CHAPTER VII

INTERNAL MIGRATION IN JORDAN

It is necessary to consider the migrations within Jordan so as to discuss the labour market of Jordan which is affected by migration from rural areas and small towns to the main cities of the country. In rural areas and small towns the economic activities are limited and thus fresh labour is discouraged to settle there and therefore they have to look for new destinations. Economic factors such as low income and unemployment therefore induce workers to migrate internally.

7.1 Internal Migration Process

Internal migration occurs when a labourer from one village/town/city moves to another place within the same country mainly seeking better economic opportunities.

The main types of internal migrations are as follows :

- There may be marginal and dispersed movement of population seeking better jobs at better places.
- Rural - Urban migration is another common type when a rural labourer moves towards cities either to take up a job suggested by his relative / friend etc. or to enter the job market and join in the waiting list of prospective employees. Such a rural labourer is either landless or jobless and in most of the cases belongs to the surplus labour force having no productive

occupation or work at the family farm. Sometimes due to the demonstration effect, some rural labourers develop a habit of attempting to adopt urban life-style. Such people do not like to confine themselves to villages. The better transportation, education and various types of communication systems prevalent in urban areas attract them.

- Third type of migration involves refugees fleeing from local military actions, civil war,terrorist threats, clashes between ethnic or religious groups. They prefer to flee to cities which give them comparatively better security and protection. Physical factors in the form of climate and natural disasters such as floods and droughts also encourage migration.
- Internal migration of population from densely to sparsely populated areas occurs leading people to find cheaper land and other sources of income.
- There is a seasonal internal migration from one region to the other. As in the case of India, the labourers get seasonal jobs in sugar factories,farms, cotton mills etc. After the season ends the casual labourers return to their native homes[1].

The study of migration process through non-economic factors played an important role in early research in the fields of sociology and psychology. There is a consensus among social scientists that migration could be studied better through the economic factors. This involves the push factors from subsistence agriculture and pull factors from urban areas in the form of relatively high urban wages. There is likelihood of push factors forcing people to again migrate to rural areas as a result of high urban unemployment.

The volume and the direction of migration are determined by the economic differences between the areas. People generally move from low earning areas to high earning areas. The net movement out of or into any area depends on the nature and strength of push and pull forces. When a country's economy radically changes from rural to urban or from traditional to modern, the demand for labour increases in the new industrial cities. The exodus of rural population towards cities brings radical changes and shuffles rural - urban labour markets.

7.2 Characteristics of Migrants

In rural - urban migration, it is observed that the brighter and more energetic boys and girls leave rural areas for cities. It requires more than an average amount of energy and initiative to severe home ties and to move into unknown places. Migrants are generally in the age group of 15-40 with proportionally more females under 20 and more males over 25. Female migrants are of two types: i) associational migration of wives and daughters accompanying the 'primary' male migrant and ii) the migration of unattached females. It is the later type which is increasing rapidly due to increase in education.

Another important characteristic of rural-urban migration is the positive correlation between the level of education and migration. People with higher level of education tend to be more mobile than those with lower level of education. The educated lot is less likely to secure employment in the rural setting. They may be more enterprising due to education.

In the context of economic characteristics, it should be mentioned that the migration patterns of many countries show that it is the landless, the unskilled and the poor who migrate to urban areas in search of jobs. Seasonal migration is also quite popular. Due to sound industrial and service based urban economies of developing countries, people from all socio economic backgrounds migrate to urban areas.

Jordan is an urbanized economy with predominance of service sector. Though recent information on internal migration pattern is not available, it is believed that migration has occurred mainly on account of economic and political factors.

7.3 Models of Internal Migration

The literature of Economics provides Lewis Model and Todaro Model to theorize rural urban migration pattern. One of the earliest models of internal migration is by E.G. Ravenstein[2]. According to him, migration depends on distance. The rate of migration between any two points is inversely related to the distance between them. Initially people migrate to nearby places and then to rapidly growing cities and distant places. Migration depends on the growth of centres of trade, commerce and production and also on the social discrimination in the place of origin, its bad climate and a few other factors.

