



ECONOMIC OPENNESS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LABOR MARKET AND TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN IRAQ

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 26th April 2023 Accepted: 26th May 2023 Published: 28th June 2023</p>	<p>Iraq witnessed many political and economic transformations and aimed to rebuild the destruction caused by the wars. According to the new market mechanisms, Iraq opened the doors to foreign investment and allowed non-Iraqi labor to come to Iraq and work in all economic activities. The research aims to clarify the objective reality that the labor market was exposed to in an environment. The Iraqi economy during the period of research and the problems that they faced, i.e., employment in light of the openness of the Iraqi markets and their great openness to global markets and the entry of large numbers of foreign workers, which negatively affected the labor market in the environment of the Iraqi economy. The research started from the hypothesis of economic models witnessed by some countries in In light of the economic prosperity and the increasing increase in the use of labor in light of the development of the productive sectors, which was reflected in the labor market in those countries and the improvement of the living conditions of the working class and the increase in the number of workers as a result of the development of production in those environments, the research sheds light on the course of developments taking place in the Iraqi economy environment in general and the market Work in particular, and what the labor sector was exposed to in light of the economic openness witnessed by the Iraqi economy after 2007, and the most critical actual events that the labor market was exposed to.</p>

Keywords: economic openness, the labor market, employment, the Iraqi economy.

- ❖ **Research problem:-** In light of economic openness, local employment rises by raising production levels by increasing full employment. This was stipulated in economic theories explaining economic openness's concepts and importance. However, the environment of the Iraqi economy did not witness the advancement of the reality of employment and workers in the productive sectors in light of the economic openness witnessed by the economic environment. Iraqi after 2007.
- ❖ **Research hypothesis :-** The research hypothesis stems from the economic models witnessed by some countries in light of the economic upheaval and the increasing rise in the use of labor in light of

the development of productive sectors, which was reflected in the labor market in those countries and the improvement of the living conditions of the working class and the increase in the number of workers as a result of the development of production in those environments and from Those experiences are the experience of Malaysia, the experience of Indonesia and Brazil, and some other models that were on the right track for the development of the labor market in light of the economic openness of those countries.

- ❖ **Research importance:-** The research sheds light on the course of developments taking place in the environment of the Iraqi economy in general and



the labor market in particular, and what the labor sector was exposed to in light of the economic openness witnessed by the Iraqi economy after 2007, and the most critical actual course of the labor market's decline. In use as a result of the deterioration of the economic situation during the research period and the entry of foreign workers in a large and unaccounted manner, which led to poor general conditions in the labor market and its repercussions on the standard of living of the Iraqi worker under the conditions of economic openness during the research period.

- ❖ **Research objective :-** The research aims to clarify the actual reality that the labor market was exposed to in the environment of the Iraqi economy during the research period and the problems that faced them, that is employment in light of the openness of the Iraqi markets and their great openness to global markets and the entry of large numbers of foreign workers, which negatively affected the labor market in the environment of the Iraqi economy and the deterioration of living conditions for Iraqi workers as a result of intense competition between them, and thus resulted in high unemployment rates in the productive sectors and orientation Towards the public sector in order to ensure a rewarding salary to meet his livelihood, in contrast to the rest of the experiences that have been mentioned, in which labor is directed to the private sector in order to increase production in the productive sectors that represent the most critical resource in revitalizing the wheel of production in order to reach competition with imported goods in light of economic openness. It invaded the Iraqi markets in an unprecedented way.
- ❖ **Research methodology :-** The researcher used the descriptive approach to describe and analyze the economic reality of commercial **openness and its impact on local markets and the labor market in particular.**
- ❖ **Research limits :-**
 - Spatial boundaries: The environment of the Iraqi economy.
 - Temporal limits: 2007-2019.

INTRODUCTION :-

Economic growth is considered a goal to achieve levels of local production by following various policies that would intervene through specific mechanisms, especially economic openness in the period in the course of the research. In terms of production, what the Iraqi consumer aspires to. From a theoretical point of view, economies that use commercial openness policies seek to develop the reality of the economy, ways to address the service and production sectors, raise the level of production efficiency, and improve the flexibility of the productive apparatus in developing production of goods and services, which is reflected in the reality of that country. However, the shock of commercial openness in the environment of the Iraqi economy did not take into account the technical and administrative aspects of public and private institutions, and as a result, was negative on the course of production in the Iraqi economy. Thus an apparent weakness was born in the labor market in the environment of the Iraqi economy as a result of the wrong policies by the higher administrations in the use of powers granted to it and the enactment of some laws in order to introduce a flow of foreign labor, which generated weakness in the labor market and lack of demand for the Iraqi worker as a result of the increase in the supply of foreign labor, which in turn was reflected in the economic and social conditions of the Iraqi worker and the low standard of living, which prompted us to delve into this critical issue Which reflects the reflection of the policies of economic openness on the labor market on the environment of the Iraqi economy.

