ISRAEL

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
President Reuben RIVLIN

Head of Government
Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU

Government Type
parliamentary democracy

Capital
Jerusalem[1]

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: 21,937 sq km
Land: 21,497 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)
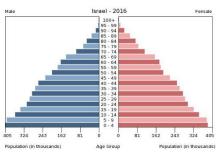
PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
8.7 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth
1.46% (2020 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 (special status under Israeli law), English (most commonly used foreign language)

Religion
Jewish 74.3%, Muslim 17.8%, Christian 1.9%, Druze 1.6%, other 4.4% (2018 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 92.6% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: 1.64% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
97.8% (2011)

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

as of April 2020