

INTRODUCTION

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General

This publication is part of a series of the Central Bureau of Statistics on the demographic composition and geographic dispersion of first and second degree applicants, students, and degree recipients at universities.¹

Regarding and applicants for first and second degrees and students data are provided for 2004/05.

For degree recipients, data are provided for 2003/04. This information supplements the data on schooling among these populations as published in previous publications.²

This publication also presents demographic and geographic data on students and recipients of degrees from the Open University.

All of the data are based on files that the universities provided to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Changes in the Demographic Characteristics of Applicants, Students and Degree Recipients at Universities in 1989/90–2004/05

Tables A, C, and D below present comparative data for the period 1989/90–2004/05 with respect to the three populations examined: applicants for a first degree, students for a first degree, and recipients of first degrees from universities. Table B summarizes data on applicants for a second degree in 2003/04 and 2004/05.

Table E presents comparative data for 1989/90–2004/05 for first degree applicants, first degree students, and first degree recipients for those years.

Notwithstanding the increase in those three populations between 1989/90 and 2004/05 (number of applicants increased by about 57.4%, of students by about 85%, and of first degree recipients by 78.3%), their demographic composition remained stable.

The percentage of women, who constituted the majority in all three populations throughout the entire period, increased among all of them. The growth in the population of students (11.2% growth – with a peak of 12.4% in 1999/2000), and first degree recipients (15.1% growth) was higher than the growth among the applicants (6.2% growth).

In 2004/05 the rate of men in each of the three populations rose by about 0.5%.

No significant change was found in the median age of applicants or first degree recipients. The median age of the total student population increased slightly (by about half a year), owing to an increase in the age of first year students studying toward a first degree, and a concomitant increase in the number of students for higher degrees.

¹ The previous publication: The Central Bureau of Statistics. *Candidates for First and Second Degree Studies, Students and Degree Recipients at Universities, 2002/2003–2003/2004*. Special Publication 1252. Jerusalem, 2005.

² See publications of the Central Bureau of Statistics: *Candidates for First and Second Degree Studies in Universities, 2004/2005*. Current Statistics 26/2005. Jerusalem, 2005; *Recipients of Degrees from the Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education, 2003/04*. Current Statistics 18/2005. Jerusalem, 2005; *Students at Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education, 2004/05*. Current Statistics 5/2006. Jerusalem, 2006.

Between 1989/90 and 2004/05, there was an increase in the proportion of Israeli-born among the general population, which generated a concomitant rise in their rate in the three populations examined.

Among the first degree applicants, the proportion of Arabs was 15.5% (compared with 16.2% in 2003/04); among the students, the proportion was 8.4% (compared with 8.1% in 2003/04), and among first degree recipients, the proportion was 8.4% (compared with 7.5% in 2003/04). Among applicants for a second degree, the proportion of Arabs was 7.1%.

In 2003/04, the classification by population groups was changed, in accordance with the change in the CBS classification. Therefore, data on population groups in 2003/04 and in 2004/05 cannot be compared with previous years. According to the new classification presented in this publication, the group "Jews and others" includes Jews, non-Arab Christians, and those whose religion is unclassified; the Arab population group includes Moslems, Christian Arabs and Druze. The classification in previous publications was "Jews" and "Other Religions," whereas those listed as "religion unclassified" in the Population Registry were not included in the distribution by religion.

In Tables A–D, the distribution for 2003/04 and 2004/05 is presented by the new classification into population groups, and for 1989/90–1999/2000 according to the old classification.

Table A: Applicants, by Sex, Age, Population Group, Religion and Origin

Sex, age, population group, religion and origin	1989/90	1999/2000	2003/04	2004/05
Total				
Absolute numbers	25,046	33,296	39,417	35,683
Percentages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex				
Men	47.0	43.4	43.7	44.2
Women	53.0	56.6	56.3	55.8
Median Age	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.9
Population group and religion				
Jews and others ⁽¹⁾				
Thereof: Jews			83.9	84.5
Arabs			80.0	80.6
Thereof:			16.2	15.5
Moslems	7.8	8.9	11.2	10.8
Jews	87.6	86.4		
Other religions ⁽¹⁾	12.4	13.6		
Origin (Jews)				
Israel	29.2	36.8	42.8	44.0
Asia/Africa	30.4	24.9	21.6	20.7
Europe/America	40.4	38.3	35.6	35.3

(1) Including non-Arab Christians.

