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 Naftali BENNETT
Government Type
parliamentary democracy
Capital
Jerusalem
Legislature
unicameral Knesset (120 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
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

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income, technology- and industrial-based economy; recent debt spikes; high inequality and poverty disparities persist; significant tariff and regulatory burdens, especially in agriculture; hard-hit by COVID-19; quantitative easing in effect
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $353.4 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $38,300 (2020 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 $113.9 billion (2020 est.)
diamonds, packaged medicines, medical instruments, integrated circuits, refined petroleum (2019)
partners: US 26%, China 9%, UK 7% (2020)
Imports $96.53 billion (2020 est.)
diamonds, cars, crude and refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: US 12%, China 11%, Germany 7.5%, Switzerland 7%, Turkey 6% (2020)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
8.8 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.45% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Jewish 74.1% (of which Israel-born 78.1%, Europe/America/Oceania-born 15.2%, Africa-born 4.3%, Asia-born 2.4%), Arab 21%, other 4.9% (2019 est.)
Language
Hebrew (official), Arabic (special status under Israeli law), English (most commonly used foreign language)
Religion
Jewish 74%, Muslim 18%, Christian 1.9%, Druze 1.6%, other 4.5% (2020 est.)

1the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in December 2017 without taking a position on the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty
as of December 2021