

# Media Release

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## On the Eve of Israel's 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day – 8.7 Million Residents in the State of Israel

### Then and Now:

#### Selected Data on Life in the State of Israel in the Early Years Compared with Today

- **The population of Israel numbers approximately 8.680 million persons<sup>1</sup> on the eve of Israel's 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, 2017.**

At the time of the establishment of the State, it numbered 806,000 residents.

On the State of Israel's 100<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, in 2048, the population is expected to reach 15.2 million persons.<sup>2</sup>

- The **Jewish population** numbers approximately 6,484,000 residents (74.7% of the total population); the **Arab population** numbers approximately 1,808,000 residents (20.8%); and the population of Others<sup>3</sup> numbers about 388,000 (4.5%).
- Since Independence Day last year,<sup>4</sup> the **population increased by 159,000 persons**, an increase of about 1.9%.
- There have been approximately 174,000 **infants born** since last Independence Day, and about 44,000 people passed away; about 30,000 immigrants<sup>5</sup> arrived in Israel.
- **Age distribution in Israel:** 34.6% are of ages 0-18; 54.3% are of ages 19-64; 11.1% are aged 65 or over.
- At the end of 2015 there were about **45,000 residents aged 90 or over** living in Israel.

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary results. The population estimate does not include the foreign resident population, which was about 183,000 at the end of 2015.

<sup>2</sup> According to the national population forecast, for 2015-2065, medium variant.

<sup>3</sup> Referring to non-Arab Christians, members of other religions, and persons not classified by religion in the Population Registry.

<sup>4</sup> Due to differences in the Hebrew calendar, the data relate to the 11.5 months (approximately) that passed since the last Independence Day.

<sup>5</sup> Including immigrating citizens; an immigrating citizen refers to a person born to an Israeli citizen while staying abroad, who entered Israel with the intention of settling.

- About 75% of the total Jewish population were '**Sabras**' – **persons born in Israel** (more than half are at least the second generation in the country) - compared with only 35% native-born in 1948.

- **Degree of religiosity.**<sup>6</sup>

**Among Jews:** 44% are not religious, secular; 24% are traditional, not so religious; 12% are religious traditional; 11% religious; and 9% ultra-Orthodox.

**Among non-Jews:** 52% are religious, 23% are not so religious, 21% are not religious, and 4% very religious.

- **What is life actually like in Israel?**

89% of persons aged 20 and over are satisfied with life; 59% are satisfied with their financial situation; 52% estimate that their life will be better in the future and 44% estimate that their financial situation will improve.

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<sup>6</sup> 2015 data on the basis of self-definition among persons aged 20 and over.

## **Area**

**Area of the country:** 22,072 sq. km.

This is an area similar to Slovenia or El Salvador;  
or about half the size of the Netherlands or Switzerland.

The State of Israel is 30 times larger than Singapore.

However, the area of Israel could fit 450 times in the area of the United States or China.

**Land area:** 21,643 sq. km. (97.6%)

**Area of lakes:** 429 sq. km. (2.4%)

This includes the Sea of Galilee (164 sq. km.) and the Dead Sea (265 sq. km.)

**Land border:** Total length of border: 857 km., approximately like the distance from Metula to Eilat, round trip.

**Length of Mediterranean Sea Coast:** 194 km.

**Length of Red Sea Coast:** 12 km.

**Lowest point:** The Dead Sea (429 m. below sea level)

**Highest point:** Mount Hermon (2,224 m)

**The only river in Israel:** The Jordan River, approximately 250 km.

**The largest locality:** Jerusalem with 865,700 residents

**The smallest locality:** Neve Zohar (in the Tamar Regional Council) with 71 residents

In 1948 there was only one city in Israel with more than 100,000 residents – Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Today, 14 cities number more than 100,000 residents. Of these, eight cities number more than 200,000 residents: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Haifa, Rishon Leziyyon, Petah Tiqwa, Ashdod, Netanya and Be'er Sheva.

