

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

**Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population
Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, September 2003**

The press conference of the survey results

November, 2003

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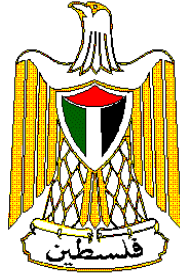
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Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, September 2003

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Press Release
On the Main Findings of the Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions, September 2003

“The overall well-being of 45% of Palestinian households deteriorated in September 2003, and closure was an obstacle faced more than half of the Palestinian households during past six months”

PCBS conducted the first round of the survey on the perception of the Palestinian people about the socioeconomic conditions. Data collection took place during the period 27/9/2003-04/10/2003 on a sample composed of 1188 households, of which 1182 completed the interview (798 in West Bank and 384 in Gaza Strip).

Current Situation

45.3% of interviewed persons reported that the overall well being of their households is worse in September compared with a month ago (45.3% in the West Bank and 45.5% in Gaza Strip), while 10.0% reported that it is better (11.1% in the West Bank and 7.8% in Gaza Strip).

4.2% during interviewing reported that the ability of households members to move around is significantly harder this week compared with a week ago (5.2% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip), while 2.9% reported that it is significantly easier (2.8% in the West Bank and 3.1% in Gaza Strip)

Short Term Expectations:

About 7.4% of the respondents expected that overall well being of households will be much worse in a month time (6.5% in the West Bank and 8.8% in Gaza Strip), against 2.9% expected that it will be much better (3.2% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip).

Data reveal that the Palestinian people have an optimistic trend of perception in the short and medium run future. It is worth mentioning that the older and more educated persons have a more cautious optimistic perception trend. No significant differences were observed in the perception of Palestinian people by refugee status at the short run, despite the fact that refugees are more optimistic at the long run.

4.2% of interviewed persons reported that the ability of households members to move around is significantly harder next month compared with interviewing week (4.3% in the West Bank and 4.1% in Gaza Strip), while 1.8% reported that it is significantly easier (2.2% in the West Bank and 1.1% in Gaza Strip)

17.2% of interviewed persons reported that they are very pessimistic to find a job next month, while 1.4% were optimistic.

long Term Expectations:

About 10.1% of the respondents expected that overall well being of households will be much worse in six months time (9.1% in the West Bank and 11.9% in Gaza Strip), against 6.2% expected that life will be much better (5.9% in the West Bank and 6.8% in Gaza Strip).

8.6% of interviewed persons reported that the ability of households members to move around is significantly harder in six months time compared with interviewing week (9.2% in the West

Bank and 7.4% in Gaza Strip), while 5.0% reported that it is significantly easier (5.9% in the West Bank and 3.3% in Gaza Strip)

Priorities of households:

Data reveal that 26.2% of the households reported the need for food as a first priority, 18.8% the need for work, 21.0% the need for financial assistance and 8.1% reported the need for health services as a first priority.

Priority Needs of Communities:

About 5.1% reported that the most important need for their community is food assistance, 46.9% reported the need for work, 15.4% for health services, and 19.9% reported the need for facilities infrastructure.

Comparing the results of the current survey round with the large-scale pilot survey conducted in August 2003, we could observe that at the short run the percentage optimistic people increased and percentage of pessimistic people decreased with regard of to overall well-being of households, mobility, and possibility to meet the needs of the households and communities, on the contrary, unemployed persons were less optimistic to find a job. At the medium run, the level of optimism declined with regard to all aspects under study, including the overall well-being, mobility, finding a job, and the possibility to meet the basic needs of households and communities.

Main changes on the indicators of attitudes of Palestinians in the Palestinian Territory

Indicator	September 2003		August 2003		
	(%)		(%)		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next Year	Next Month	
Percentage of households who expect better life	40.5	34.5	51.0	30.9	
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	31.9	26.9	-	21.2	
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	43.7	39.1	72.8	41.9	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	55.3	50.5	63.2	43.0	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	49.3	41.1	55.0	33.0	

Main changes on the indicators of attitudes of Palestinians in West Bank

Indicator	September 2003		August 2003		
	(%)		(%)		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next Year	Next Month	
Percentage of households who expect better life	41.7	35.9	50.7	31.4	
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	37.9	32.6	-	24.2	
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	46.3	41.8	77.4	41.9	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	59.5	56.7	63.1	42.1	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	53.9	46.9	52.5	31.4	

The changes come about main indicators of attitude of Palestinians in Gaza Strip

Indicator	September 2003		August 2003		
	(%)		(%)		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next Year	Next Month	
Percentage of households who expect better life	38.2	32.0	51.6	30.2	
Percentage of households who expect better mobility (less mobility restrictions)	20.5	16.2	-	15.4	
Percentage of unemployed persons who are optimistic to find a job	36.2	30.9	64.9	41.8	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet household basic needs	49.3	40.1	63.4	44.9	
Percentage of persons who are optimistic to meet the community basic needs	41.1	30.8	59.8	35.9	

