



Central Bank of Jordan

**Recent Monetary &
Economic
Developments in Jordan**

**Research Dept / Monthly Report
November, 2023**

Central Bank of Jordan

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Classification level: public



OUR VISION

To continue maintaining monetary and financial stability and thereby contributing to the achievement of economic and social growth in the kingdom.

OUR MISSION

Maintaining monetary stability represented in maintaining the stability of the Jordanian Dinar exchange rate and the general prices level. And contributing to providing an investment environment that is both attractive and motivating for the economic and social development through providing a convenient interest rate structure and implementing macro and micro prudential supervision policies that maintain financial and banking stability. In addition to providing safe and efficient national payments systems, promoting financial inclusion, and protecting the financial customer. To this end, the Central Bank of Jordan employs optimally its human, material, financial, technical and knowledge resources.

OUR VALUES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Loyalty | : | Commitment, responsibility, and dedication to the institution, its staff and clients. |
| Integrity | : | Dealing with the highest standards of professionalism and credibility to ensure equality and equal opportunities to all partners, clients, and workers. |
| Excellence | : | To make a difference in the quality of services provided in accordance with international standards and practices. |
| Continuous Learning | : | Aspiring to continuously improve professional and academic levels in accordance with international best practices. |
| Involvement | : | Working together, on all levels, in a team spirit to achieve our national and organizational goals with high efficiency. |
| Transparency | : | Disclosing information and knowledge, and simplifying and clarifying procedures and regulations in accordance with professional standards and pertinent rules |

Classification level: Public

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Executive Summary

□ Output, Prices and Employment

Real GDP at market prices grew by 2.7 percent during the first half of 2023, maintaining the same growth rate during the corresponding period of 2022. The general price level, measured by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased during the first ten months of 2023 by 2.2 percent, compared to an increase of 4.1 percent during the same period of 2022. The unemployment rate during the second quarter of 2023 reached 22.3 percent, compared to 22.6 percent during the same quarter of 2022.

□ Monetary and Financial Sector

- The CBJ's gross foreign reserves amounted to US\$ 17,523.1 million at the end of October 2023. This level of reserves covers around 7.7 months of the Kingdom's imports of goods and services.
- Domestic liquidity amounted to JD 42,354.7 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 41,681.7 million at the end of 2022.
- The outstanding balance of credit facilities extended by licensed banks amounted to JD 33,319.9 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 32,591.5 million at the end of 2022.
- Total deposits at licensed banks amounted to JD 43,329.2 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 42,106.7 million at the end of 2022.
- The Share Price Index (SPI) weighted by market capitalization of free float shares at Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) reached 2,414.8 points at the end of October 2023, compared to 2,501.6 points at the end of 2022.

- **Public Finance:** The general budget, including foreign grants, recorded a fiscal deficit in the amount of JD 1,396.8 million (5.3 percent of GDP) during the first three quarters of 2023, comparing to a fiscal deficit of JD 1,407.0 million (5.6 percent of GDP) during the same period of 2022. Government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) increased by JD 865.2 million at the end of September 2023, compared to its level at the end of 2022, to reach JD 22,444.4 million (62.5 percent of GDP). Moreover, outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) went up by JD 1,358.9 million, to reach JD 18,269.9 million (50.9 percent of GDP). Accordingly, outstanding government debt (domestic and external) rose up to reach JD 40,714.3 million at the end of September 2023 (113.4 percent of GDP), compared to JD 38,490.2 million (111.4 percent of GDP) at the end of 2022. When excluding the debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) stand at JD 14,046.7 million (39.1 percent of GDP). While the outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) stand at JD 17,807.3 million (49.6 percent of GDP). As a result, the outstanding government debt (domestic and external) stand at JD 31,854.0 million (88.7 percent of GDP) compared to 88.8 percent of GDP at the end of 2022).
- **External Sector:** Total merchandize exports (domestic exports *plus* re-exports) decreased by 0.5 percent during the first eight months of 2023 to reach JD 6,084.4 million. Meanwhile, merchandize imports decreased by 6.0 percent to reach JD 12,295.9 million. As a result, the trade balance deficit decreased by 10.8 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 6,211.5 million. The preliminary data during the first three quarters of 2023 showed an increase in travel receipts by 37.7 percent, to reach JD 4,125.8 million, and an increase in travel payments by 32.9 percent, to reach JD 1,055.5 million, compared to the same period of 2022. Moreover, total workers' remittances receipts increased by 0.9 percent during the first three quarters of 2023, to reach JD 1,817.1 million, compared to the same period of 2022. The preliminary data for the balance of payments during the first half of 2023 displayed a deficit in the current account amounted to JD 1,187.2 million (7.1 percent of GDP) compared to a deficit of JD 2,087.2 million (13.0 percent of GDP) during the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, the current account deficit excluding grants decreased to reach 8.6 percent of GDP, compared with 14.6 percent of GDP during the same period of 2022. Moreover, the gross foreign direct investment recorded an inflow of JD 550.4 million during the first half of 2023, compared to an inflow of JD 455.3 million during the same period of 2022. Furthermore, the international investment position (IIP) registered a net obligation to abroad amounted to JD 37,719.8 million at the end of the first half of 2023, compared to a net obligation to abroad by JD 36,642.8 million at the end of 2022.

First: Monetary and Financial Sector

□ Summary

- The CBJ's gross foreign reserves amounted to US\$ 17,523.1 million at the end of October 2023. This level of reserves covers around 7.7 months of the Kingdom's imports of goods and services.
- Domestic liquidity amounted to JD 42,354.7 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 41,681.7 million at the end of 2022.
- The outstanding balance of credit facilities extended by licensed banks amounted to JD 33,319.9 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 32,591.5 million at the end of 2022.
- Total deposits at licensed banks amounted to JD 43,329.2 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 42,106.7 million at the end of 2022.
- The interest rates on all types of deposits held by licensed banks had increased at the end of October 2023, except the interest rate on saving deposits which had decreased, compared to their levels at the end of 2022. Also the interest rate on all types of credit facilities extended by licensed banks had increased at the end of October 2023, compared to their levels at the end of 2022.

- The Share Price Index (SPI) weighted by market capitalization of free float shares at Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) reached 2,414.8 points at the end of October 2023, compared to 2,501.6 points at the end of 2022. Moreover, the market capitalization reached JD 16,880.7 million at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 18,003.8 million at the end of 2022.

Main Monetary Indicators

JD Million, and Percentage Change Relative to the Previous Year

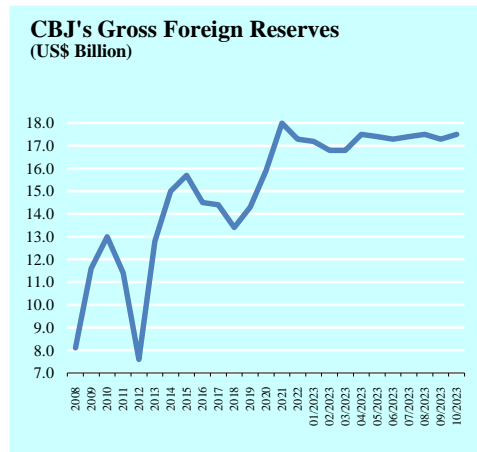
	2022	End of October	
		2022	2023
US\$ 17,266.9	CBJ's Foreign Reserves*	US\$ 15,999.2	US\$ 17,523.1
-4.3%		-11.3%	1.5%
7.4	Coverage in months	6.8	7.7
41,681.7	Money Supply (M2)	41,438.4	42,354.7
5.5%		4.9%	1.6%
32,591.5	Credit Facilities, of which:	32,303.7	33,319.9
8.5%		7.6%	2.2%
28,870.5	Private Sector (Resident)	28,721.4	29,332.4
8.1%		7.5%	1.6%
42,106.7	Total Deposits, of which:	41,936.2	43,329.2
6.5%		6.1%	2.9%
32,841.5	In JD	32,584.4	34,096.8
7.0%		6.2%	3.8%
9,265.2	In Foreign Currencies	9,351.8	9,232.4
4.8%		5.8%	-0.4%
33,206.2	Deposits of Private Sector (Resident), of which:	32,944.7	33,959.6
7.2%		6.3%	2.3%
26,603.1	In JD	26,275.9	27,426.4
7.6%		6.3%	3.1%
6,603.1	In Foreign Currencies	6,668.8	6,533.2
5.4%		6.5%	-1.1%

* Including gold reserves and special drawing rights.

Source: Central Bank of Jordan / Monthly Statistical Bulletin.

□ CBJ's Foreign Reserves

The CBJ's gross foreign reserves amounted to US\$ 17,523.1 million at the end of October 2023. This level of reserves covers around 7.7 months of the Kingdom's imports of goods and services.



□ Domestic Liquidity (M2)

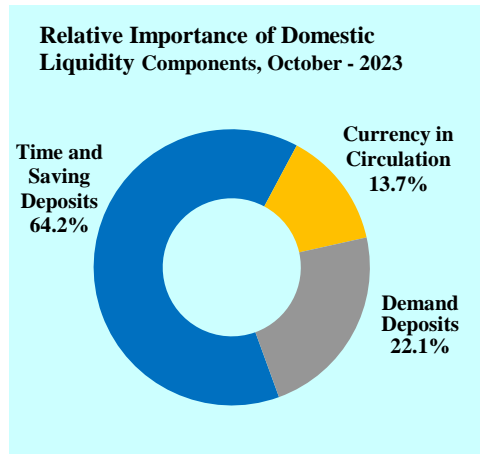
■ Domestic liquidity amounted to JD 42.4 billion at the end of October 2023, increasing by JD 673.0 million, or 1.6 percent compared to their level registered at the end of 2022.

◆ **Developments in the components and the factors affecting domestic liquidity at the end of October 2023, compared to their levels at the end of 2022, reveal the following:**

- **Components of Domestic Liquidity**

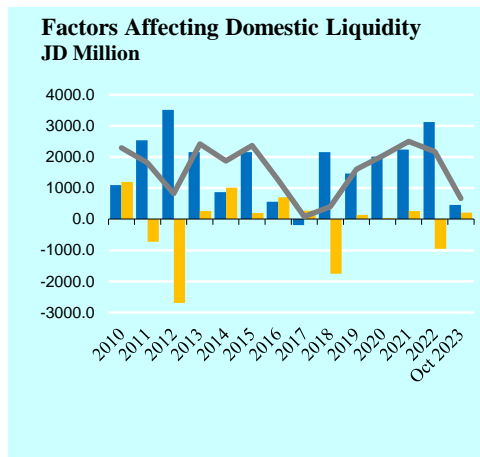
- Total deposits, according to liquidity definition, amounted to JD 36.6 billion at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 35.4 billion during the same period in 2022, and JD 35.6 billion at the end of 2022.

- Currency in circulation amounted to JD 5.8 billion at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 6.0 billion during the same period in 2022, and JD 6.0 billion at the end of 2022.



• **Factors Affecting Domestic Liquidity**

- Net domestic assets of the banking system amounted to JD 35.3 billion at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 35.2 billion during the same period in 2022, and JD 34.8 billion at the end of 2022.



- Net foreign assets of the banking system amounted to JD 7.1 billion at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 6.2 billion during the same period in 2022, and JD 6.9 billion at the end of 2022. The net foreign assets of the CBJ amounted to JD 11.6 billion at the end of October 2023.

Factors Affecting Domestic Liquidity (M2)

JD Million

		End of October	
2022		2022	2023
6,864.5	Foreign Assets (Net)	6,196.9	7,078.3
11,388.0	CBJ	10,722.8	11,576.9
-4,523.5	Licensed Banks	-4,525.9	-4,498.6
34,817.2	Domestic Assets (Net)	35,241.5	35,276.4
-4,699.6	CBJ, of which:	-4,069.2	-5,176.0
1,052.3	Claims on Public Sector (Net)	1,412.8	1,619.8
-5,778.3	Other Items (Net*)	-5,504.0	-6,824.9
39,516.7	Licensed Banks	39,310.7	40,452.4
14,432.2	Claims on Public Sector (Net)	14,395.9	15,021.7
29,733.7	Claims on Private Sector	29,502.3	30,209.5
-4,649.3	Other Items (Net)	-4,587.5	-4,778.8
41,681.7	Money Supply (M2)	41,438.4	42,354.7
6,037.4	Currency in Circulation	6,002.9	5,800.6
35,644.3	Total Deposits, of which:	35,435.5	36,554.1
6,650.2	In Foreign Currencies	6,728.6	6,578.4

* This item includes Certificates of Deposit in Jordanian Dinar.

Source: Central Bank of Jordan / Monthly Statistical Bulletin.

□ Interest Rates Structure

■ Interest Rates on Monetary Policy Instruments and CBJ's procedures

◆ The CBJ decided during 2022 to raise interest rates seven times by 400 basis points on all monetary policy instruments and 425 basis points on O/N window rate. During this year the CBJ raised the

interest rates on all monetary policy instruments by 100 basis points, and this is for the four times during 2023, to become as follow:

- The CBJ main interest rate: 7.50 percent.
- Re-discount Rate: 8.50 percent.
- Interest Rate on Overnight Repurchase Agreements: 8.25 percent.
- Overnight Deposit Window Rate: 7.25 percent.
- Weekly/ Monthly Repurchase Agreements: 7.50 percent.
- The interest rate on weekly certificates of deposit: 7.50 percent.

This decision comes in line with the continuation of the inflationary pressures in the regional and international economic environment, compared to the rates targeted by Central Banks, which contributed to a rise in the recorded inflation rates in the Kingdom at 2022 and their expectations within the short-term.

Interest Rates on Monetary Policy Instruments, percentage points

2022		October	
		2022	2023
6.50	CBJ main rate	5.25	7.50
7.50	Re-discount Rate	6.25	8.50
7.25	Repurchase Agreements Rate (overnight)	6.00	8.25
6.25	Overnight Deposit Window Rate	5.0	7.25
6.50	Repurchase Agreements rate (one week and one month)	5.25	7.50
6.50	Certificates of Deposits (one week)	5.25	7.50

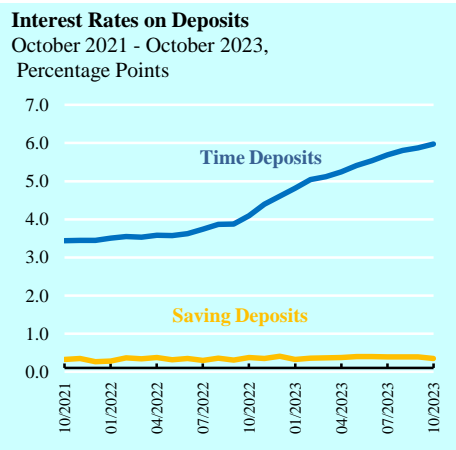
Source: Central Bank of Jordan / Monthly Statistical Bulletin.

Within the CBJ's keenness for the importance of achieving a balance between its objective to maintain monetary stability, and continuing to stimulate economic growth and mitigating the impact of raising interest rates on economic sectors, the CBJ decided to extend the CBJ's program to refinance the vital economic sectors, with a value of JD 1.4 billion, covering ten sectors, and to keep the interest rate for this program unchanged at 1.0% for projects in Amman, and 0.5% for projects in the other governorates, in order to provide financing for productive activities with preferential terms.

■ Interest Rates in the Banking Sector

◆ Interest Rates on Deposits

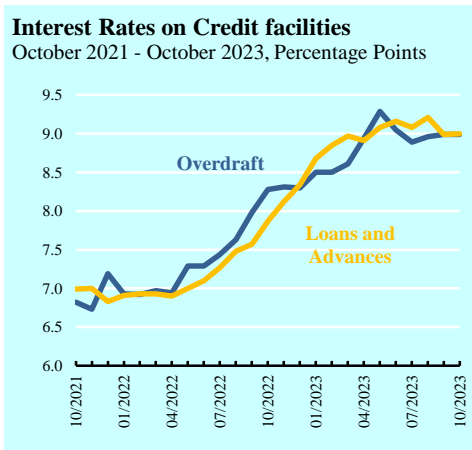
- **Time Deposits:** The weighted average interest rate on time deposits increased by 10 basis points at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the previous month to stand at 5.97%. This rate is higher by 136 basis points than its level registered at the end of 2022.



- **Saving Deposits:** The weighted average interest rate on saving deposits decreased by 4 basis points at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the end of the previous month to stand at 0.35%. This rate is lower by 6 basis points than its level registered at the end of 2022.
- **Demand Deposits:** The weighted average interest rate on demand deposits increased by 10 basis points at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the previous month to stand at 0.83%. This level is higher by 46 basis points than its level registered at the end of 2022.

◆ Interest Rates on Credit Facilities

- **Overdraft Accounts:** The weighted average interest rate on overdraft accounts at the end of October 2023, maintained its level registered at the end of the previous month to stand at 8.99%. This level is higher by 69 basis points than its level registered at the end of 2022.
- **Discounted Bills and Bonds:** The weighted average interest rate on “discounted bills and bonds” increased by 45 basis points at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the previous month to stand at 8.41%. This level is higher by 5 basis points, than its level registered at the end of 2022.
- **Loans and Advances:** The weighted average interest rate on “loans and advances” increased by one basis point at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the previous month to stand at 9.00%. This level is higher by 66 basis points than its level registered at the end of 2022.



Weighted Average Interest Rates on Deposits and Credit Facilities at Licensed Banks, percentage points

2022	October		Change Relative to the Preceding Year Basis Points	
	2022	2023		
Deposits				
0.37	Demand	0.37	0.83	46
0.41	Saving	0.38	0.35	-6
4.61	Time	4.09	5.97	136
Credit Facilities				
8.36	Discounted Bills and Bonds	7.84	8.41	5
8.34	Loans and Advances	7.87	9.00	66
8.30	Overdraft	8.28	8.99	69
10.80	Prime Lending Rate	10.17	11.39	59

Source: Central Bank of Jordan / Monthly Statistical Bulletin.

- The prime lending rate at the end of October 2023, maintained its level registered at the end of the previous month at 11.39%. This level is higher by 59 basis points that its level registered at the end of 2022.

□ Credit Facilities Extended by Licensed Banks

- Total credit facilities extended by licensed banks increased by JD 728.4 million, or 2.2 percent, at the end of October 2023, compared to its level registered at the end of 2022, against an increase by JD 2,275.2 million, or 7.6 percent during the same period in 2022.
- In terms of borrower sectors, the credit facilities at the end of October 2023 had shown an increase in credit extended to the private sector (resident) by JD 461.9 million, or 1.6 percent, the credit facilities extended to the private sector (non-resident) by JD 163.3 million, or 24.6 percent, and the public institution by JD 117.2 million, or 12.7 percent, the central government by JD 15.8 million, or 0.8 percent. In contrast, the non-banking financial institutions decreased by JD 29.8 million, or 31.5 percent, compared to their levels at the end of 2022.

□ Deposits at Licensed Banks

- Total deposits at licensed banks stood at JD 43.3 billion at the end of October 2023, compared to JD 41.9 billion at the end of October 2022, and JD 42.1 billion at the end of 2022.

