



JORDAN



INTRODUCTION

Following 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. Britain demarcated a semi-autonomous region of Transjordan from Palestine in the early 1920s. The area gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King ABDALLAH II

Head of Government

Prime Minister Bisher AL-KHASAWNEH

Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

Amman

Legislature

bicameral National Assembly or Majlis al-'Umma consists of the Senate or the House of Notables or Majlis al-Ayan (65 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or House of Representatives or Majlis al-Nuwaab (130 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Dina Khalil Tawfiq KAWAR

US Ambassador

Ambassador Yael LEMPERT

GEOGRAPHY

Area

total: 89,342 sq km

land: 88,802 sq km

water: 540 sq km

Climate

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

Natural Resources

phosphates, potash, shale oil

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

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$102.8 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9,200 (2021 est.)

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

Agricultural products - tomatoes, poultry, olives, milk, potatoes, cucumbers, vegetables, watermelons, green chillies/peppers, peaches/nectarines

Exports \$13.86 billion (2021 est.)

fertilizers, clothing and apparel, calcium phosphates, phosphoric acid, packaged medicines (2021)

partners: US 26%, India 13%, Saudi Arabia 11%, Iraq 5%, China 4% (2021)

Imports \$23.39 billion (2021 est.)

cars, refined petroleum, gold, crude petroleum, clothing and apparel, broadcasting equipment, packaged medicines (2021)

partners: China 17%, Saudi Arabia 14%, UAE 11%, US 5%, Turkey 3% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

11.1 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.79% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

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

Language

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

Religion

Muslim 97.1% (official; predominantly Sunni), Christian 2.1%, Buddhist 0.4%, Hindu 0.1%, Jewish <0.1%, folk <0.1%, other <0.1%, unaffiliated <0.1% (2020 est.)