

Media Release

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Jerusalem
July 26, 2020
223/2020

Immigration to Israel 2019

In 2019, 33,247 immigrants¹ arrived in Israel – 18.1% more than in 2018. The largest number of immigrants came from Russia (15,821 immigrants, 48.2% of all immigrants), an increase of about 50% compared with 2018.

- **Immigration to Israel during the period of coping with the Coronavirus epidemic, March-June 2020:** According to preliminary data from the beginning of this year, there was a decrease of 65.5% in the number of immigrants compared with the corresponding period last year. Tourists who changed their status from tourist to immigrant were about 42% of all immigrants in 2020 compared with about 17% in 2019.
- **Since Israel's establishment as a State, about 3.3 million immigrants immigrated to Israel, about 44.3% of whom immigrated from 1990 onwards.**
- In 2019, **about 33,000 immigrants** immigrated, 18.1% more than in 2018. The rate of immigrants was 3.7 immigrants per 1,000 residents.
- Of all immigrants in 2019, 73.8% came from the **USSR (former)**, mainly from Russia and Ukraine, 7.6% came from the **United States** and 6.8% came from **France**.
- In 2019, the decrease in the number of immigrants from **France** continued (2,227 immigrants), a decrease of 7.8% compared with 2018. (The peak of the current wave of immigration was in 2015 – when 6,628 immigrants arrived).

¹ Including immigrants, potential immigrants and tourists who changed their status to immigrants or potential immigrants, excluding immigrating citizens.

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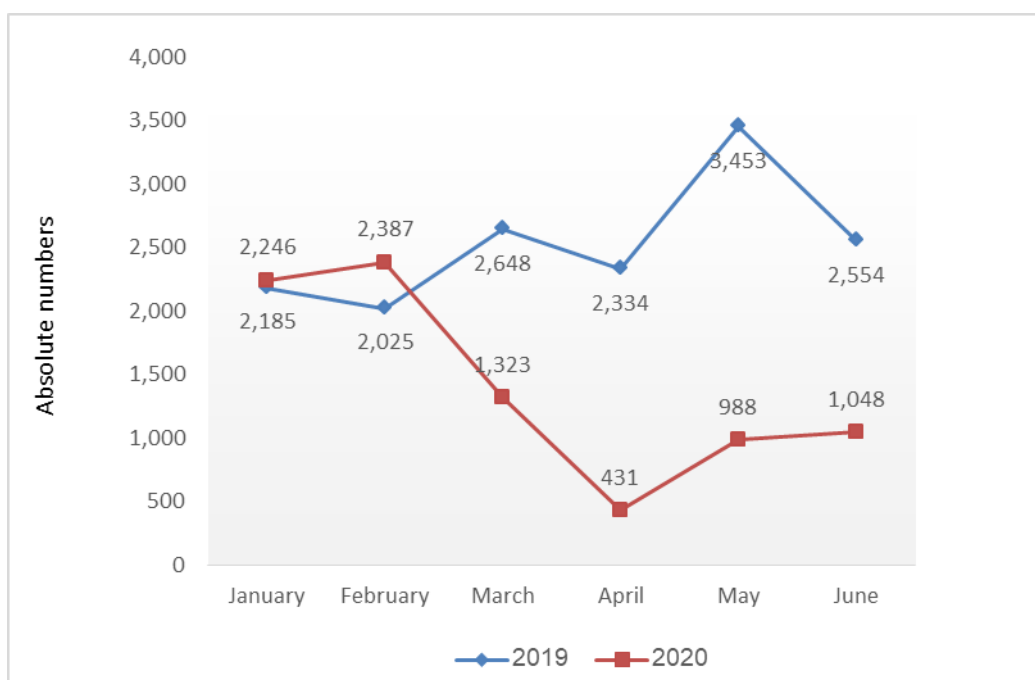
- **The new immigrants made their first residence mainly in the large cities** (with 100,000 residents or more): 13.0% of all immigrants in 2019 settled in Tel Aviv-Yafo, 12.2% in Netanya, 8.9% in Haifa, and 7.9% in Jerusalem.
- The **level of education** among immigrants aged 15 and over who arrived in 2019 was relatively high – 74.8% of them had 13 or more years of schooling.
- 69.9% of the immigrants aged 15 and over were professionals.
- In 2019, 4,251 **immigrating citizens**² settled in the country. Together with the immigrants, a total of 37,498 new immigrants arrived in Israel.

The following data refer only to the characteristics of immigrants.