Professor Arthur Lewis[3] developed the model of unlimited supplies of labour in line with the classical tradition. The surplus labour of the rural sector is often utilized for capital formation in underdeveloped countries. It is a two sector

internal (rural-urban) migration model. In any under developed economy, the capitalist sector and the subsistence sector exist simultaneously. The subsistence sector contains labour whose marginal productivity is negative or zero and thus disguised unemployment is prevalent. The supply of labour of the capitalist sector is assumed to be infinitely elastic at the existing capitalist wage.

The wage in the capitalist sector is higher at least by thirty percent than that of the subsistence sector. Since the marginal productivity of labour in the capitalist sector is higher, a surplus is generated, which is used for capital formation. The process continues till the capital labour ratio rises. The supply of labour remains elastic in the first stage and the share of capitalists profit in the national income rises.

At the second stage, due to increase in the stock of capital and transfer of labour to more productive employment the wages of labour increase. Anything that increases the labour cost, reduces the profit and lowers the tempo of capital formation.

At the third stage, the subsistence sector does not exist. A relative shortage of agricultural goods occurs and agriculture becomes commercialized. Downward trend in the labour supply brings about a rise in the agricultural real wage as the marginal product of rural labour is no longer zero.

Lewis model tries to explain structural changes in an underdeveloped economy. It dominated the development literature during 1960s and 1970s, and became the theoretical framework to study the development process in the third world economies having surplus labour.

The institutional and economic realities however of many developing economies do not conform to the assumptions of the model. The model assumes that the rate of labour transfer from rural subsistence sector and creation of employment in high productivity urban modern sector is proportional to the capital accumulation in the modern sector. If the profits in the capitalist sector are reinvested in labour saving machinery or capital flight occurs, the labour will not be absorbed in the modern sector. The assumption of surplus labour in rural areas and full employment in urban areas is also problematic. In many developing countries generally there is no full employment in the urban areas and a little surplus in the rural areas. The other assumption of continued existence of constant real wages in urban areas up to the point where the supply of surplus rural labour is exhausted is also questionable. Many developing economies have experienced that in the presence of a substantial open unemployment, the wages in the so called modern sector have risen due to the bargaining power of the union, and also because of the wage scales in the organized sector.

Though the Lewis model helps us to analyse the relationships in a dualistic economic structure and the role of capital formation in the development process, it has a limited relevance in case of many developing countries where the rate of urban unemployment is positive and growing as a model of internal migration.

Todaro model

Michael Todaro model[4] deals with internal migration in the presence of urban unemployment. It is therefore more relevant for developing countries. It can explain the paradoxical situation of rural - urban migration in the context of rising urban unemployment in Less Developed Countries (LDCs).

His model postulates that migration occurs in response to urban - rural differences in expected rather than actual earnings. The expected gains in cities are measured by the difference in real incomes between rural and urban work and the probability of the new migrants obtaining the urban jobs. Migration takes place when the expected income in the urban sector exceeds the actual income in the rural sector.

The type of analysis applicable to a developed country having full employment is not applicable to the developing countries because in LDC's both unemployment and under employment co-exist, as the rural labour in LDCs is also prepared to join the queue and has patience enough to remain unemployed during the waiting period. If the probability of getting a job is 50 percent or less, rural to urban migration does not take place, but if it is greater than 50 percent, decision to migrate is positive. Thus the migration is stimulated primarily by rational economic consideration of relative benefits and costs (Economic plus psychological). The probability of getting a job in the urban sector however is inversely related to urban employment rate.

The survey of 40 Indian villages by John Connel[5] can illustrate the point. The differentials between city and village

in the expected values of life time incomes, suitably discounted, explain the volume of migration. This study confirms with Todaro's model. It examines the view of Schultz[6] that if rural wages increase by half, rural out-migration may be reduced by one quarter. The results confirm this proposition. The evidence from the study indicates a strong positive relationship between formal schooling and an increased propensity to migrate.

