

SUMMARY

THE ISRAELI DEMOCRACY INDEX

2018

Tamar Hermann

Or Anabi | Ella Heller | Fadi Omar



THE ISRAEL
DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE

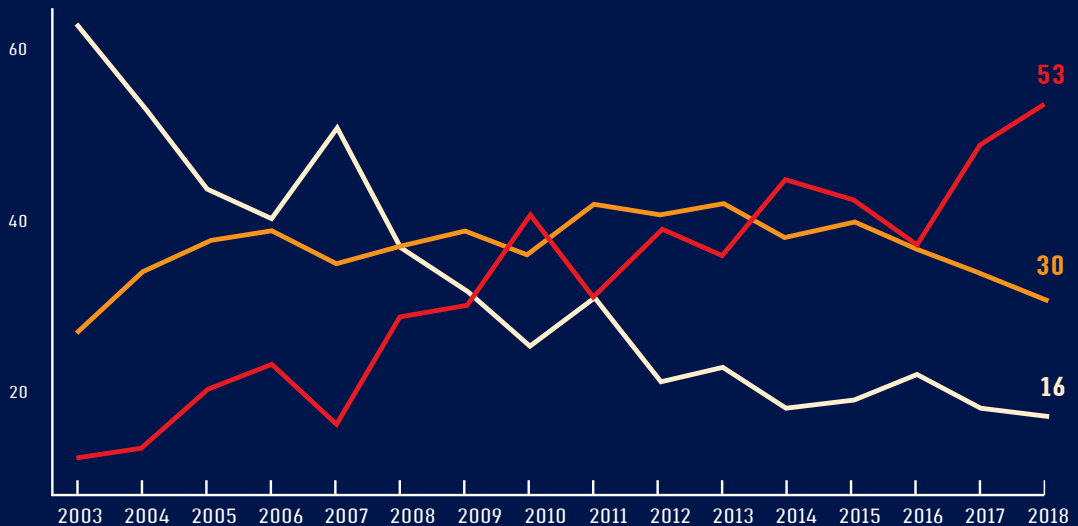
Israel in the Eyes of its Citizens— Cautious Optimism



Over the years, there has been a gradual rise in the percentage of Israelis who characterize Israel's situation as good or very good, and a steady decline in the percentage of those who view it as bad or very bad.

Israel's situation (of the total sample, %)

- Good or very good
- So-so
- Bad or very bad

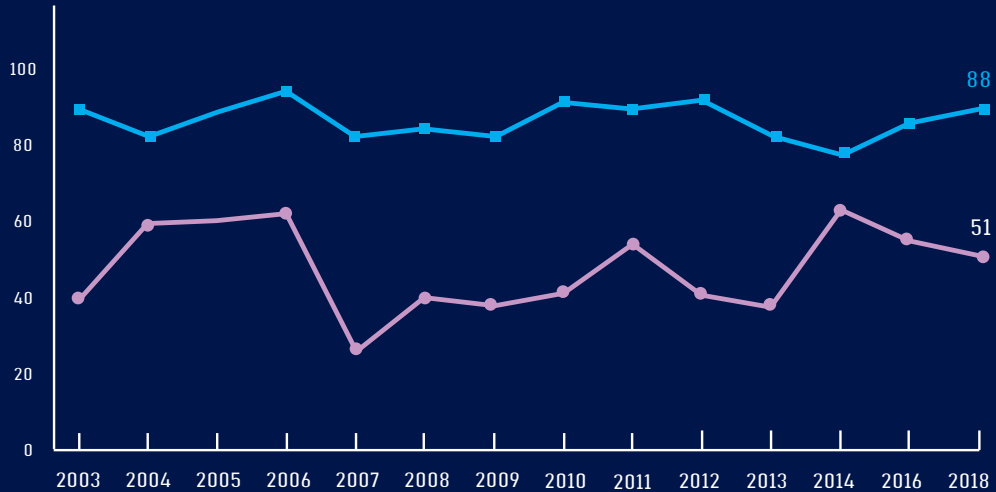




Proud to be Israeli

(Jews and Arabs, %)

■ Jews
● Arabs

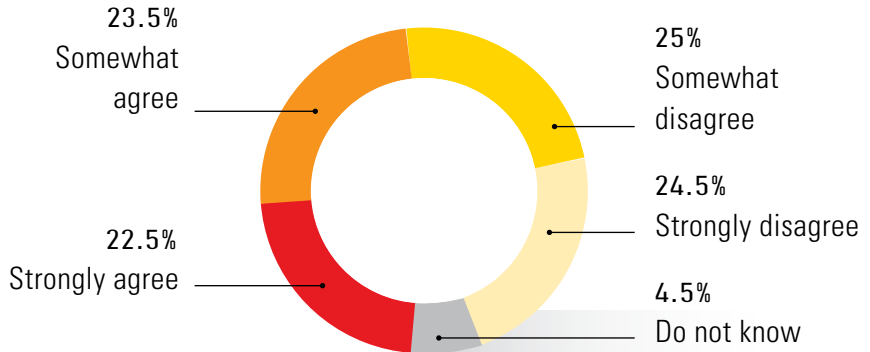


“Most Arab citizens of Israel want to integrate into Israeli society and be part of it”