Chapter one

Economic openness

The concept of economic openness

The word openness in Arabic is due to the origin of the verb open as prevention against closed, and openness is the opposite of closure. The concept of economic openness is linked to the principle and policy of economic freedom or what is known as the principle of (let him work - let him pass) or let him do whatever he wants, which appeared at the hands of naturalists (The physiocrats (and the later classics), and this principle appeared in the Middle Ages when many restrictions were imposed on trade. Since then, talk began about the liberalization process, economic



openness, and non-interference of the state in economic activity. Ideas about economic freedom, freedom of trade, and easing restrictions on internal and joint investments appeared. And foreign investments (Wali, 1990, p. 2).

When introducing this concept or the concept of open economic policy, restriction (protectionism and freedom) comes to mind. The issue is not remote, but rather in its core, as the concept of economic openness includes freedom of investment and trade, which means opening the way for national and foreign capital to work within national borders without or Reducing restrictions, which leads to making the national economy (industrial, agricultural, financial markets, etc.) vulnerable to competition and investment (licenses, licenses, controls, customs tariffs, or certain conditions...etc.), while the opposite of all of this is implied under the concept of protectionism. Moreover, commercial freedom came with the classics who believed in the hidden hand that moves the economy and restores its balance if it was disturbed, so they called for commercial freedom (Wally, 1990, p. 2). Economic openness is of political significance, which means establishing relations with all countries of the world (political, economic, etc.), although it carries with it a shift in the nature of the followed economic system (Nuti, 1993, p.159), even if the narrow concept is limited to direct private investment From the outside (the foreigner) for what it carries, according to the justifications put forward, of advanced technology, skills and expertise that do not exist locally, and because the capitalist countries have the idea of free trade (Hashish, 1982, p. 232) or those new concepts in the World Trade Organization, they are able to pass all National boundaries by the nature of its system first, legal adaptation within the WTO second, and the ability to influence through military force third, and the international legal adaptation that paves the way for that influence politically fourth, as well as the dependence of the nascent regimes resulting from that adaptation that set laws according to which Western countries are allowed exclusively investment and according to the conditions of those countries, which links the fate of the transition countries to those countries and their money in terms of political and social

dependence, etc. and other influences related to interests. (Hashish, 1982, p. 233)

So economic openness (Ahmed, 1982, p. 231), widely circulated as a linguistic term, is selective openness. There is a more expanded definition of economic openness (it is an economic policy that I adopted along with other policies to encourage and motivate Arab, foreign, and national capital to finance and establish projects The various economic needs that the country needs, in the light of the requirements of the national economic plans and providing them with the latest experiences, skills and technology, and the investment of these capitals is not limited to the establishment of new projects, but rather it can contribute to the improvement and development of existing projects. It is the exit from the closedness of socialism to the openness of capitalism). (Abdul Malik, 1966, p. 190)

Goals Of Economic Openness

The policy of economic openness aims to achieve goals in various fields such as agriculture, industry, work, housing, health, and the social and political field. Those desired goals of economic openness in various fields can be summarized as follows (Abu Mudallala et al., 2018, p. 31):-

1. Increasing the productivity of agricultural lands in various crops by limiting the use of primitive and traditional methods in agriculture and using the latest scientific methods and technological means in the agricultural field.
2. Achieving self-sufficiency in some agricultural and industrial products, of which the consumption needs are currently being supplemented through imports, and reducing the number of imported ones as much as possible.
3. Increasing the state's proceeds from various financial resources such as taxes, customs, and production fees.
4. Providing what the local market needs of various commodities at different prices and improving the living standards of individuals.
5. Increasing the volume of exports and reducing the volume of imports, thus correcting the



position of the trade balance and working to reduce the budget deficit.