- The currency composition of deposits at the end of October 2023 revealed that the JD deposits amounted to JD 34.1 billion, and the deposits in foreign currencies amounted to JD 9.2 billion, compared to JD 32.6 billion of JD deposits, and JD 9.4 billion of deposits in foreign currencies at the end of October 2022, and JD 32.8 billion of JD deposits, and JD 9.3 billion of deposits in foreign currency at the end of 2022.

□ Amman Stock Exchange (ASE)

The ASE main indicators showed a mixed performance during October 2023, compared to their levels in 2022. This can be demonstrated as follows:

■ Trading Volume

Trading volume at ASE totaled JD 103.2 million in October 2023, increasing by JD 20.5 million, or 24.7 percent, compared to its level registered at the end of the previous month, against an increase by JD 3.4 million, or 2.8 percent during the same month in 2022. As for the first ten months of 2023, the trading volume totaled JD 1,277.8 million.

■ Traded Shares

The number of traded shares in October 2023 totaled 104.5 million shares, increasing by 11.1 million shares, or 11.9 percent, compared to its level registered at the end of the previous month, against an increase by 10.8 million shares, or 14.2 percent during the same month in 2022. As for the first ten months of 2023, the number of traded shares amounted to 943.5 million shares.

■ **Share Price Index (SPI)**

The SPI weighted by market capitalization of free float shares at ASE increased by 0.7 points, or 0.03 percent, at the end of October 2023 compared to its level in the previous month, to stand at 2,414.8 points, compared to a

decrease by 41.7 basis points, or 1.7 percent during the same period in 2022. Furthermore, the SPI decreased by 86.8 points, or 3.5 percent compared to its level registered at the end of 2022, against an increase by 323.3 basis points, or 15.3 percent during the same period in 2022. The aforementioned decrease was an outcome of the decrease in the SPI of the industrial sector by 554.6 points, or 10.5 percent, and the financial sector by 13.6 basis points, or 0.5 percent, and the services sector by 79.0 basis points, or 4.5 percent, compared to their levels at the end of 2022.

■ **Market Capitalization**

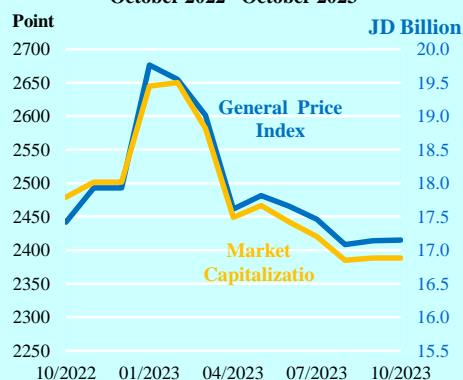
The ASE's market capitalization totaled JD 16.9 billion at the end of October 2023, decreasing by JD 4.0 million, or 0.02 percent, compared to its level registered at the previous month, against a decrease by JD 470.6

Share Price Index Weighted by Market Capitalization of Free Float Shares, by Sectors

		October	
2022		2022	2023
2,501.6	General Index	2,442.0	2,414.8
2,692.2	Financial Sector	2,640.8	2,678.6
5,292.3	Industrial Sector	5,250.0	4,737.7
1,740.8	Services Sector	1,660.9	1,661.8

Source: Amman Stock Exchange.

The General Share Price Index (Point) and The Market Capitalization (JD Billion) October 2022 - October 2023



million, or 2.6 percent, during the same month in 2022. Furthermore, the ASE's market capitalization decreased by JD 1,123.1 million, or 6.2 percent compared to its level registered at the end of 2022.

■ Net Investment of Non - Jordanian

Non-Jordanian net investment at ASE recorded an inflow amounted of JD 0.1 million in October 2023, compared to an inflow amounted by JD 11.6 million during the same month of 2022. The value of shares buying by non-Jordanian in October 2023 amounted

Main Amman Stock Exchange Trading Indicators, JD Million			
		October	
2022		2022	2023
1,903.7	Value Traded	125.2	103.2
7.7	Average Daily Trading	5.7	4.5
18,003.8	Market Capitalization	17,792.1	16,880.7
1,155.7	No. of Traded Shares (million)	87.0	104.5
-68.0	Net Investment of Non-Jordanian	11.6	0.1
274.2	Non-Jordanian Buying	20.8	6.2
342.2	Non-Jordanian Selling	9.2	6.1

Source: Amman Stock Exchange.

to JD 6.2 million, while their selling amounted to JD 6.1 million. The net investment of Non-Jordanian at the end of the first ten months of 2023, recorded an outflow amounted to JD 42.9 million.

Second: Output, Prices and Employment

□ Summary

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at constant market prices, grew by 2.6 percent during the second quarter of 2023, compared to a growth of 2.9 percent during the same quarter of 2022. At current market prices, GDP grew by 4.3 percent during the second quarter of 2023, compared to a growth of 5.1 percent in the same quarter of 2022.
- Accordingly, real GDP grew by 2.7 percent during the first half of 2023, maintaining the same growth rate during the corresponding period of 2022. At current market prices, GDP grew by 4.7 percent during the first half of 2023 compared to a growth of 4.8 during the same period of 2022.
- The general price level, measured by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased during the first ten months of 2023 by 2.2 percent, compared to an increase of 4.1 percent during the same period of 2022.
- The unemployment rate during the second quarter of 2023 reached 22.3 percent (20.0 percent for males and 30.9 percent for females), compared to 22.6 percent (20.7 percent for males and 29.4 percent for females) during the same quarter of 2022. The highest unemployment rate was among youth, which reached 58.4 percent for the (15-19) years old category and 45.4 percent for the category (20-24) years old.

▣ Developments of GDP

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), at constant market prices, grew by 2.7 percent during the first half of 2023, maintaining the same growth rate during the corresponding period of 2022. When excluding “net taxes on products” (which grew by 1.8 percent during the first half of 2023 compared to a growth of 2.4 percent during the same period of 2022), GDP at constant basic prices, grew by 2.9 percent during the first half of 2023, compared to a growth of 2.7 percent during the same period of 2022.

Quarterly Growth Rates of GDP at Market Prices (2021 – 2023)

Percentages

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
2021					
GDP at Constant Prices	1.7	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.7
GDP at Current Prices	2.6	7.2	6.8	7.0	5.9
2022					
GDP at Constant Prices	2.4	2.9	2.4	2.0	2.4
GDP at Current Prices	4.5	5.1	6.1	4.6	5.1
2023					
GDP at Constant Prices	2.8	2.6	-	-	-
GDP at Current Prices	5.1	4.3	-	-	-

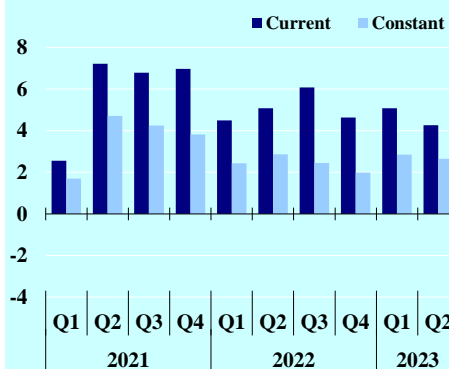
Source: Department of Statistics.

At current market prices, GDP grew by 4.7 percent during the first half of 2023, compared to a growth of 4.8 percent during the same period of 2022. This was in light of the increase of the general price level, measured by the GDP deflator, by 1.9 percent during the first half of 2023 compared to a growth of 2.1 percent during the same period of 2022.

The economic growth recorded during the first half of 2023 was driven by the improvement in some indicators of external sector, such as; tourism income, and inflow FDI to Jordan.

As for the economic sectors contribution to growth rate during the first half of 2023, all sectors contributed positively to the growth rate. Most notably; manufacturing contributed by (0.6 percentage point), “transport, storage and communications” (0.4 percentage point), agriculture (0.3 percentage point), “social and personal services” (0.2 percentage point), and “producers of government services” (0.2 percentage point). These sectors accounted for 62.9 percent of the real growth recorded during the first half of 2023.

Quarterly Growth Rates of GDP at Market Prices (2021- 2023), %



Main Constituent Sectors of GDP at Constant Market Prices

Sectors	Relative change		Contribution Percentage Point	
	H1 2022	H1 2023	H1 2022	H1 2023
	GDP at Constant Market Prices	2.7	2.7	2.7
Agriculture	1.8	7.8	0.1	0.3
Mining And Quarrying	6.2	3.9	0.2	0.1
Manufacturing	3.5	3.6	0.6	0.6
Electricity And Water	2.8	3.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	5.0	1.4	0.1	0.0
Wholesale And Retail Trade	2.9	2.0	0.3	0.2
Restaurant And Hotels	6.7	5.8	0.1	0.1
Transport, Storage And Communications	4.3	5.0	0.4	0.4
Finance And Insurance Services	4.4	4.0	0.3	0.3
Real Estate	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.1
Social And Personal Services	2.2	2.3	0.2	0.2
Producers of Government Services	0.9	1.2	0.1	0.2
Producers of Private Non-Profit	2.7	2.3	0.0	0.0
Domestic Services of Households	-5.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0

Source : Department of Statistics.

□ Microeconomic Indicators

Many of the microeconomic indicators witnessed an improvement in their performance during the available period of 2023. Most notably; “Number of passengers through Royal Jordanian” (22.1 percent), “Number of departures” (30.8 percent), in addition to production of potash (4.9 percent), “licensed areas for buildings” (9.5 percent). and a declined in performance of a number of indicators most notably; “manufacturing production quantity index” (3.3 percent) and “Cargo through Royal Jordanian” (12.9 percent). The following table displays the performance of the main available microeconomic indicators:

Main Sectoral Indicators*				
Percentage				
2022	Item	2022	Available period	2023
3.6	Licensed areas for buildings	3.1	Jan. – Aug.	9.5
2.3	Manufacturing production quantity index	2.7	Jan. – Sep.	-3.3
3.6	Food products and beverages	2.9		0.4
7.9	Tobacco products	6.3		4.1
15.2	Refined petroleum products	24.4		-18.0
-14.4	Wearing apparel	-13.6		-2.8
5.0	Pharmaceuticals, medical products	4.8		4.1
-2.9	Chemical products	-4.9		-1.4
3.9	Mining and quarrying production quantity index	7.6		2.1
-19.0	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	0.8		-6.8
5.4	Other mining and quarrying	7.6		2.2
4.7	Production of potash	4.9		4.9
11.3	Production of phosphate	17.8		-1.9
11.1	Cargo through Royal Jordanian	21.2		Jan. – Oct.
91.8	Number of passengers through Royal Jordanian	112.5	22.1	
99.8	Number of departures	112.5	30.8	

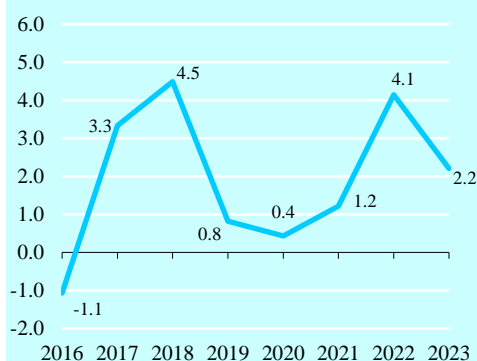
*: Computed based on the data from Department of Statistics, Department of Land and Survey, and Royal Jordanian.

□ Prices

The general price level, measured by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased during the first ten months of 2023 by 2.2 percent, compared to an increase of 4.1 percent during the same period of 2022. This was an outcome of the following:

- An increase in the prices of some items and groups, most notably:
 - “fuel and lighting” prices increased by 7.8 percent, compared to an increase by 23.6 percent, in addition to the transportation group, whose the prices increased by 1.2 percent, compared to an increase by 5.8 percent during the first ten months of 2022, and this comes in light of the rise in oil prices in global markets.

Inflation Rate during the first ten months for the years (2016-2023),



Inflation Rate during the first ten months of the years 2022-2023

Expenditure Groups	Relative Imp.	Relative change		Contribution	
		Jan. – Oct. 2022	2023	Jan. – Oct. 2022	2023
All Items	100.0	4.1	2.2	4.1	2.2
1) Food and non-Alcoholic Beverages	26.5	3.6	0.4	1.0	0.1
Food	23.8	3.9	0.5	0.9	0.1
Cereals and Products	4.2	4.0	3.7	0.2	0.2
Meat and Poultry	4.7	3.4	-0.3	0.2	0.0
Fish and Sea Product	0.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dairy Products and Eggs	3.7	4.1	6.2	0.2	0.2
Oil and Fats	1.7	8.4	2.2	0.1	0.0
Fruits and Nuts	2.6	1.4	-0.9	0.0	0.0
Vegetables and Legumes Dry and Canned	3.0	7.2	-9.2	0.2	-0.2
2) Alcohol and Tobacco and Cigarettes	4.4	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.1
Alcohol	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco and Cigarettes	4.4	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.1
3) Clothing and footwear	4.1	0.3	-0.6	0.0	0.0
Clothing	3.4	0.1	-1.1	0.0	0.0
Footwear	0.7	1.2	1.7	0.0	0.0
4) Housing	23.8	5.9	4.8	1.4	1.1
Rent	17.5	2.2	4.2	0.4	0.7
Fuels and Lighting	4.7	23.6	7.8	1.0	0.4
5) Household Furnishings and Equipment	4.9	2.9	2.1	0.1	0.1
6) Health	4.0	3.1	3.4	0.1	0.1
7) Transportation	16.0	5.8	1.2	0.9	0.2
8) Communication	2.8	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0
9) Culture and Recreation	2.6	9.4	5.5	0.2	0.1
10) Education	4.3	1.3	1.8	0.1	0.1
11) Restaurants and Hotels	1.8	6.9	2.8	0.1	0.1
12) Other Goods and Services	4.8	2.2	3.0	0.1	0.1

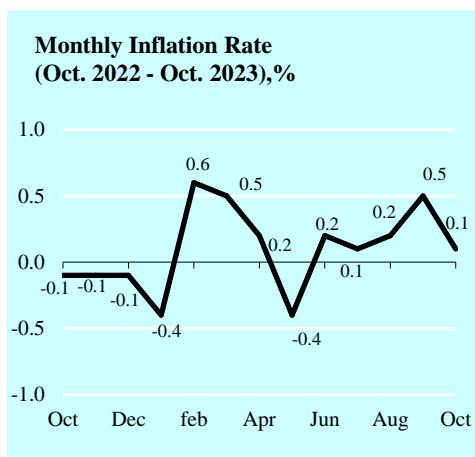
Source: Department of Statistics.

- The price of the items “dairy products and eggs” and “cereals and products” increased by 6.2 percent and 3.7 percent compared to an increase by 4.1 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively, during the first ten months of 2022, affected by the demand and supply factors in domestic market.
- In addition to rising rents item by 4.2 percent compared to an increase by 2.2 percent during the first ten months of 2022.
- The health group also increased by 3.4 percent compared to an increase by 3.1 percent during the first ten months of 2022, this increase is partially due to the increase in prices of medical and hospital services.

The above groups and items collectively contributed to raising the inflation rate during the first ten months of 2023 by 1.9 percentage points, compared to 2.8 percentage points during the same period of 2022.

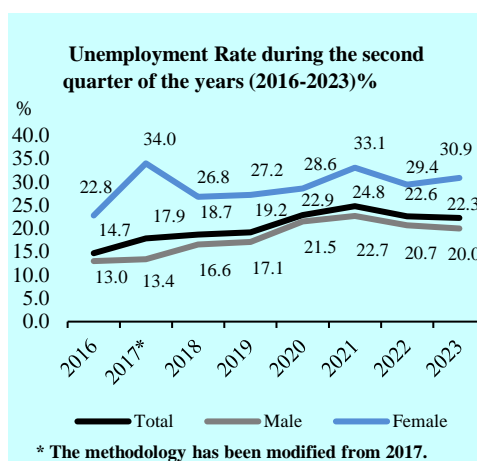
- On the other hand, the price of some items declined, notably; “vegetables and legumes dry and canned” (9.2 percent) and clothes (1.1 percent), compared to an increase by 7.2 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively, during the first ten months of 2022.

In October 2023, the CPI witnessed an increase compared to the previous month (September 2023) by 0.1 percent. This was an outcome of the increase in the prices of some items and groups, mainly, “vegetables and legumes dry and canned” (3.1 percent), transportation (0.4 percent), on the one hand, and the decrease of the prices of a number of other items and groups, most notably; “meat and poultry” (1.9 percent), clothing (2.6 percent), and “culture and recreation ” (0.7 percent), on the other hand.



■ Labor Market

■ The unemployment rate reached 22.3 percent (20.0 percent for males, and 30.9 percent for females) during the second quarter of 2023, compared to 22.6 percent (20.7 percent for males and 29.4 percent for females), during the same quarter of 2022.



- The unemployment rate among youth, during the second quarter of 2023, remains high reaching 58.4 percent for the category (15-19) years old, and 45.4 percent for the category (20-24) years old.
- The unemployment rate among academic degree holders (Bachelor and higher) reached 27.2 percent during the second quarter of 2023, and the unemployment rate among (less than secondary) reached 30.0 percent.
- The refined economic participation rate (the ratio of the labor force to the population of 15 years and over), was 33.0 percent (53.0 percent for males, and 13.8 percent for females), compared to 33.5 percent (53.2 percent for males and 14.2 percent for females) during the second quarter of 2022.
- The employment rate among population (15 years and older) reached 25.6 percent during the second quarter of 2023, compared to 26.0 percent during the same quarter of 2022.

Third: Public Finance

□ Summary:

- The general budget, including foreign grants, recorded a fiscal deficit in the amount of JD 1,396.8 million (5.3 percent of GDP) during the first three quarters of 2023, comparing to a fiscal deficit of JD 1,407.0 million (5.6 percent of GDP) during the same period of 2022. When excluding foreign grants (JD 38.7 million), the general budget deficit increases to JD 1,435.5 million (5.4 percent of GDP), compared to a deficit of JD 1,532.2 million (6.1 percent of GDP) in the same period of 2022.
- Government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) increased by JD 865.2 million at the end of September 2023, compared to its level at the end of 2022, to reach JD 22,444.4 million (62.5 percent of GDP). When excluding the domestic debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) stand at JD 14,046.7 million (39.1 percent of GDP).
- Outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) went up by JD 1,358.9 million at the end of September 2023, compared to its level at the end of 2022, to reach JD 18,269.9 million (50.9 percent of GDP). When excluding the external debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) stand at JD 17,807.3 million (49.6 percent of GDP).
- As a result, outstanding government debt (domestic and external) rose by JD 2,224.1 million at the end of September 2023, to reach JD 40,714.3 million (113.4 percent of GDP), compared to JD 38,490.2 million (111.4 percent of GDP) at the end of 2022. When excluding the government debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the outstanding government debt (domestic and external) stand at JD 31,854.0 million (88.7 percent of GDP), compared to JD 30,667.6 million (88.8 percent of GDP) at the end of 2022.

