

Jordan

ICT Development Study



Preface

One of the smaller countries in the Middle East, Jordan is strategically important in a volatile region, having emerged relatively unscathed from the Arab Spring. A homogeneous country with a high proportion of Palestinians, Jordan has a relatively young population that has sharply increased in recent years due to the influx of Syrian refugees. Jordan is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, and King Abdullah II has ruled since 1999.

Jordan has a well-educated and skilled workforce and a strong banking system. Its GDP increased by 2,38% during 2015 and reached a value of USD 37,52 billion. In spite of high youth unemployment and a large government budget deficit, compounded by the heavy refugee-burden, Jordan has managed to maintain a small but steady growth during the past five years. A predominantly importing country, Jordan is characterized by large trade deficits, with net trade in goods and services amounting to USD -8.4 billion in 2015. Inflation is estimated to remain low and stable at levels of around 2%.

Considered a politically safe and stable country with untapped potential across many sectors, Jordan has a relatively progressive business environment. The World Bank ranked 118 out of the 189 countries surveyed in its Doing Business 2017.

Jordan's ICT sector is one of the most developed and robust in the region, bolstered by 15 years of industry-friendly policy and a young, well-educated, and growing population of digital consumers. The ICT sector is contributing 12% to GDP and growing by 25% on average while offering 84,000 jobs. Jordan's ICT sector hosts more than 600 active technology companies, including 300 startups, and the sector attracts an average of USD 150 million in investments annually. This study is a part of the Development Study and analyses the ICT sector.

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