

## 4

## IMMIGRATION

Additional data on movements of Israelis and tourists on the borders appear in Chapter 23 - *Tourism and Hotels*.

## SUMMARY TABLE

(Table 4.1)

## DEFINITIONS

**Immigrant:** a person entering the country to take up permanent residence under the Law of Return or the Law of Entrance.

**Potential immigrant:** a person entering the country on a potential immigrant visa. According to the regulations of the Ministry of the Interior, from June 1969, a potential immigrant is defined as "a person entitled to an immigrant visa or certificate according to the Law of Return 1950, and who intends to enter Israel and to stay there for a period exceeding three months". As of 1991 a potential immigrant is a person entitled to an immigrant visa or certificate according to the Law of Return 1950, and wants to stay in Israel up to 3 years to examine the possibility and the conditions of settling in Israel as an immigrant.

**Movement of potential immigrants:** entrance and departure of potential immigrants, after their first arrival.

**Immigrating citizen:** a person, born to an Israeli citizen during his stay abroad, who enters Israel with the intention to settle.

**Temporary resident:** a foreign citizen entering Israel for a stay of over six months for purposes of temporary work, study, etc.

**Israeli (departing abroad):** a person with Israeli citizenship and a permanent resident without Israeli citizenship departing abroad with an Israeli passport, for any purpose.

The data does not include the movements of Arabs from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area. Since 1970, the data have included the movements of residents of East Jerusalem via the Jordan bridges.

**Tourist:** a foreign citizen who enters Israel on a tourist visa, and is neither an immigrant, an immigrating citizen, a potential immigrant, a temporary resident, nor a cruise passenger;

also included are diplomats.

**Cruise passenger:** a tourist who enters Israel on a cruise, or on foreign navy vessels, generally for a day or two, usually spending his nights on board (until 1984 these passengers were called "visitors on cruisers").

**Tourist who changed his status to potential immigrant or immigrant:** a person who entered Israel as a tourist, and during his stay in the country applied for, and received, the status of an immigrant or potential immigrant.

**Work permit holders:** A foreign citizen who arrived in Israel with a work permit and received a work visa from the Ministry of the Interior. Work permits are issued by a unit affiliated with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor at the request of employers and in accordance with the decision of the government. Based on the permits, the Ministry of the Interior issues entrance visas to foreign citizens who wish to enter the country for work purposes.

**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.

## EXPLANATIONS AND METHODS OF COMPUTATION

Table 4.1 includes data on immigrants who were registered at the border checkpoints. Their number differs from the data in Table 4.2, which include also those who changed their status in the bureaus of the Ministry of Interior from tourist or temporary resident to immigrant or potential immigrant; they differ also from data in Table 2.2, which include those who changed their status as well as immigrating citizens. As of 1970, all tables include non-Jewish immigrants but do not include "immigrating citizens" (see definition above), except for Table 4.1 in which data on "immigrating citizens" are included in the total.

As of 1952, Table 4.1 includes temporary residents.

From May 1985, Table 4.1 includes Israelis and tourists in transit to Sinai (up to 14 days) via the Taba checkpoint in Elat.

As of August 1994, the tables include movements through the Arava checkpoint and as of November 1994, also through the Nahar Hayarden checkpoint, both on the Jordanian border.

As of 2000, the data for temporary residents refer mainly to those with a work permit. The data for them are received separately from the Ministry of the Interior.

Table 4.10 is based on special processing of data from the border control files. Records from the border control files were matched with the population register file in order to obtain data on demographic characteristics such as age, sex, and religion.

#### SOURCES

Citizens of foreign countries entering or leaving Israel through the border checkpoints fill out a form appropriate to their type of visa: immigrant, tourist, temporary resident, etc. The form's content, which includes date of passage, was keyed into the computer either by officers from the Ministry of the Interior or by officers from the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption. Data on immigrants entering the country are transferred to the Population Register, while data on foreigners, arriving and departing, are transferred to the border control file.

