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**Cooperation project on
the social integration of immigrants,
migration, and the movement of persons**



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Non-Jordanians Working in Jordan

CARIM

In November 1995, the European and Mediterranean Ministries of Foreign Affairs met in Barcelona in order to establish the basis of a new partnership, which is described in the Barcelona Declaration. The main goal is to transform the Mediterranean region in a peaceful and prosperous area, and to progressively establish a Euro-Mediterranean free-market zone. The Barcelona process includes three main sub-processes: a dialogue on political and security issues aiming to create stability and to promote democracy and human rights in the region; a dialogue on financial and economic cooperation intended to increase partners' welfare and to create a free-market zone; dialogue on social, cultural and human issues improving mutual understanding and strengthening civil society links.

The Valencia Ministerial Meeting in April 2002, went a step further by outlining a 'Regional cooperation programme in the field of justice, in combating drugs, organised crime and terrorism as well as cooperation in the treatment of issues relating to social integration of migrants, migration and movement of people' (referred to in the document as the JHA-Regional MEDA programme). This programme has been adopted by the European Commission on the 16/12/2002 (PE/2002/2521).

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The Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) has been set up in order to implement the EuroMed Migration project. The Consortium is composed of a coordinating unit established at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute (Florence), and a network of thirty scientific correspondents based in Mediterranean partner countries. External experts from the north and the south also contribute to its activities.

The CARIM carries out the following activities:

- Mediterranean migration database
- Studies and research
- Training

Results of the above activities are made available for public consultation through the website of the project: www.carim.org

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CARIM
Euro-Mediterranean Consortium
for Applied Research on International Migration

Analytic and Synthetic Notes – Demographic and Economic Module
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Non-Jordanians Working in Jordan

1. Introduction

Jordanians, due to the high level of unemployment and poverty, started to emigrate from Jordan since the early 1950`s, looking for better opportunities of work, especially in the Arab Gulf countries. Migration was very helpful to the Jordan economy since it alleviated unemployment and provided Jordan's economy with an important source of income in the form of remittances.

By 1973, owing to the implementation of extensive projects in Jordan and to the emigration of Jordanians to the Gulf States which were also witnessing a period of economic boom, the demand for Jordanian labour force had sharply increased.

This affected Jordan's economy in many ways, including the following:

- It decreased the unemployment rates;
- It increased the labour wages in Jordan due to the increasing demand for labour;
- It increased the labour remittances from Jordanians working abroad;
- It made it necessary for Jordan to import labour force from other neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Syria ...etc. because of the strong Gulf States` demand for skilled Jordanians.

This paper discusses, briefly, the non-Jordanians working in Jordan, by using the final results of the 2004 Population and Housing Census in Jordan, under the following headings:

- Non-Jordanians economically active living in Jordan by age and sex, educational level and nationality;
- Non-Jordanians working in Jordan by economic activity and occupational level;
- Unemployed non-Jordanians living in Jordan by age and sex, educational level and nationality;
- Remittances.

2. Non-Jordanians Economically Active and Living in Jordan

Before the results of the 2004 Population and Housing Census were published at the end of 2006, the only figure available for non-Jordanians working in Jordan was that of non-Jordanian workers holding work permits which are published regularly by the Ministry of Labour. From this data we know that the number of non-Jordanians holding work permits increased from only 4.000 in 1976 to 260.000 in 2005. Table No. 1 provides the annual data for the period 1983 – 2005.

Table No. 1: Non-Jordanian Workers Holding Work Permits by Sex 1983 – 2005 (000)

Year	Male	Female	Total	Year	Male	Female	Total
1983	51.9	6.6	58.4	1995	88.1	6.3	94.3
1984	143.8	9.7	153.5	1996	36.5	6.5	43.0
1985	91.4	10.0	101.5	1997	111.4	5.1	116.5
1986	86.1	11.8	97.9	1998	108.3	5.7	114.0
1987	68.0	11.8	79.8	1999	147.6	6.6	154.2
1988	52.8	10.3	63.0	2000	101.9	8.6	110.6
1989	39.6	8.0	47.6	2001	136.6
1990	30.7	6.9	37.6	2002	112.6	14.6	127.1
1991	24.0	6.1	30.1	2003	123.2	25.1	148.4
1992	88.8	7.7	96.4	2004	185.0	33.8	218.8
1993	44.8	8.2	53.0	2005	228.6	31.7	260.4
1994	35.3	7.0	42.3				

Source: Ministry of Labour (MOL), Annual Report, Several Years.

