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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORT – MARCH 2008

Since 1996 UNSCO has continually monitored and reported on socio-economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the process established an extensive socio-economic database. UNSCO does not create raw data but rather uses available data which, in the occupied Palestinian territory is relatively abundant. However, the data that is available tends to remain dispersed and is not always automatically shared between institutions. The objective of the database is to bring together in one place a wide variety of data on socio-economic conditions and by doing so present a broader, more detailed perspective on socio-economic conditions. The purpose of this report is to: 1) broaden the access to this database through publication of the most recent data gathered; and 2) provide readers with up to date information on socio-economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The report is divided into three sections:

Section 1 consists of a one-page fact sheet which provides a snapshot view of the socio-economic situation of the current and previous reporting period and for reference purposes provides base line figures for the period just prior to the outbreak of the second *Intifada*.

Section 2 and 3 report on the Macro-economic and the Private sector and banking modules of the UNSCO database. They provide data on the last six reporting periods for each indicator as well as base line data. In addition, some initial analysis on observed trends is given below each table.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACT SHEET – MARCH 2008

A. GENERAL				B. FISCAL SITUATION			
Indicator	2006			Indicator (US\$ millions)	Baseline	Previous period	Current period
1. GDP (\$US)	4,150,600,000			1. Revenue	Q4-1999	Q4-2006	Q4-2007 (budget)
2. GDP per capita (\$US)	1,067.5			2. Expenditure	235	104	332
3. GDP growth rate	- 6.6 %			3. Net lending	235	220	457
4. GNI	4,521,500,000			4. Balance	0	68	125
Source: World Bank				5. External Budget support (including TIM)	0	-184	-250
				Source: IMF			
C. MACRO-ECONOMIC				D. PRIVATE SECTOR			
Indicator ¹	Baseline	Previous period	Current period	Indicator	Baseline	Previous period	Current period
	Aug-2000	Feb-2008	Mar-2008		Q2-2000	Q3-2007	Q4-2007
1. Consumer Price Index ²				1. New Company Registrations			
Total	121.95	168.16	170.26	Total	568	263	241
West Bank	122.44	171.47	171.71	West Bank	288	237	223
Gaza Strip	121.35	158.50	164.41	Gaza Strip	280	26	18
2. Truck movement ³				2. Area Licensed for new Construction (dunums)			
<u>Imports</u>	Aug-2000	Feb-2008	Mar-2008	Total	Q2-2000	Q2-2007	Q3-2007
Karni	4,373	572	1,035	Total	739.7	458.1	517
Sufa	4,384	808	875	West Bank	665.3	437.4	438
Rafah	953	0	0	Gaza Strip	74.4	20.7	79
Kerem Shalom	0	0	897	3. Banking (US\$ thousands)			
Nahal Oz	904	346	365	Loans	Q2-2000	Q3-2007	Q4-2007
<u>Exports</u>				Loans	1,234	1,829	1,758
Karni	2,460	0	0	Deposits	3,328	5,420	5,702
Kerem Shalom	0	0	0	Loans/Deposits Ratio	37.1 %	33.75%	30.84%
Source: PCBS (1), Ministry of National Economy and Paltrade (2)				Source: Ministry of National Economy (1), Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms (2), Palestine Monetary Authority (3)			
E. LABOUR FLOWS				F. CLOSURE			
Indicator	Baseline	Previous period	Current period	Indicator	Baseline	Previous period	Current period
	Q2-2000	Q2-2007	Q3-2007		Aug-2000	Feb -2008	Mar -2008
1. Labour Force size				1. Effective closure days ⁵			
Total	706,174	926,300	937,200	Karni (goods)	0 %	100%	100%
West Bank	483,796	634,600	636,600	Erez (workers)	0 %	100%	100%
Gaza Strip	222,378	291,700	300,600	Sufa (aggregates)	0 %	100%	100%
2. Unemployment	8.8 %	19.2%	23.2%	Rafah (passenger)	0 %	100%	100%
3. Adjusted Unemployment ⁴	18.5 %	25.8 %	29.1%	Rafah (commercial)	0 %	100%	100%
Source: PCBS				Nahal Oz (fuel)	0 %	28 %	36 %
				Kerem Shalom	0 %	100 %	8 %
				Source: UNSCO			

¹ For a more detailed report on sections C (Macro-economy) and D (Private sector), see data below.

