



The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announce a press release about the preliminary results of the Palestinian Foreign Trade - 2004.

An increase by 19% for imports and 15% for exports in 2004

2,211 Million US\$ Imports, and 407 Million US\$ Exports

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announce the preliminary results of the Palestinian foreign trade statistics with world countries for 2003, as the main results are not available on the detailed base according to the country of origin and commodity, the main results will be published before the end of this year.

The foreign trade statistics in 2004 were prepared to include goods and services, in which based on the vouchers of the value added tax (VAT) and other sources taking into account that trade transactions on services is available with Israel only.

The main findings of the preliminary results are:

Imports:

The total of Palestinian imports amounted to 2,211 Million US\$. The imports on goods amounted to 2,138 Million US\$, direct imports (imports from all countries excluding Israel) represents 36% and 64% from Israel, imports on services from Israel amounted to 72 Million US\$. The imports on goods increased by 19% compared with the year 2003. The main results indicate a decrease on imports of food preparations by 7% compared with 2003, and an increase of crude materials by 15% compared with the same year.

Regarding imports on services, the results indicate an increase by 18% compared with 2003. The custom clearance services is the reason behind this increase nearly 32% of total imports on services.

Exports:

The total value of Palestinian exports amounted to 407 Million US\$, the exports on goods amounted to 328 Million US\$, while exports on services from Israel amounted to 78 Million US\$. The exports on goods increased by 17% in 2004 comparing with 2003, this increase was a result of the increase in the stones exports by 20% and the miscellaneous manufactured articles by 18%.

Regarding exports on services in 2004, the results reveal an increase by 7% compared with 2003, this increase caused mainly by the increase in the goods for processing services that represents such as sewing clothes.

Net Trade and Trade Transaction:

The trade transaction on goods amounted to 2,467 Million US\$, with an increase by 19% compared with 2003, while the deficit of the Trade Balance on goods amounted to 1,809 US\$ with an increase by 19% compared 2003, this increase was a result of the increase in the imports compared with exports. The overabundance of the trade balance on services amounted to 6 Million US\$, and the trade transaction on services amounted to 151 Million US\$ with an increase by 12% compared with 2003.