

# The Palestine Strategic Report 2016 – 2017 Ch.2



## Palestinian Demographic Indicators

**2016 – 2017**

**NOTE:**

The complete volume of  
The Palestine Strategic Report 2016 – 2017  
will be published soon



## **Palestinian Demographic Indicators<sup>1</sup>**

### ***Introduction<sup>2</sup>***

Studies of Palestinian demography and economics face real difficulties, which stem from the Israeli occupation and the dispersion of the Palestinians in the Diaspora under various political systems. No matter how careful and precise we are in knowing the number of Palestinians, more accurate numbers are always obtained for those inside Palestine, while the number of Palestinians abroad can only be estimated. Many of the host countries do not provide statistics about Palestinians residing there; and many Palestinians are registered according to the new nationalities they have obtained. In this chapter, we tried to approach the numbers of Palestinians objectively, according to the available reliable information and data.

As for the Palestinian economy, it is difficult to adopt an objective approach. Matters in this case are much more complex and ambiguous than with population. Palestinians' living conditions and economic activities overlap in the countries they live in. Therefore, economic indicators in this chapter are only of those of WB and GS, which are provided mainly by official PA sources.

It is worth mentioning that the demographic and economic indicators used were based on available data at the beginning of 2018. More updated indicators were released after the final draft of PSR was finished and before sending it to press, making it difficult to re-write, especially as the newer data did not make much of a difference to the study and its conclusions. The updated statistics will be used in the next PSR.

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<sup>1</sup> This study is the approved English translation of the Demographic Indicators section of chapter two of *The Palestine Strategic Report 2016–2017*, edited by Dr. Mohsen Mohammad Saleh. It is an analytical study of the Palestinian Demographic Indicators in 2016–2017. The Arabic version of this Report was recently released in 2018, and the draft of this section was written by 'Abdullah Najjar.

<sup>2</sup> This is the introduction of chapter two of *The Palestine Strategic Report 2016–2017*, which includes the demographic and economic indicators.

## ***First: Demographic Indicators***

### **1. The Palestinian Population Worldwide**

The Palestinians worldwide were estimated by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) at 13.026 million in 2017 compared to around 12.706 million in 2016, an increase of 2.52%. In 2016, the increase was by 2.75%, compared to 2015, where the total number of Palestinians was estimated at 12.366 million.<sup>3</sup>

Based on 2017 estimates, Palestinians in historic Palestine are estimated at 6.587 million representing 50.6% of Palestinians worldwide. Of these, 5.022 million Palestinians, representing 38.6% of Palestinians worldwide, live in the territories occupied in 1967. In territories occupied in 1948 (Israel), 1.565 million Palestinians reside, forming around 12% of Palestinians worldwide (see table 1/2).

Palestinians in the Diaspora were estimated to number 6.439 million at the end of 2017, amounting to 49.4% of the Palestinians worldwide. These Palestinians are mostly concentrated in neighboring Arab countries, notably Jordan, which was home to around 4.087 million Palestinians (most of them holding Jordanian nationality), representing 31.4% of Palestinians worldwide. Palestinians in other Arab countries are estimated at 1.646 million, thus forming 12.6% of Palestinians worldwide, and they are mostly present in neighboring Arab countries including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and the Gulf countries. Palestinians in foreign countries total an estimated 706 thousands, 5.4% of Palestinians worldwide (see table 1/2).

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<sup>3</sup> For the year 2015, see Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), *Palestinians at the End of Year 2015* (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2015), <http://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2176.pdf>; as for the year 2016, see PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016* (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2016), <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2242.pdf>

As for 2017 estimates, numbers were calculated based on data in 2016, calculating growth rates by 2.8% for WB and GS (2.5% for WB, 3.3% for GS), 2.2% for the 1948 Palestinian occupied territories, and 2.47% for other Arab countries, and 1.5% for foreign countries.

Note: According to available data, published by PCBS, population growth of Palestinians in the Diaspora was -2.1% in 2011, while in 2012 it became 3.1%, then in 2013 it decreased to 1.6%, while it settled in 2014 and 2015 to be 2.1%. These numbers confuse researchers, for it is impossible for the number of Palestinians to decrease in one year by 2.1%, and then in the next year to increase by 3.1%. It seems that the PCBS can be efficient with high precision in the WB and GS, while in the Diaspora numbers are provided by host countries or are estimated by researchers. Discrepancies and confusion are manifested when PCBS re-estimated the numbers of recent years without adapting the estimates for the years that preceded, thus the growth did not take its gradual logical form. As for the Palestinian population in Jordan, their estimation is a dilemma for researchers, and statistics vary drastically.



It should be noted that these numbers are estimated figures, as it is difficult to uncover accurate statistics for Palestinians in the Diaspora. Moreover, the estimated number of Palestinians in foreign countries was based on the PCBS 1.5% growth rate, whereas their increase is assumed to be over 2%.

At the end of 2016, Palestinians worldwide were estimated to number 12.706 million, of whom 4.884 million were living in the WB and GS, in addition to around 1.532 million Palestinians in the territories occupied in 1948, compared to 6.29 million living abroad; 3.988 million in Jordan and 1.607 million in other Arab countries. Their number in foreign countries was estimated to be 696 thousands (see table 1/2).

**Table 1/2: Palestinian Population Worldwide Estimate According to Place of Residence at the End of 2016 and 2017 (thousands)<sup>4</sup>**

Place of residence		2016		2017*	
		Population estimates	Percentage (%)	Population estimates	Percentage (%)
Palestinian territories occupied in 1967	WB	2,972.1	23.4	3,046.4	23.4
	GS	1,912.2	15	1,975.3	15.2
Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 (Israel)**		1,531.7	12.1	1,565.4	12
Jordan***		3,988	31.4	4,086.5	31.4
Other Arab countries		1,606.7	12.6	1,646.4	12.6
Foreign countries		695.7	5.5	706.1	5.4
Total		12,706.4	100	13,026.1	100

\* Figures for 2017 are estimated, with 2.8% increase in WB and GS (2.5% in WB and 3.3% in GS), 2.2% in Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, 2.47% in other Arab countries and 1.5% in foreign countries.

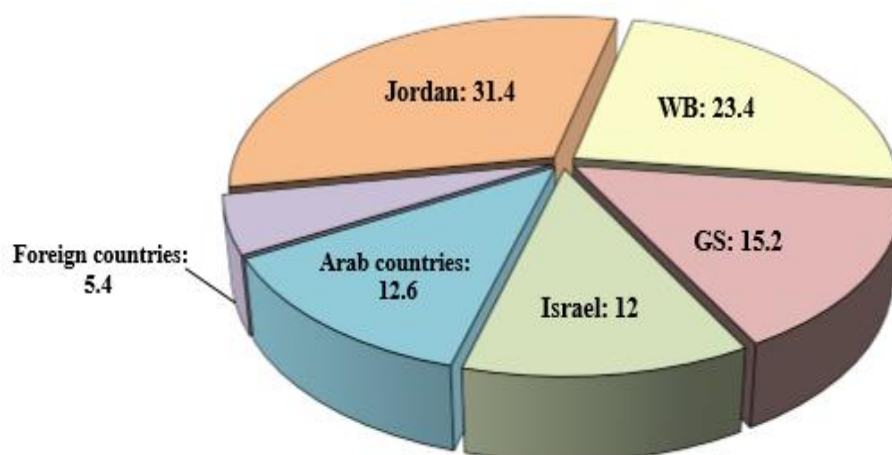
\*\*For the Palestinian population in the 1948 occupied territories; the number includes neither the Palestinians in the 1967 occupied territories, including Jerusalem governorate, nor Arab Syrians, Lebanese or non-Arab Christians or those classified as "Others." In contrast, Israeli statistics have shown figures different from those of the PCBS, as the Israeli CBS estimated the number of Arab Palestinians in the 1948 occupied territories at around 1.838 million in 2017. If we deduct the number of citizens in East Jerusalem, 342 thousands (based on 2016 statistics) and the number of citizens in the Golan Heights, which is approximately 25,000, then the number of 1948 Palestinians totals 1.47 million.

\*\*\*The number of Palestinians in Jordan is based on PCBS statistics in 2009 which were 3,240,473, and on the 2.47% annual growth rates during the period 2009–2016, issued by the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS),

[http://jorinfo.dos.gov.jo/PXWeb2014R2/Selection.aspx?px\\_tableid=Table%205.px&px\\_path=Population%20and%20Housing\\_\\_Demographic%20Statistics&px\\_language=en&px\\_db=Population%20and%20Housing&rxid=e0c35eac-d04f-4689-ace3-8f29bf1f19da](http://jorinfo.dos.gov.jo/PXWeb2014R2/Selection.aspx?px_tableid=Table%205.px&px_path=Population%20and%20Housing__Demographic%20Statistics&px_language=en&px_db=Population%20and%20Housing&rxid=e0c35eac-d04f-4689-ace3-8f29bf1f19da)

<sup>4</sup> See PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of the Year 2016*.

## Palestinian Population Worldwide Estimate According to Place of Residence at the End of 2017 (%)



## 2. The Demographic Characteristics of Palestinians

### a. The WB and GS

The number of Palestinians in the WB and GS at the end of 2017 was estimated at 5.02 million. 3.046 million lived in the WB (60.7%) and 1.975 million in the GS (39.3%), with a growth rate of 2.8% and their number was 4.88 million at the end of 2016.

Estimates for 2017 show that 42.9% of Palestinians in the WB and GS were refugees descending from the territories occupied in 1948, a total of 2.156 million refugees. Around 827 thousand refugees were found to be living in the WB, thus constituting 27.1% of total WB Palestinians, while in GS their number reached 1.329 million refugees, 67.3% of the total Gazan population.

**Table 2/2: Palestinian Total and 1948 Refugee Population in the WB and GS 2016–2017<sup>5</sup>**

Year	Place of residence	Total population		1948 Palestinian refugees	
		Estimates	Percentage (%)	Estimates	Percentage (%)
2016	WB	2,972,069	60.8	806,735	27.1
	GS	1,912,267	39.2	1,286,907	67.3
	WB and GS	4,884,336	100	2,093,642	42.9
2017	WB	3,046,371	60.7	826,903	27.1
	GS	1,975,372	39.3	1,329,375	67.3
	WB and GS	5,021,743	100	2,156,278	42.9

<sup>5</sup> For 2016 population estimates see PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of the Year 2016*. The refugees' estimates for 2016 and 2017 are based on PCBS available data for 2015 and according to a growth rate of 2.5% for WB and 3.3% for GS; see PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of the Year 2015*.



The Palestinian community in the WB and GS is young, with those aged under 15 estimated to constitute 38.9% of the population in mid-2017. However, there is a stark difference between the WB and GS, as 36.6% of the population in the former is aged under 15 years compared to 42.6% in the latter (see table 7/2).

Data showed a slight increase in median age (age that divides the population into two numerically equal groups, i.e., half the population is below that age and half above it) in the WB and GS during 2000–2016, where it ranged between 16.4 years in 2000 and 20 years in 2016. Comparing WB and GS figures during the same period shows a difference in median age, which increased from 17.4 years in 2000 to 21.2 in 2016, and in the GS from 14.9 years in 2000 to 18.4 years in 2016.<sup>6</sup>

As for the elderly (65 years and over), they constitute only a small percentage of the total population, estimated at 2.9%, with 3.3% in the WB and 2.4% in the GS (see table 7/2). However, if the percentage of elderly was counted starting from 60 years and over, the rate became 4.6% of the total population for mid-2017, with 5.1% in WB and 3.9% in GS (see table 5/2).

Since the beginning of the 1990s, life expectancy has increased in WB and GS rising by 5–8 years. It has increased, for both males and females, from 67 years in 1992 to 72.3 years for males and 75.4 years for females in mid-2017, and is expected to reach 72.8 years for males and 75.7 years for females in 2020.<sup>7</sup>

Data showed that 17.2% of households are headed by an elderly person; 18.5% in WB and 14.9% in GS. Data also indicated that the average size of households headed by an elderly person is usually relatively small, where the average size of such households reached 3.3 persons (three in the WB and four in the GS), compared with 5.9 persons for households headed by a non-elderly person.<sup>8</sup>

In 2016, there was a high percentage of illiterate elderly people in Palestinian society as a whole, reaching 25.5% and representing, 62% of illiterate adults (15 years and over). Whereas, the illiteracy rate among Palestinians aged 15 years and over in WB and GS, did not exceed 3.1% (1.4% for males and 4.8% for females).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

<sup>7</sup> PCBS, On The Occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, 1/10/2017, <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=2559>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

Males in the WB and GS were estimated to number 2.52 million at the end of 2017 compared to 2.43 million females, with a gender ratio 103.7 males per 100 females. In the WB, there were 1.53 million males compared to 1.48 million females with a ratio 103.4. In GS, males totaled 988 thousand compared to 956 thousand females, a sex ratio of 103.3.<sup>10</sup>

Data showed that the dependency rate (number of dependent persons per 100 individuals of working age, 15–64 years) in the WB and GS decreased from 100.6 in 2000 to 72.3 in 2016. However, the dependency rate in the WB is lower than that in the GS and it decreased in the former from 94.3 in 2000 to 66.6 in 2016, whereas in the latter it decreased from 112.8 in 2000 to 82.1 in 2016.<sup>11</sup>

Demographic estimates also show that the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) in the WB and GS will decrease from 30.9 births per thousand population in 2016 to 29 births in 2020. In 2016, CBR in WB was estimated at 28.5 births compared to 35.8 in GS.<sup>12</sup>

Available data shows that the Crude Death Rate (CDR) in the WB and GS was relatively low when compared to the rates in other Arab countries. CDR is also expected to decrease in the WB and GS from 3.5 deaths per thousand population in 2016 to 3.4 deaths in 2020.<sup>13</sup> In addition, a slight difference is noted when comparing CDR in the WB and GS. In 2016 CDR in WB was estimated at 3.7 deaths per thousand population compared to 3.5 in GS.<sup>14</sup>

The natural population growth rate in the WB and GS was 2.8% in 2016 with 2.5% in the WB and 3.3% in the GS. Growth rates are expected to maintain the same level in the coming years. Fertility in the WB and GS is considered high compared to fertility rates in other countries given early marriage, especially for females, and the desire to have children as part of the customs and traditions prevailing in Palestinian society.<sup>15</sup>

There are indicators that the fertility rate of Palestinian women has decreased, especially since the 1990s. Based on the results of the Palestinian household survey in 2014, there was a decrease in the total fertility rate in the WB and GS

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<sup>10</sup> PCBS and National Population Committee, The International Population Day, 11/07/2017, <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=1975>

<sup>11</sup> PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> PCBS and National Population Committee, The International Population Day, 11/07/2017.

