

Media Release

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Christmas 2021 - Christians in Israel

- **On the eve of Christmas 2021, approximately 182,000 Christians¹** live in Israel; they comprise about 1.9% of the State of Israel's population.
- **The Christian population grew** by 1.4% in 2020.
- 76.7% of the Christians in Israel are Arab Christians. They constitute 7.0% of the total Arab population of Israel.
- **Most of the Arab Christians reside in the Northern District (70.3%) and in the Haifa District (13.5%).**
- 41.7% of the non-Arab Christians reside in the Tel Aviv and Central Districts, as compared to 34.2% in the Northern and Haifa Districts.
- **The localities with the largest Arab Christian populations** are Nazareth (21,400), Haifa (16,500), Jerusalem (12,900), and Shefar'am (10,400), as of the end of 2020.
- 803 Christian couples **married** in Israel in 2019. The average age at the first marriage of Christian grooms was 30.3, and that of Christian brides was 26.7.
- In 2020, 2,497 **infants were born to Christian women**, about 72% of whom (1,797 infants) were born to Arab Christian women.
- **The average number of children up to age 17** in Christian families with children up to this age is 1.93. Of these Christian families, the average number of children up to age 17 in Arab Christian families is 2.04 – smaller than the numbers in Jewish families (2.43) and in Moslem families (2.60).

¹ This preliminary estimate for December 2021 does not include Christians who do not appear in the Population Register (foreigners).

**For explanations and clarifications,
please contact the Statistical Information Center at 02-659-2666**

- In the 2020/21 school year, 27,044 Christian **students** – 1.4% of the total number of students – attended primary and secondary schools.
- 81.6% of Christian students in the twelfth grade were **entitled to a matriculation certificate**.
- 53.1% of the Arab Christians and only 35.4% of non-Arab Christians **continued their studies toward a first degree within eight years of graduating secondary school**, compared to only 34.0% of the total number of secondary school graduates in the Arab school system and 47.2% of all secondary school graduates in Hebrew education.
- The **proportion of women among the Christian students** was higher than women's proportion among the total number of students in all degrees and particularly in the advanced degrees: 64.1% and 53.2%, respectively, of those studying for a third degree, and 72.9% and 63.8%, respectively, of those studying for a second degree.
- Compared to Moslem Arab students, the percentage of **Christian Arab students studying for a first degree** in following fields of study was lower:² Business and management sciences, languages, literature and regional studies, and paramedical studies. However, the percentage of those studying engineering and architecture, art, crafts and applied art, and medicine was higher.
- Of the total number of **students** studying toward a **first degree**, Christians were most highly represented in the following fields:³ musicology (15.1%), management information systems (12.4%), and transportation engineering (11.2%).
- **The percentage of participation in the labour force** in 2020 among Christians aged 15 and over was 64.6% (68.2% of men and 61.9% of women). This figure was 53.7% among Christian Arabs (62.3% of men and 45.2% of women).
- Approximately 17,500 Christians – a rate of 98 per 1,000 persons – were **registered at the Ministry of Labor, Welfare, and Social Services** in 2020. This percentage was lower than that of Moslems who were registered (approximately 183 per 1,000 persons) and Jews who were registered (107 per 1,000 persons).

² Fields in which at least 100 students were studying for a first degree.

³ Excluding students in academic colleges of education. Students studying two fields were counted in each of their fields of study. Fields in which at least 100 students were studying for a first degree.

- In 2020, about 3,500 Christians – a rate of about 20 per 1,000 persons – **were placed in social service frameworks**. This rate is lower than the rate among Moslems (about 32 per 1,000 persons) and Jews (about 28 per 1,000 persons).
- In the year of court judgement 2019, the **rate of persons judged in criminal trials** among the Christian population in Israel was about 211 per 100,000 persons; among persons judged in criminal trials, the rate among non-Arab Christians was substantially higher than that among Arab Christians (about 293 versus 187 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The rate of persons **convicted in criminal trials** among the Christian population was about 187 per 100,000 persons; among the convicted persons, the rate among non-Arab Christians was substantially higher than that among Arab Christians (about 259 versus 166 per 100,000 persons, respectively).
- The most **common offences among convicted persons** in the Christian population were offences against public order (27.4%), against morality (19.7%), and bodily harm (16.4%).
- **84% of Christians are satisfied with their life**: 24% answered “very satisfied” and 60% were “satisfied”.