**Jefferies** 

JEFFERIES ISRAEL GROUP

Israel in the New Middle East

Economic Resurgence and Tech Renaissance

JUNE 2025



## **Executive Summary**

#### 2025 Outlook

Israel has been embroiled in a prolonged conflict on multiple fronts since October 7, 2023. There are optimistic signs that hostilities are winding down and that Israel's geopolitical reality has been improving: The ceasefire in Lebanon being maintained, Asad's regime collapse in Syria weakening Iranian influence in the region, a de-escalation of hostilities in Gaza, and the return of global airlines flying to Israel.

Although some geopolitical risks remain, there is potential for the expansion of the Abraham Accords and the development of a relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Looking ahead to 2025, the outlook for Israel's economy, and specifically its high-tech sector, remains promising. Stabilizing interest rates, lower inflation and strong capital markets performance are expected to boost investor confidence. These trends position Israel's high-tech ecosystem for continued growth and innovation.

Source: Bank of Israel, IVC Data, StartUp Nation Central, Jefferies initiation report on the Israeli Economy, CapIQ.

#### **Macroeconomic Environment**

Israel entered the conflict with a low fiscal deficit and manageable Debt/GDP. The fiscal deficit will be reduced in 2025 by fiscal adjustments of nearly 2.5% of GDP.

Israel's risk premium declined significantly since the ceasefire with Lebanon and general geopolitical improvements. Although the 5-year Sovereign CDS is still high relative to the pre-conflict period, it has decreased by ~67bps from its peak, currently standing at 98.9bps.

Israel enjoys a steady trade account surplus. Israel's Net Export Account (\$17.1 billion) and Foreign Direct Investment (\$16.6 billion) remained strong during the conflict, helping support a stable shekel.

The high-tech products and services sector continued to thrive during the conflict, despite army reserves mobilization. High-tech exports, nearly 20% of GDP and about 60% of total exports which are expected to continue to expand by 2.5% in 2025 and 2026. This upward trend was already pronounced in 2024 and is expected to continue in 2025.A tight fiscal policy, shekel appreciation and a weakening of supply constraints will support lower inflation towards mid-year 2025.

The Bank of Israel expects the average interest rate in 4Q'25 to be between 4.0% and 4.25%. The interest rate forecast assumes that the direct economic impact of the conflict will persist through 2Q'25. Following this, GDP is expected to gradually align with its pre-conflict trend, growing by 3.5% in 2025 and 4.0% in 2026.

The Bank of Israel expects private consumption to continue to grow by 6.0% and 3.5% in 2025 and 2026, respectively.

### High-tech Ecosystem Year in Review

Israel is the 3rd largest high-tech hub in the world by capital raised, second only to Silicon Valley and New York.

12% of the Israeli workforce is employed in the high-tech sector.

In 2024, Israeli high-tech companies raised around \$11 billion through more than 850 transactions, reflecting a 13% increase on a total dollar basis.

While cybersecurity led the Israeli high-tech industry in total capital raised with 39% of the overall amount, Aerospace & Defense experienced the most significant year-over-year growth in capital raised, achieving an increase of 143%<sup>(1)</sup>.

Foreign funds<sup>(2)</sup> account for 75% of all capital invested in Israeli high-tech companies and 54% of total deal count.

Despite the conflict, Israeli companies remain highly attractive targets for global acquirers, sustaining a robust M&A market. This can be partly attributed to Israel's culture of innovation and its highly skilled workforce. Notably, in 2024, the Israeli high-tech sector recorded 118 M&A transactions totaling approximately \$17 billion, representing a 20% increase in transaction volume and a 60% surge in deal value compared to 2023.

Since the vast majority of Israeli high-tech companies' revenues come from outside of Israel, they are less impacted by domestic volatility. Additionally, domestic Israeli high-tech companies are seeing increased acquisition interest, evidenced by Blackstone's majority acquisition of Priority Software at an \$800 million valuation, which was announced in May 2024. This deal is particularly notable as Priority generates most of its revenue domestically in shekels, unlike the vast majority of Israeli high-tech companies that rely on international revenue streams.

Aerospace, Defense and Government as defined by StartUp Nation Central which includes space-tech and HLS.

<sup>(2)</sup> Foreign Funds are defined as funds with headquarters outside of Israel.

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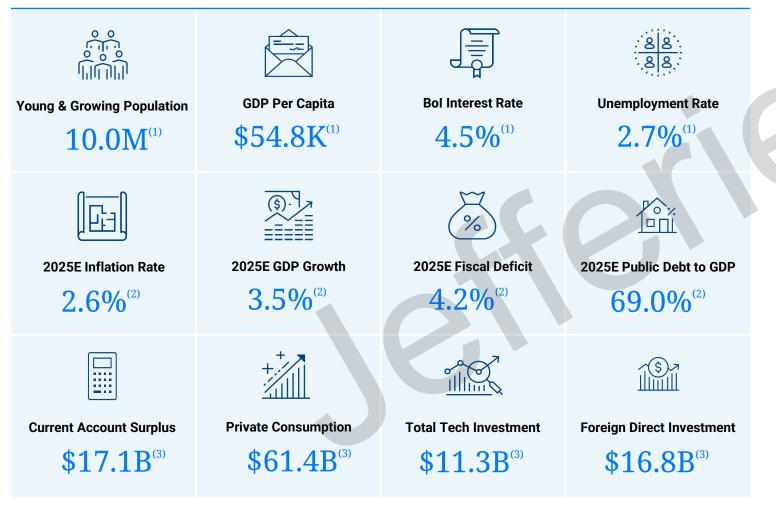


# Israeli Macroeconomics



# The Israeli Economy at a Glance

#### **KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS**



### **Key Economic Highlights**

Israel is a developed economy that joined the OECD in 2010.

It has the highest mandatory pension savings rate of any country in the world at 18.5%, creating fast-growing institutional AUM which helps fuel the economy.

Israel has strong growth potential supported by positive demographics and a vibrant high-tech sector.

Israel entered the conflict with a low fiscal deficit and manageable Debt/GDP. The fiscal deficit will be reduced in 2025 by fiscal adjustments of nearly 2.5% of GDP.

Israel's strong external position including a Current Account Surplus and Foreign Direct Investment helps support a strong shekel.

A tight fiscal policy, shekel appreciation and a weakening of supply constraints will support lower inflation toward mid-year.

The local population has a healthy appetite as private consumption is expected to grow by 6.0% in 2025 and 3.5% in 2026, according to the Bank of Israel.

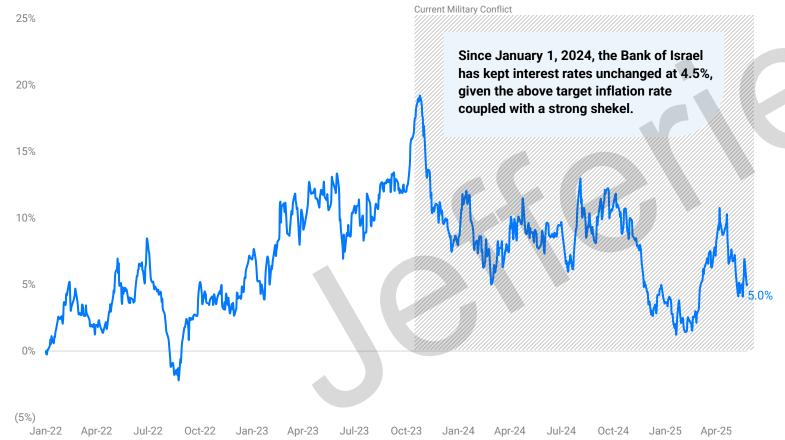
<sup>2)</sup> Bank of Israel forecast as of April 10, 2025.

