



Palestinian National Authority

Ministry of National Economy

Achievements Of the Ministry of National Economy

Ninth Government

1st March – 30th December 2005



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First: The Ministry and its Supportive Institutions

1. The Ministry

1. The Ministry's structure, approved by the Ministerial Cabinet, is distinguished by:
 - a) Integration of work and separation of powers among the various units.
 - b) Consolidation of the principle of decentralization in the Ministry's work.
 - c) Contribution to improving public services and increased capacity of Regional Offices at the administrative and technical levels.

2. To follow up and evaluate the Ministry's work:
 - a) A five-member committee consisting of the Minister, Deputy Minister, the two Assistant Deputy Ministers and a senior Ministry official based in Gaza was established, and convenes twice a week.
 - b) A board consisting of the five-member committee and the Ministry's General Directors convenes twice a month.
 - c) The Board has met approximately 45 times and made over 150 decisions, 90% of which have been implemented.

3. The Ministry's headquarters has been connected with its regional offices in the main governorates by an electronic network supported by sophisticated systems. Moreover, the Ministry's economic and trade data, especially information related to imports, exports and movement at crossing points, have been posted on the Ministry's website and are accessible to the public. This has contributed to providing services to the public as rapidly as possible and improved the quality of such services.

4. The Ministry of National Economy prepared the first 'Services Quality Manual' in cooperation with GTZ. The Manual included 92 different services provided by the Ministry.

5. The Ministry simplified and unified procedures between the West Bank and Gaza Strip in accordance with a Ministerial Cabinet decision.



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Institution Building at the Ministry:

1. Developing and rehabilitating the capacities of the Ministry's employees:

- During 2005, and through continuous cooperation with a number of international organizations specialized in training, the Minister succeeded in engaging many of the Ministry and regional offices in several specialized training courses. The most important international parties that cooperated with the Ministry in this field include:
 - The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
 - The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 - The Swedish International Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
 - The National Administration Institute of Jordan
 - The Commercial Representative Office of Taiwan
 - The Arab Monetary Fund in Abu Dhabi
 - China
 - Turkey

In addition, various local organizations and institutions provided training for the Ministry's employees, such as the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the National Management Institute, and others.

- The Ministry provided 50 computers and distributed them equally among the Ministry's General directorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to the regional offices.
- The Ministry initiated a special division called the 'Services Center', staffed with qualified employees to facilitate service delivery to the public.
- An improvement in the performance of the various Ministry departments has been reflected by an increase in revenues.

2. Regional Offices:

- The Ministry has 16 regional offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip's 16 governorates.
- The regional offices located in the main governorates have been connected with the Ministry's headquarters in Ramallah and Gaza by a sophisticated network which facilitates continuous communication and exchange of information.
- The entire Ministry's regional offices have access to the internet, an important source of the information required to carry out their tasks and of the latest world developments.



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- The regional offices have been provided with the relevant laws, agreements, reports and studies prepared and published by the Ministry in a step to educate their employees about the Ministry's work and procedures. This will enable them to contribute to the various local and international conferences and meetings they attend based on accurate and up-to-date information.
- The skills of regional offices' employees have been improved through their participation in various training courses covering different technical and administrative skills, which have helped them in such fields as computers and languages.
- The regional offices play a key role in organizing the internal market through their contribution to conducting exhibitions and fairs, monitoring consumer goods, dealing with public complaints etc.

3. Palestine Standards Institute (PSI)

- This Institute contributes to organizing and regulating the Palestinian internal market, assisting in reducing dumping and protecting local consumers.
- The PSI introduced technical regulations for the first time.
- The PSI developed certain articles of the Palestinian Standards Law.
- Institutional capacity building is ongoing.
- The PSI has developed relations with relevant Arab and international institutes through:
 - Signing a number of international agreements that facilitate the entry of Palestinian products to the markets of the countries with which the agreements have been concluded, for example the Mutual Recognition Agreement of the Compliance Certificate with each of Jordan, Algeria and Egypt.
 - Participating in the meetings of the International Standards Organization (ISO).
 - Receiving the Secretary General of the ISO on his first visit to Palestine.
 - Cooperating with the American Standards Institute.
- As a result, these achievements have been positively reflected in the Institute's performance through the following:
 - Adoption of 47 Palestinian standards in the fields of foodstuffs, chemicals, construction materials, energy and mechanics.
 - Completing 20 draft Palestinian specifications and referring them to the PLC for approval.
 - Formation of 12 new specifications committees.
 - Adoption of 13 technical regulations in the fields of quarrying, ready-made concrete, textiles and garments, wheat flour, meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, salt, candies and sugar products, and fish.



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- Standardization of 325 apparatuses for factories, laboratories and institutions.
- Conducting 159 compliance tests for local and imported products.
- Conducting 742 periodical tests for quality and supervision marks.
- Conducting 299 tests for imports.
- Ratification of 269 labels.
- Granting 6 new supervision certificates.
- Granting 16 new quality certificates.

4. Palestinian Industrial Estate and Free Zone Authority (PIEFZA)

- The preparation of the Industrial Estates Law and bylaws has been completed, in harmony with the importance of investment and the Authority's structure.
- The organizational structure of the Palestinian Industrial Estate and Free Zone Authority was developed and adopted.
- Preliminary studies were carried out for more than 15 local industrial zones.
- Communication was entered into with a number of Arab Funds and donor countries to support these zones and estates.
- The qualified companies for developing the industrial estates were announced for the first time.
- Following a ministerial decision, the Minister of National Economy took over responsibility for the Erez Industrial Zone.
- Four industrial zones, including Erez, Toubas, Jenin and Hebron, have been approved by donor countries.
- Funding sources for establishing and developing three industrial zones in Gaza, Nablus and Jerusalem were obtained from Arab Funds.
- The approval of the Ankara Economic Forum to fund Erez Industrial Estate was obtained, and the agreement on its establishment was recently signed.
- During the PNA President Mahmoud Abbas's visit to China, the Chinese Government pledged to establish and equip an industrial zone in Rafah.



