



# The Ethiopian-Israeli Population

**Facts and Figures ■ May 2018**

All data refers to 2016, except where indicated otherwise.

Source citations are listed at the conclusion of this document.

## Demography<sup>(1)</sup>

- At the end of 2016, there were 144,100 Ethiopian-Israelis
- 86,000 (59%) were born in Ethiopia.
- The average fertility rate was 2.9 children, slightly lower than the 3.1 rate for all Jewish women.
- 22% of Ethiopian-Israeli households with children are single-parent households, more than twice the rate among all Jewish households. (2)
- 18% of Ethiopian-Israeli households have 3 or more children, compared with 14% of all Jewish households. (2)

## Education

There have been significant improvements in the educational levels of Ethiopian-Israelis, but the gaps between them and the general Jewish population are still large.

In Israel, high school students take a series of matriculation exams, which are the primary basis for acceptance into higher education. The exam scores, therefore, are an important indicator of the trend in educational advancement and subsequent economic success.

- Between 2001 and 2016, general and university-eligible matriculation rates steadily improved among Ethiopian-Israelis:
  - General matriculation: from 38% in 2000/01 to 55% in 2015/16
  - University-eligible matriculation: from 15% in 2000/1 to 34% in 2015/16
- These improvements notwithstanding, matriculation rates are still well below those of the general Jewish student population (general 77%, university 67%). (Note that university-bound data does not include ultra-Orthodox students) (1, 3)

- Ethiopian girls exceed Ethiopian boys in their rate of success on the matriculation exams, so that the gaps with the total Jewish population are much smaller for girls and much larger for boys.

## | Dropping out of High School

Dropout rates among Ethiopian-Israeli students have declined and are below those of all Jewish students. In 2016/2017, only 4% of 17-year-old Ethiopian-Israeli students had dropped out of school compared with 8% of all Jewish students. (4)

## | Higher Education

- Between 1999/2001 and 2015/16, the number of Ethiopian-Israeli students in institutions of higher education rose from 747 to 3,194. Of those, 88% (2,799 students) are studying for their Bachelor's degree; 11% (364 students) for their master's and 1% for their doctorate. (1)
- In 2016/17, 73% of Ethiopian-Israeli students studying for their Bachelor's degree were women, compared with 57% of all Jewish students. (1)

## | Years of Education

In 2016, 9% of Ethiopian-Israelis ages 25-34 born in Ethiopia had 16 years of education or more (up from 7% in 2000/01). This is well below the 42% rate for all Jews.

# Employment

- Between 2000 and 2016, employment rates for Ethiopian-Israelis ages 22-64 rose from 37% to 74% for women, and from 62% to 80% for men (compared with the 2016 rate of 80% for all Jewish women and 81% for all Jewish men). (2)

- In 2016, 18% of Ethiopian-Israeli men and 26% of Ethiopian-Israeli women were employed as unskilled workers, compared with 3% among the total Jewish population. (2)
- Ethiopian-Israeli households earned less than then the average Israeli household: 11,254 NIS per month net, compared with 15,751 NIS net. (1)

## Sources

- (1) Central Bureau of Statistics, Press Release: "The Ethiopian Population in Israel," 14 November 2017.
- (2) MJB Special analysis of Central Bureau of Statistics Labor Force Survey, 2016.
- (3) MJB special analysis of matriculation exam data from the Ministry of Education, Examinations Division and Data Processing Administration.
- (4) MJB special analysis of Ministry of Education enrollment data.

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