<sup>14</sup> PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.



where there were 4.1 births per woman during 2011–2013 compared to 6 in 1997. Comparing WB with GS shows an increased fertility rate in the GS compared to the WB during 1997–2013; where in the WB there were 3.7 births per woman over 2011–2013 compared to 5.6 births in 1997; while in GS there were 4.5 births per woman over 2011–2013 compared to 6.9 in 1997.<sup>16</sup>

The total fertility rate is noted to be high in the WB and GS when compared to other Arab countries. In 2016, the fertility rate in Jordan reached 3.5 births per woman, 3.5 in Egypt and 2.4 in Tunisia. Thus, the WB and GS are considered to have high fertility rates.<sup>17</sup>

Available data for 2016 showed a decline in the average household size in the WB and GS compared to 1997, where it decreased from 5.2 persons in 2016 compared to 6.4 persons in 1997. In WB, average household size decreased to 4.8 persons in 2016 compared to 6.1 in 1997, while in the GS it decreased to 5.7 persons in 2016 compared to 6.9 in 1997.<sup>18</sup>

The percentage of nuclear households in 2015 in WB and GS was 85.7% of the total households. There were 10.2% extended households, 4% one person households, and 0.1% composite households (see Table 3/2).

**Table 3/2: Percentage Distribution of Households in WB and GS by Household Type 2015<sup>19</sup>**

Indicator	One person household (%)	Nuclear household (%)	Extended household (%)	Composite household (%)	Total	Average household size (individual per household)
<b>WB</b>	4.6	86.3	9.1	-	<b>100</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>GS</b>	2.8	84.7	12.4	0.1	<b>100</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>WB &amp; GS</b>	4	85.7	10.2	0.1	<b>100</b>	<b>5.2</b>

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

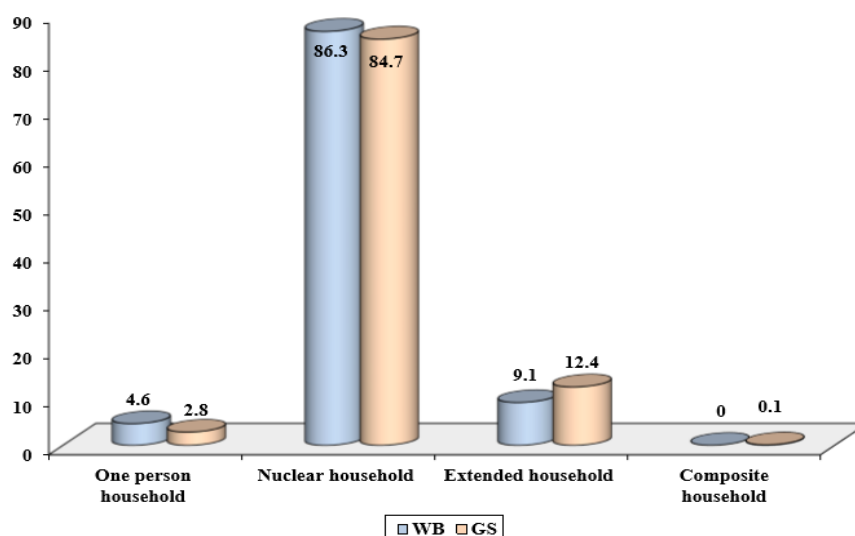
<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> PCBS and National Population Committee, The International Population Day, 11/07/2017.

<sup>19</sup> PCBS, *Statistical Yearbook of Palestine no "17"* (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2016), <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2238.pdf>



## Percentage Distribution of Households in WB and GS by Household Type 2015



In 2016, 11% of households were headed by females in the WB and GS, 12% in the WB and 9% in the GS. Usually, the size of female-headed households was relatively small, with an average size of 3 persons compared to 5.7 persons for male-headed households.<sup>20</sup>

Population density in WB and GS is high in general particularly GS. By mid-2017, estimated population density was at 823 person/km<sup>2</sup> in WB and GS, 532 person/ km<sup>2</sup> in WB, compared to 5,324 person/ km<sup>2</sup> in GS.<sup>21</sup>

The 2016 data revealed that the percentage of individuals in WB and GS, (15 years and over) who completed university education (bachelors' degree or higher), was 14%. The percentage of individuals who did not complete any educational stage reached 9%. Moreover, the illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years and over was 3.1%. The illiteracy gap is significantly marked among males and females at 1.4% and 4.8% respectively.<sup>22</sup>

Moreover, the percentage of Palestinian households in which a family member owned a housing unit was approximately 77%, of which 79% were in WB and 72% in GS. Data revealed that 88% of the households in WB and GS lived in houses that are supplied with drinking water from the public network of which 83% were in WB and 94% in GS. Moreover, almost all households in WB and GS lived in houses connected to the electricity network. In addition, approximately 37% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to

<sup>20</sup> PCBS and National Population Committee, The International Population Day, 11/7/2017.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.



tight/ porous cesspits, of which 56% in WB and 9% in GS. While 62% of Palestinian households were living in houses connected to public sewerage network of which 43% in WB and 91% in GS. This is according to 2016 figures.<sup>23</sup>

The Palestinian population is distributed into 16 governorates, 5 of which are in GS and 11 in WB. Figures for 2016 show that Hebron is the largest governorate in terms of population, estimated at 15.1% of the total population in WB and GS combined, followed by Gaza governorate with 13.4% and Jerusalem governorate with 8.8%. Figures also show that Jericho and al-Aghwar is the least populated governorates with 1.1% of the total population in WB and GS. The following table shows the estimated population count in the WB and GS governorates based on PCBS figures.

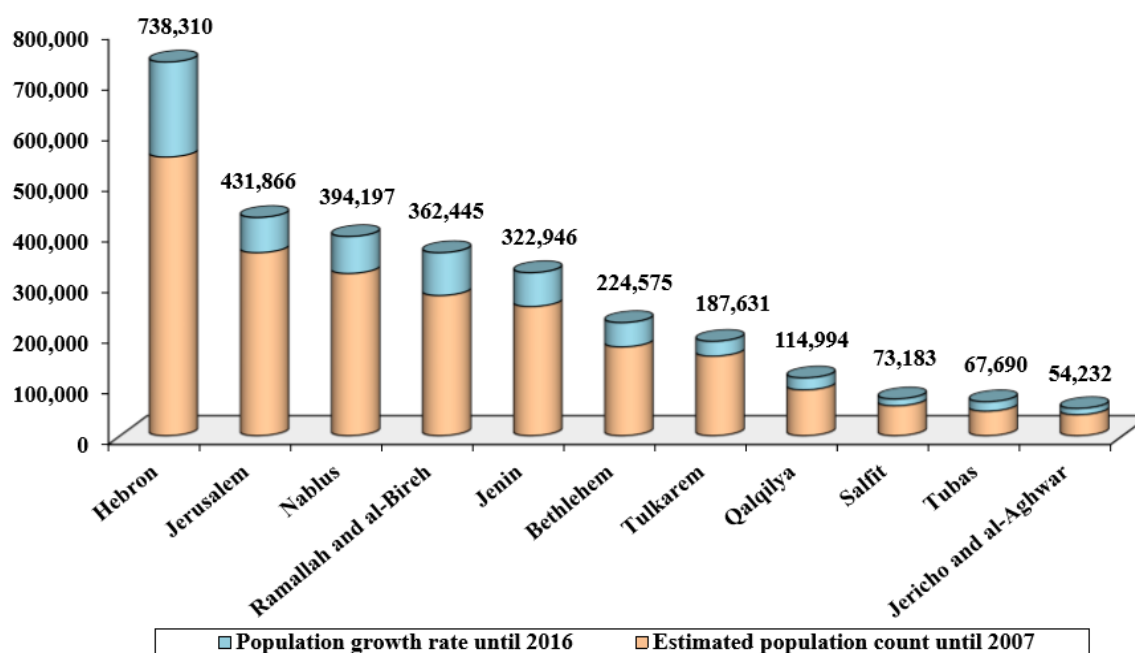
**Table 4/2: Estimated Population Count in WB and GS by Governorate, 2007 and 2015<sup>24</sup>**

