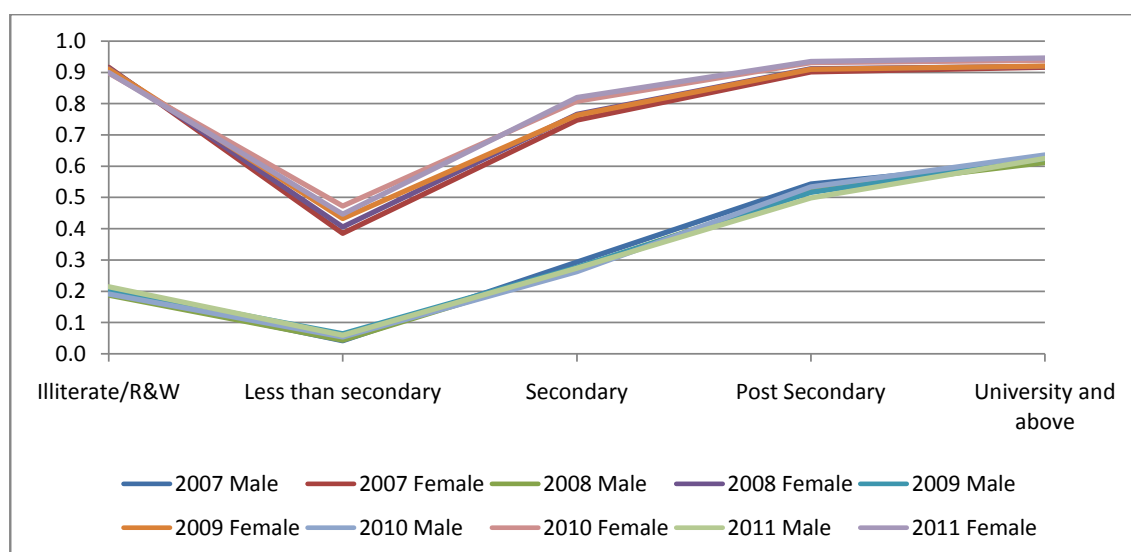
Figure 5: Labour Force Participation by Gender and Age Group (15-64), 2007-2011



Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Figure 6 and Table 2A present the participation rates by gender and educational level. Despite the fact that the male and female curves look very similar, the relationship between the participation rate and the education level differs by gender. The male participation is almost universal (or almost equal to 100%) at all educational levels except for those with less than secondary education and holders of a secondary school diploma. This is explained by the fact that these educational levels (unlike post-secondary and university levels) are not terminal and, therefore, men are enrolled in education to pursue their studies. On the contrary the female participation rate is closely linked to the educational level achieved. The rate increases continuously with the educational level except for women with lower than secondary education (as with men because it is a non-terminal level of education). Female behaviour in entering the labour market is closely linked to the educational level achieved and the female participation rate reaches a very high level among those with a university degree (62.5% in 2011). Differences in participation rates between men and women have a tendency to decrease with the level of education between 2007 and 2011.

Figure 6: Labour Force Participation by Gender and Educational Level (15-64), 2007-2011



Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Employment

Table 3 presenting the volume and rate of growth of employment by sex between 2007 and 2011 shows that the number of women employed is about four times lower than the number of men employed, confirming the low participation of women in the labour market. The evolution over from 2007 to 2011 shows that employment increased by 4.8% (slightly stronger for women than for men). Male employment, meanwhile, has declined (-2.2%) between 2010 and 2011 as expected, female employment, instead, increased slightly over the same period (+1.6%). It seems that the economic downturn in 2011 affected male employment but not female employment.

Table 3: Volume and Growth Rate of Employment (15-64) by Gender, 2007-2011

Volume	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	17878235	18509308	18780542	19103865	18696146
Female	4460615	4601006	4754789	4654461	4729770
Total	22331464	23102052	23529827	23756217	23412880

Growth Rate	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2007-2011
Male	3.5%	1.5%	1.7%	-2.2%	4.5%
Female	3.1%	3.3%	-2.1%	1.6%	6.0%
Total	3.5%	1.9%	1.0%	-1.4%	4.8%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Tables 4 and 5 show the distribution and evolution of employment by sex and economic sector between 2007 and 2011. The private sector is the main employer of both men and women, but at a higher rate for men than for women (respectively 76.7% and 60.0% in 2011). The public sector is mainly composed of the government sector as the share of public enterprises is relatively low (ranging from 1.2% and 3.2% for men and women respectively in 2011).

Table 4: Employment Distribution by Economic Sector (15–64), 2007–2011

	Economic Sector	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Male	Government	21.9%	20.6%	20.6%	19.5%	20.1%
	Public Enterprises	4.1%	3.8%	3.3%	3.7%	3.2%
	Total Public	26.0%	24.5%	23.9%	23.2%	23.3%
	Total Private	74.0%	75.5%	76.1%	76.8%	76.7%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Female	Government	39.1%	37.7%	36.5%	37.5%	38.8%
	Public Enterprises	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%
	Total Public	40.8%	39.1%	37.7%	38.8%	40.0%
	Total Private	59.2%	60.9%	62.3%	61.2%	60.0%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007–2011

The evolution of the distribution of employment by economic sector shows that the public employment share fell and the private sector increased for both men and women between 2007 and 2011. However, the share of public employment fell much more sharply for men than for women (respectively -10.2% and -2.1%). The bulk of the decline in the public sector took place between 2007 and 2008, the rate of decline slowing thereafter between 2009 and 2011 (with the exception of female employment in public enterprises between 2010 and 2011). The share of state-owned enterprise employment declined most significantly reflecting the program of restructuring and privatisation that was launched beginning in the second half of the 1990s.

Table 5: Rate of Growth of the Distribution of Employment by Economic Sector and by Gender (15–64), 2007–2011

	Economic Sector	2007–2008	2008–2009	2009–2010	2010–2011	2007–2011
Male	Government	-5.8%	0.1%	-5.4%	3.0%	-8.1%
	Public Enterprises	-6.6%	-14.9%	12.5%	0.0%	-21.3%
	Total Public	-5.9%	-2.3%	-2.9%	3.0%	-10.2%
	Total Private	2.1%	0.7%	0.9%	0.0%	3.6%
Female	Government	-3.8%	-3.2%	2.8%	3.6%	-0.9%
	Public Enterprises	-16.4%	-9.4%	6.5%	-14.2%	-30.8%
	Total Public	-4.3%	-3.4%	2.9%	2.9%	-2.1%
	Total Private	3.0%	2.2%	-1.7%	-1.9%	1.4%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007–2011

Unemployment

As shown in Table 6 the unemployment rate reaches 11.8% in 2011 with a female unemployment rate (21.0%) nearly 2.4 times higher than the male equivalent (8.8%). The evolution of the unemployment rate over from 2007 to 2011 is marked by a slight increase in the unemployment rate between 2007 and 2010 (it rose from 8.7% to 9.1%). This was due to an increase in the female unemployment rate that compensates a marked decrease in the male unemployment rate. The sharp economic downturn that followed the uprising of 25 January 2011 has greatly affected the unemployment rate: it increased by 29.7% between 2010 and 2011. Most of this increase was due to

a strong rise in the male unemployment rate (+79.6%), while for its part the female unemployment rate, instead, decreased (-7.1%). As shown in Table 3A the bulk of the increase in male unemployment took place during the first quarter of 2011 (+74.5%). The latest statistics (CAPMAS, 2013) show that the unemployment rate has continued to increase, in 2012 and in early 2013, albeit at a slower pace. Indeed, the unemployment rate rose from 9.3% in the first quarter of 2012 to 9.6% in the fourth quarter of 2012 to reach 9.7% in the first quarter of 2013. The unemployment rate for men and women have both continued to grow reaching respectively 13.2% and 25.0% in the first quarter of 2013. Moreover, the number of unemployed Egyptians peaked in the first quarter of 2013, with nearly 3.6 million people looking for a job (2.0 million men and 1.5 million women).

Table 6: Unemployment Rate and Growth of Unemployment Rate by Gender (15-64), 2007-2011

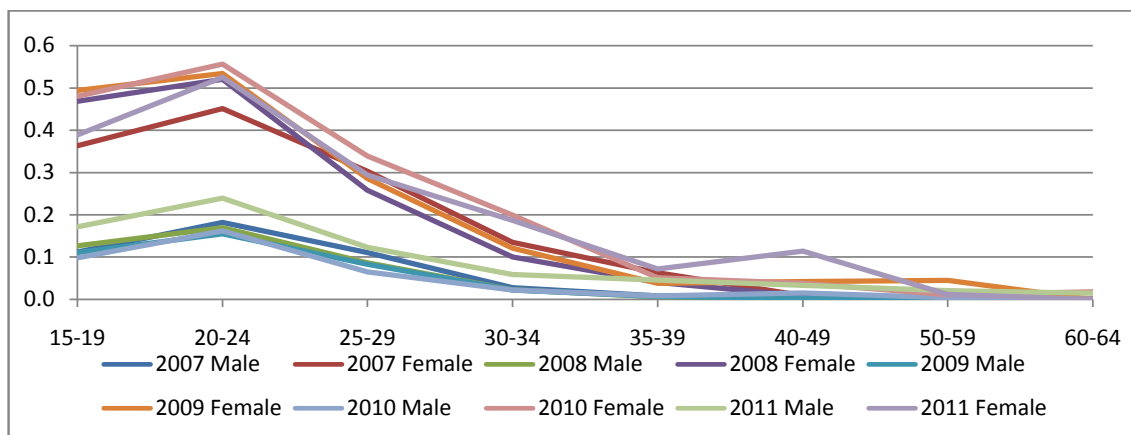
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Unemployment Rate	Male	5.7%	5.3%	4.9%	4.9%	8.8%
	Female	18.0%	18.1%	20.0%	22.6%	21.0%
	Total	8.7%	8.3%	8.6%	9.1%	11.8%

		2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2007/2011
Growth Rate of Unemployment Rate	Male	-7.0%	-7.5%	0.0%	79.6%	54.4%
	Female	0.6%	10.5%	13.0%	-7.1%	16.7%
	Total	-4.6%	3.6%	5.8%	29.7%	35.6%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

The unemployment rate in Egypt particularly affects young people aged 15 to 29. As illustrated by Figure 7, the unemployment rate increases with age to reach a peak among young people aged 20 to 24 and then gradually decreases with age. In 2011 the female unemployment rate (52.5%) is more than twice that of men (23.9%) of the 20-24 age group (Table 4A). Unemployment mainly concerns young people seeking to enter the labour market after completing their studies or after dropping out of school. Table 5A also shows that between 2010 and 2011 the male unemployment rate increased particularly among the older age groups (34 to 64 years old), that were usually less affected by unemployment. On the contrary between 2010 and 2011 the female unemployment rate declined for all age groups from 15 to 34 years (especially among the younger group) but it increased significantly among those aged over 35. The opposite trend in the unemployment rate by gender in 2010-2011 substantially reduced the gap between male and female unemployment rates. While between 2007 and 2010 the female unemployment rate was three to four times higher than the male unemployment rate: in 2011 the difference was around 2.4 times higher in favour of women. Moreover, as shown in table 6A in the annex, due to the sharp rise in the number of unemployed men in parallel with a slight decrease in the number of unemployed women between 2010 and 2011, the female share of total unemployment fell sharply from 59% in 2010 to 43% in 2011.

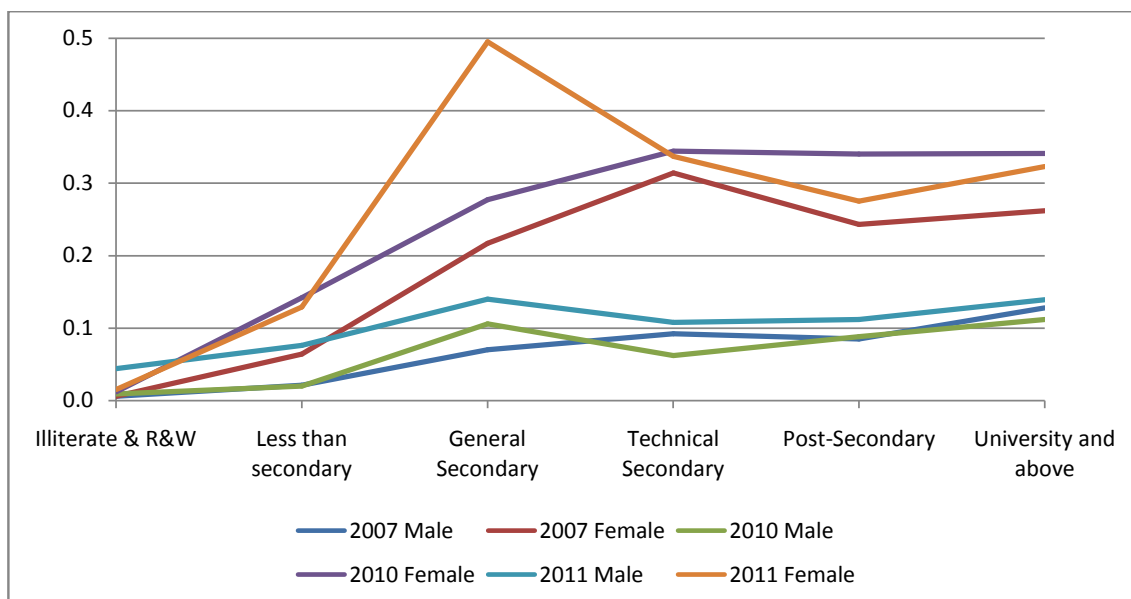
Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Gender and by Age Group, 2007-2011



Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Figure 8 shows that unemployment particularly affects the most educated. Indeed, in 2007, the male and female unemployment rates increased steadily with educational attainment reaching a peak among graduates of technical secondary schools: 9.2% and 31.4%, respectively, among men and women. It then decreased slightly among the holders a post-secondary institute diploma, and then rose slightly among women with a university degree (26.2%) and more strongly among graduate men (12.8%). This graph also shows that between 2007 and 2011, the unemployment rate has sharply increased among the least qualified men: it was multiplied by seven among illiterates, by 3.6 among men with less than secondary education and by two among general secondary school graduates. In 2011 the curve of male unemployment became flatter and differences in unemployment rates between educational levels were reduced. Between 2007 and 2011, female unemployment rate increased among women with a lower than intermediate level of education. It should be noted that between 2010 and 2011, the female unemployment rate increased dramatically among secondary diploma holders (+79%), while it declined among post-secondary graduates (-19%) and university graduates (-5%).

Figure 8: Unemployment Rate by Gender and by Educational Level, 2007, 2010 and 2011



Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Long-term Unemployment

The distribution of the unemployed by unemployment duration in 2010 and 2011 is set out in Table 7. It clearly shows that in 2010 the vast majority of the unemployed were long-term unemployed. In fact, 61.1% of unemployed men and 73.3% of unemployed women are unemployed for over a year. And a very large proportion has been unemployed for over two years (36.4% of men and 53.7% of women) and more than three years (20.8% of men and 39.0% of women). This very long-term unemployment can be explained not only by the fact that the majority of unemployed Egyptians are educated and are looking for a job corresponding to their expectations. There is also the fact that they usually belong to relatively wealthy households who can support them financially (Amer, 2011). The change from 2010 to 2011 is interesting. It involves a very significant change in the distribution of unemployment duration among men, while that among women is relatively constant. The share of long-term unemployed men is reversed in effect between 2010 and 2011, declining from 61.1% in 2010 to only 39.3% in 2011. This is probably due to the influx of newly unemployed during the year 2011 after a significant economic slowdown and a sharp increase in the unemployment rate.

