

## NATIONAL POPULATION ESTIMATES

Estimates of the population and its demographic characteristics - both national and by geographic divisions - are based on the results of the population Censuses and on the changes which occurred in the population after the Censuses, as recorded in the Population Register. Since the end of 1995 and onwards estimates both of population and geographic distribution are based on the **1995 Census**.

Due to a strike at the branches of the Ministry of the Interior in 2003 (from October to December), residents were unable to report changes in their personal details during that period, especially changes of address. Hence, the population estimates for that year (2003) may have been influenced by those missing reports, and the population estimates for 2004 may have been influenced somewhat by the completion of entries for missing records from the previous year that were recorded at a later date.

### DEFINITIONS

**De jure population** includes permanent residents - Israeli citizens and permanent residents without Israeli citizenship (including those who had been out of the country less than one year at the time of the estimate) - as well as potential immigrants staying in Israel or in Jewish localities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area. Also included is an estimate of tourists and temporary residents residing in Israel for more than one year, based on the enumeration of this group at the time of the 1995 Population Census, without subsequent updating.

Population estimates do not include the foreign workers population. This population is estimated at about 188 thousand persons at the end of 2004 (some of them stayed in Israel for less than a year).

The components of change in the de jure population are as follows: natural increase (births less deaths) and the migration balance. The positive elements of the

migration balance are: immigrants and potential immigrants, tourists who changed their status to immigrants or potential immigrants, persons entering the country for the purpose of family reunification, returning potential immigrants, permanent residents returning to Israel after staying abroad more than 12 months and immigrating citizens. Residents staying abroad more than 12 months and potential immigrants staying abroad were subtracted from the above mentioned population. In the distribution of the population by religion, there is another component - net changes and corrections of religion. Up to 1995, this component was included in the migration balance (Tables 2.2, 2.5 and 2.6). As of 1996, it is included only in the total growth.

Because of errors in the recording of border movements, data on persons staying abroad for more than 12 months, and on persons who returned after an extended stay, have been based on estimates only. As of 1995, potential immigrants have not been included in these movements, due to their small number.

The components of change of the population estimates by geographical divisions include (besides the above mentioned components) also internal migrants by their characteristics.

**De facto population** includes the permanent (de jure) population and potential immigrants, temporary residents and tourists staying in Israel or in Jewish localities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area on the date of the estimate. Not included are permanent residents and potential immigrants absent from the country on the date of the estimate. Tables in this chapter refer to the permanent population, beginning with the data of 1961.

**Population group and religion:** Up to the 1995 Census, tables include, as a rule, the population broken down by Jews, Moslems, Christians and Druze. Included with the Druze are members of other religions (such as: Buddhists, Hindus, Samaritans, etc.), who constitute only a few hundred in the population.

When this breakdown is impossible due to

unavailability of data or to scarcity of cases in the total population, data are broken down by population groups only - "Jews" and "Other religions" or "thereof: Moslems".

Starting with the 1995 Census, due to the arrival of many immigrants not listed as Jews in the Ministry of the Interior, the definitions of religion and population group were altered in the population estimates tables. The Christian group was divided in two - Arab Christians and non-Arab Christians, according to several criteria: locality of residence, nationality and country of birth. An "Arab Christian" is defined as any Christian living in an Arab Locality or anyone who lives in another locality, but is listed as having an Arab nationality in the Ministry of the Interior. If these details were missing whoever was born in an Arab country or in Israel, but to a father born in an Arab country, was included in the Arab Christians group. The rest of the Christians are defined as "non-Arab Christians". Another group presented separately since 1995 is the group unclassified by religion in the Ministry of the Interior. The persons in this group are usually family members of Jewish immigrants, as is usually the case with non-Arab Christians.

As a result, the figures in the tables are classified by religion according to the following groups: Jews, Moslems, Christians - total, Arab Christians, Other Christians, Druze and Religion Unclassified. The last group also includes members of religions that were not specified separately (Buddhists, Hindus, Samaritans, etc.), that up until 1995 were included with the Druze. In the 1995 Census this population comprised 400 persons.

The tables also present population groups: **Jews, Arabs and Others**. "Arabs" includes Moslems, Christian-Arabs and Druze. "Others" includes non-Arab Christians, and those unclassified by religion in the Ministry of the Interior.

