

**Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**Survey on the Perceptions of the Owners/Managers of the
Industrial Establishments Toward the Economic
Conditions, October 2005**

The press conference of the survey results

November, 2005

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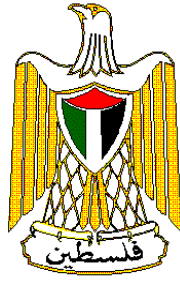
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Ramallah- Palestine

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
E-mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps

Fax: (972/970) 2 240 6343
Web-site: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>



Palestinian National Authority Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Survey on the Perceptions of the Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments Toward the Economic Conditions, October 2005

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Press Release
On the Main Findings of the Survey on the Perception of the Owners/Managers
of the Industrial Establishments Towards the Economic Conditions,
October 2005

Continious decrease in the level of optimism in the opinion of improving establishments' conditions during October compared with January 2005.

Industrial Activity is one of the bases of the economy, since the preliminary estimates for the Gross Domestic Product 2005 indicates that the industrial activity comprises a share of 12.7% of the Gross Domestic Product at constant prices, while its share was 15.7% before the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada. This survey conducted to give an overview on the perception of the owners/managers of the Industrial establishments about the economic conditions. Data collection took place during the period 2-23/11/2005 on a sample composed of 261 establishments, of which 211 in Remaining West Bank and 50 in Gaza Strip. Large Industrial Establishments were choosen, which comprise 70% of the total industrial output.

Overall trend: Continuous decline in the perception of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments towards the economic conditions comparing to January

Levels of optimism in general declined continuously in different indicators during October compared with January 2005. The percentage of whom are expecting improvement on the establishments situation declined by 40.9% during October compared with 32.3% during September, in addition to that the percentage of whom are expecting higher employment level declined by 45.9% compared with 40.8% for the same months. At the same time, declining were reported on the perceptions of the managers who expect higher volumes of sales during October compared with January as this percentage reached 21.1%, compared with decreasing in the perception by 12.9% during September.

There were significant differences on the geographic regions, as the percentage of owner expecting improvements on the situations declined by 42.2% in Remaining West Bank during October compared with January 2005, while it was 42.8% in Gaza Strip during the same period. Meanwhile, the percentage of owners who expected higher level of employment decreased by 53.8% in Remaining West Bank compared with a decrease by 42.3% in Gaza Strip, as the percentage of owners who expected higher volume of sales decreased by 18.9% in Remaining West Bank compared with a decrease by 38.1% in Gaza Strip for the same period.

In addition to that, the overall trend for the pessimistic expectations for the coming six months in Remaining West Bank & Gaza Strip reported a significant differences at the level of geographic regions, as the perception of the owners who are expecting improvements on their establishments decreased by 46.1% during October compared with 52.6% during September and the percentage of owners expecting higher level of employments decreased by 63.7% compared with 62.9% for the same months. In the same line, the percentage of owners expecting increases in the volume of sales decreased during the next six months by 42.5% during October compared with 44.9% during September.

The above indicators indicate a general decline in the optimistic levels on the expectation of having positive improvements on the establishments situations in Remaining West Bank and

in Gaza Strip according to the perceptions of the managers of those establishments compared with their expectations on the beginning of the year 2005.

The Current Situation: Gaza Strip opinions are more optimistic than Remaining West Bank

As for the expectations in the short run for October 2005, 27.6% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments expect a better situation for their establishments compared with September (26.6% in Remaining West Bank and 28.6% in Gaza Strip), against 28.5% expected a worse situation (20.0% in Remaining West Bank and 36.1% in Gaza Strip), while 43.9% expected no changes (53.4% in Remaining West Bank and 35.3% in Gaza Strip).

The main findings of the survey regarding the level of employment were optimistic, as 20.3% expected increase in employment level (15.6% in Remaining West Bank and 24.7% in Gaza Strip), while 10.0% expected a decline (11.4% in Remaining West Bank and 8.7% in Gaza Strip), and 69.7% expect the same level (73.0% in Remaining West Bank and 66.6% in Gaza Strip).

Regarding the sales volume, 36.0% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip expect higher sales volume (34.0% in Remaining West Bank and 37.8% in Gaza Strip), and 34.0% expect lower sales volume (28.5% in Remaining West Bank and 39.0% in Gaza Strip).

Mid-Term Expectations shows 46.7% of the owners/ managers in Gaza Strip expect better situation for their establishments compared with 36.0% in Remaining West Bank
As for the expectation on the mid term (the next six months), 46.7% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments in Gaza Strip expect a better situation for their establishment compared with October, against 36.0% in Remaining West Bank. Meanwhile, 19.3% expected a worse situation in Remaining West Bank against 20.1% in Gaza Strip, while 44.7% and 33.2% expected no changes in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip consequently.

The expectations of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments in Gaza Strip were optimistic as 22.5% expected increase in employment level, while 10.9% expected decreasing, and 66.6% expected the same level. In Remaining West Bank, owners/ managers were less optimistic as 21.0% expected increasing employment level and 67.9% expected the same level, and 11.1% expected decreasing level of employment.