Table 7: Distribution of Unemployment Duration by Gender (15-64) in 2010 and 2011

	2010	2011
Male		
0-1 year	39.9%	61.7%
1-2 years	23.6%	14.2%
2-3 years	15.6%	7.9%
3-4 years	9.0%	6.0%
More than 4 years	11.9%	10.1%
Long-term unemployment (more than 1 year)	39.9%	61.1%
Female		
0-1 year	27.7%	29.7%
1+-2 year	18.6%	20.5%
2+-3 years	14.7%	11.2%
3+-4 years	10.5%	7.4%
4+ years	28.6%	31.3%
Long-term unemployment (more than 1 year)	72.3%	70.3%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2010-2011

2. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Egyptian migrants

This section focuses on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Egyptian migrants, in general and by region of migration: Gulf Cooperation Countries – GCC –and other Arab countries as opposed to OECD countries. Education and skill levels of Egyptian migrants according to region of migration are also analysed.

Egyptian emigration is a relatively recent phenomenon, since it mainly developed in the 1970s, following strong demand from Arab countries, benefiting from higher oil prices and a reform in Egyptian legislation facilitating temporary and permanent migration (Zohry, 2003 and Wahba, 2010). Since the 1970s, migration flows have varied in particular according to oil price fluctuations and the political conditions in the MENA

region such as the Iraq-Iran War, the Gulf War and legislation favouring nationals in Gulf countries (Wahba, 2010 and IOM, 2010).

The number of Egyptian migrants often varies substantially from source to source. According to CAPMAS this number decreased from 4.6 million in 2000 (1.9 million to Arab countries and 2.7 million to OECD countries) to 3.9 million in 2006 (including 2.0 million to Arab countries). This figure varies widely according to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration that detected 4.7 million emigrants in 2006. More recent data from the World Bank claims that there were 3.7 million emigrants in 2010 (World Bank, 2011).

The main host countries of Egyptian migrants are overwhelmingly Arab countries, followed by Western regions such as Europe and the United States. Focusing on return migrants in 1988 and 2006 Wahba (2008) shows that while Iraq was the main country of residence for return migrants in 1988 (with nearly 25% of migrants), in 2006 it was replaced by Saudi Arabia (with nearly a third of returnees), followed by Jordan, Libya and Kuwait. Table 8 presents the destinations abroad of current migrants in 2006 (Wahba, 2008) and illustrates the fact that Arab countries absorb 93% of migrants and Gulf states host almost two-thirds of Egyptian migrants.

Table 8: Destinations of Current Migrants in 2006

Country	%
Saudi Arabia	37.43
Jordan	16.11
Libya	13.64
Kuwait	12.27
Emirates	11.56
OECD Europe	2.24
USA and Canada	1.89
Other Arab Countries	1.68
Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa	1.24

Source: Wahba (2008) based on ELMPS 2006

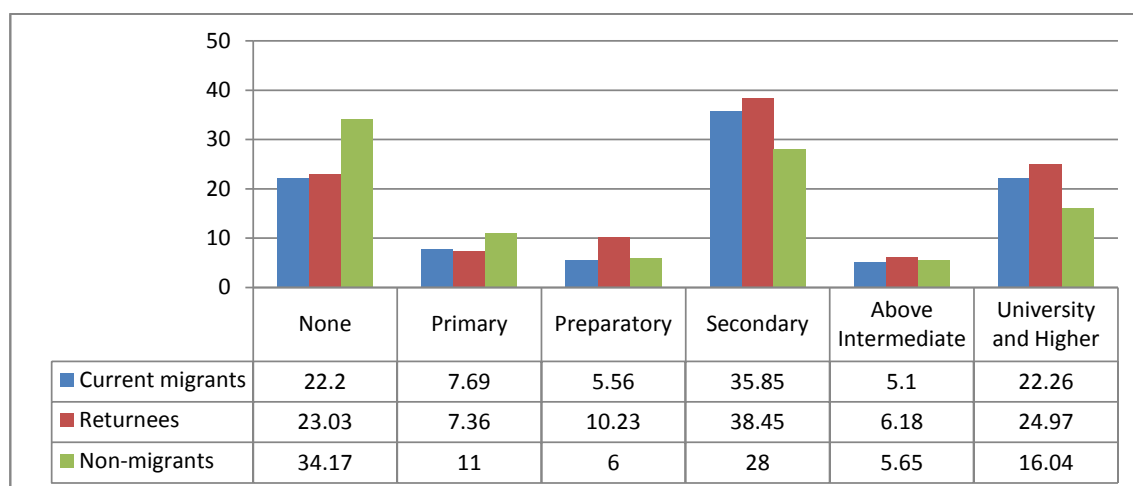
The Migration and Remittances Factbook (World Bank, 2011) gives a similar distribution of destinations: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libya, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the USA, the West Bank and Gaza, Italy, Qatar and Yemen.

The socio-demographic profile of Egyptian emigrants is clearly identified: it is essentially young men belonging to rural rather than urban areas and their educational level is related to the country of destination (IOM 2010 and Wahba, 2008 and 2010). Egyptian migration is a male phenomenon. Using modules on migration from the Labour Force Sample Survey of 1988 (LFSS 1988) and the Egyptian Labour Market Panel Survey of 2006 (ELMPS 2006) J. Wahba (2008) finds that 94.3% return of overseas migrants were men in 1988 and 90.5% were men in 2006. According to CAPMAS, the gender distribution is quite similar in 2009: 97.1% of temporary migrants were males. And according to the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration 83.6% of permanent migrants were males in that same year.

The general education profile of migrants is summarised in Figure 9. It illustrates that the educational profile of current and former migrants (return migrants) is relatively similar, but that the profile differs from that of non-migrants. Migrants are, indeed,

generally better educated than non-migrants. Half of non-migrants have a lower secondary education level against respectively 35% to 40% of current migrants and return migrants. Similarly, less than a quarter of migrants are illiterate or without a diploma, while more than a third of non-migrants are uneducated. And between one fifth and one quarter of migrants have a university degree or higher, while only 16% of non-migrants possess this kind of educational level (Wahba, 2010).

Figure 9: Education of Non-Migrants, Current and Return Migrants in 2006 (in %)



Source: Wahba (2010) based on ELMPS 2006


Wahba (2010) also suggests that the educational profile of Egyptian migrants differs depending on the country of destination. In 2006, nearly 71% of Egyptians working in Arab countries had an intermediate or lower intermediate degree (respectively 38.9% and 31.9%) and 25.8% have a higher degree. Migrants to Europe are more concentrated in an intermediate educational level (50.5% of emigrants) and a lower percentage (16.9%) have a higher education level. Finally, Egyptians migrating to the United States have a much higher level of education to the extent that 76.2% have a graduate degree and 16.1% an intermediate degree.

The distribution of return migrants by occupation (Table 9) also shows that it differs from that of non-migrants. Based on data ELMPS 2006, J. Wahba (2008) shows that return migrants occupy professional positions hierarchically higher than non-migrants. In fact, a little less than half of the returnees are in a position of technical and scientific or management, against only 26% of non-migrants. The former are also represented among occupations related to agriculture, production, sales and services.

Table 9: Distribution of Non-Migrants and Returnees by Occupation in 2006 (%)

Occupation	Non-Migrants	Returnees
Technical and Scientific	20.72	32.20
Management	5.21	16.38
Clerical	6.36	7.29
Sales	8.80	3.17
Services	8.55	3.30
Agriculture	23.97	17.44
Production	26.40	20.21

Source: Wahba (2008) based on ELMPS 2006



As for the educational profile, the occupation/skill profile of the migrants varies across destination countries. For example, in 2002, in general, migrants to Arab countries occupy mostly scientific or technical or management positions. But this general distribution masks disparities among Arab countries. For example, more than two-thirds of migrants to Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon are production workers (Wahba, 2010). Push and pull factors affect the decisions of Egyptians to migrate. On the one hand, better economic conditions in host countries attract potential migrants. On the other hand, the high unemployment rate among secondary and university graduates, the pressure of new entrants to the labour market and the difficulty of getting a job matching the graduates' skills are push factors.

