

PRESS RELEASE

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The Ethiopian Community in Israel

- At the end of 2011 the Ethiopian community in Israel numbered 125,500 residents.¹ Approximately 81,900 were born in Ethiopia and 43,500 were born in Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia.
- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 37% of the Ethiopian population) and the Southern District (approximately 24% of the Ethiopian population).
- 90% of married persons of Ethiopian origin married someone of the same origin, men more than women (92% versus 88%, respectively).
- Live births: In 2011, 2,682 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin.² In that year, the average number of births that a woman of Ethiopian origin is expected to have during her lifetime was 2.7 children.
- The percentage of 12th grade pupils of Ethiopian origin who took matriculation exams reached 87% in 2011, compared to 82% among the general population in the Hebrew education system. However, the percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate among students of Ethiopian origin was only 43%, compared with 58% among the general population. The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate who met university entrance requirements was about a quarter of students of Ethiopian origin (22%), compared with half of the pupils in the general population in the Hebrew education system (50%).
- Among individual sports, the prevalent sport in which athletes of Ethiopian origin participated in was athletics; 84 athletes of Ethiopian origin were engaged in it (10% of total athletes in this sport and 81% of all athletes of Ethiopian origin).
- Of the total Ethiopian students,³ 88.5% were studying for a first degree (28% were studying in their first year), 10.8% were studying for a second degree, 0.5% for a third degree, and 0.2% were

¹ The Ethiopian population in Israel includes also those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

² Women born in Ethiopia or women born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

³ Among total students studying for a first degree, not including students studying in the Open University. The Open University is a unique institution in Israeli academic environment. It does not have a process of candidates for studies for a first degree. Admissions are without conditions and previous requirements. It is possible to study a single course or a battery of courses, or to pursue a full program of study toward a Bachelor's degree. Applicants joining the Open University student body are not required

studying for an academic certificate. For the sake of comparison, 20.4% of total students in Israel were studying for a second degree and 4.1% were studying for a third degree.

- The percentage of women among students of Ethiopian origin who are studying for a first degree was higher than the percentage of women among the general student population studying for a first degree – 65.8% compared with 56.1%, respectively. The percentage of women among students of Ethiopian origin who are studying for a second degree was significantly higher than that among the general student population – 63.4% compared with 59.3%, respectively.
- Households of Ethiopian origin, in which the head of the household or his father were born in Ethiopia, spend 34% less than the average of the general population. The average monthly household expenditure in households of Ethiopian origin was NIS 9,234 compared with NIS 13,967 among the general population households.

Geographic Distribution

Most of the population of Ethiopian origin lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 37%) and the Southern District (approximately 24%). At the end of 2011, Netanya was the locality with the most members of the Ethiopian community (approximately 10,300 persons).

Approximately 16% of **Qiryat Mal'akhi** residents are of Ethiopian origin, making it the urban locality with the largest percentage of residents of Ethiopian origin.

Table A. Population of Ethiopian Origin at the End of 2011, in Main Localities

Locality Name (1)	Total Population in Locality (thousands)	Total Population of Ethiopian Origin in Locality (thousands)	Population of Ethiopian Origin as a Percentage of the Total Population in Locality
Netanya	189.7	10.3	5.4
Be'er Sheva	196.3	6.8	3.5
Ashdod	212.3	6.7	3.1
Rehovot	118.1	6.4	5.4
Rishon LeZiyyon	232.4	6.3	2.7
Ashqelon	117.4	5.9	5.0
Petah Tiqwa	210.4	5.2	2.5
Hadera	82.5	5.1	6.1
Jerusalem	804.4	5.1	0.6
Haifa	270.3	3.9	1.5
Ramla	67.9	3.6	5.4

to enroll in a faculty or department, but rather in specific courses. An individual enrolled in a course becomes a student of the Open University. In addition to students studying for a degree, there are students studying not for the sake of a degree, and therefore the Open University is counted separately.

Locality Name (1)	Total Population in Locality (thousands)	Total Population of Ethiopian Origin in Locality (thousands)	Population of Ethiopian Origin as a Percentage of the Total Population in Locality
Qiryat Gat	47.7	3.4	7.1
Lod	70.3	3.3	4.7
Afula	41.3	3.3	8.1
Qiryat Mal'akhi	20.9	3.3	15.6
Bet Shemesh	84.2	2.9	3.5
Yavne	33.3	2.5	7.5
Zefat	32.2	2.2	7.0
Mevasseret Ziyon	25.3	2.1	8.4
Bat Yam	128.2	2.0	1.6

(1) Localities with 2,000 or more persons of Ethiopian origin.