According to the 2004 Population Census, the size of labour force in Jordan in 2004 was 1.454.074 persons, 1.262.765 Jordanians and 191.307 non-Jordanians. The latter was significantly less than the number provided by the Ministry of Labour (MOL) for the same year: 218.800. This paper uses the 2004 Population and Housing Census in Jordan to analyse the non-Jordanians working in Jordan. This source of data, as always the case is in Population Censuses, represents the most important source of data in Jordan.

The 2004 Population and Housing Census in Jordan revealed that of the number of non-Jordanians economically active (191.307), 144.239 were males and 47.068 females, with a sex ratio of 306.5% which reflects that the vast majority of labour migrants is male. By age one can notice that 82.3% of the non-Jordanian workers is less than 40 years of age (79.6% for males, 90.9% for females). For details, please refer to Table No.2.

Table No. 2: Distribution of Non-Jordanians Living in Jordan 15+ Years of Age Economically Active by Age and Sex in 2004

Age	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
15-19	7.889	5.5	2.695	5.7	10.584	5.5
20-24	24.200	16.8	15.152	32.2	39.352	20.6
25-29	33.415	23.2	11.970	25.4	45.385	23.7
30-34	29.213	20.3	8.915	18.9	38.128	19.9
35-39	19.896	13.8	4.117	8.7	24.013	12.6
40-44	13.152	9.1	1.871	4.0	15.023	7.9
45-49	7.135	4.9	927	2.0	8.062	4.2
50-54	4.450	3.1	496	1.1	4.946	2.6
55-59	2.560	1.8	242	0.5	2.802	1.5
60-64	1.200	0.8	104	0.2	1.304	0.7
65+	653	0.5	80	0.2	742	0.4
Total	144.239	100	47.068	100	191.307	100

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

By nationality, 82.5% of the total number of non-Jordanians living in Jordan are from Arab countries, i.e. 323.641 (205.887 from Arab Asian countries, 117.754 from Arab African countries), representing (52.5% from Arab Asian Countries, 30% from Arab African countries) (Table No.3).

Table No. 3: Distribution of Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Nationality in 2004

Nationality	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Syria	22.320	9.6	15.810	9.8	38.130	9.7
Iraqi	24.453	10.6	15.631	9.8	40.084	10.2
Palestine	61.112	26.4	54.078	33.6	115.190	29.4
Arab Asian Countries	115.643	50.0	90.244	56.0	205.887	52.5
Non-Arab Asian Countries	16.158	7.0	41.988	26.0	58.146	14.8
Egypt	91.687	39.6	20.705	12.9	112.392	28.7
Arab African Countries	94.656	40.9	23.098	14.4	117.754	30.0
Non-Arab African Countries	167	0.1	164	0.1	331	0.1
Total	231.340	100	160.933	100	392.273	100

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

As was indicated above, out of a total of 392.773 non-Jordanians living in Jordan, 191.307 are economically active (144.239 males, 47.068 females). The majority of them are from Arab countries: 72.4% (30.6 % from Arab Asian countries , 41.8 % from Arab African countries).

The largest number of them are from Egypt: 41%, followed by non-Jordanian Palestinians with 15.5% and Syrians with 7.4 % of the total (Table No. 4).

