# Leveraging Progressive Regulation Cultivating Fintechs in the World's 30<sup>th</sup> Largest Economy

FinTech Connect 2024 London

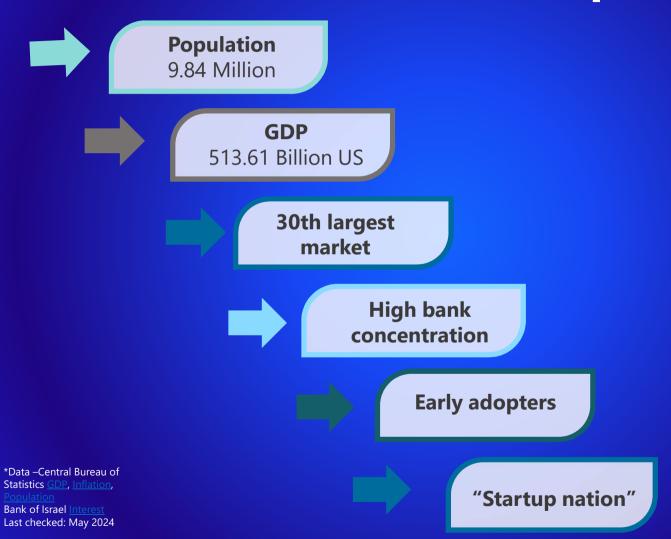
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**Bank of Israel** 



# Israel market snapshot





## **Robust Fintech Ecosystem in Israel**



Hundreds of Fintech companies



Dozens of VCs



Dozens of Fintech unicorns



Global Fintech R&D Centers



# Regulatory motivation to enhance the payments industry and cultivate Fintech companies

Grow GDP Lower total cost of payment

Increase competition in the financial sector



# Regulatory initiatives in financial services (other than payments)



Financial incentives for Fintech R&D & Innovation



Credit data registry / credit bureaus



#### **Open finance**

- Account information services (part of open banking)
- Credit data from NBFIs



Cloud banking



Incentives for
Insuretech
investments, lighter
licensing for digital
insurance companies



Israeli Banking as a Service (platform)



Account switching



Lighter bank licensing requirements



**FinTech Connect 2024** 

## Regulatory initiatives in payments



**Digital Shekel – CBDC** (exploration)



**Cross-border targets** 



**Proximity payments** 



**Faster payments** 



**Digital cheque - forthcoming** 



Payment initiation (part of open banking)



Open access to designated payment systems



### Open access to designated payment systems

RTGS

National ACH
Clearing House
operated by
Masav



Faster
Payments
System
operated by
Masav



National
Card Switch
operated by
Shva



National ATM Switch operated by Shva



Designated payment system access entitles Fintech to a

code identifier

Israeli equivalent of a UK "sort code" or US "ABA routing number"





### "Payment Company" License

The "Israeli PSD2"

Enables access to designated payment systems

Combines E-Money Institution (EMI) and Payment Institution (PI) Capabilities

- Transfer funds
- Optional: Manage a balance for customers, held in a safeguarded account

Allows payment of interest to customers

Allows issuance of credit ancillary to payment

Lighter requirements for payment companies already licensed in EU, UK, USA

Licensing and regulation by Israel Securities Authority (ISA)



## Vision

In the coming years, dozens of payment service providers and hundreds of new digital value propositions in the Israel payments market



Join us!