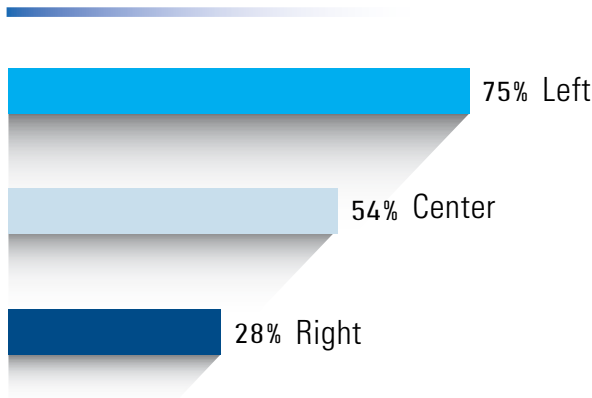
Political (dis)Function

“Israeli democracy is in grave danger” (of the total sample)



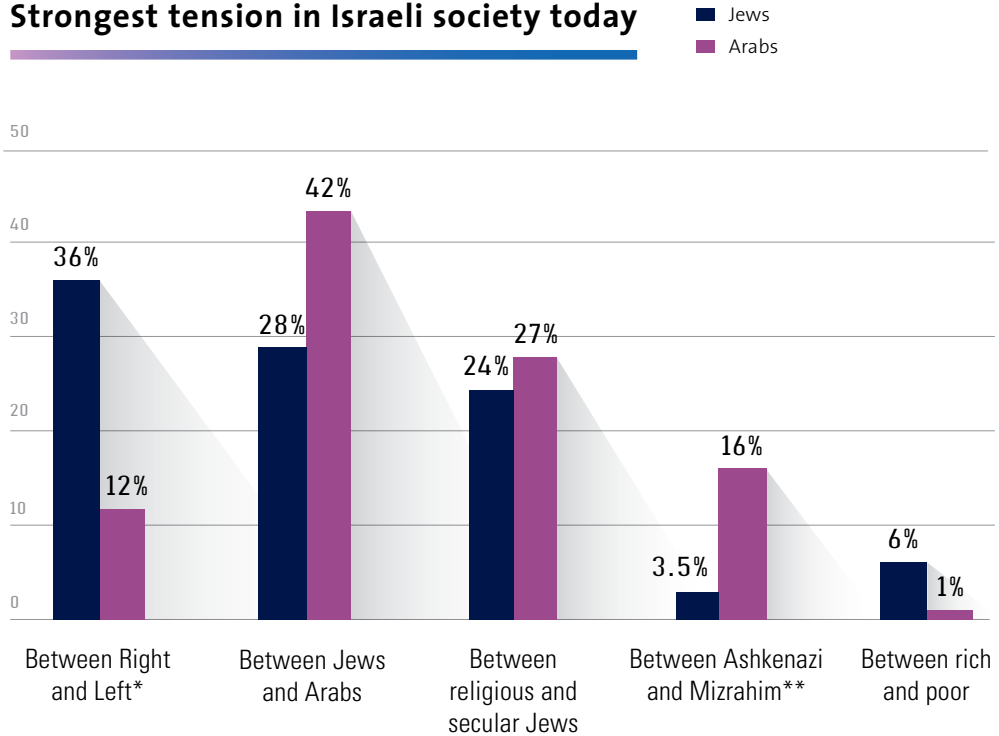
Israeli democracy is in grave danger

Agree, by political affiliation
(Jewish respondents)



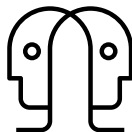
The major finding of this year's Index is the consolidation of the Israeli public into two distinct blocs, characterized by their opposing positions on many aspects of Israeli life. In the past, the distinction between Right and Left revolved primarily around the political-security nexus. Today, the differences between them relate to socioeconomic, legal, and religious issues as well.