Table No. 4: Distribution of Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Economically Active Living in Jordan by Nationality in 2004

Nationality	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Syria	13.361	9.3	824	1.8	14.185	7.4
Iraq	11.566	8.0	1.582	3.4	13.148	6.9
Palestine	25.724	17.8	3.972	8.4	29.696	15.5
Arab Asian Countries	51.944	36.0	6.632	14.1	58.576	30.6
Non-Arab Asian Countries	12.631	8.8	38.470	81.7	51.101	26.7
Egypt	77.573	53.8	913	1.9	78.486	41.0
Arab African Countries	78.867	54.7	1.156	2.4	80.023	41.8
Non-Arab African Countries	52	0.0	82	0.2	134	0.1
Total	144.239	100	47.068	100	191.307	100

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

From Table No. 5 one can notice that 64.5% of the non-Jordanians economically active living in Jordan have an educational level less than secondary and 6.9% of them are with a B.A. or more. At the same time, 19.8% of them are illiterate. This is because, as will be discussed

later, many Jordanians work in the agriculture, construction and services sectors. On the other hand, one can also notice that there are differences in educational levels between the unemployed Jordanians and non-Jordanians economically active in Jordan. This means that replacing non-Jordanians by unemployed Jordanians it is not easy.

Table No. 5: Distribution of Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Economically Active Living in Jordan by Educational Level in 2004

Educational Level	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Illiterate	29.763	20.6	8081	17.2	37844	19.8
Less Than Secondary	90.310	62.6	33.086	70.3	123.396	64.5
Secondary	20.506	14.2	7.907	16.8	28.413	14.9
Intermediate Diploma	23.063	16.0	2.464	5.2	25.527	13.3
B.Sc.& More	10.005	6.9	3.121	6.6	13.126	6.9
Total	144.239	100	47.068	100	191.307	100

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

3. Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Working in Jordan

This paper described in the previous section the non-Jordanians economically active living in Jordan by age, sex, nationality and educational levels. This section, instead, describes the non-Jordanians living and working in Jordan by occupational levels and economic sectors.

The largest number of non-Jordanians economically active in Jordan works in the manufacturing sector, 26.6%, followed by the construction sector, with 22.6%, private households with employed persons with 14.8% and the agriculture sector with 11.7% (Table No. 6).

Table No. 6: Distribution of Non-Jordanian Employed Persons Living in Jordan 15+ Years of Age by Sex and Main Economic Activity in 2004

Economic Sector	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	20.492	15.1	396	0.9	20.888	11.7
Fishing	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	8	0.0
Mining and Quarrying	1.233	0.9	3	0.0	1.236	0.7
Manufacturing	29.326	21.6	18.178	42.4	47.504	26.6
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	546	0.4	7	0.0	553	0.3
Construction	40.151	29.6	146	0.3	40.297	22.6
Wholesale and Retail, Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal, and Household Goods	16.673	12.3	538	1.3	17.211	9.6
Hotels and Restaurants	4.712	3.5	195	0.5	4.907	2.7
Transport, Storage and Communications	3.503	2.6	111	0.3	3.614	2.0
Financial Intermediation	259	0.2	43	0.1	302	0.2
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activity	2.538	1.9	362	0.8	2.900	1.6

Public Administration and Defense	391	0.3	36	0.1	427	0.2
Education	1.836	1.4	1.049	2.4	2.885	1.6
Health and Social Work	953	0.7	789	1.8	1.742	
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	5.252	3.9	324	0.8	5.576	3.1
Private Households with Employed Persons	5.925	4.4	20.545	47.9	26.470	14.8
Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies	1.012	0.7	209	0.5	1.221	0.7
Total	135.728	100	42.908	100	178.636	100

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

In 2004, 43.9% of the non-Jordanians were working as plant and machine operators and assemblers, 27.8% in elementary occupations and 8.3% as services workers and shop and market sales workers (Table No.7).

Thus the non-Jordanians economically active in Jordan are mainly young with low educational levels and working in manufacturing sector, construction and agriculture sector at low occupational levels.

