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# Chapter 1

## 125

### 1.1 125.guide

Texified version of data for Jordan.

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Jordan

### 1.2 125.guide/Jordan

Jordan  
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Header (Jordan)  
 Geography (Jordan)  
 People (Jordan)  
 Government (Jordan)  
 Government (Jordan 2. usage)  
 Economy (Jordan)  
 Economy (Jordan 2. usage)  
 Communications (Jordan)  
 Defense Forces (Jordan)

### 1.3 125.guide/Header (Jordan)

Header (Jordan)  
 =====

Affiliation:  
 (also see separate West Bank entry)

### 1.4 125.guide/Geography (Jordan)

Geography (Jordan)  
 =====

Location:  
 Middle East, between Israel and Saudi Arabia  
 Map references:  
 Africa, Middle East, Standard Time Zones of the World  
 Area:  
 total area:  
 89,213 km<sup>2</sup>  
 land area:  
 88,884 km<sup>2</sup>  
 comparative area:  
 slightly smaller than Indiana  
 Land boundaries:  
 total 1,619 km, Iraq 181 km, Israel 238 km, Saudi Arabia 728 km, Syria 375 km, West Bank 97 km  
 Coastline:  
 26 km  
 Maritime claims:  
 territorial sea:  
 3 nm  
 International disputes:  
 differences with Israel over the location of the 1949 Armistice Line that separates the two countries; water-sharing issues with Israel  
 Climate:

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

Terrain:  
 mostly desert plateau in east, highland area in west; Great Rift Valley separates East and West Banks of the Jordan River

Natural resources:  
 phosphates, potash, shale oil

Land use:  
 arable land:  
 4%  
 permanent crops:  
 0.5%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 1%  
 forest and woodland:  
 0.5%  
 other:  
 94%

Irrigated land: 570 km2 (1989 est.)

Environment:  
 lack of natural water resources; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification

## 1.5 125.guide/People (Jordan)

People (Jordan)

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Population:  
 3,823,636 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:  
 3.57% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:  
 39.48 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:  
 4.32 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:  
 0.51 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:  
 33.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 71.61 years  
 male:  
 69.83 years  
 female:  
 73.51 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:  
 5.79 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Jordanian(s)  
 adjective:  
 Jordanian

## Ethnic divisions:

Arab 98%, Circassian 1%, Armenian 1%

## Religions:

Sunni Muslim 92%, Christian 8%

## Languages:

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

## Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

80%

male:

89%

female:

70%

## Labor force:

572,000 (1988)

by occupation:

agriculture 20%, manufacturing and mining 20% (1987 est.)

## 1.6 125.guide/Government (Jordan)

### Government (Jordan)

=====

## Names:

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

## Digraph:

JO

## Type:

constitutional monarchy

## Capital:

Amman

## Administrative divisions:

8 governorates (muhafazat, singular - muhafazah); Al Balqa', Al Karak, Al Mafrqa, 'Amman, At Tafilah, Az Zarqa', Irbid, Ma'an

## Independence:

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

## Constitution:

8 January 1952

## Legal system:

based on Islamic law and French codes; judicial review of legislative acts in a specially provided High Tribunal; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

## National holiday:

Independence Day, 25 May (1946)

Political parties and leaders:  
 approximately 24 parties have been formed since the National Charter, but the number fluctuates; after the 1989 parliamentary elections, King Hussein promised to allow the formation of political parties; a national charter that sets forth the ground rules for democracy in Jordan - including the creation of political parties - was approved in principle by the special National Conference on 9 June 1991, but its specific provisions have yet to be passed by National Assembly

Suffrage:  
 20 years of age; universal

Elections:  
 House of Representatives:  
 last held 8 November 1989 (next to be held November 1993); results - ← percent of vote by party NA; seats - (80 total) Muslim Brotherhood (fundamentalist) 22, Independent Islamic bloc (generally traditionalist) 6, Democratic bloc (mostly leftist) 9, Constitutionalist bloc (traditionalist) 17, Nationalist bloc (traditionalist) 16, independent 10

Executive branch:  
 monarch, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:  
 bicameral National Assembly (Majlis al-'Umma) consists of an upper house or House of Notables (Majlis al-A'ayan) and a lower house or House of Representatives (Majlis al-Nuwaab); note - the House of Representatives has been convened and dissolved by the King several times since 1974 and in November 1989 the first parliamentary elections in 22 years were held

