



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
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Source: Rashad Haidaria
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

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1. Introduction:

Telecommunication sector considered as one of the main economic sectors in the Palestinian economy. The importance of this sector can be observed from its contribution to the gross domestic product, and in providing working opportunities for a considerable amount of people. Lately, this sector increased its percentage contribution to the GDP from 4% during the year 1994 –1996 to affixed amount during 1997-1999 of 5%, while it increased its during the year 2000 to approximately 6%.

Geographically, this sector occupies special importance because it represents the primary means of telecommunication inside the local society and between the local society and the other societies .

The main objective of compiling Telecommunication statistics is to obtain data on the Telecommunication sector. These indicators include number of Telecommunication enterprises, persons engaged, value of output, intermediate consumption and stock, value added, assets and capital formation. Specific objectives are to establish a comprehensive database covering the main indicators on the Telecommunication sector in Palestine, to formulate a time series about these indicators that show the changes with time.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), took up the responsibility of producing official Telecommunication statistics from year 1995. Since then the annual report (Transport, Storage, and Communications Survey: The Formal Sector) was published covering the main indicators for the Telecommunication sector. In 1998, the Geographical indicator in the annual report “Transportation and Communication Statistics in the Palestinian Territory”was published. The Telecommunication sector covers the main elements of communication system including main telephone lines and their waiting list, Telephone calls and their lengths.

2. Objectives of telecommunication statistics:

The telecommunication statistics aim at providing data on:

1. Number of main telephone lines by year, month and region.
2. Waiting list for main telephone lines by month and region.
3. Number of telephone calls by month, region and type of calls.
4. Length of calls in minutes by month, region and type of calls.
5. Number of enterprises, persons engaged, value of output, intermediate consumption and value added.

3. Concepts and Definitions:

Local Call:	The call, which is sent or received by using the same switchboard.
National Call:	The call, which is sent or received by using two switchboards in the same country.
International Call:	The call, which is sent from one country to another.

Output:	Value of goods and services, including own-account goods, produced during a specific period.
Intermediate Consumption:	Value of production inputs from both goods and services.
Gross value added:	Output minus intermediate consumption.
Compensation of employees:	Wages, salaries and other allowances and remuneration in cash or in kind.
No. of persons engaged:	This includes unpaid owners and family members, and paid employees both permanent and temporary.
Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF):	It is measured by value of acquisitions less disposals of new or existing assets
RWBGS:	Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Remaining West Bank:	West Bank, excluding those parts of Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967.
GS:	Gaza Strip.
RWB:	Remaining West Bank.

4. Methodology:

- **Data Collection:**

Data sources are primarily from administrative records of various institutions. Next stage after having data from its sources, it processed, reclassified, and then tabulated in a way to achieve the purpose of this subject.

5. Main User of Output:

1. Ministries of Palestinian National Authority.
2. Private sector institutions and individuals for investment, research.
3. Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Trade Union.
4. International Organizations such as the UN, IMF, IBDR, ESCWA, and Arab League.

6. Data Quality:

1. National calls data covers dispatched calls from the remaining West Bank and Gaza strip (RWBGS), while calls to Jerusalem data covers dispatched calls from the RWBGS to those parts of Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967 and West-Jerusalem.
2. Data related to cellular phone represents the number of dispatched calls from RWBGS to Palestinian cellular phone (Jawwal) and Israeli cellular phone.

3. Internet service data reflects the number of Palestinian companies which provide this service regardless of whether the subscribers are Palestinians or not.

