[About](http://www.enefm.org/turkey.aspx) Jordan

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Jordan   
Country   
Jordan, officially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is an Arab kingdom in the Middle East, on the [East Ba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan)nk of the River Jordan, and extending into the historic region of Palestine. [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan)

[Capital:](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+capital&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJsBEOgTKAEwDQ) [Amman](http://www.google.com/search?q=amman+jordan&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDAw8HsxKHfq6-QbJ5VZqg0cMLfH-a_-2-zr-tiedBS5eK0wQAe3tzMSkAAAA&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJwBEJsTKAIwDQ)   
[King:](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+capital&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJsBEOgTKAEwDQ) [A](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+capital&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJsBEOgTKAEwDQ)[bdullah I](http://www.google.com/search?q=amman+jordan&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDAw8HsxKHfq6-QbJ5VZqg0cMLfH-a_-2-zr-tiedBS5eK0wQAe3tzMSkAAAA&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJwBEJsTKAIwDQ)[I of Jordan](http://www.google.com/search?q=king+abdullah+ii&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDAy8HsxKnfq6-gaFpSYH58yPqq18Wl4RIfe9-qhPsfuIht68cAB3O72IqAAAA&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKABEJsTKAIwDQ)   
[Curre](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+king&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CJ8BEOgTKAEwDQ)[ncy: Jordanian dinar](http://www.google.com/search?q=king+abdullah+ii&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDAy8HsxKnfq6-gaFpSYH58yPqq18Wl4RIfe9-qhPsfuIht68cAB3O72IqAAAA&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKABEJsTKAIwDQ)   
[Populatio](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+currency&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKMBEOgTKAEwDQ)[n:](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+population&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKYBEOgTKAEwDQ) [6](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+government&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKoBEOgTKAEwDQ).181 million (2011) [World Bank](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL)   
[Governmen](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+population&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKYBEOgTKAEwDQ)[t:](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+government&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKoBEOgTKAEwDQ) [Uni](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+official+language&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CK0BEOgTKAEwDQ)tary state, Parli[amentary syst](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL)em, Constitutional monarchy [Official lang](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+government&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CKoBEOgTKAEwDQ)[uage:](http://www.google.com/search?q=hashemite+kingdom+of+jordan+official+language&sa=X&ei=rUqiUefUHKmf0QW8-YCYAg&ved=0CK0BEOgTKAEwDQ) Arabic Language

**Jordan** (pron.:[/ˈ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English)[dʒɔrdən/;](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English#Key) [Arabic:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) ّ نُدْرُلأَا‎ *Al-ʾUrdunn*), officially the **[Hashemite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite) Kingdom of Jordan** [(Arabic:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) ةَّيِمِشاَهلَاّةَّيِنُدْرُلأَاّةَكَلْمَملَا‎ *al-Mamlakah al-ʾUrdunniyyah [al-](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan)Hāšimiyyah*), is an [Arab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) [ki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language)ngdom in the [Middle East,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East) [o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_%28region%29)n the East Bank [of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) [River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan) [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan), and extending [into t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab)h[e his](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)toric regi[on of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East) [Palestin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East)[e.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_%28region%29) Jordan border[s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) [Saudi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) [Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan) to the south and eas[t,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) to the north-ea[st,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_%28region%29) [Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_%28region%29) [t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_%28region%29)o the north and [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) [to the west, s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia)haring control of the [Dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) [Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) with the latte[r.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)

The desert kingdom emerge[d out of th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)e post-World War I division of the Middle East by Britain and France. In 1946, Jordan became an independent sovereign state officially kno[wn as the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisjordan) Hashemite [Kingdom of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_War) Transjordan. After capturing the West [Bank area of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Jordan) [Cisjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisjordan) during the [1948–49 war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_War) with Israel, Abdullah I took the title [King of Jord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Jordan)[an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisjordan) [and Pal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisjordan)estine, and [he officially c](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab-Israeli_War)hanged the country's name to the [Hashemite Kin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Jordan)gdom of Jordan in 1949.

Modern Jordan is classified as a country of "medium human development"[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-8) by the 2011 [Human Development Report,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Report) and an [emerging market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_market) with [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-heritage.org-9) third [fre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-8)est econ[omy in West Asia and North](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Report) [A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Report)frica (3[2nd freest worldw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_market)ide)[.[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-heritage.org-9) Jordan has an ["upper middle in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union)come" economy[.[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-data.worldbank.org-10) Jo[rda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-11)n has enjoyed "advanc[ed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-heritage.org-9) statu[s" with the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro-Mediterranean_free_trade_area) [European Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union) [since Decem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro-Mediterranean_free_trade_area)ber [201](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-data.worldbank.org-10)0[,[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-11) and it is also a member [of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League) [Euro-](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro-Mediterranean_free_trade_area)[Mediterranean fr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union)[ee trade area.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro-Mediterranean_free_trade_area) Jordan i[s a f](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-11)ou[nding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OIC) member of the Arab [League,[12] and the Organisation of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euro-Mediterranean_free_trade_area)ic Cooperation [(OIC)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OIC).

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**History**

[Main articles:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerash16-Forum(js).jpg) [History of Jorda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerash16-Forum(js).jpg)[n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Jordan) and [Timeline of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Hashemite_Kingdom_of_Jordan)





[Th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerash16-Forum(js).jpg)e [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) Oval Piazza in the ancient city of [Jerash.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash)

In antiquity, the present day Jordan became a ho[me for s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moab)everal ancient king[doms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammon) including: the kingdom of Edom, the kingdom of [Moab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moab) and the kingdom of [Ammon.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammon) Throughout different eras of histor[y, parts of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaonic_Egypt) [countr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moab)y were laid under th[e control](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammon) [of some regi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian)onal po[wers incl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites)uding [Pharaonic Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaonic_Egypt) during their [wars with](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites) the [Babylonians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesha_Stele) and the [Hittites;](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites) and f[or](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaonic_Egypt) [discrete periods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Edom) of times by [Israelites.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites) The [Mesha Stele](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesha_Stele) recorde[d the glo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites)ry of the [King of Edom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Edom) and the vict[ories over](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites) the [Israelites and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesha_Stele) other nations. The Amm[on and Moab k](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Edom)[ingdoms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Roman) are mentioned in ancient maps, Near Eastern do[cum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-13)ents, ancient [Greco-Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Roman) artifacts, and Christian and Jewish religious scriptures[.[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-13)

**Classical Transjordan**

Due to its strategic location in the midd[le of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) ancient worl[d,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic) [Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan) [came](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic) to be controlled by the ancient empires of [Persians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) and later the [M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic)[acedonian G](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan)[reeks,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic) who became the dominant force in the [region, fo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire)llowing the [conquests of Alexand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic)er the Great. It later fell under the changing influence of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire from the North and the Parthians from the East.

The [Nabatean kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabataean_kingdom) was one of the most prominent states in the region through the mid[dle classic period, si](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabataean_kingdom)nce the decline of the Seleucid control of the region in 168 BC. The Nabateans were most probably people of Arabian ancestry, who fell under the early influence of the Hellenistic and Parthian cultures, creating a unique civilized society, which roamed the roads of the deserts. They controlled the regional and inte[rnational trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_crescent) routes of the ancient world by dominating a large area southwest of the [fertile crescent,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_crescent) [wh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)ich included the whole of modern J[ordan in addition to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula) the sou[thern part of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_crescent) [Sy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_crescent)[ria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria) in the north an[d the northern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_Script) part of [Arabian Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula) in the south. The Naba[taean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)[s developed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaean) the [Arabic Scr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_Script)[ipt, with their lan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Arabic)[guage as an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula)   
[intermediary be](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic)tween [Aramaean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaean) and [the ancient](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_Script) [Classical Arabic,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Arabic) which evolved into [Modern Arabic.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic)

[The Nabateans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) were largely conquered by the Hasmonean rulers of Judea and many [of them forc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabataean)ed to convert to Judaism in the late second century BC. However, the [Nabataeans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabataean) managed to maintain a sort of semi-independent kingdom, which covered [most parts o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabataean)f modern Jordan and beyo[nd, before it wa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_empire)s taken by the Herodians and finally annexed by the still expanding [Roman empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_empire) in 106 AD. However, apart from Petra, the Romans maintained the pro[sperity of most](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_empire) of the ancient cities in

Transjordan w[hich enjoy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decapolis)ed a sort of city-state autonomy under the umb[rella of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological) allianc[e of th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra)e [Decapolis.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decapolis) Nabataean civiliza[tion left many magnificent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Seven_Wonders_of_the_World) [archaeological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological) sites at [Petra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra), [which is co](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decapolis)nsidered one of [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage) New Seven Wonders of th[e World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological) [as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological) well as [recog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra)nized by the UNESCO as a [wo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage)[rld Heritage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Seven_Wonders_of_the_World) [site.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Seven_Wonders_of_the_World)