Immigration to Israel During the Period of the Coronavirus Pandemic, 2020

During the current year due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a significant decrease in the number of immigrants who arrived in Israel. In March-June, there was a decrease of 65.5% compared with the corresponding period last year.

Diagram 1 – Immigrants to Israel in January-June, 2019 and 2020



² Immigrating citizen: A person, born to an Israeli citizen during his stay abroad, who enters Israel with the intention to settle.

The composition of the population of immigrants who arrived during this period (March-June) was different from the composition in the corresponding period last year. The share of tourists who changed their status from tourist to immigrant increased during this period to about 42% of all immigrants in 2020, compared with about 17% in the corresponding period in 2019. At the same time, the share of immigrants who entered with an immigrant visa decreased – about 58% compared with the corresponding period last year (about 83%). This is apparently because the tourists who changed their status to immigrants had already arrived in the country before the air borders closed on March 8, when others could not arrive at all.

Most of the immigrants in these four months in 2020 came from Russia (43.7%), Ukraine (17.7%), USA (5.7%) and France (5.7%).

The median age³ of the immigrants who arrived in these four months was 29.1, younger than the median age in the corresponding period last year (35.3).

³The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

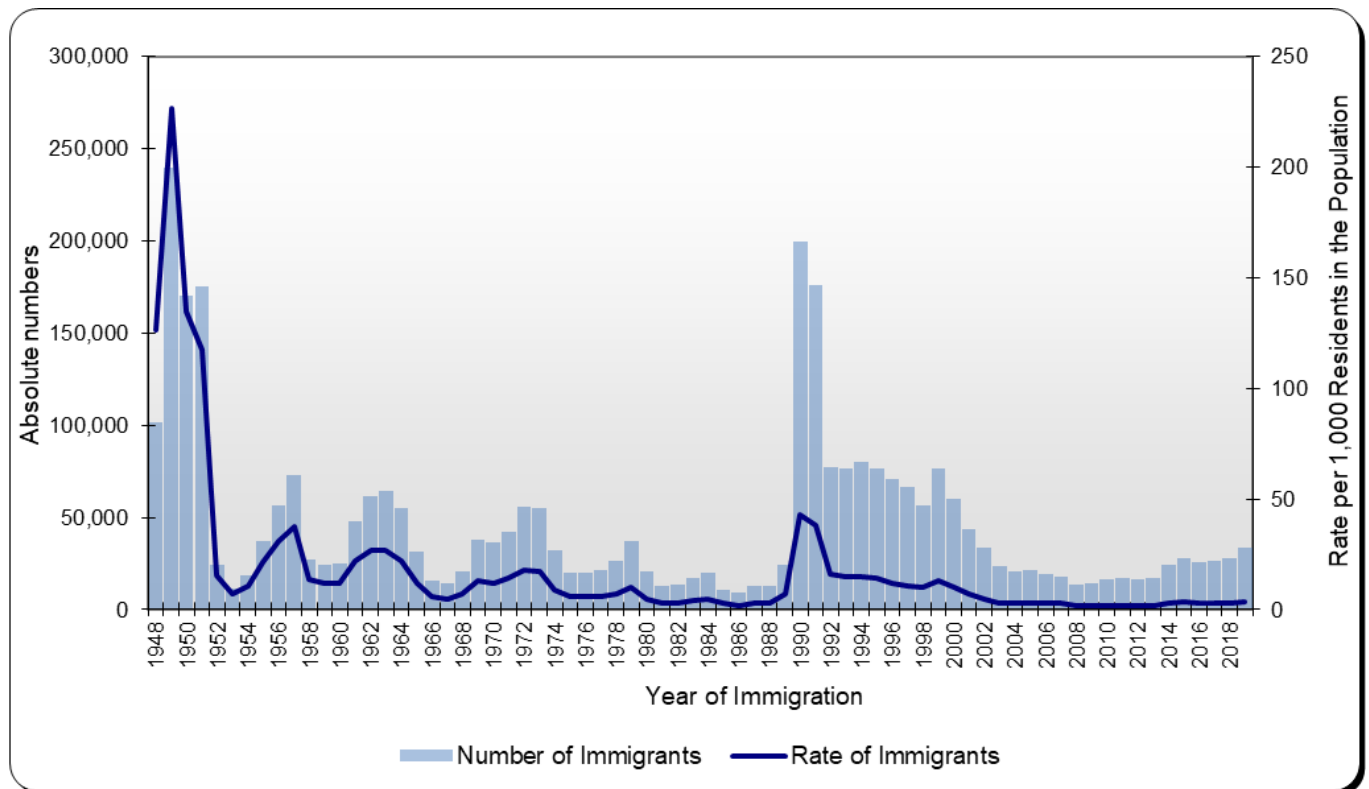
Immigration to Israel 2019

In 2019, the trend of increase in the number of immigrants coming to Israel continued. There was an 18.1% increase in the number of immigrants compared with the previous year. In 2019, 33,247 immigrants arrived in Israel, compared with 28,156 immigrants in 2018, and compared with 26,372 immigrants in 2017. Russia stands out from among all the countries from which immigrants arrived in 2019 – about half of the immigrants came from it.

