



הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה  
Central Bureau of Statistics  
دائرة الإحصاء المركزية

# The Social Survey Israel, 2009-2010

## About the survey

The Social Survey, performed by the Central Bureau of Statistics since 2002, provides information on the welfare of Israel's population in a range of fields such as health, schooling, employment, housing, religiosity, exposure to criminality, family and social relations, leisure and volunteering. The survey consists of a fixed core of questions and a varying annual topic investigated in depth. Total number of respondents interviewed for the survey is 7,500 adults at ages 20 and over, representing 4.8 million people in this age group: 4 million Jews and 800 thousand Arabs. The survey topics are determined by a steering committee comprising university researchers, government and public officials, and workers of the Central Bureau of Statistics engaged in this area. In 2009 the survey included two special topics - "religiosity" and "family-related issues"; in 2010 the special topics were "health and way of life" and "use of computers".

This pamphlet contains information from the special topics surveyed in the years 2009 and 2010, as well as information on satisfaction with life and with personal finances - core topics that are covered every year.

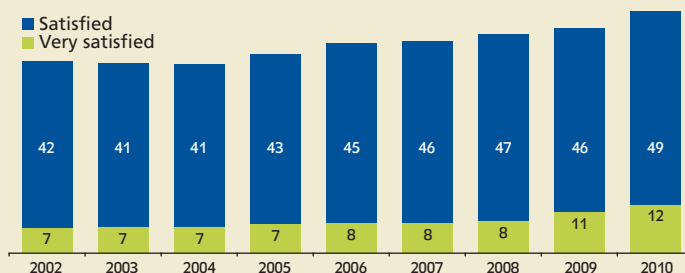
**The findings relate to adults aged 20 and over.**

**We wish to thank the participants in the survey, without whose cooperation in filling out the questionnaire this information could not have been provided to the public.**

## Satisfaction with life and with personal finances

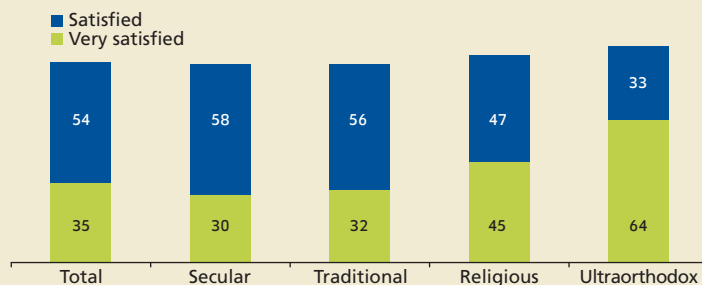
- In 2010, 61% of adults aged 20 and over said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their personal finances, compared to 49% in 2002.

### 1 Adults aged 20+ satisfied with personal finances, percentages, 2002-2010



- The percentage of individuals managing to cover their household expenses, increased from 53% in 2002 to 64% in 2010.

### 2 Jews aged 20+ satisfied with personal life, by degree of religiosity, percentages, 2010

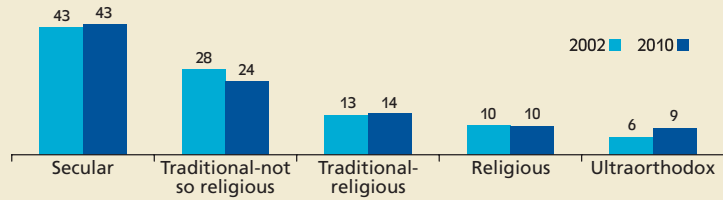


## Religiosity

### Jews

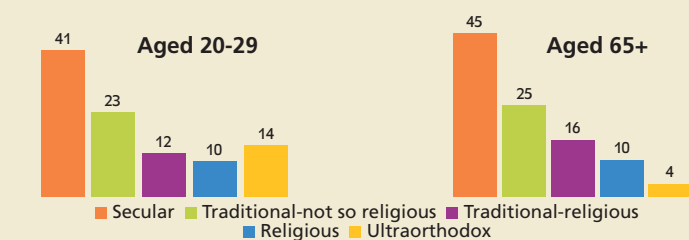
- In 2010, 43% of the adult Jewish population (aged 20 and over) defined themselves as secular, 24% as traditional-not so religious, 14% as traditional religious, 10% as religious and 9% as ultraorthodox.

