



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics continues to work on data collection and production of Consumer Price Index in light COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS) pandemic

The overall CPI for Palestine during March 2020 increased by 0.72% compared with February 2020 (by 0.81% in the West Bank**, by 0.69% in Gaza Strip, and by 0.35% in Jerusalem J1*).

The changes in Palestinian CPI for March 2020 were traced back to changes in prices of the following expenditure sub groups compared with previous month:

Sub Groups	Percent Change
Dried Vegetables	+ 30.17%
Fresh Chicken	+ 10.48%
Potatoes and other Tubers	+ 4.99%
Fresh Fruit	+ 3.85%
Eggs	+ 3.43%
Short Grain Rice	+ 0.85%
Fresh Vegetables	- 0.59%

The Palestinian CPI during March 2020 increased by 1.11% compared with March 2019 (by 3.36% in Jerusalem J1*, by 1.06% in the West Bank**, and with a slight increase by 0.03% in Gaza Strip).

Notice for Users:

1. As a result of CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) outbreak, and the implemented measures to limit its spread, the data collection process for Consumer Price Index has been replaced with data collection via phone

and websites for all sale outlets in all of the Palestinian Governorates instead of collecting data face to face from the field.

2. The number of sale outlets, from which Consumer Prices are collected in the West Bank** and Gaza Strip, reached 2,856 outlets in March 2020. Thus and in light of the temporary closure of many outlets due to applying the Palestinian emergency plan, the percentage for the completion of data collection process is as follows:

Region	Number of Collected Outlets	Number of Non-Collected Outlets	Percentage of Collected Outlets
West Bank**	1,543	522	75%
Gaza Strip	763	28	96%
Total	2,306	550	81%

3. Basic commodities price data were collected in Jerusalem J1* Governorate, where most of them concentrated on food and non-alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, fuel, gas, medicines and cleaning materials. The number of sale outlets collected in Jerusalem J1* was (130 outlets) out of the sample total number (217 outlets) in the governorate; 60% of outlets was collected.

4. The number of price observations collected to compile the Palestinian Consumer Price index is 38,395 price observations; where 88% was collected in March 2020. Hence, the percentages are as follows within the Palestinian regions:

Region	Number of Actual Collected Observation	Estimated Number of Observations	Percentage of Actual Collected Observation
West Bank**	22,852	3,975	85%
Gaza Strip	9,292	65	99%
Jerusalem J1*	1,785	426	81%
Palestine	33,929	4,466	88%

5. International recommendations are followed in estimating the missing data, which are mentioned in the Consumer Price Index guide. Moreover, the (**Group Relative Method**) is one of the best methods used to estimate the missing data, which is the process of estimating the prices based on the change in the prices of the remaining sources for the same category. Accordingly and in case of the closure of an entire source on a temporary basis, all the prices of that source are estimated based on the change in the prices of the sources that share the same items which are collected from that source.

6. The estimate is also used at the (**Next Level Up in Aggregation**) in case of the disappearance of the index for a whole sub-group or a higher group reaching up to the major groups that constitute the index.

7. Cases of closings sale outlets were concentrated in the second half of March 2020 after the imposition of the stay-at-home preventive measure, that is during the data



collection period of the third and fourth weeks of the month, where most of those closed sale outlets were non-food outlets "clothes, shoes, salons, furniture fairs, restaurants, hotels...etc". Hence, all food outlets and pharmacies were excluded from the closure.

8. Data from all sale outlets were collected for the first and second week of March 2020 in all Palestinian governorates, which, in return, helped greatly in estimating the missing observations for non-food commodities that are stable in their prices over time, especially for service commodities.

Notes:

*Data represent those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli Occupation in 1967.

**Data exclude those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israeli Occupation in 1967.

Please note that the press release in English is brief compared to the Arabic version

**For more information, please contact:
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
P.O BOX 1647, Ramallah, Palestine.**

Tel: (972/970) 2 2982700

Fax: (972/970) 2 2982710

Toll free.: 1800300300

E-Mail diwan@pcbs.gov.ps

Web-Site: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

