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Next-Gen Middle East

Israel's Role in Shaping a Tech Future

DECEMBER 2025



Acknowledgment

STARTUP NATION **CENTRAL**

Startup Nation Central

Startup Nation Central is a nonprofit organization dedicated to harnessing Israel's innovation to solve complex global challenges. Operating independently and funded philanthropically, we connect local problem solvers with global investors and solution seekers—building bridges beyond borders and ideologies. Deeply embedded in the Israeli tech ecosystem, we foster meaningful partnerships across all levels, nurturing business growth and strengthening Israel's economy and society.

Finder, our data engagement platform, provides tailored insights, business intelligence, and networking opportunities to investors, corporations, governments, and startups. Through Finder, we facilitate collaboration between local innovators and international entities, supporting joint investments, pilot projects, and commercial agreements that accelerate innovation and drive impact.

Jefferies LEASER



Jonathan Katz, Israel Macroeconomist

A leading authority on Israel's macroeconomics and financial markets, Jonathan has been involved with macro economic forecasting of the Israeli economy since 1989, specializing in inflation forecasting, the Shekel and the bond market

Jonathan authors a regular macroeconomic newsletter for institutional clients. To subscribe to Jonathan's newsletter please email lsrael.ib@Jefferies.com He served for seven years as Chief Economist of the Budget Department at Israel's Ministry of Finance, then establishing his own private macroeconomic forecasting firm. Jonathan's years at the Budget Department provided him with a thorough understanding of fiscal policy. He specializes in the analysis of overall government accounts and in the cost-benefit analysis of government departments. Previously, he was an economic consultant to the HSBC EMEA research team.



Additional Data Sources



IVC Data and Insights

This report was developed with extensive data and analysis provided by IVC, Israel's leading data source and information for the Israeli tech ecosystem.

Founded in 1997, IVC is recognized as Israel's leading source of data and business information on the tech industry. IVC company delivers insights that help organizations understand the market, build connections, and identify opportunities through access to up-to-date analyses, reports, news, trends, and sector developments. IVC serves venture capital and private equity funds, leading corporations, emerging startups, and government agencies and offices, supporting the diverse information needs of Israel's tech ecosystem.



Bank of Israel

Established in 1954, the Bank of Israel operates independently. Its main objectives are to maintain price stability, support government aims such as economic growth, employment, and promote financial stability.



Central Bureau of Statistics Israel

Established in 1949, The Central Bureau of Statistics is the official body that is responsible for collecting, processing, and publishing statistical data about the population, economy, and society in Israel.

Authorship

Yosef Angster,

Vice President Israel Investment Banking

This report is the product of the Jefferies Israel Investment Banking Group, with lead authorship by Yosef Angster. Yosef's leadership and analysis highlights not only Israel's unique macroeconomic resilience but also its enduring contribution to global tech innovation.

The research draws on a combination of market data, sector insights, and industry trends with a focus on relevance for global tech investors and gives voice to the remarkable achievements and transformative potential that lie within Israel. We are proud to share the insights of our team with the global investment community as part of our TechTrek 2025.

For more information, please visit our website at TechTrek.com | Jefferies.com

Executive Summary

Next-Gen Middle East

While the last few years have been challenging for Israel, the regional risk profile has significantly improved with the start of dismantling Hezbollah in Lebanon, a new government in Syria, the attack on Iran's nuclear threat, the recent ceasefire in Gaza and a warming relationship with Saudi Arabia. All of which have resulted in Israel's position with its neighbors potentially becoming safer than before.

This new Middle East is being shaped not only by shifting alliances and improved regional collaboration, but increasingly by technology and innovation. In this transformation, Israel stands out as a regional tech powerhouse leveraging its world-class startup ecosystem, cutting edge defense technologies, and growing influence in fields such as cybersecurity.

All of this is evident both before and after the escalation with Iran and defense. The M&A market remains robust, observed by acquisitions like Wiz, CyberArk, Next Insurance and Melio. Furthermore, the current level of engagement and investor sentiment among private sponsors—including venture capital, growth equity, and private equity—as well as public equity investors toward Israel is more positive today than at any point in the past three years.

The overall investor outlook reflects confidence in Israel's long-term growth potential in both traditional business and particularly in tech with standout areas in Cybersecurity, Fintech, AI and Defense.

High-tech Ecosystem – Israel's **Economic Engine**

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

In H1'25, \$9.5B was raised by Israeli tech companies; the strongest capital raising first half since 2022. Total Israeli fundraising jumped 54% compared to the same period last year. The number of rounds exceeding \$50M rose from 20 to 32. Among them was the \$2B Series B round by Safe Superintelligence (SSI), one of the largest in Israel's history.

M&A announcement activity reached a record \$39.2B in the first half of 2025 driven by Google's \$32.0B announced acquisition of Wiz. Other notable deal announcements included Next Insurance (\$2.6B) and Melio (\$2.5B). Excluding the Wiz deal, M&A value stayed consistent at \$7.2B with strategic buyers representing most of the deal value, driven primarily by US multinationals focused on acquiring Israeli tech to address gaps in cloud security, automation, and vertical SaaS solutions with no sign of slowing down in the following quarter as seen most recently with the announcements of Palo Alto Networks' \$25.0B acquisition of CyberArk, Advent's \$2.5B acquisition of Sapiens, and Thoma Bravo's \$2.0B acquisition of Verint.

In addition to increased M&A activity, the capital markets are starting to open up. For example, in May, eToro completed a \$713M IPO with Jefferies acting as Lead Bookrunner. The offering attracted significant interest from high-quality global investors with the order book being multiple times oversubscribed and resulted in very strong after market performance. Notably this was the first Fintech IPO since December 2021 and first Tech IPO since President Trump's Liberation Day.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025 – strategic buyers are likely to stay active with AI arms races intensifying and

cloud/security consolidation continuing, strategic buyers will likely keep driving high-value activity. We also see multiple financial sponsors both global and local actively evaluating Israeli companies for buyout or growth investment. While M&A has led the exit market in H1, a growing number of Israeli companies are reviving IPO plans for the near future.

H1'25 marked a clear turning point for Israeli high-tech M&A not only due to headline-grabbing deal announcements like the Wiz-Google transaction but also because of a broader return to confidence in the market. With domestic players becoming more acquisitive and cross-border interest remaining strong, Israel continues to solidify its role as a global hub for innovation-driven dealmaking. If current momentum holds, 2025 may well close as one of the most active M&A years in Israel's tech history.

Macroeconomic Backdrop

Israel's country risk premium has improved significantly since the ceasefire with Lebanon and general geopolitical improvements. Although the 5-year Sovereign CDS is still high relative to pre-conflict period, it has decreased by ~95 bps from its peak, currently standing at ~70bps.