Table No. 7: Distribution of Non-Jordanian Employed Persons Living in Jordan 15+ Years of Age by Sex and Occupational Level in 2004

Occupational Level	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%
Legislators Senior Officials and Managers	166	0.1	10	0.0	176	0.1
Professionals	5.468	4.0	1.628	3.8	7.096	4.0
Technical and Associate Professionals	2.883	2.1	884	2.1	3.767	2.1
Clerks	1.050	0.8	270	0.6	1.320	0.7
Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers	14.145	10.4	714	1.7	14.859	8.3
Skilled Agricultural and Fishing Workers	9.354	6.9	281	0.7	9.635	5.4
Craft and Related Trades Workers	60.641	44.7	17.766	41.4	78.407	43.9
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	12.792	9.4	61	0.1	12.853	7.2
Elementary Occupations	28.427		21.233	49.5	49.660	27.8
Total	135.728	100	42.908	100	178.636	100

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

4. Unemployed Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan

Unemployment rates in Jordan differ between Jordanians and non-Jordanians by age, sex, marital status and educational level. Total number of unemployed in Jordan according in 2004 was 330.974, 318.303 Jordanians and 12.671 non-Jordanians. Thus only 3.8% of the total number of unemployed were non-Jordanians.

The majority (50,4%) of the unemployed persons were less than 25 years of age (50.5 % of the total unemployed Jordanians were less than 25 years of age and 46.5% of the total unemployed non-Jordanians) (Table No. 8).

Table No. 8: Distribution of Unemployed Persons 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan, by Age, Sex and Nationality in 2004 (000)

Age	Jordanians			Non-Jordanians			Total		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
15-19	41.9	12.5	54.4	1.8	0.5	2.3	43.7	13.1	56.8
20-24	60.4	46.1	106.5	2.3	1.3	3.5	62.7	47.4	110.1
25-29	32.3	31.3	63.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	33.8	32.3	66.1
30-34	16.1	19.8	35.9	0.9	0.6	1.5	17.0	20.4	37.5
35-39	13.5	11.4	24.9	0.6	0.4	1.0	14.1	11.8	26.0
40-44	8.7	5.0	13.7	0.5	0.2	0.7	9.2	5.2	14.4
45-49	6.9	1.9	8.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	7.3	2.0	9.3
50-54	4.5	.1	5.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	5.8	0.1	5.9
55-59	4.1	0.0	4.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	4.4	0.0	4.4
60+	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.6
Total	190.0	128.3	318.3	8.5	4.2	12.67	198.6	132.4	331.0

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

Unemployment rate for Jordanians living in Jordan was 25.2% in 2004 (19.2% for males, 47.3% for females) while only 6.6% of the non-Jordanians were unemployed (5.6% for males, 8.8% for females), mainly because in Jordan non-Jordanian workers accept to more difficult work conditions and lower wages than Jordanians (Tables Nos. 9 and 10).

Table No. 9: Distribution of Unemployed Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Age, Sex and Unemployment Rates in 2004 (000)

Age	Males	UR %	Females	UR %	Total	UR %
15-19	41.9	57.0	12.5	87.3	54.5	61.9
20-24	60.4	33.6	46.1	67.9	106.5	43.0
25-29	32.3	17.5	31.3	49.4	63.6	25.7
30-34	16.1	9.9	19.8	40.5	35.9	16.9
35-39	13.5	10.3	11.4	30.3	24.9	14.8
40-44	8.7	9.0	5.0	22.0	13.7	11.5
45-49	6.9	10.8	1.9	18.5	8.8	11.8
50-54	5.5	13.1	0.1	3.0	5.6	12.3
55-59	4.1	13.4	0.0	2.7	4.1	12.9
60+	0.5	1.9	0.0	1.1	0.5	1.9
Total	190.0	19.2	128.3	47.3	318.3	25.2

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

The 2004 Census also revealed that unemployment rates are very high among the 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 age groups, both for males and females: 50.5% of the total unemployed (53.8% males, 45.7% females) are from these two age groups. This implies that one should create jobs especially for these newcomers to the labor market in order to ease the unemployment problem. In general, the unemployment rates decline as age increases, for both males and females (Table No.10).

