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Department of Statistics:

Licensed areas and number of licenses during the first third of 2026 demonstrate a significant recovery in the construction compared to the same period in 2025

Licensed building areas for residential purposes increased by 20.4% during the first third of 2026

The number of issued building permits increased by 14.7% during the first third of 2026

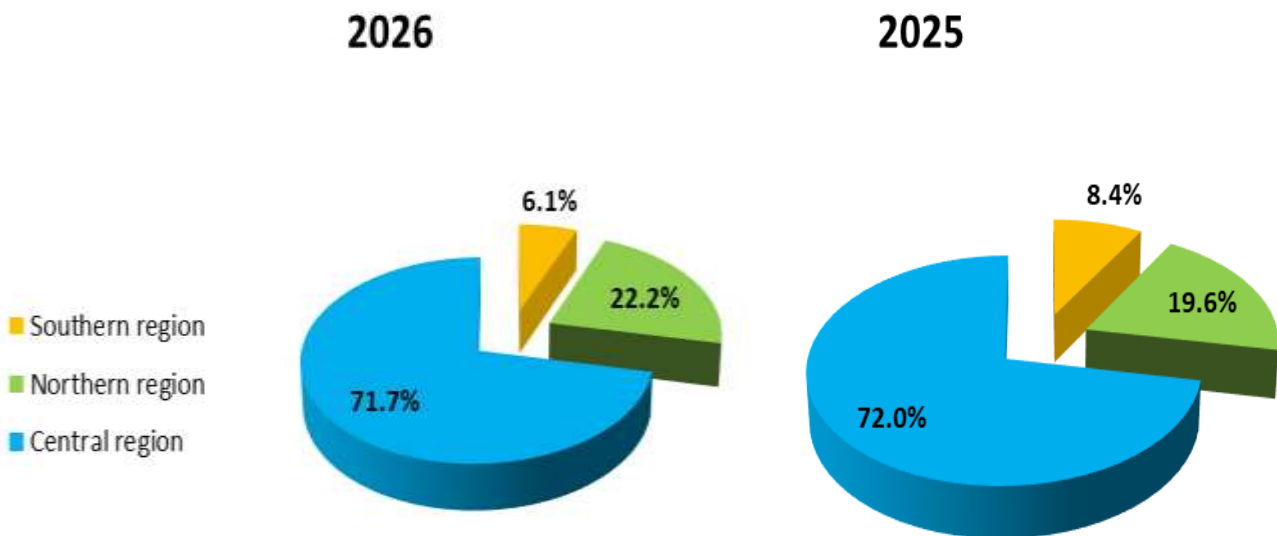
The total area of licensed buildings in Jordan increased by 5.1% during April 2026 and by 4.8% during the first third of 2026 compared to the same periods in 2025

The Department of Statistics (DoS) issued its monthly report on construction activity and building permits in Jordan, whereby the total areas of licensed buildings reached 904 thousand square meters in April 2026 compared to 860 thousand square meters in the same period of 2025, indicating an increase of 5.1%. Also, the total area of buildings licensed during the first third of 2026 reached 3.177 million square meters compared to 3.032 million square meters for the same period in 2025, indicating an increase of 4.8%. Besides, the total number of building permits issued in Jordan reached 8,317 during the first third of 2026 compared to 7,253 permits during the same period in 2025, indicating an increase of 14.7%.

As for licensing purposes, the area licensed for residential purposes reached approximately 2.7 million square meters during the first third of 2026 compared to 2.243 million square meters during the same period in 2025, representing an increase of 20.4%. Meanwhile, the area of buildings licensed for non-residential purposes reached 477 thousand square meters compared to 789 thousand square meters during the same period in 2025, representing a decrease of (39.5%). The area of buildings licensed for residential purposes constituted 85% of the total area of licensed buildings, while 15% was for non-residential purposes.

At the regional level, the Central region amounted to 71.7% of the total licensed building area in Jordan during the first third of 2026, demonstrating a decrease of (0.4) percentage points compared to the same period in 2025, while the share of Northern region amounted to 22.2%, indicating an increase of 13.3 percentage points, and the Southern region accounted for 6.1%, a decrease of (27.4) percentage points compared to the same period in 2025.

