

Media Release

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International Day of Older Persons: Selected Data on Various Topics Regarding Israeli Senior Citizens Aged 65 and Over¹

- **The population of persons aged 65 and over was about 1,093,500** – 606,000 women and 487,000 men. About 40% of the persons aged 65 and over were over the age of 75.
- The aging of the Israeli population continues gradually; at the establishment of the State (1948), senior citizens constituted only 4% of the population, in 2019 – 12.0%, and this percentage is expected to rise to approximately 14% in 2040 (approximately 2 million persons).
- Of the population of Jews and Others aged 65 and over, 31% were **born in Israel** and 4% are persons who were born in Israel, whose fathers were also born in Israel. That is, **the older population of Israel is composed mostly of persons born abroad.**
- Approximately 60% of the senior citizens were married and about one-quarter of them were widows or widowers. Of the men, 77% were married and 10% were widows. Fewer than half of the women (47%) were married and more than one-third (35%) were widows.

¹ Data regarding senior citizens in this release refer to persons 65 and over, in contrast to the definitions of other institutions.

**For explanations and clarifications, please contact
the Statistical Information Center, at 02-6592666**

- Approximately 25,000 of those aged 65 and over **lived in a household with an additional person who is not their relative** (usually a caregiver²). This was 1.7 times as many persons as a decade ago, compared to an increase of 1.4 times in the overall number of persons aged 65 and over.
- **Life expectancy** at age 65 is gradually trending upward. Since 2000, it has increased by 2.9 years for men and by 3.2 years for women.
- The **death rate** of persons aged 70 and over during the first months of the year was lower than or similar to previous years. However, since July and particularly in August, it was higher. The percentage of **persons dying from the Coronavirus** out of total deaths at these ages increased over the months and in August was more than 10%.
- In 2018/19, 222 students aged 65 and over received degrees or certificates from institutions of higher education in Israel (similar to 227 in the previous year).
- In 2019, 22.2% of persons aged 65 and over participated in the labour force (30.5% among men and 15.4% among women).
- Persons aged 65 and over killed in road accidents comprised 19% of all persons killed in road accidents in 2019, compared to 25% in 2018.
- In 2018, total gross money income of households of persons aged 65 and over averaged NIS 16,192: the source of 41.3% of the income was work, 24.9% was pensions and provident funds, 25.4% was allowances and assistance, and the remainder was capital (8.4%).
- National expenditure on welfare (including transfers to households, pensions, and allowances) totalled NIS 168.4 billion in 2017. Total funding for senior citizens was NIS 86.5 billion – 51.4% of the total funding.
- The percentage of Israeli residents aged 65 and over who were convicted out of those who were judged was 88.6%, higher than the percentage convicted out of all Israeli residents who were judged (84.5%).
- In 2018/19, there were 122,794 active athletes in Israel, of whom 5.0% (6,185 athletes) were aged 65 and over.

² Incl. only caregivers staying in Israel longer than one continuous year.

Demographic Characteristics of the Population Aged 65 and Over

Population Aged 65 and Over

At the end of 2019, there were approximately 1,093,500 residents of Israel aged 65 and over – 12.0% of all residents in the country. About 40% of the persons aged 65 and over were over the age of 75, and 12% were over the age of 85.

At the time of the establishment of the State, persons aged 65 and over constituted only 4% of the total population of the country. This percentage has increased gradually, but in the two decades since 1995, it has been stable, increasing by only one percent.

According to population projections, by 2040 the percentage of those aged 65 and over is expected to reach approximately 14.2%, about 2.0 million persons.

In Israel, the share of persons aged 65 and over out of the total population is low relative to the developed countries. This is due to the high percentage of children up to age 14 in Israel (28.1%) compared to the developed countries.

Table A - Persons Aged 65 and Over, as a Percentage of the Total Population, in Selected Countries, 2018³

Country	Percentage of persons aged 65+
Japan	28.4
Germany	22.4
Italy	21.7
France	19.8
United States	16.0
Russia	14.7
Israel	11.6
China	11.3
Brazil	8.6
Indonesia	7.3
India	6.4

Population and Age Groups

At the end of 2019, Jews constituted about 86.6% of the population aged 65 and over (compared with about 74.1% of the total population), and Arabs comprised 8.7% of the population aged 65 and over (compared with about 21.0% of the total population). The

³ Source: US Bureau of the Census, International Data Base (Internet publication), in: The 65+ Population in Israel: Statistical Abstract, Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute (Table 5.2).

high percentage in the Jewish population is mostly due to the waves of immigration and the longer life expectancy in the Jewish population.

The share of persons aged 65 and over was 14.0% in the Jewish population, and 5.0% in the Arab population.