#### 3 Jews aged 20+, by degree of religiosity, percentages, 2002, 2010



- The percentage of ultraorthodox is higher among young adults: in the 20-29 age group ultraorthodox account for 14%, compared to 4% in the 65+ age group.

#### 4 Jews aged 20-29 and 65+, by religiosity, percentages, 2010

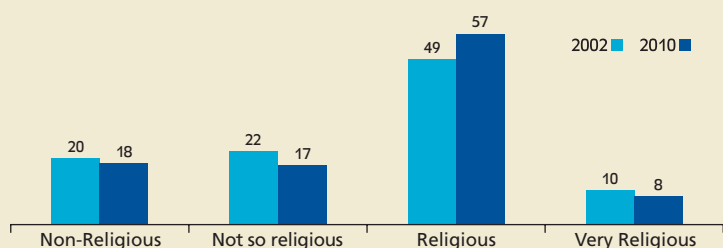


- 35% of the adult Jewish population said in 2009 that their degree of religiosity had changed over time, with the percentage of those becoming more religious (21%) higher than the percentage of those becoming less religious (14%).
- 5% of the total adult Jewish population defined themselves as newly observant ("hozrim bitshuva"); 22% of the ultraorthodox defined themselves as such.
- 49% of the newly observant Jews said their personal religious change was prompted by study and newly acquired knowledge, 25% turned to a more religious life due to family or environmental influence, and 17% - due to a personal crisis.
- 70% of the newly observant Jews are native Israelis and the rest - foreign born.

### Arabs

- In the adult Arab population, 8% defined themselves as very religious, 57% as religious, 17% as not so religious, and 18% as non-religious.

#### 5 Arabs aged 20+, by degree of religiosity, percentages, 2002, 2010

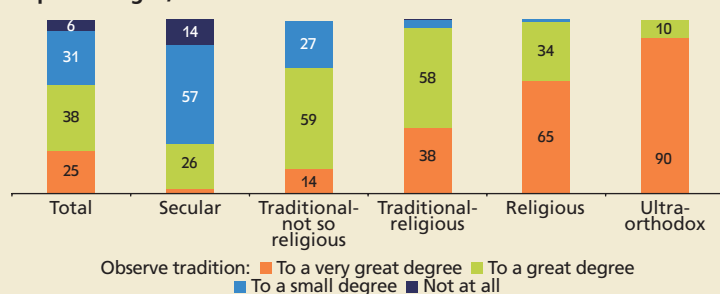


- The religious and very religious account for 89% of the Arab population aged 65 and over, compared to 55% of those aged 20-29.
- 40% of the adult Arab population said their religiosity had changed over time, with 36% becoming more religious (46% of women and 26% of men) and 4% becoming less religious.

## Observance of Jewish tradition

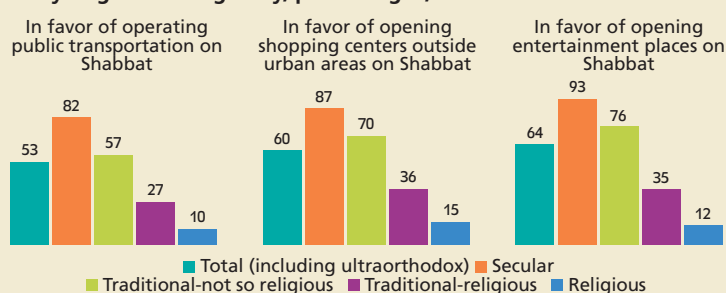
- Nearly the entire Jewish population (94%) observe Jewish tradition to some degree (in the secular segment - 86%).

