



The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Announces the Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Foreign Trade in Goods – 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announced the preliminary results of the Palestinian statistics for foreign trade with world countries for 2008. The main results are not available as yet in detail according to the country of origin and commodity due to the delay in receiving part of the requested data from the main sources. The main results are expected to be published before the end of 2009.

Preliminary results for imports and exports of goods for the year 2008 were prepared based on the vouchers of the value added tax (VAT), and other sources such as customs data, certificates of origin, petroleum, electricity and agriculture data.

The preliminary results revealed that:

The total of imports of goods amounted to US\$ 3,772 Million, of which 72% were from Israel and 28% from all countries excluding Israel. The results indicate that imports increased by 20% compared with 2007. The main results indicate an increase of 9% in petroleum products and electric power compared with 2007, and an increase in chemical products and medicines of 11%. The results indicate that there was an increase in machinery and transport equipment of 12% compared with 2007.

Regarding country groups, the results indicate increases of 22% from Arab Countries, 15% from American Countries, 10% from European Union countries and 6% from Asian Countries compared with 2007.

The total value of exports of goods amounted to US\$ 529 Million in 2008, an increase of 3% compared with 2007; the results show an increase in items of stone of 8% and a decrease in food and live animals of 2% compared with 2007.

Regarding country groups, the results show an increase of 25% in exports to the European Countries, an increase of 35% to the American Countries, and an increase of 38% to the Arab Countries compared with 2007.

The trade transaction on goods amounted to US \$4,301 Million, with an increase of 17% compared with 2007, while the trade balance deficit on goods amounted to US\$ 3,243, an increase of 27% compared with 2007. This increase was a result of the increase in imports over exports in 2008.

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