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MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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# Migration Facts Egypt

On the web: [www.migrationpolicycentre.eu](http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu)

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**Introduction** Until 1971, emigration from the country was subject to legal restrictions and limited numbers, especially upon professionals who could migrate permanently to the West. The largest boost to outward flows occurred after the adoption of the 1971 Constitution where “permanent” and “temporary” emigration was authorized; and, especially after the 1973 War, with soaring oil prices and subsequent demand for migrant labour in Gulf countries and Libya. Egypt is currently experiencing what has been called the permanence of temporary migration, whereby migration towards Arab countries is becoming less temporary and outnumbers long-term migration to Europe and North America. Recently, a rise in mostly irregular migration to Europe, especially to Italy and France, has also been recorded. In terms of immigration, Egypt is host to limited flows of migrant workers, but rising numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, mainly Eritrean, Somali, Sudanese, and increasing numbers of Syrian refugees.

## Demographic-Economic

Outward Migration		Inward Migration	
<b>STOCK</b>			
<b>Egyptian emigration stocks - year 2011 (*)</b>		<b>Immigration stocks in Egypt - year 2006 (*)</b>	
<b>Total emigrants:</b> 2,093,758 (according to 2009 Egyptian consular statistics: 6,475,517)		<b>Total immigrants:</b> 184,070 (0.3% of the total resident population)	
<b>Five top countries of residence:</b>		<b>Five top countries of nationality (a):</b>	
<b>Destination countries' statistics</b> Saudi Arabia: 1,015,124 Libya: 332,600 United States: 162,232 Jordan: 112,392 Italy: 92,001	<b>Egyptian consular statistics (2009)</b> Libya: 2,000,000 Saudi Arabia: 1,300,000 United States: 635,000 Jordan: 525,000 Kuwait: 480,000	Palestine: 31,900 Russia: 16,830 Somalia: 16,470 Iraq: 11,320 United Kingdom: 10,530 (a) Irregular migrants are not included	
<b>Sex:</b> Males: 64.5% Females: 35.5%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 8.2% 15-64: 79.3% 65+: 12.6%	<b>Sex:</b> Males: 55.2% Females: 43.8%	<b>Age group:</b> Less than 15: 15.4% 15-64: 80.1% 65+: 4.5%
<b>Level of education (year 2006):</b> primary or below (13.5%); secondary (29.0%); tertiary (57.5%)		<b>Level of education:</b> primary or below (30.4%); secondary (33.6%); tertiary (36.0%)	
<b>Occupation (year 2006):</b> professionals (27.3%); legislators, senior officials and managers (15.6%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (13.1%)		<b>Occupation:</b> service workers and shop and market sales workers (34.0%); professionals (22.8%); legislators, senior officials and managers (11.6%).	
<b>Notes:</b> (*) Egyptian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. <b>Source:</b> destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey). Data on the distribution of Egyptian migrants by level of education and occupation had been taken from the DIOC-OECD Database.		<b>Notes:</b> (*) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion. <b>Source:</b> Egyptian population census (2006).	
		<b>Total refugees and asylum seekers (year 2011):</b> 95,087 <b>Top country of nationality:</b> Palestine 70,029 <b>Source:</b> UNHCR	
<b>FLOWS</b>			
<b>Outflows of Egyptian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011</b>		<b>Migration movements during the Libyan crisis – period: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2011 (b)</b>	
<b>Total outflows:</b> 32,174		<b>Total inflows from Libya:</b> 242,797	
<b>Five top countries of destination:</b> Italy: 12,855      United States: 5,710      Australia: 3,254 United Kingdom: 2,963      France: 1,235		<b>Country of nationality:</b> Egypt: 154,634      Other countries: 88,163	
<b>Source:</b> flow data are proxied by first residence permits (EU MS + Norway) and visas (US + Australia) issued annually to Egyptian nationals.		<b>Total number of repatriations of foreign nationals from Tunisia:</b> 115,516 <b>Source:</b> IOM- <a href="http://www.migration-crisis.com/libya/reports?page=1">http://www.migration-crisis.com/libya/reports?page=1</a>	

## Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

### General legal references

-Egyptian Constitution of 26 December 2012;  
 -Law 88/2005 on Entry, Residence, and Exit of Foreigners;  
 -Labour code; Minister of Manpower Decree 136/2003 on the Work of Foreigners;  
 -Decree 12025/2004 on Citizenship; Law n° 26 of the Year 1975 Concerning Egyptian Nationality;  
 -Law on Emigration and Egyptians Welfare Abroad – n° 111 of the Year 1983

### General mobility – entry, exit and circulation

The 2012 Constitution stipulates that freedom of movement, residence and immigration shall be safeguarded, and that no citizen may be deported from or prevented from returning to the country, nor be prevented from leaving the country (Article 42).

