



الباروميتر العربي  
ARAB BAROMETER

# Arab Barometer VII

## Jordan Report



August 2022

## Executive summary

Compared with other countries in the region, Jordan has long been seen as an island of stability. Analysts have long predicted that unrest must be coming due to myriad challenges over the last three decades. Yet, such events have failed to come to pass. The regime continues on relatively unchanged even as regional events such as the Arab Uprisings of 2011 rocked those elsewhere in the region.

Under the surface, however, changes in public opinion suggest potential bumps in the road ahead. Views of the government and key political actors have plummeted over the past decade. For example, trust in the government is now 41 points lower than at the time of the Arab Uprisings. Confidence in other political institutions, such as parliament, have also declined. Today, the only major institutions with high levels of trust is the armed forces.

The main driver of the loss of confidence in the government is its inability to solve Jordan's economic challenges. When asked about the most critical problem facing the country, nearly two-thirds of Jordanians say the economy. Elsewhere in the region, fewer than half say this is the biggest challenge. Commensurately, ratings of the economy have declined dramatically over the last fifteen years, with Jordanians being 40 points less likely to say it is good today than in 2006.

Critically, hope for the future is also in decline. Only a quarter of Jordanians expect the economy to improve in the coming years, which is down nearly 20 points since 2012.

At the same time, perceptions of inequality are increasing, with more than nine-in-ten saying the wealth gap is a problem, which is the highest in the region. Moreover, more than eight-in-ten say the wealth gap has increased in the past year, which is also the highest in the region.

The depth of the concern about the economy and inequality is made clear by the fact that rating of many government services are quite positive. More than half of Jordanians are satisfied with the healthcare system. In all other countries surveyed, fewer than half hold this view. Ratings of the educational system are also second highest in the region, suggesting a relatively high approval of government services compared with neighboring countries.

But, other challenges are also weakening trust in government. Nearly nine-in-ten say corruption is present to a large or medium extent while the belief that the government is working to tackle the problem has declined by 25 points over the last decade. Additionally, fewer than one-in-five say the government is

responsive, which is the second lowest percentage in any country surveyed.

When seeking solutions to the economic challenges, Jordanians want the government to create jobs, raise wages, and limit inflation. Concerns about rising costs of living are particularly clear as nearly half of Jordanians want the government to prioritize spending on subsidies, which is the second highest level in the region.

Despite these frustrations, Jordanians remain cautious about change. Seven-in-ten say that any reforms should be gradual, which is the highest level in the region.

Meanwhile, perceptions of women in Jordan are trending towards greater equality. Jordanians are substantially more likely to say women should have an equal right to education than they were 15 years ago. They are also more likely to believe women are equally good at political leadership, although a majority still say men are better. Within the household, more than half say men should make the final decision, which is effectively unchanged since 2016.

Jordanians are also the least likely among any public in the region to want the government to do more to address climate change. Perhaps this is due to the remoteness of the problem, especially as the greatest environmental concerns of Jordanians relate to everyday issues like the water supply.

Internationally, Jordanians are equally balanced between the U.S. and China, with half holding a favorable view of each. However, views of China appear to be declining to a greater extent than the U.S. When asked if they want closer economic ties with each, since 2018 the desire for closer ties with China has declined about twice as much as for the U.S.

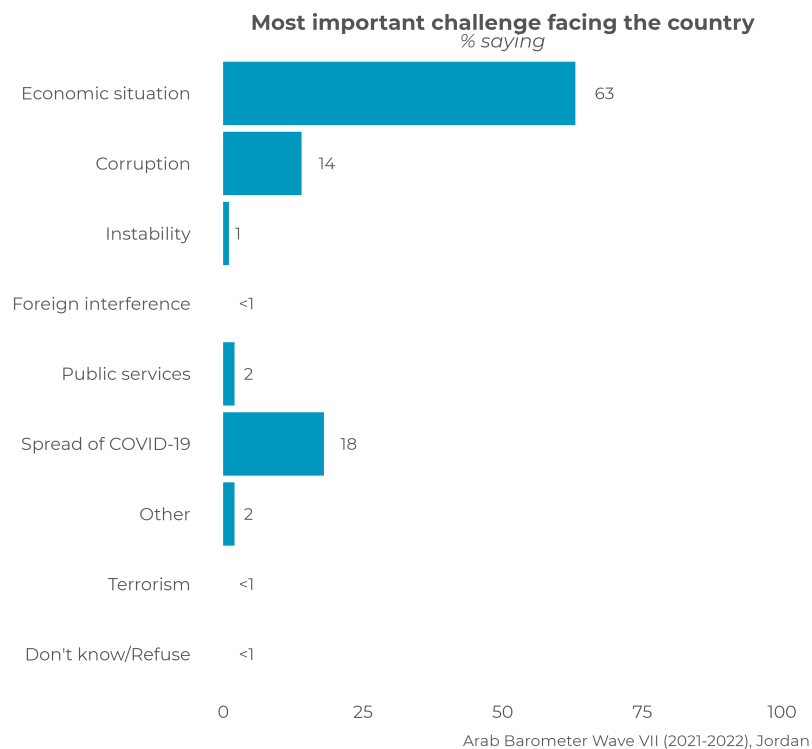
Among regional powers, Turkey is by far the most favored, followed by Saudi Arabia with more than half holding a positive view. Views of Russia and Iran are significantly lower. Additionally, support for normalization with Israel is extremely low at just five percent, which is tied for the lowest in the region.

These are among the main findings of a nationally representative face-to-face survey conducted in Jordan. The survey included 2,399 randomly selected citizens from across all governorates and was fielded from February 13 - April 4, 2022 using a multistage clustered sample. The margin of error for the reported results is  $\pm 2$  percentage points. The surveys are part of Arab Barometer's seventh wave which is the largest publicly available survey that captures the sentiments of citizens across MENA following the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information about the surveys can be found at [www.arabbarometer.org](http://www.arabbarometer.org).

## COVID

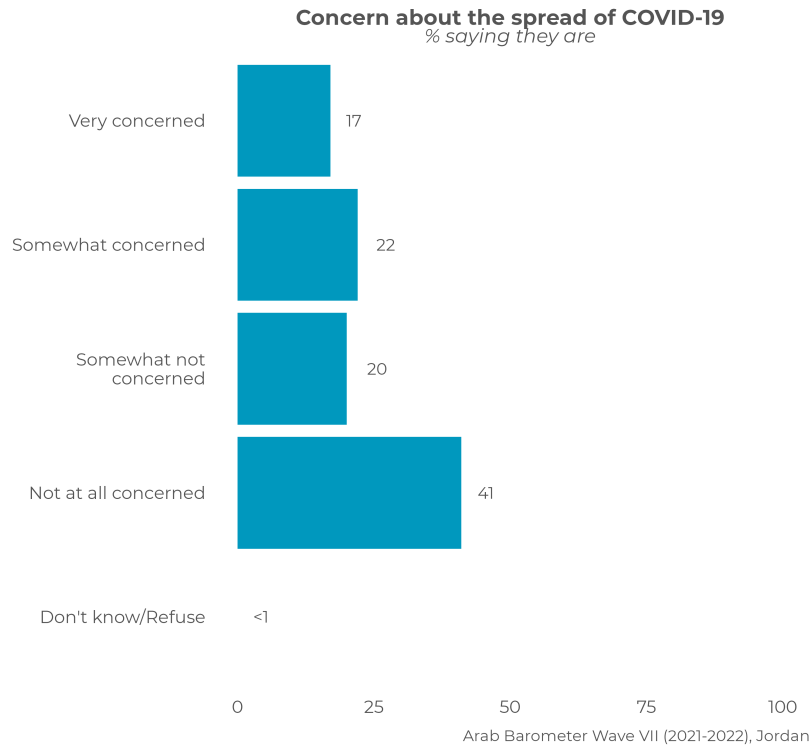
COVID has left a lasting impact on countries across the MENA region. In spring 2020, Jordan undertook strong measures including closing its borders and implementing a strict lockdown. These measures limited the spread of COVID in the country, but ultimately they were only able to delay the spread of the pandemic. By fall 2020, Jordan was experiencing a major outbreak with one of the highest infection rates in the world.<sup>1</sup> This initial wave followed by additional waves in spring 2021 and early 2022 have shaped Jordanians' experience with COVID, especially the most recent wave which subsided shortly before the beginning of the 2022 Arab Barometer survey.

Against this background, the survey results make clear that COVID was far from the top concern of Jordanians. Only 18 percent say that this is the most important challenge facing their country, compared with 63 percent who say the economic situation.

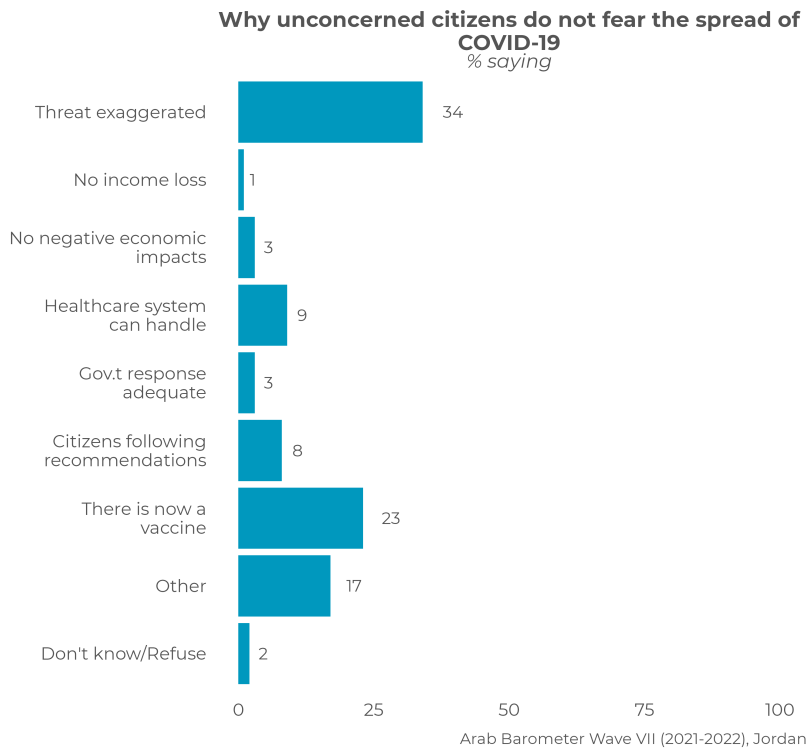


<sup>1</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/04/jordan-suffers-covid-surge-after-early-success-against-virus>

Moreover, when asked directly about COVID, just four-in-ten (39 percent) say they are very or somewhat concerned about the continuing spread of the disease, which is virtually the same percentage as those who say they are not concerned at all (41 percent). By comparison, the level of concern about the spread of COVID is substantially lower than in any other country surveyed in Arab Barometer Wave 7. Elsewhere, at least half say they are concerned about the continued spread of the virus.



Among those who are unconcerned about COVID, the most common reason is the belief that threat is exaggerated (34 percent), followed by 23 percent who note the existence of vaccines, nine percent who are confident the healthcare system can handle the challenge, and eight percent who believe citizens are following the necessary recommendation to stop the spread of the virus.

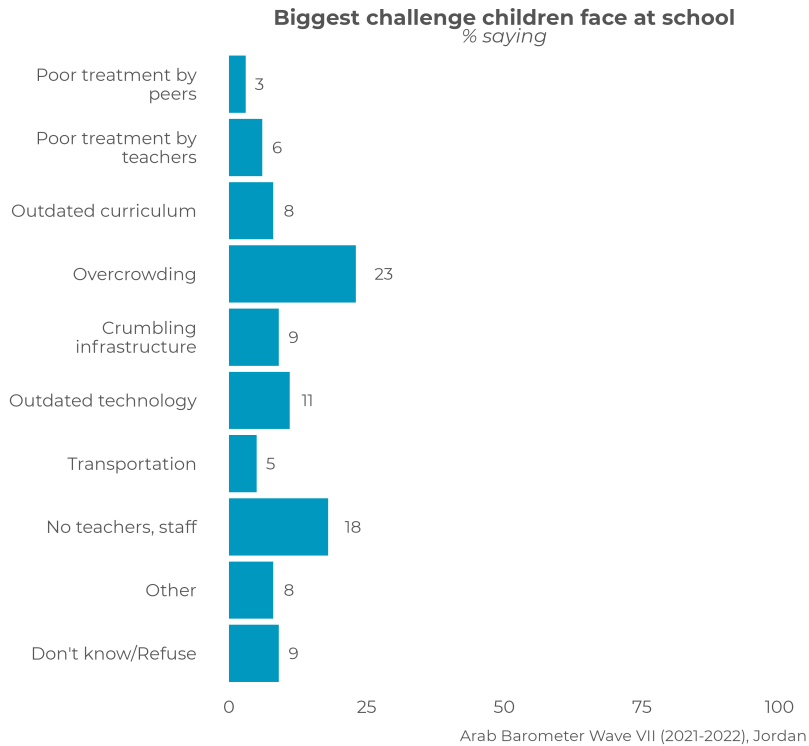


As in countries around the world, the pandemic has caused major challenges in Jordan. When asked about the major challenges caused by the pandemic, the plurality (30 percent) say an loss of income. Inflation is the next biggest challenge (23 percent) followed by disruption of education (18 percent) and disruption of social life (14 percent). Notably, Jordan is the most likely among any country surveyed by Arab Barometer to cite the loss of income as the greatest challenge brought about by COVID. In part, the challenge of lack of income could be related to the fact that the vast majority (88 percent) of Jordanians shay they did not receive relief aid during the course of the pandemic.

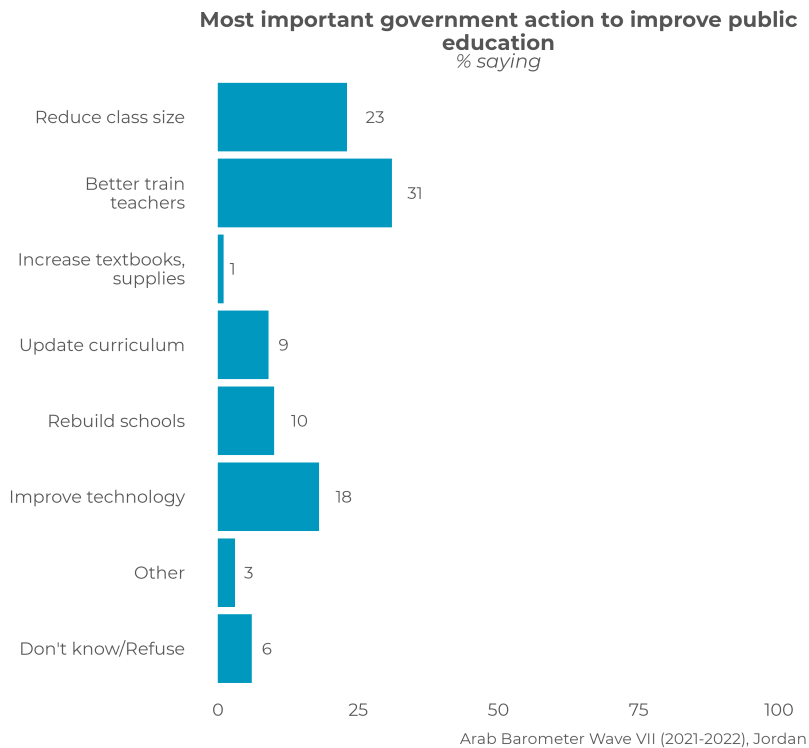
Despite these challenges and the limited number who have received assistance, the majority rate the government’s performance on responding to COVID positively (55 percent). Yet, the crisis has also placed the health care system under strain as it seeks to cope with the with pandemic-related challenges. Jordanians’ are divided as to which is the greatest challenge, but common responses include too few healthcare professionals (21 percent), not enough hospitals (18 percent), the high costs associated with healthcare (17 percent), and a lack of medical supplies (15 percent). Meanwhile, 10 percent believe that all of these issues are problems with the system.

## Education

The educational system in Jordan, like those around the world, have come under increased strain due to the effects of COVID-19.



When asked about the greatest problem in the school system, Jordanians are divided. Nearly a quarter say overcrowding while 18 percent say a lack of qualified teachers and staff. Meanwhile, about one-in-ten say outdated technology (11 percent), crumbling infrastructure (9 percent), or an outdated curriculum (8 percent).



