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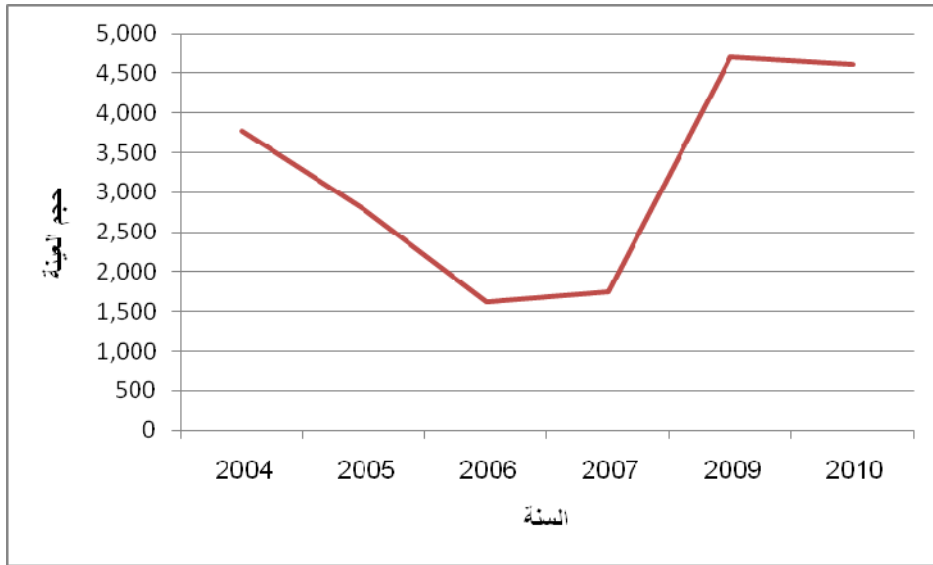
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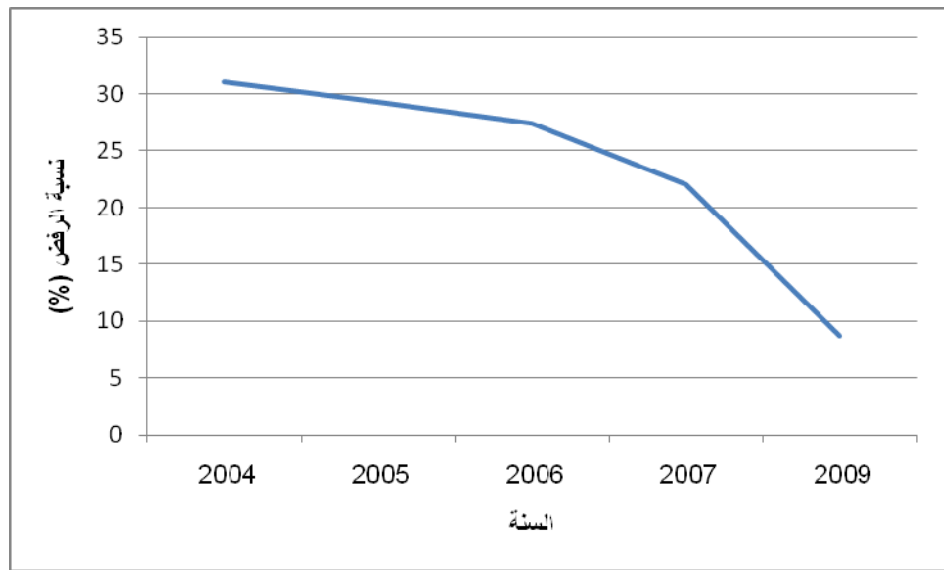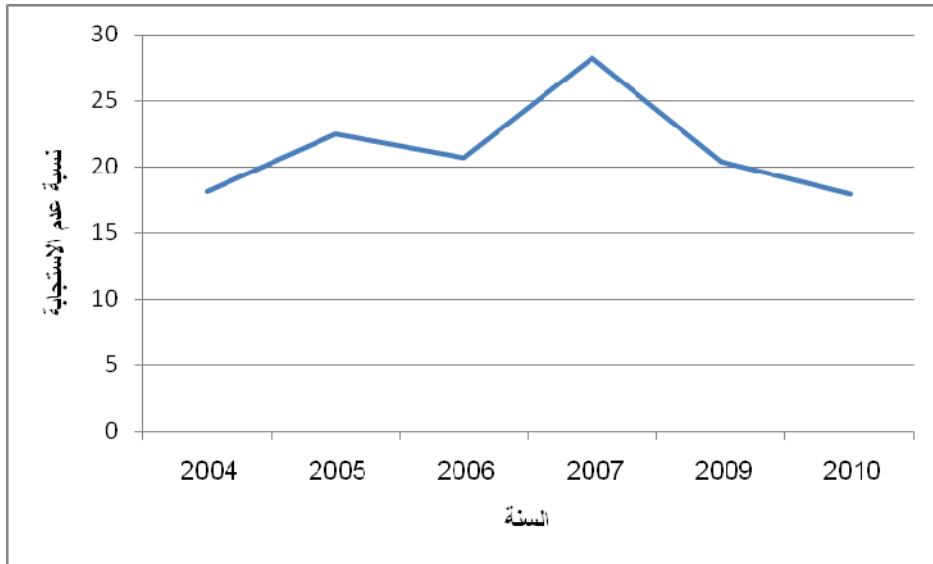)   (
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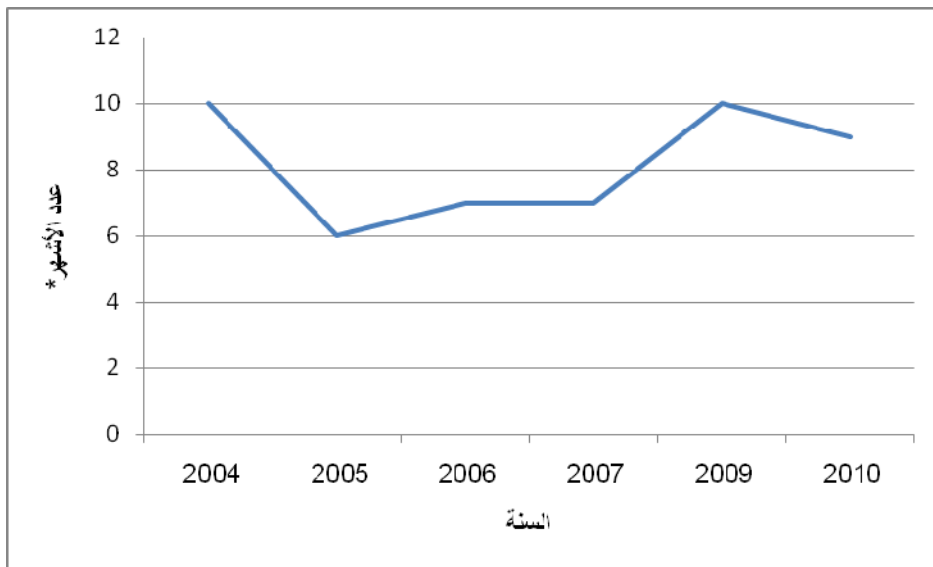
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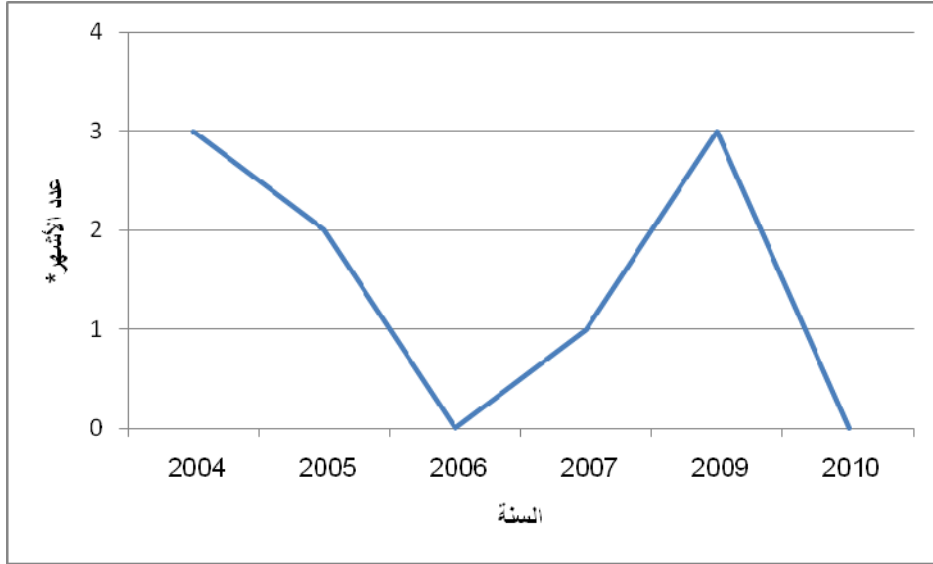.2007 1997   :   •
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- Summary Quality Report for the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF), February 2009. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/quality/quality-information/social-statistics/summary-quality-report-for-the-living-costs-and-food-survey--lcf-.pdf>
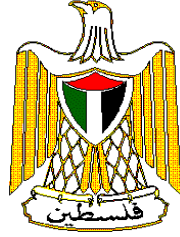
Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Quality Report
The Palestinian Expenditure and Consumption Survey

December 2011

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- **Report Preparation**
  Mohammad Marie
  Ali Al-husien

- **Preliminary Review**
  Marwan Barakat
  Inaya Zidan

- **Final Review**
  Mahmoud Jaradat

- **Overall Supervision**
  Ola Awad   PCBS President

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Quality control, in general, refers to fulfillment degree of a group of the correlative particularities of specific requirements. Thus, the data/statistics quality refers to all fields related to the statistics extent that meet users requirements, and its reflection to their expectations regarding content, form and presentation method.

