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THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL POLICY ON UNEMPLOYMENT OF  
THE IRAQI ECONOMY (2003-2014)

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**ABSTRACT:**

No two people disagree about the economic ,social and security effects and consequences of unemployment ,for it is one of the most important problems of developing societies, and Iraq is one of them .Iraq still suffers from these problems and they exist throughout its history but they deepened and exacter bated and increased their rates after 2003, reaching more than 16% in 2014, the reasons are many,especially after many civil and military institutions stopped,and this suspension has many reason as these institutions occupied most of the labor force in the country in various specializations and professions, and despite the efforts of successive governments after 2003, problems remained due to the absence of compressive scientific planning and no to use effective means and modern means, including the use of financial policy that leads to balanced public revenues and expenditure included general budge

**Introduction:**

The Iraqi economy is non to be a rentier one – side economy , which means that it has suffered from negative repercussions as a result of this situation , as most of its revenues come from oil and oil revenues almost reach 90% of its national income, this lead to a decline in the rest of the economic sectors , such as agriculture, industry, trade and services , expect for countless economic sub – problem as a result of administrative and financial corruption and the deterioration of societal structure , such as tax evasion , military spending , and the dismissal or expulsion after 2003 and the dismissal or expultion of thousands of employees after 2003 to the

professional labor market , this exacerbated the un employment problems and repercussions , and governments after 2003 tried to develop appropriate solutions for them by creating a financial policy and exploiting the tools of this policy through annual budget to create job opportunities that would reduce the high un employment rate , but no avail

**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 varioustools.

**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 period2003-2014.

**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 generalconcepts).
- 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)PeriodicUnemployment:b) Seasonal Unemployment ,Partial Unemployment, and FractionalUnemployment

H.StructuralUnemployment: Compulsory Unemployment:Voluntary Unemployment: UnconsciousUnemployment:

**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 economicdevelopment.

**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 policystage;

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 Iraqare:

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
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>3222</b>	<b>0220</b>	<b>0222</b>	<b>0022</b>	<b>02222</b>	<b>0223</b>	<b>0220</b>	<b>0020</b>	<b>0020</b>	<b>0020</b>	<b>0220</b>
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**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 years2007-2014.

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 structuralism balances 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)

<b>Year</b>	<b>General revenues</b>	<b>Overheads</b>	<b>Surplus / deficit</b>
2003	0008	0031	81
2004	33699	33001	595
2005	37505	07908	9597
2006	22358	36200	6918
2007	12092	20806	03387
2008	67369	19791	007062
2009	17088	11939	3359
2010	59072	59025	28
2011	90976	65850	35035
2012	96885	72397	32588
2013	93211	86718	5596
2014	009760	010050	-30290

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		057	0008	85,82	01,07
2004	33155	315	33700	98,93	0,08
2005	36830	691	37505	97,17	3,52
2006	20519	0709	22358	91,86	5,01
2007	10806	3387	12092	91,69	5,20
2008	62067	1003	67369	92,90	6,0

2009	10770	5107	17088	88,53	00,18
2010	57350	0933	59072	96,75	2,35
2011	72716	07320	90976	80,06	08,91
2012	76106	30179	96885	78,86	30,01
2013	73890	09152	93212	78,92	30,07
2014	88003	20618	009760	72,57	36,12

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 (currentprices)

year	Current expenditure	* Current / Overheads %	Investmen t expenses	* Investment expenses / Overheads%	Overheads
2003	933	90,02	003	9,97	0031
2004	30039	90,60	3075	9,29	33001
2005	01803	83,66	2006	07,21	07908
2006	33332	81,16	1087	05,51	36200
2007	31700	80,30	6096	09,79	20806
2008	29825	79,99	9959	30,00	19791
2009	25912	79,99	8986	30,00	11939
2010	13707	73,32	06108	37,77	59025
2011	50930	77,23	01920	33,68	65850
2012	56118	77,00	06819	33,99	72397
2013	60115	70,82	35202	39,07	86718
2014	81739	60,15	55133	29,55	010050

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 publicrevenues.

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

## 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	246668.1-	.4122284- 14258181- 14516768-	Unstable	14872251-	84812642- .4225611- 148282.5-	Unstab le	- 24858778	1457128.- 24755516- 2442125.-	Unstable

X 1	241.2118-	.4175251- 14121474- 145.5454-	Unstable	12424188-	8421.658- 1471114.- 14.12212-	Stable at a significant level of 1%	147.1252	146245.2- 247611..- 244222..-	Stable at a significant level of 1%
X 2	.4112721-	.4122284- 14258181- 14516768-	Stable at a significant level of 1%	22415122-	8421.658- 1471114.- 14.12212-	Stable at a significant level of 1%	2442154.	1457128.- 24755516- 2442125.-	Stable at a significant level of 10%
X 3	6472217.-	.4122284- 14258181- 14516768-	Stable at a significant level of 1%	14726148-	84812642- .4225611- 148282.5-	Unstable	24285142	1457128.- 24755516- 2442125.-	Unstable
X 4	24186462-	.4122284- 14258181- 14516768-	Unstable	14221868-	8421.658- 1471114.- 14.12212-	Unstable	244425.5	1457128.- 24755516- 2442125.-	Stable at a significant 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	
		-			-	Stable at a significant level of 10%		-	Stable at a significant level of 5%	
		.48614.6			84618264			14664222		
Y	14575816-	- 14112747	Unstable	.4218442-	- .41.4821			14826122-		- 24778648
		- 1462216.			- 14872.74			- 24877266		
X4	.4171562-	- .4175251- 14121474- 145.5454	Stable at a significant level of 5%	1412.2.7-	- 84812642- .4225611- 148282.5	Unstable	142522.4-	- 146245.2- - 247611..- - 244222..	Stable at a significant level of 1%	

Table (6)

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

In Ma Mo D  Se  Pr	D			ependent Variable: Y	
	ob.*	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	-4.484822	X1(-1)
	0.5253	0.923454	2.064215	1.906207	X2
	0.5662	-0.810962	10.71983		
	0.6765	0.557038	6.149519		
	0.5755	0.787132	15.91778	-8.693368	X2(-1)
	0.4277	-1.257574	0.159196	3.425517	
	0.4451	-1.189437	0.185142	12.52939	X3 X3(-1) X4
	0.5905	-0.749569	246.9738	-0.200200	
	2.687105			-0.220215	X4(-1) C
	0.255851			-185.1238	
	-1.392903	Mean dependent var		0.960337	R- squared
	-1.031180	S.D.dependent var		0.603368	Adjusted R- squared
	-1.620919	Akaike info criterion		0.161132	
	2.595834	Schwarz criterion		0.025963	S.E. of regression
		Hannan-Quinn criter.		17.66097	Sum squared resid
		Durbin-Watson stat		2.690256	Log likelihood
				0.442850	F- statistic
					prob (F- statistic)
	<b>*Note: p-values and an</b>		<b>ot account for model</b>		
		<b>y subsequent tests don</b>			

**selection.**

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-relationship 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:

$$13.41824 - 4.484822 X1(-1) - 8.693368 X2(-1) + X3(-1) - 0.220215 X4(-1)$$

**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 Itoaban 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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