



PRESS RELEASE

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60TH Independence Day – 7,282,000 Residents in the State of Israel Selected Data 1948 - 2008

On the eve of Israel's 60th Independence Day¹:

- The population of Israel numbers 7,282,000²; on the establishment of the State the population of Israel numbered only 806,000 people.
- Approximately 5,499,000 residents are Jews, who constitute 75.5% of the total population.
- The Arab population numbers approximately 1,461,000 residents, who are 20.1% of the total population of Israel.
- The population of "Others", who are immigrants and their offspring who are not registered as Jews in the Ministry of the Interior, numbers 322,000 – 4.4% of the population.
- Today, approximately 69% of the total Jewish population are native-born ("Sabras"), compared with only 35% in 1948.
- During the past year approximately 156,400 babies were born.
- Approximately 18,000 immigrants arrived in Israel.
- During the past year Israel's population grew by approximately 130,000 residents, a rise of 1.8. Most of the rise (88%) resulted from the natural increase (births less deaths) of the population.

Six decades – six censuses

This year, in December, 2008, the Central Bureau of Statistics will conduct the sixth population census (this time in a new version) in the history of the State of Israel.

The population census is the greatest statistical activity the Central Bureau of Statistics conducts once every decade. The census collects demographic and socio-economic information on the entire population with the goal of providing information at various geographic levels, beginning with the national level and including the levels of locality and neighbourhood.

¹2008 data are provisional; the data refer to a greater number of days than 365, due to 2008 being a leap year. The previous Independence Day occurred on 24.04.07, whereas this year Independence Day falls on 08.05.08.

²The estimate of this population does not include the foreign population residing in Israel. This population was estimated at the end of 2006 at approximately 186,000 (some of them resided in Israel for less than one year).

For explanations, please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

To date, five censuses have been held. The first was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, at the establishment of the State in 1948. During this census a record was compiled of all the residents, whose main purpose was to create a Population Register and a basis for distributing Identification Certificates.

After the first census subsequent censuses were conducted in 1961, 1972, 1983 and 1995.

Selected Data – 1948-2008

From the pamphlet “60 Years of Statistics”, which appeared recently.

Population:

- The population of Israel grew from 873,000 in November, 1948 to approximately 7.2 million at the beginning of 2008. According to the forecasts for 2030 (assumption of medium growth), it will number approximately 10 million at that time.
- During the period of 1948-2006 the population grew by an average of 3.8% annually.
- Of the total population growth during this period, approximately 60% resulted from natural increase and the rest from the immigration balance.
- The population passed the 1 million mark in 1949; 2 million in 1958; 3 million in 1970; 4 million in 1982; 5 million in 1991; 6 million in 1998 and 7 million in 2006.

Population distribution:

- Following the growth of the population, the density of the population in the country grew from 43 people per sq.k. in 1948 to 310 people per sq.k. in 2006. The District with the greatest population density is the Tel Aviv District (approximately 7,000 people per sq.k.), and the one with the lowest is the Southern District (72 people per sq.k.).
- In 2006 the population was more scattered among the districts than in 1948. In 1948 the population of the Southern and Northern Districts constituted 19% of the total population, and up till 2006 their share grew to 31%; the share of the population in the Tel Aviv and Central District shrank in these years from 71% to 53%.
- In 1948 Israel only had one city with more than 100,000 residents – Tel Aviv-Yafo (248,000); in 2006 there were 14 cities of that size.

Education:

- The level of education of the population of Israel is constantly rising. The share of people who never attended school, out of the entire adult population, fell from 16% in 1961 to 3% in 2007; and the share of those who studied for 13 years or more rose from 9% to 42%, respectively.
- In 1948, 208 people who studied at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Institute of Technology received an academic degree. In 2006 close to 53,000 people who studied in 62 institutions received a degree.

