

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

On the Eve of the International Population Day 11/7/2011

On the Eve of International Population Day, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released the following statistical review on the status of the Palestinian Population:

The total Population of the Palestinian territory at mid 2011 was about 4.17 million, 2.58 million in West Bank and 1.59 million in Gaza Strip.

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (21.7%) in the first quarter of 2011.

7.8% of females(15 years and over) are illiterate, which is more than three times higher as of males rate (2.4%) in 2011.

Demographic Status

Palestinian Population in Gaza Strip is younger than the West Bank Population

Based on estimates prepared by PCBS according to the results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, the total population of the Palestinian territory at mid 2011 was about 4.17 million; 2.12 million males and 2.05 million females. The estimated population of West Bank was 2.58 million of which 1.31 million males and 1.27 million females. While the estimated population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.59 million of which 806 thousand males and 782 thousand females. The percentage of urban population mid-2011 was about 73.8%, while the percentage of population in rural and camps areas was 16.9% and 9.3% respectively.

Data revealed that the population of the Palestinian territory is a young population; the percentage of individuals aged (0-14) constituted 40.8% of the total population at mid 2011 of which 38.9% in West Bank and 44.1% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years and over) constituted 2.9% of the total population of which 3.3% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip of mid 2011.

Population density of The Palestinian territory is generally high at 693 persons/ Km² , particularly in Gaza Strip is 4,353 persons/km² compared to lower population density in West Bank at 456 persons/Km² at mid 2011 .

High Fertility rates in the Palestinian territory in 2010

Fertility in the Palestinian territory is considered high compared to other countries, although data of last decade of last century revealed that fertility is declining. According to Preliminary results of

Family Health survey 2010, the total fertility rate in the Palestinian territory had declined to 4.2 births in 2010 compared to 6.0 births in 1997. At their regional level, the fertility rate in Gaza Strip is higher than West Bank during the period between (1997-2010), where it reached 3.8 births in 2010 in West Bank compared to 5.6 births in 1997. While it reached 4.9 births in Gaza Strip in 2010 compared to 6.9 births in 1997.

Population projections revealed that crude birth rate in Palestinian territory is expected to drop from 32.8 births per one thousand of the population in 2011 to 31.9 births in 2015.

More decline in crude death rates during the next five years

Available data showed that crude death rates are relatively low compared to rates prevailing in Arab countries. Where crude death rate is expected to decline in the Palestinian territory from 4.0 deaths per 1000 of the population in 2011 to 3.6 deaths per 1000 in 2015, the crude death rate in the West Bank is expected to drop from 4.1 in 2011 to 3.8 deaths per one thousand in 2015. While in Gaza Strip, it is expected to drop from 3.9 deaths in 2011 to 3.5 per one thousand in 2015. These results may reflect the improvement in the quality of life, access to medical services, development of health services and increased health awareness among the population.

Household

Decline in the average households size during the previous years in Palestinian territory

The total estimated households in the Palestinian territory was 714,960; of which 469,397 households in West Bank and 245,563 in Gaza Strip mid 2011. Data revealed a decline in the average of households' size in the Palestinian territory during the period between (1997-2010) from 6.4 persons in 1997 to 5.9 in 2010. This average declined in the West Bank from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.6 in 2010, while it declined in Gaza Strip from 6.9 persons to 6.5 for the same period.

The results of the Labour Force Survey of 2010 showed that 8.4% of households were headed by females in the Palestinian territory as of 9.6% and 7.2% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip respectively, the size of female-headed households were relatively small, with an average size of 3.2 persons compared to 6.2 persons for male-headed households.

Participation in Labour Force

Participation in labour force is a key indicator of the extent of labour market activity and effectiveness in providing job opportunities. The results of labour force survey revealed that the labour force participation rate is 41.0% of the total labour force (Persons aged 15 years and over) during the 1st quarter of 2011; of which 43.2% in the West Bank compared to 37.0% in Gaza strip.

The females participation rate in labour force is very low compared to males participation rate at 14.7% of which 16.7% in the West Bank and 11.0% in Gaza Strip, against 66.7% for males; of which 69.0% in the West Bank and 62.5% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed (21.7%) in the first quarter of 2011

The results showed that more than one fifth of participants in the labour force were unemployed in the 1st quarter of 2011 at 21.7% as of 17.4% in the West Bank and 30.8% in Gaza Strip. Unemployment rate reached 27.3% among females compared to 20.5% among males.

