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**The Relationship between Unemployment and Financial
Policy - A Case Study of the State of Iraq for the Period
(2003-2014)**

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Abstract:

The phenomenon of unemployment of various kinds is one of the most important problems that have suffered and still suffer from the Iraqi economy, and this phenomenon existed before the US occupation of Iraq in 2003, but worsened and increased rates after 2003, up to 16% in 2014, because of the solution of many institutions Civil and military, which provided employment opportunities for thousands of citizens of different professions and specialties, and successive Iraqi governments sought after 2003 to address this phenomenon or reduce it through seeking to create employment opportunities in various ways and these ways are the financial policy and the included revenues and expenses in general a Which are included in the annual budget of the state.

Introduction:

The Iraqi economy has suffered and continues to suffer from problems and imbalances in its economic structures. Like most of the developing economies, most of its revenues come from the export of oil. Oil revenues account for 90% of its national income, while the contribution of other sectors, especially the agricultural and industrial sectors, is minimal. Not to mention other economic problems such as tax evasion, administrative and financial corruption, military spending due to repeated wars, and the dismissal of thousands of employees after the occupation of Iraq in 2003, with the entry of tens of thousands of university graduates annually to the labor market. The whole of unemployment and the associated repercussions of economic and social serious, and tried Iraqi governments After 2003 through the financial policy and its various tools to put an end to this problem through the balance of the general and the included revenues and expenses, to create employment opportunities that will alleviate the high unemployment rates year after year but without success.

The problem of research: The economic policies adopted by the Iraqi governments after 2003 in order to address economic problems (including unemployment) may not have served the purpose of addressing this problem because of the many challenges faced by the political process and reflected the impact on the economic reality of the country.

Research Objective: The aim of the research is to find out the role that fiscal policy can play in reducing unemployment rates in Iraq after 2003.

Research Hypothesis The hypothesis of the research stems from the idea that the financial policy adopted by the Iraqi governments after 2003 did not have a role in creating real economic development due to its reliance on the oil sector as a main source of national income and neglect of the rest of the sectors, especially

the agricultural and industrial sectors. Has been working to reduce high unemployment rates, especially among college graduates.

The importance of research: The importance of research is reflected in the quest to identify the problem of unemployment in the Iraqi economy and the role of financial policy in the possibility of reducing rates through various tools.

Spatial and temporal boundaries: Iraq for the period from 2003 – 2014.

Methodology: The researchers adopted the descriptive approach and the standard analysis of the role of financial policy in the possibility of reducing unemployment rates in Iraq for the period 2003-2014.

Structure of the research: In order to reach the goal of the research and validation of the hypothesis, the research section into three sections and the following:

- The first topic: entitled Unemployment and financial policy (theoretical framework and general concepts).
- The second topic: came under the title of the reality of unemployment and financial policy in Iraq for the period (2003 - 2014).
- The third topic: Measuring the impact of the variables of the financial policy on unemployment rates in Iraq for the period (2003-2014).

The first topic: Unemployment and financial policy (theoretical framework and general concepts)

First: Unemployment (its concept, types and causes in Iraq after 2003)

1 - The concept of unemployment: The phenomenon of unemployment is one of the most serious problems that threaten the stability of countries and progress, and the severity of this phenomenon from one country to another and from society to another, which is the cause of many social problems, as well as being a threat to the political stability and economic states. Of the labor force on economically productive work will be compulsory despite the ability and willingness to work and produce (1). The International Labor Organization (ILO) defined the unemployed person as a person who is above the age of work and without work, and is able to work, desire and seek it, and accept it at the prevailing wage, but to no avail (2).

We conclude from the above that not everyone looking for work is unemployed and at the same time not everyone looking for work is within the circle of the unemployed. There are two basic conditions for defining the unemployed according to the official statistics: (3)

A person must be able to work.

B - to seek employment and did not find it

2: I am Unemployed: Unemployment can be divided into the following types(4).

A) Periodic Unemployment: b) Seasonal Unemployment, Partial Unemployment, and Fractional Unemployment

H. Structural Unemployment: Compulsory Unemployment: Voluntary Unemployment: Unconscious Unemployment:

3: The causes of unemployment in Iraq: There are several reasons for unemployment, especially in Iraq, including (5):

A - the nature of rent for the Iraqi economy, as oil revenues constitute about 90% of its GDP - the dissolution of many state institutions and the demobilization of its employees after the occupation of Iraq in 2003. Lack of clear economic and social strategy. W - Slow or decline of the process of economic reform H - Wars and political instability, security and economic e - Increase military spending, especially after the entry of a supporter of Iraq. Non-harmonization between the outputs of education and the needs of the market.

