

KEY FACTS

Official name: Jumhuriyat Misr al Arabiya (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Head of State: President Hosni Mubarak (re-elected for fifth term Sep 2005)

Head of government: Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif (appointed by the President 9 Jul 2004)

Ruling party: National Democratic Party (NDP) (since 1996; re-elected Dec 2005)

Area: 1,001,499 square km

Population: 70.83 million (2004)

Capital: Cairo

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Egyptian pound (LE) = 100 piastres

Exchange rate: LE5.76 per US\$ (Oct 2005); (Egyptian pound floated on Jan 2003)

GDP per capita: US\$1,111 (2004)

GDP real growth: 4.10% (2004)

Labour force: 27.49 million (2004)

Unemployment: 10.90% (2004)

Inflation: 8.10% (2004)

Oil production: 708,000 bpd (2004)

Balance of trade: -US\$8.21 billion (2004)

Foreign debt: US\$29.70 billion (2003)

Egypt



Driven by strong growth in export, real growth GDP advanced by 4.8 per cent in the first half of 2004/05. The stock market surged, the pound appreciated and a formal interbank market for foreign exchange was established. Egypt's external position strengthened: debt remained stable. There was more traffic in the Suez Canal and oil prices were higher. Strong current account flows enabled banks to strengthen their net foreign asset position; the Central Bank built up its reserve position.

All in all, a good time for Egypt and the recovery is likely to firm up. Preliminary data suggest a continuation of recent trends, yet the challenges ahead to build a dynamic, private sector-driven economy in Egypt remain considerable.

Economy

Output growth remains below the minimum required to absorb growth in the labour force, the financial sector is weak, and government borrowing and debt are still high. Egypt will have to maintain the current pace of structural reform while pursuing fiscal policies that will bring about robust responses from private investors and the growth needed to reduce unemployment and poverty.

Monetary policy needs to be more forward-looking and provide better guidance to the market and be more transparent. There are ongoing efforts to modernise Egypt's budget and improve treasury cash management which will enable the control of government expenditure and improve

the fiscus, but they will not result in lower spending or borrowing unless there are concrete expenditure-reducing measures in place, such as pruning subsidies and the government wage bill. On borrowing, there must be specific targets to ensure that government debt follows a declining path.

A privatisation programme focuses on strengthening the banking system through the consolidation and privatisation of small joint venture and public sector banks; restructuring of public sector banks, including through recapitalisation; and resolution of the problem of non-performing loans.

The medium-term outlook for Egypt's balance of payments remains favourable. The ongoing development of Egypt's tourism potential, already at record levels, and vast gas resources bodes well. Five major projects are expected to raise Egypt's gas exports to approximately 21 billion cubic meters per annum by 2008. At current prices (US\$126 per thousand cubic metres); this would result in gross annual inflows of US\$2.7 billion (3.1 per cent of gross domestic product). The development of an export market for natural gas is a bright spot for future growth prospects, but improvement in the capital-intensive hydrocarbons sector does little to reduce Egypt's persistent unemployment, which relies on diversification to more labour intensive industry. A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society.

Lack of substantial progress on economic reform since the mid 1990s has limited foreign direct investment (FDI) in Egypt. However, the government has recently implemented several measures to boost FDI – customs reforms, income and corporate tax reforms, reduced energy subsidies and more privatisation.

Politics

President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak is Egypt's longest-serving ruler since Muhammad Ali in the early nineteenth century and one of the longest-serving leaders in the Arab world. Now 77, he gained a fifth consecutive term in presidential elections in September 2005. The poll was the first under a new system which allows multiple candidates to stand. In previous elections Egyptians voted yes or no for a single candidate appointed by parliament. The only opposition organisation which has broad public support, the Muslim Brotherhood, is outlawed and could not field a candidate. However, in elections to the parliament held in December 2005, the

Muslim Brotherhood fielded 'independent' candidates, 88 of whom were successful. These 88 are more than all the other opposition parties and independents combined.

Mubarak succeeded Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated in 1981. He himself has escaped no fewer than six assassination attempts. He is an economic liberal and his government has promised economic reforms. But Egypt remains plagued by high unemployment and low standards of living.

He has pursued friendly relations with the West and broke the isolation imposed on Egypt by Arab countries opposed to peace with Israel. As a military man he was credited with modernising the air force after Egypt's defeat in the six-day war with Israel in 1967. He helped to plan the 1973 Yom Kippur War – an Egyptian-Syrian attack on Israeli forces on the Suez Canal and in the Golan Heights.

The succession is hotly debated. Reports that Mubarak's younger son Gamal is being groomed for office have angered the opposition and have been denied by the president.

He was born in 1928. He and his wife Suzanne, who is part Welsh and part Egyptian, have two sons, Ala and Gamal.

Foreign relations

Egypt's three wars with Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973, then its eventual peace with its adversary in 1979, have seen Egypt move from being a warring nation

to become a key representative in the peace process. The historic step taken by President Anwar Sadat in the Camp David agreement with Israel saw the expulsion of Egypt from the Arab League until 1989, and in 1981 Sadat was assassinated by Islamic extremists angry at his moves to clamp down on their activities.

Mubarak has taken a more moderate line, but Islamic groups have continued their sporadic campaigns, being responsible for deadly attacks that have often targeted tourists and resort areas. Campaigners for political reform have become more vocal in recent times and have taken to the streets in defiance of an emergency law, in force since 1981. Activists say the law restricts political expression.

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations. Egypt's ancient past and the fact that it was one of the first Middle Eastern countries to open up to the West means that it is seen by many as the intellectual and cultural leader in the region. The head of Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque is one of the highest authorities in Sunni Islam.

Risk assessment

Political	Improving
Economic	Improving
Regional stability	Poor
Stock market	Improving

KEY INDICATORS

Egypt

	Unit	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Population	m	63.98	65.30	65.17	68.00	70.83
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	93.00	84.80	76.30	82.40	*75.15
GDP per capita	US\$	1,360	1,299	1,143	956	1,111
GDP real growth	%	5.1	2.5	2.0	3.1	4.1
Inflation	%	2.7	2.3	2.5	4.2	8.1
Unemployment	%	11.5	12.0	12.5	10.7	10.9
Oil output	'000 bpd	781.0	758.0	751.0	750.0	708.0
Natural gas output	bn cum	18.0	21.0	22.7	25.0	26.8
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	7,061.0	7,078.0	6,640.0	8,205.0	11,000.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	15,382.0	16,432.0	14,640.0	14,821.0	10,210.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-8,321.0	-9,300.0	-7,800.0	-6,616.0	-8,210.0
Current account	US\$m	-1,160.0	-30.0	610.0	1,940.0	3,420.0
Foreign debt	US\$bn	29.2	28.1	28.7	29.7	33.8
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	13,118.0	12,926.0	13,242.0	13,589.0	14,273.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	12,913.0	12,891.0	13,151.0	13,400.0	14,108.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	3.69	4.49	4.51	5.40	6.21

* estimated figure

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

Egypt is best known for its pyramids and ancient civilisations. It became part of the Ottoman Empire in the sixteenth century, although the Mamluk dynasty continued to govern after the conquest.

