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**Crime Statistics in Jordan: Overview of results \***

Prepared by

Haidar Fraihat  
Department of Statistics, Jordan

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## Crime Statistics in Jordan

Crime is defined as any act that causes damages or injuries to persons or public or private property. The definition covers grave crimes, felonies and simple offences. Crimes differ in terms of definition: Grave crimes are defined as those whose perpetrators are convicted to death or imprisonment for a minimum term of three years. Felonies are those offences in which the convicts are placed in a detention and rehabilitation center to spend their terms for periods ranging from one week to three years. Simple offences do not pose any threat to the society and most of them end with conciliation between the litigating parties.

### General Crimes in Jordan, 1998 -2007

Year	Number of Cases
1998	29065
1999	31758
2000	30667
2001	33391
2002	30858
2003	29756
2004	29927
2005	29513
2006	39108
2007	42996

Data show that General Crimes in Jordan increased steadily during the period 1998-2001, where the total crimes increased from about 29 thousand in 1998 to 33.4 thousand crimes in 2001. Starting the 2002, the number of crimes decreased and reached about 31 thousand and continued that until the end of 2005.

It is noted that the number of crimes has significantly increased by ten thousand cases in 2006 compared to 2005. It is worthy to mention that this increase is attributed to registering all crimes and felonies that were not previously registered. Such cases used to be considered as simple crimes and were settled at police centers without reporting that to the court.

Data on crimes and felonies committed in Jordan during the period 2003-2007 revealed that crimes constitute less than one-fifth of the total crimes and felonies in every year during the mentioned period and ranged between 16.2 % in 2004 and 18.8 % in 2007.

Felonies constitute the large proportion of the total crimes and felonies during the above time period. The number of felonies increased from 24857 in the year 2003 to 34897 in the year 2007 which means a percentage increase of about 40 %. This significant increase is attributed to registering all felonies that were not previously registered. Such cases used to be considered as simple felonies and were settled at police centers without reporting that to the court.

**Crimes and Felonies Committed in Jordan  
During the Period 2003-2007**

Year	Crime	Felony	Total
2003	4899	24857	29756
2004	4857	25070	29927
2005	4897	24616	29513
2006	7114	31994	39108
2007	8099	34897	42996

The prevalence of crime in Jordan is still within reasonable and controllable rates. The crimes perpetrated in Jordan are still limited in terms of range and type. The majority of perpetrators act individually. Crime-related data show an increase in the number of general crimes during 2007, in comparison with the 2003 (from 29756 crimes in 2003 to 42996 crimes in 2007).

The prevalence of crime is measured by the number of crimes per 10,000 or 100,000 population. The higher this rate, the more prevalent crime is in the society and vice versa. According to this measure, it is observed that crime rates increased between 2003 and 2007 — from 569 crimes per 100,000 population in 2003 to 751 crimes per 100,000 population in 2007. The highest rates observed according to governorates are for Aqaba and Amman Governorates. But the highest rate recorded was for Aqaba Governorate namely 1399 and 910 per 100,000 population. It is observed that the crime rates have dropped significantly in all governorates between 2003 and 2007 with the exception of Tafela Governorate which witnessed a slight increase in its rate.

In 2003, a total of 3975 grave crimes - i.e., 16.0 % of the total number of crimes for that year - were reported. This figure increased to 6840 (i.e., 19.6 % of the total) in 2007. Felonies, on the other hand, were more prevalent, rising from 24,857 (83.5 % of the total) offences in 2003 to 34897 (81.2 % of the total) offences in 2007.

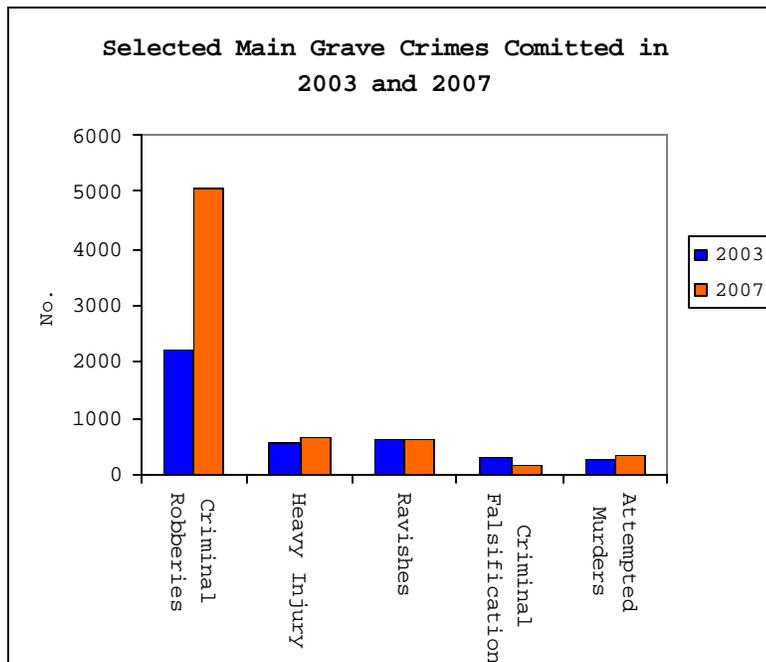
The data reveal that, during these two years, the prevalence rate was the highest for criminal robberies (55.5 % of the total in 2003 and 74.2 % of the total in 2007) and the lowest was for attempted murders (6.2 % in 2003 and 4.7 in 2007).

In the year 2005, Youths (aged 18–27 years) committed the highest number of intended murders, accounting for around two fifths of this type of crime. By contrast, younger persons (aged less than 18 years) committed the least number (6.6 %) of such crimes. Taking the status of economic activity of perpetrators of homicides into consideration, it is evident that workers in the free professions account for the highest share of this type of crime - more than half (56.6 %) of the perpetrators. Unemployed persons and students come in second place with 13.2 %, while housewives come last, with only 2.6 % of the total number of homicides.

**Selected Main Grave Crimes Committed,  
Jordan, 2003 and 2007**

Kind of Grave Crime	2003		2007	
	No.	%	No.	%
Criminal Robberies	2205	55.5	5074	74.2
Heavy Injury	568	14.3	643	9.4
Ravishes	642	16.2	628	9.2
Criminal Falsification	312	7.8	171	2.5
Attempted Murders	248	6.2	324	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6840</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Department of Statistics*



Data reveals that crimes committed by juveniles in Jordan constituted 11.2 % of total crimes registered in 2007. Crimes against properties have topped the crimes committed by juveniles, while crimes against persons constitute 18 % of the total crimes committed by juveniles. Crimes against public morals and ethics occupied the third rank among the types of crimes committed by juveniles and accounted for 5.0 %.

At regional level, about 53 % of the total crimes committed by juveniles took place in the middle region of the Kingdom, while the North region occupied the second rank with about 31 % of the total crimes committed by juveniles.

Crimes against property account for about 60% of the total crimes committed by students in 2007, while crimes against the person comes second with about 21 %. In comparison, crimes against public administration account for about 6 % of the total crimes committed by students.

As for the crimes committed by foreigners in Jordan, the crimes against property have topped all types of crimes and account for about 64 % of the total crimes. Crimes against the person occupied the second rank with about 16 % of the total crimes committed by foreigners.