The new concept for the measuring of emigration statistics in Israel

Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

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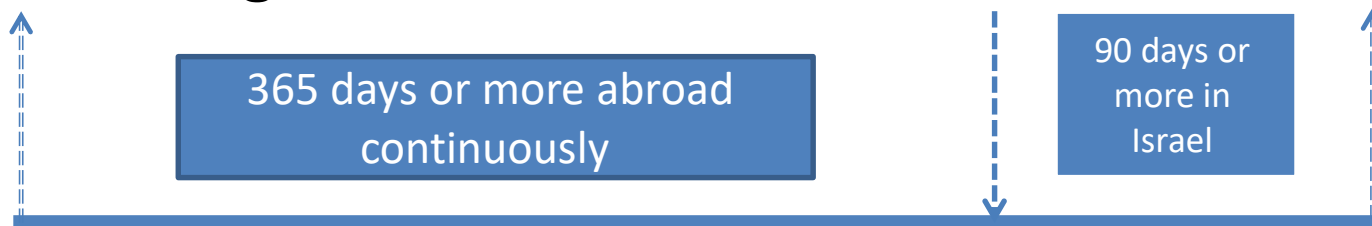
It's All in the Numbers

Current definition

Emigrants are defined as persons who departed Israel in a given year and were abroad continuously for 365 days. They are defined as "usually resident" in Israel if before departure they resided in Israel continuously for 90 days. Similarly, a returning resident is defined as one who was abroad continuously for 365 days and, after returning, remained in Israel for 90 days continuously.

Current definition

- Emigrant

90 days or more in Israel	365 days or more abroad continuously

- Return emigrant

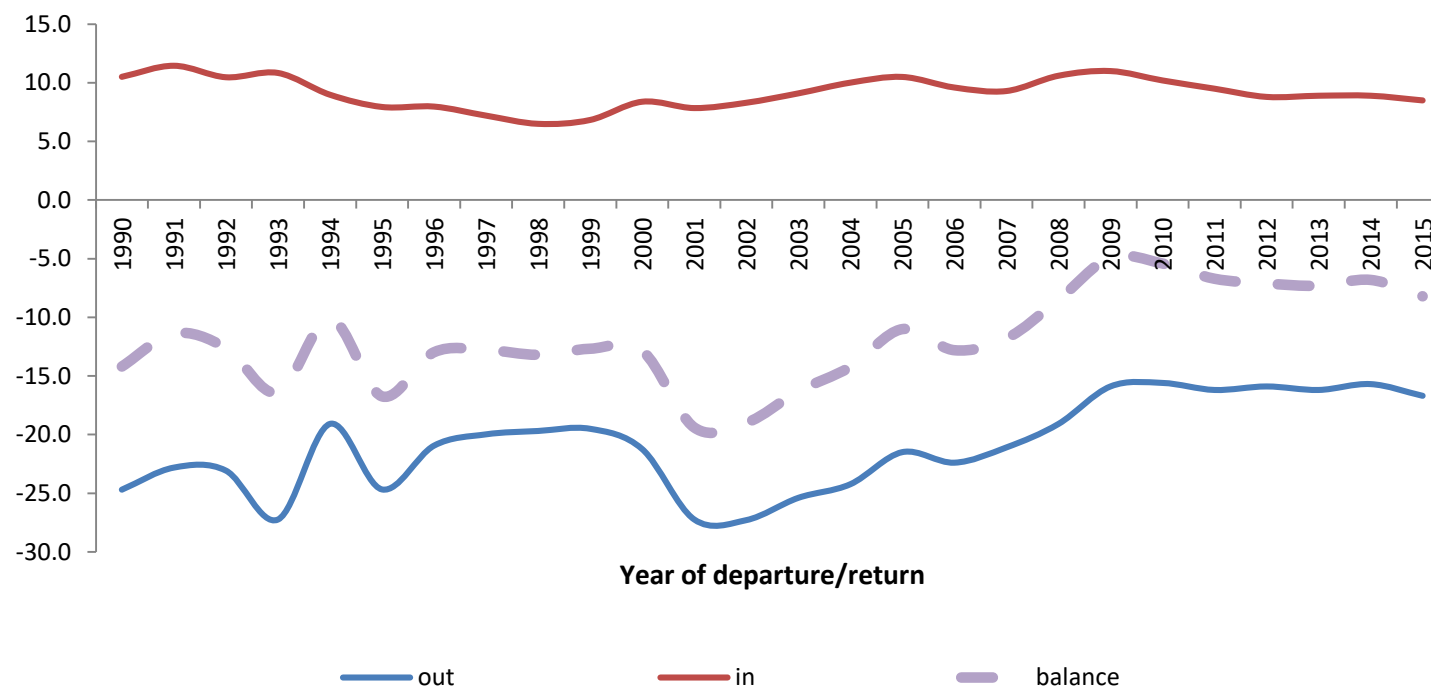| 365 days or more abroad continuously	90 days or more in Israel

Challenges of estimates 1

- An Israeli resident is not required to declare the purpose of a trip when leaving the country.

- There is no obligation to declare that one is leaving Israel for the purpose of settling in another country.

- Often residents do not know when leaving Israel whether they will return to live there.

- Use of a foreign passport at the time of the departure or return can lead to underreporting of departures or returns.

Challenges of estimates 2

- The emigrants continue to maintain ties to Israel: they visit Israel often and sometimes even still own an apartment there.

- They have dual ties, to both Israel and to the destination country. In cases in which the emigrants visit Israel often, it is difficult to determine whether their "centre of life" is in the country of origin or the destination country.

- More than a small number of Israeli residents depart abroad and return to Israel after a prolonged stay abroad (relocations, studies, sabbaticals)

Departures, Returns and Balance 1990-2015

Need of New Concept

In the last twenty years there has been a change in the composition and characteristics of international migration. In the era of globalization it is much easier to maintain family and social connections and therefore a more flexible definition of the term "emigrant" is needed.

The Integrated Population Census 2008

The records in the IAF are divided into three groups:

1. active records,

2. records of deceased persons,

3. *not in population* records.

The *not in population* stock includes records with the status registered as "ceased to be a resident" and "Israeli abroad", who were classified according to this criterion: At the end of 2008 the person had departed from Israel's borders for the course of one year (12 months), with the possibility of visiting Israel for no more than 90 days (three months).

Alternatives for Defining Emigrants

Number of consecutive days abroad as the initial criterion to be considered a departing or returning emigrant	Number of days of cumulative stay abroad or in Israel (including consecutive days) in the first year from the departure or entry date as the initial criterion to be considered a departing or returning emigrant		
	275 days	305 days	335 days
90 days	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
60 days	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6
30 days	Alternative 7	Alternative 8	Alternative 9

New system 1

- Each record of an Israeli ID holder obtained from the BCSystem of the Population and Immigration Authority receives an emigration status according to definitions of the system

- The system will provide population components of "departing emigrants" and "returning emigrants," according to the definitions of the system, at the end of each calendar year.

New system 2

- System users will be able to retrieve records of each of the calculated emigration statuses, as monthly files or annual files.

- The system will maintain and update annually the stock of Israelis abroad

- The annual data will be stored in a multi-year database.

- In addition to the new definitions, the system will produce data for two completely new populations in Israel's official statistics.

New definitions of departing emigrant

- <u>Emigrant departing for short-term emigration</u>: An Israeli who stayed abroad for a period exceeding 3 months (consecutive), but less than 9 months cumulative in a period of 365 days from the date of departure.

- <u>Emigrant departing for long-term emigration</u>: An Israeli who stayed abroad at least 9 cumulative months during a year, of which at least three months were consecutive, in a period of 365 days from the date of departure.

New definitions of returning emigrant

- Emigrant returning from short-term emigration: After staying abroad for a period exceeding 3 months (consecutive), but less than 9 months (cumulative) in a period of 365 days from the date of departure.

- Emigrant returning from long-term emigration: Stayed abroad for at least 9 cumulative months during a year, of which at least 3 months were consecutive in a period of 365 days since the date of departure.

Stock of Israelis abroad

Updated with the addition of three components and the subtraction of three others:

- The additions:
    1. Emigrants who departed for a long-term emigration according to the system definition for t + 1
    2. Records with status "ceased to be a resident" (include children of Israeli citizens born abroad) for year t + 1
    3. Records from other administrative files – addition to year t + 1

- The subtractions:
    1. Emigrants who according to the system definition returned from a long-term emigration in year t + 1
    2. Deaths reported in Population Registry in year t + 1
    3. Records of persons who have reached 120 in year t + 1

Summary

- One of the important products of the new system is a database that enables an investigation of the emigrants' demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

- This basis will allow for a number of actions that could not be done in the previous methodology.

- For example, the calculation of flows of circular, multi-time and short-term emigration, characterization of populations whose lives are divided between two or more countries, and the characterization of those coming for many relatively short visits to Israel.

Thank You