

MAIN FINDINGS¹

1. Population (Tables 1, 2)

- At the end of 2006, the Ethiopian community in Israel numbered 110.7 thousand residents – about 76.1 thousand were immigrants, and 34.6 thousand were Israeli-born (about 31% of the community).
- About 74.3 immigrants arrived in Israel between 1984 and 2006, during three main periods:
 - 1984-1989 – about 17%. Of those, the majority (80%) immigrated in Operation Moses, in 1984-1985.
 - 1990-1999 – about 53%. Of those, over half arrived in 1991 in Operation Solomon.
 - 2000-2006 – 30%, at a rate of 3,000-3,500 immigrants per year.

2. Age Composition (Table 2)

- The Ethiopian community in Israel is young in comparison to the overall Jewish population of the country. It is characterized by a high percentage of children, and a low percentage of elderly people. In 2006, children aged 0-14 comprised over one-third of the Ethiopian community, whereas children in that age group comprised only about one-fourth of the overall Jewish population. The percentage of persons aged 65+ was about 5%, compared to 11% in the overall Jewish population.
- The young age composition of the Ethiopian community is also reflected in their low median age, which is 10 years below that of the overall Jewish population.
- In the Ethiopian population, the number of dependent persons is greater than the number of persons who provide support: only 47% of the members of the Ethiopian community are aged 20-64 (working age), compared to 55% in the overall Jewish population.

3. Geographical Distribution (Tables 4, 5, 6)

District and Sub-District

- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in two districts: the Central District (about 38%), and the Southern District (about 25%).

¹ Those of Ethiopian origin also include Israeli-born persons whose father was born in Ethiopia.

- About one-sixth of the members of the Ethiopian community live in the Ashqelon Sub-District (included in the Southern District). This is the largest concentration of members of the Ethiopian community in any Sub-District. Large concentrations of persons of Ethiopian origin are also found in the Rehovot Sub-District and in the Sharon Sub-District (included in the Central District).

Type of Locality

- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in urban localities, and only 2% live in rural localities.
- About one-fifth of the members of the Ethiopian community live in large urban localities,² and less than one percent of the Ethiopian community live in Tel Aviv-Yafo.

Localities and Statistical Areas (SAs)

- At the end of 2006, Netanya was the urban locality with the largest absolute number of residents from the Ethiopian community (over 10,000).
- About one-sixth of the residents of Kiryat Malakhi are of Ethiopian origin. The proportion of Ethiopian residents in that locality was the highest among all other urban localities in Israel.
- In four Statistical Areas, the proportion of residents from the Ethiopian community out of the total population of the Statistical Area was greater than one-third: In Rehovot – the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood (SA 064); in Kiryat Malakhi – the Ben Gurion, Herzl, Weizmann, and Newe Or neighborhoods (SA 005); in Netanya – the Ne’ot Shaqed (Azorim) - Centre neighborhood (SA 312); and in Rishon LeZiyyon – the Ramat Eliyahu (North) neighborhood (SA 311).

4. Internal Migration (Tables 7, 8)

- 6,852 of the members of the Ethiopian community changed their address during the course of 2006.
- In 2006, the main destination of the Ethiopian population was the Central District: 80% of the Ethiopians who moved to these districts arrived in the Petah Tiqwa and Rehovot Sub-Districts.
- The migration balance of the Ethiopian population was negative in the Southern and Northern Districts. Most of those who left the Southern District moved from the Be’er Sheva Sub-District, and most of those who left the Northern District moved from the Zefat Sub-District.

² Localities with 200,000 or more residents.

- At the level of localities, the largest number of Ethiopians moved to Petah Tiqwa, which was the city with the highest positive migration balance. Other localities with high numbers of new residents from the Ethiopian community and a positive migration balance of Ethiopians were: Rishon LeZiyyon and Jerusalem.
- The main localities with large numbers of Ethiopians who moved out and a negative migration balance in 2006 were: Be'er Sheva, Zefat, and Mevasseret Ziyyon (evidently those who left absorption centers).

5. Marriage, Divorce, and Marital Status (Tables 3, 9, 10)

- In 2006, 420 men and 466 women of Ethiopian origin married.
- Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry other members of their community. This trend is somewhat more prevalent among men.
- Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry at a later age than their counterparts in the overall Jewish population. In 2006, the median age of Ethiopian men at first marriage was 1.6 years older than the median age of men in the overall Jewish population. The median age of Ethiopian women at first marriage was 1.2 years older than that of women in the overall Jewish population.
- In 2006, 214 men and 217 women of Ethiopian origin divorced.
- The divorce rate among the Ethiopian population was higher than the divorce rate among the overall Jewish population. In 2006, 15 out of 1,000 marrying couples divorced, compared to only 10 in the overall Jewish population.
- Men of Ethiopian origin tend to divorce at a slightly later age than men in the overall Jewish population. In 2006, the median age of Ethiopian men who divorce was 0.6 years higher than the median age of their counterparts in the overall Jewish population. In contrast, women of Ethiopian origin tend to divorce at an earlier age by 2.2 years compared to the age of women in the overall Jewish population.
- Most of the young people aged 20-24 in the Ethiopian population had never married: about 97% of the men, and about 83% of the women. Among Ethiopians aged 25-29, the percentage of never-married men was still high - 76%, but there is a drastic decline in the proportion of never-married women in that age group - only about 43%.

6. Fertility (Tables 11, 12)

- In 2006, the average age of Ethiopian women at the time they gave birth was 30.1 years – similar to the average age of women in the Jews and Others group. The average age of Ethiopian women at the time of their first birth was 26.1 years – 1.5 years less than the age of women in the Jews and Others group.
- In 2006, there were 2,042 newborns of Ethiopian origin; a minority of whom was born to Israeli-born women whose fathers had immigrated from Ethiopia.
- In 2006, the average number of children that a woman is expected to bear in her lifetime (the total fertility rate) for women of Ethiopian origin was 2.51 - lower than the rate found for women in the Jews and Others group - 2.67.
- The highest specific fertility rate among women of Ethiopian origin was in the 25-29 year age group, whereas the highest specific fertility rate among women in the Jews and Others group was in the 30-34 year age group.
- The highest total fertility rate was found among women who immigrated to Israel in 1990-1999. For those who immigrated in 1980-1989 and 2000-2006, the total fertility rate was lower.
- For women who immigrated to Israel in 1980-1989, the highest specific fertility rate was found among those in the 30-34 year age group. For those who immigrated in 1990-1999 and between 2000-2006, the highest specific fertility rate was found in the 25-29 year age group.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Age: The number of completed years at the estimation date.

Median age: The age that 50% of the population is under, and 50% of the population is over.

Dependency ratio: The ratio of children (ages 0-19 years) and elderly people (aged 65+) in the population to the number of work-age residents (this is the indicator of the ratio of “supporting” populations to “dependent” populations).

Sex ratio: The number of live births of males for every 1,000 live births of females.

Marital status: includes never-married, married, divorced, and widowed. Marital status is based on the results of the 1995 Census of Population and Housing, and on changes registered in the Population Registry at a later date.

Immigrant: A person who entered the country to take up permanent residence under the Law of Return or the Law of Entrance.

Country of birth: Defined by borders at the time of the estimate, with the exception of the USSR, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia. Data on those countries relate to the political situation before their dissolution.

Ethiopian origin: The population of Ethiopian origin includes those born in Ethiopia as well as Israeli-born persons whose father was born in Ethiopia.

District and sub-district: Districts and sub-districts were defined according to the official administrative division of the state, which includes 6 districts and 15 sub-districts. In 1972, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area were added, in order to characterize the Jewish localities and the Jewish population in those areas. As of August 2005 – Judea and Samaria Area.

Type of locality: Localities in Israel are divided into two categories: urban and rural localities.

Urban localities: Urban localities include all localities with 2,000 or more residents, and are classified by size (also including rural types of localities with a population of over 2,000).

Rural localities: All localities with less than 2,000 residents (even the localities that are not agricultural).

Internal migration: Change of address from one locality to another locality in Israel. Migration between localities does not include the first address of residence registered for new immigrants in the population registry file when they arrived in Israel.

Specific fertility rates, by age: The number of live births for mothers of a given age, divided by the average permanent population of women of the same age.

Total fertility rate: The average number of children that a woman is expected to bear during her lifetime. The rate is based on the assumption that child-bearing among all women in a certain generation will occur between the ages of 15 and 49, according to the specific birth rates among the women in the population in a given year (synthetic cohort).

Birth order: The ordinal number of a live birth in relation to all of the previous live births a mother has had.

Age of the newborn's mother: Calculation of the mother's age is by her year of birth, on the assumption that the date of birth is July 1st. Hence, if the event took place in the second half of the year, the age is equivalent to the difference between the year of the event and the year of the birth. If the event took place in the first half of the year, the age is equivalent to the said difference less 1.

The **average age** is:

$$\frac{\sum xf_x}{\sum f_x} + 0.5$$

Where:

x=age

f_x= number of cases at age x

Since the age relates to the last birthday, i.e., the full number of years reached, half a year should be added to the average age. For example, age 21 refers to all those who reached the full age of 21 but have not yet reached the age of 22, so that their average age is 21.5.