Strongest tension in Israeli society today



* On foreign policy and security issues

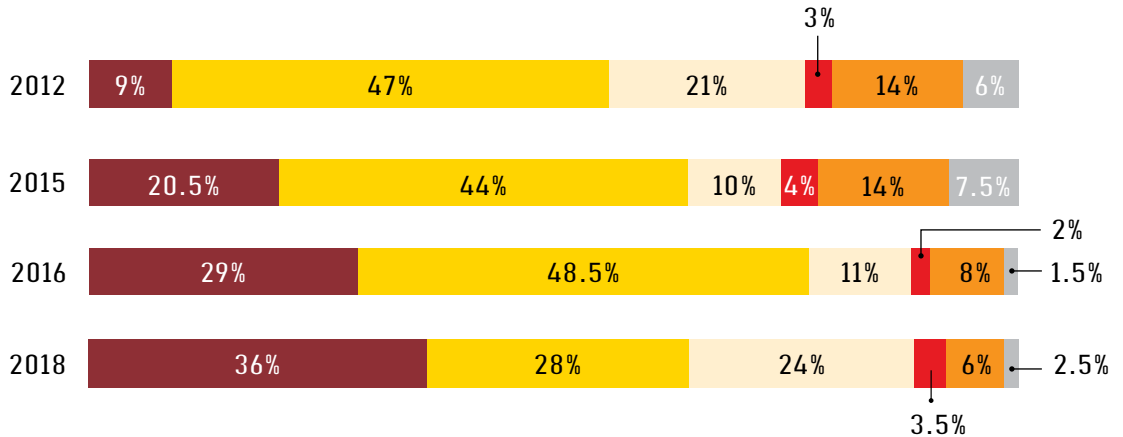
** Israeli Jews of Middle Eastern descent



Today, the Jewish public perceives that the highest degree of tension in Israeli society is between Right and Left; and among the Arab public - between Jews and Arabs.

Strongest tension in Israeli society, over time (Jewish respondents)

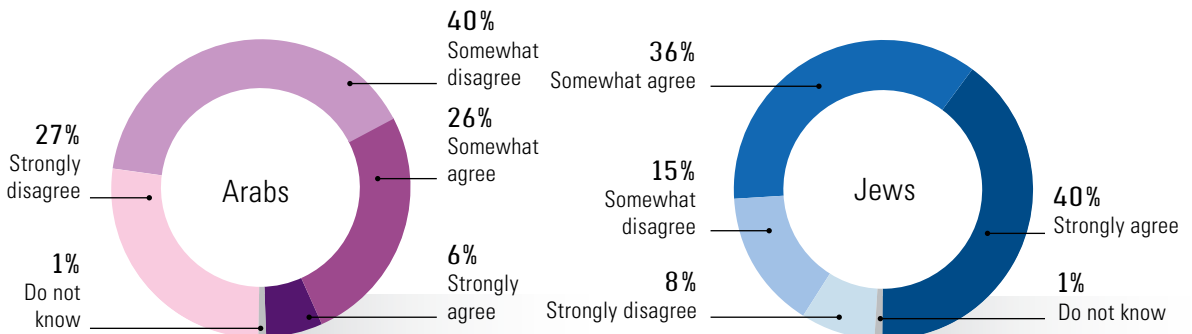
- Between Right and Left*
- Between Jews and Arabs
- Between religious and secular Jews
- Between Ashkenazi and Mizrahim**
- Between rich and poor
- Do not know/ All tensions are equal



*On foreign policy and security issues

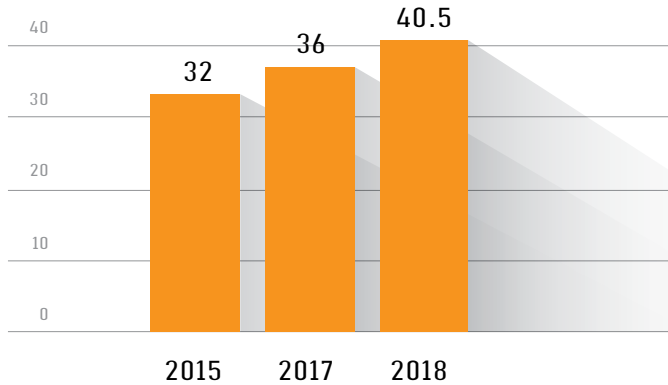
** Israeli Jews of Middle Eastern descent

Israel's government is also democratic towards its Arab citizens (Jews and Arabs)



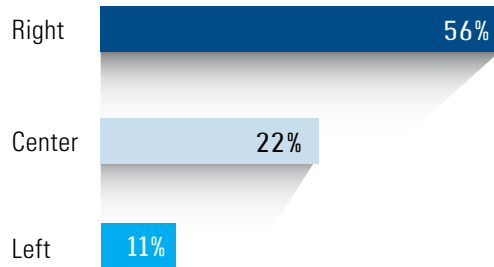


“The power of judicial review over Knesset legislation should be taken away from the Supreme Court” (of the total sample)



* Although they remain a minority, the percentage of Israelis who believe that the Supreme Court should be denied the authority to overturn laws (judicial review) is gradually increasing.

