



**Two & half years after its
formation:
Jordanians' opinion of the
government of Dr. Bishr Al-
Khasawneh**

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Center for Strategic Studies-University of Jordan



**Public Opinion
Poll**



**مركز الدراسات
الاستراتيجية**
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Public Opinion Poll:

Two and half years after its formation: Jordanians' opinion of the government of **Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh**

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Please note that the opinions expressed in the survey represent the opinion of the respondents only, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Center, the University of Jordan, or their employees.

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Introduction

Continuing the approach of the Center for Strategic Studies in studying the opinions and impressions of citizens and analyzing the Jordanian public opinion towards the government and public issues, this survey was conducted for the government of Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh after two and a half years since its formation. The government was formed on 12/10/2020, and the Center conducted the formation poll during the period 13-19/10/2020, the 100 days poll during the period 24-31/1/2021, the 200 days poll during the period 16-21/5/2021, the annual poll on 26/10/2022, the year and a half poll during the period 27/3-2/4/2022, and the two-year poll during the period 2/10/2022-7/10/2022.

This survey was conducted between 25-29/4/2023. The national sample size was 1200 individuals over the age of 18, with 50% males and 50% females, reflecting the true proportions in Jordanian society in terms of age and education. They were randomly selected from 150 locations covering the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan geographically and demographically. The sample size of opinion leaders (607) was distributed among seven categories: (senior male and female state officials, political leaders, professional and labor union leaders, university professors, professional unions, senior male and female businesspeople, writers and journalists, and literary and artistic figures) with a response rate of (87%).

This survey was executed by 83 field and desk researchers and supervised by 17 coordinators. The margin of error in the national sample was ± 2.5 at a confidence level of 95.0%.

This survey examines the attitudes of Jordanian citizens and their assessment of the government's performance in a range of key areas, in addition to assessing its ability to implement the tasks specified in The Royal Decree. Furthermore, the survey aimed to identify public opinion trends on the direction of affairs in Jordan, the most significant problems facing Jordan today, and the citizens' positions and opinions on the economic situation in Jordan, trust in state institutions, societal trust, and repeated Israeli attacks on Palestinians, happiness in Jordan, as well as opinions on conscription and political parties in Jordan.

Main results

General Satisfaction, Optimism, Happiness, and Social Trust

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (78% of those surveyed) are satisfied with the level of security in the region they live in, as well as with the overall level of security in Jordan. Additionally, (63%) of Jordanians are satisfied with the level of education provided in government universities, while (59%) are satisfied with the level of education in private Jordanian universities.
- ❖ Less than half of Jordanians (46%) are satisfied with the level of healthcare services provided to them, and only (39%) are satisfied with their current standard of living.
- ❖ (71%) of those surveyed are dissatisfied with the infrastructure, roads, transportation, and network of communication in Jordan, while (83%) are not satisfied with the government's role in monitoring prices during Ramadan.

Optimism

- ❖ One third of Jordanians (31%) are optimistic about the current government after two and a half years since its formation, while (69%) are not optimistic.
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (60%) are not optimistic about the Jordanian economy during the next two years, and (59%) of the opinion leaders surveyed are also not optimistic.
- ❖ (32%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) are optimistic about the government after two and a half years since its formation.

Social Trust

- ❖ This survey confirms a decline in social trust and a consequent erosion of social capital, as the vast majority of Jordanians do not trust most people. (78%) of Jordanians believe that they cannot trust the majority of people, and it is noteworthy that this result has increased by 9 points compared to the October 2022 survey.

- ❖ Jordanians' trust is limited to their families, as (94%) reported trusting their families, and their trust extends to acquaintances and friends (68%), neighbors and acquaintances (68%), and then to relatives (tribal members) (65%).
- ❖ (81%) of Jordanian youth aged 18-34 believe that they cannot trust the majority of people.

Trust In Institutions

- ❖ The Jordanian Armed Forces (92%), General Intelligence Directorate (93%), and Public Security Directorate (92%) are trusted by the vast majority of Jordanians, while university professors are trusted by (71%) of Jordanians, followed by Jordanian government universities (69%), teachers (69%), judiciary (64%), private Jordanian universities (63%), and private hospitals (63%). On the other hand, local/municipal councils received trust from only (32%) of Jordanians, while the House of Representatives received only (22%), and political parties received only (15%).
- ❖ Jordanian youth (18-34 years old) trust the General Intelligence Directorate at a rate of 93%, followed by the Jordanian Armed Forces (92%), Public Security Directorate (92%), government Jordanian universities (67%), university professors (67%), private hospitals (67%), private Jordanian universities (65%), teachers (65%), and the judiciary (61%). Meanwhile, only (23%) of Jordanian youth trust the House of Representatives, while political parties are trusted by only (17%) of Jordanian youth.

Happiness

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (75%) do not believe that Jordanians are a happy society, while (62%) describe themselves as happy. Almost half of Jordanians (48%) describe themselves as somewhat optimistic, while (34%) describe themselves as not optimistic.
- ❖ Half of Jordanians (49%) believe that having a family, maintaining religious beliefs, and enjoying good health are what make individuals happy, while (36%) believe that improving their economic situation and providing suitable job opportunities would make them happier.
- ❖ (61%) of Jordanian youth (18-34 years old) describe themselves as happy, with (47%) being somewhat optimistic and (37%) being not optimistic.

Government: Trust, Performance, Direction of Affairs, Policies and Economic Measures

Trust

- ❖ The government of Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh has earned the trust of (37%) of Jordanians after two and a half years since its formation. This is an achievement as the government has managed to maintain the trust of a third of Jordanians after two and a half years, and also earned the trust of (40%) of opinion leaders.
- ❖ Among Jordanians aged 18-34 years, (39%) trust the current government after two and a half years of its formation.
- ❖ Overall, trust in the government of Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh from May 2021 (during the past two years) was around (36%) among the national sample and around (42%) among opinion leaders.
- ❖ (37%) of Jordanians trust Prime Minister Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh as the head of the government, compared to (42%) of opinion leaders who trust him in the same position.
- ❖ Among Jordanians aged 18-34 years, (38%) trust Prime Minister Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh as the head of the government after two and a half years.
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (73%) reported that they do not follow what the government has done or is doing, while only (27%) of Jordanians follow what the current government has done since its formation until now.

Performance

- ❖ According to the survey results, (35%) of Jordanians believe that the government was capable of taking responsibilities during the past period. Meanwhile, (37%) believe that the Prime Minister was capable of taking his responsibilities during the same period, and (34%) believe that the ministerial team was capable of doing so. On average, citizens' evaluation of the government's ability to perform its duties since May 2021 until now was approximately (36%), while the Prime Minister's ability was (36%), and the ministerial team's ability was (34%).
- ❖ Regarding the opinion leaders' assessment of the government's ability to take its responsibilities, (39%) reported that the government was capable of doing so, while their evaluation of the Prime Minister's

ability was 40%, and their evaluation of the ministerial team's ability to shoulder its responsibilities was 39%.

- ❖ On average, opinion leaders' evaluation of the government's ability to perform its duties since May 2021 (during the past two years) was approximately (40%), while the Prime Minister's ability was approximately (42%), and the ministerial team's ability was (39%).
- ❖ In the age group of 18-34 years, (38%) of young Jordanians believe that the government was capable taking its responsibilities during the past period. Meanwhile, (40%) of them believe that the Prime Minister was capable of doing so, and (37%) believe that the ministerial team was capable of doing so.

The Royal Decree of Appointment

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians believe that the government has achieved a moderate level of success in addressing the following issues: improving and activating the public transportation system and increasing its efficiency, improving the healthcare system and enhancing its readiness and capacity, developing a comprehensive healthcare center system, and ensuring fair distribution across Governorates, supporting military retirees and improving their living conditions, expanding the coverage of the health insurance program, establishing the principle of rule of law, enhancing Arab joint work, and expanding economic, trade and investment cooperation to achieve mutual interests, focusing on tourism and improving and diversifying its products, continuing to support the armed forces and security agencies, and providing means of decent livelihood for their members, continuing to support and assist Palestinian, and protecting Islamic and Christian sanctities in Jerusalem. These are among the specific tasks specified in the Royal Decree mandate.
- ❖ However, the government has only succeeded to a limited extent in addressing the following issues: restructuring the energy sector to reflect an increase in energy efficiency in all sectors and reduce their costs, promoting self-reliance policies, designing programs and providing an environment that facilitates entrepreneurs in establishing start-up companies, developing the social security system and linking it to the education, health, and employment systems to ensure a decent life for all Jordanians, improving and organizing the agricultural sector, removing obstacles to national and foreign investment, preserving public funds through government measures subject to strong and effective

regulatory institutions, developing the state administrative apparatus, and developing the tax and customs systems and their tools.

- ❖ On the other hand, the government has not succeeded in addressing the following issues: providing employment opportunities, achieving economic recovery through clear programs within a specified time frame, and developing the distance learning system.

Direction of Things

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (74%) believe that things in Jordan are moving in a negative direction, with only (24%) believing that they are moving in a positive direction, representing an increase of 6 percentage points.
- ❖ The majority of opinion leaders in the sample (59%) believe that things are moving in a negative direction, while only (30%) of them believe that things in Jordan are moving in a positive direction.
- ❖ Only (27%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) believe that things are moving in a positive direction, while (73%) believe that they are moving in a negative direction.
- ❖ According to Jordanians, this negative view of the direction of things in Jordan is due to several reasons, most notably: the deterioration and decline of economic conditions (38%), high prices and cost of living (20%), high unemployment rates (19%), and an increase in poverty rates (8%). Additionally, the government's indecisiveness in making decisions (6%), and the prevalence of corruption, nepotism, and favoritism (5%) contribute to this negative perception. **It remains that high prices and cost of living, the deterioration of economic conditions in general, and an increase in poverty and unemployment rates are the most prominent reasons for believing that things are moving in a negative direction, as previous polls have indicated.**

The Government's Economic Policies and Procedures

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (80-85%) see that the government's economic policies and procedures have failed to alleviate economic burdens or reduce price increases or decrease poverty and unemployment rates.
- ❖ Only (23%) of Jordanians believe that the government's economic policies and procedures have contributed to reducing the use of expatriate labor, while (20%) believe that they have contributed to combating poverty, (13%) believe that they have contributed to reducing unemployment, (15%) believe that they have contributed to reducing price increases, and only (13%) believe that they have contributed to reducing fuel prices. On the other hand, (35%) believe that they have contributed to reducing crime, while (34%) believe that they have contributed to reducing drug trade or use.

The Economy and Challenges Facing Jordan

- ❖ At 45%, the issue of high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities is the most pressing local challenge confronting Jordan today. The government must take immediate action to address this challenge. Following this, challenges related to high prices, cost of living, and low salaries were reported at (20%), while the challenge of poverty coming in at (14%).
- ❖ As for the non-economic challenges facing Jordan that the government needs to address, the top three challenges were internal security challenges (drugs, theft, crime, etc.) at (36%), followed by the decline in the level of government services in general (health, roads, infrastructure, etc.) at (24%), and then financial, administrative, nepotism, and corruption issues at (14%).

Public Sector Modernization's plan and the Economic Modernization Vision

- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians (90%) are unaware of the Public Sector Modernization Plan (Roadmap for Developing the Public Sector) or the Economic Moderation Vision for the Kingdom, resulting from the outputs of the National Economic Workshop. Only (10%) of Jordanians are aware of the Public Sector Modernization Plan, while (9%) are aware of the Economic Moderation Vision. On average, (42%) of those who have heard of them believe that the government will succeed in implementing the Public Sector Modernization Plan and the Economic Moderation Vision.
- ❖ Only (6%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) have heard of the Public Sector Modernization Plan, and (39%) believe that the government will succeed in implementing it.

- ❖ Only (8%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) have heard of the Economic Moderation Vision, and (37%) believe that the government will succeed in implementing it.

Jordanians' evaluation of the economic situation

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (83%) and a significant proportion of opinion leaders (73%) believe that the current economic conditions in Jordan are moving in a negative direction. Economic challenges, addressing poverty and unemployment, and combating corruption are considered to be the most important issues for Jordanians.
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (61%) believe that their current economic situation is worse than it was 12 months ago, and almost half of them (45%) believe that it will be worse in the next 12 months.

Jordanians and Political Parties

- ❖ Only (14%) of Jordanians believe that political parties have been successful in their political work in Jordan so far, while the vast majority (86%) believe that they have not been successful.
- ❖ Only (4%) of Jordanians have heard of the new political parties that have been established/licensed/reformed in Jordan.
- ❖ Only (2%) of Jordanians reported that they follow the activities/events of Jordanian political parties.
- ❖ Only (1%) of Jordanians are considering joining any of the existing political parties.
- ❖ Less than 1% only know the names of the general secretaries/leaders of the new political parties.
- ❖ Only (3%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) follow the activities and events of Jordanian political parties.
- ❖ Only (2%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) are considering joining any of the existing political parties before the parliamentary elections.
- ❖ Only (7%) of Jordanian youth (aged 18-34) expect the success of partisan politics in Jordan.
- ❖ Only 21% of youth (aged 18-34) support the participation of university students in political parties.
- ❖ Only 18% of youth support political parties conducting partisan activities inside Jordanian universities.

