

Arab Barometer IX

Jordan Report

September 2026

Executive summary

Arab Barometers Wave IX survey captures public opinion in Jordan at a moment when persistent economic pressure intersects with continuing regional upheaval. The results suggest that Jordanians assess domestic institutions, governance, and foreign relations through two dominant lenses: whether the state can respond to material hardship at home and whether international actors are perceived to stand with Palestinians amid the war in Gaza. Compared with Arab Barometers late 2023 survey, attitudes have shifted in some important respects, although economic insecurity remains deeply entrenched.

The economic situation remains the issue that most clearly defines public concern. Nearly six-in-ten Jordanians (59 percent) identify it as the country's most important challenge, essentially unchanged from the previous survey, while corruption is a distant second at 20 percent. Views of current conditions have improved modestly: 27 percent now describe the economy as good or very good, compared with 22 percent in late 2023. Yet nearly three-quarters (73 percent) still say conditions are bad, and just three-in-ten (30 percent) expect the economy to improve during the next two to three years. Younger and university-educated Jordanians are somewhat more positive about current conditions, but pessimism is widespread across every demographic group.

The lived experience of hardship remains more severe than these modest improvements in economic ratings imply. Six-in-ten Jordanians (61 percent) report that food purchased by their household often or sometimes failed to last during the previous month and that they lacked money to buy more, six points below the 67 percent recorded in late 2023. Women are 15 percentage points more likely than men to report this experience (68 percent compared with 53 percent), while citizens with a secondary education or less are 23 points more likely than college-educated ones (69 percent compared with 46 percent). Half of Jordanians (50 percent) worried about having enough food over the previous year; 49 percent at times ate only a few kinds of food, 45 percent skipped a meal, and 38 percent experienced a period in which the household ran out of food.

Public confidence in state institutions has strengthened, although it remains highly uneven. Trust in the government has risen by ten points since late 2023 to 49 percent, while trust in the prime minister has increased by a similar amount to 49 percent. Parliament remains far less trusted at 27 percent. The armed forces and police continue to stand apart from political institutions, with 96 percent and 91 percent, respectively, expressing confidence in them. Notably, younger Jordanians are more trusting of the government, prime minister, parliament, and civil society organizations than those aged 30 or older, a pattern that differs from many other countries surveyed in Wave IX.

Evaluations of government performance have also improved. Six-in-ten Jordanians (61 percent) are satisfied with the governments performance overall, up substantially from late 2023. Satisfaction with education, healthcare, and trash collection has increased, while electricity and water remain positively rated despite some decline. Ratings of the governments work on creating jobs, reducing inequality, and keeping prices down have improved from late 2023 but remain low, ranging from 22 to 24 percent providing a positive assessment in these economic areas. Security remains the clear exception: nine-in-ten (90 percent) rate the government positively on maintaining security and order.

Migration intentions remain widespread and continue to point to the risk of losing younger and more highly educated citizens. More than four-in-ten Jordanians (44 percent) have considered emigrating, a level broadly unchanged from late 2023. Men are 25 percentage points more likely than women to have considered leaving (56 percent compared with 31 percent), citizens aged 18-29 are 14 points more likely than those aged 30 or older (53 percent compared with 39 percent), and the university-educated are 11 points more likely than those with at most a secondary education (51 percent compared with 40 percent). Economic reasons are cited by 92 percent of potential migrants, and the United States and Canada are the leading preferred destinations. Fourteen percent of those considering emigration say they would contemplate leaving without the required documents, down from 19 percent in late 2023.

Civic and political engagement remains limited. Only 22 percent say they are interested in politics, and formal membership in an organization or club is rare. Volunteering is more common at 21 percent and has increased since late 2023, but participation is concentrated among men, youth, university graduates, and people who can afford their basic needs. The largest divide is economic: citizens who can cover basic needs are 15 percentage points more likely to volunteer than those who cannot (31 percent compared with 16 percent). Jordanians are also less likely than in late 2023 to say freedoms of expression and peaceful protest are guaranteed.

Attitudes on gender combine support for womens equal rights with the persistence of traditional norms when it comes to womens roles. Roughly two-thirds (65 percent) endorse equal workplace opportunities, while even larger percentages parliamentary and cabinet quotas for women, and the right of a Jordanian woman married to a foreigner to pass citizenship to her children. At the same time, at least seven-in-ten agree that men are better political leaders and that a man should have the final say in family decisions. Jordanians identify the scarcity of jobs and lack of childcare as the leading barriers facing women who seek employment. Sixty-one percent say harassment of women is widespread on the street and 51 percent say it is widespread in the workplace. Women are 19 percentage points more likely than men to say violence against

women increased during the previous year (45 percent compared with 26 percent).

Environmental concerns are centered on water. Fifty-seven percent identify lack of water resources or water pollution as Jordan's most serious environmental problem, ten points higher than in late 2023. A majority (55 percent) is concerned about climate-related natural disasters, and 47 percent worry that climate change could force their family to relocate. Jordanians overwhelmingly favor the development of alternative energy (93 percent); 71 percent support phasing out fossil fuels and 78 percent support phasing out highly polluting vehicles. Six-in-ten (60 percent) say the government should do more to address climate change.

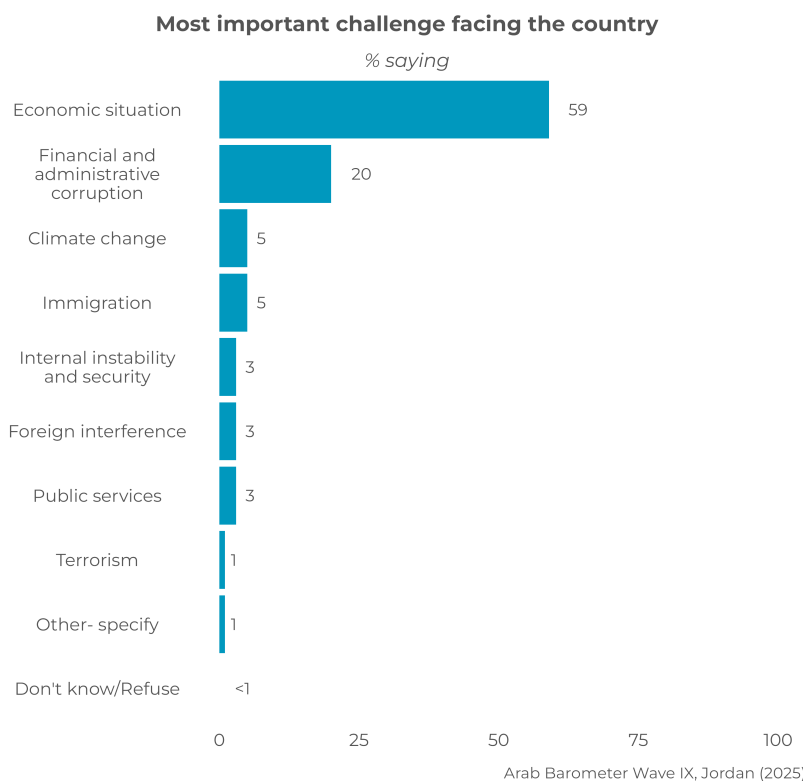
Support for democracy remains substantial but is tied closely to outcomes. Fifty-seven percent say democracy is always preferable to any other form of government, while 86 percent agree that democratic systems may have problems but remain better than the alternatives. Nevertheless, 80 percent say the form of government matters less if it can solve economic problems, and 77 percent say the same if it can maintain order. Jordanians most often define democracy through equality before the law, the provision of basic necessities, and the absence of corruption rather than elections alone. Seven-in-ten (70 percent) say democracy is suitable for Jordan, 12 percentage points above the 58 percent who give the country a relatively democratic rating in practice.

Views of foreign powers continue to be shaped by Gaza. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, China, and the United Arab Emirates receive the most favorable ratings. The United States remains deeply unpopular, while 95 percent view Israel unfavorably. Seven-in-ten Jordanians (70 percent) describe the events in Gaza as either genocide or massacre, a level similar to late 2023. Two-thirds (67 percent) oppose normalization with Israel even if Israel recognizes a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Jordanians overwhelmingly see their own country as committed to defending Palestine and identify Jordan more often than any other actor as suited to broker a fair political solution.

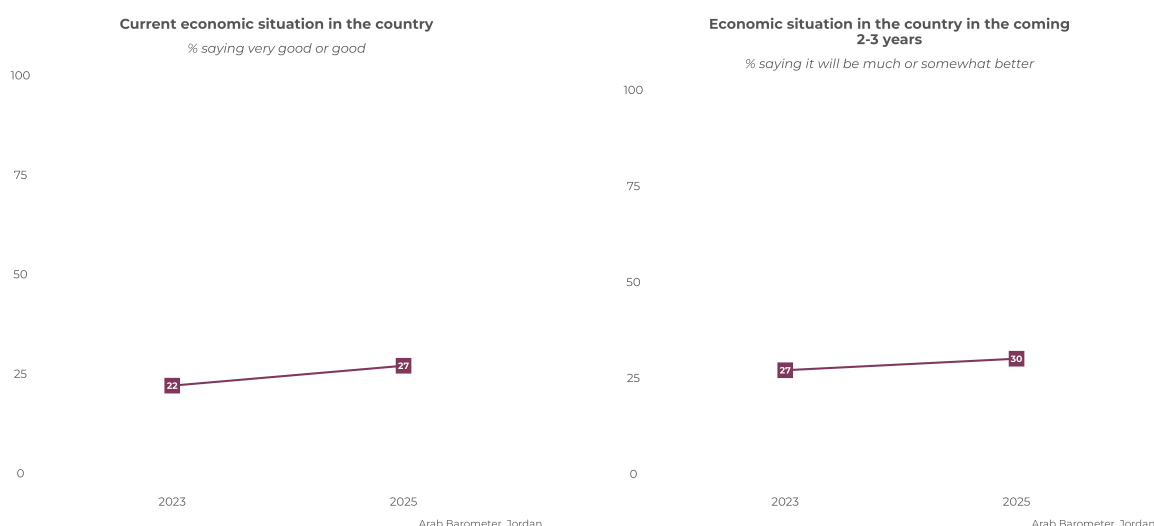
These are among the main findings of a nationally representative face-to-face survey of 1,266 Jordanian citizens from across all governorates. The survey was fielded from October 1-12, 2025 by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan using a multistage clustered sample. The margin of error is ±3 percentage points. The survey is part of Arab Barometers ninth wave. Additional information about the surveys can be found at www.arabbarometer.org.

Economy

Economic concerns continue to dominate public opinion in Jordan. Nearly six-in-ten citizens (59 percent) identify the economic situation as the country's most important challenge, compared with one-in-five (20 percent) who point to financial and administrative corruption. The share naming the economy is effectively unchanged from late 2023 (the prior survey was fielded from November 29, 2023 to January 10, 2024), when 57 percent did so. Concern is especially high among women and those whose household income does not cover basic needs. Women are 14 percentage points more likely than men to name the economy as the principal challenge (66 percent compared with 52 percent). The economic gap is larger: citizens unable to cover basic needs are 21 points more likely to name the economy than those who can meet their expenses (65 percent compared with 44 percent).

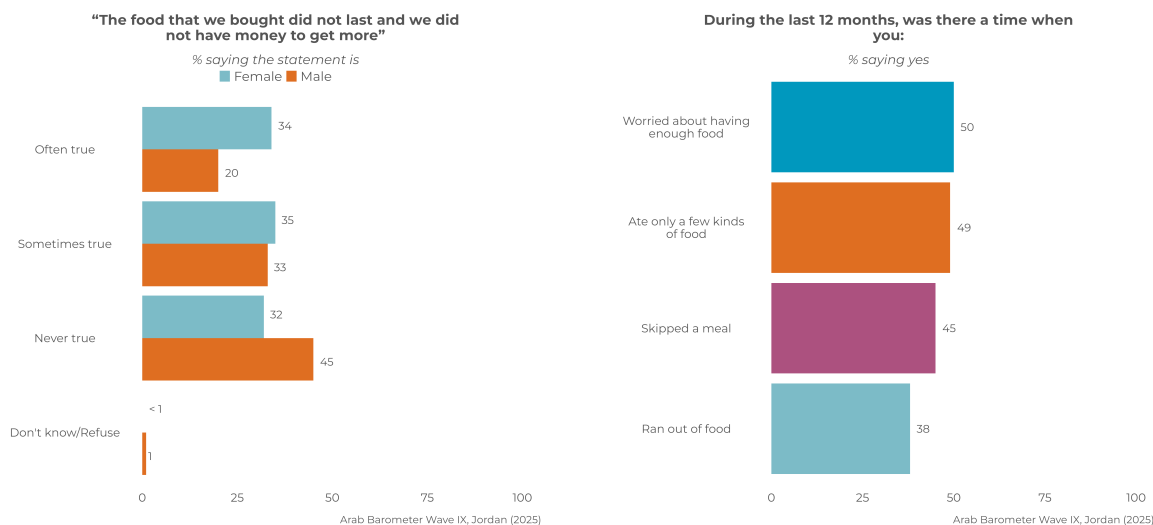


Evaluations of current economic conditions have improved, but only modestly since late 2023. Just over a quarter of Jordanians (27 percent) describe the economy as good or very good, a five-point increase from 22 percent in late 2023. Still, nearly three-quarters (73 percent) continue to rate conditions as bad, including four-in-ten (40 percent) who say they are very bad. Citizens aged 18-29 are 12 percentage points more likely than those aged 30 or older to rate the economy positively (35 percent compared with 23 percent). The education gap is 4 points: 30 percent of the college-educated express a positive view, compared with 26 percent of those with at most a secondary education.



