

Source Sheet Companion

Fact Sheet: Exploring the Topics of Arab Citizens and Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel

This source sheet companion lists the sources utilized in the Fact Sheet, offers resources for further learning, and shares additional information. We hope you take advantage of these sources to learn more about Arab citizens of Israel and to support your efforts to educate others.

It is important to share some notes on the numbers and sources we used to create the Fact Sheet. Most of the statistics come from [the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics \(CBS\)](#). The CBS does not offer a clear description of which people are included in its “Arab” category in reports. In many instances, in addition to Arab citizens of Israel, it likely includes Druze Golan Heights Residents and East Jerusalem Residents. For more information on these distinctions, please see the Basic Distinctions Between Legal Statuses of Arabic Speaking Populations in Israel and the Palestinian Territories resource. Due to these discrepancies, and the broad challenges to quality data collection and analyses related to Arab society in Israel, the numbers in the resource should be taken as approximations. It is possible you will see another resource from a reputable source with different numbers.

SECTION 1: KEY TERMS

A. Population size

1. Israeli CBS. “[Population of Israel on the Eve of 2026](#)”. 31 December 2026. (Hebrew).
2. Khalaily, M., Badran, A., & Rudnitzky, A. (2024). “[Selected findings: Statistical report on Arab society in Israel 2023](#)”. Israel Democracy Institute.
3. Israeli CBS. “[Selected data on the occasion of Jerusalem Day, 2025 \[Media release\]](#)”. May 2025. (Hebrew).
4. The Movement for Freedom of Information. “[New information: How many Druze in the Golan have Israeli citizenship](#)”. 26 December 2024. (Hebrew).

In addition to East Jerusalem residents, the 2,147,000 number for Arab society in Israel also includes 29,000 Druze residents of the Golan Heights. Like East Jerusalem residents, majority of this population, which lives on land annexed by Israel following 1967, has residency status rather than citizenship, though approximately 20% are Israeli citizens.

B. Identity, religious, and cultural diversity within Arab society

5. ‘48ers is not a common term in English, but Arab citizens of Israel frequently use it to refer to themselves or in discourse among Palestinians. ‘48ers, refers to the 1948 War. It describes the people who were within Israel in the 1949 Armistice line and their descendants.
6. **Muslim:** Israeli CBS. “[The Muslim Population in Israel: 2025](#)”. 4 June 2025. (Hebrew).
 - o In 2025, ~1.809 million Muslims lived in Israel, nearly all of whom are Arab, comprising 18% of Israeli society.
7. **Christian:** Israeli CBS. “[Christmas 2025—Christians in Israel](#)”. 23 December 2025. (Hebrew).
 - o Christian Arabs comprise about 1.5% of Israel’s population. Nazareth and Haifa have the largest Christian Arab populations in Israel.

8. **Druze:** Israeli CBS. "[The Druze Population of Israel On the Occasion of the Nabi Shu'ayb Festival. 2025](#)". 21 April 2025.
- o The largest Druze population centers in Israel are Yarka and Daliyat al-Karmel.
 - o The above report offers lots of additional data in English for further learning. To learn more, see Task Force Fact Sheet on Druze Citizens of Israel [here](#).
9. **Negev Bedouin:** There are not reliable or consistent data on the Negev Bedouin population. You can read more about this challenge in a [Haaretz article](#) here. The Task Force uses a 305,000 estimate based on our consultations with experts and the field. This number is also cited in the [Nagabiya Bedouin Society Knowledge and Research Hub](#) database.
- o To learn more about Israel's Negev Bedouin population, explore Task Force explainer on Bedouin Communities in the Negev [here](#).
 - o In addition to the Negev Bedouin population, Israel has much smaller Bedouin communities in the Galilee region. The heritage, affiliations, culture, and socioeconomic experiences of these northern communities are distinct from Negev Bedouin populations. Most Israeli data concerning these communities refers to Negev Bedouin.
10. Unrecognized Bedouin villages are communities that are not legally recognized by the Israeli government. Primarily located in rural areas, most unrecognized villages are in the Negev and some are in the Galilee. In many cases, unrecognized villages lack key infrastructure including roads, water, and electricity. Today, about 25-40% of the Negev Bedouin live in unrecognized villages.

SECTION 2: GEOGRAPHY

11. **North and Galilee:** Israeli CBS. "[Local Authorities in Israel - 2023](#)". 25 November 2025. (Hebrew).
12. **Triangle Region:** Haaretz. "[Israel seized land from Arab citizens based on temporary 1948 cease-fire line](#)". Nir Nasson. 15 March 2022.
- Many of the "Triangle" communities lie in close proximity to the West Bank. It has a predominately Muslim population and is traditionally an agricultural region. Umm Al Fahm is the biggest city in the region.
13. **Negev:** See footnote 9 for our note about our estimate for the Bedouin population in the Negev.
14. **Mixed Cities:** Moments of crisis often draw attention to mixed cities. During periods of heightened tension, [such as May 2021](#) and following October 7th 2023, mixed cities become flashpoints for inter-communal strain.

To learn more about Israel's mixed cities, explore Task Force explainer [here](#).