6. Diversifying the sources of export and import to achieve independence in foreign trade.
7. Increasing the volume of financial resources available from the tourism sector, as it is a resource that provides hard currency.
8. Revitalizing financial markets, increasing financial flows, and facilitating the movement of capital.
9. The institutional design of the political system and the behavior of political actors are considered to be influencing economic development and its relationship to the global economy, as the more open the economy is, the more vital the role of politics and institutions.

These goals above express to a large extent the vision of the proponents of economic openness and that the majority of countries in the world that responded to this vision based on privatization, restructuring, and liberalization of financial services and others have suffered and are still suffering from successive economic and social crises. Money is no longer related to the productive economy. Therefore there is an urgent need for strict controls on the movement of capital to ensure that it does not cause the outbreak of crises. (Abu Mudallalah and others, 2018, p. 32).

Indicators of economic openness:-

Economic openness includes all aspects of the macroeconomy and branches and activities of the local economy. In order to surround the subject of the research with all these aspects, economic openness will be followed up according to the following axes :

Firs:- Commercial openness:

There are many opinions about the concept of commercial openness, including:

The Arab Planning Institute defines trade openness as that policy that leads to the abandonment of discriminatory policies against export and the adoption of neutral policies between import and export and the reduction of the value of the high customs tariff in addition to the conversion of quantitative restrictions into a customs tariff, and the trend towards a unified customs tariff system (Tuati, 2001, p. 4), and the

International Monetary Fund defines trade openness as the investigation of the external sector, which consists of the balance of current commercial transactions and the balance of capital transactions, that is, openness to the flows of goods, services, and capital to and from abroad from all restrictions and obstacles such as taxes, quantitative, administrative and technical restrictions (Nasr, 2005, p. 9).

From the above, trade openness is the removal of all consequences and customs barriers in front of trade and facilitating its movement in a policy that the government adopts to achieve prosperity for its people. Trade openness does not require abolishing customs duties and tariffs, but their reduction is sufficient to achieve this.

Second:- Openness or financial liberalization:

The "financial openness index" is the size of the country's foreign assets and liabilities relative to the gross domestic product. Many economists have linked economic growth to financial openness. Both of them, the founders of the financial liberalization theory, adopted the idea of the positive impact of financial market liberalization on economic growth. (Maamari, 2011, p. 16).

Third:- Banking Openness:

The banking sector is an integral part of the economic activity of any country, as it contributes to achieving economic and social development through financing economic activities, and the role of this sector varies from country to country depending on the prevailing political and economic systems in it. The banking sector has recently witnessed, due to openness to the countries of the world, enormous challenges characterized by intense competition, technological progress, and the growth of monetary and financial transactions, which imposed on banking departments the need to search for new policies and activities and move from those main activities represented by deposit and lending to implement activities that are not At the heart of the work of banks, such as investing in securities, insurance, etc., and thus moving towards the so-called comprehensive banks that began to play an essential role in financing international trade, which necessitated the need to reconsider some aspects of banking business in order to keep pace with



development and openness in the countries of the world (Khalaf, 2015, p. 183), and among the most crucial banking indicators indicating economic openness are the following:

1. The ratio of foreign assets to the total assets of banks.
2. The ratio of foreign liabilities to the total banking liabilities.

Fourth:- Regional and international organizations and blocs:

them, which emerged in the last decade of the twentieth century, especially in developed countries. Which made it an essential feature of the new global economic system, and this growth was associated with the acceleration of the pace of globalization and economic openness and the accompanying mergers that coincided with the processes of international trade liberalization, as well as the liberation of capital movement globally, whether through foreign direct investment flows or short capital flows Al-Ajmal (Al-Rubaie, 1998, p. 2).

The trend towards regional and international blocs was strengthened after both developed. Developing countries were subjected to the terms of the World Trade Organization for trade liberalization after the declaration of the organization in 1995, as well as the submission of a large part of developing countries to the conditions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for debt rescheduling and the resulting consequences—a commitment to privatization and structural adjustment programs. Whatever the motives, the emergence of blocs with such momentum in international economic relations confirms the strength of the factors that prompted their emergence. It came as an embodiment of the structural transformations in the international economic structure and the consequent redistribution of its participants' roles and relative positions. It also covered the most critical participants in the international economy. It even went beyond that to include most developing countries, making it an international phenomenon in its farthest limits. As well as being an economic phenomenon in its logic and political and strategic interdependence and connection of its links (Al-Rubaie, 1998, p. 2).

Chapter Two

Labor Market And Full Employment

The labor market has been subject to many studies since the classics to understand many of the problems associated with this market. Subsequent analyzes of the labor market have dealt with the institutional factors affecting unemployment, such as trade unions, the rigidity of the social insurance market, labor mobility, the burden of employment, and access to information on the labor market. In the wake of economic openness, the scope of this analysis expanded to include other factors such as liberalization policies, competition, production capacity, trade, foreign investment, and other factors. We can also say that one of the most important reasons for regulating the labor market is the institutional reforms that are supported by the business group of international financial institutions by proceeding from the part To all, where the quality of institutions and economic and legislative performance has become a vital link and importance represented in the laws supporting the general orientation of the employment policy, and emphasizing the strict application of the laws regulating the labor market (Buhafs, 2016, p. 4).

Economically, labor productivity is one of the main determinants of economic openness, and economists view labor productivity as one of the most important factors helping to improve the welfare and living standards of the population. There is almost complete consensus among economists that the economic role of labor productivity becomes decisive in some cases, which are (Issa, 2018, p. 34):

1. When the role of other factors in driving economic growth, such as the contribution of capital and other factors, declines, i.e., in the advanced stages of the development process, as is the case with developed countries that have exhausted many investment opportunities in various resources. Economic theory shows that the role of physical capital is subject to the law of diminishing returns, which states that the higher the level (quantity) of capital in the national economy, the lower its productivity. In these cases, growth in labor productivity is the main factor in achieving economic growth.



2. Suppose there are high inflation rates in the national economy. In that case, any increase in public or private investment spending to increase production leads to raising the levels of quantitative demand in the economy and, thus, a new increase in the already high inflation rates. Here, the importance of labor productivity emerges, as it becomes difficult to raise economic growth rates by stimulating quantitative demand, which fuels the inflation problem that the economy suffers from. In such a case, labor productivity growth becomes the primary source for achieving high economic growth rates without exacerbating the inflation problem.
3. The case of high production costs, in which the increase in productivity is a critical factor in reducing the cost of one unit of production and thus raising the competitiveness of products again. The increase in productivity means a decrease in the amount of work expended in the production of one unit of reputation, which helps to reduce the cost of production and thus improve the competitiveness of the national product in the local and global markets.

That is why the business relationship with economic openness is one of the economic relationships with diverse perspectives, theoretically and empirically. Furusawa (1999, p. 3) argued that economic openness increases the incidence of poverty, social inequality, job insecurity, and unemployment. On the other hand, openness can enhance economic growth due to the benefits from an increased return to scale through the availability of new market products (Burange et al., 2019, p. 23). Empirical studies in both developed and undeveloped economies have contradictory arguments about this. While some argue that economic openness increases employment opportunities, others argue that economic openness reduces employment opportunities.

Employment can be defined from the labor market's supply or demand side. On the supply side, it indicates the total number of employees during a given reference period. On the demand side, employment refers to the total number of jobs occupied, which, due to the

presence of a combination of jobs, tends to be higher than the total number of employees.

One of the most critical factors on which the level of employment depends is the type of productive art used. Is it labor-intensive or capital-intensive? The productive arts are naturally labor-intensive, as they are the ones that increase and raise the level of employment.

Economic conditions may require the state to import labor from abroad, significantly affecting the internal labor force. There are multiple opinions regarding foreign workers. In the economic theory of work, there are two opinions:

First opinion:-

Every worker imported from abroad to work in the country will replace a national worker.

Second opinion:-

The saying is based on the fact that without imported labor, it is tough to do many of the jobs that we want to do or work in because there are many jobs, as we mentioned, that national workers do not want to do or have no knowledge of.

If we dispense with foreign labor, will this lead to an increase in national workers by the same percentage? The answer is no, as the deportation of imported labor from the country will increase wages and the number of national workers, but not in the same proportion as those who were deported.

- **The positive effects of foreign labor**

1. Accelerate the development process and help achieve its goals.
2. Creating the desire for progress and achieving a better level among the Saudis, indirectly helping the cohesion and fusion of the Saudi society.
3. Benefit from general experiences.
4. Opening new business areas.

- **The negative effects of foreign labor**

1. Creating an imbalance in the demographics and international agreements presupposes the imposition of equality between expatriate workers and nationals in all rights, such as wages, health care, education, and social and political participation, which carries significant risks.



