Estimation of the Total Population in the 2020 Integrated Census in Israel

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The aim is to estimate all the people defined as ‘census population’ and only them, in their ‘census address’ (place of usual residence).

Building the population frame in the integrated census, refers to four main groups:
- Israelis
- Israelis abroad
- Legal foreigners
- Illegal foreigners

Their administrative sources of information are different and of different quality, the identification of their place of usual residence is a challenge of different facets, and engaging direct data collection is not always possible.
The Population

- The initial population frame for the census relies on the Central Population Register (CPR).
- The CPR includes **9.3 million active records** of Israeli citizens only (partial census population group).
- **720,000** Israelis (8% of CPR active records) do not belong to the census population, most of them live abroad.
- **128,000 legal foreigners** belong to the census population but are not included in the CPR:
  - 65,000 legal migrant foreigners, mainly those who have arrived with work permits, and 41,000 infiltrators (asylum seekers);
  - 22,000 temporary residents who do not assume their right to become Israeli citizens.
- The number of **illegal foreigners** is estimated to be between **30,000-70,000** people.
Data sources
(for the total population estimate)

- The Population and Migration Authority (PMA):
  - Population stocks (CPR, Borders control, Legal migrant workers, infiltrators)
  - Population flows (since 2016 on a daily basis).
- National Insurance Institute (NII): Partial population of-
  - Foreigners: Temporary Jewish residents
  - Israelis abroad: non-resident status.
- Census surveys.
Israelis Abroad: Challenges

1. Harmonization of definitions when estimating stocks and flows;
2. Referring to intentions to migrate.
Israel Population 1948-2017 (in thousands)
Immigration to Israel
(new immigrants, 1948-2016, total 3,203,563)
Departures and Returns of migrating Israeli citizens
Returnees by length of stay abroad
(% out of returnees), 2015

- 1≤ years ≤2: 17.0%
- 2< years ≤3: 7.4%
- 3< years ≤4: 3.9%
- 4< years ≤5: 2.8%
- 5< years <6: 50.3%
- 6+ years: 18.6%
**Definitions (Stock)**

**Stock** (IAF): CPR active records (minus) “Israelis abroad” (plus) foreigners (to be included).

**Israelis abroad** (defined for census purposes and also as a population frame for different purposes, between censuses):

- Israelis who are **not present** in the country on reference day and meet one of the following criteria:
  - They are out of the country for over a year continuously,
  - They go back and forth but have stayed abroad 275 days during the last year,
  - They were not enumerated in the 1983 and 1995 censuses (traditional censuses) and no sign of life was recorded in their CPR records ever since.

**New Immigrants** (Olim) are Israeli citizens from day 1.
Definitions (Flows)

International migration: Immigration (minus) Emigration.

**New Emigrant** (Israeli abroad): An Israeli who stayed abroad at least one year continuously.

**Returning citizen**: An emigrant who comes back and stays in Israel at least 90 days continuously.

**New Immigrants** (Olim) are Israeli citizens from day 1.
Harmonization

- Research findings point at 275 days (9 months) a year abroad (not continuously) as a reliable threshold for out migration, while staying 90 days in Israel continuously is a reliable threshold for defining a returning Israeli.
  - The 275 days abroad is implemented in the stock approach but only on Israelis who are not present in the country on reference day.
  - The flows approach refers to an Israeli as an emigrant (to be included in the emigrants database) only if he stays abroad one year continuously.
  - New immigrant is perceived as intending to stay and therefore counted in from his first day in the country.

- Adopting the above thresholds (275, 90) in all statistics, including for new immigrants, adhere to international recommendations for out-migration and adhere to the intentions aspect in the recommendations, in the in-migration.
**Foreigners**

People without Israeli citizenship and therefore not included in the CPR

**Main challenges:**

- Pairing entries and exits in borders control data
- Lack of information regarding the exact location of foreigners in Israel
- Enumerating those who live in non-residential areas
- Undetected infiltrators who are not asylum seekers.
Foreigners: Enumeration methodology

The foreigners are not a homogenous group. Thus, estimating their number and geographic distribution entails-

1. **Identifying** the different groups
2. **Characterizing** each group by data source and geographic distribution;
3. **Developing/adapting** enumeration processes tailored to each group.
Foreigners breakdown

Illegal Migrant Workers
30-70K

Legal Migrant Workers
65K

- Nursing workers and care takers
- Agricultural workers
- Construction workers

Refugees, Asylum seekers, undeportable foreigners
41K

Jewish Temporary Residents
22K
### Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Migrant Workers - Nursing workers and care takers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### Enumeration and estimation methodology

To be included in the central path of the integrated census by adding their records to the IAF. Assessment and correction processes will be conducted in the over and under-coverage surveys using the dual system estimation method.

#### Legal Migrant Workers - Agricultural and Construction workers

Employers' survey for verification of the administrative data and for collecting information regarding the geographical location of the workers. Separate estimation processes of the total population and of the geographic distribution.

#### Illegal Migrant Workers

Producing a total estimate, mainly entrances (-) exits by country of origin. Statistical geographic distribution according to that of legal foreign workers.
Estimation of the total population in the census

- The administrative population stock is corrected bottom-up and top-down.
- Using the census under and over-coverage surveys, weights are assigned for each record on a statistical area (SA) level added up to different aggregates up to the whole country level.
- Specific populations, enumerated in designated processes, are added (weight 1).
- Demographic analysis and thorough study of data discrepancies (compared with census data) produce a new total population estimate, used for calibration of the population on all sub-national levels.
Future Work

- Integration of population databases and maintaining deriving statistical registers (Israelis, Israelis abroad, new immigrants, foreigners);

- Harmonization of definitions of stocks and flows, while adding the time dimension (short/long-term);

- Leaning further on administrative data for census purposes, including the use of signs of life data (for addresses, forming families...);

- Expanding enablers of qualitative administrative data: Improving source data (methodology and budget) and promoting supporting regulation.
Happy Sukkot
Feast of tabernacles.
Tabernacle: Any temporary dwelling.