

PRESS RELEASE

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The Ethiopian Community in Israel

- At the end of 2010 the Ethiopian community in Israel numbered 119,700 residents.¹ Approximately 78,900 were born in Ethiopia and 40,800 were those born in Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia ("Sabras", who constitute about a third of the community). For the sake of comparison, at the end of 2005 the Ethiopian community numbered 105,500, an increase of 2.6% per year.
- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 39% of the Ethiopian population) and the Southern District (approximately 24% of the Ethiopian population).
- 91% of persons of Ethiopian origin married someone of the same origin, men more than women (92% versus 89%, respectively).
- **Live births:** In 2010, 2,419 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin.² In that year, the average number of births that a woman of Ethiopian origin is expected to have during her lifetime was 2.55 children.
- Of **primary and secondary education pupils** born in Ethiopia, 74.5% study in State-Religious schools. However, among those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, only 40.0% study in State-Religious schools, and most of them (56.8%) are under State-General supervision.
- The vast majority of 12th grade students of Ethiopian origin – 85% – took **matriculation exams**, and about a third – 36% – met all the requirements and received a matriculation certificate, compared to 82% among the general population of 12th grade students in the Hebrew education system who took matriculation exams and 54% who were entitled to a certificate.

¹ The Ethiopian population in Israel includes those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

² Women born in Ethiopia or women born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

- Of the total **Ethiopian students**, 90.4% were studying for a first degree (29.6% were studying in their first year), 8.9% were studying for a second degree, 0.5% for a third degree, and 0.2% were studying for an academic certificate.
- The **percentage of women** among students of Ethiopian origin who are studying for a first degree was higher than the percentage of women among the general student population studying for a first degree – 64.5% compared with 55.9%, respectively.
- 66% of households of those with Ethiopian origin live in **owned dwellings**, compared with 69% of households in Israel. The housing density of households of Ethiopian origin was 1.3 persons per room, compared with 0.9 among the general population.
- The percentage of ownership of communication products is lower among households of Ethiopian origin than that among total households in Israel, except for the percentage that own a D.V.D. player. The percentage of those that own a mobile phone among households of Ethiopian origin and total households in Israel is above 90%.

Geographic Distribution

Most of the population of Ethiopian origin lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 39%) and the Southern District (approximately 24%). At the end of 2010, Netanya was the locality with the most members of the Ethiopian community (approximately 9,900 persons).

Approximately 16% of **Qiryat Mal'akhi** residents are of Ethiopian origin, making it the urban locality with the largest percentage of residents of Ethiopian origin.

Table A. Population of Ethiopian Origin at the End of 2010, in Main Localities

Locality Name (1)	Total Population in Locality (thousands)	Total Population of Ethiopian Origin in Locality (thousands)	Percentage of the Population of Ethiopian Origin out of the Total Population in Locality
Netanya	186.8	9.9	5.3
Ashdod	210.6	6.6	3.1
Rishon LeZiyyon	231.0	6.5	2.8
Rehovot	115.6	6.2	5.4
Be'er Sheva	195.4	6.2	3.1
Petah Tiqwa	211.1	5.3	2.5
Ashqelon	114.5	5.2	4.5
Jerusalem	788.1	5.0	0.6
Hadera	81.5	4.9	6.0
Haifa	268.2	4.3	1.6
Ramla	66.2	3.6	5.5
Afula	41.0	3.4	8.2
Lod	70.4	3.3	4.6
Qiryat Mal'akhi	20.8	3.2	15.5
Qiryat Gat	47.6	3.2	6.7
Bet Shemesh	80.6	3.1	3.9
Yavne	33.2	2.4	7.3
Bat Yam	130.4	2.0	1.6

(1) Localities with 2,000 or more persons of Ethiopian origin.

Immigrants

In the previous decade, an average of approximately 3,000 immigrants from Ethiopia arrived per year. Beginning in 2008, there was a decrease of about half in the number of immigrants from Ethiopia: 1,582 immigrants in 2008, 239 immigrants in 2009 (a year with an unusually small amount of immigrants from Ethiopia), and 1,655 immigrants in 2010. Approximately 2,400 immigrants (a preliminary figure) have arrived from Ethiopia during the first ten months of 2011, making it a year in which the average number of immigrants from Ethiopia appears to be returning to its previous levels. The population of Ethiopian immigrants is characterized by a relatively young age composition: In the period of 2007 – 2010, the average median age of the immigrants from Ethiopia was 17.7, compared with 28.9 among the total immigrants during this period.

