

The Israeli Democracy Index

2016

Highlights

Tamar Hermann

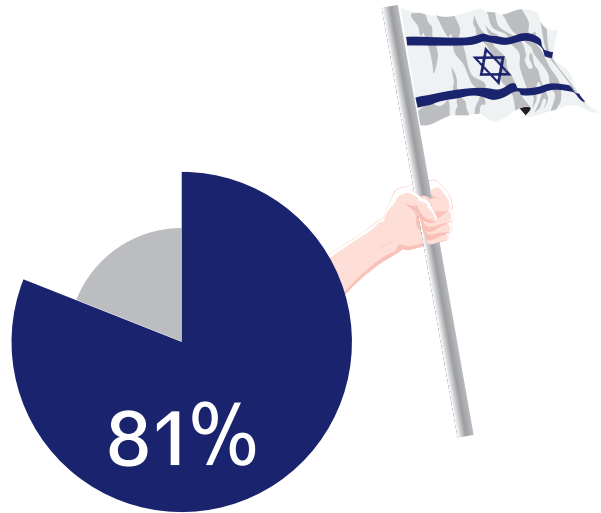
Ella Heller | Chanan Cohen | Dana Bublil | Fadi Omar



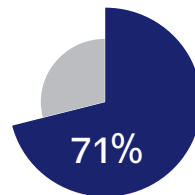
How's it Going?

What Israelis feel about the situation

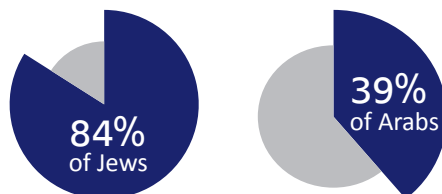
The 2016 Israeli Democracy Index examines multiple aspects of Israel's democracy, including its structure, effectiveness, and values. The Index offers a multifaceted, up-to-date portrait of Israeli public opinion, identifying ongoing trends as well as new phenomena in the political and social arenas.



of the total sample is
PROUD
to be Israeli



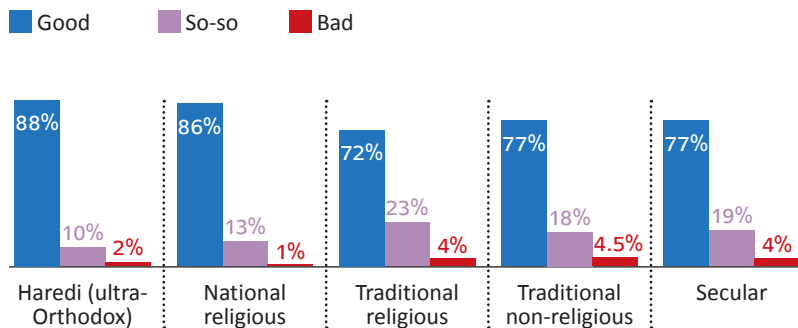
of the total sample agrees that Israelis
CAN ALWAYS RELY ON ONE ANOTHER
in times of trouble



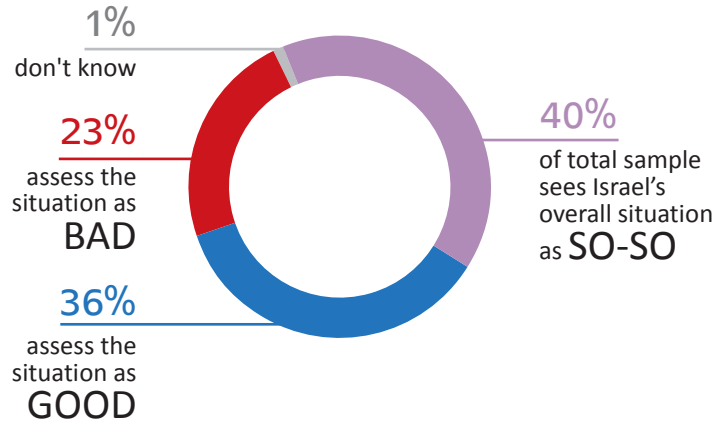
FEEL PART OF THE STATE

and its problems

How would you rate your personal situation? (Jews: by religiosity; percent)

