

PRESS RELEASE

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International Women's Day

- At the beginning of 2006 there were 2,572,200 women aged 15 and over living in Israel.
- The sex ratio in Israel is 106 females aged 15 and over to 100 males aged 15 and over.
- Approximately 920,000 women are mothers to children aged up to 17, and 10% of them are heads of one-parent families.
- The average age of Israeli women at first marriage is 24.5 years
- The average number of children that a woman is expected to bear in her lifetime is 2.84 – almost double the fertility rate among women in Europe.
- The rate of women aged 15 and over who belong to the civilian labour force in Israel continues to rise consistently, and in 2006 reached 50.4% (45.6% in 1996), compared with 61.1% among men in Israel.
- In 2005 the income from one work hour for an employed woman was NIS37.40, compared with the income per hour of a man – NIS44.90; i.e., women's income was 83% that of men.
- 46% of women defined their main activity as “work”, in the year that preceded the survey (2005); compared with 64% of men.
- 20% of women defined their main activity as “taking care of the house or a family member”, compared with only 1% of men.

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Number of women and men

At the end of 2005 there were 2,572,200 women and 2,437,800 men aged 15 and over, living in Israel – a ratio of 106 women to 100 men.

The number of boys born each year is higher than that of girls, and therefore, among the young there is a surplus of males over females. From the age of 35 and over, the ratio of men to women is reversed, and there is a surplus of women to men. This surplus grows with the rise in age, due to the higher life expectancy of women (82.3).

Table 1. Male and Female Populations by Age and Sex Ratio - End of 2005 (thousands)

Age	Men	Women	Number of Women per 100 Men
Total Population	3,453.7	3,537.0	102
15+	2,437.8	2,572.2	106
65+	295.8	397.3	134
80+	69.4	108.0	156

Singles

The percentage of single women (never-married, divorced and widowed) among the general population, and among “Jews and others” aged 17-34, is lower than single men. After this age, the trend is reversed, and the percentage of single women is higher than single men. The gap grows with the rise in age. Among Arabs the ratio changes in favour of women at the age of 31 and over.

Table 2. Percentages of Single Men and Women by Population Groups, and Age– End of 2004

Age	Total Population		Jews		Arabs		Others	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
17-24	30.3	24.7	17.0					
25-29	20.2	22.3	8.8					
30-34	17.2	23.6	5.3					
35-39	14.8	26.6	4.1					
40-44	14.9	36.6	5.6					
45-54	22.4	62.3	15.1					

44-64	50.0	96.5	36.7					
65-74								
75-84								
85+								

The reason for this phenomenon is that in the younger age groups single women are lower compared with men, as a result of a younger marriage age among women. With the rise in age, the trend is reversed, as a result of the pressure in the marriage market (an imbalance between the sexes, which is expressed in a lack of marriageable men) which results in women being left single. An additional factor is the higher life expectancy in women as compared with men, which is reflected in a higher rate of widows than of widowers, in advanced age groups.

Mothers of Children

In 2005, approximately 923,000 women (not including those living in institutions, kibbutzim or outside of localities) were mothers of children aged up to 17. Approximately 10% of them were heads of one-parent families. Approximately 60% of the lone-parent mothers were divorced, 12% were widows, 13% were never married, and 15% were separated from their husbands. A higher percentage of Arab women were mothers of children aged up to 17, compared with Jewish women (approximately 50%, compared with 35%). A higher percentage of Jewish mothers are heads of one-parent families, compared with Arab mothers (approximately 11% and 4%, respectively).

Marriage and Fertility

Marriage

In Israel, the average age at first marriage has been rising steadily since the 1970's. In 1970 the average age of first marriage for an Israeli woman was 21.7, and in 2004 – 24.5 (lower than that of European women – approximately 28). At the time of their first marriage, Jewish women are approximately 3.5 years older than Moslem and Druze women, and approximately 1 year older than Christian women. Since 1970, the biggest change in the average age at first marriage was among Jewish women (a rise of 3.6 years), and the smallest was among Moslem women (a rise of 1.7 years).

Table 3. Average Age of Women at the Time of First Marriage, by Religion and Year

Woman's Religion	Average Age of Woman at Time of First Marriage		
	1970	2003	Change (in years)
Total	21.7	24.3	+2.6
Jewish	21.8	25.2	+3.4
Moslem	20.1	21.8	+1.7
Christian	22.3	24.2	+1.9
Druze	19.4	21.8	+2.4

Birthrate

In 2005 approximately 139,900 women gave birth, approximately 1% less than in 2004.

