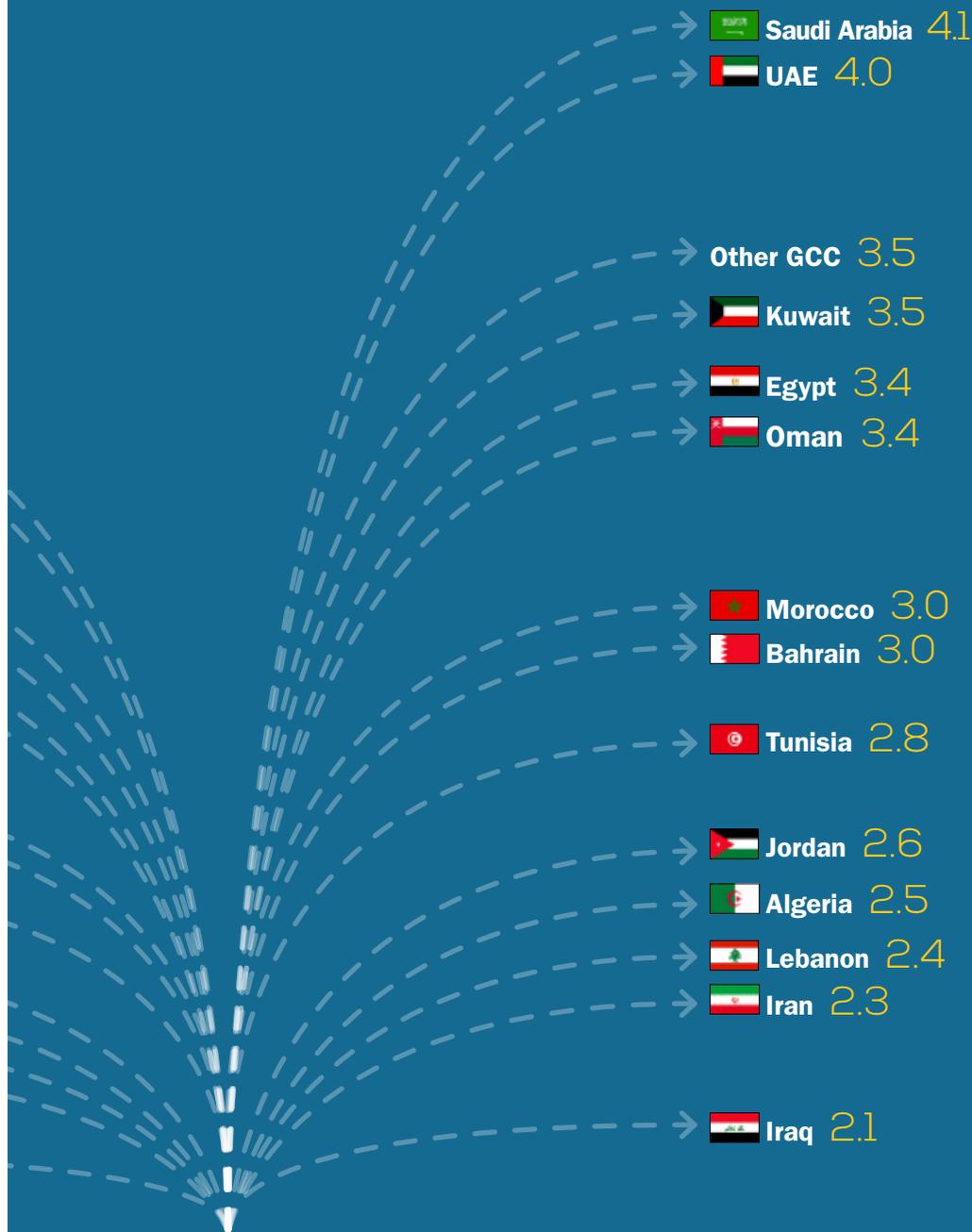


BOUNCING BACK

MEED's Covid-19 Recovery Index assesses the post-pandemic prognosis for Middle East economies based on their underlying fundamentals



RECOVERY READY

High reserves, government stimulus, large project pipelines and ease of doing business characterise the region's most recovery-ready economies.

Weaker government stimulus, less planned project activity and slightly lower ease-of-doing-business rankings characterise the second group. Egypt lacks government spending capacity but makes up for it with a strong domestic economy and low oil dependence.

Acute fiscal distress, higher rates of unemployment, lower project activity and a lack of government stimulus broadly represents these countries. Bahrain has a low unemployment rate, but is the most debt-laden of these countries.

High debt, high unemployment, low project activity and low ease of doing business are the characteristics of the countries with the least recovery-ready economies.

Iraq falls yet further due to its particular combination of extraordinarily high oil dependence, high unemployment and the weakest ease-of-doing-business ranking in the index.

FACTORS CONSIDERED The MEED Covid-19 Recovery Index combines 10 factors to provide a weighted index for the individual potential of country markets within the region to recover economically from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The factors included are: GDP per capita; debt-to-GDP ratios; oil receipts as a percentage of government revenue; the active project market pipeline, characterised by the value of planned projects in the design stage or beyond; government stimulus measures; ease-of-doing-business rankings; population; health system performance, as indicated by hospital bed coverage; unemployment rates; and political risk. For the purposes of the index, high oil dependence is considered a negative factor based on current oil price projections.