

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Release A Report about Olives Presses in the Palestinian Territory, 2006

- **159,059 tons of pressed olives & 34,002 tons of extracted oil.**
- **12,319.4 thousand US\$ the output value of olive presses.**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released a statistical report about olives presses in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2006, which indicated that the total number of olive presses in the Palestinian Territory is 266, of which 246 are operating, while 20 are temporarily closed. The distribution of operating presses by automation level is as follows: 187 full automatic, 59 half automatic and traditional presses. Data indicated that operating presses are concentrated in the Northern part of the West Bank, especially in Nablus Governorate (50 presses), then Jenin and Tubas Governorates (49 presses).

The Results showed that the total quantity of pressed olives in 2006 is 159,059 tons, and quantity of extracted oil is 34,002 tons, compared with 6,790 tons of oil extracted from 27,310 tons of pressed olives in 2005, the highest quantity of extracted oil in 2006 was 6,811.5 tons from 32,032 of olive pressed in Jenin and Tubas Governorates, while the lowest quantity of extracted oil was 580.3 tons from 3,286.7 tons of pressed olive in Khan Yunis and Rafah Governorates.

The results showed that the extraction rate reached 21.4% in 2006, and 24.9% in 2005, and showed that Qalqilya Governorate had the highest percentage with 25.2% in 2006, while the lowest percentage of the extraction rate was in Gaza and Deir al-Balah Governorates with 15.5 % for the same year.

The results showed also that there is 1,595 person are employed in olive pressing activities in the year 2006, of which 68.7% are paid employees, compared with 611 were employed in 2005 out of them 59.7% as paid employees. As for the compensation of paid employees the results showed that it reached 1,099.3 thousand US\$ in the year 2006 compared with 283 thousand US\$ in the year 2005.

Finally the results showed a significant increase in the level of olive presses output in 2006, compared with previous years, as it reached 12,319.4 thousand US\$ in 2006 compared with 5,266 thousand US\$ in 2004. On the other side the value added of olive pressing activity reached 9,554.6 thousand US\$ in 2006 compared with 1,613 thousand US\$ in 2005.

Coincidence was observed between the Ministry of Agriculture estimations and PCBS results in a percentage of 99.2% of olive and 93.8% of oil quantities.