



# PRESS RELEASE

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## JERUSALEM DAY

- **In 2004 - approximately 706,000 residents in Jerusalem, which is 10% of the total number of residents in the country**
- **65% of Jerusalem residents are Jews, 32% are Moslems, and 2% are Christians**
- **Over one-third of Jerusalem residents (35%) are children under the age of 15 – two times the percentage of children in this age group in Tel Aviv-Yafo or Haifa**
- **During 2004 Jerusalem residents had 19,600 babies, which is 13% of all babies born in Israel during that year**

### A Look at Jerusalem Residents

Jerusalem is the largest city in Israel, both from the aspect of its area of jurisdiction (126,000 dunams) as well as from the number of residents living in it. At the end of 2004<sup>1</sup> the city population numbered approximately **706,000 persons**, approximately 10% of all residents in the country.

The **Jewish population** constitutes almost 65% of all municipal residents; the **Moslem population** constitutes 32% of all municipal residents; the Christian population is 2%; and approximately 1% are immigrants (and their offspring) who entered Israel under the Law of Return, but have no religious classification in the Population Registry.

Over one-third of the Jerusalem population are **children under the age of 15**, more than the percentage of children in that age group in the entire country (28%), and double that of Tel Aviv-Yafo and Haifa. The share of **those aged 65 and over** out of the general Jerusalem population (8%) is lower than the national average (10%), and approximately half of that in Tel Aviv-Yafo and Haifa.

The share of children out of the general Arab population in Jerusalem is high – 42%, and the share of those aged 65 and over is low – 3%; whereas the share of children out of the general Jewish population is 32%, and that of those aged 65 and over – 11%.

<sup>1</sup> All data for 2004 are provisional.

Written by Ms. Suzanna Zaritzky

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There are approximately 177,000 **households**<sup>1</sup> in Jerusalem – 9% of all households in Israel. A Jerusalem household numbers an average of almost four people (3.8, compared with the national average of 3.4), and is larger than households in the other large cities in the country: Rishon LeTziyon (an average of 3.2), Haifa (2.6) and Tel Aviv-Yafo (2.3).

### **Population growth in the city**

During 2004 Jerusalem's population grew by approximately **13,000** residents, **1.9%** more residents than in 2003. This growth percentage is higher than the national average (1.7%), and higher than that recorded in Haifa (0.0%) and in Rishon LeTziyon (1.3%). In 2004, for the first time in years, the growth percentage in Jerusalem was lower than that in Tel Aviv-Yafo (2.1%).

The main sources of population growth in Jerusalem are: **high natural increase** (number of births less number of deaths), and on the other hand, a **negative internal migration balance** (number of residents entering the city is lower than the number of residents leaving it to live in other localities). In addition, the residents of the city are also joined by new immigrants, who enter Jerusalem as their **first place of domicile**<sup>2</sup>.

**Natural increase and fertility** – during 2004 there were **19,600 babies** born to residents of the city; these constitute 13% of all babies born in Israel during that year.

Jerusalem has a high concentration of Ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arabs, with patterns of high fertility. According to 2003 data, the **total fertility rate** (number of average births per woman during her lifetime) of women in Jerusalem stands at almost 4 children per woman (3.96). This rate is higher than the national rate (2.95), and double that of women in the three other large cities in the country: Tel Aviv-Yafo (1.97), Haifa (1.79) and Rishon LeTziyon (2.02).

### **Main Sources of Population Growth in Jerusalem – Selected Years**

#### **Residents in Thousands**

#### **New Immigrants in First Domiciles Natural Increase Internal Migration Balance**

**Internal migration balance** – in recent years an average of approximately 6,000 more residents left Jerusalem each year than moved to it. During 2004 approximately 11,400 residents from other localities entered Jerusalem, whereas the number of those leaving Jerusalem is estimated at approximately 18,000 residents. More than half of those leaving (8,900) moved to the following 8 localities: Beit Shemesh (approximately 2,200 residents), Tel Aviv-Yafo (approximately 1,600), Ma'aleh Adumim (approximately 1,400), Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut (approximately 800), Beitar Elite (approximately 800), Mevasseret Tziyon (approximately 700), Modi'in Elite (approximately 700) and Bnei-Brak (approximately 700).

<sup>1</sup> Data on households are taken from the 2004 Labour Force Survey, and they include private households only, without the population of institutions, kibbutzim, student dormitories or Bedouin in the Southern District, who reside outside permanent localities.

<sup>2</sup> New immigrants' first locality of residence in Israel.

**First domicile of immigrants in Jerusalem** – during 2004 **2,307 new immigrants** settled in Jerusalem as their first place of domicile; they constitute 11% of all immigrants to Israel in that year. Of them, 740 are immigrants from the USA, 435 are immigrants from the former USSR and 425 are immigrants from France. In recent years a trend has arisen of a drop in the share of immigrants from the former USSR who settle in the city, compared with a rise in the share of immigrants from the USA, Canada and France.

**Immigrants from 1990 on who reside in the city** – at the end of 2003 there were over **57,000 residents of Jerusalem who are immigrants who arrived in Israel from 1990 on**, and they constitute 5% of all immigrants to Israel in those years. They include almost 31,000 immigrants from the former USSR, close to 10,000 immigrants from the USA and Canada, over 4,000 immigrants from France and approximately 1,700 immigrants from Ethiopia.