## **Land Use (2013)**

64.7% rocky land, shrubs or excavated area





20.0% agricultural area

7.3% forest, groves or park area






5.6% built up area

2.4% area of water bodies

## Then and Now: Selected Data on Life in the State of Israel in the Early Years Compared with Today<sup>7</sup>

Topic	Then	Today
 <p>Jewish world population</p>	<p>11.5 million</p> <p>Of those: 6% in Israel</p> <p>15 May 1948</p>	<p>14.411 million</p> <p>Of those: 43% in Israel</p> <p>2015</p>
<p>Population in Israel</p>	<p>806,000</p> <p>15 May 1948</p>	<p>8.7 million</p> <p><b>10 times more</b></p>
 <p>Number of localities in Israel Cities, moshavim, kibbutzim, rural localities</p>	<p>500</p> <p>1949 (excluding Arab localities)</p>	<p>1,214</p> <p>2106 (including Arab localities)</p>
<p>Average household size General population</p>	<p>3.9</p> <p>1960</p>	<p>3.3</p> <p>2016</p>
<p>Population density</p>	<p>43.1 per km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>1948</p>	<p>373.2 per km<sup>2</sup></p> <p>2016</p>
 <p>Couples marrying Among Jews</p>	<p>10.9</p> <p>per 1,000 residents</p> <p>1948</p>	<p>6.2</p> <p>per 1,000 residents</p> <p>2015</p>
<p>Couples divorcing Among Jews</p>	<p>1.4</p> <p>per 1,000 residents</p> <p>1948</p>	<p>1.8</p> <p>per 1,000 residents</p> <p>2015</p>
<p>Average age of marriage First marriages, among Jewish women</p>	<p>22.8</p> <p>1952</p>	<p>26.1</p> <p>2015</p>
<p>Life expectancy Among Jews</p>	<p>64.9 for men</p> <p>67.6 for women</p> <p>1949</p>	<p>80.9 for men</p> <p>84.5 for women</p> <p>2015</p>
 <p>Total fertility rate Average number of children a woman is expected to give birth to during her lifetime</p>	<p>4.0 in the general population</p> <p>3.6 among Jewish women</p> <p>8.0 among Moslem women</p> <p>1955</p>	<p>3.1 in the general population</p> <p>3.1 among Jewish women</p> <p>3.3 among Moslem women</p> <p>2015</p>
<p>Infant mortality Rate per 1,000 live births, among Jews</p>	<p>51.7</p> <p>1949</p>	<p>2.2</p> <p>2016</p>
<p>Total exports of goods Net</p>	<p>252 million dollar</p> <p>1949</p>	<p>65.065 billion dollars</p> <p>2016</p>
<p>Total imports of goods Net</p>	<p>29 million dollar</p> <p>1949</p>	<p>52.188 billion dollars</p> <p>2016</p>

<sup>7</sup> No information was available about the Arab population for some of the topics in the early years, therefore, these topics are presented for the Jewish population alone.

Topic		Then	Today
Share of agricultural exports		48% 1950	3% 2016
GDP Excl. net taxes on imports, 2016 prices		NIS 25.6 billion 1950	NIS 1,174.5 billion 2016 (46 times more)
GDP per capita Excl. net taxes on imports, 2016 prices		NIS 20,200 1950	NIS 137,500 2016 (6.8 times more)
Gini index <sup>8</sup>		0.31 1974	0.37 2015
Unemployed persons		7.2% 1955	4.8% 2016
Persons living in owned dwellings		42.8% 1956/7	67.6% 2015
Persons living in rented dwellings (and key-money apartments)		57.2% 1656/7-ג	26.7% 2015-ג
Employee jobs		532,400 1961	About 3.5 million 2016
Average wages		275 pounds 1961	NIS 9,800 2016
Number of motor vehicles		34,103 1951	3,239,000 2016 (95 times more)
Higher education		2 institutions Hebrew University and Technion, 1948	63 institutions 9 universities, 33 academic colleges, 2017
Level of nutrition (Kilocalories per day) <sup>9</sup>		2,610 1950	3,712 2014
Forest area planted (thousands of dumans)		53 1949	1,154 2015
Electricity production (KWh per capita per year)		408 1950	7,663 2015

<sup>8</sup> A measure of inequality in income distribution among households. The index varies from 0 for complete equality to 1 for complete inequality.

<sup>9</sup> The data refer to the amount of calories available to the public, i.e., the quantity offered, and not the quantity purchased by the public or the quantity consumed by the population.