Therefore, data quality is measured through a group of dimensions (elements) and they are relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, coherence and completeness. However; when talking about statistical system and its outputs, it is obligatory to take into consideration the dimensions and indictors of quality.

For this purpose quality department started working on preparing reports about data quality of statistical surveys conducted by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). The aim of these reports is to create a general perspective regarding the extent of applying the dimensions/elements of quality and its indicators in statistical surveys.

This report is the second report on (quality report - expenditure and consumption household survey) which relates to quality of surveys. It comes after publishing the first report on quality of Labour Force survey: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1804.pdf>. As it is aiming to providing users with information about data quality of this survey.

1.2 Report Structure

This report is divided into five chapters that review the quality control of Expenditure and Consumption Survey. The first chapter describes the concept of quality in general and the aim of data quality in addition to report outline. The second chapter discusses the most significant scientific methods adopted in the survey including survey questionnaire, sample frame, sampling design, rate of respond and measures of sample weights. In addition, the chapter explores the applied methodology for training and hiring researchers and field trainers plus the mechanism for data processing, while the third chapter presents the dimensions and indicators of data quality and the reflection of such dimension on Expenditure and Consumption Survey. The fourth chapter contains the mechanism to compute the most important survey indicators, and defining these indicators. In the end, the fifth chapter reviews the most important results and recommendations based on the reports contents.

Chapter Two

Expenditure and Consumption Survey Methodology

The PCBS questionnaire was designed according to UN/ILO recommendations for Household Budget Surveys as conducted in the majority of countries. These recommendations follow the concept of the National Accounts System 1993 (SNA) and other changes based on the COICOP system pertinent to the classification of household/personal consumption commonly used in consumption surveys internationally.

The methodology of the survey is summarized as follows:
- The sample is a stratified cluster systematic random sample with two stages, and 12 sub-samples were used: one sub-sample for each month.
- The duration of the survey was 12 months. The design of the survey took into consideration seasonal changes in consumption as regards expenditure on fruit, vegetables and clothes.
- Each household was provided with a record book (diary) to record daily expenditures. A female fieldworker visited the household 8 - 10 times to ensure the recording of household consumption in the diary according to the prescribed procedures.
- The recording period for each household was restricted to one month. Households with longer recording periods were given less variance in expenditure and consumption patterns. A disadvantage of a longer recording period is that households get bored or forget to fill in the diary. The UN\ILO recommendations call for a recording period of three to four weeks.
- Different time references were adopted for the items of household expenditure and consumption. Daily expenditure on food and transportation was given a one-month reference period. Durable goods and educational fees were given a 12-month reference period, excluding personal transportation which was extended to the previous three years. One month and one year reference periods were used for income.

2.1 The Questionnaire
The questionnaire was consisted of two main parts:

First: Survey questionnaire
First part of the questionnaire was completed during the visit at the beginning of the month, while the other part was completed at the end of the month. The questionnaire included:
- Control sheet: Includes household identification data, date of visit, data on fieldwork and the data processing team, and a summary of the household members by gender.
- Household roster: Includes demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the household members.
- Source of income and consumer durable goods schedule: Includes list of main goods like washing machines, refrigerator, TV sets, and sources of income generation like ownership of farmland or animals stocks.
- Housing characteristics: Includes data like the type of housing unit, number of rooms, value of rent, and connection of housing unit to basic services like water, electricity, and sewage. In addition, data in this section includes the source of energy used for cooking

and heating, distance of the housing unit from public transportation, education, and health centers.

- Monthly and annual income: Data pertinent to household income from different sources was collected at the end of registration period.

Second: List of goods

The classification of the list of goods is based on the recommendation of the United Nations for the SNA under the name Classification of Personal Consumption by Purpose. The list includes 50 groups of expenditure and consumption, with each given a sequence number based on its importance to the household, starting with food goods, clothing groups, housing, medical treatment, transportation and communication, and lastly, durable goods. Each group consists of important goods. There were 667 goods and services as in total in all of the groups. The data are collected based on different reference periods to represent expenditure during the entire year, except for vehicles where data is collected for the last three years.

2.2 Registration Form

The registration form includes instructions and examples on how to record consumption and expenditure items. The form includes columns:

- Monetary: If the item is purchased in cash or in kind, or if the item is self-produced.
- Title of the service or the good.
- Unit of measurement (kilogram, liter, or in numbers).
- Quantity.
- Value.

The pages of the registration form are colored differently for each week of the month. The footer for each page includes remarks that encourage households to participate in the survey. The following are instructions that illustrate the nature of the items that should be recorded:

- Monetary expenditure upon purchases
- Purchases based on debts.
- Presenting monetary gifts (in cash).
- Interest upon pay.
- Self-produced food and goods that were once consumed.
- Food staff and merchandise/goods from a commercial project that were once consumed.
- Delivered merchandise /goods that were received as a wage or part of a wage from employer.

2.3 Sampling and Sampling Frame

2.3.1 Target Population

The target population consists of all Palestinian households who are normally resident in Palestinian territory.

2.3.2 Sampling Frame

The sampling frame consists of a master sample that was selected from population, housing and establishment census. This master sample consists of converged geographical areas in population size of households (as the average is about 150 households per enumeration area from 2004 to

2007, and 120 households for 2009 and 2010), which are the enumeration areas used in the census. These units were used as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) at the first phase of selecting the sample.

2.3.3 Sample Size
The estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2004 (January 2004 – January 2005) was 3,781 households, while the estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2005 (January 2005 – January 2006) was 2,778 households, and the estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2006 (January 2006 – January 2007) was 1,616 households. While the estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2007 (January 2007 – January 2008) was 1,751 households, and the estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2009 (January 2009 – January 2010) was 4,699 households. Finally, the estimated sample size for the Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2010 (January 2010 – January 2011) was 4,608 households.

2.3.4 Sample Design
A stratified cluster random systematic sample was designed and selected in two stages:
- **First stage**: it was done by selecting a stratified random systematic sample composed from enumeration areas.
- **Second stage:** it was done by selecting a random systematic sample of households within each enumeration area.

2.3.5 Stratification
This process was achieved through the followings:
1. Stratification by Governorate.
2. Stratification by type of locality which comprises: (urban, rural and refugee camps).

2.3.6 Calculation of Weights
The weight of statistical units (sampling units) in the sample is defined as the mathematical inverse of the selection probability where the sample of the survey is a two-stage stratified cluster sample. Thus, the weights are calculated for each stage and the household weight is the multiplication of the two weights.

2.4 Field work operations
Four teams of female interviewers, three in West Bank and one in Gaza Strip, conducted field work for data collection. Each team consisted of a supervisor and 10-20 female interviewers. Fieldwork teams were distributed according to their place of residence. All field staff received a training session that included of general theoretical and practical components.

The impact of errors on data quality was reduced to a minimum due to the high efficiency and outstanding selection, training, and performance of the fieldworkers. Procedures adopted during the fieldwork of the survey were considered a necessity to ensure the collection of accurate data, notably:
- Developing schedules to conduct field visits to households during survey fieldwork. The objectives of the visits and the data collected on each visit were predetermined.

- Fieldwork editing rules were applied during data collection to ensure that corrections were been implemented by the end of fieldwork activities.
- Fieldworkers were instructed to provide details in cases of extreme expenditure or consumption by the household.
- Questions on income were postponed until the final visit at the end of the month.
- Validation rules were embedded in the data processing systems, along with procedures to verify data entry and data editing.

2.5 Data Processing

Both data entry and tabulation were performed using "ACCESS and SPSS" software programs. Data entry was organized in six files corresponding to main parts of the questionnaire. A data entry template was designed to reflect an exact image of the questionnaire and included various electronic checks: logical check, range checks, consistency checks and cross-validation. Complete manual inspection of results was performed after data entry and questionnaires containing field-related errors were corrected.

Chapter Three

Dimensions and indicators of Expenditure and Consumption Survey data quality

3.1 Relevance

This component related to the extent to which statistical data would meet current and potential users' needs, and were measured by the following indicators:

Indicator	Application
The main objective of the survey	The objectives of this survey were to providing high quality data on the total consumption level and structure of Palestinian households, whilst supplying crucial support to other statistical programs of PCBS, such as Consumer Price Index, National Accounts, Balance of Payments statistics, in addition to social studies on living standards and poverty and nutrition, particularly amongst vulnerable groups.
What is measured	Measure the impact of social and economic levels in the standards of living in the Palestinian territories.
Frequency	Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics statistical reports hundreds of execution in everything linked to the Palestinian human life in all of demographical, social, and economical aspects. • The first survey was executed between 1/10/1995 and 30/9/1996. • The second survey was executed between 1/1/1997 and 31/12/1997. • The third survey was executed between 1/1/1998 and 31/12/1998. • The forth survey was executed between 15/3/2001 and 14/3/2002. • The fifth survey was executed between 15/1/2004 and 14/1/2005. • The sixth survey was executed between 15/1/2005 and 14/1/2006. • The seventh survey was executed between 15/1/2006 and 14/1/2007. • The eighth survey was executed between 15/1/2007 and 14/1/2008. • The ninth survey was executed between 15/1/2008 and 14/1/2009. • The tenth survey was executed between 15/1/2009 and 14/1/2010. • The eleventh survey was executed between 15/1/2010 and 14/1/2011.
Sample size	Sample size was 3,781, 2,778, 1,616, 1,751, 4,699 and 4,608 for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 respectively (see Figure 1).

