East Asia’s marked rise in working-age population and increasing trade openness have contributed to about half of the quadrupling of the effective global labor supply, while South Asia and the former Eastern bloc accounted for smaller increases.

Sources: United Nations, Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision Population database; World Bank, World Development Indicators; and IMF staff calculations.

1 National labor forces scaled by export-to-GDP ratios.

2 Includes Western Hemisphere, Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa.

3 More educated labor force is defined by persons with university-level education. Less educated is defined by labor force with primary and secondary education plus the uneducated.