



Viterbi Family Center
for Public Opinion
and Policy Research



Selected Findings



THE ISRAELI DEMOCRACY INDEX 2025

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Data collection

The two polling firms that carried out the field work for this year's survey were *Midgam* (Hebrew interviews, via internet and telephone) and *Afkar Research and Knowledge* (Arabic interviews, via telephone).

The data were collected between May 4 and May 28, 2025. In November 2025, a validation was conducted of some of the survey findings, and where the results of this validation appear below, they are identified as such. The validation was conducted by *Shiluv I²R* in Hebrew and *Afkar* in Arabic.





Israeli Democracy Index 2025

Introduction

Each year, the Israeli Democracy Index takes the pulse of the Israeli public by conducting research based on the survey findings of a representative sample of the entire population in Israel. Presented each year to the President of the State of Israel, the Israeli Democracy Index is a go-to address for reliable, comprehensive, and up to date information on the state of Israeli democracy and society. We are pleased to present the twenty-third survey in the Israel Democracy Institute's annual Democracy Index project, conducted in May 2025 with a validation in November 2025.

For Israelis, 2025, which this report examines, was in many respects a continuation of 2024. Most of the year was marked by an intense and prolonged wartime effort, including a major conflict with Iran that rattled Israeli society in unprecedented ways. Meanwhile, internal divisions remained strong, with public debates and protests surrounding the war alongside the creeping return of the judicial overhaul initiatives that preceded the war.

The continuity of these trends this year likely contributed to the substantial similarity between the 2024 survey findings and those of the 2025 survey. Broadly speaking, trends of poor assessments of

the state of affairs and democracy in Israel remain the same, as does the sense of tension between political camps. Trust in the various branches of government remained low and, in some cases, eroded slightly, while assessments of solidarity within Israeli society remained moderate to low.

However, not all the findings are negative. The high share (and this year, even higher) of those who prefer to continue living in Israel rather than emigrate to other countries remains unchanged, as do the high levels of trust in the IDF among Jews. Interestingly, in international indices, there has been almost no movement, despite the deterioration of Israel's standing internationally.

At the time of writing, a ceasefire agreement has been signed, and the process of returning the surviving hostages and the bodies of the deceased is nearing completion. Meanwhile, elections loom as Israelis look to 2026, and campaigns are likely to pour fuel onto the fire of polarization. The findings presented in this report should therefore serve mainly as a reference point for understanding what Israelis have recently experienced, and perhaps, with appropriate research caution, as a basis for assessing what may unfold in Israel's public sphere in the near future.

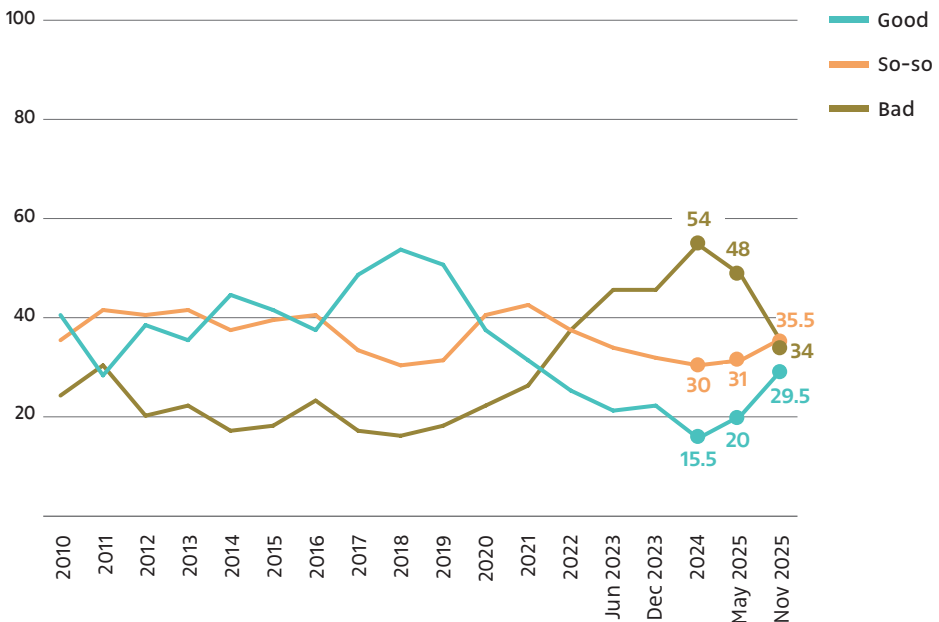
The Viterbi Center Team
2025



How is Israel Doing?

In November 2025, Israelis are divided almost evenly among those who assess Israel's situation as good, so-so, and bad. This represents a slight improvement compared to 2024 and May 2025, when about half of Israelis defined Israel's situation as bad or very bad.

