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## Socioeconomic: Combatting Global Unemployment [165]

### Commitment [# 165]

*“We are committed to renew our efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis”*

Cannes Summit Final Declaration: Building Our Common Future

#### Assessment:

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia	-1		
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.7	

#### Background:

Commitments for reducing unemployment and creating decent jobs have been part of G20 summitry since its emergence. The Framework on Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth agreed at the G20's Pittsburgh Summit in 2009 puts quality jobs at the heart of economic recovery. G20 leaders reinforced this emphasis at the G20 summits in Toronto and Seoul.<sup>1019</sup> At the Cannes Summit leaders decided to set up a committee that would provide feedback to the G20 with respect to employment.<sup>1020</sup> Furthermore, they tasked international organizations like the International Monetary Fund, International Labor Organization and the World Bank to monitor how economic reforms will impact job creation.<sup>1021</sup>

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<sup>1019</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

<sup>1020</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration: Building Our Common Future, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Date of Access: 3 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>.

<sup>1021</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration- Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Date of Access: 3 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>.

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### **Commitment Features:**

This commitment refers to renewing existing measures. This means that fulfillment does not require the establishment of novel initiatives but may be realized by providing additional regulation or resources in support of existing policies. The commitment is adamant that merely reducing unemployment is insufficient without the promotion of decent jobs. At their meeting in Paris from 26 September 2011 until 27 September 2011, the G20 ministers of labour and employment define decent jobs with reference to the International Labour Organization's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work<sup>1022</sup>. These principles enshrine:

- Workers' freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining<sup>1023</sup>
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor<sup>1024</sup>
- The effective abolition of child labor<sup>1025</sup>
- The Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation<sup>1026</sup>

The ministers further declare that policies which combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others negatively affected by economic crisis, include initiatives that:

- Reemphasize employment as a key objective of economic policy<sup>1027</sup>
- Promote smooth transitions from education, life-long learning and training into employment<sup>1028</sup>
- Establish training systems based on dual learning or apprenticeships, alternating in-class and in-enterprise education<sup>1029</sup>
- Strengthen policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises, especially to formalize their workforce and improve working conditions<sup>1030</sup>

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<sup>1022</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

<sup>1023</sup> Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 18 June 1998. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>1024</sup> Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 18 June 1998. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>1025</sup> Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 18 June 1998. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>1026</sup> Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 18 June 1998. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>1027</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

<sup>1028</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

<sup>1029</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

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**Scoring Guidelines:**

-1	G20 member does not renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis AND does not declare the intention to do so.
0	G20 member is in the process of renewing efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis OR declares the intent to do so.
+1	G20 member renews efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

*Lead Analyst: Robert Schuster and Semra Sevi*

**Argentina: +1**

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 10 November 2011, the University of Buenos Aires' Faculty of Law alongside The Ministry of Labor established a training course designed to facilitate the transition from school to future employment in the Department of Justice. It will allow students to learn about specific tasks undertaken by the Judiciary Office, the Defense Attorney General, and Public Ministry in order to develop their skills and facilitate their transition after graduation.<sup>1031</sup>

On 23 November 2011, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security presented the "Strategic Plan: Continuous Education, Innovation and Employment. Argentina 2020."<sup>1032</sup> This plan will encourage the training of a million workers in high technical jobs, give access to half a million workers to the acknowledgement of their work experience, and fiscal incentives to enterprises in order for them to educate more than half a million workers.<sup>1033</sup>

On 30 November 2011, The Ministry of Labor established the Center for Vocational Training, an area of over 1,000 square meters designed to study welding, software development and IT.<sup>1034</sup>

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<sup>1030</sup> G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Conclusions, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 September 2011. Date of Access: 5 February 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-labour-110927-en.html>.

<sup>1031</sup> Trabajo Puso en Marcha el Curso de Capacitacion Para el ingreso Democratico A la Justicia, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social (Buenos Aires) 10 November 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2012. [http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111110\\_capacitacion.pdf](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111110_capacitacion.pdf).

<sup>1032</sup> "Strategic Plan: Continuous Education, Innovation and Employment. Argentina 2020" Presented, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 23 November 2011. Date of Access: 29 February 2012. [http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111123\\_formacioncontinuatecnopolis\\_eng.pdf](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111123_formacioncontinuatecnopolis_eng.pdf).

<sup>1033</sup> "Strategic Plan: Continuous Education, Innovation and Employment. Argentina 2020" Presented, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 23 November 2011. Date of Access: 29 February 2012. [http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111123\\_formacioncontinuatecnopolis\\_eng.pdf](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111123_formacioncontinuatecnopolis_eng.pdf).

<sup>1034</sup> Tomada Asistio a la Inauguracion de Un Nuevo Centro de Capacitacion y Formacion Profesional, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social (Buenos Aires) 30 November 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2012. [http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111130\\_lorenzomiguel.pdf](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/downloads/prensa/111130_lorenzomiguel.pdf).

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On 15 December 2011, Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner expressed her content in regards to the amount of jobs that have been generated over the past five years in the automotive industry. She also expressed her commitment to battling unemployment stating, “I want all young Argentines to have a job,”<sup>1035</sup> “I am very committed to this cause.”<sup>1036</sup>

On 29 March 2012, the Labor Minister met with employment managers from all over Argentina to stress the importance of strengthening measures to promote employment, training and education. He also insisted that they have a higher commitment to fight undeclared and precarious work as well as labour exploitation.<sup>1037</sup>

Argentina has invested in the renewal and generation of efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs amidst the aftermath of the global economic crisis. Thus it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabriela Martinez*

**Australia: 0**

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to combat youth unemployment and promote decent jobs. Though Australia displays intent to combat unemployment and has taken measures to develop a skilled workforce, measures do not renew or expand initiatives that directly foster decent jobs.

In order to tackle the issue of youth unemployment the Government of Australia has primarily focused on continued funding for its Learn or Earn policy. On 2 November 2011, Prime Minister Julia Gillard, explained that “we have been very driven by the research that if young people leave school early,”<sup>1038</sup> they are “far more likely than not to lead [...] a lifetime of disadvantage.”<sup>1039</sup> She further explained that this would result in a situation where the youth would be “at best only intermittently engaged in the labour market for the rest of their lives.”<sup>1040</sup> Thus, on 4 November 2011, Prime Minister Gillard reconfirmed that “we are on a journey of change in relation to youth unemployment. We’ve particularly focused on learn or earn, on making sure that our education

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<sup>1035</sup> CFK: ‘We have to reach out to the unemployed’, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 15 December 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2012.

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/articles/print.aspx?ix=87473>.

<sup>1036</sup> CFK: ‘We have to reach out to the unemployed’, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 15 December 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2012.

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/articles/print.aspx?ix=87473>.

<sup>1037</sup> Labour Minister met Employment Managers from all over the country (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2012. Date of Access: 3 May 2012.

[https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.trabajo.gov.ar%2Fdownloads%2Fprensa%2F120329\\_tomada\\_gerentesdeempleo\\_eng.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.trabajo.gov.ar%2Fdownloads%2Fprensa%2F120329_tomada_gerentesdeempleo_eng.pdf).

<sup>1038</sup> Remarks to the Business 20 Roundtable, Cannes, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 2 November 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/remarks-business-20-roundtable-cannes>.

<sup>1039</sup> Remarks to the Business 20 Roundtable, Cannes, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 2 November 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/remarks-business-20-roundtable-cannes>.

<sup>1040</sup> Remarks to the Business 20 Roundtable, Cannes, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 2 November 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/remarks-business-20-roundtable-cannes>.

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and our support systems work so young people are either in training or they're in the workforce.”<sup>1041</sup>

The Learn or Earn policy essentially attempts to provide an incentive for the youth of Australia to stay in school in order to qualify for a youth allowance. Though this does develop a skilled workforce it does little to produce decent jobs for the youth. Nevertheless, this focus on education as a means to develop skills has been accompanied by an investment of AUD1.75 billion in the education and training system.<sup>1042</sup>

Other complementary measures undertaken by the Government of Australia are outlined in the 2011-2012 Budget. First, AUD45.2 million has been allocated to extend the Priority Employment Area initiative until 2013.<sup>1043</sup> This includes deploying Local Employment Coordinators to 20 vulnerable regions throughout Australia. Second, AUD101 million will be invested in a national mentoring program aimed to help 40,000 apprentices finish training.<sup>1044</sup> This includes another AUD100 million to be invested in more flexible training models as a means to allow for the development of specific skills.<sup>1045</sup>

Another relevant initiative the Australian government has initiated has been the National Green Jobs Corps program. Although, the Australian government committed AUD79.6 million to deliver over two years 10,000 places nationally for young people aged 17 to 24, this program was closed to new participants as of 31 December 2011.<sup>1046</sup>

On 13 April 2012, the Council of Australian Governments announced AUD1.75 billion in funding to transform the national training system to better respond to the needs of the economy and provide Australians with the skills needed to obtain a job.<sup>1047</sup> This is in addition to the AUD7.2 billion the Government of Australia will invest through the National Agreement for

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<sup>1041</sup> Transcript of Press Conference, Cannes, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 4 November 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/transcript-press-conference-cannes-0>.

<sup>1042</sup> Budget Speech 2011-2012, Australian Government Budget 2011-2012 (Canberra). 10 May 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2011-12/content/speech/html/speech.htm>.

