


THE IMPACT OF COVID -19 PANDEMIC ON THE AUDITING PROFESSION

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Article history:</p> <p>Received 20 February 2023</p> <p>Accepted 08 May 2023</p>	<p>Purpose of the study: The purpose of the study was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy in general and the audit profession in particular.</p>
<p>Keywords:</p> <p>Economic; Auditing Profession; COVID-19 Crisis; Income of Auditor; Auditor Performance.</p> <div data-bbox="172 943 480 1189" style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Theoretical framework: The study aimed to show the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the income of auditing firms and the overall performance of the audit profession.</p> <p>Method: The study relied on a questionnaire as a data collection tool. The questionnaire was designed based on the Likert model to gather the opinions of a group of auditors who represented the population of the study. One hundred sixty questionnaires were distributed, and 152 were retrieved, representing a 95% response rate.</p> <p>Results and conclusion: The analysis of the data revealed that the economy, including the audit profession, was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The income of auditing firms decreased, and there was a decline in performance and the number of visits to customers. Based on the findings, the study recommended reconsidering the approach to dealing with crises in the audit profession to maintain income and performance levels.</p> <p>Search implications: The study's findings imply the need for further research and exploration into effective strategies to mitigate the negative impact of crises on the audit profession and maintain its financial stability and performance.</p> <p>Originality value: This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge by specifically examining the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the audit profession and shedding light on the economic effects experienced by auditing firms. The study offers insights into the challenges faced by auditors during the pandemic and suggests recommendations for better crisis management in the profession.</p> <p>Doi: https://doi.org/10.26668/businessreview/2023.v8i5.1689</p>

O IMPACTO DA PANDEMIA DE COVID -19 NA PROFISSÃO DE AUDITOR

RESUMO

Objectivo do estudo: O objectivo do estudo foi discutir o impacto da crise da COVID-19 na economia em geral e na profissão de auditoria em particular.

Enquadramento teórico: O estudo pretendeu mostrar os efeitos económicos da pandemia da COVID-19 nos rendimentos das empresas de auditoria e no desempenho global da profissão de auditoria.

Método: O estudo baseou-se num questionário como instrumento de recolha de dados. O questionário foi concebido com base no modelo de Likert para recolher as opiniões de um grupo de auditores que representavam a população do estudo. Foram distribuídos 160 questionários, tendo sido recolhidos 152, o que representa uma taxa de resposta de 95%.

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Resultados e conclusões: A análise dos dados revelou que a economia, incluindo a profissão de auditoria, foi significativamente afectada pela pandemia da COVID-19. Os rendimentos das empresas de auditoria diminuíram e registou-se um declínio no desempenho e no número de visitas a clientes. Com base nos resultados, o estudo recomendou que se reconsiderasse a abordagem para lidar com as crises na profissão de auditoria, a fim de manter os níveis de rendimento e desempenho.

Implicações da pesquisa: As conclusões do estudo implicam a necessidade de mais investigação e exploração de estratégias eficazes para atenuar o impacto negativo das crises na profissão de auditoria e manter a sua estabilidade financeira e desempenho.

Valor de originalidade: Esta investigação contribui para o acervo de conhecimentos existente, examinando especificamente o impacto da crise da COVID-19 na profissão de auditoria e lançando luz sobre os efeitos económicos sentidos pelas empresas de auditoria. O estudo oferece uma visão dos desafios enfrentados pelos auditores durante a pandemia e sugere recomendações para uma melhor gestão da crise na profissão.

Palavras-chave: Económico, Profissão de Auditoria, Crise da COVID-19, Rendimento do Auditor, Desempenho do Auditor.

EL IMPACTO DE LA PANDEMIA DE COVID-19 EN LA PROFESIÓN DE AUDITOR

RESUMEN

Objetivo del estudio: El objetivo del estudio era analizar el impacto de la crisis del COVID-19 en la economía en general y en la profesión de auditor en particular.

Marco teórico: El estudio pretendía mostrar los efectos económicos de la pandemia del COVID-19 sobre los ingresos de las sociedades de auditoría y los resultados generales de la profesión auditora.

Método: El estudio se basó en un cuestionario como instrumento de recogida de datos. El cuestionario se diseñó basándose en el modelo de Likert para recabar las opiniones de un grupo de auditores que representaban a la población objeto de estudio. Se distribuyeron 160 cuestionarios y se recogieron 152, lo que representa una tasa de respuesta del 95%.

Resultados y conclusiones: El análisis de los datos reveló que la economía, incluida la profesión de auditor, se vio afectada de forma significativa por la pandemia de COVID-19. Los ingresos de las sociedades de auditoría disminuyeron y se produjeron pérdidas económicas. Los ingresos de las empresas de auditoría disminuyeron y se produjo un descenso del rendimiento y del número de visitas de clientes. Sobre la base de los resultados, el estudio recomendó reconsiderar el enfoque para hacer frente a las crisis en la profesión auditora con el fin de mantener los niveles de ingresos y rendimiento.