Table No. 10: Distribution of Unemployed Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Age, Sex and Unemployment Rates in 2004

Age	Males	UR %	Females	UR %	Total	UR %
15-19	1.802	22.8	535	19.9	2.337	22.1
20-24	2.282	9.4	1.257	8.3	3.539	9.0
25-29	1.459	4.4	960	8.0	2.419	5.3
30-34	926	3.2	618	6.9	1.544	4.0
35-39	632	3.1	369	9.0	1.001	4.2
40-44	462	3.5	228	12.2	690	4.6
45-49	364	5.1	153	16.5	517	6.4
50-54	277	6.2	24	4.8	301	6.1
55-59	262	10.2	12	5.0	274	9.8
60+	39	2.1	4	2.2	43	2.1
Total	8.511	5.9	4.160	8.8	12.671	6.6

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

In 2004, 48.1% of unemployed Jordanians had an educational level of less than secondary (60.5% males, 29.6% females) and an unemployment rate of 27.1% (22.6% males, 74.2% females). At the same time, the highest unemployment rate by educational level was that of Jordanians who are illiterate: 30.4% (25.1% males, 2.3% females). The unemployment rate for Jordanians with a B.A. or more is also relatively high, 19.9% (13.3% males, 32.1% females) (Table No. 11).

Table No. 11: Distribution of Unemployed Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Educational Level and Unemployment Rates in 2004

Educational Level	Males	UR %	%	Females	UR %	%	Total	UR %	%
Illiterate	6.4	25.1	3.4	3.0	54.9	2.3	93.5	30.4	29.4
Less Than Secondary	115.0	22.6	60.5	38.0	74.2	29.6	153.0	27.1	48.1
Secondary	42.5	19.0	22.4	30.2	59.7	23.5	72.8	26.5	22.9
Intermediate Diploma	9.9	10.8	5.2	30.6	42.2	23.9	40.5	24.7	12.7
B.A. & More	22.3	13.3	11.7	29.4	32.1	22.9	51.7	19.9	16.2
Total	190.0	19.2	100	128.3	47.3	100	318.3	25.2	100

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

In 2004, 52.6% of unemployed non-Jordanians had an educational level less than secondary (63.3% males, 30.8% females) and an unemployment rate of 5.4% (6.0% for males, 5.1% for females). The highest unemployment rate for non-Jordanians was that for those who had a B.A. or more: 16.1% (11.7% for males, 35.9% for females). Although the unemployment rate for Jordanians is much higher than that for non-Jordanians, the unemployed distributed by

educational level is very similar for unemployed Jordanians and unemployed non-Jordanians (Tables Nos. 11 and 12).

Table No. 12: Distribution of Unemployed Non- Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Educational Level and Unemployment Rates in 2004

Educational Level	Males	UR %	%	Females	UR %	%	Total	UR %	%
Illiterate	675	2.3	7.9	162	2.0	3.9	837	2.2	6.6
Less Than Secondary	5386	6.0	63.3	1280	5.1	30.8	6666	5.4	52.6
Secondary	1360	6.6	16.0	864	10.9	20.8	2224	7.8	17.6
Intermediate Diploma	751	3.3	8.8	894	36.3	21.5	1645	6.4	13.0
B.Sc.& More	1000	10.0	11.7	1119	35.9	26.9	2119	16.1	16.7
Total	8511	5.9	100	4160	8.8	100	12671	6.6	100

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

Marital status is a characteristic of the unemployed which has very important socioeconomic effects. The unemployment rate in Jordan is very high for those who “never married” 37.1% (32.3 % males, 49.7 % females) which is very consistent with the results of Table No. 5, where the “never married” are mainly concentrated in the first two age groups (15 - 19 and 20 - 24), while the unemployment rates for married males are the lowest of all rates.

At the same time, in 2004 67.1% (70.4% males, 62.1% females) of the unemployed in Jordan were never married (Table No. 13).

Table No. 13: Distribution of Unemployed Persons 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Marital Status and Unemployment Rates in 2004

Marital Status	Males	UR %	Females	UR %	Total	UR %
Never Married	139.876	32.3	82.173	49.7	222.049	37.1
Married	57.553	8.3	46.687	33.1	104.240	12.5
Divorced	890	20.1	2.519	36.9	3.409	30.3
Widowed	209	12.0	1.024	23.3	1.233	20.1
Separated	6	8.5	10	8.7	16	8.6
Total	198.551	17.5	132.423	41.6	330.974	22.8

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

In 2004, 67.4% of the unemployed Jordanians were never married (70.8% males, 62.3% females) with an unemployment rate of 42.0% (35.9% for males, 58.6% for females). Instead, 31.2% of the unemployed Jordanians are married (28.6% males, 35.0% females) with an unemployment rate of 13.5% (8.9% males, 36.0% females) (Table No. 14).

