

World Statistics Day

20 October 2015

Better Data, Better Lives

On 20 October 2015, Israel marked World Statistics Day, along with many other countries.

A resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly established World Statistics Day in 2010 as a special date to be marked once every five years.

The goals of this day are:

- ❖ To raise public awareness of the importance of official statistics as a tool for decision-making based on up-to-date and reliable data
- ❖ To increase the public's trust in official statistics
- ❖ To shed light on the many achievements of national and international statistics institutions

These goals are consistent with the trend in the public and private sectors to make decisions based on information: personal decisions, business decisions, and national decisions.

The slogan chosen by the UN to mark World Statistics Day is "Better Data, Better Lives".

This slogan emphasizes the public's important role in the process of generating the statistical data that ultimately are used in decisions that impact everyone's quality of life.

The marking of World Statistics Day highlights the work of the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) as Israel's official, professional body that collects data, performs statistical analyses, and then publishes statistical information about a variety of aspects of life.

The ICBS was established just months after the establishment of the State of Israel, as a direct continuation of the activity of the statistics departments of the British Mandate government and the Jewish Agency, which operated during the Mandate. During the first years, the statistics were based on censuses and on several administrative sources such as immigration data and birth and death records. The work of the ICBS developed over the years: The use of advanced technology began, the statistical methodology improved, and it was decided to provide findings on topics of new public interest such as the environment and social measures.

Among the ICBS's innovations in recent years:

- ❖ **The Social Survey** – The survey is intended to provide information on the life conditions and well-being of the Israeli population, and asks about attitudes on various issues. The subject of the 2015 Social Survey was the public's attitudes toward government services, and the subject of the 2016 Social Survey will be working conditions.
- ❖ **Health and Nutrition Status Survey** – The survey will deal with the nutritional and health status of the nation's population. The survey data will help in identification of

areas that require educational programs, and in the creation of guidelines and recommendations, to encourage proper health and nutrition in Israel.

- ❖ **Personal Safety Survey** – The survey deals with the extent of persons in the population harmed by crime, what harm was caused to these persons, the various types of crimes, appeals by the harmed persons to the Israel Police and to other bodies, and the feeling of personal safety of the members of the population.
- ❖ **PIAAC** (Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies) – The survey, which was conducted during 2014 in the adult population, evaluated basic competencies and the skills required for integration in work and society.
- ❖ **Satisfaction Survey Regarding the Process of Issuing ID Documents and Passports** – The survey, which was conducted during the first half of 2015, examined residents' satisfaction with the process of handling requests for ID documents or passports (regular or biometric) at the Interior Ministry offices. The results of the survey will provide useful information that can be used to improve procedures, if necessary.
- ❖ **Satisfaction Survey Regarding the Change to Using a Biometric Passport** – The survey, which was conducted during the first half of 2015, examined residents' satisfaction with the automated border crossing process at Ben Gurion Airport for those holding a biometric passport, as well as the reasons that biometric passport holders did not use the automated border crossing.
- ❖ **Globalization Survey** – The survey measured characteristics of the activity of Israeli multi-national companies in Israel and abroad, the extent of international trade, and the extent of research and development activity, with the goal of measuring Israel's involvement in the global village.
- ❖ **Society in Israel** – One of the ICBS's flagship publications, which provides policymakers and the general public with a broad portrait of the state of Israeli society. The report, which is expected to be released in April 2016, will deal with Israel's future generation (ages 0–24).
- ❖ **Measures of quality of life, sustainability, and resilience** – The ICBS, in cooperation with the Prime Minister's Office and the National Economic Council, is developing measures of quality of life, sustainability, and resilience, with the goal of providing data to decision-makers and the general public in Israel, as well as formulating a reliable portrayal of Israel's socio-economic and environmental status.
- ❖ **The Statistical Abstract of Israel** – Appeared this year in a new format, with the goal of improving the data's accessibility to the public. The tables that until now were published in the Statistical Abstract of Israel now appear as Annual Tables on the ICBS website only, while the printed publication will include a brief abstract of the major data in the areas of society and the state. The new Statistical Abstract is expected to be published in the next few months.

- ❖ **Internet and New Media** – During the coming year, the new ICBS website is expected to be launched. About a year ago, the ICBS Facebook page was put into operation. It serves as an innovative and unmediated additional means of distribution for ICBS content.
- ❖ **Computerization of surveys** – In recent years, most of the field and telephone surveys have shifted to computerized collection. Some surveys include an option to respond over the Internet.

Selected links:

[World Statistics Day page on the CBS website](#)

[World Statistics Day page on the UN website](#)

[CBS video clip for World Statistics Day](#)

Dissemination and Media Relations Sector, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics