

Explore All Countries Jordan

Middle East

Page last updated: September 09, 2024



INTRODUCTION

Background

After World War I and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations awarded Britain the mandate to govern much of the Middle East. In 1921, Britain demarcated from Palestine a semi-autonomous region of Transjordan and recognized ABDALLAH I from the Hashemite family as the country's first leader. The Hashemites also controlled the Hijaz, or the western coastal area of modern-day Saudi Arabia, until 1925, when IBN SAUD and Wahhabi tribes pushed them out. The country gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The country has had four kings. Long-time ruler King HUSSEIN (r. 1953-99) successfully navigated competing pressures from the major powers (US, UK, and Soviet Union), various Arab states, Israel, and Palestinian militants, the latter of which led to a brief civil war in 1970 that is known as "Black September" and ended in King HUSSEIN ousting the militants.

Jordan's borders have changed since it gained independence. In 1948, Jordan took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the first Arab-Israeli War, eventually annexing those territories in 1950 and granting its new Palestinian residents Jordanian citizenship. In 1967, Jordan lost the West Bank and East Jerusalem to Israel in the Six-Day War but retained administrative claims to the West Bank until 1988, when King HUSSEIN permanently relinquished Jordanian claims to the West Bank in favor of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). King HUSSEIN signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, after Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords in 1993.

Jordanian kings continue to claim custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem by virtue of their Hashemite heritage as descendants of the Prophet Mohammad and agreements with Israel and Jerusalem-based religious and Palestinian leaders. After Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 War, it authorized the Jordanian-controlled Islamic Trust, or Waqf, to continue administering the Al Haram ash Sharif/Temple Mount holy compound, and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty reaffirmed Jordan's "special role" in administering the Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. Jordanian kings claim custodianship of the Christian sites in Jerusalem on the basis of the 7th-century Pact of Omar, when the Muslim leader, after conquering Jerusalem, agreed to permit Christian worship.

King HUSSEIN died in 1999 and was succeeded by his eldest son and current King ABDALLAH II. In 2009, ABDALLAH II designated his son HUSSEIN as the Crown Prince. During his reign, ABDALLAH II has contended with a series of challenges, including the Arab Spring influx of refugees from neighboring states, the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of the war in Ukraine, a perennially weak economy, and the Israel-HAMAS conflict that began in October 2023.

GEOGRAPHY

Location

Middle East, northwest of Saudi Arabia, between Israel (to the west) and Iraq

Geographic coordinates

31 00 N, 36 00 E

Map references

Middle East

Area

total : 89,342 sq km

land: 88,802 sq km

water: 540 sq km

comparison ranking: total 112

Area - comparative

about three-quarters the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Indiana

Area comparison map:



Land boundaries

total: 1,744 km

border countries (5): Iraq 179 km; Israel 307 km; Saudi Arabia 731 km; Syria 379 km; West Bank 148 km

Coastline

26 km

Maritime claims

territorial sea: 3 nm

Climate

mostly arid desert; rainy season in west (November to April)

Terrain

mostly arid desert plateau; a great north-south geological rift along the west of the country is the dominant topographical feature and includes the Jordan River Valley, the Dead Sea, and the Jordanian Highlands

Elevation

highest point: Jabal Umm ad Dami 1,854 m

lowest point: Dead Sea -431 m

mean elevation: 812 m

Natural resources

phosphates, potash, shale oil

Land use

agricultural land: 11.4% (2018 est.)

arable land: 2% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 1% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 8.4% (2018 est.)

forest: 1.1% (2018 est.)

other: 87.5% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

833 sq km (2020)

Major lakes (area sq km)

salt water lake(s): Dead Sea (shared with Israel and West Bank) - 1,020 sq km

note - endorheic hypersaline lake; 9.6 times saltier than the ocean; lake shore is 431 meters below sea level

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Indian Ocean drainage: (*Persian Gulf*) Tigris and Euphrates (918,044 sq km)

Major aquifers

Arabian Aquifer System

Population distribution

population heavily concentrated in the west, and particularly the northwest, in and around the capital of Amman; a sizeable, but smaller population is located in the southwest along the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba

Natural hazards

droughts; periodic earthquakes; flash floods

Geography - note

strategic location at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba and as the Arab country that shares the longest border with Israel and the occupied West Bank; the Dead Sea, the lowest point in Asia and the second saltiest body of water in the world (after Lac Assal in Djibouti), lies on Jordan's western border with Israel and the West Bank; Jordan is almost landlocked but does have a 26 km southwestern coastline with a single port, Al 'Aqabah (Aqaba)

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY**Population**

total: 11,174,024

male: 5,844,979

female: 5,329,045 (2024 est.)

note: increased estimate reflects revised assumptions about the net migration rate due to the increased flow of Syrian refugees

comparison rankings: female 89; male 84; total 84

Nationality

noun: Jordanian(s)

adjective: Jordanian

Ethnic groups

Jordanian 69.3%, Syrian 13.3%, Palestinian 6.7%, Egyptian 6.7%, Iraqi 1.4%, other 2.6% (2015 est.)

note: data represent population by self-identified nationality in national census

Languages

Arabic (official), English (widely understood among upper and middle classes)

major-language sample(s):

كتاب حقائق العالم، المصدر الذي لا يمكن الاستغناء عنه للمعلومات الأساسية (Arabic)

The World Factbook, the indispensable source for basic information.

Arabic audio sample:**Religions**

Muslim 97.1% (official; predominantly Sunni), Christian 2.1% (majority Greek Orthodox, but some Greek and Roman Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Protestant denominations), Buddhist 0.4%, Hindu 0.1%, Jewish <0.1%, folk <0.1%, other <0.1%, unaffiliated <0.1% (2020 est.)

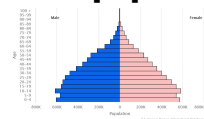
Age structure

0-14 years: 30.9% (male 1,771,840/female 1,678,178)

15-64 years: 64.9% (male 3,844,575/female 3,409,164)

65 years and over: 4.2% (2024 est.) (male 228,564/female 241,703)

2023 population pyramid:



Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio: 57.1

youth dependency ratio: 51.2

elderly dependency ratio: 5.8

potential support ratio: 17.1 (2021 est.)

Median age

total: 25 years (2024 est.)

male: 25.5 years

female: 24.4 years

comparison ranking: total 172

Population growth rate

0.78% (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 114

Birth rate

22.2 births/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 52

Death rate

3.5 deaths/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 222

Net migration rate

-10.9 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 223

Population distribution

population heavily concentrated in the west, and particularly the northwest, in and around the capital of Amman; a sizeable, but smaller population is located in the southwest along the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba

Urbanization

urban population: 92% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.98% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Major urban areas - population

2.232 million AMMAN (capital) (2023)

Sex ratio

at birth: 1.06 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.06 male(s)/female

15-64 years: 1.13 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.95 male(s)/female

total population: 1.1 male(s)/female (2024 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth

24.6 years (2017/18 est.)

note: data represents median age at first birth among women 25-49

Maternal mortality ratio

41 deaths/100,000 live births (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: 103

Infant mortality rate

total: 13.2 deaths/1,000 live births (2024 est.)

male: 14.3 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 12.1 deaths/1,000 live births

comparison ranking: total 106

Life expectancy at birth

total population: 76.5 years (2024 est.)

male: 75 years

female: 78.1 years

comparison ranking: total population 109

Total fertility rate

2.87 children born/woman (2024 est.)

comparison ranking: 52

Gross reproduction rate

1.39 (2024 est.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

51.8% (2017/18)

Drinking water source

improved: urban: 99.2% of population

rural: 97.9% of population

total: 99.1% of population

unimproved: urban: 0.8% of population

rural: 2.1% of population

total: 0.9% of population (2020 est.)

Current health expenditure

7.5% of GDP (2020)

Physician density

2.66 physicians/1,000 population (2019)

Hospital bed density

1.5 beds/1,000 population (2017)

Sanitation facility access

improved: urban: 98.8% of population

rural: 97.8% of population

total: 98.7% of population

unimproved: urban: 1.2% of population

rural: 2.2% of population

total: 1.3% of population (2020 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

35.5% (2016)

comparison ranking: 13

Alcohol consumption per capita

total: 0.25 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

beer: 0.06 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

wine: 0 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

spirits: 0.19 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

other alcohols: 0 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: total 171

Tobacco use

total: 34.8% (2020 est.)

male: 56.8% (2020 est.)

female: 12.8% (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: total 16

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

2.7% (2019)

comparison ranking: 94

Currently married women (ages 15-49)

55.6% (2023 est.)

