The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011/12

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Chapter Seven

Demographic, Economic and Educational Indicators

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Demographic, Economic and Educational Indicators

Introduction

Demographic, economic and educational indicators present an important and accurate impression of the situation of the Palestinian people. In this chapter, we will present the most significant of these indicators through the most recent data available at the end of 2011. The demographic indicators will cover the Palestinian people at home and abroad while the economic and educational indicators cover the WB and GS only, as it is still difficult to secure such information about the Palestinians abroad.

First: Demographic Indicators

The Palestinian people still suffer the many consequences of displacement and dispossession and the disruption to their social fabric because of the Israeli occupation, massacres and expulsions. There are 5.63 million Palestinians abroad and 1.87 million Palestinian refugees in the WB and GS, deprived of their right to return to their homes and land.

However, the Palestinians are a young population with a high natural growth rate and are, accordingly, expected to outnumber the Jews in historic Palestine within a few years. In addition, Palestinians abroad are becoming more resilient regarding the issue of the right of return as demonstrated by the rising number of pertinent activities and campaigns.

1. The Palestinian Population Worldwide

According to PCBS estimates, the number of Palestinians was 11.22 million at the end of 2011, up from 11.14 million at the end of 2010.[1]

5.6 million Palestinians, 49.9% of the worldwide Palestinian population live in historic Palestine consisting of the territories occupied in 1948 and 1967. In the WB and GS, there are 4.23 million Palestinians while 1.37 million Palestinians live in the lands occupied in 1948 (Israel) respectively comprising 37.7% and 12.2% of the worldwide Palestinian population.

The following table shows the estimated worldwide Palestinian population according to place of residence at the end of 2011.

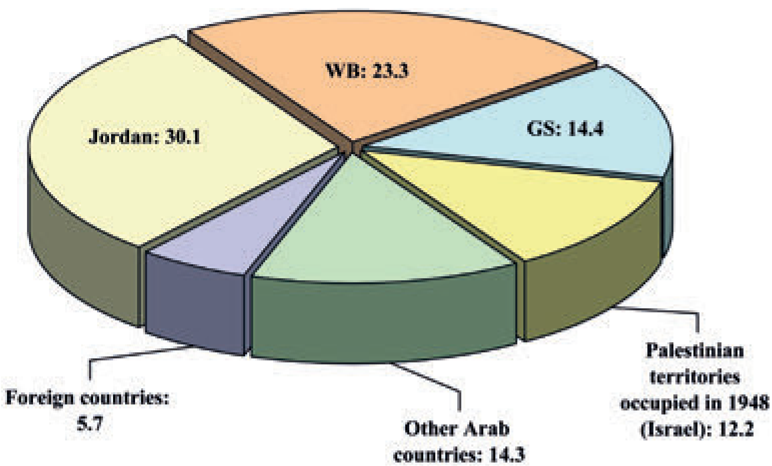
Table 1/7: Palestinian Population Worldwide Estimate According to Place of Residence at the End of 2011[2]

Place of residence		Population estimate (thousands)	Percentage (%)
Palestinian territories occupied in 1967	WB	2,615	23.3
	GS	1,616	14.4
Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 (Israel)*		1,367	12.2
Jordan		3,384**	30.1
Other Arab countries		1,606	14.3
Foreign countries		636	5.7
Total		**11,224**	**100**

* For the Palestinian population in the 1948 occupied territories; the number does not include the Palestinians in the 1967 occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Nor does it include Arab Syrians, Lebanese or non-Arab Christians or those classified as "Others." According to the figures in Chapter 2, the number amounted to 1.294 million after excluding the citizens in East Jerusalem and the Golan.

** The number of Palestinians in Jordan was estimated according to the figures available at the end of 2010 and the researcher's estimates based on the annual growth rates issued by the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS) in 2011, and which constituted 2.2%.

Palestinian Population Worldwide Estimate According to Place of Residence at the End of 2011 (%)



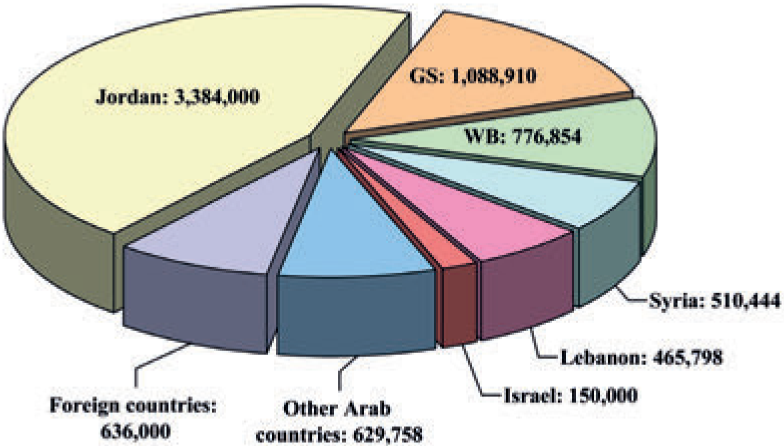
According to 2011 figures, the number of Palestinians in the Diaspora amounted to around 5.63 million, 50.1% of total Palestinian population. These people are predominantly concentrated in neighboring Arab countries, most significantly in Jordan where the number of Palestinians was estimated at 3.38 million at the end of 2011, 30.1% of total Palestinian population. Other Arab countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and the Gulf states, host around 1.61 million Palestinians comprising 14.3% of Palestinian population worldwide. Around 636 thousand Palestinians live in other foreign countries, making up 5.7% of Palestinians around the world.

Worthy of mention is the fact that Palestinian refugees are made up not only of those expelled outside Palestine. In fact, there are 1.87 million refugees living in the 1967 occupied territories in addition to 150 thousand refugees who were expelled from their land but are still living in the 1948 occupied territories (Israel). Thus, the number of Palestinian refugees is estimated at 7.6 million representing around 67.7% of the Palestinian population. There might be certain unreliability in calculating some figures due to changes of country of residence or citizenship, but this will be of marginal impact due to the large overall number of Palestinian refugees.

Table 2/7: Palestinian Refugees Worldwide; Population Estimates in 2011

Country	WB	GS	Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 (Israel)	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Other Arab countries	Foreign countries	Total
Population estimate	776,854	1,088,910	150,000	3,384,000	465,798	510,444	629,758	636,000	**7,641,764**

Palestinian Refugees Worldwide; Population Estimates in 2011



2. The Demographic Characteristics of Palestinians

a. The WB and GS

At the end of 2011, the population of the WB and GS was 4.231 million, including 2.615 million in the WB (61.8%) and 1.616 million in the GS (38.2%).

Figures available for 2011 show that 1.866 million of the population of the WB and GS are refugees (44.1% of the total population of these two territories). Around 777 thousand refugees live in the WB representing 29.7% of its residents. In the GS, there are 1.089 million refugees amounting to 67.4% of the total Gazan population.

Table 3/7: Palestinian Total and Refugee Population in the WB and GS 2011[3]

Place of residence	Total population		Refugee population	
	Estimate	Percentage (%)	Estimate	Percentage (%)
WB	2,614,594	61.8	776,854	29.7
GS	1,616,490	38.2	1,088,910	67.4
WB & GS	**4,231,084**	**100**	**1,865,764**	**44.1**

The Palestinian population in the WB and GS is mostly young; those aged under 15 were estimated to be 40.7% of the population at the end of 2011. There is considerable difference between the WB and GS as the percentage was 38.6% in the WB compared to 43.8% in the GS. However, the elderly (65 years and over) constitute only a small percentage of total population, estimated at 2.9%, with 3.3% in the WB and 2.3% in the GS (see table 5/7).

Available data shows that the Crude Death Rate (CDR) is relatively low compared to the rates in other Arab countries. In addition, CDR is expected to decrease in the WB and GS from 4 deaths per thousand inhabitants in 2011 to 3.6 in 2015.[4]

Natural population growth rate in the WB and GS reached 2.9% in mid-2011 with 2.6% in the WB and 3.3% in the GS. Growth rates are expected to remain unchanged for the next five years as the low mortality rate and high fertility rate, despite its relative decline, will result in high natural growth rate (see table 5/7).

Regarding household size, available data shows a slow annual decline in the average household size in the WB and GS. Based on PCBS estimates, the average household size decreased from 6.4 persons according to the 1997 population census to 5.8 in 2011. In the WB the average household size decreased from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.6 in 2011, while in GS it decreased from 6.9 persons in 1997 to 6.3 in 2011.[5]

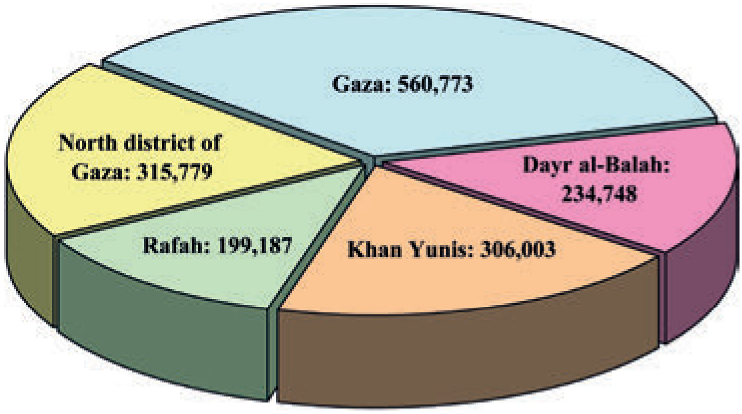
Figures also show that illiteracy rates among adults in the WB and GS are among the lowest rates in the world. Illiteracy rate among those aged 15 years and above was 4.7% in 2011, compared to 5.1% in 2010 and 13.9% in 1997. The illiterate person is classified as one who cannot read or write a simple sentence about their daily life.[6]

The following table shows the distribution of the population according to the estimates of the PCBS in the WB and GS governorates.

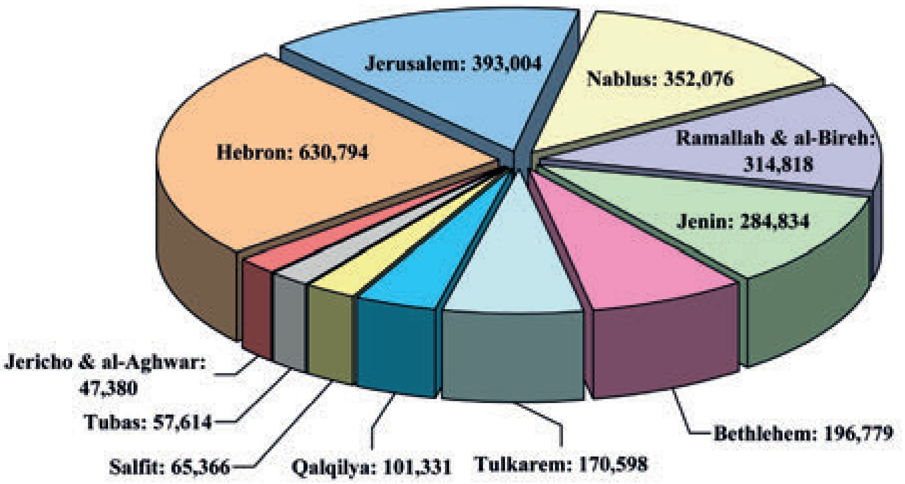
Table 4/7: Estimated Population Count by Governorate, 2007 & 2011[7]

Governorate	2007	2011	Annual growth rate 2007–2011
WB	**2,345,107**	**2,614,594**	**2.7**
Jenin	256,212	284,834	2.7
Tubas	48,771	57,614	4.3
Tulkarem	158,213	170,598	1.9
Nablus	321,493	352,076	2.3
Qalqilya	91,046	101,331	2.7
Salfit	59,464	65,366	2.4
Ramallah & al-Bireh	278,018	314,818	3.2
Jericho & al-Aghwar	41,724	47,380	3.2
Jerusalem	362,521	393,004	2
Bethlehem	176,515	196,779	2.8
Hebron	551,130	630,794	3.4
GS	**1,416,539**	**1,616,490**	**3.3**
North district of Gaza	270,245	315,779	4
Gaza	496,410	560,773	3.1
Dayr al-Balah	205,534	234,748	3.4
Khan Yunis	270,979	306,003	3.1
Rafah	173,371	199,187	3.5
Total (WB & GS)	**3,761,646**	**4,231,084**	**2.9**

Estimated Population Count in GS Governorates 2011



Estimated Population Count in WB Governorates 2011



The Palestinian population is distributed into 16 governorates including 5 governorates in the GS and 11 in the WB. According to statistics, Hebron is the largest governorate in terms of population, estimated at 14.9% of total Palestinians in the WB and GS. Gaza governorate follows with 13.3% and then Jerusalem comprising 9.3% of total population. Available data also show that the least populated governorate is Jericho and al-Aghwar with 1.1% of total population at the end of 2011.

b. The Palestinian Territories Occupied in 1948 (Israel)

There were around 1.37 million Palestinians in Israel at the end of 2011 compared to around 1.28 million in 2010. The available data regarding the number of Palestinians residing in Israel in 2010 shows that they are a predominantly young population. Those aged less than 15 years represent 38% of males and 37.2% of females while those aged 65 years and over represent 3.6% of males and 4.1% of females.[8]

The fertility rate of the Palestinians in Israel reached 3.5 births per woman in 2010 compared to 3.62 in 2007. This rate is relatively high when compared to the general fertility rate in Israel. Data also shows that the average Palestinian household size reached 4.4 persons per family in 2010 compared to 5 in 2007. Moreover, the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) for 2010 amounted to around 26.2 births per thousand inhabitants, while the infant mortality rate over the same period reached 7 deaths per thousand live births. The sex ratio in 2010 was 102.2 males per 100 females and the illiteracy rate amounted to 5.8% among Palestinians aged 15 years and over. However, these figures do not include Arabs in the occupied Golan Heights or the population in J1 of Jerusalem. Nor do they include the Lebanese who moved for a temporary residence in Israel. The Israeli authorities consider all these groups within its population and within the Arab population as a whole.[9]

c. Jordan

There were 3.38 million Palestinians in Jordan in 2011 compared to 3.31 million at the end of 2010, according to the researcher's estimates (see table 1/7). There is no updated data regarding the characteristics of the Palestinians in Jordan while figures available from 2007 show that they constitute a predominantly young population with 35.9% below 15 years of age and 5.2% for those of 65 years and over.

