

## **Abstract**

This study focused on the economic, social, environmental and health effects of the quarries and stone factories in Hebron district. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, an inventory of all quarries, stone factories and workers in the study area, in addition to the existing population within a radius of 1000 meters to select a random sample be representative of the study population, relied on a questionnaire designed to suit the objectives of the study and collected through personal interview and based on the results of field survey and questionnaire. The study has revealed the following significant results: –

The study have showed that there is in Hebron more than 130 quarry and 155 stone factory occupies an area of 8435 dunums, divided into more than 10 towns in Hebron district and spread randomly without legal and environmental controls. The most important conclusions reached by the study include:

54% of stone factories were established in the years 1993–2000 and 32% were established in the years 2000–2006. While 28% of the current operating quarries was established in 1993–1999 and 43% were established in 2000–2006.

59% of the stone industry is either a sole proprietorship or family. The individual ownership of quarries amounted to 28% as for the family ownership 57%. The study showed higher capital invested in the stone industry that reached 48%, a sum of 251–500 thousand JD were invested in Stone factories including 48% of the factories

with a capital ranging between 251–500 thousand Jordanian dinars and 18% of factories exceed capital of JD 500,000, while 51% of the factories capital was more than 121 thousand dinars.

The study also showed that the stone industry have provided job opportunities, stimulated the local economy, rising incomes and rising land prices. In addition to the social impacts represented by the high level of education in the region.

The presence of environmental impacts of quarries and stone factories, according to 67% of the study sample including negative impacts on: soil, air, agriculture, plants, water and changed the features of the land's surface, as the study showed the existence of health effects on nearby residents and workers, which requires re-consideration of all the activities of the stone quarries and methods of work and places of deployment in order to avoid negative environmental and health effects in the future.