

## **COMPARISONS OF DATA FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEYS 2001 ACCORDING TO OLD AND NEW WEIGHTING GROUPS**

The changes made in 2001 in the weighting groups, consisted of transferring immigrants who had been in the country for over four years from separate weighting groups for immigrants – which were grouped according to aggregated districts – to geographical weighting groups of the general population. This transfer was made following the results of tests, which revealed that the labour force characteristics of these immigrants were similar to those of the general population in the social strata in which they resided. These changes brought about slight changes in the data of the general population. Thus, for instance, the percentage of persons in the labour force declined from 54.4% to 54.3% (a change of 4.7 thousand), and the percentage of unemployed persons rose from 9.3% to 9.4% (a change of 0.9 thousand). Greater changes were found mainly among the immigrant population in a division by religion, and in geographical groupings of the population in general and of immigrants in particular.

### **Immigrants**

In the old weighting method, the number of immigrants was weighted to an external total. In the new method the number of immigrants is a coefficient which is weighted from the survey. There was a drop of approximately 29 thousand (3.5%) in the number of immigrants, with the drop in the number of men – 17 thousand (4.6%) – greater than that of the women – 12 thousand (2.7%).

Among male immigrants, there was a slight increase in the percentage in the civilian labour force (from 62% to 62.4%), and a decrease in the percentage of unemployed (from 10.4% to 10.2%).

Among female immigrants, there was a drop in the percentage in the civilian labour force (from 54.3% to 52.1%), and a rise in the percentage of unemployed (from 10.6% to 11%).

The decline in the number of immigrants is spread among almost all districts, except for the Jerusalem District, in which there was almost no change (0.2 thousand) and the Hadera Sub-district, in which there was a slight rise (0.4 thousand).

The most significant change by type of locality was in the number of immigrants residing in development localities. According to the new method, there was an increase of 1.8 thousand in the number of immigrants in those localities.

### **Religion**

In the transfer from one weighting group to another, an increase of approximately 8 thousand was found in the number of Jews, as opposed to a similar decrease in the number of persons belonging to the group “Other Religions”. This change is due to the drop in the number of immigrants and in the relative share of “Other Religions” among immigrants.

Among Jews, the change in weighting groups did not influence the characteristics of the labour force. However, among the group “Other Religions”, which is smaller, there was a decrease in the percentage of persons in the civilian labour force (from 43% to 42.6%). This decline occurred because the change was primarily among the 25-44 age groups, which are the main working ages.

The change found in the group “Other Religions” was mainly among non-Arabs. Among the non-Arabs in that population group, there was a decline of 8.9 thousand, and 6.3 thousand of them were employed. As a result, the percentage of non-Arab members of “Other Religions”

in the civilian labour force declined from 65.9% to 65.1%. The characteristics of the changes found in this group are similar to those found among the immigrants: the percentage of men in the labour force increased from 73.5% to 74.2%, and the percentage of women declined from 59.1% to 57.5%.

### **Geographical Strata**

According to the old weighting method, the total population by geographical strata was obtained by adding the number of immigrants and Israelis in the strata. According to the new weighting method, the total population by geographical strata is obtained from an external source, and is therefore more accurate.

### **Type of locality**

The main change is a decline in the number of residents in the large cities, as opposed to an increase in the smaller localities and in development towns.

In Jerusalem, there was a decrease of 4.4 thousand in the population and 3.3 thousand in the labour force; in Haifa, there was a decrease of 3.5 thousand in the population and 1.4 thousand in the labour force; and in Tel Aviv, the decrease was insignificant.

### **District and sub-district**

According to the old method for calculating weighting, immigrants (excluding those who arrived in Israel over the last two years) were divided into three groups: North (including Haifa), Central (including Tel Aviv), and South (including Jerusalem). Following the transition to the new weighting method, there was an increase of 5.1 thousand in the Southern District population, and the main share of the increase (3.4 thousand) was in the Be'er Sheva Sub-district. However, the changes in the civilian labour force were minor.

