

*Prepared for the Rockefeller Foundation-Aspen Institute Diaspora Program (RAD)*

## The Egyptian Diaspora in the United States

May 2015 Revised

### Summary<sup>1</sup>

Approximately 248,000 Egyptian immigrants and their children (the first and second generations) were living in the United States as of 2013. People of Egyptian birth comprise less than 1 percent of the U.S. foreign-born population, making it one of the country's smallest national-origin groups and the second-smallest population in the Rockefeller Foundation-Aspen Institute Diaspora Program (RAD) analysis.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, it is a rapidly growing population. The recent growth in the Egyptian immigrant population in the United States is largely attributable to the opportunities that the Diversity Visa Program provides to historically underrepresented populations, while economic and security-related factors may be intensifying emigration from Egypt.

This population's high educational attainment sets it apart from the U.S. general population, as does its income inequality. While about one in six Egyptian diaspora households have incomes that exceed \$140,000 (the threshold for the top 10 percent of all U.S. households), another 23 percent live below the federal poverty level. Egyptian immigrants are dispersed throughout the United States, and New York City and Los Angeles are its main population hubs. California has the greatest number of Egyptian immigrant residents of any U.S. state.

Considering the small size of the diaspora in the United States, Egyptian diaspora organizations are relatively abundant. Of the 42 U.S.-based Egyptian diaspora organizations identified for this study, many advocate for political or human rights, provide medical care, or represent the Coptic community (a Christian denomination in Egypt). Since the Arab Spring events of 2011, Egypt has made legislative changes to strengthen emigrant protections; however, with ongoing political and civil upheaval, it is difficult to predict if such reforms will remain in place or be enforced.

The United States is not a top destination for Egyptian emigrants, many more of whom live and work in Middle Eastern countries. Nevertheless, the diaspora in the United States is Egypt's sixth-largest source of international remittances, having sent an estimated \$880 million in 2012. Migrant remittances make up a large, albeit variable, share of Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP) (7.8 percent in 2012), but in absolute terms, remittances to Egypt

1 All Rights Reserved. © 2015 Migration Policy Institute. Information for reproducing excerpts from this report can be found at [www.migrationpolicy.org/about/copyright-policy](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/about/copyright-policy). This updates the initial July 2014 diaspora profile to correct an error.

2 The RAD Diaspora Profile series covers U.S.-based Bangladeshi, Colombian, Egyptian, Ethiopian, Filipino, Ghanaian, Haitian, Indian, Kenyan, Mexican, Moroccan, Nigerian, Pakistani, Salvadoran, and Vietnamese diaspora populations.

have recently surged upwards.

## I. Introduction

The U.S.-based Egyptian diaspora is distinguished for its high educational achievement and its disproportionate representation at both the high and low ends of the U.S. household income distribution. Egypt has not historically been a large source of immigration to the United States, but today the Egypt-born population in the United States is growing rapidly. The Diversity Visa Program, which is designed to benefit migrant populations with a small presence in the United States, has been a particularly important entry channel for immigrants from Egypt.

Egypt has experienced considerable political and civic unrest and economic instability in the wake of the Arab Spring, and the country's future is uncertain. An unprecedented number of Egyptians immigrated to the United States between 2010 and 2012 (estimated at 35,000), and it is possible that Egyptian immigration will continue to increase. Yet even before the Arab Spring began, large numbers of Egyptians had already chosen to move abroad—particularly to Gulf States—in search of economic, professional, and academic opportunities. Egyptian emigration has had positive effects through remittances, skill transfers, and the creation of economic networks, but the loss of skilled people stands as a symptom of the deep problems facing Egypt's economy and society.

## II. Population Profile of the Egyptian Diaspora<sup>3</sup>

Analysis of data from 2009 to 2013 reveals an Egyptian diaspora in the United States of approximately 248,000 individuals, counting immigrants born in Egypt and U.S.-born individuals with at least one parent who was born in Egypt. Most immigrants from Egypt in the United States settled in the country before 2000 (54 percent). The number of Egypt-born people in the United States has grown rapidly since 1980, when approximately 45,000 Egyptian immigrants resided in the United States.<sup>4</sup> The Egypt-born population in the United States experienced significant growth within the past few years, increasing by 35,000 between 2010 and 2012.

