



IRI Jordan Index

Jordanians are divided over the direction in which their country is headed, with 43 percent believing Jordan is headed in the right direction, and 45 percent saying the country is headed in the wrong direction. Over the course of nine polls IRI has conducted since 2005, this is only the second time wrong direction responses have exceeded right direction responses. [In 2008, wrong direction exceeded right direction by six percent.](#) As has been the case in previous years, Jordanians still believe the issues of rising prices, poor economic conditions and unemployment are the most important problems facing the country today.

Regarding upcoming parliamentary elections, 57 percent say they will vote. [When answering a similar question in 2007](#), 71 percent of respondents said they would vote. Voters showed a clear preference for independent and tribal candidates. Jordanians are a bit more optimistic (43 percent) than pessimistic (37 percent) that the newly formed Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) can ensure free and transparent elections. However, citizens were split over whether the new election law is an improvement over the previous law.

Jordanians assessed current economic conditions negatively. As to how the economy will do over the next 12 months, respondents were less optimistic than a year ago, with 39 percent saying the economy would get better, down from 57 percent in 2011. A combined 56 percent of Jordanians said they had seen no improvement or a worsening of their families' economic situation over the past year, up 15 percent from 2011.

State of the Nation

- Public perceptions of the country's direction are almost equally split between right and wrong directions, a [significant change from 2011](#). Forty-three percent of Jordanians believe their country is going in the right direction, while 45 percent believe things are going in the wrong direction. Compared to 2011, the right direction number is down 17 percent, while wrong direction is up 19 percent.
- When asked why the country is going in the right direction, 46 percent of respondents mentioned stability and security, down 11 percent from June 2011. This is followed by 20 percent mentioning the fight against corruption, up 17 percent from 2011.
- Those who believe the country is going in the wrong direction say so because of prevailing economic conditions (26 percent, a one percent change from 2011), corruption (24 percent, down six percent from 2011), high prices (18 percent, up six percent from 2011).

(more)

IRI Jordan Index – Page Two

- Although having dropped significantly from 2008, the issue of rising prices/cost of living still rates as the biggest problem facing the country, followed by poor economic conditions, unemployment and poverty. Rising prices/high cost of living ranks first at 24 percent, followed by bad economic conditions at 20 percent and unemployment at 16 percent.

Reform Priorities and Government Performance

- When asked about corruption, economic and political reform, 57 percent of Jordanians ranked the fight against corruption as the most important reform priority, followed by 29 percent for economic reform and just 12 percent for political reform. The number of respondents citing fighting corruption as a priority reform has jumped 20 percent since 2011. Corruption is also identified by 13 percent of respondents as the single biggest problem facing Jordan as a whole, finishing fifth on that list.
- Fifty-three percent of respondents say that the Government has done little or nothing in the fight against corruption. An identical number say the same about implementing economic reform. On government implementation of political reform, the public is evenly split between those saying the government has accomplished something and those saying it has done little to nothing.
- At the same time, those who blame corruption as the reason Jordan is going in the wrong direction have decreased from 30 percent in June 2011 to 24 percent in this survey, while those who cite fighting corruption as the reason Jordan is going in the right direction have increased significantly, from three percent to 20 percent over the period.

Corruption

- Corruption indicators among different sectors of society were uniformly high, with respondents saying parliament, politicians and state officials are the most corrupt.
- The public was split over the degree to which they think the Government is serious about fighting corruption, with 46 percent saying the Government is moderately or very serious about fighting corruption and 49 percent believing it is minimally or not serious at all.

New Election Law and Election Commission

- Seventy-one percent of respondents have little or no knowledge of the new election law. When told about the new election law, respondents were split over whether the new election law is an improvement over the previous law. Nearly one in five are not sure or don't know.

(more)

IRI Jordan Index – Page Three

- A major portion (39 percent) of respondents are not sure whether an increase of seats in the national proportional list from 17 to 27 will contribute to the development of political parties. Thirty-eight percent don't believe it will.
- Regarding formation of the IEC, a majority of voters (56 percent) are not aware of its existence. When told of the responsibilities of the IEC, respondents are a bit more optimistic (43 percent) than pessimistic (37 percent) in terms of the IEC ensuring fair and transparent elections. Close to one in five respondents is not sure.