Followi[ng the establishment of Roman E](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom)[mpire at](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage) [Syria,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage) the country was incorporated into the [client Judaean Kingdom of Herod,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom) and la[ter the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_%28Roman_province%29) Iudaea Province. With the sup[pres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_Palaestina)[sion of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom) [Jewish Revolts, the eastern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom) bank of Transjordan w[as incorp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire)orated into [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire) Syria Palae[stina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Revolts) [province,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Revolts) while the eastern deserts fell under [Parthian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire) and later Per[sian Sassanid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_Palaestina) [co](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria_Palaestina)ntrol. During the Greco-Roman period, a num[ber of se](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parthian_Empire)mi-[independent city-](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire)states also develope[d in the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerasa) [region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash) of Transjordan [under th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)e [umbrella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphana) [of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abila_%28Decapolis%29) D[ecapo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dion,_Jordan)[lis includin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitolias)g[:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadara) [Gerasa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerasa) [(Jerash)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash), Philadel[phia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pella,_Jordan) [(Amman)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman), [Raphana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphana) [(Abila)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abila_%28Decapolis%29), [Dion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dion,_Jordan) [(Capitolias)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitolias), [Gadara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerasa) ([Umm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash) Qays), and Pella [(Irbid).](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)

[With the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raphana) [decline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abila_%28Decapolis%29) [of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dion,_Jordan) [Eastern Ro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitolias)m[an Emp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadara)ire, Transjordan ca[me to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pella,_Jordan) [be co](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid)[ntrolled by](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) the Ch[ristian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Um_er-Rasas) [Ghassanid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghassanid) Arab king[dom, which allied wi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)th Byzantium. The [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) site of [Um er](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Um_er-Rasas)[-Rasas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghassanid) [is a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghassanid) UNESCO [World Heritage Site.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)

**Midd[le Ages to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Um_er-Rasas) World War I**

In the seventh ce[ntury, and due to its pro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)ximity to [Damascus,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus) Transjordan became a heartland for the [Arabic Islamic Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate) and there[fore secure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus)d several centuries of stability and pro[sperity,[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)*[] whic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)h allowed the coin[ing of its current A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun_Empire)rabic [Islamic identity. D](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Empire)iffe[re](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Empire)[nt Caliphat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)[es' s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Empire)tages, including the [Rashidun Empire,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun_Empire) [Umayyad Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Empire) and [Abbasid Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Empire) controlled the regio[n. Several resourc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashidun_Empire)es [pointed that the A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_Empire)bbas[id movement, wa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Empire)s started in regi[on of Tra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid)nsjordan before it took over the Umayyad empire. After th[e decline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol) of th[e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusaders) [Abbasid,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusaders) It w[as ruled b](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayyubid)y sev[eral confli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk)cting powers including the [Mongols, the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) [Crusaders,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusaders) [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-14) [Ayyubids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayyubid) and the [Mamluks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk) until it became part of the [Ottoman Emp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire)[ire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusaders) [in 1516](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusaders)[.[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-14)

[Th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_al_Hallabat)[e Umayya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk)[d caliphs c](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Kharana)o[nstructed r](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Tuba)ural [estates such as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) [Q](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire)[asr Msh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Mshatta)[atta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-14)[,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Mshatta) [Qasr al](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_al_Hallabat) [Hallabat,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_al_Hallabat) [Qasr Kharana,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Kharana) [Qasr Tuba,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Tuba) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Karak) [Qasr Amra.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Amra) [C](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Azraq)[astles construc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Mshatta)[ted in the later Middle A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_al_Hallabat)[ges including](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Kharana) [Ajloun,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Tuba) [Al](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Tuba) [Kara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Karak)[k, and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Amra) [Qasr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Amra) [Azraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasr_Azraq) were used in the Ayyubid, Crusader, and Mamluk [eras.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajloun)

In the 11th century, Transjordan witnessed a phase of instability, as it became a battlefield for the Crusades which ended with defeat by the Ayyubids. Jordan suffered also from the Mongol attacks which were blocked by Mamluks. In 1516, Transjordan became part [of the Ottoman Em](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt)pire and remained so until 1918, when the Hashemite Army of the [Great Arab Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt) took over, and secured the present day Jordan with the help and sup[port of Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt)ian local tribes.





[Ar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Arab_Revolt.jpg)ab Revolt Tribal Cavalry – Tribes of Jordan and Arabia, c. 1918.





[A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Circassian_horsemanship_during_Sir_Herbert_Samuel's_second_visit_to_Transjordan.jpg)[dyghe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adyghe_people) [(Circassian)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circassians) [horsemanship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horsemanship) in [Transjordan,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan) April 1921.

[Durin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijaz)g [World War I,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) the [Transj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant)ordanian tribes fought, along with other tribes of the [Hijaz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijaz), t[he](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) [Tihamah,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) and [Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant) regions[, as part of t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite)he Arab Ar[my of the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherif_Hussein) Arab [Revol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijaz)[t.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) T[he revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tihamah) was l[aunched](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant) by the [Hashemites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite) and led [by](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) [Sherif Hussein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherif_Hussein) [of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) against the Ottoman Empire. It [was supporte](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite)[d by th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._E._Lawrence)e [A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I)[llies of World W](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherif_Hussein)[ar I.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) [The ch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca)ronicle of the revolt was written by [T. E. Lawrence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._E._Lawrence) w[ho, as a young](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) [Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army) officer, played a liaison role during [the revolt. He p](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._E._Lawrence)ublished the chro[nicle in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army) [Londo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army)n, 1922 under the title "[Seven Pillars of Wisdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Pillars_of_Wisdom)"[,[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-15) which was the basis for the iconic movie "Lawrence o[f Arabia".](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Pillars_of_Wisdom)

The Great Arab R[evolt was successful](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_of_Arabia) in gaining independence for most of the territories of Hijaz and the Levant, including the region of east of Jordan. However, it failed to gain intern[ational recognition of the region a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement)s an ind[ependent state, due mainl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917)[y to the sec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)ret [Sykes–Picot Agreement of 1916](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement) and the [Balfour Declaration of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917) [1917.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917)[[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)*[]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed) Th[is was seen by the Hashemites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement) [and the Arabs as betrayal of the previ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon%E2%80%93Hussein_Correspondence)[ous agreem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)ents with the British, including the [McMahon–Hussein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon%E2%80%93Hussein_Correspondence)   
[Correspondence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon%E2%80%93Hussein_Correspondence) in 1915, in which the British stated [their willingness to recognize the independence of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon%E2%80%93Hussein_Correspondence) the Arab state in Hijaz and the Levant. However, a compromise was eventually reached and the Emirate of Transjordan was created under the reign of the Hashemites.

**British Mandate on Transjordan**

Main article: [Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan)

In September 1[922 the Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29) of t[he](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum) [League of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations) [recog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum)nized [Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan) as a state unde[r the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan) [British Mandate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29) and [T](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum)[ransjordan memora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations)[ndum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum) exclu[ded the territ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan)ories east of the [Riv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan)[er Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29) [from al](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29)l of [the provisions of the manda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan_memorandum)te dealing with Jewish settlement[.[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan) [The Perm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Jordan)anent Court of International Justice and an International Court of Arbitrat[ion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-16) established by the Council of the League of Nations handed down rulings in 1925 which determined that both a Jewish and an Arab state in the   
Mandatory r[egions of Palestin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire)e and Transjordan were to be n[ewl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-17)y created successor states of the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) as defined by international law[.[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-17) The country   
remained un[der British superv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire)ision until 1946.

The Hashemite leadership met mul[tiple difficultie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan)s upon assuming power in the region. T[he most serious thre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikhwan_raids_on_Transjordan)ats to [emir Abdullah'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan)s position in Transjorda[n we](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18)re repeated [Wahhabi incursions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikhwan_raids_on_Transjordan) from [Najd into south](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan)ern parts of his territory[.[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18) The emir was [powerless to repel t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikhwan_raids_on_Transjordan)[hose ra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF)ids by himself, thu[s the Brit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)[ish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18) mainta[ined](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18) a military base, with a small [air force,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF) at Marka, close to [Amman.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18) The British military force was the prim[ary obsta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF)cle against the Ikh[wan, and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) [wa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18)s also used to help

[emir Ab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adwan_Rebellion)dullah with the suppression of [loc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18)al rebellions at [Kura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kura_Rebellion) and later by [Sultan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adwan_Rebellion) [Adwan,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adwan_Rebellion) in 1921 and 1923 respectively[.[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-modernjordan104-18)





[Arar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Wahbi_al-Tal) (1897–1949), poet of Jordan

**Independence**

On 25 May 1946 the United Nations approved the end of the [British Mandate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29) and recognized Transjordan [as an independe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan)nt sovereign kingdo[m. The Parliamen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_%28legal_instrument%29)t of Transjordan proclaimed [King Abdullah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan) a[s th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-19)e first King. The country's name was later changed from Tran[sjordan to Jorda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_I_of_Jordan)n[.[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-19)

On 24 April 1950, Jordan formally annex[ed t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-19)[he West Ban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League)k and East Jerusalem, an act that was regarded as illegal and void by the [Arab League.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League) The move formed part of Jordan’s "Greater Syria Plan" expansionist policy[,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Aruri1972-20)[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League) in response, Saudi Arabia,

Lebanon and Syria joined Egypt in demanding Jordan’s expulsion from the Arab League[.[21][22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-CommitteeAmerica1951-21) A motion to expel Jor[dan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated2-23) from the League was prevented by the dissenti[ng](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-CommitteeAmerica1951-21) [vot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-CommitteeAmerica1951-21)es of Yemen and Iraq[.[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated2-23) On 12 June 1950, the Arab League declared the annexation was a temporary, pr[actic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated2-23)al measure [and t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-24)hat Jordan was holding the territory as a “trustee” pending a future settlement[.[24][25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-24)

Abdullah I was assassinated in 1951 by a [Palestinian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque) [mil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-24)[it](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque)an[t Mustafa A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem)shu, of the jihad al-muqaddas, as he was leaving the [al-Aqsa Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque) in [Jerusalem.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) The reason for his murder was allegedly the power ri[valry of the al-H](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque)uss[einis over](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) control of Palestin[e, which was decla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amin_al-Husseini)red a part of the Hashemite Kingdom by Abdullah I. Though [Amin al-Husseini,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amin_al-Husseini) former mufti of Jerusalem, was not directly charged in the plot, M[usa al-Husseini wa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amin_al-Husseini)s among the 6 executed by Jordanian authorities, following the assassination.

