Figure 1.16. Middle East: Reduction in Uncertainties Boosts Prospects

Non-oil activity and short-term prospects recovered in the second half of 2003, with tourism rebounding and equity prices surging. However, the projected leveling off of oil production will dampen growth in oil-exporting countries. Unemployment rates remain high throughout the region, underlining the importance of reforms to boost medium-term growth.

Sources: Bloomberg Financial, LP; Haver Analytics; and IMF staff estimates.

13-month moving average.
2Jordan stock market general price index
3The Hermes financial index.
4Bahrain, Iran, I.R. of, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
5Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syrian Arab Republic.