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# Assessment of water footprint in the Jordanian industrial sector as a means for sustainable water resources management

Ocena śladu wodnego w sektorze przemysłowym w Jordanii jako wyznacznik do rozwoju zrównoważonego zarządzania zasobami wodnymi

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ABSTRACT: This study examines the impact of industrial water consumption by calculating the Water Footprint (WF) of major industrial products produced in Jordan. The WF assessment considers the entire supply chain, which is divided into the blue and grey WF, using chain-summation and stepwise accumulative approaches. A total of 28 industrial subsectors were analyzed, and comprehensive data was collected from diverse statistical databases for the period 2011–2013. The information covered various aspects including water consumption quantities, wastewater generation amounts, industrial production quantities, and additional relevant data obtained from industry surveys, environment surveys, and economic statistics provided by the Department of Statistics of Jordan. The results indicate that the mining of chemical and fertilizer minerals subsector had the highest blue WF at  $13,517 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ , while the highest grey WF was found for the refined petroleum products subsector at 1,193 m<sup>3</sup>/kg. Conversely, the lowest blue WF was observed in the chemical products subsector, and the lowest grey WF in the rubber products subsector. The average internal blue and grey WFs for the year 2011 were 733 m<sup>3</sup>/kg for blue water and 202 m<sup>3</sup>/kg for grey water. In 2013, these averages were 915 m<sup>3</sup>/kg for blue water and 108 m<sup>3</sup>/kg for grey water. This study reveals notable trends in industrial water consumption, providing valuable insights for policymakers in Jordan, highlighting the need for sustainable water management practices and informing strategies to address water scarcity and pollution issues in the industrial sector.

Key words: virtual water, water footprint, industry, water resources, water management.

STRESZCZENIE: Celem niniejszego opracowania jest przeanalizowanie wpływu zużycia wody w przemyśle poprzez obliczenie śladu wodnego (WF) dla głównych produktów przemysłowych wytwarzanych w Jordanii. Ocena WF obejmuje cały łańcuch dostaw, który jest podzielony na niebieski i szary WF, przy użyciu metod sumowania łańcuchowego i stopniowej akumulacji. W ramach badań przeanalizowano łącznie 28 podsektorów przemysłowych, a kompleksowe dane zebrano z różnych baz statystycznych za okres 2011–2013. Informacje te obejmowały różne aspekty, w tym ilości zużywanej wody, ilości generowanych ścieków, ilości produkcji przemysłowej oraz dodatkowe istotne dane uzyskane z ankiet przemysłowych, ankiet środowiskowych i statystyk ekonomicznych dostarczonych przez Departament Statystyki Jordanii. Wyniki wskazują, że podsektor wydobycia minerałów chemicznych i nawozowych miał najwyższy niebieski WF wynoszący 13 517 m<sup>3</sup>/kg, podczas gdy najwyższy szary WF, wynoszący 1193 m<sup>3</sup>/kg, odnotowano w podsektorze rafinacji produktów naftowych. Najniższy niebieski WF wykazano dla podsektora produktów chemicznych, natomiast najniższy szary WF odnotowano w podsektorze produktów gumowych. Średni niebieski i szary WF w roku 2011 wynosił odpowiednio 733 m<sup>3</sup>/kg dla wody niebieskiej i 202 m<sup>3</sup>/kg dla wody szarej. Natomiast w 2013 roku te średnie wynosiły 915 m<sup>3</sup>/kg dla wody niebieskiej i 108 m<sup>3</sup>/kg dla wody szarej. Przeprowadzone badania ujawniają znaczące trendy w zużyciu wody przez przemysł, jak również dostarczają cennych informacji dla decydentów, podkreślając potrzebę zrównoważonych praktyk zarządzania wodą oraz wskazując strategie na rozwiązanie problemów związanych z niedoborem wody i zanieczyszczeniem w sektorze przemysłowym.

Słowa kluczowe: wirtualna woda, ślad wodny (WF), przemysł, zasoby wodne, zarządzanie zasobami wodą.

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#### **Introduction**

Water demand in Jordan is steadily increasing due to factors such as high population growth rates, urbanization, climate change, the influx of refugees, and economic development needs. The country's limited water resources are proving insufficient to meet the growing water demands (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2014, 2016). Water demand refers to the total amount of water required to meet the needs of the population, industries, and agriculture within the country. Furthermore, water scarcity in Jordan refers to the situation where freshwater availability is inadequate compared to the demand, resulting in an inability to meet the needs of the growing population and various sectors. Projections indicate a significant rise in total water demand in the coming years, expected to reach 1,609 million cubic meters (MCM) by 2025, and increase further to 2,013 MCM by 2040 (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2023). Moreover, Jordan's freshwater availability per capita per year stands at only 61 cubic meters, well below the globally recognized absolute water scarcity threshold of 500 cubic meters per capita annually (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2023). These figures underscore the critical need for effective water management strategies to ensure a sustainable and adequate water supply for the country's future. The challenging balance between water demand and scarcity in Jordan has driven the per capita water shares to alarming lows, which has provoked growing interest in advancing alternative and innovative options for water resources (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2014). Today and looking ahead, Jordan requires a sophisticated and integrated approach to water resources planning and management to safeguard the wellbeing of future generations.

