

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

**"Statistical Report on Building Licenses
for the Fourth Quarter of 2004"**

1,306 Building Licenses Issued for a Total Area of 552.2 Thousand (m²)

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released a Statistical Report on Building Licenses for the Fourth quarter 2004 which indicates that the total number of building licenses issued in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip was 1,306. They were distributed as follows: 743 licenses for new buildings, 234 licenses for additions to licensed buildings, 35 licenses for additions and existing parts, 262 licenses for existing buildings and 32 licenses for existing extensions. The results show that the total licensed areas were 552.2 thousand (m²), distributed as 484.4 thousand (m²) for new areas and 67.8 thousand (m²) for existing areas.

The total number of building licenses issued decreased by 2.7% in the fourth quarter of 2004 compared with the fourth quarter of 2003, but increased by 4.0%, 26.1% and 44.2% compared with the fourth quarter of 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively.

Comparing the licensed new areas in the fourth quarter of 2004 with the fourth quarter of 2003, the results show an increase of 0.6%, and an increase of 45.2% in the licensed existing areas. Comparing licensed areas in the fourth quarter 2004 with the same period in 2000, the results indicate that licenses of new areas decreased by 2.7%, and the existing areas decreased by 4.0%.

The results show that the total licensed dwellings areas were 367.7 thousand (m²), 314.2 thousand (m²) were new areas and 53.5 thousand (m²) were existing areas. The total number of licensed dwellings were 2,612 units, 2,196 were new dwelling units and 416 were existing dwelling units .

The total number of new dwelling units decreased by 9.1% in the fourth quarter of 2004 comparing with the same quarter of 2003, whereas the existing dwelling units increased by 42.5% Comparing with the same period. The total number of new and existing dwelling units increased by 20.1%, 6.1% respectively when we compare with the fourth quarter of 2000.

The results show that there were a decrease in the number of boundary wall licenses by 32.3% in the fourth quarter of 2004 comparing with the fourth quarter of 2003, and a decrease by 44.0%, 28.8% and 2.3% comparing with the same period of 2000, 2001, 2002 respectively.