**6 Jews aged 20+, by degree of tradition-observance and religiosity, percentages, 2009**



- 82% of secular Jews attend a Passover Seder and 67% light Hanukkah candles. The percentage of those who observe other religious customs is far lower: 26% fast on Yom Kippur and 22% eat kosher-for-Pesach food.
- 29% of the Jewish public hope their children will observe Jewish tradition "to a very large extent", 35% - "to a large extent", 16% - "to some extent", 2% - "not at all", 14% - leave the decision to their children.
- 80% of the Jewish public agree or strongly agree that "religion has a strong influence on life in the State of Israel"; 63% agree that "the influence of religion has increased in various spheres in recent years"; 62% agree that "civil marriage should be permitted in Israel for those interested"; and 57% agree that "in the State of Israel there should be a separation of religion and state."
- 78% of the secular and traditional public support opening entertainment places, such as restaurants, cinemas and pubs, on Shabbat (Saturday). Actually, just under half (49%) of this public spend Shabbat going out to places of entertainment. Also, the percentage of those who support opening shopping centers on Shabbat is higher than the percentage of those who actually do shopping on Shabbat.
- 60% of the Jewish public favor opening shopping centers outside cities on Shabbat; 46% favor opening shopping malls and shops in cities on Shabbat.

**7 Jews aged 20+, positions regarding observance of the Shabbath, by degree of religiosity, percentages, 2009**



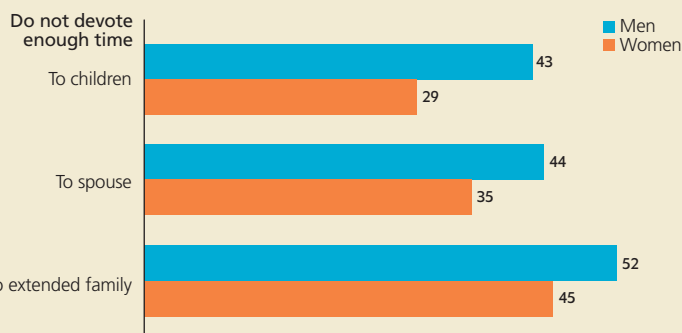
- 58% of the Jewish population describe the relationship between the secular and religious sectors as "not good". In Jerusalem this percent amounts to 64%.
- 67% of the secular population describe the relationship between secular and religious sectors as "not good", compared to 43% among the religious and 41% among the ultraorthodox populations.

## Family-related issues

### Balance between family and work

- Among employed persons a greater proportion of men than of women feel they lack time to devote to the family.

#### 8 Employed persons aged 20+ who feel they do not devote enough time to the family, by gender, percentages, 2009

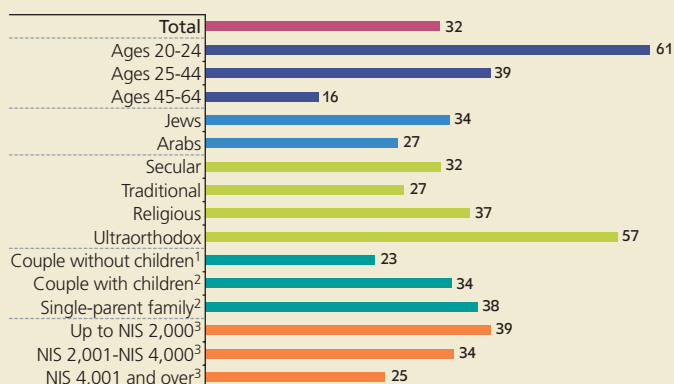


- 47% of employed persons with children under 18 often, or at times, have difficulty functioning in the family due to work commitments, with the proportion of men (50%) being higher than that of women (43%), and the proportion of full-time employed (49%) being higher than that of part-time employed (34%).

### Financial assistance

- 32% of individuals aged 20 and over who have parents (including spouse's parents) not living with them, receive financial assistance from the parents, the percentage decreasing with rising age. Financial support is highly widespread among the ultraorthodox - 57% of them receive financial assistance from their parents.

