



**Reichman
University**

Aaron Institute
for Economic Policy
In the name of Aaron Dovrat z"l

The Tenth Annual Conference of Aaron Institute for
Economic Policy at Tiomkin School of Economics, Titled:

A NATION IN TURBULENCE: THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ISRAELI ECONOMY

2024

July 9-10, 2024

Chais Auditorium (CL05), Arazi-Ofer Building, Reichman University

The main issues to be discussed in this year's conference are:

- Is the Israeli economy equipped to handle the external and internal threats, and does it require a new economic vision?
- How prudent is it to jeopardize economic growth for the sake of increasing the defense budget?
- What are the macroeconomic implications of the education, enlistment and employment of the Haredi society, and what is the appropriate economic policy?
- Cost of living - what should be done?
- High-tech during wartime - how can the economy's engine be protected?
- What can be done to boost the economic participation of Israel's Arab population?
- Is the political system capable of coping with the economic challenges?

Moderated by **Prof. Omer Moav**, Annual Conference Chair; Tiomkin School of Economics, Reichman University; University of Warwick

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 | 18:00

Gathering & Dinner Banquet

Prof. Boaz Ganor, President of Reichman University:

Greetings and opening remarks

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew Ambassador of the United States of America

in conversation with **Prof. Martin Eichenbaum**, Northwestern University

Prof. Amir Yaron, Bank of Israel Governor:

"A Macroeconomic Overview"

Mr. Shlomo Dovrat, Founder and General Partner, Viola Group; chairman of the Board of Aaron Institute for Economic Policy:

"An Economic Vision and Addressing the External and Internal Threats Facing the Israeli Economy"

Prof. Zvi Eckstein, Head of Aaron Institute for Economic Policy, Tiomkin School of Economics, Reichman University:

"Ten Years of Aaron Institute: Our Impact on Israel's Economic Policy"

Closing remarks for the evening: **Ms. Yael Andorn**, Representative of Lexington Partners in Israel; former Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Finance

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 | 8:45

8:45 Gathering and refreshments

9:30 1st Session:

Strategy and Policy Recommendations for the Israeli Economy

Prof. Zvi Eckstein, Head of Aaron Institute for Economic Policy, Tiomkin School of Economics, Reichman University:

"An Economic Strategy for Addressing the National Security Challenges and their Ramifications"

Mr. Yogev Gradus, Commissioner of Budgets at the Ministry of Finance:

"Challenges Facing Israel's Economic and Budgetary Policy in light of the Security Situation"

Comments:

Ms. Shira Greenberg, former Chief Economist at the Ministry of Finance

Dr. Samer Haj-Yehia, senior consultant at Herzog Law Firm

Panel Discussion Moderated by **Mr. Yarom Ariav**, CEO of an economic consulting firm; Chair of the Future Scientists Center:

"Defense Expenditure Policy"

Participants:

Mr. Eli Bing, Deputy Director Of Defense Budgets at the Finance Ministry's Budget Department

Dr. Sasson Hadad, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.), Visiting Senior Researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies

Session conclusion: **Prof. Omer Moav**, Annual Conference Chair

Benny Gantz, Lieutenant General (ret.), Chair of the National Unity Party; former Israeli Defense Minister

11:10 Coffee Break

11:40 2nd Session:

Challenges to the Integration of Haredi Society

Dr. Hila Axelrad, Head of The Center for Economic Policy of the Haredi Society at Aaron Institute:

"How Can the Employment Rate of Haredi Men Be Raised to 70%?"

MK Moshe Arbel, Israeli Minister of Interior, in interview with **Mr. Israel Fisher**, business correspondent and host of The Economic Front at IDF Radio

Panel Discussion Moderated by **Prof. Omer Moav**, Annual Conference Chair:

"Employment of Haredi Men: a Threat or an Opportunity for the Israeli Economy?"

Participants:

Rabbi Menachem Bombach, Founding Head of Netzach educational network

Mr. Kfir Battat, Deputy Director of the Budget Department at the Ministry of Finance

Mr. Yohanan Plesner, President of the Israel Democracy Institute

Session conclusion: **Mr. Israel Uzan**, Director-General of the Ministry of Labor, and **Prof. Zvi Eckstein**, Head of Aaron Institute

12:45 3rd Session:

Economic Policy Challenges in Israel

Mr. Sani Ziv, senior researcher at Aaron Institute:

"Housing and Transportation, and Their Effect on the Cost of Living: Recommended Policy"

Comment: **Mr. Matan Yagel**, Deputy Director of the Budget Department at the Ministry of Finance

Dr. Sergei Sumkin, senior researcher at Aaron Institute:

"The High-tech Sector During Wartime – How Can the Economy's Engine be Protected?"

Comment: **Mr. Dror Bin**, CEO of the Israel Innovation Authority

Dr. Marian Tehawkho, Head of the Center for Economic Policy of the Israeli Arab Society at Aaron Institute, in conversation with **Mr. Hassan Tawafra**, Director of the Authority for Economic Development of Israel's Arab Society:

"Is the GR 550 Plan Encouraging the Integration of Israel's Arab Society and Its Engagement in the Israeli Economy and Society?"

Comment: **Adv. Amir Basharat**, Director-General of the National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Authorities

Conference concluding remarks: **Prof. Zvi Eckstein**, Head of Aaron Institute

Thanks and closing remarks: **Prof. Omer Moav**, Annual Conference Chair

13:40 Lunch

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