Of the two models of Lewis and Todaro, the latter can be applied to Jordan, because most of the population in Jordan has migrated from rural and backward areas to metropolitan cities, Amman, Zarqa and Irbid etc. for better job opportunities. The expectation of higher income in those cities, is the major factor for this migration. The lack of infrastructure, which can sustain economic development outside the greater Amman area, coupled with the concentration of regional commercial and financial institutions, has inhibited employment opportunities elsewhere. This has also led to concentrated development of the service sector causing internal migration towards the Amman region. Because of these reasons Amman alone employed about 58.8 percent [7] of total Jordanian labour force in 1993 excluding non-Jordanian labour force in Amman.

7.4 Urbanization in Jordan

In order to understand the process of internal migration and its impact on the labour market, it is necessary to know the pattern of urbanization in Jordan.

Amman in particular attracts many regional commercial and financial institutions and stimulates employment opportunities

and also rural to urban migration. The growth and expansion of Amman has formed the Amman - Zarqa' metropolitan area which contains more than half of the population of the nation. Urban to urban as well as rural to urban migration has contributed to the growth of Amman. A recent study conducted by Musa[8] in 1993 reports that 82.8 percent of all employment enterprises in the country and 92.6 percent of the total employment offered by enterprises are located within Amman. Zarqa contains another 5.3 percent of the enterprises offering 3.1 percent of the country's employment. In short 88.1 percent of Jordan's enterprises and 95 percent of their employment are located in the Amman - Zarqa area. On the other hand , cities of Salt, Karak and Aqaba contain no more than 5 percent of the enterprises and 1.9 percent of employment. Amman has been a product of not only the forced migrations from outside the East Bank, but also the voluntary migrations from other urban and rural areas of Jordan.

> Since 87 percent of Jordan's area is desert, the population is concentrated in the western parts which are suitable for agriculture. Continued internal migration from rural to urban areas is a major demographic problem[9].

The proportion of people living in towns with a population of 10000 people or more rose from 43 per cent in 1961 to 62.7 percent in 1979 and 66.5 percent in 1987.

Jordan witnessed the inflow of the population from occupied Palestine in 1948, and from the West Bank and Gaza strip in the

aftermath of the June 1967 war. Internal migration continues from the desert and rural areas to towns, especially to Amman, which has more than 40 percent of the total population[10].

Table 7.1 shows the distribution of Jordanian population based on rural/urban and tent dwellers break up in 1991. About 88.1 percent of total Jordanian urban population is concentrated in the three cities of Amman (47.3 percent), Irbid (21.6 percent) and Zarqa (19.1 percent). Internal migration from rural to urban areas in the main reason which has caused the growth of population in these cities.

The percentage of rural population to the total is the highest in Irbid, i.e., 39 percent. Karak, Balqa and Amman districts have large percentages of rural population. The tent dwellers are concentrated mostly in Mafraq (43.7 percent), and Zarqa (17.7 percent). Their percentage share in Amman and Maan districts is almost the same at 13.4 percent .. The percentage share in Tafilah is about 8.4 percent and in Karak 3.4 percent. Hence, it is clear that the most urbanized districts are Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. The remaining districts, viz, Mafraq, Balqa, Tafilah and Ma'an are considered to be semi-rural areas.

Table 7.1: Distribution of Rural/Urban Population by Districts in 1991

District	Urban Population		Rural Population		Tents Dwellers		Total Population	
	No.in thou-sand	Per-cent	No.in thou-sand	Per-cent	No.in thou-sand	Per-cent	No.in thou-sand	Per-cent
Amman	1418	47.4	139	18.0	16	13.4	1573	40.5
Zarqa	572	19.1	8	1.0	21	17.7	601	15.5
Irbid	648	21.6	302	39.0	-	--	950	24.4
Mafraq	41	1.4	63	8.1	52	43.7	156	4.0
Balqa	160	5.3	79	10.2	-	-	239	6.1
Karak	38	1.3	121	15.6	4	3.4	163	4.2
Tafila	34	1.1	18	2.3	10	8.4	62	1.6
Ma'an	82	2.7	45	5.8	16	13.4	144	3.7
TOTAL	2993	100.0	775	100.0	119	100.0	2888	100.0

Source : Economic and Social Five year Development Plan 1993-1997 Ministry of Planning - AMMAN.