How would you characterize Israel's overall situation today? 2010–2025 (total sample; %)



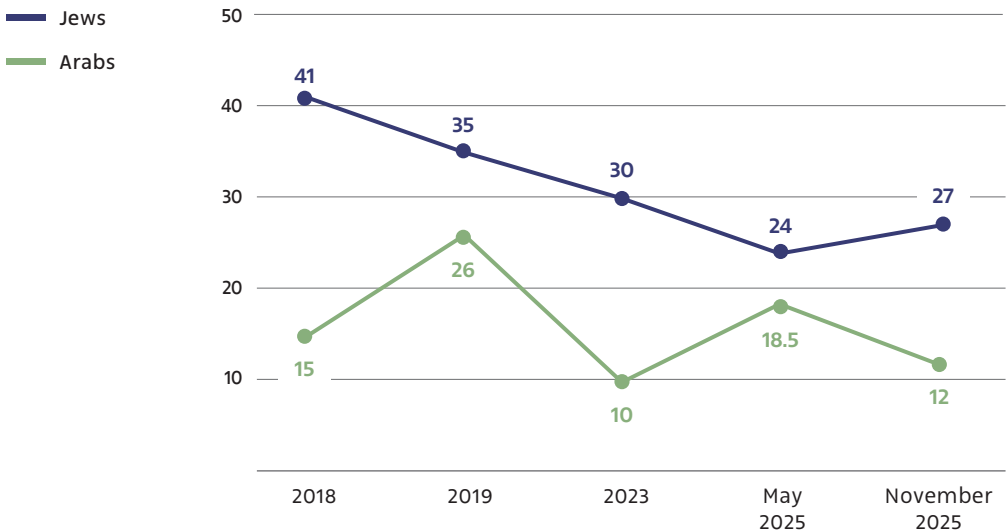
Jews assess the situation more positively than Arabs, with the share of Jews assessing the situation as bad in November standing at only 30.5%, compared to the share of Arabs at 52%.

State of Democracy

At the same time, only about a quarter of Jews currently give Israeli democracy a good or excellent rating—continuing the steady decline of recent years, but with a slight uptick between May and November.

Among Arabs, the share giving Israeli democracy a positive rating has fluctuated, though these rates have always been lower than the corresponding rates among Jews. In November of this year, the share of Arabs who gave a positive rating is among the lowest ever recorded, at 12%.

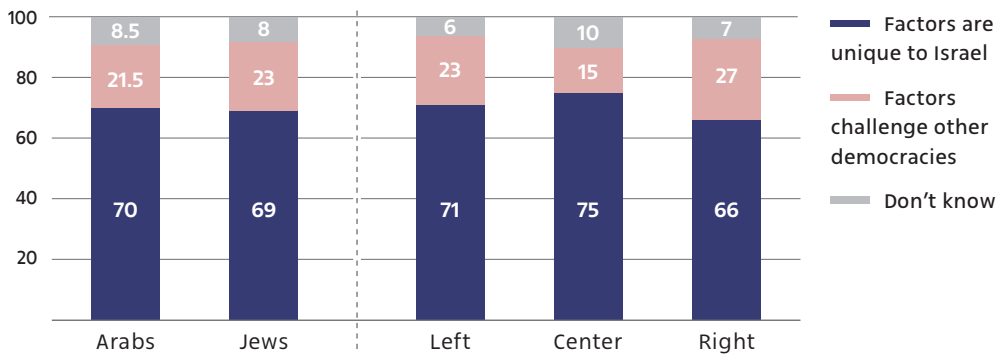
Those giving Israeli democracy a good or excellent rating, 2018–2025 (%)



Nearly two-thirds of Jews believe that the system of government in Israel is democratic for Arabs as well. Among Arabs, only about one-third agree with this statement.

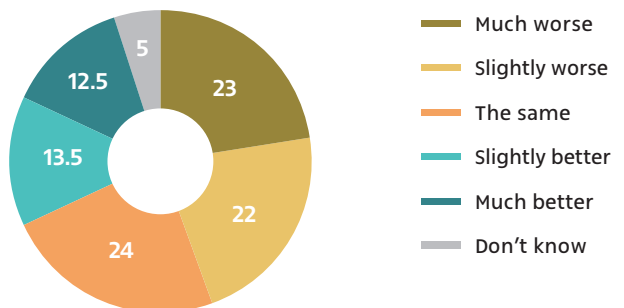
A large majority of the public—around 70% of Jews and Arabs—believe that the challenges to democracy in Israel stem from factors unique to Israel. Just under a quarter of the public believes the challenges in Israel are similar to those facing other democracies around the world. A majority believes the challenges are due to factors unique to Israel across all political orientations, though a higher share on the Right think the challenges stem from factors that are similar in other democracies.