In 2019, the rate of immigrants was 3.7 immigrants per 1,000 residents, slightly higher than the rate in 2018 which was 3.2 ([Table 1](#)).

Since Israel's establishment as a State, about 3.3 million immigrants immigrated to Israel, about 44.3% of whom immigrated from 1990 onwards.

Diagram 2 – Immigration to Israel 1948-2019, Absolute Numbers and Rate per 1,000 Residents in the Population



The Last Continent of Residence of the Immigrants ([Table 2](#), [Table A](#))

In 2019, the largest number of immigrants came from the European continent, 81.3% of the total immigrants who arrived in Israel. The other immigrants came from the following continents: America and Oceania (13.3% of all immigrants), Asia (4.1%) and Africa (1.4%). According to these data, in comparison with 2018, there was a 22.7% increase in the share of immigrants from Europe, an increase of 2.3% in the share of immigrants from America and Oceania, a decrease of 6.6% in the share of immigrants from Asia, and an increase of 27.3% in the share of immigrants from Africa.

Table A – Immigrants by Last Continent of Residence and Year of Immigration

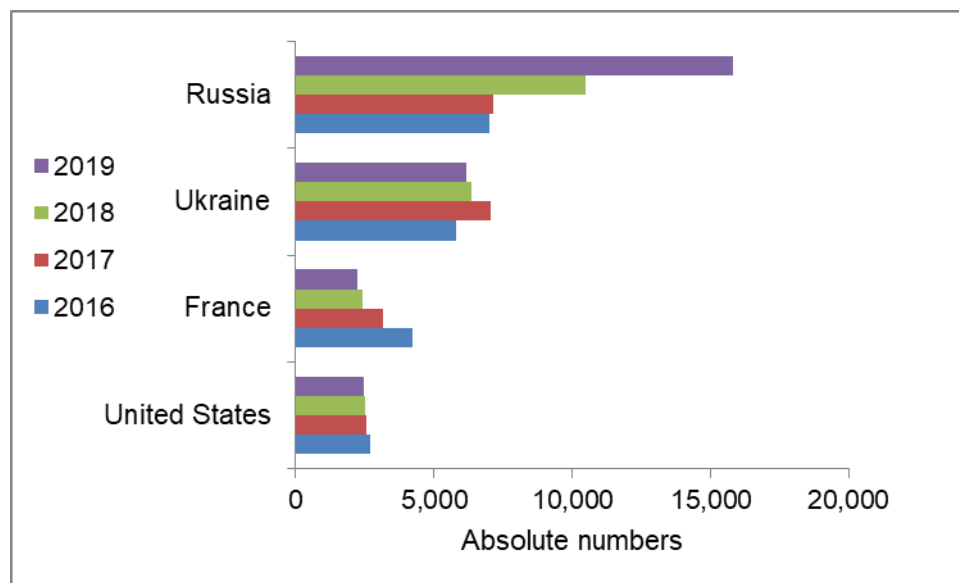
Continent	2018 Absolute Numbers	2019 Absolute Numbers	Percentage of Change
Total*	28,156	33,247	18.1
Europe	21,745	26,677	22.7
America and Oceania	4,253	4,350	2.3
Asia**	1,431	1,336	-6.6
Africa	366	466	27.3

* Including continent of residence not known

** Including Asian republics of the USSR (former)

Last Country of Residence⁴ (Table 2)

Diagram 3 – Immigrants by the Last Permanent Country of Residence in 2016-2019, Absolute Numbers



In 2019, as mentioned, the largest number of immigrants came from Russia (15,821 immigrants, 48.2%), followed by Ukraine (6,190 immigrants, 18.9%), the United States (2,481 immigrants, 7.6%) and France (2,227 immigrants, 6.8%). In 2019, there was a 1.5-fold increase among immigrants from Russia, while among immigrants from Ukraine there was a decrease (of 2.6%) in the number of immigrants compared with 2018. There was also a decrease among immigrants from the United States (0.7%) and France (7.8%) compared with the previous year.

Also in 2019, most of the immigrants who immigrated to Israel came from the republics that made up the USSR (former) - 24,234 immigrants, which was 73.8% of all immigrants. Most of the immigrants came from Ukraine and Russia, and together they constituted 90.8% of all immigrants from the USSR (former).

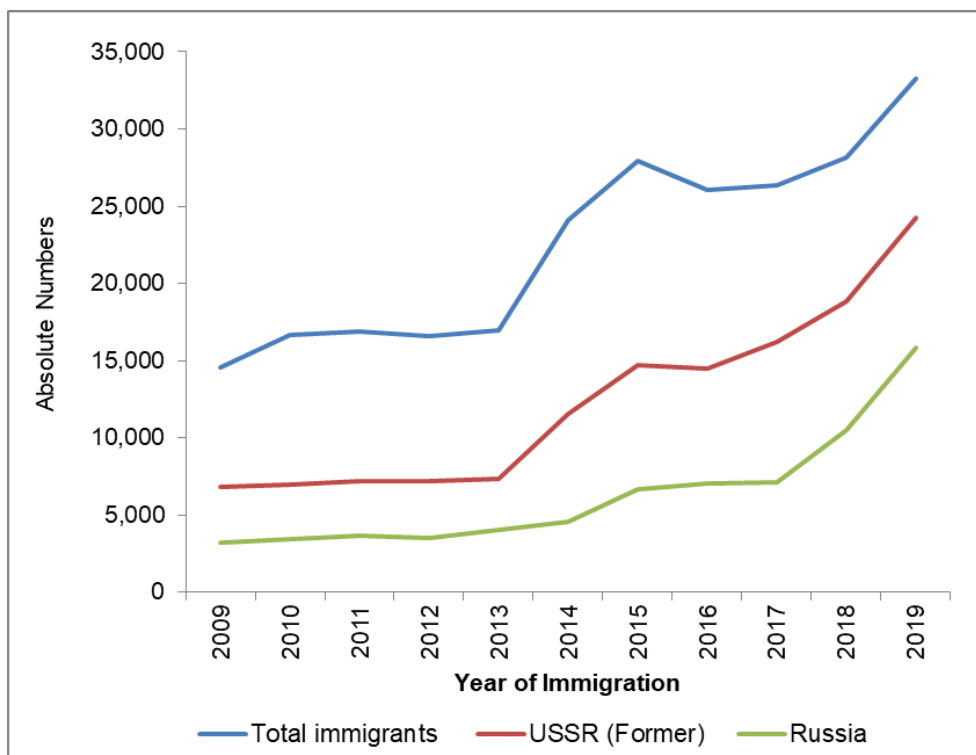
Immigrants from Russia (Diagram 4)

As mentioned, in 2019 the immigrants from Russia were 48.2% of total immigrants, and it is the country from which the largest number of immigrants came in this year (15,821 immigrants, an increase of 50.8% compared with 2018). In the last decade, the number of immigrants from the USSR (former) constitutes a majority (73.8%) among immigrants arriving in Israel. And among immigrants from the USSR (former), immigrants from Russia constitute a majority (65.3%). Since 2013, there has been a continuous upward trend in the number of immigrants from Russia to

⁴ The last continent and country of residence were determined according to the last permanent country of residence abroad in the year preceding entry into Israel, according to the boundaries at the time of the estimate.

Israel: from 4,046 immigrants in 2013 to 15,821 immigrants in 2019. It is likely that one of the reasons for this increase is the financial crisis in Russia, which has been more pronounced since 2013 onwards.

Diagram 4 – Total Immigrants, Immigrants from the USSR (former) and Immigrants from Russia, 2009-2019



Ages of the Immigrants (Table 3, Tables B and C)

Table B – Immigrants to Israel and the Israeli Population by Age Groups, 2018 and 2019, Percentages

Age Groups	2018 Immigrants %	2019 Immigrants %	2019 Israeli Population*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-14	17.3	18.4	28.2
15-64	69.6	68.9	60.0
65+	13.1	12.7	11.9

* Calculated according to the average population in 2019.

The ages of the immigrants who arrived in 2019 were young, similar to the ages of the immigrants who arrived in 2018. The share of immigrant children (aged 0-14) was relatively small and stood at 18.4%, compared with 28.2% among the total population in Israel. In contrast, the share of those aged 15-64 (which are the main working ages) among the immigrants was higher than their share

of the total population in Israel (approximately 68.9% compared with 60.0%, respectively). The proportion of adults aged 65 and over (12.7%) was also slightly higher than in the general population (11.9%).

