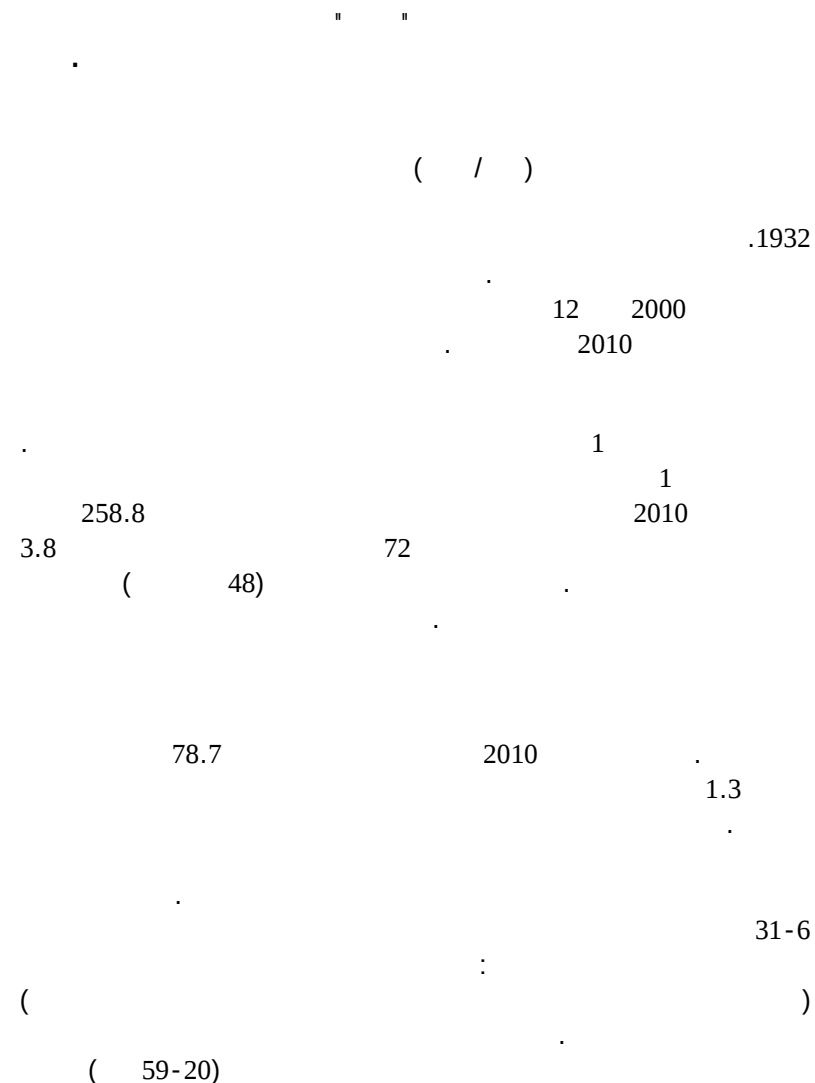


Section I of this Bulletin, entitled “Population”, presents data from the most recent population censuses on population size and composition in the ESCWA region.

The section provides a detailed portrait of population size and composition according to age, sex, place of residence (urban/rural) and nationality (if relevant) based on the last two censuses in each country, with the exception of Lebanon which conducted its last population census in 1932. It should be noted that almost all ESCWA member countries in the region have been undertaking a population census every ten years. Population figures from the 2000 census round were made available to us from 12 ESCWA member countries, and figures from the 2010 census round were made available to us from six countries.