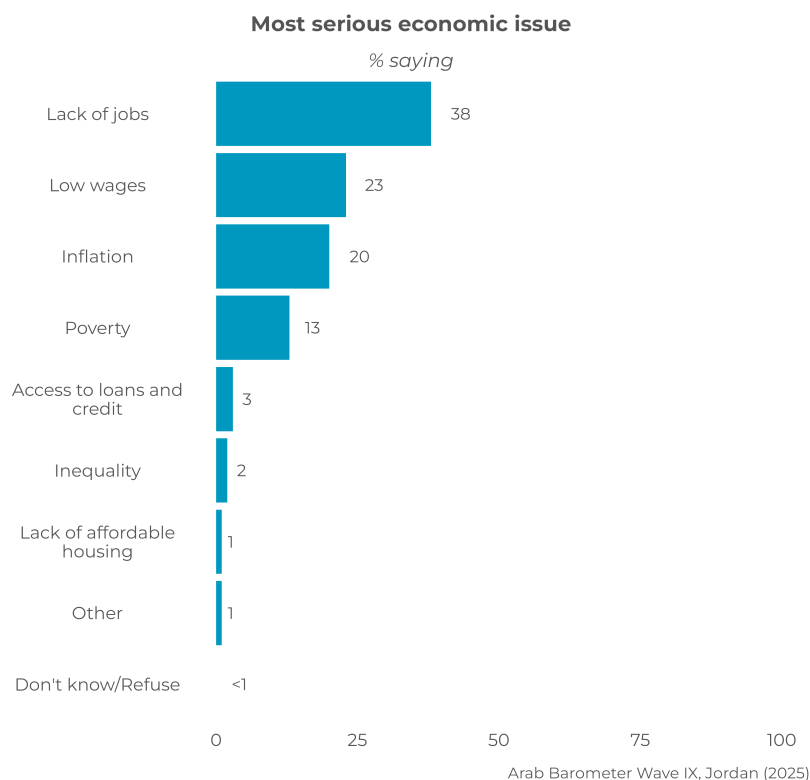
Expectations for the future of the economy are largely pessimistic. Three-in-ten Jordanians (30 percent) believe economic conditions will be much or somewhat better in the next two to three years, which is similar to the 27 percent recorded in late 2023. Nearly half (47 percent) expect the economy to become worse, while one-in-five (21 percent) believe there will be no change. As such, the slight improvement in evaluations of current conditions has not produced a broad sense of optimism about what lies ahead.

The extent to which Jordanians are enduring personal economic insecurity is visible in households' ability to obtain food. Six-in-ten Jordanians (61 percent) say that during the previous 30 days the food they bought often or sometimes ran out before they had enough money to buy more. This is six percentage points below the 67 percent recorded in late 2023, but remains a common experience. Women are 15 points more likely than men to report this problem (68 percent compared with 53 percent). The education divide is even larger: citizens with at most a secondary education are 23 points more likely than college-educated ones to report this form of food insecurity (69 percent compared with 46 percent).



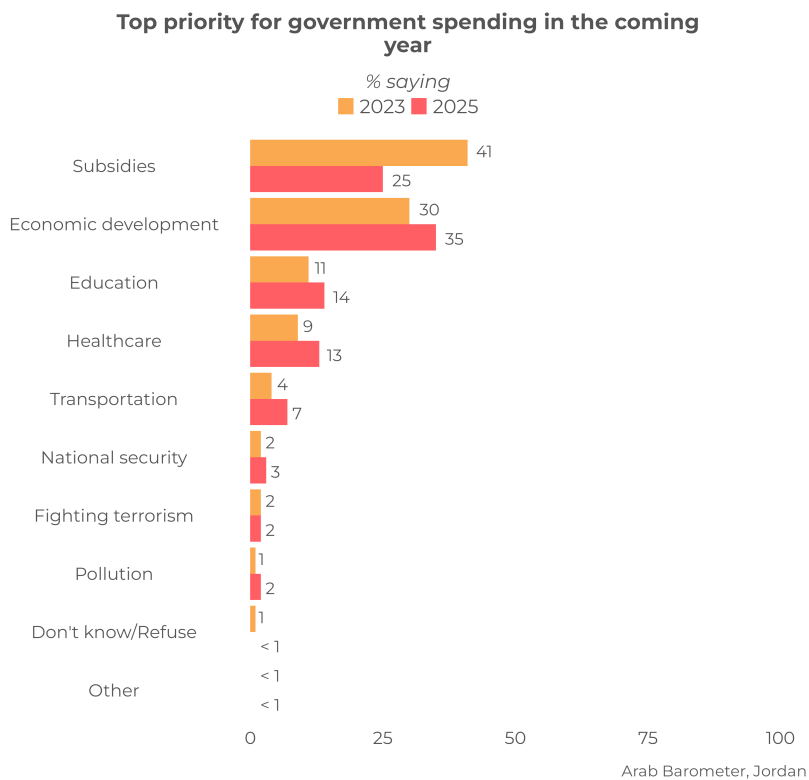
Other measures produce a similar picture of the challenges facing citizens. Half of Jordanians (50 percent) worried during the previous year that they would not have enough food to eat. Forty-nine percent say they endured periods where they ate only a few kinds of food because of a lack of resources, 45 percent skipped a meal, while 38 percent say their household actually ran out of food without the ability to get more. These experiences are more common among women, those with less education, and those who cannot afford basic needs. This pattern demonstrates the daily material struggle for many Jordanian families.

When asked to identify the country's most serious economic problem, lack of jobs ranks first at 38 percent, followed by low wages at 23 percent, inflation at 20 percent, and poverty at 13 percent. Compared with late 2023, unemployment has become somewhat more prominent, while inflation has receded slightly. The perceived solution follows the same pattern. Asked what the government should do first to improve economic conditions, 39 percent say it should create more jobs, 25 percent say it should raise wages, and 16 percent want it to lower the cost of living. Youth are eight percentage points more likely than older citizens to prioritize job creation (44 percent compared with 36 percent). When choosing a second priority, women are ten points more likely than men to emphasize lowering the cost of living (27 percent compared with 17 percent).



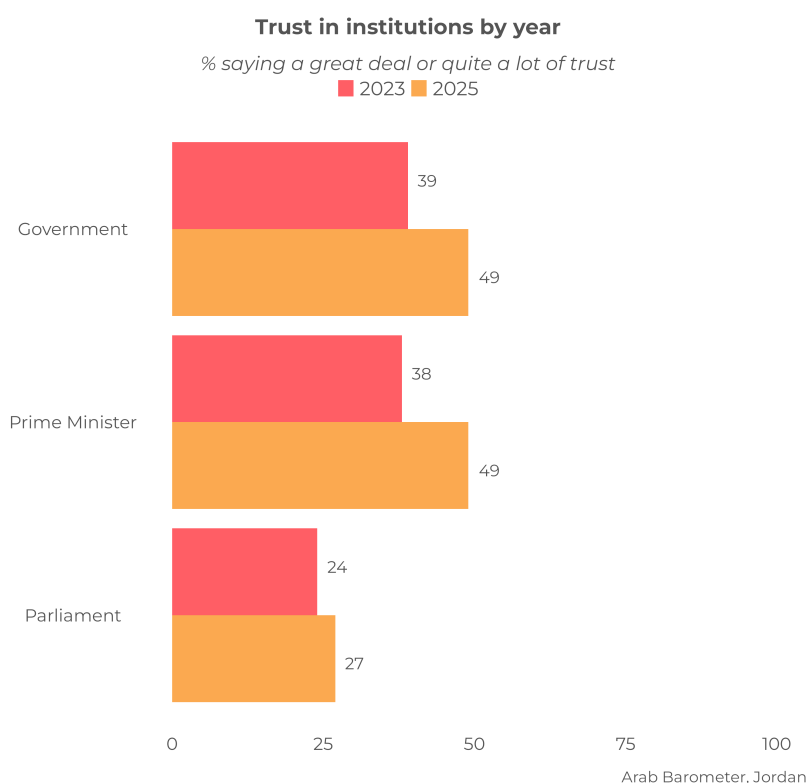
Jordanians continue to view the public sector as the most attractive source of employment. More than three-quarters (77 percent) say a public-sector job is preferable to a private-sector position, and 84 percent say public employment provides greater stability. Seventy-nine percent believe public-sector jobs are harder to obtain, 76 percent say they require more *wasta*, and 52 percent say they pay better salaries. At the same time, when asked where the government should focus its job-creation efforts, 45 percent select the public sector, 19 percent the private sector, and 36 percent say both. These preferences underscore the continued importance of state employment in the public imagination, even as the state faces limits on its capacity to expand payrolls.

Spending priorities have changed dramatically since late 2023. In the prior Arab Barometer survey of Jordan, the most common desire for the government's top spending priority was subsidies (41 percent), but this has now fallen to 25 percent. By 2025, economic development ranked first at 35 percent, up from 30 percent two years prior. Education follows at 14 percent and health-care at 13 percent. The change suggests a greater emphasis on growth and employment rather than immediate price relief, although the continued popularity of subsidies reflects the scale of pressure on household budgets.

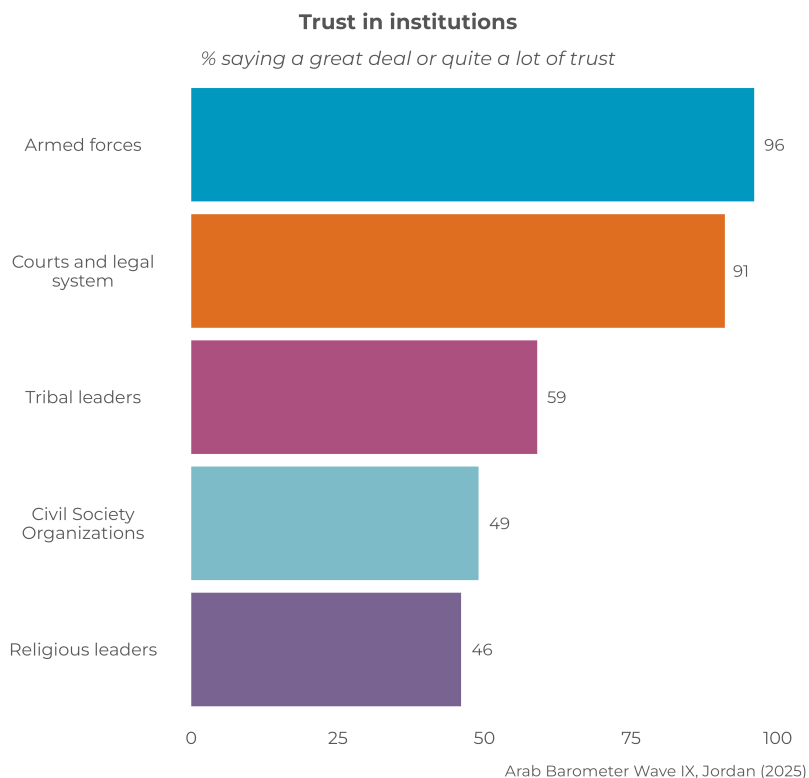


Trust in state institutions

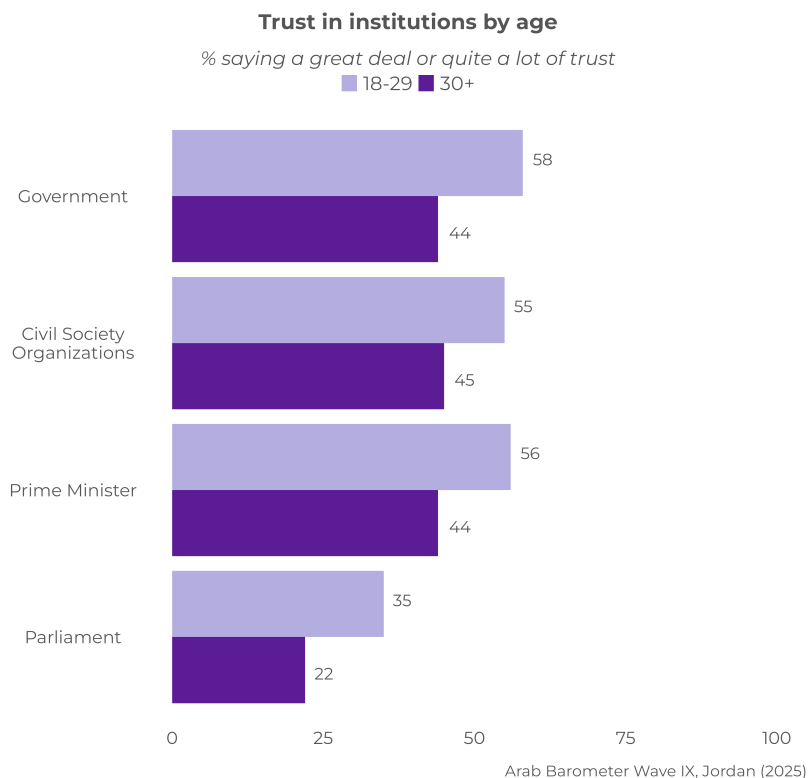
Trust in Jordanian institutions remains highly differentiated, but confidence in political institutions has increased since late 2023. Nearly half of Jordanians (49 percent) say they have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in the government, a ten-point increase from 39 percent in late 2023. Trust in the prime minister has risen by eleven points to 49 percent. The increase does not extend as strongly to parliament, which is trusted by only 27 percent, which is effectively unchanged since late 2023.



