



PRESS RELEASE

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Selected Data for the International Senior Citizens Day:

10% of the Residents of Israel are Aged 65 and Over Compared with 4% at the Establishment of the State

Ahead of the International Senior Citizen's Day, which will be observed on October 1, 2010, the Central Bureau of Statistics presents selected data on various subjects for 2009:

In 2009:

- Approximately 742,000 residents of Israel (10% of the population) were aged 65 and over.
- Among women the proportion of those aged 65 and over was higher than among men in all the population groups, mainly due to a higher life expectancy for women compared to men.
- The proportion of those aged 65 and over was higher in Israel than in the general world population.
- Over the past decade the life expectancy of men aged 65 has increased by 2.2 years, and that of women aged 65 by 2.6 years.
- 61.2% of Israeli residents aged 65 and over (Jews and others) were of European-American origin (of these, 16% were Israeli-born).
- More than one-half of those aged 65 and over were married, and approximately one-third were widowed.
- Nearly one-half of those aged 65 and over lived in the Central District and the Tel Aviv District,
- Approximately 12,000 of those aged 65 and over lived in a household with an additional person who was not their relative (mostly a caregiver).
- Approximately 82% of men aged 65 and over lived with a spouse, compared to 43% of women in the same age group who lived with a spouse.
- Out of the total population aged 65 and over, women accounted for 57% (420,900), and men for 43% (320,000). Women's representation in this age group rose with an increase in age.
- Approximately 20% of all those registered with the social services in all the age groups were aged 65 and over.
- Among those aged 65 and over who were registered with the social services

and under the care of the Service for the Elderly: 46% attended day care centers and 23% lived in retirement homes; 4% received a hot meal service.

- Approximately 35% of all those aged 65 and over held driver's licenses.
- Persons aged 65 and over accounted for approximately 30% of pedestrians killed in road accidents – three times their proportion in the general population.
- Persons aged 65 and over accounted for 21% of the licensed driver population, but comprised only 6% of all drivers involved in road accidents with casualties.
- The most common traffic offense among the 65 and over age group was failure to obey traffic signs.
- Approximately one-fifth (21%) of those aged 65 and over reported that they did not feel safe walking alone after dark in their neighborhood, and an additional 14% indicated that they did not leave their home at all after dark.
- Out of the total population aged 65 and over with children not living at home with them¹, 45% received help from their children, such as in arrangements, repairs, cooking, etc., 17% received financial help from their children, and 10% received help from their children in daily functioning.
- More than one-third (36%) helped their children financially, and 44% helped their children in caring for or watching over their grandchildren.
- 27% of the 65 and over age group used a computer (compared to 75% of the 20-64 age group), and 24% used the Internet (compared to 70% of the 20-64 age group).

A. Demographic Characteristics of the Population Aged 65 and Over

Number of persons aged 65 and over

At the end of 2009, there were approximately **741,500** residents of Israel aged 65 and over, constituting 10% of the total population, compared to only 4% at the establishment of the State. Nearly one-half (48%) of this age group were over the age of 75.

Since 1995, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has remained stable (around 10%). However, by the year 2030, the proportion of those aged 65 and over in the general population is projected to increase to 14%, and their number to double to nearly 1.4 million.

Life expectancy

In 2009, the life expectancy of a 65-year-old man was 18.9 years, and that of a woman of the same age 21.2 years. Over the past decade, the life expectancy of men aged 65 has increased by 2.2 years, and that of women aged 65 by 2.6 years.

¹ 90% of those aged 65 and over have children who do not live at home with them.

Population groups and age groups

Out of the total population aged 65 and over, Jews accounted for 89% (compared to 76% of the general population), Arabs for 8% (compared to 20% of the general population) and others for 3% (compared to 4% of the general population).

Table 1 shows the share of those aged 65 and over according to age groups. The relatively low proportion of those aged 65 and over in the Arab population is a direct result of the high fertility rates typifying this sector as well as a slightly lower life expectancy among Arabs than among the Jewish population.

Table 1. Persons Aged 65 and Over by Population Groups, End 2009 (Thousands)

	Total Population	Jews	Arabs	Others
All ages	7552.0	5703.7	1535.6	312.7
65+	741.5	658.6	59.6	23.4
Percentage of those aged 65+	9.8%	11.5%	3.9%	7.5%

Persons aged 85 and over accounted for approximately 14% of all those aged 65 and over in the Jewish population, approximately 7% in the Arab population, and approximately 8% in other population groups.

