

Media Release

info@cbs.gov.il | www.cbs.gov.il | Fax: 02-652-1340

Jerusalem
July 28, 2020
230/2020

The Moslem Population in Israel: Data on the Occasion of Eid al-Adha (The Feast of the Sacrifice)

Eid al Adha (The Feast of the Sacrifice, also known as The Great Feast) is a Moslem holiday that marks the *Hajj*, the pilgrimage to Mecca. It is celebrated from the tenth day of Dhu-al-Hijja, the last month in the Moslem calendar, and lasts four days. The pilgrimage to Mecca itself lasts about a week, and the Feast of the Sacrifice marks a peak in the ceremonies held on that day. Those who observe the Feast in their homes hold a ceremony similar to the one held that day in Mecca, where the main event is to sacrifice a lamb and serve it at the holiday meal as a donation to the poor. The Feast of the Sacrifice is traditionally connected with the story of "The Sacrifice of Ishmael", which is parallel to the biblical story of the Sacrifice of Isaac (see Wikipedia).

- At the end of 2019, the Moslem population of Israel was estimated at 1.636 million (17.9% of all residents) – an increase of 37,000 compared with the end of 2018.
- **The annual growth rate** of the Moslem population in 2019 was 2.3%, as in the previous year.
- **Jerusalem** had the largest number of Moslem residents (346,000), who comprise 21.1% of all Moslems in Israel, and 36.9% of the city's residents.
- **The Moslem population is young:** The percentage of children aged 0–14 is high (33.4%), and the percentage of people aged 65 and over is low (4.3%).
- In 2018, the **average age of first marriage** for Moslem grooms was 26.5, and the average age of first marriage for Moslem brides was 22.6 – lower than the age among members of other religions.

For explanations and clarifications, please contact the Statistical Information Center
at 02-659-2666.

- **The total fertility rate** (the average number of children that a woman is expected to bear in her lifetime) in the Moslem population declined from 3.20 children per woman in 2018 to 3.16 children per woman in 2019, compared with 3.09 children per Jewish woman, 1.80 children per Christian woman, and 2.02 children per Druze woman.
- Approximately 31% of the **households** headed by Moslems have six or more persons, compared with only about 9% of the households headed by Jews.
- 63.4% of the matriculation examinees in Arab education in 2019 were **entitled to a matriculation certificate**, compared with 80.2% in Hebrew education.
- The percentage of Moslems among all **degree recipients**¹ in Israel in 2018/19 amounted to 10.0% (compared with 6.7% five years ago – half of their relative share among the overall population of Israel (20.0% aged 22–32)).²
- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2019 among Moslems aged 15 and over was 43.0% (59.0% for men and 26.8% for women).
- 50.8% of the Moslem households had a **computer**, compared with 81.0% of the Jewish households; 49.7% of the Moslem households had an **Internet subscription**, compared with 78.5% of the Jewish households.
- In 2019, approximately 307,000 Moslems were **registered at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Social Services** – a rate of 188 per 1,000 persons, compared with 109 per 1,000 persons among Jews.
- In 2018, 30.1% (7,800) of the residents of Israel who were **judged in criminal trials** were Moslems.

¹ Including academic diplomas (a teaching certificate and other diplomas).

² Ages 22–32 are the relevant ages for receipt of degrees, because 75% of all Moslem degree recipients were in that age group. The scheme of ages is based on average data for 2017.

Demographic Data

At the end of 2019, the Moslem population of Israel was estimated at 1.636 million (close to 18% of all residents of Israel) – an increase of about 37,000 residents compared with the end of 2018.