Immigrants

In the previous decade, an average of approximately 3,000 immigrants from Ethiopia arrived per year. Beginning in 2008, there was a decrease of about half in the number of immigrants from Ethiopia: 1,582 immigrants in 2008, 239 immigrants in 2009 (a year with an unusually small amount of immigrants from Ethiopia). The number of immigrants from Ethiopia once again increased with the government decision to bring the remaining Falash Mura community to Israel, and in 2010, 1,655 immigrants came to Israel. In 2011, another 2,666 immigrants came. Approximately 1,558 immigrants (a preliminary figure) have arrived from Ethiopia during the first nine months of 2012 (January-September). The population of Ethiopian immigrants is characterized by a relatively young age composition: In 2011, the average median age of the immigrants from Ethiopia was 18.5, compared with 29.9 among the total immigrants during this year. Most of the immigrants from Ethiopia were married: 59% of the men and 64% of the women, aged 15 and over.

Age Composition

The population of Ethiopian origin is a younger population than the population of Jews and Others,⁴ and it is characterized by a large percentage of children and a low percentage of persons aged 65 and over. In 2011, the percentage of children aged 0-14 reached 31%, compared with approximately 26% in the population of Jews and Others. The percentage of those aged 65 and over was approximately 6%, compared with approximately 12% in the population of Jews and Others.

Gender Ratio

In 2011, the number of men in the population of Ethiopian origin was equal to the number of women, compared with 967 men per 1,000 women in the population of Jews and Others.

⁴ Jews and Others includes Christians, non-Arabs, and those who are not classified by religion in the Ministry of Interior.

Marriages, Divorces, and Births⁵

During the year, 620 grooms and 648 brides of Ethiopian origin were married in Israel, 93% of them were being married for the first time.

Table B. Persons of Ethiopian Origin Marrying in 2010

	Grooms	Brides
Total persons of Ethiopian origin marrying	620	648
Those born in Ethiopia – total	583	595
Immigrated by 1990	168	158
Immigrated after 1990	415	437
Those born in Israel, father born in Ethiopia	37	53

Of persons of Ethiopian origin marrying, 92% married a spouse of the same origin, men more than women (92% and 88%, respectively).

Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry at a later age than the general Jewish population. The median age⁶ at first marriages among men of Ethiopian origin stood at 29.1 in 2010 (1.5 years higher than Jewish grooms). Among the women of Ethiopian origin the median age at first marriages stood at 26.3 (0.8 years higher than Jewish brides).

In first marriages, the age gap between men and women among those marrying of Ethiopian origin (about three years) was higher than the age gap among the general Jewish population (about two years).

During 2010, 249 men and 249 women were divorced among those of Ethiopian origin.

The rate of divorce among the population of Ethiopian origin was higher than the rate of divorce among the general Jewish population. Approximately 15 of every 1,000 married couples were divorced, compared with about nine of every 1,000 married couple among the general Jewish population.

Live births: In 2011, 2,682 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin.⁷ In that year, the average number of births that a woman of Ethiopian origin is expected to have during her lifetime was 2.7 children.

Education (Definitions at the end of the Press Release)

General

- In the school year of 2010/11, 35,050 pupils of Ethiopian origin studied in primary and secondary education; they constituted 2.3% of the total pupils. Of those, 59.7% were pupils born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, and the rest were born in Ethiopia.

⁵ Data on marriages and divorces relate to 2010.

⁶ Median age: The age at which half the persons marrying are younger and half are older.

⁷ Women born in Ethiopia or women born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

- Of the primary and secondary pupils of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia, 57.2% study under State/General supervision, compared with only 23.3% of pupils of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia. In the State-Religious schools, 39.5% of the pupils of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia study versus 74.3% of the pupils of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia.
- Among upper secondary education pupils of Ethiopian origin,⁸ most of them (51.7%) study in the general education track and 46% study in the technological track. This is in contrast to the distribution among upper secondary education pupils who are not of Ethiopian origin, in which 65.3% study in a general track and 33.4% study in a technological track.⁹

Achievements in Education

- In the 2010/11 school year, the number of secondary school graduates of Ethiopian origin (those born in Ethiopia or whose father was born in Ethiopia) was approximately 3,000 pupils, which comprised 4% of the total pupils in Grade 12 in Hebrew education.
- The percentage of those taking matriculation exams among pupils of Ethiopian origin reached 87% of those who graduated Grade 12 in 2011, compared with 82% of the general population in Hebrew education. However, the percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate among them was lower: 43% versus 58%, respectively. The share of holders of a matriculation certificate that meets university entrance requirements was about a quarter of pupils of Ethiopian origin (22%), compared with half of the general population of Hebrew education pupils (50%).
- The share of the second generation (those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia) increases over the years, and in 2011 they composed more than half of the total secondary school graduates of Ethiopian origin – 55%, compared with 27% in 2005 and 7% in 2000. An examination over the years shows that the percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate was higher among those born in Ethiopia than among the second generation of Ethiopian origin – 49% compared with 39%, respectively. However, the percentage of those meeting university entrance requirements, who are potential candidates for continuing studies at institutions of higher learning, was higher among the second generation – 26%, compared with 18% among those born in Ethiopia.

