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# GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 2011



The challenge of a jobs recovery

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The challenge of a jobs recovery

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First published 2011

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ISBN 978-92-2-124545-2 (print)  
ISBN 978-92-2-124546-9 (web pdf)

Global Employment Trends 2011: The challenge of a jobs recovery / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2011  
1 v.

International Labour Office

Also available in French, *Tendances mondiales de l'emploi 2011* (ISBN 978-92-224545-1), Geneva, 2011, and Spanish, *Tendencias Mundiales del Empleo 2011* (ISBN 978-92-324545-0), Geneva, 2011.

employment / unemployment / labour force participation / economic recession / developed countries / developing countries

13.01.3

*ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data*

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# Contents

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<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	vii
<b>Key findings</b> .....	ix
<b>1      <b>Macroeconomic context for growth and employment</b></b> .....	1
<b>2      <b>Global employment situation</b></b> .....	11
Employment .....	11
Unemployment .....	12
Labour force participation .....	14
Labour productivity and real wages .....	17
Employment by sector .....	20
Vulnerable employment and working poverty .....	21
<b>3      <b>Regional economic and labour market developments</b></b> .....	27
Developed Economies and European Union .....	27
Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and CIS .....	32
Latin America and the Caribbean .....	35
East Asia .....	38
South-East Asia and the Pacific .....	41
South Asia .....	45
Middle East .....	48
North Africa .....	50
Sub-Saharan Africa .....	53
<b>4      <b>Conclusions</b></b> .....	57
<b>Annex 1</b> Global and regional tables .....	61
<b>Annex 2</b> Projections .....	73
<b>Annex 3</b> Regional figures .....	75
<b>Annex 4</b> Note on global and regional estimates .....	95
<b>Annex 5</b> Note on global and regional projections .....	97
<b>Tables</b>	
<b>Table 1</b> Impact: Country classification with respect to the percentage point change in unemployment rate and percentage change in GDP, for the crisis period .....	7
<b>Table 2</b> Recovery: Country classification with respect to the percentage point change in unemployment rate and percentage change in GDP, for the recovery period .....	7
<b>Table 3</b> Working poverty rates at US\$ 1.25 and US\$ 2 levels, selected countries in South Asia .....	48
<b>Table A1</b> Annual real GDP growth rates, world and regions (%) .....	61
<b>Table A2</b> Unemployment rate by sex, world and regions (%) .....	61

<b>Table A3</b>	Unemployment rate for youth and adults, world and regions (%)	62
<b>Table A4</b>	Unemployment in the world (millions)	63
<b>Table A5</b>	Employment-to-population rate by sex, world and regions (%)	63
<b>Table A6</b>	Annual employment growth, world and regions (%)	64
<b>Table A7</b>	Output per worker, level and annual growth	65
<b>Table A8</b>	Labour force participation rate by sex, world and regions (%)	65
<b>Table A9</b>	Labour force participation rate for adults and youth, world and regions (%)	66
<b>Table A10</b>	Employment shares by sector and sex, world and regions (%)	67
<b>Table A11</b>	Employment by sector and sex, world and regions (millions)	68
<b>Table A12</b>	Vulnerable employment shares by sex, world and regions (%)	69
<b>Table A13</b>	Vulnerable employment by sex, world and regions (millions)	70
<b>Table A14a</b>	Working poor indicators, world and regions (US\$ 1.25 a day)	71
<b>Table A14b</b>	Working poor indicators, world and regions (US\$ 2 a day)	71
<b>Table P1</b>	Unemployment 2007–11 (rates)	73
<b>Table P2</b>	Unemployment 2007–11 (numbers of people)	74

