The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that the losses of the Palestinian economy for the current year have reached more than $2.5 billion, compared to 2019, due to the repercussions left by the Coronavirus pandemic. The per capita gross domestic product decreased by 15.6 percent, compared to the previous year, to reach $2,840.3. The first quarter of this year witnessed a decrease in the quantities of the industrial production index by 6.17 percent, and the decline continued during the second quarter, reaching more than 2.52 percent.

The consumer price index in Palestine witnessed a decline in price levels during the first three quarters of 2020, and the peak of this decline was during the second quarter, by 1.18 percent, compared to the first quarter of the year. Inbound tourism spending decreased by 68 percent, compared to 2019, to reach $466 million, while the losses of the inbound tourism sector to Palestine were estimated at about $1.021 billion for the year 2020. In contrast, the unemployment rate in the second quarter was 27 percent; 49 percent in the Gaza Strip and 15 percent in the West Bank.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)
The Moroccan government presented the draft budget for 2021 in front of the two houses of parliament, where the general principles of the project centered on accelerating the implementation of the economic recovery plan to overcome the effects of the pandemic, and making an exceptional financial effort to preserve employment opportunities, produce wealth and support investment.

The draft budget law stipulates an increase in expenditures on the health and education sectors by 6 billion dirhams ($651.6 million). In this context, Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Benchaaboun explained that “the education budget will be increased by 4 billion dirhams ($434.4 million) and health by two billion dirhams ($217.2 million), noting that the education and health sectors will benefit from 3,500 new job opportunities for the fiscal year 2021.”

The draft budget aims to reduce the budget deficit to 6.5 percent of the gross domestic product, compared to 7.5 percent according to the revised draft of the 2020 budget. The draft budget approves steps to support youth employment, while the total expenditures for the next year will amount to 331 billion and 456 million dirhams ($36 billion).

The Finance Bill for the year 2021 focuses on three main axes, the first of which is to accelerate the implementation of the economic recovery plan to overcome the economic effects of the pandemic, and to make an exceptional financial effort to preserve job opportunities and produce wealth, support national investment, preserve the purchasing power of citizens, support youth project financing, and integrate the unstructured sector.

Source (Al-Arab Newspaper-London, Edited)

The IMF expects an economic contraction of 4.1 percent in the Arab region

A report issued by the International Monetary Fund on the Middle East and Central Asia showed that the return of the countries of the region to the levels of economic growth that they were witnessing before the crisis of the Coronavirus may take 10 years, as long-standing weaknesses in the region put pressure on its recovery.

According to the IMF, the "Covid-19" crisis represents the fastest-impacting economic shock in recent history, indicating that the economic wound, which includes long-term losses for growth, income and employment, will likely be deeper and longer-term than that which followed the global financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. Revealing that the estimates indicate that after 5 years from now, the level of GDP in the countries of the region will be 12 percent lower than the pre-crisis trends, and it may take more than a decade to return to this trend level.

The International Monetary Fund expects the economies of the region to shrink 4.1 percent this year, which is a bigger contraction of 1.3 percent compared to the fund’s expectations in April.

In this regard, the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the IMF, Jihad Azour, stated that "the crisis has exacerbated vulnerabilities, and the region will suffer from its worst economic performance, surpassing the record contraction of 4.7 percent in 1978.”

Source (Al-Arabiya.net, Edited)
The International Monetary Fund, in its new report on the global economic outlook, expects Lebanon’s nominal GDP to reach $18.7 billion in 2020, down from $52.5 billion in 2019. When adjusted for GDP, the real GDP growth is -25.0% in 2020, compared to -6.9% in 2019.

According to the IMF, the severe economic crisis that has erupted since the last quarter of 2019, the state’s failure to pay its external debts in the first quarter of 2020, and the monetary deviation that led to the discrepancy between the official and parallel market prices, and the epidemic Covid-19 crisis that followed it, as well as the closure of the country for several weeks, and the devastating explosion in the Beirut port in the middle of the summer, all factors that affected economic activity and caused its stagnation.

The IMF expected inflation to reach 145% in 2020 (compared to 7.0% in 2019), which raises the average income to 85.5%. This increase in income comes as a result of the monetary deviation, and in the context of the significant difference recently observed between the black market rate and the official exchange rate at 1,507.5 Lebanese pounds. On the general level, the International Monetary Fund expects an increase in Lebanon’s return to GDP from 10.5% in 2019 to 16.5% in 2020.

Source (Economic Bulletin Website, Edited)
كشف البنك الدولي في تقريره الاقتصادي الصادر بعنوان "تعزيز التعاون التجاري: إحياء التكامل الإقليمي للشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا في عصر ما بعد جائحة كورونا"، عن انكماش معدل الناتج المحلي الإجمالي للأردن بنسبتين: 5.5% العام الأمني، و3.8% العام المقبل و2.2% العام الحالي.

والتقرير أن التوقعات الخاصة بالقطاع النموذجي في الأردن تظهر تراجعاً في النشاط الاقتصادي، بينما تميز بين تأثيرات الفقر في الأجيال القصيرة والطويلة للتنبؤ بالاستهلاك الشهري للأسرة مع تفشي الجائحة أو في غيابها.

ووفقاً لتقرير البنك الدولي، أدّى الإغلاق الناجم عن جائحة "كورونا" إلى انخفاض معدل الفقر الرسمي الذي سجل 15.7% في المئة في مسح 2018-2017 إلى 15% في بداية العام 2020 باعتبار خط الأساس، كما قد تؤدي خسائر النشاط الاقتصادي إلى زيادة معدل الفقر بين الأسر الأردنية إلى ما يقارب 29.9% في المئة.

ومن المتوقع أن تؤدي خسائر الدخل الأولية إلى زيادة معدل الفقر بين الأسر الأردنية إلى ما يقارب الضعف. 29.9% إلـ 5.5% في المئة.

المصدر (جريدة الدستور الأردنية، بتصريف)

The World Bank: Jordan's GDP Growth Contracted by 5.5%

In its economic report, entitled "Enhancing Trade Cooperation: Reviving Regional Integration in the Middle East and North Africa in the Post-Coronavirus Era," the World Bank revealed a contraction in Jordan's GDP growth rate -5.5% this year, 3.8% next year and 2.2% In the year 2022.

The report showed that the projections for the typical sector in Jordan show a decline in economic activity, while a distinction is made between the effects of poverty in the short and long terms to predict the monthly consumption of the family with the outbreak of the pandemic or in its absence.

According to the World Bank report, the closure caused by the "Corona" pandemic led to a decrease in employment income in the private sector ranging between 30 percent and 100 percent (depending on whether the sector was open or closed officially or informally) and a decrease in agricultural income by 25 percent (agriculture and livestock), a decrease in income from international transfers by 15 percent, and a decrease in domestic remittances by 50 percent. The official poverty rate, which was recorded at 15.7 percent in the 2017-2018 survey, is expected to reach 153 at the beginning of the year 2020 as the baseline, and primary income losses may lead to an increase in the poverty rate among Jordanian families nearly doubling to 29.9 percent.

Source (Ad-Dustour Newspaper-Jordan, Edited)