

The Statistics Ordinance [New Version], 5732 - 1972¹

Updated to include the 2016 amendment

- Definitions
1978 amendment
2016 amendment
1. In this Ordinance -
- "the Bureau" - means the Central Bureau of Statistics;
- "census" - means census of population;
- "statistics" - means statistical information relative to the matters indicated in sections 3 and 7 and particulars of the subjects included in census questionnaires under section 6 and includes any such information and particulars as aforesaid as are collected in accordance with statistical sampling methods which are not arbitrary;
- "statistical acts" - means the collection and processing of statistics;
- "State agencies" - means Government Ministries and includes local authorities, as well as authorities, bodies corporate and other agencies established by enactment or decided upon by the Government for the purposes of this Law;
- "the Statistician" - means the National Statistician;
- "employee" - means any person employed in carrying out any function under this Ordinance;
- "empowered employee" - means an enumerator, an agent and any person empowered in respect of a particular matter by a regulation under this Ordinance or by the Statistician in writing;
- "census order" - means an order under section 3;
- "questionnaire" - includes any form or document.
- National Statistician
1978 amendment
2016 amendment
2. (a) The Government shall, upon the proposal of the Prime Minister, appoint a National Statistician. Notice of the appointment shall be published in *Reshumot*.
- (b) The Statistician shall head the Bureau and shall guide the statistical apparatus of the State agencies.

¹ Published in *Dinei Medinat Yisrael (Nusach Chadash)* No. 24, 25th of Nisan, 5732 (9th of April, 1972), p. 500.

Amendments: *Sefer Ha-Chukim* 908, 7th of Av 5738 (10th of August 1978), p. 201
Sefer Ha-Chukim 2155, 8th of Sivan 5768 (11th of June 2008), p. 532
Sefer Ha-Chukim 2233, 1st of Nissan 5770 (16th of March 2010), p. 417
Sefer Ha-Chukim 2561, 8th of Tamuz 5776 (14 of July 2016), p. 967

The following text is a compilation of the above four sources. The English translation of the 1972 Ordinance and the 1978 amendment is the official translation of the Ministry of Justice. The English translation of the 2008 and 2010 amendments is an unofficial translation of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

- (c) The Statistician shall, in carrying out his functions, act on the basis of scientific considerations.
- Functions of the Bureau
1978 amendment
3. The function of the Bureau shall be -
- (1) to perform, and publish the results of, statistical acts as to the population and its social health, economic, commercial, industrial and other activities and as to the physical conditions of the country;
 - (2) to cooperate with State agencies in performing statistical acts and publishing their results;
 - (3) to prepare, in consultation with the Public Council for Statistics, multi-annual general schemes for the statistical acts of State agencies;
 - (4) to prescribe, in consultation with the Public Council for Statistics and the agencies concerned, uniform statistical classifications for the use of Government agencies;
 - (5) to assemble and publish information on statistical acts which are performed or planned by or for the Bureau of State agencies.
- Public Council for Statistics
1978 amendment
4. (a) The Prime Minister shall appoint a Public Council for Statistics (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), which shall consist of representatives of State agencies, institutions of higher education and research and public bodies and of experts on statistics and on economic and social subjects.
- (b) The functions and powers of the Council shall be-
- (1) to advise the Prime Minister and other Ministers on matters relating to the statistical acts of State agencies;
 - (2) to advise the Statistician on matters relating to statistical acts which are performed by the Bureau; for this purpose, the Council may inspect questionnaires addressed to the public;
 - (3) to receive from State agencies their schemes for the performance of statistical acts and to give an opinion as to coordination between such agencies in respect of such schemes;
 - (4) to make proposals for rendering more efficient and developing statistical acts of State agencies.
- 2008 amendment
- (c) The Council shall prescribe its procedure by rules. The rules shall be published in *Reshumot*.
- (d) In appointing the Council, appropriate expression shall be given to the representation of both sexes, to the extent that circumstances permit.
- Coordination of statistical acts
1978 amendment
5. (a) Statistical acts by or for a State agency which involve addressing the public or part thereof shall be performed after consultation with the Statistician. Where the act is a census, it shall only be performed with the advance permission of the Prime Minister.

- (b) Statistical acts by the Bureau relating to a matter in the area of activity of a Government Ministry shall be performed after consultation with the Ministry concerned. Where the act is a census, it shall only be performed with the advance permission of the Prime Minister.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, "census" means a statistical act performed in the State or in part thereof which involves addressing the whole of the public concerned on a matter relating to population or housing or to agriculture, industry or some other economic activity.
- (d) The provisions of this section shall not prevent the collection, otherwise than for statistical purposes alone, of particulars required in carrying out a function under any law.