Water is a cornerstone to the political, social, and economic wellbeing of Jordan. It impacts Jordan's security, trade, agriculture, finance, energy, and national prospects (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2016). Jordan's water resources are allocated across four main uses, ranked from highest use-levels to lowest use-levels: irrigation, municipal, industrial, and livestock. In 2020, total water use reached nearly 1128 MCM, distributed as follows: 51% for Agriculture and Nomadic uses, 46% for Domestic and Tourism, and 3% for industry (Ministry of Water

and Irrigation, 2020). All of the sectors mentioned above rely on the accessibility of water for their growth and development. Increase in water shortages will affect these sectors, leading to future adverse impacts (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2015). As for the industrial sector, manufacturing is not limited by manpower, but depends on access to finance, reliable energy, and water. Without these resources, their growth will be constrained (Jordan Economic Growth Plan, 2018).

The Water Footprint (WF) tool offers an effective approach to address water scarcity through water accounting (Hoekstra et al., 2011). A WF analysis of the industrial sector is vital at this stage of development in Jordan. It will enhance understanding of freshwater usage and/or pollution across all industrial subsectors.

The WF analysis is used worldwide in order to better understand how water resources are used and for what purposes. The WF of a product is defined as a tool for measuring the direct (operations) and indirect (supply chain) freshwater consumption, as well as the amount of polluted water generated throughout the product's production chain (Hoekstra et al., 2011). It reveals levels of water consumption and pollution during its use for various purposes. The WF tool can be applied to different contexts, including processes, products, consumers, geographic areas, businesses, and/or humanity as a whole. It has proven beneficial in improving water strategies and management as a volumetric indicator that increases knowledge of freshwater withdrawal and water pollution (Hoekstra et al., 2011). Consequently, it raises awareness and contributes to solutions for mitigating the depletion of freshwater resources. This study aims to explore the WF of Jordan's industrial subsectors.

This research was carried out in Jordan, situated in the Middle East, bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south and southeast, Iraq to the northeast, and Syria to the north. Furthermore, Table 1 provides additional details about the country.

Based on Figure 1, it is evident that the eastern and southern regions of Jordan experience high rates of evaporation. Therefore, this research aims to explore how understanding industrial water consumption in Jordan can contribute to the sustainable management of water resources.

**Table 1.** Geographical and environmental characteristics of Jordan **Tabela 1.** Charakterystyka geograficzna i środowiskowa Jordanii

<b>Specification</b>	<b>Corresponding Value</b>		
Latitude	Between 29.2 $\degree$ and 33.4 $\degree$		
Longitude	Between $34.9^{\circ}$ and $39.3^{\circ}$		
Area	89.342 $km^2$		
Climate	Hot summers and mild winters.		
Landscapes	Diverse landscape including the Jordan Rift Valley, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, and portions of the Arabian Desert		





(Fanack Water, 2022)

## *Jordanian industry*

The Jordanian industrial sector is primarily composed of three sub-sectors: manufacturing, extraction, and electricity and water. Manufacturing accounts for 15.2% of the GDP, while extraction for 2.2% of the GDP (Jordan Chamber of Industry, 2017). Extraction involves raw materials extraction from the earth's interior and encompasses mining industries, such as: phosphate, potash, natural gas, and petroleum products. Electricity and water accounts for 2.7% of the GDP (Jordan Chamber of Industry, 2017). This includes both electricity and water utilities.

Water is used at some stage of the production process of every manufactured product. The total amount of water involved in production is referred to as industrial water. Industrial water usage serves various purposes including processing, dilution, fabrication, washing, cooling, heating, incorporating water into a product, and cleaning the manufacturing plant. Each industrial subsector features distinct production processes and volumes that differ from one subsector to another. This leads to variations in water consumption levels and difficulties in efficient water resources management.

The expansion of Jordan's industrial sector is evidenced by the increasing number of industrial firms and establishments. In 1985, there were approximately 4,546 industrial facilities employing 43,313 workers. Two decades later, these numbers grew to 13,357 industrial facilities with about 150,000 predominantly Jordanian employees (DoS, 2006). Projections from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation & German Technical Cooperation (MWI & GTZ, 2004) indicate that industrial water

demand is expected to reach 170 MCM by 2040, driven by high per capita demand and population growth. This escalating demand leading to water shortages poses significant threats to the Jordanian economy as a whole, potentially leading to unemployment, income declines, increased poverty, foreign exchange imbalances, and economic recession (Water Authority of Jordan, 2010).