Concurrently, there was a decrease of 4.1 thousand in the Jerusalem District population, as well as a drop of 2.7 thousand in the civilian labour force.

In the Northern District there was an increase of 4.5 thousand in the population, and a rise of 3.4 thousand in the civilian labour force. However, in the Haifa Sub-district, there was a drop of 1.9 thousand in population and 2.1 thousand in the labour force.

In the Central District, the changes were more moderate: a decline of 2.8 thousand was recorded in the Petah Tiqwa Sub-district, as opposed to slight increases in other sub-districts and in the Tel Aviv Sub-district.

Examination of the changes that occurred in the districts and sub-districts in the percentage of persons in the labour force, indicate that the most substantial changes occurred in the Zefat Sub-district (a rise of 0.4%), and in the Ashqelon Sub-district (a drop of 0.4%). In the Hadera Sub-district there was an increase of 0.3%, and in the Ramla Sub-district, the Southern District, and the Be'er Sheva Sub-district the share of the population in the labour force declined by 0.3%.

Concurrently, it was found that in the share of unemployed persons dropped by 0.5% in the Kinneret Sub-district, and by 0.4% in the Ramla Sub-district. In the Southern District, the share of unemployed persons rose by 0.3%. A similar increase was found in the Ashqelon Sub-district and in Judea and Samaria.

The changes in geographic strata were caused by two factors: changes in the relative weight of the immigrants in the various localities; and changes in the ratios of the total immigrant population to the population of new immigrants who arrived over the last four years.

## Households

As mentioned, in the analysis of individuals no changes were found among the general population, and differences between the two weighting methods were found only among the immigrant population.

In the analysis of households, a decrease of 4.4 thousand was found in the total number of households, with the biggest drop occurring in the number of immigrant households – 9.4 thousand. In the old weighting method, all immigrants of 1990 and after were in separate groups. However, because of the difficulty entailed in assigning to those groups children aged 0-14 who were born in the country to immigrants, these children were distributed among the general population by geographic strata. As a result, the total number of children of immigrants was lower than it should have been; i.e., individuals aged 15 and over were under-represented in households of immigrants with children, and over-represented in households without children. Conversely, among the population of non-immigrants, there was a “surplus of children”, with the opposite effect.

Indeed, the most substantial change found was the distribution of households without children as opposed to households with children. The number of households without children decreased by 16 thousand, as opposed to an increase of 11.6 thousand in the number of households with children.

In immigrant households, the differences were more substantial: the number of households without children decreased by 37.6 thousand, whereas the number of households with children increased by 28.2 thousand. The greatest increase was found in households with two children.

Concurrently, a change was found in the size of households. The number of small households with one or two persons declined by approximately 6 thousand and 5 thousand, respectively, whereas the number of households with four persons increased by approximately 4 thousand.

Among the immigrants there was a drop in the number of households with three persons, and a rise in the number of households with four or more persons.

The number of Jewish households remained almost unchanged, as opposed to a drop of 3.8 thousand in the number of households of other religions. This decrease is the result of a drop in the number of households of immigrants of other religions.

As a result of these changes, the number of households with employed persons declined by 5.6 thousand, as opposed to an increase of 1.2 thousand in the number of households without employed persons.

There was almost no change in the number of Jewish households; however, there was a drop of 2.2 thousand households with employed persons, and a rise of 1.7 thousand households without employed persons.

The number of immigrant households decreased by 9.4 thousand. At the same time, the number of households with employed persons decreased by 13.8 thousand, and there was an increase of 4.3 thousand in households without employed persons, approximately half of whom were pensioners.

It should be noted that the number of households with a man as household head increased slightly (by 1.3 thousand), and the number of households with a woman as household head declined (by 5.7 thousand).

Interestingly, despite a certain drop (0.9 thousand) in the number of pensioners' households among the general population, there was an increase of 2 thousand in such households among the immigrants.