### First Generation (Egyptian immigrants in the United States)

- An estimated 149,000 immigrants from Egypt resided in the United States, comprising less than 0.5 percent of the country's total foreign-born population.
- The median age of Egyptian immigrants in the United States was 41, a few years older than the U.S. median age of 37.
- Seventy-seven percent of the Egypt-born population in the United States was working age

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, estimates for the diaspora population and its characteristics are based on Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Surveys (CPS), using five years of pooled data (2009-13), collected in March of each year. All Census Bureau data were accessed from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS); Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database] (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010), <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates based on MPI analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-12 American Community Surveys (ACS) and the 1980 and 2000 Censuses.

(18 to 64), while 11 percent of the population was younger than 18, and 12 percent was age 65 and older.

### Second Generation (U.S. born with at least one Egypt-born parent)<sup>5</sup>

- Approximately 99,000 U.S.-born individuals had at least one parent from Egypt. Nearly half of the Egyptian second generation reported that both parents were born in Egypt (47 percent), while 28 percent had one parent who was born in the United States.
- The majority of the Egyptian second-generation population in the United States was below age 18 (57 percent), and the population's median age was 13.
- Forty-two percent of the Egyptian second generation was of working age (18 to 64), the second highest share of the second generation to be in the working-age bracket of the 15 groups in the RAD series (after the Philippines and tied with Haiti). One percent of the population was age 65 and older, a small share but nevertheless the third-highest proportion in the 15-group RAD analysis (Mexico and the Philippines tied for first place, and the rates for Egypt and Vietnam were equal).

## III. Immigration Pathways and Trends<sup>6</sup>

The size of the Egypt-born population in the United States remained insignificant for much of the 19th and 20th centuries. In fact, fewer than 12,000 Egyptian immigrants settled in the United States between 1820 and 1969. Substantial immigration to the United States from Egypt started during the 1970s, a decade in which 24,000 Egypt-born people became U.S. lawful permanent residents (LPRs). The size of the Egypt-born population in the United States grew during the 1980s and 1990s, but expansion slowed during the first decade of the millennium due to a more restrictive immigration regime imposed after 9/11. Almost half of Egyptian LPRs who entered since 2002 did so through family reunification channels. The Diversity Visa Program accounts for another one-third of LPR admissions.

### Historical Overview

The United States has not historically been one of the major destinations for Egyptian emigrants. As of 2013, an estimated 3.4 million Egyptians lived abroad, mostly in other Arab countries. With a population of 1.3 million Egypt born (two-thirds of whom are men), Saudi Arabia was home to the greatest number of Egyptian immigrants of any country in the world.<sup>7</sup> Egyptians who migrate to Arab countries usually move abroad on a temporary basis, since Egyptians are unlikely to gain citizenship in these countries.<sup>8</sup>

5 U.S. born is defined as born in the United States or born abroad to a U.S.-citizen parent.

6 Admissions, lawful permanent resident, and citizenship data are taken from MPlanalysis of U.S. Department of Homeland Security data for fiscal years (FY) 2002 through 2012. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics* (Washington, DC: Office of Immigration Statistics, 2002-13), [www.dhs.gov/yearbook-immigration-statistics](http://www.dhs.gov/yearbook-immigration-statistics).

7 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Origin and Destination, 2013 Revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013)," <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/TIM-SO2013/migrantstocks2013.htm>.

8 Ayman Zohry and Priyanka Debnath, *A Study on the Dynamics of the Egyptian Diaspora: Strengthening Development Linkages* (Cairo: International Organization for Migration, 2010), [www.egypt.iom.int/Doc/A%20Study%20on%20the%20Dynamics%20of%20the%20Egyptian%20Diaspora%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.egypt.iom.int/Doc/A%20Study%20on%20the%20Dynamics%20of%20the%20Egyptian%20Diaspora%20(English).pdf).

Until the mid-1950s, Egyptians rarely emigrated, and large-scale emigration from Egypt did not begin for another two decades. Changes to the political, economic, and labor market conditions during the 1970s made greater outward flows from Egypt possible. The 1971 Constitution lifted many of the country's legal barriers to temporary and permanent emigration. Beginning in the mid-1970s, many Egyptians left the country in search of opportunity in nearby oil-rich countries, whose economies generated substantial new demand for workers. Saudi Arabia and Libya, both neighboring countries, were especially popular destinations for Egyptian emigrants during these years, where they filled rising demand for teachers, laborers, and service workers. Arab countries were also especially attractive to migrants from Egypt due to common national languages, cultures, and customs.<sup>9</sup>

Over the past four decades, demographic pressures in Egypt and lack of opportunities for a well-educated populace have been powerful emigration push factors.<sup>10</sup> Egypt experienced rapid population growth during the 1980s and 1990s, which resulted in a "youth bulge." By 2013, 50 percent of the country's population was younger than 25; less than 5 percent was 65 and older.<sup>11</sup> Thus far, the Egyptian economy has been unable to absorb the large number of educated young people entering the labor market or to provide employment opportunities commensurate with their skills. In 2011, the unemployment rate for university graduates in Egypt stood at 20 percent, while the rate was 12 percent across all education levels.<sup>12</sup>

Sectarian tensions between Egypt's Sunni Muslim religious majority and its Coptic Christian minority have also spurred smaller waves of Egyptian emigration. Similarly, Egypt's Jewish population faced reprisals following Israel's 1948 independence, to the point that most emigrated.