“The power of judicial review over Knesset legislation should be taken away from the Supreme Court” Agree, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)

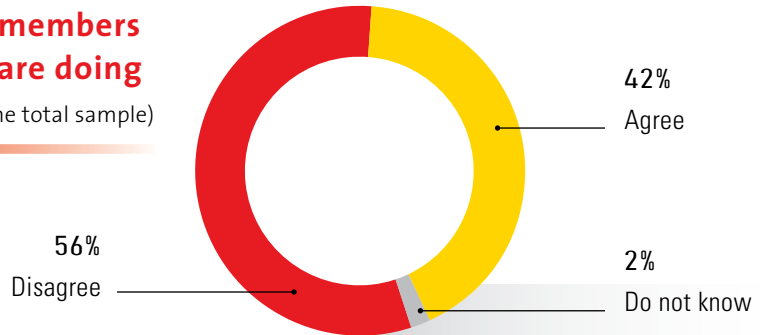


Political (dis)Function

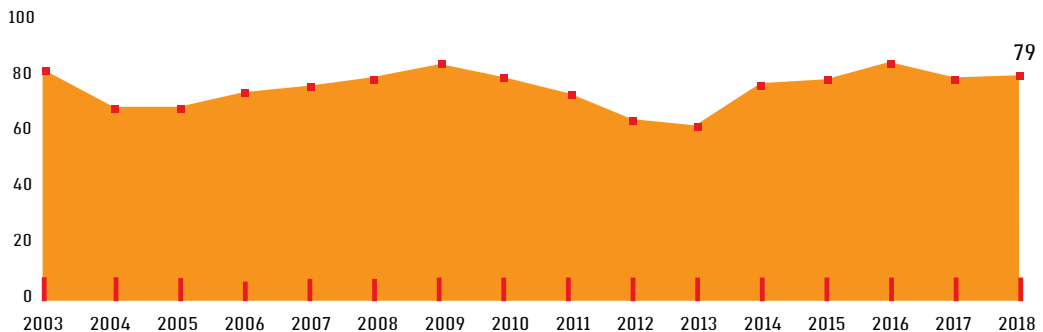


More than half the public (56%) disagree with the statement that most Knesset members work hard and are doing a good job. At the same time, the percentage who agree is higher than the average in past years (33%).

“Most Knesset members work hard and are doing a good job” (of the total sample)

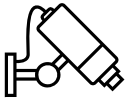
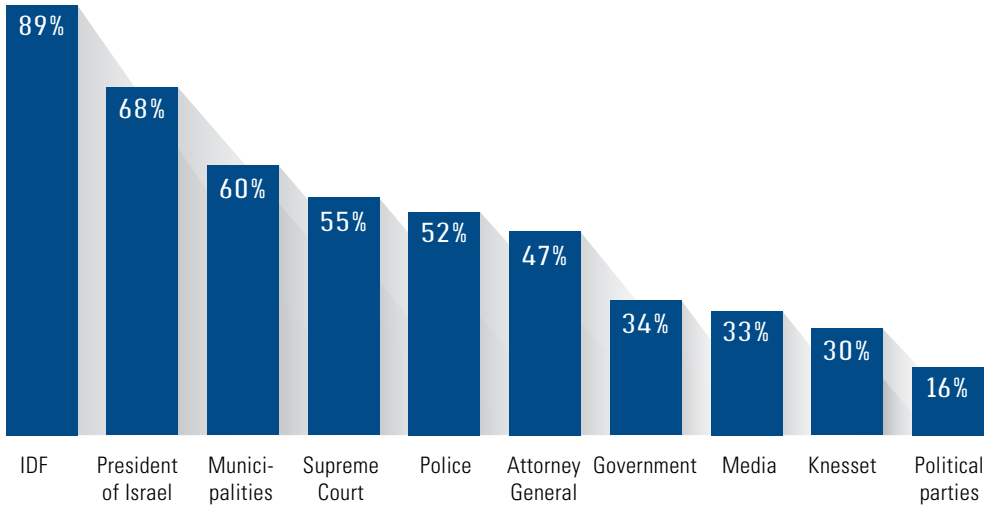


Feel they have little or no influence on government policy (of the total sample, %)

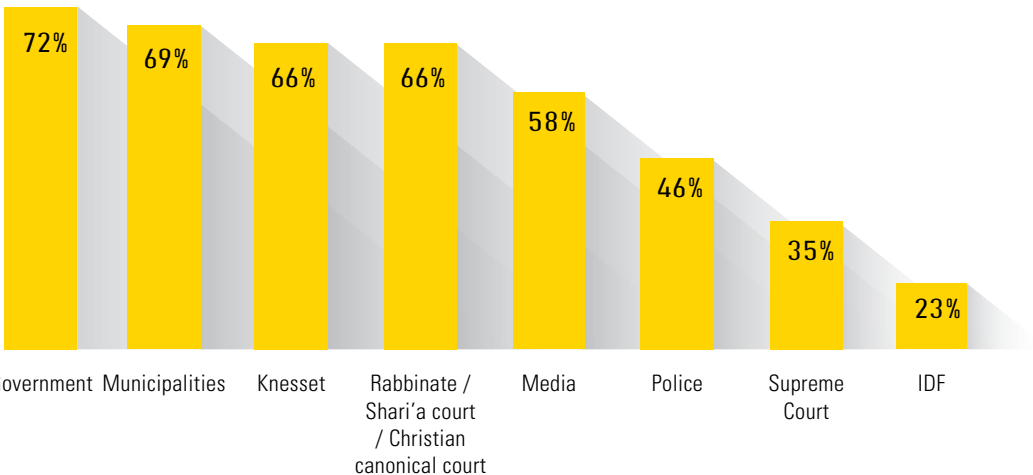


Trust in State Institutions

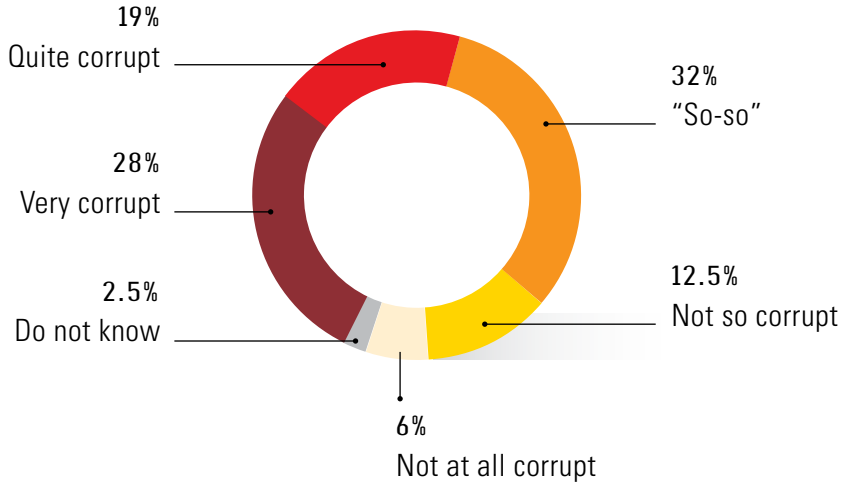
Which state institutions do Israelis trust? (Jewish Respondents)



Perception of corruption in state institutions (of the total sample)

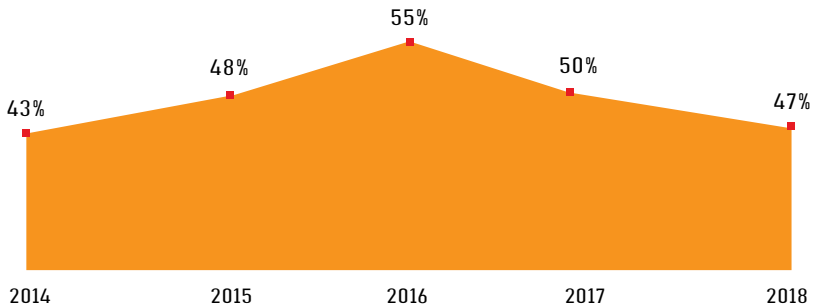


Is the country's leadership corrupt? (of the total sample)



Agree that country's leadership is quite corrupt or very corrupt, over time

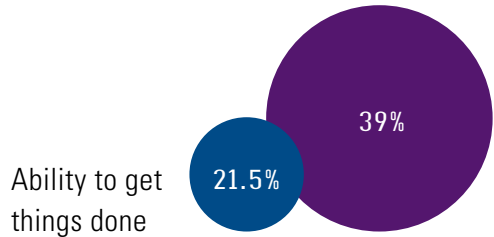
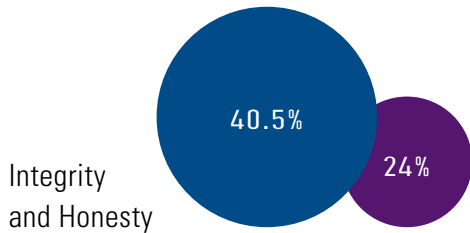
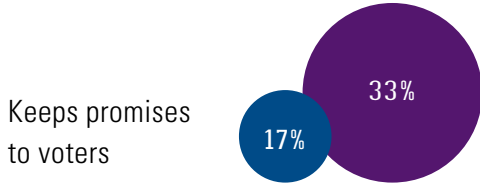
(of the total sample)





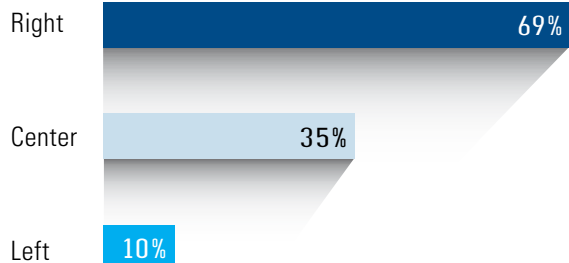
Most important quality in a politician

Jews
Arabs



“State funding should be withdrawn or cut back from institutions or artists sharply critical of the state”