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5. Palestine Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA)

- The Palestine Investment Promotion Agency, in cooperation with the World Bank and a number of experts, prepared a four-year strategic plan (a short-term plan for 2005 and a medium-term plan for the three years 2006-2008).
- The Agency opened, under the auspices of the Prime Minister, a 'one-stop shop' investment window.
- The Agency prepared an Investment Manual, including 126 strategic projects valued at US\$1.5 billion.
- PIPA developed cooperation mechanisms with international and regional organizations in Jordan, Bahrain and Milan (Italy), in addition to organizations affiliated to the Euro-Med Initiative.
- The Investment Promotion Law was amended and upgraded through cooperation with 200 economic experts and support by USAID.
- Useful preparation was conducted for the First Palestinian Investment and Development Conference, due to be held in April 2006.

6. Hallmarking and Monitoring of Precious Metals Directorate

- A special committee headed by the Minister of National Economy and consisting of the public and private sectors was formed to develop this Directorate.
- The Directorate's relations were developed and deepened with corresponding regional and international organizations.
- The General Directorate for Policies, Analysis and Statistics is preparing a study on the reality and prospects of precious metals in Palestine.
- A mechanism for monitoring the internal market of this sector has been established, which contributed to a substantial increase in the revenues collected for the PNA treasury. (The revenues amounted to approximately NIS 11.99 million in 2004 and NIS 12.45 million in 2005.)

7. Palestinian Energy and Environment Research Center

The Palestinian Energy and Environment Research Center works as a consulting center for the energy and environment sector in Palestine. The Center has conducted a number of studies related to energy prices throughout the Palestinian governorates. It has also prepared studies on the importance of investment in alternative energy and other studies on energy rationalization. In addition, the Center represents Palestine in regional and international events held in the field of energy.



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Second: Laws and Legislation

The Ministry of National Economy, in cooperation with other relevant parties, completed the preparation of draft laws related to economic activities including the following:

- Companies Law
- Consumer Protection Law
- Moveable Assets Law
- Industry Law
- Industrial Federations Law (PFI),
- Chambers of Commerce Law
- Amendment of the Investment Promotion Law
- Export Promotion Law (Pal Trade)
- Intellectual Property Law
- Commercial Agents Law
- Amendment of Palestine Standards Institute Law.

Third: Relations with the Private Sector

The Ministry of National Economy aims to support the capacities of private sector organizations and companies and strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors. The Ministry carried out several steps to achieve this objective through involving the private sector in the following:

- Preparation of the public policies and plans of the Ministry including a 120-day plan and an economic recovery plan for Gaza.
- Preparation of all the drafts laws.
- Participation in meetings held by the Ministry with international parties.
- The private sector formed a part of all the Ministry's missions to different countries and was a partner in the joint agendas.
- The Public and Private Sector Coordination Council was activated in order to consolidate the partnership.
- Effective participation in preparing the development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip (2006-2008).
- Participation in the preparations for the Palestine Development and Investment Conference.
- The Ministry assisted private sector organizations in their restructuring and formulating their strategies for the forthcoming years.
- Soft loans were provided to support private sector (SME) projects, to an amount of approximately 30 million Euros.



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- The Palestinian Competitiveness Council, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, was established. Laws and bylaws pertaining to the Council are being prepared.

Fourth: Organizing the Internal Market

- The Ministry formed a special committee made up of the Ministry and the private sector for regulating the procedures of the internal market.
- The 'Known Importer' Card was endorsed.
- A number of decisions were made related to supporting national products and giving them priority in governmental bids, in addition them and to preventing the entry of Israeli settlement products into the Palestinian market, decisions were taken by the cabinet to enforce implement them and a growth was recognize accordingly.
- Palestinian specifications were abided by in all imported products, as was using Arabic labels on all consumer products.
- The Ministry worked on improving the movement of commodities and goods between the West Bank and Gaza Strip through adopting new control mechanisms for it. These procedures have led to the following:
 - A remarkable improvement in the economic situation;
 - An improvement in the employment situation of certain economic sectors;
 - An improvement in the situation of certain institutions and workshops through programs initiated by the Ministry, which ensured their work continuity and helped them not to lay off employees.
 - The productive participation in the Job Creation Program in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and private sector organizations.
 - An improvement in exports and imports: Palestinian exports amounted to US\$407 million in 2004 and are expected to amount to US\$485 million in 2005. Palestinian imports were worth US\$2,211 million in 2004 and are expected to reach US\$2,450 million in 2005.



