

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)**  
**Press Release**  
**On the Primary Findings of the Economic Surveys Series, 2003**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) is pleased to disseminate the Primary findings of the Economic Surveys Series for the year 2003. As in the previous rounds, this release covers the main economic activities practiced in the Palestinian Territory, including; Industry, constructions, internal trade, transport and communications, and services activities. Data collection took place during the period 1/4/2004 – 30/6/2004 on a sample composed of **7,307** establishments, of which **4,643** in West Bank and **2,664** in Gaza Strip.

It should be mentioned that this release represents the main finding of the surveys for the Remaining West Bank and Gaza strip. (Excluding that parts of Jerusalem governorate which was annexed after the Israeli occupation 1967).

The surveys results reveal that, there are 65,599 establishments operating in the covered economic activities in 2003, this number is distributed by economic activity as follow: industrial activities 20.9% construction activities 0.5% internal trade activities 59.7% services activities 18.2% and transport, storage and communications activities 0.7%.

During the year 2003, the average number of persons engaged in these economic activities was 186,847 worker, this number declined by 4.7% compared with the same figure in 2002. and the result show that value of output value was 2,317.4 million US\$.

Regarding the other economic indicators, the surveys results indicate that the gross value added amount to 1,340.8 million US\$, and this value was distributed as follow: industrial activities 35.8% construction activities 3.8% internal trade activities 31.3%, services activities 15.9% and transport, storage and communications activities 13.2%, this indicator goes up by 24.6% compared with the same figures in 2002.

On the other side, the main findings of the surveys show that Gross Fixed Capital Formation (CFGF) amount to 41.2 million US\$, it increased by 9.0% in comparison with its value in the previous year (2002), this value in 2003 was distributed by economic activity as follow: transport, storage and communication activities 31.9%, industrial activities 21.7%, constructions activities 3.2%, internal trade activities 16.0%, and finally services activities 27.2%.

Due to the negative impact of the Israeli measures and difficult economic situations during the surveys period, 15.8% of the establishments of the industrial activities were permanently closed, 14.0% in construction activities, 14.5% in internal trade, 12.2% in transport and communication and 16.3% in services activities.

The next table represents main results in Remaining West Bank and Gaza strip for years 1999 - 2003:

(Value in million US \$)

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
No. of Establishment	65,959	69,998	66,193	67,058	65,599
No. of Worker	193,671	206,285	203,006	194,024	186,847
Out put	2,851.1	2,944.0	2,333.5	2,009.1	2,317.4
Value added	1,625.2	1,602.8	1,179.2	1,083.5	1,340.8