Egypt has the largest population in the Arab world and is, after Israel, the largest recipient of US aid worldwide. It has maintained a high profile not only within the Arab world, but also on the world stage, and despite being condemned by the other Arab nations, the country has changed its stance from being a warring nation to becoming a key representative in the Middle East peace process.

1811 Governor Mohammed Ali exterminated the Mamluks, the former ruling oligarchy, in the Citadel massacre.

Mohammed Ali was permitted hereditary rights to rule, providing Egypt remained a part of the Ottoman Empire.

1859–69 The Suez Canal was built.

1882 Britain occupied Egypt and although it still remained under Ottoman suzerainty, it became *de facto* a British colony.

1914 Britain eliminated the Ottoman suzerainty and the country became a British protectorate – the Egyptian Sultanate.

1922 Egypt was renamed Kingdom of Egypt and was officially independent, although Britain supervised until 1946.

1936 Signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, which restricted British military presence to the Suez Canal Zone.

1947–49 Egypt contributed to a pan-Arab military force that failed to occupy the newly-created state of Israel.

1952 The 23 July Revolution, led by the army, ousted King Fu'ad, who had just succeeded his father, King Faruq.

1953–56 Egypt was declared a republic in 1953, under President Mohammed Neguib relinquished power in 1954 to Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, who was officially elected in 1956.

1956 Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal to fund the construction of the Aswan High Dam to regulate the annual flooding of the Nile River. After Egypt blockaded the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat, Israeli forces attacked and occupied the Sinai peninsula, later being joined by Britain and France, which sought to regain control of the Canal Zone. In the face of strong international opposition, particularly from the US, all three withdrew their forces.

1967 Egypt again blockaded Eilat; Israel launched and won the Six Day War against Egypt, Jordan and Syria, taking control of the Sinai peninsula and the Gaza Strip, which had been Egyptian

territory. Crucially, they also took control of the Golan Heights, overlooking Syria. 1968–70 The War of Attrition was a limited war fought between Egypt and Israel, initiated by Egypt as a way to recapture the Sinai peninsula from Israel; the war ended with frontiers at the same place as when the war started.

1970–73 Anwar al Sadat was elected president following the death of Nasser. He renamed the country the Arab Republic of Egypt and ruled it as a one-party state. The Aswan High Dam was inaugurated by the President. In the 6 October War (also known as the Yom Kippur War), Egypt and Syria invaded Israel to reclaim some of the land lost in the Six Day War, but despite early successful strategic gains for Egypt and Syria, Israel counter-attacked and repelled the invasion, re-conquering the Golan Heights from Syria. 1975 The Suez Canal reopened, having been closed since the 1967 war.

1978–84 Sadat visited Jerusalem, which led to the Camp David Peace Accords, the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty and the eventual Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula in 1982. Egypt was expelled from the Arab League. Sadat was assassinated by Islamic extremists in 1981. A national referendum approved Hosni Mubarak as president and political opposition parties were allowed for the first time.

1989 Egypt rejoined the Arab League.

1991–94 Egypt contributed to the US-led military campaign against Iraq. The outcome of the Gulf War established the political and economic framework for an Arab-Israeli peace process. Egypt was a party to peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, which began negotiations on the status of the former Egyptian territory of Gaza.

1996–2000 The National Democratic Party (NDP) was re-elected in the 1996 and 2000 elections. Mubarak was re-elected president for a fourth term. 2003 Emergency powers established when Sadat was assassinated in 1981 were extended for another three years.

2004 Ahmed Nazif became prime minister. In November, the funeral of Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, was held in Cairo.

2005 In February, Egypt hosted the Sharm El Sheik summit, at which President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon signed a truce; Israel was to withdraw from Gaza and the Palestinian authorities curb the violence of militant groups opposed to Israel. Egypt resumed diplomatic ties with Israel. A constitutional amendment allowed multiple candidates in the presidential elections, which was won by incumbent Mubarak, for a fifth consecutive term. Three-stage

parliamentary elections took place on 9 and 20 November and 1 December: the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won 311 of the 442 elective seats, the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood contested the elections as independents and won 88 seats, more than the other opposition parties and independents combined.

Political structure

Constitution

Under the 1971 constitution, amended in 1980, Egypt is an Arab Republic with a democratic socialist system. The constitution states that there should be no discrimination on the grounds of race or religion. The country is divided into 26 governorates, with governors appointed by the president. There is universal suffrage with a voting age of 18.

Form of state

Democratic socialist republic

The executive

Executive power rests with the president, who is elected by universal suffrage for a six-year term (and may be re-elected), having been nominated by at least one-third of the People's Assembly and approved by at least two-thirds. The president may choose one or more vice presidents, and appoints, and may dismiss, the prime minister and cabinet.

The president may take emergency measures, but these must be approved by a referendum within 60 days; he may also dissolve the People's Assembly (the legislative body) prematurely, but a referendum and elections must be held within 60 days.

The president is supreme commander of the armed forces and head of the police.

National legislature

The legislative body is the Majlis al Shaab (People's Assembly). Most members (444 out of the total 454) are elected every five years by universal suffrage. The remaining 10 representatives are appointed by the president.

A second 264-member chamber, the Majlis al Shura (Consultative Assembly), has no legislative powers and acts only in an advisory capacity. The term of office is six years, with half of the members standing for re-election every three years.

Two-thirds of the members are elected by direct universal suffrage, with the provision that half are manual workers, including small farmers, and the remaining one-third are appointed by the president.

Legal system

The legal system is based on the constitution of 1971. Officially, Egyptian law is based on *Sharia* (Islamic law), although in practice it is based on English common law and the French Napoleonic code. Christians and Jews are subject to their own jurisprudence in personal status

affairs. The Court of Cassation, consisting of five judges, is the highest court of appeal. Courts of appeal (three judges) sit in Cairo and four other cities. Assize courts (three judges) deal with serious crimes. Central tribunals (three judges) handle ordinary civil and commercial cases. Summary tribunals (one judge) deal with both civil and criminal cases and have the power to impose fines and decree three-year prison terms.

Last elections

October–December 2005 (legislative); September 2005 (presidential).

Results: Presidential: Incumbent, Hosni Mubarak (NDP) won 88.6 per cent of the vote, Ayman Nour, (al Ghad) 7.5 per cent. Turnout was low at 23 per cent of the electorate.

Parliamentary: the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) won 331 of 432 elective seats, independents 112 seats (including 88 affiliates of the Muslim Brotherhood), New Wafd Party six seats, the Tagammu Party two seats and the al Ghad Party one seat. The president appointed 10 members to bring the total number of parliamentary members to 454. Turnout was 26.6 per cent and 12 seats were unallocated due to irregularities.

Next elections

By October 2010 (presidential); November 2005 (legislative).

Political parties

Ruling party

National Democratic Party (NDP) (since 1996; re-elected Dec 2005)

Main opposition party

New Wafd Party (NWP); The Tagammu Party (Progressive Unionist Party); al Ghad (Tomorrow Party).

