

## **PIBA Report - 2019 Summary of Statistics of Foreigners in Israel**

### **Summary of key developments in 2019:**

With regard to the treatment of the infiltration phenomenon, as in 2018, during 2019, infiltrators did not enter Israel via the border with Egypt. At the same time, several steps were taken to ensure that the infiltrators who are still in Israel will depart for various destinations. During 2019, 2,723 infiltrators left Israel under the "Voluntary Departure" program, 90% of whom were Eritrean and Sudanese nationals. Also, as part of a meeting headed by the Prime Minister in July 2019, B/1 status was granted to a group of 300 asylum-seekers from Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile, in accordance with criteria set by the Minister of the Interior.

In 2019, a significant reduction (40%) can be seen in the number of asylum applications: 9,842 applications, compared to 16,263 applications in 2018. For example, the number of requests from nationals of Ukraine dropped by 64%; from Moldova by 45%; and from Georgia by 94%.

By contrast, asylum requests by nationals of Russia rose significantly (61.5%): 4,477 applications were filed in 2019 compared to 2,772 applications in 2018. This trend is expected to be halted following the implementation of the out-of-hand rejection procedure of applications submitted by Russian nationals that began on 8.12.2019, based on an opinion stating that this is a safe country and, as a rule, poses no danger to their lives. This is similar to the outright rejection procedure applied in previous years for applications submitted by nationals of Georgia and Ukraine, accounting for the significant reduction in the number of asylum applications submitted by nationals of these countries compared to 2018.

At the end of 2019, there were approximately 102,000 legal foreign workers and approximately 17,000 illegal foreign workers residing in Israel. The illegal workforce comprises 6.14% of all foreign workers. It should be noted that, as at the end of 2018, this rate is the lowest rate recorded in recent years, when in 2010-2017 the rate of illegal foreign workers ranged from 16% to 18%.

In 2019, further steps were taken to regulate the employment of foreign workers through bilateral agreements and other arrangements by government decisions. As of the end of 2019, 89% of foreign workers in the building industry are employed through a bilateral agreement or a "performance companies" arrangement. Also, approximately 100% of foreign workers in the agriculture sector continue to be employed in a bilateral agreement. In addition, bilateral agreements with the Philippines have been ratified for the hotel industry as well as the nursing sector, and their implementation is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and the second half of 2020 respectively.

During 2019, 23,312 border entry refusals were ordered for foreign nationals who wanted to enter Israel, a 3% increase in the number of refusals in 2018. Refusals from countries with which there is an exemption from a permit to enter has grown steadily over the years. For example, in 2019, 6,407 nationals of Ukraine were denied entry to Israel as well as 6,159 nationals of Russia, which accounts for 54% of all refusals this year.

During the year 2019, deposits amounting to approximately NIS 448 million were deposited by employers on behalf of approximately 57,300 foreign workers in the various industries and 14,300 infiltrators. The amount of funds deposited in 2019 increased by about 28% relative to the amount of deposits during 2018 (at that time the deposit amount was approximately NIS 351 million.) In 2019, the amount of deposits withdrawn by foreign workers and infiltrators was approximately NIS 116 million. This is the gross amount of withdrawals, before income tax payment of about NIS 15

million. The amount of withdrawals (gross) in 2019 was about 5.13% lower than the amount of withdrawals in 2018 (then about NIS 134 million).

Sincerely,

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## Infiltrators

Total number of infiltrators that entered Israel: 64,256

Total number of infiltrators currently residing in Israel: 31,547 (this is a reduction of 6% since the end of 2018, when there were 33,627 infiltrators in Israel).

No new arrivals at the border in 2019, 7 new infiltrators were detected within the country.

### Infiltrators currently living in Israel according to main countries of origin, 31.12.2019

	<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>Sudan</b>	<b>Other African Countries</b>	<b>Other Countries in the World</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Number	22,265	6,349	2,401	532	<b>31,547</b>
Percentage	71	20	7	2	<b>100</b>

91% of infiltrators currently living in Israel are Eritrean or Sudanese nationals, for whom the State of Israel has a "temporary non-removal policy" due to the situation in their countries of origin. In cases where infiltrators from Eritrea or Sudan have left Israel, this is done under the "Voluntary Departure" program to the country of origin, to a third country or to another country. It should be noted that there are foreigners from Eritrea and Sudan who infiltrated and have been granted status over the years under various permits and decisions. For example, it was decided in 2018 to grant temporary status for humanitarian reasons to 300 Sudanese nationals from the Darfur region, Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains who fit the criteria for such status, and this is in addition to previous decisions to grant status to 1,100 persons, who are members of these groups, as well as other infiltrators, who applied for asylum and were found to be eligible under the UN Refugee Convention and it was decided to grant them refugee status. As part of a meeting held by the Prime Minister in July 2019, B/1 status was granted to a group of 300 asylum-seekers from Darfur, Blue Mountains and the Blue Nile, according to the criteria set by the Minister of the Interior. Infiltrators whose status has been regulated as Israeli residents do not appear in the above table.

### Voluntary Departure of Infiltrators from African Countries, 2019

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Total</b>
Eritrea	2,239 (about 82%)
Sudan	216 (about 8%)
Other African Countries	268 (about 10%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,723</b>

This represents a 2% increase in the number of departures compared to 2018.

### Departures of Eritreans and Sudanese in 2019, according to destination:

- Country of origin: 471 (about 19% of departures)
- Third African Country: 413 (about 17% of departures)
- Other countries: 1,571 (about 64% of departures)

### Asylum-Seekers

Asylum requests according to country of origin and year of submission of the request:

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Ukraine	6,880	7,711	1,765	633
Eritrea	1,992	1,748	6,348	129
Ethiopia	121	191	136	133
Ghana	83	99	99	208
Georgia	3,668	1,351	399	22
India	157	322	671	636
Moldova	302	332	436	242
Nigeria	109	274	344	158
Sudan	636	906	766	41
Sri Lanka	50	430	540	446
Russia	395	635	2,772	4,477
Other Countries	444	779	1,987	2,717
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,837</b>	<b>14,778</b>	<b>16,263</b>	<b>9,842</b>

### Tourists

Entry Refusals to Israel according to main countries of origin, 2019:

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ukraine	6,407
Russia	6,159
Georgia	2,002
Moldova	1,015
United States	598
Jordan	572
Belarus	734
Romania	467
Turkey	587
Other Countries	4,771
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,312</b>

Note that 71% of refusals were from former Soviet countries (Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Moldova). In 2019, there was a continued decrease in the number of refusals of nationals of Ukraine and Georgia and a continued increase in the number of refusals of Russian nationals.

### **Deposit for Employment of Infiltrators**

Amount of Deposits and Withdrawals of deposits for Infiltrators, 2018 and 2019 (in millions of NIS)

Infiltrators	Deposits – 2018	Withdrawals (Gross) - 2018	Deposits – 2019	Withdrawals (Gross) – 2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>6.06</b>	<b>166.6</b>	<b>25.7</b>

Deposits for an infiltrator, who works, is deposited for each month of work and consists of the employee part which is a deduction of 20% of his monthly salary, in addition to the employer part which is a provision (at the employer's expense) at a rate of 16% of the infiltrator's monthly salary. On 1.11.2018, regulations came into effect which reduced the deposit amount to 6% (instead of 20%) of the wages of infiltrators with humanitarian issues prescribed by the regulations, in addition to the employer's provision at a rate of 16%.