The average number of children that a woman in Israel is expected to give birth to during her lifetime (total fertility rate) is 2.84 (almost double the number of children that a European woman is expected to give birth to – 1.48).

For approximately one-third (31.1%) of the women who gave birth in 2005, this was a first birth; similar to 2004 (31.4%). In 2005 the average age of women who gave birth to their first child was 26.6 (higher than that of Eastern European women, such as Armenians (26.6), Roumanians (24.6) and Bulgarians (24.8); but lower than the age of women in Western Europe – British (27.5), Dutch (29.4) and German (29.7)).

Education Level

In 2006 14.5% of all women aged 18 and over had a first degree, compared with 11.9% of all men aged 18 and over. 7.9% of all women had a second degree, compared with 7.7% of all men, and 0.7% of all women had a third degree compared with 1.2% of all men. 24.1% of the women indicated that a matriculation certificate was the highest diploma they received, compared with 21.3% of the men. 15.1% of the women aged 18 and over graduated high school without a matriculation certificate, compared with 20.1% of the men. 4.0% of the women aged 18 and over had no schooling, compared with 1.8% of the men.

Labour

The percentage of women aged 15 and over in the civilian labour force in Israel continues to rise steadily. **In 2006** the proportion of women in the civilian labour force reached 50.4% (45.6% in 1996) compared with 61.1% of the men.

The percentage of unemployed women in the labour force declined from 9.5% in 2005 to 9.0% in 2006. The gender gap has narrowed, but is still wide – the percentage of unemployed men in 2006 declined to 7.9% in 2006 (compared with 8.5% in 2005).

In 2006, 61.5% of all employed usually worked full time, and 38.3% had part-time jobs. By comparison, 86.5% of the men usually worked full time, and 13.2% usually worked part time. Of the women with part-time jobs (usually less than 35 hours per week), 23.4% worked part time because they had no other choice, i.e., they sought but did not find additional or full-time work. Of the men with part-time jobs, 21.8% did so because they had no other choice.

By occupation: women continue to work in traditionally feminine occupations, which are characterized by low wages. As in the past, in 2006 too, approximately one-half of women are employed in six main occupations: “caregivers”, “educators in elementary schools and kindergartens and social group leaders”, “secretaries”, “other clerks”, “salespeople and models” and “Cleaning workers in structures, kitchen workers and laundry workers”. In all these, women comprise more than 70% of the workers in that occupation. It should be noted that a high percentage of employed women was found in those same six occupations, even if in a different internal order, during 1988-2006.

Furthermore, among clerks 75% are women; and among agents, salespeople and service workers, 55% are women. The percentage of women with an academic occupation reaches 49%, and among managers only 29% are women.

80,500 women worked in high-tech in 2006, and they constitute 32.9% of all those employed in high-tech industries.

91% of all employed women are **employees**, and 7% are **self-employed, employers, or cooperative members**. By comparison, 83% of all employed men are employees, and 16% are **self-employed, employers, or cooperative members**.

The share of women among persons employed through employment agencies (including employment contractors who are not sub-contractors), which generally offers substantially worse working conditions than those prevailing in direct employment, was higher than their share of all employed persons: 51% of all those employed through employment agencies were women, compared with 49% of all employed persons, in 2006.

The share of women among all those despairing of finding work in 2006, was low compared with the share of men: 41% compared with 59%. The number of women who despaired of finding work in 2006 reached 22,300.

More mothers in lone-parent families belong to the civilian labour force than married mothers – 74.7% versus 65.3%, although the percentage of them who are employed is lower - 88.1% versus 93.1%, respectively). Thus, the percentage of unemployed mothers in lone-parent families was higher than that of married mothers - 11.9% versus 6.9%.

Health

In 2005 the life expectancy of women in Israel was 82.3 years, and of men 78.3 years. The life expectancy of Jewish women was 82.6 years, and of Arab women 78.7. Among men, the life expectancy of Jews was 79.1 years, and of Arabs 75.0. Life expectancy rose from the end of the 70's and up to the beginning of the present decade (1975-1979 to 2000-2004) by 6.8 years among women, and by 6.3 years among men.

The life expectancy of women has always been higher than that of men by 3.5 to 4 years. In the last decade the gap between women and men's life expectancy has grown slightly, but it is still relatively small compared with the difference between men and women in the industrial countries (e.g., the average gap in EU countries is 6.2 years, and in the USA 5.8 years). The rise in the difference results from the fact that in recent years the rate of decline in women's mortality was slightly higher than that of the men.

