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Extent to Which Domestic Savings can be Activated to Achieve Economic Development in Iraq

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Abstract: The current situation of local savings in the Iraqi economy, which is regarded as one of the important pillars of financing economic development, is investigated in this research. The constraints to growth in savings are also explored to understand the feasibility of activating savings in Iraq and the use of savings to solve the financing problems currently faced by the Iraqi economy. In the context of the transition from a comprehensive economy to a liberal economy connected to the global economy, policies and regulations that focus on national interests must be followed to promote economic development. Thus, local sources of financing that can reduce the negative impact of dependence on external borrowing must be sought. Especially in Iraq, many imbalances are apparent in the economic structure; the country's economy is also highly dependent on oil resources for financing. The conclusions and recommendations of this study focus mainly on the fundamental role played by commercial banks in mobilizing savings and channeling them into productive investment channels, thereby promoting capital accumulation at the macroeconomic level. However, banking services and their role in attracting deposits have not yet reached the expected level. One of the most important recommendations is the need to develop the financial system, which is a key factor in economic development, to encourage and pool local savings, promote savings awareness, and invest them by providing credit facilities for agricultural, industrial and other productive projects.

Keywords: Iraqi Economy, Local Savings, Economic Development

1. Introduction

The issue of economic development and achieving its goals remains an important issue that affects the governments of many developing countries, including Iraq. Despite these achievements, the local communities of these countries continue to suffer from poverty, deprivation and structural imbalances. On this basis, the following question is posed: where does the problem lie? Despite the many economic and noneconomic reasons, financing remains one of the main reasons for this problem. These countries have always been affected by the inability of their financial and banking institutions to mobilize their local savings voluntarily, in line with the requirements of development financing. Instead of implementing a radical reform of this system from the beginning, the governments of these countries adopted a less effortful option to finance their budgets, which was represented in intensifying and diversifying taxes and adopting inflationary financing and resorting to borrowing from abroad. The costs and risks of these two methods of financing are not secret to anyone, and Iraq, similar to other developing countries, suffers from many problems, the most important of which is the problem of financing to achieve economic development.

An important topic needs to be addressed: local savings and how to activate this scheme to finance economic development in Iraq. The country currently suffers from low

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(https://creativecommons.org/lice nses/by/4.0/) development rates, pushing the state to rely solely on external financing. The development of a savings scheme for a country is vital for reaching appropriate rates of economic development.

Theoretical framework of savings and economic development A. Savings

Savings represent positive economic processes that lead to the formation of capital, which is used in the production process and which countries seek to achieve economic development (Ali and Hassanein, 2011, 234). Savings are also considered the remaining part of national income after national consumption is deducted; savings increase with increasing rates of national income. After individuals satisfy most of their consumer needs, increasing parts of their national income are directed toward savings (Al-Qatit, 2019, 34). Savings are also regarded as the deducted or remaining part of income after consumption for the purpose of spending in the future or for the purpose of investment and find its way to the financial market (including banks and savings institutions), and its function is to collect savings (Al-Habib, 2022, 89).

Researchers believe that savings is one of the basic economic phenomena, whether for individuals or for society. Savings are a part of income that exceeds consumption, i.e., the difference between the income and consumption of consumer goods and services. Therefore, savings can also be called surplus. Savings lie in deducting a part of income, the aim of which is to form a reserve that is used alternately for investment or for deferred consumption.

B. Types of savings

1. Optional savings and compulsory savings

Optional savings refers to the part of income that individuals voluntarily decide not to spend on goods and services or hoard (Al-Qatit, 2019, 34). Compulsory savings are part of income that is compulsorily deducted from individuals' income (Yaqoub, 2010, 30).

2. Gross savings and net savings

Gross savings refers to the part of income that is used either to renew obsolete capital quipment or for the purpose of adding new capital equipment to increase production capacity. Net savings do not include the part of income that is allocated for the purpose of maintaining existing production capacity but only what is allocated from income to increase capital formation (Mahmoud, 2017, 42).

3. Local savings and national savings

Local savings result from the increase in incomes achieved from various types of economic activities in the country over total consumption during the same period and represent all savings achieved within the country, whether voluntary savings or compulsory savings (Salami, 2019, 60). The term "national savings" refers to total local savings plus the net income of production elements working abroad (Zanaqi, 2017, 18).

4. Government sector savings

This type represents the difference between current revenues (including fees, fines, and direct and indirect tax revenues) and current expenditures (including government administrative expenses and costs of establishing public facilities); it does not include capital expenditures undertaken by the state .

5. Business sector savings

The savings of this sector are an important source of savings, whether it is a private sector that represents the undistributed portion of the profits achieved by private sector projects or a public sector that represents the profits of public projects owned by the state. The size of savings depends on the size of the surplus generated (Alimat, 2020, 40).

6. Household sector savings

This type represents the difference between the income available for household spending and spending on current consumption and includes the following: total salary, wages and other types; net payments transferred from abroad to the household sector; social security shares; and direct taxes on individuals (Tashman and Al-Momani, 2006, 11).

7. Positive and negative savings

Savings are positive when they increase production capacity, including investing in generating new income or at least maintaining existing production capacity. Conversely, negative savings are represented by spending more on consumption than on the current income of individuals. When national consumption exceeds national income, society is unable to maintain the productive capacity of the national economy; thus, it decreases from its prevailing level, which could translate into a deterioration in the productive capacity of society (Salami, 2020, 65).

