IMMIGRATION

Citizens of foreign countries entering or leaving Israel through the border checkpoints fill out a form appropriate to their type of visa: immigrant, tourist, temporary resident, etc. The form's content, which includes date of passage, is entered into the computer either by officers from the Ministry of the Interior or by officers from the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption. Data on immigrants entering the country are transferred to the Population Register, while data on foreigners, arriving and departing, are transferred to the border control file.

As of April 1993, the border crossing form for Israelis was cancelled. Data on border crossings of Israelis are recorded in the border checkpoints’ terminals and then transferred to the Ministry of the Interior, where they are recorded in the border control file.

Due to technical difficulties in the border control file, not all of the border crossings were recorded in the file. Consequently, data on Israelis departing and arriving in 1994 are based on an estimate. The high balances of tourist movements reflect a technical deficiency in the registration of tourist departures. This deficiency, which was estimated at 1%-2% in the early nineties, reached 3%-4% in 1997-1998.

DEFINITIONS

Immigrant: a person entering the country to take up permanent residence under the Law of Return or the Law of Entrance.

Potential immigrant: a person entering the country on a potential immigrant visa. According to the regulations of the Ministry of the Interior, from June 1969, a potential immigrant is defined as “a person entitled to an immigrant visa or certificate according to the Law of Return 1950, and who intends to enter Israel and to stay there for a period exceeding three months”. As of 1991 a potential immigrant is a person entitled to an immigrant visa or certificate according to the Law of Return 1950, and who enters Israel up to 3 years to examine the possibility and the conditions of settling in Israel as an immigrant.

Movement of potential immigrants: entrance and departure of potential immigrants, after their first arrival.

Imigrating citizen: a person, born to an Israeli citizen during his stay abroad, who enters Israel with the intention to settle.

Temporary resident: a foreign national entering Israel for a stay of over six months for purposes of temporary work, study, etc.

Departing Israeli: a person with Israeli citizenship and a permanent resident without Israeli citizenship departing abroad on a visit, for business, as emissaries, emigrating or for other purposes.

Tourist: a foreign national who enters Israel on a tourist visa, and is neither an immigrant, an immigrating citizen, a potential immigrant, a temporary resident, nor a cruise passenger; also included are diplomats.

Cruise passengers: visitors on a cruise, or on foreign navy vessels, generally for a day or two, usually spending their nights on board (until 1984 these visitors were called "visitors on cruisers"). Due to technical problems, data for 1999, by citizenship, are not published.

Tourist who changed his status to potential immigrant or immigrant: a person who entered Israel as a tourist, and during his stay in the country applied for, and received, the status of an immigrant or potential immigrant.

Country of birth is defined by borders at the time of the estimate, with the exception of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Data on those countries relate to the political situation before their dissolution.

EXPLANATIONS AND METHODS OF COMPUTATION

As of 1970, the tables include movement of residents and tourists from East Jerusalem, unless otherwise stated.

From May 1985 table 4.1 includes Israelis and tourists in transit to Sinai (up to 14 days) via the Elat checkpoint.

As of August 1994, the tables include movement through the Arava checkpoint and as of November 1994, also through the Nahar Hayarden checkpoint, both on the Jordanian border.

Table 4.1 includes data on immigrants who were registered at the border checkpoints. Their number differs from the data in Table 4.2, which include also those who changed their status in the bureaus of the Ministry of Interior from tourist or temporary resident to immigrant or potential
immigrant; they differ also from data in Table 2.2, which include those who changed their status as well as immigrating citizens. Moreover, as of 1970, all tables include non-Jewish immigrants but do not include "immigrating citizens" (see definition above). More details on the sources of data on movements of tourists appeared in the publications on tourists in the Bureau's Special Series.

IMMIGRANTS

As of 1974 the age of immigrants has been computed according to the date of birth and of immigration (day, month and year), and the age of the immigrant on the day of his immigration. Until 1973, age was computed based only on the difference between year of birth and of immigration.

Table 4.2 includes, in data for 1919-1948, "illegal immigrants", immigrants and all tourists who remained in the country, by year of arrival. Since the establishment of the State (15 V 1948), data include tourists who changed their status to immigrants according to the year in which they changed their status. In 1969, an additional status was created - "potential immigrants". Ever since, tourists who changed their status to immigrants and potential immigrants have been included according to the year in which they changed their status (see also note 3 to Table 2.2, which also includes immigrating citizens and Table 4.1, which only includes immigrants according to type of visa at arrival in Israel). Data for 1948-1949 are according to continent and country of birth only.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS
1076 Immigrant Population from USSR (Former), 1995 - Demographic Trends
1132 Immigration to Israel, 1998
1142 Tourism 1999

CURRENT BRIEFINGS IN STATISTICS
26, 1997 Households of Immigrants who Arrived from the Former USSR in October - December 1993, a Follow-up Survey, One and Two Years after Immigration
27, 1997 Employment of Immigrants who Arrived from the Former USSR in October-December 1993, a Follow-up Survey, Two Years after Immigration
8, 1998 Mortality among Immigrants from Former USSR 1990-1994

26, 1998 Departures Abroad of Israelis 1995-1996
2, 1999 Household Expenditure Survey 1997, First Findings
17, 2000 Immigrant Population from the Former USSR, Selected Data 1998

JUBILEE PUBLICATIONS (on the occasion of Israel's 50th year)
Tourism (No. 1 in the series).