

Greetings from the Mayor

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, on behalf of myself and the residents of Jerusalem I am pleased to congratulate the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research on the publication of the 32nd Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook.

In recent years, Jerusalem has enjoyed unprecedented development and growth in all spheres of life. The city's investment in the development of culture, tourism, community, education, business and hi-tech industries are all bearing fruit and are reflected in the figures presented in this Yearbook.

Among the positive trends highlighted in this Yearbook is a **dramatic rise in construction in the city**. The construction of close to 4,000 new homes in Jerusalem was completed this past year, representing a 40 year record! Jerusalem is also experiencing **an increase in the number of new businesses** and a consistent decline in the number of unemployed people.

We are also investing quite a lot in order to position Jerusalem as **Israel's leading tourist city**. The year 2017 brought a new all-time record in the number of overnight stays in Jerusalem hotels – approximately 4.5 million domestic and foreign tourists stayed at Jerusalem hotels this past year!

Jerusalem's education system continues to be the largest, most diverse and most complex in Israel, serving more than 277,000 children and youth from all sectors of the population. Jerusalem's education system responds to the needs of all the school children, each according to his or her needs, and continues to lead as the most principled education system of any city in the country, according to Education Ministry indicators.

This coming year, we will continue to work to ensure Jerusalem's growth and prosperity, which will manifest themselves in the Jerusalem Institute's coming Yearbooks.

I would like to thank all those involved in creating and professionally producing the 2018 Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook for their meticulous work that is reflected, once again, in this year's high-quality result. Together, we will continue to build Jerusalem as a united and unifying city.

Happy Jerusalem Day,

Nir Barkat

Mayor of Jerusalem