



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

**Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population
Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, May 2004**

The press conference of the survey results

June, 2004

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Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, May 2004

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Press Release
**On the Main Findings of the Survey on the Perception of Palestinian
Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, May 2004**

Time series shows that optimistic levels still decreasing, especially in the terms of the overall well being of the households and the ability of the households members to move around.

Job creation and food needs still represent the first priorities of the Palestinian communities and households respectively

PCBS conducted the seventh round of the survey on the perception of the Palestinian people about the socioeconomic conditions. Data collection took place during the period 6/5/2004-20/5/2004 on a sample composed of 1,294 households, (947 in West Bank and 347 in Gaza Strip).

Current Situation

52.8% of the respondents reported that the overall well-being of their households is worse in May compared with a month ago (61.3% in the West Bank and 36.6% in Gaza Strip), while 5.1% reported that it is better (5.1% in the West Bank and 4.7% in Gaza Strip).

12.0% of the respondents reported that the ability of households members to move around is significantly harder this week compared with a week ago (13.2% in the West Bank and 9.9% in Gaza Strip), while 1.5% reported that it is significantly easier (1.7% in the West Bank and 1.0% in Gaza Strip).

Short-Term Expectations:

About 15.3% of the respondents expected that overall well being of households will be much worse in a month time (17.6% in the West Bank and 10.9% in Gaza Strip), against 0.6% expected that it will be much better (0.8% in the West Bank and 0.3% in Gaza Strip).

29.0% of the respondents expected that the ability of households members to move around will be harder next month compared with interviewing week (36.0% in the West Bank and 15.8% in Gaza Strip), while 11.1% expected that it will be easier.

21.2% of the respondents reported that they are very pessimistic to find a job next month, while 2.1% were very optimistic.

On the short-run expectations, time series since the end of 2003, shows that optimistic levels still decreasing, especially in the terms of the overall well being of the households and the ability of the households members to move around

Mid-Term Expectations:

About 18.5% of the respondents expected that overall well-being of households will be much worse in six months time (19.4% in the West Bank and 16.7% in Gaza Strip), against 0.6% expected that life will be much better (0.8% in the West Bank and 1.2% in Gaza Strip).

10.7% of the respondents reported that the ability of household members to move around will be significantly harder in six months time compared with interviewing week (13.5% in the West Bank and 5.6% in Gaza Strip), while 0.6% reported that it is significantly easier.

On the mid-run expectations, time series since the end of 2003, shows that optimistic levels still decreasing, especially in the terms of the overall well being of the households and the ability of the households members to move around

Priorities of households:

Data reveal that 41.2% of the households reported the need for food as a first priority, 20.0% the need for work, 19.7% the need for financial assistance, and 6.8% reported the need for health services, while 5.3% reported the need for educational services as a first priority.

Priority Needs of Communities:

About 51.6% of households reported the need for work, and 21.4% reported the need for infrastructure projects, and 8.3% for health services.

Table 1: Main Changes on the Indicators of Attitudes of Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory

Indicator	أيار 2004 *May (%)		أيار 2004 *April (%)		آذار 2004 *March (%)		شباط 2004 *February (%)		كانون ثاني 2004 *January (%)		كانون أول 2003 *December (%)	
	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month
Percentage of households who expect better life	20.4	18.4	31.3	27.8	28.0	26.2	28.1	25.7	32.0	29.6	33.5	32.2
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	13.1	11.1	21.3	16.7	20.7	18.3	20.0	18.1	22.9	21.8	26.1	25.3
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	35.3	33.0	32.5	23.6	38.8	33.2	13.8	13.0	46.0	48.0	41.9	35.8
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	51.5	49.3	56.6	55.0	60.9	58.7	57.2	54.4	56.4	54.7	62.2	60.1
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	42.7	40.3	47.5	43.8	53.8	47.6	47.4	42.8	50.8	47.3	42.5	38.9

* Data Collection for December took place during 1/12-10/12/2003.

.2003/12/10- 12/1

*

* Data Collection for January took place during 3/1-26/1/2004.

.2004/1/26- 1/3

*

* Data Collection for February took place during 8/2-20/2/2004.

.2004/2/20-2/8

*

* Data Collection for March took place during 1/3-28/3/2004.

.2004/3/28-3/1

*

* Data Collection for April took place during 6/4-20/4/2004.

2004/4/20-4/6

*

* Data Collection for May took place during 6/5-20/5/2004.

2004/5/20-5/6

*

Table 2: Main Changes on the Indicators of Attitudes of Palestinians in West Bank

Indicator	أيار 2004 *May (%)		أيار 2004 *April (%)		آذار 2004 *March (%)		شباط 2004 *February (%)		كانون ثاني 2004 *January (%)		كانون أول 2003 *December (%)	
	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month
Percentage of households who expect better life	18.2	16.7	28.3	27.2	24.5	24.2	24.3	24.0	28.1	28.0	30.2	29.9
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	13.5	13.1	22.9	21.6	23.0	24.2	20.6	21.8	25.7	25.2	27.2	28.4
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	29.9	28.0	32.4	25.8	34.6	32.8	12.1	11.8	43.9	41.9	32.8	30.8
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	48.5	45.0	52.0	51.6	60.3	60.4	53.1	52.4	55.8	56.4	60.1	60.5
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	38.0	38.1	40.9	39.7	49.8	47.6	40.9	39.0	46.8	45.7	38.3	36.9

* Data Collection for December took place during 1/12-10/12/2003.

.2003/12/10-12/1

*

* Data Collection for January took place during 3/1-26/1/2004.

.2004/1/26-1/3

*

* Data Collection for February took place during 8/2-20/2/2004.

.2004/2/20-2/8

*

* Data Collection for March took place during 1/3-28/3/2004.

.2004/3/28-3/1

*

* Data Collection for April took place during 6/4-20/4/2004.

2004/4/20-4/6

*

* Data Collection for May took place during 6/5-20/5/2004.

2004/5/20-5/6

*

Table 3: Main Changes on the Indicators of Attitude of Palestinians in Gaza Strip

Indicator	أيار 2004 *May (%)		أيار 2004 *April (%)		آذار 2004 *March (%)		شباط 2004 *February (%)		كانون ثاني 2004 *January (%)		كانون أول 2003 *December (%)	
	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month	خلال السنة شهور القادمة Next six Months	خلال الشهر القادم Next Month
Percentage of households who expect better life	24.3	21.3	36.8	29.0	34.6	30.1	35.8	29.1	38.3	33.0	39.7	36.6
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	12.6	7.3	18.4	7.4	16.1	7.3	18.6	10.7	17.5	15.4	24.1	19.4
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	44.2	41.4	33.0	17.9	47.1	33.9	17.3	15.0	50.4	60.6	58.5	45.0
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	57.0	50.7	65.4	61.2	61.7	55.4	65.5	58.2	57.4	51.7	66.3	59.4
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	50.7	44.1	59.2	51.1	60.6	47.6	59.1	49.4	58.0	50.1	50.4	42.8

* Data Collection for December took place during 1/12-10/12/2003.

.2003/12/10-12/1

*

* Data Collection for January took place during 3/1-26/1/2004.

.2004/1/26-1/3

*

* Data Collection for February took place during 8/2-20/2/2004.

.2004/2/20-2/8

*

* Data Collection for March took place during 1/3-28/3/2004.

.2004/3/28-3/1

*

* Data Collection for April took place during 6/4-20/4/2004.

2004/4/20-4/6

*

* Data Collection for May took place during 6/5-20/5/2004.