## Contemporary Entry into the United States and Legal Status

The United States was the fifth most common destination country for Egyptian migrants in 2012, with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Kuwait attracting the greatest numbers.<sup>13</sup>

Approximately 85,000 persons from Egypt were granted LPR status in the United States during fiscal years (FY) 2002 through 2012, representing less than 1 percent of total LPR admissions during this period. The majority of Egyptians who gained LPR status during this period did so as the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (35 percent), which includes spouses and children under age 21 of U.S. citizens (see Figure 1).

The second most important admissions category was the Diversity Visa Program (34 percent), which benefits national-origin populations with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. The diversity visa was first offered in 1995 and makes 55,000 U.S. immigrant visas available in its annual drawing. Only people from countries that have sent fewer than 50,000

9 Zohry Ayman, *Migration and Development in Egypt* (Berlin: Institute for Migration and Cultural Studies, 2007), 6-7, [http://policydialogue.org/files/events/Zohry\\_Migration\\_Development\\_Egypt.pdf](http://policydialogue.org/files/events/Zohry_Migration_Development_Egypt.pdf).

10 Ibid, 1.

11 U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, "Egypt," *The World Factbook*, January 2014. As a point of comparison, 33 percent of the U.S. population was under 25, and 14 percent was over age 65.

12 Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (Arab Republic of Egypt), "Unemployment Rate & Annual Estimates of Labor Status, by Educational Status and Sex in 2011," <http://capmas.gov.eg/pepo/Labour%20Force/4-5.pdf>.

13 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Origin and Destination, 2013 Revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013)," <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/TIM-SO2013/migrantstocks2013.htm>.

immigrants to the United States in the previous five years are eligible for this visa category, and applicants must have a high school diploma or two years of work experience in a skilled profession. Diversity visa beneficiaries tend to be younger than people who gain LPR status through other channels and are more likely to be single and male.<sup>14</sup> The lottery is weighted on a regional basis; no single country can receive more than 7 percent of the total number of the diversity visas issued during a given year (3,500).<sup>15</sup> Currently, 45 percent of diversity visas are earmarked for applicants from Africa, making this program a particularly important entry channel for Egyptian migrants.

Egyptian immigrants are substantially more likely to be naturalized U.S. citizens than the U.S. foreign-born population overall: 60 percent versus 44 percent. Considering that nearly half of Egyptian immigrants in the United States are newcomers, the population's relatively high naturalization rate suggests that many Egyptian immigrants applied for citizenship shortly after they became eligible. During FY 2002-12, 60,000 Egypt-born people naturalized, and they represented 0.7 percent of all U.S. naturalizations that occurred over these years.

Egyptians entered the United States approximately 36,000 times on student visas and 13,500 times as temporary workers in FY 2002-12. Individuals holding student or temporary worker visas may enter the United States more than once; therefore, the number of entries does not correspond to the number of people who came to the United States as beneficiaries of these visa programs. During the 2012-13 academic year, approximately 2,600 Egyptian international students were enrolled in U.S. schools.<sup>16</sup> U.S. colleges and universities awarded 124 doctoral degrees to international students from Egypt during 2012, ranking Egypt as the 16<sup>th</sup> largest national-origin group among international doctoral awardees. Although a student visa to the United States does not directly lead to LPR status, many international students can qualify for other types of visas that allow them to remain in the country after completing their studies. About two-thirds (67 percent) of Egyptian international students who received a PhD in the United States during 2012 planned to stay in the country after graduating.<sup>17</sup>

