



The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announce a press release about the preliminary results of the Palestinian foreign trade - 2002.

1,132 Million US\$ Imports, and 305 Million US\$ Exports

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announce the preliminary results of the Palestinian foreign trade statistics with Israel, as the direct imports from the other countries were not available in 2002, therefore this release will cover about 75% of the imports from Israel.

The foreign trade statistics in 2002 were prepared to include goods and service, net trade balance and the trade transaction, in which based on the VAT vouchers of the value added tax and other sources.

The main findings of the preliminary results are:

Imports:

The Imports value of goods and services are amounted to 1,088 and 44 Million US\$, respectively, the deficit ratio of imports of goods is 21% comparing with the year 2001, this deficit caused by the decrease in the raw materials and food preparations with 25% and 11% respectively.

The decrease ratio of Imports on services in 2002 is 34% comparing with the year 2001. The goods for processing is the reason around this decrease such as food processing ratio is nearly 18%, moreover, the deficit ratio in 2002, Imports comparing with 1999 is 41%.

Exports:

The value of the total exports to Israel amounted to 305 Million US\$, the exports of goods and services amounted to 239 Million US\$, and 66 Million US\$ respectively, the decrease of exports of goods is nearly 12% in 2002 comparing with 2001, this deficit caused mainly by the decrease in the chemical material products with nearly 45% and the decrease in the beverages and tobacco with nearly 44%.

The decrease of exports of services is nearly 23% in 2002 comparing with 2001, this deficit caused mainly by the decrease in the goods for processing services

Net Trade and Trade Transaction:

The trade transaction of goods amounted to 1, 327 Million US\$, while the deficit of the Trade Balance on goods amounted to 894 US\$, the overabundant in the trade balance on services amounted to 22 US\$, and the trade transaction on services amounted to 109 Million US\$.