



The information contained in this sheet has been compiled by Jaume Portell, journalist specialising in economics and international relations, in an activity 85% co-financed by ERDF funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) project (1/MAC/1/1.3/0088) within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

## EGYPT

### **Macroeconomic framework :**

Egypt's economical growth came down between 2023 (3.8%) and 2024 (2.4%) in a background set by geopolitical uncertainty. In November 2024 the FMI pointed that the instability in the Middle East had led to the loss of the Suez Canal "to a 70% of its incomes". Tourism and the incomes coming from the Suez Canal have both spearheaded the attainment of strong currency since the pandemic. According to the African Economic Outlook from 2024, Egyptian economy has a notable prevalence in the service sector (51% of the GDP), followed by the industry (34%). The influx of endorsements and direct foreign investments coming from the EU, multilateral bodies and the United Arab Emirates have contributed to the inflow of dollars that Egypt needed to resist the geopolitical blows. The country's GDP in 2023 added up to 396 000 million dollars.

### **Debt and currency:**

Egypt has an external debt of 168 000 million dollars. In 2012 the debt service amounted to 2954 million dollars, a number that would not stop rising until surpassing the 27 000 million dollars in 2024. In 2025 this number will reach around 19 000 million dollars. The Egyptian debt is divided between private creditors (38%), with a remarkable weight for the tenants of bonds (23%) and other private banks (15%); subsequently, multilateral bodies (35%) are the ones that have acquired importance during the last years while the country entered a reformative period. The country is now in a FMI's program of adjustment, in exchange of receiving 8000 millions of dollars. The FMI (125) and the World Bank (9%) are the main multilateral creditors. The rest of the debt is bilateral (27%), with a special spotlight on the monarchies of the Gulf like Saudi Arabia (5%), Kuwait (5%) and the United Arab Emirates (4%).

Since 2016, Egypt has devalued its currency four times in an attempt of competitiveness and to end the scarcity of dollars. The type of change has passed from 8 Egyptian pounds per dollar in 2016 to 50 Egyptian pounds at the beginning of 2025.

### **Imports and exports:**

The Egyptian commercial balance, unlike other countries in the continent, is diversified and does not depend on one or two resources for the most part of its incomes from exportations. The main source of incomes in 2023 was gasoline (8.5%), followed by gas (6.63%), fertilisers (5%), gold (4%) and oranges (2.3%). The textile sector stood out in manufacturing. The total of exportations added up to 51 100 million dollars. The main destinations of these exports were Saudi Arabia (10.4%), Turkey (9%), Italy (5.7%) and the USA (5.35%). In Africa, the main destination of the exportations was Libya (3.5%). The increase of electrical consumption due to the heat waves, however, has transformed the country; with less production of local gas, in the upcoming years Egypt could become a gas importer. This way, it would lose a source of currencies that had gained recognition during the previous years.

In what refers to importations, two major items were related to energy and food. Gasoline accounted to almost a 10% of the total of imports, followed by wheat (4.5%) as the principal item of expenditure. Drugs, cars and palm oil or corn were other notable items. In total, imports in 2023 added up to 88 200 million dollars. The main commercial associates were China (16%), Saudi Arabia (6.2%), USA (5.6%), Russia (5.6%) and Germany (5.4%).

### **Electrical power:**

Egypt increased its production of electrical power between 2010 and 2023, and it is one of the most important countries in the continent in this matter. In 2010 it generated 144 TWh of power, with the spotlight on gas as the main source of production. In 2023, this production had risen more than a 50% and reached the 220 TWh. Gas was still the main source of this electrical power (more than the 80% of the total amount) along with other sources of fossil origins (8%); renewable energies were headed by hydroelectricity (6%), followed by wind power (3%) and solar power.

### **Defence:**

Egypt's annual expense in defensive material totalled 4091 million dollars in 2023, according to SIPRI, a Sweden institute specialised in the trade of this kind of products. Thus, it became the third country in the continent with the higher expenses in this item. The number represents more than a 4.15% of the government's expenses. The USA was the main provider for Egypt since year 2000.

### **Demography:**

Egyptian population surpasses the 100 millions of inhabitants and it is one of the most populated countries in Africa. In 1990 the population accounted to 58 millions of people, in 2023 the number had already reached the 113 millions. The population living in urban areas adds up to a 43% of the total, and the rest of the country lives in rural areas. Life expectancy has increased since 1990 and passed the 64 years old, reaching the 70 years old in 2022. Half of the population has less than 24 years old.

### **Technological innovations:**

With the burst of the Arab Spring in Egypt, in early 2011, barely one in four Egyptians accessed the internet. Since then, the use of the internet has triplicated until reaching a much more

generalised position: a 72 of the population used it in 202, a fact that places Egypt in the top ten of the African continent in what comes to this matter. Within 99.4% of the population has a mobile phone, according to the ICT Development Index from 2023.