Are the factors causing Israel's democratic challenges unique? (%)



Do you think that Israeli democracy is in better or worse shape than other democracies? (total sample; %)

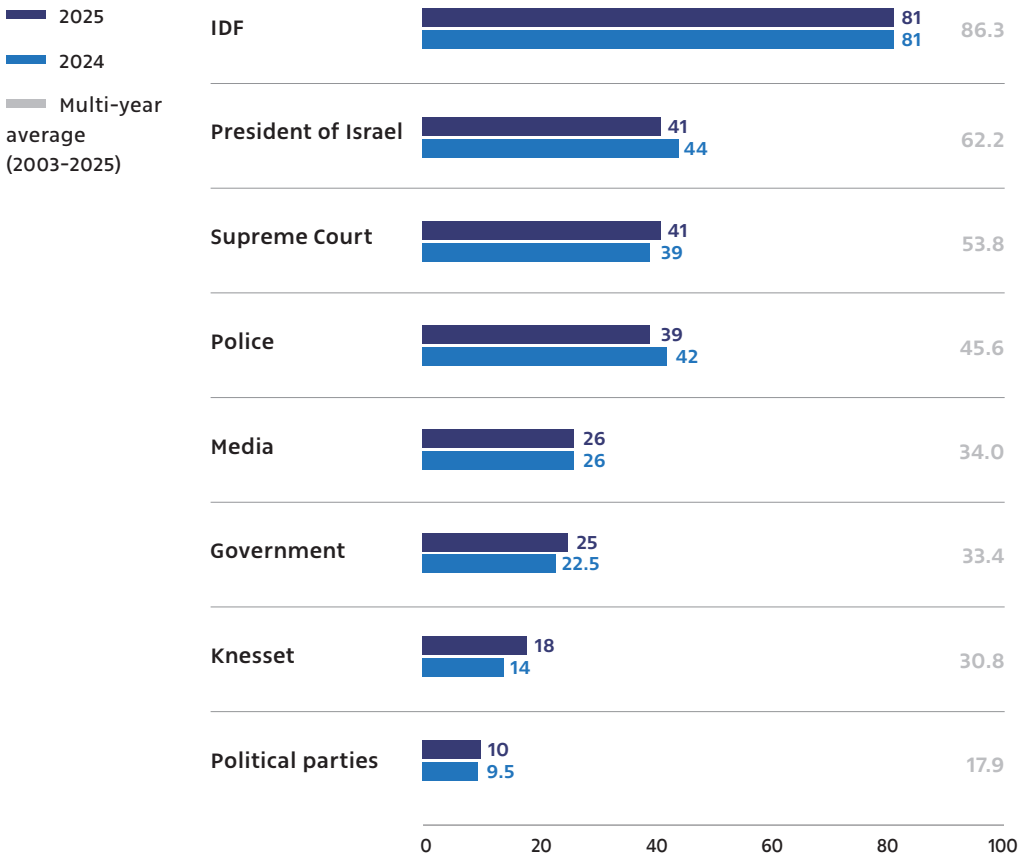
Overall, 45% of Israelis think democracy in Israel is in worse shape than in other democracies, and 26% think it is in better shape. About a quarter say it is the same.



Trust in Institutions

Among both Jews and Arabs, levels of trust in state institutions are quite similar to last year, with the IDF trusted at the highest rate and by an overwhelming majority of Jews (81%). Elected officials and their parties, on the other hand, have the lowest level of trust among Jews and Arabs alike.

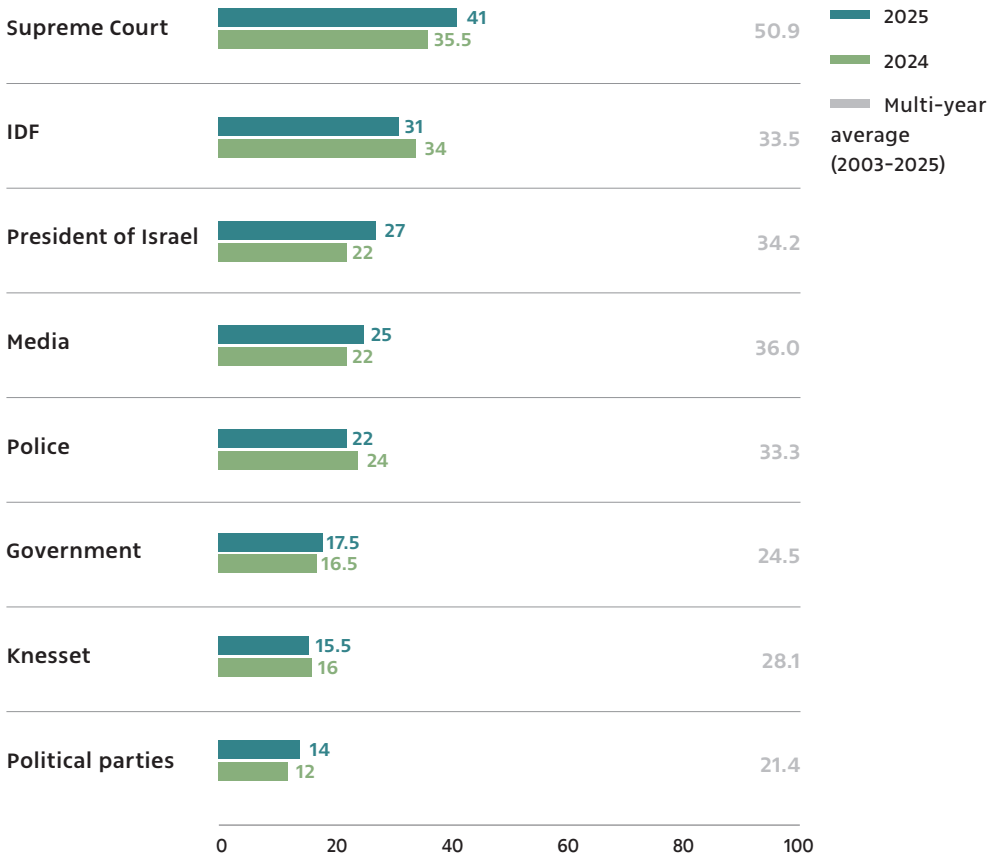
Trust each of the following institutions (Jews; %)*



