



# **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

## **Child Labour Survey-2004**

### **Press Conference on the Survey Results**

**April, 2004**

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## **Acknowledgement**

**The Cooperation and understanding of children and households selected in the survey sample during field work was truly remarkable.**

**The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) extend it's gratitude to International Labour Organization (ILO) for their financial and technical support during preparations and implementing of the survey.**

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## **Press Release on Child Labour Survey, 2004: Main findings**

**40,300 are Working Child in the Palestinian Territory; of which 73% are employed to contribute to household economic needs**  
**62% of households having working children prefer that their children to concentrate on study and education only**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has conducted a National survey about child labour in the Palestinian Territory during the period January 10<sup>th</sup> 2004 till March 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. The survey covered a sample of 10,334 households in the Palestinian Territory of which 8,603 households were interviewed and has at least a child aged (5-17) years.

Estimated population of children aged (5-17) years in the Palestinian Territory Mid, February 2004 was 1,313, 700 representing 34.9% of the total population.

Survey results showed that 40,300 children; 3.1% of children aged (5-17) years are workers (wage employee or unpaid family member), working children are distributed by 30,900 children employed in the West Bank and 9,400 in Gaza Strip.

Data showed that 72.8% of employed children are working to contribute to household economic needs; of which 49.5% for assisting in a household project, 20.7% to increase household income and 2.6% for other economic reasons, while 27.2% of the refer their work for social reasons; of which 14.5% for long school holidays and drop-out of school, 6.5% for self reliance and independent and 6.2% for other reasons.

Data showed that about two thirds (67.4%) of working children in the Palestinian Territory are unpaid family member (87.7% for working females, compared with 64.7% for males) While 28.2% are wage employee (8.7% for working females compared with 30.8% for males). The percentage of working children as unpaid family member among children aged (5-9) years was 98.0% of the total employed children of the same age.

Results showed that 42.7% of working children in the Palestinian Territory are working as agriculture skilled workers; of which 49.3% in the West Bank compared with 21.1% in Gaza Strip, followed by elementary occupations workers at 19.5%; of which 18.9% in the West Bank compared with 21.5% in Gaza Strip, while workers in services and market worker was 18.5%; of which 16.1% in the West Bank compared with 26.3% in Gaza Strip, and workers in crafts and other occupation was 16.6%; of which 13.5% in the West Bank compared with 26.9% in Gaza Strip.

47.4% of working children prefer to study only and not to work, while 24.9% stated that they prefer to work only, compared to 18.3% prefer to work and study, and 7.9% stated that they prefer to work during school holidays only.

Data showed that drop-out of school in the West Bank was 3.0% compared with 2.3% in Gaza Strip. Drop-out of school was mainly due to lack of desire to study at 32.9% of total dropped-out children, followed by poor economic situation at 10.5%.

Data showed that 25.8% of households having working children stated that their living level would decrease if the child stop working, compared with 50.9% will not be affected if their children stopped working.

Data showed that 61.7% of households that have working children prefer that their children to concentrate on study and education only, while 18.0% prefer that their children to work only, 15.4% prefer to completing study then start working, while 8.4% prefer that their children to work and study at the same time. 71.4% of households that do not have working children prefer their children to continue education only.

## Concepts and Definitions

The main concepts and definitions used in this survey are based on the international standards taking into account the Palestinian labour market's circumstances.

### **Work:**

Includes any activity for wage or salary, for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. One hour or more of such activity constitutes work. Work also includes unpaid activity on a family farm or business.

### **Working Children:**

All children aged 5-17 years who were at work at least one hour during the reference week.

Working children are classified according to employment status as follows:

#### **1. Employer:**

A child who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more waged employees.

#### **2. Own-account worker (self-employed):**

A child who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

#### **3. Employee:**

A child who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tip, piece-rates or pay in kind.

#### **4. Unpaid family member:**

A child who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person living in the same household.

