
The Viterbi Family Center
for Public Opinion and Policy Research

Selected Findings

The Israeli Democracy Index

2021

Tamar Hermann

Or Anabi / Yaron Kaplan / Inna Orly Sapozhnikova



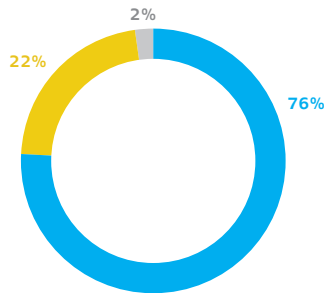
THE ISRAEL
DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE

The Israeli Democracy Index

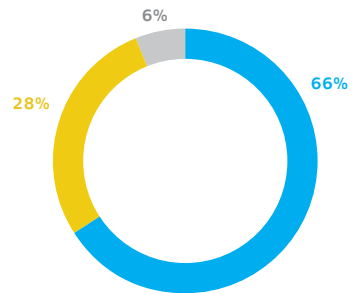
Each year, the Israeli Democracy Index examines trends in Israeli society relating to the commitment to democratic values, the functioning of government systems, and the degree of trust in government institutions and in elected and appointed decision-makers. Its analysis of survey findings impacts public discourse on the state of Israeli democracy, and creates a comprehensive database for informed decision-making among policymakers. This year, the survey was conducted in June, and selected questions were revisited in October.

Is Israel a good place to live?

Jews



Arabs



Agree (strongly or somewhat)

Disagree (strongly or somewhat)

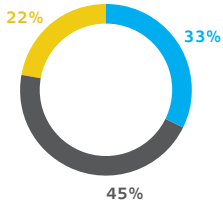
Don't know

Israel's Overall Situation

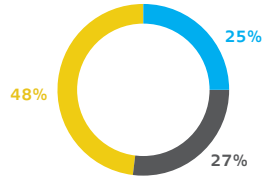
How would you characterize Israel's overall situation today?

June 2021

Jews

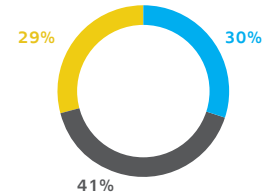
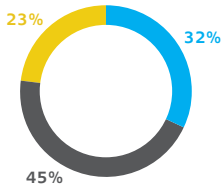


Arabs

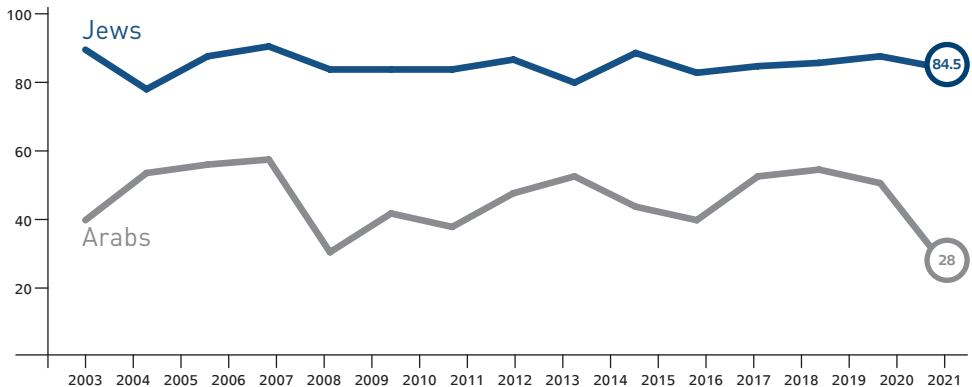


Good or very good
So-so
Bad or very bad

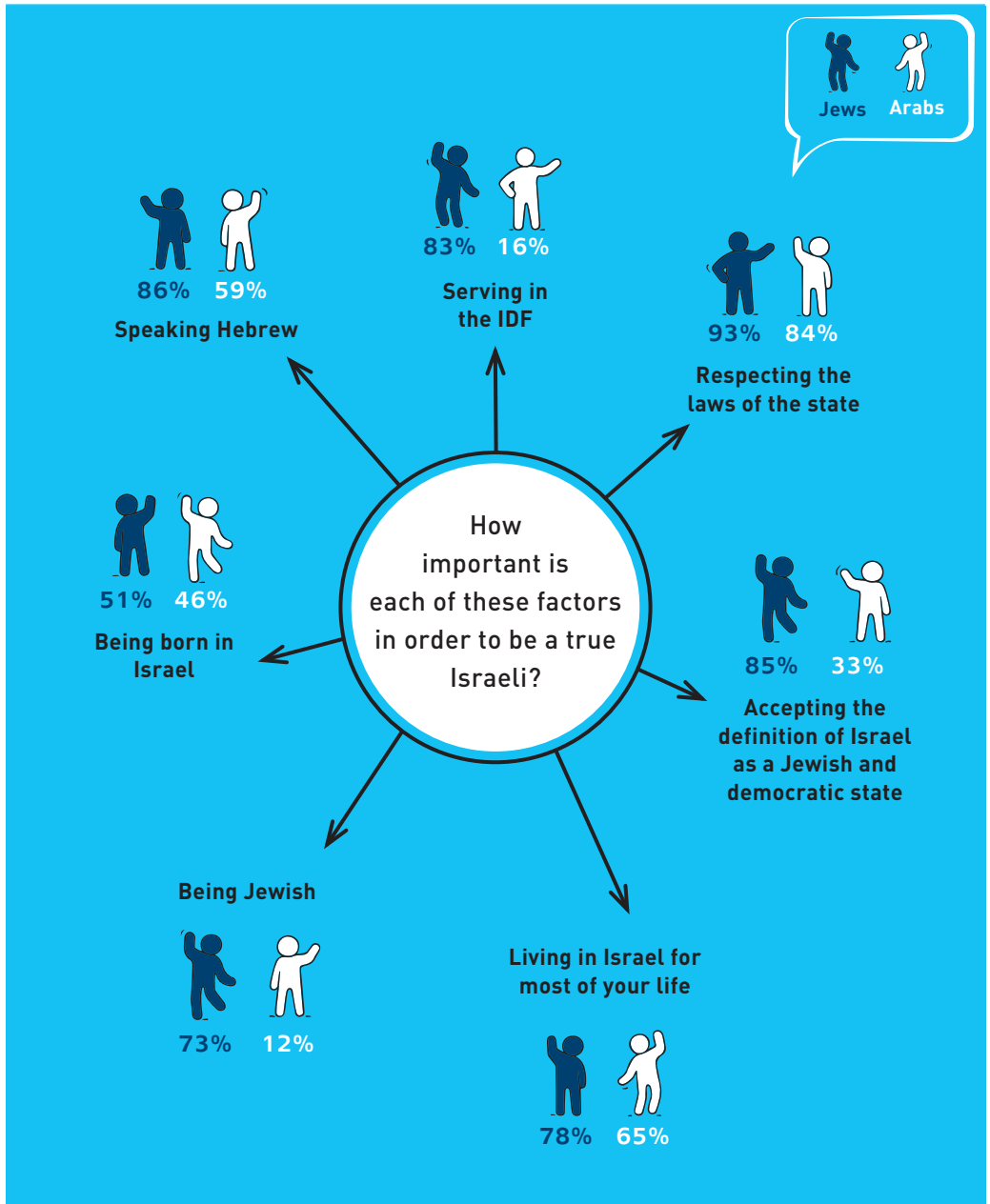
October 2021



How proud are you to be an Israeli? (% very or fairly proud, 2003-2021)



Israeli Society

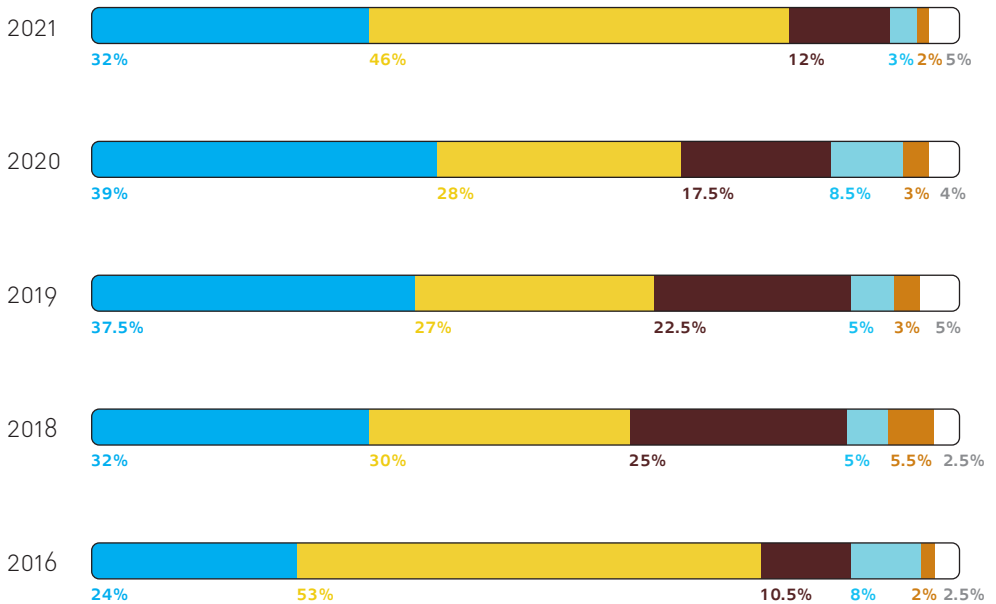


Which groups in Israeli society have the highest level of tension between them? (2021)



Right and Left Jews and Arabs Religious and secular Jews
Rich and poor Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews Don't know

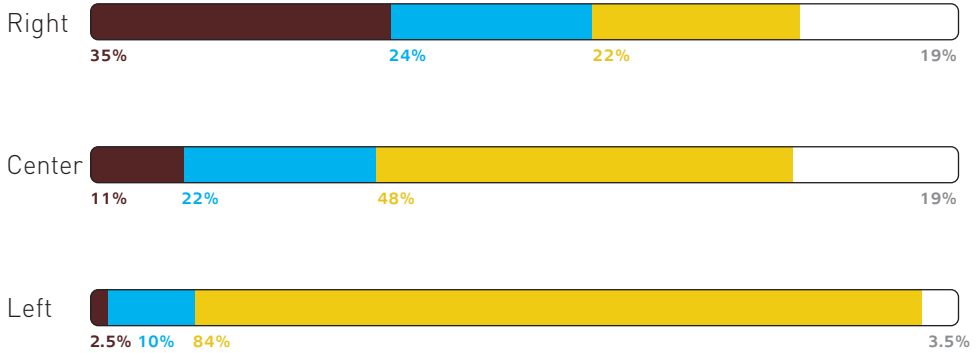
Over time (total sample, 2016–2021)



For the first time since 2016, the greatest source of tension is between Jews and Arabs, rather than between Right and Left.

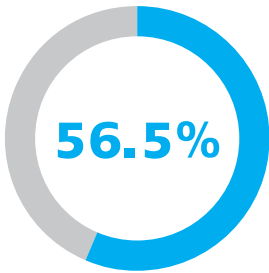
Israel is defined as a Jewish and democratic state. Is there a good balance between the two?

By political orientation (Jews)

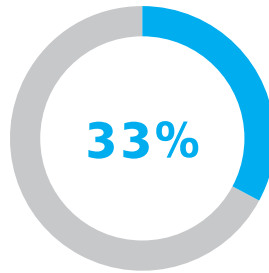


The Democratic component is too dominant
 There is a good balance between both components
 The Jewish component is too dominant
 Don't know

Israelis think that the State of Israel ensures the security of its citizens but doesn't look out for their welfare. (Total sample)



Agree that Israel ensures the **security** of its citizens

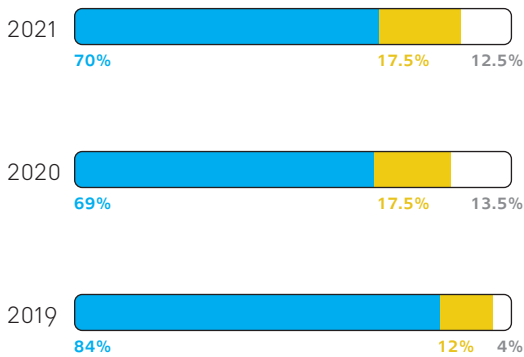


Agree that Israel looks out for the **welfare** of its citizens

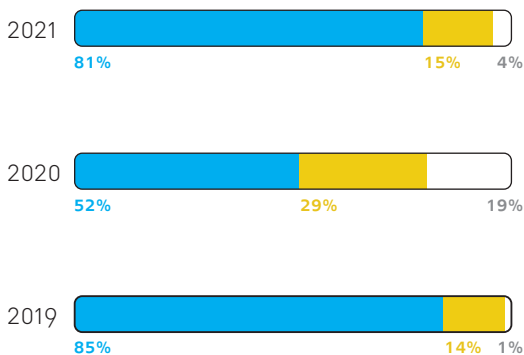
If you could be granted citizenship in a Western country, would you prefer to live there or to remain in Israel?

Remain in Israel
Move abroad
Don't know

Jews



Arabs



Primary factors in thinking about leaving Israel

Jewish Israelis

38%
Economic situation /
cost of living

15.5%
The government /
current administration /
corruption / bureaucracy

12%
Security

10%
Social tensions

Arab Israelis

20%
Economic situation /
poor quality of life

12%
Security

12%
Uncertainty / instability

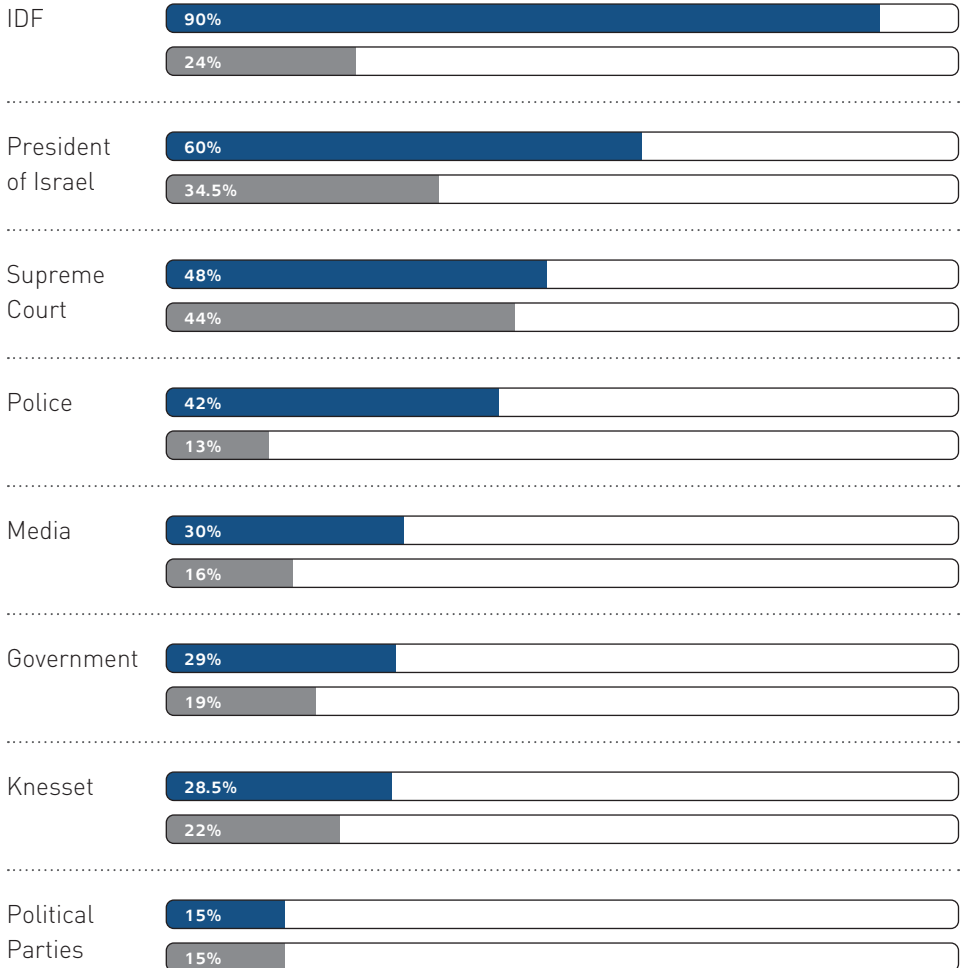
11%
Racism / feeling of inequality

Trust in State Institutions

Trust state institutions very much or quite a bit

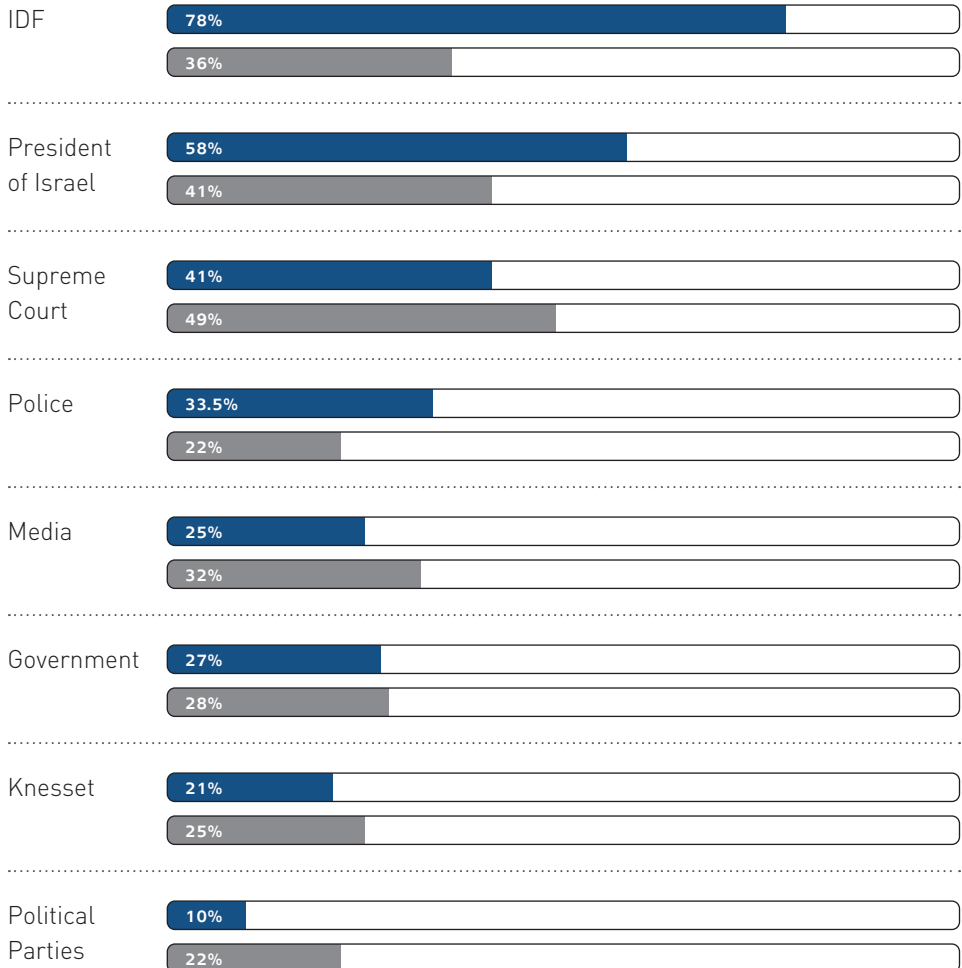


June 2021