As reflected in the age structure, the immigrant population is slightly older than the population in Israel: The median age⁵ of the immigrants who immigrated in 2019 was 35.0, compared with 30.0 among the entire population in Israel.

Distribution of Ages Among Immigrants by Last Continent of Residence

The immigrants from Europe were the oldest of the immigrants. Their median age⁴ was 36.9 (35.3 in 2018). They were followed by immigrants from Asia whose median age was 33.6 (31.9 in 2018) and immigrants from Africa - 28.8 (33.4 in 2018). The median age of immigrants from America and Oceania, however, is about nine years lower than that of immigrants from Europe - 27.7 (28.2 in 2018).

Table C – Number of Immigrants and Their Median Age, by Last Continent of Residence, 2019

Continent	Immigrants Absolute Numbers	Median Age in Years
Total*	33,247	35.0
Europe	26,677	36.9
Asia	1,336	33.6
Africa	466	28.8
America and Oceania	4,350	27.7

* Including those whose country of residence was not known.

Sex and Marital Status (Table 6, Table D)

As in previous years, immigration was made up of more women (51.0%) in 2019 as well. It should be noted that their share in the population was 50.4%. The ratio of men to women was: 959 men per 1,000 women. The median age of the women was slightly higher than that of the men (35.2 and 34.7, respectively), and slightly higher than the previous year (34.0 and 33.9, respectively).

The marital status of immigrants, aged 15 and over, who arrived in 2019 was as follows: Among men, the percentage of married (62.6%) and never-married (28.8%) was higher than their percentage among women (57.5% and 26.0%, respectively). Among women, the percentage of

⁵ The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

divorcees (10.2%) was 1.5 times higher than the percentage of divorced men (7%) and the percentage of widows (6.3%) was 3 times higher than the percentage of widowers (1.6%).

The ratios were similar to the general population aged 15 and over (2018 data): Among men, the percentage of married (56.5%) and never-married (35.3%) was higher than the percentages among women (54.3% and 28.5%, respectively). Also, more women divorcees and widows (8.1% and 4.7%, respectively) were found than men divorcees and widowers (6.6% and 1.75%, respectively).

Table D – Marital Status of Immigrants Aged 15 and Over, 2019

Sex	Total*	Never-married	Married	Divorced	Widowed
			Absolute Numbers		
Total	27,136	7,412	16,270	2,353	1,101
Men	13,062	3,756	8,176	918	212
Women	14,074	3,656	8,094	1,435	889
			Percent-ages		
Total	100.0	27.3	60.0	8.7	4.1
Men	100.0	28.8	62.6	7.0	1.6
Women	100.0	26.0	57.5	10.2	6.3

* Including marital status not known

Place of First Residence in Israel⁶ ([Tables 4](#) and [5](#), [Table E](#))

First Residence by District ([Table 4](#) and [Table E](#))

