



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

**Labour Force Survey
(July – September, 2003) Round
(Q3/2003)**

**Press Conference on the
Labour Force Survey Results**

29/10/2003

© October, 2003

All Rights Reserved.

Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2003. *Labour Force Survey: (July- September, 2003) Round, (Q3/2003). Press Conference on the Labour Force Survey Results.* Ramallah - Palestine.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Dissemination and Documentation Department/ Division of User Services
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
P.O. Box 1647, Ramallah- Palestine.

Tel: (972/970) 2 240 6340

Fax: (972/970) 2 240 6343

E-mail: diwan@pcbs.pna.org

Web-site: <http://www.pcbs.org>

**Press Release on Labour Force Survey Results
(July– September, 2003) Round
271,000 Unemployed persons during the 3rd quarter 2003**

This report is based on the Labour Force quarterly Survey. Data was collected for the 30th round from 05/07/2003 to 02/10/2003, representing the third quarter of 2003.

The survey sample of this round is based on the 1997 census, 7,563 households were selected to represent the Palestinian society of which 6,736 questionnaires were completed.

Economically Active:

According to the ILO standards, the number of participants in labour force increased by 25 thousand persons between the 2nd and the 3rd quarter 2003. Where it increased from 792 thousand in the 2nd quarter to 817 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 735 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2000.

Unemployed Persons:

Number of persons who don't work nevertheless seeking or not seeking job, decreased from 302 thousand in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 271 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 170 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2000. This represents 30.3% of the total labour force, according to the relaxed definition of unemployment.

While those who don't work, but seeking job, in the 3rd quarter 2003 reached 193 thousand which represent 23.6% of the total labour force according to the ILO standards, compared with 24.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 and 10.0% in the 3rd quarter 2000 (before the beginning of Al-Aqsa Intifada). The results showed that unemployment rate in the West Bank reached 21.6% in the 3rd quarter 2003 compared with 22.4% in the 2nd quarter 2003.

Unemployment rate by educational attainment, data shows that the rate was increased between the 2nd and the 3rd quarter 2003 it increased from 18.4% to 20.8% among those completed intermediate college and above.

Employed Persons:

The results showed a decrease in the percentage of employment¹ for those who are working in agriculture in the West Bank (14.7% in the 3rd quarter 2003 compared with 19.4% in the 2nd quarter 2003), while it was 11.3% in the 3rd quarter 2000. Whereas in Gaza Strip the percentage remains at the same level (17.1%) in the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2003. Also the results showed that employment in construction increased in the West Bank from 8.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 11.2% in the 3rd quarter 2003. While it decreased in Gaza Strip from 10.0% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 9.2% in the 3rd quarter 2003.

The results showed decrease in the percentage of unpaid family members in the West Bank (from 13.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 11.3% in the 3rd quarter 2003). while the percentage of unpaid family members remain at the same level (11.6% in the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2003 in Gaza strip). The results showed that the percentage for wage employees workers increased in the West Bank from 52.8% in the 2nd quarter to 56.0% in the 3rd quarter 2003, also the percentage increased in Gaza Strip from 62.1% in the 2nd quarter to 63.1% in the 3rd quarter 2003.

Employees from the West Bank working in Israel and Israeli settlements increased during the 3rd quarter 2003, they reached 59,000 persons compared with 50,000 persons in the

¹Employed persons in Israel and Israeli settlements are included

2nd quarter 2003, also the number increased in Gaza strip from 4,000 persons in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 8,000 persons in the 3rd quarter 2003.

Wages:

The average value of the nominal daily net wage of the employees in the West Bank increased from 72.1 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 74.0 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 70.3 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000. Also the nominal daily net wage of the employees in the Gaza Strip increased from 51.7 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 52.2 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 50.4 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000. The Average daily net wage for those working in Israel and settlements also increased from 121.0 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 125.6 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 110.8 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000.

Dependency Ratio and Poverty:

The economic dependency ratio² increased in the Palestinian Territory from 4.8 in the 3rd quarter 2000 to 5.9 in the 3rd quarter 2003 (the change rate is 22.9%). Whereas, it increased in the West Bank from 4.3 to 5.3 (the change rate is 23.3%) and in Gaza Strip increased from 6.0 to 7.1 (the change rate is 18.3%). The ratio in the West Bank reached 6.5 compared with 7.4 in Gaza Strip in the 2nd quarter 2003.