### **Occupation:**

Occupation refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the person employed, or the kind of work done previously if unemployed, irrespective of the industry or the employment status of the person. Occupations are grouped together mainly on the basis of the similarity of skills required to fulfill the tasks and duties of the job. Occupations are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO 1988).

### **Industry:**

Industry refers to the activity of the establishment in which an employed person worked during the reference period, or last worked if unemployed. This activity is defined in terms of the kind of goods produced or services supplied by the unit in which the person works. Industry activities are classified according to the unified commodity classification in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is based on the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev3).

### **Hours worked:**

Total number of hours actually worked during the reference period as well as overtime and time spent at the place of work on activities such as preparation of the workplace. Leaves, meal breaks and time spent on travel from home to work and vice versa are excluded from work hours.

### **Daily wage:**

Cash net wage paid to the wage employee from the employer. Wages received in different currencies are converted into NIS according to the exchange rate in the survey period



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**Table 1: Distribution of Children (5-17) Years by Working Status, Sex and Region, 2004**

Region and Sex	Total		Not Working		Working		
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>	<b>1,313,663</b>	<b>100</b>	1,273,366	96.9	40,297	3.1	
Males	<b>668,574</b>	<b>100</b>	632,984	94.7	35,590	5.3	
Females	<b>645,089</b>	<b>100</b>	640,382	99.3	4,707	0.7	
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>806,552</b>	<b>100</b>	775,669	96.2	30,853	3.8	
Males	<b>411,041</b>	<b>100</b>	384,004	93.4	27,037	6.6	
Females	<b>395,511</b>	<b>100</b>	391,695	99.0	3,816	1.0	
<b>Gaza Strip</b>	<b>507,111</b>	<b>100</b>	497,667	98.1	9,444	1.9	
Males	<b>257,533</b>	<b>100</b>	248,980	96.7	8,553	3.3	
Females	<b>249,578</b>	<b>100</b>	248,687	99.6	891	0.4	

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**Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Working Children Aged (5-17) Years by Employment Status, Sex and Region, 2004**

Employment Status	Region						
	Palestinian Territory		Gaza Strip		West Bank		
	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	
Wage Employee	8.7	30.8	21.7	45.8	5.6	26.0	
Employer/ Self Employed	3.5	4.5	-	3.5	4.4	4.8	/
Unpaid Family Member	87.8	64.7	78.3	50.7	90.0	69.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>35,590</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>8,553</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>27,037</b>	

(-) Means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Working Children (5-17) Years by Occupation, Region and Sex, 2004**

Occupation	Palestinian Territory		Gaza Strip		West Bank	
	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
Service, Shop and Market workers	0.9	0.8	-	2.3	1.1	0.4
Skilled Agricultural and Fishing Workers	15.5	18.9	27.0	26.3	12.9	16.5
Craft and Related Trade workers	69.8	39.2	55.5	17.6	73.1	46.0
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	6.1	18.0	12.6	28.4	4.6	14.7
Elementary Occupation	1.1	2.0	-	2.2	1.3	1.9
Other Occupations	6.6	21.1	4.9	23.2	7.0	20.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>35,590</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>8,553</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>27,037</b>

(-) Means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Working Children (5-17) Years by Industry and Region, 2004**

Industry	Region		
	Palestinian Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank
Agriculture, fishing and forestry	44.6	24.8	50.7
Mining, quarrying and manufacturing	13.7	21.4	11.4
Construction	6.4	7.8	6.0
Commerce, restaurants and hotels	28.1	37.0	25.4
Transportation, storage and communication	1.0	1.9	0.7
Services and other branches	6.2	7.1	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>40,297</b>	<b>9,444</b>	<b>30,853</b>

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**Table 5: Distribution of Working Children (5-17) Years by Place of Work, 2004**

