Unemployment remains above precrisis levels in many economies, including the United States. Globally, unemployment is expected to average about 6 percent this year, with rates ranging from 4 percent in east Asia to 10 percent in the Middle East. Unemployment rates are projected to be lower in regions where growth was higher last year. Youth unemployment remains high, at 25 percent in the Middle East and between 15 and 20 percent elsewhere. Employment-to-population ratios are low in many regions suggesting that many people are being forced into the informal sector.

Sources: Haver Analytics; International Labor Organization; and IMF staff estimates.

1AR: Argentina; AU: Australia; BR: Brazil; CA: Canada; CEECIS: central and southeastern Europe (non-EU) and Commonwealth of Independent States; CN: China; DE: Germany; DEEU: developed economies and European Union; EAS: east Asia; EU: euro area; FR: France; GB: United Kingdom; ID: Indonesia; IT: Italy; JP: Japan; KR: Korea; LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean; ME: Middle East; MX: Mexico; NAF: north Africa; RU: Russia; SAS: south Asia; SEAP: southeast Asia and the Pacific; SSA: sub-Saharan Africa; TR: Turkey; US: United States; ZA: South Africa.