



# The Impact of Population Growth on Youth Employment and School Education in Egypt

An Analytical Paper

**STATISTICS**  
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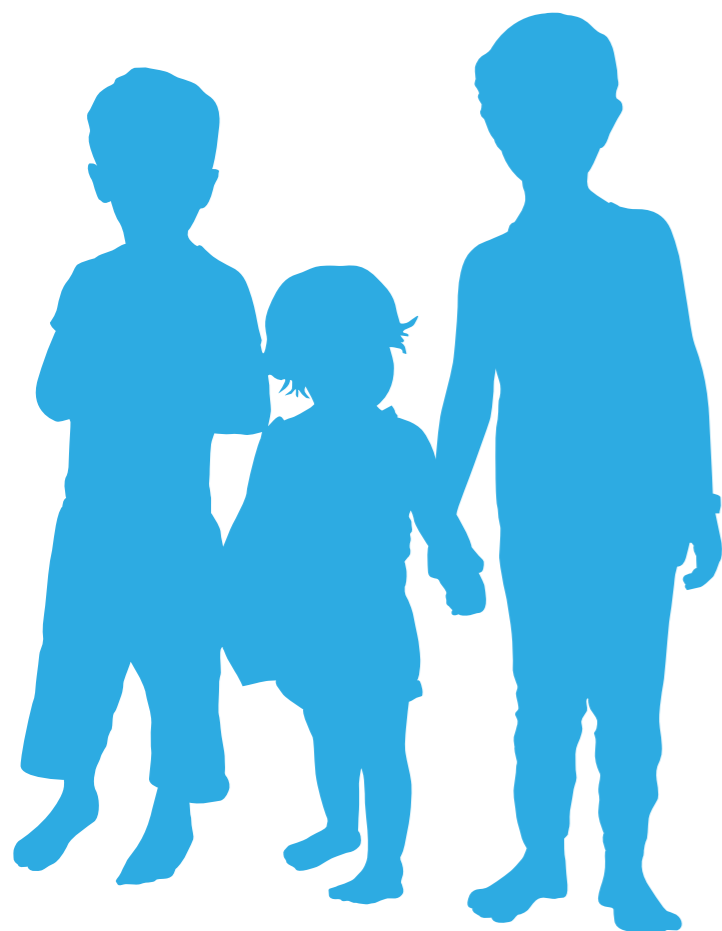
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## Acknowledgements

In a rapidly changing global environment, countries must cope with the ramifications of significant social and political transformations. In order for governments and policy makers to make informed decisions, there is a global need for accurate and timely information. This is particularly true of the MENA region, which has witnessed significant changes in the last decade that have had profound impacts at the social, political and economic levels. While this region is in particular need for high quality data, this is often unavailable at the sub-national level. Furthermore, the capacities required to produce, analyse and report such data are often not present.

Within this context, in the summer of 2015, The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Middle East and Northern Africa Regional Office (MENARO) launched a multi-country project to strengthen national statistical capacity in Egypt and Jordan. The project aimed to build capacities in statistical planning as well as in processing, analysis, presentation and dissemination of data. Building upon existing capacities, specific statistical and analytical tools were identified and developed in order to provide inputs to national and sub-national policies, programs and decision-making. This report represents the first output using these new tools. Using specific indicators, the report focuses on the impact of population growth on Egypt; and accordingly, provides an invaluable resource in supporting an evidence-based dialogue on the social and economic challenges of population growth in Egypt between policy makers, researchers and other relevant stakeholders.

This report was authored by the following CAPMAS staff who participated in the capacity-building initiative in Egypt, whom we would like to thank for their valuable contributions:

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## 1. Introduction

Over the next 20 years, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) projects a large increase in population growth in Egypt that could have potentially serious negative social and economic effects. This report amalgamates existing data sources on key indicators, such as population growth, education and employment with a special focus on children and youth. Because population growth rates are highest in Upper Egypt, the report devotes a specific section to key indicators disaggregated by governorate for this region.

If these projections are accurate, Egypt will face a growing number of children, who will need to be enrolled in the education system. It will also pose an increased demand for other services like health, social protection, availability of water and sanitation facilities. If the economy does not grow in pace with the population, it is likely that growing numbers of households will slip into poverty of different forms including multi-dimensional poverty, affecting their ability to care for their children, including being able to afford the costs associated with education. This situation may lead to increased dropout rates, as children are forced to leave school and enter the labour market, substituting education for the limited wages available through child labour. Excluded from the social mobility opportunities that rely on educational achievement, these children become trapped within in a vicious cycle of poverty.

The purpose of this report is to understand the various aspects of population growth over the next decade and assess its impact on the situation of children based on the currently available data. Data is provided at the national and regional levels. Chapter 2 of the report presents an analysis at the national level, while Chapter 3 explores specific trends on the regional level, highlighting the situation in Upper Egypt. Key findings for the national and regional levels are summarized below.

### Key Findings at the National Level:

- By 2031, the population of Egypt is expected to have increased to 125 million persons of which 45 million are expected to be under 18 years of age.
- If the increased demand on the education system is not addressed in time by building additional schools and hiring additional teachers, this rising number of children will put further stress on the education system.
- As of 2014, one in four persons between 15 and 24 years of age is illiterate, with the literacy rates of males being considerably higher than that of females thereby limiting female access to the labour market.
- These literacy rates stand in contrast to the considerably high enrolment rates at the primary level – it would be recommended to follow up on this to understand why some children leave school illiterate.
- The unemployment of male youth (between 15 and 24 years of age) has almost doubled in the last decade, from 14 percent in 2000 to 28 percent in 2014.
- Women appear to have significantly limited job opportunities: since 2008, more than half of females between 15 and 24 years of age are unemployed.

### Key Findings at the Regional Level:

- There has been a significant increase in the number of children in the Urban Governorates. This finding should be followed up as it could mean that young people migrate to the urban centres and might need support.
- Upper Egypt exhibited the highest illiteracy levels with approximately 30 percent unable to read and write.
- Giza, as part of greater Cairo region, is the only governorate in Upper Egypt where the literacy rates of those between 10 and 19 years of age have increased between 2010 and 2014. It also features a high Gross Enrolment Ratio.
- Youth unemployment is an issue in all regions, especially in the Urban Governorates where the unemployment rate in 2013 was 41.9 percent.

## 2. National Level Analysis

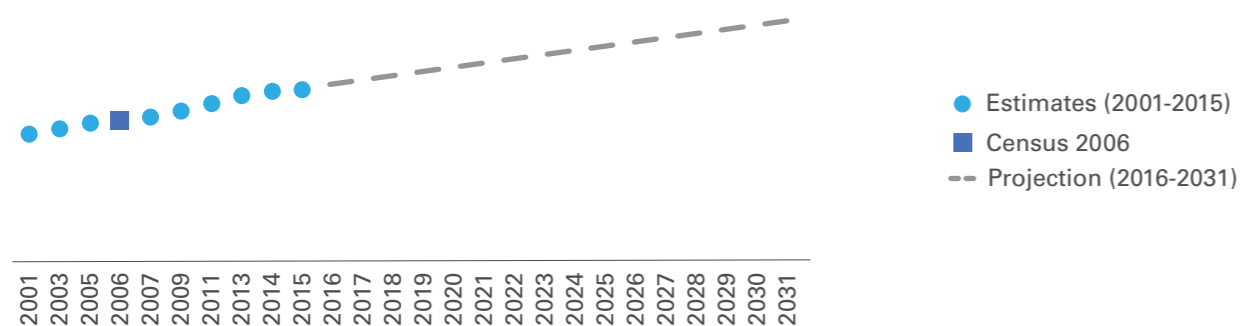
This chapter outlines the main trends for Egypt in terms of population growth education and employment at the national level. The main findings for this section are as follows:

- By 2031, the population of Egypt is expected to have increased to 125 million persons – up from 88 million in 2014.
- This population increase may lead to increased population density, which in 2014 stood at 1,109 persons per km<sup>2</sup> in inhabited areas, which contributes to crowdedness in the households.
- Due to the expected increase in life expectancy rates, Egypt faces the double challenge of both an ageing population and an increasing number of children.
- In 2014, 31.8 million persons – or 36 percent of the entire population - were under the age of 18. This number is expected to increase to 45 million by 2031.
- Without timely amelioration measures, the rising number of children will put further stress on the service delivery systems and especially on the already challenged education system.
- Projections show that population growth represents an issue not only to the health and social security systems, but also to the education system.
- Despite slight increases in the literacy rate over time, only 75 percent of youth between 15 and 24 years of age are literate; overall, the male literacy rate (83.6 percent) is much higher than that of females (68.1 percent), which limits the female access to the labour market.
- Literacy rates stand at low level (75%) in contrast to the considerably high enrolment rates at the primary level. This observation deserves follow up in order to understand why some children leave school illiterate.
- The unemployment of male youth (between 15 and 24 years of age) has almost doubled over a decade; rising from 14 percent in 2000 to 28 percent in 2014.
- Women appear to have only limited job opportunities: since 2008, more than half of females age 15-24 are unemployed.

### 2.1 Population Trends (2001-2031)

According to CAPMAS's population estimates, Egypt's population has grown gradually over the past 14 years from approximately 66 million in 2001 to roughly 88.9 million in 2015: representing an increase of 34 percent of the total population.<sup>1</sup> Egypt's population is expected to reach over 125 million persons by 2031 (Figure 2.1), a further increase of 29 percent.

Figure 2.1: Population Estimates and Projections (Millions), 2001-2031

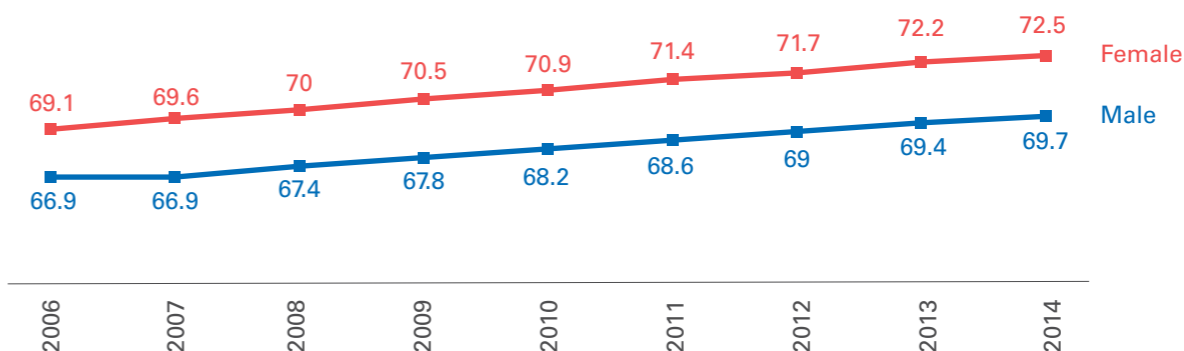


Source: CAPMAS, Population Estimates 2001-2031; Census 2006

<sup>1</sup> Assuming a constant fertility rate of 3.5 children per woman.

A key contributing factor behind this increase in population growth can be attributed to the improvement of the healthcare system, which is expected to lead to the decline of infant and child mortality. As shown by Figure 2.2., it is expected that life expectancy will continue to increase. Figure 2.2 shows that female life expectancy in the year 2006 was 66.1 years, and is estimated to have increased to 72.5 years in 2014.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 2.2: Male and Female Life Expectancy at Birth Estimates by Years (Year Old), 2006-2014

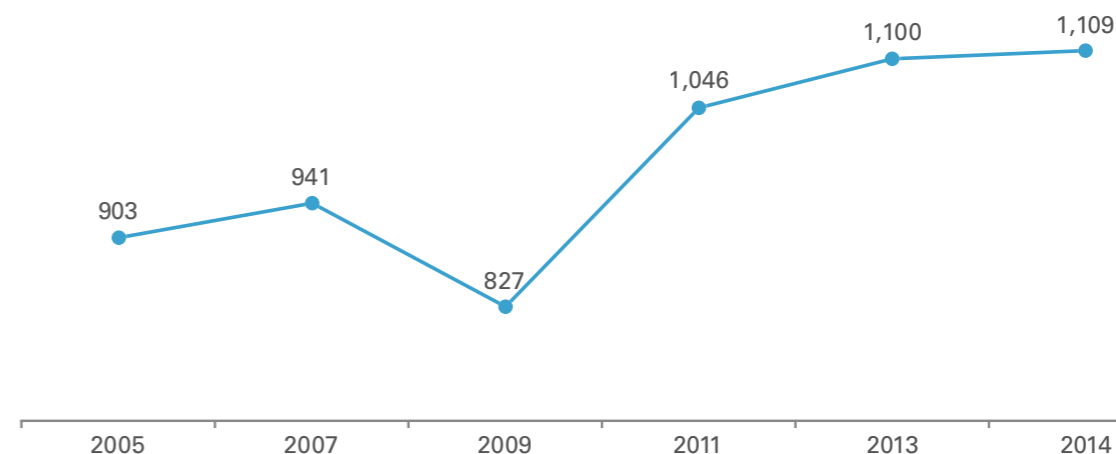


Source: CAPMAS, Statistical Year Books 2000-2014

Population growth due to increased life expectancy means greater numbers of older people, which may increase pressure on both social and health care systems. If these projections are correct, the health and social care systems need to be adapted to reflect and address the changing age structure of Egyptian society.

Egypt's population growth is also expected to have a serious effect on population density: currently Egypt's population is concentrated in only 8 percent of the total geographical area of the country. There were 1,109 persons living per km<sup>2</sup> on the inhabited area in 2014, up from 903 persons/km<sup>2</sup> in 2005 (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Estimated Population Density in Inhabited Areas (Persons/km<sup>2</sup> in millions), 2005-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Statistical Year Books 2005-2011; Egypt in Figures 2013-2014

<sup>2</sup> The data 2001-2005 and 2007 onwards are estimates. The "drop" in 2006 shows actual census data, which led to a re-calculation of life-expectancy estimates from 2007 onwards.

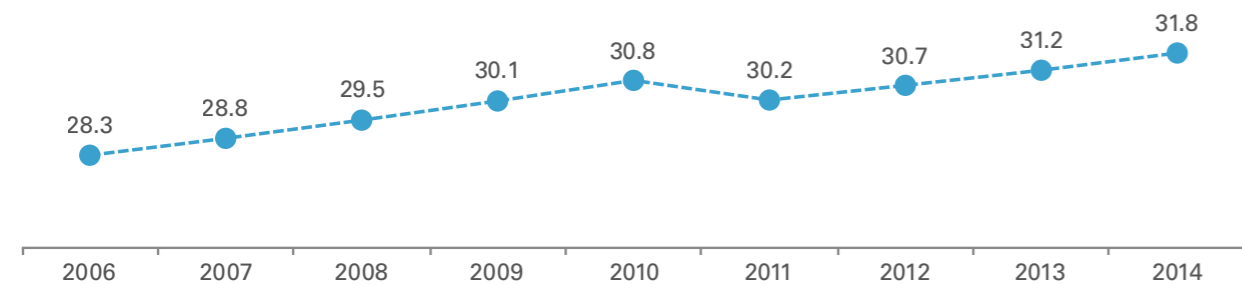
**Over the long term, this situation presents three potential scenarios:**

1. The population density will continue to rise in this limited space;
2. New settlements in currently non-inhabited areas will be constructed to relieve the pressure on existing settlements; and
3. A combination of both an increase of the population in the existing spaces and the development of new habitats.

CAPMAS estimates child population (persons below 18 years of age) to have grown over the past 8 years from roughly 28.3 million in 2006 to 31.8 million in 2014, representing an increase of roughly 13 percent (Figure 2.4). Children represent 36 percent of the total population (which was 88.9 million in 2014), which means that currently, over one-third of the total population is below the age of 18. The number of children is expected to rise to approximately 45 million by 2031.

These projections show that population growth is not only an issue for the health and social security systems, but also for the education system. Therefore, it is important that all relevant stakeholders should discuss how to meet the future challenges for education system as it will have long lasting impact on the labour market, health care and social services.

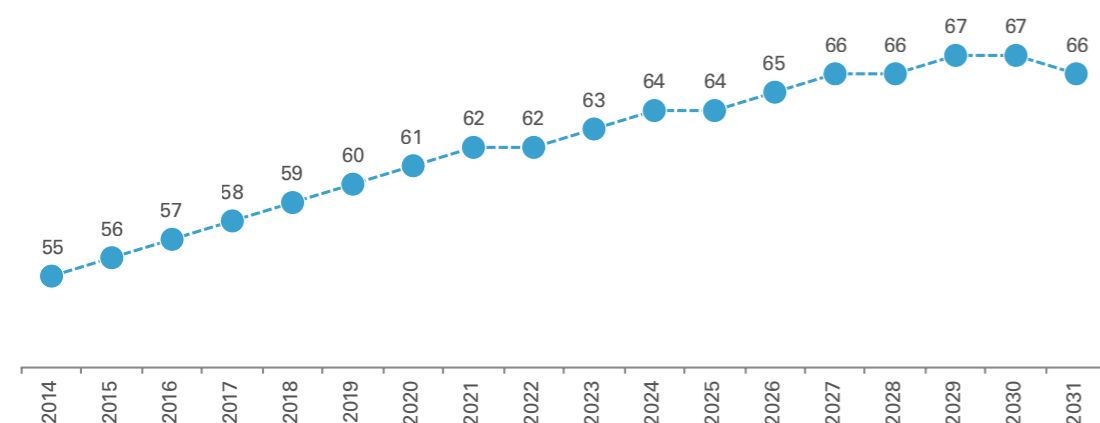
**Figure 2.4: Population below 18 Years of Age (Millions), 2006-2014**



Source: CAPMAS, Census 2006; Population Estimates 2007-2014

As a consequence of an ageing society as well as the rising number of children, the age dependency ratio<sup>3</sup> is expected to rise from 55 percent in 2014 to 66 percent in 2031. An increased age dependency ratio means an increasing number of individuals will depend on the income of the main wage earning population group. This represents a significant financial burden for vulnerable households, particularly those currently in danger of transitioning below the poverty line, and may contribute to an increase in poverty levels (including multi-dimensional poverty).

**Figure 2.5: Projections of Age Dependency Ratio (Percent), 2014-2031**



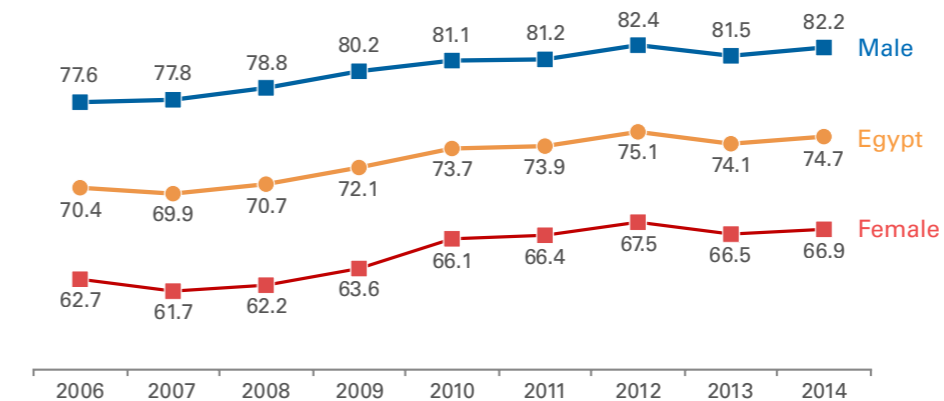
Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

<sup>3</sup> The ratio of the population, who due to their age are not in the labor force (the dependent part, usually age 0-14 years and above 65 years) and those in the labor force (the productive part)

## 2.2 Education

Figure 2.6 shows that literacy rates have been slowly increasing since 2006 for the population aged 10 and older. At the same time, however, we can witness that only roughly eight out of ten male Egyptians (82.2 percent) and only two out of three females (66.9 percent) are literate.

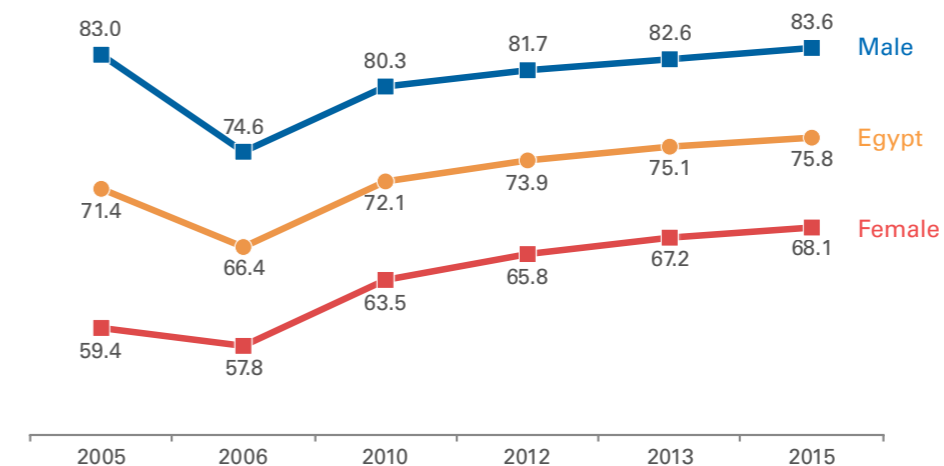
**Figure 2.6: Literacy Rates for Population Aged 10 Years and above by Gender (Percent), 2006-2014**



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

The literacy rates of the population in the 15 to 24 year old age group have increased at a faster pace since 2006. This is true for both males and females, however, the literacy rate of females is considerably lower than that of males (in 2015, 84 percent of males were literate as compared to 68 percent of females). This highlights a significant gender gap when it comes to outcomes in education.

**Figure 2.7: Literacy Rates for Population Aged 15-24 Years by Gender (Percent), 2005-2015**



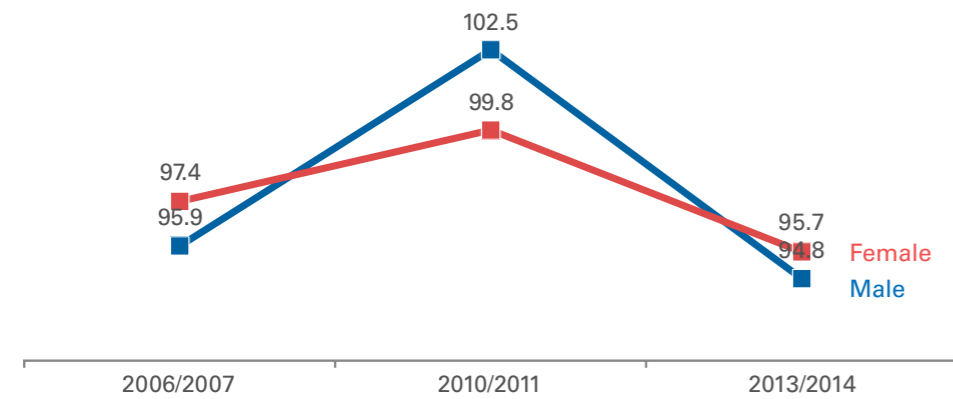
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Online Database 2015<sup>4</sup>

The Gross Enrolment Ratio<sup>5</sup> in primary education rose between 2006 and 2010, but then decreased considerably for both males and females as of 2014. In 2010, the Gross Enrolment Ratio for boys was 102.5, while only four years later in 2014, it stood at 94.8. To a lesser degree, this decline can also be witnessed for girls (Figure 2.8).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/country-profile.aspx?code=EGY&sector=lit>

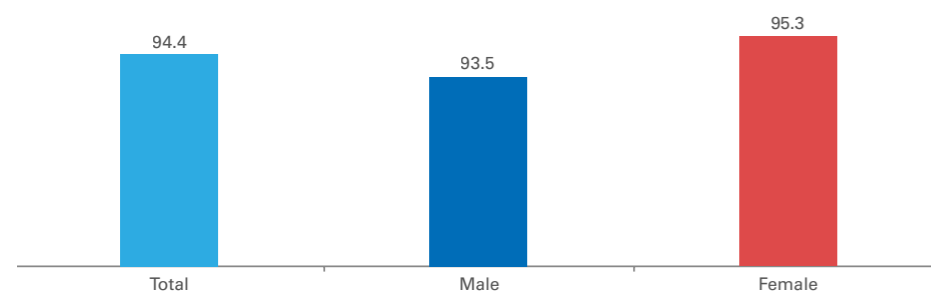
<sup>5</sup> UNESCO defines Gross Enrolment Ratio as the total enrolment within a country in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the official age group corresponding to this level of education.

Figure 2.8: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education by Gender (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2013

Figure 2.9: Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 Who Reach Grade 6 (Percent), 2012

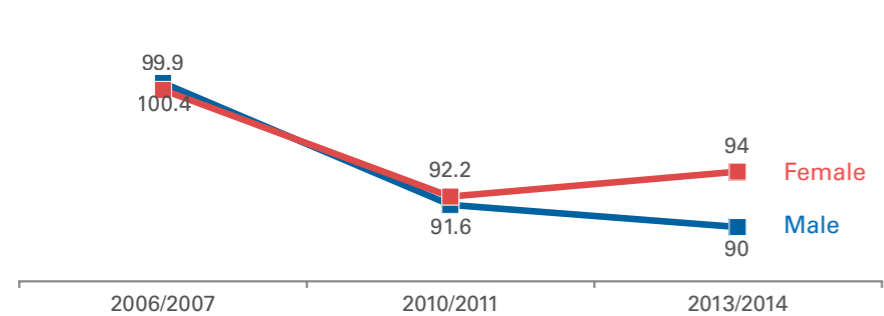


Source: Ministry of Education, Information Centre Records 2012

Figure 2.9 shows that in 2012 the rate of boys who reached Grade 6 was somewhat lower than that of girls (93.5 percent versus 95.3 percent). Considering that the first six years of school are compulsory, lower rates for boys, coupled with the possible movement of those not attending to take up work, needs to be further investigated, particularly as it relates to the issue of child labour.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio in preparatory education for boys is 90 percent, which means that about one out of every ten males are out of school after the primary level (Figure 2.10). They are likely to join the labour market after completing the primary level. At the same time, female enrolment rates have increased and are consistently higher than those of boys after 2010.