2. The increase in expatriate workers leads to the loss of a large part of the state's wealth through financial transfers to the countries of expatriate workers. According to 1996 statistics, transfers by expatriate workers in the GCC countries amounted to about \$26 billion in one year, a considerable amount that negatively impacts countries.
3. Expatriate labor and its high percentage constitute a security concern because of the security problems it may cause, the danger of which cannot be easily avoided.
4. The survival of expatriate workers of this size hurts providing job opportunities for citizens, whether in employment or self-employment.
5. The presence of expatriate workers impedes the representation of job localization plans, leading to widespread unemployment among young people in light of the saturation of the government sector and the wage discrepancy between the expatriate worker and the national worker.

Chapter Three

The relationship between economic openness, labor market, and total employment in Iraq

First :- Expatriate labor to Iraq during the research period

Expatriate labor represents the migration of individuals to the country from outside it to practice a profession within it and obtain income from within it. Any migration for work, and either it is permanent migration for more than a year or temporary for less than a year. The immigrant is affected by factors of attraction in the receiving country or factors of expulsion in the country of sending, whether these

Table (1) The total number of workers according to statistics, the approximate number of expatriate workers, and the ratio of expatriate workers to the number of workers in percent in Iraq for the years (2007-2019)

factors are economic, political, or social. However, the economic factor is first among the Factors affecting international labor migration. (Jasim, 2015, p. 44)

After 2003, the Iraqi government opened the doors to foreign investments and provided several guarantees and advantages, and among these advantages stipulated in Investment Law No. (13) for the year 2006 as amended¹ are:

1. The investor has the right to hire and use non-Iraqi workers if it is impossible to hire an Iraqi with the necessary qualifications and can carry out the same task according to the controls and conditions issued by the National Investment Commission.
2. Granting foreign workers working in investment projects the right to reside in Iraq and facilitating their entry and exit

This law also obligates the foreign investor to do the following:

Compliance with the Iraqi laws in force in salaries, vacations, working hours and conditions, and others.

Training and rehabilitating its Iraqi employees, increasing their efficiency, raising their skills and abilities, and prioritizing the employment and employment of Iraqi workers. And according to Cabinet Resolution No. (469)² For the year 2012, it specified the categories that are allowed to enter Iraq with multiple entry visas, and they are (company directors, executive managers, and experts, except workers).

This decision made the aforementioned groups accountable to three official bodies:

1. The director of nationality or the Iraqi consul abroad can issue a multi-entry visa.
2. Director of Nationality to grant residency for one year, subject to renewal (after granting a work permit).
3. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to obtain work permits.

¹ Baghdad Investment Commission, Investment Law No. (13) for 2006, as amended, and the regulations issued according to it, United for Printing and Publishing. Without year of publication. pp. 7-8.

² Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Loans and Employment, Legal Division, Cabinet Decision (469), of 2012.



Percentage of expatriate workers to the number of % workers	Approximate number of expatriate workers	The total number of ,employees according to statistics	to the year
20.2	1378775	6810362	2007
20.1	1392601	6915952	2008
17.9	1402015	7,810,000	2009
17.7	1459339	8,213,000	2010
16.8	1475144	8,756,000	2011
17.7	1568883	8,849,000	2012
18.2	1,667,350	9123000	2013
18.2	1,883,768	10328930	2014
13.7	1567055	11379389	2015
11.6	1440711	12409829	2016
10.9	1628003	14872920	2017
10.9	1717636	15678191	2018
11.3	1855892	16,399,240	2019

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on separate data and publications by the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistical Organization.

We can define expatriate labor according to the nature, type, and nationality of the expatriate labor. Therefore, we will confine ourselves to defining the expatriate labor force as the labor force entering Iraq, whether this labor is of Arab nationality or foreign nationality. Both can be called foreign expatriate labor since Iraq is the host country.

Historically, Iraq has been a multi-national gateway between the continents of Asia and Africa. Many other things led to the influx of workers to Iraq, especially the wars that took place in Iraq during the eighties with the Arab Islamic Republic, where large numbers of different nationalities flocked to Iraq, including Egyptian, Sudanese, Ghana and many From other countries due to the involvement of most of the Iraqi youth in the war between Iraq and Iran for eight-odd years, as the number of expatriate workers reached nearly five million foreign workers, according to the initial estimates put forward by the previous government. Most of them were of Egyptian nationality. There are

many pieces of evidence confirming the validity of this information *³.