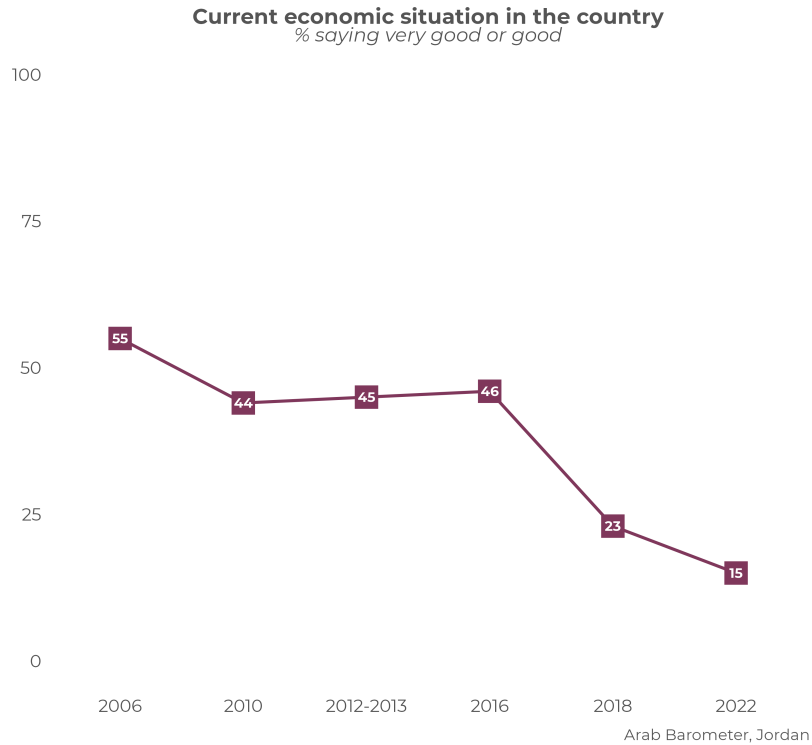
When asked about the most important step the government could take to improve the nation's schools, Jordanians coalesce around a few primary steps. The most commonly cited is to train teachers better (31 percent), followed by reducing class size (23 percent), improving the quality of technology (18 percent), and rebuilding crumbling schools (10 percent). Younger Jordanians (18-29) are more likely to say the most important step is improving technology (+7 points) while they are less likely to focus on better training for teachers (-9 points) compared with those who are 30 and older.

## Economy

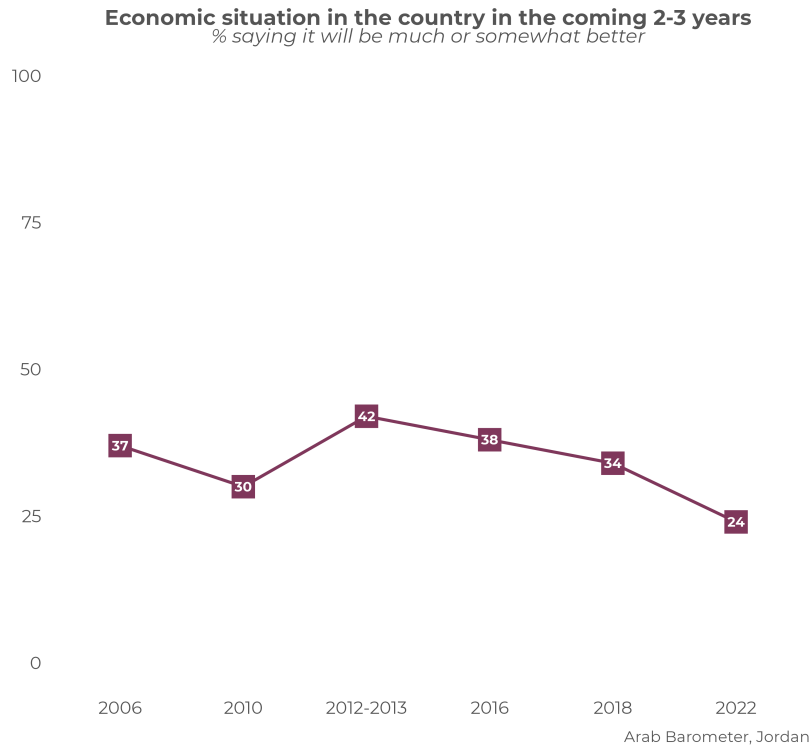
Few Jordanians rate the economic situation as being good or very good (15 percent). This rating is eight points lower than in 2018 and far below the 55 percent who rated the economy positively in 2006 during the first Arab Barometer survey in Jordan. Notably, Jordanians of many different backgrounds, including those who are older and younger, have higher and lower levels of education, and live in different regions of the country tend to rate the economy



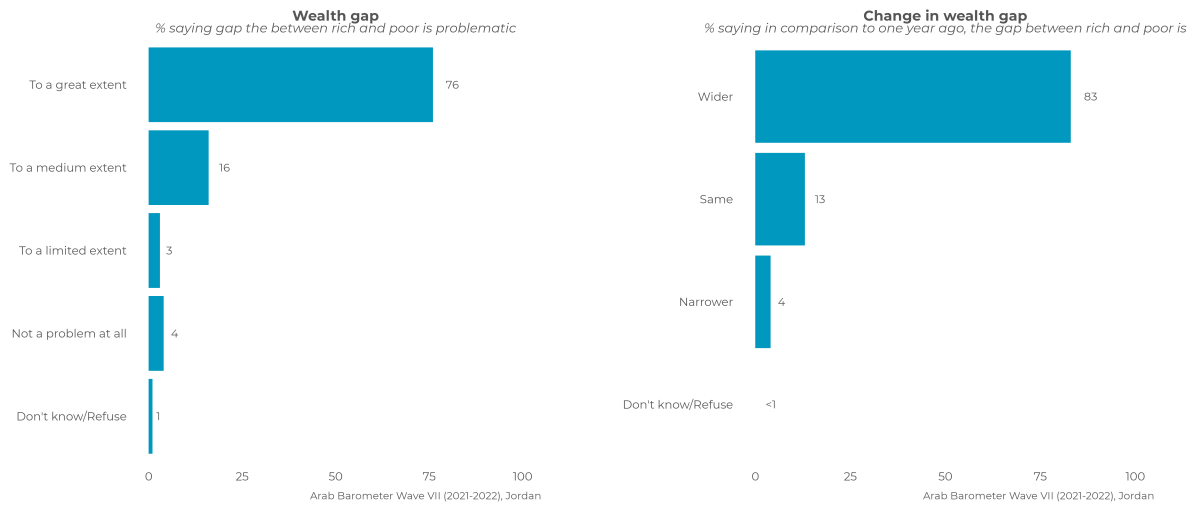
about equally, suggesting economic concerns extend to most of those living in the Kingdom.



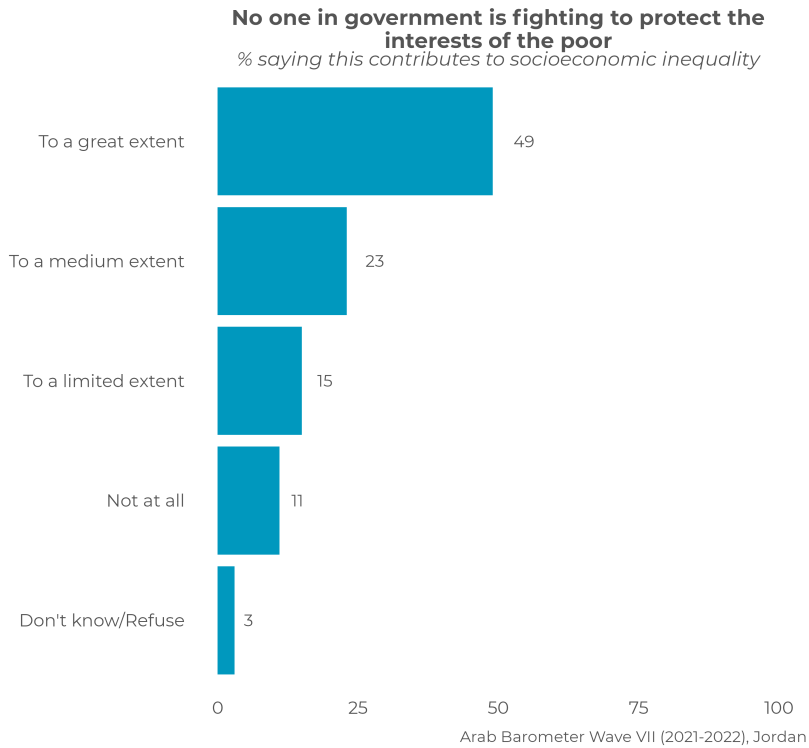
Given the long-term decline of economic perceptions in Jordan, it is perhaps unsurprising that economic optimism is low. Only a quarter (24 percent) expect the economic situation to improve in the next few years, which is substantially lower than in years past. For example, a decade earlier, 42 percent of citizens were hopeful that the economy would be better in the near future.



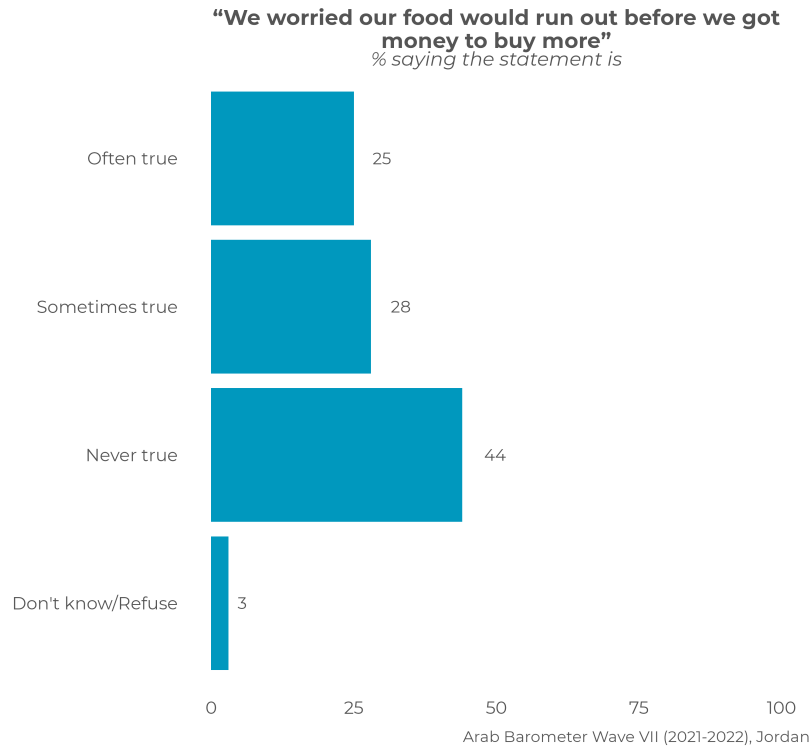
Socio-economic inequality represents an ongoing challenge facing Jordan. Three quarters (76 percent) say that this is a problem to a great extent while a further (16 percent) say it is a problem to a medium extent. There is also a clear perception that this gap is growing, with 83 percent saying it has increased in the past year, compared with 13 percent who perceive no change and four percent who say it has narrowed.



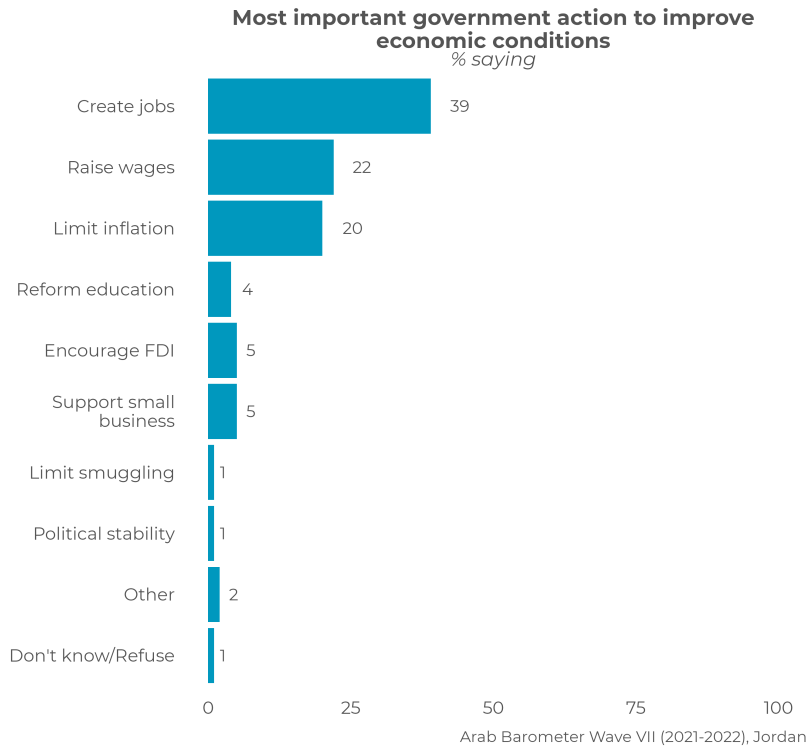
When asked about the key source of socio-economic inequality, two-thirds (66 percent) say that it is due to the fact that some people work harder than others. By comparison, 60 percent attribute the gap to the fact that some people are born into wealthier families while 72 percent of citizens say that it is due to the fact that the government is not fighting to protect the interests of the poor. Although Jordanians think all three aspects contributes to the wealth gap, they remain most likely to blame a failure of government policy over individual effort or structural factors in explaining the problem of inequality.



The perception of increasing levels of inequality may be due, at least in part, to the struggles of many citizens to afford basic necessities. Nearly half (48 percent) of citizens say that it is often (22 percent) or sometimes (26 percent) true that they their supply of food had run out before they were able to afford more.

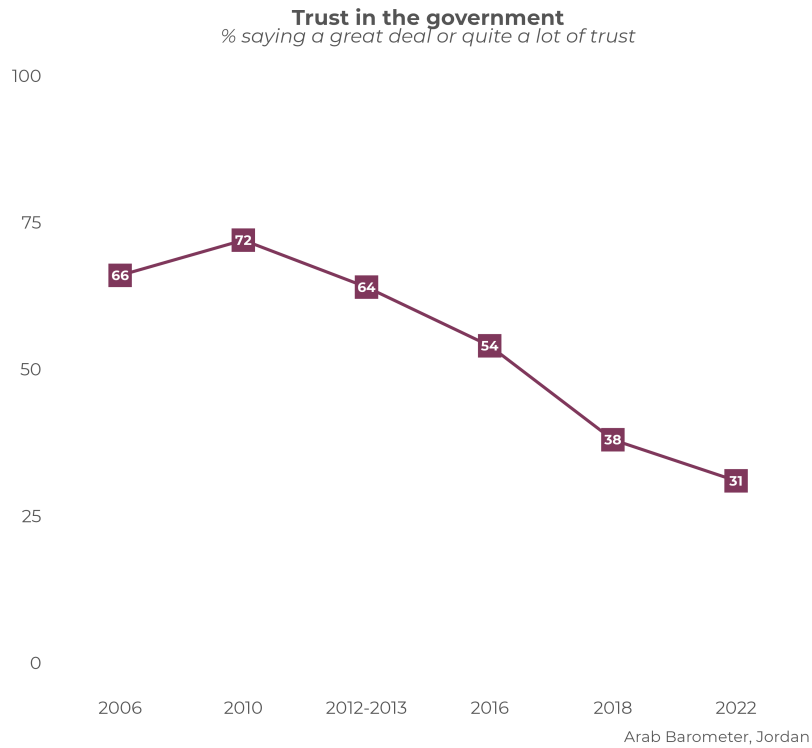


When asked about what the government should do to improve economic conditions, the most common responses are to create more jobs (39 percent) or to raise wages (22 percent) followed by limiting rising cost of living (20 percent). Notably, youth ages 18-29 are six points more likely to want the government to focus on creating jobs compared with those 30 and older, which is presumably related to the disproportionately high rate of youth unemployment in Jordan.

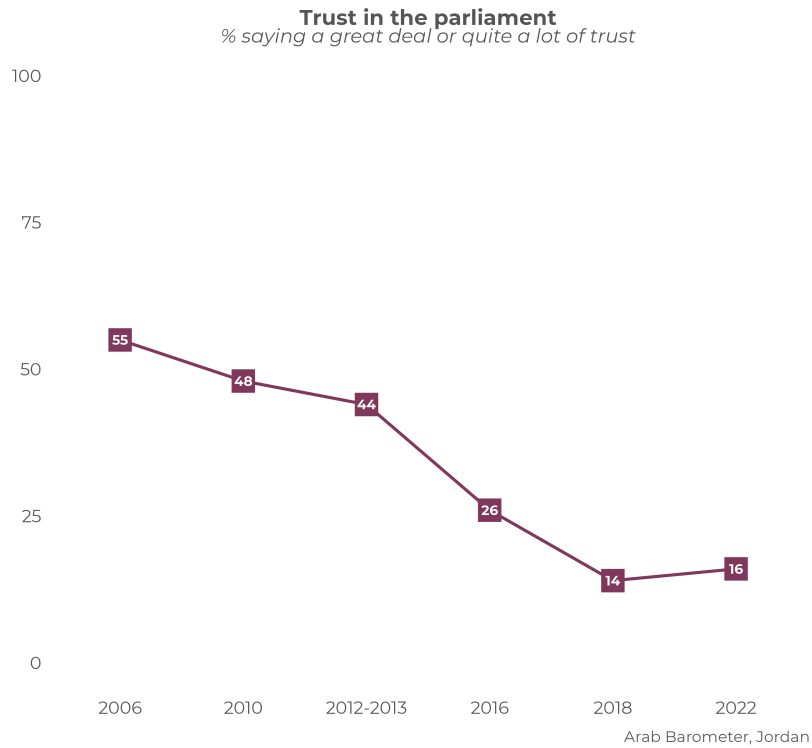


## Trust in Political Actors

The 2022 Arab Barometer survey in Jordan reveals a continued decline in trust in government and many political actors. Currently, only three-in-ten (31 percent) say they trust the government, which represents a 41-point decrease since 2010. Women are somewhat more trusting of the government than men (+7 points), but otherwise attitude is held about equally across members of Jordanian society, as there are not substantial demographic differences in levels of trust in government by age, gender, level of education, or income.

