

# GDP will feel the heat

Bahrain could lose up to 2 per cent of GDP in 2030 due to global warming, says ILO

● Heat stress in the Arab States is driven by the construction sector

● Bahrain's work hour loss to double by 2030

● GDP to lose more than 2pct points

● Construction sector affected most

● Arab GDP to lost 0.5pc in 1995

● Qatar is the country most affected

● Oman least affected

● Summer work ban started on July 1

**TDI | Manama**  
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Bahrain is projected to lose more than 2 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product by 2030 from working hours lost to heat stress, warned the latest International Labour Organisation report.

The report, which deals with the effect of heat stress on productivity and decent work, projects that working hours lost to heat stress in Bahrain will more than double by the year 2030.

In 1995, Bahrain lost 1.9pc of its working hours which led to a loss of 4,600 full-time jobs due to the impact of heat stress, the report says.

The projections outlined in the ILO's report titled: 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work' are based on a global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the twenty-first century, and also on labour force trends.

ILO report suggests that, in 2030, 2.2 per cent of total working hours worldwide will be lost to high temperatures – a productivity loss equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs.

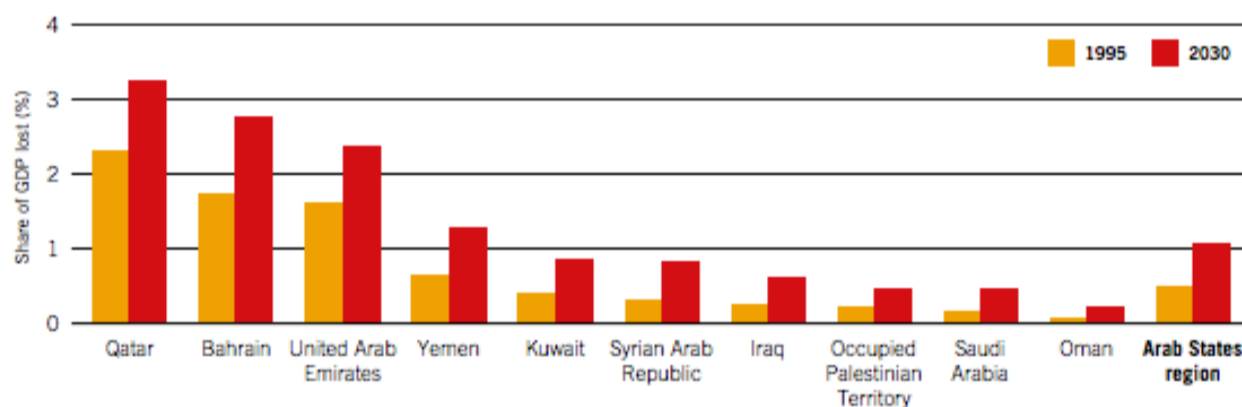
Working hours lost to heat stress, by sector and country/territory, Arab States, 1995 and 2030 (projections)

Country	1995						2030					
	Agriculture (in shade) (%)	Industry (%)	Construction (in shade) (%)	Services (%)	Total (%)	Total (thousand full-time jobs)	Agriculture (in shade) (%)	Industry (%)	Construction (in shade) (%)	Services (%)	Total (%)	Total (thousand full-time jobs)
Bahrain	5.8	3.2	5.8	0.9	1.9	4.4	9.5	6.2	9.5	2.2	4.1	32.1
Iraq	0.9	0.3	0.9	0	0.3	11.3	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.1	0.7	87.9
Jordan	0.3	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.8	0	0.1	2.3
Kuwait	1.6	0.6	1.6	0	0.4	3.0	3.3	1.6	3.3	0.3	1.0	20.9
Lebanon	0.1	0	0.1	0	0	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0	0.1	2.3
Occupied Palestinian Territory	0.6	0.2	0.6	0	0.2	0.9	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.1	0.5	7.4
Oman	0.4	0.1	0.4	0	0.1	0.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.5	6.2
Qatar	5.4	2.9	5.4	0.7	2.3	6.6	8.9	5.6	8.9	1.9	5.3	76.6
Saudi Arabia	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	8.8	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.2	0.5	69.3
Syrian Arab Republic	0.6	0.2	0.6	0	0.3	12.0	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.1	0.7	53.3
United Arab Emirates	4.3	2.2	4.3	0.5	1.8	21.1	7.6	4.6	7.6	1.4	2.6	164.1
Yemen	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.7	20.4	2.0	1.1	2.0	0.3	1.0	95.7
<b>Arab States</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>618.0</b>

Note: The table shows the percentage of working hours lost to heat stress (and the associated health, well-being and productivity effects) in each sector and in the economy as a whole. It also shows the equivalent loss in terms of full-time jobs for the economy as a whole. Work in agriculture and construction is assumed to be carried out in the shade. The heat stress index for work in the afternoon sun adds around 2–3°C to the in-shade WBGT (see Appendix II for further details). The data are based on historical observations and on estimates obtained using the RCP2.6 climate change pathway, which envisages a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the century.