Table B: Applicants for a Second Degree, by Sex, Age, Population Group, Religion, and Origin

Sex, age, population group, religion and origin	2003/04	2004/05
Total		
Absolute numbers	19,452	18,002
Percentages	100.0	100.0
Sex		
Men	42.4	43.0
Women	57.6	57.0
Median Age	28.4	28.6
Population group and religion		
Jews and others ⁽¹⁾	92.9	92.5
Thereof: Jews	90.9	90.4
Arabs	7.1	7.5
Thereof: Moslems	4.7	5.2
Origin (Jews)		
Israel	36.1	36.9
Asia/Africa	25.6	24.9
Europe/America	38.2	38.1

(1) Including non-Arab Christians.

**Table C: Students, by Sex, Age, Population Group,
Religion and Origin**

Sex, age, population group, religion and origin	1989/90	1999/2000	2003/04	2004/05
Total				
Absolute numbers	67,201	112,987	124,416	124,044
Percentages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex				
Men	49.3	43.1	43.6	44.1
Women	50.7	56.9	56.4	55.9
Median Age	25.1	25.3	25.6	26.1
Population group and religion				
Jews and others ⁽¹⁾				
Thereof: Jews			91.8	91.6
Arabs			89.1	88.7
Thereof:			8.1	8.4
Moslems	3.3	4.4	5.2	5.5
Jews	94.2	92.6		
Other religions ⁽¹⁾	5.8	7.4		
Origin (Jews)				
Israel	26.8	34.0	39.3	40.4
Asia/Africa	25.8	24.4	22.5	21.7
Europe/America	47.4	41.6	38.2	37.9

(1) Including non-Arab Christians.

Table D: First Degree Recipients, by Sex, Age, Population Group, Religion and Origin

Sex, age, population group, religion and origin	1989/90	1999/2000	2002/03	2003/04
Total				
Absolute numbers	10,192	17,298	18,176	17,989
Percentages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex				
Men	48.3	40.7	40.5	41.1
Women	51.7	59.3	59.5	58.9
Median age	26.9	26.7	26.8	26.9
Population group and religion				
Jews and others ⁽¹⁾			92.5	91.6
Thereof: Jews			90.6	89.6
Arabs			7.5	8.4
Thereof:			4.7	5.2
Moslems	3.3	3.7		
Jews	94.6	93.3		
Other religions ⁽¹⁾	5.4	6.7		
Origin (Jews)				
Israel	26.0	33.0	36.8	39.2
Asia/Africa	27.5	28.3	25.2	24.7
Europe/America	46.5	38.7	37.9	36.1

(1) Including non-Arab Christians.

Table E: Applicants, first Degree Students and First-Degree Recipients, by Sex, Age, Population Group, Religion and Origin

Sex, age, population group, religion and origin	1989/90	1999/2000	2003/04	2004/05
Total				
Absolute numbers				
Applicants	25,046	33,296	39,417	35,683
First degree students	46,519	74,194	78,561	78,247
First degree recipients	10,192	17,298	17,989	
Percentage of women				
Applicants	53.0	56.6	56.3	55.8
First-degree students	51.3	56.5	55.9	55.3
First-degree recipients	51.7	59.3	58.9	
Median age				
Applicants	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.9
First-degree students	23.9	23.9	24.0	24.1
First-degree recipients	26.9	26.7	26.9	
Percentage of Jews and others				
Applicants	87.6	86.4	83.9	84.5
First degree students	93.3	91.0	90.2	90.5
First degree recipients	94.6	93.3	91.6	
Percentage of Jews				
Applicants			80.0	80.6
First degree students			87.0	86.6
First degree recipients			90.6	89.6
Origin (Jews)				
Israel				
Applicants	29.2	36.8	42.8	44.0
First degree students	28.8	36.1	41.6	42.8
First degree recipients	26.0	33.0	39.2	
Asia/Africa				
Applicants	30.4	24.9	21.6	20.7
First degree students	27.9	24.9	23.2	21.4
First degree recipients	27.5	28.3	24.7	
Europe/America				
Applicants	40.4	38.3	35.6	35.3
First degree students	43.3	38.9	36.6	35.7
First degree recipients	46.5	38.7	36.1	

