

PREFACE

This publication presents data regarding the demographic characteristics of families and households in Israel for the years 1999-2000, based on current Labour Force Surveys conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The characterization of families and households in Israel is one of the cornerstones of researching Israeli society. The structure of the family, the basic social unit, became more flexible and varied in the final decades of the Twentieth Century than it was in the past. Changes in the composition of families and households are influenced by demographic, socio-cultural and economic trends in society, and also influence them. In light of that, there is great importance in following up families and households on a long-time basis.

This is the first comprehensive publication that differentiates between the term “family” and the term “household”, and it constitutes the beginning of an ongoing follow-up on different types of families and households in various population groups.

Selected data on types of families and households have appeared in the Statistical Abstract of Israel since 1998. For details on the differentiation between the terms “family” and “household”, and the construction of a new typology for studying families and households in Israel, see Technical Publication No. 73, *Typology of Households and Families in Israel 1999*, published by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

This publication examines three research units separately: households, families and the persons within them. In addition, a chapter has been devoted to households and families of immigrants of 1990 and after from the USSR (former), and to those aged 65 and over.

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