Second/ Financial Policy - (its concept, objectives and tools) (6):

1 - The concept of financial policy: defines the financial policy as a set of means and measures taken by the government to influence the economic activity of the country through the public revenues and public expenditures contained in the annual budget year., 6 It also means how to use taxes and government spending and public borrowing by Government to achieve economic stability or economic development.

2. Objectives of the fiscal policy:

The objective of the financial policy is to achieve the following objectives: (7)

A - Increasing investment rates: B - Increase employment opportunities to face unemployment Promotion of economic stability: W Addressing the problem of inflation: Re-distribution of national income

3 Financial Policy Tools (8):

The financial policy includes the tools used to achieve economic stability in the event of cyclical fluctuations in the economy can be clarified the most important of these tools:

Taxation: Taxation of various types is a major tool for fiscal policy and is an effective way to reduce consumption and provide financial resources to the state budget to finance its activities and serve the objectives of economic development.

B- Public expenditure: Most governments and public spending tend to establish projects that private investors cannot establish because of the great risks they may face, such as heavy industries,

C - Public debt.

4 - Functions of financial policy (11): a - allocation by - distribution - stability
w - growth

5 - stages of the development of financial policy in Iraq (12):

A- the semi-rent financial policy stage;

B- The stage of the financial policy of rent.

C- The financial policy stage in light of the financial difficulty.

D- The financial policy stage in the light of financial ease.

6 - The problems faced by the financial policy in Iraq are:

A - Absence of the clear objectives of the financial policy.

B - The traditional number of public budgets.

C - The lack of financial maturity.

D - The lack of financial sustainability.

E- Public debt.

F - and other problems

The second topic: The reality of unemployment and fiscal policies in Iraq after 2003

First: the reality of unemployment in Iraq after 2003 (13):

The population of Iraq was estimated by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning in the year 2014 to be about 36 million. However, unemployment rates during the study period were high until it reached 16% in 2014, as shown in Table (1)

Table (1) Unemployment Rates in Iraq for the Period (2003-2014)

the year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Unemployment rate	22.1	24.8	18.0	17.5	11.7	15.34	15.2	15.0	11.1	11.0	11.0	16.0

Source / Table of the two researchers based on:

- Muhammad Nasser Ismail et al., The Reality of Employment and Unemployment in Iraq for the Period 1997-2004, Technical Journal, Administrative Research, vol. 2, 2008, p.
- Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology, Statistical Group for the years 2007-2014.

Analysis of Table 1 data on unemployment rates in Iraq for the period 2003-2014 shows that unemployment rates were fluctuating (up and down), ranging between 11% and 15% until 2013, and in 2014 it reached 16% It is a high ratio.

Second: The reality of financial policies in Iraq after 2003 (14):

The economic policy of any country plays an important role in economic life. Due to the political, security and economic instability experienced by the country for several decades, the Iraqi economy has suffered structural and structural imbalances for long periods of time. This has led to a decline in

economic performance in general and increasing unemployment rates, The general budget of the country in most years because of wars and public debt and instability and increase military and consumer spending and the reduction of savings and investment and administrative and financial corruption and other matters, and to know the reality of financial policies in Iraq, it is necessary to study and know the reality of And offset by the annual general state during the period of study, as shown in Table 2:

Table (2)

Working budget for Iraq for the period (2003-2014) million dollars (current prices)

Year	General revenues	Overheads	Surplus / deficit
2003	1108	1024	84
2004	22699	22104	595
2005	27515	17918	9597
2006	33258	26310	6948
2007	43093	30806	12287
2008	67269	49794	117063
2009	47188	44929	2259
2010	59173	59135	38
2011	90976	65851	25125
2012	96885	73297	23588
2013	92344	86748	5596
2014	119760	140151	-20391

The table is prepared by researchers depending on the following sources:

1. The Central Bank of Iraq, Directorate of Statistics and Research, Annual Bulletin of Selected Years.
2. Ministry of Planning, Central Organization for Statistics, State Budget for selected years.
- 3- Ministry of Finance, General Budget Section of Iraq.