The constant unemployment structure, particularly affecting the young and better educated will likely continue to be a push factor toward migration. The fact that the male unemployment rate increased significantly between 2010 and 2011 due to a sharp slowdown in economic growth may also reinforce this phenomenon. However, as the increase in male unemployment particularly affected the less educated it is more likely that it will generate more migration to the Arab countries such as Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

3. Analysis of the findings of the survey of Egyptian youth orientations towards migration


The drivers of migration are often the same as before the revolution: demographically, a high rate of population growth and a pronounced youth bulge creates pressure on the labour market; economically, low income, endemic under-unemployment and low rewards to education result in frustration among the youth. While the continuation of migration is likely, questions must be asked: what will the migrants' destination be (Gulf, Libya, North America or Europe); what will their profile be in terms of skills and gender; and what about their migration patterns (temporary or permanent; regular or irregular)?

In order to find answers to the above questions and to assess the potential for migration, a survey of young Egyptians was carried out by Baseera or the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research, an independent organisation for public opinion research, recently established (April 2012)². This section presents the results of this survey in terms of the views of migration of young Egyptians after the revolution: the survey was carried out. The survey was made by telephone interviews with 2,509 young people aged 18 to 35 on 9 and 10 January 2013. It included attempts to identify the socio-demographic characteristics of young Egyptians wishing to emigrate and the pull factors and push factors according to socio-economic background. The sample size was randomly selected from mobile and landline databases of Baseera center. Each of the 27 governorates is represented in proportion to the size of its population. Topics for primary analysis include: the present situation; the perception of the present situation; migration plans, strategies, and considerations; and wider expectations.

Methodology: a case-control survey

The methodology used for analysing the intentions and drivers to migration was a case-control method. The cases were young people with plans to migrate, while the

² This survey was carried out for the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute (EUI) and the Center for Migration and Refugees Studies (CMRS), of the American University in Cairo.



controls were young people with no (current) plans to migrate. Cases and controls were sampled in equal numbers and matched, i.e. identically distributed, according to basic characteristics (age, sex, and a few others).

The case-control method allows small non-randomised samples to accurately address simple questions such as 'are individuals with a given characteristic A more/less inclined than individuals without this characteristic to develop a characteristic B?' In the present case, 'characteristic B' is having the intention to emigrate. Collecting a set of characteristics for both cases and controls allowed identifying characteristics that differ between cases and controls and that can, therefore, be considered as migration drivers. In a last step, cases were asked specific questions regarding their emigration plans.

Interviews were conducted as phone interviews, and included three questionnaires. As shown in Appendix I – Structure of the Survey (below), the first-step questionnaire, used to select cases and controls, was short and contained only the basic matching characteristics and the question about 'do you have any plans to migrate abroad?' The second-step questionnaire was common to cases and controls and collected a number of questions about the characteristics of the individuals (education, employment, family situation, relatives and friends abroad, etc.); as well a few questions about how they view their own future economically, family-wise, and in terms of skill upgrades. The third-step questionnaire was limited to cases and aimed at collecting information through open-ended questions on migration plans and expectations about migration.

A brief overview of the sample presented in Table 10 shows that the sample was composed of 53% females and 47% males. The breakdown by age group shows that the 18 to 23 year-olds, the 24-29 year-olds and the 30-35 year-olds represent respectively 31%, 28% and 41% of the sample. Older women are relatively over-represented compared to the men in the same age group. Conversely, younger women are under-represented compared to men.

Table 10: Sample Size Distribution by Gender, Age Group, Region of Residence and Educational Attainment (in %)

	Male	Female	Total
Age Group			
18-20	21.3	17.7	19.4
21-23	13.4	10.7	12.0
24-26	15.0	14.4	14.7
27-29	15.4	10.9	13.0
30-32	16.9	26.4	21.9
33-35	18.1	19.9	19.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Region			
Urban Governorates	20.1	19.4	19.7
Lower Egypt Urban	11.3	11.3	11.3
Lower Egypt Rural	32.8	32.7	32.7
Upper Egypt Urban	12.4	11.7	12.0
Upper Egypt Rural	21.9	23.7	22.8
Frontier Governorates	1.5	1.3	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Educational Attainment			
Preparatory & Less	34.4	40.6	37.7
Intermediate	43.3	39.6	41.4
Above Intermediate	7.3	5.6	6.4
University & Above	15.1	14.1	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employment Status			
Employed	75.4	13.4	43.0
Unemployed	8.4	12.0	10.3
Out of the Labour Force	16.2	74.6	46.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	47.4	52.6	100.0
Sample Size	1190	1319	2509

Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Geographical distribution is not differentiated by sex and is assumed to replicate the geographical distribution of the entire Egyptian population. The most populated areas lie in rural Lower and Upper Egypt and in the urban governorates. As for the distribution by level of education, more than three-quarters of the sample has an intermediate or lower educational level; nearly 6% have higher than intermediate level and around 15% have a university or higher degree. Young women are overrepresented among the less educated (preparatory and lower) and under-represented among the intermediate and university graduates. Finally, the distribution of the sample by employment status reflects the disparity of access to the labour market according to gender. Young men are widely employed (75%), 8% reported being unemployed and 16% are inactive (probably studying or undergoing their military service). As for women, nearly half of them (47%) are inactive, 43% are employed and 10% are unemployed .

Intention to emigrate

Amongst 2,509 persons aged 18–35 that were interviewed by phone, 468 (18.7%) have declared that they have an intention to emigrate. These are the cases. They comprise 81.8% males and 18.2% females.

Controls (young people with no intention of emigrating) were non-randomly selected amongst all those interviewed in order to have distributions according to age group, sex and residence (urban vs. rural) similar to those of controls (Tables 11).

Cases comprise 104 (22%) persons who contemplate permanent emigration and 364 (78%) with a long-term but not permanent experience of migration (Table 12).

Table 11: Distribution of cases and controls by age, sex and residence

Group	Cases	Controls
	Age Group	
18 – 20	39	39
21 – 23	66	66
24 – 26	92	92
27 – 29	92	92
30 – 32	98	98
33 – 35	81	81
Total	468	468
	Sex	
Male	383	383
Female	85	85
	Residence	
Urban	366	361
Rural	102	107

Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Table 12: Distribution of cases and controls by intention to emigrate

Plans to Migrate Abroad	Cases	Controls
Yes/ Permanently	104	0
Yes/ Temporarily	364	0
No	0	468

Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

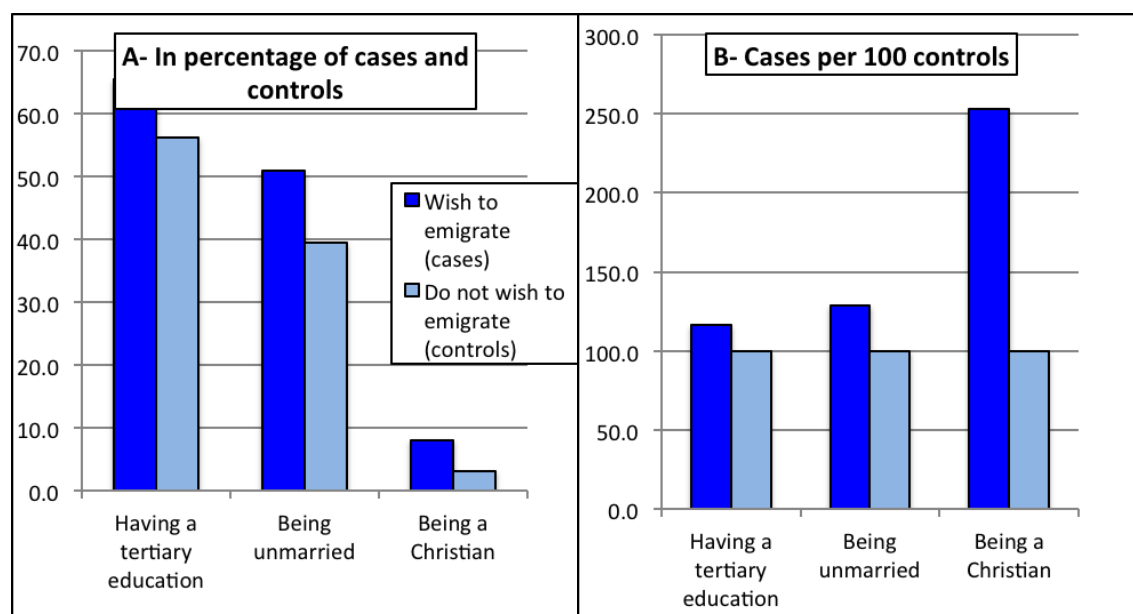
The drivers of emigration

'Migration driver' refers to any variable according to which the two distributions of cases on one side, and controls on the other differ significantly.³ Migration drivers come under three following groups: individual characteristics that have some stability over time or 'structural' characteristics (Figure 10); the current situation at the time of the survey (Figure 11); and familiarity with migration (Figure 12).