Table E – Immigrants by District of First Residence, 2019

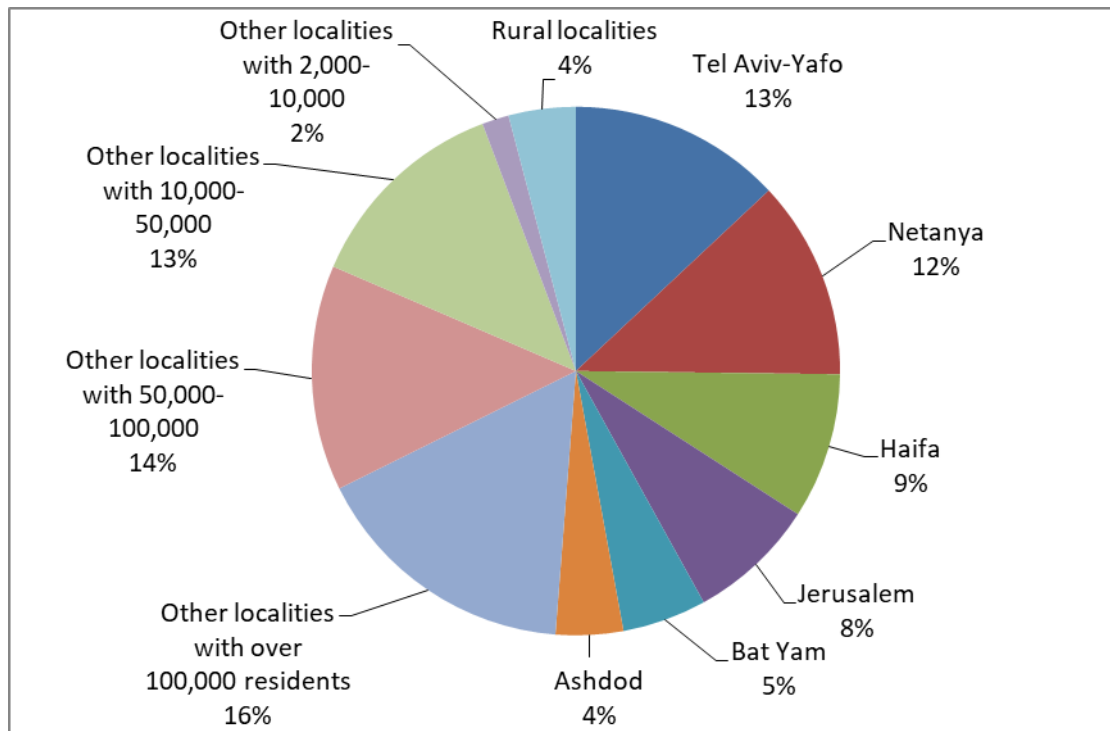
District	Total Immigrants Absolute Numbers	Percentage Among Immigrants
Total	33,247	100.0
Central	8,364	25.2
Tel Aviv	8,154	24.5
Haifa	5,016	15.1
Southern	4,335	13.0
Northern	3,335	10.0
Jerusalem	3,273	9.8
Judea and Samaria Area	770	2.3

The distribution of immigrants by **district of first residence in 2019** is similar to that in previous years. In the Central and Tel Aviv districts, 16,518 immigrants were absorbed, which was about half of the total immigrants (49.7%). Following them, 15.1% were absorbed in the Haifa district and 13.0% in the Southern district. A similar number of immigrants were absorbed in the Jerusalem and Northern districts (9.8% and 10.0%, respectively). A relatively small percentage was absorbed in the Judea and Samaria Area – 2.3% of the immigrants.