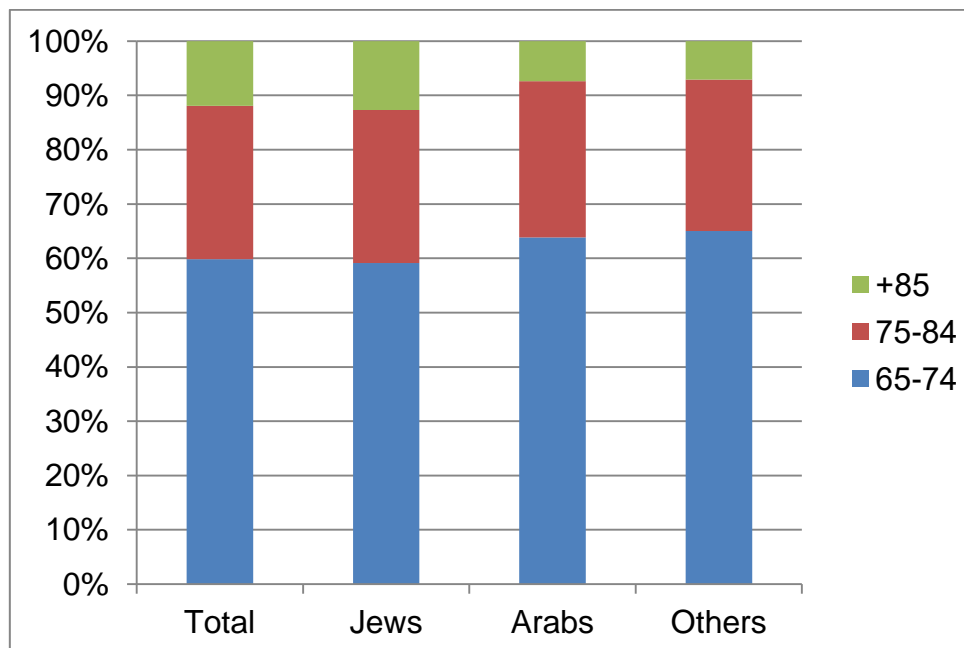
Table B - Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Population Group, at the End of 2019

Thousands, unless otherwise stated

	Total population	Jews	Arabs	Others ⁴
All ages	9,140.5	6,773.2	1,919.1	448.2
Persons aged 65 and over	1,093.5	946.6	95.3	51.5
Percentage of those aged 65 and over	12.0	14.0	5.0	11.5

Persons aged 75 and over comprised about 41% of all persons aged 65 and over in the Jewish population and about 36% in the Arab population. Persons aged 85 and over comprised about 13% of all persons aged 65 and over in the Jewish population and about 7% in the Arab population. These data clearly reflect a longer life expectancy in the Jewish population.

Diagram 1 - Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Age and Population Group, at the End of 2019

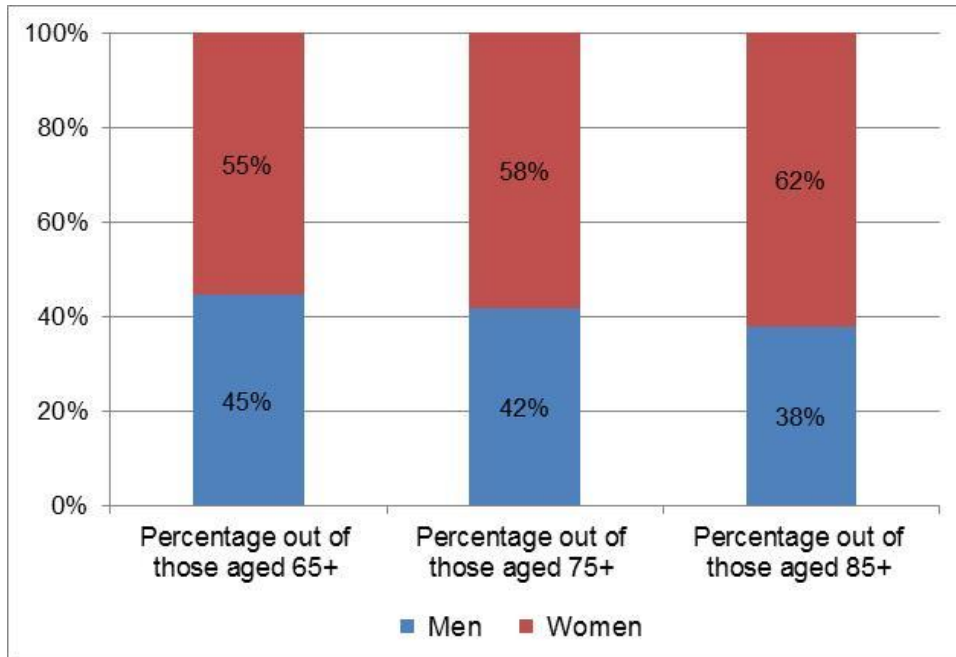


⁴ The population of Others includes non-Arab Christians as well as those not classified by religion at the Ministry of Interior.

