



Jordan



Background After World War I and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations awarded Britain the mandate to govern much of the Middle East. In 1921, Britain demarcated from Palestine a semi-autonomous region of Transjordan and recognized ABDALLAH I from the Hashemite family as the country's first leader. The Hashemites also controlled the Hijaz, or the western coastal area of modern-day Saudi Arabia, until 1925, when IBN SAUD and Wahhabi tribes pushed them out. The country gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The country has had four kings. Long-time ruler King HUSSEIN (r. 1953-99) successfully navigated competing pressures from the major powers (US, UK, and Soviet Union), various Arab states, Israel, and Palestinian militants, the latter of which led to a brief civil war in 1970 that is known as "Black September" and ended in King HUSSEIN ousting the militants.

Jordan's borders have changed since it gained independence. In 1948, Jordan took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the first Arab-Israeli War, eventually annexing those territories in 1950 and granting its new Palestinian residents Jordanian citizenship. In 1967, Jordan lost the West Bank and East Jerusalem to Israel in the Six-Day War but retained administrative claims to the West Bank until 1988, when King HUSSEIN permanently relinquished Jordanian claims to the West Bank in favor of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). King HUSSEIN signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, after Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords in 1993.

Jordanian kings continue to claim custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem by virtue of their Hashemite heritage as descendants of the Prophet Mohammad and agreements with Israel and Jerusalem-based religious and Palestinian leaders. After Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 War, it authorized the Jordanian-controlled Islamic Trust, or Waqf, to continue administering the Al Haram ash Sharif/Temple Mount holy compound, and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty reaffirmed Jordan's "special role" in administering the Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. Jordanian kings claim custodianship of the Christian sites in Jerusalem on the basis of the 7th-century Pact of Omar, when the Muslim leader, after conquering Jerusalem, agreed to permit Christian worship.

King HUSSEIN died in 1999 and was succeeded by his eldest son and current King ABDALLAH II. In 2009, ABDALLAH II designated his son HUSSEIN as the Crown Prince. During his reign, ABDALLAH II has contended with a series of challenges, including the Arab Spring influx of refugees from neighboring states, the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of the war in Ukraine, a perennially weak economy, and the Israel-HAMAS conflict that began in October 2023.

Capital	name: Amman
Government type	parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Area	total : 89,342 sq km land: 88,802 sq km water: 540 sq km
Climate	mostly arid desert; rainy season in west (November to April)
Natural resources	phosphates, potash, shale oil
Population	total: 11,174,024 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.78% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Jordanian 69.3%, Syrian 13.3%, Palestinian 6.7%, Egyptian 6.7%, Iraqi 1.4%, other 2.6% (2015 est.)
Religions	Muslim 97.1% (official; predominantly Sunni), Christian 2.1% (majority Greek Orthodox, but some Greek and Roman Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Protestant denominations), Buddhist 0.4%, Hindu 0.1%, Jewish <0.1%, folk <0.1%, other <0.1%, unaffiliated <0.1% (2020 est.)
Languages	Arabic (official), English (widely understood among upper and middle classes)
Executive branch	chief of state: King ABDALLAH II (since 7 February 1999) head of government: Prime Minister Jafar HASSAN (since 15 September 2024)
Legislative branch	legislature name: National Assembly (Majlis Al-Umma)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Dina Khalil Tawfiq KAWAR (since 27 June 2016)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Rohit (Ro) NEPAL (since 22 January 2025)
Economic overview	upper-middle-income Middle Eastern economy; high debt and unemployment, especially for youth and women; global events triggering trade slump and decreased revenue from tourism; growing manufacturing and agricultural sectors; key US foreign assistance recipient; natural-resource-poor and import-reliant
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$107.101 billion (2023 est.) \$104.307 billion (2022 est.) \$101.617 billion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$9,400 (2023 est.) \$9,300 (2022 est.) \$9,200 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$22.186 billion (2023 est.) \$20.743 billion (2022 est.) \$13.87 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	USA 21%, India 13%, Saudi Arabia 11%, China 7%, Iraq 6% (2023)

Exports - commodities	fertilizers, garments, phosphates, jewelry, phosphoric acid (2023)
Imports	\$28.922 billion (2023 est.) \$30.019 billion (2022 est.) \$23.321 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	China 17%, Saudi Arabia 14%, UAE 8%, India 6%, USA 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	cars, refined petroleum, gold, crude petroleum, jewelry (2023)

Population Pyramid