The percentage of employees whose monthly wages below poverty line³ increased from 43.5% in the 3rd quarter 2000 to 60.8% in the 3rd quarter 2003 (the change rate is 39.8%).

Child Labour:

Number of children aged 10-14 years participating in labour force (employed and seeking for job) increased in the West Bank from 6,371 child in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 6,819 child in 3rd quarter 2003, while in Gaza Strip decreased from 1,552 child in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 1,441 child in the 3rd quarter 2003.

² The economic dependency ratio: Number of population *divided by* Number of employed persons.

³ The poverty line equivalent for the year 2000 (1622 NIS, for household composed of two adults and 4 children) was used for the 3rd quarter 2000. The poverty line equivalent for the year 2003 (1920 NIS, for household composed of two adults and 4 children) was used for the 3rd quarter 2003.

**Press Release on Labour Force Survey Results
(July– September, 2003) Round
271,000 Unemployed persons during the 3rd quarter 2003**

This report is based on the Labour Force quarterly Survey. Data was collected for the 30th round from 05/07/2003 to 02/10/2003, representing the third quarter of 2003.

The survey sample of this round is based on the 1997 census, 7,563 households were selected to represent the Palestinian society of which 6,736 questionnaires were completed.

Economically Active:

According to the ILO standards, the number of participants in labour force increased by 25 thousand persons between the 2nd and the 3rd quarter 2003. Where it increased from 792 thousand in the 2nd quarter to 817 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 735 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2000.

Unemployed Persons:

Number of persons who don't work nevertheless seeking or not seeking job, decreased from 302 thousand in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 271 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 170 thousand in the 3rd quarter 2000. This represents 30.3% of the total labour force, according to the relaxed definition of unemployment.

While those who don't work, but seeking job, in the 3rd quarter 2003 reached 193 thousand which represent 23.6% of the total labour force according to the ILO standards, compared with 24.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 and 10.0% in the 3rd quarter 2000 (before the beginning of Al-Aqsa Intifada). The results showed that unemployment rate in the West Bank reached 21.6% in the 3rd quarter 2003 compared with 22.4% in the 2nd quarter 2003.

Unemployment rate by educational attainment, data shows that the rate was increased between the 2nd and the 3rd quarter 2003 it increased from 18.4% to 20.8% among those completed intermediate college and above.

Employed Persons:

The results showed a decrease in the percentage of employment¹ for those who are working in agriculture in the West Bank (14.7% in the 3rd quarter 2003 compared with 19.4% in the 2nd quarter 2003), while it was 11.3% in the 3rd quarter 2000. Whereas in Gaza Strip the percentage remains at the same level (17.1%) in the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2003. Also the results showed that employment in construction increased in the West Bank from 8.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 11.2% in the 3rd quarter 2003. While it decreased in Gaza Strip from 10.0% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 9.2% in the 3rd quarter 2003.

The results showed decrease in the percentage of unpaid family members in the West Bank (from 13.3% in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 11.3% in the 3rd quarter 2003). while the percentage of unpaid family members remain at the same level (11.6% in the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2003 in Gaza strip). The results showed that the percentage for wage employees workers increased in the West Bank from 52.8% in the 2nd quarter to 56.0% in the 3rd quarter 2003, also the percentage increased in Gaza Strip from 62.1% in the 2nd quarter to 63.1% in the 3rd quarter 2003.

Employees from the West Bank working in Israel and Israeli settlements increased during the 3rd quarter 2003, they reached 59,000 persons compared with 50,000 persons in the

¹Employed persons in Israel and Israeli settlements are excluded

2nd quarter 2003, also the number increased in Gaza strip from 4,000 persons in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 8,000 persons in the 3rd quarter 2003.

Wages:

The average value of the nominal daily net wage of the employees in the West Bank increased from 72.1 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 74.0 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 70.3 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000. Also the nominal daily net wage of the employees in the Gaza Strip increased from 51.7 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 52.2 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 50.4 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000. The Average daily net wage for those working in Israel and settlements also increased from 121.0 NIS in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 125.6 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2003, compared with 110.8 NIS in the 3rd quarter 2000.

Dependency Ratio and Poverty:

The economic dependency ratio² increased in the Palestinian Territory from 4.8 in the 3rd quarter 2000 to 5.9 in the 3rd quarter 2003 (the change rate is 22.9%). Whereas, it increased in the West Bank from 4.3 to 5.3 (the change rate is 23.3%) and in Gaza Strip increased from 6.0 to 7.1 (the change rate is 18.3%). The ratio in the West Bank reached 6.5 compared with 7.4 in Gaza Strip in the 2nd quarter 2003.