Repercusiones de la investigación: Las conclusiones del estudio implican la necesidad de seguir investigando y explorando estrategias eficaces para mitigar el impacto negativo de las crisis en la profesión de auditor y mantener su estabilidad financiera y su rendimiento.

Valor de originalidad: Esta investigación contribuye al corpus de conocimientos existente al examinar específicamente el impacto de la crisis COVID-19 en la profesión de auditoría y arrojar luz sobre los efectos económicos sufridos por las sociedades de auditoría. El estudio ofrece una visión de los retos a los que se enfrentaron los auditores durante la pandemia y sugiere recomendaciones para mejorar la gestión de crisis en la profesión.

Palabras clave: Economía, Profesión de Auditor, Crisis del Covid-19, Ingresos de los Auditores, Rendimiento de los Auditores.

INTRODUCTION

The audit committee has oversight responsibilities for the corporate governance, financial reporting, internal control, and audit functions(An, Y. 2023). It is not strange that there have been economic and financial crises throughout the ages. Still, the causes of problems differ, including the collapse of financial markets, such as the exit of some large companies that have a significant impact on a particular sector or the collapse of banking sectors as in 2008, or

causes resulting from international or local wars, and among the causes of these crises are epidemics and infectious diseases, as we are currently witnessing in all countries of the world, where many sectors are closed, and borders closed, which led to stop the foreign trade.

"At the End of 2019, COVID-19 appeared in China at Ohan City; after a few months, the epidemic has spread to most countries of the world, as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared on January 30 that the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (WHO 2020), The pandemic has caused a huge global social and economic damage, where it constitutes the largest global economic recession since the Great Depression has led to postpone or cancel many sporting, religious, political and cultural events, and a great shortage of supplies and equipment, in addition, schools and universities were closed in 190 countries, affecting about 73.5% of students in most countries of the world." This study investigates how the audit sector has been affected by COVID-19 in Jordan. This study came to investigate the profession's impact on the economic and financial crises afflicting countries and to know its negative effects on various sectors, including the industry of the auditing profession.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

this study is important because it's seeking on the critical economic sector impact in various countries in general and specifically in Jordan to know the COVID-19 impact on profession's income and how to solve the decrease in income levels without reducing the application of international auditing standards and maintain the quality of the planning process as it is before the pandemic. Therefore,

A Historical Overview and the Repercussions of the Covid-19 Crisis

Since ancient times, the world has gone through many global financial crises, including the tremendous global depression that swept most of the world in 1929, in which the total losses amounted to 30 billion dollars during the period 10/22/1929 to 11/13/1929, and the Dow Jones index lost 89% of its value in 1932 AD.

Among the crises that swept some countries of the world is the financial market crisis, known as Black Monday in October 1987, which lasted for a year in the United States of America, where stock prices collapsed on Wall Street in New York, and the total losses amounted to 500 billion dollars, and at the same time that financial crisis spread to the London Stock Exchange and the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Still, it was less severe than the Great

Depression of 1929. The financial market crisis that occurred in Southeast Asian countries in 1997 significantly impacted the decline in stock prices, high rates of inflation and the withdrawal of foreign capital. And a sharp decline in the currency values of Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Thailand. As well as the crisis in the markets of the Arab Gulf states in 2006, which resulted in the collapse of the Gulf stock exchanges, especially the Saudi Stock Exchange.

A Brief History of COVID-19 Crises

The official announcement of the emergence of the virus in China by Beijing on December 20 is due to the French (Elodie Colville), who specialises in the quintuple military competitions, who announced in an interview with a French local channel in March 2020 that many of the athletes who participated At the World Military Games in Wuhan in October 2019, they fell seriously ill. (AFP, 2020).

With the onset of the epidemic, it became clear to scientists that "SARS- COVID -2", the official name for the emerging Coronavirus, is not as dangerous as the SARS or Ebola virus. Yet, the virus spreads very quickly, and to contain the risk of its spread, the countries of the world resorted to social distancing measures. Quarantine and travel bans have disastrously affected local economies. (News and Currents affairs from Germany and around the world).<https://www.dw.com/ar/>.

COVID-19 Crisis Aspects

In a study done by Yateem and Mohamad (2020), COVID-19 Crisis Aspects show a group of these aspects as follows:

- A: Strong return to religious belief.
- B: Corona and the moral value question.
- C: The bankruptcy of the capitalist system and the inability of the social democratic model to face the crisis.
- D: The defeat of individual values and the revival of social and human solidarity values.
- E: Bridging the relationship between society and the state and returning life to mediation institutions.