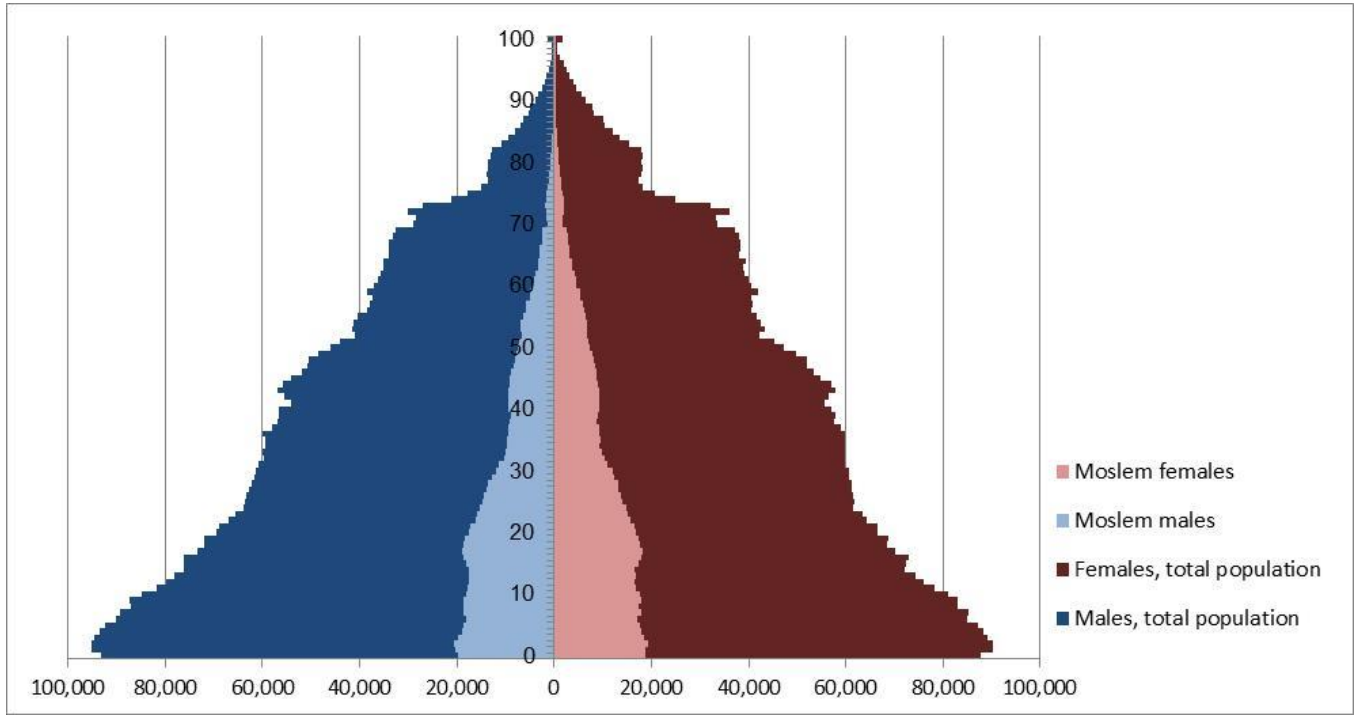
- The annual growth rate of the Moslem population in 2019 was 2.3%, as in the previous year. In the past two decades, there has been a downward trend in the annual growth rate of the Moslem population, from 3.8% to 2.3%. Nonetheless, the growth rate of this population is the highest in Israel. By comparison, in 2019 the growth rate of the Jewish population was 1.6%, the growth rate of the Christian population was 1.6%, and the growth rate of the Druze population was 1.3%.
- About half of the Moslem population lives in the northern region of Israel (35.2% in the Northern District and 13.7% in the Haifa District). Another 21.9% live in the Jerusalem District, and the rest live in the Southern and Central Districts (17.1% and 10.9%, respectively); 1.2% live in the Tel Aviv District.
- The highest number of Moslem residents (346,000) lives in the city of **Jerusalem**, comprising 21.1% of all Moslems in Israel and 36.9% of the city's residents. The second largest locality in terms of the number of Moslem residents is **Rahat**, with 71,300 Moslem residents (99.8% of all residents in the city). Other cities with a large Moslem concentration are **Umm Al-Fahm and Nazareth** (56,000 and 55,600 residents, respectively).