The level of trust in state institutions among Jewish respondents decreased between June and October, while the level of trust among Arab respondents increased.

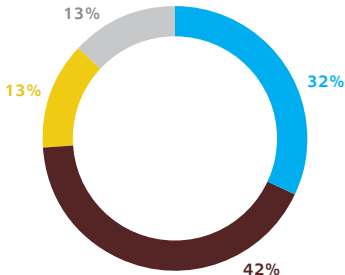
October 2021



The Supreme Court

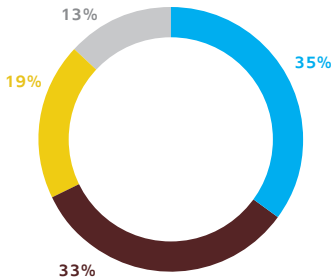
How would you rate the degree of power of Israel's Supreme Court?

Jews

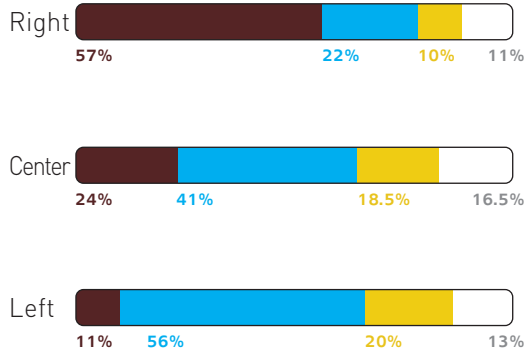


Too much power
 The right amount of power
 Not enough power
 Don't know

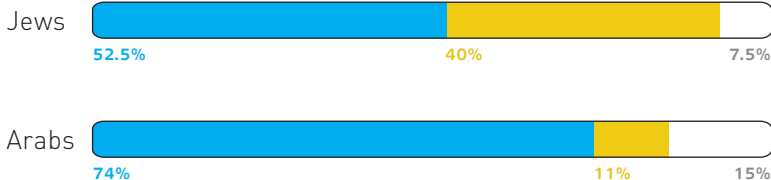
Arabs



By political orientation (Jews)



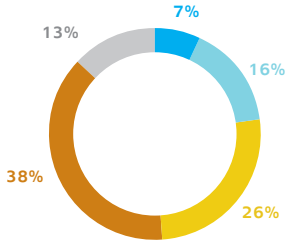
The Supreme Court should have the power to overturn laws passed by the Knesset if they contradict democratic principles.



