

## ■ Better living standards

According to the Tunisian model of development, economic liberalization and openness are designed to achieve a shared growth and development benefiting all social categories and all regions.

The achievements and gains accomplished in this regard bear testimony to the significant strides made in establishing a model of society where the middle class is expanded and well-being is offered to all Tunisians.

The quantum leap achieved in terms of living standards can be illustrated through the following indicators :

Poverty rate		
1975	1985	2005
<b>22%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

GNP per capita (Dinars, TND)			
1966	1986	2001	2007
<b>117</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>2,987,8</b>	<b>4,389</b>

Percentage of sub-standard houses		
1966	1994	2007
<b>44%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

## ■ Population Policy

The different components of the population policy, including the universal schooling of girls, increasing women's presence in the job market, and promoting mother and child healthcare programs, have changed the Tunisian family's reproductive behavior, and brought down the population growth rate to 1.09% in 2007, against 2.34% in 1987.

Population growth rate		
1966	1987	2007
<b>3%</b>	<b>2.34%</b>	<b>1.09%</b>

Population		
1996	2002	2007
<b>4,583,200</b>	<b>9,781,900</b>	<b>10,225,400</b>

## ■ Health Indicators

Thanks to the implementation of a series of human and social development programs, Tunisia has managed to continuously improve its health indicators :

- Life expectancy at birth increased from 51 years in 1966 to 74.2 years in 2007.
- The mortality rate decreased from 15‰ in 1967 to 5.7‰ in 2007.
- The infant mortality rate decreased from 138.6‰ in 1966 to 18.4‰ in 2007.
- The rate of vaccination among children increased from 70% in 1984 to over 95% in 2007.

Life expectancy at birth		
1966	1984	2007
<b>51 years</b>	<b>67 years</b>	<b>74.2 years</b>

Number of inhabitants per doctor		
1971	1985	2007
<b>6,492</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>968</b>

## ■ Social security benefits

State spendings constitute one of the most important tools materializing the social dimension of the development strategy, given their crucial role in :

- enhancing the sense of solidarity and anchoring the values of mutual support among social categories;
- promoting human resources, and striking a balance between economic efficiency and social well-being.

Percentage of social spending in the national budget (MD)		
1986	1997	2007
<b>44.1%</b>	<b>49.4%</b>	<b>57.3%</b>

State spending in education and higher education (MD)		
1986	1997	2007
<b>431</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>3,083</b>

Percentage of citizens receiving social security benefits		
1987	1997	2007
<b>53.1%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>	<b>91.9%</b>

## ■ Education

The main results achieved in the field of education include the following:

- An increase in the schooling rate of six-year-olds from 94.9% in 1988-1989 to more than 99.1% in 2007-2008.
- A considerable increase in the number of higher education students, which reached 350,800 in 2007-2008, against 43,700 in 1987, and a significant increase in the percentage of young people in full-time university education, which stood at 35.2% in 2007, against 6% in 1987.
- An increase in the percentage of female students in secondary and higher education, which rose respectively from 42.4% and 36.7% in 1986-1987 to 53.2% and 59.1% in 2006-2007.

Rate of schooling of 6-to-14-year olds (%)		
1984	1994	2007
<b>75.9</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>94.77</b>

Ratio pupils/ teacher in elementary schools		
1970/1971	1986/1987	2007/2008
<b>50</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>

Number of pupils in second cycle of basic education and secondary education (public sector)	
School year	Number of pupils
1970/1971	180,000
1986/1987	419,300
2000/2001	963,000
2007/2008	1,069,600

Number of university students	
Academic year	Number of students
1970/1971	11,000
1987/1988	43,700
2000/2001	207,400
2003/2004	291,800
2007/2008	350,800

Percentage of enrollment in higher education			
1966	1984	1987	2007
<b>2.1%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>

Literacy rate of 15-24 year old population (%)		
1966	1984	2004
<b>44.7%</b>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>94.3%</b>

## ■ Women

Promoting women's role in the development process, and enhancing their contribution to all fields, are among the cornerstones of Tunisia's social policy.

Women's increased presence in all sectors and fields of public life has substantially advanced the notion of gender equality. In higher education, female students represent 59.1% of the total number of students. In professional life, women represent 21% of civil service employees, 29% of judges, 31% of lawyers, 34% of journalists, 42% of doctors, 40% of university teachers, and 72% of pharmacists. There are also over 18,000 women heads of businesses and 1,500 women farmers.

