

# Media Release

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**[A previous media release on this subject appeared on December 24, 2018](#)**

Jerusalem  
January 31, 2019

## Labour Force Survey Data, December, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Annual data of 2018

### Seasonally Adjusted Data<sup>1</sup>

#### In December 2018: ([For monthly data 12/2018](#))

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force – 4.3% (compared with 4.1% in November 2018).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 15 and over – 64.1% (compared with 63.9% in November 2018).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) among persons aged 15 and over – 61.3% (same as in November 2018).

#### In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (October-December): ([For quarterly data 4/2018](#))

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force – 4.2% (compared with 4.1% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 15 and over – 63.9% (compared with 64.0% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).
- Employment rate among persons aged 15 and over – 61.3% (same as in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the data in the seasonally adjusted series are partially based on past data from the quarterly labour force survey, so these series may change in the future after they are fully replaced by series based on the monthly labour force survey.

**Written by Mark Feldman, Director of Labour Sector tel: 02-6592815**

**For explanations and clarifications, please contact also to the Press Relations Unit,  
at 02-6527845**

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 25-64 from the labour force – 3.7% (compared with 3.5% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 25-64 – 80.2% (compared with 80.4% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).
- Employment rate among persons aged 25-64 – 77.3% (compared with 77.5% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).
- The share of employed persons usually working full time out of total employed persons – 78.5% (compared with 77.6% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).

### **In 2018 (original data):**

#### **Total population**

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force – 4.0% (compared with 4.2% in 2017).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 15 and over – 63.9% (compared with 64.0% in 2017).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) among persons aged 15 and over – 61.4% (compared with 61.3% in 2017).
- Unemployment rate among persons aged 25-64 from the labour force – 3.5% (compared with 3.7% in 2017).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 25-64 – 80.3% (compared with 80.0% in 2017).
- Employment rate among persons aged 25-64 – 77.5% (compared with 77.1% in 2017).
- The share of employees in high-tech sector of all employees – 9.4% (compared with 9.0% in 2017).
- The number of employees who received their salary through an employment agency<sup>2</sup> – 21,200 (compared with 38,300 in 2017).
- Of all districts, the lowest unemployment rate was in the Central district – 3.3%.

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<sup>2</sup> In January 2018, an updated questionnaire was conducted for persons aged 15 and over, and a method of collecting information was changed in some of the questions (wording, answer modes, and questions order). Therefore, one must be careful to compare data in some of the questions to previous years. See detailed explanations and an updated questionnaire in the Introduction to the Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

- Among localities with 100,000 residents and over, the lowest unemployment rate was in Kfar Saba – 2.4%.

### **Jews and Arabs**

- Unemployment rate among Jews aged 25-64 from the labour force – 3.5% (compared with 3.7% in 2017).
- Participation rate in the labour force among Jews aged 25-64 – 85.5% (compared with 85.3% in 2017).
- Employment rate among Jews aged 25-64 – 82.5% (compared with 82.1% in 2017).
- Unemployment rate among Arabs aged 25-64 from the labour force – 3.6% (compared with 3.7% in 2017).
- Participation rate in the labour force among Arabs aged 25-64 – 57.7% (compared with 56.6% in 2017).
- Employment rate among Arabs aged 25-64 – 55.6% (compared with 54.6% in 2017).

### **Economic characteristics of households**

- Share of households with employed persons – 79.8% (same as in 2017).
- Share of Jewish households with employed persons – 79.7% (compared with 79.9% in 2017).
- Share of Arab households with employed persons – 78.9% (compared with 78.3% in 2017).
- Of all districts, the share of households with employed persons was highest in the Judea and Samaria Area – 89.6%.
- Of all districts, the share of households with employed persons was lowest in the Haifa district – 75.8%.
- Among localities with 100,000 residents and over, the share of households with employed persons was highest in Bet Shemesh – 86.6%.
- Among localities with 100,000 residents and over, the share of households with employed persons was lowest in Haifa – 72.7%.

The Labour Force Survey is the main source of information regarding the labour force in Israel, and is conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics on an ongoing basis.

Starting from the beginning of 2018, an average of 19,700 persons aged 15 and over a month have been interviewed on an ongoing basis. The survey population includes the permanent population of Israel, as well as tourists and temporary residents living in Israel continuously for more than one year. The survey follows the development of the labour force in Israel, its size and characteristics, the extent of unemployment, etc.

## December 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted Data

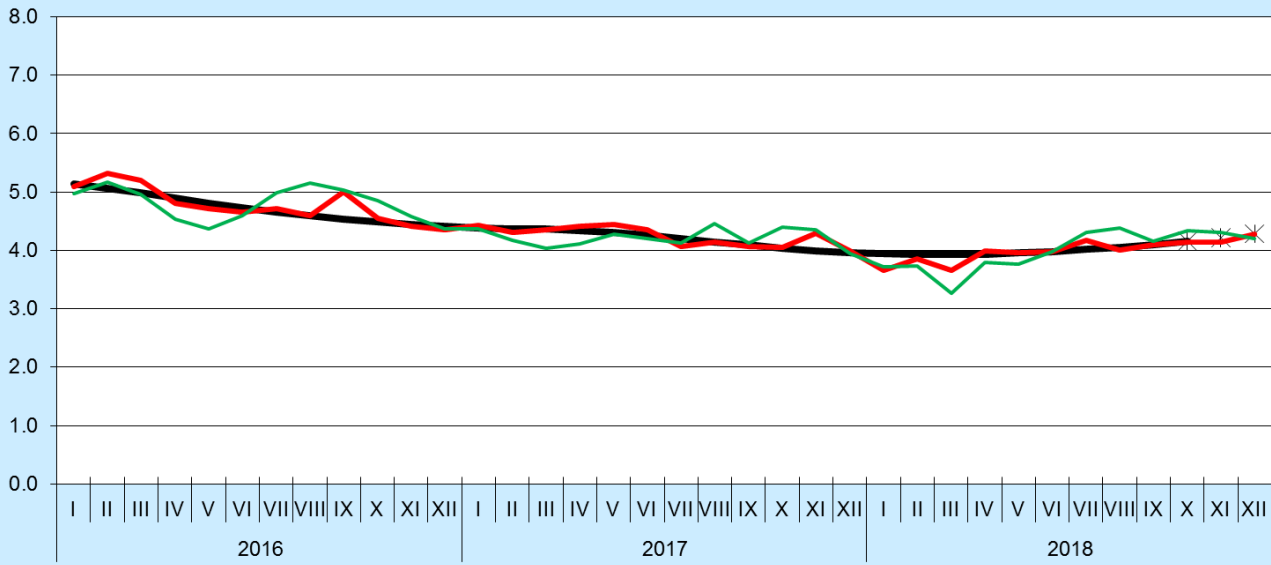
In December 2018, **the number of persons in the labour force** among persons **aged 15 and over** was **4.117 million**. Of these, 3.941 million were **employed** and approximately 176,000 were **unemployed**. Among employed persons, 2.053 million were **men** (compared with 2.045 in November 2018) and 1.888 million were **women** (compared with 1.885 million in November 2018).

