

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 publicized in the website of the Population and Immigration Authority (www.piba.gov.il) and is available to the general public.

The current edition of the "Statistics of Foreigners in Israel" is a summary of 2016. This expanded edition includes more detailed breakdowns than those appearing in editions published during the year, in order to enable the public to understand the issues and the phenomena that are covered in the previous editions of "Statistics of Foreigners in Israel".

It is 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.

Data of foreigners in Israel – a concentrated table

Subject	Date of Update	Total	Comments
Infiltrators who entered Israel since beginning of 2016	31.12.16	18	Further details in table A.1
Infiltrators who are staying in Israel	31.12.16	40,274	Further details in tables table A.1
Asylum Applications submitted since beginning 2016	31.12.16	14,837	
Legal foreign workers	31.12.16	84,485	Further details in table B.1
Illegal foreign workers	31.12.16	15,660	Further details in table B.1
Tourists with no valid visa	31.12.2015	*78,500	Further details in table C.1
Infiltrators who left voluntarily since beginning 2016	31.12.16	3,246	Further details in table A.3
Deportations of illegals since beginning 2016	31.12.16	3,221	Further details in table D.1
Enforcement of employers since beginning 2016:			
Number of cases opened	31.12.16	887	Further details in table E.1
Number of indictments	31.12.16	100	Further details in table E.2

*Source: Central Statistics Bureau – Press Release from 27.7.16.

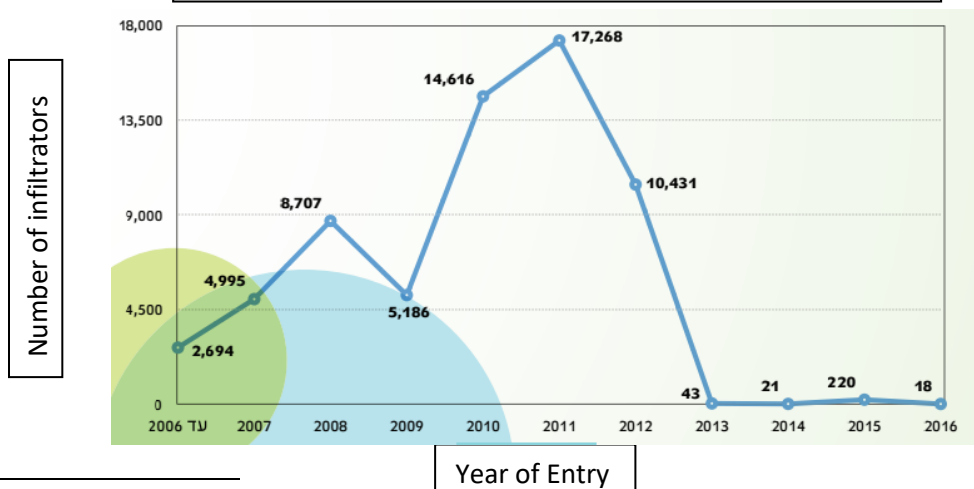
A. Infiltrators¹

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

Until 2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016										Total Infiltrators Entered Israel	Total Infiltrators now* in Israel					
2,694	4,995	8,707	5,186	14,616	17,268	10,431				Located at the Border (Saharonim)										64,351	41,477					
							Location of Trace	Location of Trace	Location of Trace																	
							Bo rde r	In Israe l	Bo rd er	In Israe l	Bo rde r	In Israe l	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total at border	
							43	74	21	21	220	10	1	11	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	14

*As of 31.12.16

Graph A.1 – Arrivals of infiltrators to Israel, by Year of Entry



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

Ever since 2012 (a year in which progress has been made in the construction of a ground barrier along the southern border and a legislative amendment was applied to extended the period of stay in

Custody) there was a dramatic decrease in the number of infiltrators who entered Israel. It should be noted that after the pace increase of infiltrators arrivals that took place in 2015,

The figure for 2016 fell to the lowest point in the past decade and now stands at only 18 entries. It also should be emphasized, that since May 2016 not one person has infiltrated the country. Therefore there is a basis to estimate the increase in the volume of entries distillers, which took place in 2015 does not indicate a change in the decrease of the infiltrating phenomenon, but a one-time increase.