From Table (2) we note that the general budget in Iraq during the period of research has witnessed a situation of financial surpluses despite the planning of deficit budgets as the increase in global crude oil prices makes public revenues at the end of the fiscal year exceed estimated financial allocations except for some years Which has passed through Iraq both at the local or global level and the negative effects that have affected the Iraqi economy. It is clear from Table (2) that public revenues and public expenditures took an upward path for the period from 2003 to 2008, In 2009, both public revenues and public expenditures declined. Consequently, the financial surpluses also decreased, and then returned to rise for the following years until 2014. Public revenues decreased to (119760) million dollars compared to public expenditures amounting to (140151) million This deficit is due to the decrease in the prices of crude oil and the decrease in oil revenues accordingly, which directly affected the public revenues, because Iraq is a economy, economically and economically, which depends mainly on the financing of the general budget on Oil Revenue Bonus p This is due to the increase in public expenditures, especially military ones, because the country faces the threat of terrorism and increases the expenses of displaced families.

I. Structure of Public Revenues in Iraq for the Period (2003-2014) (15):

These include oil revenues and other revenues (tax, subsidies, grants, social contributions, fees, rentals, etc.) as shown in Table (3).

Table (3) Structure of Public Revenues in Iraq for the period (2003-2014)
million (current prices)

Year	Oil revenues	Other income	General revenues	* Oil revenues investment / General Revenues%	* Other Income / General Revenues%
2003		157	1108	85,83	14,17
2004	22455	245	22700	98,92	1,08
2005	26821	694	27515	97,47	2,53
2006	31549	1709	33258	94,86	5,14
2007	40806	2287	43093	94,69	5,31
2008	63167	4102	67269	93,90	6,1
2009	41771	5417	47188	88,52	11,48
2010	57251	1922	59173	96,75	3,25
2011	73746	17230	90976	81,06	18,94
2012	76406	20479	96885	78,86	21,14
2013	72890	19453	92343	78,93	21,07
2014	88112	31648	119760	73,57	26,43

Source: Shaima Abdul Hadi, Impact of Global Oil Fluctuations in Budget Financing 2003-2015 Comparative Study of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Master Thesis, Faculty of Management and Economics, Babel University, 2016, p.

1. Oil revenues:

Which is the most important components of Iraqi public revenues because the Iraqi economy in general is a one-sided economy depends on oil exports to finance its budget, and table (3) shows that oil revenues have taken an increasing path and a volatile contribution to public revenues. For the years 2003 to 2009, where oil revenues decreased as a result of the global financial crisis and the decline in the prices of crude oil, and returned to rise again for the

years from 2010 to 2012, and in 2013 has decreased oil revenues again, and in 2014 has returned to rise again.

2. Non-oil revenues:

Tax revenues represent the largest share of these revenues, but represent only a very small percentage of public revenues because of Iraq's suffering from a backward tax system due to several factors, the most important of which are tax evasion, financial and administrative corruption, low tax awareness among the public and tax exemptions for those with high incomes As well as the reduction of income tax rates from 40% to 15% as well as real estate income tax (vehicle sales taxes, land taxes and customs taxes) as per the CPA's orders for Iraq No. 12 of 2003 and No. 54, For the year 2004.

As shown in table (3), other (non-oil) revenues have experienced a clear fluctuation during the research period.

Second: Structure of public expenditure (16):

Public expenditure is divided into current (operating) and investment (capital) expenditures and can be clarified as follows:

1. Current expenditures: These expenditures include salaries and wages, pensions, transfer expenses, goods and services inputs, maintenance of assets and others, ie all current transactions of ministries and units.

And that the current expenditures in Iraq have taken an increasing path during the research period and a weighted contribution between the rise and fall as shown in table (4)

Table (4) Structure of Public Expenditures in Iraq for the Period (2003-2014)
Million Dollars (current prices)

year	Current expenditure	* Current / Overheads %	Investment expenses	* Investment expenses / Overheads%	Overheads
2003	922	90,03	102	9,97	1024
2004	20029	90,61	2075	9,39	22104
2005	14812	82,66	3106	17,34	17918
2006	22223	84,46	4087	15,54	26310
2007	24710	80,21	6096	19,79	30806
2008	39835	79,99	9959	20,01	49794
2009	35943	79,99	8986	20,01	44929
2010	42717	72,23	16418	27,77	59135
2011	50920	77,32	14931	22,68	65851
2012	56448	77,01	16849	22,99	73297
2013	61445	70,83	25303	29,17	86748
2014	84729	60,45	55422	39,55	140151

Source: Shaimaa Abdul Hadi, The Impact of Global Oil Price Fluctuations in Financing the General Budget for the Period 2013-2014, Comparative Study of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Master Thesis, Faculty of Management and Economics, Babel University, 2016, p. 102.

2. Investment expenditure (17):

Including expenditures for investment uses of public projects, reconstruction, reconstruction and expansion of production capacities. Table 4 shows that it took a volatile path with a gradual upward trend, with the exception of some years (2006 and 2011). Its contribution was 15.54%, 22.68% As a result of the increase in the share of oil revenues in public revenues.