**The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over in the labour force** in December 2018 rose to 64.1% (compared with 63.9% in November 2018). Among **men aged 15 and over** (see Diagram 3), that rate rose to 68.2% (compared with 68.1% in the previous month), and among **women aged 15 and over** it rose to 60.1% (compared with 60.0% in the previous month).

**The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force** (see Diagram 1), rose to 4.3% in December 2018 (compared with 4.1% in November 2018). The unemployment rate of **men aged 15 and over** (see Diagram 2) reached 4.2% (same as in the previous month), whereas among **women aged 15 and over** it rose to 4.3% (compared with 4.1% in the previous month).

**The employment rate** (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) **among persons aged 15 and over** reached 61.3% in December 2018 (same as in November 2018). The employment rate among **men aged 15 and over** (see Diagram 4) rose to 65.3% (compared with 65.2% in the previous month), whereas that of **women aged 15 and over** reached 57.5% (same as in the previous month).

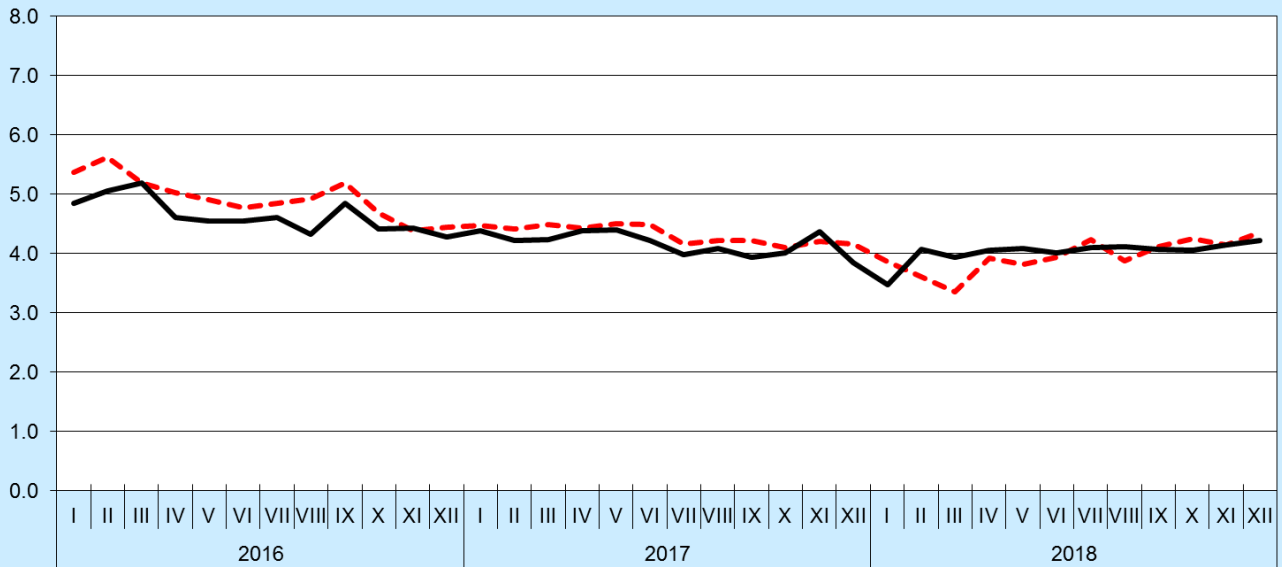
תרשים 1. - אחוז הבלתי מועסקים מכוח העבודה  
 DIAGRAM 1. - PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN LABOUR FORCE



\* The last 3 points of the trend are subject to substantial revisions. \* שלוש הנקודות האחרונות של המגמה עשויות להשתנות במידה ניכרת.

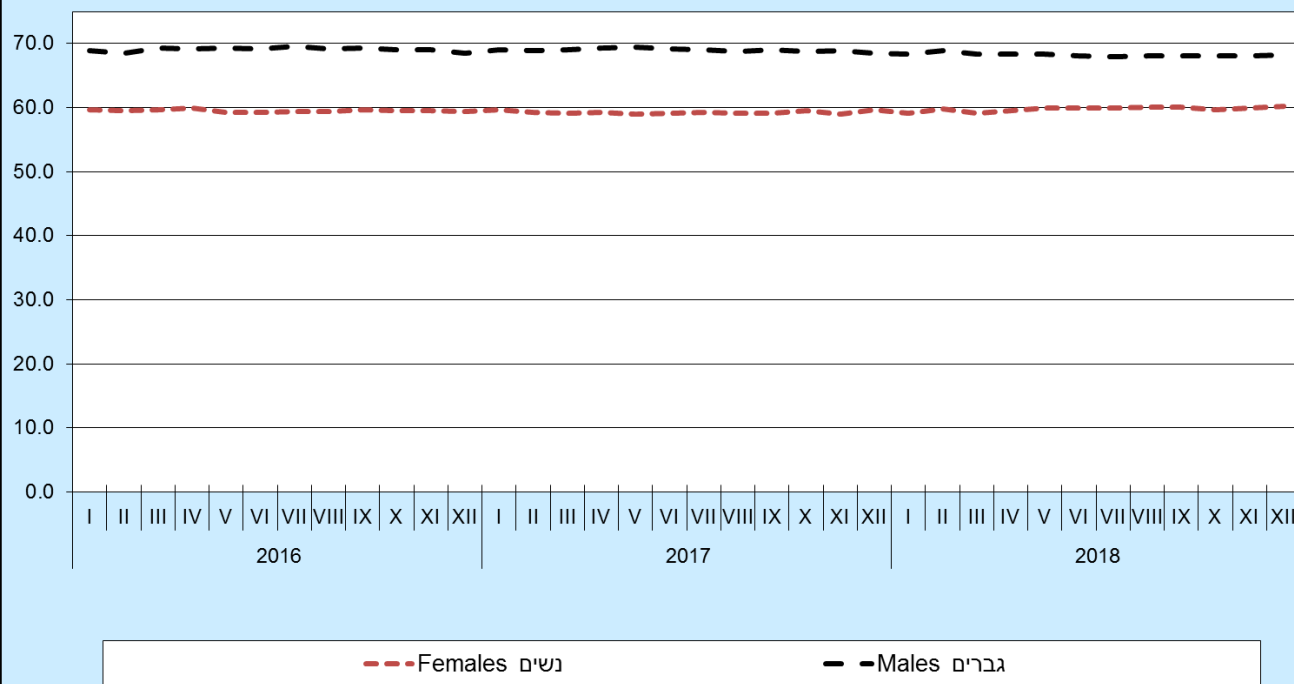
— Trend מגמה      — Seasonally adjusted מנוכה עונתיות      — Original מקורי

