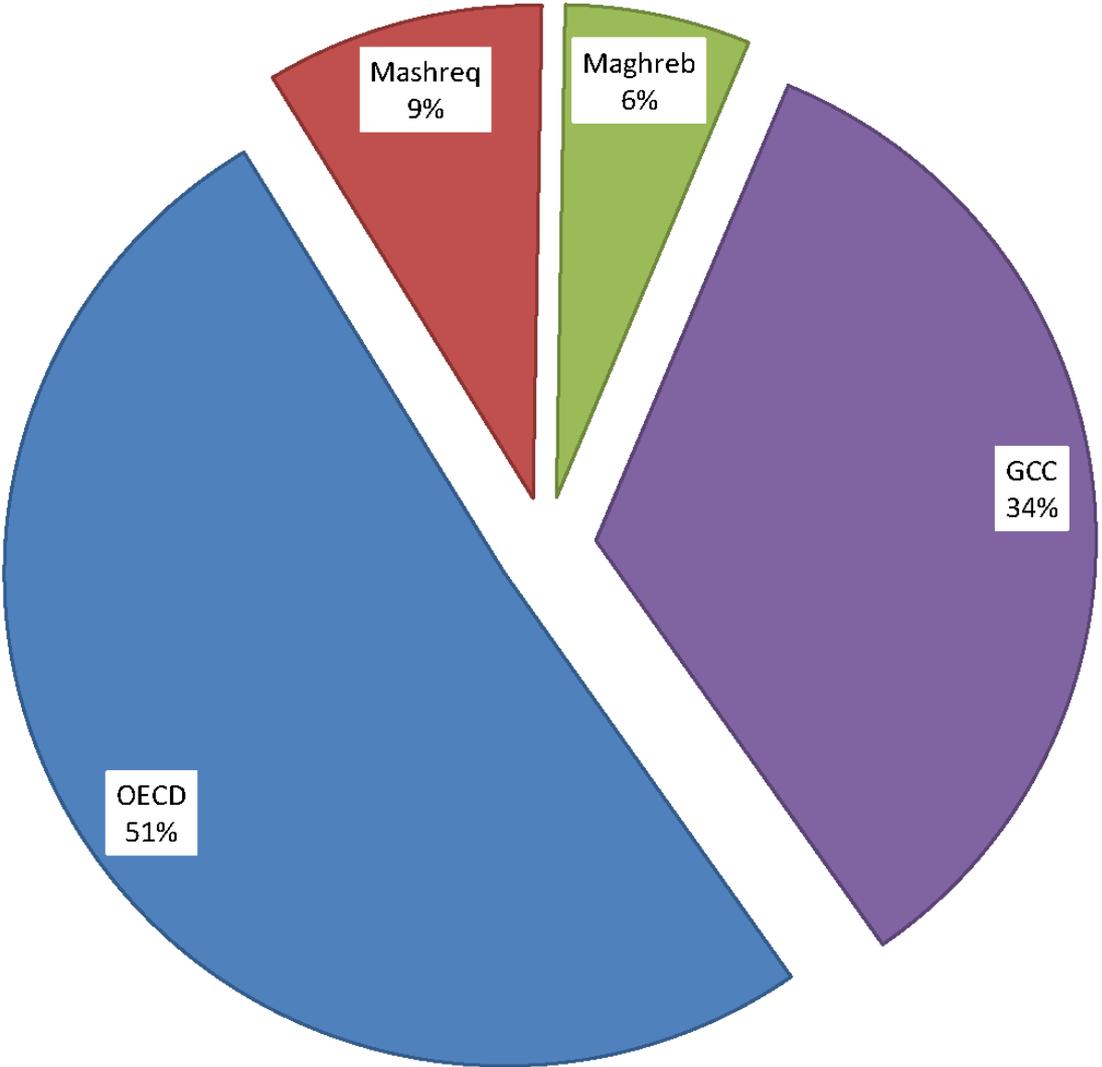


# **RECENT MIGRATION TRENDS IN AND FROM THE MENA REGION**

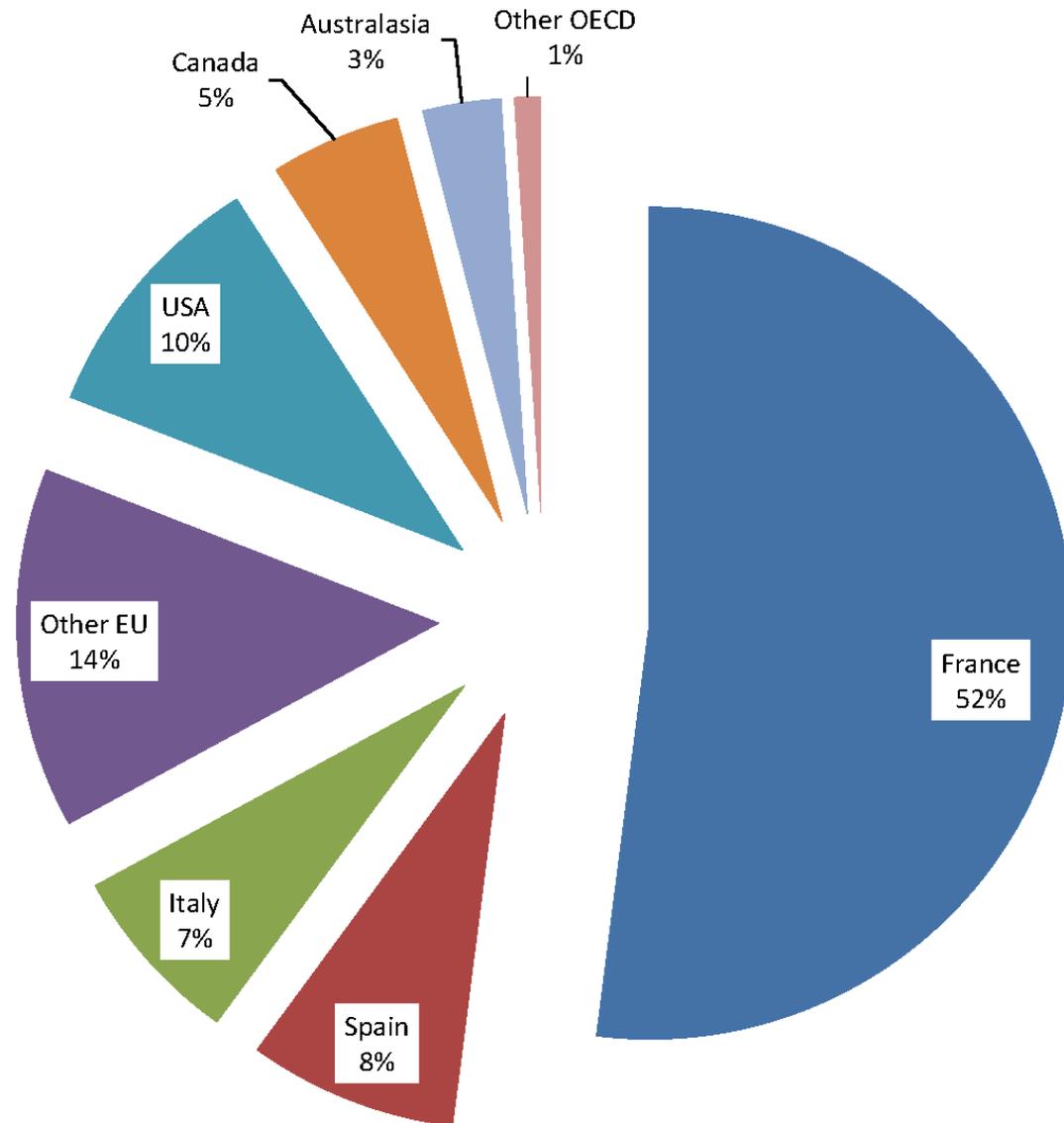
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# Arab labour migration flows by region, 2008



# Arab labour migration to the OECD area, 2008



# Flows from the Maghreb

- Tunisia – primarily to France and Italy
- Morocco – primarily to Spain (traditionally France)
- Algeria – to France, Spain, Canada
- High proportion (70%) of highly skilled in flows to Canada
- Low proportion (20%) in flows to France
- Very low proportion (<8%) to Spain and Italy

