

Jordan

(also see separate West Bank entry)

Geography

Location: Middle East, northwest of Saudi Arabia

Area:

total area: 89,213 sq km

land area: 88,884 sq km

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

Climate: 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 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: limited natural fresh water resources; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification

People

Population: 4,100,709 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 44% (female 884,462; male 930,266)

15-64 years: 53% (female 1,058,060; male 1,119,347)

65 years and over: 3% (female 53,709; male 54,865) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.69% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 37.32 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 4.02 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -6.4 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 32.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 72.27 years

male: 70.43 years

female: 74.21 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 5.25 children born/woman (1995 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:

total population: 83%

male: 91%

female: 75%

Labor force: 600,000 (1992)

by occupation: industry 11.4%, commerce, restaurants, and hotels 10.5%, construction 10.0%, transport and communications 8.7%, agriculture 7.4%, other services 52.0% (1992)

Government

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

Capital: Amman

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

National holiday: Independence Day, 25 May (1946)

Constitution: 8 January 1952

Suffrage: 20 years of age; universal

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

Economy

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

Agriculture: accounts for about 8% of GDP; wheat, barley, citrus fruit, tomatoes, melons, olives; sheep, goats, poultry; large net importer of food

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 789 km

Highways:
total: 7,500 km

Pipelines: crude oil 209 km

Ports: Al'Aqabah

Airports:
total: 17

Defence Forces

Branches: Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF; includes Royal Jordanian Land Force, Royal Naval Force, and Royal Jordanian Air Force);
Ministry of the Interior's Public Security Force (falls under JAF only in wartime or crisis situations)