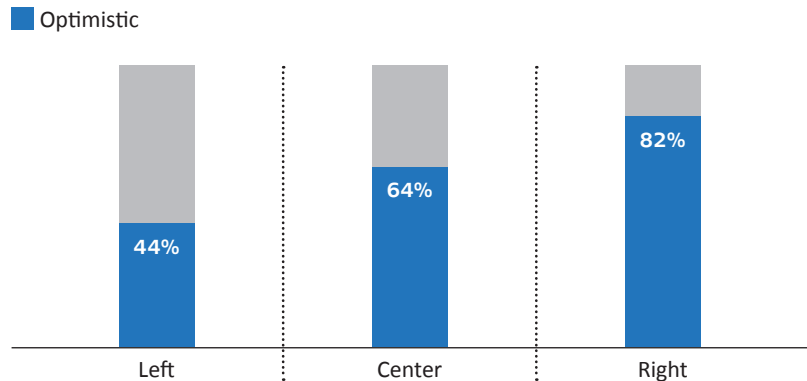


How Israelis feel about Israel



Level of optimism based on political orientation

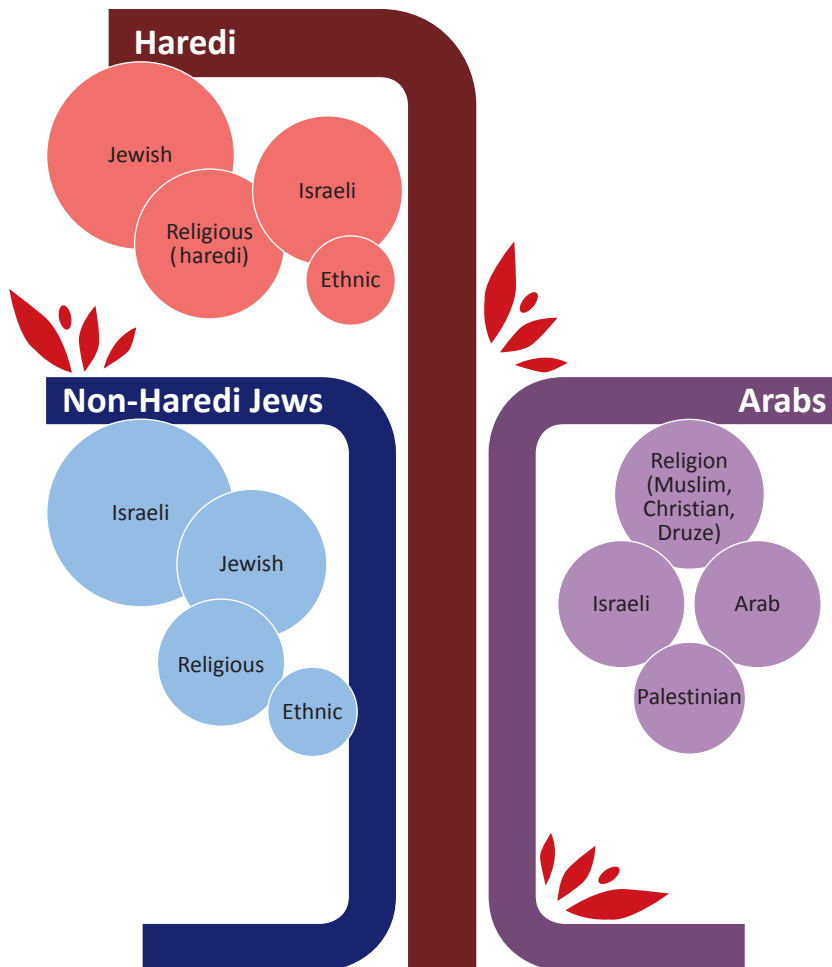
While the majority is optimistic about the country's future, a breakdown by political camp (Jews) shows deep divisions:



Multiple Identities

How Israelis define themselves

Primary Identity



Fascinating and complex, Israeli identity is comprised of several primary identities that coexist simultaneously. To a large extent, the relative strength of these components in each sector corresponds with national, religious, and political affiliations.

