



**Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

***STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF
PALESTINE***

NO. "7"

November, 2006

"Cover Price US\$ 11"

PAGE NUMBERS OF ENGLISH TEXT ARE PRINTED IN SQUARE BRACKETS.
TABLES ARE PRINTED IN THE ARABIC ORDER (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT).

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Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006. *Statistical Abstract of Palestine, No "7"*. Ramallah – Palestine.

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<p>This document is prepared in accordance with the standard procedures stated in the Code of Practice for Palestine Official Statistics 2006.</p>

Acknowledgment

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics expresses its thanks and respect to all who contributed to make the statistical Abstract of Palestine possible.

In particular, we extend our thanks to various PLO departments, all ministries, public institutions, private sector institutions and Palestinian households for their kind cooperation with fieldwork teams engaged in conducting censuses, field surveys, and other important statistical tasks necessary for accomplishing this mission.

Financial support for producing this Abstract at the PCBS is being provided by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Core Funding Group (CFG) represented by The Representative Office of Norway to the PNA; The Representative Office of the Netherlands to PNA; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

On this occasion, the PCBS extends special thanks to the Core Funding Group (CFG) who contributed in funding printing this report.

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Preface

Since its inception, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) has sought to build the official statistical system based on local needs and in accordance with standards that guarantee the full membership in the international statistical community. PCBS adopted a gradual approach to realizing current Palestinian priorities. It has been able to accomplish several statistical tasks by relying on primary sources, including censuses and surveys. In addition, it has cooperated with public and private sector institutions in using secondary sources such as administrative records to derive further statistical data.

We are pleased to issue our Seventh Statistical Yearbook, this report is part of our efforts to provide a continuous time series that makes it possible to study general trends in different fields by introducing a comprehensive statistical reference that covers most demographic, social, economic, and geographic fields.

This report provides official statistics on the various aspects of life in the Palestinian Territory along with available statistics on Palestinians all over the world. This Yearbook presents the Palestinian demographic, social and economic conditions in three main chapters.

The first chapter discusses the most prominent characteristics of Palestinians in the Diaspora, particularly in the host countries of Palestinian refugees, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, as well as other Palestinian communities throughout the world.

The second chapter discusses the conditions of Palestinians in Israel, who are suffering since 1948 under full Israeli administration and jurisdiction, in all areas, including among others, law and regulations, as well as their economic, political and social conditions.

The third chapter addresses the conditions of Palestinians in those parts of the Palestinian Territory that are still under military Israeli occupation. The chapter deals with the social, economic, medical, educational, and cultural conditions, in addition to other areas.

We hope that we could manage to bridge another informational gap besides contributing to providing one of the main basic references for Palestine official statistics, which aims to enhance development and assist decision makers in formulating decisions and plans based scientific and professional foundations.

November, 2006

**Luay Shabaneh
President**

Important Remark

In the first and the second chapters of this Yearbook, the multiplicity and variety of sources, concepts and reference periods complicate the effort to present statistical data in a complete and consistent manner.

In the first chapter, not all statistical data derived in this chapter are updated, except those which are available from its sources.

In the third chapter, statistical data were derived from PCBS's publications. Readers can, if necessary, refer to these publications.

Some minor differences between the value of some variables and their aggregates in some tables which result from the rounding and calculations.

A set of special symbols were used in the tables of this book. The representations of these symbols are:

- (-): Nil**
- (0): Less than half of the unit**
- (.): Category not applicable**
- (..): Data not available**
- (:): Data not available for publication**

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Palestinians in Diaspora

The Catastrophe (Nakba) constituted a black point in the Palestinian history, since it has been confronted with indescribable acts of oppression, dispossession, and suffering.

Palestinians who sought refuge in countries outside Palestine encountered all types of torture and agony. On the one hand, they were uprooted from their homeland and deprived out of their property and homes. On the other hand, they sought refuge to countries where they had no power or will. At the time of their dispossession, the Palestinians felt that their expulsion and refugee status would be temporary. They believed that this would not last more than several weeks or months, after which they would return in victory and with their honor restored. Thus, they paid little attention to the residential circumstances of their host countries. Their hearts remained with Palestine, waiting for the signal for return. As one year followed the next, they realized that the Nakba would last longer than expected, and that Palestinians would endure more pain and suffering. Popular movements and organizations emerged to defend the rights of the Palestinians in wherever they were located. The situation remained unchanged and no unified political and powerful entity representing all the Palestinians of the Diaspora was formed until the foundation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the emergence of the Palestinian revolt in 1965 that caught the attention of most countries and gained their recognition. The PLO then became the sole political representative of all Palestinians everywhere, in spite of the fact that part of the Palestinian Territory was subject to Arab Administration (Jordan in the West Bank and Egypt in Gaza Strip).

PCBS, has been constantly working on collecting, tabulating and disseminating of statistical data on the Palestinians both in Palestine and diaspora. This task was always faced with several constraints such as shortage of separate data on them in diaspora. As well as, lack of their accuracy and modernity which mostly are exerted from UNRWA records. We hope to overcome these constraints in the near future.

The difficulty in creating a statistical database about Palestinians in Diaspora lies in their dispersion both among several countries and within different territories of such countries. The Palestinians did not consider their communities isolated ghettos; instead, they participated in the life of the countries they resided in, but retaining their distinctiveness at the same time. Further difficulty in realizing this task lies in the civil and administrative laws of the hosted countries that prevent interfering in the population that reside there.

The aforementioned hindrances and other subjective complications made it difficult to provide consistent and comprehensive statistical data on all Palestinians in Diaspora.

This chapter puts forth a set of data and statistical indicators dealing with population, employment, education, health and living and housing conditions for the Palestinians living in the Diaspora especially in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

This chapter mainly relies on data that have been extracted from the administrative records of public, international and regional organizations. The most important of these sources were the United Nations Works and Relief Agency in the Near East (UNRWA), Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources, and the Norwegian Institute for Applied Social Sciences (FAFO). Likewise, this chapter makes use of the data obtained through field surveys conducted on the Palestinian communities abroad in addition to estimates from the Palestinian Center Bureau of Statistics and hypotheses applied in specific areas.

Palestinians in Diaspora – Summary

Population:

- The total number of Palestinian population in the diaspora for mid 2005 was estimated to 5.0 millions, of which 2.9 millions in Jordan, 454 thousands in Syria, 428 thousands in Lebanon, 64 thousands in Egypt, 611 thousands in Remaining Arab countries, 241 thousands in USA, and 307 thousands in other foreign countries.
- The registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestinian Territory in mid 2005 were 4.3 millions.

Education (2003\2004):

- The total number of refugee students in UNRWA, government and private schools was 245,435 in Jordan, 50,811 in Lebanon, and 90,381 in Syria.
- The total number of classes in UNRWA Schools was 3,379 in Jordan, 1,541 in Syria, and 1,098 in Lebanon.
- The total number of teachers in UNRWA schools was 4,407 in Jordan, 1,974 in Syria, and 1,452 in Lebanon.

Health (2002):

- The Total number of Palestinian Red Crescent Hospitals in Lebanon was 5 hospitals with 160 beds, 3 hospitals in Syria with 140 beds, and one hospital in Egypt with 160 beds.

Housing Conditions:

- In Jordan, the percent of households living in crowded housing units (3persons or more per room) was 34.2%, in the year 2000.
- In Syria, the percent of the owned housing units was 92.4%, the rented was 6.1% and 1.5% was considered without payment, in the year 2001.

Living Conditions (2002):

- The percent of deep poverty cases was 10.8% in Lebanon, 7.4% in Syria, and 2.6% in Jordan.

Labor (2000):

- Labor force rate for persons aged 15 years and over in Jordan was 40.9% (Year 2000), 49.3% in Syria (Year 2000), and 42.3% in Lebanon 42.3% (Year 1999).
- Unemployment rate from total palestinian population aged 15 years and over in Jordan was 5.3%, in Syria 8.5% and in Lebanon 6.9%.

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Palestinians in Israel

The Palestine Catastrophe (Nakba) of 1948 resulted in the occupation of more than three –quarters of Palestine, coupled with the destruction of 531 communities and the expulsion of 85% of the Palestinian population. Thus, Israel has been established on that part of Palestine occupied in 1948, which amounts to 78% of historical Palestine. The Palestinian population, who remained in their homeland became under direct and complete Israeli sovereignty. They were considered Israeli citizens and subjected to different types of burying and wiping out the Palestinian identity and culture.

Statistically speaking, all statistics on Palestinians living in this part of historical Palestine occupied in 1948 were considered part of the Israeli statistical system. Thus, all Israeli statistical issues and publications are including data on the Palestinian population.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics strove hard to compile, tabulate, and disseminate statistical data on the Palestinians living in Israel despite the subjective difficulties including scarcity of data separately available on those Palestinians, in addition to the complications associated with compiling statistical data about them.

Nevertheless, data disseminated in this chapter constitute a general statistical diagnosis of the Palestinians reality in Israel. This chapter presents some statistics on the Palestinians in Israel including demographic, educational and labor force characteristics. It is worth noting that such statistics are derived from the reality of living conditions therein. Thus, any possible comparisons for any of the said statistical indicators should be made with those pertinent to the population in Israel and not with the Palestinian in other places. Some changes happened in the data of this chapter which refers to the revision and modifying as in its sources.

The data of this chapter exclude data about Palestinians living within the boundaries of the Palestinian Territory occupied and subsequently annexed to Israel in 1967. This territory basically refers to that part of the Jerusalem governorate that forcefully annexed to Israel following the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. Except education data included Jerusalem, and we indicate that the data of scholastic year 2004\2005 were adjusted, and the data of scholastic year 2005\2006 are primary.

Data in this chapter were mainly derived from the administrative records and the publications of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (Statistical Series, No. 57, 2006) and the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook, No.20. Also, this report was based on the estimates of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and outputs of certain statistical hypotheses.

In addition, and for the annex of this chapter, the data is based on the main findings of the Socio-Economic Survey conducted in the year 2005 by the Galilee Society-the Arab National Society for Health Research of Services in cooperation with Mada al-Carmel-the Arab Center for Applied Social Research.

Palestinians in Israel - Summary

- The total number of Palestinians in Israel was estimated by one million persons (1,100,000) at the end year 2005, compared to 154,000 persons following the Nakba of 1948.
- The distributions of Non Jews in Israel by religion was as follows in end year 2004: 888,468 Muslims; 111,196 Christians, and 101,287 Druze.
- The average household size among Palestinians in Israel was 5.09 in 2005, the total fertility rate in 2005 was 3.72 births per women in the reproduction age (15-49 years).
- The number of Arabic schools in Israel was 815 schools for the various stages in the scholastic year 2005\2006. The number of students in the various stages was 436,236 students, where as the number of classes was 11,992 distributed as follows: 7,528 classes in the primary stage; 2,036 classes in the intermediate stage; and 2,428 classes in the secondary stage for the same year. Moreover. The number of teachers was 28,569 of which 11,307 males and 17,532 females for the scholastic year 2005\2006.
- In Israel, the percentage of Palestinian households owned housing units was 73.2% and 59.5% of Israeli households in the year 1995.
- Around 25.0% of Palestinian households in Israel with housing density of two person or more per household, According to 4.2% from Israeli households in the year 2005.
- In 2005, the total palestinian persons (aged 15-64 years) in labor force in Israel was 312.6 thousands represinting 40.8% of palestinians in Israel (aged 15-64 years), of which 62.0% for males and 18.9% for females. The highest percentage of participation in labor force for the age group (25-34) 37.2% of which 36.4% for males and 40.0% for females. Unemployment rate was 11.3% (35.4 thousand unemployed persons).

References of Chapter Two

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Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory (West Bank and Gaza Strip)

Since its establishment, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has gathered statistical data on the reality of Palestinians living in the Palestinian Territory. In addition to deriving statistics from administrative records of public institutions, it has implemented many field surveys in the various demographic, social, economic, geographical areas.

These statistical efforts exerted by the Bureau were crowned by the implementation of the first Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 1997, ever done by Palestinians. A tremendous volume of statistical data was collected on the various aspects of the Palestinian population of the Territory. This represented a revolutionary step in constructing a detailed statistical database.

All data and statistics produced by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics were published in different reports. In doing so, the Bureau aimed to make them available for all parties that plan, outline developmental policies, make decisions and reinforce the national rules in building a powerful institutional country. The PCBS was able to provide a tremendous database about the economic and social realities of the Palestinian dwellers, in addition to their various characteristics.

This chapter presents a quick display of the most prominent and important statistical indicators of various areas of Palestinian reality and of dwellers in the Palestinian Territory at geographical, demographic, social levels. Included also information about the household, culture, education, health, living standards, and work, as well as economic and other sectors and issues. The chapter provides definitions of important terms and describes the methodology used in preparing the data.

The data included in this chapter rely on PCBS's publications, which might include broader, more detailed, and more elaborated information. Readers may refer to such publications.

Definitions and Concepts

Household	For the purposes of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census -1997, the household was defined as one person or a group of persons with or without a family relationship, who live in the same housing unit or part of the housing unit, share meals and make joint provision of food and other essentials of living.
Head of the Household	It refers to the person who usually lives within the household and is considered as the head of the household by its other members. Often, he \ she is the main decision-maker and responsible for financial support and economic welfare of the household.
Place of Residence	It refers to the name of the locality in which the person spends most of his time during the year (lived there six months and above), irrespective of whether it is the person's same place of existence during the Census, or the place in which he works and performs related activities or the place in which his original household is based or not.
Refugee Status	This status relates to the Palestinians who were forced to leave their land in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1948. It applies to their male sons and grandchildren. Every Palestinian falls under one of the following categories.
Refugee	It applies to registered refugees holding refugee registration cards issued by UNRWA, or who do not hold refugee registration cards issued by UNRWA.
Non Refugee	It applies to any Palestinian not categorized under any of the last aforementioned statuses.
Marital Status	It refers to the marital status of the person aged 12 years and above in the reference date of the Census. The marriage laws, customs and traditions applicable in the country govern the marital status of the individual. The marital status is classified as follows:
Never Married	It applies if the person aged 12 years and above has not been married (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country).
Legally Married	It applies if the person-aged 12 years and above has an official marriage document (issued by a competent court) but has not been actually married yet according to customs and traditions applicable in the country.

Married	It applies if the person aged 12 years and above is actually and officially married (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country) irrespective of his \ her past marital status as well as of whether the couple were together during the reference date or not.
Divorced	The person aged 12 years and above who previously married and legally divorced but was not married again.
Widowed	The married person aged 12 years whose marriage was split by the death of the spouse and was not married again.
Separated:	The person aged 12 years and above who was married, but his/ her marriage was revoked for some reason without any legal or official registration, and he/ she did not marry again.
Housing Unit	A building or part of a building constructed for one household only, with one or more independent entrances leading to the public road without passing through another housing unit.
Housing Density (Number of Persons per Room)	It is defined as the number of occupants per room (number of persons who live in the household divided by the total number of occupied rooms of the household).
Economic Activity	Economic Activity refers to the activity of the establishment in which an employed person worked during the reference period, or last worked if unemployed. This activity is defined in terms of the kind of goods produced or services supplied by the unit in which the person works. Economic activities are classified according to the unified commodity classification in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is based on the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev3).
Output	Output is measured in a given time period as the value of the goods and services produced within an establishment and are capable of being delivered to other units even though they may also be used for own account consumption or own account gross fixed capital formation.
Production Inputs	The value of goods and services included in production process like: fuel and oil, electricity, water, etc.
Compensation of Employees	It is defined as the total remuneration, including social contributions, in cash or in kind, payable to an employee.

Trade Margin	It is the total profit generated by buying and selling goods.
Intermediate Consumption	It is the total value of inputs used, consumed or transformed in the production process Plus other production expenditure.
Gross Value Added	It is a vital production economic concept that refers to the value generated by a unit engaged in productive activity. Gross value added is defined as total output minus intermediate consumption.
Consumption of Fixed Capital:	It is the decline between the beginning and the end of accounting period, in the value of fixed assets owned by an enterprise as a result of their physical deterioration and normal rates of obsolescence and accidental damage.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	GDP is an aggregate measurement of production of goods and services taking place in a given time period. There are three ways of estimating GDP: GDP by production, expenditure and income.
Gross Capital Formation	<p>This item includes Gross Fixed Capital Formation and Changes in inventories:</p> <p>Gross Fixed Capital Formation: Gross fixed capital formation is the total value of producers' net acquisitions of new or existing capital goods (including dwellings of households-in this sense, households are considered producers of housing services) plus major improvements to land and sub-soil assets plus cost of ownership transfer of such assets. Capital goods may be tangible-e.g. buildings, structures, machinery and intangible-e.g. computer software.</p> <p>Changes in inventories: Changes in inventories are measured as the value of goods entered in inventories minus the value of goods withdrawn from inventories.</p>
Wastewater Disposal	System of collectors, pipelines, conduits and pumps to evacuate wastewater (rainwater, domestic and other wastewater) from any of the location places of generation either to municipal sewage treatment plant or to a location place where wastewater is discharged. This term includes only the closed pipe network unless it is mentioned else
Cesspit	A well or a pit in which night-soil and other refuse is stored; constructed with either tight or porous walls.
Remaining West Bank	It refers to all of the West Bank excluding those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israel in 1967.

Land use statistics represent one of the most important fields in official statistics. All countries publish data and statistics related to land use. These statistics have a special importance in the Palestinian Territory due to the scarcity of natural sources as well as the political situation. These statistics are also an important tool in measuring the change of land use over time; they can be used in laying out the environmental plans and strategies. Land use statistics are further meant to provide statistical data that play an important role in drafting developmental regulations, projects and policies to organize and limit land usage.

Methodology

Statistics presented in this section were derived from different sources: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, Applied Research Institute (ARIJ), Ministry of Planning, in addition to the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census- 1997, conducted by PCBS which are used to estimate the number of population in mid Year 2005.

Data Quality

Data quality depends on the sufficiency and availability of the administrative records where statistics were derived from. The discrepancy in the adopted concepts in the source of datum and the international concepts may not allow us to rely largely on these data when comparing with other countries. But at the same time this discrepancy describes the Palestinian reality with regard to the subjects and the indicators that were discussed. Land uses whose data are unavailable were listed under a different heading.

Definitions and Concepts

Agricultural Land	This refers to the major classes of land use on agricultural holdings. For classification the "gross area" is surveyed for each class. Agricultural land includes land under scattered farm buildings, yards and their annexes, permanently uncultivated land, such as uncultivated patches, banks footpaths, ditches, headlands and shoulders(ECE 1986).
Built-up Land in Israeli Settlements	It refers to all human activity area within the settlement including built-up area, service facilities, public gardens and parks, open squares and roads. It excludes the land that is planned for construction according to the master plan of the settlement or confiscated land to be annexed later to the settlement.
Forests and other Wooded Land	This means land used permanently (i.e. for five years and more) for forests. Permanent meadows and pastures on which trees and shrubs are grown should be recorded under this heading only if the growing of trees and shrubs is the most important use of the area.
Population Density	Number of population per km ² of area.

Until recently, the available demographic statistics about the Palestinian Territory have been characterized by the multiplicity and variation of its sources. After succeeding in executing the first Palestinian Census, highly accurate demographic data about the Palestinian Territory became available. Providing demographic indicators for the current and forthcoming years is regarded as an important matter for laying out plans and outlining future policies.

Methodology

Published data about population depend on:

1. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Population Housing and establishments Census that was executed towards the end of 1997. This census is expected to be conducted periodically every ten years.
2. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2005. Population Projection, Revised data. (Unpublished Data).
3. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006. Database of Demographic and Health Survey, 2004.
4. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006. Database of Domestic Violence Survey, 2005. (Unpublished data)

Data Quality

The data included in this part depend on four basic sources: the Population, Housing and Establishments Census – Demographic and Health survey 2004, and Population Projection, Revised data and Domestic violence survey 2005. The data of the Census were subjected to a series of procedures to assure data reliability through preventing error, removing error causes, finding errors, and correcting them when made. The quality control procedure accompanied all phases of the Census beginning from the preparatory phase, passing through the executive phase and finally data processing. But the sources of the other data underwent a series of tests and editing procedures to ensure data reliability in all its phases of execution, in addition to the intensive and continuous follow-up that aimed to ensuring data accuracy and comprehensiveness.

Palestinian population projections in the Palestinian Territory are based on the following assumptions:

- Decline of the Total Fertility Rate by 50% between 1999 and 2025 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (based on Demographic and Health Surveys).
- Decline in the Infant Mortality Rate by 50% between 1995 to 1999 and 2020 to 2024 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (based on Demographic and Health Surveys).
- Assuming that Net international Migration equal zero since the years 2001-2015.

The detailed tables for 1997 are limited to the final results of the population enumerated during the period of 10-24/12/1997, and does not include population estimates who were not enumerated according to post enumeration survey 83,805 person and population of J1 (those parts of Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967), the number of these 210,209 persons.

Definitions and Concepts

A one – Person – Household	It refers to the household comprised of one individual.
Age-Sex Structure	The composition of a population as determined by the number or proportion of males and females in each age category. The age-sex structure of a population is the cumulative result of past trends in fertility, mortality and migration. Information on age-sex composition is an essential prerequisite for the description and analysis of many other types of demographic data.
Age-Specific Fertility Rate	The number of births by women of a given age group per 1000, women in that age group
Average Household Size	It refers to the average number of private household members calculated through dividing the total number of members for a certain category by the number of households for that particular category.
Composite Household	It refers to the household comprised of one or more nuclear households with one or more relatives related to the head of the household and a minimum of one non – relative member. It might be comprised of two or more unrelated and not married persons. To be brief, it must be comprised of a head of a household and a minimum of one non – relative member irrespective of the other household members.

Extended Household	It refers to the household comprised of one or more nuclear households with one or more relatives yet no other non – relatives live with this household. It might be comprised of two or more related but not married persons. To be brief, it must be comprised of a head of a household and a minimum of one relative member (other than a spouse or a child). However, it does not include any non – relative members.
Natural Increase Rate	The rate at which a population is increasing (or decreasing) in a given year due to a surplus (deficit) of births over deaths, expressed as a percentage of the base population.
Nuclear Household	It refers to the living household comprised of a couple only; a couple and a son or a daughter or more; a male head of a household with a son or a daughter or more; a female head of a household with a son or a daughter or more. It is worthy to note that no other relatives or non-relatives live with this household.
Place of Birth	The mother's usual place of residence at the time of her child's birth.
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	The average number of children that would be born alive to a woman (or group of women) during her life time if she were to pass through her child bearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year.

