

Table 1 shows that the bulk of the water in the JR is used by Israel, while Palestinians are denied access to their share of the water.

Before 1967, Palestinians made use of JR waters through 140 pumping units, which were either destroyed or confiscated by Israeli authorities immediately after the occupation in June 1967. In addition, large irrigated areas of the Ghor used by Palestinians were closed as a military zone and later given to Jewish settlers.

Country	Volume (mcm/yr)	Source
Israeli Use	130	from the Upper Jordan
	420	diverted from Tabariya Basin Area to reach the Negev through the Israeli National Water Carrier
	90	used in the Tabariya Basin Area
Syrian Use	160	from the Yarmouk River
Jordanian Use	90	from the Yarmouk
	30	to be transferred by Israel according to the 1994 Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty (20 from the JR main stream and 10 from desalinated water)
	200	from Zarqa River and the eastern wadis
Palestinian Use	denied	nothing

Sources: Palestinian Water Authority. <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/80859e/80859E02.htm#Hydrography>; Al-Kloub, B. and T. Al-Shemmeri, *Application of Multi-Criteria Decision to Rank the Jordan-Yarmouk Basin Coriparians*. 1996.

► Groundwater

While surface waters apart from the JR, consisting mostly of runoff in the wadis, are seasonally dependent and hardly exploited, groundwater is a major source of water for all uses. Because of the semi-arid to arid climate in the ME, dependence on it is inevitable and it is considered a key factor in economic development. Currently some 85% of WBGs groundwater is exploited by Israel, supplying about 40% of Israel's water.

Because Palestine is not allowed to utilize the JR waters, groundwater is **the only** source for Palestinian supply. Israel controls all aquifers in the country, of which two major ones are shared with Palestine: the Northeastern Aquifer and the Western Aquifer (see [Map 1](#)).



Lake Tabariya



The groundwater is found in shallow, intermediate, and deep-seated aquifers ranging in depths from tens to several hundreds of meters and is extracted through wells that were mainly drilled prior to 1967. Additionally there are a number of natural springs that provide between 50-60 mcm/yr, which is mainly used in agriculture.

The annual replenishment of the principal aquifer basins occurs primarily from the rainfall on WB mountains that does not evaporate or run into the wadis. About 83% of the recharge areas for these basins lie within the WB. [Table 2](#) provides data on the annual replenishment of these aquifer basins and their utilization by Israel and Palestine (see also [figure 1](#)). The 1995 Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) estimated the annual recharge of the Eastern Aquifer Basin at 172 mcm/yr, the Northeastern Aquifer Basin at 145 mcm/yr and the Western Aquifer Basin at 362 mcm/yr.

In the past the Gaza Coastal Aquifer was partially recharged from the Wadi Gaza coming from Hebron but Israel stopped its flow. It has an annual safe yield of 55 mcm, but is being over-pumped at a rate of 110 mcm/yr.

Al-Auja Spring Water

Aquifer Basin	Annual Recharge	Israeli Water Use	Settlement Water Use	Palestinian Water Use	Total Water Use
Western	362	340	10	22	372
Northeastern	145	103	5	42	150
Eastern	172	40 from wells	50	54	144
Coastal Aquifer	250	260	0	0	260
- of which Gaza	55	0	5-10	110	120

Sources: <http://www.wws.princeton.edu/~wws401c/geography.html#mountain>; Article 40 of the Oslo Agreement II.