



PRESS RELEASE

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7,089 Israelis Married Abroad in 2002

In 2002:

- **7,089 Israelis married abroad – 8.2% of all Israelis who married**
- **40% of the Israelis who married abroad did so in Cyprus**
- **74% of the Israelis who married abroad were Jews**
- **Half of the Israelis who married abroad were born in the Former Soviet Union**

In 2002, 7,089 Israelis¹ married abroad. This total included 2,446 Israeli couples (**Israeli bride and groom**, or 4,892 Israelis), in addition to 1,408 **Israeli grooms who married non-Israeli brides** and 789 **Israeli brides who married non-Israeli grooms**.

The Israelis who married abroad comprised 8.2% of all Israelis who married in 2002 (in Israel and abroad). In 2000 and 2001, the proportion of Israelis marrying abroad amounted to 8.9% of all Israelis who married.

2,819 Israelis (1,482 grooms and 1,337 brides) married in **Cyprus** (40% of all Israelis who married abroad). More Israelis married in Cyprus than in any other country outside of Israel.

The number of Israelis marrying in Cyprus has increased ten-fold since 1990. The second largest number of Israelis marrying abroad was recorded in **Bulgaria** (967 Israelis married), the third was the **United States** (945 Israelis married), and the fourth was **the Former Soviet Union** (808 Israelis married).

There was a considerable difference between the number of Israeli men who married in **the Former Soviet Union** (591 men), and the number of Israeli women who married there (217).

¹ Source of data: The Population Register of the Ministry of the Interior. The data for 2003 and 2004 are not complete. In addition, there may be later updates for 2002 that are not included in this press release.

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Most of the Israelis who married abroad were **Jewish**² - 5,273 brides and grooms. A total of 1,332 Jewish couples (Jewish bride and groom) married abroad.

Another group of Israelis who married abroad belonged to the category “**Religion Unclassified**”³. In 2002, about 1,600 is of the Israelis who married abroad were not classified by religion (about one-fifth of all Israelis who married abroad). Most of them married Jewish partners. They could not marry in Israel under the existing married laws, because they do not belong to a religious denomination that is recognized in Israel.

Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union comprise about half of all Israelis who marry abroad (1,857 grooms and 1,703 brides. About one-third (37%) of all Israelis who married abroad in 2002 were **born in Israel**.

² Religion as indicated in the Population Registry.

³ Immigrants (mainly from the Former Soviet Union) who arrived in Israel under the Law of Return and are not classified by religion in the Population Registry.

Israelis Who Married abroad and their Partners, by Groom's and Brides Religion 2002

Bride's Religion	Groom's Religion					Total ⁵
	Jewish	Moslem	Christian	Religion Unclassified	Not Israeli ⁴	
Jewish	1,332	9	30	345	636	2,353
Moslem	-	3	1	-	12	16
Christian	26	2	7	8	17	60
Religion Unclassified	482	-	8	192	123	805
Not Israeli ⁵	1,080	56	31	235	-	1,408
Total ⁴	2,920	70	77	780	789	4,643

Israelis who Married Abroad, by Country of Marriage, Age, and Country of Birth 2002

		Total	Grooms	Brides
Total		7,089	3,854	3,235
Country of Marriage	Cyprus	2,819	1,482	1,337
	Bulgaria	967	490	477
	United States	945	463	482
	Former Soviet Union	808	591	217
	Italy	184	92	92
	Other	1,366	736	630
	Age	Up to 24	1,785	692
25-29		2,408	1,329	1,079
30-34		3,743	774	561
35-39		564	363	210
40+		997	696	301
Country of Birth	Israel	1,464	1,464	1,131
	Former Soviet Union	4,557	1,857	1,703
	USA	152	74	78
	Other	549	349	200

⁴ Including a few Druze brides/grooms

⁵ Grooms or brides who are not registered in the Population Registry and for whom no information on their religion is available.