



Society & Living Conditions

General Social Features

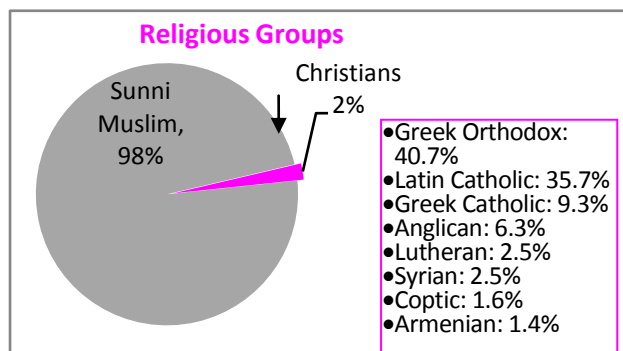
	West Bank	Gaza	WBGs (Average)
No. of Households (mid-2012)	482,000	254,000	736,000
Type of household (% , 2014) One person:	3.9	2.5	3.4
Nuclear:	87.0	79.5	84.4
Extended:	7.5	17.1	10.8
Composite:	1.6	0.9	1.4
Type of household (%) – mid-2014			
Urban:			73.9%
Rural:			16.7%
Camp:			9.4%
Average household size (persons) - 2015:	4.9	5.7	5.2
Average housing density (persons/room) 2015	1.6	1.9	1.7
Women (15-49 yrs.) married to - a relative	42.2	47.9	44.3
- non-relative	57.8	52.1	55.7
Polygamous marriages – 2014 (%):	3.2	5.84	4.3
Median age at first marriage (women, 2015)	20.4	20.2	20.3 years
Median age at first marriage (men, 2015)	25.1	24.2	24.7 years
Marriages registered (<i>Sharia</i> & churches, 2015)	29,701	20,737	50,438
Crude Marriage Rate (2015):	10.4	11.4	10.8
Divorces registered (2015):	4,914	3,265	8,179
Crude Divorce Rate (2015):	1.7	1.8	1.7
People aged 65+ (2015)	3.2%	2.4%	2.9%

Sources: PCBS, *Vital Statistics*, pcbs.gov.ps; PCBS, *The Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, 2015*; PCBS, *Press Release on International Population Day*, July 2016; PCBS, *Housing Conditions Survey 2015*.

■ Religion

Muslims: Sunni Islam, representing Shafe'i, Hanafi, Hanbali and Malki schools: **98+%**

Christians: Prior to 1948, 135,547 Christians lived in Palestine (British Mandate's Survey of Palestine, 1946). Today's estimates range from 44,000-75,000 in the West Bank, 2,000-3,000 in Gaza. (According to the Israeli CBS, 165,900 "Arab Christians" live in Israel).

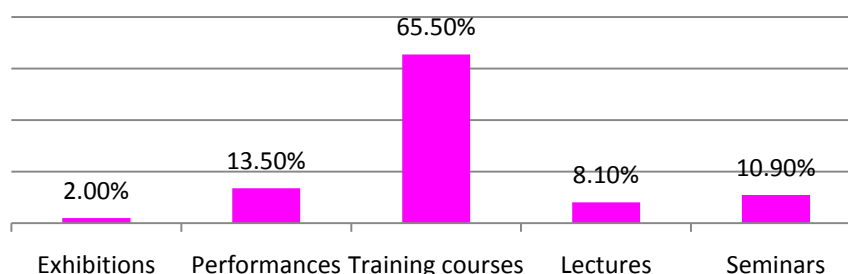


Source (Christians): Al-Qass Collins, Kassis & Raheb. *Palestinian Christians in the West Bank - Facts, Figures & Trends*.

There were 2,859 **mosques** in the WBGs (1,892 in the West Bank and 967 in Gaza) (PCBS, *Statistical Yearbook of Palestine 2015*, December 2015) and 162 **churches** (159 in the West Bank and 3 in Gaza). (PCBS, *Time Series Statistics on Culture*, 2011).

■ Culture

- In 2015, there were 596 **cultural centers** operating in Palestine (WB: 515, GS: 81), most of them in the Nablus governorate with 89, followed by Hebron with 83. In 2015, these centers provided over 9,000 **activities** in which 405,000 people participated. Activities included:

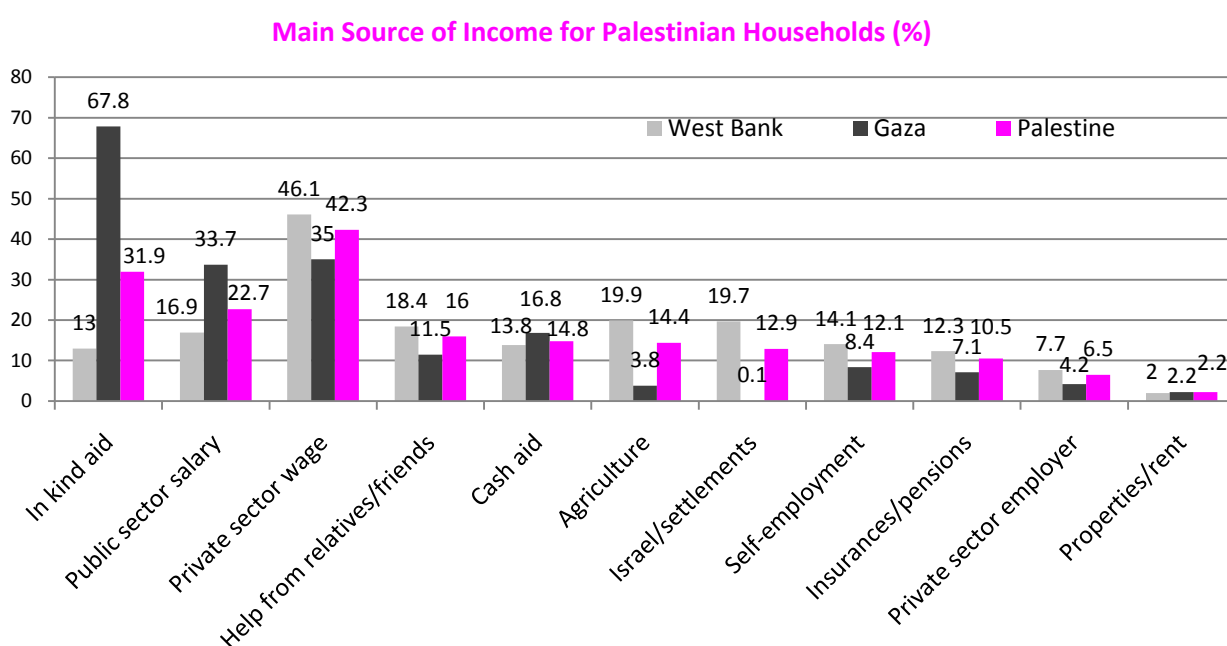


Source: PCBS, *Status of Cultural Institutions in Palestine*, March 2016.

- In 2015, 31 **museums** operated in Palestine (WB: 26, GS: 5), attracting some 185,000 visitors (82.7% of them Palestinians), as well as 12 **theaters** (WB: 9, GS: 3), performing 154 **plays** (*Ibid.*).
- Palestine has currently three **cultural sites inscribed in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger** - The Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (since 1981), Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (since 2012) and Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (since 2014) - while the following 14 sites are on the tentative list (last revised 28 October 2015):
 - Ancient Jericho: Tell es-Sultan (4/2/2012)
 - Anthedon Harbour (2/4/2012)
 - Baptism Site “Eshria’a” (Al-Maghtas) (28/10/2015)
 - El-Bariyah: wilderness with monasteries (2/4/2012)
 - Mount Gerizim & the Samaritans (2/4/2012)
 - Old town of Hebron Al-Khalil & its environs (2/4/2012)
 - Old Town of Nablus & environs (2/4/2012)
 - QUMRAN: Caves and Monastery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (2/4/2012)
 - Sebastia (2/4/2012)
 - Tell Umm Amer (2/4/2012)
 - Throne Villages (6/6/2013)
 - Umm Al-Rihan forest (2/4/2012)
 - Wadi Gaza Coastal Wetlands (2/4/2012)
 - Wadi Natuf & Shuqba Cave (06/06/2013)