Central Bureau of Statistics as of December 31, 2024.

# The Shekel's Performance and the Bank of Israel's Economic Forecast

#### **Shekel Nominal Effective Rate Index**(1)

(Cumulative rate of change since January 1, 2022, %)



Source: Bank of Israel Data and Processing as of May 28, 2025.

- (1) Source: Bank of Israel's Research Department Staff Forecast Report (April 2025).
- (2) The effective exchange rates reflect the weighted geometric average of the shekel against a basket of currencies, in which the weight of each currency reflects its importance in Israel's foreign trade; Currencies included: Canadian Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, Swiss Franc, UK Pound Sterling, and US Dollar.
- (3) Fixed Capital Formation, also called "investment indicates how much of the new value added in an economy is invested rather than consumed excluding ships and aircrafts.
- (4) Excluding diamonds and startups.

### Bank of Israel's Forecast<sup>(2)</sup>

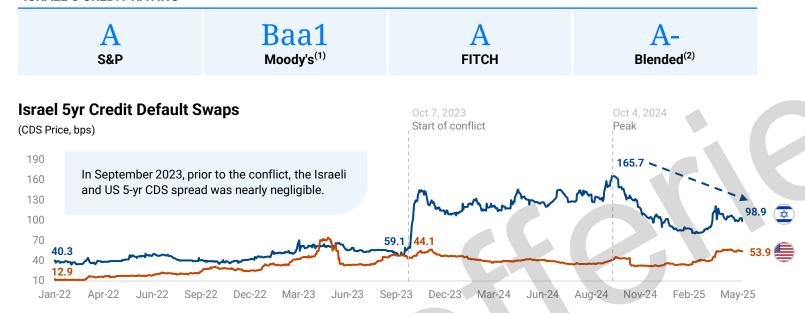
This forecast assumes that the conflict in Gaza will decrease after Q2 2025 and that the supply of jobs will continue to increase, while considering the potential impact of US tariffs and the global macroeconomic environment on Israel's exports and economic stability.

With the growth forecast for 2026 reflecting continued economic recovery from the effects of the conflict.

	2025E	2026E
GDP Growth	3.5%	4.0%
Private Consumption Growth	6.0%	3.5%
Total Investments Growth <sup>(3)</sup>	10.0%	12.0%
Total Exports Growth (4)	2.5%	2.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.1%
Gov. Deficit / GDP	4.2%	2.9%
Public Debt / GDP	69.0%	68.0%
Inflation Rate	2.6%	2.2%

# Sovereign Credit and Government Bond Yields

#### **ISRAEL'S CREDIT RATING**



#### Israel vs. US 10yr Bonds



Source: CapIQ as of May 28, 2025

### **Key Highlights**

Although Israel's risk premium remains higher compared to the pre-conflict period, it has decreased significantly since the ceasefire with Lebanon and general geopolitical improvements, as indicated by the 5-year Sovereign CDS which has decreased by ~67bps from its peak.

The 10-year yield on Israeli government bonds in shekels has fallen to that of U.S. Treasury bonds. This gap reflects expectations that the shekel will strengthen over time or, at the very least, that major bond market participants are reluctant to bet against the shekel, despite the ongoing state of conflict.

The Bank of Israel expects the average interest rate in 4Q'25 to be 4.0/4.25%.

The interest rate forecast assumes that the direct economic impact of the conflict will persist until the end of 2Q'25. Following this, GDP is expected to gradually align with its pre-conflict trend. It is anticipated that existing supply-side constraints will gradually ease, while domestic demand is projected to recover at a slightly faster pace.

<sup>(1)</sup> January 21, 2025 – Moody's stated: "If adhered to and further progress is made, the ceasefire agreement reduces a protracted conflict's near-term downside risks to Israel's economy and public finances."

<sup>(2)</sup> Bloomberg Issuer Composite Based Ratings provides a blend of an issuer's ratings. The rating agencies are evenly weighted when calculating the composite. It is calculated by taking the average of the existing ratings, rounded down to the lower rating in case the composite is between two ratings.

# The Israeli Consumer Appetite Continues to Grow

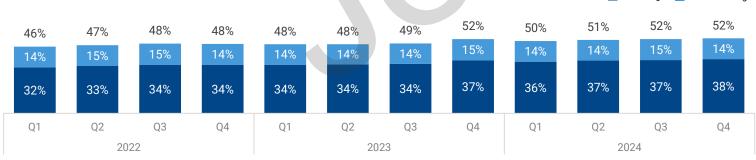
#### Private Consumption Expenditure - Significant Growth Engine in the Economy<sup>(1)</sup>



#### Since October 7th There Has Been a Trend of Recovery in the Credit Card Transaction Volume<sup>(1)</sup>



#### Israeli Household Debt as a % of GDP(2)



#### Source: Bank of Israel.

- (1) The Bank of Israel reports data in NIS set to 2015 prices. Amounts have been converted to USD using a constant FX rate of 0.28 NIS/USD.
- 2) The Bank of Israel classifies housing debt as loans for home purchases, whereas non-housing debt encompasses loans for other types of purchases.

### **Key Highlights**

Non-Housing

The Bank of Israel expects private consumption to continue to grow by 7.5% and 5.5% in 2025 and 2026, respectively.

In 2024, ~61% of private consumption expenditure was conducted via Israeli credit card transactions.

Israel's credit card transaction volume experienced a slight decrease at the beginning of the conflict but soon returned to previous levels. Although the latest data indicate a minor decline in nominal credit card expenditures, they remain consistent with long-term trends.

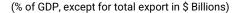
The lower number of soldiers serving in the reserves in 2025 will ease the supply limitations in the labor market and will support a recovery in the volume of employment.

In the housing market, the annual rate of increase in housing prices continued to rise, to 6.7%. Activity in the construction industry remains lower than the pre-conflict period, mainly affected by manpower limitations that remain significant.

Total Israeli household debt remains relatively low compared to most developed economies at only 52% of GDP compared to 62% in the US.

# Israeli Exports and Trade Balance

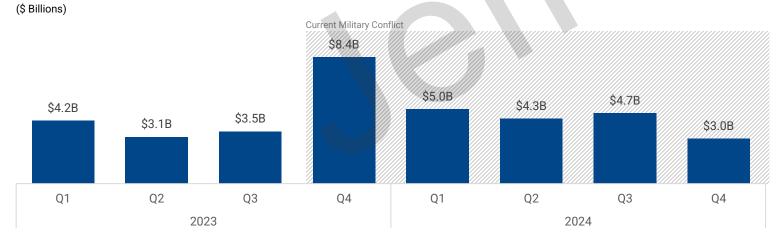
#### Total Exports by Category as a % of GDP





Technology Products & Services Other

#### **Current Account Surplus**(1)



Source: Bank of Israel.

Note: All export and trade statistics exclude diamonds.

(1) Defined as Israeli exports minus imports.

### **Key Highlights**

The high-tech products and services sector continues to thrive during the conflict, despite army reserves mobilization, and as an export are nearly a quarter of GDP and ~64% of total exports.