According to data published by the PCBS for 2010, the total fertility rate among Palestinian women in Jordan totaled around 3.3 births per woman and the average household size was 4.8 members. The infant mortality rate was 22.6 deaths per thousand live births, whereas the mortality rate among children aged under five reached 25.7% per thousand live births for the same year.[10]

According to UNRWA figures, the total Registered Persons (RPs) was 2,047,367 as of 1/1/2012 compared to 1,999,466 Registered Refugees (RRs) as of 1/1/2011. This means that the annual population growth rate of the RPs in Jordan alone is around 2.3%.[11]

d. Syria

The number of UNRWA-RPs in Syria was 510,444 persons as of 1/1/2012, compared to 495,970 RRs as of 1/1/2011, an annual population growth rate estimated at 2.9%. Around 30.2% of Palestinian refugees in Syria lived in refugee camps as of 1/1/2012. Worthy of mention is that these figures do not include the Palestinians who were displaced to Syria in 1967 and 1970, since most of them are not registered with UNRWA.[12]

According to PCBS figures, those aged under 15 amounted to around 33.1% in 2009. The average household size was 4.1 members in 2010 while the total fertility rate was 2.5 births per woman. The sex ratio was estimated at 100.4 males for every 100 females in 2009. CBR amounted to 29.2 births per thousand persons and the infant mortality rate reached 28.2 deaths per thousand live births while mortality rate among children aged under five reached 31.5 deaths per thousand live births in 2010.[13]

e. Lebanon

There are 465,798 UNRWA-RPs as of 1/1/2012 compared to 455,373 RRs as of 1/1/2011 with annual population growth estimated at 2.2%. Around 50.1% of these live in camps, as of 1/1/2012.[14] According to 2010 figures, the number of those aged under 15 years amounted to 30.4% while those 65 years and over amounted to 5%. The sex ratio was estimated at 102.5 males per 100 females during 2010 (see table 5/7).

Available data shows that the average household size was 3.9 members, while the fertility rate reached 3.2 births per woman in 2010. CBR was 25.8 births per thousand persons and the infant mortality rate reached 19 deaths per thousand live births while the mortality rate among children aged under five was 21.7 deaths per thousand live births for the same year.[15]

f. General Comparisons Among Palestinians

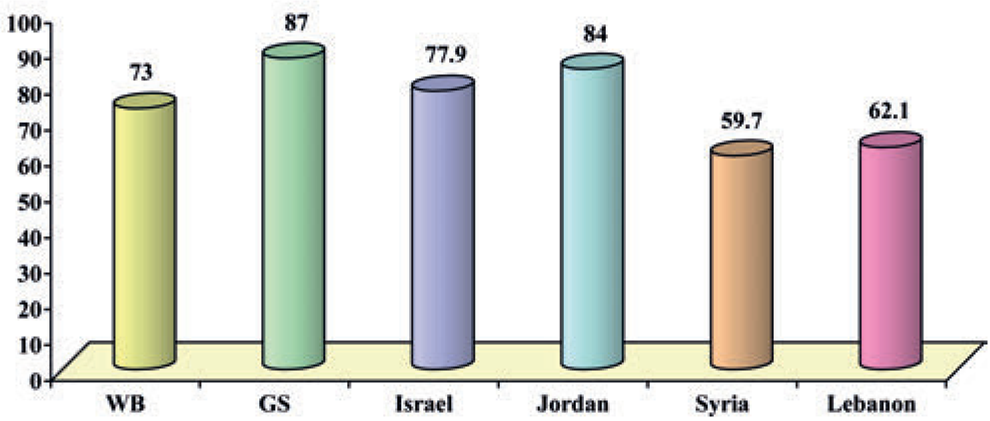
The following comparative table represents a summary of the most important comparisons of some demographic indicators of the Palestinian population, in 2010 and 2011 (unless otherwise indicated between parentheses).

Table 5/7: Selected Demographic Indicators of Palestinians by Residence[16]

Indicator	WB 2011	GS 2011	WB & GS 2011	Israel 2010	Jordan 2010	Syria 2010	Lebanon 2010
% of individuals 15 years or less	38.6	43.8	40.7	37.5	35.9 (2007)	33.1 (2009)	30.4
% of individuals 65 years or over	3.3	2.3	2.9	3.9	5.2 (2007)	4.4 (2009)	5
Dependency rate (per 100 individuals 15–64 years)	73	87	75	77.9 (2007)	84 (2007)	59.7 (2007)	62.1 (2007)
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	103.2	103.1	103.2	102.2	-	100.4 (2009)	102.5
CBR (births per 1,000 inhabitants)	30.1	37.2	32.8	26.2	29.2	29.2	25.8
CDR (deaths per 1,000 inhabitants)	4.1	3.9	4	2.7	-	2.8 (2006)	-
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	3.8 (2010)	4.9 (2010)	4.2 (2010)	3.5	3.3	2.5	3.2
Natural population growth rate	2.6	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.3	1.6	2.2
Average household size (individuals per house)	5.6	6.3	5.8	4.4	4.8	4.1	3.9

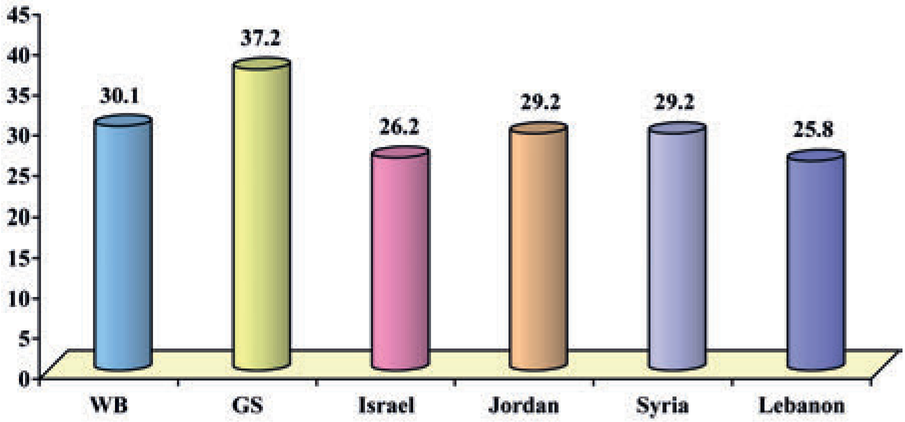
Note: (-) means data is not available and this should apply to all tables.

Dependency Rates of Palestinians by Residence (%)



Note: The dependency rates in the WB and GS are those of 2011, while those in Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are those of 2007.

CBR of Palestinians by Residence



Note: The CBRs in the WB and GS are in 2011, while those in Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are in 2010.

From the previous table, we note the following:

- The percentage of Palestinians aged under 15 years is highest in GS and lowest in Lebanon.
- The dependency rate in GS is highest, followed by that of the Palestinian population in Jordan, then Israel and then the WB. Syria and Lebanon see the lowest dependency rate.
- The percentage of Palestinians aged 65 years and over is highest in Jordan, then Lebanon and lowest in GS.
- CBRs are highest in GS and WB, and lowest in Lebanon and Israel with particular demographic pressure in GS.
- CDRs remained high in the WB and the GS where it amounted to 4 deaths per thousand inhabitants in 2011. This is primarily due to Israel's racist policies and killing of the Palestinians.
- The natural population growth rate (that is the difference between the birth and death rates) remained the same in the PA territories, yet it remained high in the GS as compared to the WB.

3. The Palestinian Refugees

The UNRWA has recently provided updated statistics regarding the number of refugees in the areas of its operation where recent digitization of UNRWA's registration records enables it "to present more detailed beneficiary statistics."

UNRWA classified those registered with it into two categories, labeling them "Registered Refugees" and "Other Registered Persons." The latter category includes those eligible to receive the Agency's services according to the UNRWA website, which does not provide any further explanation. It is likely that these include beneficiaries who do not qualify for UNRWA's definition of the Palestinian refugee, which is a limited definition that does not cover all categories of refugees.

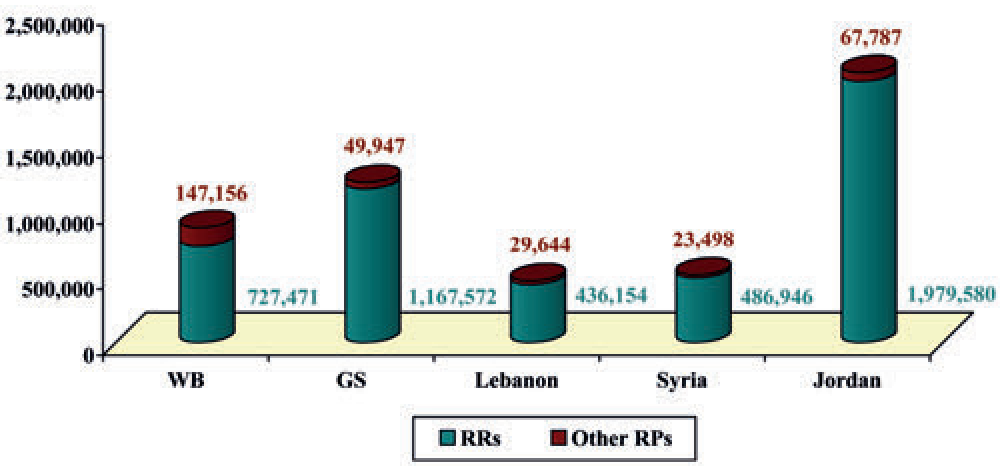
In fact, the new data created some confusion among researchers and specialists. It also triggered many questions that remained unanswered at the time of writing. It is not clear on what basis the Other RPs were categorized or how they amounted to more than 147 thousand in areas such as the WB. It is also not clear whether all of the 318 thousand persons classified as Other RPs or some of them were previously registered as Palestinian refugees. Questions were also raised regarding their citizenship when they were not Palestinians and the legal implications that follow from this registration. In addition, some observers did not find any logic in the mechanism pursued to identify the number of the refugees registered with the Agency as compared to previous years. This is because, according to statistics, the population growth of 1/1/2011 is estimated at strange rates such as 0.8% in Jordan, 6.9% in Lebanon, 8.9% in the WB, 5.5% in the GS and 5.1% in Syria. However, new population growth rates were provided on 1/1/2012, which are more logical but require more deliberation and scrutiny.[17] In this context, the expert on Palestinian refugees, Salman Abu Sitta, has written a memorandum regarding the dilemma caused by the new criteria pursued by UNRWA for classifying refugees. Abu Sitta pointed out that based on UNRWA's estimates for the last four years, the number of refugees at the beginning of 2012 should be 289 thousand less than the expected figure according to the natural growth defined by UNRWA itself.[18] For its part, UNRWA said that it has provided an accurate categorization of its data and that it would proceed with presenting its services for beneficiaries whose number are on the rise.[19]

The following table shows the number of RRs and the Other RPs according to UNRWA estimates as of 1/1/2012.

Table 6/7: UNRWA's Figures as of 1/1/2012[20]

Region	RRs	Other RPs	Total RPs
WB	727,471	147,156	874,627
GS	1,167,572	49,947	1,217,519
Lebanon	436,154	29,644	465,798
Syria	486,946	23,498	510,444
Jordan	1,979,580	67,787	2,047,367
Total	**4,797,723**	**318,032**	**5,115,755**

UNRWA's Figures as of 1/1/2012



However, if the growth rates used by UNRWA in recent years to count the number of refugees were adopted, the total number of refugees expected in early 2012 would be around 5.052 million persons of whom 846 thousand reside in the WB, 1.184 million in GS, 438 thousand in Lebanon, 491 thousand in Syria and 2.093 million in Jordan. Following the same hypothesis, this would mean that the category "Other RPs" included people who were counted as Palestinian refugees (around 254 thousand) whereas the remainder of UNRWA's 318 thousand (64 thousand) were instead added to these records.

According to UNRWA figures, the number of those registered in its records in early 2012 increased by around 149 thousand from 2011 and at annual growth rate of 3%. We can also note that the highest growth rate of the RPs is in GS (4.2%) and the lowest is in Lebanon (2.2%).[21] Table 7/7 summarizes the other most important characteristics of the Palestinian refugees at home and abroad.

The number of RPs in the five UNRWA regions of operation as of 1/1/2012 was estimated at around 5.12 million people, 40% of whom live in Jordan, 40.9% in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 (23.8% in GS and 17.1% in WB) and the other 19.1% in Syria and Lebanon.