On 27 July 1953, [King Hussein of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_of_Jordan) announced that [East Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem) was "the capital of [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Gilbert1996-26) Has[hemite Kingdom" and w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_of_Jordan)o[uld form an "i](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anglo-Jordanian_treaty&action=edit&redlink=1)[ntegral and inse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Jerusalem)parable part" of Jordan[.[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Gilbert1996-26) In 1957 Jordan terminated the [Anglo-Jordanian treaty,](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anglo-Jordanian_treaty&action=edit&redlink=1) one year after the [king sack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabization)[ed t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Gilbert1996-26)he British personnel serving in [the Jordanian Army. T](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anglo-Jordanian_treaty&action=edit&redlink=1)his act of   
[Arabization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabization) ensured the complete sovereignty of Jordan as a fully independent nation.





[Fi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:HabisAlMajali&WasfiAlTall.jpg)eld marshal [Habis Al-Majali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habis_Al-Majali) and former prime minister [Wasfi Al-Tal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasfi_Al-Tal)

In May 1967, Jordan [signed a mili](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Day_War)tary pac[t with](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) Egypt. In June 1967, it joined Egypt, Syria and Iraq in the [Six Day War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Day_War) against [Israel,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) which ended in an Israeli victory and the capture of the W[est Bank and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Day_War) East Jer[usalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel). The period following the war saw [an upsurg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fedayeen)e in the activity and numbers of Arab Palestinian paramilitary elements [(](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fedayeen)*[fedayeen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fedayeen)*[)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fedayeen) within the state of Jordan. These distinct, armed militias were becoming a ["state with](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fedayeen)in a state", threatening Jordan's rule of law. King Hussein's armed forces targeted the *fedayeen*, and open f[ighting erupted in June 1970. The](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization) battle in which Palestinian fighters from various [Palestine Liberation Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization) [(](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_in_Jordan)PLO) groups were expelled from Jordan is co[mmonly known as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization) [Black Septembe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine_Liberation_Organization)[r.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_in_Jordan)

The heaviest fighting occurred in northern Jordan [and Amman. In th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_in_Jordan)e ensuing heavy fighting, a Syrian tank forc[e invaded nort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan)hern Jordan to back the *fedayeen* fighters, but subsequently retreated. [King Hussein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan) urgently asked the United States and Great Britain to intervene against [Syria. Conseq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_of_Jordan)uently, Israel performed mock a[ir strikes on the Syria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nureddin_al-Atassi)n column at the Americans' request. Soon a[fter, Sy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-27)rian President [Nureddin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nureddin_al-Atassi) [al-Atassi,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nureddin_al-Atassi) ordered a hasty retreat from Jordanian soil[.[27][28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-27) By 22 Septem[ber, Arab foreign m](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nureddin_al-Atassi)inisters meeting in Cairo arranged a cease-[fire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-27) [be](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-27)ginning t[he following day.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habis_Al-Majali) However, sporadic violence [con](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jazeera-29)tinued until Jordanian forces, led by [Habis Al-Majali,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habis_Al-Majali) with the help of Iraqi forces[,[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jazeera-29) won a decisive [victory over th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat)e *feda[yeen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habis_Al-Majali)* [on July](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habis_Al-Majali) 1971, expelling them, and u[ltim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jazeera-29)ately the PLO's [Yasser Arafat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat) of Jordan.

In 1973, allied Arab League forc[es attacked Isr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_River)[ael in the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat) [Yom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat) [Kippur War,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War) and fighting occurred along the 1967 [Jordan River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_River) cease-fire [line. Jordan sent a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War) brigade to Syria to attack Israeli unit[s on Sy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabat_summit_conference)[rian territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_River) [but di](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabat_summit_conference)d not engage Israeli forces from Jordanian territory. At the [Rabat summit conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabat_summit_conference) in 1974, Jordan was now in a more secure position to ag[ree, along with the rest of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabat_summit_conference) the Arab League, that the PLO was the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people", thereby   
relinquishing to that organization its role as representative of the West Bank.

The Amman Agreement of 11 February 1985, declared that the PLO and Jordan woul[d p](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-30)ursue a proposed confederation between the state of Jordan and a Palestinian state[.[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-30) In 1988, King Hussein dissolved the Jordanian parliament and renounced Jord[ania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-30)n claims to the West Bank. The PLO assumed responsibility as the   
Provisional Government of Palestine and an independent state was declared[.[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-31)





[A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hussein_Clinton_Rabin.jpg) [hands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton)hake between [Hussein I of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_I_of_Jordan) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) [Yitzhak Rabin,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yitzhak_Rabin) accompanied by [Bill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) [Clinton,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) after signing [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_I_of_Jordan) [Israel-Jordan Tre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_I_of_Jordan)[aty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) [of Peace, 26 Oc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yitzhak_Rabin)tober 1994.

[In 1991 Jordan agre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid_Conference)ed to participate in direct peace negotiations with Israel at the [Madrid Conference,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid_Conference) sponsored by the US and the Soviet Union. It negotiated an end [to hostilities with Is](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid_Conference)[rael and signed a de](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace)claration to that effect on 25 July 1994. As a result, an [Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) was concluded on 26 October 1994. King Hussein [was later honored when his pic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace)ture appeared on an Israeli postage stamp in recognition of the good relations he established with his neighbor. Since the signing of the peace treaty, the United States not only contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in an annual foreign aid stipend to Jordan, but also has allowed it to establish a free trade zone in which to manufacture goods that will enter the US without paying the usual import taxes as long as a percentage of the material used in them is   
purchased in Israel.

The last major strain in Jordan's relations with Israel occurred in September 1997, [when Israeli ag](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaled_Meshal)ents allegedly entered Jordan using Canadian passports and poisoned [Khaled Meshal,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaled_Meshal) a senior leader of Hamas. Israel pro[vided an antidote to the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Ahmed_Yassin) poison [and released do](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaled_Meshal)zens of political prisoners, including [Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Ahmed_Yassin)





[Vi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:King_Abdullah_II_&_Queen_Rania_of_Jordan_in_WashingtonDC,_2007March06.jpg)siting Washington, D.C., with Queen Rania, 6 March 2007.

Abdullah became king on 7 Febr[uary 1999, upo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Prince)n the death of his father King Hussein. Hussei[n had rec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Hassan_of_Jordan)ently named him [Crown Prince](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Prince) on 24 January, replacing Hussein's brother [Hassan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Hassan_of_Jordan), who had served [many years in t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Prince)he position. He is th[e n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-32)amesake of King A[bdullah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Hassan_of_Jordan) I, his great grandfather who founded modern Jordan[.[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-32)

Jordan's economy has improved greatly since Abdullah ascended to [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-32) throne in 1999, and he has been credited with increasing foreig[n invest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)ment, improving public-private partnerships, and providing the foundation for [Aqaba'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)s free trade zone and

Jordan's flourishing [information and communication technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) [(ICT)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27an) sector. H[e also set u](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)p five other spe[cial economic zones:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) [Irbid,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) [Ajloun,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) [Mafraq,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technology) [Ma'an,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27an) and the [Dead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) [Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea). As a result of these reforms, Jordan's [econ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid)[omic gr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajloun)o[wth has](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafraq) [double](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27an)d to 6% [ann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)ually under King Abdullah's rule compared to the latter half of the [1990s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf)[.[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-33) Foreign direct investment [fro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-34)m the West as well as the countries of the [Persi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf)[an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-33) [Gulf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf) has continued to increase[.[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-34) He also negotiated a free trade agreement [with the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf) United States, w[hic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-35)h was [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-34) third free trade agreement for the U.S. and the first with an Arab country[.[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-35)

During the suspe[nsi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-35)on of Parliament between 2001 and 2003, the scope of King Abdullah II's power was demonstrated with the passing of 110 temporary laws. Two of these laws dealt with [electio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-36)ns and were criticized as having the effect of reducing the power of Parliament[.[36][37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-36) In 20[05 K](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-38)ing Abdullah expressed his intentions of making Jordan a democr[atic co](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-36)untry[.[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-38) Thus far, however, democratic development has been limited, with the monarchy [mai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-38)ntaining most power and its allies dominating parliament. Elections were held in November 2010.

In response to domestic and regional unrest, in February 2011 [King Abdallah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdallah_II_of_Jordan) replaced his prime minister and formed a National Dialogue Commissi[on with a reform](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdallah_II_of_Jordan) mandate. The King told the new prime minister to "take quick, concrete and practical steps to launch a genuine political reform process", "to st[ren](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-39)gthen democracy," and provide Jordanians with the "dignified life they deserve."[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-39) The Kin[g ca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-40)lled for an "immediate revision" of laws governing politics and pub[lic f](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-39)reedoms[.[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-40) Initial reports say that this [effo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-41)rt has started slowly and that several "fundam[ent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-40)al rights" are not being addressed[.[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-41)

**Geography**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sakebrajeb.jpg) [Geography of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Jordan)





[Th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sakebrajeb.jpg)[e mountains of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AqabaVueDeLaMer.JPG) [Jerash Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AqabaVueDeLaMer.JPG)[ate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash_Governorate)





[Th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AqabaVueDeLaMer.JPG)e [Gulf of Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Aqaba) is named after the historic port of [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)

Jordan lies between latitudes [29°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/29th_parallel_north) and [34° N,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/34th_parallel_north) and longitudes [35°](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_meridian_east) and [40° E](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th_meridian_east) (a small area lies west of 35°). It cons[ists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/29th_parallel_north) of a[n arid p](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/34th_parallel_north)lateau in the ea[st, ir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/35th_meridian_east)riga[ted by](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40th_meridian_east) oasis and seasonal water streams, with highland area in the west of arable land and   
Mediterranean evergreen forestry.

The [Jordan Rift Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley) of the [Jordan River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_River) separates Jord[an from Israel and th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabal_Umm_al_Dami)e Pale[stinian Territories.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley) The hi[ghest point in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_River) the country is [Jabal Umm al Dami,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabal_Umm_al_Dami) at 1,854 [m (6,083](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) ft) above sea level, its top is also covered [with snow, while the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabal_Umm_al_Dami) lowest [is the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization) [Dead Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) −420 m (−1,378 [f](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant)t). Jordan is p[art of a region co](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent)nsidered to be "the [cradl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization)[e of c](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)[ivilizatio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)[n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization)", t[he](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Salt) [Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant) region of [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid) [Fertile Crescent.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent) [M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarqa)ajor cities include [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization) [capital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba) [Amman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) [a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization)nd [as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Salt)[-Salt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant) [in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levant) the west, [Irbi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid)[d,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent) [Jerash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent) [Zar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_Crescent)[qa,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarqa) in the northwest and [Mada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba)[ba,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) [Karak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) and [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Salt) i[n the so](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq)uth[west.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid) [Major](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash) tow[ns in th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarqa)e eastern part of the [country a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba)[re the o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Karak)asis [town o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)f [Azraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq) and [Ruwaished.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruwaished)

**Climate**

Main article: [Climate of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Jordan)

The climate in Jordan is semi-dry in summer with average temperature in the mid 30 °C (86 °F) and relatively cold in winter averaging around 13 °C (55 °F). The western part of the country receives greater precipitation during the winter season from November to March and snowfall in Amman (756 m (2,480 ft) ~ 1,280 m (4,199 ft) above sea-level) and Western Heights of 500 m (1,640 ft). [Excl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jordan_weather_guide-42)uding the rift valley the rest of the country is entirely above 300 m (984 ft) (SL)[.[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jordan_weather_guide-42) The weather is humid from November to March and semi dry for the rest [of the ye](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation_%28meteorology%29)[ar.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Jordan_weather_guide-42) [W](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation_%28meteorology%29)ith hot, dry summers and c[ool winters during which pra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_climate)ctically all of the [precipitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation_%28meteorology%29) occurs, the country has a [Mediterranean-style climate.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) In general, the f[arther inland f](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precipitation_%28meteorology%29)rom the   
Medi[terranean a given part of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) country lies, the greater are the seasonal contrasts in temperature and the less rainfall.

**Politics and government**

[Main articles:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Abdullah_II_of_Jordan,_2007March07_(cropped).jpg) [Politics of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Jordan) and [Government of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Jordan)





[King Abdullah II,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan) Jordanian Head of State.





[Queen Rania of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Rania_of_Jordan)

The [Hashemite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite) Kingdom of Jordan is a constitutional monarchy with an appointed gov[ernment. Th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite)e reigning monarch is the chief executive and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The king exercises his executive authority through the prime ministers and the Council of Ministers, or cabinet.

The cabinet is [responsible before the demo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Jordan)cratically elected [House of Deputies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_Jordan) which, along with the [House of Notables (Senate)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Jordan), constitutes the le[gislative branch of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_Jordan) the government. T[he judicial branch is an inde](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Jordan)pendent branch of the government.

[King Abdullah II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan) succeeded his father Hussein foll[owing the latt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace)er's [death i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel)n February [1999. Abdullah m](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_II_of_Jordan)oved quickly to reaffirm Jordan's [peace treaty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace) with [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) and its relations with the United States. Abdullah, during t[he first year i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel-Jordan_Treaty_of_Peace)n po[wer, re](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel)focused the government's agenda on economic reform.

The [Parliament of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan) consists of two Chambers: The Chamber of Deputies (‘M[ajlis al-](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan)Nuwaab’) and the Senate (‘Majlis al-Aayan’; literally, ‘Assembly of

Notables’). The Senate has 60 Senators, all of whom are directly appointed by the King[,[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-43) while the Chamber of Deputies/House of Representatives has 120 elected mem[bers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-43) representing 12 constituencies. The elected Chamber of Deputies can initiate legislation, but it ha[s to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-44) pass through the senate and government, which are both appointed by the King[.[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-44)

Jordan has multi-pa[rty polit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_%28politician%29)[ics.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-44) [P](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_%28politician%29)olitical pa[rties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-45) contest fewer than a fifth of the seats, while the rest go to [independent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_%28politician%29) politicians[.[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-45) A ne[w political parties law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Interior) enacted in July 2012 placed p[arties under t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_%28politician%29)he jurisdic[t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-46)[ion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-45) of the [Ministry of Interior,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Interior) and forbid the establishment of religion-based parties[.[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-46)

The [last parliamentary elections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_parliamentary_election,_2013) were held [on](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-46) 23 January 2013. Because of a history of ri[gged elections, government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_parliamentary_election,_2013) critics have dismi[ssed them as merely cosmetic.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Muslim_Brotherhood) Some opposition groups, includin[g the l](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hirak)argest, the [Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Muslim_Brotherhood) and the protest network known as [Hirak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hirak) boycotted [the vote.[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Muslim_Brotherhood)

**Law**





[A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Female_police_officer_in_Amman.JPG) fe[male police officer in](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1) [Amman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)

[The](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Law) [Jordanian legal system](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1) is derived from the [Napoleonic code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_code) (inherited from the [Otto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Law)[man](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1) [Egyptian](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1) [lega](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Law_of_Jordan&action=edit&redlink=1)l systems) and [Shar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia)[ia. It has also bee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_code)n influenced by tribal [traditions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Law)[.[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48)

The highe[st c](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48)ourt is the [Court of Cassation,](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Court_of_Cassation_%28Jordan%29&action=edit&redlink=1) followed by the [Courts of Appeal.](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Court_of_Appeal_%28Jordan%29&action=edit&redlink=1)[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48) The lower courts are divided [into civil courts an](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Court_of_Cassation_%28Jordan%29&action=edit&redlink=1)d sharia courts. [Civil courts have](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Court_of_Appeal_%28Jordan%29&action=edit&redlink=1)   
jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases, while the sharia courts have jurisdiction over personal status for Muslims, including marriage, d[ivo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48)rce, and inheritance; parallel tribunals handle such matters for non-Mu[slims.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqfs)[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48) Shari’a courts also have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the Islamic [waqfs.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqfs) [I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-women-jordan-48)n cases involving parties of different religions, regular courts have jurisdictio[n.[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqfs)

The [Constitution of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Jordan) was adopted on Januar[y 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-kinghussein.gov.jo-49), 1952 and has been amended man[y times. Article 97 of J](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Jordan)ordan's constitution guarantees the independence of the judicial branch, clearly stating that judges are 'subject to no authority but that of the law.' While the king must approve t[he appointment and dism](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Higher_Judicial_Council&action=edit&redlink=1)issal of judges, in practice these are supervised by the [Higher Judicial Council.](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Higher_Judicial_Council&action=edit&redlink=1) Article 99 of the Constitution divides the courts into [three categories: civil, re](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Higher_Judicial_Council&action=edit&redlink=1)ligious 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, High Administrative Courts and the Supreme Court.

The Family Law in force is the Personal Status Law of 1976[.[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-unesco1-50) Sharia Courts have jurisdiction over personal status matters relating to Muslims.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-unesco1-50)

[Jordan's law enforcement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Jordan) ranked 24th in the world, 4th in th[e M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-51)iddle East, in terms of [police services' reliability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Jordan) in the Global Competitiveness Report. Jordan also ranked 13th in the world and 3rd in the Middle East in terms of [pre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-jordaninvestment.com-52)vention of organized crime, making it one of the safest countries in the world[.[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-jordaninvestment.com-52)

**Foreign relations**

Main article: [Foreign relations of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Jordan)





[Ki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Abdullah_II.jpg)ng Abdullah II on a visit to The Pentagon.