Security institutions enjoy broad trust. Nearly all Jordanians have confidence in the armed forces (96 percent), and nine-in-ten trust the police (91 percent). More than two-thirds (68 percent) express confidence in the courts and legal system. Tribal leaders are trusted by 59 percent, while civil society organizations 49 percent are trusted by 49 percent and religious leaders by 46 percent.



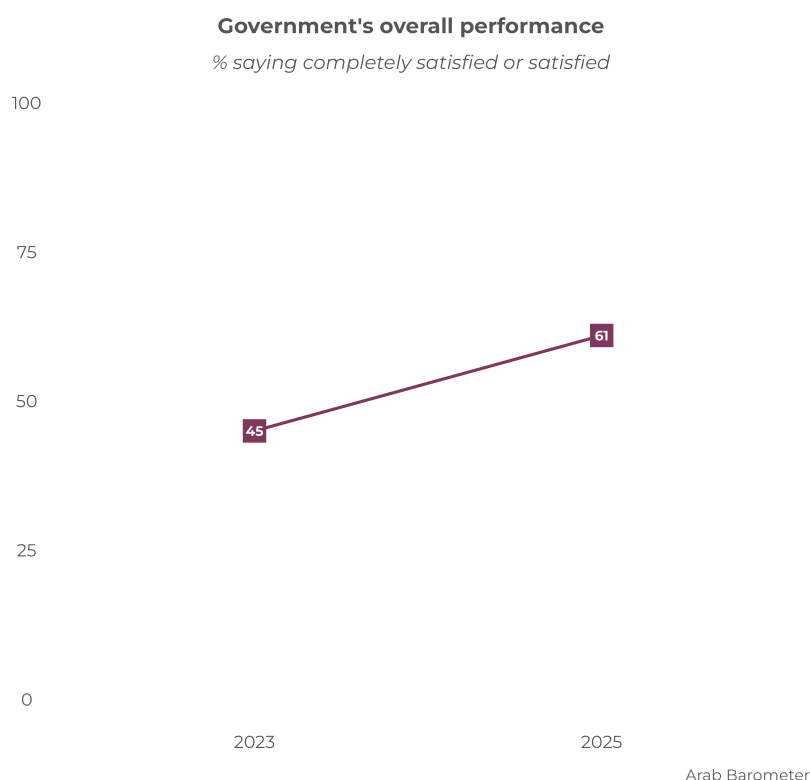
A demographic pattern is apparent. Citizens aged 18-29 are 14 percentage points more likely than those aged 30 or older to trust the government (58 percent compared with 44 percent). The youth advantage is 12 points for the prime minister (56 percent compared with 44 percent), 13 points for parliament (35 percent compared with 22 percent), and ten points for civil society organizations (55 percent compared with 45 percent). Notably, this is a pattern observed in previous waves of Arab Barometer results as well with youth in Jordan having greater confidence in government institutions. Women are also seven points more likely than men to trust the government (53 percent compared with 46 percent).



As in years past, parliament remains the least trusted institution in the country. Half (51 percent) say they have no trust at all in the elected legislature. The gap between confidence in security institutions and confidence in representative institutions remains one of the defining features of Jordanian public opinion.

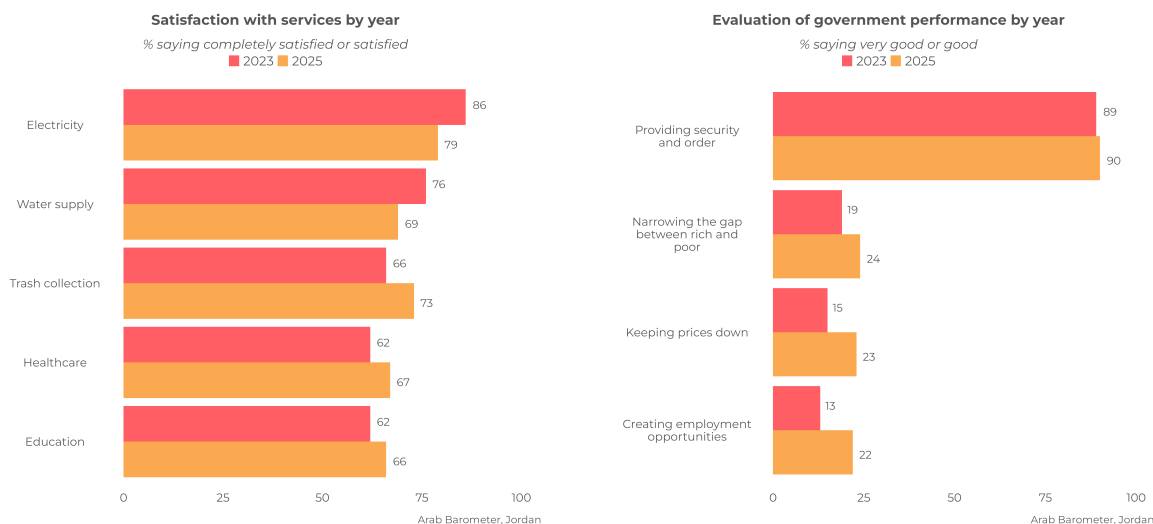
Government performance

The increase in trust in the government is accompanied by more positive assessments of government performance since late 2023. Six-in-ten Jordanians (61 percent) are satisfied or completely satisfied with the governments overall performance, a 16-point increase from 45 percent in the previous survey. Women are eight percentage points more likely than men to express satisfaction (65 percent compared with 57 percent), and youth are eight points more likely than older citizens to do so (66 percent compared with 58 percent). Even among those unable to afford basic needs, 59 percent are satisfied, five points below the 64 percent recorded among better-off respondents.



Evaluations of public services are generally favorable. Two-thirds are satisfied with the education system (66 percent) and healthcare (67 percent). Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) approve of trash collection, while 79 percent are satisfied with the provision of electricity and 69 percent with water supply. Compared with late 2023, satisfaction with education, healthcare, and trash collection has increased. Electricity and water are rated somewhat less positively than before, but remain among the better-evaluated services. However, affordable

housing receives a much weaker rating with only 43 percent satisfied with its availability.

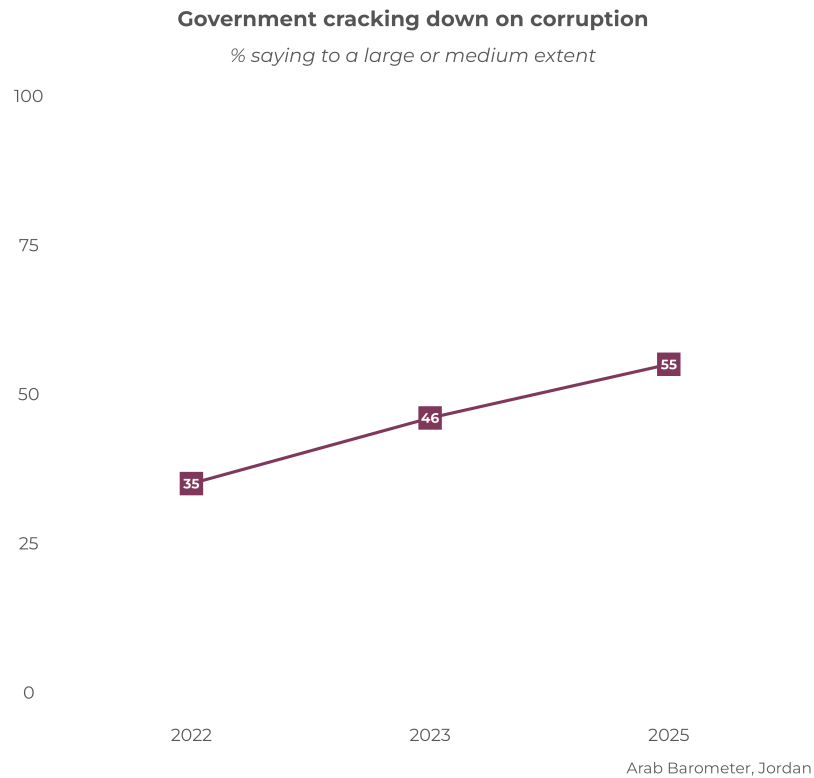


The government receives its strongest assessment for maintaining security and order. Nine-in-ten (90 percent) say its performance in this area is good or very good, virtually unchanged from late 2023. Ratings on economic issues have improved too but remain low overall. Twenty-two percent give the government a positive rating on creating employment opportunities, a nine-point increase from 13 percent. Twenty-four percent approve of its work to narrow the gap between rich and poor, five points above the previous 19 percent. Twenty-three percent rate its performance positively on keeping prices down, an eight-point increase from 15 percent in late 2023. Despite these gains, between 76 and 78 percent still rate the government negatively on each of these core economic priorities.

Jordanians continue to say corruption remains a problem. Eighty-three percent believe corruption exists in state institutions to a large or medium extent, a level nearly identical to late 2023. The assessment cuts across age groups, education levels, and household economic circumstances. Meanwhile, 55 percent believe the government is working to crack down on corruption to a large or medium extent. This represents a nine-point increase from late 2023 and continues the recovery 2022 when only 35 percent held this view.

Views of government responsiveness are less positive than assessments of services. Only 39 percent say the government is very or largely responsive to what people want. As such, it appears that Jordanians distinguish between the states

capacity to provide security and services and the political systems responsiveness to citizens preferences. As such, despite many increases in evaluations of government performance, concerns about representation and accountability remain.



Migration

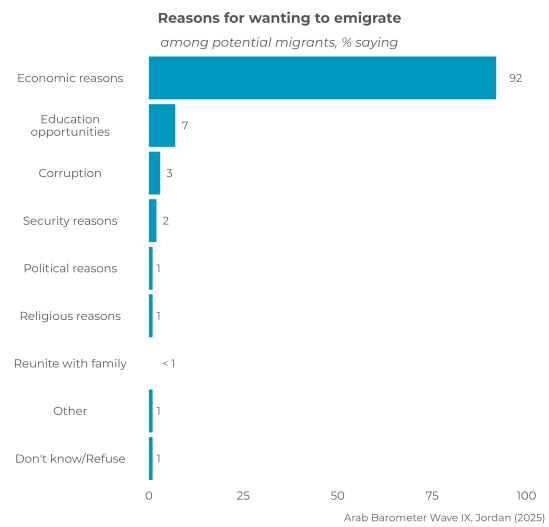
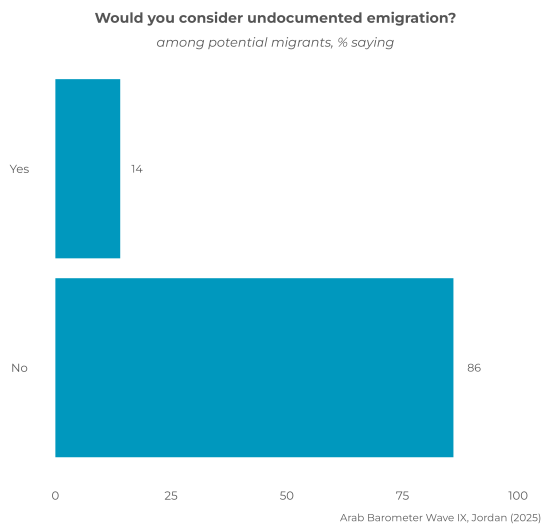
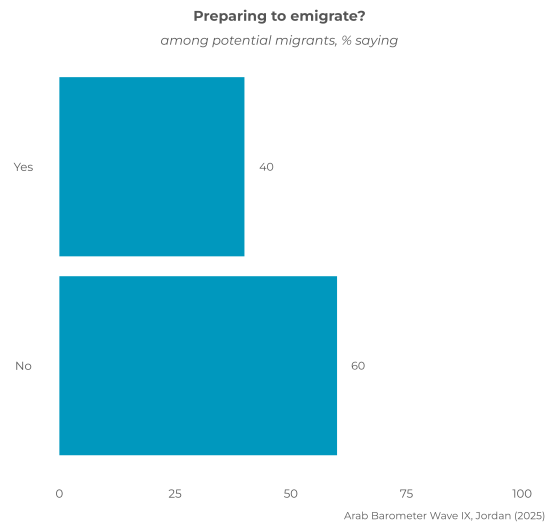
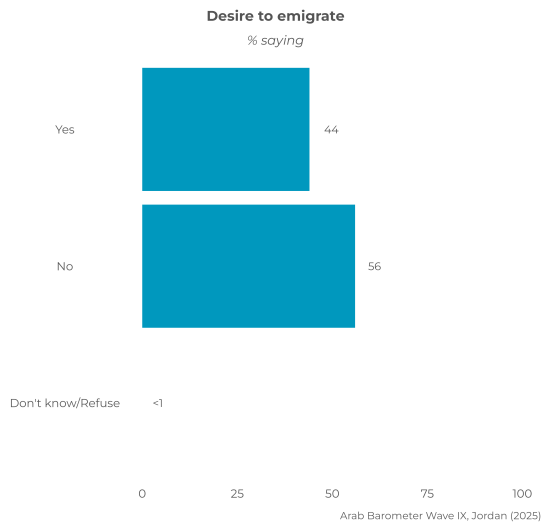
A large share of Jordanians continue to consider leaving their homeland. Forty-four percent say they have thought about emigrating, broadly unchanged from late 2023. Migration intentions are strongly associated with gender, age, and education. Men are 25 percentage points more likely than women to have considered leaving (56 percent compared with 31 percent). Citizens aged 18-29 are 14 points more likely than those aged 30 or older to say the same (53 percent compared with 39 percent). College-educated citizens are 11 points more likely than people with a secondary education or less to consider emigration (51 percent compared with 40 percent). If these attitudes don't change, Jordan risks suffering from a brain drain with youth and those with higher levels of education seeking opportunities abroad. However, among potential migrants, just four-in-ten (40 percent) say they are actively preparing to leave.

Among those considering emigrating, economic motives dominate: 92 percent cite economic reasons, which is similar to the level observed in late 2023. Education opportunities are a distant second, while political, security, religious, and family-related reasons are mentioned by relatively few respondents. The profile of potential migrants therefore reflects dissatisfaction with economic conditions rather than political outcomes, although this survey was conducted prior to the start of the Iran war.

The United States is the most frequently named preferred destination, selected by 37 percent of potential migrants, followed closely by Canada at 32 percent. Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, and Saudi Arabia form a second tier with between 10 percent and 15 percent naming this set. The destination pattern combines the appeal of North American pathways with the proximity and labor-market opportunities of the Gulf.

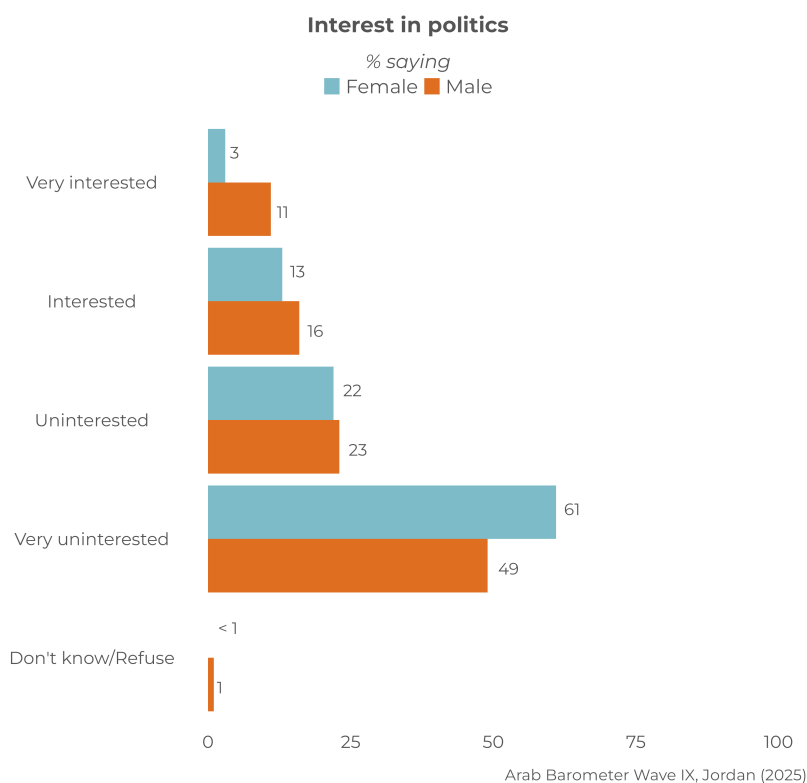
Fourteen percent of potential migrants say they would consider leaving Jordan without the required papers. This is five percentage points below the 19 percent recorded in late 2023, making it only a small minority. Men are 12 points more likely than women to consider undocumented migration (18 percent compared with 6 percent).

Arab Barometer – Wave IX Jordan Report

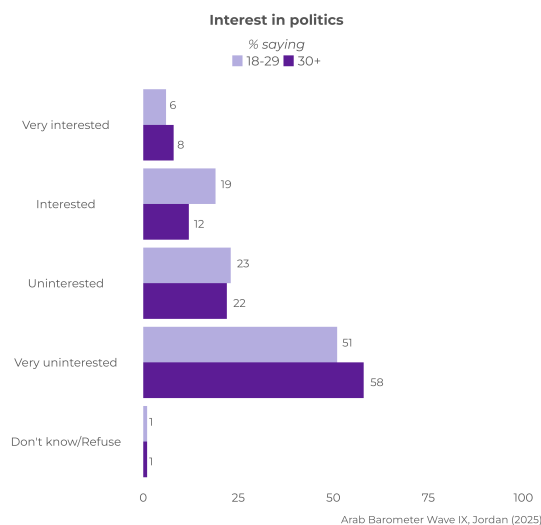
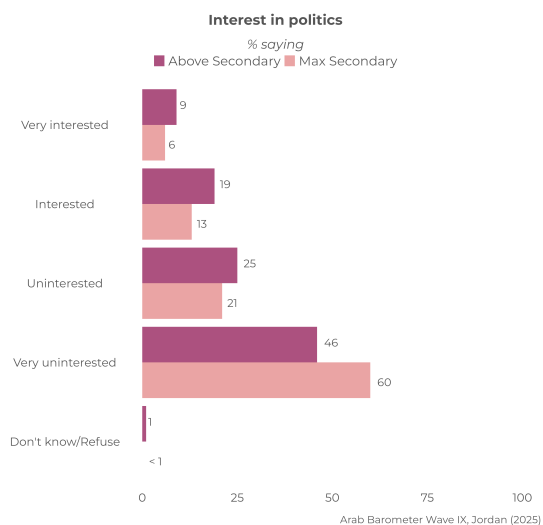


Civic engagement

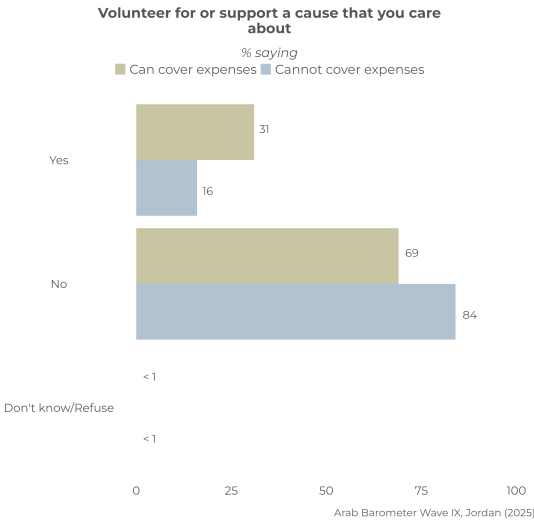
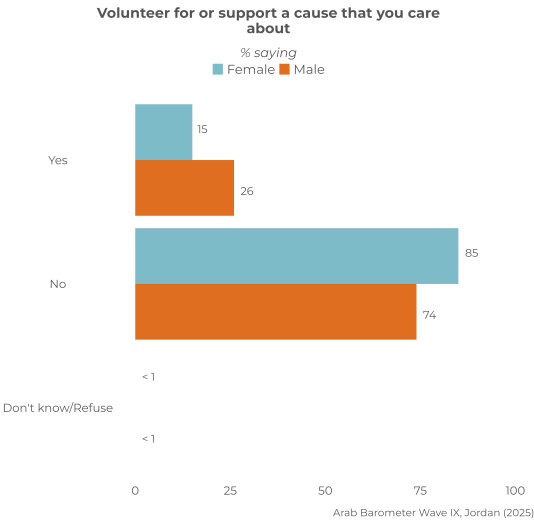
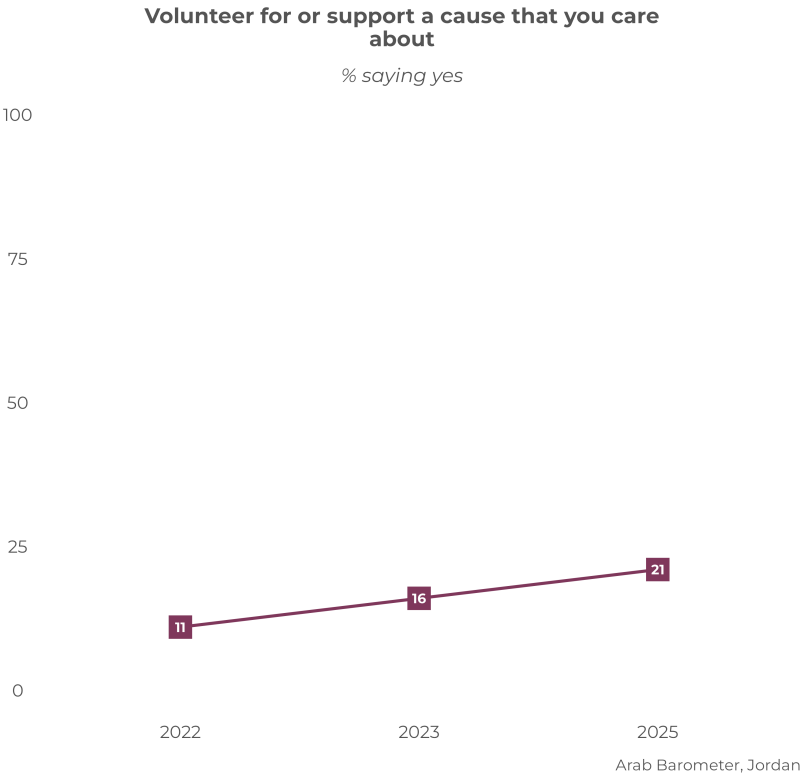
Political engagement remains limited in Jordan. Only 22 percent say they are interested or very interested in politics, which is relatively similar to the percentage in late 2023. Men are ten percentage points more likely than women to express interest (27 percent compared with 17 percent). The college-educated are 8 points more likely than those with at most a secondary education to do so (27 percent compared with 19 percent), while youth hold a six-point advantage over older citizens (26 percent compared with 20 percent).



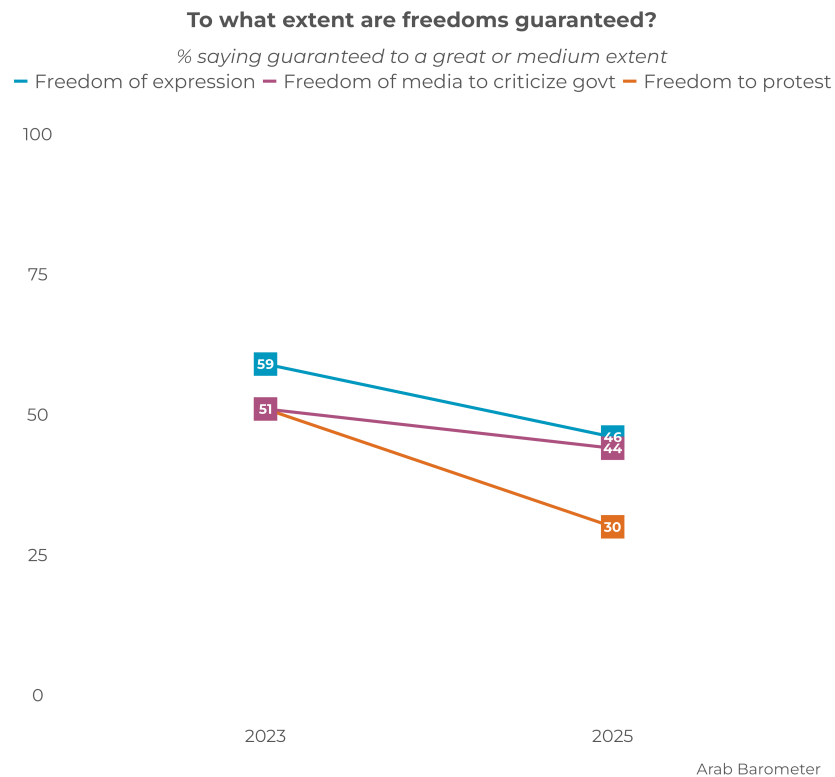
Arab Barometer – Wave IX Jordan Report



Formal organizational life is weak. Four percent say they belong to an organization, group, or club. Volunteering is more common: one-in-five (21 percent) report doing unpaid work in support of a cause during a typical month, five points above the 16 percent recorded in late 2023. Men are 11 percentage points more likely than women to volunteer (26 percent compared with 15 percent), youth are five points more likely than older citizens (24 percent compared with 19 percent), and citizens with a college education are 5 points more likely than those with a secondary education or less (24 percent compared with 19 percent). The largest divide is economic: citizens able to cover basic needs are 15 points more likely to volunteer than those who cannot (31 percent compared with 16 percent).

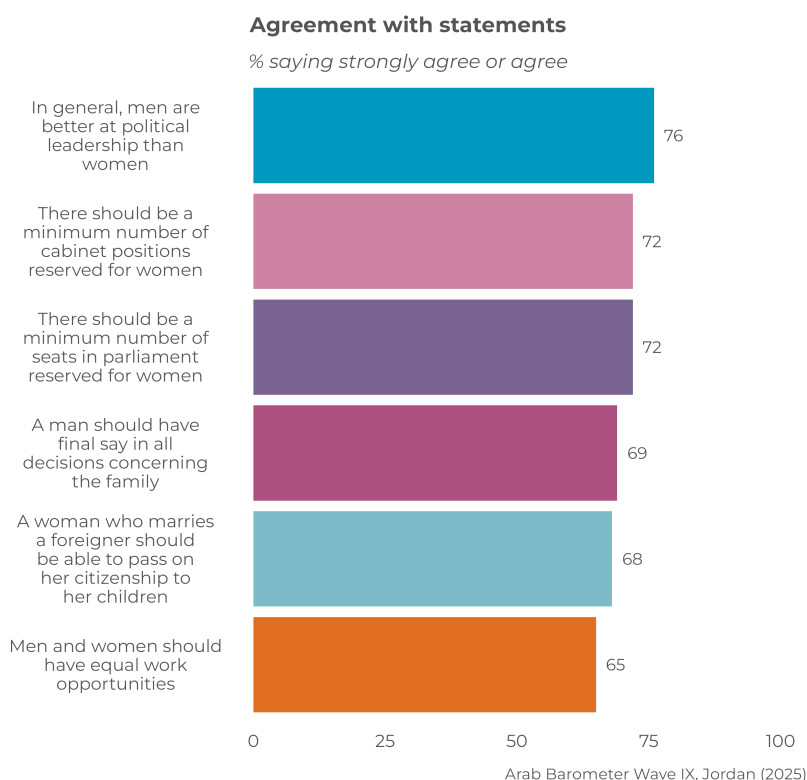


Perceptions of the extent to which basic rights and freedoms are guaranteed has deteriorated. Forty-six percent say freedom of expression is guaranteed to a great or medium extent, 13 points below the 59 percent recorded in late 2023. Just three-in-ten (30 percent) say the freedom to participate in peaceful protests is guaranteed, compared with 51 percent previously. Forty-four percent say the media are free to criticize the government.