Table 2. Persons Aged 65 and Over by Age Groups and Population Groups, End 2009 (Thousands)

Age Groups	Total Population	Jews	Arabs	Others²
Total 65+	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
65-74	52.2	50.5	66.2	67.0
75-84	34.7	35.7	26.4	25.5
85+	13.1	13.8	7.4	7.5

Distribution by gender

Out of the total population aged 65 and over, women accounted for 57% (429,900), and men for 43% (320,600 thousand). Women's representation in this age group rises with an increase in age, thus, in the 85 and over age group women comprised 62% compared to 38% for men.

² The population of "others" includes those unclassified by religion in the population registry, as well as non-Arab Christians.

Table 3. Persons Aged 65 and Over by Gender, End 2009

	Total	Men	Women
65+ (thousands)	741.5	320.6	420.9
Percents of those aged 65+ out of the total population	9.8	8.6	11.0
Percentage out of those aged 65+	100.0	43.2	56.8
Percentage out of those aged 75+	100.0	40.5	59.5
Percentage out of those aged 85+	100.0	37.9	62.1

Among women the proportion of those aged 65 and over was higher than among men in all the population groups, mainly due to a higher life expectancy for women compared to men.

International comparisons

The proportion of those aged 65 and over was higher in Israel than in the general world population and also relative to the total population of the Asian, African and Latin American continents – regions with relatively higher fertility rates. The proportion of those aged 65 and over was lower in Israel than in Europe, North America and Oceania, where fertility rates are lower than in Israel³.

Table 4. Percentage of Those Aged 60 and Over and Those Aged 85 and Over Out of the Total Population, in Selected Continents

Continent	Percentage of Persons Aged 80+			Percentage of Persons Aged 65+		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
The world	7.5	6.6	8.4	1.5	1.1	1.9
Israel	9.8	8.6	11.0	2.8	2.2	3.3
Europe	16.2	13.2	18.9	4.1	2.7	5.4
North America	12.9	11.2	14.5	3.8	2.8	4.8
Latin America	6.8	6.0	7.5	1.4	1.1	1.7
Asia	6.6	5.9	7.2	1.1	0.9	1.3
Africa	3.4	3.1	3.7	0.4	0.3	0.5
Oceania	10.6	9.7	11.6	2.8	2.2	3.5

Origin (Jews and others)

Sixty-one point two percent of Israeli residents aged over 65 (Jews and others) were of European-American origin (of which 16% were Israeli-born), more than one-third (35.5%) were of Asian-African origin (of which 9% were Israeli-born), and 3.3% were of Israeli origin (born in Israel to an Israeli-born father).

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union

The proportion of those aged 65 and over among immigrants from the former Soviet Union who immigrated to Israel in 1990 and after (19.3%) was almost double their proportion in the total population (10%). The proportion of immigrants from the former Soviet Union out of the total population aged 65 and over stood at 19.8%.

³Source: www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPA2009/WPA2009_WorkingPaper.pdf.

Marital status (end-2008 figures)

More than one-half of those aged 65 and over were married (57%), and approximately one-third were widowed (31.5%). The proportion of those widowed rises with an increase in age – in the 80 and over age group, those widowed constituted 55.2%, and those married constituted 37.4%. Among men aged 65 and over 77.5% were married and 13% were widowers, whereas among women of those ages close to one-half were widows (45.6%).

Table 5. Persons Aged 65 and Over by Gender and Marital Status

	Men			Women		
	Total	Married	Widowed	Total	Married	Widowed
65+	312.9	77.5%	12.9%	413.8	41.9%	45.6%
80+	77.9	65.1%	28.3%	123.4	19.9%	72.1%

B. Geographical Distribution of the Population Aged 65 and Over

Nearly one-half of those aged 65 and over lived in the Central District and the Tel Aviv District. The district of Judea and Samaria contained the lowest percentage of persons aged 65, out of all the districts.

**Table 6. Persons Aged 65 and Over by District
Percentage of Residents Aged 65 and Over Out of the District Population and
Out the Total Population of Israel (End 2009)**

District	Percentage of Those Aged 65+ Out of the District Population	Percentage of Those Aged 65+ Out of the Total Population of Israel	Persons Aged 65+ by District (Thousands)
Total	9.8	100.0	741.5
Jerusalem	7.7	9.6	71.5
North	7.5	12.7	94.0
Haifa	12.3	14.9	110.3
Center	9.6	23.5	174.2
Tel Aviv	14.2	24.4	181.3
South	9.4	13.7	101.4
Judea and Samaria	3.0	1.2	8.8

An absolute majority of the population aged 65 and over (94%) lived in urban localities.