Jordan has followed a pro-Western foreign policy and maintained close relations with the United States and the United Kingdom. These relations w[ere damag](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_War)ed by Jordan's neutrality and maintaining relations with Iraq during the first [Gulf War.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_War) Following the Gulf War, Jordan largely restored its relations with Western [countries t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_War)hrough its participation in the Southwest Asia peace process and enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq. Relations between Jordan and the Persian Gulf countries improved substantially after King Hussein's death.

Jordan is a key ally of the USA and, to[gether](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-53) with Egypt, one of only two Arab nations to have made peace with Israel[.[53][54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-53)

In Israel in 2009, several [Likud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likud) lawma[kers pr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-53)oposed a bill that called for a Palestinian state on both sides of the [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Likud) River, presuming that Jordan should be the   
alternative homeland for the Palestinians. Later, following similar remarks by the [Israeli Speaker of the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan) Knesset, twenty Jordanian lawmakers proposed a bill in the [Jordanian Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan) in which the peace treaty between Israel and Jo[rdan w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-55)ould be [frozen. The Israeli Fo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Jordan)reign Ministry disavowed the original proposal[.[55][56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-55)

**Military**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordanarmyissa.jpg) [Jordanian Armed Fo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordanarmyissa.jpg)[rces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces)





[Jo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordanarmyissa.jpg)rdanian troops in a military parade in Amman

The Jordanian military enjoys strong support and aid from the United States, the United Kingdom and France. This is due to its critical position between Israel, the West Bank, Syria, Iraq, and Sa[udi Arabia with very close](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Special_Forces) proximity to Lebanon and Egypt. The development of the [Special Operations Forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Special_Forces) has been particularly

significant, enhancing the capability of the forces to react rapidly to th[reats t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-57)o state security, as well as training special forces from the region and beyond[.[57][58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-57)

[There are abo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacekeeping)ut 50,000 Jordanian troops working with the United Nati[ons in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-57)   
[peacekeeping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacekeeping) missions across the world. These soldiers provide everything from [military defen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacekeeping)se, training of native police, medical help, and cha[rity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-59). Jordan ranks third internationally in taking part in UN peacekeeping missions[.[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-59) Jordan has o[ne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-60) of the highest levels of peacekeeping troop contributions of all U.N[. m](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-59)ember states[.[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-60)

Jordan has dispatched several field hospit[als t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)o conflict zones [and areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) affected [by](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-60) [natur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti)al disasters across t[he world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia) such as [Iraq,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea) West Bank, [Lebanon,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) Afghanistan, [Haiti,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti) Indonesia, Congo, [Liberia,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia) Ethiopi[a,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) [Eri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)[trea,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea) Sierra Leon[e and Pa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon)kistan. The [King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiti)dom's field hospital[s extend](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia)ed aid to [more tha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eritrea)n one million people in Iraq, some one million in the West Bank and 55,000 in Lebanon. According to the military, there are Jordanian peacekeeping forces in Asi[a, Africa, Eu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan)rope and Latin America.

Jordanian Armed Forces field hospital in [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) has since 2002 provided assistance to some 750,000 persons and h[as significan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan)tly reduced the suffering of people residing in areas where the hospital operates.In so[me](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-61) missions, the number of Jordanian troops was the second largest, th[e so](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-62)urc[es said](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories)[.[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-61) [Jordan also](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories) [pro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-63)vides [exten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooperation_Council_for_the_Arab_States_of_the_Gulf)[sive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-64) training of security forces in Iraq[,[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-62) the [Palest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories)[inia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-61)[n territories,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories)[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-63) and the [GCC.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooperation_Council_for_the_Arab_States_of_the_Gulf)[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-64)

**[Adm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooperation_Council_for_the_Arab_States_of_the_Gulf)[ini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-64)strative divisions**

Main article: [Governorates of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governorates_of_Jordan)

Jordan is divided into 12 province[s named](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahias_of_Jordan) [Governorates,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governorates_of_Jordan) which are sub-divided into 54 departments or districts named [Nahias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahias_of_Jordan).

**No. Governorate Capital**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | [Irbid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid_Governorate) | [Irbid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid) |
| 2 | [Ajloun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajloun_Governorate) | [Ajloun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajloun) |
| 3 | [Jarash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash_Governorate) | [Jerash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash) |
| 4 | [Mafraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafraq_Governorate) | [Mafraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafraq) |
| 5 | [Balqa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balqa_Governorate) | [Salt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt,_Jordan) |
| 6 | [Amman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman_Governorate) | [Amman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) |
| 7 | [Zarqa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarqa_Governorate) | [Zarqa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarqa) |
| 8 | [Madaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba_Governorate) | [Madaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba) |
| 9 | [Karak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karak_Governorate) | [Al Karak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Karak) |
| 10 [Tafilah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafilah_Governorate) | | [Tafilah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafilah) |
| 11 [Ma'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27an_Governorate) | | [Ma'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27an) |
| [G](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan,_administrative_divisions_-_Nmbrs_-_colored.svg)overnorates of Jordan | 12 [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba_Governorate) | | [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba) |

**Human rights**

Main article: [Human rights in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Jordan)

The 2010 Arab Democracy Index from the Arab Reform Initiat[ive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-65) ranked Jordan first in the state of democratic reforms out of fifteen Arab countries[.[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-65)

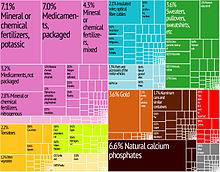
[Civil liberties and political rights s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World)cored 5 and 6 respectively in [Fr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-65)eedom House's [Freedom in the World 2011 rep](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World)[ort,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-66) where 1 is most free and 7 is least free. This [earned Jordan "Not Free" status](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World)[.[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-66) Jordan ranked ahead of 6, behind 4, and the same as 8 countries in the Middle Eas[t an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-66)d North Africa region.

Jordan ranked 6th among the 19 countries in the Mid[dle East and North Africa regi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index)on, and 50th out of [178 countries worldwide in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparency_International) [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-67) 2010 [Corruption Perceptions Index](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) (CPI) issued by [Transparency International.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparency_International)[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-67) Jorda[n's 2010 CPI score was 4.7 on](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) [a scale from 0 (hi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_against_Corruption)[ghly corrupt) to 10 (very cle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transparency_International)[an)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-67). Jordan rati[fied](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-68) the [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_against_Corruption) [Convention against Corruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_against_Corruption) (UNCAC) in February 2005[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-68) and [has been a regional leader in spearheading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_against_Corruption) efforts to promote the UNC[AC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-68) and its   
implementation[.[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-jordaninvestment.com-52)

According to [a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment) [201](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-jordaninvestment.com-52)[0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment) [Pew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) [G](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment)lobal Attitude[s survey, 86](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostasy_in_Islam)% of Jordanians polled   
supported the [death](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment) [penal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center)[ty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment) for those who [leave Islam;](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostasy_in_Islam) 58% supported whippings and cutting off of [hands for thef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment)t and robbery; [and 70% su](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostasy_in_Islam)pport stoning people who commit adultery[.[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-pgap-69)

**Economy**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_Export_Treemap.jpg) [Economy of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_Export_Treemap.jpg)





[Gr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_Export_Treemap.jpg)aphical depiction of Jor[dan 's produc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank)t exports in 28 color-coded categories[.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-data.worldbank.org-10)

Jordan is classified by the [World Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank) as an "upper middle income country."[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-data.worldbank.org-10) The economy has grown at an average rate of 4.3% per annum since 2005[.[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70)   
Approximately 13% of the population lives on less than US$ 3 a day[.[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70)

The GDP per cap[ita r](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-71)[ose by 351%](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability) in the 1970s, declined 30% in the [198](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70)0s[, and ro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)[se](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-72) 36% in the 1990s[.[71][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-71)*[not in citation given](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability)*[]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability) Jordan has [a fre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-73)e trade agreement with [Turkey.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-72) Jordan also enjoy[s ad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-71)[vanced status](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability) with the EU[.[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-73)

The Jordanian ec[on](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-factbook-3)omy is beset by insufficient supplies of water, oil, and other natural resources[.[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-factbook-3) Other challenges include high bud[get](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70) deficit, high outstanding public debt, high [lev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-factbook-3)els of poverty and unemployment[.[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70) Unemployment for 2012 is

nominally around 13%, but [is t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)hought by many analys[ts to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70) be as hig[h as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) a quarter of the working age population[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) Youth unemploy[men](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)t is nearly 30%[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) Jordan has few natural resources and a [sm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)[all](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasta) industrial bas[e.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) Corruption is p[arti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)cu[larly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain) pronounced, and the use of [wasta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasta) is widespread[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) [J](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)ordan suffers from a [brain drain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain) of its most talented worker[s.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasta) [R](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasta)emittances fro[m J](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)ordanian expatriates a[re a major](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brain_drain) source of foreign exchange[.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75)[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)

Due to slow domestic grow[th,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75) high energy and food subsidies and a bloated public

sector workforce, Jordan u[sual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)ly runs annual budget deficits, which are partially offsets by international aid[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)

Jordan’s economy is relatively well diversified[.[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75) Trade and finance combined

account for nearly one-third of GDP; transport[atio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75)n and communication, public

utilities, and construction accou[nt fo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75)r one-fifth, and mining and manufacturing constitute nearly that proportion[.[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75) Despite plans to i[ncre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75)ase the private sector, the state remains the dominant force in Jordan’s economy[.[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-britdem-75) The government employs between one-third and two-thirds of all workers[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)

