

**Greetings from the Mayor of Jerusalem to Mark the JIIS  
Statistical Yearbook 2015**

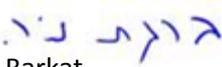
In these very days, as we celebrate Jerusalem Day 2015, we have launched a five-year plan 2020, promoting competitiveness and economic growth in Jerusalem. Within the framework of this strategic plan we have earmarked the directions for the city's development in the coming five years, putting to use the Jerusalem Institute's statistical yearbook as a principal medium in our municipal toolbox.

In recent years Jerusalem has gained momentum in growth and development in various realms of life. The municipal investment in culture and tourism, in education and in the community, in business development and advanced industry – are all beginning to bear fruit as manifested by the data presented in the yearbook before you.

Among the positive trends reflected in the yearbook, is a rise of 5.5% in the number of kindergarten children in the Zionist sector, alongside continued overall growth in other sectors; we have also witnessed a 6% rise in new building constructions in the city – 3,656 units compared with 3,442 units whose construction began in 2013. Over the last few decades Jerusalem is thus continuously breaking records in the number of new housing units! This year marked a 25% rise in the number of immigrants to Israel who chose to settle in Jerusalem and moreover, thousands of new businesses opened in the city and more than 100 new start-ups!

I wish to extend my gratitude to all those engaged in the professional production of the statistical yearbook 2015, for their proficient, meticulous and valuable work. Every year the statistical yearbook successfully renders Jerusalem's spirit and dynamic climate in fascinating and accurate data, assisting us in planning ahead for the future. Together we will continue shaping Jerusalem!

With best festive wishes,

  
Nir Barkat  
Mayor of Jerusalem