
Online Statistical Thematic Atlas

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Keywords: thematic maps, statistical maps, atlas

Abstract:

The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes hundreds of maps annually as part of different publications and press releases. As the map content accumulated on the website, a need arose to create a web page that concentrates all the map inventory, for easy search and access. This also created a "home" for maps that are produced, but not necessarily for a specific publication, and therefore do not have a place on the CBS website. This page is in fact a Statistical Thematic Atlas.

The Atlas includes thematic maps which present the spatial distribution of demographic, social, and economic statistics. The Atlas coincides with the CBS's main topics on the website, such as individual and society, economy, environment and infrastructure, government and local authorities as well as cross sectorial topics. Each topic has its maps arranged by the year of the data on the map. Thus, there is a preliminary arrangement by topic, then by the year of the data in the map and by the specific subject of the map.

The maps are given as PDF documents. Most maps have an excel spreadsheet attached, containing the map's data. All maps and data files are available for free download.

The maps appear in separate Hebrew and English versions. A novelty that is on the way is translating maps into Arabic, for the use of Arabic speakers and students in the Arab and Druze education system in Israel. This major endeavor is planned to cover all the maps that originate from the Bureau's main publication – The Statistical Abstract of Israel.

To do this, the whole mapping project was redesigned to allow three map layouts that are fed from one main map, per topic. In case there are enlargements in the layout, they are fed from the main map as well. Each layout has a separate language, where the labels, legend, headlines, and other cartographic elements can be fed from a translation directory and edited easily. This will allow a faster production rate in the immediate future, and translations into other languages with minimum editing, if needed.

The Statistical Online Atlas won 3rd place in the Atlas category at ICC 2023 in Cape Town, and has been updated since with over 100 maps, and will hold a new set of maps in Arabic by mid 2024.

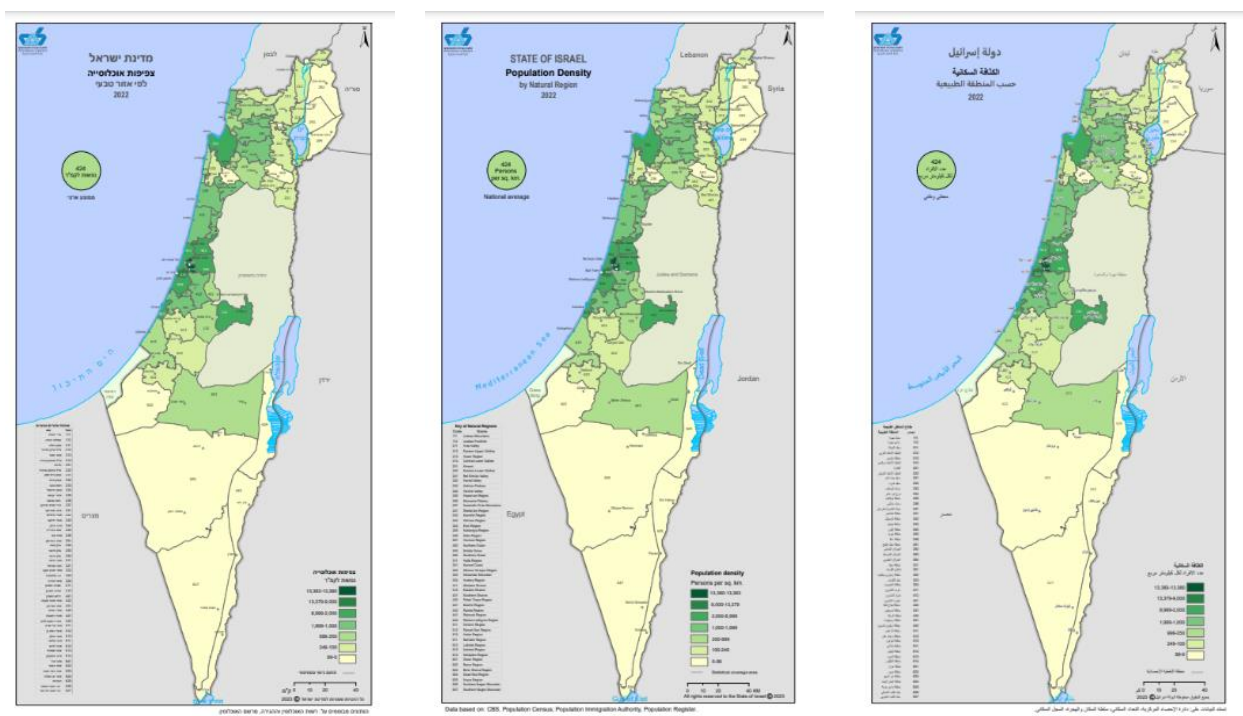


Figure 1. Map of population density in Israel from the Atlas, in 3 languages – Hebrew, English and Arabic.

References

ICBS, 2024: Thematic Atlas, <https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/publications/Pages/2021/Thematic-Atlas-PREFACE.aspx>, accessed Feb 9th 2024, Jerusalem, Israel.