

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

Press Release on the Main Results of Tourism Activities in the Palestinian Territory 2002

A significant decline in the supply side of tourism in the Palestinian territory

PCBS conducted a survey on the tourism supply through a special survey on the tourism activities in the Palestinian Territory 2002. The main objective of the survey was to provide statistical information on tourism supply and capacity of tourism establishments and the impact of Israeli measures on tourism sector. Data collection took place during the period 25/6 – 30/9/2003, as a census of all establishments operating in tourism activities (manufacturing establishments of tourist products, hotels and restaurants, trading establishments, traveling and transport agencies and other related services). The frame was composed of 854 establishments, of which 772 in West Bank and 82 in Gaza Strip.

The results show a high decline in the capacity and the volume of services offered by tourism establishments in the year 2002 compared with 2000, as the number of establishments providing the coordination of tourist activities with personal guide was 42 establishments in 2002 compared with 295 in 2000, and the number of establishments providing the reservation for accommodation and coordination for tourist activities declined to 119 establishments compared with 246 for the same period.

On the other side, the results show a significant decline in the number of sold tickets by the traveling agencies in the Palestinian Territory, they were 29,704 tickets in 2002 compared with 71,531 for the year 2000, this also has an additional impact on the number of tourist visits, as the number declined to 2,285 in the year 2002, while it was 11,103 in the year 2000, the most decrease was for the tourist visit within Palestinian Territory, which declined by 83% for the same period. The results indicate also that the number of car renting days declined to 33,182 days in 2002 compared with 224,257 days in the year 2000.

The results present a significant negative impact of the Israeli measures on the economic performance of the establishments, as the number of persons engaged declined by 51.6% in the year 2002 compared with 2000, (the most impacted were the hotels and restaurants by 64.3%). Also the output was declined by 73% for the same period, (the hotels and restaurants were mostly impacted as their output declined by 86% for the same period).

And on the direct damages (losses side), the survey results show that tourism establishments reported 1.7 million US \$ as the value of the direct damages in their fixed assets up to the end of the third quarter 2003. While the reported value of financial support was 1.1 million US \$.