(2003)

:1

Table 1: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households Today Compared With One Month Ago by Region (September 2003)

Attitude	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
A lot better today	2.6	3.3	3.1	
Somewhat better today	5.2	7.8	6.9	
About the same/ Unchanged	46.7	43.6	44.7	/
Somewhat worse today	33.2	33.3	33.3	
A lot worse today	12.3	12.0	12.0	
Total	100	100	100	

(2003)

:2

Table 2: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households in the Future Compared with Today and Region, (September 2003)

Attitude	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %
A lot better from now	6.8	2.4	5.9	3.2	6.2	2.9
Somewhat better from now	31.4	29.6	35.8	32.7	34.3	31.6
About the same /unchanged	29.0	35.5	26.9	30.8	27.6	32.4
Somewhat worse from now	20.9	23.7	22.3	26.8	21.8	25.7
A lot worse from now	11.9	8.8	9.1	6.5	10.1	7.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:3

Table 3: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households in the Future by Selected Characteristics (September 2003)

Characteristics	Time Period				
	Next Six Months %		Next Month		
	Worse %	Better %	Worse %	Better %	
Age Group					
15-24	27.6	49.6	30.3	41.0	24-15
25-44	30.8	36.4	31.8	30.6	44-25
45+	38.7	35.6	38.3	32.7	+45
Refugee status					
Refugee	32.0	40.8	32.7	35.8	
Non - Refugee	31.7	40.4	33.3	33.8	
Type of Identity					
Palestinian Identity Card	30.4	42.0	31.9	36.0	
Jerusalem Identity Card	49.2	23.3	45.1	21.0	
Israeli Identity Card	56.1	25.9	56.1	21.8	

(2003)

: -3

Table 3-cont.: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Overall “Quality of Life” Enjoyed by the Households Today Compared with Last Month and Their Expectation in the Future by Selected Characteristics (August 2003)

Characteristics	Time Period				
	Next Six Months %		Next Month		
	Worse %	Better %	Worse %	Better %	
Education					
Less than Preparatory	33.5	39.8	34.5	36.2	
Preparatory - secondary	27.4	42.8	30.2	35.3	-
Diploma	42.0	32.6	39.5	25.3	
Bachelor +	48.5	31.4	42.3	25.6	+

(2003)

:4

Table 4: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Level of Disturbance Caused by Restrictions on Mobility Imposed by Israeli military forces and Region, (September 2003)

Level of Disturbance	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
A lot	34.4	27.0	64.9	64.8	53.8	51.1
A little	21.6	22.9	19.2	18.6	20.1	20.1
Not at all	44.0	50.1	15.9	16.6	26.1	28.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:5

Table 5: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Need Medical Care for Households in the Past Month and Past Six Months and Region, (September 2003)

Need for medical care	Region and Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
Yes	74.2	67.2	74.9	71.2	74.6	69.8
No	25.5	32.8	24.6	28.8	24.9	30.2
Don't know/ no answer	0.3	—	0.5	—	0.5	—
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:6

Table 6: Distribution of Palestinian Households by ability for household member to access Necessary Medical Care in the Past Month and Past Six Months and Region, (September 2003)

Ability to access medical care	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
Impossible	1.0	-	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.3
Very difficult	6.0	5.5	23.1	20.4	17.2	15.4
Difficult	7.3	7.9	27.0	29.1	20.2	22.0
Few problems	33.7	34.2	20.1	19.9	24.7	24.7
No problem at all	52.0	52.4	27.7	28.7	36.1	36.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:7

Table 7: Distribution of Palestinian Households by ability of household member to reach work place in the Past Month and Past Six Months and Region (September 2003)

Ability to reach place of work	Region and Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
Impossible	0.3	0.4	1.7	2.7	1.2	1.9
Very difficult	11.8	8.4	22.2	20.0	18.6	16.0
Difficult	6.7	4.5	21.6	22.0	16.5	16.0
Few problems	19.7	21.0	19.2	17.2	19.4	18.5
No problem at all	61.5	65.7	35.3	38.1	44.3	47.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:8

Table 8: Distribution of Palestinian Households by Ability to Cultivate Land in the Past Month and Past Six Months and Region (September 2003)

Ability to cultivate land	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %
Impossible	27.7	27.7	10.5	11.0	13.9	14.3
Very difficult	4.8	4.8	13.4	11.7	11.7	10.3
Difficult	1.9	0.6	12.5	14.4	10.4	11.7
Few problems	10.4	11.0	16.9	15.9	15.6	14.9
No problem at all	55.2	55.9	46.7	47.0	48.4	48.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

:9

Table 9: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability for Household Members to Move Around This Week Compared to the Last week by Region (September 2003)

