

Wage Levels in Different Localities in Israel 1993-1999

Average Wage by Locality and Gender Percentage of Minimum Wage Earners by Locality

This 2002 report, by Alon Etkin, reveals several major findings:

Place of residence is strongly related to income level.

- The areas in Israel with the highest average wage are the central region and Tel Aviv, where the more prosperous cities and towns are located. The areas with the lowest average wage are the north and south, where many Arab localities and Jewish development towns are located, and which are far away from the main centers of employment.
- Residents of Arab localities have the lowest average wage - NIS 4,477 a month. This is approximately 30% less than the average wage nationally, which in 1999 was NIS 6,494 a month. The second lowest wage earners, at NIS 5,510 a month, are residents of development towns, who earn some 15% less than the average wage nationally, followed by residents of regional councils, at NIS 6,248 a month.
- The highest average wages were recorded by residents of the more prosperous towns - NIS 7,829 a month, and by Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria - NIS 6,715 a month.

Inequality between men and women exists in all localities and at all levels of income, and it increases as the average wage increases.

- In 1999, the average wage of salaried women in all localities was NIS 4,917, compared with NIS 7,999 among salaried men.
- Men earned an average of NIS 3,964 a month in the locality with the lowest average wage for men (Jisr a-Zarka). This was almost double what women earned in the locality with the lowest average wage for women ('Ilut) - NIS 2,015.
- The highest average wage for men per locality was NIS 16,115 (Omer). This was 75% higher than what women earned in the locality with the average highest wage for women (Savion) - NIS 9,220.
- *As the average wage per locality rises, the wage gap grows between men and women.* The localities where gender differences are smallest are the regional councils, where the average wages of women are 63% those of men.
- Between 1993 and 1999, the average wage of women in Israel grew by approximately 15%, in real terms.

- *The income gaps among women increased in the 1990s.* In 1993, the average wage of women in the more prosperous towns was approximately 22% higher than the average wage of women nationally. By 1999, this disparity had increased to 27%. During this same period, the average wage for women in development towns dropped from 85% to 81% of the national average.

In 1999, 29.5% of all wage earners were receiving the minimum wage or less.

- The higher the average wage of a locality, the lower the proportion of those earning the minimum wage or less.
- In only 4 of the 25 Jewish development towns, and 7 of the 81 Arab towns, was the proportion of those who earned the minimum wage or less below the national average.

The full report in Hebrew appears on the website or can be ordered directly from the Adva Center.