

At 2006 the Israeli refinery was transferred from governmental ownership to private ownership and split into two refineries. After the privatization of the refineries, according to the statistical ordinance, the Central Bureau of Statistics could not disseminate any data concerning refinery production, without the approval of the owners of the refineries. Since such a dissemination might enable each refinery to derive the amounts of production, imports, and exports of the other refinery. From 2007 to 2011 the Central Bureau of Statistics could not disseminate data for the refineries due to the refusal of the refineries to allow the dissemination of data on the industry.

The absence of energy data is a serious obstacle for policy making and planning in the economy. Therefore, the last two years, the Central Bureau of Statistics took actions in order to introduce changes in the statistical ordinance, so that in special cases, concerning essential data for the economy, there will be a possibility to obtain a special permit to disseminate the data.

In July 2011 the efforts succeeded and following the amendment to the statistics ordinance, the Prime Minister acting on the recommendations of the Economic Committee of the Israeli Parliament permitted the dissemination of energy data by the Central Bureau of Statistics. However, in order to prevent any harm to the competition between the two refineries, the permit allows the data dissemination with a lag of one year. Accordingly the Central Bureau of Statistics has disseminated data for 2007-2009. Data for 2010 will be disseminated in the beginning of 2012.