⁶The first locality of residence of the immigrant, after immigration.

First Residence by Locality (Table 5)

Diagram 5 – Immigrants by Main Localities of First Residence, 2019



Localities of first residence were distributed as follows:

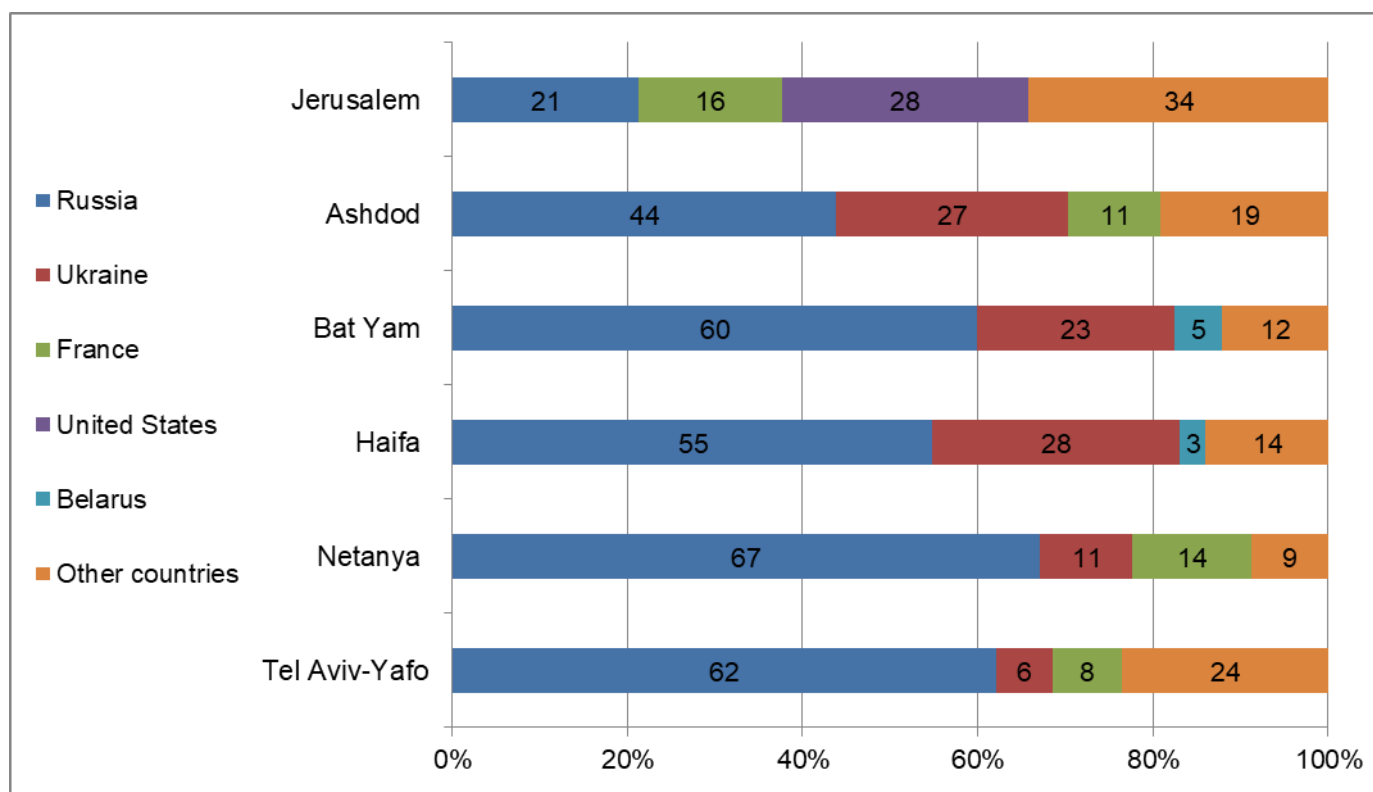
- 67.7% of the immigrants made their first place of residence in localities with more than 100,000 inhabitants;
- 13.8% of the immigrants established residence in localities with a population of 50,000-100,000;
- 12.8% of the immigrants established residence in localities with a population of 10,000-50,000;
- 1.6% of immigrants established residence in localities with a population of 2,000-10,000;
- 4.1% established residence in rural localities - moshavim, kibbutzim, villages and community moshavim.