<sup>1043</sup> Budget 2011-12: Priority Employment Area Initiatives – Extension, Australian Government Department of Human Services (Canberra). Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/budget/asures/job-seekers/25129>.

<sup>1044</sup> Budget Speech 2011-2012, Australian Government Budget 2011-2012 (Canberra). 10 May 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2011-12/content/speech/html/speech.htm>.

<sup>1045</sup> Budget Speech 2011-2012, Australian Government Budget 2011-2012 (Canberra). 10 May 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2011-12/content/speech/html/speech.htm>.

<sup>1046</sup> National Green Jobs Corps, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Canberra) Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JobsandTraining/Pages/newgreenjobs.aspx>

<sup>1047</sup> COAG Signs up to Skills for All Australians, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 12 April 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/coag-signs-skills-all-australians>.

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Skills and Workforce Development over the next five years.<sup>1048</sup> These initiatives are in the hopes of ensuring that “students receive high quality training that meets the needs of industry and students.”<sup>1049</sup>

Thus, the Australian Government receives a score of 0 for undertaking measures to combat unemployment.

*Analyst: Harry Malhi*

**Brazil: + 1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment on socioeconomic development, implementing measures that aim to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs.

Labour Ministry figures indicate that 1.94 million payroll jobs were created in 2011, compared to 2.54 million in 2010.<sup>1050</sup> While growth has slowed relative to previous years, the Government of Brazil under the direction of President Dilma Rousseff has attempted to maintain positive growth in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis.

Since August 2011, President Dilma Rousseff has lowered borrowing costs, cut taxes on goods and investments, and has pledged to boost public work projects to ensure 4.5% economic growth.<sup>1051</sup> Overall, unemployment fell to a record low of 4.7% in December, before rising to 5.5% in January.<sup>1052</sup>

On 6 December 2011, Brazil’s Labour Minister Carlos Lupi resigned from his post due to allegations of corruption.<sup>1053</sup> Since then, acting Labour Minister Paulo Roberto Pinto has sought to reaffirm the President’s commitment to job creation. On 24 January 2012, Paulo Roberto Pinto asserted that there should be another two million jobs created in 2012.<sup>1054</sup> By 23 February 2012,

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<sup>1048</sup> Improving the Quality of Skills Training, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/improving-quality-skills-training>.

<sup>1049</sup> COAG Signs up to Skills for All Australians, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 12 April 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012. <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/coag-signs-skills-all-australians>.

<sup>1050</sup> Job Creation Slows in Brazil, Associated Press (Brasilia) 24 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/job-creation-slows-brazil-193242854.html>.

<sup>1051</sup> Brazil Created More Jobs Than Analysts Forecast in January, Bloomberg (Brasilia) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-23/brazil-created-more-jobs-than-analysts-forecast-in-january-1-.html>.

<sup>1052</sup> Brazil Created More Jobs Than Analysts Forecast in January, Bloomberg (Brasilia) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-23/brazil-created-more-jobs-than-analysts-forecast-in-january-1-.html>.

<sup>1053</sup> Brazil’s Labor Minister Quits Amid Allegations of Corruption, CNN (Brazil) 4 December 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. [http://articles.cnn.com/2011-12-04/americas/world\\_americas\\_brazil-labor-minister-quits\\_1\\_president-dilma-rousseff-labor-minister-corruption-scandal?\\_s=PM:AMERICAS](http://articles.cnn.com/2011-12-04/americas/world_americas_brazil-labor-minister-quits_1_president-dilma-rousseff-labor-minister-corruption-scandal?_s=PM:AMERICAS).

<sup>1054</sup> Brazil Job Creation Fell in December, Rose in Year, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 24 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/brazil-job-creation-fell-in-december-rose-in-year-2012-01-24>.

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the Labour Department reported that the country generated 118,895 jobs in the month of January.<sup>1055</sup>

On 28 February 2012, Brazilian Central Bank President Alexandre Tombin proposed the formulation of new policies which would spur economic growth, ultimately producing more jobs.<sup>1056</sup> Elaborating upon this scheme, on 1 March 2012, Brazilian Finance Minister Mr. Guido Mantega stated that while the Brazilian government was ready to take actions to slow capital inflows, the country would still encourage foreign direct investment so as to generate further employment and tax revenue.<sup>1057</sup>

It has been shown that Brazilian companies continue to hire: employment grew by 0.1%, and wages rose by 1.3% in March.<sup>1058</sup> Despite slowed growth in the Brazilian services sector after a five-year peak in February, the recent growth in employment and rise in real wages have helped offset the struggling manufacturing sector's downward effect on the economy.<sup>1059</sup> On 3 April 2012, the government announced a plan to increase tax breaks and interest rate cuts to bolster domestic industry.<sup>1060</sup> Finance Minister Guido Mantega announced that, "[t]he government is launching these new measures to strengthen the Brazilian economy and respond to the problems created by the crisis of the world economy."<sup>1061</sup>

The planning of the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro has already proved promising in terms of employment rates. Ricardo Gomyde, special advisor to Brazil's Ministry of Sports, said he expects 332,000 permanent jobs and 381,000 temporary jobs to be created through 2014 due to the World Cup build-out.<sup>1062</sup>

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<sup>1055</sup> Brazil Created More Jobs Than Analysts Forecast in January, Bloomberg (Brasilia) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-23/brazil-created-more-jobs-than-analysts-forecast-in-january-1-.html>.

<sup>1056</sup> Brazil Policy Aims at Growth, Prices at Target, Tombini Says, Bloomberg Business Week (Brasilia) 29 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-02-29/brazil-policy-aims-at-growth-prices-at-target-tombini-says.html>.

<sup>1057</sup> Brazil Steps Up Battle to Curb Real's Rise, The Wall Street Journal (Brasilia) 1 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203986604577255793224099580.html?mod=oglenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203986604577255793224099580.html?mod=oglenews_wsj).

<sup>1058</sup> U.S. Job Market Weak; Brazil Job Market Strong, Forbes (New York City) 26 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2012/04/26/u-s-job-market-weak-brazil-job-market-strong/>.

<sup>1059</sup> Brazil March services growth slower, off 5-yr high, Reuters (Sao Paulo) 4 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/04/brazil-economy-pmi-idUSL2E8F3AK920120404>.

<sup>1060</sup> Brazil March services growth slower, off 5-yr high, Reuters (Sao Paulo) 4 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/04/brazil-economy-pmi-idUSL2E8F3AK920120404>.

<sup>1061</sup> Brazil unveils new steps to revive industrial sector, Associated Foreign Press (Sao Paulo) 3 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://news.yahoo.com/brazil-unveils-steps-revive-industrial-sector-211947201.html>.

<sup>1062</sup> FIFA World Cup Forecast To Add \$70 Billion to Brazil's Economy, Forbes (New York City) 7 August 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2011/07/08/fifa-world-cup-forecast-to-add-70-bln-to-brazils-economy>.

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Sectors related to tourism, construction, electricity, information technology, telecommunications, among others will likely see the most job creation. The Olympic Games are expected to create an additional 120,000 jobs per year until 2016, and then a further 130,000 jobs per year until 2027, according to research by the Brazilian Ministry of Sport.<sup>1063</sup>

Despite such moves towards improving the country's socioeconomic environment, there remain upwards of seven million child labourers in the country.<sup>1064</sup> According to the United States' Department of Labour, there has been thorough documentation of 1,300 children working in the footwear industry, and less detailed information on children working in the textile, garment, and tin industries.<sup>1065</sup>

Brazil has been a leader in championing the need for job creation at the Cannes Summit. The Government of Brazil has both demonstrated an active desire and has also taken measures to promote decent jobs. Thus, Brazil has been awarded a score of +1 for its efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs.

*Analyst: Samantha Young*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 23 February 2012, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Diane Finley stressed that "our government's top priority is creating jobs and economic growth,"<sup>1066</sup> and that the "youth are tomorrow's workforce, so by investing in their skill development, we are helping them contribute to Canada's long-term growth, competitiveness and overall prosperity."<sup>1067</sup>

The Government of Canada has exemplified this issue as a top priority by continuing its investment in its Youth Employment Strategy, which is a "commitment to help young people, particularly those facing barriers to employment, get the information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition into the labour market."<sup>1068</sup> This strategy includes investment in three key programs: Skills Link which aims at helping youth gain valuable experience; Career Focus which provides funding for employers to hire young post-secondary graduates; and Canada Summer Jobs which also provides funding for not-for-profit

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<sup>1063</sup> Rio World Cup and Olympic Legacy: Economics, Rio Times Online (Rio de Janeiro) 13 September 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/rio-business/rio%E2%80%99s-world-cup-and-olympic-legacy-economics>.

<sup>1064</sup> Child Labor In Brazil, United Nations (New York City) 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. [http://www.un.org/works/goignon/labor/goignon\\_labor.html](http://www.un.org/works/goignon/labor/goignon_labor.html).

<sup>1065</sup> Brazil, United States Department of Labor (Washington) 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/brazil.htm>.

<sup>1066</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth Get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4950>.

<sup>1067</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth Get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4950>.

<sup>1068</sup> Youth Employment Strategy, Service Canada (Ottawa) 16 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/yep/newprog/yesprograms.shtml>.