Table A - The Ten Localities with the Largest Number of Moslem Residents (Thousands)

Locality	Number of Moslem residents
Jerusalem	345.8
Rahat	71.3
Umm Al-Fahm	56.0
Nazareth	55.6
Tayibe	43.9
Tamra	34.3
Sakhnin	30.1
Baqa Al-Gharbiyye	29.9
Tira	26.5

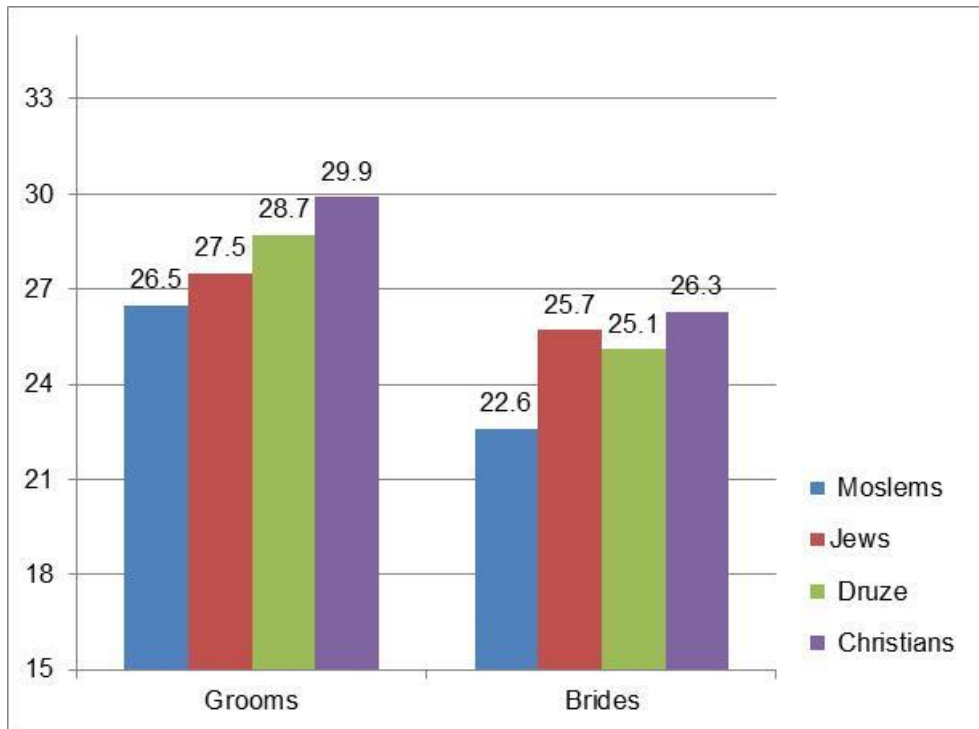
Locality	Number of Moslem residents
Shefar'am	25.8

Diagram 1 – The Population, by Age and Sex



- The Moslem population is young: the percentage of the population aged 0–14 is high (33.4% – 546,100); and the percentage of the population aged 65 and over is low (4.3% – 70,400). This age structure is the result of a high fertility rate among Moslem women.
- In 2018, 13,100 Moslem couples married and 2,600 Moslem couples divorced in Israel.
- In 2018, the average age of first marriage for Moslem grooms was 26.5, and the average age of first marriage for Moslem brides was 22.6 – lower than the age among members of other religions.

