

Press Release

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Families and Households in Israel – Data for Family Day

- In 2009, there were 1.77 million families in Israel. A decade ago, in 1999, there were 1.43 million families in Israel.
- The average size of the Israeli family was 3.73 persons. A decade ago, in 1999, the average family size was similar, 3.75.
- About half of all families comprised a couple with children up to age 17.
- There were 105,000 lone-parent families with children of up to age 17, amounting to 6% of all families. In 1999, the number of lone-parent families with children up to age 17 was 86,000. In Italy and Spain, the percentage of lone-parent families was also 6%; in Norway and Canada – 10%; and in the United States – 14%.
- 96% of all couples in Israel were married, and the rest (4%) were cohabiting couples. In Italy, the percentage of cohabiting couples was 4%; in the United States – 11%; in the Netherlands – 18%; and in Denmark – 22%.
- The number of never-married single mothers in Israel has increased from 8,400 in 2000 to 15,100 in 2009 – an increase of about 80%.
- In 2009, there were 2.108 million households in Israel; about 76% of them (1.593 million) had employed persons.
- The percentage of employed persons in households of couples with children was higher in households without children, 91.8% and 58.5%, respectively.
- Housing density continued to decrease in 2009 – 52.3% of all households lived in a density of less than one person per room, compared to 46.3% in 1999.
- In 2009, a household in Israel spent an average of NIS 13,009 per month on purchases of goods and services. A household with children spent 1.3 times more than a household without children on the average.
- Mobilephones: 96.5% of the households with children had at least one mobilephone, and 86.9% had two or more mobilephones. By comparison, households without children, 87.7% had one mobilephone, and 53.5% had two or more mobilephones.

- 95% of persons aged 20 and over were satisfied with their relationships with family members ("very satisfied" and "satisfied"). The amount of people satisfied with life is higher among those who are married: Among persons aged 20-49, 91% of the married persons and 86% of the unmarried persons are satisfied with their lives.
- About half (48%) of the Jewish population indicated that between the age of 25-29 a woman should start a family, and only 7% indicated that a woman should start a family at age 30 and older. Among the ultra-orthodox Jews, 61% indicated that a woman should start a family at age 20-24, and one third of the ultra-Orthodox (34%) indicated that a woman should start a family by age 19.
- Among the Jewish population aged 20 years old and over, 12% prefer two children, 40% indicated that the preferred number of children is three, 25% prefer four children, and 14% prefer five or more children. Less than one percent prefer one child.

Families and Households¹

A. Families

- The number of families in Israel in 2009 was estimated at 1.77 million, of which 1.43 million were Jewish (81%),² and 293,000 were Arab (17%).³

Definitions:

A household is defined as one person or a group of persons living in one dwelling on a permanent basis most of the week, and having a common expense budget for food. A household may include people who are not a family.

Family ("nuclear family"): two or more persons who share the same household, and are related to one another as husband and wife, or as an unmarried couple, or as parent and child. The main types of families are: a couple only, a couple with children, or a lone parent with children.⁴

¹ The source of the data: The Labour Force Survey 2009. The population does not include institutions, kibbutzim, student dormitories, and Bedouins in the Southern District who live outside of localities. It was based on the 2008 Population Census estimates, and therefore the estimates are different than those which appear in the Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2010, No. 61.

² Religion was determined by the religion of the head of the household.

³ Approximately 44,000 families are headed by non-Arab Christians or persons not classified by religion, most of whom are immigrants from the Former Soviet Union who arrived in Israel in 1990 and after.

⁴ Other types of families include: Siblings who live together without their parents, without spouses or children of their own, as well as families of grandparents and grandchildren who live together without the children's parents.

Family household: A household that contains at least one family.

Non-family household: Includes one person only, or a group of persons who are not a family.

Cohabitation: Joint residence in the same household of a couple that are not married to each other.

Family Composition:

Table 1: Families by Type of Family, 2009

Type of Family	Families	
	Thousands (1)	Percentages (1)
Total	1,768.3	100
Couples without children	420.8	24
Couples with children (of any age)	1,116.8	63
<i>Thereof: with children up to age 17</i>	<i>869.5</i>	<i>49</i>
Lone parent families (with children of any age)	216.9	12
<i>Thereof: Lone parent families with children up to age 17</i>	<i>104.5</i>	<i>6</i>

(1) Also includes about 1% of the families consisting of siblings living together without their parents or without children of their own, as well as families of grandparents and grandchildren only, without the children's parents.