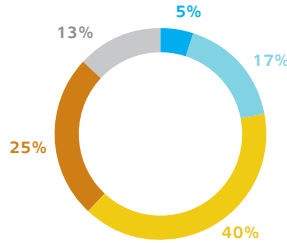
Agree (strongly or somewhat)
 Disagree (strongly or somewhat)
 Don't know

To what degree are the professional decisions of Supreme Court justices influenced by their political views?

Jews



Arabs

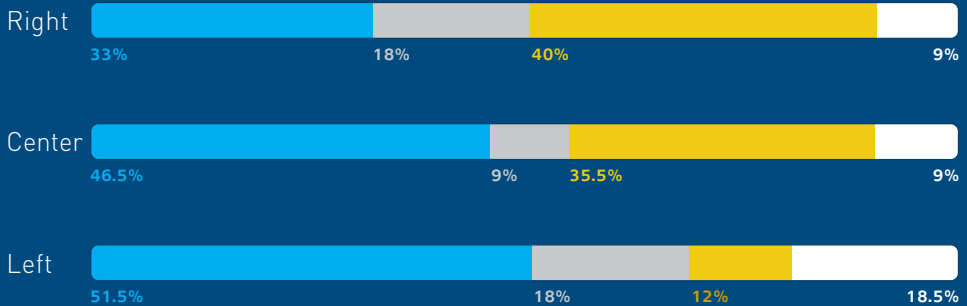


Not at all influenced
Slightly influenced
Moderately influenced
Strongly influenced
Don't know

The Judicial System

How fair was the judge's ruling (among those who have had involvement with the legal system)?

By political orientation (Jews)

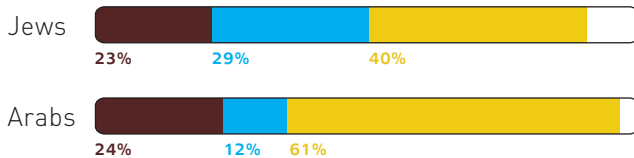


Fair So-so Unfair Don't know

Upholding Democratic Principles

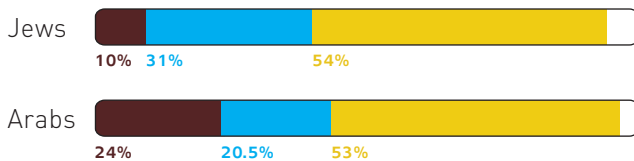
To what extent are the following principles upheld in Israel today?

Minority rights



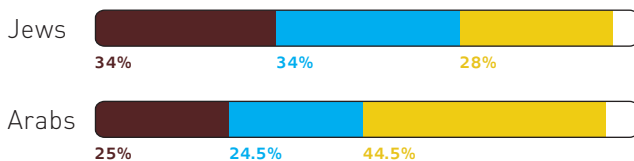
Too much
The right amount
Too little

The right to live in dignity



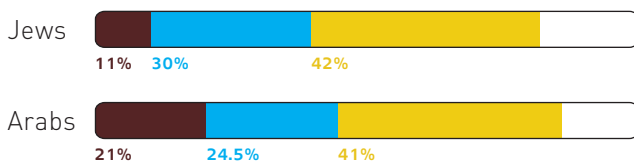
With regard to all four democratic principles we examined, only a minority of the Israeli public believe that they are upheld to the extent that they should be. This is the case among both Jews and Arabs.

Freedom of expression

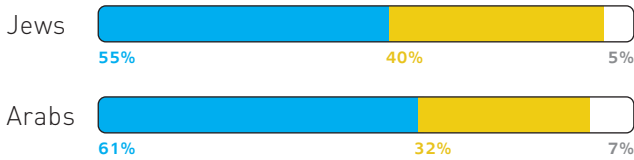


Arabs perceive protection of minority rights as the least upheld principle, and Jews—the right to live in dignity.

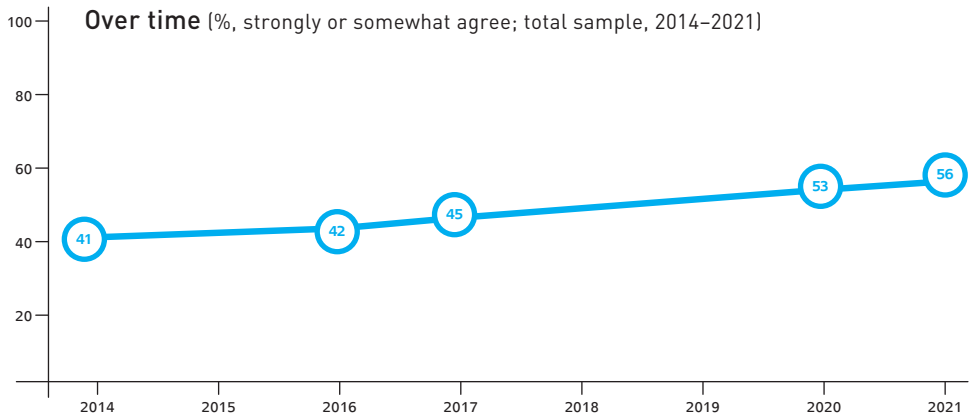
Separation of powers



To deal with its unique problems, Israel needs a strong leader who is not swayed by the Knesset, the media, or public opinion.

