

Media Release

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Christmas 2024 - Christians in Israel

- **On the eve of Christmas 2024, approximately 180,300 Christians¹** live in Israel; they comprise about 1.8% of the State of Israel's population. The Christian population grew by 0.6% in 2023.
- 78.7% 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 (68.2%) and in the Haifa District (14.7%).**
- 41.3% of the non-Arab Christians reside in the Tel Aviv and Central Districts, as compared to 34.8% in the Northern and Haifa Districts.
- **The localities with the largest Arab Christian populations** are Nazareth (19,800), Haifa (18,700), Jerusalem (13,100), and Nof HaGalil (10,500).
- 762 Christian couples **married** in Israel in 2022. The **average age** at the first marriage of Christian grooms was 30.9, and that of Christian brides was 27.6. These ages are higher than the average marriage ages among the other religions, for both grooms and brides.
- In 2023, 2,193 **infants were born to Christian women**, about 74% of whom (1,616 infants) were born to Arab Christian women.
- In 2023, the **total fertility rate** of a Christian woman was an average of 1.64 children per woman. The number of children per Arab Christian woman was lower still, at 1.52 children per woman.

¹ This preliminary estimate for December 2024 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 2023.

**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 2.87 persons – lower than the size of households headed by a Jew (3.03) and by a Moslem (4.30).
- **The average number of children up to age 17** in Christian families with children up to this age was 1.80. Of these Christian families, the average number of children up to age 17 in Arab Christian families was 1.92 – smaller than the numbers in Jewish families (2.46) and in Moslem families (2.59).
- In the 2023/24 school year, 26,417 Christian **students** – 1.3% of the total number of students – attended primary and secondary schools.
- 86.9% of Christian 12th-grade students were eligible for a **matriculation certificate** in 2022/23.
- 53.0% of the Arab Christians and 26.6% of the non-Arab Christians **continued their studies toward a first degree within eight years of graduating high school**, compared to 34.5% of the total number of high-school graduates in the Arab education and 47.9% in the Hebrew education.
- In the 2023/24, 6,700 Christian **students**² – 2.2% of the total number of students – attended higher education institutions.
- The **proportion of women among the Christian students** was 61.3%, lower than their proportion among the Moslems (70.8%) and higher than their proportion among Jews and Others (58.3%).
- Compared with Moslem students, the percentage of Christian students studying for a first degree (bachelor's degree) was lower in education and teacher training (8.2% vs. 22.9%, respectively), whereas the percentage of those who studied engineering and architecture was higher (24.6% vs. 15.0%, respectively).
- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2023 among Christians aged 15 and over was 70.2% (72.1% of men and 68.7% of women). This figure was 62.4% among Christian Arabs (68.0% of men and 56.7% of women).
- Approximately 16,500 Christians – a rate of 91.5 per 1,000 persons – were **registered at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs** in 2023.
- In 2023, about 4,100 Christians – a rate of about 23.0 per 1,000 persons – were **placed in social service frameworks**.

² In addition, 540 Christians attended the Open University.

- In the year of judgement 2022, the rate of persons **judged in criminal trials** among the Christian population in Israel was about 219 per 100,000 persons, out of those judged, the rate among **non-Arab Christians** was substantially higher than the rate among Arab Christians (about 269 and about 202 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 225 and about 179 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The **most common offences among persons convicted** among the Christian population in Israel are as follows: offences against public order (24.4%), bodily harm (23.7%), property offences (19.7%), and morality offences (15.4%).

נתונים על נוצרים בישראל לרגל חג המולד 2024

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היישובים עם האוכלוסייה הנוצרית הערבית הגדולה ביותר
The localities with the largest Arab Christian population

18,700

חיפה
Haifa



19,800

נצרת
Nazareth

10,500

נוף הגליל
Nof HaGalil

13,100

ירושלים
Jerusalem

0.6%



גידול שנתי
Annual Growth

1.8%



מאוכלוסיית המדינה
Of the State's population

180,300



נוצרים חיים בישראל
Christians live in Israel

2.87



גודל משק
בית ממוצע
Average size
of household

2,193



תינוקות נולדו
Infants born

762



זוגות נישאו
בישראל ב-2022
Couples married
in Israel in 2022

MERRY
Christmas



נתוני 2023, אלא אם כן צוין אחרת
2023 data, unless otherwise stated

הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה
Israel Central Bureau of Statistics