[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)[Template:Contains Arabic text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Arabic_text) **Jordan** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)), officially the **Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)), is an [Arab](/wiki/Arab) kingdom in [Western Asia](/wiki/Western_Asia), on the East Bank of the [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River). Jordan is bordered by [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) to the east and south, [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) to the north-east, [Syria](/wiki/Syria) to the north, [Israel](/wiki/Israel), [Palestine](/wiki/State_of_Palestine) and the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea) to the west and the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) in its extreme south-west.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Jordan is strategically located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The capital, [Amman](/wiki/Amman), is Jordan's most populous city as well as the country's economic and cultural centre.[[3]](#cite_note-3) What is now Jordan has been inhabited by humans since the [Paleolithic](/wiki/Paleolithic) period. Three stable kingdoms emerged there at the end of the [Bronze Age](/wiki/Bronze_Age): [Ammon](/wiki/Ammon), [Moab](/wiki/Moab) and [Edom](/wiki/Edom).[[4]](#cite_note-4) Later rulers include the [Nabatean Kingdom](/wiki/Nabatean_Kingdom), the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire), and the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).[[5]](#cite_note-5) After the [Great Arab Revolt](/wiki/Arab_Revolt) against the Ottomans in 1916 during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), the [Ottoman Empire was partitioned](/wiki/Partitioning_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) by Britain and France. The [Emirate of Transjordan](/wiki/Emirate_of_Transjordan) was established in 1921 by the then [Emir](/wiki/Emir) [Abdullah I](/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan) and became a British [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate).[[6]](#cite_note-6) In 1946, Jordan became an independent state officially known as the *Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan*. Jordan captured the [West Bank](/wiki/West_Bank) during the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](/wiki/1948_Arab–Israeli_War) and the name of the state was changed to the *Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan* in 1949.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Jordan is a founding member of the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League) and the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation),[[8]](#cite_note-8) and is one of two Arab states to have signed a [peace treaty](/wiki/Israel–Jordan_peace_treaty) with [Israel](/wiki/Israel).[[9]](#cite_note-9) The country is a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), where the king holds wide [executive](/wiki/Executive_(government)) and [legislative](/wiki/Legislature) powers.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Jordan is a relatively small semi-arid almost landlocked country with a population numbering at 9.5 million.[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) [Islam](/wiki/Islam), practiced by around 92% of the population, is the dominant religion in Jordan. It coexists with an indigenous [Christian minority](/wiki/Christianity_in_Jordan).[[11]](#cite_note-11) Jordan is considered to be among the safest of [Arab](/wiki/Arab) countries in the Middle East,[[12]](#cite_note-12) and has historically managed to keep itself away from terrorism and instability.<ref name=ISIS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In the midst of surrounding turmoil, it has been greatly hospitable, accepting refugees from almost all surrounding conflicts as early as 1948, with most notably the estimated 2 million [Palestinians](/wiki/Palestinian_refugees) and the 1.4 million [Syrian refugees](/wiki/Syrian_refugees) residing in the country.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The kingdom is also a refuge to thousands of [Iraqi Christians](/wiki/Iraqi_Christians) fleeing the [Islamic State](/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant).[[14]](#cite_note-14) Jordan continues to demonstrate hospitality, despite the substantial strain the influx of Syrian refugees put on national systems and infrastructure.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Jordan is classified as a country of "high human development"[[16]](#cite_note-16) with an "upper middle income" economy.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The [Jordanian economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Jordan) is attractive to foreign investors based upon a skilled workforce.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The country is a major tourist destination,[[19]](#cite_note-19) and also attracts [medical tourism](/wiki/Medical_tourism) due to its well developed [health sector](/wiki/Health_in_Jordan).[[20]](#cite_note-20) A lack of natural resources,[[21]](#cite_note-21) and regional turmoil have damaged economic growth.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Jordan is named after the [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River). The origin of the river's name is debated, but the most common explanation is that it derives from the word "yarad" (the descender, "Yarden" is the Hebrew name for the river), found in Hebrew, Aramaic, and other [Semitic languages](/wiki/Semitic_languages). Others regard that the name as having an [Indo-Aryan](/wiki/Indo-Aryan_languages) origin, combining the words "yor" (year) and "don" (river), reflecting the river's [perennial](/wiki/Perennial_stream) nature. Another theory is that it is from the Arabic root word "wrd" (to come to), as in people coming to a major source of water.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The name Jordan appears in an ancient Egyptian papyrus called [Papyrus Anastasi I](/wiki/Papyrus_Anastasi_I), dating back to around 1000 BC.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The lands of modern-day Jordan were historically called "[Transjordan](/wiki/Transjordan_(region))", meaning "beyond the Jordan River". During [crusader rule](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Jerusalem), it was called "[Oultrejordain](/wiki/Oultrejordain)". The name was Arabized into "[Al-Urdunn](/wiki/Jund_al-Urdunn)" during the [Muslim conquest of the Levant](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_the_Levant). In 1921, the [Emirate of Transjordan](/wiki/Emirate_of_Transjordan) was established and after it gained its independence in 1946, it became the "Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan". The name was changed in 1949 into the "Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan". "[Hashemite](/wiki/Hashemites)" is the house name of the royal family.[[25]](#cite_note-25)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Ancient period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:20100923_amman37.JPG) ['Ain Ghazal Statues](/wiki/'Ain_Ghazal_Statues) are some of the oldest human statues ever found, dating to about 7250 BC. They are on display at the [The Jordan Museum](/wiki/The_Jordan_Museum).

Jordan is rich in Paleolithic remains, holding evidence of inhabitance by [Homo erectus](/wiki/Homo_erectus), [Neanderthal](/wiki/Neanderthal) and [modern humans](/wiki/Homo_sapiens).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The oldest evidence of inhabitants by humans dates back around 200,000 years.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The [Kharanah](/wiki/Qasr_Al-Kharanah) area in eastern Jordan has evidence of human huts from about 20,000 years ago.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Other Paleolithic sites include [Pella](/wiki/Pella,_Jordan) and [Al-Azraq](/wiki/Azraq,_Jordan).[[29]](#cite_note-29) In the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) period, several settlements began to develop, most notably an agricultural community called ['Ain Ghazal](/wiki/'Ain_Ghazal) in what is now [Amman](/wiki/Amman),[[30]](#cite_note-30) one of the largest known prehistoric settlements in the [Near East](/wiki/Near_East).[[31]](#cite_note-31) Plaster statues estimated to date back to around 7250 BC were uncovered there, and are among the oldest large human statues ever found.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) Villages of [Bab edh-Dhra](/wiki/Bab_edh-Dhra) in the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea) area, [Tal Hujayrat Al-Ghuzlan](/wiki/Tal_Hujayrat_Al-Ghuzlan) in [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba) and [Tulaylet Ghassul](/wiki/Ghassulian) in the [Jordan Valley](/wiki/Jordan_Valley_(Middle_East)) all date to the [Chalcolithic](/wiki/Chalcolithic) period.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The prehistoric period of Jordan ended at around 2000 BC when the Semitic nomads known as the [Amorites](/wiki/Amorites) entered the region. During the Bronze Age and Iron Age, present-day Jordan was home to several [ancient kingdoms](/wiki/Ancient_Near_East), whose populations spoke Semitic languages of the [Canaanite group](/wiki/Canaanite_languages).[[35]](#cite_note-35) Among them were [Ammon](/wiki/Ammon), [Edom](/wiki/Edom) and [Moab](/wiki/Moab), which are described as tribal kingdoms rather than states. They are mentioned in ancient texts such as the [Old Testament](/wiki/Old_Testament). Archaeology finds have shown that Ammon was in the area of the modern city of Amman, Moab controlled the highlands east of the Dead Sea and Edom controlled the area around [Wadi Araba](/wiki/Wadi_Araba).[[4]](#cite_note-4) [thumb|upright|The large black basalt](/wiki/File:Louvre_042010_01.jpg) [Mesha Stele](/wiki/Mesha_Stele) recorded the glory of [Mesha](/wiki/Mesha), the king of [Moab](/wiki/Moab), inscribed around 840 BC. It is on display at the [Louvre](/wiki/Louvre) museum.[[36]](#cite_note-36) These Transjordanian kingdoms were in continuous conflict with the neighboring Hebrew kingdoms of [Israel](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_(Samaria)) and [Judah](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Judah), centered west of the Jordan River, though Israel was known to have at times controlled small parts east of the River.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Frequent confrontations ensued and tensions between them increased. One record of this is the [Mesha Stele](/wiki/Mesha_Stele) erected by the Moabite king [Mesha](/wiki/Mesha) around 840 BC on which he lauds himself for the building projects that he initiated in Moab and commemorates his glory and victory against the [Israelites](/wiki/Israelites).[[38]](#cite_note-38) The stele constitutes one of the most important direct accounts of Biblical history.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Subsequently the Assyrian Empire reduced these kingdoms to vassals. When the region was later under the influence of the Babylonians, the Old Testament mentions that these kingdoms aided them in the 597 BC [sack of Jerusalem](/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(597_BC)).[[39]](#cite_note-39) These kingdoms are believed to have existed throughout fluctuations in regional rule and influence. They passed through the control of several distant empires, including the [Akkadian Empire](/wiki/Akkadian_Empire) (2335–2193 BC), [Ancient Egypt](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) (1500–1300 BC), the [Hittite Empire](/wiki/Hittite_Empire) (1400–1300 BC), the [Middle Assyrian Empire](/wiki/Middle_Assyrian_Empire) (1365–1020 BC), the [Neo-Assyrian Empire](/wiki/Neo-Assyrian_Empire) (911–605 BC), the [Neo-Babylonian Empire](/wiki/Neo-Babylonian_Empire) (604–539 BC), the [Achaemenid Empire](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) (539–332 BC) and the Hellenistic [Empire of Macedonia](/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom)).[[5]](#cite_note-5) However, by the time of [Roman](/wiki/Roman_Empire) rule in the Levant around 63 BC, the people of Ammon, Edom and Moab had lost their distinct identities, and were assimilated into Roman culture.[[4]](#cite_note-4)