Work and wages:

- In 1955 the civilian labour force numbered approximately 631,000 people, in 2007 it numbered approximately 2.9 million.
- The labour force has grown by an average of 3.0% annually.
- With time, the share of men participating in the labour force has dropped steeply, from 80% in the mid-‘50’s to 60% in 2003, since then it has risen to 62% in 2007. In contrast, among women the share has risen sharply from 27% in the mid-‘50’s to 51% in 2007.
- With time, the share of employed persons working full-time (35 hours a week) has dropped from 78% in 1955 to 64% in 2007; most of those working part-time are women (65% in 2007).
- With time, two main changes have taken place in the pattern of employed people according to industries. First of all, the share of those employed in agriculture has shrunk (10% in 1968, compared with 2% in 2007); secondly, the share of those employed in production (manufacturing, electricity, water and construction) dropped, and the share of those employed in the service industries rose.
- From 1995 to 2007 the share of those employed in production dropped from 33% to 22%, and the share of those employed in service industries rose from 56% to 76%, respectively.
- The highest rate of unemployed people, out of all those participating in the labour force, occurred in 1992 – 11.2%; and the lowest rate was in 1973 – 2.6%.

Standard of living:

- In the ‘50’s food was the biggest item in Household Consumption Expenditures – 40%; with time its share of the consumption basket became smaller, and in recent years it is approximately 16%. The second largest item in the ‘50’s was clothing and footwear (12% compared with 3% in recent years). Among the expenditure items that grew significantly: transportation and communication (from approximately 5% in the ‘50’s, to 21% in 2006).
- Between 1997 and 2006 the rate of households who own at least one cellphone rose to 87%, the first time a higher rate than that of ownership of a land-line phone (85%).
- At the end of the ‘50’s, 54% of all households resided in dwellings they owned, and 45% in rented dwellings. The rate of those living in dwellings they own rose till the mid-‘70’s, and reached 71%; the rate of those living in rented dwellings dropped sharply to 20%. Since then there has been almost no change in the rate of those residing in dwellings they own, whereas the rate of those residing in rented dwellings rose to 26% in 2006.
- With time, housing density in the country dropped. The rate of households with two or more people living in one room dropped from 24% in 1975 to 6% in 2007.
- At the end of the ‘60’s, income from work constituted 98% of all gross monthly income of households. With time, the share dropped to 83% in 1979/1980, 77% in 2001 and 76% in 2006.

The economy:

- In 1950-2007 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Israel grew, at fixed prices, by an annual average of 5-6%, and the Per Capita Product rose by an annual average of 3%. Thus, in 2007 the Per Capita Product was six times higher than the Per Capita Product in 1950.
- The rise in Per Capita Product was particularly high till 1972 (5-6% annually). In 1973-1984 it shrank to an annual average of approximately 1%. In 1985-1996 it again accelerated to an annual average of 2-3%, and in 1997-1999 again slowed to an annual average of 1%. In

2000, which was a year of particularly fast growth in hi-tech industries, there was a relatively steep growth of 6%, which was halted by the outbreak of the second *Intifada*, in the last quarter of the year. In 2001-2003, during which the *Intifada* continued, there was a negative per capita product of an annual average of 2%, whereas in 2004-2007 were characterized by a stable, fast growth of per capita product at an annual average rate of 3-4%, a growth that resulted mainly from an acceleration in national trade and relative quiet on the security front.

Foreign trade:

- In 1950-2007 the share of consumer goods out of all imported goods dropped from 26% to 13%, and the share of investment properties shrank from 34% to 14%. The share of raw materials (including diamonds and energy materials) grew from 39% of all imports in 1950, to a maximum share of 81% in 1980. In 2007 their share was 73%.
- In the '70's exports to European countries constituted approximately 70% of all Israeli exports, due to the large share of agricultural exports out of all exports. With time the share of exports to Europe, out of total exports, dropped to 36% in 2007, whereas the share of exports to America and Asia rose steadily from 25% to 68%, and from 1% to 18%, respectively.