In 2024, the countries with the most substantial increases in exports from Israel included Hong Kong, Romania, Ukraine, Malta, and Lithuania. Conversely, Turkey, the UK, Slovenia, South Korea, Canada, and Russia experienced the largest decreases.

In 2024, imports of goods to Israel increased from Brazil, the UAE, Greece, Thailand, Romania, and Hong Kong. In contrast, Turkey, Sweden, Australia, and Venezuela experienced the largest decreases.

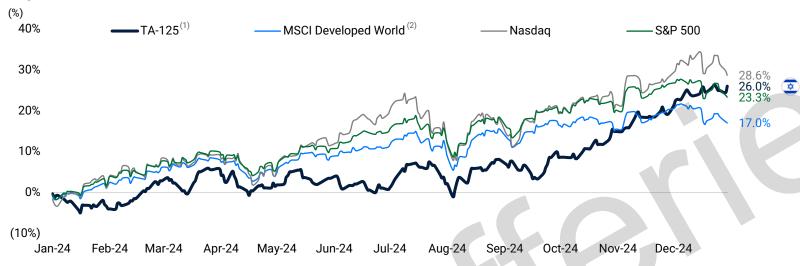
In 2024, Israel's largest trade surpluses were with the USA, Ireland, India, Brazil, and Cyprus. Meanwhile, the largest trade deficits were with China, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and UAE.

Exports are expected to continue to expand by 2.5% in both 2025 and 2026, on the back of robust high-tech exports. This upward trend was already pronounced in 2024 and is expected to continue.

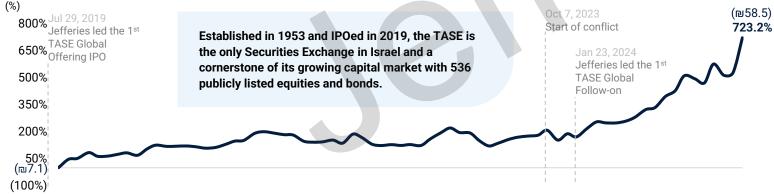
Israel enjoys a steady trade account surplus. Its Net Export Account and Foreign Direct Investment remained strong during the conflict.

# Finance & Capital Markets Performance

#### Capital Markets - Indices Performance EoY 2024



#### Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) – Share Performance Since IPO



Jul-19 Dec-19 May-20 Oct-20 Mar-21 Aug-21 Jan-22 Jun-22 Nov-22 Apr-23 Sep-23 Feb-24 Jul-24 Dec-24 May-25 Source: CapIQ, Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as of May 28, 2025.

(1) The largest 125 companies listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange by market cap.

(3) Based on Q1'25 Investor Presentation and using a NIS/USD FX rate of 0.28

# Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) Trading Statistics<sup>(3)</sup>

#### **TOTAL MARKET CAP** (YoY Growth)

(10111211111111111111111111111111111111		
Equities	Government Bonds	
\$385B	\$220B	
(+18%)	(+24%)	
Corporate Bonds	Mutual Funds	
\$158B	\$126B	
(+16%)	(+25%)	
	Equities \$385B (+18%) Corporate Bonds \$158B	

#### **AVERAGE DAILY TURNOVER** (YoY Growth)

Equities	Government Bonds
\$673M	\$928M
(+19%)	(+10%)
Corporate Bonds	Mutual Funds
\$300M	\$582M
(+3%)	(+38%)

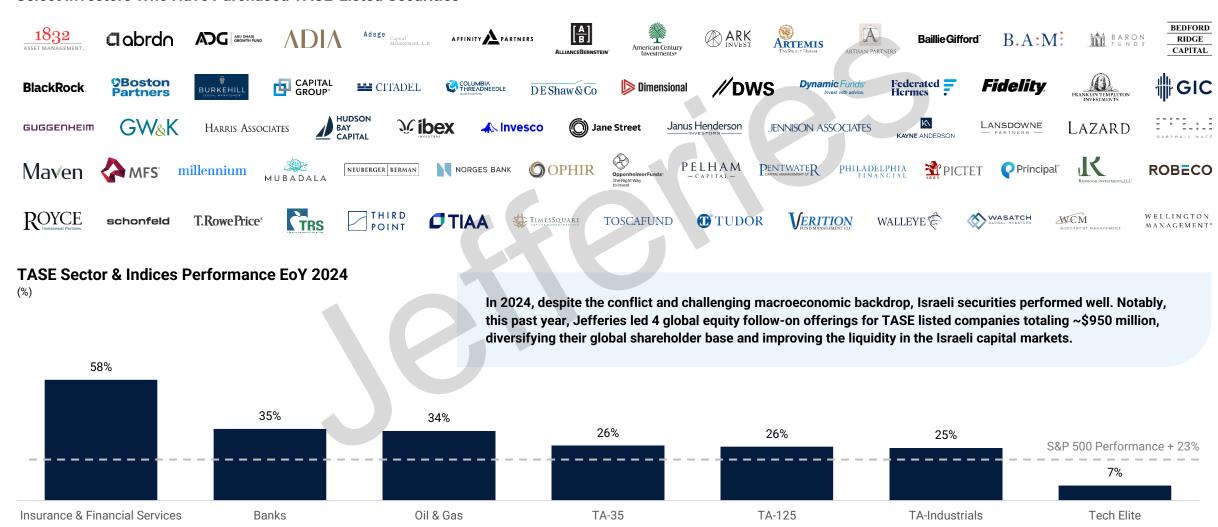
Since its IPO, the TASE has been at the forefront of innovation and adaptation to global investors needs:

- Changing the trading days to Monday Friday, starting in 2026.
- The use of Al to translate immediate reports into English allowing foreign investors to receive reports in English in real time.
- Launched futures contracts on three leading indices: TA-35, TA-90 and TA-Banks 5.
- Appointed a market maker to ensure liquidity and trade volume in the market at a competitive price.
- In January 2025 TASE published for public comments on the allowance of digital asset ETFs, such as Bitcoin.

<sup>(2)</sup> Developed markets from the following 24 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The index constituents are weighted on the basis of free float market capitalization. MSCI World Index is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

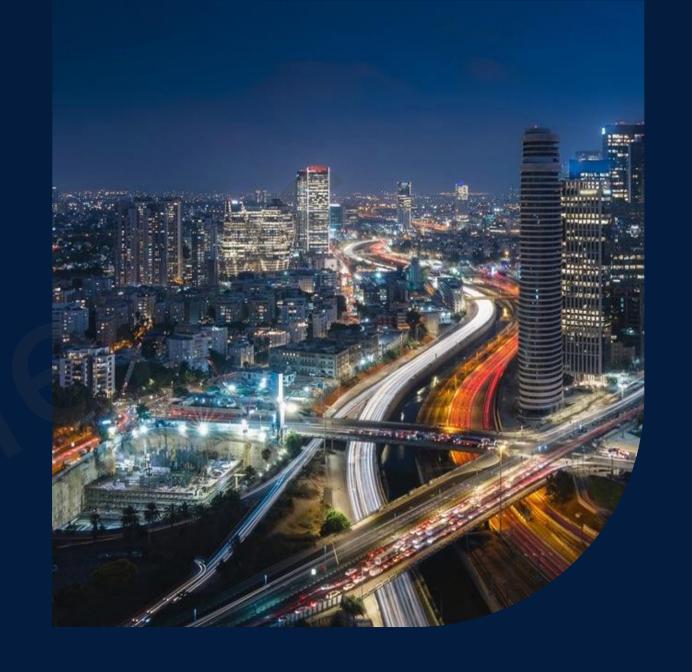
# Leading Global Investors are Focusing on TASE-Listed Securities

#### Select Investors Who Have Purchased TASE-Listed Securities



**Jefferies** 

# Israeli High-tech



# Strength of the Israeli Technology Sector

Israeli technology sector accounts for ~20% of the country's GDP, while its share of Israeli exports is 64%



**12%** of **Israel's workforce** is employed in the high-tech sector.



Israeli companies account for 10% of global unicorns.