### Classical period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Alexander the Great's](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) [conquest](/wiki/Wars_of_Alexander_the_Great) of the Achaemenid Empire in 332 BC introduced Hellenistic culture to the Middle East. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, his empire split among his generals and much of the land of modern-day Jordan was disputed between the [Ptolemies](/wiki/Ptolemaic_dynasty) based in Egypt and the [Seleucids](/wiki/Seleucids) based in Syria.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In the south and east, the [Nabateans](/wiki/Nabateans) had an [independent kingdom](/wiki/Nabatean_Kingdom).[[40]](#cite_note-40) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Al_Khazneh_Petra_edit_2.jpg)[The Treasury](/wiki/Al-Khazneh) in the ancient city of [Petra](/wiki/Petra), which was carved into the rock in 312 BC by the [Arab](/wiki/Arab) [Nabateans](/wiki/Nabateans), is one of the [New7Wonders of the World](/wiki/New7Wonders_of_the_World). The Nabateans were nomadic [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) who derived wealth from their capital [Petra](/wiki/Petra), which benefited from the proximity of regional trade routes and became a major trading hub.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Ptolemies were eventually displaced from the region by the [Seleucid Empire](/wiki/Seleucid_Empire). The conflict between these two groups enabled the Nabateans to extend their kingdom northwards well beyond Petra in Edom.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The Nabateans are known for their great ability in constructing efficient water collecting methods in the barren deserts and their talent for carving structures such as the [Al-Khazneh](/wiki/Al-Khazneh) temple into solid rocks.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Nabateans spoke [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) and wrote in [Nabatean alphabets](/wiki/Nabatean_alphabet), which were developed from [Aramaic script](/wiki/Aramaic_alphabet) during the 2nd century BC, and are regarded by scholars to have evolved into the [Arabic alphabet](/wiki/Arabic_alphabet) around the 4th century AD.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The Greeks founded new cities in Jordan including Philadelphia (Amman), Gerasa (Jerash), [Gedara](/wiki/Umm_Qays) (Umm Qays), [Pella](/wiki/Pella) (Tabaqat Fahl) and [Arbila](/wiki/Irbid) (Irbid). Later, under Roman rule, these joined other Hellenistic cities in [Palestine](/wiki/Palestine_(region)) and [Syria](/wiki/Syria) to form the [Decapolis League](/wiki/Decapolis), a loose confederation linked by economic and cultural interests: [Scythopolis](/wiki/Bet_She'an), [Hippos](/wiki/Hippos), [Capitolias](/wiki/Capitolias), [Canatha](/wiki/Canatha) and [Damascus](/wiki/Damascus) were among its members.[[43]](#cite_note-43) The most notable Hellenistic site in Jordan is at [Iraq Al-Amir](/wiki/Iraq_Al-Amir), just west of modern-day Amman.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Roman legions under [Pompey](/wiki/Pompey) conquered much of the [Levant](/wiki/Levant) in 63 BC, inaugurating a period of Roman rule that lasted for centuries.[[5]](#cite_note-5) In 106 AD, Emperor [Trajan](/wiki/Trajan) annexed the nearby [Nabatean kingdom](/wiki/Nabatean_kingdom) without any opposition, and rebuilt the [King's Highway](/wiki/King's_Highway_(ancient)) which became known as the [Via Traiana Nova](/wiki/Via_Traiana_Nova) road.[[44]](#cite_note-44) During Roman rule the Nabateans continued to flourish and replaced their local gods with Christianity.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Roman remains include, in Amman, the [Temple of Hercules](/wiki/Temple_of_Hercules_(Amman)) at the [Amman Citadel](/wiki/Amman_Citadel) and the [Roman theater](/wiki/Roman_theater_(Amman)). [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash) contains a well-preserved Roman city that had 15,000 inhabitants at its height.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Jerash was visited by Emperor [Hadrian](/wiki/Hadrian) during his journey to Palestine.[[45]](#cite_note-45) In 324 AD, the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) split, and the Eastern Roman Empire (later known as the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire)) continued to control or influence the region until 636 AD. Christianity had become legal within the empire in 313 AD and the official state religion in 390 AD, after Emperor [Constantine](/wiki/Constantine_the_Great) converted to Christianity.[[45]](#cite_note-45) [Ayla](/wiki/Ayla_(city)) city (modern day Aqaba) in southern Jordan also came under Byzantine Empire rule. The [Aqaba Church](/wiki/Aqaba_Church) was built around 300 AD, and is considered the world's first purpose built Christian church.[[47]](#cite_note-47) The Byzantines built 16 churches just south of Amman in [Umm ar-Rasas](/wiki/Umm_ar-Rasas).[[48]](#cite_note-48) Administratively the area of Jordan fell under the [Diocese of the East](/wiki/Diocese_of_the_East), and was divided between the provinces of [Palaestina Secunda](/wiki/Palaestina_Secunda) in the north-west and [Arabia Petraea](/wiki/Arabia_Petraea) in the south and east. [Palaestina Salutaris](/wiki/Palaestina_Salutaris) in the south was split off from Arabia Petraea in the late 4th century.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The [Sassanian Empire](/wiki/Sassanian_Empire) in the east became the Byzantines' rivals, and [frequent confrontations](/wiki/Byzantine–Sasanian_wars) sometimes led to the Sassanids controlling some parts of the region, including Transjordan.[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### Islamic era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Muslims from what is now Saudi Arabia [invaded](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_the_Levant) the region from the south.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The Arab Christian [Ghassanids](/wiki/Ghassanids), clients of the Byzantines, were defeated despite imperial support.[[51]](#cite_note-51) While the Muslim forces lost to the Byzantines in their first direct engagement during the [Battle of Mu'tah](/wiki/Battle_of_Mu'tah) in 629, in what is now the [Karak Governorate](/wiki/Karak_Governorate), the Byzantines lost control of the Levant when they were defeated by the [Rashidun](/wiki/Rashidun) army in 636AD at the [Battle of Yarmouk](/wiki/Battle_of_Yarmouk) just north of modern-day Jordan. The region was [Arabized](/wiki/Arabized), and the [Arabic language](/wiki/Arabic_language) became widespread.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Transjordan was an essential territory for the conquest of nearby [Damascus](/wiki/Damascus).[[52]](#cite_note-52) The first, or Rashidun, [caliphate](/wiki/Caliphate) was followed by that of the [Ummayad](/wiki/Ummayad_Caliphate) (661–750). Under Umayyads rule, several [desert castles](/wiki/Desert_castles) were constructed, such as [Qasr Al-Mshatta](/wiki/Qasr_Al-Mshatta), [Qasr Al-Hallabat](/wiki/Qasr_Al-Hallabat), [Qasr Al-Kharanah](/wiki/Qasr_Al-Kharanah), [Qasr Tuba](/wiki/Qasr_Tuba), [Qasr Amra](/wiki/Qasr_Amra), and a large [administrative palace](/wiki/Umayyad_Palace) in Amman.[[53]](#cite_note-53) The [Abbasid](/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate) campaign to take over the Umayyad empire began in the region of Transjordan. After the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate, the area was ruled by the [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimids), then by the [Crusader](/wiki/Crusades) [Kingdom of Jerusalem](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Jerusalem) (1115–1189).[[52]](#cite_note-52) [|thumb|left|](/wiki/Image:Ajloun_Castle_1.jpg)[Ajloun Castle](/wiki/Ajloun_Castle) in [Ajloun](/wiki/Ajloun) built by the Ayyubid Muslim leader [Saladin](/wiki/Saladin) in the 12th century AD for use in his wars against the [Crusaders](/wiki/Crusaders).

The Crusaders constructed about nine Crusader castles as part of the lordship of [Oultrejordain](/wiki/Oultrejordain), including those of [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal_(Crusader_castle)), [Al-Karak](/wiki/Al-Karak) and Li Vaux Moyse (Wu'ayra) (in [Petra](/wiki/Petra)).[[53]](#cite_note-53) In the 12th century, the Crusaders were defeated by [Saladin](/wiki/Saladin), the founder of the [Ayyubids](/wiki/Ayyubid_dynasty) dynasty (1189–1260). The Ayyubids built a new [castle at Ajloun](/wiki/Ajloun_Castle) and rebuilt the former Roman fort of [Qasr Azraq](/wiki/Qasr_Azraq). Several of these castles were used and expanded by the [Mamluks](/wiki/Mamluk_Sultanate_(Cairo)) (1260-1516), who divided Jordan between the provinces of Karak and Damascus. During the next century Transjordan experienced Mongol attacks, but the Mongols were ultimately repelled by the Mamluks after the [Battle of Ain Jalut](/wiki/Battle_of_Ain_Jalut) (1260).[[53]](#cite_note-53) In 1516, Ottoman forces [conquered Mamluk territory](/wiki/Ottoman–Mamluk_War_(1516–17)).[[54]](#cite_note-54) Agricultural villages in Jordan witnessed a period of relative prosperity in the 16th century, but were later abandoned.[[55]](#cite_note-55) For the next centuries, Ottoman rule in the region, at times, was virtually absent and reduced to annual tax collection visits.[[55]](#cite_note-55) This led to a short-lived occupation by the [Wahhabi](/wiki/Wahhabi) forces (1803-1812), an ultraorthodox Islamic movement that emerged in [Najd](/wiki/Emirate_of_Diriyah) in Saudi Arabia.[[40]](#cite_note-40) [Ibrahim Pasha](/wiki/Ibrahim_Pasha_of_Egypt), son of the [governor](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt) of the [Egypt Eyalet](/wiki/Egypt_Eyalet) under the request of the Ottoman sultan, [rooted out the Wahhabis](/wiki/Ottoman–Wahhabi_War) between 1811 and 1818.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In 1833 Ibrahim Pasha turned on the Ottomans and established his rule over the Levant. His oppressive policies led to the unsuccessful [peasants' revolt in Palestine](/wiki/Peasants'_revolt_in_Palestine) in 1834.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The cities of Al-Salt and Al-Karak were [destroyed](/wiki/Siege_of_Al-Karak_(1834)) by Ibrahim Pasha's forces for harboring a [peasants' revolt leader](/wiki/Qasim_al-Ahmad). Egyptian rule was later [forcibly ended](/wiki/Egyptian–Ottoman_War_(1839–41)), with Ottoman rule restored.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Russian [persecution of Sunni Muslim Circassians](/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing_of_Circassians) and [Chechens](/wiki/Chechens) led to their immigration into the region in 1867, where today they form a small part of the country's ethnic fabric.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Overall population however declined due to oppression and neglect.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Urban settlements with small populations included: Al-Salt, [Irbid](/wiki/Irbid), [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash) and [Al-Karak](/wiki/Al-Karak).[[59]](#cite_note-59) The under-development of urban life in Jordan was exacerbated by the settlements being sometimes raided by Bedouins.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Ottoman oppression provoked the region's both non-Bedouin and Bedouin tribes to revolt, Bedouin tribes like; [Adwan](/wiki/Adwan), [Bani Hassan](/wiki/Bani_Hassan), [Bani Sakhr](/wiki/Bani_Sakhr) and the [Howeitat](/wiki/Howeitat). The most notable revolts were the [Shoubak Revolt](/wiki/Shoubak_Revolt) (1905) and the [Karak Revolt](/wiki/Karak_Revolt) (1910), which were brutally suppressed.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Jordan's location lies on a pilgrimage route taken by Muslims going to [Mecca](/wiki/Mecca), which helped the population economically when the Ottomans constructed the [Hejaz Railway](/wiki/Hejaz_Railway) linking Mecca with [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul) in 1908. Before the construction of the railway, the Ottomans built fortresses along the Hajj route to secure pilgrims' caravans.[[60]](#cite_note-60)

### Modern era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Soldiers of the Hashemite](/wiki/File:030Arab.jpg) [Arab Army](/wiki/Arab_Army) holding the [flag](/wiki/Flag_of_the_Arab_Revolt) of the [Great Arab Revolt](/wiki/Arab_Revolt) against the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) in 1916. Four centuries of stagnation during Ottoman rule ended during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) when the [Hashemite](/wiki/Hashemites) [Army](/wiki/Arab_Army) of the [Great Arab Revolt](/wiki/Arab_Revolt) took over present-day Jordan with the support of local Bedouin tribes, Circassians and [Christians](/wiki/Jordanian_Christians).[[61]](#cite_note-61) The revolt was launched by the Hashemites and led by [Sharif Hussein](/wiki/Hussein_bin_Ali,_Sharif_of_Mecca) of [Mecca](/wiki/Mecca), emerging from increasing Arab nationalism and resentment towards the Ottoman authorities.[[58]](#cite_note-58) The revolt was supported by the [Allies of World War I](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War I) including Britain and France.[[62]](#cite_note-62) The Great Arab Revolt successfully gained control of most of territories of the [Hejaz](/wiki/Hejaz) and the Levant, including the region east of the [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River). However, it failed to gain international recognition as an independent state, due mainly to the secret [Sykes–Picot Agreement of 1916](/wiki/Sykes–Picot_Agreement) and the [Balfour Declaration of 1917](/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917). This was seen by the Hashemites and the Arabs as a betrayal of their previous agreements with the British, including the [McMahon–Hussein Correspondence](/wiki/McMahon–Hussein_Correspondence) of 1915, in which the British stated their willingness to recognize the independence of a unified Arab state stretching from [Aleppo](/wiki/Aleppo) to [Aden](/wiki/Aden) under the rule of the Hashemites. The region was divided and [Abdullah I](/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan), the second son of Sharif Hussein arrived from Hejaz by train in [Ma'an](/wiki/Ma'an) in southern Jordan, where he was greeted by Transjordanian leaders.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Abdullah established the [Emirate of Transjordan](/wiki/Emirate_of_Transjordan), which then became a British protectorate.[[63]](#cite_note-63) [thumb|The first visit of the](/wiki/File:The_high_commissioner's_first_visit_to_Transjordan,_in_Es-Salt..jpg) [High Commissioner for Palestine](/wiki/High_Commissioners_for_Palestine_and_Transjordan) to [Al-Salt](/wiki/Al-Salt) city in Transjordan in 1920. The first organized army in Jordan was established on 22 October 1920, and was named the "[Arab Legion](/wiki/Arab_Legion)". The Legion grew from 150 men in 1920 to 8,000 in 1946.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Multiple difficulties emerged upon the assumption of power in the region by the Hashemite leadership. In Transjordan, small local rebellions at [Kura](/wiki/Kura_Rebellion) in 1921 and 1923 were suppressed by [Emir](/wiki/Emir) Abdullah with the help of British forces.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Wahhabis from Najd regained strength and [repeatedly raided](/wiki/Ikhwan_raids_on_Transjordan) the southern parts of his territory in (1922-1924), seriously threatening the Emir's position.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The Emir was unable to repel those raids without the aid of the local Bedouin tribes and the British, who maintained a military base with a small [RAF](/wiki/Royal_Air_Force) detachment close to Amman.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In September 1922, the Council of the [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) recognized Transjordan as a state under the [British Mandate for Palestine](/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_(legal_instrument)) and the [Transjordan memorandum](/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum), and excluded the territories east of the Jordan River from the provisions of the mandate dealing with Jewish settlement.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Transjordan remained a British mandate until 1946.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

### Post-independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [Treaty of London](/wiki/Treaty_of_London_(1946)), signed by the British Government and the Emir of Transjordan on 22 March 1946, recognised the independence of Transjordan upon ratification by both countries parliaments.[[66]](#cite_note-66) On 25 May 1946 the Emirate of Transjordan became the "Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan", as the ruling Emir was re-designated as "King" by the parliament of Transjordan on the day it ratified the Treaty of London.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The name was changed to "Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan" in 1949. Jordan became a member of the United Nations on 14 December 1955.[[7]](#cite_note-7) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Karama_aftermath_1.jpg)[King Hussein](/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan) after checking an abandoned [Israeli](/wiki/Israel) tank in the aftermath of the [Battle of Karameh](/wiki/Battle_of_Karameh) in 1968. On 15 May 1948, as part of the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](/wiki/1948_Arab–Israeli_War), Jordan invaded [Palestine](/wiki/Palestine_(region)) together with other Arab states.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Following the war, Jordan [occupied](/wiki/Jordanian_occupation_of_the_West_Bank) the West Bank and on 24 April 1950 Jordan formally annexed these territories. In response, some Arab countries demanded Jordan's expulsion from the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League).<ref name=autogenerated2>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> On 12 June 1950, the Arab League declared the annexation was a temporary, practical measure and that Jordan was holding the territory as a "trustee" pending a future settlement.[[69]](#cite_note-69) King Abdullah was assassinated at the [Al-Aqsa Mosque](/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque) in 1951 by a Palestinian militant, amid rumors he intended to sign a peace treaty with Israel. Abdullah was succeeded by his son [Talal](/wiki/Talal_of_Jordan), however Talal soon abdicated due to illness in favor of his eldest son [Hussein](/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan), who ascended the throne in 1953.[[70]](#cite_note-70) On 1 March 1956, King Hussein sacked a number of British personnel serving in the Jordanian Army, an act of [Arabization](/wiki/Arabization) made to ensure the complete sovereignty of Jordan.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Neighboring [Iraq](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Iraq) was also ruled by a Hashemite monarchy; [Faisal II of Iraq](/wiki/Faisal_II_of_Iraq), who was Hussein's cousin. 1958 witnessed the emergence of the [Arab Federation](/wiki/Arab_Federation) between the two kingdoms, as a response to the formation of the [United Arab Republic](/wiki/United_Arab_Republic) between Egypt and Syria. The union lasted only six months, being dissolved after Faisal II was deposed by a [military coup](/wiki/14_July_Revolution).[[72]](#cite_note-72) Jordan signed a military pact with Egypt just before [Israel](/wiki/Israel) launched a [preemptive strike](/wiki/Preemptive_war) on Egypt to begin the [Six-Day War](/wiki/Six-Day_War) in June 1967, where Jordan and Syria joined the war. It ended in an Arab defeat and the [West Bank](/wiki/West_Bank) came under Israeli control. Jordan also fought in the [War of Attrition](/wiki/War_of_Attrition), which included the 1968 [Battle of Karameh](/wiki/Battle_of_Karameh) where the combined forces of the [Jordanian Armed Forces](/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces) and the [Palestine Liberation Organization](/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization) (PLO) repelled an Israeli attack on the [Karameh](/wiki/Karameh) camp on the Jordanian border with the West Bank.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Despite the fact that the Palestinians had limited involvement against the Israeli forces, the events at Karameh gained wide recognition and acclaim in the Arab world. As a result, the time period following the battle witnessed an upsurge of support for Palestinian paramilitary elements (the [fedayeen](/wiki/Palestinian_fedayeen)) within Jordan from other Arab countries, leading to the fedayeen becoming a "state within a state", threatening Jordan's rule of law. In September 1970, the Jordanian army targeted the *fedayeen* and the resultant fighting led to the expulsion of Palestinian fighters from various PLO groups into [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon), in a civil war that became known as [Black September](/wiki/Black_September).[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|upright|A Jordanian Bedouin forces officer in](/wiki/File:Pétra_24.jpg) [Petra](/wiki/Petra) 2004. During the [Yom Kippur War](/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War) in 1973, Arab league forces waged a war on Israel and fighting occurred along the 1967 [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River) cease-fire line. Jordan sent a brigade to Syria to attack Israeli units on Syrian territory but did not engage Israeli forces from Jordanian territory. At the [Rabat summit conference](/wiki/Rabat_summit_conference) in 1974, Jordan agreed, along with the rest of the Arab League, that the PLO was the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people". Subsequently, Jordan renounced its claims to the West Bank in 1988.[[9]](#cite_note-9) At the 1991 [Madrid Conference](/wiki/Madrid_Conference), Jordan agreed to negotiate a peace treaty sponsored by the US and the Soviet Union. The [Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace](/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) was signed on 26 October 1994.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In 1997, Israeli agents allegedly entered Jordan using [Canadian passports](/wiki/Canadian_passport) and poisoned [Khaled Meshal](/wiki/Khaled_Meshal), a senior [Hamas](/wiki/Hamas) leader. Israel provided an antidote to the poison and released dozens of political prisoners, including [Sheikh Ahmed Yassin](/wiki/Sheikh_Ahmed_Yassin) after [King Hussein](/wiki/King_Hussein_of_Jordan) threatened to cut relations with [Israel](/wiki/Israel).[[9]](#cite_note-9) On 7 February 1999, [Abdullah II](/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan) ascended the throne upon the death of his father Hussein.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Jordan's economy has improved since then. Abdullah II has been credited with increasing foreign investment, improving public-private partnerships and providing the foundation for [Aqaba's](/wiki/Aqaba) free-trade zone and Jordan's flourishing [information and communication technology](/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) (ICT) sector. He also set up five other special economic zones. As a result of these reforms, Jordan's economic growth has doubled to 6% annually compared to the latter half of the 1990s.[[75]](#cite_note-75) However, the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession) and regional turmoil in the 2010s has severely crippled the Jordanian economy and its growth, making it increasingly reliant on foreign aid.[[76]](#cite_note-76) [Al-Qaeda](/wiki/Al-Qaeda) under [Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's](/wiki/Abu_Musab_al-Zarqawi) leadership launched [coordinated explosions](/wiki/2005_Amman_bombings) in three hotel lobbies in Amman on 9 November 2005, resulting in 60 deaths and 115 injured. The bombings, which targeted civilians, caused widespread outrage among Jordanians.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The attack is considered to be a rare event in the country, and Jordan's internal security was dramatically improved afterwards. No major terrorist attacks have occurred since then.<ref name=ISIS/>

The [Arab Spring](/wiki/Arab_Spring) began sweeping the Arab world in 2011, where large scale protests erupted demanding economic and political reforms. However, many of these protests in some countries turned into civil wars and more instability. In Jordan, in response to [domestic unrest](/wiki/2011–12_Jordanian_protests), Abdullah II replaced his prime minister and introduced a number of reforms including; amending the Constitution and establishing a number of governmental commissions.[[78]](#cite_note-78) The King told the new prime minister to "take quick, concrete and practical steps to launch a genuine political reform process, to strengthen democracy and provide Jordanians with the dignified life they deserve".[[79]](#cite_note-79)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Mountain_in_Wadi_Rum,_Jordan.jpg)[Wadi Rum's](/wiki/Wadi_Rum) resemblance to the surface of [Mars](/wiki/Mars) has made it a popular filming location, including scenes in [*The Martian*](/wiki/The_Martian_(film)) (2015).