□ The performance of the general budget during the first three quarters of 2023 compared with the same period of 2022:

■ Public Revenues

Public revenues (domestic revenues *plus* foreign grants) increased by JD 53.6 million, or 8.1 percent, in September 2023 compared to the same period in 2022, to stand at JD 713.7 million. As for the first three quarters of 2023, public revenues went up by JD 352.4 million, or 5.7 percent, compared to same period of 2022, to stand at JD 6,556.9 million. This came as an outcome of the increase in domestic revenues by JD 439.0 million, and decrease in foreign grants by JD 86.5 million.

Main Government Budget Indicators During the First Three Quarters of 2023

(JD Million and Percentages)

	September		Growth Rate	Jan.-Sep.		Growth Rate
	2022	2023		2022	2023	
Public Revenues	660.1	713.7	8.1	6,204.5	6,556.9	5.7
Domestic Revenues, of which:	659.8	711.2	7.8	6,079.2	6,518.2	7.2
Tax Revenues, of which:	451.2	507.2	12.4	4,660.4	4,894.0	5.0
General Sales Tax	378.4	421.0	11.3	3,079.7	3,071.4	-0.3
Other Revenues	208.2	203.6	-2.2	1,415.3	1,620.5	14.5
Foreign Grants	0.3	2.5	-	125.2	38.7	-69.1
Total Expenditures	775.5	921.5	18.8	7,611.5	7,953.7	4.5
Current Expenditures	684.5	839.4	22.6	6,613.4	7,147.0	8.1
Capital Expenditures	91.0	82.1	-9.8	998.1	806.7	-19.2
Overall Deficit/ Surplus (Including Grants)	-115.4	-207.8	-	-1,407.0	-1,396.8	-
Overall Deficit/ Surplus (Including Grants) as a Percent of GDP	-	-	-	-5.6	-5.3	-

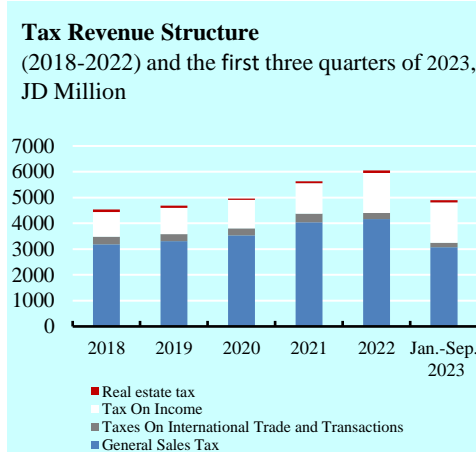
Source: Ministry of Finance/ General Government Finance Bulletin.

◆ Domestic Revenues

Domestic revenues witnessed an increase of JD 439.0 million, or 7.2 percent, in the first three quarters of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 6,518.2 million. This increase was a result of the rise in the proceeds of “tax revenues”, “other revenues”, and “Pension contributions” by JD 233.6 million, JD 205.2 million, and JD 0.2 million, respectively.

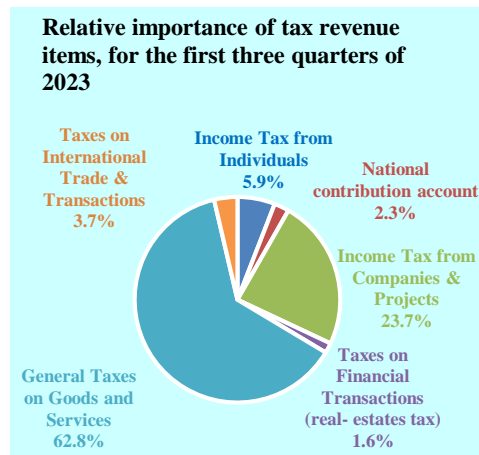
● Tax Revenues

Tax revenues increased by JD 233.6 million, or 5.0 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 4,894.0 million (75.1 percent of domestic revenues). Following are the main developments in tax revenue items:



- A decrease in the proceeds of **general sales tax on goods and services** by JD 8.3 million, or 0.3 percent, to reach JD 3,071.4 million, accounting for 62.8 percent of total tax revenues. This result was driven by the decrease in the proceeds of sales tax on commercial sector by JD 32.6 million, and on imported goods by JD 16.3 million, and increase in the proceeds of sales tax on services by JD 25.4 million, and on domestic goods by JD 15.2 million.

- An increase in the proceeds of **income and profit taxes** by JD 231.5 million, or 17.4 percent, to reach JD 1,565.5 million, accounting for 32.0 percent of total tax revenues. This increase came mainly as a result of the increase in the proceeds of “income taxes from companies and projects” by JD 190.6 million, or 19.6 percent, to account for 74.2 percent of total proceeds of income and profits taxes, amounting to JD 1,161.3 million, and increase the proceeds of “income taxes from individuals” by JD 35.9 million, or 14.2 percent, to reach JD 289.2 million, and increase the proceeds of national contribution account item by JD 5.0 million, or 4.5 percent, to reach JD 115.0 million,
- An increase in the proceeds of **taxes on financial transactions (real-estates tax)** by JD 6.8 million, or 9.5 percent, to reach JD 78.1 million.
- An increase in the proceeds of **taxes on international trade and transactions** (including customs duties and fees) by JD 3.5 million, or 2.0 percent, to reach JD 179.0 million.



● Non-Tax Revenues

- “Other revenues” increased by JD 205.2 million, or 14.5 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023, to reach JD 1,620.5 million. This increase was chiefly due to the following:
 - An increase in the **property income** by JD 135.8 million to stand at JD 454.1 million (of which financial surplus of independent government units amounted to JD 415.2 million against JD 291.5 million during the same period of 2022).
 - An increase in **miscellaneous revenues** by JD 61.9 million to stand at JD 501.0 million.
 - An increase in revenues from **selling goods and services** by JD 7.5 million to reach JD 665.4 million.
- Pension contributions increased by JD 0.2 million, or 5.7 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023, to reach JD 3.7 million.

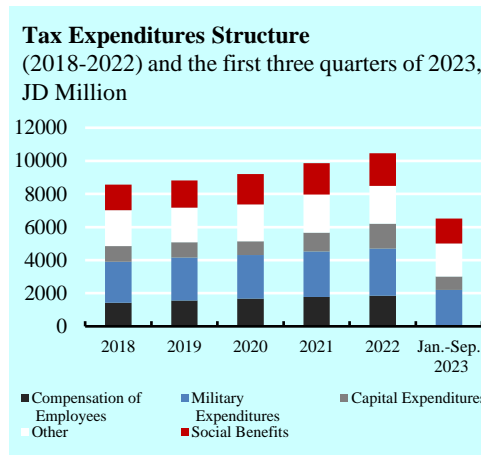
◆ Foreign Grants

Foreign grants decreased by JD 86.5 million, or 69.1 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023, standing at JD 38.7 million, compared to JD 125.2 million during the same period of 2022.

■ **Public Expenditures**

Public expenditures increased by JD 146.0 million, or 18.8 percent, in September 2023 compared to the same month in 2022, to stand at JD 921.5 million. As for the first three quarters of

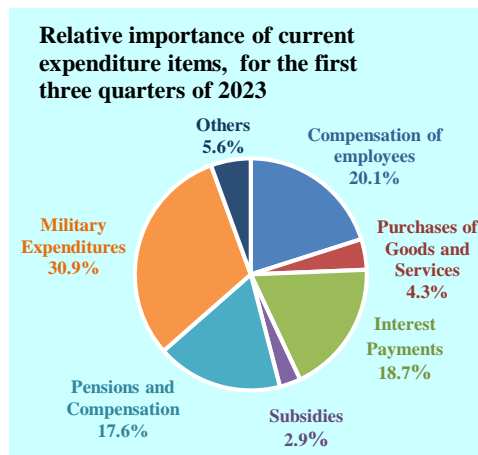
2023, public expenditures increased by JD 342.2 million, or 4.5 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to stand at JD 7,953.7 million. This increase was a result of the rise in current expenditures by 8.1 percent, and decreased in capital expenditures by 19.2 percent.



◆ **Current Expenditures**

Current expenditures went up by JD 533.6 million, or 8.1 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023, to reach JD 7,147.0 million (89.9 percent of public expenditures). Because of the growth rate of current expenditure is higher than that of domestic revenues, the coverage ratio (measured by the ratio of domestic revenues to current expenditures) decreased by 0.7 percentage point, to reach 91.2 percent compared to 91.9 percent during the same period of 2022. The increase in current expenditures is due to the evolution of its components, as follow:

- An increase in **interest payments** (commitment basis) by JD 231.8 million, to stand at JD 1,333.3 million.
- An increase in **military expenditures** by JD 95.0 million, to total JD 2,208.3 million.
- An increase in the **compensation of civil sector's employees (wages, salaries and social security contributions)** by JD 73.1 million, to reach JD 1,435.6 million.
- An increase in the **purchases of goods and services** by JD 41.2 million, to reach JD 305.5 million.
- An increase in **pensions and compensation** by JD 31.8 million, to stand at JD 1,256.9 million.
- An increase in **subsidies** by JD 21.2 million, to stand at JD 209.7 million.

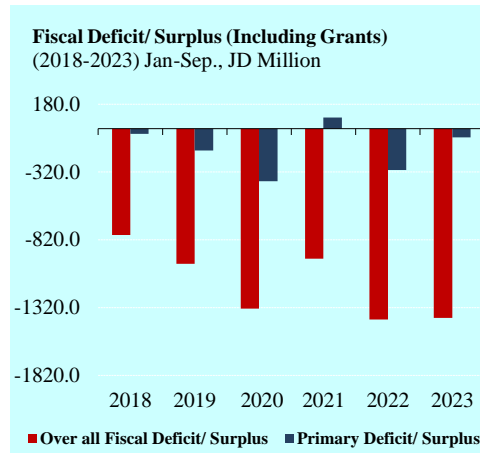


◆ Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures decreased by JD 191.4 million, or 19.2 percent, during the first three quarters of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 806.7 million.

