



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Labor Force Survey 1999

Data Users Guide

Concepts and Definitions

Household:

One person or a group of persons living together who make common provision for food or other essentials for living and consist one living unit. Household members may be related, unrelated, or combination of both. Servants are considered as family members as long as the household guarantees their living at the same housing unit and providing them food, also absent family members for less than one year are considered as household members.

Population of working age:

All persons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip aged 15 years and over.

Work:

Includes any activity for wage or salary, for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. One hour or more of such activity constitutes work. Work also includes unpaid activity on a family farm or business.

Employed:

All persons are 10 years and over who were at work at least one hour during the reference week (The week ending on Friday preceding the interviewer's visit to the household), or who were not at work during the reference week, but held a job or owned business from which they were temporarily absent (because of illness, vacation, temporarily stoppage, or any other reason). Employed persons are classified according to employment status as follows:

1. Employer:

A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more wage employees.

2. Own-account worker (self-employed):

A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

3. Employee:

A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece-rates or pay in kind.

4. Unpaid family member:

A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person living in the same household.

Employment:

It includes all employed persons who are at working age and working like employer, own-account worker, employee and unpaid family member.

Unemployment:

It includes all unemployed persons 10 years and over who did not work at all during the reference week, who were not absent from a job and were available for work and actively seeking a job during the reference week. Persons who worked in Israel or were absent from work due to closure are considered unemployed, and also those persons never work and not looking for work but waiting to return back to their works in Israel and Settlements.

Labour force:

The economically active population (Labour Force) consists of all persons 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed as defined over at the time of survey.

Underemployment:

Underemployment exists when a person's employment is inadequate in relation to alternative employment, account being taken of his/her occupational skills. The underemployed persons are classified into two groups:

1. Visible underemployment:

Visible underemployment refers to insufficient volume of employment:

persons worked less than 35 hours during the reference week or worked less than the normal hours of work in their occupation, and they are looking toward increasing their working hours through additional work or establishing their own business.

2. Invisible underemployment:

Invisible underemployment refers to a misapplication of labour resources or fundamental imbalance as between labour and other factors of production, such as insufficient income, underutilization, or bad conditions of the current work, or other economic reasons. In this survey, employed persons are classified as invisibly underemployed if they are not already classified as visibly underemployed; and want to change their jobs because of an insufficiency of income, or because they are working in an occupation which does not correspond to their qualification.

Main job:

The job at which the person usually works the most hours in his/her main job. If a person usually works the same number of hours at two jobs, the "main" job is the job at which the person has been employed the longest.

Full time job:

Any job that is usually performed for 35 hours or more per week is considered full-time. In some occupations, usual weekly schedules of less than 35 hours per week are considered to be full-time. For these cases, the option "normal hours are full time" is provided.

Part time job:

A job in which a person works less than 35 hours, unless the number of usual work hours is less than 35. In addition, a job is a part time job if the hours worked by a person were less than usual work hours in such job.

Occupation:

Occupation refers to the kind of work done during the reference period by the employed person, or the kind of work done previously if unemployed, irrespective of the Economic Activity or the employment status of the person. Occupations are grouped together mainly on the basis of the similarity of skills required to fulfill the tasks and duties of the job. Occupations are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO 1988).

Economic Activity:

Economic Activity refers to the activity of the establishment in which an employed person worked during the reference period, or last worked if unemployed. This activity is defined in terms of the kind of goods produced or services supplied by the unit in which the person

works. Economic Activity activities are classified according to the unified commodity classification in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which is based on the International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev3).

Absent from usual work:

All those who were absent from their usual work during the reference week, due to illness, holiday, strike, curfew, lock-out, temporary work stoppage, or due to some other reasons.

Seeking work:

Seeking work is defined as having taken specific steps in the reference week to find paid employment or self-employment. Job seekers are classified into:

1. Available for work: A person ready to work if he\she is offered any job, and there is no reason preventing him\her from accepting such a job although he\she did nothing to get a job.
2. Actively seeking work: A person who is willing to work and is actively seeking work through reading newspaper advertisement, asking friends, registration at the labour exchange offices, or asking employers.

Persons outside labour force:

The population not economically active comprises all persons 15 years and over, who were neither employed nor unemployed accordingly to the definitions over and they are classified according the reason into those classes:

1. Full-Time Student:

It refers to the persons who is currently continuing his \ her studies in order to obtain certain qualifications, and was not engaged in any work during the reference period, and homework and hobbies are not classified as work.

