CHAPTER D: DEFINITIONS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

A. Population and Labour Force

1. Population – the survey population is the permanent (de jure) population of Israel aged 15 and over.

The survey population includes:

1. Permanent residents living in Israel
2. Permanent residents living abroad continuously for a period of less than one year
3. New immigrants and potential immigrants, from the moment of their arrival in Israel
4. Tourists, volunteers or temporary residents living in Israel continuously for more than a year
5. As of 1968, residents of East Jerusalem
6. As of 1972, the population of Israeli localities in the Golan Sub-District; as of 1982, all the residents in this sub-district
7. Since 1972 until 2005, the population of Israeli localities in the Judea and Samaria and Gaza Areas; as of 2006, not including the Gaza Area

The survey population does not include:

1. Permanent residents living abroad continuously for one year or more
2. Tourists, volunteers and temporary residents living in Israel continuously for a year or less
3. Foreign diplomats and UN people

2. The determinant week is the week ending on the Saturday preceding the visit of the interviewer to the household.

3. Characteristics of the civilian labour force

In 1995, the definition of the civilian labour force characteristics was changed.¹

In 2010, the definitions of civilian labour force characteristics were updated. (For details, see Chapter E in this publication: "Changes in the Labour Force Survey 2009." To provide a basis for comparisons, the data for 2009 were calculated again.

3.1 Weekly civilian labour force: Persons aged 15 and over who were “employed” or “unemployed” during the determinant week, according to the definitions given below.

3.1.1 Employed persons: Worked for at least one hour during the determinant week, at any type of work, for pay, profit or other remuneration: all those working in kibbutzim (whether in services or any other industry); family members who worked without pay for more than 15 hours during the investigation week; persons in institutions who worked more than 15 hours during the week, persons who were temporarily absent from their work.

Employed persons are divided into three sub-groups:

a. **Worked full-time**: All those who worked 35 hours or more during the determinant week (including preparation hours).

b. **Worked part-time**: Persons who worked 1–34 hours during the determinant week (including preparation hours).

c. **Temporarily absent from work**: This group includes all those who were temporarily absent from their regular work during the entire determinant week, due to illness, vacation, reserve army service, decrease in the extent of work, labour dispute, temporary disruption of work (for up to 30 days), etc. (The definition does not include persons who were absent for only part of the determinant week).

Persons who were absent for less than one month are included in this definition. Those who were absent from work for one month to a year are included in this group if they had a formal affiliation to a workplace, i.e., if it is guaranteed that they will return to the same employer after the period of absence. (Persons who were absent from work for over a year are not included in this group.)

**Note**: The employment extent – full or partial – is determined by the workers’ usual number of work hours (not in the determinant week).

### 3.1.2 Unemployed persons:

All those who did not work for even one hour during the determinant week and who actively sought work during the last four weeks, by registering with the Labour Exchange of the Employment Service or by application to employers, either in person or in writing, or by another method mentioned below, and could have started work in the determinant week, had a suitable work been offered (“available to work”), including those to whom a job within 30 days was promised.

**Note**: A person who was not available to work during the determinant week due to illness / reserve army duty is considered unemployed.

Unemployed persons are divided into two sub-groups:

a. Unemployed persons who did work in Israel during the twelve months preceding the determinant week.

b. Unemployed persons who did not work in Israel during the twelve months preceding the determinant week.

**Modes of actively seeking work:**

- Labour Exchange of the Employment Service
- Employment agencies as well as other labour exchanges
- Advertisements in newspapers, on the Internet, etc.
- Personal or written application to employer
- Friends or relatives
- Attempt to establish a business
- Sought work in other way

**Note**: Since unemployed persons can search for work in more than one way, they are asked about each of the above possibilities.
3.2 Not in the weekly civilian labour force: All persons aged 15 and over who were neither “employed” nor “unemployed” during the determinant week. This group includes: students; non-paid volunteers; persons who cared for children, family members, or the household, and did not work for even one hour outside of the home; persons not fit to work, and persons living off their pensions or other allowance and who did not work for even one hour during the determinant week. Also included in this group are soldiers in the regular army (compulsory service) or permanent army, family members who worked without pay less than 15 hours per week, and persons in institutions who worked less than 15 hours during the determinant week.

3.2.1 Discouraged workers: All persons aged 15 and over who are not in weekly civilian labour force but sought work over the 12 months preceding the survey. They are interested in working, and could have begun to work during the determinant week had they been offered appropriate jobs (“availability for work”). They did not seek work over the four weeks preceding the survey for the following reasons: believed there are no appropriate jobs for them in their field or in their area of residence in terms of wages, work hours, or interesting work; lack of appropriate experience or training; language difficulties or inappropriate age (too young or too old).