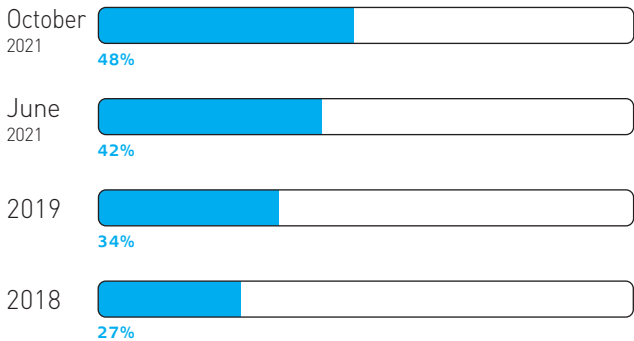


Agree (strongly or somewhat)
 Disagree (strongly or somewhat)
 Don't know



Jewish citizens of Israel should have more rights than non-Jewish citizens.

Over time [strongly or somewhat agree, Jews, 2018–2021]



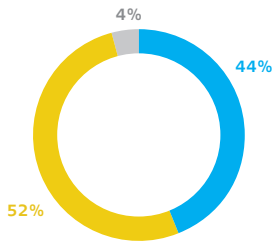
By political orientation

Strongly or somewhat agree (Jews, June 2021)

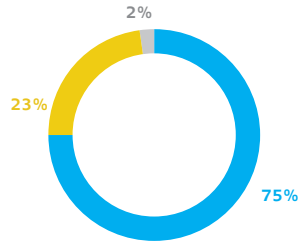
- Left **5%**
- Center **28.5%**
- Right **57%**

The democratic system in Israel is in grave danger.

Jews



Arabs



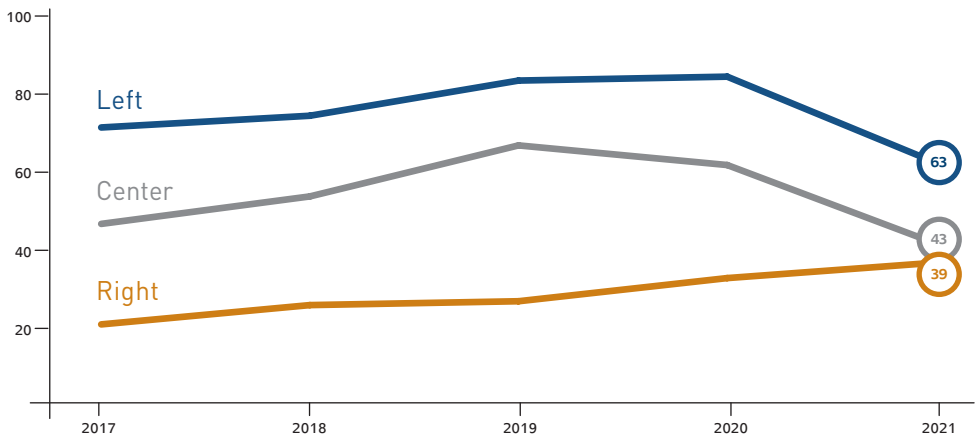
Agree
(strongly or
somewhat)

Disagree
(strongly or
somewhat)

Don't know

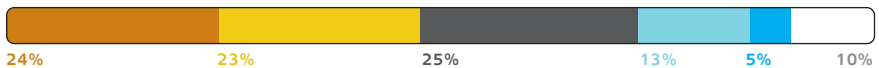
Over time, by political orientation

(%, strongly or somewhat agree, Jewish sample, 2017–2021)

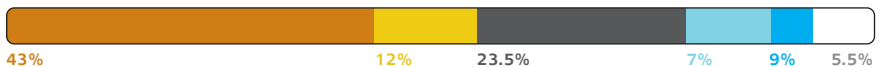


Is Israel's leadership corrupt?

