

WOMEN

in Israel and
in the World
2007/2008



State of Israel



The Central
Bureau of
Statistics

Statistilite 103

In recent years, it has been recognized that gender equality is essential for social, economic, and environmental development. In order to promote activities in this area, and in order to monitor changes and provide information to policy makers, national statistics bureaus maintain gender statistics. The United Nations Conference of Women, which took place in Beijing in 1995, adopted recommendations aimed at creating and disseminating gender statistics as a strategic objective for governments.

This brochure presents selected indicators of major aspects in the lives of women and men - fertility, health, higher education, work, income and power, and standard of living. Based on those indicators, the situation in Israel is compared with the situation in selected OECD countries - the United States, the United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, France, Italy, Canada, and Spain. In addition, data on average rates for OECD countries are presented.

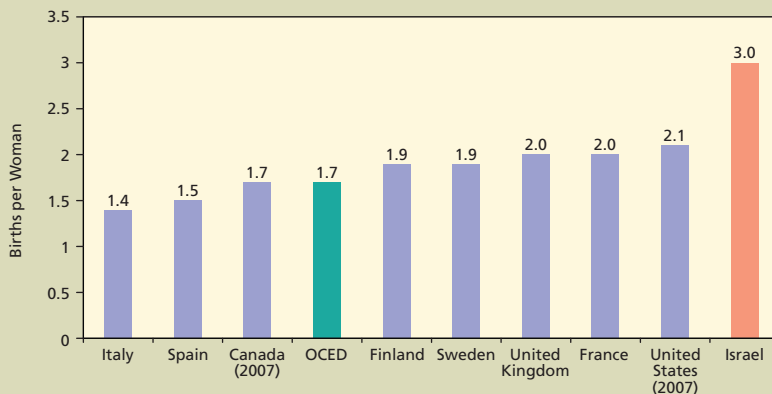
The data were obtained mainly from the United Nations website (www.unece.org) and the OECD website (www.oecd.org). For missing data in those sites, data were collected from sites of national statistics bureaus.

Israel is a multi-cultural country with diverse population groups, each group having its own characteristics and customs. Therefore, in various areas, the data reflect substantial differences between Israel and developed countries. Nevertheless Israel is a developed country with advanced knowledge and technology. Therefore, in some areas Israel is a leader among developed countries.

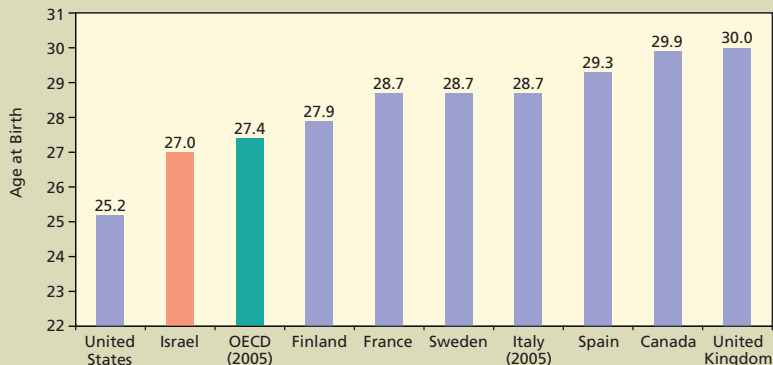
Fertility

The fertility rate in Israel is among the highest in all developed countries - 3 children per woman, compared with an average rate of 1.7 in OECD countries. The high fertility rate in Israel reflects the influence of religious traditional population groups. The influence of those groups is also evident in the relatively young age of Israeli women at the time of their first birth.

1 Total Fertility Rate, 2008

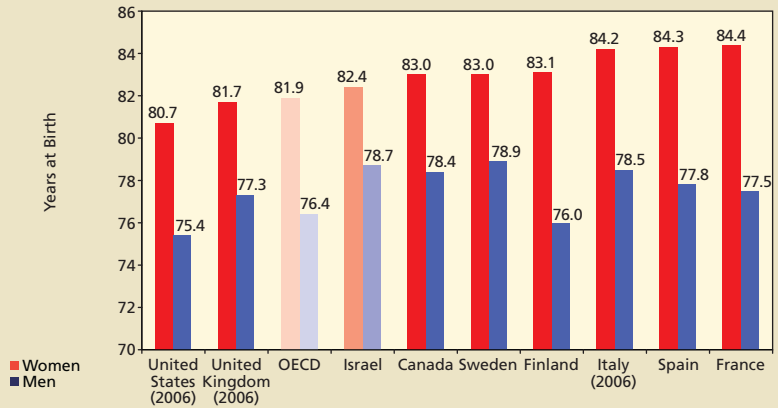


2 Average Age of Women at Birth of First Child, 2006



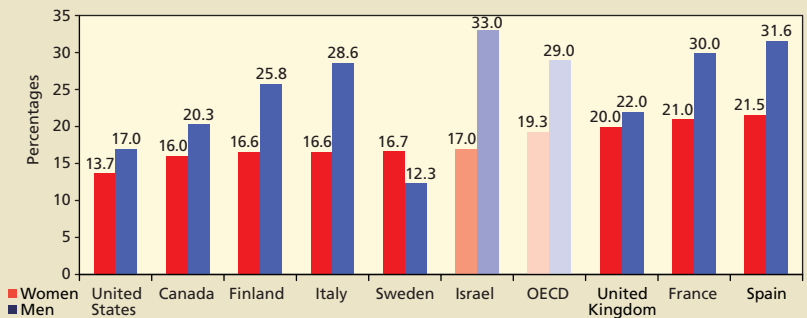
In Israel, as in all developed countries, women's life expectancy is higher than men's. However, whereas the life expectancy of Israeli men is among the highest in the world, the life expectancy of Israeli women is closer to the average in comparison with developed countries. As a result, the difference between life expectancy of men and of women in Israel (3.7 years in 2007) is very small in comparison with other developed countries.

3 Life Expectancy, by Sex, 2007



On the average, women smoke less than men. In Israel, the percentage of male smokers is much higher than the percentage of female smokers, the rates being similar to those in Italy, Finland, France, and Spain. In Sweden, the percentage of female smokers is slightly higher than that of males, and in the United Kingdom and Canada the rates are similar.

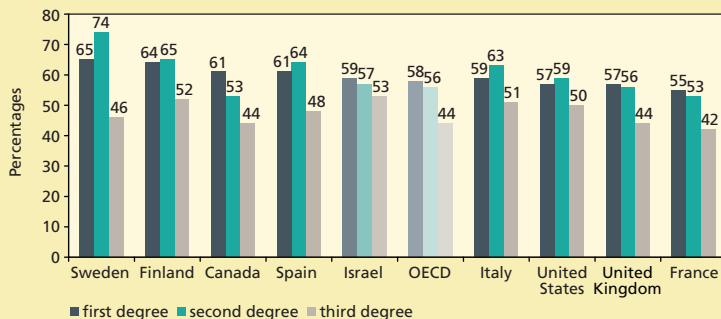
4 Percentage of Smokers, by Sex, 2007



In all of the countries examined in diagram 5, the number of women who received first and second academic degrees was greater than the number of men.

The proportion of women among recipients of first and second degrees in Israel was slightly higher than the average proportion in OECD countries. The proportion of women among recipients of third degrees was significantly higher in Israel (53%) than the average proportion in OECD countries (44%).

5 Percentage of Women among Academic Degree Recipients, by Degree, 2007



In Israel, women comprise more than half of the recipients of first degree from universities and academic colleges in the following fields: Education, Medicine and Paramedical Studies, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, and Agriculture.

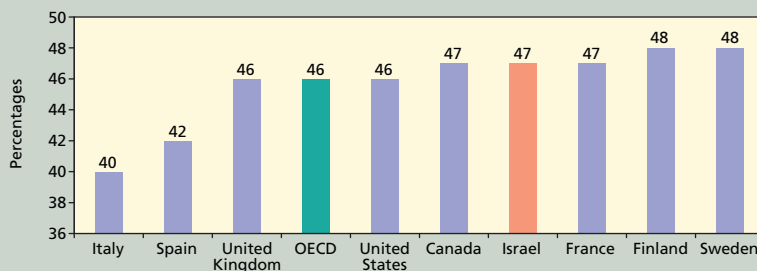
Men comprise the majority of degree recipients in Management Sciences, Law, Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Sciences, Engineering, and Architecture.

The rate of participation in the labour force is lower for women than for men.

In 2007, only 51.1% of the women in Israel participated in the labour force (compared with 61.7% of the men). The relatively low rate of women's participation can be explained partly due to the traditional cultural orientation of some population groups. Regarding the composition of the labour force by gender, women represent about 47% of all labor force participants. In recent years, the gender gap in labour force participation rates in Israel has narrowed.