2. Housewife:

It refers to unemployed woman who can work but does not seek work and is not enrolled in any formal education program. She is undertaking household work to serve her household and this does not include serving in other houses in return for a wage in cash or in kind, for such an activity is classified under work.

3. Detained:

It includes those persons liveing in certain institution like prisons, infirmary,...etc.

4. Unable to work:

It refers to persons unable to engage in any type of work due to chronic disease or disabilities.

5. Old age:

It refers to persons who are not working and unable to work due to their old age.

Years of schooling:

The number of regular years of study completed successfully. Repetition years and irregular study or courses are not taken into account.

Hours worked:

Total number of hours actually worked during the reference period as well as overtime and time spent at the place of work on activities such as preparation of the workplace. Leaves, meal breaks and time spent on travel from home to work and vice versa are excluded from work hours.

Monthly work days:

Number of days at work during the month, excluding week-ends, holidays, sick and other paid or unpaid leaves. One hour of work in a given day is considered as one work-day, thus the half-day work on Thursdays, customary in Palestinian civil services, is accounted for as one a work-day in this survey.

Daily wage:

Cash net wage paid to the wage employee from the employer. Wages received in different currencies are converted into New Israeli Shiekles according to the exchange rate in the survey period

Questionnaire Design:

One of the main survey tools is the questionnaire, the survey questionnaire was designed according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendations. The questionnaire includes four main parts:

1. Identification Data:

The main objective for this part is to record the necessary information to identify the household, such as, cluster code, sector, type of locality, cell, housing number and the cell code.

2. Quality Control:

This part involves groups of controlling standards to monitor the field and office operation, to keep in order the sequence of questionnaire stages (data collection, field and office coding, data entry, editing after entry and store the data).

3. Household Roster:

This part involves demographic characteristics about the household, like number of persons in the household, date of birth, sex, educational level...etc.

4. Employment Part:

This part involves the major research indicators, where one questionnaire had been answered by every 15 years and over household member, to be able to explore their labour force status and recognize their major characteristics toward employment status, economic activity, occupation, place of work, and other employment indicators.

Sampling Frame:

The sampling frame consisted of a master sample of enumeration areas (EAs) selected from the population housing and establishment census 1997, the master sample consists of area units of relatively equal size (number of households), these units have been used as primary sampling units (PSUs).

Sample Design:

The sample is a two-stage stratified cluster random sample.

Target Population:

All Palestinians aged 15 years and above living in the Palestinian Territories, excluding persons living in institutions such as prisons or shelters.

Stratification:

Four levels of stratification were made:

1. Stratification by Governorates.
2. Stratification by place of residence which comprises:
 - (a) Urban
 - (b) Rural
 - (c) Refugee Camps

3. Stratification by classifying localities, excluding governorate capitals, into three strata based on the ownership of households within these localities of durable goods.
4. Stratification by size of locality (number of households).

Sampling Unit:

First stage sampling units are the area units (EAs) in the master sample. The second stage sampling units are households.

Sample Size:

The sample size at round 12 (January – March, 1999) is about 7,580 households around (22,640 aged persons 10 years and over); in round 13 (April – June, 1999) sample size was 7,559 households around (23,815 aged persons 10 years and over); in round 14 (July – September, 1999) sample size was 7,559 around (29,649 aged persons 10 years and over); in round 15 (October – December, 1999) sample size was 7,559 which is about (29,111 aged persons 10 years and over). The sample is distributed over 481 enumeration areas.

Target cluster size:

The next important issue in sample design is the target cluster size or “sample-take,” the number of households to be selected per PSU on the average. In this survey households have been selected from 481 master sample areas. Therefore, the sample take was around 16 households.

Sample Rotation:

Each round of the labor force survey covers all the 481 master sample areas. Basically, the areas remain fixed over time, but households in 50% of the EAs are replaced each round. The same household remains in the sample over 2 consecutive rounds, rests for the next two rounds and comes back to the sample for another and last two consecutive rounds before it is dropped from the sample. A 50 % overlap is then achieved between both consecutive rounds and between consecutive years (making the sample efficient for monitoring trends).

In earlier applications of the LFS; the rotation pattern used was different; requiring a household to remain in the sample for six consecutive rounds, then dropped. The objective of such a pattern is to increase overlap between consecutive rounds, the new rotation pattern is introduced to reduce the burden on the households resulted from visiting the same household for six consecutive times.