- The percentage of families consisting of a lone parent with children up to age 17 in Israel is 6%, similar to that of Italy and Spain (6%) and to that of Ireland (7%) and Finland (8%), but lower than in countries such as: the United States (14%), Germany (16%), the Netherlands (13%), and Norway and Canada (10%).
- The composition of families in Israel varies among different population groups: Among the Arab population, the percentage of families comprising couples with children up to age 17 is much higher than among the Jewish population (70% versus 45%, respectively). Among the Jewish population, the percentage of couples

without children in the household and lone-parent families⁵ (27% and 12%, respectively) is higher than among the Arab population (8% and 10%, respectively).

- Of the districts in Israel, the Tel Aviv District has the highest proportion of couples without children (33.2%), and the lowest proportion of couples with children up to age 17 (38.1%). The highest proportion of lone-parent families with children up to age 17 is in the Southern district (8.6%).

Family Size

- In 2009, the Israeli family consisted of 3.7 persons on the average: 3.5 persons on the average in Jewish families, compared with 4.9 persons on the average in Arab families. This difference can be attributed mainly to the higher fertility rates among the Arab population.
- Over one-third (35%) of the Arab families have six or more persons – almost 4 times more than the percentage of those families among the Jewish population (9%).

Table 2: Family Size, by District – 2009

Tel Aviv	3.2
Haifa	3.5
Central	3.6
<i>Total</i>	3.7
Southern	3.8
Northern	4.1
Jerusalem	4.3
Judea and Samaria Area(1)	4.5

(1) Families in Jewish localities.

Number of Children per Family

- The average number of children up to age 17 in 2009 (in families with children in that age group) was 2.4. In the Jewish population, the number was lower than among the Arab population (2.2 and 2.9, respectively).

⁵ With children of any ages.

- The percentage of Arab families with four or more children up to age 17 was 2.5 times higher than the Jewish population.

Table 3: Percentage of Families with Four or More Children⁽¹⁾

By population group (percentages)	
Total	16.5
Jews	12.6
Arabs	31.3

⁽¹⁾ In families with children up to age 17

Lone-Parent Families with Children Up to Age 17

- In 2009, there were 104,500 lone-parent families with 182,000 children up to age 17. The average number of children up to age 17 in lone-parent families was 1.8, compared with 2.5 in two-parent families.
- 91% of the lone-parent families are headed by women.
- Over half (57%) of the lone-parent families with children up to age 17 were headed by a divorced parent, 15% were headed by a never-married parent (almost all of them Jewish women), 13% were headed by a widow/widower, and the rest (approximately 16%) were headed by a parent who is married but separated.
- The number of never-married lone mothers with children up to age 17 has increased from 8,400 in 2000 to 15,100 in 2009 – an increase of about 80%. The proportion of never-married lone mothers out of all lone-parent families with children up to age 17 increased from 10% in 2000 to about 14% in 2009.
- In 2009, more than 5,100 never-married Jewish mothers gave birth, compared to 2,600 births of Jewish never married mothers in 2000.⁶

Cohabiting Couples

- Most of the couples in Israel (96%) are married. The remaining 4% (about 62,000) were cohabiting couples. Of those, about 59,000 (approximately 95%) were Jewish couples.⁷

⁶ Statistical Abstract of Israel, No. 61, Table 3.17.

⁷ The religion of a couple is determined by the religion of the head of the household. It can be assumed that those include couples consisting of one Jewish partner and one non-Jewish partner.

- The Jewish cohabiting couples comprise 4% from the total of all the Jewish families and 4.7% of all the Jewish couples.
- The number of cohabiting Jewish couples in 2009 doubled compared with 2000 (from 27,000 to 59,000). The proportion of cohabiting Jewish couples of all Jewish couples increased from 2.5% to 4.7% during that period.
- The age composition of cohabiting Jewish couples is younger than that of married couples. Among more than half (55%) of the cohabiting couples, the woman is under age 35, whereas about only 25% of the married women are in that age group.
- Most of the Jewish cohabiting couples are couples without children (67 %); 26% (about 15 ,000) of the Jewish cohabiting couples have children up to age 17, compared with 53% of the married couples.
- Among the “young” married couples where the woman is under age 35, 79% have children up to age 17, compared with only 15% of the young cohabiting couples.
- The percentage of cohabiting couples out of all couples amounted to 4% in Italy, 11% in the United States, 14% in Ireland, 18% in the Netherlands, 22% in Denmark, 23% in Norway, and 24% in Finland.