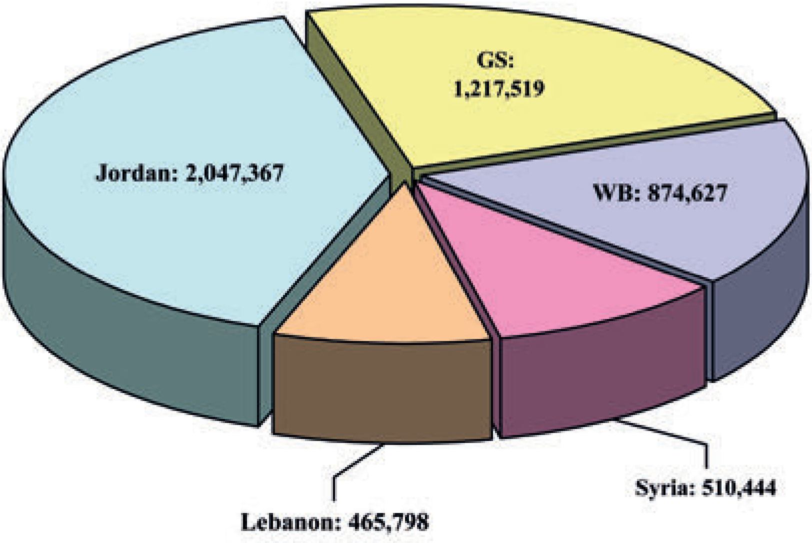
The RPs in Refugee Camps (RPCs) as a percentage of RPs amounted to 29% as of 1/1/2012, while UNRWA stated that the RRs in refugee camps as percentage of total RRs was 29.2% as of 1/1/2011. It is also noted that the percentage of those living in camps in Lebanon and the GS is the highest of all the other regions.

The average family size here does not represent the reality of many households (the extended family living together in one place). Rather, it reflects the nuclear family entitled to an independent family card. Accordingly, it is not strange to find the average size of the nuclear family less than the average household size. This is because this average decreases with time where we notice that in all areas of presence of Palestinian refugees the average family size slightly decreases with time. The general average decreased from 4.6 members per family in 2006 to 4.35 members in 2009.

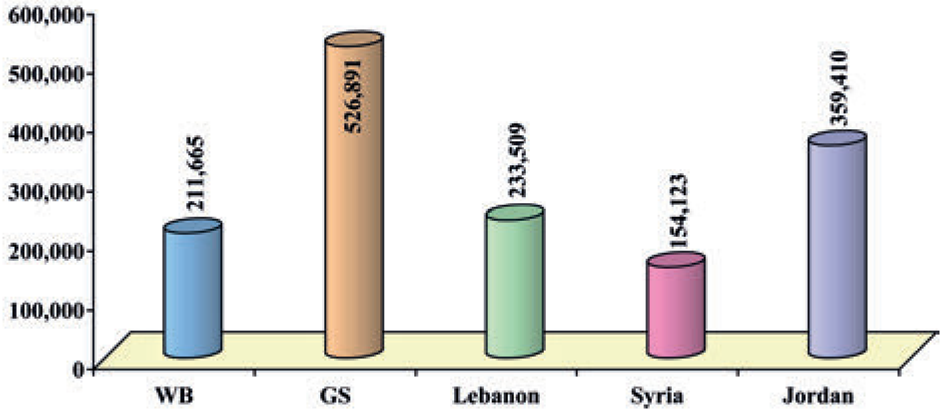
Table 7/7: UNRWA-RPs, Their Births and Families by Region[22]

Region	RPs (1/1/2012)	Births (30/9/2009)	Average family size (30/9/2009)	Families (30/9/2009)	Refugee camps	RPCs (1/1/2012)	RPCs as % of RPs (1/1/2012)
WB	874,627	7,309	3.79	204,674	19	211,665	24.2
GS	1,217,519	23,710	4.43	248,057	8	526,891	43.3
Lebanon	465,798	3,539	3.73	113,594	12	233,509	50.1
Syria	510,444	7,892	3.99	117,806	9	154,123	30.2
Jordan	2,047,367	18,744	4.87	405,666	10	359,410	17.6
Total	**5,115,755**	**61,149**	**4.35**	**1,089,797**	**58**	**1,485,598**	**29**

UNRWA-RPs by Region as of 1/1/2012



UNRWA-RPCs by Region as of 1/1/2012



4. Demographic Growth Trends

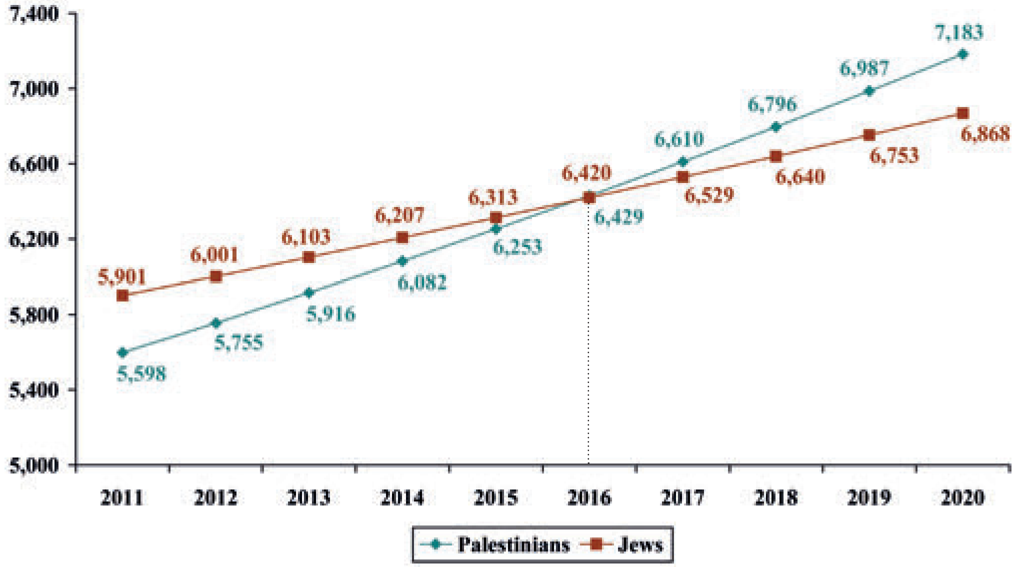
Despite the relative decrease in the natural growth rate among the Palestinian population, this rate remained high compared to other populations including the Israelis.

According to PCBS estimates, the number of Palestinians in historic Palestine amounted to around 5.6 million at the end of 2011, whereas Jews reached 5.9 million based on estimates by the CBS. Based on annual growth rates amounting to 2.9% for Palestinians in the WB and GS, 2.5% for Palestinians in the territories occupied in 1948 (Israel) and 1.7% for Jews, the number of Palestinians and Jews in historic Palestine will be equal during 2016. Both populations are expected to reach 6.4 million, assuming no change in the growth rates. By the end of 2020, Jews living in Palestine will comprise 48.9% of the population, around 6.9 million people compared to 7.2 million Palestinians.

Table 8/7: Estimated Population Count of Palestinians and Jews in Historic Palestine 2011–2020 (thousands)[23]

Year	Palestinians			Jews
	WB & GS	Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 (Israel)	Historic Palestine	
2011	4,231	1,367	5,598	5,901
2012	4,354	1,401	5,755	6,001
2013	4,480	1,436	5,916	6,103
2014	4,610	1,472	6,082	6,207
2015	4,744	1,509	6,253	6,313
2016	4,882	1,547	6,429	6,420
2017	5,024	1,586	6,610	6,529
2018	5,170	1,626	6,796	6,640
2019	5,320	1,667	6,987	6,753
2020	5,474	1,709	7,183	6,868

Estimated Population Count of Palestinians and Jews in Historic Palestine 2011–2020 (thousands)



Second: Economic Indicators in the WB and GS

While the reasons for the economic crises around the world have much to do with problems emanating from rising prices, inflation, the discrepancy between supply and demand, scarcity of resources, volatility of stock and bond markets, unemployment and poverty, the essence of the problems faced by the Palestinian economy is the Israeli occupation. The aggressive occupation seeks to destroy infrastructure, agricultural resources and factories, disrupt trade movement, confiscate property, besiege people, and create a repellent environment that suppresses the capacities of the Palestinian economy.

Israel imposes restrictions on the Palestinian economy through its control of movement on crossings and border exits in addition to internal impediments between northern governorates, cities and villages through fixed and flying checkpoints that hinder the movement of goods and people, leading to losses for producers and burdens for consumers. Israel has maintained its GS blockade since

2007 with only partial operation of crossings and a limited list of allowed goods. In general, Israel is consistent and blatant about depriving the Palestinian economy of any potential for development while maintaining living conditions at minimum humanitarian level.

1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The Palestinian economy witnessed 10.7% growth in 2011 compared to 9.3% in 2010. GDP increased from $5,728 million in 2010 to $6,339 million in 2011.

Tracking GDP over a longer period of time, from 1999 to 2011, an annual growth rate was achieved at 2.9%, which means the GDP tends to increase yet at a slight rate.

Table 9/7: GDP in the WB and GS 1999–2011 at Constant Prices* ($ million)[24]

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
GDP	4,511.7	4,118.5	3,765.2	3,264.1	3,749.6	4,198.4
Average annual growth or deterioration (%)	+8.8	-8.7	-8.6	-13.3	+14.9	+12

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008**	2009**	2010***	2011***
GDP	4,559.5	4,322.3	4,554.1	4,878.3	5,241.3	5,728	6,339
Average annual growth or deterioration (%)	+8.6	-5.2	+5.4	+7.1	+7.4	+9.3	+10.7

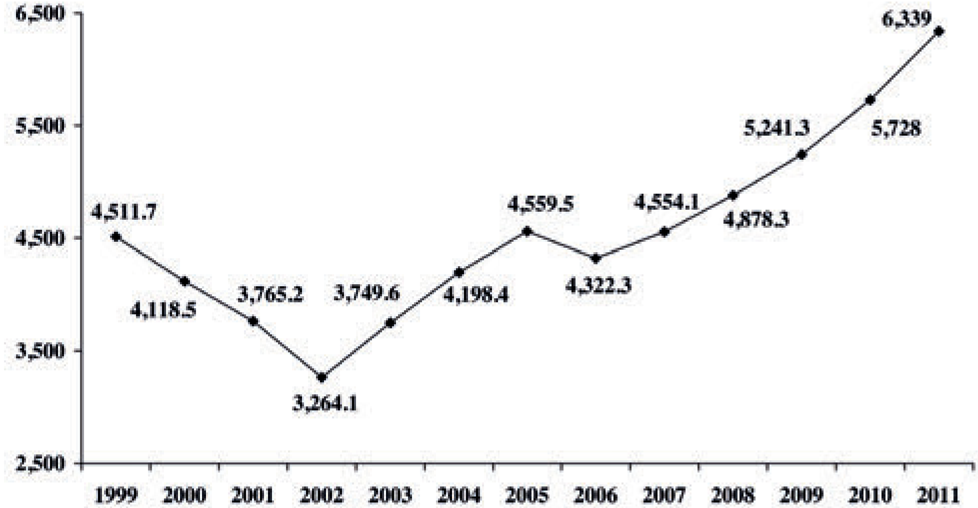
Note: The data excludes those parts of Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967, and this applies to all following tables in this chapter.

* Base year for the period 1999–2003 is 1997 and for the period 2004–2011 is 2004, and this applies to all following tables in this chapter.

** First revision.

*** Flash estimates.

GDP in the WB and GS 1999–2011 ($ million)



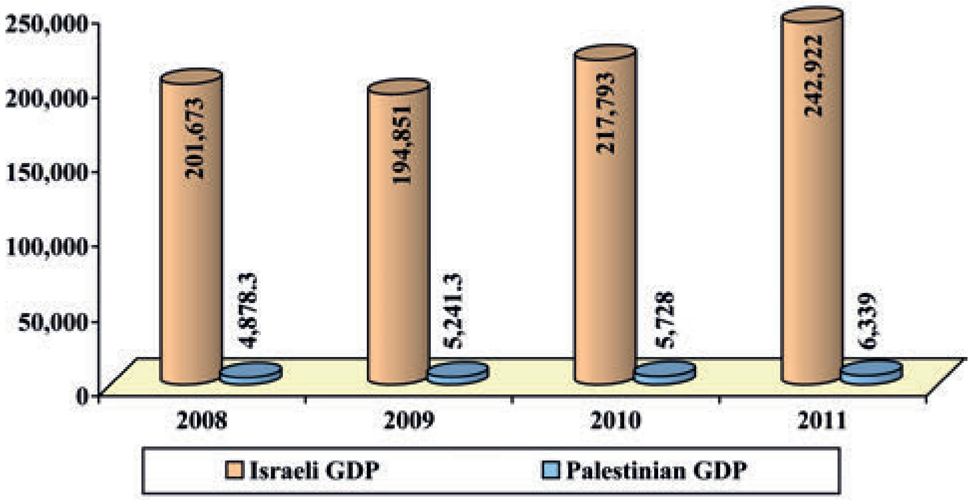
Israeli GDP amounted to $217,793 million in 2010 and $242,922 million in 2011. Thus, we notice that this GDP is 38 times higher than its Palestinian counterpart (3,832%). This discrepancy is a clear indication of the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian economy, its exploitation of Palestinian natural resources and prevention of Palestinians fulfilling their potential freely and efficiently.

Table 10/7: Comparing the Israeli and Palestinian GDP 2008–2011 ($ million)[25]

Year	Israeli GDP	Palestinian GDP (WB & GS)*
2008	201,673	4,878.3
2009	194,851	5,241.3
2010	217,793	5,728
2011	242,922	6,339

* Data of 2008 and 2009 are first revision and data of 2010 and 2011 are flash estimates.