* Average of May and October 2024 and May and November 2025.

Among Arabs, the most trusted institution is the Supreme Court, albeit only at 41%.

Trust each of the following institutions (Arabs; %)*

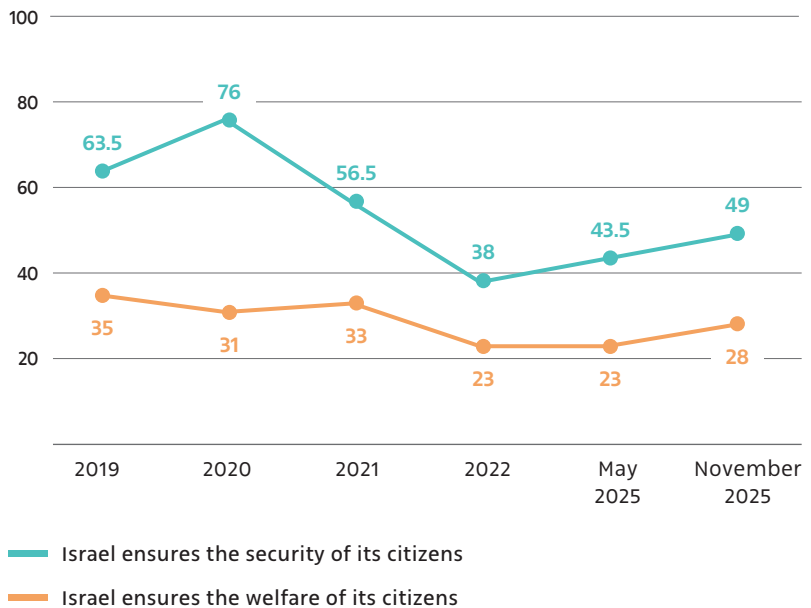


* Average of May and October 2024 and May and November 2025.

Ensuring the Security and Wellbeing of Israelis

Slightly more than half of Jews responded in November 2025 that the state succeeds in ensuring the security of its citizens — an increase compared to the May 2025 measurement. This is in contrast to only about one-third of Arabs. The public's assessment of the state's success in providing for the welfare of its citizens is much lower: in November 2025, only a little over a quarter in total sample believe it succeeds in doing so. Among Jews, this represents an increase compared to May, while among Arabs it reflects a decline.

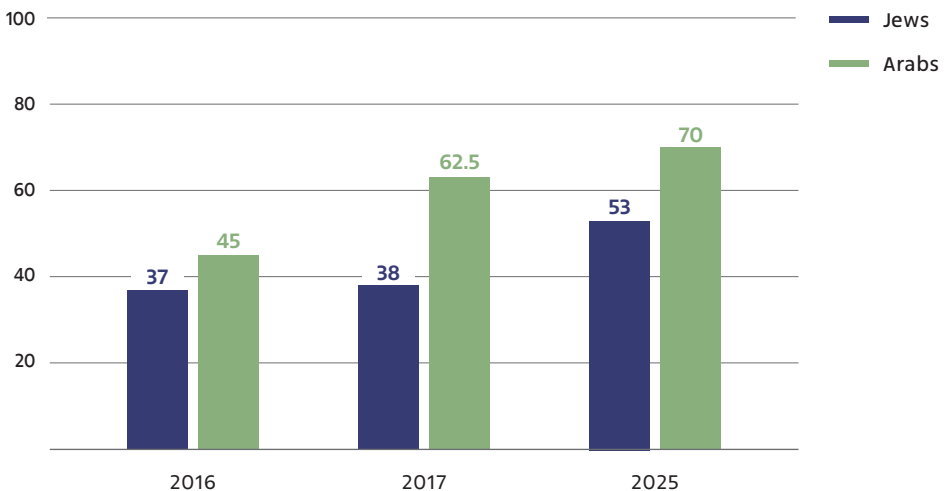
Agree that Israel ensures the security and the welfare of its citizens, 2019–2025 (total sample; %)



Expression of Political Views

We see an increasing phenomenon of Israelis preferring not to express their political views in public. In 2025, the majority of Arabs (70%) and just over one-half of Jews (53%) say they prefer to keep quiet and not express their political opinions in the presence of people they don't know—a continuation of the upward trend relative to 2016 and 2017.

Prefer to keep quiet and not express their political opinions in the presence of people they don't know, 2016–2025 (%)



About three-quarters (72.5%) of Arabs believe that freedom of speech in Israel is more limited than in other democracies, while among Jews, the largest share (43.5%) believe freedom of speech is more extensive in Israel.

Israel's Upcoming Elections

Elections are coming in 2026 – either in October, as scheduled, or earlier. A clear majority of Israelis (65.5% overall) believe that the Knesset elections will be fair and free. Two-thirds of Jews (68%), compared to half of Arabs (50.5%), believe so.

In your opinion, will the next Knesset elections be free and fair? May 2025 (total sample; %)

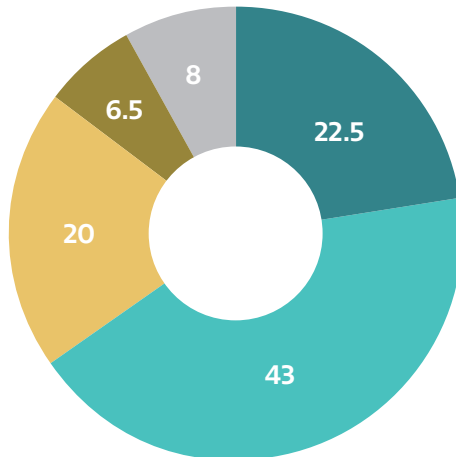
■ Certain they will

■ Think they will

■ Think they will not

■ Certain they will not

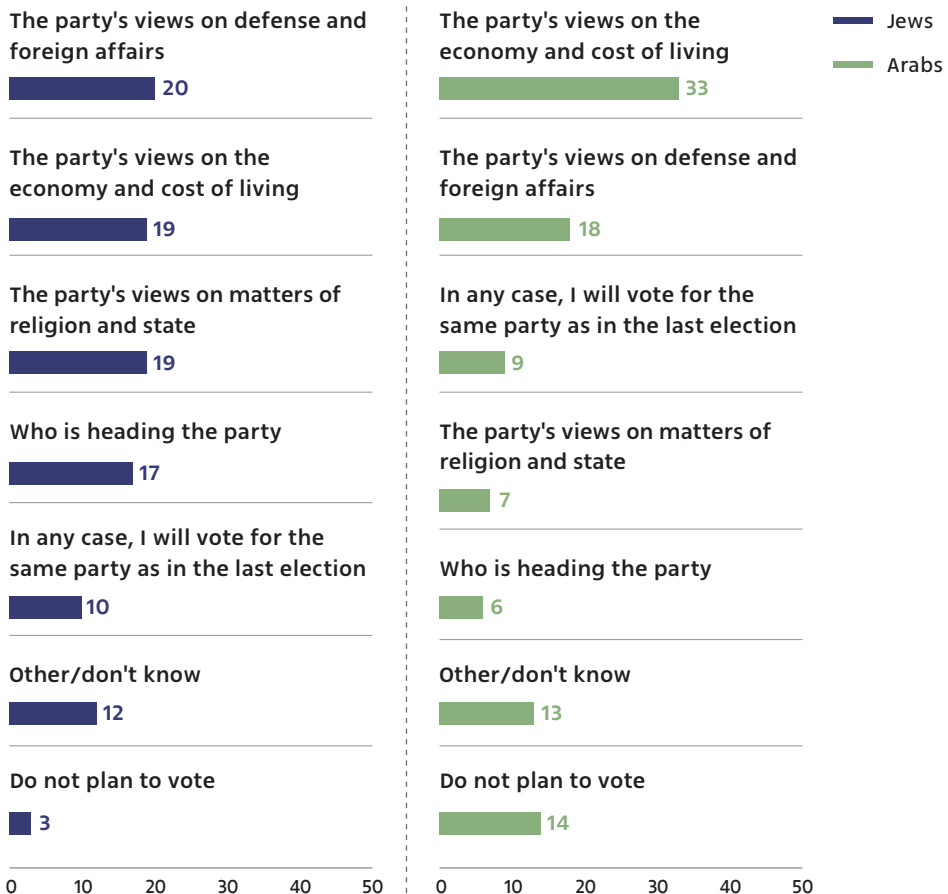
■ Don't know



While most Israelis believe the elections will be free and fair, their view thus far of the political parties is not as rosy. A majority of Israelis say that there is no party that represents their views well – 67.5% among Jews and 76% among Arabs.

Jews say that the factors that will most influence the decision of which party to vote for in the upcoming elections are the party's position on security and foreign policy, religion and state, and the economy and cost of living. Among Arabs, one central factor stands out: the party's positions on the economy and cost of living.