Indicator	Application
Sample frame	• The sample frame (in 2004 to 2007) consisted of a comprehensive sample which was selected from the population, housing and facilities census of the year 1997, this comprehensive sample is formed of converged geographic areas in size (Average number of households equal 150), which is the enumeration areas used in the census, these units have been used as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) at the first stage of the process of selecting the sample. • The sample frame (in 2009 and 2010) consisted of a comprehensive sample which was selected from the population, housing and establishments census of 2007, this comprehensive sample was formed of the converged size of geographic areas (communities) (Average number of households equal 120), which is the enumeration areas used in the census, these units had been used as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) at the first stage of the process of selecting the sample.
Sample design	• The sample was a stratified cluster systematic random sample with two stages from 2004 to 2007: **First stage:** selection of a systematic random sample of 120 enumeration areas. **Second stage:** selection of a systematic random sample of 12 households from each enumeration area selected in the first stage (in West bank and Gaza), but in Jerusalem (inside the barriers) were selected sample field 18 household from each enumeration area selected in the first stage. We selected a person (18 years or more) from each selected household in the second stage. • In 2009 and 2010, because of reliance on census 2007 and because of an increase in population, sample design has been changed. The sample is of a two-stage stratified cluster sample: **First stage:** selection of a systematic random sample of 191 enumeration areas. **Second stage:** selection of a systematic random sample of 24 households from each enumeration area selected in the first stage. Note: in Jerusalem Governorate (J1), 13 enumeration areas were selected. In the second stage, a group of households from each enumeration area were chosen using the 2007 census method of delineation and enumeration to obtain 24 responsive households. This ensured household responses were the maximum to comply with the rate of non-response as set in the sample design. Enumeration areas were distributed over twelve months and the sample for each quarter covered sample strata (governorate, locality type).

Indicator	Application
Estimation	• 2004 – 2007: The estimate of the population depended on the 1997 census of population, housing and facilities. • 2009 and 2010: The estimate of the population depends on the 2007 census of population, housing and facilities.
Outliers	Outlier values were not selected, since in case of outlier value is a direct back to questionnaire to modify the outlier value to the correct value.
Weighting	The weight of statistical units (sampling units) in the sample is defined as the mathematical inverse of the selection probability where the sample of the survey is a two-stage stratified cluster sample. **In First stage:** the sample of enumeration areas is selected and the weight was called weight of enumeration areas (the sampling unit was enumeration areas). **In Second stage:** The sample of households was selected and the weight was called household weight (the sampling unit is the household). The weight calculation mentioned in annual report of survey for 2007, 2008 and 2010, but that not mentioned in report of survey for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Figure 1: Distribution of sample size by years
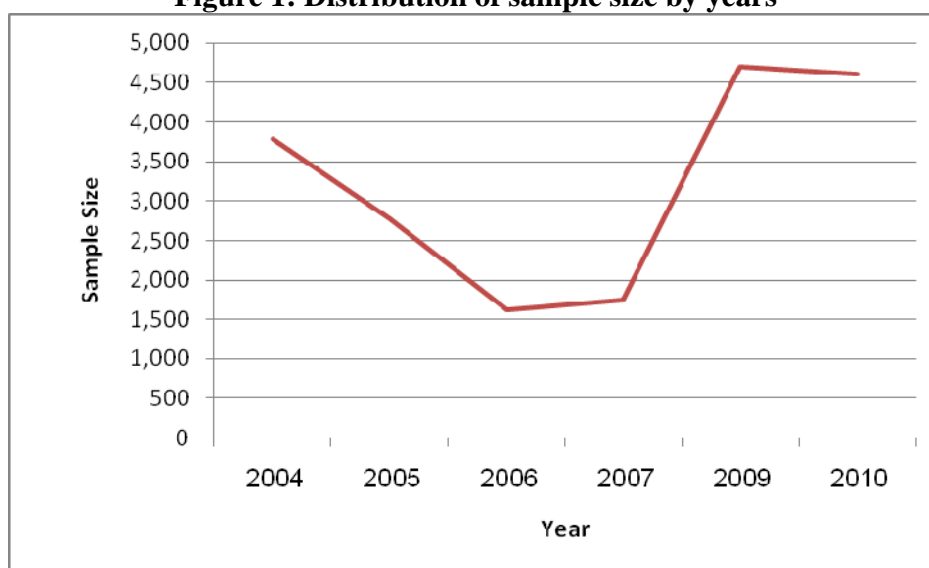
The sample sizes were reduced for some years, because there was not sufficient funding for project. Thus, the data was published at the level of Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip), without any expansion to North, Central, and South of West Bank or at the levels of governorates as in other years.

Use and users:
PCBS, since the first day of its establishment is improving opportunities for developmental decision-making based on well-reviewed statistical figures and scientific bases. PCBS prepared hundreds of statistical reports on everything linked to Palestinian human life in all demographical, social, and economical aspects. Therefore, PCBS issued survey reports of household expenditure and consumption, and this is the eleventh report which was released for the period between (January 2010 - January 2011).

The survey was an opportunity for researchers, scholars, and decision-makers to have a time series of data on social and economic impacts on living standards in Palestinian territories. It also was accessing them to the most important indicators of averages of expenditure and consumption for household and per capita in Palestinian territories during the period of this time reference, in addition to the quantities of consumption of the food stuffs. PCBS would hope that this survey had contributed to the rationalization and development of decision making on scientific bases and favorable conditions.

Strengths and Limitations:
One of the most important strengths in the survey of household expenditure and consumption was that data collection was updated to be collected from households for 4 weeks instead of two weeks, as it is the case in many neighboring countries (that covers a full month). The response rate was high compared with other countries, and this showed that reliability of the survey and its coverage of the largest stratum of study society, thereby, it is contributed to strengthening the credibility of data derived from survey. The survey objectives were fully achieved and attained (as being mentioned previously), this is one of the main strengths of the survey.

By studying, the impact of some events on household expenditure and consumption patterns in Palestinian territories is also one of the strengths of this survey. The survey reports during 2004, 2005 were monitoring household expenditure and consumption after economic setbacks of Palestinian economy that eventually followed the events and eruption of the second intifada and accompanying Israeli hostile measures that had profound impacts on the free movement of persons, goods and affecting standards of living, poverty and unemployment percentages, which was peaked in 2002. In survey reports of 2006, 2007, and 2009, household expenditure and consumption behavior suffered an economic setback following the second legislative elections of 2006 and the subsequent international and Israeli imposed siege that had a significant impact on various aspects of economic life.

One of the most prominent limitations of this survey was that a large number of households considered that most of required data is interference in their personal life details, other households also believed that this survey was linked to social assistance and relief or taxation, while some households considered financial matters as sensitive ones. In addition, some households avoided the registration of some goods and stuffs such as alcohol. Israeli hostile measures were one of the limitations of the survey where there were some communities were in accessed to field work team to commute and reach because they were located behind Israeli apartheid wall besides the fears of the households in Jerusalem that Israeli actions denied certain privileges such as national insurance allocation.

Key Definitions
One of the most important definitions and terms contained in survey are: household consumption, household expenditure, dependency Ratio, standard of living, and Lorenz curve. The survey uses definitions according to UN/ILO recommendations for Household Budget Surveys as conducted in most of countries. In the mean time, it uses some national definitions (Palestinian particularity), but without prejudicing to international standards where they are not interpreted and applied in the same way in other countries.

3.2 Accuracy
The data accuracy reflects closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure, and it is measured using several indicators. This includes checking the accuracy data in multiple aspects of the survey, mainly statistical errors due to the use of a sample, as well as non-statistical errors due to staff work and survey tools, in addition to response rates in the survey and the most important effects on the estimates.

First: Statistical Errors
Data of this survey (2004 – 2007, 2009 and 2010) are affected by statistical errors resulted from using a sample and not a comprehensive enumeration of the population. Therefore, the emergence of differences from the real values were expected. The variance of the most important indicators in the survey was calculated. There is no problem in publishing mentioned estimates in Expenditure and Consumption Survey report at the levels of Palestinian Territories.

In 2004, 2009 and 2010, there was a large sample size (if compared these years at 2005, 2006, and 2007). Therefore, the geographic level of publishing: in Palestinian territories (West Bank, Gaza), and by North, Central, and South of West Bank and Gaza Strip or by each governorate (Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarm, ... and so on) was increased to serve national accounts compilations to providing national accounts on governorates' level. But problems were found in such publishing, because the values for an average expenditure of food groups had high variance and discrepancies, therefore, they could not be published at governorate level.

