



PRESS RELEASE

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Social Survey 2009: Observance of Jewish Tradition and Changes in Religiosity of the Jewish Population in Israel

In 2009, among the Jewish population age 20 and up:

- 72% reported that they attended synagogue in the past year.
- **Among the secular public:**
 - Approximately one quarter (24%) attended synagogue in the past year on Rosh Hashana and/or Yom Kippur.
 - 82% **always** participate in a Passover Seder, 67% **always** light Hanukkah candles, 29% **always** light Sabbath candles, approximately one quarter (26%) **always** fast on Yom Kippur, 22% are **very careful** to eat kosher for Passover food during Passover, 17% **always** make Kiddush (blessing over the wine) on Sabbath eve, and 10% eat **only** kosher food.
- 21% of Jews report that they are more religious today than in the past.
- 5% define themselves as "**newly observant**" (*hozrim betshuva*): 22% of ultra-Orthodox Jews, 17% of religious Jews and 9% of traditionally observant Jews.
- 14% report that they are less religious today than in the past.

*The variable annual module in the social survey for 2009 dealt at length with the subjects of **religiosity, tradition and familial relations**. The survey's questions on the subject of religiosity covered a range of issues and aspects relating to religiosity among Israel's different religious denominations: behavioral patterns, observance of religious precepts, keeping tradition, affinity and attitude to religious and traditional values, lifetime changes in religiosity, and religious tolerance.*

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