Table No. 14: Distribution of Unemployed Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Marital Status and Unemployment Rates in 2004

Marital Status	Males	UR %	%	Females	UR %	%	Total	UR %	%
Never Married	134.6	35.9	70.8	79.9	58.6	62.3	214.5	42.0	67.4
Married	54.4	8.9	28.6	44.9	36.0	35.0	99.3	13.5	31.2
Divorced	0.9	20.8	0.5	2.5	40.0	1.9	3.3	32.4	1.0
Widowed	0.2	12.1	0.1	1.0	26.1	0.8	1.2	22.0	0.4
Separated	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	13.7	0.0	0.0	11.5	0.0
Total	190.0	19.2	100	128.3	47.3	100	318.3	25.2	100

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

In 2004, 59.8% of the unemployed non-Jordanians were never married (62.4% males, 54.5% females) with an unemployment rate of 8.6% (9.0% males, 7.8% females). Instead, 38.8% of the unemployed non-Jordanians were married (36.9% males, 42.5% for females) with an unemployment rate of 4.9% (3.7% males, 11.0% females).

It may well be that the non-Jordanians living in Jordan, who live in the country mainly to work, leave the country for another one if they fail to find a job (Table No.15).

Table No.15: Distribution of Non-Jordanians Living in Jordan 15+ Years of Age by Marital Status and Unemployment Rates from in 2004

Marital Status	Males	UR %	%	Females	UR %	%	Total	UR %	%
Never Married	5.309	9.0	62.4	2.268	7.8	54.5	7.577	8.6	59.8
Married	3.143	3.7	36.9	1.769	11.0	42.5	4.912	4.9	38.8
Divorced	34	10.3	0.4	66	9.3	1.6	100	9.6	0.8
Widowed	21	11.4	0.2	53	7.8	1.3	74	8.5	0.6
Separated	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Total	8.511	5.9	100	4.160	8.8	100	12.671	6.9	100

UR = Unemployment Rate

Source: Department of Statistics (DOS), 2004 Population and Housing Census, 2006, Amman, Jordan

5. Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Living in Jordan by Monthly Earning

No data on the monthly earnings of non-Jordanians working in Jordan is available from the 2004 Census. Instead, such data can be found in the 2005 Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour in Jordan. Thus, in 2005, 97.4% of the non-Jordanian holding work permits in Jordan earns less than 100 Jordan Dinars (JD) (approx. 141 USD) per month and less than 0.6% of them earns more than 500 JD (approx. 705 USD) per month. These figures refer to the period before the minimum wage policy was adopted by Jordan government (minimum wage was set at 110 JD). Unfortunately, no data are available for the period after this policy was introduced to see whether there have been any changes.

Table No.16: Distribution of Non-Jordanians 15+ Years of Age Holding Work Permits by Monthly Earning (JD) in 2005

Monthly Earning	Total
< 100	253563
100-150	3301
150-200	569
200-250	295
250-300	471
300-350	191
350-400	166
400-450	52
450-500	231
500+	1518
Total	260357

Source: Ministry of Labour, Annual Report 2005, Amman

These figures reflect the fact that, as was described above, most non-Jordanian workers working in Jordan have a low level of education and a low occupational level (working in the Manufacturing, Agriculture, Construction and Services sectors) with low wages.

6. Remittances

One of the main benefits for the sending countries of the labor force is to receive remittances from their labor force abroad. Remittances in many countries, including Jordan, play a very important role in economic development since they often represent a significant share of the country's foreign currencies and national income.

Since the early seventies of the last century, Jordan has been both a sending and receiving country of labour. Thus, hundreds of thousands of non-Jordanians working in Jordan send remittances to their countries. And, at the same time, hundreds of thousands of Jordanian workers working outside Jordan are sending their savings to Jordan.