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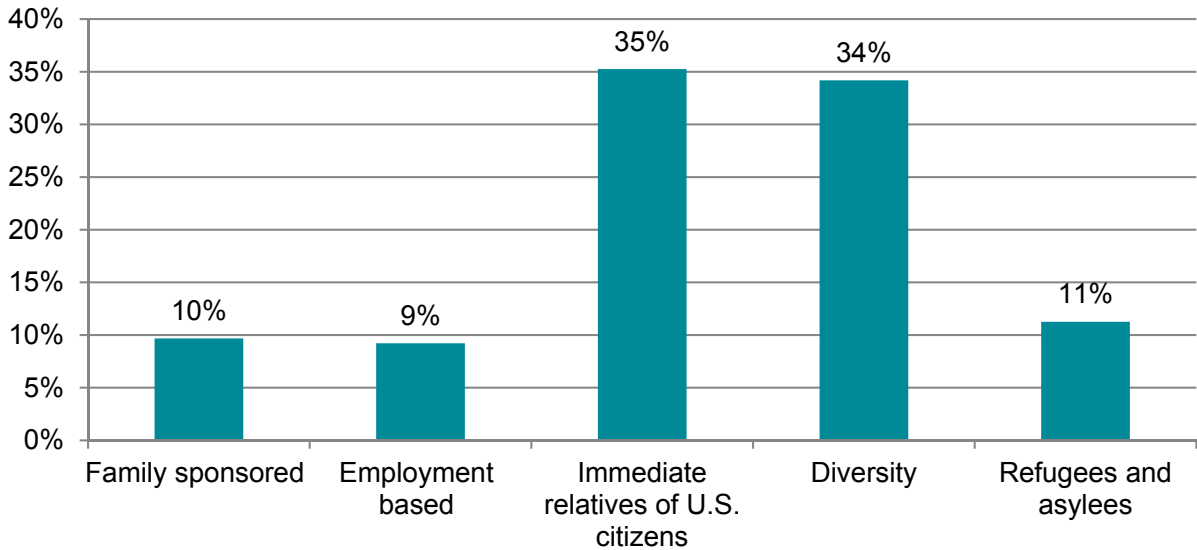
14 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Characteristics of Diversity Legal Permanent Residents: 2004* (Washington, DC: Office of Immigration Statistics, 2004), [www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/FSDiversityLPR2004.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/FSDiversityLPR2004.pdf).

15 *Immigration Act of 1990*, Pub. L. 101-649, 104 Stat. 4978 (amending INA: Section 203(c)).

16 MPI analysis of Institute of International Education, "International Student Totals by Place of Origin, 2011/12- 2012/13," Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange (New York: Institute of International Education, 2013), [www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Data](http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Data).

17 MPI analysis of National Science Foundation and the National Center for Science and Engineering Centers, *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2012* (Arlington, VA: National Science Foundation and the National Center for Science and Engineering Centers, 2013), [www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/2012/](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/2012/).

Figure 1: Egyptians Admitted to the United States as Lawful Permanent Residents, by Preference Category, FY 2002-12



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2002-12* (Washington, DC: DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, various years), [www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics-publications](http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics-publications).

#### IV. Geographic Distribution<sup>18</sup>

- Among U.S. states, California was home to the largest Egyptian community, with 30,000 Egypt-born residents. New Jersey and New York were each home to about 20,000 Egyptian immigrants.
- New York City and Los Angeles had the greatest number of Egypt-born individuals of any U.S. metropolitan area, with populations of 40,000 and 20,000, respectively. The Egyptian immigrant population in the United States was neither sufficiently large nor concentrated in a particular place to make up a significant proportion of any U.S. state or metropolitan area's total population.

#### V. Socioeconomic Characteristics

The Egyptian diaspora in the United States is well educated and many in this population have achieved great economic success, yet nearly one-quarter of Egyptian individuals and families live in poverty. Immigrants from Egypt in the United States and their children were substantially more likely than the U.S. general public to have completed a university degree, be employed, and have a professional or managerial occupation (see Appendix 1). The high levels of educational and professional attainment observed in this population may be attributable to the Egyptian labor market's failure to provide adequate opportunities for highly educated workers, encouraging many in this segment to move to wealthier countries including the United States.

<sup>18</sup> These estimates are based on MPI analysis of the 2008-12 ACS. Note that geographic distribution is only analyzed for the immigrant population. Second-generation Egyptian diaspora members are not included in this section.

## Educational Attainment

- Members of the Egyptian diaspora in the United States were more than twice as likely as the U.S. population to have earned a degree above a bachelor's. Among those in the U.S.-based Egyptian diaspora population age 25 and older, 26 percent held a master's degree, PhD, or an advanced professional degree compared to 11 percent of the U.S. general public. Another 38 percent of Egyptian diaspora members age 25 and older held a bachelor's degree as their highest academic credential versus 20 percent of the U.S. national population. Moreover, the Egyptian diaspora shows increasing educational attainment across generations, with a greater share of the second generation having bachelor's and advanced degrees than the first generation.
- Egyptian immigration appears part of a wider phenomenon of skilled emigration from Africa to the United States. Lack of opportunities in Egypt, coupled with strong pull factors to the United States such as educational opportunity, higher income, and a high standard of living make immigration particularly attractive to well-educated individuals.

