

Media Release

info@cbs.gov.il www.cbs.gov.il Fax: 02-6521340

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68th Independence Day - 8.5 Million Residents in the State of Israel

On the eve of Israel's 68th Independence Day: ¹

- The population of Israel numbers approximately 8.522 million persons on the eve of Israel's 68th Independence Day. At the time of the establishment of the State, it numbered 806,000 residents.
- The Jewish population numbers approximately 6,377,000 residents (74.8% of the total population); the Arab population numbers approximately 1,771,000 residents (20.8%); 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 about 374,000 (4.4%).
- Since Independence Day last year,² the population increased by 182,000 persons, an increase of 2.2%.
- There have been approximately 195,000 infants born since last Independence Day, and about 47,000 people passed away; about 36,000 immigrants³ arrived in Israel.
- About 75% of the total Jewish population were 'Sabras' - persons born in Israel (more than half are at least the 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 eight number more than 200,000 residents: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Rishon LeZiyyon, Petah Tiqwa, Ashdod, Netanya and Be'er Sheva.
- According to the population forecast, the population of the State of Israel in 2035 is expected to reach 11.3 million persons.⁴

¹ The Media Release is based on preliminary data. The population estimate does not include the foreign population, who numbered about 192,000 persons at the end of 2014.

² Due to differences in the Hebrew calendar, the data relate to the 13 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.

⁴ Based on the population at the end of 2010, medium variant.

Then and Now

Selected Data on Life in the Early Years of the State of Israel, Compared with Today

Field	Then	Now
Worldwide Jewish Population 	11.5 million, 6% in Israel 15.5.1948	14.3 million, 43% in Israel 2014
Population in Israel	806,000 15/05/1948	8.522 million 11.5.16
GDP (excl. net taxes on export) at 2015 prices 	NIS 25.1 billion 1950	NIS 1,108.8 billion 2015 (44 times more)
GDP per capita (excl. net taxes on export) at 2015 prices	NIS 19,800 1950	NIS 132,400 2015 (6.7 times more)
Unemployed persons as percentage of civilian labour force	7.2% 11/1955	5.3% 2015
Average monthly expenditure on food as percentage of total expenditure 	42% 1956/57	16.2% 2014
Average monthly expenditure on transportation and communications as percentage of total expenditure	3% 1956/57	20% 2014
<u>Household Ownership of Products:</u>		
Washing machine 	12% 1956/57	96% 2014
Refrigerator 	1956/57 - 57% had an ice box and 37% had a refrigerator	99.9%
Air conditioner 	1957 - 10%	87%

Field	Then	Now
<p>Land line/mobile phone</p> 	<p>1963 - 13% had a telephone</p>	<p>73% have a land line phone</p> <p>96% have at least one mobile phone</p>
<p>Number of motor vehicles</p> 	<p>34,103 31.3.1951</p>	<p>2,965,727 (87 times more)</p>
<p>Number of train passengers</p> 	<p>1,557,000 1950</p>	<p>48,541,000 2014 (31 times more)</p>
<p>Higher Education</p> 	<p>1949/50 - 1,600 students</p> <p>Less than 200 degree recipients</p>	<p>2014/15 - 310,000 students and 72,500 degree recipients</p>
<p>Percentage of voter participation in Knesset elections</p> 	<p>86.9% 21.1.1949</p>	<p>72.3% 17.3.2015</p>