## Figures

<b>Figure 1</b>	Quarterly economic growth rates and number of economies in economic contraction, Q1 2007–Q4 2010	3
<b>Figure 2</b>	Number of countries with rising/falling employment-to-population ratios (change versus same quarter prior year), Q1 2007–Q2 2010	5
<b>Figure 3</b>	Global trends and projections in GDP growth, consumption, investment, trade and unemployment, 2007–11	6
<b>Figure 4</b>	Global employment trends, 2000–10*	11
<b>Figure 5</b>	Global unemployment trends, 2000–10*	12
<b>Figure 6</b>	Change in labour force participation rate, 2002–07 versus 2007–09, selected regions	15
<b>Figure 7</b>	Official youth unemployment rates and adjusted rates accounting for reduced labour force participation, 2009	16
<b>Figure 8</b>	Labour productivity growth and employment growth, world and regions, 2007 and 2009	18
<b>Figure 9</b>	Growth in real GDP, employment, labour productivity and real wages, selected economies, Q1 2008–Q1 2009 and Q1 2009–Q1 2010	19
<b>Figure 10</b>	Employment by sector (share of total), 1999–2009	20
<b>Figure 11</b>	Employment by sector, world and selected regions, average annual percentage change 2002–2007 and 2008–2009	21
<b>Figure 12</b>	Global vulnerable employment trends, 1999–2009	23
<b>Figure 13</b>	Global working poverty trends, 1999–2009 (US\$ 1.25 a day)	24
<b>Figure 14</b>	Global working poverty trends, 1999–2009 (US\$ 2 a day)	25
<b>Figure 15</b>	Annual change in employment, selected economies, 2007–09 (annual average) and 2009–10	30
<b>Figure 16</b>	Year-on-year changes in youth unemployment rates, selected regions (percentage points)	34

<b>Figure 17</b>	Ratio of labour regional productivity level to labour productivity level in the Developed Economies and European Union region, selected regions, 1991–2010 . . . . .	37
<b>Figure 18</b>	Ratio of youth to adult unemployment rates, 2010 . . . . .	43
<b>Figure 19</b>	Share of workers in vulnerable employment by sex, selected countries in South Asia . . . . .	47
<b>Figure R1</b>	World: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	75
<b>Figure R2</b>	Developed Economies and European Union: Unemployment, employment and vulnerable employment . . . . .	77
<b>Figure R3</b>	Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and CIS: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	79
<b>Figure R4</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	81
<b>Figure R5</b>	East Asia: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	83
<b>Figure R6</b>	South-East Asia and the Pacific: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	85
<b>Figure R7</b>	South Asia: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	87
<b>Figure R8</b>	Middle East: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	89
<b>Figure R9</b>	North Africa: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	91
<b>Figure R10</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa: Unemployment, employment, vulnerable employment and working poor. . . . .	93
<b>Boxes</b>		
<b>Box 1</b>	Global food prices and poverty. . . . .	25
<b>Box 2</b>	Looking beyond the aggregates: Unemployment and ethnicity in the United States . . . . .	28
<b>Box 3</b>	Part-time employment in developed economies. . . . .	31
<b>Box 4</b>	Manufacturing employment and wages in East Asia. . . . .	40
<b>Box 5</b>	Vulnerability in Indonesia during the crisis and recovery . . . . .	44
<b>Box 6</b>	Unemployment in Saudi Arabia . . . . .	49
<b>Box 7</b>	The Social Opportunities Project in Ghana . . . . .	55
<b>Country spotlights on growth and employment</b>		
<b>Spotlight 1</b>	Growth and employment in Germany, Spain and the United States. . . . .	29
<b>Spotlight 2</b>	Growth and employment in Croatia, Russian Federation and Turkey . . . . .	33
<b>Spotlight 3</b>	Growth and employment in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. . . . .	36
<b>Spotlight 4</b>	Growth and employment in China, Hong Kong (China), in Republic of Korea and Taiwan (China) . . . . .	38
<b>Spotlight 5</b>	Growth and employment in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand . . . . .	42
<b>Spotlight 6</b>	Growth and employment in Egypt and Morocco. . . . .	51

