



**רחובות.
עיר המדע
והתרבות**



עיריית רחובות
לשכת ראש העיר
Municipality of Rehovot
Office of the Mayor

REHOVOT – CITY OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE 2016 Profile

Facts and Figures

General:

Founded:	1890
Location:	Southern coastal plain
Area of jurisdiction:	22,500 dunam (approx. 5,625 acres)
Population:	142,000
Households:	41,000

Development forecast:

Existing number of housing units – approx.	41,000
Housing units forecast for the year 2025 – approx.	45,000
Population forecast for the year 2025 – approx.	175,000

Population distribution by age (in thousands) (appearing in the municipal records in 2010-11):

Ages	0 – 12	25,867
	13 – 17	8,335
	18 – 21	6,650
	22 – 29	14,389
	30 – 39	19,300
	40 – 49	13,547
	50 – 59	13,749
	60 – 69	12,083
	70 and above	11,835

Immigrants – 31,287:

From the Former USSR –	17,615
From Ethiopia –	4,023
From the United States –	899
Other countries –	8,750

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Membership in youth movements – 2,857

Noar Oved-200, Scouts-Snir and Saar-670, Ariel-212, Bnei Akiva-608, Betar-50, Noam-50, Hashomer Hatzair-127, Ezra-940

School system:

245 schools and kindergartens operate in the city (2010 data): Elementary schools-34, middle and high schools-18, kindergartens-193

23,540 pupils enrolled in the city's education system in 2010: Approx. 4,500 in kindergartens, 10,430 in elementary schools, 1,749 were promoted to the first grade, and 8,830 in middle and high schools.

28.2% of the municipal budget is earmarked for education

The municipality funds approx. 41.8% of education expenses

85.12% of the twelfth graders (high school seniors) took the Bagrut-matriculation exams

58.48% were eligible for a Certificate of Matriculation in 2009-10

Academic Education

About 7,500 students study in institutions of higher learning in the city

39% of the immigrants are university graduates

31.5% of the adult residents are university graduates

General data (2008) from the Central Bureau of Statistics (based on population of 111,000)

Percentage of women and men in the population: 56.7% women, 54.3% men [101%!]

Median age: Women-33, Men-31

68.2% native born Israelis

31.8% born abroad

Continent/country of origin of the Jewish population: 32.3% Europe, 14.9% Africa, 14.3% Asia, 34.4% Israel, 4.1% Americas

Age at marriage: Men 26, Women 23

Average number of children: 2

Employed in professions requiring academic degree: 20.1%

Liberal professions: 16.8%

Managers: 5%

Clerks-15.2%

Agents, salespersons, services: 19.7%

Households with children under 17: 38.7%

Average household: 2.9 persons

Households subscribed to the Internet: 92.9%

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Data on Rehovot from the survey of household expenditures in 14 large cities in Israel (CBS data for 2009)

Rehovot households have the highest percentage of ownership of at least one cellular phone: 98.5%

Televisions per 100 persons: 67

Computers per 100 persons: 42 – fourth place among the cities surveyed

Expenditures for household consumption: NIS13,830 per month

One fifth of the expenditures are earmarked for education, culture and entertainment, totaling 20.2% – first place among the cities surveyed

Average household occupancy in the large cities in Israel is less than one person per room.

Rehovot has the lowest occupancy density in the country, 0.7 per room.

Only 23% of the residents live in rental housing; 71% are homeowners

The number of persons per household in Rehovot (2.8) is lower than the national average (3.3).

The expenditures for food per household in Rehovot (14.4%) is lower than the national average (16.3%)

Municipal companies, NPOs, and executive branches:

H.L.R.-Rehovot Development Corporation Ltd.

Rehovot Cultural Foundation

Havayot Network of Community Centers

HaBe'er HaShlishi – Waterworks Corporation

Under development: "The Rehovot Municipal Company for Culture, Sport and Recreation Ltd."

Regional hub: National government branch offices located in the city:

- Ministry of Defense – Rehabilitation, District Town Major
- Ministry of Finance – Internal Revenue Service, Customs, Value Added Tax and Property Tax
- Ministry of Public Security – Police Station, Hashefela Police Headquarters
- Ministry of Construction and Housing – Department of Housing for the Rehovot Area
- Ministry of Health – District Health Bureau, Kaplan Medical Center
- Ministry of Religious Affairs – Rabbinical Court
- Ministry of Agriculture – HaShefela Region, Training Division, Veterinary Division

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- Ministry of Labor and Social Services – Employment Services, Academic Employment Service, Day-Care and Family Division, Youth Probation Services, Probation Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Ministry of the Interior – Population Administration Bureau
- Ministry of Transportation – Motor Vehicle Bureau
- Ministry of Immigrant Absorption
- Association of Towns for Firefighting Services
- Ministry of Justice – Magistrate’s Court, Land Registry Bureau

General Background

Early beginnings – The Citrus Moshava

Rehovot was founded in 1890 on the southern coastal plain of Israel and covers an area of some 22,500 dunam (approx. 5,625 acres) on the land of the former Hirbet Duran, a site from the Roman, Byzantine and early Arab periods. The name Rehovot was proposed by one of the city founders, Israel Belkind, based on the passage: "And he called the name of it Rehovot and said: 'For now the Lord hath made room [in Hebrew *hirhiv*] for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land'". (Genesis 26:22).

In its early days most of the land of Rehovot was covered with vineyards, but in the year 1904 the first citrus grove was planted, to be followed by many more. The Rehovot train station was erected in 1920, stimulating construction of mechanized packing plants close by, making Rehovot the largest citrus packing center in the

country and the hub for shipping the fruit to the ports for export. All this contributed to the nickname given to Rehovot, "**The City of Citrus**". Rehovot was declared a city in 1950. Today, the Minkoff Grove National Citrus Museum documents and commemorates this magnificent citrus industry heritage and self-work of the city founders and immigrants. Citrus, science and culture characterize the City of Rehovot, symbolically expressed on the city's emblem.

In 2010 Rehovot celebrated its 120th anniversary and along with memorializing the past and perpetuating the heritage bequeathed by the founding fathers, it is intensifying its rate of development. Mayor Rachamim Malul is striving to fulfill the vision he set for Rehovot: "A city leading in science, higher education and culture that aspires to excellence in education and provides a high quality of life for its residents".

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The City of Science

In 1932 the Agricultural Research Station-Volcani Institute moved to Rehovot. Close on its heels came the construction of the Sieff Institute in 1934, precursor of the Weizmann Institute of Science established in 1949. In 1942 the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University was established. The Settlement Study Center opened its doors in 1963 and the School of

Nutritional Sciences of the Faculty of Agriculture was established in 1970. In addition to all these, Rehovot has been home to the Biological Citrus Pest Control Institute and the Israel Wine Institute, along with many more institutions of higher learning today, including: Kaplan Hospital School of Nursing, Peres College, Rehovot College, and The Municipal College, among others. The municipal school system aims for excellence and high achievement in science and research, culture, and sports and its students can be proud of their impressive accomplishments in national and international competitions in diverse fields.

The past decade has witnessed the extensive development of TAMAR Park – Yitzhak Rabin Science-Industrial Park at the northern entrance to the city. It combines business activity, primarily in knowledge-based fields, with lively entertainment venues functioning all hours of the day and night. The park has a high occupancy rate of leading biotechnology and high tech companies in the Israeli economy. The city is advancing new neighborhoods and employment opportunities, revitalizing the city center and public buildings while gentrifying older neighborhoods, thus setting the tone for Rehovot's future based on the District Master Plan. The past few years have witnessed a significant improvement in the city's accessibility – new interchanges have been built, bypass roads have been paved, a transportation hub was established adjacent to the train station and new entry roads opened.

Rehovot, the City of Culture, Education and Recreation

Some of the greatest Israeli writers and poets lived and worked in Rehovot, often vividly describing the moshava and its people in their works. Notable among the literary personalities are: Moshe Smilansky, David Shimoni, Shlomo Blumgarten (Yehoash), Nahum Guttman, Binyamin Tammuz, S. Yizhar, and Dan Almagor.

Many cultural and educational institutions featuring activities for all age groups operate in the city: Smilansky Culture Center, Artists House, Beit Michal, Municipal Art Gallery, Beit Yad L'Banim-Soldiers Memorial House, Beit Dondikov, Municipal Music Conservatory, Bimat HaNoar-Youth Theater, and the Educational Farmstead, among others, offer a wealth of stimulating programs for the residents. Havayot community centers run neighborhood cultural and recreational activities and manage the municipal library system as well as the performance series presented at Mofet Auditorium. National and international festivals and cultural events fill the municipal

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calendar as the City of Rehovot makes every effort to erect a modern cultural center and improve the existing facilities, while expanding the activities and recreation venues. Young

couples are attracted to the rapid development of the city, with the concurrent construction of new public facilities and schools.

Citrus, science and culture characterize the City of Rehovot, symbolically emblazoned on the city's emblem in the form of an orange, a microscope and an open book

For the city archives, see: <http://www.rehovot-archive.org.il>

The City's Vision and the Means to Achieve It

The Guiding Vision: A city leading in science, higher education and culture that aspires to excellence in education and provides a high quality of life for its residents

*Community and demographic fortification	Improving the city's and its neighborhoods' physical appearance	Integration and narrowing gaps	Advancing education	Providing quality cultural activities	Accessibility	Commitment to heritage
<p>*Achievement of the population goal: 150,000 in 2025</p> <p>*Creating a ready supply of 22,000 housing units</p> <p>*Establishing high quality services and public buildings for educational, cultural and recreational activities</p>	<p>Neighborhoods to be fortified: Kiryat Moshe, Kfar Gevirol, Oshiot</p> <p>Stimulus projects: Train station, colleges, city recreation centers and more</p>		<p>Academic centers: Opening the campuses to the public Cooperation between the population centers and the school campuses Creating stimulus projects Creating complementary uses (e.g., student dorms)</p> <p>Establishing 3 school campuses and several neighborhood/ citywide activity centers Creating spaces for integrative community activities</p>		<p>*Transportation hubs: Encouraging development and mix of uses around transportation hubs Encouraging use of public transportation Linking sections of the city via bike paths</p> <p>*Main thoroughfares: Completing the ring roads in and around the city</p>	<p>*Preservation of buildings and historic areas *Creating cultural and tourist activities based on the historic preserved areas</p>
	<p>Revitalization of the city center: Increasing density Mixed uses Encouraging commercial thoroughfares Parking arrangements</p>					
	<p>Developing employment pockets: *Added building rights and 1.2 million sq. meters for industry /commerce *Branding areas by specialization *Renewal of the old industrial areas</p>	<p>Green open spaces: *Expanding the green lungs in the gentrified areas *Facilitating access from the city center and neighborhoods to the green areas on the perimeter *Developing access routes - bike and footpaths to the city center *Improvement of the public spaces</p>				