

Professor (emeritus) Manuel Trajtenberg
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Trajtenberg has been a Professor of Economics at Tel Aviv University since 1984, after obtaining his Ph.D. at Harvard University. He held visiting positions at Harvard and Stanford, is a Research Associate of the NBER in Cambridge, USA, and of the CEPR in London. He has contributed extensively to the economics of innovation, patents, R&D policy, growth and development, and is regarded as one of the world leading experts in the field of R&D and Innovation. In the last decade Trajtenberg held several senior positions in government:

- Founder and first Chairman of the National Economic Council at the Prime Minister Office (2006-09);
- Chairman of the Budgeting and Planning Committee of the Council for Higher Education (2009-14);
- Chairman of the government Committee for Social and Economic Change following the mass social protests in Israel in the summer of 2011 – the Committee Report (which bears his name) has become a pivotal roadmap for socio-economic policy in Israel;
- Member of the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, for the Labor Party (he was the party's nominee for Finance Minister) following the May 2015 elections; in October 2017 he resigned from the Knesset and returned to academia.

Trajtenberg currently leads a policy-oriented project named “the first 100 days – a 21st century socio-economic agenda for progressive governments” supported by the Samuel Neaman Institute at the Technion. In its context he has put forward far reaching proposals for policy reforms in transportation, early-childhood education, parental leave, and fiscal policy, and is currently working on parliamentary rules as incentives shaping the behavior of members of the Knesset, and higher education policy.