The outlawed Muslim Brotherhood contested the parliamentary elections as independents and returned more candidates than the numbers of legitimate parties and other independents combined.

Population

70.83 million (2004)

Ethnic make-up

Eastern Hamitic (99 per cent); the remaining 1 per cent comprises minorities including Armenian, Italian and Greek.

Religions

Muslim (mostly Sunni) (92 per cent); Coptic Christian and others (8 per cent).

Education

Primary education is compulsory and free; followed by three years of intermediate school and two years of secondary school, which are also free, but not compulsory. University graduates have long been guaranteed employment by the state, and this has contributed to the growth of a bloated and overstaffed state

bureaucracy. The desire by graduates for office-based professional employment has led to a shortage of skilled technical labour. The government is encouraging more students to go into technical education.

Literacy rate: 66.7 per cent men, 43.9 per cent women; adult rates (World Bank).

Compulsory years: 6 to 12

Enrolment rate: 101 per cent, total primary school enrolment of the relevant age group (including repetition rates); 78 per cent, total enrolment of the relevant age group, in intermediate and secondary schools, (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 23 in primary schools

Health

Total expenditure on health is around 4 per cent of GDP, of which 46 per cent is government spending.

Healthcare in the private sector has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially in Cairo, with the construction of a number of private hospitals that provide an alternative to the severely over-stretched public health service. However the general decline in living standards has placed many private sector healthcare institutions in financial difficulties.

Family planning is widely available and officially encouraged, although many religious leaders continue to preach that it is against Islam. The population continues to grow and the government expects it to double to 110 million over the next 30 years, even if the target of halving the average family size is achieved.

Improved water sources and sanitation facilities are available to 95 per cent and 94 per cent of the population, respectively.

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 69.1 years (World Bank)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 3.1 births per woman (2003); maternal mortality 170 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Infant mortality rate: 33 per 1,000 live births; 4 per cent of children aged under five were malnourished (World Bank).

Head of population per physician/bed: 2.0 physicians and 2.1 hospital beds per 1,000 people.

Welfare

Social security provisions include sickness benefits, pensions, health insurance, training and subsidies on basic goods, including pharmaceuticals. The government places particular stress on the improvement of rural living standards and has established rural social units to provide health, education and agricultural

services. Social services include care for mothers and children, the aged, the handicapped and prisoners, family planning, cultural education and literacy courses. The government, employers and employees contribute to a national insurance scheme that covers pensions and sickness benefit. A social development fund provides retraining, unemployment insurance and assistance to people who lose their jobs as a result of reforms and the privatisation of public enterprises.

Main cities

Cairo (capital, estimated population 8.1 million in 2004); Greater Cairo, 10.6 million, is the largest city in Africa. Other cities include Alexandria (4.0 million), Giza (2.7 million), Shubra al Khaymah (1.0 million), Port Said (548,900), Suez (488,200), Luxor (421,500), Asyut (401,600), El Faiyum (305,100), Ismailia (297,500), Aswan (256,100), El Minya (235,400).

Languages spoken

French and English are widely spoken, especially in business circles.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

Cairo is the largest publishing centre in the Middle East. The state controls the main newspapers as well as the Egyptian Radio and Television Corporation (ERTC) and the Egyptian Television Organisation (ETO).

Press

Dailies: Usually published in Arabic language. These include *Al Ahram*, *Alalam Alyoum*, *Al Sha'ab*, *Al Akhbar*, *Al Gomhouriya* and *Al Wafd*. There are also daily French papers, *Progrès Egyptien* and *Le Journal d'Egypte*. *Egyptian Gazette* provides daily local information in English.

Weeklies: *Akhbar al Yom*, *Al Mussawar*, *Alahali Newspaper* and *Akher Sa'a* have the largest circulation. There are a large number of weekly magazines, including *Hawadeth Magazine*, *Riada Magazine* and the *Sayarat Magazine*. *The Cairo Times* is the best selling English language bi-weekly magazine reporting from Egypt and the region. The Egypt edition of *Middle East Times* provides independent weekly coverage of politics, culture and religion in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Business: Daily financial newspaper, *Al Alam al Youm*. Business news is covered by *Egypt Today*, *Business Today Egypt* and the economic weekly *Al Ahram al Iqtisadi*. The main English-language commercial weekly *Middle East Observer* also provides financial information.

Periodicals: Monthly publications in Arabic language include *Al Manar Magazine* and *Al Murabeton*. English language

periodicals include the *Arab Ambassador*. IBA Media is Egypt's leading English-language publisher and publishes three monthly titles: *Egypt Today* (<http://www.egypttoday.com>), *Business Today Egypt* (businesstoday-eg.com) and *PC World Egypt* (pcworld.com.eg).

Broadcasting

Radio: The national service is broadcast by the ERTC. There are 12 stations operating. The state's radio programmes are in Arabic, but it has an FM foreign language programme with daily news bulletins in English, French, Italian, German and Greek.

Television: A number of channels are operated by ETO. Channel 1 specialises in Arab programming while Channel 2 has a larger selection of Western shows. More than 90 per cent of households have a television.

Egyptian broadcasters transmit 84 channels throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean via the Nilesat 101 satellite.

Egypt broadcasts Egyptian programmes throughout the Arab World. Libya and Egypt have cable telecommunications and radio links between the two countries.

Advertising

Egypt's advertising sector is one of the fastest-growing in the region.

Economy

The most influential change to Egypt's economy in 2004 was the appointment of a pro-reform cabinet. It has begun essential structural reforms in taxes, trade and subsidies, as well as restructuring the financial system, modernising fiscal accounts and strengthening monetary policy, while speeding-up the sale of state entities.

International trade in goods and services staged a recovery in 2004 coupled with a rise in the stock market and an appreciation in the Egyptian pound. Egypt also moved to a system of unified, flexible exchange rates in December 2004 that has operated well since its inception.

The privatisation of 19 state businesses by 2004, including two financial entities, earned LE5.6 billion (US\$896 million) with direct investment in non-petroleum sectors put in 2004/05 at US\$1 billion. Traditionally the economy was driven by oil, tourism, Suez Canal tolls and expatriate workers' remittances, whereas in 2004 trade in cotton clothing accounted for US\$1.2 billion to the US and EU – US\$615 million to the US alone. Cotton exports between October 2004 and March 2005 reached 113,400 tonnes and were valued at US\$231 million. This helped drive annual GDP growth at 4.1 per cent.

The government overhauled customs procedures and reduced import tariffs,

predicting that the changes would generate a rise of around 1.5 per cent in GDP growth in 2005.

The promising start to Egypt's recovery has been monitored by the IMF who advocates that the bulk of the surplus to the budget should be used to retire government debts.

External trade

Imports

Principal imports are machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, wood products and fuels. US goods to be imported during 2006 will be US\$5.1 billion.

In September 2004 customs procedures and reduced import tariffs were overhauled.