The rural urban population breakup and projections till the year 2010 are shown in Table 7.2 The observations are as follows:

- In 1973, the urban-rural population percentages were 43 and 57. It means that 25 years ago Jordan was more rural than urban.
- From 1979 onwards,the urban-rural population ratio is around 60:40, which means that within 6 years since 1973 Jordan emerged as an urban country. This happened because of internal and external in-migration rather than because of a structural transformation of the economy.
- The official projection shows that between 1990 and 2010 the percentage share of urban population will increase from 70 percent to 80 percent. Thus there would be one percentage point increase every year during the decade.

The urbanization process if continued unabated is going to affect the agriculture sector adversely. The Jordanian economy, therefore would be dependent on other countries in terms of food supply. There would be a tremendous strain on urban economy to provide employment opportunities and basic infrastructure for increasing population. It is feared that if the increase in urbanization is not accompanied by industrialization, the problem on the labour market front would become acute.

Table 7.2 : Urban/Rural Distribution of Jordanian Population, 1973 - 2010.

Year	Total Population	Urban (%)	Rural(%)
1973	2535000	43.0	57.0
1974	2618000	42.0	58.0
1979	2132997	59.4	40.6
1981	2369000	59.5	40.5
1983	2447300	60.0	40.0
1984	2545200	60.0	40.0
1985	2644400	60.0	40.0
1990	3442000	69.5	30.5
1995	4207000	72.7	27.3
2000	4989000	75.4	25.6
2005	5842000	77.7	24.6
2010	6815000	79.8	20.2

Note : Projections for the period 1990-2010

Source : 1) Department of Statistics, Labour Force in Jordan, Labour Force Survey 1982-83.

2) Ministry of planning, Future Estimate of Population and Labour Till Year 2010, UNFPA / ILO project No. JOR/88/p02 : Population, Human Resources and Development planning.

7.5 Internal Migration in Jordan

The greater variety of jobs in the cities offering better prospects for economic advancement and a desire for social and economic independence are strong inducements for the young to leave the country-side, especially if land is in short supply and the population increases at a fast rate. In Jordan these movements, as examined in the earlier section, are directed to the two cities of the country, Amman and Zarqa. A few migrants also move to Irbid and Aqaba.

Between 1952 and 1961 the population of Irbid went up by 60 percent and that of Aqaba by more than 180 percent. In 1961 Aqaba gained 5,000 and Irbid 15,000 migrants out of about 190,000 persons (130,000 from rural and 60,000 from other urban places mostly situated on the West Bank of Jordan). In contrast, Amman and Zarqa cities together received about 90 percent of this number, which is more than four times to their natural growth[11].

Internal migration in Jordan has also been determined by the volume and course of the movements of refugees. Many of the new comers have left the camps or have avoided them in order to improve their living conditions. According to the social survey of Amman held in 1960, persons born in occupied Palestine comprised about 30 percent of the city's inhabitants. The survey however does not state when these persons arrived. Some may have come as traders or workers before the partition of Palestine in 1948, others came immediately after the expulsion[12].

The heavy out-migration from West Bank Jordan-from towns and from villages implies that refugees have been participating in these movements. The sudden arrival of more than half a million homeless people is bound to have long term repercussions on the economy. West Bank of Jordan depends on farming and handicraft, large masses of new arrivals find little chance to improve their lot. Hence the movement of refugees turns east ward.

Migrants tend to attract more migrants in a cumulative process. By increasing the demand for goods and services they induce the inflow of capital and contribute to open new income possibilities for more migrants. Migration rate is divergent between one district and another. After 1986 the in-migration was 19 percent and 15 percent for Zarqa and Tafila respectively. The out migration is the highest in Balqa district (23 percent) and it is the lowest in Irbid. The migrants move towards Amman, Zarqa and Irbid.