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

Type of data	Country				Total
	Sudan	Eritrea	Other Africa	Other	
Numbers	8,002	29,014	2,754	504	40,274
Percentage	20	72	7	1	100

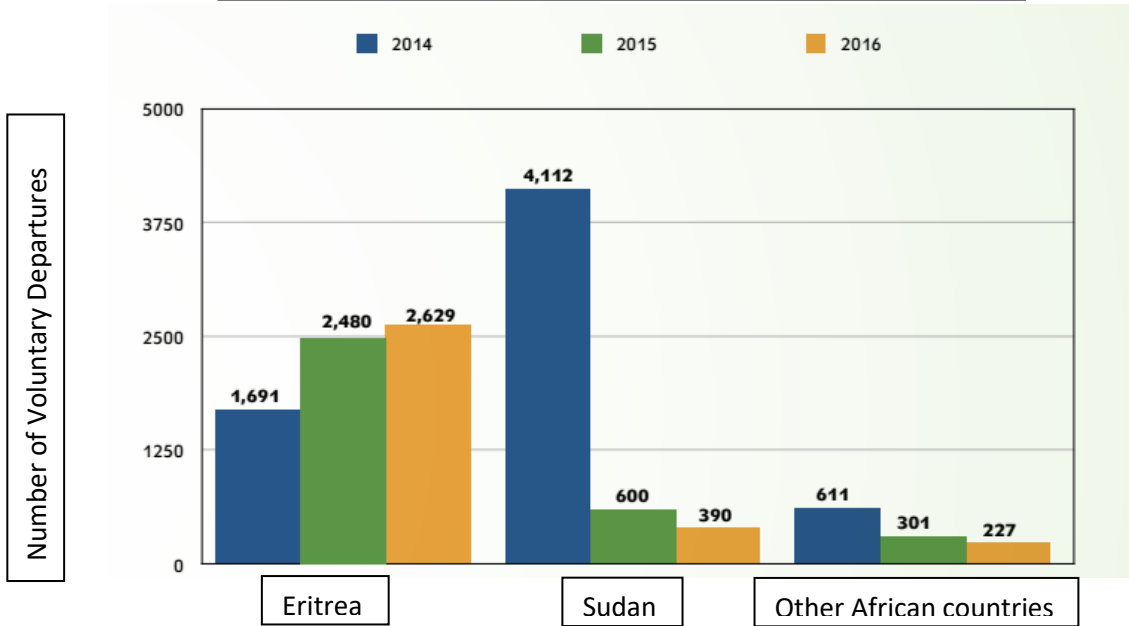
*As of 31.12.16

92% of all the infiltrators who are currently living in Israel originated from Eritrea or Sudan. These infiltrators are staying under a temporary restraining policy of their country.

Table A.3. Voluntary Departures of African Infiltrators, 2016

Country	2014	2015	2016												Total
			Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	
Eritrea	1,691	2,480	368	347	240	166	267	162	165	450	112	91	135	126	2,629
Sudan	4,112	600	78	33	41	39	26	39	16	23	37	16	25	17	390
Other Africa	611	301	39	44	24	10	17	9	20	16	10	5	20	14	227
Total	6,414	3,381	485	424	305	225	310	210	201	489	159	112	180	157	3,246

Graph - A.3. Voluntary Departures of African Infiltrators. 2016



In 2015 and 2016 the rate of voluntary leaving is stable and is only about 50% of the number of voluntary departures in 2014.

B. Asylum Seekers

Table B.1. Asylum application by country of origin and by year of submission

Country of origin	2014	2015	2016
Ukraine	51	703	6,880
Eritrea	1,203	3,586	1,992
Ethiopia	115	280	121
Ghana	72	108	83
Georgia	27	736	3,668
Moldova	0	22	302
Nigeria	133	146	109
Sudan	903	1,162	636
Russia	0	14	395
Other countries	172	514	651
Total	2,676	7,271	14,837

The rate of asylum application being filed in 2016 is 5.5 times higher compared to 2014 and 2 times higher compared to 2015. The most notable increases were among

Ukrainian citizenship holders (from 51 applications in 2014 to 6,880 applications in 2016) and Georgian nationals (from 27 applications in 2014 to 3,668 applications in 2016). Also it should be noted that while in 2014 asylum applications were not submitted by citizens from Russia and Moldova, in 2016 were filed, respectively, 395 and 302 applications for asylum by citizens of those countries.