² CPI Base year 1996 = 100

³ MoNE data does not include aggregates or aid flows.

⁴ Adjusted unemployment is calculated by adding discouraged workers (i.e. unemployed but no longer seeking work) to the ILO standard.

⁵ Effective closure days are calculated by adding all days when a crossing was fully or partially closed excluding weekend and holidays.



MACRO-ECONOMIC UPDATE – MARCH 2008

- Exchange rate
- Consumer Index by region and expenditure group
- Truck Movement
- Palestinian Imports and Exports
- Volume of registered fuel sales
- Palestinian Trade with Israel

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Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Exchange Rate							
Exchange Rate	4.05	4.01	3.92	3.88	3.78	3.59	3.56
Source: PCBS							

The US\$-NIS exchange rate dropped very slightly in March, 2008 making imports more affordable.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Volume of Registered Fuel sales in the Gaza Strip (x 1000 liters/ton)							
volume of registered fuel sales in the Gaza Strip							
Benzene 95 (Liter)	878.3	1,122.1	1,154.5	1,232.2	650.0	283.5	343.0
Benzene 96 (Liter)	2,310.6	264.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gasoline (Liter)	11,342.6	7,021.3	4,796.0	6,330.7	5,058.6	2,795.0	3,806.0
Gas (Ton)	1.9	5.0	5.0	3.1	5.0	5.4	6.3
White Gasoline (Liter)	243.1	0.0	49.0	196.0	0.0	192.0	0.0
Source: General Petroleum Corporation and Ministry of Finance							

Registered fuel sales in the Gaza Strip have slightly increased in March, except for White Gasoline (kerosene) which dropped to zero. Overall, registered fuel sales have markedly dropped since the beginning of 2008 due to the significant decline in fuel supplies to Gaza, negatively affecting economic activity in Gaza.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Palestinian Consumer Price Index (by region and expenditure group)							
Major Groups of Expenditure (Occupied Palestinian Territory – excluding Jerusalem)							
Food	118.92	156.67	159.79	161.91	167.76	171.84	175.87
Beverages and Tobacco	129.14	186.40	189.96	190.91	190.99	190.86	191.11
Textiles, clothing and footwear	124.93	128.91	129.66	130.61	130.97	132.21	128.10
Housing	125.78	171.19	174.65	176.85	177.02	176.91	179.20
Furniture, household goods & services	123.70	131.17	132.41	132.63	131.59	131.54	132.20
Transport and communications	123.45	204.73	206.68	208.51	208.43	207.05	209.62
Education	114.63	139.57	139.78	139.52	139.86	139.94	140.72
Medical care	125.78	152.17	152.5	151.97	151.77	151.64	153.75
Recreational, cultural goods & services	93.86	90.87	91.27	90.94	90.72	90.61	91.21
Miscellaneous goods and services	129.21	171.63	173.44	176.28	178.23	180.43	183.09
All-Items consumer price index	121.95	160.18	162.47	164.01	166.47	168.16	170.26
Major Groups of Expenditure (Jerusalem)							
Food	122.63	159.85	163.99	165.69	171.93	173.21	181.13
Beverages and Tobacco	130.91	173.25	173.06	175.14	175.92	176.73	177.40
Textiles, clothing and footwear	119.18	147.61	148.28	146.95	148.12	149.96	139.14
Housing	112.88	140.39	142.49	144.83	144.86	145.29	148.07
Furniture, household goods & services	136.10	157.12	157.43	155.88	154.69	154.24	149.85
Transport and communications	131.63	184.20	186.75	188.82	189.42	185.62	189.73
Education	108.70	140.49	140.59	139.89	140.42	140.52	140.06
Medical care	114.91	149.75	149.96	149.17	148.6	148.17	152.71
Recreational, cultural goods & services	88.54	103.5	103.81	103.7	103.49	103.49	100.42
Miscellaneous goods and services	126.54	156.94	158.61	160.46	161.24	162.58	161.66
All-Items consumer price index	122.76	158.76	161.06	162.13	164.70	164.88	167.59
Major Groups of Expenditure (Rest of the West Bank)							
Food	118.25	156.93	159.72	160.94	167.38	175.31	173.77
Beverages and Tobacco	127.26	172.99	172.97	173.64	172.88	172.96	173.01
Textiles, clothing and footwear	123.53	122.58	123.9	125.78	125.84	127.9	124.31
Housing	127.28	178.15	183.74	185.05	185.3	183.88	188.73
Furniture, household goods & services	119.19	123.04	125.55	126.94	126.34	126.59	127.91
Transport and communications	127.03	225.18	226.86	228.7	227.88	226.32	227.96
Education	120.62	146.85	147.22	147.43	147.42	147.41	146.61
Medical care	138.73	161.81	161.59	161.39	161.27	161.65	169.53
Recreational, cultural goods & services	98.11	82.04	82.79	81.8	80.81	80.41	79.66
Miscellaneous goods and services	125.54	178.66	176.58	179.18	181.91	185.51	189.40
All-Items consumer price index	122.44	162.38	164.27	165.56	168.11	171.47	171.71
Major Groups of Expenditure (Gaza Strip)							
Food	116.38	156.75	158.52	163.07	166.92	170.60	181.44
Beverages and Tobacco	130.23	199.48	206.01	206.22	206.26	205.89	205.54
Textiles, clothing and footwear	135.87	119.36	119.8	122.48	122.93	122.74	126.56
Housing	129.45	157.52	160.33	162.09	162.07	160.09	160.80
Furniture, household goods & services	115.49	114.14	115.57	116.7	115.72	116.06	121.01
Transport and communications	115.61	155.66	157.29	158.73	158.76	158.62	159.92
Education	118.84	142.09	142.36	142.46	142.85	142.66	149.67
Medical care	133.83	159.93	160.85	160.58	160.22	159.95	156.22
Recreational, cultural goods & services	101.78	87.34	87.66	87.67	87.95	87.73	91.03
Miscellaneous goods and services	131.43	150.55	151.79	155.44	156.54	157.06	161.43
All-Items consumer price index	121.35	150.79	152.64	155.42	157.10	158.50	164.41
Source: PCBS							

