



PRESS RELEASE

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The Moslem Population in Israel – On the Occasion of the “Festival of the Sacrifice”

- At the beginning of 2005, the Moslem population of Israel number over 1,100,000 – 16% of the total population of Israel.
- The number of Moslem children aged 0-14 in Israel was about 463 thousand – about one-fourth of all children in the country.
- 39% of the Moslem population lives in the Northern District and 21% lives in the Jerusalem District.
- In 2025, the Moslem population of Israel is expected to number about 2 million.

On the occasion of the Festival of the Sacrifice, the Central Bureau of Statistics presents updated figures on the Moslem population in Israel.

The number of Moslem residents in Israel **at the beginning of 2005 is estimated at about 1.107 million¹**, i.e., about 16% of the total population of Israel, and 82% of the total Arab population. Eid al Adha is also celebrated by the Druze residents of Israel, who numbered 113,000 at the beginning of 2005.²

The growth rate of the Moslem population of Israel in 2004 was 3.2%, compared with 1.3% among the Jewish population (about 2.5 times greater than that of the Jewish population). The growth rate

¹ Provisional estimates.

² A separate press release on the Druze population of Israel will be published on April 24, 2005 for the holiday of the Prophet Shuayib. For 2004, see Press Release No. 94 (“The Druze Population of Israel”).

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of the Moslem population of Israel was higher than in the neighboring Arab countries. Almost all of the population growth (98%) derived from natural increase (births less deaths)³

Age Structure

The Moslem population in Israel is young – 43% are **children aged 0-14**, compared with 26% among the Jewish population, 26% among the Christian population, and 35% among the Druze population. Concomitantly, only 3% of the total Moslem population of Israel are **aged 65 and over**, compared with almost 12% of persons in that age group among the total Jewish population, 8% among the Christian population, and 4% among the Druze population.

Births and Fertility

In 2004, **over 36,500 babies were born to Moslem women** in Israel; a quarter of all the babies born in Israel that year.

Based on the data for 2003, Moslem women are expected to give birth to an average of 4.5 children in their lifetime, compared with an average of 2.7 children per Jewish woman, 2.3 per Christian woman, and 2.9 per Druze woman.

Households and Families⁴

The Moslem population in Israel resides in approximately **194,000 households**, which constitute approximately 10% of all households in Israel. The **average number of persons per Moslem household** is 5.2, compared with 3.1 in Jewish households. The proportion of Moslem households with at least one family is 95%, compared with 79% of Jewish households. The rest of the households consist of people who live alone or who have no family relationship.

74% of the Moslem **families** and 47% of the Jewish families have a traditional structure, i.e, they comprise a couple with at least one child up to age 17; and 9% of the Moslem families do not have children living with them. Only 4% of the Moslem families are single-parent families with at least one children up to age 17, compared with about 7% of the Jewish population.

Geographic Distribution

³ Among the Jewish population of Israel, the rate of natural increase was 93% out of the total annual increase of the population in 2003. The rest of the population growth derives from the migration balance (arrivals to Israel less departures over a period exceeding one year).

⁴ The data on households and families are based on the Labour Force Survey of 2003. The data do not include persons living in institutions, kibbutzim, and those living outside of localities (Bedouins in the South and other).

There are nine localities in Israel with over 20,000 Moslem residents (see Table 1). Of those localities, **Jerusalem** has the largest concentration of Moslem residents in Israel – 217,000 – comprising 20% of the all Moslems in the country and 31% of the city's population.

Table 1. Localities with over 20,000 Moslem Residents, at the End of 2003 (Thousands)

Localities	Moslems	Total Residents
Jerusalem	216.7	693.2
Nazareth	42.5	62.7
Umm al-Fahm	39.0	39.0
Rahat	35.7	35.8
Tayibe	31.1	31.2
Baqa al-Jett (merger of Baqa al-Gharbiyye and Jett)	29.3	29.4
Sagur (merger of Jud al-Qarum, Deir al-Asad, and Bi'ne)	26.2	27.1
Tamra	24.6	24.7
Sakhnin	21.9	23.2

In the Northern District, the Moslem population numbers 423,000 residents - 20% of the total Moslem population in Israel); in the Jerusalem District the Moslem population numbers 225,000 (21%), in the Haifa District the Moslem population numbers 136,000 (13%), of whom 42,000 reside outside of localities; in the Central district the Moslem population numbers 123,000 (11%), and in the Tel Aviv – 12,000 (1%)..

In the Northern District, Moslems comprise 37% of the total population, compared with 27% in the Jerusalem District, 18% in the Haifa District, 14% in the Southern District, 10% in the Central District, and 1% in the Tel Aviv District.

Table 2. The Moslem and Jewish Populations in Israel, by Demographic and Geographic Characteristics, to the End of 2003

	Moslems (Thousands)	Moslems (Percentages)	Jews (Percentages)
Age Structure			
Total	1,072.6	100.0	100.0
Aged 0-14	462.6	43.1	25.5
Aged 65 and over	28.7	2.7	11.8
Residents by District			
Total	1,072.6	100.0	100.0
North	422.7	39.4	10.0
Jerusalem	224.6	20.9	10.9
Haifa	154.4	14.4	11.8
South	136.2	12.7	14.8
Central	122.6	11.4	21.2
Tel Aviv	12.0	1.1	21.2
Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area⁵	--	--	4.4
Households and Families			
Total households	194.0	100.0	100.0
Family households	184.9	95.3	78.9
Non-family households	9.1	4.7	21.1
Total nuclear families	198.0	100.0	100.0
Thereof: couples with children aged up to 17	145.6	73.6	47.1
Single-parent families with children aged up to 17	8.3	4.2	6.6

According to the **projection** published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, **toward the end of 2025** the Moslem population is expected to number about 2 million – 1.8 times greater than its present size. By that time, the Moslem population will comprise about 22% of the total number of residents

⁵Israelis in Jewish localities only

in Israel. The share of Moslems in the total Arab population is expected to grow from 82% at the beginning of 2004, to approximately 85% in 2025.

Entitlement to a Matriculation Certificate

Of all Moslem 12th grade pupils, 49% were entitled to a matriculation certificate in 2003, compared with 40% in 1998.

Participation in the Labour Force

In 2003, there were about 230,000 Moslems in the civilian labour force – 187,000 men, and 42,000 women. The Moslem in the civilian labour force comprised 60.8% of all Moslems aged 15 and over. By comparison, the rate of participation was 59.8% among Jewish men, 65.6% among Arab Christian men, and 48.9% among Druze men.

Among Moslem women, the rate of participation in the civilian labour force was 14.1%, compared with 54.6% among Jewish women, 36.2% among Arab Christian women, and 22.7% among Druze women.

The percentage of unemployed persons (of all persons belonging to the labour force) was 12.5% among the Moslems – a higher rate than among the Christians (9.3%), Druze (7.5%), and Druze (10.6%).

About half of the Moslem men were employed as skilled workers in manufacturing, construction, and other skilled professionals; 14% were employed as unskilled workers, 13% as agents, sales workers and service workers, and the rest in other occupations.

Households with Employed Persons

In 72% of the Moslem households, there was at least one employed person (including those serving in the permanent army). The percentage of Jewish households with at least one employed person was similar, and below that of Arab-Christian households (76%) and Druze households (78%).

Housing Density

The average number of persons per room in Moslem household was 1.5 – higher than in Arab-Christian, Druze, and Jewish households (1.1, 1.2, and 0.9, respectively).