#### 9 Persons aged 20+ receiving financial assistance from parents, by selected characteristics, percentages, 2009



<sup>1</sup> Without children under 18

<sup>2</sup> With children under 18

<sup>3</sup> Average household income per capita (gross monthly)

- A fifth (20%) of individuals with parents not living with them, help their parents out financially (with money, payments or the purchase of goods).
- Financial support of parents by their children is more prevalent among Arabs (39%) than among Jews (16%).

# Health and way of life

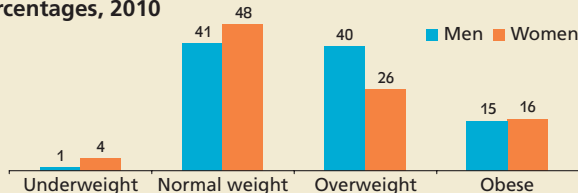
## Self evaluation of health

- 50% of individuals aged 20 and over perceive their health to be "very good," 31% "good," and 19% "not good" (16% of men and 21% of women).
- 27% of individuals living in households with an average per capita income lower than NIS 2,000, and 11% of individuals living in households with an average per capital income higher than NIS 4,000, perceive their health to be "not good".

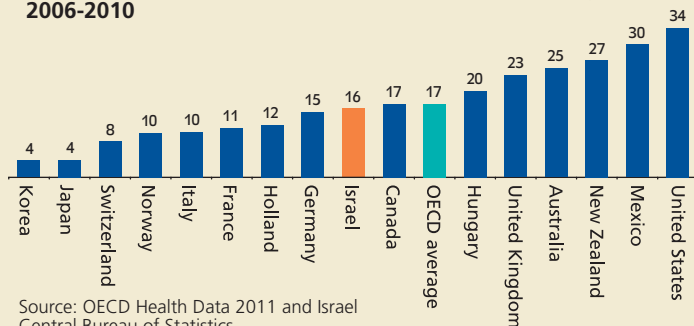
## Weight and diet

- Based on BMI<sup>1</sup>, 33% of the population are overweight (40% of men and 26% of women); 16% are obese.

**10 Persons aged 20+, by Body Mass Index (BMI<sup>1</sup> level) and gender, percentages, 2010**



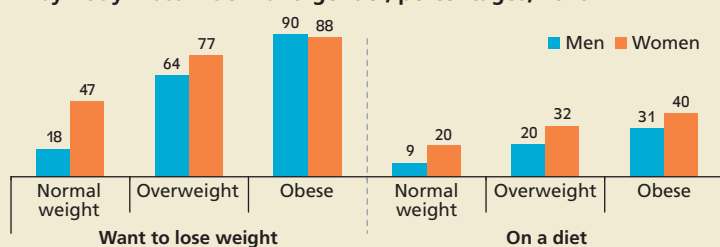
**11 Rates of obese adults in selected countries, percentages, 2006-2010**



Source: OECD Health Data 2011 and Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

- 54% of the population want to lose weight (61% of women and 47% of men), 34% want to stay the same weight, 6% want to put on weight and 5% don't care about their weight.
- Among women of normal weight, 47% are interested in losing weight.
- 21% of the population are on a diet - 17% of men and 26% of women.

**12 Persons aged 20+ interested in losing weight and those on a diet, by Body Mass Index<sup>1</sup> and gender, percentages, 2010**



- 35% of the public frequently check the ingredients or the nutritional value on the food packaging. 22% do so occasionally, 10% seldom do, and 33% do not check the ingredients or nutritional value at all.

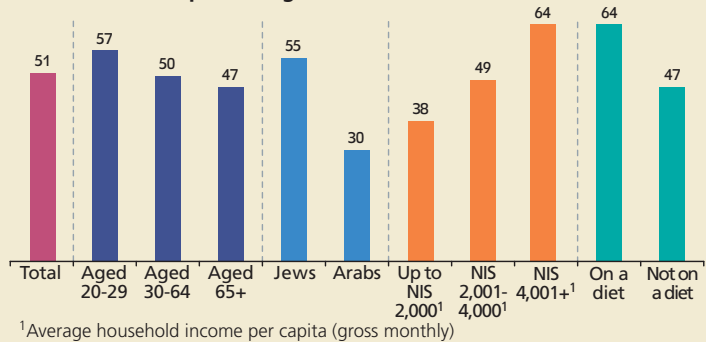
<sup>1</sup>Body mass index (BMI) is defined as body weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. Index values: up to 18.4 - underweight; 18.5-24.9 - normal weight; 25-29.9 - overweight; 30-34.9 - obese; 35 and over - excessively obese.

