

Media Release

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Christmas 2023 - Christians in Israel

- **On the eve of Christmas 2023, approximately 187,900 Christians¹ live in Israel;** they comprise about 1.9% of the State of Israel's population. The Christian population grew by 1.3% in 2022.
- 75.3% of the Christians in Israel are Arab Christians. They constitute 6.9% of the total Arab population of Israel.
- **Most of the Arab Christians reside in the Northern District (70.2%) and in the Haifa District (13.6%).**
- 38.7% of the non-Arab Christians reside in the Tel Aviv and Central Districts, as compared to 36.5% in the Northern and Haifa Districts.
- **The localities with the largest Arab Christian populations** are Nazareth (20,800), Haifa (16,800), Jerusalem (13,000), and Shefar'am (10,600).
- 815 Christian couples **married** in Israel in 2021. The average age at the first marriage of Christian grooms was 30.7, and that of Christian brides was 27.4. These ages are higher than the average marriage ages among the other religions, for both grooms and brides.
- In 2022, 2,343 **infants were born to Christian women**, about 73% of whom (1,704 infants) were born to Arab Christian women.
- In 2022, the **total fertility rate** of a Christian woman was an average of 1.68 children per woman. The number of children per Arab Christian woman was lower still, at 1.62 children per woman.

¹ This preliminary estimate for December 2023 excludes Christians who do not appear in the Population Register (foreigners).
Other than this preliminary estimate, the population data in this release are for the end of 2022.

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

- The **average size of a household** headed by a Christian was 2.99 persons – similar to the size of households headed by a Jew (3.02), and lower than the size of households headed by a Moslem (4.30).
- **The average number of children up to age 17** in Christian families with children up to this age is 1.87. Of these Christian families, the average number of children up to age 17 in Arab Christian families is 1.98 – smaller than the numbers in Jewish families (2.44) and in Moslem families (2.57).
- In the 2022/23 school year, 26,776 Christian **students** – 1.4% of the total number of students – attended primary and secondary schools.
- 84.1% of Christian 12th-grade students were eligible for a **matriculation certificate**.
- 55.1% of the Arab Christians **continued their studies toward a first degree within eight years of graduating high school**, compared to only 34.6% of the total number of high-school graduates in the Arab school system and 48.1% in the Hebrew education.
- The **proportion of women among the Christian students** was similar to women's proportion among the total number of students – 61.6% and 60.4%, respectively.
- Compared with Moslem students, the percentage of Christian-Arab students studying for a first degree (bachelor's degree) was lower in education and teacher training (23.4% vs. 9.0%, respectively), whereas the percentage of those who studied engineering and architecture was higher (14.6% vs. 24.2%, respectively).
- Of all students who were studying for a first degree, representation among the Christian students was highest in the following **subjects of study**:² musicology (16.0%), traffic and transportation engineering (10.9%), and management information systems (10.7%).
- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2022 among **Christians** aged 15 and over was 70.5% (73.5% of men and 68.2% of women). This figure was 62.2% among **Christian Arabs** (69.0% of men and 55.8% of women).
- Approximately 16,200 Christians – a rate of 87.7 per 1,000 persons – were **registered at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs** in 2022.
- In 2022, about 3,900 Christians – a rate of about 21.7 per 1,000 persons – were **placed in social service frameworks**.

² Subjects for which there were more than 100 cases of students studying toward a first degree. Excluding the academic colleges of education. Students studying two fields were counted in each of their fields of study.

- In the year of judgement 2021, the rate of persons **judged in criminal trials** among the Christian population in Israel was about 226 per 100,000 persons, out of those judged, the rate among **non-Arab Christians** was substantially **higher** than the rate among **Arab Christians** (about 303 and 200 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The rate of **convicted** Christians was about 191 per 100,000 persons. The rate of **non-Arab Christian** persons convicted was substantially higher than the rate of **Arab Christians** (about 244 and about 172 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The **most common offences among persons convicted** from the Christian population in Israel are as follows: bodily harm (23.5%), morality offences (19.1%), offences against public order (18.4%), and property offences (15.4%).