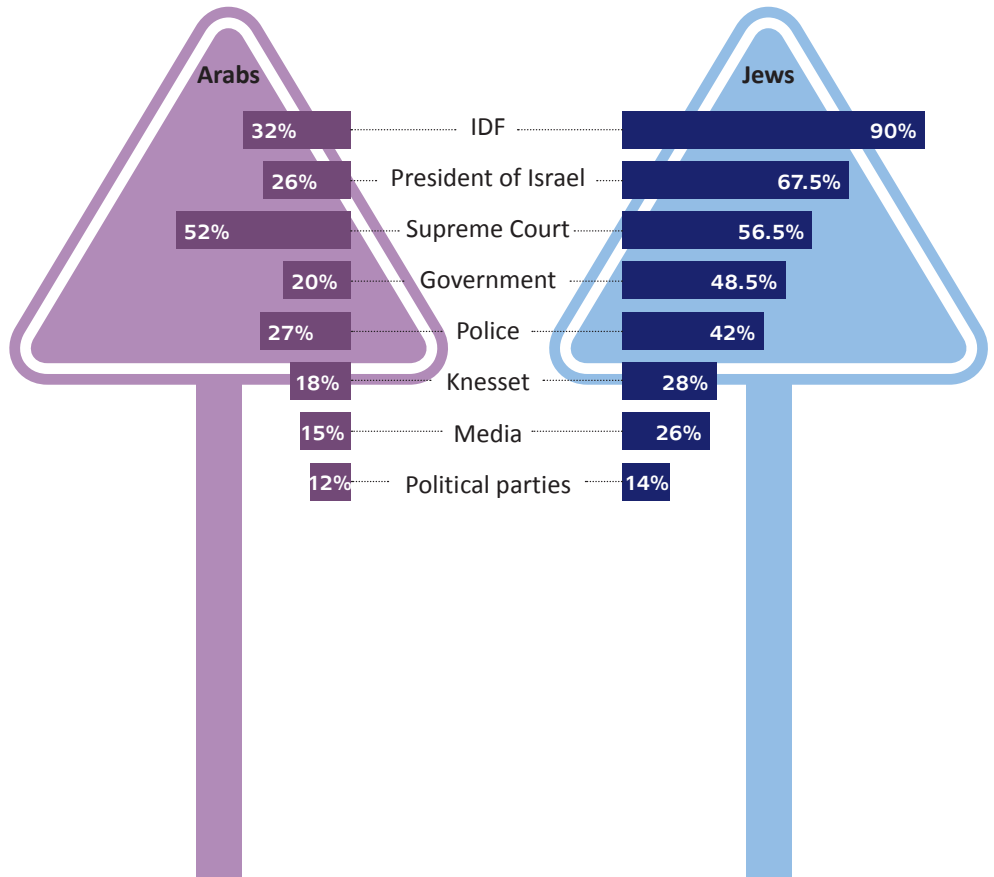
Warning: Hazard Ahead

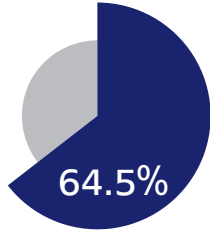
How Israelis view their state institutions

The majority of the Israeli public has a highly critical view of how the government functions; public trust in state institutions is declining steadily.

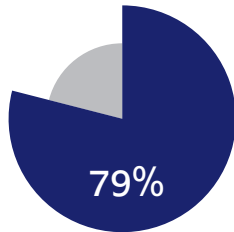
State performance: Except for in the military-security sphere, where a majority of Israelis assess the state's performance as good, in all other areas—economic, social, political-diplomatic, and maintenance of public order—Israelis who believe that state performance is poor outnumber those who believe it is good or mediocre.

Who do Israelis trust?

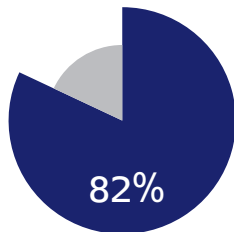




of the total sample feels that politicians
don't work hard and
ARE NOT DOING A GOOD JOB



of the total sample holds that politicians look out
FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS
before those of the public



of the total sample does not believe
that the public can influence
GOVERNMENT POLICY

Arab-Israeli Relations

Interestingly, the findings of the 2016 Survey suggest that the primary cause for the rift between the Jewish majority and Arab minority is not racism but rather the debate over the character of the state. Indeed, while Jewish Israelis call for bolstering the state's Jewish character, the Arab minority seeks to reinforce the civic dimension of the state. In other areas, the Jewish majority supports equality for the Arab minority, and is even prepared to draw nearer on a personal and societal level.