Household & Living Conditions

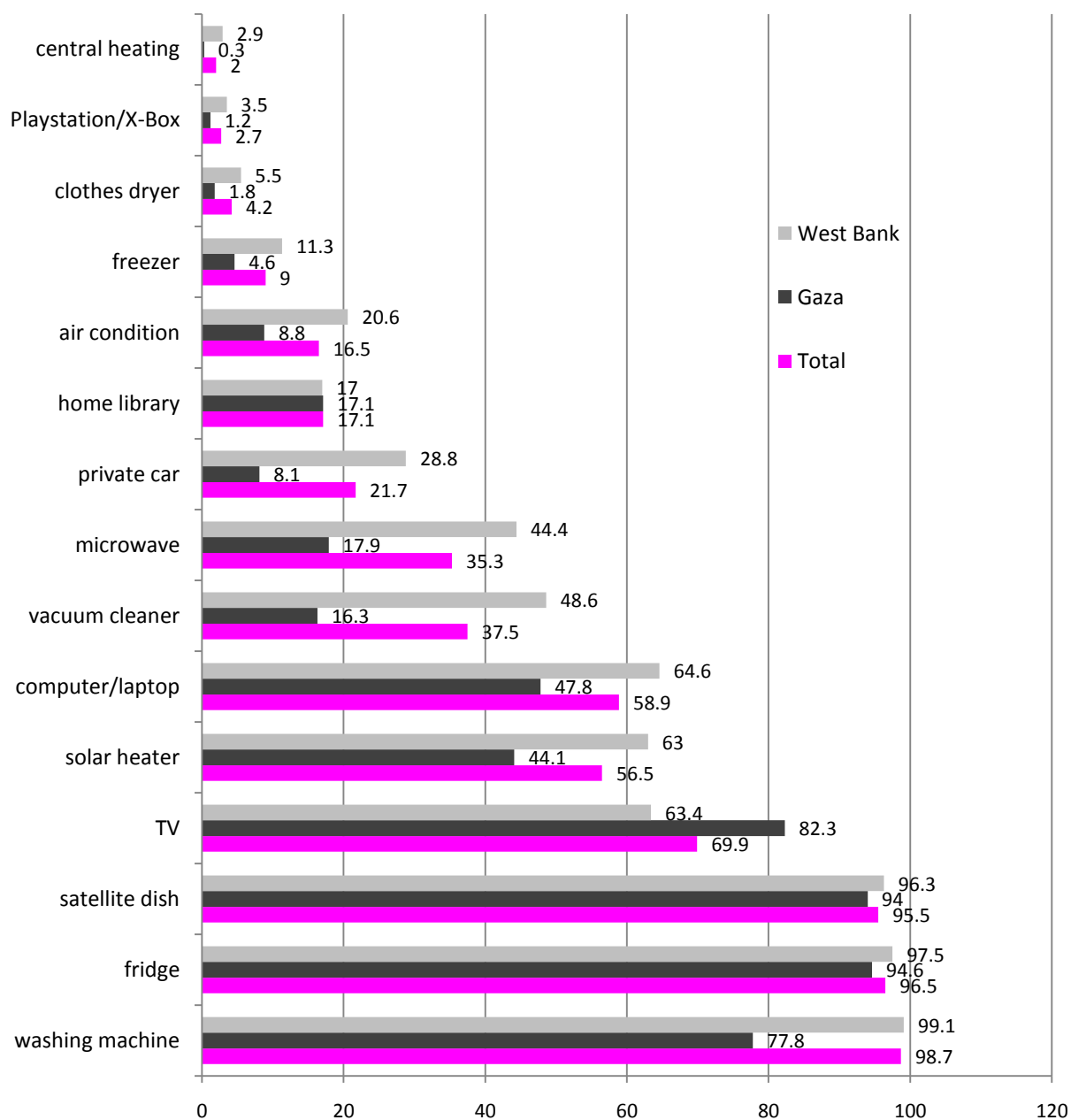
- In 2015, the average **housing density** was **1.7** persons per room (WB: 1.6, GS: 1.9) and the **average household size** was 5.2 persons (WB: 4.9, GS: 5.7) (PCBS).
- It is estimated that a quarter of the Palestinian population lives in **poverty**, with rates in Gaza twice as high (39%) as in the West Bank (16%) (World Bank, *Economic Monitoring Report to the AHLC*, Sept. 2016). According to the WFP, some 1.6 million Palestinians currently **need food assistance** (WFP, Country Brief, Oct. 2016).
- Some 21% of households in the West Bank and 73% in Gaza are currently in need of **humanitarian assistance** (UNCTAD, *Report on UNCTAD's Assistance to the Palestinian People*, 2016). An estimated 2.3 million people are in need of some form of **assistance** in 2016 (OCHA, 2016).



Source: PCBS, *Social and Economic Conditions*, 2013.

- **Social security services** in the OPT can be classified into three broad categories: 1) health insurance services administrated by the Ministry of Health, 2) social insurance funds (based on subscriptions) of the Palestinian Pension Authority, and 3) social assistance (to needy families) provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNRWA, the World Food Program, and other local and foreign NGOs (MAS, *Social Security in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Situation and Challenges*, Ramallah, 2012).
- Some 23.6% of the 15-29 years old Palestinians **desire to migrate** (WB: 15.2, GS: 37%), 40.8% of whom mainly in order to improve living conditions/escape the difficult living conditions in the homeland, 26.4% for employment reasons and 12.5% for education/training (PCBS, *Palestinian Youth Survey, 2015 Main Findings*, Feb. 2016).

Households by Availability of Durable Goods, 2015 (%)



Source: PCBS, *Housing Conditions Survey 2015 – Main Findings*, August 2015.

Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> (Statistics on Gender & on Living Standards)

<http://www.alzaytouna.net/english/books/AmINotaHuman-2-Woman.pdf>

Nakhleh, Khalil & Elia Zureik, eds., *The Sociology of the Palestinians*. London: Croom Helm, 1980.

PCBS, *Women and Men in Palestine: Issues and Statistics*, various years.

PCBS, *Palestinian Family Survey, 2010*, Final Report, October 2013.

Save the Children UK, *Child Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory - 2010 Review*, September 2011.