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Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks and Responses

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ARAB YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: ROOTS, RISKS AND RESPONSES

The case of Tunisia

Mongi BOUGHZALA

- Basic indicators
- Roots
- Risks and responses

outline

Basic indicators

Population by Age

Age	Size (1000)	%
0-14	2488.5	23.9
15-59	6911.6	66.3
15-30	3053.2	29.3
60 or older	1020.3	9.8
Total	10420.4	100

	2005	2007	2009
Size	3359.1	3521.7	3689.2
Growth rate		2.53	2.36

Labor force by age

	2005	2009
15-19	209.5	167.5
20-24	441.6	434.8
25-29	554.5	636.6
15-29	1205.6	1238.9
30 and above	2153.5	2450.9
Total	3359.1	3689.2

- 1/3 of the total labor force is young between 15 and 30.

Labour force by level of education

	2005	2009
None	12.7	10.6
Primary	37.9	34.4
Secondary	36.2	37.8
Higher	13.3	17.2
Total	100	100

	2005	2007	2009
Men	12.1	11.3	11.3
Women	15.2	15.3	18.8
Total	13.0	12.5	13.3

Youth unemployment

	2007	2009
15-19 years	29.3	33.6
20-24	27.3	29.9
25-29	21.8	25.7

Men	Women	Total
35.5	60.0	44.7

First job seekers 2009
share of total unemployment is high
and increasing

Unemployment rate by level of

	2005	2007	2009
None	6.3	4.4	6.1
Primary	14.3	11.5	10.4
Secondary	13.3	13.5	14.0
Higher	14.0	18.2	21.9
Total	13.0	12.4	13.3

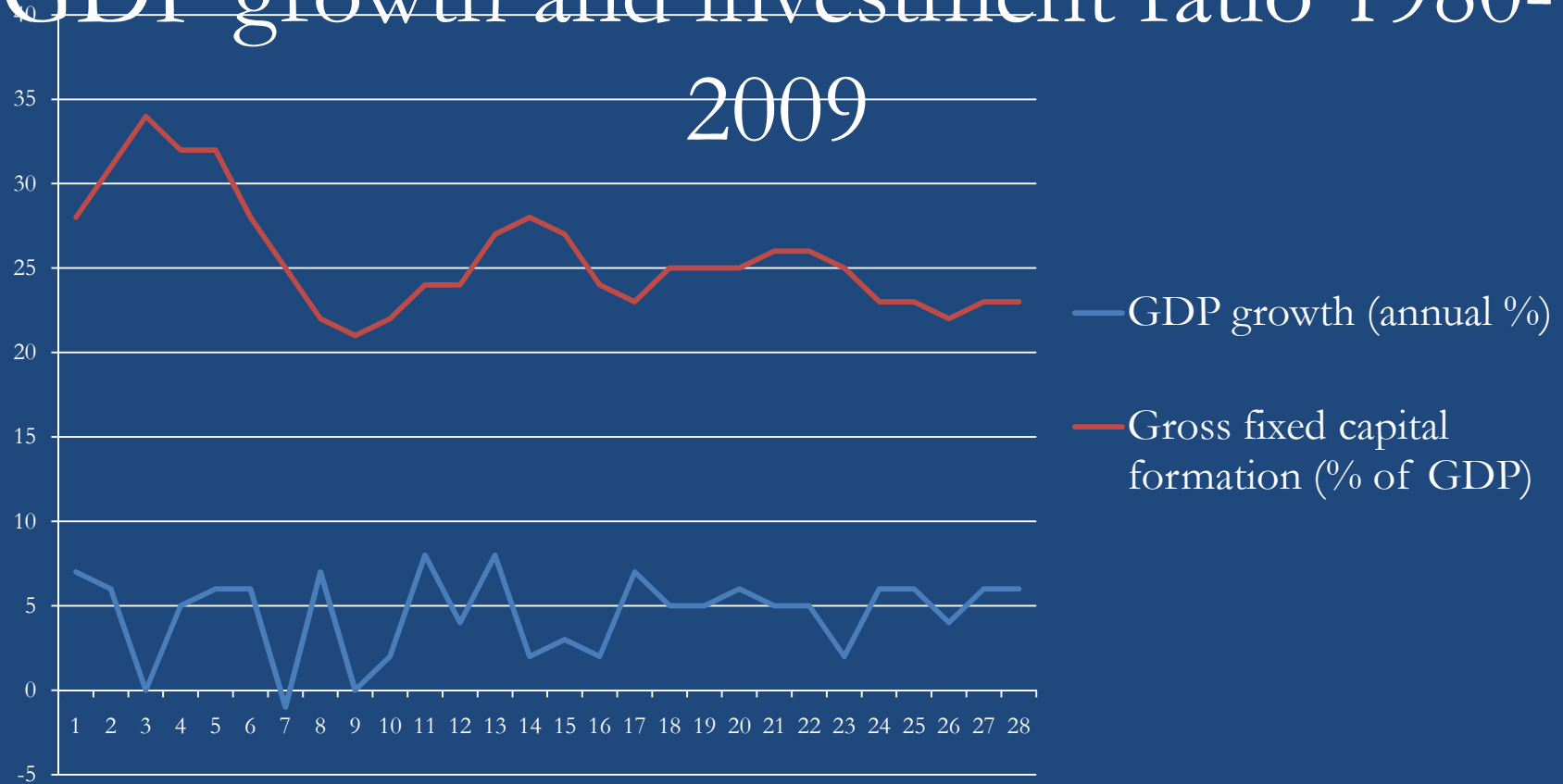
Unemployment rate for university graduates by gender

	2005	2007	2009
Men	10.3	12.9	14.6
Women	21.6	27.4	34.9
Total	14.6	18.7	23.7

Roots

- Growth and employment generation
- The rate of public and private investment
- Education system rigidity and inappropriate development strategy
- Skill mismatch

GDP growth and investment ratio 1980-



- Education quality and design
- Skills and competencies
- Vocational vs. general training
- Inadequate and poorly equipped universities
- Low level of demand for skilled labor; unskilled labor intensive industries and export activities
- The business environment and the incentive system have not developed a knowledge intensive economy

Education system and skill mismatch

Risks and Responses

- Loss of human resources and disincentive against human capital accumulation
- Migration and brain-drain
- Social unrest
- Need for radical and structural reforms