Child marriage

women married by age 15: 1.5%

women married by age 18: 9.7%

men married by age 18: 0.1% (2018 est.)

Education expenditures

3.2% of GDP (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: 151

Literacy

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 98.4%

male: 98.7%

female: 98.4% (2021)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

total: 11 years

male: 10 years

female: 11 years (2020)

ENVIRONMENT

Environment - current issues

limited natural freshwater resources; declining water table; salinity; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification; biodiversity and ecosystem damage/loss

Environment - international agreements

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping-London Convention, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Climate

mostly arid desert; rainy season in west (November to April)

Land use

agricultural land: 11.4% (2018 est.)

arable land: 2% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 1% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 8.4% (2018 est.)

forest: 1.1% (2018 est.)

other: 87.5% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 92% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 0.98% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

0.02% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: 142

Revenue from coal

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: 149

Air pollutants

particulate matter emissions: 25.87 micrograms per cubic meter (2019 est.)

carbon dioxide emissions: 25.11 megatons (2016 est.)

methane emissions: 6.04 megatons (2020 est.)

Waste and recycling

municipal solid waste generated annually: 2,529,997 tons (2013 est.)

municipal solid waste recycled annually: 177,100 tons (2014 est.)

percent of municipal solid waste recycled: 7% (2014 est.)

Major lakes (area sq km)

salt water lake(s): Dead Sea (shared with Israel and West Bank) - 1,020 sq km

note - endorheic hypersaline lake; 9.6 times saltier than the ocean; lake shore is 431 meters below sea level

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Indian Ocean drainage: (*Persian Gulf*) Tigris and Euphrates (918,044 sq km)

Major aquifers

Arabian Aquifer System

Total water withdrawal

municipal: 500 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

industrial: 40 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

agricultural: 570 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

Total renewable water resources

940 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

GOVERNMENT**Country name**

conventional long form: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

conventional short form: Jordan

local long form: Al Mamlakah al Urduniyah al Hashimiyah

local short form: Al Urdun

former: Transjordan

etymology: named for the Jordan River, which makes up part of Jordan's northwest border

Government type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

name: Amman

geographic coordinates: 31 57 N, 35 56 E

time difference: UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

etymology: in the 13th century B.C., the Ammonites named their main city "Rabbath Ammon"; "rabbath" designated "capital," so the name meant "The Capital of [the] Ammon[ites]"; over time, the "Rabbath" came to be dropped and the city became known simply as "Ammon" and then "Amman"

Administrative divisions

12 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); 'Ajlun, Al 'Aqabah, Al Balqa', Al Karak, Al Mafraq, Al 'Asimah (Amman), At Tafilah, Az Zarqa', Irbid, Jarash, Ma'an, Madaba

Independence

25 May 1946 (from League of Nations mandate under British administration)

National holiday

Independence Day, 25 May (1946)

Legal system

mixed system developed from codes instituted by the Ottoman Empire (based on French law), British common law, and Islamic law

Constitution

history: previous 1928 (preindependence); latest initially adopted 28 November 1947, revised and ratified 1 January 1952

amendments: constitutional amendments require at least a two-thirds majority vote of both the Senate and the House and ratification by the king; amended several times, last in 2022

International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCT jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: the father must be a citizen of Jordan

dual citizenship recognized: yes

residency requirement for naturalization: 15 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state: King ABDALLAH II (since 7 February 1999)

head of government: Prime Minister Bisher AL-KHASAWNEH (since 7 October 2020)

cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the monarch in consultation with the prime minister

elections/appointments: prime minister appointed by the monarch

Legislative branch

description: bicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-'Umma consists of:

Senate or the House of Notables or Majlis al-Ayan (65 seats; members appointed by the monarch to serve 4-year terms)

Chamber of Deputies or House of Representatives or Majlis al-Nuwaab (130 seats; 115 members directly elected in 23 multi-seat constituencies by open-list proportional representation vote and 15 seats for women; 12 of the 115 seats reserved for Christian, Chechen, and Circassian candidates; members serve 4-year terms)

elections: Senate - last appointments on 27 Sep 2020 (next appointments by November 2024)

