

TURNING EXPORT POTENTIAL INTO EMPLOYMENT

A CASE STUDY FOR JORDAN



Turning export potential into employment

A case study for Jordan

About the paper

Jordan could create more than 85,000 new jobs, about a quarter of them for women, by unlocking its regional trade potential, according to a new ITC study that identifies export sectors with employment potential by using an innovative methodology.

The export sectors with the highest employment creation potential are clothing, live animals and jewellery. Increasing regional exports in these three sectors could generate over 47,000 jobs across the Jordanian economy. This report guides policymakers in focusing their export promotion on sectors that promise the most employment.

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For more information on export potential, see: <https://exportpotential.intracen.org>

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Preface

Trade creates opportunities for growth by giving businesses access to a broader customer base beyond the domestic market. Yet, trade is not an end in itself, but should act as a driver of income growth and job creation to benefit people.

The link from 'more trade' to 'more and better jobs' is not automatic, however. The labour market implications of developing exports in one sector versus another are sometimes difficult to compare, while available resources for trade promotion are scarce. To assist policymakers in their strategic decision-making, ITC has developed a methodology to estimate the employment opportunities associated with a country's untapped export potential.

In the case of Jordan, unlocking the regional trade potential across all sectors could help create more than 85,000 new jobs, this new methodology shows. In the clothing sector alone, removing all market frictions and building production capacity to leverage the projected economic growth would add \$254 million of exports and create about 22,000 new jobs – not only in the clothing sector itself, but also in input-producing sectors and through increased spending across the economy. Women would particularly benefit, as this sector has the highest share of female employment.

This new methodology is the first that guides the selection of export sectors with employment potential and quantifies jobs created in the sectors themselves, along the associated value chain and across the entire economy. This lens provides strategic insights and empowers policymakers to focus their resources and efforts to promote trade on those sectors that are likely to drive inclusive development and create jobs, across sectors and for different economic actors, such as women and youth. It thus helps countries harness trade to make progress towards achieving Goal 8 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – decent work and economic growth.

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Julia Seiermann and Julia Spies drafted the paper based on a methodology developed by Yvan Decreux and implemented by Sylvain Périllat. Mondher Mimouni (Chief, TMI) provided comments as well as general support and supervision.

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