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organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses to create summer jobs for young people.<sup>1069</sup>

Moreover, in 2011 the Government of Canada invested over CAD300 million in the Youth Employment Strategy with continued investment for 2012.<sup>1070</sup> Furthermore, as outlined in the 2011 Economic Action Plan Budget, the government has provided an additional CAD20 million to help the Canadian Youth Business Foundation to support young entrepreneurs over a period of two years.<sup>1071</sup>

On 16 March 2012, Minister of State for Democratic Reform Tim Uppal reiterated that “our government’s Youth Employment Strategy is helping youth develop the skills and gain the experience they need to get jobs now and prepare for the workforce of tomorrow.”<sup>1072</sup>

In February to April 2012, in order to reinforce its commitment to combating youth unemployment, the Government of Canada announced new funding to support the youth in cities and regions across Canada. This included, but was not limited to, Halifax,<sup>1073</sup> Sault Ste. Marie,<sup>1074</sup> Saint John,<sup>1075</sup> Toronto,<sup>1076</sup> London,<sup>1077</sup> Winnipeg,<sup>1078</sup> Vancouver Island,<sup>1079</sup> Regina,<sup>1080</sup>

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<sup>1069</sup> Backgrounder: Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4951>

<sup>1070</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth Get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4950>.

<sup>1071</sup> Supporting Young Entrepreneurs (Budget 2011), Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) Date of Access: 2 March

2012. <http://actionplan.gc.ca/initiatives/eng/index.asp?mode=3&initiativeID=314>.

<sup>1072</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Edmonton get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 16 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5100>.

<sup>1073</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Halifax get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=5023>.

<sup>1074</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Sault Ste. Marie get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 13 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5121>.

<sup>1075</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Saint John get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 12 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5136>.

<sup>1076</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Toronto get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=5022>.

<sup>1077</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in London get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 20 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5168>.

<sup>1078</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Winnipeg get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4982>.

<sup>1079</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Vancouver Island get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4977>.

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Kamloops,<sup>1081</sup> Charlottetown,<sup>1082</sup> Edmonton,<sup>1083</sup> eastern Newfoundland<sup>1084</sup> and Saskatchewan.<sup>1085,1086</sup> Additionally, the government announced an investment of CAD2.5 million for southern Ontario to benefit the youth involved in the fields of science and technology in order to stimulate innovation through skills training.<sup>1087</sup>

On 29 March 2012, the Minister of State Jim Flaherty tabled the Economic Action Plan 2012 which reconfirmed the Government of Canada's commitment to the creation of jobs by extending the hiring credit for small business for another year.<sup>1088</sup>

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1 in combating youth unemployment and promoting decent jobs.

*Analyst: Harry Malhi*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitments to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 21 November 2012, the Ministry of Education announced that college majors with poor employment prospects will be phased out to reduce the number of unemployed graduates. It also ordered education authorities to take measures to help graduates find jobs, including offering loan forgiveness and tuition waivers for relocating to remote areas, encouraging small businesses to

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<sup>1080</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Regina get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4986>.

<sup>1081</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Kamloops get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4980>.

<sup>1082</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Charlottetown get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5151>.

<sup>1083</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in Edmonton get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 16 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5100>.

<sup>1084</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in eastern Newfoundland get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4988>.

<sup>1085</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in southeast Saskatchewan get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4983>.

<sup>1086</sup> Government of Canada Invests to Help Youth in northern Saskatchewan get Jobs, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 21 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5123>.

<sup>1087</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Southern Ontario's Future Science and Tech Innovators, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 22 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4928>.

<sup>1088</sup> The Government of Canada Delivers Economic Action Plan 2012 — A Plan for Jobs, Growth and Long-Term Prosperity, Canada's Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 29 March 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&featureId=27&id=5210>.

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employ graduates, and asking universities and research institutes to employ graduates in research projects.<sup>1089</sup>

On 29 December 2011, the State Council subsidized vocational training, and offered tax breaks and small loan guarantees to help 5.2 million laid-off workers return to the workplace, as well as increasing support to college graduates.<sup>1090</sup>

On 8 February 2012, the State Council released a plan to boost employment in the 2011-2015 period, aiming to create 45 million jobs and keeping the unemployment rate within 5%.<sup>1091</sup>

On 5 March 2012, Premier Wen Jiabao presented a government report at the National People's Congress, promising to create more than 9 million jobs in towns and cities for 2012 by supporting service industries, high-tech enterprises, and small businesses.<sup>1092</sup>

China has renewed efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: James Li*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to reduce unemployment and create decent jobs. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has forwarded a number of employment-generating policies in his campaign platform; yet many of these will only be implemented should he be re-elected as President.

Having suffered from economic decline since the onset of the global financial crisis, France has witnessed an increase in unemployment. The number of people without jobs in France rose in September 2011 to its highest level since early 2000.<sup>1093</sup> Labour ministry data indicates that French unemployment rose to 9.4% in the fourth quarter of 2011, with 2.7 million people officially out of work.<sup>1094</sup>

On 9 January 2012, President Nicolas Sarkozy met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to discuss an economic growth plan.<sup>1095</sup> Germany and France have set out to implement new

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<sup>1089</sup> China to Phase Out College Majors with Bleak Employment Outlook, Xinhua (Beijing) 21 November 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-11/22/c\\_122314999.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-11/22/c_122314999.htm).

<sup>1090</sup> Social Security Net Widens; 12 Mln Jobs Added, Xinhua (Beijing) 29 December 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2011-12/29/c\\_131333794.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2011-12/29/c_131333794.htm).

<sup>1091</sup> China Releases Plan to Create 45 Mln Jobs, Xinhua (Beijing) 8 February 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-02/08/c\\_131398824.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-02/08/c_131398824.htm).

<sup>1092</sup> Highlights: Wen's Gov't Work Report, People's Daily (Beijing) 5 March 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012. <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90785/7747706.html#>.

<sup>1093</sup> Update 1-French Unemployment Hits 11-Year High, Reuters (London) 26 October 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/26/france-economy-unemployment-idUSL5E7LQ4JA20111026>.

<sup>1094</sup> A Quick Guide to Europe's Deteriorating Youth Unemployment Nightmare, Business Insider (New York City) 1 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/europe-youth-unemployment-2012-3?op=1>.

<sup>1095</sup> Merkel and Sarkozy Meet to Discuss Growth, The Daily Telegraph (London) 9 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/9001519/Merkel-and-Sarkozy-meet-to-discuss-growth.html>.

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measures to revive economic growth in Europe and reduce youth unemployment. Such measures would include action to increase cross-border labour mobility, to complement budget discipline, and debt reduction in the Eurozone.<sup>1096</sup>

With rising unemployment in France, President Nicolas Sarkozy has made it a top priority to stimulate growth and to create jobs.<sup>1097</sup> On 18 January 2012, the French president announced a EUR430 million package of short-term measures to support job creation. Meeting with trade unions and employers' organisations, President Nicolas Sarkozy promised a larger package of reforms at the end of the month.<sup>1098</sup>

On 23 February 2012, in an interview with France 2 television, the French president stated, "Work is the answer to the crisis."<sup>1099</sup> President Nicolas Sarkozy announced proposed employment reforms, focusing on efforts to assist low-income households. Such reforms include reforms of minimum wage policies and more stringent checks on the country's most powerful executives.<sup>1100</sup>

The French government has forged more commercial links in order to revitalize the economy. On 24 February 2012, Nicolas Sarkozy confirmed a temporary supply deal with Royal Dutch Shell to restart the Petit-Couronne refinery.<sup>1101</sup> Similarly, on 1 March 2012, Sarkozy secured EUR17 million from ArcelorMittal in order to revive an idled steel mill in northeastern France.<sup>1102</sup>

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) contends that a modest recovery is underway in France, which is translating into a slow decline in the country's unemployment rate.<sup>1103</sup> However, youth unemployment remains high at 23.3%, while older

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<sup>1096</sup> Germany and France to Discuss Growth Plan, The Financial Times (Paris) 8 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/e99059f0-3a0a-11e1-a8dc-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1oB1bHVkM>.

<sup>1097</sup> Germany and France to Discuss Growth Plan, The Financial Times (Paris) 8 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/e99059f0-3a0a-11e1-a8dc-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1oB1bHVkM>.

<sup>1098</sup> Sarkozy Pumps €430m Into Job Creation, The Financial Times (Paris) 18 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3c21fefe-41e9-11e1-a586-00144feab49a.html>.

<sup>1099</sup> Sarkozy Proposes Welfare Change for Low-Paid, Reuters (Paris) 22 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/22/us-france-election-sarkozy-idUSTRE81L1ZP20120222>.

<sup>1100</sup> Sarkozy Proposes Welfare Change for Low-Paid, Reuters (Paris) 22 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/22/us-france-election-sarkozy-idUSTRE81L1ZP20120222>.

<sup>1101</sup> Update 1-France, Shell Agree to Restart Petit-Couronne Plant, Reuters (Paris) 24 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/24/france-refinery-petitcouronne-idUSL5E8DO3A620120224>.

<sup>1102</sup> Update 5-Sarkozy Claims Steel Plant Goal, Hits Protest, Reuters (Paris) 1 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/01/france-arcelormittal-idUSL5E8E10WP20120301>.

<sup>1103</sup> OECD Employment Outlook 2011 – How Does France Compare?, OECD (Paris) 15 September 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/0/48683436.pdf>.