Israeli high-tech services and products account for **64% of Israel's exports**.



Israel has the **greatest density of startups** per capita in the world.



Israel has the **highest R&D investment** as a % of GDP worldwide.



**25% of income taxes** paid in Israel come from high-tech employees.



High-tech companies make up 30% of the market cap on the TASE.



Israeli high-tech companies making up ~20% of total GDP.

#### Israeli Technology Products / Services and its Share of Total Israeli Exports

(\$ Billions and as a % of total Israeli exports)



### 2024 – Israeli High-tech Statistics

261 new Israeli high-tech startups were established compared to 591 in 2023, a decrease of 44%, while global new high-tech startups decreased by ~33%.

Israeli high-tech companies raised over \$11 billion through more than 850 transactions, reflecting a 13% increase on a total dollar basis.

The average investment round was \$15 million, up 50% from \$10 million in 2023.

49% of all investments were in early-stage companies compared to 58% in 2023.<sup>(1)</sup>

118 Israeli tech M&A transactions were completed, totaling approximately \$17 billion — marking a 20% increase in transaction volume and a remarkable 60% rise in deal value compared to 2023.

65% of all Israeli high-tech companies that exited in 2024 were VC backed.

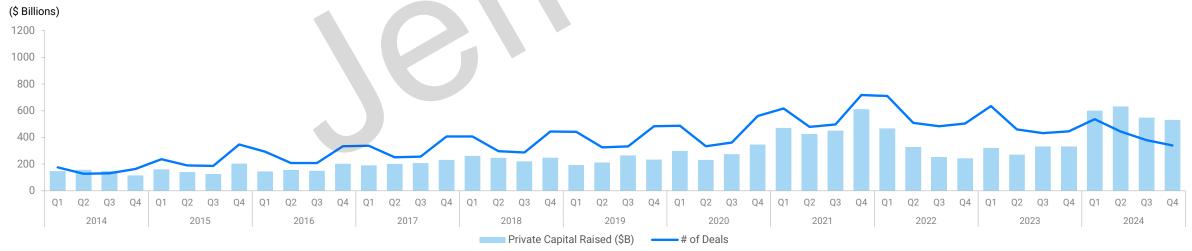
# Israel's Private High-tech Capital Markets Mirror Global Trends

Israel's high-tech capital raising is more influenced by macro trends than local occurrences

#### **Private Capital Raised In Israel**







# VC Fundraising and Investment Participation

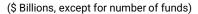
#### Israeli VC Fundraising Activity

(\$ Billions, except for number of funds)

Although Israeli VC fundraising has decreased in recent years, this trend is consistent with the global decline in VC fundraising activities.



#### **Global VC Fund Raising Activity**

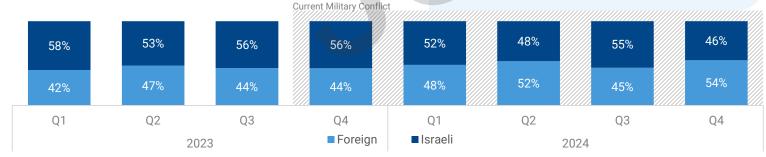




#### Foreign<sup>(1)</sup> vs Israeli Investors

(Deal Count, %)

Despite the conflict, the proportionate participation of foreign funds in Israeli deals has increased.



Source: Pitchbook, IVC Data as of December 31, 2024

#### (1) Foreign Funds are defined as funds with headquarters outside of Israel.

### **2024 – VC Activity**

In 2024, 25 Israeli funds raised a total of around \$2.0 billion, down from \$4.0 billion in 2023.

In 2024, global fundraising declined to ~\$76.1 billion raised across 508 VC funds. With limited exits and liquidity, LPs are hesitant to allocate more capital to venture. Fundraising will likely be similar in 2025 until LPs receive their returns.

Follow-on investments accounted for 33% of all VC investments in 2024.

In 2024, 54% of all first-time investments were Seed rounds, reflecting a decrease from 61% in 2023.

Foreign Funds accounted for 75% of all capital invested in Israeli high-tech and 54% of total deal count in 2024.

Corporate VCs made up less than 5% of total firsttime investments in 2024.

In 2024, the median number of investors per funding round was 4.

# High-tech Company Capital Raising

#### **Total Capital Raised and Number of Deals**

(\$ Billions, except for number of deals)

The total dollar amount of capital raised in 2024 was greater than 2023 despite the conflict...

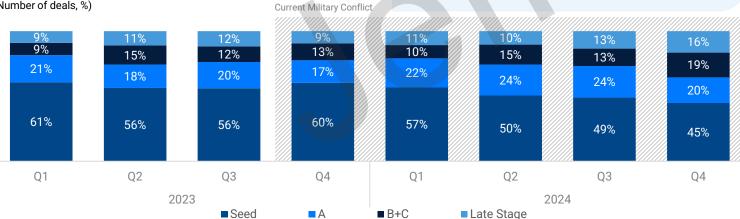
...with late-stage deals continuing to increase as a

portion of the overall deal count.



### **Deals by Round Type**

(Number of deals, %)



### **Capital Raising by Key** Sectors in 2024

Israeli high-tech companies raised over \$11 billion through more than 850 transactions, reflecting a 13% increase on a total dollar basis.

While cybersecurity led the Israeli high-tech industry in total capital raised with 39% of the overall amount. Aerospace, Defense and Government experienced the most significant year-over-year growth in capital raised, achieving an increase of 143%.

39%	27%
Cyber	Enterprise Software
13%	10%
Health / Med	Fintech / Insurtech
6%	2%
Industrial	Agtech / Food
1%	1%
Energy	ADG <sup>(1)</sup>

# Select Notable Capital Raises in 2024 and 2Q 2025

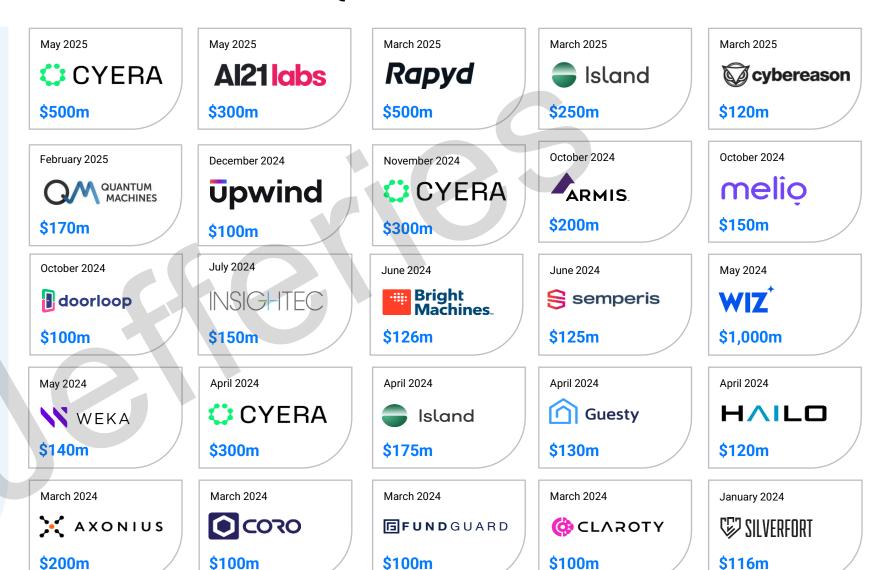
#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

Israel is the 3rd largest high-tech hub in the world by capital raised, second only to Silicon Valley and New York.

