



OECD Demographics Survey

Israel

Executive Summary by Levente Kardkovács



Factsheet

Fertility rate (births/woman)	Net migration rate (entering-leaving/1000)	Family policies	Attitude towards immigration
3.00 (1st in the OECD)	5.50 (23rd in the OECD)	Generous	Hostile (except for jews)

Immigration Policies

It is easy to become an Israeli citizen - if you are Jewish. Jews and their children are granted citizenship along with additional benefits, such as financial support for housing during their first year in Israel. This is in sharp contrast to non-Jewish immigrants and asylum seekers. Temporary worker visas are issued to companies and not the employees, workers' rights are often not enforced for foreigners, and there is no path to citizenship. There is no mechanism in place to determine refugee status (despite Israel being a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention), and asylum seekers have their rights severely restricted.

Potential allies: Hungary, Italy

Family Policies

The state provides significant support to families with children. This comes in many forms: one-time payment at the birth of a child, tax breaks, monthly payments, up to 15 weeks of paid maternity leave, and unpaid leave beyond that. It is however important to note that as a percentage of GDP, state spending on family benefits is still behind countries like Sweden and Hungary. Additionally similar measures have shown limited success in the West and the East. The respect for and ubiquity of Jewish traditions and values among (even secular) Israeli citizens likely also contributes significantly to the country's high birth rate.

Out of arguments? Visit our website for more ideas and infographics using the QR code in the corner.