Given the industrial sector's rapid production volume and net profits growth, the water demand is projected to increase by up to 300% by 2024, necessitating urgent attention (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2014). This study explores water consumption across various industries in Jordan in order to understand sector-specific variations.

The objective of this study is to guide water management in Jordan towards a new strategy to mitigate water scarcity by enhancing the sustainability of water resources use and management in the industrial sector. More specifically, this study aims to:

- Calculate the WF of major industrial products produced in Jordan along the entire supply chain (internal WF), considering the raw materials used in the production process;
- Aid as a resource in the management of water resources in order to achieve water sustainability within the industrial sector;
- Investigate the water situation in Jordan, given its water scarcity and high evaporation rates as illustrated in Figure 1. Several data-related tools and approaches were employed in

this study. Such evaluations aim to achieve a balance between ongoing industrial development and water security in Jordan. For example, industries with a low WF should receive greater encouragement and support compared to those with high WF, as a higher WF exacerbates industrial water demand in Jordan. Elevated WF values for products and processes contribute to unsustainable consumption patterns of local water resources. WF assessments can also empower decision-makers to propose new effective strategies and policies, leading to proper management of industrial water use. Consequently, this research contributes to enhancing the overall management of water resource in Jordan.

# **The WF tool as an assessment of industrial water consumption**

# *The WF – terms and classification*

The WF tool distinguishes between domestic and international water consumption, which is crucial for the sustainable development of the industrial sector in Jordan. The internal WF measures water use of water from the domestic and local resources in the production processes, while the external WF

measures water use internationally for products destined for import or export (Hoekstra and Chapagain, 2007). The use of WF can facilitate water concentration by prioritizing the import of water-intensive products over local production, and export of products with lower water footprints. Importing water in its virtual helps alleviate pressure on limited water resources, enhances water security, and contributes to meeting Jordan's water demand.

Furthermore, the WF (internal and external) can be classified into three categories: blue, green, and grey water. The scope of this study is limited to the blue and grey WF. The blue WF is defined as "the utilization of freshwater resources, such as ground and surface water", the green WF is defined as "Utilization of green water resources, such as water that has been obtained from rain kept in the soil" whereas the grey WF is defined as "polluted water as a result of the production processes of products" (Hoekstra et al., 2011). The blue WF represents the amount of water that is evaporated, incorporated into products, or otherwise removed from the water cycle and cannot be readily reused, while the grey WF focuses on the amount of freshwater required to dilute the generated pollutants. Nevertheless, this tool can be used to analyze how industrial products manufacturing impacts water scarcity and pollution issues, thereby promoting the initiation of sustainable management of freshwater resources.

#### *Global scale*

To gain a deeper insight into WF assessment in Jordan, a review of global applications of the WF tool was conducted. Comparison of global and national scales enables mor accurate analysis of Jordan's industrial WF.

Chapagain and Hoekstra (2011) quantified the WF for rice production on a global scale, assessing the 13 largest riceproducing countries. Their study revealed that the total global WF for rice was 0.78 MCM/year, comprising 48% green, 44% blue, and 8% grey water. Virtual Water (VW) flows related to international rice trade was 0.031 MCM/year (Chapagain and Hoekstra, 2011). The study highlighted variations in the environmental impacts of rice production across different countries regarding factors such as water pollution and water scarcity. The environmental costs associated with water use in rice production are not factored into the price of rice. These costs can vary significantly depending on factors such as whether the rice is produced using dry or wet methods, as well as its source (Chapagain and Hoekstra, 2011).

Another study assessed the global WF of cotton products across the 15 largest cotton-producing countries. The global WF of cotton consumption was found to be over  $2.5 \cdot 10^5$  MCM/year, with 42% blue water and 19% grey water (Chapagain et. al., 2006). Importantly, the study also shows that the average

external blue WF for the consumption of cotton products in Jordan from 1997 to 2001 was estimated to be 48 MCM/year, and 13 MCM/year for the external grey WF for the same period. The average internal blue WF was estimated at 1 MCM/ year, while the total internal WF was 3 MCM/year (Chapagain et. al., 2006). The results show that the lack of adequate water pricing mechanisms negatively impacts cotton consumers' accountability for the damage on remote water systems.

#### *National scale*

A study by Chouchane et al. (2015) documented the WF related to crop production sector in Tunisia, examining both irrigated and rain-fed agriculture at national and subnational levels. They found that during the period when crop production represented the largest share (87%) of the national production's WF, severe overall water shortages were recorded.