Second: Non-Statistical Errors
Non-statistical errors were possible to occur through all stages of the project: data collection and data entry, which could be categorized as non-response errors, response errors (respondent errors), interviewing errors (researcher errors) and data-entry errors. To avoid errors and reduce its affect, great efforts had been made through intensive training of field workers and researchers on conducting interviews and what should be done and what should not be followed during an interview and how to conduct a pilot survey. Some practical and theoretical exercises were done during training courses.

One of the most important non-statistical errors that accompanied the surveys of 2004 - 2007, 2009 and 2010), that were resulting of the peculiarities of this survey, which could be summarized as the following:

- Many households considered required specific details of the survey as interference in their personal life.
- Impact of Israeli hostile measures on Palestinian territory (imposing curfews and closures).

- Some households linked implementation of such survey to social assistance or to taxes.
- Some households focused on high quantity expenditures and neglected small quantities.
- Hesitation of households to record some stuffs and goods, like beverages.
- Hesitation of households in Jerusalem area to provide data because they were afraid of Israeli action against them if they participated in a pro-Palestinian survey or activity.

But for fear of Jerusalemite families were reluctant or refuse to cooperate, it was noted that refusal rate among Jerusalemite households was fluctuating and constantly changing according to implementation timing of the survey

Figure 2: Refusal rate in Jerusalem
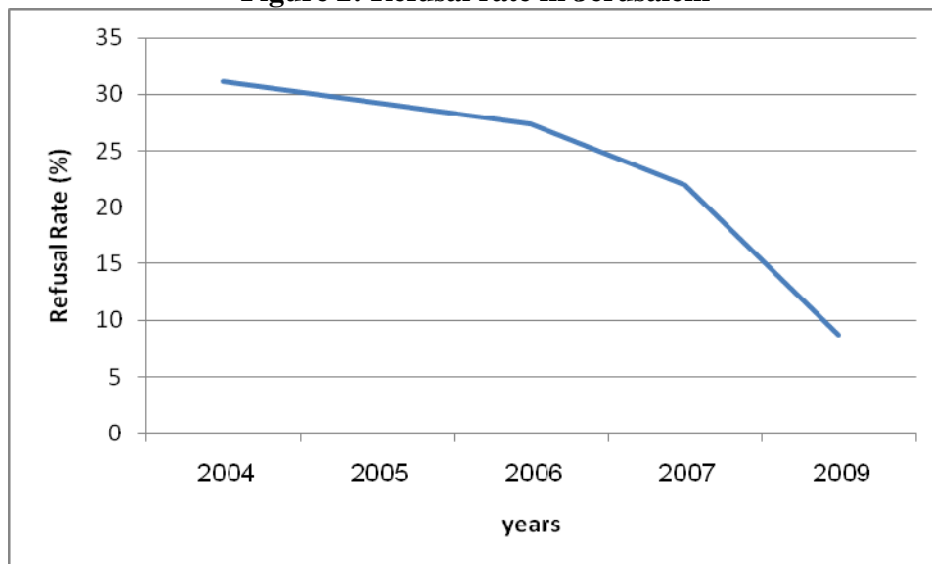
Notes by Figure (2) the continuing decline of refusal rate in Jerusalem due to the survey sample which is an area sample in Jerusalem, they were confined 24 households from each enumeration areas in sample (13 enumeration areas), it was noted not write the refusal rate in Jerusalem at survey report 2010.

Third: Response and Non-response Rates
During the fieldwork, it was found that non-response errors were due to in availability of any adult one of the household members in the housing units during visits by field workers, or vacant housing units, or refusal of household to cooperate in providing data. Where the non-response rates were 18.1%, 22.5%, 20.7%, 28.2%, 20.4%, and 17.9%. in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

This change was due to non-response rate as a result of the adoption of survey in 2004 to 2007, the data of population, housing and establishment census 1997, where there had been some

changes on the ground since census 1997 until 2005, but this rate decreased during 2009, and 2010 as a result of relaying on census data of 2007.

By updating the Sample frame from census data, non-response rates had decreased in 2009 and 2010 (as shown in Figure 3). These rates were generally relatively small if they would be compared to household expenditure and consumption surveys conducted in other countries.
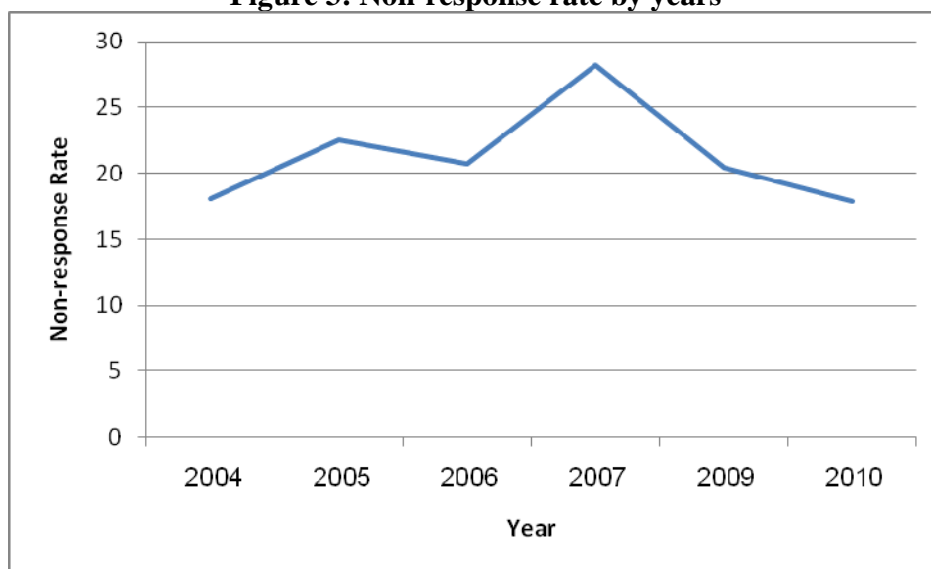
Figure 3: Non-response rate by years

Table 1: The rates of a set of indicators by years

| Year Indicator	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010
Refusal rate	10.3	10.2	9.6	-	6.9	9.2
Rate of Non-completed	7.8	12.4	11.1	28.2	8.1	12.0
Refusal rate in Jerusalem	31.1	29.3	27.4	22.0	8.7	-
Non-response rate	**18.1**	**22.5**	**20.7**	**28.2**	**20.4**	**17.9**
Percentage of Over-converge Errors	-	-	-	5.1	3.0	4.0

(-) Are not counted in survey report

3.3 Timeliness and Punctuality,
Timeliness relates to length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon which such data is describing, while punctuality relates to the time lag between data releasing date and targeted date when it should have been delivered or released. The challenge that is facing the PCBS is improving the timeliness so that the data and information flow is disseminated in a timely manner while maintaining high accuracy, and it is measured by using the following indicators:

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Indicator	Application
The reference-time reflected by data	Data reflects the time period between January- January of next year (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010).
The lapse of time between data publication date and time reference	The period between the completions of data collection (the period reflected in data) of survey until publication of the report is as follows: ● 10 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2004. ● 06 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2005. ● 07 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2006. ● 07 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2007. ● 10 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2009. ● 09 months for Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2010.

Figure 4: The lapse of time between data date of publication and the time reference by years
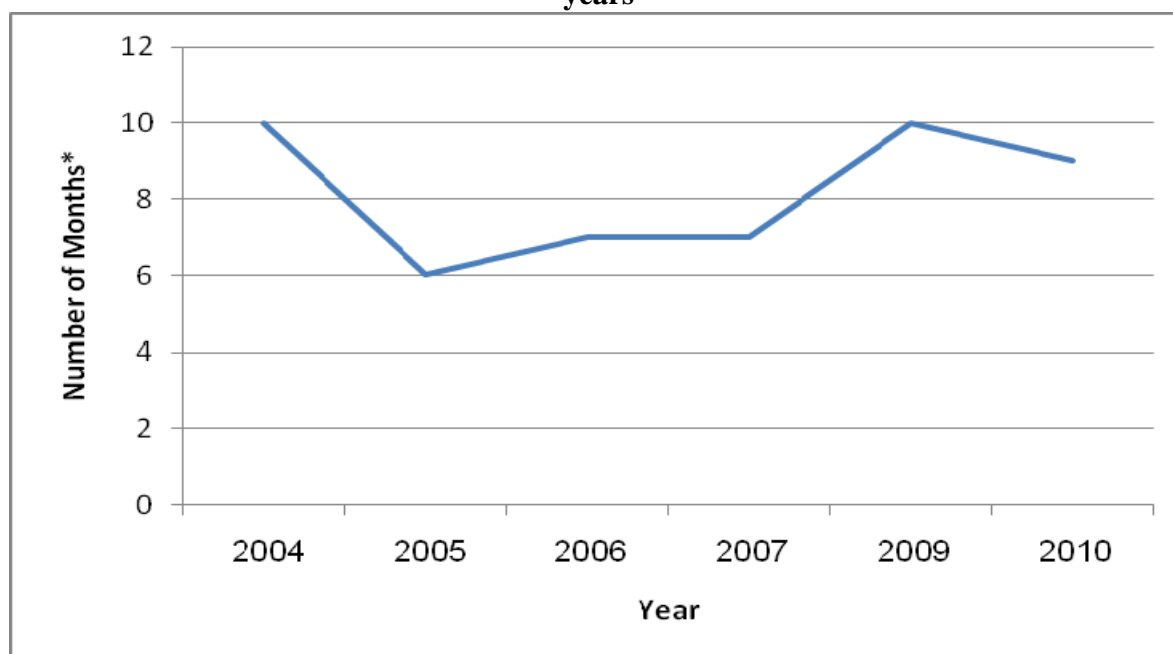
*Number of months: The lapse of time between publication and the period to which the date refer

It is noted from the above figure that data timeliness is good, where the lapse of time between data publication date and data time reference was within the standard period (between 6 to 12 months). But some instantaneous fluctuation in timeliness of the number of months were noticed, where the lapse of time between data publication and data time reference was the lowest in household consumption and expenditure survey in 2005, 2006, and 2007. But the lapse of time increased in other years, therefore that such lapse of time of data declined in these years.