Diagram 2 – Average Age of First Marriage, by Religion and Sex, 2018

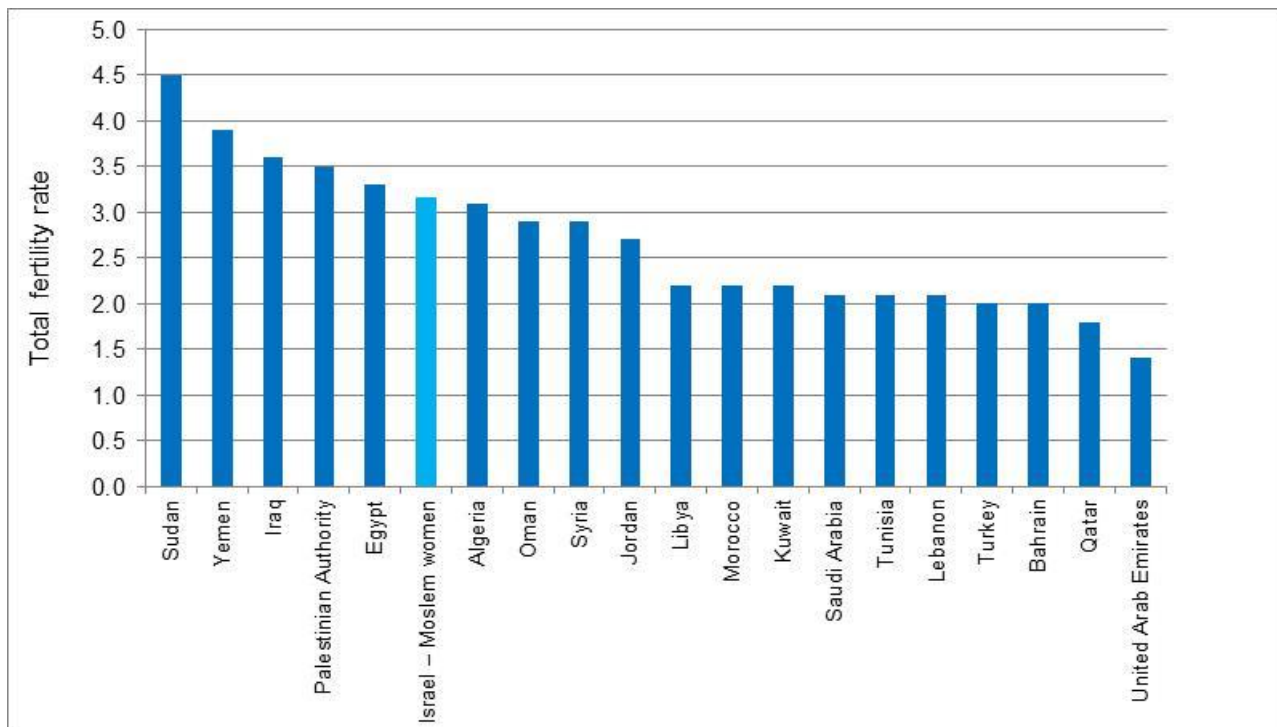


- In 2019, 39,525 babies were born to Moslem women (21.7% of all babies born that year) – 768 more babies than were born in 2018.
- The total fertility rate³ in the Moslem population, which has been declining since 2001, reached 3.16 in 2019 (compared with 3.20 in 2018). The total fertility rate for Moslem women (3.16) was higher than the rate for women from other religious groups (Jewish women: 3.09; Christian women: 1.80; and Druze women: 2.02).
- The total fertility rate of Moslem women in Israel is higher than the rate in many Moslem countries in the Middle East, such as Turkey (2.0) and Lebanon (2.1)⁴, and is similar to the total fertility rate in countries such as Algeria (3.1) and Egypt (3.3).

³ The total fertility rate is the average number of children that a woman is expected to bear in her lifetime.

⁴ Data from the [Population Reference Bureau](#) website.

Diagram 3 – Total Fertility Rate in Selected Moslem Countries in North Africa and Western Asia, 2019



- The highest total fertility rate was among Moslem women living in the Southern District – 5.28 children per woman; and the lowest rate was among Moslem women from the Northern District (2.51) and Haifa District (2.54).
- In 2019, the Moslem population numbered approximately 329,000 **households**,⁵ about 12% of the total number of households in Israel, as in previous years.
- **The average size of households headed by Moslems** was estimated at 4.62 persons, a large number compared to households headed by Jews (3.05) or Christians (3.03).
- Most of the Moslem households (about 92%) were family households with at least one family. The rest of the households were non-family households, and most of them (about 90%) were households with a person living alone.
- Approximately 31% of the households headed by Moslems had 6 persons or more, compared with only 9% of the households headed by Jews.

⁵ 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 common expense budget for food. A household may include persons who are not a family. A family household is a household that contains at least one family.

The data on households and families are based on the 2019 Labour Force Survey. The data do not include persons who live in institutions, on kibbutzim, in student dormitories, or those who live outside localities (Bedouin in the south).

- In 2019, there were 319,000 Moslem **families** in Israel.⁶ Most of the Moslem families (about 64%) were family households included a couple with at least one child up to age 17; about 10% of the household included a couple with no children; about 6% were single-parent families with the youngest child up to age 17.
- The average number of children up to age 17 in Moslem families with children up to that age was 2.69 – higher than the average number of children up to age 17 in Jewish families (2.41).

