

# Media Release

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Jerusalem  
November 5, 2018  
326/2018

## The Population of Ethiopian Origin in Israel

- At the end of 2017, **the population of Ethiopian origin in Israel numbered 148,700 residents.**<sup>1</sup> Approximately 87,000 were born in Ethiopia, and 61,700 were Israeli-born with fathers born in Ethiopia.
- In 2017, 1,467 immigrants arrived in Israel from Ethiopia. (Of these, 37 were immigrants and 1,430 arrived under family reunification).
- More than 60% of the population of Ethiopian origin lives in two main **districts**: The Central District (approximately 38%) and the Southern District (approximately 24%). At the end of 2017, the urban locality with the **largest population of Ethiopian origin** was Netanya (approximately 11,700 persons). However, the **highest percentage** of residents of Ethiopian origin out of the total population in a locality was found in Qiryat Mal'akhi (16.5%).
- The population of Ethiopian origin **marries at a later age** than the overall Jewish population.
- 88% of persons of Ethiopian origin marry another person of the same origin; more men than women marry other persons of Ethiopian origin (92% and 85%, respectively).
- The **divorce rate** among the population of Ethiopian origin was more than double the rate among the overall Jewish population (19 out of every 1,000 marriages, compared with 9 per 1,000 marriages among the overall Jewish population).
- **Live births** – In 2017, 3,809 babies were born to women of Ethiopian origin in Israel. That year, the average number of children that a woman of Ethiopian origin was expected to

<sup>1</sup> The population of Ethiopian origin in Israel also includes Israeli-born persons whose fathers were born in Ethiopia.

bear during her lifetime was 2.97.

- **The percentage of single-parent families** in the population of Ethiopian origin was very high – approximately 26%. This was more than twice the percentage of single-parent families among the overall population of Jews and Others in Israel (approximately 12%).
- During the academic year 2016/17, 44.9% of pupils of Ethiopian origin were enrolled in schools under **state-religious** supervision (primary and secondary education). This reflects a downward trend over the past decade (in 2006/07, the rate was 57.2%).
- The percentage of twelfth-grade pupils of Ethiopian origin taking **matriculation exams** was 91.3% in 2017, compared with 94.5% of the pupils in the entire Hebrew education system.
- The number of **students** of Ethiopian origin in institutions of higher education<sup>2</sup> has been trending upward in recent years, from 2,372 in 2011/12 to 3,291 in 2017/18.
- **Net money income per household**<sup>3</sup> among persons of Ethiopian origin<sup>4</sup> amounted to NIS 11,245, compared with NIS 15,751 among all households in the population, whereas the **money expenditure**<sup>5</sup> amounted to NIS 7,037, compared to NIS 12,792 among the total population.

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<sup>2</sup> Not including the Open University.

<sup>3</sup> Net money income: Gross money income after deduction of compulsory payments. Data on net income were not obtained directly from the interviewed households, but were calculated on the basis of gross income data and the tax rules of the State of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> A household in which the head of the household or one of his or her parents was born in Ethiopia.

<sup>5</sup> Money expenditure: Consumption expenditure excluding the imputation for housing services.

## Population

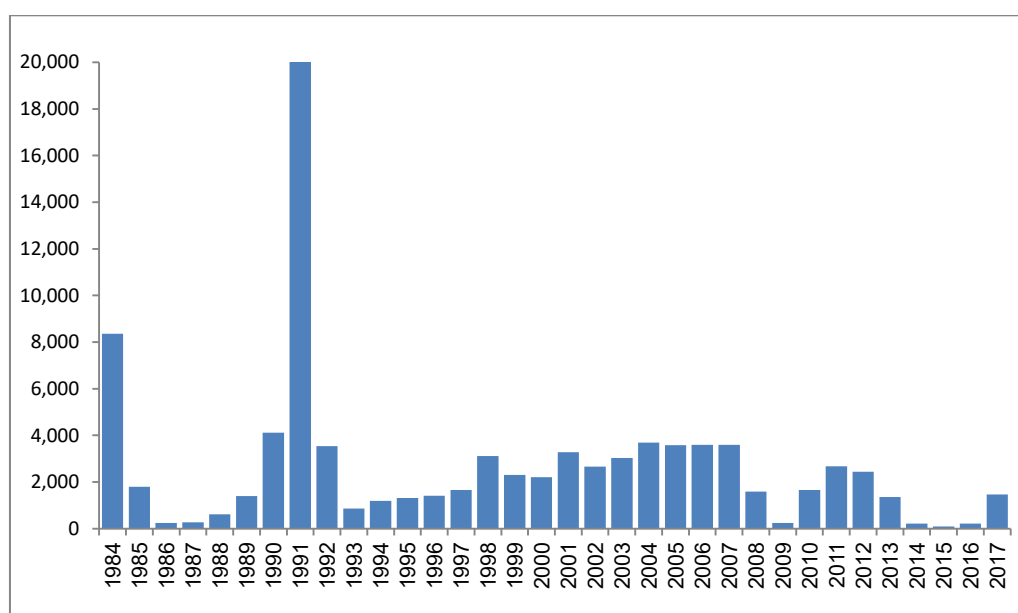
At the end of 2017, the **population of Ethiopian origin in Israel numbered 148,700 residents**. Approximately 59% were born in Ethiopia (87,000), and approximately 41% were born in Israel with fathers born in Ethiopia (61,700).