The percentage of employees whose monthly wages below poverty line³ increased from 43.5% in the 3rd quarter 2000 to 60.8% in the 3rd quarter 2003 (the change rate is 39.8%).

Child Labour:

Number of children aged 10-14 years participating in labour force (employed and seeking for job) increased in the West Bank from 6,371 child in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 6,819 child in 3rd quarter 2003, while in Gaza Strip decreased from 1,552 child in the 2nd quarter 2003 to 1,441 child in the 3rd quarter 2003.

² The economic dependency ratio: Number of population *divided by* Number of employed persons.

³ The poverty line equivalent for the year 2000 (1622 NIS, for household composed of two adults and 4 children) was used for the 3rd quarter 2000. The poverty line equivalent for the year 2003 (1920 NIS, for household composed of two adults and 4 children) was used for the 3rd quarter 2003.

Main Findings
According to the Relaxed Definition of Unemployment
(July - September, 2003) Round

The Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (Relaxed Definition) is as follows:

Region	Labour Force		Outside Labour Force		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
West Bank	,000611	47.1	685,000	52.9	1,296,000	100
Gaza Strip	284,000	41.6	399,000	58.4	683,000	100
Palestinian Territory	895,000	45.2	1,084,000	54.8	1,979,000	100

The Distribution of Labour Force Participants Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (Relaxed Definition) is as follows:

Region	Employment		Unemployment		Total	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
West Bank	,000643	71.4	175,000	28.6	611,000	100
Gaza Strip	,000188	66.2	96,000	33.8	284,000	100
Palestinian Territory	624,000	69.7	271,000	30.3	895,000	100

Main Findings: According to the ILO Standards (July - September, 2003) Round

3-1 Population aged 15 years and over

- The percentage of the population aged 15 years and over is 53.9% at the 3rd Quarter of 2003.

The Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (ILO Standards) is as follows:

Region	Labour Force		Outside Labour Force		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
West Bank	556,000	42.9	740,000	57.1	1,296,000	100
Gaza Strip	261,000	38.2	422,000	61.8	683,000	100
Palestinian Territory	817,000	41.3	1,162,000	58.7	1,979,000	100

3-2 Labour Force (According to the ILO Standards):

- The labour force participation rate reached 41.3 % in the Palestinian Territory, 42.9% in the West Bank and 38.2% in Gaza Strip.

The Distribution of Labour Force Participants Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (ILO Standards) is as follows (%):

Region	Full Employment	Under Employment	Unemployment	Total
West Bank	69.5	8.9	21.6	100
Gaza Strip	68.3	3.8	27.9	100
Palestinian Territory	69.1	7.3	23.6	100

3-3 Employment (According to the ILO Standards):

Employed Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory are Distributed by Employment Status (ILO Standards) as follows (%):

Employment Status	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Employer	4.5	2.1	3.8
Self Employed	28.2	23.2	26.7
Wage Employee	56.0	63.1	58.2
Unpaid Family Member	11.3	11.6	11.3
Total	100	100	100

Employed Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory are Distributed by Economic Activity and Place of work (ILO Standards) as Follows (%):

Economic Activity	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Israel and Settlements	Total
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	14.7	17.1	8.7	14.8
Mining, quarrying and manufacturing	13.9	8.1	17.2	12.6
Construction	11.2	9.2	46.4	14.4
Commerce, restaurants and hotels	22.4	16.8	18.7	20.4
Transportation, storage and communication	6.0	6.1	1.5	5.5
Services and other branches	31.8	42.7	7.5	32.3
Total	100	100	100	100

Employed Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory are Distributed by Place of Work and Region (ILO Standards) as follows (%):

Place of Work	West Bank		Gaza Strip		Total	
	Number (1000)	(%)	Number (1000)	(%)	Number (1000)	(%)
Palestinian Territory	377	86.4	180	95.6	557	89.2
Israel and Settlements (Persons who have	27	6.3	8	4.4	35	5.7
Israel and Settlements (Persons who have Israeli Identity or foreign passport)	32	7.3	-	-	32	5.1
Total	643	100	188	100	624	100

Note: (-) means there are no enough observations in this section.

