

Bilateral relations with Jordan

Main Country Indicators 2013

	Jordan	EU28
Total area (in km2)	88.780	4.385.992
Population (million)	6,5	506,7
Population density (per km2)	72,8	120
GDP (current US \$)	33,6 billion	17,3 trillion
GDP per capita (current US \$)	5.214	34.240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	2,8	0,1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Jordan	EU28
Agricultural land (km2)	10.026	1.878.817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	11,3	44,3
Arable land as % of land area	1,9	25,6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	0,9	2,8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	2 *	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	3,4 **	1,6 *

Sources: World Bank

* year 2012

** year 2014

Agriculture in Jordan

Only a tiny fraction of Jordan's land is arable, and the country imports many foodstuffs to meet its needs. Wheat and barley are the main crops of the rain-fed uplands, and the irrigated land in the Jordan Valley produces citrus and other fruits, potatoes, vegetables (tomatoes and cucumbers), and olives. Pastureland is limited; although artesian wells have been dug to increase its area, much former pasture area has been turned over to the cultivation of olive and fruit trees, and large areas have been degraded to the point that they can barely support livestock. Sheep and goats are the most important livestock, but there are also some cattle, camels, horses, donkeys, and mules. Poultry is also kept. Agriculture in Jordan contributed substantially to the economy at the time of Jordan's independence, but it subsequently suffered a decades-long steady decline.

By the mid-1980s, agriculture's share of GDP in Jordan was only about 6 percent and has decreased to 3% today. Several factors contributed to this downward trend, including Jordanian labor emigration and water scarcity (access to water remains a key concern in rural areas).

Eu-Jordan Relations

The EU has developed a close partnership with Jordan, a country that aims to act as a force of moderation and reform in a region in political turmoil. It is the EU's objective to support Jordan in this endeavor. The relationship emphasizes close cooperation on democratic reform and economic modernization. The current agenda of EU-Jordan relations is spelled out in an Action Plan under the European Neighborhood Policy. The legal basis for the EU - Jordan relationship is the Association Agreement . The EU aims to assist Jordan in the implementation of its home grown reform process. The strategy and priorities of the EU's assistance are set out in the Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme . In response to the conflict in Syria and its consequences both in Syria and its neighboring countries, in June 2013 the EU adopted a joint communication mapping out a comprehensive EU approach.

The EU's Association Agreement with Jordan signed in November 1997, entered into force on 1 May 2002. The Association Agreement progressively establishes a Free Trade Area between the EU and Jordan over 12 years. In addition, an agreement on further liberalization of agricultural products entered into (link to: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2006.041.01.0001.01.ENG) force in 2007. A protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms for trade between the EU and Jordan initialed in December 2009 entered into force on 1 July 2011. After Saudi Arabia, the EU is Jordan's second trade partner (followed by China and the US) – with a total trade amounting to approximately € 3.8 billion in 2012. In 2012, the EU was Jordan's second source of imports and the fifth destination of exports. Jordan is the EU's 63th trade partner.

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Jordan (2013): €590 million

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Jordan (2013): €27 million

>> More statistical information (link to: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/jordan_en.pdf)