

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Educational fields and labor market among individuals aged (20-29 years) in 2021.

Business and Administration is the field where most students aged (20-29 years) were enrolled, whether for intermediate diploma or a bachelor's degree (BA).

In 2021, business and Administration is the field where most students aged (20-29 years) were enrolled, whether for intermediate diploma or a bachelor's degree (BA). In the past decade, the majority of them also majored in business and administration. While , the highest unemployment rates among graduates aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree in Palestine is in welfare.

Clear gap of unemployment rates between Females and Males for all fields of education

In 2021, the highest unemployment rates among male graduates aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree in Palestine is in education and languages by 55% for each of them, while the highest unemployment rates among female graduates aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree in Palestine is in welfare and information and communication technologies (ICTs) by 78% for each of them.

Percentage Distribution among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree and Unemployment Rate by Field of Education and Sex in 2021

Field of Education	Percentage of Individuals (20-29 years) with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree			Unemployment Rate of Individuals (20-29 years) with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Business and administration	27.5	28.0	27.2	50.5	34.3	69.2
Education	13.4	5.8	18.6	67.5	54.9	71.3
Health	11.6	12.3	11.1	43.3	35.9	49.5
Law	7.1	9.2	5.6	47.9	36.1	69.3
Engineering and engineering	6.8	11.8	3.4	44.3	35.9	67.6
Languages	6.3	2.6	8.9	64.1	54.6	66.6
Architecture and construction	4.0	7.1	2.0	53.7	48.2	68.2
Information and Communication	3.4	5.3	2.1	52.6	44.1	78.2
Social and behavioral sciences	3.2	2.5	3.7	59.1	42.7	70.5
Arts	2.8	2.7	2.8	47.8	34.1	62.4
Welfare	2.8	1.3	3.8	68.9	-	78.4
Physical sciences	2.3	1.4	2.8	64.7	{51.5}	70.9
Journalism and information	2.1	3.0	1.6	44.3	33.0	68.1
Mathematics and statistics	1.3	0.9	1.5	49.8	-	58.4
Other disciplines*	5.4	6.1	4.9	42.8	29.9	59.8
Total	100	100	100	52.6	38.4	66.4

*: includes the following fields of education: humanities (excluding languages), biological and related sciences, environment, manufacturing and processing, agriculture, veterinary, personal services and security services, in addition to fields of education which are not classified among fields above.

(-): means there are no enough cases

{ } : Refers that the variance in this category is too high.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022. Database of Labor Force Survey, 2021.

Unemployment rate among individuals aged (20-29 years) with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree is still high, this rate reached 53% in 2021: 35% in West Bank and 74% in Gaza Strip, while it was about 54% in 2020 at the national level.

Clear gap of unemployment rates between West Bank and Gaza Strip for all fields of education

The highest rate of unemployment among graduates aged (20-29 years) with a bachelor's degree or an intermediate diploma in Gaza Strip was in welfare by 88%, followed by social and behavioral sciences by 86%. The highest rate of unemployment among graduates aged (20-29 years) with a bachelor's degree or an intermediate diploma in West Bank was in physical sciences by 60%, followed by welfare by 50%.

Unemployment Rate among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Region, 2021

Field of Education	Palestine	Region	
		West Bank	Gaza Strip
Business and administration	50.5	36.4	73.2
Education	67.5	46.7	76.1
Health	43.3	25.3	66.3
Law	47.9	23.2	77.8
Engineering and engineering trades	44.3	28.0	73.1
Languages	64.1	45.2	82.0
Architecture and construction	53.7	35.8	85.4
Information and Communication	52.6	32.6	67.4
Social and behavioral sciences	59.1	42.7	85.5
Arts	47.8	31.2	85.0
Welfare	68.9	50.2	88.2
Physical sciences	64.7	59.9	73.7
Journalism and information	44.3	33.5	51.8
Mathematics and statistics	49.8	47.6	-
Other disciplines*	42.8	28.7	66.1
Total	52.6	35.1	73.8

*: includes the following fields of education: humanities (excluding languages), biological and related sciences, environment, manufacturing and processing, agriculture, veterinary, personal

(-): means there are no enough cases

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022. Database of Labor Force Survey,

It takes graduates about 11-21 months before getting their first labor chance

In 2021, the highest period of unemployment for graduates aged (20-29 years) in Palestine with an intermediate diploma or bachelor's degree was in law, being 21 months. The lowest period was in mathematics and statistics with 11 months.

Period of Unemployment in Months among Individuals (20-29 years) in Palestine with an Intermediate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree by Field of Education and Sex, 2021

Field of Education	Both Sexes	Sex	
		Males	Females
Business and administration	16.6	13.9	18.2
Education	20.3	17.6	20.9
Health	15.8	15.2	16.2
Law	20.5	21.4	19.7
Engineering and engineering trades	12.1	13.0	10.8
Languages	18.0	14.6	18.7
Architecture and construction	14.8	14.7	15.1
Information and Communication	16.2	17.3	14.2
Social and behavioral sciences	20.2	{14.6}	22.5
Arts	11.1	-	12.9
Welfare	17.7	-	18.5
Physical sciences	13.4	-	13.1
Journalism and information	12.3	{9.1}	-
Mathematics and statistics	10.9	-	-
Other disciplines*	13.7	9.7	16.3
Total	16.7	14.7	17.8

*: includes the following fields of education: humanities (excluding languages), biological and related sciences, environment, manufacturing and processing, agriculture, veterinary, personal services and security services, in addition to fields of education which are not classified among fields above.

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Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022. Database of Labor Force Survey,

In the 2021/2022 scholastic year, there were 87,222 applicants for the General Certificate Exam. In Scholastic year 2019/2020 the number of students graduated from the Palestinian higher education institutions was 41,137. The local market accommodates 9 thousand job opportunities for graduates.

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