Governorate	2007	2016	Annual growth rate 2007–2015
<b>WB</b>	<b>2,345,107</b>	<b>2,972,069</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Jenin	256,212	322,946	2.6
Tubas	48,771	67,690	3.7
Tulkarem	158,213	187,631	1.9
Nablus	321,493	394,197	2.3
Qalqilya	91,046	114,994	2.6
Salfit	59,464	73,183	2.3
Ramallah and al-Bireh	278,018	362,445	3
Jericho and al-Aghwar	41,724	54,232	3
Jerusalem	362,521	431,866	2
Bethlehem	176,515	224,575	2.7
Hebron	551,130	738,310	3.3
<b>GS</b>	<b>1,416,539</b>	<b>1,912,267</b>	<b>3.4</b>
North Gaza	270,245	383,367	4
Gaza	496,410	655,881	3.1
Dayr al-Balah	205,534	277,906	3.4
Khan Yunis	270,979	357,759	3.1
Rafah	173,371	237,354	3.6
<b>Total (WB &amp; GS)</b>	<b>3,761,646</b>	<b>4,884,336</b>	<b>2.9</b>

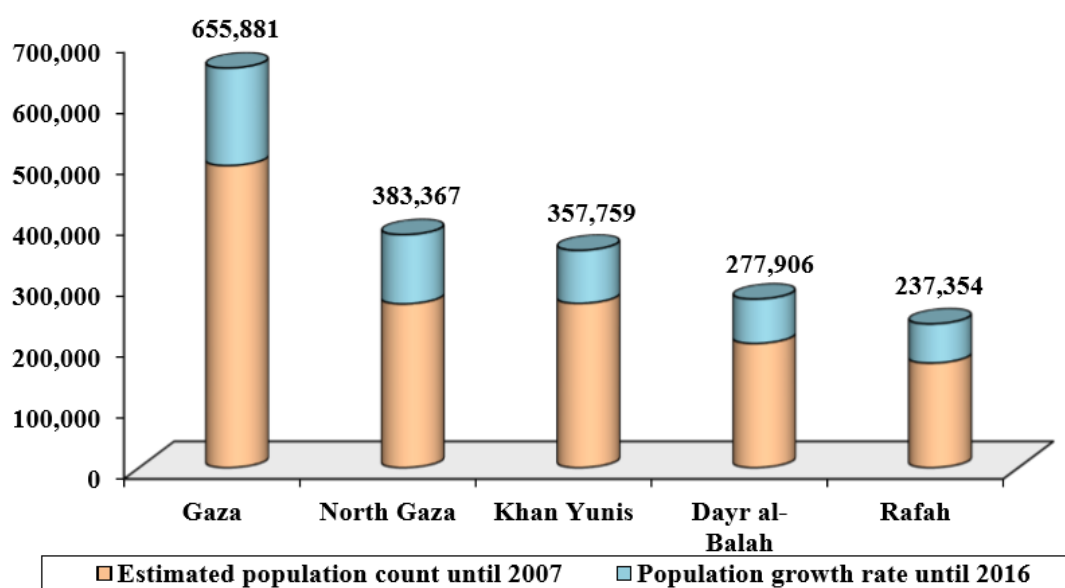
<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> PCBS, *The 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](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/census2007_e.pdf); and PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

## Estimated Population Count in WB Governorates 2016



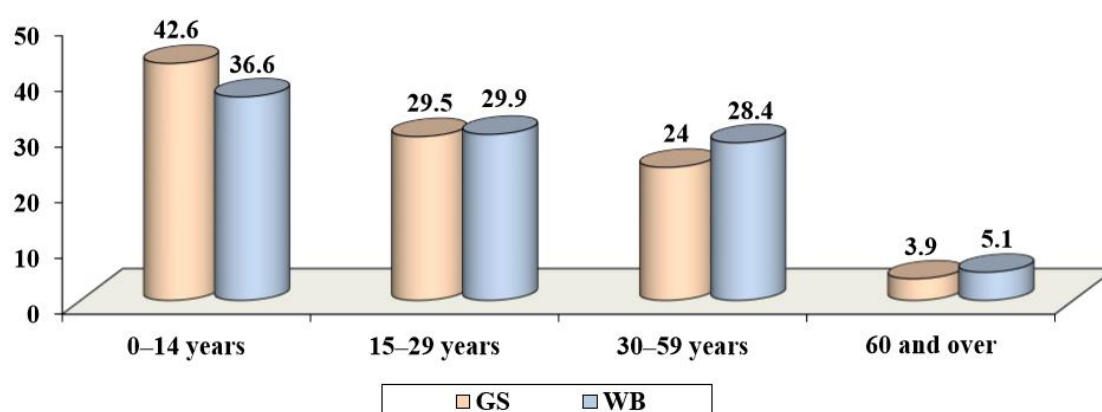
## Estimated Population Count in GS Governorates 2016



**Table 5/2: Selected Demographic Indicators of Palestinians in WB and GS by Residence<sup>25</sup>**

Indicator		WB	GS	WB and GS
Estimated Population (mid-2017)		3,008,770	1,943,398	4,952,168
Population density (person/ km <sup>2</sup> )		532	5,324	823
Population growth rate (2016)		2.5	3.3	2.8
Life expectancy at birth (male) (yrs) (2016)		72.4	71.5	72.1
Life expectancy at birth (females) (yrs) (2016)		75.5	74.6	75.2
Infant mortality rate (deaths per thousand live births)		17	19.6	18.2
Average number of rooms in the housing unit		3.4	3.6	3.5
Population structure % (mid-2017)	0–14 years	36.6	42.6	38.9
	15–29 years	29.9	29.5	29.7
	30–59 years	28.4	24	26.8
	60 and over	5.1	3.9	4.6
Average housing density (persons/ room) (2016)		1.6	1.9	1.6

**Population Structure Percentage in WB and GS by Age (mid-2017)**



<sup>25</sup> PCBS, Main Statistical Indicators in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, [http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/\\_Rainbow/StatInd/StatisticalMainIndicators\\_E.htm](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/StatInd/StatisticalMainIndicators_E.htm)

## **b. The Palestinian Territories Occupied in 1948 (Israel)**

There were an estimated 1.565 million Palestinians in Israel at the end of 2017 compared to around 1.532 million in 2016. Available data regarding Palestinians residing in Israel in 2015 shows that those aged under 15 years totaled 34.3% for males and 33.5% for females, while those aged 65 years and over amounted to 4% for males and 4.8% for females.<sup>26</sup>

Available estimates for 2015 show the total fertility rate for Palestinians residing in Israel at 3.2 births per woman. Available data also shows that the average Palestinian household size in Israel reached 4.6 persons in 2015. Moreover, CBR and CDR were estimated at 23.6 births and 2.9 deaths per thousand respectively, while the infant mortality rate was 6.2 deaths per thousand live births. However, these figures did not include Arab citizens in the Syrian Golan Heights or citizens in J1 of Jerusalem governorate. They also excluded Lebanese Arabs who moved to live temporarily in Israel. The Israeli authorities consider all these categories to be within its population and within the Arab population as a whole.<sup>27</sup>

Due to harsh Israeli economic policies, half of Palestinian families—Muslim ones in particular—live in extreme poverty, while 60% of children live below the poverty line.

The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) estimated the number of Muslims among Palestinians living in the 1948 territories, at 1.489 million at the end of 2015, while Druze numbered 137 thousand and Christians 130 thousand. The largest gathering of Arabs lived in the northern area (42.1%), followed by Jerusalem (19.1%), then Haifa (14.3%). The same statistics showed that Muslims in these areas are mostly characterized of being from younger generations.<sup>28</sup>

## **c. Jordan**

Palestinians living in Jordan were estimated at 4.087 million at the end of 2017 compared to 3.988 million at the end of 2016, and most of them hold Jordanian citizenship, i.e., Jordanian citizens of Palestinian descent (see table 1/2).