Jews



Arabs



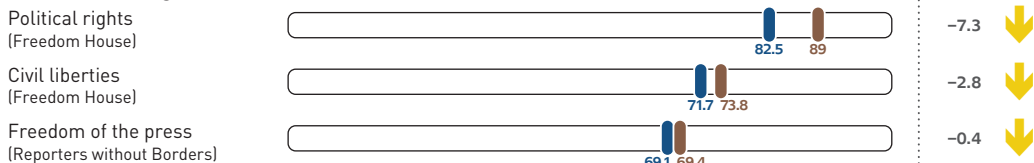
(1) Very corrupt (2) (3) So-so (4) (5) Not at all corrupt Don't know

Israel and the World

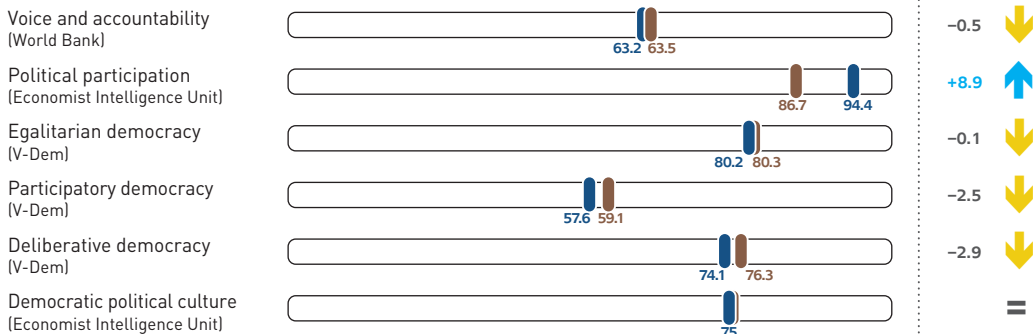
■ Score 2020
■ Average score 2010–2019

Israel's score on international indicators

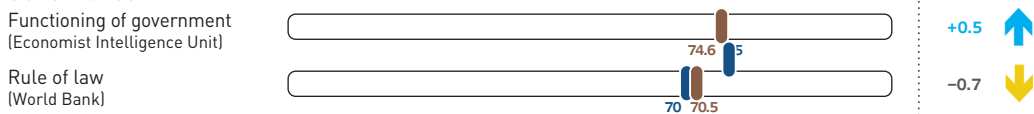
Democratic Rights and Freedoms



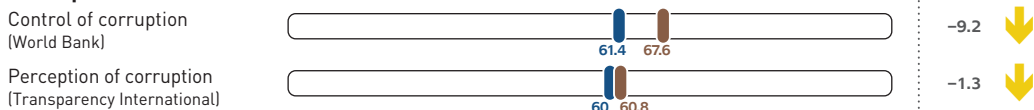
Democratic Process



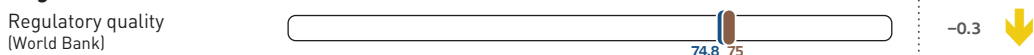
Governance



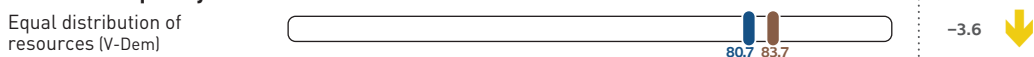
Corruption



Regulation



Economic Equality



The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) 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. IDI partners with political leaders, policymakers, and representatives of civil society to improve the functioning of the government and its institutions, confront security threats while preserving civil liberties, and foster solidarity within Israeli society. The State of Israel recognized the positive impact of IDI's research and policy recommendations by bestowing upon the Institute its most prestigious award, the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement.

The Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research conducts rigorous empirical research on the views and attitudes of the Israeli public regarding the functioning of the country's democratic system and its commitment to core democratic values. Data Israel: The Louis Guttman Social Research Database, maintained by the Center, presents current and historical survey data and other material collected since 1949 by the Institute for Applied Social Research founded by Prof. Guttman, and which have been donated to IDI. The Viterbi Family Center strives to inform public discourse and debate in Israel on social and policy issues, by generating, analyzing, and publicizing reliable and up-to-date information, and making it readily accessible to researchers, the media, and interested members of the public in Israel and around the world.

The Israeli Democracy Index, published annually since 2003, assesses the state of Israeli democracy. It is based on an in-depth and detailed survey of a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The Index aims to explore trends in Israeli society on fundamental questions relating to the realization of democratic goals and values, and the performance of government systems and elected and appointed officials.



To order the full report: orders@idi.org.il
972.2.5300800



www.en.idi.org.il