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Welfare and Standard of Living

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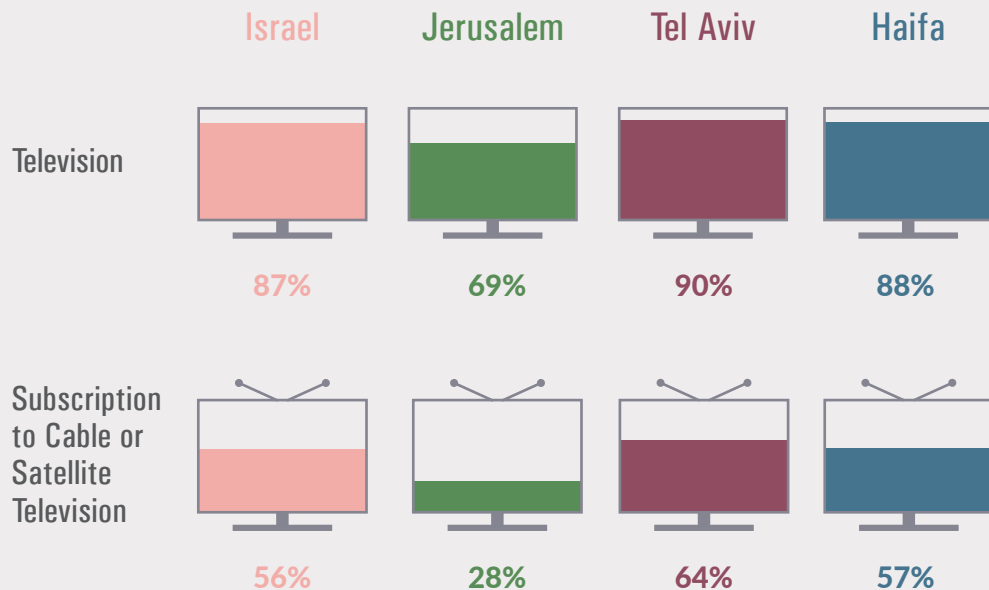


Extent of Poverty* in Israel and Jerusalem, 2016



* The percentage of the population living below the poverty line

Television Ownership and Subscription to Cable or Satellite Television among Households in Israel, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, 2016

