

World Watch Research

Jordan:

# Background Information

September 2024



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

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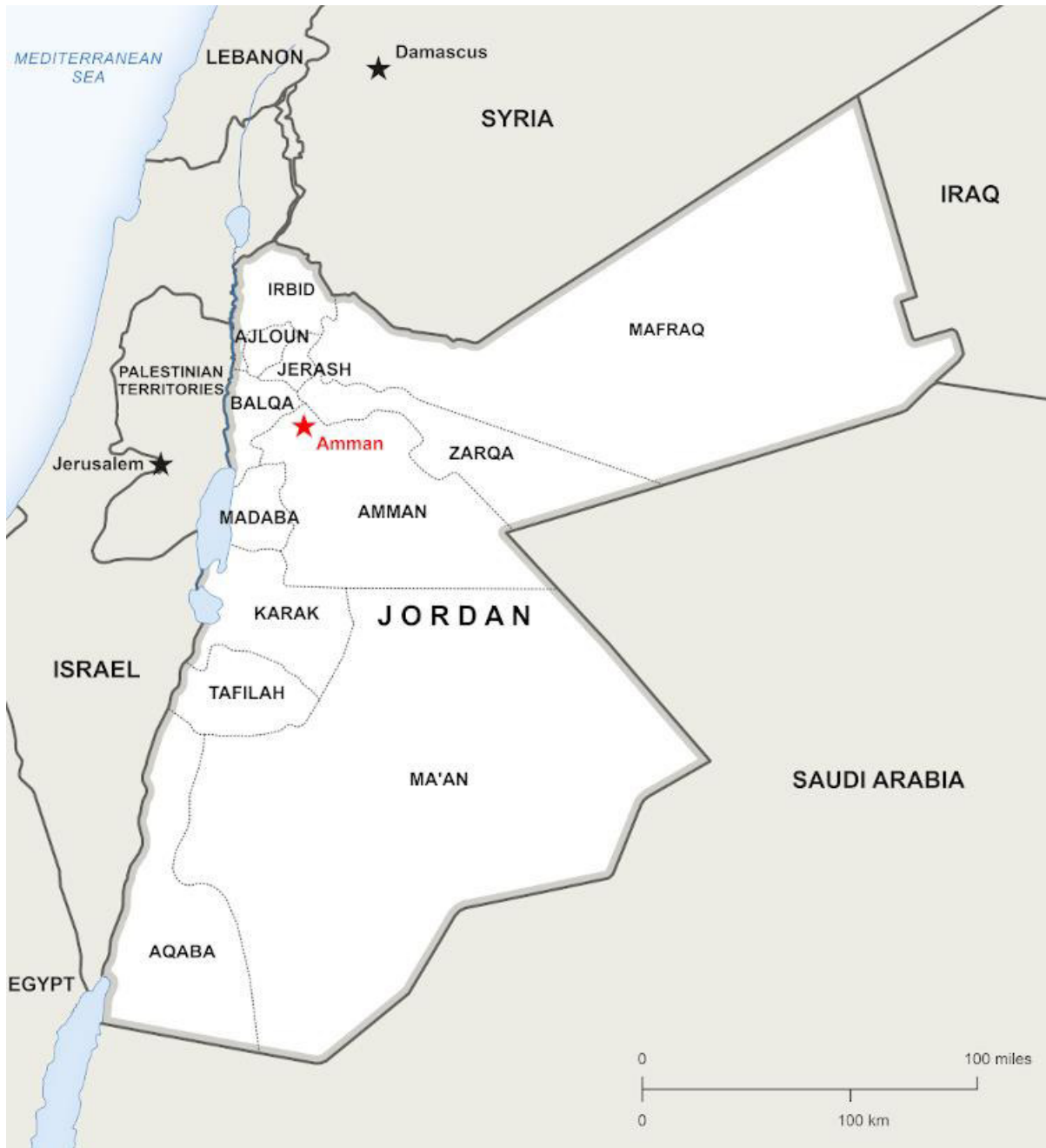
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World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- Background country information (published annually in summer)
- Persecution dynamics (published annually in January).