Gender issues

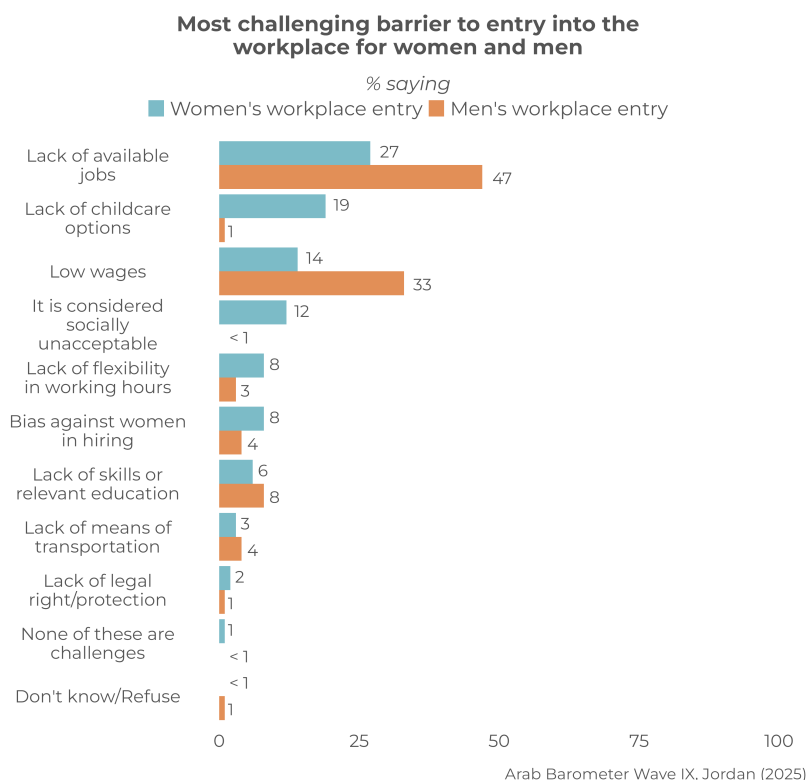
Attitudes toward gender in Jordan reveal a combination of support for women's rights but limited support for equal roles for women. Roughly two-thirds (65 percent) agree that men and women should have equal work opportunities. A slightly higher percentage favor reserving a minimum number of parliamentary seats and cabinet positions for women (72 percent, respectively) and allowing a Jordanian woman married to a foreigner to pass citizenship to her children (68 percent). Support for equal workplace opportunities is effectively unchanged the 64 percent recorded in late 2023, while support for political quotas remains substantial.



At the same time, traditional views of leadership and authority remain widespread, meaning there is resistance to women playing equal roles in society. Three-quarters (76 percent) agree that men are better political leaders than women, a level similar to late 2023. A slightly lower share say a man should have the final say in all family decisions (69 percent), but a sharp increase from 2023 (+16 points). These results make clear that to advance women's equality, the conversation must move beyond ensuring equal rights to promoting equal roles for

women in both public and private spaces.

Womens labor force participation rates remain low in Jordan compared to countries with similar income levels around the world. Understanding the barriers that limit women from entering the workforce is thus essential to addressing this challenge. Jordanians do not identify a single barrier preventing women from entering the labor force. Lack of available jobs is mentioned most often at 27 percent, followed by lack of childcare at 19 percent, low wages at 14 percent, and the belief that womens employment is socially unacceptable at 12 percent. Eight percent cite bias against women in hiring and another eight percent inflexible working hours. The overall ordering is broadly similar to late 2023, although explicit concern about hiring bias and inflexible hours has fallen somewhat while childcare has become more prominent.

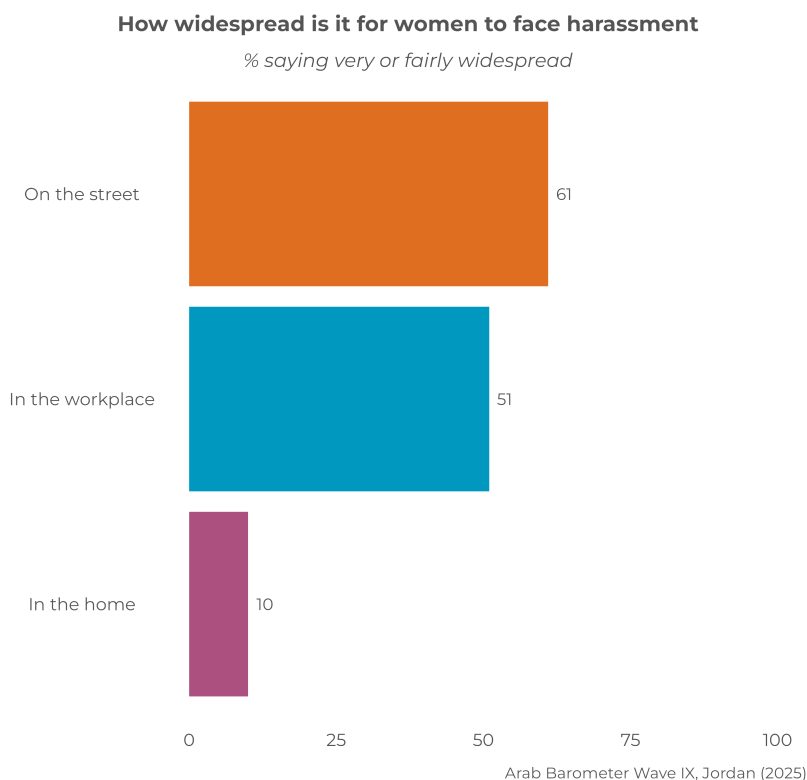


Women and men differ in their understanding of the barriers facing womens employment. Women are five percentage points more likely than men to cite the overall scarcity of jobs (29 percent compared with 24 percent) but there is no meaningful difference among the percentage citing a lack of childcare (21 percent compared with 18 percent). Men, by contrast, are five points more likely

to point to inflexible working hours (10 percent compared with 5 percent) and six points more likely to cite social unacceptability (15 percent compared with 9 percent). Education also shapes perceptions. Citizens with at most a secondary education are 7 points more likely than college-educated ones to identify child-care as the principal barrier (22 percent compared with 15 percent).

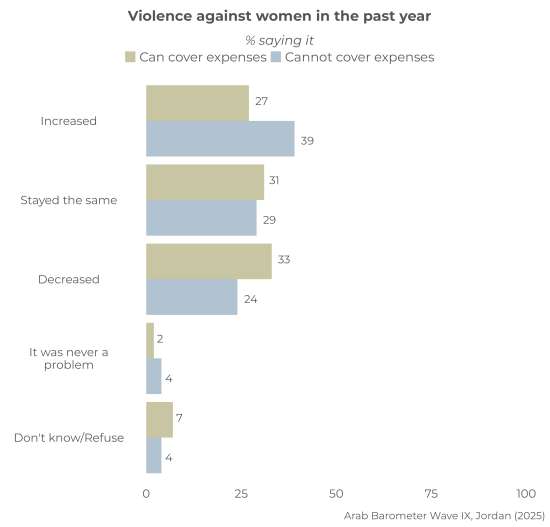
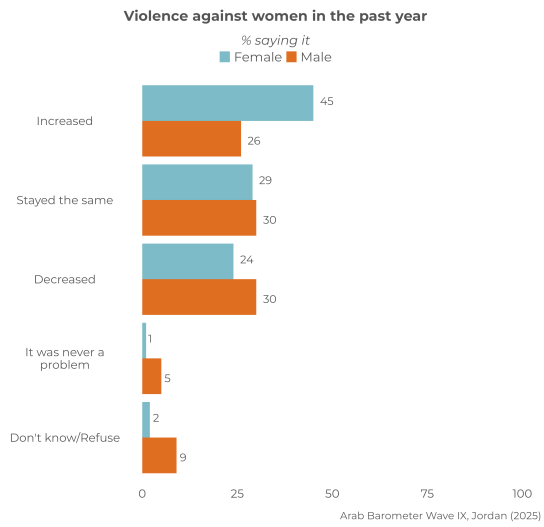
Jordanians see the challenges facing mens employment in different terms and are far more unified. Nearly half (47 percent) identify lack of available jobs as the leading barrier for men and one-third (33 percent) cite low wages. Together these two responses account for four-in-five Jordanians (79 percent). By contrast, responses about womens employment are spread across labor-market, caregiving, social, and discriminatory factors. The comparison shows that womens employment is perceived as constrained not only by the economy, but also by expectations surrounding family obligations and social norms.

Harassment is regarded as common in public and professional spaces. Six-in-ten (61 percent) say harassment of women by strangers on the street is very or fairly widespread, while a majority (51 percent) say the same about harassment in the workplace. Harassment in the home is viewed as much less common, with only one-in-ten (10 percent) describing it as widespread, which may indicate it is less common or an enduring social pressure not to report such issues within the home. Youth (18-29) are nine percentage points more likely than those who are 30 and older to see street harassment as widespread (67 percent compared with 58 percent).



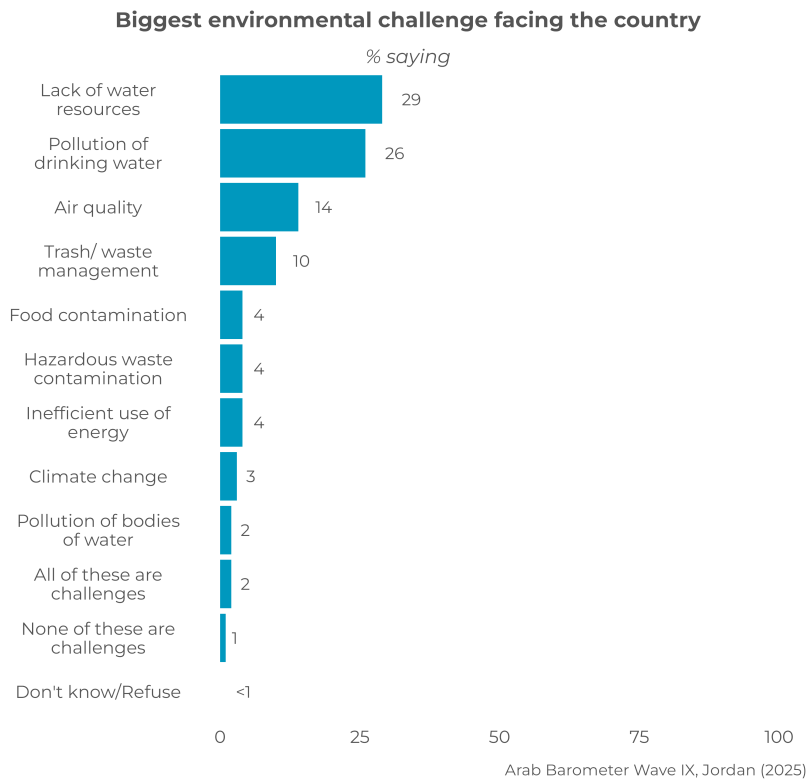
More than a third of Jordanians (35 percent) say abuse or violence against women in the community increased during the previous year. Women are 19 percentage points more likely than men to perceive an increase (45 percent compared with 26 percent). Citizens who cannot afford their basic needs are also 12 points more likely than those who can to say violence increased (39 percent compared with 27 percent). These findings indicate that women and economically vulnerable citizens perceive a worsening environment compared with men and those who are better off economically.

