



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORT DECEMBER 2012

## Contents

I. Socio-economic fact sheet	p1
II. Macroeconomic situation	p2
II.a Production	p2
<i>Box: PCBS's Olive Presses Survey</i>	p3
II.b Prices	p3
II.c Exchange rates	p4
II.d Labor market	p4
III. Public sector	p5
IV. Banking sector	p6
V. Private sector	p7
VI. Trade	p8
VII. Gaza Strip	p8

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The UNSCO Socio-Economic Report is also accessible on [www.unsco.org](http://www.unsco.org).

Since 1996 UNSCO has continually monitored and reported on socio-economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and, in the process, established an extensive socio-economic database. UNSCO does not produce primary data but rather makes use of available data, that in the oPt are relatively abundant. The information that is available, however, often remains dispersed and is not automatically shared between institutions. The objective of the database is to collate a wide range of social and economic indicators in one location, and, through the report, present a broad perspective of socio-economic conditions in the oPt.

The purpose of the present report is to: 1) broaden the access to the information contained in the database through publication of the most recent data gathered; and 2) provide readers with up-to-date information on short term changes in socio-economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The report is divided into seven sections, as follows:

Section I. consists of a one-page fact sheet that provides a snapshot view of the socio-economic situation for the current and previous reporting periods.

Sections II. and III. report on the macro-economic and fiscal situation, and sections IV. and V. give an overview of developments in the banking and private sectors, respectively. Section VI. deals with trade, and Section VII. is dedicated to issues on Gaza.

Most sections provide data on the six preceding reporting periods for each indicator and a reference period.

*Note: The data for the West Bank and the oPt in this report do not include occupied East Jerusalem unless otherwise specified.*

## I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACT SHEET - DECEMBER 2012

Key macroeconomic indicators					
Production		Q2/2000	Q2/2012	Q3/2012	Change in Q3/2012 (%)
GDP (constant 2004 prices, US\$ million)		a/	1,755 <sup>b/</sup>	1,708 <sup>b/</sup>	-2.7 <sup>b/</sup>
GDP rate of change (year-on-year, constant 2004 prices, %)		a/	6.8 <sup>b/</sup>	5.5 <sup>b/</sup>	----
GDP per capita (annualized, constant 2004 prices, US\$)		a/	1,741 <sup>b/</sup>	1,682 <sup>b/</sup>	-3.4 <sup>b/</sup>
Prices		Aug 2000	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Year-on-year (Dec 2012)
Change in prices (CPI, %)	Total <sup>c/</sup>	-0.9	-0.6	0.0	1.7
	East Jerusalem	-1.1	0.0	-0.3	3.1
	West Bank	-0.6	-1.2	0.0	2.7
	Gaza Strip	-0.8	-0.3	1.3	0.6
Labor market		Q2/2000	Q3/2012	Q4/2012	Change in Q4/2012 (%)
Labor force (thousands)	Total	706.2	1,115.6	1,137.3	1.9
	West Bank	483.8	740.2	761.5	2.9
	Gaza Strip	222.4	375.4	375.8	0.1
Unemployment rate (%)	Total	8.8	24.3	22.9	----
	West Bank	6.5	20.4	18.3	----
	Gaza Strip	13.8	31.9	32.2	----
Adjusted unemployment rate (%)	Total	18.5	27.8	26.7	----
	West Bank	15.8	24.2	22.1	----
	Gaza Strip	24.2	35.0	35.9	----
Public sector					
		Jan 2011	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Change in Dec 2012 (%)
Government total net revenue (cash basis, NIS million)		605.9	851.9	307.4	-63.9
Government wage expenditure (cash basis, NIS million)		499.6	514.7	268.8	-47.8
Government non-wage expenditure (cash basis, NIS million)		223.0	359.1	535.3	49.1
Government net lending (cash basis, NIS million)		42.4	281.0	86.4	-69.3
Government balance (cash basis, NIS million)		-171.3	-390.4	-679.4	74.0
External budget support (NIS million)		113.3	509.4	169.2	-66.8
Banking sector					
		Q2/2000	Q3/2012	Q4/2012	Change in Q4/2012 (%)
Bank credit (US\$ million)		1,234	3,829	4,199	9.7
Bank deposits (US\$ million)		3,328	7,201	7,484	3.9
Loan-to-deposit ratio (%)		37.1	53.2	56.1	----
Private sector					
		Aug 2000	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Change in Dec 2012 (%)
New company registrations	Total	231	99	126	27.3
	West Bank	137	87	98	12.6
	Gaza Strip	94	12	28	133.3
Area licensed for new construction (thousand m <sup>2</sup> )	Total	530.3	569.1	1,032.7	81.5
	West Bank	345.7	300.1	786.8	162.2
	Gaza Strip	184.6	268.9	245.9	-8.6
Gaza Strip					
Truck movement		Aug 2000	Nov 2012	Dec 2012	Change in Dec 2012 (%)
Gaza Strip imports (truckloads) <sup>d/</sup>	Karni (conveyor belt/chute)	4,373	0	0	0.0
	Sufa	4,384	0	0	0.0
	Rafah	953	0	79	----
	Kerem Shalom	0	3,871	6,277	62.2
	Kerem Shalom (fuel)	0	101	138	36.6
	Nahal Oz	904	0	0	0.0
Gaza Strip exports (truckloads) <sup>d/</sup>	Karni	2,460	0	0	0.0
	Kerem Shalom	0	4	69	1625.0
Closure		Aug 2000	Complete closure-Dec 2012	Partial closure-Dec 2012	
Effective closure days (%)	Karni (conveyor belt)	0	100	0	
	Kerem Shalom	n.a.	15	0	
	Nahal Oz (fuel)	0	100	0	
	Sufa (aggregates)	0	100	0	
	Rafah (commercial)	0	90	10	
	Rafah (passenger)	0	0	100	

**Sources:** PCBS: production, prices, labor market; MoF: public sector; PMA: banking sector; MoNE: new company registrations; Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms: area licensed for new construction; MoNE and General Petroleum Corporation: Gaza truck movement; UNSCO: closure and Gaza truck movement.

a/ Data not available.

b/ Preliminary data.

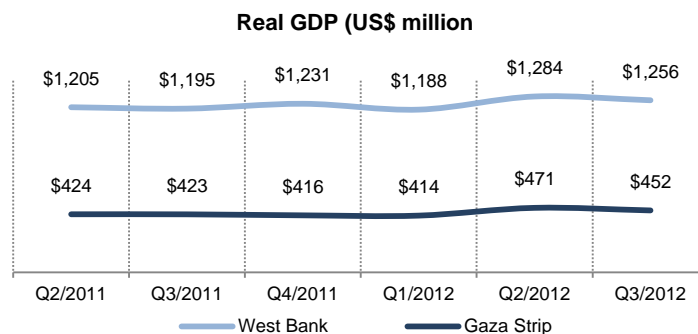
c/ Includes data for occupied East Jerusalem.

d/ MoNE data for August 2000 do not include aggregates or aid flows. Industrial diesel for the power plant is not included under Gaza imports.

## II. MACRO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

### II.a Production

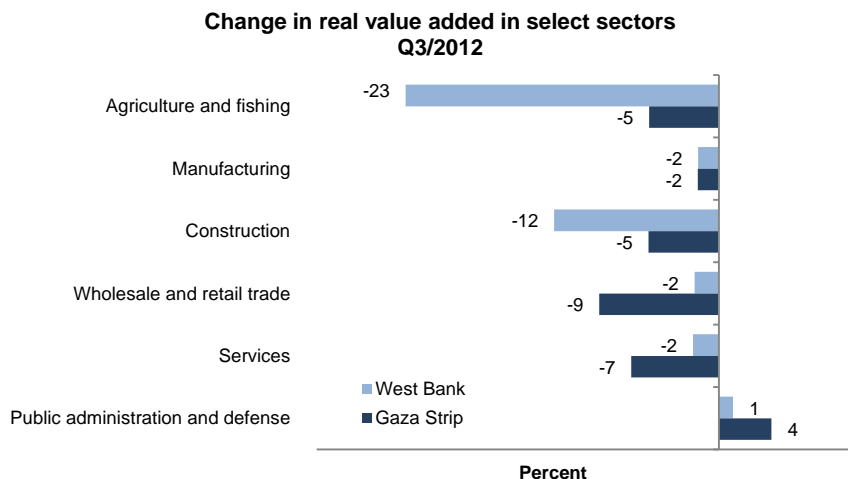
Real GDP decreased by almost 3% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2/2012, but was almost 6% higher than in the same quarter a year earlier. During Q3/2012, real GDP decreased by 2% in the West Bank (but was 5% higher than in Q3/2011) and decreased by 4% in the Gaza Strip (although it was 7% higher than in Q3/2011). Real GDP reached US\$1,708 million in the third quarter of 2012 (US\$2,520 million in nominal terms), of which US\$1,256 million, was generated in the West Bank and US\$452 million, in the Gaza Strip.



Source: PCBS.

Note: Base year is 2004. Note: Data for Q3/2012 are flash estimates, and data for Q1 and Q2/2012 are preliminary estimates.

In the Gaza Strip, the public administration and defense sector displayed the greatest expansion in Q3/2012, increasing in real value added by 4% during the quarter, reaching a level 3% higher than in Q3/2011, and accounting for 21% of GDP. In the manufacturing sector real value added actually decreased by almost 2% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2/2012, but was almost 2% higher than in Q3/2011. The largest sector of the Gaza economy, construction, experienced a reduction of 5% in real value added during Q3/2012, although the level was still 26% higher than in the same quarter a year earlier and the sector contributed 26% to total GDP in Q3/2012. The agriculture and fishing sector contracted by 5% from Q2/2012 and its real value added was 26% lower than in Q3/2011. In the services sector, the second largest in the Gaza Strip economy, accounting for 24% of GDP, value added decreased by almost 7% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2, but it was 5% higher than in Q3/2011. A large decrease of 9% was observed in real value added in the wholesale and retail trade sector in Q3/2012, bringing it to a level 11% lower than in Q3/2011.



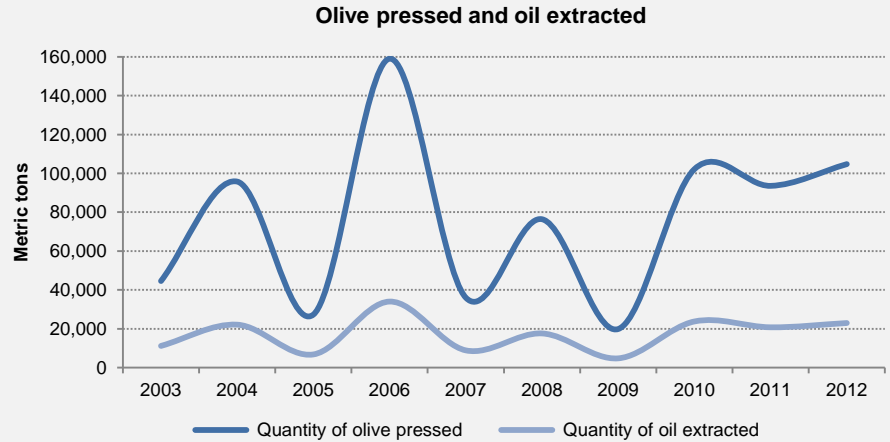
Source: PCBS.

Note: Base year is 2004. Data for Q3/2012 are flash estimates.

In the West Bank, value added in public administration and defense increased by 1% during the quarter, and it was 2% higher than in Q3/2011. In the case of manufacturing, real value added decreased by 2% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2/2012, but this level was 11% higher than in Q3/2011. Real value added in wholesale and retail trade decreased by 2% during the Q3/2012, but reached a level 4% higher than in Q3/2011. The services sector, the largest in the West Bank economy, contributing 17% of GDP, shrank by 2% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2/2012, but its value added was 9% higher than in Q3/2011. The construction sector saw its real value added decrease by 12% during Q3/2012 to a level 7% lower than in Q3/2011. The largest contraction in the West Bank was observed in the agriculture and fishing sector, where real value added shrank by 23% in Q3/2012 compared to Q2/2012, but the level was still 11% higher than in Q3/2011.

## PCBS's Olive Presses Survey 2012

Olive production and related activities are important sources of income for a large number of households, many of them poor rural households, as well as to the Palestinian economy as a whole. In 2012, close to 23 thousand metric tons of oil were extracted from almost 105 thousand metric tons of olives by 279 presses, most of them automatic. The total value of this output was US\$9,098.2 million.



### Olive press industry indicators

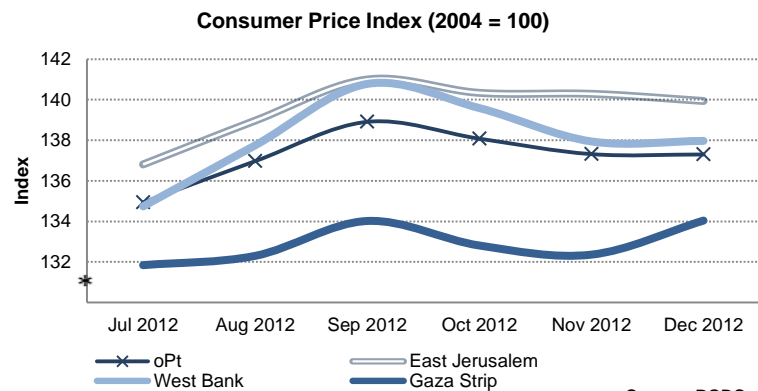
Year	Number of olive presses in operation	Extraction rate	Number of persons employed
2003	215	25.0	954
2004	242	23.1	1110
2005	203	24.9	611
2006	246	21.4	1595
2007	224	24.6	1100
2008	264	23.0	1375
2009	235	24.0	892
2010	276	23.3	1523
2011	272	22.2	1326
2012	279	21.9	1220

The highest olive pressing activity in 2012 was in the Jenin and Tubas Governorates, followed by Tulkarm. The highest extraction rate was in Qalqiliya Governorate (24.0%), however, while the lowest was the Gaza and Deir Al-Balah Governorates (16.6%).

A total of 1,220 workers were employed in olive pressing activities in 2012, which marks a decrease from the number in 2010-2011. Seventy-three percent of them were waged employees and the rest were in unpaid employment.

## II.b Prices

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), used to measure inflation decreased marginally in 2012 compared to November, but it was 1.7% higher compared to December 2011. The prices for food and soft drinks and restaurants, cafes and hotels decreased the most during the month, while the greatest price increases were recorded in housing, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

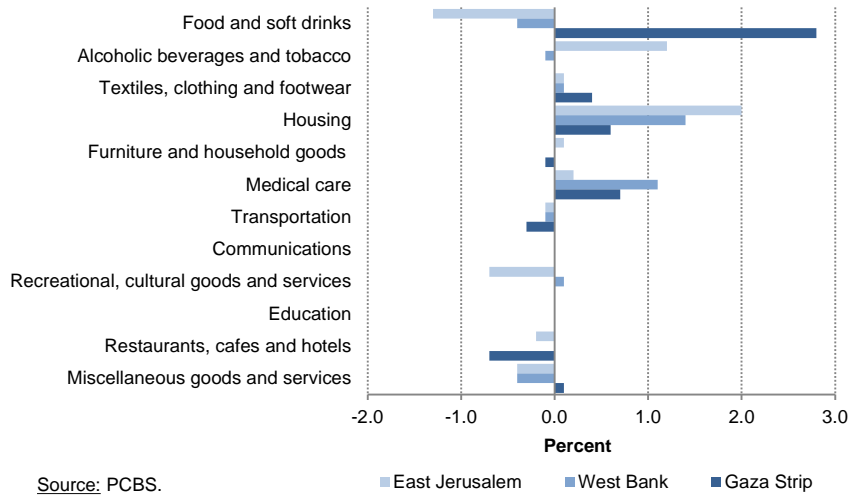


Source: PCBS.  
Note: Base year is 2004

The CPI was almost unchanged in the West Bank in December 2012 compared to November, but it was 2.7% higher than in December 2011. The greatest price increases during the month were recorded in housing and medical care, while the prices for food and soft drinks, miscellaneous goods and services, transportation and alcoholic beverages and tobacco decreased the most during the month.

