

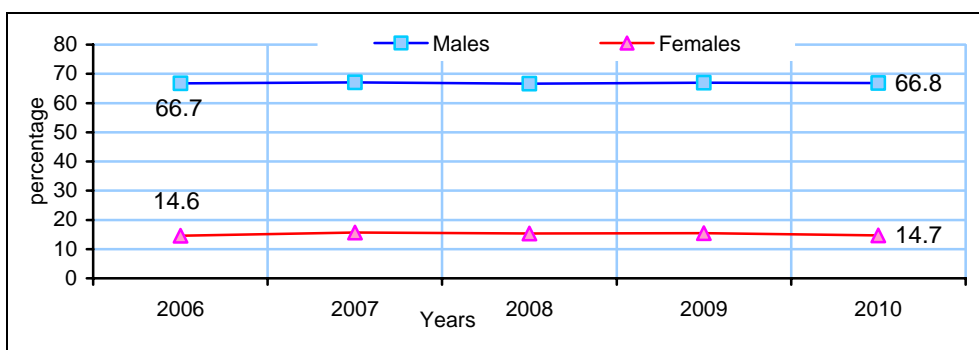
On the occasion of May 1st - International Workers Day

Ms. Ola Awad, President of PCBS, presents the current status of Palestinian labour force during 2010

Participation of men in the labour force is four times higher than the participation of women

The participation rate in the labour force of persons aged 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory reached 41% distributed as 67% for males and 15% for females. On the level of the West bank, the participation rate reached 44%, thereof 70% for males compared to 17% for females. Regarding Gaza Strip, about 36% of persons in the same age group participated in the labour force during 2010 distributed as 62% for males and 10% for females.

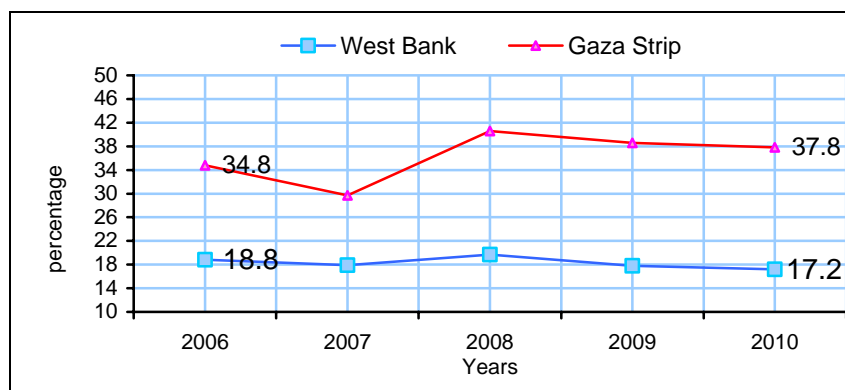
Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over by Sex, 2006-2010



Relatively high unemployment rates

The unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory reached 24% (23% for males and 27% for females). The unemployment rate in the West Bank was 17% (17% in the West Bank and 20% for females) compared with 38% in Gaza Strip (36% for males and 48% for females).

Unemployment Rate of Participants in the Labour Force Aged 15 Years and Over by Region, 2006-2010



At least half of a million wage employees

The number of wage employees in the Palestinian Territory amounted to 502 thousand of whom 275 thousand work in the West Bank and 153 thousand work in Gaza Strip; while 65 thousand work in Israel and 9 thousands in Israeli settlement.

The Public Sector is the dominant employer in Gaza Strip

About 50% of wage employees in the Palestinian Territory work in the private sector compared with 36% work in the public sector; while the percentage of workers in Israel and Israeli settlements reached 15%.

Regarding wage employees in the West Bank, more than half of these employees work in the private sector (53%) compared with 26.0% in the public sector and 21% work in Israel and Israeli settlements. The public sector was the largest employer in Gaza Strip with 58% compared with 42% in the private sector.

Fifth of wage employees are poor

About 22% of wage employees are poor of whom 17% in the West Bank and 33% in Gaza Strip.

About one third of employees work in technical and specialized occupations

About 34% of wage employees work as professionals or technicians in the Palestinian Territory; distributed as 30% in the West Bank and 43% in Gaza Strip. In addition, 14% of wage employees in the Palestinian Territory work in craft occupations distributed as 18% in the West Bank and 6% in Gaza Strip.

About 15% of wage employees in the Palestinian Territory received vocational training distributed as 16% in the West Bank and 13% in Gaza Strip.

Average daily wage of females is low compared to males

The average daily real wage in the Palestinian Territory reached 71 NIS while it reached 73 NIS for males compared with 60 NIS for females.

Transport and communication activity in the private sector recorded the highest average daily wage at 107 NIS in the West Bank compared to the service activity in Gaza Strip at 74 NIS. The agriculture sector recorded the lowest average daily wage at 57 NIS in the West Bank and 24 NIS in Gaza Strip.

The average work week in hours in the Palestinian Territory reached 42 hours distributed as 41 hours for employed persons in the public sector, 43 hours in the private.

Quarter of wage employees receive retirement benefits

Regarding work related benefits, about 25% of wage employees receive retirement or end of service benefits; while 27% receive paid annual leave and 27% receive paid annual sick leave. In addition, 53% of female wage employees receive paid maternity leave. More than 90% of wage employees in the public sector receive most of work related benefits and privileges such as sick leave, annual leave, maternity leave, ...etc.

One third of wage employees in the private sector have work contract

30% of wage employees in the private sector have work contract; thereof 29% in the West Bank and 35% in Gaza Strip.

One fifth of wage employees are affiliated to labour or professional unions

About 20% of wage employees in the Palestinian Territory were affiliated to labour or professional union, distributed as 20% in the West Bank and 18% in Gaza Strip.