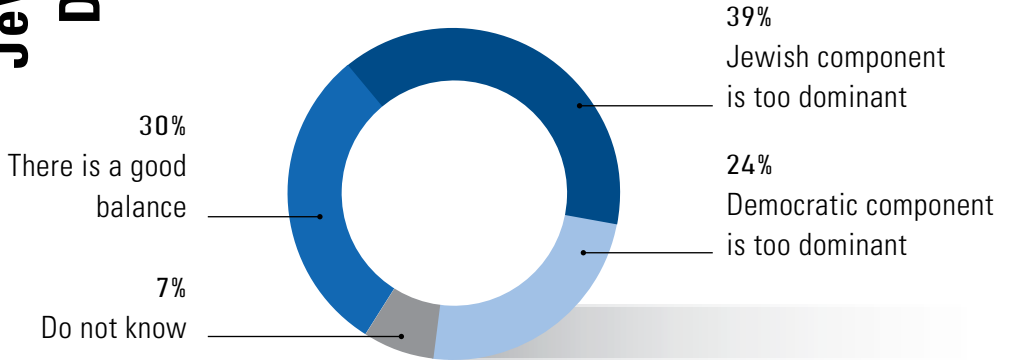
Agree, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)



Jewish and/or Democratic?

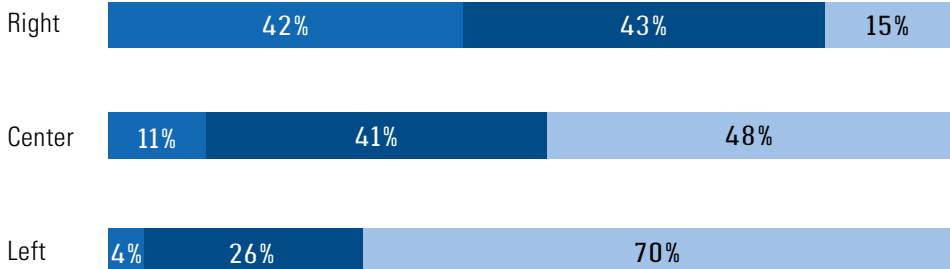


Is there a good balance today between the Jewish and democratic components of the character of the state? (Jewish respondents)

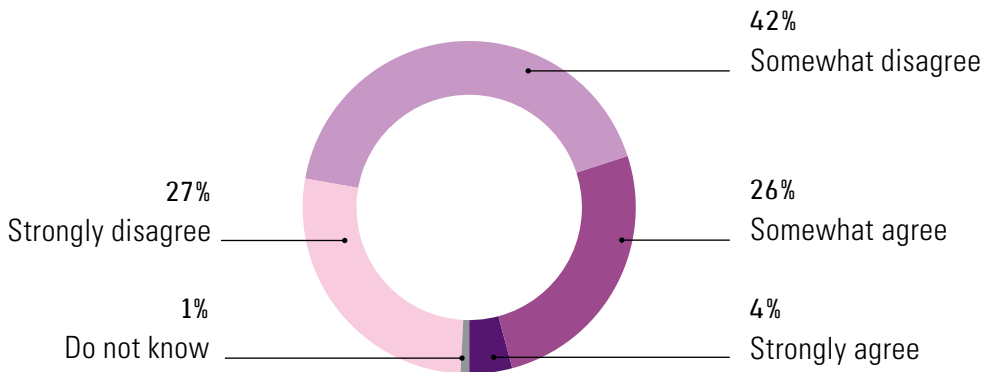


Which component would you want to be the dominant one? By political affiliation (Jewish respondents)

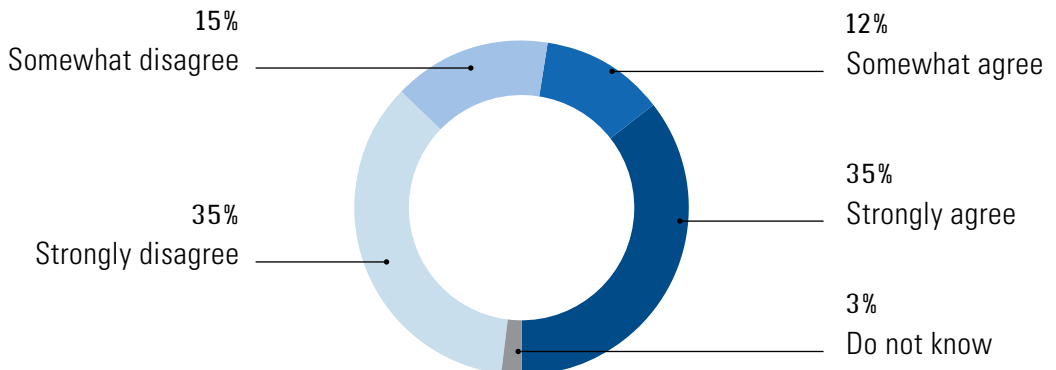
- Jewish
- Both equally
- Democratic



“Israel has the right to be defined as the nation-state of the Jewish people” (Arab respondents)