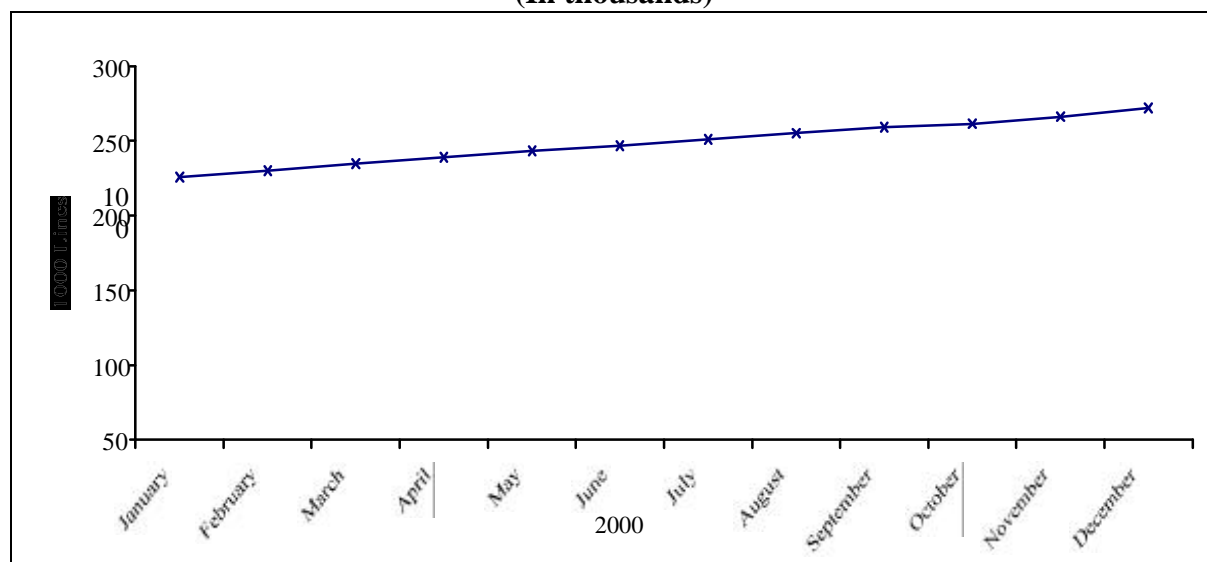
7. Obstacles:

1. The lack of funding for the most important projects is the most serious obstacle.
2. Effect of Israeli closure on Palestinian Territory, is the major barrier to collect data on time.

8. Main Findings:

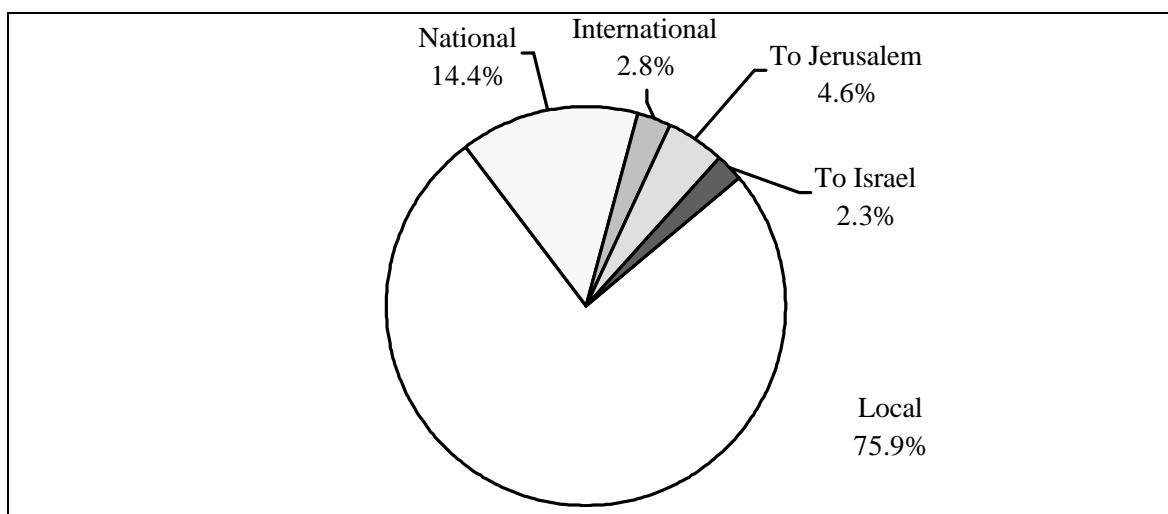
The total number of main telephone lines in the RWBGS at the end of 2000 was 272,211 lines with a growth rate of 22.5% compared with the previous year (1999), where the monthly average increase of these lines was of 4,168 lines during 2000 (Fig. 1). This resulted in the reduction of the waiting list of requests were 14,488 at the end of 2000, with a rate of 1,904 requests per month.