Work days, hours and wages

The average weekly work hours average monthly workdays and average daily wage per employee aged 15 years and over according to Place of Work are as follows:

Indicator	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Israel and Settlements
Average weekly work hours	44.4	42.2	46.4
Average monthly work days*	23.5	22.8	22.3
Median daily net wage in NIS	61.5	50.0	134.6
Average daily net wage in NIS	74.0	52.2	125.6

*: Including paid days that have been not worked

3-4 Unemployment (According to the ILO Standards):

Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory reached 23.6%; 21.6% in the West Bank and 27.9% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment Rate for Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Age and Sex (ILO Standards) (%):

Age	Males	Females	Total
15-19	37.4	17.2	36.4
20-24	36.1	43.7	37.5
25-29	25.6	21.8	24.9
30-34	17.6	21.6	18.3
35-39	20.9	13.2	19.7
40-44	19.4	9.3	17.8
45-49	16.4	9.6	15.3
50+	17.6	5.9	15.8
all Average	24.2	20.7	23.6

Unemployment Rate for Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Age and Region (ILO Standards) (%):

Age	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
15-19	32.4	46.2	36.4
20-24	34.9	43.2	37.5
25-29	22.1	30.6	24.9
30-34	17.4	20.2	18.3
35-39	20.0	18.9	19.7
40-44	14.3	25.4	17.8
45-49	13.5	19.1	15.3
50+	13.7	20.3	15.8
Overall Average	21.6	27.9	23.6

Unemployment Rate for Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Years of Schooling and Sex (ILO Standards) (%):

Years of Schooling	Males	Females	Total
0	20.5	3.6	12.0
1-6	25.7	7.7	23.6
7-9	28.0	13.0	26.8
10-12	25.8	17.5	25.0
13+	15.9	29.5	20.2
Overall Average	24.2	20.7	23.6

Unemployment Rate for Persons Aged 15 Years and Over in the Palestinian Territory by Years of Schooling and Region (ILO Standards) (%):

Years of schooling	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
0	9.3	18.1	12.0
1-6	22.7	25.3	23.6
7-9	25.0	31.3	26.8
10-12	23.1	29.3	25.0
13+	17.1	26.1	20.2
Overall Average	21.6	27.9	23.6

3-5 Persons outside the labour force (ILO Standards):

The percentage of persons aged 15 years and over outside the labour force in the Palestinian Territory reached 58.7%; 57.1% in the West Bank and 61.8% in Gaza Strip.

Persons Aged 15 Years and Over Outside the Labour Force in the Palestinian Territory are Distributed by Reason and Region (ILO Standards) as follows (%):

Reason	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Palestinian Territory
Old/illness	12.1	10.8	11.6
Housekeeping	51.1	49.4	50.5
Studying or training	29.4	34.4	31.2
Others	7.4	5.4	6.7
Total	100	100	100

3-6 Labour Force Status: Further details (ILO Standards):

Persons aged (15 years and over) are distributed according to ILO standards of labour force by sex, region and labour force status as follows:

Region and Sex	Full Employment (%)	Under-employment (%)	Unemployed (%)	Total (%)	Labour Force (%)	Outside Labour Force (%)
West Bank						
Males	67.7	10.1	22.2	100	69.9	30.1
Females	77.2	3.8	19.0	100	15.4	84.6
Total	69.5	8.9	21.6	100	42.9	57.1
Gaza Strip						
Males	67.6	4.2	28.2	100	66.0	34.0
Females	73.2	1.2	25.6	100	10.0	90.0
Total	68.3	3.8	27.9	100	38.2	61.8
Palestinian Territory						
Males	67.7	8.1	24.2	100	68.6	31.4
Females	76.2	3.1	20.7	100	13.6	86.4
Total	69.1	7.3	23.6	100	41.3	58.7

3-7 Children 10-14 years (According to the ILO Standards):

The Distribution of Children 10-14 Years in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (ILO Standards) is as follows (%):

Region	Labour Force		Outside Labour Force		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
West Bank	6,819	2.3	284,728	97.7	291,547	100
Gaza Strip	1,441	0.8	183,993	99.2	185,434	100
Palestinian Territory	8,260	1.7	468,721	98.3	476,981	100

The Distribution of Children 10-14 Years in the Palestinian Territory by Labour Force Components and Region (ILO Standards) is as follows (%):

Region	Employed		Unemployed		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
West Bank	6,406	93.9	413	6.1	6,819	100
Gaza Strip	1,301	90.3	140	9.7	1,441	100
Palestinian Territory	7,707	93.3	553	6.7	8,260	100

