

PREFACE

The Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS] presents the 53rd Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002.

The Statistical Abstract is the most outstanding publication produced by the CBS. As in previous years, the Abstract presents data on various aspects of life for a broad range of users. Besides the data appearing in the regular CBS publication series, the Abstract presents the results of censuses and special or periodic surveys conducted by the CBS. More detailed data on specific topics can be found in the other publications of the CBS.

Data presented for the first time in this year's Abstract include findings from the Victimization Survey (2001), findings from the survey on usage of pesticides in agriculture, and findings on assets from mutual funds. In addition, the chapter on International Comparisons was substantially expanded.

The Abstract is accompanied by a supplementary booklet of diagrams, which presents a colourful graphic description of many of the statistical findings published in the Abstract. The order of the chapters in the booklet follows the format of the Abstract.

In addition, a CD ROM disk containing all of the material in the Abstract and booklet of diagrams is attached to the printed copy.

Preparation of the Abstract - like all of the activities of the Central Bureau of Statistics - was a collaborative effort involving the families and people who took part in the various surveys, as well as establishments, businesses, institutions and government ministries. On behalf of the Central Bureau of Statistics, I wish to thank all of these people.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to all of the staff members of the different units of the CBS for the dedicated work and daily efforts.

Mr. Gideon Burshtein was in charge of scientific editing.

The Abstract was edited and prepared for publication by Ms. Orit Penso, with assistance from the staff of the Publication Division at the CBS.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of the people who worked on the Abstract inside and outside of the Bureau.

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