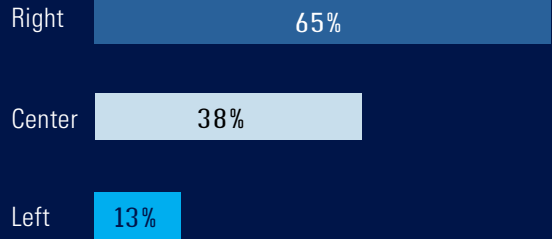


“People who are unwilling to affirm that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people should lose their right to vote” (Jewish respondents)



"People who are unwilling to affirm that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people should lose their right to vote"

Agree, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)

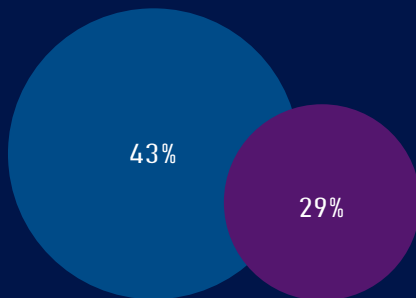


* Only a minority of Arabs believe that in order to preserve their national identity, they should live separately from Jews. Among Jews, however, the percentage who believe that in order to preserve their national identity they should live separately is much higher.

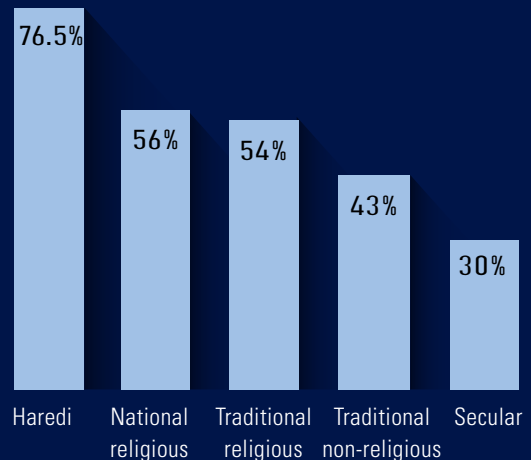
"To preserve national identity, it is better for Jews and Arabs in Israel to live separately"

(Agree, Jews and Arabs)

■ Jews ■ Arabs

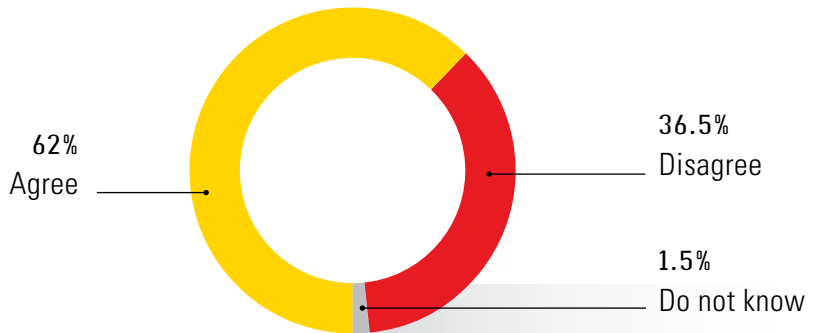


Agree, by level of religious observance (Jewish respondents)



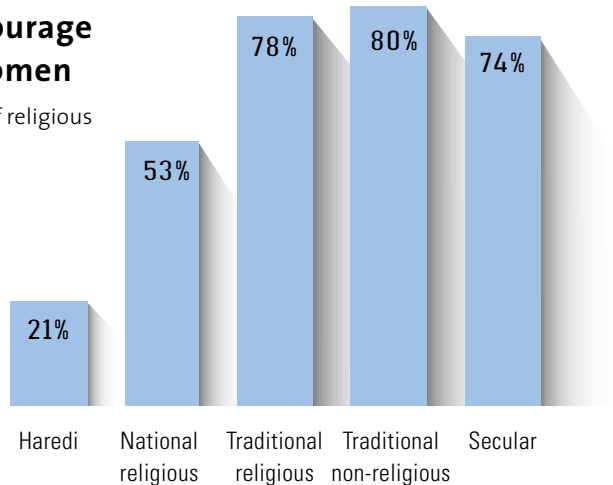
Status of Women in Israel

“The state should encourage greater representation of women in political bodies; for example, by making party funding contingent on appropriate representation of women on the party’s electoral list” (Of the total sample)



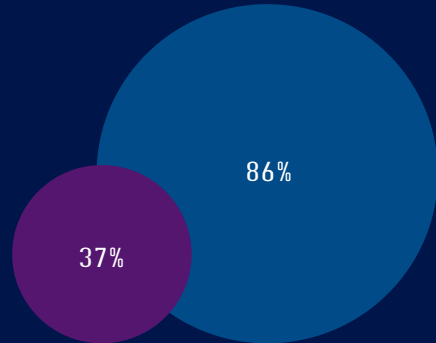
The government should encourage greater representation of women in political bodies