Israel's economic fundamentals remain strong with a steady trade account surplus of \$13.6 billion and Foreign Direct Investments of \$17.4 billion supported by a stable Shekel. (1)

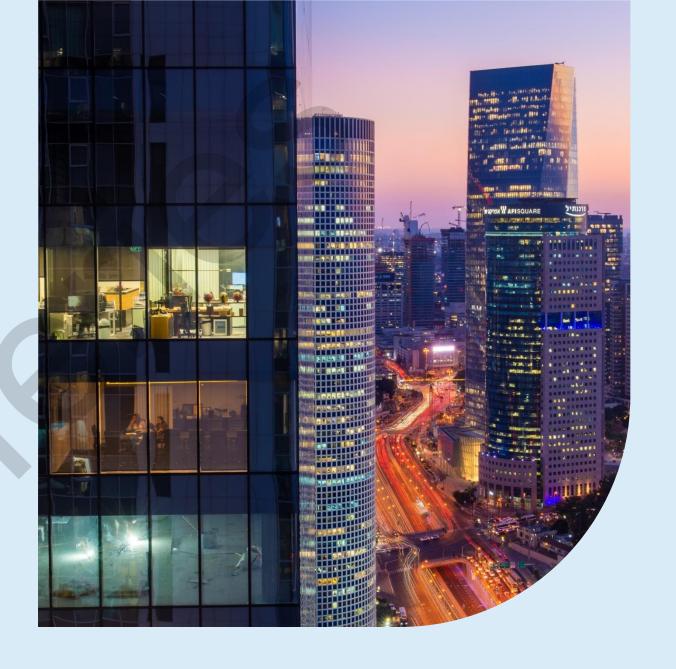
The Bank of Israel expects the average interest rate in the third quarter of 2026 to be 3.75%. The interest rate forecast assumes that the direct economic impact of the conflict will persist through 2025. Following this, GDP is expected to gradually align with its pre-conflict trend, growing by 2.5% in 2025 and 4.7% in 2026.

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High-tech: Israel's Economic Engine



The Israeli Economy at a Glance

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Young & Growing Population

10.1M⁽¹⁾



GDP Per Capita

\$55.7K⁽²⁾



Private Consumption as a % of GDP

48.8%



Unemployment Rate

2.7%



Current Account Surplus

\$13.6B⁽⁵⁾



Net Savings Rate

22.1%⁽³⁾



Total Tech Investment

\$17.3B⁽⁶⁾



Foreign Direct Investment

\$17.4B⁽⁵⁾

KEY ECONOMIC FORECAST⁽⁷⁾



2025E Inflation Rate

3.0%



2025E GDP Growth

2.5%



2025E Fiscal Deficit

5.1%



2025E Public Debt to GDP

71.0%

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 is expected to be Increased in 2025 by 0.2% 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 the end of the year.

The local population has a healthy appetite as private consumption is expected to grow by 3.0% in 2025 and 7.0% in 2026, according to the Bank of Israel.

Israel's Secret Sauce: Human Capital and Innovation Flywheel

"In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds" — Shimon Peres

1948 – 1960s

1970s - 1980s

1990s - 2000s

2010s - 2020s

Foundations and Defense Innovation

1948 – Founding of the State: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is established as a government-owned R&D defense organization became a key incubator for future tech

1952 – Unit 8200 Established: This elite military intelligence unit began cultivating future tech entrepreneurs

1958 – The Dimona Nuclear Research Centre started construction in the Negev

1963 – Established the National Committee for Space Research which led to the creation of a strong academic community that fostered a new generation of scientists and engineers

1966 – Elbit Systems was established within Elron Electronic

1968 – Scitex was founded, pioneering digital printing and image processing, and at one stage was considered a flagship of Israeli industry

Emergence and First Multinationals

1972 – IBM Israel Scientific Center opened its doors in the Computer Science Building of the Technion

1973 – IAI starts development its first UAV, the IAI Scout and in 1979 the Scout was launched and used by the Israeli army for reconnaissance and surveillance

1974 – Intel opens in Haifa, eventually designing world-class microprocessors in Israel

1982 – Amdocs founded and grew into a global billing and CRM solutions provider. That same year TEVA Pharmaceuticals becomes the first Israeli company listed on the NYSE

1984 – First Israeli startup listed on the NASDAQ, Scitex, is founded

1989 – Check Point, which develops network security software, is founded

Startup Nation Awakens and Cybersecurity

1990 – 1 million Soviet engineers and scientists emigrated to Israel

1991 – Microsoft established its first R&D center outside the U.S., in Israel

1993 – Yozma Program, government matched private capital in VCs, launching Israel's first local VCs

1996 – ICQ, one of the world's first instant messaging services is established and later acquired by AOL for \$407M in 1998

1996 through 1999 – NASDAQ Listings Begin: Many Israeli firms list on U.S. markets (e.g., Check Point, NICE Systems, Mercury Interactive)

2004 – Waze, the mobile navigation app, is founded

2005 – Mobileye, which develops advanced driver assistance systems, is founded

2008 – Wix, a cloud-based web development platform, is founded

Global Tech Leadership and Resilience

2011 – Iron Dome missile defense system is deployed

2013 – Google buys Waze for \$1.1B. That same year, Wix goes public on the NASDAQ, the largest-ever IPO for an Israeli company at the time

2017 – Intel acquired Mobileye for \$15.3B, the largest Israeli company sale until 2025

2019 – Nvidia acquired Mellanox for \$6.9B helping drive its GPU business and laying the foundation for the AI revolution

2020 – Abraham Accords are signed, opening Israeli tech to regional players

2021 – Israeli companies see more mega rounds than in the prior 5 years combined

2022 – ironSource and Unity Software form largest tech stock-for-stock merger in Israeli history

2025 – Google acquires Wiz for \$32B, the largest deal in Israel's history (pending approval)

Today: 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)



H1'25 – Israeli High-tech Statistics⁽¹⁾

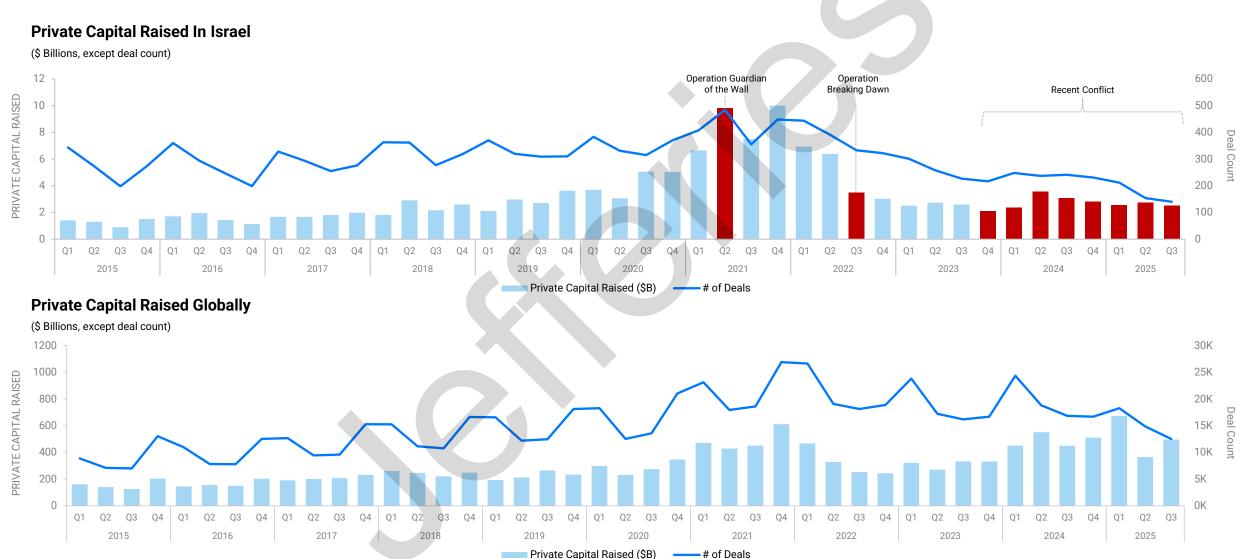
In H1'25, Israel's private tech sector raised \$9.5 billion in 367 rounds, up 58% yoy — the strongest first-half total since 2021 and a reversal of the decline that began in late 2022.

