

## PREFACE

The Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS] hereby presents the Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2005; the 56<sup>th</sup> annual abstract published since the establishment of the State.

The Statistical Abstract is the most outstanding publication produced by the CBS. As in previous years, the Abstract presents data on various aspects of life for a broad range of users. The Abstract presents data from regular CBS publication series, as well as data from censuses and special or periodic surveys conducted by the CBS. More detailed data on specific topics can be found in the other publications of the CBS.

This Statistical Abstract presents new data in several fields, such as: land use; multiple births; data on new cases of HIV carriers and AIDS patients; data from the national health survey on persons diagnosed with mental disorders; data from the social survey, which deal with measures of well-being among the Israeli population and include information on individuals' perceptions of their ability to cope with problems, satisfaction with work, perceptions regarding their economic situation, and areas in which they have made sacrifices due to financial difficulties. Additionally, the Abstract presents new data on teaching staff in the educational system, and teaching staff in special education. Moreover, data have been added on gross domestic capital formation in infrastructure and in the governmental sector; and in the chapter on Foreign Trade, data have been added on imports by country of origin and country of purchase. In the chapter on Business, data have been added from the business registry file which was recently prepared at the CBS. These data include information from the file of VAT dealers and from the National Insurance Institute file of employers. The chapter on Business also presents the balance sheet of trade, services, transport and communications industries. The chapter on Agriculture contains new marketing data for livestock and livestock products, by natural regions and regional councils. In the chapter on Environment, data have been added on the threat of extinction to species of vertebrates in Israel.

The black-and-white diagrams that appeared in the Abstract in previous years have been removed, and colour diagrams appear only on the CBS website.

The tables and introductions presented in the Abstract in Hebrew and English also appear on the CBS website [www.cbs.gov.il](http://www.cbs.gov.il) in Word, Excel and PDF formats.

A CD ROM containing all of the material in the Abstract as well as colour diagrams based on the statistics presented in the Abstract is attached to the printed copy of the publication. In addition, a search engine is available on the CD ROM, which allows for rapid location of data in the Tables and Introductions.

Preparation of the Abstract - like all of the activities of the Central Bureau of Statistics - was a collaborative effort involving the families and people who took part in the various surveys, as well as establishments, businesses, institutions and government ministries. On behalf of the staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics, I wish to thank all these people.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to all of the staff members of the different units of the CBS for the dedicated work and daily efforts, and special thanks to the members of the Statistical Abstract steering committee for their important contribution, and to the team of experts from the various departments at the CBS who contributed toward maintaining consistency in the use of definitions and terms in the Abstract.

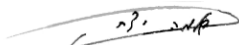
Ms. Edith Noy was in charge of scientific editing.

The Abstract was edited by Ms. Orit Penso with assistance from the staff of the Publication Division at the CBS.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of the people who worked on the Abstract inside and outside of the Bureau.

Jerusalem, 2005

Prof. Shlomo Yitzhaki



The Government Statistician

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