2004/5/20-5/6

*

(2004)

:4

Table 4: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households Today Compared with One Month Ago by Region (May 2004)

Attitude	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Palestinian Territory	
	%	%	%	
A lot better today	0.1	0.4	0.3	/
Somewhat better today	4.6	4.8	4.7	
About the same/ Unchanged	58.7	32.7	41.7	
Somewhat worse today	27.4	46.1	39.7	
A lot worse today	9.2	15.2	13.1	
Don't know	-	0.8	0.5	
Total	100	100	100	

(2004)

:5

Table 5: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households in the Future Compared with Today and Region, (May 2004)

Attitude	Region and Time Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
A lot better from now	1.2	0.3	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.6	/
Somewhat better from now	23.1	21.0	17.4	16.0	19.4	17.8	
About the same /unchanged	43.2	48.6	25.6	28.1	31.7	35.2	
Somewhat worse from now	9.6	15.1	30.5	33.4	23.2	27.0	
A lot worse from now	16.7	10.9	19.4	17.6	18.5	15.3	
Don't know	6.2	4.1	6.3	4.1	6.2	4.1	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Table 6: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households in the Future by Selected Characteristics (May 2004)

Characteristics	Time Period				
	Next Six Months %		Next Month %		
	Worse %	Better %	Worse %	Better %	
Age Group					
15-24	31.7	20.5	33.6	17.5	24-15
25-44	44.5	22.7	45.2	19.9	44-25
45+	45.0	17.1	44.9	16.8	+45
Refugee status					
Registered refugee	35.8	22.3	36.4	19.5	
Non - Refugee	46.3	18.8	46.9	17.4	
Education					
Less than Preparatory	46.3	17.7	47.4	16.6	
Preparatory - secondary	38.3	30.0	39.0	20.2	-
Diploma and above	40.6	18.7	42.4	16.5	

(2004)

:7

Table 7: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Level of Disturbance Caused by Restrictions on Mobility Imposed by Israeli Military Forces and Region, (May 2004)

Level of Disturbance	Region and Time Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	
A lot	21.8	17.4	52.9	50.0	41.8	38.3	
A little	14.4	15.2	28.7	24.4	23.6	21.1	
Not at all	63.8	67.4	18.4	25.6	34.6	40.6	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:8

Table 8: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Need of Medical Care for Households and Region, (May 2004)

Need for medical care	Region and Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	
Yes	80.3	75.2	59.4	56.7	66.6	63.1	
No	19.7	24.8	40.6	43.3	33.4	36.9	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:9

Table 9: Distribution of Palestinian Households by Ability for Household Member to Receive Necessary Medical Care and Region, (May 2004)

Ability to receive medical care	Region and Time Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	
Impossible	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.1	
Very difficult	1.5	1.4	6.8	6.4	4.6	4.3	
Difficult	16.7	14.7	28.3	26.0	23.5	21.3	
Few problems	20.9	22.7	22.7	23.8	22.0	23.4	
No problem at all	59.7	59.9	41.5	42.7	49.0	49.8	
Don't know	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:10

Table 10: Distribution of Palestinian Households by Ability of Household Member to Reach Work Place and Region (May 2004)

Ability to reach place of work	Region and Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	
Impossible	0.4	2.4	2.0	2.6	1.5	2.6	
Very difficult	5.5	2.8	10.4	9.9	8.8	7.6	
Difficult	10.2	9.3	17.9	16.3	15.4	14.0	
Few problems	13.9	13.4	26.0	23.4	22.1	20.2	
No problem at all	70.0	72.1	43.5	47.7	52.1	55.5	
Don't know	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:11

Table 11: Distribution of Palestinian Households by Ability to Cultivate Land and Region (May 2004)

Ability to cultivate land	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
Impossible	13.3	13.3	1.4	1.4	3.8	3.8
Very difficult	14.0	11.2	7.5	6.3	8.8	7.3
Difficult	24.0	22.7	10.5	7.8	13.2	10.8
Few problems	4.2	12.0	19.7	20.6	16.6	18.9
No problem at all	44.5	40.8	60.9	63.9	57.6	59.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

:12

(2004)

Table 12: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability of Household Members to Move Around this Week Compared to the Last Week by Region (May 2004)

Ability for household members to move	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %
Significantly easier this week	1.0	1.7	1.5
Somewhat easier this week	2.8	7.8	6.1
About the same/ Unchanged	78.5	55.4	63.4
Somewhat harder this week	7.8	18.1	14.5
Significantly harder this week	9.9	13.2	12.0
Don't know	-	3.8	2.5
Total	100	100	100