■ General Budget Deficit/ Surplus

- ◆ The overall fiscal deficit, including foreign grants, decreased by JD 10.2 million, during the first three quarters of 2023, to reach JD 1,396.8 million (5.3 percent of GDP), compared to a fiscal deficit

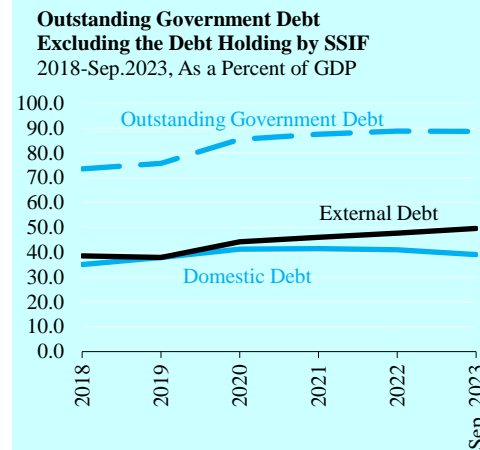
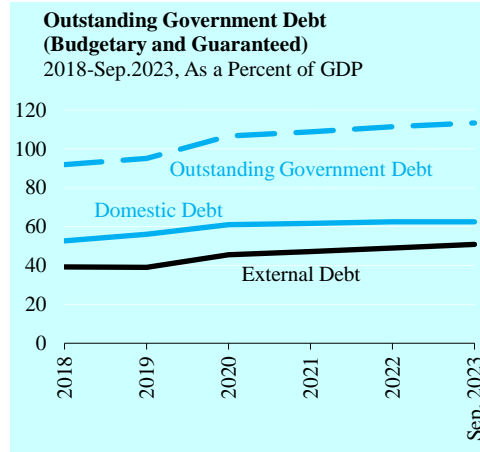


of JD 1,407.0 million (5.6 percent of GDP) in the same period of 2022. When foreign grants are excluded, the general budget deficit increases to reach JD 1,435.5 million (5.4 percent of GDP), compared to a fiscal deficit of JD 1,532.2 million (6.1 percent of GDP) in the same period of 2022.

- ◆ The primary deficit, excluding foreign grants, (domestic revenues *minus* total public expenditures excluding interest payments on public debt) reached JD 102.2 million (0.5 percent of GDP) in the first three quarters of 2023, against a primary deficit of JD 430.7 million (1.9 percent of GDP) in the same period of 2022. When foreign grants are including, the primary deficit of the general budget reached JD 63.5 million (0.3 percent of GDP), compared to a primary deficit of JD 305.5 million (1.4 percent of GDP) in the same period of 2022.

□ Outstanding Government Debt

■ Government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) increased by JD 865.2 million, at the end of September 2023 compared to its level at the end of 2022, to stand at JD 22,444.4 million (62.5 percent of GDP). This increase was an outcome of the rise in the domestic debt of the budget by JD 228.0 million, and the increase in the domestic debt of guaranteed by JD 637.3 million, compared to their levels at the end of 2022, standing at JD 19,175.7 million and JD 3,268.7 million, respectively.



■ When excluding the domestic debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund (SSIF), the government domestic debt (budgetary and guaranteed) decreased by JD 132.0 million, at the end of September 2023 compared to its level at the end of 2022, to stand at JD 14,046.7 million (39.1 percent of GDP).

- Outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) went up by JD 1,358.9 million at the end of September 2023, compared to its level at the end of 2022, to reach JD 18,269.9 million (50.9 percent of GDP). It is worth mentioning that the external debt denominated in the U.S. Dollar accounted for 71.3 percent of the total external debt, and the debt in Euro accounted for 11.2 percent. However, the SDR accounted for 9.8 percent, Kuwaiti Dinar (3.2 percent), and Japanese Yen (2.6 percent).
- When excluding the external debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the outstanding external debt (budget and guaranteed) increased by JD 1,318.4 million, at the end of September 2023 compared to its level at the end of 2022, to stand at JD 17,807.3 million (49.6 percent of GDP).
- In light of the above-mentioned developments, outstanding government debt (domestic and external) increased by JD 2,224.1 million at the end of September 2023 to reach JD 40,714.3 million (113.4 percent of GDP), compared to JD 38,490.2 million (111.4 percent of GDP) at the end of 2022. When excluding the debt holding by the Social Security Investment Fund, the outstanding government debt (budget and guaranteed) stand at JD 31,854.0 million (88.7 percent of GDP), compared to JD 30,667.6 million (88.8 percent of GDP) at the end of 2022.
- External debt service (budget and guaranteed) decreased by JD 44.7 million during the first three quarters of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 2,053.3 million (including principal payments of JD 1,488.9 million and interest of JD 564.4 million).

□ Fiscal and Price Measures of 2023

◆ December

- The Oil Derivatives Pricing Committee decided to decrease the prices of oil derivatives, while maintaining the price of Kerosene and liquid gas cylinder for households unchanged, as follows:

Development of Oil Derivatives Prices

	Unit	2023		Percentage Change
		November	December	
Unleaded Gasoline 90	Fils/ Liter	925	915	-1.1
Unleaded Gasoline 95	Fils/ Liter	1,165	1,160	-0.4
Unleaded Gasoline 98	Fils/ Liter	1,315	1,310	-0.4
Gas Oil (Diesel)	Fils/ Liter	795	750	-5.7
Kerosene	Fils/ Liter	620	620	0.0
Liquid Gas (12.5kg)	JD/ Cylinder	7.0	7.0	0.0
Fuel oil (1%)	JD/ Ton	459	441.4	-3.8
Fuel for airplanes (local companies)	Fils/ Liter	637	607	-4.7
Fuel for airplanes (foreign companies)	Fils/ Liter	642	612	-4.7
Fuel for unplanned flights	Fils/ Liter	657	627	-4.6
Asphalt	JD/ Ton	453.6	426.3	-6.0

Source: Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (1/12/2023).

- The Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission decided continuing to maintain fuel price bands item at 0 fils during 2023.

◆ January

- In implementation of Royal directives, the Cabinet decided to freeze the kerosene tax during the winter season to alleviate the burden on citizens, especially those in low-income households.

□ Grants, Loans and Other Agreements for 2023**◆ December**

- Signing a two financing agreement, provided by the European Union (EU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), to support the National Water Carrier Project (Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination and Transport Project), as follows:
 - EUR 100 million loan provided by the European Investment Bank.
 - EUR 50 million grant provided by the European Union's.

◆ October

- Signing a set of agreements in the amount EUR 209 million (EUR 129 million a grant and EUR 80 million a soft loan), provided by the German government through the German Development Bank (KfW), to finance a group of programs and projects within the education sector, including the Development Policy Loan for the education, employment, training and water sectors, including support for the National Water Carrier Project.

◆ September

- Signing a grant agreement in the amount EUR 22.4 thousand, provided by the German government, to finance the salaries of the additional teachers working in afternoon shifts at schools of the Ministry of Education.

- Signing a two financing agreement, provided by the Japanese government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as follows:
 - USD 102.8 million loan to support the general budget in terms of the Kingdom's reform efforts and to enhance the resilience of the electricity sector.
 - USD 6.4 million grant to finance a project to enhance the capacity of power system.

◆ August

- Signing a grant agreement in the amount USD 500 thousand, provided by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), to implement the Green Buildings project in Jordan.

◆ July

- Signing a soft finance agreement in the amount USD 250 million, provided by the World Bank, to finance the Water Sector Efficiency Project in Jordan.

◆ June

- Signing a two grants agreement in the amount EUR 25 million, provided by the European Union (EU), as follows:
 - EUR 10 million for the "Support for democratic reforms in Jordan" programme.
 - EUR 15 million targets the partnership programme in accordance with the Economic Modernisation Vision and its 2023-2025 executive programme, as well as the public sector modernisation roadmap.

- Signing a soft loan agreement in the amount EUR 50 million, provided by the German Development Bank (KfW), to finance the second phase of "Supporting the education sector in the Kingdom" programme.

◆ April

- Signing a two financing agreement in the amount USD 650 million, provided by the World Bank, as follows:
 - USD 400 million to transparent and Climate Responsive Investments Program for Results.
 - USD 250 million to electricity Sector Efficiency.

◆ March

- Signing a grant agreement in the amount EUR 30 million, provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to finance the construction of a greenfield wastewater treatment facility in Al Ghabawi on the outskirts of Amman.

◆ January

- Signing a two grants agreement in the amount EUR 64 million, provided by the European Union (EU), as follows:
 - EUR 39 million to implement a program the Rule of Law in Jordan.
 - EUR 25 million to support Food Security in Jordan.

Fourth: External Sector

□ Summary

- **Total merchandize exports** (domestic exports *plus* re-exports) decreased by 5.8 percent in August 2023, compared to the same month of 2022, to reach JD 792.3 million. As for the first eight months of 2023, total export decreased by 0.5 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 6,084.4 million.
- **Merchandize imports** decreased by 13.3 percent in August 2023, compared to the same month of 2022, to reach JD 1,697.1 million. As for the first eight months of 2023, import decreased by 6.0 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 12,295.9 million.
- **Consequently**, the trade balance deficit (total exports minus imports) decreased by 18.9 percent in August 2023, compared to the same month of 2022; standing at JD 904.8 million. As for the first eight months of 2023, trade balance deficit decreased by 10.8 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 6,211.5 million.
- **Travel receipts** increased by 37.7 percent during the first three quarters of 2023, to register JD 4,125.8 million, compared to the same period of 2022. While, **travel payments** increased by 32.9 percent, to register JD 1,055.5 million, compared to the same period of 2022.
- **Total workers' remittances receipts** increased by 0.9 percent during the first three quarters of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 1,817.1 million.
- **The current account of the balance of payments** (including grants) registered a deficit amounted to JD 1,187.2 million (7.1 percent of GDP) during the first half of 2023, compared to a deficit of JD 2,087.2 million (13.0 percent of GDP) during the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, the current account deficit excluding grants decreased to reach 8.6 percent of GDP, compared with 14.6 percent of GDP during the same period of 2022.
- **The foreign direct investment** recorded a total inflow of JD 550.4 million during the first half of 2023, compared to total inflow of JD 455.3 million during the same period of 2022.