Expected Crises Resulting from the COVID-19 Crisis

The global economy will face 10 severe crises divided into three groups that lead to an economic collapse worldwide. And these risks, which have been indicated on the website <https://www.independentarabia.com> are:

Group: decreased GDP leads to lower household income

1. For many families and businesses, the loss of revenue from debt crises and default likely leads to mass defaults and bankruptcies.
2. A ticking demographic crisis within advanced economies, as the COVID-19 crisis shows that too much public spending will make the implicit debts of today's unfunded health care and social security systems greater than ever.
3. As the crisis creates massive stagnation in goods (unused machinery and capabilities) and labour markets (mass unemployment), the growing risk of deflation increases the risk of bankruptcy.
2. Group: Currency losses and facing the enormous fiscal deficit
4. Devaluation of the currency, as monetary policies will become unusual, making stagflation inevitable.
5. The broader digital disruption that the economy is suffering from, as millions of people, lose their jobs or work for less income, wealth gaps will widen further, and automation will spread, putting negative pressure on wages.
6. Reducing globalisation, as it accelerates fragmentation or provokes divisions and imposes stricter restrictions on the movement of goods, services, capital, labour, technology, data, and information.
7. Governments imposing export restrictions and implementing other protectionist measures in response to the crisis.

Group: a geostrategic confrontation between Washington and Beijing:

8. The geostrategic confrontation between the United States and China will pave the way for a new cold war between the United States and its competitors, China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.
9. Escalation of covert cyber warfare could even lead to conventional military engagements.

10. Environmental disruption will damage the economy, as many epidemics and symptoms of climate change will become more costly in the coming years.

The Economic Impacts of the new Coronavirus spread are numerous and profound. It is expected that the growth rates of the global economy will decline due to three main channels.

- The supply side is affected by the disruption to production because of virus infections.
- The demand side is affected globally, especially in tourism and entertainment.
- The decline in global demand rates in major industrialised countries such as China results from the virus's cross-border transmission.

A: The Negative Impacts on the Economy

1. A sharp decline: The Corona crisis warns of the possibility of the global economy entering a period of depression, which we cannot predict with all its current repercussions. This made many countries take unprecedented procedures, such as closing borders and airports, as well as imposing curfews in some cities, to limit the spread of the virus. As well as governments and international economic organisations are also trying hard to mitigate the negative effects of the virus's reach on the global economy.

2. Locomotives stopped: The industrial sector is expected to be affected by three main factors:

- Production stopped
- Disruption of global supply chains.
- A decline in the volume of worldwide demand and international trade.

The tourism sector and the entertainment industry (such as cinemas and theatres) are among the sectors most affected by the spread of the new Coronavirus, as it negatively affected both sides of supply and demand as a natural result of travel ban procedures and the closure of airports and entertainment houses as a preventive procedure to limit the spread of the virus.

According to the World Tourism Organization, preliminary estimates indicate a sharp decline in international tourism due to travel bans and the cancellation of many flights. This caused losses estimated at 30 to 50 billion US dollars in tourism revenues. On the other hand, global trade has been affected by the spread of the Coronavirus as a direct result of the Chinese economy's suffering. Hence it is one of the most important trading partners of most countries. According to World Trade Organization (WTO) data, China has been the world's largest

exporter and second-largest importer since 2009, including oil, iron ore, and soybeans. Thus, China's decline in economic activity is expected to significantly affect global trade volume.

3. The nightmare of the Arab economies: the Arab countries are economically open and connected to the global economy through many channels, the most important of which are tourism and oil export revenues. In this context, we find that the spread of the Coronavirus is expected to raise the economic cost considering a region inflamed by geopolitical events. Adverb. Regarding tourism, incoming travel to the Arab region has stopped, as many Arab countries have been closed to limit the virus's spread.

4. Economic recovery: The International Monetary Fund announced the availability of \$50 billion through its Emergency Financing Facility, which aims to assist low-income countries and emerging markets as they seek to contain the virus's negative economic impacts. On the other hand, many governments and central banks in developed countries have announced a set of different policies that will provide financial liquidity for companies and individuals affected by the spread of the new Coronavirus.

B: Corona's Small Gains

5. Cleaner air: there may be slight improvement indicators of reducing environmental pollution- The decline in demand for petroleum due to a sharp decrease in transport.

6. Corona profits: Some have benefited from the spread of the new Coronavirus, such as masks, gloves, hand sanitiser makers, and companies in the e-commerce sector.

7. Difficult recovery: The danger of the new disease is the speed of spread, as it infected 100,000 people within 12 days, compared to the first virus, which infected 100,000 within three months from the beginning of the pandemic (WHO report, 2020).

