



## 4. Population

### ■ General Demographic Features

		WBGS Total	West Bank	Gaza
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>1997 census:</b>	2,895,683	1,873,476 <sup>1</sup>	1,022,207
	<b>Projected 2007<sup>2</sup></b>	4,016,416	2,517,047	1,499,369
	<b>Projected 2015<sup>3</sup></b>	5,091,314	3,110,489	1,980,825
<b>Growth Rate</b> (2007)		3.2%	2.9%	3.8%
<b>Birth rates</b> (% per 1,000, 2007)		36.0	32.8	41.3
<b>Median Age</b> (2003):		16.5 years	17.6 years	15.3 years
<b>Sex ratio</b> (male-female at birth, 2006):		102.7		
<b>Life expectancy at birth</b> (2005):		72.3 years	72.7 years	71.6 years
<b>Population density</b> (persons/km <sup>2</sup> , mid-2007) <sup>4</sup> :	667		445	4,108
	(Israel in comparison: 310 <sup>5</sup> )			

<sup>1</sup> Incl. East Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> PCBS, *Projected Mid-Year Population in the Palestinian Territory by Governorate (2001-2007)*

<sup>3</sup> PCBS, *Population Projections. Projected Summary Statistics*; <sup>4</sup> PCBS, *Press Release on World Environment Day*, June 2007.

<sup>5</sup> CBS, *Statistical Yearbook*, Sept. 2007.

### Distribution of the Palestinian Population by Governorates and Cities (2006-07)

Locality	Number of Inhabitants	
	Governorate (2007)	City only (2006)
Jenin	269,301	35,760
Tubas	49,615	16,087
Tulkarem	177,694	45,463
Qalqilya	100,753	44,709
Salfit	66,136	9,756
Nablus	345,847	134,116
Ramallah/AI-Bireh	300,328	25,467 / 39,538
Jerusalem	415,942	253,394**
Jericho	44,961	20,416
Bethlehem/Beit Jala/Beit Sahur	185,572	29,927/16,689/15,388
Hebron	560,898	166,003
<b>Total West Bank</b>	<b>2,517,047</b>	
North Gaza	290,843	Jabalia + RC 176,332
Gaza (City)	524,001	409,680
Deir Al-Balah	216,494	city + RC 61,755
Khan Younis	290,399	city + RC 179,768
Rafah	177,632	city + RC 130,986
<b>Total Gaza Strip</b>	<b>1,499,369</b>	
<b>Total WBGS</b>	<b>4,016,416</b>	

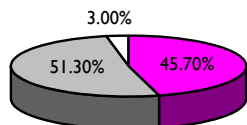
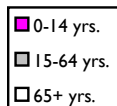
\*\* annexed East Jerusalem (estimates)

Source: PCBS, *Small Area Population, Revised Estimates, 2004-06: Projected Mid-Year Population (2001-07)*

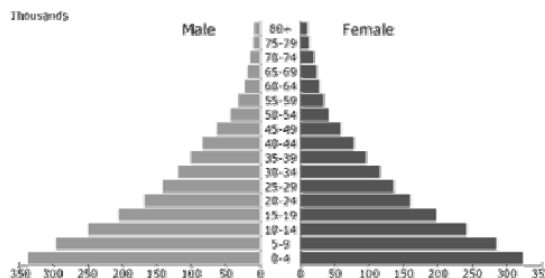
- The Gaza governorate has the highest **population density** with 6,593 people per km<sup>2</sup>, while the most densely populated area in the West Bank was the Jerusalem governorate (over 1,165 persons/km<sup>2</sup>), and the least densely populated area Jericho governorate with 71.3 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. (PCBS, *Press Release on Land Day*, 30 March 2006).
- Of the **worldwide total** Palestinian population, Palestinians living in the WBGS comprise some 37.8%, Palestinians living in Israel some 11.2%, and Palestinians living in Jordan some 29.4%. (PCBS, *Statistical Abstract of Palestine No. 6*, 2005).



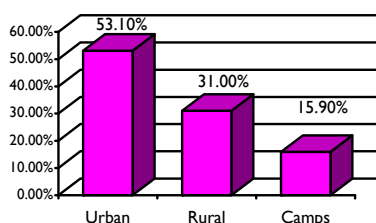
### Age and Sex Structure, WBGS, 2006:



Sources: Age: PCBS, *Statistical Abstract for Palestine, No. 6, 2005*; Sex: PCBS, *Demographic and Health Survey 2004: Main Findings, 2005*.



### Distribution of the Population by Place of Living



Some 73 Palestinian localities (=10.3%) are **urban**, 605 **rural** (+85.5%) and 30 are **refugee camps** (4.2%).