### Immigration from Ethiopia

Most of the immigrants arrived in two major waves: the first wave was in the 1980s ("Operation Moses"), and the second was in the 1990s ("Operation Solomon"). In recent years, immigration from Ethiopia has declined.

In 2017, 1,467 immigrants arrived in Israel from Ethiopia. (Of these, 37 were immigrants and 1,430 arrived under family reunification). As per the government's decision on family unification, 1,430 persons among the Falashmura reached Israel in 2017, 174 in 2016, and 120 in 2015.

**Diagram 1 – Immigrants from Ethiopia, 1984-2017, Absolute Numbers**



\*In 2017, 97% immigrated under family unification.

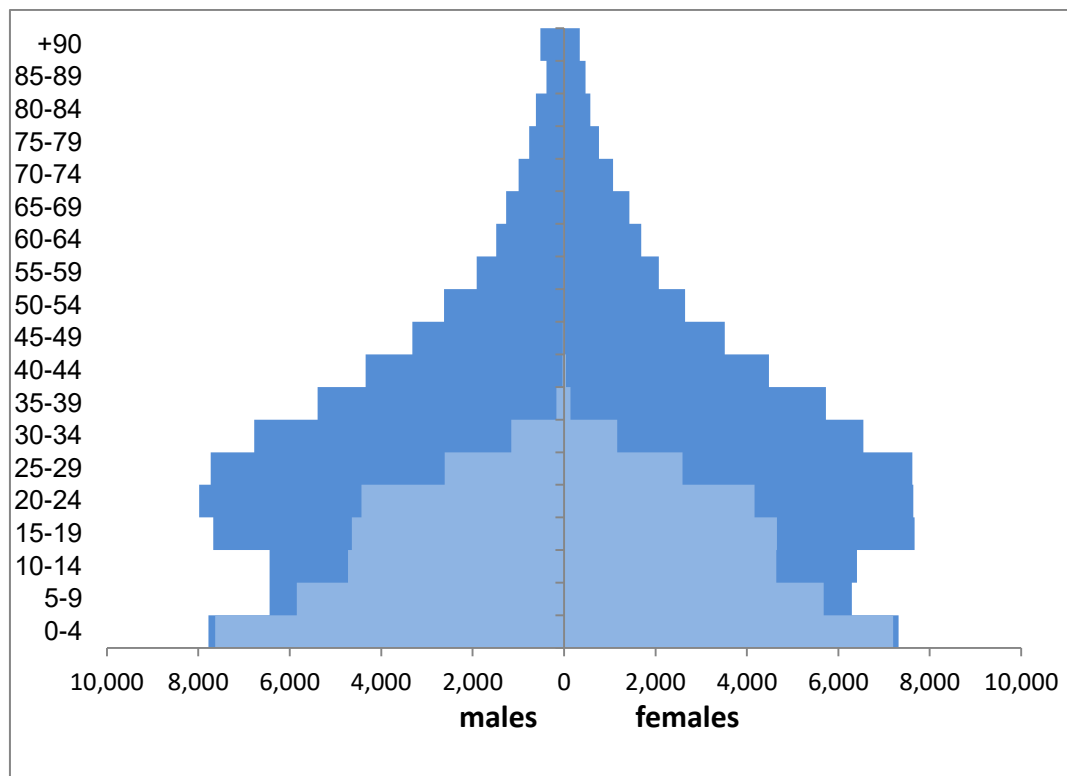
### Age Composition

In 2017, the age composition of immigrants from Ethiopia was relatively young compared to other immigrants. The median age of immigrants from Ethiopia was 20, compared with 31 among all immigrants.

At the end of 2017, the share of children aged 0–14 in the population of Ethiopian origin constituted approximately 27.4% of that population (approximately 87.8% were Israeli-born). The

percentage of persons aged 65 and over among the population of Ethiopian origin was approximately 6.2% (approximately 100% of them were born abroad).

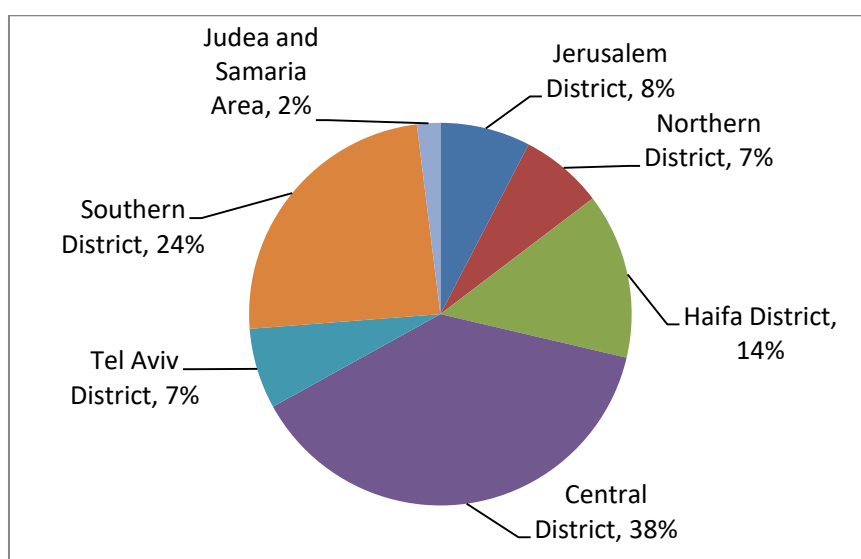
**Diagram 2 – The Population of Ethiopian Origin  
by Age and Sex at the End of 2017, Absolute Numbers**



### Geographic Distribution

Of the population of Ethiopian origin, 45% lives in the centre of the country: 57,000 persons in the Central District (38.3%) and 10,000 persons in the Tel Aviv District (approximately 6.8%). Approximately one-quarter of the population lives in the Southern District (36,000 persons).

**Diagram 3 – The Population of Ethiopian Origin by District, 2017, Percentages**



At the end of 2017, the urban locality with the greatest **number** of residents of Ethiopian origin was Netanya (11,700 persons). The locality with the largest **percentage** of residents of Ethiopian origin out of the total population of the locality was Qiryat Mal'akhi (16.5%). In comparison, less than 2% of the total population of Israel was of Ethiopian origin.

**Table A – The Population of Ethiopian Origin at the End of 2017, in Main Localities (1)**

Locality	Total population in locality (thousands)	Total Population of Ethiopian origin in locality (thousands)	% population of Ethiopian origin out of total population in locality
Netanya	214.1	11.7	5.5
Rishon LeZiyyon	249.9	8.5	3.4
Be'er Sheva	207.6	8.0	3.8
Petah Tiqwa	240.4	7.5	3.1
Rehovot	138.4	7.3	5.3
Ashdod	222.9	7.2	3.2
Ashqelon	137.9	7.0	5.1
Jerusalem	901.3	6.2	0.7
Hadera	94.0	5.8	6.1
Haifa	281.1	5.8	2.0
Qiryat Gat	53.5	5.0	9.3
Ramle	75.7	4.1	5.5
Bet Shemesh	114.4	4.0	3.5
Lod	74.6	3.9	5.2
Qiryat Mal'akhi	22.3	3.7	16.5
Afula	49.2	3.6	7.3
Yavne	45.5	3.2	7.1
Tel Aviv-Yafo	443.9	2.7	0.6
Bat Yam	128.7	2.5	2.0
Holon	192.6	2.2	1.2

(1) Localities with 2,000 or more residents of Ethiopian origin.

In some of the localities, the communities consisting of residents of Ethiopian origin are concentrated in specific neighbourhoods. Thus, for example, approximately 3,000 persons of Ethiopian origin reside in the Qiryat Moshe (North) neighbourhood of the city of Rehovot, comprising more than 56% of the neighbourhood's total number of residents. In the Ramat Eliyahu (North) neighbourhood of Rishon LeZiyyon, there are 2,800 residents of Ethiopian origin, comprising 52% of the neighbourhood's total number of residents.

**Table B – Neighbourhoods With One-Third or More  
Residents of Ethiopian Origin, End of 2017 (1)**

Name of locality and neighbourhood	Total population of neighbourhood (thousands)	Total population of Ethiopian origin in neighbourhood (thousands)	Percentage population of Ethiopian origin out of total neighbourhood population
Rehovot Qiryat Moshe (North)	5.4	3.0	56.4
Qiryat Gat P. Z.	0.3	0.2	55.7
Rishon LeZiyyon Ramat Eliyahu (North)	5.3	2.8	52.1
Bet Shemesh Ganei Shemesh; Qiryat Ben Eli'ezer	1.0	0.4	41.2
Qiryat Mal'akhi Herzl; Weizmann; Newe Or	5.0	1.9	38.2
Netanya Ne'ot Shaked (Azorim) East	5.0	1.9	37.7

(1) Localities with 2,000 or more residents of Ethiopian origin.

## Marriages and Divorces, 2016

During 2016, 894 grooms and 969 brides of Ethiopian origin were married in Israel, 92% for the first time.

**Table C – Marriages of Ethiopians in 2016**

<b>Absolute numbers</b>	Grooms	Brides
Total number of persons of Ethiopian origin marrying	894	969
Born in Ethiopia – total	730	740
Thereof: Immigrated through 1990	91	60
Immigrated after 1990	639	680
Israeli-born, father born in Ethiopia	164	229

Of persons of Ethiopian origin who married, 88% married a spouse of the same origin. The percentage of men who married a spouse of the same origin was greater than that of women (92% versus 85%, respectively). Members of the population of Ethiopian origin tended to marry at a later age than the general Jewish population. Among men of Ethiopian origin, the median age<sup>6</sup> at first marriage was 29.2 in 2016 (1.7 years older than Jewish grooms). Among women of Ethiopian origin, the median age at first marriage was 26.7 (1.1 years older than Jewish brides).

In 2016, 349 men and 370 women of Ethiopian origin divorced.

The divorce rate among the population of Ethiopian origin was more than double the rate among the overall Jewish population. Approximately 19 of every 1,000 married couples divorced, compared with about 9 of every 1,000 married couples among the overall Jewish population.