In East Jerusalem the CPI decreased by 0.3% in December 2012 but it was 3.1% higher than in December 2011.

**Change in Consumer Price Index by major expenditure groups  
December 2012**



Source: PCBS.  
Note: Base year is 2004.

The prices for food and soft drinks, for recreational, cultural goods and services, and for miscellaneous goods and services decreased the most during the month. The greatest price increases were recorded in housing, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

The CPI increased by 1.3% in the Gaza Strip in December 2012, but it was 0.6% lower than in December 2011. The greatest price increases were in food and soft drinks, followed by medical care and housing. The prices for restaurants, cafes and hotels, transportation, and furniture and household goods saw the biggest decrease during the month.

## II.c Exchange rates

The New Israeli Shekel (NIS) rose against both the US dollar and the Euro in December 2012. The Jordanian Dinar (JOD) fell against the Euro while its exchange rate to the US dollar remained fixed at 0.71.

**Average monthly exchange rates**

	Aug 2000	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012
NIS/US\$	4.05	3.99	4.02	3.95	3.85	3.89	3.78
NIS/Euro	3.66	4.91	4.98	5.07	5.00	5.00	4.96
JOD/US\$	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71
JOD/Euro	0.64	0.87	0.88	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.93

Source: Bank of Israel, Central Bank of Jordan.

## II.d Labor market

In Q4/2012, 44% of persons aged 15 years and above, or more than 1.1 million persons, participated in the labor force. The slight expansion in the overall labor force observed during the quarter derives mainly from the West Bank. In the West Bank about 762 thousand people, or 46% of those aged 15 and above, were economically active during the quarter, whereas in the Gaza Strip 376 thousand persons, or 40% of working age persons, participated in the labor force.

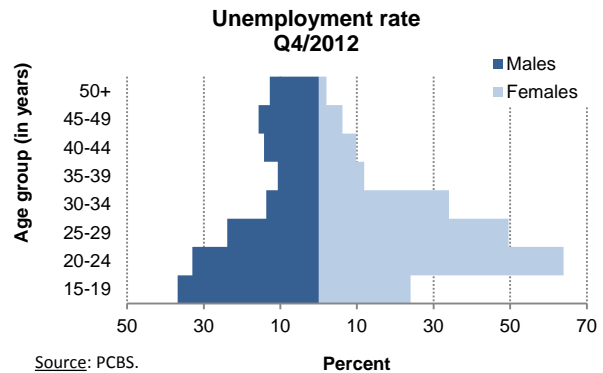
**Labor force participation rate (%)  
(Labor force in thousands)**

	Q2/2000	Q3/2011	Q4/2011	Q1/2012	Q2/2012	Q3/2012	Q4/2012
West Bank	45.3 (483.8)	46.2 (732.1)	47.3 (754.9)	45.4 (731.2)	45.4 (738.2)	45.2 (740.2)	46.1 (761.5)
Gaza Strip	40.1 (222.4)	39.0 (348.7)	39.5 (356.3)	39.9 (363.3)	40.3 (371.1)	40.4 (375.4)	40.0 (375.8)
oPt	43.5 (706.2)	43.6 (1080.8)	44.4 (1111.2)	43.4 (1094.5)	43.6 (1109.3)	43.4 (1115.6)	43.9 (1137.3)

Source: PCBS.

The overall unemployment rate decreased to 23% in Q4/2012 from 24% in Q3/2012, but it was still two percentage points higher than in Q4/2011. The unemployment rate shows great variations with sex and age. In particular, women and young persons in the labor force are relatively more affected by the lack of jobs. The unemployment rate for men was basically unchanged but that of women decreased by seven percentage points in Q4/2012; still, women's unemployment rate remained eleven percentage points above men's (32% vs. 21%).

Likewise, unemployment continues to affect younger age groups more than older ones. In Q4/2012, unemployment rates decreased for women in all age groups except for those aged 15 to 19 years. Unemployment affected 64% of women between 20 and 24 years of age and 50% of those in the 25-to-29-year age group. In the case of men, unemployment affected 37% of 15-to-19-year olds and 33% of those aged between 20 and 24.



The average duration of the period of unemployment increased from 10.4 months in Q3/2012 to 11.0 months in Q4/2012, and it increased both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and for men and women. Disparities are stark, with differentials in the average period of unemployment of 9.5 months between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and 5.1 months between women and men.