B. Households

Number of Households

- In 2009, there were 2.14 million households in Israel. Of those, 1.72 million were "family households," and about 418,000 were "non-family households" (mainly one-person households – 385,000).
- 75% of the households comprised only one family, 3% comprised one family with others, and about 2% comprised two or more families. About 18% of the households comprised one person living alone, and about 2% were other non-family households (e.g., students living together and sharing a common expense budget for food).

Employed Persons⁸ in Households – 2009

⁸ Based on the estimations of the 2008 Population Census and the updated definition of the Labour Force characteristics.

The Labour Force Survey is the main source of information on the labour force in Israel, and is conducted regularly by the CBS. In recent years, about 22,000 persons aged 15 and over have been surveyed every three months. The survey population includes permanent residents of Israel as well as tourists and temporary residents who have been staying in the country continuously for over a year. The survey follows the development of the labour force in Israel, its size and characteristics, the extent of unemployment, etc.

- In 2009, there were 2.14 million households in Israel, of which approximately 1.617 million (about 76%) had employed persons.
- Persons of working age in households: In 1.810 million households, there was at least one person of working age (i.e., from 15 years to the age of eligibility for old age pension), and 86.9% of those households had at least one employed person. There were about 329,000 households with only pensioners, i.e., people eligible for old age pension from the National Insurance Institute.
- In 2009, the number of Jewish households reached 1.784 million. The percentage of households with employed persons increased slightly from 75.4% in 2008 to 75.5% in 2009. In 1.476 million households there was at least one person of working age, and 88.3% of those households had employed persons.
- There were 305,000 Arab households, and the percentage of households with employed persons decreased from 76.5% in 2008 to 74.2% in 2009.
- In 288,000 of those households there was at least one person of working age, and about 78.5% had employed persons. The number of households with more than two working age persons among the Arab population was higher than among the Jewish population (89.9% versus 75.1%, respectively). However, among the Arab population about 59.4% of the households had only one employed person, whereas 40.8% of the households among the Jewish population had only one employed person, and 59.2% had more than one employed person.

Employed Persons, by Type of Household

- Of the family households (with at least one family), 82.8% had employed persons, compared with only 45.8% of the non-family households. This difference can be attributed to the large proportion of pensioners in non-family households.
- Among households of couples with children, the percentage that had employed persons was higher than among households without children (91.9% and 59.2%, respectively). Among households of couples whose youngest child was aged 18-24, an even higher percentage (94.7%) had employed persons.
- Lone-parent families: 76.1% of the lone-parent families had employed persons. The older the youngest child, the higher the percentage of lone-parent family households with employed persons (a phenomenon found in women's employment in general). Of lone-parent family households in which the youngest child was aged 0-4, 62.1% had employed persons. In contrast, among lone-parent family households in which the youngest child was aged 15-17, the percentage with employed persons increased to 80.6%.

Housing Density

- Housing density continued to decline in 2009: 52.7% of the households surveyed had less than one person per room, compared with 46.3% in 1999. The smaller the number of persons in the household, the lower the average number of persons per room: among the Jewish population, the average number rooms in one-person households was 2.74, compared with an average of 0.56 in households with 7 or more persons. Among the Arab population, the average number of rooms in one-person households was 2.33, compared with an average of 0.44 in households with 7 or more persons.
- In Jewish households – the average number of persons per room in 2009 was 0.83.
- In Arab households, the average number of persons per room was 1.47 (Muslims – 1.54, Christians – 1.13, Druze – 1.30).

The 2009 Household Expenditure Survey⁹

The data in the following chapters are based on the Household Expenditure Survey.

From the 1950s until 1997, the Household Expenditure Survey was conducted about once every five years. Since 1997, the CBS has been conducting the survey regularly on an annual basis.

These regular surveys include the entire population, except for kibbutzim, collective moshavim, and Bedouins living outside of localities. The data for 2009 are based on 6,270 households, which represent 2,100,000 households in the total population.

Household Consumption Expenditures, by Main Items (Table 4)

- In 2009, the average monthly expenditure on goods and services among households in Israel was NIS 13,009. A household with children spent 1.3 times more than a household without children, on the average.
- In households with children, the proportion of expenditures on food was higher than the proportion of expenditures on that item in households without children (16.8% and 15.7%, respectively). In households with three or more children, the proportion of expenditures on food was higher than in households with up to two children (18.2% and 16.1%, respectively).
- In households with children, the proportion of expenditures on culture and entertainment was higher than the proportion of expenditures on those items in households without children (15.7% and 11.9%, respectively).
- In households without children, the proportion of expenditures on health was higher than in households with children (6.1% and 4.3%, respectively).