(2004)

Table 13: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability of Household Members to Move Around Next Month, Next Six Months Compared to this Week and Region, (May 2004)

The ability of household members to move	Region and Time Period						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
Significantly easier	0.3	-	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	
Somewhat easier	12.3	7.3	12.8	12.4	12.6	10.6	
About the same	70.3	75.0	39.8	42.4	50.4	53.7	
Somewhat harder	8.1	10.7	21.9	22.6	17.1	18.5	
Significantly harder	5.6	5.1	13.5	13.4	10.7	10.5	
Don't know	3.6	1.9	11.3	8.5	8.6	6.2	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

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:14

Table 14: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability to Find a Job by Region, (May 2004)

The Ability to find a job	Region and Time Period						()
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
Very optimistic/ very likely	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.7	2.0	2.1	()
Somewhat optimistic/ likely	43.3	40.5	27.2	25.3	33.3	31.0	()
Neither optimistic/ nor pessimistic	15.0	16.0	12.1	13.6	13.2	14.5	
Somewhat pessimistic/ unlikely	29.5	28.6	24.3	28.7	26.3	28.6) (
Very pessimistic/ very unlikely	9.4	13.1	29.3	26.0	21.7	21.2) (
Don't know	1.9	0.9	4.5	3.7	3.5	2.6	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:15

Table 15: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Most Important Need for Household and Region, (May 2004)

Most important need	Gaza Strip %		West Bank %		Palestinian Territory %		
	Second Need	First Need	Second Need	First Need	Second Need	First Need	
Food	15.1	37.7	19.4	43.0	17.9	41.2	
Clothes	10.6	0.3	7.5	0.2	8.6	0.2	
Education	15.0	5.3	15.0	5.3	15.0	5.3	
Employment	15.7	21.8	13.3	19.1	14.1	20.0	
Financial assistance	28.6	23.5	23.9	17.6	25.5	19.7	
Health	10.2	4.0	16.7	8.2	14.4	6.8	
Housing	3.2	5.7	3.3	4.7	3.2	5.1	()
Entertainment activities	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.8	0.9	1.5	
Other	1.0	0.5	-	0.1	0.3	0.2	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2004)

:16

Table 16: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Most Important Need of Locality and Region, (May 2004)

The Most Important Needs	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Create jobs	67.4	43.3	51.6	
Health Services	4.0	10.4	8.3	
Food assistances	5.4	6.8	6.3	
Education Services	2.2	3.4	3.0	
Infrastructure Project	17.8	23.4	21.4	
No Need	1.9	10.8	7.7	
Don't know	1.3	1.9	1.7	
Total	100	100	100	

(2004)

Table 17: Distribution of Palestinians by their Knowledge about Development Projects Conducted in the Community by Donors and Region, (May 2004)

Knowledge	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Yes	14.1	13.1	13.5	
No	85.9	86.9	86.5	
Total	100	100	100	

(2004)

Table 18: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Satisfaction on the Development Projects Conducted in the Community and Region, (May 2004)

Satisfaction level	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Very satisfied	30.5	29.5	29.9	
Somewhat satisfied	37.8	41.3	40.0	
Somewhat unsatisfied	16.7	16.1	16.3	
Very unsatisfied	15.0	11.2	12.6	
Don't know	-	1.9	1.2	
Total	100	100	100	

(2004)

Table 19: Distribution of Palestinians by the Most Important Infrastructure Needs in the Community and Region, (May 2004)

The most important needs	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Electricity	0.5	6.1	4.1	
Roads	38.4	13.8	22.3	
Sewage disposal	15.2	15.5	15.4	
Water supply	13.5	13.8	13.7	
Schools	5.3	6.5	6.1	
Clinics\ Health centers	11.5	14.2	13.3	
No Need	13.6	27.2	22.5	
Don't know	2.0	2.9	2.6	
Total	100	100	100	