



## HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

<b>TERRITORY</b>	<b>89 342 sq.km.</b>
<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>5,5 mln. people (2002)</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>Amman 1, 864 mln.</b>
<b>HEAD OF STATE</b>	<b>King Abdullah bin al Hussein (7.02.1999)</b>
<b>PRIME MINISTER</b>	<b>Faisal Al Fayez (22.10.2003)</b>
<b>AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE</b>	
<b>NATIONAL DAY</b>	<b>25 May (1946) – Independence Day</b>
<b>NATIONAL CURRENCY</b>	<b>Jordanian Dinar (JD) = 1,4 USD</b>
<b>TIME ZONE</b>	<b>- 3 hours of Greenwich Mean Time – May - October + 2 hours Greenwich Mean Time – November - April</b>
<b>CLIMATE</b>	<b>Nice sunny days and cool nights Average temperature in Amman: May - October +23C° November – April +12C°</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>Direct connection via telephone, telex and fax with USA, Europe and Asia</b>

Jordan is a modern state. It is located centrally in relation to a number of other Near East countries – Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Palestine.

### FORM OF GOVERNMENT

**Jordan is a constitutional monarchy.** The king is the head of state, as well as the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Under the constitution, adopted in 1952, the King is given extensive prerogatives in exercising legislative, executive and judicial power. He appoints the Prime Minister and the members of the Senate, as well as the members of the Government, as proposed by the Prime Minister.

**The legislative body of the country is a two-tier Parliament.** A Senate, including 55 people, appointed by the King, and a House of Representatives, including 110 deputies, elected under a pro rata system for a period of four years. The Chairman of the Senate is elected for a period of two years.

**The supreme bodies of the executive power are the King and the Government.**

### ECONOMY

**The Kingdom of Jordan is an agrarian-industrial country, which has limited water sources and ores and minerals, excluding the considerable reserves of phosphates and potassium.**

The **services sector**, amounting to approximately 65% of the GDP, constitutes the main share of economy. The agricultural sector represents just about 4,5% of the GDP, whereas the industrial sector – 13,9%.

**The agriculture** does not meet the needs of the country. Fruit, vegetables, wheat, oats, lentils, etc. are the main crops.

As regards the **industrial sector**, the production of cement and artificial fertilizers, as well as petro-chemical, electro-technical, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries are the most developed. The extraction of oil is around 600 barrels per day, whereas the annual gas output is 5,5 billion cubic meters.

**Tourism is the main source of foreign exchange revenues in the country.**

The country's **GDP** for **2002** amounts to USD 9,2 bln. **GDP per capita for 2002 amounts to USD 1 740**. During recent years this indicator has kept stable levels and varies within 1 550 – 1 750 USD. **1,8%** inflation was registered in **2002**.

**The foreign investments** in 2002 approximate **USD 1 billion**.

The domestic investments, characterized as stable during 2002, are directed primarily to the special economic zone Aqaba, telecommunications and projects in the area of construction.

**The foreign currency reserves** of the country increased in 2002 and amount to **USD 2,8 billion**.

### **FOREIGN TRADE**

**Jordan exports primarily raw materials (phosphates and potassium), artificial fertilizers, chemical products and cement. The main imports are crude oil, machines, transport equipment and foodstuffs.**

In 2002 the volume of the country's foreign trade slightly exceeds USD 6 bln., whereas the export amounts to USD 2,7 bln. and the import – to USD 3,3 bln.

**Jordan has been a member of WTO since December 1999.**

On 24.10.2000 Jordan has signed **the Free Trade Agreement with USA, which entered into force on 1 December 2001.**

**On 24.11.1997 in Brussels, Jordan has signed the Cooperation Agreement with EU, which has been effective since 1 May 2002.**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

### **DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

**The diplomatic relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were established on 3 April 1968.**

Until 1989 the Bulgarian-Jordanian relations developed mainly in the trade and economic sphere. After 1989 the political connections became more dynamic, including exchange of top-level visits.

**In the recent two years the partnership between the two countries was actually strengthened. Currently Bulgaria and Jordan maintain excellent contacts, which developed especially over the last two years and in particular – after the visits of King Abdullah II to Bulgaria in August 2001 and of the Bulgarian Prime Minister, H.E. Simeon Sax Coburg-Gotha, to Jordan in August 2002 and June 2003.**

### **TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

**The trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan date back to 1960.**

In 1977 the two countries signed a Treaty on Economic and Technical Cooperation. A Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial, Trade and Technical Cooperation was established in 1979 in Amman, where its first

session was held. The second session was held in 1984 in Sofia, the third one– in November 2001 in Amman, whereas the last fourth session is scheduled for 24-26 September 2003 in Sofia.

### TRADE

Jordan is among the leading countries in the region, according to the external trade volume with Bulgaria. The highest volume in bilateral trade was registered in 1992 – around USD 44 mln. Over the next years the volume varies between USD 15 and 20 mln.

The payments between the two countries are effected in convertible currency.

**The traditional Bulgarian exports to Jordan include livestock of the cattle type, electrical engineering products, timber, tractors, cigarettes and various sorts of tobacco.**

The import from Jordan is also traditional – **natural calcium phosphates and salt.**

### ENGINEERING ACTIVITY

In addition to the traditional exchange of commodities, Bulgaria and Jordan have established a long-lasting partnership in the engineering area.

**The Bulgarian engineering organizations are traditionally present on the Jordanian market.** Bulgarian companies have constructed a number of infrastructure elements in Jordan, such as transmission lines, electrification of towns and villages, geological research for certain ores and minerals and drinking water, ground and drainage works for building the “Al-Jafar-Azrak” highway and the port facilities in Aqaba.

At this stage there are opportunities for cooperation and joint activities between Bulgarian and Jordanian companies, which can participate as subcontractors in the reconstruction works in Iraq.

### INVESTMENTS

**The Bulgarian Foreign Investment Agency and the Jordanian Investment Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding** during the last session of the Joint Commission, which was held on 24-26.09.2003 in Sofia. In that way both parties have agreed to exchange viewpoints and information about direct investments and to cooperate through various activities, such as consultations, joint research, seminars and other forums for international investments.

**Business units, specialized in stock-breeding and balneological treatment, attract the interest of investors.**

### TOURISM

**An Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Tourism between Bulgaria and Jordan was initialed** during the fourth session of the Joint Commission, which was held on 24-26.09.2003 in Sofia. Both parties are going to apply the necessary procedures in the very near future before the Contract is finally signed.

1009 Jordanians visited Bulgaria in 2002, **which marks an insignificant alteration, compared to 2001, when 1041 Jordanians visited Bulgaria.** 352 Bulgarians visited Jordan in 2002, **against 383 Bulgarians, who visited Jordan in 2001. For 2002 there is a 10% growth in the tourist turnover.**

On 4 July 2003 **a direct airline was officially opened between Bulgaria and Jordan**, with the first charter flight Amman-Varna-Amman. Therefore **new opportunities have been created for intensifying and increasing the tourist turnover** between the two countries.