## Live Births

In 2017, 3,809 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin. Approximately 86% of these women were born in Ethiopia.

That year, the average number of children an Ethiopian woman was expected to bear during her lifetime was 2.97, compared to the average number of children among the population of Jews and Others (3.05).

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<sup>6</sup> Median age: The age at which half the persons marrying are younger and half are older.



In 2017, the age at first birth among women of Ethiopian origin was 27.6 years on average, compared to 28.6 years on average among Jewish and Other women.

## **Ethiopian Households<sup>7</sup>**

### **Households<sup>8</sup>**

The average number of households consisting of persons of Ethiopian origin in Israel in 2015–2017 was 36,200, accounting for approximately 1.4% of all Israeli households and approximately 1.7% of the households of Jews and Others, similar to previous years.

Like the overall Jewish population, approximately 83% of the households of Ethiopian origin were family households<sup>9</sup>. Of those, approximately 77% consisted of only one family. However, the relative share of households of one family with others or two or more families was slightly higher in households of Ethiopian origin than among Jewish and other households (about 6% and 4%, respectively).

The average size of households of Ethiopian origin was 3.89 persons – larger than the size of households in the overall population (3.32), as well as households of Jews and Others (3.10).

### **Families<sup>10</sup>**

In Israel, there are approximately 31,000 families of Ethiopian origin. More than half have a traditional structure, consisting of a couple with children of all ages (approximately 62%). This is a similar percentage to families of Jews and Others (59%).

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<sup>7</sup> The source of data is the Labour Force Survey. The data for the overall population and the population of Jews and Others are for 2017. The data for the population of Ethiopian origin are the average for 2015–2017. The population does not include persons living in institutions, kibbutzim, student dormitories, and those living outside of localities (Bedouins in the South).

<sup>8</sup> A household is defined as one person or a group of persons living together in one dwelling on a permanent basis most of the week, who have a joint expense budget for food. A household can include persons who are not related to each other.

A household of persons of Ethiopian origin was defined as a household in which at least one person aged 15 or over is of Ethiopian origin (i.e., Ethiopian-born or whose father was born in Ethiopia).

<sup>9</sup> A family household is a household that contains at least one family. A family household can include: one family, one family with other persons, or two families or more.

<sup>10</sup> A family (nuclear family) is defined as two persons or more who share the same household and are related to one another as husband and wife, as parent and child, as an unmarried couple, as grandparents with grandchildren (without the child's parents), or siblings who live together (without their own spouses or children). A family of Ethiopian origin was defined as a family in which at least one of the persons aged 15 or over is of Ethiopian origin (i.e., Ethiopian-born or whose father was born in Ethiopia).

The percentage of couples without children among families of Ethiopian origin was the lowest (approximately 10%): lower than the percentage of couples without children in the country as a whole (approximately 25%) and lower than the percentage among families of Jews and Others (approximately 28%), similar to previous years.

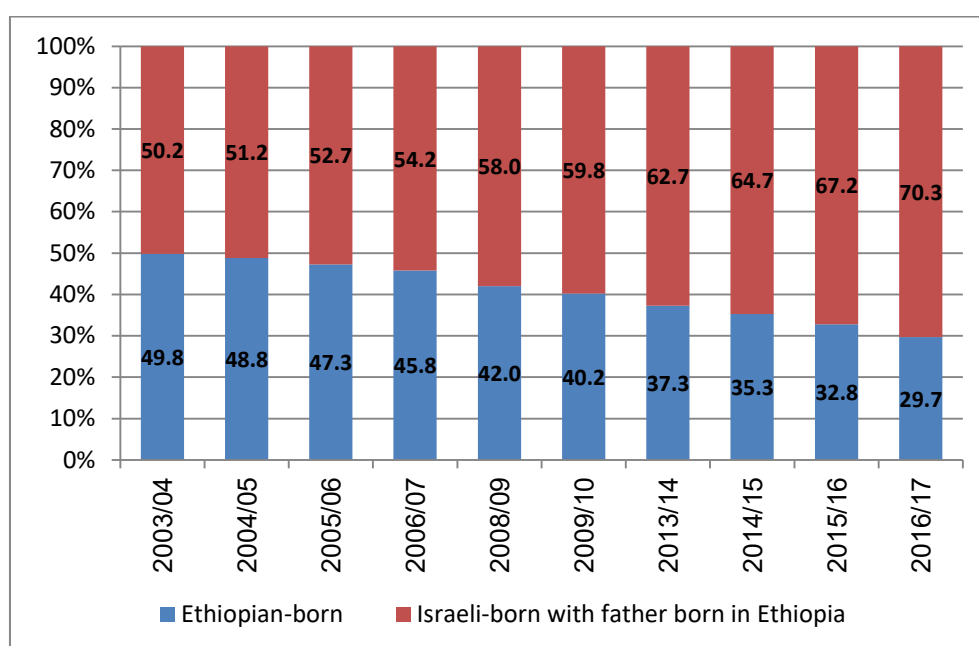
The percentage of single-parent families in the population of Ethiopian origin was especially high (approximately 26%) – over twice as high as the percentage of single-parent families in the country as a whole and among families of Jews and Others (approximately 12%).

