

PRESS RELEASE

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Jerusalem
October 30, 2013
300/2013

The Ethiopian Population in Israel Selected Data on the Occasion of the Sigd Holiday

- At the end of 2012 the Ethiopian community in Israel numbered 131,400 residents.¹ Approximately 84,600 were born in Ethiopia and 46,800 were natives of Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia.
- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 38% of the Ethiopian population) and the Southern District (approximately 24%).
- 89% of married persons of Ethiopian origin married someone of the same origin, men more than women (93% versus 86%, respectively).
- Live births: In 2012, 3,023 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 2.8 children.
- The percentage of students of Ethiopian origin who were entitled to a matriculation certificate reached 54% of the examinees in 2012, compared with 73% among all examinees of the Hebrew education system. The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate who met university entrance requirements was about 56% of Ethiopian students who were entitled to a matriculation certificate, compared with 84% of all students entitled to a matriculation certificate in the Hebrew education system.
- In 2011/12 and in the transition to 2012/13, the percentage of pupils of Ethiopian origin who dropped out was slightly lower than that of 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 2011/12 dropped out during that year or in transition to 2012/13, compared with 1.88% among the general Hebrew education
- The most prevalent sports in which athletes of Ethiopian origin participated in were football (soccer) and athletics; the percentage of their participation in these sports was especially high when compared to the share of these sports in the general population. The vast majority (about 85%) of athletes of Ethiopian origin played football compared with 36% in the general population; 6.4% of athletes of Ethiopian origin are engaged in athletics, compared with 1% of the athletes in the general population.

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.

- 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 population of students for a first degree – 66.8% versus 56.5%, respectively.
- The average monthly household expenditure in households of Ethiopian origin was NIS 9,539 compared with NIS 14,272 among the general population households.
- The percentage of the expenditure of households of Ethiopian origin on food (excluding fruits and vegetables), housing, furniture and household equipment was higher than the general population. In contrast, the percentage of expenditure on health, transportation and communications among households of Ethiopian origin were lower than the general population.

Geographic Distribution

Most of the population of Ethiopian origin lives in two main districts: the Central District (approximately 38%) and the Southern District (approximately 24%). At the end of 2012, Netanya was the locality with the most members of the Ethiopian community (approximately 10,700 persons).

The urban locality with the largest percentage of residents of Ethiopian origin was **Qiryat Mal'akhi** (16%).

Table A. Population of Ethiopian Origin at the End of 2012, 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	192.2	10.7	5.6
Rishon LeZiyyon	235.1	7.2	3.1
Ashdod	214.9	6.9	3.2
Be'er Sheva	197.3	6.8	3.4
Rehovot	120.9	6.6	5.4
Petah Tiqwa	213.9	6.0	2.8
Ashqelon	120.0	5.7	4.8
Jerusalem	815.3	5.5	0.7
Hadera	84.1	5.2	6.2
Haifa	272.2	4.6	1.7
Ramla	68.0	3.8	5.5
Qiryat Gat	48.3	3.5	7.3
Lod	71.1	3.5	4.9
Qiryat Mal'akhi	21.2	3.4	16.2
Afula	41.7	3.4	8.1
Bet Shemesh	89.8	3.3	3.7
Yavne	34.2	2.7	7.9
Bat Yam	129.4	2.3	1.8
Tel Aviv-Yafo	414.6	2.2	0.5

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

Immigrants

In 2012, 2,432 immigrants came to Israel from Ethiopia. This was slightly less than the number of immigrants who arrived in 2011 (2,666 immigrants). The declining trend in the number of immigrants from Ethiopia continued in 2013 as well: Approximately 1,315 immigrants (a preliminary figure) have arrived from Ethiopia during the first nine months of 2013 (January-September). This is in comparison with the same period in the previous year in which 1,558 immigrants arrived. The population of Ethiopian immigrants is characterized by a relatively young age composition: In 2012, the median age of the immigrants from Ethiopia was 17.9, compared with 29.2 among the total immigrants during this year. Most of the immigrants from Ethiopia in 2012 were married: 59.8% of the men and 60.5% 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",³ and it is characterized by a large percentage of children and a low percentage of persons aged 65 and over. In 2012, the percentage of children aged 0-14 reached 30%, 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 2012, the number of men in the population of Ethiopian origin was equal to the number of women, 1,002 men per 1,000 women, compared with 970 men per 1,000 women in the population of Jews and others.