Vital Statistics

3.3

Population register at the Palestinian Territory (PT) was built in 1967 post conducting the census in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israelis for military purposes.

According to the Oslo II Agreement (20/11/1995), Population registration system responsibilities were transferred to the Palestinian National Authority under the administration of the Ministry of Interior.

Ministry of Interior runs the population register at the PT, updating it continuously with changes occurring for Palestinian population (enumerated in 1967 census).

Population register covered all PT, and includes the Palestinian persons holder a Palestinian ID card resident in PT or outside, on the other hand population register does not include Palestinian persons resident in PT and not a holder of Palestinian ID card, Palestinian holders of Jerusalem ID card, and foreigners resident in PT.

Data related to marriage and divorces are important in becoming familiar with the demographic situation in the Palestinian society. PCBS considered the provision of periodical and up-to-date data that aid in deducing future expectations for these demographic indicators one of its priorities. The PCBS also had sought to provide a complete database to these subjects to benefit decision makers, policy planners, researchers and those interested.

Methodology

The population register is updated until 19/2/2006, by all changes of vital events for Palestinian ID cardholders like “new births, deaths, marriages, divorces”.

Data sources of population register are shared between MoI, MoH, and Ministry of Waqf and Religious Affair, data from these sources are pooled at MoI.

Published data on marriages and divorces depend on many sources: the administrative records of Shari courts and churches in the Palestinian Territory, the Demographic Survey –1995, the Health Survey 2000 and Demographic and Health Survey Database, 2004

Data quality

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics receives a copy of the population register on regular basis from the Ministry of Interior. PCBS carry out series of tests to check the quality and completeness of the data.

Evaluation of births and deaths data of population register for the year 2004 was done by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics showed the percentage of

completeness of registered live births at population register was almost 85%, and completeness of registered deaths was almost 74.5%.

The Source of marriages and divorces data were subjected to a series of procedures to ensure the provision of reliable data through working on preventing error making, removing error causes, finding such errors and correcting them when made. The quality assurance procedure took place during all work phases in Survey, beginning from the preparatory phase, passing through the executive stage and ending with data processing and charts deriving, the Data of Administrative Records was Subjected to field editing, consistency checks, validity tests, these checks revealed that the data are considered reliable and of high quality.

Definitions and Concepts

Age at Death	The age of the individual in years at the time of death.
Death	The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place.
Infant Mortality	Deaths of infants less than one year of age.
Live Birth	It refers to any live birth who shouted, cried, or showed any signs of live upon delivery, irrespective of whether he died after or not.
Median Age at First Marriage	The age dividing individuals into two categories, either married before it or married after it.
Population Register	A population Register is an individualized data system, that is, a mechanism for continuous recording, and/or coordinate linkage, of selected information pertaining to each member of the resident population of a country or area, making it possible to determine up-to-date information about the size and characteristics of the population at selected time intervals.
Sex ratio at birth	Number of Males born alive per 100 Females born alive.
Vital Event	Live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriage, divorce, adoption, legitimation, recognition of parenthood, annulment of marriage, or legal separation.
Vital Statistics:	Information systematically collected and compiled in numerical form, relating to or derived from vital event records.

Education represents one of the most important sectors in the society. Governments pay special attention to this sector since it constitutes the real investment in peoples' futures. Educational statistics are used as an appropriate instrument to measure societal and governmental performance in providing a suitable environment for children and youth to practice their right in education. Also, educational level of the people reflects, even though approximately, the on-going progress in the society at the social and economic levels. It also portrays a clear picture of the quality of labor force.

Methodology

It is well known that there are two main sectors for educational statistics. The first is statistics are pertinent to schools, students, and teachers as well those related to educational characteristics of the individuals in the society. Usually, data-collection related to this sector is conducted annually using special questionnaires or based on administrative records. The second source is through household surveys or comprehensive population censuses that countries conduct every ten years.

This chapter includes data about education at various levels (kindergartens, schools, community colleges and universities), and all supervising institutions (government, UNRWA, and private sector) excluding the data of schools and kindergartens supervised by Israeli municipality and culture committee. These data are derived from the educational institutions databases for the academic years 1994/1995, 1997/1998-2005/2006. The chapter also includes data about the individuals' educational characteristics in the Palestinian society for the years 1997, 2003, 2004, and 2005. These were extracted from the Population, Housing, and Establishments Census, 1997 and Labor Force survey 2003-2005.

Data Quality

Statistics included in this section are of a good reliability and represent the learning and educational conditions in Palestine in a highly accurate manner. Editing Data were edited and made consistent before endorsing them as representative of the educational sector.

Definitions and Concepts

Drop-out Student	A student who left school during the last scholastic year and who did not transfer to another school.
First level of Education According to the International Standard Classification of Education (1997)	Represent the primary education or the first stage of basic education, the stage ranges between 4-6 years.
Government School	Any educational institution run by MOE or any other ministry or governmental instrument.
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	Is the total enrolment of pupils in a grade or cycle or level of education, regardless of age, expressed as percentage of the corresponding eligible official age-group population in a given school-year.
Kindergarten	Any educational institution licensed by MOE offering education to four or five year olds. Kindergarten Consists of the first and second grades.
Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)	Is the number of pupils in the official school-age, expressed as percentage of the total population in that age-group.
Private School	Any licensed local or foreign non-governmental educational institution.
Repeater Student	A student who fails one or more subjects and therefore is not promoted to the following grade.
School	Any educational institution excluding kindergartens, regardless of students' number and grade structure.
Secondary School	Includes schools with secondary stage, or basic and secondary stage.
UNRWA School	Any school run or supervised by UNRWA.

The data that cultural organizations and household surveys provide are the primary sources for cultural statistics. The first source includes all organizations that present cultural activities for the benefits of all individuals in the society. Normally, data are collected about the numbers of these organizations, individuals' frequent visits to them, as well as rate of beneficiaries and their geographical coverage besides other indicators. The second source of cultural statistics provides statistics about cultural practices of the individuals themselves.

The main objective of this section is to provide statistics on cultural practices of the individuals in the society as well as providing data on the cultural organizations and activities in the Palestinian Territory that are necessary for planners, researchers, and decision makers who outline developmental policies.

Methodology

In order to bridge the current gap in the field of the statistics of Palestinian culture and its all forms, the PCBS executed the first survey about Palestinian environmental culture in April and May of 1996, Computer, Internet and Mobile Phone survey 2004, and the last one so far was Households Survey on Information and Communications Technology -2006 to update the cultural statistics database and to study the technology information and communication of Palestinian society. In the area of providing statistics about cultural organizations, relevant official establishments coordinated their efforts to obtain data about the number of cultural organizations and other cultural activities. A set of monthly forms was designed to be used in providing periodical data about the Palestinian cultural organizations and their activities based on administrative records. Besides these forms, a set of blank tables was designed to be filled out by relevant governmental institutions depending on their own available administrative records.

This chapter includes data related to reading and newspapers study habits, listening to radio, watching TV and usage of computer and internet, as well as individual's cultural practices and whom members in cultural institutions. These data are deduced from Households Survey on Information and Communications Technology -2006, and from the administrative records that were gathered from the related organizations. The data represents the years 1998- 2005.

Data Quality

The data and the indicators included in this chapter are greatly reliable. Selected field workers were qualified and well trained to use fieldwork methods and mechanisms of data collection in an accurate manner. The data were also edited for consistency before endorsing them, and before deducing acceptable statistical indicators, which carry a great meaning for the cultural condition in Palestine.

Definitions and Concepts

Library	Any organized collection of printed books and periodicals or of any other graphic or audio-visual materials, and the services of the staff to provide and facilitate the use of such materials as are required to meet the informational, research, educational or recreational needs of its users.
Newspaper Reading	Whether the person is accustomed to reading a newspaper regularly of time of reading.
Newspapers	Periodic publications intended for the general public and mainly designed to be a primary source of written information on current events connected with public affairs, international questions, politics, etc.
Radio Listening	Whether the person is accustomed to listening to radio and follows up radio programs regardless of place and time of listening.
Television Viewing	Whether the person is accustomed to watching T.V programs regardless of type or place and time of watching.

PCBS, sought to provide statistics on the most important indicators including functions, activities, and other indicators related to health conditions in the Palestinian Territory. This comes in an attempt to outline successful plans intended to promote health conditions for our Palestinian people, and then present them to decision makers and policy planners.

Methodology

Statistics presented in this section are based on two sources. The first was the administrative records of public and private, governmental and non-governmental health institutions. The second source was the results deduced from the Health Survey, 2000, and Demographic and Health Survey- 2004.

Data Quality

The Health Surveys data (2000 and 2004), included a series of editing procedures. During their flow, the data were followed up intensively and continuously to assure completeness and accuracy.

Special forms were also designed through collecting administrative records data and were sent to the health institutions. When the forms were completed, data were tested and edited as to their preparedness and completion. The data then were entered into designed tables for this purpose. Finally, upon data entry, the tables were edited and the necessary tests were conducted to assure the correctness, logicity and consistency.

Definitions and Concepts

Admission	Admitted patient to hospital for treatment or diagnosis and their stay for one night or more
Bed	Available bed in room and hospital hall, which are occupied by patient for at least 24 continuous hours for receiving medical care.
Bed Occupancy Rate	Hospitalization days for admitted patients divided by number of beds multiplied by days of year
Disability	The disabled is defined as the person suffering from a clear and evident weakness in performing certain activities due to continuous difficulties emanating from a physical, mental or health state that lasted for more than six months. Disabilities resulting from a bone break or a disease lasting for less than six months are not considered disabilities
Discharges	Discharged patient from a hospital after having the diagnostic and curative health care regardless of the discharged case (cured or died).
Health	A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of a disease or infirmity.
Height	Height of the child measured in centimeters as: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recumbent Length: distance from the crown of the head to the sole while the child is measured lying supine (for children less than two years of age).2. Standing Height: distance from the crown of the head to the sole while the child is measured standing children more than two years of age).
Hospital	An institution whose primary function is to provide services (diagnostic and therapeutic) for a variety of medical conditions, both surgical and non-surgical. Most hospitals also provide some outpatient services, particularly emergency care.
Infant Mortality Rate	The number of infant deaths under one year in a given year per 1,000 live births during the year
Malnutrition	The term malnutrition is used to cover a multiplicity of disorders, ranging from deficiencies of specific micronutrients, such as vitamins and minerals to gross starvation or (at the other extreme) obesity. This discussion is largely limited to protein and calorie malnutrition, which is manifested primarily by retardation of physical growth in terms of height and weight.

