



PRESS RELEASE

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Demographic Situation in Israel - 2007

- * At the end of 2007 the population of Israel numbered 7,243,000 people. Of those 5,478,200 were Jews (75.6%), 1,450,000 were Arabs (20.0%), and approximately 315,400 more (4.4%) were Others; most of these were immigrants and their relatives who are not classified as Jews in the Population Registry.
- * In addition, approximately 110,000 foreign workers (with permits) resided in Israel.
- * In 2007 the population resided in more than two million households.
- * In 2007 there were 151,679 infants born, 39,813 people died and 18,131 new immigrants arrived in Israel.

Population Growth in 2007

- In 2007 **Israel's population** grew by 1.8% (approximately 127,000), from approximately 127,000 at the end of 2006 to 7,243,600 at the end of 2007.
- Of the total growth, approximately 111,600 people were added by natural increase (births minus deaths), and approximately 15,400 from the international migration balance (number of immigrants to Israel minus number of emigrants from Israel).
- The growth rate of the **Jewish population** was 1.6%, and of the **Arab population** – 2.6%.
- The drop in the growth rate of the **Moslem population** continued ((2.8%); in 2000 the growth rate of the Moslem population was 3.8%.
- The growth rate of the general population in 2007 was similar to the growth rate in recent years and in the '80's – years in which the immigration rates were among the lowest in the history of the State. In the '90's the average annual rate was approximately 3%.

Distribution of the Population by Age and Sex

- The population in Israel is younger, in relation to other western countries. This is expressed in a high percentage of children aged 0-14 (approximately 28.4% in Israel, compared with an average of approximately 17% in other western countries), and in a low percentage of the older population aged 65 and over (approximately 9.7% in Israel, compared with an average of approximately 15% in other western countries). One of the main reasons for this is the high fertility rate in Israel.

For explanations and clarifications please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

- In the last decade there has been a rise in the rate of the elderly in the general population, especially in the older age group of 75 and over, whose relative share of the population rose from 3.8% in the '90's to 4.6% in 2007.
- In Israel there are 978 men to every 1,000 women. Up to the age of 35 the number of men is higher than that of women, at the age of 36 the ratio becomes the opposite of what it was, and among those aged 75 and over there are 672 men for every 1,000 women.

Marital Status (those aged 15 and over, 2006 data)

- Approximately 41.6% of all men aged 15 and over are non-married, most (approximately 83%) are single.
- Approximately 44.9% of all women aged 15 and over are non-married, 60% of them are single.
- At the age of 65 and over, approximately 22% of all men and approximately 60% of all women are non-married. This difference stems from the difference among the sexes in longevity (women live longer, on average, than men), and from the difference in the extent of remarrying after divorcing or being widowed (the rate of remarrying among men is higher than among women).
- At the age of 20-24, 89% of all men are single, compared with 71% of all women.

Population According to Country of Birth and Origin (Jews)

- In 2007 there were approximately 3.8 million native-born Israelis, who constitute today approximately 70% of all Jews in the country. At the establishment of the State, native-born Israelis were a little more than a third (35%) of the population.
- The group of European/American origin (those born in Europe/America and Israeli-born whose fathers were born in Europe/America) constitutes 36% (1.9 million), and they are the biggest group of origin. This group grew after the big wave of immigration from the former USSR¹ that began at the end of 1989. The population whose origin was the former USSR number approximately 924,700 at the end of 2007 – approximately 75% were born in the former USSR, and the rest were born in Israel to fathers who were born in the former USSR.

Geographical Distribution of the Population

- Approximately 41% of the total population, and approximately 49% of the Jewish population, resides in the center of the country (Central District and Tel Aviv District).
- Approximately 45% of the Arab population resides in the Northern District, compared with approximately 10% of the Jews.
- In 2007, the population in the Central District, the Jerusalem District and the Judea and Samaria Area grew by 2.4%, 2.2% and 5.6% respectively, a higher rate than the national average of 1.8%. The population in the Southern District, the Tel Aviv District, the Northern District and the Haifa District grew by a lower rate than the national average (1.6%, 1.1%, 1.5% and 0.8%, respectively).
- Natural growth (births minus deaths) is the main source of growth in all the districts.
- In the Central District and the Judea and Samaria Area, the internal migration balance (the difference between the number of those entering from other localities in the country, to the number of those leaving) is positive. In the rest of the districts, it is negative.
- During August 2005, 8,800 people were evacuated from all the localities in the Gaza Area and the former Northern Samaria under the Disengagement Program Implementation Law,

¹ Due to data limitations, all the former USSR was attributed to Europe.

- 5765 – 2005. Approximately 93% of them changed their address to another locality during the period since the evacuation and till the end of 2007. During 2007 approximately 1,632 people changed their address. The main target localities of the evacuees during 2007 were: Yad Binyamin (442 people), Ein Zurim (213 people), Nitzan B' (133 people), Nitzan (116 people) and Ashkelon (129 people). At the end of 2007 approximately 700 people were left among this population, who had not yet changed their address at the Population Registry, and therefore there is no full and comprehensive source of information regarding the places where they reside.

The Population in the Localities

- Approximately 92% of the population resides in 229 urban localities that number 1,000 and more residents. Approximately one-fourth of all Israeli residents live in the five large localities that number over 200,000 residents (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Rishon LeZiyyon and Ashdod). Approximately 44% live in 14 large localities that number at least 100,000 residents.
- Approximately 8% of the population lives in 949 rural localities (including approximately 63,600 residents who live outside localities).

Address Changes (Internal Migration)

- More than half a million residents (7%) reported a change of address to the Ministry of the Interior in 2007. Less than half of them (approximately 48%) reported a change to another locality, and the rest (approximately 52%) reported a change of address within their residential locality.
- Approximately 88% of those who changed their address to another locality were Jews, approximately 6% were Arabs and approximately 6% were Others.
- On average, in all the districts, approximately 42% of the residents who left their residential locality moved to another locality in the same district. This percentage is higher than the national average (42%) in: the Northern District – 51%, the Central District – 48%, the Haifa District – 45% and the Southern District – 43%; similar to the national average in the Tel Aviv District – 41%; and lower than the national average in the Tel Aviv District – 41%, in the Judea and Samaria Area – 26% and in the Jerusalem District – 23%.
- Most of the Arab population (68%) that changed its locality remained in the same district, compared to the general population (42%).

Population Density in Israel

- Population density in Israel (the number of residents who live in an area, compared with the space in the area in sq. km.) continues to rise with population growth. In 2007 density reached 316 people per square kilometer, compared with a density of 220 people per sq. km. in 1990 (not including the population and space in the Judea and Samaria Area).
- The central area (Central and Tel Aviv Districts) is the area with the highest density – 2,101 people per sq. km. In contrast, the lowest density was recorded in the peripheral areas of the country: 273 people per sq. km. in the Northern District, and 73 people per sq. km. in the Southern District.
- Israel has a high population density compared with most countries in the world. In comparison, Slovenia – whose space resembles that of Israel – has a density of 99 people per sq. km.; and Austria and Switzerland – whose populations resemble that of Israel in size – have a density of 99 and 179 people per sq. km., respectively (the data are for 2004). A higher population density than that of Israel can be found in Belgium and Holland (341 and 392 people per sq. km., respectively).