Place of Work	Total	
	(#)	(%)
West Bank	29,135	72.3
Gaza Strip	9,470	23.5
Israel & Israeli Settlements	1,692	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,297</b>	<b>100</b>

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**Table 6: The Average Weekly Work Hours for Working Children (5-17) Years by Place of work, 2004**

Indicator	Total	Place of Work		
		Israel & Israeli Settlements	Gaza Strip	West Bank
Average Weekly Work Hours	26	47	29	24

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**Table 7: The Average Daily Wage and Median Daily wage for Wage Employee Children (5-17) Years (Cash Wage) by Place of Work, 2004**

Indicator	Place of Work			
	Total	Israel & Israeli Settlements	Gaza Strip	West Bank
Average Daily Wage in NIS	34.1	94.7	17.2	33.4
Median Daily Wage in NIS	23.1	96.1	10.0	30.0

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**Table 8: Percentage Distribution of Working Children (5-17) Years by Employment Status, Age Group, and Region, 2004**

Region and Age	Total	Employment Status			
		Unpaid Family Member	Employer/ Self Employed	Wage Employee	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>					
5-9	100	98.0	-	2.0	9-5
10-14	100	79.2	4.8	16.0	14-10
15-17	100	50.0	4.9	45.1	17-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>28.2</b>	
<b>West Bank</b>					
5-9	100	100.0	-	-	9-5
10-14	100	84.6	5.3	10.1	14-10
15-17	100	51.3	5.4	43.3	17-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	
<b>Gaza Strip</b>					
5-9	100	83.4	-	16.6	9-5
10-14	100	59.2	2.8	38.0	14-10
15-17	100	46.5	3.7	49.8	17-15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>43.5</b>	

(-) Means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 9: Distribution of Children (6-17) Years by School Attendance, Sex and Region, 2004**

Region and Sex	Total		Not Attending		Attending		
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>	<b>1,191,593</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55,269</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>1,136,324</b>	<b>95.4</b>	
Males	606,289	100	34,578	5.7	571,711	94.3	
Females	585,304	100	20,691	3.5	564,613	96.5	
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>731,292</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,845</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>695,447</b>	<b>95.1</b>	
Males	372,658	100	22,314	6.0	350,344	94.0	
Females	358,634	100	13,531	3.8	345,103	96.2	
<b>Gaza Strip</b>	<b>460,301</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19,424</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>440,877</b>	<b>95.8</b>	
Males	233,631	100	12,264	5.2	221,367	94.8	
Females	226,670	100	7,160	3.2	219,510	96.8	

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**Table 10: Distribution of Children (6-17) Years by Working Status, School Attendance, Sex and Region, 2004**

Region and Sex <sup>1</sup>	Not Attending School			Attending School			
	Total	Not Working	Working	Total	Not Working	Working	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>	
Males	100	66.9	33.1	100	95.9	4.1	
Females	100	94.9	5.1	100	99.4	0.6	
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	
Males	100	64.5	35.5	100	94.7	5.3	
Females	100	94.1	5.9	100	99.1	0.9	
<b>Gaza Strip</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	
Males	100	71.3	28.7	100	97.8	2.2	
Females	100	96.5	3.5	100	99.7	0.3	

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**Table 11: Distribution of Working Children (6-17) Years by School Attendance, Sex and Region, 2004**

Region and Sex	Total		Not Attending		Attending		
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>	<b>39,671</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12,495</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>27,176</b>	<b>68.5</b>	
Males	34,965	100	11,441	32.7	23,524	67.3	
Females	4,706	100	1,054	22.4	3,652	77.6	
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>30,282</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>21,559</b>	<b>71.2</b>	
Males	26,466	100	7,919	29.9	18,547	70.1	
Females	3,816	100	804	21.1	3,012	78.9	
<b>Gaza Strip</b>	<b>9,389</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>5,617</b>	<b>59.8</b>	
Males	8,499	100	3,522	41.4	4,977	58.6	
Females	890	100	250	28.1	640	71.9	