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workers fare only slightly better.<sup>1104</sup> In order to begin tackling the youth unemployment problem, President Nicolas Sarkozy has proposed strengthening its apprenticeship system, modeled after the German system.<sup>1105</sup>

Despite the French government's efforts, the number of unemployed people rose in March for the eleventh consecutive month.<sup>1106</sup> Unemployment figures have reached almost 10%.<sup>1107</sup> On 10 April 2012, the Bank of France announced that the French economy showed no growth in the first quarter, and there are no signs of a strong recovery in the coming months.<sup>1108</sup> The Bank of France noted that industrial activity did improve, but France has lost more industrial jobs than any other country in Europe over the past decade.<sup>1109</sup>

President Nicolas Sarkozy has proposed a series of policy reforms that gesture towards reduced unemployment and greater job creation. While some measures have taken effect already, several initiatives depend on the outcome of the French presidential elections. Thus, France has been awarded a score of 0 for its promotion of socioeconomic development.

*Analyst: Samantha Young*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce unemployment and promote decent jobs.

The country has remained economically strong in the face of the present turmoil in the Eurozone. On 30 November 2011, Heinrich Alt, deputy head of the German Federal Labour Agency stated that, “[t]he German labour market is proving robust.”<sup>1110</sup> Chancellor Angela Merkel has sought to maintain Germany's productivity and competitiveness amidst the credit crisis that has engulfed the majority of the region.

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<sup>1104</sup> A Quick Guide To Europe's Deteriorating Youth Unemployment Nightmare, Business Insider (New York City) 1 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/europe-youth-unemployment-2012-3?op=1>.

<sup>1105</sup> French-German Border Shapes More Than Territory, The New York Times (Seléstat, France) 3 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/04/world/europe/when-a-border-shapes-more-than-territory.html>.

<sup>1106</sup> French Unemployment Level Continues To Rise, The Wall Street Journal (Paris) 26 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577367951080573774.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304723304577367951080573774.html?mod=googlenews_wsj).

<sup>1107</sup> France Unemployment Near 10%, Bloomberg (Paris) 26 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-26/france-unemployment-near-10-fueled-by-laws-election-omits-jobs.html>.

<sup>1108</sup> French Economy Grinds to a Halt, Reuters (Paris) 10 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://business.financialpost.com/2012/04/10/french-economy-grinds-to-a-halt/>.

<sup>1109</sup> France Unemployment Near 10%, Bloomberg (Paris) 26 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-26/france-unemployment-near-10-fueled-by-laws-election-omits-jobs.html>.

<sup>1110</sup> German Unemployment Falls More Than Economists Forecast: Economy, Bloomberg Business Week (Berlin) 30 November 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-11-30/german-unemployment-falls-more-than-economists-forecast-economy.html>.

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The unemployment figures for Germany remain low. On 2 February 2012, the Federal Employment Agency reported that 3.082 million people were unemployed in Germany in January of 2012 — the lowest January figure in over two decades.<sup>1111</sup> Germany boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe, at 7.8%.<sup>1112</sup> Also, compared to its regional counterparts, Germany's youth unemployment for 2011 was minimal at 7.4%.<sup>1113</sup>

The Government of Germany has sought to create further employment. On 9 January 2012, Chancellor Angela Merkel met with French President Nicolas Sarkozy to discuss an economic growth plan.<sup>1114</sup> Germany and France have set out to implement new measures to revive economic growth in Europe and reduce youth unemployment. Such measures include action to increase cross-border labour mobility, to complement budget discipline, and debt reduction in the Eurozone.<sup>1115</sup> In terms of creating decent jobs, the OECD reports that German workers are less likely than other OECD members to hold jobs that do not correspond to their qualifications.<sup>1116</sup>

Despite low rates of unemployment, there have been some concerns over insufficient income levels. With no centrally-mandated minimum wage, low-wage and temporary workers can be forced to forego sustainable incomes, boosting wage inequalities.<sup>1117</sup> Many German citizens must pursue a second job to make ends meet, with more than 2.6 million people employed in 'mini-jobs'.<sup>1118</sup> According to the Federal Employment Agency, that figure rose by 5.4% within just one year.<sup>1119</sup>

The German government has begun to attempt to rectify the situation. On 12 February 2012, Germany's Labour Minister Ursula von der Leyen advocated for above-inflation increases in

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<sup>1111</sup> German Job Creation Miracle Is Not Over Yet, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15712853,00.html>.

<sup>1112</sup> Unemployment Statistics, Eurostat (Luxembourg) January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics).

<sup>1113</sup> A Quick Guide to Europe's Deteriorating Youth Unemployment Nightmare, Business Insider (New York City) 1 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.businessinsider.com/europe-youth-unemployment-2012-3?op=1>.

<sup>1114</sup> Merkel and Sarkozy Meet to Discuss Growth, The Daily Telegraph (London) 9 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/9001519/Merkel-and-Sarkozy-meet-to-discuss-growth.html>.

<sup>1115</sup> Germany and France to Discuss Growth Plan, The Financial Times (Paris) 8 January 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/e99059f0-3a0a-11e1-a8dc-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1oB1bHVkM>.

<sup>1116</sup> OECD Employment Outlook 2011 – How Does Germany Compare?, OECD (Paris) 15 September 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. [www.oecd.org/dataoecd/7/59/48683922.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/7/59/48683922.pdf).

<sup>1117</sup> Insight: The Dark Side of Germany's Jobs Miracle, Reuters (Stralsund) 8 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/08/us-germany-jobs-idUSTRE8170P120120208?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>.

<sup>1118</sup> German Job Creation Miracle Is Not Over Yet, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15712853,00.html>.

<sup>1119</sup> German Job Creation Miracle Is Not Over Yet, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15712853,00.html>.

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wages.<sup>1120</sup> She has also been campaigning for temporary workers to receive the same income and benefits as staff members.<sup>1121</sup> Additionally, Chancellor Angela Merkel has revealed plans to introduce a mandatory minimum wage for those sectors which are not covered by existing minimum-wage agreements.<sup>1122</sup> On 25 April 2012, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government agreed to plans to introduce a mandatory minimum wage for economic sectors that do not already have one.<sup>1123</sup>

There have also been worries over the issue of discrimination in respect to employment. It has been reported that full-time employed women earn, on average, 21.6% less than their male counterparts in Germany.<sup>1124</sup> In efforts to improve gender equality in the workforce, the German labour minister has advocated for the implementation of a quota system.<sup>1125</sup> If such a system were to be implemented, more women would obtain higher level and better-paid positions.

The Government of Germany has sought to extend existing measures which have contributed to improving socioeconomic outcomes (such as its youth apprenticeship program).<sup>1126</sup> It has also proposed implementing new policies which would further enhance the well-being of its citizens. On 25 April 2012, the Economic Ministry in Berlin announced that Germany's economy will have moderate growth of 0.7% throughout the current year, and an expected 1.6% growth in 2013. Economy Minister Philipp Rösler stated, "[g]rowth of 0.7 per cent this year, higher income and more people in employment show that Germany is doing well and remains the growth engine in Europe."<sup>1127</sup> He also said that Germany will see rising wages and lower unemployment.<sup>1128</sup>

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<sup>1120</sup> Germany's Labor Minister Wants Higher Wages, Bild-Zeitung Says, Bloomberg (Frankfurt) 11 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-11/germany-s-labor-minister-wants-higher-wages-bild-zeitung-says.html>.

<sup>1121</sup> German Boom Casts Shadow Over French Election, Reuters (Paris) 15 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/15/us-france-election-germany-idUSTRE81E0IQ20120215>.

<sup>1122</sup> Analysis: German Boom Casts Shadow Over French Election, Reuters (Paris) 15 February 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/15/us-france-election-germany-idUSTRE81E0IQ20120215>.

<sup>1123</sup> With eye on elections, Merkel pushes minimum wage, Reuters (Berlin) 25 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/25/us-germany-minimum-wage-idUSBRE83O11O20120425>.

<sup>1124</sup> Germany Lags Europe on Gender Pay Gap, Reuters (Berlin) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 5 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/05/us-germany-women-oecd-idUSTRE8241A120120305>.

<sup>1125</sup> Germany Lags Europe on Gender Pay Gap, Reuters (Berlin) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 5 March 2012. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/05/us-germany-women-oecd-idUSTRE8241A120120305>.

<sup>1126</sup> German apprenticeships: A model for Europe?, BBC News Business (Germany) 13 December 2011. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-16159943>.

<sup>1127</sup> German government expects moderate growth, lower unemployment, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 25 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15908968,00.html>.

<sup>1128</sup> German government reaffirms economy growth forecasts for 2012 and 2013, The Associated Press (Germany) 25 April 2012. Date of Access: 27 April 2012. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/summary-box-german-government-reaffirms-economic-growth-forecasts-for-2012-and-2013/2012/04/25/gIQAKsGUhT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/summary-box-german-government-reaffirms-economic-growth-forecasts-for-2012-and-2013/2012/04/25/gIQAKsGUhT_story.html).

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Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1 for its promotion of socioeconomic development.