Comparing the Israeli and Palestinian GDP 2008–2011 ($ million)



Furthermore, the GDP of the WB represented the greater part of the total Palestinian GDP in the WB and GS, amounting to 73.1% in 2011 compared to 26.9% in the GS. This means that GS's share of GDP is low especially when compared to total population in the WB and GS. At the end of 2011, 1.616 million people lived in GS, which is 38.2% of the population in the GS and WB.[26] The difference in the GDPs of the WB and GS dates back to before 1967 and is due to many factors, mainly the large disparity in the population size between the two, their workforce, land and natural resources.

The said growth was in part achieved through international aid provided to the PA. In fact, foreign aid amounted to $1,401.7 million in 2009, and continued in 2010 with slight deterioration as it amounted to $1,277.3 million. In 2011, it witnessed a noticeable decline estimated at 23% where it reached $983.2 million (see tables 17/7 and 27/7).

Table 11/7: GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 at Constant Prices ($ million)[27]

Year	WB		GS		WB & GS	
	GDP	%	GDP	%	GDP	%
2008*	3,716.7	76.2	1,161.6	23.8	**4,878.3**	**100**
2009*	4,071.5	77.7	1,169.8	22.3	**5,241.3**	**100**
2010**	4,381.4	76.5	1,346.6	23.5	**5,728**	**100**
2011**	4,634.4	73.1	1,704.6	26.9	**6,339**	**100**

* Data was revised based on revising National Accounts data 2008–2009.
** Flash estimates.

GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 ($ million)

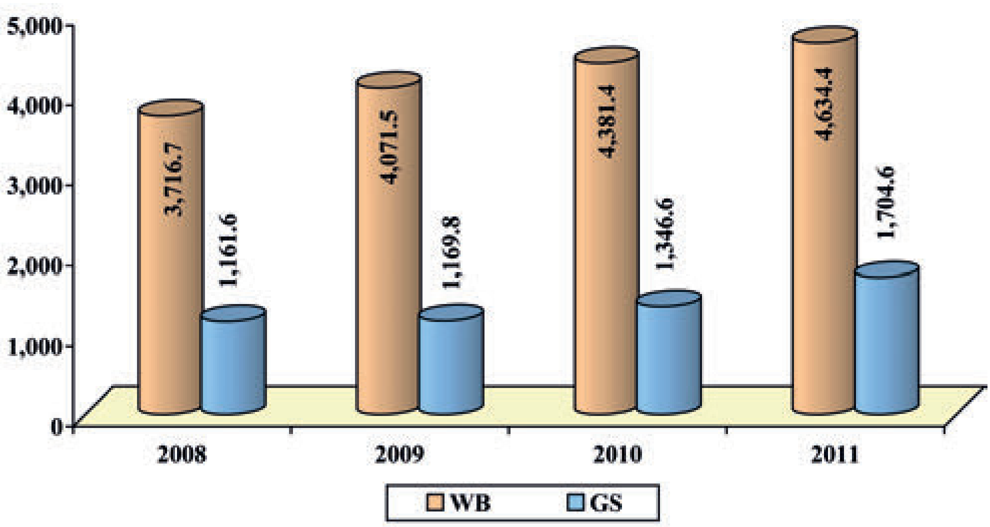


Table 12/7: GDP Growth in the WB and GS 2008–2011 at Constant Prices ($ million)[28]

Year		2008*	2009*	2010**	2011**
WB	GDP	3,716.7	4,071.5	4,381.4	4,634.4
	Average annual growth (%)	-	+9.5	+7.6	+5.8
GS	GDP	1,161.6	1,169.8	1,346.6	1,704.6
	Average annual growth (%)	-	+0.7	+15.1	+26.6

* Data was revised based on revising National Accounts data 2008–2009.
** Flash estimates.

2. GDP per Capita

This measure is considered one of the most widespread indicators reflecting the average per capita income owing to the ease of calculation and the possibility of comparing it on the domestic and international levels. However, it does not reflect the real distribution of income among people and thus remains a general normative indicator. GDP per capita amounted to $1,613.7 in 2011 compared to $1,502.4 in 2010 with growth rate estimated at 7.4%.

Tracing the GDP size in the WB and GS during 1999–2011, we notice that the GDP per capita, which amounted to $1,612 in 1999, assumed a declining and fluctuating track over the following years until 2011 when it maintained the value it reached in 1999 (see table 13/7).

Table 13/7: GDP per Capita in the WB and GS 1999–2011 at Constant Prices ($)[29]

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Annual estimate	1,612	1,450.2	1,287.9	1,084.8	1,210.9	1,317	1,387.2

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011**
Annual estimate	1,275.4	1,303.2	1,356.3	1,415.7	1,502.4	1,613.7

* Preliminary estimates. ** Flash estimates.

GDP per Capita in the WB and GS 1999–2011 ($)

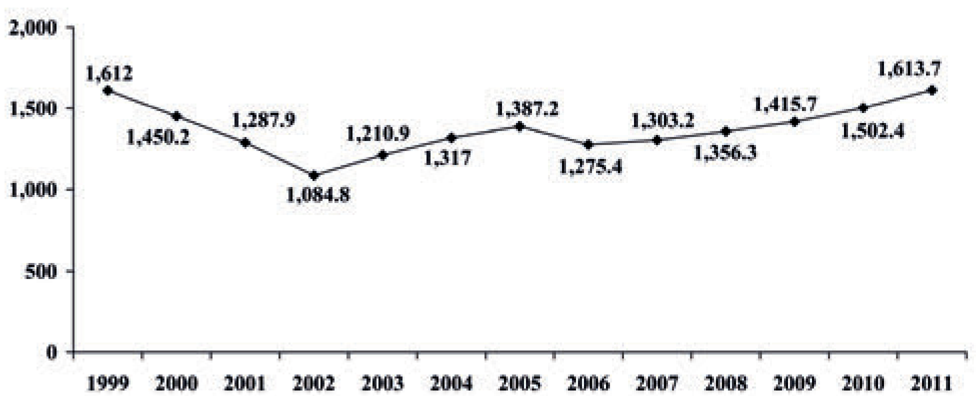
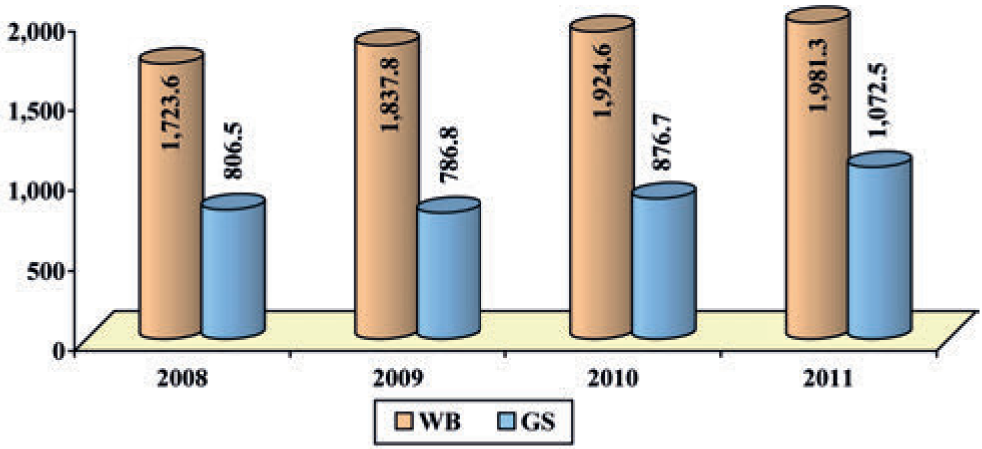


Table 14/7: GDP per Capita in the WB and GS 2008–2011 at Constant Prices ($)[30]

Year	WB	GS	WB & GS
2008	1,723.6	806.5	**1,356.3**
2009	1,837.8	786.8	**1,415.7**
2010*	1,924.6	876.7	**1,502.4**
2011**	1,981.3	1,072.5	**1,613.7**

* Preliminary estimates. ** Flash estimates.

GDP per Capita in the WB and GS 2008–2011 ($)



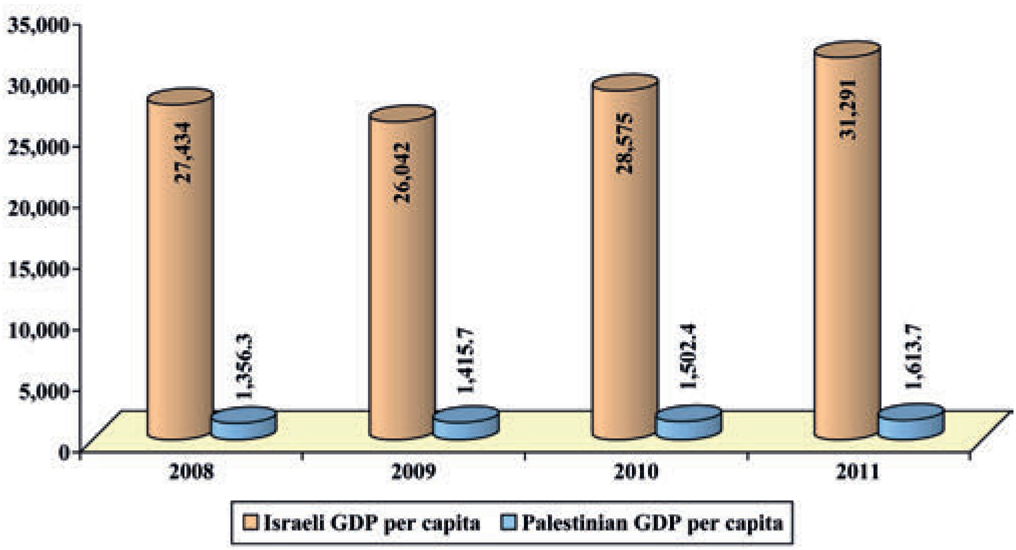
Israeli GDP per capita reached $28,575 in 2010 and $31,291 in 2011. This illustrates how the Israeli individual continues to enjoy a higher standard of living at the expense of the Palestinian people. In fact, the average Israeli per capita income in 2010 was 19 times higher than the Palestinian per capita income, increasing to 19.4 times higher in 2011. Bearing in mind the fact that the Palestinian individual does not lack the capacity or potential, we see the role of the Israeli occupation in undermining the chances of Palestinian development and improving the living conditions of the Palestinian individual.

Table 15/7: Comparing the Israeli and Palestinian GDP per Capita 2008–2011 ($)[31]

Year	Israeli GDP per capita	Palestinian GDP per capita (WB & GS)
2008	27,434	1,356.3
2009	26,042	1,415.7
2010	28,575	1,502.4*
2011	31,291	1,613.7**

* Preliminary estimates. ** Flash estimates.

Comparing the Israeli and Palestinian GDP per Capita 2008–2011 ($)



3. Public Debt

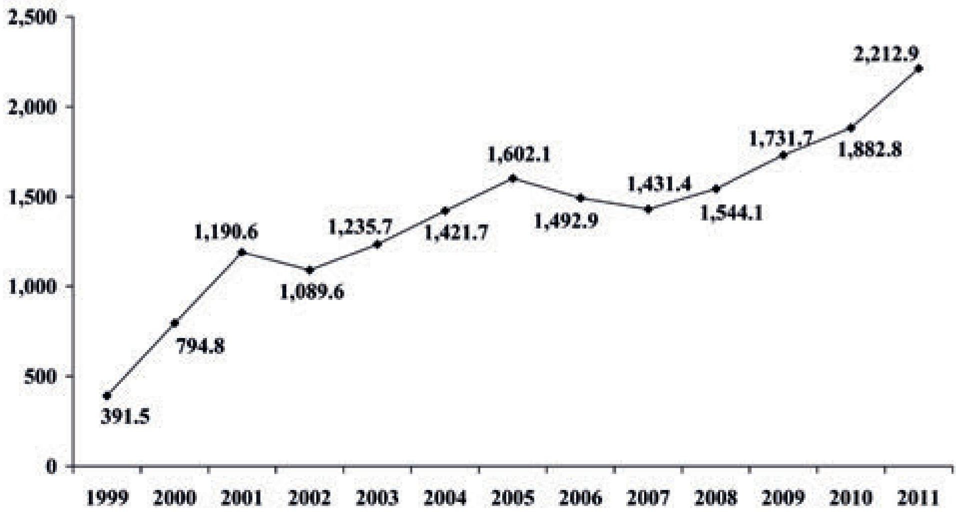
Public debt figures show that the debt is still on the rise where it increased from around $1,883 million in 2010 to around $2,213 million in 2011 at 17.5%. The following table shows the evolution of public debt over 1999–2011.

Table 16/7: Total Public Debt Evolution in the WB and GS 1999–2011 ($ million)[32]

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total public debt	391.5	794.8	1,190.6	1,089.6	1,235.7	1,421.7	1,602.1

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total public debt	1,492.9	1,431.4	1,544.1	1,731.7	1,882.8	2,212.9

Total Public Debt Evolution in the WB and GS 1999–2011 ($ million)



4. The PA's General Budget (Ramallah)

The general budget of any country reflects the governmental role in economic activity through two main tools: public revenues and public expenditures, which together form the state's general budget. These two tools can be also used to meet the state's general fiscal policy. Total net revenues showed an inclination towards decline in 2009 at 13% compared to 2008. However, it increased by 22.7% in 2010 and by 14.5% in 2011. Total net revenues in 2011 amounted to $2,177 million compared to $1,900.9 million in 2010.

