

Jordan

KEY FACTS

Official name: Al Mamlaka al Urduniya al Hashemiya (The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)

Head of State: King Abdullah II (crowned 1999)

Head of government: Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour (from 10 Oct 2012, reappointed Jan 2013)

Ruling party: National Constitutional Party (NCP) (pro-monarchy coalition formed from a union of independent members of parliament and nine centrist parties)

Area: 91,860 square km

Population: 6.40 million (2012)*

Capital: Amman

Official language: Arabic

Currency: Jordanian dinar (JD) = 1,000 fils

Exchange rate: JD0.71 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$4,879 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 2.80% (2012)*

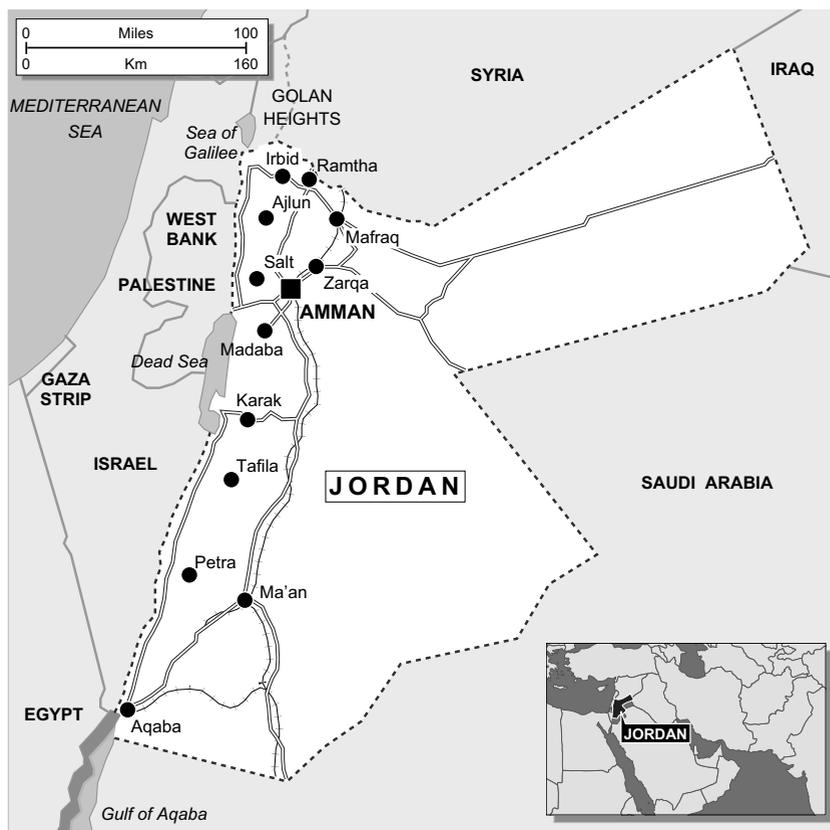
GDP: US\$31.21 billion (2012)*

Unemployment: 12.20% (2012)*

Inflation: 4.77% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$10.54 billion (2012)*

* estimated figure



Jordan's location close to the Middle East fault line between Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq can only make life uncomfortable for a traditional monarchy. Although the royal court has proposed constitutional changes (see There'll be Some Changes made, below) and revisions of the electoral law, these have for the most part been dismissed as pure political posturing since – inevitably – the monarch would retain the ultimate sanction, that of dissolving parliament.

Population powder keg?

Even without the massive influx of dispossessed and disillusioned Syrians, Jordan's population make-up does little to reinforce a sense of stability. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, between 1990 and 2008 Jordan's population increased by 2.7 million,

a staggering 86 per cent growth, far higher than any of its neighbours. For the most part native Jordanians are descended from village-dwellers and Bedouins whose origins are in the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, there are a number of small Jordanian minorities embracing communities of Circassian Chechens, Arameans and Armenians. Additionally there are still a number of refugee communities from the 2003 war in Iraq; these include Kurds, Assyrians and Mandaeans.

Additionally, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in January 2012 there were more than two million Palestinian refugees in Jordan. That number is probably understated as it does not include all Jordanians of Palestinian descent. There are also an estimated one million Iraqis currently living in Jordan.

Whatever reforms are planned to Jordan's effectively toothless parliament, the fact remains that the majority of Jordanians (which really means Palestinian-Jordanians) would be under-represented in the parliament. The leading opposition group in Jordan is – as is the case in many Arab countries – the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood franchise, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which has vowed to boycott legislative elections and has instead called for mass protest rallies.

The IAF is demanding constitutional amendments to reduce the powers of the king and to amend the current electoral system. As if that is not enough by way of protest, the influential Transjordanian tribes have demanded anti-corruption measures as well as amendments to the constitution to give further powers to the parliament. In the midst of this turbulent scenario, it was perhaps surprising that there have been no overt calls for the abolition of the monarchy. But as tensions grow, that has to be seen as a likely and realistic development. However, some factors work in favour of the monarchy; the Transjordanians have been traditionally loyal to the Hashemite regime and are opposed to any political reform that challenges their inherited privileged status and position. For that reason alone they resist calls to increase the representation of Palestinian-Jordanians in parliament.

There'll be some changes made... really?

A besieged King Abdullah responded by establishing a national dialogue committee responsible for amending the constitution to give the public greater political say. The king also introduced a new procedure for choosing cabinet members. As a half-way measure, in 2012 he proposed to let parliament have a say in the selection of cabinets until such time as prime ministers could be elected by popular franchise. Plans were afoot for allowing Jordan's 33 political parties to merge into more rational political groupings such as left, right and centre from which a prime minister might hopefully emerge. However, to widespread frustration, no immediate timetable was given for the introduction of this measure. King Abdullah had sought to claim that he was now able to by-pass Jordan's bureaucratic establishment and address issues of corruption, transparency and improved governance in general. Parliament approved constitutional changes to strengthen the independence and integrity of Judiciary bodies thereby improving public

accountability. On the structural reform side, the government has pursued reforms in the area of transparency and accountability, public finance management (in particular budget and debt management and public sector spending efficiency) and private sector development. Jordan's monarchy was hoping to take the middle ground – accepting the need for some degree of change (in contrast to say Bahrain or Saudi Arabia) but resisting more thoroughgoing demands for a 'constitutional' monarchy.' As a sop to Jordan's protesters, in December 2012 King Abdullah announced that he was releasing all those arrested in the November 2012 uprising.

Refugees

No exact figure exists for the number of Syrian refugees that have fled to Jordan during the Syrian civil war. However, press reports put the number at 550,000, of which over 400,000 are living in urban areas and the number of school age children among the refugees in Jordan is estimated to be some 200,000. Of these, around 86,000 are enrolled in school. In 2012 Jordan's expenditure on Syrian refugees was put at US\$251 million. The anticipated figure for 2013 is US\$850 million. Providing shelter for refugees is not a new challenge for Jordan, albeit not on the potential scale posed by the Syrian crisis. Jordan's Palestinian community, which first arrived in 1948 now outnumber the Jordanians themselves. Following the 2003 invasion of Iraq which toppled Saddam Hussein, Jordan hosted an estimated one million Iraqi refugees.

But by regional standards, Jordan is not a wealthy country. It depends heavily on foreign financial support, making the importance of fostering good international relations primordial. To attract loans, grants in aid and foreign direct investment (FDI), Jordan also needs to address the perennial problem of a lack of transparency in its governance. Jordan ranked 58 in the 2012 Transparency International *Corruption Perceptions Index*, hardly a stellar performance, but none the less ahead of Saudi Arabia and even a number of member states of the European Union (EU). This can be described as an occupational hazard in modern monarchies such as the Hashemite Kingdom. Lines of power – allegiances and loyalties – often need to be kept confidential.

The economy struggles

According to the World Bank, Jordan is an upper middle-income country with a population of 6.4 million and a per capita gross national income (GNI) of US\$4,340. The population is around 80 per cent urban and is one of the youngest among upper-middle income countries with 38 per cent under the age of 14. Jordan has limited natural resources (potash and phosphate are its main export commodities) limited agricultural land and water is especially scarce. Jordan ranks as the world's fourth poorest country in terms of water resources. Services account for more than 70 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and more than 75 per cent of jobs. As one of the most open economies of the region, Jordan is well

KEY INDICATORS

Jordan

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	5.85	5.98	*6.11	*6.25	*6.40
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	21.20	22.90	27.50	29.20	*31.21
GDP per capita	US\$	3,262	3,829	4,500	4,675	*4,879
GDP real growth	%	7.9	5.5	2.3	2.5	*2.8
Inflation	%	13.9	-0.7	5.0	4.4	*4.8
Unemployment	%	12.7	12.9	12.5	12.9	*12.2
Industrial output	% change	8.5	1.0	1.7	–	–
Agricultural output	% change	1.4	18.4	6.6	–	–
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	6,365.6	6,365.6	7,028.3	2,001.6	*7,886.6
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	12,497.5	12,497.5	13,678.7	4,206.5	*18,430.9
Balance of trade	US\$m	-6,131.9	-6,131.6	-6,650.4	-2,204.9	*-10,544.3
Current account	US\$m	-1,250.7	-778.0	-1,311.4	3,475.0	*-5,640.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	8,561.6	11,689.3	13,056.7	12,206.4	*8,089.5
Foreign exchange	US\$m	8,558.0	11,458.8	12,830.5	11,972.8	*7,868.7
Exchange rate	per US\$	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	*0.71

integrated with its neighbours through trade, remittances, FDI and tourism and has especially strong links to the Arab Gulf economies. Jordanian policymakers aim to use the demographic opportunity of a well educated, young population to build a dynamic, knowledge-based economy. However, as a result of its open economy and high degree of regional integration, Jordan is vulnerable to the political, economic and social volatility of the region. The political upheaval that swept the Arab region has had a significant impact on Jordan taking the form of economic shocks as well as inspiring domestic demands for a stronger citizen voice, greater accountability and improvements in living conditions.

The regional political upheaval affected Jordan economically through two channels. First the sharp drop in gas supplies from Egypt led to a surge in Jordan's current account and fiscal deficits; and secondly the Syrian conflict led to a large influx of refugees (see Refugees above). The additional pressures from the refugee influx are undermining the abilities of public institutions, communities, households and individuals to cope. Public authorities lack the resources to keep up basic service provisions. Due to these emergency requirements, funds from planned capital expenditures have been diverted towards immediate operating costs.

The World Bank considered one of the government's principal goals to be that of expanding access to higher quality education and to provide the skills needed in a competitive economy. In terms of human development, Jordan is above average in relation to middle-income countries. These positive results are based on consistent levels of spending – over 25 per cent of GDP – on human development, education, health, pensions and social safety nets. In 2003 the government launched a modernisation programme aimed at overhauling the basic education system to align it with the needs of a knowledge-based economy. School enrolment rates at each level of education are close to other countries at Jordan's income level.

In the view of the World Bank, Jordan's economic and fiscal conditions improved slightly in early 2013, after a challenging year in 2012. With gas supplies from Egypt shrinking to 16 per cent of contractual terms in 2012, Jordan had to rely on expensive fuel imports to generate the country's electricity. This led to a rapid deterioration of Jordan's balance of payments and fiscal positions in the first half

of 2012. As a result, an International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) was approved in August 2012. In 2012, the current account deficit reached 18 per cent of GDP (up 6 percentage points of GDP from 2011) while the overall fiscal deficit reached 8.5 per cent of GDP (up about 2 percentage points of GDP from 2011). The elimination of all petroleum product price subsidies, except for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and the doubling of gas flows from Egypt since November 2012 helped reduce the acute macro-economic pressures. Following the pressures seen in late 2012, policy measures and external assistance had boosted Jordan's foreign reserves and confidence in the peg was returning. Although net international reserves (NIR) halved in 2012 to US\$5.4 billion (corresponding to 3 months of imports), these had subsequently improved due to monetary policy tightening by the central bank in December, a doubling of gas inflows from Egypt since November and the receipt of US\$1.2 billion in grants in early 2013. As a result, confidence improved and dollarisation has partly reversed. This enabled the Central Bank of Jordan to cut its base interest rate in August, despite rising inflation (which was up to 3.6 per cent at the end of June 2013, from 3.3 per cent in December 2012) and a renewed dip in gas inflows from Egypt due to a new pipeline explosion in early July. The inflationary impact of the fuel price increase in November 2012 had subsided, aided by a pass-through of lower oil prices. However, food prices (including domestically produced food) and rents had increased significantly in the first half of the year, probably driven by the increased demand from refugees. Jordan's external debt reached 22 per cent of GDP in 2012 and was projected to remain sustainable even under the most adverse scenario. Public sector debt rose sharply in 2012, reaching 80 per cent of GDP at end-December, up from 70 per cent of GDP at the end of 2011.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Poor

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1928 Transjordan obtained qualified independence in a treaty with Britain. 1946 Transjordan achieved full independence as the Hashemite Kingdom of

Jordan under the Emir, who took the title of King Abdullah.

1948 Jewish leaders announced the formation of the State of Israel in British-mandate Palestine and thousands of Palestinian Arabs fled to Jordan and the West Bank.

1950 A post-war agreement united Jordan with the part of Palestine remaining in Arab hands (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, but excluding the Gaza Strip).

1951 King Abdullah was assassinated and was succeeded by his son, Talal bin Abdullah.

1952 Hussein bin Talal formally took power as King Hussein after his father, Talal bin Abdullah, stepped down due to mental illness.

1956 King Hussein banned political parties.

1957 British troops completed their withdrawal from Jordan.

1967 Six Day War with Israel. Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip and re-unified Jerusalem; around 300,000 Palestinian Arab refugees entered Jordan.

1970 Civil war (Black September) between the Jordanian army and Palestinians followed airplane hijackings by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resistance group. The PLO was forcefully expelled from its bases in Jordan and moved to Lebanon

1972 An attempted military coup was thwarted.

1974 Jordan and other Arab countries recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

1978–84 The House of Representatives (parliament) was temporarily replaced during these years by a National Consultative Council appointed by the King.

1986 King Hussein severed political links with the PLO and ordered its main offices to shut.

1988 The House of Representatives was dissolved, prior to King Hussein's announcement of the severance of all administrative and legal ties with the West Bank. The King publicly backed the Palestinian *intifada* against Israeli rule.

1989 The first general elections since 1967 were contested only by independent candidates.

1992 Parliament authorised political parties for the first time since they were banned by King Hussein 36 years previously.

1993 Multi-party elections were held.

1994 The Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty was signed at Wadi Araba, Jordan, following the opening of the first border crossing between Aqaba (Jordan) and Eilat (Israel).

1997 Parliamentary elections were boycotted by nine opposition parties, led by the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The

Islamists said the electoral law favoured the rural constituencies, where support for the King was strong, over the towns, where nearly half of Jordan's population lived. The elections were won by the National Constitutional Party (NCP), a pro-monarchy coalition formed from the union of nine centrist parties.

1999 King Hussein appointed his eldest son, Abdullah bin Hussein, as crown prince and heir, replacing Prince Hassan, the King's brother, who had been appointed crown prince in 1965. King Hussein, who had been treated for cancer for many years, died, and Abdullah bin Hussein was sworn in as King.

2000 King Abdullah II made a historic visit to the state of Israel. Jordan joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

2002 Senior US diplomat, Laurence Foley, was shot dead outside his home in Amman. Many political activists were arrested.

2003 King Abdullah II ratified an amended law adding six women members to the women's share in parliament. Independent candidates, allies of the King, won two-thirds of the seats in the parliamentary elections. The King appointed Faisal al Fayez as prime minister and three female ministers.

2005 Jordan returned its ambassador to Israel after a truce was signed by Israel and Palestine.

2006 The joint Jordanian-Syrian Wadhad Dam project was completed.

2007 New entry regulations stemmed the flow of refugees from Iraq; over one million Iraqis had taken up residence since 2003.

2008 George Habash, the (founder of militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) (PFLP) died in Amman. King Abdullah became the first Gulf-Arab leader to visit Iraq.

2009 Hussein bin Al Abdullah, eldest son of King Abdullah II, was declared Crown Prince by royal decree; when he ascends to the throne, he will become King Hussein II. Pope Benedict XVI visited, holding an open air mass for some 25,000 celebrants. King Abdullah dissolved parliament and called for early elections. Prime Minister Dahabi resigned and Samir al Rifai was appointed as his replacement.

2010 The King set up the National Dialogue Committee, chaired by the Senate president, Taher Masri, to consider a range of reforms proposed by King Abdullah II. Recommendations were submitted to Prime Minister Marouf Al Bakhit that included a proposal for an increase in the number of seats in parliament from 120 to 130; and the establishment of an independent panel of retired judges (appointed by royal decree) to oversee

elections, instead of the interior ministry; a draft law was proposed making it easier to form political parties and to encourage participation by women. Talks with a French-Japanese consortium regarding Jordan's nuclear power programme entered its second stage, concerning commissioning the plant and logistics. The main opposition IAF boycotted parliamentary elections, held one-year earlier than planned, calling them unfair, due to election laws that gave undue weight to votes from rural, sparsely populated areas. Of the 763 candidates standing for election, three-quarters were previous members of the legislature; all stood as independents. Only 17 candidates elected (out of 120 seats) were members of political parties; 78 elected candidates were new to parliament. Samir al Rifai became prime minister.

2011 In February, when demonstrations in the Middle East had toppled the regimes in Tunisia and Egypt during the Arab Spring, anti-government unrest caused King Abdullah to dismiss the government and appointed Marouf al Bakhit as prime minister. In June King Abdullah announced that he would relinquish his right to appoint prime ministers, and future government cabinet posts, which instead will be formed by an elected parliamentary majority. On 25 July, Prince Rashid Bin El Hassan (son of the former Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talaal) married Zeina Shaban. In October, Prime Minister Maarouf al Bakhit resigned and King Abdullah appointed a former judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Awn al Khasawneh as prime minister.

2012 Awn Khasawneh resigned as prime minister on 26 April; the King appointed Fayez Tarawneh as the new prime minister. A fight broke out on 17 June between members in parliament during a debate on draft election laws, when an amendment was proposed, by the opposition, to increase the number of seats allocated to candidates who run on party lists. In July the Muslim Brotherhood affiliated Islamic Action Front announced that the party would boycott the elections, stating that the changes to the electoral law increasing the number of seats for political parties did not go far enough and that the constituency system favoured tribal candidates. On 4 October King Abdullah dissolved parliament a day ahead of a demonstration led by the IAF, calling on the King for political reforms. On 11 October a new government, led by Abdullah Ensour as prime minister was sworn into office. The date for early general elections on 13 January 2013 was announced on 16 October.

2013 A general election was held on 23 January. Out of the 150 seats, 123 were won by independents. Of the parties standing, the Hizb Al-Wasat Al-Islamiy (Muslim Centre Party) won 3 seats, the Stronger Jordan party, The Homeland party and the National Union Party each won 2 seats and and further 18 parties won one seat each. Interim Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour was appointed to the post on a permanent basis. For the first time King Abdullah consulted Parliament on membership of the cabinet. With 19 members, the new cabinet was the smallest in four decades. In October the number of members in the upper house of parliament was increased from 40 to 75.

Political structure

Constitution

Under a revised constitution of January 1952, the throne passes by male descent to heirs above the age of 18. A Regent or Council of Regency exercises power on behalf of the heir if he is below the age of 18 on succeeding to the throne.

Jordan is divided into eight governorates, each headed by a governor and consisting of districts, sub-districts and counties. At local government level there are 152 municipalities, including Greater Amman, and 340 village councils. Local affairs are managed by city or village councils. Councils are under the supervision of the ministry of municipal and rural affairs.

A national charter, published by King Hussein in 1991, enshrined the principle of political freedom. It also underscored the ultimate power of the monarchy. In 2003, King Abdullah II ratified an amended law adding six women members to the parliament. This number was increased to 12 in the 2010 electoral law. The new law also increased the total number of parliamentary seats to 120, including adding four seats each to Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa. Nine seats are reserved for Christians and three more for Jordan's Circassian or Cherkess minority.

In 2012 the number of seats in the House of Representative was increased to 150. In 2013 the number of members of the upper house, all appointed by the King, was increased to 75.

Independence date

25 May 1946

Form of state

Monarchy with limited parliamentary democracy.

