

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Release A Statistical Report About Land Use Statistics in the Palestinian Territory

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics release a statistical report about land use statistics in the Palestinian Territory. Data of the report indicate that 2,559.2 km² of the Palestinian Territory land is cultivated or arable land representing 42.5%, while the area of open land without or with insignificant vegetation cover represents 29.3%, the area of pastures represents 12.5%, the area of Palestinian built-up land represents 6.6%, and the area of built-up land in Israeli Occupation Sites including the Expansion and Annexation Wall represents 4.1% during the year 2006.

Data reveal that the area of cultivated land totals about 1,500.2 km² (of this 1,164.9 km² are cultivated with permanent crops and 335.3 km² are cultivated with temporary crops). In addition, the irrigated cultivated area totals 176.6 km², while the rain-fed cultivated area totals 1,323.6 km² during the year 2007.

Results show that the cultivated land in the West Bank is mainly comprised of land cultivated with permanent crops, which represent 79.8% of the total cultivated land in the West Bank (of them 1.7% are irrigated and 78.1% are rain-fed), while permanent crops represent 53.3% in Gaza Strip (of them 48.0% irrigated and 5.3% rain-fed).

Data indicate that the area of permanent agricultural land per capita in the Palestinian Territory was 309.2 m² (467.5 m² in the West Bank and 46.5 m² in Gaza Strip). The lowest permanent cultivated area per capita is found in North Gaza governorate (19.6 m²), while the highest area per capita is found in Salfit governorate (1,371.5 m²).

Data show that the yield per km² of the total irrigated cultivated land in the Palestinian Territory is about 4,713.5 Ton/ km², and it was 171 Ton/km² for rain-fed cultivated land. In addition, the value of plant production in the Palestinian Territory is about 473.2 thousand US\$/km² of cultivated land, (317 thousand US\$/km² in the West Bank and about 2,212 thousand US\$/km² in Gaza Strip), while the value added of plant production in the Palestinian Territory is about 371.9 thousand US\$/km² of cultivated land, (231.6 thousand US\$/km² in the West Bank and about 1,933.1 thousand US\$/km² in Gaza Strip).

Results indicate that population density in the Palestinian Territory increase from 481 capita/ km² in the year 1997 to 626 capita/ km² in the year 2007 (416 capita/ km² in the West Bank and 3,881 capita/ km² in Gaza Strip in the year 2007). It was 316 capita/ km² in Israel at the end of 2007.

In 2007 data show that the area of forests and wooded land in the Palestinian Territory totaled 94.3 km², The largest area covered by forests and wooded land is found in Jenin and Tubas Governorates (33.2 km² and 22.0 km²), respectively. The area of natural reserves in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 514.7 km² (202 km² in Jerusalem Governorate).