



## 3.17 ISRAEL

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**T**he 1988 GDP was US\$34.3 billion. The population is 4.5 million. The top industrial exports are: diamonds, high tech products (electronics, electro-optics, telecommunications, avionics, medical electronics), and agricultural products. ● ●

R&D expenditures are 3.1 per cent of GDP. The sources of R&D expenditures are: 51.0% at the Ministry of Defence; 22.3% at the universities and research institutes, 14.8% at government agencies; and 11.5% in industry.

### TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

In Israel, a distinction is drawn between scientific and technological activities. In the area of science, Israel hopes to maintain a minimal international level of excellence across a broad spectrum of scientific fields by encouraging the establishment of centres of excellence, especially in areas of vital concern to the development of industry. International co-operation has played a major role in above effort by facilitating the extension of scientific resources and knowledge at Israel's disposal. In the area of technology, Israel has striven for excellence primarily through specialization.

Strong support is given to industrial R&D with a high R&D ratio in terms of sales tend to export a higher proportion of their sales than firms expending a smaller fraction of their sales on R&D. Fostering the continued growth of these types of firms is presently at the heart of Israel's industrial strategy.

### TECHNOLOGY STRENGTHS

These are:

- defence industries (telecommunications, avionics/optronics)
- medicine (neurobiology, cancer, cardiovascular disease)
- computer science
- agriculture (irrigation, aquaculture, automation in agriculture)

### KEY ORGANIZATIONS

These are:

- Ministerial Committee for Science and Technology appointed by Cabinet. It determines national long term policy for the advancement of scientific research and development
- Ministry of Science and Development which oversees and guides national R&D efforts
- National Council for R&D (NCRD) which is in charge of fostering international relations
- Israel Space Agency
- National Steering Committee on biotechnology
- Chief Scientists' Forum - made up of the chief scientists of the various ministries