The executive

The King is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The King has the power to declare war or conclude peace treaties, order elections, inaugurate, adjourn and prorogue the lower house of parliament as well as to

appoint the prime minister, cabinet and speaker of the upper house of parliament.

National legislature

The bicameral Majlis al Umma (National Assembly) consists of the Majlis al-Nuwab (House of Representatives) (lower house) with 150 seats and the Majlis al A'ayan (Assembly of Senators) (upper house) with 75 members. Voters for the House of Representatives cast two ballots – one for a candidate in their constituency and one for party lists elected by proportional representation at the national level. The number of seats reserved for candidates of political parties is 27 out of the 150, 15 seats are reserved for women; the balance of 108 seats are elected by first-past-the-post system in constituencies. The 75 members of the upper house are appointed by the King. The number was increased to 75 in October 2013 and cannot exceed 50 per cent of the members of the lower house.

Legal system

Judges are appointed by royal decree and are independent of the legislature and the executive. The King has the right of clemency and must confirm death sentences.

Last elections

23 January 2013

Results: Parliamentary: 123 seats were won by independents, the Hizb Al-Wasat Al-Islamiy (Muslim Centre Party) won 3 seats, the Stronger Jordan party, The Homeland party and the National Union Party each won 2 seats and and further 18 parties won one seat each. Turnout was 56.6 per cent.

Next elections

2017 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

National Constitutional Party (NCP) (pro-monarchy coalition formed from a union of independent members of parliament and nine centrist parties)

Main opposition party

Islamic Action Front (IAF) (the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood)

Population

6.40 million (2012)*

Last census: October 2004: 5,100,981

Population density: 53 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 79 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 3.0 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

The population is predominantly Arab, with small minorities of Circassians, Armenians and Kurds. No official figures are kept but it is generally accepted that Palestinians constitute 60 to 70 per cent of Jordan's population.

Religions

Over 80 per cent of the population are Sunni Muslims. There is a Christian minority, mainly Roman Catholic, Coptic and Greek Orthodox, and smaller numbers of other Muslims.

Education

The government has instituted a programme to revise and upgrade the state school system, involving teacher re-training, new curricula and substantial school construction. University students tend to concentrate on science, mathematics and computer programming. Consequently, Jordan has a steady supply of young people with the necessary skills in computer programming, as well as those with training in basic technical education.

Literacy rate: 91 per cent adult rate; 99 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: 6 to 14; elementary aged 6–11 and preparatory 12–14.

Enrolment rate: 70 per cent for boys and 72 per cent for girls total primary school enrolment, (including repetition rates) of the relevant age group (World Bank estimates 1994–2000).

Pupils per teacher: 21 in primary schools.

Health

Improved water sources and sanitation facilities are available to 99 per cent and 96 per cent of the population, respectively.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 71 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

3.1 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 41 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Birth rate/Death rate: 4 deaths and 30 births per 1,000 population.

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate

(per 1,000): 19 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician:

2.03 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

Social security in Jordan has few beneficiaries relative to contributing workers and it only first started paying benefits in 1995.

All workers in non-government establishments that employ more than five persons are obliged to contribute to the state social security fund. Those in smaller establishments may contribute voluntarily. Lump-sum payments and hospital expenses are made in the case of work-related injury, death and retirement

pensions. The Social Security Corporation (SCC) provides two types of insurance — old age disability and work-related injuries insurance. It collects revenues directly from wages and is not reliant on the government budget. It covers both the private sector and any public employees hired after 1995.

Main cities

Amman (capital, estimated population 1.2 million in 2012), Zarqa (486,042), Russeifa (369,165), Irbid (325,996), Al Quwaysimah (248,017), Wadi Essier (175,133), Khraibet Essooq (174,719), Aqaba (108,561).

Languages spoken

English is the second language and is widely spoken; most people in business can both speak and correspond in English. French is spoken to a lesser extent.

Official language/s

Arabic

Media

Press

A press and publications law was passed in late 1992. The law banned a wide range of items including those which harm the King or his family or reveal information about the armed forces. The ban on hurting national unity, insulting Arab or Muslim heads of state or transgressing so-called 'public ethics' caused the most controversy.

The law also forced all Jordanian journalists to become members of the Jordan Press Association and denies them the right to protect their sources. The law came as media activity surged with a dozen newspapers licensed or applying for licences and the legalisation of domestic satellite dishes opening Jordanians to uncensored world television.

The Jordan News Agency (Petra) provides news to local and foreign media. The Ministry of Information, which Petra had been a part of, ceased to exist in early 2002. A new media policy is being drawn-up by the Jordanian Media Higher Council, which was established in December 2001.

Dailies: Jordan has both Arabic and English dailies, all published nationally. The Arabic newspapers are *Sawt al Shaab*, *al Ra'i Daily* (both government-owned), *al Dustour*, *al Aswaq* and *al Arab Alyawm*. The English newspapers are *Arab Daily*, *Assabeel Jordan Times* and *Jordan Times*.

Weeklies: There are several weeklies in Arabic, including *Akhbar al Usbu*, *Amman al Masa*, *Assabeel Weekly* and *al Hawadith*. English language weeklies include *The Star* and there is also a French weekly supplement to *The Jordan Times*.

Broadcasting

Broadcasting is run by state bodies and the press is licensed by the government. Restrictions on the press eased considerably in the early 1990s and many areas have been opened to active discussion. A certain amount of self-censorship remains and some subjects – including information on military and security establishments and criticism of the royal family – are strictly taboo.

Radio: The state radio service broadcasts domestic and external programmes in Arabic and English.

Television: The state television service runs one Arabic channel and one foreign channel which broadcasts programmes in English, French and Hebrew.

Economy

Jordan is poor in resources: unlike its neighbours it has no oil, water is scarce and agricultural land is limited. Its geographic location at the centre of the Middle East means that its fortunes are strongly influenced by regional circumstances. Unlike many Arab states, Jordan has strong trade links with its neighbours. Intra-Arab trade and remittances from overseas workers, especially those in the Gulf States, make a significant contribution to the economy. Jordan has long served as a transit route for goods destined for Iraq, from which it formerly received subsidised oil.

In 2008 the government removed subsidies on oil and foodstuffs which reduced its overall fiscal deficit and allowed for an increase in spending in 2009. GDP growth averaged 6 per cent over 2000–07 and despite the global economic recession growth was still 5.5 per cent in 2009. However, in line with the weaker global outlook, it dropped to 2.3 per cent in 2010, and improved only modestly to an estimated 2.5 per cent in 2011. Inflation peaked at 13.9 per cent in 2008, before plummeting to -0.7 per cent in 2009 as domestic spending weakened, however it picked-up in 2010 to 5 per cent as commodity prices again began to rise.