Marriages, Divorces, and Births⁴

During the year, 654 grooms and 702 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 2011

	Grooms	Brides
Total persons of Ethiopian origin marrying	654	702
Those born in Ethiopia – total	612	610
Immigrated by 1990	172	136
Immigrated after 1990	440	474
Those born in Israel, father born in Ethiopia	42	92

Of persons of Ethiopian origin marrying, 89% married a spouse of the same origin, men more than women (93% versus 86%, respectively).

³ Jews and others includes Christians, non-Arabs, and those who are not classified by religion in the Ministry of Interior.

⁴ Data on marriages and divorces relate to 2011.

Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry at a later age than the general Jewish population. The median age⁵ at first marriages among men of Ethiopian origin stood at 29.3 in 2011 (1.4 years higher than Jewish grooms). Among the women of Ethiopian origin the median age at first marriages stood at 26.6 (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 2011, 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 2012, 3,023 infants were born to women of Ethiopian origin.⁶ In that year, the average number of births that a woman of Ethiopian origin is expected to have during her lifetime was 2.8 children.

Education

General

- In the school year of 201/12, 35,101 pupils of Ethiopian origin studied in primary and secondary education; they constituted 3.05% of the total pupils in Hebrew education. Of those, 60.7% were pupils born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia, and the rest were born in Ethiopia.
- Of the primary and secondary pupils of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia, 57.1% study under State/General supervision, compared with only 24.3% of pupils of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia. Of the pupils of Ethiopian origin who were not born in Ethiopia, 39.3% study in the State-Religious schools versus 73.3% of the pupils of Ethiopian origin who were born in Ethiopia.
- Among upper secondary education pupils of Ethiopian origin,⁷ most of them (50.7%) study in the general education track and 47.3% 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 64.2% study in a general track and 33.9% study in a technological track.

Matriculation Examinees

- In the 2011/12 school year, about 2,400 students of Ethiopian origin (born in Ethiopia or whose father was born in Ethiopia) took matriculation exams; they comprised about 4% of matriculation examinees in Hebrew education.

⁵ Median age: The age at which half the persons marrying are younger and half are older.

⁶ Women born in Ethiopia or women born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia.

⁷ 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.

- The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate among students of Ethiopian origin reached 54% of examinees in 2012, compared with 73% among the general population examinees in Hebrew education. The share of holders of a matriculation certificate that meets university entrance requirements was about 56% of those entitled who were of Ethiopian origin, compared with about 84% of the general population of Hebrew education pupils.
- The share of the second generation (those born in Israel whose father was born in Ethiopia) reached 53% of the total matriculation examinees of Ethiopian origin. The percentage of those entitled to a matriculation certificate was slightly higher among those born in Ethiopia than among the second generation of Ethiopian origin – 55% compared with 53%, 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 – 68%, compared with 43% among those born in Ethiopia.

Pupils Who Dropped Out of the Education System

- In 2011/12 and in the transition to 2012/13 the percentage of pupils of Ethiopian origin who dropped out was slightly lower 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 2011/12 dropped out during that year or in transition to 2012/13, compared with 1.9% among general Hebrew education.
- The percentage of dropping out from grades 1-6 was especially low among pupils of Ethiopian origin – only 0.1% of them dropped out, compared with a 1.1% drop out rate among the general population of pupils in Hebrew education in these grades. In 2011/12, there was a decrease in the percentage of pupils of Ethiopian origin who dropped out of grades 1-6 (compared with 0.2% in 2010/11), whereas the percentage of dropping out in the entire Hebrew education system actually increased in comparison with the previous year, from 0.5% to 1.1% of grades 1-6.
- The percentage of pupils of Ethiopian origin in grades 7-12 who dropped out was similar to the percentage of those dropping out among the general population in the Hebrew sector, and stood at 2.9% among pupils of Ethiopian origin, compared with 2.8% among the general population of pupils in Hebrew education.

Special Need Pupils

- The percentage of pupils born in Ethiopia in special education, whether in primary education (14%) or secondary education (6.9%), is similar to the percentage among the general population (11.1% and 7.6%, respectively).

- Among those born in Israel whose fathers were born in Ethiopia, the percentage of special education pupils, especially in primary education (18.1%) was higher than both the percentage of special education of pupils born in Ethiopia (14%) and the percentage of special education pupils among the general population (11.1%).