Age Composition

The population of Ethiopian origin is a younger population than the population of Jews and Others,³ and it is characterized by a large percentage of children and a low percentage of persons aged 65 and over. In 2010, the percentage of children aged 0-14 reached 31%, compared with approximately 26% in the population of Jews and Others. The percentage of those aged 65 and over was approximately 6%, compared with 11% in the population of Jews and Others.

Gender Ratio

In 2010, there were 1,001 males per 1,000 females in the population of Ethiopian origin, compared with 969 men per 1,000 women in the population of Jews and Others.

Marriages, Divorces, and Births⁴

During the year, 649 grooms and 672 brides of Ethiopian origin were married in Israel, 91% of them were being married for the first time.

Table B. Persons of Ethiopian Origin Marrying in 2009

	Grooms	Brides
Total persons of Ethiopian origin marrying	649	672
Those born in Ethiopia – total	625	611
Immigrated by 1990	198	163
Immigrated after 1990	427	448
Those born in Israel, father born in Ethiopia	24	61

Of persons of Ethiopian origin marrying, 91% married a spouse of the same origin, men more than women (92% and 89%, respectively).

Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry at a later age than the general Jewish population. The median age⁵ at first marriages among men of Ethiopian origin stood at 29.0 in 2009 (1.2 years higher than Jewish grooms). Among the women of Ethiopian origin the median age at first marriages stood at 26.0 (0.5 years higher than Jewish brides).

In first marriages, the age gap between men and women among those marrying of Ethiopian origin was relatively higher than the age gap among the general Jewish population.

During 2009, 231 men and 235 women were divorced among those of Ethiopian origin.

³ Jews and Others includes Christians, non-Arabs, and those who are not classified by religion in the Ministry of Interior.

⁴ Data on marriages and divorces relate to 2009.

⁵ Median age: The age at which half the persons marrying are younger and half are older.

The rate of divorce among the population of Ethiopian origin was higher than the rate of divorce among the general Jewish population. Approximately 15 of every 1,000 married couples were divorced, compared with nine of every 1,000 married couple among the general Jewish population.

Live births: In 2010, 2,419 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin.⁶ In that year, the average number of births that a woman of Ethiopian origin is expected to have during her lifetime was 2.55 children.

Education

General

In the school year of 2009/10, 35,344 students of Ethiopian origin studied in primary and secondary education; they constituted 2.3% of the total students. Of those, 59% were students born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, and the rest were born in Ethiopia.

Among upper secondary education students of Ethiopian origin,⁷ most of them (52.3%) study in a general education track and 46.6% study in a technological track. This is in comparison with the distribution among upper secondary education students who are not of Ethiopian origin, in which 65.5% study in a general track and 33.0% study in a technological track.

Of the primary and secondary students of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia, 56.8% study under State/General supervision, compared with only 23.3% of students of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia. Forty percent (40.0%) of the students of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia study in the State-Religious schools, versus 74.5% of the students of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia.

Drop-Outs from the Educational System⁸

In 2009/10 and in the transition to 2010/11, the percentage of students of Ethiopian origin⁹ who dropped out was slightly lower than the general population of students in Hebrew education: Approximately 1.5% of approximately 35,000 students of Ethiopian origin who began to study in grades 1-12 in schools under Ministry of Education supervision in the school year of 2009/10 dropped out during that year or in transition to 2010/11, compared with 1.6% among the general Hebrew education.

The percentage of boys who dropped out is higher than the percentage of girls among students of Ethiopian origin, as is the case in the entire Hebrew education system.

⁶ Women born in Ethiopia or women born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

⁷ In this finding there were not significant differences between those born in Ethiopia and those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, and they are presented together.

⁸ **Student of Ethiopian origin:** A student whose country of birth was Ethiopia or whose father was born in Ethiopia.

Students in Hebrew education: Students who study in schools in which the language of education is Hebrew.

Student who dropped out: A student is considered dropped out if he left studies during the school year of 2009/10 or during the transition to the 2010/11 school year. The following are not defined as dropped out: Students who left studies during the 2009/10 school year but returned in 2010/11, students who left studies and stayed abroad for at least 100 consecutive days, and students who transferred from one school to another.