As of 2000, the overall population also includes Southern Lebanese citizens (soldiers from the Southern Lebanese Army) who entered Israel in May 2000 and were given Israeli identity cards. At the end of 2004, this population comprised about 3,400 persons, most of whom (about 2,500) are not classified by religion in the population register.

In the tables that present data by religion, this group is listed as part of the total population and the Arab population, but is not included in the specification of religions.

**Age** is defined as the number of completed years at the estimation date.

**Country of birth** is defined by borders at the time of the estimate, with the exception of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Data on those countries relate to the political situation before their dissolution.

**Continent/country of origin** for persons born abroad - continent/country of birth; for persons born in Israel - father's continent/country of birth.

#### EXPLANATIONS, SOURCES AND METHODS OF COMPUTATION

**Basis for population estimates:** The estimates until the Census of May 22, 1961 are based on the Registration of the Population conducted on November 8, 1948 and relate to the *de facto* population. From the 1961 Census on, the estimates relate to the *de jure* population. From 1972 through 1982, estimates are based on the Census of Population and Housing conducted in May 20, 1972. From 1983 through 1994 (incl. average population in 1995), estimates are based on the results of the Census held on June 4, 1983. As of 1995, the data on population are based on the Census of November 4, 1995, unless otherwise stated.

As of 1967, the population includes the residents of East Jerusalem (who numbered 70,900 at the end of 1967) and as of 1969, potential immigrants. In 1982, the Druze and Moslem population of the Golan (about 12,000 persons at the end of 1982) was added.

**Estimates by age**, combined with other characteristics, are calculated once a year.

The estimate of age composition, for the end of a given year, is based on the estimate by age for the end of the preceding year, after "aging" all age groups by one year. Births, and immigrants by age, are added to this base, while deaths and the migration balance are subtracted. By adding the balance of additions and subtractions to the base, the estimate of age groups for the end of the year is obtained.

**Average population** until 1983 and from 1990 to 1993 was computed as the mean of the 12 monthly averages. From 1983 to 1989,

when immigration was relatively at a low ebb, and from 1994 onwards, years in which immigrants arrived more or less evenly every month, the average population was calculated as half the sum of the population at the end and at the beginning of the surveyed year.

**Immigrants from USSR (former)** who immigrated since 1990 - the basis for the population estimate is the Population and Housing Census of 4.11.1995, to which 36,000 persons were added to the base estimate after the census in a differential correction according to the year of immigration (to immigration year 1990 10,600 persons were added). This estimate refers to all the immigrants from the USSR, without differentiation by religion. The estimate also includes children who were born in Israel to mothers belonging to this population. Therefore, the components of change for this population are: natural increase (births less deaths) and the migration balance.

Due to revisions made in the Census, especially in the estimates by year of immigration (see above), there is a discontinuity between the estimates up to 1994 and the estimates after the Census.

**Immigrant population from Ethiopia** - The table includes Ethiopian immigrants by two immigration periods: until 1989 and from 1990 and on. The estimate includes also the immigrant's children born in Israel.

**Population projections** - the projections are based on the population estimates at the end of 2000, and the development expected from this year until the end of 2025. The projections presented here are based on three different assumptions regarding the level of fertility and the migration balance. The overall fertility rate of the total population of Israel at the end of the projection period (2021-2025) is expected to range from 2.2 to 3.1 births per woman on the average, according to the respective variants. Regarding the migration balance for the entire projection period is expected to range from 88,000 to 384,000 (2000-2025), where the total number of immigrants is expected to range from 459,500 to 699,000.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION DEFINITIONS

**Locality** is a permanently inhabited place that meets the following criteria:

- It is usually inhabited by 40 or more adult residents (until the 1961 Census - 10 residents and until 1997 - 20 permanent residents or more);
- It has self-administration;
- It is not officially included in another locality.
- Its establishment was approved by the planning institutions.

Localities are classified as "**Jewish**" or "**Non-Jewish**" according to the majority population in the locality. In most localities, there is a large majority either of "Jews" or of "Arabs".

