

## CONTEXT FOR THE NATIONAL DATA: ISRAEL

*By Daniel C. Levy*

Impressive has been the steady growth of Israeli PHE since its inception, as part of the global PHE spread to country after country in the 1990s. By 2016, 15 private colleges would hold the same all-time high 15.4% of total enrollment, absolute private growth having increased each year from 1995 to 2013. After a brief, small dip, private enrollment hit a new high, just over 47,000, in 2016. None of this enrollment is in universities, as part of the agreement for creation of a private sector alongside public colleges but barred from the university level. Only one PhD program, in one field, is permitted in the private sector. The high university standard maintains itself by restricting the university realm to few institutions (still only eight plus an open university), all but one in the global top 500. A few private colleges refer non-legally to themselves as universities and indeed a few of the semi-elite colleges could be quite respectable academic universities in other countries. Historical wariness about “private” in higher education may account in part for the tendency to refer to the private sector as “non-budgeted.” Meanwhile, not the entire public sector is university level; public colleges provide both competition to and differentiation from private colleges.

Like the UIS’s Israeli data, PROPHE’s does not include the Palestinian institutions (both public and private), as they are under the Palestinian authority. But as the Note on Israel in PROPHE’s dataset shows, the UIS dataset has consistently shown a PHE share of roughly 85% rather than 15%. One reason is that the UIS includes roughly 60,000 non-academic post-secondary enrollments in its private and total enrollment. But the principal reason lies in the counting of Israel’s universities as private government-dependent. Although incorporated as nonprofit, they are public in the same sense PROPHE reports for Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, and the US. Only in Israel and the UK does the UIS count such enrollment as private. This roster of countries is relevant as Israeli enrollment shares several key characteristics seen in the UK and the offspring “Developed British Commonwealth” (Australia, Canada, and New Zealand). These characteristics include the large scope for public university autonomy and academic freedom along with the flexible management and increasing privatization in funding that sometimes

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makes the public universities appear private for their relatively high degree of privateness. Like the other countries, Israel's formal private sector arrives comparatively late, whatever the private precursors, in Israel involving foreign providers, and allowing for the shorter national history of the public sector in Israel compared to the other countries. The only sparse presence of private universities (banned in Israel and New Zealand and until recently absent in the UK) is another similarity, as is the overarching reality of low privates, Israel hovering around the top of the 8-15% cross-country range. In terms of academic quality, Israeli PHE similarly limits but does not disallow the demand-absorbers, while concentrating in product-oriented private providers alongside the semi-elite upper tier. Western, international orientation is strong for PHE in both the Israeli and its kindred systems. Since the academic and prestige peak lies overwhelmingly on public university side in all these countries, it is unsurprising that while the SES background of private college students is above the national average, the same can be said about the SES background of public university students.

Other characteristics of Israeli private enrollment that approximate those of the UK and the Developed British Commonwealth simultaneously approximate those of PHE globally. These include the overwhelming private nature of finance, tuition dependent, though with more student loan provisions in developed than developing countries. On the other hand, Israel is rather exceptional outside the US for the degree of philanthropy (reaching both the private and public sectors). In fields of study, Israeli colleges have been exceptional for their concentration in law, social sciences, and philosophy, easily outdistancing the public sector. Yet for the most part Israeli PHE follows the global pattern of being commercially oriented.