

1. GENERAL

The findings presented here are based on an analysis of the results of the Immigration Absorption Survey 2010–2011 conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics among the population of immigrants who arrived in Israel during the period of 1990–2007. The survey's population sample was taken as a representative sample from the population of the 2008 Population Census (see the chapter on Methodology for an explanation of the means of sampling and weighting). Approximately 4,000 persons were interviewed in the survey, representing the immigrant population who came to Israel during the period from 1990–2007, who were aged 26–74 in 2010.

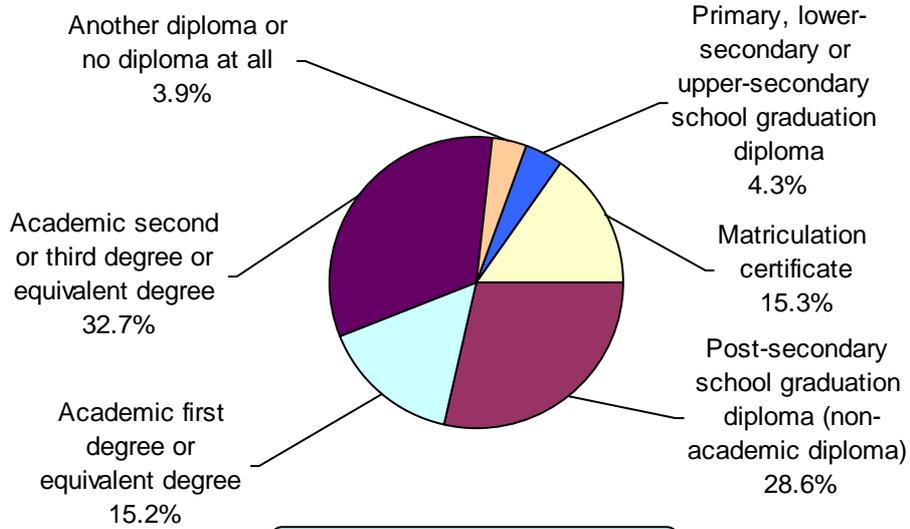
The aim of the survey was to examine the immigrants' social and economic integration in Israel and their feelings about various aspects of their life in Israel. The subjects under investigation in the survey that are included in this publication are education and studies at the time of immigration, mastery of languages before immigration and afterwards, employment before immigration and afterwards, family and social connections in Israel and abroad, reasons for immigration, sense of identity, satisfaction from various areas of life, and reasons for choosing place of residence.

2. MAIN FINDINGS

2.1. Education Level of Immigrants Aged 25 and Over at the Time of Immigration to Israel (Table 1)

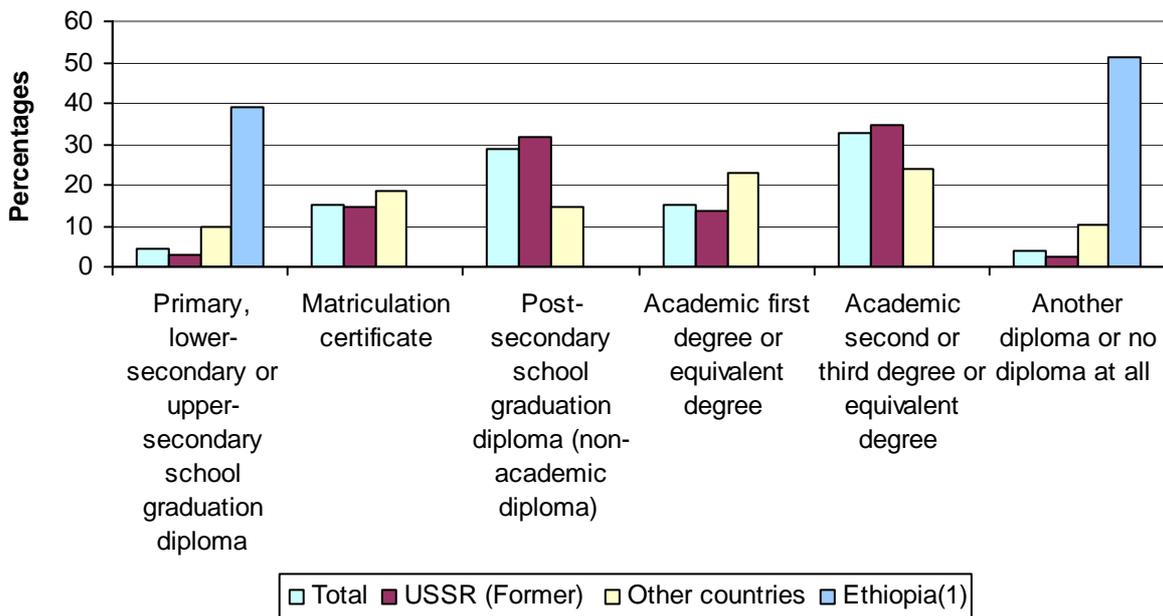
Approximately half of the total population of immigrants that came to Israel from 1990–2007, aged 25 and over at the time of their immigration, reported that they were holders of an academic degree (B.A., M.A., PhD) at the time of immigration. About 29% reported that they held a post-secondary school graduation diploma (non-academic), about 15% had a matriculation certificate, about 4% had a primary school graduation diploma or a secondary school graduation diploma (without a matriculation certificate), and an additional 4%, approximately, immigrated without any diploma at all or with some other diploma. In a distribution by gender, the percentage of women with an academic degree was higher than that of men (51% versus 44%, respectively). In a distribution by the period of immigration, more than half of the immigrants who came in the first years of the wave of immigration (1990–1995) had an academic degree (52%). This percentage is higher than that of immigrants who came to Israel in later years (44% of them had an academic degree).