Main sources: US (13.2 per cent total, 2004), Germany (7.2 per cent), Italy (7.1 per cent), France (6.1 per cent), China (5.5 per cent), UK (4.9 per cent), Saudi Arabia (4.4 per cent)

Exports

Principal exports are crude oil and petroleum products, cotton, textiles, metal products and chemicals. Other exports include refined sugar cane, raw cotton, potatoes, rice and oranges.

Main destinations: Italy (13.1 per cent total, 2004), US 11.6 per cent), UK (7.5 per cent), Germany (5.1 per cent), Spain (4.5 per cent), France (4.2 per cent)

Agriculture

Farming

The agriculture sector contributed 15.5 per cent to GDP in 2004 and employed around 30 per cent of the workforce. Its importance is declining in relation both to industry and to population growth.

Irrigation is supplied by the River Nile – the government is looking at ways to improve the efficiency of water use through the construction of lined canals and pipes. Problems surrounding the ecological effects of the Aswan High Dam persist.

Fertile land is found in the Nile Valley and Delta – the cultivable area accounts for only 2.4 per cent of the total land area at around 3.1 million hectares.

The construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1970s initially improved crop yields by providing a constant source of water for irrigation. However, the dam had a damaging long-term effect on agriculture. It has permanently raised the water table, causing serious drainage problems and high salinity as well as depriving the Nile valley of annual silt, a natural fertiliser, previously brought down by the river during the flood season. The silt has had to be replaced by costly chemical fertilisers.

Virtually all water in Egypt comes from the River Nile, from which Egypt is allowed to take 55.5 billion cubic metres of water a year, under its agreement with nine other

Nile basin countries. This imposes strict limitations on the expansion of agriculture.

A number of major irrigation schemes are under way. These are along the coast north-west of Alexandria, the Nile border with Sudan, East Oweinat in the desert and the largest project of them all, the Southern Valley Scheme. The cost of the Southern Valley Scheme is projected to reach US\$85 billion by 2017. Saudi investment will build the largest farm in the world (six times bigger than Singapore) which will reach full production in 2010 and will employ 25,000 people permanently, as well as additional seasonal labour.

Agricultural production in Egypt is highly labour-intensive. Output suffers from crop infestation, price controls, fragmented land tenure, increased soil salinity and consumer preference for imported foods. Major subsistence crops include maize, sorghum, rice, wheat, beans and vegetables. Egypt's wheat consumption far outstrips local production, with Egyptian wheat crops supplying just 40 per cent of annual domestic demand. Some 65 per cent of food requirements are imported, making Egypt's annual food import bill around US\$5.5 billion.

Cotton is a major export crop; however, WTO agreements, which came into force on 1 January 2005, removed tariffs and trade and will put enormous pressure on the industry as it attempts to compete with Asia that has lower production costs and lower prices. Egypt produces high-quality long staple cotton that has been traditionally exported to Europe, the US and Japan, and it may have to lose many jobs as it carves out a niche market in quality cotton rather than competing for the mass market.

Crop production in 2004 included: 20,260,855 million tonnes (t) 7,177,855t wheat, 5,800,000t maize, 6,150,000t rice, 1,950,000t potatoes, 6,780,000t tomatoes, 1,104,000t grapes, 1,100,000t dates, 2,561,600t citrus fruit, 16,335t sugar cane, 2,860,547t sugar beets, 320,000t olives, 740,000t seed cotton, 294,000t cotton lint, 239,444t oilcrops, 487,446t pulses, 950,000t sorghum, 880,000t bananas, 7,471,135t fruit in total, 14,873,500t vegetables in total. Live-stock production included: 1,390,580t meat in total, 297,500t beef, 230,000t buffalo, 69,840t rabbit, 40,000t camel meat, 76,000t lamb and goat meat, 664,240t poultry, 240,000t eggs, 5,319,681t milk, 8,710t honey, 117t cocoons, silk, 32,886t cattle hides.

Fishing

There are active fishing industries in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, as well as more limited freshwater fishing on the

Nile and Lake Nasser. Egypt typically produces over 300,000 tonnes of seafood and 190,000 tonnes of freshwater fish per annum. Virtually all of this is used for domestic consumption. Eleven lakes used to provide an annual 173,000 tonnes of fish but this rate has declined in recent years due to overfishing, lack of investment and pollution.

Forestry

Forestry covers less than 1 per cent of Egypt's land area. As a result, industrial wood and paper products are largely imported.

Industry and manufacturing

Industrial production, with a growth rate estimated at 2.5 per cent in 2004, is an important component of the economy, providing 32.1 per cent of GDP, while manufacturing provides 18.2 per cent. However, individually they were both outperformed by the total services industry that provided 52.4 per cent of GDP in 2004, of which tourism represented the lion's share.

The government places emphasis on: industrial diversification and import substitution, the development of downstream chemicals, and of heavy industry such as the Helwan Iron and Steel Company, the Nag Hammadi aluminium plant and El Dikheila integrated steel works. Industry and manufacturing has been dominated by state-owned companies however there is a renewed interest by the government to sell off enterprises, including metallurgical, food, wood pulp, and chemical processing, and various smelting works.

A number of cotton concerns are also on the privatisation list, although these companies are at risk, not from the shift in economic rationalisation, by rather global trading dynamics. World Trade Organisation (WTO) rulings that came into practice on 1 January 2005 removed all global tariffs and subsidies on processed cotton. Egypt, as a major manufacturer of cotton thread and cloths, could lose thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in export sales. However, a niche market is being formed, supplying cotton apparel to the US under the Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) protocol, whereby manufactured goods from nominated QIZ, which must contain 11.7 per cent Israeli input, will be given free access to US markets.

The petrochemical sector is a leading contributor to GDP and has a predicted 6 per cent annual growth.

Egypt has a growing automotive industry, supplying both vehicles and components. There are 18 vehicle manufacturers operating under joint trade agreements with foreign companies. BMW invested US\$35 million in a new factory, providing jobs for 500 workers, which opened in May 2004.

There are plans to invest a further US\$25 million in more facilities. Nissan will open a new assembly plant, geared to produce 3,800 cars a year, which is scheduled to be operational by 2007.

With an estimated labour force of 20.7 million and around 2 million unemployed in 2004, Egypt needs to find around 800,000 new jobs each year to sustain its growth.

Tourism

Tourism has become the single greatest foreign exchange earner and represents a significant component of Egypt's GDP at 15.4 per cent, contributing US\$13 billion in 2005. The industry employed 13 per cent of all workers and earned US\$7 billion from tourists alone, with a further US\$2.6 billion in capital investment. Annual growth is predicted to increase by 5.4 per cent for 2006–15.

The industry has been able to weather a sequence of damaging events such as the bombings of the tourist resort at Sharm al Sheikh in July 2005, and those in the Red Sea resorts of the Sinai Peninsula in October 2004. This has been achieved by providing cheaper holidays, which has the drawback of impacting on the quality of the tourist base and level of spending. Archaeological attractions are the primary visitor attractions, although Egypt has increasingly enhanced its facilities by the development of resort tourism, especially on the Red Sea coast. More than 50 per cent of visitors are from Europe, nevertheless, in 2004 Gulf Arabs arrived in Cairo (by up to 32 per cent) in much larger numbers than before. They were particularly welcome as they are high-spending and longer visiting holidaymakers. These were tourists that had been deterred from visiting US and European destinations due to extra security and suspicion of middle-eastern travellers.

