



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Survey on the Perception of the Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments Towards the Economic Conditions, April 2004

The press conference of the survey results

April, 2004

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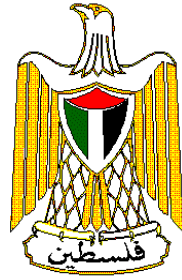
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Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

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Press Release

On the Main Findings of the Survey on the Perception of the Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments Towards the Economic Conditions, April 2004

The situation of 43.4% of the establishments is worse in April 2004 compared with march 2004. About 32.5% expected a worse situation in the coming month

PCBS conducted the seventh round of the survey on the perception of the owners/managers of the economic establishments about the economic conditions. Data collection took place during the period 1/4/2004-19/4/2004 on a sample composed of 570 establishments, of which 381 in West Bank and 189 in Gaza Strip.

The Current Situation:

About 43.4% of the owners/managers of the economic establishments in the Palestinian Territory reported that their current economic situation is worse compared with last month (43.5% in West Bank and 43.0% in Gaza Strip), against 16.2% reported better situation (18.8% in West Bank and 10.4% in Gaza strip).

Concerning restriction on mobility, 62.2% of the owners/managers of the economic establishments reported that there was no real difficulties in reaching the place of work in the past month, while this percent was 54.9% in the past six month, and 10.7% reported that it was difficult for workers to reach place of work in the past month while this percent was 14.4% in the past six months. There was significant differences between the perceptions in West Bank and Gaza Strip, as 87.5% of them in Gaza Strip reported that there were no difficulties in reaching the place of work in the past month, this percent was 88.1% for the past six months, as for West Bank; 51.2% reported that there were no difficulties in the past month and 40.4% for the past six months.

Short Term Expectations:

As for the expectation in the short term (in the coming month), 25.3% of the owners/managers of the economic establishments expect a better situation for their establishment compared with today (29.7% in West Bank and 15.3% in Gaza Strip), against 32.5% expected a worse situation (34.8% in West Bank and 27.0% in Gaza Strip), while 42.2% expected no changes (35.5% in West Bank and 57.7% in Gaza Strip).

The main findings of the survey regarding the level of employment show some pessimism, as 21.1% expected decline in employment level, while 10.3% expected an increase, and 68.6% expect the same level.

In expecting the sales volume, 15.5% of the owners/managers of the economic establishments in the Palestinian Territory expect higher sales volume, and 29.0% expect lower sales volume.

Mid-Term Expectations:

The expectations of the owners/managers of the economic establishments in Gaza Strip were optimistic, 20.4% expected decline in employment level, while 32.4% expected increasing, and 47.2% expected the same level. In West Bank, people were pessimistic as 15.2% expected increasing employment level and 62.0% expected the same level, and 22.8% expected decreasing.

Data reveal that 28.7% of the owners/managers of the economic establishments reported that the sales volume will decrease in the coming six months (26.5% in West Bank, and 33.8% in Gaza Strip), while 25.1% of them expect an increase in sales Volume (20.3% in West Bank and 36.0% in Gaza Strip).

Level of Direct Investment:

The main findings of the survey show that there may be no changes on the level of direct investments in the coming period in general, as 76.3% of the respondents expect that there will be no changes in this field in the coming year, and 10.4% expect an increase in the level of direct investment in the coming year, and 13.3% expect decrease.

The owners/managers of the economic establishments expect that the main reason for the expected investment level to decline or remain constant will be the limited business prospects 49.6%, while 3.6% of respondents said it will be the lack of credit/finance, and 46.8% for both cases.

Problems and obstacles facing the establishments:

The owners/managers of the economic establishments reported facing major problems in their work as a result of the Israeli measures, some of them were suffering from financial problems (47.6% of the respondents), others had problems on obtaining raw materials and inputs (27.6%), and problems on shipping goods and marketing (25.4%), while 20.4% had problems related to the ability of laboures to reach place of work. In addition 7.0% of the owners/managers indicated that they were unable to operate regularly because of curefew, and 26.1% from other problems.

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Table 1: Changes in Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Economic Establishments about the Main Indicators in the Palestinian Territory

Indicator	*April 2004 %		*March 2004 %		*February 2004 %		*January 2004 %		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	-	25.3	-	22.7	-	19.7	-	28.1	
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	20.4	10.3	24.1	15.1	23.1	9.8	29.3	14.8	
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	25.1	15.5	29.6	21.6	38.6	17.8	37.8	21.3	
Percentage of who are expecting higher investment level	10.4	-	9.1	-	10.4	-	15.6	-	

(-): data not available

:(-)

*Data collection for January took place during 3/1-14/1/2004.

.2004/1/14-1/3

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*Data collection for February took place during 7/2-17/2/2004.

.2004/2/17-2/7

*

*Data collection for March took place during 1/3-21/3/2004.

.2004/3/21-3/1

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*Data collection for April took place during 1/4-19/4/2004.

.2004/4/19-4/1

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Table 2: Changes In Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Economic Establishments about the Main Indicators in the West Bank

Indicator	*April 2004		*March 2004		*February 2004		*January 2004		
	%		%		%		%		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	-	29.7	-	24.4	-	19.5	-	27.7	
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	15.2	11.7	25.4	17.2	24.3	9.1	32.3	13.5	
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	20.3	17.5	32.8	25.8	38.6	15.9	39.5	18.6	
Percentage of who are expecting higher investment level	8.7	-	10.7	-	8.0	-	16.7	-	

(-) : data not available

:(-)

*Data collection for January took place during 3/1-14/1/2004.

.2004/1/14-1/3

*

*Data collection for February took place during 7/2-17/2/2004.