1. IMMIGRANTS AGED 25 AND OVER, BY THE HIGHEST DIPLOMA AT THE TIME OF IMMIGRATION



Total 442,528 Immigrants

2. IMMIGRANTS AGED 25 AND OVER, BY THE HIGHEST DIPLOMA AT THE TIME OF IMMIGRATION AND SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

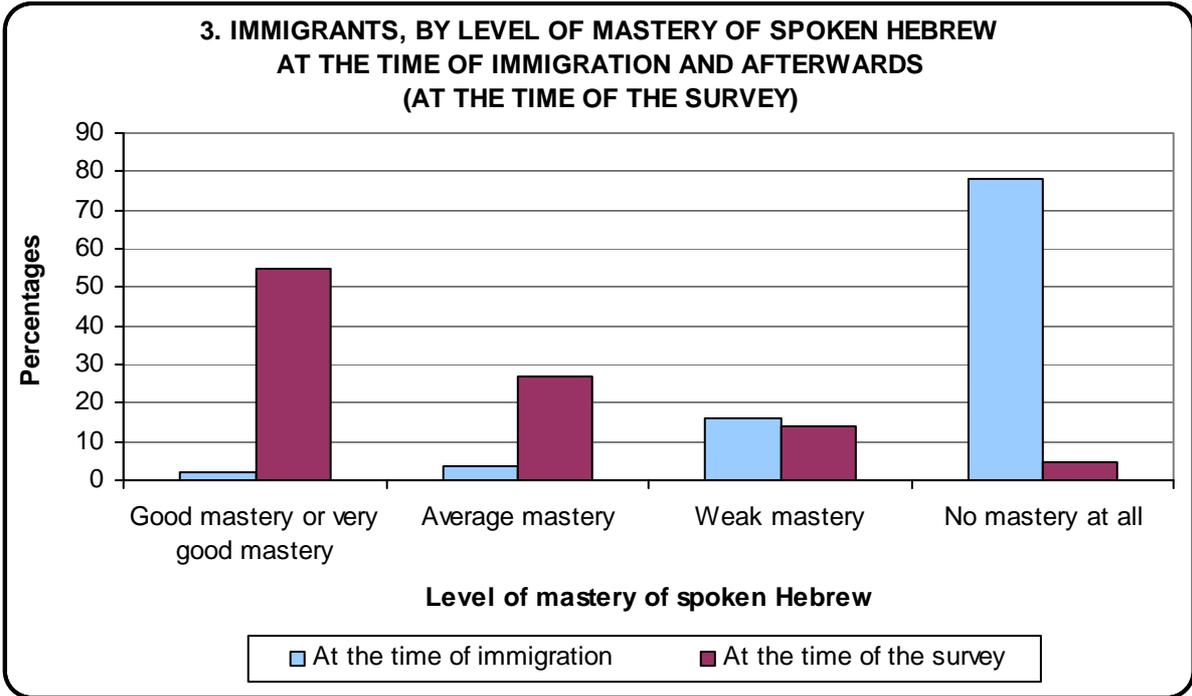


(1) The percentage of the education data on immigrants from Ethiopia does not add up to 100 due to a sampling error of more than 40% in the missing categories.

2.2. Mastery of Hebrew before Immigration and Afterwards (Tables 2, 3)

The vast majority of immigrants (78%) reported that at the time of their immigration they had no mastery at all in spoken Hebrew, about 16% reported that they had slight mastery, about 4% reported on average mastery and a relatively small proportion (2%) reported on good or very good mastery of Hebrew. In contrast, the results of the survey concerning the current situation (in 2010–2011) of mastery of spoken Hebrew present a different picture: Most of the immigrants improved their skills in spoken Hebrew, and accordingly, about 28% reported that they have very good mastery of spoken Hebrew, 27% reported on good mastery, 27% reported on average mastery, 14% reported on slight mastery, and 4% reported that they still had no mastery of spoken Hebrew at all. The improvement in spoken Hebrew skills differs according to country of origin, the number of years in Israel and the age at the time of immigration. Before their immigration to Israel, about 91% of immigrants from Ethiopia reported that they had no mastery of Hebrew at all, but at the time the survey was conducted this percentage decreased to about 12%. Similarly, about 84% of the immigrants from the former USSR reported that before their immigration they had no mastery at all in Hebrew, but at the time the survey was conducted this percentage had decreased to about 5% of the immigrants. Among the immigrants who came from 1990–1995 (at the beginning of the wave of immigration), 96% reported that at the time of immigration they had slight or no mastery of spoken Hebrew, and only 11% of them reported that their mastery of Hebrew was good or very good. After about twenty years, at the time the survey was conducted, 63% of them reported that their mastery of Hebrew was good or very good, and 11% reported that also at the time the survey was conducted their mastery of Hebrew was still slight or none at all.

