

# Profiles of new ministers

## Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

Born in 1951, Mulki received his PhD in industrial and systems engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York and an MSc in management engineering from the same institution. He previously served as minister of industry and trade, supply, energy, foreign affairs, and water and irrigation. He also served as president of the Royal Scientific Society and secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology. Mulki was Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and the Arab League. He has also served as



**Hani Mulki**

a senator and chief commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority. He received the Independence Order of the First Class and the Kawkab Order of the First Class, in addition to other international medals.

## Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply

Born in 1943, Anani obtained his BA in economy from the American University in Cairo in 1960. He studied civil engineering at the California University in the US from 1962 to 1964. He obtained his master's degree from Vanderbilt University and his PhD from Georgia University. Anani has served as minister of supply, labour industry, trade and tourism in the period from 1979 until 1985. From 1993 to 1998, Anani served as minister of state for prime ministry affairs and minister of media, in addition to serving as deputy prime minister for economic affairs and minister of foreign affairs. Anani also served as senator and Royal Court chief.



**Jawad Anani**

## Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Education

Holder of a PhD in administration from the University of Southern California, a master's degrees in political science and administration, and a BA in political and economic science from the University of Jordan (UJ), Thneibat was deputy prime minister and minister of education in Abdullah Ensour's governments. He previously served as minister of public sector development and parliamentary affairs in Marouf Bakhit's first government in 2006-2007. He served as minister of administrative development in Ali Abul Ragheb's Cabinet in 2000. In October 2001, he took on a second portfolio of culture minister in the second reshuffle of Abul Ragheb's government. Thneibat also served as secretary general of the Civil Service Bureau and worked as assistant professor at UJ.



**Mohammad Thneibat**

## Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

Born in Amman in 1961, 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 Court, first in His Majesty King Hussein's press office and then as private secretary to HRH Prince Hassan. Judeh established and headed the Jordan Information Bureau in London. He has served as 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. He retains his post as deputy premier and foreign minister from Abdullah Ensour's government.



**Nasser Judeh**

## Minister of Interior

Hammad was born in 1944. He obtained his BA in law from Baghdad University in 1969 and a diploma in public administration from Paris in 1974, in addition to a diploma in local administration and French culture from Sorbonne University in 1976. Hammad previously served as sub-district director at the Interior Ministry, district director in Aqaba, head of the nationality and foreigner affairs department and a governor supervising Lower House elections. He served as interior minister from 1993 to 1996 and from 2015 to 2016 in Abdullah Ensour's government. Hammad received the Independence Order of the Second Class and Al Kawkab Order of the Second Class.



**Salameh Hammad**

## Minister of Water and Irrigation

Born in 1962 in Fuheis, Hazem Nasser holds a PhD in water resources from the Technical University Munich. He served as secretary general of the Water Ministry in 1997 and 1999. Nasser was minister of water and irrigation between 2001 and 2003, and minister of water and irrigation and minister of agriculture between 2003 and 2005. He also held the same portfolios in Abdullah Ensour's governments. Nasser is recipient of Al Kawkab Order of the First Class and the Independence Order of the Second Class.



**Hazem Nasser**

## Minister of Culture

Born in 1953 in Mafraq, Tweisi holds a PhD in linguistics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, an MA degree in linguistics from the University of Michigan, East Lansing, and a BA in English language and literature from the University of Jordan (UJ). He served as president of UJ, Al al Bayt University and founding president of Al Hussein Bin Talal University. Tweisi served as minister of culture between 2005 and 2007. He also received the Independence Order of the First Class.



**Adel Tweisi**

## Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State

Born in Irbid in 1954, Maaytah earned a master's degree in telecom engineering from the University of Bucharest in 1981 and was president of the National Federation of Jordanian Students in Romania from 1976-1980. Maaytah is one of the founders of the Jordanian Democratic Socialist Party and was elected as a member of the party's political office during its first conference. He helped in the establishment of the United Democratic Party, which was later renamed the Jordanian Left Democratic Party, and was elected as its secretary general in 1996. From 1999, he served as the CEO and partner of a trade and marketing company as well as director of Al Badeel Centre for Studies and Training. He served as minister of political development in Samir Rifai's government.