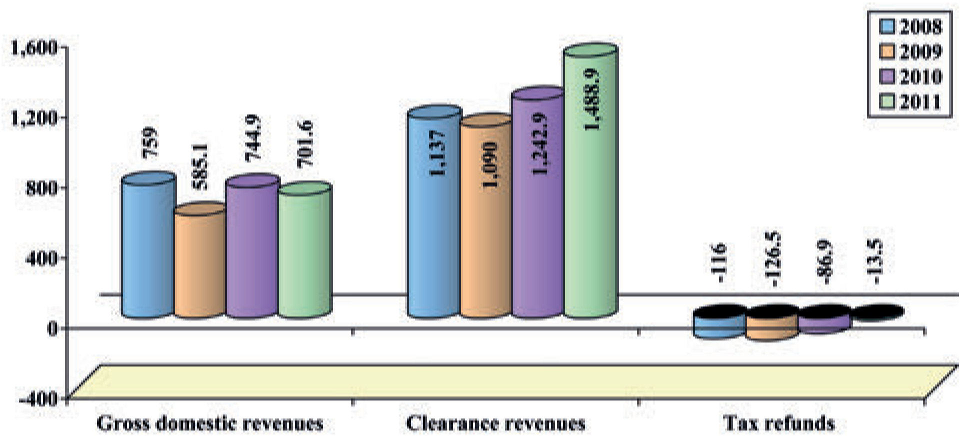
Table 17/7: PA Revenues, External Budgetary Support and Development Financing 2008–2011 ($ million)[33]

Fiscal operation	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
Gross domestic revenues	**759**	**585.1**	**744.9**	**701.6**
- Tax	273	301.5	474.4	482.4
- Non Tax	486	283.6	270.5	219.2
Clearance revenues	1,137	1,090	1,242.9	1,488.9
Total revenues	**1,896**	**1,675.1**	**1,987.8**	**2,190.5**
Tax refunds (-)	-116	-126.5	-86.9	-13.5
Total net revenues	**1,780**	**1,548.6**	**1,900.9**	**2,177**
External budgetary support and development financing	1,978	1,401.7	1,277.3**	983.2
Total net revenues, external budgetary support and development financing (after deduction of tax refunds)	**3,758**	**2,950.3**	**3,178.2**	**3,160.2**

* The exchange rate of the dollar against the Israeli shekel was calculated based on figures of the Palestinian Ministry of Finance. This applies for tables 18/7, 19/7, 20/7, 26/7 and 27/7.

** This figure was updated on 15/2/2012 where the Ministry of Finance adopted $1,273.3 million.

Evolution of the PA Revenues 2008–2011 ($ million)

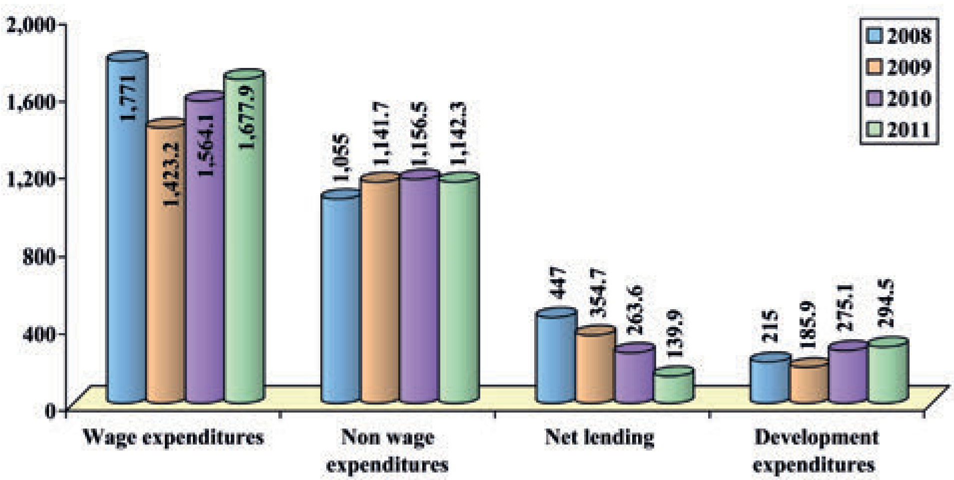


Tracing the forms of public revenues, regarding their structure or components, we find that they comprise two major parts: domestic revenues that include taxes and service fees, and clearance revenues that Israel collects and transfers to the PA. The latter revenues have comprised the larger part of public revenues in the period 2008–2011 at a percentage ranging between 63.9% and 70.4%. Total public expenditures, including development expenditures, amounted to $3,254.6 million in 2011 compared to $3,259.3 million in 2010.

Table 18/7: Evolution of PA Expenditures 2008–2011 ($ million)[34]

Fiscal operation	2008	2009	2010	2011
Wage expenditures	1,771	1,423.2	1,564.1	1,677.9
Non wage expenditures	1,055	1,141.7	1,156.5	1,142.3
Net lending	447	354.7	263.6	139.9
Total expenditures and net lending	**3,273**	**2,919.5**	**2,984.2**	**2,960.1**
Development expenditures	215	185.9	275.1	294.5
Total	**3,488**	**3,105.4**	**3,259.3**	**3,254.6**

Evolution of PA Expenditures 2008–2011 ($ million)



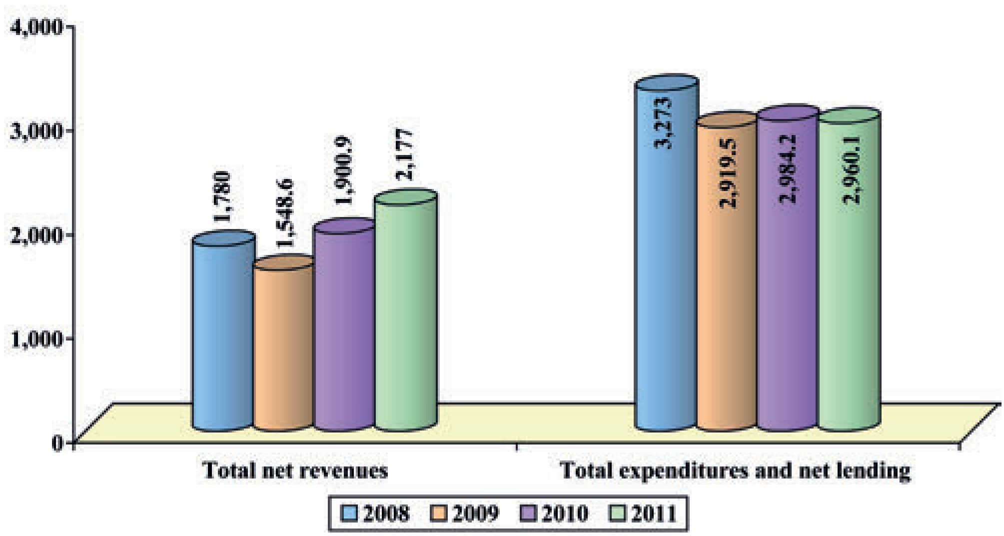
The above table shows that wage expenditures are the highest when compared to other expenditures, amounting to 49.1% of total expenditure and net lending including development expenditures over the period 2008–2011. Wage expenditures were estimated at around 36.3% of GDP in 2008, 27.2% in 2009, 27.3% in 2010 and 26.5% in 2011 (see tables 9/7 and 18/7).

PA public revenues and expenditures show that the 2009 budget deficit reached $1,370.9 million compared to $1,493 million in 2008. This means that budget deficit has decreased by $122.1 million and at average annual rate amounting to 8.2%. In 2010, however, the deficit reached $1,083.3 million, thus falling by 21% compared to 2009. In 2011, however, the budget deficit witnessed a noticeable decrease estimated at around $300.2 million at 27.7% compared to 2010 as shown in the following table.

Table 19/7: Evolution of the PA Budget Deficits 2008–2011 ($ million)

Fiscal operation	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total net revenues	1,780	1,548.6	1,900.9	2,177
Total expenditures and net lending	3,273	2,919.5	2,984.2	2,960.1
Balance	-1,493	-1,370.9	-1,083.3	-783.1

PA Revenues and Expenditures 2008–2011 ($ million)



5. General Budget of the Caretaker Government in the GS

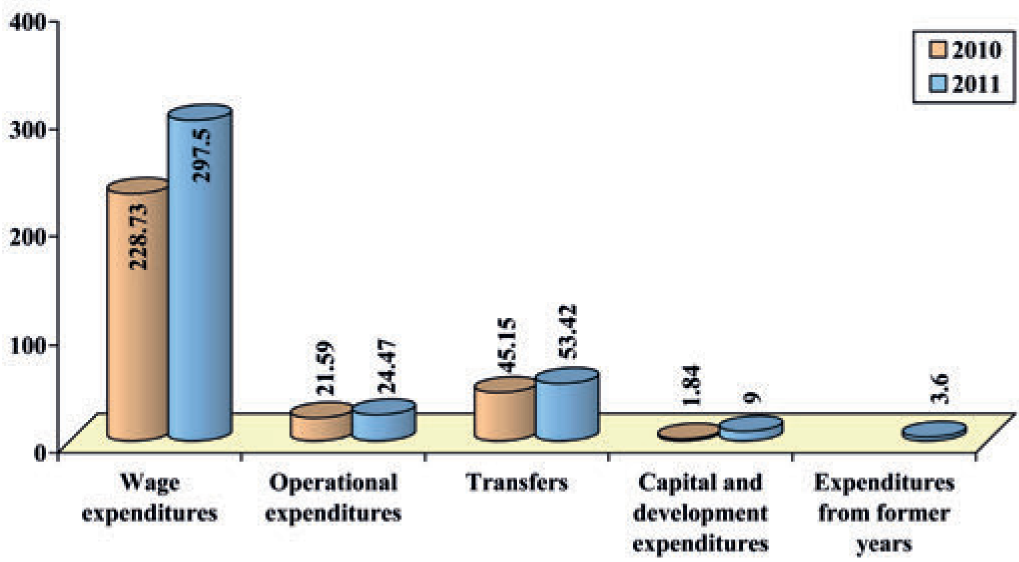
The total expenditures of the general budget of the GS caretaker government amounted to $387.99 million in 2011 (including $3.6 million left over from previous years) compared to $297.31 million in 2010. 2011 public expenditures were used to cover wage expenditures (76.7%), operational expenditures (6.3%), transfers (13.8%), capital and development expenditures (2.3%), while expenditures from former years accounted for 0.9%.

Total domestic revenues amounted to $187.5 million in 2011 compared to $83.01 million in 2010, thus achieving an increase estimated at 125.9%. The government received external funding estimated at $67 million in 2011 compared to $149.19 million in 2010 with a 55.1% decrease. Thus, the deficit in the budget amounted to $133.49 million in 2011 with a 105% increase compared to 2010.

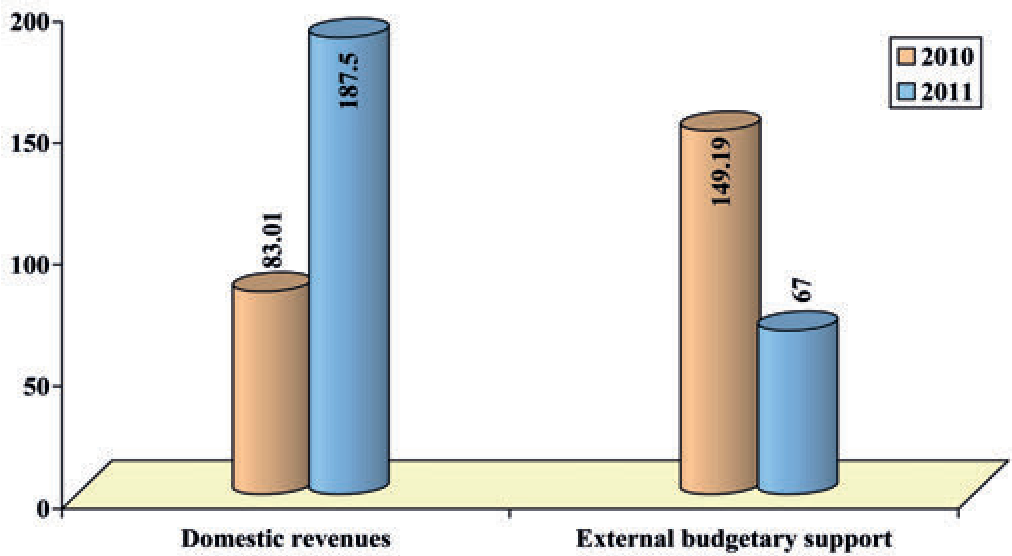
Table 20/7: Fiscal Operations of the Caretaker Government in GS 2010–2011 ($ million)[35]

Fiscal operation	2010	2011
Total revenues and external budgetary support	**232.2**	**254.5**
- Domestic revenues	83.01	187.5
- External budgetary support	149.19	67
Total expenditures	**297.31**	**387.99**
- Wage expenditures	228.73	297.5
- Operational expenditures	21.59	24.47
- Transfers	45.15	53.42
- Capital and development expenditures	1.84	9
- Expenditures from former years	-	3.6
Actual deficit	**-65.11**	**-133.49**

The Expenditures of the Caretaker Government in GS 2010–2011 ($ million)



The Revenues of the Caretaker Government in GS 2010–2011 ($ million)



The above figures show the extent of the difficulty faced by the caretaker government because of the Israeli blockade that dictates that the lives of Gazans are managed according to the minimum available capacities.

6. Work and Unemployment

The labor force participation rate in the WB and GS amounted to 44.4% at the end of 2011 (47.3% in the WB and 39.5% in the GS), compared to 41.5% at the end of 2010 (44.5% in the WB and 36.3% in GS). Table 21/7 shows the number of people contributing in and outside the labor force in the WB and GS according to International Labour Organization (ILO) standards.

The full employment in the WB and GS increased to 71.3% at the end of 2011 (75.5% in the WB and 62.4% in GS) compared to 69.7% at the end of 2010 (74% in the WB and 60.2% in GS). According to ILO standards, unemployment in the WB and GS decreased from 23.4% in 2010 to 21% in 2011. In the WB, unemployment was almost maintained at the same level (16.9% in 2010 and 16.6% in 2011) whereas it decreased in GS from 37.4% to 30.3% during the same period (see table 22/7).

According to the relaxed definition of unemployment, which is calculated by adding to unemployed people according to the ILO standards those people outside the labor force because they were frustrated in seeking work; the unemployment rate decreased in the WB and GS from 29.9% in 2010 to 24.8% in 2011.[36]

Table 21/7: Distribution of Palestinians Aged 15 Years and over in the WB and GS by Labor Force Status and Region (ILO Standards) 2008–2011[37]

Year	Region	In labor force*	Outside labor force**	Total
2008	WB	604,000	808,000	**1,412,000**
	GS	292,100	460,600	**752,700**
	WB & GS	**896,100**	**1,268,600**	**2,164,700**
2009	WB	656,900	832,100	**1,489,000**
	GS	306,600	525,100	**831,700**
	WB & GS	**963,500**	**1,357,200**	**2,320,700**
2010	WB	686,500	856,800	**1,543,300**
	GS	314,700	551,700	**866,400**
	WB & GS	**1,001,200**	**1,408,500**	**2,409,700**
2011	WB	754,900	842,800	**1,597,700**
	GS	356,300	546,200	**902,500**
	WB & GS	**1,111,200**	**1,389,000**	**2,500,200**

* The economically active population (Labor Force) consists of all persons 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed.

** The population not economically active comprises all persons 15 years and over, who were neither employed nor unemployed.

Table 22/7: Distribution of Palestinians Aged 15 Years and over in the WB and GS by Labor Force Components and Region (ILO Standards) 2008–2011[38]

Year	Region	Full employment*	Underemployment**	Unemployment	Total
2008	WB	447,600	36,800	119,600	**604,000**
	GS	140,800	20,500	130,800	**292,100**
	WB & GS	**588,400**	**57,300**	**250,400**	**896,100**
2009	WB	491,200	46,700	119,000	**656,900**
	GS	169,600	16,700	120,300	**306,600**
	WB & GS	**660,800**	**63,400**	**239,300**	**963,500**
2010	WB	507,800	62,500	116,200	**686,500**
	GS	189,600	7,300	117,800	**314,700**
	WB & GS	**697,400**	**69,800**	**234,000**	**1,001,200**
2011	WB	570,300	59,600	125,000	**754,900**
	GS	222,300	26,100	107,900	**356,300**
	WB & GS	**792,600**	**85,700**	**232,900**	**1,111,200**

* Those normally working 35 hours or more per week.
** Those whose working hours are less than normal average.

7. Industrial Activity

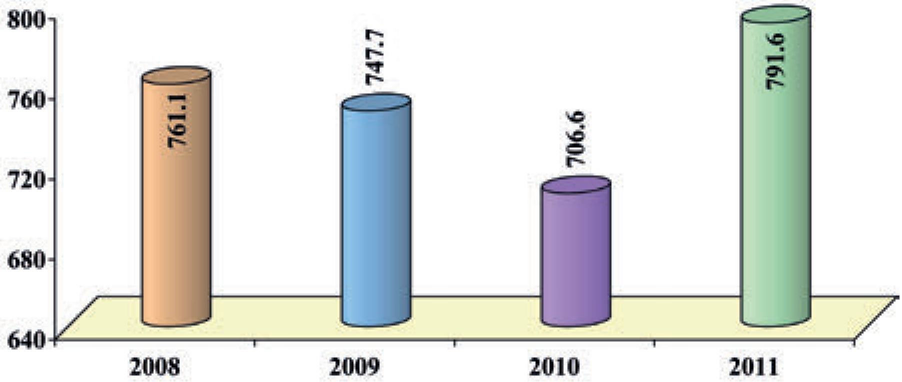
Industrial activity in the WB and GS deteriorated during the years 2008–2010. Yet it increased in 2011 thus achieving 12.1% growth compared to 2010. Industrial activity has in fact contributed, with around 12.5% of GDP in 2011 compared to 12.3% in 2010.

Table 23/7: Evolution of Industrial GDP and Its Percentage of Total GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 at Constant Prices ($ million)[39]

Year	2008*	2009*	2010**	2011**
Mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity and water supply	761.1	747.7	706.6	791.6
% of total GPD	15.6	14.3	12.3	12.5

* Data was revised based on revising National Accounts data 2008–2009.
** Flash estimates.

Evolution of Industrial GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 ($ million)



8. Agricultural Activity

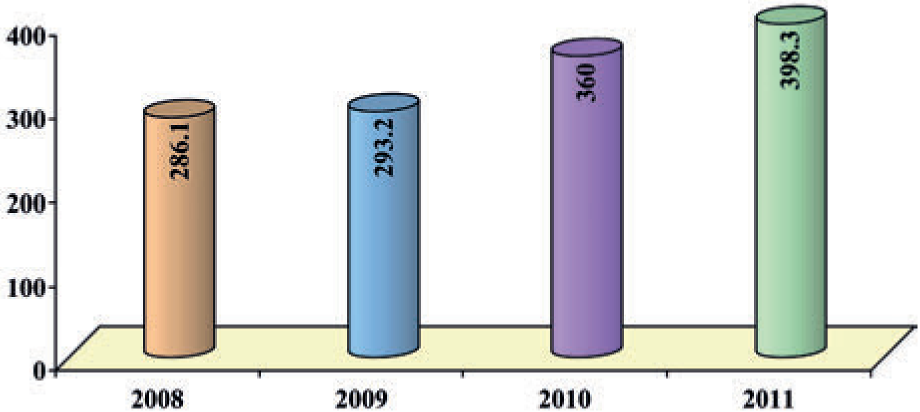
Agricultural activity is highly important in Palestine as a major source of essential food crops and employment opportunities. However, its share of the GDP over the recent years has been limited, only contributing 6.3% in 2010 and 2011 compared to 5.6% in 2009 and 5.9% in 2008.

Table 24/7: Evolution of Agricultural GDP and Its Percentage of Total GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 at Constant Prices ($ million)[40]

Year	2008*	2009*	2010**	2011**
Agriculture and fishing	286.1	293.2	360	398.3
% of total GDP	5.9	5.6	6.3	6.3

* Data was revised based on revising National Accounts data 2008–2009.
** Flash estimates.

Evolution of Agricultural GDP in the WB and GS 2008–2011 ($ million)



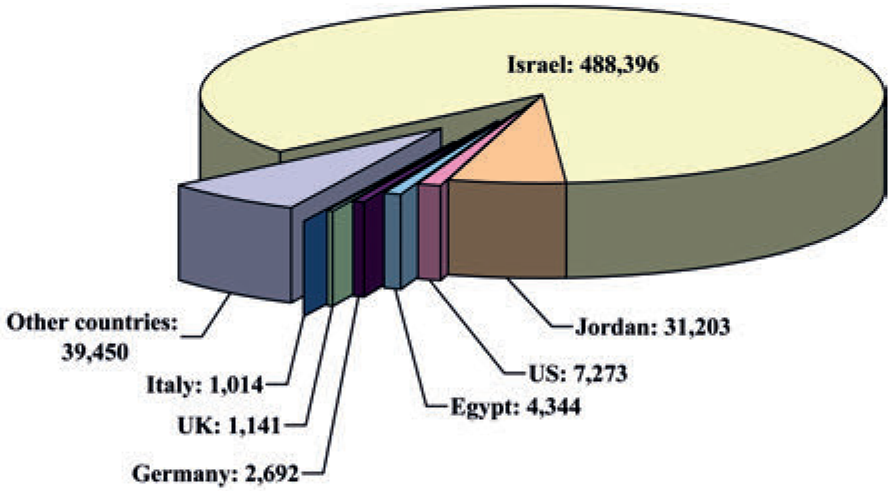
9. Trade

Israel controlled around 74.1% of the PA's trade volume in 2010. According to figures published by the PCBS, Palestinian imports from Israel amounted to $2,873.3 million, 72.6% of total imports. Palestinian exports to Israel, however, reached $488.4 million, 84.9% of total exports. The following table shows the trade volume of the WB and GS with selected countries during 2009–2010.

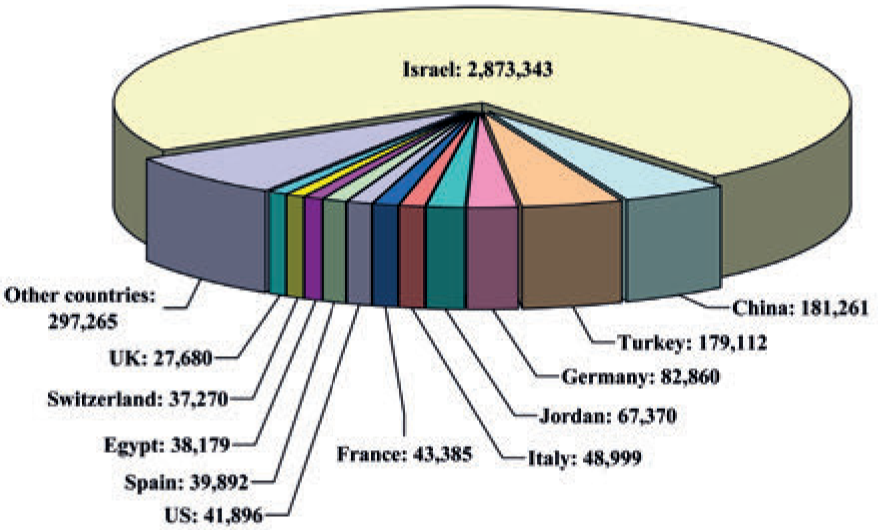
Table 25/7: Volume of Palestinian Trade, Exports and Imports in Goods in the WB and GS to/ from Selected Countries 2009–2010 ($ thousand)[41]

Country	Trade volume		Palestinian exports to:		Palestinian imports from:	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
Israel	3,361,738	3,104,623	488,396	453,494	2,873,343	2,651,129
China	181,281	157,828	20	12	181,261	157,816
Turkey	179,601	113,862	489	53	179,112	113,809
Jordan	98,573	76,977	31,203	28,855	67,370	48,122
Germany	85,552	97,380	2,692	94	82,860	97,286
Italy	50,014	42,584	1,014	2,224	48,999	40,360
US	49,169	46,473	7,273	6,132	41,896	40,341
France	43,920	39,084	535	358	43,385	38,726
Egypt	42,523	38,214	4,344	2,891	38,179	35,323
Spain	39,910	33,488	18	0	39,892	33,488
Switzerland	37,638	23,227	369	173	37,270	23,054
UK	28,822	21,882	1,141	710	27,680	21,172
Other countries	335,284	232,518	38,019	23,359	297,265	300,159
Total	**4,534,025**	**4,119,140**	**575,513**	**518,355**	**3,958,512**	**3,600,785**

Palestinian Exports in Goods in the WB and GS to Selected Countries 2010 ($ thousand)



Palestinian Imports in Goods in the WB and GS from Selected Countries 2010 ($ thousand)



Worth mentioning is that CBS has provided different figures regarding trade volume with the PA for 2010. According to these figures, Palestinian imports from Israel amounted to $3,093 million, which is $220 million more than the Palestinian official figure while Palestinian exports to Israel amounted to $491 million, $2.6 million more than the Palestinian official figure.[42]

10. PA's External Financing

There are various forms of foreign aid intended to serve the Palestinian economy, support humanitarian cases and reinforce the position of the PA. Most notable among these are donor funds, international organizations' activities, grants provided via convoys and solidarity activists in addition to grants provided to civil society institutions. Donors' funds are regulated within a mechanism by which they are accumulated then transferred to the PA. The following table reflects the development of foreign aid during the period 2008–2011.