C. Importance of savings in economic development

Savings are highly important in economic development, whether at the individual level or at the state level. The state must encourage individuals to save and clarify the value of savings in banks. When savings can be converted into investment to produce investment goods, it contributes to increasing national income. The importance of savings lies in the following:

- 1. Savings constitute one of the important sources of financing for economic development. Household savings arise from multiple sources, including contractual savings. The increase in individuals' cash assets, which are kept in the form of deposits in savings funds or banks, whether they are term or current accounts, in addition to direct investment in the economy of lands, farms, markets, and housing, spreads in rural environments, thereby contributing to economic development. (Alimat, 2020, 41).
- 2. Savings constitute an economic and financial system through which individuals' desires and immediate and future needs can be met, especially in times of various types of crisis.
- 3. Small savers are of great importance because of what they can obtain from collecting their savings, which in many cases exceed the savings collected by people with high incomes (Tareq and Ibrahim, 2020, 44).
- 4. Savings play an important role in allowing entities to finance their development projects and achieve profits and returns for the national economy, as funds are directed to investment (Masjit and Makki, 2022, 133).
- 5. Savings achieve political security, as a financially self-sufficient state is less subject to other states, and from here, the political independence of the state is achieved.
- 6. Savings achieve scientific and technical progress. Savings can be used in scientific research projects that can benefit different segments of society and contribute to establishing and localizing industries (Raikov, 2023, 81).

D. Economic development

The word development process refers to the strong interaction that depends over a long period in the economic entity of the state and includes transformations in things and quantities, and the details of this process differ according to the different circumstances in time and place. The general result of this process is an increase in the national production of the economic system, which is in itself a long-term change; notably, development is planned and directed processes in multiple fields that bring about change in society to improve its conditions and the conditions of its individuals in a manner that achieves progress and growth for society and wellbeing and happiness for individuals (Baldwin, 2023, 9–13). Economic development is the process by which the transition from a state of backwardness to a state of progress occurs, and this transition is accompanied

E. Relationship between savings and economic development

On the basis of the concept of savings and development, savings play an important role in economic development, as it is one of its important pillars, as savings represent the part of income that is not consumed immediately but is used to invest or save for the future; thus, preserving resources has an impact on the economy and development, as savings contribute to providing the necessary financing for investment projects and basic infrastructure, which contributes to improving the infrastructure and increasing economic productivity. In addition, savings are a major source for increasing investment capital for companies and projects. The presence of savings in the economy leads to improving the country's ability to grow and develop, thereby creating new job opportunities. The use of local sources without the need to resort to external borrowing also contributes to achieving high rates of economic development. These premises constitute the goals of developing countries, including Iraq, as savings is one of the elements of capital formation and plays a major role in the process of economic development and increasing economic growth rates. Relying on local savings for financing is better than relying on external sources of financing, as the latter can negatively affect the state, especially in terms of accelerating the process of economic development. Savings enhance the stability of the economy: they help resolve financial problems arising from economic crises. For example, investing in foreign markets enhances trade exchange and offers developing countries the opportunity to benefit from the technology and expertise of advanced countries. Consequently, new and innovative projects might arise, further encouraging research and development and enhancing technological and economic innovation. Thus, in the case of the Iraqi economy, savings are essential in providing the necessary financial resources for local investment, thereby supporting the country's production base and reaching the desired growth rates. Local savings play an important and vital role in the process of economic development and improving the use of the state's economic and financial resources.

2. Materials and Methods

Research problem:

Despite the important role of savings in developing the Iraqi economy by developing investment and its role in increasing productivity and thus increasing total production, it suffers from a decrease in the percentage of local savings' contribution to financing economic development in Iraq for several reasons.

Research objective:

The aim of this research is to identify the real situation of local savings in the Iraqi economy and its role in financing the economic development process, the determinants of its growth, and the extent of the possibility of activating it in a manner that serves the economic development process.

Importance of this research:

This work addresses one important economic topic for financing economic development and a potential mechanism for achieving economic growth in Iraq. It investigates the basic requirements for providing self-financing materials to finance productive investment projects, which can contribute to increasing economic growth rates and economic stability while achieving economic wellbeing, thereby reflecting the aspects of economic and social life in Iraq.

Research Hypothesis:

Increased local savings can be enhanced by developing financial tools that are compatible with individual preferences, thereby promoting the needs of individual constituents. This initiative is highly important to the Iraqi economy via positive effects on economic development and the avoidance of the ongoing risks of foreign funds.

Temporal and spatial boundaries of the research:

The research covers the period of 2016–2022. The research object is the economic landscape of Iraq.

Research methodology:

Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the research hypotheses, which were crafted using published and office research data and information on local savings and savings deposits in local banks.

Research Structure:

The first part describes the conceptual framework of the research, and the second part describes the local savings context of the Iraqi economy. The third part provides an evaluation of the possibility of activating local savings to finance economic development. The last part provides the conclusions and recommendations of the researchers.

3. Results

Real situation of local savings in the Iraqi economy (2016–2022)

The researchers considered the following aspects to investigate the local savings scenario in the Iraqi economy:

1. The size of bank savings is represented by bank deposits of all kinds (current, savings, and fixed) in commercial banks, owing to their role in the banking activity of accepting deposits and granting credit. Commercial banks are considered intermediary financial institutions whose primary function is to accept deposits of all kinds from individuals, business establishments and the government and reuse them by granting credit and other financial operations to nonbanking economic units. Commercial banks are distinguished from other institutions of the banking system by their important role in mobilizing available savings in the savings market, attracting foreign savings and directing them toward development investments. These institutions are the most widespread savings vessel in the economy, and their role in mobilizing savings can be demonstrated by studying bank deposits according to type. Notably, savings deposits and fixed deposits are important, as they can be invested in as long-term deposits. Current deposits are prepared for consumption, as they are money on demand. Bank deposits of the central government and public institutions represent public sector savings, whereas private sector deposits represent private sector savings.

Table 1 shows that bank deposits in government banks for the central government in government banks increased from 14,211,006 million dinars in 2016 to 26,068,155 million dinars in 2019 and then to 42,134,180 million dinars in 2022, at a compound growth rate of 16.8% between 2016 and 2022. The reason for this increase is the increase in current deposits from 10,445,974 million dinars to 20,291,619 million dinars and finally to 37,030,610 million dinars during the same period, in addition to the increase in fixed deposits from 3,765,032 million dinars to 5,776,536 million dinars in 2019.

The number of bank deposits of public institutions increased from 24,298,289 million dinars in 2016 to 27,068,823 million dinars in 2018 and then increased to 30,910,384 million dinars in 2022 after their decrease to 23,622,182 million dinars in 2020. The value then increased to 30,910,384 million dinars in 2022, with a compound growth rate of 3.5%, as a result of the increase in current deposits from 19,970,019 million dinars in 2016 to 22,841,582 million dinars in 2018 and then to 28,613,422 million dinars in 2022 after their decrease to 21,366,970 million dinars in 2020.

