

Statistics of Foreigners in Israel

The document “Statistics of Foreigners in Israel” presents statistical data that refers to the main issues of the subject of foreigners in Israel. The document is distributed amongst a diverse group of decision makers and professional bodies who work with the Population and Immigration Authority. In addition, the document is publicized in the website of the Population and Immigration Authority (www.piba.gov.il) and is available to the general public.

The document “Statistics of Foreigners in Israel” in this format is an experimental version. We continue to consolidate it according to the developing ability of the Population and Immigration Authority to provide additional data, as a result of the changing reality as well as according to the comments received from the people browsing it.

It’s recommended to read the definitions of the variables, which appear at the end of the booklet. Those definitions are important in order to understand the presented data. From time to time we clarify the definitions and so it’s recommended to read them again each time before reading the document.

The current document serves as a summary for the year 2014. We therefore deal with the following two issues:

Phenomenon of infiltration to Israel – In 2014, further to the trend of last year, the phenomenon of infiltrator has stopped almost completely, as only 21 infiltrators entered throughout the entire year (see table A.1)

This is a result of coordinated action by the government. After this goal was achieved, the government concentrated its efforts on decreasing the number of infiltrators living in Israel. Since over 90% of the infiltrators in the country are from Sudan and Eritrea (see A.2) and are therefore not deportable right now, assistance for voluntary departure is used as a central method of decreasing the number of infiltrators in the country. In 2014 approx. 6,400 infiltrators left voluntarily (see A.3). This is an increase of almost 150% in relation to the number who left voluntarily (2,600) in 2013.

The combination of the halt in infiltration to Israel and the increase in the number of voluntary departures from the population of infiltrators are the main reasons for the fact that at the end of 2014 there are approx. 46,400 infiltrators in Israel as opposed to 52,960 that lived here at the end of the last year.

Employment of Foreign Workers – In accordance with the government policy, in 2014 efforts continued to expand to recruit and employ foreign workers in the various sectors within the framework of bilateral agreements.

Out of 6,100 legal foreign workers in the construction industry, who were in Israel at the end of 2014 (see (B.1) approx. 25% arrived through the bilateral agreements with the Bulgarian and Moldovan governments; out of 22,100 legal foreign workers who were in Israel at the end of 2014, about 55% came through bilateral agreements with Thailand and Sri Lanka. At the end of 2015 an increase is expected in the foreign workers in the agriculture and construction industries, who are employed through bilateral agreements - subject to implementation of agreement that were signed and signage of additional agreements.

Data of foreigners in Israel – a concentrated table

Subject	Date of Update	Total	Comments
Infiltrators who entered Israel since beginning of 2014	31.12.2014	21	Further details in table A.1
Infiltrators who are staying in Israel	31.12.2014	46,437	Further details in tables table A.1; A.2
Legal foreign workers	31.12.2014	74,567	Further details in table B.1
Illegal foreign workers	31.12.2014	15,315	Further details in table B.1
Tourists with no valid visa	31.12.2013	90,000	Further details in table C.1
Infiltrators who left voluntarily since beginning 2014	31.12.2014	6,414	Further details in table A.3
Deportations of illegals since beginning 2014	31.12.2014	2,507	Further details in table D.1
Enforcement of employers since beginning 2014:	31.12.2014		
Number of cases opened		670	Further details in table E.1
Number of indictments		163	Further details in table E.2

A. Infiltrators¹

Until 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014								Total Infiltrators Entered Israel	Infiltrators now* in Israel					
2,731	5,065	8,769	5,217	14,680	17,300	10,438	Location of Trace	Located at the Border (Saharonim)								Located in Israel	64,365	46,437				
							Border	Israel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total Border	Total within Israel
							43	77	12	2	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	21	24

Table A.1 Infiltrators, according to date and location of trace

*As of 31.12.2014

Table A.2. Infiltrators who live now* in Israel, by specific countries

Type of data	Country				Total
	Sudan	Eritrea	Other Africa	Other	
Numbers	8,772	33,999	3,049	617	46,437
Percentage	19	73	7	1	100

*As of 31.12.2014

¹ File is dynamic and may update retroactively with respect to previous months and years

Table A.3. Voluntary Return of African Infiltrators, 2014

Country	2014												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Sudan	703	1,540	125	125	117	84	55	139	135	27	27	53	4,112
Eritrea	43	95	228	154	115	61	125	206	187	169	173	135	1,691
Other Africa	19	66	171	51	44	72	34	34	41	16	24	39	611
Total	765	1,701	1,506	330	276	217	214	379	363	212	224	227	6,414

B. Foreign workers

Table B.1. Foreign workers currently in Israel, by field

Date of update	Legal								Total
	Nursing	Building	Agriculture	Seasonal agriculture	Restaurants	Industry and services	Experts		
31.12.2014	43,468	6,106	22,087	64	0	0	2,842		74,567
	Illegal								Total
	Nursing	Building	Agriculture	Seasonal agriculture	Restaurants	Industry and services	Experts	Other ²	
	11,324	1,006	531	15	28	143	757	1,511	15,315

