

Topic: **Population and Demographics**

Updated: **June 2014**

General

- The Arab and Druze population in Israel numbered 1,658,000 at the end of March 2013.²
- In 2013, The Arab and Druze minority constituted 20.6% of the population.
- The total population figure above, includes approximately 296,905 Arabs living in East Jerusalem, and 21,000 Druze residing in the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.
- The inhabitants of East Jerusalem became permanent residents of Israel in 1967. They hold Israeli ID cards, but do not have full Israeli citizenship and therefore cannot participate in the Knesset elections.³

Natural Growth

- The annual natural growth rate of the Arab population in 2011 was 2.4%, compared to 1.7% for the Jewish population.⁴
- For Muslim Arabs in Israel, the rate has declined steadily, from 4.5% in the 1960s, to 3.47% in 1998 and 2.5% in 2011.
- Christian Arabs and Druze also followed the same pattern: their natural growth rate declined

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² CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012 (no. 63), table 2.1.

CBS, 65th Independence Day - more than 8 million residents in the State of Israel. April 14, 2013.

³ Figures for Arabs residing in East Jerusalem are based on: Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, *Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook*, 2013, table 3.10. Figures on the Druze population in the Golan sub-district were taken from: CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, table 2.6.

⁴ CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012 (no. 63), table 3.2.

from 1.71% and 2.42% in 1998 to 1.3% and 1.7% in 2011, respectively.⁵

Fertility Rate

- Definition: The average number of children born to a single woman over her lifetime.
- In 2011, the fertility rate of Muslim women was 3.5, compared to 2.98 in the Jewish population.⁶
- Fertility rates in the non-Jewish population have declined significantly since 1960: The fertility rate of Muslim women from 9.3 (1960) to 4.7 (1990), to 3.8 (2008) and to 3.5 (2011). Among Arab Christian women, the fertility rate dropped from 4.7 (1960) to 2.3 (1990), 2.2 (2008) and to 2.2 (2011), and for Druze women from 7.9 (1960) to 4.1 (1990), 2.5 (2008) and to 2.3 (2011).⁷

Forecasts

- According to projections by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics the Arab and Druze population will grow to 1,755,100 in 2015 (constituting 20.9% of the total population), to 2,168,800 by 2025 (22% of the total population) and 2,614,800 in 2035 (22.9% of the total population), in the next two decades.⁸

Age Structure

- As a result of the relatively high fertility rate, the general Arab population in Israel, particularly the Muslim population, is exceptionally young. In 2011, 49.2% of the Muslim population was under the age of 19, compared to 33.1% of the Christian Arabs, 40% of the Druze, 60.9% of the Bedouins, and 33.3% of the Jews.
- According to a 2011 study by the Central Bureau of Statistics, 72% of the Muslim population was under the age 35, while 56.1% of the Christian Arabs, 65.5% of the Druze, and 54.8% of the Jewish population was under the age 35.⁹

Life Expectancy

⁵ Nurit Yaffe (editor), *The Arab Population in Israel 2008*, Statisti-lite no. 102 (CBS, March 2010), p. 2 (See: http://www.cbs.gov.il/www/statistical/arab_pop08e.pdf).

Aziz Haidar, *Arab Society in Israel (1): Population, Society, Economy* (Jerusalem: Van Leer Institute, 2005), p.42 [Hebrew].
CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012 (no. 63), table 2.3.

⁶ CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012 (no. 63), table 3.13.

⁷ Yaffe, *ibid*; CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 1982, table 6-16; *ibid*, 1993 table 3.14.

CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, table 3.11, CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, table 3.14.

⁸ CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, table 2.26.

⁹ *Ibid*, 2012, table 2.10.

- Life expectancy in the Arab population has risen considerably in recent years, from 68.2 and 71.5 in 1975 to 76.5 and 80.9 in 2011 for Arab males and females, respectively. Life expectancy in 2011 for Jewish males and females was 80.7 and 83.9, respectively.¹⁰
- In the last two decades the difference between life expectancy of Arabs and Jews increased. The average difference between Jewish and Arab men and women increased from 1.4 and 2.3 years (in 1985-1989) to 4.2 and 3.0 years (in 2011), respectively.¹¹ (See Health Fact Sheet)

Infant Mortality

- Definition of “infant”: newborn aged 0-1 year.
- The infant mortality rate among Arabs (except of the Christians) is considerably higher than in the Jewish population.
- In 2011, infant mortality rates were 6.6 per 1000 live births for Muslims, 11.6 per 1000 live births for Bedouins, 2.3 per 1000 live births for Arab Christians, 3.6 per 1000 live births for Druze, and 2.6 per 1000 live births for Jews.¹² (See Health Fact Sheet)

Religion

- In 2011, the Arab and Druze communities in Israel were divided into three main religious groups: Muslims (84%), Christian Arabs (8.0%) and Druze (8.0%).¹³ (See Religion Fact Sheet)

¹⁰ CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, table 3.24.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 2012, table 3.24.

¹² CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.11.3.12. See: http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/newhodaot/hodaa_template.html?hodaa=201211349.

¹³ CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel*, 2012, tables 2.1, 2.2.