Jordan Approves the 2023 Draft Budget for Increasing Revenues to Reform Public Finances

The Jordanian Cabinet approved a draft budget that focuses on increasing revenues as part of reforming public finances to ease record debt burdens and stimulate economic growth while continuing to rely on foreign aid.

The government views the next year with optimism as being decisive in reducing the fiscal deficit and putting more pressure on debt, in conjunction with the implementation of development programs to gradually move away from the risks caused by the pandemic.

Finance Minister Muhammad Al-Issis pointed out that "through the draft budget, the state is expected to spend 11.4 billion dinars ($16 billion) and pave the way for a recovery in growth."

The government estimates that the deficit will reach about 3.6 billion dollars, with revenues of about 12.4 billion dollars. It is expected that the government will reap more revenues that will reach about $13.4 billion, an increase of 10.4 percent over the current year, of which $1.13 billion is in the form of external grants, a slight increase from $1.12 billion this year.

Jordan has been at the forefront of countries in the Arab region in obtaining international aid for years, given the lack of qualitative growth engines other than relying on revenues from certain sectors, primarily tourism, exports and the industrial sector.

Source (Al-Arab newspaper of London, edited)
Remittances of Expatriates in the World Exceeded $794 Billion in 2022

The World Bank has suggested that the growth of expatriate remittances will slow down during the next year, with the continuation of an adverse wind that still cast a shadow on the economies of countries due to the war in Ukraine and the accompanying alarming increases in costs. In a recent report, the World Bank warned of a two percent decline in the flow of money from workers abroad to their countries of origin. The warning comes while the volume of remittances has increased by about 5 percent since the beginning of this year, reaching approximately $626 billion.

Remittances are a vital source of household income in low- and middle-income countries, helping to reduce poverty, build resilience, and improve school enrollment rates for children.

And the “World Bank” indicated that officially registered remittances increased in 2022 with the reopening of host economies and increased employment amid the recession of the “Covid-19” pandemic, but the rise in prices negatively affected the real income of expatriates. The bank's report showed that expectations of a strong growth rate for 2022 were clear because it came after an increase of 10.2 percent in 2021. Global remittance flows, including to advanced economies, are expected to reach $794 billion in 2022.

Source (Al-Arab Newspaper of London, Edited)

The Saudi Private Sector is Recording the Highest Growth Rate Since 2015

The non-oil private sector in Saudi Arabia grew at the fastest pace in seven years last November, supported by a strong increase in new orders and continued confidence in the growth outlook.

The PMI rose to 58.5 points in November from 57.2 points in October, marking the highest reading since September 2021, with a significant difference from the 50-point level that separates growth from contraction.

New order growth accelerated to a 14-month high, prompting increased purchases on the back of improving economic conditions and increasing demand and investment. The production sub-index, which measures business activity, rose to 64.6 points in November from 61.3 points in the previous month, while the new orders sub-index rose to 65.7 points from 62.9 points in October. The survey showed significant growth in the manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail sales and services sectors. Besides the strong domestic performance, new exports also recorded the fastest increase since November 2015. November saw a more moderate rise in employment compared to previous survey data, and increased global inflationary pressures led to higher costs and a faster increase in excise duties.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)