⁹ Household: One person or a group of persons living together in one dwelling most of the week, who have a common expense budget for food. A household may include more than one family.

Table 4: Monthly Consumption Expenditures for Households With and Without Children

2008

	Total households	Households without children	With Children		
			Total	With two children	Three or more children
Consumption expenditures in NIS - total	13,009	11,269	15,057	15,199	14,816
Consumption expenditures – Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food (including fruits and vegetables)	16.3	15.7	16.8	16.1	18.2
Housing	24.4	27.3	21.7	21.6	21.6
Household and dwelling maintenance	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	10.2
Furniture and equipment	3.8	3.3	4.2	4.3	4.0
Clothing and footwear	3.2	2.7	3.6	3.7	3.4
Health	5.1	6.1	4.3	4.3	4.2
Education, culture and entertainment	13.9	11.9	15.7	15.5	16.2
Transport and communication	19.7	19.0	19.2	20.3	17.3
Other goods and services	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.9

Consumption Expenditure for Selected Goods (Table 5)

- The more children there are in a household, the higher the expenditure on standard bread and the lower the expenditure on special bread.
- In households with three or more children, the average expenditure on monthly mobilephone bills was lower than the average expenditure in households with up to two children (NIS 384 and NIS 483, respectively).
- Expenditure on travel by taxi is 2.3 times higher in households without children compared to households with children.
- Households with children contribute more to charitable organizations than households without children.

Table 5: Average Monthly Expenditure on Selected Goods, for Households With and

Without Children - 2009

	Total	Without children	With children		
			Total	Up to two children	Three or more children
Standard bread	3.5	2.6	4.5	3.2	6.7
Sliced bread	13.1	9.7	17.1	13.9	22.5
Special bread	25.9	27.6	23.9	27.0	18.7
Pita bread	23.2	12.7	35.5	27.2	49.5
Snacks	30.6	15.8	47.9	42.7	56.8
Breakfast cereals	28.5	15.2	44.0	40.7	49.7
Milk and cheese delicacies	34.7	23.2	48.2	46.2	51.6
Restaurant meals	291.0	275.7	309.6	348.2	244.4
Public transportation fare	60.6	51.7	70.9	69.0	74.2
Travel in taxis	23.9	32.3	14.1	13.9	14.5
Regular phone line, monthly bill	115.6	107.4	125.2	123.1	128.9
Mobilephone, monthly bill	359.2	285.5	445.9	482.5	384.2
Cigarettes, tobacco & accessories	110.0	104.0	117.6	128.1	100.1
Contributions to charitable organizations and institutions	61.5	37.9	89.3	72.2	118.3

Ownership of Durable Transportation and Communication Goods in Households (Table 6)

- In households with a small number of children (up to two children), the rate of ownership of transportation and communications goods is higher than among households with a larger number of children (three or more children).
- Of the households with children, 85.1% own a computer and 74.0% have an Internet subscription; of households without children, 65.2% own a computer and 59.6% have an Internet subscription.
- Cable or satellite television subscription: The percentage of cable and satellite television subscribers among households without children is 71.4%, and 8.9% have a satellite dish, whereas among households with children only 56.0% have a subscription to cable or satellite and 22.5% have a satellite dish.
- Mobilephone: 96.5% of the households with children have at least one mobilephone, and 86.9% have two mobilephones or more, compared with 85.7% of the households without children that have one mobilephone, and 53.5% that have two mobilephones or more.

Table 6: Ownership of Selected Durable Goods in Households With and Without Children

	Total	Without children	With children		
			Total	Up to two children	Three or more children
Television	89.7	93.2	85.7	90.3	77.8
Two televisions or more	52.0	49.3	55.1	60.9	45.3
VCR	34.1	35.1	33.0	35.0	29.5
DVD system	59.7	51.7	69.1	75.3	58.6
Satellite dish	15.2	8.9	22.5	17.3	31.2
Cable or satellite subscription	64.3	71.4	56.0	66.3	38.6
Computer	74.4	65.2	85.1	88.3	79.7
Two computers or more	23.7	17.7	30.8	34.4	24.7
Internet subscription	66.3	59.6	74.0	82.0	60.6
At least one mobilephone	91.8	87.7	96.5	97.2	95.3
Two mobilephones or more	68.9	53.5	86.9	89.3	82.8
At least one car	62.2	53.4	72.5	76.4	65.8

Household: One person or a group of persons living together in one dwelling most of the week, who have a common expense budget for food. A household may include more than one family.

