



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)

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; high unemployment, especially for youth and women; growing debt; severe COVID-19 disruptions to service and tourism; high current account balances and Five-Year Reform Matrix progress; new business programs; declining remittances

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$100.2 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9,800 (2020 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, other vegetables, watermelons, peaches/nectarines

Exports \$13.11 billion (2018 est.)

fertilizers, calcium phosphates, packaged medicines, clothing and apparel, phosphoric acid (2019)

partners: US 21%, Saudi Arabia 13%, India 8%, Iraq 7%, UAE 5%, China 5% (2019)

Imports \$19.67 billion (2018 est.)

cars, refined petroleum, natural gas, crude petroleum, clothing and apparel (2019)

partners: China 17%, Saudi Arabia 15%, US 6%, UAE 6%, Egypt 5%, India 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

10.9 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.82% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Jordanian 69.3%, Syrian 13.3%, Palestinian 6.7%, Egyptian 6.7%, Iraqi 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes Armenian, Circassian) (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.)

