**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)**

**Press Release on the Results of the Labour Force Survey Second Quarter**

**(April – June, 2017)  Round**

**The labour force participation rate of individuals aged 15 years and above was 45.4%**

The number of individuals participating in the labour force in Palestine was 1,367,900 in the 2nd quarter 2017; 874,500 in the West Bank and 493,400 in Gaza Strip.

The labour force participation rate in the West Bank was 46.0% and 44.4% in Gaza Strip, the gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine still very big where it reached 71.6% for males compared with 18.5% for females.

**29.0% the unemployment rate among labour force participants**

Using ILO standards, the number of unemployed was 396,400 in the 2nd quarter 2017; distributed as 216,900 in Gaza Strip and 179,500 in the West Bank.

The unemployment rate in Gaza Strip was 44.0% compared with 20.5% in the West Bank in the 2nd quarter 2017, And the unemployment rate for males in Palestine was 23.7% compared with 50.0% for females.

The highest unemployment rate in the 2nd quarter 2017 was 46.3% among youth aged 20-24 years. For years of schooling, the highest unemployment rate among females with 13 years of schooling and more was 57.4%.

**The number of the employment in the local market decreased between the 1st quarter and 2nd quarter 2017**

The number of employed in the local market decreased from 857,300 in the 1st quarter 2017 to 838,700 in the 2nd quarter 2017. The number of employed individuals in Gaza Strip decreased by 20,500 employed, while the number of employed persons in the West Bank increased by 1,900 employed.

The services sector was the biggest employer in the local market with 32.4% in the West Bank and 53.7% in Gaza Strip.

The public sector employed 21.9% of those in employment; 38.1% in Gaza Strip and 15.4% in the West Bank.

The average daily wage for wage employees in the West Bank was 103.7 NIS compared with 59.9 NIS in Gaza Strip.

The average weekly hours worked by wage employees in the West Bank was 43.8 hour in the 2nd quarter 2017 and 44.4 hour in the 1st quarter 2017. The average number of days worked per month was 23.0 and 22.4 working day in the 2nd quarter 2017 and 1st quarter 2017. The average number of hours worked per week in Gaza Strip was 37.1 and 37.8 hour per week in the 2nd quarter 2017 and 1st quarter 2017, and the average number of days worked per month was 22.8 and 21.9 working day in the 2nd quarter 2017 and 1st quarter 2017 respectively.

**Number of employed in Israel and Israeli settlements was 128,400 in the 2nd quarter 2017**

The number of employed in Israel and Israeli settlements was 128,400 in the 2nd quarter 2017 compared with 139,600 in the 1st quarter 2017. Of these; 62,300 had a permit, 37,900 worked without any permit and 28,200 had an Israeli identity card or foreign passport.

The number of employees in the Israeli settlements decreased to 18,300 in the 2nd quarter 2017 from 24,000 in the 1st quarter 2017.

57.6% of employed in Israel and the Israeli settlements worked in the construction sector.

The average daily wage for the wage employees in Israel and the Israeli settlements reached 222.6 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2017 compared with 219.5 NIS in the 1st quarter 2017.

The average number of hours worked per week in Israel and the Israeli settlements reached 40.3 hour in the 2nd quarter 2017 compared with 42.2 hour in the 1st quarter 2017.

The average number of days worked per month reached 18.4 working day in the 2nd quarter 2017 compared with 20.1 working day in the 1st quarter 2017.

**Employment Status in the 2nd quarter 2017**

70.6% of employed individuals are wage employees; 66.7% in the West Bank and 80.4% in Gaza Strip.

18.9% of employed individuals are self- employed; 21.0% in the West Bank and 13.4% in Gaza Strip.

4.3% of employed individuals are unpaid family members; 4.9% in the West Bank and 2.9% in Gaza Strip.

6.2% of employed individuals are employers; 7.4% in the West Bank and 3.3% in Gaza Strip.

**Percentage Distribution of Employed Individuals by Employment Status, Q2-2017**

**Working benefits for wage employees in the private sector**

25.3% of wage employees are hired by contract (8.3% of them with limited period and 17.0% with unlimited period), compared with 50.5% hired without any contract, and 24.2% of wage employees are hired by verbal agreement.

21.9% of wage employees contribute to a pension fund, 21.7% have annual paid leave and 31.4% of wage employees women have paid maternity leave.

16.7% of employed individuals in Palestine are affiliated to a workers vocational union; 11.6% in the West Bank and 29.3% in Gaza Strip.

**36.8% of wage employees in the private sector received less than the minimum wage (1,450 NIS) in Palestine.**

In the West Bank 17.1% of wage employees in the private sector received less than minimum monthly wage, about 40,700 wage employees with average monthly wage 1,089 NIS.

In Gaza Strip the percentage of wage employees in the private sector who received less than the minimum monthly wage was 76.9% about 89,700 wage employees with average monthly wage 732 NIS.

**Child Labour**

3.1% of children aged 10-17 years in Palestine are employed; 4.2% in the West Bank and 1.5% in Gaza Strip.

**Data collection of labour force survey was funded by the European Union.**