Individual structural characteristics

Three individual characteristics are found to be drivers of migration: university education, marital status and religion.

Figure 10: Drivers of the intention to emigrate among Egyptian youth in 2013 – Individual characteristics



Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

• University education

65.4% of the cases have a university education (whether they graduated or not) compared with 56.2% of the controls. Just as many young people in the developing world, young Egyptians with a university education feel that education opens job

³ Differences between cases and controls are tested at 5% significance level using the t-statistic (reported in the equation below), we first compute the mean, variance and standard deviations of the two groups of Cases (1) and Controls (2). The computed t-ratio is then compared with the standard critical value given by the t-distribution table. Whenever the absolute value of the computed t-ratio is greater than the critical value, that is if ($t > 1.96$), we can say that the difference between the population of cases and controls is statistically significant.

opportunities abroad and they have more often than others a desire to emigrate.

- **Marital status**

50.9% of the cases are still unmarried compared with 39.5% of the controls. Having family responsibilities is a disincentive to migration. At first glance, this seems to be counterintuitive as it is often thought that feeding a family left behind in the origin country is a major reason why men migrate. But this finding is consistent with several surveys where it was found that saving money to pay for marriage was another strong motivation behind the emigration of many young unmarried Egyptian men.

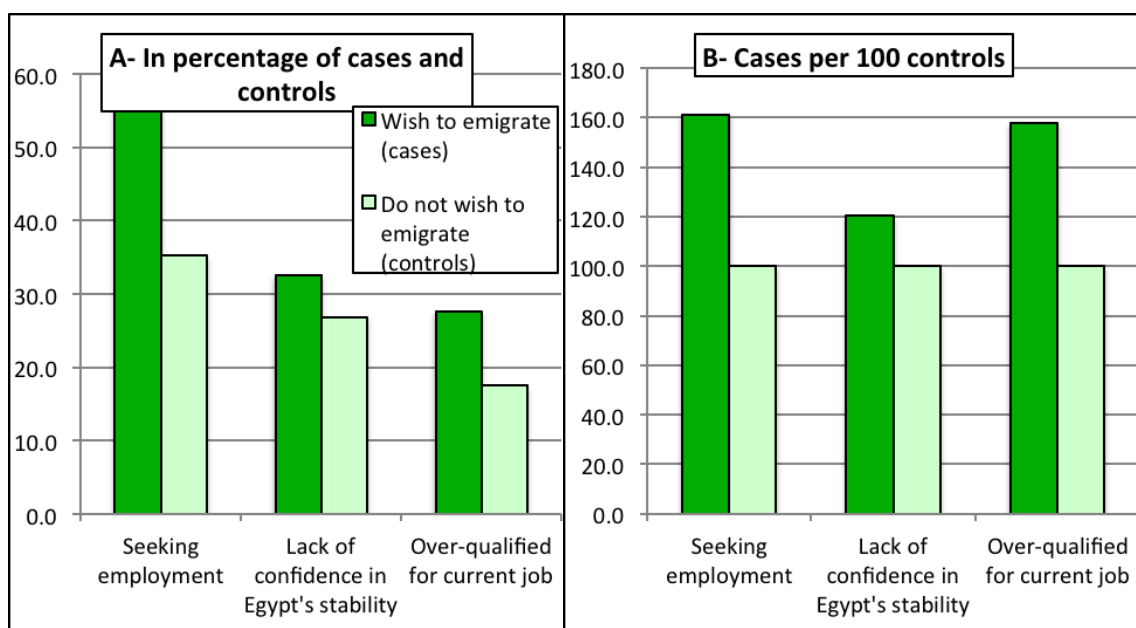
- **Religion**

Being a Christian is a driver of migration: indeed, Christians are in significantly higher proportion among cases (8.1%) than among controls (3.2%). The survey does not allow us to disentangle the various factors susceptible for explaining this fact. Are Egyptian Christians more inclined than Muslims to emigrate because they are more likely to be within the categories leading to migration: e.g. university education, search for employment, relatives or friends established abroad, etc.. Or is it, rather, because being a Christian is, in itself, a migration factor? A remarkable finding of the survey is that, for those who are Christians, religious belonging is by far the most important driver for emigration. Indeed, while the difference between the percentage of Christians and Muslims is small in absolute terms (4.9 points), as a result of Christians being a small proportion of the Egyptian population (between 5 and 6 per cent according to population censuses): the difference in relative terms is considerable (253%). Feeling insecure at home may be one of the reasons why Christians express a much greater wish to emigrate than Muslims to leave Egypt.

Current situation

The present situation of the country regarding labour and political developments has presented a number of factors for which young people may wish to emigrate.

Figure 11: Drivers of the intention to emigrate among Egyptian youth in 2013 – Individual's current situation



Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

- **Seeking (better) employment**

Young people in search of a job – whether they already have one or not– represent 56.7% of cases compared with 35.2% of the controls. Finding a job is the main driver of migration among young Egyptians.

- **Over-qualification**

For those who are currently employed, feeling oneself over-qualified for a current job is significantly more frequent among cases (27.6%) than controls (17.5%). Dissatisfaction with a current job and underemployment are actually strong reasons why young people contemplate emigration.

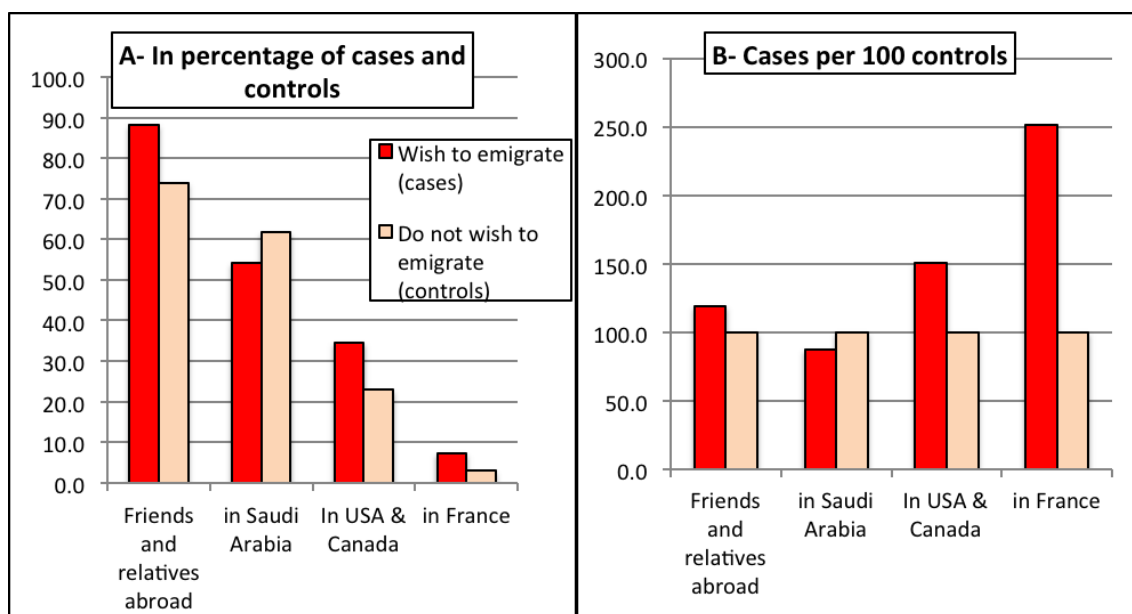
- **Lack of confidence in the stability of Egypt**

32.5% of cases, against 26.9% of controls, declared their concern about the future of their country, a sentiment that is associated with a desire to migrate.