A review of public expenditures shows that current expenditures have accounted for the bulk of public expenditure.

The third topic: Measuring the relationship between the variables of the fiscal policy and unemployment rates in Iraq for the period (2003-2014)

First: The theoretical framework of the standard model:

1. Stationary test:

The time series that describe macro-economic variables is often unstable because most of them change and grow together for a time, making their mean and variability unstable and time-bound. Therefore, it is necessary to test the stability of time series before estimating and processing them in case of instability and their degree of integration. The time series of the model variables to confirm their extent, in addition to determining the rank of each variable separately, using the unit root test, a delegation used the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test for this purpose.

The self-regression model of the lagged distributed time gaps is that the time series involved in the model should not be integrated in the same class; they are used when the time series are integrated at the level I (0) and in the first difference I (1) Lag periods for best long-term parameter results, so the ARDL model is one of the best models for the size of the search sample and the stability results of the time series of the selected model.

After the application of the ARDL model, we compare the calculated F with the F table in Pesaran (2001). If f is calculated greater than the tabular one, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative assumption with a long-term co-integration relationship between model variables.

Second: Characterization of the Standard Model:

According to the economic logic, the relationship between the above variables is inverse relationship between the current expenditure and unemployment rates reverse and also between investment expenditures and unemployment rates that the investment means opening new opportunities for work, as for oil revenues, it is clear that the increase means increasing public expenditure and therefore operational and investment and then the relationship is inverse Unemployment rates and so on other income.

variable	his symbol	its kind
Unemployment rates	Y	Follow
Current expenditure	X1	independent
Investment expenses	X2	independent
Oil Revenue	X3	independent
Non - oil revenues	X4	independent

Third: Measuring the impact of financial policy variables on unemployment rates:

1. Stability test:

In Table (5) below, the researcher used the developed Dicky-Fuller test to determine the stability of the time series. It was found that the variables (investment expenditure, current expenditure, oil revenues) stabilized at the level of 1% Other revenues) did not settle only in the first difference and at levels of moral ranged between 1% -5%.

variable	At a level with a fixed limit I (0)			At a level with a constant and general direction I (0)			At a level without the constant and general direction I (0)		
	Statistica l value	Critical values	The result	Statistica l value	Critical values	The result	Statistic al value	Critical values	The result
Y	1.888542-	4.200056- 3.175352- 2.728985-	Unstable	2.590173-	5.521860- 4.107833- 3.515047-	Unstab le	- 0.575995	2.792154- 1.977738- 1.602074-	Unstable
X ₁	1.341325-	4.297073- 3.212696- 2.747676-	Unstable	20.06355-	5.124875- 3.933364- 3.420030-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%	3.943170	2.816740- 1.982344- 1.601144-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%
X ₂	4.320912-	4.200056- 3.175352- 2.728985-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%	10.37201-	5.124875- 3.933364- 3.420030-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%	1.613764	2.792154- 1.977738- 1.602074-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 10%
X ₃	8.910394-	4.200056- 3.175352- 2.728985-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%	2.908365-	5.521860- 4.107833- 3.515047-	Unstab le	1.057260	2.792154- 1.977738- 1.602074-	Unstable
X ₄	1.258680-	4.200056- 3.175352- 2.728985-	Unstable	3.012585-	5.124875- 3.933364- 3.420030-	Unstab le	1.660747	2.792154- 1.977738- 1.602074-	Stable at a signifi cant level of 1%

Table (5)

Dicky Fuller test results at Level I (0)

Table of the numbers of researchers based on the results of Eviews 9

variable	At a level with a fixed limit I (0)			At a level with a constant and general direction I (0)			At a level without the constant and general direction I (0)		
	Statistical value	Critical values	The result	Statistical value	Critical values	The result	Statistical value	Critical values	The result
Y	2.797538-	- 4.582648 - 3.320969 - 2.801384	Unstable	4.035661-	- 5.835186 - 4.246503 - 3.590496	Stable at a significant level of 10%	2.508201-	- 2.886101 - 1.995865 - 1.599088	Stable at a significant level of 5%

X4	4.392780-	- 4.297073 - 3.212696 - 2.747676	Stable at a significant level of 5%	3.214149-	- 5.521860 - 4.107833 - 3.515047	Unstable	3.071146-	- 2.816740 - 1.982344 - 1.601144	Stable at a significant level of 1%
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Table (6)

Results of the stability of time series at the first difference I (1)

