

## Palestinian Territories Facts and Figures\*

Gaza Strip (Qita' Ghazzah)	West Bank
<b>Location:</b> Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Israel	<b>Location:</b> Middle East, west of Jordan, east of Israel
<b>Geographic Note:</b> Strategic strip of land along Mideast-North African trade routes has experienced an incredibly turbulent history; the town of Gaza itself has been besieged countless times in its history	<b>Geographic Note:</b> Landlocked; highlands are main recharge area for Israel's coastal aquifers; there are about 355 Israeli civilian sites including about 145 small outpost communities in the West Bank and 32 sites in East Jerusalem (2010 est.)
<b>Area:</b> 360 sq km (139 sq mi) Slightly larger than Washington, DC or Malta	<b>Area:</b> 5,860 sq km (2,263 sq mi) Slightly smaller than Delaware and slightly larger than Brunei
<b>Land Boundaries:</b> 62 km (39 mi) <i>Bordering Countries:</i> Egypt 11 km (7 mi) and Israel 51 km (32 mi)	<b>Land Boundaries:</b> 404 km (251 mi) <i>Bordering Countries:</i> Israel 307 km (191 mi) and Jordan 97 km (60 mi)
<b>Climate:</b> Temperate, mild winters, dry and warm to hot summers	<b>Climate:</b> Temperate; temperature and precipitation vary with altitude, warm to hot summers, cool to mild winters
<b>Terrain:</b> Flat to rolling, sand- and dune-covered coastal plain	<b>Terrain:</b> Mostly rugged dissected upland, some vegetation in west, but barren in east
<b>Elevation Extremes:</b> <i>Lowest point:</i> Mediterranean Sea 0 m (0 ft) <i>Highest point:</i> Abu 'Awdah 105 m (344 ft)	<b>Elevation Extremes:</b> <i>Lowest point:</i> Dead Sea -408 m (-1,339 ft) <i>Highest point:</i> Tall Asur 1,022 m (3,353 ft)
<b>Natural Resources:</b> Arable land, natural gas	
<b>Natural Hazards:</b> Droughts	
<b>Environment – Current Issues:</b> Desertification; salination of fresh water; sewage treatment; water-borne disease; soil degradation; depletion and contamination of underground water resources	

\* Unless otherwise stated, information in this section comes from the following source: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, "Gaza Strip," 08 February 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gz.html> and "West Bank," 08 February 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/we.html>

<b>Gaza Strip (Qita' Ghazzah)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>
<b>Ethnic Groups:</b> Palestinian Arab	<b>Ethnic Groups:</b> Palestinian Arab and other 83%, Jewish 17%
<b>Languages:</b> Arabic, Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers and many Palestinians), English (widely understood)	
<b>Religions:</b> Muslim (predominantly Sunni) 99.3%, Christian 0.7%	<b>Religions:</b> Muslim 75% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 17%, Christian and other 8%
<b>Population:</b> 1,710,257 (July 2012 est.)	<b>Population:</b> 2,622,544 (July 2012 est.) <i>Note:</i> approximately 311,100 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank (2010); approximately 186,929 Israeli settlers live in East Jerusalem (2010)
<b>Median Age:</b> 17.7 years	<b>Median Age:</b> 21.3 years
<b>Population Growth Rate:</b> 3.108% (2012 est.)	<b>Population Growth Rate:</b> 2.063% (2012 est.)
<b>Urbanization:</b> <i>Urban population:</i> 72% of total population (2008) <i>Rate of urbanization:</i> 3.3% annual rate of change (2005-10 est.)	
<b>Life Expectancy at Birth:</b> 74.16 years (2012 est.)	<b>Life Expectancy at Birth:</b> 75.24 years (2012 est.)
<b>Literacy:</b> <i>Total population:</i> 92.4% <i>Male:</i> 96.7% <i>Female:</i> 88% (2004 est.)	
<b>GDP – Per Capita (PPP):</b> USD 2,900 (2008 est.)	
<b>GDP – Real Growth:</b> 7% (2009 est.)	
<b>GDP – Composition by Sector:</b> Agriculture: 3.7% Industry: 13.6% Services: 82.7% (2011 est.)	
<b>Labor Force:</b> 348,200 (2010)	<b>Labor Force:</b> 745,600 (2010)
<b>Labor Force – By Occupation:</b> Agriculture: 5.1% Industry: 15.6% Services: 79.3% (2010 est.)	<b>Labor Force – By Occupation:</b> Agriculture: 16.1% Industry: 28.4% Services: 55.5% (2010 est.)