Mean Duration	Total hospitalization days divided by discharged patients
Nutritional Status	A nutritional status survey measures and allows us to describe the current status of the child, both in terms of immediate acute factors such as inadequate current intake of food, childhood diseases, and diarrhea leading to wasting, as well as the accumulated impact of chronic deprivation leading to stunting.
Stunting	This parameter reflects the achieved linear growth and its deficit indicates long-term cumulative inadequacies of health or nutrition. Two related terms are used when describing this parameter: length and stature. Length is the measurement while in a recumbent position and is used for children under 2 years of age, while stature refers to standing height. For simplification, the term height is used for both measurements in this report. Low height for age (below $-2SD$ of the NCHS/WHO reference) ranges from 5 to 65% among less developed countries. In low prevalence countries, it is most likely due to normal variation, i.e. shortness; in less developed countries it is likely to be due to a pathological process, resulting in stunting. A pathological process can be from the past or a continuous process.
Wasting	This parameter reflects body weight to height. Its use carries the advantage of requiring no knowledge of age. However it is not a substitute for the other indicators. Low weight for height is called thinness if normal or wasting if pathological and can reflect a recent or chronic condition. Prevalence in non-disaster areas is around 5%. Lack of evidence of wasting in a population does not imply the absence of current nutritional problems.
Weight	Measurement of a child's total body mass undressed.
Weight-For-Age (Under Weight)	This parameter is influenced by both the height and weight of the child. It reflects the long and short-term health of an individual or population. Lightness and underweight have been used to describe normal and pathological processes. High weight for age is not used to describe obesity.

Housing and Housing Conditions

3.7

Reliable housing statistics are necessary for social and economic planning at all levels. They are similarly important for all social statistics that rely on samples in studying the social, economic, and environmental conditions of households and dwellings. These conditions need improvement is evident. To this end, it is necessary to collect a volume of demographic, social and economic data large enough to present a description of housing conditions and study the potential of conducting corrective procedures.

Housing Statistics, including building and housing unit types, utilization, tenure, foundation year, housing density, durable goods available to residents as well as number of houses annually constructed, have important impact on the living conditions of the dwellers of the Palestinian Territory.

Methodology

Data in this section depend on many statistical activities which conducted by PCBS, it include the following:

1. Populations, Housing and Establishments Census, 1997
2. The Housing Conditions survey for the year 2003.
3. Housing Annual Report, 2002, 2004, 2005
4. Household Environmental Survey, 2005.
5. Household Energy Survey, 2005.

Data Quality

The data which used from the surveys, Underwent a series of tests and editing procedures to ensure data reliability in all its phases of executing, in addition to the intensive and continuous follow-up that aimed to ensuring data accuracy and comprehensiveness. The data of the census were subject to a series of procedures to assure data reliability through preventing error, removing error causes and uncovering errors and correcting them where made. The quality control procedure accompanied all the phases of the census beginning from the preparatory phases, going through the executive phase and finally data processing.

Definitions and Concepts

Availability of Phone Line	This section refers to the phone line owned by the household. (other than mobile phones).
Availability of Private Car	This section refers to the private car owned by the household.
Average Housing Density	It refers to the average number of persons living in the room. This average calculated through dividing the total number of individuals for a certain category from households by the total number of rooms for that particular category.
Housing Unit Type	Housing unit type may refer to (villa, house, apartment, independent room, Marginal, tent or other).
Tenure of Housing Unit	Tenure status indicates whether the household occupies the housing unit as owner, rented, or other (include without payment, and for work).
Utilization of the Building	It refers to the way the building is currently used, regardless of the purpose of its construction. The utilization could be (Habitation Only, Habitation and Work, Work Only, Closed or Vacant) .

PCBS conducted the first Palestinian Expenditure and Consumption Survey between (1/10/1995 and 30/9/1996). The second round of the survey was conducted during (January – December 1997), the third round during (January - December 1998), and the fourth and fifth rounds were conducted during (15 March 2001– 14 March 2002) and (15 January 2005–14 January 2006) respectively. The sample size was 4,800 households for the year 1996, while it was 3,600 and 3,000 households in 1997 and 1998 respectively, where as the sample size was 3,514 households for the year 2001 and 3,781 households for the year 2004 and 2,778 households for the year 2005. The Survey enabled to provide data about special consumption as well as providing necessary data to prepare consumer's price index and the contribution of household sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) . It also assisted in estimating poverty rate, groups of special needs and dietary situation in the Palestinian Community.

Methodology

The Palestinian Expenditures and Consumption Survey depend on United Nations and of International Labor Organization (ILO) recommendations. The main principles for the Survey plan are summarized as follows:

The use of a two-fold stratified clustered random sample to represent the Palestinian society. This sample consisted of 12 representative partial samples, one per month. Survey duration was 12 months. Thus bias that results from the seasonality of household expenditures and consumption can be prevented. Registration period is one month for each household.

Data collection was mainly conducted through household registration of expenditure and consumption values. Field Workers conducted weekly visits to record the data in the questionnaire. This was used in an elastic way. Households with good educational background managed the registration process by themselves, while households who could not manage registration by themselves were visited by field workers on regular basis to help them in registration process. Data of durable goods was collected by households through asking them about their purchases of these goods on last twelve months from visiting date, except personal means of transportation, its reference period is last 3 years.

Data Quality

Errors in this Survey are sampling and non-sampling errors. Sampling errors resulted from studying samples in the society, and not all units. Non-sampling errors occurred due to the spatiality of this survey and to the fact that many households regarded it an intervention in the very details of their personal lives. Thus there were refusal cases that were faced by creating certain instruments to convince such

households to respond and consequently minimize refusal cases as much as possible. The data quality errors were minimized due to the high competence and the distinguished performance of the fieldwork teams that were selected and trained very carefully. It is worth mentioning that the response rate in the Palestinian Territory was 94.3% in 1996, 93.7% in 1997, 92.2% in 1998, 86.0% and 82.0% in the years 2001 and 2004 respectively.

The approximation caused some differences in the values and totals of the same variables.

Definitions and Concepts

- Consumption:** Includes the following:
1. Cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes.
 2. The value of goods and service payments or part of payments received from the employer.
 3. Own-produced goods and food, including consumed quantities during the recording period.
 4. Estimated rent value of the dwelling.
- Expenditure:** Includes the following:
1. Cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes.
 2. The value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from the employer.
 3. Cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), gifts, contributions, interests on debts and other non-consumption items.
- Poverty:** Is Often Defined as “ the absence of the minimum standard of income or resources to meet basic needs” and as “ the inability to attain the minimum standard of living” Two poverty lines have been developed according to actual spending patterns of Palestinian families. The first, termed “ deep poverty line” was calculated to reflect a budget for food, clothing and housing. The second line adds other necessities including health care, education, transportation, personal care, and housekeeping supplies. Since expenditure levels better reflect the population’s needs, and help to specify the poverty line in Palestine, the monthly expenditure level is used rather than the monthly income.

Methodology

Data collection plan relevant to crime and victimization relies on the international guidelines pertinent to victimization surveys and administrative records. International guidelines emphasize the necessity of data collection as to crime and its different components. A method was identified to monitor and test the data obtained from public institutions (police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Palestinian Attorneys' Union) through conducting periodical victimization surveys. It is worth mentioning that there are limitations on the variables that needed to be gathered whether from administrative records or surveys. Data derived from administrative records are collected monthly. These are subject to many technical operations, and they are published annually. Survey data are collected every three years using the questionnaire as the main instrument for data collection.

Data Quality

Sampling errors are related to studying sample in the society and not all society units. Those errors are easy to measure and anticipate. Non-sampling errors are due to causes that are related to field workers, data editors, encoders, and data entry operators. Some are due to the fact that some respondent view their criminal acts as household private affairs. Necessary procedures were taken to minimize the effect of sampling and non-sampling errors as much as possible. These data can be used to derive acceptable high-quality statistical indicators about the reality of criminal acts, victims and criminals in Palestine.

As far as administrative records are concerned, the following observations are relevant to data quality. These data only represent the criminal acts that were reported to one of the Palestinian police stations or have been recovered by the police. They also include data about those on trial, those convicted in the Palestinian prisons, road accidents in the areas that are under the Jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority as well as juvenile and court cases. The inconsistency in the terms used to describe criminal acts and the court types between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and among West Bank Governorates, this inconsistency make difficulties in the comparison for these indicators between West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The data that derived from the administrative records do not include that part of Jerusalem, which were illegally annexed by Israel in 1967.

Definitions and Concepts

Crime	Any act involving a violation of the law or public rights and duties towards the state or society in general.
Court Matters	Written proceedings involving all aspects of disputed issue filed according to the law and submitted to the judge for settlement. Court matters involve civil cases, divorce, heritage ...etc. Also, they include criminal and petty offenses referred to as such by penal codes.
Court Matters Carried from Last Year	The number of court matters carried over from the last year by the various courts in the Palestinian Territory.
Decided Matters	The number of decided court matters by the various courts in the Palestinian Territory out of total number of court matters which submitted to the various court during the year and the total number of court matters carried over from last year.
Properties	All movable and fixed assets belonging to the individuals (household members) regardless of whether they were inside or outside the house. Normally, the owner of a property is entitled to use it the way he \ she deems appropriate, provided in accordance with the provisions of the effective law. A property applies to physical, nonphysical, tangible and intangible assets as well as any item that has a market value.
Submitted Matters	The number of court matters submitted to the various courts in the Palestinian Territory during the year.
Theft:	The removal of property without the property owner's consent. Theft excludes burglary and house breaking; it includes the theft of motor vehicles, shoplifting and other minor offenses, e.g. pilfering and petty theft may or may not be considered as thefts.
Victim	The person affected by an offense or loss or is prey to catastrophic, criminal or brutal events. Any person subject to an offense or whose properties were partially or totally affected by a criminal act or incident is classified as victim.

The main objective of collecting data on the labor force and its components, including employment, unemployment and underemployment, is to provide basic information on the size and structure of the Palestinian labor force. Data collected at different points in time provide a basis for monitoring current trends and changes in the labor market and in the employment situation. These data, supplemented with information on other aspects of the economy, provide a basis for the evaluation and analysis of macro-economic policies.

In addition, it is necessary to show some labor force indicators on the Palestinian Territory through out the closure period and the Israeli arbitrary measures carried out by Israel since September 2000.

The data for this section deduced from labor force survey that is conducted by PCBS through 1995-2005.

Methodology

Survey Questionnaire:

The survey methodology was designed taking into account the Palestinian conditions, international standards, data processing requirements and the comparability of outputs with other related surveys conducted in the Palestinian Territory.

Sampling Frame:

The sampling frame consisted of a master sample of enumeration areas (EAs) selected from the population housing and establishment census 1997, the master sample consists of area units of relatively equal size (number of households), these units have been used as primary sampling units (PSUs).

Sample Design:

The sample is a two-stage stratified cluster random sample.

Stratification:

Four levels of stratification were made:

1. Stratification by Governorates.
2. Stratification by place of residence which comprises:
(a) Urban (b) Rural (c) Refugee Camps
3. Stratification by classifying localities, excluding governorate capitals, into three strata based on the ownership of households within these localities of durable goods.
4. Stratification by size of locality (number of households).

Sampling Unit:

First stage, sampling units are the Enumeration Areas (EAs) in the master sample, the second stage-sampling units are households.

Sample Size:

The labor force data for the year 2005 was based on the four rounds (36-39) conducted through the year, the sample size in every round in 2004 consisted of 7,563 households except the 3rd round which consisted of 7,626 households. The total number of households for the four rounds were 30,252 households of which 26,595 households were completed. The sample size was enough for getting labor force characteristics estimation in the Palestinian Territory and in different researches.

The sample size allowed for non-response and related losses. Data collected on the persons aged 10-14 years aims to measure child labor indicators.

Sample Rotation:

Each round of the Labor Force Survey covers all the 481 master sample areas. Basically, the areas remain fixed over time, but households in 50% of the EAs are replaced each round. The same household remains in the sample over 2 consecutive rounds, rests for the next two rounds and comes back to the sample for another and last two consecutive rounds before it is dropped from the sample. A 50% overlap is then achieved between both consecutive rounds and between consecutive years (making the sample efficient for monitoring purposes).

Weights:

The weights are calculated to compensate for non-response rates and to satisfy the population size estimations during the round for subgroups that are classified by region, sex and age groups.

Estimations and Variances:

The outputs of estimates in the survey are of the types: totals, means, and proportions. These estimates are produced by the use of Ratio.

It is very important to calculate standard errors for the main survey estimates so that the user can have an idea of data reliability or precision. The standard errors are produced for the main estimates.

Data quality

Data quality considered an important subject for all surveys, because it is related to the existence of data errors, there are two types of errors, sampling errors and non sampling errors, the sampling errors results from studying a sample to represent the whole society, while non-sampling errors results from the survey structure (Collecting and manipulating data), on the other hand the Palestinian Territory is facing Avery serious and dangerous military and security conditions, because of the Israeli closure on the Palestinian Territory since September 2000, which resulted in

direct effects), as the interviewers could not reach the targeted regions to collect data, causing an increase the non-response errors.

Definitions and Concepts

Daily Wage	Cash net wages paid to the waged employee from the employer. Wages received in different currencies are converted into New Israeli Shiekels according to the exchange rate in the survey period.
Employed	All persons aged 15 years and older who were at work at least one hour during the reference week, or who were not at work during the reference week, but held a job or owned a business from which they were temporarily absent (because of illness, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason). Employed persons are classified according to employment status as follows:
Employee	A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece-rates or pay in kind.
Employer	A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more waged employees.
Labor Force	The economically active population (Labor Force) consisting of all persons aged 15 years and over who were either employed or unemployed.
Monthly Work Days	Number of days at work during the month, excluding week-ends, holidays, sick and other paid or unpaid leaves. One hour of work in a given day is considered as one work-day, thus of half-day work on Thursdays, customary in Palestinian civil services , is accounted for as one work-day in this survey.
Occupation	Occupation refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the person employed, or the work done previously if unemployed, irrespective of the economic activity or employment status of the person.
Own-account Worker (Self-Employed)	A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

Persons Outside Labor Force	The population not economically active comprises all persons 15 years and over, who were neither employed nor unemployed accordingly to the definitions mentioned above.
Underemployment	Underemployment exists when a person's employment is inadequate in relation to alternative employment, account being taken of his/her occupational skills.
Unemployed (According to the ILO Standards)	All persons aged 15 years and older who did not work at all during the reference week, who were not absent from a job and were available for work and actively seeking a job during the reference week. Persons who worked in Israel and were absent from work due to closure are considered unemployed.
Unemployed (According to the Relaxed Definition)	The Number Of Unemployed Persons was calculated under the definition by adding to unemployed Persons according to the ILO Standards, those Persons outside labor force because they were frustrated.
Unpaid Family Member	A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person living in the same household.

Collecting data about producer and consumer prices aim at creating specific indices for them. Because of the fundamental importance of these data, an integrated system that covers all aspects as to the strategies of collecting prices, sources and their geographic distribution was outlined. Price index is used on a large scale as an indicator to measure inflation and cessation rates. Ordinary people use this index as an indicator to guide households in term of household budget and its constituents. It is used to measure the differences in currency buying power, as well as to monitor the changes that accrue to prices of market goods, and what follows that of monitoring price directions, market situation and living expenses. Price indices are considered one of the most important instruments used in preparing national accounts to rid income and national grosses from effects of price changes.

Methodology

As to consumer prices, a non-probability (intended) sample was selected. This sample represents all sources of different commodities in a way that assures full coverage of all goods that constitute part of the consumer's basket in the Palestinian Territory in terms of consumer price. For producer prices, a simple and random sample representing all big and small activities, which enter within producer prices system in the Palestinian Territory, was used. Moreover, a systematic stratified random sample was drawn for some activities.

Consumer prices are collected through personal interviews of retailers such as groceries, supermarkets, linen and fabric stores, restaurants, public services, private schools and physicians among others. Consequently, prices of all commodities and services prices are covered according to the rate of change and circulation in the markets. Producer prices are collected from commodities production sources, that is, factories that produce those goods besides vegetable and fruit central markets in all selected area. All prices of commodities that fall under the definition of the producer prices are covered.

Data Quality

Published data are of a high quality. This came as result of implementing certain procedures. These include a comprehensive coverage of the price movement through collecting and registering all prices throughout the whole month, modernizing the commodities framework regularly as well as tracking data sources, selecting commodities of relative importance to consumer and producer prices, preparing a monthly and weekly follow up program and training and following the researchers regularly.

Definitions and Concepts

Base Prices	It is the prices of goods and services in a period in which current prices are compared with.
Consumer Basket	The categories of classified goods and services used by the consumer.
Consumer Price	A price paid by a consumer to gain a necessary commodity or service.
Consumer Price Index	Consumer price index is statistical tool used for measuring changes in prices of purchased goods and services during different temporal intervals.
Laspeyres Equation Price Index	It is the index which measures comparative period prices in relation to base period prices multiplied by proportional weight of commodity or goods group throughout the base year.
Price Index	It is the average of proportional changes of a particular group price of goods and services between two periods.
Producer's Price	The producer's price, as defined in SNA93, is the amount receivable by the producer from the purchaser for a unit of a good or service produced as output minus any VAT, or similar deductible tax, invoiced to the purchaser. The producer prices exclude any transport charges invoiced separately by the producer.
The Base Period	It is the period in which current period is compared with.
Weighting System – Consumer Prices	The goods and services importance range used by the consumer.
Weighting System – Producer Prices	The value of local production of each item of goods reflects the relative significance of that item in the totality of Palestinian Production for that period.
Wholesale price index	The prices of wholesale goods as defined in ISIC means the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods to retailers, to industrial, commercial, institutional or professional users, or to other wholesalers, or to those acting as agents or brokers in buying merchandise for, or selling merchandise to such persons or companies, this price include local and imported products.

The agricultural activity in the Palestinian Territory is an important productive activity. The agricultural sector has an important and fundamental role in the national economy since agricultural products contribute with a big portion in the Foreign Trade and providing foreign currency. This sector also provides many of the raw materials to other economic sectors.

The data that provided by the annual agricultural statistics and the olive presses survey fulfill the needs of research and economic analysis. These data also help decision makers, planners, and those interested in drawing economic policies and contributing to the development of the agricultural sector in this critical stage of home building.

Methodology

Cooperating closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics designed a questionnaire that included the most important agricultural indicators to represent an entire agricultural year that extends from the beginning of October until the end of September of the following year. Data collection is conducted at the locality level.

Agricultural engineers at the Agricultural Departments collect questionnaire data according to the areas under the administration of the different Agricultural Departments and in away that covers all localities in the Palestinian Territory. In some instances, data are collected for more than one locality in one questionnaire. The Ministry of Agriculture edits these data in the office and endorses them before submitting them to the PCBS, which in its turn re-edits the data. Before entering data, a number of data entry operators are trained to use entry programs. Then data are entered into computers. To ensure accuracy of the data entered, special guidelines were set up to edit the entered data mechanically through relying on the locality and consistency of questionnaire data. According to this mechanism, the questionnaire sheets are prepared. These sheets include the questionnaire involving errors. The errors are corrected and entered for another time in order to arrive at new and error-free data. Finally, results are derived.

With regard to olive presses, the press survey questionnaire was designed on the basis of uniting all parts and questions with economic surveys questionnaires that are conducted by the PCBS. In designing these questionnaires, the most important agricultural and economic variables were taken care of. The olive presses questionnaire covers all working presses in the Palestinian Territory whether it were traditional, half automatic or full automatic presses. Comprehensive listing was used in this survey. However, the non-operating presses have been visited to confirm their status. Data collected annually from all operating presses during olive picking season that extends from the mid October of the survey year to the

beginning of January of the following year. The questionnaires underwent primary editing by the field worker and supervisor before the final field and office editing, the questionnaires are then encoded according to the coding guidelines that are previously prepared and used by PCBS. Before the process of data entry starts, a number of data entry personnel are trained on how to use the data entry program at the end of data entry certain relations (programmed) between variables were used in post- data entry editing, so the errors in any questionnaire treated and re- entered to get accurate and good data.

Data Quality

Data collection of the annual agricultural statistics reports depended on the localities as statistical units, whereas the International Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recommends that an agricultural holding should be treated as a statistical unit. Because the records are not used at the locality level, the data are subject to errors. And thus the extent of human bias increases, where a discrepancy in questionnaire completion by different agricultural engineers is observed which impact the collected data. Crop productivity, prices of agricultural goods, as well as Intermediate Consumption Cost are estimated through the cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the PCBS because of inability to obtain these forms from the Agricultural holdings as recommended internationally. The production and the productivity in the tables of fruit trees, vegetables and field crops contain decimal fraction not apparent in the tables. can also be said that many of these gaps in data completion, particularly in the numbers of nurseries and wells, leads to the difficulty of publishing these data and relying on. There is a discrepancy in the reality and the accuracy of the data that are available from one governorate to another. This is due to the difference in the agricultural structures amongst various governorates. It is also due to the extent of follow up continuity the agricultural engineers, as well as the range of the availability of administrative records that are related to the agricultural sector for each governorate.

The role of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is restricted for editing, and programming of agricultural statistics questionnaires for the agricultural year, that have been filled by agricultural engineers in the Ministry of Agriculture, and also estimation of some variables for agricultural accounts in the coordination with specialists in the Ministry of Agriculture. The data have not been collected according to the international recommendation, so the users should deal carefully with these data.

Regarding the olive presses data, the conduction of comprehensive enumeration of all statistical units targeted in the study (presses) had led to the absence of sampling errors in the survey. Also, there was very good response from all presses' owners in this season (2005). The use of the daily form to collect data of pressed olive quantity and extracted oil quantity increased the data reliability and quality.

All financial data for this survey were collected in the new Israeli Shekel (NIS), while in the reports it is converted to US\$ based on the average of exchange rates during survey months.

Definitions and Concepts

Agricultural Year	The period extended from the first of October of the current year to the end of September of the next year.
Area Under Permanent Crops	The area devoted to fruit trees that did not need to replant annually, or the area assumed by fruit trees, i.e. scattered and in association with other crops (inter-cropped).
Compensation of Employees	The total remuneration, including social contributions, in cash or in kind, payable to an employee.
Cultivated Area	Area that was prepared and planted by one crop or more and by either permanent or temporary crops.
Depreciation	The replacement cost of the consumed fixed assets or proportion of fixed assets used up during that year. In this survey the bookkeeping values of depreciation were used.
Olive Press	An enterprise or part of an enterprise in which one group of goods and services is produced (olive oil, with the possibility of having secondary activities).
Productivity	The average production of area unit (kg/dunum).
Quantity of Oil	Quantity of olive oil in kilogram extracted from the pressed olives.
Quantity of Olives	Quantity (in kilogram) of olive fruits pressed in one shift.
Temporarily Closed Presses	Includes all unoperating olive presses during the year due to administrative, technical, or economic reasons.
Value of Agricultural Production	Is the market value of agricultural products assuming farm gate prices. These products do include also the intermediate products like green forages, straw, manure, and cereals for feed and feed mixes.

Transport and Communication

3.13

Transport and communication statistics are considered one of the main fields in official statistics. Economically, transportation and communication sector contributes effectively in the gross domestic income. Geographically, it represents the connecting link inside the society, and between one society and the other societies. Decision makers, institutions, and ministries' attention to the transportation and communication statistics has increased due to their importance in planning and restructuring the infrastructure of the State of Palestine. The primary elements for Transport and communication sector generally comprise ground transportation, air transportation, railroads in addition to all telecommunications components of all sorts such as all types of letters, incoming and outgoing packages, basic calls and phone lines, as well as other components.

Methodology

In providing Transport and communication data, administrative records were mainly used. Data that are related to ground transportation which include the length of road network, number of vehicles and others were obtained from Arab Studies Society-Land Research Center, Ministry of Transport. As for mail statistics, the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology provide the PCBS with copies of the original monthly forms that the Ministry obtains from administrative offices under its control in different governorates, the data about main telephone lines about cellular phone from Palestine cellular communication, while the data about air transportation from Palestinian airlines, and the data about road accidents from the General of the Palestinian Police.

Data Quality

Data reliability is one of the most important quality measures. Two types of errors influence these data: sampling and non-sampling errors. To minimize these errors, a preliminary editing process was conducted upon receiving the data from sources. In cases where errors occurred or when data were unclear, relevant organizations were consulted and asked to adjust the data according to their guidelines. Upon completion of data processing, data were edited to assure logicity.

Data do not include that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967, except the data of road network length, number of Palestinian cellular phone subscribers and regular flights of the Palestinian airlines.

Definitions and Concepts

Bypass Road	Construct by Israeli Occupation to link the Settlements with each other and with Israel.
Killed in Road Traffic Accident	A person who died as a result of the accident, or died of his injuries within 30 days of the accident.
Local Road	Serves the internal traffics within a locality.
Main Road	Serves for national or inter district traffic.
Motor Vehicle	A vehicle fitted with auto propulsive engine, it is normally used for carrying persons or goods, and drawing vehicles.
Postal Material	Includes: Letters, printed matters, postal packets, parcels, and telegrams.
Regional Road	Branching off from, or lining, main roads.
Regular Flight	A series of flights fulfilling at least the following conditions: they are performed by a passenger aircraft, their tickets are open for free sale to the general public; they are planned and adjusted according to the needs of traffic, carried out according to existing aviation agreements, The operating license and the fixed timetables are also available to the general public.
Road Accident	An accident, which occurred as result of the vehicle being in a state of motion on the road and in which people were injured.
Seriously injured	A person who was hospitalized as a result of the accident for a period of 24 hours or more.
Slightly injured	A person who was injured as a result of a road traffic accident and was not hospitalized, or was hospitalized for a short period (up to 24 hours).
Vehicle	A vehicle running on wheels and intended for use on roads.

Construction is a vital activity in the Palestinian Economy, it contributes substantially in the Palestinian Gross Domestic Product and employment.

In an attempt to provide statistical data on the different aspects of this activity, PCBS had initiated the Construction- Contractors Survey within the economic survey series since 1994. PCBS had also started to prepare statistics on building licenses as of the first quarter of 1996 and had also conducted the annual Existing Buildings Survey starting from the reference year 1996 that covers the informal sector of the construction activities.

Methodology

Statistical data is currently collected for the Construction- Contractors and the Existing Buildings Surveys on annual basis. The Construction- Contractors survey covers all enterprises engaged in construction activities, while a two stage stratified cluster random sample was used in Existing Buildings Survey where the building is the statistical unit. Regarding the Building Licenses Statistics, data is currently collected through filling the designated form from the administrative records of the different official licenses issuing authorities. This was initiated on quarterly basis as of 1996 first quarter.

Qualified and well-trained fieldworkers meet interviewers. These fieldworkers are also knowledgeable of the terms pertaining to statistical data and information used the designated survey questionnaire. After interviewing, questionnaires are edited and coded in the office to become ready for data entry. Then preliminary tables of the survey results are derived. These tables are edited according to consistency regulations to produce final survey tables.

Data Quality

Construction- Contractors survey:

- Statistical data had been obtained from book keeping registers where it is available, otherwise interviewers are asked to provide their best estimations.
- Due to the special status of Jerusalem, many difficulties has a raised in data collection process which affects the response rates and the accuracy of the statistical data.
- Statistical data are collected by the currency used by enterprises, and then all currencies are converted to US \$ according to the exchange rates for the reference year.

Existing Buildings Survey:

- It was difficult to find the numbers of the buildings that had been placed by the teams of the 1997 Census, because most of them had been removed or covered.

- As it was expected, it was difficult for the owners of the buildings to provide adequate answers, especially the year when the building was finished and details of construction costs.

The fieldworkers exerted tremendous efforts to get comprehensive and accurate data according to the interviewers estimations.

Building Licenses Statistics:

- It is worth mentioning some of the difficulties in the process of collecting data for this statistics. The UNRWA didn't cooperate with PCBS in completing data pertaining to building licenses issued for the camps residents.
- Some of the building licenses for some localities in Jerusalem Governorate are issued by Ramallah and Bethlehem issuing authority offices.
- The Israeli arbitrary and closure affected the economic activities in the Palestinian Territory since September 2000, especially the Constructions Activities.
- **All data of Building Licenses Statistics do not include that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.**

Definitions and Concepts

Building Ownership	Private, Governmental, Local Authority, Cooperative Society, Charitable Society, Other.
Building Utilization	Residential, Non-Residential, The boundary wall.
Status of the Building to be Licensed	New, when the building site is entirely vacant, Addition to an already existing licensed building, Addition to non-licensed existing, building (or part of building) that needs licensing, Existing building, Existing extensions.

Industry is an important economic sector in the Palestinian Territory. It is similar to other sectors, contributes effectively and actively in the gross domestic product and employing labor force. Out of the necessity of providing primary statistical data about these activities, the PCBS executed a special survey of these activities as part of the statistical economic survey chain. Industry Survey provides data about number of organization, number of employees, compensations of employees, output values, intermediate consumption, value added, stock values, assets movements as well as other economic indicators. Industry Survey contributes in providing primary data necessary for preparing national accounts of Palestine and providing data needed for research and economic analysis purposes. These are also important for decision makers, planners, and those concerned in the industrial sector.

Methodology

Industry Survey data are collected annually and periodically, using single stage stratified systematic random sample model. Institutions represent the primary sampling units. Industry Survey includes the following activities: mining and quarry uses, transformational industries as well as water, gas and electricity supplies. Survey data are collected via personal interviews of the owners or managers of targeted institutions. Well-trained and qualified field workers conduct these interviews using Survey questionnaire. Then data are edited and encoded in the office to become ready for entry. Upon data entry completion, preliminary tables are derived. These tables are edited according to consistency guidelines to reach results final tables.

Data Quality

Required data for researchers are provided through the institutions' bookkeeping records whenever they are available. In cases where organizations do not keep these records, and usually these are small institutions, respondents were asked to provide best estimates. Some difficulties arose in collecting required data from survey institutions in Jerusalem because of its unique status, which affects on the Survey statistical data accuracy. With regard to currency, collecting data is conducted based on the currency used in each institution. Then all currencies are transformed to US dollar according to average exchange rates of a year. **Data of the years 2001-2004 do not include that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.**

The importance of tourism statistics lies in determining the contribution volume of tourist sector services in supporting national economy. These survey addresses the main indicators of the hotel activity. These indicators include number of operating hotels, number of rooms and beds, room and public facilities in the surveyed hotels, number of persons engaged in hotels, number of nights in the reference period, distribution of guests by nationality, and rates of bed occupancy and room occupancy.

Methodology:

Hotel Survey:

Data related to the Hotels are collected through a special questionnaire that is kept in each hotel to be completed for every month according to hotel's records. These questionnaires are collected from all working hotels in the Palestinian Territory and Jerusalem governorate that comprises 28% of the total hotel number of hotels.

Inbound Tourism Survey 2005:

The sample of this survey is a sub-sample of Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample, during the first quarter 2006.

Domestic Tourism Survey 2005:

The sample of this survey is a sub-sample of Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample, during the first quarter 2006.

Inbound Tourism and Domestic Tourism Survey Questionnaire:

The inbound and domestic tourism survey questionnaire was designed in accordance with similar country experience and with international standards and recommendations for the most important indicators, taking into account the special situation of the Palestinian Territory.

Data Quality of hotel Survey:

Hotel Survey data are highly reliable. They represent the reality of the hotel inmates' movements. This is due to the fact that hotel records are the primary sources. The response rate exceeded 96%.

Data Quality of Domestic and inbound Tourism Survey:

This provides the important notes concerning the statistical quality of the data. This includes data quality as compiled from different activities in this survey. Also, this

section includes main technical notes for the main results of Inbound Tourism Survey.

Sampling Errors:

These types of errors evolved as a result of studying a part of the society and not all of it. For this survey, variance calculations were made for type of expenditure during the inbound visit, be careful when you want to use these values.

Non Sampling Errors:

These errors are due to non-response cases as well as the implementation of surveys. In this survey, these errors emerged because of:

- (a) the special situation of the questionnaire itself which depends on type of estimation
- (b) diversity of sources (e.g. the interviewers, respondent, editors, coders, data entry operator ...etc).

The sources of these errors can be summarized in:

- Some of the households were not in their houses and the interviewers couldn't meet them.
- Some of the households didn't show attention toward the questionnaire.
- Some errors occurred due to the way the questions were asked by interviewers.
- Misunderstood of the questions by the respondents.
- Answering the questions related to consumption by making estimations.

Definitions and Concepts

Available Beds and Rooms:	It refers to beds and rooms, which are ready for use during the reference period. Closed rooms for maintenance or repairs are excluded.
Average (rooms, beds) Occupancy:	It is defined as the total number of occupied (rooms, beds) divided by number of days
Average Length of Stay:	Represents the total of guest nights by nationality divided by number of guests of the same nationality .
Domestic tourism:	This is defined as comprising the activities of residents of a given area traveling only within that area, but outside their usual environment.
Guests:	It refers to visitors staying in the hotels and using their facilities in return for a certain charge. Records of new guests are based on the number of visits regardless whether it's the same person or different.

Hotel:	It is defined as an accommodation establishment providing overnight lodging for the visitors in a room or unit. It should hold a number of persons exceeding that of an average single family. The establishment must be under one management, and provides different facilities and services to visitors.
Inbound Tourism:	This is defined as comprising the activities of non-residents visitors to the households in other country, with exception of hotel guests.
Purpose of Visit:	The purpose in the absence of which the trip would not have taken place. For many purposes, the secondary purposes is also important and worth including in a survey, for example leisure and business, combined visiting friends and relatives and recreation.
Tourism Expenditure on inbound Visit	The total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor for and during his/her trip and stay at destination, inside the visited country.
Tourism Expenditure:	The total consumption expenditure made by a visitor or on behalf of a visitor for and during his/her trip and stay at destination
Tourism Trip:	The activities of person(s) traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment.

Services activities in the Palestinian Territory are regarded one of the economic activities that contribute actively and effectively in the gross domestic product and employing labor work. Out of the importance of providing primary statistical data about these activities, the PCBS executed a special survey of these activities as part of the economic statistical surveys. The Services Survey provides data about number of enterprises, number of employees, compensation of employees, values of output, intermediate consumption, value added, stock value, assets movement as well as other economic indicators. The Services Survey contributes in providing primary data necessary for research and economic analysis purposes. These are also important for decision makers, planners and those interested in internal trade activities.

Methodology

The Services Survey data is collected annually and periodically. A single stage stratified systematic random sample model is used. The organization represents the primary sampling unit. The Services Survey includes:

1. Hotels & Restaurants
2. Leasing and real estate activities.
3. Education.
4. Health & Social work.
5. Other Social and personal activities.

The Survey data are collected through personal interviews with the owners or managers of the targeted organizations by well-trained and qualified interviewers using the designated survey questionnaire. Then these questionnaires are edited and encoded in the office to become ready for data entry. Upon completion of data entry, preliminary Survey tables are derived. These tables are edited according to guidelines of consistency in order to arrive at the final Survey results.

Data Quality

The required data are provided for the researcher through the organizations' bookkeeping records whenever these are available. In case these organizations do not keep such records, as most of the small organization, they are required to provide the best possible estimates. Several difficulties arose in collecting the required data from the Survey organizations in Jerusalem due to its unique status. This affected the Survey statistical data accuracy.

With regard to currency, Survey data are collected according to the currency used in each organization. Afterwards, all currencies are transformed to American dollars based on the average of exchange rates for each year. **Data of the years 2001-2004 do not include that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967**

Preparing the national accounts in any country represents the thrust of the exerted efforts in preparing a set of integrated and modern economic statistics. National accounts provide a complete picture of all transactions that occur during a specific period. Subsequently, it provides a compressive picture of the macro economy in any given country. These accounts include a consistent systematic statistical description for the economy as a whole and the relationships between different economic sectors, and the relationship between the national macro economy and the rest of world economies at the same time. National accounts perform two-folded mission in many countries. First, these accounts are used in monitoring the economic performance and policy through monitoring the current economic interactions among various economic sectors. Second, the data and the framework of these accounts are used in feeding econometrics models, which in their turn are utilized in preparing national budgets, macroeconomic planning, and economic analysis and prediction.

Methodology

The Palestinian national accounts were prepared according to the 1993 System of National Accounts. This system highlights the most current internationally agreed upon bases and standards set forth to prepare coherent and harmonious accounts for the macro economy. In preparing national accounts, the following are taken into consideration:

- In terms of sources: Rely upon economic surveys, foreign trade statistics, agricultural statistics, labor force statistics, Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey, and administrative records of international and governmental institutions.
- In terms of methodology: Rely upon supply and use tables used in achieving internal consistency for the detailed data in terms of activities and goods.

Data Quality

National accounts data quality depends on the quality of its inputs stemming from different sources. The areas of weakness of these sources are limited to data pertaining to Foreign Trade, agricultural statistics, as well as governmental sector. However using supply and use tables will minimize the discrepancies among these sources and will place them in an integrated and internally consistent frame. The modifications that are preformed to the data are meant to achieve and balance at both levels: supply and use. With regard to data about Jerusalem, it is always recommended to cautiously handle these data. Thus these are listed in tables separated from those of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is due to the unique circumstances this city undergoes. These circumstances make it difficult to collect and estimate these data accurately. Therefore, supply and use tables do not include

this geographical region due to the distortions and difficulties in the budgeting process it might create, data of this chapter is adjusted according to the updating from the source. Taking into consideration the differences between national account's exports and imports data compared to External trade and Balance of payment data as a result of different methodologies.

Definitions and Concepts

Final Consumption by Government and Non-Profit Institutions	It is measured as the value of the output minus the receipt from sales. Expenditures. It is divided into two categories: individual; and collective. The first comprises those incurred for the benefit of individuals, e.g. medical services. Collective expenditure have a public character, for example government spending on defense and public security would be included in this category
Financial corporation sector	In the financial corporations sector, there are mainly banks, insurance companies, and auxiliary financial institutions, for example money exchangers that maintain a complete set of accounts for their activities.
Government Sector	The government is an entity established by political processes, which have legislative, judicial or executive authority over others. In Palestine the Government appears at two levels: central and local. In the tables, economic activity attributable to the government sector appears under the item producers of government services.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	Is the summary measure of the output or production during a certain period in time. Estimate of GDP, like the output and the value added, can vary according to taxes and subsidies taken into consideration. GDP is usually estimated at market prices, producers' prices, or basic prices.
Gross Disposable Income (GDI)	This item equals Gross National Income (GNI) plus net current transfers from abroad.
Gross National Income (GNI)	This item equals Gross Domestic Product (GDP) plus net factor income from abroad, which equals the net compensation of employees, and net capital income received by residents.
Household Final Consumption	Consists of household expenditure on all goods and services, with the exception of spending on dwellings which is considered gross fixed capital formation of the owner.
Household Sector	A household is defined as a group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their

income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food. Households are mainly consumers, but they may also be producers. All economic activity taking place within the production boundary and not performed by an entity maintaining a complete set of accounts is considered to be undertaken in the household sector. In the tables, the activity labeled *private households with employed persons* belongs to the household sector. Households also participate in many of the remaining activities in the tables, e.g. agriculture and retail trade.

Institutional sector	There are five institutional sectors in the system of national accounts: government; non-profit institutions serving households; financial corporations; households; and non-financial corporations. Accounts are not presented at an institutional sector level; however, most activities can be attributed to one or two specific sectors.
Net Balance Trade Goods	It is measured as the value of the Exports of Goods minus Imports of Goods.
Non-Financial Corporation Sector	The non-financial corporations sector contains all other entities whose principal activity is production of market goods and services. They are distinguished from productive units in the household sector by their maintaining a complete set of accounts. A considerable part of value added in the remaining activities is attributable to this sector.
Non-Profit Institution Serving Households Sector	As the name indicates, in spite of producing goods and services, non-profit institutions do not generate income or profit for those entities that own them. They may be divided into three groups: those serving businesses (e.g. a chamber of commerce which is grouped in the non-financial corporation sector); those, which form part of the government sector (e.g. a government-owned hospital) and non-profit institutions serving households. The latter consists mainly of trade unions, professional unions, churches, charities and privately financed aid organizations.
Taxes	Taxes are compulsory, unrequited payments, in cash or in kind, paid to general government.
Total of Gross Operating Surplus	This item is defined as gross value added at basic prices minus total compensation of employees (including that payable to non-residents), minus taxes less subsidies on products.

Internal trade activities in the Palestinian Territory are regarded one of the economic activities that contribute actively and effectively in the gross domestic product and employing labor work. Out of the importance of providing primary statistical data about these activities, the PCBS executed a special survey of these activities as part of the economic statistical surveys. The Internal Trade Survey provides data about number of organizations, number of workers, workers' compensations, production values, intermediate consumption, value added, stock value, assets movement as well as other economic indicators. The Internal Trade Survey contributes in providing primary data necessary for research and economic analysis purposes. These are also important for decision makers, planners and those interested in internal trade activities.

Methodology

The Internal Trade Survey data are collected annually and periodically. A single stage stratified systematic random sample model is used. The organization represents the primary sampling unit. The Internal Trade Survey includes:

6. Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles as well as sale of fuel in retail.
7. Wholesale and commission excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles.
8. Retail trade excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles as well as repairing personal and household goods.

The Survey data are collected through personal interviews with the owners or managers of the targeted organizations by well-trained and qualified interviewers using the designated survey questionnaire. Then these questionnaires are edited and encoded in the office to become ready for data entry. Upon completion of data entry, preliminary Survey tables are derived. These tables are edited according to guidelines of consistency in order to arrive at the final Survey tables.

Data Quality

The required data are provided for the researcher through the organizations' bookkeeping records whenever these are available. In case these organizations do not keep such records, as most of the small organization, they are required to provide the best possible estimates. Several difficulties arose in collecting the required data from the Survey organizations in Jerusalem due to its unique status. This affected the Survey statistical data accuracy.

With regard to currency, Survey data are collected according to the currency used in each organization. Afterwards, all currencies are transformed to American dollars based on the average of exchange rates for each year. **Data of the years 2001-2004 do not include that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.**

Foreign Trade

Since 1995, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has been conducting figures on foreign trade statistics according to the international standards, main annual indicators in terms of foreign trade statistics, exports of national origin, re-exports by country of destination, exported goods based on Broad Economic Categories (BEC), as well as net trade balance with world countries. The output data is used in preparing national accounts, food balance sheet and the balance of payments. They are also used in all National Palestinian Authority ministries, institutions, and agencies as well as for researchers and scholars.

Methodology

Most of the world countries depend on the custom declaration in supervising real flow of goods during reference periods. However, and due to the unique and special conditions of the Palestinian Territory, the PCBS depended on clearance invoices for the value added tax in the Ministry of Finance as the primary source for data pertaining to trade transaction with Israel. It also relied on the Israeli custom declarations with world countries for the goods that its last destination is the Palestinian Territory in addition to other sources.

The data of this chapter does not include figures of that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of West Bank in 1967.

Data Quality

Data provides a semi full coverage for all exports and imports of fresh agricultural products of the Palestinian Territory with Israel as provided by the source. These data do not include unsupervised goods in commercial exchanges with Israel. These comprise nearly 20% of total of exchanges according to the estimates of the Palestinian Ministry of Finance and other analysis and research institutes. It is also noticeable that imports and exports with Israel include indirect imports and exports with world countries due to the absence of including country of origin or destination in clearance invoice. Which means that the Palestinian imports from Israel are not necessarily originated from Israel. Also, the Palestinian exports to Israel include the Palestinian exports to world countries via Israel. It is necessary to take into consideration the differences between national account's exports and imports data compared to External trade and Balance of payment data as a result of different methodologies used at each program. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics advises to use the numbers cautiously as they are based on various statistical data sources and the different mechanism adopted by each data source.

Balance of Payments

The Balance of Payments (BOP), which determines the economic transactions between residents and nonresidents in a certain period of time, is considered as the peak of efforts in preparing systematic economic statistics. It conveys detailed information on receipts and payments as well as changes in financial assets and liabilities between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Which is necessary to monitor the economic performance in general, and to derive the essential data, which is necessary to compile the Rest of the World Account as a part of Palestinian National Accounts, as well as it is considered as a main part of International Investment Position components. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) prepare the BOP, to help policy makers, investors, economists, researchers and others in the field of planning and improving economic policies with the rest of the world to serve the national economy.

Methodology

The Balance of Payments compilation and data collection process depend on various sources, which include,

1. Internal sources: Relying on the economic surveys, foreign trade statistics, labors force survey, population statistics, banks survey, price index and Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey.
2. External sources: Relying on ministries, consulates and representatives, non-governmental organizations, and related national institutions.

The questionnaires, which are used in this survey, took into account meeting the needs of compiling the Balance of Payments and the Rest of the World Account.

12 forms of questionnaires for administrative records are used, one for each similar group of data sources. Those data, which were collected from surveys, administrative records and other sources, provide an economic database. Coding, classifications and tabulation are according to (IMF) manual fifth edition recommendations.