Distribution by Sex

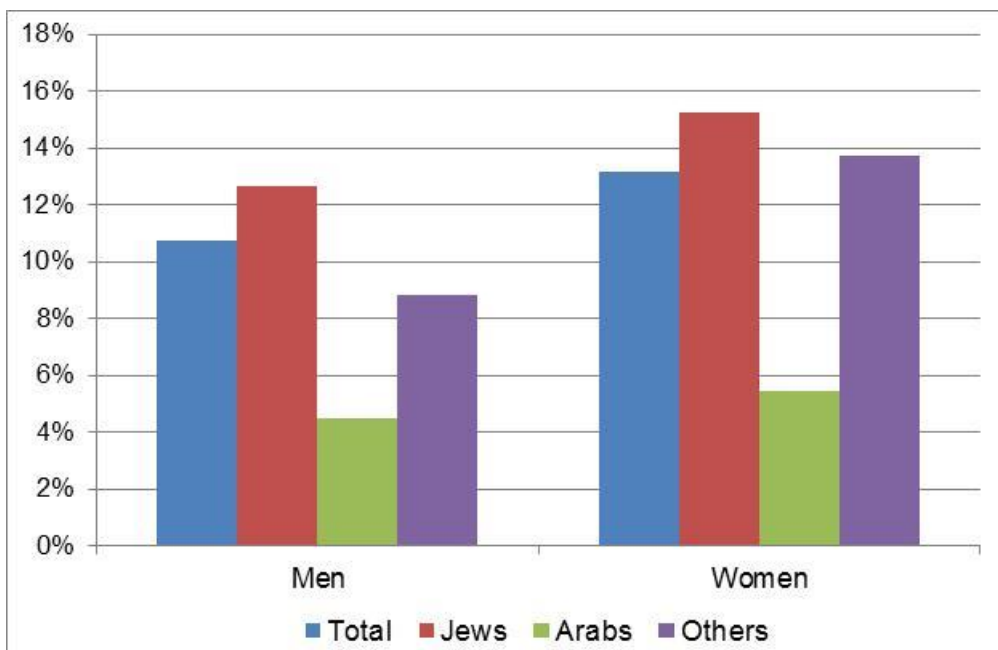
Of all persons aged 65 and over, about 55.4% were women (606,100) and about 44.6% were men (487,100). Women constituted approximately 62.2% of those aged 85 and over, and men approximately 37.8%. The share of women increases with increasing age due to their longer life expectancy.

Diagram 2 - Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Sex and Age, at the End of 2019



The percentage of women aged 65 and over is higher than that of men in all population groups.

Diagram 3 - Percentage of Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Sex and Population Group, at the End of 2019



Marital Status (Data from the End of 2018)

About 60.5% of the persons aged 65 and over are married, and about 23% are widowed. Among men aged 65 and over, about three quarters (77%) are married and 10% are widowers, whereas among women in that age group, less than half are married (47%) and more than a third are widows (35%).

The large percentage of widows is due to women's longer life expectancy, as well as fact that most women are younger than their spouses and therefore become widows at a younger age.

Table C - Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Sex and Marital Status (at the End of 2018)

Age group	Men			Women		
	Total (thousands)	Percentage Married	Percentage Widowed	Total (thousands)	Percentage Married	Percentage Widowed
Persons aged 65+	470.0	77.1	9.5	586.4	47.2	34.5
Persons aged 75+	178.2	71.9	17.7	251.6	30.6	55.4
Persons aged 85+	48.2	58.7	32.1	79.8	14.6	75.3

Origin (Jews and Others)

Among the population of Jews and Others, 58% of persons aged 65 and over living today in Israel are of European-American origin, 38% are of Asian-African origin, and 4% are of Israeli origin (Israeli-born whose fathers were born in Israel).

Immigrants from the USSR (Former) Who Immigrated in 1990 and After

The share of persons aged 65 and over among the population of immigrants from the USSR (former) is 24.8% – higher than their share of in the total population (about 12%). The share of those immigrants among the total population of persons aged 65 and over in Israel is 18.2%.

Large Cities

Of the large cities numbering more than 100,000 residents, Bat Yam has the largest percentage of senior citizens – 22.5%. In contrast, Jerusalem has the largest number of senior citizens – 86,600 residents aged 65 and over.

**Table D – Persons Aged 65 and Over, in the Large Cities
(More Than 100,000 Residents), at the End of 2019**

City	Number of Senior Citizens (Thousands)	Percentage of Senior Citizens
Jerusalem	86.6	9.2
Tel Aviv-Yafo	70.2	15.3
Haifa	58.6	20.5
Rishon Leziyyon	44.4	17.5
Netanya	40.0	18.1
Petah Tiqwa	39.9	16.1
Holon	34.6	17.6
Ashdod	33.5	14.8
Be'er Sheva	32.9	15.7
Bat Yam	29.0	22.5
Ramat Gan	28.9	17.7
Rehovot	22.4	15.6
Ashqelon	22.3	15.5
Kefar Sava	19.4	19.1
Bene Beraq	13.9	6.8
Bet Shemesh	4.9	3.9

Living Arrangements of Persons Aged 65 and Over⁵

In 2019, approximately 97% of persons aged 65 and over lived in private households, which was similar to previous years.