The time lag between actual and planned dates of publication:
The scheduled publishing date of this survey was the same as of the actual scheduled publishing date as to PCBS statistical calendar of 2006 and 2010 was (July 2007, and September 2011, respectively).

While the scheduled publishing date for the survey of 2004 was (July 2005) and of 2009 was (July 2010) and the actual scheduled publishing date as to PCBS statistical calendar were about 3 months (October 2005, and October 2010 respectively), and equal 2 month between of the planned publishing date in 2005 (April 2006) and the actual scheduled publishing date in the statistical calendar for 2005 (June 2006), and month between of the planned publishing date in 2007 (June 2008) and the actual scheduled publishing date in the statistical calendar for 2007 (July 2008),

Figure 5: The time lag between actual and scheduled dates of data publication by years
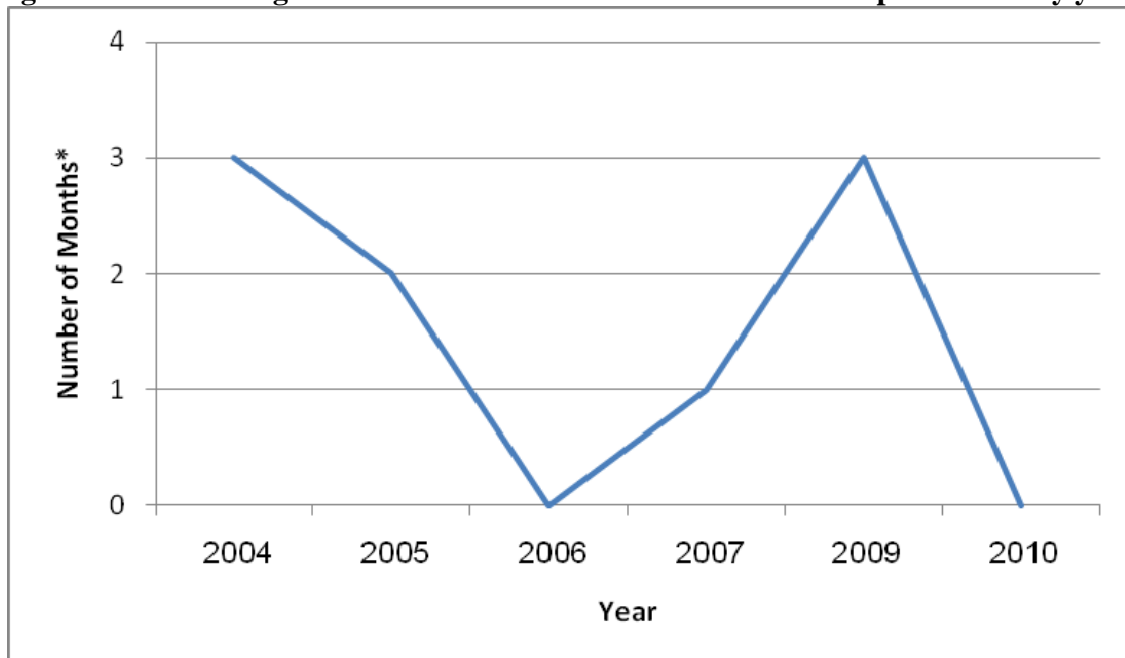
*Number of months: The time lag between the actual and planned dates of publication

It was noted from above figure that the exact punctuality of data dissemination for the surveys of 2006 and 2010 was good, while there was less punctuality in data dissemination for survey in other years.

4.3 Accessibility and clarity
The concept of accessibility relates to the easiness and conditions under which statistical data could be accessed and obtained, easy to use and convenient in both of form and content, while the concept of clarity relates to the data's environment whether data was accompanied with appropriate metadata and illustrations such as graphs and maps, or with availability of data quality. It is measured by using several indicators.

The PCBS general policy focuses on building a national statistical system that is accessible to various categories of data users through the publication of statistical data by traditional means such as publications and statistical reports and other means. As will as modern means by using modern techniques of electronic publishing, such as Internet, CD-ROMs and other modern means. Since data users represent an important element in statistical process, using of statistical data would be made accessible to users at the best, easiest and fastest methods with a high data quality and credibility in a timely manner without any delays according to timetables of previously announced publishing dates. Dialogue, contacts and communication with data users through workshops, conferences and other important means that are implemented by PCBS periodically to constantly developing publishing processes.

The development process of the methodology, and applied means, which are currently in use, and developing of a communication strategy with the public are considered to be a priority of PCBS. PCBS is also focusing on enhancing statistical awareness among permanent staff, academics and research centers to get use of the abundant and accumulative statistical data through the years.

PCBS had an abundant and accumulative statistical data in various fields that accumulated through surveys ,censuses and administrative records that would assist in formulating of policies and making appropriate decisions to serve the society, one of the most important of these data includes (by topic):
- Censuses: Population, Housing and Establishment Census 1997 and 2007.
- Area Statistics: Household Energy, Household Economical Environment survey, Industrial environment survey, Environmental Survey for Health Care Centers, Olive Presses, Housing Conditions Survey, Housing Projections and others.
- Economics: Finance and Insurance, National Accounts, Contractors Survey, Transportation and Communication and others.
- Population and Social: Expenditure and Consumption Survey, Crime and Victimization, Computer, Internet and Mobile Phone Survey, Health Statistics and others.

Reports and publications are being published in several ways, including:

1. Traditional publishing:
PCBS is publishing the statistical data that was collected by implementing field surveys or by administrative records and by census through the following means:
Statistical reports, brochures, wall panels, pocket brochures, executive summaries, reports, press releases, faxing bulletins.

It is highly considered that published data should be as simple and easy as possible by using modern technology, such as graphics and colors that should be applied on such data so that the reader can easily understand and benefit from it. The PCBS policy is tending towards the reduction of the volume of published data by replacing it with small paragraphs for statistical analysis. PCBS published several books and annual reports periodically each year, including annual report of the Expenditure and Consumption Survey.

Accessing to report and the results of Expenditure and Consumption Survey could be obtained by various means, including visiting the Bureau (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ramallah - Ein Monjed - near Ramallah Cultural Palace), and obtaining reports and annual books

at very low prices, or visiting PCBS library which of all documents and versions of Expenditure and Consumption Household Survey (Standard of Living in Palestinian Territory) as well as an accumulative set of other statistical reports and a valuable collection of world statistical references PCBS organized several annual exhibitions in all regions at nationwide, including universities, colleges, and participated in exhibitions outside the country. PCBS provided a discount of about 40% of the total value of all publications, so that everyone could afford these publications, full accessing data and benefiting of them.

2. Electronic publishing via Internet:

It is considered to be the best and the first in publishing, because of current tendency in publishing is to provide a space and chance for all users of public official statistics equally and fast on specific levels, without being biased to any one. Consequently, internet became an appropriate tool for such process. It also characterized by particularity of being very effective, which is wide spread and less cost of use and with ability of huge amount of details. Based on that, PCBS established its own web site with an address of (www.pcbs.gov.ps) in 1996. Through which official statistics are published as a main and independent source for such statistics. It has been updated periodically, retiming statistics from the internet became significant and important as to the policy and process of publishing at PCBS and this was obvious from the huge number of visitors to PCBS web site, where the survey of users satisfaction for the year of 2010 showed that 66.1% preferred to obtain data through the website.

PCBS made available at the website, all of press releases of standards of living since August 1996 up to present, where users can access survey reports for household expenditure and consumption and reports for standards of living on web site, as well as the possibility of printing or saving an electronic copy. The following table shows time reference and date of publication of survey report on web site:

Table 2: Time Reference and Date of publication of survey report

Survey	Time Reference to Survey	Date of Publication of Report
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2004	February 2004 – February 2005	October 2005
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2005	February 2005 – February 2006	June 2006
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2006	February 2006 – February 2007	July 2007
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2007	February 2007 – February 2008	July 2008
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2009	February 2009 – February 2010	October 2010
Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2010	February 2010 – February 2011	September 2011

3. Electronic publishing through CDs

PCBS uploaded all publications, reports and results of Expenditure and Consumption Survey on CDs, so that publications, reports and results of the survey were reviewed in an easy and quick way, in a way that allowed easy exploring and reviewing of them in an attractive, easy, and flexible manner (PDF), and PCBS sent copies of these publications to various parties inside and outside the country.

