



## Chapter III - Population

### 1. Population Groups and Distribution, and Sources of Growth

#### Population groups

The tables below present population groups according to the following categories, as classified by the Population Register of the Ministry of Interior:

- Jews
- Arabs – Muslims, Christian Arabs, and Druze
- Others – This group includes Christians who are not Arabs, members of other religions (Buddhists, Hindus, Samaritans, etc.) and those “not classified by religion” according to the Ministry of Interior (usually non-Jewish relatives of new immigrants).

Until the 1995 Census data on population groups were classified as follows: “Jews” and “Arabs and others”; after that time, “others” was added to the Jewish group. The new classifications (“Jews and others,” “Arabs”) appear in the tables from 1998: that year’s data that appear in the tables “above the line” show population figures according to the previous classification; 1998 figures “below the line” follow the new classification.

#### Population Distribution by Geographical-Statistical Division

The Censuses of Population and Housing, 1972, 1983, 1995, 2008 and the Integrated Population Census Survey of 2022 served as a basis for the population data in each statistical area. The growth components, i.e., natural increase, inter- and intra-locality migration, were added.

Data on the growth components of the population were taken from the "Records of Changes" of the Population Registry. Residents do not always report changes of address at the time



they move, which is a significant shortcoming for new neighborhoods, where the principal growth is from intra-locality migration. One may thus assume that the data for these neighborhoods are biased downwards.

In the 2022 Census data from the Population Registry were processed according to estimates from the Census, with the aim of assessing those residents who did not change their address. Estimates are reflected in the components of growth tables and the intra-locality migration tables. The new Census estimates created a significant changes in the population data in the years 2022-2023, comparing to former years.

The symbols and physical area of the statistical areas, sub-quarters and quarters were amended in the 2022 Census. For details of the amendments and a comparison with earlier censuses, see the introduction to Chapter I in the 2025 *Statistical Yearbook* .

## **Sources of Growth in the Permanent Population of Jerusalem**

The components of change in the permanent population of Jerusalem are: natural increase (births less deaths) of the city's residents, the balance of migration (persons migrating to the city less persons migrating from it) and new immigrants.

Increase - Births; initial settlement of immigrants and new potential immigrants; those who moved to Jerusalem to be reunited with their families; Israelis who moved to Jerusalem from elsewhere in Israel; permanent residents who returned to Israel after a stay of more than 12 months abroad; and returning citizens (after living abroad for some years).

Decrease - Deaths; residents who have remained abroad more than 12 months; potential immigrants who have left; Jerusalem residents who have taken up residence in other locations within Israel; and Arabs and other Jerusalem residents who have not returned from visits to Jordan.

Inter-locality Migration Balance - The difference in the number of residents of Israel who moved to Jerusalem and the number of residents of Jerusalem who moved elsewhere in Israel.

The Central Bureau of Statistics derives the balance of migration, at the level of a single locality, from the nationwide data of the Population Registry, based on figures from previous



years. Since these are based on nationwide data only, it is not possible to subtract, at the level of quarters and sub-quarters, figures for the permanent population who have been abroad for more than 12 months.

Intra-locality migration - Data in the source of the population growth (components of growth) tables (III/5, 6, 7) do not necessarily correspond to those presented in the tables in chapter V. The discrepancy derives from the method used in the 2008 Integrated Population Census Survey, as well as from the method of managing populations from an individual perspective, which takes into account the value of each individual according to the information received in the Population Census. The value of each individual is influenced by two factors: place of residence and age. Therefore, when individuals change their place of residence, their value in the new place of residence is not necessarily equivalent to that in their previous place of residence. Due to this method of calculating the values, it is possible that the data received for some areas are not accurate.

The source of the population growth (components of growth) tables (III/5, 6, 7) as of 2009 is not the outcome of counting the number of people who made changes in each of the components of change. The data published on the growth components represent the net impact of population growth. For example, the immigrant component includes the total number of immigrants to Israel in 2009 and those who were part of the population at the end of 2009. This component does not include, for example, immigrants who arrived in 2009 and who died the same year. The components are also influenced by the results of the 2008 integrated census.