Living with Family

About 83% of all men aged 65 and over lived with a spouse⁶ (about 383,000), whereas only 51% of the women in that age group lived with a spouse⁶ (about 287,000).

About 3% of all the persons aged 65 and over lived in a shared household with their children's family (but without a spouse). Most of these (77%) were widows or widowers. This phenomenon was found to be more prevalent among women (5%) than among men (1%).

Living without Family

Approximately 234,000 persons aged 65 and over lived alone (23%, compared with about 6% among persons aged 18-64).

Women aged 65 and over lived alone 2.7 times more than men (32% versus 12%, respectively). Among Jews, the percentage of those aged 65 and over who lived alone was 1.5 times higher than among Arabs (23% and 16%, respectively).

Approximately 25,000 persons aged 65 and over lived in a household with an additional person who was not their relative (mainly caregivers⁷), 1.7 times higher than their number about a decade ago. In contrast, the total number of persons aged 65 and over rose by 1.4 times during that period.

⁵ The data on living arrangements are based on the Labour Force Survey 2019. The survey investigates all private households, excluding those living in kibbutzim, institutions, student dormitories and people living outside localities (Bedouins in the south, and others).

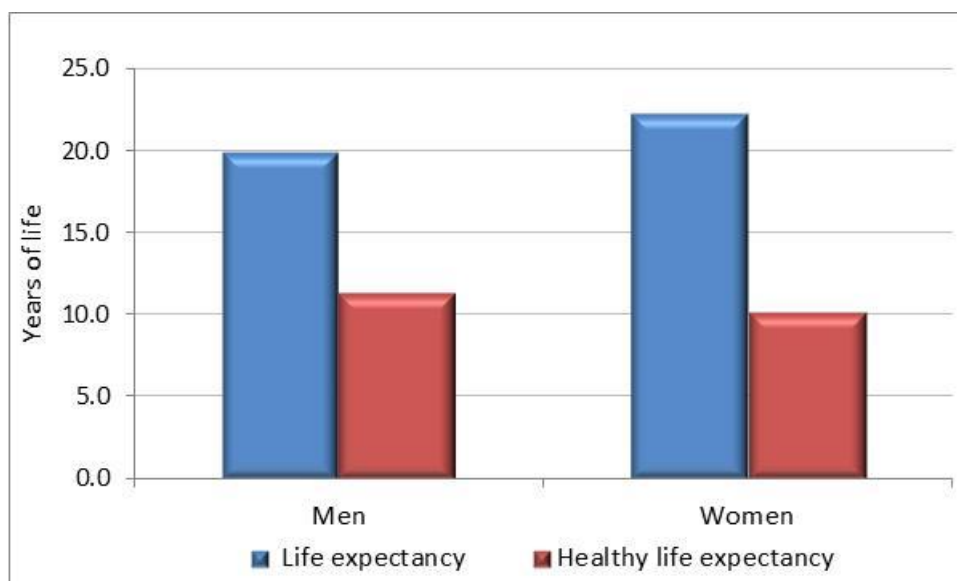
⁶ The spouse is not necessarily in the same age range.

⁷ Includes only caregivers staying in Israel longer than one continuous year.

Life Expectancy

In 2019, men's life expectancy at age 65 was 19.9 years and that of women was 22.2 years, a gap of 2.3 years in favour of women. However, men's healthy life expectancy was higher (11.3 years) than women's (10.2 years). Life expectancy at age 65 is continuously trending upward: Since 2000, it has increased by 2.9 years among men and by 3.2 years among women.

Diagram 4 - Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at Age 65, by Sex, 2019