The lower the age at the time of immigration, the higher the level of mastery of Hebrew: At the time of the survey (2010–2011), 84% of immigrants who were under the age of 18 at the time of immigration reported that at that time they did not speak Hebrew at all, and about twenty years later, when the survey was conducted, 80% of those immigrants reported that their mastery of Hebrew was very good. Among immigrants with relatively higher ages, 55 and over, the vast majority (97%) reported that at the time of immigration they did not speak Hebrew at all or that their mastery of Hebrew was slight; about twenty years later, at the time the survey was conducted, approximately 72% of them still did not speak Hebrew at all or their mastery was slight.



2.3. Employment (Tables 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

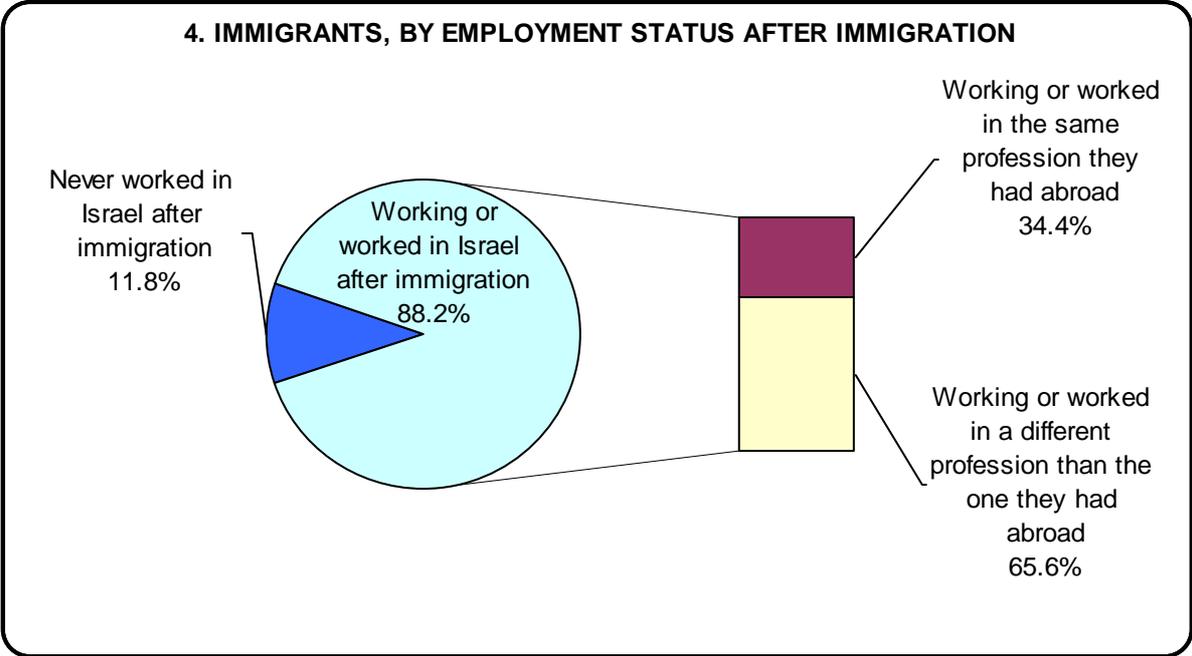
Among immigrants aged 15 and over who came to Israel from 1990–2007, about 75% were working at the time the survey was conducted (in 2010–2011), 16% of them worked in the past in Israel and about 9% never worked in Israel at all.

Approximately 80% of immigrants aged 15 and over at the time of immigration worked in their country of origin. Approximately 83% of immigrants from the former USSR worked in their country of origin, and slightly more than half (53%) of immigrants from Ethiopia worked in their country of origin. Also, approximately 83% of total men immigrants and approximately 79% of women immigrants worked in their country of origin.

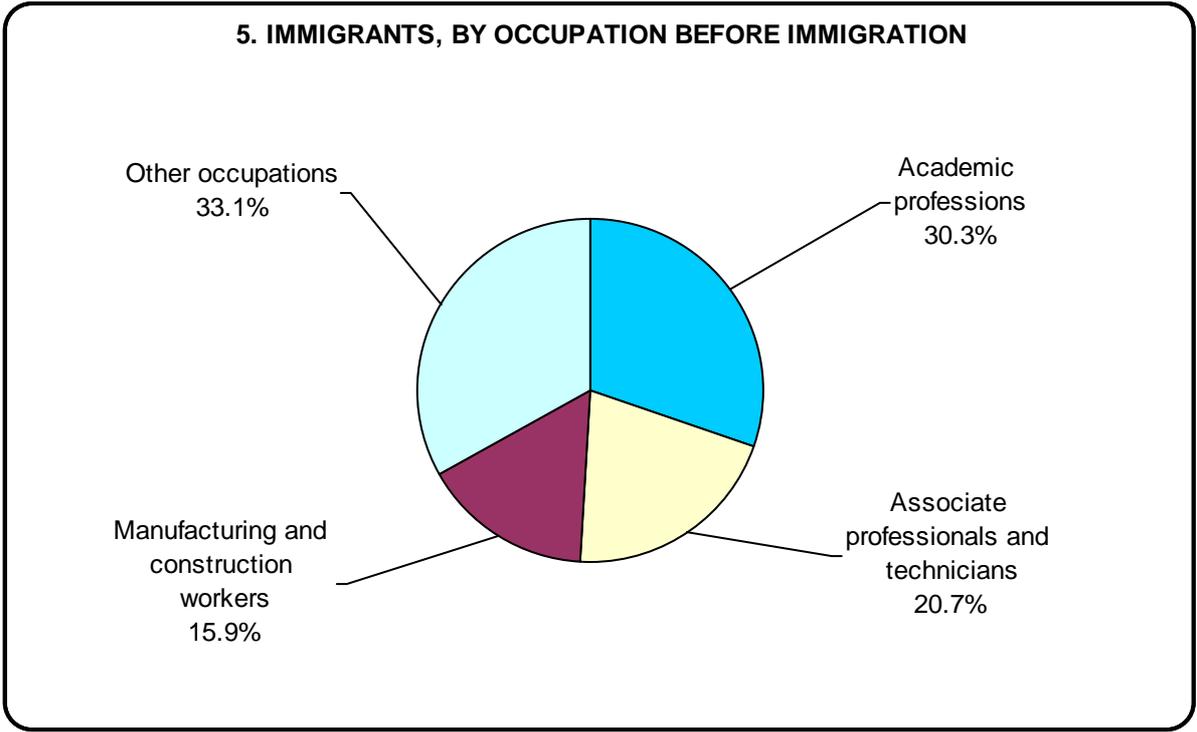
Approximately 90% of the immigrants who worked in their country of origin before immigrating either worked in the past or reported that they are working at the time the survey was conducted in Israel. A high percentage of the men immigrants who worked abroad before immigrating (about 92%) also worked in the past or were working in Israel at the time the survey was conducted, and about 86% of the women immigrants who worked abroad either worked in the past or were working in Israel at the time the survey was conducted. There is a correlation between the number of years the immigrants were in Israel and the percentage of immigrants who ever worked in Israel: Among the immigrants who worked abroad and who stayed a large number of years, relatively, in Israel (16–20 years), only about 4% never worked in Israel at all. However, among the immigrants with fewer number of years in Israel (3–5 years in Israel), about a quarter (25%) never worked in Israel since their immigration.