As for expatriate workers after 2003, and because of the economic openness that occurred in the environment of the Iraqi economy from the entry of foreign investment companies and the need of those companies for a specific type of employment that has experience in specific fields that the Iraqi worker does not possess, and from this moment the influx of that labor to Iraq began until the number Expatriate workers to Iraq in 2007 amounted to (1,378,775), as indicated in Table (19), out of the total number of workers amounting to (6,810,362) according to the statistics of the Ministry of Planning in its statistical bulletins. The percentage of expatriate workers to the total number of workers reached (20.2) in 2007, and this number began to increase during The years 2008-2012 with a growth rate ranging between (16.8%) in 2011 as a minimum and (20.1%) in 2008 as a maximum. The reason for the increase is the need for investment companies entering Iraq, especially in the field of oil, to technicians and

* Press interviews and personal interviews with people who lived through that period through separate television programmes.



experts in field work in order to develop facilities As for the remaining period from 2013 to 2019, and because of the improvement in the living situation in Iraq, fertility rates have increased, and thus the Iraqi total employment rates have increased, despite the increase in the number of expatriate workers, but at a lower rate, which led to a decline The ratios of the number of expatriate workers to the total number of workers, as the total number of workers in 2018 reached (15,678,191) and expatriates (1,717,636) at a rate of (10.9) as a minimum during this period and in 2014, despite the increase in the number of foreign workers, but its percentage reached a maximum of (18.2) As shown in table (19), the number of total workers and expatriates, and the ratio of expatriate workers to the total number of workers, as we indicated through the statistics of the Ministry of Planning, bulletins of separate years.

Second :- Number of immigrants outside Iraq and their financial transfers

Traveling or emigrating from Iraq was very difficult during the period of the defunct regime until 2003, when this date began to open up to the countries of the world, including the possibility of travel, emigration, and work outside Iraq, after this long period of inability to travel outside Iraq, Iraqis of all kinds and nationalities tried to travel and leave Iraq under Any name, including, for example, finding job opportunities or improving the standard of living, as whole families began to travel outside Iraq, and this is the reason for the presence of many Iraqi communities in many countries of the world, as we see and hear today about the presence of large communities in European countries, America and others.

Table (2) shows the population in addition to the number of immigrants abroad and the migration rate in percent in Iraq for the years (2007-2019)

immigrant remittances (billion dinars)	Immigration rate % abroad	The number of immigrants abroad	population (million)	the year
550945	6.7	1990878	29.7	2007
558324	7.2	2309821	31.9	2008
468,000	7.7	2452989	31.7	2009
535860	8.1	2639101	32.5	2010
551070	7.8	2621788	33.3	2011
563178	7	2409812	34.2	2012
613552	6.5	2318696	35.1	2013
614,680	6.8	2509878	36	2014
654,897	7.9	2786843	35.2	2015
637062	5.1	1875687	36.1	2016



700518	3.9	1454443	37.1	2017
669,123	7	2698711	38.1	2018
679,490	7.9	3124560	39.1	2019

Source: prepared by the researcher based on separate data and publications from the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistical Organization.

In 2007, the number of immigrants reached about (1,990,878) million people out of the total population, with an immigration rate of (6.7%), as shown in Table (21). 2014, with immigration rates relative to the population, reaching its maximum in 2010 at about (8.1%), and the lowest in 2013 was about (6.5%), but in the following period, which was represented by 2014-2019, when the number of immigrants increased in 2014 and 2015 to (2509878) And (2786843) million people, respectively, with a natural migration rate that coincided with the migration rate of previous years, and the number of immigrants decreased for the years 2016-2017 to (1875687) and (1454443) million people, respectively, with the lowest migration rate during the research years, which is (5.1%) and (3.9%) % respectively, and the reason for this is due to the improvement of the general living situation in the environment of the Iraqi economy. In 2019, the number of immigrants reached its maximum during the research period (3124560) million people, with an immigration rate of (7.9%). The Corona pandemic is on the horizon, which caused a rise in emigration abroad in search of safe shelter from the pandemic. As for 2020-2021, it was impossible to obtain its data, as shown above.