## Pupils in the Educational System

In the 2016/17 school year, 33,486 pupils of Ethiopian origin<sup>11</sup> were enrolled in primary and secondary education; they constituted 2.5% of all pupils in the Hebrew education sector.

In the 2016/17 school year, 29.7% of the pupils of Ethiopian origin were born in Ethiopia, compared to 45.8% in the 2006/07 school year (Diagram 4).

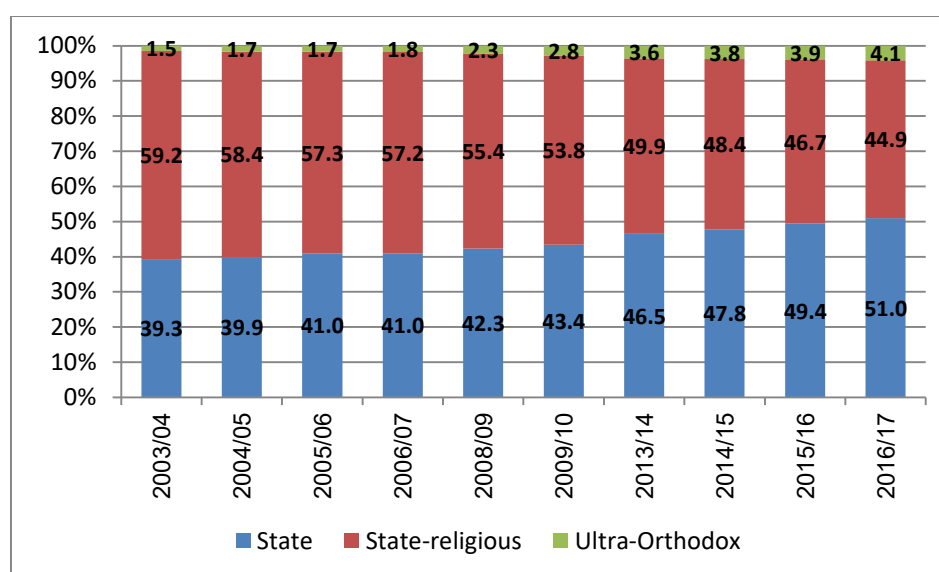
**Diagram 4 – Pupils of Ethiopian Origin, by Place of Birth, Selected Years**



<sup>11</sup> Ethiopian origin – a person born in Ethiopia or born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

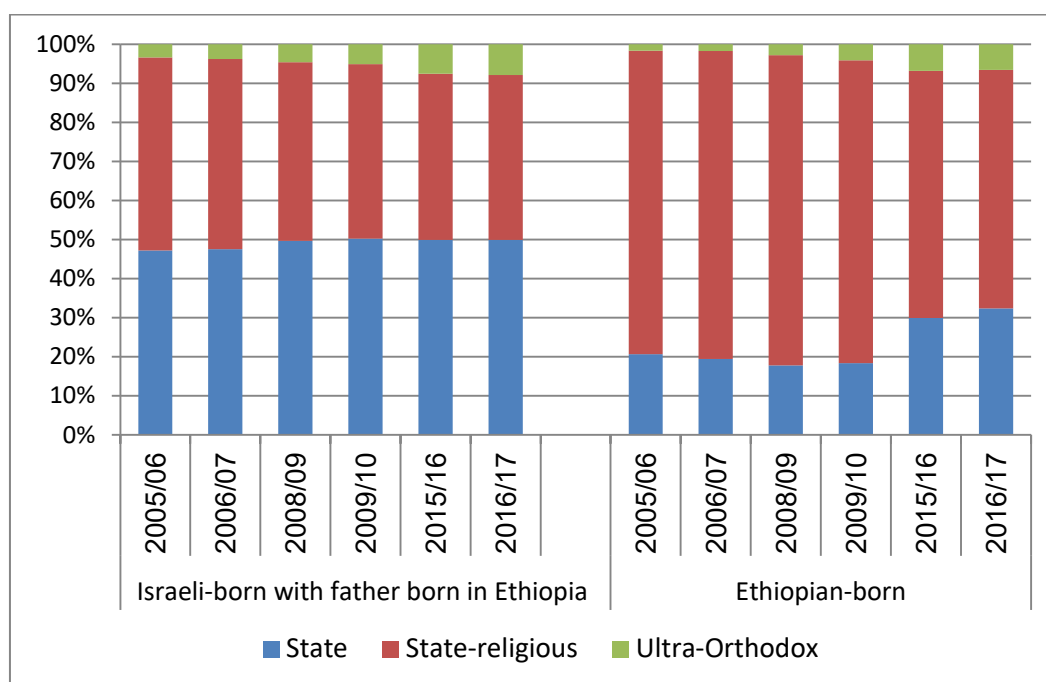
In the 2016/17 school year, 44.9% of the pupils of Ethiopian origin were enrolled in schools under State-religious supervision (primary and secondary education). This percentage has been declining over the past decade (57.2% in the 2006/07 school year). Concomitantly, there has been an increase in the percentage of students enrolled in schools under State supervision (51.0% compared to 41.0% in the 2006/07 school year). In Ultra-Orthodox supervision, there was an increase to 4.1%, compared with 1.8% in the 2006/07 school year, more than twice as much (Diagram 5).