4. Users' services

PCBS purpose form its establishment date in 1993 is to execute an official comprehensive statistical plan that services all Palestinian sectors and non-Palestinian sector. PCBS established a special department to respond to beneficiaries' needs called " Users Services Department " for the purpose of providing data to all users , through providing beneficiaries, government institutions, Politian's and other users with a clear picture about Palestinian society. This department receives daily requests to Expenditure and Consumption Survey in addition to other requested surveys through e- mail (diwan@pcbs.gov.ps) or fax no. (00970-2-298710) or tel. (00970-2-2982700) and PCBS responded through fax or e-mail. In addition to the possibility of getting requested surveys by hand , through commuting to customer services and apply for getting statistical data by filling a special form in which a specific details should be stated. This department is in a daily contact with other technical and administration departments at PCBS to providing needed data. User's survey results for the year of 2010, showed that 12% preferred getting data through emails, and 10.7% preferred getting data through commuting to users services department, and 3.4% preferred getting data through telephone or fax.

5. Communication with Media and beneficiaries

PCBS depends on local and international audio visual and written media means in publishing and disseminating statistical data through different methods:
1. Coverage of PCBS news and activities step by step.
2. Publishing of reports and data releases upon issuing or publishing any statistical publicities.
3. Organizing press conferences to announcing an execution of any statistical subject.
4. Holding interviews with radio, and TVs stations and written with the senior management in the Bureau.

PCBS keeps on contacts with media, media men and data users. PCBS holds workshops regularly, meetings for discussing and training purposes on dealing with statistical subjects. PCBS was able to hold various meetings on labor market, household expenditure and consumption, high living, education and other subjects. Users' satisfaction survey results for the year 2010 showed that 5.4% preferred getting data through press releases, and 2.5% preferred getting data through workshops.

Press releases on the survey were published in 2004, 2009, and 2010, and press conferences were conducted in 2005 and 2007, and in 2006, a workshop was conducted

6. Statistical database:

Statistical database is a conclusion of a statistical process with huge and comprehensive accumulated data of PCBS and formed a thorough heritage and living memory of PCBS. It provided a tributary source of basic information to governments and researchers due to its coverage of a vital and important data and information that documented the past and reflect the present and the future in all aspects of life, and constitute the main pillar of the reform plans, development and policy making.

PCBS has a huge amount of data in various periodical topics on population, social, economic and geographic fields on, so deliberately PCBS started establishing a geographic database of Palestinian territories in all social, economic and geographic fields and linked with geographical

areas at various levels (Palestinian territories, governorates, localities, enumeration areas, buildings ... etc).

The objective of establishing such base is compilation of available data in PCBS in an orderly fashion and according to scientific bases in a manner where it could be easier to manage and benefit from to providing data in a form of time series, and also linking such data with their geographic locations to be used easily and effectively for analysis, comparison and planning purposes. The first experience of PCBS in publishing statistical data by using maps was through preparing a Palestinian Statistical Atlas in 2004, as maps of statistical indicators were published and covering several indicators of different social, economic and natural subjects as well as tourist and historical maps. PCBS worked on establishing an electronic statistical atlas in 2006 to provide users with a new and advanced tool in preparing their own statistical maps according to their needs through PCBS website: (http://atlas.pcbs.gov.ps/Default.asp).

Maps of living standards were available in the electronic statistical atlas (such as maps of per capita of monthly average consumption of household by Jordanian dinar in Palestinian territories by region) in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009, and would add maps of living standards for 2010.

7. Micro Data for Public Use
At the end of August 2005, PCBS had produced micro data for public use on CD-ROMs, after security treatment of data, in abidance to article (17) that is stipulated in Palestinian General Law of Statistics No. (5) of 2000

The process of providing metadata is a very advanced step in strengthening the relationship between PCBS (as a producer of raw data) and users. This step would accessing researchers, planners, students, universities, research institutes of public and private sectors, and international institutions of using metadata with great flexibility in their studies and analyses to derive indicators which they would wish and meet their own needs without referring to PCBS for providing them with.

To be eligible to get the public use file (PUF) of any survey, you should:
- Submit a request through PCBS users' services department by any mean (via fax /e-mail ….).
- Processing the request internally and replying to it within a period of one week at the maximum.
- Contacting with applicants of data to sign an agreement and to paying of dues (at a symbolic price).
- A package of requested data to be handed over or sent through an email along with a license for using of such data.

There are many data of surveys and censuses that are available for public use, one of the most important of these data are as the following (by subject/topic):
- Censuses: Population, Housing and Establishment Censuses of 1997 and 2007.
- Area statistics: Household energy survey, Economic Environmental Survey for Health Care Centers, Olive Presses, Housing Conditions Survey, Housing Projections and others.

- Economic statistics: Finance and Insurance, National Accounts, Contractors Survey, Transportation and Communication and others.
- Population and Social statistics: Expenditure and Consumption Survey, Crime and Victimization, Computer, Internet and Mobile Phones Survey, Health Statistics and others.

A set of data was issued for expenditure and consumption household survey and made available for public use, where a micro data for public use file contained a questionnaire survey data (SPSS and ASSCI), a brochure, data dictionary, and public use file (all of which are in bilingual texts of Arabic and English). Therefore, PCBS is implementing administrative and technical procedures to accessing for the public use file to all eligible applicants in a simple and easy way. The most important of these procedures:

1. Reviewing the survey, indicators and necessary variances in the micro data for public use file to double check the availability of main indicators in PUF.
2. Reviewing possibilities of publishing on the lowest levels through studying of weights of sample to ensure disseminating data at specific levels.
3. Processing public data file in accordance with previous conditions
4. Processing manuals of data dictionary, data types, and time reference. Also it showed a difficulty in extracting some published tables, as a result of division of survey data (SPSS and ASSCI) into sections according to questionnaire, which would force data users to merge some sections together to extract a table.

   In 2009 and 2010 data dictionary were reflected on PUF by defining full and clear variables, which contributed to reducing the burden of data users.

5. Adopting of Public use file by relevant departments and senior managers to ensure scientific interest of data users.
6. Preparing brochures and summaries about PUFs and announcements on available data for the public use through direct messages to research centers, line ministries, international institutions, universities and through announcements in newspapers, and PCBS web site.
7. Preparing terms of references and agreement forms to be referred and signed by PCBS and data users.
8. Assigning of communication liaison officer at PCBS to coordinate with data users represented by PCBS department of data dissemination.

8. Metadata

Metadata is a descriptive data about statistical figures and methodologies of data collection to be provided to data users to be evaluated the and to specifying its strengths and weaknesses and know its sources and resources. Providing available metadata is good and important to facilitate shifting from supply-based production to demand-based production and to achieving such a purpose, standards and regulations were designed to prepare metadata that describes the used procedures to evaluating the data by users.

Metadata is considered one of important products that PCBS provides to serve the researchers, which is not less important than digital data which cannot be explained or clarified without the collection and treatment tools of metadata.

PCBS adopted specific standards in preparing and publishing metadata that enables researcher to rely on it in his/her study and comparing it with international standards and it is also a commitment to implementing the Palestinian national strategy for development of official statistics - NSDS (2009 - 2013), which states expressly for providing statistical data with high quality and at ease in accordance with accurate and reliable standards and in proper time (the second strategic purpose: publishing statistics and increase its uses), PCBS had published metadata on its website, responding to researchers and users'' needs and implementing one of NSDS terms. In addition, an international standards were adopted (Data Documentation Initiative-DDI) for preparing metadata and using of "Accelerated Data Program-ADP program " for preparing and publishing metadata on the websites.

The published descriptive metadata base consists of a large group of surveys that were compiled and published by PCBS for several years. Useful data of surveys were published, and whole data sets which consist of: of data collection and treatment process, methodology of sampling techniques, treatment of errors and problems, definitions and terminology, statistical and geographical coverage, sample design, work plan and other documents and information. In addition to the database is providing copies of survey tools and documents such as questionnaires and published reports of surveys results

Therefore, the project manager is responsible for preparing metadata that is eligible for public use, which would start after the completion of technical committee works, completing or implementing the project, publishing statistical report and qualifying and documenting metadata. Metadata consists of explanations, clarifications of eligible data for public use along with data dictionary in both bilingual languages of Arabic and English.

The most important procedures of project manager should be constructing an accurate, precise and high quality metadata as of the following:
- Preparing the eligible file/files through an SPSS program on ADP program.
- Completing of metadata entry from MS Word file to ADP program.
- Working on ADP should be in both languages (Arabic and English).
- Delivering final files of ADP (XML, RDF) to the PCBS webpage section of publishing and documentation directorate.
- Web- page section should publish metadata on ADP database on the website.

Among the examples on publishing of metadata of surveys is publishing of metadata for Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey, so it is possible for any user of the website (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_adp_arabic/) to review metadata of all surveys including Expenditure and Consumption Survey. By reviewing PCBS website, their is metadata of this survey for the years:
2007 (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_adp_arabic/ddibrowser/?id=35),
2009 (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_adp_arabic/ddibrowser/?id=27),
2010 (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_adp_arabic/ddibrowser/?id=43).
As committed by PCBS to providing metadata for interested researchers and users.

Information and metadata of Expenditure and Consumption Survey had been published in 2007, 2009 and 2010 which consisted of the following: of: a general information on the survey, reference timing, purpose of survey, sources of data, donor, mythology and procedures of sampling, responding rate, definitions and terms used, collecting and treating of data, geographical coverage, questionnaire design and data dictionary. In addition to the database is providing copies of survey tools and documents such as questionnaires and published reports of surveys results. To approaching most of possible users, PCBS published metadata in both languages Arabic and English, and metadata documented electronically on office files, database and PDF at general directorate of computer information systems of PCBS.

