



This brochure is being published on World Statistics Day, which was observed for the second consecutive year on 20 October 2011. The brochure provides information on World Statistics Day, and presents comparative statistics on Israel and other countries relating to several topics.

What is World Statistics Day?

On 20 October, World Statistics Day was marked throughout the world. This day was celebrated for the first time last year, following a unanimous UN resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 June 2010. Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the UN Statistics Division, initiated World Statistics Day, in order to shed light on the achievements of national and international statistical systems, to raise public awareness and build trust in official statistics, and to promote the work of statisticians throughout the world. These goals are consistent with the observed global trend toward decision-making based on current and reliable information about topics relating to people's lives. These decisions also relate to business affairs as well as political matters and policy making (see the structure of the UN statistical system).

In Israel, this day will be marked in the Knesset on 1 November 2011 – when the Government Statistician, Prof. Shlomo Yitzhaki, will present the Report on Society in Israel to Knesset Speaker Mr. Reuven Rivlin in the presence of other public figures and political leaders. In addition, Israel Central Bureau of Statistics will hold a seminar featuring Prof. Ron Kenett, President of the Israel Statistical Association, as keynote speaker. On that occasion, awards will be granted to employees of the ICBS for outstanding achievements.

Israel in the International Arena

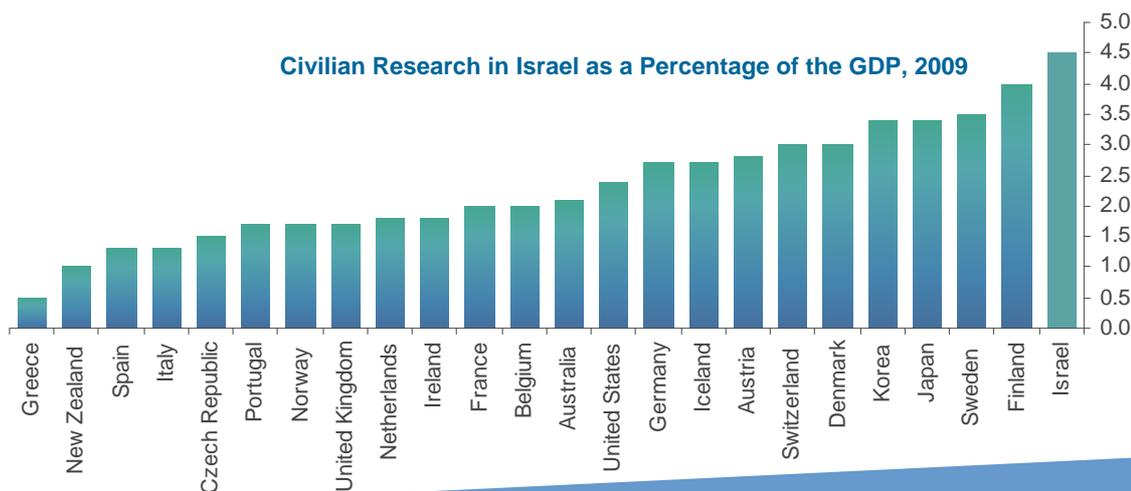
Israel emerged with relative ease from the recent global economic crisis, and has already resumed a rapid pace of economic growth. Between 2005 and 2010, Israel's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased at an average annual rate of 4.2%, whereas the average annual rate in OECD countries was only 1.4%. However, the per-capita GDP in Israel is still relatively low, and amounts to 75% of the average per-capita GDP in OECD countries.

Israel's positive economic development has also affected the country's balance of payments. Between 2003 and 2010, there was a surplus in

Israel's current account which ranged from 0.5% to 3.6% of the GDP. In contrast, OECD countries had a deficit in the current account which ranged from 0.5% to 1.5% of the GDP. Israel is perceived as having an innovative economy, which is based on science and technology; the percentage of national expenditures for civilian R&D out of the GDP is the highest in the world. Regarding technological innovation, Israel is also among the leading countries in the world, with 37% of all companies engaging in technological innovation, and 70% of all companies engaging in all types of innovation (the highest in the world).

