

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Press Release on Labour Force Survey Results

(July- September, 2008) Round

The highest unemployment rate is concentrated among youth 15-29 years old

This report is based on the Labour Force quarterly Survey. Data was collected during 6/07/2008 to 2/10/2008, representing the 3rd quarter 2008.

The survey sample of this round is based on the 1997 census (Updated on 2003). PCBS notice that the final and detailed results will publish during next week.

Economically Active:

According to the ILO standards, the percentage of participants in labour force remains at the same level 41.6% in the 3rd quarter 2008 compared with the 2nd quarter 2008, while it decreased compared with 42.7% in the 3rd quarter 2007. The participation rate of women decreased from 16.0% in the 2nd quarter to 15.2% in the 3rd quarter 2008, the change rate is 5%.

Unemployed Persons

According to the relaxed definition of unemployment, The percentage of persons who don't work nevertheless seeking or not seeking job, increased from 31.5% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 32.4% in the 3rd quarter 2008, compared with 29.1% in the 3rd quarter 2007.

According to the ILO standards, The percentage of persons who don't work, but seeking job increased from 25.8% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 27.3% in the 3rd quarter 2008, compared with 23.2% in the 3rd quarter 2007. The results showed that unemployment rate in the West Bank increased from 16.3% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 20.7% in the 3rd quarter 2008, while it decreased Gaza Strip from 45.5% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 41.3% in the 3rd quarter 2008.

Qalqilia governorate registered the highest unemployment rate among the West Bank governorates at 31.5% followed by Tulkarem 30.3% then Hebron governorate 24.5% while Jericho and AL Aghwar and Jerusalem registered the lowest percentage of unemployment (13.0%,14.2% respectively). While in Gaza Strip, Khan Younis governorate registered the highest percentage of unemployment (50.1%) followed by North Gaza governorate (47.9%).

The results showed that the highest percentage of unemployment was concentrated among youth aged 15-29. The highest percentage registered for the age group 20-24; it reached 43.4%, there of 35.1% in the West Bank and 58.5% in Gaza Strip, followed by 15-29 age group it reached 38.4%, there of 30.5% in the West Bank and 61.6% in Gaza Strip, then 25-29 group, it reached 32.2%, there of 25.2% in the West Bank and 44.9% in Gaza Strip.

The results showed that the lowest percentage of unemployment was among females who did not complete any years of schooling at (5.1%). Whereas the percentage reached 42.1% for females completed 13 years of schooling and above compared with 20.2% among males . While the highest among males was for those completed 1-6 years at 34.1%.

Employed Persons

At economic activity¹ level the results showed that the percentage of those who are working in Agriculture sector in the West Bank decreased from 17.1% to 14.9% between 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter 2008, while the percentage of those who are working in construction sector increased from 9.0% to 9.7%, and the percentage of those who are working in commerce, restaurants and hotels sector increased from 20.4% to 21.3% and the percentage of those who are working in services and other branches decreased from 34.3% to 32.9% at the same period. While in Gaza Strip the results showed that all activities was affected from the closure that is imposed by Israeli military authority, for that there was a decrease of those who are working agriculture sector from 12.3% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to

¹Employed persons in Israel and Israeli settlements are excluded

9.9% in the 3rd quarter 2008, while the percentage of employed persons in commerce, restaurants and hotels sector increased from 17.0% in 2nd quarter to 20.3% in the 3rd quarter 2008.

On the other hand the results showed that the percentage of employed persons at services and other branches sector reached 32.9% in the West Bank and 60.3% in Gaza Strip in the 3rd quarter 2008.

On the other hand, the results in the West Bank showed an increase in the percentage of wage employees, it increased from 60.4% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 62.2% in the 3rd quarter 2008, while the percentage of self-employed decreased from 24.1% to 22.8% and unpaid family members decreased from 11.2% to 10.5% at the same period.

While in Gaza Strip the percentage of wage employees increased from 71.3% to 72.5%, where as the percentage of self-employed decreased from 16.9% to 16.1% and the percentage of unpaid family members decreased from 8.5% to 6.5% at the same period.

The employment from the West Bank in Israel and Israeli settlements increased from 14.2% in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 16.3% in the 3rd quarter 2008, whereas in Gaza Strip there was no access for workers to enter Israeli settlements.

The results showed that the public sector employed one fifth (22.6%) of total employment, 14.0% in the West Bank and 47.6% in Gaza Strip.

Wages and Work Hours

The average value of the nominal daily net wage of the employees in the West Bank decreased from 86.9 NIS in 2nd quarter 2008 to 82.2 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2008, compared with 77.1 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2007. Also in Gaza Strip the nominal daily net wage of the employees decreased from 61.5 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2008 and 58.1 NIS in 3rd quarter 2008, compared with 64.1 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2007. Also the nominal daily net wage for those working in Israel and Israeli settlements decreased from 143.3 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2008 to 138.0 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2008, compared with 131.9 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2007.

The average weekly work hours in the West Bank increased from 42.7 work hour in 2nd quarter 2008 to 42.8 work hour in the 3rd quarter 2008, and increased slightly in Gaza Strip from 40.0 work hour to 43.8 work hour, while it decreased for those working in Israel and Israeli settlements from 44.3 work hour to 42.5 work hour at the same period.