



The 2015 Israeli Foreign Policy Index of the Mitvim Institute

DATA FILE

Prepared for the Mitvim Institute by
the Rafi Smith Institute



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The following are the findings of the 2015 Israeli Foreign Policy Index, based on a poll carried out by telephone on October 14th, 15th and 18th 2015 for the Mitvim Institute. The poll, conducted by the Rafi Smith Institute and in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, sampled 600 men and women, as a representative sample of Israel's adult population (Jews and Arabs, aged 18 and older). The poll's margin of error is 4%.

Sample Breakdown

Gender: 50% Male; 50% Female
Nationality: 83% Jews; 17% Arabs
Russian Immigrants: 14% (within the Jewish sample)

Age:

	Jews	Arabs
18-29	22%	26%
30-49	40%	41%
50+	38%	33%

Level of Religiosity (within the Jewish sample):

	Total
Religious	21%
Traditional	30%
Secular	49%

Political Point of View (within the Jewish sample):

	Total
Far Right & Right Wing	36%
Center – Right	26%
Center	19%
Center – Left	10%
Left Wing & Far Left	9%

Level of Education:

	Jews	Arabs
High School or below	23%	48%
High School Graduate	23%	15%
Academic Degree	54%	37%

Level of Income:

	Jews (89%)*	Arabs (97%)*
Below Average	33%	39%
Average	23%	32%
Above Average	44%	30%

* The percentage of respondents who provided information

Findings**1. What is your general feeling about Israel's standing in the world today?**

	Total
1 - Bad	18%
2	12%
3	17%
4	13%
5	14%
6	11%
7	8%
8	4%
9	1%
10 - Very Good	2%
Percentage of those who responded	99%

	Total	Jews	Arabs	2014
Not Good (1-4)	60%	63%	42%	35%
Mediocre (5)	14%	11%	29%	23%
Reasonable (6-7)	19%	20%	17%	29%
Good (8-10)	7%	6%	12%	13%
Average	3.96	3.87	4.55	5.12

2. To what extent are you satisfied with the Israeli government's conduct in the realm of foreign policy?

	Total
1 - Not at all satisfied	22%
2	11%
3	16%
4	11%
5	11%

6	10%
7	8%
8	6%
9	3%
10 - Very satisfied	2%
Percentage of those who responded	99%

	Total	Jews	Arabs	2014
Not satisfied (1-4)	60%	62%	51%	34%
Mediocre (5)	11%	9%	21%	16%
Reasonably Satisfied (6-7)	18%	19%	14%	30%
Satisfied (8-10)	11%	10%	14%	20%
Average	4	3.96	4.24	5.29

3. Are the current positions of the Zionist Union and Yesh Atid [both opposition parties] on foreign policy issues different or similar to those of the Israeli government?

The Zionist Union

	Total	Jews	Arabs
The Zionist Union's positions are generally different from those of the government.	49%	50%	44%
The Zionist Union's positions are generally the same as those of the government	23%	20%	41%
No opinion	28%	30%	15%

Yesh Atid

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Yesh Atid's positions are generally different from those of the government.	45%	46%	39%
Yesh Atid's positions are generally the same as those of the government.	29%	26%	47%
No opinion	26%	28%	14%

4. In your opinion, who are the most prominent Members of Knesset on matters of Israeli foreign policy? (Respondents could mention up to three names. This is why the columns exceed 100%).

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Benjamin Netanyahu	21%	23%	14%
Naftali Bennett	17%	20%	-
Avigdor Lieberman	17%	17%	17%
Yair Lapid	12%	13%	7%
Tzipi Livni	5%	6%	3%
Isaac Herzog	5%	5%	5%
Tzipi Hotovely	4%	6%	-
Silvan Shalom	4%	3%	7%
Gilad Erdan	3%	3%	-
Zahava Galon	2%	1%	5%
Miri Regev	2%	2%	-
Danny Danon	2%	2%	-
Yuval Steinitz	2%	2%	-
Ayelet Shaked	2%	2%	-
Moshe (Bogie) Yaalon	1%	1%	-
Ofir Akunis	1%	1%	-
Zev Elkin	1%	1%	-
Ayman Odeh	0%	-	2%
Other	2%	2%	1%
No Opinion / No one	47%	46%	59%

5. According to its mission statement, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for formulating, implementing and explaining the foreign policy of the Government of Israel. To what extent are you satisfied with the way in which the Foreign Ministry is currently fulfilling its mission?