<b>Gaza Strip (Qita' Ghazzah)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b> 40% (2010 est.)	<b>Unemployment Rate:</b> 23.5% (2011 est.)
<b>Population Below Poverty Line:</b> 38% (2010 est.)	<b>Population Below Poverty Line:</b> 18.3% (2010 est.)
<b>Agriculture – Products:</b> Olives, fruit, vegetables, flowers; beef, dairy products	
<b>Industries:</b> Textiles, food processing, and furniture	<b>Industries:</b> Small-scale manufacturing, quarrying, textiles, soap, olive-wood carvings, and mother-of-pearl souvenirs
<b>Exports:</b> USD 518 million (2009)	
<b>Exports – Commodities:</b> Strawberries, carnations, and vegetables	<b>Exports – Commodities:</b> Stone, olives, fruit, vegetables, limestone
<b>Imports:</b> USD 3.601 billion (2009)	
<b>Imports – Commodities:</b> Food, consumer goods <i>Note:</i> Israel permits limited imports through crossings with Gaza, but many “dual use” goods, such as construction materials, are smuggled through tunnels beneath Gaza’s border with Egypt	<b>Imports – Commodities:</b> Food, consumer goods, construction materials, petroleum, chemicals
<b>Currency:</b> New Israeli shekels (ILS)	
<b>Telephones:</b> Main lines in use: 337,000 (2010) Mobile cellular: 2.405 million (2010)	
<b>Broadcast Media:</b> The Palestinian Authority operates 1 television and 1 radio station; about 30 independent TV and 25 radio stations operating; Jordanian TV is available; satellite TV is accessible (2008)	
<b>Internet Users:</b> 1.379 million (2009)	
<b>Airports:</b> 1 with paved runway over 3,047 m (9,997 ft) (2010)	<b>Airports:</b> 2 with paved runway: 1 between 1,524 – 2,437 m (5,000-7,995 ft) 1 under 914 m (2,999 ft)
<b>Roadways:</b> 5,147 km (3,198 mi), all paved	

Gaza Strip (Qita' Ghazzah)	West Bank
<p><b>Type of Government:</b> Semi-presidential legislative authority under Israeli control<sup>†</sup></p>	
<p><b>Government:</b> President of Palestinian Authority: Mahmud Abbas Prime Minister: Salam Fayyad <i>Note:</i> Since 2007, the Hamas terrorist organization<sup>‡</sup> has been the <i>de facto</i> government of the Gaza Strip, having effectively driven out all who opposed them. The United States continues to recognize the Abbas administration as the legitimate governing body of both Palestinian territories.  Ismail Haniyah was dismissed from his position as Prime Minister in June 2007, but continues to function in this post in the Hamas <i>de facto</i> government in Gaza.</p>	<p><b>Government:</b> <i>President of Palestinian Authority:</i> Mahmud Abbas (since January 2005) <i>Prime Minister:</i> Salam Fayyad (since 2007)  The president is directly elected for a four-year term; however, no elections have been held for this post since 2005. Elections aimed at reconciling the two Palestinian territories, which have previously been put off indefinitely, are slated for 4 May 2012.</p>
<p><b>Legislative Branch:</b> The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) is a unicameral body. The Palestinian people directly elect the body's 132 members. The PLC has not met since 2007, and President Abbas has essentially ruled by decree, which is afforded his office under the terms of the 1993 Oslo Accords.<sup>§</sup>  President Abbas appointed an emergency government on 14 June 2008, which has acted in place of the PLC.<sup>**</sup></p>	
<p><b>Judiciary Branch:</b> The Ramallah Appeal and High Court serves as the top court for the Palestinian Authority. The judiciary has been stymied by the partition of the Palestinian territories.<sup>††</sup></p>	
<p><b>Military Branches:</b> Palestinian Authority security forces have operated only in the West Bank, not in the Gaza Strip, since Hamas terrorist organization seized power in June 2007; law and order and other security functions are performed by Hamas security organizations (2008)</p>	
<p><b>International Disputes:</b> West Bank and Gaza Strip are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement – permanent status to be determined through further negotiation; Israel continues construction of a “seam line” separation barrier along parts of the Green Line and within the West Bank; Israel withdrew from four settlements in the northern West Bank in August 2005; since 1948, about 350 peacekeepers from the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), headquartered in Jerusalem, monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, prevent isolated incidents from escalating, and assist other UN personnel in the region</p>	

<sup>†</sup> IHS Jane's, “Gaza and the West Bank: Internal Affairs,” *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment – Eastern Mediterranean*, 05 April 2011.

<sup>‡</sup> The United States Department of State has listed Hamas as a Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization: <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

<sup>§</sup> IHS Jane's, “Gaza and the West Bank: Internal Affairs,” *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment – Eastern Mediterranean*, 05 April 2011.

<sup>\*\*</sup> IHS Jane's, “Gaza and the West Bank: Political Leadership,” *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment – Eastern Mediterranean*, 06 September 2011.

<sup>††</sup> IHS Jane's, “Gaza and the West Bank: Internal Affairs,” *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment – Eastern Mediterranean*, 05 April 2011.