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<sup>26</sup> PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> See CBS, *Israel in Figures 2016* (Jerusalem: CBS, January 2017), [http://www.cbs.gov.il/www/publications/isr\\_in\\_n16e.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/www/publications/isr_in_n16e.pdf)



According to the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS), the annual growth in 2016 was estimated at 2.47%, a percentage that includes Jordanian citizens of Palestinian descent, too.<sup>29</sup> According to PCBS figures in 2010, the average Palestinian household size in Jordan was 4.8 persons. The total fertility rate among Palestinian women in Jordan was 3.3 births per woman, and CBR was 29.2 births per thousand people. The infant mortality rate in Palestinian refugee camps (RCs) in Jordan was 22.6 deaths per thousand live births, while the mortality rate among children aged under 5 years was 25.7 deaths per thousand live births for the same year.<sup>30</sup>

Based on United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) figures, the total Registered Persons (RPs) in Jordan was 2,286,643 as of 1/1/2017 compared to 2,247,768 as of 1/1/2016. According to early estimates in 2017, about 17.4% of the RPs (nearly 400 thousand) live in the ten Palestinian RCs in Jordan.<sup>31</sup>

UNRWA cooperates with the Jordanian Government through the Department of Palestinian Affairs, which in turn forms a committee called Camp Improvement Committee, whose members are chosen by RC leaders and figures. The committee serves as municipal councils. The three parties cooperate to improve the infrastructure of the RCs, including their roads, corridors and sewage systems.

All Palestinians refugees in Jordan hold Jordanian citizenship, except for around 100 thousand refugees from GS, since the strip was administered by Egypt until 1967. The Jordanian government grants them temporary passports, and about 24 thousand of them reside in Jerash RC.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> See Table (5): Population & Growth Rate Estimation, Department of Statistics, Amman, <https://bit.ly/2HslTmX>

<sup>30</sup> PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

Although these are PCBS 2016 figures, the center did not provide any updated figures, as the data available on Jordan did not exceed 2010.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2017, [https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/unrwa\\_in\\_figures\\_2017\\_english.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/unrwa_in_figures_2017_english.pdf); and UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2016, [https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/unrwa\\_in\\_figures\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/unrwa_in_figures_2016.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Refugees in Jordan: TEN Camps and 42% of Total Number, site of Aljazeera.net, 3/10/2004, <http://www.aljazeera.net/specialfiles/pages/f18161a8-f3ad-4db8-a6af-0e14fe16cfef> (in Arabic)

#### d. Syria

According to UNRWA figures, the total RPs in Syria was 618,128 as of 1/1/2017 compared to 630,035 as of 1/1/2016.<sup>33</sup>

The suffering of Palestinian refugees in Syria has increased because of the ongoing crisis there. In 30/1/2018, UNRWA estimated that 254 thousand Palestinian refugees were internally displaced.<sup>34</sup> In addition, around 148 thousand Palestinian Refugees from Syria had gone abroad, as follows:

**Table 6/2: Distribution of Palestinian Refugees From Syria Abroad According to Action Group For Palestinians of Syria 30/1/2018 (thousands)<sup>35</sup>**

Country	Lebanon	Jordan	Egypt	Gaza	Turkey & Europe	Total
Number	31	17	6	1	93	148

Note: Nearly 85 thousand RPS had reached Europe by the end of 2016.

According to UNRWA, 95% of refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria need sustained humanitarian assistance, meaning 438 thousand refugees depended on the food and cash aid offered by UNRWA to meet their basic needs.<sup>36</sup>

Most Palestinian RCs in Syria have been damaged or destroyed, especially those lying in areas witnessing armed clashes. This led to the displacement of residents to more secure areas. Those who stayed in RCs suffered from siege and a lack of services and basic food needs. The most prominent of these were al-Yarmouk and Handarat RCs, where more than 80% of their buildings were totally or partially destroyed.<sup>37</sup> When casting light on the numbers of victims, detainees and missing people, the amount of suffering and targeting of Palestinians in Syria becomes clear. Up to 30/1/2018, a total of 3,642 Palestinian victims were documented (including 463 women), 280 were missing and 1,652 detained.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>33</sup> UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2017; UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2016.

<sup>34</sup> Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2018, UNRWA, 30/1/2018, [https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/2018\\_syria\\_ea\\_fact\\_sheet\\_v4.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/2018_syria_ea_fact_sheet_v4.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Action Group for Palestinians of Syria, Daily Report on the Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Syria, No. 1915, 31/1/2018, <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/en/reports/daily/31-01-2018en.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2018, UNRWA, 30/1/2018.

<sup>37</sup> Action Group for Palestinians of Syria, Daily Report on the Situation of Palestinian Refugees in Syria, No. 1915, 31/1/2018.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid; and Action Group for Palestinians of Syria, Statistics and Graph, 31/1/2018, <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/en/statistic-and-charts/3/8/map/statistic-tables-and-charts-of-victims-detainees-and-missing-people>



According to the most up-to-date available data regarding Palestinian refugees in Syria, those aged under 15 years amounted to 33.1% of the total, while those aged 65 years and over amounted to 4.4% in 2009. Data shows that in 2010 the average Palestinian household size in Syria was 4.1 persons, while the annual growth rate was 1.6%. The total fertility rate among Palestinian women in Syria reached 2.5 births per woman in 2010, whereas CBR was 29.2 births per thousand population. The infant mortality rate for Palestinians in Syria was 28.2 deaths per thousand live births, while the mortality rate among children aged under 5 years reached 31.5 deaths per thousand live births in 2010.<sup>39</sup>

#### **e. Lebanon**

According to UNRWA figures, the total RPs residing in Lebanon was 532,173 as of 1/1/2017 (48.9% of them reside in RCs) compared to 504,376 as of 1/1/2016.<sup>40</sup>

The census carried out in Palestinian RCs and gatherings in Lebanon, by the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and the PCBS, whose results were announced on 21/12/2017, showed that the number of Palestinian refugees in the camps and gatherings had reached about 175,000 Palestinians. This reveals the extent of Palestinian society's drainage and the large number of Palestinian refugees who emigrated from Lebanon. It also may encourage Lebanese authorities and political forces to consider taking measures to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, especially by granting them the right to work and own property. However, it is feared that these results would be used as a pretext for donor countries to reduce aid to UNRWA; or to be used to push the Western-Israeli efforts to settle Palestinian refugees in host countries.<sup>41</sup> The results of the census revealed that about 45% of the Palestinian refugees reside in the camps, and that 4.9% of them hold a second nationality. The results also indicated that the illiteracy rate among the Palestinian refugees had reached 7.2%, and the rate of individuals aged 3–13 years enrolled in education reached 93.6%. Moreover, the unemployment rate in the labor force reached 18.4%, and the household size was estimated at 4.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> See PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

Although these are PCBS 2016 figures, the center did not provide any updated figures, as the data available on Syria did not exceed 2010.

<sup>40</sup> UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2017; and UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2016.

