

# Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the economic conditions of families in Jordan

## Survey Study



Phenix center for Economic & Informatics studies

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## Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies

The Phenix Center for Economic & Informatics Studies is a non-governmental organization dedicated to independent policy research and measuring public opinions on impactful current and emerging issues in areas of economics, society, and its legislative environment in Jordan. The Center was founded in Amman, Jordan in 2003 under the registration number 142203. It works to promote a sustainable developmental paradigm in Jordan, rooted in human rights and the principles of democratic governance by focusing on reforming the labor policies, lifting of restrictions on freedom of association, and strengthening of social protection policies. The Center specializes in promoting inclusivity in development processes. It compiles databases of relevant actors and stakeholders, develops research, studies, papers and reports, conducts conferences and advocacy campaigns, and empowers several actors to take part in steering development through capacity building.

## Surveys and Polls

This unit undertakes preparing and carrying out public polls and field surveys in alignment with the foundational principals of the Center and according to project objectives. To date the unit has successfully executed various surveys and polls on behalf of organizations and institutions on topics such as perspectives of Jordanians regarding the local economy, and their confidence in the economy.

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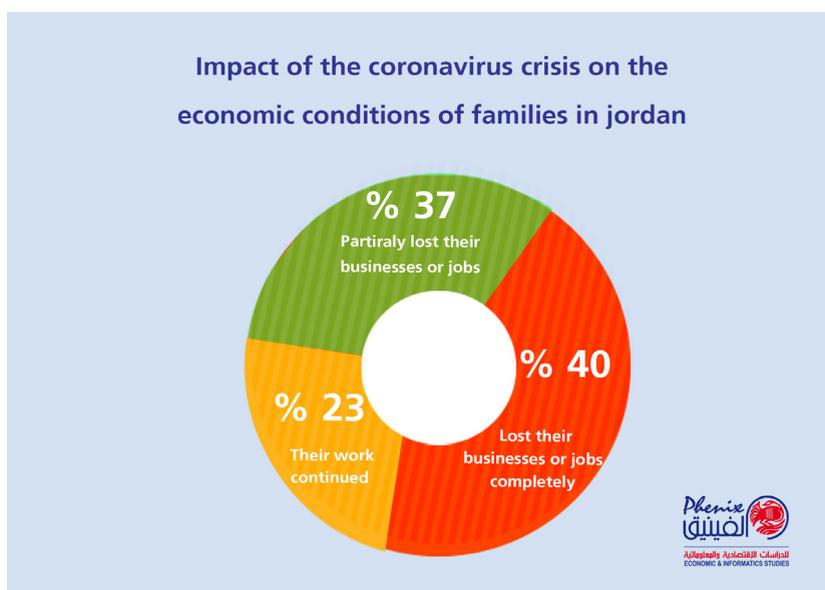
## Preface

This survey study was developed and conducted by the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies- an independent research institution- during the third week of May 2020, and it aimed at identifying the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the economic conditions of families in Jordan.

A total of 2120 respondents from all over the Kingdom's governorates participated in the survey, where the data was collected using the Google Form application, during the period between May 19 and May 24. This period was strategically selected as two months have passed since the beginning of the economic shutdown in Jordan. For the selection of the sample, the method of Simple random sampling was used, aiming at 95 % confidence, and 3% margin of error is.

## Key findings:

- 40% of the survey respondents reported that a family member had lost his/her job or business during the period between mid-March and mid-May 2020, suffering a complete loss of their livelihoods. The study also found that 37% of respondents reported that one of their family members had partly lost his/her job or business, while the jobs or jobs of 23% of the respondents were not affected by the crisis. The study showed that the large majority of those whose jobs were not affected were workers in the public sector (civil and military).