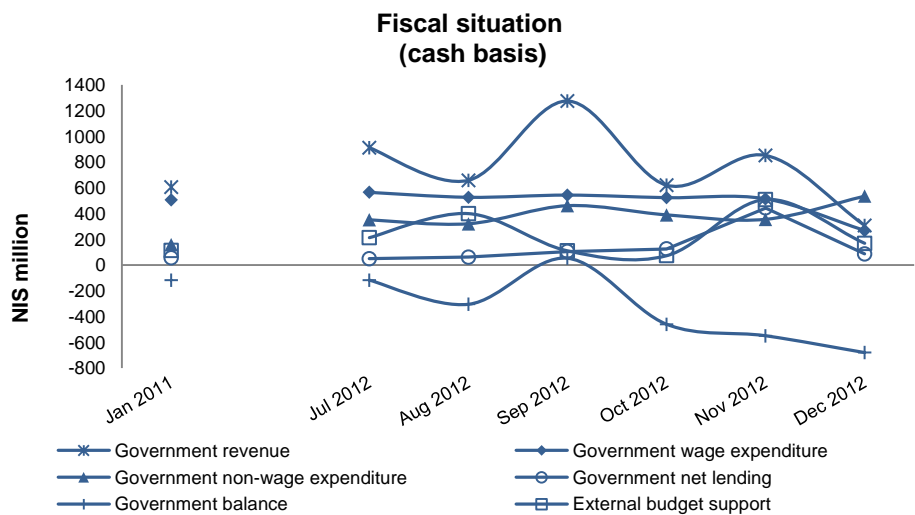
**Average duration of unemployment (in months)  
Q4/2012**

	Female	Male	Total
West Bank	9.5	5.5	6.6
Gaza Strip	20.8	14.3	16.1
oPt	14.7	9.6	11.0

Source: PCBS.

### III. PUBLIC SECTOR

Government net revenue (cash basis) decreased by 64% in December 2012 compared to November, and was 67% lower than in December 2011, reaching NIS307.4 million. Tax revenue, which represented 72% of total net revenue in December, increased by 82% during that month and was almost double the amount seen in December 2011. Non-tax revenue, which represented less than 3% of total net revenue in December, increased by 56% during the month, and was 43% higher than in December 2011. Due to Israel's use of December's clearance revenue to pay electricity arrears, clearance revenue decreased by 97% from November to December 2012 and accounted for less than 8% of total net revenue, reaching a level 97% lower than in December 2011.



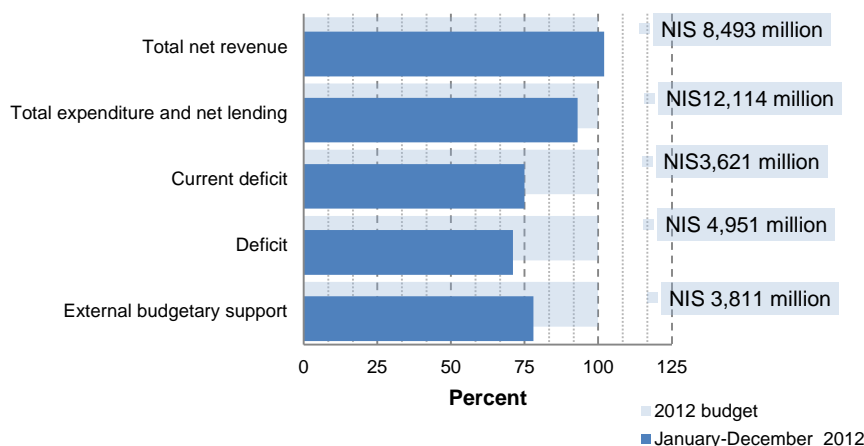
Source: Ministry of Finance.

Note: This graph updates information from previous months with information available as of 24 February 2013.

Total expenditure plus net lending reached NIS890.5 million in December 2012. Government wage expenditure decreased by 48% from November to December 2012, and was 46% lower than in December 2011. Non-wage expenditure increased by 51% in December 2012 compared to November, and was 9% higher than in December 2011. The government's net lending decreased by 81% from November to December 2012, but was still 41% higher than in December 2011. The resulting current deficit amounted to NIS583.1 million, and the overall deficit (after development expenditure) reached NIS679.4 million at the end of December 2012. External budgetary support was only NIS169.2 million in December 2012.

The PA's 2012 approved budget amounted to NIS13,444 million, based on a projected total net revenue of NIS8,493 million, and total expenditure plus net lending of NIS12,114 million. Twelve months into the year, the PA's total revenue equaled 102% of the annual budgeted amount and total expenditure plus net lending equaled 93%.

**Fiscal revenue, expenditure and deficit in January-December 2012 compared to 2012 budget**



Source: Ministry of Finance.

Note: This graph updates information from previous months with information available as of 24 February 2013.

Twelve months into the year, the PA's total revenue equaled 102% of the annual budgeted amount and total expenditure plus net lending equaled 93%. The current deficit reached 75% of the annual budgeted amount, and the overall deficit was 71% of the annual budgeted amount. External budgetary support at the end of December 2012 was only 78% of the annual budgeted amount.

#### IV. BANKING SECTOR

In Q4/2012, the volume of credit increased by almost 10% to US\$4,199 million compared to Q3/2012. Most of bank credit continues to be in the form of loans, although their size relative to total bank credit decreased by almost four percentage points to 70% in Q4/2012. At the same time, the proportion of overdrafts in total credit increased by four percentage points to close to 30%. The proportion of leasing in total bank credit remained unchanged during the quarter.

**Distribution of bank credit by type (%)**  
(Bank credit by type in million US\$)

	Q1/2008	Q3/2011	Q4/2011	Q1/2012	Q2/2012	Q3/2012	Q4/2012
Loans	59.9	72.7	71.3	70.1	70.3	73.9	70.3
	(1,061)	(2,387)	(2,534)	(2,566)	(2,706)	(2,829)	(2,950)
Overdrafts	39.5	27.1	28.4	29.6	29.5	25.9	29.5
	(701)	890	1,010	1,083	1,134	990	1,238
Leasing	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
	(11)	(8)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(10)	(11)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>(1,773)</b>	<b>(3,285)</b>	<b>(3,553)</b>	<b>(3,658)</b>	<b>(3,849)</b>	<b>(3,829)</b>	<b>(4,199)</b>

Source: PMA.