<sup>41</sup> Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and PCBS, *Population and Housing Census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings in Lebanon 2017* (Beirut: February 2018),

<http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/DocumentFiles/Key%20Findings%20report%20En-636566196639789418.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*



Available data regarding Palestinians in Lebanon in 2011 show that 31.1% of refugees are under 15 years of age while 6.1% are 65 years and over. The sex ratio was estimated at 98.2 males per 100 females. Data also indicated that the average household size was 4.4 persons in 2011, while the fertility rate among Palestinian women in Lebanon reached 2.8 births per woman. The infant mortality rate for Palestinians in Lebanon was 15 deaths per thousand live births, while the mortality rate among children aged under 5 years was 17 deaths per thousand live births for the same year.<sup>43</sup>

#### **f. General Comparisons Among Palestinians**

Before comparing some of the major demographic indicators summarized in table 7/2, we would like to point out that, occasionally, some data are used for different years, which may disturb the comparison process. Nonetheless, they remain useful as general indicators, according to the latest available statistics. The following are the main observations:

- The percentage of Palestinians aged under 15 years is highest in GS and lowest in Lebanon.
- The percentage of Palestinians aged 65 years and over is highest in Lebanon, then Jordan and lowest in GS.
- CBRs are highest in GS, then in Jordan and Syria, followed by the WB then Lebanon, and the lowest are in Israel. This rate is consistent with the general trend of births in the past years, where GS remained the area with the highest rate of the CBRs, which leads to demographic pressure on the besieged GS, which has a limited capacity.
- CDRs remained high in the WB and GS, reaching 3.5 deaths per thousand in 2016. This was due to Israeli policies pursued over decades, particularly the killing of Palestinians.

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<sup>43</sup> See PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

Although these are PCBS 2016 figures, the center did not provide any updated figures, as the data available on Lebanon did not exceed 2011.



**Table 7/2: Selected Demographic Indicators of Palestinians by Residence<sup>44</sup>**

Indicator	WB	GS	WB & GS	Israel	Jordan	Syria	Lebanon
% of individuals under 15 years	36.6 (mid-2017)	42.6 (mid-2017)	38.9 (mid-2017)	34.3 males 33.5 females (end of 2015)	39.9 (2011)	33.1 (2009)	31.1 (2011)
% of individuals 65 years and over	3.3 (mid-2017)	2.4 (mid-2017)	2.9 (mid-2017)	4 males 4.8 females (end of 2015)	4.3 (2011)	4.4 (2009)	6.1 (2011)
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	103.3 (mid-2017)	103.4 (mid-2017)	103.7 (mid-2017)	102.7 (2015)	-	100.4 (2009)	98.2 (2011)
CBR (births per 1.000 population)	28.5 (2016)	35.8 (2016)	30.9 (2016)	23.6 (2015)	29.2 (2010)	29.2 (2010)	25.8 (2010)
CDR (deaths per 1.000 population)	3.7 (2016)	3.3 (2016)	3.5 (2016)	2.9 (2015)	-	2.8 (2006)	-
Total fertility rates (births per woman)	3.7 (2011-2013)	4.5 (2011-2013)	4.1 (2011-2013)	3.13 (2015)	3.3 (2010)	2.5 (2010)	2.8 (2011)
Average household size (individual per house)	4.8 (2016)	5.7 (2016)	5.2 (2016)	4.6 (2015)	4.8 (2010)	4.1 (2010)	4.4 (2011)

### 3. The Palestinian Refugees

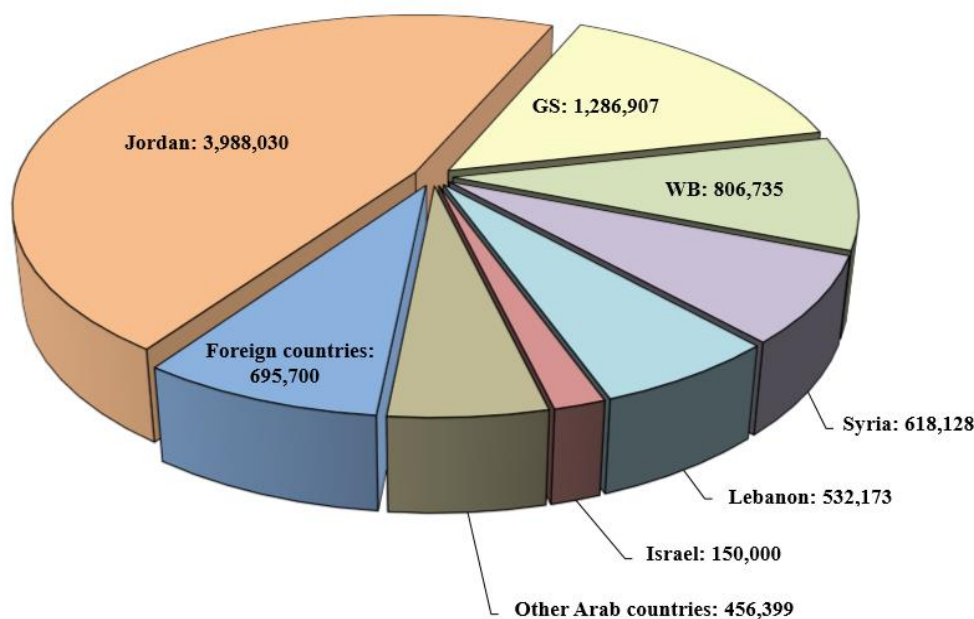
It worth noting that Palestinian refugees are not only those living outside Palestine, they also include around 2.094 million refugees living in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, in addition to 150 thousand refugees who were expelled from their land but remained living in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 (Israel). According to 2017 estimates, the total number of Palestinian refugees is 8.534 million, 67.2% of the total Palestinian population. There is a lack of reliability in calculating some figures due to changes of country of residence or citizenship; however, this will be of marginal impact due to the large overall number of Palestinian refugees.

<sup>44</sup> See PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*; and PCBS and National Population Committee, *The International Population Day, 11/7/2017*; and PCBS, *Statistical Yearbook of Palestine no "17."*

**Table 8/2: Palestinian Refugees Worldwide; Population Estimates in 2017<sup>45</sup>**

Region	WB	GS	Israel*	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Other Arab countries	Foreign countries	Total
Refugee population estimates	806,735	1,286,907	150,000	3,988,030	532,173	618,128	456,399	695,700	<b>8,534,072</b>

\*Approximate number

**Palestinian Refugees Worldwide; Population Estimates in 2017**

It should be noted that UNRWA estimates were limited to Palestinians who have registered as refugees in UNRWA's five areas of operation: WB, GS, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Thus, these estimates do not accurately reflect the actual number of Palestinian refugees worldwide. Moreover, these estimates do not include many residents of UNRWA's five areas, who have no need to register and benefit from UNRWA's services. They also exclude 330 thousand Palestinians who fled after the 1967 war. In addition, some refugees have been forced to leave Palestine under various conditions (other than war) and were prevented from returning later. Therefore, UNRWA estimates are incomplete, and we cannot deal with these estimates as the actual figures of 1948 Palestinian Refugees (except in the case of Syria and Lebanon to a certain extent). Hence, these figures reflect the number of those who registered as refugees in UNRWA and can receive UNRWA's services.

<sup>45</sup> See PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*; and UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2017.



In 2013, UNRWA provided updated statistics regarding the number of refugees in the areas of its operation where recent digitization of UNRWA's registration records has enabled it "to present more detailed beneficiary statistics." UNRWA classified those registered with it into two categories, labeling them "Registered Refugees (RRs)" and "Other Registered Persons (RPs)." The latter category included those eligible to receive the Agency's services according to the UNRWA website. 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.

The total RPs in UNRWA's five regions of operation are estimated at 5.87 million as of 1/1/2017, 2.287 million (39%) of whom live in Jordan, 2.433 million (41.4%) in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 (1.436 million (24.5%) in GS and 997 thousand (17%) in WB), in addition to 1.15 million (19.6%) in Syria and Lebanon. The total of RPCs has reached 1.666 million (28.4%), and it is noted that the percentage of RPCs in Lebanon and the GS is the highest of all the regions. The following table shows the number of UNRWA-RPs according to their area of operation.