Among immigrants aged 18 and over who were professionals at the time of their immigration, 34% continued to work in the same profession (occupation) after their immigration to Israel as well. Among immigrants who were professionals at the time of their immigration, 66%

worked in Israel in a different profession than that which they worked in while abroad. Of those who continued to work in the same profession they had while abroad, 41% were men and 28% were women, mostly of younger ages (18 to 34).



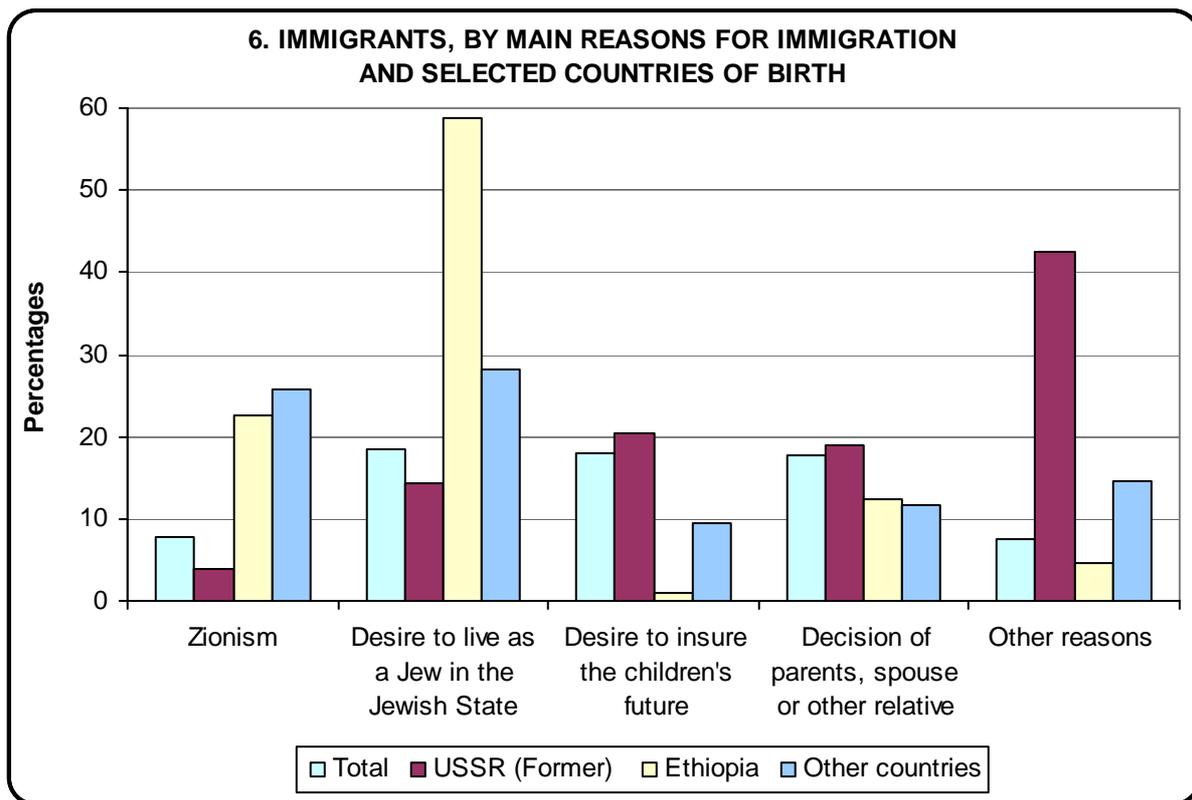
Approximately 30% of immigrants, who worked in their country of origin, worked abroad before their immigration as academic professionals, about 21% worked as associate professionals and technicians, about 16% worked in professional occupations in manufacturing, construction, or were other skilled workers. Among immigrants who came from the former Soviet Union, about 54% were academic professionals, associate professionals and technicians before their immigration to Israel. Among women, 57% were academic professionals, associate professionals and technicians, compared with 43% of the men who were engaged with these professions. Similarly, among immigrants who arrived during the period of 1990–1995, about 58% were engaged in these professions, compared with 35% among those who immigrated from 2002 to 2007.



