

## **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released Statistical Report on Building Licenses for the Fourth Quarter 2006**

### **Building licenses decreased by 30.5% in the Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the Third Quarter 2006**

PCBS released a Statistical Report on Building Licenses for the Fourth Quarter 2006 which indicates that the total number of building licenses issued in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip was 821 licenses, They were distributed as follows: 396 licenses for new buildings, 164 licenses for additions to licensed buildings, 34 licenses for additions and existing parts, 208 licenses for existing buildings and 19 licenses for existing extensions. The results show that the total licensed areas were 364.9 thousand (m<sup>2</sup>), distributed as 280.6 thousand (m<sup>2</sup>) for new areas and 84.3 thousand (m<sup>2</sup>) for existing areas. The total number of licensed dwellings were 1,457 units, 1,015 were new dwelling units and 442 were existing dwelling units . and 41 licenses were issued for boundary walls.

The total number of building licenses issued decreased by 30.5% in the Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the Third Quarter 2006. Also there was a decrease by 33.3% in the total number of licensed dwellings, and a decrease in the total licensed areas by 40.4% in the Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the Third Quarter 2006. Furthermore; there was a decrease by 40.6% in the number of boundary walls licenses compared with the Third Quarter 2006.

The total number of building licenses issued decreased by 66.0% compared with the Fourth Quarter 1999, and by 62.7% compared with the Fourth Quarter 2005, and by 37.1% compared with the Fourth Quarter 2004, and it goes down by 38.8% compared with the Fourth Quarter 2003.

By comparing the new licensed areas in the Fourth Quarter 2006 with the Fourth Quarter of 2005, the results showed a decrease of 55.1%, and a decrease by 58.6% in the existing licensed areas. By comparing licensed areas in the Fourth Quarter 2006 with the same period of 2004, the results indicate that licenses of existing areas increased by 24.3%, and a decrease by 42.1% in the licenses of new areas. By comparing licensed areas in the Fourth Quarter 2006 with the same period in 2003, the results indicate that licenses of existing areas increased by 80.1%, and decreased by 41.7% in the licensed of new areas.

The total number of new dwelling units decreased by 64.8% in the Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the same Quarter 2005, also the existing dwelling units decreased by 62.0% compared with the same period, whereas the total number of new dwelling units decreased by 53.8% and existing dwelling units increased by 6.2%, compared with the same Quarter 2004, whereas the total number of new dwelling units decreased by 58.0% and existing dwelling units increased by 51.4% compared with the same Quarter 2003.

Finally the results showed that the number of boundary walls licenses decreased by 2.4%,8.9% in the Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the Fourth Quarter 2005 and 2004 respectively, and decreased by 33.9% in The Fourth Quarter 2006 compared with the same period of 2003.