9. Research Center

Within the context of PCBS policy to promoting the use of statistical data in the area of research center   to accessing researchers to a variety of data which serving various scientific purposes, Research center has been opened this year to using raw data of household consumption and expenditure surveys at PCBS according to a determined and specific procedures and criteria adopted by PCBS.

PCBS provides required data at high standards to maintaining data confidentiality and privacy of individuals in accordance with article 17, paragraph 1 on Palestinian General statistics law of 2000, and which stipulates that all individual information and data provided to PCBS for purposes of statistical confidentiality may not be shared with any individual, public or private body or used other than for the purpose of preparing statistical tables.

Therefore, PCBS provides users with a suitable place to use the data through a computer with good specifications. In addition to documenting the data and used encoding lists during official working hours (8:30 - 2:30), while providing necessary technical support services, with commitment of a data user on using data for statistical purposes only, and abide by the rules of confidentiality and data security as indicated in General statistics law of 2000 and refraining from attempting to detect individual information. In addition to respecting and observance of enforced regulations of PCBS and reference is made to data source when you post any material derived from such surveys data.

Data users   should certain actions in order to use search centre:
- Applying to public services section and clarifying required data to be used and research details. (http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/form.doc).
- Application would be internally and adopted (during a maximum period of two weeks).
- In the event of approval of the application, PCBS contacts data user to sign the agreement.

Finally, PCBS circulate printed periodicals   of the surveys results and provides CD's for the purpose of widely disseminating statistical data, a database related   to local, Arab and international institutions had been developed, and so PCBS surveys products will be distributed to all of the above mentioned institutions, and the list of institutions is as the following:

Ministries, government institutions (civil and military bodies), research centers, universities, libraries, media   institutions, chambers of commerce, consulates to Palestine, foreign

representatives offices to PNA, political movements, unions ,Palestinian embassies, Arab and foreign statistical institutions , governments and other donor s, researchers and conferences..

3.5 Comparability
This dimension refers to the extent to which differences between statistics can be attributed to differences between the true values of the statistical characteristics, and it is measured by using several indicators.

The annual report is contained of surveys of (2004 - 2007, 2009 and 2010) of the most important results, tables, and graphs, which reflect Expenditure and Consumption of household / per capita in Palestinian territories, and that fit all categories of data users as researchers, decision makers, scholars and others. It is also contained time series for most important indicators to enabling researchers, scholars and others who are interested in making comparisons between results by time series.

These reports (referred to in the paragraph above), access to distribution and consumption expenditure levels on groups of goods and services, also provided for the survey reports these years time series of significant data for the prevailing conditions and living standards in the Palestinian Territories in economic and social perspective, in order to assist in making comparisons between results by this time series. The following table shows the most relevant comparisons:

Table 3: The most important indicators that were compared in the survey reports and household consumption expenditure by year

Time Reference	Average monthly household expenditure for groups of goods and services	Average monthly per capita consumption of groups of goods and services	Average per capita daily energy and nutrients	Average monthly per capita expenditure for groups of goods and services
2004	1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2004	_	_	_
2005	_	2004, 2005	1996-1998, 2005	_
2006	_	_	2005, 2006	2004, 2005, 2006
2007	_	_	_	2005, 2006, 2007
2009	_	_	_	2005, 2006, 2007, 2009
2010	_	_	_	2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010

It is noted through reviewing of survey reports and here is a quotation from them "the most important economic indicators will be highlighted in the results of this survey level of living and compared to previous survey results of years 1996 - 1998, 2001, ... Etc", but they had not been addressed or compared with the years that had mentioned.

Finally, the survey data provided comparability by geographical distribution (region, and type of locality) according to each year. Thus, it is clear that comparison between data in a time reference is going smoothly.

On the other hand, comparison will not occur between survey data and similar data from different surveys, due to the lack of same data in other surveys. Survey indicators cannot be compared in accordance with different partials in study community, but the Expenditure and Consumption indicators comparison should be in accordance with the whole study community.

3.6 Coherence

Regarding to this dimension of adequacy of statistics to be combined in different ways and for various uses, and the presence of comparable methodologies would lead to similar results in terms of measurements in different aspects of the statistical system including the primary and secondary data sources, and it is by measured using several indicators.

PCBS is using a regularly updated sample frame, the sample was withdrawn in 2004 - 2007 by using the census frame of 1997. In 2009 and 2010, census frame has been adopted for census of 2007. In 2012, PCBS will update the sample frame.

In addition to that, the procedures and concepts of Expenditure and Consumption Survey were set in accordance with concepts, regulations, classifications and international standards taking into consideration some of the (Palestinian Privacy) without breaking the international standards.

Expenditure and Consumption Survey indicators will not be compared with the same indicators of the administrational records data, due to the lack of administrative records related to household Expenditure and Consumption. In addition to the lack of comparability of Expenditure and Consumption Survey indicators with the census data, due to the need of researchers visit to household to get some information which is difficult to get in the time of enumeration, there are also indicators in Expenditure and Consumption Survey, the researcher need to visit the household more than once to fulfill the data, and this cannot happen in the census in one day or more, and it is difficult to collect data about household expenditure and consumption in light of the large amount of questions that will be queried in the census. It also cannot get data on expenditure, consumption and income through census data; this is due to the methodology of work in censuses

3.7 Completeness

This dimension focuses on the extent to which all statistics that are needed are available, and the completeness of the statistics in terms of coverage of indicators and geographical coverage, time coverage, and coverage in terms of target groups and other related matters, this dimension is measured by using the following indicators:

Indicator	Application
Extract the highest number of indicators that covers the survey subject	Indicators were calculated on average expenditure and consumption household / per capita for various goods and services such as food (bread, cereals, vegetables, ... Etc), as well as other non-food goods (clothing, education, health care, ... Etc), where others goods is linked to these groups by different indicators such as region, type of locality, the sex of the head of household, household size and other indicators. As the standard of living index is calculated for household (the proportion of consumption of food/total consumption), and Palestinian household are divided into three main levels (best, average, below), provides a survey of indicators about ownership or free use of durable goods, means of income generation, land tenure and land animals.
Covering all geographical regions in the study sample	It covers all geographical areas in the sample: a stratified, cluster and random sample was chosen systematically from enumeration areas of population, housings and establishments census of 1997 (between 2004 to 2007) and population, housing and establishment's census of 2007 (in 2009 and 2010). The geographical areas were divided into variant levels: the level of Palestinian Territories (in 2004 – 2007, 2009, and 2010), and the level of West Bank and Gaza Governorates (in 2004, 2009, and 2010), in addition to several geographical divisions by type of locality.

It is noted that there was a gap in data distribution by geographical level in 2006, and 2007 compared to results of the survey in 2004, 2005, 2009, and 2010. This is mainly due to reduced sample size in these years as a result of the lack of adequate funding.

Chapter Four

The most important indications in the process of Expenditure and Consumption Survey

PCBS has been conducting Expenditure and Consumption Survey since 1995 up to present which has included a series of statistical surveys, to knowing status of expenditure and consumption in Palestinian territories. In addition to identifying the most important factors affecting expenditure such as education and social levels and others. Conducting such surveys aim at creating necessary database for students, researchers and decision makers to know the levels of Palestinian Expenditure and Consumption according to some basic indicators relating to the details of the composition of Palestinian society, we do hope that we have contributed in rationalizing decision making.

Thus, Expenditure and Consumption Survey provides various indicators related to levels of living in Palestinian territories, such as indicators of expenditure and consumption (average consumption, average expenditure, and poverty rate). Below is a table that shows the most important indicators and its definition and the process of its counting:

Indicator	Definition	Counting process	Measurement Unit	Coverage Level
Percentage of Households whose Standard of Living is Better Off	Index measures the size of the population whose standard of living is better-off (less than 30% of consumption spent on food)	Calculated by dividing the number of households spending less than 30% of monthly consumption on food by the total number of households and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories
Percentage of Households with Average Standard of Living	Index measures the size of the population with an average standard of living (30 - 44% of monthly consumption spent on food)	Calculated by dividing the number of households with an average standard of living (spending 30 - 44% of monthly consumption on food) by the total number of households and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories
Percentage of Households whose Standard of Living is Worse-off	Index measures the size of the population whose standard of living is worse-off (45 - 100% of monthly consumption spent on food)	Calculated by dividing the number of households whose standard of living is worse-off (45 - 100% of monthly consumption spent on food) by the total number of households and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories
Average Household Consumption	Measures the average consumption of Palestinian households from goods and services in Jordanian dinars	Refers to the amount of cash spent on the purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and the value of goods and service payments or part of payments received from an employer, and own-produced goods and food, including consumed quantities during the recording period, and imputed rent.	Jordanian Dinar	Governorate
Average Consumption Per Capita	Measures the average consumption of Palestinian per capita from goods and services in Jordanian dinars	Refers to the amount of cash spent on the purchase of goods and services for living purposes.	Jordanian Dinar	Governorate