Elections, Voting and Electoral Culture

- Fifty-seven percent of respondents said they would participate in elections if held today, while 27 percent said they would not. Sixteen percent were not sure. When asked a similar question in 2007, 71 percent of respondents said they would vote.
- Of those who said they would abstain from voting, reasons cited included:
 - Lack of worthwhile candidates running for office (38 percent);
 - Belief that Parliament is a failure and elections are useless (24 percent);
 - Lack of trust in a fair and transparent process (15 percent); and
 - Lack of faith in the one-man one-vote election system (six percent).
- However, respondents choosing not to participate in the parliamentary elections said they would change their minds and participate if:
 - Better candidates come forward to compete (19 percent);
 - The election law is amended (eight percent); or
 - There is effective supervision by IEC (seven percent).
- If parliamentary elections were held in the near future, 69 percent said that they would vote for an independent candidate. Six percent would vote for a political party candidate.
- One-third of respondents said they would use their second vote in the national proportional part of the election to vote for lists/candidates that represent tribal alliances. Twelve percent would vote for a list made up of independent Islamist candidates and nine percent for an Islamic Action Front list of candidates. Eleven percent said they would not cast a vote for any list.
- Sixty-nine percent of respondents said it was important or very important to hold parliamentary elections before the end of this year. A similar percentage said it was either important or very important to hold municipal elections within the next 12 months.

(more)

Protest Movements

- When asked for the most important motivation to participate in rallies and protests, 70 percent said there were no causes that would motivate them to participate. Thirteen percent mentioned living conditions, while five percent mentioned lack of serious reform. Ninety-five percent said they had not participated in any Friday protest rally, while 12 percent said they intend to participate in future rallies.

Political Parties, Affiliation and Program Awareness

- Ninety-six percent of Jordanians are not members of a political party, and just three percent expressed their intention to join a political party in the near future.
- Of those respondents who said they do not intend to join a political party in the future, top reasons cited were: lack of interest in, trust in or knowledge of parties and ineffectiveness of parties.
- Seventy-nine percent of respondents said they don't trust political parties at all or only trust them to a little extent.

Jordan Economic Conditions

- When asked to describe the current economic conditions in Jordan, 53 percent described current economic conditions as bad or very bad, up 17 percent from 2011.
- Of the 53 percent who described the economic situation as bad or very bad, respondents cited rising prices and cost of living (28 percent), economic crisis (17 percent) and corruption (15 percent).
- With regard to expectations on how the economy will do over the next 12 months, respondents were less optimistic than a year ago. While 39 percent said the economy would get much better or somewhat better, that number was down from 57 percent in 2011.
- When Jordanians compare their current household economic situation with one year ago, the trend is similar. A combined 56 percent of respondents said they had seen no improvement or a worsening of their families' economic situation over the past year, up from 41 percent in June 2011.

(more)

Feel Good Indicators

Regarding satisfaction with their life in general in Jordan, respondents reported more negative scores compared to 2011.

- In 2012, 46 percent of respondents were not satisfied with the state of the nation, up 15 percent from 2011.
- In 2012, 28 percent of respondents were not satisfied with their jobs, up three percent from 2011, while 13 percent more reported they were unemployed.
- In 2012, 30 percent of respondents were not satisfied with the quality of their lives overall, an increase of seven percent from 2011.
- In 2012, 49 percent of respondents were not satisfied with their future financial security, up six percent from 2011.
- In 2012, 34 percent of respondents were not satisfied with their general standard of living, an increase of three percent from 2011.
- In 2012, the percentage of respondents reporting they were satisfied or somewhat satisfied about their children's future was 53 percent, a drop of seven percent from 2011.

Source of News and New Media in Jordan

- Ninety-two percent of respondents own a mobile phone, of which 63 percent use SMS/text messaging.
- Forty-three percent of Jordanians use the Internet, with more than half accessing the Internet by computer. Twelve percent of respondents reported they are always connected to the Internet, while 47 percent access it a few times a day.

###