2.4. Main Reasons for Immigration (Table 9)

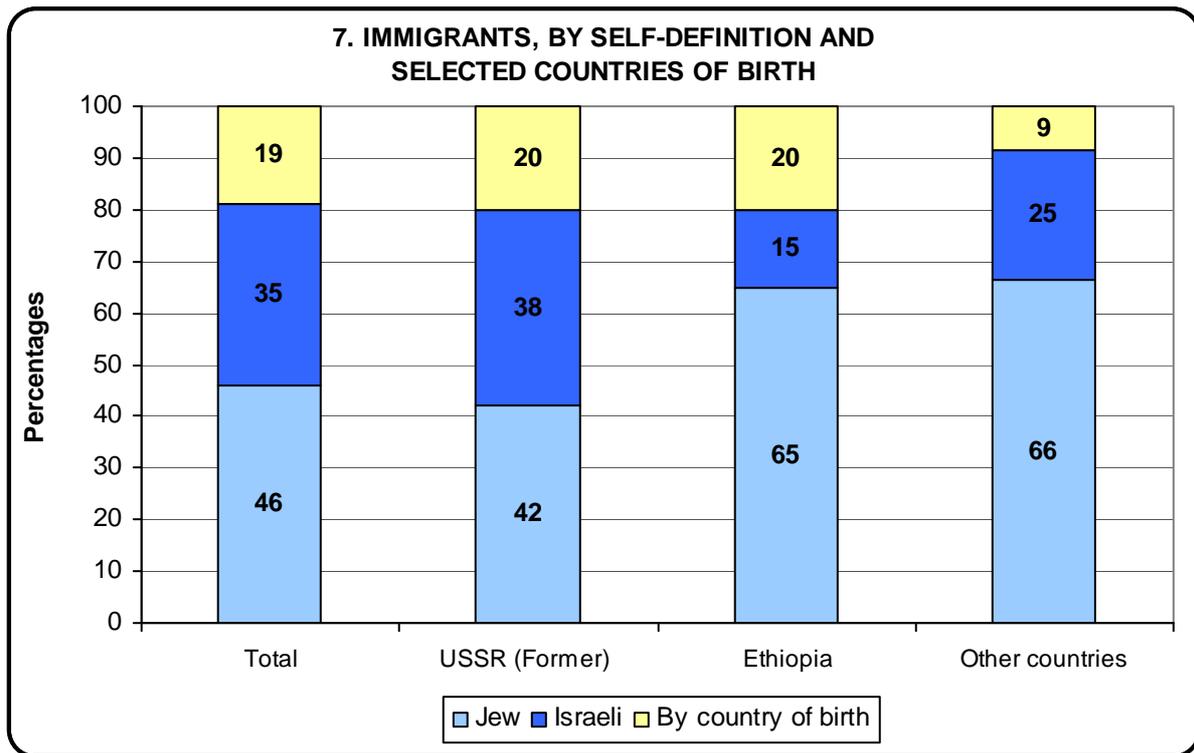
Immigrants indicated the following as the main reasons for immigration: "Desire to live as a Jew in the Jewish State", "desire to insure our children's future", and "decision of parents, spouse or another relative to immigrate to Israel" (each one of these reasons was indicated by about 18% of total immigrants).

Among immigrants from the former Soviet Union, about 20% reported that the main reason for their immigration was the desire to insure their children's future, about 19% because of the decision of parents, spouse or another relative, and about 14% indicated the desire to live as a Jew in the Jewish State. Among immigrants from Ethiopia, about 60% reported that the main reason for their immigration was the desire to live as a Jew in the Jewish State, about 23% reported that Zionism was the main reason for their immigration and about 12% immigrated because of the decision of their parents. Among immigrants from the rest of the countries, the desire to live as a Jew in the Jewish State was the main reason for immigration for about 28% of the immigrants, Zionism was the main reason for about 26%, and for about 12% the decision was made by the parents, spouse or other relatives.