Ability for household members to move around this week compared to the last week	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	ô ô ô ô
Significantly easier this week	3.1	2.8	2.9	
Somewhat easier this week	6.7	11.1	9.6	
About the same/ Unchanged	76.1	61.6	66.6	
Somewhat harder this week	11.7	19.3	16.7	
Significantly harder this week	2.4	5.2	4.2	
Total	100	100	100	

(2003)

:10

Table 10: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability of Household Members to Move Around Next Month /Next Six Months and Region, (September 2003)

The ability of household members to move	Region and Time Period					
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory	
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %
Significantly easier next week	3.3	1.1	5.9	2.2	5.0	1.8
Somewhat easier next week	17.2	15.1	32.0	30.4	26.9	25.1
About the same/ Unchanged	58.2	64.4	35.1	44.3	43.1	51.3
Somewhat harder next week	13.9	15.3	17.8	18.8	16.4	17.6
Significantly harder next week	7.4	4.1	9.2	4.3	8.6	4.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(2003)

()

:11

Table 11: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Ability to Find a Job During the Next Month /Next Six Months by Region, (September 2003)

The Ability find a job	Region and Time Period						()
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
Very optimistic /very likely	6.5	0.8	5.0	1.5	5.4	1.4	()
Somewhat optimistic/likely	29.7	30.1	41.3	40.3	38.3	37.7	()
Neither optimistic/nor pessimistic	24.3	33.0	12.7	20.2	15.6	23.4	
Somewhat pessimistic/unlikely	29.5	20.9	23.8	20.0	25.2	20.3	()
Very pessimistic /very unlikely	10.0	15.2	17.2	18.0	15.5	17.2	()
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

(2003)

:12

Table 12: Distribution of Palestinian Households by Region and the Most Important Need for Households (September 2003)

Most important need	Gaza Strip %		West Bank %		Palestinian Territory %		
	Second Need	First Need	Second Need	First Need	Second Need	First Need	
Food	18.6	22.9	16.8	28.0	17.4	26.2	
Clothes	11.1	0.5	7.0	2.0	8.3	1.5	الملابس
Education	12.6	11.4	15.2	13.6	14.3	12.9	
Employment	13.9	29.5	16.5	13.1	15.7	18.8	العمل
Financial assistance	24.1	16.2	21.3	23.6	22.2	21.0	
Health	11.0	5.4	15.7	9.5	14.2	8.1	
Housing	3.3	8.5	6.3	7.8	5.3	8.0	()
Entertainment activities	4.9	4.1	1.1	1.3	2.3	2.3	
Other	0.5	1.5	0.1	1.1	0.3	1.2	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

جدول 13: توزيع الأسر الفلسطينية حسب الحاجة الأكثر أهمية للتجمعات السكانية والمنطقة (أيلول 2003)

Table 13: Distribution of Palestinian Households by the Most Important Need of Locality and Region, (September 2003)

The most important needs locality	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %
Create jobs	63.7	38.0	46.9
Health Services	6.5	20.1	15.4
Food assistances	3.7	5.8	5.1
Education Services	2.7	7.5	5.8
Infrastructure Project	20.8	19.4	19.9
No Need	2.6	9.2	6.9
Total	100	100	100

(2003)

:14

Table 14: Distribution of Palestinians by region and Their Knowledge about Development Projects conducted in the Community by Donors (September 2003)

Knowledge	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Yes	12.4	18.7	16.5	
No	87.6	81.3	83.5	
Total	100	100	100	

(2003)

:15

Table 15: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Satisfaction on the Development Projects conducted in the community (September 2003)

Stratification level	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	Ô	Ô
Very satisfied	41.5	44.6	43.8		
Somewhat satisfied	43.8	38.9	40.2		
Somewhat unsatisfied	4.4	5.9	5.5		
Very unsatisfied	10.3	10.6	10.5		
Total	100	100	100		

(2003)

:16

Table 16: Distribution of Palestinians by the Most Important Infrastructure Needs in the Community and Region, (September 2003)

The most important needs	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %
Electricity	3.8	7.7	6.4
Roads	14.6	11.0	12.2
Sewage disposal	36.2	19.1	25.0
Water supply	10.4	15.7	13.8
Schools	6.9	6.3	6.5
Health clinics / hospitals	9.2	14.4	12.6
No Need	18.9	25.8	23.5
Total	100	100	100

(2003)

:17

Table 17: The Attitude of Palestinians Toward the Satisfaction about Infrastructure Development Projects (September 2003)

Satisfied are you with effort	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %
Very satisfied	29.2	38.4	35.5
Somewhat satisfied	55.0	47.1	49.6
Somewhat unsatisfied	8.1	9.9	9.4
Very unsatisfied	7.7	4.6	5.5
Total	100	100	100