Jordan sits strategically at the crossroads of the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe,[[2]](#cite_note-2) in the [Levant](/wiki/Levant) area of the [Fertile Crescent](/wiki/Fertile_Crescent), a [cradle of civilization](/wiki/Cradle_of_civilization).[[80]](#cite_note-80) It is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) large, and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long between its northernmost and southernmost points; [Umm Qais](/wiki/Umm_Qais) and [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba) respectively.<ref name=autogenerated3>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The kingdom lies between [29°](/wiki/29th_parallel_north) and [34° N](/wiki/34th_parallel_north), and [34°](/wiki/34th_meridian_east) and [40° E](/wiki/40th_meridian_east). The east is an arid plateau irrigated by [oases](/wiki/Oasis) and seasonal water streams.<ref name=autogenerated3/> Major cities are overwhelmingly located on the north-western part of the kingdom due to its fertile soils and relatively abundant rainfall. These include Irbid, Jerash and [Zarqa](/wiki/Zarqa) in the northwest, the capital [Amman](/wiki/Amman) and [Al-Salt](/wiki/Al-Salt) in the central west, and Madaba, [Al-Karak](/wiki/Al-Karak) and Aqaba in the southwest.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Major towns in the eastern part of the country are the oasis towns of [Azraq](/wiki/Azraq) and [Ruwaished](/wiki/Ruwaished).[[80]](#cite_note-80) In the west a highland area of arable land and Mediterranean evergreen forestry drops suddenly into the [Jordan Rift Valley](/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley). The rift valley contains the [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River) and the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea), which separates Jordan from Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Jordan has a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) shoreline on the [Gulf of Aqaba](/wiki/Gulf_of_Aqaba) in the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea), but is otherwise landlocked.[[1]](#cite_note-1) The [Yarmouk River](/wiki/Yarmouk_River), an eastern tributary of the Jordan, forms part of the boundary between Jordan and Syria (including the occupied [Golan Heights](/wiki/Golan_Heights)) to the north. The other boundaries are formed by several international and local agreements and do not follow well-defined natural features. The highest point is [Jabal Umm al Dami](/wiki/Jabal_Umm_al_Dami), at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above sea level, while the lowest is the Dead Sea [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the [lowest land point on earth](/wiki/Extreme_points_of_Earth).[[80]](#cite_note-80) Jordan has a diverse range of habitats, ecosystems and biota due, to its varied landscapes and environments.[[82]](#cite_note-82) The [Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature](/wiki/Royal_Society_for_the_Conservation_of_Nature) was set up in 1966 to protect and manage Jordan's natural resources. [Nature reserves in Jordan](/wiki/Nature_reserves_in_Jordan) include the [Dana Biosphere Reserve](/wiki/Dana_Biosphere_Reserve), the [Azraq Wetland Reserve](/wiki/Azraq_Wetland_Reserve), the [Shaumari Wildlife Reserve](/wiki/Shaumari_Wildlife_Reserve) and the [Mujib Nature Reserve](/wiki/Wadi_Mujib).[[83]](#cite_note-83) [thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Dead_sea_newspaper.jpg) [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea) is the saltiest water body and the lowest point on earth, swimmers can float effortlessly while receiving health benefits.[[80]](#cite_note-80)

Over two thousand plant species have been recorded in Jordan.<ref name=Cordova>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Many of the flowering plants bloom in the spring after the winter rains and the type of vegetation depends largely on the levels of precipitation. The mountainous regions in the northwest are clothed in forests, while further south and east the vegetation becomes more scrubby and transitions to steppe-type vegetation.<ref name=Mallon>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Forests cover 1.5 million [dunums](/wiki/Dunam) ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), less than 2% of Jordan, making Jordan among the world's least forested countries, the internationally average being 15%.[[84]](#cite_note-84)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The climate in Jordan varies greatly. Generally, the further inland from the Mediterranean, greater contrasts in temperature occur and the less rainfall there is. The country's average elevation is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (SL).[[85]](#cite_note-85) The highlands above the Jordan Valley, mountains of the Dead Sea and Wadi Araba and as far south as Ras Al-Naqab are dominated by a [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate), while the eastern and northeastern areas of the country are arid desert.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Although the desert parts of the kingdom reach high temperatures, the heat is usually moderated by low humidity and a daytime breeze, while the nights are cool.[[87]](#cite_note-87) Summers, lasting from May to September, are hot and dry, with temperatures averaging around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and sometimes exceeding [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) between July and August.[[87]](#cite_note-87) The winter, lasting from November to March, is relatively cool, with temperatures averaging around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Winter also sees frequent showers and occasional snowfall in some western elevated areas.[[86]](#cite_note-86)

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Jordan is a [constitutional monarchy](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), and the King holds wide executive and legislative powers. He serves as [Head of State](/wiki/Head_of_State) and [Commander-in-Chief](/wiki/Commander-in-Chief) and appoints the [prime minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Jordan) and heads of security directorates. The prime minister is free to choose his own [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Jordan) and governors, generally from the legislative body.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The king's jurisdictions include dissolving the parliament and dismissing the government.<ref name=index2012>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The capital city of Jordan is Amman, located in north-central Jordan.[[3]](#cite_note-3) [thumb|left|The current](/wiki/File:King_Abdullah_portrait.jpg) [King of Jordan](/wiki/King_of_Jordan) is [Abdullah II](/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan) who assumed the throne in 1999. Jordan is divided into 12 [governorates](/wiki/Governorates_of_Jordan) (muhafazah) (informally grouped into three regions: northern, central, southern), these are subdivided into a total of 52 subdivisions called [nawahi](/wiki/Nahias_of_Jordan) which are further divided into neighborhoods in urban areas or into towns in rural ones.[[88]](#cite_note-88) The [Parliament of Jordan](/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan) consists of [two chambers](/wiki/Bicameralism): the [Chamber of Deputies](/wiki/House_of_Representatives_of_Jordan) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [Template:Transl](/wiki/Template:Transl)) and the [Senate](/wiki/Senate_of_Jordan) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [Template:Transl](/wiki/Template:Transl)). All 75 members of the Senate are directly appointed by the King, they are usually veteran politicians or are known to have held previous positions in the Chamber of Deputies or in the government.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The 130 members of the Chamber of Deputies, are elected through proportional representation in 23 constituencies on nationwide party lists for a 4-year election cycle.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Minimum quotas exist in the Chamber of Deputies for women (15 seats, though they won 19 seats in the 2013 election), Christians (9 seats), Circassians (3 seats) and Chechens (1 seat).[[91]](#cite_note-91) Three constituencies are allocated for the Bedouins of the northern, central and southern Badias.[[92]](#cite_note-92) Jordan has multiple political parties though they contest fewer than a fifth of the seats; the remainder belong to independent politicians, this is due to [one-vote system](/wiki/One_man,_one_vote).[[93]](#cite_note-93) The system was changed in 2016 and this is expected to empower political parties, which number around 30 parties.[[92]](#cite_note-92) The government can also be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of "[no confidence](/wiki/Motion_of_no_confidence)" by the Chamber of Deputies. A new law enacted in July 2012 placed political parties under the jurisdiction of the [Ministry of Interior](/wiki/Ministry_of_Interior) and forbade the establishment of parties based on religion.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The [Constitution of Jordan](/wiki/Constitution_of_Jordan) was adopted in 1952 and has been amended a number of times, most recently in 2016.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Article 97 of Jordan's constitution guarantees the independence of the judicial branch, clearly stating that judges are 'subject to no authority but that of the law.' Article 99 of the Constitution divides the courts into three categories: civil, religious, and special. The civil courts deal with civil and criminal matters in accordance with the law, and they have jurisdiction over all persons in all matters, civil and criminal, including cases brought against the government. The civil courts include Magistrate Courts, Courts of First Instance, Courts of Appeal,<ref name=women-jordan>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> High Administrative Courts which hear cases relating to administrative matters,[[96]](#cite_note-96) and the Constitutional Court which was set up in 2012 in order to hear cases regarding the constitutionality of laws.[[97]](#cite_note-97) The religious court system's jurisdiction extends to matters of personal status such as divorce and inheritance, and is partially based on [Sharia](/wiki/Sharia) Islamic law.[[98]](#cite_note-98) The special court deals with cases forwarded by the civil one.[[99]](#cite_note-99) The current monarch, [Abdullah II](/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan), ascended the throne in February 1999 after the death of his father [King Hussein](/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan). Abdullah reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the [peace treaty](/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) with [Israel](/wiki/Israel) and its relations with the United States. He refocused the government's agenda on economic reform, during his first year. King Abdullah's eldest son, [Prince Hussein](/wiki/Hussein,_Crown_Prince_of_Jordan) is the current Crown Prince of Jordan.[[100]](#cite_note-100) The current prime minister is [Hani Al-Mulki](/wiki/Hani_Al-Mulki) who received his position on 29 May 2016.[[101]](#cite_note-101)The 2010 Arab Democracy Index from the Arab Reform Initiative ranked Jordan first in the state of democratic reforms out of fifteen Arab countries.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Jordan ranked first among the Arab states and 78th globally in the [Human Freedom Index](/wiki/Index_of_Freedom_in_the_World) in 2015,[[103]](#cite_note-103) also Jordan ranked as 55th out of 175 countries worldwide in the [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) (CPI) issued by [Transparency International](/wiki/Transparency_International) in 2014, where 175th is most corrupt.[[104]](#cite_note-104) In the [2016 Press Freedom Index](/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index) maintained by [Reporters Without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders), Jordan ranked 135th out of 180 countries listed, 5th freest press of 19 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Jordan's score was 44 on a scale from 0 (most free) to 105 (least free). The report added "the Arab Spring and the Syrian conflict have led the authorities to tighten their grip on the media and, in particular, the Internet, despite an outcry from civil society".[[105]](#cite_note-105) Jordanian media consists of public and private institutions, popular Jordanian newspapers include; [Ammon News](/wiki/Ammon_News), [Ad-Dustour](/wiki/Ad-Dustour_(Jordan)) and [Jordan Times](/wiki/Jordan_Times). While the most two watched local TV stations are [Ro'ya TV](/wiki/Ro'ya_TV) and [Jordan TV](/wiki/Jordan_Radio_and_Television_Corporation).[[106]](#cite_note-106) Internet penetration in Jordan reached 76% in 2015.[[107]](#cite_note-107)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|A forest in](/wiki/File:Ajlun_Green.jpg) [Ajloun](/wiki/Ajloun), northern Jordan.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Map** |  | **Governorate** | **Capital** | **Population** |
| [Template:Jordan Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Jordan_Labelled_Map) | **Northern region** | | | | |
| 1 | [Irbid](/wiki/Irbid_Governorate) | [Irbid](/wiki/Irbid) | 1,770,158 |  |
| 2 | [Ajloun](/wiki/Ajloun_Governorate) | [Ajloun](/wiki/Ajloun) | 176,080 |  |
| 3 | [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash_Governorate) | [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash) | 237,059 |  |
| 4 | [Mafraq](/wiki/Mafraq_Governorate) | [Mafraq](/wiki/Mafraq) | 549,948 |  |
| **Central region** | | | | |
| 5 | [Balqa](/wiki/Balqa_Governorate) | [Al-Salt](/wiki/Al-Salt) | 491,709 |  |
| 6 | [Madaba](/wiki/Madaba_Governorate) | [Madaba](/wiki/Madaba) | 189,192 |  |
| 7 | [Amman](/wiki/Amman_Governorate) | [Amman](/wiki/Amman) | 4,007,256 |  |
| 8 | [Zarqa](/wiki/Zarqa_Governorate) | [Zarqa](/wiki/Zarqa) | 1,364,878 |  |
| **Southern region** | | | | |
| 9 | [Karak](/wiki/Karak_Governorate) | [Al-Karak](/wiki/Al-Karak) | 316,629 |  |
| 10 | [Tafila](/wiki/Tafilah_Governorate) | [Tafila](/wiki/Tafila) | 96,291 |  |
| 11 | [Ma'an](/wiki/Ma'an_Governorate) | [Ma'an](/wiki/Ma'an) | 144,083 |  |
| 12 | [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba_Governorate) | [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba) | 188,160 |  |

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The kingdom has followed a pro-Western foreign policy and maintained close relations with the United States and the United Kingdom. During the first [Gulf War](/wiki/Gulf_War) (1990), these relations were damaged by Jordan's neutrality and maintaining relations with Iraq. Later, Jordan restored its relations with Western countries through its participation in the enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq and in the Southwest Asia peace process. After King Hussein's death in 1999, relations between Jordan and the Persian Gulf countries greatly improved.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[thumb|King Abdullah II shows his son,](/wiki/File:King_Abdullah_II_and_Crown_Prince_Hussein_Admire_a_Photo.jpg) [Crown Prince Hussein](/wiki/Hussein,_Crown_Prince_of_Jordan), a photo given to them by U.S. Secretary of State [John Kerry](/wiki/John_Kerry).

Jordan is a key ally of the USA and UK and, together with Egypt, is one of only two [Arab nations](/wiki/Arab_world) to have signed peace treaties with Israel.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Israel shares the longest border with Jordan and so this created a unique [geopolitical](/wiki/Geopolitics) situation ever since the emergence of the [Arab–Israeli conflict](/wiki/Arab–Israeli_conflict). Jordan supports Palestinian demand for statehood and independence through the [Two-state solution](/wiki/Two-state_solution).[[110]](#cite_note-110) The Hashemite family has had custodianship over holy sites in Jerusalem ever since the beginning of the 20th century, this is also stressed in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. Turmoil in [Al-Aqsa](/wiki/Al-Aqsa) mosque in Jerusalem between Israelis and Palestinians has initiated tensions between Jordan and Israel, concerning the former's role in protecting the Muslim and Christian sites in Jerusalem.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Jordan is a founding member of the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) and of the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League).[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[112]](#cite_note-112) Jordan enjoys "advanced status" with the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) since December 2010 and is part of the [European Neighbourhood Policy](/wiki/European_Neighbourhood_Policy) (ENP) which aims at bringing the EU and its neighbours closer.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Jordan and [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) tried to join the [Gulf Cooperation Council](/wiki/Gulf_Cooperation_Council) (GCC) in 2011, but the Gulf countries offered a five-year development aid programme instead.[[114]](#cite_note-114)

### Military, crime and law enforcement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|A Jordanian soldier during a military exercise.](/wiki/File:A_Jordanian_Armed_Forces_sentry,_foreground,_secures_the_area_while_his_team_extracts_simulated_injured_aircrewmen_from_the_area_behind_him_during_exercise_Eagle_Resolve_2013_in_Doha,_Qatar,_April_30,_2013_130430-F-VT324-064.jpg)

The first organized army in Jordan was established on 22 October 1920, and was named the "[Arab Legion](/wiki/Arab_Legion)". Jordan's capture of the [West Bank](/wiki/West_Bank) during the [1948 Arab-Israeli War](/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_War) proved that the Arab Legion, known today as the Jordan Armed Forces, was the most effective among the Arab troops involved in the war.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The Jordanian army, which boasts around 110,000 personnel, is considered to be among the most professional in the region, and is seen as particularly well-trained and organized.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The Jordanian military enjoys strong support and aid from the United States, the United Kingdom and France. This is due to Jordan's critical position in the Middle East.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The development of the [Special Operations Forces](/wiki/Joint_Special_Operations_Command_(Jordan)) has been particularly significant, enhancing the capability of the forces to react rapidly to threats to homeland security, as well as training special forces from the region and beyond.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Jordan also provides extensive training of security forces to several Arab countries.[[116]](#cite_note-116) There are about 50,000 Jordanian troops working with the United Nations in [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) missions across the world. Jordan ranks third internationally in participating in U.N. peacekeeping missions,[[117]](#cite_note-117) with one of the highest levels of peacekeeping troop contributions of all U.N. member states.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Jordan has dispatched several field hospitals to conflict zones and areas affected by natural disasters across the region.[[119]](#cite_note-119) [thumb|right|An](/wiki/File:Jordanian_Police_automobile_(Audi).JPG) [Amman](/wiki/Amman) City Centre Police Vehicle.

In 2014, Jordan joined an aerial bombardment campaign by an international coalition lead by the [United States](/wiki/United_States) against the [Islamic State](/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant) as part of its intervention in the [Syrian Civil War](/wiki/Syrian_Civil_War).[[120]](#cite_note-120) In 2015, Jordan participated in the [Saudi Arabian-led military intervention in Yemen](/wiki/Saudi_Arabian-led_intervention_in_Yemen) against the [Shia](/wiki/Shia_Islam) [Houthis](/wiki/Houthis) and forces loyal to former President [Ali Abdullah Saleh](/wiki/Ali_Abdullah_Saleh), who was deposed in the 2011 uprising.[[121]](#cite_note-121) [Jordan's law enforcement](/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Jordan) is under the purview of the [Public Security Directorate](/wiki/Public_Security_Directorate) (which includes approximately 40,000 persons). The Jordanian national [police](/wiki/Police) is subordinate to the Public Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior. The first police force in the Jordanian state, was organized after the fall of the Ottoman Empire on 11 April 1921.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Until 1956 police duties were carried out totally by the [Arab Legion](/wiki/Arab_Legion) and the [Transjordan Frontier Force](/wiki/Transjordan_Frontier_Force). After that year, the Public Safety Directorate was established.[[122]](#cite_note-122) The number of female police officers is on the rise in Jordan. In the 1970s, it was the first Arab country to include females in its police force.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Jordan's law enforcement was ranked 37th in the world and 3rd in the Middle East, in terms of police services' performance, by the 2016 World Internal Security and Police Index, making the country safe.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[124]](#cite_note-124)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|A proportional representation of Jordan's exports.](/wiki/File:Jordan_Export_Treemap.jpg) [thumb|A view of the](/wiki/File:Zahran_street_in_Amman.jpg) [Zahran district](/wiki/Zahran_district) in the capital city [Amman](/wiki/Amman).

Jordan is classified by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) as an "upper-middle income" country;[[17]](#cite_note-17) however, approximately 14.4% ([Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of)) of the population lives below the national poverty line.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The economy, which boasts a GDP of $38.210 ([Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of)), has grown at fluctuating rates, in connection with regional developments. The economy grew at an average rate of 4.3% per annum between 2005 and 2010, and around 2.5% 2010 onwards.<ref name=oecd-jord/> The GDP per capita rose by 351% in the 1970s, declined 30% in the 1980s, and rose 36% in the 1990s.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Jordan's economy is relatively well diversified. Trade and finance combined account for nearly one-third of GDP; transportation and communication, public utilities, and construction account for one-fifth, and mining and manufacturing constitute nearly another fifth. Despite plans to expand the private sector, the state remains the dominant force in Jordan's economy.<ref name=washington>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Net [official development assistance](/wiki/Official_development_assistance) to Jordan in 2009 totalled USD 761 million; according to the government, approximately two-thirds of this was allocated as grants, of which half was direct budget support.<ref name=oecd-jord>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The official currency in Jordan is the [Jordanian dinar](/wiki/Jordanian_dinar), which is pegged to the IMF's [special drawing rights](/wiki/Special_drawing_rights) (SDRs), equivalent to an exchange rate of [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) 0.709 dinar, or approximately [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) 1.41044 dollars.[[126]](#cite_note-126) In 2000, Jordan joined the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) and signed the [Jordan–United States Free Trade Agreement](/wiki/Jordan–United_States_Free_Trade_Agreement), thus becoming the first Arab country to establish a free trade agreement with the United States. Jordan also has a free trade agreement with Turkey and Canada.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Jordan enjoys advanced status with the EU which has allowed it to export to a number of European countries.[[128]](#cite_note-128) Due to slow domestic growth, high energy and food subsidies and a bloated [public-sector](/wiki/Public_sector) workforce, Jordan usually runs annual [budget deficits](/wiki/Budget_deficit). These are partially offset by international aid.<ref name=congresser/>

The [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession) and the turmoil caused by the [Arab Spring](/wiki/Arab_Spring) have depressed Jordan's GDP growth, impacting trade, industry, construction and tourism.<ref name=autogenerated3/> Tourist arrivals have dropped sharply since 2011, hitting an important source of revenue and employment.<ref name=ftharsh>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Jordan's finances have also been severely strained by some 32 attacks on the [natural gas pipeline](/wiki/Arab_Gas_Pipeline) in [Sinai](/wiki/Sinai) supplying Jordan from Egypt by Islamic State affiliates, causing it to substitute more expensive heavy-fuel oils to generate electricity.[[129]](#cite_note-129) This has caused the government to increase prices, which raised widespread public discontent.<ref name=ftharsh/>

In November 2012, the government cut subsidies on fuel, increasing its price.<ref name=oxbiz/> The decision, which was later revoked, caused large scale protests to break out across the country.<ref name=congresser>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Jordan's total foreign debt in 2012 was $22 billion, representing 72% of its GDP.<ref name=oxbiz>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 2016, the debt reached $35.1 billion representing 90.6% of its GDP. This substantial increase is attributed to effects of regional instability causing; decrease in tourist activity, decreased investments, increased military expenditure, electrical company debts due to attacks on Egyptian pipeline, accumulated interests from loans, the collapse of trade with Iraq and Syria and expenses from hosting Syrian refugees.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The proportion of skilled workers in Jordan is among the highest in the region, due to a relatively modern educational system, in sectors such as ICT and industry. This has attracted large foreign investments to Jordan and has enabled the country to export its workforce to [Persian Gulf countries](/wiki/Arab_states_of_the_Persian_Gulf).[[18]](#cite_note-18) Flows of [remittances](/wiki/Remittances) to Jordan grew rapidly, particularly during the end of the 1970s and 1980s, the money that migrants send home, remittances, represents today an important source of external funding for many developing countries, including Jordan.[[130]](#cite_note-130) Remittances from Jordanian expatriates were $3.8 billion in 2015, a notable rise in the amount of transfers compared to 2014 where remittances reached over $3.66 billion listing Jordan as fourth largest recipient in the region.[[131]](#cite_note-131)

### Industry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Aqaba.jpg) [Aqaba Flagpole](/wiki/Aqaba_Flagpole) in the southernmost city of [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba), Jordan's only coastal city and outlet.