Substantial remittances from expatriate workers amounted to US\$3.6 billion (12.8 per cent of GDP) in 2010, and were estimated to have remained at US\$3.6 billion in 2011, tourism is a major earner of foreign exchange. Visitor numbers reached 4.7 million in 2010, of which four million arrived by land (mostly from other Arab Gulf States). Jordan exports potash and phosphate, which are its only available natural resources, as well as fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, clothing and fruit. It is however, dependent on imports, especially for basic foodstuffs and oil and runs a large trade deficit.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank announced in 2010, that they were setting up a regional initiative of up to US\$1 billion to help close the infrastructure gap in the Middle East and North African region (Mena) and help boost economic growth. The World Bank considers that the Mena region requires US\$75–100 billion per year to sustain the growth of recent years and boost economic competitiveness. Private sector investment is limited and the new initiative should address the shortfall in investment, through Sharia-compliant and conventional investment. The initiative should benefit Egypt, Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia in particular. Saudi Arabia has also agreed to give grants to Jordan to help its budget deficit. The grants were paid in two tranches of US\$400,000 in June 2011 and US\$1 billion in July, with more help provided through the supply of crude oil at a discounted price.

External trade

Jordan has signed the Agadir Agreement which proposes to set up a free trade zone (FTZ) between Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco. In 2005 the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (Gafta) was ratified by 17 members, including Jordan, creating an Arab economic bloc. A customs union was established whereby tariffs within Gafta will be reduced by a percentage each year, until none remain. A new free-trade zone, including visa-free travel for their nationals, was agreed in June 2010, between Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. A co-operation council will be established to 'develop a long-term strategic partnership' to encourage free movement of goods and persons.

It is also a signatory of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership agreement, which provides for the introduction of free trade between the EU and 10 Mediterranean countries, including Jordan, by 2012.

Imports

Main imports are crude oil, textiles, machinery, vehicles, capital goods and manufactured goods.

Main sources: Saudi Arabia (22.8 per cent of total in 2011), China (10 per cent), US (5.9 per cent).

Exports

Main exports are manufactured clothing, phosphates, fertilisers and potash, vegetables, manufactured goods and pharmaceuticals.

Main destinations: Iraq (15.2 per cent of total in 2011), US (13.1 per cent), India (10.9 per cent).

Agriculture

Jordan became a net importer of foodstuffs when it no longer had access to its principal growing areas on the West Bank

of the River Jordan. More than 91 per cent of the total land area is classified as desert and only 6 per cent is cultivable. The sector is vulnerable to drought. Extreme variations in seasonal rainfall in the highland areas lead to severe fluctuations in yields from year to year. Highland farmers are one of the poorest groups in the country. Irrigated farming in the Jordan Valley has been a success in production terms, but marketing has suffered from periods of overproduction and fluctuations in exports.

Jordan has two distinct agricultural zones: the irrigated Jordan Valley and the rain-fed highlands. Government policy has been to encourage intensive fruit and vegetable growing in the Jordan Valley, both for local consumption and as a major export earner, and to boost cereal and fodder production in the highlands in an effort to reduce a high food import bill. Farming is a private sector activity, but the state-owned Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPC) plays a regulatory role in fresh produce imports. The government buys cereal and fodder crops at fixed prices, with prices of other crops set according to supply and demand.

Since 1986, state land in southern Jordan has been leased to private farmers for sophisticated irrigation projects conceived at a time when the Arab world was placing heavy emphasis on food self-sufficiency. The projects rely on ground water reserves and there is increasing concern that the benefits of increased production are outweighed by the depletion of scarce water supplies.

Jordan's only seaboard is in the south at Aqaba, on the Red Sea. The number of fishermen and vessels is negligible and the catches are consumed locally for the most part. A number of fish farming projects have been started, but with little success. The level of the Jordan river is frequently very low, contributing to the difficulties of fish farming. The majority of Jordan's fish for consumption is imported. Active afforestation programmes are under way in some areas in an effort to control soil erosion and desertification. There is little commercial exploitation of forests.

Industry and manufacturing

Jordan's geographical location has affected its trade and industrial development. The Iran-Iraq war (1980–88) and the Gulf War (1991), as well as the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, have restricted Jordan's trade. It is therefore understandable that the government believes that industrial expansion depends on developing new overseas markets beyond the region. The minerals sector has successfully developed secure markets in the Indian sub-continent and in South-East Asia.

Most other Jordanian industry relies on highly volatile Arab markets. State industries have become a particular burden, with the Jordanian Water Authority accumulating debts of US\$113 million. With the loss of exports of manufactured goods to Iraq, there was a 6 per cent drop in output in 2003.

Tourism

Jordan offers a range of historical sites to visitors, ranging in age from the classical, Byzantine and early Muslim eras. It also has several natural reserves with species adapted to arid conditions. Jordan has four sites on Unesco's World Heritage List, including the pink rock city of Petra, the most popular of its tourist destinations. Travel and tourism is a major component of the economy and accounted for an average of 22.6 per cent of GDP (2006–10). However in 2011, as tourists were put off from visiting by the disturbances in the region of the Arab Spring, there was a downturn in tourism numbers and the industry only accounted for 18.8 per cent of GDP. The industry provided an average 20 per cent of total employment (average 314,740 jobs) (2006–10), but in 2011 it recorded a lower employment figures of 16.8 per cent of the workforce (282,100).

The government has invested in promoting Jordan, and niche marketing has included eco-tourism specifically geared to animal and bird watching, adventure tours, trekking and marine sports in Jordan's Red Sea coast.

Jordan is a member of the Euromed Heritage Programme, a computerisation project, sponsored by the EU, which focuses on cultural tourists of archaeology, arts and history, promoting sites through the internet. It encourages local communities in promoting their culture and history.

Environment

Water is the single greatest challenge to Jordan's long-term well-being. The available figures on supply and demand present a disturbing picture. Agriculture remains the largest consumer of water resources, accounting for over 70 per cent of total water use. The acute water shortage means that Jordan is heavily reliant on ground water, of which 45 per cent is irreplaceable. In the long-term, water consumption at the present rates cannot be sustained. With an increasing population rate in Jordan, the government has estimated that per capita water supply will fall from the current 200 cubic metres per person to only 91 cubic metres by 2025. A programme of dam building has improved supply but it is clear that a solution to the problem will have to come from better regional arrangements for water sharing. Jordan receives 215 million

cubic metres annually from Israel through dams and pipelines. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not disrupted these water supplies and the government has done its utmost not to offend Israel over the conflict in order to prevent a repeat of Israel's decision in 1999 to cut water supplies to Jordan. The building of the Wahdeh (formerly known as Maqarin) dam on the Jordanian-Syrian border cannot proceed without the agreement of Israel, which stands to lose water as a result of the project.

The water and irrigation ministry has invested some US\$5 billion to boost supply, which will be invested in a number of projects until 2010.

Mining

The Jordanian government earmarked the mining and minerals industry as a priority sector for investment and development. The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is the main policy-making body in the mineral sector, which promotes investment and undertakes operations. The agency has benefited from the UN Conference on Trade and Development's (Unctad) technical assistance and is able to attract foreign investment into the sector. The NRA has identified a range of metallic and non-metallic minerals, of which Jordan has substantial reserves. The EU is funding a project to identify the economic potential of non-oil mineral resources, including copper, a granitoid complex and ornamental stone.

The phosphate and potash industries in Jordan are key contributors to the economy. The Eshidiya deposit owned by Jordan Phosphate Mining Corporation (JPMC) has a proved phosphate reserve of 1,200 million tonnes. The Arab Potash Company (APC), which accounts for 4.4 per cent of the world's total potash production, produces 1.8 million tonnes of potash annually in Jordan. Almost 1.4 million tonnes is exported to 28 countries (mostly Asian).

The Jordan Safi Salt Company (Jossco) produces 1.2 million tonnes per year of industrial salt. Jordan is also an important exporter of calcium carbonate to other Middle Eastern states. Mineral production is largely of industrial minerals derived from the overlying sediments and volcanics. The most important mineral resources, which merit development and provide investment opportunities, are silica sand, tripoli, gypsum, ornamental stone (Ajlun limestone) and zeolite.

Hydrocarbons

Jordan, unlike its neighbours Iraq and Saudi Arabia, is not blessed with huge gas or oil reserves and has to import the bulk of its oil requirements to meet domestic demand. Imports were 106,000 barrels

per day (bpd) of oil in 2007, costing the country US\$4.3 billion.

Proven oil reserves are small and there is no oil production. The rise in global oil prices encouraged the consideration of production from oil shale, located in west central Jordan and amenable to open cast mining. The Dutch-oil company Shell signed an oil shale exploration agreement in July 2008 and was expected to invest US\$20 billion within a period of 20 years. However, in November the government put an 18-month moratorium on such activity, in favour of uranium exploration. Jordan had 6.2 billion cubic meters (cum) of natural gas reserves in 2007; production was 623,000 cum of natural gas from the Rishah field, for both domestic consumption as well as to a thermal power station. Jordan receives natural gas from Egypt, through the Arab Gas Pipeline (AGP), running from Egypt through Jordan and Syria and extending, by end-2008, to the border with Turkey. Jordan does not produce or import coal.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 1.9 gigawatts (GW) in 2006. Consumption has grown steadily from 5.7 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) in 1997 to 8.5 billion kWh in 2007. This is despite government policy which has been to restrain energy consumption while increasing efforts to develop domestic energy sources and lessen dependence on costly oil imports. The state-owned National Electric Power Company (Nepco) is split into three independent operating companies, responsible for generation, distribution and sales. The majority of electricity generated is supplied by three power plants, the Hussein Thermal Power Station outside Amman, the Aqaba Thermal Power Station in the south and at Rihab in the west. By late 2007, 85 per cent of all electricity generated was fuelled by Egyptian natural gas received via the Arab Gas Pipeline (AGP). The power grids of Jordan, Syria and Egypt are linked.

Other options for producing electricity are being considered, including solid waste, wind and biomass.

In January 2010 the government signed a US\$178 million contract with a South Korean consortium to build a 5MW nuclear reactor by 2014, which will be used for scientific research before Jordan embarks on building its own nuclear power plants. A decision on the final preferred site for Jordan's first nuclear power plant was agreed on 9 February 2012 by the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC), as being in the Mafraq Governorate, around 40km northeast of Amman. The government has the final say on its location. Offers of construction by international

contractors (Canadian, French, Japanese and Russian) are being vetted for the 1,000MW plant, to be completed by 2020.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Amman Stock Exchange (ASE)

Banking and insurance

Central bank

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ)

Main financial centre

Amman

Time

GMT plus two hours (daylight saving GMT plus three hours)

Geography

Jordan is bounded by Syria to the north, Iraq to the east, Saudi Arabia to the south and Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the west. The only access to the sea is at Aqaba at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba and about 400km south of the capital Amman.

There are three major geographical regions – the Jordan Rift Valley, the Eastern Uplands and the desert. Settlement is concentrated in northern and central sections of the uplands which run in a narrow strip from the Syrian border in the north to the Shubak/Petra area in the south.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The climate is Mediterranean with dry, warm to hot summers and wet, mild to cool winters. There are noticeable variations due to altitude with temperatures in the Jordan Valley and Aqaba region around 10 degrees Celsius (C) higher on average than the highlands area throughout the year. Daytime temperatures in the highlands range from 25 to 32 degrees C in summer and from 7 to 15 degrees C in winter. Rainfall ranges from 40cm annually in the northern highlands to 10cm in the south and 20cm in the Jordan Valley.

Dress codes

Lightweight clothing is needed during the hottest months and warm clothing in winter when snow is not uncommon. Both men and women should dress discreetly in public.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all and must have at least six months validity.

Visa

Required by all, except most citizens of the Middle East. Many nationals may obtain a visa at the port of entry (for stays up to 14 days) and all others must apply in advance. Visit www.mfa.gov.jo and follow path from Ministry to Consular Affairs

Department, for a full list of each category. Business visas should be applied for in advance and require a business letter outlining purpose of visit and an itinerary. Visas are not issued at the King Hussein Bridge across the Jordan River from Israel.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import or export of foreign or local currency. Travellers cheques are accepted in banks.

Prohibited imports

Illegal drugs. Firearms require export permission for country of origin and prior approval for import into Jordan. Permitted weapons must be transported as baggage.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

There are no automatic health checks at entry points, but travellers arriving from areas with infectious diseases such as cholera are expected to have had appropriate vaccinations. Travellers coming from an infected area require a yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Advisable precautions

Vaccination against typhoid, polio and hepatitis is advisable. Tap water is generally of a good standard, but short-stay visitors may prefer bottled water.

Hotels

There is a good selection of hotels in Amman. A number of new hotels are being built in Amman, around the Dead Sea and in Aqaba. The main tourist centres are Aqaba and the ancient city of Petra. A service charge of 10–12 per cent is usually added to the bill plus a government tax of 10 per cent on all services at three-, four- and five-star hotels and restaurants.

Extra tips are discretionary. Porters' and drivers' tips are about 8 per cent.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted at hotels and restaurants.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 30 Jan (King Abdullah II's Birthday), 1 May (Labour Day), 25 May (Independence Day), 14 Nov (King Hussein's Birthday), 25 Dec (Christmas Day).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha (four days), Islamic New Year, Birth of the Prophet, Ascent of the Prophet, Eid al Fitr (three days).

Islamic year 1435 (5 Nov 2013–24

Oct 2014): The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly.

Working hours

Friday is the official day of rest.

Banking

0830–1230 (Sat–Thu); some banks open for two hours in the afternoon, generally from 1500–1700.

Business

Summer: 0800–1300, 1500–1900 (Sat–Thu); winter: 0800–1330 (Sat–Thu). During Ramadan, most firms operate only from 0900–1600. Christian businesses may close on Sunday afternoon.