Marriage and Divorce (data for 2006)

- Approximately 45,000 couples were married in Israel¹ in 2006; approximately 76% Jews, approximately 21% Moslems, approximately 1.6% Christians and approximately 1.7% Druze.
- More than 13,000 couples were divorced in 2006; approximately 85% Jews, approximately 8.4% Moslems, approximately 0.6% Christians and approximately 0.6% Druze, as well as an additional 5.6% couples in which their religion is unknown.
- Among approximately 89% of the grooms and approximately 91% of the brides, these were their first marriages.
- In 2006 the rate of marriage of Jewish grooms stood at 17.6 per 1,000 men aged 15 and over, and the rate of marriage of Jewish brides stood at 16.5 per 1,000 women aged 15 and over. The same year these rates stood at 27.5 for Moslem grooms and 28.2 for Moslem brides.
- The median marriage age of Jewish grooms marrying for the first time in 2006 stood at 27.5, and among Moslem grooms at 26.2. The median marriage age of Jewish brides marrying for the first time in 2006 stood at 25.3, and among Moslem brides at 20.8.
- The divorce rate per 1,000 married people, among the ages of 15-49, among Jews is more than double that among Moslems, both among men (14.6 and 5.9, respectively) and women (14.4 and 5.8, respectively).
- During the last decade the marriage age in Israel has risen. Among Jewish brides the median marriage age in first marriages rose from 23.8 in 1996 to 25.3 in 2006, and among Jewish grooms from 26.3 to 27.5. Among Moslem brides the median age rose from 20.3 to 20.8, and among Moslem grooms it rose from 24.6 to 26.2.

Live Births and Fertility

- In 2007 approximately 151,700 infants were born. Approximately 71% to Jewish women, approximately 23% to Moslem women, approximately 3% to women who were not classified by religion in the Population Registry, approximately 2% to Druze women and approximately 2% to Christian women.
- The total fertility rate (average number of children per woman) in 2007 was 2.9 (similar to 2006).
- The total fertility rate for Jewish women was 2.8, for Moslem women 3.9, for Druze women 2.5, for Arab-Christian women 2.2 and for women who were not classified by religion in the Population Registry - 1.5 births per woman.
- The age of mothers at first births was approximately 27.
- Approximately 4.6% of all infants born in 2006 were born in multiple births, mostly twins (approximately 96%).
- For every 100 female infants, there were 105.4 male infants born. This falls within the normal biological range.
- In the last decade the total fertility rate in Israel fell from 2.93 in 1997 to 2.90 in 2007. Among Jewish women a rise was recorded (from 2.64 to 2.80, respectively), and in the other religions a drop was recorded (among Moslem women from 4.57 to 3.90, among Druze women from 3.18 to 2.49, among Arab-Christian women from 2.68 to 2.18 and among women not classified by religion from 1.69 to 1.49).

¹ The data on marriage include cases of marriages that were performed by the religious institutions authorized to do so in Israel, and do not include cases of marriages that were performed abroad and were subsequently registered in the Population Registry. Till the end of 2007, approximately 4,500 couples were registered in the Population Registry, at least one of whom was an Israeli resident and who were married abroad in 2006. Because foreign marriages are registered much later, it can be assumed that the final number of couples who were married abroad in 2006 is much greater than the number recorded.

Applications to Committees for Termination of Pregnancy

- In 2006 19,452 women registered with committees for termination of pregnancy, of which 98.8% were approved by the committees.
- The rate of applications to committees for termination of pregnancy was 11.4 per 1,000 women of fertile ages (15-49). The highest rate of applications was found among Christian women who are not Arab (25.4) as well as among women not classified by religion (22.2). Among Moslem and Druze women the rates are low (6.0 and 6.7, respectively). The rate among Jewish women is 11.9.
- Approximately 55% of the approvals for terminating pregnancy were given based on the "Pregnancy Out of Wedlock" article of law, approximately 17% were given based on the "Danger to Woman's Health" article of law, approximately 18% based on the "Danger of a Physical or Mental Defect in the Foetus" article of law and approximately 10% based on the "Women's Age" article of law.

Mortality

- In 2007 there were 38,813 deaths recorded in Israel; the gross death rate was 5.5 per 1,000 residents.
- The life expectancy of men in Israel was 78.2 years, and of women 82.2 years. The life expectancy of Jewish men was 79.0, and of Arab men 75.0. Among women, the life expectancy of Jewish women was 82.6, and among Arab women 78.6.
- In international comparisons, Israeli men maintain a relatively high position, with a life expectancy of one year (rounded off) less than in Australia, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland, who are in first place. Men in Canada and in Italy have a similar life expectancy. Israeli women are classified lower; their life expectancy is 4 years lower than the leader – Japan. Women in Greece, Austria, Finland, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Belgium have a similar life expectancy.
- In the last decade the life expectancy at birth rose among men by 2.8 years (from 76.0 to 78.8), and among women by 2.4 years (from 80.1 to 82.5). The rise in life expectancy is greater among Jewish men compared with Arab men (3.1 years compared with 1.0, respectively), and slightly greater among Jewish women compared with Arab women (2.3 years compared with 2.0, respectively). There is a trend of a widening of the gap between the life expectancy of women and men among Arabs – the gap grew from 2.5 years to 3.5 years in the last decade. Among Jews, the gap has been relatively stable in the in the last decade.

Infant Mortality

- In 2007, 586 infants died before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 3.9; 2.9 among Jews and 7.2 among Arabs.
- At the beginning of the '90's the infant mortality rate was 8.8 per 1,000 live births.
- In international comparisons of infant mortality rates (rounded off) for 2006, Israel is among the countries with low rates. The rate in Israel resembles that in Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Greece, Spain, France and Switzerland. In Italy, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Finland, the Czech Republic, and Sweden the infant mortality rates are lower.
- In the last decade, infant mortality rates in Israel dropped by almost 40%, from 6.4 to 3.9 per 1,000 live births. The drop among Jews is greater than the drop among Arabs; among Jews the infant mortality rate dropped by 43% (from 5.1 to 2.9 per 1,000 live births), and among Arabs it dropped by 30% (from 9.9 to 6.9 per 1,000 live births).

Immigration to Israel

- In 2007, 18,131 new immigrants were recorded in Israel. Of those, approximately 2,500 were immigrants that came to Israel as tourists and changed their status while in Israel. In addition, approximately 3,200 immigrant citizens¹ arrived in the country.
- Approximately 37% of the immigrants were born in the former USSR, approximately 20% in Ethiopia, approximately 9% in France, approximately 10% in the USA and less than 3% in the United Kingdom.
- The median age of immigrants was 27.0. The median age of immigrants from Ethiopia was 16, and the median age of immigrants from the former USSR was approximately 34.
- Approximately 22% of the immigrants settled in the Southern District, approximately 20% settled in the Central District, approximately 19% settled in the Jerusalem District, approximately 16% settled in the Northern District, approximately 8% settled in the Haifa District and approximately 3% settled in the Judea and Samaria Area.
- The number of immigrants dropped significantly in recent years compared with the average annual number of immigrants (approximately 70,000) at the end of the '90's of the previous century.

Extended Stay of Israelis Abroad (emigration) – 2006

- In 2006 approximately 22,400 Israeli residents went abroad for extended periods of time²; of them, approximately 95% were Jews and Others (71% Jews) and approximately 5% were Arabs.
- Of the Jews and Others: 40% were native-born Israelis, and the rest (60%) were born abroad. Of those born abroad, approximately 76% immigrated to Israel from 1990 and after.
- In 2006 approximately 9,600 Israeli residents returned to Israel after an extended stay abroad; approximately 93% were Jews and Others (83% Jews) and approximately 7% were Arabs.
- Of the Jews and Others 56% were native-born Israelis, and the rest (44%) were born abroad. Of those born abroad, approximately 61% immigrated to Israel from 1990 and after.
- The migration balance of Israeli residents (not including immigrants) in 2006 is negative, and stands at approximately 12,800 residents; a rate of 1.8 per 1,000 residents.

