

Embassy of India
Tel Aviv

Weekly Commercial Media Report for the period 12-19 May 2023

A.Israel-Internal

Unemployment in Israel still falling

Unemployment in Israel, after being seasonally adjusted, fell to 3.6% in April 2023 from 3.8% the previous month, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. The employment rate itself and the work force participation rate remained unchanged last month from March.

The unemployment figure published today reflects a job market that remains tight despite the aggressive rate hikes made by the Bank of Israel, Normally low unemployment is an optimistic economic indicator but the tight job market could push salaries higher and obstruct the Bank of Israel in its efforts to lower inflation.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-unemployment-in-israel-still-falling-1001446424>

May 15, 2023

Israel's economy grew at 2.5% in Q1 2023

Israel's GDP grew 2.5% on an annualized basis in the first quarter of 2023, the Central Bureau of Statistics. This is in line with the annual forecast of the Bank of Israel and slightly below the Ministry of Finance forecast of 2.7% but well above the IMF's forecast of 1.5% GDP growth in Israel in 2023.

Even so with Israel's population growing by about 2% annually, the latest figures show per capita GDP growth of just 0.1%. S&P forecast that Israel will have negative per capita GDP growth in 2023.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-israels-economy-grew-at-25-in-q1-2023-1001446527>

May 16, 2023

Rapid rise in apartment rents fuels inflation in Israel

Rents have risen 7.2% in the past year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. In the high demand summer rises could accelerate. Apartment rents have risen 7.2% over the past 12 months according to the housing rent data in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The rent data makes up 26% of the CPI, so clearly the rise in rents is one of the most significant factors fueling inflation.

In April the CPI housing rent data rose by a further 0.5% and on an annualized basis, rents rose 5.8% in the first four months of 2023. Moreover the summer months of July, August and to some extent September are the higher demand months for rental accommodation so rents can be expected to rise further, whereas in January and February rents often fall.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-rapid-rise-in-apartment-rents-fuels-inflation-in-israel-1001446707>

May 17, 2023

B.Israel-Multilateral

Korea's Yanolja buys Israel's Go Global Travel

South Korea's largest travel-booking company Yanolja Co. is to acquire Israeli technology provider Go Global Travel. The acquisition will make Yanolja one of the world's largest travel solution platforms. No financial details about the deal were disclosed but market sources believe that AMI, which has invested about \$85 million, has made a handsome profit on the sale. Go Global Travel has developed a search engine for travel agencies to book hotel rooms and other tourist services

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-koreas-yanolja-buys-israels-go-global-travel-1001446433>

May 15, 2023

Australian co Aristocrat pays 130% premium for NeoGames

Australian gaming and betting company Aristocrat Leisure (ASX: ALL) has announced that it has agreed to buy Israeli-US digital lottery company NeoGames (Nasdaq: NGMS) for \$1.2 billion (A\$1.8 billion). NeoGames is managed from Ramat Hahayal in Tel Aviv by Moti Malul. The acquisition is at a price of \$29.5 per share, representing a premium of 130% over Friday's closing price of \$12.84.

This is Aristocrat Leisure's second acquisition in Israel. In the past, it bought Herzliya-based Plarium for \$700 million from, among other shareholders, Gigi Levy and Yitzchak Mirilashvili, current owner of Channel 14 television. It has a market cap on the Australian Securities Exchange of A\$25.4 billion. Its share price rose 2.1% today.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-australian-co-aristocrat-pays-130-premium-for-neogames-1001446423>

May 15, 2023

IBM acquires Israeli co Polar Security

IBM has announced it has acquired Israeli company Polar Security, which allows customers to discover, continuously monitor and secure cloud and software-as-a-service (SaaS) application data and addresses the growing shadow data problem. No financial details were disclosed but a source told "TechCrunch" that IBM is paying \$60 million for the Israeli company.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-ibm-acquires-israeli-co-polar-security-1001446565>

May 16, 2023

Elbit Systems wins major Netherlands arms contract

Elbit Systems (Nasdaq: ESLT; TASE: ESLT) announced today that, under an agreement between the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the Netherlands Ministry of Defense, it had won a contract worth \$305 million to supply Precise & Universal Launching System (PULS) artillery rocket systems to the Royal Netherlands Army. The contract will be performed over a period of five years.

Under the contract, Elbit Systems will supply 20 PULS artillery rocket systems integrated on the COMMIT (previously DMO) selected truck platform, as well as rockets and missiles of various ranges, and training and support services.

<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-elbit-systems-wins-major-netherlands-rocket-launcher-contract-1001446889>

May 18, 2023

Tenders

<u>Company</u>	<u>Contact details</u>	<u>Tender details</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Mekorot	Orit Alazraki oolazraki@mekorot.co.il	Public tender R- 21/2023 for the supply of a 2150 hp vertical electric motor for Avraham station https://www.mekorot.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/%D7%9E%D7%9B%D7%A8%D7%96-%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%91%D7%99-%D7%A8-21-2023-%D7%9E%D7%A0%D7%97%D7%A9-%D7%90%D7%A6%D7%9E-2150-%D7%9B%D7%A1-%D7%AA%D7%97%D7%A0%D7%AA-%D7%9B%D7%AA%D7%A3-%D7%90%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%94%D7%9D-%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%93%D7%A2%D7%AA-%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9D-%D7%9E%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%9F%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%99%D7%A9.pdf	23.05.2023
Israel Electricity Company	Osnat Sobag osnat.sobag@iec.co.il	Spare parts/service for power stations/substations, as detailed in the attached table https://www.iec.co.il/en/content/suppliers/tenders-and-decisions/tenders/active-tenders?searchPhrase=Rfi%20list%20of%20requests,%20estimated%20price%20for%20budget%20purposes%20(10%2F05%2F2023)	28.05.2023
Israel Electricity Company	Rami Menashe rami_m@iec.co.il	RFI- Offshore Pipeline Measurement at Eshkol Power Station https://www.iec.co.il/en/content/suppliers/tenders-and-decisions/tenders/active-	25.06.2023