Private sector bank deposits also increased from 15,297,283 million dinars in 2016 to 25,732,388 million dinars in 2020 and then to 42,811,676 million dinars in 2022, at a compound growth rate of 15.8%. The shift was a result of the increase in current deposits from 7,274,525 million dinars in 2016 to 14,474,739 million dinars in 2020 and then to 27,349,446 million dinars in 2022. Another contributor was the increase in savings deposits

from 7,845,701 million dinars in 2016 to 10,775,551 million dinars in 2020 and then to 14,616,045 million dinars in 2022 and the increase in fixed deposits from 177,057 to 482,098 in 2020 and then to 846,185 in 2022. This increase resulted from the monetary policy followed by the Central Bank and its flexibility to support economic development; the intent was to provide liquidity in banks by adjusting the reserve requirement ratio on current deposits by 15% and 10% on savings deposits and fixed deposits of the Iraqi dinar and the U.S. dollar for government and private sector deposits (Annual Economic Report, 2017, 18). Thus, the increase in money supply is in favor of banks, and this increase is due to the rise in oil prices and thus the increase in foreign reserves, in addition to the increase in individuals' income as a result of the procedures followed by the Central Bank and the increase in government banks more than private banks, as individuals prefer government banks instead of the risks borne by the private sector. This increase reflects the relative improvement in the economic situation, which was reflected in the increase in these deposits in banks.

The number of bank deposits in private banks of the central government increased from 59,355 million dinars in 2016 to 395,727 million dinars in 2020, then increased to 867,073 million dinars in 2022, at a compound growth rate of 46.7%, as a result of the increase in current deposits from 44,355 million dinars to 361,477 million dinars in 2020, then increased to 781,923 million dinars in 2022, and the increase in fixed deposits from 15,000 to 34,250 and then to 85,150 during the same period. This phenomenon can be attributed to the improvement in incomes and the increase in the number of banks, in addition to the liberalization of interest rates, which led to an increase in the attraction of deposits to private banks.

The bank deposits of public institutions increased from 121,663 million dinars in 2016 to 139,200 dinars in 2021 and then to 195,498 million dinars in 2022, with a compound growth rate of 7.0%. The increase resulted from the increase in current deposits from 122,361 dinars to 125,526 million dinars during the same period, in addition to the increase in fixed deposits from 234 to 16,839 dinars and then to 69,972 dinars for the same period.

| Savings deposits in government banks | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Compound growth rate for the period -2016) %(2022 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | Year | |
| Central gove | rnment | | | | | | | | |
| 19.8 | 37,030, 610 | 20,978,7 26 | 19,681,993 | 20,291,619 | 17,678,317 | 11,060,257 | 10,445,9 74 | Current deposits | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Savings deposits | |
| 4.44 | 5,103,5 70 | 6,086,05 7 | 5,185,126 | 5,776,536 | 4,121,960 | 3,590,596 | 3,765,03 2 | Fixed deposits | |
| 16.8 | 42,134, 180 | 27,064,7 83 | 24,867,119 | 26,068,155 | 21,800,277 | 14,650,853 | 14,211,0 06 | Total | |
| Public institu | utions | | | | | | | | |
| 5.3 | 28,613, 422 | 22,338,7 42 | 21,366,970 | 22,519,906 | 22,841,582 | 21,978,363 | 19,970,0 19 | Current deposits | |
| 114.9 | 30,875 | 33,337 | 32,917 | 26,583 | 7,952 | 7,232 | 146 | Savings deposits | |

Table 1. Bank deposits in commercial banks in Iraq by type and sector in governmentand private banks (2016–2022)/million dinars

| 8.8- | 2,266,0 | 2,329,06 | 2,222,295 | 2,181,798 | 4,219,289 | 4,012,838 | 4,328,12 | Fixed |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | 87 | 2 | | _,, | | _,, | 4 | deposits |
| 3.5 | 30,910, 384 | 24,701,1 41 | 23,622,182 | 24,728,287 | 27,068,823 | 25,998,433 | 24,298,2 89 | Total |
| Private sec | tor | | | | | | | |
| 20.8 | 27,349, 446 | 17,784,4 83 | 14,474,739 | 9,147,500 | 6,851,083 | 8,689,284 | 7,274,52 5 | Current deposits |
| 9.3 | 14,616, 045 | 13,375,9 88 | 10,775,551 | 10,876,123 | 10,003,749 | 8,853,467 | 7,845,70 1 | Savings deposits |
| 25.0 | 846,18 5 | 650,968 | 482,098 | 563,335 | 371,178 | 300,420 | 177,057 | Fixed deposits |
| 15.8 | 42,811, 676 | 31,811,4 39 | 25,732,388 | 20,586,958 | 17,226,010 | 17,843,171 | 15,297,2 83 | Total |
| 11.6 | 115,85 6,240 | 83,577,3 63 | 74,221,689 | 71,383,400 | 66,095,110 | 58,492,457 | 53,806,5 78 | Total deposits |
| | | | Savings | deposits in p | rivate banks | | | |
| Central go | vernment | | | | | | | |
| 50.7 | 781,92 3 | 894,369 | 361,477 | 502,646 | 467,042 | 147,112 | 44,355 | Current deposits |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Savings deposits |
| 28.2 | 85,150 | 28,830 | 34,250 | 4,250 | 5,250 | 7,000 | 15,000 | Fixed deposits |
| 46.7 | 867,07 3 | 923,199 | 395,727 | 506,896 | 472,292 | 154,112 | 59,355 | Total |
| Public inst | itutions | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 | 125,52 6 | 122,361 | 118,191 | 72,999 | 187,726 | 150,538 | 121,429 | Current deposits |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,309 | 0 | Savings deposits |
| 125.8 | 69,972 | 16,839 | 416 | 21,404 | 424 | 32 | 234 | Fixed deposits |
| 7.0 | 195,49 8 | 139,200 | 118,607 | 94,403 | 188,150 | 151,879 | 121,663 | Total |
| Private sec | | | | | | | | |
| 4.5 | 8,271,2 92 | 8,157,20 5 | 7,392,394 | 7,383,07 0 | 7,438,987 | 5,813,456 | 6,071,62 2 | Current deposits |
| 2.4 | 2,019,3 36 | 2,056,93 0 | 1,844,429 | 1,711,91 4 | 1,758,850 | 1,717,079 | 1,709,25 2 | Savings deposits |
| 16.1 | 1,791,4 68 | 1,217,48 1 | 951,322 | 1,026,74 | 940,538 | 719,648 | 630,263 | Fixed deposits |
| 5.3 | 12,082, 096 | 11,431,6 16 | 10,188,145 | 10,121,7 | 10,138,375 | 8,250,183 | 8,411,13 7 | Total |
| 6.3 | 13,144, 667 | 12,494,0 15 | 10,702,479 | 10,723,0 25 | 10,798,817 | 8,556,174 | 8,592,15 5 | Total deposits |
| 10.9 | 129,00 0,907 | 96,07137 8 | 84,924,168 | 82,106,4 25 | 76,893927 | 67,048,631 | 62,398,7 33 | Total all deposits |