4. Characteristics of the annual civilian labour force

4.1 Annual civilian labour force: All persons aged 15 and over who were in the weekly civilian labour force, as well as those who worked during the year, but were not in the weekly civilian labour force.

4.2 Employed during the year: All persons aged 15 and over who worked in Israel for at least one day during the 12 months preceding the survey. People who worked less than one month are considered as those who worked for one month.

4.3 Not in the annual civilian labour force: Not in the weekly civilian labour force, and did not work at all during the 12 months preceding the survey.

5. Religion and population group

The head of the household is the only household member who is questioned on his religion. The head of the household's religion is registered as the religion of all the household members. The classification according to religion includes: Jews, Moslems, Christians, Druze and other religions (other religions also include "no religion" and "unknown religion").

Until 2001 there were two population groups: "Jews" and "Other Religions." The group "Other Religions" included all those who replied that they are not Jews. Until the beginning of the 1990's these were mainly Arabs. Following the major wave of immigration in the 1990's, "Others" was added to this group (see below). In 2002, the group "Other Religions" was divided into two population groups:

- Arabs:
  - a. Live in non-Jewish localities;
  - b. Live in Jewish or mixed localities, were born in Israel or arrived in Israel before 1990 (Tables, Chapter 8).

- Others: Live in Jewish or mixed localities, and arrived in Israel in 1990 or after (Tables, Chapter 9).
6. **Years of schooling**: The number of years spent in regular studies in school but not studies on one's own or attendance of irregular courses. The number of years consists only of completed ones. If a person is studying at the time of the interview, that year is counted.

7. **Type of school last attended** by the interviewee, even if he did not complete his studies there.

8. **Highest diploma (degree) received** (as of January–March 2000): The highest diploma that a person received from a school or from educational settings that grant official diplomas (not including certificates for completion of courses, certificates for completion of in-service training, etc.).

9. **Head of household**: In the Labour Force Surveys’ tables, the head of household is the one who fulfils this function economically.

   **As of 1995**, the definition of head of household was changed, and is now determined by “degree” of belonging to the labour force, with no connection to age or sex.
   
   - The head of household is the main wage earner of the household, i.e., the employed person who usually works 35 hours or more a week (including soldiers in the permanent army). He precedes an employed person who works up to 34 hours a week, who in turn comes before an unemployed person.
   
   - If more than one person in the household fits the definition of head of household, the head is determined according to the interviewee's priorities.
   
   - If there is no wage earner in the household, the interviewee will determine the head of household.

   **Note**: The head of household is a person aged 18 or over (except households where the only wage earner is aged 15–17 and households where there are only 15–17 year old persons).

10. **Number of children, by age group**: Information is obtained on the number of children of each female in the household and the total number of children in it.

11. **Work hours per week**: The number of hours that employed persons actually worked during the determinant week, including: overtime in the same workplace or in other workplaces, preparation hours of teachers and artists, waiting hours (e.g. of a driver or porter), as well as work hours of a non-paid family member in the family business or farm (if the person worked 15 hours or more, on the average, per week).

   **The average work hours per week** is obtained by dividing the total number of weekly work hours of all employed persons by the number of employed persons. This average is calculated both for all employed persons (including those temporarily absent from their work) and for employed persons excluding those absentees.

12. **Type of locality**

    There are two types of locality: current and permanent.
A current type of locality is determined according to the size of the population in the locality at the end of each year.

A permanent type of locality is a current locality that was frozen for several years in order to allow for a comparison of data from different years.

The type of locality by which data in the Labour Force Surveys are classified is the permanent type of locality appearing in the list of localities.

The localities are divided into two main groups, the distinction between them being according to size of locality (number of residents):

a. **Urban localities**, in which there are 2,000 or more residents. These localities are classified into sub-groups by size;

b. **Rural localities**, in which there are less than 2,000 residents, which are classified into three types of localities:
   1. Kibbutzim
   2. Moshavim and collective moshavim
   3. Other rural localities

From 1998 to 2001, localities were classified according to their estimated population in the 1995 Census of Population and Housing. As of 2002, localities were classified according to their estimated population at the end of 2001. This was done in order to reflect the changes which occurred in population size in various localities between the censuses. As of 2007, the classification is done according to their estimated population at the end of 2005.2

13. **Development localities**

Included are the localities specified in the regularly updated regulations based on the “1963 Severance Pay Law.”