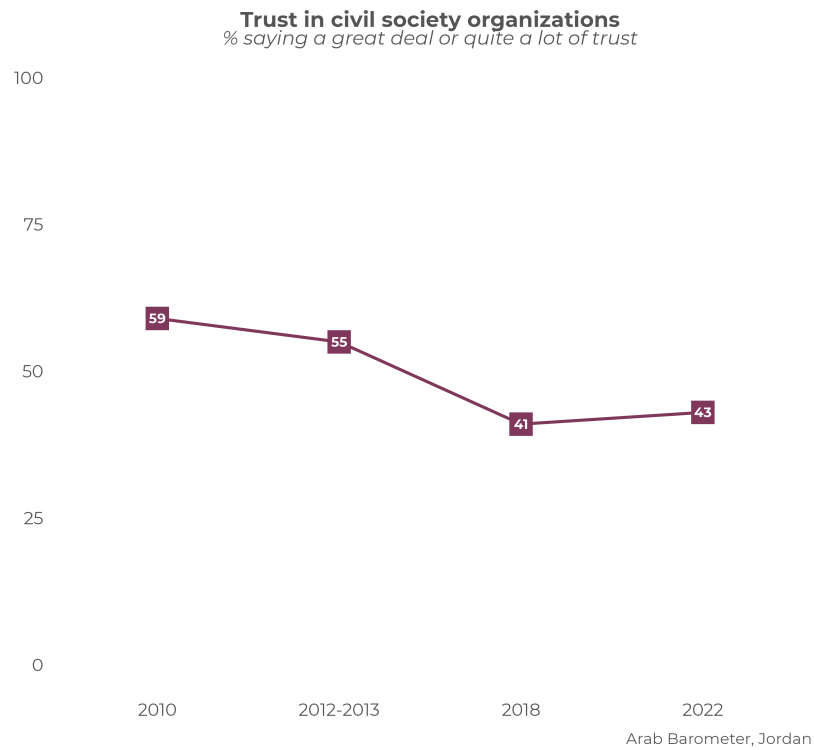


Trust in parliament is even lower, with just 16 percent saying they have a great deal of quite a lot of trust in this institution. This level is effectively unchanged since 2018 (+2 points), but is dramatically lower than 2006 when Arab Barometer first surveyed Jordan. At that time, more than half (55 percent) had confidence in parliament, meaning there has been a decline of 39 points in the subsequent decade and a half.

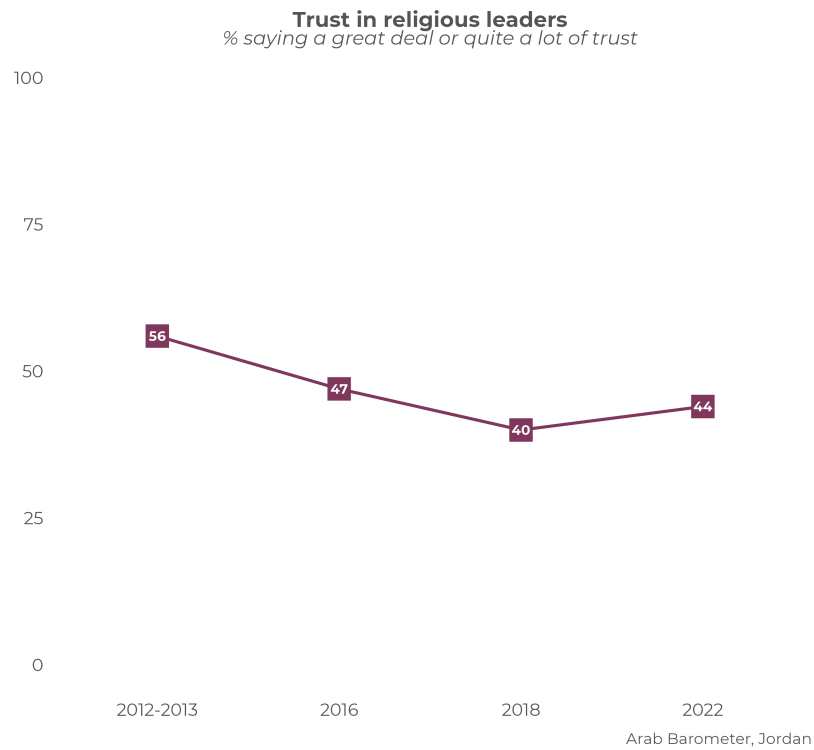


Fewer than half of Jordanians say they trust civil society. Just 43 percent have a great deal or quite a lot of trust in civil society organizations, which represents a significant decline since 2010 when six-in-ten (59 percent) had confidence in these organizations. However, it is possible that attitudes may once again improve in the future as youth ages 18-29 are seven points more likely to have confidence in such organizations compared with those who are ages 30 and older.

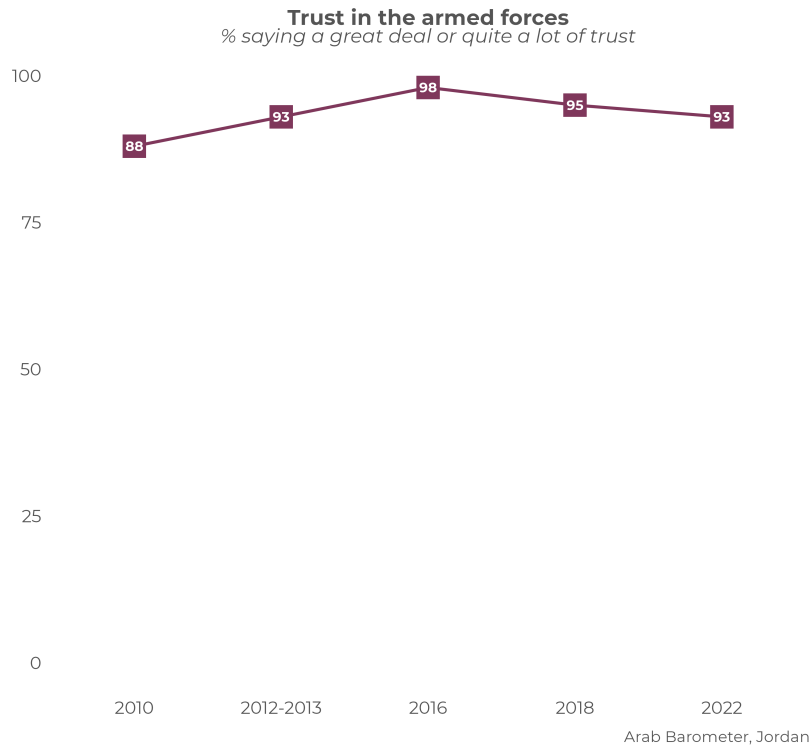




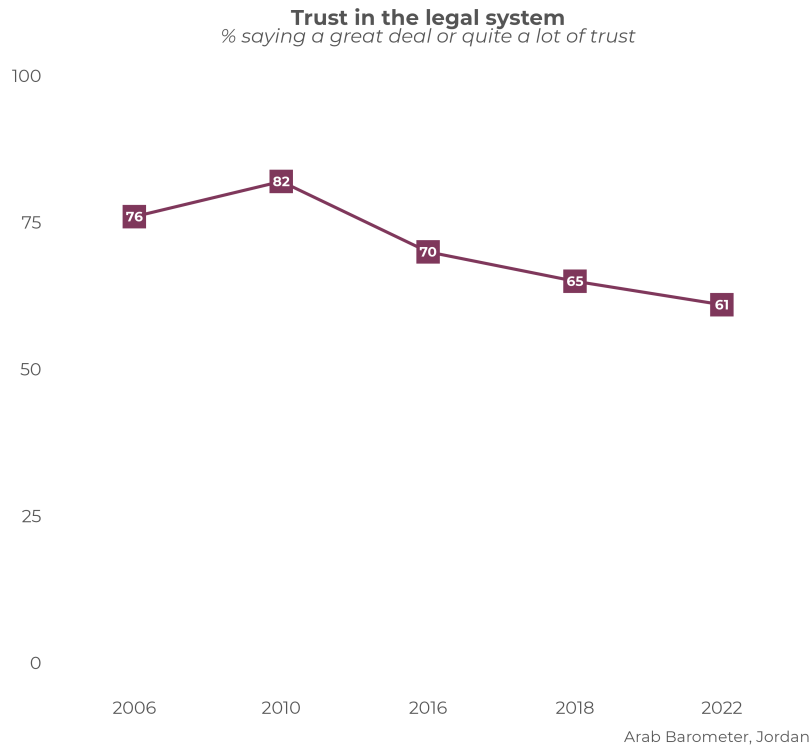
Levels of trust in religious leaders is similar at 44 percent. However, as with trust in civil society, this level represents a substantial decline since 2010 when 56 percent of Jordanians expressed confidence in religious leaders.



The armed forces are by far the most trusted political actor in Jordan. Fully 93 percent say they trust the armed forces, including 78 percent who do so to a great extent. This level is second only to Tunisia in any country covered by Arab Barometer in this wave of surveys.

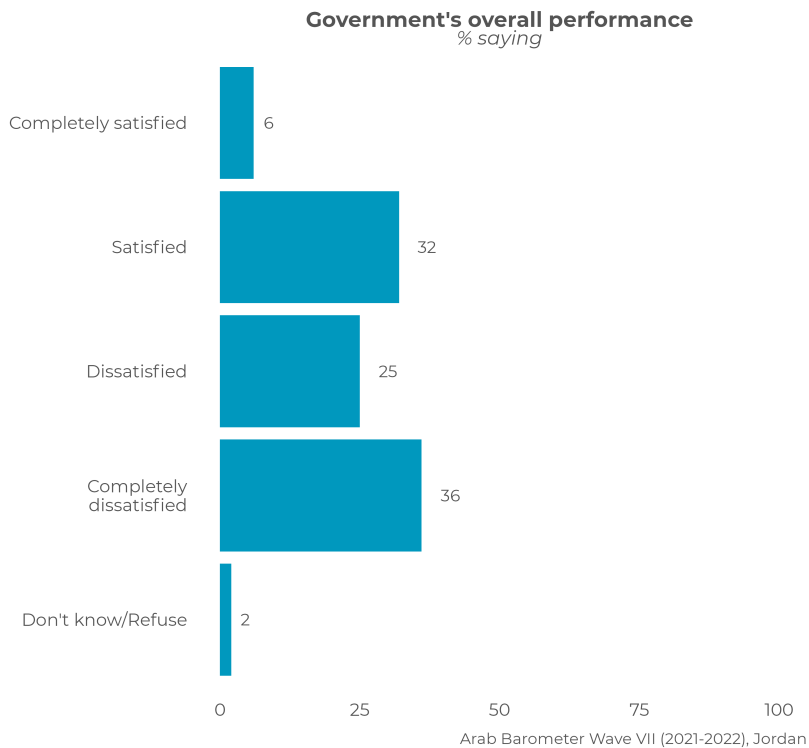


Another institution with a relatively high degree of trust is the judiciary. Six-in-ten (61 percent) say they have confidence in the legal system in Jordan, which is the highest percentage in any country surveyed in this wave of Arab Barometer. Nevertheless, as with other institutions in Jordan, levels of trust have been in decline over the last decade. In 2010, 82 percent had confidence in the country's courts, meaning trust has declined by 21 points over the last decade.



## Government Performance

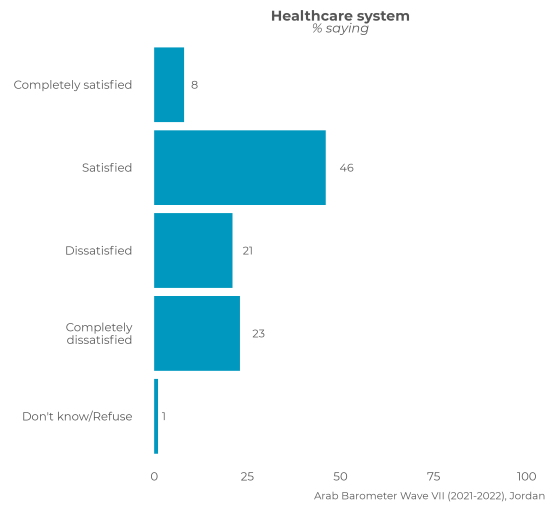
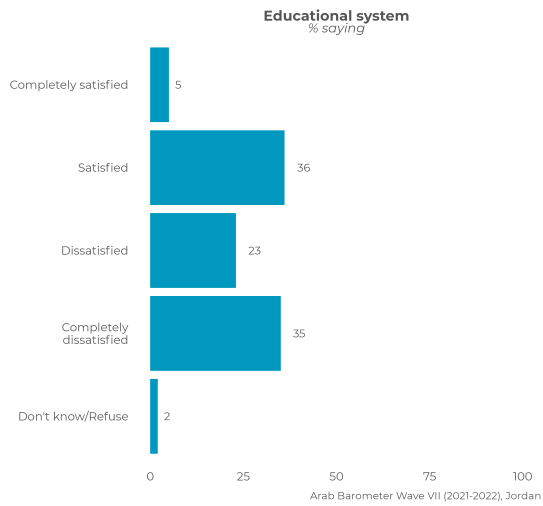
Most Jordanians are not satisfied with their government's performance overall. Only 37 percent say they are satisfied to a great or medium extent. Notably, women are more likely to be satisfied than men (+9 points) and those with a secondary degree or less are seven points more likely to be satisfied than those with at least a college degree.



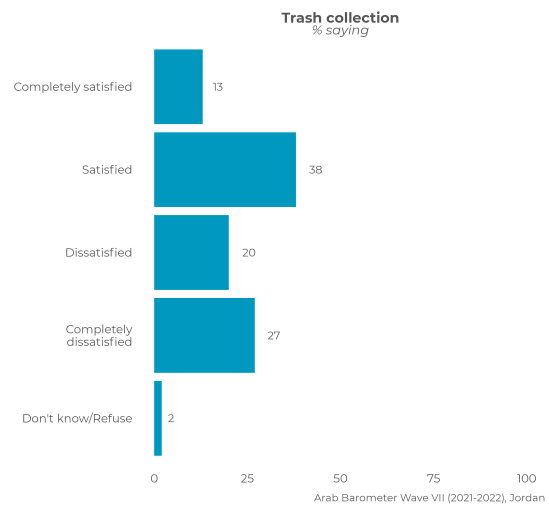
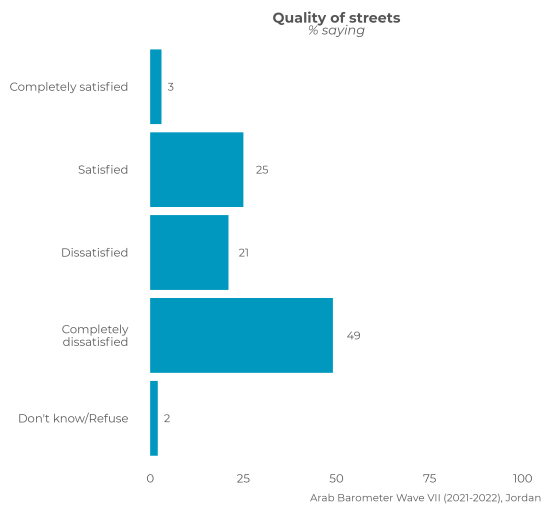
Notably, this overall rating for government performance is somewhat lower than it is for its performance on most measures. For example, 54 percent rate the health care system positively, which is the highest level in any country surveyed in this wave of Arab Barometer outside of Kuwait. Still, this level is far lower than in 2016 when eight-in-ten (79 percent) were satisfied with the health care system. Likely, this decrease is partially a result of the stress that COVID placed on the health care system over the last few years.

Satisfaction with the educational system (41 percent) is not as high as for health care, but still exceeds that of the government overall. Ratings do not vary meaningfully by age, or level of education, but those who are wealthier are seven points more likely to be satisfied than those who say they cannot cover their basic expenses while women are ten points more likely to be satisfied than men.

Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report

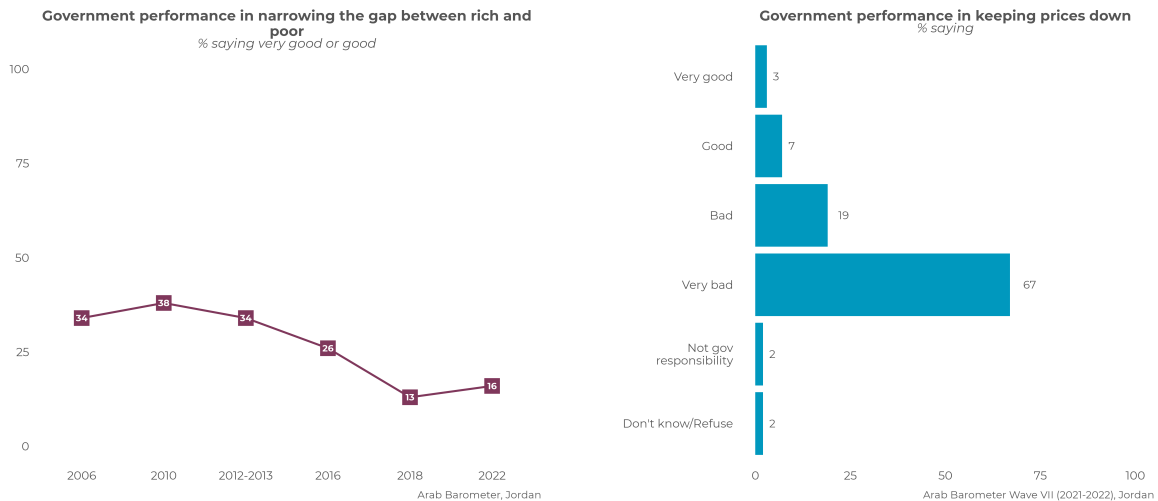


Meanwhile, satisfactions with basic infrastructure is far lower. Just 28 percent say they are satisfied with the quality of the country's streets and roads. However, the government's performance on trash collection is higher, with 51 percent being satisfied with this service.



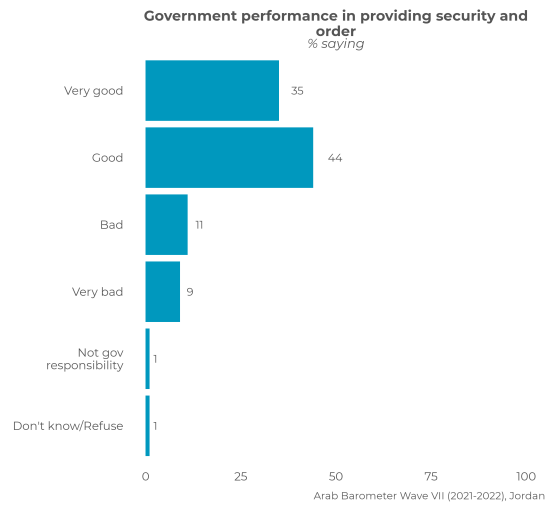
Ratings of government performance on economic issues are also low. When asked to rate the job the government is doing in reducing inequality, only 16

percent say the government is doing a good or very good job, which is the lowest of any country surveyed in the region except Lebanon. This level is also far lower than in 2010 when nearly four-in-ten (38 percent) said the same.



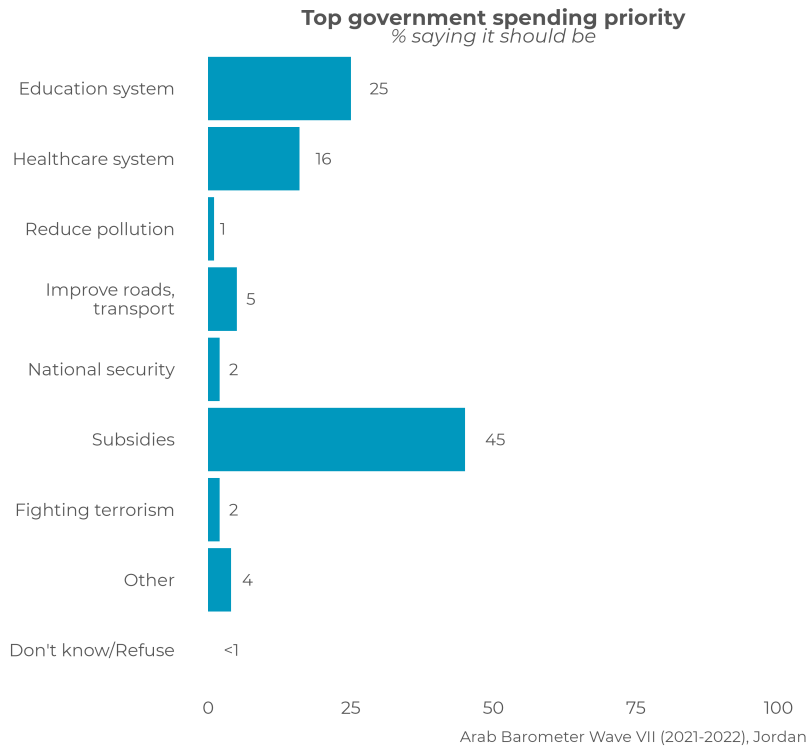
Similarly, only one-in-ten Jordanians say that the government is doing a good or very good job keeping prices down, while two-thirds say the government is doing very badly on this measure. As with many other measures, perceptions of the government’s effectiveness on this measure is substantially lower than in years past, with Jordan seeing a 26-point decline since 2016.

However, citizens have a significantly higher rating of the degree to which the government is providing security and order. Nearly eight-in-ten (78 percent) rate the government’s performance as good or very good, which is the highest of any country surveyed in this wave. Still, there has been a large decline in the percentage of citizens who are satisfied with government performance on security since 2016 when it stood at 94 percent.



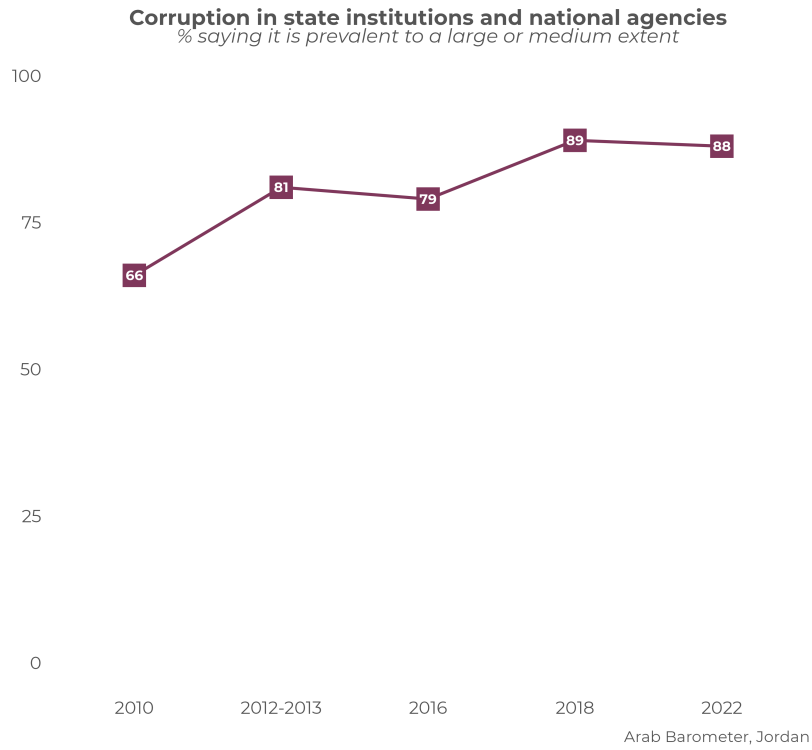
Given the economic challenges the country is experiencing, it is unsurprising that citizens want the government to take direct actions that they see would improve conditions. To this end, when asked about what should be the top spending priority for the government, nearly half (45 percent) say increasing expenditures on subsidies. Only in Lebanon does a greater percentage want spending to be spent on subsidies of any country surveyed. Beyond subsidies, a quarter want the government to prioritize spending on the education system while 16 percent say the health care system. Five percent or fewer say improving roads, national security, fighting terrorism, or reducing pollution.



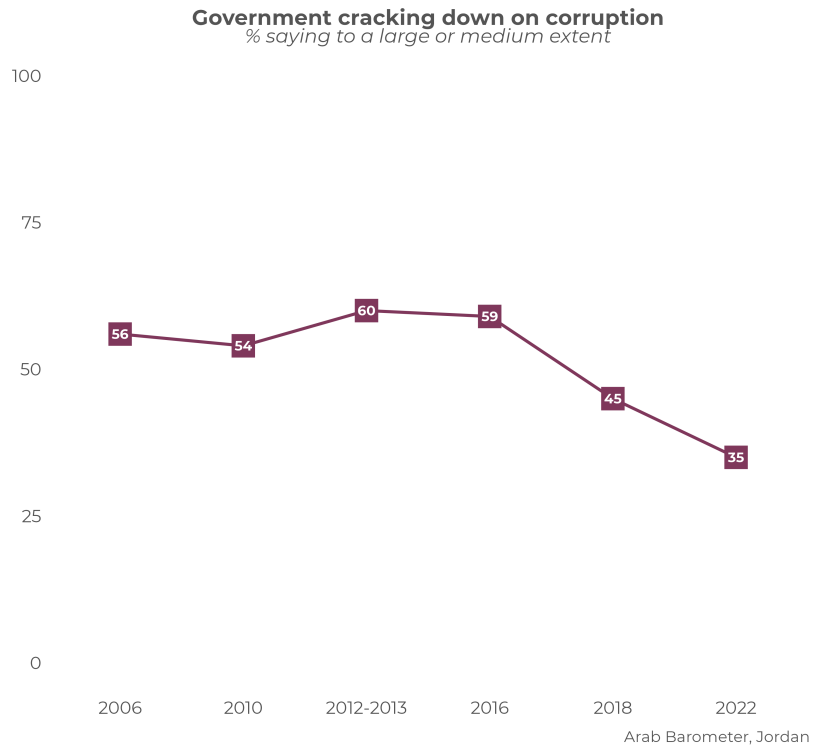


## Corruption

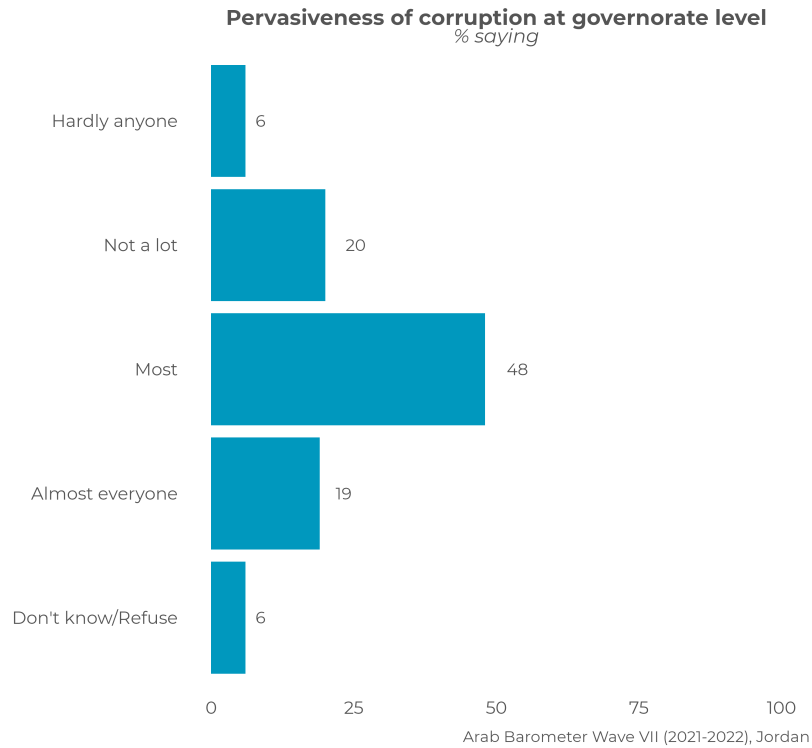
Jordanians remain deeply concerned about the level of corruption they perceive in state institutions. The vast majority of citizens (88 percent) say that corruption is prevalent to a large or medium extent in the national government. This level is similar to 2018, but represents a dramatic increase since 2010 when only two-thirds said corruption was prevalent to a large or medium extent.



At the same time, Jordanians are less convinced that the government is working to tackle the scourge of corruption than in years past. Currently, 35 percent say the government is cracking down on corruption, which is down from a high of 60 percent in 2012-3.



Concern about corruption at the regional level is lower, but still two-thirds of Jordanians say that almost all or most governorate-level officials are corrupt.



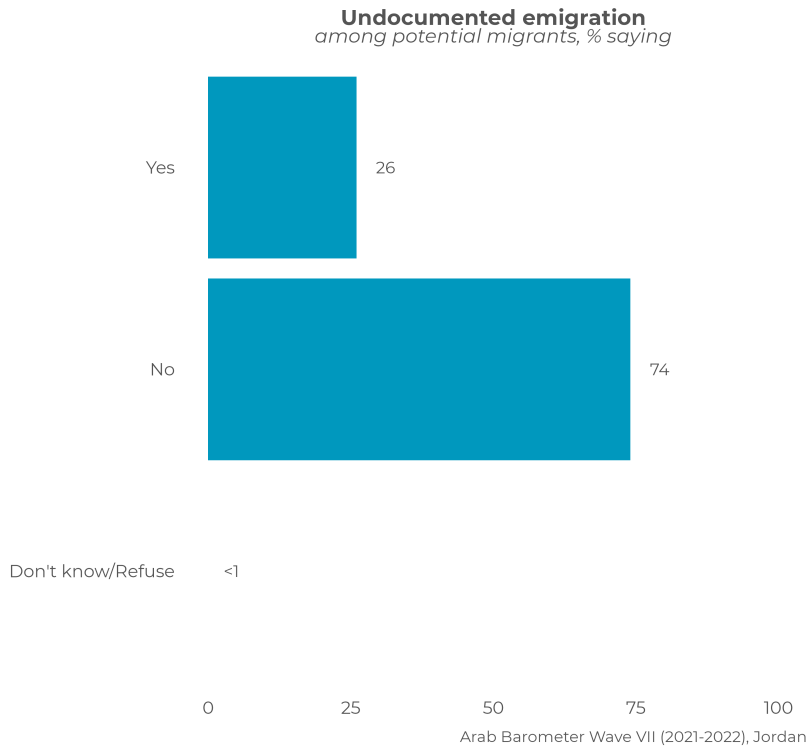
## Migration

Nearly half of Jordanians (48 percent) have considered emigrating, which is the highest level in any country surveyed in this wave of Arab Barometer. This level is double the rate in 2016 (22 percent) but only three points higher than in 2018 (45 percent). As has been found in previous years, youth ages 18-29 are especially likely to want to move abroad, with 63 percent having considered leaving Jordan. Men (56 percent) and those who have a university degree or more (56 percent) are also more likely to want to leave their homeland. The fact that the country's youth and better educated are more likely to want to leave poses a significant risk of brain drain for the country.



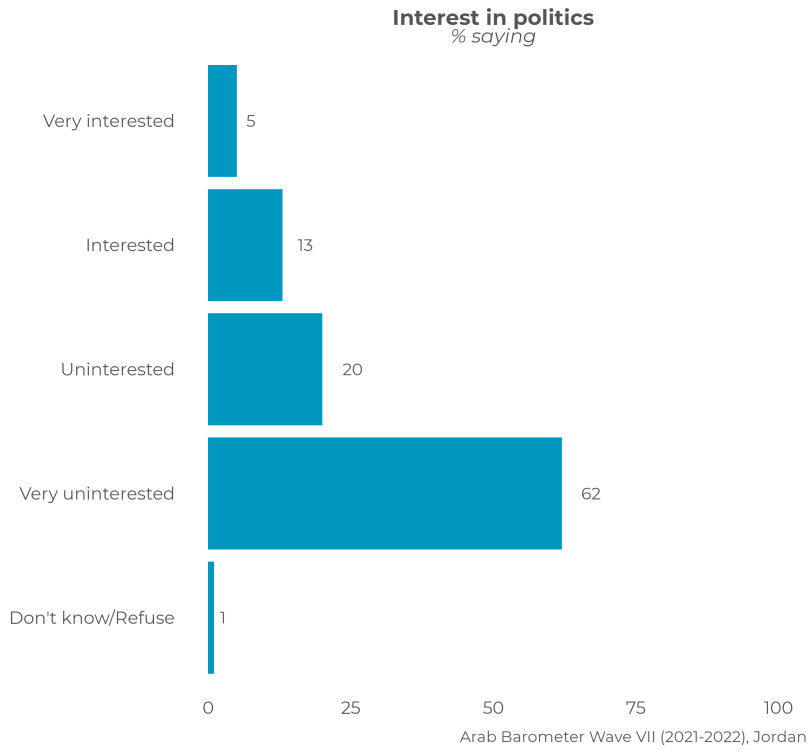
The key reason for considering emigrating is economic reasons. Fully 93 percent of potential migrants say economic considerations are a primary motivation. By comparison, educational opportunities is the second most commonly cited reason at just six percent. In short, if Jordan cannot solve its economic challenges, it is unlikely the percentage of potential migrants will drop substantially.

Among potential migrants, relatively few are willing to leave Jordan even if they lack the necessary papers to do so. Among those considering migrating, only a quarter (26 percent) say they are willing to do so. Among potential migrants, men are more likely to do so than women (31 percent vs. 19 percent). Additionally, the percentage of potential migrants who would consider leaving without the necessary papers is up by eight points since 2018.