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Fifth: Trade Crossing Points

The trade crossing points have gained considerable importance since the advent of the Palestinian National Authority. The control of these crossing points formed an important item on the agenda for negotiations about the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. In this context, it is necessary to mention the special border crossing understandings reached in the document of 15th November 2005 overseen by James Wolfensohn, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Javier Solana of the E.U. The Ministry of National Economy has made great efforts in this field including:

- The Ministry played a pioneering role in establishing the Crossing Points and Borders General Agency through requesting the World Bank and the European Union to provide it with international models and a structure.
- In coordination with international organizations, the Ministry is preparing a Procedures Manual to facilitate trade at crossing points in accordance with international standards.
- The Ministry prepared a special mechanism for the movement of trucks to and from the Gaza Strip in harmony with the new crossing points vision.
- The Ministry was entrusted to head the technical team in charge of coordination with the Israeli side on trade crossing points.
- Reports and studies were prepared in cooperation with the private sector, which made valuable comments and recommendations.
- The Ministry played an important role in bringing about a third party on the trade crossing points to achieve optimal streamlining for individuals and commodities and facilitate trade and development in Palestine.
- By a Cabinet decision, the Ministry of National Economy was given the main role in managing exports from the Gaza Strip to Israel and the West Bank, in addition to responsibility for the crossing points.
- The General Directorate of Policies, Analysis and Statistics prepared a study on the role of crossing points in the Gaza Strip and their prospects of development.

Sixth: Demolished Commercial and Industrial Sites

- During the past months the Ministry prepared a special file of demolished commercial and industrial sites in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- The Ministry has twice sought with the Cabinet of Ministers to obtain reasonable compensation to recover production and re-employ the labour force.
- The Ministry has asked the Quartet Envoy James Wolfensohn to give the affected persons special priority in terms of emergency job creation projects, especially in the Gaza Strip.



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- A plot of land of 150 dunums owned by the Ministry of Waqf was allocated for building an industrial zone to incubate a number of affected industries and workshops.
- A grant of US\$5.5 million was obtained from the Social and Economic Development Fund, from which investors have been granted soft loans.
- The Ministry has prepared a special file for the Islamic Development Bank to compensate damages that have been inflicted on Jenin and Gaza.

Seventh: Arab Economic Relations

The Ministry has initiated a special General Directorate to work on developing the economic relations between Palestine and the Arab countries, due to their importance for the national economy. This directorate has the following tasks:

- Activating and adhering to the Arab Summit resolutions as regards removal of customs duties on Palestinian exports to the Arab countries.
- Working on developing the regional relations with Jordan and Egypt. In this regard, two cooperation agreements have been concluded with these two countries to contribute to developing the trade relations with both of them.
- Seeking to develop the economic and trade relations with the Arab Gulf countries, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Yemen.
- Building strong relations with financial and development funds and agencies.
- Signing a framework protocol with Algeria that exempts exported Palestinian products from customs duties.

Eighth: International Relations

- Euro-Palestinian Joint Technical Committee Meeting.

The Euro-Palestinian Joint Technical Committee Meeting held on May 11th 2005 in Brussels recommended the following:

- Activation of the Euro-Palestinian Partnership Agreement and ensuring European support for the private sector.
- Formation of three sub-committees (political, economic, and social/environmental) to focus on the Palestinian priorities in the European neighborhood policy at the political, economic and trade levels, in addition to following up the implementation of the Palestinian–European work plan and directing resources towards Palestinian priorities.
- Regarding Palestinian Customs, the Committee agreed to facilitate communications between experts from the EC and the Palestinian Customs department and to help in the management of Palestinian Customs following the Israeli withdrawal.
- The Committee also agreed to continue with the establishment of the Joint Transportation and Energy Bureau and identify the priorities as regards joint ventures. Furthermore, it



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has been agreed that the EC will support infrastructure projects, including energy projects, with funds of 10 million Euros.

- During the meeting, a tripartite committee was formed to tackle Israel's non-recognition of the European-Palestinian Partnership Agreement, discuss trade arrangements, and handle the impediments to Palestinian trade.
 - The Committee agreed to give priority to Palestinian economic development within the market economy.
- Program for Supporting and Consolidating Palestinian Private Sector Institutions with EU Funds.
 - Program for Establishing the Legal Framework with EU Funds.
In the first phase, the Program aims at studying all the laws - particularly the economic and trade laws - and ensuring their compliance and consistency with the multinational trade system, in addition to identifying the executive regulations to be implemented for the existing laws and completing the laws that have not been prepared. The fund available for this program is one million Euros.
 - A Technical Support Program for the Ministry Funded by the EU.
This Program aims at achieving the maximum benefit for Palestine through the European – Palestinian Partnership Agreement and its Related Programs.
 - A Program to guarantee Small Enterprises Credit, funded by the GTZ.
 - The Technical Assistance Project Funded by the Government of Italy.
 - Following up with the World Bank
The Ministry has worked with the World Bank to carry out the steps required to enact the revitalization of the Palestinian economy and the implementation criteria, in addition to preparing the Palestinian stance concerning the Wolfensohn mission in terms of policies, procedures and immediate projects needed to embark on the revitalization process of the Palestinian economy. The Ministry also headed the Palestinian side in the Tripartite Negotiations Committee (Palestine- Israel – Quartet).



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Ninth: Organizing Relations with Israel

Formation of a Palestinian-Israeli-European Committee with the aim to:

- Review the Paris Economic Protocol;
- Re-activate the Joint Economic Committee;
- Re-activate the European-Palestinian Partnership agreement;
- Build cooperation in the field of specifications and facilitate trade.

Tenth: Commercial Attachés

The Ministry has selected 20 Arab, Islamic and other countries to appoint commercial attachés to and enhance bilateral relations with. These 20 countries are given priority in terms of exports and imports, technology transfers etc. The Ministry is currently coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to achieve this important objective in the service of the private sector and the promotion of Palestinian exports and imports.

Eleventh: Studies and Reports

During the past months, the Ministry has prepared more than 38 economic studies and reports including ones about the following: Economic Security in Palestine, Dumping Policy, Crossing Points, Cost of Businesses in Palestine, Industrial Licenses, Future Industries in Palestine, Economic Reality in Palestinian Governorates, Analysis of Foreign Trade Indicators for the Period 1995-2003, the Industrial Sector between Competition Capabilities and Development Prospects, the Reality of Precious Metals in Palestine and others.