[In 2000, Jordan joined the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan%E2%80%93United_States_Free_Trade_Agreement) [World Trade Organiz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization)[atio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)[n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization) and signed the [Jordan–United](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan%E2%80%93United_States_Free_Trade_Agreement)

[States Free Trade Agreem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan%E2%80%93United_States_Free_Trade_Agreement)[ent; in 2001, it signed an as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization)sociation agree[ment with the European Union.[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan%E2%80%93United_States_Free_Trade_Agreement)

Net [official deve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_development_assistance)[lop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-efjordan-76)[ment assistance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_development_assistance) to Jordan in 2009 totalled USD 761 million;

acc[ording to the government, appro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_development_assistance)xim[atel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70)y two-thirds of this was allocated as grants, of which half was direct budget support[.[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70)

The [Great Recession](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Recession) and the turmoil ca[used](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oecd-jord-70) by the [Arab Spring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring) have depressed Jord[an's GDP growth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Recession), impacting export-oriented se[ctors, constru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring)ction, and tourism[.[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-factbook-3)

Tourist arrivals have drop[ped](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77) sharply since 2011, hitting an important source of revenue and employment[.[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77)

In an attempt to quell pop[ula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77)r discontent, the government promised in 2011 to keep

energy and f[ood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77) prices artificially low, while raising wages and pension[s for bloated public se](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Gas_Pipeline)ctor[.[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77) Jordan's finances have also been strained by a series of [natural gas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Gas_Pipeline)

[pipeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Gas_Pipeline) attac[ks i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77)n Eg[ypt,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated4-78) causing Jordan to substitute more expensive h[eavy fuel oils to gener](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Gas_Pipeline)ate electricity[.[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated4-78) The government [was](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77) then forced to spend at least $500 million to cover the re[sult](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated4-78)ing fuel shortage[.[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77)

The International Monetary Fund agreed to [a t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ftharsh-77)hree-year, $2 bil[lion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) loan in August 2012. As part of the deal, Jordan was [ex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)pected to cut spending[.[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) In November 2012, the government cut subsidies on fuel[.[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79) As a result, large scal[e pr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)ote[sts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74) broke out across the country, and the King subsequently reversed the increase.”[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74)

The total foreign debt in 2012 was $22 billion, representing 72% of [GDP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-congresser-74). Roughly

two-thirds of this total ha[d b](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)een raised on the domestic market, with the remaining owed to overseas lenders[.[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79) In late November 2012, [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79) budgetary shortfall was estimated at around $3 bi[llio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)n, or about 11% of GDP[.[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79) Growth was expected to

reach 3% by the end of 2012, [an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)d the IMF predicts GDP will increase by 3.5% in 2013[, ris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)ing to 4.5% by 2017[.[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79) The inflation rate was forecast at 4.5% by the end of 2012[.[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)

[The o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_drawing_rights)[ffic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-oxbiz-79)[ial currency i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_drawing_rights)n Jordan is the [Jordanian dinar,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_dinar) which is pegged to the IMF's [special drawing rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_drawing_rights) (SDRs), equiv[alent to an excha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_dinar)nge rate of 1 US$ = 0.709 dinar, [or approximately 1 din](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_drawing_rights)ar = 1.41044 dollars[.[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-80)

[The proportion of skil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Jordan)led workers in Jordan [is](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-80) among the highest in the region[.[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-81) [Agriculture in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Jordan) constituted [alm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82)ost 40% of GNP in the early 1950s; on th[e e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-81)[ve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNP) [of the June 1967 War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Jordan), it w[as 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82)7%[.[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82) By the mid-1980s, agriculture's share of [GNP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNP) in Jordan was only about 6%[.[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82) Jor[dan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82) has hosted the World Economic Forum [on the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNP) Middle East and North A[fr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-83)[ica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-LOC-82) six times and plans to hold it again at the Dead Sea for the seventh time in 2013[.[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-83)

**Natural resources**





[A phospha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_phosphate)te train at Ram station

[Phosphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_phosphate) mines in the south have m[ade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-84) [Jor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-84)[dan o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-86)[ne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-88) of the largest producers and [exporters o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_phosphate)f this mineral in the world[.[84][85][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-84)[86][87][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-86)[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-88)

Four nuclear power plants are planne[d with](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-84) [the fi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-86)[rst](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-88) one to be operational in 2019[.[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-89)

Since the beginning of 2010, the government of Jordan has been seeking approval from the US for producing nuclear fuel from Jordan's [uranium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haaretz) for use in nuclear power plants that Jordan plans to build. According to *[Haaretz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haaretz)*[,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haaretz) Jordan learned that the US position [is e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-90)ssentially the Israeli position, and the [US has r](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haaretz)ejected Jordan's request for approval[.[90]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-90)

Natural gas [was](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-90) discovered in Jordan in 1987, and the estimated size of the reserve discovered was about 230 billion cubic feet, and quantities are very modest compared with its neighbours. It was the development of the Risha field in the Eastern Desert beside the Iraqi border, and the field produces nearly 30 million cubic feet of gas a day, t[o be](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-91) sent to a nearby power plant to produce nearly 10% of the Jordan's Electric needs[.[91]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-91)

Despi[te t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-91)he fact that reserves of crude oil are non-commercial, Jordan possesses one of the world's richest stockpiles of oil shale where there are huge quantities that could be commercially exploited in the central and northern regions west of the country. The moisture content and ash within is relatively low. And the total thermal value is

7.5 meg[ajo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-92)ules/kg, and the content of ointments reach 9% of the weight of the organic content[.[92]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-92) A switch to power plants operated by oil shale has the potential to reduce Jordan'[s en](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-92)ergy b[ill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-93) by at least 40–50 per cent, according to the National Electric Power Company[.[93]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-93)

**Tourism**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Treasury_Petra.jpg) [Tourism in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_Jordan)





[Petra,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra) one of the [New Seven Wonders of the World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Seven_Wonders_of_the_World)

Tourism accounted for 10%–12% of the country's Gross National Product in 2006. In 2010, there were 8 million visitors to Jordan. The res[ult w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-94)as $3.4 billion in tourism revenues, $4.4 billion if medical tourists are inclu[ded](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra)[.[94]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-94) Jo[rdan o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash)ffers everything from world-class historical and cultural sit[es like](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) [Petr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra)[a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-94) [an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-94)d [Jerash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash) to modern   
entertainm[ent in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba) urba[n areas mo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)st notably [Amma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)[n. Mo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petra)reo[ver, sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash)side recreation is present in [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba) and [Dead Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) through n[umerous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) int[ernational resorts. Eco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Nature_Reserve)-tourists have num[erous n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)[atur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mt._Nebo)[e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) [reserves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea) to choose from as like [Dana Nature Reserve.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Nature_Reserve) Religious tourists visit [Mt. Nebo,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mt._Nebo) the Baptist Site, and the mosa[ic city of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Nature_Reserve) [Madaba.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Nature_Reserve)

Jordan has n[ightclubs,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mt._Nebo) discothèques and bars in Amman, Irbid, [Aqaba,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madaba) and many 4 and 5-star hotels. Furthermore, beach clubs are also offered at the Dead Sea and Aqaba. Jordan played host to the Petra Prana Festival in 2007 which celebrated Petra's [win as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiesto) one [of the New](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Main) Seven Wonders of the World with w[orld-renow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi_Rum)ned DJs like [Tiesto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiesto) and [Sarah Main.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Main) The annual Distant Heat festival in [Wadi Rum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi_Rum) and Aqaba [ranked](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiesto) as [one of the w](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Main)orld's top 10 raves.





[Ex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Baptism_Site.jpg)cavated remains of [Bethabara,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethabara) Jordan, where [John the Baptist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist) is believed to have conducted his ministr[y.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethabara)

[Nature reserves in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_reserves_in_Jordan) [include the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaumari_Wildlife_Reserve) [Dana Biosphere Reserve,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Biosphere_Reserve) [Azraq Wetland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq_Wetland_Reserve) [Reserve,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_reserves_in_Jordan) [Shaumari Wildli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_reserves_in_Jordan)[fe Reserve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaumari_Wildlife_Reserve) [and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Biosphere_Reserve) [Mujib Nature Reserv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Biosphere_Reserve)e[.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq_Wetland_Reserve)

**[Medical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq_Wetland_Reserve) [tourism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaumari_Wildlife_Reserve)**

Jordan has been a [medical tourism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_tourism) [destination in the Middle East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_Hospitals_Association_%28Jordan%29) since the 1970s. A study conducted b[y](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_tourism) [Jordan's Privat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_tourism)[e Hospitals Association (PHA)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_Hospitals_Association_%28Jordan%29) found that 250,000 patients from 102 c[ountries received treatment in the kingdom in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_Hospitals_Association_%28Jordan%29) 2010, compared to 190,000 in 2007, bringing over $1 [billion in rev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank)enue. It is the region's top me[dical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-95) tourism destination as rated by the [World Bank,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank) and fifth in the world overall[.[95][96][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-95)[97]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-97)

It is estimated that Jordan received [50,000 Liby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank)an patients and 80,000 Syrian refug[ees,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-98) who also sought treatment in Jordanian hospitals, in the first six months of 2012[.[98]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-98)