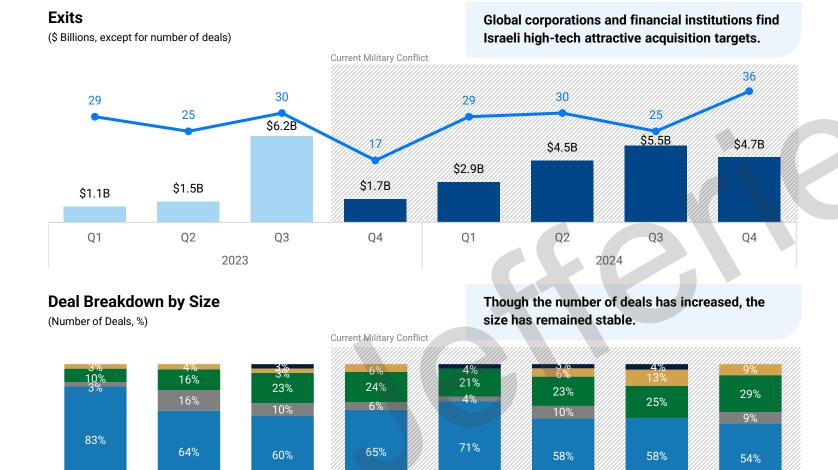
In 2024, a total of 37 companies secured funding rounds exceeding \$50 million, with 20 of these rounds surpassing the \$100 million mark.

In 2024, 25% of all funding rounds were Series B and above, accounting for 64% of the total capital raised.

In 2024, companies in the revenue growth stage accounted for 51% of the total dollar amount raised.



# **High-tech Company Exits**



Q3

2024

Q4

■ >\$1B

Q2

■\$500M-\$1BM

Source: IVC Data as of December 31, 2024.

■<\$50M

Q1

Q3

■\$50M-\$100M

Q4

Q1

■\$100M-\$500M

(2) Includes: ADG, e-Commerce, Semis, TravelTech, CleanTech, AgTech.

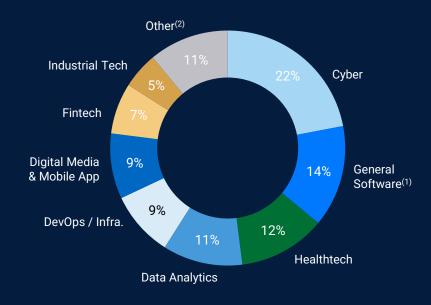
2023

Q2

### Exits by Key Sectors in 2024

Despite geopolitical challenges, Israel has remained a vibrant M&A market thanks to its culture of innovation and highly skilled workforce.

In 2024, the Israeli high-tech sector recorded 118 M&A transactions totaling approximately \$17 billion — representing a 20% increase in transaction volume and a 60% surge in total deal value compared to 2023.



<sup>(1)</sup> Software companies that help businesses manage their daily operations across various sectors and products.

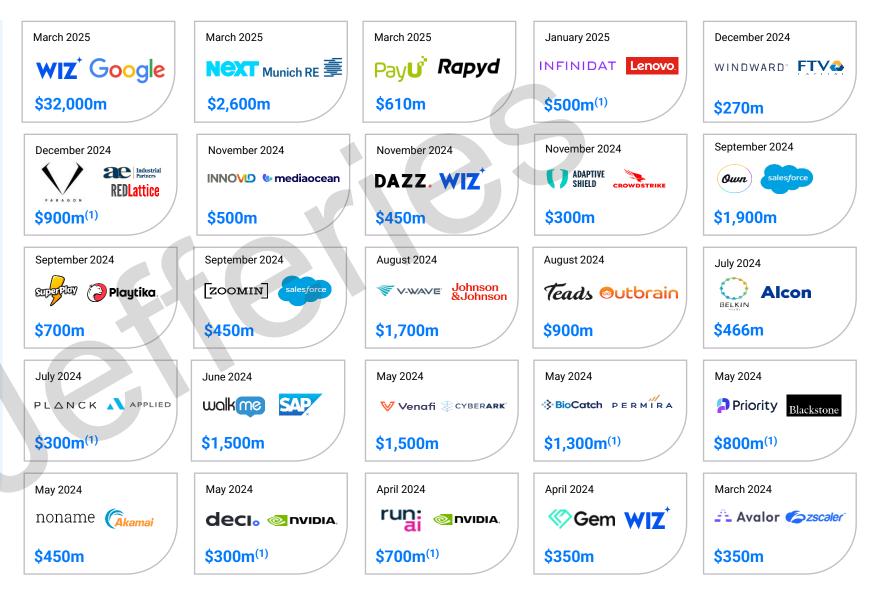
# Select Notable M&A Transactions in 2024 and 2Q 2025

#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

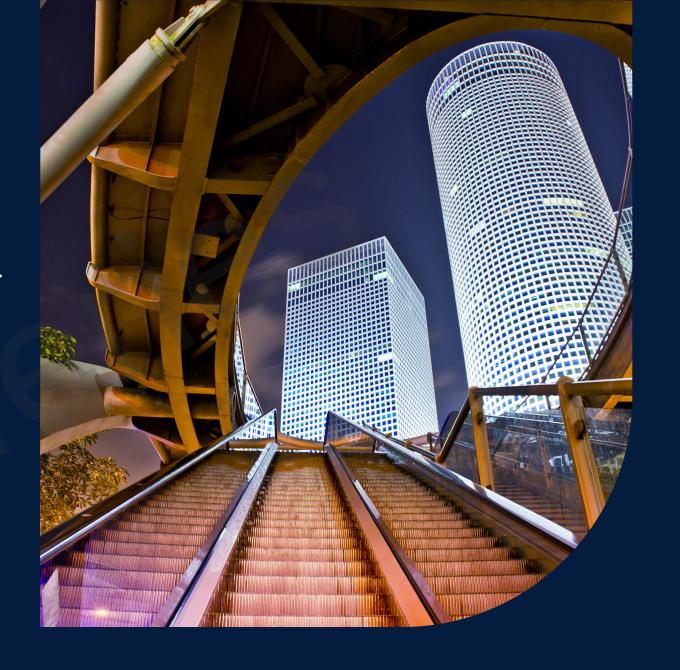
Despite the conflict, Israeli companies continue to be highly attractive targets for global acquirers, mainlining strong appeal on the international stage.

Since almost all Israeli high-tech companies have the vast majority of their revenues from outside of Israel, they are impacted significantly less by domestic volatility.