## Employment

- Sixty-four percent of the Egyptian diaspora age 16 and older was in the labor force, a rate equal to the U.S. population overall. Egyptian diaspora members in the labor force were employed at a slightly higher rate than the rest of the U.S. labor force: 94 percent versus 91 percent.
- Fifty percent of Egyptian diaspora members in the United States were in professional or managerial occupations, compared to 31 percent of the U.S. general public.<sup>19</sup> These occupations include specialized fields (e.g. engineering, science, law, or education) as well as administrative and managerial jobs (e.g. finance or human resources). Although they were not the largest occupational group, physicians were overrepresented in the Egyptian diaspora compared to the U.S. labor force: 5 percent versus 0.5 percent.

## Household Income and Assets

- Egyptian diaspora households in the United States had higher median annual incomes than U.S. households overall: \$59,000 versus \$50,000. Egyptian diaspora households also tended to include more members than other U.S. households—with an average of 2.9 residents versus 2.5 residents—meaning that their incomes were generally used to support more individuals.
- The Egyptian diaspora was overrepresented at the high end of the U.S. household income distribution. Twenty-nine percent of Egyptian households reported incomes higher than \$90,000, the income threshold for the top 25 percent of U.S. households overall. Seventeen percent of Egyptian households had incomes higher than \$140,000, the income threshold for the top 10 percent of U.S. households overall.
- About half of Egyptian diaspora households (48 percent) reported that they owned or were buying their home. The overall U.S. rate of home ownership was higher (66 percent), but a number of factors specific to immigrants may affect home ownership, including immigra-

<sup>19</sup> This rate is calculated based on the share of all individuals reporting an occupation for their primary job at the time the CPS was administered, or for their most recent primary job.

tion status, citizenship, time spent in the United States, and residence in high-cost states such as California.<sup>20</sup> The homeownership rate for U.S. immigrants overall was 51 percent.

- Egyptian diaspora households were about as likely to report annual income from investment sources—including dividends, rent, and interest—as U.S. households overall. Thirteen percent of Egyptian diaspora households reported income from dividends, compared to 15 percent of U.S. households. Forty-two percent reported income from interest versus 43 percent of all U.S. households. The shares of Egyptian diaspora and U.S. households reporting income from rent were similar and small: 4 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Egyptian diaspora households received slightly more annual interest income than U.S. households overall, with medians of \$185 versus \$157. Additionally, 14 percent of Egyptian diaspora households reported interest income greater than \$500, the same as all U.S. households.

### Poverty Status

- Paradoxically, in the light of a relatively high median income, the proportion of Egyptian diaspora members with family incomes below the federal poverty threshold was larger than that of the U.S. population as a whole: 23 percent versus 15 percent.
- Individuals and families in the Egyptian diaspora population were about as likely as all other people in the United States (8 percent versus 10 percent) to have incomes between 100 percent and 150 percent of the poverty threshold.<sup>21</sup> The poverty threshold is used to help determine eligibility for Medicaid and other means-tested government safety nets, for which some immigrant households may qualify.

## VI. Diaspora Engagement

With the world's attention focused on political events in Egypt, the country's diaspora can play a critical role in shaping public perceptions of the country, influencing settlement countries' policies towards Egypt, and helping Egypt emerge from conflict and instability. Although the United States is home to relatively few Egypt-born people, the U.S.-based diaspora is an active and vocal population. Since the revolution, Egypt has made legislative changes to strengthen protections for its citizens abroad; however, with ongoing political and civil upheaval, it is difficult to know if such reforms will remain in place or be enforced.

### Diaspora Organizations

Considering the small size of the Egyptian diaspora in the United States, Egyptian diaspora organizations are relatively abundant. Of the 42 U.S.-based Egyptian diaspora organizations identified for this study, most fell into one or more of these categories: advocates for political or human rights in Egypt, medical charities, and groups serving the Coptic community. Although a number

<sup>20</sup> There are no restrictions on foreign buyers in the U.S. property market.

<sup>21</sup> The poverty threshold varies by household size and the number of related children under age 18. In 2011 the threshold was \$18,106 for a three-person household with one child younger than 18 and \$22,811 for a four-person household with two children younger than 18; see United States Census Bureau, "Poverty," [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html).



of new organizations were created in the wake of the Arab Spring, by 2014 many of these groups had already grown inactive.