The localities in which the largest number of immigrants established residence first were the large cities: Tel Aviv-Yafo (13.0% of all immigrants), Netanya (12.2%), Haifa (8.9%), Jerusalem (7.9%), Bat Yam (5.2%) and Ashdod (4.1%).

Most of the immigrants who established residence in Tel Aviv-Yafo immigrated from Russia (62.1% of the total immigrants who established residence in this city) and from France (7.9%). In Jerusalem, most of the immigrants were from the United States (28.2%) and Russia (21.3%). In

Netanya, most of the immigrants were from Russia (67.1%) and France (13.6%). In Haifa, most of the immigrants were from Russia (54.8%) and Ukraine (28.2%). In Bat Yam, the majority were from Russia (59.8%) and Ukraine (22.6%). In Ashdod, the majority are from Russia (43.8%) and Ukraine (26.5%).

Diagram 6 – Immigrants by Main Localities of First Residence and Selected Previous Countries of Residence, 2019, Percentages



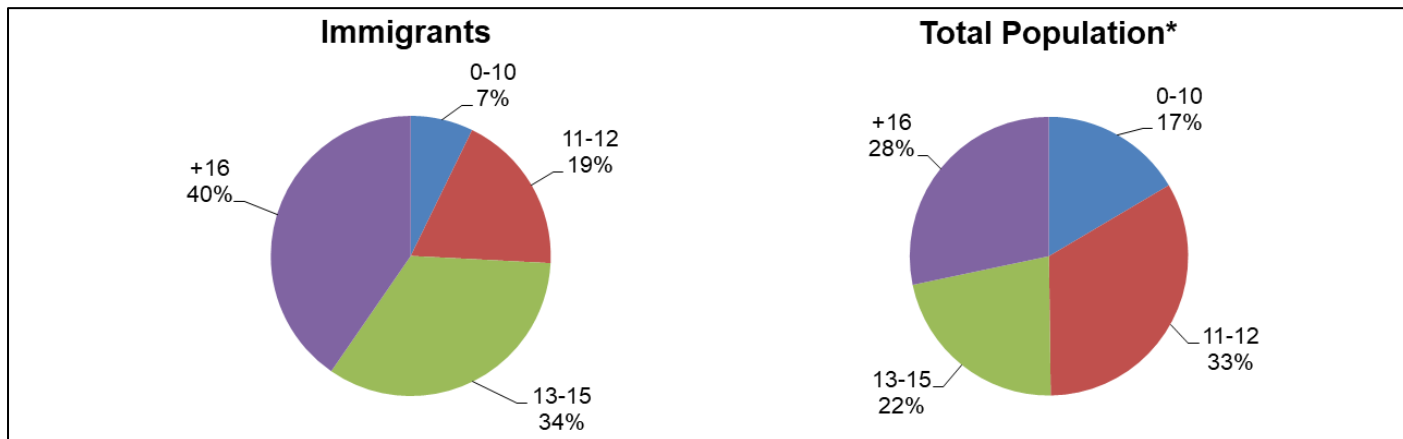
Education

The level of education of the immigrants in 2019 was similar to the level of education in the previous year. Compared to the general population, the immigrant population is more educated. Among the general population, the percentage of those who studied 0-10 years of schooling was 16.5%, 11-12 years of schooling - 33.3%, and 13 years of schooling or more - 50.2%.⁷ In contrast, among the immigrants who arrived in 2019, 74.8% had 13 years of schooling or more (compared to 70.6% in 2018), and out of this group, about 44% studied 16 years of schooling or more. The percentage of immigrants who studied up to 12 years of schooling was 25.2% in 2019 (down from 29.4% in 2018).

⁷ According to 2018 data, among persons aged 15 and over, whose number of years of schooling was known.

For the immigrants, only the years of study that were studied abroad, before immigration, were taken into account.

Diagram 7 – Immigrants and Total Population Aged 15 and Over, by the Number of Years of Schooling, 2019



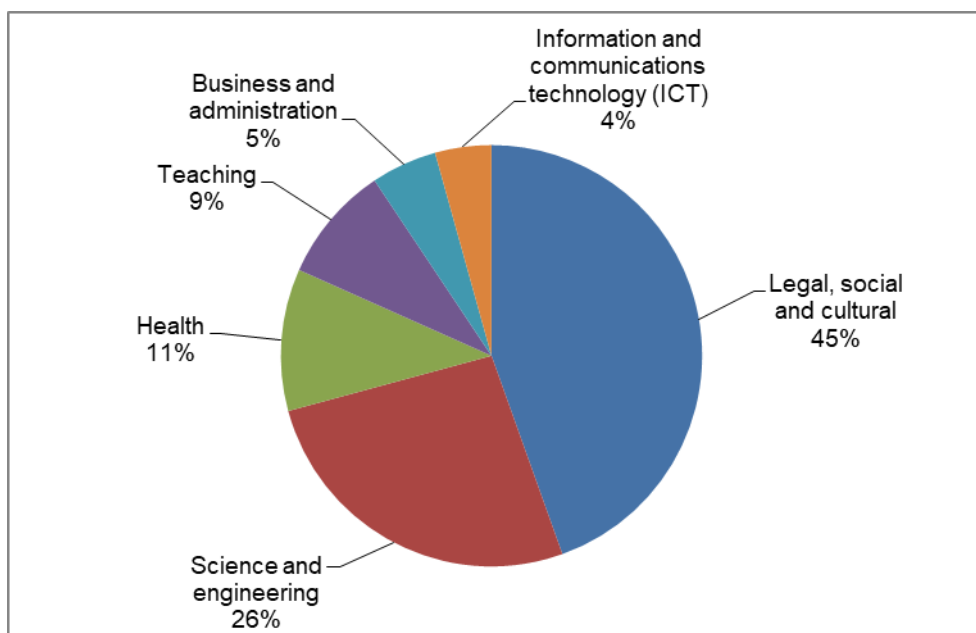
* According to 2018 data.

Occupation Abroad Before Immigration

The immigration in 2019, as in previous years, was characterized by a relatively high percentage of those who were professionals before immigrating to Israel. Of the immigrants whose occupation abroad before immigration was known, 69.9% were professionals (a figure that is consistent with a relatively high percentage of those with 13 years of schooling or more); 9.1% had an occupation of practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals; 6.1% had an occupation of service and sales workers.

Among those who were professionals, the highest percentage was of legal, social and cultural professionals (44.5% of all professionals); they are followed by science and engineering professionals (26.2%), health professionals (10.9%), teaching professionals (9.0%), business and administration professionals (5.0%) and information and communications technology (ICT) professionals (4.3%).

Diagram 8 – Immigrants with Professional Occupations, by Breakdown of the Field of Occupation*, 2019, Percentages



* This diagram shows the Major Group of Professionals (one-digit), broken down into the Sub-Major Groups (two-digits), according to the Standard Classification of Occupations 2011, published by the CBS. The occupations were converted from the list of professions as collected by the Ministry of Absorption into the CBS classification.