ISRAEL

1. Name and address of the organisation responsible for the last census:  
   Central Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 13015, Jerusalem 91130.

2. Population censuses conducted since 1945 (years):  
   1961, 1972 and 1983. The present description relates mainly to the 1983 Census of Population and Housing, but reference is also made to earlier censuses (cf. para. 8), as well as to the next census (cf. para. 9).

3. Coverage of the census:  
   (a) Geographical scope: Whole country.

   (b) Persons covered: All persons of all ages living in the country on the day of the census (the census took place on 4 June 1983, midnight). Also covered are persons staying abroad at the census time, those absent from the country for less than one year, as well as immigrants and potential immigrants who arrived in Israel before the census night, tourists and temporary residents who were in the country on the census night for longer than a year. Excluded are residents who, on the census night, had been abroad for at least one year, members of foreign diplomatic corps, United Nations personnel, and tourists who were in the country for less than one year by the census night.

4. Reference period:  
   Both short and long reference periods were used when asking questions on the economically active population, employment and unemployment, i.e. respectively: (i) the week preceding the day of the census, and (ii) the last 12 months.

5. Main topics:  
   (a) Total population, by sex and age: yes

   (b) Economically active population, by sex and age group: yes

   (c) Economically active population, by industry and by sex: yes

   (d) Economically active population, by occupation and by sex: yes

   (e) Economically active population, by status in employment and by sex: yes

   (f) Hours of work: yes

   (g) Other information collected relating to persons’ economic activity: yes

Re. (a) The age is defined in terms of year of birth.

Re. (f) Relate to the economically active population, by sex, expressed both by number of weeks worked in the last 12 months and by number of hours worked in the week before the census.

Re. (g) The census also covers information on other topics, such as: means of transport to workplace; usual hours of leaving home to work; labour force participation in Israel or abroad 5 years prior to the census (i.e. in June 1978); income from salaried employment, from membership in a producers’ co-operative or as a soldier in the professional army, or from self-employment.

6. Concepts and definitions:

   (a) Economically active population: It comprises all persons aged 15 years and over who worked in Israel in any work (excluding the armed forces) at least one day in the 12 months preceding the census night, for wages, profit or any other remuneration. Questions on economic activity were asked of a 20 per cent sample, i.e. every fifth household was given a more detailed ("long form") questionnaire including such questions.

   (b) Employment: Considered as "employed" are all persons aged 15 years and over in the sample (except those mentioned under 6 (a) above) who, during the week preceding the census day, worked at least one hour (full or part-time) for wage, profit or other remuneration, or worked
without pay as family members in a family business or farm during the same period. The definition also includes those who worked in the country at any time during all or part of the 12 previous months, as well as unpaid workers in a family business if they worked 15 hours or more during the week prior to the census. Also included are the following categories:

(i) persons having a job, a business or a farm from which they were absent during the week preceding the census day;
(ii) working students with a part time job;
(iii) seasonal or occasional workers;
(iv) multiple job holders;
(v) apprentices and trainees.

Persons belonging to category (i) and those doing unpaid work in a family business or farm can be identified separately.

(c) Unemployment: Considered as "unemployed" are all persons aged 15 years and over in the sample (except those mentioned under 6 (a) above) who, during the week preceding the census day, were without work and actively looking for work (for example applied to a labour exchange, enquired at various places of work, attempted to set up a business, etc). Also included are those who, during the 12 previous months, did not work at all in the country but were available for work. In the data processed or published from the 1983 census, the population aged 15 years and over (except persons in the armed forces) is divided into "economically active" and "economically not active" according to a yearly definition. The specific questions in the "long form" relate to the week preceding the census day, but were only intended to assist in the yearly definition. No information has been processed according to these questions. Thus, the 1983 census does not provide data on unemployment.

7. Classifications used:

Only employed persons in the sample are classified by industry, by occupation and by status in employment.

(a) Industry: Specific questions were asked of employed persons to determine industry group, such as: characteristics of the workplace; characteristics of the main activity performed during the major part of the reference week or in which most hours were worked during the 12 previous months; etc. For coding industry, about 320 codes were used in the sample. Links to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC-68, rev. 2) have been established to the one-digit level; correspondence has been established to other levels.

(b) Occupation: Specific questions were asked of employed persons to determine occupation group, such as a detailed description of the main occupation at the workplace and the exact title of the position (e.g. chief engineer, director of finance division, shift foreman, etc.). For coding occupation, about 450 groups were used in the sample. Links to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-68) have been established at the major groups level.

(c) Status in employment: Specific questions were asked of employed persons to determine their status in employment. For coding status in employment, seven groups were used, namely: salaried or wage-earning employee; self-employed, employing no workers; self-employed, employing 1-2 workers; self-employed, employing 3 or more workers; member of co-operative; member of kibbutzim (not a wage worker or salaried employee); family member working without pay in family business or farm.

8. The previous population censuses:

Essentially, the same questions and reference periods were previously used to determine and describe the economically active population and its components.

However, in the 1961 and 1972 censuses, the minimum age limit for inclusion in the economically active population was 14 years.

9. The next population census:

A population census is planned in the period 1989-95, but the exact year is not yet known.

The next census will also collect information about the economically active population and its components.
The same questions and reference periods are likely to be used to determine and describe the economically active population and its component groups.