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## PRESS RELEASE

### *The Israeli Voice Index – December 2021*

***A majority of the public gives the government as a whole, the prime minister, and the other ministers poor grades***

**January 17, 2022 – The Israeli Voice Index for December 2021**, published today by the Israel Democracy Institute's Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, found that almost two years into the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to alter the way Israelis live their lives.

54% of Israeli say that the pandemic has caused them to change their daily routine, and 45% said that they have made ‘substantial’ changes such as switching jobs or halting their studies. As 2021 drew to a close, more than a quarter of those participating in the survey said they are considering or intending to leave their current workplace in the foreseeable future.

*The Israeli Voice Index is a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.*

#### **Main Findings**

**Effects of COVID-19** – 54% of Israelis say that the COVID-19 crisis has caused changes in their daily routine – the highest rate was among those aged 25-34.

A segmentation of the Jewish sample by self-identification on the Haredi-secular spectrum reveals that the Haredim and the traditional religious experienced the lowest rates of change (43% and 49% respectively). Among the other groups a majority a majority said that they have changed their daily routine (nonreligious traditional 59%, religious 57%, secular 54%).

A segmentation by gender shows that Jews and Arab women attest to greater change in routine than men (Jewish and Arab women as a whole—58%). Arab men experienced a change in routine at a higher rate than Jewish men (56.5% vs. 49%).

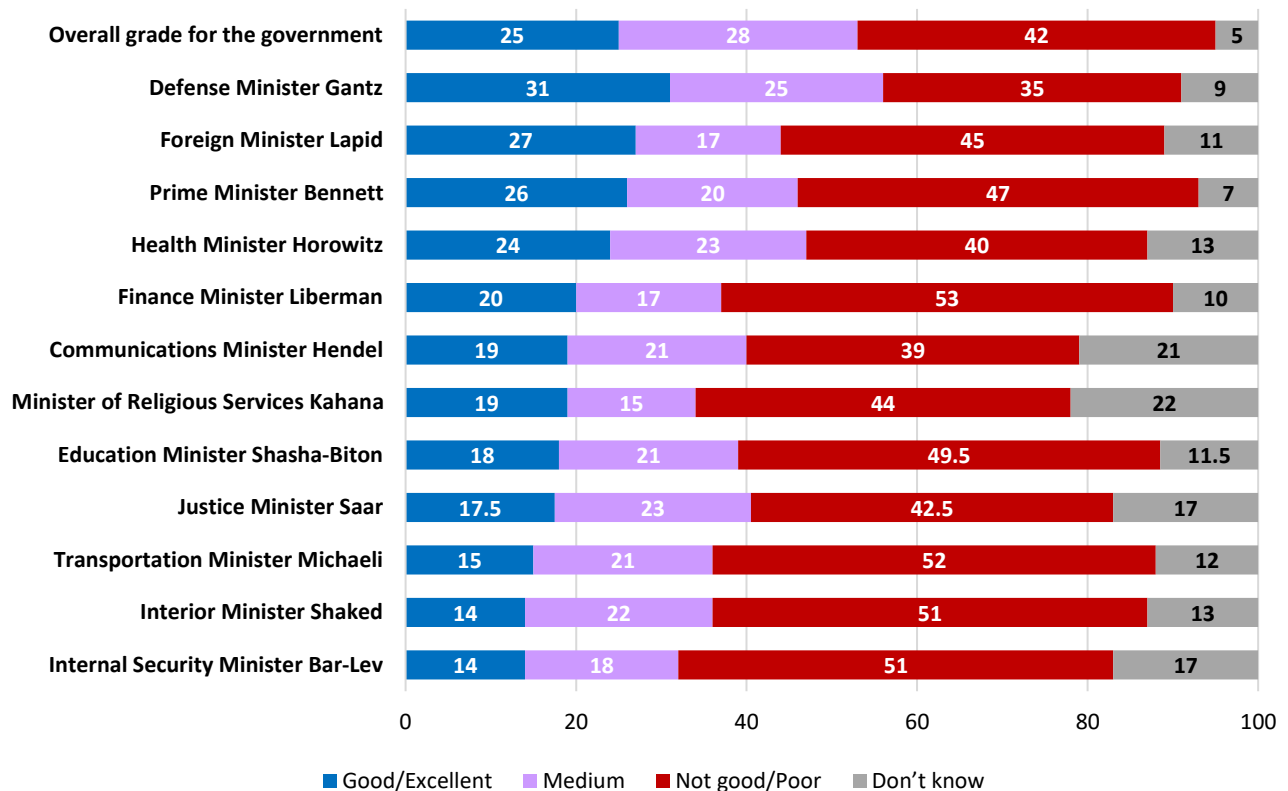
**Rethinking life** – 45% of Israelis said that the COVID-19 crisis has caused them to make substantial changes in their lives (putting an end to studies, altering their work-life balance, finding a new workplace, etc.). Jewish men have made fewer changes in their lives than Jewish women. The intermediate ages have made more changes than those younger or older.

