

Media Release

info@cbs.gov.il; www.cbs.gov.il; Fax: 02-6521340

Jerusalem
April 17, 2024
124/2024

The Druze Population of Israel On the Occasion of the Nabi Shu'ayb Festival 2024

- The Druze population in Israel was approximately 152,000 (preliminary data)¹ – more than a tenfold increase since the founding of the State of Israel (14,500 in 1949).
- At the end of 2022, the **localities** with the largest population of Druze were Daliyat al-Karmel (17,600) and Yirka (17,500).
- At the end of 2022, **children** aged 0 to 14 comprised less than one-quarter (23.8%) of the Druze population. Children make up 27.5% of the Jewish population, approximately one-third (32.3%) of the Moslem population, and approximately one-fifth (20.6%) of the Arab Christian population.
- The growth rate of the Druze population has decreased gradually over the past decade, and in 2022 it was 1.1%.
- The **total fertility rate**² of Druze women in 2022 was 1.85 children on average, as compared with 2.00 in the previous year. The total fertility rate among Druze women has been declining since the mid-1960s. The peak in fertility – 7.92 children per woman – was measured in 1964.
- In 2023, approximately 41,000 **households** – approximately 1.4% of the total number of households in Israel – were headed by a Druze.

¹ This preliminary estimate is for February 2024. Other than this preliminary estimate, the population data in this release are for the end of 2022.

² The average number of children that a woman is expected to bear during her lifetime.

**For explanations and clarifications,
please contact the Central Bureau of Statistics at 02-659-2666.**

- Of them, 83.8% households contained **employed persons** – a number higher than that of the Moslems (79.3%), and that of the Christians (77.7%).
- Of the Druze, 43.5% **went on to study for a first degree** within eight years of graduating high school, compared with 34.6% among students in Arab education.
- In the 2022/23 academic year, 5,859 Druze **students** attended all the institutions of higher education in Israel (except for first degree students at the Open University). Their number rose by 0.2% as compared with the previous year (2021/22). From a multi-year perspective, the number of Druze students increased by a factor of 3.5 since the 1999/00 academic year in which 1,600 Druze students attended institutions of higher education in Israel. The cumulative percentage those entering higher education among Druze women was higher than that of Jewish and Other women and significantly higher than that of Moslem women.
- In the 2023/24 school year, 3,741 Druze were employed as **teaching staff** in the education system, as compared with 3,633 in the 2022/23 school year (an increase of 2.9%).
- During the 2022/23 academic year, there were 185 Druze **academic teaching staff at institutions of higher education**, compared to 183 during the 2021/22 academic year – an increase of 1.0%.
- In 2022, 24,100 Druze were **registered at the Social Service Departments** of The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs.
The rate of persons registered among the overall Druze population was 161.5 per 1,000 persons, compared with 118.2 per 1,000 persons among the overall population of Israel.
- In 2022, state institutions recognized about 1.096 million persons with disabilities, of which 20,400 were Druze. The two most prevalent types of disabilities among Druze persons with disabilities were physical disability and chronic illness.
- In the year of verdict 2021, the rate of persons **convicted in criminal trials** among the Druze population of Israel was about 301 per 100,000. This rate was substantially higher than among residents of Israel overall (about 271 per 100,000 persons).
The **most common offences** were: offences against public order (23.7%), licencing offences (23.1%) and offences of bodily harm (16.4%).