Palestinian National Authority
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

The Palestinian Expenditure and Consumption Survey (PECS) 2004

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Concepts and Definitions

Household: One person or group of two or more persons with or without a family relationship who live in the same dwelling unit, who share meals and make joint provisions for food and other essentials of living.

Head of household: The person who usually lives with the household and is recognized as head of household by its other members. Often, he/she is the main decision-maker and is responsible for financial support and welfare of the household.

Expenditure: Includes the following:
- Cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes.
- The value of goods and services payments or part of payments received from the employer.
- Cash expenditure spent as taxes (non-commercial or non-industrial), gifts, contributions, interests on debts and other non-consumption items.

Consumption: Includes the following:
- Cash spent on purchase of goods and services for living purposes.
- The value of goods and service payments or part of payments received from the employer.
- Own-produced goods and food, including consumed quantities during the recording period.
- Estimated rent value of the dwelling.

Recording period: The temporal point during which data on household expenditure and consumption are recorded. It includes one month for record keeping, and twelve months for the last visit interview on durable goods.

Other non-consumption expenditure: I Interests on loans, fees and taxes.

Other non-food consumption expenditure: Financial and legal services, advertisement fees, copy services, translation and printing, writing and drawing equipment, tickets for traveling abroad, jewelry, watches, precious stones, etc.

Main Source of Income: The most consistent and regular income.

Area Area is divided in Palestinian Territory into West Bank North, West Bank Middle, West Bank South and Gaza Strip. West Bank North include (Jenin\ Tubas, Tulkarm\Qalqilya, Nablus\Salfet), West Bank Middle include (Ramallah & Al-Bireh\ Jericho, Jerusalem), West Bank south include (Bethlehem, Hebron).

Survey Questionnaire

The PECS questionnaire consists of two main sections:

First section: Certain articles / provisions of the form filled at the beginning of the month, and the remainder filled out at the end of the month. The questionnaire includes the following provisions:

Cover sheet: It contains detailed and particulars of the family, date of visit, particular of the field/office work team, number/sex of the family members.

Statement of the family members: Contains social, economic and demographic particulars of the selected family.

Statement of the long-lasting commodities and income generation activities:
Includes a number of basic and indispensable items (i.e, Livestock, or agricultural lands).

Housing Characteristics: Includes information and data pertaining to the housing conditions, including type of shelter, number of rooms, ownership, rent, water, electricity supply, connection to the sewer system, source of cooking and heating fuel, and remoteness/proximity of the house to education and health facilities.

Monthly and Annual Income: Data pertaining to the income of the family is collected from different sources at the end of the registration / recording period.

Second section: The second section of the questionnaire includes a list of 54 consumption and expenditure groups itemized and serially numbered according to its importance to the family. Each of these groups contains important commodities. The number of commodities items in each for all groups stood at 667 commodities and services items. Groups 1-21 include food, drink, and cigarettes. Group 22 includes homemade commodities. Groups 23-45 include all items except for food, drink and cigarettes. Groups 50-54 include all of the long-lasting commodities. Data on each of these groups was collected over different intervals of time so as to reflect expenditure over a period of one full year.

Data Set Linkage

There are 7 data files in this CD-ROM, with one key variable in each file to allow the linkage between these files, namely: ID00 variable (household number). The following table describes the files names, content and identification variables.

File Name	Content	Key Variables
cover	Main variables	ID00: Unique household number
roster	roster	ID00: Unique household number D1: Unique individual number
miangrpsNIS	Monthly household expenditure in NIS by main groups	ID00: Unique household number
productsNIS	Monthly household expenditure in NIS by product	ID00,ID1: Unique household number
assis1	Assistances	ID00: Unique household number
sssis2	Assistances type, source and value in NIS	ID00: Unique household number
dwelling	Dwelling condition	ID00: Unique household number
Items	Monthly household expenditure and quantities consumption by product	ID00: Unique household number

Target Population

It consists of all the Palestinian households who are usually resident in the Palestinian Territory.