Figure (1): Relative Distribution of the Licensed Areas by Region During the first third of 2025 & 2026

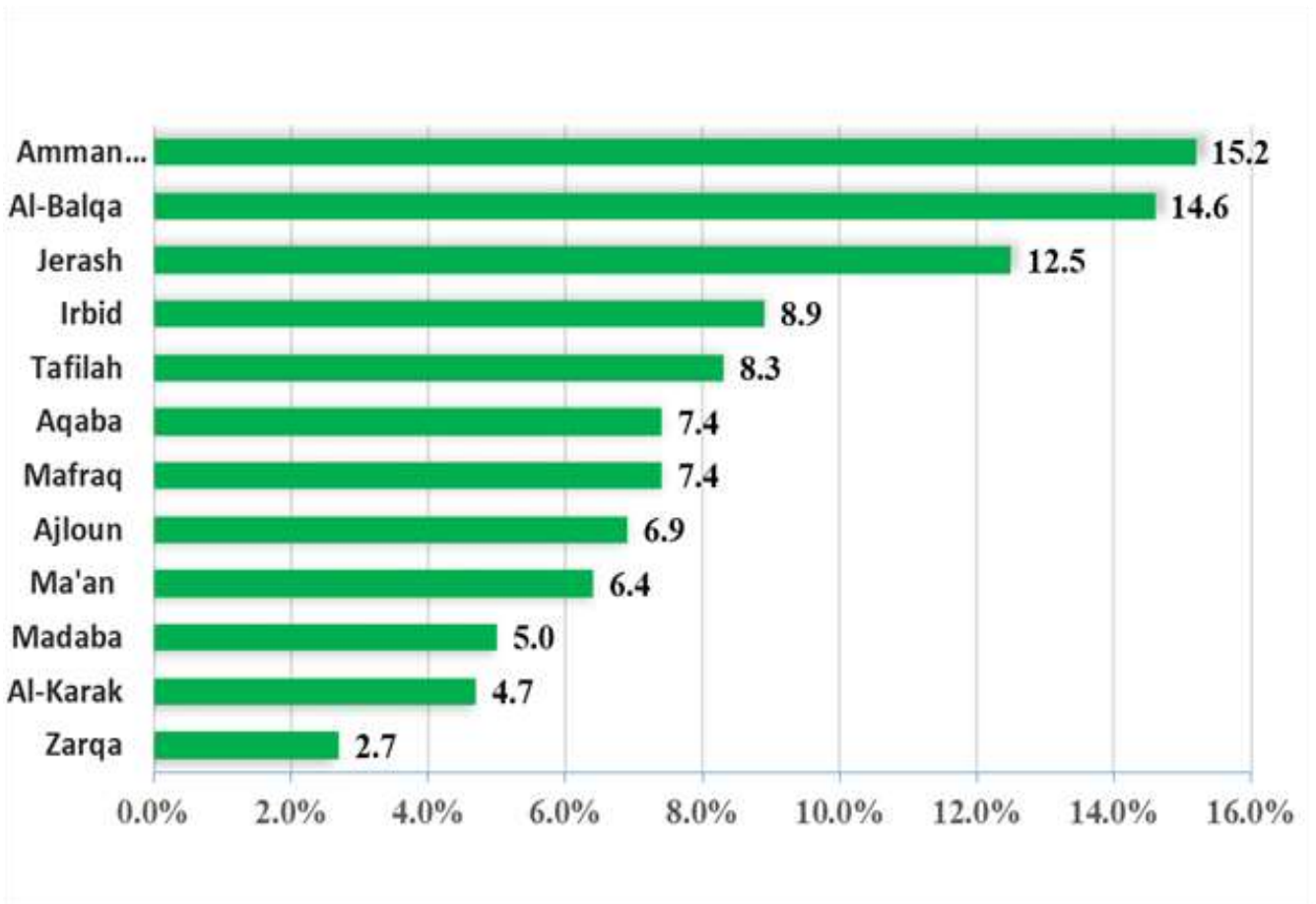


As for the relative distribution of licensed areas for residential purposes by governorate and population, Amman recorded the highest percentage, reaching 15.2% with an area of 0.324 m² per capita, while the Zarqa Governorate recorded the lowest percentage of the per capita share from new licensed areas, reaching 2.7%, with an area of 0.057 m² per capita.