*Analyst: Samantha Young*

**India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to combat youth unemployment and promote decent jobs.

At the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Indian Labour Conference on 14 February 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reaffirmed his government's commitment to this issue. He outlined that "youth employment is a high-priority agenda item for our government,"<sup>1129</sup> and that there is an essential "need to provide opportunities for gainful employment to the large number of young people who enter the work force every year."<sup>1130</sup> He further explained that "this can happen only if we equip our young people with skills that are required to meet the demands of our rapidly growing economy."<sup>1131</sup>

Thus, India has focused its efforts to combat youth unemployment by developing the infrastructure required for the skill-development of young people. This includes continued investment in the Skill Development Mission, which seeks to increase the number of trained workers through public and private partnerships.<sup>1132</sup> When this mission was first introduced, Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee explained that the end goal was to produce 500 million skilled people in India by 2022.<sup>1133</sup>

In February 2012, the Government of India outlined measures for establishing the infrastructure necessary for skill development and the creation of decent jobs. These measures include funding to create 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes and 5000 Skill Development Centres during the next three years.<sup>1134</sup> The government has combined these measures with the investment of INR232.95 million in order to create 34 Industrial Training Institutes and 68 Skill Development

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<sup>1129</sup> Prime Minister's Speech at the Indian Labour Conference, Press Information Bureau, Government of India (New Delhi) 14 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://pibmumbai.gov.in/scripts/detail.asp?releaseId=E2012PR2280>.

<sup>1130</sup> Prime Minister's Speech at the Indian Labour Conference, Press Information Bureau, Government of India (New Delhi) 14 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://pibmumbai.gov.in/scripts/detail.asp?releaseId=E2012PR2280>.

<sup>1131</sup> Prime Minister's Speech at the Indian Labour Conference, Press Information Bureau, Government of India (New Delhi) 14 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://pibmumbai.gov.in/scripts/detail.asp?releaseId=E2012PR2280>.

<sup>1132</sup> About National Skill Development Corporation, India, NSDC National Skill Development Corporation (New Delhi). Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.nsdcindia.org/about-us/organization-profile.aspx>.

<sup>1133</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 14-15 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://labour.nic.in/lc/44thAGENDA.pdf>.

<sup>1134</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 14-15 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://labour.nic.in/lc/44thAGENDA.pdf>.



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Centres.<sup>1135</sup> Also, an additional INR57.39 million is to be invested in Enhancing Skill Development Infrastructure in north-eastern India.<sup>1136</sup>

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has stressed that these initiatives are also a means to influence poor students to “find it financially viable to learn a skill rather than take up a job prematurely,”<sup>1137</sup> and “this requires that industry and the government should work together to ensure that such students are adequately financed.”<sup>1138</sup> Thus, India has also outlined its intention to focus its efforts on improving the employability of those most affected by the economic crisis.

On 20 April 2012, the Indian Ministry of Labour and Employment and the International Labour Organization hosted a national youth event to raise awareness on the issue of youth employment in India.<sup>1139</sup> The Minister of Labour and Employment Mallikarjun Kharge emphasized the importance of dealing with youth employment by stressing that this event “underlines the Government’s commitment and priority attached to the issue and its potential for advancing the objective of inclusive economic growth and development.”<sup>1140</sup>

For taking above actions, India receives a score of +1 in combating youth unemployment and promoting decent jobs.

*Analyst: Harry Malhi*

#### **Indonesia: -1**

Indonesia has not declared any intent to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 29 December 2011, Pertamina inaugurated a USD1.4 billion fuel processing plant in Central Java. Around 2,800 people were employed during its construction, and it is estimated that it will increase economic growth in the region<sup>1141</sup>

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<sup>1135</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 14-15 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://labour.nic.in/lc/44thAGENDA.pdf>.

<sup>1136</sup> 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 14-15 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://labour.nic.in/lc/44thAGENDA.pdf>.

<sup>1137</sup> Youth Employment a ‘High-Priority Agenda’ of Govt: Manmohan, The Hindu (New Delhi) 14 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2892563.ece>.

<sup>1138</sup> Youth Employment a ‘High-Priority Agenda’ of Govt: Manmohan, The Hindu (New Delhi) 14 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2892563.ece>.

<sup>1139</sup> Entrepreneurship highlighted at national youth event in New Delhi, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 25 April 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/news/WCMS\\_179285/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/news/WCMS_179285/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>1140</sup> Entrepreneurship highlighted at national youth event in New Delhi, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 25 April 2012. Date of Access: 26 April 2012.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/news/WCMS\\_179285/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/news/WCMS_179285/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>1141</sup> Industry gets boost from 3 new power plants, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 29 December 2011. Date of Access: 2 March 2012. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/12/29/industry-gets-boost-3-new-power-plants.html>.

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On 2 May 2012, The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry stated that the unemployment rate increases by 1.3 million every year due to the available supply and increasing demand of jobs in the country.<sup>1142</sup>

Indonesia has not renewed efforts to combat unemployment, especially for youth, and does not declare any intent to do so. Thus it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Gabriela Martinez*

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 17 November 2011, newly elected Prime Minister Mario Monti pledged to target sub-standard education, training, and labour market reform in order to provide additional benefit and protection to young workers.<sup>1143</sup> His main goals are to improve public services, and help women and young people obtain employment.<sup>1144</sup>

On 9 January 2012, Italian Labour Minister Elsa Fornero met with leaders of the CISL and IUL union federations to begin discussing certain liberalizations of the labour market. These involved introducing more flexible contracts, and encouraging workers to switch jobs by expanding their access to more professional fields.<sup>1145</sup> Reforms would serve to narrow the gap between short-term contracts that give some workers more protection than others.<sup>1146</sup> After 2012, this Grow-Italy package will offer 18 month internships for students to start during their final semester of classes.<sup>1147</sup> On 24 January 2012, the Government of Italy adopted these reforms into Italian law.

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<sup>1142</sup> Comment: Unemployment Increases by 1.3m (Jakarta) 2 May 2012. Date of Access: 3 May 2012. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/05/05/comment-unemployment-increases-13m.html>.

<sup>1143</sup> New Italy PM Wins Confidence Vote on Tough Reform Plans, The Times of India (Mumbai) 18 November 2011. Date of Access: 18 February, 2012. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/New-Italy-PM-wins-confidence-vote-on-tough-reform-plans/articleshow/10774587.cms>.

<sup>1144</sup> New Italy PM Wins Confidence Vote on Tough Reform Plans, The Times of India (Mumbai) 18 November 2011. Date of Access: 18 February, 2012. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/New-Italy-PM-wins-confidence-vote-on-tough-reform-plans/articleshow/10774587.cms>.

<sup>1145</sup> Italy- Labor Reforms Under Way, Daily News. Date of Access: 18 March 2012. <http://www.staffingindustry.com/eng/Research-Publications/Daily-News/Italy-Labour-reforms-under-way>.

<sup>1146</sup> The Grow-Italy Decree Becomes Law, Italian/American Digital Project (New York) 25 January 2012. Date of Access: 23 February 2012. <http://www.i-italy.org/19078/grow-italy-decree-becomes-law>.

<sup>1147</sup> The Grow-Italy Decree Becomes Law, Italian/American Digital Project (New York) 25 January 2012. Date of Access: 23 February 2012. <http://www.i-italy.org/19078/grow-italy-decree-becomes-law>.

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On 6 February 2012, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría approved and agreed to work with Italy on its reform programme in order to guarantee future stability.<sup>1148</sup>

On 23 April 2012, the Italian government passed labour reforms to create a more flexible and inclusive labour market through a new unemployment compensation program, limits on temporary workers to encourage permanent employment, and guaranteeing gender equality by outlawing the practice of women signing open-ended resignation letters, particularly in cases of pregnancy.<sup>1149</sup> It also includes provisions that would allow workers to be fired more easily since rigid rules on hiring and firing discourage both employment and investment.<sup>1150</sup> The Italian government seeks to eliminate the “dualism” of the current labour market, whereby some employees are guaranteed jobs for life while qualified young workers can only secure unstable part-time contracts.<sup>1151</sup> Economists see both the lowering cost of firing workers and increasing protection for short-term contracts as encouraging companies to hire additional workers and stimulating growth.<sup>1152</sup>

In addition, these proposed reforms will no longer force companies to rehire workers fired for economic reasons, unless workers were unjustly fired or discriminated against.<sup>1153</sup> Instead, a severance of 27 days will be paid.<sup>1154</sup> Secretary General Angel Gurría sees these reforms as addressing the chronic unemployment and low participation rates for women in a coherent manner.<sup>1155</sup>

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1 for its renewed efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs for youth, and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

*Analyst: Yinan Yang*

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<sup>1148</sup> Statement by OECD’s Gurría after Meeting Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 6 February 2012. Date of Access: 18 February 2012.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/17/0,3746,en\\_21571361\\_44315115\\_49569937\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/17/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_49569937_1_1_1_1,00.html).

<sup>1149</sup> Italy Passes Labour Market Reforms, CBC News (Toronto) 23 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2012/03/23/italy-labour-reforms.html>.

<sup>1150</sup> Monti Pulls a Thatcher, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303816504577305240774653740.html>.

<sup>1151</sup> Italy Labour Market Reform: More Costs for Companies, but Opportunity for the Young, Canadian Business (Toronto) 4 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/78336--italy-labour-market-reform-more-costs-for-companies-but-opportunity-for-the-young>.

<sup>1152</sup> 1159 Stuck in Recession, Italy Takes on Labour Laws that Divide the Generations, The New York Times (New York) 19 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/19/world/europe/italy-tackles-labor-laws-that-divide-young-and-old.html?pagewanted=all>.

<sup>1153</sup> 1160 Italy’s Reforms- Monti’s Labour-Law Tangle, The Economist (London) 24 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.economist.com/node/21551046>.

<sup>1154</sup> 1161 Italy: OECD’s Gurría Welcomes Labour Market Reforms, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 27 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/54/0,3746,en\\_21571361\\_44315115\\_49989430\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/54/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_49989430_1_1_1_1,00.html).