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
<b>Visa</b>	<b>Visa</b>
No exit visa required for Egyptian citizens, but must present passport upon exit.	Passport and visa are required to enter the country.
<b>Labour</b>	<b>Labour</b>
Egyptian policy has been to cooperate with international organisations (e.g. IOM) and other countries to promote legal facilitation of Egyptian labour. Labour Agreements between Egypt and Italy: in 2005 and 2009 assigning priority of 25% of quota for Egyptian workers, registered in lists forwarded to Italy by Egyptian Ministry of Manpower; 2010 Joint Declaration to enhance and regulate seasonal labour migration; and 2011 Memorandum establishing new modalities of cooperation and establishment of Local Coordination Office in Egypt to select labour migrants to Italy. MOA between Jordan and Egypt (2007) related to employment of Egyptian workers. Cooperation between Egypt and Libya regarding Egyptian labour in Libya, especially in construction fields.	In Egypt, access to employment is based on reciprocity. Egyptian companies have a maximum 10% limit for foreign unskilled/semi-skilled and 25% foreign skilled employees. Although Egypt stipulates national preference in employment, preferential treatment is given to some nationalities (e.g. Greece, Italy, Palestine, Sudan, Jordan, Syria). Civil service and liberal professions reserved mainly for Egyptians. Certain categories of foreign workers are excluded from working permit requirements.
<b>Readmission Agreements</b>	<b>Rights</b>
EU-Egypt Association Agreement (2004) stipulates that Egypt agrees to readmit any of its nationals illegally present on the territory of a Member State. Readmission agreement between Italy and Egypt (2007) for readmission of Egyptian nationals and third-country nationals as a result of reinforced bilateral relations.	The Egyptian government grants family reunification under certain conditions. There is no equal access to education except certain nationalities, and there is equal access to health care. Access to social security after 10 years. Aliens who become citizens are not entitled to political rights until after 5 years since gaining citizenship. The rights and entitlements of non-Egyptian workers are the same as those of Egyptians, but subject to reciprocity where Egypt has labor agreements with other countries that host Egyptian migrants. Egyptian nationality is a right, regulated by law. (Article 32, 2012 Constitution).
<b>Irregular Migration</b>	<b>Irregular Migration</b>
1998 Agreement between Greece and Egypt to fight human trafficking and smuggling. EU-Egypt Association Agreement (2004) stipulates cooperation for the prevention and control of illegal migration	Irregular entry and facilitation of such entry is penalized with up to 6 months in prison and 1,000 pounds fine. Two years prison penalty for document falsification or non-respect of deportation order. Irregular stay punished with fines.
<b>Diaspora</b>	<b>International Protection</b>
Egypt attempts to foster connections between Diaspora and homeland, and to link emigration policies with social and economic development in Egypt. Article 56 of the 2012 Constitution guarantees that the State will “safeguard the interests of Egyptians living abroad, protect them and protect their rights and freedoms, help them perform their public duties toward the Egyptian State and society, and encourage their contribution to the development of the nation” and their “participation in elections and referendums is regulated by law.” The Ministry of Manpower and Emigration is the Egyptian institutional body in charge of emigration affairs.	Egypt lacks a national procedure for refugees, but recognises UNHCR refugee status determination mandate. UNHCR also provides refugees with residence permits. 1951 and 1969 Conventions ratified. 2012 Constitution guarantees that the right to political asylum shall be granted by the State to every foreigner deprived in their country of public rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and that no political refugee will be extradited (Article 57).
<b>Multiple Citizenship</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
An Egyptian citizen may obtain foreign nationality only with the permission of the Ministry of Interior. After permission, and within one year, the citizen must declare his/her wish to retain Egyptian citizenship or else risk being deprived of Egyptian citizenship.	After ten years consecutive residence in Egypt, an alien may apply for citizenship under certain conditions. Egyptian citizens may transmit their nationality to children born from an Egyptian citizen and a foreign father or mother. Access to nationality for foreign women after 2 years of marriage with a male citizen. No right to nationality through marriage with an Egyptian woman.