Data from the 2009 Social Survey

The Social Survey of the Central Bureau of Statistics is an ongoing annual survey that provides information on the living conditions and welfare of the adult population in Israel, and examines the perceptions of individuals in Israeli society regarding various aspects of their lives.

The 2009 Social Survey was conducted in January-December 2009. In the survey, 7,500 residents aged 20 and over were interviewed throughout the country, and they represent 4.7 million persons in that age group. In the variable module of the survey, which changes every year, the topics examined in 2009 were religiosity and attitudes toward family life.

Findings:

- Ninety-five percent of the Israelis aged 20 and over reported that they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their relationships with family members.
- Among married persons, the percentage of those satisfied with their life was higher than among unmarried persons: Among those aged 20-49, 91% of the married persons and 86% of the unmarried persons were satisfied with their lives; among those aged 50 and over, 87% of the married persons and 69% of the unmarried persons were satisfied with their lives.
- 23% of the married persons from the ages of 20-49 and a third (33%) of the unmarried persons report that they often or sometimes feel lonely. Among those age 50 and over, 27% of the married persons and 56% of the unmarried persons report that they often or sometimes feel lonely.

What is the Preferred Age to Start a Family?

Those interviewed in the survey were asked what they view as the preferred age for a man to start a family, and what they view as the preferred age for a woman to start a family.

The Preferred Age for a Man to Start a Family

Among the general Jewish population, 56% indicated that the preferred age for a man to start a family is 25-29, and one quarter (24%) indicated that the preferred age for a man is 30 and over. Among the ultra-Orthodox, 72% indicated that the preferred age for a man to

start a family is 20-24, and 16% of the ultra-Orthodox indicated that it is preferred for a man to start a family by age 19. Among the Arabs, 63% indicated that a man should start a family at 25-29, and 19% indicated that the preferred age is 20-24.

The Preferred Age for a Woman to Start a Family

Among the general Jewish population, about half (48%) indicated that the preferred age for a woman to start a family is 25-29, and only 7% indicated that the preferred age for a woman is 30 and over. Among the ultra-Orthodox population, 61% indicated that the preferred age for a woman to start a family is 20-24, and a third (34%) of the ultra-Orthodox indicated that it is preferred for a woman to start a family by age 19. Among the Arabs, 62% indicated the preferred age for a woman to start a family is 20-24, and 17% indicated that by age 19 a woman should start a family.

The Preferred Number of Children in a Family

Among the Jewish population aged 20 and over, 12% prefer two children, 40% indicated that the preferred number of children for a family is three, 25% prefer four children, and 14% prefer five children or more. Less than one percent prefer one child.

Most of those who describe themselves as secular, 55% prefer three children, about a fifth of the secular (19%) prefer four children, and a similar percentage (19%) prefer two children in the family. In contrast, about half of the ultra-Orthodox (48%) prefer not to mention a specific number of children, and 34% of them prefer seven children or more. Among the Arabs, more than half (57%) indicated that the desired number of children for a family is four or more, compared to 39% among the Jews.

Attitudes versus Reality

Of the population aged 45 and above,¹⁰ 31% have the number of children they indicated desirable for a family.¹¹ For more than half (52%), the number of children they have is less than the number of children desirable in their opinion, and for the rest (17%) – the number of children they have is higher than the number of children they would prefer.

Factors that Influence the Preferred Number of Children in a Family

Among the Jewish population, about half (50%) indicated that the main factor that influences the decision about how many children they prefer is the family's economic situation. More than one third (37%) indicated that the most influential factor is the couple's desire and their physical and emotional capabilities and 7% indicated that the main factor that influences the preferred number of children is religiosity.

More than half (53%) of the ultra-Orthodox and 14% of the religious indicated that religiosity is the main factor that influences the preferred number of children. About one third of the religious (32%) and 8% of the ultra-Orthodox indicated that the family's economic situation was the main factor that influences the preferred number of children in a family.

Among the Arab population, 74% indicated that main factor that influences the number of children in a family is the family's economic situation; 15% indicated the influencing factor is the couple's desire and their physical and emotional capabilities, and only 3% indicated that religiosity is what influences the preferred number of children for a family.

¹⁰ Based on the age of the survey's participants, and not on the age of their spouse.

¹¹ The percentages were calculated from among the population who reported on the preferred number of children.