Percentage of female students		
	Secondary	Higher
1965-1966	25.6%	19.4%
1970-1971	27.6%	22%
1986-1987	43%	36%
2003-2004	53%	56.4%
2007-2008	53.2%	59.1%

Percentage of working women by age bracket		
	25-29 years	30-34 years
1975	20.1%	14.7%
1987	26.1%	20.9%
1994	32.2%	25.9%
2004	41.6%	37.3%

## ■ Employment

Employment is an absolute priority in Tunisia today; work being a civilizational value and an efficient means to ensure the citizen's effective participation in the development process, to build a balanced society, to ensure complementarity between the economic and social dimensions, and to eliminate all forms of exclusion and marginalization.

Thanks to policies and programs adopted by the State, the pace of job creation increased from an annual average of 41,500 jobs during the period 1982-1986 to an annual average of 75,350 jobs during the period 2002-2007.

Job creation (annual average)		
1982/1986	1997/2001	2002/2007
<b>41,500</b>	<b>64,600</b>	<b>75,350</b>

Rate of job creation in relation to job demand		
1982/1986	1997/2001	2002/2007
<b>61.7%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>91.5%</b>

Distribution of working population by sector (%)			
	Agriculture	Industry	Services
1966	45.8	20.9	33.3
1989	26.2	34.1	39.7
2007	18.39	32.2	49.4

## ■ Economic growth and macro-economic balances

Since the Change, Tunisia has adopted a comprehensive, coherent, complementary, realistic and gradual development strategy that has made it possible to :

- achieve a sustained economic growth of 4.9% a year at constant prices during the period 2002-2007, against 2.4% during the period 1982-1986. The national economy reached a growth rate of 6.3% in 2007, against 5.5% in 2006.
- ensure a greater private-sector participation in the development effort, as shown through the increase of the share of private investment, which stood at about 59.8% in 2007, against 47.9% in 1986;
- preserve the general balances, through bringing under control the budget deficit, the balance of payments, the debt and the debt service which, in 2007, was only 11.6%, against 26.3% in 1986;

Gross Domestic Product (Million dinars - MD)		
1986	2002	2007
<b>7,160</b>	<b>29,878</b>	<b>44,861</b>

Debt service			
1986	2001	2002	2007
<b>26.3%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>

## ■ Boosting production and diversifying the economy

Reforms undertaken since the Change of November 7, 1987, in addition to the redistribution of the roles of political actors and the promotion of private initiative, have enhanced the growth of productive sectors, and significantly increased the added value of the agricultural, industrial and services sectors.

Moreover, reforms have progressively diversified the economic base, consolidated the economy's adaptability to changes, and reinforced its capacity to achieve integration within the world economy

Foreign tourist entries	
1987	2007
<b>1,874.000</b>	<b>6,761.000</b>

GDP distribution at factor costs by sector (current prices)			
	Agriculture	Industry	Services
1986	14.9%	35%	50.1%
1999	15%	33.2%	52.4%
2003	13.8%	28.6%	54%
2007	11.7%	33.3%	55.0%

## ■ Establishing an open economy

Proceeding from an in-depth analysis of past experiences and an objective consideration of international changes, Tunisia has opted for gradual and well-thought integration within the global economy. Moving ahead on this track, Tunisia has been able to :

- achieve an annual growth of exports amounting to 6% at constant prices during the past years, thereby improving its share in foreign markets.
- substantially open up its economy, as illustrated through an increase in the share of exports in the GDP, which rose from 34.7% in 1986 to 50.7% in 2007, and an increase in the volume of foreign investments from 100 million dinars in 1986 to 2,157,9 MD in 2007.
- improve the structure of its exports, by increasing the share manufactured products which, in 2007, represented 84.4% of the total volume of exports, against 62% in 1986.

Exports of goods and services (at current prices, MD)		
1987	2001	2007
2,146.3	13,800	22,407

Ratio of manufactured products in overall exports		
1986	2001	2007
62%	86.5%	84.4%

Share of exports in the GDP		
1986	2001	2007
34.7%	47.2%	50.7%

Foreign investment (Million Dinars)		
1986	2001	2007
100	718.3	2,157.9