**Diagram 5 – Pupils of Ethiopian Origin, by Supervision, Selected Years**



In the primary education system in 2016/17, 6.6% of Ethiopian-born pupils and 7.9% of Israeli-born pupils whose fathers were born in Ethiopia studied under Ultra-Orthodox supervision. In the last decade, there has been a downward trend in the proportion of students under State-religious supervision in both groups of students (pupils born in Ethiopia and those born in Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia), concomitant with an increase in the proportion of pupils under state supervision and ultra-Orthodox supervision (Diagram 6).

**Diagram 6 – Pupils of Ethiopian Origin, by Place of Birth and Supervision  
(Primary Education), Selected Years**



Among pupils of Ethiopian origin in upper secondary education, 48.3% (55.9% of the boys and 40.9% of the girls) were enrolled in the technological/vocational track, whereas 35.1% of their non-Ethiopian counterparts in Hebrew education were enrolled in the technological/vocational track (33.3% of the boys and 36.9% of the girls).

## Matriculation Examinees<sup>12</sup>

In the 2016/17 school year, approximately 2,741 twelfth-grade pupils of Ethiopian origin (Ethiopian-born or Israeli-born with father born in Ethiopia) took matriculation exams.

The percentage of twelfth-grade pupils of Ethiopian origin taking matriculation exams was 91.3% in 2017, compared with 94.5% of the examinees in the entire Hebrew education system. The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate was lower – 61.9% versus 78.7%, respectively. However, this percentage has been trending upward in recent years, and in the last year there was a substantial increase (see Diagram 7). The share of pupils of Ethiopian origin holding a matriculation certificate who met university entrance requirements, i.e., the percentage of potential candidates for continuing studies at institutions of higher education, was 39.7% of all pupils of Ethiopian origin, compared with two-thirds (68.6%) of all students in Hebrew education.

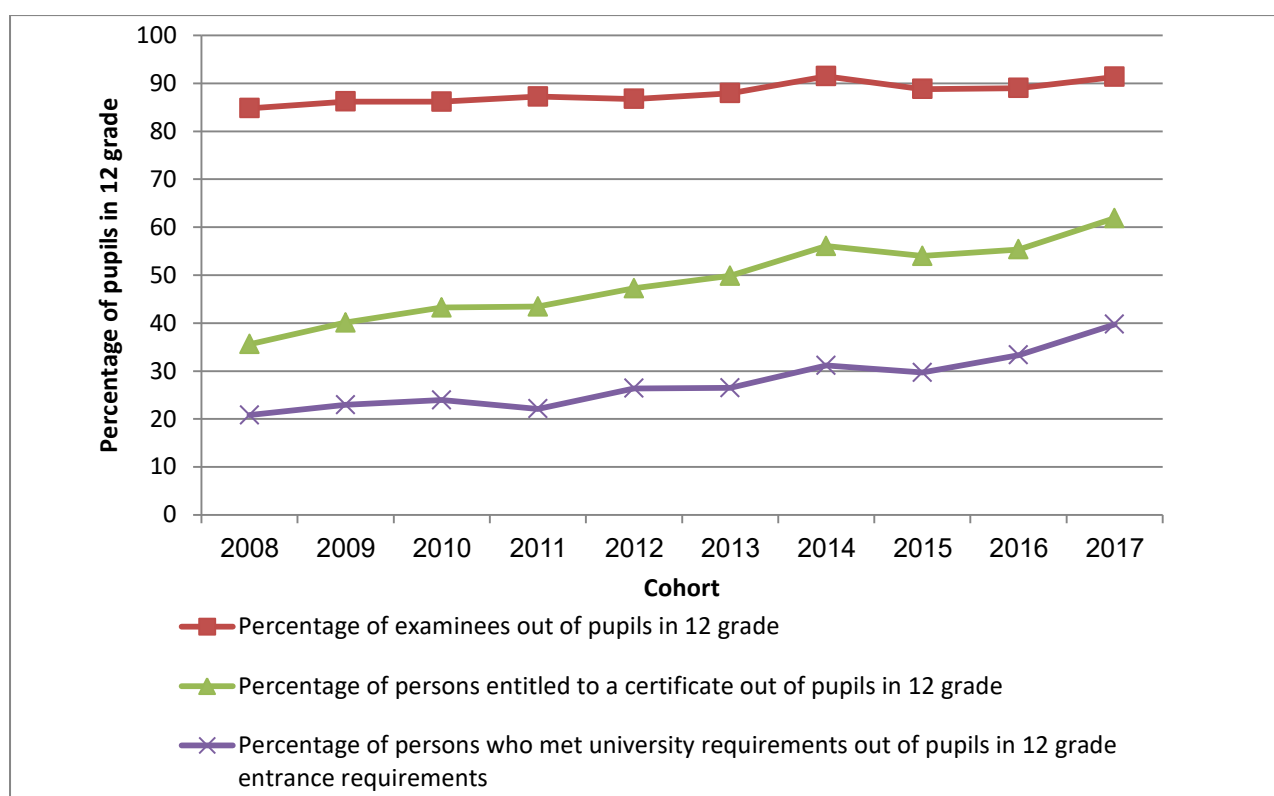
The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate among pupils of Ethiopian origin who studied in institutions with State-religious supervision was 68.8%, compared with 55.4% among those who studied in institutions with general supervision. Regarding the percentage of those who met university entrance requirements, the situation was reversed – 45% of those under general supervision met the requirements, compared with 34.8% of those under State-religious supervision.

