

# הודעה לעיתונות

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## THE MOSLEM POPULATION IN ISRAEL ON THE OCCASION OF THE “FESTIVAL OF THE SACRIFICE”

- There were over 1 million Moslems in Israel at the beginning of 2004 – which is 16% of the total population.
- Approximately 450,000 children under the age of 15 in Israel are Moslems; approximately one-quarter of all the children in the country.
- 40% of the Moslem population resides in the Northern District, and 20% in the Jerusalem District.

**On the occasion of the Festival of the Sacrifice, the Central Bureau of Statistics is presenting updated data on the Moslem population in Israel.**

The number of Moslem residents in Israel **at the beginning of 2004** was estimated at over **1.070 million<sup>1</sup>**, which is 16% of the total population.

The average **annual rate of growth** of the Moslem population in Israel in recent years is 2.4 times higher than that of the Jewish population – 3.4% compared with 1.4%. This rate of growth is among the highest in the world, and even higher than that of the neighbouring Arab countries. Almost the entire growth among the Moslem population (98%) results from natural increase (births less deaths).

<sup>1</sup>Temporary estimates

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### **Age Structure**

The Moslem population in Israel is young – 43% of it is **children aged 0-14**, compared with 26% among the Jewish population.

The percentage of **those aged 65 and over** is only 3% of the total Moslem population in Israel, compared with almost 12% of those aged 65 and over of the total Jewish population.

### **Births**

During 2003 there were **over 35,000 babies born to Moslem mothers**<sup>1</sup> in Israel; a quarter of all the babies born in Israel in that year.

Based on 2002, Moslem women may expect to give birth to an average of 4.6 children during their lifetime, a rate almost double that of Jewish women (2.6).

### **Households and Families**

The Moslem population in Israel resides in approximately **186,000 households**, which constitute approximately 10% of the total households in Israel. The **average number of persons in a household** among the Moslem population stands at 5.3, compared with 3.1 in households among the Jewish population.

In most households among the Moslem population there resides at least **one nuclear family**. In only 4% of them are there people living alone or without any family ties, whereas in the Jewish population the rate of “non-family” households is higher than 20%.

Most of the **families** in the Moslem population have a traditional family structure, with includes a couple with children. 4% are one-parent families with at least one child aged 17 and over, compared with almost 7% of the Jewish population.

### **Geographic Distribution**

The Moslem population in Israel resides mainly in Arab localities, in which they constitute a majority of the population; especially in localities with less than 20,000 residents, and in areas far from the center of the country (peripheral). That excludes **Jerusalem**, which has the largest concentration of Moslem residents in Israel – 210,000, which constitutes 31% of the city’s residents, and approximately 20% of the total Moslem population in the country.

**Table 1. The Moslem Population in Israel, by Main Cities, to the End of 2002**

#### **Thousands**

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,038.3</b>
Jerusalem	209.9
Nazareth	41.5
Oum-el-Fahm	37.9
Rahat	34.0
Teibeh	30.3
Tamra	23.9
Sakhnin	21.3
Shfaram	17.5

<sup>1</sup> Temporary estimates

40% of the Moslem population in Israel - over 410,000 residents, reside in the **Northern District**, and they constitute approximately 36% of the residents of that district. For the sake of comparison, 512,000 Jewish residents reside in the Northern District, and constitute 10% of the Jewish population of Israel.

In the **Haifa District** there are over 150,000 Arab residents, who constitute 18% of all residents in the district. In the **Central and Tel Aviv Districts** there are approximately 130,000 Moslem residents, who constitute less than 9% of the total Moslem population in Israel. For the sake of comparison, almost half (48%) of the Jewish population resides in those districts.

In the **Southern District** there are approximately 130,000 Moslem residents, approximately 14% of the total population in the district, of which approximately 42,000 reside **outside recognized permanent localities** – most of whom are Bedouin.

According to the **projection** published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, **towards the end of 2020** the Moslem population is expected to grow to 20% of the total number of residents in Israel. The Moslem population's share of the total Arab population is expected to grow from 82% at the beginning of 2004, to approximately 85% in 2020.

**Table 2. The Moslem and Jewish Populations in Israel, by Demographic and Geographic Characteristics, to the End of 2002**

	<b>Moslems (Thousands)</b>	<b>Moslems (Percentages)</b>	<b>Jews (Percentages)</b>
<b>Age Structure</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,038.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Aged 0-14	448.4	43.2	25.5
Ages 65 and over	27.4	2.6	11.8
<b>Households and Families</b>			
<b>Total households</b>	<b>185.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Family households	177.8	95.8	78.5
Non-family households	7.8	4.2	21.5
<b>Total nuclear families</b>	<b>191.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Thereof: couples with children aged up to 17	138.0	72.3	47.7
one-parent families with children aged up to 17	8.0	4.2	6.6
<b>Residents by Districts and Areas</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,038.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
North	410.0	39.6	10.0
Jerusalem	217.6	21.0	10.8
Haifa	150.1	17.9	11.9
South	129.0	13.9	14.8
Central	119.0	7.7	26.7
Tel Aviv	11.6	1.0	21.5
<b>Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area<sup>1</sup></b>	--	--	4.2

<sup>1</sup>Israelis in Jewish localities only