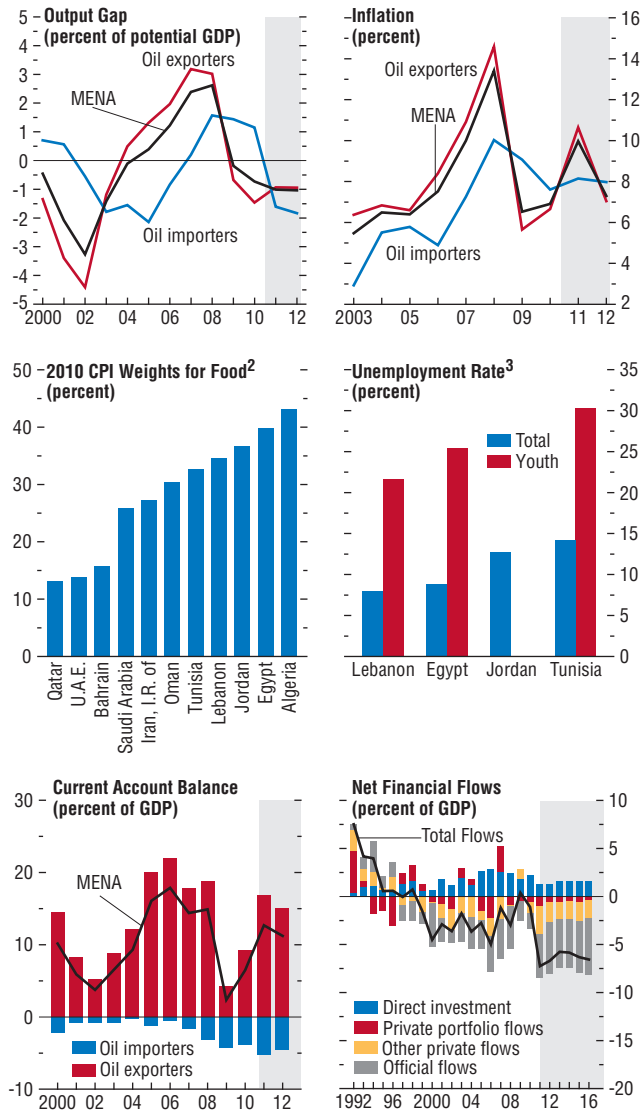


**Figure 2.16. Middle East and North Africa:  
The Recovery Continues in an Uncertain Environment<sup>1</sup>**

Having weathered the global crisis relatively well, the recovery is now proceeding. The level of economic activity is still below but getting closer to potential. High unemployment, growing social unrest, and rising food prices are dampening growth prospects, especially in oil-importing economies. Current account surpluses in oil-exporting economies are expected to widen again as the recovery continues.



Sources: Haver Analytics; International Labor Organization; IMF, Primary Commodity Price System; national sources; and IMF staff estimates.

<sup>1</sup> Oil exporters: Algeria, Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), and Republic of Yemen. Oil importers: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, and Tunisia. Aggregates for the external economy are sums of individual country data. Aggregates for all others are computed on the basis of purchasing-power-parity weights.

<sup>2</sup> Data for Algeria, Tunisia, and U.A.E. are for 2009. Data for Saudi Arabia are for 2008. Data for Lebanon are for 2007. CPI: consumer price index.

<sup>3</sup> Youth defined as persons ages 15 to 24 years. Data on youth unemployment rate are not available for Jordan.