Among the Egyptian diaspora groups reviewed for this study, less than half (17 groups) had publicly available Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filings, an indication that these organizations were either too new or inexperienced to have acquired nonprofit tax status, or that they no longer exist. Only one of the Egyptian diaspora organizations included in this analysis reported annual revenue above \$1 million: Coptic Orphans. However, three other organizations had annual revenues above \$200,000: the Egyptian Cancer Network, the Egyptian Relief Association, and the American Egyptian Cooperation Foundation. Other notable groups included the Egyptian American Foundation, the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance (AESAs), and the Egyptian-American Rule of Law Association. Egyptian diaspora organizations in the United States were geographically concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Washington, DC, New York, and Boston, with a few others in California and Texas. In addition to participating in Egyptian-centered associations, Egyptians are also active in Arab diaspora organizations that involve many national origin groups, such as the Arab American Institute.

## Remittance Volume

Remittance receipts for Egypt were valued at \$19.2 billion in 2012, or 7.8 percent of the country's total GDP of \$262 billion (see Appendix 2).<sup>22</sup> Remittances constitute a substantial, albeit varying share of Egypt's GDP. Between 1975 and 1995, remittances generally made up between 7 and 13 percent of the country's GDP. Throughout the 2000s remittances fell to below 6 percent of GDP, but in 2012 they rebounded to 7.8 percent. Remittance volumes nearly tripled between 2009 and 2012, from \$7.1 billion to \$19.2 billion. Remittances often rise in the face of economic and political turmoil, as migrants try to help their relatives affected by crises. Thus, the rise in remittances may reflect the global economic crisis of 2008, the rise in grain prices in heavily import-dependent Egypt, and the economic uncertainties associated with the Arab Spring and its aftermath.

The U.S.-based diaspora population was Egypt's sixth-largest source of international remittances in 2012, sending an estimated \$880 million. The other principal sources of remittances to Egypt were Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>23</sup>

## Diaspora Policies and Institutions of the Government of Egypt

Under President Hosni Mubarak's rule, the government of Egypt sought economic contributions from the diaspora but was hostile to its attempts to engage in political or policy realms. The Mubarak-controlled umbrella association, the National Union of Egyptians Abroad, attempted to oversee and manage diaspora organizations' engagement with Egypt. Out of fear of reprisal, many Egyptian diaspora organizations in the United States chose to remain politically neutral during Mubarak's regime, often limiting the scope of their activities to the preservation of cultural traditions and developing mutual understanding between the Egyptian dias-

<sup>22</sup> Remittance and GDP estimates are from World Bank World Development Indicators. World Bank DataBank, "World Development Indicators, Egypt," [www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt).

<sup>23</sup> World Bank Prospects Group, "Bilateral Remittance Matrix 2012," <http://go.worldbank.org/092X1CHHD0>.

pora in the United States and the U.S. general public.<sup>24</sup>

The 2011 revolution in Egypt brought about liberalization in the country's emigration policies as well as legislative changes that have strengthened emigrant protections. With continued political and civil upheaval in the country, however, it is difficult to know if such reforms will remain in place or be enforced. In December 2012, Egypt ratified a new constitution that expanded the rights and protections guaranteed to the nonresident population. Article 56 of the document states: "The state represents and protects the interests of citizens living abroad, and it guarantees their rights and freedoms and holds them to fulfilling their public duties towards the Egyptian state and Egyptian society. It encourages their contribution to developing the homeland." Other sections of the Constitution grant citizens the rights to leave the country without hindrance and participate in elections and referendums.<sup>25</sup>

Egypt confers Egyptian nationality to children born abroad of an Egyptian parent and generally recognizes dual nationality.<sup>26</sup> The country has mandatory military conscription for all male citizens between age 18 and 30, which applies equally to citizens born in Egypt and those living abroad, although nonresident citizens can petition the Ministry of Defense for a conscription waiver.

The government of Egypt has divided responsibility for managing emigration and engaging the diaspora across four agencies: the Higher Committee for Migration and the Ministries of Manpower and Emigration, Foreign Affairs, and the Interior. Together, these bodies are mandated to encourage safe and orderly emigration, protect worker rights, and provide incentives for the Egyptian diaspora to invest in Egypt.<sup>27</sup>

## VII. Conclusion

Egypt has faced considerable political and civil unrest since 2011, and is generally perceived to have a comparatively challenging climate for conducting business. For example, the World Bank-International Finance Corporation "Ease of Doing Business Index" ranked Egypt 128<sup>th</sup> out of the 189 countries surveyed. The study also cited Egypt as one of the world's least effective protectors of investors, ranking it 147<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries.<sup>28</sup>