תרשים 2. - אחוז הבלתי מועסקים מכוח העבודה, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)  
 DIAGRAM 2. - PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN LABOUR FORCE, BY SEX  
 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)

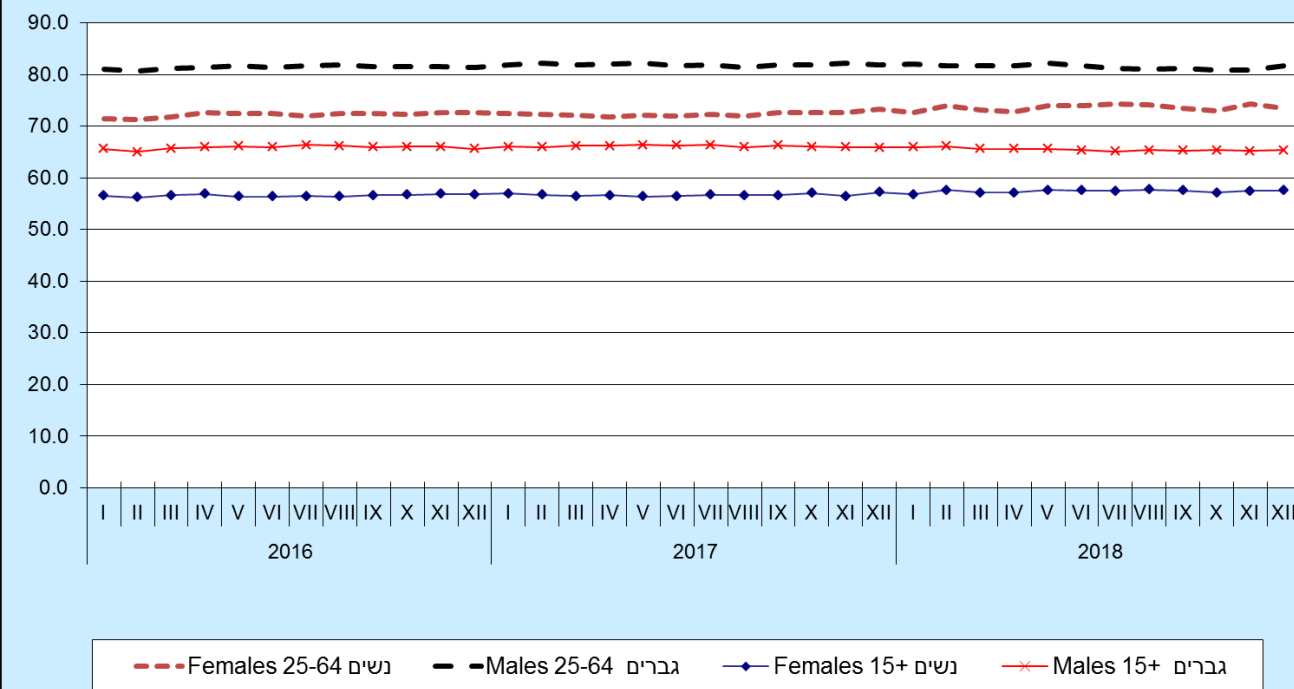


--- Females נשים      — Males גברים

תרשים 3. - אחוז המשתתפים בכוח העבודה, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)  
 DIAGRAM 3.- PERCENTAGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BY SEX  
 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)



תרשים 4. - שיעורי תעסוקה בקרב בני 15 ומעלה ובקרב בני 25-64, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)  
 DIAGRAM 4.- EMPLOYMENT RATES OF PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER AND AGED 25-64, BY SEX  
 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Average (October-December) 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted Data

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018, **the number of persons in the labour force** among persons **aged 15 and over** was 4.100 million. Of these, 3.929 million were **employed** and approximately 172,000 were **unemployed**. Among the employed persons, 2.048 million were **men** (compared with 2.037 million in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018) and 1.880 million were **women** (compared with 1.877 million in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018).

**The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over in the labour force** in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 declined to 63.9% (compared with 64.0% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018). Among **men aged 15 and over**, the rate rose to 68.1% (compared with 68.0% in the previous quarter), whereas among **women aged 15 and over** the rate declined to 59.9% (compared with 60.0% in the previous quarter).

**The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force**, rose in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 to 4.2% (compared with 4.1% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018). The unemployment rate of **men aged 15 and over** reached 4.1% (same as in the previous quarter), whereas that of **women aged 15 and over** rose to 4.2% (compared with 4.1% in the previous quarter).

**The employment rate** (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among **persons aged 15 and over** was 61.3% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (same as in the previous quarter). The employment rate among **men aged 15 and over** reached 65.3% (same as in the previous quarter), whereas the employment rate among **women aged 15 and over** declined to 57.4% (compared with 57.6% in the previous quarter).

Among **persons aged 25-64 the participation rate in the labour force** declined to 80.2% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (compared with 80.4% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018). Among **men aged 25-64** the rate rose to 84.3% (compared with 84.2% in the previous quarter), whereas among **women aged 25-64** the rate declined to 76.3% (compared with 76.7% in the previous quarter).

Among **persons aged 25-64 the unemployment rate from the labour force** rose to 3.7% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (compared with 3.5% in the previous quarter). Among **men aged 25-64** the unemployment rate rose to 3.7% (compared with 3.6% in the previous quarter), and among **women aged 25-64** the unemployment rate rose to 3.6% (compared with 3.5% in the previous quarter).