Education

Students in the Education System⁷ in 2018/19

- In 2018/19, there were 389,215 Moslem students in primary and secondary education. (Of those students, 5,716 were enrolled in Hebrew education, and the rest were enrolled in Arab education.)
- The Moslem students comprised 21.7% of all students, similar to the percentage in the 2017/18 academic year (22.1%). The Moslem students comprised 87.1% of the students in Arab education.
- In 2018/19, 33,149 Moslem students were enrolled in first grade, and comprised 87.3% of all first grade students in Arab education.
- Of the Moslem students enrolled in upper secondary schools in Arab education, 40.6% (43.5% of the boys and 37.7% of the girls) were enrolled in technological/vocational education.⁸ This rate is somewhat lower than the rate among Christian upper secondary students – 44.6% (44.9% of the boys and 44.4%

⁶ Family: A nuclear family of two persons or more who share the same household and are related to one another as husband and wife, as an unmarried couple (incl. same sex couples), or as parent and child (including an adopted child). Thus, a family can be only a couple, a couple with children (in various age groups, defined by the age of the youngest child), or a single parent with children (lone parent family). A family also includes a family of grandparents with grandchildren without parents, or only siblings who live together without spouses or children.

⁷ This includes the population of students in the education system supervised by the Ministry of Education – both Arab and Jewish education (including educational institutions in East Jerusalem).

⁸ As of 2016/17, the method of calculation for technological/vocational education (formerly the technological track) was changed and updated to reflect the current definitions of the Ministry of Education.

of the girls) and higher than the rate among Jewish upper secondary students (Hebrew education) – 34.6% (32.5% of the boys and 36.9% of the girls).

- In 2018/19, the Moslem students comprised 86.6% of all 12 grade students in Arab education, similar to 2017/18 (86.1%).

Matriculation Examinees in 2019

- In 2019 there were no major changes in the percentages of matriculation examinees entitled to a certificate compared with the previous year. In 2019, 63.4% of the examinees in Arab education were entitled to a matriculation certificate, compared with 80.2% in Hebrew education. That year, Moslem examinees comprised 85.4% of all examinees in Arab education, and their rate of entitlement to a certificate was 60.3%. However, the rate of entitlement to a certificate among Christian examinees was 79.9%, and Druze examinees comprised approximately 83.6%.
- The rate of examinees who met university entrance requirements⁹ was 49.5% of the examinees in Arab education, compared with 70.2% in Hebrew education. The rate among Moslem students was 46.1%, compared with 65.9% among Druze students and 74.1% among Christian students.

Pre-Academic Preparatory Courses

- In 2018/19, 11,978 students were enrolled in pre-academic preparatory courses. Of those, there were 2,116 Moslem Arab students (17.8% of all students). By comparison, the percentage of Druze students was 2.6%, and the percentage of Christian Arab students was 1.7%.
- Of the Moslem students, 58.9% were women, and 41.1% were men.
- 84.7% of the Moslem students were enrolled in specialization tracks (67.0% in specialization tracks for Humanities and Social Sciences, 25.7% in specialization tracks for Engineering and Exact Sciences, and 7.3% in specialization tracks for Natural Sciences and Life Sciences).
- 9.4% studied in tracks to complete and improve their matriculation certificates, and 5.9% studied in the pre- specialization track (preparation for pre-academic preparatory courses).

⁹ In addition to entitlement to a matriculation certificate, meeting university entrance requirements includes a passing grade in 3 units of Mathematics, and 4 units of English.

Degree Recipients 2018/19

- In 2018/19, 8,300 Moslems received an academic degree¹⁰ from institutions of higher education in Israel, including 3,200 university degrees,¹¹ 3,000 degrees from academic colleges, and 2,100 from colleges of education.¹² The percentage of Moslems among all degree recipients in Israel in 2018/19 amounted to 10.0% (compared with 6.7% five years earlier). This percentage is considerably lower than the relative share of Moslems in the population of Israel (20.0% aged 22–32).¹³
- 7.9% of the degree recipients from universities and 10.3% of the degree recipients from academic colleges were Moslem, compared with 15.1% of the degree recipients from academic colleges of education.
- Out of 8,300 Moslems who received academic degrees in 2018/19, 5,200 received a first degree, 2,300 received a second degree, and 66 received a third degree. In addition, 700 Moslems received academic diplomas.
- Out of all first degree recipients, the percentage of Moslems was 10.2%; 8.8% of all second degree recipients; and 4.0% (66 people) of third degree recipients. The percentage of Moslem teaching certificate recipients was 16.1%.
- The percentage of Moslem women out of all women who received academic degrees (11.5%) was higher than the percentage of Moslem men out of all men who received academic degrees (7.4%). The gap was larger among first degree recipients (12.1% of women versus 7.3% of men), and it was moderate among second degree recipients (9.8% versus 7.1%, respectively).
- Among recipients of degrees from universities, the highest percentage was from the University of Haifa (17.5%), and the lowest percentage was from the Weizmann Institute of Science (2.7%). At the Open University, the share of Moslems was 10.2%, compared with 8.8% at the Technion, 7.6% at Tel Aviv University, 6.5% at