These documents are the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. They include data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the end of each document under the heading “External links”. These documents may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © Open Doors International.

## Map of country



Jordan: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
11,385,000	170,000	OD estimate

## Recent history

After the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I, the League of Nations mandated Britain to take responsibility for large parts of the Middle East. In the early 1920s, Britain separated a semi-autonomous region from Palestine, with the name Transjordan. The region became independent in 1946 and the Hashemite Kingdom was established. From 1953 King Hussein governed

the kingdom for most of the 20th century. In 1967 Jordan lost the West Bank to Israel in the Six Day War. King Hussein permanently relinquished claims to the West Bank in 1988 and signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. After Hussein's death in 1999, his eldest son King Abdullah II succeeded him.

Compared to other countries in the region, Jordan is one of the last islands of relative calm for Christians. The government narrative is inclusive of Christians, the king himself promotes interfaith dialogue and tolerance, and for their small number Christians are well-represented in politics, the army and the economy. State-recognized Christian communities can live relatively freely if they abstain from proselytization. However, the state will put pressure on non-recognized groups and monitor their activities, especially if they actively evangelize.

Affected by the Arab Spring in 2011, Jordan implemented political reforms including the passage of a new electoral law and devolution of authority. The country has served as a safe haven for refugees from Lebanon, Iraq and Syria but has experienced added strain on its economy and society as a result. Additionally, it has become a transit country for Islamic militants, increasing the threat of Islamist attacks. Jordan faced attacks by Islamists from 2016 to 2019, leading to concerns about restrictions on citizens' rights under the guise of combating terrorism. During the COVID-19 the government used the crisis to silence dissent and violate freedom of association and expression. Parliamentary elections in November 2020 showed voter apathy and resulted in a majority of pro-government candidates. Protests against the economic impact of lockdowns and austerity measures, as well as demonstrations expressing solidarity with Palestinian issues, regularly occur, sometimes resulting in detentions. The country experienced a royal feud between King Abdullah and Crown Prince Hamza, which threatened stability in 2021 and 2022. Constitutional amendments passed in January 2022 increased the king's power according to critics, which seems to be in stark contrast to his earlier statements about democratic aspirations.

### **Protests and demonstrations**

In December 2022, escalating protests over high fuel prices, stemming from IMF-imposed austerity measures, reached a critical point when a [Jordanian officer](#) was shot in the head in Maan (Al-Monitor, 16 December 2022), reflecting the intensification of demonstrations sparked by a prolonged strike against fuel price increases and government taxes across various regions of the country. The regime's proposal for long-term political reforms aiming to lead to parliamentary rule within a decade, has met with popular indifference and skepticism.

The war between Hamas and Israel that erupted on 7 October 2023, has led to heightened geopolitical tensions in the region. With more than 2.3 million Palestinians in the country with a history of unrest and violence, Jordan fears that domestic unrest resulting from the conflict will escalate into a real threat to the status quo within the kingdom. Jordan strongly condemned Israel's counteractions in Gaza and on 5 November 2023, recalled its ambassador and suspended further cooperation. As part of a broader escalation following the war in Gaza, In January 2024 Iranian-backed Iraqi militant group 'Islamic Resistance in Iraq' attacked a US military base in Jordan, killing three US service members and wounding around 40 ([Politico, 31 January 2024](#)). In March 2024, thousands of pro-Palestine protesters gathered in front of the Israeli embassy in Amman, expressing support for Hamas, condemning the Israeli attack on hospitals in Gaza, and calling for an end to the peace treaty with Israel. When

protesters broke through the security cordon on 25 March, riot police responded by firing tear gas and using batons to disperse the rioters, arresting at least 200 people ([Middle East Eye, 28 March 2024](#)).