Work Immigration to Israel

- In 2007 approximately 33,000 foreign citizens entered Israel with work permits³. During the same period approximately 24,000 people with work permits left Israel. That same year there were already approximately 101,000 foreign workers with work permits in the country. Thus the number of foreign workers with work permits who were in Israel at the end of 2007 comes to approximately 110,000 workers.
- More than three-quarters of the foreign workers with work permits who were in Israel at the end of 2007 came from Asian countries (mainly Thailand, the Philippines, etc.), and approximately more than one-fifth of all foreign workers with work permits came from European countries (mainly Romania and countries of the former USSR).
- In addition, at the end of 2007 there were approximately 90,000 foreign citizens who arrived in Israel on a tourist visa and remained after it became invalid. This number is the upper estimate for the number of "illegal" foreign workers – a certain number of the tourists who remained in Israel after their visa became invalid submitted a request for residency to the Ministry of the Interior (the great majority arrived from countries of the former USSR).

¹ Immigrant citizen: anyone born to an Israeli citizen while they were abroad, and comes to Israel with the intention of settling down.

² People who went abroad in 2006 and stayed abroad continuously for at least a full year (365 days).

³ Including foreigners who were registered at the border as having a work permit, as well as foreigners who received a work permit at the regional offices of the Ministry of the Interior, a short time after arriving in Israel.

- In the last decade there has been a large drop in the number of foreign citizens entering Israel on a work permit (from 64,000 in 1997 to 33,000 in 2007. During that same decade a change was noted in the composition of the countries from which the work-seekers in Israel come. In some of the leading countries in 1997 a significant drop in the number of arrivals in 2007 was recorded: Romania (from 25,100 to 1,900), Turkey (from 4,700 to 800) and Bulgaria (from 2,500 to 300). Despite the drop in total arrivals, in some of the countries there was a significant rise in the number of arrivals: Thailand (from 7,900 to 10,600), the former USSR (from 3,700 to 5,400), China (from 1,500 to 3,800) and the Philippines (from 4,500 to 6,600).
- At the end of 2007 there were 109,600 foreign workers in Israel. Most were from Asia – 85,000 (China – 11,800, the Philippines – 28,000, Thailand – 31,200), and 23,000 from Europe (especially from Romania – 11,500). The rest were from Africa and America-Oceania.

Households¹

- The number of households in 2007 was 2,051,600. Approximately 84% of the households were Jewish, approximately 14% were Arab and approximately 2% were Others.
- The average size of household stood at 3.3 people per household. The average size of Jewish households was 3.1, compared with 4.9 people per household among Arabs.
- Approximately 80.6% of all households are family households. Of those, approximately 94% included only one family, more than 3% one family with others who are not part of the family and approximately 2% of all households include at least two families.
- Approximately 19.4% of all households are non-family households. Most of them (approximately 92%) are of people living alone.

Families²

- In 2007 there were 1,694,300 families living in Israel. Most of them (approximately 92%) lived in a household without any other people or families.
- Approximately 81% of all families are Jewish, approximately 16% are Arab and the rest are families of Others.
- Approximately 23% of all families are families of couples with no children. Families of this type are more common among Jews (26.3%) than among Arabs (8.9%).
- Families of couples with children is the most common type of family (approximately 64%). Families of this type are more common among Arabs (80.3%) than among Jews (60.8%). In close to 80% of all families of couples with children, the youngest child is aged up to 17; among Jews approximately 77%, and among Arabs approximately 88%.
- Approximately 12% of all families are single-parent families; approximately 12% of Jewish families and 10% of Arab families. In approximately one-half of all single-parent families the age of the youngest child was up to 17 years; among Jews approximately 48%, and among Arabs approximately 51%.
- In approximately 93% of all single-parent families with children up to the age of 17, the parent is a woman.
- In approximately 57% of all single-parent families with children up to the age of 17, the parent is divorced.
- Since 2000 the percentage of single-parent families has not changed, and it stands at close to 12% of all families in Israel, and of all Jewish families.

¹ Including foreigners registered at the border as having a work permit, as well as foreigners who received a work permit at the regional offices of the Ministry of the Interior, a short time after arriving in Israel.

² Family – (nuclear family) is defined as a social cell with two or more people who live in the same household, and are usually connected to each other as a couple or as parents to children.