Jorda[n's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-98) main focus o[f at](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-99)tention in its marketing effort are the ex-Soviet states, Europe, and America[.[99]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-99) Most common medical procedures on Arab and foreign patients included org[an tr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-99)ansplants, open heart surgeries, [infe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-100)rtility treatment, laser vision corrections, bone operations and cancer treatment[.[100]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-100)

**Transportation**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Royaljord.a310-300.f-odvi.750pix.jpg) [Transport in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Royaljord.a310-300.f-odvi.750pix.jpg)





[A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Royaljord.a310-300.f-odvi.750pix.jpg) Royal Jordanian [Airbus A310-300](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airbus_A310-300)

[Being that](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories) Jor[dan i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)s a transit country for goods and services to the [Palestinian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories) [territories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories) and [Iraq,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) Jordan maintains a well-developed transportat[ion infrastructure. Jordan ran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_territories)ked [as h](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)aving the 35th best infrastructure in the world, one of the highest rankings in the developing [worl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www3.weforum.org-101)d, according to the World Economic Forum's Index of Economic Competitiveness[.[101]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www3.weforum.org-101)

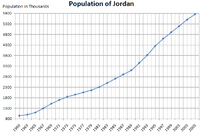
The Port of Aqaba was rank[ed a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www3.weforum.org-101)s having the "Best Container Terminal" in the Middle East in 2006 by Lloyds List[.[102]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-102)

There are three commercial [airp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-102)ort[s, all rece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman)iving and sending international   
[comme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)rcial flights, two of them in Amman [and the third is located in the city](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport) of [Aqaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba). The largest airport in the co[untry is](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman) [Queen Alia International Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport) in [Amma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqaba)n that serves as the hub of the intern[ational airline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport) [Royal Jordanian. T](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_International_Airport)he airport [is currently under sign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman_Civil_Airport)ificant expansion in a bid to make [it the hub for the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Jordanian) Lev[ant.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_Airport) [Amman Civil Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman_Civil_Airport) was the country's main airport before it was replaced by [Queen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_Airport)

[Alia Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_Airport) but it still serves several regional routes. [King Hussein International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_International_Airport) [Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_Airport) [serve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Alia_Airport)s Aqaba with connections to Amman an[d several regional and internat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_International_Airport)ional cities.

**Demographics**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_pop.png) [Demographics of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_pop.png) [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Jordan)





[Gr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jordan_pop.png)aph showing the population of Jordan, 1960–2005

The Jorda[nian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-popest2011-103) Department of Statistics estimated the 2011 population at   
6,249,000[.[103]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-popest2011-103) In 2009, the population of Jordan was slightly over 6,300,000[.[104]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated5-104) There wer[e 94](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-popest2011-103)6,000 households in Jordan in 2004, with an average of 5.3 persons/household (compared to 6 persons/household for the census of 1994)[.[105]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-105)

A study publ[ished by](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrians) [Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Luca_Cavalli-Sforza) found that the J[orda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Luigi_Luca_Cavalli-Sforza.2C_Paolo_Menozzi.2C_Alberto_Piazza-106)nian gen[etics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-105) are closest to the [Assyria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrians)[ns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Luca_Cavalli-Sforza) [among all other nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Luca_Cavalli-Sforza) of Western Asia[.[106]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Luigi_Luca_Cavalli-Sforza.2C_Paolo_Menozzi.2C_Alberto_Piazza-106)

**Immigrant[s and ref](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrians)ugees**

In 2007, th[ere were 700,000–1,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_people)000,000 [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)[is in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqis_in_Jordan)[.[107]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-107) Since the [Iraq War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War) many Christians [(Assyrians/Chaldeans)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_people) from [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) [have s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqis_in_Jordan)[ettle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-108)[d](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqis_in_Jordan) [per](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-107)manently [or tempor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War)arily in Jordan. [They could number as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_people) many [as 5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)00,000[.[108]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-108) There were also [15,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-109)000 Lebanese who emigrated to Jordan following the 2[006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-108) War with Israel[.[109]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-109)

There are [1,20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-110)0,000 illegal and some 500,000 legal migrant workers in [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-109) Kingdom[.[110]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-110) Furthermore, there are thousands of foreign women working in nightclub[s, ho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-110)[tels an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-N._Zaqqa_2006.2C_p._11-111)[d ba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-113)rs across the kingdom, mostly from Eastern Europe and North Africa[.[111][112][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-N._Zaqqa_2006.2C_p._11-111)[113]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-113)

Jordan is ho[me to a r](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-N._Zaqqa_2006.2C_p._11-111)[elat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-113)ively large American and European expatriate population concentrated mainly in the capital as the city is home to many international organiza[tions an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated3-114)d diplomatic missions that base their regional operations in Amman[.[114][115]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated3-114)

Accordi[ng to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated3-114) [U](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated3-114)[NRWA,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNRWA) Jordan [was](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-116) home to 1,951,603 [Palestinian refugees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinians_in_Jordan) in 2008, most o[f the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-117)m [Jordanian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNRWA) citizens[.[116]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-116) 338,000 of them w[ere living in UNRW](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinians_in_Jordan)A refugee camps[.[117]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-117) Jordan revoked the c[itize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-116)nship of thousands of Palestinians to thwart any attemp[t to](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-117) resettle West Bank residents in Jordan. West Bank Palestinians with family in Jordan or Jordanian citizenship were issued yellow cards guaranteeing them all the rights of Jordanian citizenship. Palestinians living in Jordan with family in the West

Bank were also issued yellow cards. All other Palestinians w[ishin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-118)g such Jordanian papers were issued green cards to facilitate travel into Jordan[.[118]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-118)

**Language**

The official language is [Modern Standard Arabic,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) a literary lang[uage taught in the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Arabic) schools. The native lang[uages of most Jordanians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) are dialects of [Jordanian Arabic,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Arabic) a nonstandard version of Arabic with many influences from Engli[sh, French and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Arabic) Turkish.

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.

[Russian,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language) [Circassian,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circassian_language) [Armenian,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_language) [Tagalog,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagalog_language) [Tamil,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language) and [Chechen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chechen_language) are quite popular [among t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language)[heir commu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circassian_language)[nities and a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_language)[cknowled](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagalog_language)[ged wi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language)dely [in the kin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chechen_language)gdom.

It's believed that most, if not a[ll, publi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language)c schools in the country teach the English and Standard Arab[ic (to a degree).](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=L%27Ecole_fran%C3%A7aise_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1) [French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language) [is el](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=L%27Ecole_fran%C3%A7aise_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1)ectiv[e in many schools, mainl](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lyc%C3%A9e_fran%C3%A7ais_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1)y in the private sector. [L'Ecole françai](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=L%27Ecole_fran%C3%A7aise_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1)[se d'Am](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language)[man](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=L%27Ecole_fran%C3%A7aise_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Lycée français d'Amman](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lyc%C3%A9e_fran%C3%A7ais_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1) are the most famous French [language schools in the cap](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=L%27Ecole_fran%C3%A7aise_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1)ital. [French remains an elite la](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lyc%C3%A9e_fran%C3%A7ais_d%27Amman&action=edit&redlink=1)nguage in Jordan, despite not enjoying the popularity it did in older times.

[German](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language) is an increasingly popular language among the elite and t[he educated; it's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) [been mo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language)[st l](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)ikely introduced at a larger scale after the début of the [Deutsch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) [Universität,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) or as officially named, the *German-Jordanian Univer[sity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)*[. A historic society of G](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)erman Protesta[nts o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-119)f Amman continue to use the German language in their events and daily lives[.[119]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-119)

The media in Jordan revolv[es m](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-119)ainly around English, with many British [and mostly Americ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic)an programmes and films s[hown on local tel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Egypt)evision and cinemas. [Egyptian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic) [Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic) is very popular, with many [Egyptian movies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Egypt) playing in cinemas a[cross the country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic).

The government-owned *Jordan TV* shows programmes and newscasts in Arabic (Standard and Jordanian), English and French; *Radio Jordan* offers radio services in Standard Arabic, the Jordanian dialects (informally), English and French, as well. It should be noted that when an English-language film is shown in a cinema, it'll be translated to both: French and Standard Arabic.

**Religion**

Main article: [Religion in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Jordan)



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [A](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Abu_Darweesh_Mosque.jpg)bu Darweesh Mosque |  |  |
| Religion | **[Religion in Jordan[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Jordan)** | Percent |
| [Sunni Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Muslims) | 92% |
| Christians |  | 6% |
| Other |  | 2% |

Islam is the offi[cial rel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni)igion and approximately 92% of the population is Muslim, primarily of the [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni) branch of Islam.

Jordan has laws [promo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni)ting religious freedom, but they fall short of protecting all minority groups. Muslims who c[onve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-120)rt to another religion as well as missionaries face societal and legal discrimination[.[120]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-120)

According to the [Legatum Prosp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legatum_Prosperity_Index)[erity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-120) [Index,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legatum_Prosperity_Index) 46.2% of Jordanians regularly attend religious services [in 2006.[121]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legatum_Prosperity_Index)

Jordan has an indigenous [Chr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-legatumworship-121)[istia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-lat-122)n minority. Christians made up 30% of the Jordanian population in 1950[.[122]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-lat-122)

[Other](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith) religious minorities gro[ups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-lat-122) in Jordan include adherents to [the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq) [Druze](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druze) and [Bahá'í](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith) [Faith.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith) [The Dr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian)uze are mainly located [in the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarka) eastern oasis town of [Az](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq)[raq, so](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druze)me v[illages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith) [on th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith)[e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley) [Syrian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian) border and the city [of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith) [Zarka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarka), while the village Ada[ssiyeh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azraq) bordering the Jordan [Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian) is home to Jordan's B[ahá'í](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarka) [c](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zarka)ommunity.

