C. SURVEY METHODS

a. The Sampling Method

The main sample of the survey is taken once a year in two stages: in the first stage, a sample of localities is drawn (about 235 every year), their selection probability being proportional to their size. In the second stage, dwellings in the sampled localities are chosen so that every dwelling has the same sampling probability. In most of the urban localities the sample of dwellings is taken from the local authorities municipal tax files. For localities which do not have this file, a sample is taken from a list of households obtained from the locality.

The main sample is supplemented by dwelling units not covered by the tax files and household lists:

- regular supplements of new dwellings occupied after updating of tax files.
- regular supplements of households in East Jerusalem drawn after mapping of cells from the 1995 Population and Housing Census.
- regular supplements of dwelling units in student dormitories, absorption centres and hotels which accommodate new immigrants.
- a fixed supplement of persons and households in other institutions and small localities not covered by the current survey samples, taken from the 1995 Population and Housing Census files.

b. The Estimation Method

The data collected in the survey are keyed, checked and coded. Following these procedures, estimates are calculated from each quarterly sample as explained below. The annual estimates presented in this publication are arithmetic averages of the four quarterly estimates.

To receive estimates for the total survey population, the data obtained in the sample should be multiplied by suitable weights for each respondent. Therefore, the population is divided into weighting groups, independent of religious affiliation, defined by age*sex, according to geographical distribution.

The estimation method is designed to minimize sampling errors and bias that may arise from non-responding households who may have different characteristics from responding households.

Since 1998, a new estimation method has been used. In order to derive estimates for the entire survey population, “weighting coefficients” are given to each household, each household member having the same weight. The weight for the household constitutes the number of households and the number of persons in the survey population represented by the household. This is in contrast to the estimation method operated up to 1998, in which different persons in a given household received different weighting coefficients. Thus, weighting coefficients were not uniform within the same household.

The weighting coefficients are determined by an iterative process, which ensures complete compatibility between the totals (i.e. weighted) of persons and the current demographic estimates of the Central Bureau of Statistics based on the 1995 Census for the various weighting groups defined. In 2002, some changes were introduced in the definition of weighting groups. For further details see: The Central Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Surveys 2002*, Special Publication 1218, Jerusalem, 2004.

For a comparison of the estimates obtained from the old and the revised weighting methods for 2001, see the comparative tables: Labour Force Survey data, according to the old and the revised weighting groups.