

# Media Release

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## Population of Israel on the Eve of 2017 – 8.6 Million

### Based on Central Bureau of Statistics estimates:

- On 31 December 2016, the population in Israel was estimated at approximately 8.630 million residents.<sup>1</sup>
- Of those, 6.450 million are Jews (74.8% of the total population), 1.796 million are Arabs (20.8%) and 384,000 are classified as "Others" (4.4%).<sup>2</sup>
- The population in Israel grew during 2016 by approximately 2.0%. Natural increase<sup>3</sup> accounted for 83% of the growth and 17% was accounted for by the international migration balance.<sup>4</sup>
- Approximately 181,000 infants were born during the year (74.1% Jews, 23.0% Arabs, and 2.9% Others).
- Approximately 24,000 new immigrants<sup>5</sup> arrived in Israel during 2016.

During 2016, the Israeli population increased by approximately 167,000 – a growth rate of 2.0%, similar to the growth rate in the last decade.

<sup>1</sup> The population estimates for the end of 2016 are temporary and do not include the population of foreign workers residing in Israel. This population was estimated at about 183,000 persons at the end of 2015. Moreover, the population estimate does not include persons who entered Israel without a visa or not by the way of recognized borders.

<sup>2</sup> "Others" includes non-Arab Christians and persons not classified by religion in the Population Register.

<sup>3</sup> Natural increase: the difference between births and deaths.

<sup>4</sup> International migration balance: the difference between the number of persons entering Israel to live and the number who leave.

<sup>5</sup> Not including immigrating citizens.

Most of the growth (83%) in Israel's population resulted from natural increase (births less deaths), and the remainder (17%) from the international migration balance (the number of persons who entered Israel less the number who left it). During the year, 181,000 infants, 24,000 immigrants, and approximately 12,000 immigrating citizens<sup>6</sup> and persons who immigrated under family unification were added to the population. The population lost approximately 43,000 persons due to death and approximately 7,000 Israelis who stayed abroad for over a year.

The main countries from which immigrants came during this year were: Russia (27%), Ukraine (22%), France (18%), and the United States (10%).

Most of the immigrants (approximately 18,500 persons) came from Europe (77%), approximately 4,000 from America and Oceania (17%), approximately 1,000 from Asia (4%), and approximately 500 from Africa (2%).

#### Arab Population

In the Jewish population, 85% of the growth was due to natural increase, and in the Arab population, 96% was. In the population of others, 29% of the growth was due to natural increase, and most of the increase was due to migration.

**Table A – Sources of Growth by Population Group, 2016**

<b>Source of growth</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Jews</b>	<b>Arabs</b>	<b>Others</b>
Total growth	<b>167,000 (100%)</b>	116,000 (100%)	38,200 (100%)	12,800 (100%)
Natural increase	<b>138,400 (83%)</b>	98,000 (85%)	36,600 (96%)	3,800 (29%)
International migration balance	<b>28,600 (17%)</b>	18,000 (15%)	1,600 (4%)	9,000 (71%)

<sup>6</sup> Immigrating citizen: A person born to an Israeli citizen during his stay abroad, who enters Israel with the intention to settle.