The urban localities of Bat Yam, Haifa and Kiryat Yam had the highest percentage of residents aged 65 and over (close to one-fifth of the total population in the locality). In contrast, the urban localities of Elad, Beitar Ilit and Modi'in Ilit, in which the majority of the residents are religious, had the lowest percentages of residents aged 65 and over (less than one percent).

C. Living Arrangements of Persons Aged 65 and Over

- Approximately 93% of those aged 65 and over lived in households, and the rest lived in institutions.

Living without family⁴

- Approximately 166,000 of persons aged 65 and over – one out of every four – lived in a single-person household, compared to one in twenty in the 18-64 age group.
- The percentage of women aged 65 and over living alone was nearly three times as high as that of men living alone in the same age group (35% versus 12%). Among Jews, the percentage of those aged 65 and over living alone was 1.7 times higher than among Arabs (26% versus 15%).
- Approximately 12,000 persons aged 65 and over lived in a household with an additional person who was not their relative (mostly a caregiver), 1.2 times as many as a decade ago. The total number of persons aged 65 and over rose 1.2 times.
- Approximately 60% of widows and widowers lived alone.

Living with family

- Approximately 82% of men aged 65 and over lived with a spouse (238,000), compared to only 43% of women of those ages who lived with a spouse (161,000).
- Approximately 6% of persons aged 65 and over lived in a household with the children's family (but without a spouse). The majority (84%) were widows or widowers.

Table 7. Persons Aged 65 and Over in Households in Israel, 2009

	Total			Of which:					
				Jews			Arabs		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Aged 65 and over living in households (thousands)	666.8	291.9	374.9	601.4	262.3	339.1	54.2	25.2	29.0
Of which the percentage of persons aged 65+ Living in a single-person household	25.0	12.3	34.9	26.0	13.1	35.9	15.0	..	25.0
Living with a spouse	59.9	81.5	43.0	60.1	81.0	43.9	59.7	87.5	35.5
Living in a household with the children's family (but without a spouse)	5.9	2.5	8.6	5.4	2.3	7.8	8.3	..	12.4

⁴ The data on living arrangements are based on the Labor Force Survey 2009. The survey investigates all private households, excluding those living in kibbutzim, institutions, student dormitories and people living outside localities (Bedouins in the south, and others)

D. Health

Data from the Health Survey for 2009

In 2009, the average number of visits to doctors among persons aged 65 and over stood at 16.1 visits per person per year, compared to 15.0 visits in 2000. Men visited doctors an average of 15.9 times per person per year (compared to 14.0 in 2000), and women an average of 16.3 times.

Out of the total number of visits to doctors, 24.6% were made by persons aged 65 and over, even though the proportion of this age group in the general population was only 9.8%.

More than one-half of those aged 65 and over reported that they had been diagnosed with hypertension (53%), and nearly a quarter (23%) reported that they had been diagnosed with diabetes. Thirteen percent reported being diagnosed with a myocardial infarction, 14% with another heart disease, and 8% with cancer (including those who were post-recovery). Eight percent reported being diagnosed as suffering from depression or anxiety, women at twice the rate as men.

Among those aged 65 and over, some 20% reported limitations in their mobility and daily functioning.

F. Labor – Labor Characteristics of Persons Aged 65 and Over

In 2009, 11.4% of the population aged 65 and over participated in the civilian labor force (of which 17.8% men and 6.5% women). The percentage of participants in the labor force decreases with an increase in age: 26.7% of those in the 65-69 age group participated in the labor force (37.9% men and 17.1% women), compared to only 5.9% in the 70 and over age group (of which 9.9% men and 3.0% women).

Among Jews, the percentage of those aged 65 and over participating in the civilian labor force was higher than among Arabs: 12.0% versus 3.8%. Forty-five point seven percent of all employed persons aged 65 and over usually worked full-time (35 hours and up), compared to 54.2% who usually worked part-time. However, there was a great disparity between the genders: whereas among men 56.2% worked full-time and 43.8% worked part-time, the situation for women was the reverse: 23.8% worked full-time and 76.2% worked part-time.