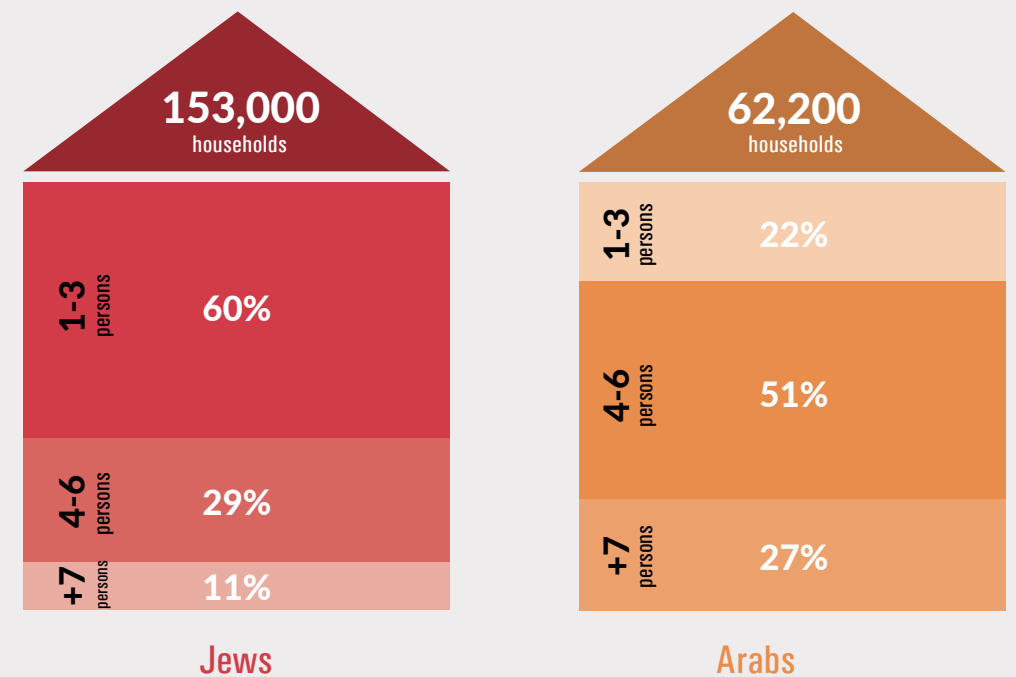


Household in Jerusalem by Population Group, 2016

Average household size



Households, by number of persons in household



Extent of poverty

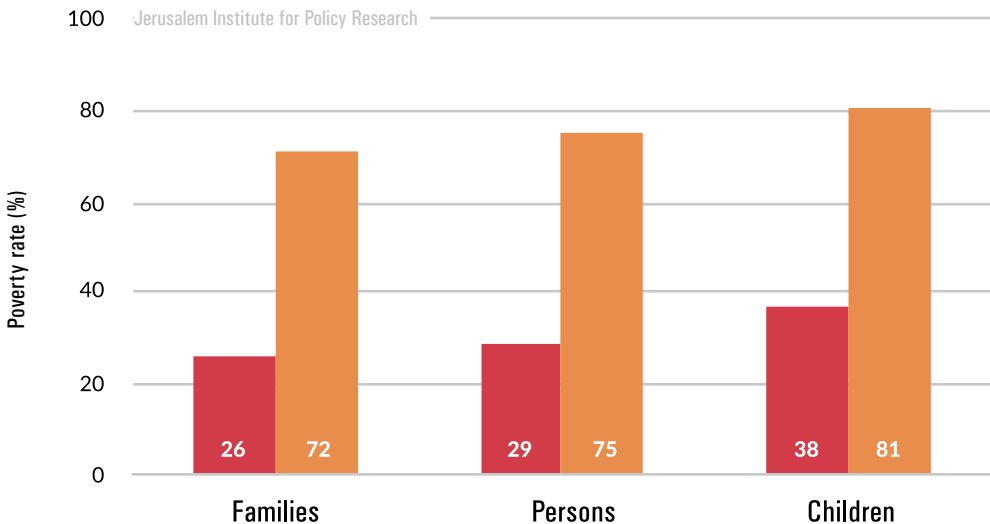
The poverty rate in Jerusalem (46%) is higher than that of Israel at large (22%) and of its other major cities. In 2016 the poverty rate among the city's Arab population (75%) was significantly higher than the rate among its Jewish population (29%).

In 2016, 38% of Jerusalem's families (84,500), 46% of its population (393,100), and 55% of its children (hundred 86,500) were living below the poverty line.¹⁹ The extent of poverty, or poverty rate,²⁰ in Jerusalem was significantly higher than the figure for Israel, where 19% of the families, 22% of the population, and 31% of the children were living below the poverty line.

The poverty rate among the Arab population of Jerusalem was significantly higher than the rate among the Jewish population. Among the former, 75% were living below the poverty line, compared with 29% among the latter.

Poverty Rate in Jerusalem by Population Group, 2016

■ Jews ■ Arabs



¹⁹ Poverty is a matter of relative economic distress, measured in relation to the entire society. The poverty line in Israel is defined as an income level equivalent to 50% of the median disposable income per person. For detailed definitions and explanations, see the annual report of the National Insurance Institute, Poverty and Social Gaps.

²⁰ The percentage of the population living below the poverty line.

Among Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox population, 49% were living below the poverty line. This was slightly lower than the rate for the ultra-orthodox population of Israel, at 53%. Among Jerusalem's Arab population, in contrast, the extent of poverty was higher than in Israel: 75% of the Arab population in Jerusalem was living below the poverty line, compared with 52% of the Arab population in Israel at large.

The extent of poverty in the Jerusalem District²¹ is the highest among Israel's districts. Forty-four percent of the population in the Jerusalem District was living below the poverty line, compared

with 28% in the Northern District, 25% in the Haifa District and Southern District, and 10%–12% in the Tel Aviv District and Central District. The poverty rates among families (37%) and children (53%) in the Jerusalem District were also the highest among Israel's districts.

Among Israel's major cities, Jerusalem recorded the highest number of persons living below the poverty line, at 46%. In Ashdod, which ranked second, 18% of the residents were living below the poverty line, and in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rishon LeZion, and Petah Tikva, 5%–15% of the residents were living below the poverty line.

Marital status

In 2015, 66% of Jerusalem residents aged 20 and older were married, 23% were single, 6% were divorced, and 5% were widowed. The percentage of married residents of Jerusalem (66%) was slightly higher than the average for Israel (62%), much higher than the average for Tel Aviv (45%), and higher than the average for Haifa as well (55%).

The percentage of married residents among Jerusalem's Jewish population was 63%, lower than the figure for the Arab sector, at 71%. The percentage of Jewish divorced persons (8%) was higher than the figure for the Arab sector (3%). The percentages of widowed residents (5%) and of singles (23%) among Jerusalem's Jewish residents were comparable to the figures for widowed and single residents in the Arab sector (4% and 22%, respectively).