Schyns and Hoekstra (2014) demonstrated the added value of the human WF on the river basin level of Morocco, as well as a comprehensive assessment of the VW flows leaving and entering the country. This study also found that the WF assessment has an impact on national water policy. It takes into consideration the freshwater end-users and purposes, which are essential in determining the efficient and fair distribution of water. Additionally, the consideration of green and grey WF offers new perspectives on blue water scarcity, since pressure on blue water resources could be reduced by more efficient use of green water and reduced pollution.

Another study related to national-scale WF was performed by Wang et al. (2016), who measured China's WF for various subsectors of agriculture, such as hunting, forestry, and fishing, as well as for industrial sectors including mining and quarrying, food products, beverages, tobacco, non-metallic minerals, and textiles. This study used an input-output analysis and demonstrated how the WF was influenced by different policy developments. The authors concluded that macro-control policies should be planned in alignment with local governance policies to promote water conservation. Using WF calculations on a national scale can be beneficial for decision-making processes regarding water conservation policies, as it provides an overall perspective of the national available water resources.

#### **Collection of data and methodology**

#### *Overview of Data Sources*

Detailed datasets for the period 2011–2013 were utilized to perform the analysis and calculation of the WF of the industrial sector in Jordan. The first dataset for industrial water uses in Jordan comes from the Department of Statistics' (DoS), mainly from industry and environment surveys, economic statistics,

and the economic establishments census. Freshwater consumption volumes were sourced from various origins, such as well water, public networks, water tankers, distilled water, and other sources, as provided in the "Environment Statistics" reports of DoS (2014, 2015a, 2016). Electricity consumption data was also obtained from the "Environment Statistics" reports of DoS (2014, 2015a, 2016). Moreover, quantitative industrial production data on a weight basis was obtained from the economy survey-price indices (Monthly quantitative Industrial Production Index), as shown in Table 3 in the Supplementary Information (SI) (Department of Statistics' Website a). All details related to the industrial external trade and industrial exports were provided from the economy survey-external trade that are illustrated in Table 4 in the SI (Department of Statistics' Website b).

The second dataset provides information about water withdrawals and pollution outputs for 28 economic activities (referring to the industrial subsectors in all DoS reports) and reported using codes according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). ISIC is defined as a standard classification according to the type of economic activities (including goods and services) arranged, where enterprises can be rated based on the activity that they carry out (United Nations, 2008). Table 7 in the SI describes the ISIC codes for all of the major industrial subsectors included in this study.

The scope of this study is limited to Jordan's industrial sector, which can be divided into two main categories: (1) the water-intensive industries, which include the nine largest companies consuming about 86% of total water usage by industry in the year 2001, as shown in Table 5 in the SI; and (2) the non-water-intensive industries, including all of the remaining industries within the sector (MWI & GTZ, 2004).

#### *Sample Description of Industrial Subsectors*

A summary of descriptive statistics for the variables analyzed in the study is presented in Table 2. This table provides the arithmetic mean and standard deviation values for industrial production and water consumption during the three-year study period. The variables are abbreviated into one letter for simplification purposes. The average value of industrial output production, approximately 370 million JD, is derived from the data collected and analyzed from the industrial subsectors included in the study for the period 2011–2013. It indicates that the industrial plants in the sample are predominantly medium-sized. Further, the average value of industrial water quantities used in industrial processes is around 1,071 thousand  $m<sup>3</sup>$ , obtained by calculating the average water usage for the same period, serving as an estimation of the average water consumption within the studied subsectors' industrial processes. For additional details, Table 3 in the SI presents the industrial production and water consumption data for each

specific industrial subsector. The values presented in Table 2 were calculated based on the data provided in Table 3 in the SI.

**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics of variables used in the empirical analysis

**Tabela 2.** Statystyki opisowe zmiennych wykorzystanych w analizie empirycznej

Variables	<b>Definitions</b>	Mean	<b>Standard</b> <b>Deviation</b>
	Total value of industrial output production (Unit: thousand JD)	369664	749329
W	Total consumption quantity of industrial water (Unit: thousand $m^3$ )	1071	3404

# *Calculation of the industrial WF Calculation of a product WF*

The product WF can be determined using one of two different approaches: the Chain-Summation Approach or the Stepwise Accumulative Approach. In this study, the Virtual WF (VWF) calculation requires knowledge and accounting of water used in domestic consumption (i.e. staff) and internal electricity power consumption.

The availability of the data determines which method can be applied to calculate the WF of the products. In this study, the first method, the Chain-Summation Approach, is used more broadly than the Stepwise Accumulative Approach. This is due to the availability of water consumption quantities and production volumes (parameters of Eq. (1)), which makes the first method more easily applied. Both the weight and price of the output products as well as the weight and WF of the input products (parameters of Eqs. (3)–(5)) are rarely counted for by the industrial subsectors. Thus, the second method is barely applied using the official data from the DoS.

#### *The Chain-Summation Approach*

This approach can be used for the manufacturing of one single industrial product. The WF of this sole output can be obtained by combining the WF of the inputs and the WF of the process, then dividing by the production quantity of the product [p], as shown in the following equation (Hoekstra et al., 2011):

$$
W F_{prod} = \frac{\sum W F_{proc}[s]}{P[p]}
$$
 (1)

where:

 $W_{p_{\text{prod}}} [p] - WF$  of output product  $p$  [volume/mass],  $W_{p_{\text{proc}}}[s]$  – process WF of process step *s* [volume/time],  $P[p]$  – production quantity of product  $p$  [mass/time].

The blue WF in a process step ( $W\!F_{\text{proc}}$ , blue) is calculated as the sum of blue water evaporation, blue water incorporation into product and the lost return flow [volume/time] as shown in the following formula (Hoekstra et al., 2011):

Blue  $W\!F_{proc}$  = Blue water evaporation +

 $+$  Blue water incorporation  $+$  Lost return flow (2) The lost return flow refers to the part of the flow that does not return for reuse within the same place and period of withdrawal. In this study, the total internal blue WF consists of 3 parts: the product WF (direct WF), the energy WF and the employee WF (indirect WF).

## *The Stepwise Accumulative Approach*

This is a general approach for calculating the product WF for several output products. In this case, the WF of the input needs to be distributed among the separate output products without double counting (Hoekstra et al., 2011):

$$
WF_{product} = \left( WF_{proc}[p] + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{WF_{prod}[i]}{Product fraction p, i} \right) \cdot Value fraction \quad (3)
$$

where

 $W\left\{W_{\text{mod}}\left[i\right]-\text{WF of input product } i\right\}$ 

 $W_{p_{\text{prec}}} [p]$  – process water footprint of the processing step that transforms the *n* input products into the z output products (where *z* is the number of output products that originate from the input products), expressed in water use per unit of processed product *p* (volume/mass).

The *product fraction*  $f_p$  [ $p$ ,  $i$ ] is defined as the ratio of quantities of both the obtained output product and the input product (mass/mass) (Hoekstra et al., 2011). In this equation, *w*[*p*] represents the quantity of the output product (mass) obtained, and *w*[*i*] represents the quantity of the input product. The equation is given by:

$$
fp[p,i] = \frac{w[p]}{w[i]}
$$
 (4)

The *value fraction*  $f_v[p]$  is defined as the market value of an output product divided by the whole market value of all output products attained from input products (Hoekstra et al., 2011):

$$
fv[p] = \frac{price[p] \cdot w[p]}{\sum_{p=1}^{z} (price[p] \cdot w[p])}
$$
 (5)

Where *price* (*p*) is the price of an output product and  $w[p]$ as defined above. Total virtual water flows are determined by multiplying, per subsector, the trade volume (in kg) with the total WF per unit of production of the exported product (i.e., internal WF in m3 /kg) (Mekonnen et al., 2015).

The total internal blue WF comprises the direct WF and the virtual (indirect) WF, as explained by Gu et al. (2015). The direct WF represents the water utilized in the production process and can be derived from Eq. (1) and Eq. (3). On the other hand, the virtual WF encompasses the water consumed during electricity power generation and for domestic purposes (e.g., staff). In accordance with Gu et al. (2015), the following equation was obtained to compute the total internal blue WF:

Total internal blue  $WF = Direct WF + Virtual WF (6)$ Virtual  $WF = energy WF + employee WF$ 

The primary method used in calculating the WF combines the consumptive water use of blue and grey water with statistics on production, trade, and prices of products (assuming that green water is not included in industrial production). This method was introduced by Hoekstra et al. (2011). Estimating the WF of an industrial product involves the following steps: (1) identifying and schematizing the production system into linked process steps, (2) tracing the origin of the product's inputs in order to determine if the raw materials were imported from other countries or purchased locally, (3) obtaining data from the manufacturers and factories (the sources), as well as the required information related to the process steps that were taken into account through the full production chain of a certain product, and (4) estimating the volumes of consumed and polluted water over the entire process in the production chain to determine the blue and grey WF. The green WF quantifies the amount of rainwater used throughout the production process and evapotranspiration from fields, as well as the water incorporated into the yield (Hoekstra et al., 2011). This type of WF is related to agricultural products that are crop dependent. For industrial products, production starts with processing imported input materials as the first stage. Therefore, there are no agricultural production and crop harvesting stages, thus, there is no green WF for industrial products (Hoekstra and Chapagain, 2011).

