

## PREFACE

This publication presents data regarding the demographic characteristics of families and households in Israel for the years 2001-2002, based on current Labour Force Surveys conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The characterization of families and households in Israel is one of the cornerstones of researching Israeli society. The structure of the family, the basic social unit, became more flexible and varied in the final decades of the twentieth century than it was in the past. Changes in the composition of families and households are influenced by demographic, socio-cultural and economic trends in society, and also influence them. Hence, long-term follow-up of families and households is essential.

This is the second comprehensive publication to differentiate between the terms “family” and “household”, and to continue an ongoing follow-up of different types of families and households in various population groups.

In 2002, several changes were made in the definition of the weighting groups in the Labour Force Surveys. The results of the comparisons with the 2001 Labour Force Survey data by old and revised weighting groups are presented in the Introduction, Chapter C, as well as in comparative tables on the CD-Rom.

In addition, separate data on the Arab population are presented for the first time.

This publication presents data relating to three research units: households, families and the persons within them. In addition, a chapter of the Introduction is devoted to households and families of immigrants of 1990 and after from the USSR (former), and to persons living alone.

Selected data on types of families and households have appeared in the Statistical Abstract of Israel since 1998.

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