

## **Dr. Luay Shabaneh, PCBS President Announces the Findings of the Buildings and Housing Units Census 2007:**

**Between the two censuses, buildings increased by 30% and housing unit by 50%**

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and National Director of the Census, announced the findings of the Buildings and Housing Units Census 2007 of the Palestinian Territory. Dr. Shabaneh indicated that the number of buildings in the Palestinian Territory had increased by 29.8% in comparison with the 1997 Census. The number of buildings, according to the 2007 Census, totaled 466,707 including 319,270 in the West Bank -excluding those parts of Jerusalem, which were annexed by Israel in 1967, and 147,437 in Gaza Strip. Moreover, the number of housing units in the Palestinian Territory, according to the 2007 Census, had risen by 50.4% in comparison to the 1997 Census.

**The findings of the Buildings and Housing Units Census 2007 were summarized as follows :**

### **Distribution of completed buildings by building type:**

According to findings, 71.0% of the total number of buildings is of house type, which is the traditional Palestinian construction, compared to 76.6% in the 1997 Census. The number of completed buildings in the Palestinian Territory is 438,708 and the number of incomplete buildings is 27,999. The distribution of completed buildings by type is as follows: 6,754 villas; 311,304 houses; 80,417 multi-storey buildings; 1,452 tents; 3,338 marginals; 34,499 establishments; 732 other buildings; and 212 were not stated.

### **Geographic distribution of completed buildings:**

Hebron governorate comes first in the number of completed buildings at 73,825 buildings, according to the Buildings and Housing Units Census 2007, which means a 25.0% of the total number of completed buildings in the Remaining West Bank, compared with 23.9% in 1997 census. Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate comes in the last place with 7,359 completed buildings or 2.5% of the total number of completed buildings in the Remaining West Bank. In the 1997 Census, Jericho and Al Aghwar governorate had 2.3% of the total number of completed buildings in the Remaining West Bank.

In Gaza Strip, Gaza governorate is the governorate with the most completed buildings at 40,725 buildings or 28.4% of the total number of completed buildings in Gaza Strip (compared to 30.7% in the previous census). Rafah governorate, on the other hand, has the lowest number of completed buildings at 19,658 or 13.7% of the total number of completed buildings in Gaza Strip (compared to 13.2% in 1997 census).

### **Distribution of completed buildings by type of material used in external walls:**

The buildings whose external walls are made of cement block are the prevalent type of buildings in the Palestinian Territory at 53.4% of the completed buildings, according to the 2007 Census, compared to 48.2% of the completed buildings according to the findings of the 1997 Census.

**Completed buildings by number of stories:**

According to 2007 Census results, 93.6% of the buildings in the Palestinian Territory have less than four stories compared to 97.4% of the total number of completed buildings, according to the 1997 Census. Findings show that most completed buildings are of one-floor type at 187,196 or 42.7% of the total number of completed buildings in the Palestinian Territory in 2007.

**Completed buildings by utilization:**

The findings of the 2007 Census show that 73.5% of the completed buildings in the Palestinian Territory are utilized for housing purposes; whereas in the 1997 Census, the percentage of completed buildings utilized for housing was 75.4%. Moreover, the percentage of completed buildings utilized for mixed housing and economic purposes (living and work) is 10.0% of the completed buildings, according to the 2007 Census. The percentage of completed buildings that are utilized for non-housing purposes (business only) is 8.9% and the percentage of completed buildings utilized for other purposes (the closed, vacant, and deserted buildings) is 7.6% of the total number of the completed buildings.

**Completed buildings by number of housing units in building:**

The 2007 Census findings show that the completed buildings with one housing unit in the Palestinian Territory constitute 59.9% of the total number of completed buildings compared to 66.5% as shown by the 1997 Census findings. Additionally, findings tell us that completed buildings with two housing units constitute 17.1% of the total number of completed buildings and those with three or more housing units constitute 14.9% of the total number of completed buildings.

**Housing units:**

The number of housing units in the Palestinian Territory, according to the 2007 Census findings, is 701,937 including 456,314 in the Remaining West Bank and 245, 623 in Gaza Strip. The findings show an increase of 50.4% in the number of housing units in 2007 compared to the 1997 Census when the total number of housing units reached 466,651.

**Housing units by current utilization:**

The percentage of housing units that are utilized for housing only slightly dropped from 85.2% in the first Census to 84.1% in the second Census. The housing units that are utilized for economic purposes only (business only) and those utilized for housing and economic purposes (living and working) totaled 1.5% and 0.5% of the total number of housing units respectively. The rest of the housing units, including the closed, vacant, and deserted, constitute 13.9% of the total number of housing units.