3-8 Labour Force Status Completed Associate Diploma and Above by Specialization (ILO Standards):

Specialization	Employed (%)	Unemployed (%)	Total (%)	Labour Force (%)	Outside Labour Force (%)
Teacher Training Programs	75.1	24.9	100	74.7	25.3
Humanities programs	80.6	19.4	100	76.6	23.4
Religion and Theology Programs	78.1	21.9	100	79.4	20.6
Social and Behavioral Science Programs	83.3	16.7	100	85.3	14.7
Commercial and business Administration Programs	73.4	26.6	100	84.5	15.5
Law and Jurisprudence Programs	89.3	10.7	100	81.6	18.4
Natural Science Programs	84.0	16.0	100	86.3	13.7
Mathematics and Computer Science Programs	77.5	22.5	100	77.5	22.5
Medical Diagnostic and Treatment Programs	88.6	11.4	100	75.9	24.1
Trade, Craft and Industrial programs	88.5	11.5	100	71.2	28.8
Engineering Programs	81.4	18.6	100	93.4	6.6
Other programs	68.9	31.1	100	81.9	18.1

Total	79.2	20.8	100	81.2	18.8
--------------	-------------	-------------	------------	-------------	-------------

**Population 15 Years and Over by Region and Labor Force Status
July - September, 2003 (ILO Standards):**

Labour Force Status	West Bank (%)	Gaza Strip (%)	Palestinian Territory (%)
Both Sexes			
Population aged 15 years and over (Man Power)	55.7	50.9	53.9
Full Employment (working full time:35 hours and above)	29.8	26.1	28.5
Working less than usual (Lack of employment)	1.3	1.0	1.2
Working poor conditions or for insufficient income	2.5	0.5	1.8
Did not work and seeking job	9.3	10.7	9.8
Did not work and did not seek job due to discouragement	4.2	3.3	3.9
Did not work – Old or illness	6.9	6.7	6.8
Did not work – Home duties	29.2	30.5	29.6
Did not work – Students	16.8	21.2	18.4
Population less than 15 years	44.3	49.1	46.1
Total Population	100	100	100
Population aged 15 years and over (Man Power)	55.5	50.6	53.7
Full Employment (working full time:35 hours and above)	47.4	44.7	46.4
Working less than usual (Lack of employment)	2.4	1.8	2.2
Working poor conditions or for insufficient income	4.6	0.9	3.3
Did not work and seeking job	15.5	18.6	16.6
Did not work and did not seek job due to discouragement	6.9	5.3	6.4
Did not work – Old or illness	8.3	7.5	8.1
Did not work – Home duties	0.3	0.1	0.2
Did not work – Students	14.6	21.1	16.8
Population less than 15 years	44.5	49.4	46.3
Total Population	100	100	100

The following table presents the estimated absolute number of population in the working age by activity status.

**Population 15 Years and Over by Region and Labour Force
Status July - September, 2003 (ILO Standards):**

Labour Force Status	West Bank #	Gaza Strip #	Palestinian Territory
Both Sexes			
Population aged 15 years and over (Man Power)	1,296,000	683,000	1,979,000
Full Employment (working full time:35 hours and above)	386,000	178,000	564,000
Working less than usual (Lack of employment)	17,000	7,000	24,000
Working poor conditions or for insufficient income	,00033	3,000	,00063
Did not work and seeking job	120,000	73,000	193,000
Did not work and did not seek job due to discouragemen	55,000	23,000	78,000
Did not work – Old or illness	89,000	46,000	135,000
Did not work – Home duties	378,000	208,000	586,000
Did not work – Students	218,000	145,000	363,000
Population less than 15 years	1,031,000	660,000	1,691,000
Total Population	2,327,000	1,343,000	3,670,000
Population aged 15 years and over (Man Power)	654,000	344,000	998,000
Full Employment (working full time:35 hours and above)	310,000	154,000	464,000
Working less than usual (Lack of employment)	16,000	6,000	22,000
Working poor conditions or for insufficient income	30,000	3,000	33,000
Did not work and seeking job	101,000	64,000	165,000
Did not work and did not seek job due to discouragement	45,000	18,000	63,000
Did not work – Old or illness	54,000	26,000	80,000
Did not work – Home duties	2,000	-	2,000
Did not work – Students	96,000	73,000	169,000
Population less than 15 years	525,000	336,000	861,000
Total Population	1,179,000	680,000	1,859,000

