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ON THE EVE OF ISRAEL'S 58TH INDEPENDENCE DAY:
OVER 7 MILLION RESIDENTS IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL

From Israel's 57th Independence Day to Israel's 58th Independence Day

- **Israel's population increased by about 118,000;**

- **138,000 babies were born in Israel;**

- **21,000 immigrants arrived in Israel.**

Names related to Independence Day:

- **Seven children were named *'Atzmaut* [Independence], mainly in the 1950s.**

- **The names *Medina* [State], *Tikva* [Hope], *Nitzhona* [Victory], and *Dror/Drora* [Freedom] were given to children born on Independence Day more than to children born on other days of the year.**

On the eve of Israel's 58th Independence Day, the population of the State of Israel numbers about 7,026,000[1]. The population of Israel today is about 8.7 times greater than it was at the time of the establishment of the state. At that time, there were 806,000 residents of Israel (about half of whom are residing in Israel today).

About 5,639,000 residents (80%) are in the category of **"Jews and Others"**. Of that population, 5,333,000 residents are **Jews** (76% of the total population), and another 306,000 (4% of the population) are "Others" (i.e., **immigrants and their offspring who are not registered as Jews at the Ministry of the Interior**). The **Arab population of Israel** numbers about 1,387,000 (20% of Israel's total population).

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[1] This population estimate does not include the population of foreign residents of Israel. At the end of 2004, that population was estimated at about 179,000 (some of whom had been staying in Israel for less than a year).

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During the past year (from Israel's 57th Independence Day to Israel's 58th Independence Day), **the population of Israel increased by about 118,000.** Most of that population growth (104,000) derived from **natural increase** (births less deaths). During the year, about **138,000 babies** were born in Israel.

In addition, about **21,000 immigrants** arrived in Israel. Of the immigrants, 9,300 were from the Former USSR, approximately 3,700 more were from Ethiopia, 2,500 were from France, and 2,000 were from the United States.

These data are based on preliminary estimates processed by the Central Bureau of Statistics on the eve of Israel's Independence Day.

Residents of Large Localities[2]

In 1948, Tel Aviv was the only city in Israel with over 100,000 residents. That year, there were 248,500 residents in Tel Aviv.

Today, 44% of all Israelis (about 3,102,200 people) live in cities with over 100,000 residents.

In Israel, there are **five large cities with a population of over 200,000 residents**: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Rishon LeZiyyon, and Ashdod. About one-fourth of all residents of Israel (about 1,786,000 people) live in those cities.

City	No. of Residents in 1948[3]	No. of Residents in 2005
Jerusalem	84,000	718,900
Tel Aviv-Yafo	248,500	378,800
Haifa	98,600	267,700
Rishon LeZiyyon	11,100	219,800
Ashdod	-	200,800

The rural population of Israel is 571,600 (8% of the country's total population). Of those residents, about 118,000 live on **kibbutzim** (less than 2% of the country's total population). At the time of the establishment of the state, about 6% of Israel's population lived on kibbutzim.

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[2] According to preliminary estimates for the end of 2005.
[3] As of 8 November 1948, the date of the census. The city of Ashdod was established in 1955 and had about 200 residents one year after its establishment.

Names Related to Independence Day

Seven children were named *'Atzmaut* [Independence], mainly at the beginning of the 1950s. During the first years of the state of Israel, children born on Independence Day were given names related to the date of their birth. The names *Medina* [State], *Tikva* [Hope], *Nitzhona* [Victory], and *Dror/Drora* [Freedom] were given to children born on Independence Day more than to children born on other days of the year.

The names *Asor* and *Asora* [Decade] was given to 12 boys born and 5 girls, respectively, who were born in 1958. The names *Nitzhon* and *Nitzhona* [Victory] were given to 13 boys and 361 girls, respectively. Those names were given mainly in 1967, but also in 1956. Eleven children were given the name *Zahal* [Israel Defense Forces] in 1967, and a total of 40 people in Israel have that name.