

**Council of Ministers Bans Selected Commodities**  
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[Text] In completion of the economic, financial, and monetary measures the government began to implement, and the measures that the Council of Ministers has recently approved—regarding the decreasing and rationalizing of expenditures of the public sector and the bases and approaches that the Council of Ministers adopted to govern the status of the general budget for the coming years—which are aimed at decreasing the deficit in the general budget and fulfilling all financial obligations of the servicing of the public debts; in continuation of efforts to correct the economic situation within the framework of restoring balance to the national economy and to reactivate the elements of strength and growth in it; and in harmony with the general national approach of moving from the stage of over-consumption into the stage of saving, investment, and useful production—in order to increase the degree of self-reliance and change the patterns of luxury and services consumption pressuring the Kingdom's imports of foreign currencies, in its session which it held today under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the Council of Ministers decided the following:

1. To ban the importation of the following commodities as of 6 November 1988 until 31 December 1989, provided that this ban shall apply to the public and private sectors: Goods and passenger transportation vehicles, television sets and their antennas, video sets and cameras, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, house, kitchen, office furniture with the exception of furniture used in medical, surgery, and veterinary fields; chandeliers, microwave ovens, marble, tile, roof tile, granite, statues and works of art, artificial flowers, leaves and fruit used for decoration.

All the import licenses issued for these commodities shall be cancelled with the exception of those licenses or the parts pertaining to the aforementioned commodities for which letters of credit have already been opened through the Jordanian banks and financial companies, or the licenses of the commodities that were shipped in accordance with original bill of lading before 6 November 1988. The collected import fees shall be paid back for the whole or parts of the licenses that were cancelled.

2. To increase custom fees on a number of non-basic commodities and luxuries with the objective of decreasing their importation and rationalizing their uses; to levy a 10 percent tax on all the bills of the four-star and above hotels and restaurants; to levy a 3 percent tax of the value of air tickets used for traveling abroad, which are sold or issued in the Kingdom; and to increase the departure tax.

3. To increase annual fees on work permits granted to the Arab and foreign workers who work in sectors other than the agricultural and nursing sectors.

4. To decrease the tariff on electricity consumption for citizens by 10 percent; and to decrease the tariff on water consumption for citizens by 20-5 percent according to the rate of their consumption as of the 1st of this month.

5. To decrease the peak hours regarding the tariff of electricity used in industry to 3 hours per day.

It has been decided to entrust the ministers of supply and trade and industry to prepare a study on the true cost of the imported and locally-produced commodities with the objective of fixing their prices, provided that this study shall be completed within the next few days.