⁹ In the section on students who dropped out, all the students of Ethiopian origin are presented together, both those born in Ethiopia as well as those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

The percentage of students who dropped out in primary school is especially low among those of Ethiopian origin – only 0.1% of them drop out, compared with 0.6% drop outs among the total students in Hebrew education at these grade levels.

Of 506 students of Ethiopian origin who dropped out from grades 7-12 from schools under supervision of the Ministry of Education, 35.6% transferred to studies in another official educational framework (in schools under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry or in yeshivot. See Table 1).

Special Need Students

The percentage of students born in Ethiopia in special education, whether in primary education (11.9%) or secondary education (5.3%), is similar to the percentage among the general population (10.6% special education students in primary education and 6.3% special education students in secondary education, see Table C).

On the other hand, the percentage of special education students, especially in primary education (16.8%), among the second generation of those born in Ethiopia (who were born in Israel but whose fathers were born in Ethiopia) is higher than both the percentage of special education of students born in Ethiopia (11.9%) and the percentage of special education students among the general population (10.6%, see Table C).

Table C. Percentage of Special Education Students by Education Level and Country of Birth, 2009/10

Country of Birth	Education Level		
	Total	Primary Education	Secondary Education
Total	8.9	10.6	6.3
Of those:			
Born in Ethiopia	8.4	11.9	5.3
Born in Israel, father born in Ethiopia	13.2	16.8	8.8

Athletes Actively Engaging in Individual Sports

In 2008/09 there were 216 athletes of Ethiopian origin actively engaging in individual sports, who constituted 1.6% of the total athletes in individual sports. Of those, 165 were born in Ethiopia, and another 51 were born in Israel whose parents were born in Ethiopia; 61% of the athletes of Ethiopian origin engaging in individual sports were men, and 39% were women.

The vast majority of athletes of Ethiopian origin in individual sports are active in the division of "athletics and exercise" – a sum of 190 athletes, which comprises 88% of the total athletes of this origin that participate in individual sports. In total, the athletes of Ethiopian origin comprise 12% of the total athletes who are active in the athletics division.

Data on Matriculation Exams

In 2010, approximately 2,230 students of Ethiopian origin¹⁰ studied in grade 12; they constituted 3% of the total high school graduates in Hebrew education in this year. The vast majority of 12th grade students of Ethiopian origin – 85% – took matriculation exams, and about a third – 36% – met all the requirements and received a matriculation certificate, compared to 82% among the general population of 12th grade students in the Hebrew education system who took matriculation exams and 54% who were entitled to a certificate.

Higher Education

Students of Ethiopian Origin – 2009/10

In 2009/10, 286,900 students studied in all the institutions of higher education in Israel, of those, 2,201 students were of Ethiopian origin. Of the students of Ethiopian origin, 84.1% were born in Ethiopia and 15.9% were born in Israel to a father of Ethiopian origin.

Among the students of Ethiopian origin, 731 students studied in universities, 177 studied in the Open University, 1,005 studied in academic colleges, and 288 students studied in colleges of education.

Of the total students of Ethiopian origin, 90.4% were studying for a first degree (29.6% were studying in their first year), 8.9% were studying for a second degree, 0.5% for a third degree, and 0.2% were studying for an academic certificate.

The proportion of students of Ethiopian origin among total students in Israel stood at 0.8% (for the sake of comparison, the proportion of persons of Ethiopian origin in the general population of Jews and Others is 2%).

Students of Ethiopian origin comprised 0.9% of total students studying for a first degree, 0.4% of total students studying for a second degree, and 0.1% of total students studying for a third degree.

¹⁰ Students born in Ethiopia or students born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia

In Haifa University, as well as Bar-Ilan University, the percentage of Ethiopian students was 1.1%, compared with a half a percent in Ben Gurion University of the Negev, 0.3% in both Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, and 0.2% at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Technion.

6.2% of the students of Ashqelon Academic College were students of Ethiopian origin. In the Ariel University Center of Samaria, the proportion of Ethiopian students was 2.6%, and in the Schechter Institute of Judaic Studies their share was 2.3%. In three additional academic colleges their proportion ranged from 1.5 to 1.8%. On the other hand, in seven other academic colleges, the proportion of Ethiopian students did not rise above 0.1%.

The **main fields of studies** for a first degree of Ethiopian students were social sciences (34.4%, of those, 4.3% studied social work), education and teacher training (17.3%), business and administration (12.7%), engineering and architecture (11%), general humanities (7.2%), and law (7.1%).

