

Media Release

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Christmas 2025 - Christians in Israel



For explanations and clarifications,
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Demography

- **On the eve of Christmas 2025, approximately 184,200 Christians¹** live in Israel; they comprise about 1.9% of the State of Israel's population. The Christian population grew by 0.7% in 2024.
- 78.7% of the Christians in Israel are Arab Christians. They constitute 6.8% of the total Arab population of Israel.
- **Most of the Arab Christians reside in the Northern District (68.3%) and in the Haifa District (14.7%).**
- 42.0% of the non-Arab Christians reside in the Tel Aviv and Central Districts, as compared to 33.9% in the Northern and Haifa Districts.
- **The localities with the largest Arab Christian populations** are Nazareth (18,900), Haifa (18,800), Jerusalem (13,400), and Nof HaGalil (10,800).
- 691 Christian couples **married** in Israel in 2023. The **average age** at the first marriage of Christian grooms was 30.8, and that of Christian brides was 27.8. These ages are higher than the average marriage ages among the other religions, for both grooms and brides.
- In 2024, 2,134 **infants were born to Christian women**, about 73% of whom (1,568 infants) were born to Arab Christian women.
- In 2024, the **total fertility rate** of a Christian woman was an average of 1.61 children per woman. The number of children per Arab Christian woman was lower still, at 1.48 children per woman.
- The **average size of a household** headed by a Christian was 2.89 persons – lower than the size of households headed by a Jew (3.02) and by a Moslem (4.35).
- **The average number of children up to age 17** in Christian families with children up to this age was 1.97. Of these Christian families, the average number of children up to age 17 in Arab Christian families was 1.98 – smaller than the numbers in Jewish families (2.45) and in Moslem families (2.58).

Education

- In the 2024/25 school year, 26,240 Christian **students** – 1.3% of the total number of students – attended primary and secondary schools.

¹ This preliminary estimate for December 2025 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 2024.

- 87.7% of Christian 12th-grade students were eligible for a **matriculation certificate** in 2023/24.
- 52.6% of the Arab Christians and 30.3% of the non-Arab Christians **continued their studies toward a first degree within eight years of graduating high school**, compared to 34.4% of the total number of high-school graduates in the Arab education and 47.3% in the Hebrew education.
- In the 2024/25, 6,700 Christian **students** – 2.2% of the total number of students – attended higher education institutions. In addition, about 500 Christians attended the Open University.
- The **proportion of women among the Christian students** was 61.1%, higher than their proportion among Jews and Others (58.3%) and lower than their proportion among the Moslems (71.0%) and the Druze (63.3%).
- The Christian students were one fifth of those studying for a first degree (bachelor's degree) in Musicology.

Standard of Living

- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2024 among Christians aged 15 and over was 67.7% (69.9% of men and 66.0% of women). This figure was 56.9% among Christian Arabs (66.5% of men and 52.6% of women).

Welfare

- Approximately 16,500 Christians – a rate of 91.4 per 1,000 persons – were **registered at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs** in 2024.
- In 2024, about 4,200 Christians – a rate of about 2.35 per 1,000 persons – were **placed in social service frameworks**.
- In 2024 27,000 Christians were in the Register of **Persons with Disabilities**.

Crime and justice

- In the year of judgement 2023, the rate of persons **judged in criminal trials** among the Christian population in Israel was about 201 per 100,000 persons, out of those judged, the rate among **non-Arab Christians** was substantially higher than the rate among Arab Christians (about 310 and about 169 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The rate of **convicted** Christians was about 176 per 100,000 persons. The rate of **non-Arab Christian** persons convicted was substantially higher than the rate of **Arab Christians** (about 253 and about 153 per 100,000 persons, respectively).

- The **most common offences among persons convicted** among the Christian population in Israel are as follows: bodily harm and property offences (23.0% in each one) and offences against public order (22.6%).