Fig. 1: Number of Main Telephone Lines in the RWBGS by Month, 2000 (In thousands)



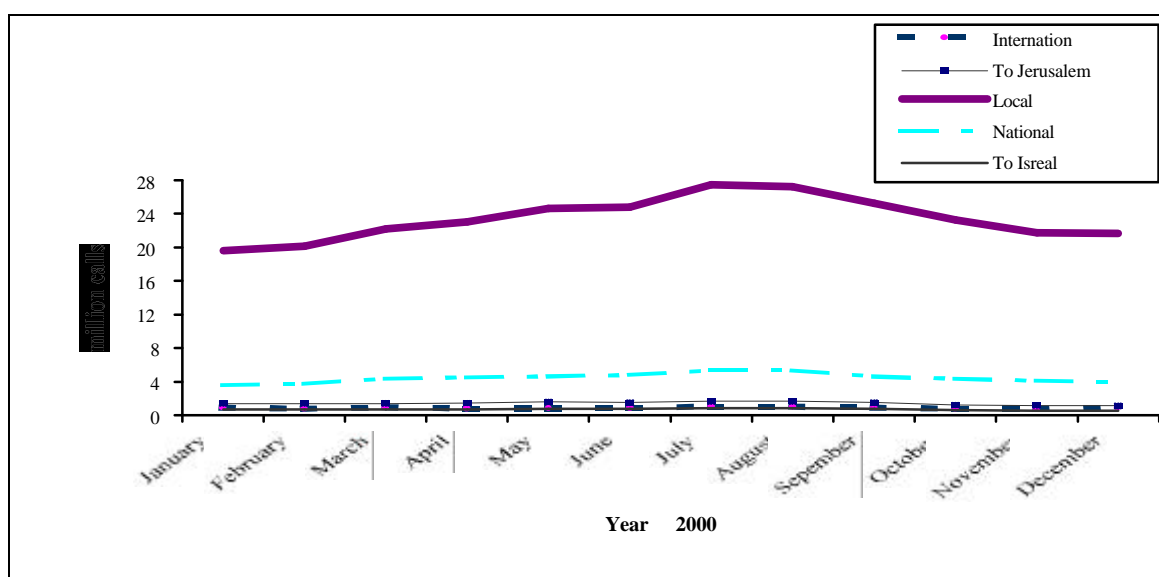
The monthly average number of telephone calls in the RWBGS is 30,848,326 in 2000. The percentage distribution of number of calls shows that local calls (using the same switchboard in the same country) formed 75.9% of the total calls, while it is 66.8% in the remaining west bank (RWB) and 33.2% in Gaza strip (GS). National calls (using two switchboards in the same country, formed 14.4%, this percentage was 70.9% in the RWB and 29.1% in GS. International calls formed 2.8%, where this percentage was 74.4% in the RWB, and 25.6% in GS. On the other hand calls to Israel and calls to Jerusalem (those parts of Jerusalem annexed by Israel in 1967 and West- Jerusalem) formed 2.3% and 4.6% respectively out of the total calls (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2: Percentage Distribution of Number of Calls in the RWBGS, 2000



