



ISRAEL



GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Reuben RIVLIN

Head of Government

Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU

Government Type

parliamentary democracy

Capital

Jerusalem¹

Legislature

unicameral Knesset (120 seats)

Judiciary

Supreme Court (consists of the chief justice and 14 judges)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Ron DERMER

US Ambassador

Ambassador David M. FRIEDMAN

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 20,770 sq km

Land: 20,330 sq km

Water: 440 sq km

Climate

temperate; hot and dry in southern and eastern desert areas

Natural Resources

timber, potash, copper ore, natural gas, phosphate rock, magnesium bromide, clays, sand

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

technologically advanced free market economy somewhat limited by income inequality and high housing and commodity prices

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$317.1 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)

\$36,400 (2017 est.)

Exports

\$58.67 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 28.8%, UK 8.2%, Hong Kong 7%, China 5.4%, Belgium 4.5% (2017)

Imports

\$68.61 billion (2017 est.)

partners: US 11.7%, China 9.5%, Switzerland 8%, Germany 6.8%, UK 6.2%, Belgium 5.9%, Netherlands 4.2%, Turkey 4.2%, Italy 4% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

8.4 million (July 2018 est.)

Population Growth

1.49% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity

Jewish 74.4% (of which Israel-born 76.9%, Europe/America/Oceania-born 15.9%, Africa-born 4.6%, Asia-born 2.6%), Arab 20.9%, other 4.7% (2018 est.)

Language

Hebrew (official), Arabic (used officially for Arab minority), English (most commonly used foreign language)

Religion

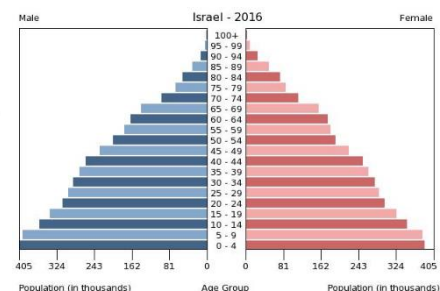
Jewish 74.7%, Muslim 17.7%, Christian 2%, Druze 1.6%, other 4% (2016 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 92.4% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 1.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy

97.8% (2011 est.)



¹the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 without taking a position on the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty