The name Kiryat Yam derives from the town’s proximity to the sea. Immediately after the establishment of the State, the population numbered around 132 families, some of whom were new immigrants who had arrived from camps in Germany and Cyprus. Over the years, the town absorbed many waves of new immigrants, including those from Eastern countries who arrived as part of Operation ‘Magic Carpet’, as well as from Iraq and North Africa. The large waves of immigration compelled the State to provide rapid housing solutions, and so neighbourhoods comprising small, densely packed housing units were built.

The most significant turning point in the town’s history began with the declaration of the State of Israel, when the gates of the town opened to welcome thousands of new immigrants. Another dramatic development took place in the 1990s, when the town absorbed over 17'000 immigrants, most of them from the former Soviet Union and some from Ethiopia and Argentina. The city’s population grew by 30 per cent, and today [2026] it is home to some 48'000 residents. In 1951 (5711), the local council was established and the town took its first steps as a young, independent community striving for development during the nation’s most challenging times.

More and more new immigrants arrived in Kiryat Yam, and the town grew and developed. In the 1970s, new immigrants from the Soviet Union were absorbed, and in 1976 Kiryat Yam was granted city status.

(Translated with DeepL.com)