



PRESS RELEASE

info@cbs.gov.il

http://www.cbs.gov.il

FAX. 02-652 1340

Jerusalem

March 7, 2005

49/2005

Data on the Occasion of International Women's Day 2005

- At the end of 2003 there were 3,417,000 women in Israel
- The sex ratio in Israel is 103 females to 100 males
- The average age at first marriage is 24.2 years
- About 900 thousand women have children up to age 17, and 10% of those women head single-parent families
- Fertility rate – 2.9 children per woman on the average
- Life expectancy of women in Israel – 81.5 years, compared with 77.5 years for men
- The rate of entitlement to a matriculation certificate is higher for girls than for boys
- In 2004, slightly more than half of the students for a third degree were women
- The average hourly wage earned by women employees (NIS 36.6) is 83% of that earned by their male counterparts (NIS 44.3)
- About one-third of all senior executives are women; the average hourly earned by women executives is 74% of that earned by male executives
- The percentage of unemployed women in 2004 (11.4%) was higher than that of unemployed men (9.5%)
- Most women are satisfied with their relationships with family and friends
- 85% of all women are satisfied with their work, but only 45% are satisfied with their wages
- About 10% of all women aged 21 and over experienced sexual contact against their will
- Only 10% of all offenders are women

The press release is also published on the CBS Website: www.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2005/01_05_49.htm

For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,

Please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 056-235 124

On the occasion of International Women's day, which falls on March 8, 2005, the Central Bureau of Statistics presents statistics on women in Israel

Numbers of Women and Men

At the end of 2003, 3,417,000 women and 3,331,400 men resided in Israel (a ratio of 103 women to 100 men). The number of females born in Israel is lower than the number of males. The discrepancy between the sexes increases as a function of age, and among older age groups the proportion of females exceeds that of males.

Aged 65 and Over

Following the longer life expectancy of women compared with men (81.5 years and 77.5 years, respectively, in 2002), the number of elderly women is considerably higher than that of men. At the end of 2003, there were 100 thousand more women than men aged 65 and over (about 385 thousand women and about 285 thousand men). 11.3% of all women were aged 65 and over, with 8.6% of all men in the same age group.

About 97 thousand women and 64 thousand men were **aged 80 and over**; about 15 thousand women and about 9,000 men were **aged 90 and over**. 51% of the women aged 65 and over are **widows** – over three times the proportion of widowers in that age group. Concomitantly, 36% of the women aged 65 and over **lived alone**, three times the proportion of men in the same age bracket. 3% of the women aged 65 and over **never married**.

Sex ratio by Population Groups

As in Western countries, the Jewish population of Israel comprises a majority of females (104 females to 100 males). However, the Arab population, like that of many other developing countries, is characterized by a majority of males (97 females to 100 males). This difference is mainly due to the longer life expectancy and lower fertility rates among the Jewish population compared with the Arab population.

In several urban localities (with over 10 thousand inhabitants), there is a significant difference between the number of women and men. This discrepancy is especially noteworthy in localities with a high percentage of elderly Jewish residents, such as **Givatayim** (114 females to 100 males), and **Ramat Gan** (113 females to 100 males). The localities with a majority of males are mainly Arab, e.g., **Sakhnin** (91 females to 100 males) and **Kafr Manda** (92 females to 100 males).

Mothers

In 2003, about 895 thousand women (not including residents of institutions, kibbutzim, and those living outside of localities) had **children under the age of 17**. About 10% of them were heads of **single-parent families**. 60% of the single mothers were divorced, 12% were widows, 13% were never married, and 15% were separated from their husbands.

Marriage and Fertility

In Israel, **the average age at first marriage** has been rising steadily since the 1970s, as has the age of mothers at the time of their first birth.

Table 1: Average Age of Women at the Time of First Marriage and at the Time of First Birth, by Religion 2002

Woman's Religion	Average Age at Time of (First) Marriage	Average Age at Birth of First Child
Total	24.2	25.6
Jewish	25.0	26.5
Moslem	21.7	22.7
Christian	24.2	25.5
Druze	21.8	23.2

In 1970, the **average age at first marriage** among Israeli women was 21.7, compared with 24.2 in 2002. This is younger than the average age of European women at the time of their first marriage (age 28). Differences were also found among women from different religious groups in the Israeli population: at the time of their first marriage, Jewish women are about three years older than Moslem women, and about two years older than Christian and Druze women.

On the average, Israeli women **give birth to their first child** 1.4 years after marriage.

Over the last decade, the **fertility rate** of women in Israel remained stable, and was estimated at almost 3 children (2.9) births per woman on the average – twice the average rate for European women (1.5 births per woman). Moslem women have a higher fertility rate (4.5 births per woman) than Druze women (2.8 births per woman), Jewish women (2.7 births per woman), and Christian women (2.3 births per woman).

In 2002, about 19 thousand women submitted requests to committees for termination of pregnancy – at a rate of 12 requests per 1,000 women of child bearing age (15-49 years). About 15% of the requests were submitted by girls up to age 19. These data are similar to the statistics obtained for 2001.