## Political and legal landscape

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index ([EIU 2023](#)) classifies Jordan as an authoritarian regime. FFP's Fragile States Index ([FSI 2024 Jordan](#)) puts Jordan in the elevated warning category with a score of 74.3 points (ranking 69/179).

There are two major political forces at play in Jordan: King Abdullah II with the royal family on the one hand, and the armed forces and secret police on the other. The king has a considerable amount of influence since he appoints governments, approves legislation and has the power to dissolve parliament. While the royal family seems keen on promoting Jordan as a modern, multi-religious country (also underlining the importance of Jordanian Christians in Jordanian society), the secret police seem to be more concerned with repressing minority Muslim factions as well as keeping Christians in line.

In the September 2016 elections for Jordan's Lower House of Parliament, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) participated for the first time in nearly a decade and won 15 out of 130 seats. The IAF, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, saw its return as significant, though its immediate impact was uncertain. Nine Christians were also elected, meeting the minimum quota for the Christian minority. The original Muslim Brotherhood association was disbanded in July 2020, leaving the IAF as the largest opposition party, allegedly controlled by moderates close to the Crown. This development was seen positively by some Christians, viewing it as progress toward a civil state.

In October 2021, Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh reshuffled his cabinet for the fourth time, creating a new Ministry of Investment. In January 2022, controversial constitutional amendments were approved, increasing the monarchy's power. The new National Security Council, appointed by the King, could bypass other government bodies. Critics argued these changes undermined checks and balances, though they also offered more protection for party membership. The political landscape in Jordan remains characterized by low voter turnout and high political apathy, with many desiring stronger party governance to restore trust and legitimacy. In March 2023, King Abdullah II reaffirmed that the future of political action in Jordan will be through political parties.

In April 2024, Jordan's independent electoral commission set 10 September 2024 for parliamentary elections, aiming to fulfill long-promised political reforms encouraged by King Abdullah. However, the electoral system still favors tribal constituencies over the more populous and politicized cities, likely maintaining the dominance of tribal, centrist, and pro-government members in parliament.

Middle East Concern ([Jordan country profile](#), accessed 27 August 2024) describes the legal framework governing Jordan as follows:

- "The constitution of Jordan establishes Islam as the State religion. It affirms the principle of non-discrimination, including on the basis of religion, and states that the free exercise of worship and religious rites are to be safeguarded, provided these are consistent with public order and morality. Recognized non-Muslim communities are given freedom to govern most personal status issues according to their own rites through a religious court system (though some communities, including many Evangelical denominations, do not currently have the level of legal status required

to operate their own courts). Under applicable Islamic law, Muslims are effectively prohibited from changing their religion, and women registered as Muslim are not permitted to marry non-Muslims."

### **Gender perspective**

As stated above (in: *Specific examples of positive developments*), a new a draft law has been approved which will “work toward granting [equal inheritance rights](#) for men and women” (Al-Monitor, 20 May 2023). It is hoped this could bring positive change for Christians since it would allow Christian women to get equal treatment in inheritance matters and would remove the influence of Islamic law in this field when Christians are involved. However, the bill still needs to be endorsed and accredited by the government and parliament, after which a royal decree will follow.

The Jordanian legal landscape has long been restrictive towards women and girls. Whilst it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992, it maintained a reservation to Article 16, which provides for the elimination of discrimination against women as they enter or exit a marriage. 10% of girls are married before the age of 18, with Syrian and Palestinian refugee girls at heightened risk ([Girls Not Brides Jordan](#), accessed 27 August 2024). The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, although exemptions can be made with judicial consent. A woman must obtain consent from her male guardian before marrying and must file for divorce through the courts, unlike her husband who has the right to divorce her unilaterally (under Articles 80 and 97 of the Personal Status Law). Representing a positive development, Article 308 of the Penal Code was removed in 2017, which previously exonerated a man in cases of rape or sexual assault upon marriage to the victim.