Figure 2.10: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Preparatory Education by Gender (Percent), 2006-2014

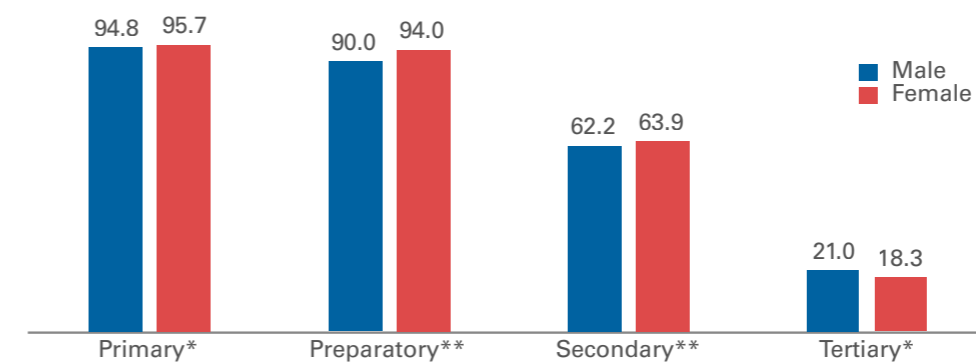


Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2013

Looking at the enrolment rates for all levels of education in 2013/2014 shows that the enrolment rate of girls is always (slightly) higher than that of boys. This may be an indication that when girls are given the opportunity to enter school they are keener to remain in school than boys. Another factor may be the prevalence of entrance into the child labour market

for boys rather than girls. An exception, however, is tertiary education, where only 18.3 percent of girls were enrolled – compared to 21.0 percent of boys (Figure 2.11).

Figure 2.11: Gross Enrolment Ratio by Education Level and Gender (Percent), 2013/2014

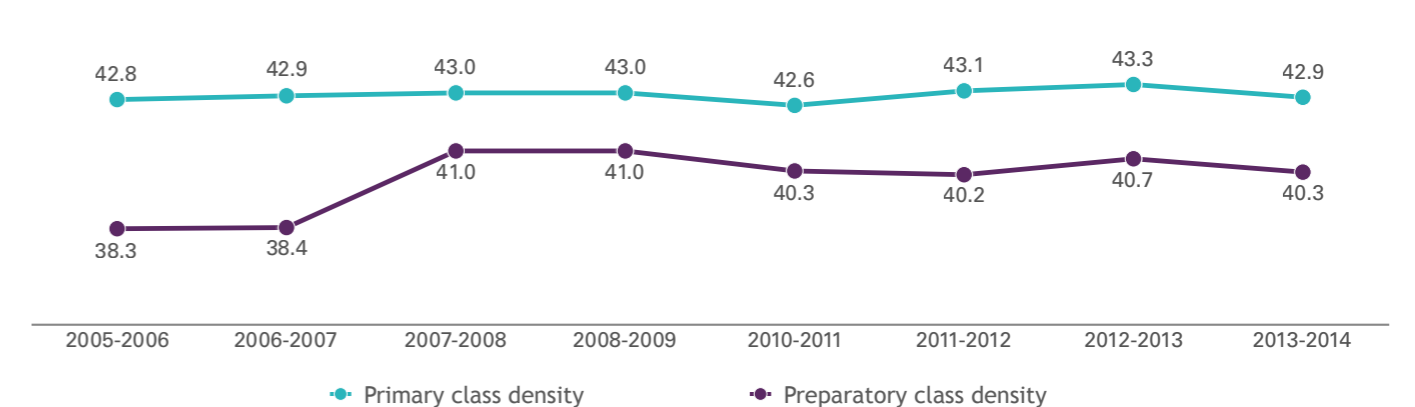


Sources: Ministry of Education, Information Centre Records 2014\*; Statistical Year Book 2014\*\*

In general, it can be observed that there is a sharp drop in enrolment between preparatory and secondary school – and another one when it comes to tertiary education. This indicates a need to develop policies that motivate both boys and girls to complete at least the secondary level of education, including providing incentives for the completion of tertiary education (particularly for girls).

Despite the expected population growth, class density<sup>6</sup> in both primary and preparatory schools has not changed considerably between 2005 and 2014 (Figure 2.12).

Figure 2.12: Class Density in Primary and Preparatory Schools (Number), 2005-2014<sup>7</sup>



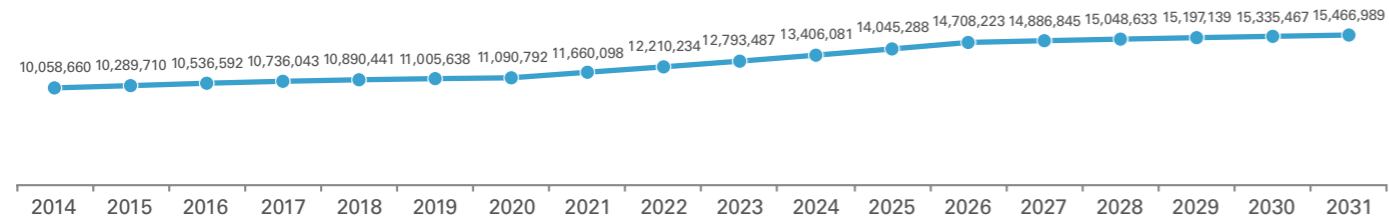
Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2005-2014

Assuming that the fertility rate per woman continues to be 3.5, the number of primary school students is expected to increase from 10 million students in 2014 to 15.5 million in 2031 (Figure 2.13).

<sup>6</sup> Class density is number of students in a class.

<sup>7</sup> Figures for 2009-2010 not presented as they showed some sharp yet unexplained drop in class density.

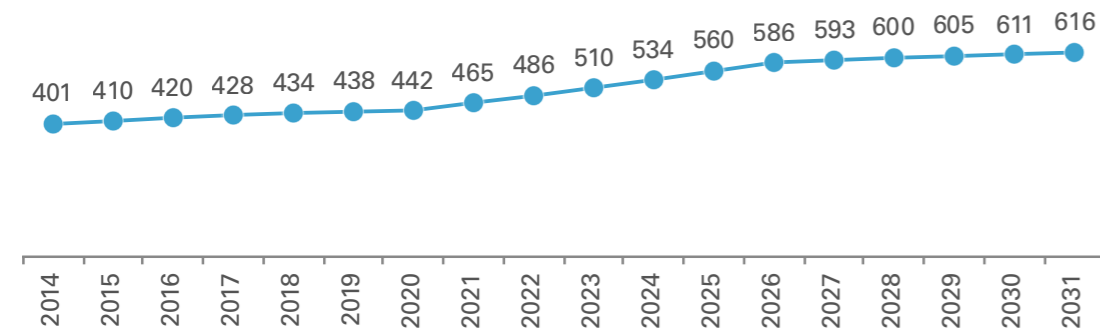
Figure 2.13: Estimated Numbers of Primary School Students (Millions), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014 -2031

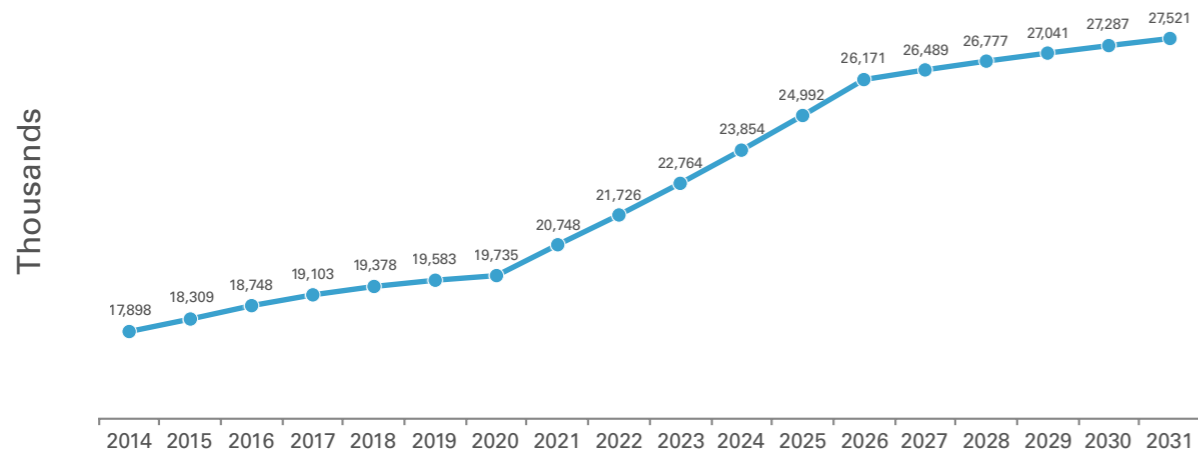
To maintain the enrolment rate, class density and student per teacher ratio in primary schools at the same level as in 2013/2014, a total of 616,000 teachers would be required by 2031, representing an increase of 215,000 teachers from 2014 figures (Figure 2.14). Furthermore, the Egyptian education system would require an additional 10,000 primary schools by 2031. (Figure 2.15).

Figure 2.14: Estimated Numbers of Required Teachers for Primary Schools (Thousands), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

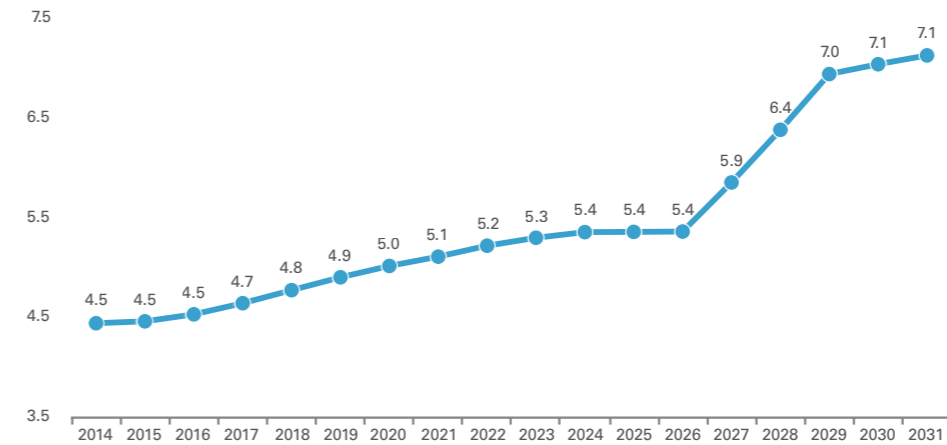
Figure 2.15: Estimated Numbers of Required Primary Schools (Thousands), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

CAPMAS's population projections estimate that the number of preparatory school students will increase from 4.5 million students in 2014 to 7.1 million in (Figure 2.16).

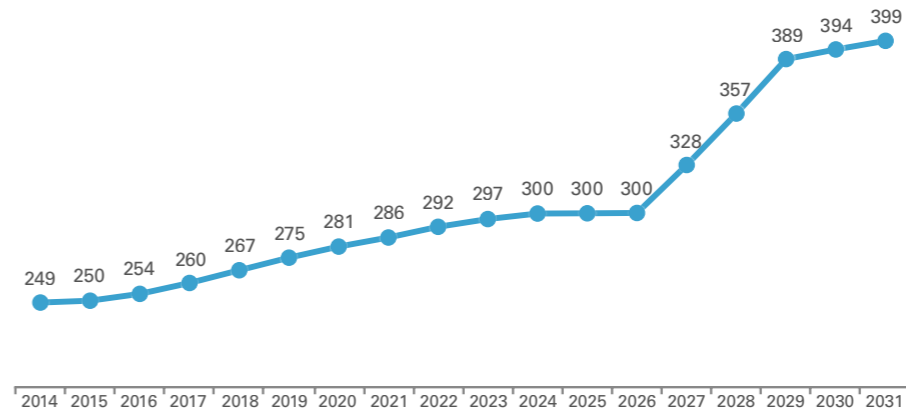
Figure 2.16: Estimated Numbers of Preparatory School Students (Millions), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

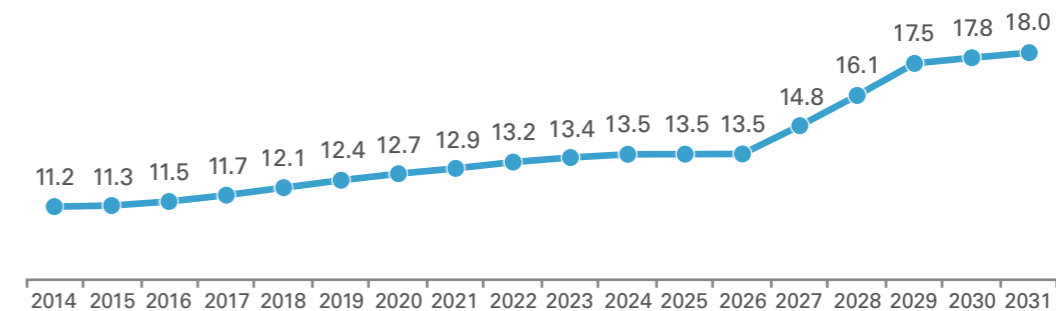
To maintain the current enrolment rate, class density and student per teacher ratio in preparatory schools at 2013/2014 levels, the required number of teachers would need to be increased from about 249,000 teachers in 2014 to 399,000 teachers in 2031 (Figure 2.17). The number of preparatory schools would also need to nearly double from 11,000 in 2014 to approximately 18,000 in 2031 (Figure 2.18).