Twelfth: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

- The Ministry of National Economy has given small and medium-sized enterprises special attention in terms of the facilitation of procedures, provision of an enabling environment for their growth and development, and communication with donor countries to give this sector priority support. This sector received assistance of 5 million Euros from the German Bank for Development (KfW) and 5 million Euros from GTZ.
- The Ministry encouraged the private sector to invest in institutions that support SMEs such as Al-Rafah Bank, which was established to support small enterprises with US\$10 million capital.



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- A specialized unit was established at the Ministry as part of the General Directorate for Policies, Analysis, and Statistics, with a specialized staff capable of achieving the expected objectives in supporting and developing these projects.

Thirteenth: The Economic Development Plan

- In cooperation with 200 people from the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and academia, the Ministry worked for several months on the preparation of an economic development plan. The Plan was developed within three important axes: the role of the PNA in good governance, the concept of the rule of law and security, and the role of the international community in supporting infrastructure and other projects. The Plan included over 100 projects valued at US\$5.5 billion. These projects focus on eight fields:
 - Emergency Projects;
 - Infrastructure;
 - Market Accessibility;
 - Governmental and Administrative Reform (Enabling Environment);
 - Facilitation of Financial Support;
 - Access to Knowledge and Technology;
 - Education, Health and Pension Fund;
 - Private Sector.

The projects supervised by the Ministry of National Economy in cooperation with other parties amounted to approximately 35 projects at an estimated cost of US\$1.4 billion.

The Economic Development Plan aims at achieving the following key objectives:

- Achieving stability, geographical communication and control in support of the Palestinian economy;
- Adopting effective economic policies that enable the Palestinian economy to achieve comprehensive development;
- Improving the general performance and completing and unifying legislation in consolidation of the rule of law;
- Rehabilitating and developing infrastructure in accordance with the needs of the development process;
- Improving the foreign funding mechanisms and directing them to serve the development process requirements;
- Improving the living conditions of Palestinian citizens through combating poverty and unemployment.



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- The General Directorate for Policies, Analysis, and Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy prepared a study on the best practices to achieve the fifth objective, i.e. improving the foreign funding mechanisms and directing these funds in the service of the needs of the development process.

Fourteenth: Reform

- The Ministry, through continuous efforts at all levels, has implemented the majority of the economic part of the government commitments within the comprehensive reform program, including the commitments set forth in the short-term reform plan (September 2004 - September 2005), the 120-day governmental plan, the London meeting which was held in March 2005, the Sharm Al Sheikh meeting, and the World Bank requirements.
- The Ministry carries out a monthly evaluation of the Ministry's performance, developing and improving it in accordance with the international criteria;
- The objectives that the Ministry adopted in its programs were achieved and the extent of their progress was identified;
- The Companies General Directorate was restructured.
 - To achieve transparency, the companies' comptroller was introduced as the highest administrative power directly affiliated to the Minister. The powers of the companies' registration director and the companies' control director were also set out.
 - A new comptroller was appointed, the previous one having served in this position for more than 9 years.
 - The role of control over companies was activated and the situation of board of directors' members in the shareholding companies was rectified so that by law a person cannot be a member of more than three boards of directors.
 - The Ministry asked the Government to form a board of directors for the Securities Exchange Commission.
 - A new committee was formed to prepare a new draft companies law to be completed next March.
 - Company registration was facilitated with the reduction of the period required for it. The Ministry issued a Manual for the Public Services that includes the necessary procedures required.

These measures were positively reflected by the fact that the number of shareholding and normal companies registered increased by 20% in comparison with 2004, as did the size of funds invested in companies.

- The Ministry played an important role in restructuring and re-assessing the internal and external investments of the Palestinian Investment Fund, directing it towards sound institution building and separating the post of Chairman of the Fund from the post of Minister of Finance.



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- The Ministry adopted a special privatization program for companies and institutions such as concrete and petrol in which the government is still a shareholder, and approved the establishment of a private concrete company in Hebron.
- The PNA made a decision concerning privatization of the airport, seaport and crossing point services.
- Relations with donors were organized in accordance with new mechanisms that serve the development objectives, such as the SME program implemented with KFW and GTZ and the policies and laws program with the EU and USAID.

Fifteenth: The World Trade Organization

Palestine was unanimously accepted by 120 countries as an observer member in the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, thanks to the efforts exerted by the Ministry in this concern and the credibility which Palestine enjoys in the international community with the support of the U.S, E.U. and Arab leaders, and the positive response from Israel. The Ministry hopes that Palestine will be accepted as an observer member of the WTO during the first quarter of 2006.