Mining

Government policy aims to encourage foreign and local companies to explore for and exploit raw materials. Agreements have been reached for exploration and production of sulphur, phosphate and gold. The government is keen to extend franchises for other minerals, especially titanium and silver. Among non-oil raw materials, only iron ore, phosphate rock and limestone is produced on a significant scale. Other minerals produced include baryte, clay, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, kaolin, quartz, salt, silica sand and talc. Manganese and chrome deposits have also been exploited, while commercial deposits of zinc, tin, lead and copper have been discovered in Sinai.

A contract to mine sulphur in Sinai is held by Freeport Egyptian Sulphur Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of US firm

Freeport McMoran. The annual production capacity is thought to be around 250,000 tonnes per year (tpy). Egypt also has deposits of uranium.

Although Egypt has no bauxite, it has developed a significant aluminium industry based on electric power from the Aswan High Dam. Production was initially used for basic consumer goods but Egypt now exports a wide range of basic aluminium products.

Hydrocarbons

The upstream oil and gas industry generates around 10 per cent of GDP and represents an important source of foreign currency, with oil accounting for about 40 per cent of total export revenues.

Egypt's production in 2004 was 350,000 barrels per day (bpd), with proven oil reserves of 3.6 billion barrels. Increasing industrialisation and the rise in domestic oil consumption, has encouraged the government into continue with partnership deals for oil exploration. In July 2004 Egypt signed exploration deals with two prospecting firms, one from Tunisia and the other the US. In total, 14 wells will be drilled up to 2011.

BP's Saqqara oil field is expected to produce 40,000–50,000bpd annually from 2005. Other petroleum deposits have been discovered in the Qaran area of Egypt's Western Desert by the US-based Apache Corporation.

In view of limited oil reserves, interest has switched to gas exploration and proven reserves in 2004 were 1.85 trillion cubic metres (cum), which should last well into the twenty-first century at current annual rates of production of 26.8 billion cum. Egypt consumed 25.7 billion cum of natural gas in 2004 leaving a comparatively small amount for export. The completion of a small natural gas pipeline to Jordan has made the first natural gas exports possible; the pipeline is planned to extend to Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Cyprus increasing the market still further.

Coal reserves at Maghara in Sinai total about 27 million tonnes, however, there is no commercial production.

Energy

Electricity is generated at thermal power stations throughout the country, and about a quarter of the total is supplied by the hydroelectric plant at the Aswan High Dam in Upper Egypt.

Around 98 per cent of all electricity needs is provided by the electricity sector but domestic demand is growing fast and to keep up with it Egypt has embarked on a major programme of capital investment. Not only are some current power stations being upgraded to produce more electricity but a number of new generating plants with the total capacity of 33,000MW are

under construction. The OECD agreed a loan of US\$20 million to fund the North Cairo Electricity Network, which should be operational by 2007, adding 750MW to the system.

There are a number of wind and solar power plants either newly opened or under construction with an expected total capacity of 297MW when they all become operational; the first began generating 93MW in 2004, in Za'farana.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Egypt's stock market is considered the best of the emerging markets. After seven years of stagnation caused by a series of knocks starting with the Asian financial crisis, then the 2000 Palestinian *intifada*, followed by the terrorist attack on the US in 2001 and the devaluation of the Egyptian pound in 2003, the market has boomed on the back of rising oil prices, increased tourism and Arab money returning from the West.

Banking and insurance

The banking sector is dominated by four public-sector commercial banks – Banque Misr, Bank of Alexandria, Banque du Caire and the National Bank of Egypt – which hold about 60 per cent of deposits, 70 per cent of assets and 65 per cent of loans, and are the main conduit for public-sector trade, savings and financing. In February 2004, Egypt was removed from the OECD list of non-co-operative countries on money laundering after reforms had been implemented.

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) strengthened the monetary policy framework over 2004 which should aid it as it manages and limits inflationary pressures while stimulating market driven interest rates. The IMF in a 2005 report stressed that the CBE independence from political interference should be maintained.

As a whole, strong current account trading enabled banks to strengthen their net foreign assets in 2004 and 2005 and the CBE also took advantage of market conditions to build up its reserves. Total external debt remained stable at about US\$29 billion (31 per cent of GDP) by the end of 2004.

As part of the privatisation programme under way by the government two state banks are in the process of being sold off to the commercial sector.

Central bank

Central Bank of Egypt
Main financial centre
Cairo

Time

GMT plus two hours (GMT plus three hours from May to September).

Geography

Most of Egypt is located in the north-east corner of Africa between the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, Sudan and Libya. The Sinai peninsula, separated from the African continent by the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, borders Israel. The peninsula also faces Jordan and Saudi Arabia across the Gulf of Aqaba. About 95 per cent of Egypt is uninhabitable desert.

Climate

The climate is dry with very little rainfall, hot in summer and cool in winter. Temperatures in Cairo in the north vary from 43 degrees Celsius (C) maximum in summer to 18 degrees C maximum in winter. Sandstorms (the *khamsin* or *simoon* winds) can disrupt air traffic between March and May.

Rainfall is largely confined to the Mediterranean coast, with around 200 millimetres a year in Alexandria. Egypt is dependent on the Nile for nearly all its water needs. The government is pressing ahead with desert reclamation schemes, but these are also dependent on limited Nile waters as reserves of water under the desert have so far proved relatively insignificant.

Dress codes

Lightweight clothing is necessary for the hot summer months (May to September). Business dress is formal – suits are worn for all occasions. Men should not wear shorts, except at the beach and women should wear modest clothing in public, covering their arms and legs.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all except certain Palestinians and some merchant seamen. Passports must be valid for six months beyond the intended length of stay.

Visa

Required by all, except citizens of some adjacent countries, for full list of exceptions contact the local embassy or visit <http://egypt.embassyhomepage.com>. Business and tourist visas, valid for three months, available for most Europeans and North Americans, can be obtained at the point of entry.

All visitors, except those Europeans and US nationals on tourist visas, must register at the Office of Foreigners and Nationality within seven days of arrival. Hotels will normally undertake this on the visitor's behalf.

Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local currency is restricted to LE1,000 per person. Import of foreign currency is unrestricted, but must be declared. Export of foreign currency is restricted to this declared amount.

Customs

It is permitted to import one bottle of alcohol and 200 cigarettes. Video equipment must be declared at customs.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

A vaccination certificate against yellow fever is required if travelling from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Typhoid, hepatitis 'A', tetanus vaccinations are recommended. Malaria exists from June–October in the El Faiyum area.

There is also a rabies risk. Polio is endemic.