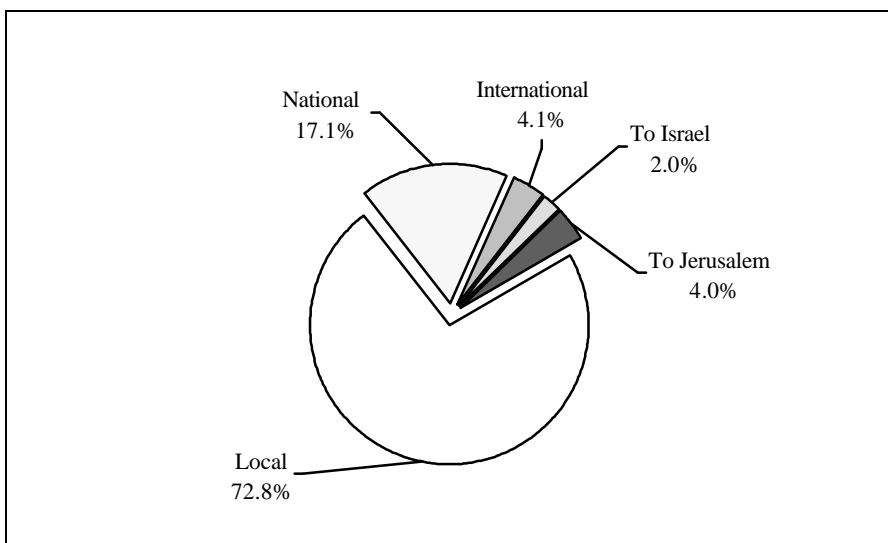
It is worth mentioning that the maximum number of calls was in July, where there were 36,330,166 calls, which equivalent to 9.8% of total calls.

Fig. 3: Number of Calls in the RWBGS by Type and Month, 2000 (in millions)



In respect to the total length of telephone calls, the monthly average was 83,299,749 minutes in 2000 distributed as follows: 72.8% for local calls, 17.1% for national calls (using two switchboards in the same country, 4.1% for international calls, 2.0% for calls to Israel and 4.0% for calls to Jerusalem (*Fig. 4 & Table 3*).

Fig. 4: Percentage Distribution of Calls Length by Type, 2000



Regarding the cellular phone, the monthly average number of calls from RWB and GS to Palestinian cellular phone and Israeli cellular phone were 8,549,219 during 2000. The percent distribution shows that 76.3% of these calls where to Israeli cellular phone, and 23.7% where to Palestinian cellular phone.

Regarding Internet service in the RWBGS, the number of companies providing this service was 6 companies at the end of 2000. The number of employees in these companies was 92, mostly male employees (83.7%). The number of subscribed persons to the Internet services in the RWBGS at the end of 2000 was 7,076 subscribers, with only 69 subscribers restricted to the electronic mail service, (table 5).

According to the economic indicators for telecommunication sector, we observe that the total number of enterprises decreased from 178 in 1997 to 122 in 2000, whereas the persons engaged in the same period increased from 1382 to 2318 respectively. In the same time the output of telecommunication was 12,8516.2 million in 2000 with growth 26 % from 1999. whereas the value added increased to 87318.2 in 2000 with growth 16.4% from 1999, (table 6).

Tables

Table(1): Number of Main Telephone Lines in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip by Month and Region

Month	Household	Commercial	Governmental	Grand Total
January	185,916	27,455	12,511	225,882
February	189,450	27,988	12,727	230,165
March	193,399	28,440	12,872	234,711
April	197,072	28,821	13,081	238,974
May	200,570	29,321	13,527	243,418
June	203,293	29,665	13,926	246,884
July	206,375	30,388	14,136	250,899
August	210,213	30,698	14,435	255,346
September	213,550	31,163	14,595	259,308
October	215,525	31,284	14,788	261,597
November	219,702	31,548	14,924	266,174
December	225,296	31,889	15,026	272,211

Table(2): Number of Dispatched Telephone Calls To Cellular phones in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip by Month and Region, 2000

