

## Acknowledgments

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*Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators, 2010-2011: Arab Society* is the latest in a series of biennial compendia of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It provides a general view of Arab society in the ESCWA region and the changes it has encountered over time. Drawing on data provided mainly from national statistical offices (NSOs), it focuses on issues of population, employment, housing conditions, education, health and culture.

Each issue of the *Compendium* focuses on a single theme. The tenth issue of the *Compendium* pays special attention to the labour market in ESCWA member countries.

This report is divided into two parts. The first part presents labour profiles for eight of the fourteen ESCWA member countries, those who responded to the questionnaire with the most comprehensive data. In the second part, additional areas of social concern are discussed by topic. Not all available indicators are displayed in the body of this publication. A more exhaustive set of tables can be found in the annex as well as on the ESCWA website.

Data was drawn primarily from NSOs of the ESCWA member countries and supplemented by publicly accessible data from international agencies, such as the ILO, WHO, UNHCR and UNESCO. Although efforts were made to present much of the data received from member countries inconsistent or otherwise unreliable data from member countries were excluded from this report.

In the hope of widening the audience of this publication, the tenth issue is intended not only as a reference for policymakers and other officials, but also as a snapshot of trends in the region for readers with an interest in the social climate of Western Asia, including academics, students, journalists and the general public.

We are grateful to the NSOs for providing us with the necessary data.

This publication was prepared by Marwan Khawaja (population), Evan Brand (labour), Ismail Lubbad (education), Zeina Sinno (health), Raffi Shirinian (housing conditions), and Dina Karanoh (culture).