

# West Bank

## Geography

Location: Middle East, west of Jordan

Area:

total area: 5,860 sq km

land area: 5,640 sq km

Land boundaries: total 404 km, Israel 307 km, Jordan 97 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: temperate, temperature and precipitation vary with altitude, warm to hot summers, cool to mild winters

Terrain: mostly rugged dissected upland, some vegetation in west, but barren in east

Natural resources: negligible

Land use:

arable land: 27%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 32%

forest and woodland: 1%

other: 40%

Note: landlocked; highlands are main recharge area for Israel's coastal aquifers; there are 199 Jewish settlements and civilian land use sites in the West Bank and 25 in East Jerusalem (August 1994 est.)

## People

Population: 1,319,991 (July 1995 est.)

note: in addition, there are 122,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and 149,000 in East Jerusalem (August 1994 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 46% (female 293,269; male 308,775)

15-64 years: 51% (female 335,193; male 337,722)

65 years and over: 3% (female 25,759; male 19,273) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 3.5% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 39.83 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 4.84 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 29.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 71.42 years

male: 69.91 years

female: 73 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 5.34 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Ethnic divisions: Palestinian Arab and other 83%, Jewish 17%

Religions: Muslim 75% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 17%,  
Christian and other 8%

Languages: Arabic, Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers), English  
(widely understood)

## Government

Names:

conventional short form: West Bank

## Economy

Industries: generally small family businesses that produce cement,  
textiles, soap, olive-wood carvings, and mother-of-pearl souvenirs;

the Israelis have established some small-scale modern industries in the settlements and industrial centers

Agriculture: olives, citrus and other fruits, vegetables, beef, and dairy products

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:  
total: NA

Ports: none

Airports:  
total: 2

Defence Forces

Branches: NA