Jordan's well developed industrial sector, which includes mining, manufacturing, construction, and power, accounted for approximately 26% of the GDP in 2004 (including manufacturing, 16.2%; construction, 4.6%; and mining, 3.1%). More than 21% of Jordan's labor force was employed in industry in 2002. In 2014, industry accounted for 6% of the GDP.[[132]](#cite_note-132) The main industrial products are potash, phosphates, cement, clothes, and fertilizers. The most promising segment of this sector is construction. [Petra Engineering Industries Company](/wiki/Petra_Engineering_Industries_Company) which is considered to be one of the main pillars of Jordanian industry, has gained international recognition with its air-conditioning units reaching [NASA](/wiki/NASA).[[133]](#cite_note-133) Jordan is now considered to be a leading pharmaceuticals manufacturer in the [MENA](/wiki/MENA) region led by Jordanian pharmaceutical company [Hikma](/wiki/Hikma_Pharmaceuticals). The Group is the only Arab company listed on the [London Stock Exchange](/wiki/London_Stock_Exchange).[[134]](#cite_note-134) Jordan's military industry thrived after the [King Abdullah Design and Development Bureau](/wiki/King_Abdullah_Design_and_Development_Bureau) (KADDB) defence company was established by King Abdullah II in 1999, to provide an indigenous capability for the supply of scientific and technical services to the [Jordanian Armed Forces](/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces), and to become a global hub in security research and development. It manufactures all types of military products, many of which are presented at the bi-annually held international military exhibition [SOFEX](/wiki/Special_Operations_Forces_Exhibition). In 2015, KADDB exported $72 million worth of industries to over 42 countries.[[135]](#cite_note-135)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Dana_Reserve_07.jpg)[Dana Biosphere Reserve](/wiki/Dana_Biosphere_Reserve) in south-central Jordan is a popular tourist attraction.. [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Bethany_(5).JPG)[Al-Maghtas](/wiki/Al-Maghtas) ruins on the Jordanian side of the [Jordan River](/wiki/Jordan_River) are the location for the Baptism of [Jesus](/wiki/Jesus) and the ministry of [John the Baptist](/wiki/John_the_Baptist).

The tourism sector in Jordan becomes severely affected by regional turbulence.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The sector today is considered to be a cornerstone of the Jordanian economy, being a large source of employment, hard currency and economic growth. In 2010, there were 8 million visitors to Jordan. The result was $3.4 billion in tourism revenues, $4.4 billion with the inclusion of medical tourists.[[136]](#cite_note-136) The most recent impact to the tourism sector is the regional turmoil in the 2010s caused by the Arab Spring, which scared off tourists from the entire region. Jordan experienced a 70% decrease in the number of tourists from 2010 to 2015.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The majority of tourists coming to Jordan are from European and Arab countries.[[19]](#cite_note-19) According to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Jordan is home to around 100,000 archaeological and tourist sites.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Some very well preserved historical cities include [Petra](/wiki/Petra) and [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash), the former being Jordan's most popular tourist attraction and an icon of the kingdom.[[137]](#cite_note-137) Jordan is part of the [Holy Land](/wiki/Holy_Land) and has several biblical attractions that attract pilgrimage activities. Biblical sites include; [Al-Maghtas](/wiki/Al-Maghtas) where [Jesus](/wiki/Jesus) was baptized by [John the Baptist](/wiki/John_the_Baptist), [Mount Nebo](/wiki/Mount_Nebo), [Umm ar-Rasas](/wiki/Umm_ar-Rasas), [Madaba](/wiki/Madaba) and [Machaerus](/wiki/Machaerus).[[139]](#cite_note-139) Islamic sites include shrines of the prophet [Muhammad's](/wiki/Muhammad) companions such as ['Abd Allah ibn Rawahah](/wiki/'Abd_Allah_ibn_Rawahah), [Zayd ibn Harithah](/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Harithah) and [Muadh ibn Jabal](/wiki/Muadh_ibn_Jabal).[[140]](#cite_note-140) [Ajlun Castle](/wiki/Ajlun_Castle) built by Muslim Ayyubid leader [Saladin](/wiki/Saladin) in the 12th century AD during his wars with the Crusaders, is also a popular tourist attraction.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Modern entertainment and recreation in urban areas, mostly in Amman, also attract tourists. Recently, the nightlife in Amman, [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba) and [Irbid](/wiki/Irbid) has started to emerge and the number of bars, discos and nightclubs is on the rise. However, most nightclubs have a restriction on unescorted males.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Alcohol is widely available in tourist restaurants, liquor stores and even some supermarkets.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Valleys like [Wadi Mujib](/wiki/Wadi_Mujib) and hiking trails in different parts of the country attract adventurers. Moreover, seaside recreation is present in on the shores of [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba) and the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea) through several international resorts.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Jordan has been a [medical tourism](/wiki/Medical_tourism) destination in the Middle East since the 1970s. A study conducted by [Jordan's Private Hospitals Association](/wiki/Private_Hospitals_Association_(Jordan)) found that 250,000 patients from 102 countries received treatment in Jordan in 2010, compared to 190,000 in 2007, bringing over $1 billion in revenue. Jordan is the region's top medical tourism destination, as rated by the World Bank, and fifth in the world overall.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The majority of patients come from Yemen, Libya and Syria due to the ongoing civil wars in those countries. Jordanian doctors and medical staff have gained experience in dealing with war patients through years of receiving such cases from various conflict zones in the region.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Jordan also is a hub for natural treatment methods in both [Ma'in Hot Springs](/wiki/Ma'in_Hot_Springs) and the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea). The Dead Sea is often described as a 'natural spa'. It contains 10 times more salt than the average ocean, which makes it impossible to sink in. The high salt concentration of the [Dead Sea](/wiki/Dead_Sea) has been proven as therapeutic for many skin diseases. The uniqueness of this lake attracts several Jordanian and foreign vacationers, which boosted investments in the hotel sector in the area.[[145]](#cite_note-145)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Natural resources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The country is the world's second poorest country in terms of water resources per capita, scarce water resources were aggravated further by influx of Syrian refugees.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Water from [Disi aquifer](/wiki/Disi_Water_Conveyance_Project) and ten major dams play a large role in providing Jordan's need for fresh water.[[146]](#cite_note-146) [thumb|A phosphate train at Ram station.](/wiki/File:Aqaba_Railway_Corporation_BW_1.JPG) [Phosphate](/wiki/Rock_phosphate) mines in the south have made Jordan one of the largest producers and exporters of this mineral in the world.[[147]](#cite_note-147) Jordan aims to benefit from its large uranium reserves with two nuclear plants scheduled for completion in 2023 and 2025.[[148]](#cite_note-148) Natural gas was discovered in Jordan in 1987. The estimated size of the reserve discovered was about 230 billion [cubic feet](/wiki/Cubic_foot), a modest quantity compared with its other Arabian neighbours. The Risha field, in the eastern desert beside the Iraqi border, produces nearly 35 million cubic feet of gas a day, which is sent to a nearby power plant to produce nearly 10% of Jordan's electricity needs.[[149]](#cite_note-149) Despite the fact that reserves of crude oil are non-commercial, Jordan has the 5th largest [oil-shale](/wiki/Oil-shale) reserves in the world that could be commercially exploited in the central and northern regions west of the country.[[150]](#cite_note-150) Official figures estimate the kingdom's oil shale reserves at more than 70 billion tonnes. [Attarat Power Plant](/wiki/Attarat_Power_Plant) is a $2.2 billion oil shale-dependent power plant which will be completed in 2019 with a total capacity of 470 megawatts. The project is part of the kingdom's 2025 vision that aims at diversifying its energy resources.[[151]](#cite_note-151) The extraction of oil shale had been delayed by a couple of years due to the advanced level of technology that is required to extract it and its relatively higher cost.[[152]](#cite_note-152) Jordan receives 330 days of sunshine per year, and wind speeds reach over 7 m/s over the mountainous areas.[[153]](#cite_note-153) For this reason, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources launched several projects like [Tafila Wind Farm](/wiki/Tafila_Wind_Farm) and have set a target to obtain 10% of Jordan's electrical consumption from renewable resources by 2020.[[154]](#cite_note-154)

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Jordan ranked as having the 35th best infrastructure in the world, one of the highest rankings in the developing world, according to the World Economic Forum's Index of Economic Competitiveness. This high infrastructural development is necessitated by its role as a transit country for goods and services to the Palestine and Iraq. Palestinians use Jordan as a transit country due to the Israeli restrictions and the Iraqis use Jordan due to the instability in Iraq.[[155]](#cite_note-155)[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Queen_Alia_International_Airport_Terminal.jpg)[Queen Alia International Airport](/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport) near [Amman](/wiki/Amman) was chosen as the best airport in the Middle East for 2014 and 2015 by [ASQ](/wiki/List_of_Airport_Service_Quality_Award_winners).

According to data from the Jordanian Ministry of Public Works and Housing, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the Jordanian road network consisted of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of main roads; [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rural roads and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of side roads. The [Hejaz Railway](/wiki/Hejaz_Railway) built during the Ottoman Empire which extended from Damascus to Mecca will act as a base for future railway expansion plans. Currently, the railway has barely any civilian activity, it is primarily used for transporting goods. A national railway project is currently undergoing studies and seeking funding sources.[[156]](#cite_note-156) Jordan has three commercial airports, all receiving and dispatching international flights. Two are in [Amman](/wiki/Amman) and the third is in [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba), [King Hussein International Airport](/wiki/King_Hussein_International_Airport). [Amman Civil Airport](/wiki/Amman_Civil_Airport) serves several regional routes and charter flights while [Queen Alia International Airport](/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport) is the major [international airport](/wiki/International_airport) in Jordan and is the [hub](/wiki/Airline_hub) for [Royal Jordanian](/wiki/Royal_Jordanian), the [flag carrier](/wiki/Flag_carrier). Queen Alia International Airport expansion was completed in 2013 with new terminals costing $700 million, to handle over 16 million passengers annually.[[157]](#cite_note-157) It is now considered a state-of-the-art airport and was awarded 'the best airport by region: Middle East' for 2014 and 2015 by [Airport Service Quality](/wiki/List_of_Airport_Service_Quality_Award_winners) (ASQ) survey, the world's leading airport passenger satisfaction benchmark program.[[158]](#cite_note-158) The [Port of Aqaba](/wiki/Port_of_Aqaba) is the only port in Jordan. In 2006, the port was ranked as being the "Best Container Terminal" in the Middle East by [*Lloyd's List*](/wiki/Lloyd's_List). The port was chosen due to it being a transit cargo port for other neighboring countries, its location between four countries and three continents, being an exclusive gateway for the local market and for the improvements it has recently witnessed.[[159]](#cite_note-159)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|A solar charging station in](/wiki/File:Station_solaire_de_recharge.JPG) [King Hussein Business Park](/wiki/King_Hussein_Business_Park).