Compared with the general population, Ethiopian students tended to study more of the social sciences and less of natural sciences and mathematics, arts, and medicine. Of the total population of students studying for a first degree in Israel, 22.3% studied social sciences, compared with 34.4% of Ethiopian students who were studying this field. The percentage of students studying general humanities was also higher among Ethiopian students compared with the general student population (7.2% versus 4.0%, respectively). On the other hand, 17.1% of the general student population who are studying for a first degree in Israel studied engineering and architecture, while only 11.0% of the Ethiopian students studied this field. Additional fields of study in which similar gaps were found are: natural sciences and mathematics (9.2% among the general student population versus 3.1% among Ethiopian students), arts, crafts, and applied art (4.0% versus 1.3%, respectively), and especially medicine (0.8% versus 0.2%, respectively).

Among Ethiopian students studying for a first degree in universities, **the average score on the psychometric exam** was 461.1 points, compared with 627.1 points among the general student population studying for a first degree in universities. A significant gap between Ethiopian students' averages and those of the general student population studying for a first degree are found also in the academic colleges (421.1 versus 552 points, respectively) and in the colleges of education as well (392 points compared with 493.5 points).

In the **field of medicine**, the gap between the Ethiopian students and the general student population regarding the average score on the psychometric exam was smaller and stood at 71.9 points. In education and teacher training, the gap was 98.1 points, and in natural sciences and mathematics, 105.4 points. The fields of study in which the gap was the largest were social sciences (154.8 points), paramedical studies (157.2 points), and arts, crafts, and applied art (157.3 points).

The **percentage of women** among the Ethiopian students who are studying for a first degree was higher than the percentage of women in the general student population who are studying for a first degree – 64.5% versus 55.9%, respectively. On the other hand, among students for a second degree, women are

not the majority of the Ethiopian students (48.7%), whereas among the general student population studying for a second degree, women are the majority (57.9%).

Persons of Ethiopian Origin Who Received a Degree – 2009/10

In 2009/10, an academic degree was awarded to 374 Ethiopians in all the institutions of higher education in Israel; of those, 148 degrees were from universities, five degrees were from the Open University, 178 degrees were from academic colleges, and 43 degrees were from colleges of education.

Among the Ethiopian recipients of degrees, 85.8% received a first degree, 12.8% received advanced degrees (second or third degree), and 1.4% received an academic certificate.

The proportion of degree recipients of Ethiopian origin among the total degree recipients in Israel was 0.6%.

Household Expenditure

Tables D and E present the data, side by side, of households of persons of Ethiopian origin and total households in Israel:

Table D. Household Expenditure Survey, 2010: Consumption Expenditure and its Composition – Total Households Compared to Households of Ethiopian Origin

	Total Households		Households of Ethiopian Origin	
	Consumption Expenditure in NIS	Composition of Expenditure: Percentage	Consumption Expenditure in NIS	Composition of Expenditure: Percentage
Consumption Expenditure - Total	13,496	100.0	7,675	100.0
Food (excluding vegetables and fruit)	1,789	13.2	1,603	20.9
Vegetables and fruit	416	3.1	230	3.0
Housing	3,380	25.0	2,492	32.5
Dwelling and household maintenance	1,289	9.6	642	8.4
Furniture and household equipment	498	3.7	332	4.3
Clothing and footwear	427	3.2	241	3.1
Health	674	5.0	205	2.7
Education, culture, and entertainment	1,717	12.7	537	7.0
Transport and communication	2,686	19.9	1,150	15.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	619	4.6	245	3.2

Table E. Ownership of Dwelling, 2010

	Total Households	Households of Ethiopian Origin
Percentage living in owned dwelling	69.2%	66.3%
Housing density	0.89	1.27
Value of owned dwelling (NIS thousands)	1,237	521

Compared with 69% of total households in Israel who live in owned dwellings, 66% of households of Ethiopian origin live in owned dwellings.

The housing density among households of Ethiopian origin is 1.3 persons per room, compared with 0.9 among the general population. The average value of a dwelling belonging to households of Ethiopian origin is less than half the average value of dwellings owned in Israel.

The percentage of ownership of communication products is lower among households of Ethiopian origin than that among total households in Israel, except for the percentage that own a D.V.D. player.

The percentage of those that own a mobile phone among households of Ethiopian origin and total households in Israel is above 90%.