**Main Results**

**The labour force participation rate of persons aged 15 years and above was 45.8%**

The number of persons participating in the labour force in Palestine was 1,303,900 in the 3rd quarter 2015:فىفاع فال; 831,400 in the West Bank and 472,500 in Gaza Strip.

The labour force participation rate in the West Bank was 46.1% and 45.3% in Gaza Strip, the gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine still very big where it reached 72.1% for males compared with 18.8% for females.

**27.4% the unemployment rate among labour force participants**

Using ILO standards, the number of unemployed was 357,300 in the 3rd quarter 2015; distributed as 201,900 in Gaza Strip and 155,400 in the West Bank.

The unemployment rate in Gaza Strip was 42.7% compared with 18.7% in the West Bank in the 3rd quarter 2015. And the unemployment rate for males in Palestine was 23.7% compared with 41.8% for females in the 3rd quarter 2015.

The highest unemployment rate in the 3rd quarter 2015 was 45.2% among youth aged 20-24 years. For years of schooling, the highest unemployment rate among females with 13 years of schooling and more was 52.4%.

**Decreased the number of the employment in the local market between the 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter 2015**

The number of employed in the local market decreased from 852,200 in the 2nd quarter 2015 to 830,900 in the 3rd quarter 2015. The number of employed persons in the West Bank decreased by 20,000 employed, and the number of employed persons in Gaza Strip decreased by 1,300 employed person.

The services sector was the biggest employer in the local market with 33.7% in the West Bank and 55.7% in Gaza Strip.

The public sector employed 21.5% of those in employment: 36.5% in Gaza Strip and 15.5% in the West Bank.

The average daily wage for wage employees in the West Bank was 92.9 NIS compared with 63.4 NIS in Gaza Strip.

The average weekly hours worked by wage employees in the West Bank was 44.2 in the 2nd quarter 2015 compared with 43.9 in the 3rd quarter 2015. The average number of days worked per month increased from 22.6 to 22.7 day over the same period. The average number of hours worked per week in Gaza Strip remains at the same level at 37.1 and 37.0 hours per week in the 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter 2015, also the average number of days worked per month remains at the same level at 23.3 working day in the 2nd quarter and 23.4 working day in the 3rd quarter 2015.

**Number of employed in Israel and Israeli settlements was 113,200 in the 3rd quarter 2015**

The number of employed persons from the West Bank employed in Israel and Israeli settlements was 113,200 in the 3rd quarter 2015 compared with 112,200 in the 2nd quarter 2015. Of these, 65,100 had a permit, 35,900 worked without any permit and 12,200 employed persons have an Israeli identity card or foreign passport.

The number of employees in the Israeli settlements increased from 20,300 in the 2nd quarter 2015 to 22,100 in the 3rd quarter 2015.

64.8% 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 200.1 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2015 compared with 199.1 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2015.

The average number of hours worked per week reached 38.4 in the 3rd quarter 2015 compared with 41.1 in the 2nd quarter 2015. The average number of days worked per month reached 19.1 working day compared with 19.6 working day in the same period.

**Employment Status in the 3rd quarter 2015**

68.9% of employed persons are wage employees: 65.5% in the West Bank compared with 77.3% in Gaza Strip.

17.7% of employed persons are self- employed; 19.0% in the West Bank and 14.4% in Gaza Strip.

6.5% of employed persons are unpaid family members; 7.4% in the West Bank and 4.5% in Gaza Strip.

6.9% of employed persons are employers: 8.1% in the West Bank and 3.8% in Gaza Strip.

**Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Employment Status, Q3-2015**

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

27.4% of wage employees are hired by contract (9.6% of them with limited period and 17.8% with unlimited period), compared with 55.5% hired without any contract, and 17.1% of wage employees are hired by collective agreement\ oral.

22.3% of wage employees contribute to a pension fund, 24.4% have annual paid leave and 35.3% of wage employees women have paid maternity leave.

22.8% of employed persons in Palestine are affiliated to a workers vocational union: 12.5% in the West Bank and 48.7% in Gaza Strip.

**37.7% of wage employees in the private sector received less than the minimum wage (1,450 NIS) in Palestine.**

In the West Bank about 22.3% of wage employees in the private sector received less than minimum monthly wage, about 46,800 wage employees with average monthly wage 1,071 NIS.

In Gaza Strip the percentage of wage employees in the private sector who received less than the minimum monthly wage was 71.7% about 67,500 wage employees with average monthly wage 743 NIS.

**Child Labour**

5.1% of children aged 10-17 years in Palestine are employed: 6.3% in the West Bank and 3.3% in Gaza Strip.

All correspondence should be directed to:

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**P.O.Box 1647, Ramallah, Palestine.**

Tel: (972/970) 2 298 2700

Fax: (972/970) 2 298 2710

Toll free: 1800300300

E-Mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps

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