- **International investment position (IIP)** displayed a net obligation to abroad of JD 37,719.8 million, at the end of the first half of 2023, compared to net obligation amounted to JD 36,642.8 million at the end of 2022.

□ External Trade

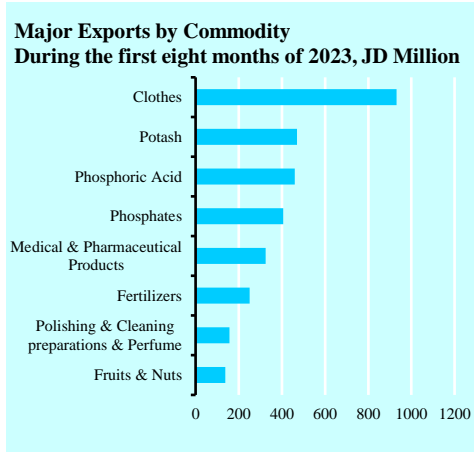
- As a result of the increase in domestic exports by JD 3.6 million and the decrease in imports by JD 782.1 million during the first eight months of 2023, the volume of external trade (domestic exports plus imports) decreased by JD 778.5 million to stand at JD 17,939.8 million, compared to the same period of 2022.

Jordan's Major Trading Partners			
JD Million			
January – August			
	2022	2023	Percentage Change
Exports			
USA	1,343.3	1,347.9	0.3
India	943.8	901.6	-4.5
Saudi Arabia	545.5	667.3	22.3
Iraq	334.9	374.0	11.7
UAE	113.0	226.0	100.0
Palestine	134.2	168.7	25.7
China	126.6	161.9	27.9
Imports			
China	1,988.0	2,064.2	3.8
Saudi Arabia	2,071.3	1,714.3	-17.2
USA	693.5	837.1	20.7
India	656.6	742.8	13.1
UAE	1,048.6	642.4	-38.7
Germany	377.3	411.0	8.9
Türkiye	441.4	390.5	-11.5
Source: Department of Statistics.			

Main External Trade Indicators				
JD Million				
January - August				
	2022	Percentage Change (%)	2023	Percentage Change (%)
External Trade	18,718.3	41.9	17,939.8	-4.2
Total Exports	6,112.7	48.1	6,084.4	-0.5
Domestic Exports	5,640.3	50.6	5,643.9	0.1
Re-exports	472.3	23.6	440.4	-6.8
Imports	13,078.0	38.4	12,295.9	-6.0
Trade Balance	-6,965.3	30.9	-6,211.5	10.8
Source: Department of Statistics.				

■ Merchandize Exports:

Total merchandize exports decreased by 0.5 percent during the first eight months of 2023, to reach JD 6,084.4 million. This increase was an outcome of the increase in domestic exports by JD 3.6 million, or 0.1 percent to reach JD 5,643.9 million, and the decrease in re-exports by JD 31.9 million, or 6.8 percent to reach JD 440.4 million.



◆ The developments of domestic exports during the first eight months of 2023, compared with the same period of 2022 reveals the following:

- Exports of “**Medical & pharmaceutical products**” increased by JD 78.0 million, or 31.7 percent, to stand at JD 324.3 million. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the USA were the main destination markets for these exports, accounting for 46.9 percent.
- Exports of “**Polishing & cleaning preparations & perfume materials**” increased by JD 41.6 million, or 36.2 percent, to reach JD 156.4 million. Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the main destination markets; accounting for 70.4 percent of these exports.
- Exports of **phosphoric acid** increased by JD 35.9 million, or 8.5 percent to reach JD 459.1 million. It is worth noting that markets of India, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia accounted for 99.2 percent of these exports.
- Exports of **potash** decreased by JD 235.9 million, or 33.4 percent, to reach JD 470.2 million. It is worth noting that China, India, and Brazil markets accounted for 49.1 percent of these exports.

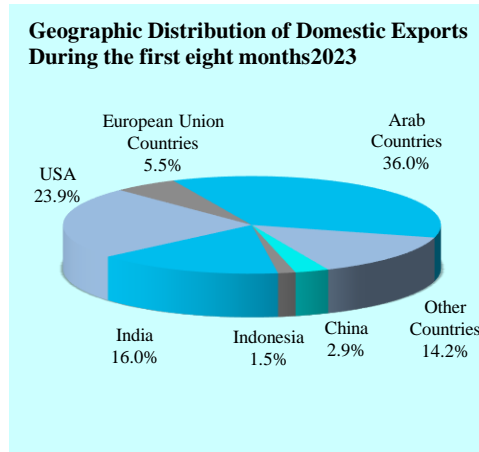
- Exports of **phosphates** decreased by JD 107.0 million, or 20.8 percent, to stand at JD 406.4 million. India, Indonesia and Brazil were the main destination markets, accounting for 88.0 percent of these exports.
- Exports of **fertilizers** decreased by JD 169.3 million, or 40.3 percent, to reach JD 250.3 million. The markets of India and the USA accounted for 52.3 percent of these exports.
- Exports of **clothes** decreased by JD 116.0 million, or 11.1 percent, to stand at JD 930.5 million. The USA was the main destination market for these exports, accounted for 81.7 percent.

**Major Domestic Exports by Commodity, JD Million
During the first eight months of 2022-2023**

	2022	2023	Percentage Change
Domestic Export	5,640.3	5,643.9	0.1
Clothes	1,046.5	930.5	-11.1
USA	891.8	760.5	-14.7
Potash	706.1	470.2	-33.4
China	115.1	107.6	-6.5
India	110.8	79.8	-28.0
Brazil	48.5	43.5	-10.3
Phosphoric Acid	423.2	459.1	8.5
India	368.3	439.7	19.4
Bangladesh	10.4	11.0	5.8
Saudi Arabia	5.2	4.6	-11.5
Phosphates	513.4	406.4	-20.8
India	342.8	274.3	-20.0
Indonesia	104.1	49.7	-52.3
Brazil	12.1	18.1	49.6
Spain	8.7	15.4	77.0
Medical & Pharmaceutical Products	246.3	324.3	31.7
Saudi Arabia	58.3	74.8	28.3
Iraq	43.8	38.9	-11.2
USA	18.8	38.4	104.3
Fertilizers	419.6	250.3	-40.3
India	90.3	70.7	-21.7
USA	5.4	60.1	-
Polishing & Cleaning preparations & Perfume	114.8	156.4	36.2
Iraq	56.7	73.9	30.3
Saudi Arabia	24.0	36.2	50.8
Fruits & Nuts	103.1	138.3	34.1
Saudi Arabia	41.0	48.8	19.0
Kuwait	10.7	14.8	38.3
Iraq	14.0	14.7	5.0

Source: Department of Statistics.

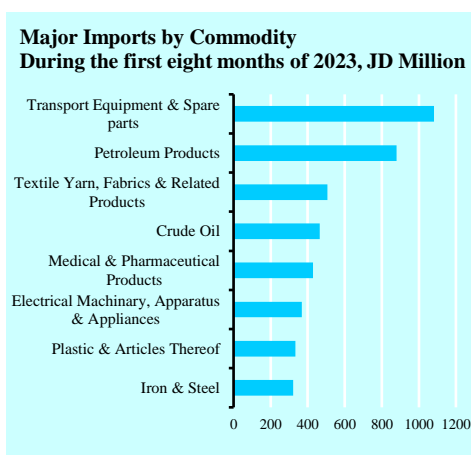
- Consequently, the commodity breakdown of domestic exports indicates that exports of clothes, potash, phosphoric acid, phosphates, “Medical &



pharmaceutical products”, fertilizer, “Polishing & cleaning preparations & perfume material” and “Fruits and nuts”, topped the list of domestic exports during the first eight months of 2023; accounting for 55.6 percent, compared with 63.3 percent during the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, the geographical distribution of domestic exports indicates that the USA, India, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Palestine, and China were the main destination markets during the first eight months of 2023; accounting for 68.2 percent, compared with 62.8 percent during the same period of 2022.

■ **Merchandize Imports:**

Merchandize imports decreased by 6.0 percent to reach JD 12,295.9 million during the first eight months of 2023.



◆ **The developments of imports during the first eight months of 2023, compared with the same period of 2022, reveals the following:**

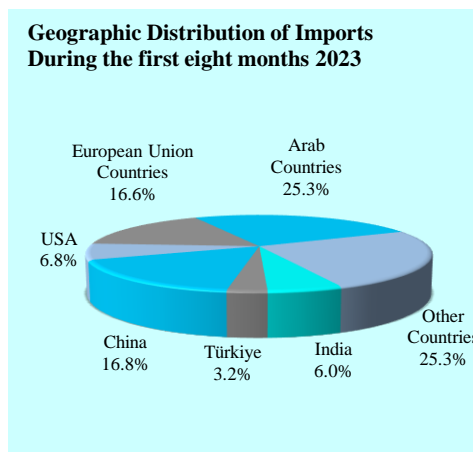
- **Petroleum Products** imports decreased by JD 248.1 million, or 22.0 percent, to reach JD 879.3 million. Saudi Arabia, India and the UAE were the main origin markets accounting for 96.6 percent of these imports.
- **Crude Oil** imports decreased by JD 170.9 million, or 26.9 percent, to reach JD 465.4 million. Saudi Arabia and Iraq were the main origin markets, accounting for 100.0 percent of these imports.
- **Textile Yarn, Fabrics & Related Products** imports decreased by JD 140.7 million, or 21.8 percent, to stand at JD 506.1 million. China, Taiwan and Türkiye were the main markets, accounting for 69.3 percent of these imports.