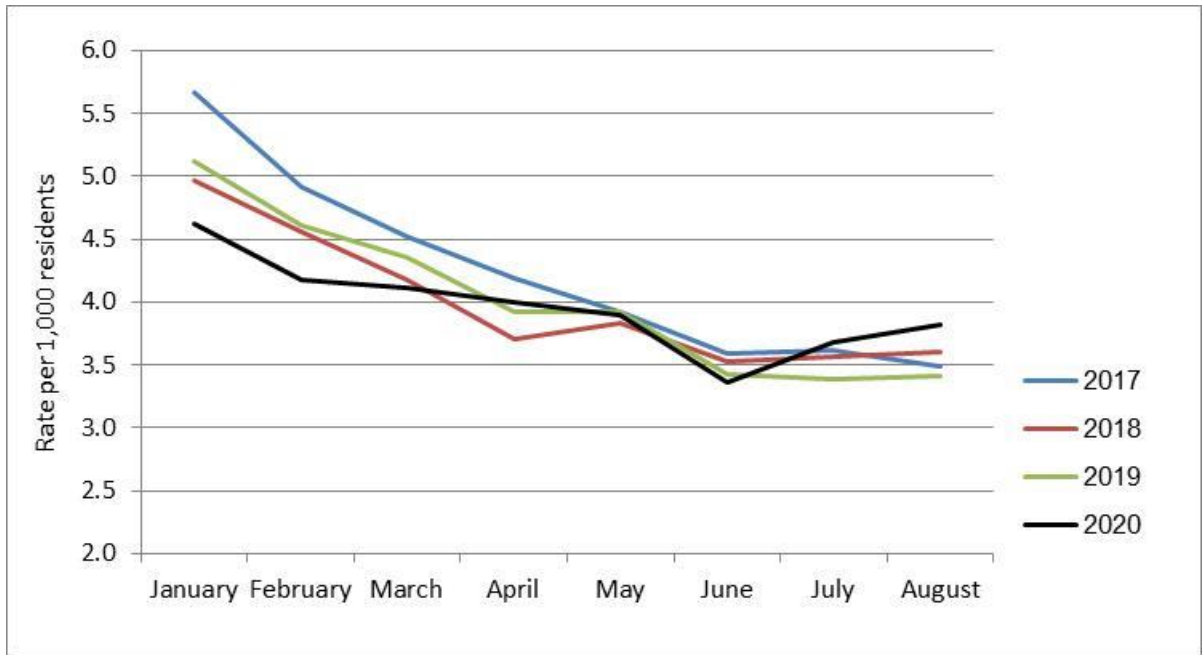


Deaths Among Persons Aged 70 and Over in 2020

From the beginning of 2020 through the end of August, 23,856 persons aged 70 and over died, which constituted 76% of all deaths during those months (31,522). According to Ministry of Health data, from the outbreak of the Coronavirus in Israel through the end of August, 795 persons aged 70 and over died from the Coronavirus, out of a total of 951 persons who died from the Coronavirus during those months (84%).

The rate of deaths of persons aged 70 and over during the first months of 2020 was lower or similar to that of previous years. However, beginning in July and especially in August, it was higher. The percentage of persons who died from the Coronavirus out of all deaths at these ages increased over the months and reached over 10% of all deaths in August.

Diagram 5 – Rate of Deaths Among Persons Aged 70 and Over by Month*, 2017-2020



* Corrected to an equal number of days per month

Recipients of an Academic Degree (2018/19)

In 2018/19, 222 students aged 65 and over received degrees⁸ from institutions of higher education in Israel (similar to 227 in the previous year). Most of them received degrees from universities (141 degrees – 63.5%), and the rest received degrees from academic colleges (44 degrees), from the Open University (28), and from academic colleges of education (9).

More than half of the degree recipients aged 65 and over received second degrees (55.0%), compared to less than a third (30.9%) among all degree recipients, for whom the most common degree was a first degree. A third degree was received by 13.0% of degree recipients aged 65 and over, compared to 2.0% among all degree recipients.

More than half of the degree recipients aged 65 and over received degrees in the humanities (62.2%). Additional large categories were law (15.8%) and the social sciences (15.3%). In comparison, among all degree recipients in Israel, 31.1% received degrees in the humanities, 6.0% studied law, and 35.9% studied social science.

More than half (66.2%) of the persons 65 and over who received degrees were men. This percentage was much higher compared to the percentage of men among all degree recipients in Israel (37.7%).

More than two thirds of degree recipients (70.3%) lived in 2018/19 in localities characterized by a high socio-economic level⁹ (clusters 7-10). By comparison, about half (48.3%) of all degree recipients in Israel lived in these localities in 2018/19.

⁸ Academic degree or academic certificate.

⁹ According to the 2013 socio-economic cluster of the locality in which they lived, according to the Residents Register. The local authorities were allocated to 10 homogeneous groups (clusters) which were not equal in size, according to the value of their socio-economic index. Cluster 1 signifies the lowest socio-economic level, and Cluster 10 signifies the highest socio-economic level.

Labour Characteristics of Persons Aged 65 and Over¹⁰

In 2019, 22.2% of the population aged 65 and over participated in the labour force (30.5% of men, and 15.4% of women). The percentage of those participating in the labour force dropped with age: In the 65-69 age group, the average rate was 42.7% (53.6% of men, and 33.0% of women); whereas in the 70 and over age group only 11.9% participated in the labour force (18.0% of men, and 7.2% of women).

The percentage of those participating in the labour force among Jews aged 65 and over was higher than among Arabs in that age group: 23.4% versus 8.5%, respectively.

The employment rate among persons aged 65 and over was 21.7% in 2019: 29.6% among men and 15.2% among women.