Source: Central Bank of Iraq, Department of Statistics and Research, Annual Statistical Bulletin, various years, various pages. The compound growth rate was calculated by the researchers using data from the same table and by applying {equation: $r = (\frac{p_2}{n_1})^{\frac{1}{n}-1*100}$ }.

Private sector bank deposits increased from 8,411,137 million dinars in 2016 to 11,431,616 million dinars in 2021 and increased to 12,082,096 million dinars in 2022, with a compound growth rate of 5.3%, as a result of the increase in current deposits from 6,071,622 to 8,157,205 and then to 8,271,292 for the same period and the increase in savings deposits from 1,709,252 to 2,056,930 and then to 2,019,336 and the increase in fixed deposits from 630,263 to 1,217,481 and then to 1,791,468 for the same period. This situation indicates financial stability and increased interconnection between the banking and real sectors, which allows for an increase in the direction of saved funds to finance development projects. Such trends further imply a gradual increase in confidence in private banks for individuals and companies, the transfer of part of the financial operations to banks officially instead of dealings outside the banking system, and the stability of the banks' work, which gives banks a high capacity to fulfill their obligations toward depositors in the event of large withdrawals.

The increase in bank deposits is a result of the increase in the amount of money deposited in banks (Table 1), but what is important in this work is the quality of these deposits and the reasons for their increase (Table 2). The percentage of current deposits increased compared with that of other deposits, whether in government banks or private banks, as its percentage constituted 19.4% in 2016, then rose to 28.4% in 2019, then to 31.9% in 2022, compared with savings deposits and fixed deposits, as its percentage reached 6.9%, 8.1% and 4.4% during the same period with respect to central government deposits, the percentage of which rose from 26.4% in 2016 to 36.4% in 2022.

The percentage of public institutions' deposits was 37.1% in 2016, 31.5% in 2019, and 24.7% in 2022. Fixed deposits increased from 0.8% in 2016 to 3.1% in 2019 and then decreased to 1.9% in 2022. The percentage of bank deposits for public institutions decreased from 45.2% in 2016 to 26.7%.

Private sector bank deposits increased from 28.4% in 2016 to 36.9% in 2022 as a percentage of total deposits. This phenomenon can be attributed to the increase in current deposits compared with other deposits. The values increase from 13.5% in 2016 to 19.5% in 2020 and then to 23.6% in 2022. The percentage of savings deposits increased from 14.6% in 2016 to 16.0% in 2021 and then decreased to 12.6% in 2022. Fixed deposits increased from 0.3% to 0.8% in 2021 and then decreased to 0.7% in 2022.

The total deposits of government and private banks increased from 62,398,733 million dinars in 2016 to 96,071,378 million dinars in 2021 and then increased to 129,000,907 million dinars in 2022. This increase resulted from the increase in government banks by a greater amount than the increase in deposits in private banks.

For the relative importance of the contribution of bank deposits, the percentage of contribution of bank deposits in private banks was greater than the relative importance of government banks, resulting from the increase in the percentage of contribution of savings deposits and fixed deposits, in addition to the increase in current deposits of the private sector (Table 2).

 Table 2. Relative importance of bank deposits in commercial banks in Iraq by type and sector in government and private banks (2017–2022)/million dinars

| 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | year | | | |
|------|--------------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| | Central gove | Central government | | | | | | | | |
| 31.9 | 25.1 | 26.5 | 28.4 | 26.7 | 18.9 | 19.4 | Current deposits | | | |
| 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Savings deposits | | | |

| 4.4 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.9 | Fixed deposits |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------|-------|----------------|
| 36.4 | 32.4 | 33.5 | 36.5 | 32.9 | 25.0 | 26.4 | Total |
| | Public inst | itutions | | | | | |
| | 26.7 | 28.8 | | | | | Current |
| 24.7 | | | 31.5 | 34.6 | 37.6 | 37.11 | deposits |
| | 0.0 | 0 | | | | | Savings |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | deposits |
| | 2.8 | 2.9 | | | | | Fixed |
| 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 0.8 | deposits |
| 26.7 | 20.6 | 21.0 | 24.6 | 40.0 | | 45.2 | - |
| 26.7 | 29.6 | 31.8 | 34.6 | 40.9 | 44.4 | 45.2 | Total |
| | Private sec | - | | | | | |
| 23.6 | 21.3 | 19.5 | 12.8 | 10.4 | 14.9 | 13.5 | Current |
| | | | _ | | | | deposits |
| 12.6 | 16.0 | 14.5 | 15.2 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 14.6 | Savings |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 | Fixed |
| | | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | deposits |
| 36.9 | 38.1 | 34.7 | 28.8 | 26.1 | 30.5 | 28.4 | Total |
| The relati | ve importance | e of savings de | posits in priva | te banks | | | |
| Central g | overnment | | | | | | |
| 5.9 | 7.2 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 1.7 | 0.5 | Current |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Savings |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | .08 | 0.2 | Fixed |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 6.6 | 7.4 | 3.7 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 0.7 | Total |
| Public ins | | 0.17 | | | 110 | 0.7 | |
| 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.4 | Current |
| 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.4 | |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Savings |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | Fixed |
| | | _ | | | | | deposits |
| 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.4 | Total |
| Private se | ector | | | | | | |
| 62.9 | 65.3 | 69.1 | 68.9 | 68.9 | 67.9 | 70.7 | Current |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 15.4 | 16.5 | 17.2 | 15.9 | 16.3 | 20.1 | 19.9 | Savings |
| | | | | | | | deposits |
| 13.6 | .95 | 8.9 | 9.6 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 7.3 | Fixed |
| | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | deposits |

