



Press Release

**2.72% increase for Wholesale Price Index and 1.19% for Producer Price Index
during the first quarter 2006**

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released the first quarterly statistical release on the price indices in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2006.

The results indicate that there was an increase in the price index as follow:

For wholesale price index, the results show that an increase by 1.11% for locally consumed products was reported, 4.31% for imported products, 2.72% for total index, the main reason for this increase was the increase in prices of manufacturing group and prices of agriculture goods and prices of mining and quarrying and prices of fish.

For producer price index, the results show an increase by 1.25% for local products, 0.63% for exported products, 1.19% for total index, the main reason for this increase was the increase in prices of agriculture goods and prices of manufacturing group and prices of fish and prices of mining and quarrying.

Comparing prices of first quarter 2006 with the base year 1996, the results show that there was an increase in the price index, for wholesale price index, the results show an increase by 40.36% for locally consumed products, 55.66% for imported products, and 47.77% for total index.

For producer price index, the results show an increase by 40.59% for local products, 39.23% for exported products, and 40.53% for total index

Through the analysis of the price changes of commodities, it is apparent **that prices of the following major groups of expenditure for Producer and wholesale price index have increased as follows:**

- Manufacturing by 3.79 %
- Agriculture by 3.10 %
- Mining and Quarrying by 1.15 %
- Fishing by 0.88 %