**[Culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Rift_Valley)**

[Main articles:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mansaf1_cropped.jpg) [Culture of Jordan,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mansaf1_cropped.jpg) [J](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mansaf1_cropped.jpg)[ordanian cuisine,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_cuisine) and [Sport in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sport_in_Jordan)





[M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mansaf1_cropped.jpg)[ansaf,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mansaf) the national dish of Jordan[.[123]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-123)





[Pr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Prince_Ali_Shot_finalc.jpg)[ince Ali bin Al Hussein,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Ali_bin_Al_Hussein) Vice President of the [FIFA.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA)

Although religion and tradition play an important part in modern-day Jordanian society, Jordanians live in a relatively secular society that is increasingly grappling with the effects of glob[aliza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-124)tion. Jordan is considered one of the Arab World's most cosmopolitan countries[.[124]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-124) 67% of Jordanian yo[uth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-125) identify themselves as liberals, second highest in the A[rab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-124) World after Lebanon[.[125]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-125)

According to the Center for Strategic Studies, 52[% o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-125)f Jordanians support a secular state in which religious practices were considered to be “private matters that must be differentiated from social and political life", 6% express indifference towards a secular state or a more [relig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-126)ious one, while 42% prefer more religious involvement in social and political life[.[126]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-126)

**Arts**

Main article: [Jordanian art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_art)

**This section is empty.**You can help by [adding to it.](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jordan&action=edit&section=)*(January 2013)*

**Popular culture**

Main articles: [Music of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Jordan) and [Cinema of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Jordan)

Jordan imports the overwhelming majority of its music, ci[nema,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) and other forms of [entertain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon)men[t from](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) other countries most specifically other [Arab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) countries like [Lebanon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) and [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) as well as by the West primarily the U[nited](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) States. However, [there has](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) bee[n a rise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) of home-grown songs, music, art, movies and television, but they pale in comparison to the amount imported from abroad.

**Media**

Main article: [Media of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_of_Jordan)

[Jordan ranked 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_House)41 out [of 196 countries worldwide, earnin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_Press_%28report%29)[g "](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Freedom_House-127)Not Free" status in [Freedom House'](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_House)s 2011 [Freedom of the Press 2011 report.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_Press_%28report%29)[[127]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Freedom_House-127) Jordan ha[d the 5th freest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index) [press of 19 coun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_House)tries in [the Middle East and North Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_Press_%28report%29) [regi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-Freedom_House-127)on. In the [2010 Press](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index)

[Freedom Index](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index) maintained by [Reporters Without Borders,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders) Jordan ranked 120th out of [178 countries li](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index)sted, 5th out of [the 20 countries in the Mid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders)dle East and North [Afri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-128)ca region. Jordan's score was 37 on a scale from 0 (most free) to 105 (least free)[.[128]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-128)

**Health**

Main article: [Health in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_in_Jordan)

Jordan prides itself on its health service, one of the best in the region[.[129]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated1-129) Government figures have put total health spending in 2002 at some 7.5% of Gross [dom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-autogenerated1-129)estic product (GDP), while international h[ealth organizations pl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_Factbook)ace the figure even higher, at approximately 9.3% of GDP. The [CIA World Factbook](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_Factbook) estimate[s life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-130) expectancy in Jordan is 80.18 years, the second hig[hest in the region (aft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_Factbook)er Israe[l)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cps-who-131)[.[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-130) The WHO gives a considerably lower figure however, at 73.0 yea[rs fo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-hdr.undp.org-132)r 2011[.[1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cps-who-131)[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-130) [T](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-130)here were 203 physicians per 100,000 people in the years 2000–2004[.[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-hdr.undp.org-132)

The country's health care system is divided between pu[blic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-hdr.undp.org-132) and private institutions. In the public sector, the Ministry of Health operates 1,245 primary health-care centers and 27 hospitals, accounting for 37% of all hospital beds in the country; the m[ilitary's Royal Medical Serv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_Hospital)ices runs 11 hospitals, providing 24% of all beds; and the [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_Hospital) [University Hospital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_Hospital) accounts for 3% of total beds in the country. The private [sector provides 36% of all](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_Hospital) hospital beds, distributed among 56 hospitals. In 1 June 2007, Jordan Hospital (as the biggest private hospit[al) was t](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JCAHO)[he fi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cp-133)rst g[eneral specialty hospita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_Cancer_Center)l to get the international accreditation [JCAHO.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JCAHO)[[133]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cp-133) The [King Hussein Cancer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_Cancer_Center) [Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_Cancer_Center) is a leading cancer treatment center.

[70% of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Hussein_Cancer_Center) the population has medical insurance[.[134]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ReferenceB-134) Childhood [immunization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immunization) [rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine)s have increased steadily over the past 15 years; by [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ReferenceB-134) [i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cp-133)mmuniza[tions and](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immunization) [vacci](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immunization)[nes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine) reached more than 95% of children under five[.[133]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cp-133) Water and sanitati[on, availa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine)ble to only 10% of the population in 1950, now reac[h 99](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-cp-133)% of Jordanians, according to government statistics. They also show [that](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-135) electricity reaches 99% of the population, as compared to less than 10% in 1955[.[135]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-135)

**Education**

[Main article:](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:JUSTmed.jpg) [Education in Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Jordan)





[M](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:JUSTmed.jpg)edical halls of JUST as seen with [KAUH.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Abdullah_University_Hospital)

The adult literacy rate in 2010 was 92.6%[.[136]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-unescolit-136) The Jordanian educational system consists of a two-year cycle of pre-school [educ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-unescolit-136)ation, ten years of compulsory basic

education, and two ye[ars of sec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawjihi)[ond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-137)ary academic or vocational education, after which the students sit for the [Tawjihi.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawjihi)[[137]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-137) UNESCO ranked Jordan['s ed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-138)ucation system 18th out of 94 nations for p[roviding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawjihi) [gen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-137)der equality in education[.[138]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-138) 20.5% [of Jord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)an's total gov[ernme](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)[nt expen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-139)[dit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ReferenceC-141)ures goes to education compared [to 2.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-138)5% in [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey) and 3.86% in [Syria.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)[[139][140][](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-139)[141]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ReferenceC-141) Secondary school enrollment has increased [from 63](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)% to 97% of h[igh sc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria)[hool age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-139)[d st](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-ReferenceC-141)udents in Jordan and [bet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www-wds.worldbank.org-142)ween 79% and 85% of high school students in Jordan move on to higher education[.[142]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www-wds.worldbank.org-142)

In Jordan there are 2,000 researchers per millio[n pe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-www-wds.worldbank.org-142)ople[, com](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-143)pared to 5,000   
researchers per million for the top-performing countries[.[143]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-143) According to the Global Innovation I[ndex 2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qatar)011, Jo[rdan is the 3rd most inn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates)[ova](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-144)tiv[e ec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-143)onomy in the Middle East, behind [Qatar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qatar) and the [United Arab Emirates.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates)[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-144)

The kingdom [has 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qatar)0 publi[c and 16 private univer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates)[sitie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-144)s, in addition to some 54 [community colleges,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces) of which 14 are public, 24 private and others affiliated with the [Jordan Armed Forces,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces) the Civil Defence Department, the ministry of health and [UNRWA.[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces) [There a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordanian_Armed_Forces)re over 200,000 Jordanian students enrolled in universities each year. An [addit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-145)ional 20,000 Jord[ania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-146)ns pursue higher education abroad primarily in the United States and G[reat Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)[.[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-146) [Jordan is alrea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)[dy home to several int](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University)[ernatio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NYIT)nal [universities such as](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DePaul_University) [German-Jo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)[rdani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-146)[an University,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) [Columbia University,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University) [NYIT,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NYIT) [DePaul University,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DePaul_University) [and the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University) [American University o](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German-Jordanian_University)[f Madaba.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University) [George Wa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University)[shingto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NYIT)[n](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_University) [University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DePaul_University) [is plann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DePaul_University)ing to es[tablish a medical university in Jo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_University_of_Madaba)r[dan as well.[147]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_University)

[According](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_University) to the [Webometrics R](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webometrics_Ranking_of_World_Universities)[anking of World Univ](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Jordan)[ersities,](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webometrics_Ranking_of_World_Universities) the top-ra[nk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-147)[ing universitie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouk_University)s in th[e country a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webometrics_Ranking_of_World_Universities)[re the](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_%26_Technology) [University of Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Jordan) [(1507th worldwid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_%26_Technology)e), [Yarmouk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouk_University) [University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouk_University) (2165th) and the [Jorda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_%26_Technology)[n University of Scien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Jordan)[ce & Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_%26_Technology) (23[35th).[148]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouk_University)

[Jordan is th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarmouk_University)e top contributor [among all Arab countries in terms of interne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_University_of_Science_%26_Technology)t content[.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-148) 75% of all Arabic online content originates from Jordan[.[149]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan#cite_note-149)