Arab Barometer – Wave IX Jordan Report



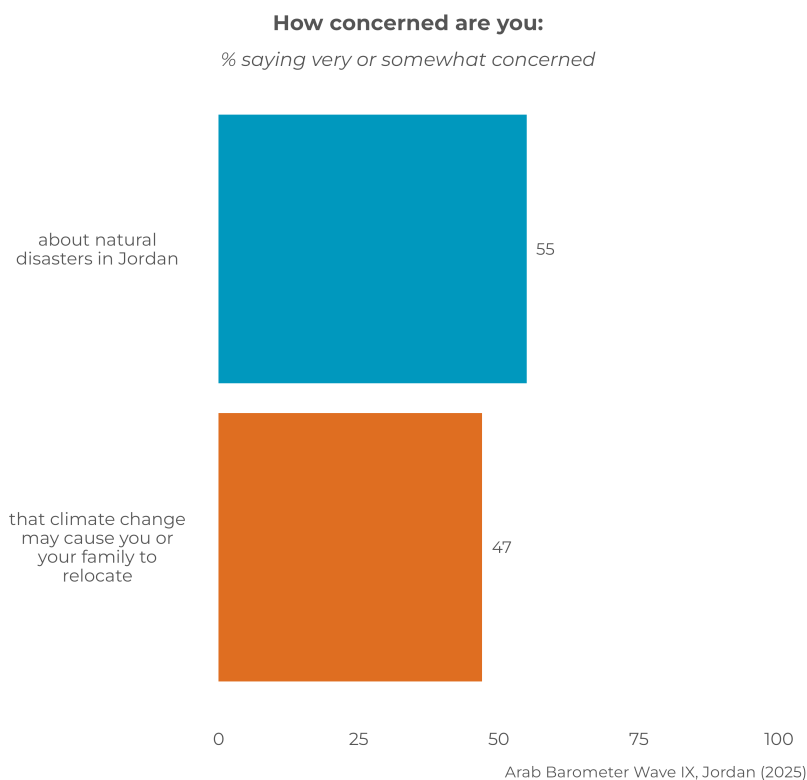
Environment

Water remains the most common environmental concern in Jordan. Three-in-ten (30 percent) identify a lack of water resources as the countrys most serious environmental problem, while 26 percent point to pollution of drinking water and another two percent cite pollution of rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water. Together, water-related issues are selected by 57 percent of Jordanians, roughly ten points higher than in late 2023. Air quality ranks next at 14 percent, followed by waste management at ten percent. Climate change itself is less often named as the single most important problem, but its effects on the population are clear given its link with the issues mentioned by citizens.

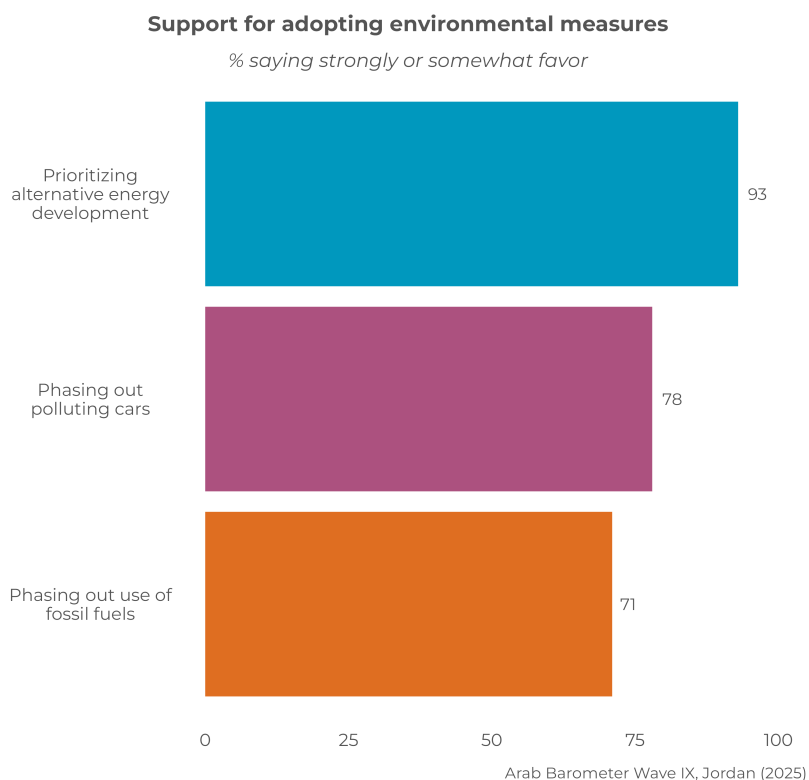


A majority of Jordanians say they are informed about climate-related challenges. A majority (57 percent) describe themselves as informed to a great or medium extent. Citizens with a college education are seven percentage points more likely than those with at most a secondary education to say they are informed (62 percent compared with 55 percent). More than half (55 percent) are concerned about natural disasters related to climate change, and 47 percent worry that climate change could force their family to relocate from their homes. The

results indicate that environmental risks are seen not only as abstract future threats, but rather as tangible risks to security and livelihoods.



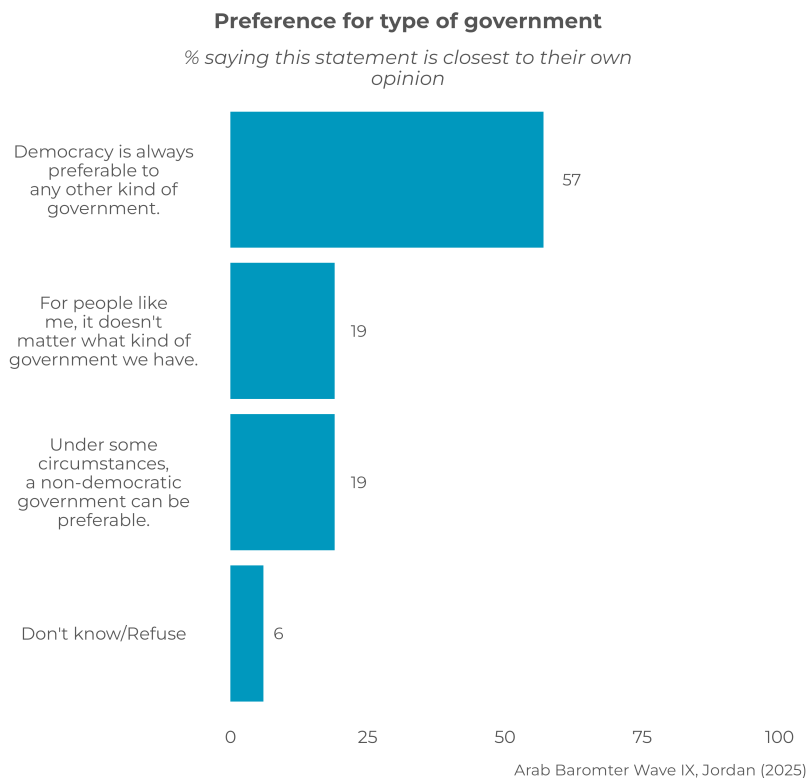
Jordanians strongly support more environmental action at the national level. Ninety-three percent favor giving priority to the development of alternative energy resources. Seven-in-ten (71 percent) support gradually phasing out fossil fuels, and nearly eight-in-ten (78 percent) favor establishing a common date to phase out highly polluting cars. These levels are broadly similar to late 2023 and show durable support for major changes, at least in principle.



Six-in-ten (60 percent) say the national government should do more to address climate change, while one-in-five (21 percent) say it should continue with its current approach on this issue. Women are four percentage points more likely than men to call for additional government action (62 percent compared with 58 percent), and citizens aged 30 or older are five points more likely than youth to do so (62 percent compared with 57 percent). The public also sees responsibility as shared among government, business, the international community, and citizens. Yet the strong preference for large-scale policy solutions suggests that Jordanians expect the state and major institutions to lead rather than expecting citizens to make the necessary changes on their own.

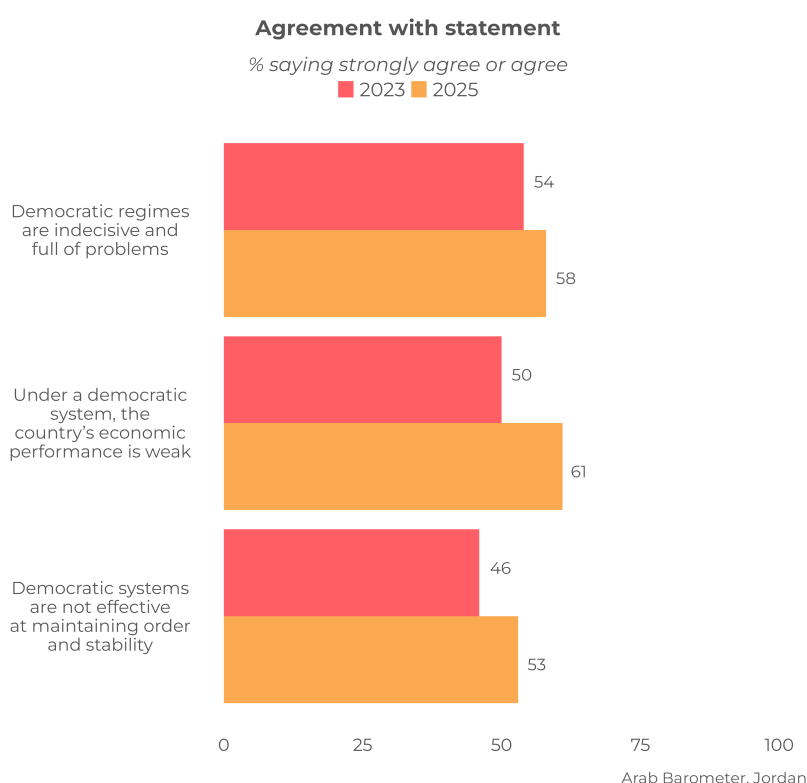
Democracy

Jordanians continue to express support for democracy, although their views are shaped by the systems ability to deliver material security and public order. Fifty-seven percent say democracy is always preferable to any other form of government. Women are 12 percentage points more likely than men to hold this view (63 percent compared with 51 percent), and citizens unable to cover basic needs are 11 points more likely than those who can (60 percent compared with 49 percent). The college educated are also five-points more likely than citizens with a secondary education or less (60 percent compared with 55 percent). Nineteen percent say a non-democratic government can sometimes be preferable, and a similar share say the type of government does not matter for people like them.

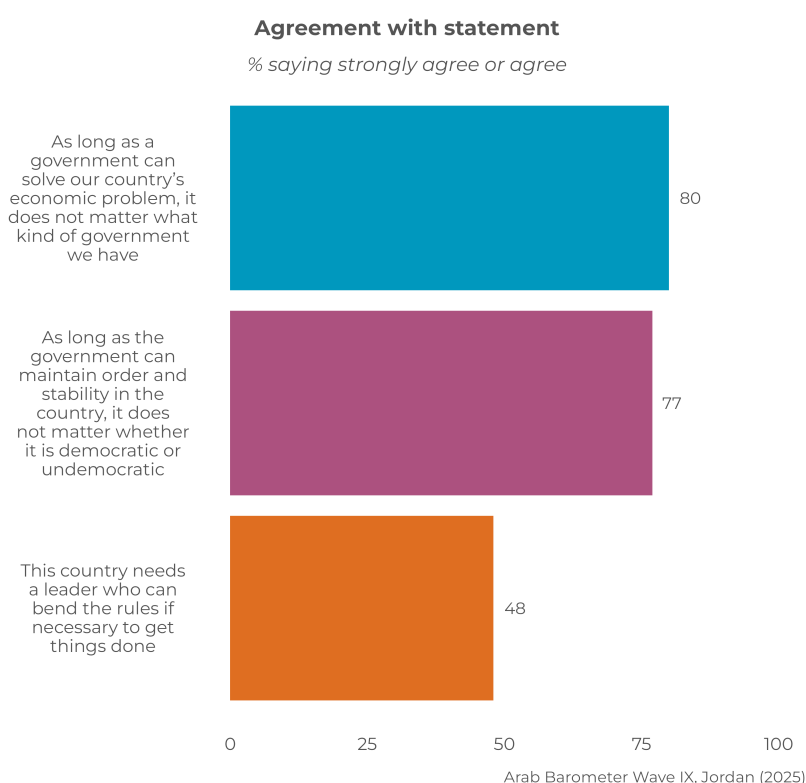


Support becomes clearer when democracy is compared directly with alternatives. When asked a different version of this measure, eighty-six percent agree that democratic systems may have problems but are better than other systems, which is similar to the level recorded in late 2023. Seven-in-ten (70 percent) give a score of six or higher on an 11-point scale measuring how suitable democracy is for Jordan. This is 12 percentage points above the 58 percent who rate Jordan itself at six or higher on a scale measuring how democratic the country currently is. Jordanians therefore see democracy as more suitable for the country than fully achieved in practice.

At the same time, reservations about democratic performance have grown. Sixty-one percent agree that economic performance is weak under democracy, 11 percentage points above the 50 percent recorded in late 2023. Fifty-eight percent say democratic regimes are indecisive and full of problems, and 53 percent say they are ineffective at maintaining order and stability. The former is effectively the same percentage as in 2023, but the latter represents an increase of eight points. These concerns do not undermine support for democracy, but they reveal that Jordanians understand it is far from a perfect system of governance.

