# Shaul Meridor

## Head of the Budget Department at the Ministry of Finance.

Following an 11-year career in the Finance Ministry of the Israeli government and two years in the private sector, Shaul Meridor returned to the public sector as the General Manager of the Infrastructure, Energy and Water ministry in the Government of Israel.  
On November 2017 he became the Head of the Budget Department, at the Ministry of Finance.  
  
Before that, he was the CEO of Intercolony Investment.  
In the cooling-off period, he worked as a strategic & economic consultant at Adalya. Prior to that, he held the position of Deputy Director of the Budget Department of the Finance Ministry. Mr. Meridor led the economic plan & reforms of the infrastructure sectors (energy, transportation, aviation, water & agriculture) and was in charge of a budget of 20 billion shekels.  
  
During his tenure, managed a team of 12 economists while initiating many reforms and leading them from idea to execution, among them:  
- Sheshinski committee  
- Gas export  
- Israel railways reform  
- The light-rails in Jerusalem & Tel aviv  
- Open skies

Shaul Meridor holds a BA in PPE (Philosophy, Political Science & Economy) from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

**Dr. Hedva Ber**

Dr. Hedva Ber is the Supervisor of Banks at the Bank of Israel and has held the position since August 2015.

Dr. Hedva Ber earned a BA in Economics and Political Science, magna cum laude, an MA in Economics, magna cum laude, and a PhD in Economics, all from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Her doctoral thesis was on “The money market and company supervision mechanisms”. She has lectured in various courses in Hebrew University’s Economics Department and Business Administration program.

Dr. Hedva Ber has more than 20 years of experience in banking, risk management, and regulation. She began her professional career at the Bank of Israel as an economist in the Banking Supervision Department, and later served as an economist and as head of the capital markets area in the Research Department.  In that role, she wrote research papers on corporate governance, conflicts of interest in the activities of various financial agents, competition in the banking system, and more.

Between 2005 and 2008, Dr. Ber represented the State of Israel on the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London.

In 2008, Dr. Ber joined Bank Leumi and served as deputy head of its Capital Markets Division.  In 2010, she was appointed Deputy CEO and member of Bank Leumi’s management, with the position of Chief Risk Officer, and established the Risk Management Department at the Bank.

**BG Ariella Knoll Lazrovitch**

Born in 1976 (age 44), BG Lazrovitch has been the Financial Adviser to the Chief of the General Staff since 2017. She is the first woman to serve in this position and the 4th to serve as a member of the IDF’s General Staff.

Among her prior positions, she served as Head of the Ground Forces Budget Department in the office of the Financial Adviser to the Chief of the General Staff, Head of the Planning and Control Branch in the Tech and Logistics Directorate as well as Head of Logistics and Medical Budgets in the Tech and Logistics Directorate.

Knoll Lazrovitch graduated the Haifa “Reali” School in 1994. She holds a B.A. in Economics from the Technion, Haifa as well as an M.A. in Political Science – Diplomacy and Defense, Tel Aviv University.

BG Ariella Knoll Lazrovitch lives in Haifa and is a mother of two.

**Meirav Arlosoroff**

Meirav Arlosoroff is an Israeli financial and economic journalist and publicist specializing in economics.

Born in Ghana in 1967 while her father Shaul (son of Haim Arlosoroff) was on a water engineering mission, Arlosoroff grew up in Tel Aviv where she later earned her

B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Management.

Meirav Arlosoroff began her career in journalism during her IDF service as a reporter for “Bamahane”. She later joined the “Hadashot” (NEWS) newspaper. In the 1990’s, Arlosoroff wrote for “Globes”. During that time, she published a story about financial assessments that led to an unprecedented market flooding of stocks worth over a billion Shekels which consequentially brought about the 1994 stock crisis.

In 1999, Arlosoroff left Globes and joined Haaretz, editing the financial supplement for 5 years. With the merger of TheMarker, she was appointed as the Print Editor of TheMarker. Today, she publishes a daily column on the Israeli economy which are also published on” Walla!” as well as edits TheMarker’s Opinion section.

In 2011, Meirav Arlosoroff received a prestigious award by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel.

Following the world economic crisis, her writings expressed reservations from the classic structure of the free market and in March 2013, she listed the advantages of cooperative economy over market economy.

Meirav Arlosoroff was married to Meron Greenberg with whom she had 4 children. She lives in Tel Aviv.

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**Nehemia Shtrasler**

Born in 1951 in Israel, Nehemia Shtrasler is an Israeli financial editor and commentator. He serves as a writer for Haaretz as well as a financial and economic commentator for Channel 2.

His father Naphtali was served in the British Army and was taken as POW in Greece by the Wehrmacht.

Shtrasler graduated high school in Tel Aviv and served in an Air Defense Control Unit in Sinai between 1970-1973.

He holds a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Business Management, both from Tel Aviv University.

He served as the financial editor of Haaretz between 1983-1998.

Shtrasler also served as a lecturer at Tel Aviv University and lectures today at the IDC School for Journalism.

He is married to Yafa Shtrasler, Head of the Senior Management Reserve at Bank Leumi and has three children.

Nehemia Shtrasler is known for his liberal approach. He supports a free market economy while bearing in mind the state’s central role in providing aid to those who are unable to support themselves.

In addition to his critique of government economic policies and actions throughout the years, namely on the report published by the committee investigating the treatment of the Gush Katif residents who were relocated after the Disengagement Plan in 2005.

Thanks to his persistent ten-year fight, as of 1998, all products must be marked with a visible price tag in every business and supermarket.

Shtrasler published the book “Don’t let them Fool You” on Israeli economy and politics.

Throughout his journalistic career he won numerous awards including the 1987 Outstanding Economic Journalist Award; The 1988 Sokolov Press Award; The 2011 Award for "High Quality Economic Media" and the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Tel Aviv Press Association in 2012.