Census
1978 amendment

- 6. (a) The Prime Minister may, in consultation with the Statistician and the Council, direct by order that a census of the population or part thereof be taken in the State or in part thereof.
- (b) The census order shall prescribe the date of the census, the subjects to be included in the questionnaires, the persons of whom a census shall be taken, the persons who shall answer the questionnaires and any other matter the Prime Minister may see fit to prescribe for the efficient carrying out of the census.

Statistics
1978 amendment

- 7. With the approval of the Government, the Bureau shall, in connection with a census or otherwise, collect statistics relating to all or any of the following matters:
 - (1) population and housing thereof;
 - (2) entry into and exit from Israel;
 - (3) demography and health;
 - (4) social and educational matters;
 - (5) trade and marketing;
 - (6) imports and exports;
 - (7) prices of commodities, immovable property and securities;
 - (8) wholesale and retail prices;
 - (9) handicraft and industry;
 - (10) production and manufacture, including building;
 - (11) stocks of finished and unfinished goods;
 - (12) rights in the different categories of immovable property; condition of immovable property and produce of land;
 - (13) occupation and condition of buildings;
 - (14) the annual value of immovable property;
 - (15) transfers, mortgages registered or discharged, and leases of immovable property;
 - (16) conditions for the transfer of rights of possession or ownership;
 - (17) rent payable or receivable in respect of immovable

property, including dwellings, shops and other business premises;

- (18) cost of living;
- (19) incomes and earnings;
- (20) wages, hours and conditions of labour;
- (21) employment, unemployment, and effective strength of labour force;
- (22) industrial disturbances and disputes;
- (23) injuries, accidents and compensation;
- (24) banking and finance;
- (25) transport and communication by land, water and air;
- (26) marine, life, accident, fire or other insurance;
- (27) personal and other services;
- (28) local government;
- (29) any such other matters as the Statistician may direct with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Collection and
processing of
statistics by sex

2008 amendment

- 7A. (a) The collection and processing of statistics relating to individuals and the publication of the results by the Bureau in accordance with section 7, shall include statistics by sex, unless the Statistician has determined, regarding a specific matter, that there are circumstances that justify not doing so.
- (b) The Statistician may determine that the collection and processing of statistics and the publication of the results as stated in sub-section (a), shall include statistics by sex, even if they do not pertain to matters that have gender related implications.
- (c) The Bureau shall publish, at least once a year, results deriving from the collection and processing of statistics that include statistics by sex.
- (d) The Statistician shall appoint, after consultation with the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, as defined in the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women Law, 5758-1998, an employee who shall be responsible for the implementation of this section, including preparation of programs for the collection and processing of statistics, the development of statistical classifications and cooperation with State agencies in all that relates to the collection and processing of statistics by sex.

Statistics how to
be collected

8. The statistics shall be collected by means of questionnaires prepared by the Statistician and delivered to the person from whom the particulars are required or by such other means as the Statistician shall determine.

Enumerators and
agents

9. For the purpose of taking a census and of collecting other statistics, the Statistician shall appoint enumerators and agents and describe their functions.

Declaration

10. The Statistician shall be competent to receive an affidavit under

- 2010 amendment
- this Ordinance. He may require any employee to make and sign prior to entering upon his functions, before him or some other person competent to receive an affidavit and in such manner as the Statistician may prescribe, a declaration in the form set out in the First Schedule.
- Duty to furnish particulars
1978 amendment
11. Every person from whom particulars may lawfully be required pursuant to this Ordinance for the purposes of a census or other statistics shall, to the best of his knowledge, when required to do so by the Statistician or an empowered employee, fill up and supply the particulars specified in any questionnaire, in accordance with the instructions accompanying or having reference to the same.
- Service of requirement to furnish particulars
12. (a) The leaving by an employee at any house of a questionnaire purporting to be issued under this Ordinance, accompanied by a notice requiring occupant of the house or, in his absence, another member of the family to fill it up and sign it within a stated time, shall, as against the occupant, be a sufficient requirement so to do even if he is not named in the notice or not personally served therewith.
- (b) The leaving by an employee of a questionnaire as referred to in subsection (a) at the office or another place of business of any person, or the delivery thereof to any person or his agent by registered letter, accompanied by a notice requiring the questionnaire to be filled up and signed within a stated time, shall, as against such person or, in case of a partnership or unincorporated body of persons, as against the members thereof and each of them, be a sufficient requirement for such to be done and, if so required in the notice, for the questionnaire to be posted to the Bureau within a stated time.
- Duty to answer questions
1978 amendment
13. A person shall, to the best of his knowledge and belief, answer every question asked him by the Statistician or any empowered employee, provided that the information sought is required for the purpose of any statistics authorised by this Ordinance to be collected.
- Permission to enter and to affix marks
1978 amendment
14. Where the Government has made a census order or has approved the collection of other statistics under section 7, the Statistician, or an empowered employee may, for the purpose of making any inquiries or observations necessary for obtaining statistics, do at all reasonable times the following:
- (1) in the case of a census – enter and inspect any factory, mine, workshop, office or place where persons are employed and any dwelling-house and affix numbers, letters or marks in connection with the census;
 - (2) in the case of the collection of other statistics – enter and inspect the said places, except a dwelling-house.