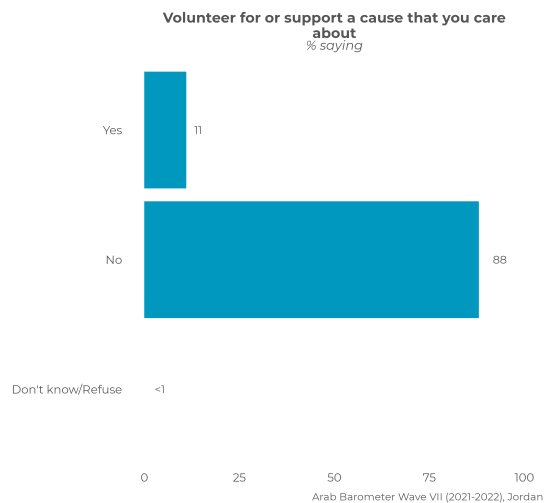
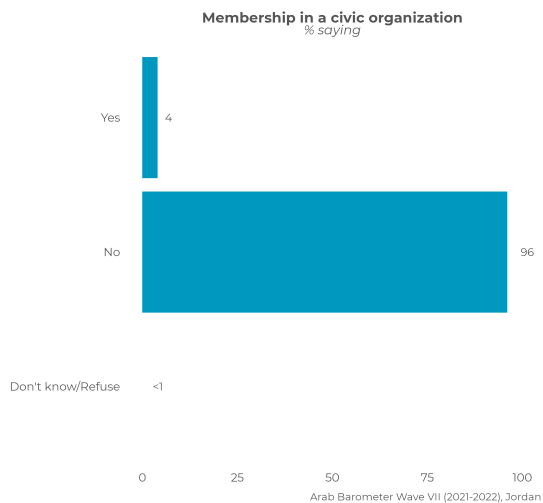


## Political Engagement

Interest in politics is extremely low. Just 17 percent of Jordanians say they are interested or very interested in politics, which is the lowest of any country surveyed in this wave of Arab Barometer except for Egypt and Algeria. This is the lowest level of interest in politics ever seen in Jordan, being half the rate observed in 2010 (35 percent). Moreover, today the majority (62 percent) say they are very uninterested in politics. Those who have at least a college degree are more likely to say they are interested (+7 points) as are those who are wealthier (+11 points).



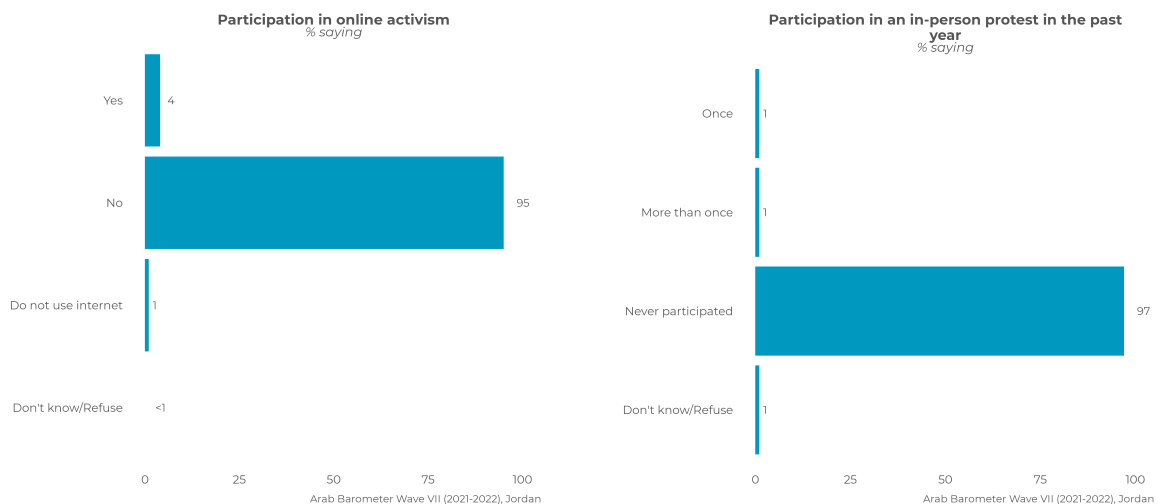
Membership in civic organizations is very low, with just four percent of citizens, which further suggests a low level of interest and engagement with politics. However, this level is virtually unchanged since 2016 when six percent said they were members of a civic organization.



Not only is formal membership in civic organizations low, but relatively few say they have volunteered for a cause. Just one-in-ten (11 percent) say they have given of their time to help a cause they care about. Although there are no differences by age, those who have at least a college education are more likely to volunteer than those who have a secondary degree or less (16 percent vs. 9 percent).

Despite relatively few volunteering their time, a majority (54 percent) say they have donated money to help those in need. Those with a college degree are more likely to have done so than those with a secondary education or less (66 percent vs. 48 percent).

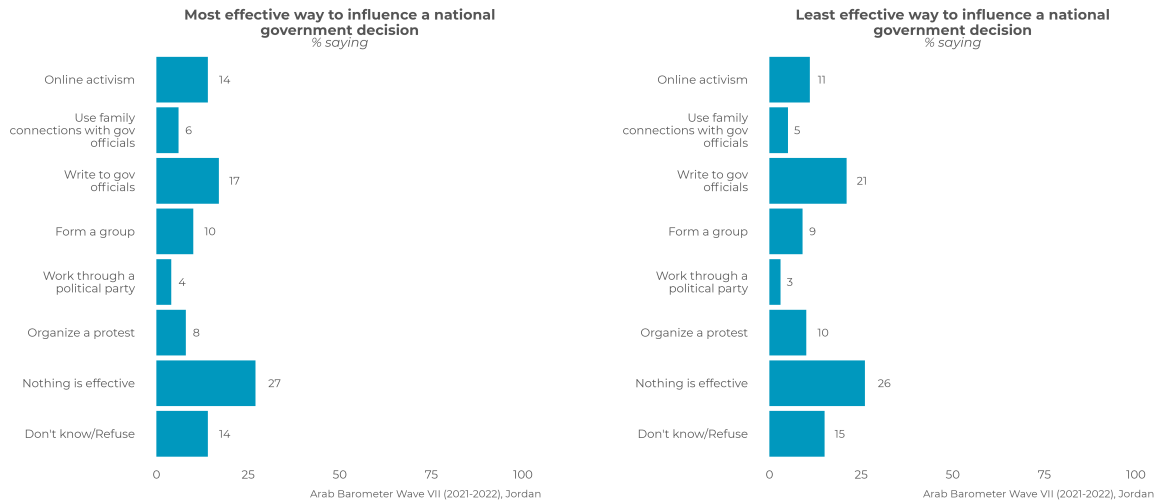
Despite perceptions that online activism has increased in recent years, very few Jordanians say they have shared in, participated in, or attended an online activity whose aim was to solve a problem. Perhaps surprisingly, there are not substantial demographic differences in rates of online activism by age or level of education.



Meanwhile, in person activism is also very low, with just one percent of Jordanians having participated in an in-person demonstration or protest in the past year. COVID-related restrictions or fears of gathering in groups given potential health risks likely contributes to this relatively low percentage, although only three percent reported having done so in 2018.



There is no clear consensus in Jordan regarding the most effective way to influence a government decision. In fact, the plurality (27 percent) say that there is no effective way to influence the government. The next most common responses is to contact a government official (17 percent), undertake online activism (14 percent), to form an interest group (10 percent), or to organize a protest (8 percent). Meanwhile, just six percent say using family connections (*wasta*) or to contact a political party (4 percent).



At the same time, when asked about the least effective way to influence a government decision, there are striking parallels. Overall, 21 percent say that the least effective way to influence government is writing to a government official, followed by 11 percent who say online activism, 10 percent who say organizing a demonstration, nine percent who say forming an interest group, five percent who say focusing on family connections, and three percent who say working through a political party.

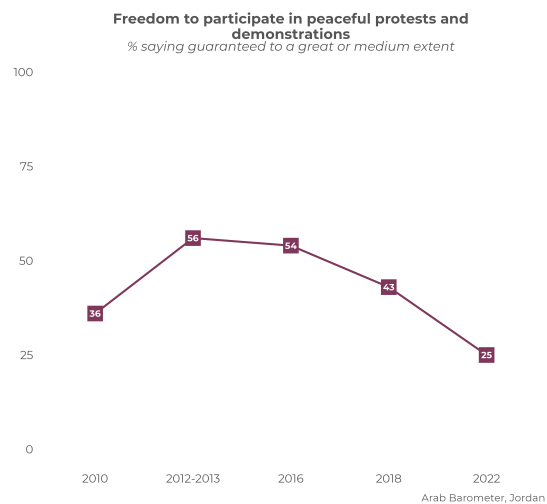
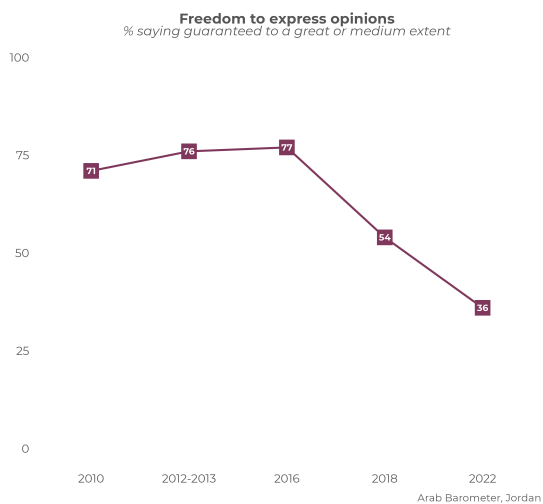
These results suggest that citizens feel remote from the government, which is particularly alarming given the declining levels of trust in the government. The diversity of responses to the most and least effective ways to influence the government and the overlap implies that citizens lacked a degree of clarity about the most effective ways to engage with their officials. Providing citizens with a clear way to feel that they have influence on political processes would be an essential step to helping rebuild the relationship between the government and ordinary citizens.

## Civil Rights

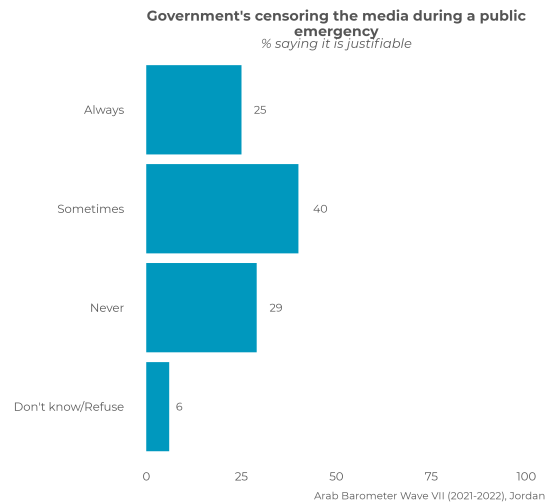
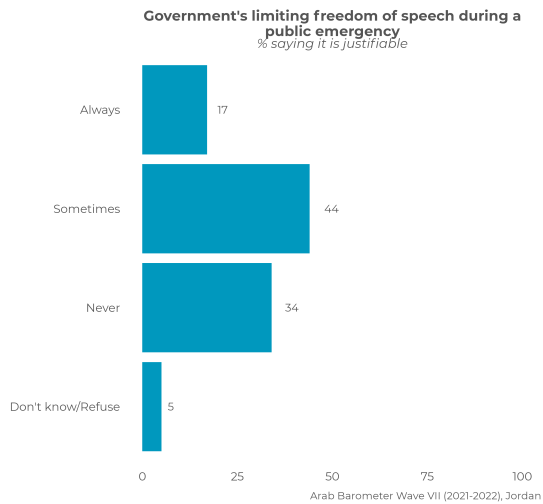
The degree to which citizens believe their basic civil rights are guaranteed continues to fall in Jordan. Now, just 36 percent say they enjoy freedom of speech, which is less than half the percentage who said this right was fully guaranteed in 2016 (77 percent).

A similar result is found for freedom of assembly, with just a quarter percent saying the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations is guaranteed to a great or medium extent. Again, this is fewer than half the level of those who said the same in 2016 (54 percent). Meanwhile, just 39 percent say freedom of the press is guaranteed.

Combined, these results demonstrate the continuation of a dramatic fall in the degree to which citizens believe their basic freedoms are guaranteed in the kingdom. These results could contribute to the broader frustration with the government, as many citizens feel they have no ability to speak out or clearly express their discontent to those in power.



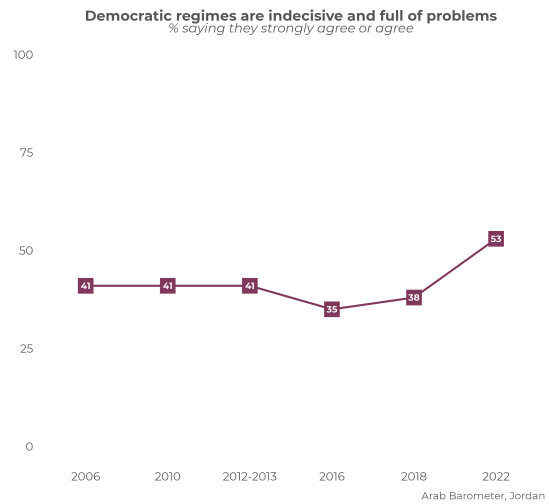
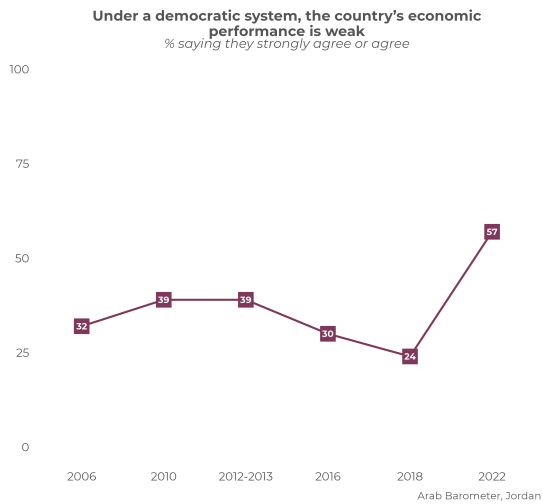
Jordanians are mixed on whether it is justifiable for the government to limit basic rights in response to public emergencies. Overall, 17 percent say that it is always justifiable to limit freedom of speech under such circumstances while a further 44 percent say it is sometimes justifiable to do so. Results are similar for censoring the press during a public emergency, with a quarter saying it is always justifiable and 40 percent that it is sometimes justifiable.



## Democracy

Jordanians are growing increasingly frustrated with their political system. However, they remain highly reluctant about dramatic changes to the political system. Seven-in-ten say that political reform should be introduced gradually instead of all at once, which is the highest percentage of any country surveyed by Arab Barometer in its current wave. Additionally, all key demographics hold this view about equally, meaning that there is a general consensus that the system should be reformed instead of overturned throughout society.

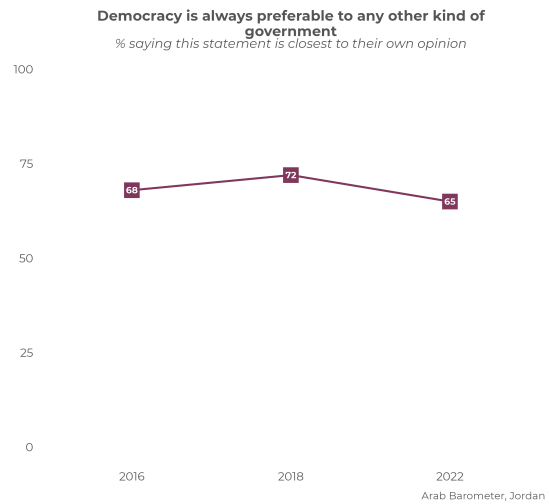
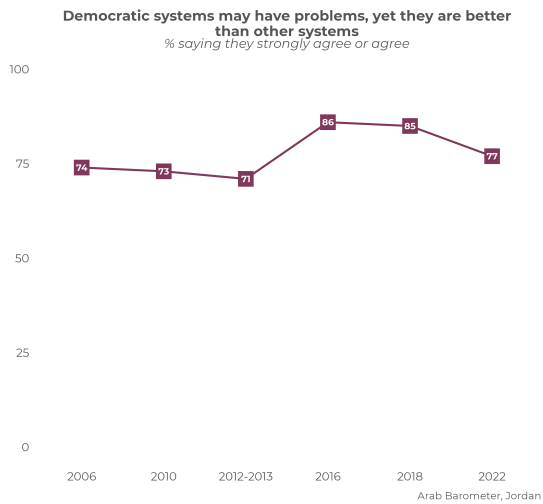
As with those across much of the region, Jordanians are increasingly recognizing that democracy is not a perfect system. For the first time since 2006, a majority now affirms that under a democracy economic performance is weak. Notably, this level represents a dramatic increase in concern about the economic performance under a democratic system compared with 2018, when only 24 percent held this view (+33 points). Concern about this potential drawback of democracy is widespread among key demographic groups, although those with at least a college degree are somewhat more likely to hold this view than those with a secondary degree or less (+6 points).



Results are similar for other potential problems sometimes associated with democracy. About half (53 percent) agree that democracy is indecisive and full of problems, which represents a 15-point increase since 2018. Meanwhile, nearly half (46 percent) say that democracies are not effective at maintaining order and stability, which is a 16-point increase since 2018. In short, as with those in many other countries across the region, it appears Jordanians are growing increasingly concerned about the ability of democracy to solve some of the country's existing challenges.