Government

0800–1400 (Sat–Thu).

Shops

0800–2000/2100 or 0930–1330, 1530–1800 daily. Some shops close Fridays and public holidays.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

GSM 900 and 1800 services cover almost all of the country.

Internet/e-mail

Internet access is available in Amman, Aqaba and other major business districts.

Electricity supply

Domestic 220V, 50 cycles AC. Industrial 220–380V 50 cycles AC.

Lamp sockets are screw-type, and there is a wide range of wall sockets. Bring a universal adapter.

Weights and measures

Metric system. Land is measured in dunums (1,000sq metres).

Social customs/useful tips

Jordanian society operates a mixture of traditional and modern attitudes and habits, and a foreigner needs to be aware which apply in any given situation. Business appointments are usually respected, though most people keep an open door and interruptions must be expected. All meetings are prefaced by an extended exchange of pleasantries allowing both sides the chance to assess each other. Tea and coffee are offered in all offices, and should be accepted; however, on the third or fourth appointment during a morning it is acceptable to excuse oneself and accept just a glass of water. It is still not customary to refer directly to a man's wife unless you have actually met her; it is safer to enquire after the welfare of 'the family'. It is forbidden to eat, drink or smoke in public in daylight hours during Ramadan.

Handshaking is the customary form of greeting. Jordanians are proud of their Arab culture and are hospitable and courteous. A small gift is quite acceptable in return for hospitality.

Islam plays an important role in society. Be discreet when drinking alcohol and do not drink in public places. Women are expected to dress modestly, and for both

women and men beachwear must only be worn on the beach or by the poolside.

Security

Visitors should keep in touch with developments in the Middle East as any increase in regional tension might affect travel advice.

Street crime is rare in Jordan, with mugging virtually unheard of. However, housebreaking and car theft is on the increase and reasonable precautions must be observed. There are occasional small-scale bomb attacks against cinemas and nightclubs in Amman. Women do not usually walk alone in Amman after about 2200, but driving alone is safe. A woman alone wanting a taxi late at night is advised to telephone a taxi office with which she is familiar.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Royal Jordanian Airlines

International airport/s: Amman-Queen Alia International (AMM), 32km east of Amman (35 minutes from city centre).

Airport tax: Departure tax: JD4

Surface

Road: King Hussein Bridge is the only way to cross the Jordan river from Israel, and only the official minibus services are allowed to cross it. There are also buses and taxis from Syria, where the only border crossing point is at Ramtha/Der'a. There are a number of routes into Jordan from Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

Rail: There is an elderly and decrepit rail link between Damascus (Syria) and Mecca (Saudi Arabia), via Amman but the journey time can be two–three times the length of time taken to drive the same route.

Water: There are ferry services, including car ferries, between Aqaba and Nuweiba in Egypt.

Main port/s: Aqaba is the country's only port.

Getting about

National transport

Air: The only internal air route is between Amman and Aqaba. Royal Jordanian Airlines operate regular flights. Arab Wings offer a charter service.

Road: The road network is good, with well-surfaced main roads connecting all the major towns and cities.

Buses: The Jordanian Express Tourist Transport Company (Jett) runs extensive services.

Rail: The rail network is no longer viable for the traveller.

Water: There are no passenger services along the Jordan river.

City transport

Taxis: Metered taxis are readily available in Amman and other cities (do not let your driver forget to switch on his meter). Can be hired for the journey or the day for an agreed sum. Do not use a taxi without a meter before agreeing the fare with the driver. There are also many service taxis offering a standard charge for any journey. Since there are few street names outside Amman, destinations are generally described in relation to landmarks. Tipping is approximately 10 per cent.

Car hire

National or international driving licence required. Driver must be at least 25 years old and not over 60. Speed limit is 100kph. Insurance is compulsory.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Jordan is +962 followed by the area code:

Amman	6	Madaba	8
Aqaba	3	Mafraq	4
Balga (Salt)	5	Petra	3
Irbid	2	Ramtha	2
Karak	3	Zarqa	5
Mobile pones – Fastnet			79
Mobile phones – Mobilecom			77

Useful telephone numbers

Ambulance 193
Fire 193
Police 192

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, 23 Salem Al-Hindawi Street, Shmeisani, PO Box 840817, Amman 11184 (tel: 565-1860; fax: 565-1862; e-mail: mail@jaba.org.jo).

Amman Chamber of Commerce, Al-Sharif Shaker Bin Zaid Street, PO Box 287, Amman 11118 (tel: 566-6151; fax: 566-6155; e-mail: info@ammanchamber.org.jo).

Amman Chamber of Industry, 2nd Circle Amman, PO Box 1800, Amman 11118 (tel: 464-3001; fax: 464-7852; e-mail: aci@aci.org.jo).

Aqaba Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 12, Aqaba 77110 (tel: 201-2235; fax 201-3070; e-mail: ask@index.com.jo).

Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Al-Sharif Shaker Bin Zaid Street, PO Box 7029, Amman 11118 (tel:

566-5492; fax: 568-5997; e-mail: fjcc@nets.com.jo).

Irbid Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 13, Irbid (tel: 724-2077; fax: 724-2072; e-mail:icc@go.com.jo).

Jerash Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 195, Jerash (tel/fax: 635-1278).

Madaba Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 120, Madaba (tel: 544-120; fax: 545-878).

Mafraq Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 21, Mafraq (tel: 623-4197; fax: 623-1135).

Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 77, Zarqa (tel: 385-3307; fax: 385-4617).

Banking

Arab Bank Plc, PO Box 950545, 11195 Amman (tel: 560-7231; fax: 560-6793; e-mail: international@arabbank.com.jo).

Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan), PO Box 926691, 11190 Amman (tel: 566-4183; fax: 568-6291; e-mail: info@arabbanking.com.jo).

Arab Jordan Investment Bank, PO Box 8797, 11121 Amman (tel: 560-7126; fax: 568-1482; e-mail: info@ajib.com).

Bank of Jordan, PO Box 2140, 11181 Amman (tel: 569-6277; fax: 569-6291; boj@go.com.jo).

Cairo Amman Bank, PO Box 950661, 11195 Amman (tel: 461-6910; fax: 464-2890; e-mail: cainfo@ca_bank.com.jo).

Export and Finance Bank, PO Box 941283, 11194 Amman (tel: 569-4250; fax: 569-2062; e-mail: info@efbank.com.jo).

Housing Bank for Trade and Finance, PO Box 7693, 11118 Amman (tel: 560-7315; fax: 567-8121; e-mail: quality@hbtf.com.jo).

Jordan Gulf Bank, PO Box 9989, 11191 Amman (tel: 560-3931; fax: 566-4110; e-mail: jgb@jkbank.com.jo).

Jordan Investment and Finance Bank, PO Box 950601, 11195 Amman (tel: 566-5145; fax: 568-1410; e-mail: jifbank@jifbank.com.jo).