## **Total WF Results**

#### *Total internal blue and grey WF for the industrial sector*

The internal industrial WF within Jordan was calculated using Eq. (1) with available local data (Table 3 in the SI). The total blue and grey WF were calculated using the Chain-Summation method for each year of the study period, from 2011 to 2013, for the entire industrial sector including all subsectors. The results are shown in Figure 2.

The results demonstrate that the blue WF increased from 2011 to 2013 and, given the current circumstances, is expected to continue rising, adding more stress to the water resources in Jordan. Specifically, the blue WF of Jordan's industrial sector increased significantly from 773 m<sup>3</sup>/kg in 2011 to 915 m<sup>3</sup>/kg in 2013. Conversely, the grey WF appears to have decreased with time, as shown in Figure 2. This decline may indicate ongoing



**Figure 2.** The average internal blue and grey WF of Jordan's industrial sector

efforts by the authorities to reduce water contamination. The grey WF was more than 200 m<sup>3</sup>/kg in 2011 and decreased in 2012 and 2013, reaching about 100 m<sup>3</sup>/kg in 2013.

To reiterate, it is important to note that the results reported in this section represent only the internal component of the WF. Estimating the external WF requires knowledge of the quantities and origins of raw materials, which is beyond the scope of this study. Figure 3 is the average total WF (blue and  $grey)$  in  $m^3/kg$ . As shown, there is a significant increase in the total blue and grey WF from 2011 to 2013.



Figure 3. The average total internal WF [m<sup>3</sup>/kg] for 3 years **Rysunek 3.** Średni całkowity wewnętrzny WF (m<sup>3</sup>/kg) z trzech analizowanych lat

# *The total internal blue WF of industrial subsectors*

Figure 4 demonstrates the highest blue WF of the subsectors (Table 3, SI). The WF was calculated based on public datasets using Eq. (1). The mining of chemical and fertilizer minerals subsector has the highest internal blue WF, with about  $13517 \text{ m}^3$  of freshwater per kg of produced product. The next four highest industrial subsectors have an internal blue WF ranging from  $1517 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$  to  $745 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$ , as shown in Figure 4 below. On the other hand, the five lowest blue WF of the industrial subsectors are shown in Figure 5. The textiles and rubber subsectors have low blue WF estimated of about  $16 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$  and  $17 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$  of product, respectively. The tobacco products subsector's blue WF is  $11 \text{ m}^3$  of water per kg of product, and the chemical products subsector has the lowest blue

WF of the industrial sector, with about  $10 \text{ m}^3$  of water per kg of product. Xu et al. (2017) indicated that the textile subsector demonstrated a relatively low blue WF value.



**Figure 4.** The 5 highest internal blue WF of the industrial subsectors

**Rysunek 4.** Pięć najwyższych wewnętrznych niebieskich WF w podsektorach przemysłowych



**Figure 5.** The 5 lowest internal blue WF of the industrial subsectors

**Rysunek 5.** Pięć najniższych wewnętrznych niebieskich WF w podsektorach przemysłowych

#### *The internal direct WF and virtual WF*

The direct WF quantifies the water used in production processes within the supply chain. It provides a straightforward measure of water consumption during manufacturing operations. The highest water consumption per kilogram of product occurs in the chemical minerals mining subsectors, amounting to 13,430 m<sup>3</sup>/kg, followed by fertilizer and nitrogen  $(1,391 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg})$ , and refined petroleum products  $(800 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg})$ . Conversely, the textiles and rubber products subsectors demonstrate the lowest product W  $(1 \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$  for both).

In contrast, virtual WF estimations reveal the amount of water used for internal electricity consumption, including heating, cooling and employee consumption within the facility, as detailed in Eq. (6). Figures 6 and 7 show the highest WF of electricity consumption and domestic usage within these industrial subsectors, respectively. The basic chemicals subsector leads in electricity consumption with  $9 \text{ m}^3/\text{MWh}$ , followed by the vegetable  $\&$  animal oils subsector (8 m<sup>3</sup>/MWh). Meanwhile, the detergents & perfumes subsector exhibits the

**Rysunek 2.** Średni wewnętrzny niebieski i szary WF sektora przemysłowego Jordanii

highest employee WF with 219 m<sup>3</sup>/employee, followed by the fertilizer & nitrogen subsector (126 m<sup>3</sup>/employee) annually. Variations in these values stem from differences in the number of employees, workdays per week, employees per shift, hours per shift, and individual employee's water consumption per shift among the subsectors. Table 7 in the SI provides a comprehensive overview of the internal product WF, energy WF, and employee WF across the entire sector.