Note: Percentages extracted by the researchers from Table 1

The contribution percentage of each of these deposits according to sector and type with respect to bank deposits in private banks. Deposits for the central government increased from 0.7% in 2016 to 7.4% in 2021 and then decreased to 6.6% in 2022 as a result of the increase in current deposits from 0.5% to 7.2% and their decrease to 5.9% during the mentioned period. Bank deposits of public institutions increased slightly from 1.4% in 2016 to 1.5% in 2022 as a result of the decrease in current deposits from 0.5% in 2022. The bank deposits of the private sector increased from 0.1% in 2021 to 0.5% in 2022. The bank deposits of the private sector increased compared with those of the other sectors, as they reached 97.9% in 2016

and 95.2% in 2020 and then decreased to 91.9% in 2022. This increase resulted from the high percentage of current deposits compared with the deposits from previous years, which also constituted high percentages compared with the rest of the sectors, as they constituted 70.7%, 69.1% and 62.9%, while savings deposits constituted 19.9%, 17.2% and 15.4%, whereas fixed deposits constituted 7.3% and 8.9%, respectively, and rose to 13.6% during the mentioned period. The reason for the increase in deposit rates is the rise in crude oil prices, which was reflected in central government revenues on the one hand and the increase in revenues from the amounts of the granted initiatives, which require opening an account for the customer for the purpose of depositing the initiative loan in it before it is used by the customer on the other hand. In addition, localization clearly affects the balance of current deposits of the private sector (Annual Economic Report, 2022, 13). The total bank deposits in commercial banks include the deposits of the central government, public institutions, and the private sector (Table 3).

| Annual growth rate% | Private sector | Annual growth rate% | Public institutions | Annual growth rate% | Central government | year |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| - | 23,708,420 | - | 24,419,952 | - | 14,270,361 | 2016 |
| 10.1 | 26,093,354 | 7.1 | 26,150,312 | 3.7 | 14,804,965 | 2017 |
| 4.9 | 27,364,385 | 4.2 | 27,256,973 | 50.4 | 22,272,569 | 2018 |
| -21.0 | 21,613,700 | -8.9 | 24,822,690 | 19.3 | 26,570,801 | 2019 |
| 66.2 | 35,920,533 | -4.4 | 23,740,789 | -4.9 | 25,262,846 | 2020 |
| 20.4 | 43,243,055 | 4.6 | 24,840,341 | 10.8 | 27,987,982 | 2021 |
| 26.9 | 54,893,772 | 25.2 | 31,105,882 | 53.6 | 43,001,253 | 2022 |
| 17.1 | Annual growth r | ate of centra | l government banl | k deposits for t | he period%(2022- | -2016) |
| 3.5 | Annual growth r | ate of bank o | leposits of public | institutions for | the period%(2022 | 2-2016) |
| 12.7 | Annual growth r | ate of private | e sector bank depo | osits for the pe | riod%(2022-2016 |) |

 Table 3. Total bank deposits in government and private commercial banks by sector (2016–2022)/million dinars

Note: Consolidated by the researchers using data from Table 1.

The annual growth rate was calculated using data from the same table ($r = \frac{P2-P1}{P1} * 100$).

The compound growth rate was calculated using data from the same table (: $r = (\frac{P2}{n!})^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1^* 100$).

Bank deposits of the central government increased from 14,270,361 million dinars in 2016 to 22,272,569 million dinars in 2018, with a growth rate of 50.4%, then increased to 43,001,253 million dinars, with a growth rate of 53.6% in 2022, and a compound growth rate of 17.1% between 2016 and 2022. Bank deposits of public institutions increased from 24,419,952 million dinars in 2016 to 27,256,973 million dinars, with a growth rate of 4.2% in 2018, then increased to 31,105,882 million dinars, with a growth rate of 25.2% in 2022, and a compound growth rate of 3.5% between 2016 and 2022. Private sector bank deposits also increased from 23,708,420 million dinars in 2016 to 35,920,533 million dinars, with a growth rate of 66.2% in 2022, then increased to 54,893,772 million dinars, with a growth rate of 26.9% in 2022, and with a compound growth rate of 12.7% between 2016 and 2022.

Bank deposits increased between 2016 and 2022. The reason for this increase is the increase in public revenues as a result of the rise in oil prices and the improvement in the security situation, which was reflected in the increase in government deposits in banks, in addition to the increase in individuals' confidence in government banks more than private banks, in addition to the increase in public expenditures and then the increase in individuals' income and the increase in deposits for public institutions and the private sector, as a result of the development of the private sector's work, the procedures for

| Annual growth rate% | Fixed deposits | Annual growth rate% | Savings deposits | Annual growth rate% | Current deposits | year |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------|
| - | 8,915,710 | - | 9,555,099 | - | 43,927,924 | 2016 |
| -3.2 | 8630534 | 10.7 | 10579087 | 8.9 | 47839010 | 2017 |
| 11.9 | 9658639 | 11.3 | 11770551 | 1.6 | 48613654 | 2018 |
| -0.9 | 9,574,065 | 7.2 | 12,614,620 | 23.3 | 59,917,740 | 2019 |
| -7.3 | 8875507 | 0.3 | 12652897 | 5.8 | 63395764 | 2020 |
| 16.4 | 10,329,237 | 22.2 | 15,466,255 | 10.9 | 70,275,886 | 2021 |
| -1.6 | 10,162,432 | 7.8 | 16,666,256 | 45.4 | 102,172,219 | 2022 |
| 12.8 | Compound g | rowth rate | of current depos | its for the peri | od%(2022-2016 | 5) |
| 8.3 | Compound g | rowth rate | of savings depos | sits for the per | iod%(2022-201 | 6) |
| 1.9 | Compound g | rowth rate | of fixed deposits | for the period | %(2022-2016) | |

inclusion of the Central Bank and the expansion to open accounts for employees working in the public sector. The structure of the deposits according to their type (Table 4)