52.4% of all employed persons aged 65 and over usually worked full time (35 hours or more per week), and 47.6% usually worked part time. However, there were substantial differences between men and women: whereas 65.4% of the men worked full time and 34.6% worked part time, the situation was the opposite for women – 31.8% worked full-time, and 68.2% worked part-time.

Among the total population as well as among those aged 65 and over, there is a correlation between the level of education and the rates of participation in the labour force: the higher the level of education, the higher the rate of participation in the labour force. Among persons aged 65 and over, the rate of participation in the labour force among those with 0-4 years of schooling was 2.6%, whereas among those with 16 and more years of schooling, the rate of participation in the labour force was 32.3%.

35.2% of all employed persons aged 65 and over were managers or academic professionals; 22.2% were skilled or unskilled workers – compared with 38.1% and 19.9%, respectively, among the general population.

Households With Only Persons Not of Working Age (62 and Over for Women and 67 and Over for Men)¹¹, by Labour Force Characteristics

In 2019, there were 481,500 households in which all members were not of working age; 50.2% of those households were single person households. These households comprise approximately 18.1% of all households. The percentage of these households was higher among the Jewish population (20.3%, or 442,500) than among the Arab population (only 7.2%, or 29,200). This difference can be attributed to differences in living habits.

25.7% of the households in which all members were not of working age were households with employed persons.

¹⁰ The retirement age is 67 for men and 62 for women.

¹¹ Incl. children up to age 14.

Income of Persons Aged 65 and Over – Data from the Household Expenditure Survey 2018

Income of Households of Persons 65 and Over¹²

In 2018, total gross money income of households with persons aged 65 and over averaged NIS 16,192: the source of 41.3% of the income was work, 24.9% was pensions and provident funds, 25.4% was allowances and assistance, and the remainder was capital (8.4%).

Table E – Average Monthly Income in Households With Persons Aged 65 and Over, by Type of Household, 2018

NIS, unless otherwise stated

2018	Households of persons aged 65 and over - total	Households of one person aged 65 or over	Households of couples, at least one of whom is aged 65 or over	Other households with at least one member aged 65 or over
Distribution of households with persons aged 65 and over	100.0	31.0	37.5	31.5
Gross monthly income	16,192	8,115	18,419	21,489
Compulsory payments - total	2,009	734	2,336	2,873
Net money income per household	14,183	7,381	16,083	18,616
Money expenditure per household	10,234	5,800	11,214	13,431
Composition of gross money income (percentages)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Income from work	41.3	13.3	34.2	59.0
Thereof:				
From wages and salaries	84.5	87.7	80.3	86.7
From self-employment	15.5	12.3	19.7	13.3
From capital	8.4	14.7	10.6	3.7
Income from pension and provident funds (incl. from abroad)	24.9	32.5	31.3	15.5
From allowances and assistance	25.4	39.5	23.8	21.8
Thereof:				
The National Insurance Institute	86.5	84.0	88.7	85.6
Institutions	10.7	13.6	8.9	10.8
Other households	2.8	2.4	2.4	3.6

¹² Households with persons aged 65 and over, by type of household as shown in the table.

Households of persons aged 65 and over consisting of a couple **at least one of whom is aged 65 or over** accounted for 37.5% of household of persons aged 65 and over. Gross money income of these households was NIS 18,419. The composition of the income was: 34.2% from work, 31.3% from pensions and provident funds, and 23.8% from allowances and assistance.

Households of persons aged 65 and over consisting of **at least one person aged 65 or over** (31.5%) had the highest average income.

Among households of persons aged 65 and over overall, **income from wages and salaries** (84.5%) was higher than **income from self-employment** (15.5%). Income from wages and salaries was lowest among households consisting of a couple at least one of whom is aged 65 or over (80.3%), and income from self-employment was the highest (19.7%).

Most of the income from National Insurance consisted of income from old age pensions, which was the main income from allowances and assistance in households of persons aged 65 and over.

Income of Individuals Aged 65 and Over¹³

In 2018, total gross money income among **individuals aged 65 and over** averaged NIS 7,815: the source of 29.6% was from work (NIS 2,313), 29.8% from National Insurance (NIS 2,329), and 35.5% from pensions from Israel or abroad (NIS 2,776).

¹³This section presents selected incomes of individuals aged 65 and over, which do not add up to total income.

Table F – Average Monthly Income of Individuals Aged 65 and Over, by Age, 2018

NIS

	Individuals aged 65 and over - total	Age group					
		65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
Gross monthly income	7,815	9,229	7,749	7,048	6,159	7,276	7,131
Thereof:							
From work	2,313	4,989	2,030	844	305	99	201
From the National Insurance Institute	2,329	1,711	2,451	2,638	2,651	2,751	3,206
Thereof:							
Old-age pension	1,886	1,308	2,082	2,192	2,170	2,209	2,165
Survivor's pension	162	90	121	201	251	268	402
Disability, mobility allowance	135	216	121	124	45	92	30
From pensions in Israel and abroad	2,776	2,324	3,063	3,098	2,609	3,390	2,350

An examination of the income of individuals aged 65 and over by **age group** shows that the highest average income (NIS 9,229) was in the age group 65–69, as was the **highest income from work** (NIS 4,989). In contrast, **income from old-age pension** was lowest in this group (NIS 1,308).