**The employment rate among persons aged 25-64** declined to 77.3% (compared with 77.5% in the previous quarter). Among **men aged 25-64** the employment rate declined to 81.1%

(compared with 81.2% in the previous quarter), and among **women aged 25-64** the employment rate declined to 73.5% (compared with 74.0% in the previous quarter).

**The number of employed persons** in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 reached 3.929 million (compared with 3.914 million in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018). The number of **employed persons who usually worked full time (35 hours and over per week)** increased by 1.6% compared with the previous quarter (an increase of approximately 48,000 employed persons), whereas the number of **employed persons who usually worked part time (less than 35 hours per week)** decreased by 3.9% compared with the previous quarter (a decrease of approximately 34,000 employed persons). The share of those **usually employed full time** of all employed persons rose to 78.5% (compared with 77.6% in the previous quarter). Among **men** that share rose to 87.4% (compared with 86.5% in previous quarter), and among **women** it rose to 69.0% (compared with 67.9% in the previous quarter). (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.24-1.26 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

The number of **persons who worked full time (35 hours and over) in the determinant week** decreased by 1.5%, compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 (a decrease of approximately 40,000 employed persons), whereas the number of **persons who worked part time (less than 35 hours) in the determinant week** increased by 6.8%, compared with the previous quarter (an addition of approximately 67,000 employed persons). The number of **persons temporarily absent from work** in the determinant week decreased in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 by 5.3%, compared with the previous quarter (a decrease of approximately 16,000 employed persons). (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.4-1.6 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

**The average weekly number of work hours per employed person** declined to 35.6 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (compared with 35.8 hours in the previous quarter). **The average weekly number of work hours per employee** declined to 35.7 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (compared with 35.9 hours in the previous quarter).

**Employees working part time involuntarily - original data.** As of 2018, the definition of employees working part time involuntarily<sup>3</sup> was changed following the transition to a new and expanded questionnaire. The number of **employees working part time involuntarily**

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<sup>3</sup> Until 2017: those usually working less than 35 hours per week, because they sought but did not find full-time or additional work.

As of 2018: those usually working less than 35 hours per week, who are interested in working more than 35 hours and actively sought to work more hours in the last four weeks.



declined to 60,000 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 (compared with 67,500 in the previous quarter), and their share out of all employed persons declined to 1.5% (compared with 1.7% in the previous quarter). The share of **males working part time involuntarily**, out of all employed males, declined to 1.0% (compared with 1.1% in the previous quarter), and the share of **females working part time involuntarily**, out of all employed females, declined to 2.2% (compared with 2.4% in the previous quarter). (Detailed figures can be found in Table 2.9 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

### **Labour Force Characteristics by District of Residence**

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.11-1.16 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

**The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over** rose in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 in most of the districts compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 and reached 5.0% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 4.9%), 4.7% in the **Northern District** (compared with 4.2%), 4.7% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 4.3%), 3.4% in the **Central District** (compared with 3.0%), 3.8% in the **Tel Aviv District** (same as in the previous quarter), 4.7% in the **Southern District** (compared with 5.5%).

**The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over in the labour force** declined in half of the districts in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. The participation rate reached 53.0% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 53.5%), 59.3% in the **Northern District** (compared with 58.3%), 63.3% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 62.5%), 69.5% in the **Central District** (compared with 70.2%), 69.1% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 69.2%), and 61.6% in the **Southern District** (compared with 61.3%).

**The employment rate among persons aged 15 and over** declined in half of the districts in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. The employment rate reached 50.3% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 50.9%), 56.6% in the **Northern District** (compared with 55.8%), 60.3% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 59.8%), 67.1% in the **Central District** (compared with 68.0%), 66.5% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 66.6%), and 58.7% in the **Southern District** (compared with 57.9%).

## **Employed Persons by Industry (By the new classification of All Economic Activities (Updated edition), Technical Publication no. 80)**

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.1 and 2.5 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 the number of **employed persons** increased by approximately 15,000 compared with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. The number of **employees** in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 reached 3.433 million (compared with 3.436 million in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018). Table 1 below presents the number of employed persons and employees by industry in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2018.

Among **employed persons**, the greatest **increases** were in **Information and communication** (approximately 21,000 employed persons), in **Local, public and defence administration and social security** (approximately 12,000 employed persons), in **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (approximately 9,000 employed persons), in **Construction**, in **Financial and insurance activities** and in **Human health and social work activities** (approximately 5,000 employed persons in each industry).

The greatest **decreases** were in **Education** (approximately 21,000 employed persons), in **Manufacturing; Mining and quarrying** (approximately 8,000 employed persons), in **Transportation and storage, postal and courier activities** (approximately 5,000 employed persons).

Among **employees**, the greatest **increases** were in **Information and communication** (approximately 19,000 employees), in **Local, public and defence administration and social security** (approximately 13,000 employees), in **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (approximately 8,000 employees), in **Construction** (approximately 6,000 employees), in **Financial and insurance activities** (approximately 4,000 employees).

The greatest **decreases** were in **Education** (approximately 17,000 employees), in **Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles** (approximately 7,000 employees), in **Manufacturing; Mining and quarrying** and in **Transportation and storage, postal and courier activities** (approximately 6,000 employees in each industry), in **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (approximately 5,000 employees), in **Administrative and support service activities** (approximately 4,000 employees).

**TABLE 1.- EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYEES, BY INDUSTRY (2011 CLASSIFICATION), 3<sup>rd</sup> AND 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTERS OF 2018, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, THOUSANDS**

Section	Description	Employed persons Quarter 3/2018	Employed persons Quarter 4/2018	Employees Quarter 3/2018	Employees Quarter 4/2018
<b>Total (1)</b>		3,913.6	3,928.5	3,435.8	3,432.7
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	39.0	40.9	27.4	28.9
B+C	Manufacturing; Mining and quarrying	423.9	416.2	398.5	392.6
D	Electricity supply	18.0	14.6	17.9	14.6
E	Water supply, sewerage and waste management	14.7	16.6	14.4	16.6
F	Construction	201.9	206.9	156.2	162.7
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	424.8	424.0	371.6	365.1
H	Transportation and storage, postal and courier activities	170.2	164.9	144.3	138.5
I	Accommodation and food service activities	164.8	164.7	144.7	147.4
J	Information and communication	198.0	218.8	183.1	202.4
K	Financial and insurance activities	129.7	134.4	121.3	125.1
L	Real estate activities	33.8	34.3	19.1	18.8
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	286.4	295.4	195.2	202.6
N	Administrative and support service activities	150.2	148.5	135.5	131.8
O	Local, public and defence administration and social security	388.3	400.5	384.7	398.0
P	Education	501.4	480.8	476.1	458.9
Q	Human health and social work activities	422.8	427.4	370.8	372.6
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	77.4	79.8	46.4	41.1
S	Other service activities	95.3	96.9	59.4	60.8
T	Households as employers	66.6	63.8	60.9	59.9

(1) Incl. employed persons or employees in the industry "Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies" (Category U), and persons whose industry is not known.

