



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **First Data from the 2008 Population Census – Completed in July, 2009**

The first data from the census indicate that the population of Israel stood at 7,406,900 residents at the end of 2008. The 'determinant date'<sup>1</sup> for the 2008 Population Census is Saturday evening, 27 December, 2008.

For the first time, the census was conducted by the Integrated Census method, which uses administrative information sources and conducts a field investigation for completing the data. The Population Registry was the main administrative source for the integrated census, with two supplementary field surveys: a field survey that took place from 28 December, 2008 to the end of February, 2009, and included approximately 400,000 households; and a telephone survey for completing information, which was conducted during March – July, 2009, and included approximately 250,000 people.

As stated, there were 7,406,900 residents in Israel according to the census data, compared with 7,374,000 according to the current population estimates – 0.5% more than the 'permanent population'<sup>2</sup> of the State of Israel on the eve of the population census.

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<sup>1</sup> The 'Determinant Date': The population census relates to one point in time out of the entire year; this point is called the 'determinant date' and it is used to determine who will be included in the census population and at which residential address.

<sup>2</sup> The 'Permanent Population': does not include the population of foreign residents.

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The ongoing population estimates are based on the 1995 census and ongoing updates in accordance with changes recorded in the Population Registry since the previous census in November, 1995. It should be noted that, in addition, there are approximately 222,000 foreign residents living in Israel, who are not recorded in the Population Registry.

**One of the main purposes of the 2008 Population Census was to update the ongoing population estimates, that are based solely on changes in the Population Registry since the previous population census in November, 1995.**

On the 'Determinant Date' the Population Registry listed 8,022,500 residents designated as an 'Active Population' – including citizens and residents that do not in fact reside in the State of Israel. 8.3% of those listed as part of the 'Active Population' in the Population Registry do not reside permanently in the State of Israel.

The 2008 Population Census updates were most significant in the following localities: Gedera Local Council, Mazkeret Batya Local Council, some of the permanent Bedouin localities in the South and the Bedouin scattered throughout the South (See the table below). In the rest of the localities the census estimates do not differ significantly from the current estimates.

**Census data – they provide updated data in real time. The differences are explained by the fact that updates in the Population Registry do not reflect all the address changes of residents who actually reside in the localities, and the growth of a locality points to the fact that residents who moved into the locality did not update their present (new) address in the Population Registry. The fact that residents left the locality and are residing in another locality, and their address in the Population Registry has not been updated, caused an over-listing in the migration balance of the locality.**

In the permanent Bedouin localities in the South and among the Bedouin scattered throughout the South the differences stem from a population that in fact resides in recognized permanent localities, but their address in the Population Registry has remained among the scattered Bedouin. For example, in the Abu Basma Regional Council, most of the residents have still not updated their address in the Population Registry, despite the

fact that the villages in the regional council area received formal recognition from the Ministry of the Interior in 2004.

<b>Name of the Locality</b>	<b>Population in the 2008 Census (thousands)</b>	<b>Population Estimates for the End of 2008 (thousands)</b>	<b>Percentage of Change Compared with Current Estimates</b>
Gedera	20.3	18.1	12.2
Mazkeret Batya	8.9	9.8	-9.2
Kuseife	16.3	11.1	46.8
Rahat	50.2	43.8	14.4
Ar'ara-Banegev	11.1	13.4	-17.2
Hura	16.1	11.08	36.4
Regional Council Abu Basma	11.4	3.6	216.7
Living outside permanent localities in the Southern District	42.5	49.9	-14.8

Detailed demographic data and socio-economic data from the census are expected to be published in the first half of 2010.