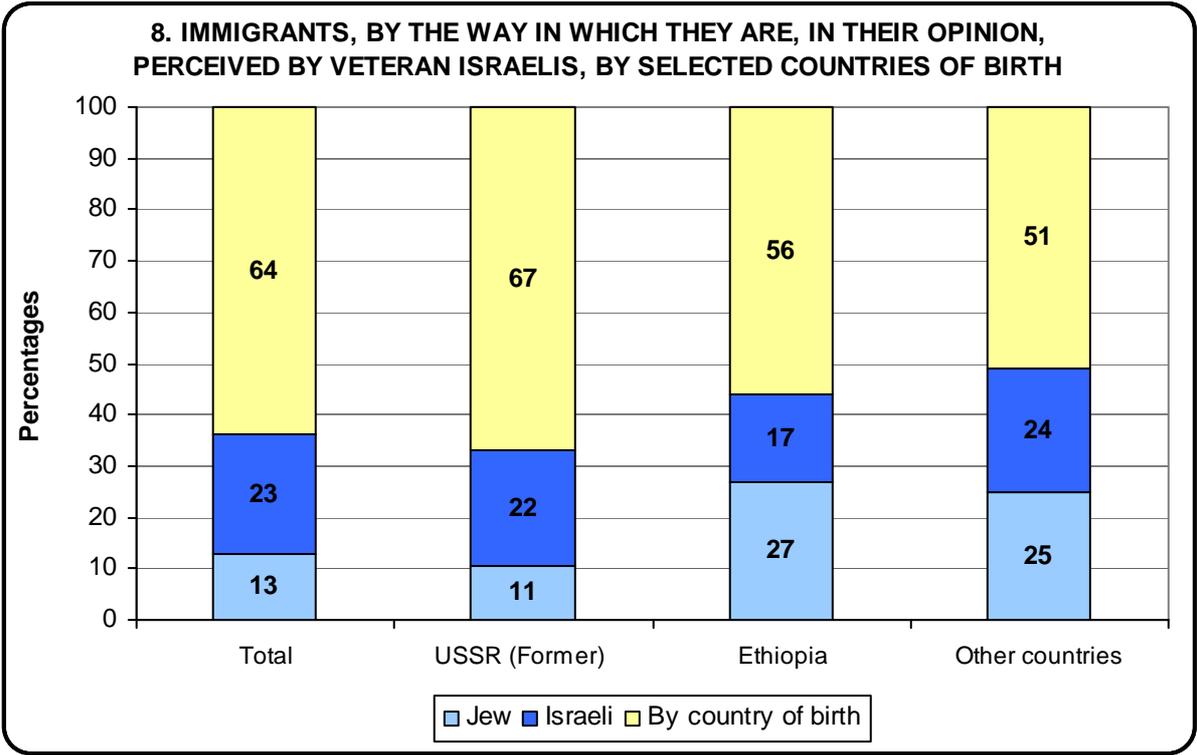


2.5. Feeling of Identity (Tables 10, 11, 12, 13)

Close to half (about 47%) of the total population of immigrants define themselves as Jews, slightly more than a third (about 35%) define themselves as Israelis and about a fifth (about 19%) define themselves by their country of origin. This tendency repeats itself among immigrants from the former Soviet Union as well: The most common self-definition is "Jew" (42%), the second most common is "Israeli" (38%), and in third place, "by country of origin" (21%). Among immigrants from Ethiopia the most common self-definition is "Jew" (65%), in second place is "by country of origin" (20%) and in third place is the self-definition "Israeli" (15%). In a similar vein to the division by country of birth, in a division by the year of immigration most immigrants define themselves first of all as "Jews" and only afterwards by the country of origin or as "Israelis". Immigrants with the least amount of years in Israel (3–5 years) had the highest percentage (62%) of those who self-identified as "Jews" and the lowest percentage (16%) of the self-definition "Israeli".



This picture changes significantly when the question asked is: How, in the immigrants' opinion, are they perceived by most veteran Israelis? Most of the immigrants (64%) believed that veteran Israelis, first of all, view them by their country of origin (Russian, Ethiopian, etc.), and only after that as Israelis (23%) or Jews (13%). About two thirds of immigrants from the former USSR believe that veteran Israelis define them by their country of origin, and more than half among Ethiopian immigrants and other countries of origin believe so. The length of time spent in Israel does not effect this distribution.



A significant majority of immigrants reported that they feel Israel is their home: About 86% of the total population of immigrants reported that they feel Israel is their home, to a large or very large extent, whereas about 14% reported that they do not feel that Israel is their home at all or to only a slight extent. In a distribution by country of origin, about 82% of the immigrants from Ethiopia and about 41% of the immigrants from the former USSR felt to a very large extent that Israel is their home. In a distribution by age at the time of immigration, about 62% of the younger immigrants (up to age 17) felt that Israel was their home to very large extent, compared with 35% that felt that way among immigrants who came at an older age (55 and over).

A question on of the immigrants' willingness to remain in Israel in the future indicates that approximately 85% of total immigrants are sure they will stay in Israel in the coming years, about 12% believed that they would possibly stay in Israel in the coming years and about 3% believed they would not stay in Israel or were sure they would leave the country in the future. Most of the immigrants, about 93% of immigrants from Ethiopia and about 85% of immigrants from the former USSR and other countries, indicated that they were sure they would stay in Israel in the coming years. The older the immigrant's age at the time of immigration, the higher the percentage who were sure they would stay in Israel in the future: Among immigrants who came when they were 17 or younger, 69% indicated they were sure they would stay in Israel, compared with about 95% among those aged 55 and over at the time of immigration.

2.6. Social Connection (Tables 14, 15, 16)

Approximately 82% of immigrants reported that they stay in touch with family members, friends and acquaintances living abroad, compared with about 18% of them who reported that they do not maintain a connection with relatives abroad. Among immigrants from the former USSR, about 83% keep a connection with relatives or acquaintances abroad, in comparison with 43% among immigrants from Ethiopia. The percentage of those who are staying in touch with relatives or acquaintances abroad is especially high among immigrants from other countries of origin – about 93% reported that they keep a connection with relatives or acquaintances abroad.

Almost all the immigrants (about 98%) who have family or acquaintances in Israel stay in touch with family members, friends or acquaintances in Israel by the means of telephone, mail, email or internet. These percentages are very high in a distribution by the country of origin as well: About 96% of immigrants from Ethiopia, about 98% of those from the former USSR and about 97% of those from other countries of origin reported that they stay in touch with relatives or acquaintances in Israel. In the same way, a very high percentage of immigrants maintain a high level of social connection in Israel (above 97%) in distributions by sex, period of immigration and age at the time of immigration.

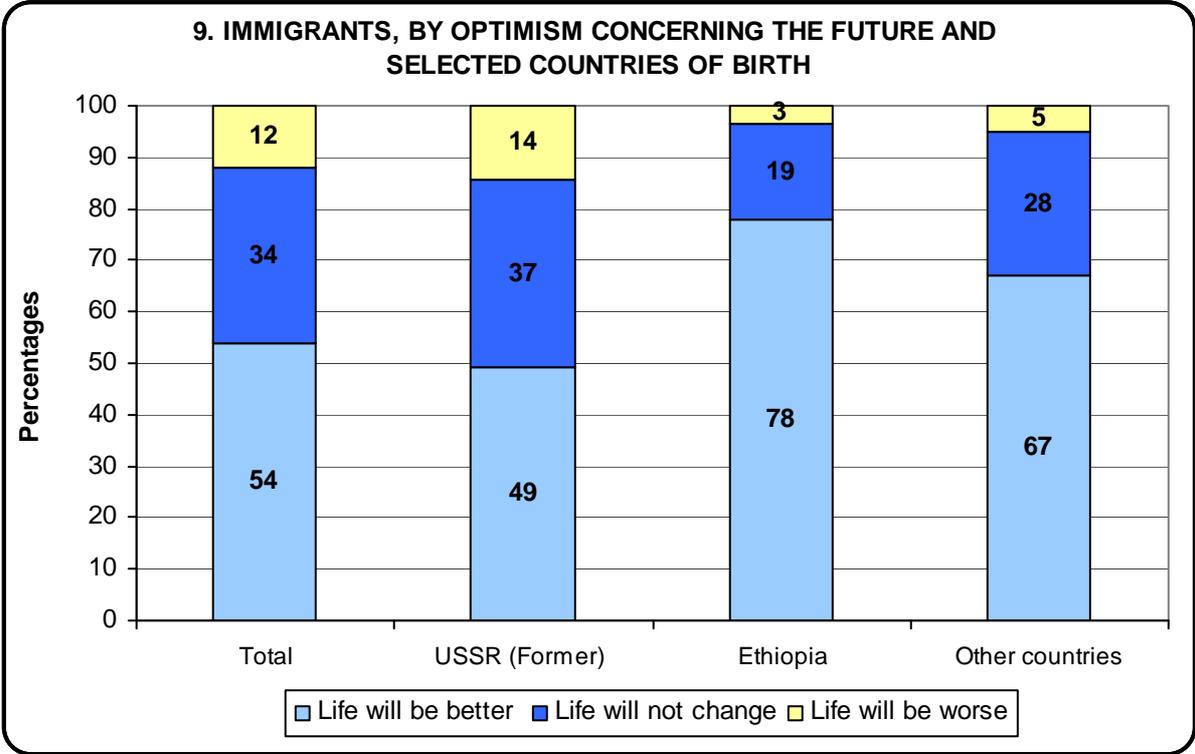
Approximately 68% of all immigrants reported that most of their friends in Israel are immigrants from their country of origin, about 21% reported that most of their friends are veteran Israelis, and about 10% reported that most of their friends are immigrants from countries of origin other than their own. In a distribution by country of origin, sex, period of immigration or number of years in Israel, it was found that most immigrants reported that most of their friends were immigrants from the same country of origin.

2.7. Satisfaction with Life (Tables 17, 18)

Approximately 20% of total immigrants reported that they were very satisfied with life, about 58% were satisfied and about 22% were not so satisfied or not satisfied at all with life. In a distribution by country of origin, about 42% of the immigrants from Ethiopia reported that they were very satisfied and about 13% of them reported that they were not so satisfied or not satisfied at all from life in Israel. About 13% of those from the former USSR reported they were very satisfied with life and about 26% reported they were not so satisfied or were not satisfied at all from life in Israel. The effect of the number of years in Israel on satisfaction with life is illustrated by an inverse bell curve: The immigrants with the largest number of years in Israel (having been in Israel 16-20 years, 20% very satisfied) and the newest immigrants (3-5 years in Israel, 29% very satisfied) were more satisfied than immigrants who have been in Israel for an intermediate number of years (9-12 years in Israel, 16% very satisfied).

In response to the question: "How do you expect your life to be in the coming years, compared to today?" – approximately 53% of all immigrants answered that their life will be better, about 35% answered that their life will not change and about 12% reported that their life will be worse. The number of years in Israel has an inverse impact on the immigrants' feelings about the future; as the number of years in Israel decreases, the feeling of the

immigrants that life will be better increases. About 49% of the immigrants in Israel for 16–20 years believed their life would be better in the future and about 70% of the immigrants in Israel for 3-5 years believed their life would be better in the future.



2.8. Living Environment (Tables 19, 20)

The immigrants' two major reasons for choosing a place of residence were closeness to family and the price of the dwelling or cost of rent; about 27% and 24% of the immigrants, respectively, indicated these reasons. Additionally, about 11% indicated that they chose the place of residence because of proximity to their workplace, and about 8% chose their place due to the character of the neighborhood or because of pleasant surroundings.

An examination of the immigrants' satisfaction with their residential surroundings reveals that about 18% of total immigrants are very satisfied with their residential surroundings, about 57% are satisfied and a quarter (25%) are either not so satisfied or not satisfied at all.

3. TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Country of birth: The country in which a person is born, according to the boundaries at the time of the 2008 Population Census.

Country of origin: The country from which the immigrant came to Israel.

Age at the time of immigration: The age at which the sampled person immigrated to Israel.

Sampling errors: Sampling errors in the tables were calculated for each one of the percentages separately. In order to caution the reader about data with low reliability, percentages with a sampling error higher than 40% are marked with two dots "..".

Immigrant: A person who entered Israel for permanent settlement, in accordance with the Law of Return or the Law of Entry.

Period of immigration: Divided into three groups: 1990–1995 (group of veteran immigrants), 1996–2001 (intermediate group) and 2002–2007 (younger group).

4. Methodology

4.1. Survey Population

The population of the 2010–2011 Immigrant Absorption Survey includes immigrants from all countries, aged 26–74 in the year the survey was conducted (2010), who immigrated to Israel in the period from 1990–2007 and live in households.

4.2. Sampling Method

The sample was taken from a sampling frame that included respondents to the Socio-Economic Survey of the 2008 Census (which was also based on a sample), in accordance with the definition of the survey population. Thus, the Immigrant Absorption Survey was a post-census survey based on census records, for planning and drawing the survey sample. Residents of institutions (such as homes for the aged, institutions for the disabled and prisons) were removed from the frame, because they do not live there as in a household. The entire sample frame included 83,958 records.

The sampling method chosen was that of stratification sampling, and the goal was to form homogeneous groups with relation to variables that are correlated with the survey variables, as well as obtaining estimates for certain intersections. The strata were defined as the intersection of three variables: age groups (5 groups), period of immigration (3 groups) and country of origin (8 groups). Each individual in the sampling frame was placed in the relevant stratum in accordance with his characteristics. In all, 120 sampling strata were defined. Since the survey was a post-census survey, in which the sample was a sub-sample of the census sample, the allocation of the sample between strata was very complicated. This allocation took into account the size of the sample determined for the survey, the size of the strata and the variance of the census estimates, which were correlated with the variables investigated in the survey. The allocation that was determined was the one that minimized the variance of

the estimate. The sample for the survey included 5,109 immigrants who were sampled with differential sampling probabilities.

4.3. Survey Method

The collection of the data from the Immigration Absorption Survey 2010–2011, was done in three ways:

1. Mail – Questionnaires were sent by mail to all the sampled persons to be filled out and returned by postage paid return mail.
2. Internet – The sampled person was given the option to fill out the questionnaire by using a personal password provided in the introductory letter that was first sent to him. Questionnaires that were filled out only partially by the sampled person were completed through a telephone interview.
3. Telephone interview – Sampled persons who did not fill out a paper or internet questionnaire, even after a reminder was sent, were contacted by telephone. These interviews were conducted using CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) and software to record the data.

The original survey questionnaire was published in a Hebrew version and was translated into Russian and English.

The survey questionnaire focused on topics connected to the social and economic integration of immigrants. The data of those interviewed in the Immigrant Absorption Survey were combined with the data collected in the 2008 Population Census Survey.

Response

The respondents to the survey numbered 3,952 immigrants, who comprised about 77% of all sampled persons. During the course of the survey, there were 495 cases of non-response (i.e., sampled persons who belonged to the survey population according to the definitions and did not respond), 189 zero cases (who did not belong to the survey population according to the definitions) and 473 cases in which it was not known whether or not they belonged to the survey population (they did not respond and it was not known whether or not they belonged to the population).

The rate of response to the survey was about 81%, and was calculated as the ratio of the respondents to those who belonged to the survey population. Note that the calculation was made by weighting, using the inverse of the sampling probability.

Data Treatment

To obtain estimates for the total survey population, the data collected in the sample have to be weighted by providing appropriate weights for the respondents. For each immigrant who responded to the survey, the "weight" expresses the number of immigrants in the population "represented" by him. The estimation method is designed to reduce both sampling errors and bias resulting (mainly) from non-response and from problems that arise in the data collection.

4.4. Estimation Methodology

The survey estimation process consisted of three stages: In the first stage each respondent received a preliminary weight which was the inverse of the sampling probability. This weight reflects the sample design and the differential nature of the sampling probabilities. Since the Immigrant Absorption Survey was a post-census survey, each respondent had a weight which was really the product of two weights – one determined by the Socio-Economic Survey of the 2008 Census and the other, the inverse sampling probability from the Immigrant Absorption Survey, within the sampling frame derived from the 2008 Census respondents. Since not all the sampled persons responded to the survey, in the second stage the preliminary weight was corrected; the preliminary weight was multiplied by a non-response correction coefficient. In the third stage, correlation variables were selected from the survey, whose distribution was known from sources external to the survey – demographic estimates of the immigrant population.

Final weights were calculated using the Raking calibration method, in which the distribution of the weighted sample from the second stage was adjusted to data external to the survey. Calibration to external was done by two intersections: by sex and age groups (5 groups), by period of immigration (3 groups) and by country of origin (8 groups). At the end of the process, the correlation between the weighted distribution of immigrants using the final weights with the demographic estimates of the population, for each intersection separately, was obtained.