As of April 1993, the border crossing form for Israelis was cancelled. Data on border crossings of Israelis are recorded in the border checkpoints' terminals and then transferred to the Ministry of the Interior, where they are recorded in the border control file.

Due to technical difficulties in the border control file, not all of the border crossings were recorded in the file. Consequently, data on Israelis departing and arriving in 1994 are based on an estimate.

As of the year 2000, the Ministry of the Interior stopped processing the border crossing form for tourists. Therefore, data on movements of tourists are derived since then from the files of the Israel Police.

## IMMIGRANTS

(Tables 4.2-4.9)

Until 1973, age was computed only on the basis of the difference between year of birth and year of immigration. As of 1974, the age of immigrants has been computed according to the exact date of birth and the exact date of immigration (day, month and year).

Table 4.2 includes in data for 1919-1948 Ma'apilim - illegal immigrants, immigrants and all tourists who remained in the country, by year of arrival. Since the establishment of the State of Israel (15 May 1948), data include tourists who changed their status to immigrants according to the year in which they changed their status. In 1969, an additional status was created - potential immigrants. Ever since, tourists who changed their status to immigrants and potential immigrants have been included according to the year in which they changed their status (see also note 2 to Table 2.3, which also includes immigrating citizens and Table 4.1, which only includes immigrants according to type of visa at arrival in Israel).

Data for 1948-1949 are according to continent and country of birth only.

## ISRAELIS

(Table 4.10)

Additional data on Israelis crossing the borders, see Chapter 23 - *Tourism and Hotels*.

**Departures of Israelis who stayed abroad continuously for a year or longer** - departures of Israelis who stayed abroad continuously for 365 days or longer, and had stayed in Israel for at least 90 consecutive days before their departure;

**Returns of Israelis who stayed abroad continuously for a year or longer** - returning Israelis who stayed abroad continuously for 365 days or longer and remained in Israel for at least 90 consecutive days after their return.

Data on departures and arrivals of Israelis who stayed abroad more than one year, without the above condition, are presented in Tables 23.3 and 23.4.

The criterion of at least 365 consecutive days spent abroad, which was used as the basis for the above definitions, is adapted from the

definition of de jure population (see Introduction to Chapter 2 - Population).

A consecutive stay in Israel of at least 90 days (prior to departure or after arrival) served as the criterion for distinguishing between new departures and returns during that year, and Israelis residing abroad who return to Israel regularly for extended stays. The Israelis who stay in Israel for less than 90 consecutive days prior to their departure or after their return, are not included in the data presented in the table.

## LABOUR MIGRATION

(Tables 4.11-4.12)

As of the Statistical Abstract for 2001, data are published on foreign citizens arriving from other countries and remain in Israel for various periods of time for the purpose of work. This phenomenon is known in the

professional literature as work migration, and is also referred to as the foreign workers phenomenon.

From 1996 to 2005, the published data related to the number of arrivals and departures. Thus, any individual could have more than one arrival and/or departure per year.

As of the 2007 Statistical Abstract, data will be published on arriving and departing persons. The data are obtained by deducting the files on arrivals and departures of foreign workers received from the Ministry of the Interior.

In Tables 4.11 and 4.12, **the age of work permit holders** is calculated as the difference between their date of birth and the year of entry into the country - not counting month of birth and month of entry.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- 1291 Immigration to Israel, 2000-2001
- 1271 Immigrant Population from USSR (Former), 1990-2001 - Demographic Trends

### CURRENT BRIEFINGS IN STATISTICS

- 26, 1997 Households of Immigrants who Arrived from the Former USSR in October - December 1993, a Follow-up Survey, One and Two Years after Immigration

- 27, 1997 Employment of Immigrants who Arrived from the Former USSR in October-December 1993, a Follow-up Survey, Two Years after Immigration
- 8, 1998 Mortality among Immigrants from Former USSR 1990-1994
- 17, 2000 Immigrant Population from the Former USSR, Selected Data 1998
- 10, 2001 Departures Abroad of Israelis 1997-1998