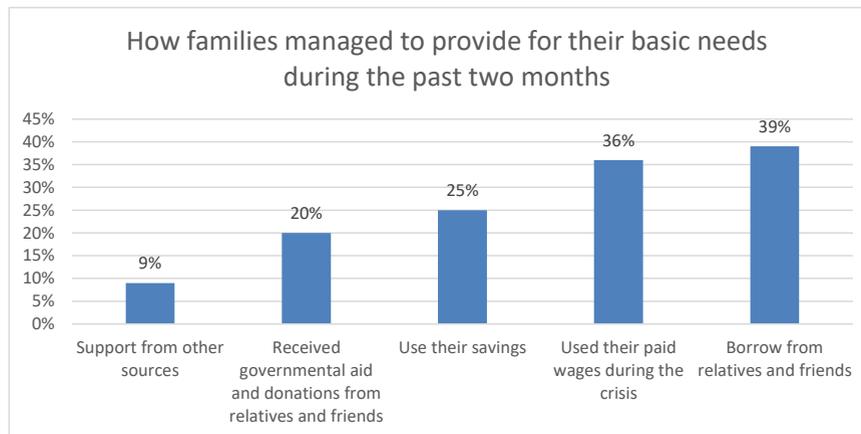


- Besides, the results indicated that 36% of the respondents working in the private sector reported that their work or jobs were completely stopped, while 45% of them indicated that their jobs or businesses were partially suspended.
- The study found that 57% of self-employed workers have completely stopped working, and 29% have partially suspended their work.
- In addition, the study found that 48% of workers in international organizations and local and foreign civil society organizations have not lost their jobs during the past two months, while 39% of them have partially suspended their jobs. The workers in this sector were the least affected by the crisis, especially compared to workers in the private sector and self-employed.
- The results of the study also indicated that among the respondents men's jobs or men-owned businesses were most affected by the economic shutdown. 42% of the men respondents reported that their jobs or businesses had to stop completely, compared to 30% of women respondents.
- The same difference between men and women workers applies to those whose jobs did not stop, as 29% of the women respondents reported that their work/jobs did not stop, while 22% of the respondents reported that their work/jobs were in place during the two months under study. Conversely, women were more affected than men by partial business or employment stoppages, with 41% of women respondents reporting that their jobs or businesses were partially affected compared to 36% of the men respondents.
- On the other hand, the study found that 20.9% of respondents reported that their income was not affected by any change during the two months in question (from mid-March to mid-May 2020), 19.7% of respondents indicated that 30% of their wages had been deducted, and 10.3% of the respondents reported that 50% of their monthly wages have been deducted.

**Respondents' income and businesses have been affected in the past two months**

| <b>Degree of affected</b>             | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Income was not affected by any change | 20.9              |
| 30% of their wages had been deducted  | 19.7              |
| 50% of their wages had been deducted  | 10.3              |
| Permanently fired from their jobs     | 7.9               |
| Temporarily dismissed                 | 4.8               |
| Forced to take leave without pay      | 3.7               |
| Forced to take annual leave           | 1.0               |
| They do not get regular pay           | 31.7              |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>100</b>        |

- In regard to social protection, 34.2% of the respondents stated that they are not covered by any of the social protections available in Jordan (social security, civil retirement, military retirement).
- Also, 7.9% of the respondents indicated that they were permanently fired from their jobs, 4.8% reported that they were temporarily dismissed, while 3.7% of the respondents were forced to take leave without pay, and 1% of the respondents were forced to take annual leave.
- The results also indicated that the percentage of males covered in the social protection systems available in Jordan is slightly higher than the percentage of females, registering 66% among men compared to 60% among females.
- The results of the study indicated that 79% of the respondents did not benefit from the protection programs provided by the Social Security Corporation to face the repercussions of the crisis, with no difference between men and women.
- In terms of how families managed to provide for their basic needs during the past two months under study, 39% of respondents' families had to borrow from relatives and friends, 25% of them had to use their savings, 20% received governmental aid and donations from relatives and friends. Finally, 9% of the families obtained support from other sources, while 36% of the families used their paid wages during the crisis. (taking in to account, that some families used more than one source).



- Regarding future expectations, 81% of respondents expect that their family income will decrease during the remainder of this year 2020, 16.1% of respondents expect that their family income will remain the same, while 2.9% of respondents expect that their family income will increase.
- Besides, 64.7% of respondents expected that their personal and family's spending levels will decrease during the remainder of the year 2020, 21.2% expect that they will increase, while 14.1% of respondents expect that they will remain the same.
- The gender distribution of the sample was 76% male and 24% female. Furthermore, 33 % of respondents were in the age group of 40-49, followed by 29% of respondents in the category of 30-39 years old, 17% in the age group of 50-59, 16% in the category from 18 to 29 years old, 5% in the category from 60 to 69 years old, and 1 % in the age group from 70 years old and above.\
- Regarding the educational level of the respondents in the online survey, 27 % of them were holders of a bachelor's degree, 27% of high school certificate, 17% of up to tenth grade, 15% of respondents were middle diploma holders, 9% were postgraduate degrees, and 6% had a vocational training certificate.
- 94% of respondents were Jordanian nationals and 6%, non-Jordanian (Palestinian, including Gazans, along with the sons/daughters of Jordanian mothers, in addition to Syrian, Egyptian, and Iraqi citizens).



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