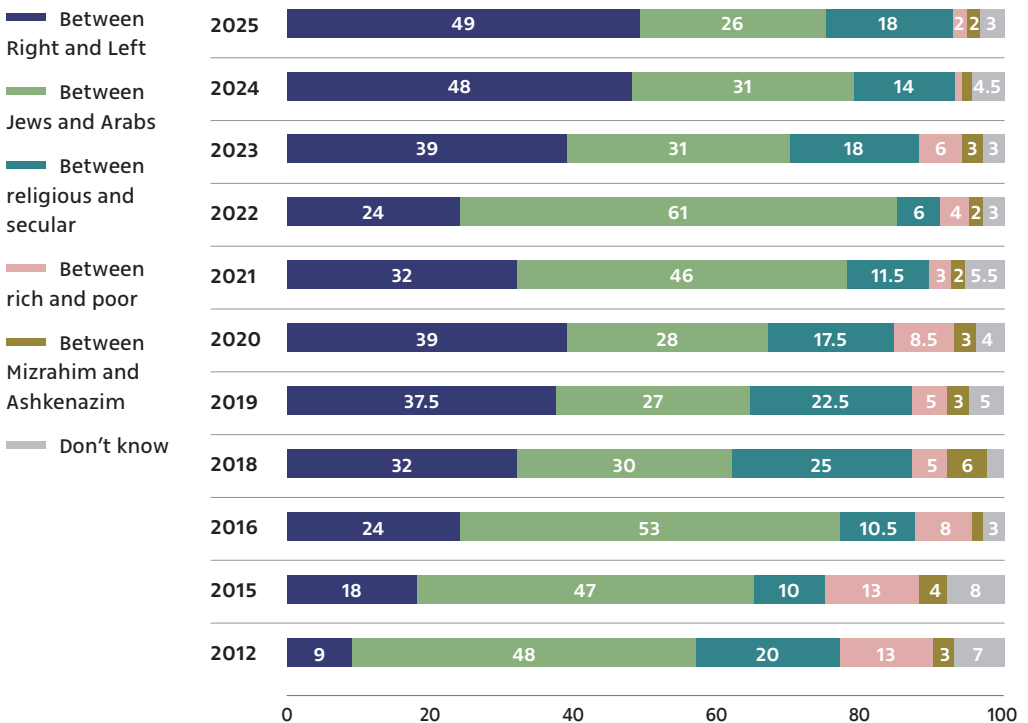
The factors that most influence the decision of which party to vote for in the upcoming elections, May 2025 (%)



Social Tensions and Solidarity

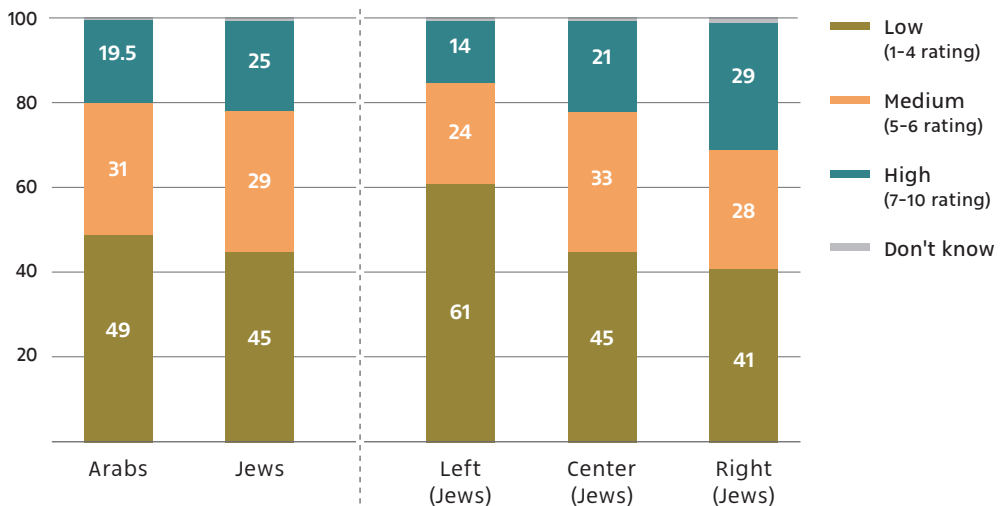
The trend regarding social tensions from recent years has continued and even intensified this year: the largest share of Israelis (nearly half) rank the tension between the political Right and Left as the primary tension in society. Among Jews, more than half view this tension as the most acute, with two tensions tied for second place: the tension between Jews and Arabs and the tension between religious and secular groups. Among Arabs, the tension between Jews and Arabs is perceived as the most acute, with the tension between the political camps ranking second.

Which of the following is the most acute social tension in Israel today? 2012–2025 (total sample; %)



A plurality of Israelis give a low rating for the level of social solidarity. This year, there is almost no difference between Jews and Arabs in their assessments in this regard, with the share close to half in both groups. Among Jews, a low perception of solidarity is especially pronounced on the Left.