## Religious landscape

Jordan: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	170,000	1.5
Muslim	10,845,021	95.3
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	0	0.0
Ethnic religionist	0	0.0
Jewish	0	0.0
Bahai	29,020	0.3
Atheist	55,546	0.5
Agnostic	279,228	2.5
Other	5,684	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

*Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024 (Adapted according to OD-estimate)*

Just over 95% of the population are Muslim of which the majority are Sunni. Open Doors estimates that approximately 1.5% of the population are Christian. Jordan hosts large numbers of refugees, mostly from Iraq and Syria, of whom several thousand are Christians. The table above shows that, for a Middle Eastern country, there are relatively large numbers of Agnostics and Atheists in Jordan.

Tension has increased between moderate and radical Islamic elements in Jordanian society. Meanwhile, King Abdullah II wants to reform society and has been implementing measures that are beneficial to religious minorities including Christians, such as changes in university curriculum literature (which took place at the beginning of the 2017 academic year). This involved deleting passages discriminating against non-Muslim religions which could encourage Salafi-Islamist views. However, such measures are causing unrest - especially among conservative Muslims - and are thus dividing society.

In September 2016 there was the extra-judicial killing of a prominent author (an atheist from an Orthodox Christian family) for posting a cartoon mocking "the god of Daesh" (i.e. the Islamic State group). This killing shows how freedom of expression is being suppressed by radical Islamic elements and has resulted in increased pressure on Christians and others with views not in line with radical Islam. (NB: This killing was not scored in the WWL 2017 analysis as it was not a specifically anti-Christian attack.).

On the occasion of Jordan's National Day in 2021, the local Bible Society had placed verses from a Psalm on banners in several places in Amman. Some Jordanians recognized these verses as being taken from the Jewish holy book and (apparently unaware that these are also part of the Christian Bible) they put pressure on the governor of Amman to have them removed. As a result, the banners were removed, tensions rose, and there were attacks on Christians on social media. Hate-speech and threats against Jordanian Christians on social media have clearly increased since the COVID-19 crisis due to the increase in Christian online activity as a result of lockdowns. In addition, there was an increase in online accusations against Christians - for example, by some Jordanian Sunni preachers - blaming Christians for the recent economic challenges.

## Economic landscape

A recent economic recovery has started according to the [World Bank Jordan overview](#) (last updated in February 2024), though challenges remain:

- "The country has maintained a steady average growth rate of 2.5% over the past decade. However, there is room for improvement in generating more job opportunities for Jordan's young population and for bringing more women into the labor market. Jordan's labor force participation rate was 33.0% in Q2-2023 (and only 13.8% for women). Unemployment increased to 22.3%, remaining well above its pre-COVID-19 crisis average of 15.1% (2012-2019), with youth (46.1%) and women (30.9%) being the most affected. Annual headline inflation decelerated significantly in 2023, to 1.4% in October 2023, supported by monetary policy tightening and lower commodity prices."

The World Bank classifies Jordan as an upper-middle-income economy. However, the Kingdom is faced with economic problems such as high levels of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, budget deficits and current account deficits and government debt. Without any oil supplies and few natural resources of its own, Jordan is highly dependent on foreign aid. The main donor countries are the Gulf States (e.g. Saudi Arabia) as well as the USA and Europe. This makes Jordan relatively vulnerable to influence from these countries. Jordan has been invited to join the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a political, economic and military partnership between all Gulf states (except Yemen).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has renewed its support for the Kingdom, but the Jordanian economy suffered greatly from measures imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, which particularly hit the service sector and tourism - both important growth sectors for the Jordanian economy. Also, regional conflicts, particularly the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, pose risks to tourism and trade.