As per the 1991 ILO study, Amman received about 31 percent, Zarqa received 34 percent and Ibrid 11 percent of the total immigrants. The southern districts of Karak, Tafila and Ma'an received 13 percent of total internal migrants because of the job opportunities in Aqaba city. However, about 26 percent of these internal migrants are illiterate[13].

The surplus labour in rural Jordan and the expectation of a higher income in cities along with positive urban unemployment explain the state of Jordan's economy and labour market. Because of internal migration the concentration of population in Amman and its periphery, has created regional imbalances and a deadlock in the rural development of more than 85 percent area of Jordan. Amman civic administration therefore faces serious problems due to multiplying needs of civic amenities and infrastructure required by the growing population. Unless rural development takes place migration will continue causing problems for the cities. The relative poor industrial base does not offer much prospects to the migrants and thus they tend to depend on the few service producing sectors and informal sectors for jobs.

As the upto date information on internal migration is not available, the following observations based on the study by The Department of Statistics may help us to test some of the hypothesis concerning the pattern of internal migration. It is hypothesized that generally people in the relatively young age group migrate. Many of them are educated and therefore have an access to information on the job market. Migration of women as labourers is relatively lower than men as they generally accompany as family members. The data contained in tables 7.3 and 7.4 might help us to reveal the same.

Observations based on Tables 7.3 & 7.4

In Jordan in 1986 about 16 percent of internal migrants were in the age group of 15 years and below, about 33 percent were in the age group of 15-29, and about 32 percent in the age group of 30-49 years. This means that 65 percent of them were in the age group of 15-49 looking for good jobs in cities. This age group based distribution was more or less the same for the males and the females. As against this about 62 percent of nonmigrants were in the age group of below 15.

The migrants were relatively more educated than non-migrants (Table 7.4). About 26 percent of the internal migrants were illiterate. However, this percentage varies between males and females. It was 14 percent for the migrant males and 37.9 percent for the females. For the non-migrants it was 8.8 and 23.0 percentage respectively for the males and the females. The proportion of illiterate migrant females therefore is higher. In the other categories however,the proportion was higher among migrants except those with elementary and preparatory level of education. The data therefore confirms the hypothesis that it is the relatively young and educated who are more mobile than the others.

Table 7.3 : Percentage Distribution of Internal Migrants and Non-Migrants by Age and Sex, 1986

Age	Migrants	Non-Migrants	Total
Male			
0-14	16.1	60.4	46.7
15-29	33.3	28.2	29.7
30-49	30.6	7.0	14.3
50 +	20.0	4.4	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female			
0-14	15.2	62.9	47.4
15-29	33.6	26.0	28.5
30-49	33.3	7.5	15.9
50 +	17.9	3.6	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL			
0-14	15.7	61.6	47.1
15-29	33.4	27.1	29.1
30-49	31.9	7.3	15.1
50 +	19.0	4.0	8.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Department of Statistics, 1989, Study of Internal Migration and Returnee Labour Force - Amman - Jordan.

Table 7.4 :Percentage Distribution of Migrants and Non-Migrants (Age Group 13 Years and Over) According to Level of Education and Sex, 1986

Level of Education	Migrants			Non-Migrants		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Illiterate	14.3	37.9	26.0	8.8	23.0	15.4
Can read & write	14.1	9.4	11.8	8.0	6.8	7.8
Elementary or Preparatory	41.6	34.1	37.8	61.1	54.6	58.1
Secondary or Over	30.0	18.6	24.4	21.5	15,6	18.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Same as in Table 7.3

The table 7.5 shows in and out migration in various districts of Jordan. Following are the observations based on the table.

- The percentage of in-migrants settled in Zarqa district is the highest, viz, 33.6 percent. It is almost 31 percent in case of Amman and 11 percent in Irbid.

- More than 75 percent of in-migrants have come to Amman, Zarqa and Irbid districts as Karak, Tafilah, Maan are semi-rural and for away from the urban conglomerate of Amman.

- One finds that net migration has been positive only in the case of Zarqa, Mafraq, Tafilah and Ma'an. It implies that the movement of labour is high and the problems due to inmigration can be tackled with effective policies.