Jordan Kuwait Bank, PO Box 9776, 11191 Amman (tel: 568-8814; fax: 569-5604; e-mail: webmaster@jkbank.com.jo).

Jordan National Bank, PO Box 3103, 11181 Amman (tel: 562-2282; fax: 562-2281; ingo@inb.com.jo).

Union Bank for Saving and Investment, PO Box 35104, 11180 Amman (tel: 560-7011; fax: 566-6149; e-mail: info@unionbankjo.com).

Central bank

Central Bank of Jordan, PO Box 37, 11118 Amman (tel: 463-0301-10; fax: 463-8889; e-mail: banksuper@cbj.gov.jo).

Stock exchange

Amman Stock Exchange (ASE)
www.ase.com.jo

Travel information

Royal Jordanian Airlines, PO Box 302, Amman (tel: 672-872).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, PO Box 224, Amman (tel: 464-2311/4; fax: 464-8465; e-mail: tourism@mota.gov.jo).

National tourist organisation offices

Jordan Tourism Board, PO Box 830688, Amman 11183 (tel: 567-8294; fax: 567-8295; e-mail: jtbn@nets.com.jo; internet: www.see-jordan.com).

Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, University of Jordan Street, PO Box 2099, Amman (tel: 568-6431, 568-6151; fax: 568-6310).

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, POB 659, Amman (tel: 566-141; fax: 560-2254).

Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs, PO Box 35214 (tel: 560-7111; fax: 560-6233).

Ministry of Culture, PO Box 6140, Amman (tel: 463-6392/3569-6588; fax: 569-6598).

Ministry of Defence, PO Box 80, Amman (tel: 464-1211, 462-2131; fax: 464-2520).

Ministry of Development Affairs, PO Box 1577, Amman (tel: 464-361; fax: 464-8825).

Ministry of Education, PO Box 1646, Amman (tel: 847-671; fax: 566-6019).

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, PO Box 2310 (tel: 586-3326/9; fax: 586-5714, 581-5615).

Ministry of Finance, PO Box 85, Amman (tel: 463-6321, 463-6502, 463-7781/2; fax: 464-3132, 464-3121).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 3rd Circle, PO Box 35217, Amman (tel: 464-4361, 464-4311; fax: 464-8825; internet www.mfa.gov.jo).

Ministry of Health, PO Box 86, Amman (tel: 566-5131; fax: 568-8373).

Ministry of Industry and Trade, PO Box 2019, Amman (tel: 560-7191; fax: 560-3721).

Ministry of Information, PO Box 1794, Amman (tel: 464-1467; fax: 464-8895).

Ministry of the Interior, PO Box 100, Amman (tel: 463-8849, 566-3111, 569-1141; fax: 560-6908).

Ministry of Justice, PO Box 6040, Amman (tel: 566-3101; fax: 568-0238).

Ministry of Labour, PO Box 9052, Amman (tel: 560-7481; fax: 566-7193).

Ministry of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs, 3rd Circle, PO Box 1799, Amman (tel: 464-1393/7; fax: 467-2135).

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Jabal, Amman (tel: 464-1211; fax: 464-2520).

Ministry of Planning, PO Box 555, Amman (tel: 464-4466/7; fax: 464-9341).

Ministry of Public Works and Housing, PO Box 1220, Amman (tel: 585-0470, 585-0479; fax: 585-7590).

Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 6720, Amman (tel: 593-1391; fax: 567-3198).

Ministry of Supply, PO Box 830, Amman (tel: 560-2121, 560-2135; fax: 560-4691).

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, PO Box 224, Amman (tel: 464-2311/4; fax: 464-8465; e-mail: tourism@mota.gov.jo).

Ministry of Trade and Industry, PO Box 2019, Amman (tel: 663-191; fax: 603-721).

Ministry of Transport, PO Box 35214, Amman (tel: 551-8111; fax: 552-7233).

Ministry of Water and Irrigation, PO Box 2412, Amman (tel: 568-0100, 568-0117; fax: 567-9143).

Ministry of Youth, PO Box 1794 (tel: 604-701; fax: 604-717).

Prime Minister's Office, PO Box 80, Amman (tel: 641-211; fax: 642-520).

Other useful addresses

Amman Financial Market (AFM), PO Box 8802, Amman (tel: 660-170; fax: 686-830).

Arab Potash Company (APC), PO Box 1470, Amman (tel: 566-6165; fax: 567-4416).

British Embassy, PO Box 87, Abdoun, Amman (tel: 592-3100; fax: 592-3759; e-mail: british@nets.com.jo).

British Embassy, Commercial Section, PO Box 6062, Amman (tel: 592-3100; fax: 592-3759; e-mail: becommercial@nets.com.jo).

Chief of the Royal Court, PO Box 80, Amman (tel: 464-1211, 462-7421; fax: 464-2520).

Civil Aviation Authority, PO Box 7547, Amman (tel: 92-282; fax: 891-653).

Customs Department, PO Box 90, Amman (tel: 463-8358; fax: 464-7791; internet site: www.customs.gov.jo).

Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company, PO Box 926787, Amman (tel: 568-5732; fax: 568-5730).

Institution for Standards and Metrology, PO Box 941287, Amman 11194 (tel: 568-0139; fax: 568-1099).

Investment Promotion Council, PO Box 893, Amman 11821 (tel: 553-1081/2/3; fax: 552-1084; e-mail: ipc@amra.nic.gov.jo).

Jordan Dead Sea Industries Company (JODICO), PO Box 941260, Amman (tel: 569-941; fax: 569-5939).

Jordan Europe Business Association, PO Box 910751, Amman (tel: 568-5433; fax: 566-6550).

Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO), PO Box 7704, Amman (tel: 560-3507; fax: 568-4568; internet site: www.jedco.gov.jo).

Jordan Fertilisers Industrial Company, PO Box 409, Aqaba (tel: 201-4156; fax: 201-7008).

Jordan Magnesia Company (JORMAG), PO Box 941260, Amman (tel: 569-5941; fax: 569-5939).

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), PO Box 30, Amman (tel: 560-7141; fax: 568-2290).

Jordanian Business Association, PO Box 926182, Amman (tel: 568-0855; fax: 566-0663).

Jordanian Embassy (USA), 3504 International Drive, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202) 966-2664; fax: (+1-202) 966-3110; e-mail: hkjembassydc@aol.com).

National Electric Power Company (NEPCO), PO Box 2310, Amman 1181 (tel: 558-615; fax: 518-336).

Nippon Jordan Fertilisers Company Ltd., PO Box 926861, Amman (tel: 569-1708; fax: 568-4127).

US Embassy, PO Box 354, Jabal, Amman 11118 (tel: 592-0101; fax: 592-0163).

Internet sites

Arabia On-line: www.arabia.com

ArabNet: www.arab.net/

Global Chamber of Commerce: www.gcc.net

Jordan information site: www.kinghussein.gov.jo