The question that needs to be answered after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is: Will the results of this pandemic have an impact on choosing the Auditor for the coming years? It turns out that many factors affect the selection of the external Auditor, but in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its results, there may be other factors. This requires studies on the mechanism of selecting the Auditor in the future. (Al-Bawab, 2012)

Many researchers dealt with the financial and economic crises that were impacting countries to find out their causes and the impact on various sectors and try to find solutions to reduce their adverse effects; among these studies, there are related to the global financial crisis in 2008 and the current financial crisis which directly related to COVID-19 during the year 2020:

The profession continues to contribute to finding the solution to its various professional specialities where internal auditing through providing guarantees and independent assurance and advice to manage crises is one of the experienced specialists. Internal auditors can provide unique organisation-wide perspectives to stakeholders, including management and the audit committee of the board of directors, by applying core auditing, accounting, and business competencies. To foster independence, the chief audit executive should report directly to the audit committee and hold a meeting with all auditing committee members to discuss previous experiences and produce recommendations for the way to address the impact of COVID-19 by internal auditing on their organisations. Focus areas include risk assessment, continuous monitoring, service delivery, people, and stakeholder communications. As interior auditing work in an independent environment, they already faced changes and revising strategies in their organisations before COVID-19. Such as Digital transformation and other emerging technologies challenged many internal audit functions. By what related to COVID-19, this required reprioritising priorities to respond to resiliency issues relating to the virus. (Martinelli & Friedman, 2019).

The applied procedures to decrease COVID-19 spread led to change in operational trade, including auditing, where the traditional methods were relay on personal processes to collect auditing, and it's become harder in this time, and work done by using technology such as remote inventory control, document collection, and risk assessment. Within the COVID-19 pandemic, auditors and accountants are under intense pressure to find alternative ways to collect audit evidence. Will such evidence be reliable and trusted depending on the assessed risk of material misstatement and the materiality of a particular account balance? Therefore, assessing audit risk in the current environment must be reconsidered. (Appelbaum & others, 2020).

Within the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted life around the world, companies will have to report on their operations, financial condition, and cash flow during this crisis, and requested financial reports will be reviewed and audited by the concerned parties. This study offers detailed guidance for auditors and financial managers, especially in cases where substantial judgment and professional scepticism are necessary to assess the facts and ensure that the operative standards are applied. This study aims to identify potential audit scope limitations and other issues. To achieve this, auditors must perform a great deal of scepticism and professional vigilance and remain alert to indicators of management bias, whether intentionally or unintentionally, such as excessive conservatism to postpone profits for an upcoming financial period. (Levy, 2020).

There were expectations that CBJ's reserves would decrease by rates between 11,6 and 14,6 with a volume of 10,714 and 10,354 billion dollars, as well as a decrease in government revenue as a result of COVID-19 between 809.6 to 1295.4 million Dinars depending on unemployment period with a rate of 12.5% and 20% respectively. In case of unemployment for one or two months (April and May 2020). The study also showed that foreign investment would decrease by 40% to 60% to 383.22 and 255.48, respectively. The study recommended the need to apply procedures by the central bank and local banks to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local economy. (Jordanian Banks Association, 2020).

There was a study that believed that a significant risk whereby this health crisis could deteriorate into something worse, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic would be the most difficult challenge for auditors and their clients since the global financial crisis (2007-2008). So the expectations will be a reduction in audit fees, challenges in completing a continuity assessment, low levels of reliability and adequacy of audit evidence, a massive potential for staff loss due to illness or quarantine, and reductions in audit staff salaries, which are expected to affect the audit process quality. (Khaldoon et al., 2020). Another study talked about this subject, and the results were the revenues of audit offices decreased as a result of dropping in the provision of audit and consulting services of all kinds, and this is due to the decline in companies' revenues and the withdrawal of some from the market. (Al-Bawab, 2011). The COVID-19 pandemic will affect the external Auditor's report, especially concerning subsequent. Emergency events that occur between the end of the fiscal year and the date of financial statements approval, which requires accountants and auditors to amend the financial statements for the year 2019; the results of the company's business that may occur in the future, whether the auditors must disclose positive or negative. In this context, the researcher indicated the owners of the audit offices and the owners of companies should reconsider plans to deal with financial risks such as "epidemic risks in general" and government internal audit departments should modify their work programs and carry out subsequent and simultaneous reviews of the economic effects that the crisis will leave. The financial departments of local governments must prepare their financial reports at a suitable time, especially when there are separate budget items approved to respond to the efforts to combat the virus. In contrast, the financial control must review emergency transactions without delay, with the least time interval, and evaluate the benefit against Money paid on emergency and crisis operations. Accounting standards related to the crises, whether IFRS or IPSAS are all applicable; below are the most relevant four standards that auditors can review: (Suwan (2020)

- IAS 1 (Presentation of Financial Statements).
- IAS 8 (Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors).
- IAS 10 (Events after the Reporting Period).
- IAS 34 (Interim Financial Reporting).