.2004/2/17-2/7

*

*Data collection for March took place during 1/3-21/3/2004.

.2004/3/21-3/1

*

*Data collection for April took place during 1/4-19/4/2004.

.2004/4/19-4/1

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Table 3: Changes In Expectations of Owners/ Managers of the Economic Establishments about the Main Indicators in Gaza Strip

Indicator	*April 2004		*March 2004		*February 2004		*January 2004		
	%		%		%		%		
	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	Next six Months	Next Month	
Percentage of who are expecting better Establishment situation	-	15.3	-	18.3	-	20.4	-	29.2	
Percentage of who are expecting higher employment level	32.4	7.2	20.6	10.1	20.4	11.3	21.4	18.0	
Percentage of who are expecting higher sales volume	36.0	10.5	21.7	11.3	38.6	22.5	33.4	28.1	
Percentage of who are expecting higher investment level	14.2	-	4.8	-	15.9	-	12.5	-	

(-): data not available

:(-)

*Data collection for January took place during 3/1-14/1/2004.

.2004/1/14-1/3

*

*Data collection for February took place during 7/2-17/2/2004.

.2004/2/17-2/7

*

*Data collection for March took place during 1/3-21/3/2004.

.2004/3/21-3/1

*

*Data collection for April took place during 1/4-19/4/2004.

.2004/4/19-4/1

*

(2004)

Table 4: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Opinions about Establishments Conditions Compared with One-Month Ago by Region (April 2004)

Attitude	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
A lot better today	0.0	4.4	3.1	/
Somewhat better today	10.4	14.4	13.1	
About the same/ Unchanged	46.6	37.7	40.4	
Somewhat worse today	31.2	30.4	30.7	
A lot worse today	11.8	13.1	12.7	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 5: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Expectation about Establishments Conditions in the Next Month by Region, (April 2004)

Attitude	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
It will be a lot better from now	0.3	2.3	1.7	/
It will be somewhat better from now	15.0	27.4	23.6	
It will be about the same /unchanged	57.7	35.5	42.2	
It will be somewhat worse from now	22.0	19.9	20.6	
It will be a lot worse from now	5.0	14.9	11.9	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 6: Percent Distribution of the Economic Establishments by Ability of Workers to Reach Place of Work in the Past Month and Past Six Months and Region (April 2004)

Ability of workers to reach establishments	Time Period and Region						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	
Impossible	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0	
Very difficult	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.8	1.1	
Difficult	2.4	1.6	16.5	13.1	12.2	9.6	
Few problems	7.9	9.3	28.8	22.6	22.4	18.6	
No problem at all	88.1	87.5	40.4	51.2	54.9	62.2	
Not Applicable	0.2	0.2	11.9	12.0	8.3	8.5	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 7: Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Views about the Problems Faced the Establishment During the Past Month and Past Six Months by Region (April 2004)

Problem	Time Period and Region							
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory			
	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %	Past Six Months %	Past Month %		
Business did not suffer	36.0	39.3	10.6	12.2	18.3	20.5		
Difficulties in obtaining needed raw materials or inputs	27.2	23.9	31.0	29.2	29.8	27.6		
Problems of employees reaching place of work	4.5	4.7	40.6	27.2	29.6	20.4		
Unable to open/operate/work because of curfew	0.0	0.0	21.9	10.1	15.2	7.0	/	/
Unable to open/operate/work because of direct damages	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	/	/
Unable to open/operate/work because of physical	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	/	/
Difficulties in transporting finished goods to market	12.9	12.9	36.6	30.9	29.4	25.4		
Financial problems or unable to obtain bank loans	22.3	14.9	60.7	61.9	49.0	47.6		
Others	38.2	32.5	23.3	23.3	27.8	26.1		

(2004)

Table 8: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Expectation about Level of Employment in the Establishments in the Future by Region (April 2004)

Level of employment	Time Period and Region						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
Significantly higher	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	
Somewhat higher	31.8	6.6	14.8	11.5	20.0	10.0	
About the same	47.2	74.6	62.0	66.0	57.5	68.6	
Somewhat less	13.7	12.9	12.2	15.9	12.7	15.0	
Significantly less	6.7	5.3	10.6	6.4	9.4	6.1	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 9: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Expectation about Volume of Sales in the Establishments in the Future by Region (April 2004)

Volume of sales	Time Period and Region						
	Gaza Strip		West Bank		Palestinian Territory		
	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	Next Six Months %	Next Month %	
Significantly higher	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	
Somewhat higher	35.0	9.7	20.0	16.8	24.6	14.7	
About the same	30.2	56.8	53.2	55.0	46.2	55.5	
Somewhat less	30.1	29.5	15.5	13.6	19.9	18.4	
Significantly less	3.7	3.2	11.0	13.9	8.8	10.6	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 10: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Expectation about Volume of Investment in the Establishments in the Next Year Compared with Current Investment by Region (April 2004)

Volume of Investment	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Significantly higher	0.0	0.4	0.3	
Somewhat higher	14.2	8.3	10.1	
About the same	70.8	78.7	76.3	
Somewhat less	12.5	9.8	10.6	
Significantly less	2.5	2.8	2.7	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(2004)

Table 11: Percent Distribution of Owners/Managers of the Economic Establishments According to their Expectation about the Expected Investment Level Stability or Decline in the Next Year by Region (April 2004)

Reason	Gaza Strip %	West Bank %	Palestinian Territory %	
Decrease in business transactions	73.0	39.7	49.6	
Lack of credit/finance	4.6	3.2	3.6	
Both	22.4	57.1	46.8	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	