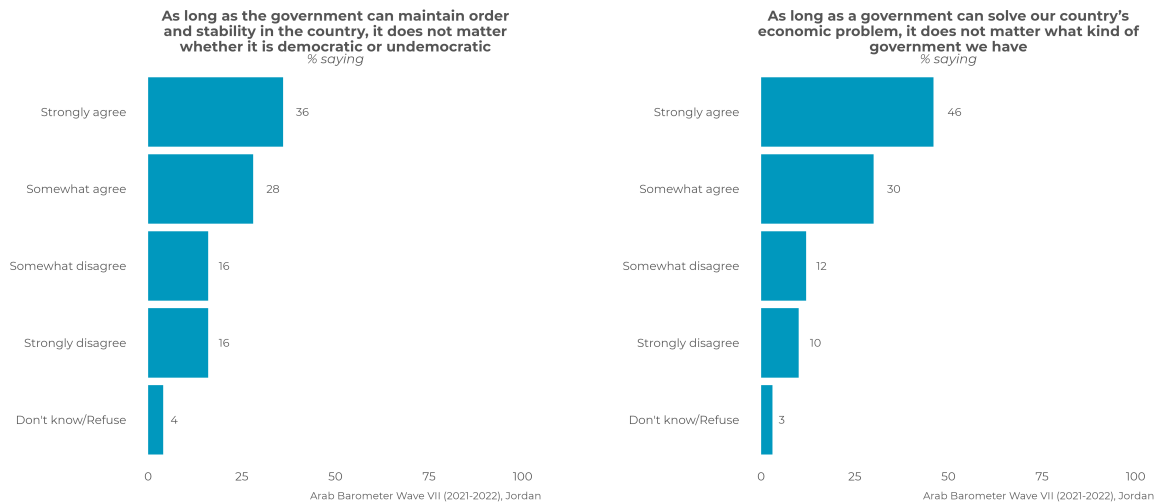
Yet, despite these reservations about the ability of democracy to solve their issues, Jordanians continue to believe that there is no better system of governance. Fully 77 percent affirm that despite its problems, democracy remains the best system. Although this percentage has fallen by eight points since 2018, it remains the second highest in the region after Lebanon. Moreover, Jordanians of all key demographic backgrounds hold this view, suggesting it is widespread among all key segments of society.

## Arab Barometer – Wave VII Jordan Report



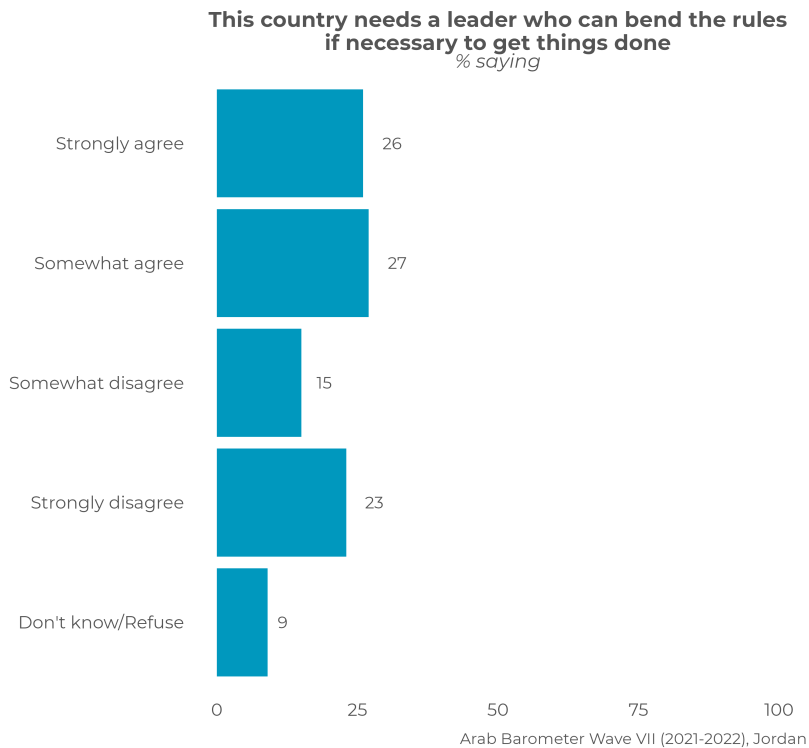
Additionally, by an even stronger test of commitment to democracy, a clear majority of the public continue to favor a democratic system. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Jordanians say that democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government, which is the highest percentage among countries surveyed by Arab Barometer. Meanwhile, just one-in-ten (9 percent) say that sometimes a non-democratic government may be preferable while 21 percent say the type of government does not matter to them. Jordanians with a college degree or above are 6 points more likely to say democracy is always preferable than those who have a secondary degree or less, but there are not other meaningful demographic differences.

Nevertheless, despite a clear preference for democracy, Jordanians make clear that they ultimately prioritize results over a specific system of governance. When presented with the statement "as long as the government can solve our country's economic problem, it does not matter what kind of government we have", 76 percent strongly or somewhat agree.



Meanwhile, Jordanians also demonstrate a concern for stability over the precise system of governance. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) say that as long as the government can ensure stability, it does not matter if the country is democratic or not. Again, there are not meaningful differences by demographic background in response to this question.

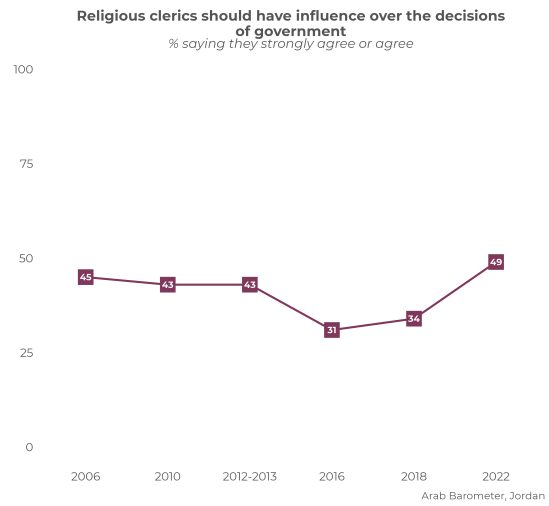
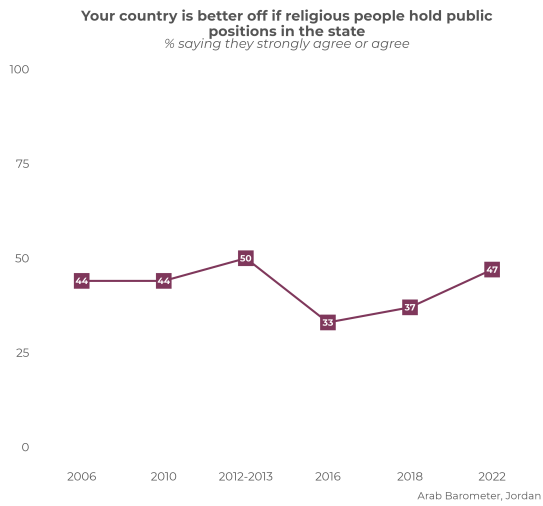
After a decade of declining views of the economy and growing frustration with government performance, these results suggest that Jordanians are ultimately looking for a system of government that can solve these problems. However, that does not mean they necessarily want a leader who operates above the law. When asked if the country needs a leader who can bend the rules if necessary to get things done, about half (53 percent) strongly or somewhat agree. This level ranks close to the lowest among the countries surveyed, indicating that Jordanians are relatively reluctant to have a leader who does not respect the laws even if it might speed up the pace of change.



## Political Islam

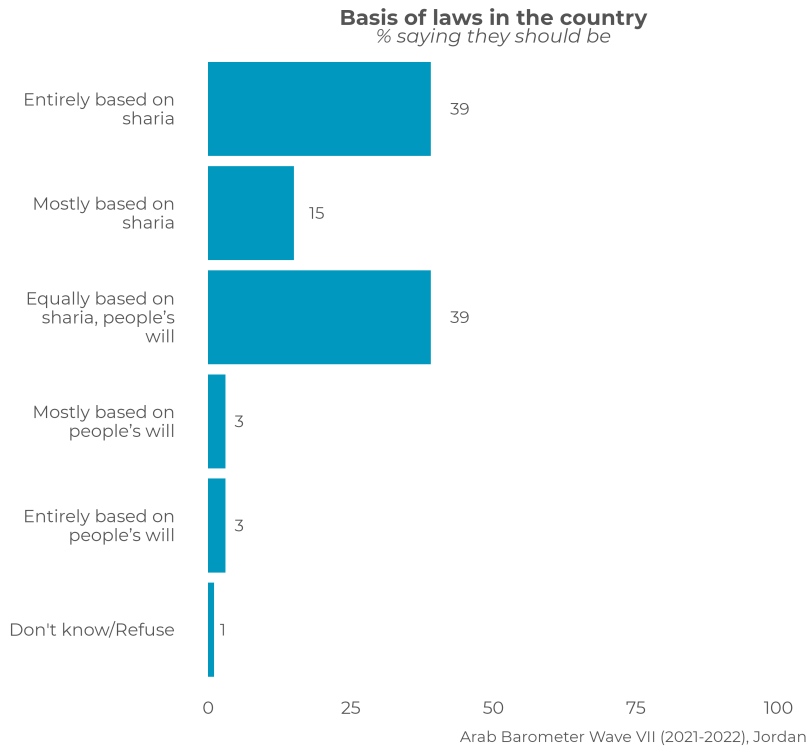
Support for giving religion a role in politics is growing in Jordan. Nearly half (47 percent) believe that their country would be better off if more people who were religious held positions in government. This is similar to the percentage from 2006 to 2013 and a dramatic increase since 2016 (+14 points). Similarly, half (49 percent) think that religious leaders should have influence over decisions of government, which is the highest level ever recorded in Jordan and up 18 points since 2016. By a final measure, Jordanians are divided about the role that religion should play in public life, with 47 percent saying that religious practice is a private matter that should be separate from social and public life, which is a five-point increase since 2016.

Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report



Meanwhile, just over half of Jordanians (54 percent) believe that the basis for the laws in their country should be the sharia. Overall, 39 percent say the laws should be based entirely on the sharia while 15 percent say they should mostly be based on the sharia. A further 39 percent say the laws should be equally based on the sharia and the will of the people, while just three percent they should either be based mostly or entirely on the will of the people, respectively.

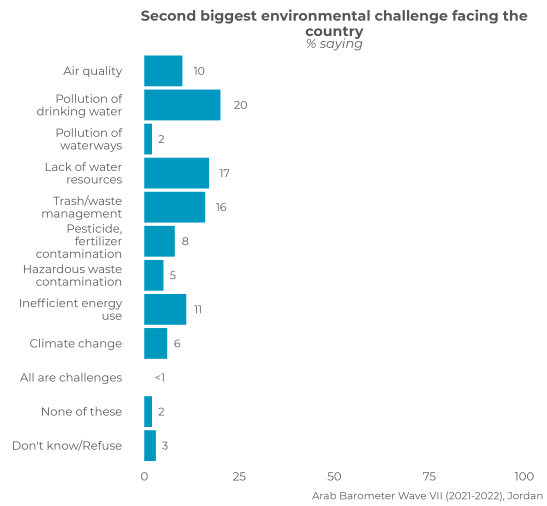
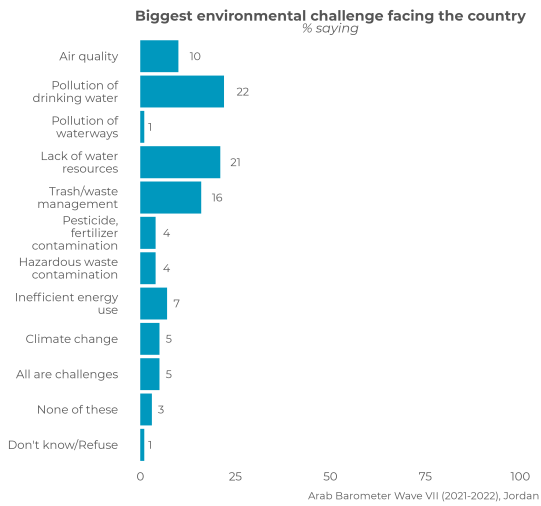




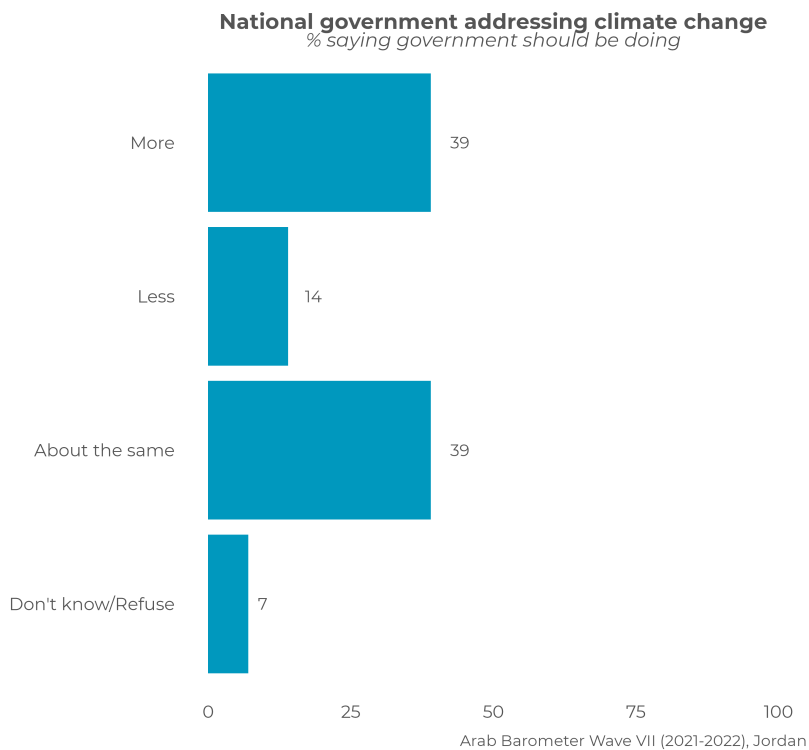
## Environment

Discussion of the climate and climate-related issues have been increasing across MENA in recent years. When asked about the most pressing environmental issue facing their country, Jordanians are far most worried about issues that touch their daily lives. The biggest concerns relate to water issues (44 percent), particularly the pollution of drinking water (22 percent) and the lack of water resources (21 percent). The next most common concerns are trash and waste management (16 percent) and air quality (10 percent). By comparison, just four percent say climate change.

Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report

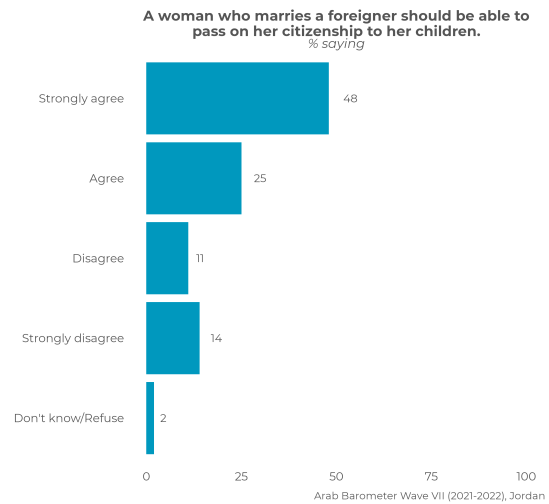
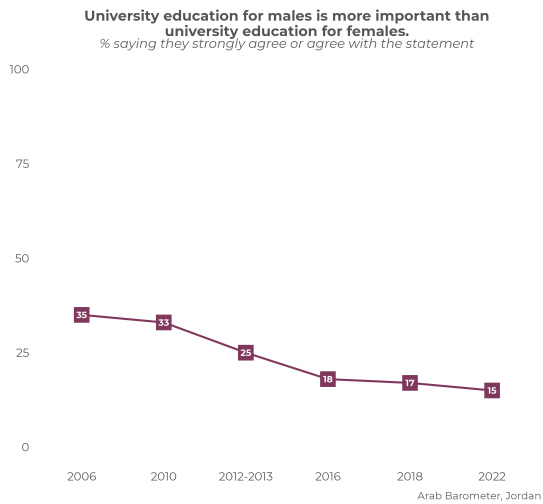


About four-in-ten Jordanians (39 percent) want the government to do more on climate change, compared with the same percentage (39 percent) who say the government should continue working at its current level and 14 percent who want the government to do less. Notably, Jordanians are among the least likely to want the government to do more on climate change along with Moroccans (40 percent) and Sudanese (41 percent). There is not a significant difference by age, with youth and those who are older being about as likely to favor the government doing more to address climate change.



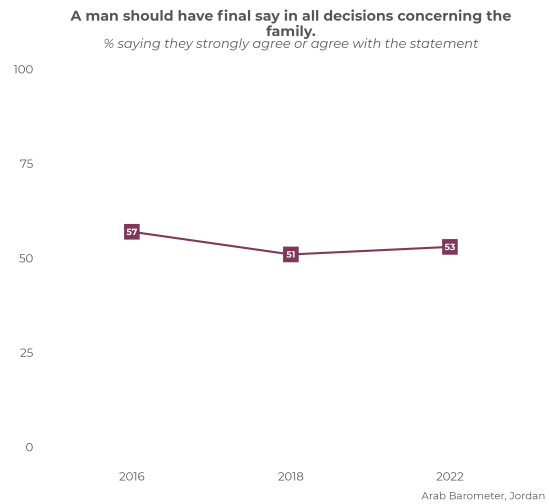
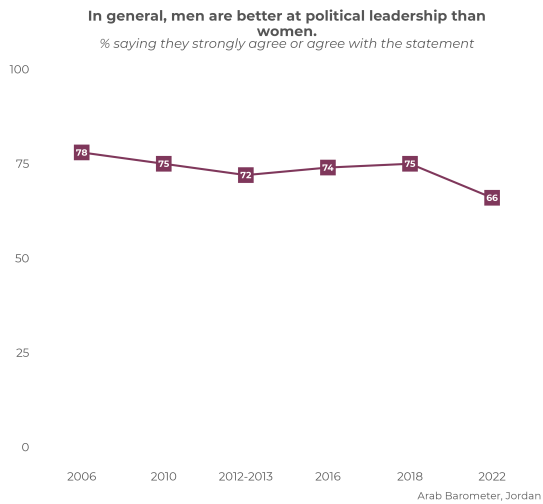
## Gender

Jordanians have become increasingly likely to say that women should enjoy equal rights to men over the past 15 years. For example, today only 15 percent say that a university degree is more important for men than for women, which is 20 points less than in 2006.