Familiarity with migration

Finally, for emigration to be a realistic option, young Egyptians need to have a certain level of contact with migrants and their stories.

Figure 12: Drivers of the intention to emigrate among Egyptian youth in 2013 – Familiarity with migration



Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

- **Exposure to other's migration**

Most young Egyptians have heard about expatriate co-nationals but this is even more so among those who declare an intention to migrate (87.1%) than among those who do not (70.4%).

- **Success stories from Egyptian expatriates**

Exposure to other migration experiences becomes an even stronger driver of migration if experiences of expatriate co-nationals are reported to be positive: 86.2% of cases declared that they had heard about successful Egyptian migrants, against 75.9% of controls.

- **Relatives and friends currently abroad**

Having one or several family or community members abroad is an additional reason

for young Egyptians wish to migrate: 88.3% of cases against 74.0% of controls.

- **Country where relatives and friends abroad live**

One striking finding of the survey is that having family members or friends abroad is an incentive to migrate no matter the country where they live save in one case: Saudi Arabia. Indeed fewer cases (54.2%) than controls (61.7%) have relatives or friends living in Saudi Arabia. While Saudi Arabia is actually the most frequent destination for Egyptian migrants, stories brought back home by Egyptians living there may sometimes reflect negative experiences and act as a disincentive to emigrate. A mitigated image of Saudi Arabia was already found in an Egyptian survey of push and pull factors of migration conducted in the late 1990s (CAPMAS & EUROSTAT, 1999). By contrast, having relatives and friends living in the West (e.g. USA, Canada and France) is a powerful migration driver.

By contrast with the above migration drivers, none of the variables reflecting current living standards (e.g. possession of a mobile phone, a washing machine, or a car) was found to produce any significant effect on the desire to emigrate.

To summarise, being aged between 24 and 29 years, not being married, having a higher educational, having family members abroad, being worried or uncertain about Egypt's future stability are elements that encourage young men and young women to migrate. Male unemployment is also an important push factor towards migration.

The migration project

Young people with an intention to emigrate (cases) have already a clear idea of why they wish to do so how they can accomplish their wish and reach their intended country of destination, and what sort of reasons might prompt them to give up their project and return to Egypt once abroad.

Table 13 presents the reasons given by respondents to their aspiration to migrate. The most frequent reason expressed is to work abroad. Almost all of the young men (95%) say they want to find a job (temporarily or permanently). 71% of women state the same reason. 16% of men and 36% of women, meanwhile, want to leave Egypt to escape the insecurity. Among the other reasons given is the desire for better levels of income.

Table 13: Distribution of Reasons for Migration

	Male		Female	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Employment (temporary or permanent)	94.6	5.5	70.8	29.2
Gain Education/Skill	3.8	96.2	7.2	92.8
Cultural Reasons	1.7	98.4	0.9	99.1
Fleeing insecurity	15.6	84.5	35.9	64.1
Other	6.8	93.2	10.4	89.7
Sample Size	383		85	

Source: Authors calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

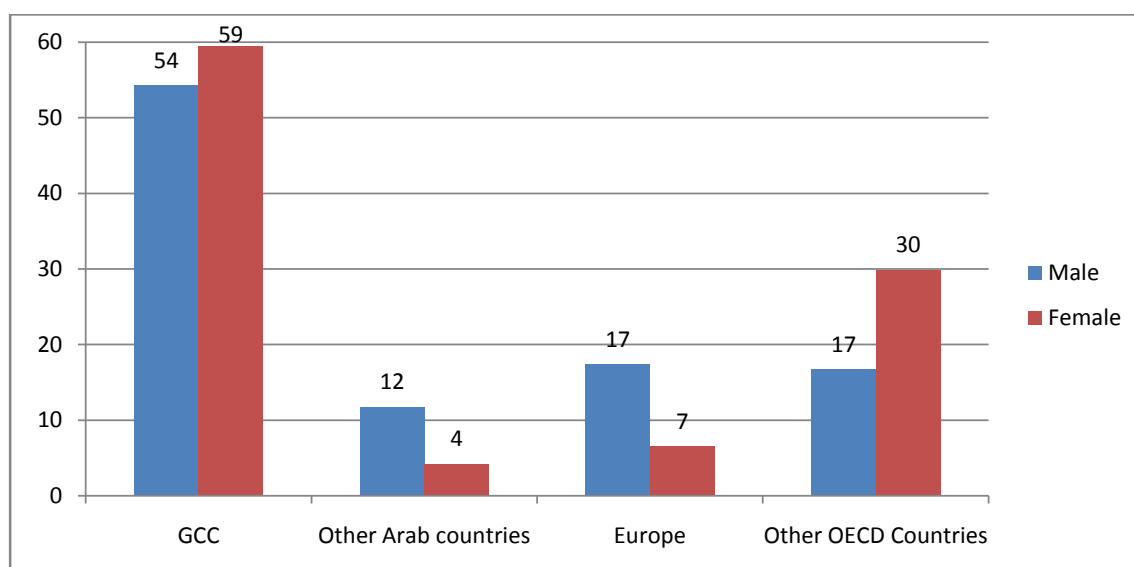
According to table 14, respondents recognise that relatives and friends are the main and, indeed, almost the only support for migration.

Table 14: Identified persons/institutions that can help to migrate

	Male	Female	Total
Government	6.6	7.1	6.7
Universities	0.7	0.6	0.7
Family	44.8	52.9	46.2
Friends	32.9	13.7	29.6
Other	35.6	31.7	34.9

Source: Authors calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

As shown in Figure 10, young people wishing to emigrate want primarily to settle in Arab countries (mainly in the GCC countries and primarily in Saudi Arabia) and then in European countries (mainly in Italy and Great Britain) and other OECD countries (mainly the U.S.A. and Canada). This distribution differs slightly depending on gender. Men and women want in the same proportion (around two-thirds) to emigrate to Arab countries and to non-Arab countries (one third), but women are more likely to head to Gulf countries and to non-European OECD countries than men.

Figure 10: Distribution of Desired Country of Destination by Gender (in %)

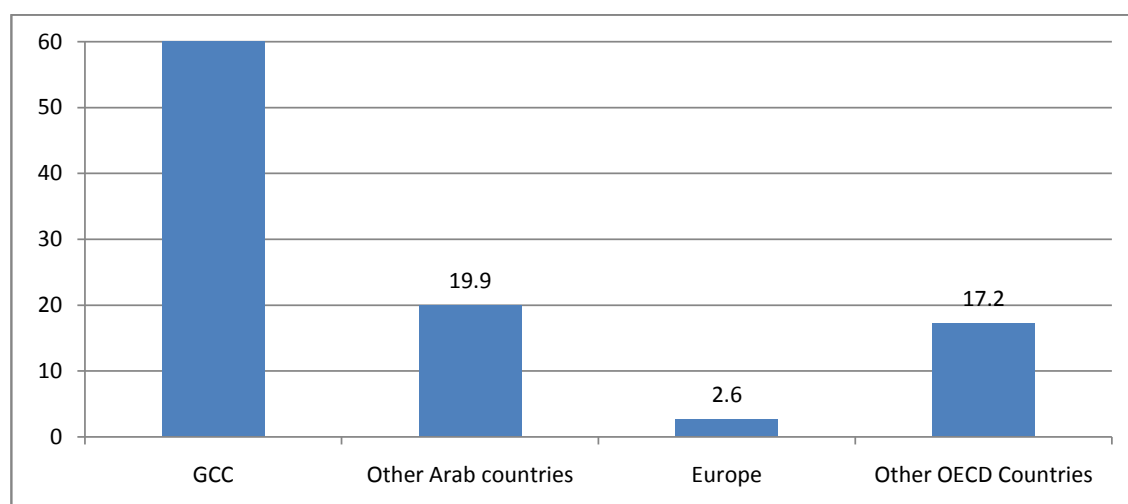
Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Figure 11 shows the distribution of the desired recipient countries among young unemployed men wishing to migrate⁴. The vast majority of unemployed young men who intend to emigrate wish to leave Egypt for Arab countries (81%) and mainly for GCC countries (60.4%); only 19.8% would like to move to the OECD countries (mainly to non-European countries).

