

Introduction - Director-General of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

We are pleased to present our readers with the 30th Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook. The Yearbook, first published in 1982, is published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies in partnership with the Jerusalem Municipality.

Jerusalem, Israel's Capital, is the largest and most complex city in Israel, with residential communities differing in so many respects – nationality, religion, lifestyle, employment, education and many more. In addition to providing a general snapshot of the current state of Jerusalem, the Statistical Yearbook attempts to delve deeper into Jerusalem's inherent complexities and present many facets of city life. The Yearbook provides a database for researchers and planning and policy professionals for analyzing trends, examining alternatives and developing research-based policies. Furthermore, the Yearbook provides the general public with direct data and grants access to a better understanding of Jerusalem's urban landscape, taking the reader beyond widely-held, popular images.

The Yearbook is published annually in a Hebrew-English edition. This year, with the encouragement and of the President of the State of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, the 30th Yearbook will also appear in a Hebrew-Arabic edition. The bilingual Hebrew-Arabic edition will serve as a resource for Arabic-speaking policy professionals, as well as Jerusalem's Arab residents, who currently account for 37% of the city's population.

The Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook is a central pillar of our 2016 work-plan here at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies. Our research at JIIS examines developments in various city-wide industries, including tourism, tech, and biotech. We also provide consulting services toward implementing and evaluating programs in higher education. For the first time this year, our Institute has partnered with the Israel Democracy Institute to produce a statistical yearbook dedicated to Israel's Ultra-Orthodox society. In another project currently underway, we are working with the Municipality's Transportation Planning Committee to assess and plan for future infrastructure needs. This project involves using population forecasts to make zoning recommendations for business development, education, etc. We also continue to assess matters of geopolitical importance; our analyses of the complexities of East Jerusalem and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict address conflicts over holy sites, shifts in the status quo, citizenship and voting rights, shared business zones, and conditions in the neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. Other JIIS programs for 2016 include developing financial tools for promoting Jerusalem, designing models for urban sustainability, and many more.

The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies is an independent, academic research policy institute. It is a nonprofit dedicated to studying Jerusalem, Ultra-Orthodox society, and geopolitics, as well as environmental and sustainability policy, financial innovation and growth.

Much intensive effort went into producing this Yearbook. I would like to thank the editor, Dr. Maya Choshen, and her team, Yair Assaf-Shapira, Yoad Shahrar, Alon Kupererd, Michal Korach, Dafna Shemer, and Caroline Kahlenberg for their dedication and expert contributions. Our hope is that the 2016 Statistical Yearbook will provide essential information about Jerusalem that will aid the city's development and bolster her position as Israel's capital.

Meir Kraus



Director-General of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies