



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

**Survey on the Perception of the Owners/Managers of the
Industrial Establishments Towards the Economic
Conditions, August 2005**

The press conference of the survey results

September, 2005

© September, 2005
All rights reserved.

Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2005. *Survey on the Perception of the Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments Towards the Economic Conditions, August 2005*

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 Perception of the Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments Towards the Economic Conditions, August 2005

Contents

1. The press release
2. The tables

Press Release

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

Continuing decrease in the level of optimism in the opinion of improving establishments' conditions during August 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 2/9/2005-23/9/2005 on a sample composed of 261 establishments, of which 211 in Remaining West Bank and 50 in Gaza Strip. Large Industrial Establishments were chosen, 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

Levels of optimism in general declined continuously in different indicators during August compared with January 2005. The percentage of whom are expecting improvement on the establishments situation declined by 27.0% during August compared with 9.4% during July, in addition to that the percentage of whom are expecting higher employment level declined by 55.7% compared with 44.8% for the same months. At the same time, declining were reported on the perceptions of the managers who expect higher volumes of sales during August compared with January as this percentage reached 16.0%, compared with increasing in the perception by (9.6%) during July.

There were significant differences on the geographic regions, as the percentage of owner expecting improvements on the situations declined by 30.7% in Remaining West Bank during August compared with January 2005, while it was 13.8% in Gaza Strip during the same period. Meanwhile, the percentage of owners who expected higher level of employment decreased by 82.0% in Remaining West Bank compared with an increasing by 36.5% in Gaza Strip, as the percentage of owners who expected higher volume of sales decreased by 30.1% in Remaining West Bank compared with a increase by 20.6% in Gaza Strip for the same period.

In addition to that, the overall trend for the pessimistic expectations for the coming six months in Palestinian Territory 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 57.5% during August compared with 43.5% during July and the percentage of owners expecting higher level of employments decreased by 65.7% compared with 56.4% for the same months. In the same line, the percentage of owners expecting decreases in the volume of sales decreased during the next six months by 58.7% during August compared with 39.3% during July.

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 with cautious optimist 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 August 2005, 34.1% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments expect a better situation for their establishments compared with September (31.9% in Remaining West Bank and 43.1% in Gaza Strip), against 15.3% expected a worse situation (15.9% in Remaining West Bank and 12.9% in Gaza Strip), while 50.6% expected no changes (52.2% in Remaining West Bank and 44.0% in Gaza Strip).

The main findings of the survey regarding the level of employment were optimistic, as 16.6% expected increase in employment level (6.1% in Remaining West Bank and 58.4% in Gaza Strip), while 6.8% expected a decline (7.0% in Remaining West Bank and 5.8% in Gaza Strip), and 76.6% expect the same level (86.9% in Remaining West Bank and 35.8% in Gaza Strip).

Regarding the sales volume, 38.3% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip expect higher sales volume (29.3% in Remaining West Bank and 73.7% in Gaza Strip), and 17.6% expect lower sales volume (19.3% in Remaining West Bank and 10.6% in Gaza Strip).

Mid-Term Expectations shows 65.3% of the owners/ managers in Gaza Strip expect better situation for their establishments compared with 24.6% in Remaining West Bank
As for the expectation on the mid term (the next six months), 65.3% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments in Gaza Strip expect a better situation for their establishment compared with August, against 24.6% in Remaining West Bank. Meanwhile, 35.3% expected a worse situation in Remaining West Bank against 1.6% in Gaza Strip, while 40.1% and 33.1% 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 76.7% expected increase in employment level, while 5.0% expected decreasing, and 18.3% expected the same level. In Remaining West Bank, owners/ managers were less optimistic as 6.2% expected increasing employment level and 91.0% expected the same level, and 2.8% expected decreasing level of employment.

Data reveal that 32.1% of the owners/managers of the industrial establishments reported that the volume of sales would increase in the coming six months (19.0% in Remaining West Bank, and 83.8% in Gaza Strip), while 31.5% of them expect a decline in the volume of their sales (43.0% in Remaining West Bank and 10.0% in Gaza Strip).

Summary

First: On the overall trend:

- The percentage of whom is expecting improvements on the establishment's situation declined by 27.0% during August compared with 9.4% during July 2005 (Base month is January 2005).
- The percentage of whom is expecting higher level of employment declined by 55.7% during August compared with 44.8% during July 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 16.0% during August compared with a growth by 9.6% during July.

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

- As for the establishment situation, 34.1% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments expect better situation during the next month while this percentage was 32.8% for the mid-term expectations.
- 38.3% of the owners were optimistic in their expectations about the level of employment for the next month, meanwhile this percent was 32.1 % for the next six months.

Third: The 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:

- 65.3% of the owners were optimistic in their expectations for the establishment situation in Gaza Strip; meanwhile this percent was 24.6% in Remaining West Bank.
- 83.8% expect increases in the volume of sales over the med-term expectation in Gaza Strip compared with 19.0% in Remaining West Bank.
- 76.7% of the owners were optimistic in their expectations about increasing the level of employment in Gaza Strip; meanwhile this percent was 6.2% 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:

- 54.1% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Remaining West Bank reported that the decline in the consumer purchasing power as the main reason affecting the sales level while 38.5% in Gaza Strip reported it as the main reason.
- 18.4% of the owners in Gaza Strip refer that the difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs consider as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while 0.4% refer to that reason in Remaining West Bank.
- 15.2% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Gaza Strip expect difficulties in exporting as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while it was 1.8% in Remaining West Bank.
- 21.6% of the owners/ managers of the industrial establishments in Gaza Strip expect decreases in demand of the establishment output as the main reason affecting the level of sales, while it was 4.1% in Remaining West Bank.

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

Indicator	* July 2005 %		* June 2005 %		*May 2005 %		*April 2005 %		*January 2005 %	
	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	July	Next six Months	June	Next six Months	May	Next six Months	February
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	43.6	42.3	52.8	44.2	53.9	40.8	60.4	46.2	77.2	46.7
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	26.1	20.7	27.4	24.9	27.2	21.4	34.0	24.9	59.8	37.5
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	47.2	50.0	56.7	49.5	61.8	47.6	63.5	48.2	77.7	45.6

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

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

*

*Data collection for April took place during 2-23/5/2005.

.2005/5/23-2

*

*Data collection for May took place during 2-23/6/2005.

.2005/6/23-2

*

*Data collection for June took place during 2-23/7/2005.

.2005/7/23-2

*

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

.2005/8/23-2

*

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

Indicator	* July 2005 %		*June 2005 %		*May 2005 %		*April 2005 %		*January 2005 %	
	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	July	Next six Months	June	Next six Months	May	Next six Months	February
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	37.0	41.3	49.9	45.0	59.1	42.2	59.8	43.5	74.5	46.0
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	15.4	14.7	18.8	18.1	15.0	13.0	26.0	17.5	42.7	33.8
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	39.8	50.3	55.6	54.1	57.8	46.3	63.0	46.1	73.0	41.9

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

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

*

*Data collection for April took place during 2-23/5/2005.

.2005/5/23-2

*

*Data collection for May took place during 2-23/6/2005.

.2005/6/23-2

*

*Data collection for June took place during 2-23/7/2005.

.2005/7/23-2

*

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

.2005/8/23-2

*

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

Indicator	* August 2005 %		*June 2005 %		*May 2005 %		*April 2005 %		*January 2005 %	
	Next six Months	August	Next six Months	July	Next six Months	June	Next six Months	May	Next six Months	February
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	65.8	46.3	64.3	40.4	59.1	36.4	62.8	55.8	88.9	50.0
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	63.4	41.5	62.8	52.5	68.2	50.0	62.8	51.1	88.9	42.8
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	73.2	48.8	60.8	30.3	75.0	52.2	65.1	55.8	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 April took place during 2-23/5/2005.

.2005/5/23-2

*

*Data collection for May took place during 2-23/6/2005.

.2005/6/23-2

*

*Data collection for June took place during 2-23/7/2005.