Most of the studies dealt with the impact of the financial crisis on different sectors and the impact of the pandemic in various fields. However, this study dealt with the impact of the financial and economic crisis resulting from COVID-19 on the audit profession in Jordan. The researchers presented the COVID-19 situation by explaining the problem and its effects on many sectors. It was not exposed to it by a field study for many reasons, including closures and not allowing movement. As for this study, the fieldwork was carried out by distributing a questionnaire to the study community, where the distribution was done directly or electronically.

THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

This study aimed, in general, to identify the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the audit profession, and in particular on the auditing profession in Jordan, by identifying the negative effects on income levels due to the decrease in auditing services and financial consulting provided by audit offices in terms of quantity and price and having outcomes to conclusions that work to address the decline, taking into account adherence to the quality of the process and the application of international auditing standards.

In today's business environment, all the countries in the world are facing a real economic crisis, including all Arabic countries, Jordan is not isolated from the world in these crises, especially since it suffers mainly from a budget deficit (General Budget Department in Jordan 2018), and this clears through income decline in many companies and sectors, as the auditing profession is one of the servicing sectors and important in authentication the financial statements of corporates and the auditors do their duties in the fields. Still, their jobs in the areas have stopped because of the defence orders issued by the Jordanian government (Jordanian Prime Ministry 2020). so this study raised some questions to try to know the aspects of effecting on the profession:

- Is the COVID-19 pandemic have effects on the auditing profession in Jordan?
- The below sub-questions have been raised to answer this primary question
- Are the COVID-19 effects on auditing income in Jordan?

- Do COVID-19 affect the consulting and Taxing services level provided to customers in Jordan?
- Are the COVID-19 effects on performing and auditing services in Jordan?

METHOD

The study followed two approaches:

First - The descriptive approach.

Second - The analytical approach- questionnaire.

Participations

The study population consists of (402) Jordanian certified public accountants until the end of the year 2020, and a random sample of (160) auditors was selected; the questionnaires were distributed through Google Drive and E-mail, and the questionnaires retrieved were (152) and by the ratio (95%) of the sample size.

Study Hypotheses

The study hypotheses consisted of the following:

Main hypothesis:

H₀: There is no impact of the COVID -19 crisis on the audit profession in Jordan, and sub-hypotheses were built to test this hypothesis, which is:

The first sub-hypothesis:

H₀₁: There is no decrease in the income of Jordanian audit offices due to the Covid-19 crisis. It will be measured through questions (1-4).

The second sub-hypothesis:

H₀₂: There is no decrease in the advisory and tax services provided to clients due to the Covid-19 crisis. It will be measured through questions (5-9).

The third sub-hypothesis:

H₀₃: There is no decrease in the performance and audit services provided to clients due to the Covid-19 crisis. It will be measured through questions (10-13).

Study Variables

The study relied on an independent variable and a dependent variable consisting of three axes, as follows:

First: is the independent variable: the COVID-19 crisis.

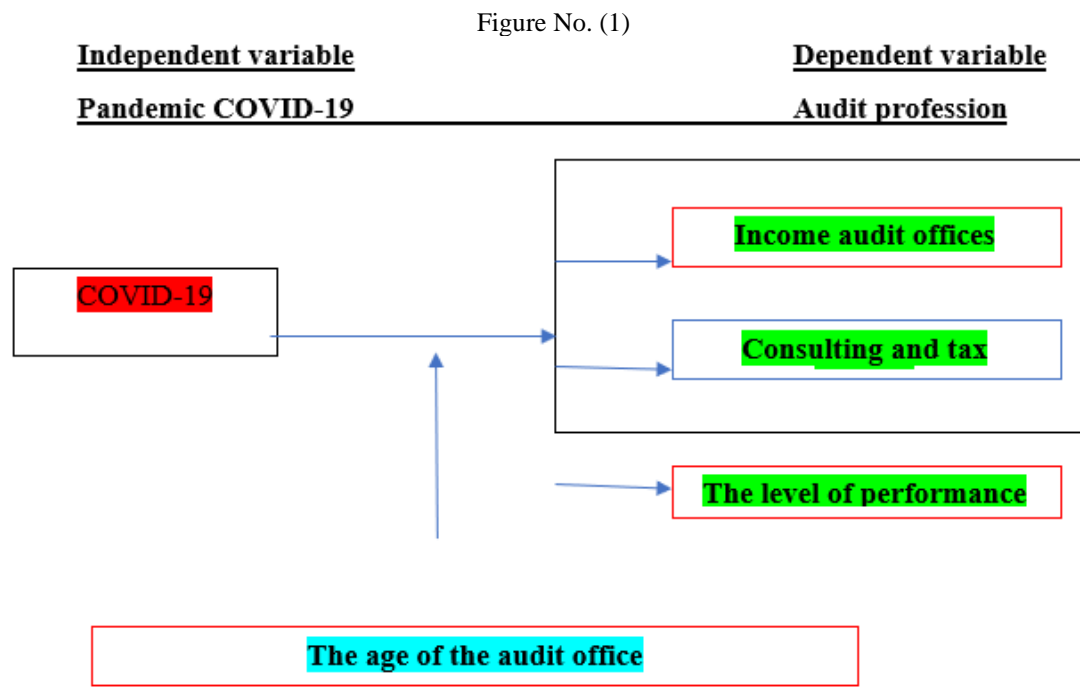
Second: The dependent variable: the audit profession in Jordan was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. It is measured through the following axes:

- 1. The income of Jordanian audit offices (Q1-Q4).
- 2. The advisory and tax services provided to clients. (Q5-Q9).
- 3. The performance and audit services provided to clients (Q10-Q13).

Third: The Moderator variable (controller) is related to the specifications of the auditing office that is included in the study

Study Design

According to the study variables, the following model was built:



Source : Created by Author

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The statistical analysis program (SPSS) was used, and the following tests were performed:

- Cornobach's Alpha test.
- Descriptive Statistics as Arithmetic mean and Standard deviation.
- Correlation test to explain the relationship between the variables.
- Simple regression and multiple regression testing to test the study's hypotheses.

Cornobach's Alpha Test

The Cronbach's alpha test results showed that it is 0.958 at the level of all study variables in Table (1), which are acceptable and show good internal consistency. They were as follows:

Table No. (1) Results of the Cronbach Alpha Test

Paragraphs	test result
Independent Variable	
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis on the economy in Jordan (the independent variable consists of 11 paragraphs)	0.904
Dependent Variables	
A decrease in audit fees by the number of payments and the number of audited companies in Jordan as a result of the COVID -19 crisis (the first dependent variable consists of 4 paragraphs)	0.853
A decrease in the level of advisory and tax-provided services to clients in Jordan resulted from the COVID -19 crisis (the second dependent variable consists of 5 paragraphs).	0.853
A decrease in performance and audit services negatively affected the profession's income in Jordan due to the COVID -19 crisis (the third dependent variable consists of 4 paragraphs).	0872
All paragraphs	0.958

Source : Created by Author

Finding and Results

Descriptive analysis of the independent study variable

The means and standard deviations of the study questions were calculated for the independent variable, as in Table No. (2):

Table No. (2) Mean and Standard Deviation

Q	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard Deviation
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis on the economy in Jordan			
1	The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic led to the issuance of defence orders under a defence law in Jordan related to declaring a state of emergency. Accordingly, many economic sectors were closed.	4.1974	.95626
2	The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a change in the work mechanisms of many economic sectors.	3.7105	.98755
3	The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the collapse of many sectors due to the inability to pay obligations.	3.3882	1.02969
4	The Covid-19 pandemic has restructured many sectors, including laying off many employees.	4.0132	.93488
5	The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the salaries of employees working in private sector companies in Jordan.	4.0197	.96612
6	As a result of the Covid-19 crisis and the closure of many companies, revenue and net profits decreased, and some companies achieved huge losses.	3.8618	.74629
7	The Covid-19 crisis led to a rethinking of revenue generation methods in new ways, such as using technology, which made companies bear the costs of the new process of selling.	3.8421	1.16292
8	The Covid-19 crisis caused significant losses as a result of the accumulation and damage of goods due to the inability to market them	3.8158	.97261
9	The Covid-19 crisis has led to the delay in many official transactions with the government and public sector entities, causing them to bear fees, licenses and others cumulatively.	4.0066	.87267

10	The crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic led to a decrease in liquidity, which resulted in the inability to conduct daily business, a decline in suppliers' confidence and an increase in their reservations about supply.	3.5197	1.23401
11	The Covid-19 crisis led to a decline in foreign trade, which reduced import and export operations and thus decreased companies' income, which reached the point of closure to avoid further losses.	3.7434	.99333

Source : Created by Author

Table No. (2) above showed that all paragraphs of the questionnaire obtained arithmetic averages higher than (3), which is the hypothetical mean, and this indicates that the sample members agree that the Covid-19 crisis affected the Jordanian economy significantly, as the first paragraph obtained the highest average My calculation is (4.1974) and with a standard deviation (95626.), which is that the state of emergency and the issuance of defence orders led to the closure of many economic sectors, and this is due to the financial failure of these companies and the bankruptcy of some of them.