¹⁰ Wherever “degree” is written with no further details (first, second, or third degree), it also refers to academic diplomas (teaching certificate and other diplomas).

¹¹ Including the Open University.

¹² In 2017/18 and 2016/17, the data on degree recipients from some of the Arab colleges of education also included graduates who had received degrees in previous years but had not been included in the data for those years. Therefore, no conclusions can be drawn from the data for those two years about the trends in the number of Arab degree recipients from colleges of education.

¹³ Ages 22–32 are the relevant ages for receipt of degrees, because 75% of all Moslem degree recipients were in that age group. (average data 2017).

the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 4.9% at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 4.8% at Bar-Ilan University, and 3.3% at Ariel University.

- Out of degree recipients from 31 academic colleges that awarded degrees, the percentage of Moslems was higher than 10% at 11 colleges and lower than 1% at four colleges.
- Out of degree recipients from 21 colleges of education that awarded degrees, the percentage of Moslems was higher than 10% at ten colleges (including three Arab colleges), and lower than 1% at eight colleges.

Employment

- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2019 among Moslems aged 15 and over was 43.0% (59.0% among men and 26.8% among women). Notably, the percentage of participation among Moslem women was substantially lower than among Jewish women (66.1%), Christian women (48.7%), and Druze women (40.2%).
- **The percentage of unemployed persons among Moslems** aged 15 and over was 3.8% – similar to the percentage of Jews (4.0%) and higher than that of Christians (3.0%), but lower than that of Druze (4.2%).
- Approximately 69% of the employed Moslems worked in **5 main industries**: about 19% worked in Construction; about 16% worked in Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, and goods for domestic, personal and household use; about 14% worked in Education; about 10% worked in Manufacturing; and about 10% worked in Human health and social work activities.
- About 26% of employed **Moslem men** worked in the Construction industry; about 17% worked in Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and goods for domestic, personal and household use; and 13% worked in Manufacturing.
- About 35% of employed **Moslem women** worked in Education; about 20% worked in Human health and social work activities; about 14% worked in Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and goods for domestic, personal and household use; and about 4% worked in Manufacturing.
- 87% of the employed Moslems worked in **four main professions**: about 35% were tradesmen in manufacturing, construction, and other trades; about 19% were

academic professionals; about 18% were service and sales workers; and about 14% were unskilled workers.

- About 49% of the employed Moslem **men** were tradesmen in manufacturing and construction and other tradesmen; about 13% were service and sales workers; and about 15% were unskilled workers.
- About 37% of the employed Moslem **women** were academic professionals; about 31% were service and sales workers; and about 14% were unskilled workers.
- In 254,100 Moslem **households** (77.8% of all Moslem households), there was at least one employed person.
- In about 16% of the Moslem households, all of the household members were employed, compared with 47.1% of the Jewish households, about 30% of the Christian households, and about 25% of the Druze households.
- Housing density in Moslem households was 1.41 persons per room, higher than in Jewish households (0.79), Christian households (1.00), and Druze households (1.07).

Data on Israel's Moslem Population from the 2018 Household Expenditure Survey

In 2018, the average gross monthly money income for households was NIS 21,063. The average money income per Moslem household (NIS 13,711) was considerably lower than in Jewish households (NIS 22,537). There was also a considerable gap in income: the average net money income per standard person in Moslem households (NIS 3,441) was about half of the income in Jewish households (NIS 7,060).

In Moslem households, 82.3% of the gross money income was from work, and 15.0% of the income was from allowances and subsidies. In Jewish households, 77.6% of the gross money income was from work, whereas 10.1% of the income was from allowances and subsidies.

