

Profiles of new ministers

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

Born in 1949, Tarawneh holds a PhD and a master's in economics from the University of Southern California. He also holds a bachelor's in economics from the University of Jordan. He served as prime minister between 1998 and 1999 and also worked as Royal Court chief, foreign minister, Jordan's ambassador to the US and trade minister. Tarawneh headed the Kingdom's negotiating team for the peace treaty with Israel. Prior to his appointment, Tarawneh had been serving as senator since his appointment in the 18th Senate.



Fayez Tarawneh

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Born in Amman in 1943, Abbadi obtained his master's and PhD degrees in comparative jurisprudence from Egypt's Al Azhar University, and a BA in Sharia from Damascus University. Abbadi has served as minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs in previous governments, member of the Higher Media Council, president of Al al Bayt University, secretary general of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation and deputy president of the National Goodwill Campaign higher committee.



Abdul Salam Abbadi

Minister of Finance

Born in 1941, Hafez obtained a bachelor's in commerce from Beirut Arab University - branch of Alexandria University, Egypt in 1968. He has served as minister of post and communication, Suleiman Hafez finance and energy in previous governments. Hafez was also chief commissioner of the Electricity Regulatory Commission and a member of the board of directors of several organizations, including the Royal Jordanian, the Jordan Electricity Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, Jordan Cement Factories and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.



Suleiman Hafez

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Born in Amman, Judeh received his elementary and secondary education in Jordan and the UK and obtained a BSc degree in foreign service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has served at the Royal Hashemite Court, first in His Majesty King Hussein's press office and subsequently as private secretary to HRH Prince Hassan. Judeh established and headed the Jordan Information Bureau in London. He has served as director of Jordan Television and director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. Judeh was government spokesperson and minister of state for media affairs and communications in previous governments.



Nasser Judeh

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Born in Madaba in 1943, Shakhanbeh got his bachelor's degree in law from Beirut Arab University. He started his career at the agriculture ministry, then moved to Jordan Television where he was deputy director of development media department for 10 years. Shakhanbeh has served as head of the Jordanian society for the production and marketing of eggs and head of the investment promotion unit at the Industrial Estate Corporation. He later became the legal consultant of the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation before being elected as head of the Jordan Farmers Union for two terms. Shakhanbeh also served as secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture and as agriculture minister.



Sharary Shakhanbeh

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

Born in Amman in 1969, Batayneh holds a BS in electrical engineering and MS in management information systems from George Washington University. After working in the US and in the UK, he returned to Jordan to work in the private sector where he ran a consultancy company. Batayneh has served as minister of transport and public works and housing in previous governments. He was also secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and director general of the Jordan Customs Department.



Alaa Batayneh

Minister of Interior

Born in Salt in 1943, Zu'bi graduated from Salt Secondary School in 1962. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law from Damascus University and a master's in law from Egypt. A member of the Jordan Bar Association, Zu'bi has served as minister of state for parliamentary affairs, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department and the Amman police precinct, and assistant director of the Public Security Department. He was an MP for two terms and served as head of the Lower House Legal Committee for eight years.



Ghaleb Zu'bi

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

Hassan has been serving as minister of planning and international cooperation since the formation of Samir Rifai's first government in 2009. He has a PhD and a master's in political science and international economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at Geneva University. He also holds a master's in public administration from Harvard University and another in international relations from Boston University. Hassan began his career in the foreign service in 1991, serving in Washington, DC, and Jordan's mission to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. He was also director of the international affairs department at the Royal Court.



Jafar Hassan

Minister of Water and Irrigation

Born in 1956, Najjar holds a master's in environmental engineering from Newcastle University in the UK, and a bachelor's in civil engineering from Krasnodar University in Russia. He started work at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in 1981 and held several posts, including minister, director of the projects department and the Khirbet Al Samra project. He also was director of private sector projects at the water authority, the wastewater projects directorate, the environmental directorate and the planning and administration unit.



Mohammad Najjar

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Born in 1947, Owais got his BSc in biology from the American University of Beirut, MSc in biochemistry from the University of Jordan and his PhD in molecular genetics from Washington State University. He has served as minister of higher education, professor of genetics, a researcher, chairman of the King Abdullah University I Hospital board and president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology.



Wajih Owais

Minister of Public Works and Housing

Born in Wadi Seer in 1949, Kisbi has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Ankara University and a master's degree in construction management from George Washington University in the US. He joined the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as an engineer, and later served as assistant secretary general and minister. He also served as director of World Bank financing projects at the education ministry, and as director general of the government tender department.



Yahya Kisbi

Minister of Information and Communications Technology

Born in Irbid in 1955, Tal graduated with a BSc in electronic engineering from Nottingham University in 1978 and earned a master's in systems engineering from the Cranfield Institute of Technology, Britain. He joined the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) in 1973 and served as director of communications and electronics at the Royal Jordanian Air Force and chief of staff for strategic planning at the JAF with the rank of major general. Tal was also minister of information and communications technology in a previous government.



Atef Tal

Minister of Social Development

Born in Irbid in 1955, Azaizeh obtained his bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Aleppo in Syria in 1979. He served as member of the of the Hashemite Fund for the Construction of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock's board of trustees, the restoration committee of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs. Azaizeh, a recipient of the Independence Medal of the First Order in 2007, was minister of social development in a previous government.



Wajih Azaizeh

Minister of Health

Born in Amman in 1950, Wreikat obtained his bachelor's in medicine from the University of Sarajevo. He served as director general of Al Hussein Hospital, Princess Alia Military Hospital, the Royal Rehabilitation Centre as well as director general of the Royal Medical Services from 2007 up to 2011. A fellow of the British Royal Medical College and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Wreikat was health minister in previous governments.



Abdul Latif Wreikat

Minister of Culture

Jarrar obtained a PhD in Andalusí (Arabic) literature from the University of London in UK. He occupied many positions along with his teaching responsibilities before he became vice president for administrative affairs at the University of Jordan (UJ). He was vice-dean of the deanship of student affairs at UJ, director of the UJ library, secretary general of the Ministry of Culture, dean of graduate studies, and dean of scientific research at Al al Bayt University.



Salah Jarrar

Minister of Environment

Khayyat has an academic background in oceanography, holding a BSc from High Point University in the US. He obtained his PhD in Environmental Engineering from Cambridge University in the UK. He has served as director general of the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization and director of the Industrial Chemistry Centre at the Royal Scientific Society, which he joined in 1983 as a researcher. Khayyat was environment minister in the previous Cabinet.



Yaseen Khayyat

Minister of Public Sector Development

Born in Jerash in 1968, Khawaldeh has a bachelor's and a master's from the University of Jordan in economy and marketing, and a PhD in total quality management from the University of Western Sidney. He has served as secretary general of the labour ministry and acting secretary general of the public sector development ministry. Khawaldeh, who held the same portfolio in the previous Cabinet, was a professor at the Hashemite University and the vice dean of the economic and management faculty.



Khleif Al Khawaldeh

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

A graduate of Brigham Young University, Fayez holds a bachelor's in political science and a master's in international relations. He started his professional career at the Royal Court serving as assistant chief of royal protocol for His Majesty the late King Hussein and for His Majesty King Abdullah. He also served as the director of HRH Prince Feisal's office and as the head of Her Majesty Queen Rania's protocol. Fayez, who held the same portfolio in the previous Cabinet, was also managing director of the Jordan Tourism Board, an adviser in the Prime Ministry and managing director of the Dead Sea Institute Project.



Nayef Al Fayez

Minister of Agriculture

A native of Maan, Khattab holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He was a deputy in Jordan's 13th Parliament and has held several other public posts. Khattab, who held the same portfolio in the previous government, has served as deputy director general of the Aqaba Railway Corporation and director of the Maan agricultural department.



Ahmad Khattab

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Born in Salt in 1957, Abul Samin obtained his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Bucharest in Romania. He has served as mayor of Salt, head of a department to follow up on projects at the Audit Bureau, and chairman of the Salt Greater Municipality committee. Abul Samin was minister of municipal affairs in the previous government.



Mahir Abul Samin

Minister of Labour

Born in 1957 in Souf, Jerash, Odeibat has a PhD in social science from the University of Southern California and master's degree in education, political and social science from the same university. Between 2006 and 2009, he was president of the Higher Youth Council and before that he was secretary general of the Ministry of Education. He has assumed various academic posts at Jordanian universities and worked as an adviser at the Dubai-based Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation.



Atef Odeibat

Minister of Industry and Trade

Ammari holds a PhD in economics from the University of Southern California in the US, where he worked as a lecturer until 1985. He has served as the chairman of the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation representing France Telecom, represented the private sector in the Electricity Distribution Company, and served on the board of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank.



Shabib Ammari

Minister of Justice

Born in 1953, Suleiman holds an MA in law from the University of Jordan. Suleiman has worked in the judiciary since 1981, serving as Cassation Court vice president and as prosecutor general. He has also served as a judge on the courts of first instance, magistrates and appeals.



Khalifah Suleiman

Minister of Education

Born in 1962, Saudi holds a PhD in teaching methodologies and curricula from the University of Jordan, a master's degree in educational science and a BA in veterinary science from Baghdad. He was tasked with supervising Jordan's army farming project in Sudan before he worked at the education ministry as a member of a committee responsible for drawing up the agricultural curriculum. Saudi then became director of the private education department, the education ministry's secretary general, and until recently served as the director of the ministry's examination department.



Fayez Saudi

Minister of Prime Ministry Affairs and Legislation

Saeed holds a PhD in law from Cairo University and a higher diploma in criminal science and law from the same university. He worked as a law professor at the University of Jordan and then served as a dean for the university's faculty of law. He also worked as a judge on the Cassation Court.



Kamel Saeed

Minister of Political Development

Born in 1971, Ajarmeh holds a PhD in general law from Ein Shams University in Egypt and a master's degree in law from Al al Bayt University. Holding several legal positions, he served as director of the University of Jordan's legal department as well as a legal consultant at the Legislation and Opinion Bureau, the Higher Education Accreditation Commission and the Social Security Corporation, among other institutions.



Nufan Ajarmeh

Minister of Transport

Born in 1957 in Mafraq, Masaeeed holds a PhD in civil and transport engineering from Purdue University, a master's degree in civil engineering from Yarmouk University and a BA in the same specialisation from the University of Jordan. He served as deputy dean for scientific research at the Jordan University of Science and Technology before working as the university's deputy dean for civil engineering. Masaeeed has contributed dozens of papers to international scientific periodicals and conferences and received many awards.



Hashem Masaeeed

Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications and Government Spokesperson

Born in 1965 in Karak, Maaytah, a well-known columnist, served as political adviser to former prime minister Samir Rifai and spokesperson for the 2010 parliamentary elections. He worked as head of the editorial board at Al Arab Al Yawm newspaper. Before that, he was editor-in-chief of Al Rai from July to December 2011. Maaytah has worked for several local media outlets, including Jordan TV, Al Arab Al Yawm and Al Ghad Arabic dailies and the Islamist Al Sabeel weekly, and has authored several political publications.



Samih Maaytah

Minister of State

Born in Amman in 1962, Jazi studied mechanical engineering in Britain. He served in the Jordan Armed Forces for 21 years, attaining the rank of colonel. He also worked in the International Trade Foundation from 2006 to 2011.



Yousef Jazi

Minister of State for Women's Affairs

Hashem obtained her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Middlesex University in London. She later worked as a writer at Al Rai daily. Hashem has also worked in the fields of research and culture and as a democracy and human rights activist.



Nadia Hashem