It should be noted that among the general population, as well as among those aged 65 and over, there is a correlation between the level of education and the rate of participation in the labor force: the higher the level of education, the greater the rate of participation in the labor force. Among the population aged 65 and over, the rate of participation of those with 0-4 years of schooling was 2.1%, while the rate of participation of those with 16+ years of schooling was 22.3%.

Twenty-nine point two percent of employed persons aged 65 and over worked in academic professions or in the liberal arts and technical professions.

Thirty-one point seven percent were employed as skilled or unskilled laborers, compared to 26.1% in the general population.

Labor characteristics of households with people above working age (62+ for women; 67+ for men)

In 2009 there were 326,800 households in which all the household members were above working age. Of these, 54.6% were single-person households.

These households accounted for 15.5% of all households. Among the Jewish population the percentage of such households was 17.4% (307,000), compared to only 5.3% (15,800) among the Arab population. This difference can be attributed to differences in living habits.

Thirteen point three percent of households in which all the household members were above working age were households with employed persons.

G. Society and Welfare

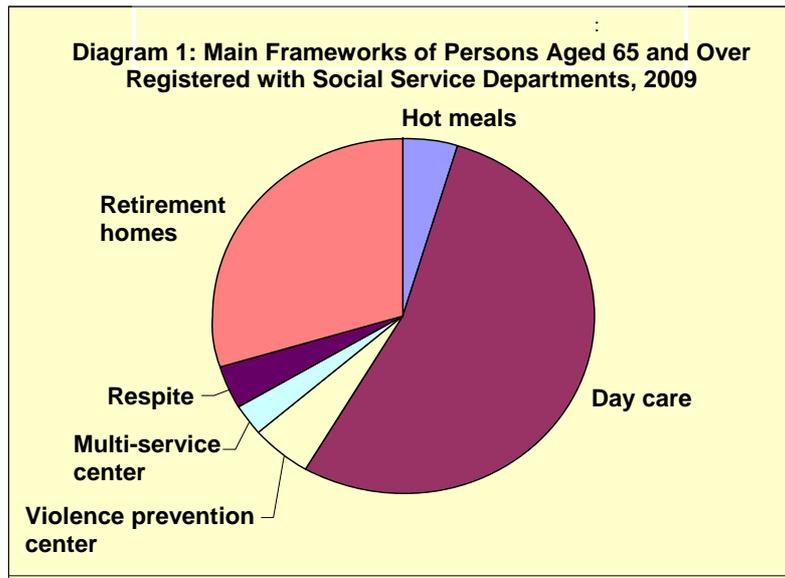
Persons registered with the social services departments⁵

In 2009, 248,776 of all persons aged 65 and over were registered with the social services departments of the local authorities, comprising approximately 34% of the entire population in that age group, and approximately 20% of the population in all age groups were registered with social services departments.

Of the persons aged 65 and over who were registered with social services departments:

- Sixty-seven percent (167,000) were aged 75 and over, compared to 48% in the general population.
- Sixty-four percent (159,000) were women, compared to 57% of those ages in the general population.
- Eighty-three percent (205,000) of Jews and others were born outside Israel, compared to 77% of the entire population of those ages.
- Eighty-three percent (206,000) had needs that were defined by a social worker as a "handicap," comprising, among other things, problems due to old age, a need for nursing care, problems deriving from acute/chronic illness or from physical defects and limitations, etc. Eight percent (20,000) of that population had needs that were defined as related to "poverty and income."

⁵ These data were processed by the Central Bureau of Statistics on the basis of the database of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services.



- Approximately 6% (14,000) of those aged 65 and over who were registered with social services departments attended care frameworks of the Ministry of Social Affairs, 74% within community frameworks. Eighty-three percent were under the care of the Service for the Elderly, 11% were under the care of the Service for the Blind, and 3% were under the care of the Department for the Care of the Mentally Handicapped.

H. Household Expenditures – 2009

The monthly consumption expenditure for a senior citizen household⁶ was NIS 9,585 – lower than the average monthly consumption expenditure for the general population, which was NIS 13,009. However, with regard to the per capita expenditure, given that the number of persons in senior citizen households is low (an average of 1.5 persons compared to 3.3 for the general population), the per capita consumption expenditure for a senior citizen household was higher than the per capita expenditure in the general population (NIS 6,309 and NIS 3,895, respectively).

The percentage of expenditure on **housing** was higher among senior citizen households – 34.5% compared to 24.4% for the general population.

The percentage of expenditure on **health care** was higher among senior citizen households – 8.1% compared to 5.1% for the general population.