However, there are major differences between the qualifications of Jordanian labor force working abroad and the non-Jordanian workers working in Jordan. Jordanians working abroad are more educated and better qualified. These differences are reflected in the large gap between receipts and transfers of workers` remittances in Jordan (Table No.17).

The receipt of remittances increased from 763.7 million JD (approx. 1.076.8 million USD) representing 20.68% of the GDP of Jordan in the year 1994 to 1.459.6 million JD (approx. 2.058 million USD) representing 21.49% of the GDP of Jordan in the year 2004 . This is an average annual growth rate of 6.7% for the 1994 - 2004 period.

The payment remittances for the same period increased from 65.0 million JD (approx. 91.65 million USD) representing 1.76% of the GDP of Jordan in the year 1994 to 170.1 million JD (approx. 239.8 million USD), representing 2.5 % of the GDP of Jordan in the year 2004. This is an average growth rate of 10.1% for the 1994 - 2004 period.

Thus the gain of the Jordanian economy from labour force migration in terms of net remittances, increased from 698.7 million JD (approx. 985.17 million USD in 1994 to 1.289.5 million JD (approx. 1.818.2 million USD) in 2004.

Table No. 17: Workers' Remittances in Jordan 1996 – 2004 (Million JD)

Year	Receipts	Payments	Net Remittances
1994	763.7	65.0	698.7
1995	871.7	75.0	796.7
1996	1094.8	70.8	1024.0
1997	1173.5	141.8	1031.7
1998	1093.8	146.8	947.0
1999	1179.8	144.6	1035.2
2000	1177.3	123.6	1053.7
2001	1283.3	120.8	1162.5
2002	1362.3	121.3	1241.0
2003	1404.5	141.9	1262.6
2004	1459.6	170.1	1289.5

Source: Central Bank of Jordan, Annual Reports, Several Years

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

After this discussion of the non-Jordanians working in Jordan, we one can conclude the following:

- a. Although the number of non-Jordanians working in Jordan and holding work permits has substantially increased during the last years, according to the Ministry of Labor statistics, we believe that the number of non-Jordanians working in Jordan is still higher than the official figures. The Population and Housing Census shows that in 2004 there were 191.309 non-Jordanian workers in Jordan. This figure is much below the number of the non-Jordanian workers holding work permits from the Ministry of Labour, i.e. 218.800 (also 2004).
- b. Non-Jordanian workers working in Jordan are mainly with low educational levels and low occupational levels and are employed in the Manufacturing, Agriculture, Construction and Services sectors and are paid low wages. Indeed, more than 97.4% of total non-Jordanians holding work permits earn less than 100 JD (approx. 141 USD) per month, and less than 0.6% of them earns more than 500 JD (approx. 705 USD) per month.
- c. Unemployment rates for non-Jordanians living in Jordan is much lower than unemployment rates for Jordanians living in Jordan.
- d. Unemployment rates for non-Jordanian females living in Jordan are much higher than that for males .
- e. Remittances of non-Jordanians living in Jordan increased rapidly during the period 1994 – 2004, from 65 million JD representing 1.76% of GDP in Jordan in the year 1994 to 170.1 million JD representing 2.50% of the GDP in Jordan in the year 2004, with average annual growth rate of 10.1%.

Generally speaking , in order to ease high unemployment rates, there are two main ways:

- Decreasing the labour force supply, by influencing the population growth rate (fertility rate, mortality rate and migration rate) in addition to the labour force participation rates.
- Increasing the labour force demand by increasing investment, in order to increase GDP (which means creating more jobs).

In Jordan's case we recommend the following:

- Adopting a population policy to determine suitable fertility ,mortality , and migration levels and the proper policies to achieve these goals (through the National Population Council in Jordan).
- Adopting economic policies to encourage both local and foreign investment in Jordan, which is the most realistic way to create jobs and solving the unemployment problem.
- Encouraging and helping Jordanian labour force to be more combatable with other labour forces in the region in order to increase the number of Jordanians working outside Jordan.
- Improving the work conditions in Jordan, in order to encourage Jordanian workers to compete with the non-Jordanian workers working in Jordan , specially in the occupations and economic sectors where non- Jordanian workers are the majority, such as the agriculture, construction and services sectors.

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