

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

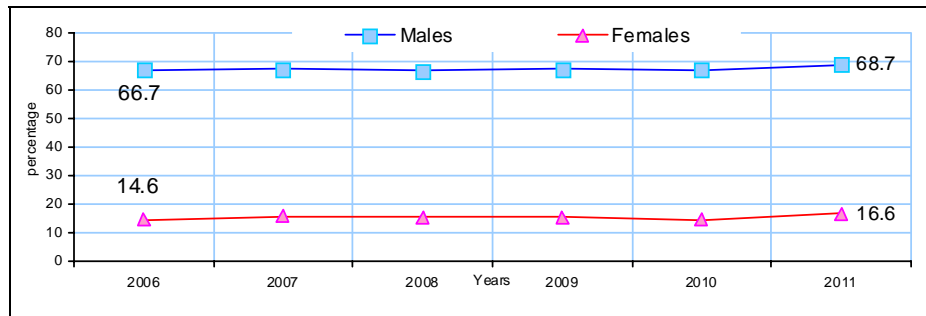
On the occasion of May 1st - International Workers Day

PCBS President, Ola Awad, Presents the Status of the Palestinian Labour Force, 2011

Male participation in the labour force four times higher than that of females

The labour force participation rate of persons aged 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory during 2011 was 43%: 69% for males and 17% for females. In the West Bank, the participation rate was 46%: 71% for males and 19% for females. In the Gaza Strip, the participation rate was 38%: 64% for males and 12% for females.

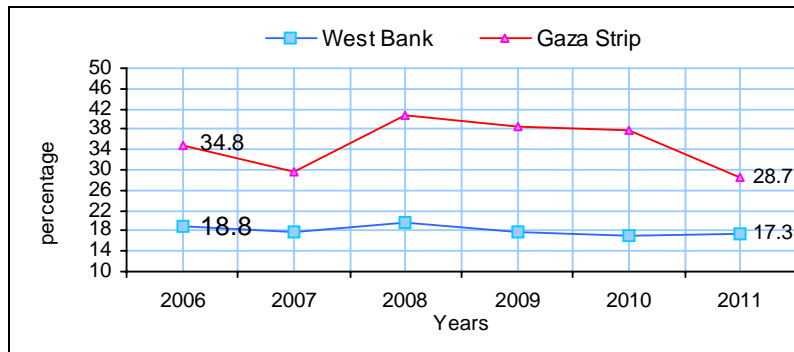
Labour Force Participation Rate of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex, 2006-2011



Relatively high unemployment rates

The unemployment rate among labour force participants aged 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory during 2011 was 21%: 19% for males and 28% for females. In the West Bank the unemployment rate was 17%: 16% for males and 23% for females, compared with 29% in the Gaza Strip: 26% for males and 44% for females.

Unemployment Rate among Labour Force Participants by Region, 2006-2011



More than half a million waged employees

The number of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory totaled 558 thousand in 2011: 300 thousand worked in the West Bank; 177 thousand worked in the Gaza Strip; 69 thousand worked in Israel; and 12 thousand worked in Israeli settlements.

Public sector is main employer in Gaza Strip

In 2011, 52% of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory worked in the private sector compared with 34% in the public sector. Workers in Israel and Israeli settlements made up 14%.

More than half of the waged employees in the West Bank (55%) worked in the private sector compared with 24% in the public sector and 21% in Israel and Israeli settlements. The public sector was the largest employer in the Gaza Strip with 54% compared with 46% in the private sector.

One fifth of waged employees are classed as poor

Around 22% of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory were classed as poor in 2010: 17% in the West Bank and 33% in the Gaza Strip.

One quarter of employees work in technical and specialized occupations

Around 24% of waged employees worked as professionals or technicians in the Palestinian Territory during 2011: 21% in the West Bank and 31% in the Gaza Strip. In addition, 15% of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory worked as craftsmen: 19% in the West Bank and 7% in the Gaza Strip.

Around 17% of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory received vocational training: 17% in the West Bank and 16% in the Gaza Strip.

Average daily wage of females is lower than that of males

The real average daily wage in the Palestinian Territory during 2011 was 69 NIS: 71 NIS for males compared with 60 NIS for females; 78 NIS in the West Bank and 47 NIS in the Gaza Strip.

The highest average daily wage in 2011 was in private sector services industry with 102 NIS in the West Bank and 85 NIS in the Gaza Strip, followed by the transportation and communications sector with 94 NIS in the West Bank and 43 NIS in the Gaza Strip. The agriculture sector recorded the lowest average daily wage at 58 NIS in the West Bank and 29 NIS in the Gaza Strip.

The average number of hours worked per week in the Palestinian Territory in 2011 was 41 hours: 40 hours for public sector employees and 42 hours in the private sector.

One quarter of waged employees receive retirement benefits

Around 24% of waged employees received retirement or end of service benefits: 25% received paid annual leave and 25% received paid annual sick leave. In addition, 54% of female waged employees received paid maternity leave. More than 90% of waged employees in the public sector received most work-related benefits and privileges, such as sick leave, annual leave, maternity leave, etc.

One third of waged employees in the private sector have contract

A work contract was supplied to 30% of waged employees in the private sector in the Palestinian Territory during 2011: 38% in the West Bank and 20% in the Gaza Strip.

Less than one fifth of waged employees are affiliated to labour or professional unions

Around 16% of waged employees in the Palestinian Territory were affiliated to a labour or professional union: 15% in the West Bank and 17% in the Gaza Strip.