



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

Jerusalem¹

Legislature

unicameral Knesset (120 seats)

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; 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.)

