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I. Introduction and Methodology

NEC conducted this study as being a monthly monitor of Palestinian perceptions towards politics, religion, and media.

The report is based on a telephone survey of 900 residents over the age of 18. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.4% and the confidence level is 95%. The phone numbers were initially selected through an equal probability randomization process from the phone lists with the prefix assigned by the telephone company. The survey included the oPt governorates, including Jerusalem.

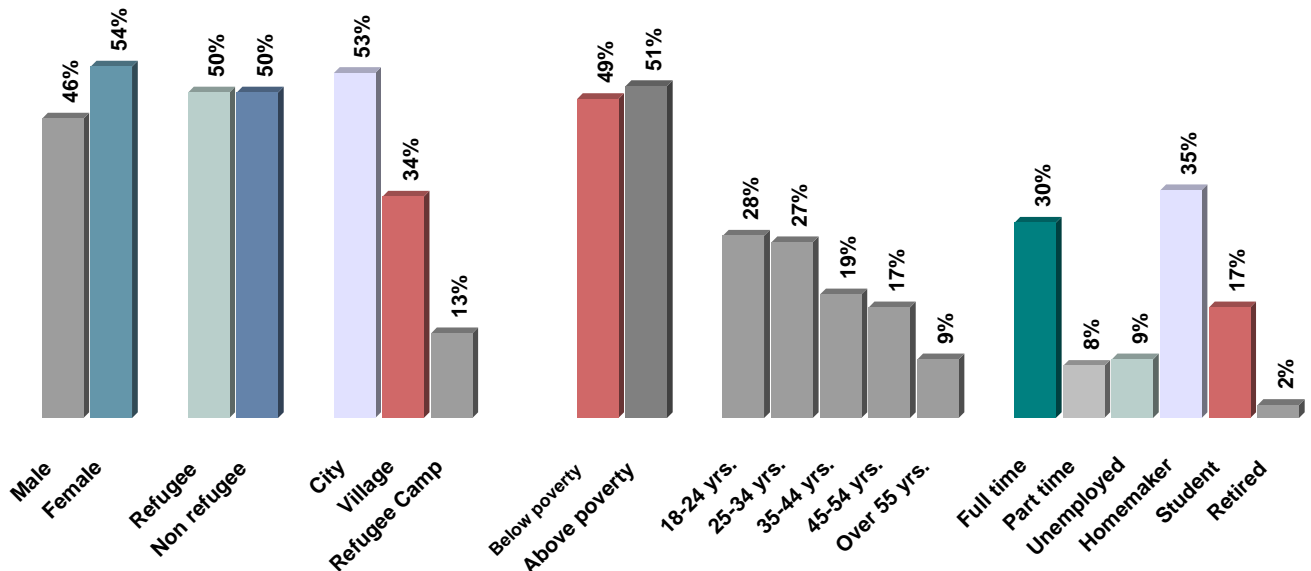
The phone interviews were carried out between 2 and 4 January 2010 by a pool of NEC's experienced phone operators.

The questionnaire was pre-tested to check for its consistency and clarity.

Upon completion of the fieldwork, the data were checked and cleaned. The analysis in this report is based on cross-referencing the questions by five main independent or explanatory variables. These variables are: factional trust, governorate (The West Bank and Gaza Strip), gender, age, and poverty level.

As overviewed in figure 1 below, 46% of the respondents were males and 54% were females. Also, half of the respondents were refugee, and 13% lives in a refugee camp, 53% in a city and 34% in a village.

Figure 1: Demographics



In addition, the half (51%) lives above the poverty level. As detailed in the figure about the educational level, the higher proportion (51%) occurs between those who studied



collage or above. Only 1% never went to school, 4% in the elementary stage, 11% in the middle, and 34% in high school.

Categorized according to age group, 28% of the respondents were between 18-24 years old, 27% were between 25-34 years old, 19 % were between 35-44 years old, 17% were between 45-54 years old, and 9% were over the age of 55.

The employment status of the respondents shows that the majority (35%) is housewives, 30% works full time, 8% works part time, 9% unemployed, 17% is students, and 2% is retired.