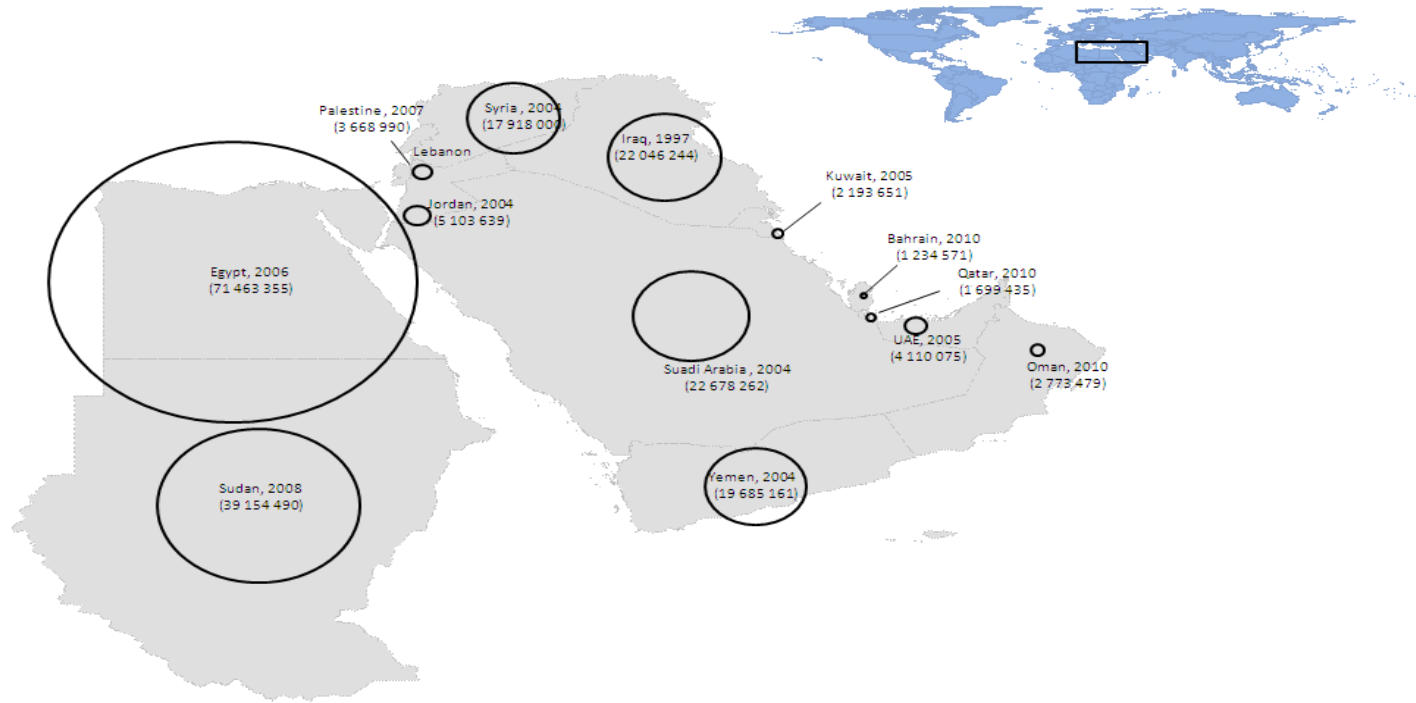
Figure 1 displays population size of each country in the ESCWA region according to the last population census. Table 1 shows the census count at the census reference date together with United Nations estimates of the population in each country at mid-year 2010. According to the United Nations estimates for 2010, the population of ESCWA member countries was 258.8 million, representing 72 per cent of the total population of Arab countries and 3.8 per cent of the world population. About half (48 per cent) of the ESCWA population live in only two countries, Egypt and the Sudan.

The ESCWA region is very diverse in terms of population size and composition. Population size in 2010 ranged from 78.7 million in Egypt to only about 1.3 million in Bahrain. Population composition by age, sex and nationality, also differs greatly across countries. Although population counts from the most recent population census are not strictly comparable, owing to differences in census reference date, they do shed light on variations in the shape of age-sex structures across countries. According to figures 6-31 represented in population pyramids from the last population census for each country in the ESCWA region, countries fall into two groups. The first group has a bell shaped pyramid with a large base at the younger age groups (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) and



a narrow top. The second group of countries is in the Gulf Cooperation Council, and generally has a unique shape with distorted sex compositions 20-59, owing to large numbers of migrant workers most of whom are men.

الشكل 1 : أعداد السكان في بلدان الإسكوا حسب آخر تعداد للسكان
 Figure 1: Population of ESCWA countries according to the latest population census



Figures from the last population census taken in each country since 2000 show a very diverse population composition by age and sex in the ESCWA region. Table 33 shows that dependency ratios have decreased in all countries. As shown in figure 2, the dependency ratio varied between 17 per cent in Qatar, 88 per cent in Palestine and 94 per cent in Yemen. It is clear from this figure that high fertility countries such as Yemen and Palestine have higher dependency ratios than lower fertility countries such as Egypt and Jordan. On the other hand, the Gulf countries have lower dependency ratios than other ESCWA member countries owing to the disproportionately large number of immigrant workers in the working age population in the Gulf.

