



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

MAL FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is located in the Middle East, northwest of Saudi Arabia, between Palestine to the west and Iraq to the east. It has a strategic location at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba and shares the longest border with Palestine and the occupied West Bank.

Chief of State: King ABDALLAH II (since 7 February 1999); Heir Apparent Crown Prince HUSSEIN (eldest son of the monarch, born 28 June 1994).

Capital: Amman

Other notable cities: Aqaba, Irbid.

Gov Type: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

Population: 11,174,024 million

Colonial History: 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. The area gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Jordan is about 89,342 square kilometers in total area and has 540 square kilometers of water.

The climate is mostly arid desert; rainy season in west (November to April).

The country is 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.

Natural resources include phosphates, potash, shale oil.



Economy and Politics

DEMOGRAPHICS

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%

Languages: Arabic (Official), English (widely understood among upper and middle classes)

Religion: 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%

Literacy: 98.4% (Male 98.7%, Female 98.4%)

Population growth is at 0.78%

ECONOMY AND GDP

Jordan's economy is described as a low growth, upper middle-income Middle Eastern economy. It has high debt and unemployment, especially for youth and women. Jordan is a key US foreign assistance recipient and is natural resource-poor and import-reliant.

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$107.11 billion (2022),

Real GDP Growth Rate: 2.43% (2022)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$9,500 (2022)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$48.653 billion (2022)

Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 4.23% (2022)

GDP - Composition: 4.5% Agriculture (2017), 28.8% Industry (2017), 66.6% Services (2017)

Unemployment Rate: 19.19% (2022)

Youth Unemployment: 40.5% (2021)

Population below poverty line: 15.7% (2018)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

Jordan has navigated complex regional dynamics since its independence in 1946. King HUSSEIN (r. 1953-99) managed pressures from major powers, Arab states, Israel, and Palestinian militants, leading to a brief civil war in 1970 known as "Black September".

In 1948, Jordan annexed the West Bank and East Jerusalem, but lost them to Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. In 1988, Jordan relinquished claims to the West Bank in favor of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

King HUSSEIN signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. Jordanian kings continue to claim custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

King HUSSEIN's eldest son, King ABDALLAH II, succeeded him in 1999. His reign has seen challenges including the Arab Spring, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, economic issues, and the Israel-HAMAS conflict that began in October 2023.

Jordan: A Timeline