.2005/7/23-2

*

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

.2005/8/23-2

*

2005

/

:4

2005

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

Attitude	Gaza Strip		Remaining West Bank		Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip	
	%		%		%	
A lot better	0.0		5.6		4.3	
Somewhat better	36.6		39.9		39.1	
About the same/ Unchanged	56.1		27.3		33.7	
Somewhat worse	7.3		25.2		21.2	
A lot worse	0.0		2.0		1.7	
Total	100		100		100	

2005

/

:5

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about Establishments Production in August 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 %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %
A lot better	9.8	0.0	2.7	0.7	4.3	0.5
Somewhat better	56.0	46.3	34.3	40.6	39.1	41.8
About the same/ Unchanged	29.3	48.8	42.0	39.2	39.3	41.3
Somewhat worse	4.9	4.9	20.3	18.8	16.8	15.9
A lot worse	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5
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 July And August 2005 in Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	August	July	August	July	August	July	August	July	August	July
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Business did not suffer	0.0	0.0	2.7	7.1	56.5	50.5	32.6	37.0	8.2	5.4
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	0.0	3.3	5.5	73.2	73.8	16.9	16.9	6.6	3.8
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	78.3	73.8	4.8	12.0	14.7	12.0
Unable to open/operate/work	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.8	79.9	75.5	4.3	8.7	14.7	13.0
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	1.2	1.1	7.1	10.3	70.1	67.9	16.3	20.1	5.4	0.5
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	1.1	1.1	3.3	3.8	77.2	78.3	10.8	13.5	7.6	3.3

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

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	About the same/ Unchanged									
	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %
Business did not suffer	0.0	0.0	2.8	8.4	60.1	49.6	30.8	35.0	6.3	7.0
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	0.0	4.2	6.3	81.7	79.6	9.9	9.9	4.2	4.2
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.1	88.8	87.4	4.2	6.3	4.2	4.2
Unable to open/operate/work	0.0	0.0	1.4	2.8	90.9	89.5	3.5	3.5	4.2	4.2
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	1.4	1.4	9.1	12.6	77.6	75.5	11.9	10.5	0.0	0.0
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	1.4	1.4	4.2	4.2	86.0	86.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2

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

Problem	Time period and Opinion									
	A lot worse		Somewhat worse		/		Somewhat better		A lot better	
	About the same/ Unchanged									
	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %	August %	July %
Business did not suffer	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.4	44.0	53.7	39.0	43.9	14.6	0.0
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	43.9	53.7	41.5	41.5	14.6	2.4
Problems of employees reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	41.5	26.8	7.3	31.8	51.2	39.0
Unable to open/operate/work	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	41.5	26.8	7.3	26.8	51.2	44.0
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	43.9	41.5	31.7	53.7	24.4	2.4
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	46.4	51.2	34.1	46.3	19.5	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 %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %
Significantly higher	12.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.8	0.0
Somewhat higher	51.2	41.5	14.0	14.7	22.3	20.7
About the same	29.3	48.7	80.4	79.0	69.0	72.3
Somewhat less	7.3	9.8	4.2	6.3	4.9	7.0
Significantly less	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Industrial Establishments According to their Expectation about Value 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 %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %	Next Six Months %	August %
Significantly higher	9.8	0.0	2.8	2.0	4.3	1.6
Somewhat higher	63.4	48.8	37.0	48.3	42.9	48.4
About the same	12.2	36.6	39.2	31.5	33.2	32.6
Somewhat less	14.6	14.6	18.2	16.8	17.4	16.3
Significantly less	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.4	2.2	1.1
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	0.0	4.2	3.2	
Lack of credit/finance	4.8	1.4	2.2	
Difficulties in Exporting Finished goods	19.0	6.9	9.7	
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	23.9	0.0	5.4	
Employees unable reaching place of work	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Decline in the Consumer Purchasing Power	19.0	30.6	28.0	
Obstacles in Marketing	9.5	12.5	11.8	
Competitive Goods	9.5	8.3	8.6	
Other	14.3	36.1	31.1	
Total	100	100	100	