## Acknowledgements

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The *Global Employment Trends 2011* report was prepared by Steven Kapsos and Theo Sparreboom. Kee Beom Kim, Phu Huynh, Gyorgy Sziraczki and Nikhilesh Bhattacharyya (ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) prepared the sections on East Asia and South-East Asia and the Pacific; Dorothea Schmidt (ILO DWT for North Africa) drafted the section on North Africa; Richard Horne drafted the section on Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and CIS; Tariq Haq contributed to the section on the Middle East; and Moazam Mahmood contributed to the conclusions. Boxes were prepared by Richard Horne, Marc van Imschoot and Derk van Wijk. Additional research assistance was provided by Fares Al Hussami and Hwa Lee. Specific mention should be given to Valia Bourmpoula for preparing the global and regional estimates on the basis of the Global Employment Trends (GET) econometric models. The publication would not have been possible without the contributions of other members of the ILO's Employment Trends Team – Philippe Blet, Sara Elder, Isabelle Guillet, Julia Lee, Kimberley Müller and Alan Wittrup – especially in the assembly of data.

The manuscript benefited from the suggestions of Moazam Mahmood, Director of the Economic and Labour Market Analysis Department, and comments from José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, Duncan Campbell, Director for Policy Planning, and Sara Elder, Economist, ILO Employment Sector, as well as from Stephen Pursey of the Policy Integration Department, Philippe Egger from the Director-General's Office, Raymond Torres, Marva Corley and Verónica Escudero from the International Institute for Labour Studies and Rafael Diez de Medina from the Department of Statistics. Finally, we thank Rob Vos, Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, United Nations secretariat, New York, for his review of the draft report.

The analysis provided in the *Global Employment Trends* series is only as good as the available input data. We take this opportunity to thank all institutions involved in the collection and dissemination of labour market information, including national statistical agencies and the ILO Department of Statistics. We encourage additional collection and dissemination of disaggregated data at the country level in order to improve the analysis of employment trends provided in future updates of this report.

We would like to express our thanks to colleagues in the ILO Department of Communication and Public Information for their continued collaboration and support in bringing *Global Employment Trends* to the media's attention worldwide.

Finally, members of the team wish to express their deep appreciation to individuals not listed here who assisted or provided guidance during the development of this report.



## Key findings

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### *Unemployment remains elevated*

- The number of unemployed stood at 205 million in 2010, essentially unchanged from the year earlier and 27.6 million higher than in 2007, with little hope for this figure to revert to pre-crisis levels in the near term. The global unemployment rate stood at 6.2 per cent in 2010, versus 6.3 per cent in 2009, but still well above the rate of 5.6 per cent in 2007.
- The elevated level of global unemployment stands in stark contrast to the recovery that has been seen in several key macroeconomic indicators: real global GDP, private consumption, gross fixed investment and world trade had all recovered by 2010, surpassing pre-crisis levels.
- There has been an uneven recovery in labour markets, with a continued rise in joblessness in the Developed Economies and European Union region, a steady to slightly improving unemployment picture in most developing regions.

### *A recovery in growth that has not brought about a comparable recovery in employment*

- At the global level, the employment-to-population ratio, which indicates whether the employment-generating capacity of a country or region is rising or falling, declined from 61.7 in 2007 to 61.2 in 2009 and is estimated at 61.1 per cent in 2010. Many economies are simply not generating sufficient employment opportunities to absorb growth in the working-age population.
- In 64 countries for which quarterly data are available, as of the second quarter in 2010, the number of countries with falling employment-to-population ratios was still twice the number that had rising ratios. It is clear that the ongoing economic recovery is not yet leading to a sufficient expansion in employment opportunities in many countries.

### *Industrial employment hardest hit*

- Total global employment in industry declined slightly in 2009, which is a major divergence from the historical annual growth rate of 3.4 per cent over the period from 2002 to 2007. Employment in agriculture grew in 2009, which also represented a divergence versus historical

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