

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Release A Report about Olives Presses in the Palestinian Territory, 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released a statistical report about olive presses in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2008, which indicated that the total number of olive presses in the Palestinian Territory is 296, of which 264 are operating, while 32 are temporarily closed. The distribution of operating presses by automation level is as follows: 224 full automatic, 40 half automatic and traditional presses. Data indicated that operating presses are concentrated in the Northern part of the West Bank, especially in Jenin and Tubas Governorates (52 presses), then Nablus Governorate (51 presses).

The Results showed that the total quantity of pressed olive in 2008 is 76,387.8 tons, and quantity of extracted oil is 17,583.9 tons, compared with 8,869.7 tons of oil extracted from 36,032.7 tons of pressed olive in 2007, the highest quantity of extracted oil in 2008 was 20,453.4 tons from 4,866.4 of olive pressed in Jenin and Tubas Governorates, while the lowest quantity of extracted oil was 200.5 tons from 950.3 tons of pressed olive in Jerusalem.

The results showed that the extraction rate reached 23.0% in 2008, while it was 24.6% in 2007, and showed that Qalqiliya Governorate had the highest percentage with 26.0% in 2008, while the lowest percentage of the extraction rate was in Gaza and Deir Al-Balah Governorates with 16.3 % for the same year.

The results showed also that there is 1,375 person are employed in olive pressing activities in the year 2008, of which 74.8% are paid employees, compared with 1,100 were employed in 2007 out of them 68.0% as paid employees. As for the compensation of paid employees the results showed that it reached 899.1 thousand US\$ in the year 2008 compared with 499.0 thousand US\$ in the year 2007.

Finally the results showed an increase in the level of olive presses output in 2008, compared with previous years, as it reached 7,799.9 thousand US\$ in 2008 compared to 4,935.6 thousand US\$ in 2007. On the other side the value added of olive pressing activity reached 5,217.7 thousand US\$ in 2008.