



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Women's Participation in the Labor Force: North Africa

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- ❖ From 1996 to 2014, According to the United Nations Population Fund, female participation in the Egyptian labor force increased from 18% to 22.4%.¹
- ❖ According to a 2009 Survey of Young People in Egypt, the unemployment rate among nonstudent females aged 15-29 is 30.7%, which is more than twice the rate for nonstudent males (12.6%).²
- ❖ In 2011, according to the World Bank, the ratio of female to male labor participation in Algeria was 23.75%, which was a significant increase from the 2009 levels of labor force participation level of 20.23%.³
- ❖ From 2011 to 2015, according to the World Bank, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia have all experienced increased female participation in the labor force.⁴
- ❖ As of 2013, according to the United Nations Development Programme, for every one male participating in the work force in Morocco, .74 females participate in the work force.⁵
- ❖ As of 2013, among the Moroccan urban female youth population (ages 15-24), only 6% are actively participating in the labor force, compared to 24% among males of the same demographic.⁶
- ❖ As of 2014, despite a majority of college graduates in Libya being women (77% compared to 63% of men), only 43% of women are granted employment after graduating from higher education institutions.⁷
- ❖ According to the World Bank, as of 2014, 30% of females above the age of 15 were active in the Libyan work force.⁸
- ❖ As of January of 2015, 27% of Tunisian women are actively participating in the labor force.⁹

¹ <http://egypt.unfpa.org/english/Staticpage/3/419d6d02-ac4e-4c1f-af98-e48aa894b7cd/GENDER.aspx>

² http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2012PGY_SYPEPolicyBrief4.pdf

³ <http://beta.data.worldbank.org/?end=2011&indicators=SL.TLF.CACT.FM.NE.ZS&locations=DZ&start=2001&view=chart>

⁴ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.FE.ZS>

⁵ <http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/content/labour-force-participation-rate-female-male-ratio>

⁶ <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2015/07/female-labor-force-participation-morocco-morikawa/female-labor-force-participation.pdf?la=en>

⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/libyan-women-struggle-join-workforce-2014112581852452667.html>

⁸ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/libya/labor-participation-rate-female-percent-of-female-population-ages-15-plus--wb-data.html>

⁹ <http://www.aauw.org/2015/01/14/revolution-tunisian-women/>