

PRESS RELEASE

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Jerusalem
April 14, 2013
097/2013

65th Independence Day - More than 8 Million Residents in the State of Israel

On the eve of Israel's 65th Independence Day: ¹

- The population of Israel numbers approximately 8.018 million people on the eve of Israel's 65th Independence Day. At the time of the establishment of the State, it numbered 806,000 residents.
- The Jewish population numbers approximately 6.042 million residents (75.3% of the total population); the Arab population numbers approximately 1.658 million residents (20.7%); and the population of "others," referring to non-Arab Christians, members of other religions, and persons not classified by religion in the Ministry of the Interior, numbers 318,000 (4.0%).
- Since Independence Day last year² the population increased by 138,000 persons. There have been approximately 163,000 babies born, and about 41,000 people passed away; 19,500 immigrants arrived in Israel.³
- In total, the population of Israel grew since the 64th Independence Day by approximately 138,000 residents – a growth of 1.8 %.
- At the end of 2011, over 70% of the total Jewish population were 'Sabras' – born in Israel (at least half are second generation in the country) - compared with only 35% native-born in 1948.
- In 1948 there was only one city in Israel with more than 100,000 residents – Tel Aviv-Yafo. Today, 14 cities number more than 100,000 residents, of which six number more than 200,000 residents: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Rishon LeZiyyon, Ashdod, and Petah Tiqwa.

¹ The Press Release is based on preliminary data. The population estimate does not include the foreign population, who numbered about 203,000 persons at the end of 2011.

² Due to differences in the Hebrew calendar, the data relate to the 11.5 months (approximately) that passed since the last Independence Day.

³ Including citizens who immigrated; an immigrating citizen refers to a person born to an Israeli citizen while staying abroad, who entered Israel with the intention of settling.