 Table 4. Total bank deposits in government and private commercial banks by type

 (2016–2022)/million dinars

Note: Consolidated by the researchers using data from Table 1. The annual growth rate was calculated using data from the same table ($r = \frac{P2-P1}{P1} * 100$). The compound growth

rate was calculated using data from the same table ($r = (\frac{P2}{p1})^{\frac{1}{n}} - 100^{*1}$).

The number of current deposits increased from 43,927,924 million dinars in 2016 to 59,917,740 million dinars, with a growth rate of 23.3% in 2019, and then increased to 102,172,219 million dinars in 2022, with a growth rate of 45.4% and a compound growth rate of 12.8% between 2016 and 2022. Savings deposits increased from 9,555,099 million dinars to 12,614,620 dinars, with a growth rate of 7.2%, then increased to 16,666,256 million dinars, with a growth rate of 7.8% during the same period, and a compound growth rate of 8.3% between 2016 and 2022. Fixed deposits increased from 8,915,710 million dinars in 2016 to 10,329,237 million dinars in 2021, with a growth rate of 1.6% in 2022 and a compound growth rate of 1.9% between 2016 and 2022.

In summary, the largest percentage of the growth rate was for current deposits, which negatively affects banks' credit capacity because they are on-demand deposits. The reason for this increase is the increase in the economic and financial stability of the Iraqi economy and the increase in electronic payment methods for individuals, which requires keeping a portion of the liquidity in banks. The lowest percentage was for savings deposits and fixed deposits, and this is a negative indicator for banks, as individuals still prefer to keep and hoard money instead of saving it in banks or investing it in real estate, which reduces the possibility of directing savings to productive economic sectors. The role of commercial banks in mobilizing local savings in the Iraqi economy can be demonstrated by showing the development of total bank deposits to the gross domestic product (GDP) (Table 5).

| Table 5. Total deposits in commercial banks to GDP at current prices (2016– |
|--|
| 2022)/million dinars |

| Marginal propensity to deposit (3) | Average propensity to bank deposit(4) | GDP at current prices(2) | Total deposits(1) | year |
|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------|------|
| - | 0.32 | 196,924,141.7 | 62,398,733 | 2016 |

| 0.16 | 0.30 | 225,722,375.5 | 67,048,631 | 2017 |
|-------|------|---------------|-------------|------|
| 0.23 | 0.29 | 268,918,874.0 | 76,893,927 | 2018 |
| 0.72 | 0.30 | 276,157,867.6 | 82,106,425 | 2019 |
| -0.05 | 0.39 | 215,661,516.5 | 84,924,168 | 2020 |
| 0.13 | 0.32 | 301,152,818.8 | 96,071,378 | 2021 |
| 0.40 | 0.34 | 383,064,152.3 | 129,000,907 | 2022 |

Notes: Consolidated by the researchers using the following sources: 1 – Data from Table 1. 2 – Central Bank of Iraq, Department of Statistics and Research, Annual Statistical Bulletin, various years, various pages. 3 – The marginal propensity for bank deposits was calculated by the researchers by dividing the amount of change in total deposits by the amount of change in GDP. 4 – The average propensity for bank deposits was calculated by the researchers by dividing total deposits by GDP.

The total number of bank deposits increased from 62,398,733 million dinars in 2016 to 96,071,378 million dinars in 2021 and then to 129,000,907 million dinars in 2022 for the aforementioned reasons. In addition, the GDP increased from 196,924,141.7 million dinars to 301,152,818.8 million dinars and then to 383,064,152.3 million dinars during the same period. Banks have the ability to attract bank deposits. Table 5 further shows the average tendency toward bank deposits. Stable rates increased between 2016 and 2022, as the rates increased from 0.32 in 2016 to 0.39 in 2020 and then to 0.34 in 2022. This situation indicates the lack of confidence of individuals in banks and the failure to take appropriate banking measures to increase the attraction of bank deposits, which is linked to the lack of a suitable economic environment. The amount of change in total deposits rose from 0.16 in 2017 to 0.72 in 2019 and then to 0.40 in 2022 after declining to -0.05 in 2020. This phenomenon can be further attributed to irregular changes in total bank deposits as a result of changes in economic activity, and the increase in the marginal propensity to bank deposits is due to the increase in government bank deposits.

(2) Size of government savings: Government savings represent the difference between current revenues and current expenditures, as mentioned previously. This type of savings is of great importance in economic activity compared with the private sector in Iraq, given the major role played by the state in obtaining tax revenues, new currency issuance, local public borrowing, and oil revenues on which the Iraqi economy depends greatly. The types of government savings are listed in Table 6.