Figure 2.17: Estimated Numbers of Required Preparatory School Teachers (Thousands), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

Figure 2.18: Estimated Numbers of Required Preparatory Schools (Thousands), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

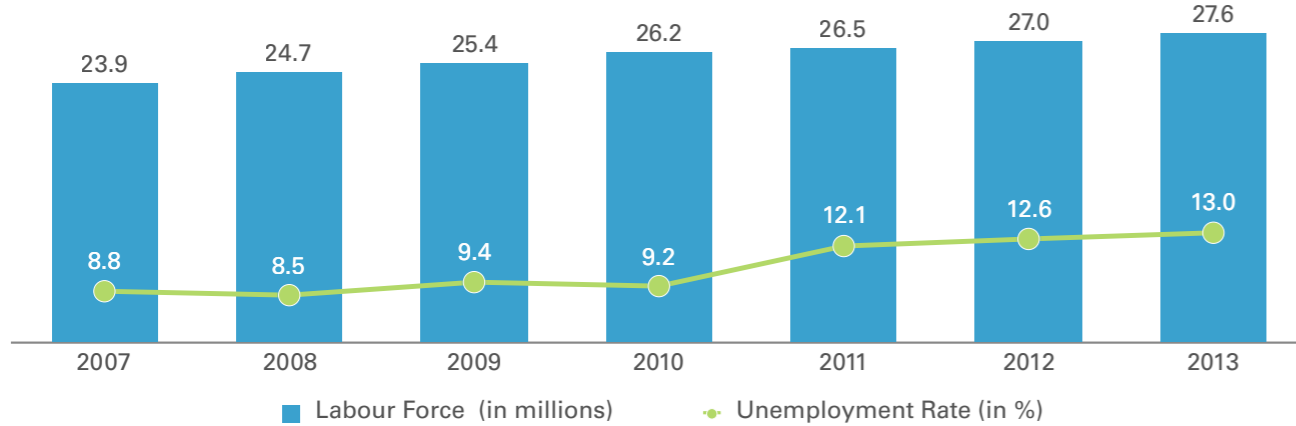


### 2.3 Employment

Figure 2.19, below, shows a slow and steady rise in the labour force. Furthermore, there is a sharp increase in the unemployment rate from 2011. The reasons for this could be the population growth and the fact that the labour market cannot absorb the increased numbers of labour market entrants. In addition, the impact of the Egyptian revolution has to be considered, with the significant changes in economic conditions that occurred as a result.

In 2013, 13 percent of persons above the age of 15 were unemployed, representing an increase of four percentage points from 2007, when it stood at 9 percent.

Figure 2.19: Labour Force (Millions) and Unemployment Rate (Percent), 2007-2013



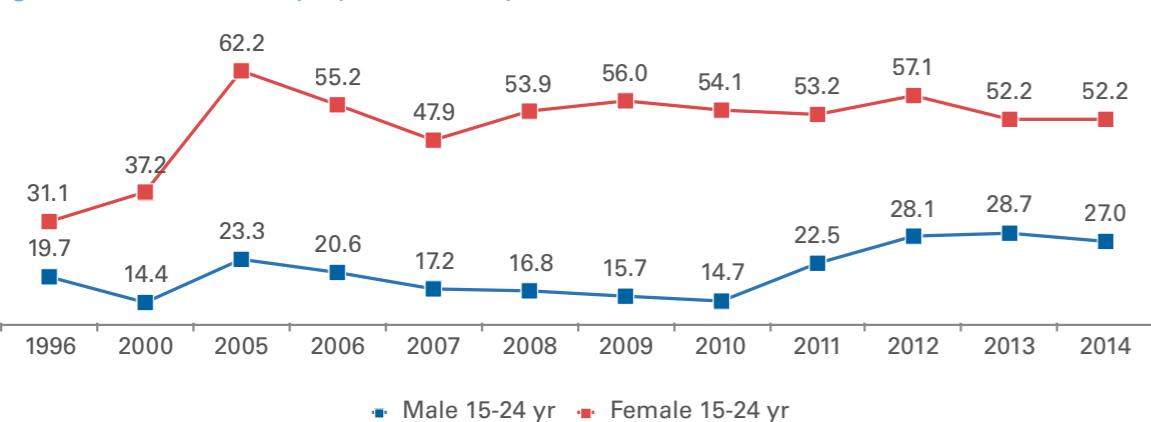
Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2007-2013

### Youth Unemployment

The proportion of unemployment rate among male youth (between 15 and 24 years of age) increased from 16.8 percent in 2008 to 27 percent in 2014 - especially after 2010 when unemployment rates increased considerably (Figure 2.20). Since 2008, the unemployment rate of women has risen from 53.9 percent in 2008 to 57.1 percent in 2012; dropping to 52.2 percent in 2014.

That means that every second female between the ages of 15 and 24 is unemployed. Moreover, the unemployment rate of young females is about double that of young males. One reason for the large unemployment rate among young women may lie in the general preference for men in the private sector; and the recent cessation of preference for females in the public sector. This is also coupled with the fact that with more women attaining higher education, the number of job seekers or 'available and willing to work' has also increased for women. This finding should be researched in further detail and possibly followed up to develop suitable interventions to better integrate (young) women into the labour market.

Figure 2.20: Youth Unemployment Rate by Gender (Percent), 1996-2014



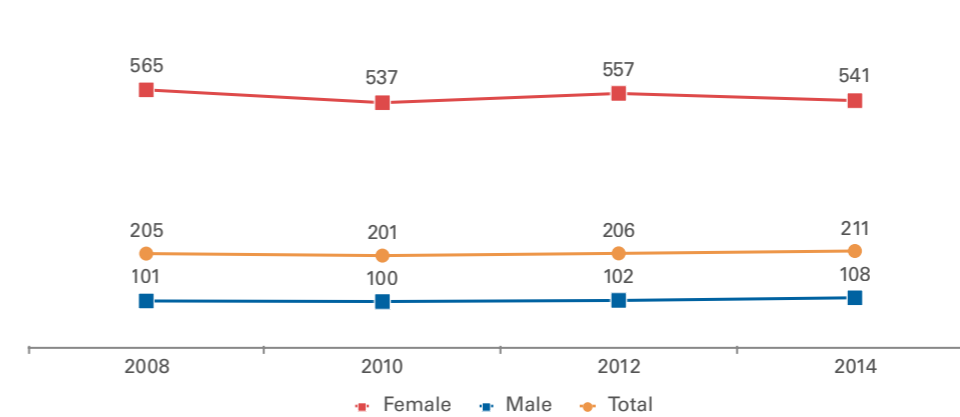
Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 1996-2014

### Economic Dependency Ratios<sup>8</sup>

Both the population growth and the increasing unemployment rates mean that the economic dependency ratios have increased from 205 percent in 2008 to 210.7 percent in 2014. This means that currently 211 non-employed persons depend on one hundred wage earners.

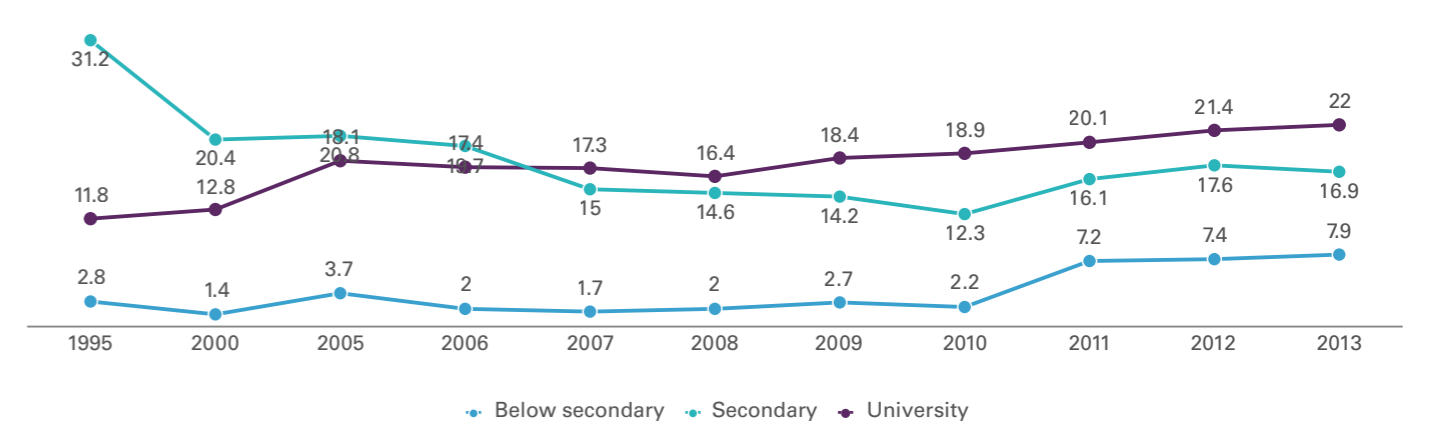
Looking at differences between the genders, the economic dependency ratio of females is more than five times higher than that of males, with an average of 541 females dependent on one hundred female wage earners (Figure 2.21). At the same time, the economic dependency ratio of males is also slightly increasing, from 100.9 in 2008 to 107.9 percent in 2014.

Figure 2.21: Economic Dependency Ratio by Gender (Percent) 2008-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2008-2014

Figure 2.22: Unemployment Rate by Education Level (Percent), 1995-2013



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2000-2013

Figure 2.22, shows the relation between unemployment and highest education level over time. It is interesting that since 1995 Egyptians with a below secondary level education are less likely to become unemployed than those with a secondary or university education. Indeed, since the same year, the unemployment rate of those with a university degree has almost doubled from 12 percent to 22 percent. In 2013, 17 percent of those with a secondary school degree were unemployed as compared to only 8 percent of those with below secondary education (up from 3 percent in 1995).

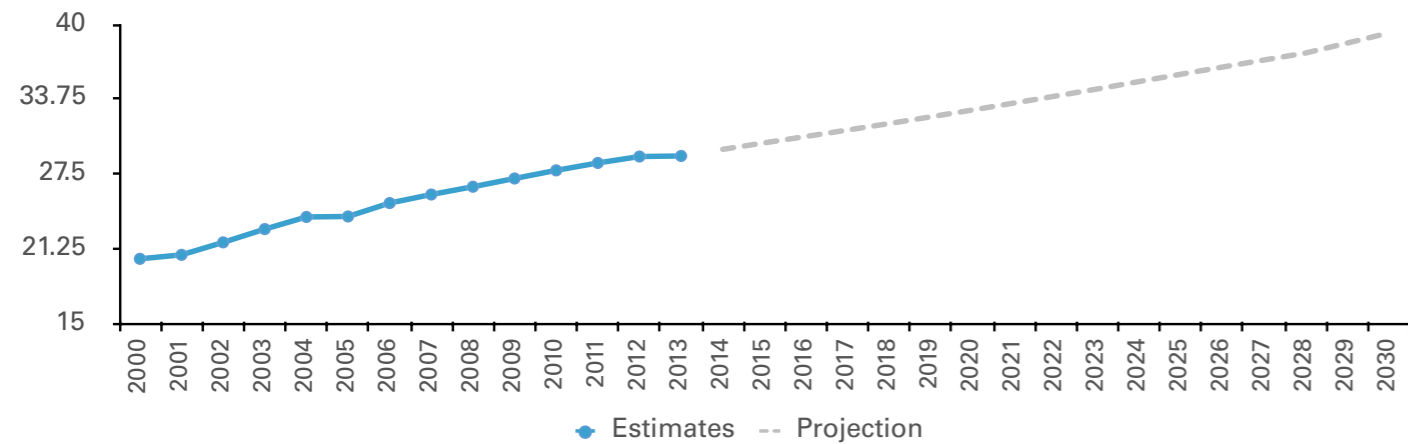
This analysis highlights several issues: the higher the level of education, the higher the possibility to remain unemployed. Anecdotic stories blame better educated persons to have unrealistic expectations so that they rather stay unemployed than working in a position that they consider to be below their level of expertise. At the same time employers complain that graduates with a higher level of education are not equipped with the necessary skills for the job market. More robust research is therefore needed to understand the supply and demand sides on the labour market to be able to develop suitable interventions to address this paradox.

<sup>8</sup> Economic Dependency Ratio estimates the number of persons unemployed or outside the labour force per employed persons.

## Employment Market Projections

Figure 2.23 presents projections of the size of labour force, which almost double from 20.4 million in 2000 to 39 million in 2030. In 2015, the labour force was already estimated at 29.6 million, accordingly, roughly 10 million additional individuals are expected to enter the labour force over the 16 year period.