There are eight urban localities, defined as "mixed", with a large majority of Jews, but with a considerable minority of Arabs: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Akko, Ramla, Lod, Ma'alot-Tarshiha, Nazerat Illit (since 1983) and the rural locality Neve Shalom (since 1985). These localities were included among both "Jewish" and "Non-Jewish" localities, but in the total localities they were counted only once. The population listed under the religion "Jews" refers to Jews living in Jewish and Non-Jewish localities. The population listed under the Arab population group refers to Arabs living in Non-Jewish and Jewish localities.

**District and sub-district** were defined according to the official administrative division of the state, which includes 6 districts and 15 sub-districts. In 1972, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area were added, in order to characterize the Jewish localities and the Jewish population in those areas.

**Natural region:** Within the frame of the official division into 15 sub-districts, a more detailed sub-division was made into natural regions. Each natural region is part of one sub-district or, in some cases, identical to a whole sub-district or district.

Natural regions are continuous areas, as homogeneous as possible in their physical structure, climate and soil, as well as in the demographic, economic and cultural characteristics of their population. Before the 1995 Census, the natural region system was

updated and the number of regions rose from 45 to 50.

Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area were not divided into natural regions.

#### **TYPE OF LOCALITY**

Tables are presented according to the definitions determined for the 1983 Census, and updated for the 1995 Census.

**Urban localities** include all localities with 2,000 or more inhabitants and are classified by size.

**Rural localities** include all localities with a population of up to 2,000 (even if not agricultural).

Rural localities are sub-divided as follows:

**Moshav** is a rural locality, organized as a cooperative society which has the right to agricultural farm land, as defined by the Israel Land Administration. These localities consist of family units, each of which is an independent economic entity. Part of the production, and the economic administration is carried out by the cooperative society, the degree of cooperation being determined by the members;

**Collective moshav** is a rural collective locality, where production and marketing are collective and consumption is private;

**Kibbutz** is a rural collective locality where both production, marketing and consumption are collective;

**Institutional locality:** institutions which have the characteristics of a locality and are not within the municipal boundaries of another locality;

**Communal locality:** A locality organized as a cooperative society, which has no right to farm land, and where the extent of the cooperative activities (whether in production, consumption, municipal and social activities) is determined by its members.

**Other rural locality:** A locality numbering less than 2,000 residents which is not included in any of the other categories described above.

**Living outside localities:** Residents living outside the boundaries of any locality, in locations that do not have the characteristics of a locality (as defined above). This group is included in the rural population.

**Bedouin tribes** refers to the Bedouin population living outside localities, mainly in

the Negev and in northern Israel (since the 1983 Census, this population has been included among those "living outside localities"). Reports of changes in personal data such as marriages, divorces, etc., among the Bedouin in the South are incomplete. In addition, the Bedouin often indicate the name of their tribe instead of the locality in which they live when asked to give their address. Since the Bedouin tribes are considered as "living outside localities", these reports may cause people to be registered as having moved from localities to outside areas. In addition this leads to excessive registration of births among those living outside localities, and to unreasonable birth rates and age composition. As a result it is difficult to estimate the proportion of the Bedouin population outside localities, and the characteristics of the Bedouin population both within and outside localities.

#### **CURRENT AND PERMANENT LOCALITY TYPE**

There are localities for which the definition of locality type may change over the years, e.g., from rural to urban or from one type of urban locality to another. In order to enable comparison of demographic data from different years, a permanent locality type was established.

The permanent locality type was determined after each census and updated once midway between the censuses. For the period from 1995 to 2000, the permanent locality type refers that which was determined in the 1995 Census..

In 2001, the permanent locality type was updated in accordance with changes in the size of the population in the localities (from 1995 to 2001). The updated permanent locality type is the one determined in 2001, which will be used until the next population census and appears in Table 2.6, 2.11, 2.16 and 2.22.

#### **METROPOLITAN AREA**

A large number of local authorities (municipalities and local authorities), as well as regional councils and rural localities that are adjacent to one another and constitute one functional entity that integrates economic, social, and cultural relations within the boundaries of the metropolitan area.

The metropolitan areas were divided

according to their internal structure.

**Core:** The territory of the primary city serving as the focus of activity for the population of the metropolitan area.

**Inner Ring:** The area containing the localities surrounding the core.

**Middle ring:** The area containing the localities surrounding the Inner Ring (in the Tel Aviv and Be'er Sheva metropolitan areas).