Table 7.5: Percentage Distribution of Internal Migrants, 1986

District	In-Migrant	Out-Migrant	Net Migrant
Amman	30.9	32.7	- 1.8
Zarqa	33.6	19.4	+14.2
Irbid	11.3	18.1	- 6.8
Mafraq	4.1	4.0	+ 0.1
Balqa	7.2	14.0	- 6.8
Karak	4.7	5.5	- 0.8
Tafilah	2.5	1.5	+ 1.0
Ma'an	5.7	4.8	+ 0.9
TOTAL	100.0		100.0
NUMBER OF CASES	(10007)		(10007)

Source :- Same as in Table 7.3

Observations based on table 7.6

The net migration rates being 8.2 and 6.2 are very high in Zarqa and Tafilah districts. The inmigration in these districts is higher than outmigration. In case of Tafilah it is so because it is geographically nearer to the only port of Aqaba. In districts such as Amman, Irbid and Balga, Karak etc., outmigration is higher than inmigration. The overall in and out migration rates were the same indicating that the net impact of internal migration might be negligible.

Table 7.6 : Net Migration Rate Among the Districts, 1986

(% to Districts Population)

District	Inmigration	Outmigration	Net Migration Rate
	1	2	3 (3=1-2)
Amman	7.4	7.8	-0.4
Zarqa	19.4	11.2	8.2
Irbid	3.8	6.1	-2.3
Mafraq	10.8	10.7	0.1
Balqa	11.7	22.7	-11.0
Karak	9.6	11.1	-1.5
Tafilah	15.4	9.2	6.2
Ma'an	13.9	11.7	2.2
Total	9.2	9.2	--

Source :- Same as in Table 7.3.

Observations based on Table 7.7

It can be seen from table 7.7 that except Agriculture and Social service etc., the percentage of inmigrants absorbed in construction, trade, restaurants, transport, finance, Insurance etc. are higher than those of non-migrants. The relatively unskilled internal migrants get absorbed in sectors like agriculture, construction and service related occupations as these economic activities do not require education and skilled manpower. As compare to migrants most of the nonmigrants (61 percent) are employed in community, personal etc., services. The next activity inwhich they are employed is related to trade, restaurants and hotels, followed by storage, transport and communication. All these activities belong mainly to service sector.

Table 7.7 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Migrants and Non-Migrants (Age Group 13 Years and Over) by Economic Activities, 1986

Economic Activity	Migrants	Non-Migrants
1. Agriculture and Hunting	4.4	6.8
2. Mining	0.3	0.2
3. Industry	9.6	6.7
4. Electricity,Gas and Water	0.8	0.7
5. Construction	12.0	6.8
6. Trade, Restaurants and Hotels	15.5	8.9
7. Storage, Transport and Communication.	9.7	7.3
8. Finance,Real estate,Insurance & Business services	3.1	1.6
9.Community,Personal & Social Services	44.6	61.0
Total	100.0	100.0
Number of cases	11116	9439

Source : Same as in Table 7.3.

Observations based on the table 7.8:

The highest percentage of 51.4 percent immigrant labour is occupied in transport related jobs and other productive services. The share was lower than that of nonmigrants which had 63.3 percent share in these activities.

The next important occupational category comprising 16.7 percent of the total migrants of the specialists and the technicians is higher by 6.3 percent than that of the non-migrants in the same occupations. The percentage shares in occupations such as salesmen and in services of migrants were higher than that of nonmigrants.

Table 7.8 : Percentage Distribution of Employed Migrants And Non-Migrants (Age Group 13 Years and Over) by Occupation, 1986.

Main Occupation	Migrants	Non-Migrants
Specialists and Technicians	16.7	11.4
Administrative	3.2	1.1
Clerks	7.0	7.9
Salesmen	11.0	6.7
Services	6.4	2.9
Agriculture	4.3	6.7
Transport and other productive services	51.4	63.3
Total	100.0	100.0
Number of cases	11116	9439

Source : Same as in Table 7.3.