Note: The totals may not be exactly equal to the sum of percentages due to rounding.

Q4/2012 saw an increase of 4% in total bank deposits. Public sector deposits, which account for 8% of total deposits, increased by close to 10% during the quarter, while private sector deposits increased by 3%. Deposits

from residents, which account for 96% of total private sector deposits, increased by 3%, while those of non-residents increased by close to 8%.

**Distribution of bank deposits (in million US\$)**

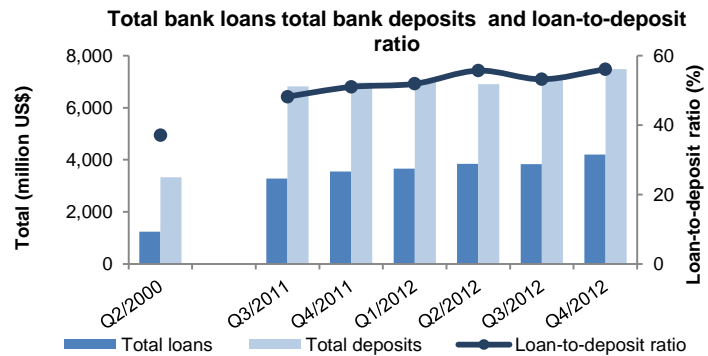
	Q2/2000	Q3/2011	Q4/2011	Q1/2012	Q2/2012	Q3/2012	Q4/2012
Public institutions and local authorities	56.5	152.7	147.4	146.5	162.6	146.9	146.9
Government	115.1	370.1	437.1	419.6	353.2	419.5	473.3
<b>Total public sector deposits</b>	<b>171.6</b>	<b>522.9</b>	<b>584.5</b>	<b>566.1</b>	<b>515.9</b>	<b>566.4</b>	<b>620.2</b>
Residents	3,082.6	6,095.6	6,192.3	6,276.1	6,180.6	6,409.2	6,621.3
Non-residents	14.6	202.1	195.7	203.2	215	225.2	242.5
<b>Total private sector deposits</b>	<b>3,097.2</b>	<b>6,297.7</b>	<b>6,388.0</b>	<b>6,479.3</b>	<b>6,395.6</b>	<b>6,634.4</b>	<b>6,863.9</b>
<b>Total deposits (public and private sectors)</b>	<b>3,268.8</b>	<b>6,820.5</b>	<b>6,972.5</b>	<b>7,045.4</b>	<b>6,911.5</b>	<b>7,200.8</b>	<b>7,484.1</b>

Source: PMA

Note: Data do not include deposits of the PMA and commercial banks.

Current accounts are the main form of deposits for residents and non-residents, as well as for the government.

The loan-to-deposit ratio remains low although it increased from 53% to 56% in Q4/2012.

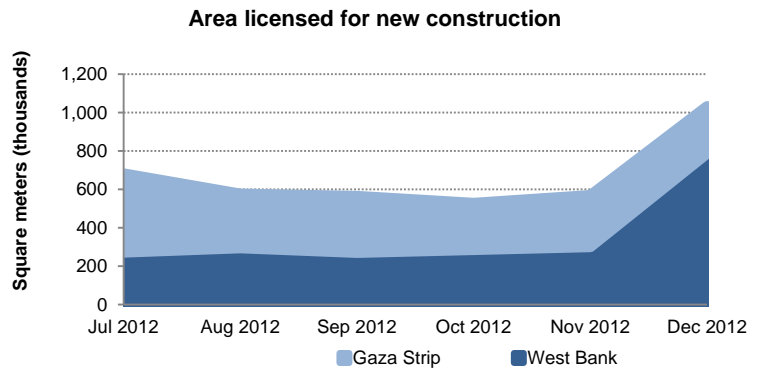


Source: PMA

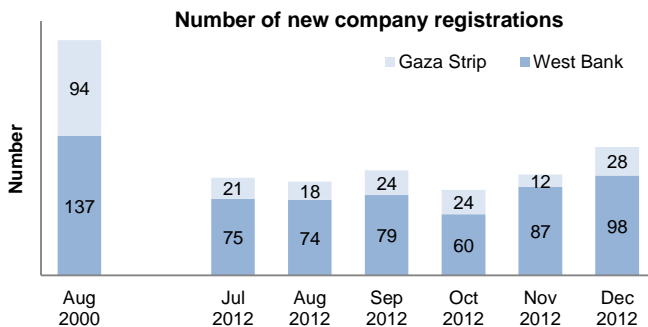
## V. PRIVATE SECTOR

December 2012 data show an increase of 162% in the area licensed for new construction in the West Bank compared to November. As observed in previous years, a possible reason for the large increase in December could be that non-completed constructions are resubmitted for licenses by year-end to ensure that new licenses are issued for the coming year.

In the Gaza Strip, on other hand, there was a decrease of 9% in the area licensed for new construction in December 2012.



Source: Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms.



Source: Ministry of National Economy.

The number of new companies being registered in the West Bank in December 2012 increased by 11 compared to November 2012, from 87 to 98.

In Gaza, 28 new companies were registered in December 2012, 16 more in the November 2012.