Chamber of Deputies - last held on 10 November 2020 (next to be held on 10 September 2024)

election results: Senate - composition - men 55, women 10, percent of women 15.4%

Chamber of Deputies; note - tribal, centrist, and pro-government candidates dominated the election; the Islamic Action Front, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, garnered only 10 seats, down from 15 in the previous election; women, who are guaranteed 15 seats by Jordan's legislative quota system, won 16 seats, down from 20 seats won in the previous election; composition - men 113, women 17, percentage women 13.1%; note - total National Assembly percentage women 13.8%

note: in 2022, a new electoral law - effective for the anticipated 2024 election - will increase the total number of Chamber of Deputies' seats to 138 from 130; 97 members to be directly elected from multi-seat geographic districts by open list proportional representation vote, with over 7 percent of total votes needed to gain a seat, and 41 members to be directly elected from a single national district by closed party-list proportional representation vote, with over a 2.5 percent of total votes needed to gain a seat

Judicial branch

highest court(s): Court of Cassation or Supreme Court (consists of 15 members, including the chief justice); Constitutional Court (consists of 9 members)

judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court chief justice appointed by the king; other judges nominated by the Judicial Council, an 11-member judicial policymaking body consisting of high-level judicial officials and judges, and approved by the king; judge tenure not limited; Constitutional Court members appointed by the king for 6-year non-renewable terms with one-third of the membership renewed every 2 years

subordinate courts: Courts of Appeal; Great Felonies Court; religious courts; military courts; juvenile courts; Land Settlement Courts; Income Tax Court; Higher Administrative Court; Customs Court; special courts including the State Security Court

Political parties

political reforms required all existing parties to re-register by May 2023, which resulted in changes to the number of registered parties and the number of seats held by those parties for the anticipated 2024 election

International organization participation

ABEDA, AFESD, AMF, CAEU, CD, CICA, EBRD, FAO, G-11, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICtT, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAS, MIGA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM, NATO (partner), OIC, OPCW, OSCE (partner), PCA, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD,

UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNISFA, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNOOSA, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission: Ambassador Dina Khalil Tawfiq KAWAR (since 27 June 2016)

chancery: 3504 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 966-2664

FAX: [1] (202) 966-3110

email address and website:

hkjconsular@jordanembassyus.org

<http://www.jordanembassyus.org/>

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission: Ambassador Yael LEMPert (since 3 September 2023)

embassy: Abdoun, Al-Umawyeen St., Amman

mailing address: 6050 Amman Place, Washington DC 20521-6050

telephone: [962] (6) 590-6000

FAX: [962] (6) 592-0163

email address and website:

Amman-ACS@state.gov

<https://jo.usembassy.gov/>

Flag description

three equal horizontal bands of black (top), representing the Abbassid Caliphate, white, representing the Ummayyad Caliphate, and green, representing the Fatimid Caliphate; a red isosceles triangle on the hoist side, representing the Great Arab Revolt of 1916, and bearing a small white seven-pointed star symbolizing the seven verses of the opening Sura (Al-Fatiha) of the Holy Koran; the seven points on the star represent faith in One God, humanity, national spirit, humility, social justice, virtue, and aspirations; design is based on the Arab Revolt flag of World War I

National symbol(s)

eagle; national colors: black, white, green, red

National anthem

name: "As-salam al-malaki al-urdoni" (Long Live the King of Jordan)

lyrics/music: Abdul-Mone'm al-RIFAI/Abdul-Qader al-TANEER

note: adopted 1946; the shortened version of the anthem is used most commonly, while the full version is reserved for special occasions

National heritage

total World Heritage Sites: 6 (5 cultural, 1 mixed)

selected World Heritage Site locales: Petra (c); Quseir Amra (c); Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (c); Wadi Rum Protected Area (m); Baptism Site "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" (Al-Maghtas) (c); As-Salt - The Place of Tolerance and Urban Hospitality (c)

ECONOMY

Economic overview

low growth, upper middle-income Middle Eastern economy; high debt and unemployment, especially for youth and women; key US foreign assistance recipient; natural resource-poor and import-reliant

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$106.806 billion (2023 est.)