The percentage of expenditure on **clothing and footwear** was lower among senior citizen households – 1.9% compared to 3.2% for the general population.

I. Ownership of Durable Goods

In senior citizen households the percentage of ownership of **television sets** was higher than among the general population (95.7% versus 89.7%), as was the percentage of **subscriptions to cable and satellite television** (78.1% versus 64.3%).

⁶

The percentage of ownership of **landline telephones** was higher in senior citizen households (94.5%) than among the general population (82.4%), whereas the percentage of ownership of **cellphones** was lower in senior citizen households (72.7%) than among the general population (91.8%).

In senior citizen households the percentages of ownership of **computers and subscriptions to the Internet** (40.3% and 35.6%, respectively) were lower than among the general population (74.4% and 66.3%, respectively).

J. Licensed to Drive (Aged 65 and Over)

In 2009 there were 259,500 licensed drivers aged 65 and over, constituting 35% of all persons aged 65 and over. Of these, 180,100 were men (69%) and 79,400 were women (31%).

K. Road Accident Casualties (Aged 65 and Over)

- In 2009 the Israel Police investigated 16,308 road accidents with casualties, in which 31,832 people were injured, 1,826 of them in the 65 and over age group.
- Out of all road accident casualties aged 65 and over in 2009, 61 were fatalities (39 men and 22 women), 229 were seriously injured (123 men and 106 women) and the rest slightly injured.
- Those aged 65 and over constituted approximately 30% of all pedestrians killed in road accidents – three times their proportion in the general population.
- In 2009, 586 persons aged 65 and over were injured as pedestrians in road accidents (32% of all those aged 65 and over), out of which 32 were killed.

L. Social Survey Data 2009

Subjective attitudes and state of health

In general, the majority of the population aged 65 and over reported satisfaction with life (77%). However, a relatively low percentage expected that their life would be better in the coming years (11% compared to 54% among the 20-64 age group). Close to two-thirds of those aged 65 and over (64%) were satisfied with their financial situation, a higher percentage than among the population aged 20-64 (55%). Also the percentage of those able to cover the monthly cost of food, electricity, telephone and the like was higher among those aged 65 and over – 74% compared to 63% in the younger ages.

Insecurity and distress: Approximately one-fifth (21%) of those aged 65 and over reported that they did not feel safe walking alone after dark in their neighborhood. An additional 14% indicated that they did not leave their home at all after dark. Nineteen percent reported that they often feel lonely (compared to 7% among the 20-64 age group) and 14% indicated they had no one to turn to in a crisis or in distress (compared to 9% in the 20-64 age group).

Conjugality: Seventy-five percent of those aged 65 and over were of the opinion that "appreciation and mutual respect" are a highly important factor for the success of conjugal relations. The term "love" was perceived by 32% as very important for conjugal relations, compared to 45% among the younger population.

State of health: Less than one-half (42%) of those aged 65 and over defined their state of health as "good" or "very good." Sixty percent reported the existence of a health problem or physical problem during the past half year or more that interfered with their daily activities.

Assistance and domestic help

Twenty-eight percent of those aged 65 and over reported that they hire domestic help to take care of household tasks such as cleaning and cooking. Fifteen percent of those aged 65 and over reported that a caregiver was employed in their household to take care of one (or more) of the household members.

Out of the total population aged 65 and over with children not living at home with them⁷, 45% received help from their children, such as in arrangements, repairs, cooking, etc., 17% received financial help from their children, and 10% received help from their children in daily functioning, such as eating, washing, dressing, etc.

In response to the question: "Whom would you turn to for support in case you were ill?" – 82% of those aged 65 and over indicated they would first turn to their spouse, if they had one, and 71% indicated they would turn to their children. Also in case of need of emotional support or advice they would turn mainly to their spouse or children. However, in case of need of urgent financial assistance – about one-third of those aged 65 and over (32%) reported that there was no one from whom they could receive such support, compared to 14% among the younger population.

Computer use

Twenty-seven percent of persons aged 65 and over used a computer (compared to 75% of those aged 20-64), and 24% used the Internet (compared to 70% of those aged 20-64). This rate is rising over the years. Out of those aged 65 and over who used the computer, 90% used it to search for information, 82% used it for email, 44% for games, 36% for downloading files, 41% for chats or discussion groups and 24% for making online purchases or payments.

⁷ 90% of those aged 65 and over have children who do not live at home with them.