The highest **income from pensions in Israel and abroad** was in the age group 85–89 (NIS 3,390), and the lowest was in the age group 65–69 (NIS 2,324).

Transportation

Licensed to Drive

In 2019, persons aged 65 and over constituted 12.8% of all persons licensed to drive, similar to their share in the population (12%). Approximately 54% of persons aged 65 and over were licensed to drive (approximately 578,000 persons), compared to 77% of persons aged 45–64.

A higher percentage of men aged 65 and over were licensed to drive (approximately 62%) than were men in the general population (56%). The percentage of women licensed to drive out of all women aged 65 and over (approximately 38%) was lower than that of women in the general population (44%).

Road Accidents with Casualties¹⁴

In 2019, 12,670 road accidents with casualties were investigated by the Israel Police. In these accidents 22,986 persons were injured, of which 2,532 were persons aged 65 and over (about 11%, less than their share in the population – 12%). Of the total persons aged 65 and over who were injured in road accidents there were 67 persons killed (19% of all persons killed), compared to 78 in 2018. 480 were seriously injured (about 20% of all seriously injured), and the rest were slightly injured (about 10% of the slightly injured).

About 35% of pedestrians killed in road accidents (31 persons) were aged 65 and over – 3 times their share of the population.

Traffic Offences

The most common driving offences among drivers aged 65 and over who committed a traffic violation during a road accident with casualties in 2019 were:

- Failure to give right of way to pedestrians – about 27% of drivers in this age group (compared with about 17% in the general population)
- Disobeying a traffic light – approximately 21% of drivers in this age group (similar to the general population).

Note that failure to obey a traffic light is the most common traffic violation among drivers in the general population.

¹⁴ Expanded R.A. file, including the Judea and Samaria Area.

Individual and Team Sports¹⁵

In 2018/19, there were 122,794 active athletes in Israel, of whom approximately 5.0% (6,185 athletes) were aged 65 and over.

Women aged 65 and over accounted for 49.2% of the athletes at these ages. In comparison, in that year, 21.7% of athletes aged 7–64 were women.

The most common fields among persons aged 65 and over were bridge (76.9%), chess (4.3%), lawn bowling (3.0%), pétanque (3.0%), and bowling (2.1%).

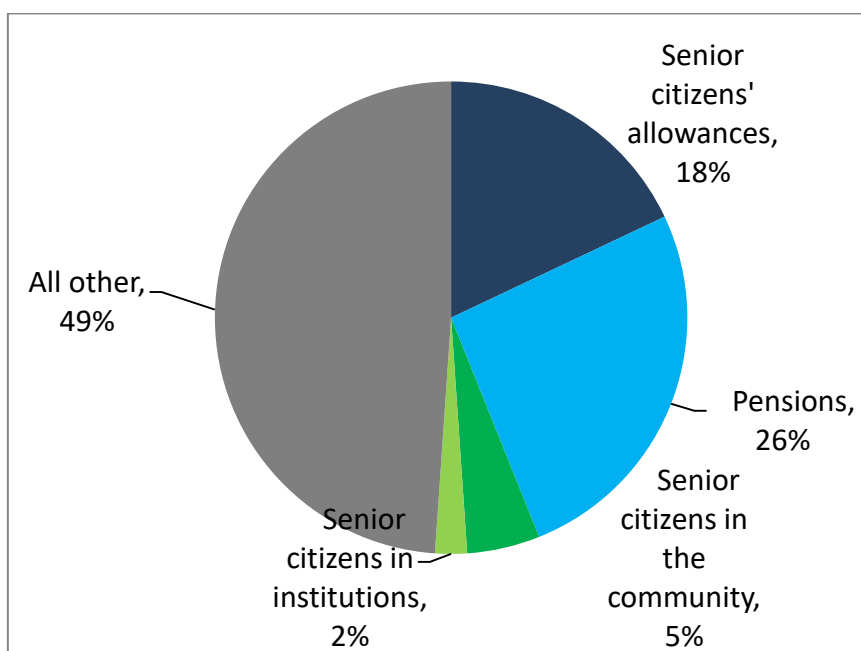
Of the active athletes aged 65 and over, 98% engaged in individual sports and 2% in team sports. In comparison, in that year 33.7% of active athletes aged 7–64 engaged in individual sports and 66.3% in team sports.

