



STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

SPOKESPERSON OFFICE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT

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**Press Release**

**Minister of Finance Commented on Unemployment Data for February:**

**"The figures prove that the government's 'Containment and Breakthrough' program, enacted over a year ago, has helped the Israeli economy to withstand the global economic crisis better than most of the developed world"**

Minister of Finance, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, commented on the latest publications on Israel's unemployment rate – 7.3%, and said that "the data is encouraging and illustrates that the government's 'Containment and Breakthrough' program, enacted over a year ago, strengthens the Israeli economy and helps it to withstand the global economic crisis better than most of the developed world, which is suffering higher unemployment rates."

Moreover, the Minister added that there is no room for rest and relaxation and that more steps for decreasing unemployment are needed: "Lately, the government confirmed the plan I was promoting for reducing the number of illegal foreign workers in Israel. Such a move is expected to open up more working spots, mainly ones that do not require much education, thus further decreasing the unemployment rate."

View the Central Bureau of Statistics' publication on February's unemployment [here](#).

View a presentation on the government's program regarding foreign workers [here](#).