Definitions and Classifications

University: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Haifa University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Weizmann Institute of Science.

Academic Degree/Diploma:

First degree: B.A., B.Sc., and equivalent degrees (including first degree in medicine).

Second degree: M.A., M.Sc., and equivalent degrees (including M.D. and D.M.D. degrees).

Third degree: Ph.D., Dr.Sc., and equivalent degrees.

Academic diploma: Awarded to holders of a first degree, e.g., teaching certificate, and diploma in library science.

Field of Study:

Humanities

General humanities

Languages, literature, and regional studies

Education and teacher training

Arts, crafts and applied art

Special and miscellaneous programs

Social sciences

Social sciences

Business and management sciences

Law

Medicine and paramedical studies

Medicine

Paramedical studies

Mathematics and natural sciences

Mathematics, statistics and computer sciences

Physical sciences

Biological sciences

Agriculture

Engineering and architecture

Unknown (included in total only)

First preference for field of study: Determined according to the field of study which was the first preference of the applicant (applicants are usually asked to indicate three preferences).

Application: An application submitted by an applicant in order to be admitted to first year studies for a first degree, in at least one department at a given university (or branch of the university).

Applicant: A person who has submitted an application to one or more universities for first year studies for a first degree.

Applicant for second degree: A person who has submitted an application to one or more universities for first year studies for a second degree (excluding applicants whose candidacy is contingent on completion of prerequisite courses).

Result of application: Every university indicated the result of each application, according to the situation at the time the file was produced, as follows:

1. Admitted and enrolled: The applicant received a positive reply for admission to at least one of the departments indicated in the application to the university, and was enrolled there when the file was updated.
2. Admitted and not enrolled: The applicant received a positive reply for admission to at least one of the departments indicated in the application, but did not enroll at the university (in some cases the applicant enrolled in another university), or the applicant started studying but discontinued up to the date the file was updated.
3. Rejected: The applicant received a negative reply from the university in all of the departments indicated in the application (in some cases the applicant received a positive reply from another university and even began studying there).

Best Result: In the processing of data on applicants (persons), every applicant was included only once. For those who applied to more than one institution (about 28% of the total number of applicants) the institution and preferred field of study are determined according to the record of the “best result” received out of all the universities to which the candidate applied.

- For applicants who began studying at a given institution, the representative record is the one of the application to that institution.
- For applicants who were admitted to only one institution but did not begin studying there, the representative record is that of the institution to which they were admitted.
- For applicants who did not begin studying, the representative record is that of the “best result.” If the results of applications to two or more institutions are equivalent, one of the records is chosen at random and remarks the institution and preferred field of study of the applicant.

Student: Student at a university for a recognized academic degree or diploma.

Recipient of academic degree/diploma: Anyone who received or was entitled to an academic degree/diploma recognized by the Council for Higher Education at one of the graduation ceremonies in which degrees were granted by universities during an academic year.

Age: Age is calculated in full years, by subtracting the year of birth (copied from the Population Registry) from the appropriate academic year: for 1989/90 – 1989; 1999/2000 – 1999, 2002/03 – 2002, 2003/04 – 2003, 2004/2005 – 2004.