	Total
1 - Not at all satisfied	18%
2	12%
3	16%
4	13%
5	14%
6	10%
7	9%
8	4%
9	2%
10 - Very satisfied	2%
Percentage of those who responded	95%

	Total	Jews	Arabs	2014
Not satisfied (1-4)	59%	62%	41%	42%
Mediocre (5)	14%	13%	20%	10%
Reasonably Satisfied (6-7)	19%	19%	22%	31%
Satisfied (8-10)	8%	6%	17%	17%
Average	4.03	3.89	4.88	5.02

6. Israel does not have a full-time foreign minister and the ministry's authorities have been spread across various government ministries. Do you believe that this reality harms or does not harm the national security of the State of Israel?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Harms the national security	78%	78%	81%
Does not harm the national security	13%	13%	14%
No Opinion	9%	9%	5%

7. As a matter of principle, should Israeli foreign policy be predicated more on the use of force or on diplomatic means?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Israel's foreign policy should be based on the use of force	19%	22%	7%
Israel's foreign policy should be based on diplomatic means	45%	38%	85%
Israel's foreign policy should be based equally on force and diplomacy	31%	35%	7%
No Opinion	5%	5%	1%

8. What will contribute to a greater degree to the improvement of Israel's standing in the world: Better public diplomacy or a change in policy vis-à-vis the Palestinians?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Better Public Diplomacy	36%	40%	12%
Change in Policy vis-à-vis the Palestinians	27%	19%	71%
Both equally	28%	30%	13%
Neither / Nothing will help achieve this	9%	11%	4%

9. Generally, do you believe that Israel should?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Play a more active role in solving global issues	19%	19%	15%
Focus on solving Israel's problems	66%	64%	78%
No Opinion	15%	17%	7%

10. Which of the following foreign policy issues should the State of Israel prioritize in the coming year? (Respondents were allowed to provide two answers. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Addressing security threats	45%	51%	7%
The Israeli-Palestinian peace process	31%	24%	76%
Relations with the United States	31%	34%	15%
Public Diplomacy and combatting the BDS movement	26%	30%	2%
Relations with the moderate Arab countries, such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia	20%	17%	37%
Relations with the European Union	7%	8%	5%
Relations with Asian countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India	6%	6%	3%
Relations with Russia	5%	6%	2%
Other	1%	2%	0%
None of the above / No Opinion	3%	3%	3%

11. What is your assessment of the current state of relations between Israel and the United States?

	Total
1 - Bad	7%
2	6%
3	13%
4	15%
5	17%
6	16%
7	13%
8	8%
9	2%
10 - Very Good	3%
Percentage of those who responded	99%

	Total	Jews	Arabs	2014
Not Good (1-4)	41%	44%	24%	9%
Mediocre (5)	17%	15%	24%	22%
Reasonable (6-7)	29%	31%	23%	25%
Good (8-10)	13%	10%	29%	44%
Average	5.01	4.86	6.00	6.76

12. Do you believe that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu succeeded or failed with the steps he took to stop the Iranian nuclear program in recent years?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Succeeded	19%	19%	17%
Failed	58%	55%	80%
No Opinion	23%	26%	3%

13. The relationships with which 3 countries (except for the United States) are the most important to Israel today? (Respondents could mention up to three countries. This is why the columns exceed 100%)