**Figure 6.** The 5 highest internal energy WF of the industrial subsectors

**Rysunek 6.** Pięć najwyższych wewnętrznych wartości WF dla energii w podsektorach przemysłowych



**Figure 7.** The 5 highest internal employee WF of the industrial subsectors

**Rysunek 7.** Pięć najwyższych wewnętrznych WF dla pracowników w podsektorach przemysłowych

# *The total internal grey WF of industrial subsectors*

Figure 8 displays the 5 highest grey WF subsectors among 28 industrial subsectors. The results reveal that the refined petroleum products subsector has the highest water pollution rate with nearly  $1,193 \text{ m}^3$  of greywater per unit of production. This subsector is among the major consumers of water, contributing a significant share of 86% of the industrial water consumption and pollution (MWI & GTZ, 2004; European Environment Agency, 2014). The previous value is higher due to the existence of the cooling towers and air conditioning units in this subsector, as the temperature reaches very high degrees during operations (JPRC). Additionally, the process of refining oil uses large volumes of water, therefore, significant amounts of wastewater are generated (0.4–1.6 times the volume of processed oil) (Fica-Piras, 2000). The next largest grey WF is the basic chemicals subsector with 805  $\mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{kg}$  of product, followed by the stone cutting and finishing subsector with 586 m<sup>3</sup>/kg.



**Figure 8.** The 5 highest internal grey WF of industrial products **Rysunek 8.** Pięć najwyższych wewnętrznych szarych WF dla produktów przemysłowych

Xu et al. (2017) demonstrate that the chemical industry  $\&$ chemical production subsector had the highest grey WF with a value of 10,840 MCM, followed by the petroleum processing subsector with 3,729 MCM. These high values are due the subsectors' massive water extraction rates, thus producing significant amounts of wastewater. Regarding the stone cutting subsector, a large amount of wastewater is generated due to the washing process. Table 6 in SI displays the blue and grey WF at the subsector level, ordered according to the ISIC number.

#### **Discussion**

Among the 28 industrial subsectors, the mining of chemical minerals subsector had the highest internal blue WF, followed by the fertilizers and nitrogen subsector. In contrast, the highest grey WF was found in the refined petroleum products subsector, followed by basic chemicals subsector. The lowest internal blue WF was observed in the chemical products subsector, followed by the tobacco, extraction of petroleum & natural gas and textile subsectors. Further, the lowest internal grey WF was seen in the rubber products subsector, followed by the tobacco subsector. These findings provide insight into which industrial subsectors would benefit most from water use efficiencies-related policies. They also indicate which industries would provide greater environmental and economic benefits if their products were imported rather than exported, and vice versa.

As shown, the mining of chemical and fertilizer minerals subsector has the highest internal blue WF, with about 13,517 m3 of freshwater per kg of produced product. This number indicates that the most water-intensive industries include nine large companies, representing about 86% of the total

amount of industrial water usage. Referring to Table 5 in the SI, five mining companies are classified among the nine largest in Jordan. Since the industrial subsectors grouped similar factories under one category, the total water consumption volumes from these five mining factories were collected and placed into one category: mining of chemical and fertilizer minerals subsector. This demonstrates the large difference in blue WF, as shown previously in Figure 4. A study conducted by Xu et al. (2017) stated that the chemical industry and production subsector had the highest blue WF out of 25 different subsectors with a value of 9,855 MCM, while the petroleum processing subsector was 2,394 MCM, exemplifying a significant decrease between the two values.

Regarding the energy WF of Jordan's industrial subsectors, the calculations help determine which subsectors would benefit from increasing their use of renewable energy sources to decrease their energy WF. Currently, Jordan's use of renewable energy sources is low, accounting for less than 1% of electricity generation. Of the 16.5 MW produced by renewable energy resources, 60.4% is hydropower, 21.1% biomass, 9.7% PV (solar), and 8.8% wind (RCREEE, 2012). Despite these figures, industrial subsectors with the highest energy WF should be encouraged to use renewable energy sources in order to mitigate the total WF of these subsectors.

In order to enhance the overall efficiency of industrial water use, advanced water use technologies should be developed to maximize water resource utilization during industrial production. Government subsidies can incentivize producers who successfully conserve industrial water. Wang et al. (2018) suggest implementing a multistep water pricing method, where water prices increase with each increment of water consumption, to significantly enhance water-use efficiency and promote water resource conservation. Moreover, stricter government regulations can improve the environmental efficiency of industrial water usage by addressing water pollution and promoting the development of industrial wastewater treatment equipment and technologies. Industrial wastewater should undergo careful treatment, either through physical or environmentally sustainable chemical methods, and then released into the natural environment or used for agricultural purposes, subject to regulatory checks and tests by environmental authorities. Similarly, incentives and subsidies should be offered to industrial producers adopting environmentally friendly production technologies (Wang et al., 2018).