72% | **56%**

of Jews

feel that crucial decisions on issues of peace and security should be made
BY A JEWISH MAJORITY

57%

feel the same about crucial decisions on governance, economy, and society

hold that Arab citizens of Israel **DO NOT POSE A SECURITY RISK** to the state

Half of all Jews and more than two-thirds of Arabs feel that the greatest tension in Israeli society is between Arabs and Jews

59%

of Jews

ARE OPPOSED TO
having Arab parties
in the coalition
and to appointing
Arab ministers to the cabinet

72%

of Arabs

SUPPORT
Arab parties joining the
government, including the
appointment of Arab ministers

52.5%

of Jews

feel that those who are unwilling
to declare that Israel is the
nation-state of the Jewish people
**SHOULD BE STRIPPED
OF THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE**

77%

of Arabs

DO NOT AGREE
that Israel should be defined as
**"THE STATE OF
THE JEWISH PEOPLE"**

53%

of Jews

agree that
ARAB CITIZENS OF ISRAEL
are discriminated against
compared to Jewish citizens

91%

of Arabs

think that Arab citizens of Israel
ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST
compared to Jewish citizens

Internal Disagreements

What is the greatest internal existential threat to Israel?

26%

of Jews:

The **STRONG DISAGREEMENTS** among various segments of Israeli society

26%

of Arabs:

ISRAEL'S CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK (Judea and Samaria)

23%

of Jews:

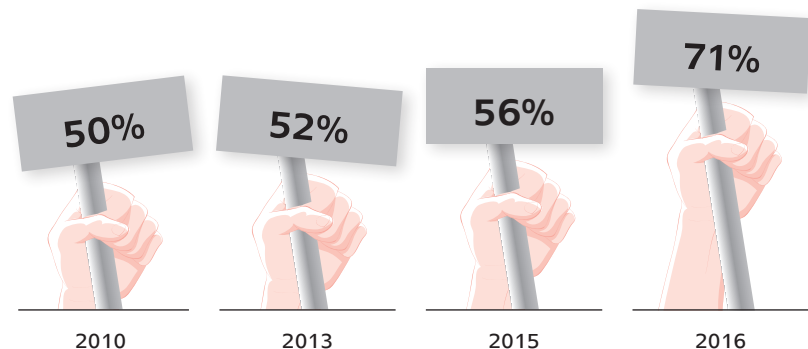
Social/economic inequality

23%

of Arabs:

The demand to make Israel more Jewish

Percentage of Jews who agree that human rights organizations such as ACRI (Association for Civil Rights in Israel) and B'Tselem harm the state

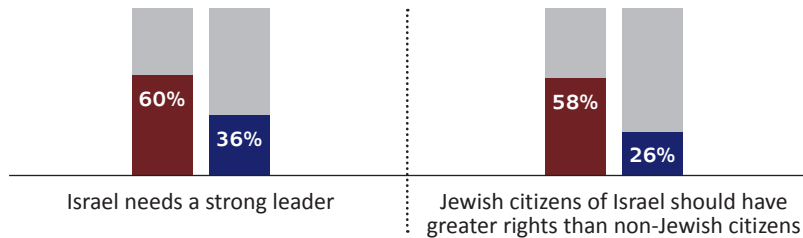


The Ultra-Orthodox

and Israeli society

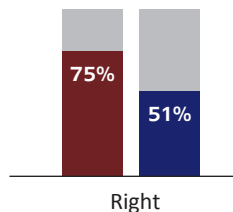
■ Haredi Jews ■ Non-haredi Jews

Haredi attitudes toward democracy differ from that of the non-haredi Jewish public



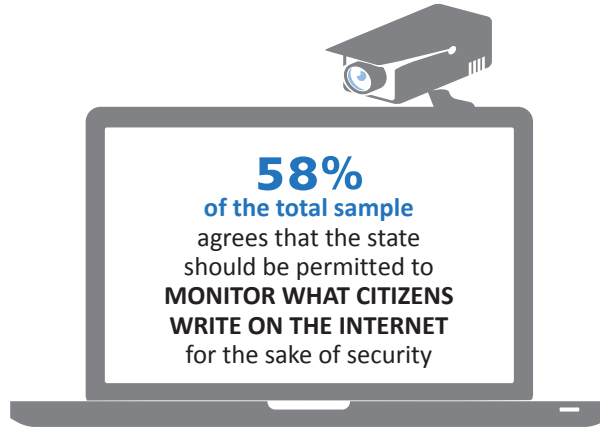
Contrary to popular opinion, the Haredim are not an isolated enclave, estranged from the “Israeli project;” most are proud to be Israeli, see themselves as part of the state and its problems, and are optimistic about its future.