Estimations Procedure:

To estimate a given total Y for a given sub-population A , we introduce the following formula:

$$(1)_A \quad Y_A = \sum_h \sum_i \sum_j W_{hij} Y_{hij}$$

But since W_{hij} is constant for all j within i , then the estimating formula becomes:

$$(1)_B \quad \hat{Y}_A = \sum_h \sum_i W_{hi} Y_{Ahi}$$

where,

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Y_A = Estimated total for variable Y in sub-population A .

h = The sub-stratum within the domain of estimation.

i = The sample PSU (EA).

j = The unit of analysis or element.

A = Subset of elements possessing a given attribute, that is, belonging to a given sub-population A .

Y_{hij} = Observed value of the variable “ y ” for the j -the element of the i -the sample PSU in stratum h .

W_{hij} = Final (adjusted) sampling weight for the element.

y_{Ahi} = is the unweighted PSU total within h for sub-population A .

The estimator for a given ratio for sub-population A is the following:

$$(2) \quad \hat{R}_A = \frac{\hat{Y}_A}{\hat{X}_A}$$

Where:

\hat{R}_A = Estimate for the ratio of two variables, Y/X , in sub-population A .

\hat{X}_A = Estimated total for variable X in sub-population A , given by formula (1)_B.

\hat{Y}_A = Estimated total for variable Y in sub-population A , also given by formula (1)_B.

Means and proportions are special types of ratios. In the case of the mean, the variable X , in the denominator of the ratio, is defined to equal 1 for each element so that denominator is the sum of the weights in the sub-population.

In the case of proportions, the variable X in the denominator is also defined to equal 1 for all elements. But, in addition, the variable Y in the numerator is binomial and is defined to equal either 0 or 1, depending on the absence or presence, respectively, of a specified attribute in the element observed.

Calculation of Variances:

It is very important to calculate standard errors for the main survey estimates so that the user can have an idea of their reliability or precision.

The variance calculation uses the method of ultimate clusters. Within any domain of estimation, for a sub-population A , and for a characteristic Y , the formulas are:

(a) The variance of an estimator of a total is estimated by:

$$(3) \quad V\left(\hat{Y}_A\right) = \sum_h \left[\frac{n_h}{n_h - 1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_h} \left(Y_{Ahi} - \frac{\hat{Y}_{Ah}}{n_h} \right)^2 \right]$$

Where:

$$(4) \quad \hat{Y}_{Ahi} = \sum_{j \in A} W_{hij} Y_{hij}$$

and:

$$(5) \quad \hat{Y}_{Ah} = \sum_i \sum_{j \in A} W_{hij} Y_{hij}$$

The expression in (3) is an unbiased estimator of the Variance.

(b) The variance of an estimator of a ratio is estimated by:

$$(6) \quad V\left(\hat{R}_A\right) = \frac{1}{\hat{X}_A^2} \left[V\left(\hat{Y}_A\right) + \hat{R}_A^2 V\left(\hat{X}_A\right) - 2 \hat{R}_A COV\left(\hat{X}_A, \hat{Y}_A\right) \right]$$

Where:

And:

$V(\hat{Y}_A)$ and $V(\hat{X}_A)$ are calculated according to formula (3);

\hat{X}_A

is calculated according to formula (1)_B and \hat{R}_A according to formula (2).

Data Collection

Training and Recruitment:

The purpose of the training courses were to provide participants with the main skills needed to conduct interviews. Two training courses were held, one in Ramallah for West Bank trainees, and one in Gaza City for Gaza Strip trainees. Each course consisted of two parts: one on survey methodology including survey design, questionnaire design, interviewing techniques, and field operations; and one part on the specifications of the labour force survey, including concepts and definitions, field work procedures, data collection, editing, coding, tips for asking questions and recording answers, as well as field team organization and field supervision.

The training courses included lectures, exercises, as well as field exercises. Each course continued for 3 days, trained in which 14 interviewers, and 4 supervisors.

Field work:

The West Bank was divided into three regions (North, Middle, South), each of which was supervised by one field supervisor. Each region consists of a number of districts and field work was carried out by one field work team, consisted of 2 interviewers.

Gaza Strip was also divided into three regions (North, Middle and South). Field work activities were initiated in Gaza Strip by one field work team, each of which consisted of a supervisor, an editor and 4 interviewers.

Certain procedures were followed for quality control and efficient organization of field work. Such procedures pertain for supervising work as well as receiving and delivering questionnaires, maps, sample lists in addition to other forms used for management and quality control.

Field work teams were distributed among all districts on the basis of sample size in each district. The number of LFS' field work members amounted to 24 including the field work coordinator, 4 supervisors, 4 editors, and 15 interviewers including coders.

