

## **Immigration to Israel Reaches 13-Year Low**

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**Immigration** to **Israel** in 2002 was the **lowest** in **13 years**, the Central Bureau of Statistics said today.

**Immigration** officials explaining the drop said the potential pool of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union is dwindling, although security concerns also appear to be keeping some people from settling in **Israel**.

Scores of immigrants have been among the hundreds of Israelis killed in the last 28 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The statistics bureau said 33,000 people **immigrated** to **Israel** in 2002, or about 10,000 fewer than in 2001.

In the past decade, the vast majority of newcomers to **Israel** were Jews from the former Soviet republics. That was also true in 2002, but the influx decreased from the previous year. At the same time, migration from Argentina tripled, fueled by the severe economic troubles.

The number of French Jews arriving in **Israel** doubled from the year before, and migration from the United States increased by 23 percent.

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