## 2. Population Estimates

Estimates of the population and its demographic characteristics are based on the results of the population censuses and on the changes which occurred subsequent to the censuses, as recorded in the Population Registry. Since the end of 2023, population estimates have been based on the 2022 Census.



Permanent (*de jure*) Population - Includes permanent residents with or without Israeli citizenship (including those not in the country who have been absent for less than a year at the time of the estimate) as well as potential immigrants living in Israel or in Jewish localities in Judea and Samaria. The population estimates based on the 2022 Population Census include persons listed in the Population Registry and as of the 2022 Population Census also the foreigners population. Persons not listed in the Population Registry are now included in the population estimates. However, the foreign population does not appear in the Statistical yearbook data.

The foreigners were defined in the Central Bureau of Statistics as individuals without a resident or a citizen status. This includes several groups: Foreigners with Working Visa of Study Visa (Students), volunteers, refugees and asylum seekers.

The tables in this chapter relate to permanent population figures only, unless otherwise stated.

Average population in Jerusalem - Calculated until 1983 and from 1990 to 1993 as the mean of the 12 monthly averages. From 1983 to 1989, when immigration was relatively low, and from 1994 onwards, the average population was calculated as the midpoint between the population at the end and at the beginning of the surveyed year.

### **The Basis for Population Estimates**

The data regarding the population of Jerusalem refer to the area of municipal jurisdiction from June 1967 onwards.

Data for 1922, 1931, 1972, 1983, 1995, 2008 and 2022 are based on the respective population censuses; 1946 is an estimate. Data for 1961 summarize the population of Jerusalem according to the censuses of Israel and Jordan. The population of Jordanian Jerusalem was registered at 62,901: this figure was increased to 70,000 to account for the population of Shu'afat, parts of Beit Hanina, Silwan and A-Tur, which were not considered part of Jerusalem according to the Jordanian government although they were, practically speaking, part of the city.



Data for 1967 are based on the census of East Jerusalem and on official estimates for the western part of the city.

Data for 1946, and data on Arabs and Others for the years 1961 and 1967, are reproduced from: U.O. Schmelz, "The Evolution of Jerusalem's Population," in *Urban Geography of Jerusalem: A Companion Volume to the Atlas of Jerusalem* (Berlin, New York: W. de Gruyter, 1973, p. 54, Table I).

The source for data from 1972 onward is Israel's CBS. The figures are based on the censuses of 1972, 1983, 1995, 2008 and 2022 and on data regarding the movement of city residents obtained from the Population Registry of the Ministry of Interior. These data refer to the permanent population.

Revisions made following the censuses - Regarding the Jewish population, the results of the 1961 Census were very close to the running estimates and therefore served as the basis for the estimates. The 1972 results were adjusted to the running estimates, due to the omission of children in the census. The results of the 1983 Census were lower than the estimates by 42,520 persons. After evaluating the results, the census figures were increased by 21,000 persons, as a basis for estimates. In the 1995 Census the results for the Jewish population were lower than the running estimates by 70,000 persons.

After adjusting the running estimates of religious affiliation (by 20,000 persons) and after the results were evaluated, the census results were raised by 43,000 persons. Thus, there is a discontinuity between the estimates for the end of 1982 and the beginning of 1983, and between the estimates for the end of 1994 and those for the end of 1995, which are based on the 1995 Census.

Regarding the population of "Arabs and others" in Israel - results of the 1961 Census exceeded running estimates by about 4,000 persons (mostly Muslims), and the 1972 Census results were lower by 5,000 (mostly Christians). In the 1983 Census, the results for the Muslim population were lower than the estimate by about 10,000 persons. After evaluating the results, the 1983 Census results were increased by 5,000 persons, as a basis for the estimates.



The population estimates published in the *Yearbook* are the official data processed and published by the CBS. It should be noted that the Arab population of Jerusalem includes mainly Arab Palestinians holding residency status (not citizens). This status was given to 68,700 Arab Palestinians who were included in Jerusalem after 1967 as a result of the expansion of the city's boundaries. Over the years the Arab Palestinian population of Jerusalem has grown, both due to natural increase and through family reunification, whereby residency status was granted to people who qualified for it. Residency status grants its holders many rights, including social rights and freedom of movement in Israel. These rights were not granted to other Arab Palestinians living beyond the Green Line.

