



Ministry of Labour Syrian Refugee Unit -- Monthly Progress Report

Syrian Refugee Unit Work Permit Progress Report *November 2017*

Timeframe	Report includes data gathered through November 30, 2017
Report compiled by	Syrian Refugee Unit at the Ministry of Labour
Date submitted	03/12/2017

Introduction

This report was compiled by the Ministry of Labour's (MoL) Syrian Refugee Unit (SRU) and will provide the following:

- Total work permits issued to Syrian refugees.
- Disaggregation of work permit data by gender, type of permit, and location.
- Camp-specific work permit issuances.

January 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017	77,464 permits issued
January 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017	40,674 permits issued
<i>Of which issued from camps February 2017 to November 30, 2017</i>	11,670 permits issued

Highlights

- A new Memo was issued on November 13, 2017 to simplify the procedures for Syrian refugees enabling them to move from one employer to another and from sector to another once their work permits expire without the previous employer's clearance.
- **6038 WPs** were issued in November with an increase of 22% compared to last month average as **4,938 WPs** were issued in October 2017, a significant increase in the monthly rate and largely keeping with the trend begun last month. The average number of permits issued per month over the course of the first eleven months of 2017 is roughly 3698. The increase in monthly issuances has been driven mainly by



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the construction and agriculture sectors, with 2,697 and 2,208 permits issued respectively.

- Though the overall number of work permits is comparable to last year, more Syrians are obtaining permits in the agriculture sector, 18,316 in 2017 compared to 10,480 in 2016. This 75 % increase may be attributable to the flexible work permits issued through the cooperatives. The Number of WP issued under the Cooperatives since the decision was out up to November 30, 2017 is 28,064.
- The number of WP issued under the umbrella of the General Federation of Jordanian trade unions (GFJTU) since the decision was out up to November 30, 2017 is 3872.

Policy Context

On November 13, 2017 Ministry of Labor has issued the memo that includes several decisions related to the ease of movement from one sector to another is expected to increase the number of WP applications and provide more flexible working environment.

On September 28, 2017, the Ministry of Labor issued a circular to its directorates that officially rescinded its previous decision making professional certificates mandatory for flexible construction sector permits. Syrians will still be able to access the certification programs from ILO, but they will no longer be mandatory for obtaining a flexible work permit in the construction sector. The ongoing flexible work permit agreement allows Syrians to move from one construction project to another on a single, valid work permit. Between June, when the agreement went into effect, through the end of **November, 3872 work permits were issued through the GFJTU.**

Short-term work permits with a six-month duration or less continue to be issued, but only for cash-for-work or other “labor-intensive projects” conducted by NGOs. Through November, **259 of these short-term permits were issued.**



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Analysis

Work Permit Issuances by Gender

Period	Male	Female	Total
January 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017	74,106 (96%)	3,358 (4%)	77,464
January 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017	38,430 (94%)	2,244 (6%)	40,674

Work Permit Issuances by Type

Reason	Number of Permits
First-Time Issuance	23,165
Renewal	13,469
Change of Workplace	3,443
Social Security Purposes ¹	335
Recruitment ²	3
Temporary Permits ³	259

¹ For purposes of collecting the social security entitlements, work permits may be renewed.

² Recruitment involves hiring non-Jordanian workers while they are still in their country of origin and bringing them to Jordan for work. This normally applies to workers in the garment and domestic services sectors. As no Syrians are being recruited from Syria, this number remains (and will most likely remain for the near future) zero or close to zero.

³ Based on new instructions and a circular related to employment for cash-for-work projects, short-term work permits were introduced.



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Work Permit Issuances by Governorate

Governorate	#	Governorate	#
Amman	13,210	Karak	696
Madaba	455	Ma'an	370
Irbid	17,081	Zarqa	6,179
Jerash	1041	Mafraq	869
Ajloun	251	Tafila	168
Balqa	348	Aqaba	6
Total		40,674	

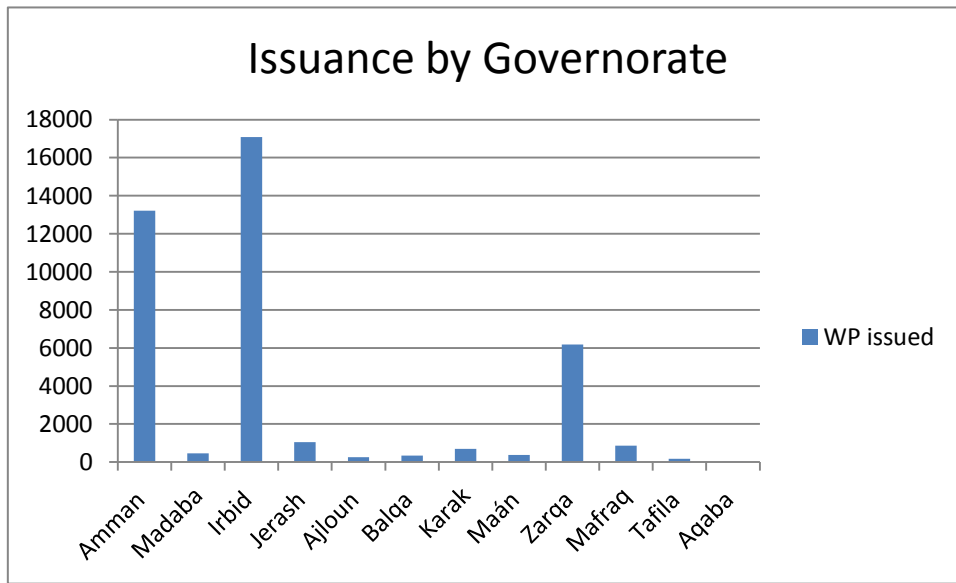


Figure 1: Work Permit Issuances by Governorate (1/1/2017 to 30/11/2017)

Work Permits by Economic Activity

Economic Activity/Field	January to November 2016	Share of Work Permit Issuances	January to November 2017	Share of Work Permit Issuances	Percent Change in Total Work Permits (Year-on-Year)[1]
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Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	10,480	31.07%	18,316	45.03%	75%
Mining and quarrying	36	0.11%	24	0.06%	-33%
Manufacturing	6,335	18.78%	5,473	13.46%	-14%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	9	0.03%	2	0.00%	-78%
Water supply, sewage, waste management activities	258	0.76%	342	0.84%	33%
Construction	2,997	8.89%	5,931	14.58%	98%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	5,177	15.35%	4,229	10.40%	-18%
Transportation and storage	675	2.00%	249	0.61%	-63%
Hospitality and food service activities	4,451	13.20%	3,974	9.77%	-11%
Information and communication	36	0.11%	25	0.06%	-31%
Financial and insurance activities	5	0.01%	3	0.01%	-40%
Real estate activities	33	0.10%	11	0.03%	-67%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	79	0.23%	143	0.35%	81%
Administrative and support service activities	925	2.74%	629	1.55%	-32%
Public administration and defense; compulsory social	253	0.75%	442	1.09%	75%
Education	140	0.42%	113	0.28%	-19%



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Human health and social work activities	61	0.18%	40	0.10%	-34%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	37	0.11%	26	0.06%	-30%
Other service activities	1,266	3.75%	390	0.96%	-69%
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use.	464	1.38%	150	0.37%	-68%
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	11	0.03%	162	0.40%	1373%
Total	33,728	100.00%	40,674	100.00%	21%

Issuance by Economic Activity (All Governorates)

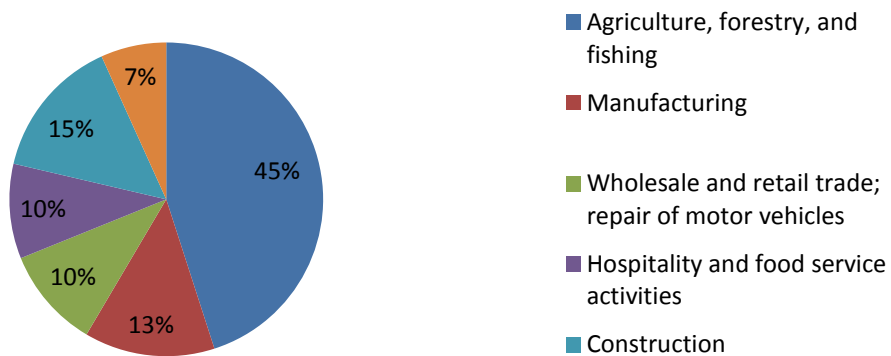


Figure 2: Work Permit Issuances by Economic Activity (1/1/2017 to 30/11/2017)



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Work Permit Issuances at Camps

Camp	Work Permits Issued ⁴
Azraq Camp	6,976
Za'atari Camp	4,184
Cyber Camp	18
Mreijeb Camp	468
Unknown or Old Record	24
Total	11,670

Figure 3: Work Permit Issuances from Camps (1/2/2017 to 30/11/2017)

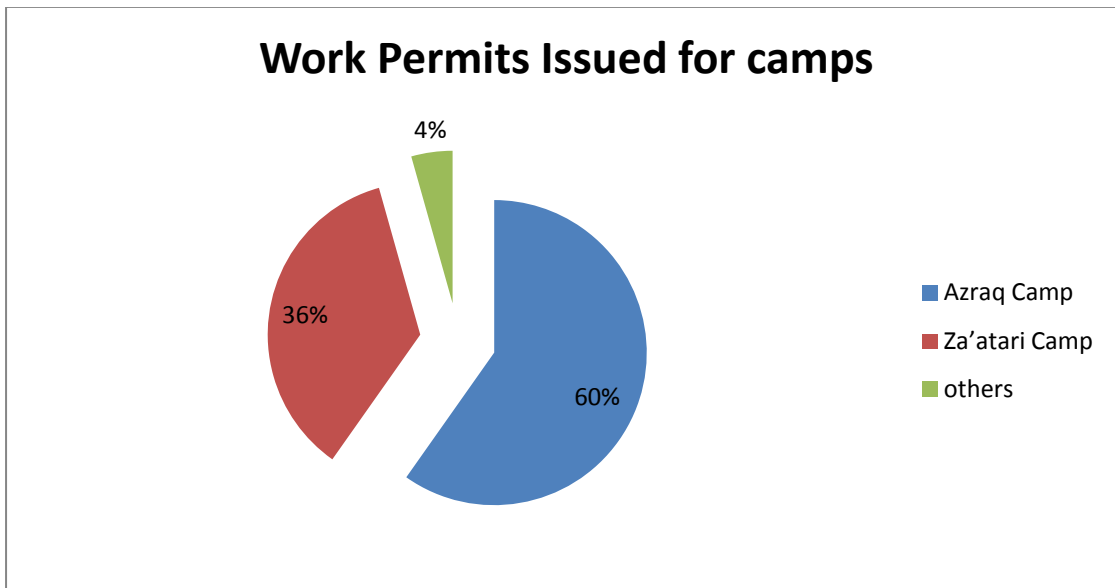


Figure 4: Comparing Work Permit Issuances by Camp (1/2/2017 to 30/11/2017)

⁴ This number represents the total number of work permits issued between February 1, 2017 (when work permits were first issued at the camp level) and November 30, 2017. The increase in the WP numbers in the camps is mainly driven by the Joint Employment offices inside the Za'atari and Azraq camps and due to the fact that representatives of the GFJTU and Cooperatives are also present there to simplify the process of issuing WP under those programs, as well as flexibility in movement out of the camps, which allowed the Syrian refugees to go and approach those two associations and issue WPs.