Early-stage funding grew 50% yoy in H1'25, with pre-seed and seed rounds rising from \$406 million to \$607 million. Mid-rounds (B and C) also saw improvement: deals increased from 33 to 41 and investment jumped 60% to \$1.7 billion (excluding \$2 billion for Safe Superintelligence). Thirteen mega rounds marked the strongest half-year for large deals since 2021, indicating renewed interest in late-stage investments.

Global multinational companies and investors are driving Israel's M&A landscape, accounting for 58% of all acquisitions, with the vast majority from the U.S. Israeli companies were responsible for 42% of all deals signaling a more mature ecosystem, where later-stage Israeli companies have the capital and strategy to acquire other Israeli companies.

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

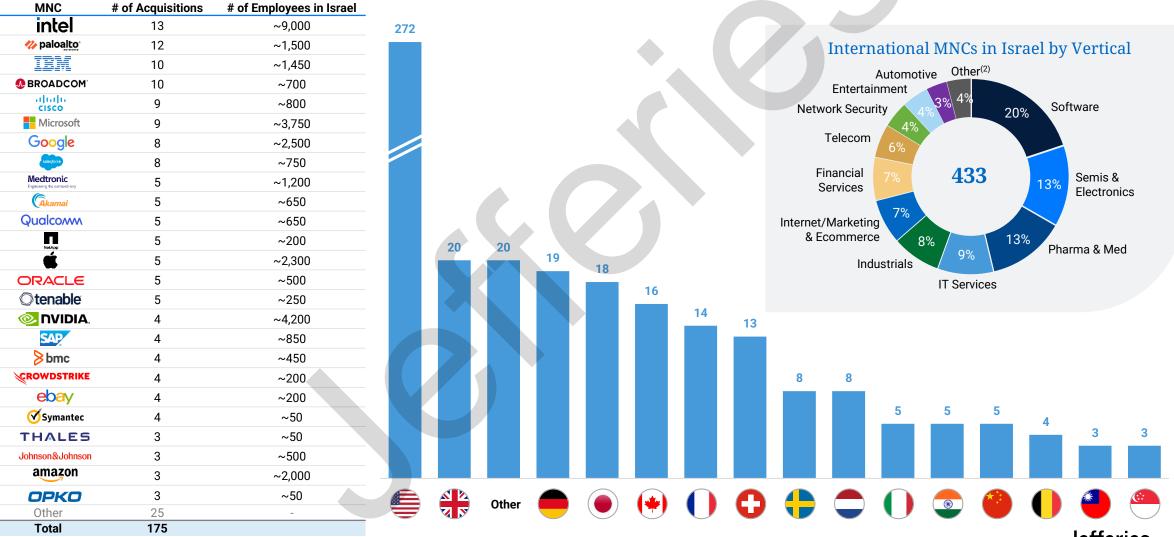


Multinational Corporations: Innovative Footprint in Israel

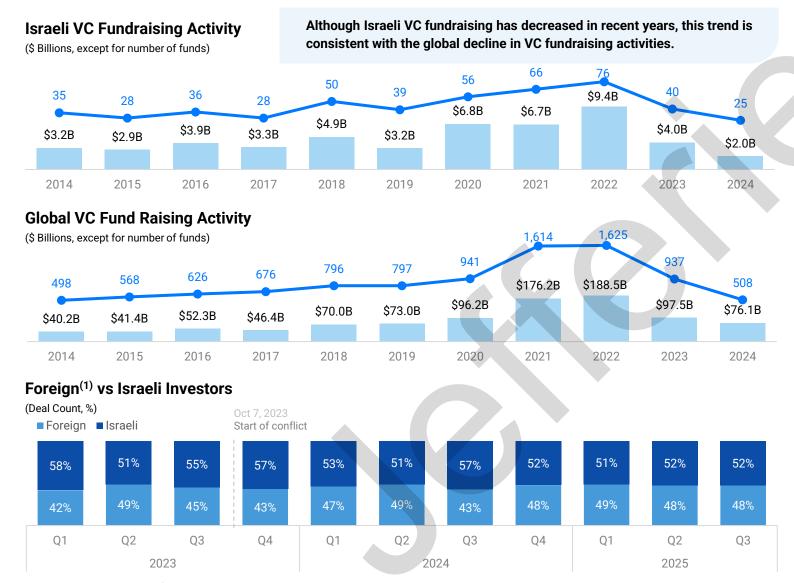
Multinational R&D centers play a crucial role in driving innovation, fostering collaboration between global companies and leveraging Israel's technological expertise

MNC Acquisitions of \$500M+(1)

Number of International MNCs in Israel by Country of Origin



VC Fundraising and Investment Participation



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 over 50% of total deal count in 2024.

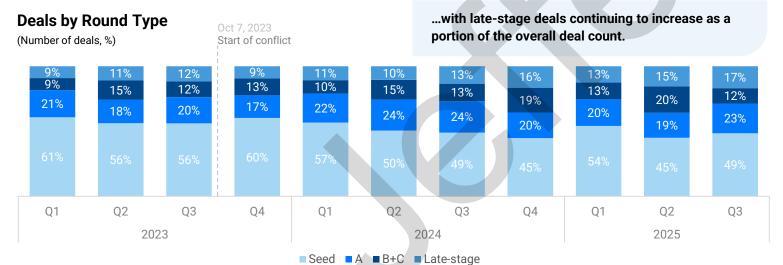
Corporate VCs made up less than 5% of total first-time investments in 2024.

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

Source: Pitchbook, IVC Data as of October 29, 2025.

High-tech Company Capital Raising





Source: IVC Data, Startup Nation Central as of October 29, 2025.

- (1) Denotes a \$2 billion capital raise by Safe Superintelligence (SSI). The company has offices both in Tel Aviv and Palo Alto.
- (2) Startup Nation Central Report June 2025.
- (3) Aerospace, Defense and Government as defined by Startup Nation Central which includes space-tech and HLS.