Month	To Israeli Cellular Phone			To Palestinian Cellular Phone		
	Total	Gaza Strip	Remaining	Total	Gaza Strip	Remaining
			West Bank			West Bank
January	5,810,708	949,142	4,861,565	1,038,481	479,211	559,270
February	5,803,847	963,800	4,840,047	1,268,513	588,502	680,011
March	6,302,875	1,055,348	5,247,527	1,439,993	653,014	786,979
April	6,644,158	1,098,940	5,545,218	1,629,347	728,924	900,423
May	7,228,445	1,135,800	6,092,645	1,932,731	852,481	1,080,250
June	7,079,894	968,802	6,111,092	2,025,789	937,790	1,087,999
July	7,139,414	1,563,342	5,576,072	2,381,438	1,129,844	1,251,594
August	7,146,375	1,383,069	5,763,306	2,495,342	1,185,993	1,309,349
September	7,262,754	748,791	6,513,963	2,473,487	1,213,038	1,260,449
October	6,083,975	769,973	5,314,002	2,403,063	1,219,684	1,183,379
November	6,059,308	664,036	5,395,272	2,549,821	1,277,429	1,272,392
December	5,675,147	588,484	5,086,663	2,715,722	1,331,616	1,384,106
Total	78,236,900	11,889,528	66,347,372	24,353,727	11,597,526	12,756,201
Average	6,519,742	990,794	5,528,948	2,029,477	966,461	1,063,017

Table (3): Length of Calls in Minutes in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip by Month, Region and Type of Calls, 2000

Months	Local Calls	National Calls	International Calls	To Israel	To Jerusalem	Grand Total
January	49,486,325	11,576,226	3,500,641	1,622,912	3,245,824	69,431,928
February	50,779,983	12,040,557	2,855,926	1,631,410	3,262,820	70,570,696
March	56,003,286	13,890,145	3,650,490	1,636,437	3,272,874	78,453,232
April	59,320,023	14,478,473	3,080,314	1,652,574	3,305,148	81,836,532
May	63,225,374	15,445,905	3,329,128	1,847,672	3,695,344	87,543,423
June	62,754,821	15,442,678	3,415,855	1,757,970	3,515,940	86,887,264
July	67,666,027	15,834,039	3,899,894	1,863,627	3,727,254	92,990,841
August	67,794,698	15,701,387	3,788,968	1,828,304	3,656,608	92,769,965
September	66,473,239	14,036,148	3,658,515	1,703,851	3,407,702	89,279,456
October	63,452,695	14,389,502	2,998,011	1,545,278	3,090,557	85,476,043
November	61,481,962	14,116,638	2,983,282	1,465,947	2,931,894	82,979,723
December	59,707,325	13,694,846	3,799,699	1,392,007	2,784,013	81,377,889
Total	728,145,758	170,646,544	40,960,723	19,947,989	39,895,978	999,596,992
Average	60,678,813	14,220,545	3,413,394	1,662,332	3,324,665	83,299,749

Table (4): Number of Jawwal Cellular phones Subscription in the Palestinian Territory by Month and Type of Subscription, 2001

Months	'Bill system users	Card system users	Total
January	10,233	67,335	77,568
February	10,015	68,685	78,700
March	9,821	72,988	82,809
April	9,909	79,612	89,521
May	9,671	91,203	100,874
June	8,901	101,620	110,521
July	9,237	110,764	120,001
August	9,352	121,595	130,947
September	9,655	133,382	143,037
October	10,946	142,300	153,246
November	11,648	151,075	162,723
December	12,207	163,734	175,941
Average	10,133	108,691	118,824

Table(5): Internet Service in the Remaining West Bank and Gaza Strip by Selected Variables, 2000

Variable	Number
Companies providing the service	6
Employees in the companies by sex:	
Males	77
Females	15
Total	92
Subscribers by Type of Service:	
Internet	7,007
E-mail only	69
	7,076

Table(6): Main Economic Indicators for Telecommunications Activities by Year

Value in US \$ 1000))

Indicators	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. of Enterprise	178	138	140	122
No. of Persons Engaged	1382	2007	2257	2318
Compensation of Employees	9508.3	11416.0	14893.5	20228.2
Output	56655.7	75706.9	95267.8	128516.2
Intermediate Consumption	12942.8	12134.1	22275.2	41198.0
Value Added	43713.0	63572.8	72992.6	87318.2
G.F.C.F	15532.2	19094.6	95417.9	48507.9