**Economic Situation** –The most common assessment of one’s personal economic situation is ‘medium’ (41.5%). 36.5% said their situation as ‘moderately good’ or ‘very good’ and 20% said ‘moderately bad’ or ‘very bad.’ 39% of Jews and 24% of Arabs define their personal economic situation as good.

**Employment security** - Among workers 60% feels considerable job security. At the same time, the public is divided on the question of the chances of finding an alternative job with the same or better conditions (by factors such as economic situation and age). More than a quarter of the interviewees in the entire sample are considering or intending to leave their current workplace in the foreseeable future .

**Grading the government** - Half a year after the formation of the Bennett-Lapid government the general assessment of the government is low. The highest rate of Israelis (42%) gave the government a grade of “not good” or “poor,” 28% gave it “medium” grades, and only about a quarter gave the current government grades of “good” or “excellent.”

**The grades for the government, the prime minister, and the other ministers (% ,entire sample)**

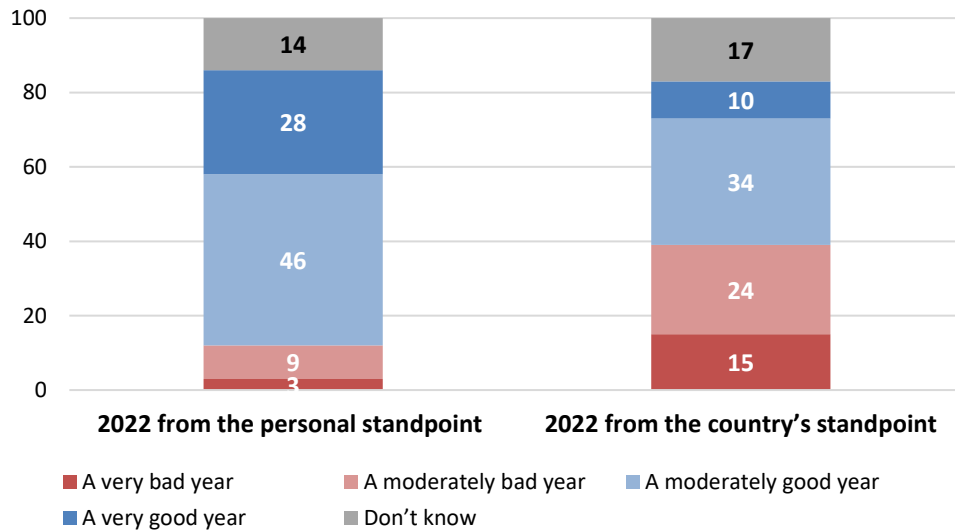


A segmentation of these grades by voting in the most recent elections reveals a considerable gap between those who voted for the parties currently sitting in the Knesset opposition and for those who voted for parties now in the governing coalition. Yet even among those who did vote for parties now in the government only 43% gave it “good” or “excellent” grades.

Arab Israeli interviewees gave the government a lower overall grade than Jewish Israeli. Only 17% of the Arabs granted the current government “good” or “excellent” grades compared to 26.5% of the Jews. While the highest grades awarded by Jewish Israelis went to Defense Minister Benny Gantz (33% “good” or “excellent” grades), Arab Israelis gave their highest marks to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid (25% positive marks). Prime Minister Bennett got the highest marks from 28% of Jewish Israelis and 15% of Arab Israelis.

**Expectations for 2022** – The year 2021 is seen as positive on the personal level by a large majority of the respondents (67%), but only a minority views it as positive from the standpoint of Israel (31%). The expectations for 2022 are indeed more positive, but here too optimism about personal situation is a good deal higher than optimism about the country.

**How will 2022, the year that is now beginning, be on the personal level and on the country’s level?**  
 (% , entire sample)



*The Israeli Voice Index for December 2021 was prepared by the Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research of the Israel Democracy Institute. In the survey, which was conducted on the internet and by telephone (supplements of groups that are not sufficiently represented on the network) from December 30, 2021 to January 3, 2022, 612 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 152 in Arabic, constituting a representative national sample of the entire adult population of Israel aged 18 and older. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample was ±3.59% at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Midgam Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>*