



PRESS RELEASE

info@cbs.gov.il

http://www.cbs.gov.il

FAX. 02-652 1340

Jerusalem
December 18, 2005
274/2005

NEW PUBLICATION: "ISRAEL – SOCIAL REPORT FOR 1990-2003"

The Central Bureau of Statistics' latest publication, "Israel – Social Report for 1990-2003", which will appear in the next few days, presents the main aspects of Israeli society over more than a decade, which makes it possible to study the changes which have occurred in that period of time. The publication provides a general picture regarding the population of Israel, as well as details by various groups: men and women, Jews and Arabs, people with various types of education, center and periphery, socio-economic classes, etc. The publication focuses on the following fields of life: family, education and higher education, employment and unemployment, poverty and financial resources, living conditions, health, security and safety, and leisure and cultural consumption, which are the central aspects of each person's life, as well as that of the entire society. The publication includes findings from the social survey that has been conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics annually, since 2002.

Following are selected subjects from the publication:

Rate of Population Growth

The population of Israel grew at a fast rate, compared with other developed countries. The source of the rapid growth is a high fertility rate and immigration. At the beginning of the '90's there was a particularly high rate of population growth, of approximately 5% per year; since then it has been in a downward trend (following a decline in the number of immigrants) and has stabilized at 1.8%. Among the Jewish population the growth rate is 1.5%, and among the Arab population it is 3%. The forecast is that the population of Israel is expected to number approximately 7.6 million residents in 2010, of which 6 million are Jews and approximately 1.6 million are Arabs.

Education and Higher Education

During the survey period there was an increase in the rate of those studying in institutions of higher learning. The ratio of those studying towards a first degree, in all institutions of higher learning, rose from 76.9 per one thousand aged 18-29 in 1990, to 138.8 in 2003. The ratio of those studying towards a second degree rose from 2.4 per one thousand aged 25-54 to 3.1, respectively.

In the second half of the '90's a rise occurred in the number of those studying towards a first degree in academic colleges, and as a result the rate of students studying in universities entered a downward trend. In 2003 60% of all students studying towards a first degree were at academic colleges and the Open University.

Written by Ms. Israella Friedman

For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,
Please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

The ratio of women studying towards a first and second degree at all institutions awarding degrees is higher than that of men; and at the universities the gap between them even grew during 1990-2003. In 2003 the ratio of women studying towards a first degree in all degree-awarding institutions 157.5 per one thousand women, compared with 120.9 per one thousand men. The ratio of women studying towards a second degree, in all degree institutions, 19.8 per one thousand women, compared with 15.2 per one thousand men. Among those studying towards a third degree, in 2003 there is a similarity in the ratio of women to men, in all degree institutions (3.3 per one thousand women and 3.0 per one thousand men).

Employment

The ratio of men in the labour force shrunk in 1990-2003 from 62.3% to 60.1%, whereas the ratio of women grew continuously from 41.1% to 49.1%, respectively. Similar trends can be observed in most of the developing countries. However, Israel still has a low rate of participation in the labour force, compared with western countries; e.g., in the USA - the participation rate of men in 2003 was 82% and of women 70%; in France – the participation rate of men was 74% and that of women 63%; and in Britain – the men's ratio was 84% and women's 65%.

According to the results of the social survey which was conducted in 2003 (among those aged 20 and up), the ratio of Jews satisfied with their work was 85%, compared with 76% among the Arabs. In addition, among the Jews, the ratio of those satisfied with their income was 50%, compared with 45% among Arabs. The fear of losing their job is greater among Arabs – 21%, than among the Jews – 16%.

In addition, the social survey points to the fact that approximately two-thirds of academic degree holders reported that they work in a field related to their studies, compared with approximately one-half of those holding post-secondary certificates.

Poverty and Financial Resources

The inception of poverty, by the commonly accepted index in Israel (published by the National Insurance Institute) has been in an upward trend during the past decade. In 2003 22% of all households lived in poverty (after transfer payments and direct taxes), compared with 14% in 1990, whereas the poverty among children reached 29% compared with 22% in 1999.

In the 2003 Social Survey, 13% of those aged 20 and over reported that they felt poor. The ratio was higher among immigrants of 1990 on (21%), among the Arab population (19%), and among Jews who define themselves "ultra-Orthodox" (17%), and less among Jews who define themselves as "secular" (11%).

14% of those aged 20 and over reported that they sometimes did without food due to financial difficulties: Arabs (21%) more than Jews (13%), those aged 65-74 (13%) more than those aged 20-24 (8%), and those from households in which the gross monthly income per person was up to NIS 2,000 (27%) compared with those from households in which the gross monthly income per person was NIS 4,000 and over (4%).

70% of those aged 20 and over needed prescription medicines, but 16% of them avoided purchasing them due to financial difficulties. The rate of doing without medicines was higher among Arabs than among Jews (39% compared with 13%, respectively).

Living Conditions

In 2003 70% of households in Israel owned a dwelling. Among Arabs – 83% lived in dwellings they owned, compared with 68% among Jews. The average housing density in Jewish households

was 0.87 persons per room, whereas the average housing density in Arab households was 1.42 persons per room.

Only approximately 45% of households of those who immigrated from 1990 on lived in 2003 in their own dwelling, compared with approximately 74% of households in the rest of the Jewish population. The average housing density in immigrant households was 0.95 persons per room, compared with 0.85 persons per room among the veteran population.

According to the 2003 Social Survey, the veteran population in the country is slightly more satisfied with the size of its dwelling (78%) than the immigrants of 1990 on (68%), and Jews are slightly more satisfied with the size of their dwellings (78%) compared with Arabs (71%). 57% of Jews were satisfied with the amount of green spaces in their residential area, compared with 18% of Arabs; and 54% of Jews were satisfied with the cleanliness of their residential areas, compared with 39% of the Arabs.

Health

During 1990-2003 there was an increase in the rate of those receiving various benefits from the National Insurance Institute. Thus, for example, the rate of those receiving general disablement benefits rose by 54%; the rate of those receiving special services benefits rose by 139%; and the rate of those receiving a disabled child benefit rose by 128%.

According to the 2003 Social Survey, 77% of the population aged 20 and over define their state of health as 'good' or 'very good', and 66% replied that they had no physical or health problems during the six months prior to the survey.

93% of those who defined their state of health as 'good' or 'very good' were satisfied with their lives, compared with 63% of those who defined their state of health as 'not good' or 'not very good'.

The rate of smokers among the total adult population is 25% (according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Health in 2002).

Men smoke at a higher rate – 32%, compared with 18.4% among women. The rate of male smokers among the Arab population is 43%, compared with 29% among the Jewish population. On the other hand, the rate of female Arab smokers is 7%, compared with 21% among Jewish women.