\$104.084 billion (2022 est.)

\$101.617 billion (2021 est.)

note: data in 2021 dollars

comparison ranking: 95

Real GDP growth rate

2.62% (2023 est.)

2.43% (2022 est.)

3.66% (2021 est.)

note: annual GDP % growth based on constant local currency

comparison ranking: 121

Real GDP per capita

\$9,400 (2023 est.)

\$9,200 (2022 est.)

\$9,100 (2021 est.)

note: data in 2021 dollars

comparison ranking: 149

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$50.814 billion (2023 est.)

note: data in current dollars at official exchange rate

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

2.08% (2023 est.)

4.23% (2022 est.)

1.35% (2021 est.)

note: annual % change based on consumer prices

comparison ranking: 39

Credit ratings

Fitch rating: BB- (2019)

Moody's rating: B1 (2013)

Standard & Poors rating: B+ (2017)

note: The year refers to the year in which the current credit rating was first obtained.

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

agriculture: 4.5% (2017 est.)

industry: 28.8% (2017 est.)

services: 66.6% (2017 est.)

comparison rankings: services 88; industry 87; agriculture 131

GDP - composition, by end use

household consumption: 80.5% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 19.8% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 22.8% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 0.7% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 34.2% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -58% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

tomatoes, milk, chicken, potatoes, cucumbers/gherkins, olives, watermelons, peaches/nectarines, sheep milk, chilies/peppers (2022)

note: top ten agricultural products based on tonnage

Industries

tourism, information technology, clothing, fertilizer, potash, phosphate mining, pharmaceuticals, petroleum refining, cement, inorganic chemicals, light manufacturing

Industrial production growth rate

3.28% (2023 est.)

note: annual % change in industrial value added based on constant local currency

comparison ranking: 100

Labor force

3.063 million (2023 est.)

note: number of people ages 15 or older who are employed or seeking work

comparison ranking: 110

Unemployment rate

17.94% (2023 est.)

18.2% (2022 est.)

19.84% (2021 est.)

note: % of labor force seeking employment

comparison ranking: 195

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)

total: 40.8% (2023 est.)

male: 39.3% (2023 est.)

female: 47.1% (2023 est.)

note: % of labor force ages 15-24 seeking employment

comparison ranking: total 10

Population below poverty line

15.7% (2018 est.)

note: % of population with income below national poverty line

Average household expenditures

on food: 26.4% of household expenditures (2021 est.)

on alcohol and tobacco: 4.5% of household expenditures (2021 est.)

Remittances

9.72% of GDP (2023 est.)

10.1% of GDP (2022 est.)

10.96% of GDP (2021 est.)

note: personal transfers and compensation between resident and non-resident individuals/households/entities

Budget

revenues: \$10.813 billion (2019 est.)

expenditures: \$13.489 billion (2019 est.)

Public debt

101.14% of GDP (2022 est.)

note: central government debt as a % of GDP

comparison ranking: 19

Taxes and other revenues

17.51% (of GDP) (2022 est.)

note: central government tax revenue as a % of GDP

comparison ranking: 106

Current account balance

-\$4.159 billion (2022 est.)

-\$3.718 billion (2021 est.)

-\$2.505 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - net trade and primary/secondary income in current dollars

comparison ranking: 174

Exports

\$20.335 billion (2022 est.)

\$13.87 billion (2021 est.)

\$10.444 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - exports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: 91

Exports - partners

US 20%, India 14%, Saudi Arabia 7%, China 6%, Iraq 6% (2022)

note: top five export partners based on percentage share of exports

Exports - commodities

fertilizers, garments, phosphates, jewelry, phosphoric acid (2022)

note: top five export commodities based on value in dollars

Imports

\$29.955 billion (2022 est.)

\$23.321 billion (2021 est.)

\$18.424 billion (2020 est.)

note: balance of payments - imports of goods and services in current dollars

comparison ranking: 79

Imports - partners

China 17%, UAE 12%, Saudi Arabia 12%, India 6%, US 4% (2022)

note: top five import partners based on percentage share of imports

Imports - commodities

refined petroleum, cars, gold, crude petroleum, jewelry (2022)

note: top five import commodities based on value in dollars

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$15.56 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

\$15.543 billion (2016 est.)