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Russia	41%	44%	34%
Germany	31%	33%	27%
Egypt	21%	21%	25%
China	20%	22%	8%
Britain	19%	19%	27%
France	14%	14%	22%
Jordan	10%	9%	17%
India	5%	5%	0%
Saudi Arabia / Moderate Arab States	5%	4%	19%
Canada	4%	5%	2%
Countries of the European Union	4%	4%	7%
Turkey	3%	2%	15%
Iran	2%	2%	3%
Palestinian Authority	2%	1%	5%
Japan	1%	1%	0%
Other	1%	1%	1%
No Opinion / No Country	25%	27%	19%

14. Recently it was reported that progress had been made in the talks between Israel and Turkey to reach an agreement that will mend relations between the countries. What do you believe is the most important reason for Israel to mend its ties with Turkey?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Exporting natural gas from Israel to Turkey	10%	11%	3%
Security cooperation between the countries regarding Syria and ISIS	44%	47%	21%
Turkish assistance to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process	16%	11%	51%
Increasing tourism between Israel and Turkey	7%	6%	16%
There is no reason to mend ties with Turkey	23%	25%	9%

15. Do you agree or disagree with the view that: “The improving of Israel’s foreign relations depends on making progress on the peace process?”

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Strongly agree	28%	17%	95%
Somewhat agree	27%	31%	2%
Somewhat disagree	22%	25%	0%
Disagree	20%	23%	3%
No Opinion	3%	4%	0%

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Strongly + Somewhat agree	55%	48%	97%
Strongly + Somewhat disagree	42%	48%	3%
No Opinion	3%	4%	-

16. In a recent meeting held by the Quartet, the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia decided to allow Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League to play a greater role in the international efforts to promote the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Do you believe that a greater involvement of these Arab actors will:

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Contribute to the peace process	38%	35%	61%
Have no impact on the peace process	29%	31%	17%
Disrupt the peace process	21%	22%	20%

No Opinion	12%	12%	2%
The gap between “contribute to” and “disrupt”	+17%	+13%	+41%

17. In recent years Israel has been offered various incentives to move the peace process forward. Which of the following will most significantly increase your support for the peace process? Which is your second priority? (Each respondent was allowed to provide two answers. This is way the columns exceed 100%)

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Establishing normal relations with the Arab world, which include open diplomatic and commercial ties	35%	32%	48%
Receiving security guarantees and weapons from the United States	23%	24%	8%
An upgrade of relations with the European Union to the closest possible level to full EU membership	19%	19%	17%
An incentive package that includes all of the above	20%	20%	20%
None of the above	20%	20%	2%
No Opinion	9%	9%	6%

The Incentive ranked as 1st Priority:

	Total
Establishing normal relations with the Arab world, which include open diplomatic and commercial ties	27%
Receiving security guarantees and weapons from the United States	15%
An upgrade of relations with the European Union to the closest possible level to full EU membership	11%
An incentive package that includes all of the above	20%
None of the above	18%
No Opinion	9%

18. Do you believe that regional cooperation between Israel and other countries in the Middle East is possible?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Yes, it is possible	59%	54%	90%
No, it is not possible	36%	40%	8%
No Opinion	5%	6%	2%

19. Where do you think Israel belongs? More in the Middle East, more in Europe, equally in both Europe and the Middle East, or neither in Europe nor the Middle East?

	Total	Jews	Arabs
More in the Middle East	27%	26%	32%
More in Europe	31%	32%	27%
Equally in both Europe and the Middle East	26%	26%	24%
Neither in Europe nor in the Middle East	10%	9%	14%
No Opinion	6%	7%	3%

20. The European Union is expected to announce shortly that it will require the marking of products that originate in Israeli settlements. In light of this decision, do you think Israel should:

	Total	Jews	Arabs
Decrease settlement development and construction	31%	23%	76%
Continue its current settlement policy	27%	30%	10%
Increase settlement development and construction	28%	31%	9%
No Opinion	14%	16%	5%

Annex:
General comparison between assessments

	2015	2014	% of change
Israel's global standing	3.96	5.12	- 23%
The government's performance on foreign policy	4.00	5.29	- 24%
The MFA's fulfillment of its mission	4.03	4.80	- 16%
The current level of Israel-US relations	5.01	6.09	- 18%