Women Immigrants to Israel

In 2004, over 11 thousand women immigrated to Israel, compared with about 10 thousand men. With the exception of the first decade following the establishment of the state, the number of women immigrating to Israel has always exceeded the number of men. From the beginning of the latest wave of immigration to the present (1990-2004), over 604 thousand women have immigrated to Israel – 52% of all immigrants who arrived in Israel during that period.

Women Entering Israel on Work Visas

In 2003, about 13 thousand women entered Israel on a work visa (i.e., women who are foreign residents and enter Israel on a work visa). These women comprised 28% of all recorded entries to Israel on a work visa that year. In 2002, about 15 thousand women entered Israel on a work visa - 46% of all recorded entries to Israel on a work visa that year.

Health

In 2002, the **life expectancy of men in Israel** was 77.5 years, compared with 81.5 years for women. Between 1992 and 2002, the life expectancy of men increased by 2.8 years, and the life expectancy of women increased by 3.1 years. The difference between men's life expectancy and women's life expectancy in Israel (4 years) is smaller than in Western countries. For example, in **Japan**, whose citizens have the highest life expectancy in the world, the difference between the life expectancy of men and women is 6.9 years (85.3 for women versus 78.4 for men.). **In the United States**, the difference is 5.2 years (79.8 and 74.6 respectively), in **Switzerland**, the difference is 7.6 years (83.3 and 77.7, respectively), and in the **Federation of Russia** the difference is especially great – 13 years (71.8 and 58.3, respectively).

A national health survey, which was conducted in Israel as part of an international mental health survey, revealed the following about the health characteristics of men versus women aged 21 and over. A higher percentage of women than men evaluated their overall health as **not too good or not good at all**. 22% of the women and 16% of the men reported those levels of **physical health**; 12% of women and 10% of men reported those levels of **mental health**. A higher percentage of women than men in these age groups reported that they take **over-the-counter medications** – 45% of the women compared with 27% of the men. Similarly, the percentage of women who **take prescription medications** was higher than the percentage of men – 20% of the women and 15% of the men age 65 and over took at least seven prescription drugs.

The percentages of **assault, robbery, and battery** among persons aged 21 and over were higher for men than women – 15% and 8%, respectively.

About 10% of all women (200,000 women) experienced **sexual contact against their will**.

Education Level

In 2003, 40% of all women and 39% of all men aged 15 and over had 12 or more years of schooling. 62% of all women with schooling and 55% of all men with schooling received matriculation certificates or higher education degrees.

Entitlement to a Matriculation Certificate

Rates of entitlement to a matriculation certificate were higher for females than for males. Out of all twelfth grade pupils in the Hebrew Education Sector in 2003, 63% of the girls and 51% of the boys were entitled to a matriculation certificate. In the Arab Education Sector, the entitlement rates were 58% for girls and 42% for boys. In the Hebrew Education Sector, the percentage of girls entitled to a matriculation certificate has been higher than that of boys since the end of the 1980s. In the Arab Education Sector, this trend has been evident since the mid-1990s.

Higher Education

In 2004, 105 thousand men and 134 thousand women were studying for an **academic degree** at one of Israel's major universities, at the Open University, or at an academic college. The percentage of women out of all **first degree students** at colleges and universities was 56% (compared with 54% in 1990); out of all **second degree students**, 57% were women (compared with 50% in 1990); and of all **third degree students**, 53% were women (compared with 41% in 1990).

Women comprise over half of all first degree students at colleges and universities in the following fields: education (82%), medicine and paramedical studies (75%), humanities and social sciences (65%), biological sciences (61%), and agriculture (59%). Women comprised less than half of the students enrolled in law (49%), business and administration sciences (48%), physical sciences (39%), mathematics, statistics and computer sciences (31%), and engineering and architecture (26%).

Employment

The percentage of women aged 15 and over in the civilian labour force in Israel is continuing to rise steadily. In 2004, the proportion of women in the civilian labour force reached 49.6%

(compared with 44.7% in 1994). Concomitantly, the proportion of men in the civilian labour force has declined to 60.6% in 2004, compared with 62.8% in 1994.

The proportion of **married women** in the civilian labour force in 2004 was 56.7%. Participation rates in the civilian labour force varied for different population groups: 55.1% of all **Jewish women** were in the civilian labour force, compared with only 18.0% of all **Arab women**. The percentage of **unemployed women** in the labour force in 2004 (11.4%) was larger than the percentage of unemployed men (9.5%). In 2002, there was almost no gender gap in this area. However, in 2003 the gender gap increased, and in 2004 it grew even more.

62.4% of all employed women in 2004 had **full-time posts**.

Women worked **30.8 hours per week on the average**, and men worked 41.6 hours.

Women comprised 48% of all **employees**.

The higher the level of education, the larger the proportion of women in occupations characterized as **positions of management and power** such as “senior executives” (from 18% in 1988 to 32% in 2004), “judges and lawyers” (from 26% to 46% in 1998 and 2004, respectively).