**Musa Maaytah**

## Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

Fakhoury received a BSc in biomedical engineering and an MSc in engineering management from Case Western Reserve University, an MA in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University. He was appointed senator and chairman of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development board of trustees in November 2014, after serving as King's Office Director from 2011 to 2014. Between 2009 and 2011, Fakhoury served as minister of public sector development and minister of state for mega-projects. He has also served as regional programme and policy manager at the bureau for Arab States of the UNDP; commissioner for investment and economic development at the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority; and chief of staff to His Majesty King Abdullah for planning and programming. Fakhoury served as minister of planning and international cooperation under Abdullah Ensour's government.



**Imad Fakhoury**

## Minister of Labour

Born in the Northern Jordan Valley in 1959, Ghezawi has a master's degree in economics from St Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and a BA in political science and economics from the State University of New York. He served as the Development and Employment Fund's director and was the secretary general of the Jordanian Society for Science and Culture. He also worked as president of the Royal Scientific Society's political economy unit and the economic chancellor of the minister of water. Ghezawi served as the public relations deputy at the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army liaison office from. He previously served as minister of municipal affairs in Samir Rifai's government.



**Ali Ghezawi**

## Minister of Health

Born in 1956, Sheyyab has a BSc in medicine and a master's in paediatrics from the University of Jordan. He served as director general of the King Abdullah I University Hospital. A former vice president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Sheyyab served as minister of health in Samir Rifai's Cabinet in 2010.



**Mahmoud Sheyyab**

## Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Born in 1947 in Ajloun, Owais has a BSc in biology from the American University of Beirut, an MSc in biochemistry from the University of Jordan and a PhD in molecular genetics from Washington State University. He has served several times as minister of higher education and minister of education, and he has worked as professor of genetics, a researcher, chairman of the King Abdullah I University Hospital and president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology and a senator. In 2015, Owais was appointed as chairman of a national committee for human resources development. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Crown Prince Foundation.



**Wajih Owais**

## Minister of Transport

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. He joined the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as an engineer, and later headed a division in the ministry. He also served as director of World Bank financing projects at the Ministry of Education. He became assistant secretary general at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and served as director general of the government tender department. He previously served as minister of public works and housing in one of Abdullah Ensour's governments.



**Yahya Kisbi**

## Minister of Environment

Born in 1958, 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. He previously served as director general of the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation and director of the Industrial Chemistry Centre at the Royal Scientific Society, which he joined in 1983 as a researcher. Khayyat served as environment minister between 2011 and 2012 in the governments of Awn Khasawneh and Fayez Tarawneh.



**Yaseen Khayyat**

## Minister of Municipal Affairs

Born in 1959, Masri obtained his bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Cairo. He previously served as mayor of Irbid and as an assistant to Amman mayor. He was minister of public works and housing and minister of municipal affairs in Abdullah Ensour's governments.



**Walid Masri**

## Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

Saif holds an MSc and a PhD in economics from the University of London. He served as a consultant to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Labour Organization. Saif is a former director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan and has served as secretary general of the Economic and Social Council. He previously served as minister of planning and as minister of energy in Abdullah Ensour's governments.



**Ibrahim Saif**

## Minister of State for Media Affairs

Born in 1973, Momani holds a PhD in political science from the University of North Texas. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the University of Jordan. He previously served as a consultant for the Prime Ministry under Awn Khasawneh and Fayez Tarawneh's governments. He was minister of state for media affairs and communications and government spokesperson in Abdullah Ensour's Cabinet.



**Mohammad Momani**

## Minister of Public Works and Housing

Born in 1963, Halaseh is a civil engineer with an MSc in construction management from Oklahoma State University. He previously served as secretary general at the Public Works Ministry. A Sami Halaseh recipient of the Independence Order of the Second Class in 2007, Halaseh has managed and supervised major projects led by the ministry and funded through international grants and loans. He was minister of public works and housing under Abdullah Ensour.



**Sami Halaseh**

## Minister of Justice

Born in 1964, Talhouni has a PhD in Law from the University of Edinburgh and a BA and an MA in law from the University of Jordan. A lawyer by profession who has been registered at the Jordan Bar Association since 1988, he has worked as assistant professor at the Bassam Talhouni University of Jordan's (UJ) law faculty and assumed several administrative posts there. Talhouni was a member in the legislation and justice branch within the National Agenda Committee. He also served as the Ministry of Industry and Trade's companies' comptroller. Talhouni was minister of justice under Abdullah Ensour.