Key Highlights

\$9.3 billion raised in H1'25; the strongest capital raising first half since 2022. Total Israeli fundraising jumped 54% compared to the same period last year, reaching \$9.3 billion in the first six months of 2025.⁽²⁾

Larger rounds are becoming more common. In H1'25 the number of rounds exceeding \$50 million rose from 20 to 32. Among them was the \$2 billion Series B round by Safe Superintelligence (SSI), one of the largest in Israel's history⁽²⁾

Capital Raising by Key Sectors in 2024

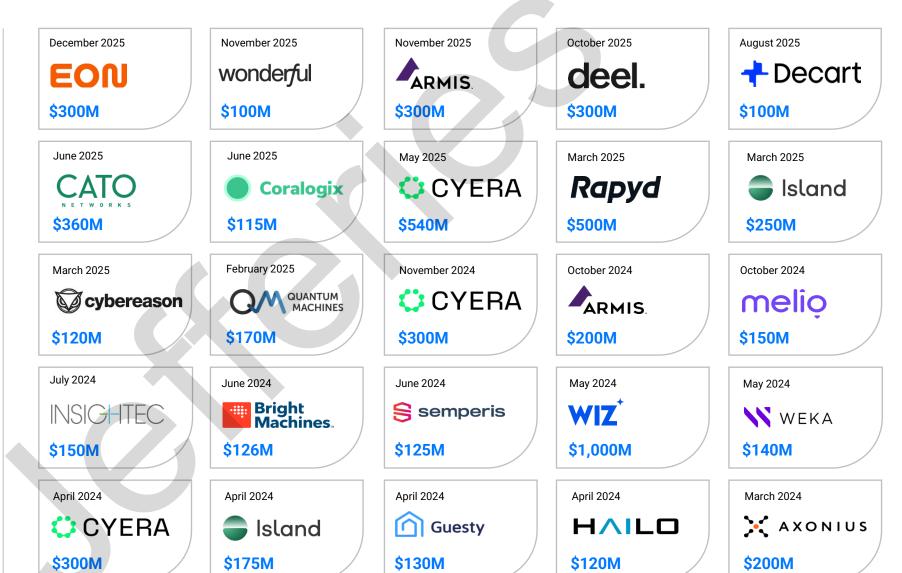
39%	27%
Cyber	Enterprise Software
13%	10%
Health / Med	Fintech / Insurtech
6%	2%
Industrial	Agtech / Food
1%	1%
Energy	ADG ⁽³⁾

Select Notable Capital Raises from 2024 to Date

KEY HIGHLIGHTS⁽¹⁾

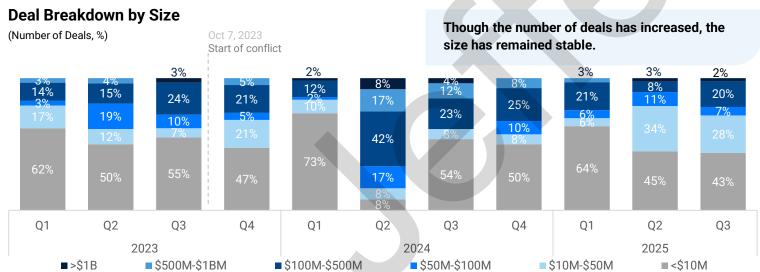
In H1'25, Israel's private tech sector raised \$9.5 billion across 367 rounds based on reported and estimated deals, marking a 58% increase in capital raised compared to H2'24. This represents the strongest first-half performance since the 2021 peak and signals a clear departure from the market contraction that began in late 2022.

This isn't just a rebound, it's a structural reset. The Israeli tech ecosystem is consolidating, with funding flowing into startups that are built for scale and sustainability. Investors are focused on long-term value creation, backing fewer companies, but with greater strategic intent. The result is a more discerning, more resilient, and ultimately reflects a more mature funding environment.



High-tech Company Exits



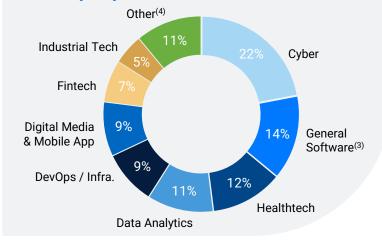


Key Highlights

M&A announcements in H1 2025 totaled \$39.2B, led by Google's \$32 billion acquisition of Wiz. Other major deals included Next Insurance (\$2.6B) and Melio (\$2.5B). Without Wiz, M&A value was \$7.2B, mostly from US multinationals acquiring Israeli tech for cloud security, automation, and vertical SaaS⁽²⁾. The M&A momentum continued into Q3'25 with Palo Alto Networks announcing a \$25.0B acquisition of CyberArk and Advent's \$2.5B acquisition of Sapiens.

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.

Exits by Key Sectors in 2024









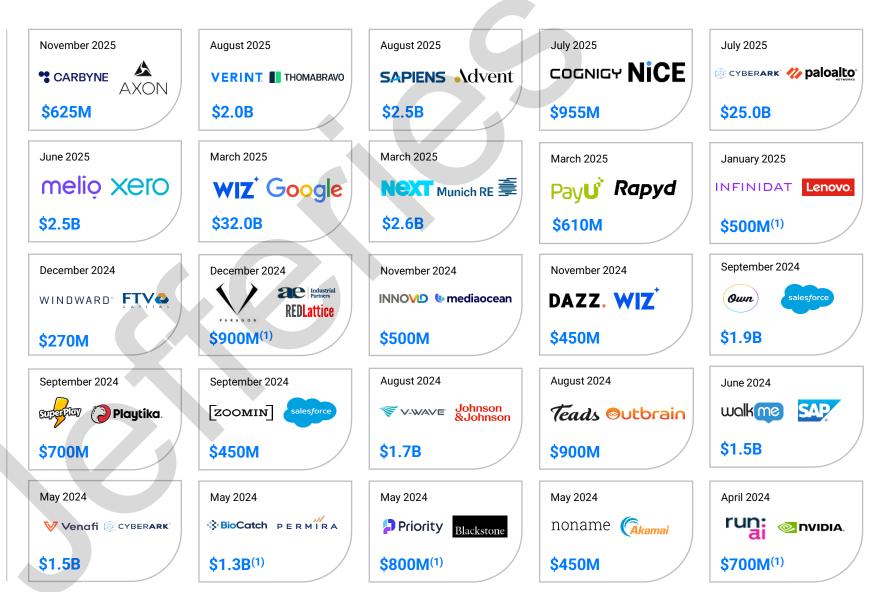
Select Notable Acquisition Announcements from 2024 to Date

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the conflict, Israeli tech companies continue to be highly attractive targets for global acquirers, including strategics and sponsors since almost all Israeli high-tech companies have the vast majority of their revenues from outside of Israel, they are less impacted by domestic volatility.

M&A announcement activity reached a record \$39.2B in the first half of 2025 driven by Google's \$32.0B announced acquisition of Wiz. Other notable deal announcements included Next Insurance (\$2.6B) and Melio (\$2.5B). Excluding the Wiz deal, M&A value stayed consistent at \$7.2B with strategic buyers representing most of the deal value, driven primarily by US multinationals focused on acquiring Israeli tech to address gaps in cloud security, automation, and vertical SaaS solutions.

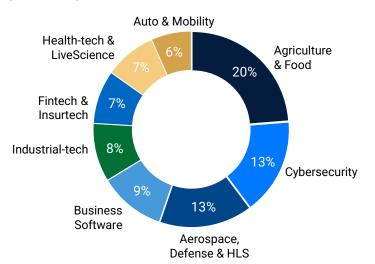
In the third quarter of 2025, M&A activity was vibrant, as seen most recently with the announcements of Palo Alto Networks' \$25.0B acquisition of CyberArk, Advent's \$2.5B acquisition of Sapiens, NICE's \$955M acquisition of Cognigy, and Thoma Bravo's \$2.0B acquisition of Verint.



Economic Bridges in the Middle East: Tech, Trade and Transformation

Gulf Country Investments in Israeli Tech by Sector

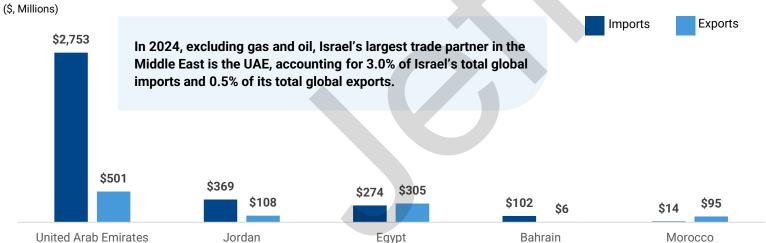
(%, Deal Count)



Three sectors account for 46% of total deal count, with Agriculture/Food-tech leading the way. Cybersecurity and Aerospace, Defense & HLS are tied for second place and have emerged as consistently prominent areas of recent interest.

The vast majority of Israeli tech capital raising from Arab countries comes from the UAE and Bahrain, with expectations that additional nations may participate in the near-future.

2024 Total Imports and Exports with Arab Countries



Israel Has the 2nd Largest Natural Gas Reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean



In August 2025, Israel's Leviathan entered into a \$35 billion natural gas supply agreement with Egypt, marking the largest such deal in Israel's history. The agreement will significantly increase the annual volume of natural gas sent from the Leviathan offshore field to Egypt by three-fold and is expected to increase the state of Israel's revenue from the royalties.

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⁽⁴⁾, 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.

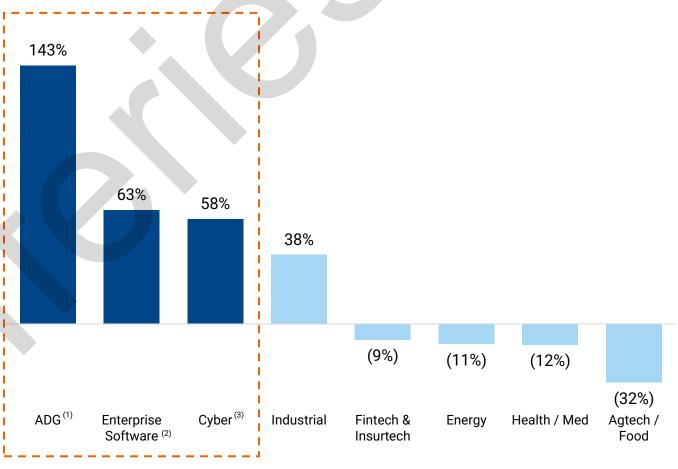
Enterprise Software (being driven by AI)

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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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

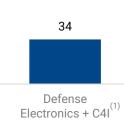
Driven by necessity and supported by a strong military background, Israel's defense-tech sector is evolving into a robust ecosystem

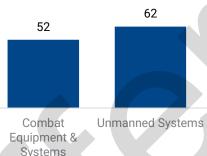
Total Number of Companies by Sector

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





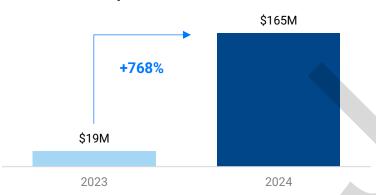






108

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 start-ups, 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.
e o	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 (USD)

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

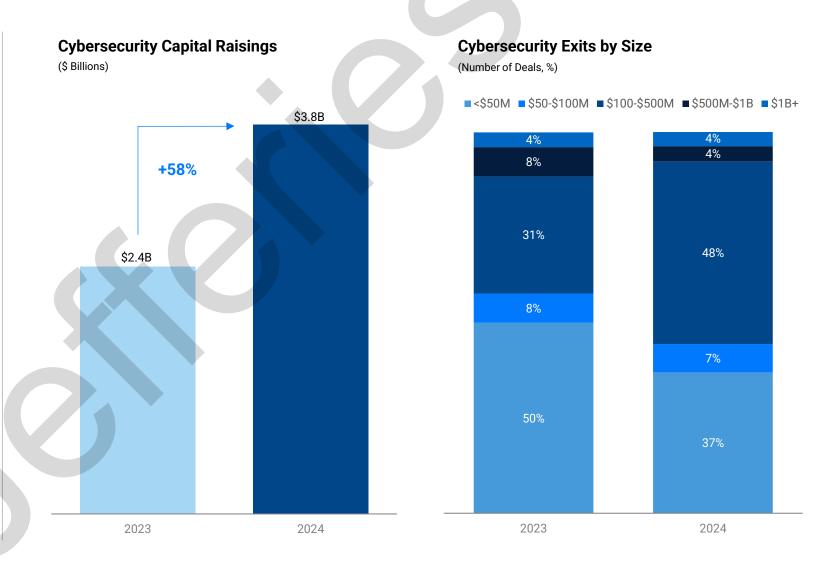
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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.

In 2025, Cybersecurity remains extremely attractive with no sign of slowing down as evident in Google's \$32 billion announced acquisition of Wiz, and Palo Alto Networks' \$25.0 billion acquisition announcement of CyberArk.

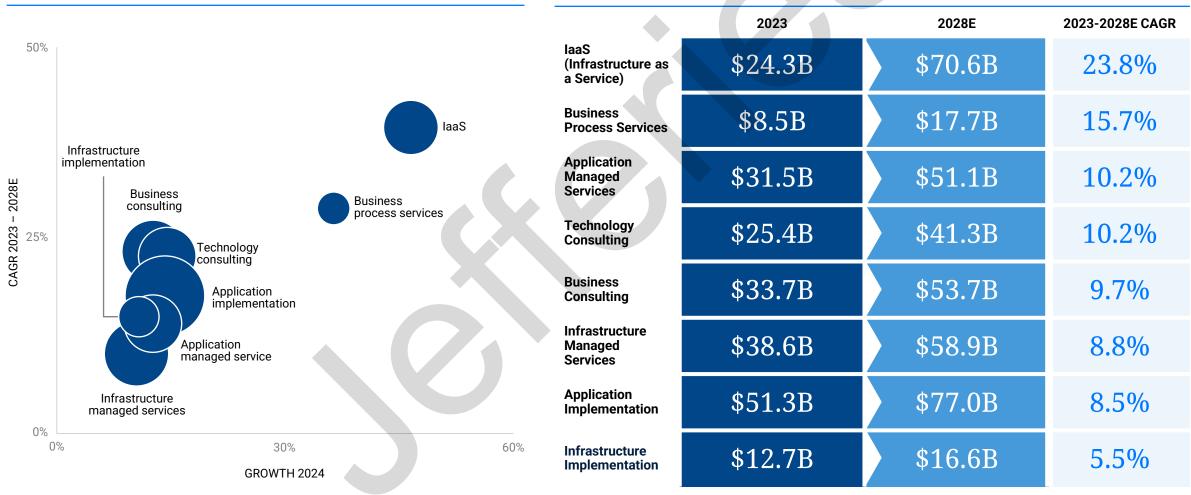


AI: Global Trends

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 (USD)



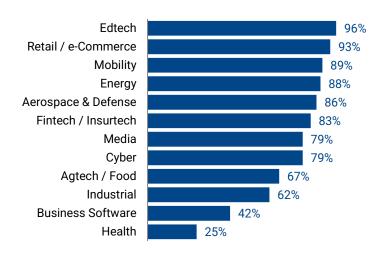
Israeli AI

Israel ranks third globally for Generative AI development and is continuing to invest to grow its position in the industry

AI Companies Across Key Sectors

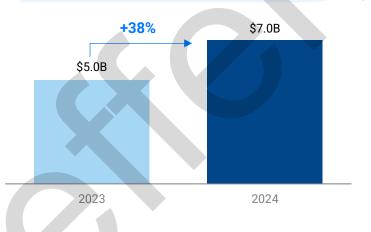
(%, Active companies developing Al products for a specific industry use)

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.

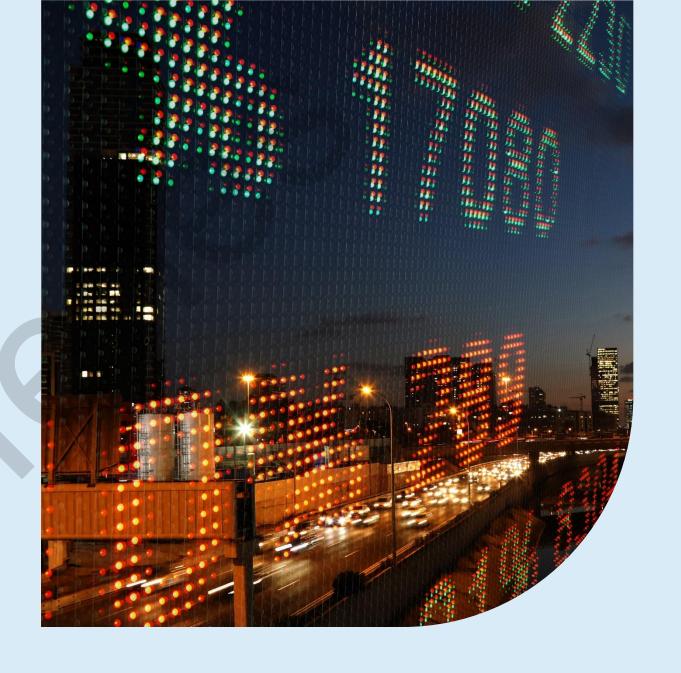
Israeli AI Ecosystem

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

Startup Nation Central – "Since 2014, Israeli AI startups have demonstrated remarkable growth, experiencing over 170% increase in active companies compared to a 12% rise in non-AI startups. This surge has created a quantitative advantage, resulting in over 2,000 AI-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."

Macroeconomic Backdrop

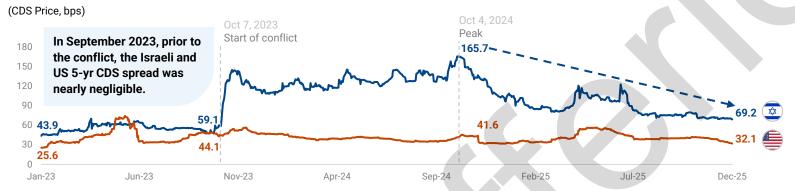


Sovereign Credit and Government Bond Yields

ISRAEL'S CREDIT RATING



Israel 5yr Credit Default Swaps



Israel vs. US 10yr Bonds



Source: CapIO as of December 2, 2025.

- (1) November 10, 2025 S&P upgraded Israel's credit rating outlook from negative to stable, maintaining the rating at A. The revision reflects reduced geopolitical risk following the Gaza agreement, which lowers the likelihood of a major regional security event.
- (2) 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."
- (3) 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.

Key Highlights

Blended⁽³⁾

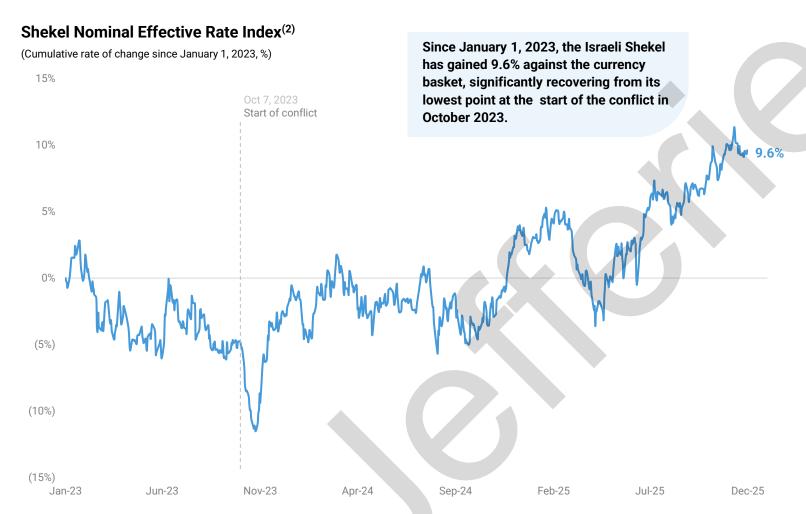
Although Israel's risk premium remains higher compared to the pre-conflict period, it has decreased significantly since the ceasefire with Lebanon and general geopolitical improvements, as indicated by the 5-year Sovereign CDS which has decreased by ~97 bps from its peak.

The 10-year yield on Shekel-denominated Israeli government bonds has fallen beneath the U.S. Treasury bonds. This gap reflects expectations that the Shekel will continue to 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 3Q'26 to be 3.75%.

The interest rate forecast assumes that a ceasefire agreement in Gaza will hold, and the GDP is expected to gradually align with its preconflict trend. It is anticipated that existing supply-side constraints will gradually ease, while domestic demand is projected to recover at a slightly faster pace.

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



Source: Bank of Israel Data and Processing as of December 2, 2025.

- (1) Source: Bank of Israel's Research Department Staff Forecast Report (September 2025).
- 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⁽¹⁾

The forecast assumes that the ceasefire in Gaza will hold, with the residual supply-side constraints in the labor market due to reserve mobilization and worker shortages, while taking into account the potential effects of US tariffs and global macroeconomic conditions on Israel's exports and economic stability.

The growth forecast for 2026 reflects continued economic recovery from the conflict.