Forty-eight companies from five main economic sectors (banking and financial services, insurance, investments, industry, and services) are currently listed in the Palestinian Stock Exchange. By the end of December 2012, market capitalization increased by 5% to just under US\$2.86 billion.

Securities trade							
	Aug 2000	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Spe 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012
Number of shares traded (million)	7.00	5.4	5.0	7.6	10.2	8.6	23.0
Value of shares traded (million US\$)	13.0	7.8	8.6	14.6	16.3	11.7	44.3
Al-Quds index ( close)	265.23	442.27	432.42	445.76	458.84	456.34	477.59

Source: Palestine Securities Exchange.

In December 2012, the number of shares traded increased by 167% and the value of shares traded increased by 280% compared to November. Of the 39 companies traded in the month, 24 were gainers, 8 were decliners and 7 companies were stable. The Al-Quds index increased by 4.7% in December 2012.

In terms of infrastructure and services offered to the industrial sector, most owners/managers of active industrial enterprises in the West Bank report being satisfied with the electricity supply, the water supply, the quality of roads, the ease of obtaining necessary permits and licenses and the tax administration. In the Gaza Strip, to the contrary, the level of satisfaction with the quality of roads, the ease of obtaining necessary permits and licenses and the tax administration is low, and it reaches only 4% in the case of the electricity supply –possibly a reflection of the continued daily electricity cuts.

**Proportion of owners/managers of the active industrial enterprises who are satisfied with governmental and private services (%)**  
Q4/2012

	West Bank		Gaza Strip	
	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied
Electricity supply	78	21	4	96
Water supply	81	19	66	27
Quality of roads	76	23	39	57
Obtain necessary permits and licenses	61	24	30	21
Tax administration	68	30	29	54

Source: PCBS.

Note: the percentages may not add to 100 due to "Don't know" answers.

## VI. TRADE

Registered exports of goods decreased by 10% in December 2012 compared to November, but were 5% higher than in the same month a year earlier, amounting to approximately US\$62.3 million. Registered imports of goods increased by 16% in December 2012 compared to November, and were 11% higher than a year earlier, amounting to approximately US\$366.6 million.

A goods trade deficit of US\$304.3.0 million was recorded in December 2012, reflecting a 13% increase from November, and a level almost 13% higher than in December 2011.

## VII. GAZA STRIP

The volume of industrial diesel imported in the Gaza Strip in December 2012 decreased to less than a third the November amount, reaching close to 0.4 million liters. In December 2012, 50,700 liters of petrol and 322,390 liters of diesel were imported for UNRWA, while 9,700 liters of petrol and 30,300 liters of diesel were imported for the private sector. This represents a 40% increase in December in the total amount of petrol imported but a 28% decrease in the total amount of diesel imported compared to November. There was also a 54% increase in the

amount of cooking gas imported in the Gaza Strip in December 2012 compared to November, with 3,087 tons allowed in through the Kerem Shalom (Karem Abu Salem) crossing.

**Volume of registered fuel sales in the Gaza Strip**

	Aug 2000	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012
	<b>Nahal Oz</b>		<b>Kerem Shalom</b>				
Petrol (1000 liter)	3,188.9	33.7	69.6	34.2	69.5	43.1	60.4
Diesel (1000 liter)	11,343.0	222.6	274.0	151.1	510.5	491.5	352.7
White diesel (1000 liter)	243.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cooking gas (1000 ton)	1.9	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.0	3.1
Industrial diesel (1000 liter)	n.a	4,153.3	382.6	590.6	1,075.8	1,226.3	376.5

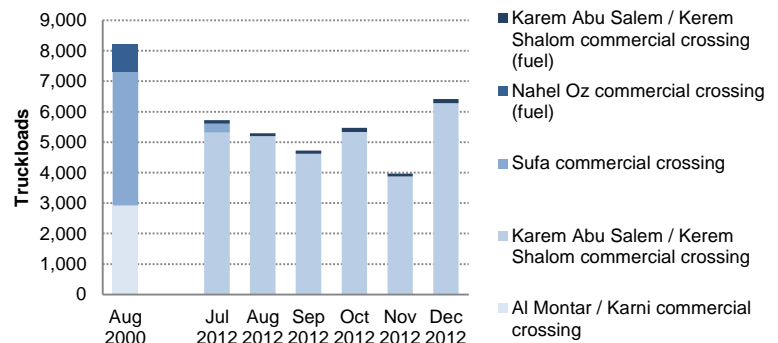
Source: General Petroleum Corporation, Ministry of National Economy.

Overall, in December 2012, the number of truckloads (including fuel) crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip was 61.5% higher than in November 2012.

The proportion of truckloads with food items among imports decreased by ten percentage points and made up 22% of imported goods (1,411 truckloads) in December 2012, while the remaining 78% of imports (4,866 truckloads) were non-food items.

A total of 2,502 truckloads entering the Gaza Strip from Israel contained materials for approved international building projects, namely 2,297 truckloads (159,810 tons) of gravel, 143 truckloads (5,534 tons) of cement and 62 truckloads (2,071 tons) of steel bars for UNRWA, UNDP, USAID, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, the Palestinian Water Authority, and private sector building projects.