Table 26/7: Evolution of the PA External Budgetary Support and Development Financing 2008–2011 ($ million)[43]

Fiscal operation	2008	2009	2010	2011
External budgetary support	1,763	1,354.9	1,146.8	814.3
Development financing	215	46.8	130.5	168.9
Total	**1,978**	**1,401.7**	**1,277.3**	**983.2**

The above table shows that external financing amounted to $1,978 million in 2008, decreasing to $1,402 million in 2009, with a decline of $576 million and negative growth rate of 29.1%. Then again, it decreased in 2010 to reach $1,277 million and with a negative growth rate of 8.9%. Foreign aid continued to decline in 2011 reaching around $983 million with negative growth of 23%, after it was planned that the PA would receive $1,467 million in 2011.[44]

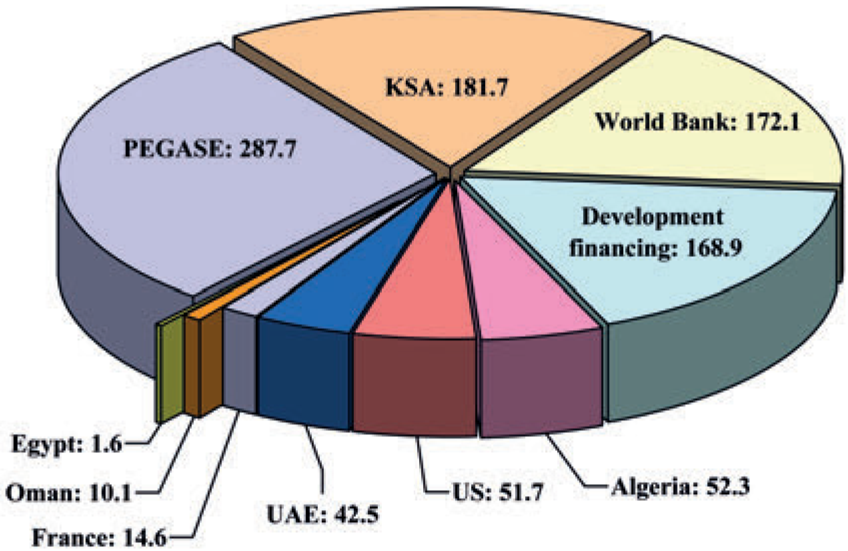
In 2011, the Palestino-Europeén de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique (PEGASE), which translates as the Palestinian-European Mechanism for Management of Socio-Economic Aid, ranked first in terms of external financing with $287.7 million. The KSA ranked second with $181.7 million, then The World Bank with $172.1 million. It is noticeable that the international community's financing for the PA declined in 2011 by 42.4% compared to 2010 while financing by Arab countries increased by 24.9%. Development financing witnessed a growth estimated at 30.1% compared to 2010.

Table 27/7: Sources of External Financing for the PA 2010–2011 ($ million)[45]

Donor	2010	2011
Arab donors	**230.8**	**288.2**
KSA	143.7	181.7
Algeria	26.3	52.3
UAE	42.9	42.5
Oman	-	10.1
Egypt	8.1	1.6
Qatar	9.8	-
International donors	**912.7**	**526.1**
PEGASE	374.6	287.7
The World Bank	279.5	172.1
US	222.9	51.7
France	15.9	14.6
India	9.9	-
Russia	9.9	-
Development financing*	**129.8**	**168.9**
Total	**1,273.3**	**983.2**

* Development financing includes old grants for line ministries, co-financing for the projects of Ministry of Education, grants to build the capacities of different Palestinian institutions and others.

Sources of External Financing for the PA 2011 ($ million)



Third: Educational Indicators in the WB and GS

The suffering and restraints imposed by the Israeli occupation have not prevented the Palestinian people from using education as a tool of steadfastness and an expression of national identity in a positive and creative way. This section provides a number of Palestinian education indicators in the WB and GS.

1. The General Educational Situation

Palestinians in the WB and GS represent one of the most educationally advanced groups in the Arab world, with an illiteracy rate of 4.7% and a literacy rate that reached 95.3% in 2011. The latter is the second highest in the Arab world after Qatar.[46] The educational attendance of people 6 years and over of both sexes, amounted to 97.7% in 2010. In the WB and GS, there are 471 cultural centers, 350 of which are in the WB and 121 in GS according to 2010 statistics. The same statistics reveal that there are 6 museums in the WB and GS, 15 theatres, 65 public libraries and 45 local radio and television stations. Figures for 2011 show that in 95% of Palestinian households, at least one member possessed a mobile phone, 93.9% owned TV satellite dishes, and 50.9% had computers while 30.4% had access to the internet.[47]

It is important to remember here that the Palestinians are people living under occupation and suffering the destruction of their infrastructure and the inability to develop their capacities, except within the conditions set by the occupation authorities. Based on this context, the above figures highlight the keenness of the Palestinian people to learn and achieve including through media and cultural exchange. The figures also reveal Palestinian success in the educational battle of wills within such a destructive, frustrating environment.

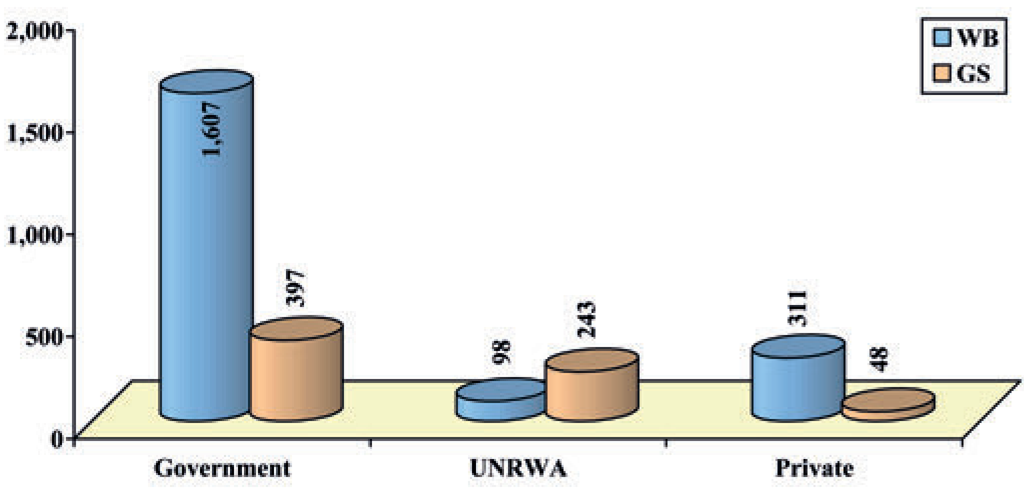
2. Basic and Secondary Education

There were 2,704 Palestinian schools covering basic (elementary and intermediate) and secondary education in the academic year 2011/2012. These included 2,016 schools or 74.6% in the WB and 688 schools or 25.4% in the GS. It is noted that most government schools are in the WB which is home to 1,607 schools comprising 80.2% of government schools compared to 397 schools in the GS comprising 19.8%. The deficiency in schools in the GS is relatively compensated for by the presence of UNRWA-run schools that amount to 243 schools compared to 98 similar schools in the WB.

Table 28/7: Basic and Secondary Schools in the WB and GS by Supervising Authority 2007/2008–2011/2012[48]

Year	Region	Government	UNRWA	Private	Total
2007/2008	WB	1,460	95	254	**1,809**
	GS	373	214	34	**621**
	WB & GS	**1,833**	**309**	**288**	**2,430**
2008/2009	WB	1,485	94	269	**1,848**
	GS	386	221	33	**640**
	WB & GS	**1,871**	**315**	**302**	**2,488**
2009/2010	WB	1,534	97	286	**1,917**
	GS	387	228	45	**660**
	WB & GS	**1,921**	**325**	**331**	**2,577**
2010/2011	WB	1,573	98	304	**1,975**
	GS	399	238	40	**677**
	WB & GS	**1,972**	**336**	**344**	**2,652**
2011/2012	WB	1,607	98	311	**2,016**
	GS	397	243	48	**688**
	WB & GS	**2,004**	**341**	**359**	**2,704**

Basic and Secondary Schools in the WB and GS by Supervising Authority 2011/2012



Taking into consideration the fact that there are 2.615 million people in the WB, compared to 1.616 million in the GS (61.8% in the WB and 38.2% in GS), the number of schools in the WB is higher than the number of schools in GS when compared to their populations. This is probably because the population in the WB is distributed over a larger area of land and among more cities and villages, and thus needs more schools. The higher number of UNRWA schools in the GS reflects the high level of poverty suffered by most of the population in the Strip (see tables 1/7 and 28/7).

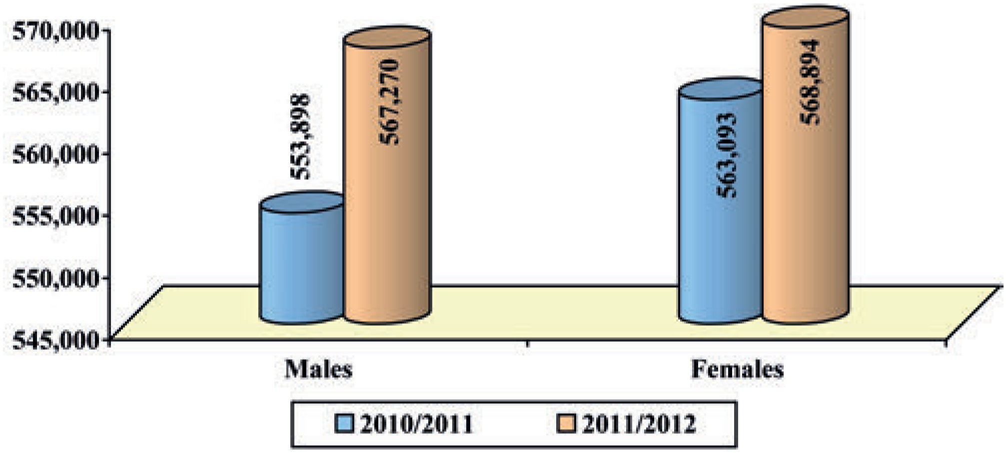
There were around 1.136 million students in basic and secondary schools in the academic year 2011/2012, including 567 thousand males and 569 thousand females, with a 1.7% increase when compared to 2010/2011. The number of teachers in these schools amounted to 61,423 in 2011/2012 compared to 58,901 in 2010/2011. Teachers included 25,994 males and 35,429 females in 2011/2012 compared to 25,203 males and 33,698 females in 2010/2011. There were an almost equal number of male and female student sections amounting to around 15 thousand sections for each in 2011/2012 whereas mixed sections for the same academic year reached 7,200.

Table 29/7: Number of Schools, Students, Teachers and Sections in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011–2011/2012[49]

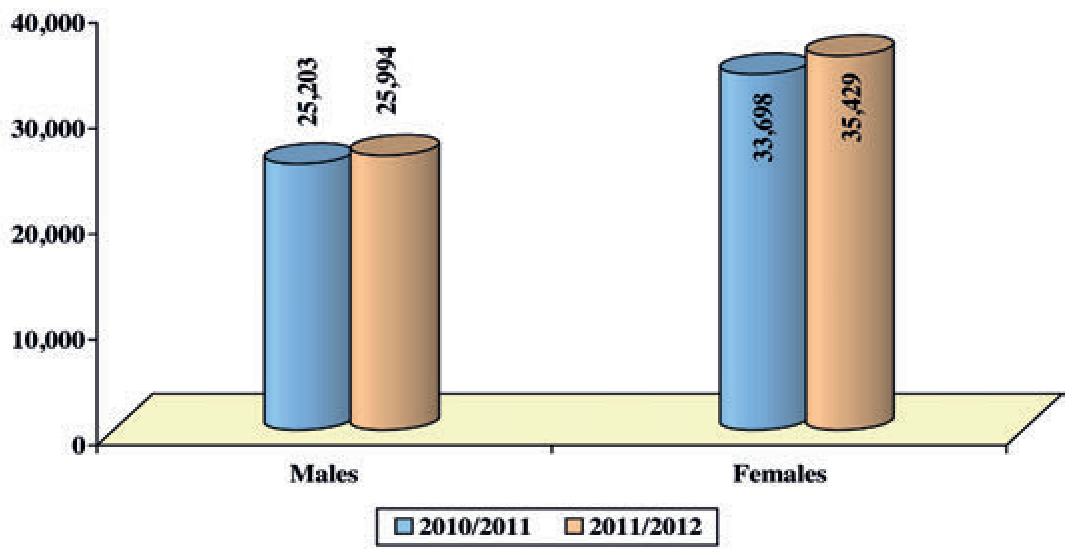
Sex	Schools		Students		Teachers*		Sections	
	2010/2011	2011/2012	2010/2011	2011/2012	2010/2011	2011/2012	2010/2011	2011/2012
Males	966	980	553,898	567,270	25,203	25,994	14,627	14,926
Females	899	920	563,093	568,894	33,698	35,429	14,648	14,908
Mixed	787	804					7,045	7,200
Total	**2,652**	**2,704**	**1,116,991**	**1,136,164**	**58,901**	**61,423**	**36,320**	**37,034**

* Teachers: All teaching & non-teaching staff in school except employees & janitors.

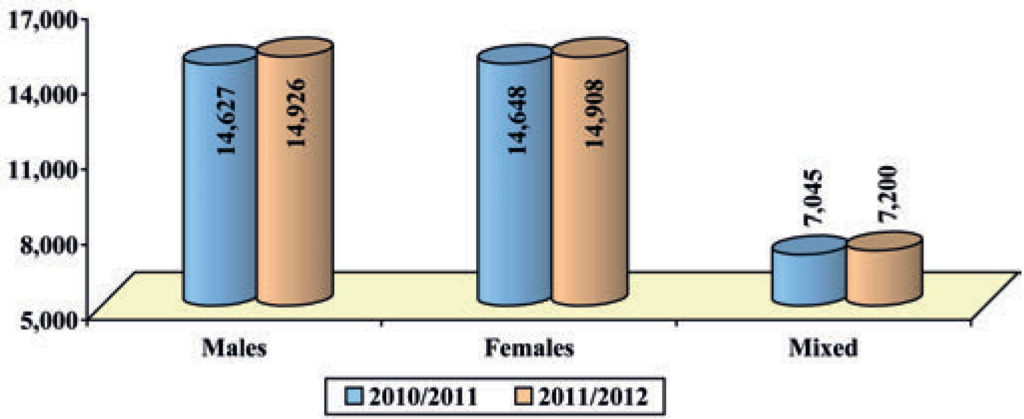
Number of Students in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011–2011/2012



Number of Teachers in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011–2011/2012



Number of Sections in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011–2011/2012



According to 2011/2012 reports, the 2,004 government schools comprised 74.1% of total schools in the WB and GS. The 770 thousand students enrolled in these schools comprised 67.7% of total students in the WB and GS. There were 43 thousand teachers in government schools, comprising 69.9% of total teachers in the WB and GS. The number of sections reached 25,322 thus comprising 68.4% of total sections in the WB and GS. These indicators show that education by the government comprises more than two thirds of the educational process in basic and secondary schools. If we take into account the UNRWA-run schools, we notice that most students depend on low-costing education provided by these schools compared to limited number of students seeking private education (see tables 29/7 and 30/7).