- Access to records
1978 amendment
15. Where the Government has, under section 7, approved the collection of statistics relating to any matter, any person who has the custody or charge of any records or documents of the State, a local authority, a religious community within the meaning of article 2 of the Palestine Orders in Council, 1922-1947, or any person from which, in the opinion of the Statistician, information can be obtained relating to such matter or likely to assist in the completion or correction of statistics relating to such matter shall grant access thereto to the Statistician or any empowered employee for the purpose of obtaining such information.
- Request for information notwithstanding other law
1978 amendment
- 15A. (a) Notwithstanding anything provided in any law prohibiting the delivery or requiring the keeping secret of information, the Statistician may require a State agency to deliver to him information, records and documents in accordance with sections 11, 13 and 15 for the purpose of the performance of a statistical act by the Bureau, and upon his doing so, the prohibitions and obligations imposed by that law shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to everyone engaged in the performance of such statistical act.
- (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any information, records and documents -
- (1) which in the opinion of the Prime Minister or the Minister of Defence are matters of State security;
 - (2) which in the opinion of the Prime Minister or the Minister of Foreign Affairs are matters of foreign relations of the State or matters the delivery of which may injure international trade relations of the State;
 - (3) the delivery of which, in the opinion of the Minister of Finance, may injure the economic system of the State or, in the opinion of the Governor of the Bank of Israel, may injure the financial institutions of the State.
- Processing and publication of statistics
16. The Statistician shall cause the statistics and other particulars collected under this Ordinance to be compiled and tabulated and shall cause them or abstracts thereof or extracts therefrom, with or without observations thereon, to be published as may be generally or specially directed by him.
- Secrecy
17. (a) No individual return, and no part of an individual return, made, and no answer to any question given, for the purposes of this Ordinance shall be published except for the purposes of a prosecution under this Ordinance.
- (b) No information collected for the purposes of this Ordinance and derived from an individual return or the answer to a question, or from records or documents as referred to in section 15, shall be so published as to enable the identification of the person to whom it relates.

- (c) No person other than an employee shall see any individual return made for the purposes of this Ordinance, or any part of such a return, except for the purposes of a prosecution under this Ordinance.

Restrictions on application of certain provisions

1978 and 2010 amendments

18. (a) The provisions of section 17 shall not apply to statistics and other particulars relating to State agencies only and shall also not apply where the statistics or other particulars have already been published, or made available for inspection by the public, by lawful authority.
- (b) The provisions of section 17(a) and (b) shall not apply where the return, answer or information relates -
- (1) to an individual or a partnership, such individual, or all the partners, having in advance consented, in writing, to its publication.
 - (2) to a body corporate, or an unincorporated body of persons, whose directors or other governing body (whatever its name) or, in the absence of a governing body, whose members have in advance passed a resolution approving its publication.
 - (3) (a) To a body corporate carrying out business in an economic branch included in the Second Schedule, and the Prime Minister has permitted by notice in the Official Gazette, with the approval of the Economic Affairs Committee of the Knesset, their publication after finding that their publication is essential for the public interest, however publication shall not be permitted according to this subsection of data that constitutes "information" as defined in Section 7 of the Protection of Privacy Law, 5741-1981, or of details about private matters of an individual even if they do not constitute said "information."
 - (b) Permission according to subsection (a) will be given after consultation with the Statistician, with the Council, with the General Director of the Antitrust Authority as defined in the Restrictive Trade Practices Law, 5748-1988, and with the Minister within whose authority is found the economic branch included in the Second Schedule in which the body corporate is carrying out business and for which the return, answer or information is relevant, and after the body corporate has been given an opportunity to express its position.
 - (c) In the grant of permission according to subsection (a) shall be set out the name of the body corporate, the subject of the return, answer or information and the type of details whose

publication shall be allowed, and the conditions for publication to the extent that they exist.