Figure 2.23: Labour Force Estimates and Projections (Millions), 2000-2031

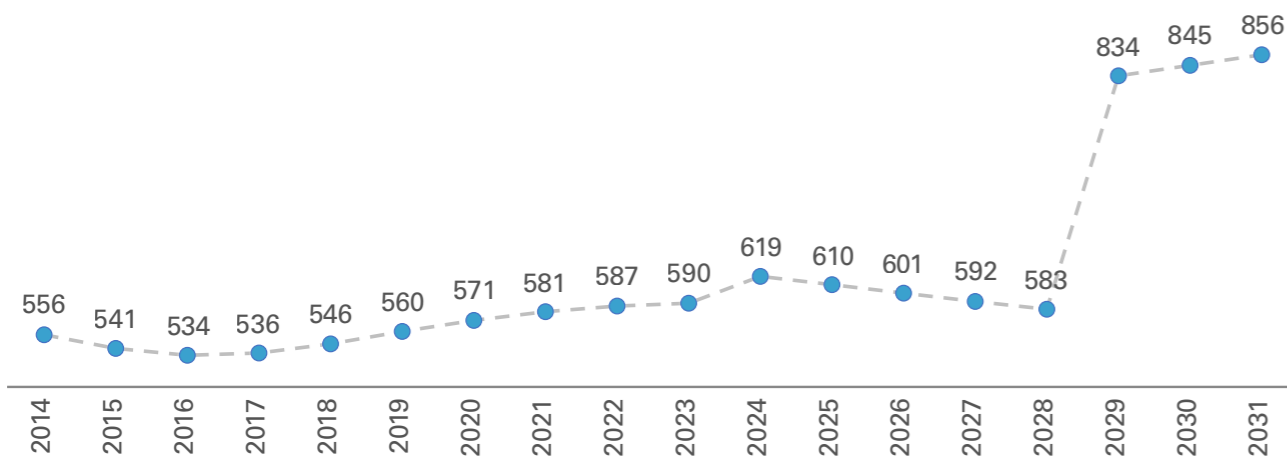


Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

Figure 2.24, below, shows that in order to maintain the employment rate stable at the current level, roughly 556 thousand employment opportunities were required in 2014 for both the public and private sectors.<sup>9</sup> This number will increase only comparably slightly until 2028 (583 thousand) before it rises to 834 thousand and will continue to increase to 856 thousand in 2031, meaning that additional 856 thousand jobs will need to be created in 2031.

This projection shows that the Egyptian economy needs to be prepared for the future employment opportunities. However, as described earlier, this trend does not only have implications on the labour market but also on the education system and the role of women.

Figure 2.24: Projected Required Employment Opportunities (Thousands), 2014-2031



Source: CAPMAS, Population Projections 2014-2031

<sup>9</sup> These estimates are based on the following assumptions that are believed to stay constant until 2031: a) a stable fertility rate of 3.5, b) the male contribution rate in the age group (10-14 years) in the labour force in 2014 is set at 2.5 percent, and for females at 0.4 percent, c) the male contribution rate in the age group (15-64 years) in the labour force in 2014 is set at 77.7 percent, for females 24.8 percent.

## 3. Regional Level Analysis

The following analysis takes a closer look at Egypt’s four regions: Urban Governorates, Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt and the Frontier Governorates. No attempt has been made to estimate projected rates at the regional level. Because the population is highest – and increasing comparably fast - in Upper Egypt, with a focused analysis on the situation in its governorates.

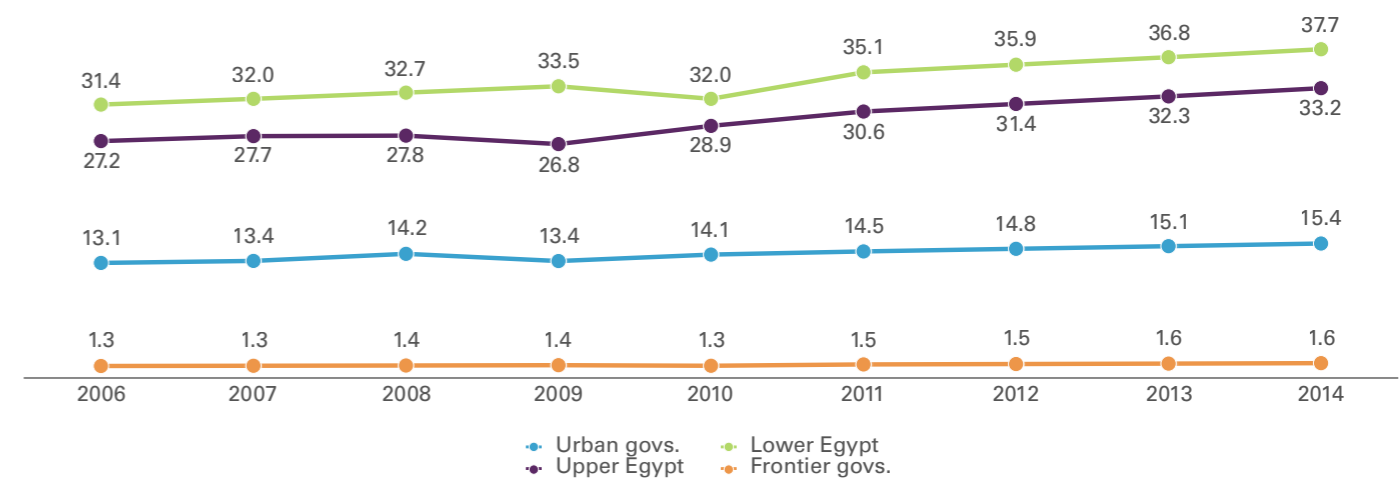
The main findings for this chapter include the following:

- The population in Upper Egypt is the second largest in the country, and is increasing quite rapidly, with an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent.
- The child population (below the age of 18) is generally increasing, but the sharp increase of 30 percent from 2006 to 2014 in the Urban Governorates is striking. This finding should be followed up to understand the reasons for this, and to develop suitable initiatives to support these children.
- Upper Egypt is the region with the lowest level of literacy: only roughly seven in ten persons are able to read and write.
- Giza is the only governorate in Upper Egypt where the literacy rates of those between 10 and 19 years of age have increased considerably in the last few years; 4 percent of this age group was illiterate in 2014 (though up from 2.4 percent in 2009).
- Giza is also one of the governorates with a Gross Enrolment Ratio of roughly 100; this stands in contradiction to rising illiteracy rates. The reasons for this should be looked into to determine suitable interventions on behalf of students.
- In the regions, around one in three youth is unemployed. Urban governorates are an exception, where the unemployment rate was 44.7 percent in 2013.

### 3.1 Population

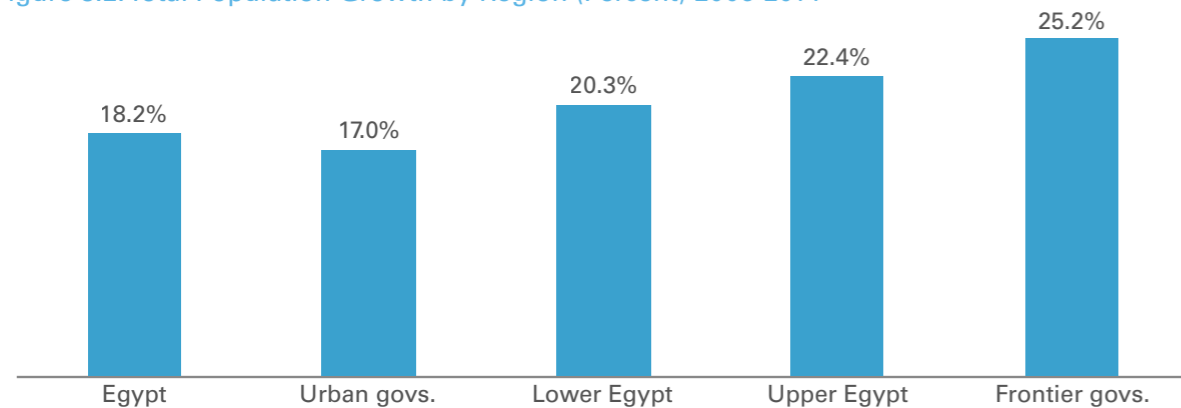
CAPMAS estimates that since 2006 the population has increased in all regions. In 2014, the largest region in terms of population size is Lower Egypt, with an estimated 37.7 million (37.7%) inhabitants; followed by Upper Egypt with a population of 33.2 million (33.2%) (Figure 3.1). The Frontier governorates have the smallest population estimated at 1.6 million (1.6%) in 2014.

Figure 3.1: Population Estimates by Region (Millions), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

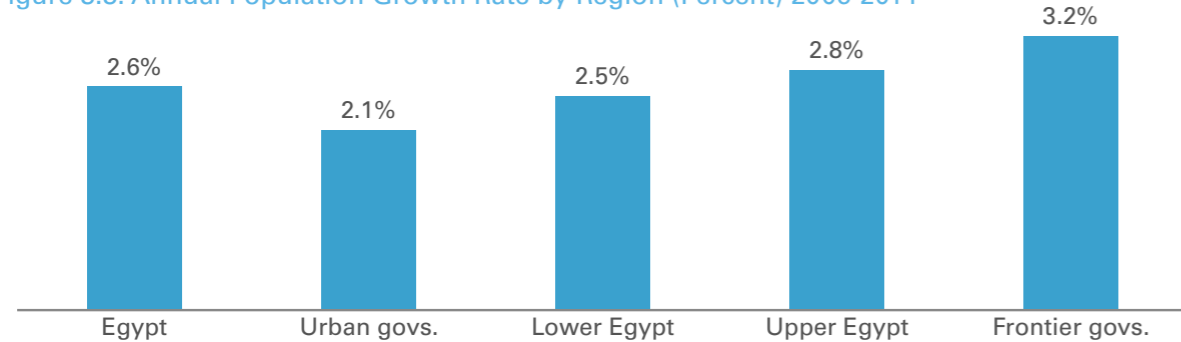
Figure 3.2: Total Population Growth by Region (Percent) 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Calculations based on Statistical Year Books 2006 -2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

The Average Annual Population Growth Rate for Egypt is 2.6 percent. The Urban governorates grow slowest at 2.1 percent per annum, Upper Egypt and the Frontier Governorates have the fastest growth rates, at 2.8 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

Figure 3.3: Annual Population Growth Rate by Region (Percent) 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Calculations based on Statistical Year Books 2006-2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

Table 3.1: Population Estimates and Population Growth in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Millions) 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014	Growth
Giza	6.31	6.23	7.59	20%
Beni-Suef	2.30	2.53	2.86	24%
Fayoum	2.52	2.80	3.17	26%
Menia	4.18	4.59	5.16	23%
Asyout	3.45	3.8	4.25	23%
Suhag	3.76	4.11	4.60	23%
Qena	3.01	2.74	3.05	1%
Luxor	0.46	1.04	1.15	150%
Aswan	1.19	1.29	1.43	20%

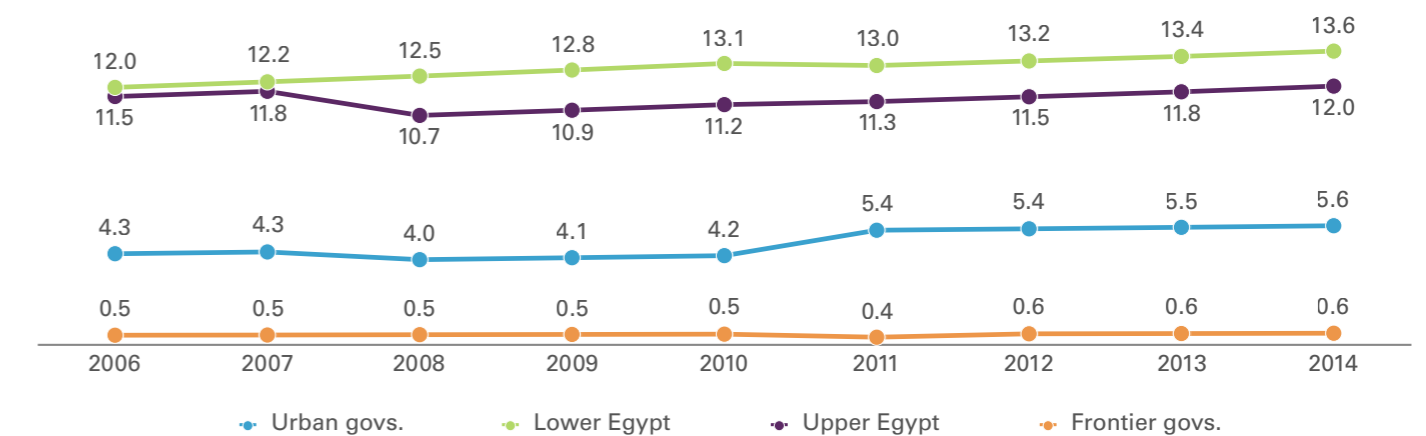
Source: CAPMAS, Calculations based on Statistical Year Book 2006-2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

Taking a closer look at the governorates in Upper Egypt (Table 3.1), it becomes apparent that Fayoum has grown the most (26 percent), followed by Beni-Suef (24 percent). Notably, although it would appear that the population has increased most in Luxor, where from 2006 to 2014 the population appears to have more than doubled (from approximately 458,000 inhabitants in 2006 to 1,147,000 in 2014), this is mostly due to a modification of the governorates' borders in 2010, which

dramatically increased Luxor's geographic area at the expense of Qena Governorate and thus its population.<sup>10</sup>

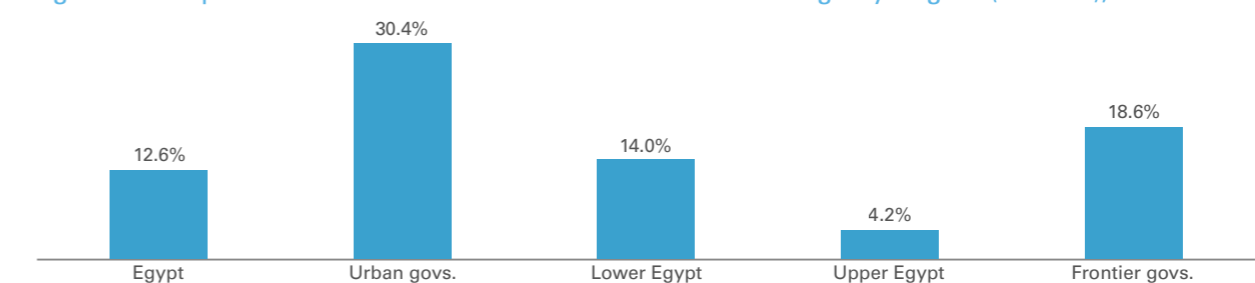
Figure 3.4, below, shows the changes in child population in absolute numbers between 2006 and 2014. The sudden increase in the Urban Governorates between 2010 and 2011 is noteworthy and should be further investigated to confirm if the child population has indeed grown by 30 percent in Egypt's urban centres, compared to only 4 percent in Upper Egypt.