Government corruption is also a matter of serious concern for Egypt; a report on perceptions of public-sector corruption placed Egypt 117<sup>th</sup> among the 177 countries and territories studied.<sup>29</sup>

However, there are some signs of improvement in Egypt. The country attracted \$2.8 billion in foreign direct investments during 2012. The Egyptian economy also grew by 2.2 percent in 2012,

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24 Işık Kuşçu, "The Egyptian and American Diaspora During and in the Aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution of 2011" *Ortadoğu Etüdləri*, July 2012, 121-142, [www.orsam.org.tr/en/orsamReportsArchive.aspx](http://www.orsam.org.tr/en/orsamReportsArchive.aspx).

25 The Migration Policy Centre Team, *MPC Migration Profile- Egypt* (Florence: Migration Policy Center, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, 2013), [www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/docs/migration\\_profiles/Egypt.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/docs/migration_profiles/Egypt.pdf).

26 Embassy of Egypt in Washington, DC, "Consular Services," accessed 25 March 2014, <http://egyptembassy.net/>.

27 Angela Smith, *Egypt Migration Profile* (Cairo: Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, 2012), <http://cmrdsb.aucegypt.edu/index.php/eng/content/download/1902/11326/file/02.%20Egypt%202012.docx.pdf>.

28 International Finance Corporation and the World Bank, "Economy Rankings," in "Ease of Doing Business Index," June 2013, accessed March 27, 2014, [www.doingbusiness.org/rankings](http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings).

29 Transparency International, "Corruption Perceptions Index 2013," Transparency International, accessed March 27, 2014, [www.transparency.org/cpi2013/results](http://www.transparency.org/cpi2013/results).

up slightly from 2011's rate of 1.8 percent.<sup>30</sup> If Egypt becomes more stable, members of the diaspora may play an important role in bolstering the country's economy and attracting foreign investments. In addition to making direct investments in Egypt-based companies and projects, members of the Egyptian diaspora could enhance the country's reputation and its desirability to investors by educating the public about the quality of the country's labor force and the many investment opportunities it offers.

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<sup>30</sup> World Bank, "World Development Indicators," accessed March 27, 2014, <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/>.

## Appendices: Tables, Graphs, and Figures

### Appendix I: Summary of 2009-13 Current Population Survey Results

|  | Egyptian<br>Diaspora in the<br>United States* | Total U.S.<br>Population |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Household Income</b>                                  |   |                          |
| Median household income                                  | \$59,000                                      | \$50,000                 |
| Average household size                                   | 2.9   | 2.5                      |
| Share of households with high incomes (\$90,000+)        | 29%   | 25%                      |
| Share of households with very high incomes (\$140,000+)  | 17%   | 10%                      |
| <b>Employment</b>  |   |                          |
| <b>Total population age 16 and older</b>                 | 180,000                                       | 239,386,000              |
| Share in the labor force                                 | 64%   | 64%                      |
| ... that was employed                                    | 94%   | 91%                      |
| ... that was in a professional occupation**              | 50%   | 31%                      |
| <b>Educational Attainment ***</b>                        |   |                          |
| <b>Total population age 25 and older</b>                 | 152,000                                       | 201,925,000              |
| ... with less than high school education                 | 3%  | 13%                      |
| ... with high school or some college education           | 32%   | 57%                      |
| ... with a bachelor's degree                             | 38%   | 20%                      |
| ... with an advanced degree                              | 26%   | 11%                      |
| <b>Assets</b>  |   |                          |
| <b>Total households</b>                                  | 87,000  | 119,173,000              |
| ... that own or are buying their home                    | 48%   | 66%                      |
| ... with income from dividends                           | 13%   | 15%                      |
| ... with income from rent                                | 4%  | 5%                       |
| ... with income from interest                            | 42%   | 43%                      |
| Median income from interest (for recipients)             | \$185   | \$157                    |
| Share with more than \$500 in interest income            | 14%   | 14%                      |
| <b>Population Characteristics by Generation</b>          |   |                          |
| <b>First- and Second-Generation Immigrant Population</b> | 248,000                                       | 73,140,000               |
| <b>First-generation immigrant population†</b>            | 149,000                                       | 38,468,000               |
| ... that was working age (18-64)                         | 77%   | 81%                      |
| ... that entered the United States before 2000           | 54%   | 64%                      |
| ... naturalized as U.S. citizens                         | 60%   | 44%                      |
| <b>Second-generation population††</b>                    | 99,000  | 34,672,000               |
| ... that was under age 18                                | 57%   | 46%                      |
| ... that was working age (18-64)                         | 42%   | 43%                      |
| ... with only one parent from Egypt                      | 53%   | -                        |

\* defined as all first and second generation.