Data reveal that 44.7% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments reported that the volume of sales would increase in the coming six months (43.2% in Remaining West Bank, and 46.0% in Gaza Strip), while 28.5% of them expect a decline in the volume of their sales (25.9% in Remaining West Bank and 30.8% in Gaza Strip).

Summary

First: On the overall trend:

- The percentage of whom is expecting improvements on the establishment's situation declined by 40.9% during October compared with 32.3% during September 2005 (Base month is January 2005).

- The percentage of whom is expecting higher level of employment declined by 45.9% during October compared with 40.8% during September 2005 (Base month is January 2005).
- At the same line, Decreasing were reported on the perceptions of the managers whom is expecting higher volumes of sales as this percentage reached 21.9% during October compared with a growth by 12.9% during September.

Second: The expectations of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments were optimistic on the Mid-term period compared to the Short -term expectations, which can appear from the following:

- As for the establishment situation, 41.6% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments expect better situation during the next six month while this percentage was 27.6% for the next month expectations.
- 44.7% of the owners were optimistic in their expectations about the volumes of the sales for the mid-term expectation, meanwhile this percent was 36.0% for the next month.

Third: The mid-term expectations of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments were more optimistic for Gaza Strip compared to the expectations of the owners in Remaining West Bank, which can appear from the following:

- 46.7% of the owners were optimistic in their mid-term expectations for the establishment situation in Gaza Strip; meanwhile this percent was 36.0% in Remaining West Bank.
- 46.0% expect increases in the volume of sales over the mid-term expectation in Gaza Strip compared with 43.2% in Remaining West Bank.
- 22.5% of the owners were optimistic in their expectations about increasing the level of employment in Gaza Strip; meanwhile this percent was 21.0% in Remaining West Bank.

Fourth: The expectations of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments on the expected sales level stability or decline were different in Gaza Strip compared to the expectations of the owners in Remaining West Bank, which can appear from the following:

- 13.6% of the owners in Remaining West Bank refer that the Obstacles of marketing consider as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while it was 3.9% in Gaza Strip.
- 12.7% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank expect difficulties in exporting as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while there are no opinions refer to that reason in Gaza Strip.
- 9.4% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank expect decreases in demand of the establishment output as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while it was 18.3% in Gaza Strip.
- 0.6% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank reported that the lack of the ability of financing as the main reason affecting the sales level while without any opinions reported that in Gaza strip.

Table 1: Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Industrial Establishments about the Main Indicators in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip

Indicator	* October 2005 %		* September 2005 %		* August 2005 %		* July 2005 %		*January 2005 %	
	Next six Months	November	Next six Months	October	Next six Months	September	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	February
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	41.6	27.6	36.6	31.6	32.8	34.1	43.6	42.3	77.2	46.7
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	21.7	20.3	22.2	22.2	20.5	16.6	26.1	20.7	59.8	37.5
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	44.7	36.0	42.8	39.7	32.1	38.3	47.2	50.0	77.7	45.6

*Data collection for January took place during 4/2/2005-6/3/2005.

.2005/3/6-2005/2/4

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*Data collection for July took place during 2-23/8/2005.

.2005/8/23-2

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*Data collection for August took place during 2-23/9/2005.

.2005/9/23-2

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*Data collection for September took place during 2-23/10/2005.

.2005/10/23-2

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*Data collection for October took place during 2-23/11/2005.

.2005/11/23-2

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Table 2: Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Industrial Establishments about the Main Indicators in Remaining West Bank

Indicator	* October 2005 %		* September 2005 %		* August 2005 %		* July 2005 %		*January 2005 %	
	Next six Months	November	Next six Months	October	Next six Months	September	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	February
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	36.0	26.6	31.7	30.3	24.6	31.9	37.0	41.3	74.5	46.0
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	21.0	15.6	11.6	14.9	6.2	6.1	15.4	14.7	42.7	33.8
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	43.2	34.0	35.0	33.1	19.0	29.3	39.8	50.3	73.0	41.9

*Data collection for January took place during 4/2/2005-6/3/2005.

.2005/3/6-2005/2/4

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*Data collection for July took place during 2-23/8/2005.

.2005/8/23-2

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*Data collection for August took place during 2-23/9/2005.

.2005/9/23-2

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*Data collection for September took place during 2-23/10/2005.

.2005/10/23-2

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*Data collection for October took place during 2-23/11/2005.

.2005/11/23-2

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Table 3: Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Industrial Establishments about the Main Indicators in Gaza Strip

Indicator	* October 2005		* September 2005		* August 2005		* July 2005		* January 2005		
	%		%		%		%		%		
	Next six Months	November	Next six Months	October	Next six Months	September	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	February	
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	46.7	28.6	58.8	37.1	65.3	43.1	65.8	46.3	88.9	50.0	
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	22.5	24.7	68.5	54.3	76.7	58.4	63.4	41.5	88.9	42.8	
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	46.0	37.8	77.1	68.6	83.8	73.7	73.2	48.8	97.2	61.1	

*Data collection for January took place during 4/2/2005-6/3/2005.