**Outer Ring:** The area containing the localities surrounding the Middle Ring.

**Sections** (Northern, Eastern, Southern); subdivisions of the metropolitan rings.

Until 2000, two metropolitan areas were defined in Israel: the Tel Aviv area, and the Haifa area.

In 2001, the borders of these metropolitan areas were re-examined. As a result, the borders of the Haifa metropolitan area were changed. The changes in the **Haifa metropolitan area** were implemented in the outer ring localities: In the southern part of the metropolitan area, the locality Jisr AZ-Zarka was removed. In the northern part, however, it was decided to maintain all of the localities up to the Nahariyya line, inclusive. In the northeastern part of the outer ring, it was decided to include all of the localities in the natural region of Karmi'el as well as the localities of the Misgav regional council. The borders of the **Tel Aviv metropolitan area** remained unchanged.

**The Be'er Sheva metropolitan area** - In 2001, a plan was approved, which defines the borders of a new metropolitan area that is emerging in the southern region around Be'er Sheva. The plan for the Be'er Sheva metropolitan area is similar to those of the other metropolitan areas, in that it is also divided into rings that encompass sections. The rings are defined according to their distance from the center of the metropolitan area ("the core"), which is the city of Be'er Sheva. The Be'er Sheva metropolitan area includes the northern Negev from the border of the Be'er Sheva subdistrict in the north to

Mitzpe Ramon in the south; and from the border of the Gaza Strip and Egypt to the west to the Dead Sea and Jordanian border to the East. Data on the three metropolitan area appear in Table 2.15.

#### **MUNICIPAL STATUS OF LOCALITIES:**

**Three types of local authorities are distinguished:**

**Municipality** refers to one locality only.

**Local council** refers to one locality only.

**Regional council** refers, generally, to a number of rural localities.

Regional councils include localities which have a representative on the council as well as localities that are within the municipal jurisdiction of the council, but are not represented in it. The latter, however are included in the number of localities in the council, and their population is included in the population of that council.

#### **INTERNAL MIGRATION**

The data on internal migration between localities are based on analysis of the file of changes recorded in the Population Register of the Ministry of the Interior, referring to residents' notification of change of address. Data do not include first place of settlement of new immigrants, but include their changes of address.

As of the end of 1981, change of address has also been based on passport application forms, identity card applications and birth notifications; the use of birth notification was discontinued in mid-1990. Consequently, there has been a considerable increase in the number of changes registered since 1982, and one should be cautious in comparing data with previous years.

The data on internal migration in tables 2.16 and 2.17, are registration data. The data include all those who reported a change of address to the Ministry of the Interior in 2003, even if the change itself took place before.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### *SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS*

- 1026 Population in Localities, 1994, Demographic Characteristics, by Geographical Divisions
- 1038 Internal Migration in Israel, 1993
- 1076 Immigrant Population from USSR (former), 1995 - Demographic Trends
- 1109 Internal Migration in Israel of Immigrants of the 1990's, 1997
- 1182 Demographic Characteristics of the Population in Israel, 1995-1999
- 1185 Ethiopian Population in Israel - Demographic Characteristics, 1996-1999

### *CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING 1995*

- 1 Population and Household - Provisional Results
- 3 List of Localities - Geographical Characteristic and Population - 1948-1995
- 7 Demographic Characteristics of the Population in Localities and Statistical Areas
- 8A Socio-Economic Characteristics of Population and Households in Localities with 2,000 Inhabitants and More - Selected Findings (Hebrew only)
- 10A Level of Education of the Population

in Israel - Selected Findings (Hebrew only)

### *TECHNICAL SERIES*

- 76 List of Localities, Their Population and Codes 31 XII 2003

### *CURRENT BRIEFINGS IN STATISTICS*

- 11, 1998 Population in Localities with 2,000 and More Inhabitants - Selected Demographic Data from the 1995 Census of Population and Housing.
- 4, 2004 Internal Migration in Israel, 1999-2000.
- 11, 2004 Immigrant Population from the Former USSR, Selected Data, 2000-2001

### *PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET SITE*

- Population Projections for Israel up to 2020
- Functioning, Mobility and Self Assessment of Persons Aged 60+, Living in Households, 1997
- Immigrant Population from Former USSR 1999 - selected Data
- Population in Localities - Provisional Data, End of 2000 (Hebrew only)
- Israel Population 2004: Data and Outstanding Findings