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ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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Migration Facts Jordan



On the web: www.migrationpolicycentre.eu

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Introduction Since the 1973 oil price increases, large outflows of Jordanian citizens – mainly highly-skilled and of Palestinian origin – emigrated towards the oil-producing countries and overseas, which represent still today the most important destination for Jordanians. In the same period, Jordan became the recipient of unskilled and semi-skilled workers destined to fill shortages in the agrarian, construction and service sectors. Considered partly as replacement migration, today's foreign workers represent a fundamental component of the Jordanian labour market. However, the high levels of unemployment among nationals combined with large numbers of foreign workers are much debated. Jordan has also become the destination for several waves of forced migrants from Palestine –the majority of whom were granted Jordanian citizenship – and from Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria.

Demographic-Economic

Outward Migration		Inward Migration	
STOCK			
Jordanian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)		Immigration stocks in Jordan - year 2004 (*)	
Total emigrants: 345,760 (according to 2008 Jordanian statistics: 161,854) (b)		Total immigrants: 392,273 (7.7% of the total resident population)	
Five top countries of residence:		Five top countries of nationality (a):	
Destination countries' statistics	Jordanian statistics Ministry of Labour (2008)	Palestine: 115,190 Egypt: 112,392 Iraq: 40,084 Syria: 38,130 Sri Lanka: 13,552	
Saudi Arabia: 132,332 United States: 74,166 Palestine: 50,350 UAE: 18,571 Oman: 10,131	UAE: 54,834 Qatar: 50,928 Kuwait: 30,748 Oman: 18,888 Saudi Arabia: 3,396	(a) Irregular migrants are not included	
Sex: Males: 52.4% Females: 47.6%	Age group: Less than 15: 10.9% 15-64: 77.0% 65+: 12.1%	Sex: Males: 41.0% Females: 59.0%	Age group: Less than 15: 24.4% 15-64: 74.0% 65+: 1.6%
Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (17.0%); secondary (39.8%); tertiary (43.2%)		Level of education: primary or below (62.4%); secondary (30.1%); tertiary (7.5%)	
Occupation (year 2006): professionals (21.8%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (18.7%); legislators, senior officials and managers (13.7%).		Occupation: craft and related trades workers (43.9%); elementary occupations (27.8%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (8.3%)	
Notes: (a) Jordanian emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence; (b) Jordanian emigration statistics are available only for Jordanian nationals residing in oil-producing countries. Source: destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey). Data on the distribution of Jordanian migrants by level of education and occupation had been taken from the DIOC-OECD Database.		Notes: (*) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion. Source: Jordanian population census (2004).	
FLOWS			
Outflows of Jordanian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011		Inflows of foreign nationals in Jordan – year 2011	
Total outflows: 8,413		Total inflows: 280,263	
Five top countries of destination:		Five top countries of nationality:	
United States: 3,261 Australia: 1,482 United Kingdom: 1,298	Sweden: 400 Germany: 371	Egypt: 190,480 Sri Lanka: 25,756 Indonesia: 15,545	Philippines: 14,157 Bangladesh: 10,780
Source: flow data are provided by first residence permits (EU MS + Norway) and visas (US + Australia) issued annually to Jordanian nationals.		Source: flow data are provided by work permits granted annually to foreign nationals by Jordanian authorities (<i>Ministry of Labour</i>) which however do not make any distinction between first permits and renewals.	

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General legal references

- The Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 1 January 1952, and amendments;
- Passport Regulation n°5 of 2003; Amendment n°90/1998 of regulation n° 24/1973 promulgating the procedures for designating the residence of foreigners; By-law n° 3 of 1997 on visas;
- By-Law n°89 governing the employment of Non-Jordanian Domestic Workers by the private recruitment agencies; Foreign Workers Recruitment Regulation for the Year 2009; Law n°48 of the year 2008 amending labour law; Regulations concerning the employment of foreign workers 2005 and 2007;
- Law n° 6 of 1954 on Nationality

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
Entry and exit freedom for Jordanian citizens with valid passport.	Two types of visas: 1) a single or multiple entry visa; 2) a single or multiple transit visas. Both cannot exceed a period of 2 months. Most Arab and European nationals (among others) can obtain entry visa at border.
Labour	Labour
Jordanian Government strategy is to facilitate successful Jordanian emigration, particularly by exporting Jordanian labour, especially skilled labour. It aims at consolidating bilateral cooperation for the recruitment of Jordanian labour, and also by forming consultative committees in conjunction with international organisations (e.g. IOM) in issues related to economic emigration and reform of labour legislation. Bilateral collaboration and labour agreements include those with Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and other neighbouring Arab states. Policies spurring skilled emigration can be read as a government strategy to relieve unemployment, attract foreign aid, increase remittances, and ensure control over political opposition.	Jordan has a relatively open-door policy for semi-skilled and low-skilled labour, and it regulates the status and recruitment of foreign labour. Recruitment agencies of foreign workers are regulated by government. Jordan gives national preference for employment, afterwards Arab nationalities have priority. Liberal and government professions reserved for nationals. Employers willing to recruit or bring a foreign worker must submit an application to the Ministry of Labor (MoL); provide MoL with work contract and a notary or a bank guarantee in case worker is not paid due wages. MOA between Jordan and Indonesia on the placement of Indonesian domestic workers (2009). Other agreements related to labour with Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, among others
Rights	Rights
Jordanians have the freedom to stay abroad. Participation in local or general elections for Jordanians abroad is permitted if emigrant has a residence in Jordan. Jordanians abroad have access to Social Security.	Family reunification is granted under certain conditions. Access to employment linked to stay permit and work permit. No access to public services for foreigners. Domestic workers entitled to religious freedom, health care, 10- hour work days, a day off per week and an annual vacation of fourteen days, entitled to be in contact with their families in their homeland at least once a month at employer's expense, as well as decent living conditions. Egyptian workers may invite family to visit under certain conditions.
Irregular Migration	Irregular Migration
EU-Jordan Association agreement (2002) includes dialogue on illegal immigration and the conditions attaching to the repatriation of illegal immigrants, and to take actions regarding the reintegration of repatriated illegal immigrants.	Irregular entry, stay, and work are punished with prison sentences and/or fines depending upon offence. Anti-trafficking laws (2009) criminalise and punish all forms of human trafficking with penalties of up to 10 years in prison. Companies involved in illegal trafficking are exposed to permanent closure.
Diaspora	International Protection
Government strategies are to: establish links with Diaspora communities and encourage remittances and local investments; organise expatriate conferences so as to consolidate business links between Jordan and its Diaspora communities; collect information on Jordanian professionals abroad working in OECD and Arab countries; and devise policies on return migration, among others. Civil society initiatives, through various Jordanian organisations, also aim at consolidating Jordanian Diaspora links with the homeland, in addition to providing services to Jordanians abroad.	Jordan has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, but recognises refugee status granted by UNHCR. UNHCR refugees' stay in Jordan is limited to 6 months, with the ability to work. Protection is only temporary, and there is no local integration. Palestinian refugees in Jordan are placed under the UNWRA mandate and given 5 year passports. Political refugees shall not be extradited on account of their political beliefs or for their defence of liberty [Article 21 (i) of 1952 Constitution].
Multiple Citizenship	
Possibility for Jordanian nationals to acquire another citizenship without losing their Jordanian citizenship.	