However, about half of all employed women were employed in **six low-technology occupations**: “caregivers”, “primary and pre-school teachers or youth group counselors”, “secretaries”, “other clerical workers”, “sales workers, shop assistants, models”, and “cleaning staff in buildings”, “kitchen staff and laundry services”.

In **high-tech industries**, the proportion of women employees was 34%, compared with 48% of women out of all employees in the labour force. In high-tech industries, women worked 38.6 hours per week on the average, whereas men worked 43.2 hours per week on the average.

Women comprise 52% of all employed persons hired through **employment agencies**.

Wages of Employees

In 2003, **the average gross monthly wage of employees** was NIS 8,416 for men and NIS 5,232 for women. Thus, women’s wages were 62% of men’s wages.

Part of the discrepancy between the monthly wages of men and women can be explained by the fact that women **worked fewer hours per month** than men. On the average, men worked 45.5 hours per week, (about 204 hours per month), whereas women worked 34.6 hours per week (about 156 hours per month).

Comparison of men’s and women’s income in terms of hourly wages, i.e., irrespective of the differential influence of total work hours, reveals a smaller discrepancy – although the discrepancy still exists.

The average **hourly wage** for employed men was NIS 44.3, compared with NIS 36.6 for women.

Thus, women's income was 83% of men's income.

In 1985, women's income was 73% of men's income. Since then, the gender gap has diminished.

By 1995, women's income was 81% of men's income. The gap continued to diminish in subsequent years, albeit at a lower rate. In 2003, as mentioned, women's income was 83% of men's income.

Men's income, like women's income, increases with age. Concomitantly, the discrepancy between men's and women's income increases with age. From ages 15 to 24, women's hourly wages are 93% of men's wages. Between the ages of 55 and 64, women's wages are 77% of men's wages.

Comparison of **income by occupations** reveals that for men, managers earned the highest hourly wages (NIS 74.9), followed by academic professionals (NIS 70). For women, **academic**

professionals earned the highest hourly wages (NIS 57.5), followed by **managers** (NIS 55.7).

Therefore, the hourly wages of women managers are 74% of those earned by their male

counterparts (the largest discrepancy by occupation). Among academic professionals, the hourly

wages of women are 82% of those earned by their male counterparts. For both men and women,

unskilled workers earned the lowest hourly wages (NIS 25 and NIS 22.1, respectively). Thus, the smallest gap was found for unskilled occupations, where women's hourly wages were 88% of those

received by men. Comparison of income by years of schooling reveals that the highest hourly wages

were earned by employees with 16 or more years of schooling. 52% of the employees with that level

of education were women. However, the hourly wages earned by **women with 16 or more years of schooling** were only 75% of those earned by men with the same level of education (about NIS 67

per hour for men, compared with NIS 50 per hour for women).

Household Expenditures

The average monthly expenditure per household on **clothing and footwear** was NIS 379. Of this

amount, NIS 156 was for women's clothing and footwear, and NIS 97 was for men's clothing and

footwear (i.e., expenditures for women's clothing and footwear were 1.6 times higher than for men's clothing and footwear). Of the total monthly expenditure on clothing and footwear per household:

NIS 34 were for women's sandals and shoes, compared with NIS 26 for men's sandals and shoes;

NIS 110 were for women's outerwear, compared with NIS 69 for men's outerwear; and NIS 13 for

women's underwear and sleepwear, compared with NIS 2 for men's underwear and sleepwear.

Data from the Social Survey 2003

81% of the women aged 20 and over were **satisfied with their lives** in 2003, compared with 83% of the men. 53% of the women believed that **their lives will improve** in the next few years, compared with 50% of the men. 93% of the men and women **were satisfied with their relationships with family**, and 95% were **satisfied with their relationships with friends**.

Women were found to **feel more lonely** than men (39.4% compared with 26%, respectively).

However, only 10% of the women believed that they **have no one to turn to in times of crisis**, compared with 14% of the men. More women felt **stress** than men (79% compared with 66%).

Of all women aged 20 and over, 47% used **computers**, compared with 56% of all men. 34% of the women used the **Internet** (compared with 43% of the men). In 2003, 74% of all women had a **cellular phone**, compared with 85% of all men. **More women than men** worked in their locality of residence (54% compared with 38%). Only 7% of the employed women **traveled one hour or more to work**, compared with 11% of the employed men. **Women were slightly more satisfied with their work** than men (85% compared with 82%), **but were less satisfied with their wages** (45% compared with 52%).

Driving

In 2004, 1.2 million women and 1.8 million men had a **driver's license** (were drivers). The proportion of women among all drivers has risen from 34% in 1990 to 40% in 2004. About 44 thousand women (4% of all women drivers) have a motorcycle license.

Crime

Women comprised 10% of all offenders – 13% in the Jewish population, and 4% in the Arab population. Regarding types of offense, the proportion of women charged with **fraud** was highest (13%). The proportion of women out of all offenders was found to increase with age – 7% up to age 29, 10% aged 30-39, 13% aged 40-59, and 15% aged 60 and over. 16% of all new offenders were women, compared with 6% of all recidivists.