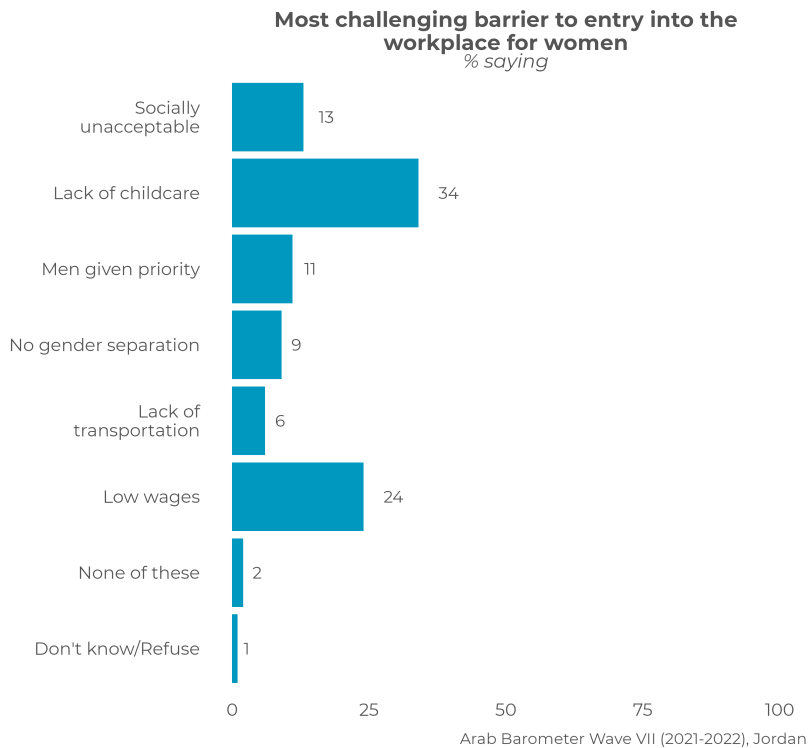
There is also strong agreement that a child’s citizenship should not be tied only to the nationality of his father. Three-quarters (74 percent) of Jordanians say that a woman should be able to pass on her nationality to her children. Women are seven points more likely to hold this view than men but there is not a significant difference by level of education.

Although clear majorities of Jordanians affirm women should have equal rights to men, they are less supportive of them playing equal roles in society. When asked if men make better political leaders than women, two-thirds (66 percent) agree or strongly agree. However, views are trending toward women’s equality by this measure in recent years, with Jordanians now being nine points less likely to agree than in 2018. Unsurprisingly, men are substantially more likely to hold this view compared with women (75 percent vs. 57 percent), but there is no meaningful difference by age or level of education.



In the private sphere, just over half (53 percent) of Jordanians say that the man should have the final say in all decisions concerning the family, which is effectively unchanged since 2018. Again, men are substantially more likely to hold this view than women (66 percent vs. 40 percent). Additionally those who are ages 18-29 are actually eight points more likely to hold this view than those who are 30 years and older, but there is no significant difference by level of education.

Women’s labor force participation rates are relatively low across MENA compared with other world regions. Arab Barometer asked a number of questions to assess the challenges women face that are greater than men’s in entering the workforce, including both structural and cultural challenges. When asked about the degree to which transportation represents a barrier to workforce entry, half (49 percent) say it is an equal barrier for both men and women. However, more than a quarter (28 percent) say it is a bigger barrier for women. By comparison, fewer think a lack of skills is a disproportionate barrier for women. The majority (61 percent) say it is an equal barrier for both men and women, while 13 percent say it is a bigger barrier for women and 14 percent that it is a bigger barrier for men.



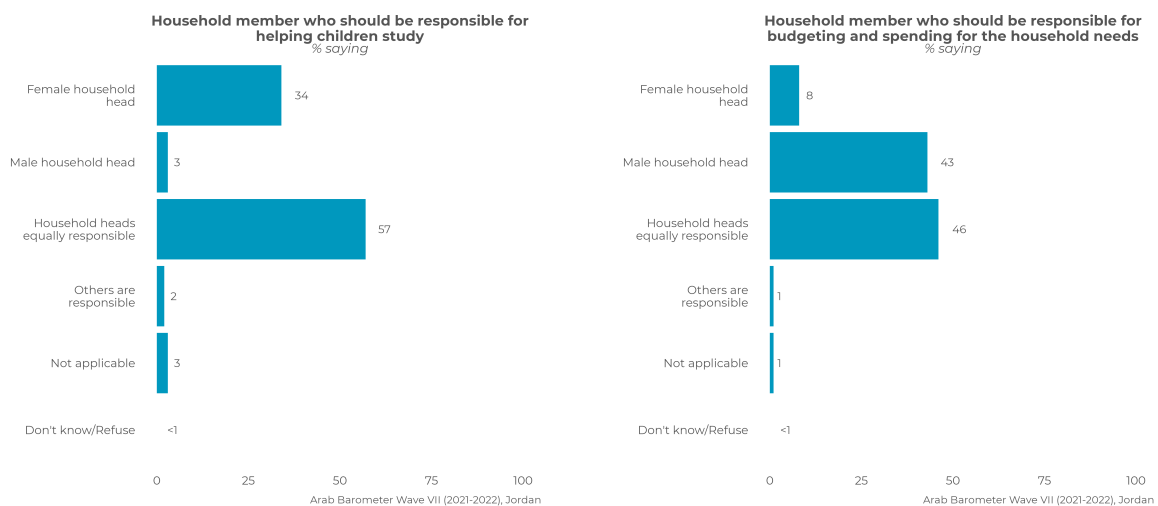
By comparison, Jordanians are divided on the degree to which men and women working alongside one another is a barrier. About half (47 percent) say it is not a barrier for either sex, three-in-ten (29 percent) say it is an equal challenge for men and women while 14 percent say it is a bigger barrier for women.

When asked about the biggest barrier to women's entry into the labor force, the two most commonly cited issues are lack of childcare (34 percent) and low wages (24 percent), followed by the perception it is socially unacceptable (13 percent), men being given priority for jobs (11 percent), and a lack of gender-segregation in the workplace (9 percent). However, women are significantly more likely to blame a lack of child care option compared with men (40 percent vs. 27 percent) as are those who are thirty and older compared with youth ages 18-29 (38 percent vs. 26 percent).

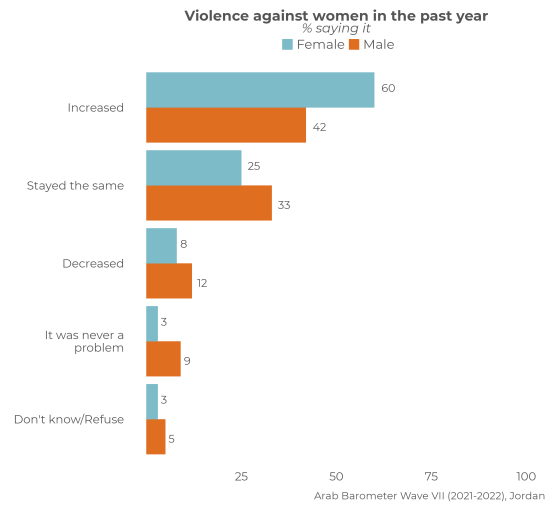
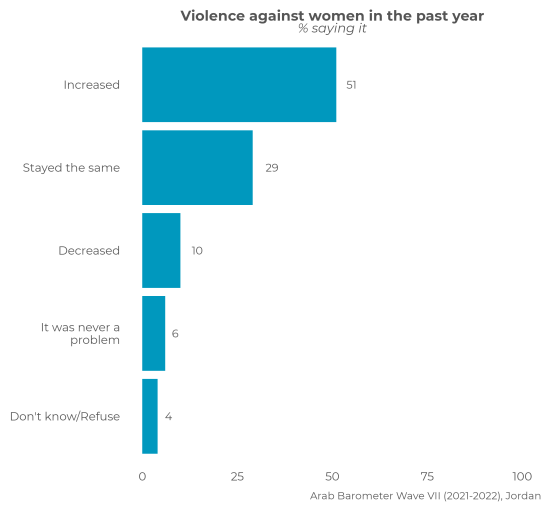
The majority of citizens also disagree that men and women should be segregated in the workplace, but a substantial minority hold this view. Overall, 42 percent say that men and women should be separated at work.

Within the household, there is a strong perception that men and women should

share a number of responsibilities equally. A majority (57 percent) say that both mothers and fathers should take equal responsibility for helping children study, while a third (34 percent) say it should be the responsibility of the female head of the household and three percent say it should be the male head of the household. When asked about who should be responsible for budgeting and spending decisions within the household, nearly equal percentages say that both the male and female head of household should be equally responsible (46 percent) and that the male household head should have the primary responsibility (43 percent). Only eight percent say the female head of household. For helping children study, there are not meaningful differences in views of men and women, however, women are significantly more likely than men to say that household financial decisions should be shared equally between men and women heads of household (52 percent vs. 41 percent).



Despite significant gains for women in recent years, there are also some causes for concern based on the survey data. Studies from around the world have suggested that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, violence against women has increased. It appears that Jordan is no exception. When asked if they believed that violence against women had increased in the past year, half (51 percent) perceive that it has compared with only 10 percent who say it has decreased and 29 percent who say it is unchanged. Notably, women are 18 points more likely than men to say that violence has increased over the past year.

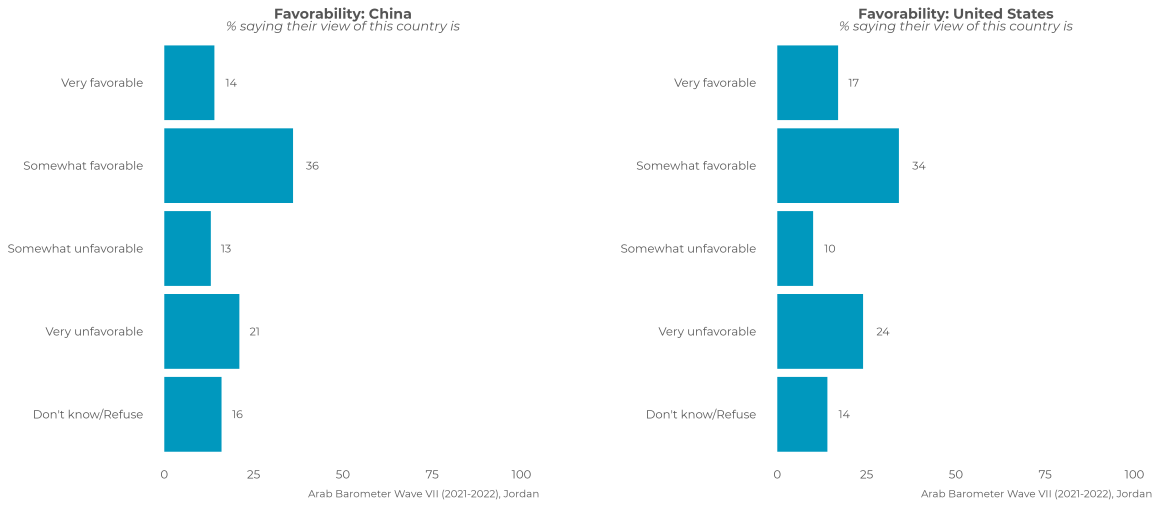


## International Relations

Among global powers, the U.S. and China are equally favored country with half (51 percent, respectively) saying they view both countries very or somewhat favorably. Jordanians ages 18-29 being six points more likely to hold a positive view of the U.S. than those who are older. Meanwhile, Russia is significantly less popular than the U.S. or China with 39 percent holding a favorable view. Notably, Russia's invasion of Ukraine took place during the survey period, but this action does not appear to have had a major effect on the views of Jordanians. Those surveyed before the invasion are somewhat more positive toward Russia, but the difference does not fall outside the margin of error.

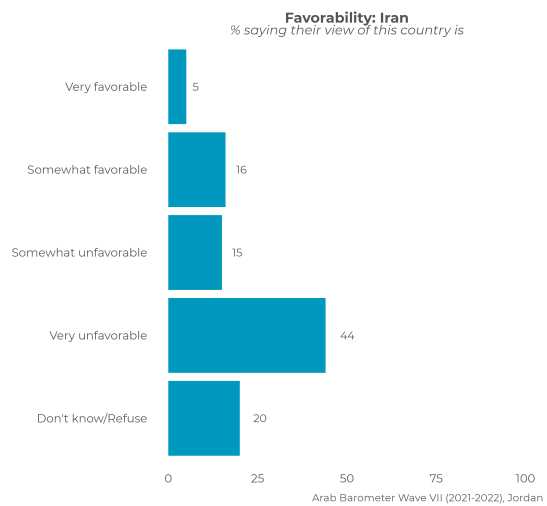
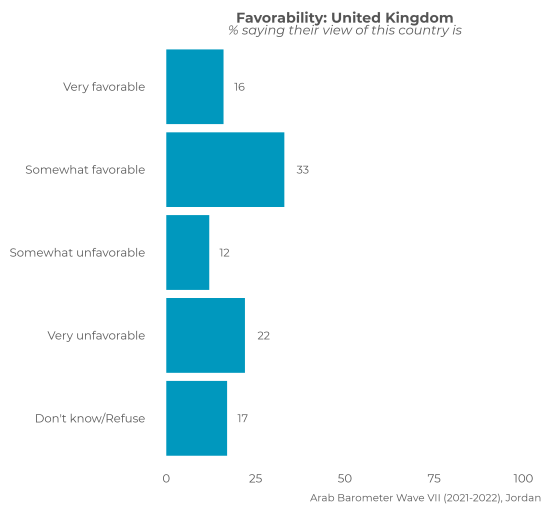
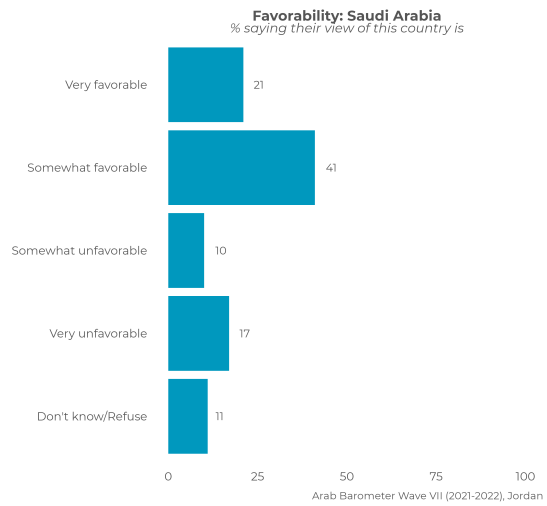
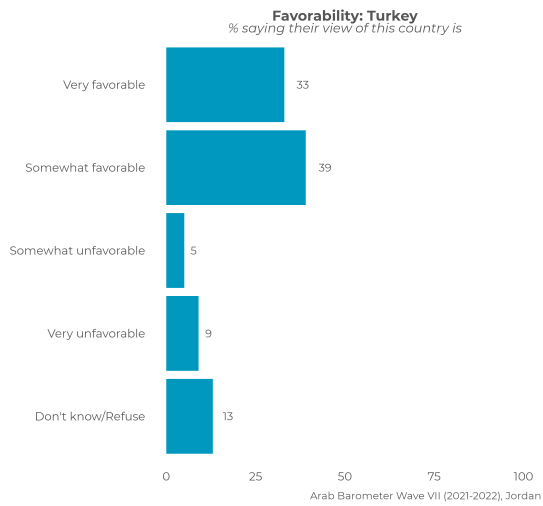


Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report



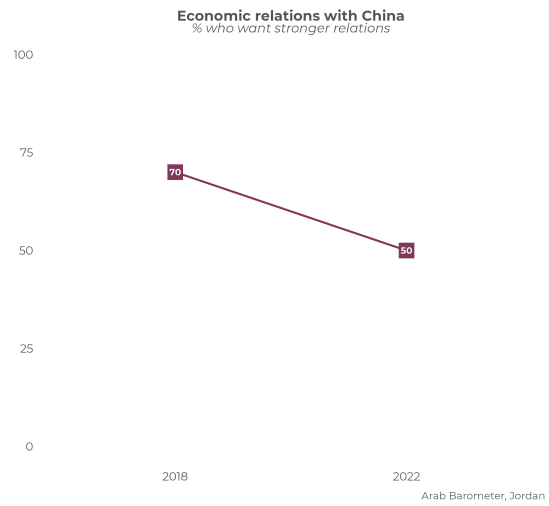
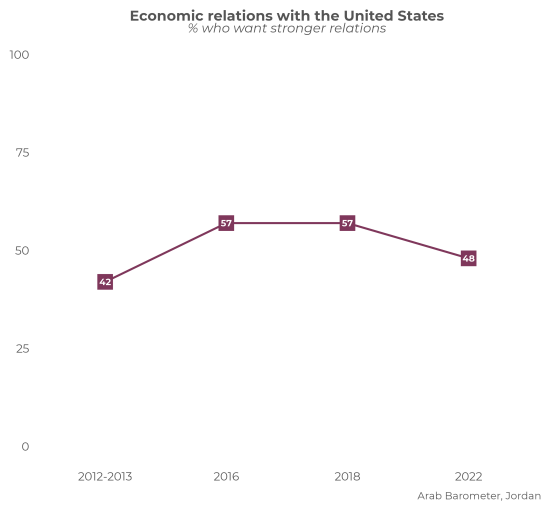
Among regional powers, Jordanians are somewhat divided. Majorities say they have positive views of Turkey (72 percent), and Saudi Arabia (62 percent). Meanwhile, half have a positive view of the U.K. while 21 percent view Iran favorably.

Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report

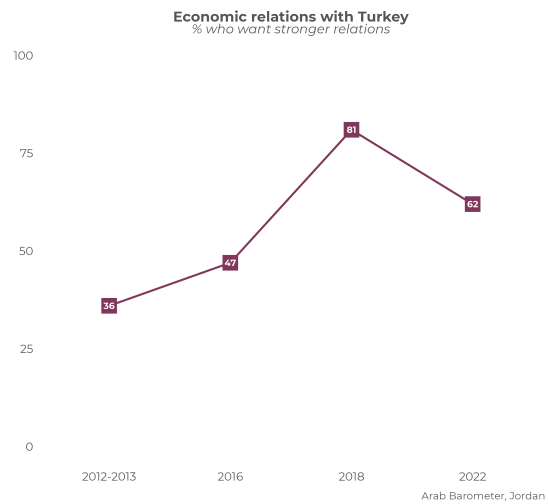
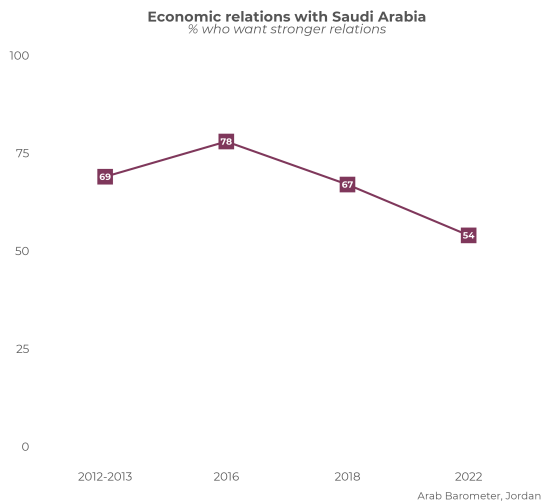


Jordanians are mixed in their views of strengthening economic relations with foreign countries. Among global powers, half want closer economic ties with China while a similar percentage say the same about the U.S. (48 percent). However, a desire for stronger relations with both countries has declined since 2018. In the case of China, it has plummeted by 20 points while for the U.S. it has fallen by nine points over the same period. Fewer favor stronger economic relations with Russia (37 percent), which is ten points fewer than in 2018.

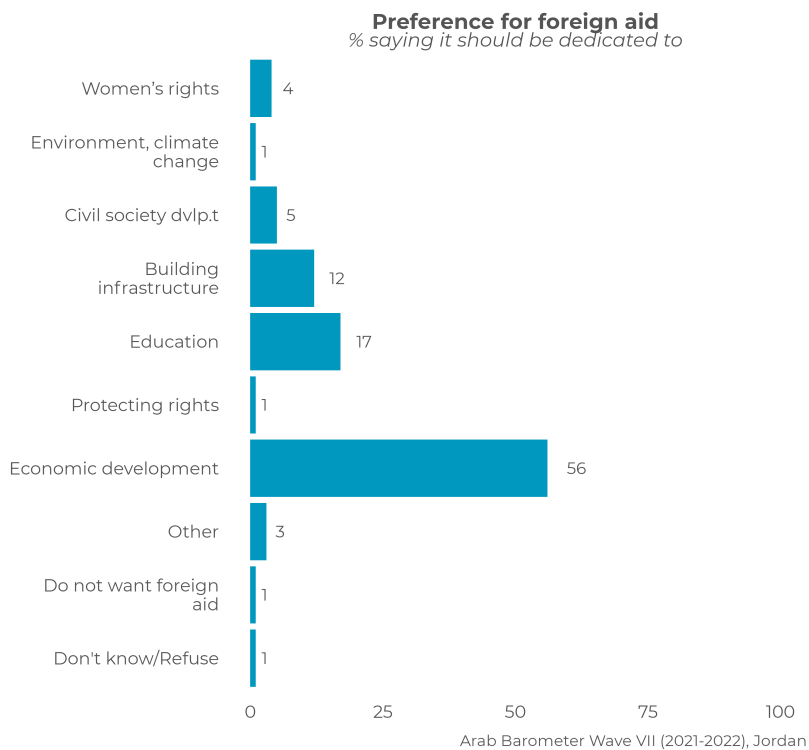
Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report



Among regional powers, a majority want stronger economic relations with Turkey (62 percent), which is the highest among all foreign countries included on the questionnaire. However, it still represents a 19-point decline from 2018 when 81 percent favored stronger economic relations. Meanwhile, more than half want closer ties with Saudi Arabia (54 percent), but this level represents a dramatic decline of 24 points since 2016. By comparison, fewer than half want closer economic relations with the U.K. while 19 percent want closer ties with Iran.

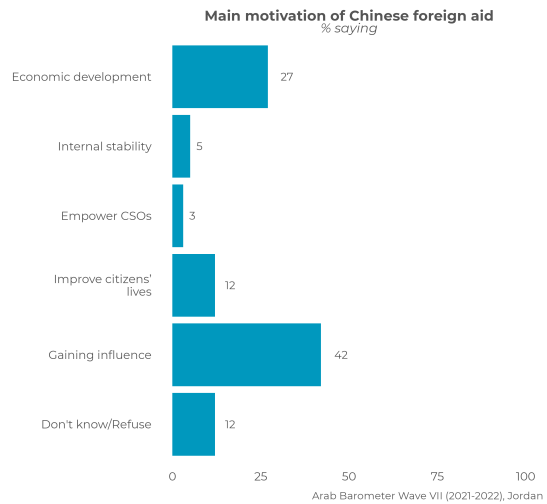
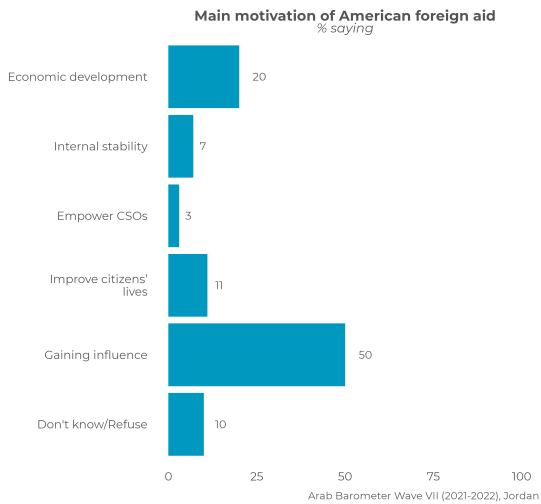


In terms of foreign aid, the majority of Jordanians prefer that it be directed toward economic development (56 percent). All other potential targets are favored by fewer than one-in-five, including education (17 percent), infrastructure (12 percent), promoting civil society (5 percent), and supporting women’s rights (4 percent). These results are consistent with the deep economic challenges harbored by Jordanians detailed above.

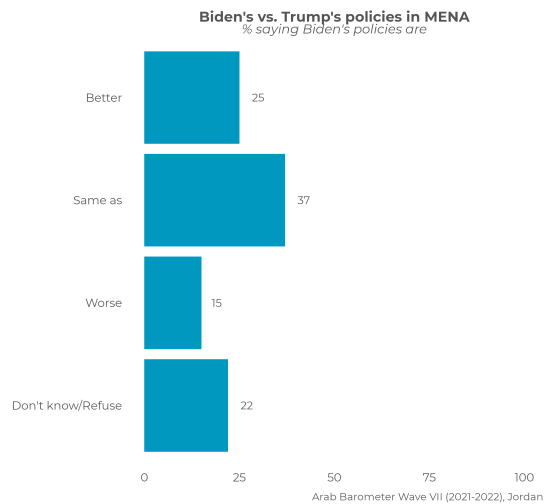
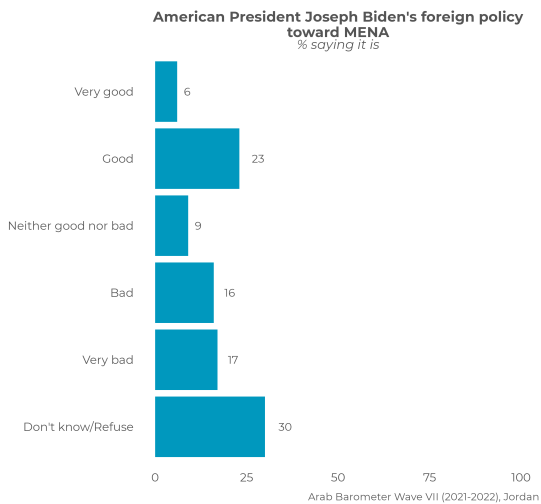


Perceptions of U.S. foreign aid are relatively positive, with 57 percent saying that U.S. assistance strengthens educational initiatives to a great or limited extent. A lower percentage say that U.S. aid advances women’s rights or strengthens civil society (51 percent, respectively). However, when asked about the main motivation for the U.S. giving aid to Jordan, the most common response is to gain influence over the country (50 percent), compared with just one-in-five who say it is to promote economic development, 11 percent who say it is to help ordinary citizens, and six percent who say it is to promote internal stability. By comparison, Jordanians are somewhat less likely to say that the primary motivation for Chinese aid to their country is to gain influence (42 percent) while they are more likely to say it is to promote economic development (27 percent).

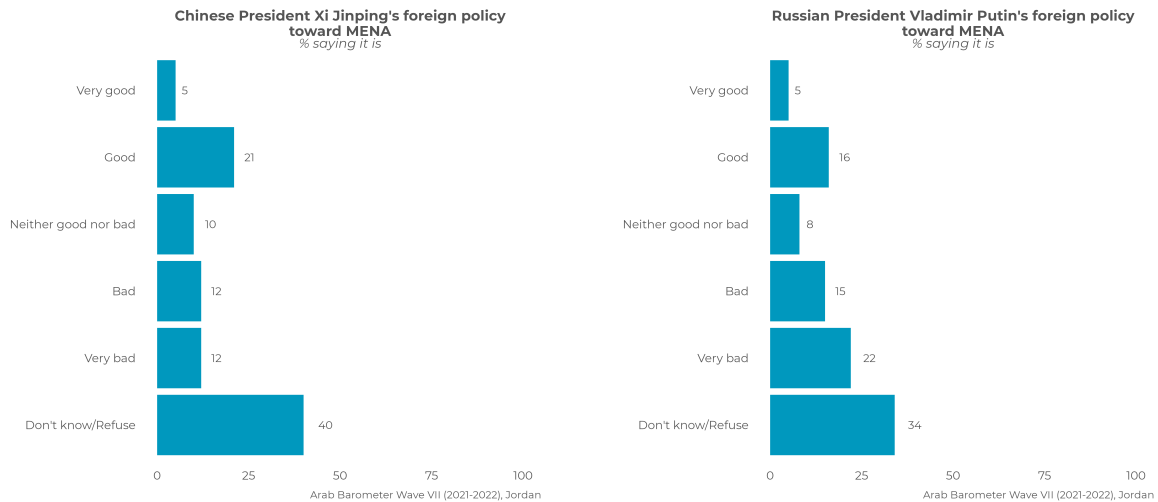
Arab Barometer – Wave VII  
Jordan Report



Support for the foreign policies of U.S. president Joe Biden is relatively low, with only 28 percent of Jordanians describing them as good or very good. However, many Jordanians (30 percent) say they don't know enough to say, suggesting that this percentage is driven in part by the fact that Biden is still a relatively new leader. Nevertheless, ratings of Biden are still significantly better than they were for former U.S. President Donald Trump, who was rated positively by only seven percent in Jordan in 2018. Additionally, when asked directly, a quarter of Jordanians say Biden has better policies compared with Trump, 37 percent say they are the same, 15 percent say they are worse, and 22 percent say they do not know.



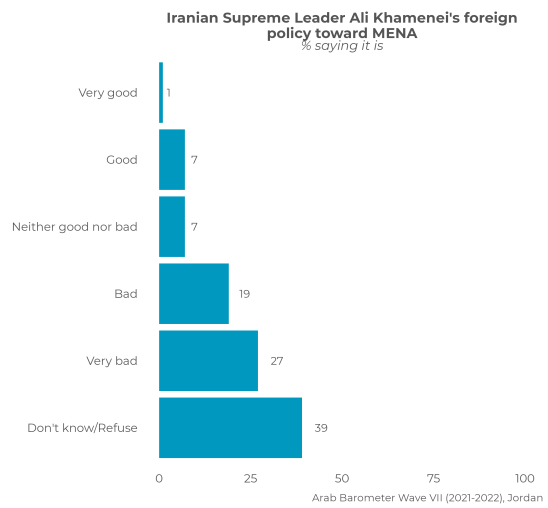
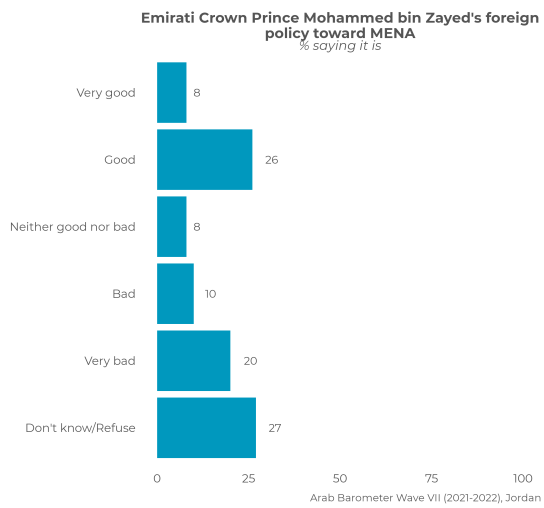
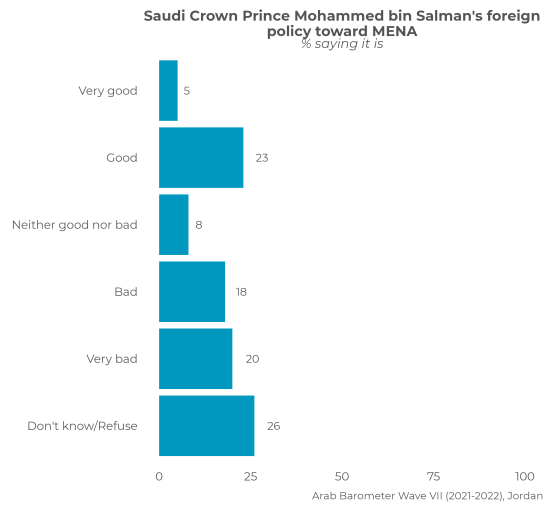
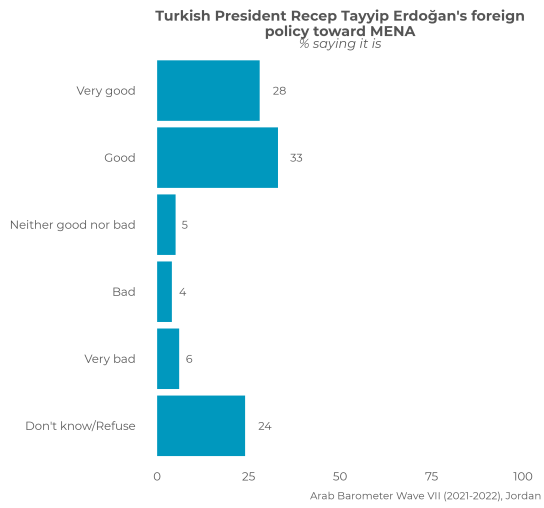
Chinese Premier Xi Jinping’s foreign policies are favored by 26 percent of Jordanians, which is slightly higher than ratings for Russian President Vladimir Putin’s foreign policies (21 percent). For Putin, this rating is higher than 2018 by eight points. Notably, Putin’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 happened during the middle of the survey period, meaning the full effects of this event may not be reflected in the survey data.



Among regional powers, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s foreign policies are favored by 61 percent of Jordanians, which represents an 16-point decline since 2018. Although lower, ratings are still higher than for other regional leaders, including UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (34 percent), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (28 percent), and Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei (8 percent).

# Arab Barometer – Wave VII

## Jordan Report





## ABOUT ARAB BAROMETER

Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insight into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab world.

We have been conducting rigorous, and nationally representative public opinion surveys on probability samples of the adult populations across the Arab world since 2006 across 15 countries.

We are the longest-standing and the largest repository of publicly available data on the views of men and women in the MENA region. Our findings give a voice to the needs and concerns of Arab publics.



[ARABBAROMETER.ORG](http://ARABBAROMETER.ORG)



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



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