

ivat Shmuel, bordering Ramat Gan, Petach Tikva, Kiryat Ono and Bnei Brak, was established in 1944, and recognized as a city in 2007. The city has a population of 25,000 and is in the highest socio-economic bracket (cluster 8 according to the Central Bureau of Statistics).

Givat Shmuel has enjoyed economic and social growth, renewal and prosperity in recent years. According to D&B rankings, Givat Shmuel has become in recent years one of Israel's most prosperous cities. The city is in a constant momentum of development, which is responsible for it attracting a young and quality population. The city enjoys solid economic strength, has the highest rate of military and national service enlistment, is second in percentage of residents performing military reserve duty, second in the percentage of academic residents, fifth in percentage of matriculation passes, and more. In recent years, Givat Shmuel's reputation has been moving the city ahead in every field.

## **Dynamic City**

In recent years, the city and its residents have won national achievements in education, military enlistment and national service, in the percentage of academically educated residents and more. The proximity of Bar IIan University allows constant cooperation with the university in a range of areas.

Givat Shmuel is enjoying a development boom after approval of the plan to complete the Ramat Hadar neighborhood in the east of the city. The plan covers 75 acres and includes 17.5 acres of open public areas, 1,800 homes, and extensive public buildings including a high school. This is the first major building program since the late 90s, which will increase the number of homes in the city by 25% over the next decade, leading to significant development and renewal for Givat Shmuel.

#### Employment & Commerce

Givat Shmuel is by major highways - Road 4, direct access to Road 6 Yitzhak Rabin Highway, and Jabotinski Road, and close to the two major medical centers in Greater Tel Aviv – Tel Hashomer Hospital and Beilinson Hospital and close to Bar Ilan University. This accessible and attractive central location, and the future route of the Tel Aviv light rail passing through the city, combined with the city's cheap municipal taxes provides fertile ground for businesses and high-tech industries. The city has two zones approved for immediate commercial construction and to provide employment, covering over 200,000 square meters.

#### Economy

In the past two years, Givat Shmuel Municipality has won the Interior Ministry prize for proper management, which will give it status as a strong authority. Givat Shmuel Municipality has no deficits and a growing regular budget surplus. It is an independent authority and 80% of its budget is from independent revenue sources (without support from government ministries). A substantial percentage of the budget is allocated to formal and informal education and salary components of the budget are below 15%.

## Education

In a city with a young population and 38% of residents aged 0-18, education is top of the agenda. The city has five elementary schools and two high schools.

Givat Shmuel's students are ranked fifth in Israel in matriculation pass rate and second in the academic residents index. This year Givat Shmuel won the Education Ministry's 5774 district education prize (central district).

About 40% of the city's budget is spent on formal and informal education. In recent years the city has promoted a host of educational programs and projects including computerizing the education system through computers and accessories in schools and kindergartens (smart classes, the Google project in kindergartens, computerized classrooms and more).

# **Environment & Healthy Life Style**

In recent years, Givat Shmuel has made major investments in promoting values of protecting the environment as sustainable as well as developing the city's appearance, and it is no coincidence it is one of Israel's leading cities for recycling. City parks have been built and improved including enclosed gardens for dogs. Givat Shmuel has been awarded, for the fourth consecutive year, five-stars in the beauty competition of the Council for a Beautiful Israel.

In recent years, the city has built sports facilities, including the municipal Sportech and new sports halls. The city has joined the "Healthy Israeli Cities" network allowing residents to enjoy a rich and wide range of free sports activities in schools and public areas. The multi-phase project for a network of cycle tracks around the city has been implemented in recent years, and the city holds the annual Givat Shmuel race for 1,000 professional athletes from around Israel. In the past year, the municipality has introduced free wireless Internet throughout the city as a new service for residents and visitors to the city.

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