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# Arab Youth Unemployment: Roots, Risks and Responses

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واشنطن  
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مركز كارنيغي للشرق الأوسط

مؤسسة كارنيغي للسلام الدولي



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Unemployment in Jordan

Kingdom's population is estimated by sex and age group at the end of 2010

Age Group	Males		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
4-0	400180	12.7	379430	12.81	779610	12.75
5-9	395140	12.54	375290	12.67	770430	12.6
10-14	376230	11.94	355440	12	731670	11.97
15-19	345350	10.96	325520	10.99	670870	10.97
20-24	288000	10.65	311900	10.53	647480	10.59
25-29	248930	9.14	259180	8.75	547180	8.95
30-34	201660	7.9	229850	7.76	478780	7.83
35-39	148730	6.4	186310	6.92	387970	6.35
40-44	104610	4.72	140400	4.74	289130	4.73
45-49	77510	3.32	99820	3.37	204430	3.34
50-54	66800	2.46	76120	2.57	153630	2.51
55-59	62390	2.12	69310	2.34	136110	2.23
60-64	99890	1.98	55980	1.89	118370	1.94
+65	3151000	3.17	97450	3.29	197340	3.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>3151000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2962000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6113000</b>	<b>100</b>

The proportion of youth category (15-29) represents 30.27% of the population, adding (0-14) , will make the young group 65% of the total.

The unemployment rate among Jordanians 15 years of age and above by sex  
For 2006-2009

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Male	11.9	10.3	10.1	10.3
Female	25.0	25.6	24.4	24.1
<b>The overall rate</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>

## Distribution of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by sex For 2006-2009

Gender	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	72.1	64.1	65.8	65.5
Female	27.9	35.9	34.2	34.5
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As a percentage male are low, in terms of number, it is very high.

## The unemployment rate for Jordanians 15 years of age and above (urban-rural) and sex

Urban - rural	2007			2008			2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
urban	10.0	24.2	12.6	9.7	23	12.1	10.1	23.3	12.5
rural	12.1	34.0	15.9	12.4	31.4	15.8	11.7	28.1	14.8
<b>The overall rate</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>

Source: estimates of the Department of Statistics Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

**Number of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by age group and sex**

**In the years 2008 and 2009**

Age group	2008			2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
15 -19	21678	1509	23188 (13.5%)	22438	1340	23778 (13 %)
20-29	59180	45103	104283 (61%)	59109	46340	105449 (58%)
39-30	16813	9623	26436	18401	11826	30227
49-40	10760	1903	12662	11763	2313	14076
Over 50	3485	61	3546	6411	62163	6754
<b>Total</b>	<b>111916</b>	<b>58198</b>	<b>170114</b>	<b>118122</b>	<b>62163</b>	<b>180284</b>

Source: Estimates of the National Centre for Development of Human Resources Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

## The unemployment rate among Jordanians 15 years of age and above by educational level and sex

Educational level / sex		2006	2007	2008	2009
Illiterate	Male	9.8	7.3	7.6	10.9
	Female	3.1	8.3	4.4	4.3
	Total	9.3	7.8	7.2	9.9
Less than secondary	Male	13.5	11.7	11.5	11.3
	Female	17.9	25.9	23.7	21.0
	Total	13.7	12.5	12.2	11.9
Secondary	Male	10.1	8.9	8.4	7.9
	Female	22.4	25.1	20.2	22.0
	Total	11.6	11.1	9.9	9.8
Intermediate Diploma	Male	6.8	6.3	6.5	7.3
	Female	26.3	25.8	22.8	24.0
	Total	13.9	14	12.6	13.7
Bachelor degree or higher	Male	11.0	9.6	9.2	10.4
	Female	27.6	26.1	26.5	25.9
	Total	16.5	15.4	15.5	16.2

- less than secondary poses the main challenge
- illiterate among female overlook the problem.
- Educated Females (Diploma + Bach. and higher)
- rigidity in the unemployment figures