## Health and way of life (cont'd)

### Physical activity

- 51% of the population engage in physical activity at least once a week; (55% of men and 47% of women). 31% engage in physical activity at least three times a week (at least 10 consecutive minutes each time).

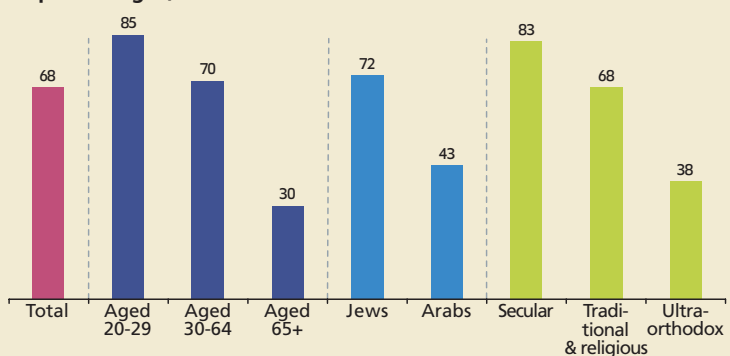
#### 13 Persons aged 20+ engaging in physical activity, by selected characteristics, percentages, 2010



## Use of Computers

- In 2010, 71% of individuals aged 20 and older used a computer - up from 62% in 2007. The percentage of computer users among ages 20-29 was 89%, among ages 30-64 - 73%, and among those aged 65 and over - 32%.
- 68% of those aged 20 and older use the Internet (71% of men; 64% of women).

#### 14 Individuals aged 20+ using the Internet, by selected characteristics, percentages, 2010



- 79% of the public agree that "websites with immoral or dangerous content should be blocked."
- 85% of parents to children aged 6-17 report that their children use a computer at home. 97% of them say their children use the computer for entertainment and pleasure, while 85% say their children use the computer for study purposes. 65% of parents limit the time their children spend on the computer. 47% of parents say their children sit in front of the computer instead of spending time with friends.
- 88% of parents to children aged 6-17 who use a computer agree that "websites with immoral or dangerous content should be blocked." 38% of the parents have actually installed technology in the home computer for blocking websites inappropriate for children.
- Two-thirds of the public (66%) believe that "there is concern about purchasing goods and services over the Internet with a credit card." Nevertheless, 25% of them have shopped on the Internet.
- 23% of the Jewish population believe that "surfing the Internet is a waste of time" - 67% among the ultraorthodox, 37% among the religious, 21% among the traditional and 12% among the secular.





**Additional information on the social survey may be found on the website:**

Social Survey, Annual Publication (Hebrew only)  
Social Survey Table Generator

**Annual modules featured in the social survey**

2012 – Pensions and Retirement Savings; Workers' Organizations  
2011 – Life-Long Study; Use of Languages  
2010 – Health and Way of Life; Use of Computers  
2009 – Religiosity and Tradition; Family-Related Issues  
2008 – Social Mobility  
2007 – Population Welfare; Attitudes towards Government Services  
2006 – Unpaid Caregivers  
2005 – Labor Force Participation  
2004 – Arrangements for Children Relating to Parents' Employment  
2003 – Population Welfare  
2002 – Pensions and Retirement Savings

**Central Bureau of Statistics**

Website: [www.cbs.gov.il](http://www.cbs.gov.il)  
Email: [info@cbs.gov.il](mailto:info@cbs.gov.il)  
Tel: 02-6592666  
Fax: 02-6521340

Preparation of this pamphlet  
Writer: Shlomit Dror Cohen  
"Statisti-lite" Series editor: Nurit Yaffe  
Design: Studio Alef