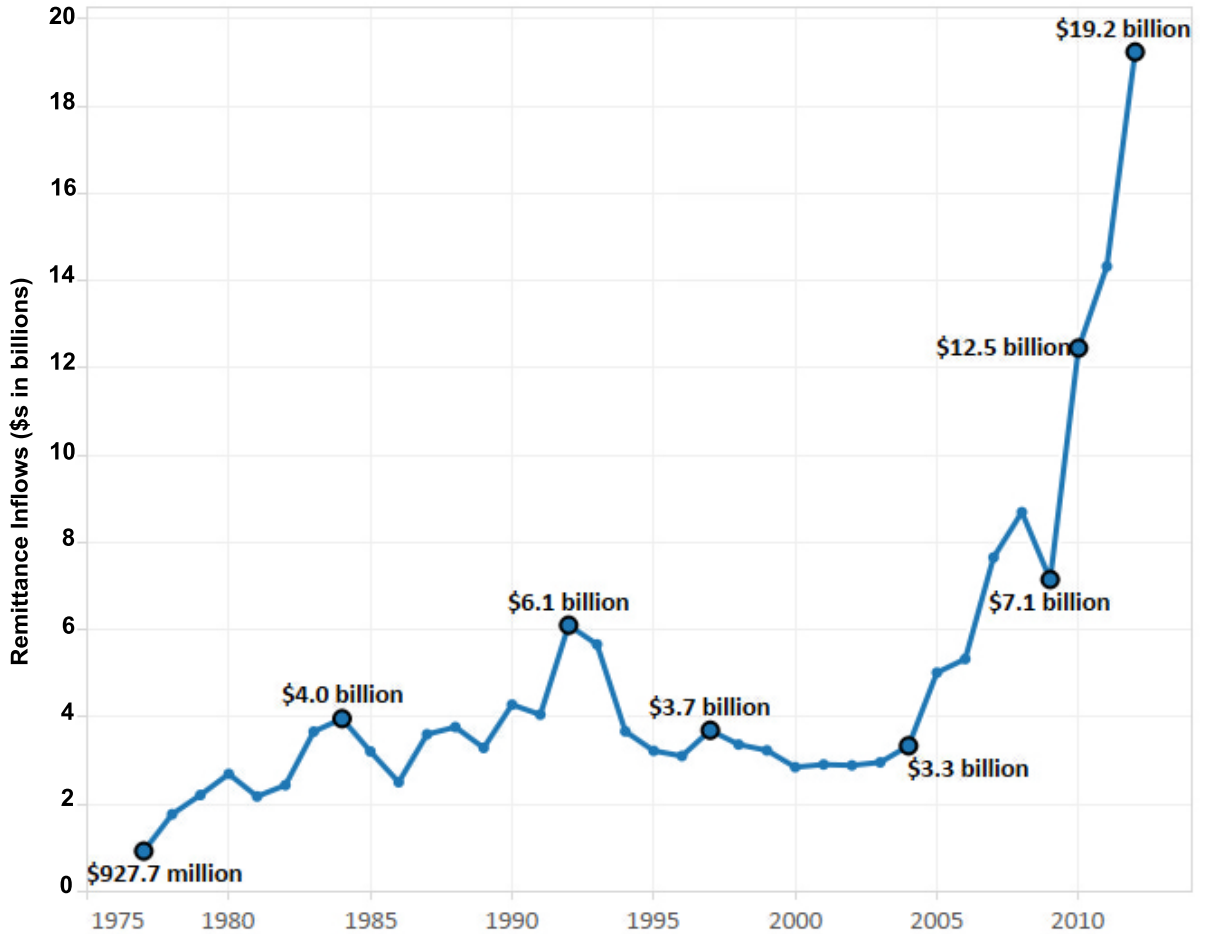
\*\* calculated based on the share of all individuals reporting an occupation for their primary job at the time the CPS was administered or for their most recent primary job.

\*\*\* highest level reported.

† all individuals who report Egypt as their place of birth, excluding U.S. births abroad.

†† all individuals who report having at least one parent born in Egypt.

Appendix 2: Remittance Inflows to Egypt, 1977-2012



Source: Remittance data are taken from World Bank Prospects Group tables for annual remittance inflows and outflows (October 2013 update), <http://go.worldbank.org/092X1CHHD0>.

### Appendix 3. Geographic Distribution of Egyptian Diaspora in United States