**Employed Persons by Occupation ([By the new classification of Occupations, Technical Publication no. 81](#))** (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.10 and 2.14 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

Table 2 below presents the number of **employed persons** and **employees** by occupation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2018.

Among **employed persons**, the greatest **increases** were among **Service and sales workers** (approximately 20,000 employed persons), **Professionals** and **Practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals** (approximately 17,000 employed persons in each occupation), **Clerical support workers** (approximately 15,000 employed persons).

The greatest **decreases** were among **Managers** (approximately 64,000 employed persons), **Skilled workers in manufacturing and construction, and other skilled workers** (13,000 employed persons), **Elementary occupations** (approximately 10,000 employed persons).

Among **employees**, the greatest **increases** were among **Clerical support workers** (approximately 15,000 employees), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals** (approximately 14,000 employees), **Professionals** (approximately 11,000 employees), **Service and sales workers** (9,000 employees).

The greatest **decreases** were among **Managers** (approximately 60,000 employees), **Skilled workers in manufacturing and construction, and other skilled workers** (9,000 employees), **Elementary occupations** (approximately 8,000 employees).

**TABLE 2.- EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYEES, BY OCCUPATIONS (2011 CLASSIFICATION), 3<sup>rd</sup> AND 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTERS OF 2018, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, THOUSANDS**

Major group	Description	Employed persons Quarter 3/2018	Employed persons Quarter 4/2018	Employees Quarter 3/2018	Employees Quarter 4/2018
<b>Total (1)</b>		3,913.6	3,928.5	3,435.8	3,432.7
1	Managers	391.4	327.0	352.5	292.1
2	Professionals	1,047.1	1,064.4	892.6	903.3
3	Practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals	512.7	529.6	431.4	445.7
4	Clerical support workers	253.5	268.1	246.9	261.5
5	Service and sales workers	684.8	705.0	604.1	612.9
6	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	26.0	28.5	13.6	16.0
7-8	Skilled workers in manufacturing and construction, and other skilled workers	510.8	497.8	418.0	408.9
9	Elementary occupations	232.4	222.7	225.0	216.8

(1) Incl. employed persons or employees whose occupation is not known.

## 2018 Average – original data

In 2018 **the number of persons in the labour force** among persons **aged 15 and over** was 4.068 million. Of these, 3.905 million were **employed** and approximately 163,000 were **unemployed**. Among the employed persons, 2.039 million were **men** (2.019 million in 2017) and 1.867 million were **women** (1.806 million in 2017). Among the unemployed persons, approximately 86,000 were **men** (compared with approximately 87,000 in 2017) and approximately 77,000 were **women** (compared with approximately 82,000 in 2017).

**The participation rate** among **persons aged 15 and over in the labour force** in 2018 declined to 63.9% (compared with 64.0% in 2017). Among **men aged 15 and over** (see Diagram 5), the rate declined to 68.2% (compared with 69.0% in 2017) whereas among **women aged 15 and over** the rate rose to 59.8% (compared with 59.3% in 2017).

**The unemployment rate** among **persons aged 15 and over from the labour force**, declined to 4.0% in 2018 (compared with 4.2% in 2017). The unemployment rate of **men aged 15 and over** declined to 4.0% (compared with 4.1% in 2017), and the unemployment rate of **women aged 15 and over** declined to 4.0% (compared with 4.3% in 2017).

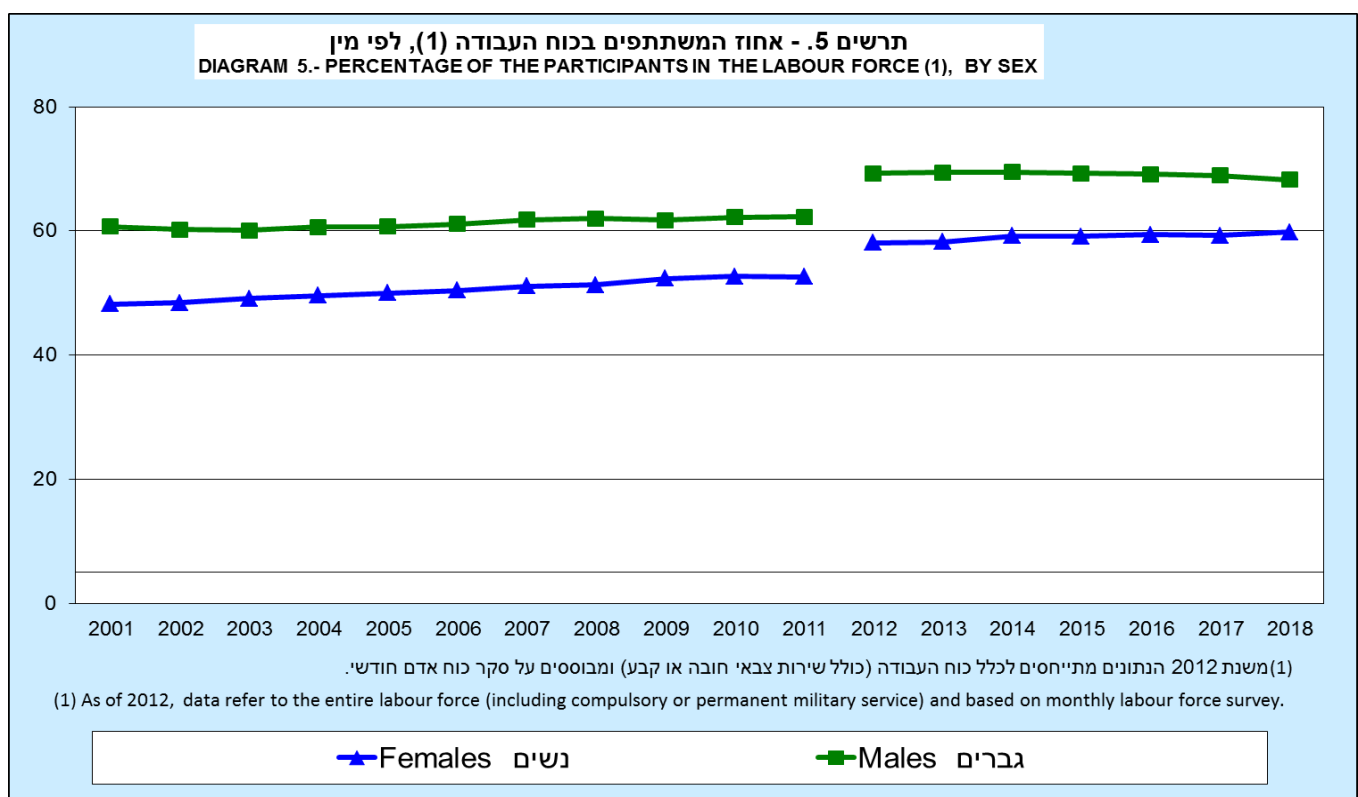
**The employment rate** (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among **persons aged 15 and over** rose to 61.4% in 2018 (compared with 61.3% in 2017). The employment rate among **men aged 15 and over** declined to 65.5% (compared with 66.1% in 2017), whereas among **women aged 15 and over** it rose to 57.4% (compared with 56.7% in 2017).