² Illegal foreigner workers with no connection to a certain field

C. Tourists

Table C.1. Foreigners who entered Israel as tourists and are still in Israel by the end of 2012 with no valid visa³

Country	Thousands	Percentage
The former Soviet Union	55.3	61.4
Romania	5.1	5.7
Mexico	3.5	3.9
Egypt	1.8	2.0
Turkey	1.7	1.9
Columbia	1.7	1.9
Venezuela	1.6	1.8
Czechoslovakia	1.6	1.8
Peru	1.5	1.7
Nepal	1.4	1.6
Other countries	14.8	15.3
Total	90	100

³ Source: Central Statistic Bureau Press Release of 30 July 2014

D. Enforcement of illegal residents⁴

Table D.1. Deportations of illegal foreign workers*, 2014

Type of foreigners	2014												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Tourists	42	65	82	78	132	106	55	62	89	120	168	207	1,206
Foreign workers	33	24	32	33	59	64	31	32	30	54	71	72	535
Other foreigners	56	78	105	72	67	57	54	45	39	48	59	86	766
Total	131	167	219	183	258	227	140	139	158	222	298	365	2,507

* Excluding Palestinians

⁴ File is dynamic and may update retroactively with respect to previous months

E. Enforcement re Employers of Foreigners⁵

Table E.1. Administrative Fines, 2014

Month	Cases opened	Fines imposed as a result of illegal employment		Fines imposed as a result of other violations		Total of fines	
		Number	Amount (NIS)	Number	Amount (NIS)	Number	Amount (NIS)
January	33	106	1,020,000	75	641,500	181	1,661,000
February	26	63	620,000	50	480,000	113	1,100,000
March	33	85	975,000	56	420,000	141	1,395,000
April	37	81	685,000	46	392,000	127	1,077,000
May	93	75	585,000	29	220,000	104	805,000
June	62	60	531,250	50	377,500	110	908,750
July	48	129	1,260,000	108	1,400,000	237	2,660,000
August	48	29	335,000	20	150,000	49	485,000
September	49	60	485,000	45	392,500	105	877,500
October	57	74	615,000	56	510,000	130	1,125,000
November	66	78	755,000	60	930,000	138	1,685,000
December	59	47	465,000	37	495,000	84	960,000
Total	670	813	7,455,000	581	5,857,500	1,394	13,312,000

⁵ File is dynamic and may update retroactively with respect to previous months

Table E.2. Criminal Indictments, 2014

	2014												
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Indictments*	7	12	22	7	16	5	5	40	13	16	2	18	69
Verdicts	7	21	15	23	11	16	13	2	10	6	13	27	93
Sum of Verdicts	163,000	616,400	563,500	905,160	212,000	1,295,260	1,135,180	70,720	1,285,080	1,586,000	863,300	1,333,797	10,029,397

* Indictments submitted in a particular month for cases opened that month and previous dates

Definitions

1. Infiltrators

Foreigners who entered Israel through the border with Egypt, illegally, and were arrested in the border (when they entered) or inside the Israeli territory (after a while).

2. Voluntary returnees

Foreigners who left Israel after they stayed here with no valid visa and more than 90 days have passed since their visa expired until they left Israel. Their exit of Israel was not done under a deportation order.

3. Legal foreign workers

According to the law of foreign workers, the employment of a foreign worker has two conditions:

A. The employer holds a valid employment permit, in one of the departments in which the government permits to employ foreign workers.

B. The foreigner has a valid work permit in that department, and will be registered to the employer who received the permit.

Breakdown of the permits for each department:

Nursing - Valid B/1 or B/2 visa + is under a valid permit + an active employer or the employer died less than 30 days ago.

Building – a valid B/1 visa and is under a valid permit.

Agriculture - a valid B/1 or B/2 visa and is under a valid permit.

Industry and Services - a valid B/1 or B/2 visa and is under a valid permit.

4. Illegal foreign workers

Foreigners who in the past were legal foreign workers, according to the definition of legal foreign workers (see above) but right now do not meet at least one criteria of this definition. The breakdown by industry is done according to the work permit the foreign worker had when he was still a legal worker.

5. Tourists with no valid visa

The estimation of foreigners from undeveloped country who entered Israel as tourists between the years 1995 and 2012 and are still in Israel by the end of 2012 with no valid visa. According to the estimation, most of them work illegally.

6. Legalizing status

A process, that using which foreign workers who left the legal work cycle and became illegal foreign workers are returned to the legal work cycle, according to the law's provisions and the Population, Immigration and Border Control Authority's regulations.

7. Deportations

Foreigners who left Israel as a result of a deportation order.

8. Enforcement on employers

Fines imposed because of illegal employment – fines imposed because of violations of articles of the foreigner workers law, which refer to the employment of a foreign worker without a permit/visa or opposed to the permit's conditions.

Fines imposed because of all other violations - fines imposed because of violations of the foreigner workers law, in reference to the following articles: lack of suitable living space for the foreign worker, lack of medical insurance for the foreign workers and lack of employment documentation of the foreign worker.

Criminal Indictments – Criminal indictments submitted for violations of the Foreign Workers Law, in the labor tribunals

Verdicts - Penalty imposed for a conviction in a criminal procedure