The remittances of immigrants to Iraq in 2007 amounted to (550,945) billion Iraqi dinars, as this number represented the remittances of immigrants working abroad to their families at home to improve the standard of living. It decreased in 2009 to (468,000) billion Iraqi dinars, as we previously mentioned, due to the situation. Some restrictions and laws related to immigration from the inside to the outside and expatriate labor from abroad to the inside. These numbers became apparent in a continuous increase throughout research during the years 2018 and 2019 by about (669123) and (679490) billion dinars,

respectively, and for the same reason above, when signs of a pandemic began Corona appeared, which generated weak economic activity in all countries of the world.

Third :- The number of unemployed and the unemployment rate in Iraq during the research period

The deterioration of production processes and the spread of inflationary phenomena in the Iraqi economy in its short form directly impacted confusing investment operations ... which led to the spread of unemployment of all kinds and in varying proportions among the active population.) years of age, who constitute the most significant percentage of the total economically active population and the main component of the labor force, where the supply increased as a result of the high rates of population growth in exchange for the slowdown in the growth of demand for labor due to the decline in economic performance and the inability to achieve advanced rates of economic growth and the weakness of the investment process and then weakness The ability to generate new job opportunities until unemployment in Iraq became one of the economic phenomena that should be addressed within development programs in which man is the goal and subject of development.

This is in addition to its negative repercussions on the economic and social conditions. This crisis has worsened for many years, even though Iraq is one of the countries characterized by a lack of population about its investment resources, as the GDP continued to decline, reaching almost a third until 2003, compared to previous years, as a result of what was reflected in the policy of wars and the unwise economic policy in directing the country's economies in the previous era.



Table (3) The population of Iraq, the total number of workers according to statistics, the number of the unemployed and the economically active, and the unemployment rate for the years (2007-2019)

** average The unemployment %	The economically active * (million)	Number of unemployed (million)	The total number of ,employees according to statistics (million)	Population of Iraq (million)	the year
14	11.3	4,514,632	6810362	29.7	2007
12	13.2	6343915	6915952	31.9	2008
11.1	13.4	5598195	7,810,000	31.7	2009
11.9	12.4	4603833	8,213,000	32.5	2010
11	14.1	5374085	8,756,000	33.3	2011
10.6	16.3	7515497	8,849,000	34.2	2012
16.8	14.1	5058911	9123000	35.1	2013
15.7	16.7	6416455	10328930	36	2014
13	17.2	5862771	11379389	35.2	2015
16.8	18.2	5862771	12409829	36.1	2016
19.2	20.5	6702920	14872920	37.1	2017
29.8	26.8	11200831	15678191	38.1	2018
28.3	31.6	15215894	16,399,240	39.1	2019

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on separate data and publications by the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistical Organization

***Economically active = number of workers + number of unemployed**

**** Figures according to the statistics of the Ministry of Planning - Central Statistical Organization.**

Table (22) shows a set of variables that indicate the total population and the active population within the working age, which ranges between 15-65 years. It indicates the continuous increase in the population of Iraq due to the fertility of growth rates as a result of the improvement in the living situation after 2003, except for the year 2015, in which the approximate population decreased in a small way due to the security conditions that Iraq went through in 2014, represented by the war with the criminal gangs called ISIS.

As for the number of workers, according to the statistics available by the Ministry of Planning, the number of workers started in 2007 with about (6810362) million people and increased gradually during the following years until it reached its maximum in 2019 (16399240). The reason is due to the improvement of the general living situation in Iraq and the improvement in Health status, which led to an increase in the number of workers or those who can work during the research period, as shown in Table (22).

As for the number of unemployed, the column on the number of unemployed witnesses some fluctuations in the values of the unemployed, as it began in 2007 (4,514,632) million people, with an unemployment rate indicated by the Ministry of Planning (14%). The number of unemployed increased in 2008 to (6,343,915) million people with an unemployment rate of (12 %), and this is primarily due to migration from the countryside to the city during that period and the increase in the demand for workers with the lack of available fields to provide job opportunities for the increasing demand.

The number of unemployed decreased for 2009-2011 by (5598195 - 4603833 - 5374085) million people, respectively. This decrease in the number of unemployed is due to some legislation that limited the entry of expatriate workers as a result of the economic openness that Iraq witnessed during that period, and then returned The rise in the following years, reaching its maximum in 2018-2019 (11,200,831 - 15,215,894)



million people, with an unemployment rate of (29.8 - 28.3%), respectively, also, due to the news of the Corona pandemic and the consequent closure in the global economy.

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