الشكل 2: النسبة المئوية للإعالة لمجموع السكان بحسب آخر تعداد للسكان
Figure 2: Dependency ratio, according to the latest population census

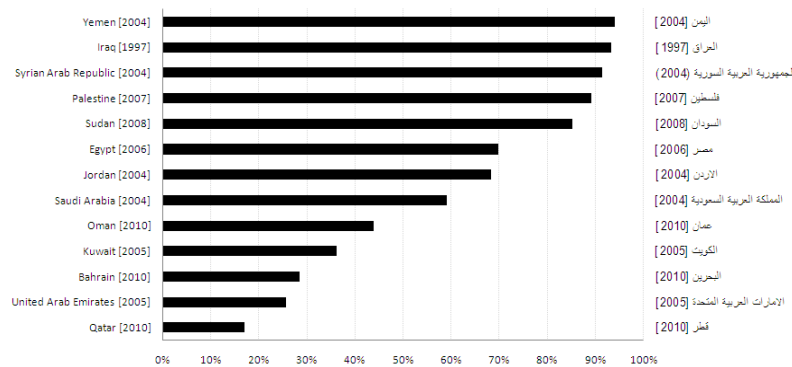


Figure 3 displays the proportions of children, youth and elderly populations as reported in the last population census in each country. The size of these population groups are affected by recent fertility trends and labour migration. The proportion of children aged less than 15 years ranged from a low of 14 per cent in Qatar in 2010 to a high of 45 per cent in Yemen. The children in high fertility countries such as Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen constituted over 40 per cent of the total populations in these countries. Over a fifth of the population in eight ESCWA members countries are youth. Again, the Gulf countries generally have lower proportions of children and youth compared to other countries.

33

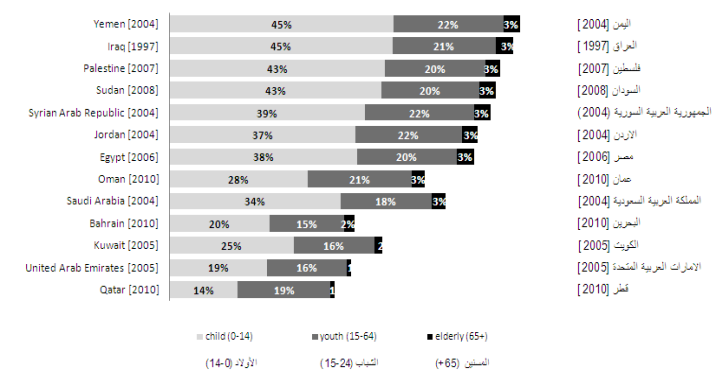
2000.

2
94

89

17

الشكل 3: النسبة المئوية للمسنين (65+) وللشباب (15-24) ولالأولاد (0-14) لمجموع السكان حسب آخر تعداد للسكان
Figure 3: Percentages of Elderly (65+), Youth (15-24) and Child (0-14) populations according to the latest population census



3

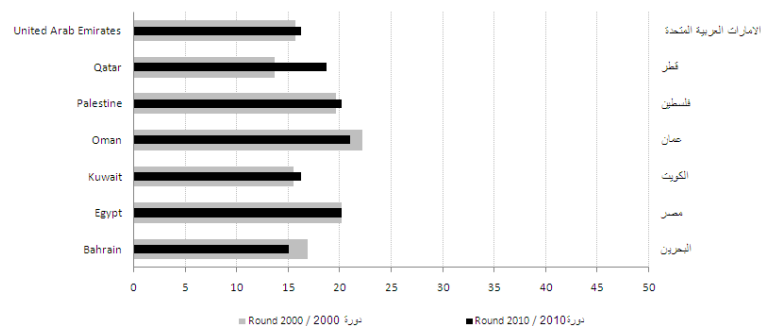
14

45

2010

Figures 4 and 5 show changes in the proportions of youth and children between the last two censuses (undertaken in the 2000 and 2010 census rounds) in seven countries. The figures indicate a large decline in the proportions of children, and an increase in the proportions of youth populations in all ESCWA countries except Bahrain, Egypt and Oman. Despite reported fertility declines in Egypt, census figures do not reflect corresponding shifts in the proportions of children and youth owing possibly to age misstatement, under-enumeration in some young population groups or both.

الشكل 4: النسبة المئوية للشباب (15-24) حسب آخر تعدادين للسكان
Figure 4: Percentage of youth population (15-24) according to the latest two population censuses



Finally, recent estimates of annual natural population growth rates are available from 11 countries in the ESCWA region. Estimates for 2010 show a wide variation in population growth, ranging from 0 per cent per annum in Qatar (for nationals) to 2.8 per cent in both Iraq and Palestine to 3.4 per cent in Kuwait. However, in eight of the counties, population is expected to grow by at least 2.2 per cent per annum, implying that the populations in these countries would double in about 34 years or less. (See table.37).

With regard to the annual population growth rates, there is a decrease in some of the GCC countries perhaps because of a low flow in migration levels to these countries in 2010 compared to previous years, lower fertility rates or both.

الشكل 5: النسبة المئوية للأطفال (0-14) حسب آخر تعدادين للسكان
Figure 5: Percentage of child population (0-14) according to the latest two population censuses