<sup>1155</sup> U.S.-Japan Dialogue to Promote Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation, Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 30 January 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012

[http://www.meti.go.jp/English/press/2012/0130\\_01.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/English/press/2012/0130_01.html).

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**Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitments to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 18 November 2011, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare outlined the third stage of its “Japan as One”<sup>1156</sup> Work Project, a series of countermeasures against the employment impact of the 2011 earthquake. The third stage of the project includes subsidizing small and medium-sized businesses and agricultural, forestry and fishery industries, supporting industrial development and employment, training personnel who contribute to reconstruction, and supporting the placement of disaster victims into stable jobs. A total of JPY6.1 trillion (USD75.1 billion) has been pledged, and around 580,000 jobs are expected to be created or supported.<sup>1157</sup>

On 26 January 2012, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the U.S. Department of State launched a bilateral U.S.-Japan Innovation and Entrepreneurship Council comprised of government and private sector leaders to promote technological innovation and generate jobs and economic growth.<sup>1158</sup>

On 15 February 2012, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released its draft budget for the 2012 fiscal year, which included measures to promote employment and decent jobs, including a JPY11.2 billion (USD1.3 billion) “Project to Promote Employment of College Students” targeting enrolled university students to reduce the number of unemployed graduates and a JPY6.5 billion “Youth Step-Up Program” to provide trial employment and training to “freeters,” young underemployed workers who cannot find full-time work.<sup>1159</sup>

Japan has renewed efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: James Li*

**Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 4 November 2011, Employment and Labour Minister Lee Chae-pil held an information session for CEOs and personnel managers of foreign-invested companies in Korea. Lee encouraged these companies to create more and better jobs in Korea.<sup>1160</sup>

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<sup>1156</sup> ‘Japan As One’ Work Project - Outline of the Measures Taken in the 3rd Stage of the Project, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 18 November 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/japan\\_as\\_one.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/japan_as_one.html).

<sup>1157</sup> ‘Japan As One’ Work Project - Outline of the Measures Taken in the 3rd Stage of the Project, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 18 November 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/japan\\_as\\_one.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/japan_as_one.html).

<sup>1158</sup> U.S.-Japan Dialogue to Promote Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 30 January 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2012/0130\\_01.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2012/0130_01.html).

<sup>1159</sup> The Outline of the Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 15 February 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/new-info/2012.html>.

<sup>1160</sup> Minister Lee Chae-pil Asks Foreign Firms in Korea to Create More and Better Jobs, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Seoul) 16 November 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012. [http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment\\_policy\\_view.jsp?&idx=866](http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment_policy_view.jsp?&idx=866).

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On 22 November 2011, the National Assembly passed the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement ratification bill after six years of negotiation. The Korea Institute for International Economic Policy projects that 350,000 jobs will be created in Korea.<sup>1161</sup> On the other hand, the Korea Rural Economic Institute predicts that imports will cause the loss of 130,000 jobs in the agricultural sector.<sup>1162</sup>

On 8 December 2011, the Ministry of Employment and Labour launched a task force that will establish a plan for a more “hopeful workplace,” addressing outdated labour practices like long work hours and unreasonable pay schemes.<sup>1163</sup>

On 8 February 2012, the Ministry of Employment and Labour started a youth internship program supporting youth interested in starting a business by providing training from entrepreneurs.<sup>1164</sup>

Korea is in the process of renewing efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: James Li*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 17 November 2011, the Ministry of Economic Development proposed the implementation of *Programa Empleo Joven* which aims to directly generate jobs for citizens between 18 and 29 years of age that reside in Mexico City. This program consists of offering a complimentary minimum wage for up to six months to young workers that have been hired for at least one year in small cap and medium cap companies in Mexico City. It also aims to provide financing at a preferential monthly rate of 0.5% to new businesses led by young entrepreneurs in the Federal District in order to generate jobs for young entrepreneurs. It is estimated that this program will benefit 76 million youth and will create more than a thousand new businesses.<sup>1165</sup>

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<sup>1161</sup> U.S. FTA to Boost exports, Hurt Farming, Services, Korea Herald (Seoul) 22 February 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20120222001029>.

<sup>1162</sup> South Korea/US: FTA Jumps Major Hurdles, Faces Others, New York Times (New York) 3 April 2007. Date of Access 5 March 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/03/news/03iht-oxan.0403.5124955.html>.

<sup>1163</sup> MOEL Launches Task Force to Create Hopeful Workplace, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Seoul) 22 December 2011. Date of Access 5 March 2012.

[http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment\\_policy\\_view.jsp?&idx=883](http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment_policy_view.jsp?&idx=883).

<sup>1164</sup> MOEL Starts Youth Job-Creation Internship Program for 2012, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Seoul) 8 February 2012. Date of Access 5 March 2012.

[http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment\\_policy\\_view.jsp?&idx=900](http://www.moel.go.kr/english/topic/employment_policy_view.jsp?&idx=900).

<sup>1165</sup> Conferencia de prensa con motivo de la solicitud a la ALDF para crear el Fondo para el Programa Empleo Joven en el Distrito Federal, Secretaria de Desarrollo Economico (Ciudad de Mexico) 17 November 2012. Date of Access: 29 February 2012.

<http://www.sedecodf.gob.mx/sedeco/index.php/es/the-news/101-conferencia-de-prensa-con-motivo-de-la-solicitud-a-la-aldf-para-crear-el-fondo-para-el-programa-empleo-joven-en-el-distrito-federal.html>.

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On 25 January 2012, The National Employment Service stated it would continue to allocate scholarships through the program *Bécate* to youth seeking work experience and training in small, medium, and large cap companies such as Nissan. The Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare stated that this year MXN1 billion would be allocated to this scholarship, which will benefit 220,000 people seeking training and experience in formal enterprises.<sup>1166</sup>

On 17 February 2012, The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare stated that this year the Ministry aims to help more than 4 million people obtain jobs through the National Employment Service and will match at least 1 million with a stable job.<sup>1167</sup>

On 26 February 2012, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare introduced the Day of Employment Support Zacatecas 2012, which benefited 4,700 people with formal employment, training to raise their skill level, and the delivery of machinery to promote self-employment.<sup>1168</sup>

On 28 February 2012, the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), through the already established Temporary Employment Program (PET), launched the national “Young Builders” campaign that will generate 809,000 temporary jobs among youth living in the streets in marginalized states such as Chiapas, Chihuahua, Puebla and Veracruz. This campaign seeks to reintegrate youth living on the streets through training and skill development that will allow them to access greater economic wellbeing.<sup>1169</sup>

Mexico has expressed intent and has renewed efforts to combat unemployment, placing great emphasis on promoting decent jobs for youth. Thus, Mexico has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabriela Martinez*

**Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with its commitment on reducing unemployment.

Russia has taken measures to renew its efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs.

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<sup>1166</sup> La Secretaria del Trabajo y Prevision Social Destina Mil Millones de Pesos en Becas Laborales, Con Lo Que Se Beneficia A 200 Mil Personas, Secretaria Del Trabajo y Prevision Social (Mexico City) 25 January 2012. Date of Access: 29 February 2012.

[http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala\\_prensa/boletines/2012/enero/bol\\_006.html](http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2012/enero/bol_006.html).

<sup>1167</sup> El Servicio Nacional De Empleo Promueve Acciones Para Colocar A Mas Mexicanos En el Mercado Laboral: Rosalinda Velez Juarez (Ciudad Juarez) 17 February 2012. Date of Access: 3 May 2012.

[http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala\\_prensa/boletines/2012/febrero/bol\\_016.html](http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2012/febrero/bol_016.html).

<sup>1168</sup> Con La Jornada de Apoyo al Empleo Zacatecas 2012 Se Beneficiaran a 4,700 Personas (Zacatecas) 26 January 2012. Date of Access: 3 May 2012.

[http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala\\_prensa/boletines/2012/febrero/bol\\_017.html](http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2012/febrero/bol_017.html).

<sup>1169</sup> Rescata Empleo Temporal a Los Jovenes De La Calle, Secretaria de Desarrollo Social (Mexico DF) 28 Febrero 2012. Date of Access: 29 February 2012.

[http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/es/SEDESOL/Sintesis\\_Informativa?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.SEDESOL.swb%23swbpress\\_Content%3A536&cat=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.SEDESOL.swb%23swbpress\\_Category%3A1](http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/es/SEDESOL/Sintesis_Informativa?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.SEDESOL.swb%23swbpress_Content%3A536&cat=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.SEDESOL.swb%23swbpress_Category%3A1).

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On 8 November 2011, Russian President signed the federal law providing for mandatory establishment of boards of trustees in universities.<sup>1170</sup> One of the main objectives of these boards is giving universities an opportunity to monitor labour market demands to ensure that their education programs provide graduates with relevant competencies.<sup>1171</sup>

On 30 November 2011, Russian President signed the federal law aimed at improving government employment policies, including by strengthening interagency cooperation between federal and regional authorities and setting up federal standards of employment promotion.<sup>1172</sup>

On 5 December 2011, the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development adopted the Rules of Assessment of Quality and Accessibility of State Services in the Area of Employment Promotion. According to the Rules the Ministry of Health and Social Development will carry out an annual assessment of the Government activities aimed at promotion of personnel selection, training, retraining, public works, selfemployment, etc.<sup>1173</sup>

Russia has taken measures to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov*

#### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitments to renew its efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 4 February 2011, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde reported on her visit to Saudi Arabia, specifically in the area of Saudi Arabia's job creation initiatives. Lagarde affirmed that challenges still remain but concluded that Saudi Arabia has made job creation a clear priority.<sup>1174</sup> Furthermore, she commented that initiatives were underway to assure job creation in 2012.<sup>1175</sup>

On 25 January 2012, The International Trade Union Confederation published a report finding that Saudi Arabia was in violation of core labour standards. The report detailed that Saudi's were

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<sup>1170</sup> The Law On Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education is amended, Office of the President of Russia (Moscow) 8 November 2011. Date of Access: 3 April 2012.