Sixteenth: Intellectual Property and Trademarks

- The Intellectual Property Law was completed.
- An electronic system was prepared and data entered into it, which has improved performance of staff and accelerated the achievement of applications in a relatively short time.
- Palestine was unanimously accepted by 120 countries as an observer member in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on 29th September 2005.
- The internal development and changes carried out by the Ministry considerably impacted the performance of the Ministry, as is shown by the results achieved in 2005 in comparison with 2004:

Item	2004	2005
Number of new applications	1377	1773
Number of registrations	678	749
Number of objections	5	20
Renewals	123	1848
Property transfer	203	84
Change of owner name	98	77
Number of trademarks published	600	1400
Amendment of the owner address	85	65
Number of registered patents	16	19
Number of registered drawings and industrial models	17	19



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Seventeenth: Information Technology

The Ministry seeks to benefit from computer technology by recruiting qualified staff capable of providing services efficiently, easily and rapidly to those who need them, especially in the private sector. For this reason, the Ministry proceeded confidently toward establishing the E-Ministry, in order to achieve coordination, communication and information exchange internally among the various units and departments of the Ministry, and by providing electronic services externally for the private sector and communicating with Arab and foreign partners. In this field, the Ministry has carried out the following:

- Upgrading and developing the Ministry's information network;
- Designing an efficient Ministry website and providing e-services to the private sector;
- Creating supportive programs for the coordination of administrative work such as the Archive Management System;
- Designing a page on the Ministry's website for receiving private sector complaints;
- Equipping and operating a data entry menu for the trademark system;
- Unifying computerized technical work of the Ministry of National Economy. This is represented by building up a number of correlated and integrated databases for Ramallah and Gaza in spite of the differences of existing laws and work mechanisms. Currently, the Ministry has a fully-integrated and correlated technical system, MIS, including company registration, trade registry, export and import procedures, permits, cross border trade movements etc. Moreover, it is now possible to inquire and have a response about any trader or company registered at the Ministry or any imported products through the trader's I.D. card or the company's number.

Eighteenth: Competitiveness Council

The establishment of the Competitiveness Council is of special importance due to its role in boosting and restructuring the Palestinian economy through qualifying Palestinian institutions, companies and products to enter international markets. In its last session the Cabinet of Ministers approved the establishment of this Council during a period of three months. The Council will consist of the relevant ministers concerned with economic issues and some academic economists.



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Nineteenth: Economic Initiatives

The Ministry adopted a number of economic initiatives that represent the most important programs capable of supporting and developing the national economy through work with the entire Palestinian society, especially the public and private sectors. The total number of such economic initiatives amounted to 20. The Ministry has recently embarked on laying down the practical and successful implementation mechanisms. These initiatives include:

- **Joint Business Councils Initiative**

The Ministry is seeking to network Palestinian private sector institutions with Palestinian businessmen abroad, specifically those in Jordan, Egypt, countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Europe, North America and Latin America, with the aim of building partnerships and encouraging investment in Palestine.

- **Regional District Development Initiative (Municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, Initiators)**

This initiative targets development in the governorates and requires the cooperation of the Ministry of National Economy, Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry, the Ministry of Local Government, and municipalities. It aims to develop local communities and competitiveness among them.

- **Palestine Development and Investment Conference**

In cooperation with all partners, the Ministry is making a great effort to ensure that the Investment Conference due to be held in April 2006 is a successful event, receiving strategic projects and making contracts with a large number of qualified companies. The Ministry is planning to hold this Conference annually and give all partners honour cards.

- **Initiative on an Enabling Investment Environment and Economic Growth Resources**

In this context, the Ministry is formulating a comprehensive document on an enabling investment environment in Palestine and consolidation of economic growth resources, as well as benefiting from the Ministry's and other ministries' achievements in the field of reform, good governance and competitiveness.

- **Initiative on the Palestine Investment Promotion Agency Investment Manual**

This initiative includes projects of economic and strategic advantage, public and Waqf lands, special prices and systems for local and foreign investors, long-term loans, financing, support programs and investment guarantee programs. In this context, the Ministry is working on setting up a special program for benefiting from public and Waqf lands through leasing them for investment and development purposes. Moreover, the Ministry is formulating a special program for establishing a fund for guaranteeing investments against political risks, amounting to US\$250 million for 2006.



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- **Initiative on Insolvent Projects**

During the past five years, many projects have experienced insolvency. Accordingly, there is a need for a special program managed by the private sector to revive these companies.

- **Initiative on Preparing for Private Sector Institutions' Elections**

As the PLC approved the laws for Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Federations, the Ministry, in cooperation with these institutions, has to prepare for elections in them under these laws.

Twentieth: Operational Transparency

To achieve this purpose, the Ministry:

- Announces all procedures through the various types of media;
- Developed its website and its supportive programs and posted the Ministry's procedures on it;
- Established a special box at the Ministry's headquarters for receiving public complaints;
- Implemented an open-door policy starting with the Minister and ending with all officials;
- Holds press conferences to announce procedures related to the Ministry's work and respond to all inquiries;
- Holds weekly meetings for the Ministry's Council for reviewing programs and objectives implemented by the various General Directorates;
- Holds weekly meetings for senior officials at the Ministry;
- Prepares monthly reports showing the achievements of the Ministry (performance indicators and benchmarks).
- The Ministry has achieved 90% of the programs and objectives set out in the 2005 work plan.