Figure 3.4: Total Population Under 18 Years of Age by Region (Millions), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Statistical Year Book 2006-2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

Figure 3.5: Population Growth for Children Under 18 Years of Age by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Calculations based on Statistical Year Book 2006-2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

Table 3.2: Total Population for Children Under 18 Years of Age in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Millions), 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014	Growth
Giza	2.41	2.35	2.74	14%
Beni-Suef	1.02	1.12	1.03	1%
Fayoum	1.1	1.22	1.15	4%
Menia	1.86	2.04	1.86	0%
Asyout	1.55	1.7	1.53	%-1
Suhag	1.68	1.83	1.66	%-1
Qena	1.28	1.4	1.1	-14%
Luxor	0.17	0.19	0.41	142%
Aswan	0.46	0.49	0.52	13%

Source: CAPMAS, Statistical Year Book 2006 -2014; Vital Registrations 2006-2014

Table 3.2 shows that for Upper Egypt, the child population increased by 14 percent in Giza and 13 percent in Aswan; whereas in the other governorates the increase was much lower (-1 percent to +4 percent). An exception is Qena governorate, which lost 14 percent of its child population between 2006 and 2014, probably due to the cession of territory to Luxor Governorate.

<sup>10</sup> These additional geographical areas were given up by Qena Governorates.

Although the population was found to grow in all of Egypt, it is interesting to note that the children numbers has grown considerably in the Urban Governorates.

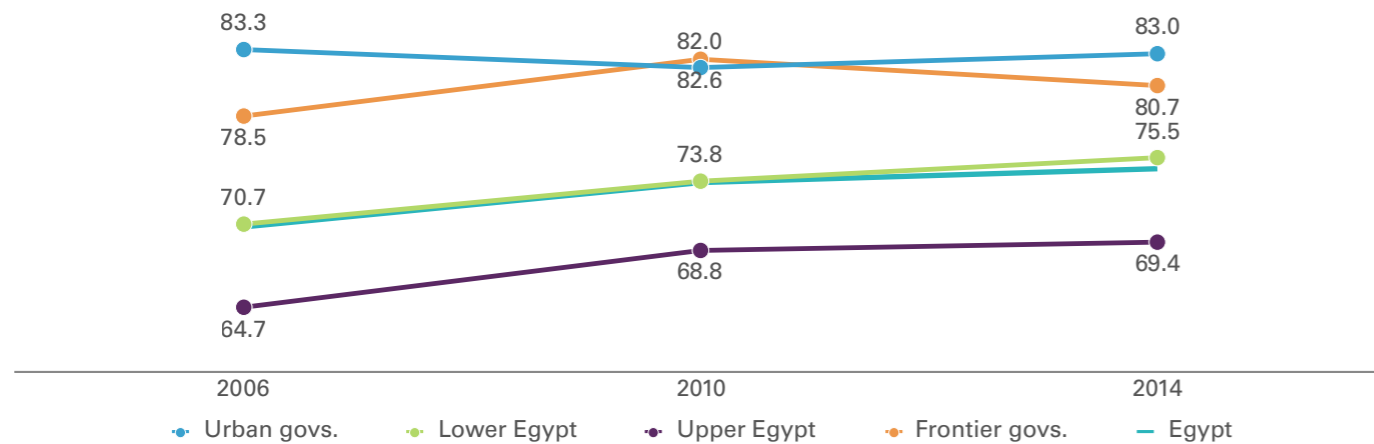
### 3.2 Education

As outlined in the national level analysis, it is important to look at the interplay of population growth and education to understand in how far they affect each other.

#### Literacy

In terms of literacy we can see that it is lowest in Upper Egypt, but slowly increasing; with 69.4 percent above the age of 10 literate in 2014, which means that roughly one in three persons cannot read or write (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6: Literacy Rates for age 10 Years Old and Above by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

Taking a closer look at the literacy rates of those 10 years of age and above in Upper Egypt shows that they are highest in Aswan at 82.8 percent, and lowest in Fayoum at 62.1 percent (Table 3.3). Interestingly, the literacy rate in Giza fell from 82.3 percent in 2010 to 77.4 percent just four years later. This findings should be followed up.

Table 3.3 : Upper Egypt Literacy Rates for Age 10 Years Old and Above by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014
Giza	74.7	82.3	77.4
Beni-Suef	53.5	67.0	65.2
Fayoum	53.8	63.9	62.1
Menia	59.8	63.7	65.9
Asyout	62.1	67.7	68.1
Suhag	62.1	62.1	64.6
Qena	66.4	69.0	69.8
Luxor	78.7	73.3	65.6
Aswan	80.2	82.6	82.8

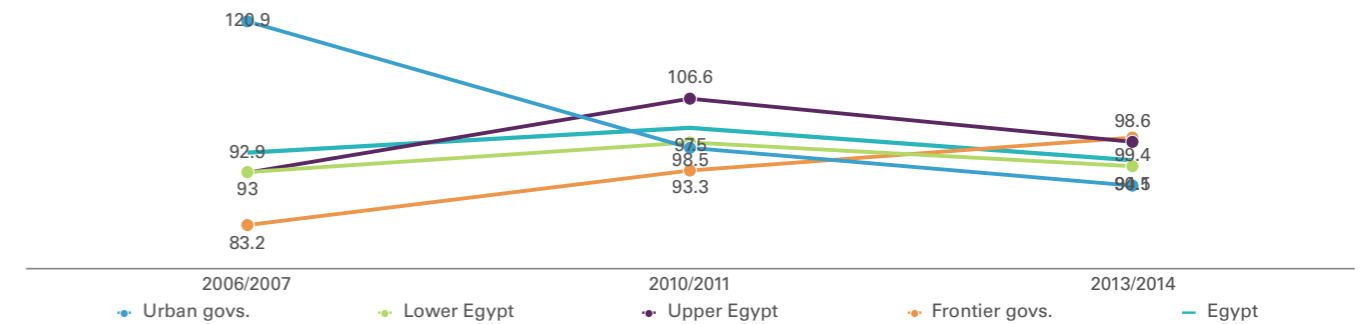
Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

#### Primary Education

In 2006 the Gross Enrolment Ratio for primary education was highest in the Urban Governorates, however, in 2014 it became the lowest among all regions. The situation is reversed for Upper Egypt, where the Gross Enrolment Ratio was lowest in 2006/2007 but is now amongst the highest (at 98.6 percent). This indicates that over the last couple of years there

have been dramatic changes in Gross Enrolment Ratios for the primary school level that should be followed up in order to investigate the relevant dynamics (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7 : Gross Enrolment Ratio for Primary Education by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

At this point in time, Giza and Menia have the highest primary school Gross Enrolment Ratio (Table 3.4). However; it should be noted that the literacy rate in Giza has decreased since 2010. The reasons for the paradox (high gross enrolment, decrease in literacy) is unknown and should be followed up to determine if this is due to the influx of underage migrants, who are not registered for schooling in the governorate.

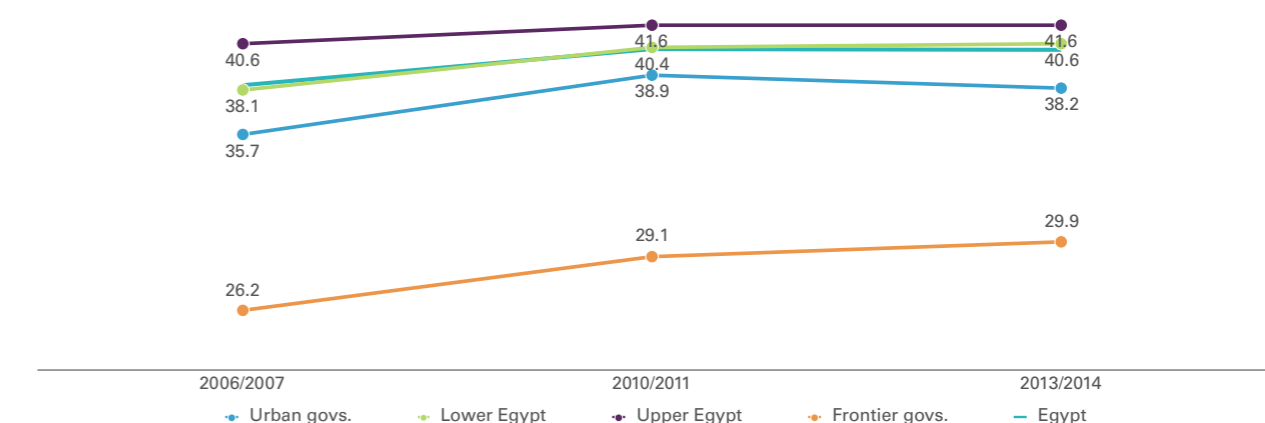
Table 3.4: Primary Education Gross Enrolment Ratio in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2007/2006	2011/2010	2014/2013
Giza	106.1	103.3	106.4
Fayoum	88.9	101.3	92.0
Beni-Suef	94.9	107.3	96.9
Menia	98.3	116.8	104.9
Asyout	92.1	109.2	97.5
Suhag	79.2	103.6	95.1
Qena	85.5	83.5	91.3
Luxor	-	193.7	86.1
Aswan	90.3	101.1	92.5

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Book 2007-2014

As for class density, it decreased slightly in the Urban Governorates (from 44.6 in 2006/2007 to 41.8 in 2013/2014); with an even more modest decrease in Upper Egypt (44.6 percent in 2006/2007, reaching 44.3 inn 2023/2014), but increased considerably in Lower Egypt and the Frontier Governorates (Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.8: Class Density in Primary Education by Region (Pupils per class), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

As regards class density at the governorate level in Upper Egypt, the only trend is a steady yet slow decrease (Table 3.5).

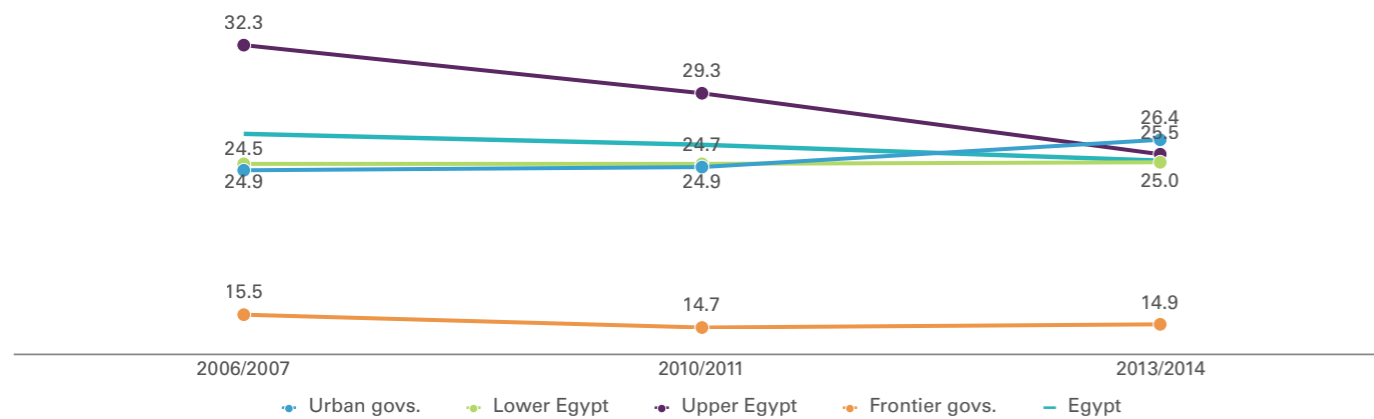
Table 3.5: Primary School Class Density in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Pupils per class), 2006-2014

	2006/2007	2010/2011	2013/2014
Giza	48.7	49.3	48.4
Fayoum	43.6	41.1	41.6
Beni-Suef	42.0	42.0	41.7
Menia	44.9	40.6	42.2
Asyout	45.6	44.7	44.1
Suhag	42.7	41.7	42.3
Qena	41.5	40.0	39.5
Luxor	35.8	36.5	36.9
Aswan	34.7	34.6	34.9

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

The trends in the pupil-teacher ratio at the primary level show that it increased in the Urban Governorates, while decreasing considerably in Upper Egypt (Figure 3.9).