Additionally, domestic Israeli hightech companies are seeing increased acquisition interest, evidenced by Blackstone's majority acquisition of Priority Software at an \$800 million valuation. This deal is particularly notable as Priority generates most of its revenue domestically in shekels, unlike the vast majority of Israeli high-tech companies which rely on international revenue streams.



# High-tech Outlook Select Sectors in 2025



#### **SELECT SECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

### 2025 Investor Focus

#### **ADG (Aerospace, Defense & Government)**

The number of Israeli defense-related startups have significantly increased, doubling in the past year. Funding has also risen in 2024 totaling \$165 million<sup>(4)</sup>, with more foreign and private investment in early-stage technologies.

Israeli defense technology is internationally recognized as IDF veterans are known for establishing world-class defense-tech startups, combining battle-tested military proficiency with wideranging applicability. As governments globally encounter increasing defense challenges, Israel's technology offers scalable and high-performance solutions to address contemporary threats.

#### **Cybersecurity**

As in previous years, cybersecurity continued to dominate the capital raising landscape, attracting around \$4 billion. This trend shows no signs of slowing down, given that global cybersecurity threats are continually increasing.

Most Israeli cyber startup founders are alumni of military cyber defense programs such as 8200, top academic institutions, and mature cybersecurity firms. This network, developed over 30+ years, has created a talent flywheel effect in establishing new cyber startups.

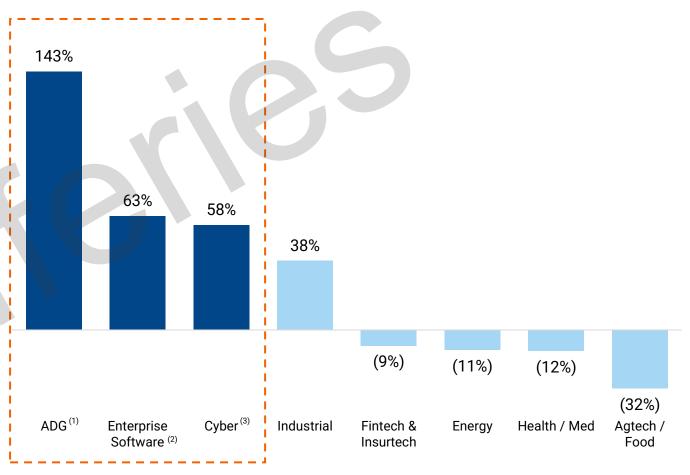
#### **Enterprise Software (being driven by AI)**

Enterprise software surged in total capital raised driven by companies developing AI tools for businesses across multiple industries with vast applications.

# There is a Global Technology Arms Race, Creating a Generational Opportunity to Invest in Israeli Breakthrough Technologies

#### Year Over Year Growth in Israeli High-tech Capital Raise by Select Sectors

(%, Growth in Amount of Capital by USD)



Source: StartUp Nation Central as of December 31, 2024.

- Aerospace, Defense and Government as defined by StartUp Nation Central which includes space-tech and HLS.
- (2) Includes a wide range of solutions designed to support various business operations, including IT management, data solutions, project management, financial operations, sales, and marketing.
- (3) As defined by IVC Data which may use a broader categorization than StartUp Nation Central.
- (4) According to StartUp Nation Central's definition excluding Space-tech.



### Defense-tech: Global Trends

The ADG sector is currently undergoing significant changes, driven by the understanding that future warfare will be influenced more by advanced technology than by the quantity of traditional military equipment.

The geopolitical environment is evolving, military budgets are increasing, and innovation in modern warfare has become increasingly important.

# NATO and European allies defense spending

is being spearheaded by a necessary rearmament.

#### AI & MACHINE LEARNING

37%+ CAGR
Global AI / ML Market Expected to Grow
to \$1+ Trillion by FY '30

Al-enabled, real-time intel for warfighters is a major priority of the JADC2 framework.

DoD remains focused on integrating machine learning into existing analysis methodologies, including warfighting decision-making, down to backend office functions.

#### SPACE SUPERIORITY AND HYPERSONICS

#### 14%+ CAGR

Directed Energy Weapons and Hypersonics Market Expected to Grow to \$20+ Billion by FY '27

US DoD is prioritizing increasingly sophisticated space programs to counter symmetric threats from foes.

The US SDA and MDA are creating both offensive and defensive responses to emerging threats, with hypersonics and direct energy being two priority focus areas.

#### C4ISR

#### 4%+ CAGR

C4ISR Spending is Expected to Reach \$145+ Billion by FY '27

Surveillance and reconnaissance and tactical communications are expected to remain the largest segments.

Processing power is moving to the "edge" as a strategic enabler.

#### **CYBER & CLOUD**

#### 13%+ CAGR

Global Cyber & Cloud Market Expected to Grow to \$78+ Billion by FY '26

Effective cybersecurity requires agile, proactive and reactive defenses that involve a combination of software, hardware and systems.

Fundamental levels of security are expected to be incorporated into every technology deployment.

#### TRUSTED MICROELECTRONICS

#### 6%+ CAGR

Global Defense Electronics Market Expected to Grow to \$250+ Billion by FY '28

The DoD has a stated priority to ensure the US defense supply chain is free of tampering from outside near-peer threats (China, Russia).

Most recent defense budget has dedicated an investment of \$375M towards state-of-the art microelectronics production and testing.

#### **UNMANNED AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

#### 15%+ CAGR

Autonomy / Unmanned Systems Market Expected to Grow to \$15+ Billion by FY '30

Recent conflicts have led to a systemic shift in warfare and need for attritable aircraft.

Primary funding has been allocated towards air, but marine and ground have begun receiving significant traction.

GPS-denied operations remains a key investment focus.

### Israeli Defense-tech

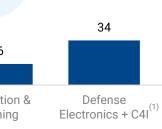
Driven by necessity and supported by a strong military background, Israel's defense-tech sector is evolving into a robust ecosystem

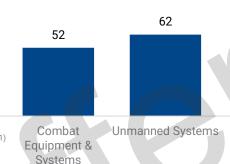
#### **Total Number of Companies by Sector**

(Includes companies with dual use applications expanding beyond its sector)





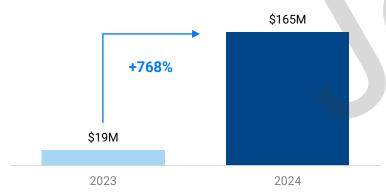






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### Total Private Capital Raised(3)



### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Israel's Defense Industry Booms on Foreign Demand and War at Home – January 9, 2025

Israel will still need to recruit at least 6,000 more employees in the defense industry to meet the future demands.

 Dr. Ron Tomer, President of the Manufacturers Association of Israel

Source: StartUp Nation Central, Pitchbook, The Wall Street Journal, Breakingdefensetech.com.

- (1) Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence.
- (2) Electronic systems that control and operate aircraft. The term is a combination of the two words "aviation" and "electronics".
- (3) According to StartUp Nation Central's definition excluding Space-tech.

### Recent Israeli Defense-tech Events

October 2023 – The attacks brought attention to the use of advanced military technologies, including precision-guided munitions, drone warfare, and cyber operations. The conflict underscores the need for continuous innovation in defense technologies to maintain superiority and effectiveness in modern warfare.

October 2023 – Israel intercepts a ballistic missile launched by the Houthi rebels. This event represents the first recorded instance of space combat.

April 2024 – Iran conducts retaliatory strikes against Israel. This event highlights the use of advanced missile and drone technologies in modern conflicts.