<http://kremlin.ru/acts/13417>.

<sup>1171</sup> Meeting of Commission for Modernisation and Technological Development of Russia's Economy, Office of the President of Russia (Moscow) 26 September 2011. Date of Access: 3 April 2012. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/news/2857>.

<sup>1172</sup> Certain legislative acts have been amended, Office of the President of Russia (Moscow) 2 December 2011. Date of Access: 3 April 2012. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/13782>.

<sup>1173</sup> Order No. 1490, GARANT 27 December 2011. Date of Access: 3 April 2012.

<http://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/70008920/>.

<sup>1174</sup> Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde at the Conclusion of her Visit to Saudi Arabia. International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 4 February 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2012/pr1236.htm>.

<sup>1175</sup> Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde at the Conclusion of her Visit to Saudi Arabia. International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 4 February 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2012/pr1236.htm>.

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allowed to form worker's committee's to voice their concerns but were outlawed from unionizing, collective bargaining and striking.<sup>1176</sup>

Saudi Arabia has recently restricted the amount of migrant workers entering the country in an attempt to address the issue of youth unemployment. Additionally, Saudi Arabia implemented new minimum wage laws for migrant workers in the country after being pressured by the Philippine government.<sup>1177</sup>

In 2012, Saudi Arabia has attempted to invest its economic gains in citizens by providing its citizens with job fairs. Additionally, the government continues to pressure small businesses to hire more Saudi citizens in an attempt to reduce unemployment, especially among the youth.<sup>1178</sup>

The government of Saudi Arabia has also begun to communicate with national universities in an attempt to find ways to make educated Saudis more employable in the nation.<sup>1179</sup>

The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Labour has created guiding councils in an effort to find employment for women in the nation. These councils concluded that the most important sectors where women could find work were education, health, and commerce.<sup>1180</sup>

Thus, Saudi Arabia is in the process of reducing the unemployment of its citizens. Many of these efforts have been aimed at the nation's youth as well as its female population. As such, it has been awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ryan Donnelly*

#### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

South Africa's Democratic Alliance followed up on an earlier statement and will table an amendment to the Budget in the Standing Committee of Finance which will call for a government subsidy for youth wages. The National Treasury believes this subsidy will help to create 423 000 jobs for youth in the nation.<sup>1181</sup>

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<sup>1176</sup> Saudi Arabia bans trade unions and violates all international labour standards. International Trade Union Confederation (Brussels) 25 January 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/saudi-arabia-bans-trade-unions-and.html>.

<sup>1177</sup> Seeking Safeguards for Unskilled Workers Abroad. The Wall Street Journal (New York) 6 February 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203735304577166431120402026.html>.

<sup>1178</sup> Fairs make job search easier. The Arab News (Jeddah). Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article570460.ece>.

<sup>1179</sup> Fairs make job search easier. The Arab News (Jeddah). Date of Access 25 February 2012.

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article570460.ece>.

<sup>1180</sup> Saudi - Labor Ministry sets up council to advise women on jobs. The Arab News (Jeddah) 25 February 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

[http://www.menafn.com/qn\\_news\\_story\\_s.asp?storyid=1093486667](http://www.menafn.com/qn_news_story_s.asp?storyid=1093486667).

<sup>1181</sup> South Africa: DA to Table Budget Amendment to Fund Youth Wage Subsidy in 2012. All Africa (Washington D.C.) 23 February 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201202240166.html>.



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The 2012 South African budget allocated R429 million to the Labour Department for inspection and enforcement services. The department hopes to inspect 130 000 workplaces to assure that they are in compliance with labour standards. The department believes that such inspections will help to protect workers against abuses from employers caused by an unstable global market.<sup>1182</sup>

The 2012 South African budget also allocated money to a new Jobs Fund. This fund is designed to alleviate poverty through education and an increase in skills development training.<sup>1183</sup>

South Africa has taken active steps to promote decent employment for those working within its borders. Additionally the government has addressed the issue of youth unemployment. The 2012 South African budget proactively attempts to set up programs to link education and employment and protect labour rights which assure decent employment. As such South Africa has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ryan Donnelly*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts in combating unemployment and promoting decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

In 2007, 2009, and 2011, Turkey stated one of its primary priorities as improving educational achievements in accordance to labour market needs, funding schools on a per-pupil basis, and giving students greater managerial skills and responsibility.<sup>1184</sup> In 2010, the Government of Turkey issued an Action Plan to Strengthen Links between Vocational Education and Employment in order to create a national skills classification system, revise vocational school curricula based on skill groups, and facilitate closer cooperation between the government and employers on new vocational courses.<sup>1185</sup> No renewal efforts have been carried out during the current compliance period.

Turkey has taken measures to promote decent temporary jobs to those affected by the economic crisis. On 3 March 2012, the province of Batman announced it would hire 960 new workers on a four-month period in a variety of public positions. Job openings are available in education, forestry, water works, as well as environmental and museum directorates.<sup>1186</sup>

On 30 March 2012, a new education bill was adopted to extend compulsory education from eight years to twelve, and will divide the years into four of primary school, four of middle school, and

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<sup>1182</sup> Budget Speech 2012. Sunday Times (Johannesburg). Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/02/22/budget-speech-2012>.

<sup>1183</sup> Budget Speech 2012. Sunday Times (Johannesburg). Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2012/02/22/budget-speech-2012>.

<sup>1184</sup> Economic Policy Reforms 2012: Going for Growth Turkey Country Note, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 24 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/13/49654280.pdf>.

<sup>1185</sup> Economic Policy Reforms 2012: Going for Growth Turkey Country Note, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Geneva) 24 February 2012. Date of Access: 2 March 2012.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/34/13/49654280.pdf>.

<sup>1186</sup> 14,000 Apply For Job Opening of 960 in Southeast Turkey, HürriyetDaily News (Istanbul) 3 March 2012. Date of Access: 4 March 2012. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/14000-apply-for-job-opening-of-960-in-southeast-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=15175&NewsCatID=347>.

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four of high school.<sup>1187</sup> It also presented the option of enrolling students in vocational school starting from grade five.<sup>1188</sup> The bill aims to improve the transition process from education to employment while overcoming the education deficit in Turkey since 40% of the country's 15 year olds lack mathematic literacy.<sup>1189</sup>

On 5 April 2012, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a new incentive scheme to induce local and foreign investments while supporting underdeveloped regions.<sup>1190</sup> Provinces will be ranked according to socio-economic development, and will fall into one of the six 'priority of incentives' groups.<sup>1191</sup> The lowest ranking regions will receive more governmental support, including payments for employee insurance costs on minimum wages for ten years.<sup>1192</sup> The government also stated that it will make strategic investments involving education, transportation, and mining regardless of priority groups.<sup>1193</sup>

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1 for advancing efforts in combating youth unemployment and promoting short-term jobs to those who have been affected by the economic crisis.

*Analyst: Yinan Yang*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 25 November 2011, the Government of the United Kingdom adopted a GBP1 billion Youth Contract programme to tackle youth unemployment. The programme is to be effective over a span of three years starting in April 2012, and will offer at least 410,000 new work opportunities

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<sup>1187</sup> What's 4+4+4?, The New York Times (New York) 23 March, 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://latitude.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/turkeys-education-reform-bill-is-about-playing-politics-with-pedagogy/>.

<sup>1188</sup> Turkish Lawmakers Adopt Controversial Education Bill, The Times of Israel (Jerusalem) 30 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/turkish-lawmakers-adopt-controversial-education-bill/>.

<sup>1189</sup> What's 4+4+4?, The New York Times (New York) 23 March, 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://latitude.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/turkeys-education-reform-bill-is-about-playing-politics-with-pedagogy/>.

<sup>1190</sup> Turkey's New Incentive Scheme to Balance Regional Income, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (Ankara) 6 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.invest.gov.tr/en-US/infocenter/news/Pages/060412-turkey-unveils-new-incentive-scheme.aspx>.

<sup>1191</sup> Turkey's New Incentive Scheme to Balance Regional Income, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (Ankara) 6 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.invest.gov.tr/en-US/infocenter/news/Pages/060412-turkey-unveils-new-incentive-scheme.aspx>.

<sup>1192</sup> Turkey's New Incentive Scheme to Balance Regional Income, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (Ankara) 6 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.invest.gov.tr/en-US/infocenter/news/Pages/060412-turkey-unveils-new-incentive-scheme.aspx>.

<sup>1193</sup> Turkey's New Incentive Scheme to Balance Regional Income, Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (Ankara) 6 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.invest.gov.tr/en-US/infocenter/news/Pages/060412-turkey-unveils-new-incentive-scheme.aspx>.