C. Foreign workers

Table C.1. Foreign workers currently in Israel, by field and by year, 2010-2016

Date of update	Legal								Total
	Nursing	Building	Agriculture	Seasonal agriculture	Restaurants ²	Industry and services ³	Experts		
31.12.10	43,499	6,901	22,887	296	193	360	1,682		75,818
31.12.11	42,349	5,201	24,612	84	62	176	22,294		74,778
31.12.12	41,260	5,900	21,133	0	9	112	2,867		71,281
31.12.13	40,484	5,732	22,179	79	0	42	2,836		71,352
31.12.14	43,468	6,106	22,087	64	0	0	2,842		74,567
31.12.15	*45,632	6,855	21,268	79	0	0	3,358		77,192
31.12.16	*49,156	8,557	21,786	359	0	0	4,627		84,458
	Illegal								
	Nursing	Building	Agriculture	Seasonal agriculture	Restaurants	Industry and services	Experts	Other ⁴	Total
31.12.10	10,209	2,409	369	180	490	46	1,092	-	14,795
31.12.11	10,123	2,148	154	10	60	194	487	942	14,118
31.12.12	10,069	1,899	359	25	68	168	555	966	14,109
31.12.13	11,993	1,010	167	22	46	161	624	1,343	15,366
31.12.14	11,324	1,006	531	15	28	143	757	1,511	15,315
31.12.15	*11,800	999	705	11	26	126	784	1,464	15,915
31.12.16	11,317	787	919	10	23	121	851	1,632	15,660

² From 2013 the restaurants industry was not included among the industries within which the government allows employment of foreign workers.

³ Since 2014 the manufacturing and services industry is not included among the industries within which the government allows employment of foreign workers.

⁴ Other - illegal foreigner workers with no connection to a certain field. The lack of connection is due to technical reasons, as a result of the severing of the relationship between the employee record and the record of employment permit, by virtue of which he was employed in the past.

* The comparison made between the figure relating to the nursing industry in 2015-2016 with this figure in other years isn't accurate due to a change in definition applied in 2015.

The rate of legal foreign workers employed in Israel within the framework of bilateral agreements out of a total of legal foreign workers is increasing over the years.

Thus, in 2014 the percentage was 18%, 2015 - 22% and in 2016-28%.

In 2010-2014, the number of legal foreign workers staying in Israel was quite stable and ranged between 71,000-74,500. Changing the trend started in 2015 when

The number increased by 3.5% compared to the number in 2014. In 2016 growth in the number of employees escalated when it reached 9.4% in relation to

2015 (84,485 versus 77,192, respectively). The increase in legal foreign workers in 2016 applies to all industries (in Nursing - 7.7%, construction - 24.8%, agriculture - 2.4%, for experts - 37.8%).

Increase in the number of legal foreign workers in the construction sector can be explained by the extension of implementation of bilateral agreements for recruitment and employment

Of foreign workers in the construction industry, conducted in 2016, in which some 2,500 new foreign workers entered Israel. Also, this year left the country less foreign workers than in 2015.

The number of illegal foreign workers, who stayed in Israel in the years 2010 to 2016, did not change significantly and range from 14,000 to 16,000 over the Years. However, in 2016 the percentage of illegal foreign workers in relation to all foreign workers in 2015 decreased from 17.1% to 15.6%. This rate is the lowest since 2010.

It should be noted that at the end of 2015 the Minister of Interior approved preparation to continue employment of foreign workers in the nursing industry, who had living in Israel over 63 months as recommended by the "advisory committee to the Minister to extend the licenses in / 1 nursing in special humanitarian reasons" and according to defined criteria.

Implementation of the recommendations, which began in early 2016, caused a decline in the number of illegal foreign workers.

Table C.1.2 Foreign workers in the Nursing field currently in Israel, by selected countries, 31.12.2016

Country of origin	Legal	Illegal	Total
Uzbekistan	1,799	101	1,900
Ukraine	1,792	304	2,096
India	10,672	1,449	12,121
Moldova	8,672	1,095	9,767
Nepal	⁵ 2,755	1,075	3,830
Sri Lanka	4,972	719	5,685
Philippines	17,131	5,698	22,829
Rumania	495	436	931
Other countries	868	446	1,314
Total	49,156	11,317	60,473

Despite the fact that in the nursing industry there is a wide geographical dispersion in composition of countries of origin (at the end of 2016 stayed in Israel employees from 53 countries) most of these foreign workers arrived from three countries only: the Philippines (38%), India (20%) and Moldova (16%).

The data shows that amongst foreign workers in the nursing industry, who are nationals of Romania, Nepal and the Philippines, there is a much higher proportion of illegal workers compared Migrant workers from the other countries. Thus, 47% of caregivers from Romania are illegal, 28% from Nepal and 25% - from the Philippines. The rate of non-migrant workers of the total of workers in the industry is 19%.

