**Israel Employment Service Report Excerpts:
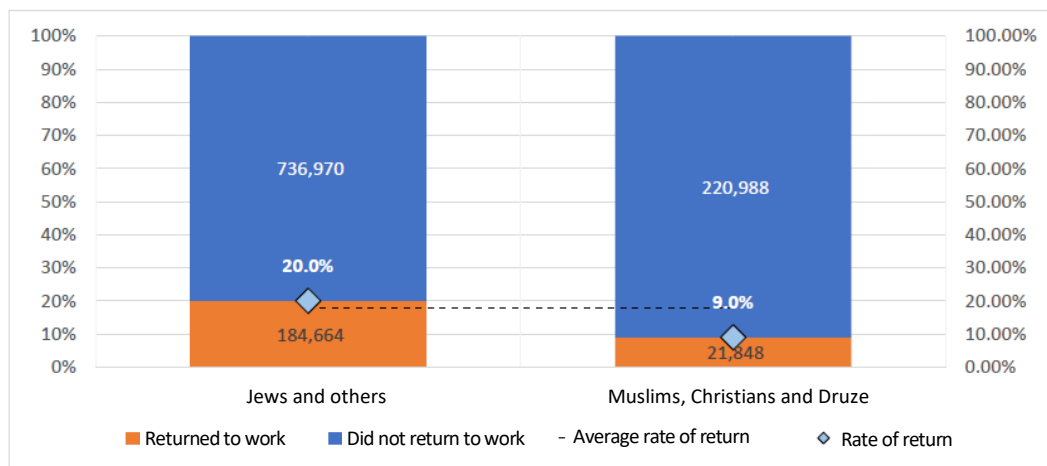May 2020 Unemployment**

May rates: May opened 27.5% unemployment (1,165,000 total registrants) and closed with an unemployment rate of 23.5%.

Newly unemployed: Over the month, 35,400 Israelis became newly unemployed (officially called 'jobseekers')

Returned to work: 206,500 (17.7% of total unemployed) reported to the IES of having returned to work, though the service believes there is underreporting and that numbers are likely higher.

By religion: The proportion of Muslims, Christians and Druze who reported returning to work was significantly lower than Jews, with 9% of the former returning and 20% of the latter (see Figure 1).

Figure 1- Number of unemployed by religious group, 2020

By Profession: The highest return rates overall were registered in the medical and health professions (26.4%), accounting and finance (25.3%), law (25%), and education (24.8%). The lowest return rates were registered in the tourism sector (6.7%) media and entertainment (9.2%), and aeronautics and seafaring (9.1%). These figures are likely due to the restrictions that have not yet been removed, or were removed in a partial way, by the end of May.

By location: At the local level, Arab and Ultra-Orthodox localities (alongside Eilat) stand out for both low return and high unemployment rates. For instance, the unemployment rate in Nazareth in May was 26.7% compared to 33% in April, and in Umm al-Fahm it was 25.2% (compared with 32% in April). Nazareth and Umm al-Fahm are ranked fifth and eighth, respectively, among cities with the highest unemployment rates in Israel. The mixed cities of Ramle and Lod are also at the top of this ranking, both with unemployment rates of 22.9%. Conversely, districts with a high return rate include the Center (20%), followed by Haifa (18.6%) and Tel Aviv (18.4%). The North District, the only District in Israel with a non-Jewish majority (39% Muslim, 8% Druze and 7% Christian, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics report from 2018), registered the lowest return rate (14.6%). The IES underscores that the data sharpens the need to address specific population groups.