[Science](/wiki/Science) and [technology](/wiki/Technology) is the country's fastest developing economic sector. This growth occurs across multiple industries including Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and nuclear technology. Jordan contributes to 75% of the Arabic content on the Internet.[[160]](#cite_note-160) In 2014, [ICT](/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology) sector accounted for more than 84,000 jobs, and contributed to 12% of the GDP. More than 400 companies are active in telecom, IT and video game development. While there are 600 companies operating in active technologies and 300 startup companies.[[160]](#cite_note-160) Nuclear science and technology is also expanding; nuclear facilities are undergoing construction. [Jordan Research and Training Reactor](/wiki/Jordan_Research_and_Training_Reactor) is a 5[MW](/wiki/Megawatt) training reactor located in [Jordan University of Science and Technology](/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_and_Technology); the reactor is expected to start operations in 2017 and will be used by the university to train their students in the already existing [nuclear engineering](/wiki/Nuclear_engineering) program.[[161]](#cite_note-161) Jordan signed a contract with Russian company [Rosatom](/wiki/Rosatom) in 2014 for the construction of two $5 billion nuclear reactors which are currently under planning and are expected to start delivering electricity in 2023 and 2025.[[148]](#cite_note-148) Jordan was also selected as the location for the [Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science Applications in the Middle East](/wiki/Synchrotron-Light_for_Experimental_Science_Applications_in_the_Middle_East) (SESAME) by [CERN](/wiki/CERN). This particle accelerator, which is expected to start operations in 2018, will allow collaboration between scientists across the Middle East despite the political conflicts.[[162]](#cite_note-162)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) The last census performed in Jordan was in 2015 where the population numbered some 9.5 million, of which 2.9 million were non-citizens (30%), many of these refugees from war and others as illegal immigrants.[[13]](#cite_note-13) As the population increased, it also became more settled and more urban. Almost half of the population in 1922 (around 103,000) was [nomadic](/wiki/Nomad), decreasing into 6% in 2015. In 1946 Amman had a population of 65,754 which grew to over 4 million in 2015.[[163]](#cite_note-163) There were 1,977,534 households in Jordan in 2015, with an average of 4.8 persons per household (compared to 6.7 persons per household for the census of 1979).[[13]](#cite_note-13) The vast majority of Jordanians are [Arabs](/wiki/Arab_people), accounting for 98% of the population. The rest is attributed to [Circassians](/wiki/Circassians), [Chechens](/wiki/Chechens) and [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians).[[85]](#cite_note-85)

### Immigrants and refugees[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

According to [UNRWA](/wiki/UNRWA), Jordan was home to 2,117,361 Palestinians in 2015, most of them [Jordanian citizens](/wiki/Palestinians_in_Jordan).[[164]](#cite_note-164) The first wave of Palestinian refugees arrival started during the 1948 Arab Israeli war and peaked in the 1967 Six Day War and the [1990 Gulf War](/wiki/1990_Gulf_War). In the past, Jordan had given some Palestinian refugees citizenship. However recently, Jordanian citizenship is only given in very rare cases. 370,000 of Palestinians live in UNRWA refugee camps.[[164]](#cite_note-164) Jordan revoked the citizenship of thousands of Palestinians to thwart any attempt to permanently resettle West Bank residents in Jordan following the capture of the West Bank by Israel in 1967. West Bank Palestinians with family in Jordan or Jordanian citizenship were issued yellow cards guaranteeing them all the rights of Jordanian citizenship if requested.[[165]](#cite_note-165) [thumb|left|250px|An aerial view of a portion of the](/wiki/File:An_Aerial_View_of_the_Za'atri_Refugee_Camp.jpg) [Zaatari refugee camp](/wiki/Zaatari_refugee_camp) which only contains a population of 80,000 [Syrian refugees](/wiki/Syrians_in_Jordan). Following the [Iraq War](/wiki/Iraq_War) in 2003, some 700,000–1,000,000 [Iraqis](/wiki/Iraqis_in_Jordan) came to Jordan, however, most have returned.[[166]](#cite_note-166) Since the Iraq War, many Christians ([Assyrians/Chaldeans](/wiki/Assyrian_people)) from [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) have settled permanently or temporarily in Jordan.[[167]](#cite_note-167) There were also 15,000 Lebanese who emigrated to Jordan following the [2006 Lebanon War](/wiki/2006_Lebanon_War) with Israel.[[168]](#cite_note-168) Since 2010, over 1.4 million [Syrian refugees](/wiki/Refugees_of_the_Syrian_civil_war) have fled to Jordan to escape the violence in Syria.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Jordan takes care of 63% of the total costs of the Syrian refugee crisis in the country.[[169]](#cite_note-169) The kingdom has continued to demonstrate hospitality, despite the considerable strain the flux of Syrian refugees is putting on Jordanian communities and their infrastructure, some of which include competition on job opportunities, water resources and other state provided services.[[15]](#cite_note-15) In 2007, [Assyrian](/wiki/Assyrian_People) [Christians](/wiki/Christians) accounted for up to 150,000 persons, most are [Eastern Aramaic](/wiki/Eastern_Aramaic) speaking refugees from Iraq.[[170]](#cite_note-170) [Kurds](/wiki/Kurds), number some 30,000 people, and like the Assyrians, many are refugees from Iraq, Iran and Turkey.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Descendants of [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians) that sought refuge in the Levant during the 1915 [Armenian Genocide](/wiki/Armenian_Genocide), number approximately 5,000 persons, mainly residing in Amman.[[172]](#cite_note-172) A small number of ethnic [Mandeans](/wiki/Mandeans) also reside in Jordan, again mainly refugees from Iraq. There are around 1.2 million illegal and some 500,000 legal migrant workers in the kingdom.[[173]](#cite_note-173) Furthermore, there are thousands of foreign women working in nightclubs, hotels and bars across the kingdom, mostly from Greater Middle East and Eastern Europe.[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175)[[176]](#cite_note-176) Jordan also hosts an American and European expatriate community, mainly concentrated in the capital as the city is home to many international organizations and diplomatic missions that base their regional operations in Amman.[[142]](#cite_note-142) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), several thousand Libyans, Yemenis and Sudanese have also sought asylum in Jordan to escape instability and violence in their respective countries.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The 2015 Jordanian census revealed that there are 1,265,000 Syrians, 636,270 Egyptians, 634,182 Palestinians, 130,911 Iraqis, 31,163 Yemenis, 22,700 Libyans and 197,385 from other nationalities residing in the country.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

### Religion and languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Sunni](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) [Islam](/wiki/Islam) is the dominant religion in Jordan. Muslims make up about 92% of the country's population; in turn, 93% of those self-identify as Sunnis—the highest percentage in the world, according to the [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center).[[11]](#cite_note-11) There are a small number of [Ahmadi](/wiki/Ahmadiyya) Muslims.[[177]](#cite_note-177) However, the kingdom falls short of protecting all minority groups. Muslims who convert to another religion as well as missionaries face societal and legal discrimination.[[178]](#cite_note-178) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Aqaba_Mosque.jpg)[Marsa Zayed](/wiki/Marsa_Zayed) mosque in [Aqaba](/wiki/Aqaba).

Jordan has among the oldest Christian communities in the world, Christians today make up about 6% of the population, down from 20% in 1930.[[14]](#cite_note-14) This is due to high immigration rates of Muslims into Jordan, high emigration rates of Christians to the west and higher birth rates for Muslims.<ref name=lat>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Christians are exceptionally well integrated in the Jordanian society and enjoy a high level of freedom, though they are not free to evangelize Muslims.[[179]](#cite_note-179) Christians traditionally occupy two cabinet posts, and are officially reserved 9 seats out of the 130 in the parliament.[[180]](#cite_note-180) The highest political position reached by a Christian is [deputy prime minister](/wiki/Deputy_prime_minister), held by [Marwan al-Muasher](/wiki/Marwan_al-Muasher) in 2005.[[181]](#cite_note-181) Christians are also influential in media.[[182]](#cite_note-182) Other, smaller religious minorities include [Druze](/wiki/Druze) and [Bahá'ís](/wiki/Bahá'í). Most Jordanian Druze live in the eastern oasis town of [Azraq](/wiki/Azraq), some villages on the [Syrian](/wiki/Syrian) border, and the city of [Zarqa](/wiki/Zarqa), while most Jordanian [Bahá'ís](/wiki/Bahá'í) live in the village of Adassiyeh bordering the [Jordan Valley](/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley).[[183]](#cite_note-183) Non-Sunni Muslims in Jordan are few but include some [Shiites](/wiki/Shiite), of which some belong to Iraqi and Lebanese refugees.[[184]](#cite_note-184) The official language is [Modern Standard Arabic](/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic), a literary language taught in the schools.[[185]](#cite_note-185) Most Jordanians speak natively one of the dialects of [Jordanian Arabic](/wiki/Jordanian_Arabic), a nonstandard version of Arabic. [Jordanian Sign Language](/wiki/Jordanian_Sign_Language) is the language of the deaf community. English, though without an official status, is widely spoken throughout the country and is the *de facto* language of commerce and banking, as well as a co-official status in the education sector; almost all university-level classes are held in English and almost all public schools teach English along with Standard Arabic.[[185]](#cite_note-185) [Chechen](/wiki/Chechen_language), [Circassian](/wiki/Circassian_language), [Armenian](/wiki/Armenian_language), [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language), and [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) are popular among their communities.[[186]](#cite_note-186) French is elective in many schools, mainly in the private sector.[[185]](#cite_note-185) German is an increasingly popular language among the elite and the educated; it's been most likely introduced at a larger scale after the début of the [German-Jordanian University](/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) in 2005.[[187]](#cite_note-187)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Religion and tradition play an important part in the modern Jordanian society, however, the country is considered liberal, relative to the other Arab countries as it grapples with effects of globalization.[[188]](#cite_note-188)

### Arts, cinema, museums and music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Jordanian military marching band playing](/wiki/File:Pipers_jordaniens_(Jerash)_(6949582694).jpg) [bagpipes](/wiki/Bagpipes) at [Jerash](/wiki/Jerash).