Assessment of the level of solidarity in Israeli society (%)^{*}



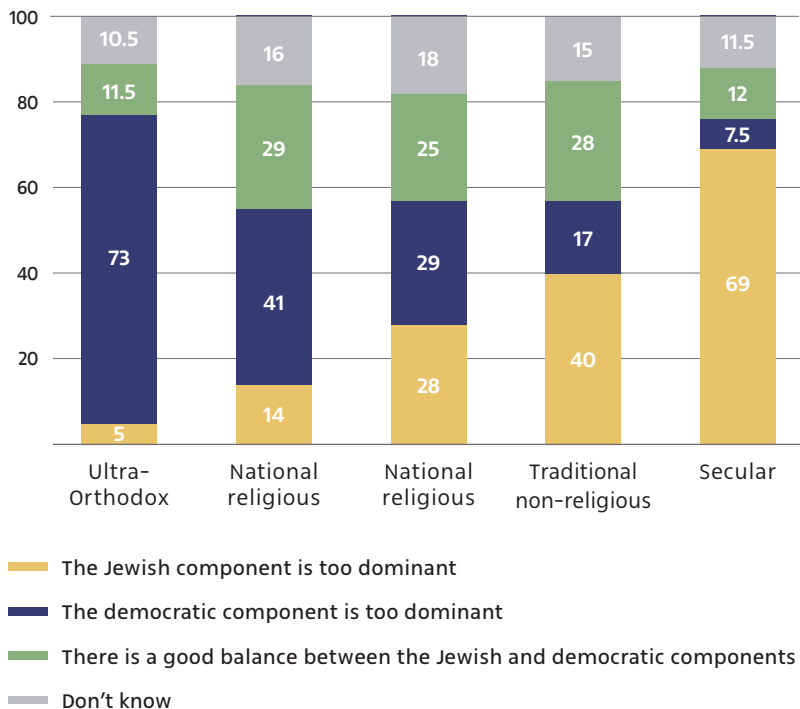
* Average of data from May and November 2025.

Among both Jews and Arabs, a large majority - 76.5% of the total sample - believe that it is always possible to count on other Israelis to help them in times of trouble. However, only about a third of all interviewees (35%) agreed with the statement that Israeli citizens can always rely on the state to help them in times of trouble.

Religion and State

With Israel being defined as a Jewish and democratic state, the most common position among Jewish respondents is that the Jewish component is too dominant (44%). About a quarter (24%) believe that the democratic component is too dominant, and roughly one-fifth (19%) think there is a good balance between the two components. A clear majority of secular Jews believe that the Jewish component is too strong, while a clear majority of Haredim believe that the democratic component is too strong.

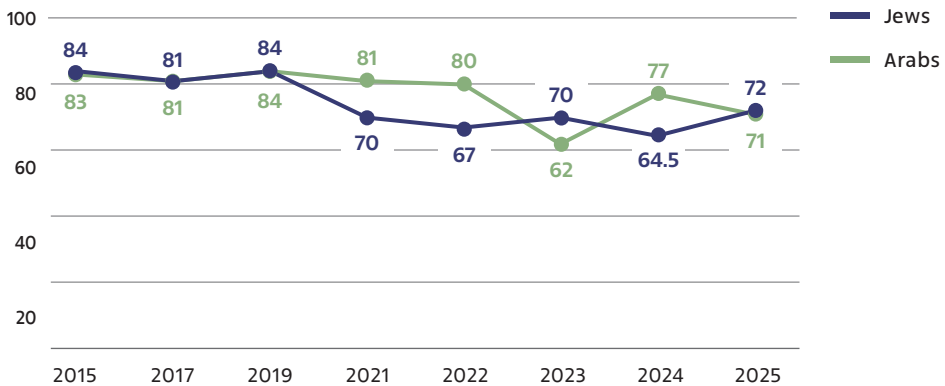
Israel is defined as a Jewish and democratic state.
Do you feel there is a good balance today between the Jewish and the democratic component? (Jews; %)



To Stay in Israel or Move Abroad?

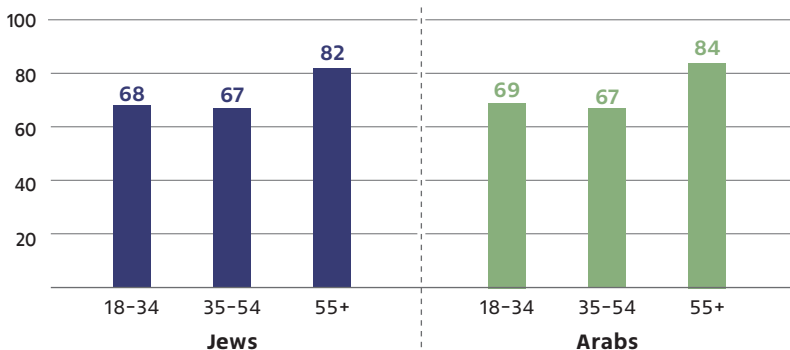
This year, a majority of both Jews and Arabs (over 70% in both groups) responded that they would prefer to remain in Israel even if given the opportunity to move and live in a Western country under favorable conditions.