## Principal labour migration routes of Mashreqi nationals

*High degree of high-skilled workers*

**Egypt→GCC**

**Egypt→Libya**

**Lebanon→GCC**

Lebanon→USA, Canada

Jordan→GCC

Syria→GCC

*Predominantly low-skilled workers*

**Yemen→Saudi Arabia**

**Egypt→Jordan**

**Syria↔ Lebanon**

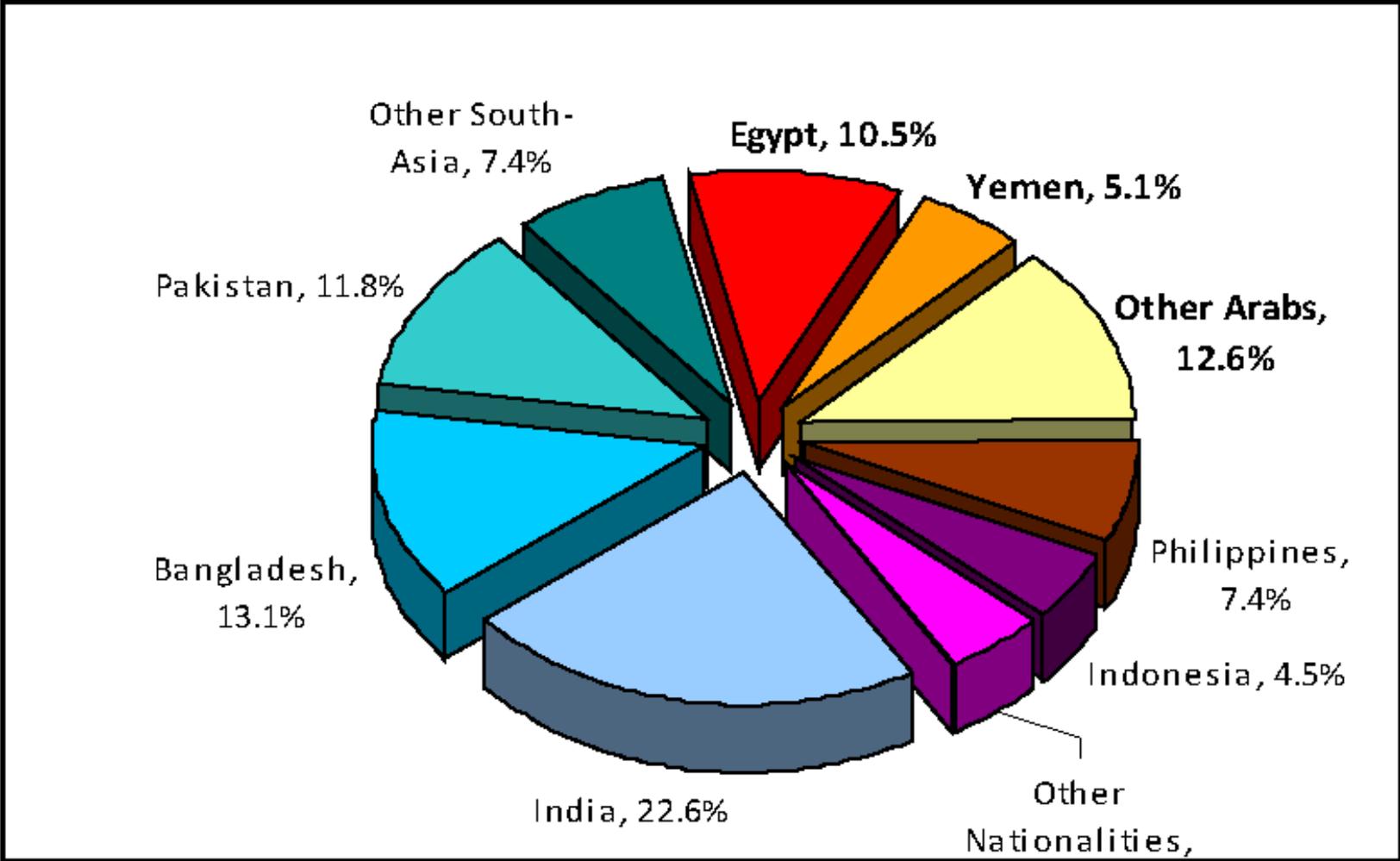
Egypt→Lebanon

Syria→Jordan

Source: own compilation from multiple data sources

Note: large flows are indicated in **bold** type

# Origin of expatriate workers in the GCC, ca. 2007



# Two shocks – an economic crisis and an Arab Spring

- Loss of southern European labour markets for unskilled (male) flows
- Exodus from Libya; partial loss of massive employment in Libyan oil industry
- Syrian civil war and refugee flows impacting on region; loss of Mashreq labour markets for Egyptian unskilled migrants?
- GCC fear of political impact of unemployment: increasing state sector employment (aimed at nationals) leading to increased demand for expatriate workers in the private sector

## **Proposition 1**

***The future for mass unskilled labour migration from MENA is bleak***

Previous absorption of unskilled labour from Maghreb was into Spain and Italy, along with France. Economic crisis has effectively ended these labour migration channels

Successful utilisation of unskilled Egyptian labour in Jordan since 2007, unlikely to continue owing to refugees from Syria

### **Likely consequences:**

increased irregular migration

increased demand for education and vocational training

## Proposition 2

***Intra-regional labour migration will increase in importance***

GCC only region with need for immigration, but from MENA will accept only skilled and highly skilled workers.

Libya slowly resuming oil production and need for immigrant workers – again, mostly skilled from North Africa. Political instability remains an issue.

Exclusion of Maghreb and Mashreq from Abu Dhabi Dialogue, and important 2012 *Framework of Regional Collaboration* involving Asian sending countries

### **Proposition 3**

***Continuation of the EU “security regime” concerning migration, alongside migration for youth education, training and short-term work experience***

Security regime of the EU concerning migration certain to continue – despite political talk about “circular migration”

EU “Blue Card” a weak policy, unable to compete with North America and GCC; takeup likely to be low

MENA-EU relations most likely to focus on training schemes, student exchanges and possibly short-term employment experience in the EU.