Art in Jordan is represented through many institutions with the aim to increase the cultural awareness and to represent the artistic movement in Jordan and its various fields such as paintings, sculpture, graffiti and photography. The [Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts](/wiki/Jordan_National_Gallery_of_Fine_Arts) is a major contemporary art museum located in Amman.[[189]](#cite_note-189) The art scene has been developing in the past few years[[190]](#cite_note-190) and Jordan has been a haven for artists from surrounding countries.[[191]](#cite_note-191) In January 2016, for the first time ever, a Jordanian film called [Theeb](/wiki/Theeb) was nominated for the [Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film](/wiki/List_of_submissions_to_the_88th_Academy_Awards_for_Best_Foreign_Language_Film).[[192]](#cite_note-192) Music in Jordan is now developing with a lot of new bands and artists, who are now popular in the Middle East. [Omar Al-Abdallat](/wiki/Omar_Al-Abdallat), [Toni Qattan](/wiki/Toni_Qattan) and Hani Metwasi have changed the perception of the music of Jordan which was unpopular for many years.[[193]](#cite_note-193) [Jerash Festival](/wiki/Jerash_Festival) is an annual music event that features tens of popular Arab singers and is attended by many people in the region.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Pianist and composer [Zade Dirani](/wiki/Zade_Dirani) has gained wide international popularity.[[194]](#cite_note-194) There is also an increasing growth of alternative Arabic music bands, who are dominating the scene in the [Arab World](/wiki/Arab_World) such as [El Morabba3](/wiki/El_Morabba3), [Autostrad](/wiki/Autostrad_(band)), [JadaL](/wiki/JadaL), [Akher Zapheer](/wiki/Akher_Zapheer) and Ayloul.[[195]](#cite_note-195) The largest museum in Jordan is [The Jordan Museum](/wiki/The_Jordan_Museum). It contains much of the valuable archaeological findings in the country, including some of the [Dead Sea Scrolls](/wiki/Dead_Sea_Scrolls), the Neolithic limestone statues of ['Ain Ghazal](/wiki/'Ain_Ghazal) and a copy of the [Mesha Stele](/wiki/Mesha_Stele).[[196]](#cite_note-196) Most museums in Jordan are located in Amman including the [The Children's Museum Jordan](/wiki/The_Children's_Museum_Jordan), [The Martyr's Memorial and Museum](/wiki/The_Martyr's_Memorial_and_Museum) and the [Royal Automobile Museum](/wiki/Royal_Automobile_Museum). Museums outside Amman include the [Aqaba Archaeological Museum](/wiki/Aqaba_Archaeological_Museum).[[189]](#cite_note-189)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:King_Abdullah_II_Stadium_in_Amman.jpg)[King Abdullah II Stadium](/wiki/King_Abdullah_II_Stadium) in Amman.

[Football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular sport in Jordan.[[142]](#cite_note-142) The [national football team](/wiki/Jordan_national_football_team) has improved in recent years, though it has yet to qualify for the [World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup).[[189]](#cite_note-189) In 2013, Jordan lost a chance to play at the 2014 World Cup when they lost to Uruguay during [inter-confederation play-offs](/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification_(inter-confederation_play-offs)). This was the highest that Jordan had advanced in the World Cup qualifying rounds since 1986.[[197]](#cite_note-197) The [Jordan's women football team](/wiki/Jordan_women's_national_football_team) is also gaining reputation,[[198]](#cite_note-198) which in March 2016 reached a ranking of 58th.[[199]](#cite_note-199) The country is hosting the [2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup](/wiki/2016_FIFA_U-17_Women's_World_Cup) in September, the first women's sports tournament in the Middle East.[[200]](#cite_note-200) However, other uncommon sports are also gaining popularity. [Rugby](/wiki/Rugby_football) is on the rise in Jordan, a Rugby Union is recognized by the Jordan Olympic Committee which supervises over three national teams.[[201]](#cite_note-201) Although [cycling](/wiki/Cycling) is not widespread in Jordan, the sport is developing rapidly as a lifestyle and a new way to travel especially among the youth. In 2014, a NGO [Make Life Skate Life](/wiki/Make_Life_Skate_Life) completed construction of the [7Hills Skatepark](/wiki/7Hills_Skatepark), the first skatepark in the country located in [Downtown Amman](/wiki/Downtown_Amman).[[202]](#cite_note-202) [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) is also played. Jordan's [national basketball team](/wiki/Jordan_national_basketball_team) is participating in various international and Middle Eastern tournaments. Local teams include: Al-Orthodoxi Club, Al-Riyadi, Zain, Al-Hussein and Al-Jazeera.[[203]](#cite_note-203)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|Traditional dish of Jordan,](/wiki/File:Sakib_mansaf.jpg) [Mansaf](/wiki/Mansaf). Inspired from Bedouin culture, it is a symbol of Jordanian hospitality.

As the 8th largest producer of [olives](/wiki/Olives) in the world, [olive oil](/wiki/Olive_oil) is the main cooking oil in Jordan.[[204]](#cite_note-204) A common appetizer is [hummus](/wiki/Hummus), which is a puree of [chick peas](/wiki/Chick_peas) blended with [tahini](/wiki/Tahini), lemon, and garlic. [Ful Medames](/wiki/Ful_Medames) is another well-known appetiser. A typical worker's meal, it has since made its way to the tables of the upper class. A typical Jordanian [meze](/wiki/Meze) often contains [koubba maqliya](/wiki/Kebbeh), [labaneh](/wiki/Labaneh), [baba ghanoush](/wiki/Baba_ghanoush), [tabbouleh](/wiki/Tabbouleh), [olives](/wiki/Olives) and [pickles](/wiki/Pickled_cucumber).[[205]](#cite_note-205) [Meze](/wiki/Meze) is generally accompanied by the [Levantine](/wiki/Levant) alcoholic drink [arak](/wiki/Arak_(drink)), which is made from grapes and aniseed and is similar to [ouzo](/wiki/Ouzo), [rakı](/wiki/Rakı) and [pastis](/wiki/Pastis). [Jordanian wine](/wiki/Jordanian_wine) and [beer](/wiki/Beer_in_Jordan) are also sometimes used. The same dishes, served without alcoholic drinks, can also be termed "muqabbilat" (starters) in Arabic.[[142]](#cite_note-142) The most distinctive Jordanian dish is [mansaf](/wiki/Mansaf), the national dish of Jordan. The dish is a symbol for Jordanian hospitality and is influenced by the Bedouin culture. Mansaf is eaten on different occasions such as funerals, weddings and on religious holidays. It consists of a plate of rice with meat that was boiled in thick yogurt, sprayed with nuts and sometimes herbs. As an old tradition, the dish is eaten using one's hands, but the tradition is not always used.[[205]](#cite_note-205) Simple fresh fruit is often served towards the end of a Jordanian meal, there is also dessert, such as [baklava](/wiki/Baklava), hareeseh, [knafeh](/wiki/Knafeh), [halva](/wiki/Halva) and [qatayef](/wiki/Qatayef), a dish made specially for [Ramadan](/wiki/Ramadan). In Jordanian cuisine, drinking coffee and tea flavored with [na'na](/wiki/Mentha) or [meramiyyeh](/wiki/Salvia_officinalis) is almost a ritual.[[206]](#cite_note-206)

## Health and education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [left|thumb|Jordanian girls pictured reading in a public school.](/wiki/File:Young_girls_reading_-_Government_primary_school_in_Amman,_Jordan.jpg)

Jordan prides itself on its health services, some of the best in the region.[[207]](#cite_note-207) Qualified medics, favorable investment climate and Jordan's stability has contributed to the success of this sector.[[208]](#cite_note-208) The [CIA World Factbook](/wiki/The_World_Factbook) estimates life expectancy in Jordan to be 74.35 years.<ref name=autogenerated3/> The leading cause of death in the country is attributed to cardiovascular diseases followed by cancer.[[209]](#cite_note-209) The country's health care system is divided between public and private institutions. On 1 June 2007, [Jordan Hospital](/wiki/Jordan_Hospital) (as the biggest private hospital) was the first general specialty hospital to gain the international accreditation [JCAHO](/wiki/JCAHO).<ref name=cp>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [King Hussein Cancer Center](/wiki/King_Hussein_Cancer_Center) is a leading cancer treatment center.[[210]](#cite_note-210) 66% of Jordanians have medical insurance.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Childhood [immunization](/wiki/Immunization) rates have increased steadily over the past 15 years; by 2002 immunizations and [vaccines](/wiki/Vaccine) reached more than 95% of children under five.<ref name=cp/> [Water and sanitation](/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Jordan), available to only 10% of the population in 1950, now reach 98% of Jordanians, according to government statistics.[[211]](#cite_note-211) The Jordanian educational system consists of a two-year cycle of pre-school education, ten years of compulsory basic education, and two years of secondary academic or vocational education, after which the students sit for the [*Tawjihi*](/wiki/Tawjihi) exams.[[212]](#cite_note-212) UNESCO ranked Jordan's education system 18th out of 94 nations for providing gender equality in education.[[213]](#cite_note-213) Education is not free in Jordan.[[214]](#cite_note-214) 79% of children go through primary education, while secondary school enrollment has increased from 63% to 97% of high school aged students in Jordan. Between 79% and 85% of high school students in Jordan move on to higher education.[[215]](#cite_note-215) According to the CIA World Factbook, the literacy rate in 2015 was 95.4%.<ref name=autogenerated3/>

Jordan has 10 public universities, 16 private universities and 54 community colleges, of which 14 are public, 24 private and others affiliated with the [Jordanian Armed Forces](/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces), the Civil Defense Department, the Ministry of Health and UNRWA.[[216]](#cite_note-216) There are over 200,000 Jordanian students enrolled in universities each year. An additional 20,000 Jordanians pursue higher education abroad primarily in the United States and Europe.[[217]](#cite_note-217) According to the [Webometrics Ranking of World Universities](/wiki/Webometrics_Ranking_of_World_Universities), the top-ranking universities in the country are the [University of Jordan](/wiki/University_of_Jordan) (UJ) (1,010th worldwide), [Jordan University of Science & Technology](/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_&_Technology) (JUST) (1,907th) and [Yarmouk University](/wiki/Yarmouk_University) (1,969th).[[218]](#cite_note-218) UJ and JUST occupy 8th and 10th between Arab universities.[[219]](#cite_note-219) Jordan has 2,000 researchers per million people,[[220]](#cite_note-220) and as of 2015 was the third-most innovative economy in the Middle East, behind [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon) and the [United Arab Emirates](/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates).[[221]](#cite_note-221)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Jordan](/wiki/Outline_of_Jordan)
* [Index of Jordan-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Jordan-related_articles)
* [List of World Heritage Sites in Jordan](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Jordan)
* [Google Street View in Jordan](/wiki/Google_Street_View_in_Jordan)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Government of Jordan](http://www.jordan.gov.jo/wps/portal)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Jordan profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14631981) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Google Street View locations](https://www.google.com/maps/streetview/#jordan-highlights)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

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[Category:Jordan](/wiki/Category:Jordan) [Category:Arabic-speaking countries and territories](/wiki/Category:Arabic-speaking_countries_and_territories) [Category:Eastern Mediterranean](/wiki/Category:Eastern_Mediterranean) [Category:Former British colonies](/wiki/Category:Former_British_colonies) [Category:Member states of the Arab League](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Arab_League) [Category:Member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:Middle Eastern countries](/wiki/Category:Middle_Eastern_countries) [Category:Near Eastern countries](/wiki/Category:Near_Eastern_countries) [Category:States and territories established in 1946](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1946) [Category:Western Asia](/wiki/Category:Western_Asia) [Category:Western Asian countries](/wiki/Category:Western_Asian_countries) [Category:Muslim-majority countries](/wiki/Category:Muslim-majority_countries)