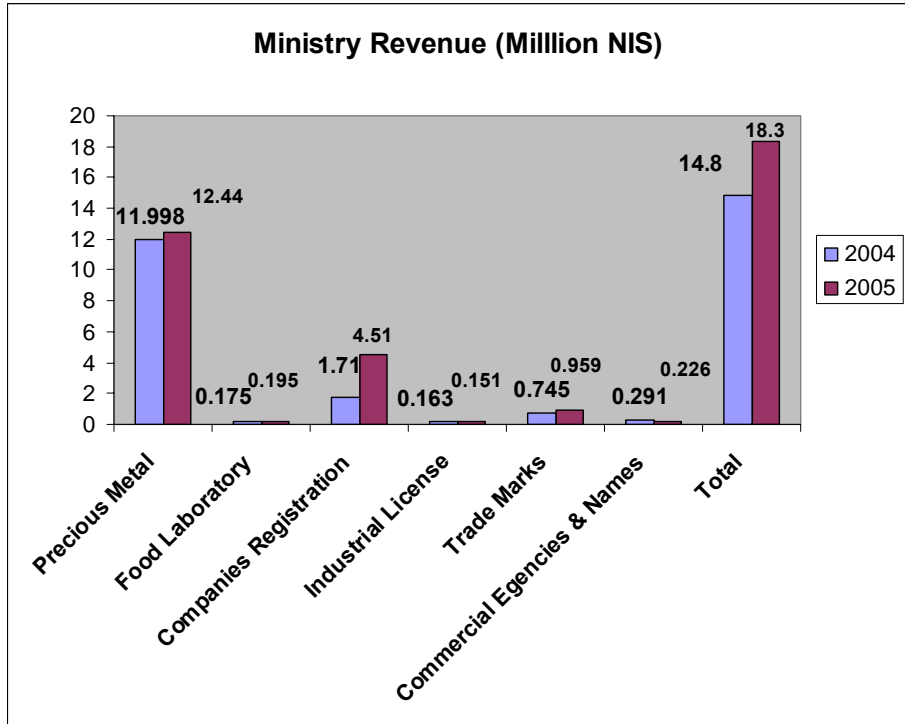
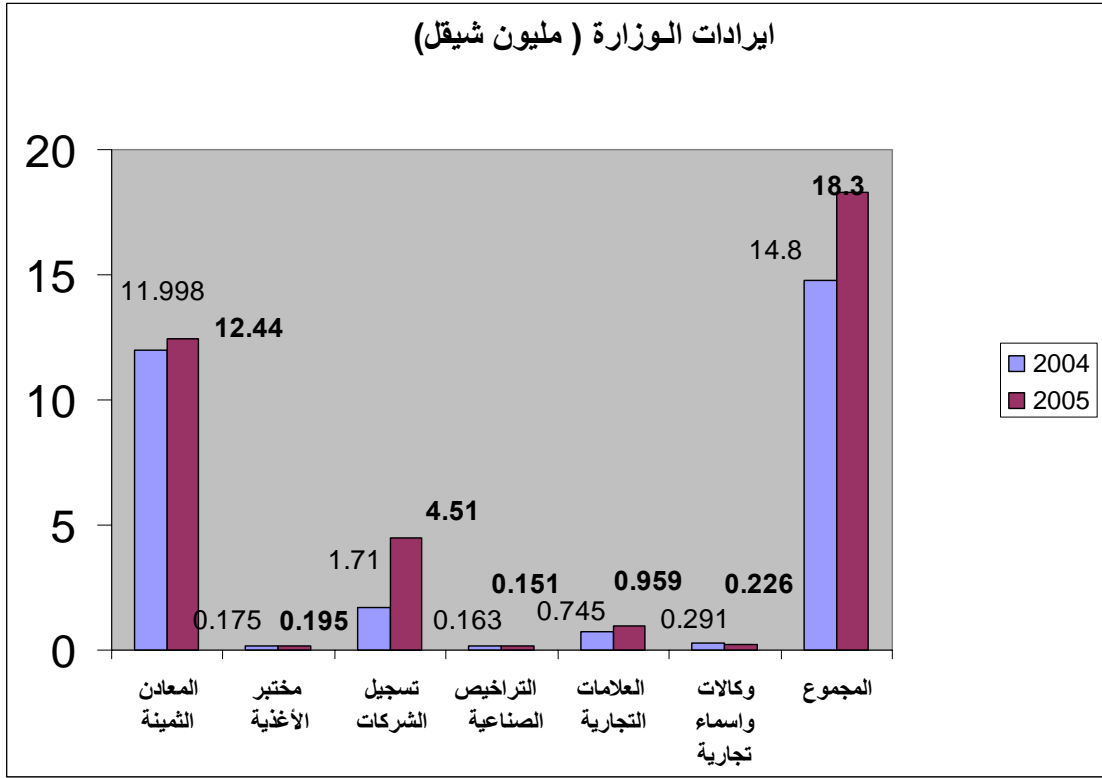


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Key Indicators of Ministry services delivered