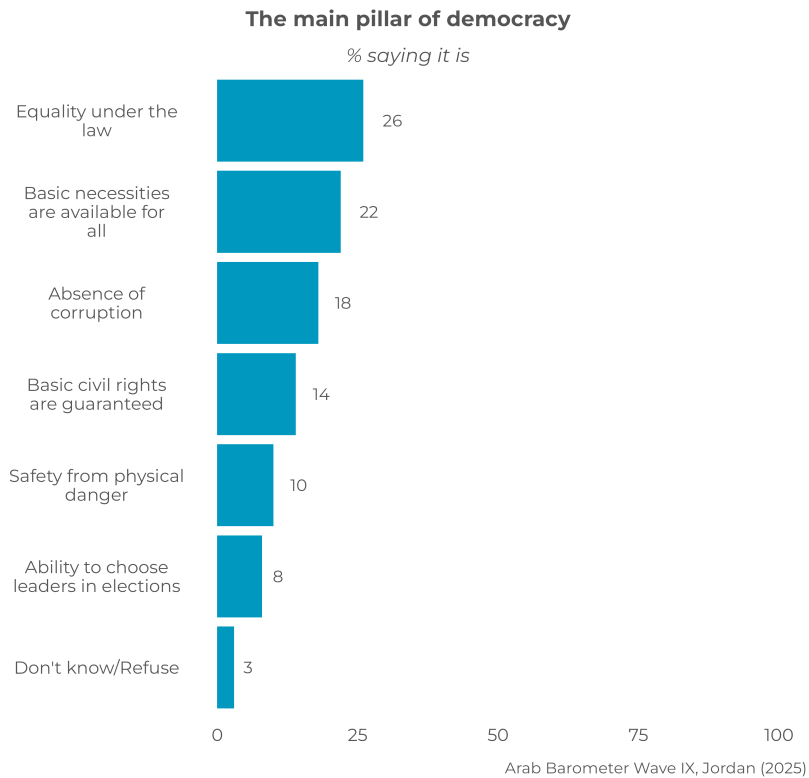


In large part, this reality is better understood by examining the basis on which Jordanians judge political systems. Performance-based alternatives consequently have broad appeal. Eight-in-ten (80 percent) agree that it does not matter what type of government the country has as long as it can solve Jordans economic problems. More than three-quarters (77 percent) say the same if a government can maintain order and stability. Support is lower, but still substantial, for a leader who bends the rules to get things done: about half (48 percent) agree or strongly agree with this proposition. The findings illustrate a tension between a preference for democracy combined with a demand for a system or leader that can realize meaningful change regardless of the type of political system.



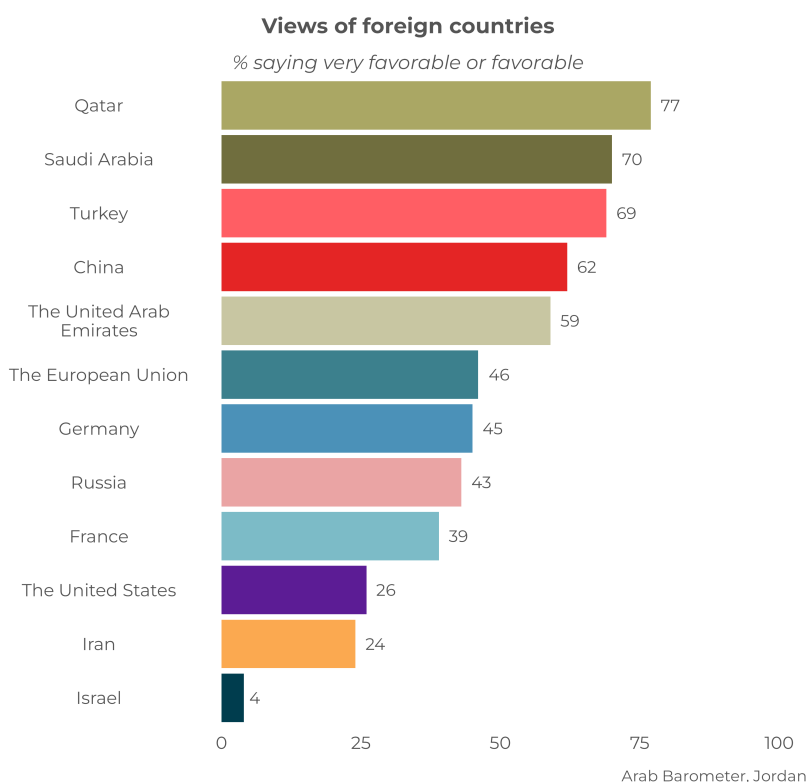
While most Jordanians believe democracy is the best system, questions remain about how exactly Jordanians understand it. When asked to name the most essential aspect from a list of six items, equality under the law is the most frequently at 26 percent, followed by the provision of basic necessities for all at 22 percent, the absence of corruption at 18 percent, and the guarantee of basic civil rights at 14 percent. Only eight percent select the ability to choose political leaders in elections. Compared with late 2023, equality before the law has become somewhat more prominent, while basic necessities are less frequently

chosen. Still, outputs related to justice, dignity, and material well-being remain more central than elections, highlighting that Jordanians define this concept broadly instead of narrowly on how political representatives are selected.



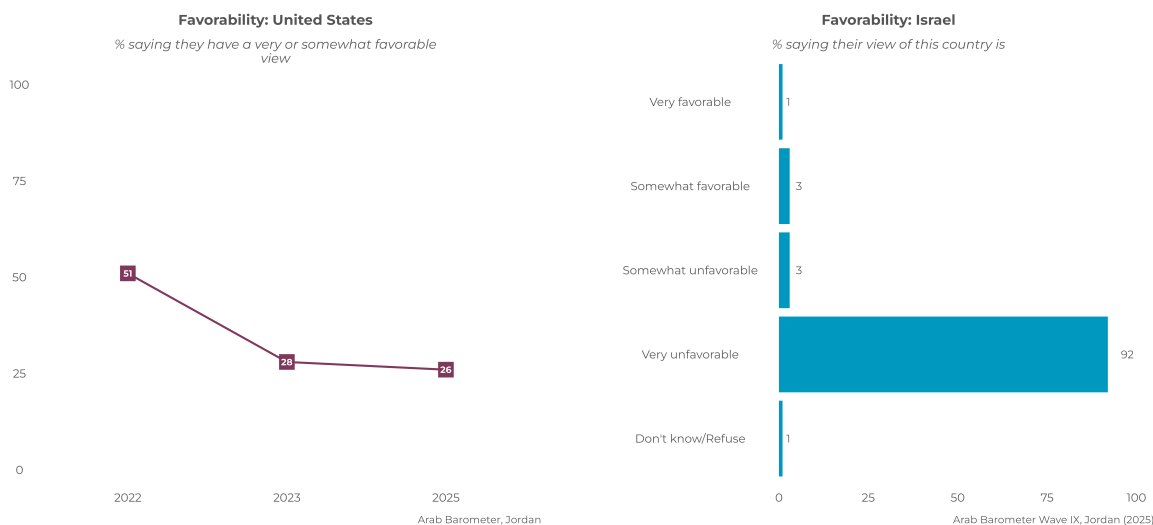
International relations

Turning to international relations, there is wide variation on how foreign countries are perceived. Qatar receives the most favorable rating, with 77 percent expressing a very or somewhat favorable view. Saudi Arabia follows at 70 percent, Türkiye at 69 percent, at 62 percent, and the United Arab Emirates at 59 percent. The European Union is viewed favorably by 46 percent and Germany by 45 percent, while Russia and France receive positive ratings from 43 percent and 39 percent, respectively.

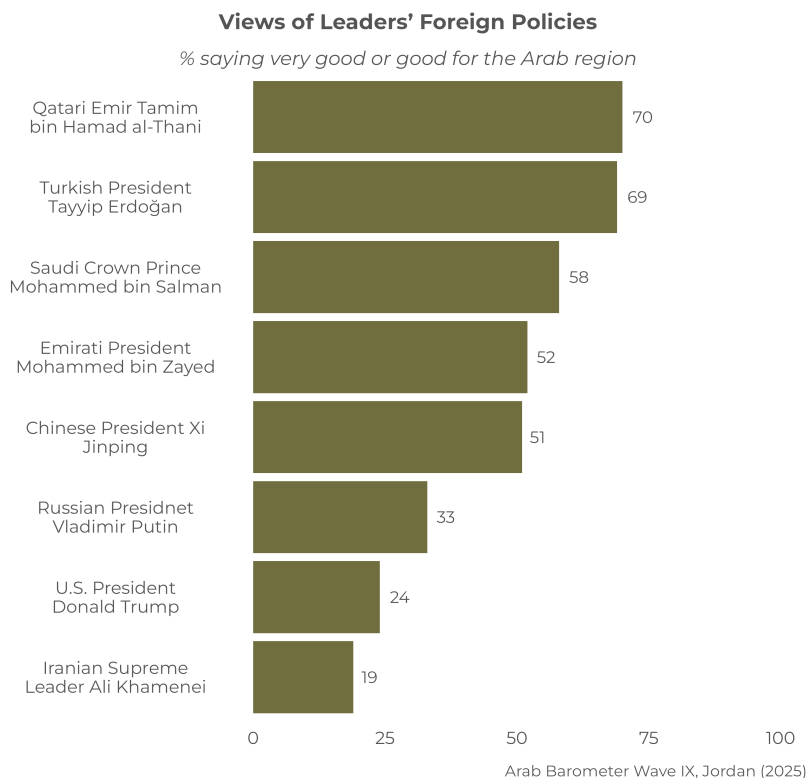


These results show both continuity and change since late 2023. Favorability toward Saudi Arabia has increased by about five points, while ratings of Qatar, Türkiye, China, and Russia have declined from the elevated levels observed shortly after the onset of the war in Gaza. Nevertheless, these countries remain substantially more popular than most Western actors. Even Germany and France are viewed favorably by fewer than half of Jordanians (45 percent and 39 percent, respectively). The United States is viewed favorably by only 26 percent, which is similar to the level found in late 2023, which was a 23-point decline from 2022. Iran's favorability at 24 percent is similar to that of the U.S., while only four percent express a positive view of Israel.

Arab Barometer – Wave IX Jordan Report

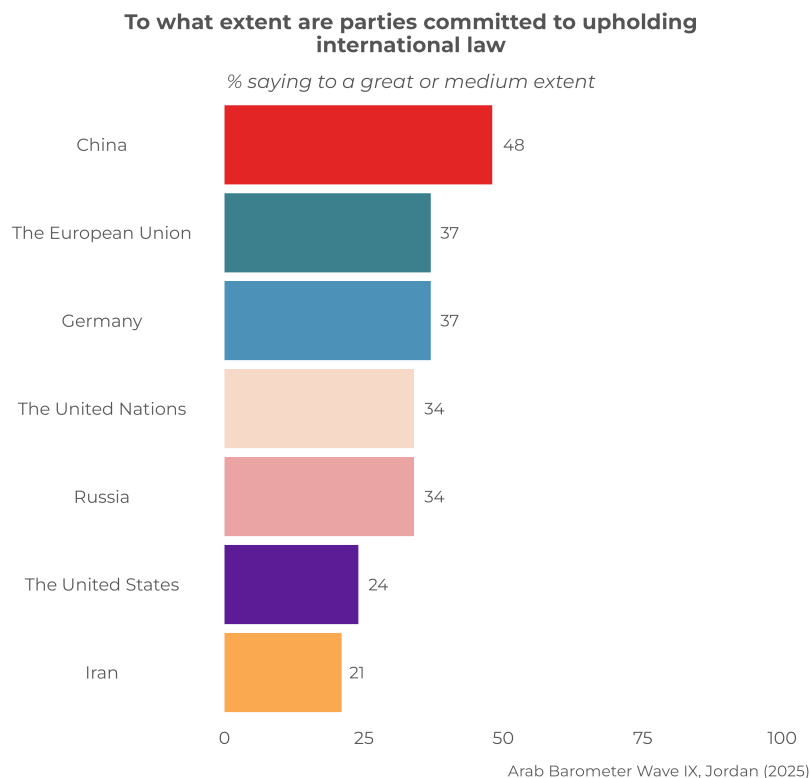


Regional and global leaders follow a similar hierarchy. Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar's foreign policies are rated positively by 70 percent of Jordanians and those of Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan by 69 percent. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's policies receive a positive assessment from 58 percent, an increase of roughly twelve points since late 2023. UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed comes in at 52 percent while Chinese President Xi Jinping receives a positive rating from 51 percent, similar to late 2023, while Russian President Vladimir Putin is viewed positively by 34 percent. Iran's (former) Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei receives positive ratings from just 19 percent.

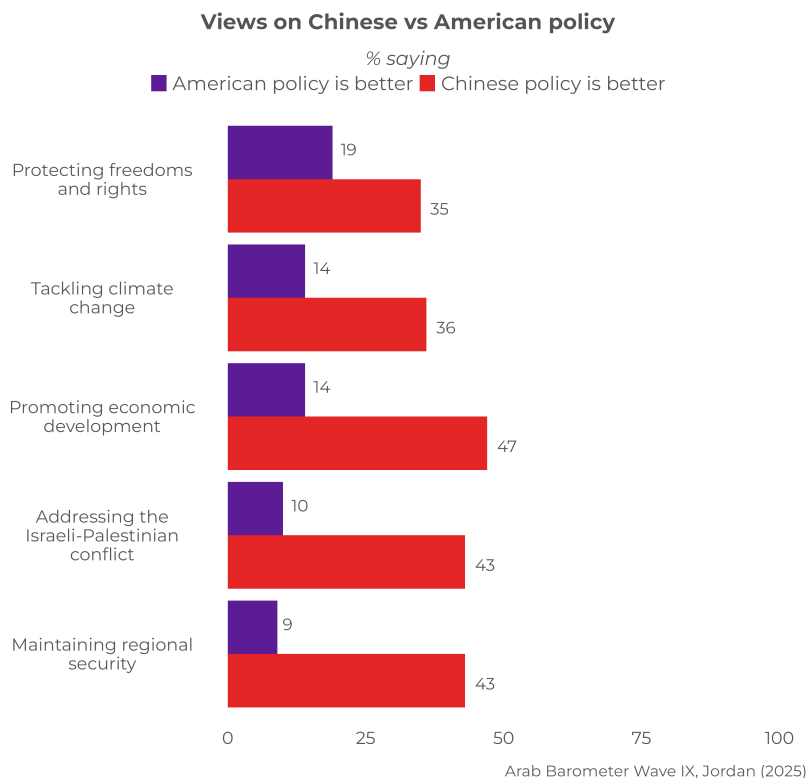


The current U.S. president is particularly unpopular. Only about one-in-ten Jordanians (12 percent) describe Donald Trump's policies toward the region as very good or good. This rating is seven percentage points below the 19 percent positive assessment received by Joe Biden in late 2023.