Agree by level of religious observance (Jewish respondents)



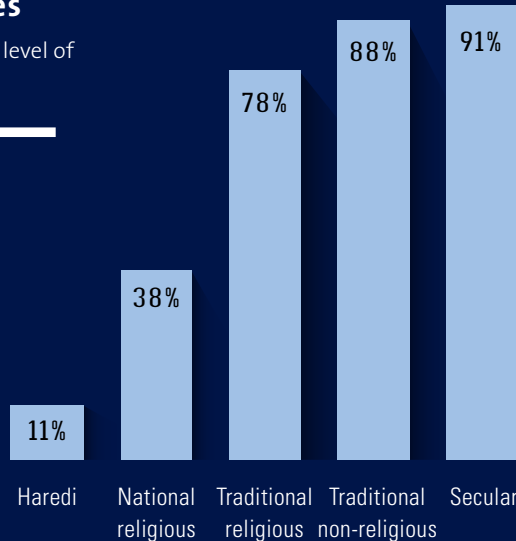
Support men and women earning equal pay for equal work

Jews Arabs



Agree with the IDF's current policy of expanding the range of roles open to female soldiers

Agree, by level of religious observance (Jewish respondents)



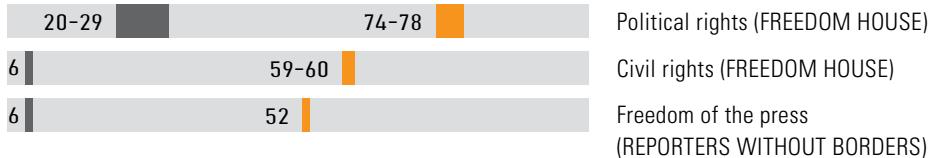
Israel and the World



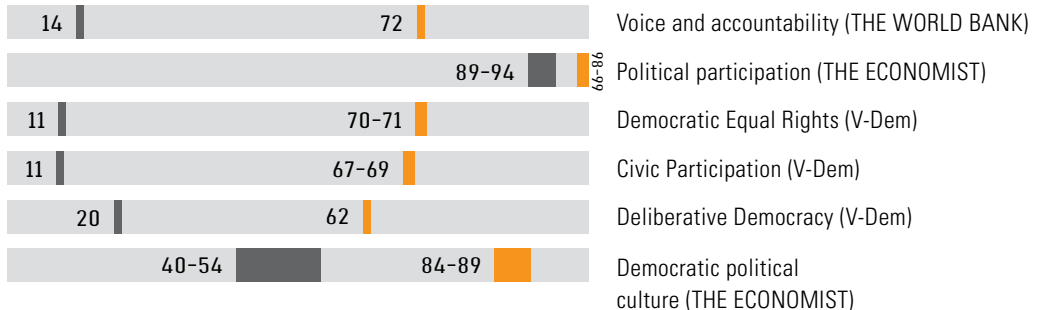
Israel's ranking on international indicators of quality of democracy and functioning of government is not too bad. However, we are near the bottom of the list when compared with OECD member states.

■ Percentile of all countries surveyed ■ Percentile of OECD states

Democratic rights and freedoms



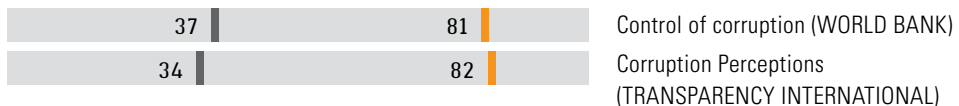
Democratic process



Governance



Corruption



The Israel Democracy Institute is an independent center of research and action dedicated to strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy. IDI works to bolster the values and institutions of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. A non-partisan think-and-do tank, the institute harnesses rigorous applied research to influence policy, legislation and public opinion. The institute partners with government, policy and decision makers, civil service and society, to improve the functioning of the government and its institutions, confront security threats while preserving civil liberties, and foster solidarity within Israeli society.

Israel recognized the positive impact of IDI's research and recommendations by conferring upon the institute its most prestigious award, the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement.

The Israeli Democracy Index, The Israeli Democracy Index is the flagship project of the **Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research**. It presents decision-makers, researchers and the public at large with an annual survey of public opinion on the state of Israeli democracy, including trust in government institutions, identification with the state, the Jewish and democratic characters of the state, politics and political activism, economic attitudes, as well as an evaluation of Israel's standing in the democratic world as measured by a number of international indices. Recognizing the importance of a substantive and stable democracy in Israel, the Index is used to identify areas that need to be improved and enhanced in our democratic culture and regime.



www.idi.org.il

To order the full report:

orders@idi.org.il | 02-5300800