Judicial branch:  
 Court of Cassation

## 1.7 125.guide/Government (Jordan 2. usage)

Government (Jordan 2. usage)

=====

Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 King HUSSEIN Ibn Talal Al Hashemi (since 11 August 1952)

Head of Government:  
 Prime Minister Zayd bin SHAKIR (since 21 November 1991)

Member of:  
 ABEDA, ACC, AFESD, AL, AMF, CAEU, CCC, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OIC, PCA, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNOSOM, UNRWA, UNPROFOR, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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Flag:

three equal horizontal bands of black (top), white, and green with a red isosceles triangle based on the hoist side bearing a small white seven-pointed star; the seven points on the star represent the seven fundamental laws of the Koran

## 1.8 125.guide/Economy (Jordan)

Economy (Jordan)

=====

Overview:

Jordan benefited from increased Arab aid during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when its annual GNP growth averaged more than 10%. ←

In

the remainder of the 1980s, however, reductions in both Arab aid and worker remittances slowed economic growth to an average of roughly 2% per year.

Imports - mainly oil, capital goods, consumer durables, and food - have ← been

outstripping exports, with the difference covered by aid, remittances, and borrowing. In mid-1989, the Jordanian Government began debt-rescheduling negotiations and agreed to implement an IMF program designed to gradually reduce the budget deficit and implement badly needed structural reforms. ←

The

Persian Gulf crisis that began in August 1990, however, aggravated Jordan's already serious economic problems, forcing the government to shelve the IMF program, stop most debt payments, and suspend rescheduling negotiations. ←

Aid

from Gulf Arab states and worker remittances have plunged, and refugees ← have

flooded the country, straining government resources. Economic recovery is unlikely without substantial foreign aid, debt relief, and economic reform.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$3.6 billion (1991 est.)

National product real growth rate:

3% (1991 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,100 (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

9% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

40% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$1.3 billion; expenditures \$1.9 billion, including capital

expenditures of \$440 million (1992 est.)

Exports:

\$1.0 billion (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

phosphates, fertilizers, potash, agricultural products, manufactures

partners:

India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, UAE, China

Imports:

\$2.3 billion (c.i.f., 1991 est.)

commodities:

crude oil, machinery, transport equipment, food, live animals, manufactured goods

partners:

EC countries, US, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Turkey

External debt:

\$9 billion (December 1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 1% (1991 est.); accounts for 20% of GDP

Electricity:

1,030,000 kW capacity; 3,814 million kWh produced, 1,070 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

phosphate mining, petroleum refining, cement, potash, light manufacturing

Agriculture:

accounts for about 7% of GDP; principal products are wheat, barley, citrus fruit, tomatoes, melons, olives; livestock - sheep, goats, poultry; large net importer of food

## 1.9 125.guide/Economy (Jordan 2. usage)

Economy (Jordan 2. usage)

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Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$1.7 billion; Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$1.5 billion; OPEC bilateral aid (1979-89), \$9.5 billion; Communist countries (1970-89), \$44 million

Currency:

1 Jordanian dinar (JD) = 1,000 fils

Exchange rates:

Jordanian dinars (JD) per US\$1 - 0.6890 (January 1993), 0.6797 (1992), 0.6808 (1991), 0.6636 (1990), 0.5704 (1989), 0.3709 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.10 125.guide/Communications (Jordan)

Communications (Jordan)

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Railroads:

789 km 1.050-meter gauge, single track

Highways:

7,500 km; 5,500 km asphalt, 2,000 km gravel and crushed stone

Pipelines:

crude oil 209 km

Ports:

Al 'Aqabah

Merchant marine:

2 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 60,378 GRT/113,557 DWT; includes 1 cargo and 1 oil tanker

Airports:

total:

19

usable:

15

with permanent-surface runways:

14

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

13

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

0

Telecommunications:

adequate telephone system of microwave, cable, and radio links; 81,500 telephones; broadcast stations - 5 AM, 7 FM, 8 TV; satellite earth stations - 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT, 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 ARABSAT, 1 domestic TV receive-only; coaxial cable and microwave to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria; microwave link to Lebanon is inactive; participant in MEDARABTEL, a microwave radio relay network linking Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco

## 1.11 125.guide/Defense Forces (Jordan)

Defense Forces (Jordan)

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Branches:

Royal Jordanian Land Force, Royal Jordanian Air Force, Royal Naval Force, Public Security Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 936,213; fit for military service 664,095; reach military age (18) annually 42,093 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$434.8 million, 7.9% of GDP (1993 est.)