| Government savings to GDP ratio (4) | GDP at constant prices | Annual growth rate% | Government savings(3) | Annual growth rate% | Current expenses(2) | Annual growth rate% | Current revenues(1) | year | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------|--|--|
| 1.6 | 199,476,600.2 | - | 3,235,842 | - | 51,173,428 | - | 54,409,270 | 2016 | | |
| 9.1 | 201,528,215.6 | 465.9 | 18,310,301 | 15.3 | 59,025,654 | 42.1 | 77,335,955 | 2017 | | |
| 12.2 | 210,532,887.2 | 40.3 | 25,696,645 | 37.0 | 80,873,189 | 37.8 | 106,569,834 | 2018 | | |
| 9.1 | 222,141,229.7 | -21.1 | 20,266,062 | 7.9 | 87,300,933 | 0.9 | 107,566,995 | 2019 | | |
| -5.0 | 195,402,549.5 | -147.7 | -9,673,849 | -16.5 | 72,873,538 | -41.2 | 63,199,689 | 2020 | | |
| 9.9 | 198,496,540.5 | -302.1 | 19,554,778 | 22.9 | 89,526,686 | 72.6 | 109,081,464 | 2021 | | |
| 26.7 | 212,408,657.3 | 190- 2 | 56,756,346 | 17.2 | 104,941,091 | 48.2 | 161,697,437 | 2022 | | |
| 16.8 | 16.8 | | | Compound growth rate of current receipts for the period%(2022-2016) | | | | | | |
| 10.8 | 10.8 | | | Compound growth rate of current expenditure for the period%(<u>2022-2016)</u> | | | | | | |
| 50.6 | | | Compound growth rate of government savings%(2022-2016) | | | | | | | |

Table 6. Government savings and GDP (2016–2022)/million dinars

Note: Consolidated by the researchers using data from the Central Bank of Iraq, Department of Statistics and Research, Annual Statistical Bulletin, various years. The annual growth rate was calculated by the researchers using data from the same table $(r = \frac{P2-P1}{P1} * 100)$. The compound growth rate was calculated by the researchers using data from the same table $(r = (\frac{P2}{p1})^{\frac{1}{n}})$. Columns 1 to 4 represent calculations of the researchers using data in the same table.

The amount of government savings increased from 3,235,842 million dinars in 2016 to 25,696,645 million dinars, with a growth rate of 40.3% in 2018, resulting from the increase in current revenues and GDP; then, it increased to 56,756,346 million dinars, with a growth rate of 190.2% in 2022, as a result of the increase in current revenues of 161,697,437 million dinars. This increase can be explained by the increase in oil prices, the main source of the Iraqi economy. Savings increased as the percentage of GDP increased from 1.6% to 12.2% and then increased to 26.7% during the same period.

Appropriate measures to activate the role of savings in financing economic development

Savings play an important role in providing the necessary financial resources for local investment by supporting the production base of the Iraqi economy, which plays a role in achieving high growth rates by providing a base for capital accumulation. Every economic prosperity is conditional on prior capital formation. This formation must be preceded by savings. Therefore, savings is one of the important economic variables for enhancing economic growth, as it is one of the important sources of domestic financing. The Iraqi economy suffers from a structural problem, as it depends on oil revenues for approximately 99%. For the structural imbalance to be corrected, investment needs to play a role in the public and private production sectors to produce the goods and services necessary for consumption. This approach positively influences the economic structure by reducing the general budget's dependence on oil revenues, increasing employment rates and reducing unemployment, in addition to its impact on the balance of payments by reducing dependence on imports and thus reducing demand for foreign currencies. The imbalance can also be corrected by increasing individual savings and government savings and reducing dependence on external sources in financing economic development in the Iraqi economy. As mentioned previously, the economic importance of savings is important because it aims to achieve the desired development rates in the Iraqi economy. Investment cannot be increased without increasing savings. The volume of local savings must be increased to achieve sustainable economic development in the Iraqi economy. GDP growth must address both decreased and increased consumption to realize a high economic growth rate. Therefore, a suitable climate must be provided to encourage savings. High growth rates can be achieved as follows:

- Raising the local savings rate, reducing luxury and ostentatious consumption, and combating patterns of consumption that are harmful to resources, whether at the level of the public or private sector, by regulating consumption and directing it toward the material and balanced satisfaction of the consumption needs of individuals, especially since the Iraqi economy suffers from structural imbalances and relies primarily on oil revenues to finance public expenditures.
- 2. Spreading banking awareness by expanding banking services and spreading branches of the banking system throughout the country by working to reduce the routine of withdrawal and deposit and working to distribute salaries and wages to individuals in the branches of the banking system spreads after opening a current account for each of them to convince them to withdraw part of their income and keep the rest as deposits that grow over time, in addition to providing material features (Abdul-Mutti and Mahfouz, 2007, 204).
- 3. Raising the interest rate on bank savings at banks and making this rate preferential with regard to the size of savings and the time period for keeping savings, in addition to imposing interest rates when lending to different sectors depending on the type of

sector, public or private, and the nature of the economic activity practiced by the industrial or commercial sector (Ben Bouzian and Mustafy , 2015, 48).

- 4. Using economic policies to influence consumption followed by savings. These policies, such as financial policy, whether public spending or tax policy, have important impacts on the size of bank deposits. The higher the taxes are, the more limited the growth of deposits. The more the state increases the size of its domestic loans and the public issuance of treasury bills and bonds, the greater the motive is to reduce the savings directed to deposits in banks (Bouabdelli, 2015, 49).
- 5. Development of the financial system, the development of which results in an increase in local savings rates, provides an appropriate channel for the flow of these savings toward investment, which leads to an increase in capital accumulation rates, which is one of the important and necessary matters for achieving economic development and continuity (Al-Tamimi, 2019, 18).
- 6. Encouraging and accumulating savings and developing savings awareness and investing them by providing credit facilities in the fields of agriculture, industry and other productive projects in cases where regular banking facilities are unavailable or resorting to methods of issuing impractical capital (Al-Maghribi, 2016, 153).
- 7. The development of the stock market, which is one of the most important mechanisms for collecting and directing financial resources and employing them in investment projects, plays a fundamental role in developing and organizing financing methods for projects at the appropriate and required size via individuals and companies acquiring the stocks and bonds issued in this market, and these markets are a basic requirement for the economic development of any country (Al-Asraj, 2005, 15–16).
- 8. The development of nonbanking collection and filling devices, represented by insurance companies, which are considered important means of savings and are characterized by relatively small premiums, allows individuals with low incomes to save for the future. The second type is represented by investment companies, which are characterized by companies primarily attracting individuals' savings and directing them to finance investment projects (Amin, 2013, 40).
- 9. Encouraging the establishment of a deposit insurance system and its role in setting foundations, controls and commercial guidelines, which is based on its regulatory and supervisory powers from the Central Bank, will play a role in encouraging banking expansion by opening new branches of commercial banks in all Iraqi governorates and providing banking services and developing projects therein to achieve balanced development (Zayer and Al-Ubaidi, 2015, 18).
- 10. The savings of this sector are represented in the profits of the projects it owns, represented by the difference between the value of the final goods and their production costs, and addressing the problems it suffers to increase the level of production efficiency, implementing the appropriate pricing policy, addressing public expenditures and directing them in a manner that achieves the redistribution of income, and providing basic services to the different segments of society (Jawad, 2016, 39).
- 11. Fiscal policy is the state's main tool for influencing macroeconomic variables and moving them in directions that it sees as achieving higher levels of development. Fiscal policy has effective tools for influencing the economy, the most important of which are taxes and spending. The state can influence the decisions of individuals and companies in general to serve the state's reform goals. The state, leveraging on fiscal policy, works to encourage individuals and companies in general to save, which is the main source of financing development.

