

Sources of Economic Growth in MENA countries:
A Harrod- Neutral Technological Progress Identification Framework

Overall comments:

The paper is generally informative and flows well. The methodology is well detailed.

More descriptive statistics on the dataset could be useful for an overall understating on the data used and the different trends in each country, especially that a general audience might not be familiar with specifics of MENA countries.

The paper divides the MENA countries into oil rich and resource poor countries, but I would rather suggest a more accurate division into oil exporting (oil rich), developing resource poor, and underdeveloped resource poor, because the state of human capital in the latter is much lower than in the former and that would affect the understanding of growth trends in these countries.

In terms of the findings, I find the conclusions regarding Saudi Arabia quite surprising. As an oil exporting country that mainly relies on oil revenues for its growth, a negative contribution of capital stock and a major contribution of technological progress are questionable results, and I would recommend revisiting them.

Specific comments:

Page 3 – line 4: The word “replaced” seems inappropriate when setting the research question as the second question aggregates the first one and looks at regional rather than country trends.

Page 3 - line 18: sentence starting “The country in the region ... growth rate per worker” is unclear. Suggest rephrasing.

Page 3 – Last 5 lines have some information that could be presented graphically for more clarity.

Page 4 – First 4 lines: the sentence is too long. Consider rephrasing

Page 5 – Footnote 2: Elaborate on the idea of “no economically meaningful”

Page 12 – Line 17: Be careful when using the term “all MENA” countries, since the study results actually do not cover all the countries, so be more specific in order to avoid confusion.

Page 13 – lines 1 to 5. Not clear why such elasticities were obtained. Suggested more elaboration on this point.

Page 15 – Line14: “contribution of technological progress in Turkey is minimal”. I find this result rather surprising and it is worth looking more into it.