מדינת ישראל - הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה

**מפקד האוכלוסין והדיור 1995**

# ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CENSUS

## כל מה שרצית לדעת על המפקד

הסברה ויחסי ציבור

76073 מ.ד.

# All you want to know about the Census

## Introduction

A Population and Housing Census, in which data are collected from every resident of the State, is carried out in Israel every decade. Since the last census in 1983 significant changes have occurred in the size of the population, its geographical distribution, its composition and its character. In the 1995 census up-to-date information will be collected about the population of Israel. All the information gathered will be summarized according to towns and neighborhoods and will represent these geographical regions according to the characteristics of their residents. There is no way other than by census to obtain this information.

## What information do we get from the census

From the census we obtain basic demographic data about Israel's residents: number, age, sex, country of origin, family status. From 20% of households in the country further information will be collected, which will include data about the society and the economy: internal "migration", marriage, fertility, standard of education, standard of living, travel habits, occupation, income, housing conditions, household equipment etc.

## Who needs the information obtained from the census

The information gathered from the census - which will be published only in the form of statistical summaries - is needed by every public or private body or institution concerned with planning. In the public sector this means educational and medical institutions, local authorities, government offices, research institutes in the various social sciences, etc. In the private sector the statistical summaries are necessary to planners, organizational and economic consultants, financial institutions, marketing and sales personnel, market research institutes etc. The census data will also be put to important use by the Central Bureau of Statistics itself.

Is it compulsory to answer the questions

The census is carried out by law: "The Statistics Ordinance [revised version] 1972", and by a special order signed by the Prime Minister.

According to this law every resident "must, if requested by the Statistician or an authorized employee, fill in and supply, to the best of his knowledge, the details in every questionnaire in accordance with the attached or relevant instructions" (section 11).

What about privacy

Your privacy is preserved and protected! The secrecy of the information collected is strictly maintained! The data gathered is processed into statistical summaries and there is no possibility of identifying who has filled in the questionnaire.

No public or private body - including the law courts, the police, the security services, the broadcasting authority or income tax authorities - ever received in the past and will not receive from the '95 Census any identifying personal details about any resident!

The law binds all those employed in the census-taking as well as employees of the Central Bureau of Statistics to maintain the confidentiality of the information. A violation of this obligation constitutes a criminal offense and an employee transgressing this law may be punished by three years imprisonment.

Who conducts the census

The census is conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, headed by the Government Statistician supported by a professional staff from various fields. The Central Bureau of Statistics operates under law and its concerns are purely professional.

Couldn't the information be obtained from the surveys carried out by the Central Bureau of Statistics

The census has several unique characteristics: every resident participates in it, the maximum geographical details are obtained and it can pinpoint small groups within the population. This degree of detail cannot be obtained from the sample surveys carried out regularly by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

How long does the census take

The census takes several weeks, from the middle of October to the end of December 1995.

How is the census carried out

The census is carried out in four stages:

a) **Distribution** - at this stage census takers distribute questionnaires to every house and to every family.

b) **Collection** - begins the day after the census day. At this stage census takers return to the family in order to collect the completed questionnaire.

c) **Completion of the collection** - at this stage census takers return to those families who were not at home on their previous visits.

d) **Post enumeration survey** - at this stage census taker return to a number of households in order to check that the census was carried out accurately.

What is the "census day"

The "census day" is the point in time to which the information collected in the census relates. It is important that all the information collected relates to one specific moment and not to the entire period of the census.

**The "census day" for the 1995 census will be Saturday night, November 4, 1995.**

How many types of questionnaires are there in the census

In the census, every resident will complete a short questionnaire. 20% of the population, according to a representative sample, will complete a long questionnaire.

The short questionnaire includes 5 basic demographic questions: date of birth, family status, sex, country of birth and date of immigration.

The long questionnaire includes - in addition to those questions on the short questionnaire - questions about education, occupation, housing, income, means of transportation to work, household equipment etc.

The collection of this information from a sample of one-fifth of the families in Israel is done for the sake of economy, to make things easier for the public, and to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience involved in completing the questionnaire.

What languages are used in the questionnaires

The questionnaires are printed in the official languages of the State of Israel, Hebrew and Arabic.