In 2017, the share of the second-generation pupils of Ethiopian origin (those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia) was 55% of all Ethiopian 12th-grade students. The percentages of those 12th-grade pupils of Ethiopian origin entitled to a matriculation certificate were 63.7% among those born in Ethiopia and 61.9% among second-generation pupils of Ethiopian origin. However, the percentage of those who met university entrance requirements was higher among the second generation – 39.7%, compared with 35.3% among those born in Ethiopia.

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<sup>12</sup> In order to allow for a valid comparison between pupils of Ethiopian origin and all pupils in Hebrew education, the population of pupils examined in this section excludes those enrolled in schools under ultra-Orthodox supervision (pupils of Ethiopian origin as well as those enrolled in Hebrew education in general).

**Diagram 7 – 12th-Grade Pupils of Ethiopian Origin**



## Higher Education

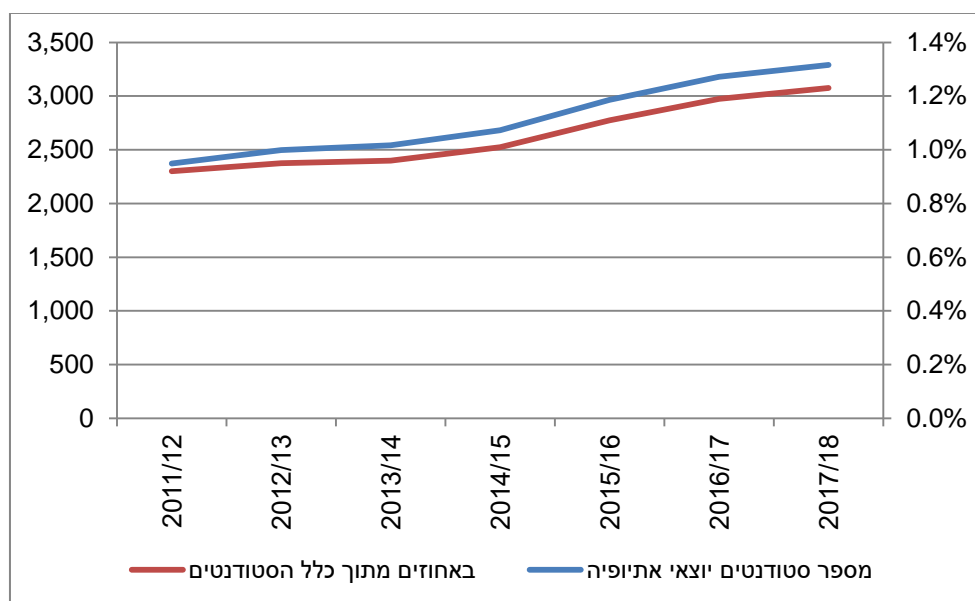
### Entry Into Higher Education

Approximately one-fifth (21.7%) of 12th-graders of Ethiopian origin (in the school year 2009/10) began studying at institutions of higher education within eight years of finishing secondary school (until 2017/18), compared to 43.9% among other 12th-grade pupils from the same cohort (approximately twice as many). Among persons of Ethiopian origin, the percentage of girls who began to study was higher than the percentage of boys (31.4% versus 10.5%, respectively). However, this was still lower than the percentage of all 12th-grade girls (52.6%).

## Students

The number of students of Ethiopian origin studying at institutions of higher education<sup>13</sup> has been trending upward in recent years, from 2,372 in 2011/12 to 3,291 in 2017/18. The percentage of students of Ethiopian origin out of all students also increased during those years, from 0.9% to 1.2%. However, this percentage is still lower than their percentage out of all young adults aged 20–29 (2.5%).

**Diagram 8 – Students of Ethiopian Origin in Institutions of Higher Education, Absolute Numbers and Percentage of Total Students**



## First Degree Studies

In 2017/18, 2,869 students of Ethiopian origin studied toward a first degree (1.5% of all students). High percentages of students of Ethiopian origin studied the following fields: business and administration sciences (3.0%), paramedical studies (2.0%) and social sciences (1.9%), and low percentages studied the following fields: agriculture (0.45%), medicine (0.5%), and natural sciences and mathematics (0.6%). In that year, students of Ethiopian origin studied mainly at the academic colleges (58.3% compared with 46.3% among all students), and less at the

<sup>13</sup> Not including the Open University. The Open University has characteristics that distinguish it from the other institutions of higher education. This is reflected in the students' acceptance processes and their studies, the composition of the student population, and more. Therefore, the data in this press release do not include the data of the Open University. However, the aim is to integrate the data of the Open University into the current statistics of institutions of higher education, while taking into account its uniqueness.

universities (28.0% versus 38.8% among all students), and 13.6% studied at the academic colleges of education (versus 14.7% among all students).