Data Quality

It is important in designing the computerized files to provide the ability to discover the entry or processing mistakes, each file contains an accurate check system page for the data entry. But in the case of balance of payments outcomes, which depend on different surveys and related administrative records, so the data quality of these sources play a vital role in balance of payments outcomes data quality. The variety in data sources lead to many results for the same variable because of the multiply methods which are used in every source. In addition to the difference in defining residency concept among the balance of payments manual recommendations and

usable definition in banks and some of local institutions which is considered as an important factor to abiated data, and to reflect the economic situation.

The main problem in data coverage in the Palestinian Territory due to the absence of PNA control on borders with Israel, and also non responding of many institutions especially the diplomatic ones and some international agencies of supporting in their transactions with the rest of the world. This cause many difficulties in coverage of economic transactions especially with Israeli economy. Taking into consideration the differences between national account's exports and imports data compared to External trade and Balance of payment data as a result of different methodologies.

Definitions and Concepts

Customs Statement	It is an Israeli customs document containing all the data related to the Palestinian direct imports from other countries through the Israeli entries and ports, Damyah Bridge, Allenby Bridge and Al-Awdah Bridge (Rafah).
Destination of Goods	The final country of goods destination, so, it is not the country which is the goods passing from.
Direct Investment	Investment over which the owner exercises control. The distinguishing criterion for inclusion in this category is that the owner should hold at least 10 per cent of the ordinary shares in the company.
Economic territory	Area scope of a country in which administrated by a government, persons, goods, and the capital freely travel inside it. It is also connected with the residential concept, and without necessary relation with political boundaries of a country.
Export Country (Charging Destination)	The country which is the goods charged to its final destination, it may be the country of origin or not.
Exports	Refer to all commodities, goods and services, which are exported outside the country, or to free customs regions. It includes the national commodities and re-exported services of commodities and goods. F.O.B. is the base to count it by its costs loaded by means of transportation in the country of origin.
Imports	The coming grand of commodities, goods and services to country by air, land and sea which are used in consumption, convertibility of Industry, exportation and re-exportation. Customs clearances regarding private or public sector; excused or unexcused of customs duty are

taken into consideration. The Imports Value are counted by the base C.I.F. which means the total cost of load good in addition to the insurance and loading fees till goods reach to customs centers of the country. The foreign trade statistics register the imports according to the customs clearances date not its arrival to customs centers.

Income	Covers international transactions associated with income on factors of production, i.e. labour and capital. In the balance of payments, income on capital is referred to as income on financial assets.
National Exports	All Commodities, goods and services, which are totally manufactured by local factories or changed there shape and value to be exported outside the country after the customs clearances. F.O.B is the base to count exports, which means the goods value with all its loaded costs by means of transportation.
Other Investment	Included all transactions in financial assets and liabilities, which are not classified under any of the three other broad categories. The most important of these are currency, deposits and loans (including trade credits).
Port, In or Out Center	The customs center (air, land and sea) which services, goods and commodities go in/ out the country. It is the place of general customs procedures.
Portfolio Investment	A residual category for transactions in shares, bonds, bills, notes, money market instruments and financial derivatives. It is residual because these instruments are also included under direct investment and <i>reserve assets</i> .
Re-Export	Goods are imported and exported in/ out the country with all customs procedures. Nothing is made to change their core or shape. Its base is also F.O.B.
Reserve Assets	Includes only gross assets. The distinction between reserve assets and other assets is that the former can be used by the PMA for balance of payments purposes. Should they must fulfil the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) They must be controllable by the PMA.2) They must be accessible to the PMA at relatively short notice for balance of payments purposes.3) They must be denominated in a convertible currency.

Residence	Is defined in economic, The main criterion to determine residence of an entity is <i>centre of economic interest</i> . Persons are considered residents of the country where they live for at least one year exclude Students, Illness and Solderies).
The Certificate of Origin	It is a document issued by the exporting department at the Ministry of National Economy, showing the data related to exports of national origin and which is re-exported to Jordan and other Arab and world countries except Israel
The Clearance Voucher for the Value Added Tax	It is a unified voucher for both Israeli and Palestinian parties. This shows the movement of transaction trade between the Palestinian territories and Israel only.
The Complementary Data	They are the data of Water Authority Power Authority, Petroleum General Corporation, Post Authority, Agriculture Ministry .
Transactions	Defined as acts in which two parties exchange or transfer financial assets, services, goods or non-financial, non-produced assets, e.g. land, patents and copyrights, or as acts in which new financial claims and liabilities are created and cancelled.
Transfers	Unrequited transactions, i.e. transactions in which a unit provides another unit with a real resource (good or service) or a financial asset without any flow in the opposite direction. In the balance of payments, a distinction is made between current and capital transfers

International economic developments are among the most important factors that made speed in executing financial transactions such as money transfer, banking facilities, goods insurance and other financial transaction. The need for financial transactions was not to be realized without creating a specialized activity to conduct these transactions represented by financial intermediation activities. These changes affected financial activities in the Palestinian Territory especially after signing the peace agreements, which contributed in realizing a form of stability at the economic and political levels. As a result, numerous new institutions and branches were established. This led to increasing the efficiency of financial and insurance activities in the Palestinian economy, as well as absorbing many of the Palestinian labor force, but the current changes in the political and the economic situation, effects directly the output and employment in finance and insurance sectors. Finance and Insurance Survey provides a lot of data and economic indicators pertaining to finance and insurance activities of several institutions, number of laborers, workers' compensations, production values, intermediate consumption, value added, assets transfer and other indicators. The main objective of collecting financial and insurance data is providing necessary data to prepare the national accounts of Palestine, implementing and supervising the effect of financial and economic policies meant to analyze the macro economy and fro research, as well as providing necessary data for decision makers, planners and those interested in financial and insurance activities.

Methodology

Financial and Insurance data are collected annually. Comprehensive listing model that covered all organizations working in financial and insurance activities in the Palestinian Territory was used. These organizations include Palestinian Monetary Authority, Islamic and commercial banks, other credit institutions, Palestine securities exchange and stock market brokers, and insurance companies and agents. The Survey data are collected through personal interviewing where the researcher interviews the workers in the organization to obtain the final accounts. Afterwards, these accounts are analyzed in the office. The data are completed on a specialized questionnaire that includes all information and data that accomplish survey objectives in concordance with the most current international guidelines in this respect, especially national account system SNA93. This is done according to the reference year of all organizations that provide these data. In case questionnaire data were difficult to complete based on final accounts due to lack of clarity in one of the items are due to lack of details, interested parties are re-interviewed to inquire about such items.

Data Quality

1. Required data are provided to the fieldwork staff through bookkeeping records of all organizations the survey covered. This excludes the money exchangers and insurance agents.
2. There are no Arab banks, financial institutions, or insurance companies in Jerusalem or its suburbs. Thus there are no available data on that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel in 1967.
3. The 1997- 2004 surveys did not cover money exchangers and insurance agents due to the decrease in their production value compared to the total value of the financial intermediation activities shown in 1995 and 1996 survey rounds. Including them in the Survey will raise its cost drastically. It is possible to estimate the important economic variables for these products by resorting to 1997- 2004 survey rounds.
4. The Survey data are collected based on the currency that was used by the organization. Afterwards, all these currencies are transformed to US dollars according to the average of exchange rates for each year.

Environmental data are regarded amongst the primary statistical fields that received more attention in the last decade. These data constitute an informational tool in the public debate, planning and drawing relevant policies. This area occupies a significant status in the Palestinian Territory due to the paucity of such environmental data.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics worked hard to provide accurate statistical data pertaining to the water resources illuminating the available amounts of water in the Palestinian Territory. The PCBS attempts to make these data the basis for analytical studies about the Palestinian legitimate rights and their water needs for developmental programs.

With regard to energy, the pertaining data are one of the most important issues for decision makers in any given country. These data provide an indicator of the country's development and progress. They also provide those working in energy field with indicators about the demand for energy of all types. In order to enable the concerned parties to work on providing the country's energy needs.

Methodology

In collecting these data, administrative records of the Palestinian specialized organizations in water issues were relied upon. Most important amongst these is the Palestinian Water Authority. Additionally, the data that were derived from Local Community Survey 2003 were also relied upon. These data were processed and tabulated. The mechanism of collecting data pertaining to energy of all types is contingent on two sources: the administrative records of companies and organization working in energy field in the Palestinian Territory as well as relevant energy surveys. The periodicity of these data differs based on origin and nature of data. Some of these are monthly, other are seasonal or annual.

Data relevant to household solid wastes and sewage water data are collected through Household Environmental Survey that is executed as an index of Labor Force Survey in the first quarter of 2004. The solid waste data pertaining to communities were completed during Local Community Survey -2003. Data of health care wastes produced by health care centers obtained from the environmental survey 2004 and environmental Survey for health care centers. Meteorological data were collected from the meteorological stations administrative records. Data of economical establishments were collected by the environmental economic survey, which is implemented in 2004. This survey provides data about the environment of the economical establishments such as water, wastewater, solid waste and the faced problems during Al-Aqsa intifada.

Wastewater disposal method data were obtained from Household Environmental survey 2003.

Data Quality

There are some technical observations pertaining to enclosed data. The number of wells and springs does not represent the total figure but only the studied ones. Here arises the discrepancy in the number of wells provided for different years. There is also a discrepancy in the real total number of communities and that number that is included in the tables. This discrepancy is a result of excluding some communities which depends on other larger communities at the time of data collection where these communities were vacant.

Most data pertaining to petroleum and its products were derived mainly from the administrative records of the Palestinian Petroleum Authority. Remaining data were covered by resorting to the bills of the Ministry of Finance.

The most important indicators for the Palestinian Territory were taken from the annual reports 1996- 2002. Complete set of data was not available since published data in the Yearbook covers only production quantities, while Palestinian Territory indicators concerns consumption.

Environmental section relied on different data sources that vary in quality, While the households surveys (energy, environmental and economic) relied on sample. Thus, like any other survey, it has sampling errors. These can be estimated and measured. But it also has non-sampling errors that are difficult to measure and origins such as researcher, respondent or programmer cannot be determined.

Data of Local Community Survey are free from sampling errors and thus have high quality due to using a compressive listing method. Here data to all communities were gathered. Finally, data of meteorological condition are lack comprehensiveness.

Definitions and Concepts

Consumed Water	Water withdrawn from groundwater or a source of surface water for industrial, domestic, irrigation use or for any other uses.
Electrical Energy	Work done to move an electric charge in a conductor. And the unit of electrical energy is kwh
Electrical Energy	Power (kw) X Time (Hours).
Equivalent Metric Ton of Petroleum	Energy unit, an Equivalent Metric Ton of Petroleum is defined as the energy resulting from burning one ton of petroleum. Due to having many types of petroleum, it was fixed on a certain value. A Metric Ton of Petroleum, 41.9 Giga Joule, 10 Giga Calorie, 1.43 metric ton of coal, 7 barrels of petroleum, 39.68 Mega of British Thermal Unit
Joule Unit	Energy unit, it is defined as the energy resulting from the movement of a one-Newton body to a distance of one meter. 1 Joule = 1 Newton. m.
Public Water Network	A net of pipes for the purpose of providing clean water to households. It normally belongs to a municipality, the council or to a private company and for different domestic uses.

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