Jerusalemites tend to marry at a relatively young age: 54% of residents aged 20–34 were married, compared with 45% in Israel, 29% in Tel Aviv, and 37% in Haifa. A total of 8% of married persons in Jerusalem were in the 20–24 age group, which was higher than the figures for Israel (3%), Tel Aviv (1%), and Haifa (2%). Jerusalem's high marriage rates and its residents' young age at the time of marriage correspond with the high proportion of religiously observant and ultra-orthodox Jews and Muslim Arabs, who tend to marry at relatively young ages.

²¹ A total of 81% of the District's residents live in Jerusalem.

Households

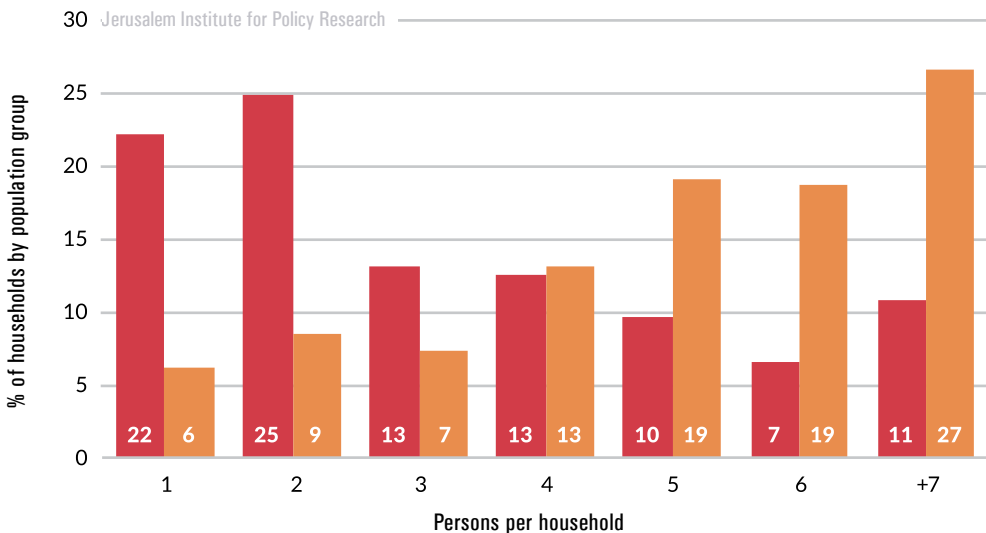
In 2016 Jerusalem had a total of 218,400²² households²³ as follows: 153,000 Jewish households (70%) and 62,200 Arab households (29%). The Jewish population accounted for a higher share of households (70%) than its portion of the city's population (63%), and the discrepancy is attributable to the relatively large number of small households within the Jewish population.

Jewish households typically have fewer members than Arab households. The average size of a household²⁴ within the Jewish population was 3.4, significantly lower than the figure for the Arab population, at 5.2.

Jerusalem's Jewish population is characterized by large households relative to the Jewish population of Israel's other major cities. In 2016 the average size of a Jewish household in Jerusalem was 3.4 persons, compared with 3.1 in Israel at large, 2.4 in Haifa, and 2.2 in Tel Aviv. The average size of an Arab household in Jerusalem (5.2) was larger than the average among the Arab population in Israel generally (4.5).

Households in Jerusalem by Size of Household and Population Group, 2016

■ Jews ■ Arabs



22 These include households belonging to an unknown population group as well as 'others' (who are neither Jewish nor Arab).

23 A household is defined as one person or a group of persons who live together in a single home on a permanent basis during most of the week and maintain a joint budget for food. A household may include persons who are not related.

24 This includes households consisting of only one person.

In 2016, 47% of Jerusalem's Jewish households numbered one or two persons, and Israel reported a similar figure. Tel Aviv and Haifa had a significantly higher proportion of small households – 70% and 63%, respectively. Large households with seven or more persons accounted for 11% of the total in Jerusalem, compared with 4% in Israel and 1% in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Among Jerusalem's Arab households, 15% comprised one or two persons, compared with 19% of the Arab households in Israel at large. The proportion of large households, with seven or more members, stood at 27%, compared with 15% in Israel generally.

The distribution for ultra-orthodox households in Jerusalem was comparable to the distribution for Israel at large: a low percentage of households with one or two members (22% in Jerusalem, 19% in Israel),

and a high percentage of households with seven or more members (30%–31% in Jerusalem and Israel).