The total **urban population** comprises 53.1%, however with large regional differences: In the West Bank, 46.6% of the population lives in urban area, in Gaza 63.5%.

Source: PCBS, *Characteristics of Urban and Rural Areas in the Palestinian Territories*, July 2003.

### Distribution of the Palestinian People Worldwide

Inside		Outside	I <sup>2</sup>	II <sup>3</sup>	III <sup>4</sup>
West Bank & Gaza Strip <sup>1a</sup>	4,016,416	Jordan	2,839,639	2,472,501	2,626,000
		Lebanon	421,292	456,824	463,000
		Syria	422,699	494,501	411,000
		Egypt	62,846	51,805	48,000
		Saudi Arabia	314,226	291,778	299,000
		Kuwait & other Gulf	166,086	149,786	135,000
		Libya and Iraq	117,276	78,884	79,000
		Other Arab countries	6,621	5,887	-
		The Americas (USA:)	238,721	216,196	-
		Other Countries	303,987	275,303	606,000
Areas Occupied in 1948 <sup>1b</sup>	1,416,300				
<b>Total Inside</b>	<b>5,432,716</b>	<b>Total Outside</b>	<b>4,913,393</b>	<b>4,493,465</b>	<b>4,667,000</b>

<sup>1a</sup> PCBS, *Demographic Statistics*, figures for 2007 <sup>1b</sup> Israeli CBS, figures for 2006. <sup>2</sup> PCBS, Mid-year 2004 estimates, *Statistical Abstract no. 6, 2005*.

<sup>3</sup> Salman Abu Sitta. *Palestine 1948 - Commemoration of Al-Naqba*. London: Palestinian Return Center, May 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Justin McCarthy. "Population", entry in *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians*, ed. by Philip Mattar. New York, 2000.

### Population of Israel

#### Total Israeli population (Sept. 2006):

	7,166,700	
• Jews	5,393,400	(80%)
• "Others" <sup>**</sup>	310,000	
• Arabs	1,416,300	(19%)
(of which 149,100 Christians)		

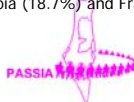
<b>Annual growth rate: (2006)</b>	<b>Israel all 1.8%**</b>
	Jews 1.5%*
	Arabs 2.6%
	- Muslims 2.9%
	- Christians 1.9%

#### Projection of Population (medium variant):

	2010	2020		
Jews	5,688,9	6,368,4		
Muslims	1,299,8	1,676,6		
		Christians	124.4	138.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,534,4</b>	<b>8,672,9</b>		

**Population density:**  
(mid-2007) 310 people/km<sup>2</sup>

\* Mainly immigrants and their families who are not registered as Jews in the Population Register. \*\* incl. 19,264 new immigrants mainly from the former USSR (27.9%), Ethiopia (18.7%) and France (12.5%). (Source: Israeli CBS, 2007.)



- On the eve of the new Jewish year (5768) there were 13.2 million **Jews around the world**. The largest community - over 40% - is Israel with 5.4 million Jews, followed by the US with 5.3 million, France (490,000), Canada (374,000), UK (295,000), Russia (221,000), Argentina (184,000), Germany (120,000) and Australia (104,000). Israel's Jewish population grew by over 70,000 in the past year, mainly due to natural growth. (Jewish Agency numbers quoted in *Ha'aretz*, 12 Sept. 2007).
- According to the Israeli CBS, at the end of 2006, 66% of the Jewish population had been born in Israel. The largest **ethnic group** in Israel are Jews of people of European and American origin (41%). Jews of African origin made up some 16% of the Jewish population and Jews of Asian origin some 13%.

#### Recommended Research Sources:

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<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> (see Population and Social)

<http://www.cbs.gov.il/engindex.htm>

<http://www.mideastweb.org/palpop.htm> (on pre-1948 population)

**Dalen, Kristin & Jon Pedersen.** *The Future Size of the Palestinian Population in the West Bank & Gaza Strip*. FAFO Report 433, 2004.

**Harvard University,** *Population Projections for Socioeconomic Development in the Gaza Strip*, June 2006.

**Heiberg, Marianne and Geir Ovansen.** *Palestinian Society in Gaza, West Bank and Arab Jerusalem*. FAFO Report 151, 1993.

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).** *Demographic Survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Annual updates.

**Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS),** *Demographic and Health Survey 2004: Main Findings*, Ramallah, 2005.

**Pedersen, Jon, Sara Randell and Marwan Khawaja (eds.).** *Growing Fast - Palestinian Population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. FAFO Report 353, 2001. (also available at: [www.fafano/pub/rapp/353/353.pdf](http://www.fafano/pub/rapp/353/353.pdf))