The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made progress in the Global Competitiveness Report 2020 of the International Institute for Administrative Development, to be the only country from the Middle East region which is progressing in its rank, as Saudi Arabia’s competition in 2018 ranked 39th to jump to the 26th place in the past year 2019 before climbing to the 24th place in the new version of 2020, recording an exceptional improvement in the Middle East.

According to the Global Competitiveness Center, Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country that has seen progress in its report this year, as the level of most sectors in Saudi performance has risen against the past three years in which the Kingdom has recorded tangible leaps in the classification with a significant and steady evaluation increase in performance from 2018.

According to the Global Competitiveness Report, the “Kingdom’s Vision 2030” implemented programs and strategies supported the escalation of the Saudi benchmark in standards, as the Kingdom achieved progress in 3 out of four general benchmarks, and its performance improved in 13 items in the detailed evaluation. Which the report describes as a clear indication of the Kingdom’s implementation of a number of programs and strategies that are in line with the achievement of the Kingdom’s “2030 Vision,” and which is in the interest of the Saudi citizen and achieving a prosperous national economy.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Edited)
Global Foreign Investment Fell by 40 percent

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) expected that the foreign direct investment in the world will decrease by 40% this year due to the pandemic of the emerging Corona virus (Covid 19), as developing countries will suffer the most from the consequences of declining investment.

According to estimates, foreign direct investment will decline during the current year from one trillion dollars, for the first time since 2005, compared to 1.54 trillion dollars last year. Foreign direct investment is also expected to decline by 5 to 10 percent over the next year, to return to growth in 2022. The developing economies are expected to experience the largest decline in foreign direct investment due to their dependence on foreign funds for manufacturing and extracting raw materials.

The world’s largest 5,000 multinationals, which account for most of the foreign direct investment, have cut their expected profits for the current year by nearly 40 percent. During the first quarter of this year, UNCTAD recorded a decline in cross-border acquisitions and mergers in the world by 50 percent annually.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Edited)
لبنان: ارتفاع عجز الموازنة 70.9 في المئة

أظهر تقرير صادر عن البنك الدولي، وجود تدهور كبير في الوضع المالي للبلدين، حيث تراجعت الإيرادات العامة من دولار خلال الربع الأول من عام 2020، وبحسب التقرير فإنه في ظل الركود الاقتصادي وربط جائحة كورونا، الذي وصل إلى لبنان، شهد عجز للمالية عام 2020 بأكثر من 30 مليار دولار، في أخر شهاب تدفقت صافياً في المالية العامة اللبنانية.

وأظهر الأرقام الأخيرة الصادرة عن وزارة المالية اللبنانية، صقل عجز المالي العام زيادة كبيرة بنسبة 70.9% مقارنة بالفترة المماثلة من العام الماضي، وذلك بسبب الإخفاق الكبير في الإيرادات العامة بنسبة 13.6%، بالتنزيم مع نمو في النفقات العامة السنوية بنسبة 9.5% خلال الربع الأول من عام 2020. ليتحول ميزان المقدار الأولي، بين فائض بواقع 30 مليار دولار، إلى عجز قدره 2.6 مليار دولار خلال الربع الأول من عام 2019 إلى 3.9 مليار دولار خلال الربع الأول من عام 2020، بينما سجلت النفقات العامة نمواً من 3.5 مليار دولار، إلى 3.9 مليار دولار، وبناء على ذلك، إذ عجز المانية العامة بنقاط من 969 مليون دولار خلال العام الرابع الأول من عام 2019 إلى 1.655 مليون دولار خلال الفترة المماثلة من عام 2020.

المصدر (موقعة الاقتصاد الإقتصادي، صدر).

Lebanon: Budget Deficit Rose by 70.9 percent

A report issued by the Audi Lebanese Bank showed a significant deterioration in the financial situation during the first quarter of 2020. According to the report, in light of the economic recession and amid the pandemic of the Coronavirus, which reached Lebanon, the first quarter of 2020, precisely by the end of February has witnessed a net decline in Lebanese public finances.

According to the latest figures issued by the Lebanese Ministry of Finance, the public finance deficit increased by 70.9% compared to the same period of last year. This came due to the large decrease in public revenues by 13.6%, in conjunction with a growth in annual public expenditures of 9.5% during the first quarter of 2020. The initial balance of payments, from a surplus of $30 million, to a deficit of $676 million between the two periods.

Public revenues decreased from $2.6 billion during the first quarter of 2019 to $2.2 billion during the first quarter of 2020, while public expenditures grew from $3.5 billion to $3.9 billion. Accordingly, the fiscal deficit increased significantly from $969 million during the first quarter of 2019 to $1.655 million during the same period in 2020.

Source (Economic Bulletin Website, Edited)

الاندفاع العربي في مؤشر التنافسية العالمي

الكرملة الأردنية الهاشمية في المركز الرابع عربياً، والمجموعة الثالثة والخمسين عالمياً بين أكثر الدول تنافسية، وفقاً للنسخة الثانية من كتاب التنافسية العالمية الصادر عن مركز التنافسية العالمية التابع للاجتداد الدولي للتنمية الإدارية، والثلاثين من الكتب السنوية للتنافسية العالمية في المركز الرابع عربياً، والرابع العربي في جمهورية عمان والشام.

وأظهر التقرير انخفاض الأداء العربي في الظروف الصعبة التي يواجهها العالم في الوقت الحالي، حيث أن علامات التدهور بدأت تظهر على الاقتصاد العالمي في آخر العام الماضي، فيما تشكّل نتائج تراجع جائحة كورونا تأليفها على مختلف جوانب الحياة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية حول العالم.

Jordan is the 4th Arab Country in the Global Competitiveness Report

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ranked fourth in the Arab world, and the 58th globally among the most competitive countries, according to the 32nd edition of the annual book on global competitiveness issued by the International Competitiveness Center of the International Institute for Administrative Development (UNCTAD).

In spite of the slight decline in the performance of Jordan in this year’s report, by an average of one point, the matter is considered evidence of the stability of the Jordanian economy in the difficult circumstances facing the world today. Whereas, signs of weakness began to appear on the global economy late last year, and later the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic began to overshadow various aspects of social and economic life around the world.

Despite the current situation, Jordan was able to enhance its competitiveness in a number of the report’s indicators, especially the long-term indicators, which is in line with Jordan achieving the 2025 vision: global trade, prices, tax policy, business legislation, technological infrastructure, and education. They are essential indicators in order to facilitate the establishment and development of business in the Kingdom, especially in the digital framework that dominates the business world, and that changes the nature of business and the ways in which our economies operate.

Source (Al-Dustour Newspaper-Jordan, Edited)