The following factors affecting the level of savings (Zheng, 2007, 6–7) need to be addressed:

• Demography: the population balance between those who have not yet joined the labor force, those of working age, and retirees affects the savings rate.

- In the welfare state, if retirees receive government pensions, healthcare, and other government benefits that are financed mostly by taxes imposed on people of working age, then savings will be lower than those in a country where individuals need to provide greater personal allowances for their retirement.
- With respect to restrictions on borrowing, individuals may want to borrow, especially when they are young, to finance the purchase of homes or immediate consumption with the aim of repaying the loan later. If access to loans in a country is stricter or more regulated than it is in another country, then the savings rate in that country is likely to be higher.
- Distribution of income over a lifetime: The manner in which income varies with age may vary from country to country, partly because different countries have different systems of higher education, and this is expected to have some effect on savings rates.
- Income uncertainty: If people in one country face greater income uncertainty than those in another country do, especially if they borrow in terms, then they save more to insure themselves against negative income shocks.

The state can generalize tax policies that work to increase the strength of the previous points, as imposing taxes on income allocated for consumption reduces consumption in favor of savings, whereas imposing taxes on income allocated for savings leads to its increase. Reducing taxes on companies also works to encourage savings, and the state can work to exempt the profits of savings companies from taxes and thus encourage their savings.

The effects of taxes on the size and composition of private savings is one of the central issues in public finance. If alternative tax systems can lead to different rates of private savings, then the choice between them must consider the short-term effects on employment and inflation, the medium-term effects on the growth rate, and the long-term effects on the growth rate and capital intensity of the economy (Zanoutene, 2023, 14).

In addition, following an effective financial policy to mobilize local financial resources and develop and enhance private savings, in addition to increasing savings capacity and directing it toward financing development programs, imposing taxes on income allocated for consumption leads to reducing consumption, while imposing taxes on income allocated for savings leads to increasing consumption, and reducing taxes on inheritance leads to encouraging savings and encouraging projects not to distribute part of their profits and using it as a reserve contributes to financing new projects or expanding their business (Salama, 2015, 268).

- Establishing and advertising savings institutions is one of the means to attract a number of savers. This approach helps enable individuals to achieve a wise balance between their income and spending, which will provide them with a surplus in the form of savings and achieve stability. This scheme also plays a role in enabling the state to achieve its policy objectives. It also works to invest savings within the state and is based on trust and guarantees savings deposits.
- 2. Linking the consumption rate to the level of production and productivity, creating a balance between the total supply and total demand for goods and services, and avoiding temporary scarcity, which pushes individuals to increase their current purchases resulting from their future expectations regarding prices, thus leading to an increase in consumption followed by a decrease in savings.

4. Conclusion

a. The weakness of the average tendency to bank deposits indicates a low percentage of bank deposits' contribution to the GDP, in addition to the lack of consistency between economic activity and bank deposits, which was evident through the values of the marginal tendency to bank deposits.

- b. The values of the structure of bank deposits evidently show that current deposits accounted for the largest percentage of bank deposits, whereas savings deposits ranked second and fixed deposits were in third place. Banks employing these mechanisms in a manner consistent with this structure, but it does not match the requirements of the economic development process.
- c. Banking services and their role in attracting bank deposits are still below the required level.
- d. Commercial banks play an important and essential role in mobilizing savings and directing them to productive investment channels, thus increasing the process of capital accumulation at the macroeconomic level and working to create new assets or improve existing productive capacity, thus increasing the productivity of society.
- e. Local savings represent part of the current income of nonconsumer society through individuals, companies, and all levels of the state. Local savings represent the resources available for investment to replace old factories and equipment and purchase more and better economical capital goods. Savings today increase the state's ability to produce goods and services in the future, thus helping to increase the standard of living for future generations.
- f. The largest proportion of the banking system's resources comes from the private sector's savings capacities, suggesting that banks have only a weak level of their own resources and that their ability to collect savings is limited.

5. Recommendations

- a. Local savings must be mobilized and converted into investments, as people's savings should be investment resources for developing the nonoil sector to increase economic growth and enhance development.
- b. Emphasizing the need to encourage local savings, as they provide financial capital that contributes to the growth in GDP, and implementing policies to increase savings to encourage investment in financial and local capital are important approaches for achieving economic growth.
- c. Work to attract individuals and institutions to accept savings deposits is due to their nature, through which the bank uses them for borrowing and investment operations in a freer manner than current deposits, which could be a source of money going abroad.
- d. Sources of national income must be diversified instead of relying heavily on oil to address the structural imbalances that negatively affect the Iraqi economy. The imbalance in the balance of payments must also be addressed in a manner that provides self-resources with financing for all requirements of aggregate demand.
- e. Work to follow policies specific to rationalizing household consumption growth rates, ensuring the raising of savings rates to national income
- f. Importantly, the development strategy is concerned with determining the targeted economic growth rate in the Iraqi economy, provided that the planner's task is to determine the method by which the necessary savings are generated and the necessary policies for implementation.
- g. Capital should be invested in the most productive economic activities to prioritize programs that enhance the local development of savings.

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