## Rate of unemployment and poverty for the Jordanians 15 years of age and above by governorate and sex

governorate	2007			2008			2009			2008	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Poverty rate (individuals)	The proportion of poor population
Amman	8.4	20.3	10.7	7.7	18.5	9.7	9.4	19.0	11.2	8.3	24.6
Balqa	10.4	23.6	13.2	10.6	21.4	12.8	10.2	26.4	13.6	19.7	8.7
zarqa	9.0	25.1	11.3	9.4	25.4	11.6	10.5	26.7	12.9	11.2	11.7
Madaba	13.7	33.6	18.0	12.8	21.7	14.6	12.5	25.0	15.3	14.9	2.6
Irbid	13.1	33.2	16.5	12.6	32.5	15.9	10.7	29.9	13.9	14.7	20.5
<b>Mafraq</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Jerash	12.0	35.0	16.2	12.2	32.1	15.6	10.3	28.9	13.3	20.3	4.6
<b>Ajloun</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Karak	12.3	25.8	15.8	13.8	29.7	18.2	12.5	26.0	16.0	17.1	5.5
Tafila	11.4	31.0	15.5	12.9	31.6	16.6	10.9	32.2	15.6	21.2	2.2
Maan	<b>14.8</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Aqaba	9.5	22.8	11.7	12.7	29.1	15.1	10.4	22.2	12.4	11.8	2
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>100</b>

Source estimates of the Department of Labor Statistics Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics



## Distribution of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by the case of working previously and sex for the years 2007 to 2009

The Status of Unemployed	2008			2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Worked Before	74184	18730	92914 (54%)	79930	22842	102772 (57%)
Never worked	37732	39468	77200	38191	39321	77512
<b>Total</b>	<b>111916</b>	<b>58198</b>	<b>170114</b>	<b>118122</b>	<b>62163</b>	<b>180284</b>

## The number and percentage of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by marital status and sex

In the years 2008 and 2009

Marital status	2008					2009				
	Males	%	Females	%	Total	Males	%	Females	%	Total
Single / single	83650	74.7	41139	70.7	124790	84329	71.4	41591	67.0	125920
Married / unmarried	27842	24.8	16148	27.7	43990	33030	28.0	19074	30.7	52104
Divorced / Divorced	367	0.5	679	1.00	1046	741	0.6	1264	2.00	2005
Widower / widow	46		232	278	21	255				
Distinct / separate	11		0	11	0	0				
Total	111916	100	58198	100	170114	118122	100	62163	100	180284

Source: Estimates of the National Centre for Development of Human Resources Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

**Number of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by duration of unemployment**

**In the years 2008 and 2009**

Months	2008			2009		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0-12	94243	42725	136968 (80%)	81461	35943	117404 (65%)
13-24	12935	10271	23206	23828	13901	37729
25-36	3022	3261	6284	8164	7665	15829
Over 36	1715	1941	3656	4669	4655	9324
<b>Total</b>	<b>111915</b>	<b>58198</b>	<b>170114</b>	<b>118122</b>	<b>62163</b>	<b>180284</b>

Source: Estimates of the National Centre for Development of Human Resources Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

<b>Number of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by the relationship</b> <b>Head of the household and sex</b> <b>In the years 2007 and 2008</b>										
	2008					2009				
	Males	%	Females	%	Total	Males	%	Females	%	Total
Head of Household	27334	24.4	784	1	28118	32248	27.3	1241	2	33489
Husband / wife	93		15144	26	15237	77		17458	28	17535
Son / daughter	81753	73	40394	69.4	122147	82790	70	41632	66.9	124422
Father / mother	36		0		36	0		0		0
Grandson / granddaughter	261		156		417	236		70		305
Brother / sister	2143		1295		3439	2384		1072		3456
Other relatives	282		425		707	387		690		1078
Others	14		0		14	0		0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>111916</b>		<b>58198</b>		<b>170114</b>	<b>118122</b>		<b>62163</b>		<b>180284</b>

Source: Estimates of the National Centre for Development of Human Resources  
Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

**Number of unemployed Jordanians 15 years of age and above by the case of previously working and sex  
In the years 2008 and 2009**

The case of the above work	2008			2009		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Has worked	74184	18730	92914	79930	22842	102772
Never work	37732	39468	77200	38191	39321	77512
<b>Total</b>	<b>111916</b>	<b>58198</b>	<b>170114</b>	<b>118122</b>	<b>62163</b>	<b>180284</b>

Source: Estimates of the National Centre for Development of Human Resources Employment and Unemployment Survey, Department of Statistics

# Conclusions

- Quality of jobs that the economy is creating (low paid, informal vs. rhetoric about knowledge economy)
- Number of Students that go into the academic stream compare to those chose the Voc. Training. Whose problem is that
- Working conditions
- Family Structure, culture of shame, lack of seriousness..... Horizon



## ....Conclusions

- Weak role for lab. Market institution
- Labor market strategy ...policy
- Assume lab. Market as a by product of the economic growth

Lessons >>>> no quick fixing

>>>> private sector role

>>>> Social Dialogue ....balance  
between stake holders.