Manufacturing:

- From the establishment of the State and till the mid-'60's, many manufacturing establishments were founded. In 1952 they numbered approximately 20,000, of which 14% were defined as large establishments (with more than 10 employees). In 1965 their numbers rose to approximately 25,000, of which approximately 15% were defined as large establishments.
- The number of those employed in the various types of manufacture rose from 98,000 in 1952 - of which 56% were employed in large establishments - to 223,000 in 1965 - of which 74% were employed in large establishments.
- In 1960 - 2007, manufacturing production rose by an annual average of 5.7%, and the labour outputs (actual work hours) of employees in manufacturing rose by an annual average of 2.0%.
- In 1950 the exports of the State of Israel totaled approximately \$35 million, of which the share of agricultural exports was approximately 49%, of diamond exports approximately 25%, and of manufacturing exports - which included mainly foodstuffs, textiles and clothing - approximately 26%. In 2007 exports totaled approximately \$46 million, of which approximately 3% was agricultural exports, approximately 74% was manufacturing exports, and approximately 23% was exports of polished and uncut diamonds.

Agriculture:

- From the beginning of the '50's and till the end of the '80's the land used for growing field crops constituted approximately 60% of all agricultural land. From 1990 its share was reduced to approximately 50%.
- The land used for vegetables rose sharply during the first four years of the establishment of the State, from 70,000 to approximately 300,000 dunams. Between 1954 and 1988 its size ranged from 300,000 to 400,000 dunams. From 1989 to 2005 it grew by approximately 60%, and reached 650,000 dunams.
- In 2006 the amount of vegetables exported reached a peak of approximately 260,000 tons.

- Flower exports, which began in the '50's on a small scale, grew from the end of the '80's and reached a peak in 1998 with a total of 224,000 tons.
- Provision of per capita calories per day in 1950-2006 rose from 2,610 to 3,643 calories – a rise of an average of 7% per decade.

Construction:

- Gross capital formation in the construction industry in Israel rose, in fixed prices, during 1967-2006 by an annual average of 3.4%, so that in 2006 it was 3.7 greater compared with 1967.
- During 1955-2007 the construction of close to 2 M new dwellings was completed. The highest number of new dwellings whose construction was completed in one year was in 1992 – 70,100, and the lowest number was in 1998 – 19,600.

Transportation:

- At the beginning of the '70's there were 9,300 km. of paved roads in Israel. In time existing roads were widened and lengthened and new roads were paved; in 2006 they reached a length of 17,700 km.
- The annual average number of kilometers traveled by private vehicles dropped from 19,300 km. in 1970 to 16,300 km. in 2006.
- Despite the rise in the number of vehicles per one thousand residents - from 22 in 1950 to 300 in 2006 - the rate in Israel is lower than that of many western countries (e.g., approximately 500 in Holland, approximately 800 in the USA).
- In 1950 - 1989 an average of 3.6 million people per year rode on the train. In the '90's and 2000's, plans for expanding the railroad were developed and its budgets were increased. In 2000 the number of people riding in it reached 12 million; in 2006 it reached a peak of approximately 28 million.

Tourism:**Tourist arrivals:**

- Since the establishment of the State, there have been 57 million arrivals of tourists in Israel; tourist arrivals rose from an annual average of 47,000 in the '50's, to 2.7 million in 2000.
- Following the second *Intifada* that broke out in Israel at the end of 2000, and the rise in terrorism in 2001, tourism dropped to 0.9 million in 2002. Since then tourism has recovered, and in 2007 the number of visitors' arrivals reached 2.3 million.

Departures abroad by Israelis:

- In the 60 years of Israel's existence, there were 60 million departures by Israelis abroad. Since the establishment of the State, this number has risen consistently from an annual average of approximately 38,000 in the '50's, to a peak of 4.2 million in 2007.

Accommodation services:

- Since the early '60's, the number of hotels has risen from 190 to 331 in 2007.
- The average number of rooms per hotel grew from 34 at the beginning of the '60's to 142 in 2007.
- The accelerated development of rural accommodation began in the '80's. At the end of 2007 there were 100 operators of rural accommodation in kibbutzim and cooperative moshavim, with close to 3,500 rooms; and an additional 1,200 private operators with more than 4,000 rooms.

