



**Press Release**

**Palestinian Central Bureau Of Statistics (PCBS):**

**Palestinian Consumer Price Index decrease by 0.52% in December 2008**

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Palestinian Territory with its 2004 base year (2004=100) reached 122.44 in December 2008, a 0.52% decrease relative to November 2008, and increased by 6.95% compared to December 2007. In the year 2008, the average increase of prices was 9.89% compared to the year 2007.

Analysis of consumer price developments for December indicates **declines in** the following major expenditure groups:

- Transportation	- 1.47%
- Housing:	- 1.14%
- Food and soft drinks	- 0.86%
- Al Coholic Beverages and tobacco:	- 0.24%
- Education	- 0.08%
- Medical care	- 0.05%
- Communications	- 0.01%

At the same time, there were **increases** in other major expenditure groups including:

- Textiles, clothing and footwear	+ 0.67%
- Recreational, cultural goods & services	+ 0.66%
- Furniture, household goods	+ 0.54%
- Miscellaneous goods and services	+ 0.44%
- Restaurants and cafes	+ 0.23%

Palestinian Territory **regions** experienced different overall CPI developments as follows:

- Gaza Strip:	+ 0.09%
- Remaining West Bank:	- 1.49%
- Jerusalem:	- 0.23%