Table 1: Per Capita Share from the Area of New Licensed Buildings for Residential Purposes During the first third of 2026 by Governorate

Governorate	Population	Licensed area for residential purposes (m²)	Per Capita share from licensed area (m²)	Relative distribution of per capita share from the licensed area by governorate
<i>Amman</i>	5,004,600	1,620,211	0.324	15.2
<i>Al-Balqa</i>	614,000	190,649	0.311	14.6
<i>Jerash</i>	296,000	78,708	0.266	12.5
<i>Irbid</i>	2,210,500	418,891	0.190	8.9
<i>Tafilah</i>	120,300	21,343	0.177	8.3
<i>Ma'raq</i>	686,800	107,566	0.157	7.4
<i>Aqaba</i>	250,900	39,593	0.158	7.4
<i>Ajloun</i>	219,900	32,527	0.148	6.9
<i>Ma'an</i>	197,900	26,883	0.136	6.4
<i>Madaba</i>	236,200	25,001	0.106	5.0
<i>Al-Karak</i>	395,400	40,134	0.102	4.7
<i>Zarqa</i>	1,704,50	97,773	0.057	2.7
<i>Total</i>	11,937,000	2,699,279	0.226	100

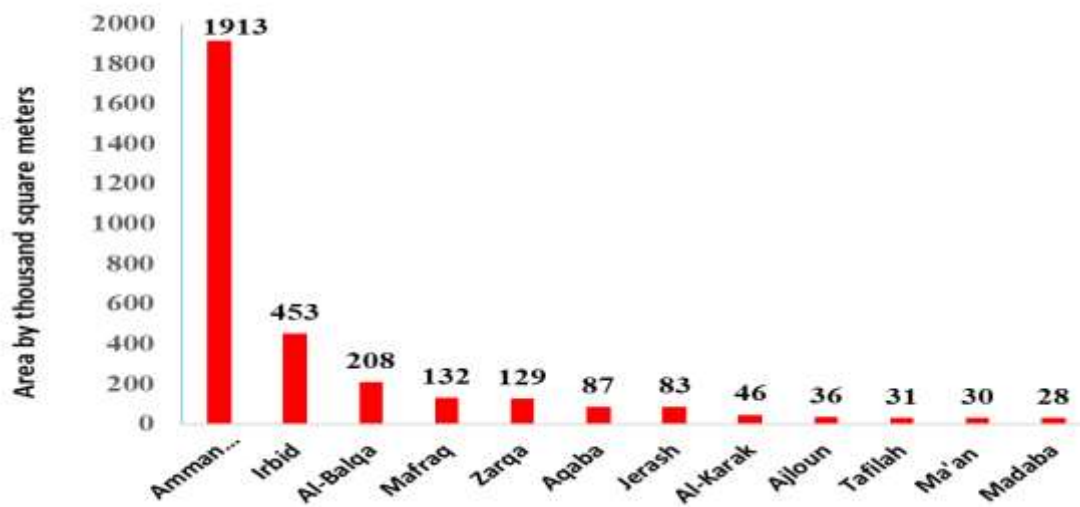
Figure (2): Relative Distribution of Per Capita Share from the Licensed Buildings for Residential Purposes During the first third 2026 by Governorate



The licensed area for new buildings and additions to existing buildings constituted 53.7% of the total licensed building area during the first third of 2026, while the licensed area for existing buildings constituted 46.3%. An existing building is defined as the building that has been constructed since years without a permit and received a permit during the month in which the data was collected. An addition to an existing building is defined as the issuance of a permit for a new addition to an existing licensed building.

The total licensed building area for new buildings and additions to existing buildings reached approximately 1.705 million square meters compared to approximately 1.967 million square meters during the same period in 2025, representing a decrease of (13.3%).

Figure (3): Area of Licensed Buildings by Governorate During Q1 2026 (in 1000 m²)



Through its monthly census of building permits, DoS provides data on the number of building permits, the area of licensed buildings, and the types of building occupancy in Jordan by governorate. These statistics aim to provide planners, policymakers, and decision-makers with indicators of construction activity, an important part of the construction sector. Government expenditures on buildings, roads, infrastructure, and other projects constitute the complementary part of the construction sector. These projects are covered in other surveys, except for government projects licensed by licensing authorities, which are included in this census.

Building permit indicators reflect the reality of construction activity because permits likely indicate the actual commencement of construction. At the same time, the construction design contracts and architectural drawings that other parties rely on represent future construction plans and a stage of the licensing process that may not be accomplished.

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