Economists warn that Jordan's middle class is [facing extinction](#) due to the economic crisis caused by measures aiming to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and due to the wave of inflation resulting from the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, causing it to lose its foothold within the social, economic and cultural fabric of Jordanian society. The political stability of the country depends on its economic prosperity and the success of involving the population in economic progress. Instability due to the economic situation may have negative consequences for Christians in the country. While the economic situation is not generally a factor leading to the persecution of Christians, it is a very important factor for those considering the possibility of emigration.



## Gender perspective

Women are among the most economically vulnerable in Jordan, primarily due to restricted employment opportunities as well as patrilineal inheritance laws. Despite having achieved gender parity in relation to access to education, female labor force participation rate is below 15%, compared to a 62.5% participation rate for men within the same age demography ([World Bank Jordan data](#)). This, however, is not reflective of women's aspirations. According to [Georgetown WPS Index report 2019/20](#), 60% of women agreed with the statement: "Having a job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person." As part of its 2021 [Gender Mainstreaming Strategy](#), the Jordanian government proposed to increase female participation in its armed forces; for instance, the Jordanian Special Forces (JAF) and to increase female participation in combat roles from 3% to 5% (Middle East Institute, 28 March 2023).

## Social and cultural landscape

According to the [World Factbook Jordan](#) (accessed 27 August 2024) and [UNDP Human Development Report Jordan](#) (data updates as of 13 March 2024):

- **Main ethnic groups:** Jordanian 69.3%, Syrian 13.3%, Palestinian 6.7%, Egyptian 6.7%, Iraqi 1.4%, other 2.6% (2015 est.)
- **Main languages:** Arabic (official), English (widely understood among upper and middle classes)
- **Urban population:** 92% of total population (2023)
- **Literacy rate:** 98.4% of the population age 15 and over can read and write.
- **HDI score and ranking:** With a score of 0.736 Jordan ranks 99th out of 193 countries and falls in the 'High Human Development' category. From 1990 to 2022, Jordan's HDI value rose 18.3%.
- **Life expectancy:** 74.2 at birth.
- **Education:** Mean years of schooling is 10.4, an average that increased by 5.4 years since 1990.
- **Unemployment:** 21.4% of Jordan's labor force was without official employment first quarter of 2024, according to the [Jordanian Department of Statistics](#) (accessed 27 August 2024). The youth unemployment rate fell to the still very high percentage of 41.7% in 2023 ([Statista 2024 Jordan](#), accessed 27 August 2024).

Jordan has a young population, more than 60 per cent of whom are under 30. This demographic is driving modernization and cultural change, embracing technology and social media, but also struggling with issues such as unemployment and housing. Jordan's social and cultural landscape faces several challenges, including economic pressures, unemployment and the need for political reform. Finding a balance between tradition and modernization, integrating diverse communities and responding to the needs of the young population are ongoing concerns.

Jordanian culture is largely shaped by tension between native Jordanians and a variety of newer refugees, who are estimated to make up over 6% of the total population. The majority of the population consists of Palestinians, most of whom fled as a result of the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967. Most of these received citizenship in the early 1950s. Palestinian Jordanians ("West Bankers") are not treated equally compared to most other nationals who are from Bedouin descent ("East Bankers") and have been living in the area for centuries. Discrimination of West Bankers is especially felt in the area of employment in the army, government and public sector (which is limited to East Bankers only), leaving just the private sector for Palestinians. Moreover, Palestinian Jordanians are

discriminated against in health and economic sectors and in state-provided education. Priority is given to East Bankers and, in general, these are loyal to the king. As a result of widespread discrimination and disempowerment of non-nationals, social cohesion in Jordan is under pressure.

According to the US Department of State ([IRFR 2023 Jordan](#)):

- Christians reported they self-segregated into Christian enclaves in Amman and its outskirts to escape social pressure and threats. Although Christians clustered in specific neighborhoods and sought to emigrate abroad for safety and community support, Christian leaders stated it was difficult to categorize the desire to relocate as solely based on religious identity, saying Christians relocated to the cities and moved abroad seeking economic opportunities as well.

