Jordan has seen much economic turmoil over the past 20 years while seeking ways to prosper despite a lack of natural resources. In this first article of a two-part series, Yusuf Mansur and Nael Al Husami examine recent Jordanian economic history, including this year’s energy/economic crisis, and comment on the effectiveness of energy policy as a means to stimulate growth in that country. The second article, which offers statistical analysis and delves into future implications of past and present energy policy, will appear in next month’s Geopolitics of Energy.