

PREFACE

The Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS] hereby presents the Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2006; the 57th annual abstract published since the establishment of the State.

The Statistical Abstract is the most outstanding publication produced by the CBS. As in previous years, the Abstract presents data on various aspects of life for a broad range of users. The Abstract presents data from regular CBS publication series, as well as data from censuses and special or periodic surveys conducted by the CBS. More detailed data on these topics can be found in the other publications of the CBS.

This Statistical Abstract presents new data in several fields. In the field of vital statistics, new data are provided on stillbirths. Data from the social survey are also provided, which include information on well-being and living conditions among the permanent population of Israel. This cycle of the social survey focused on arrangements for children up to age 13 outside of the formal education system, and the relationship between those arrangements and parents' employment. In the field of education, the Abstract presents new data from the Culture Survey in Primary Schools, on lessons and classes, as well as new data on applicants for first-year studies toward a first degree in universities. Moreover, with regard to the government, data have been added on the domestic and external government debt, as well as data on general government expenditure by units and by function. In the field of Balance of Payments, data have been added on the activities of multi-national enterprises in Israel, which are an important manifestation of globalization.

The tables and introductions presented in the Abstract in Hebrew and English also appear on the CBS website www.cbs.gov.il in Word, Excel, and PDF formats. In addition, the website includes colour diagrams, most of which are based on data from the Abstract.

A CD ROM containing all of the material in the Abstract as well as colour diagrams based on the statistics presented in the Abstract is attached to the printed copy of the publication. In addition, a search engine is available on the CD ROM, which allows for precise location of every requested word in the Tables and Introductions.

Preparation of the Abstract - like all of the activities of the Central Bureau of Statistics - was a collaborative effort involving the families and people who took part in the various surveys, as well as establishments, businesses, institutions and government ministries. On behalf of the staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics, I wish to thank all these people.

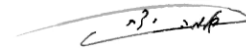
I would like to extend my personal gratitude to all of the staff members of the different units of the CBS for the dedicated work and daily efforts, and special thanks to the members of the Statistical Abstract steering committee for their important contribution, and to the team of experts from the various departments at the CBS who contributed toward maintaining consistency in the use of definitions and terms in the Abstract.

Edith Noy was in charge of scientific editing.

The Abstract was edited by Orit Penso with assistance from the staff of the Publication Division at the CBS.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of the people who worked on the Abstract inside and outside of the Bureau.

Prof. Shlomo Yitzhaki



The Government Statistician

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