

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Issued a special press release for the students who sit for the General Secondary School Certification Examinations "Tawjihi" of the academic year 2019/2020 .

Educational fields and labor market among individuals aged (20-29 years) in 2019.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected the educational systems throughout the world, leading to the widespread closure of schools and universities. On March 16th 2020, governments in 73 countries announced the closure of schools, including 56 countries that closed schools across the world and 17 countries closed schools within a specified range. The closure of schools affected more than 421 million students globally, while the limited-scale closure of schools put 577 million students at risk. According to data released by UNESCO on March 10th 2020, the closure of schools and universities due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus has left one in five students out of school globally.

The educational process in Palestine faced many challenges over the years because of the Israeli occupation, and almost always possessed the ability and the will to continue in various forms. This has given it the ability to face the impact of the closure of educational institutions for a period of three months due to the spread of the Coronavirus, especially with the advancement of communication methods and modern technologies in education.

In the 2019/2020 scholastic year, there were around 78 thousand applicants for the General Certificate Exam. Approximately 40 thousand students graduate annually from the Palestinian higher education institutions. The local market accommodates 8 thousand job opportunities for graduates (20-29 years).

Business and Administration is the field where most students aged (20-29 years) were enrolled, whether for intermediate diploma or a bachelor's degree (BA).

In 2019, individuals aged (20-29 years) obtained an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree specialized in the following fields of education:

Business and administration (28%), teacher training and education sciences (16%), health (11%), social and behavioral sciences (8%), humanities (8%) and other fields (29%), while the majority of them also majored in business and administration compared to the past decade.

Percentage Distribution among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine

with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Sex in 2019

Field of Education	Both Sexes	Sex	
		Males	Females
Business and administration	28	30	24
Teacher training and education sciences	16	7	22
Health	11	13	10
Social and behavioral sciences	8	5	10
Humanities	8	5	9
Engineering and engineering trades	6	11	4
Computing	4	6	3
Architecture and construction	4	7	1
Law	3	5	2
Journalism and information	3	5	3
Life sciences	2	1	3
Mathematics and statistics	1	0	2
Personal services	1	1	1
Other disciplines	5	4	6
Total	100	100	100

The percentage (0) means that the percentage is less than 0.5%

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Database of Labor Force Survey, 2019. Ramallah-Palestine

Unemployment rate among individuals aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree is still high

The unemployment rate among individuals aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree in Palestine is still high in 2019 with a slight decrease compared to this rate in 2018. This rate reached 53% in 2019: 35% in West Bank and 72% in Gaza Strip, while it was about 55% in 2018 in Palestine.

The highest unemployment rate among males and females aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree was in journalism and information; 86% among females and 60% among males.

In 2019, the highest unemployment rates among male graduates aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree in Palestine were in the following fields of education:

Journalism and information (60%), teacher training and education sciences (49%), humanities (44%), architecture and construction (43%) and social and behavioral sciences (40%).

In 2019, the highest unemployment rates among female graduates aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree were in the following fields of education:

Journalism and information (86%), teacher training and education sciences (78%), social and behavioral sciences (75%), humanities (74%) and architecture and construction (69%).

Unemployment Rate among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Sex, 2019

Field of Education	Both Sexes	Sex	
		Males	Females
Teacher training and education sciences	72	49	78
Journalism and information	69	60	86
Humanities	65	44	74
Social and behavioral sciences	63	40	75
Life sciences	57	{32}	67
Mathematics and statistics	52	{30}	56
Architecture and construction	48	43	69
Computing	48	39	67
Business and administration	45	31	64
Health	43	35	51
Engineering and engineering trades	38	29	59
Personal services	37	37	{37}
Law	36	28	{54}

{ } : Number of observations are relatively little so results in parentheses indicate relatively high marginal error

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Database of Labor Force Survey, 2019. Ramallah-Palestine

Clear gap of unemployment rates between West Bank and Gaza Strip for all fields of education

The highest rates of unemployment among graduates aged (20-29 years) with a bachelor's degree or an intermediate diploma in Gaza Strip were in the following fields of education:

Personal services¹ (89%), humanities (81%), social and behavioral sciences (80%), journalism and information (80%) and teacher training and education sciences (79%).

The highest unemployment rates in the West Bank in 2019 for the same age group by fields of education were as follows:

Teacher training and education science (57%), social and behavioral sciences (50%), mathematics and statistics (45%), humanities (45%) and life sciences (44%).

¹ Please be cautious when dealing with this rate, as the number of observations is small; therefore, the rate indicates a high margin of error.

**Unemployment Rate among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine
with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Region, 2019**

Field of Education	Palestine	Region	
		West Bank	Gaza Strip
Teacher training and education sciences	72	57	79
Journalism and information	69	29	80
Humanities	65	45	81
Social and behavioral sciences	63	50	80
Life sciences	57	44	73
Mathematics and statistics	52	45	{62}
Architecture and construction	48	28	77
Computing	48	39	58
Business and administration	45	29	69
Health	43	21	64
Engineering and engineering trades	38	31	57
Personal services	37	18	{89}
Law	36	20	56

{ } : Number of observations are relatively little so results in parentheses indicate relatively high marginal error

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Database of Labor Force Survey, 2019. Ramallah-Palestine

It takes graduates about 10-23 months before getting their first labor chance

In 2019, the highest period of unemployment for graduates aged (20-29 years) in Palestine with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree was in the journalism and information field, being 23 months. The lowest period was in mathematics and statistics field and engineering and engineering trades with 10 months.

**Period of Unemployment in Months among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine with
an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Sex, 2019**

Field of Education	Both Sexes	Sex	
		Males	Females
Journalism and information	23	22	23
Teacher training and education science	19	14	20
Social and behavioral sciences	18	14	19
Business and administration	16	14	17
Humanities	16	11	17
Health	15	15	15
Law	14	{15}	{13}
Life sciences	14	{11}	15
Architecture and construction	14	12	18
Personal services	14	{12}	{17}
Computing	13	14	12
Mathematics and statistics	10	{22}	{9}
Engineering and engineering trades	10	10	10

{ } : Number of observations are relatively little so results in parentheses indicate relatively high marginal error

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Database of Labor Force Survey, 2019. Ramallah-Palestine

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