Avoid drinking tap water and use bottled water instead; water used for brushing teeth or making ice should be boiled first or otherwise sterilised. All fruit should be peeled and only well-cooked meat, vegetables and fish, served hot, should be eaten. Salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk, except in top-class restaurants. Avoid food sold on the streets.

Hotels

There is a wide range available. Bills are quoted in US dollars and may be settled in Egyptian currency. A 20 per cent tax and service charge should be added to all prices.

Credit cards

Most credit cards are widely accepted. Excepting airline tickets, the free market exchange rate is used in calculating credit card transactions.

Public holidays

Fixed dates

7 Jan (Coptic Christmas Day), 25 Apr (Sinai Liberation Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 18 Jun (Evacuation Day), 23 Jul (Revolution Day), 6 Oct (Armed Forces' Day), 24 Oct (Suez Victory Day), 23 Dec (Victory Day).

Variable dates

Coptic Easter Monday, Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr, Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet.

The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly. Islamic year 1426: 10 February 2005 to 30 January 2006.

Working hours

As a Muslim country the official day off is Friday. Embassies and the offices of some foreign companies also close on Saturday and Sunday. Some companies treat Thursday as a half day. Hours may also vary between winter and summer.

Banking

Sun–Thu: 0800/0830–1400. In cities centres also 1700/1800–1900/2000.

Business

Sat–Thu: 0900–1400.

Government

Sun–Thur: 0800–1400.

Shops

Sat–Thur: 0900–1300 and 1600–2000 (summer); 1000–1800 (winter). During Ramadan Sat–Thur: 0930–1530 and 2000–2200.

Department stores offer extended hours and local shops may vary their hours to suit.

Electricity supply

220–440V AC in most areas; in some rural districts 110–380V AC is still found.

Weights and measures

Metric system (local units also in use).

Social customs/useful tips

Hospitality is considered a prime virtue and it would be rude for visitors not to accept a token drink or other invitation. Many hosts will not allow a guest to pay for anything during his or her stay. Guests should therefore not squabble over paying at a restaurant, for example. In address, use the first name with the appropriate title (for instance Mr, Madame, Doctor, Engineer). Business cards in Arabic are appreciated.

Security

Violent crime against foreigners is rare. However, thieves operate in busy tourist areas such as Giza and Luxor. In these areas it is best to avoid wearing flashy or expensive jewellery.

Given its strategic position in the Middle East, Egypt is particularly sensitive regarding national security. Photographing bridges, railway stations and military installations is forbidden. Carrying a video camera can cause problems with the Egyptian authorities.

Getting there**Air**

National airline: Egyptair

International airport/s: Cairo International (CAI), 22km from city; Alexandria International (ALY), 3km from city. Business centre, bank, post office, bars, restaurant, shops, pharmacy and car hire available.

Egypt is upgrading its international airports during 2005.

Other airport/s: Egypt is to build three new airports – at El Alamein (west of Alexandria), Dahab (south Sinai) and Mersa Alam (Red Sea). International airports are also being constructed at Taba and Suba Bay.

Improvements are planned at six international airports, including Sharm El Sheikh,

Luxor and Aswan, as well as the development of three domestic airports, among them Port Said, to bring them up to the standards required to handle international flights.

Airport tax: There is no airport tax.

Surface

Road: There are road links from Libya and Israel.

A new road from Aswan to Port Sudan is under construction and is expected to be completed by April 2006. Until then no roads to Sudan are recommended.

Water: There are ferry services to Port Said and Alexandria from many destinations across the Mediterranean, run by Menatours. There are ferries between Aqaba in Jordan and Nuweiba on the Sinai peninsular and to Suez from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. There are steamer services across Lake Nasser from Sudan, although these are suspended during periods of instability in Sudan.

Main port/s: Alexandria, Al Ghardaqaq, Aswan, Bur Safajah, Damietta, Marsa Matruh, Port Said and Suez.

Getting about**National transport**

Air: Egyptair operates domestic services from Cairo to Luxor, Aswan, Hurghada, Abu Simbel and Alexandria. Air Sinai operates services to North and South Sinai. If planning to fly south, book well in advance. Travel to certain areas of the Nile Delta is restricted.

Road: There is a 31,000km surfaced network which includes good roads linking Cairo-Alexandria, Cairo-Port Said, Ismailia-Suez-Sinai, Cairo-El Faiyum-Luxor-Aswan.

Buses: There are four intercity bus companies: luxury service Superjet, West Delta Bus Company, East Delta Bus Company, and Upper Egypt Bus Company. There are fast and comfortable services between most towns and cities, although they tend to be crowded, and tickets should be booked in advance where possible.

Rail: There are train services to all main cities and towns in Egypt, including express and through trains from Cairo to Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan. Four classes available; certain routes have air-conditioned sleeping cars and buffet service. Tickets must be reserved, sometimes up to two days in advance.

Water: Traditional sailboats (*felucca*) offer rides along the Nile river.

City transport

Taxis: Metered and unmetered taxis are readily available, but meters where fitted are often not used. Fares should be agreed in advance.

Air-conditioned limousines are available at airports and main hotels. Chauffeured taxis from Cairo airport to the city centre

are recommended. Hotels have their own shuttle services. Hotel taxis or chauffeured hire cars are more efficient and can be hired by the day, subject to negotiation. Fares are usually listed in the major hotels.

City centre taxis are cheap, although often uncomfortable and never have air-conditioning. If you are travelling beyond the city centre, it is a good idea to carry a map to guide the taxi driver. The journey time from Cairo international airport to the city is about 40–60 minutes. Tipping is usually 10 per cent.

Buses, trams & metro: A bus service runs every 40–60 minutes from Cairo airport to the city centre, journey time 60 minutes. Local buses are numerous, cheap and crowded as are the few trams still in existence. The Cairo metro is fast, inexpensive and not too crowded, it has 43 stations, five of which run through central Cairo.

Ferry: Several routes run north and south of the city plied by waterbuses.

Car hire

An international driving licence and third-party insurance are needed. Hire charges should be negotiated in advance. The maximum speed limit on main roads is 90kph, rising to 100kph on the Cairo-Alexandria desert road; fines for speeding are substantial. Traffic in Cairo is heavily congested.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Egypt is +20, followed by area code and subscriber's number:

Alexandria	3	Ismailiya	64
Ashara Ramadan	15	Kafr El Sheik	47
Aswan	97	Luxor	95
Asyut	88	Maeria	3
Benha	13	Mahalla	43
Beni Suef	82	Mansoura	50
Cairo	2	Marsa Matruh	3
Damanhur	45	Port Said	66
Damietta	57	Pyramids	2
El Arish	68	Sacheia	16
El Minya	86	Sohag	93
Fayoum	84	Suez	62
Giza	2	Tanta	40
Heliopolis	2	Zagazig	55

Useful telephone numbers

Cairo	
Police	122
Fire	125

Ambulance		123
Police:	Aswan	22147
	Alexandria	960-151-122
	Suez	23-929

Chambers of Commerce

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 31 El-Ghorfa El-Togaria Street, Alexandria (tel: 809-339; fax: 808-993).

American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, 33 Soliman Abaza Street, Doki-Giza, Cairo (tel: 338 1050; fax: 338-1060; e-mail: info@amcham.org.eg).

Aswan Chamber of Commerce, Abtal El-Tahreer Street, Aswan (tel: 323-084).

Cairo Chamber of Commerce, 4 Midan El-Falaki, Cairo (tel: 354-2943; fax: 355-7940).

Damietta Chamber of Commerce, Saad Zaghloul Street, Damietta (tel: 322-799; fax: 320-632).

Egyptian-British Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 4EG, 299 Oxford Street, London W1A 4EG (tel: 020-7499-3100; fax: 020-7499-1070; e-mail: info@theebcc.com).

Fayoum Chamber of Commerce, El-Nadi El-Reyadi Street, El Fayoum (tel: 322-148).

Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, 4 Midan El-Falaky, Cairo (tel: 795-1136; fax: 795-1164; e-mail: fedcoc@menanet.net).

Ismailia Chamber of Commerce, 163 Saad Zaghloul Street, Ismailia (tel: 221-663; fax: 322-515).

Port Said Chamber of Commerce, Benayet Souk El Goumla, Port Said (tel: 222-733; fax: 236-141).

Red Sea Chamber of Commerce, Old City Council Building, Hurghada (tel: 440-761).

Suez and South Sinai Chamber of Commerce, 47 Salah Eldin Elayoubi Street, Suez (tel: 227-783).

Banking

Alexandria Commercial and Maritime Bank, PO Box 2376, 85 El Horreya Avenue, 21519 Alexandria (tel: 392-1237, 392-1556, 392-9203; fax: 391-3706).

Arab African International Bank, 5 Midan Al-Saray Al Koubra, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 794-5094/5/6; fax: 795-8493).

Arab International Bank, 35 Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street, Cairo (tel: 391-8794, 391-6391; fax: 391-6233).

Bank of Alexandria, 49 Kasr El Nil Street, Cairo (tel: 393-6262, 391-1203; fax: 391-0481, 391-980).

Bank of Commerce & Development, 'Al Tegaryoon', PO Box 1373, 13 26th July

Street, Sphinx Square, Mohandessin, Cairo (tel: 302-8156, 302-1623; fax: 302-3963).

Cairo Far East Bank, PO Box 757, 104 El Nil Street, Dokki, Cairo (tel: 336-2516/18; fax: 348-3818).

Crédit International d'Égypte, 46 El Batal Ahmed Abdel Aziz Street, Mohandessin, Cairo (tel: 336-1897, 336-1898; fax: 360-8673).

Delta International Bank, PO Box 1159, 1113 Corniche El Nil Street, Cairo (tel: 575-3492; fax: 574-3403).

Egyptian American Bank, PO Box 1825, 4 & 6 Hassan Sabri Street, Zamalek, Cairo (tel: 738-0126, 738-0136, 738-2661; fax: 738-0609, 738-0450).

Misr Exterior Bank; Cairo Plaza Building, Cornish El Nil, Boulaque, Cairo (tel: 778-701, 778-619, 766-381, 766-360; fax: 762-806, 578-0238).

Misr International Bank, PO Box 218, Embaba, 54 El Batal Ahmed Abdel Aziz Street, Mohandessin, Cairo (tel: 749-4424, 749-7091; fax: 700-928).

National Bank for Development (NBD), PO Box 647, 5(A) El Borsa El Gedida Street, 11511 Cairo (tel: 392-3245; fax: 390-5681).

National Bank of Egypt, PO Box 11611, National Bank of Egypt Tower, 1187 Corniche El Nil, Cairo (tel: 574-9101; fax: 576-2672).

Nile Bank, PO Box 2741, 35 Ramses Street, Abdel Moneim Riyad Sq, Cairo (tel: 574-1417, 574-3502, 575-1105; fax: 575-6296, 575-3640).

Suez Canal Bank, PO Box 2620, 11 Mohamed Sabri Abu Alam St, Cairo (tel: 393-1066, 393-1048, 393-1215; fax: 391-3522).

Central bank

Central Bank of Egypt, 31 Kasr el-Nil Street, Cairo (tel: 392-6211; fax: 392-6361; e-mail: general_secretary@cbe.org.eg).

Travel information

Cairo International Airport, Heliopolis, Cairo (tel: 291-4255; fax: 243-2522).

Egyptair, Cairo International Airport, Cairo (tel: 245-4400; fax: 418-3715).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Tourism, Misr Tourist Tower, Abbassiya Square, Abbassiya (tel: 282-8439; fax: 285-9551; e-mail: mot@idsc.gov.eg).

National tourist organisation offices

Egyptian Tourist Authority, Misr Building, Abbassia (tel: 482-0283; fax: 483-0844; internet: www.touregypt.net).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fish Wealth and Land Reclamation, Nadi El Seid Street, Dokki, Giza (tel: 702-677; fax: 703-889; e-mail: capi@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Administrative Development, 1 Magles El Shaab Street, Cairo (tel: 354-1722; fax: 355-6306; e-mail: cabinet1@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Culture, 2 Shagaret El Dor St, Zamalek Cairo 03 (tel: 341-5568; fax: 340-6449; e-mail: mculture@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Defence and Military Production, 5 Ismail Abaza Street, Cairo (tel: 355-3063; fax: 354-8739; e-mail: mod@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Economy and International Co-operation, 8 Adly St, Cairo (tel: 390-6796; fax: 390-3029; e-mail: mineco@idsc.gov.eg; internet site: http://www.sis.gov.eg).

Ministry of Education, 4 Ibrahim Naguib St, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 355-7952; fax: 356-2952; E-mail: moe@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ramses Street, Abbassia, Nasr City Cairo (tel: 261-6514; fax: 261-6302; e-mail: mee@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Finance, Lazoughly Square, Justice and Finance Building, Cairo (tel: 354-1055; fax: 354-5433; e-mail: mofinance@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Press and Information Department, Maspero, Corniche El Nil, Cairo 02 (tel: 354-1414; fax: 354-6285; e-mail: minexter@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Health and Population, Magles El Shaab St, Cairo (tel: 354-1076; fax: 355-3966; e-mail: moh@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Higher Education, 4 Ibrahim Naguib Street, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 355-7952; fax: 356-2952; e-mail: mheducat@idsc1.gov.eg, info@sti.sci.eg).

Ministry of Housing, Reconstruction and New Urban Communities, 1 Ismail Abaza St, Cairo (tel: 355-3320; fax: 355-7836; e-mail: mhucc@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Industry and Mineral Wealth, 2 Latin America Street, Garden City (tel: 355-7034; fax: 354-8362; e-mail: moimw@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Information, Maspero, Corniche El Nil, Cairo (tel: 747-193; fax: 757-144; e-mail: rtu2@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Insurance & Social Affairs, El Sheikh Rihan Street, Bab El-Louq, Cairo (tel: 337-0039; fax: 337-5390; e-mail: msi@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Interior, El Sheikh Rihan St, Cairo (tel: 355-7500; fax: 355-7792; e-mail: moi1@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Justice, Justice and Finance Building, Lazoughli Sq, Cairo 15 (tel: 355-1176; fax: 355-8103; e-mail: mojeb@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Local Administration, Kasr El Aini St, Cairo 04 (tel: 355-3566).