### **Second and Third Degree Studies**

In 2017/18, 386 students of Ethiopian origin studied toward a second degree, and 24 studied toward a third degree. The percentages of students of Ethiopian origin among second and third degree students were low (0.7% and 0.2%, respectively). The main fields studied by students of Ethiopian origin in the second degree programs were social sciences (26%), business and administration sciences (25.9%), and humanities (25%).

### **Athletes<sup>14</sup> Active in 2015/16**

In 2015/16, there were 1,649 active<sup>15</sup> athletes of Ethiopian origin – 157 athletes more than 2014/15. The athletes of Ethiopian origin<sup>16</sup> comprised about 1.6% of the overall population of active athletes. This is similar to the percentage of active athletes of Ethiopian origin in the previous year (1.5%).

Women comprised 9.4% of active athletes of Ethiopian origin. This was a higher percentage than the previous year, in which women were 7.6%, but still less than the percentage of women among the active athletes in the total population – 20.5%.

Of all athletes of Ethiopian origin, 86.5% were active in team sports, and the rest (13.5%) were active in individual sports.

The most prevalent sports in which athletes of Ethiopian origin participated were soccer (1,239 athletes, constituting 3.8% of all athletes in this sport), basketball (126 athletes, constituting 0.6% of all athletes in this sport), and athletics (115 athletes, constituting 7.8% of all athletes in this sport).

The vast majority (75.1%) of the athletes of Ethiopian origin played soccer, compared with 30.7% of their counterparts in the total population of active athletes.

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<sup>14</sup> The numbers include athletes in individual sports and in team sports.

<sup>15</sup> Two criteria determine whether an athlete is active: Participating in a minimum number of competitions and an upper threshold of birth year (these are both determined for each sport).

<sup>16</sup> Athletes who were or whose fathers were born in Ethiopia.



## Data from the 2016 Household Expenditure Survey

The **net monthly money income**<sup>17</sup> per household among the population of Ethiopian origin<sup>18</sup> was NIS 11,245, compared to NIS 15,751 in households in the overall population, whereas the **money expenditure**<sup>19</sup> per household was NIS 7,037, compared to NIS 12,792 in the overall population.

The average number of persons in households in the population of Ethiopian origin was 4.0, and the average number of earners per household was 2.0,<sup>20</sup> compared to 3.3 persons per household and 1.5 earners per household in the overall population.

**Table D. Money Income and Selected Characteristics of Households in Population of Ethiopian Origin and in the Overall Population, 2016**

Number	Households in overall population	Households in population of Ethiopian origin
Number of persons	3.3	4.0
Number of earners	1.5	2.0
	NIS	NIS
Gross money income per household	19,118	12,294
Net money income per household	15,751	11,245
Money expenditures per household	12,792	7,037

The percentage of expenditure on food (including fruit and vegetables) and housing was higher among the population of Ethiopian origin than among the overall population – 49.4% compared with 41.0%, respectively. However, the percentage of expenditure on health was lower among the population of Ethiopian origin than among the overall population (3.4% compared with 5.7%, respectively). The same was true for transportation and communications (15.3% versus 20.3%, respectively).

<sup>17</sup> Net money income: Gross money income after deduction of compulsory payments. Data on net income were not obtained directly from the interviewed households, but were calculated on the basis of gross income data and the tax rules of the State of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> A household in which the head of the household or one of his or her parents was born in Ethiopia.

<sup>19</sup> Money expenditure: Consumption expenditure excluding the imputation for housing services.

<sup>20</sup> As of 2012, the number of earners also includes soldiers in compulsory service.

**Table E. Monthly Consumption Expenditures, by Main Groups, in Ethiopian Households  
and the Overall Population, 2016**

Consumption	Consumption expenditures, in households in overall population, NIS	Composition of consumption, in households in overall population, percentages	Consumption expenditures, in households in population of Ethiopian origin, NIS	Composition of consumption, in households in population of Ethiopian origin, percentages
Consumption expenditures – total	15,805	100.0	9,084	100.0
Food (excl. vegetables and fruit)	2,116	13.4	1,461	16.1
Vegetables and fruit	520	3.3	231	2.5
Housing	3,846	24.3	2,796	30.8
Dwelling and household maintenance	1,431	9.1	779	8.6
Furniture and household equipment	614	3.9	408	4.5
Clothing and footwear	518	3.3	423	4.7
Health	900	5.7	306	3.4
Education, culture, and entertainment	1,857	11.8	816	9.0
Transport and communications	3,204	20.3	1,389	15.3
Miscellaneous goods and services	798	5.0	476	5.2

With regard to ownership of communication products, there were differences between households in the population of Ethiopian origin and households in the overall population. The percentage of ownership of most of these products was lower among the population of Ethiopian origin than among the overall population. The exceptions were ownership of televisions, which was higher among the population of Ethiopian origin (92.4%) than among the overall population and subscriptions to cable and satellite TV (57.0%). The percentage of ownership of mobile telephones was the same among households in the population of Ethiopian origin and the overall population (97.1%).

**Diagram 9 – Ownership of Communication Products in Households in the Population of Ethiopian Origin and the Overall Population**