In order to help new immigrants and those who are not fluent in Hebrew, translations of the questionnaires have been prepared in English, Russian, Rumanian, Yiddish, Spanish, French and Amharic.

**These translated questionnaires are not intended to be filled in but merely to be used as a guide.**

Does it take a long time to complete the questionnaire

It does not take long to complete the questionnaire. However, the information gathered serves as a basis for decisions affecting all aspects of life in the State for many years.

The census gives everyone an opportunity to participate in an activity which is of great importance to the community in which he lives and to contribute to improving the quality of life.

How much influence does each resident have

The resident is the most important element of the census. The overall picture of the population of Israel is composed of individual elements, and each one is important and significant. For this reason it is important that everyone fill in the questionnaire, otherwise the picture will not be complete and the quality of the summaries obtained will be adversely affected.

How will the residents benefit from the census

The census is intended to contribute to the welfare of the population of the State of Israel. Everyone will benefit when, with the help of the data obtained from the census, we are able to make more accurate forecasts and appropriate plans for the establishment of health institutions, kindergartens, schools, universities, public transport, building, sources of employment, professional training etc.

How will we identify the census taker

Every census taker wears an identification tag with his picture. The tag identifies him as a census taker in the Central Bureau of Statistics' Population and Housing Census 1995.

Who decided on the questions in the census

The questionnaires were prepared by a team of experts from the Central Bureau of Statistics. They are based on an accepted system of questions used in census-taking throughout the world, and on the special needs and requirements of Israel. The Public Council for Statistics and the public committees appointed by it took an active part in the planning and authorization of the questionnaires.

A great deal of effort is involved in taking a census, therefore it is very important to collect as much information as possible.

In addition, the subjects dealt with in the questions have been determined, among other things, by the need to reap the greatest possible benefit from the Census and to avoid troubling the population more than necessary.

Who is included in the census

The census counts all the residents of the State of Israel as well as the permanent residents of the Israeli settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

How will the residents of retirement homes, residential schools etc. be counted

Those living or lodging permanently in various institutions will be counted with the help of the list of residents found in every institution. A resident asked to answer a long questionnaire will complete it in person, taking care to maintain confidentiality and privacy. Residents of kibbutzim will be counted in a similar manner.

Where else are censuses conducted

Population censuses are conducted in most countries. The United Nations recommends that a census be taken every ten years. In almost every country of the world, a census has, or will be conducted during the '90s. In some countries, such as Japan, Austria and Canada, a census is conducted every five years.

When were former censuses taken in Israel

In Israel a census has been taken on four previous occasions: in 1948, 1961, 1972 and 1983. The first census was taken at the height of the War of Independence. It marked the end of the British Mandate, and formed the basis for the population register and the voters' register.

In September 1967, after the Six-Day War, a census of the residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip was taken.

What are the innovations in the 1995 census

The 1995 census, the 5th conducted in Israel, is the largest in scope, and the most highly computerized and sophisticated to date. The main innovation in this census is the use of computer technology to manage, organize, control and supervise all stages of the census, to improve the flow of information, to produce maps for the census takers and for optical absorption of the data from the questionnaires.

When will the results of the census be obtained

Preliminary provisional results regarding the size of the population in each town, village and neighborhood are expected at the beginning of 1996.

The more detailed picture will be published about one year after the conclusion of the census.

---

# Glossary of Basic Census Terms

| | |
|---|---|
| Population and Housing Census | מפקד האוכלוסין והדיור |
| The Central Bureau of Statistics | הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה |
| The Government Statistician | הסטטיסטיקן הממשלתי |
| Census Taker/s | פוקד/ים |
| The Statistics Order | פקודת הסטטיסטיקה |
| Questionnaire/s | שאלון/ים |
| Short Questionnaire | שאלון קצר |
| Long Questionnaire | שאלון מורחב |
| Distribution Stage | שלב ההפצה |
| Collection Stage | שלב האיסוף |
| Completion of the Collection Stage | שלב השלמת האיסוף |
| Post Enumeration Survey | הערכת הפקידה |
| The Census Day | המועד הקובע |
| Census Data | נתוני המפקד |
| Sample Surveys | סקרים מדגמיים |