



Jordan – Demographic Indicators Sheet (Dec. 2024)

Changes in Population Size of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Since the Beginning of the Millennium		
Source and Year	Population Size (millions)	Annual Population Growth Rate Since Previous Year (%) ^a
The 4 th Population and Housing Census 2004 (adjusted figure)	5.6	
The 5 th Population and Housing Census 2015 (end of the year)	9.6	4.9
Current Population Size (Nov. 2024)	11.7	2.2

Data Source: http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/DataBank/Population_Estimares/PopulationEstimates.pdf; and DOS Population Clock.

a. The annual population growth rate was calculated using the exponential change equation.



First: Population Size, Fertility, Family Planning and Mortality

- ◆ The current population size is 11.7 million; six (6) million of the current population size were added in the last 20 years.
- ◆ The average family size is 4.8 people.
- ◆ The number of registered births of all nationalities during the years 2010-2023 reached about 2.86 million births with an annual average of more than two hundred thousand births (around one million births every five years).
- ◆ The number of registered non-Jordanian births during the years 2012-2023 reached about 319 thousand, 204 thousand of them were Syrian, i.e., 64% of all non-Jordanian births.
- ◆ C-S Delivery 43% at the national level in 2023; at least 2 of 5 deliveries.
- ◆ Sex ratio at birth is 105 boys for 100 girls in 2010-2003; which is the normal ratio.
- ◆ Only one quarter (24%) of children under 6 months of age depend on exclusive breastfeeding (2023).
- ◆ The completed fertility rate per woman in the age group 40-49 years (2023) is 3.7 children for Jordanian woman, 4.5 children for Syrian woman, 4.7 children for Syrian woman in the camps.
- ◆ The contraceptive prevalence rate in 2023 among MWRA (38.4% for modern methods, 21.7% for traditional methods; 39% and 22.3% respectively among Jordanian MWRA).
- ◆ About 32.5% of couples (2023) need to use a modern method to plan for their childbearing and achieve their reproductive desires: (10.8% have an unmet need + 21.7% use ineffective traditional methods).
- ◆ Infant mortality rate is (14) deaths per thousand live births, and the neonatal mortality rate is (9) deaths per thousand live births (for 2023).
- ◆ Maternal mortality ratio (2023) 23.7 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- ◆ Life expectancy in years (2022) 73.3 years (male 72.3, female 75.1).
- ◆ Healthy life expectancy in years (2022) (male 68.1, female 67.2).
- ◆ The percentage of girls who married in 2023 under the age of 18 was 11.2% of the total number of first-time marriages (the highest was in Mafraq Governorate 19%) and reached 38% among Syrian refugees in 2022.
- ◆ In the years 2010-2023, around 120 thousand girls under the age of 18 years were married.



Second: The Population Age Structure is Young, and the Economic Participation Rate is Low:

- ◆ The percentage of children (2023) under the age of fifteen is 34.4%, or about 4 million children; the proportion of children below age 17 among Syrian refugees (according to UNHCR, 2024) is 48.5%.
- ◆ No. of children below age 10 years is 2.5 million; 44.7% of the population is under 20 years of age (5.2 million of children and adolescents).
- ◆ The number of elderly population (2023) 65+ years is 425 thousand (3.7% of total population).
- ◆ The median age of the population (22.9 years; 2023), that is, half of the population is under this age.
- ◆ The unemployment rate among Jordanians for the year 2023 (19.6% among males, 30.7% among females), and about 70% of the unemployed Jordanians are males, the rest are females, with 60% of the unemployed males do not have a secondary education.
- ◆ The percentage of employed Jordanians 15+ years in 2023 is 25.9%; (42.8%) among males compared to (9.7%) among females.
- ◆ **The consequences of the young age structure are the continuation of rapid increase in:**
 - Number of new households and dwellings as well as water and other basic needs.
 - Number of people entering the working and schooling age.
 - Number of unemployed young men and women, even if the unemployment rate decreases.
 - Number of girls of marriage and childbearing age 15-49 years now amount to 2.84 million, and for every one hundred women leave the reproductive age (aged 50-54 years) 280 girls enter that age (aged 15-19 years).
 - Number of births (see first section), even if the birth rate decreases.
 - Number of drivers, vehicles, and traffic crisis.



Third: The geographical distribution of the population is unbalanced, harmful to the environment, rural and women economy, food security, and financially and administratively costly:



- ◆ Only 8% of the population live in the southern half of the Kingdom, in its four governorates; while 92% live in the northern half (central governorates 63.5%, northern governorates 28.5%).
- ◆ Three-quarters of the population lives in 3 governorates: the capital (Amman) , Irbid, and Zarqa; Mafrq governorate comes the fourth and is the highest governorate in the percentage (not the number) of Syrian refugees among its population.

Sources:

- Department of Statistics: Population and Housing Censuses, Jordanian Statistical Yearbook, Jordan in Figures, Population and Family Health Surveys, Labor Force Surveys; for the years shown.
- Civil Status and Passports Department: Annual Statistical Reports for the years indicated.
- Supreme Judge Department, Annual Statistical Report for the years shown.
- Ministry of Health, National Report on Maternal Mortality 2023.
- World Economic Forum - Global Gender Gap Report 2023.
- UNHCR <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/jor>