### Gender perspective

In Jordan's predominately Islamic context, men and women are expected to assume traditional roles; women remain typically restricted to roles that are subordinate to men ([IREX, 9 March 2021](#)). Domestic violence reportedly increased during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Many victims remain fearful of reporting crimes due to high impunity for perpetrators and the widespread societal tolerance for violence against women. Studies indicate that killings of women and children increased by [94%](#) in 2022 compared to the previous year (New Arab, 10 January 2023).

Particularly affecting female converts, marriages between women from a Muslim background and non-Muslims are not recognized ([HRW 2023 Jordan country chapter](#)).

### Technological landscape

According to [DataReportal Digital 2024: Jordan](#) (23 February 2024) / Survey date - January 2024:

- **Internet usage:** 91% penetration
- **Social media usage:** 56.2% of the total population: 46.9% percent of Jordan's social media users were female, while 53.1% were male.
- **Active cellular mobile connections:** 80.4% of the total population

Freedom House made the following assessment ([Freedom on the Net 2023 Jordan](#)):

- "Internet freedom in Jordan remains restricted. Access to the internet has improved significantly in recent years, although concerns about state surveillance of online activity persist. The government annually blocks access to online communications platforms during high school exams, and TikTok was separately blocked during the coverage period. Online journalists, activists, and social media users can be prosecuted for their criticism of the government, based on several laws that penalize legitimate expression online. Journalists are pressured to remove online content, and authorities frequently issue gag orders to limit media coverage of politically sensitive topics. During the coverage period, a 10-day internet shutdown was issued in the south of Jordan amid protests. In August 2023, after the coverage period, the king approved a new Cybercrime Law, which, among other things, includes criminal penalties for broadly defined online speech and introduces additional punishments for the use of circumvention tools."

- "According to Article 11 of the 2015 Cybercrime Law, internet users face at least three months in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,800 if they are found guilty of defamation on social media or in online media outlets. In practical terms, this means that journalists face harsher penalties for defamation online than in print publications, since the PPL prohibits the jailing of journalists for press offenses. In 2015, the Law Interpretation Bureau ruled that Article 11 of the Cybercrime Law supersedes other legislation, rendering journalists' immunity under the PPL largely irrelevant as they can be jailed for any defamatory articles that appear online. Under the 2023 Cybercrime Law, which was passed after the coverage period and replaces the 2015 Cybercrime Law, internet users can face up to six months in prison and a fine for any content deemed to promote, instigate, or insight immorality
- "The PPL bans the publication of "material that is inconsistent with the principles of freedom, national obligation, human rights, and Arab-Islamic values. "Article 38 of the law prohibits any "contempt, slander, or defamation of or abuse of" religions or prophets."

Jordanian Christians are increasingly anxious about what they can write about on social media (even concerning posts about food during Ramadan) and have reported a high level of self-censorship to avoid any possibility of insulting the Islamic majority. Social media mobbing is the main reason for such fear. If relatives observe a Christian from an Islamic background or a Muslim accessing Christian media, it is likely they will put pressure on them to give up their interest in Christianity. Also, the authorities are known to have monitored the mobile phones of Christians involved in ministry to converts from Islam to Christianity.

According to the US Department of State ([IRFR 2023 Jordan](#)):

- Religious leaders reported continued online hate speech directed towards religious minorities and those advocating religious moderation, frequently through social media, though some religious leaders believe there will be a reduction in such discourse due to provisions penalizing it in the cybercrimes law.
- Criticism in digital media, including social media, continued to target non-Muslim religions. Religious minorities expressed concerns that some Muslim leaders preached intolerance. Some observers said criticism of religious minorities online increased in 2023, particularly as conflict between Israel and Hamas escalated, due to a perceived association between Christianity and the United States.