The recent rise in unemployment may eventually lead to a migration flow to the Gulf countries. However, one should be very careful since the intention to migrate rarely translates into effective migration.

⁴ As the size of the sample of unemployed young men who said they intended to leave Egypt is relatively small, it is not possible to disaggregate the distribution by educational level.

Figure 11: Distribution of Desired Country of Destination by Gender among Unemployed Males



Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Reasons for migration according to the destination country (Arab versus OECD countries) are presented in Table 15. The vast majority of young people (men and women) quote better employment prospects regardless of the country of destination. The possibility of studying abroad is most often cited in the case of a desire to emigrate to Europe or North America. It is interesting to note that young people do not believe that it is easy migrate to a foreign country, whether it is an Arab country or an OECD country.

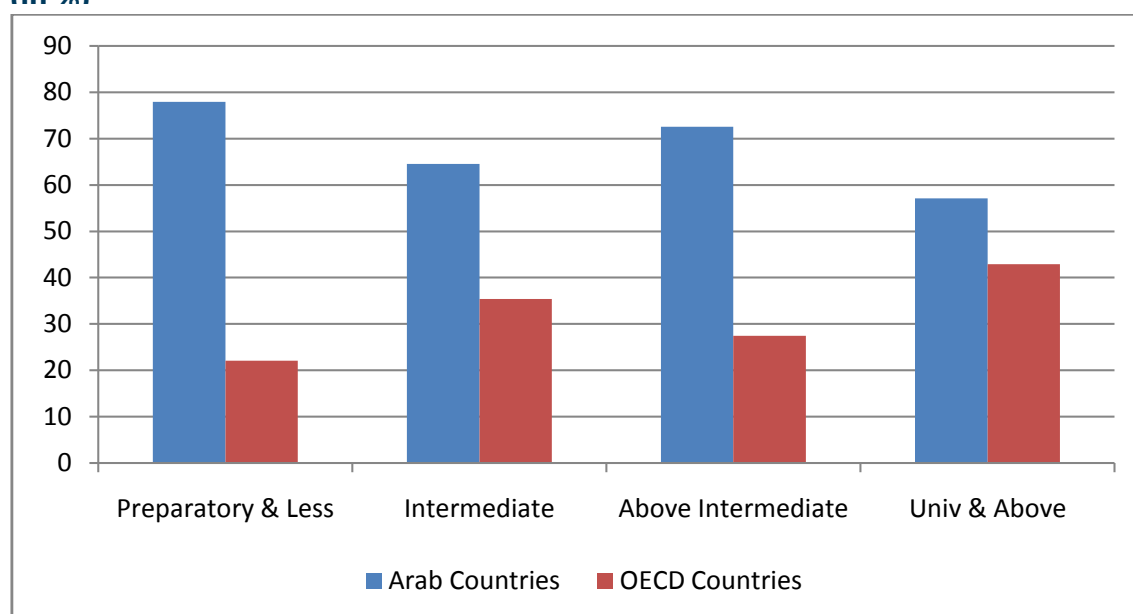
Table 15: Distribution of the reason for the desired country of destination

	Male		Female	
	Arab Country	OECD Country	Arab Country	OECD Country
Better education prospects	8.9	16.4	4.8	19.0
Better employment prospects	81.4	77.4	71.8	61.8
Easy access	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.0
Language/cultural affinities	2.7	6.8	2.7	3.1
Family/friends	9.0	11.0	15.8	12.0
Other	17.3	16.3	17.7	35.3

Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

It is interesting to note that the choice of the country of emigration varies by educational level. The more young people are educated the more they intend to migrate to OECD countries (Figure 12). Indeed, while about 22% of young people with a preparatory or lower level education wish to migrate to non-Arab countries, this proportion doubles with the educational level reaching 43% among those with a university degree.

Figure 12: Distribution of Desired Country of Destination by Educational Level (in %)



Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Finally, as shown in Table 16, the main constraints identified by the respondents are primarily: difficulty in obtaining an entry visa and the high cost of travel; and among other reasons the difficulty of finding a job abroad. It is interesting to note that the identified constraints do not differ according to the region (Arab/OECD).

Table 16: Distribution of identified difficulties with migration

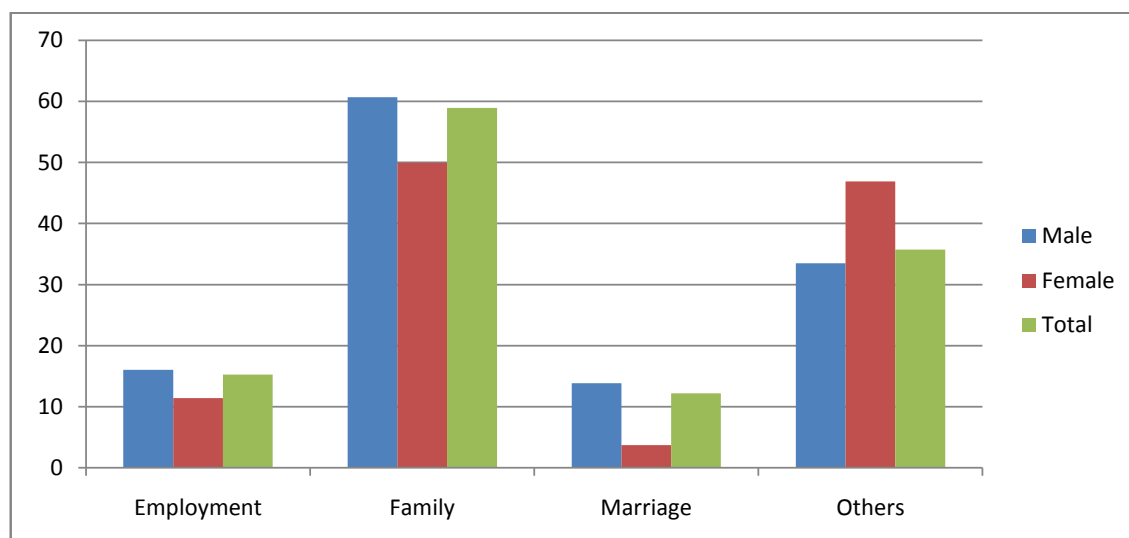
	Arab Country	OECD Country
Lack of information	5.4	4.2
Visa issues	52.3	56.1
Low recognition of skill/education	4.5	7.9
High expenses	31.4	27.4
Other	29.6	30.8

Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)

Factoring return

Asked about what would prompt cases to return to Egypt from abroad, young people a majority declared that family issues would be a pressing reason. But only a minority thought that finding a suitable job in Egypt or getting married would be a sufficient reason for them to return once abroad. The importance of return factors does not vary along gender lines (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Factors that would prompt return to Egypt (in %)



Source: Authors' calculations based on the survey about Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC)


It is interesting to analyse the results of the Survey on Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth in perspective with the findings of the Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE), conducted by the Population Council in 2009 with its module on migration aspirations. Even though the methodology used for the Survey conducted for MPC/EUI, CMRS/AUC (with a sample of around 2,500 individuals) differs greatly from the one used by SYPE (a nationally representative survey with a sample of more than 15,000 people aged 10 to 29 years old), the comparison of the results might be informative. According to SYPE, 18.8% of young people aged 18 to 24 wanted to emigrate; a higher proportion than the one obtained from the Survey on Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (15.3% of youth aged 18 to 24 years declared they want to migrate in 2013).

Conclusion

The report recalls that the Egyptian labour market is characterised by a low participation rate (due to a low insertion of women) and a high unemployment rate among young people, women and secondary and university graduates. Recent developments (with the aftermath of the 25 January 2011 revolution) show a significant increase in the male unemployment rate, while female unemployment is slightly decreased but remains high. It is likely that the lower rate of female unemployment translates the fact that women have withdrawn from the labour market, discouraged by not being able to find employment opportunities in of the present severe economic downturn.