The data indicate a correlation between the number of earners in a household and the average number of children: the more earners a household has, the lower the number of children on average. Households with no earner or only one earner characteristically have relatively more children, whereas households with three or more earners typically have a smaller number of children. In 2016 the average number of children in Jerusalem households with no earner stood at 3.4, comparable to the average for households with one earner. Households with two earners had 2.8 children on average, and households with three earners had 2.6 children on average. The figures for Israel at large were comparable.

Monthly expenditure on consumption

The average monthly consumption expenditure²⁵ per household in Jerusalem was lower than the average for Israel, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. In 2016 the average monthly consumption expenditure per household was NIS 14,000 in Jerusalem, NIS 15,800 in Israel, NIS 17,100 in Tel Aviv, and NIS 14,300 in Haifa.

The average monthly consumption expenditure per person in Jerusalem was particularly low, at NIS 3,600, compared with NIS 4,800 in Israel, NIS 7,700 in Tel Aviv, and NIS 5,900 in Haifa. The expenditure per person in Jerusalem was low because the city's households are relatively large, at an average of 3.9 persons in Jerusalem, compared with 3.3 persons in Israel, 2.2 persons in Tel Aviv and 2.4 persons in Haifa.

The following table indicates the distribution of expenditures by households in Israel and its major cities for four areas. The proportion of monthly expenditure devoted to each area was generally comparable, with the exception of housing expenditures in Tel Aviv, which were disproportionately high, as well as expenditures on transportation and communications in Haifa, which exceeded those of the other cities.

²⁵ This includes the total of all household payments for the purchase of goods or services, including expenditures for consumption of housing services.

The monthly expenditure on consumption is influenced by a household's monthly income. Accordingly, given the differences in household income, and differences in income per person in particular, the expenditure per person in each of the

principal areas of consumption was significantly lower in Jerusalem than in Tel Aviv, and was also lower than the expenditure per person in Haifa or Israel generally.

Monthly Consumption Expenditure per Household in Israel, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa by Main Areas of Expenditure, 2016

Area of expenditure	Israel	Jerusalem	Tel Aviv	Haifa
Total consumption expenditure (NIS)	15,800	14,000	17,100	14,300
Specific area:	% of total monthly consumption expenditure per household			
Housing	24%	27%	31%	21%
Food	17%	19%	16%	16%
Transportation and communications	20%	16%	18%	22%
Education, culture, and entertainment	12%	12%	13%	13%

Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research

Ownership of durable goods

Another indicator of socioeconomic status is the extent of a household's ownership of durable goods (key consumer products).

In 2016 a total of 67% of households in Jerusalem owned a personal computer, compared with 78% in Israel, 86% in Tel Aviv, and 82% in Haifa. A total of 56% of households in Jerusalem had an Internet subscription, compared with 75% in Israel, 87% in Tel Aviv, and 84% in Haifa. Likewise, the percentage of Jerusalem's residents who owned a (computer) tablet (30%) was low compared with Israel, Tel Aviv and Haifa (39%-43%).

The percentage of Jerusalem households that owned a television (69%) was lower than the figures for Israel, Tel Aviv and Haifa (87%-90%). The percentage of subscribers to cable television was also lower for Jerusalem (28%) than for Israel, Tel Aviv and Haifa (56%-64%). The relatively low proportion of Jerusalem households with television and cable service, like the low percentage of internet subscribers, stems among other

factors from the large proportion of ultra-orthodox households, which typically do not have a television or internet service. In contrast, Jerusalem recorded the highest percentage of households that own satellite dishes, at 29% (compared with 4% in Tel Aviv and 11% in Haifa), or digital converters, at 27% (compared with 7% in Tel Aviv and in Haifa). The ownership of satellite dishes, which receive television broadcasts from Arab countries among other places, is primarily characteristic of Arab households.

The percentage of Jerusalem households that own or have access to at least one vehicle (60%) was lower than the average for Israel (70%) and comparable to figures for Tel Aviv and Haifa (59%-60%). However, the average age of cars in Jerusalem (8.6 years) was higher than the averages for Israel (6.5), Tel Aviv (4.8), and Haifa (5.9).

Housing density

In 2016 the average housing density among the Jewish population of Jerusalem was 1 person per room. For the Arab population the figure was nearly double, at 1.8 persons per room.

The average housing density among Jerusalem's Jewish population (1 person per room) was slightly higher than the average among the Jewish population of Israel (0.8 persons per room) or that of Tel Aviv and Haifa (0.7 persons per room for each city).

The average housing density among the Arab population of Jerusalem (1.8) was higher than the average among the Arab population of Israel (1.3).