.2005/3/6-2005/2/4

*

*Data collection for July took place during 2-23/8/2005.

.2005/8/23-2

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*Data collection for August took place during 2-23/9/2005.

.2005/9/23-2

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*Data collection for September took place during 2-23/10/2005.

.2005/10/23-2

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*Data collection for October took place during 2-23/11/2005.

.2005/11/23-2

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2005

Table4: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Opinions about Establishments Production During October 2005 Compared with September 2005 by Region

Attitude	2005		
	Gaza Strip %	Remaining West Bank %	Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip %
A lot better	0.0	1.2	0.5
Somewhat better	36.6	15.2	26.6
About the same/ Unchanged	20.6	43.5	31.3
Somewhat worse	32.7	31.0	31.9
A lot worse	10.1	9.1	9.7
Total	100	100	100

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about Establishments Production in November 2005 and Next Six Months by Region

Attitude	Time Period and Region					
	Gaza Strip		Remaining West Bank		Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip	
	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %
A lot better	2.1	2.2	5.1	1.9	3.5	2.0
Somewhat better	44.6	26.4	30.9	24.7	38.1	25.6
About the same/ Unchanged	33.2	35.3	44.7	53.4	38.7	43.9
Somewhat worse	20.1	36.1	15.6	17.3	18.0	27.2
A lot worse	0.0	0.0	3.7	2.7	1.7	1.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6: Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Views about the Problems Faced the Establishment During October and November 2005 in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	About the same/ Unchanged									
	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %
Business did not suffer	3.2	5.6	5.6	16.7	65.2	61.6	23.9	15.0	2.1	1.1
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	0.9	2.8	5.2	83.2	85.5	12.4	7.0	1.6	1.4
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.1	88.5	88.0	3.5	3.8	7.2	7.1
Unable to open/operate/work	0.4	0.9	3.0	1.0	84.0	86.0	2.2	2.6	10.4	9.5
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	1.6	4.7	7.6	9.6	77.5	77.1	10.5	6.9	2.8	1.7
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	2.7	2.3	5.6	7.9	83.1	83.2	5.5	6.6	3.1	0.0

Table 7: Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Views about the Problems Faced the Establishment During October and November 2005 in Remaining West Bank

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	About the same/ Unchanged									
	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %
Business did not suffer	0.1	3.0	9.6	16.9	69.6	64.4	18.7	13.5	2.0	2.2
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	1.9	6.0	8.6	76.3	78.7	14.4	7.8	3.3	3.0
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.2	87.4	88.8	2.6	1.0	8.1	8.0
Unable to open/operate/work	8.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	82.6	84.7	4.6	3.1	10.2	8.3
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	3.3	3.3	7.2	15.6	73.0	74.6	15.1	5.2	1.4	1.3
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	3.3	2.6	3.0	7.8	85.0	85.2	6.8	4.4	1.9	0.0

Table 8: Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Views about the Problems Faced the Establishment During October and November 2005 in Gaza Strip

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %	Nov %	Oct %
Business did not suffer	5.9	8.0	2.1	16.4	61.4	59.2	28.6	16.4	2.0	0.0
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	89.4	91.6	10.6	6.3	0.0	0.0
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	89.5	87.4	4.2	6.3	6.3	6.3
Unable to open/operate/work	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	85.3	87.3	0.0	2.1	10.5	10.6
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	0.0	5.9	8.0	4.2	81.5	79.3	6.3	8.5	4.2	2.1
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	2.1	2.0	8.0	8.0	81.5	81.5	4.2	8.5	4.2	0.0

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about Level of Employment in the Establishments in the Future by Region

Level of employment	Time Period and Region					
	Gaza Strip		Remaining West Bank		Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip	
	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %
Significantly higher	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.0
Somewhat higher	22.5	24.7	20.1	15.6	21.3	20.3
About the same	66.6	66.6	67.9	73.0	67.3	69.7
Somewhat less	10.9	8.7	10.0	9.2	10.5	8.9
Significantly less	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.2	0.5	1.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about Volume of Sales in the Establishments in the Future by Region

Value of sales	Time Period and Region					
	Gaza Strip		Remaining West Bank		Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip	
	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %	Next Six Months %	November %
Significantly higher	2.2	0.0	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.1
Somewhat higher	43.8	37.8	41.6	31.8	42.8	34.9
About the same	23.2	23.2	30.9	37.5	26.8	30.0
Somewhat less	24.8	33.0	21.2	26.3	23.1	29.8
Significantly less	6.0	6.0	4.7	2.2	5.4	4.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 11: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about the Expected Sales Level Stability or Decline by Region

Reason	Gaza Strip %	Remaining West Bank %	Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip %	
Decrease in Demand	18.3	9.4	13.7	
Lack of credit/finance	0.0	0.6	0.3	
Difficulties in Exporting Finished goods	0.0	12.7	6.5	
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	7.7	3.6	5.6	
Employees unable reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Decline in the Consumer Purchasing Power	33.4	34.5	34.0	
Obstacles in Marketing	3.9	13.6	8.8	
Competitive Goods	7.6	8.3	8.0	
Other	29.1	17.3	23.1	
Total	100	100	100	