**Table 9/2: UNRWA-RPs According to Their Area of Operation  
as of 1/1/2017<sup>46</sup>**

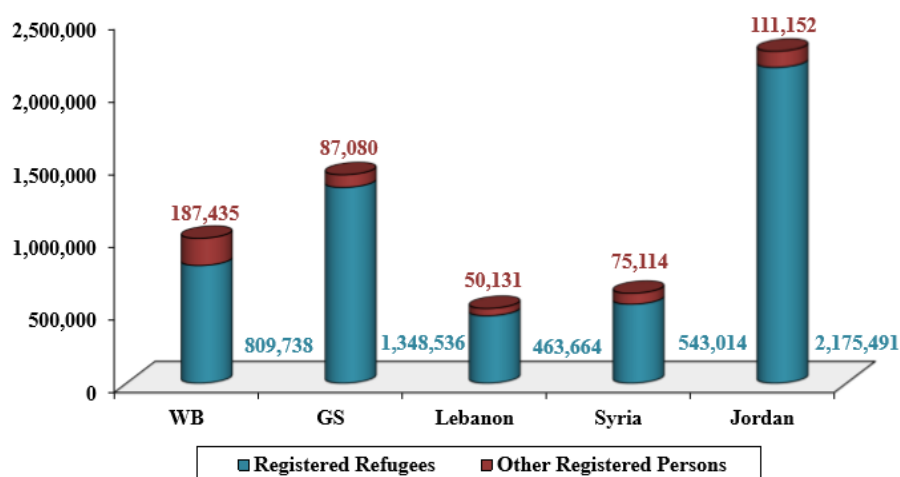
Area	RPs	Other RPs	Total RPs	Official camps	RPCs	RPCs as % RPs
<b>WB</b>	809,738	187,435	997,173	19	242,257	24.3
<b>GS</b>	809,738	187,435	997,173	19	242,257	24.3
<b>Lebanon</b>	463,664	50,131	532,173	12	260,106	48.9
<b>Syria*</b>	543,014	75,114	618,128	9	186,858	30.2
<b>Jordan</b>	2,175,491	111,152	2,286,643	10	397,739	17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,340,443</b>	<b>510,912</b>	<b>5,869,733</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,665,654</b>	<b>28.4</b>

\*All Syria figures represent a working estimate, as the situation in Syria remains volatile.

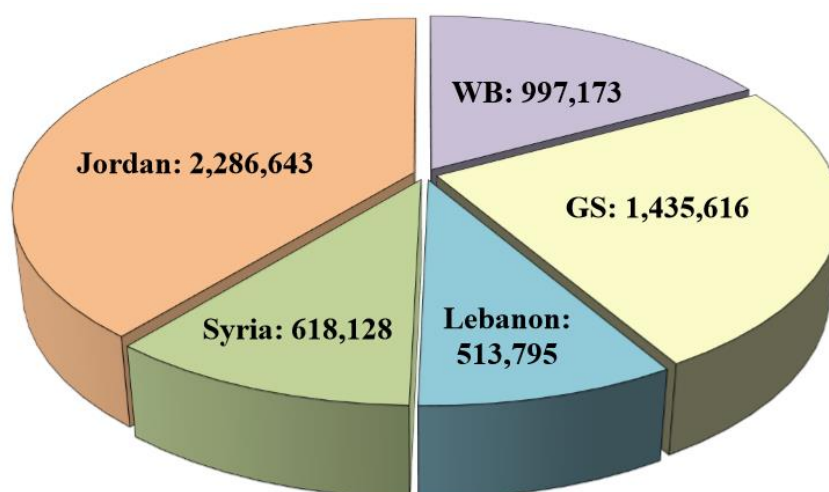
<sup>46</sup> UNRWA in Figures, 1/1/2017.

We noticed that the number of registered people was inaccurate, and it was adjusted later when al-Zaytouna contacted the UNRWA office in Beirut.

### UNRWA's Figures as of 1/1/2017



### UNRWA-RRs by Area as of 1/1/2017



The results of the Labor Force Survey in 2016 showed that the participation rate in labor force among refugees aged over 15 years, who live in WB and GS was 46.1% against 45.5% for non-refugees.<sup>47</sup> There is a clear difference in unemployment rates between refugees and non-refugees, as unemployment rate among the former reached 33.3% while the latter was 22.3%.<sup>48</sup>

The results also indicated that the illiteracy rate among the Palestinian refugees aged 15 years and over in WB and GS during 2016 reached 2.7%, against 3.3% for non-refugees. Moreover, the percentage of refugees, (15 years and over) who completed university education (bachelors' degree or higher), reached 14.9%, compared to 12.6% for non-refugees.

<sup>47</sup> PCBS, On The Occasion Of the International Day of Refugees, 20/6/2017, <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=1957>

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.



Data for 2016 indicated that 43.3% of the households in WB and GS live in an independent house, 50.2% of those are non-refugee families, compared to 34.1% for refugees. The percentage of households living in apartments was 54.4% (46.4% non-refugee against 65.2% for refugee). The percentage of refugee households living in rented accommodation reached 10.6% of the total refugee households and 72.1% for refugee households are living in owned housing unit.<sup>49</sup>

#### 4. Demographic Growth Trends

Despite the relative decrease in the natural growth rate among the Palestinian population, this rate remains high when compared to other populations including the Israelis. Based on PCBS estimates, Palestinians in historic Palestine amounted to 6.587 million at the end of 2017, while Jews reached 6.55 million according to Israel's CBS estimates. Based on annual growth rates which amount to 2.8% for Palestinians in the WB and GS, 2.2% for Palestinians in the territories occupied in 1948 (Israel), and 1.9% for Jews, the number of Palestinians exceeded that of Jews in 2017, by 30 thousand. Jews living in historic Palestine will comprise 49% of the population in 2022, where they will amount to 7.205 million compared to 7.511 million Palestinians.

**Table 10/2: Estimated Population Count of Palestinians and Jews in Historic Palestine 2014–2022 (thousands)<sup>50</sup>**

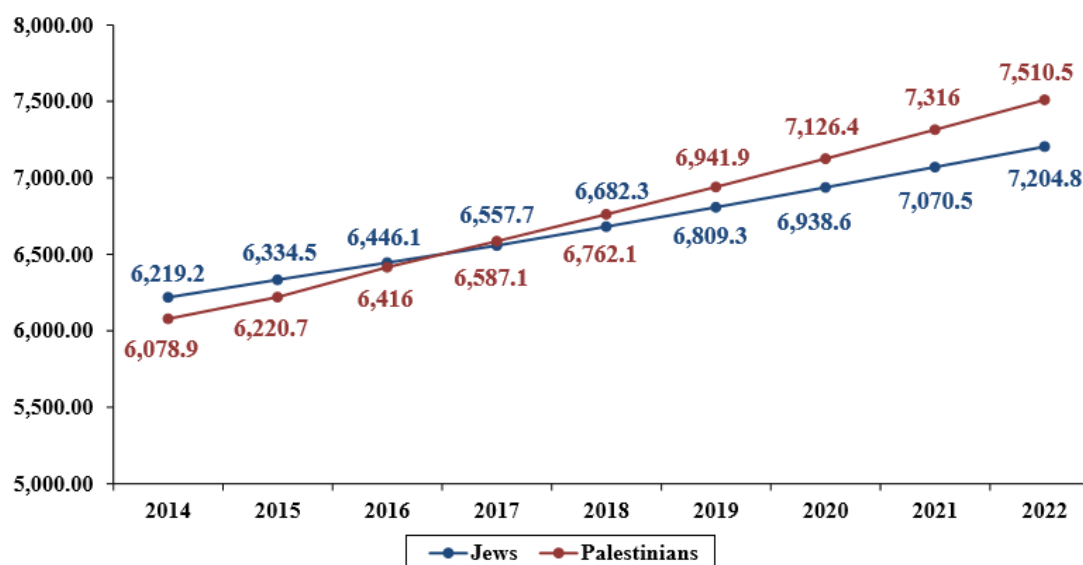
Year	Palestinians			Jews
	WB & GS	Palestinians in territories occupied in 1948 (Israel)	Historic Palestine	
<b>2014</b>	4,616.4	1,462.5	6,078.9	6,219.2
<b>2015</b>	4,749.5	1,471.2	6,220.7	6,334.5
<b>2016</b>	4,884.3	1,531.7	6,416	6,446.1
<b>2017</b>	5,021.7	1,565.4	6,587.1	6,557.7
<b>2018</b>	5,162.3	1,599.8	6,762.1	6,682.3
<b>2019</b>	5,306.9	1,635	6,941.9	6,809.3
<b>2020</b>	5,455.4	1,671	7,126.4	6,938.6
<b>2021</b>	5,608.2	1,707.8	7,316	7,070.5
<b>2022</b>	5,765.2	1,745.3	7,510.5	7,204.8

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> For the number of Palestinians in the years 2014–2016, see PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2014* (Ramallah: PCBS, December 2014), <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/post.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=1292>; PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2015*; and PCBS, *Palestinians at the End of Year 2016*.