Table B – Income and Composition of Average Gross Money Income in Jewish and Moslem Households, 2018

	Total	Jews	Moslems
Households in the population (thousands)	2,608.9	2,162.6	307.0
Number of persons in the household	3.3	3.1	4.8
Number of standard persons in the households	2.7	2.6	3.5
Number of earners	1.4	1.5	1.4
		NIS	
Net money income per household	17,276	18,317	12,127
Net money income per standard person	6,395	7,060	3,441
Gross money income per household – total	21,063	22,537	13,711
		Percentages	
From work	78.2	77.6	82.3
From capital	4.4	4.8	0.9
From pension and provident funds	6.9	7.5	1.8
From allowances and subsidies	10.5	10.1	15.0

The total consumption expenditure of Moslem households was about 4% lower than the expenditure of Jewish households, and amounted to NIS 16,057. The expenditure for food (including fruit and vegetables) was the largest component of the consumption expenditure – 25.0%. The second largest component was transportation and communications – 21.3%, and the third largest component was housing – 17.3%. In contrast, the largest expenditure among Jewish households was for housing – 26.2% of the total consumption expenditure.

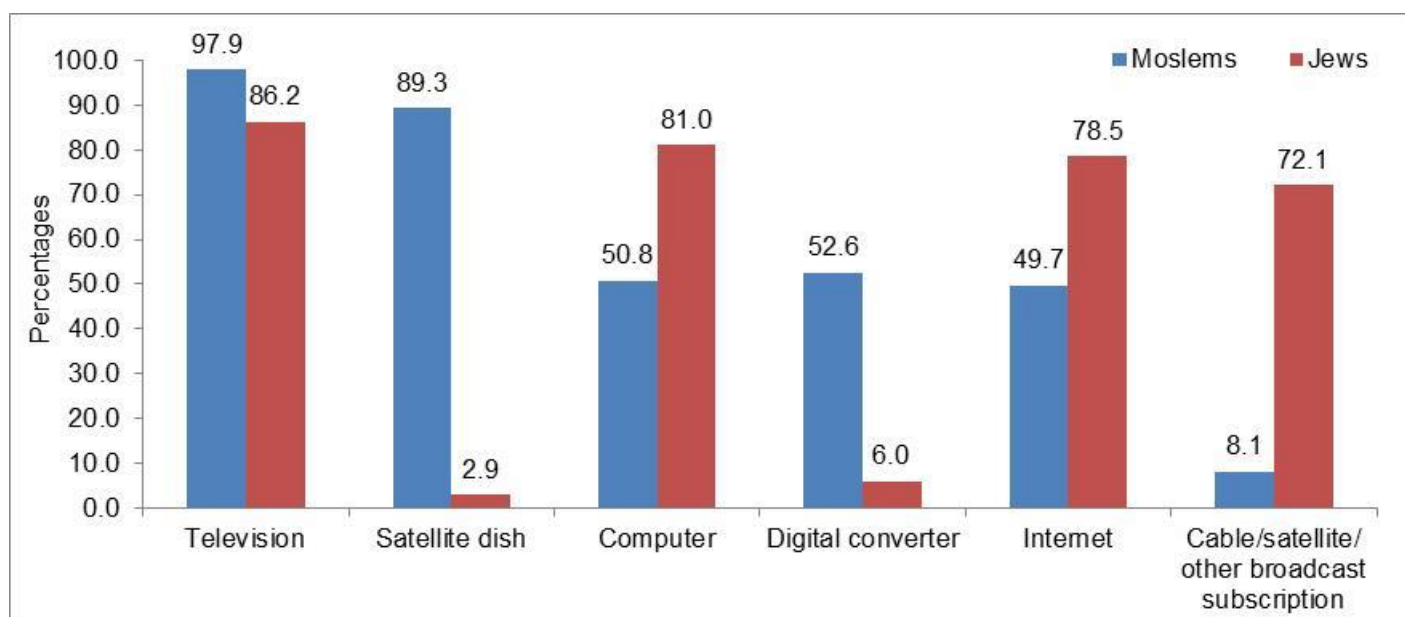
Table C. Expenditures and Composition of Consumption Expenditure in Jewish and Moslem Households, 2018