December 2024 – The Israeli Ministry of Defense in 2024 significantly increased its investments in startups, with ~\$170M over the past year, 5X more than the year before.

Jan 2025 – Slovakia's Ministry of Defense signed a \$580M contract, to acquire Israel Aerospace Industries' Barak MX Integrated Air Defense System. The ministry said it "is very important that the selling country is experienced in using the capability they offer us, There is no doubt about Israel's rich experience in the field of air defense."

# Cybersecurity: Global Trends

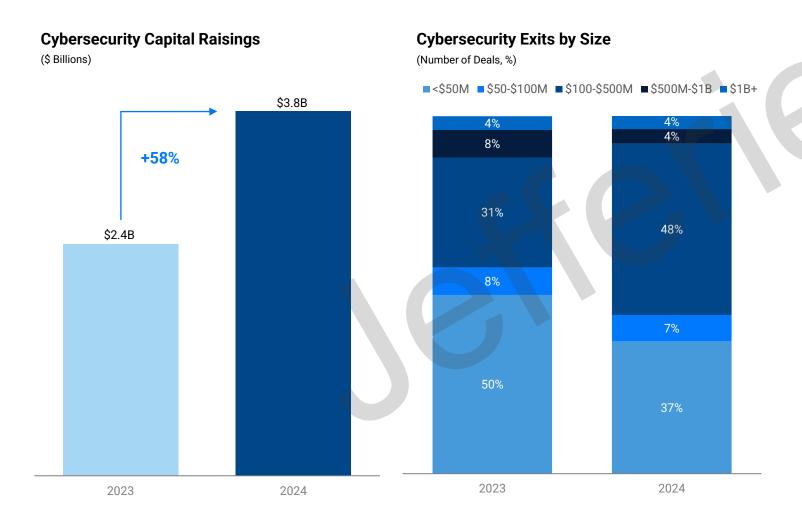
	Artificial Intelligence	Al-based cybersecurity products spend was ~\$15 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach nearly \$135 billion by 2030, a nearly 10x increase
→	Enterprise Vendor Consolidation	In 2020, only 29% of organizations pursued a vendor consolidation strategy, but 75% are on the path of active consolidation as of 2025
	Cyber As An Enterprise Priority	Enterprise security spending is expected to continue to grow at twice the pace of broader IT in 2024 / 2025
,	Increasing Regulations	Each year the number mandated compliance audits only increases as evidenced by the recent DoD approved CMMC regulations and ISO 42001 which is setting the monumental compliance standards for AI systems and security
<u> </u>	White Flag M&A Opportunities	Several recent "unicorns" in need of strategic homes as it is becoming increasingly challenging for <\$150-200M ARR platforms to build sustainable profit margins
89	IPO Backlog	Highly likely for 10+ IPO candidates preparing for a public listing, with an average ARR of >\$200M and growth >20%

#### CLASSIC AI SERVICES FORECAST BY SEGMENT, GLOBALLY (CONSTANT U.S. DOLLARS)

	2023	2026E	2023-2026E CAGR
Identity	\$19.0B	\$27.2B	12.7%
Endpoint	\$19.3B	\$27.4B	12.4%
SOAR / Automation	\$7.2B	\$10.0B	11.6%
Data & Encryption	\$4.4B	\$6.1B	11.5%
Vulnerability Management	\$7.6B	\$10.1B	9.9%
Network & Cloud	\$26.6B	\$35.2B	9.8%
Integrated Risk Management	\$7.1B	\$8.6B	6.6%
Email & Messaging	\$4.5B	\$5.4B	6.3%

# Israeli Cybersecurity

With the global cybersecurity threats not slowing down, Israel will continue to be a major player in cybersecurity in 2025 and beyond



### **Key Highlights in 2024**

Cybersecurity was the most significant vertical by capital raising in 2024, reaching 39% of the total funding. Notably Wiz raised \$1 billion, and Cyera raised \$600 million across two separate \$300 million capital raises in both April and November 2024.

Cybersecurity as with previous years continued to dominate the Israeli M&A landscape, with ~\$5 billion in total transaction value. Notable deals include CyberArk's \$1.5 billion acquisition of Venafi, Permira's \$1.3 billion acquisition of BioCatch, Wiz's acquisitions of Dazz (\$450 million) and Gem (\$350 million), Akamai's \$450 million acquisition of Noname, and Zscaler's \$350 million acquisition of Avalor.

In 2024, the number of Israeli cyber deals remained nearly constant compared to 2023, while the capital invested increased by 58%, rising from \$2.4 billion to \$3.8 billion.

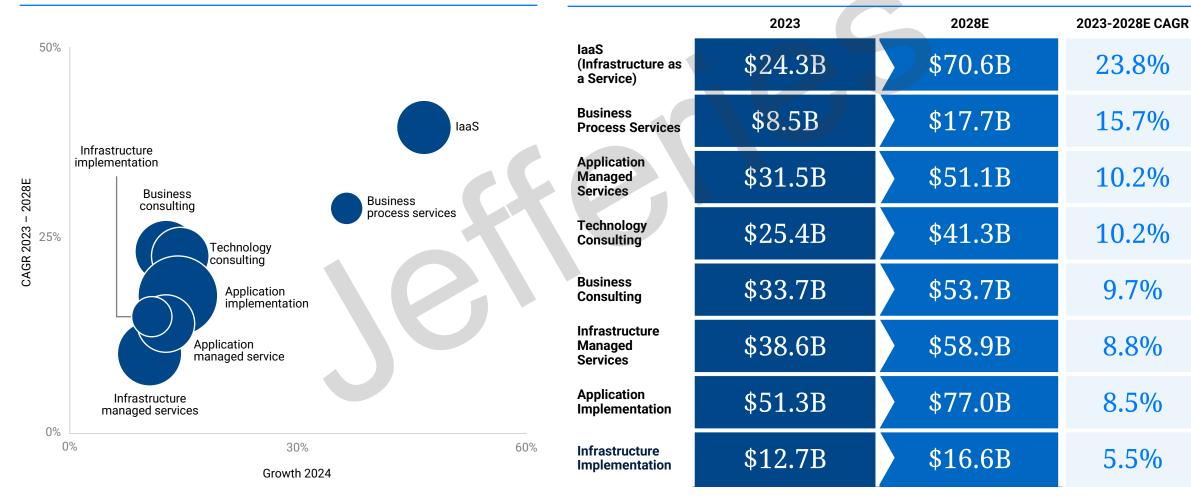
The average deal size increased by ~60% from \$21 million to \$33 million.

### AI: Global Trends

By 2028, the AI services market will hit \$609 billion, growing at a five-year CAGR of 21.4%. This growth will be fueled by both generative AI capabilities and traditional AI technologies in predictive analytics and decision making

#### **CLASSIC AI SERVICES SPENDING BY SEGMENT, GLOBALLY**

#### CLASSIC AI SERVICES FORECAST BY SEGMENT, GLOBALLY (CONSTANT U.S. DOLLARS)



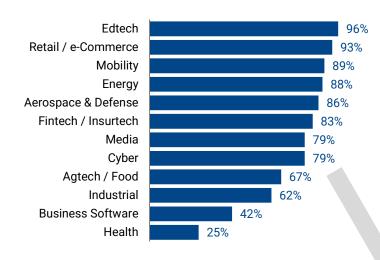
### Israeli AI

Israel ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> globally for Generative AI development and is continuing to invest to grow its position in the industry

#### **Al Companies Across Key Sectors**

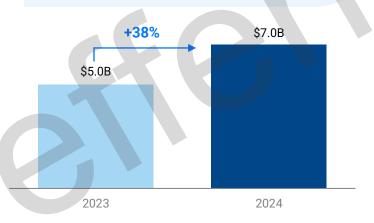
(%, Active companies developing Al products for a specific industry use)

There are over 2,000 Israeli Al-related companies offering various Al products across a vast array of sectors.



