

ISRAEL FACT SHEET

Area	20,720 square km or about two-thirds the size of Vancouver Island; 20% cultivated; 40% pastureland and meadows; 4% forested; 4% desert, waste or urban; 3% inland water; 29% unsurveyed.
Population	About 4.3 million, of whom 750,000 are Arabs. Average annual growth 2.3%.
Religion	81% Judaism, 14% Islam, 5% Christian and other.
Languages	Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages; English is widely spoken.
Government	In Israel, supreme authority rests with the Knesset, a unicameral legislative body with 120 members elected for a four-year term. Knesset consent is required for the installation of a new Cabinet, which must resign on losing confidence. The President is elected by the Knesset.
Head of State	President Chaim Herzog.
Head of Government	Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.
Foreign Minister	Moshe Arens.
GNP	Canadian \$5,600 per capita.
Trade with Canada	Canadian exports to Israel in 1988 totalled C\$125 million; imports during the same period also totalled C\$125 million. Our main exports are barley, wheat, sulphur, lumber and manufactured goods. Major imports to Canada are finished gems and agricultural products.