	Total		Jews		Moslems	
	NIS	Percents	NIS	Percents	NIS	Percents
Total consumption expenditure	16,475	100.0	16,748	100.0	16,057	100.0
Food (including fruit and vegetables)	2,838	17.2	2,655	15.9	4,015	25.0
Housing	4,089	24.8	4,385	26.2	2,782	17.3
Dwelling and household maintenance	1,498	9.1	1,561	9.3	1,356	8.4
Home furniture and appliances	606	3.7	601	3.6	704	4.4
Clothing and footwear	492	3.0	464	2.8	633	3.9
Health	984	6.0	1,030	6.1	795	5.0
Education, culture, and entertainment	1,798	10.9	1,923	11.5	1,149	7.2
Transport and communication	3,356	20.4	3,358	20.1	3,420	21.3
Other products and services	814	4.9	772	4.6	1,203	7.5

A television is owned by 97.9% of Moslem households, compared with 86.2% of Jewish households. Rates of ownership of a satellite dish (89.3%) and a digital converter (52.6%) in Moslem households are significantly higher than ownership of a satellite dish (2.9%) and a digital converter (6.0%) in Jewish households. However, the percentage of television broadcast subscriptions (cable, satellite, or other broadcast type) is lower in Moslem households (8.1%) than in Jewish households (72.1%).

Of Moslem households, 50.8% have a computer, compared with 81.0% of Jewish households. 49.7% of Moslem households have an Internet subscription, compared with 78.5% of Jewish households.

Diagram 4 - Ownership of Entertainment and Culture Products in Jewish and Moslem Households, 2018 (Percentage)



Of the total number of Moslem households, 79.5% live in dwellings that they own, as opposed to 65.6% of Jewish households.

The average value of a dwelling among Moslem households who live in dwellings that they own (NIS 932,000) is lower than the value of a dwelling among Jewish households who live in dwellings that they own (NIS 2,043,000).

Welfare Statistics for 2019

Persons with Defined Need of Intervention Registered at the Ministry of Labour, Welfare, and Social Services

Approximately 307,000 Moslems – about 188 per 1,000 persons – were registered at the Ministry of Labour, Welfare, and Social Services in 2019, as opposed to 109 per 1,000 persons among Jews. Of the Moslems who were registered, about 52% were women and about 48% were men. Of Moslems 15 years of age and over who were registered, roughly half (about 53%) were married, about 37% had never been married, and the rest were widowers (about 5%) or divorced (about 5%).

Approximately 69% of the Moslems who were registered were defined need of intervention. Their number was about 211,000, and their rate was 129 per 1,000 persons. The most common type of needed intervention among Moslems with defined need of intervention was dysfunctional parents or children/adolescents (about 40%). The second most common type of intervention was poverty, income and employment problems (about

27%). The least common type of intervention needed was addiction and delinquency (about 2.2%).

Recipients of Welfare Services in Community and Out-of-home of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare, and Social Services

About 55,000 Moslems – a rate of about 34 per 1,000 persons – were placed in welfare frameworks in 2019. This rate is higher than that of Jews who were placed in welfare frameworks, which was about 29 per 1,000 persons. The vast majority (about 92%) of placed persons among Moslems were placed in community frameworks. In comparison, only about 7% were placed in out-of-home frameworks, and about 2% were placed in both community and out-of-home frameworks. This breakdown differs from that of Jews, among whom 75% were placed in community frameworks, about 21% were placed in out-of-home frameworks, and about 4% were placed both in community and out-of-home frameworks.

Moslem Residents of Israel Who Were Judged in Criminal Trials – Year of Verdict 2018

The number of persons judged in 2018 who were residents of Israel was 25,100. Of them, 7,800 (30.1%) were Moslem. The percentage of Moslems among adult residents of Israel who were judged was 29.9%, and the percentage of Moslems among juvenile residents of Israel who were judged was 31.7%.

The percentage of persons convicted among the total number of residents of Israel who were judged in criminal trials was 84.5%, while among Moslem residents of Israel who were judged, the percentage of persons convicted was higher – 90.1%. The disparities in the percentage of persons convicted, among the overall number of residents of Israel and the Moslem residents of Israel, existed among the adults (87.7% as opposed to 92.8%), but were present mainly among the juveniles (46.0% as opposed to 59.5%).