An international comparison of life expectancy at birth shows that Israeli women are rated relatively high, but they are not among the countries leading in life expectancy; compared with Israeli men, who are found in the group of countries with the highest life expectancy. The 2006 report of the World Health Organization, which publishes data for 2004, the life expectancy of Israeli women is 4 years (rounded off) lower than the leading country, Japan (86 years). Women in Greece, Austria, Finland, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Singapore have a similar life expectancy to that of women in Israel. Israeli men have a life expectancy that is 1 year lower than that in Japan (79 years), which is in first place. Men in Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy and Australia have a similar life expectancy to that of men in Israel.

Data from the "Household Expenditures Survey" – 2005

Income of Employees: Men Compared with Women¹

In 2005, the average gross monthly income from employee work of men was NIS8,575, and of women NIS5,419; i.e., women's income was 63% of men's income.

¹ Data is from the 2005 Combined Income Survey. That year the survey included 15,708 employees in the sample group, who represent over 2 million employees in the population.

Part of the difference in monthly income can be explained by the fact that women work less hours per month, on average, than men (190.9 work hours per month for men, compared with 144.8 work hours per month for women).

The income per work hour of employed men in 2005 was NIS44.90, and of employed women NIS37.40; i.e., women's income was 83% of men's income.

There is a big difference in the gross income per work hour of men and women, in those with "academic occupations". Men with academic occupations in 2005 earned NIS74.20 per work hour, compared with NIS57.40 per hour earned by women with academic occupations (women's income constitutes 77% of men's income). The smallest gap in gross income for a work hour is in the occupation of "unskilled workers". A man in this occupation earned NIS24.90 per work hour, compared with NIS21.30 per work hour by a woman (the woman's income constituted 86% of the man's).

Income of female employees by marital status¹

The monthly income of married women with no children is 1.4 greater than that of unmarried women without children (NIS5,915 and NIS4,286, respectively).

The greater the number of children a woman has, the smaller the number of hours she works per month.

Consumption expenditures in households of men and in households of women²

A distribution into households of single men and households of single women shows that the consumption expenditure in men's households was NIS6,649 per month, compared with NIS5,881 per month in women's households.

Data from the Social Survey – 2005

Satisfaction:

81% of the women in Israel indicated that they are **satisfied with their lives**, compared with 83% of the men. 46% indicated that they are **satisfied with their economic situation**, compared with 52% of the men.

¹ "Unmarried" includes divorced, widowed and separated.

² Data is from the Household Expenditures Survey for 2005. That year 6,272 households were surveyed, and they represent approximately 2 million households in the general population. Men's/women's households are defined as households of single persons living alone.

Satisfaction with work and income: **Women are more satisfied with work, and less with income.**

86% of employed women are satisfied with their work, compared with 81% of the men. 47% of employed women are satisfied with their income from work, compared with 53% of the men.

Almost half (47%) of the employed women **work outside their locality of residence**, compared with 60% of the men.

73% of the women designated the factor of “people who are pleasant to work with” as **very important in their work**, compared with 68% of the men. 64% of the women claimed that income was a very important factor.

The factor of “**convenient hours**” was found to be very important among women, at a rate of 48% compared with 37% among the men.

46% of the women defined their main activity as “work”, in the year before the survey (2005), compared with 64% of the men.

20% of the women defined their main activity as “taking care of the house or of family members”, compared with 1% of the men.

Position on the subject of retirement age: 38% of women think that the age for retiring from work should be identical for men and women. More than half (54%) of the women think that the retirement age for women should be 60 or more; compared with 49% of the men, who believe that the retirement age for women should be 60 or more.

Expectations for the future: More than half (52%) of the women estimate that their lives will be better in the coming years, compared with the men (50.2%). 39% of the women estimate that their financial position will be better in the coming years, compared with 42% of the men.

Additional data from the Social Survey can be seen on the internet at:

Crime

Women constitute 10% of all criminals – 12% among “Jews and others”, and 5% among Arabs.

In crimes of fraud, women’s relative share is 18% - the relatively highest share among all types of crimes.

As age rises, so does the women’s share of all criminals – 7% of all criminals aged up to 29, 10% of those aged 30-39, 13% of those aged 40-59, and 17% of all criminals aged 60 and over.

Among new criminals (those with a first conviction) the women’s share is 16%, compared with 5% among repeat criminals (criminals convicted in the past).