The 25 localities that are included in the Labour Force Survey data are listed below:

- **Development localities in the North**: Afula, Akko, Bet She’an, Hazor HaGelilit, Karmi’el, Migdal HaEmeq, Ma’alot-Tarshiha, Nazerat Illit, Qiryat Shemona, Shelomi, Tiberias, Yoqne’am Illit, Zefat

- **Development localities in the South**: Arad, Bet Shemesh, Dimona, Elat, Mizpe Ramon, Netivot, Ofaqim, Qiryat Gat, Qiryat Mal’akh, Sderot, Yavne, Yeroham

14. **District and sub-district**: The districts and sub-districts are defined according to the official administrative distribution of the country, according to which there are 6 districts and 15 sub-districts.3

Includes Israeli localities in Judea and Samaria Area.

In 1972, the Judea and Samaria and Gaza Areas were added, in order to characterize the Jewish localities and their population, found in these areas. The data for 2005 relate to the residents of the Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Areas, and do not reflect changes in

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3 See ibid.
the population following the evacuation of the Israeli localities (the Jewish localities) in the Gaza Area and northern Samaria, under the Disengagement Plan Law 2005.

As of 2006, as said in section 1, only the Judea and Samaria Area is included.

15. District and sub-district of work: Employed persons are classified according to the locality in which they work. Employed persons working in the Judea and Samaria and Gaza Areas were classified as a separate group.

16. Metropolitan areas

A metropolitan area is a large cluster of local authorities whose territories are contiguous, and are integrated socio-economically and culturally. A metropolitan area is made up of local authorities, regional councils, and rural localities.

The metropolitan areas are divided according to their internal structure:

- **Core**: The territory of the primary city serving as the focus of the population of the metropolitan area.
- **Inner Ring**: The area containing the localities surrounding the Core.
- **Middle Ring** (in the Tel Aviv and Be’er Sheva Metropolitan Areas): The area containing the localities surrounding the Inner Ring.
- **Outer Ring**: The area containing the localities surrounding the Middle Ring.

**Sections (Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western)**: Sub-divisions of the rings of each metropolitan area.

As of 1999, the labour force survey has used a new definition of metropolitan area, which replaced the former definition of conurbation. Two metropolitan areas were defined: Tel Aviv and Haifa.

In 2001, the borders of the metropolitan areas were re-examined and, as a result, the borders of the Haifa Metropolitan Area were changed. The changes in the Haifa Metropolitan Area were made in the localities included in its outer ring: in the south the locality of Jisr Az-Zarqa was removed, and in the north it was decided to include all the localities up to the Nahariyya line (inclusive). In the North-East of the outer ring, it was decided to include all the localities in the Karmiel natural area and, in addition, the localities of the Misgav Regional Council. The borders of the Tel Aviv Metropolitan Area were not changed.

**Be’er Sheva Metropolitan Area**: In 2001, a plan was approved which defines the borders of a metropolitan area in the South, which is developing around the city of Be’er Sheva. The Be’er Sheva Metropolitan plan is similar to the contours of the other metropolitan areas, in that it is also divided into rings with sections in them. The rings are defined by their distance from the centre of the metropolitan area (the “core”), which is the city of Be’er Sheva. The borders of the Be’er Sheva Metropolitan Area include the Northern Negev: from the border of the Be’er Sheva Sub-District in the north, up to
Mitzpeh Ramon in the south; and from the border of the Gaza Area and Egypt in the west, up to the Dead Sea and the Jordanian border in the east.  

17. **Vacant dwelling**: A dwelling that is not occupied permanently for various reasons, such as: construction or renovations are being carried out; a new or renovated dwelling that has not yet been occupied; a demolished, sealed, or abandoned dwelling; the tenants' passing away or moving to an institution; a holiday dwelling; a dwelling that is only used occasionally.

**B. Classification by Status at Work, Industry, Occupation and Commute to Work**

Employed persons (including those temporarily absent from work) are classified by their status at work, industry and occupation, according to their work during the determinant week. For unemployed persons and persons not participating in the civilian labour force (including soldiers in compulsory and permanent service) who worked in Israel during the 12 months preceding the survey, the data relate to their last work.

1. **Status at work**

   **Employee**: A person working for another one in exchange for daily or monthly wages, piece work or work for any other kind of remuneration. Self-employed who are registered as a company and receive their wages from that company are classified as employees.

   **Recipients of wages from employment agencies or employment contractors**: Employees placed in jobs and receiving their wages from the employment agency or employment contractor, while the workplace to which they were referred is responsible for implementation of the work.