Descriptive Analysis of the Three Dependent Variables of the Study

The averages and standard deviations of the study questions were calculated for the dependent variable and on all axes. The results of the analysis are as in Table (3):

Table No. (3): Mean and Standard Deviation

Q	Paragraphs	Mean	Standard Deviation
The COVID-19 crisis has led to a reduction in the income of audit offices and companies in Jordan.			
1	Income decreased by reduced accounting services as a result of the COVID-19 crisis	3.8421	.89963
2	Income decreased by reduced audit services as a result of the COVID-19 crisis	4.0066	.87267
3	There is a decrease in the prices of services, such as consultations, etc.	3.6908	.93662
4	Many companies exited the market as a result of the closures, and this contributed to the decrease in the income of audit offices	3.9013	.84383
Factors that led to a decrease in the demand for consulting services and taxes provided to clients resulted from the COVID-19 crisis.			
5	The level of tax consulting has decreased due to the COVID-19 crisis.	4.1053	.94314
6	The level of financial consulting has decreased due to the COVID-19 crisis.	4.2434	.92784
7	The Auditor did not provide high-quality services due to the low prices offered.	3.9934	.75902
8	The Auditor did not provide semi-free consulting services as a result of the COVID-19 crisis	3.8684	.72500
9	Loss of confidence in the profession by companies affected the quality and level of consulting services provided	3.8684	.91118
Factors that led to a decrease in the level of performance and audit services provided to clients as a result of the COVID-19 crisis			
10	The number of field visits to companies to perform the audit process has decreased	4.3421	.86204
11	The size of the test sample on which the Auditor conducts audit tests has decreased	3.6645	.98964

12	The number of meetings with CEOs and directors of the companies being audited has decreased.	4.0197	.94533
13	The level of adequate professional care has decreased as a result of the decrease in the level of fees and wages received by the Auditor as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.	3.9934	.79316

Source : Created by Author

Table No. (3) showed that all paragraphs of the questionnaire obtained arithmetic averages higher than (3) is the hypothetical mean, and this indicates that the sample members agree that the COVID -19 crisis affected the auditing profession and on all axes (income and performance of the Auditor External). Paragraph No. (10) in the third axis of the dependent variable obtained the highest arithmetic mean (4.3421) and standard deviation (.86204), which means that there is a decrease in the number of field visits to companies, which means that the Auditor's performance is negatively affected in the implementation of the audit process audit.

Pearson's Correlation Test Between Variables

This test is conducted to explain the relationship between all the variables where the test result was that there is a positive relationship. This means that the simple linear regression test (R) multiple (R²) can be used to test the study hypotheses.

Table No. (4): Correlations analysis

Correlations (Pearson)					
		ADV	DV1	DV2	DV3
Independent Variable (IDV)	Pearson Correlation	1	.687**	.670**	.720**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	152	152	152	152
Dependent Variable (DV1)	Pearson Correlation	.687**	1	.671**	.649**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	152	152	152	152
Dependent Variable (DV2)	Pearson Correlation	.670**	.671**	1	.675**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	152	152	152	152
Dependent Variable (DV3)	Pearson Correlation	.720**	.649**	.675**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	152	152	152	152

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source : Created by Author

Hypothesizes Test

The main hypothesis

H0: There is no statistically significant effect at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of the COVID -19 crisis on the audit profession in Jordan. To test this hypothesis, the following sub-hypotheses will be tested:

The first sub-hypothesis

H0₁: There is no statistically significant effect at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) on a decrease in the income of Jordanian audit offices due to the COVID -19 crisis. (Q1-Q4).

Table No. (5) refers to the result "there is a decrease in the income level of Jordanian audit offices as a result of the COVID -19 crisis.

Table No. (5): t-test results for the first dependent variable axis

Coefficients					ANOVA			Model Summary	
Sig*t	T-calculated	Std. Error	B	Independent variable	Sig*F	DF	F	R ²	R
0.000	11.568	0.059	0.684	COVID -19 crisis	0.000	151	133.808	0.471	0.597

Source : Created by Author

The Effect is Statistically Significant at the Level ($A \leq 0.05$)

The dependent variable is the income of audit offices.

Table No. (4) indicates that there is a positive relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. Therefore, it rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative view.

The Second sub-hypothesis:

H0₂: There is no statistically significant effect at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) on a decrease in consulting and tax services provided to clients due to the COVID -19 crisis. (Q5-Q9)

Table No. (6) refers to the result that "there is a decrease in consulting and tax services provided to clients due to the COVID -19 crisis.

Table No. (6): t-test results for the second dependent variable axis

Coefficients					ANOVA			Model Summary	
Sig*t	T calculated	std. Error	B	Independent variable	Sig*F	DF	F	R ²	R
0.000	11.039	0.61	0.670	COVID -19 crisis	0.000	151	121.855	0.448	0.670

Source : Created by Author

The Effect is Statistically Significant at the Level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$)

The dependent variable is consulting and tax services provided to clients

Table No. (6) indicates that there is a positive relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. Therefore, it rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis.