⁵ Of which there are 58 foreign workers who are employed under a bilateral agreement pilot project between the countries.

Table C.1.3 Foreign workers in the Building field currently in Israel, by selected countries, 31.12.2016

Country of origin	Legal		Illegal		Total
	Total	Of which with Bilateral agreement	Total	Of which with Bilateral agreement	
Bulgaria	380	361	61	9	441
Moldova	3,893	3,751	103	43	3,996
China	3,064	0	209	0	3,273
Rumania	197	197	279	2	476
Turkey⁶	1,007	0	83	0	1,090
Other countries	16	0	52	0	68
Total	8,557	4,309	787	54	9,344

Foreign construction workers employed in the framework of a bilateral agreement are at the end of 2016 almost 50% of all workers in the industry. This rate is expected to increase over the years, as the employment of new workers in the construction industry will be within the framework of the bilateral agreement or by one of the construction companies, according to Government decision No. (1321 DR) / 60

In the construction industry there is a unique composition of countries of origin: foreign workers from three countries (Moldova - 3,996 employees, China - 3,273 employees, and Turkey – 1090 Employees (represent 89% of all workers in the industry. One of the reasons for the small dispersal of the countries from which came the foreign workers is the implementation of bilateral agreements allowing entry of new foreign workers only from countries with which Israel has an agreement or as stated in the said agreement, as part of one of the Construction companies.

The rate of illegal foreign workers in the construction industry of all employees is 9%. An especially prominent country with the highest rate of illegal workers is Romania. 59% of the workers from Romania who stayed in Israel at the end of 2016 were illegal.

⁶ Out of 1,007 legal workers from Turkey, 965 are employed through "Yilmazlar", in accordance with a government decision number 597 dated 10.25.2015. It should be noted, that the government decision (# 1321 DR) / 60 (dated 24/03/2016 regarding bringing foreign construction companies applied the rules applicable to these companies also Yilmazlar company.

Table C.1.4 Foreign workers in the Agriculture field currently in Israel, by selected countries, 31.12.2016

Country of origin	Legal		Illegal		Total
	Total	Of which with Agreement	Total	Of which with Agreement	
Vietnam	78	0	24	0	102
Nepal	39	0	19	0	58
Thailand	21,667	19,202	873	238	22,540
Other countries	2	0	3	0	5
Total	21,786	19,202	919	238	22,702

Agriculture is the most homogeneous sector in terms of composition of country of origin. 99% of foreign workers come from Thailand. This is because there is a bilateral agreement between the Israeli government and one country only (Thailand). Therefore there are no arrivals of foreign workers from other countries. It also indicates that within the framework of the bilateral agreement to bring seasonal workers in the agricultural sector at the end of 2016 369 workers from Sri Lanka are employed in the State of Israel.

The industry is characterized by the lowest rate of illegal foreign workers. Only 4% of all workers are staying in the country illegally.

Table C.1.5 Foreign workers in the Experts field currently in Israel, by selected countries, 31.12.2016

Country of origin	Legal	Illegal	Total
Italy	170	10	180
USA	427	34	461
Germany	147	39	186
India	182	44	226
China	1,170	402	1,572
Spain	269	8	277
Rumania	395	25	420
Thailand	290	79	369
Turkey	123	23	146
Other countries	1,454	187	1,641
Total	4,627	851	5,478

There are foreign workers staying in Israel in the experts industry from 93 countries. Most of the workers come from China and they represent 29% of all workers in the sector. Out of all the Chinese in the experts industry 26% are illegal. This figure is much higher than the rate of illegal foreign workers in the entire industry (16%).

Table C.1.6 Legal foreign workers currently in Israel, by field, age and sex, 31.12.2016

Age	Nursing				Buildi ng	Agriculture				Seasonal agricultu re	Experts				Total
	Men	Women	Unknow n	Total	Total (only men)	Men	Wome n	Unkno wn	Total	Total (only men)	Men	Women	Unknown	Total	
Up to 20	5	25	2	32	28	3	-	0	3	1	29	8	0	37	101
21-30	1,144	3,612	88	4,844	1,262	5,890	100	41	6,031	95	993	119	12	1,124	13,356
31-40	3,575	13,878	854	18,307	2,808	11,937	432	111	12,480	258	1,469	99	4	1,572	35,425
41-50	2,157	14,467	950	17,574	3,385	3,045	133	58	3,236	5	1,008	39	5	1,052	25,252
51-60	467	6,887	438	7,792	1,062	25	2	0	27	0	667	23	2	692	9,573
61+	29	535	43	607	12	8	1	0	9	0	142	7	1	150	778
Total	7,377	39,404	2,375	49,156	8,557	20,908	668	210	21,786	359	4,308	295	24	4,627	84,485

At the end of 2016 stayed in the State of Israel 84,485 legal foreign workers. Of which - 41,509 men, 40,367 women and 2,609 are not known. In the nursing industry the majority of workers is women, while in other industries most workers are men.