   The following are not included in this definition:
   - Employees on the staff of the employment agency
   - Employees hired through a subcontractor. In these cases, the subcontractor bears responsibility for the implementation and quality of the work. These employees work mainly in two industries: Security and Cleaning Activities (Group 750), and Home Care Services (Group 862).

   **Employer**: A person who employs other persons for wages or any other remuneration, or a partner in a business employing others, including a farm owner employing others for wages.

   **Self-employed**: A person working in his own business or farm, who does not employ others for wages or any other remuneration.

   **Co-operative member**: A person who, in addition to his salary, shares in the profits of a co-operative. This is also the case for a member of a collective moshav.

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4 For a detailed explanation of the borders of the metropolitan areas, and for a list of the localities included in the metropolitan areas by internal structure, see CBS (2009). *Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009*. Jerusalem: author, Introduction to Chapter 2.
**Member of kibbutz:** A person who lives in a kibbutz and works there **with no pay**, including candidates for membership, relatives residing permanently in the kibbutz and training groups. It does not include “volunteers” – people who are not kibbutz members but live and work there for wages or other remuneration. Kibbutz members who work for pay outside the kibbutz are classified as employees.

**Unpaid family member:** A family member or other relative working in the family business 15 hours or more during the determinant week without any kind of remuneration. A family member receiving a salary is considered an employee.

2. **Industry** is determined by the nature of the establishment in which the person worked. The industry to which this establishment belongs is determined by the main product or service of the establishment.

If an establishment covers more than one industry and the various industries may be considered “classification units” (e.g. a textile business that engages in spinning, weaving and sewing, or an institution such as a municipality), the industry is determined by the type of work of the unit or the department in which the person works. A subsidiary unit serving only the needs of the establishment and does not have an accounts department of its own, is not considered a separate department.

If the establishment is engaged in several types of work which cannot be separated according to units, the economic classification of the establishment is determined by its final product.

Persons interviewed in kibbutzim were classified according to their industry.

As of 1995, persons interviewed have been classified according to the 1993 classification of industries.5

Following the transition to the 1993 classification of industries, it was found necessary to adjust some coding rules, primarily in the case of establishments engaging in more than one activity. As a result, the industries were recoded.6

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5 The classification of industries is based on the UN Classification:


3. **High technology industries:** The definition of high technology industries is based on the Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities,\(^7\) as well as on the definitions of OECD and Eurostat.\(^8\)

The following are defined as high technology industries in Israel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name of Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>Manufacture of pharmaceutical products for human and veterinary uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Manufacture of office and accounting machinery and computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Manufacture of electronic components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Manufacture of electronic communication equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Manufacture of industrial equipment for control and supervision, medical and scientific equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355</td>
<td>Manufacture of aircraft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name of Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Telecommunications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Computer and related services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>730</td>
<td>Research and development in natural sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Occupation**

Occupation is determined by the type of work performed by the interviewed person at his workplace, without regard to what he studied, if his work is not in that field.

As of 1995, interviewed persons were classified according to the 1994 classification of occupations.\(^9\)

The classification of occupations is based on the classification of the International Labour Office (ILO).\(^10\)

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5. Commuting to Work

a. Commuter: Employed person working outside of their locality of residence.

There are four levels of commuting:
- In the sub-district of residence;
- Outside the sub-district of residence, but within the district of residence;
- Outside the district of residence in one locality;
- Outside the district of residence in two localities or more

b. Non-commuter: Employed person working in his own locality of residence.

C. International Comparisons

The tables in Chapter 11 present comparative data on persons participating in the labour force, on unemployed persons, on the employment rate (calculated as the percentage of employed persons in the total population), and on employees in high-tech industries.

The data in Tables 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 were obtained mainly from the dataset of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Owing to minor differences in the survey populations examined in different countries, the comparison is not exact. The differences derive from two main sources:

1. Inclusion or exclusion of persons serving in the army (compulsory and permanent) in the labour force.
2. Age boundaries (e.g., in Israel, the survey population consisted of persons aged 15 and over, and in the US it consisted of persons aged 16 and over). In the tables, there are precise notes about the population covered in each country, as indicated in the ILO.

Data that were missing in some tables were taken from the database of the Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT).

The definition of the unemployed conforms with ILO definitions. The estimates are adjusted using a method based on a common and precise definition of the unemployed. Once a year, member countries supply data based upon identical questions that appear in labour force survey questionnaires. As of 1995, the definitions in Israel conform with those of the ILO.

The data in Table 11.4 were taken from the database of the EUROSTAT.