Figure 3.9: Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Primary Education by Region (Pupils per teacher), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

Taking a closer look at the governorates in Upper Egypt, the ratio increased only in Giza but decreased in the other governorates (Table 3.6). As mentioned above, this should be followed up to understand what happens in Upper Egypt, as its trends are sometimes contradictory to the rest of the region.

Table 3.6: Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Primary Education in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Pupils per teacher), 2006-2014

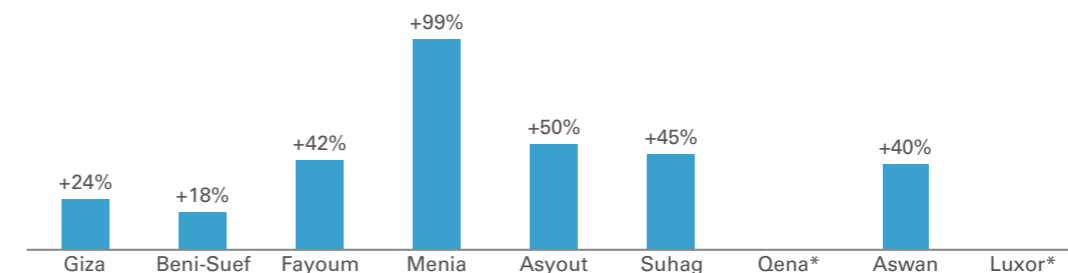
	2006/2007	2010/2011	2013/2014
Giza	34.8	28.2	34.3
Fayoum	34.3	31.3	29.0
Beni-Suef	31.1	27.4	29.1
Menia	40.2	38.5	23.5
Asyout	34.2	30.3	25.8
Suhag	28.7	25.9	22.6
Qena	25.3	25.0	19.8
Luxor	23.6	19.0	16.8
Aswan	21.3	20.3	19.1

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

Comparing the number of teachers between 2006 and 2014, we can see that in all governorates more primary teachers are

working than before. Indeed in Menia, the number of teachers has almost doubled, representing an increase of 99 percent since 2006. In Giza, on the other hand, only 24 percent more primary school teachers were hired (Figure 3.10). While this is a positive sign, the situation in Giza should be closely monitored and further researched: as we have seen earlier, the increase in teachers was of little help in terms of class density and – possibly more importantly – had only a limited impact on decreasing the number of illiterate children in the governorate.

Figure 3.10: Change in Number of Primary School Teachers in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014



\* Qena and Luxor governorates are not shown due to change in their borders in 2010

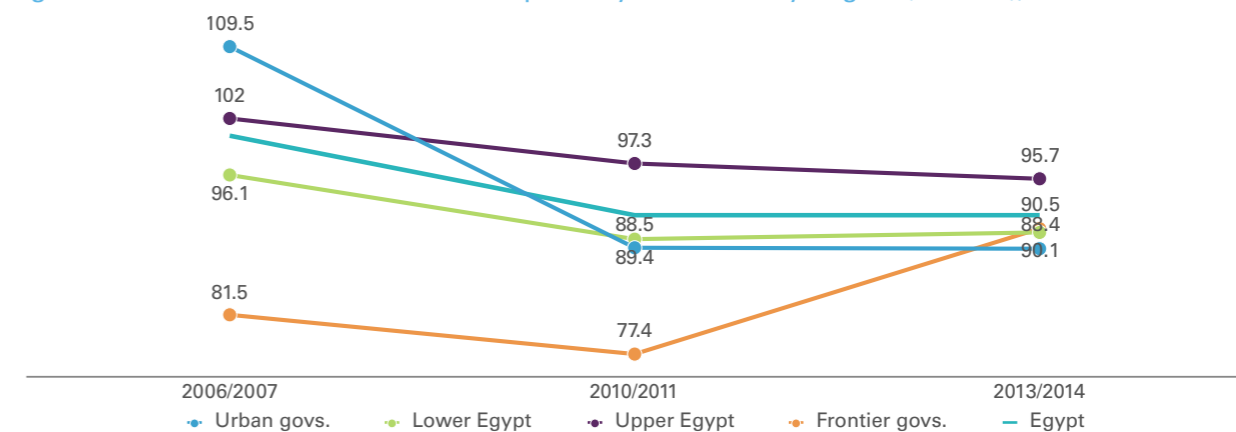
Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

## Preparatory Education

Patterns for gross enrolment ratios for the preparatory education are similar to those of the primary level (Figure 3.11).

Table 3.7, below, demonstrates that while Giza had the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio for primary education, Menia had the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio for the preparatory education (102.9 percent).

Figure 3.11: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Preparatory Education by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

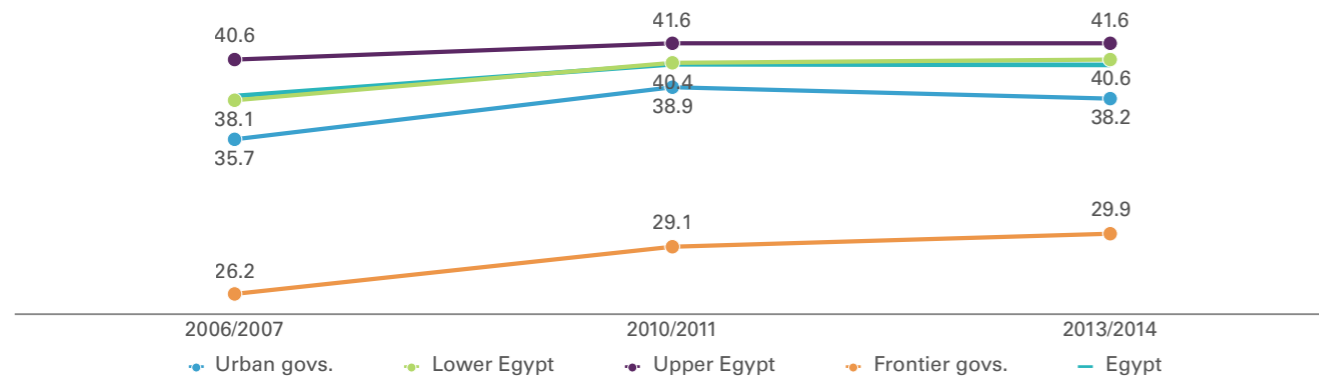
Table 3.7: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Preparatory Education in Upper Egypt, by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006/2007	2010/2011	2013/2014
Giza	92.8	92.3	94.7
Fayoum	97.0	96.6	86.9
Beni-Suef	95.7	98.1	91.4
Menia	107.7	102.3	102.9
Asyout	109.8	102.1	99.4
Suhag	104.6	92.9	92
Qena	106.9	85.7	100.2
Luxor	-	205.3	95.4
Aswan	109.7	96.7	94.1

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

In all four regions, the class density at the preparatory education has increased since 2006. Upper Egypt has the comparably highest density (43.1), followed by Lower Egypt and the Urban Governorates (Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12: Class Density in Preparatory Education by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

Within Upper Egypt, Giza not only has the largest class density (46.6) in 2014/2015, it also witnessed the largest increase in class density in the region since 2006 (Table 3.8).

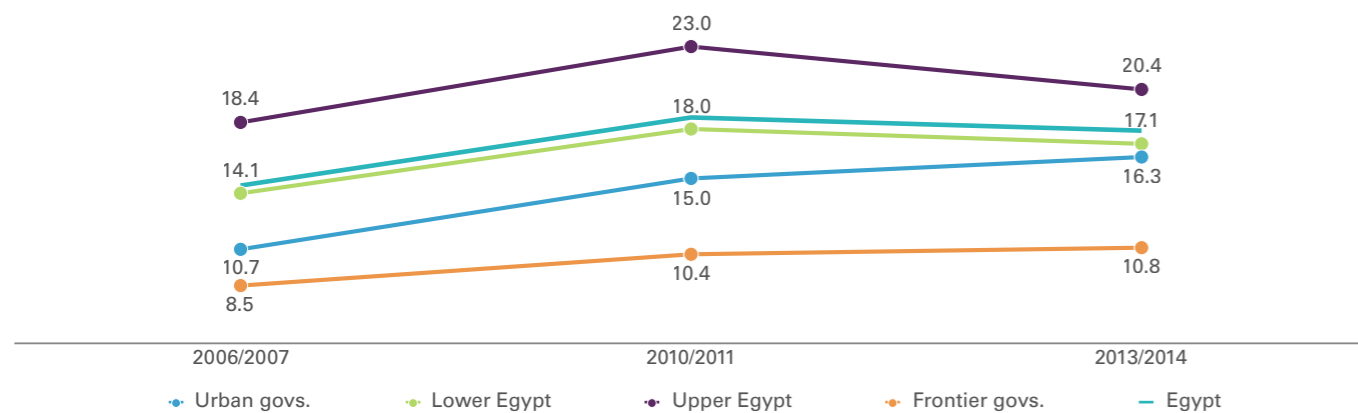
Table 3.8: Class Density in Preparatory Education in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Pupils per class), 2006-2014

	2006/2007	2010/2011	2013/2014
Giza	40.5	44.4	44.8
Fayoum	42.2	42.3	40.7
Beni-Suef	41.3	43	41.2
Menia	41.9	39.7	41.9
Asyout	41.7	42.4	41.5
Suhag	41.2	40.7	41.2
Qena	39.1	40.6	40.8
Luxor	38.8	39.9	39.7
Aswan	34.1	33.7	33.5

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

From 2006 to 2014 we can observe that the teacher-to-student ratio for the preparatory level increased in all four regions. The strongest increase can be found in the urban governorates, where it rose from 10 to 16. At the same time it decreased strongly in Upper Egypt between 2010 and 2014 (Figure 3.13).

Figure 3.13: Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Preparatory School by Region (Pupils per teacher), 2006-2014



Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

Table 3.9: Preparatory School Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Pupils per teacher), 2006-2014

	2006/2007	2010/2011	2013/2014
Giza	18.3	19.1	24.3
Fayoum	23.1	26.4	22.1
Beni-Suef	19.9	24.2	21.4
Menia	17.1	23.6	18.2
Asyout	19.3	24.8	20.3
Suhag	18.4	21.1	19.3
Qena	18.5	23.3	19.9
Luxor	16.3	21.3	17.7
Aswan	13.9	17.4	16.6

Source: Ministry of Education, Statistical Year Books 2006-2014

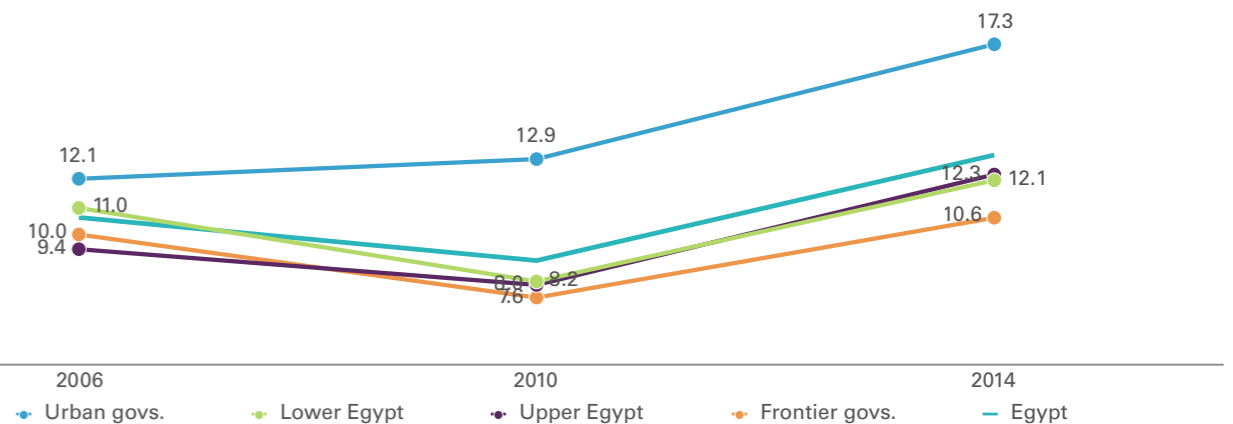
Examining the breakdown by governorate shows that only in Giza and Aswan too, but with lesser intensity, one teacher has to take care of more children now (24.3) in 2013/2014 than in 2006/2007 (18.3). At the same time, the other governorates the teacher-student- ratio has – despite a spike in 2010 whose reasons are unknown – only increased (Table 3.9).

### 3.3 Employment

As seen in section 2.3 unemployment rates of persons aged 15 and older were stable between 2007 and 2010, but rose to 13 percent nationwide in 2013.

Broken down by the four regions in Egypt, the unemployment rate was highest in the Urban Governorates in 2014 at 17.3 percent. Nevertheless, it remains considerably lower in the other regions: it was 12.3 percent in Upper Egypt; and 10.6 percent in the Frontier Governorates in 2014 (Figure 3.14).

Figure 3.14: Unemployment Rate by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

Table 3.10: Unemployment Rate in Upper Egypt for Aged 15 and Above, by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014
Giza	8.3	10.5	12.7
Beni-Suef	4.2	4.3	10.9
Fayoum	7.1	6.9	12.2
Menia	9.9	4.2	12.5
Asyout	10.5	9.5	12.8
Suhag	9.1	7.7	13.1
Qena	11.7	9.7	23.2

	2006	2010	2014
Luxor	22.9	10.1	28.9
Aswan	16.3	15.9	12.5

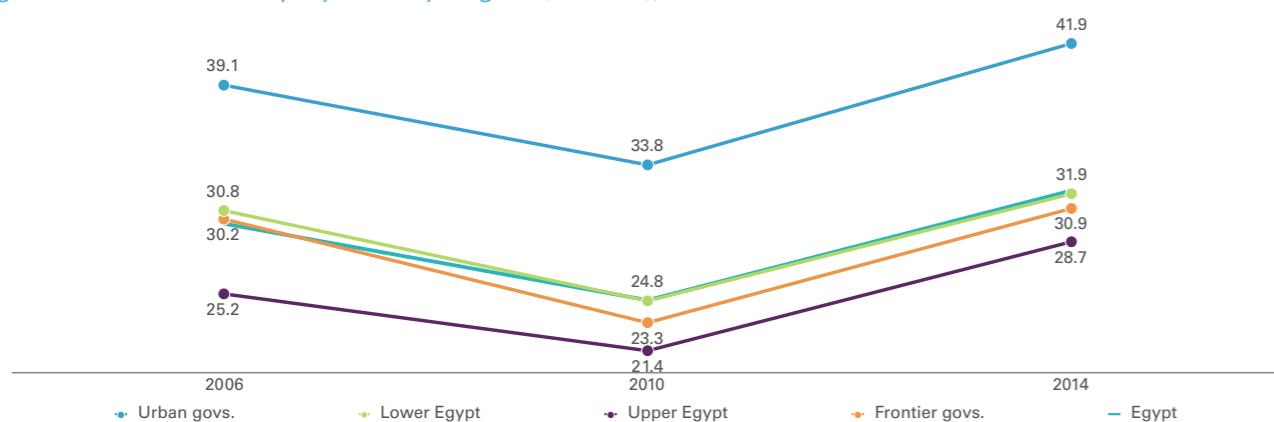
Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

In almost all of Upper Egypt's governorates, unemployment has risen considerably since 2006; by more than third in the governorates of Giza, Beni-Suef, Fayoum, Suhag and Luxor (Table 3.10). Unemployment nearly doubled in Qena, from 11.7 percent in 2006 to 23.2 percent in 2014. This may be due to the decline in tourism as a main source of employment for the population of Qena and Luxor.

## Youth Unemployment

Since 2010, unemployment of those aged between 15 and 24 has risen in all regions. In the Urban governorates in 2014 almost 42 percent of youth were unemployed (up from 33.8 percent in 2010). While youth unemployment is lower in the other regions. In 2014 roughly one in three youth did not have a job in Egypt (Figure 3.15).

Figure 3.15: Youth Unemployment by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

A closer examination of unemployment disaggregated by gender reveals that male unemployment in all regions has increased while it has decreased for females, especially in Lower Egypt (Table 3.11).

Table 3.11: Youth Unemployment by Gender and Region (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006		2010		2014		Change 2006-2014	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Urban gov.s.	30.7	61.9	25.4	56.8	36	56.6	5.4	-5.3
Lower Egypt	20.3	56.6	13.7	53.6	27.6	46	7.3	-10.5
Upper Egypt	17.3	50.1	11.5	54.1	23.2	47.4	5.9	-2.7
Frontier gov.s.	18.3	61.6	15.9	43.9	26.1	58.1	7.8	-3.5

Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

Looking specifically at the youth unemployment in 2014 in Upper Egypt by governorate (Table 3.12) reveals that roughly 42 percent of youth are unemployed in Aswan. The unemployment is lowest in Fayoum. In most of the governorates youth unemployment has risen since 2006, and Beni-Suef experienced the highest growth of 14.9 percentage points between 2006 and 2014.

Table 3.12: Youth Unemployment in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014	Change 2006-2014
Giza	25.6	28.2	29.8	4.2
Beni-Suef	12.7	11.6	27.5	14.9
Fayoum	18.1	17.7	22.2	4
Menia	22.9	11.1	29.8	6.9
Asyout	24.7	22.3	29.8	5.1
Suhag	27.7	21.6	30.8	3.1
Qena	31.4	29.6	23.2	-8.2
Luxor	56.9	33.4	28.9	-27.9
Aswan	43.6	39	41.9	-1.7

Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

Analysing youth unemployment using a gender sensitive perspective reveals that the unemployment among female youth in Aswan has decreased strongly from 76.7 percent in 2006 to 56.4 percent in 2014. At the same time, the unemployment of male youth has increased by roughly 8 percentage points. In Menia and Beni-Suef the percentages for both male and female youth have increased (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13: Youth Unemployment in Upper Egypt by Gender and Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006		2010		2014		Change 2006-2014	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Giza	22.0	41.0	19.3	62.2	27.9	36.2	5.9	-4.8
Beni-Suef	8.5	26.3	6.2	22.9	26.0	31.6	17.5	5.4
Fayoum	11	52.2	5.4	58.2	16.9	39.2	6.0	-13
Menia	17.4	34.8	6	26.6	20.9	52.5	3.5	17.7
Asyout	11.6	65.4	9.3	78.2	21.9	61	10.3	-4.4
Suhag	17.3	61.3	11.5	86.5	22.9	62	5.6	0.8
Qena	20.9	62.3	17.2	65	19.9	43.3	-1.0	-19
Luxor	49.1	75.2	12	66.2	18.9	65.3	-30.2	-9.9
Aswan	29.7	76.7	22.5	83.1	37.6	56.4	7.9	-20.3

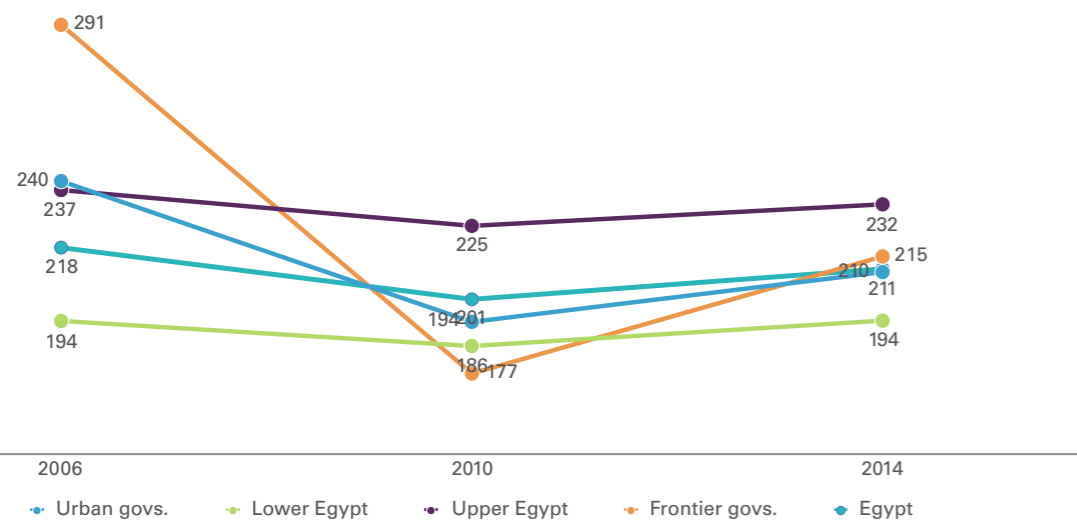
Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

## Economic Dependency Ratio

In the Urban Governorates, the economic dependency ratio<sup>11</sup> decreased from 291 in 2006 to 185 in 2010; and then increased to 215 in 2014. Figure 3.16 demonstrates a sharp drop in the dependency ratio for the Frontier governorates between 2006 (at 291) and 2010 (at 177), rising again to 215 in 2014. As of 2014, the dependency ratio was highest in Upper Egypt (232), followed by the Frontier Governorates (215), the Urban Governorates (210) and finally, Lower Egypt at 194. Lower Egypt and the Urban Governorates demonstrate a dependency ratio that is below the national average of 210, whereas the Upper Egypt and the Frontier Governorates are above the national average.

<sup>11</sup> Economic Dependency Ratio estimates the number of persons unemployed or outside the labour force per employed persons.

Figure 3.16: Economic Dependency Ratio by Region (Percent), 2006-2014



Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

Table 3.14 provides an examination of the dependency ratios of the governorates of Upper Egypt demonstrates that it is exceptionally low in Beni-Suef (at 170) and Menia (at 194) and highest in Suhag (at 299). Giza, with a dependency ratio of around 240 in 2014 is average.

While the dependency ratio has stayed more or less the same since 2006 in Giza and Menia, it decreased considerably in Beni-Suef (-38 points), Fayoum (-29), Aswan (-19) and Asyout (-12). On the other hand increased considerably in Suhag (+43).

Table 3.14: Dependency Ratio in Upper Egypt by Governorate (Percent), 2006-2014

	2006	2010	2014	Change
				2006-2014
Giza	242.5	261.6	240.6	-1.9
Beni-Suef	208.4	151.8	170.0	-38.5
Fayoum	247.8	210.4	218.2	-29.6
Menia	196.5	183.8	194.4	-2.1
Asyout	260.3	251.4	248.2	-12.1
Suhag	256.0	292.7	299.8	43.7
Qena	250.5	223.6	262.1	11.6
Luxor	269.1	195.4	256.1	-13
Aswan	244.8	219.2	225.8	-19

Source: CAPMAS, Labour Force Surveys 2006-2014

## 4. Recommendations

The analysis shows that the projected large increase in population due to increased fertility rates and increasing life expectancy poses potentially serious negative challenges for the country as a whole. The government, policy makers and decision makers, civil society organizations, donors and other concerned stakeholders, including the general public will need to address the impacts of growing numbers of children as well as an increasing older generation.

Appropriate policies and interventions to address the many sectors that will be impacted by the projected increase in population must be explored, identified and designed and put in place urgently. These must include amelioration measures that will protect at risk and vulnerable households, ensure the ability of governmental services to provide the required coverage, and encourage economic growth and social stability of the nation as a whole.

In order to be effective, policies, programmes, strategies and initiatives require detailed, accurate and up-to-date information. Accordingly, with reference to the issues of focus in this report, the following specific research recommendations are made in order to ensure the availability of data and evidence that must form the foundation of future policy planning.

### 4.1 National Level

- Population growth will have an impact on governmental services as a whole, but poses specific threats to the effectiveness, adequacy and coverage of the health, education and social protection sectors. Because of the complexity of this situation, it is critical that a dialogue take place between all relevant stakeholders in order to reach consensus on how to address these future challenges, in a comprehensive and complementary fashion.
- One issue that needs to be looked into urgently though a proper research is the reason for the sharp increase of the child population in the Urban Governorates between 2006 and 2014. If not addressed, this situation could lead to widespread child poverty and increased child labour. Researching this issue would provide valuable data that would feed into the development of appropriate and accurately targeted initiatives to support at risk and vulnerable children.
- The report shows dramatic changes in Gross Enrolment Ratios between 2006 and 2014 at the primary school level. These should be followed up in order to gain a clearer understanding of the dynamics involved in this phenomenon.
- One key issue for the education system is to motivate families and children to continue education beyond the basic education level. While primary enrolment is considerably high, rates drop significantly at secondary and tertiary levels. Educational attainment is tied to improved opportunities for employment, improved health indicators, as well as increased opportunities for social mobility. Improving the overall level of education will provide Egyptian youth (particularly girls) with the required knowledge and skills that equip them to make a positive contribution to the labour market, the national economy, and the country's competitiveness in the world market.
- However, one important finding at this stage is that higher level of education is associated with higher levels of unemployment, as the data suggest, or in other words, persons with a higher level of education are more likely to be unemployed than those with only a basic level. Anecdotal evidence points to a situation where higher educated persons have high expectations with respect to the jobs they "deserve" on the one hand - whereas on the other hand employers appear to complain that graduates of tertiary education do not have any skills relevant for the labour market. The higher levels of education therefore needs to be supplemented with creation of jobs that need highly qualified incumbents. To understand this phenomenon in details, a more detailed research is needed to be able to develop suitable interventions on both the educational side and the labour market side.

### 4.2 Upper Egypt

In Upper Egypt, the data shows some areas for further research and follow-up in terms of the education system.

- One key issue requiring further research is the reasons for the wide range of illiterate persons age 10 and older (ranging from 17.2 percent in Asyout to 37.9 percent in Fayoum), coupled with increased rates of Gross Enrolment Ratios, and how the current education system in the different governorates can achieve high literacy levels for all children.
- The situation in Giza is particularly interesting: the literacy rate there fell between 2010 and 2014 from 82.3 percent to 77.4 percent, while the Gross Enrolment Ratio in this governorate is roughly 100. While in all governorates the number of primary school teachers increased (sometimes even doubled, as in Menia), this increase in Giza apparently did not yield much in terms of reducing class density or decreasing the number of illiterate children. To understand these apparent contradictions, the education system in Giza should be researched further to understand bottlenecks and to identify suitable interventions for the students.





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