Special Need Pupils

- The percentage of pupils born in Ethiopia in special education, whether in primary education (12.2%) or secondary education (5.6%), is similar to the percentage among the general population (10.2% and 7%, respectively).

⁸ In this finding there were not significant differences between those born in Ethiopia and those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, and they are presented together.

⁹ The percentages here do not total 100% because there are pupils in the agricultural track, as well as those without a track.

- Among those born in Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia, the percentage of special education pupils, especially in primary education (16.2%) was higher than both the percentage of special education of pupils born in Ethiopia (12.2%) and the percentage of special education pupils among the general population (10.2%).

Pupils Who Dropped Out of the Education System

- In 2010/11 and in the transition to 2011/12, the percentage of pupils of Ethiopian origin who dropped out was slightly higher than the general population of pupils in Hebrew education: Approximately 1.6% of approximately 35,000 pupils of Ethiopian origin who began to study in grades 1-12 in schools under Ministry of Education supervision in the school year of 2010/11 dropped out during that year or in transition to 2011/12, compared with 1.49% among the general Hebrew education.
- Of 561 pupils of Ethiopian origin who dropped out from grades 7-12 from schools under supervision of the Ministry of Education, 34.23% transferred to studies in another official educational framework (in schools under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry or in yeshivot).
- The percentage of pupils who dropped out in primary school is especially low among those of Ethiopian origin – only 0.23% of them drop out, compared with 0.50% dropouts among the total pupils in Hebrew education at these grade levels.

Athletes Actively Engaging in Individual Sports

- In 2009/10 there were 104 athletes of Ethiopian origin actively engaging in individual sports (total athletes actively engaging in individual sports in that year – 22,319). Of those, 88 were born in Ethiopia, and 16 were born in Israel of parents born in Ethiopia.
- The vast majority of athletes of Ethiopian origin in individual sports are active in the division of "athletics and exercise" – 84 athletes of Ethiopian origin participate in this sport (10% of the total athletes who are active in this division, and 81% of all athletes of Ethiopian origin).
- The athletes of Ethiopian origin comprised 14% of the total men athletes in the athletics division, and 5% of the women athletes in this division.
- The highest number of athletes of Ethiopian origin was of the 14 – 16 age group.

Higher Education and Science

Students of Ethiopian Origin – 2009/10

- In 2011/12, 303,650 students studied in all the institutions of higher education in Israel, of those, 2,580 students were of Ethiopian origin.
- Of the students of Ethiopian origin, 77.1% were born in Ethiopia and 22.9% were born in Israel to a father and/or mother of Ethiopian origin.
- Among the students of Ethiopian origin, 849 students studied in universities, 166 studied in the Open University, 1,258 studied in academic colleges (of those, 787 were in the budgeted colleges and 471 students were in non-budgeted colleges) and 307 students studied in colleges of education.
- Of the total students of Ethiopian origin,¹⁰ 88.5% were studying for a first degree (28% were studying in their first year), 10.8% were studying for a second degree, 0.5% for a third degree, and 0.2% were studying for an academic diploma. For the sake of comparison, 20.4% of the total students in Israel were studying for a second degree and 4.1% were studying for a third degree.
- In 2011/12, 4.9% of the population in Israel of Ethiopian origin, aged 18-39, were studying for a first or second degree. For the sake of comparison, the percentage of students among the general population in Israel at these ages was higher – 9.1%. An examination of the percentage of students among the population of Ethiopian origin, at these ages, by the place of birth, shows that 4.5% of those born in Ethiopia were studying for a first or second degree, compared with 6.6% of those born in Israel of Ethiopian origin.
- The proportion of students of Ethiopian origin among total university students in Israel stood at 0.7%, compared with 0.4% of the total students in the Open University, 1.2% of the total students in the academic colleges (1.4% of the budgeted colleges and 1.1% of the non-budgeted colleges) and one percent of all students in the colleges of education.
- Compared with the general population, students of Ethiopian origin tended to study more of the social sciences and less of natural sciences and mathematics, arts, medicine, as well as languages, literature, and regional studies. Of the total population of students studying for a first degree in Israel, 21.7% studied social sciences, compared with 31.9% of students of Ethiopian origin. The percentage of students studying general humanities was also higher among Ethiopian students