The third sub-hypothesis:

H0₃: There is no statistically significant effect at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) on a decrease in performance and audit services provided to clients due to the COVID -19 crisis. (Q10-Q13)

Table No. (7) refers to the result that "there is a decrease in performance and audit services provided to clients due to the COVID -19 crisis.

Table No. (7): t-test results for the Third dependent variable axis

Coefficients					ANOVA			Model Summary	
Sig*t	T - calculated	Std. Error	B	Independent variable	Sig*F	DF	F	R ²	R
0.000	12.690	0.062	0.782	COVID -19 crisis	0.000	151	161.034	0.518	0.720

Source : Created by Author

The effect is statistically significant at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$)

The dependent variable is performance and audit services provided to clients

Table No. (7) indicates a positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables; therefore, it rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis.

The main hypothesis test

H0: There is no statistically significant effect at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of the COVID -19 crisis on the audit profession in Jordan.

Table No. (8) refers to the results of the t-test for all paragraphs of the variables, where the values of (t), as shown in the Table, reached a level of significance (0.000) for all paragraphs, and since this level of significance is less than 0.05, we reject the hypothesis Nihilism and accept the alternative hypothesis that there is an effect of the COVID -19 crisis on the audit profession in Jordan.

Table No. (8): Results of the linear and multiple regression test

Coefficients				ANOVA			Model Summery	
Sig*t	T - calculated	Std. Error	B	Sig*F	DF	F	R ²	R
0.000	12.766	0.057	0.722	0.000	151	162.970	0.521	0.722

Source : Created by Author

The effect is statistically significant at the level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$).

The dependent variable is the audit profession in Jordan

Table No. (8 indicates that the simple linear regression ($R = 0.722$), which means that there is a positive relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. Therefore, it rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis, which is that there is a statistically significant effect at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) on the audit profession in Jordan due to the COVID -19 crisis.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The study reached several results, including the following:

- The COVID -19 crisis has negatively affected the audit profession in Jordan, like other sectors, whether locally or globally, and this is consistent with Martinley's study (2020) on the impact of the pandemic on internal auditing, as well as Abel Bayoum's study (2020) on the effect of the audit and accounting sector on this The pandemic, as well as the study of Al-Bawab (2011) about the financial crisis in Yemen, The current study agreed with the expectations of the Jordanian Banks Association (2020), where the association expected a significant decrease in the reserves of the central bank and a decrease in foreign investment at high rates.
- The crisis of the COVID -19 pandemic affected the income of audit offices, in terms of auditor fees, due to the low level of income of audit offices and companies

during 2020 and the beginning of 2021; the current study agreed with Khaldoun et al. (2020) in his research about the low quality of auditing and low auditor fees.

- The crisis of the COVID -19 pandemic affected the performance of audit services through a decrease in the application of international standards auditing in the Auditor's report, and a reduction of the number of field visits, also meetings with chairpersons of boards and managers in companies to conduct audits, as well as a decrease in the size of the test sample on which the Auditor shows tests Auditing, and this led to a low level of professional care, and this is agreed with the study of Sawan (2020).
- The COVID -19 pandemic crisis has affected the level and volume of financial and tax consulting that the audit office in Jordan provides. As the level of advisory and tax services offered to clients decreased and the prices of services decreased, many companies withdrew due to the global financial crisis of the COVID -19 pandemic. This result agreed with Al-Bawab's study (2011).

Recommendations

The study recommends the following

- External auditing companies and offices in Jordan should conduct a comprehensive review of the working mechanism and audit procedures in line with the emergency of the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is what Martinley and Friedman (2020) agreed, where researchers recommended that internal auditors should review strategies, and activate the role of units Internal control, or internal audit departments in commercial companies, and the enhancement of trust between the external Auditor and the Internal Auditor. This is consistent with Al Bawab's (2011) study, as they worked in a changing environment before the COVID-19 crisis, such as digital transformation and other emerging technologies in many internal audit functions.
- External auditors should communicate with customers to clarify the audit work mechanisms imposed by the COVID -19 pandemic. Increasing the number of meetings and joint meetings between auditors and owners of commercial companies through social media and programs that hold meetings via the Internet.
- Providing free consulting services and reducing financial dues to customers in light of the pandemic to ensure continuity of work with them in future periods.

- The audit risk assessment must be reconsidered in the current environment for the possibility of developing procedures to reduce risks, which is consistent with Abel Bayom et al. (2020).
- Encouraging researchers to continue conducting research and studies to find logical solutions that help commercial companies and external auditors to overcome challenging crises.

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