#### AI - Total Private Capital Raised

Israel's AI ecosystem excels in Applied AI with expertise across industries. Supported by government initiatives, multinational R&D centers, local VCs, and strong incubator programs, Israel's AI startups are poised for continued growth in 2025.



#### **CONTEXTUAL DEFINITIONS**

- Al encompasses a range of technologies including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics. Its
  applications span numerous domains, from virtual assistants and recommendation systems to self-driving cars and advanced
  medical diagnostics.
- Applied AI focuses on solving specific problems with enhanced efficiency and accuracy, while Generative AI is known for creativity, producing original content across various applications.

### Israeli AI Ecosystem

In January 2025, Nvidia announced a \$500+ million investment in a new Israeli AI research data lab.

StartUp Nation Central – "Since 2014, Israeli Al startups have demonstrated remarkable growth, experiencing over 170% increase in active companies compared to a 12% rise in non-Al startups. This surge has created a quantitative advantage, resulting in over 2,000 Al-driven companies and more than 400 leading multinational research centers operating within Israel."

Israel Innovation Authority – "With the highest number of AI startups per-capita and third in the world for leading companies in the field of Gen AI, Israel is the home of world-leading AI startups, researchers and developers in the industry and in academia, creating the applications and technologies for the next wave of AI."

# Appendix



# Jefferies Israel Group

Dedicated Israel coverage team offers a differentiated approach to Israeli investment banking with local connectivity, coupled with senior institutional support and global sector expert partners

Jefferies Israel Group enjoys senior support and commitment from the top of the house



Rich Handler Chairman & CEO



**Brian Friedman**President



Raphael Bejarano Global Head of Investment Banking and Capital Markets

### **Dedicated Team Based in Tel Aviv, New York and London**



Natti Ginor Head of Israel Coverage Group



**Elad Narkiss** Israel Investment Banking



Omer Geller
Israel Investment
Banking



Yosef Angster
Israel Investment
Banking



Shoshana Oster Israel Investment Banking



Nadav Raziel Israel Investment Banking



Shani Amram Israel Investment Banking



Ido Petel Israel Investment Banking



Noy Shidlovsky-Schorr
Israel Investment
Banking Business
Manager



Yoash Zabary Head of Israel Fixed Income



Lior Shimonovich
Head of Israel
Equity Sales



Nimrod Tevet
Israel Equity Sales

- #1 Investment Bank in Israel in 2024, leading the market in total fees, market share, and number of transactions<sup>(1)</sup>. Successfully advised on 22 Israeli transactions in 2024, mostly cross border, representing a total value of \$12B across Capital Markets and M&A
- Team members strategically located in both Tel Aviv and New York, embodying the global identity that Israeli companies hold by nature
- Remote member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and an approved foreign underwriter by the Israel Securities Authority, enabling the globalization of TASE-listed companies and optimizing valuation through increased liquidity
- Jefferies Equity Research covers more Israeli public companies than any other global investment bank: 45+ Israeli and Israeli-related public stocks, 10 of which are listed only on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange
- Jefferies Tech Trek the largest annual institutional investor tech conference in Israel, which in 2023 featured 100 leading Israeli companies and hundreds of investors representing \$19T in AUM

Global Listings (NASDAQ, NYSE, LSE)	Sales & Trading	Global M&A (Sell-side / Buy- side)
TASE Listings (Equity / Debt)	Jefferies Israel Group	Equity Research on Israeli Listed Security
Advise Companies on Growth Strategies	Private Placements	Events, Conferences, Non-Deal Roadshows

(1) Dealogic Data for Israel-based Fee Payer.

# Our Expertise And Commitment Has Established Jefferies As The Advisor Of Choice In Israel

















Eternis Fine Chemicals

Sole Financial Adviso

Joint Bookrunner



Cloudify

Undisclosed

Dell Technologies

January 2023



DISCOUNT

**BANK** 

\$800,000,000

January 2023





ITHACA

\$304,000,000

Initial Public Offering

April 2024



\$94,200,000

Common Stock Offering

Sole Global Coordinato







**BEST INVESTMENT** 

BANK ECM











\$500,000,000







Outbrain

\$200,000,000

Joint Placement Agent

\$160,000,000















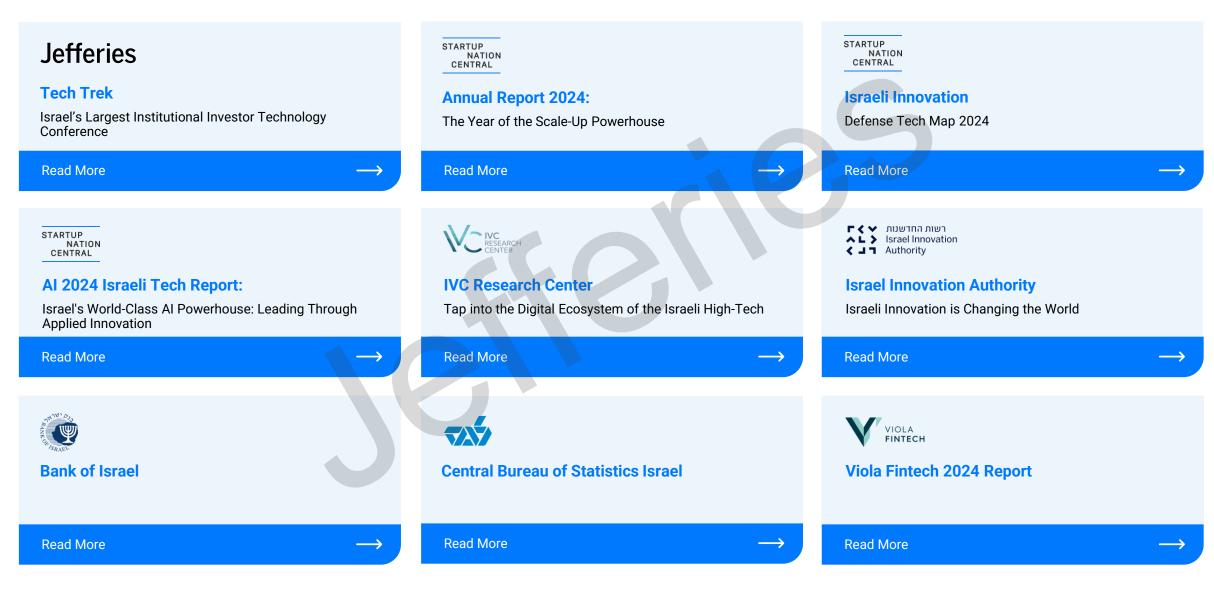
~\$950M, providing the companies with an

has advised on 58 transactions with a total

Since January 2021, Jefferies Israel Group



# Helpful Links and Reference Materials



## Disclaimer

#### Important Disclosures

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