National Expenditure on Welfare

The national expenditure on welfare (including transfers to households, pensions, and allowances) was NIS 168.4 billion in 2017, which was 13.2% of the GDP.

Total funding for older persons was NIS 86.5 billion; this was 51.4% of the funding. Of this, NIS 44.4 billion was for pensions (23.6% of total funding), NIS 30.9 billion was for senior citizens' allowance (18.4%), NIS 7.5 billion was for senior citizens in the community (5%), and NIS 3.7 billion was for senior citizens in institutions (2%).

**Diagram 6 – National Expenditure on Welfare (Incl. Transfers to Households)
by Type of Service, in Percentages, 2017**



¹⁵ Percentages are calculated from the known total.

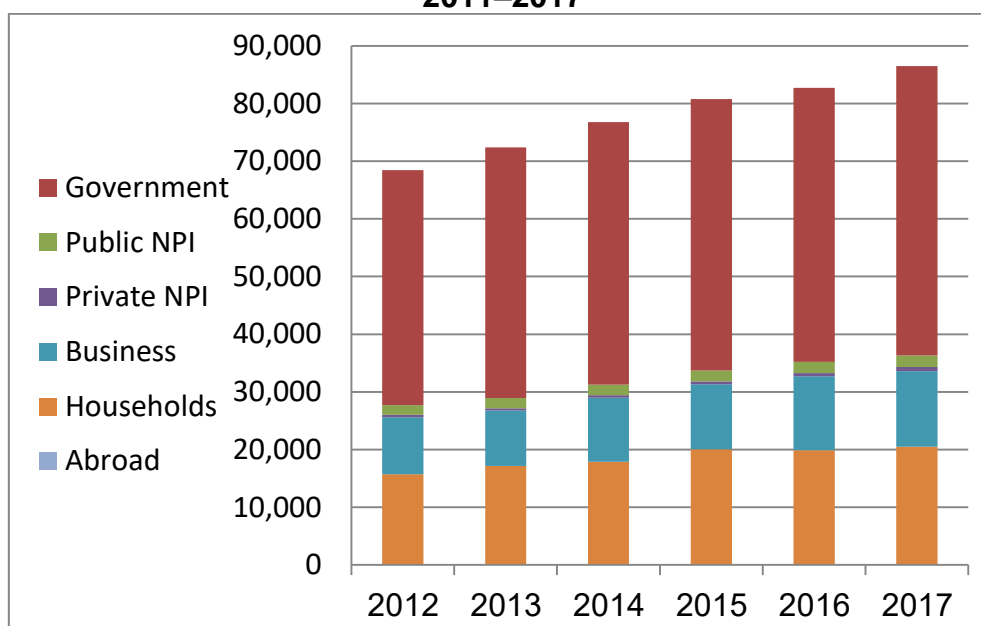
Funding for senior citizens (with pension payments) came mainly from government ministries (54%), and 62% of the funding of the pension services type came from government ministries. In contrast, funding of services in homes for senior citizens was mostly provided by households (60%), and the source of funding of services for senior citizens in the community was more balanced between government ministries (37%) and households (36%).

Funding of national expenditure on welfare by the general government sector (including public NPIs) was NIS 103.6 billion in 2017, which was 61.5% of total funding for national expenditure on welfare.

Funding of allowances and pensions for senior citizens by the general government sector was 45.6% of total government funding. Funding of activities of senior citizens in the community was 3.9%, and funding of homes for senior citizens was 0.87% of total funding by the government.

In the business sector, the government (mainly National Insurance), households, and the public NPI sector, most of the funding was for the senior citizens service type. In the public NPIs, approximately 65% of the funding was for the senior citizens service type, of which 41% was for pensions and 19% for senior citizen allowances. About 50% of total general government funding (without public NPIs) was for senior citizens, of which 31% was for pensions.

Diagram 7 – National Expenditure on Welfare (Incl. Transfers to Households) for the Senior Citizens in the Community Service Type, by Funding Sector, in NIS Million, 2011–2017



The diagram shows that most of the funding for senior citizens in the community service type was provided by the general government sector and households. In addition, one can see that funding from these sectors increased during 2011–2017.

Residents of Israel Aged 65 and Over Who Were Judged in Criminal Trials – Verdicts in 2018

25,100 residents of Israel who were judged in criminal trials received verdicts in 2018. Of these, 730 were aged 65 and over at the time of the verdict (2.9%)

Men accounted for 87.0% of residents of Israel aged 65 or over who were judged, and 13.0% were women. The composition of sexes among persons aged 65 and over differed from that of residents of Israel who were judged overall (91.1% men and 8.9% women).

88.6% of residents of Israel aged 65 and over who were judged were convicted, which was higher than the percentage convicted among Israeli residents overall who were judged (84.5%).

The three most common offence group among residents of Israel aged 65 and over who were judged were: licencing offences (25.1%), offences against public order (23.0%), and bodily harm (20.7%).