Source: ILO estimates based on data from the ILOSTAT database and the HadGEM2 and GFDL-ESM2M climate models.

Percentage of GDP lost to heat stress under a 1.5°C global warming scenario, ten most affected countries/territories, Arab States, 1995 and 2030 (projections)



This also translates to an economic loss of US\$2,400 billion in 2030, which was estimated at US\$280 billion in 1995.

The report also warns that the impact of heat stress will be most pronounced in the

lower-middle- and low-income countries.

**Construction sector affected most**

The ILO report also paints a similar picture on the labour

productivity in the Arab states especially in countries having a high share of employment in the construction sector.

The report says: "In 1995, for instance, Qatar and Bahrain lost, respectively, 2.3pc and 1.9pc of

working hours (the equivalent of 6,600 and 4,600 full-time jobs) as a result of heat stress, whereas Jordan and Lebanon lost less than 0.1pc."

Projections for 2030 suggest that the percentage of work-

ing hours lost to heat stress will more than double in both Qatar and Bahrain, reaching 5.3pc and 4.1pc, respectively.

The Arab States region as a whole is estimated to have lost about 0.5pc of its average GDP in 1995 as a result of heat stress, and this productivity loss is projected to increase to 1.1pc in 2030.

**Qatar most affected**

The impact of heat stress on labour productivity varies among countries in the region.

Qatar is the country most affected: it lost 2.3pc of its GDP in 1995 and is projected to lose 3.2pc in 2030.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are also expected to lose more than 2pc of their GDP by 2030 as a result of heat stress.

**Oman least affected**

Other countries in the region are affected by heat stress to a lesser extent. "Thus, the impact of heat stress on labour productivity in Oman is almost negligible: its GDP loss was almost zero in 1995 and is expected to reach only 0.2pc by 2030," it stated.

**Summer work ban started**

The two-month summer work ban to protect outdoor workers began on July 1. The ban restricts direct sun-exposed labour activities between mid-day and 4 pm effective until August 31.

The humanitarian move aims to safeguard workers health and their safety against heat exhaustion and sunstroke as well as prevent summer-related diseases and to reduce occupational incidents because of the searing temperatures. Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan called on companies and establishments having work-sites exposed directly to sun to comply with the afternoon work ban.

Humaidan called all the respective establishments to boost the protective tools to prevent the onset of summer-related ailments as well as potential occupational injuries by rescheduling working hours.

## Eleven jailed on terrorism charges

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The High Criminal Court yesterday sentenced eleven Bahrainis to lengthy prison terms on charges linked to terrorism.

The suspects were also found guilty of illegal handling, possession and use of weapons and explosives, said Ahmed Al Hammadi, Chief of Terror Crime Prosecution.

Five of the suspects were handed down ten years prison terms and a fine of BD100,000 each.

Two were given five years each, while three others received three years and a fine of BD100,000 each.

The arrests were recorded following an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

The court also awarded a three-year jail term to another suspect and acquitted five others.

The arrests were recorded following an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Investigators found that a wanted fugitive was recruiting people to target security forces with Molotovs and explosives and operate social media pages to promote terrorism.

He also provided financial support to these elements.

Public prosecution presented testimonies, confessions, technical and material evidence to court.

## Open meeting held on summer outdoor work ban

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The Labour and Social Development Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, held an open meeting to raise expatriate workers' awareness on the importance of outdoor work ban during July and August.

Labour and Social Development Ministry's Undersecretary, Sabah Salim Al-Dossari, representatives of labour-exporting countries and the safety supervisors from the relevant sectors attended.

Al-Dossari extended thanks to the ambassadors and representatives of countries for attending the key meeting.

On the sidelines of the event, the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Health held an exhibi-



During the meeting on outdoor work ban

tion in which they showcased the efforts and services of the kingdom to protect workers' health.

Clinics and health centres

also conducted medical tests on workers.

Edict 3/2013 aims to safeguard workers' health, ensure their safety against heat exhaus-

tion and sunstroke as well as prevent summer-related diseases and to reduce occupational incidents because of the increasing temperatures.