	2025E	2026E
GDP Growth	2.5%	4.7%
Private Consumption Growth	3.0%	7.0%
Total Investments Growth ⁽³⁾	7.5%	14.0%
Total Exports Growth ⁽⁴⁾	3.5%	3.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.4%
Gov. Deficit / GDP	5.1%	4.3%
Public Debt / GDP	71.0%	71.0%
Inflation Rate	3.0%	2.2%

The Israeli Consumer Appetite Continues to Grow

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Bank of Israel expects private consumption to continue to grow by 3.0% and 7.0% in 2025 and 2026, respectively.

Private consumption to expand during the conflict with real domestic credit card purchases rising 10% cumulatively over the past 2-years.

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.

As of August 2025, the housing market prices continued to rise by ~2% year over year. Activity in the construction industry remains lower than the preconflict period, mainly affected by manpower limitations that remain significant.

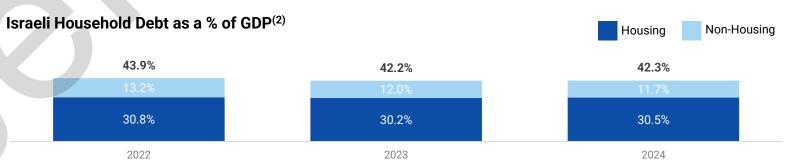
In 2024 the total Israeli household debt was relatively low compared to most developed economies at only \sim 42% of GDP compared to \sim 62% in the US.

Private Consumption Expenditure – Significant Growth Engine in the Economy⁽¹⁾



Credit Card Transaction Volume Has Recovered from the Conflict with Iran and October 7th(1)







⁽¹⁾ 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.

Leading Global Investors are Focusing on TASE-Listed Securities

Select Global Investors Who Have Purchased TASE-Listed Securities



TIAA



Sami yn

TIMES SQUARE









GHISALLO



₩GIC

JENNISON ASSOCIATES



K



MYDA





ARK

BostonPartners











Source: CapIQ as of December 31, 2024.

















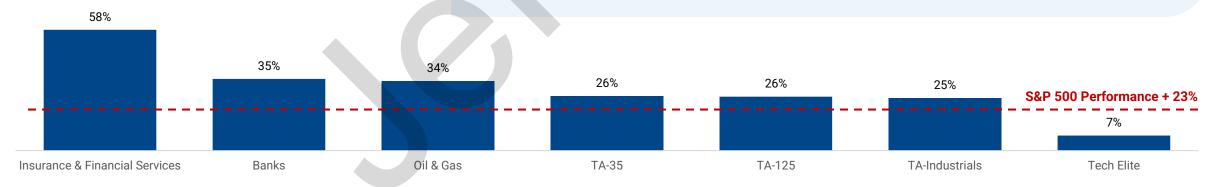




TASE Sector & Indices Performance EoY 2024



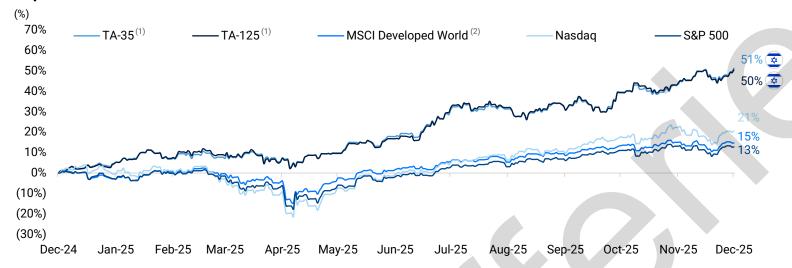
Despite the recent conflict and challenging macroeconomic backdrop, Israeli securities performed well. Notably, since the start of the conflict, Jefferies has led 8 global equity follow-on offerings for TASE listed companies totaling over \$2 billion, diversifying their global shareholder base and improving the liquidity in the Israeli capital markets.



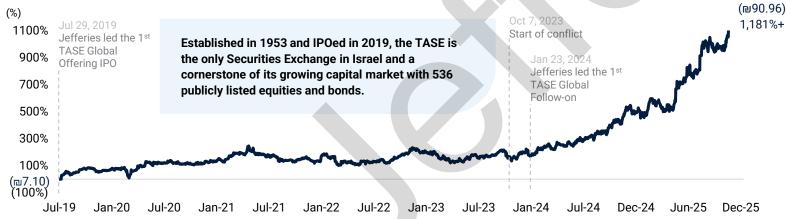
Jefferies

Finance & Capital Markets Performance

Capital Markets - Indices Performance December 2025 LTM



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



Source: CapIQ, Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as of December 2, 2025.

- (1) The largest 35 and 125 companies listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange by market cap.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Based on Q3'25 Investor Presentation and using a NIS/USD FX rate of 0.30.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) Trading Statistics 3Q'25⁽³⁾

TOTAL MARKET CAP (YoY Growth)

Equities	Government Bonds	
\$540B (+51%)	\$248B (+18%)	
Corporate Bonds	Mutual Funds	
\$191B (+23%)	\$157B (+28%)	

AVERAGE DAILY TURNOVER (YoY Growth)

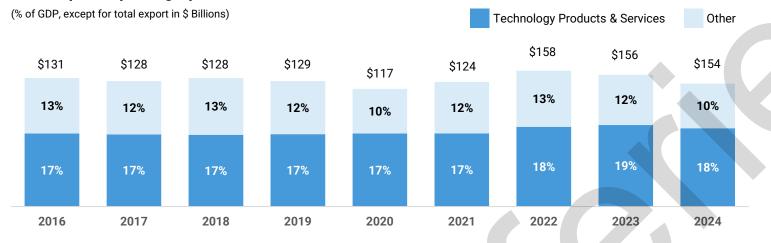
Equities	Government Bonds
\$1,149M (+88%)	\$926M (+6%)
Corporate Bonds	Mutual Funds
\$365M (+26%)	\$788M (+40%)

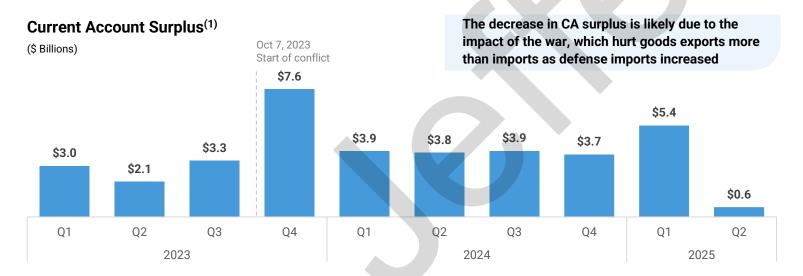
Since its IPO, the TASE has been at the forefront of innovation and adaptation to global investors needs:

- Changing the trading days to Monday Friday, starting January 2026.
- The use of AI 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.

Israeli Exports and Trade Balance

Total Exports by Category as a % of GDP





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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

In 2024, the countries with the most substantial increases in imports 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 3.5% in 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.