Table 30/7: Number of Schools, Students, Teachers and Sections in Government Schools in the WB and GS 2007/2008–2011/2012[50]

Year	Schools	Students	Teachers*	Sections
2007/2008	1,833	766,730	38,134	23,492
2008/2009	1,871	771,864	21,860**	-
2009/2010	1,921	766,190	22,952**	-
2010/2011	1,972	766,234	42,339	25,223
2011/2012	2,004	769,694	42,928	25,322

* Teachers: All teaching & non-teaching staff in school except employees & janitors.
** Data includes only the WB.

3. University Education

There are many Palestinian universities providing traditional education in the WB and GS. The Islamic University of Gaza is considered the largest among these universities with 26,182 students enrolled in 2010/2011. It is followed by An-Najah National University in Nablus with 20,214 students, then Al Aqsa University in Gaza with 17,991 students. There were 122,482 students in the same academic year in all Palestinian universities with 62,641 students in the WB and 59,841 students in the GS. This means that students in GS comprise around 48.9% of total Palestinian students.

Besides, female students receiving traditional university education outnumbered their male counterparts (70,440 compared to 52,042 in 2010/2011). Thus, female students comprised 57.5% of total students compared to 42.5% for their male peers. This phenomenon is no more deemed strange in the Arab world and while there is no room to study it here, it shows in some of its aspects the success of the Palestinian woman in assuming her position side by side with her male peers. It also shows that Palestinian female students have better chances to finish their university education while male students generally have to leave school and join the job market to help their families with the struggle to afford the costs of living.

Table 31/7: Number of Students in Traditional Universities in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011[51]

University	Enrolled students		
	Males	Females	Total
Al Azhar/ Gaza	7,345	7,228	**14,573**
Islamic/ Gaza	10,195	15,987	**26,182**
Al Aqsa/ Gaza	5,559	12,432	**17,991**
Hebron	1,841	4,700	**6,541**
Palestine Polytechnic/ Bethlehem	1,815	1,425	**3,240**
Bethlehem	793	2,226	**3,019**
Al Quds	6,086	5,722	**11,808**
Birzeit	3,645	5,563	**9,208**
An-Najah National	8,976	11,238	**20,214**
The Arab American	3,047	2,315	**5,362**
Palestine Technical / Tulkarem- Khadoury	1,784	1,465	**3,249**
Palestine/ Gaza	956	139	**1,095**
Total	**52,042**	**70,440**	**122,482**

Worthy of mention is that male faculty members outnumbered their female counterparts; 5,244 (81.4%) in 2010/2011 compared to 1,198 females (18.6%). This means that it is still too early to see the high average of female students achieved among faculty members, noting that the number of faculty members includes all professors in universities and colleges other than community colleges. Still, there is a discrepancy between the number of females who graduate from university and those who work after graduation, which explains the higher number of males in the job market.[52]

Alquds Open University provided open education for 63,911 students in the WB and GS in 2010/2011 including 24,863 males and 39,048 females. This university has 17 centers in the WB and 5 in the GS.[53]

Table 32/7: Number of Students Seeking Open Education in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011[54]

University	Enrolled students		
	Males	Females	Total
Alquds Open University	24,863	39,048	**63,911**

4. University and Community Colleges

There are 35 university and community colleges in the WB and GS providing education for 27,580 students based on 2010/2011 figures. Among these are 14 college universities attended by around 15 thousand students who can receive a bachelor's degree upon completion of their studies. In addition, there are 21 community colleges including 12,600 students and providing intermediate diploma.

Table 33/7: Number of Students in University and Community Colleges in the WB and GS by Sex 2010/2011[55]

Colleges	Number	Enrolled students		
		Males	Females	Total
University	14	7,596	7,400	**14,996**
Community	21	7,474	5,110	**12,584**
Total	**35**	**15,070**	**12,510**	**27,580**

Conclusion

The Palestinian people are young, with high population growth rate compared to other populations around the world. However, more than half of these people still live outside historic Palestine and the number of Palestinian refugees (at home and abroad) is slightly more than two-thirds of the Palestinian people, thus representing one of the biggest tragedies in modern and contemporary history. The Palestinian people, who are growing more resilient on their rights, land and fundamental principles, will outnumber Jews in historic Palestine within a few years. This will be a message to the Zionist project, exposing its ongoing failure to impose its dreams while the Palestinian people are still steadfast in their land. Nonetheless, this should not make us forget the achievements of the Zionist project and the challenges faced by the Palestinian people and by the Arab and Muslim nations.

Despite the relative improvement in Palestinian economic performance, it still suffers the oppressive policies of an Israeli occupation that controls its exports and imports through blockade, closure of borders and trade outlets, roadblocks, the Separation Wall and all the other myriad means to suffocate the Palestinian economy. Thus, human and physical Palestinian potential is not appropriately employed, leading to a huge economic imbalance between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Thus, the GDP in Israel is 38 folds that of the Palestinian side, while the Israeli GDP per capita exceeds the Palestinian GDP per capita by 19 fold.

Educational indicators emphasize the Palestinian people's aspiration for learning despite their suffering under the occupation. These indicators show that the Palestinian people are ahead of most Arab countries in literacy as well as having a culture of interest in higher education.

The Palestinian people have huge capacities and energies that Israel has always sought to suppress and marginalize. They are also victims of the internal Palestinian schism. Accordingly, the unity of the Palestinian people under one umbrella and one national program which defines the priorities of the nation, remains a vital need.

Endnotes

[1] PCBS estimated the number of Palestinians at the end of 2009 at 10.873 million. According to natural growth population rates (2.4%), the number of Palestinians was supposed to amount to 11.134 million at the end of 2010. However, it seems that the PCBS has re-estimated the number of Palestinians at the end of 2010 at around 10.972 million. Accordingly, the PCBS assumed that Palestinians worldwide have increased by 2.3% to reach 11.224 million at the end of 2011. See PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2009* (Palestinians at the End of Year 2009) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2009), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1625.pdf; and PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2010* (Palestinians at the End of Year 2010) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2010), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1725.pdf

[2] See PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011* (Palestinians at the End of Year 2011) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2011), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1815.pdf

[3] See *Ibid*.

[4] See *Ibid*.

[5] *Ibid*.

[6] See PCBS, *Palestine in Figures 2011* (Ramallah: PCBS, March 2012), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1855.pdf; and PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa’i al-Sanawi 2011, Raqm "12"* (Statistical Yearbook of Palestine 2011, No. 12) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2011), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1814.pdf

[7] PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011*; and PCBS, *Population, Housing and Establishment Census–2007, Press Conference on the Preliminary Findings (Population, Buildings, Housing Units and Establishments)* (Ramallah: PCBS, February 2008), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/pressrelease/census2007_e.pdf

[8] See PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa’i al-Sanawi 2011, Raqm "12"*.

[9] See *Ibid*.; and PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011*.

[10] *Ibid*.

[11] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011092751539.pdf
http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/20120317152850.pdf

[12] Ibid.

[13] See PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa’i al-Sanawi 2011, Raqm "12"*; and PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011*.

[14] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011092751539.pdf
http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/20120317152850.pdf

[15] See PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa’i al-Sanawi 2011, Raqm "12"*; and PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011*.

[16] The data in this table was collected by the researcher, see Mohsen M. Saleh (ed.), *The Palestinian Strategic Report 2010/11*, p. 347; and PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat ‘Am 2011*.

[17] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011092751539.pdf
http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/20120317152850.pdf

[18] Salman Abu Sitta, UNRWA Registration Discrepancy, memorandum received by al-Zaytouna Centre for Studies & Consultations, 9/4/2012.

[19] Ma'an, 5/4/2012.

[20] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/20120317152850.pdf

[21] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011092751539.pdf
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[22] See http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/20120317152850.pdf
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http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/file/Resources_arabic/Statistics_pdf/TABLE2.pdf (in Arabic)

[23] See PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat 'Am 2011*; and CBS, http://www1.cbs.gov.il/www/yarhon/b1_e.htm

[24] For 1999–2010, see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)* (Ramallah: PCBS, March 2011), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/NationalACc_Q410e.pdf
For 2011, see PCBS, *Press Report: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2011)* (Ramallah: PCBS, March 2012), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Q4_11e.pdf

[25] For Palestinian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)*; and PCBS, *Press Report: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2011)*.
For Israeli GDP, see CBS, http://www1.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2012n/08_12_056t11.pdf

[26] PCBS, *al-Filastiniyyun fi Nihayat 'Am 2011*.

[27] For 2008–2010, see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)*.
For 2011, see PCBS, *Press Report: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2011)*.

[28] *Ibid*.

[29] For 1999, see Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), *Quarterly Economic and Social Monitor*, vol. 18, December 2009, http://www.pma.ps/images/stories/economic_monitor/monitor%2018%20-en.pdf
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[30] For 2008 and 2009, see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)*.
For 2010 and 2011, see PCBS, *Press Report: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2011)*.

[31] For Palestinian GDP per capita, see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)*; and PCBS, *Press Report: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2011)*.
For Israeli GDP per capita, see CBS, http://www1.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2012n/08_12_056t1.pdf

[32] For 1999–2008, see Research and Monetary Policy Department, "Fourteenth Annual Report 2008," PMA, July 2009, http://site.iugaza.edu.ps/yshorafa/files/2010/02/Annual_Report_2008.pdf (in Arabic)
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[33] For 2008, see Research and Monetary Policy Department, "Annual Report 2010," PMA, July 2011, http://www.pma.ps/images/stories/annual_reports/annual%20report%202010-en.pdf
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[34] Ibid.

[35] See "The Legislative Council Approves the Budget Bill for the Fiscal Year 2011," *al-Barlaman* newspaper, Gaza, Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), 31/3/2011, http://www.plc.gov.ps/img/Magazine/pdf_file/cf0331c4-0bf0-4c76-9ef6-f97f4b3cd63b.pdf (in Arabic); and "The Legislative Council Approves the Budget Bill for the Fiscal Year 2012," *al-Barlaman*, 5/4/2012, http://www.plc.gov.ps/img/Magazine/pdf_file/ea0af971-5f3b-46ad-8de9-aa6ac4371242.pdf (in Arabic)

[36] See the press releases of PCBS on labor force survey results, quarters of 2010 and 2011, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_2012/PressEn.aspx

[37] See the press releases of PCBS on labor force survey results, quarters of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_2012/PressEn.aspx

[38] Ibid.

[39] For 2008–2010, see PCBS, *News Release: Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Fourth Quarter 2010)*.
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[40] *Ibid*.

[41] PCBS, *Ihsa'at al-Tijarah al-Kharijiyyah al-Marsudah: al-Sila' wa al-Khadamat, 2010: Nata'ij Asasiyyah* (Registered Foreign Trade Statistics: Goods and Services, 2010: Main Results) (Ramallah: PCBS, January 2012), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1817.pdf

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[43] For 2008, see Research and Monetary Policy Department, "Annual Report 2010," PMA.
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[44] See Ibid.

[45] See Ministry of Finance, PA, http://www.pmof.ps/news/plugins/spaw/uploads/files/accounts/2012/02/table7_eng.pdf

[46] See PCBS, *Palestine in Figures 2011*. See also http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=SOWC&f=inID%3A74

[47] PCBS, *Palestine in Figures 2011*.

[48] See site of Ministry of Education and Higher Education, PA, http://www.mohe.gov.ps/ShowArticle.aspx?ID=335; PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa'i al-Sanawi Raqm "10"* (Statistical Abstract of Palestine, No. 10) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2009), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1644.pdf; and PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa'i al-Sanawi Raqm "11"* (Statistical Abstract of Palestine, No. 11) (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2010), http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Downloads/book1724.pdf

[49] See Ministry of Education and Higher Education, PA, http://www.mohe.gov.ps/ShowArticle.aspx?ID=335

[50] See Ibid.; PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa'i al-Sanawi Raqm "10"*; and PCBS, *Kitab Filastin al-Ihsa'i al-Sanawi Raqm "11"*.

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[53] Ministry of Education and Higher Education, PA, *al-Dalil al-Ihsa'i al-Sanawi 2010/2011 li Mu'assasat al-Ta'lim al-'Ali al-Filastini*.

[54] *Ibid*.

[55] *Ibid*.

This Report

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011/12 is the seventh in a series of annual resourceful academic studies. It discusses the developments of the Palestinian issue of this period in an objective and comprehensive manner. The meticulous analytical reading of events tries also to foresee the near future. This Report has become a basic reference on Palestinian studies, it is a must read for all those concerned.

An outstanding team of 12 academics and experts contributed to this Report in seven chapters. They covered the internal Palestinian situation, the Israeli scene and the Israeli-Palestinian relations, the Arab, Muslim and international stances towards the Palestinian issue. This Report focuses also on the issue of Jerusalem and the holy sites, and the suffering of man and land under the Israeli occupation. Besides, the demographic, economic and education indicators are also studied and analyzed.

The Palestinian Strategic Report 2011/12

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