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**"Globes" and "Maagar Mochot" Survey: Iris Stark – Number 1 Female Accountant in Israel**

**Stark heads the ratings with 36% of the votes. ■ In second place is Rakefet Russak-Aminoach, Gad Somekh's protégée (16%) ■ In third place – Regina Ungar (13%) ■ So how did Iris Stark turn into the first lady of the accounting world?**



We asked CPAs who, in their opinion, is the best female accountant. The vast majority simply found it difficult to answer. Around 68% of the respondents answered that they didn't know, or couldn't decide. However, among those with a definite opinion, the winner is clear: Iris Stark, former chairperson of the Ashdod Port Company Ltd. (36%).

Stark (47), deputy president of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Israel, managed one of the toughest areas of the economy since the beginning of 2005 – an industrial port. There aren't many women with a resume like hers in the business sector and the field of accounting, in addition to her combining a career with being a full-time mother to seven children. In 2004 Stark "abandoned" her husband Moshe in the Stark & Stark accounting firm, for the position of chairperson of the Ashdod Port. She had previously held senior positions in the Institute of Certified Public Accountants, been director of Bezeq, the First International Bank, and the M.I. Holdings Ltd. property company where she was involved in the privatization of the Discount and Leumi banks. At the same time, Stark has found the time to be a lecturer at Bar Ilan University and serve as a member of The Advisory Committee of the Bank of Israel.

Second place was awarded to Rakefet Russak-Aminoach (16%), head of the Corporate Division and executive vice president at Bank Leumi. Russak-Aminoach is considered sharp and businesslike, "a brilliant woman from the new generation of CPAs who don't just think about accountancy". She is Gad Somekh's protégée, served as Galia Maor's assistant at the age of 26, rising to become a partner, and later CEO at KPMG Somekh Chaikin. At the beginning of 2004 she returned to Leumi as the head of the Corporate Division, coordinating the bank's major clients, and since then has been marked for the role of CEO. Her ability as manager is also proven and valued.