The Gross Domestic Product Per Capita in Israel was about \$28,500 (in current prices, in PPP terms). The average GDP per capita in EU countries was \$31,700, and the average in OECD countries was \$32,800.

Civilian Research in Israel as a Percentage of the GDP, 2009



Links to international organization websites



OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development



EU - European Union



MEDSTAT



UNSD - United Nations Statistics Division

UNECE -

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



IMF - International Monetary Fund



The World Bank

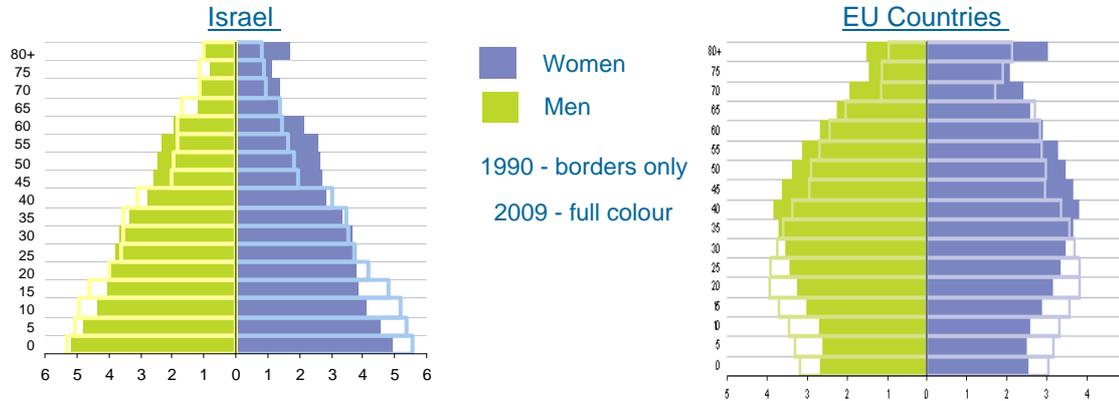


ILO - International Labor Organization

Israel in the International Arena (continued)

The composition of the Israeli population, which includes a large percentage of young people, affects the composition of national expenditure in various fields.

The "Age Pyramid" of Israel and EU Countries (percentage of total population)



The percentage of the national expenditure for education is higher in Israel than in OECD countries – 7.3% versus 6.1% of the GDP, respectively. However, the national expenditure per student in Israel is lower than in OECD countries at all levels of education, from primary education to higher education.

In Israel, the percentage of the national expenditure for health out of the GDP is relatively low, because the population is younger. In 2009, it amounted to 7.6% in Israel, compared with 9.5% in OECD countries. This was the case, even though life expectancy in Israel is among the highest in the world, and persons aged 75 and over comprise nearly 5% of the population.

Environmental Protection:

The topic of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming has been on the global agenda for several years. Government and academic institutions as well as civil society have been trying to reach an understanding in order to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and in order to contend with the damage caused by climate changes.

Israel has contributed less than 0.5% to greenhouse emissions in the world. Following a statement by President Peres at the 2009 World Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Israel has joined a group of advanced countries that have voluntarily undertaken to reduce greenhouse gases through energy efficiency measures, renewable energy, treatment of waste, and other means. The goal of these measures is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% until 2020.

UNdata – A Global Perspective

UNdata is a central international database, and it is accessible to the public, through the UN website. The database includes statistics from databases of UN organizations as well as from organizations outside of the UN – although it does not include all of the data from all UN organizations or all of the information found in branches of the UN. The database was established for the public at large, and for decision-makers throughout the world. It provides a basis for international comparisons; for conducting searches in different datasets, for accessing series of data on various topics, and for making queries by topic or by country.

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) was awarded the UN21 Award in the category "Improvements in Client Services". UN21 awards were established to recognize outstanding initiatives of groups or individuals that improve the presentation of the programs and the accessibility of the Organization's services. In 2010, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, granted the award to the Director of the UNSD in New York, Mr. Paul Cheung. <http://data.un.org/>.

Links to international organization websites (cont.)



WHO -
World Health Organization



UNESCO -
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



FAO -
Food and Agriculture Organization



ITU -
International Telecommunication Union

Additional links

[Israel Statistical Profile in OECD](#)

Previous Brochure

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