Among men the most common age group is those aged 31-40 (19 789 employees), and it is 2 times larger than the second largest age group - aged 41-50 (9,595 Employees). This pattern also exists in women, but unlike men, there is no significant difference in the size of the groups, i.e.- the number of workers in each of these two age groups is similar (13,878 and – 14,464 respectively).

D. Tourists

Table D.1. Foreigners who entered Israel as tourists and are still in Israel by the end of 2015 with no valid visa⁷

Country	Thousands	Percentage
The former Soviet Union*	52.5	66.9
Romania	4.7	6
Mexico	3.1	3.9
Turkey	1.6	2
Egypt	1.5	1.9
Colombia	1.4	1.8
Venezuela	1.3	1.7
Hungary	1.3	1.7
Czechoslovakia**	1.3	1.7
Peru	1.3	1.7
Other countries	8.5	10.7
Total	78.5	100

* Including republics of the (former) Soviet Union

** In the border prior to the dissolution

⁷ Source: Central Statistic Bureau Press Release of 30 July 2014, update notice of 22.10.15.

E. Enforcement of illegal residents⁸

Table E.1. Deportations of illegal foreign workers*, 2015-2016

Type of foreigners	2015	2016												
	Total	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Tourists	1,668	239	205	167	107	113	125	147	186	147	93	112	195	1,836
Foreign workers	580	49	64	62	39	15	45	54	58	43	21	31	24	505
Other foreigners	868	54	46	27	39	41	60	70	84	93	85	86	195	880
Total	3,116	342	315	256	185	169	230	271	328	283	199	229	414	3,221

* Excluding Palestinians

⁸ File is dynamic and may update retroactively with respect to previous months

Table D.2. Deportations of illegal foreign workers, by selected countries, 2015-2016

Country	2015	2016
Ukraine	737	1,166
Ethiopia	72	59
Georgia	512	432
India	126	87
Moldova	174	132
China	241	144
Philippines	198	162
Rumania	76	43
Russia	69	127
Thailand	352	337
Other countries	559	492
Total	3,116	3,221

In 2016, there was a modest increase (3%) in the number of illegal foreigners who were deported from Israel compared to 2015 (3221 versus 3116). The most significant increase was for the exclusion of citizens of Ukraine (from 737 to 1166) and Russia (from 69 to 127).

E. Enforcement re Employers of Foreigners⁹

Table E.1. Administrative Fines, 2016

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	118	48	507,500	47	372,500	95	880,250
February	92	81	880,000	57	528,500	138	1,408,500
March	91	104	1,295,000	78	936,250	182	2,231,250
April	61	16	165,000	10	82,500	26	247,500
May	79	60	670,000	49	475,000	109	1,145,000
June	94	37	740,500	25	347,500	62	1,088,000
July	75	74	800,000	57	427,500	131	1,227,500
August	61	14	157,500	18	172,500	32	330,000
September	44	46	470,000	39	235,000	85	705,000
October	28	40	425,000	28	235,000	68	660,000
November	85	44	860,000	37	362,500	81	1,222,500
December	59	25	420,000	14	80,000	39	500,000
Total	887	589	7,390,500	459	4,255,000	1,048	11,645,500

⁹ File is dynamic and may update retroactively with respect to previous months

Table E.2. Criminal Indictments, 2016

	2014												
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Indictments ¹⁰	3	12	11	6	3	9	8	1	11	4	10	22	100
Verdicts	13	14	7	2	10	6	12	4	9	6	7	5	95
Sum of Verdicts	469,200	574,080	202,000	24,000	255,360	175,000	472,000	121,000	212,000	136,000	456,000	133,000	3,229,640

¹⁰ 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 return of infiltrators

Foreigners who left Israel after entering it illegally, and whose departure from 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 2013 and are still in Israel by the end of 2013 with no valid visa. According to the estimation, most of them work illegally.

6. Deportations

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

7. 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