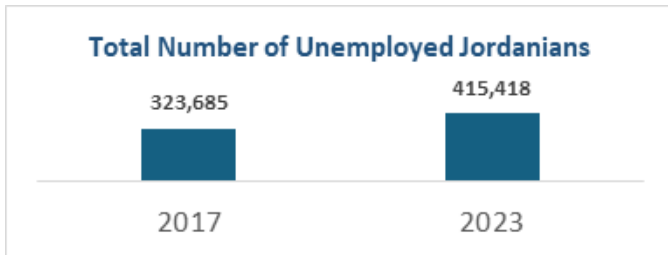
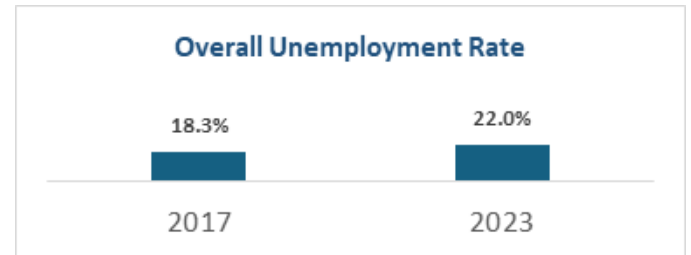


## The Long-Term Unemployed Jordanians: A Positive Sign Inside the Challenge

The overall number of the unemployed Jordanians has increased from **323,685 in 2017 to 415,418 individuals in 2023**. This increase has led to a reciprocal increase in the overall unemployment rate from **%18.3 in 2017 to %22.0 in 2023**.

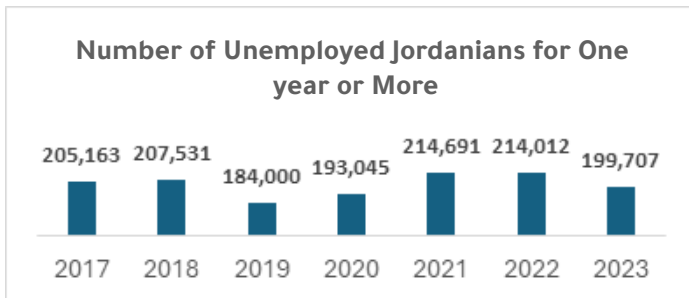


Source: Department of Statistics.

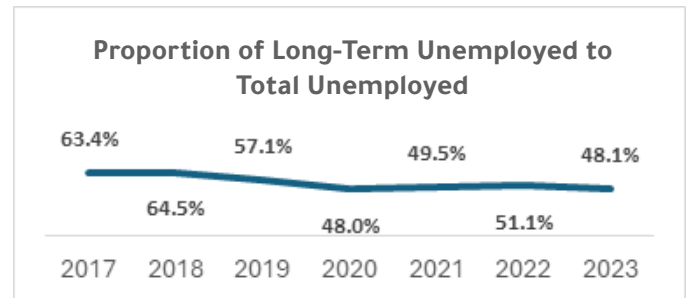


The increase in the unemployed Jordanians involves economic, psychological, and social costs. **The economic cost** is a decline in a nation's output and tax revenues. **The psychological cost** is a loss of self-esteem and depression. **The social cost** is crime, domestic violence, drug abuse, and others.

The rising number of the unemployed Jordanians notwithstanding, it is worth noting that the number of unemployed Jordanians for one year or more has decreased from **205,163 in 2017 to 199,707 in 2023**. Indeed, the proportion of the **"long-term unemployed"** to the total number of the unemployed has come down from **%63.4 in 2017 to %48.1 in 2023**. While this observation is positive, the 2023 figure (**199,707**) is still large.



Source: Department of Statistics.



Economic intuition predicts that **wages decline with longer unemployment duration**. In addition, when individuals are out of work for too long, their skills may erode. This **"depreciation of human capital"** increases as time passes, and the chance of finding a new job decreases.

**In a Nutshell**, the decline in long-term unemployment as a share of the workforce signals stronger labor market dynamics. The Jordan Strategy Forum urges stakeholders to examine the characteristics of these long-term unemployed Jordanians and address the causes behind their delayed employment, recommending efforts to integrate them into the labor market through training, qualification, requalification, and other effective employment policies to enhance Jordanian human capital.