As for Population Count of Jews 2014–2017, see Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), <http://cbs.gov.il/publications18/yarhon0118/pdf/b1.pdf>

## Estimated Population Count of Palestinians and Jews in Historic Palestine 2014–2022 (thousands)



### 5. Palestinians Outside Palestine and the Right of Return 2016–2017

Palestinians outside Palestine, which constituted half of the Palestinian population in 2016–2017, continued to hold events and activities as reminders of their inalienable historical rights of Palestine, the importance of preserving the right of return, and that reminded younger generations of the importance of clinging to their lands and right of return. Moreover, these events and activities demanded that Britain apologize for the Balfour Declaration on its 100th anniversary.

The 14th Annual Palestinians in Europe Conference entitled “Palestinian Diaspora: A National Pillar and An Inevitable Return,” convened in the Swedish city Malmö, on 7/5/2016. Also, the 15th Annual Palestinians in Europe Conference was held in the Dutch city of Rotterdam on 16/4/2017, under the slogan “100 Years On, A Victorious Nation and Unbreakable Determination,” despite the Israeli lobby exerting immense pressure on the Dutch government to prevent the convening of the conference. Thousands participated in these two conferences, including Palestinians and Arabs in addition to delegations came from across Europe and further afield. Prominent Palestinian figures from the occupied land and abroad participated in the conference, in addition to European, Muslim and Arab public figures, and delegations representing pro-Palestine institutions and sectors. The two events were organized by The Palestinians in



Europe Conference Institution and the Palestinian Return Centre, in cooperation with Palestinian-European institutions.<sup>51</sup>

The Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad was held in Istanbul on 25–26/2/2017, attended by nearly six thousand Palestinian participants from the Diaspora. 70 prominent Palestinian political and academic figures were invited to the event, which included speeches exploring the rationale for holding such a conference and the aspirations of the participants. The President of the Conference, Anis Qasim, accused the PA leadership of obstructing Palestinian potentials abroad and excluding them from the national project, calling for the restoration of their rights and their role in the PLO. The Head of the Conference's General Commission, Salman Abu Sitta, also criticized what he called the marginalization of Palestinians abroad.

The conference preparatory committee declared that the conference's secretariat would henceforth be based in the Lebanese capital Beirut. Hisham Abu Mahfuz, the head of the conference preparatory committee, said that the founding body of the conference formed the organizational structure: a general authority headed by Abu Sitta with three deputies, a secretary and a general secretariat. The latter includes those who initiated the idea headed by the Palestinian writer and thinker Munir Shafiq, and Abu Mahfuz as his deputy.

The conference's final statement asserted that holding this conference was considered a straight forward call and a loud cry to return to the origins, premises, fundamentals and unity of Palestine, to rekindle the flame of revolution and sacrifice, and to affirm the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic right in Palestine from the sea to the river. The statement pointed out that the Oslo Accords followed by concessions, corruption and security coordination with Israel, had done great harm to the Palestinian people's interests, and their inalienable rights. The conference stressed the rights of the Palestinian people and the legitimacy of all types of resistance against Israeli aggression, considering it a legitimate right guaranteed by both divine and international laws. The conference also called for

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<sup>51</sup> Official Page of Palestinians in Europe Conference official on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Palestinians.In.Europe.Conferences>

See also Palestinians in Europe Hold Annual Gathering in Holland, site of Al Jazeera, 16/4/2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/04/palestinians-europe-hold-annual-gathering-holland-170413055443039.html> (in English)



the unity of Palestinian factions based on the resistance program and the Palestinian National Charter (1964 and 1968).<sup>52</sup>

Palestinians in Latin American countries constitute a significant human and economic mass. These countries continued supporting Palestinian rights, and in order to unify the Palestinians efforts in Latin America and activate their role in serving the Palestine issue, two conferences were held there in January 2017. The Palestinian Federation of Chile held the first conference in the Chilean capital, Santiago, where 14 Diaspora delegations from the region participated. The three-day conference (6–8/1/2017) decided to hold the first conference for Palestinians in Latin America in November 2017.

In the same context, on 11/1/2017, the Confederation of Palestinian Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPLAC) concluded a preparatory meeting in Santiago concerning its Fourth Congress. This came after a quarter of a century of freezing COPLAC activities, in a move described as a response to Santiago's conference. The congress was held in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, on 19–22/10/2017. The Palestinian ambassador to the US, Husam Zomlot, delivered a speech on behalf of President Mahmud 'Abbas, where he stressed solving the refugee issue in the framework of International Legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.<sup>53</sup>

Despite the suffering of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the denial of their most basic civil and political rights, UNRWA issued a decision at the beginning of 2016, reducing its health services in Lebanon. The refugees there rejected the “unjust” decisions and actions of UNRWA and demanded the agency to revoke these policies and to reinstate the reduced services to their previous levels. Palestinian factions and the national and Islamic forces in Lebanon declared a general strike and carried out a public protest in front of UNRWA's

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<sup>52</sup> For more see Quds Press International News Agency, London, 25/2/2017; The Popular Conference of Palestinians Abroad Final Statement 25 and 26 February 2017, site of The Popular Conference of Palestinians Abroad, 26/2/2017, <https://palabroad.org/post/view/345> (in Arabic); Al Jazeera, 25/2/2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/palestinian-diaspora-holds-global-conference-170225164908067.html> (in English); and Anadolu Agency, 27/2/2017, <https://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestine-diaspora-conference-wraps-up-in-istanbul/760268> (in English)

<sup>53</sup> See Quds Press, 7/1/2017; *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* newspaper, Ramallah, 11/1/2017; and *Al-Hayat* newspaper, London, 21/10/2017.

See also Chile: Palestinians Gather to Forge Unified Diaspora, Al Jazeera, 15/1/2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/chile-palestinians-gather-forge-unified-diaspora-170115081651493.html> (in English); and Palestinians in Latin America to Hold Their First Conference, site of The Palestinian Information Center (PIC), 7/1/2017, <https://english.palinfo.com/news/2017/1/7/palestinians-in-latin-america-to-hold-their-first-conference> (in English)

offices in the Palestinian RCs and stressed the continuation of the protests until the UNRWA administration revoked its “unjust arbitrary” decisions. The protest, which took place in the Palestinian RCs, continued for more than 100 days, until UNRWA decided on 16/4/2016 to freeze the reduction of health services, known as the “Hospitalization Plan.”<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> For more see *Al-Quds*, 13/1/2016; Quds Press, 17/1/2016; site of The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), 19/1/2016; and PIC, 16/4/2016 (in Arabic).

التقرير الاستراتيجي الفلسطيني

2017-2016

الفصل الثاني

المؤشرات السكانية الفلسطينية

2017-2016

