

Media Release

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The Moslem Population in Israel: Data on the Occasion of Eid al-Adha (The Feast of the Sacrifice) 2024

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 or 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 2023¹, the Moslem population of Israel was estimated at 1.782 million (18.1% of all residents) – an increase of 35,000 compared with the end of 2022.
- **The annual growth rate** of the Moslem population in 2023 was 2.0% (2.2% in 2022).
- **Jerusalem** had the largest number of Moslem residents (380,000), who comprise 21.3% of all Moslems in Israel, and 38.1% of the city's residents.
- **The Moslem population is young:** The percentage of children aged 0–14 is high (31.9%), and the percentage of persons aged 65 and over is low (4.9%).
- The percentage of Moslem **never-married** women aged 45-49 is 10.5%, whereas the percentage of Moslem never-married men aged 45-49 is 5.4%.²

¹ Population data are preliminary.

² Marital Status Data refer to the end of 2022.

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

- **The total fertility rate**³ in the Moslem population has been on a downward trend since 2001. In 2022, the rate reached 2.91 children per woman, compared to 3.03 children for a Jewish woman, 1.85 – for a Druze woman, 1.68 – for a Christian woman and 1.26 – for women not classified by religion.
- Approximately 26% of the **households** headed by Moslems have six or more persons, compared with only about 9% of the households headed by Jews.
- The **life expectancy** of Moslems in 2022 was 77.0 years for men and 81.8 for women.
- In 2022/23, there were 399,282 Moslem **students in primary and secondary education**. (Of those students, 6,778 were enrolled in Hebrew education, and the rest were enrolled in Arab education).
- In 2021/22, 74.9% of the examinees in Arab education were entitled to a **matriculation certificate**.
- The percentage of Moslem students who received a **matriculation certificate that meets university entrance requirements** was 46.8% (similar to the percentage in 2020/21 – 48.2%).
- Of the Moslem women, 41.9% **went on to study for a first degree** within eight years of graduating high school, more than twice the percentage of Moslem men (19.3%).
- In 2022/23, 3,400 Moslems studied in **pre-academic preparatory courses** and made up about a quarter (26.2%) of all those studying in pre-academic preparatory courses in Israel. Moslems studied less in university preparatory courses and more in academic college preparatory courses of various types. They were younger than the general population of students, their parents were less educated and the percentage of women among them was higher.
- In 2022/23, 11,400 Moslems received an **academic degree**⁴ from institutions of higher education in Israel. The percentage of Moslems among all degree recipients in Israel in that year amounted to 13.0%.
- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2023 among Moslems aged 15 and over was 48.8% (63.7% among men and 34.0% among women).

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

⁴ Includes: First degree (BA), second degree (MA), third degree (PhD) and an academic diploma (teaching diploma or another academic diploma).

- In 2022, there were about 1.096 million persons in the **Persons with Disabilities Register**, of which about 891,100 were Jews and Others and about 204,700 Arabs – of which about 165,500 were Moslems.
- Between the Years of Court Judgment 2020 and 2021, there was a 20.6% increase among Moslem persons judged in trials, compared to an 11.9% increase among non-Moslem persons judged.
- In the Year of Court Judgment 2021, the rate of convictions in criminal trials among the Moslem population in Israel was 2.7 times higher than the rate of convictions among the non-Moslem population of Israel (565 versus 210 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The **most prevalent offences** were: offences against public order (26.3%), offences against human life and bodily harm (21.6%) and property offences (18.6%).
- In 2023, there were 841,545 Moslem **drivers** (16.5% of all persons licenced to drive), of whom 41.1% were women.
- In 2023, 3,800 Moslems were injured in **road accidents** with casualties of the Expanded R.A. type (23.9% of all casualties). Of these, 90 were killed, 647 were seriously injured and 3,063 were slightly injured.