\$16.572 billion (2015 est.)

note: holdings of gold (year-end prices)/foreign exchange/special drawing rights in current dollars

comparison ranking: 69

Debt - external

\$32.088 billion (2019 est.)

\$29.916 billion (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: 81

Exchange rates

Jordanian dinars (JOD) per US dollar -

Exchange rates:

0.71 (2023 est.)

0.71 (2022 est.)

0.71 (2021 est.)

0.71 (2020 est.)

0.71 (2019 est.)

ENERGY**Electricity access**

electrification - total population: 100% (2022 est.)

electrification - urban areas: 100%

electrification - rural areas: 98.9%

Electricity

installed generating capacity: 6.805 million kW (2022 est.)

consumption: 19.679 billion kWh (2022 est.)

exports: 177.332 million kWh (2022 est.)

imports: 389.867 million kWh (2022 est.)

transmission/distribution losses: 2.4 billion kWh (2022 est.)

comparison rankings: transmission/distribution losses 129; imports 97; exports 86; consumption 72; installed generating capacity 79

Electricity generation sources

fossil fuels: 77.1% of total installed capacity (2022 est.)

solar: 15.4% of total installed capacity (2022 est.)

wind: 7.4% of total installed capacity (2022 est.)

hydroelectricity: 0.1% of total installed capacity (2022 est.)

Coal

consumption: 479,000 metric tons (2022 est.)

exports: (2022 est.) less than 1 metric ton

imports: 297,000 metric tons (2022 est.)

Petroleum

total petroleum production: 20 bbl/day (2023 est.)

refined petroleum consumption: 97,000 bbl/day (2022 est.)

crude oil estimated reserves: 1 million barrels (2021 est.)

Natural gas

production: 187.262 million cubic meters (2022 est.)

consumption: 4.382 billion cubic meters (2022 est.)

exports: 375.998 million cubic meters (2018 est.)

imports: 4.255 billion cubic meters (2022 est.)

proven reserves: 6.031 billion cubic meters (2021 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions

21.261 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2022 est.)

from coal and metallurgical coke: 1.124 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2022 est.)

from petroleum and other liquids: 13.256 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2022 est.)

from consumed natural gas: 6.881 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2022 est.)

comparison ranking: total emissions 85

Energy consumption per capita

30.906 million Btu/person (2022 est.)

comparison ranking: 113

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions: 466,000 (2022 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 4 (2022 est.)

comparison ranking: total subscriptions 94

Telephones - mobile cellular

total subscriptions: 7.626 million (2022 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 68 (2022 est.)

comparison ranking: total subscriptions 105

Telecommunication systems

general assessment: Jordan's government has focused on the use of ICT in a range of sectors, aimed at transforming the relatively small economy through the use of digital services; this policy has helped the country rise in the league tables for digital connectivity and internet readiness, and it has also attracted investment from foreign companies; during the ongoing global pandemic, the start-up sector has been further encouraged to develop solutions to combat the crisis, while other efforts have facilitated e-government services and encouraged businesses to adapt to new methods of working through their own digital transformation; these developments have been supported by the highly developed mobile sector, led by three major regional players which have near-comprehensive LTE network coverage (2022)

domestic: fixed-line stands at nearly 4 per 100 persons and mobile cellular subscriptions at 65 per 100 persons (2021)

international: country code - 962; landing point for the FEA and Taba-Aqaba submarine cable networks providing connectivity to Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Asia; satellite earth stations - 33 (3 Intelsat, 1 Arabsat, and 29 land and maritime Inmarsat terminals (2019)

Broadcast media

radio and TV dominated by the government-owned Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTV) that operates a main network, a sports network, a film network, and a satellite channel; first independent TV broadcaster aired in 2007; international satellite TV and Israeli and Syrian TV broadcasts are available; roughly 30 radio stations with JRTV operating the main government-owned station; transmissions of multiple international radio broadcasters are available

Internet country code

.jo

Internet users

total: 9.13 million (2021 est.)

percent of population: 83% (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: total 65

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

total: 630,545 (2020 est.)