Perceptions of adherence to international law also advantage China over Western and regional rivals. Nearly half (48 percent) say China is committed to international law to a great or medium extent. The European Union and Germany follow at 37 percent each, with the United Nations and Russia at 34 percent. Only 24 percent say the United States is committed to international law, and 21 percent say the same of Iran. These ratings are likely connected to Jordanians' perceptions of how international rules have been applied during the war in Gaza compared with other global conflicts.



When asked to compare Chinese and American policies directly, Jordanians choose China across every issue included in the survey. Forty-seven percent say Chinas policies are better for promoting economic development, compared with 14 percent who select the United States, a 33-percentage-point advantage. Chinas lead is 34 points on regional security (43 percent compared with 9 percent), 33 points on the Palestine-Israel conflict (43 percent compared with 10 percent), 22 points on climate change (36 percent compared with 14 percent), and 16 points on protecting freedoms and rights (35 percent compared with 19 percent). The comparisons do not necessarily indicate unqualified support for China, since substantial minorities say both countries policies are equally good or equally bad. They do, however, demonstrate the weakness of Americas position in Jordanian public opinion.



Assessments of foreign influence in Jordan reinforce this pattern. Qatar is most often viewed as having a positive influence on the broader region, at 61 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia at 53 percent, Egypt at 51 percent, Türkiye at 50 percent, and China at 45 percent. Four-in-ten (40 percent) describe the UAEs influence as positive, while 32 percent say the same of the European Union. In contrast, three-quarters (74 percent) say the United States implementation of tariffs has a mostly negative influence on Jordans economy, and six-in-ten (60 percent) say U.S. influence has been negative for their households ability to provide basic needs. Iran and Israel are also overwhelmingly viewed as negative influences.

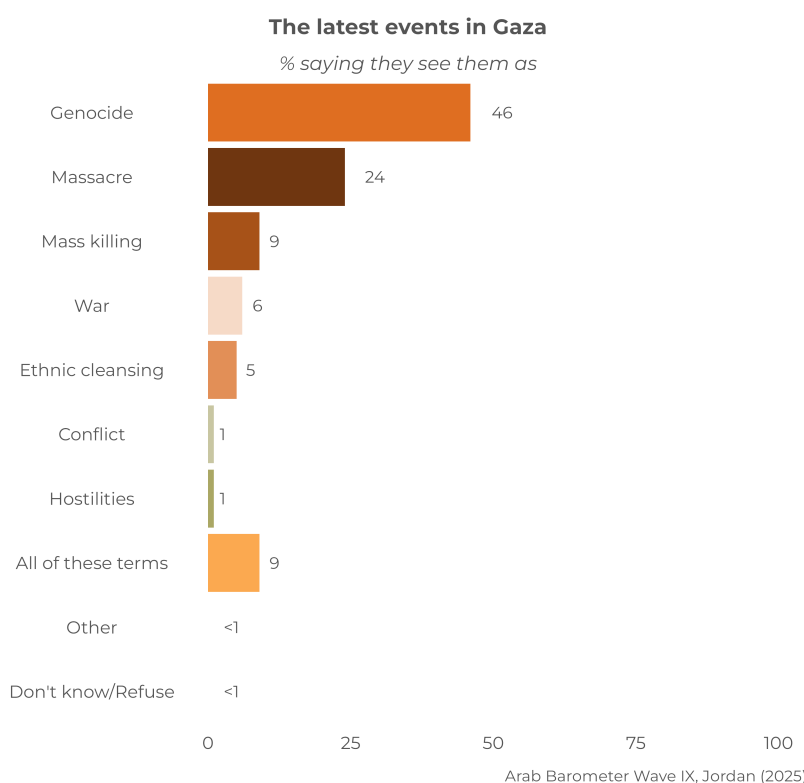
Generational differences are most visible in attitudes toward several regional and Western actors. Youth are 11 percentage points more favorable than older Jordanians toward Saudi Arabia (77 percent compared with 66 percent) and ten points more favorable toward Türkiye (76 percent compared with 66 percent). The generational gap is 12 points for the European Union (54 percent compared with 42 percent) and 13 points for Germany (53 percent compared with 40 percent). This openness does not extend meaningfully to the United States or Israel, where the age gaps are only three points and one point, respectively. The pattern suggests that younger Jordanians are comparatively open to

a wider set of partners, while continuing to judge them through their regional policies.

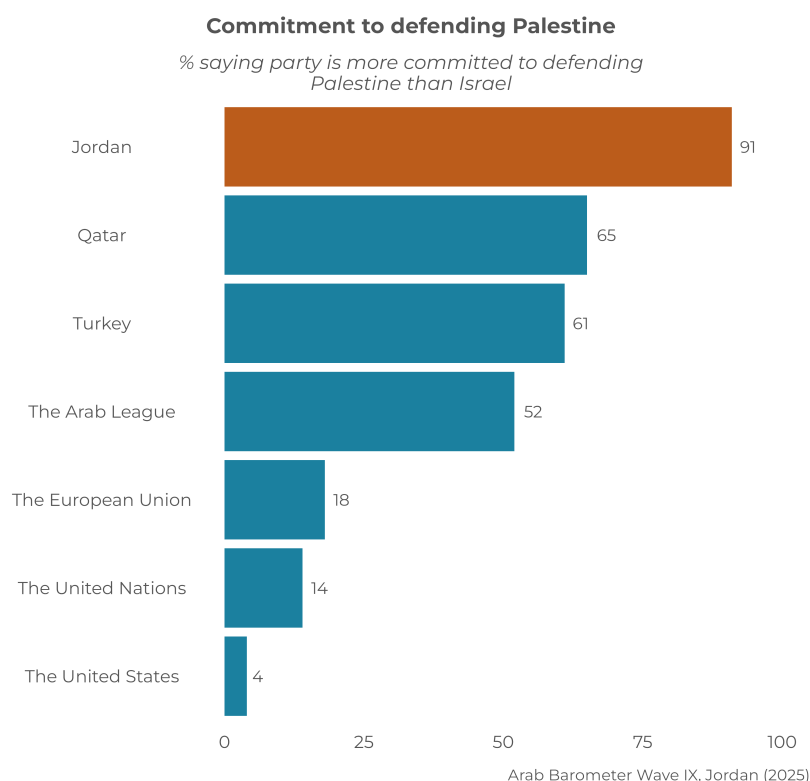
Overall, the international hierarchy in Jordan is closely tied to perceptions of economic partnership, respect for international law, and perceived support for the Palestinian cause. Qatar and Türkiye benefit from their regional positioning, Saudi Arabia has gained ground, and China remains attractive as an alternative global power. Western states, especially the United States, continue to face a severe deficit of public trust.

Views on the Gaza war

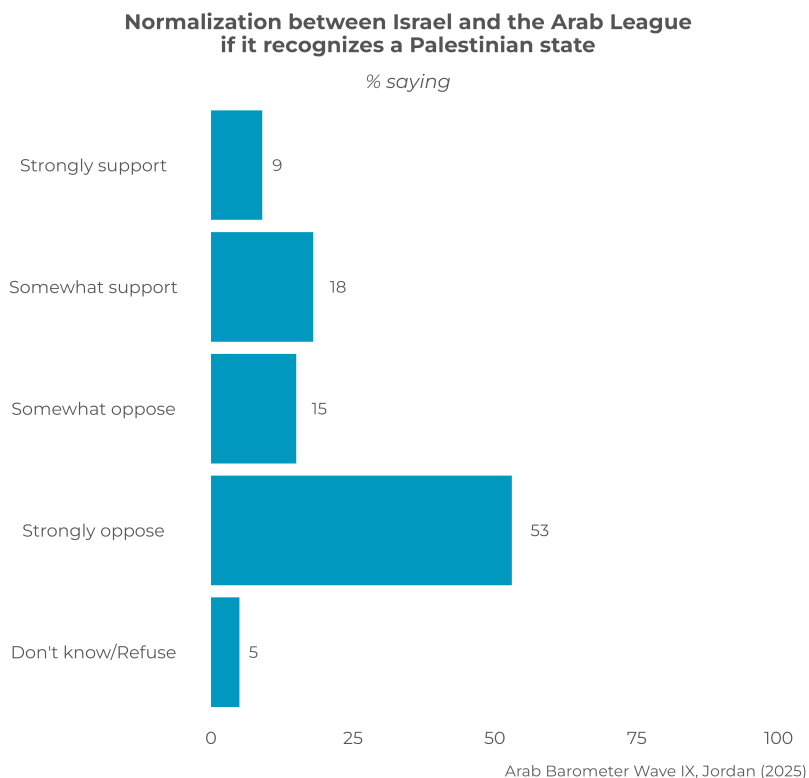
The war in Gaza remains central to Jordanian public opinion. When asked which single term best describes the events, 46 percent choose genocide and 24 percent massacre. Together, seven-in-ten Jordanians (70 percent) use one of these terms, essentially matching the level recorded in late 2023. Only a small minority describe the events simply as a war or conflict, underscoring the degree to which the public sees Gazans as victims.



Jordanians view their own country as firmly aligned with Palestine. Ninety-one percent say Jordan is more committed to defending Palestine than Israel. Qatar follows at 65 percent, Türkiye at 61 percent, Egypt at 58 percent, and the Arab League at 52 percent. By contrast, 86 percent say the United States is more committed to defending Israel. The European Union and United Nations are also more often viewed as supporting Israel than Palestine.

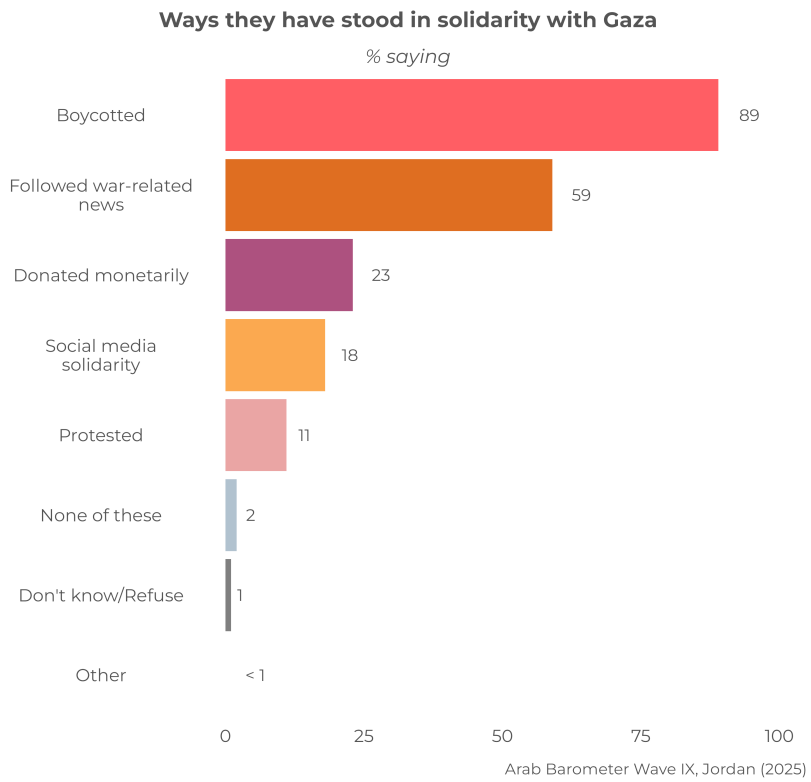


Opposition to normalization remains overwhelming even under a two-state scenario. If Israel recognizes an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, only 27 percent support normalization between Arab countries and Israel. Two-thirds (67 percent) oppose it, including 53 percent who strongly oppose. Among opponents, 95 percent say there are no other conditions under which they would support normalization. Men and women hold similar views, but citizens aged 30 or older are eight percentage points more likely than youth to strongly oppose normalization (56 percent compared with 48 percent).



Jordan is also considered the most credible potential mediator to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Fifty-two percent name it as an actor suited to broker a political solution fair to both Palestinians and Israelis. Qatar is selected by 26 percent, the United States by 24 percent, and Egypt by 21 percent. No other actor is named by more than 16 percent. Jordans standing as the leading mediator has therefore endured as the conflict has continued.

Jordanians report showing solidarity with Gaza through everyday actions. Eighty-nine percent say they have boycotted companies that support Israel. Fifty-nine percent report closely following war-related news, 23 percent have made monetary donations, 18 percent have shared solidarity messages on social media, and 11 percent have participated in protests or public solidarity activities. Only two percent say they have taken none of the listed actions. Gaza is therefore not only an issue of foreign-policy opinion; it is embedded in consumer behavior, media habits, and civic activity across Jordanian society.





About Arab Barometer

Arab Barometer is the leading and most influential research network on public opinion in the Middle East and North Africa. We are nonprofit and nonpartisan, hosted at Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

Founded in 2006, we are the longest-standing research network that conducts rigorous and nationally representative public opinion surveys in the Arab world. We disseminate the findings through analyses and reports to deepen public conversations and facilitate data-driven solutions to the pressing problems facing ordinary citizens across MENA.

Our public opinion surveys give ordinary citizens a stronger voice, and our analysis, highlighting key demographic differences and changing trends, help comprehend MENA citizens shifting views, attitudes, and behaviors.



ARABBAROMETER.ORG



[ARABBAROMETER](https://www.facebook.com/ARABBAROMETER)



[@ARABBAROMETER](https://twitter.com/ARABBAROMETER)