¹⁰ Among total students studying for a first degree, not including students studying in the Open University. The Open University is a unique institution in Israeli academic environment. It does not have a process of candidates for studies for a first degree. Admissions are without conditions and previous requirements. It is possible to study a single course or a battery of courses, or to pursue a full program of study toward a Bachelor's degree. Applicants joining the Open University student body are not required to enroll in a faculty or department, but rather in specific courses. An individual enrolled in a course becomes a student of the Open University. In addition to students studying for a degree, there are students studying not for the sake of a degree, and therefore the Open University is counted separately.

compared with the general student population (6% versus 3.8%, respectively). On the other hand, 16.9% of the general student population who are studying for a first degree in Israel studied engineering and architecture, while only 10.7% of the students of Ethiopian origin studied in this field. Additional fields of study in which similar gaps were found were: Natural sciences and mathematics (9.2% among the general student population versus 4% among Ethiopian students), arts, crafts, and applied art (3.8% versus 1.6%, respectively), medicine (0.9% versus 0.3%, respectively), and especially languages, literature, and regional studies (1.9% versus 0.6%, respectively). Among the students of Ethiopian origin for a first degree, there were two additional fields of study with a high percentage of students of Ethiopian origin: Education and teacher training (15.8%) and business and administration (16.1%). No significant differences were found between these percentages and the parallel percentages among the general student population studying for a first degree.

- The median age of student of Ethiopian origin studying for a first degree was 26.3, compared with 25.4 among the general student population studying for a first degree. For those studying for a second degree, the median age of students of Ethiopian origin was slightly younger than the general student population studying for a second degree (30.3 versus 30.9, respectively).
- The percentage of women among the Ethiopian students who are studying for a first degree was higher than the percentage of women in the general student population who are studying for a first degree – 65.8% versus 56.1%, respectively. The percentage of women among students of Ethiopian origin studying for a second degree was also significantly higher than that among the general student population studying for a second degree (63.4% versus 59.3%, respectively).

Data from the Household Expenditure Survey on the Ethiopian Population in Israel, 2011

Households of Ethiopian origin, in which the head of the household or his father were born in Ethiopia, spent 34% less, on the average, than the general population. The average monthly expenditure of households of Ethiopian origin amounted to NIS 9,234, compared with NIS 13,967 among the general population.

The data were obtained from the 2011 Household Expenditure Survey. The data on Ethiopian households are at risk for high sampling error due to the small number of observations.

Table C. Monthly Consumption Expenditure, by Main Categories, in Households of in which the Head of the Household is of Ethiopian Origin or has a Father Born in Ethiopia

	Total Households		Households of Ethiopian Origin	
	Consumption Expenditure in NIS	Composition of Expenditure: Percentage	Consumption Expenditure in NIS	Composition of Expenditure: Percentage
Consumption Expenditure - Total	13,967	100.0	9,234	100.0
Food (excluding vegetables and fruit)	1,842	13.2	1,544	16.7
Vegetables and fruit	409	2.9	262	2.8
Housing	3,501	25.1	2,406	26.1
Dwelling and household maintenance	1,307	9.4	783	8.5
Furniture and household equipment	574	4.1	315	3.4
Clothing and footwear	435	3.1	424	4.6
Health	741	5.3	267	2.9
Education, culture, and entertainment	1,714	12.3	1,183	12.8
Transport and communication	2,810	20.1	1,493	16.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	633	4.5	557	6.0

The percentage of expenditure by households of Ethiopian origin on clothing and footwear and food was higher than that among the general population in Israel. In contrast, the percentage of expenditure on health and transport and communication by households of Ethiopian origin was lower than that of the general population.

Regarding the ownership of communication products, there were large differences between the households of Ethiopian origin and those of the general population in the ownership of a computer and an Internet subscription. The differences were less when comparing the percentages of ownership of mobile phone, subscriptions to cable and satellite television, and television set.

The gaps between households of Ethiopian origin and households of the general population regarding the ownership of kitchen appliances are large, in that the percentages of ownership of most of the appliances in households of Ethiopian origin are much less than that among the general population, with the exception of an oven for cooking and baking.

Definitions

Pupil of Ethiopian origin – a pupil who was born in Ethiopia or whose father was born in Ethiopia.

Pupils in Hebrew education – Pupils studying in schools in which the language of instruction is Hebrew.

Dropped-out pupil – A pupil is considered dropped-out if s/he leaves studies during the 2010/11 school year or during the transition to the 2011/12 school year. The following are not defined as dropped-out: Pupils who left studies during the 2010/11 but returned in 2011/12, pupils who left studies and stayed abroad for at least 100 consecutive days, as well as pupils who transferred from one school to another.

Active athlete – An athlete who participates in a minimum number of contests, as defined in the sport division, and is of the minimum age defined in the division. All the athletes presented in this Press Release are in individual sports.