The Palestinian CPI continued its steady increase in the month of March 2008. This increase is primarily due to the situation in Gaza, where the CPI has increased by 3.59%, when compared to the CPI in February. During the month of March food prices increased in the Gaza strip by 6%, reaching higher levels than those in Ramallah and in Hebron where traditionally prices are higher. Prices for textiles, clothing and footwear have increased by approximately 3%.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Truck Movement							
Karni commercial crossing							
Total Truck Loads Exports	992	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Truck Loads Imports	2,923	738	631	478	401	572	1,035
Kerem Shalom commercial crossing							
Total Truck Loads Exports	0	0	13	78	0	0	0
Total Truck Loads Imports	0	542	1,009	1,065	575	0	897
Sufa commercial crossing							
Total Truck Loads Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Truck Loads Imports	4,384	500	176	391	317	808	875
Nahel Oz commercial crossing (fuel)							
Total Truck Loads Imports	904	472	403	364	395	346	365
Source: Baseline: Ministry of National Economy; Paltrade , General Petroleum Corporation and Ministry of Finance							

Truck movement to Gaza has been restricted to the import of humanitarian supplies since 12 June 2007. Exports were suspended at the same time with only approximately 78 truckloads of strawberries and flowers grown with the support of the Netherlands exported in December. Compared with February, when Kerem Shalom was closed, the passage of imported truckloads increased in March by 45.5% with 24 effective working days at Kerem Shalom. In addition, Karni was closed 14.5 days in February, and 9.5 in March.