**Gaza imports**



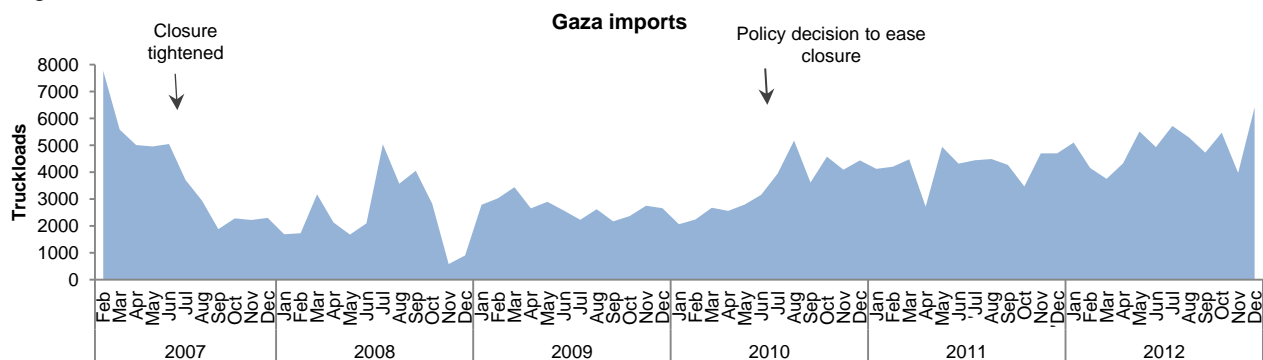
Source: Ministry of National Economy.

Note: Truckload imports exclude industrial diesel supplies to power plant.

Note: Karni crossing has remained closed since 12 June 2007 for the movement of goods in and out of Gaza, and on 1 March 2011, Israel closed the conveyor belt at Karni, too

Between 29 and 31 December 2012, 79 truckloads (nearly 1,900 tons) of base coarse aggregates for Qatari projects entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt through the Rafah crossing.

Following the June 2010 decision to ease the closure of Gaza, monthly imports through Israeli crossings have averaged 4,491 truckloads.



Source: Ministry of National Economy.

Note: The figures exclude gravel imported through Karni in February-May 2007, as well as imports through Rafah and Erez.

On 8 December 2010 Israel announced its intention to gradually expand the number and range of exports permitted from Gaza. According to this announcement, allowed exports would include agricultural produce, furniture and textiles.

### Gaza exports

	Total number of trucks	Goods	Destinations
<b>January 2012</b>	69	Straw berries (53 trucks/172.1 tons) Carnations (9 trucks/1,205,550 stems) Cherry tomatoes (4 trucks/29.30 tons) Sweet peppers (3 trucks/12 tons)	Europe
<b>February 2012</b>	29	Straw berries (1 truck/3 tons) Carnations (16 trucks/2,384,300 stems) Cherry tomatoes (5 trucks/35.20 tons) Sweet peppers (2 trucks/3.4 tons) Tomatoes (5 trucks/55 tons)	Europe Saudi Arabia
<b>March 2012</b>	22	Carnations (18 trucks/2,718,000 stems) Cherry tomatoes (1 truck/7 tons) Tomatoes (3 trucks/54 tons)	Europe Jordan
<b>April 2012</b>	18	Carnations (18 trucks/2,490,000 stems)	Europe
<b>May 2012</b>	5	Tomatoes (4 trucks/62 tons) Clothes (1 truck/2,040 pieces)	Jordan Britain
<b>June 2012</b>	1	Furniture (1 truck/7.5 tons)	Jordan
<b>July 2012</b>	1	Clothes (1 truck/2,070 pieces)	Britain
<b>August 2012</b>	3	Tomatoes (3 trucks/40 tons)	Saudi Arabia
<b>September 2012</b>	0		
<b>October 2012</b>	2	Basil (2 trucks/1.1 tons)	Europe
<b>November 2012</b>	4	Basil (2 trucks/1.4 tons) Chives (2 trucks/1.5 tons)	Europe Europe
<b>December 2012</b>	69	Straw berries (47 trucks/159.4 tons) Carnations (4 trucks/625,000 stems) Cherry tomatoes (7 trucks/50.1 tons) Sweet peppers (1 trucks/6.6 tons) Basil (4 trucks/2.6 tons) Chives (3 trucks/1.8 tons) Green mint (0.1 tons) Furniture (3 truck/31 tons)	Europe Europe Europe Europe Europe Europe Europe Tunisia and Egypt

Source: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, Ministry of National Economy.

Note: According to the Palestinian Wood Industries Union, furniture was shipped from Gaza in June 2012 to an exhibition in Jordan under the condition that the furniture be sold in Jordan afterwards and not be sent back to Gaza, therefore being considered here as an export. Six companies from Gaza participated at the event, exhibiting bedroom, dining room, living room and children's bedroom furniture. In December 2012, 97 truckloads of empty plastic boxes and three truckloads of oxygen cylinders were returned to Israel.

In December 2012 Gaza exported 69 truckloads of agricultural produce to Europe through the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing: 47 trucks of strawberries (159.4 tons), four truckloads of carnations (625,000 stems), seven truckloads of cherry tomatoes (50.1 tons), one truckload of sweet peppers (6.6 tons), four truckloads of basil (2.6 tons), three truckloads of chives (1.8 tons), and of green mint (0.1 tons). In addition, three truckload of furniture was shipped from the Gaza Strip to Tunisia and Egypt.

Although not an export, in December 2012 the World Food Program coordinated the transfer of 5 truckloads (55 tons) of date bars to the West Bank from the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom commercial crossing.