Sports

- In 2011/12, there were 838 athletes of Ethiopian origin actively engaging in sports,⁸ about 1% of total athletes actively engaging in sports. Most of them (815) were born in Ethiopia, and only 23 were born in Israel of parents born in Ethiopia.
- Women comprise only 4% of active athletes of Ethiopian origin. In contrast, women comprise 17% of active athletes in the general population.
- The most prevalent sports in which athletes of Ethiopian origin participated in were football (soccer) (712 athletes, who were 2.4% of all athletes in this division) and athletics (54 athletes, who were 6.5% of all athletes in this division).
- These two sport divisions were not only the most prevalent among athletes of Ethiopian origin, their prevalence were especially high among this population when compared to their share among the general population. The vast majority (about 85%) of athletes of Ethiopian origin played football compared with 36% in the general population; 6.4% of athletes of Ethiopian origin are engaged in athletics, compared with 1% of the athletes in the general population.

Higher Education and Science

Students of Ethiopian Origin

- In 2012/13, 309,650 students studied in all the institutions of higher education in Israel, of those, 2,694 students were of Ethiopian origin (0.9% of all students in Israel, their share among the general Israeli population was 1.5%).
- Of the students of Ethiopian origin, 75.4% were born in Ethiopia and 24.6% were born in Israel to a father of Ethiopian origin.
- Among the students of Ethiopian origin, 819 students studied in universities, 197 studied in the Open University, 1,411 studied in academic colleges (of those, 841 were in the budgeted colleges and 570 students were in non-budgeted colleges) and 267 students studied in colleges of education.

⁸ The numbers include athletes in both individual sports and team sports. Previously, the CBS published data only on individual sports. This year includes data on athletes in team sports for the first time.

- Of the total students of Ethiopian origin,⁹ 87.4% were studying for a first degree (28.7% were studying in their first year), 11.8% were studying for a second degree, 0.5% for a third degree, and 0.3% were studying for an academic diploma. For the sake of comparison, 20.7% of the total students in Israel were studying for a second degree and 4.0% were studying for a third degree.
- In 2012/13, 4.5% 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 – 10.2%.
- 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, 1.3% of the total students in the academic colleges (1.4% of the budgeted colleges and 1.2% of the non-budgeted colleges) and 0.8% 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, business administration and paramedical professions and less of engineering and architecture, natural sciences and mathematics, arts and applied art, and languages, literature, and regional studies. Of the total population of students studying for a first degree in Israel, 20.9% studied social sciences, compared with 29.9% of students of Ethiopian origin. The percentage of students who studied business administration among Ethiopian students was 16.5%, compared with 12% among the general student population; 8% of Ethiopian students studied paramedical professional, versus 5% among the general population. Fields of study in which fewer Ethiopian students studied for a first degree were: Engineering and architecture (10.4% versus 16.9%, respectively), natural sciences and mathematics (4.6% versus 9.3%, respectively), arts, crafts, and applied art (1.5% versus 3.8%, respectively), and languages, literature, and regional studies (0.5% versus 1.8%, respectively).
- The median age of student of Ethiopian origin studying for a first degree was 26.5, compared with 25.5 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 about the same as the general student population studying for a second degree (31 versus 31.1, respectively).

⁹ 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.

- 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 – 66.8% versus 56.5%, respectively. In contrast, the percentage of women among students of Ethiopian origin studying for a second degree was only slightly higher than that among the general student population studying for a second degree (60.1% versus 59.9%, respectively).

Data from the Household Expenditure Survey on the Ethiopian Population in Israel, 2012

Households of Ethiopian origin, in which the head of the household or his father were born in Ethiopia, spent 33% less, on the average, than the general population. The average monthly expenditure of households of Ethiopian origin amounted to NIS 9,539, compared with NIS 14,272 among the general population.

The average number of persons per household among households of Ethiopian origin is 4.5 versus 3.3 among the general population. The number of earners is 1.1, versus 1.4 earners in the general population.

Table C. Monthly Consumption Expenditure, by Main Categories, 2012

Households 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				
Food (excluding vegetables and fruit)				
Vegetables and fruit				
Housing				
Dwelling and household maintenance				
Furniture and household equipment				
Clothing and footwear				
Health				
Education, culture, and entertainment				
Transport and communication				
Miscellaneous goods and services				

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 differences between the households of Ethiopian origin and those of the general population, in that the percentage of ownership among households of Ethiopian origin was less, except for the percentage of ownership of a mobile phone, which was the same – 95%.

The percentage of ownership of kitchen and household products was less among households of Ethiopian origin than the general population, especially regarding home appliances such as a dishwasher and clothes dryer.