



ISRAEL



INTRODUCTION

The State of Israel was declared in 1948, after Britain withdrew from its mandate of Palestine. Israel was admitted as a member of the UN in 1949 and saw rapid population growth, primarily due to migration from Europe and the Middle East. The Israeli economy has undergone a dramatic transformation in the last 25 years, led by cutting-edge, high-tech sectors.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Isaac HERZOG

Head of Government

Prime Minister Benjamin NETANYAHU

Government Type

parliamentary democracy

Capital

Jerusalem¹

Legislature

unicameral Knesset (120 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Michael HERZOG

US Ambassador

Ambassador designate Jacob J. LEW

GEOGRAPHY

Area¹

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

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

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income, technology- and industrial-based economy; highly dense, fast-growing labor force; recent debt spikes; persistent inequality and poverty; significant tariff and regulatory burdens, especially in agriculture; quantitative easing in effect

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$393.9 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$42,100 (2021 est.)

Industries - high-technology products, wood, paper products, potash, phosphates, food/beverages, tobacco, caustic soda, cement, pharmaceuticals, construction, metal products, chemical products, plastics, cut diamonds, textiles, footwear

Agricultural products - milk, potatoes, poultry, tomatoes, carrots, turnips, tangerines/mandarins, green chilies/peppers, eggs, vegetables

Exports \$143.9 billion (2021 est.)

diamonds, integrated circuits, refined petroleum, medical instruments, packaged medicines, measuring instruments (2021)

partners: US 27%, China 8%, India 4%, Germany 3%, Ireland 3% (2021)

Imports \$124.6 billion (2021 est.)

diamonds, cars, broadcasting equipment, integrated circuits, refined petroleum, packaged medicines (2021)

partners: China 14%, US 11%, Turkey 7%, Germany 7%, Switzerland 5% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

9 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.43% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Jewish 73.5% (of which Israel-born 79.7%, Europe/America/Oceania-born 14.3%, Africa-born 3.9%, Asia-born 2.1%), Arab 21.1%, other 5.4% (2022 est.)

Language

Hebrew (official), Arabic (special status under Israeli law), English (most commonly used foreign language)

Religion

Jewish 73.5%, Muslim 18.1%, Christian 1.9%, Druze 1.6%, other 4.9% (2022 est.)