Over time many of the Arab Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem moved out to adjacent villages. Most of them declined to report leaving the city in order to keep their residency status and the rights this status grants them. On the other hand, there are Arab Palestinians who are not residents or citizens of Israel who live in Jerusalem without a permit and are therefore now considered illegal residents. The sizes of these two populations are unknown and their estimates can only be considered guesses; thus they are not presented in the population data published in the *Yearbook*.

As a result of the construction of the Separation Fence many Arab Palestinians with permanent residency status in Israel have returned to live in Jerusalem. As in the past most of this population movement is not reported to the Ministry of the Interior and therefore does not appear in official statistics.

### 3. Households

Household - is defined as a group of persons living together in one dwelling on a permanent basis most of the week and having a common expense budget for food. A household may include one person or more who are not necessarily related by family.

Size of household - is determined by the number of persons in the household, according to the above definition.



Earners - persons aged 15 and over who are in the civilian labor force; i.e., “employed” or “unemployed”, as well as soldiers in the permanent army.

Head of household - is the economic head of household, determined according to participation in the labor force, without regard to age or gender.

The head of a household is the main wage earner of the household, i.e., an employed person who usually works 35 or more hours a week (including soldiers in the permanent army) and thus takes precedence [as head of the household] over an employed person who works up to 34 hours a week, who in turn takes precedence over an unemployed person.

If more than one person in the household fits the definition of head of household, the head is determined by the interviewee.

If there is no wage earner in the household, the head of household is determined by the interviewee.

The household head is aged 18 or over (except households where the only wage earner is aged 15-17 and households where there are only 15-17 year-olds).

Children in the household - includes all children up to age 17 (inclusive) in the household. Does not include those aged 15-17 who are heads of households or spouses of heads of households.

Religion and Population Group: The head of the household is the only household member who is questioned regarding his religion. The head of the household’s religion is registered as the religion of all the members of the household. The classification according to religion includes: Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze and other (other religions also include religion unknown or no religious affiliation).

The category “Other religions” includes all those who replied that they are not Jewish. From 2002 the “Other religions” category has been divided into two:

1. “Arabs”: Those who live in non-Jewish localities or those who live in Jewish or mixed localities, were born in Israel or arrived in Israel before 1990.
2. “Others”: live in Jewish or mixed localities, and arrived in Israel in 1990 and after.



For definitions and more detailed explanations, see: CBS, [Labor Force Surveys, 2012](#).

Religious identification of household – as of 2014, a question about the household's religious lifestyle was added to the Labor Force Survey. Religious identification is defined individually as one of the following options: secular, traditional, observant, very observant, ultra orthodox or mixed. The data in table III/18 are based on this definition taken from the CBS's Labor Force Survey.

## 4. The Social Survey

The Central Bureau of Statistics has been conducting the Social Survey every year since 2002. The survey provides information about the living conditions and welfare of Israel's adult population and Israelis' perceptions of different aspects of their lives.

The Social Survey is based on Israel's Population Registry, and the data collected represent a sampling of the population.

The sample size in 2018 was 9,500 respondents around Israel. The survey population includes the permanent population of the state of Israel, aged 20 and up, although certain population groups are not included in the survey.

For definitions and more detailed explanations, see: CBS, [Social Surveys](#).

## 5. Classification of last college attended and highest diploma

The data in tables III/22, 23 are based on labor force survey. For further information about the survey, see chapter VII introduction.

## 6. The Jerusalem Metropolitan Area and Jerusalem Surroundings





Tables III/24-27 addresses the population and the sources of population growth in the Jerusalem metropolitan area and in the Jerusalem surroundings. For details about the definitions of the metropolitan area and the surroundings, see chapter I introduction.

## 7. List of Sources for the Tables

Tables III/1-17, 24-27: CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, for relevant years (Int.); compiled from data analyzed by the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research in the CBS' research room. Until 1967 - U.O. Schmelz, *Modern Jerusalem - Demographic Evolution*, The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies and The Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1988

Tables III/18-20; 22-23: CBS, *Labour Force Surveys*, Labor, Wages and Classifications Division

Table III/21: CBS, *Social Surveys*, for relevant years (Int.).