
6. Labor Situation Analysis

Egypt's Investment Promotion Program

6.1. General Information on Egypt's Labor Situation

Labor Force Statistics

Egypt's labor force has been growing steadily in recent years, registering over 500,000 new entrants into the labor market each year. More than one-third of the workforce is employed in agriculture. An estimated 47 per cent of Egypt's economic and social establishments are in the Cairo and Alexandria governorates, which host 25 per cent of the labor force.

Table 6.1 (a): Labor force Statistics

Indicator	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Labor force (thousand)	18,901	19,339	19,878	20,703	21,212
Annual growth rate of labor force (per cent)	3.4	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.5
Males' share in labor force	77.8	78.7	78.2	78.1	77.4
Females' share in labor force (per cent)	22.2	21.3	21.8	21.9	22.6

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Table 6.1 (b): Labor Force by Governorate (in thousands)

Governorate		Female	Male	Total
Urban Governorates	Cairo	507	1819	2326
	Alexandria	119	839	958
	Port-Said	65	135	200
	Suez	33	108	141
	Total	724	2901	3625
Lower Egypt Governorates	Damietta	53	269	322
	Dakahlia	328	1242	1570
	Sharkia	514	1181	1695
	Kalyoubia	288	852	1140
	Kafr-El-Sheikh	145	667	812
	Gharbia	417	936	1353
	Menoufia	304	782	1086
	Behera	799	1162	1961
	Ismailia	67	187	254
	Total	2915	7278	10193

	Governorate	Female	Male	Total No.
Upper Egypt Governorates	Giza	188	1310	1498
	Beni-Suef	199	512	711
	Fayoum	95	581	676
	Menia	307	943	1250
	Asyout	143	741	884
	Suhag	132	753	885
	Qena	171	589	760
	Aswan	58	258	316
	Luxor	18	83	101
	Total		1311	5770
Frontier Governorates	Red Sea	11	44	55
	El-Wadi El-Gidid	19	47	66
	Matrouh	19	67	86
	North Sinai	15	67	82
	South Sinai	4.6	19.4	24
	Total		68.6	244.4

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Employed Population

The total number of employed population reached 18,717 thousand in 2004, which represented about 88.2 per cent of the labor force.

There is usually no difficulty in finding local staff conversant in English, French or German; however, there is a shortage of truly bilingual or multilingual workers.

There are several internet sites that have become extremely popular due to their success in matching employers with employees. These include skill-link.com and CareerEgypt.com.

Table 6.1 (d): Distribution of the Employed Population by Rural/Urban (2004, in thousands)

	Urban Population			Rural Population		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Employed	6,353	1,390	7,743	8,584	2,391	10,974

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Table 6.1.(e):Employment for the 15-64 age bracket (2004, in thousands)

Sex	Governmental	Public	Private	Business Sector
Male	35,580	9,052	10,304	1,209
Female	13,956	0,816	22,734	0,158
Total	49,536	9,868	12,577	1,367

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Table 6.1 (f): Distribution of the Employed Population by Governorate and Sector in 2004

	Governorate	Services	Industrial	Agriculture	Total
Urban Governorates	Cairo	1,481,400	616,600	3,600	2,326,300
	Alexandria	574,100	306,100	10,300	958,000
	Port-Said	127,700	21,200	2,600	199,700
	Suez	65,700	48,800	1,500	141,200
	Total	2,248,900	992,700	18,000	36,252
Lower Egypt Governorates	Damietta	114,700	72,200	107,100	322,100
	Dakahlia	646,700	247,900	530,900	1,569,500
	Sharkia	651,500	234,900	632,800	1,695,200
	Kalyoubia	549,500	284,600	189,800	1,140,100
	Kafr-El-Sheikh	316,700	74,000	307,900	811,900
	Gharbia	555,200	261,500	377,600	1,352,700
	Menoufia	476,000	186,300	316,700	1,086,200
	Behera	472,700	167,700	1,151,600	1,960,500
	Ismailia	124,100	45,000	35,200	253,500
	Total	3,907,100	1,574,100	3,649,600	10,191,700
Upper Egypt Governorates	Giza	793,400	391,700	198,600	1,498,300
	Beni-Suef	223,900	98,500	365,000	711,400
	Fayoum	235,900	105,600	288,800	676,300
	Menia	338,400	126,200	625,100	1,250,500
	Asyout	340,000	145,300	311,600	883,700
	Suhag	361,100	116,100	326,600	885,400
	Qena	249,200	121,000	289,000	760,300
	Aswan	113,900	36,600	96,100	315,800
	Luxor	58,600	10,200	18,700	100,700
Total	2,714,400	1,151,200	2,519,500	7,082,400	

	Governorate	Services	Industrial	Agriculture	Total
Frontier Governorates	Red Sea	44,100	4,300	1,900	55,100
	El-Wadi El-Gidid	37,600	5,800	17,700	65,500
	Matrouh	63,800	14,000	200	86,300
	North Sinai	49,500	9,400	13,000	82,200
	South Sinai	15,900	1,500	4,000	23,500
	Total	210,900	35,000	36,800	312,600

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Table 6.1 (g): Total Number of Employees and Average Number of Working Hours in the Private Sector by Activity in 2004

Sector	Employees No. (thousand)	Avg. Working (hours)
Agriculture, hunting, forest exploitation	424	55.7
Fishing	31	58.5
Mining and stone exploitation	1087	46.9
Restaurants and hotels	4725	57.5
Processing industries	39977	57.1
Wholesale/retail commerce, vehicle repair, motorbikes, household products	2613	57
Social services	890	53.7
Transport, storage and communications	1960	54.3
Real estate (sale, rent), business services	871	55.9
Education	3124	50.6
Health and social work	1338	53.2
Construction and building	2159	50.8
Financial mediation	2902	54.5

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

Training Centers

Investments in training are generally well rewarded since the private sector enjoys good labor relations, with low rates of turnover and absenteeism. However, companies in specialised fields, such as information technology, comment that expensively trained technicians may be rapidly lured away by competitors.

Table 6.1 (h): Training Centers Distributed by Governorate in 2004

	Governorate	Private	Public	Government	Total
Urban Governorates	Cairo	43	28	61	132
	Alexandria	70	19	24	113
	Port-Said	12	0	17	29
	Suez	24	3	6	33
	Total	149	50	108	307



General Authority for
Investment and Free Zones

	Governorate	Private	Public	Government	Total
Lower Egypt Governorates	Damietta	18	1	12	31
	Dakahlia	12	7	28	47
	Sharkia	23	1	23	47
	Kalyoubia	35	6	15	56
	Kafr-El-Sheikh	46	1	24	71
	Gharbia	86	6	26	118
	Menoufia	22	0	12	34
	Behera	16	3	24	43
	Ismailia	28	2	19	49
	Total	286	27	183	496
Upper Egypt Governorates	Giza	25	7	32	64
	Beni-Suef	23	1	11	35
	Fayoum	16	0	24	40
	Menia	18	1	21	40
	Asyout	36	0	16	52
	Suhag	22	3	18	43
	Qena	10	2	13	25
	Aswan	10	2	14	26
	Luxor	9	0	3	12
Total	169	16	152	337	
Frontier Governorates	Red Sea	12	0	5	17
	El-Wadi El-Gidid	16	0	9	25
	Matrouh	12	0	4	16
	North Sinai	6	0	14	20
	South Sinai	6	0	3	9
Total	52	0	35	87	

Source: CAPMAS, 2005

References:

- Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, Egypt.
- Job Opportunities Web Site: [http:// www.skill-link.com/](http://www.skill-link.com/)