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for youths between the ages of 18 and 24.<sup>1194</sup> A wage subsidy of GBP2,275 will be given to employers for each young worker they employ.<sup>1195</sup> Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg stated the aim of the Youth Contract is to “get every unemployed younger person earning or learning again before long term damage is done.”<sup>1196</sup>

On 21 February 2012, the youth employment scheme, a GBP126 million government scheme, part of the larger Youth Contract, opened for applications. This allows all charities and companies to apply to receive funding towards providing unemployment training for youths between the ages of 16 and 17.<sup>1197</sup>

On 2 April 2012, the Youth Contract became officially open to businesses. It was signed by some of the biggest companies in Britain, including Morrison’s, E-On, Phones4U, and Barclays to help 50,000 unskilled workers enter the workplace in the next three years.<sup>1198</sup> Responding to the contract’s wage incentives will create new employment positions for those under 25 and enable smaller businesses to recruit apprentices through new Apprenticeship Grants for Employers.<sup>1199</sup> As a result of these measures, the Director General of the British Chamber of Commerce believes the contract will give employers greater confidence to invest in younger workers.<sup>1200</sup>

On 21 March 2012, Chancellor George Osborne announced that five of the 21 enterprise zones: Irvine, Nigg, Dundee, London’s Royal Docks, and Deeside will be given the ability to write off more of their investments against taxes.<sup>1201</sup> This GBP20 million plan would increase economic activity by creating 7500 new jobs in London, and up to 9000 in the remaining four zones.<sup>1202</sup>

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<sup>1194</sup> £1 billion Youth Contract, Department for Business Innovation & Skill (London) 25 November 2011. Date of Access: 23 February 2012.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Nov/dpm-announces-1bn-youth-contract>.

<sup>1195</sup> £1 billion Youth Contract, Department for Business Innovation & Skill (London) 25 November 2011. Date of Access: 23 February 2012.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Nov/dpm-announces-1bn-youth-contract>.

<sup>1196</sup> £1 billion Youth Contract, Department for Business Innovation & Skill (London) 25 November 2011. Date of Access: 23 February 2012.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Nov/dpm-announces-1bn-youth-contract>.

<sup>1197</sup> Youth Employment Scheme Open for Applications from Charities and Companies, Third Sector (Online) 21 February 2012. Date of Access: 3 March, 2012.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1118155/Youth-employment-scheme-open-applications-charities-companies/>.

<sup>1198</sup> Boost for Unemployed Young People as Youth Contract Opens for Business, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 2 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/apr-2012/dwp031a-12.shtml>.

<sup>1199</sup> Boost for Unemployed Young People as Youth Contract Opens for Business, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 2 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/apr-2012/dwp031a-12.shtml>.

<sup>1200</sup> Boost for Unemployed Young People as Youth Contract Opens for Business, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 2 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/apr-2012/dwp031a-12.shtml>.

<sup>1201</sup> Budget 2012: Enterprise Zone Investors to Get Extra Support, The Guardian (London) 21 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/21/budget-2012-enterprise-zone-investors-extra-support>.

<sup>1202</sup> Budget 2012: Enterprise Zone Investors to Get Extra Support, The Guardian (London) 21 March 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/21/budget-2012-enterprise-zone-investors-extra-support>.

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On 18 April 2012, a new Enterprise Capital Fund (ECF), Notion Capital, was established to target high-growth cloud computing and Software-as-a-Service companies.<sup>1203</sup> As the 11<sup>th</sup> and largest ECF with over GBP62.9 million already committed by private investors, the new fund will support small and medium-sized enterprises by helping them expand and grow. The Government of the United Kingdom has committed a total of GBP200 million to the Enterprise Capital Fund programme in the next four years with further funds to be announced.<sup>1204</sup>

The United Kingdom also aims to promote decent jobs for others who have been affected by the economic crisis. On 29 November 2011, the Government of the United Kingdom reaffirmed its policy objective as achieving a strong, sustainable, and balanced growth through four ambitions: creating the most comprehensive tax system in the G20, making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance, and grow a business, encouraging investments and exports for a more balanced economy, and creating a more educated workforce that is flexible throughout Europe.<sup>1205</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1 for its renewed efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs for youth, and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

*Analyst: Yinan Yang*

#### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to renew efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 5 January 2012, Barack Obama, the president of the United States, stressed “America’s young people face record unemployment, and we need to do everything we can to make sure they’ve got the opportunity to earn the skills and a work ethic that come with a job. It’s important for their future, and for America’s.”<sup>1206</sup>

The White House has exemplified this issue as a top priority by creating a new program called Summer Jobs+ to provide employment for youth from low-income families in the summer of 2012.<sup>1207</sup> The federal government planned for 180,000 employment opportunities from the private

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<sup>1203</sup> New Enterprise Capital Fund Launched for SME’s, Regionalplus (Online) 18 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.regionplus.co.uk/2012/04/new-enterprise-capital-fund-launched-for-smes/>.

<sup>1204</sup> Boost for Unemployed Young People as Youth Contract Opens for Business, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 2 April 2012. Date of Access: 30 April 2012. <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/apr-2012/dwp031a-12.shtml>.

<sup>1205</sup> Growth Review, UK’s Economics & Finance Ministry (London) 19 November 2011. Date of Access: 23 February 2012. [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon\\_growth\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon_growth_index.htm).

<sup>1206</sup> We Can’t Wait: The White House Announces Federal and Private Sector Commitments to Provide Employment Opportunities for Nearly 180,000 Youth, The White House (Washington) 5 January 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/05/we-cant-wait-white-house-announces-federal-and-private-sector-commitment>

<sup>1207</sup> Youth Services, United States Department of Labor (Washington) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. [http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/).

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and public sector for youth for the summer of 2012.<sup>1208</sup> The federal government hopes to reach 250,000 employment opportunities by the summer of 2012.<sup>1209</sup>

Moreover, the Government of the United States invested USD1.5 billion in full time year-round jobs for youth between the ages of 16-24 as part of the Pathways Back to Work fund.<sup>1210</sup> In addition to providing jobs to low-income youth, the government proposed to create apprenticeship programs and to provide training to promote decent jobs.<sup>1211</sup>

In order to reinforce its commitment to combating youth unemployment, the Government of the United States indicated their intentions to launch Summer Jobs+ Bank, a search tool with access to job postings.<sup>1212</sup>

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1 for its renewed efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

*Analyst: Semra Sevi*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitments to renew its efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.

On 30 January 2012, EU leaders met at the European Council Summit to discuss sustainable job growth. They concluded that they needed to emphasize youth education and allocate funds to areas of the EU with the highest youth unemployment, most notably Spain. They also affirmed to make cross border youth employment easier to better facilitate job growth.<sup>1213</sup>

On 17-18 November 2011, the European Commission organized a conference to deal with youth specific social inclusion. Included in this conference was a discussion on combating long term youth unemployment. The Commission put forward recommendation to integrate education and

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<sup>1208</sup> Youth Services, United States Department of Labor (Washington) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. [http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/).

<sup>1209</sup> We Can't Wait: The White House Announces Federal and Private Sector Commitments to Provide Employment Opportunities for Nearly 180,000 Youth, The White House (Washington) 5 January 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/05/we-cant-wait-white-house-announces-federal-and-private-sector-commitment>.

<sup>1210</sup> Youth Services, United States Department of Labor (Washington) 5 March 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. [http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/).

<sup>1211</sup> The American Jobs Act: Impact For Youth And The Economy, The White House. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/youth\\_jobs\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/youth_jobs_factsheet.pdf).

<sup>1212</sup> We Can't Wait: The White House Announces Federal and Private Sector Commitments to Provide Employment Opportunities for Nearly 180,000 Youth, The White House (Washington) 5 January 2012. Date of Access: 9 March 2012. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/05/we-cant-wait-white-house-announces-federal-and-private-sector-commitment>.

<sup>1213</sup> Statement of the Members of the European Council 30 January 2012 - Towards Growth-Friendly Consolidation and Job-Friendly Growth. The European Council (Brussels) 30 January 2012. Date of Access: 25 February 2012. [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/127599.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/127599.pdf).

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labour market policies that might make hiring educated youth easier and more attractive for businesses.<sup>1214</sup>

On December 13 2011, The Netherlands became the sixth EU member to ratify the Maritime Labour Convention which asserts the right to collective bargaining and other International Labour Organization recognized labour rights. In ratifying the convention, the Netherlands continues to promote decent jobs for those in the affected industries.<sup>1215</sup>

On the 21 November, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency conference addressed the issue of migrant workers in Europe. They publicly advocated for numerous suggestions for the end of worker exploitation, worker access to legal remedies in case of the breach of labour standards and assurances of the protection of the rights of the child.<sup>1216</sup>

The European Union has taken active steps to promote decent employment for those working within its borders. Additionally the EU has addressed the issue of youth unemployment and has drafted new ideas to address it and affirmed older commitments to reduce it. As such, the EU has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ryan Donnelly*

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<sup>1214</sup>Conference on 'Youth and Social Inclusion'. The European Commission (Brussels) 18 November 2011. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=956&langId=en&eventsId=384&furtherEvents=yes>.

<sup>1215</sup>The Netherlands ratifies the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. International Labor Organization (Geneva) 13 December 2011. Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/WCMS\\_170003/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/WCMS_170003/lang-en/index.htm).

<sup>1216</sup>Fundamental Rights Conference 2011 - 'Dignity and rights of irregular migrants'. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna). Date of Access: 25 February 2012.

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-FRC-summary-conclusions\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-FRC-summary-conclusions_EN.pdf).