The ultra-Orthodox self-identify clearly on the Right of the political spectrum

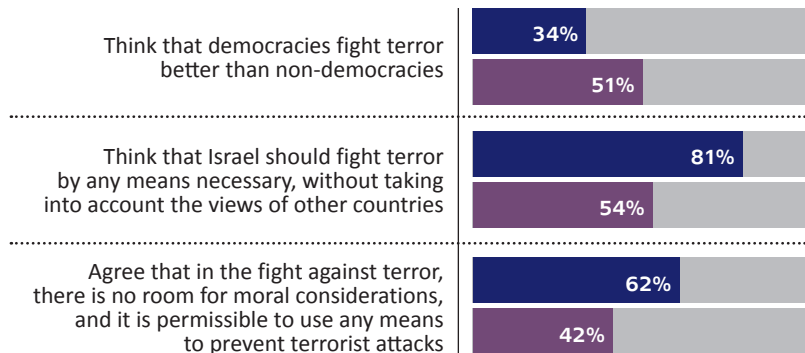


Israelis Choose

security over democracy in the war on terror

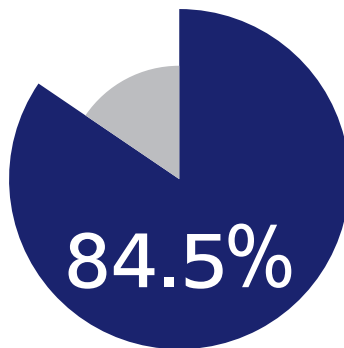
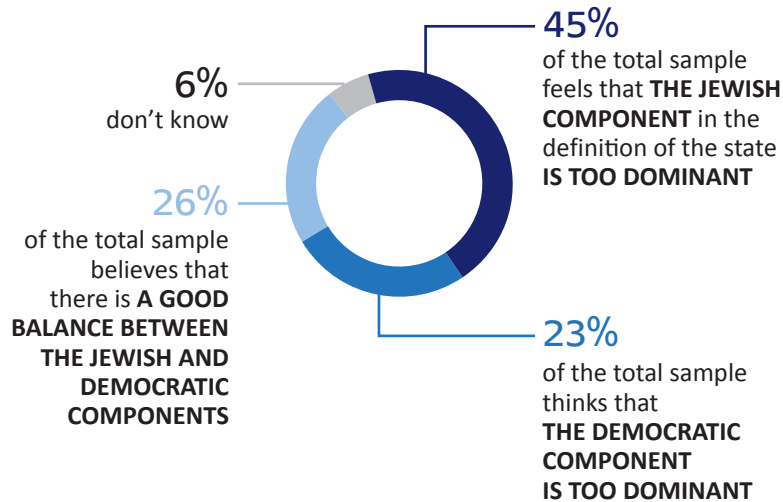


■ Jews ■ Arabs



Identity Crisis

Jewish OR democratic?



of the total sample agrees that to deal with the challenges confronting it, **ISRAEL MUST MAINTAIN ITS DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER**

Measuring Up?

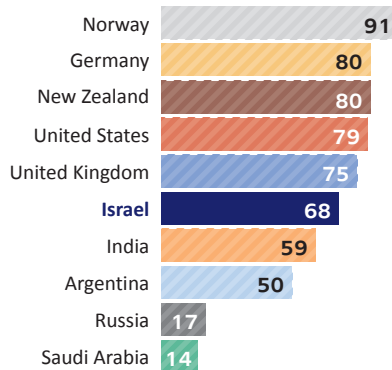
Israel in comparison to the world

Israel's position in international rankings of quality and effectiveness of government is not bad. However, there is much room for improvement in specific areas.