Appendix



Jefferies Israel Group

Dedicated Team with a differentiated approach to Israel coverage with local connectivity, coupled with senior institutional support and global sector expert partners

Senior Support and Commitment from the Top of the House



Rich Handler Chairman & CEO



Brian FriedmanPresident



Raphael Bejarano Global Head of Investment Banking and Capital Markets

Investment Banking



Managing Director, Head of Israel Coverage Group



Elad Narkiss Managing Director



Omer Geller Senior Vice President



Yosef Angster
Vice President



Shoshana Oster Vice President



Nadav Raziel Associate



Shani Amram Associate



Ido Petel Analyst



Rami Fischberger
Analyst



Gil Shimoni Analyst



Noy Shidlovsky-Schorr Business Manager

Additional Capabilities



Yoash Zabary

Managing Director,
Head of Israel Fixed
Income



Lior Shimonovich
Senior Vice President,
Head of Israel Equity
Sales



Nimrod Tevet
Associate,
Israel Equity Sales



Bob Constant

Managing Director,

Wealth Management

#1 Investment Bank in Israel in 2024, leading the market in total fees and number of transactions⁽¹⁾. 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 Tel Aviv, New York, and London, 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 TechTrek — 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 M&A Global Listings (NASDAQ, NYSE, Sales & Trading (Sell-side / Buy-LSE) side) **Equity Research Jefferies TASE Listings** on Israeli Listed **Israel Group** (Equity / Debt) Security Advise Events. Companies Private Conferences. on Growth Non-Deal Placements

Strategies

efferies

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

Roadshows

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













February 2025



November 2024

SHARON

A portfolio company of

Undisclosed

Sale to

Eternis Fine Chemicals



July - November 2024

Phoenix

\$850,000,000

Placing of shares on behalf of

Centerbridge & Gallatin Point

Common Stock Offering

Sole Global Coordinate



Leading the market in total fees, market share. and number of transactions



Since January 2023. Jefferies Israel Group has advised on 45 transactions with a total value over \$29B across Capital Markets and M&A

Despite the recent conflict and challenging geopolitical environment in Israel, since October 7th. Jefferies has led 9 global followon offerings for TASE-listed companies totaling over \$3.0B, providing companies with an enhanced global investor shareholder base while improving overall liquidity in the market



November 2024



June 2024

Left / Sole Bookrunne

quare

\$1,050,000,000

Sale of 10% Common Equity Interest to



ITHACA

ENERGY A subsidiary of Delek Group

£754,000,000

Business Combination with



January 2024



Perion

\$125,000,000

Hivestack Inc. Sole Financial Adviso

December 2023



Outbrain

\$900,000,000 Acquisition of











\$150,000,000

IDBBANK[®]







\$94.200.000

Common Stock Offering









March 2021



















Jefferies' Demonstrated Commitment to Israel



Annual TechTrek Conference

The Largest Annual Institutional Investor Tech Conference in Israel



Annual Israeli Financials Day in London

Global investor meetings with the leading banks and insurance companies





Senior Commitment

"There is an influx of innovation here that makes Israel an important place for investors"

Rich Handler, CEO of Jefferies

In an interview with Calcalist - March 26, 2024

170+

Visits since 2022

Major Destination

MDs and senior Jefferies bankers visiting Israel on a regular basis



Leading Israeli Equity Research Franchise

Jefferies Equity Research covers 45+ Israeli public companies, more than any other global investment bank



Supporting the Government and Regulator

Closely working with government bodies and agencies, such as the Ministry of Finance and Israel Securities Authority, to help develop the Israeli Economy



Globalizing the Local Capital Markets

Jefferies is a remote member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and an approved foreign underwriter by the Israel Securities Authority



Support of Israel Following October 7th

\$13M donated to provide humanitarian aid In Israel on October 10, 2023

Jefferies is committed to Israel, has built a preeminent franchise, and goes above and beyond for the Israeli Ecosystem

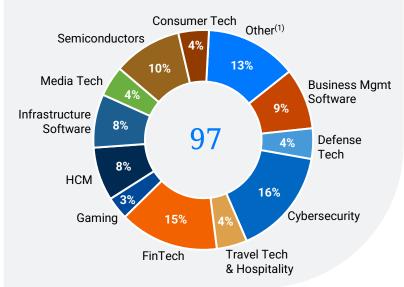
Jefferies' TechTrek – Israel's Largest Global Investor Tech Conference



TechTrek is Israel's **premier institutional investor technology conference**, serving as
a dynamic gateway for global institutional
investors, private capital firms, and leading
Israeli VCs to connect meaningfully with the
country's vibrant tech ecosystem.



Company Participants By Sector



Jefferies Israel Economic Research in Collaboration with Leader Capital Markets

Jefferies and Leader Capital Markets' Weekly Israel Macroeconomic Report:

- Offers key insights regarding Israel's macroeconomic trends, public and private capital markets, fiscal policy, and fixed income securities
- A source of thoughtful expertise around geopolitical nuances and local market complexities as it relates to the Israeli ecosystem



Jonathan Katz, Israel Macroeconomist

A leading authority on Israel's macroeconomics and financial markets. Jonathan has been involved with macro economic forecasting of the Israeli economy since 1989, specializing in inflation forecasting, the Shekel and the bond market.

Jonathan authors a regular macroeconomic newsletter for institutional clients. He served for seven years as Chief Economist of the Budget Department at Israel's Ministry of Finance, then establishing his own private macroeconomic forecasting firm. Jonathan's years at the Budget Department provided him with a thorough understanding of fiscal policy. He specializes in the analysis of overall government accounts and in the cost-benefit analysis of government departments. Previously, he was an economic consultant to the HSBC EMEA research team.

Israel Economic Overview and Outlook

Jefferies LANER



JANUARY 21 2025

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Strong Fundamentals Help Weather the Storm

- Jonathan Katz, Israel Macroeconomist

The Main Points

Geopolitics: Israel has been embroiled in prolonged warfare on multiple fronts since the October 7th 2023 tragedy. There are optimistic signs that hostilities are winding down and Israel's geopolitical reality has greatly improved. A ceasefire with Hezbollah is being maintained, Syria's collapse has weakened Iranian influence in the region, and cessation of hostilities in Gaza appear imminent with the recent ceasefire agreement

Strong economic fundamentals will support recovery

- Israel is a developed economy with a GDP/capita of \$53.7k.
- Israel has a strong growth potential supported by positive demographics and a vibrant high-tech sector.
- Israel entered the war with a low fiscal deficit and manageable
- The fiscal deficit will be reduced in 2025 by fiscal adjustments of nearly
- Growth in 2025 will be fueled by investment spending and exports.
- 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 towards mid-year.
- We expect three rate cuts this year from the Bank of Israel.
- Looking ahead, the major risks revolve around internal politics and
- On the upside, we could see an opening up of relations with Saudia

POL		

Current	4.50%
Q225	4.25%
Q425	3.75%

INFLATION

12 y-o-y	3.29
Jan-Mar	1.09
NTM	2.59
2026	2.39

ILS	3.602	3.707
Last week	-1.7%	-1.8%
YTD	-1.2%	-2.3%
NTM	3.57	3.67

GOV. BONDS	JAN 25
Redemptions	1.3
Issuance (tradable)	15.0
Net redemption	-13.7

Produced by: Leader Capital Markets

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