- **“Plastic and articles thereof”** imports decreased by JD 42.1 million or 11.2 percent, to reach JD 333.1 million. Saudi Arabia, China and the UAE were the main markets, accounting for 67.8 percent of these imports.
- **“Transport equipment & spare parts”** imports increased by JD 237.5 million, or 28.1 percent, to reach JD 1,081.9 million. China, South Korea and the USA were the main origin markets, accounting for 64.1 percent of these imports.
- **“Medical and pharmaceutical products”** imports increased by JD 67.1 million, or 18.6 percent, to reach JD 428.2 million. Germany, the USA, and Switzerland, were the main markets, accounting for 33.2 percent of these imports.

Major Imports by Commodity, JD Million During the first eight months of 2022-2023			
	2022	2023	Percentage Change
Total Imports	13,078.0	12,295.9	-6.0
Transport Equipment & Spare parts	844.4	1,081.9	28.1
China	175.1	318.5	81.9
South Korea	157.1	193.3	23.0
USA	142.2	182.2	28.1
Petroleum Products	1,127.4	879.3	-22.0
Saudi Arabia	601.9	434.9	-27.7
India	224.8	363.6	61.7
UAE	249.0	50.6	-79.7
Textile Yarn, Fabrics & Related Products	646.8	506.1	-21.8
China	309.3	231.5	-25.2
Taiwan	108.2	65.1	-39.8
Türkiye	71.0	54.1	-23.8
Crude Oil	636.3	465.4	-26.9
Saudi Arabia	549.4	361.7	-34.2
Iraq	86.9	103.7	19.3
Medical & Pharmaceutical Products	361.1	428.2	18.6
Germany	50.4	57.7	14.5
USA	35.5	45.7	28.7
Switzerland	24.1	38.8	61.0
Electrical Machinery, Apparatus & Appliances	352.9	368.1	4.3
China	171.4	147.6	-13.9
Türkiye	24.0	20.8	-13.3
USA	19.4	19.8	2.1
Plastic & articles thereof	375.2	333.1	-11.2
Saudi Arabia	168.3	146.6	-12.9
China	63.0	55.8	-11.4
UAE	26.0	23.5	-9.6
Iron & Steel	340.7	321.5	-5.6
Saudi Arabia	70.9	99.4	40.2
China	92.1	94.3	2.4
India	38.9	25.6	-34.2

Source: Department of Statistics.

- Consequently, the commodity composition of imports indicates that “Transport equipment & spare parts”, Petroleum products, “Textile yarn, fabrics and related products”, Crude oil, “Medical & pharmaceutical products”, “Electrical machinery apparatus and appliances”, “Plastic & articles thereof”, and “Iron & steel”, topped the list of imports during the first eight months of 2023, accounting for 35.7 percent, compared with 35.8 percent during the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, the geographical distribution of imports indicates that China, Saudi Arabia, the USA, India, the UAE, Germany and Türkiye were the main source markets during the first eight months of 2023; accounting for 55.3 percent of imports, compared to 55.6 percent during the same period of 2022.



■ Re-Exports

The value of re-exported goods in August 2023 increased by JD 8.4 million, or 15.6 percent, compared to the same month of 2022, to stand at JD 62.4 million. As for the first eight months of 2023, re-export decreased by 6.8 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 440.4 million.

■ Trade Balance

The trade balance deficit decreased by JD 211.1 million, or 18.9 percent in August 2023, compared to the same month of 2022, to reach JD 904.8 million. As for the first eight months of 2023, trade balance deficit decreased by 10.8 percent, compared to the same period of 2022, to reach JD 6,211.5 million.

□ Total Workers' Remittances Receipts

Total workers' remittances receipts increased during the first three quarters of 2023 by JD 16.7 million, or 0.9 percent, to stand at JD 1,817.1 million, compared to the same period of 2022.

□ Travel

■ Receipts

Travel receipts increased by 37.7 percent during the first three quarters of 2023, to register JD 4,125.8 million, compared to the same period of 2022.

■ Payments

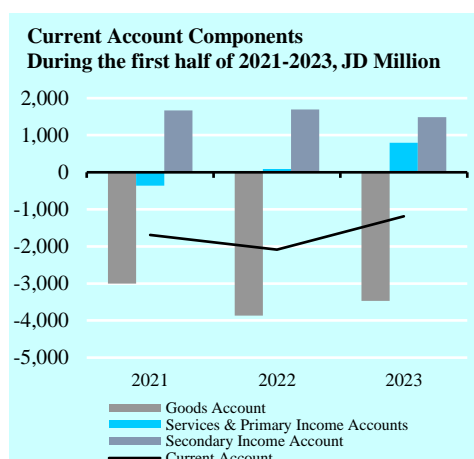
Travel payments increased by 32.9 percent during the first three quarters of 2023, to register JD 1,055.5 million, compared to the same period of 2022.

□ Balance of Payments

The preliminary data for the balance of payments during the first half of 2023 reveals the following:

- **The current account** recorded a deficit of JD 1,187.2 million (7.1 percent of GDP), compared to a deficit of JD 2,087.2 million (13.0 percent of GDP) during the same half of 2022. Meanwhile, the current account deficit (excluding grants) decreased to reach JD 1,437.2 million (8.6 percent of GDP), compared to a deficit of JD 2,347.1 million (14.6 percent of GDP) during the same period of 2022. This was an outcome of the following developments:

- ◆ A decrease in the goods account deficit by JD 402.8 million, or 10.4 percent, to reach JD 3,466.6 million, compared to a deficit of JD 3,869.4 million.



- ◆ An increase in the services account surplus by JD 828.7 million, to reach JD 1,218.0 million, compared to a surplus of JD 389.3 million.
- ◆ The primary income account recorded a deficit of JD 423.7 million, compared to a deficit of JD 302.1 million. This was mainly due to the increase in the deficit of investment income (net) to reach JD 521.4 million, compared to deficit of JD 398.9 million, and the increase of “compensation of employees (net)” surplus by JD 0.9 million to reach JD 97.7 million.
- The secondary income recorded a net surplus of JD 1,485.1 million, compared to a net surplus of JD 1,695.0 million. This was a result of a decrease in net surplus of other sectors transfers by JD 200.0 million to reach JD 1,235.1 million, and the decrease in net surplus of the public sector (foreign grants) by JD 9.9 million to reach JD 250.0 million.

- As for the capital and financial transactions during the first half of 2023, the capital account registered a net inflow of JD 15.0 million, compared to a net inflow of JD 19.0 million during the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, the financial account registered a net inflow of JD 1,501.2 million during the first half of 2023, compared to a net inflow of JD 1,853.5 million during the same period of 2022, this could be attributed to the following:
 - ◆ Foreign direct investment recorded an inflow of JD 550.4 million compared to an inflow of JD 455.3 million.
 - ◆ Portfolio investment recorded a net inflow of JD 768.8 million compared to a net outflow of JD 379.0 million.
 - ◆ Other investment registered a net inflow of JD 89.4 million, compared to a net inflow of JD 898.9 million.
 - ◆ CBJ's reserve assets registered a decrease by JD 161.1 million, compared to a decrease by JD 890.9 million.

□ International Investment Position (IIP)

The IIP, which represents the Kingdom's net position (stock) of external financial assets and liabilities, displayed an obligation to abroad of JD 37,719.8 million at the end of the first half of 2023, compared to a net obligation by JD 36,642.8 million at the end of 2022. This was due to the following developments:

- An increase in the position of external assets (the stock of claims, obligations and financial assets) for all residing economic sectors in the Kingdom by JD 310.3 million at the end of the first half of 2023 to reach JD 21,261.9 million, compared to its level at the end of 2022. This was mainly due to the increase of both trade credit of other sectors abroad by JD 155.9 million, currency and deposits of licensed banks abroad by JD 137.6 million, and the increase in the licensed banks loans to abroad by JD 39.6 million.

- An increase in the position of external liabilities (the stock of claims, obligations and financial liabilities) on all residing economic sectors in the Kingdom by JD 1,387.3 million at the end of the first half of 2023, to reach JD 58,981.7 million, compared to its level at the end of 2022. This was due to the following developments:
 - ◆ An increase in the stock of portfolio investment in the kingdom by JD 595.0 million, to stand at JD 7,507.6 million.
 - ◆ An increase in the stock of direct investment in the kingdom by JD 504.4 million, to stand at JD 27,835.3 million.
 - ◆ An increase in the deposits of non-residents at the banking sector by JD 369.2 million, to stand at JD 10,761.6 million (increase by JD 393.1 million for the licensed banks, and a decrease by JD 23.9 million for the CBJ).
 - ◆ An increase in outstanding balance of government loans (long-term) by JD 124.5 million, to stand at JD 6,989.2 million.
 - ◆ A decrease in outstanding balance of licensed banks loans (short-term) by JD 137.8 million, to stand at JD 648.5 million.
 - ◆ A decrease of trade credits to non-residents in the kingdom by JD 94.0 million, to stand at JD 867.1 million.
 - ◆ A decrease in outstanding balance of other sectors' loans (long-term) by JD 59.6 million, to stand at JD 1,945.6 million.