Prefer to stay in Israel, 2015–2025 (%)*



Though a majority in all age groups prefers to stay in Israel, those aged 55 and older prefer to stay at higher rates than younger groups.

Prefer to stay in Israel, by age (%)*

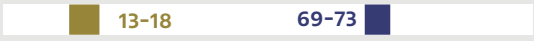

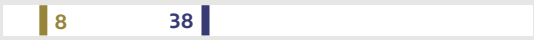


* Average of data from May and November 2025.

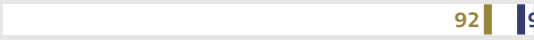

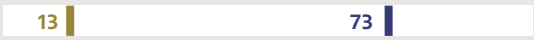
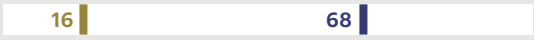

Israel and the World*

	Israel's score on international indicators (percentile)	The Score for Israel this year	Change in score in comparison to last year
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Democratic rights and freedom

Political rights (Freedom House)	 13-18 69-73	85.0	=
Civil liberties (Freedom House)	 5-8 55-58	65.0	↓
Freedom of the press (Reporters without Borders)	 8 38	51.1	↓

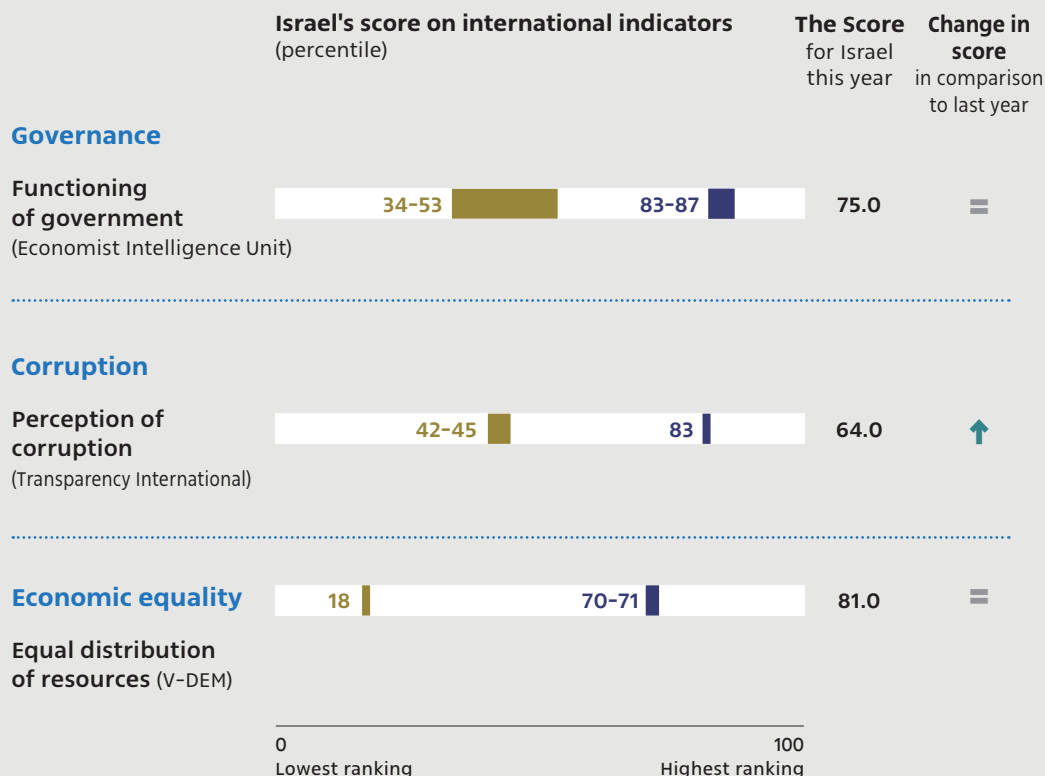
Democratic process

Political participation (Economist Intelligence Unit)	 92 98	94.4	=
Egalitarian democracy (V-DEM)	 26 81	80.8	↑
Participatory democracy (V-DEM)	 13 73	60.1	=
Deliberative democracy (V-DEM)	 16 68	77.3	↑
Democratic political culture (Economist Intelligence Unit)	 29-50 75-86	68.8	=

0 100
Lowest ranking Highest ranking

■ Percentile— all countries surveyed

■ Percentile— OECD countries



* International indices are 'one year behind'; that is, the indices published this year (2025) assess the state of democracy in countries around the world in 2024.

The highest scores for Israeli democracy in 2024 were in the political participation index of The Economist's research unit and in the political rights index of Freedom House.

The list is rounded out by two lower-ranking indicators: the freedom of the press index of Reporters Without Borders and the participation component of the V-Dem.

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.



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