Freedom of the press index

0 no freedom | 100 full freedom

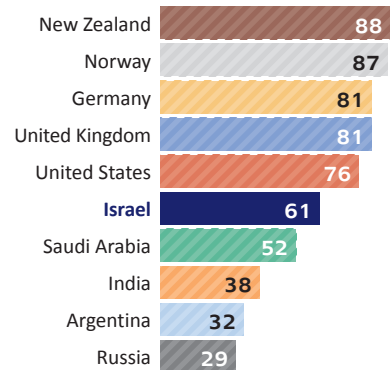
Source: Freedom House



Perception of corruption index

0 high degree of corruption | 100 absence of corruption

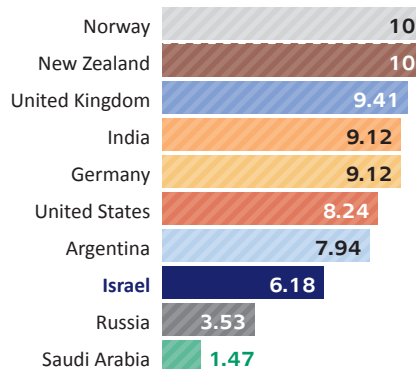
Source: Transparency International



Civil liberties index

0 civil liberties not respected | 10 civil liberties fully respected

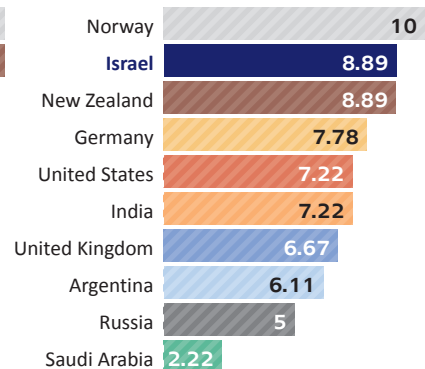
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit



Political participation index

0 low participation | 10 high participation

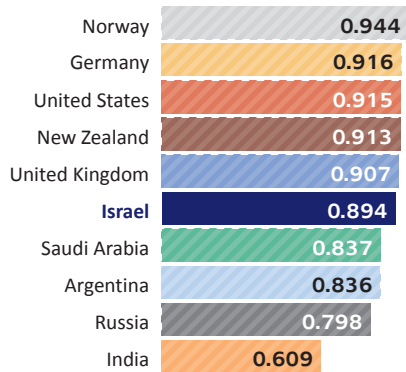
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit



Human development index

0 low level of development | 1 high level of development

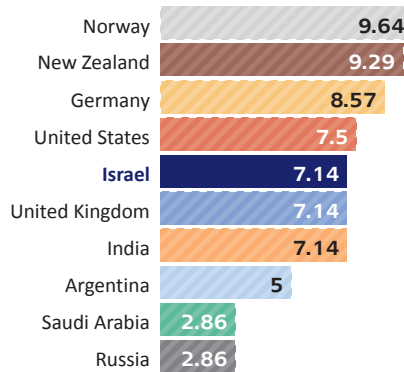
Source: UNDP



Functioning of government index

0 lack of democratic functioning | 10 full democratic functioning

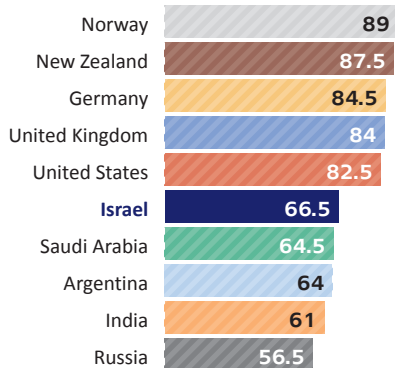
Source: Economist Intelligence Unit



Political risk index

0 high risk | 100 low risk

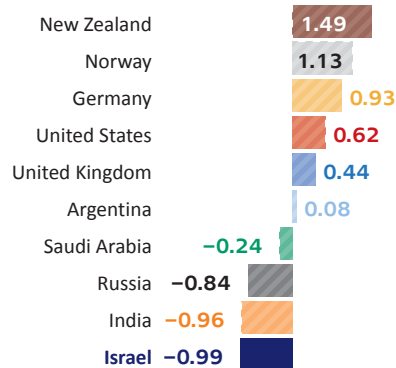
Source: International Country Risk Guide



Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism index

-2.5 low stability | +2.5 high stability

Source: The World Bank



The Israeli Democracy Index, a project of the Israel Democracy Institute's Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, offers an annual assessment of the quality of Israeli democracy. For each of the last fourteen years, a comprehensive survey of a representative sample of the Israeli population has been carried out for this purpose. This year's survey was conducted in May and was comprised of 1,531 respondents.

The mission of the Israeli Democracy Index is to document trends in Israeli society as they relate to crucial issues associated with the perpetuation of democratic values. In furtherance of this goal, the Index gauges the functioning of government institutions and representatives.

Analysis of the survey's results is meant to enrich the discussion of relevant public policy issues in Israel as well as create a comprehensive database that can serve to deepen the public discourse on the state of Israel's democracy.



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