# Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

**International Women's Day**

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), issued a press release on the**

**Eve of the International Women’s Day on Tuesday, 08/03/2016**

**Women represent half of the Palestinian population**

The population in Palestine estimated 4.88 million at the end 2016, including 2.48 million males (50.8%) and 2.40 million females (49.2%), whereas the sex ratio stood at 103.3, which means that there are 103 males for every 100 females

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| **Both genders** | **Female** | **Male** | **Region** |
| **4,884,336** | **2,402,102** | **2,482,234** | **Palestine** |
| 2,972,069 | 1,461,692 | 1,510,377 | West Bank |
| 1,912, 267 | 940,410 | 971,857 | Gaza Strip |

**The percentage of female-headed households**

The percentage of female-headed households in Palestine was 11.0% in 2016, 12.1% in the West Bank and 9.0% in Gaza Strip.

**One fifth of the persons (21.4%) got married at an early age (less than 18 years)**

Early marriage reached to 20.3% among females and 1.1% among males of the total married population in Palestine; the rate was 19.7% out of the total married population in West Bank and 23.7% out of the total married population in Gaza Strip end 2015.

The highest rate of female early marriage in the West Bank was in Hebron 36.2%, and the lowest was in Jericho and the Jordan Valley 1.3% out of the total number of women marriage below 18 years in the West Bank. In Gaza Strip, the highest rate of early female marriage was 40.8% in Gaza Governorate, while the lowest rate was in Dier Al-Balah 6.9% out of the total number of women marriage below 18 years in Gaza Strip.

**About 62% of females aged 18 years and above are married**

Married females represented 62.3% of the total female population aged 18 and above in 2016; 26.4% have not been married before, 6.6% were widows, 2.0% divorced and the percentage of females engaged for the first time represented 2.7%.

**Literacy rates for men and women population aged 15 years and above, 2001-2016**

**A continued rise in literacy among women**

Despite the rise in literacy rates among females over the last decade, the gap is still in favor of males by 3.4%, female literacy rates was 95.2% compared to 98.6% for male literacy in the year 2016.

**Gross enrollment rates in high schools by sex for the scholastic years**

**(2009/2010 – 2015/2016)**

**Rise in enrollment rate of females in high schools compared to males**

Data showed that male enrollment in high schools was 58.7%, compared to female enrollment which was 78.6% for the year 2015-2016.

**Percentage of men and women participation in the labor**

**force aged 15 years and above, 2001-2016**

**A gap in the participation rate and average daily wages between men and women**

The female participation rate in the labor force was 19.3% of the total female population at work age in 2016, compared to 10.3% in 2001, while the male participation rate was 71.6% in 2016. There was also a pay gap in the average daily wages between males and females; the average daily wage for females was NIS 83.3 compared to NIS 114.1 for males.

**About half of women with 13 schooling years and above are unemployed**

The unemployment rate among women participant in the labor force was 44.7%, compared to 22.2% for males. Unemployment rate among women with 13 school years and above standing at 50.6% of women in this group.

**Unemployment rate among men and women 15 years and above 2001-2016**

**Gender gap in favor to males for graduates transition from school to the labor market[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Data showed that the rate of females (aged 15-29) who moved from school to the labor market was 6.6%, compared to 44.8% of the males. Females who have not started the transition constituted 58.5%, compared to 25.0% of males. The percentage of women who went through the transition were 34.9%, compared to 30.2% of males, during the year 2015.

**Percentage distribution of individuals (aged 15-29) years by status**

**of transition from school to the labor market and sex, 2015**

**Palestinian Women in Public Life**

In 2015, 82.8% of judges were male, compared to 17.2% female, while 77.5% of registered lawyers were male, compared to 22.5% female and 83.3% of members of the public prosecution staff were male, compared to 16.7% female. Furthermore, Palestinian female ambassadors represented 5.8% compared to 94.2% male. Females represented 21.1% of registered engineers with the Union of Engineers while male represented 78.9%. On the other hand, in 2015, 23.2% of members of students councils in West Bank universities were females, compared to 76.8% males.In the public sector, females was 42.6% of posts, compared to 57.4% males. In the civil sector, females represented 11.7% of the directors general, compared to 88.3% of males in the same post.

1. 1 Transition from school to the labor market. This refers to the youth transitional period (15-29 years) as they move from their last school year to a satisfactory and stable job (in terms of job contract and duration). The shift is divided into the following categories:

   **Have not started the transition:** includes youth who are currently inactive and are not enrolled in educational establishment and have no desire to work.

   **Going through the transition:** includes youth who not working currently or are in temporary or unsatisfactory

   jobs.

   **Completed the transition:** includes youth who are currently in stable or fixed positions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)