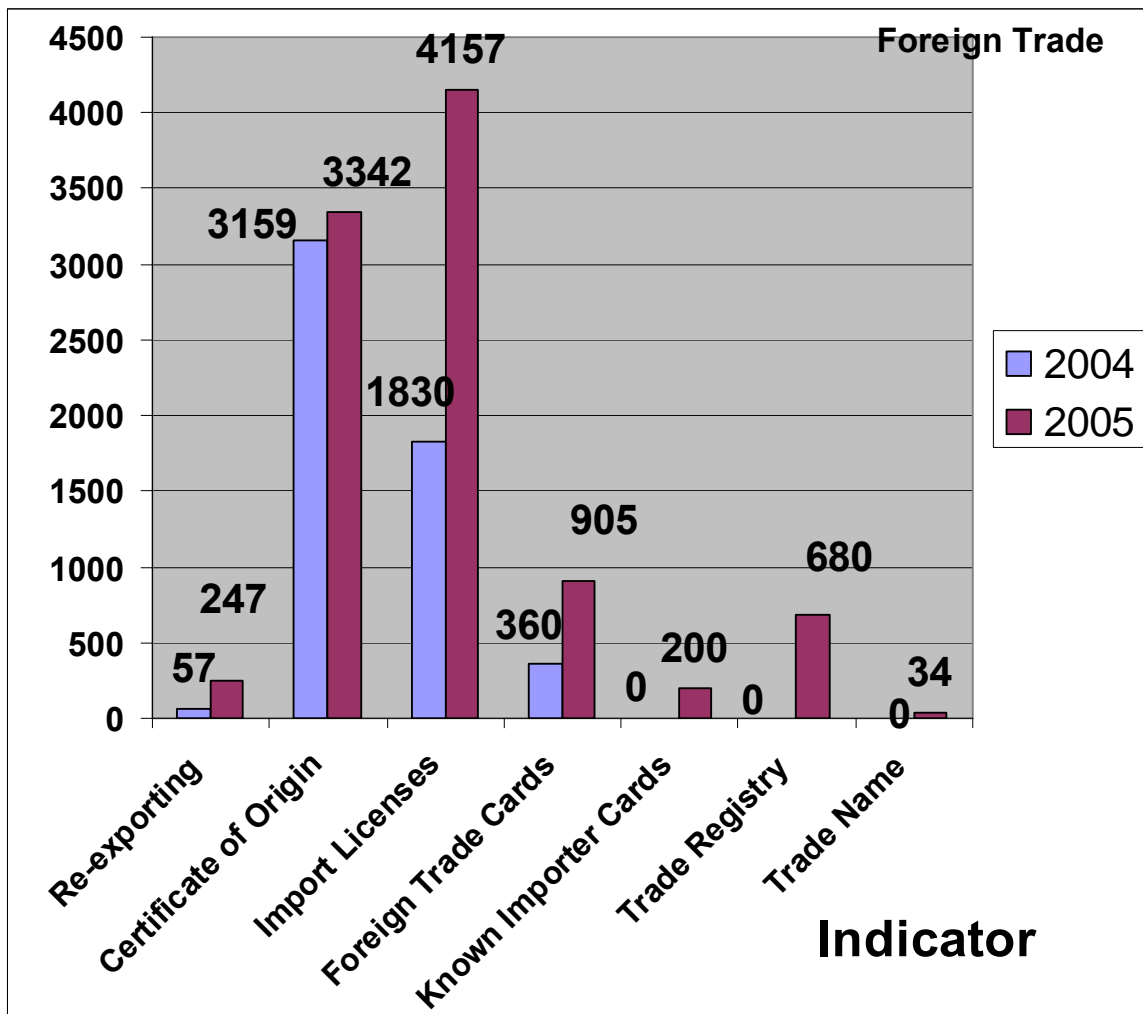
No.	Service	2004	2005
1.	Foreign Trade Cards issued	360	905
2.	No. of Import Licenses issued	West Bank	956
		Gaza	874
3.	Industrial Licenses (New)	0	85
4.	Industrial Licenses (Renewal)	0	261
5.	Work Permits (foreign investors)	96	133
6.	Registration of Limited Shareholding (Private and Public)	633	746
7.	Registration of Public Ordinary Companies	443	527
8.	New certificates for registered companies	1477	1360
9.	No. of Certificates of Origin issued (export)	3159	3342
10.	Certified Importer Certificates issued	0	200
11.	Registered Trade Marks	1377	1773
12.	Published Trade Marks	600	1400
13.	Renewal of Trade Marks	123	1884
14.	No. of agencies registered	42	41
15.	Patents Registered	16	19
16.	Industrial designs registered	17	19
17.	Feasibility studies for Industrial Estates	1	15
18.	Laws submitted by MNE and passed by PLC	0	4
19.	Laws submitted by MNE to the Cabinet passed to PLC	0	4
20.	Amendments to laws	0	4
21.	Quality Assurance certificates (PSI)	2	19
22.	No. of new standards accredited	11	47
23.	Revenues from all MNE services (millions of Shekels)	14.821	19.125





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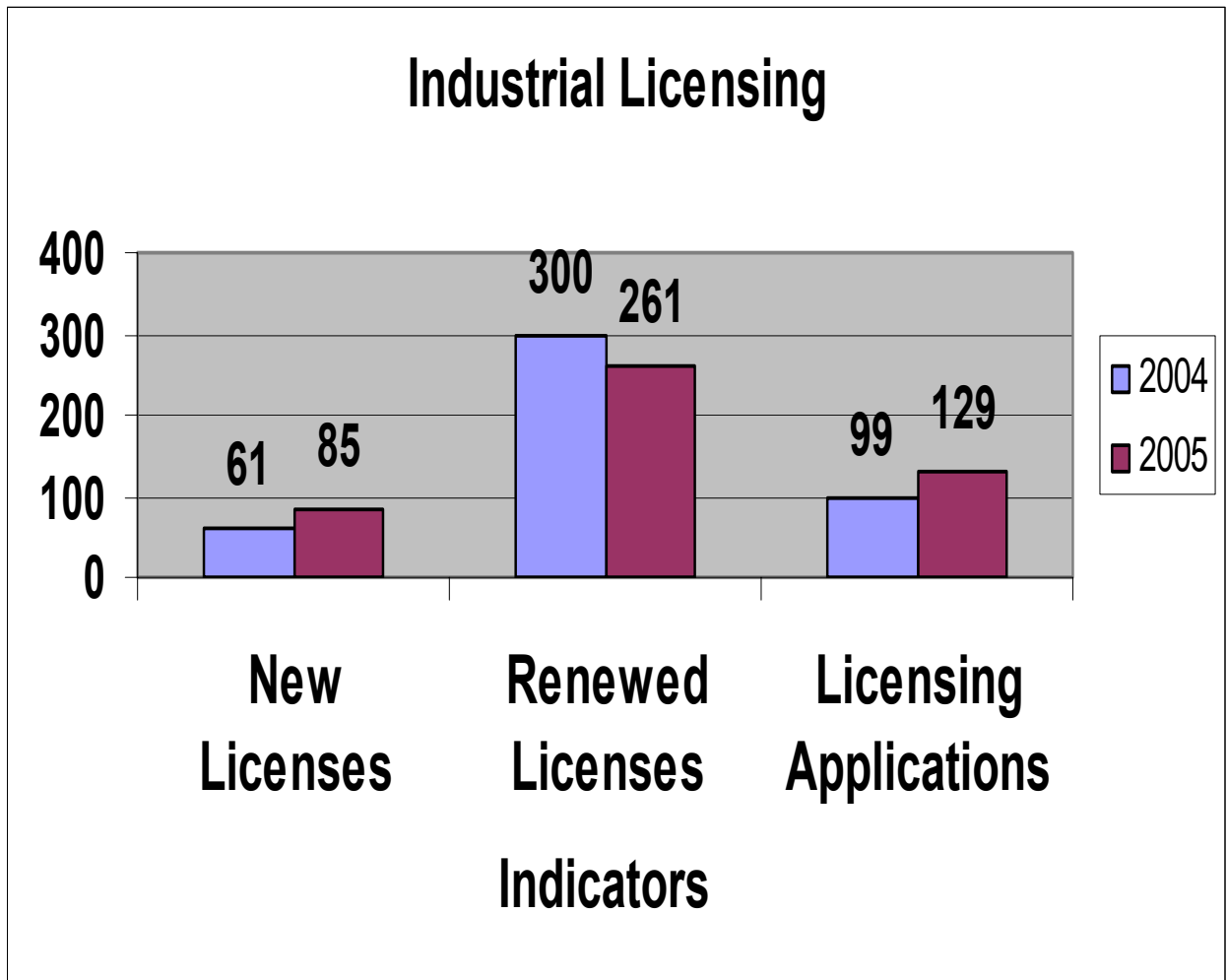
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Palestinian National Authority