SECTION 3: JEWISH-ARAB RELATIONS

15. **Shared Society:** The number of NGOs is an estimate from ongoing research in the field.
16. **Language Barriers:** Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. "[New GR to promote Hebrew proficiency among native Arabic speakers](#)". 29 January 2025.

See also: Language Magazine. "[Arabic downgraded in Israel](#)". 14 August, 2018.

17. **Separate Schools:** Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. "[The Israeli Education System: An Overview](#)". December 2018.

- o Within the Arab system, there are also separate frameworks for Druze and Bedouin students.
- o In addition, there are 9 bilingual schools that operate in mixed cities with limited capacity.

18. Givat Haviva. "[Choosing Shared Society. Attitude Survey on Jewish-Arab Relations and Promoting Shared Society During the Crisis of 2025](#)". January 2025.

19. aChord. "[Relations between Jews and Arab-Bedouins in the Western Negev Following October 7](#)". March, 2025. (Hebrew).

SECTION 4: EDUCATION

20. **Number of Students:** Israeli CBS. "[Students in Primary and Secondary Education, by Grade](#)". 16 September 2025. (Hebrew).

21. **Matriculation Certificate:** Calcalist. Ilani, S. "[Arab education has surpassed Jewish education in matriculation eligibility](#)". 28 October 2025. (Hebrew).

22. **Higher Education:** Council for Higher Education. "Statistical data files on higher education in Israel". (Hebrew).

23. **Higher Education:** Israeli CBS. "[Education Level of Persons Aged 25-66 according to the CBS Education Register, 2008-2023](#)". 22 December 2025. (Hebrew).

SECTION 5: SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

24. **Local Economy:** Israeli CBS. "[Local Authorities by Socio-Economic Cluster of the Population](#)". 2019. Also: Israel Democracy Institute. "[Arab society in Israel 2023](#)". 2023.

- o For a detailed examination of urban planning issues in Arab society, see Task Force's 2020 report on the topic [here](#).

25. **Poverty Rates:** Jerusalem Post. "[Poverty and inequality in Israel is high and worrying, the National Insurance Institute says](#)". Eve Young. 18 December 2024.

26. **Employment Rates:** Alfano. "[Employment index 2024: Arab employment in Israel](#)". Israeli Democracy Institute. 2024. (Hebrew).

- o Employment Diversity is also an important issue for socioeconomic development in Arab society. As larger portions of Arab society complete higher education, the number of Arab employees in influential or high-earning industries has increased; however, gaps remain and representation is uneven:

Underrepresented:

- 15.2% of government employees are Arab after a decade of intensive efforts to increase representation. However, this representation is disproportionately in the Ministry of Health (where 2/3 of Arab civil servants are employed). Source: Civil Service Commission (Israel). "[Diversity and representation in the civil service: Report for 2022-2023](#)". May 2024. (Hebrew).

- In 2024, Arab men make up about 1.5% of Israel's high-tech employees, and Arab women make up about 0.5% of high-tech employees. Source: Israel Innovation Authority. "[The state of high-tech 2024: Annual report](#)". 2024.
- Only 1.4% of Arab women and 5.4% of Arab men hold managerial positions, compared with 5.3% of women and 11.3% of men in Jewish and other communities. Source: Alfanar. "[Employment index 2024: Arab employment in Israel](#)". Israeli Democracy Institute. 2024. (Hebrew).

Overrepresented:

- In 2023, Arabs made up a significant proportion of Israel's healthcare workforce, accounting for 25% of physicians, 27% of nurses, 27% of dentists, and 49% of pharmacists. Source: Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. "[Arab representation in Israeli healthcare professions: New study](#)". 31 March, 2025.

27. **Average Wage:** Israel Democracy Institute. "[Arab society in Israel 2023](#)". 2023.
28. **NEETs:** Israel Democracy Institute. "[Young Arabs in Israel: 2023 situation report](#)". 2023. Also: Report of the State Comptroller of Israel. "[The Government's Handling of Young NEET People Among the Arab Society](#)". May 2023.
29. **A Crisis of Personal Security: Crime:** Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. "[A Crisis of Personal Security | Organized Crime in Arab Society in Israel](#)". 14 April 2026.
30. **Socioeconomic Development:** To learn more about Resolution 550, see this Task Force resource [here](#).

Alongside GR-550, the government also approved additional multi-year socio-economic plans for specific minority communities: Druze & Circassian Communities (2025–2029), a five-year plan worth ~NIS 3.9 billion. Source: Jerusalem Post. "[Israeli gov't approved five year plan for Druze, Circassian communities in the north](#)". 9 March 2025.

SECTION 6: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

31. [Click here](#) for the most current list of all Knesset members by political party.
 - o Ra'am, the Islamic party, has 5 Arab MKs; Hadash-Ta'al has 4 Arab MKs. In the previous Knesset, Arab Members of Knesset also represented non-traditionally Arab parties but that is not the case in this government. Likud, New Hope – The National Right, and Yisrael Beiteynu each have 1 Druze MK.

32. Israel Democracy Institute. "[The Joint List](#)".

SECTION 7: OCTOBER 7 AND ENSUING WARS

33. **Shared Trauma:** Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. "[October 07 Resource Library for Educators](#)". 16 November 2023.
34. **Safety Infrastructure Gaps:** Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. "[Emergency Response Needs of Arab Communities in the War with Iran](#)". 5 March 2026.