Among **persons aged 25-64 the participation rate in the labour force** rose to 80.3% in 2018 (compared with 80.0% in 2017). Among **men aged 25-64** the rate declined to 84.5% (compared with 85.0% in 2017), whereas among **women aged 25-64** the rate rose to 76.2% (compared with 75.2% in 2017).

**Among persons aged 25-64 the unemployment rate from the labour force** declined to 3.5% in 2018 (compared with 3.7% in 2017). Among **men aged 25-64** the rate declined to 3.6% (compared with 3.7% in 2017) and among **women aged 25-64** the rate declined to 3.4% (compared with 3.7% in 2017).

**The employment rate** among **persons aged 25-64** rose to 77.5% (compared with 77.1% in 2017). Among **men aged 25-64** the employment rate declined to 81.5% (compared with 81.9% in 2017) whereas among **women aged 25-64** the employment rate rose to 73.6% (compared with 72.4% in 2017).

The number of **employed persons** in 2018 reached 3.905 million, out of them 3.421 million were **employees** (compared with 3.350 million in 2017). **The average weekly number of work hours per employed person** decreased to 36.1 in 2018 (compared with 36.2 in 2017). It should be noted that, the share of employed persons who **worked 50 hours and over in the determinant week** of all employed persons rose to 15.2% in 2018 (compared with 14.7% in 2017). Among **men**, that share rose to 22.9% (compared with 21.9% in 2017), and among **women** that share rose to 6.8% (compared with 6.6% in 2017). In addition it should be noted that, most of employed persons who **worked 50 hours and over in the determinant week** (approximately 90%) usually work the same. (Detailed figures can be found in table 2.16 in the annual publication of "[Labour Force Survey](#)" on the website.)



## Labour Force Characteristics by Population Groups

### Jews

In 2018 **the number of persons in the labour force among Jews aged 15 and over** was 3.335 million. Of these, 3.203 million were **employed** and approximately 132,000 were **unemployed**. Among the **employed Jews**, 1.600 million were **men** (compared with 1.590 million in 2017) and 1.603 million were **women** (compared with 1.563 million in 2017). Among the **unemployed Jews**, approximately 69,000 were **men** (same as in 2017) and approximately 63,000 were **women** (compared with approximately 67,000 in 2017).

**The participation rate among Jews aged 15 and over in the labour force** in 2018 declined to 67.8% (compared with 67.9% in 2017). Among **Jewish men aged 15 and over**, the rate declined to 69.9% (compared with 70.0% in 2017) whereas among **Jewish women aged 15 and over** the rate rose to 66.2% (compared with 65.9% in 2017). Among **Jews aged 25-64 the participation rate in the labour force** rose to 85.5% in 2018 (compared with 85.3% in 2017). Among **Jewish men aged 25-64** the rate declined to 86.2% (compared with 86.5% in 2017), whereas among **Jewish women aged 25-64** the rate rose to 84.9% (compared with 84.0% in 2017).

**The unemployment rate among Jews aged 15 and over from the labour force**, declined to 4.0% in 2018 (compared with 4.1% in 2017). The unemployment rate of **Jewish men aged 15 and over** declined to 4.1% (compared with 4.2% in 2017), and the unemployment rate of **Jewish women aged 15 and over** declined to 3.8% (compared with 4.1% in 2017). Among **Jews aged 25-64 the unemployment rate from the labour force** declined to 3.5% in 2018 (compared with 3.7% in 2017). Among **Jewish men aged 25-64** the rate declined to 3.7% (compared with 3.9% in 2017) and among **Jewish women aged 25-64** the rate declined to 3.3% (compared with 3.6% in 2017).

**The employment rate** (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among **Jews aged 15 and over** rose to 65.2% in 2018 (compared with 65.1% in 2017). The employment rate among **Jewish men aged 15 and over** declined to 66.7% (compared with 67.1% in 2017), whereas among **Jewish women aged 15 and over** it rose to 63.7% (compared with 63.2% in 2017). Among **Jews aged 25-64** the employment rate rose to 82.5% (compared with 82.1% in 2017). Among **Jewish men aged 25-64** the employment rate declined to 83.0% (compared with 83.2% in 2017) whereas among **Jewish women aged 25-64** the employment rate rose to 82.1% (compared with 81.0% in 2017).

## **Arabs**

In 2018 **the number of persons in the labour force among Arabs aged 15 and over** was approximately 570,000. Of these, approximately 544,000 were **employed** and approximately 26,000 were **unemployed**. Among the **employed Arabs**, approximately 368,000 were **men** (compared with approximately 361,000 in 2017) and approximately 176,000 were **women** (compared with approximately 158,000 in 2017). Among the **unemployed Arabs**, approximately 14,000 were **men** (compared with approximately 15,000 in 2017) and approximately 11,000 were **women** (compared with approximately 12,000 in 2017).



