

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

**"Statistical Report on Building Licenses
for the First Quarter of 2005"**

**Building licenses declined by 3% in the First Quarter 2005 compared with the
Fourth Quarter 2004**

PCBS released a Statistical Report on Building Licenses for the First quarter 2005 which indicates that the total number of building licenses issued in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip was 1,267. They were distributed as follows: 788 licenses for new buildings, 237 licenses for additions to licensed buildings, 27 licenses for additions and existing parts, 187 licenses for existing buildings and 28 licenses for existing extensions. The results show that the total licensed areas were 546.8 thousand (m²), distributed as 476.3 thousand (m²) for new areas and 70.5 thousand (m²) for existing areas.

The total number of building licenses issued decreased by 3.0% in the first quarter 2005 compared with the fourth quarter of 2004, also there was a decline by 1% in the total licensed areas, and 9.4% in the total number of licensed dwellings, and 19% in the number of boundary walls licenses in the same quarters.

The total number of building licenses issued increased by 12.0% in the first quarter of 2005 compared with the first quarter of 2004, but increased by 42.0%, compared with the first quarter of 2003, and decrease by 34.1% in the first quarter of 2005 compared with the first quarter of 2000.

Comparing the licensed new areas in the first quarter of 2005 with the first quarter of 2004, the results show an increase of 23.2%, and an increase of 37.2% in the licensed existing areas. Comparing licensed areas in the first quarter 2005 with the same period in 2000, the results indicate that licenses of new areas decreased by 13.7%, and the existing areas decreased by 36.0%.

The results show that the total licensed dwellings areas were 380.9 thousand (m²), 334.1 thousand (m²) were new areas and 46.8 thousand (m²) were existing areas. The total number of licensed dwellings were 2,288 units, 1,989 were new dwelling units and 299 were existing dwelling units .

The total number of new dwelling units increased by 4.4% in the first quarter of 2005 comparing with the same quarter of 2004, whereas the existing dwelling units increased by 23.0% Comparing with the same period. The total number of new and existing dwelling units decreased by 17.5%, 52.3% respectively when we compare with the first quarter of 2000.

The results show that there were an increase in the number of boundary walls licenses by 30.8% in the first quarter of 2005 comparing with the first quarter of 2004, and a decrease by 46.9 % comparing with the same period of 2000.