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**Table 12: Distribution of Not Working Children (6-17) Years by School Attendance, Doing Other Activity, Sex and Region, 2004**

Region and Sex	Total	Not Attending School			Attending School
		Nothing	Other Activities	Housekeeping	
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>96.5</b>
Males	100	0.3	2.0	1.6	96.1
Females	100	0.2	0.5	2.4	96.9
<b>West Bank</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>96.3</b>
Males	100	0.3	2.3	1.4	96.0
Females	100	0.3	0.5	2.5	96.7
<b>Gaza Strip</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>96.7</b>
Males	100	0.2	1.6	1.8	96.4
Females	100	0.1	0.4	2.4	97.1

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**Table 13: Distribution of Children (6-17) Years not Attending School by Reason for dropout from School, Region and Sex, 2004**

Reasons	Gaza Strip			West Bank		
	Total	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males
No desire on academic education	6.2	2.9	8.1	8.6	5.5	10.5
Repeated grades frequently	9.3	4.3	12.2	7.2	5.8	8.0
Do not care about study	27.3	16.8	33.4	32.9	21.3	39.6
Low economic situation of the household.	10.8	6.2	13.4	10.5	8.6	11.6
Marriage	6.6	18.0	-	3.9	10.5	-
Disabled/ Illness	23.4	30.3	19.4	12.5	18.3	9.1
Security situation	0.4	-	0.6	1.5	1.4	1.6
Other	16.0	21.5	12.9	22.9	28.6	19.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>19,188</b>	<b>7,009</b>	<b>12,179</b>	<b>34,781</b>	<b>12,886</b>	<b>21,895</b>

(-) Means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 14: Percentage Distribution of Working Children (6-17) Years by Reason for Work, Region and School Attendance, 2004**

Reason for Work and Region	Total	Not attending school	Attending school
<b>Palestinian Territory</b>			
To contribute in household income	21.0	37.9	11.9
To help in family project	49.2	14.7	67.7
Independent and self reliance	6.5	8.7	5.4
Spend the time of summer Holiday	5.1	0.5	7.5
He has nothing to do after dropout school	9.7	27.7	-
Learning a craft	2.2	3.6	1.4
Other	6.3	6.9	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>31,006</b>	<b>10,824</b>	<b>20,182</b>
<b>West Bank</b>			
To contribute in household income	21.7	39.5	13.3
To help in family project	52.6	17.7	69.3
Independent and self reliance	4.9	7.5	3.6
Spend the time of summer Holiday	3.9	0.3	5.7
He has nothing to do after dropout school	7.3	22.7	-
Learning a craft	2.8	5.1	
Other	6.8	7.2	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>23,919</b>	<b>7,724</b>	<b>16,195</b>
<b>Gaza Strip</b>			
To contribute in household income	18.5	34.1	6.4
To help in family project	37.7	7.4	61.2
Independent and self reliance	12.2	11.5	12.7
Spend the time of summer Holiday	8.9	1.0	15.0
He has nothing to do after dropout school	17.6	40.1	-
Learning a craft	-	-	-
Other	5.1	5.9	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>7,087</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,987</b>

(-) Means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 15: Distribution of Working Children (6-17) Years by School Attendance and Employment Status, 2004**

Employment Status	School Attendance		
	Not attending school	Attending school	
Wage Employee	59.6	13.7	/
Employer/Self Employed	4.9	4.3	
Unpaid Family Member	35.5	82.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>12,495</b>	<b>27,176</b>	

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**Table 16: Percentage of Working Children (5-17) Years by Work Advantages and Region, 2004**

Work Advantages	Region			
	Palestinian Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank	
Annual paid holidays	9.7	13.4	7.7	
Paid sick leave	14.1	12.9	14.8	
Health insurance	11.4	10.4	12.0	
Bonuses	15.9	22.0	12.7	
Subsidized uniform	6.3	5.4	6.7	
Free meals	38.3	36.5	39.2	
Subsidized meals	13.5	19.2	10.3	
Break time	56.7	52.3	59.0	
Free transport	22.4	23.6	21.8	
Subsidized transport	10.9	13.3	9.5	
Free lodging	8.8	6.6	10.0	
No advantages	23.2	34.1	17.0	



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**Table 17: Percentage of Children (5-17) Years by Employment Status, Region and Daily Activities, 2004**

Activity	Not Working			Working			
	Palestini an Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Palestinian Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank	
Play with friends	71.6	74.4	70.7	73.2	79.3	71.4	
Playing sport	52.6	50.6	53.1	46.2	47.9	45.7	
Help/assist in household chores or housekeeping	43.7	50.5	41.8	42.5	37.5	44.0	
Do not have free time	15.2	4.6	18.1	14.0	11.9	14.7	
Watching TV	92.7	95.7	91.9	88.7	90.1	88.3	
Painting	22.0	21.9	22.0	12.1	9.5	13.9	
Playing musical instruments	1.6	-	2.0	1.3	-	1.7	
Art activity (dancing, theater,...)	6.9	-	8.8	4.0	1.6	4.7	)
Computer use	27.0	12.6	27.9	19.6	11.9	20.5	( ) (
Internet use	8.0	-	8.4	5.8	4.3	6.0	

(-) means there is not enough observation in this group

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**Table 18: Percentage Distribution of Children (5-17) Years by Head of Household Occupation and Employment Status, 2004**

Head of Household Occupation	Total	Not Working	working	
Legislator, Senior Officials and Managers	100	97.2	2.8	
Professionals, Technicians & Clerks	100	98.9	1.1	
Service, Shop and Market workers	100	95.9	4.1	
Skilled Agricultural and Fishing Workers	100	88.6	11.4	
Craft and Related Trade workers	100	96.5	3.5	
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	100	97.5	2.5	
Elementary Occupations	100	97.8	2.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	

**Table 19: Main Indicators for Employee Children (5-17 years) Working Conditions by Region, 2004**

Indicator	Palestinian Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank	
<b>Relation to Employer</b>				
Good	93.7	88.0	97.3	
Bad	1.1	1.0	1.2	
Not constant	5.2	11.0	1.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Dealing with wage</b>				
Employer give it to child's parents	3.0	6.6	0.7	
Child gave it to child's parents	27.1	19.4	32.1	
Employer give a part to m child's parents	0.4	1.1	-	
Child give a part to child's parents	43.7	39.9	46.2	
Child is free to use it	23.5	30.9	18.7	
Other	2.3	2.1	2.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Savings of child's wage</b>				
Child save the wage regularly	11.6	11.9	11.3	
Child save the wage sometimes	28.1	32.6	24.9	
Do not save	60.3	55.5	63.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Reasons for saving the wage</b>				
For private project	16.9	23.9	10.8	
To attend school or training course	10.7	10.9	10.4	/
For private expenses	66.5	65.2	67.7	
other	5.9	-	11.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Child satisfaction about his work</b>				
Satisfied	83.2	76.6	87.4	
dissatisfied	16.8	23.4	12.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Reasons for dissatisfaction</b>				
Low wage	88.7	89.2	88.0	
Physically tough work	11.3	10.8	12.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

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**Table 19: Main Indicators for Employee Children (5-17 years) Working Conditions by Region, 2004 (Cont.)**

Indicator	Palestinian Territory	Gaza Strip	West Bank	
<b>Exposure to Injury</b>				
Exposed	16.1	16.2	16.1	
Not exposed	83.9	83.8	83.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Facing difficulties at work</b>				
Facing difficulties	25.2	28.2	23.4	
Not Facing	74.8	71.8	76.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Child realize work risks</b>				
Realize	73.4	71.3	74.8	
Do not realize	26.6	28.7	25.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	