Ministry of Manpower and Immigration, 3 Youssef Abbas St, Nasr City, Cai (tel: 260-9363; fax: 260-9891; e-mail: mwlabor@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Petroleum, 16 El Mokhayyam El Da'em Street, Nasr City (tel: 262-2268; fax: 263-6060; e-mail: mopm@idsc1.gov.eg).

Ministry of Planning, Salah Salem Road, Nasr City (tel: 602-935; fax: 263-4747).

Ministry of Public Enterprises, Magles El Shaab Street, Cairo (tel: 355-8026; fax: 355-3606); PEO, 2 Latin America Street, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 794-3484; fax: 795-9233).

Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, El Nil St, Embaba, Cairo 04 (tel: 354-5884; fax: 355-8008; e-mail: mpwwr@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of Rural Development, 4 Shooting Club Street, Dokki, Cairo (tel: 349-7470; fax: 349-7785).

Ministry of Shipping, 7 Abdel Khalek Sarwat St, Cairo, 01 (tel: 764-343).

Ministry of Social Affairs and Insurance, El Sheikh Rihan St, Bab El Louk, Cairo 06 (tel: 354-2900; fax: 917-799).

Ministry of State for Administrative Development and Environment and Ministry of the Public Enterprise, 1 Magles El Shaab Street, Lazoughli Square, CAI 06 (tel: 355-8026; fax: 355-5882; e-mail: mops3@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Helwan Road, Cairo (tel: 375-7306; fax: 378-4285; e-mail: eeaa@idsc.gov.eg).

Ministry of State for Military Production, 23 Kobri Al Kubba St, Cairo 36 (tel: 257-8697/2915).

Ministry of State for Planning and International Co-operation, Salah Salem Street, Nasr City (tel: 401-4615; fax: 401-4733; e-mail: miceu@idsx.gov.eg).

Ministry of State for Scientific Research Affairs, 101 Kasr El Aini St, Cairo 04 (tel: 355-7952).

Ministry of Trade and Supply, 99 Kasr El Aini St, Cairo 04 (tel: 355-0360; fax: 354-4973; e-mail: msit@idsx.gov.eg).

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Civil Aviation, 105 Kasr El Aini Street,

Cairo (tel: 354-3623; fax: 355-5564; e-mail: garb@idsc.gov.eg).

Prime Minister's Office, 1 Magles El Shaab St, Lazoughli Square, Cairo 04 (tel: 354-7376; fax: 355-8048).

President's Office, Abdin palace, CAI 06 (tel: 391-0130).

Other useful addresses

Arab League, The Arab League Building, Corniche El Nil, Cairo (tel: 393-4499; fax: 775-626).

Arab Organisation for Industrialisation, 2D Abassiya Square, PO Box 770 (tel: 823-377; fax: 826-010).

Arab Republic of Egypt National Telecommunications Organisation (ARENTO), 26 Ramses Street (tel: 760-333; fax: 771-306).

British Embassy, 7 Ahmed Ragheb St, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 354-0852; fax: 354-0859).

Cabinet Office, 1 Maglis El Shaab Street, Lazoughli Square, CAI 04 (tel: 354-7376; fax: 355-8048).

Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration, 3 Aboul Feda Street, Zamalek, Cairo (tel: 340-1330; fax: 340-1336).

Cairo Stock Exchange, 4 Sharia esh-Sherifein, Cairo (tel: 392-1402; fax: 392-8526).

Capital Market Authority, 20 Emad El Din Street, Sixth Floor, Downtown (tel: 777-774; fax: 755-339).

Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS), Saleh Salem Street, Nasr City, Cairo (tel: 603-717; fax: 604-099).

Central Post Office, Ataba Square, Cairo.

Commercial International Investment Company (CIIC), 66-68 Mohie El-Din Abou El-Ezz St, Dokki, Cairo (tel: 335-8035, 335-7093, 337-6251; fax: 335-7095).

Commercial Representation Office, 96 Ahmed Orabi Street, Mohandiseen (tel: 347-1892; fax: 345-1840).

Commission of the European Communities Delegation in Egypt, 6 Ibn Zenki Street, Zamalek, Cairo (tel: 340-8388; fax: 340-0385).

Customs Information Centre, 4 El Tayaran Street, Nasr City (tel: 260-5711; fax: 261-2672).

Egyptian Electricity Authority, Abassia, Cairo (tel: 261-6537; fax: 261-6512, 401-1630).

Egyptian Embassy (USA), 3521 International Court, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: 895-5400; fax: 244-5131).

Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPCC), 4 Palestine Street, Fourth Sector, new Maadi (tel: 353-1438; fax: 353-1457).

Egyptian Radio and Television Corporation (ERTC), Radio and TV Building, Sharia Maspiro, Corniche en-Nil, PO Box 504, Cairo (tel: 749-508; fax: 746-989).

General Authority for Control of Imports and Exports, Atlas Building El Sheikh Maarouf and Ramses Streets (tel: 574-2830; fax: 766-971).

General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, 8 Sharia Adly, PO Box 1007, Cairo (tel: 390-6804).

General Organisation for Industrialisation (GOFI) 6 Khali Agha Street, Garden City (tel: 355-7005; fax: 354-4984).

General Organisation for International Exhibitions and Fairs (GOIEF), Exhibition Ground, Nasr City, Cairo (tel: 260-7811; fax: 260-7845, 260-7848).

International Finance Corp (IFC), 5 El Fallah Street, Mohandessin, Cairo (tel: 347-8081; fax: 347-3738).

International Group for Investments, 5 Zahraa Street, Dokko 12311, Cairo (tel: 361-1624; fax: 360-2178).

International Monetary Fund (IMF), 31 Kasr El Nil Street, Central Bank, Cairo (tel: 392-4257; fax: 351-7137).

Local Governorates, El-Islah El-Zerai Building, 10th Floor, 4 Nadi El-Seid Street, Dokki (tel: 349-4770; fax: 349-7788).

Sales Tax Authority, 4 El Tayaran Street, nasr City (tel: 260-7500; fax: 260-7501).

Taxation Authority, 5 Hussein Hegazi Street (tel: 355-7784; fax: 355-5438).

US Embassy, 5 Sharia Latin America, Garden City, Cairo (tel: 355-7371).

Internet sites

Africa Business Network:
<http://www.ifc.org/abn>

AllAfrica.com: <http://allafrica.com>

Africa Online:
<http://www.africaonline.com>

Arab Bank: <http://www.arabbank.com>

Egypt Business Directory:
<http://www.telefax.com.eg/default.htm>

Egypt corporate information:
<http://www.corporateinformation.com/egcorp.html>

Egypt economic indicators:
<http://www.economic.idsc.gov.eg/>

Egypt www index:
<http://ce.eng.usf.edu/pharos/>