The above analysis indicates that migrants in 1986, were attracted to few districts, as they had relatively high human capital component and as far as occupational concentration was concerned, they had more or less similar pattern as that of non migrants except in few occupations. Though upto date information is not available, the discussions held with officials revealed that more or less the same trend continues.

7.6 Internal Migration and Unemployment Problem

In the case of Jordan as explained earlier the lack of job opportunities in the rural areas is the main cause for people to migrate to urban areas. However, it is difficult to analyse the nature and extent of influence of migrants on urban labour market due to lack of information. Yet with the scant information available the following scenario emerges.

Table 7.9 shows the unemployment rate between Jordanian internal migrants and non-migrants of the population in the age group of 13 years and over. The table shows that overall unemployment rate among migrants was 12.4 percent and among non-migrants it was 13.9 percent. This means that the in-migrants accept poor jobs, on the other hand, non-migrants are ready to wait for a longer time for better remunerative jobs. This happens because their consumption expenditure is higher than that of in-migrants, and they have a better family support system. The migrant's first priority is to get jobs in the new

surroundings. They accept jobs below their skills. However, they are more selective in their second or third jobs. This is not so with the non-migrants who try to get the jobs following their preferences.

The unemployment rate varies according to age groups of both migrants and non-migrants. In the age group of 13-29 years, the rate is lower among in-migrant females rather than that of the non-migrants, as female migrant labour is partially liberated from the household duties. In this age group, the labour enters the labour market perhaps for the first time and the migrant females are more willing to accept odd jobs as compared to the non-migrants.

In the age group of 30-49 years, the unemployment rate is higher among the migrants than that of the non-migrants both for the males and the females. Perhaps as labour become experienced they wait longer till they find suitable work. In the age group of 50 years and above, the unemployment rate is higher among the migrants for both the males and the females. The unemployment among the males is more or less the same between the migrants and the non migrants. The unemployment rate among the migrant females is less than that of the non migrants. This might be due to the economic compulsions which are responsible for their accepting any job offered to them.

Table 7.9 : Unemployment Rate of Migrants and Non-Migrants (Age Group 13 Years and Over) by Age and Sex, 1986 (in percentage)

Age and Sex	Migrants	Non-Migrants
13-29		
Male	15.7	15.7
Female	30.7	36.0
Total	18.0	18.9
30-49		
Male	7.5	5.4
Female	4.8	2.0
Total	7.3	5.2
50 and over		
Male	13.1	6.5
Female	2.6	-
Total	12.9	6.5
Total		
Male	11.5	12.2
Female	20.2	30.7
Total	12.4	13.9

Source : Same as in Table 7.3.

Internal migration from rural to urban areas has resulted in a surplus of labour in the urban areas. There is a surplus of labour in services and industrial sectors in the urban areas and shortage of labour in the agriculture sector.

The non-migrants have to compete for jobs with the migrant labour. The willingness of the migrants to accept any job offered to them adversely affects the overall wage rate. Internal migration has also led to the problem of open and under employment, as well as educated unemployment in urban areas and a shortage of labour in the rural areas.

From the urban areas people also migrate to the neighbouring countries. The net impact of internal migration on Jordan's economy and on labour market, cannot be ascertained unless detailed break up of internal migrants age and education and their absorption in urban labour market is available. The detailed background of the outmigrants in terms of age, education and the nature of economic activities from where they are withdrawn should also be available. The information shows that net migration rate except in a few places is very small. The migrants just replace those who have left. The impact on the labour market and the economy would not be therefore much. If the migrants are employed in the sectors in which there has been no outmigration, there would definitely be some imbalance in the labour market even if the net migration rate is small. Such information is also not available.

The government's policy recently has been to discourage outmigration. In such a case, the internal migration would be a strain on the urban areas and also on the labour market. Unless the economy progresses at a fast rate, there would be some increase in unemployment. Competition among labourers would also lead to the lowering of wage rate. There is a need to discourage labour to migrate to urban areas. This is possible only if the rural sector develops. Till such developments, internal migration will continue and if outmigration is reduced, it would accentuate the problem of labour market in particular and that of the urban economy in general.

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