Introduction

The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is pleased to present the National Accounts Studies of the Arab region, Bulletin no. 32. This edition of the Bulletin presents available data on and ESCWA estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) at both current and constant prices; consolidated national accounts of each ESCWA member country during the period 2007-2011; in addition to estimated real GDP growth for 2012.

ESCWA collected data primarily from responses to questionnaires, national publications and other official sources. In cases where no detailed data were available, ESCWA estimated the components of GDP according to economic activity and expenditure at current and constant prices.

This publication is divided into three chapters. Chapter I presents selected indicators on some aggregates of national accounts in dollars and their relative distribution among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the more diversified economies (MDEs) and ESCWA member countries. Official and estimated exchange rates were used for the conversion of the national currencies of these countries into dollars.

Tables and figures in chapter I highlight variations between GCC and MDE countries that are members of ESCWA, on the one hand, and between the Arab region and other regions of the world, on the other hand.

Chapter II presents the consolidated national accounts of ESCWA member countries in national currencies at current prices. These data include GDP and expenditure values, national disposable income and its appropriation, external transactions and GDP, by economic activity.

Chapter III contains estimates of GDP by expenditure and economic activity at constant prices in dollars during the period 2007-2011. Discrepancies in the base years used by various ESCWA member countries led to adopting year 2000 as the base year to compute the components of real GDP, for the purpose of comparison.

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The Commission hopes that this study will be useful to economic and social researchers and planners, and welcomes any comments or suggestions thereon.

وتأمل الإسكوا أن تعود هذه الدراسة بالفائدة على واضعي الخطط والباحثين الاقتصاديين والاجتماعيين، كما ترغب بأي تعليقات عليها أو مقترحات بشأنها.