

PRESS RELEASE

International Workers' Day

The world celebrates the *Workers ' Day* on the first day of May every year. The Knights of Labor, founded in 1869 as a trade union organization that seeks to improve workers' conditions and reduce working hours, have introduced this event.

Later, with the development of the trade union movement, a group of trade union leaders succeeded in forming a workers' body in 1886. This body campaigned to consider 1 May of that year as a day of general strike with the aim to reduce working hours to eight only in all professions and industries. In 1890, the founding congress of the labor parties decided that the first of May would be regarded as a feast for workers of the world. Interest in the Workers' Day took on a global dimension and is celebrated annually around the world.

The labor movement in Jordan was one of the first labor movements in the Arab world, where the Jordan Workers 'Union was founded in 1954. It was one of the Arab workers' unions that have participated in the establishment of the *Arab Workers' Union*. Representatives of the Jordanian union have participated in the *First Founding Conference* in addition to most of the meetings and activities at the Arab level. For more than half a century, the Jordanian labor movement has made substantial progress, benefiting from positive conditions, high national spirit, constructive cooperation and keenness to protect the country's interests along

with all development partners, which led to the growth and advancement of the movement.

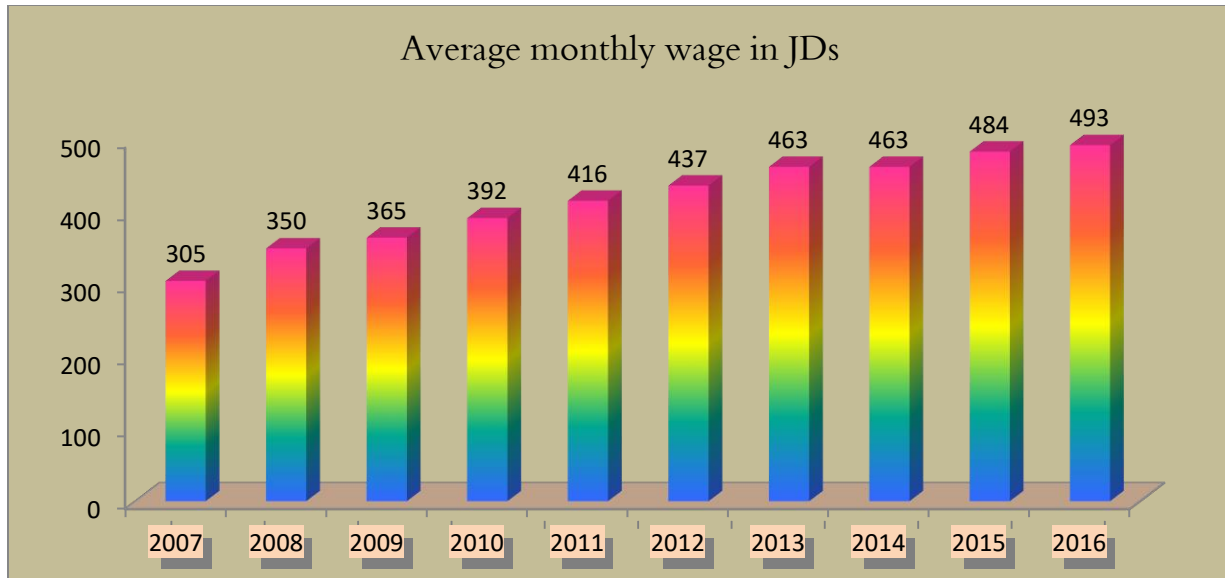
With the enactment of several public safety control laws issued by the concerned government agencies, the number of serious work injuries has diminished. The number of insured workers with the *Social Security Corporation* has increased significantly from 366,000 workers in the year 2000 to 1,227,110 in 2016. The monthly wage rate has increased from JD.60 in the mid-1970s to JD.211 in the mid-1990s and then rising to JD.493 in 2016.

Table 1: Monthly wage rates and number of paid workers in the public and private establishments during the period (2007–2016)

Year	Average monthly wage (JD)	Number of paid workers
2007	305	725,091
2008	350	770,086
2009	365	813, 679
2010	392	838,297
2011	416	858,558
2012	437	898,683
2013	463	905,983
2014	463	947, 812
2015	484	953,449
2016	493	992,093

Source: Department of Statistics, the Employment Survey

Figure 1: Wage rates for paid workers in the public and private sector establishments during the period (2007–2016)



The Jordanian workers still face many challenges in the Jordanian labor market in spite of the gains made in their favor, the most important of which is the competition by expatriate workers whose numbers have greatly inflated, thus depriving the Jordanian workers of benefiting from the employment opportunities created by various economic sectors, therefore the unemployment rate remains almost constant despite the efforts exerted to reduce it. The economic participation of Jordanian women is still below the desired level noting that the *Revised Economic Participation Rate* (the number of economically active women aged 15 years and above divided by the number of women aged 15 years and above) in 2017 is 17.3%. This means that one woman out of every 5.8 women was economically active in 2017 compared to one economically active man out of every 1.6 men in the age group 15 years and above.

Table 2: Revised economic participation rates for the Jordanian population

During the period (2008 – 2017)

Year	Male	Female	Rate
2008	64.0	14.2	39.5
2009	64.8	14.9	40.1
2010	63.5	14.7	39.5
2011	62.8	14.7	39.0
2012	61.3	14.1	38.0
2013	60.4	13.2	37.1
2014	59.7	12.6	36.4
2015	60.0	13.3	36.7
2016	58.7	13.2	36
2017	60.8	17.3	39

Source: Department of Statistics, the Employment and Unemployment Survey

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