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 6 (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: total 85

TRANSPORTATION

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers: 4 (2020)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 54

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 3,383,805 (2018)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 175.84 million (2018) mt-km

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

JY

Airports

17 (2024)

comparison ranking: 144

Heliports

6 (2024)

Pipelines

473 km gas, 49 km oil (2013)

Railways

total: 509 km (2020)

narrow gauge: 509 km (2014) 1.050-m gauge

comparison ranking: total 112

Roadways

total: 7,203 km

paved: 7,203 km (2011)

comparison ranking: total 144

Merchant marine

total: 34 (2023)

by type: general cargo 5, other 29

comparison ranking: total 131

Ports

total ports: 1 (2024)

large: 0

medium: 0

small: 0

very small: 1

ports with oil terminals: 1

key ports: Al Aqabah

MILITARY AND SECURITY

Military and security forces

Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF): Royal Jordanian Army (includes Special Operations Forces, Border Guards, Royal Guard), Royal Jordanian Air Force, Royal Jordanian Navy

Ministry of Interior: Public Security Directorate (includes national police, the Gendarmerie, and the Civil Defense Directorate) (2024)

note: the JAF report administratively to the minister of defense and have a support role for internal security; the prime minister serves as defense minister, but there is no separate ministry of defense

Military expenditures

4.5% of GDP (2023 est.)
 4.8% of GDP (2022 est.)
 5% of GDP (2021 est.)
 5% of GDP (2020 est.)
 5.6% of GDP (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: 11

Military and security service personnel strengths

approximately 100,000 active-duty armed forces personnel (85,000 Army; 14,000 Air Force; 1,000 Navy);
 approximately 15,000 Gendarmerie Forces (2023)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the JAF inventory is comprised of a wide mix of imported equipment from Europe, some Gulf States, Russia, and the US; in recent years, the Netherlands and the US have been the leading suppliers (2023)

Military service age and obligation

17 years of age for voluntary military service for men and women); initial service term is 24 months, with option to reenlist for up to 18 years; conscription was abolished in 1991, but in 2020 Jordan announced the reinstatement of compulsory military service for jobless men aged between 25 and 29 with 12 months of service, made up of 3 months of military training and 9 months of professional and technical training; in 2019, Jordan announced a voluntary 4-month National Military Service program for men and women aged between 18-25 years who have been unemployed for at least 6 months; service would include 1 month for military training with the remaining 3 months dedicated to vocational training in the sectors of construction and tourism (2023)

note: women comprised about 3% of the military as of 2023

Military deployments

Jordan has about 200 police deployed to the MONUSCO mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2024)

Military - note

the JAF traces its origins back to the Arab Legion, which was formed under the British protectorate of Transjordan in the 1920s; it is responsible for territorial defense and border security and has a supporting role for internal security; the JAF participates in both bilateral and multinational exercises, UN peacekeeping missions, and has taken part in regional military operations alongside international forces in Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen

the JAF's primary concerns include terrorist and criminal threats emanating from its borders with Syria and Iraq, as well as the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and conflicts in southern Lebanon/northern Israel and the Red Sea; the terrorist group Hizballah and Iranian-backed militia forces operate in southwestern Syria near Jordan's border while fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) terrorist group continue to operate in both Iraq and Syria; ISIS fighters have included Jordanian nationals, some of whom have returned to Jordan; individuals and groups sympathetic to Palestinian causes have planned and conducted terrorist attacks in Jordan

the US is a key security partner, and Jordan is one of the largest recipients of US military aid in the region; it cooperates with the US on a number of issues, including border and maritime security, arms transfers, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism; Jordan has Major Non-NATO Ally status with the US, a designation under US law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defense trade and security cooperation (2024)

TERRORISM

Terrorist group(s)

Terrorist group(s): Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)

note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in the Terrorism reference guide

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Refugees and internally displaced persons

refugees (country of origin): 2.4 million (Palestinian refugees) (2020); 12,866 (Yemen), 6,013 Sudan (2021); 33,951 (Iraq) (mid-year 2022) (2022); 638,760 (Syria) (2024)

stateless persons: 64 (2022)

Illicit drugs

primarily a transshipment country for amphetamine tablets originating in Lebanon and Syria and destined for Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Gulf countries; the government is increasingly concerned about domestic consumption of illicit drugs