Reference week:

The week ending on Friday preceding the interviewer's visit to the household. Four quarter had been carried out at 1999, the first quarter covered the period (January – March), the second quarter covered the period (April – June), and the third quarter covered the period (July – September), and the last quarter covered the period (October – December).

Data Quality

Since the data reported here are based on a sample survey and not on a complete enumeration, they are subject to sampling errors as well as non-sampling errors.

Sampling errors are random outcomes of the sample design, and are, therefore, in principle measurable by the statistical concept of standard error. A description of the estimated standard errors and the effects of the sample design on sampling errors are provided in the previous chapter and in Table A.

Non-sampling errors can occur at the various stages of survey implementation whether in data collection or in data processing. They are generally difficult to evaluate statistically. They cover a wide range of errors, including errors resulting from non-response, sampling frame coverage, coding and classification, data processing, and survey response (both respondent and interviewer-related). The use of effective training and supervision and the careful design of questions have direct bearing on limiting the magnitude of non-sampling errors, and hence enhancing the quality of the resulting data. The following are possible sources of non-sampling errors:

- Errors due to non-response because households were away from home or refused to participate. The overall non response rate amounted to almost 11.4% which is relatively low; a much higher rate is rather common in an international perspective. The refusal rate was only 1.0%. It is difficult however to assess the amount of bias resulting from non response. The PCBS has not yet undertaken any non-response study. Such a study may indicate, that non-response is more frequent in some

population groups than in others. This is rather normal and such information is necessary to be able to compensate for bias resulting from non-response errors.

- Households interviewed in a week different than the reference week. All households were interviewed in the reference week in this survey, except for one call, which was interviewed in another week.
- Errors in data processing, such as coding and punching. The data underwent checking and completion of missing information in the office and logical checks were made by computer as well as manually, including call-backs if needed.
- Response errors which result from misunderstanding of the questions, interviewers' bias in asking the questions and in probing. Thorough training, supervision, and various quality control checks were used to minimize bias resulting from these kinds of errors.

The demographic data, including the sex ratios by age were computed and found generally reasonable and consistent with those found from other sources. These results and the various checks for external validity indicate that the survey data are of very good quality.

Response Rates (Absolute Value), 1999

Variables	Round 12 (January- March,1999)	Round 13 (April- June,1999)	Round 14 (July- September,1999)	Round 15 (October- December,1999)	Total
Completed	6,719	6,990	6,971	6,843	27,523
Unit Not found	37	36	34	45	152
Nobody at home	389	178	199	298	1,064
Refused	74	58	44	26	202
Inhabited unit	236	206	215	222	879
Traveled household				56	56
No useful information	29	8	1	19	57
Other	96	83	95	50	324
Total (Sample Size)	7580	7,559	7,559	7,559	30,257

Derived Variables

In compliance with the International Labor Organization Recommendation, the persons aged 15 years and over classified into two groups:

1. In Labor Force
2. Outside Labor Force

The persons in Labor Force are classified into three groups:

1. Full employment
2. Underemployment (Visible, Invisible)
3. Unemployment

The derived variables as Follows

Variable name	Value Label	Description
EMPCH	1. Full Employment 2. Unemployment 3. Out Labor Force	Labor Force Status (1)
INOUTLF	1. In labor Force 2. Out Labor Force	Labor Force Status (2)
EMPCHU	1. Full Employment 2. Unemployment 3. Out Labor Force 4. Visible Underemployment 5. Invisible Underemployment	Labor Force Status (3)
EMPCHFIN	1. Full Employment 2. Underemployment 3. Unemployment 4. Out Labor Force	Labor Force Status (4)
EMPSTATS	1. Employer (employs others) 2. On own account 3. Employee 4. Unpaid family member	
WBGs	1. West Bank 2. Gaza Strip	Region
REASON	1. Old/ ill 2. Home duties 3. Studying 4. Other	Reason
MARITALS	1. Never Married 2. Married 3. Other	Marital Status
PWORK	1. West Bank 2. Gaza Strip 3. Israel and Settlements 4. Other	Place of Work

Variable name	Value Label	Description
EMPSTATS	1. Employer (Employs other) 2. On own account 3. Employee 4. Unpaid Family member	Employment Status
INDUSTRY	1. Agriculture 2. Manufacturing 3. Construction 4. Commerce, Hotels and Restaurants 5. Transport, Storage and Communication 6. Services	Industry
OCCUPATI	1. Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers 2. Professionals, Technical, Associate and Clerks 3. Service, Shop and Market Workers 4. Skilled Agricultural & Fishery Workers 5. Craft and Related Trade Workers 6. Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers 7. Elementary Occupations	Occupation