Population group and religion: This publication presents data according to the new classification, and in accordance with the change in the CBS classification. According to the new classification, the group “Jews and Others” includes Jews, non-Arab Christians and people whose religion is listed as “unclassified;” and the group “Arabs” includes Moslems, Arab-Christians and Druze. In previous publications, the classification was “Jews” and “Other Religions.” Applicants, students and degree recipients whose religion is listed in the Registry file as “unclassified” were not included in the distribution by religion.

Data for 2002/03 and 2003/04 cannot be compared to data for previous years.

Origin (Jews): Persons born abroad were classified by continent of birth, and Israeli-born persons were classified according to the father’s continent of birth.

District: Determined according to the locality of residence in the Population Registry. (It is possible that regarding some of the above populations, the data are not up to date, due to lack of changes of address).

Sources

Two types of files were used as sources for preparation of the data in this publication: Files that were received from universities and processed by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and the file of the Population Registry.

Files of the Central Bureau of Statistics:

- File of applicants for first degree studies at universities for the year 2004/05
- File of applicants for second degree studies at universities for the year 2004/05
- File of students enrolled in academic degree or diploma programs at universities during the year 2004/05
- File of degree recipients (diploma) from universities during the year 2003/04

For every individual (applicant, student, or degree recipient), these files included the following data:

- Identifying data: Identity card (or passport) number, first name and last name
- Sex
- Details of studies: Institution, degree, subjects of study

File of the Population Registry:

This file includes the following demographic information (for citizens and permanent residents)

- Sex
- Year of birth
- Population group and religion¹
- Country of birth
- Locality of residence
- For Israeli-born residents, father’s country of birth

¹ See note (1) for Table A.

Method of Production and Evaluation of Data

By matching identity numbers, demographic details of applicants, students and degree recipients, were copied from the population registry file to the university files. A small proportion of the records (1.0% for first degree applicants, 1.3% for second degree applicants, 1.0% for students, and 0.9% for degree recipients) could not be matched with the registry data for the following reasons:

1. No identity numbers were found in the university files.
2. Identity numbers were incorrect, or passport numbers were used for students from abroad in the university files.

Therefore, the demographic and geographic details presented in this publication are based on about 95% of the information received for the target population. This proportion varies for different institutions, degrees, fields of study and results of application (see Table E below). It is particularly noteworthy that a high percentage of missing information from the population registry was found for third degree students (Weizmann Institute) and for third degree recipients.

The absolute numbers in the tables of this publication are taken from the annual statistics,¹ and are presented in concise form in order to indicate the sizes of the groups whose characteristics appear in the tables. All of the percentages were calculated for individuals whose characteristics are known.

¹ See note 2 on page XV.

Table F: First and Second Degree Applicants, Students and Degree Recipients for whom no Matching Record was Found in the Population Registry File, by Result of Application, Degree, Institution and Field of Study

Percentage of total in each cell

Result of application, degree, institution, and field of study	Applicants for first degree	Applicants for second degree	Students	Degree recipients
Total	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9
Result of application				
Admitted and enrolled	0.7	0.9		
Admitted and not enrolled	1.5	2.6		
Rejected	1.2	1.9		
Degree				
First			0.3	0.2
Thereof: first year			0.3	
Second			2.1	1.8
Third			2.9	6.3
Diploma			0.2	0.1
Institution				
Hebrew University	1.3	3.4	1.7	1.9
Technion	1.4	1.8	0.8	1.0
Tel Aviv University	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.1
Bar-Ilan University	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.2
Haifa University	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Ben-Gurion University	0.3	1.6	1.0	1.1
Weizmann Institute of Science	-	10.1	6.2	7.9
Field of study				
Humanities	1.9	2.1	1.3	0.9
Social sciences	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3
Law	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Medicine	1.2	0.0	8.9	9.9
Paramedical studies	0.3	1.7	0.3	0.1
Mathematics and natural sciences	1.2	3.0	1.1	1.4
Agriculture	0.6	5.7	1.2	4.9
Engineering and architecture	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3