Military service in Jordan (خدمة العلم في الأردن)

- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians (72%) and the opinion leaders' sample (77%) believe that military service should be reintroduced. (47%) of Jordanians believe that two years is the period that a person to whom the provisions of the law apply must spend in the service, while (40%) of the opinion leaders sample believe that one year is the period that a person to whom the provisions of the law apply must spend.
- ❖ The vast majority of the national sample (94%) and the opinion leaders' sample (91%) want the flag service (خدمة العلم) to be military as it was before, and only 5% want it to be a civil service. Which may indicate a lack of conviction in the effectiveness of alternative programs for military service.
- ❖ The majority of the national sample (86%) and the opinion leaders' sample (93%) believe that re-service (إعادة خدمة العلم) will contribute to enhancing the culture of discipline and commitment among young people, while (85%) of the respondents and (93%) of the opinion leaders sample believe that it will contribute to inculcating the concepts of citizenship, responsibility and community participation. (84%) of the national sample and (91%) of the opinion leaders sample believe that it will help refine the national identity of young people. Also, 82% of the national sample and (89%) of the leader's sample believe it will consolidate the concept of national belonging, and (70%) of the national sample and (60%) of the leader's sample believe that it will contribute to solving the problem of unemployment.
- ❖ Two thirds (66%) of the Jordanian youth (18-34 years) (males 63%, females 67%) believe that the military services should be reintroduced in Jordan.

Israeli attacks on the Palestinians

- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians (88%) and the leader sample (91%) evaluate the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as good-excellent.
- ❖ (29%) of Jordanians and (28%) of the opinion leaders sample believe that the main goal of the repeated Israeli attacks on the Palestinians in different regions is to displace the Palestinians, and (25%) of the respondents and (19%) of the sample Opinion leaders believe that the main reason is imposing control over all Palestinian areas, while (25%) of the national sample and

(29%) of the opinion leaders' sample believe that the main reason is the establishment of a racist Jewish state.

- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians (the national sample (75%) and (85%) the opinion leaders' sample) are satisfied with Jordan's position in confronting the Israeli aggressions on Palestinian lands and Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem, and they rate it as good-excellent.
- ❖ (58%) of Jordanians and (66%) of the opinion leaders sample believe that Jordan should provide all types of support (humanitarian, financial, and moral) to support our Palestinian brothers in the face of Israeli attacks, and (9%) of Jordanians believe that it should Declaring war and opening the borders, while (11%) of the opinion leaders believe that Jordan should cancel the peace treaties and sever relations with Israel.

Results according to selected indicators

- Educated, middle-aged (35-54 years) males are more likely to believe that things are going in a negative direction.
- Younge non-educated (less than secondary) (18-34 years) females and males are the ones who mostly trust the government of Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh.
- Jordanians Male whose ages are (45-54 years) and whose educational level is higher than secondary school are the least believing that the current government was able to assume the responsibilities of the last stage, and they are also the least believing in the ability of the prime minister and the ministerial team to assume the responsibilities of the last stage.
- The oldest and the most educated Jordanian males are the least optimistic about the current government, two and a half years after its formation.
- Jordanian males and the oldest in age (55 years and over) and whose level of education is higher than secondary are the ones who follow the most what the government is doing since its formation until now.
- The most educated and middle-aged Jordanians (35-54 years) are the least believing that the Jordanian economy is moving in a positive direction.
- Older females (55 years and over), whose education is less than secondary, and residents of the central governorates are the most optimistic about the Jordanian economy during the next two years.

- Older females (55 years and over), the most educated, and residents of the central governorates are the happiest according to their description, and they are also the most optimistic about the future.
- Jordanian males, who are 45 years of age and over and highly educated, and residents of the northern governorates, are the least believed in the success of political parties in Jordan so far.
- Jordanian males whose ages are (35-45 years) and the most educated, and residents of the central governorates have the highest expectation of the success of party life in Jordan.
- Jordanian males, middle-aged (35-44 years) and those with higher education, are the most supportive of the participation of university students in parties, and they are also the most supportive of parties establishing partisan activities within universities.