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WRITTEN BY		August 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

258

1.1 258.guide

Texified version of data for West Bank.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

West Bank

1.2 258.guide/West Bank

West Bank

Header (West Bank)

Geography (West Bank)

People (West Bank)

Government (West Bank)

Economy (West Bank)

Economy (West Bank 2. usage)

Communications (West Bank)

Defense Forces (West Bank)

1.3 258.guide/Header (West Bank)

Header (West Bank)

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The war between Israel and the Arab states in June 1967 ended with Israel ←
 in
 control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, and the Golan
 Heights. As stated in the 1978 Camp David Accords and reaffirmed by
 President Bush's post-Gulf crisis peace initiative, the final status of the
 West Bank and the Gaza Strip, their relationship with their neighbors, and ←
 a
 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan are to be negotiated among the
 concerned parties. Camp David further specifies that these negotiations ←
 will
 resolve the respective boundaries. Pending the completion of this process,
 it is US policy that the final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip
 has yet to be determined. In the view of the US, the term West Bank
 describes all of the area west of the Jordan River under Jordanian
 administration before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. However, with respect to
 negotiations envisaged in the framework agreement, it is US policy that a
 distinction must be made between Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank
 because of the city's special status and circumstances. Therefore, a
 negotiated solution for the final status of Jerusalem could be different in
 character from that of the rest of the West Bank.

1.4 258.guide/Geography (West Bank)

Geography (West Bank)

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Location:

Middle East, between Jordan and Israel

Map references:

Middle East

Area:

total area:

5,860 km²

land area:

5,640 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than Delaware
 note:
 includes West Bank, East Jerusalem, Latrun Salient, Jerusalem No Man's Land ↔
 ,
 and the northwest quarter of the Dead Sea, but excludes Mt. Scopus
 Land boundaries:
 total 404 km, Israel 307 km, Jordan 97 km
 Coastline:
 0 km (landlocked)
 Maritime claims:
 none; landlocked
 International disputes:
 Israeli occupied with status to be determined
 Climate:
 temperate, temperature and precipitation vary with altitude, warm to hot
 summers, cool to mild winters
 Terrain:
 mostly rugged dissected upland, some vegetation in west, but barren in east
 Natural resources:
 negligible
 Land use:
 arable land:
 27%
 permanent crops:
 0%
 meadows and pastures:
 32%
 forest and woodland:
 1%
 other:
 40%
 Irrigated land:
 NA km²
 Environment:
 highlands are main recharge area for Israel's coastal aquifers
 Note:
 landlocked; there are 175 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and 14
 Israeli-built Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem

1.5 258.guide/People (West Bank)

People (West Bank)

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Population:
 1,404,114 (July 1993 est.)
 note:
 in addition, there are 102,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and 134,000
 in East Jerusalem (1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 2.9% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 33.78 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 5.32 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 0.52 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 35.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 69.93 years
 male:
 68.48 years
 female:
 71.46 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 4.37 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
 noun:
 NA
 adjective:
 NA

Ethnic divisions:
 Palestinian Arab and other 88%, Jewish 12%

Religions:
 Muslim 80% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 12%, Christian and other 8%

Languages:
 Arabic, Hebrew spoken by Israeli settlers, English widely understood

Literacy:
 total population:
 NA%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%

Labor force:
 NA
 by occupation:
 small industry, commerce, and business 29.8%, construction 24.2%,
 agriculture 22.4%, service and other 23.6% (1984)

note:
 excluding Israeli Jewish settlers

1.6 258.guide/Government (West Bank)

Government (West Bank)

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Note:

The West Bank is currently governed by Israeli military authorities and Israeli civil administration. It is US policy that the final status of the West Bank will be determined by negotiations among the concerned parties. These negotiations will determine how the area is to be governed.

Names:

conventional long form:

none
 conventional short form:
 West Bank
 Digraph:
 WG

1.7 258.guide/Economy (West Bank)

Economy (West Bank)

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Overview:

Economic progress in the West Bank has been hampered by Israeli military administration and the effects of the Palestinian uprising (intifadah). Industries using advanced technology or requiring sizable investment have been discouraged by a lack of local capital and restrictive Israeli policies. Capital investment consists largely of residential housing, not productive assets that would enable local firms to compete with Israeli industry. A major share of GNP is derived from remittances of workers employed in Israel and Persian Gulf states, but such transfers from the ←
 Gulf

dropped dramatically after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. In the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis, many Palestinians have returned to the West Bank, increasing unemployment, and export revenues have plunged because of the loss of markets in Jordan and the Gulf states. Israeli measures to curtail the intifadah also have pushed unemployment up and lowered living standards. The area's economic outlook remains bleak.

National product: GNP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.3 billion (1990 est.)

National product real growth rate:

-10% (1990 est.)

National product per capita:

\$1,200 (1990 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

11% (1991 est.)

Unemployment rate:

15% (1990 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$31.0 million; expenditures \$36.1 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY88)

Exports:

\$150 million (f.o.b., 1988 est.)

commodities:

NA

partners:

Jordan, Israel

Imports:

\$410 million (c.i.f., 1988 est.)

commodities:

NA

partners:

Jordan, Israel

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production:

growth rate 1% (1989); accounts for about 4% of GNP

Electricity:

power supplied by Israel

Industries:

generally small family businesses that produce cement, textiles, soap, olive-wood carvings, and mother-of-pearl souvenirs; the Israelis have established some small-scale modern industries in the settlements and industrial centers

Agriculture:

accounts for about 15% of GNP; olives, citrus and other fruits, vegetables, beef, and dairy products

Economic aid:

NA

Currency:

1 new Israeli shekel (NIS) = 100 new agorot; 1 Jordanian dinar (JD) = 1,000 fils

1.8 258.guide/Economy (West Bank 2. usage)

Economy (West Bank 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

new Israeli shekels (NIS) per US\$1 - 2.6480 (November 1992), 2.2791 (1991), 2.0162 (1990), 1.9164 (1989), 1.5989 (1988), 1.5946 (1987); Jordanian ←
dinars

(JD) per US\$1 - 0.6890 (January 1993), 0.6797 (1992), 0.6808 (1991), 0.6636 (1990), 0.5704 (1989), 0.3709 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year (since 1 January 1992)

1.9 258.guide/Communications (West Bank)

Communications (West Bank)

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Highways:

small road network, Israelis developing east-west axial highways to service new settlements

Airports:

total:

2

usable:

2

with permanent-surface runways:

2

with runways over 3,659 m:

0
with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
0
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
1
Telecommunications:
open-wire telephone system currently being upgraded; broadcast stations - ←
no
AM, no FM, no TV

1.10 258.guide/Defense Forces (West Bank)

Defense Forces (West Bank)

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Branches:

NA

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 NA; fit for military service NA

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$NA, NA% of GDP