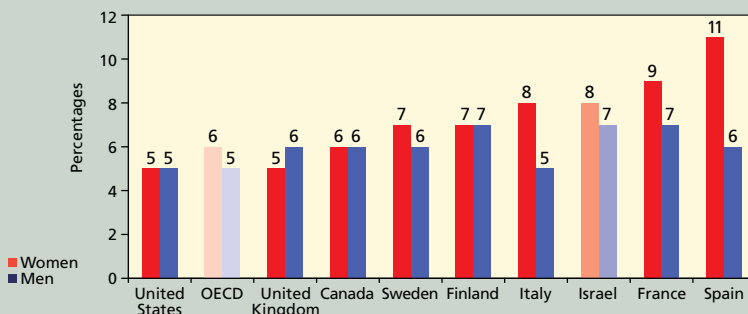
Of the countries examined here, the proportion of women in labor force was smallest in Italy. In Sweden and in Finland, rates of participation in the labour force are nearly equal for men and women.

6 Percentage of Women of the Total Labour Force, 2007



The data on average rates of labour force participation in OECD countries reveal that those are higher among women than among men. Gender differences in unemployment are especially significant in Italy and Spain, where the percentage of unemployed women is much higher than the percentage of unemployed men. In Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, unemployment rates are slightly greater for men than for women.

7 Percentage of Unemployed Persons, by Sex, 2007

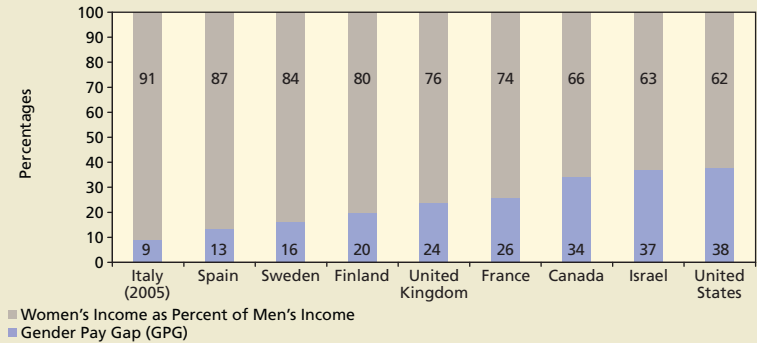


Income, Power

Income

Women earn less than men. In 2007 the income of Israeli employed women amounted to 63% of men's, and the gender pay gap was 37%. Of the countries presented in Diagram 8 below, the gender pay gap is smallest in Italy and largest in the United States.

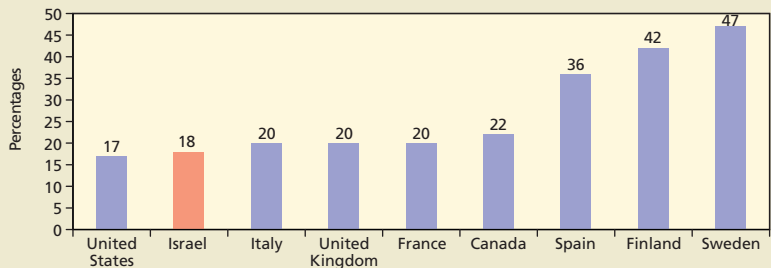
8 Gender Pay Gap, 2007



Power

Even though Israel does not differ from many OECD countries in terms of employment statistics, the relatively low representation of women in the Israeli parliament is noteworthy. The highest representation in parliament was found in Sweden (nearly 50%).

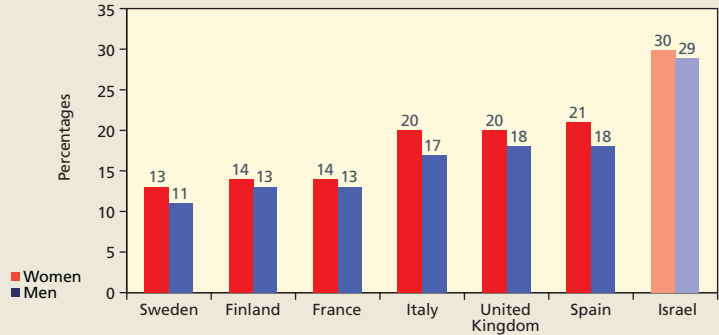
9 Percentage of Women in National Parliaments, 2009



Poverty risk is higher for women than for men, this might be partly because women are more likely than men to head single parent families.

The risk of poverty in Israel is higher than in all of the developed countries, mainly due of the low rates of participation in the labour force.

10 Poverty Risk, by Sex, 2008



Access to Technology

In an era of globalization, use of computers and internet characterizes culture, standard of living, and access to more extensive information. In Israel, most of the population aged 20-74 and over uses the internet (65% of men and 60% of women). Both men and women use the internet primarily for e-mail and to search for information. However, there are some areas in which men and women use the internet differently. For example, men show a greater tendency to use the Internet for downloading programs and media, as well as for shopping and paying bills.

11 Percentage of Population Aged 16-74 Using the Internet in the Last 3 Months, by Sex, 2008