- (d) The Prime Minister may, upon the recommendation of the Statistician and subject to approval by the Economic Affairs Committee of the Knesset, amend, by Order, the Second Schedule.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17(a) and (b), the Statistician may deliver to a chief registration officer appointed under the Population Registry Law, 5725-1965, information obtained in the census as to the name, identity number and address of any person. Chapter Five of the said Law shall apply to such information.

Collection of statistics in cooperation with other agencies

1978 amendment

- 18A. (a) Where the Bureau collects statistics or other particulars in cooperation with, or as an agent of, any State agency authorised under law to require the same, it may, notwithstanding anything provided in this Ordinance, disclose them to that agency so long as it is indicated in a conspicuous position on the document by which they are requested that they are collected by the Bureau as aforesaid and the person from whom they are collected has been advised of such fact. Where the Bureau collects statistics or other particulars in cooperation with, or as an agent of, a State agency not authorised under law to collect the same, the Bureau may disclose them to that agency if it is also indicated as aforesaid that the provisions of the Ordinance concerning the duty to deliver particulars do not apply and the person from whom the particulars are collected has been advised of such fact.
- (b) Where the Bureau collects particulars from any person, including a State agency, permitted under law to disclose them, and such person authorises their disclosure, then, notwithstanding anything provided in this Ordinance, the Bureau may disclose them to any State agency for the purpose of carrying out the latter's functions.
- (c) Where the Bureau collects particulars from, or from the forms of, any person, including a State agency, it may, notwithstanding anything provided in the Ordinance, deliver them back to that person or agency, as the case may be, either in the form in which it received it or in any other form.

Inadmissibility

19. No returns, records, documents or other information made or obtained for the purposes of statistics under this Ordinance shall be admissible or used in evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings, except criminal proceedings for an offence under this Ordinance.

Major offences

20. (a) An employee who does any of the following shall be liable

1978 amendment

to imprisonment for a term of three years:

- (1) directly or indirectly uses for his personal benefit any information which reaches him by virtue of his employment and which has not yet been published under this Ordinance, such information being likely to affect the market price of any product or article;
 - (2) without lawful authority publishes or communicates to any person, otherwise than in the ordinary course of his employment, any information acquired by him in the course of such employment;
 - (3) knowingly prepares for the Bureau any false statistics.
- (b) A person who publishes or communicates to any person any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this Ordinance shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of three years.

Miscellaneous offences

21. The following shall be guilty of an offence under this Ordinance:

- (1) a person who hinders or obstructs the Statistician or an empowered employee in the exercise of any power conferred under this Ordinance;
- (2) a person who refuses or neglects to fill up or supply the particulars required in any questionnaire lawfully sent to him or left with him, or to answer any question or inquiry addressed to him under the authority of this Ordinance;
- (3) a person who knowingly makes in any questionnaire filled up or delivered by him pursuant to this Ordinance, or in an answer to any question asked him under the authority of this Ordinance, any statement which is untrue in a material particular.
- (4) a person who without lawful authority destroys, defaces or mutilates any questionnaire containing particulars collected under this Ordinance, or who writes or makes on any questionnaire issued for the purposes of this Ordinance and delivered to the Statistician or an empowered employee, any indecent, obscene, insulting or blasphemous remarks, drawing or other matter;
- (5) an empowered employee who, without sufficient excuse from sickness or other unavoidable cause, refuses or neglects to carry out any functions imposed on him by this Ordinance or assigned to him by the Statistician or by an employee whose subordinate he is.

General penalty
1978 amendment

22. A person guilty of an offence under this Ordinance for which no other penalty is prescribed shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of three months.

Regulations

23. The Government may make regulations -

- (1) requiring particulars and information to be furnished at

prescribed times by persons in prescribed areas for prescribed periods;

- (2) requiring particulars and information to be furnished as to the addresses and occupations of persons;
- (3) prescribing questionnaires and information which are to be verified by affidavit, and the text of the affidavit;
- (4) prescribing fees to be paid to the Bureau for the supply of statistics collected by it under this Ordinance and for any special information and report supplied, or special investigation carried out, by it;
- (5) prescribing, where provision is not otherwise made therefore, all things required to be prescribed by this Ordinance or necessary for giving effect to its provision.

First Schedule

(Section 10)

2010 amendment

Text of Declaration

I,, declare that I will faithfully and honestly perform my task as, in conformity with the requirements of the Statistics Ordinance [New Version], 5732-1972, and of any direction issued in pursuance thereof, and that I will not without authority in that behalf disclose or make known any matter or thing which comes to my knowledge by reason of my employment in that task.

Second Schedule

(Section 18(b)(3))

2010 amendment

Economic Branch

(According to the Standard Classification of Economic Branches published by the Bureau)

1. Main Branch : 23 – Distillation of crude oil and its products and nuclear fuel.