## Security situation

Despite overall security stability, Jordan has faced four Islamist attacks in the recent past, spanning cross-border incidents, a castle shoot-out in Karak (2016), a bombing at a Christian music festival in Fuheis (2018), and a stabbing targeting Western tourists in Jerash (2019). In 2020, Jordan's intelligence service claimed to have thwarted an Islamist attack on a church and an alcohol-licensed shop, arresting individuals with alleged links to the Islamic State group. Human rights advocates criticize Jordan's rulers for leveraging terrorism threats to curtail citizens' and parliament's rights, and the country grapples with a disproportionately high per capita presence of Islamist thinkers and fighters, partly fueled by the repatriation concerns of those who fought in Syria and Iraq. The Hamas-Israel war has led to increased tensions in the region, raising concerns in Jordan about potential domestic unrest and

threats to the kingdom's stability due to its significant Palestinian population and an increased risk of militant attacks.

According to [Crisis24's Jordan report](#) (last accessed 16 July 2024), Jordan's country risk level is categorized as 'moderate' and the following explanation is given:

- "The security environment in Jordan is relatively stable by regional standards and thousands of international business travelers and tourists visit the country each month without issue. Petty theft poses the primary threat to visitors, particularly in urban centers and tourist sites. Violent crime is rare. Civil unrest occurs frequently over various socio-economic and political issues and can escalate into violence. Tribal and inter-clan tensions occasionally escalate into communal violence. Conflict spillover from Syria is a threat in the northeastern border areas, and Jordanian security forces periodically clash with border infiltrators. Parts of the northeast at the border with Syria have been declared a closed military zone. The Islamic State group has been linked to a number of attacks against security and military forces, however Jordan's capable counter-terrorism forces help to mitigate this threat."

### Gender perspective

Christian refugees who fled to Jordan in recent years - e.g. from Syria - are vulnerable in the context of their displacement. Studies have shown that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and protracted crises ([UN OCHA](#), 14 June 2023; [Action Aid](#), 19 March 2020).

The rate of early marriages among the Syrian refugee community in Jordan is high, and the threat of sexual and gender-based violence remains an ongoing issue. This largely affects women and girls, but instances of sexual assaults against men and boys are believed to be underreported ([SGBV sub-working group](#), UNHCR, 2015; [DRC et al](#), 22 February 2021). According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, [49.5%](#) of all registered people of concern in Jordan are women and girls (UN OCHA, 31 May 2023).

### Christian origins

Christians have been living in Jordan since the earliest days of Christianity. The country was a center of refuge for Christians who fled persecution in Jerusalem and Rome during the first century AD. Christianity became the accepted religion of the area in the 4th century and churches and chapels were built throughout the entire country. This changed with the coming of Islam, when - according to Islamic tradition - Muslim armies overran the area in 636 AD.

According to [JMECA](#) historical experts (accessed 9 January 2023):

"After the Arab Muslim conquest of the Middle East and North Africa in the seventh century, Christianity slowly declined in those regions. By the tenth century Christians constituted some ten percent of the population of the Islamic Empire. Into this situation at the end of the eleventh century came the Crusades, which brought with them the Roman Catholic Church. ... During the crusader period, in the thirteenth century and afterwards, several groups of Eastern Christians, entered into communion with Rome. ... In the early eighteenth century the Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch split. ... Western Churches of reformed tradition came into the Middle East in the nineteenth century. American Presbyterian missionaries worked in Egypt, Lebanon and other parts of the region. The

Church of England and the Prussian Lutheran Church jointly set up a bishopric in Jerusalem in 1841. It came to an end in the early 1880s, and separate Anglican and Lutheran bishoprics were set up towards the end of the decade. The original purpose was to convert Jews to Christianity. In that aim it largely failed, but attracted a small number of existing Christians, mostly Orthodox or Greek Catholic, in what is now Israel, the Occupied Territories and Jordan.”