Indicator	Baseline Q2-00	Q2-2006	Q3-2006	Q4-2006	Q1-2007	Q2-2007	Q3-2007
Palestinian Trade with Israel (in million US \$)							
Trade in goods							
Exports	85	62	65	76	99	99	97
Imports	418	511	475	514	545	501	487
Balance	-333	-449	-410	-438	-446	-402	-390
Trade in Services							
Exports	45	29	30	32	41	28	35
Imports	91	65	59	72	88	85	64
Balance	-46	-36	-28	-40	-47	-57	-29
Total							
Exports	130	91	95	108	140	127	132
Imports	509	576	534	586	633	586	551
Balance	-379	-485	-438	-478	-493	-459	-419
Source: Israeli Central Bureau of statistics							

The closure of Gaza crossings is having negative economic consequences for Israel as well. The Israel-oPt trade balance - which had reached almost half a billion per quarter in the early part of 2007 - has dropped significantly in the past two quarters. Since the first quarter of 2007, the balance of trade dropped by 15 percent primarily as a result of declining imports from Israel into the oPt. A second notable finding is that despite the suspension of exports from Gaza, total oPt exports to Israel remained at the same level as during previous quarters indicating an increase in exports from the West Bank.



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR

PRIVATE SECTOR AND BANKING UPDATE – MARCH 2008

- Number of Company Registrations by region and legal status
- Area licensed for Construction
- Bank Credit
- Value of loans and deposits

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Indicator	Baseline Q2-2000	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Number of new Company Registrations (by region and legal status)							
Gaza Strip							
Private	162	4	0	0	0	0	0
Private Limited	46	14	0	0	0	0	0
Public Limited	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	212	18	0	0	0	0	0
West Bank							
Private	66	19	36	28	25	40	44
Private Limited	163	51	50	39	46	57	64
Public Limited	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Foreign	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	229	70	86	67	72	99	109
Source: Ministry of Economy							

The number of new company registrations is used as a proxy indicator for the vitality of the local economy as well as the ability of the local economy to create new employment. New company registrations in the West Bank increased in March 2008 by approximately 9.1%. However, if compared to pre-Intifada levels new company registrations has dropped by approximately 52.4%. In Gaza, new company registrations remained at its all-time low of zero.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Area licensed for new construction (Gaza Strip, dunums)							
Northern District	27,902	445	1,055	1,310	840	1,930	750
Gaza	50,116	44,650	6,270	13,440	1,600	5,370	1,720
Al Wastah	15,984	710	140	150	810	1,500	850
Khan Younis	51,146	1,405	690	690	870	1,100	1,350
Rafah	39,429	1,220	2,830	1,250	1,500	2,900	3,400
Gaza Strip Total	184,577	48,430	10,985	16,840	5,620	12,800	8,070
Source: Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms							

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Area licensed for new construction (West Bank, dunums)							
Ramallah & Al- Bireh & Jerusalem		36,005	40,956	173,799	37,023	38,439	65,993
Nablus		33,310	40,530	88,333	10,557	28,915	31,256
Tulkarm		17,112	18,365	46,136	3,112	13,540	16,691
Hebron		17,374	37,842	73,892	1,525	23,061	15,217
Bethlehem		10,696	29,408	36,624	1,046	8,822	11,623
Jenin		11,052	11,557	38,355	4,153	14,246	9,692
Qalqilya		3,287	2,674	57,043	398	5,375	10,883
Salfit		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	345,685	128,836	181,332	514,182	57,814	132,398	161,355
Source: Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms							

Similar to new company registrations, the area licensed for new construction is also used as a proxy indicator for economic vitality. If compared with February, areas licensed for new construction increased in March by 18%. However, if compared with pre-Intifada levels, areas licensed for new constructions have significantly dropped, by approximately 53.3%.

Indicator	Baseline Q2-00	Q2-06	Q3-06	Q4-06	Q1-2007	Q2-2007	Q3-2007
Area licensed for new construction (by region and by type, x 1000 m²)							
Non-residential							
West Bank	122.0	132.0	113.1	59.5	95.2	107.0	94.7
Gaza Strip	5.5	17.6	2.0	2.9	12.2	3.0	64.9
Total Palestinian territory	127.5	149.6	115.1	62.4	107.4	110.0	159.6
Residential							
West Bank	543.3	491.9	356.6	286.1	269.4	330.4	343.3
Gaza Strip	68.9	48.6	40.0	16.4	27.9	17.7	14.1
Total Palestinian territory	612.2	540.5	396.6	302.5	297.3	348.1	357.4
Source: PCBS							

The overall slump in new construction is not yet reflected in the PCBS data that disaggregates new construction licenses by type of construction as this data is available only on a quarterly basis.

Indicator	Baseline Jun-00	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun -07	Sep -07	Dec -07
Bank Credit							
Bank Credit by economic activity (x million US\$)							
Agriculture	20	16	15	18	19	20	19
Manufacturing & Mining	123	111	117	113	111	126	119
Construction	145	213	209	218	226	241	225
General Trade	349	355	365	365	379	396	370
<i>Internal Trade</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>247</i>
<i>External Trade</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>123</i>
<i>Exports</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Imports</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>104</i>
Transportation	45	69	46	54	54	94	94
Tourism, Hotels & Restaurants	33	24	24	26	26	26	26
Public Services	52	162	164	167	166	168	163
Financial Services	28	102	104	111	109	99	131
Purchase of Securities	10	3	3	3	2	9	2
Miscellaneous	429	835	856	842	809	651	609
GRAND TOTAL	1,234	1,891	1,903	1,916	1,902	1,829	1,758
TOTAL excluding miscellaneous and public services	752	893	883	907	927	1,010	987
Bank Credit by economic activity (as percentage of total)							
Agriculture	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Manufacturing & Mining	10%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Construction	12%	11%	11%	11%	12%	13%	13%
General Trade	28%	19%	19%	19%	20%	22%	21%
Transportation	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	5%	5%
Tourism, Hotels & Restaurants	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Public Services	4%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Financial Services	2%	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	7%
Purchase of Securities	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Miscellaneous	35%	44%	45%	44%	43%	36%	35%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bank Credit by economic activity excluding miscellaneous and public services(as percentage of total)							
Agriculture	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Manufacturing and Mining	16%	13%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Construction	19%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	23%
General Trade	46%	41%	40%	40%	41%	39%	38%
<i>Internal Trade</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>External Trade</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Exports</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Imports</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>11%</i>
Transportation	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	9%	10%
Tourism, Hotels & Restaurants	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Financial Services	4%	12%	12%	12%	12%	10%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Source: PMA							

Data on bank credit is used as a proxy indicator for perceptions of economic progress (increasing use of bank credit, particularly in the main productive sectors) or decline (decreasing use of bank credit). The Palestine Monetary Authority provides adjusted monthly data once per every three months. The last six months of 2007 show a distinct decline in the use of bank credit, a trend that is particularly evident during Q4-2007 in the main productive sectors (manufacturing, construction, general trade). In contrast, the use of bank credit increased by over 32 percent in the financial services sector, most likely as a preventative effort by banks to stave off potential implications of severed relations with Israeli banks. Bank credit to the public sector has more than tripled if compared with the pre-*Intifada* period.

Indicator	Baseline Jun-00	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun -07	Sep -07	Dec -07
Bank Credit							
Bank Credit by type (x million US\$)							
Loans	512	1,201	1,191	1,198	1,207	1,148	1,094
Overdrafts	653	680	702	705	681	667	649
Leasing	0	11	10	11	11	11	11
BA & Discounted Bills	69	0.07	0.01	2	3.56	4	5
Total	1,234	1,891	1,903	1,916	1,902	1,829	1,758
Bank Credit by type (as percentage of total)							
Loans	41%	63%	63%	63%	63%	63%	62%
Overdrafts	53%	36%	37%	37%	36%	36%	37%
Leasing	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
BA & Discounted Bills	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Source: PMA							

Disaggregating bank credit by the type of credit, confirms the relative stability of the banking sector. The ability of the PA to resume regular salary payments will have had some impact in the decrease of loans.

Indicator	Baseline Jun-00	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun -07	Sep -07	Dec -07
Bank Credit							
Bank Credit by borrowing entity (x million US\$)							
Businesses	752	893	883	907	927	1,010	987
Consumers	429	835	856	842	809	651	609
Public Agencies	52	162	164	167	166	168	163
Total	1,234	1,891	1,903	1,916	1,902	1,829	1,758
Bank Credit by borrowing entity (as percentage of total)							
Businesses	61%	47%	46%	47%	49%	55%	56%
Consumers	35%	44%	45%	44%	43%	36%	35%
Public Agencies	4%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Source: PMA							