**The participation rate among Arabs aged 15 and over in the labour force** in 2018 rose to 45.9% (compared with 45.7% in 2017). Among **Arab men aged 15 and over**, the rate declined to 61.3% (compared with 62.9% in 2017) whereas among **Arab women aged 15 and over** the rate rose to 30.4% (compared with 28.4% in 2017). Among **Arabs aged 25-64 the participation rate in the labour force** rose to 57.7% in 2018 (compared with 56.6% in 2017). Among **Arab men aged 25-64** the rate declined to 76.7% (compared with 77.8% in 2017), whereas among **Arab women aged 25-64** the rate rose to 38.9% (compared with 35.9% in 2017).

**The unemployment rate among Arabs aged 15 and over from the labour force**, declined to 4.5% in 2018 (compared with 5.0% in 2017). The unemployment rate of **Arab men aged 15 and over** declined to 3.8% (compared with 4.0% in 2017), and the unemployment rate of **Arab women aged 15 and over** declined to 6.0% (compared with 7.0% in 2017). Among **Arabs aged 25-64 the unemployment rate from the labour force** declined to 3.6% in 2018 (compared with 3.7% in 2017). Among **Arab men aged 25-64** the rate rose to 3.1% (compared with 2.9% in 2017) whereas among **Arab women aged 25-64** the rate declined to 4.6% (compared with 5.3% in 2017).

**The employment rate** (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among **Arabs aged 15 and over** rose to 43.8% in 2018 (compared with 43.4% in 2017). The employment rate among **Arab men aged 15 and over** declined to 59.0% (compared with 60.4% in 2017), whereas among **Arab women aged 15 and over** it rose to 28.5% (compared with 26.4% in 2017). Among **Arabs aged 25-64** the employment rate rose to 55.6% (compared with 54.6% in 2017). Among **Arab men aged 25-64** the employment rate declined to 74.4% (compared with 75.5% in 2017) whereas among **Arab women aged 25-64** the employment rate rose to 37.1% (compared with 34.0% in 2017).

### **Labour Force Characteristics by District of Residence**

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.11-1.16 in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](#)" on the website).

**The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over** declined in most of the districts in 2018 compared with 2017, and reached 4.8% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 5.1%), 4.3% in the **Northern District** (compared with 5.0%), 4.0% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 4.7%), 3.3% in the **Central District** (compared with 3.5%), 3.5% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 3.6%), 5.3% in the **Southern District** (compared with 4.6%).



Among **localities with 100,000 residents and over**, the **lowest** unemployment rate in 2018 was in Kfar Saba – 2.4%, Bat Yam – 2.9%, Ramat Gan – 3.0%. The **highest** unemployment rate was in Beer Sheva – 5.7%, Ashkelon – 5.3%, Ashdod – 5.2%.

**The participation rate in the labour force among aged 15 and over** rose in half of the districts in 2018 compared with 2017, and reached 54.4% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 55.2%), 58.7% in the **Northern District** (compared with 58.1%), 62.6% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 62.4%), 69.4% in the **Central District** (compared with 69.9%), 69.3% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 69.0%), and 61.4% in the **Southern District** (same as in 2017). Among **localities with 100,000 residents and over**, the **highest** participation rate was in Tel Aviv – 74.5%, Kfar Saba – 72.5%, Rishon LeZiyyon – 71.4%. The **lowest** participation rate was in Bene Beraq – 48.8% and Jerusalem – 52.0%.

**The employment rate among persons aged 15 and over** rose in half of the districts in 2018 compared with 2017, and reached 51.9% in **Jerusalem District** (compared with 52.5%), 56.2% in the **Northern District** (compared with 55.2%), 60.1% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 59.5%), 67.1% in the **Central District** (compared with 67.4%), 66.9% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 66.5%) and 58.2% in the **Southern District** (compared with 58.5%). Among **localities with 100,000 residents and over**, the **highest** employment rate was in Tel Aviv – 71.8%, Kfar Saba – 70.8%, Rishon LeZiyyon - 68.9%. The **lowest** employment rate was in Bene Beraq – 47.1% and Jerusalem – 49.5%.

## **Employees in the High-Tech Industries**

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.52-2.53 in the annual publication of "[Labour Force Survey](#)" on the website.)

### **Definition:**

**High technology sector:** The definition of high technology sector is based on the "[Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities 2011, Technical Publication 80, The Central Bureau of Statistics](#)", as well as on the definitions of OECD and Eurostat (See additional information in publication: "[Development of High-Tech Sector in Israel, 1995-2014](#)").

The following are defined as high technology industries in Israel.

### **Manufacturing in the High-Tech Sector:**

21 Manufacture of pharmaceutical products and homeopathic pharmaceutical preparations

26 Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products

303 Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery

### **Knowledge-Intensive Services in the High-Tech Sector:**

61 Telecommunications

62 Computer programming, consultancy and related activities

631 Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals

720 Research and development centers

721 Research and development in engineering and natural sciences

The number of employees in the **high-tech sector** reached approximately 321,000 in 2018 (compared with approximately 303,000 in 2017). In **Manufacturing in the High-Tech Sector**, the number of employees reached approximately 114,000 in 2018. In **Services in the High-Tech Sector**, the number of employees reached approximately 207,000 in 2018. The share of employees in the high-tech sector of all employees rose to 9.4% in 2018 (compared with 9.0% in 2017). The number of **men** employees in high-tech sector was approximately 212,000 in 2018. The number of **women** employees in the high-tech sector was approximately 109,000 in 2018. The share of **men** employees in the high-tech sector of all men employees reached 12.3% in 2018, and the share of **women** employees in the high-tech sector of all women employees reached 6.5% in 2018.

### **Employees who receive their salary through an Employment Agency**

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.48-2.51 in the annual publication of "[Labour Force Survey](#)" on the website.)

#### **Definition:**

**Recipients of wages from employment agencies or employment contractors** – employees placed in jobs and receiving their wages from the employment agency or employment contractor, while the place of work they were referred to is responsible for implementation of the work.

The following are not included in this definition:

- Employees on the staff of the employment agency;
- Employees hired through a subcontractor. In these cases, the subcontractor bears responsibility for the implementation and quality of the work. These employees work mainly in the following industries (according to the 2011 Classification): Security Activities (Group 8010),

Combined facilities support activities (Group 811), Cleaning activities (Group 812), and Home-care services (Group 882).

The number of employees who receive their salary through an **employment agency** reached 21,200 in 2018. It should be noted that, the number of employees who work through a **sub-contractor** in Security Activities (Group 8010), Combined facilities support activities (Group 811), Cleaning activities (Group 812), and Home-care services (Group 882) reached approximately 141,000 in 2018.

### **Commuting**

The proportion of employed persons who work outside their locality of residence rose to 54.4% in 2018 (compared with 53.9% in 2017). The proportion of men working outside their locality of residence was higher than that of women: 61.3% of employed men worked outside their locality of residence in 2018, compared with 46.9% of employed women (in 2017, the ratios were 60.7% and 46.2% for men and women, respectively).

The rate of commuting was particularly high among residents of the Judea and Samaria Area – 68.3% (compared with 65.2% in 2017), where most of the commuters (86.2%) worked outside of their district of residence (compared with 75.6% in 2017). In the Central District, 63.9% of all employed persons worked outside their locality of residence (same as in 2017), and 56.8% worked outside their district of residence (compared with 46.5% in 2017). In the Jerusalem District, the rate of commuting was the lowest – only 21.9% of employed persons worked outside their locality of residence (compared with 22.4% in 2017). Of those commuters, 39.4% worked within their sub-district of residence (compared with 37.8% in 2017).

### **Employment of single mothers**

In 2018, there were 107,200 single mothers in Israel (compared with 99,800 in 2017). 83.6% of all single mothers participated in the labour force in 2018 (80.2% in 2017), compared with 78.2% of all mothers (76.9% in 2017), and compared with 89.3% of all Jewish mothers (88.4% in 2017). It should be noted that most of the single mothers were Jewish.

Of the single mothers, 50.9% had one child (52.2% in 2017), and the highest rate of participation in the labour force was among single mothers with one or two children – 86.7% in 2018 (83.2% in 2017).

The employment rate of single mothers was also higher than that of all mothers – 78.7% compared with 75.5%, respectively (76.7% and 74.0%, respectively, in 2017), but lower than that of all Jewish mothers – 86.3% (85.1% in 2017).

The percentage of single mothers who usually work full-time (35 hours or more) of all employed women was 69.1% in 2018, compared with 70.1% among all mothers (71.4% and 70.4%, respectively, in 2017), and 70.0% among all Jewish mothers (69.7% in 2017).

### **Overtime**

In 2018, the number of people who worked overtime in the determinant week reached 123,600 (compared with 113,200 in 2017). The percentage of employed persons who worked overtime of all employed persons rose to 3.2% in 2018 (compared with 3.0% in 2017). The average weekly number of overtime hours in 2018 declined to 6.6 (compared with 6.8 in 2017).

### **Discouraged workers**

In 2018, there were 12,000 “discouraged workers” in Israel (compared with 21,200 in 2017): of them 53.8% were men (53.3% in 2017), and 46.2% women (46.7% in 2017). The share of Jews of all discouraged workers was 66.2% in 2018 (compared with 51.2% in 2017).

Of the discouraged workers, 37.8% claimed there was "no suitable job in the profession" (compared with 51.6% in 2017). Other common reasons were "age: too young or too old" (19.7% in 2018 compared with 20.7% in 2017), "no suitable work for wages, working hours, satisfactory job" (19.4% in 2018 compared with 15.2% in 2017) and “no suitable work in the area of residence" (17.2% in 2018 compared with 8.8% in 2017).

### **Economic Characteristics of Households**

#### **Households with employed persons**

In 2018, there were 2.587 million households in Israel (2.510 million in 2017). Of these households, 79.8% - 2.065 million – were **households with employed persons** (same as in 2017 - 2.004 million).

In 2018, there was **at least one person of working age** (age 15-66 for men and 15-61 for women) in 2.129 million households (compared with 2.078 million in 2017). In 91.5% of these households, there was **at least one employed person** (same as in 2017). In approximately 458,000 households, there was **no one of working age**, i.e., there were only people retirement age and older (men aged 67 and over, women aged 62 and over) and children up to age 14 (compared with approximately 432,000 in 2017).

There were 2.114 million **Jewish households** in 2018 (compared with 2.054 million in 2017), of which 20.9% had **one person** and 26.9% had **two persons** (compared with 20.5% and 26.3% in 2017, respectively) and 4.5% had 7 or more persons (compared with 4.6% in 2017). The percentage of Jewish **households with employed persons** in 2018 was 79.7% (compared with 79.9% in 2017). In 1.693 million households, there was **at least one person of working age** (compared with 1.659 million in 2017) and 92.9% of these households were **households with employed persons** (same as in 2017).

There were approximately 392,000 **Arab households** in 2018 (compared with approximately 379,000 in 2017), of which 7.9% had **one person** and 12.3% had **two persons** (compared with 7.7% and 11.8% in 2017, respectively) and 15.4% had 7 or more persons (compared with 14.9% in 2017). The percentage of Arab **households with employed persons** in 2018 was 78.9% (compared with 78.3% in 2017). In approximately 364,000 households, there was **at least one person of working age** (compared with approximately 352,000 in 2017) and 84.7% of these households were **households with employed persons** (compared with 84.4% in 2017).

In 2018, the **Judea and Samaria Area** had the **highest** percentage of **households with employed persons** – 89.6% (compared with 89.0% in 2017). This percentage in **Central District** was 82.7% (85.6% in the **Ramla Sub-District**) (compared with 83.2% and 85.7% in 2017, respectively). In the **Haifa District** there was **lowest** percentage of households with employed persons – 75.8% (73.3% in the **Haifa Sub-District**) (compared with 75.5% and 73.3% in 2017, respectively). In the **Southern District** also was a relatively low percentage of households with employed persons – 76.9% (compared with 77.6% in 2017).

In 2018, among **localities with 100,000 residents and over**, the **highest** percentage of **households with employed persons** was in Bet Shemesh - 86.6%, Kfar Saba – 84.1%, Bene Beraq – 83.6%. The **lowest** percentage of **households with employed persons** was in Haifa – 72.7%.

\* Additional figures on this subject published in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/Pages/default.aspx)" on the Central Bureau of Statistics Website: <https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/Pages/default.aspx>

[Definitions and Explanations](#)