Insofar as the Egyptian emigration primarily reflects the desire of Egyptians to find better employment opportunities abroad, especially in the Arab and Gulf countries, a substantial increase in male unemployment could motivate more young men to migrate.

The findings of the Survey on Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth (MPR/EUI and CMRS/AUC) show that the main reason for migration is employment. It, therefore, confirms the relationship between the conditions of the Egyptian labour market and migration.



This survey reveals a new push factor towards migration related to the current political context: the perception of increased insecurity and political instability that followed the 25 January, 2011 revolution.

Despite the differences in terms of methodology, a comparison of the results of SYPE regarding Egyptian Youth migration aspiration and the Survey on Orientation towards Migration of Egyptian Youth conducted for the Migration Policy Centre (EUI) and the Center for Migration and Refugees Studies (AUC) proves interesting. The fact that the proportion of the youth expressing their desire to migrate was higher in 2009 than in 2013 (before and after the Egyptian revolution) suggests that the current political climate has not substantially increased the desire to migrate among young Egyptians.

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Appendix

Table 1A: Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender and by Age Group (15–64), 2007–2011

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15–19	Male	0.294	0.314	0.303	0.309	0.268
	Female	0.101	0.094	0.099	0.087	0.074
	Total	0.205	0.211	0.207	0.201	0.176
20–24	Male	0.670	0.692	0.68	0.691	0.709
	Female	0.296	0.305	0.315	0.291	0.296
	Total	0.506	0.530	0.527	0.499	0.521
25–29	Male	0.947	0.959	0.960	0.965	0.971
	Female	0.297	0.286	0.305	0.293	0.293
	Total	0.610	0.616	0.625	0.623	0.621
30–34	Male	0.989	0.988	0.992	0.981	0.985
	Female	0.283	0.259	0.270	0.271	0.284
	Total	0.613	0.59	0.587	0.621	0.625
35–39	Male	0.991	0.991	0.993	0.984	0.987
	Female	0.311	0.271	0.292	0.286	0.298
	Total	0.631	0.606	0.613	0.625	0.628
40–49	Male	0.981	0.981	0.981	0.973	0.977
	Female	0.311	0.295	0.309	0.304	0.343
	Total	0.641	0.626	0.634	0.635	0.656
50–59	Male	0.902	0.903	0.909	0.897	0.902
	Female	0.226	0.227	0.257	0.254	0.270
	Total	0.576	0.572	0.584	0.577	0.589
60–64	Male	0.487	0.538	0.537	0.509	0.517
	Female	0.052	0.111	0.098	0.119	0.077
	Total	0.333	0.396	0.378	0.362	0.352

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007–2011

Table 2A: Labour Force Participation by Gender and by Educational Level (15-64), 2007-2011

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Illiterate/Read and Write	Male	0.916	0.913	0.911	0.897	0.900
	Female	0.197	0.188	0.205	0.191	0.215
	Total	0.496	0.489	0.492	0.483	0.499
Less than secondary	Male	0.385	0.406	0.433	0.473	0.447
	Female	0.042	0.044	0.064	0.054	0.060
	Total	0.239	0.251	0.275	0.287	0.275
Secondary	Male	0.747	0.766	0.763	0.807	0.820
	Female	0.293	0.275	0.277	0.263	0.274
	Total	0.549	0.554	0.550	0.560	0.575
Post-secondary	Male	0.901	0.912	0.910	0.931	0.935
	Female	0.543	0.522	0.516	0.534	0.499
	Total	0.743	0.747	0.741	0.760	0.748
University and above	Male	0.916	0.919	0.920	0.938	0.946
	Female	0.617	0.612	0.625	0.636	0.625
	Total	0.794	0.790	0.795	0.805	0.802

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2007-2011

Table 3A: Growth Rate of Unemployment Rate (15-64) by Quarter, 2010/2011

	4th Quarter2010/ 1st Quarter 2011	1st-2nd Quarter 2011	2nd-3rd Quarter 2011	3rd-4th Quarter 2011
Male	74.5%	-3.4%	1.2%	5.7%
Female	-10.5%	5.6%	3.4%	2.3%
Total	25.0%	0.0%	2.6%	4.2%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2010-2011

Table 4A: Unemployment Rate by Gender and by Age Group, 2007-2011

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15-19	Male	0.112	0.126	0.111	0.098	0.171
	Female	0.363	0.468	0.494	0.480	0.389
	Total	0.174	0.200	0.198	0.178	0.214
20-24	Male	0.182	0.169	0.155	0.162	0.239
	Female	0.451	0.520	0.534	0.556	0.525
	Total	0.255	0.254	0.251	0.272	0.313
25-29	Male	0.111	0.086	0.083	0.065	0.123
	Female	0.303	0.258	0.286	0.339	0.294
	Total	0.160	0.127	0.134	0.131	0.165
30-34	Male	0.028	0.023	0.022	0.022	0.058
	Female	0.135	0.100	0.121	0.199	0.187
	Total	0.054	0.041	0.047	0.061	0.088
35-39	Male	0.008	0.006	0.007	0.008	0.045
	Female	0.063	0.040	0.038	0.051	0.072
	Total	0.022	0.014	0.015	0.018	0.052
40-49	Male	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.015	0.033
	Female	0.009	0.008	0.042	0.038	0.114
	Total	0.005	0.004	0.013	0.021	0.055
50-59	Male	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.004	0.020
	Female	0.000	0.001	0.045	0.011	0.012
	Total	0.000	0.002	0.011	0.006	0.018
60-64	Male	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.014
	Female	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.018	0.000
	Total	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.013

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2010-2011

Table 5A: Growth Rate of Unemployment Rate by Gender and by Age Group, 2007-2011

		2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/201	2007/2011
15-19	Male	13%	-12%	-12%	74%	53%
	Female	29%	6%	-3%	-19%	7%
	Total	15%	-1%	-10%	20%	23%
20-24	Male	-7%	-8%	5%	48%	31%
	Female	15%	3%	4%	-6%	16%
	Total	0%	-1%	8%	15%	23%
25-29	Male	-23%	-3%	-22%	89%	11%
	Female	-15%	11%	19%	-13%	11%
	Total	-21%	6%	-2%	26%	3%
30-34	Male	-18%	-4%	0%	164%	107%
	Female	-26%	21%	64%	-6%	39%
	Total	-24%	15%	30%	44%	63%
35-39	Male	-25%	0%	233%	220%	700%
	Female	-36%	200%	-19%	121%	241%
	Total	-25%	117%	15%	187%	438%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2010-2011

Table 6A: Size and Growth Rate of Unemployment Size (15-64), 2007-2011

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Unemployment Size						
	Male	1095189	1049042	962111	978604	1813075
	Female	1111115	1061789	1276352	1404868	1380685
	Total	2206303	2110831	2238463	2383472	3193760
		2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/201	2007/2011
Growth Rate of Unemployment Size						
	Male	-4.2%	-8.3%	1.7%	85.3%	65.5%
	Female	-4.4%	20.2%	10.1%	1.7%	24.3%
	Total	-4.3%	6.0%	6.5%	34.0%	44.8%
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Distribution of Unemployment Size by Gender						
	Male	49.6%	49.7%	43.0%	41.1%	56.8%
	Female	50.4%	50.3%	57.0%	58.9%	43.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Authors' calculations based on LFSS 2010-2011

Structure of the survey

First-step: interviews with a random sample of young people aged 18-35. Sample size is not pre-determined. Interviews were carried out until 468 cases (i.e. persons considering migration) were found.
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Objective: selecting cases and controls

Data collected: basic characteristics

Second-step: interviews with 468 cases and 468 controls
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Objective: identifying the drivers of migration

Data collected: all characteristics at individual / household / community levels that are assumed to be linked with the decision to migrate

Third-step: interviews with 468 cases
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Objective: anticipating the nature of migration in the coming years

Data collected: migration strategies, expectations from migration, etc.



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