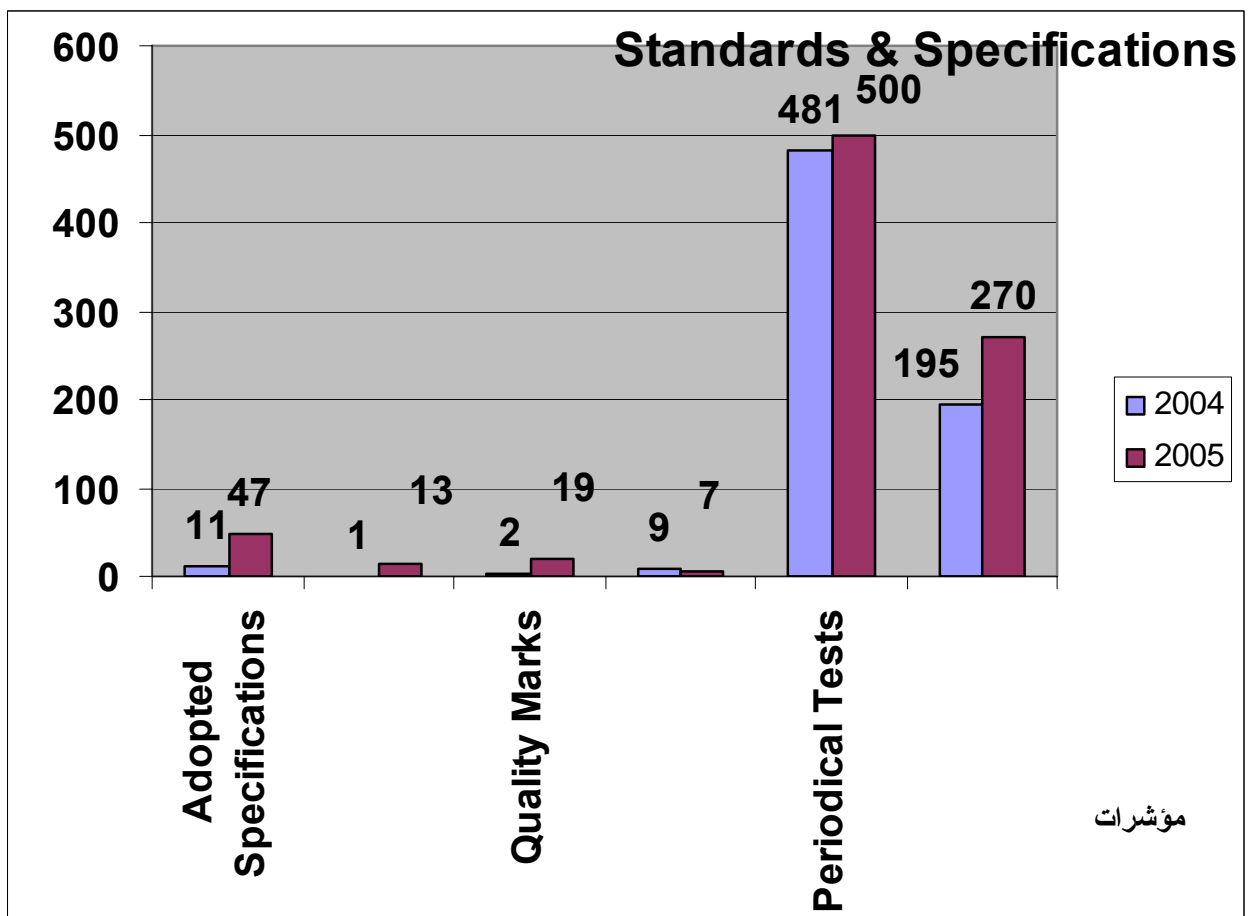
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Palestinian National Authority

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