

**THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM
OF JORDAN**

ROYAL JORDANIAN GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE

**Composition of Inhabited Centers Names
In Jordan**

Ibrahim Abdullah Al Jaber

Secretary of the National Committee on Geographical Names.

2007

Introduction:

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is located south west Asia between the latitudes of 29 11 - 33 22 North equator, and longitudes of 34 59 - 39 19 east Greenish line, its area is 89287km² (34474miles²).

Naturally, Jordan is divided into three characterized types expands from North to South which are: Trench (Aghwār), Heights, and desert (Jordanian Bādyā):

- 1- **Jordan Trench** (Al Aghwār) : expands from northern west side of Jordan to extreme southern west side ('Aqaba Gulf) and it is divided into three sections:
 - a. Jordan River Ghawr: it is surrounded by Jordan River west and heights east, it is used for agriculture and completely inhabited.
 - b. Dead Sea: It is the lowest spot all over the world (416m below the sea level), there are many tourist establishments on its northern east side in addition to some centers in the eastern and southern side.
 - c. Wādī 'Araba: it's length about 170km and it has some inhabited gatherings.
- 2- **Heights**: Expands from north Jordan to South, and it is considered the most important areas in Jordan where most of Jordan population live. It is provided with the suitable natural circumstances of climate and soil, also it includes the main economic activity. It's height about 400-1000m from sea level then it became more towards south to reach 1854m in 'Um Ad Dāmī then Jabal Ram (1754m). The largest width is (50m). The buildings concentration and economic activity decrease in south areas.
- 3- **Jordanian Bādyā**: It forms most Jordan's area (75%) and due to its natural circumstances, it almost doesn't have buildings or inhabitants. Who watch topographic maps of Jordan or the geographical names index immediately notice the concentration of names in heights, then in ukhdūd and Aghwār and rarely in Jordanian Bādyā.

Administrative Divisions in Jordan (2000) :

Jordan is divided into (12) Governorates (Muḥāfadha), each one includes many districts and sub-districts, (48) districts (Liwā') and (38) sub-districts (Qadā') .

Composition of Inhabited Centers Names In Jordan:

Names of inhabited centers in Jordan of one syllable are (71%), two syllables (26 %) and (3 %) for three syllables and more (only one four – syllables names) .

Also names started with (Um) are about (52) , with (Abu) are (24) , with (Manshiyyah) are (20) ,and the same number for words started with (Dayr) and (Kafr) . table 1 and table 2

Table 1

**Composition of inhabited centers names in Jordan, by
Governorate:**

Total	Four syllables	three syllables	two syllables	one syllable	Al Muḥāfadhā (Governorate)	No.
153	-	5	42	106	Al 'āsima (AMMAN)	-1
160	-	2	47	111	Irbid	-2
105		2	35	68	As Salt	-3
114		2	26	86	Al Karak	-4
110		7	19	84	Ma'ān	-5
52		3	15	34	Az Zarqā'	-6
195	1	8	70	116	Al Mafrāq	-7
32			5	27	Aṭ Ṭafīla	-8
71		3	11	57	Ma'dabā	-9
54			8	46	Jarash	-10
69		2	18	49	' Ajlūn	-11
28			4	24	Al 'Aaqaba	-12
1143	1	34	300 (26%)	808 (71%)	Total	

Table 2
**Composition of inhabited centers names in Jordan which begin
with certain word:**

عدد التكرار	Word begin with:	No.
24	Abū أبو	1
52	Umm أم	2
10	Bi'r or Bīr بئر ، بير	3
3	Bayt بيت	4
5	Tall تل	5
2	Tal'at تلعة	6
4	Thaghrat or Ath Thaghra ثغرة ، الثغرة	7
5	Khirbat or Al Khirba خربة ، الخربة	8
3	Khallat خلة	9
4	Dabbat or Ad Dabba دبة ، الدبة	10
14	Dayr دير	11
6	Rujum رجم	12
13	Rawdat or Ar Rawdat روضة ، الروضة	13
3	Ash Shaykh الشيخ	14
11	'Ayn عين	15
10	Ghawr غور	16
3	Qasir or Al Qasir قصر ، القصر	17
14	Kufur كفر	18
20	Manshiyyat or Al Manshiyya منشية ، المنشية	19
2	An Nabī النبي	20
2	Wadī وادي	21