Sample and Frame

The sampling frame consists of all enumeration areas which were enumerated in 1997; the enumeration area consists of buildings and housing units and is composed of an average of 120 households. We use the enumeration areas as primary sampling units PSUs in the first stage of the sampling selection. The enumeration areas of the master sample were updated in 2003.

Sample Design
The sample is a stratified cluster systematic random sample with two stages:
First stage: selection of a systematic random sample of 299 enumeration areas.
Second stage: selection of a systematic random sample of 12-18 households from each enumeration area selected in the first stage.

A person (18 years and more) was selected from each household in the second stage.

Sample strata:
The population was divided by:
1- Governorate
2- Type of Locality (urban, rural, refugee camps)

Sample Size
The calculated sample size is 3,781 households.

Target cluster size
The next important issue in the sample design is the target cluster size or "sample-take" which is the average number of households to be selected per PSU. In this survey, the sample take is around 12 households.

Weighting

Weights have been calculated for each sampling units. Weights reflect the sampling procedures. Adjusted weight is important to reduce bias resulting from non-responses.

Variance Calculation

It is very important to calculate standard errors for the main survey estimations, so that the user can identify the accuracy of estimations and the survey reliability. Total errors of the survey can be divided into two kinds: statistical errors, and non-statistical errors. Non-statistical errors are related to the procedures of statistical work at different stages, such as the failure to explain questions in the questionnaire, unwillingness or inability to provide correct responses, bad statistical coverage, etc. These errors depend on the nature of the work, training, supervision, and conducting of all the various related activities.

The work team spared no effort at the different stages to minimize non-statistical errors; however, it is difficult to estimate numerically such errors due to absence of technical computation methods based on theoretical principles to tackle them.

On the other hand, statistical errors can be measured. Frequently they are measured by the standard error, which is the positive square root of the variance. The variance of this survey has been computed by using the "programming package" CENVAR.

Data Collection

Field Operations:
Four teams of female interviewers, three in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip, carried out data collection. Each team consisted of a supervisor, a field editor, and 7-9 interviewers. Fieldwork teams were distributed to different districts according to sample allocation.

All field staff received a training session combining general theoretical and practical components. Interviewers, supervisors and editors for the survey were selected from among those who had worked on the previous rounds of PECS Surveys. Fieldwork procedures and organization were designed to ensure adequate supervision and the collection of high quality data. To this end, several quality control measures were used throughout the fieldwork.

An interviewer undertook between 120 and 150 household visits in a month. The households were asked to keep daily records in a diary during their recording month. The interviewer transferred the records in a questionnaire on a weekly basis. Data on durable goods were captured by the recall method for the last 12 months (rounds), in order to avoid a large variance in estimates when the one-month approach is used.

Reference Period

The temporal point during which data on household expenditure and consumption are recorded. It includes one month for record keeping, and twelve months for the last visit interview on durable goods.

Response Rate

The survey sample consists of about 3,781 households interviewed over a twelve-month period between January 2004 and January 2005. There were 3,098 households that completed the interview, of which 2,060 were in the West Bank and 1,038 households were in Gaza Strip. The response rate was 82% in the Palestinian Territory.

Data Processing

Both data entry and tabulation were performed using the ACCESS and SPSS software programs. Data entry was organized in 6 files, corresponding to the main parts of the questionnaire. A data entry template was designed to reflect an exact image of the questionnaire, and included various electronic checks: logical check, range checks, consistency checks and cross-validation. Complete manual inspection was made of results after data entry was performed, and questionnaires containing field-related errors were sent back to the field for corrections.

Data Quality

Sample surveys are exposed to two types of errors: statistical errors resulting from studying a given part of the society and from not including all the sections of the society. Since the households' expenditure and consumption survey is conducted by using a sample method, statistical errors are unavoidable. Therefore, a potential sample of suitable design has been employed whereby each unit of the society has a high chance of selection. Upon calculating the rate of bias in this survey, it appeared that the data is of high quality. The second type of errors is the non-statistical errors that relates to the design of the survey, mechanisms of data collection, management and analysis of data. Members of the work Commission were trained on all possible mechanisms to tackle such potential problems, as well as on how to address cases in which there were no responses (10.3%).