Disaggregating bank credit by the borrowing entity shows that consumer lending has declined significantly in the third quarter of 2007 and has continued to drop in the fourth quarter. The most likely reason for this development is the continued risk-adverse stance of Palestinian banks combined with the recommencement of regular payment of PA salaries which has allowed a number of PA staff to pay off existing loans reducing the demand for credit.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Jun -07	Sep -07	Dec -07
Bank Deposits (excluding deposits of the PMA and commercial banks)							
Distribution of Public sector deposits by depositor and type (x million US\$)							
Public Institutions and Local Auth.							
Current Accounts	23.9	63.1	65.0	63.5	61.8	75.9	71.0
Time Deposits	49.7	44.2	47.9	48.8	56.5	70.4	73.0
Sub-total	73.6	107.3	112.9	112.3	118.3	146.3	144.0
Government							
Current Accounts	39.8	154.9	121.7	113.2	255.9	168.9	177.7
Time Deposits	74.8	177.9	173.8	187.1	86.1	175.2	183.3
Sub-total	114.6	332.8	295.6	300.3	342.0	344.1	361.0
Total Public sector deposits	188.2	440.1	408.5	412.6	460.3	490.4	505.0
Distribution of Private sector deposits by residency and type (x million US\$)							
Residents							
Current Accounts	865.3	1,238.7	1,255.4	1,244.7	1,283.8	1,459.9	1,502.7
Savings Accounts	454.3	918.3	932.3	943.2	966.1	1,020.1	1,126.9
Time Deposits	2,084.3	1,636.0	1,678.7	1,712.1	1,703.1	1,780.7	1,848.3
Sub-total	3,403.9	3,793.0	3,866.5	3,900.0	3,953.0	4,260.8	4,477.9
Non-Residents							
Current Accounts	9.5	29.6	29.8	27.4	30.0	36.6	39.5
Savings Accounts	3.6	12.7	12.9	13.0	14.0	13.9	15.5
Time Deposits	22.8	48.1	48.6	49.4	50.9	52.8	62.0
Sub-total	35.9	90.4	91.3	89.8	94.9	103.3	117.0
Total Private sector deposits	3,439.8	3,883.4	3,957.8	3,989.8	4,047.9	4,364.1	4,594.9
Total Deposits (public and private)	3,628.0	4,323.5	4,366.2	4,402.4	4,508.2	4,854.4	5,099.9
Source: PMA							

Bank deposit data for the fourth quarter indicates a continued sizeable increase in private sector deposits (both in terms of public and private sector bank deposits). Compared with January 2007, bank deposits in December 2007 show an increase of 18.3 percent.

Indicator	Baseline Jun-00	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun -07	Sep -07	Dec -07
Value of Loans and Deposits (x million US\$)							
Total Loans	1,234	1,891	1,903	1,916	1,902	1,829	1,758
Total Deposits	3,328	4,514	4,657	4,876.6	4,997	5,420	5,702
Loans/Deposits (ratio)	37.06%	41.89%	40.87%	39.29%	38.06%	33.75%	30.84%
Source: PMA							

In an efficient economy, an increase in the loans versus deposits ratio is a positive sign as monies are not saved but invested or consumed, stimulating the economy. Since September 2006, this ratio has steadily declined in the oPt (by over 26 percent) signaling little optimism concerning the Palestinian economy which limits appetite for domestic investment and thus increases deposits. The sharp drop in the third and fourth quarter signals heightened concern with regard to overall economic performance, most likely due to the events in Gaza since June 2007.

Indicator	Baseline Aug-00	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08
Palestinian Securities Exchange							
Volume of trade							
Number of shares traded (x million)	n.a.	29.0	17.5	16.2	37.3	23.5	45.7
Value of shares traded (x million US\$)	n.a.	86.0	44.3	53.6	140.0	78.3	128.7
Indices							
Al-Quds index	n.a.	509.90	522.16	527.26	596.09	599.69	655.22
Source: Palestinian Securities Exchange (PSE)							

Similar to bank credit and deposits, data on the Palestinian stock exchange is used as a proxy indicator of Palestinian perceptions vis-à-vis the state of the national economy. The data for March 2008 shows an increase in trade at the stock exchange both in terms of value and number of stocks traded. The Al-Quds index has grown in March, by approximately 8.5%.