



Press Release

**The Consumer Price Index for food items goes up by 4.66 % During January
2006 in Gaza Strip due to the closure of Almontar passage (Karni)**

The closure of Karni passage for more than 20 days during January 2006, caused serious economic and humanitarian crisis for the Gazan population, the flow of goods from and into Gaza Strip, which leads to a sharp increase in relevant prices.

The consumer price index numbers for food items in Gaza Strip for the base year (1996=100), reached 133.95 in January 2006, reported an increase by 4.77% increase compared with December 2005, this increase is a result of the increase in prices of fruit and vegetables which goes up by 20.22%, and sugar prices by 9.44%, and prices of children milk by 6.54%. Consumer prices during January 2006 increased by 2.11% compared with the same month of 2005, due to the increase in food items prices by 2.06%.

Through the analysis of the price changes of commodities in Gaza Strip, it is apparent **that prices of the following major groups of expenditure have increased as follows:**

- Food by 4.66 %
- Transport and communications by 0.56 %
- Medical care by 0.48 %
- Beverages and tobacco by 0.14 %
- Housing by 0.05 %

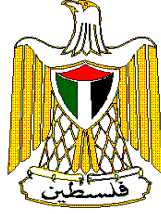
Prices of other following major groups of expenditure have declined as follows:

- Miscellaneous goods and services by 0.32%
- Textiles, clothing and footwear by 0.02 %
- Furniture, household goods and services by 0.01 %

The Prices of Gaza Strip have increased by 2.00% during January 2006 compared with December 2005, and increased by 12.12% compared with September 2000.

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**Palestinian Central Bureau
Of Statistics**



**Palestinian Consumer
Price Index**

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