Monthly Household Expenditure

36.4% represented the share of cash expenditure on food out of total expenditure

The results of the Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey of 2010 revealed that the average monthly household expenditure on various goods and services amounted to 556.9 JDs in the Palestinian territory as of 993.8 JDs in the West Bank compared to 680.7 JD in Gaza Strip).

The major share of cash expenditure was on food at 36.4% of the total expenditure (34.1% in the West Bank compared with 42.6% in Gaza Strip).

Poverty

25.7% of individuals in in the Palestinian territory suffered from poverty during the year of 2010

The relative poverty line and the deep poverty line according to consumption patterns (for reference household consisted of 2 adults and 3 children) in the Palestinian territory in 2010 were 2,237 NIS (US\$ 609), and 1,783 NIS (US\$ 478) respectively. The poverty rate among Palestinian households was 25.7% (18.3% in West Bank, and 38.1% in Gaza Strip).

Data revealed that 14.1% of the households in the Palestinian Territory were suffering from deep poverty in 2010 according to consumption patterns. (8.8% in West Bank, and 23.0% in Gaza Strip).

Education

The 2010 data revealed that the percentage of individuals (15 years and over) who completed university education (A bachelor degree and above) was 10.4%. while the percentage of individuals who did not complete any stage of education reached 11.2%. These results showed that there were differences between males and females in educational attainment, where the percentage of males who have completed university education (bachelor and above)

was 11.5% compared to 8.3% for females. As for those who did not complete any stage of education, their percentage among males was 8.35% compared to 14.2% for females.

Illiteracy

Female illiteracy rate was more than three times higher than that of males in 2010

Illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years or over in the Palestinian territory was 5.1% in 2010, illiteracy gap is significantly noticed among males and females at 2.4% and 7.8% respectively. The results showed differences in illiteracy rate between West Bank and Gaza Strip at 5.2% and 4.8% respectively.

Computer

The percentage of households who had personal computers in 2009 in the Palestinian territory was 49.2% of which 51.1% in the West Bank and 45.6% in Gaza Strip.

Internet

28.5% of households in the Palestinian territory had internet access in 2009

Available data indicated that 28.5% of households in the Palestinian territory had Internet access in 2009 of which 27.2% in West Bank and 30.9% in Gaza Strip. The data showed that more than half of individuals (10 years and over) could use the Internet (59.1%), while 32.3% of individuals were using Internet, this percentage varies significantly between males and females at 38.2% and 26.2% respectively.

Health Services in the Palestinian Territory

26.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian territory are supervised run by Non-governmental organizations in 2010

Data showed that the Ministry of Health supervised run 32.9% of the hospitals, and 58.8% of total hospital beds in 2010, while UNRWA supervised run 1.3% of hospitals, and 1.2% of total beds. Non-governmental organizations supervised run 36.8% of hospitals in the Palestinian territory, and 29.3% of total hospital beds, while the private sector supervised run 26.3% of hospital, and 9.3% of total hospital beds. Data showed that military supervised run 2.6% of the hospitals, and 1.4% of total hospital beds in 2010.

Disabilities

About 113 thousand people with disabilities in the Palestinian territory of which 75 thousand in the West Bank, or 2.7% of the total population in the West Bank; and 38 thousand in the Gaza Strip; or 2.4% of the total population in the Gaza Strip are with disabilities. And the ratio was 2.9% among males and 2.5% among females within the Palestinian territory.

Housing Units Ownership

83.6% of housing Units in the Palestinian territory is owned by a family member in 2010

In 2010, the percentage of Palestinian households that a family member owned a housing unit was about 83.6% of which 81.8% in the West Bank and 86.9% in Gaza Strip, while the percentage of households who were living in a rented houses in the Palestinian territory was 8.7% of which 10.3% in the West Bank and 5.5% in Gaza Strip.

Connection to Public Networks

Available data for 2010 showed that 91.4% of households in the Palestinian territory lived in houses that supplied with drinking water from public network of which 96.9% in Gaza Strip and 88.5% in the West Bank. Moreover, the majority of households in the Palestinian territory lived in houses connected to the electricity network at 99.9%.

About 54.4% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to cesspits. where waste water disposed through of which 59.5% in the West Bank and 18.0% in Gaza Strip. While there were 52.1% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to public sewage network of which 40.1% in the West Bank compared with 81.9% in Gaza Strip.