## Church spectrum today

Jordan: Church networks	Christians	%
Orthodox		62.7
Catholic		20.2
Protestant		7.7
Independent		8.5
Unaffiliated		1.9
Doubly-affiliated Christians		-0.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.3</b>
<i>(Any deviation from the total number of Christians stated above is due to the rounding of decimals)</i>		
Evangelical movement		6.1
Pentecostal-Charismatic		7.6

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

**Orthodox:** Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox. **Roman Catholics:** All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome. **Protestants:** Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world’s 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics. **Independents:** Christians who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant). **Unaffiliated Christians:** Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches. **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once. **Evangelical movement:** Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. **Pentecostal-Charismatic:** Church members involved in renewal in the Holy Spirit, sometimes known collectively as "Renewalists".

Middle East Concern ([Jordan country profile](#), accessed 27 August 2024): Officially recognized churches include the Greek Orthodox church, the Syriac Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic and Coptic Orthodox Churches, the Greek, Maronite, and Roman Catholic Churches, the Syriac Church of the East, and the Anglican, Pentecostal, Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist Churches. Other denominations have lesser legal status (mostly as ‘societies’), including the Baptist, Free Evangelical, Nazarene, Assemblies of God and Alliance churches.

## Further useful reports

A selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

These are also available on the Open Doors Analytical website (password: freedom):

- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/?s=Jordan>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/>.

## External Links

- Recent history: Jordanian officer - <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/12/top-jordan-police-officer-shot-dead-fuel-price-protests>
- Recent history: Politico, 31 January 2024 - <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/01/31/islamic-resistance-iraq-jordan-drone-strike-00138866>
- Recent history: Middle East Eye, 28 March 2024 - <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/jordan-israel-embassy-protest-thousands-arrests>
- Political and legal landscape: EIU 2023 - [https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/Democracy-Index-2023-Final-report.pdf?version=0&mkt\\_tok=NzUzLVJJUS00MzgAAAGTi\\_KRIIcZCR3-ICUGsbz8aHSn4yOoxr7LbzBYUJ6K3Qk58VVOIeouM9tcNbQW7G18HnuWdd-jQ0gMJN8wLT6gXEOsiGvnDF5EMtxr9mmr7nP4oQ](https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/Democracy-Index-2023-Final-report.pdf?version=0&mkt_tok=NzUzLVJJUS00MzgAAAGTi_KRIIcZCR3-ICUGsbz8aHSn4yOoxr7LbzBYUJ6K3Qk58VVOIeouM9tcNbQW7G18HnuWdd-jQ0gMJN8wLT6gXEOsiGvnDF5EMtxr9mmr7nP4oQ)
- Political and legal landscape: FSI 2024 Jordan - <https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/>
- Political and legal landscape: Jordan country profile - <https://www.meconcern.org/countries/jordan/>
- Political and legal landscape: equal inheritance rights - <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/05/christians-jordan-welcome-progress-inheritance-law>
- Political and legal landscape: Girls Not Brides Jordan - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/jordan/>
- Economic landscape: World Bank Jordan overview - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/jordan/overview>
- Economic landscape: facing extinction - <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/levant/deepening-income-inequality-signals-end-of-jordans-middle-class-say-economists-pfnu91xi>
- Economic landscape: World Bank Jordan data - <https://data.worldbank.org/country/jordan>
- Economic landscape: Georgetown WPS Index report 2019/20 - <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WPS-Index-2019-20-Report.pdf>
- Economic landscape: Gender Mainstreaming Strategy - <https://www.mei.edu/blog/arab-women-break-boundaries-and-stereotypes-middle-eastern-militaries#:~:text=superiors%20back%20home.,Jordan,-Lebanon%20is%20not>
- Social and cultural landscape: World Factbook Jordan - <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/jordan/#people-and-society>
- Social and cultural landscape: UNDP Human Development Report Jordan - <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/JOR>
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