Indicator	Definition	Counting process	Measurement Unit	Coverage Level
Average Household Expenditure	Measures the average expenditure of Palestinian households from goods and services in Jordanian dinars	Refers to the amount of cash spent on the purchase of goods and services for living purposes, and the value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from an employer, and cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), gifts, contributions, interest on debts and other non-consumption items	Jordanian Dinar	Governorate
Average Expenditure per capita	Measures the average expenditure of Palestinian per capita from goods and services in Jordanian dinars	Refers to the amount of cash spent on the purchase of goods and services for living purposes.	Jordanian Dinar	Governorate
Dependency Ratio	Refers to the ratio of the elderly (aged 65 years and over) plus the young (under 15 years of age) to the population of working age (between 15 - 64 years of age)	Dividing the number of individuals age 65 and over plus the number of individuals aged less than 15, divided by the number of individuals of working age multiplied by 100	Percentage	Governorate
Percentage of Households Dependent on a Household Business as a Main Source of Income	Index measures the number of households dependent on a household business as a main source of income	Dividing the number of households that depend on a household business as a main source of income by the total number of households within the surveyed community and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	Governorate
Percentage of Households Dependent on Wages and Salaries as a Main Source of Income	Index measures the dependence of households on wages and salaries as a main source of income	Dividing the number of households that depend on wages and salaries as a main source of income by the total number of households within the surveyed community and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	Governorate

Indicator	Definition	Counting process	Measurement Unit	Coverage Level
Percentage of Households Dependent on Remittances and Other Sources as a Main Source of Income	Index measures the extent to which households are dependent on remittances and other sources as a main source of income	Dividing the number of households that depend on remittances and other sources as a main source of income by the total number of households within the surveyed community and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	Governorate
Poverty Rate	Index measures the extent of poverty in the community	Dividing the number of households living below the national poverty line by the total number of households within the surveyed community and the result multiplied by 100	Percentage	Governorate
Poverty Gap Rate	This indicator measures the volume of the gap between the income of the poor and the poverty line (the total amount needed to raise consumption levels to the poverty line)	It is recommended to calculate this indicator as a percentage of the total consumption value for the whole population when the consumption level for each of them is equal to the poverty line.	Average	Governorate
Share of Poorest Quintile (20%) of the Population in National Consumption	Index measures fairness of distribution, measuring the share of the poorest 20% of the population in total national consumption	Dividing the total consumed by the poorest 20% of the population by the value of total national consumption at a specific moment of time	Percentage	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories
Poverty Severity	This indicator shows the variation and differentials among the poor	Equals the mean of the total relative squares of poverty gaps for all the poor	Mean	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories
Number of Children Living Below the Poverty Line	Indicator monitors the number of children aged below 18 years and belonging to a poor household (monthly consumption below the national poverty line)	Total number of children aged below 18 years and belonging to poor households (monthly consumption below the national poverty line)	Number	West Bank, Gaza Strip, Palestinian Territories

<center>**Chapter Five**</center>

<center>**Results and Recommendations**</center>

5.1 Results

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) executed a range of studies and working and concept papers on the subject of quality, quality report of Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey. The first report on special quality was about labour force survey. These reports are designed for graphic overview of the extent of application of the quality dimensions/elements and indicators in the survey to provide users and decision makers with information about quality of the survey.

This report generally reviews the survey methodology, which is displayed in the annual report of the survey with a simple and easy way, helping users and beneficiaries to understand what is the survey about, sample frame and mechanism of sample design, response rates, calculation of weights, main problem in fieldwork field, and reviews the fieldwork for survey, as well as data-processing mechanism. The aim of this report is to draw a detailed picture about compliance with dimensions and quality indicators in the survey.

This review showed clearly the extent and results of survey to meet the needs of current and potential future users (this represents the first dimension of quality dimensions: relevance). To reviewing indicators relating to this dimension are defined by the basic objective of survey of starting date, periodicity, showing the size and design of the sample and sample frame and the calculation of weights, the most important definitions and terminology and as compliance with these indicators. But weaknesses are not mentioned and clarified in computing weights in 2004 - 2006. In 2007, 2009, and 2010, these were achieved completely,

It showed also the extent of accounts and estimations when comparing with existing and real values that the surveys measured (this represents the second dimension of the dimensions of quality: Accuracy. So, after counting the contrast for the most important indicators, it is clear that there was no existing estimation problems and the estimations were very near to the existing values, and lack of problematic deployment estimates at the level of the Palestinian territories (for any survey periods). It is noted that a non-response rate to consumption and expenditure survey is the lowest if compared to data survey and household consumption and expenditure in other countries. Also, it was noted that the proportion of non-response rate was the least in 2010 amounted to 17.9%, and refusal rate was the lowest in the same year at 9.2%.

Response rates are indications for accuracy (among others), these rates are put in order from largest to smallest (by year): 2010, 2004, 2009, 2006, 2005 and 2007.

Publishing data in a timely manner while maintaining on accuracy and high quality of data are the most important challenges faced by statistical institutions. Therefore, after reviewing report notes that the lapse of time between publication and the period to which the date refer (this represents the first part of the third dimension of quality dimensions: Timeliness) within standard period between 6 months and 12 months. But it appeared some fluctuation in timeliness on the

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number of months, where the lapse of time between publication and the period to which the date refer was the lowest in clear spending and household consumption in 2005, 2006, and 2007. But increased in other years, therefore timeliness decrease in these later years.

It is also noted that matching of planned publishing date for survey is the same as of actual scheduled publishing date in the statistical calendar (this represents the second part of the third dimension of quality dimensions: Punctuality) in 2010 and 2006, but it did not matching in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Through this review, it showed that 2006 was the best year to achieve and implements the third dimension of quality (Timeliness and Punctuality).

The data user is an important element in the statistical process and be allowed to use statistical data in an easier and faster method. In addition to appropriate data in form and content (this is the first part of the fourth dimension of quality dimensions: Accessibility), and quality and high credibility for data, and punctuality. Therefore, after examining survey files of 2004-2007, 2009 and 2010, the following were concluded: dissemination of results (report) on the website of PCBS, a press release, data processing for public use file (with a weakness in the data processing for public use file for Survey in 2004), uploading maps of statistical survey on the website of PCBS (would be later provided to survey 2010), while in 2007, 2009, and 2010 publish metadata for surveys.

It is noted that the survey report contains permanent explanations such as graphs, charts, and tables of results for Palestinian territories as a whole or by region and geographical distribution, as well as the availability of information about the quality of the data (this is the second part of the fourth dimension of quality dimensions: clarity). Thus, we found a verification of the fourth dimension of quality (accessibility and clarity). In addition to PCBS keen to provide data to the public and by new methods.

The annual reports contained main results of the survey and some indicators in time series (e.g., the average expenditure of Palestinian households from goods and services, and the average per capita of daily energy and nutrients) to enable comparisons by year. Therefore, in order to achieve the fifth dimension from the dimensions of quality (comparability), it is compared between time series and the most important survey, indicators and the survey indicators according to geographical distribution of survey community.

Survey data is not compared with similar data from different surveys, the lack of same data in other surveys. Also, it is not compared with different survey indicators by particles of survey community, but are compared according to the survey community indicators survey as a whole. Thus, it is weak to achieve any comparability in 2004 - 2007, 2009, and 2010.

The sixth quality dimension related to the suitability of societal statistics with different methodologies and for different purposes including; coherence, availability of methodologies suitable for comparison that lead to similar results in the sense of measuring different pillars of statistical system including the preliminary and secondary resources. Therefore, the survey of household expenditure and consumption is using a precise sample frame of Census 1997 until 2007, but after implementing of Census 2007, a new frame was updated based on Census data of 2007. In addition to that, the procedures and concepts of the survey were sit in accordance with

the concepts, regulations, classifications and international standards and taking into consideration Palestinian privacy without affecting the international standards.

When returning to survey reports showed availability of all necessary statistics (this represents the seventh dimension of quality dimensions: Completeness), which deals with survey reports for the most important statistical indicators on patterns of household expenditure and consumption in the Palestinian territories. For example, calculating indicators on average of per capita of household expenditure and consumption of various goods and services such as food and non-food stuffs which is normally linked to the average of expenditure on these groups with different indicators such as region, type of locality, sex of head of household, household size and other indicators.   The report also showed the extent of statistical completeness indicators, the geographical covering, and time covering, excluding data for 2006, and 2007, and this is due to low sample size in these years due to lack of adequate funding for the budget survey.

Finally, when reviewing survey reports or data files for this survey, they do not contain a mechanism to calculate the most important survey, indicators which creating a difficulty in understanding certain indicators

5.2 Recommendations

1. To show a permanent abidance to PCBS commitment to publish statistical reports in accordance to punctuality of the statistical calendar,
2. Developing quality indicators dimensions as of the following :
    - Comparing survey indicators with same indicators form other surveys.
    - Comparing survey indicators with same indicators of administrative records.
    - Applying mechanism and procedure for tackling non–completion/refusal cases.
    - Applying mechanism and methods of imputation.
3. Calculation of indicators in reports of Household Expenditure and Consumption to be included within up coming reports.
4. Processing and preparing eligible data for the public use files through SPSS and ASSCI with another form, so that the researchers/users would not need to merge files in order to obtain certain data.
5. Applying such review of quality report on other surveys by next year.
6. Applying such review of quality report on all surveys by next years, so that the project manager has to prepare the report, and it should be reviewed by PCBS Quality Department.

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