Water conservation strategies must target water-intensive sectors. As stated by Pereira et al. (2012), achieving water savings in both industrial and commercial sectors can be challenging without substantial incentives. Changes in the operations and production processes often require capital investment. Additionally, industries are asked to pay a certain amount for their effluent releases and water consumption. Therefore, the incentives must be substantial enough to ensure a shift in industry practices, which may vary across different industries.

#### **Conclusion**

Upon applying the methodologies adopted in this study across various industrial subsectors and analyzing the results, several conclusions emerge. Overall, the internal blue WF for the entire industrial sector, regardless of subsector type, notably increased w between 2011 and 2013, reaching 915  $m<sup>3</sup>$  per unit of production in 2013. Concurrently, the associated grey WF peaked at  $202 \text{ m}^3$  per unit of production in the year 2011.

Given the increasing interest in advancing alternative and innovative water resource solutions, the study's findings highlight multiple pathways for water management policies in Jordan. Policymakers can leverage these findings to enhance the water use sustainability of the industrial sector. Furthermore, the study provides insights into how industrial product manufacturing impacts water scarcity and pollution issues, thus facilitating the initiation of sustainable freshwater resources management practices. This approach aims to effectively manage water use within the industrial sector and contribute to the overall improvements in water resource management in Jordan.

#### *Declarations*

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# *Data availability statement*

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and its supplementary information file.

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# *Supplementary Information (SI)*

**Table 3.** Raw dataset for gross output (*Q*, thousand JD), water consumption (*W*, thousand  $m^3$ ), wastewater generation (*WW*, thousand m<sup>3</sup>), quantitative industrial production (Q, kg), electricity consumption and number of employees, for 28 economic activities **Tabela 3.** Surowy zestaw danych dotyczący produkcji brutto (*Q*, tysiące JD), zużycia wody (*W*, tysiące m<sup>3</sup> ), generacji ścieków (*WW*, tysiące m<sup>3</sup> ), ilościowej produkcji przemysłowej (*Q*, kg), zużycia energii elektrycznej oraz liczby pracowników, dla 28 działalności gospodarczych



**Table 4.** Average export value, average export quantity and virtual water export volume

Tabela 4. Šrednia wartość eksportu, średnia ilość eksportowana i wolumen eksportu wirtualnej wody					
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**Table 5.** Companies with the highest water consumption in the industrial sector **Tabela 5.** Przedsiębiorstwa o największym zużyciu wody w sektorze przemysłowym



<b>ISIC</b>	<b>Subsector</b>	<b>Blue WF</b> $[m^3/kg]$	<b>Grey WF</b> $[m^3/kg]$	
0610	Petroleum & natural gas	15	7	
0810	Quarrying of stone	168	126	
0891	Mining of chemical minerals	13,517	372	
1040	Vegetable & Animal oils	25	18	
1050	Dairy products	202	104	
1079	Other food products	110	45	
1101	Malt liquors & spirits	36	6	
1104	Soft drinks & waters	365	134	
1200	Tobacco	11	5	
1392	Textiles	16	8	
1393	Carpets & rugs	18	13	
1701	Paper & Paper products	158	14	
1920	Refined petroleum products	885	1,193	
2011	<b>Basic</b> chemicals	745	805	
2012	Fertilizers & nitrogen	1,517	33	
2013	Rubber & Plastics	23	15	
2022	Paints & printing ink	32	10	
2100	Pharmaceuticals	109	56	
2023	Detergents & perfumes	322	45	
2029	Other chemical products	10	11	
2211	Other rubber products	17	$\mathbf{1}$	
2220	Plastics products	112	76	
2394	Cement & plaster	645	200	
2395	Concrete	227	20	
2396	Cutting & finishing of stone	805	586	
2410	Basic iron & steel	32	188	
2420	Precious & non-ferrous metals	52	23	
3290	Other manufacturing	50	24	

**Table 6.** Total analysis results for blue WF and grey WF **Tabela 6.** Całkowite wyniki analizy dla WF niebieskiego i WF szarego

**Table 7.** Total internal product WF, energy WF and employees WF

**Tabela 7.** Całkowity wewnętrzny WF produktu, WF energetyczny i WF pracowników



cont. Table 7/cd. Tabela 7



**Table 8.** Description for the major industrial subsectors indicated in this study

**Tabela 8.** Opis głównych podsektorów przemysłowych wskazanych w niniejszym badaniu











#### cont. Table 8/cd. Tabela 8



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