**Bassam Talhouni**

## Minister of Information and Communications Technology

Shweikeh holds a BSc in finance from Yarmouk University and is a certified management accountant. She also has degrees in global senior management, educational leadership and administration from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business and the IESE Business School at the University of Navarra. The minister, who served as president of the International Women's Forum's Jordan chapter between 2011 and 2013, has worked as a senior telecom executive in several companies. She has served as CEO of VTEC Holdings, vice chairperson of Africell Tempo (2010-2012), vice chair of Itisaluna and CEO of Orange Jordan. She served as ICT minister in Abdullah Ensour's government.



**Majd Shweikeh**

## Minister of Finance

Malhas, who obtained his high school diploma from the National Orthodox School in Amman, holds an MBA in international banking and finance from the University of Birmingham, and a BS in business administration from the University of Louisiana. He worked at the Housing Bank for Trade and Finance and served as deputy general manager of Doha Bank in Qatar. He also worked as a senior manager at Alliance Capital Management's Bahrain office. Malhas rejoined the housing bank in 2002 as head of the treasury and investment department, becoming the chief banking officer in 2009 and CEO in 2010. He served as finance minister in Abdullah Ensour's government.



**Omar Malhas**

## Minister of Agriculture

Rida Khawaldeh has a BSc in plant production and an MSc in the same major from the University of Jordan (UJ). He obtained his PhD from the University of Illinois. Khawaldeh also obtained two post-doctoral certificates from the University of Illinois and Langston University. He has served as president of Mutah University and president of UJ's Aqaba branch. He has also worked as editor at the Jordan Journal for agricultural sciences at the Ministry of Higher Education.



**Rida Khawaldeh**

## Minister of Youth

Born in 1969 in Amman, Wreikat holds an MA degree in law and a BSc in business administration. He was had been serving as secretary general of the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs since 2013 before his appointment as minister. He also served as secretary general of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs between 2010 and 2013, adviser at the Prime Ministry between 2006 and 2010, and as adviser head of the investor unit at the Prime Ministry between 2004 and 2006. He was special secretary for the prime minister between 2001 and 2003, and director of protocol at the prime ministry between 1998 and 2001.



**Rami Wreikat**

## Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs

Irshaidat has previously served in the Ministry of Interior as governor of Karak, Salt and Fawaz Irshaidat Aqaba.



**Fawaz Irshaidat**

## Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Born in 1976 in Amman, Arabiyat holds PhD, MA and BA degrees from the University of Jordan (UJ) in Islamic jurisprudence. He worked as a professor at UJ's Sharia faculty and has written a book and a number of research papers on Islamic banking and finance.



**Wael Arabiyat**

## Minister of Public Sector Development

Ghosheh had been the executive director of the King Abdullah II Centre for Excellence since its establishment in 2006 until her appointment as minister. She was named by Royal Decree as the coordinator for The King Abdullah II Award for Excellence in Government Performance and Transparency from 2004 to 2006. She worked as deputy director at the economic and development division in the Royal Court. Ghosheh has two MA degrees from University of Jordan (UJ) and Birmingham University in commercial law, and a bachelor's degree in law from UJ. Ghosheh was awarded the Order of Al Hussein for Distinguished contribution (2nd class).



**Yasera Ghosheh**

## Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

A graduate of Georgetown University, Annab has experience in the private sector. Before her appointment as minister, she had been working as general manager of Zara Investment Company since 2008. She has also served on the board of a number of private companies.



**Lina Annab**

## Minister of Social Development

Armouti was born in Amman and received her education at the Islamic Scientific College. She has a BA in social sciences and has experience in voluntary work at social development centres in Hai Nazzal and Sweileh. Armouti participated in various activities at university and has contributed to initiatives targeting women in society.



**Khawla Armouti**

## Minister of State

Hneifat served as Tafleeh mayor from 2007 to 2011. He served as project director at the Labour Ministry, working in initiatives to mitigate poverty and unemployment in poverty pockets. Hneifat received the Order of Independence of the Third Class for implementing development projects in Tafleeh.



**Khaled Hneifat**