Dependent Variable: Y				
Method: ARDL				
Date: 09/21/17 Time: 14:12				
Sample (adjusted): 2004 2014				
Included observations: 11 after adjustments				
Maximum dependent lags: 1 (Automatic selection)				
Model selection method: Akaike info criterion (AIC)				
Dynamic regressors (1 lag, automatic): X1 X2 X3 X4				
Fixed regressors: C				
Number of models evaluated: 16				
Selected Model: ARDL (1, 1, 1, 1)				
Prob.*	t-Statistic	Std. Error	Coefficient	variable
0.5999	0.726805	18.46195	13.41824	Y(-1)
0.5396	0.882707	9.726540	8.585686	X1
0.6034	-0.718372	6.243035	-	X1(-1)
			4.484822	
0.5253	0.923454	2.064215	1.906207	X2
0.5662	-0.810962	10.71983	-	X2(-1)
			8.693368	
0.6765	0.557038	6.149519	3.425517	X3
0.5755	0.787132	15.91778	12.52939	X3(-1)
0.4277	-1.257574	0.159196	-	X4
			0.200200	
0.4451	-1.189437	0.185142	-	X4(-1)
			0.220215	
0.5905	-0.749569	246.9738	-	C
			185.1238	
2.687105	Mean dependent var		0.960337	R- squared
0.255851	S.D. dependent var		0.603368	Adjusted R-squared
- 1.392903	Akaike info criterion		0.161132	S.E. of regression
-1.031180	Schwarz criterion		0.025963	Sum squaredresid
-1.620919	Hannan-Quinn criter.		17.66097	Log likelihood
2.595834	Durbin-Watson stat		2.690256	F- statistic
			0.442850	prob (F- statistic)

*Note: p-values and any subsequent tests do not account for model

Table of the numbers of researchers based on the results of Eviews 9

2. ARDL model

Since the time series have stabilized at their level and in the first difference, we must use the joint integration methodology using the ARDL self-regression model, and the results of the ARDL test as shown in Table 7:

Table (7)

ARDL test results

Since the time series have stabilized at their level and in the first difference, we must use the joint integration methodology using the ARDL self-regression model and the results of the ARDL test as in Table 7.

Analysis of the data in Table (7) shows that the calculated value (F) of 2.690256 is greater than the tabular value in the Pesaran (F) test tables of (2.20) with a significant level of 10%, thus ensuring that there is a long- Between unemployment rates and the variables of fiscal policy in Iraq during the research period.

After confirming the existence of a long-term integrative relationship between the model variables, we obtained long-term parameters as shown in the following equation:

$$Y(-1) = 13.41824 - 4.484822 X_1(-1) - 8.693368 X_2(-1) + X_3(-1) - 0.220215 X_4(-1)$$

Y : Unemployment rates

x₁ : Current expenditure

x₂ : Investment expenses

x₃ : Oil Revenue +

x₄ : For non-oil revenues

In the above equation, all of the independent variables influenced the dependent variable according to the logic of the economic theory. (Negative) with the dependent variable except for the oil revenue variable. Given the estimated regression equation, the current expenditure variable was associated with the Case with dependent variable (unemployment rate). As well as the variable investment expenditure, which indicated the negative relationship in the equation of appreciation to the inverse relationship between him and unemployment rates and this is consistent with the logic of economic theory as the greater the investment expenditure the lower the unemployment. But the variable oil revenue was linked positively with the variable unemployment rates and this is contrary to the logic of economic theory , And we believe here that the reason is that oil revenues, despite the large increase after 2003, but unemployment rates rose significantly to lay off large numbers of the Iraqi army and employees of the Ministry of Information as well as damage to A beer that hit the industrial and agricultural sector, who were Istoaban large numbers of workers and graduates of Iraqi universities, which are estimated to number tens of thousands annually.

Conclusions

1. There are many obstacles that have made fiscal policy unable to achieve economic and social reforms and create jobs, including political and security instability.
2. Mismanagement of state funds and financial instruments and the failure of fiscal policy to achieve its objectives.
3. Distancing the Iraqi budgets from the objectives of development and the lack of harmony between the financial and monetary policies.
4. The weakness of non-oil revenues, which causes a constant deficit in the public budget because of the weak tax revenue resulting from administrative and financial corruption and the large number of exemptions and tax evasion

Recommendations

1. Direct public spending to more efficient sectors that play a prominent role in job creation such as the construction sector and the industrial sector.
2. Adopting a fiscal policy that stimulates demand for employment by the private sector and does not rely entirely on the public sector in career expansion events.
3. Adopting a fiscal policy that catalyzes development and a rational policy to manage public expenditures and harmonize financial and monetary policies.
4. Activating the tax policy in a manner that makes it effective in addressing economic and social problems

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