II. Main findings

- The majority feel concerned towards the general situation in Palestine. 48% feel extremely concerned and 38% concerned to some extent especially between Fateh supporters and males respondents.
- 29% said that the economic hardship for the family constitutes the main reason behind feeling concerned, and the percentage increases in the West Bank more than the Gaza Strip, respectively 38% and 16%. 24% said that the Israeli occupation is their main concern.
- 63% of the respondents feel secure: 73% in the West Bank vs. 49% in the Gaza Strip. 70% of these who feel concerned are over 55 years old.
- 74% believe that 2010 will be a better year than 2009. The majority (83%) feel optimistic about 2010.
- While the majority of the respondents is optimistic about the future, the results showed that 41% feels extremely depressed and 38% are depressed. The higher percentage increased in Gaza Strip (57%) more than in the West Bank (31%).
- Half of the Palestinians trust neither Abbas nor Hanieh, 40% trust Abbas and 10% trusts Hanieh. Support for Abbas is stronger in the West Bank.
- 42% think that the Fateh strategy is the most appropriate to maximize the Palestinian national interests, as opposed to 9% who said the Hamas strategy is better. Still, 49% said neither strategy is good.
- The Fayyad government is perceived by 62% as being the legitimate government in the oPt, compared to 16% who mentioned the Hanieh government. About 22% of the respondents said that neither government is legitimate.
- The greater part (70%) of the respondents supports a peace settlement with Israel, 76% of them live in the West Bank, 74% are above the poverty level, and 85% of them support Fateh.
- 67% thinks that Hamas should change its position towards the elimination of Israel. 70% live in the West Bank and 74% are above the poverty level.
- 45% said that they will not vote in case the presidential elections are held next week. Of those who said that they will not participate in the elections, 74% are from within the respondents who do not trust any factions, 43% are below the poverty level and 48% are females.
- As for voting preference, 38% said that they will vote for the Fateh candidate and a mere 9% will vote for Hamas candidates. A good 38% said that they will not for any candidate. Similar results were noticed with respect to the legislative elections.
- The majority (63%) is positive about the success of the reconciliation efforts between Fateh and Hamas. 70% are females and 71% live below the poverty level.
- The greater part of the respondents are optimistic (58%) towards holding new elections in 2010, 63% live in the West Bank and 65% are females.
- 89% of the respondents oppose the decision by the Egyptian government to build a fence near the border with the Gaza Strip;
- 12% of the respondents said that at least one family member migrated during 2009. Of those, 36% justified the immigration for reasons of employment, 20% attributed it to "finding a better life". Of those who moved internally, 47% moved to Ramallah. .
- 23% of the respondents themselves prefer to move to another country if they had the chance to do so. Of those who wish to leave, 30% live in the Gaza Strip;
- Al Quds newspaper is the most trusted newspaper, and 47% trust Al Jazeera channel.



III. General situation

A. Level of concern

Concern over the future has always been high among the Palestinian people irrespective of their poverty level, gender, age, etc. As illustrated in the figure, below, more than 85% of the respondents said that they are extremely concerned (48%) or concerned (38%).

The lack of progress on the external and internal political fronts probably explains why the level of concern among the supporters of Fateh is more intense than among the Hamas supporters. Whereas 55% of the Fateh supporters affirmed their extreme concern with the situation in general, the percentage among their counterparts from the Hamas supporters is 33%. These results are overviewed in tables 1 and 2, below.

Figure 2: Level of concern

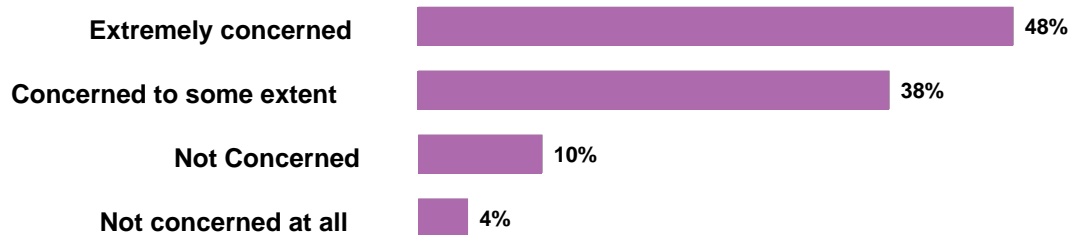


Table 1: Level of concern according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Extremely concerned	55%	33%	27%	45%	46%	52%
Concerned to some extent	33%	49%	60%	39%	36%	39%
Not Concerned	7%	15%	13%	12%	13%	7%
Not concerned at all	4%	3%	0%	4%	5%	2%

Table 2: Level of concern according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Extremely concerned	52%	43%	38%	50%	47%	59%	60%	50%	46%
Concerned to some	32%	43%	30%	35%	44%	34%	24%	37%	30%



extent										
Not Concerned	10%	11%	15%	12%	6%	5%	13%	10%	10%	
Not concerned at all	6%	3%	8%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	5%	

While the main individual source of concern is the economic condition of the household, as illustrated in figure 3, below, the political situation remains to be the Palestinians' main apprehension. About 56% of the respondents mentioned the Israeli occupation (24%), the internal power struggle (20%) and the absence of security (12%).

The economic hardship focused between those who live in the West Bank and below the poverty level. 38% of Hamas supporters believe that the Israeli occupation is their fundamental disquiet and the majority dwells in Gaza Strip, compared with 19% of Fateh supporters who believe so.

Figure 3: The main reason for feeling concerned

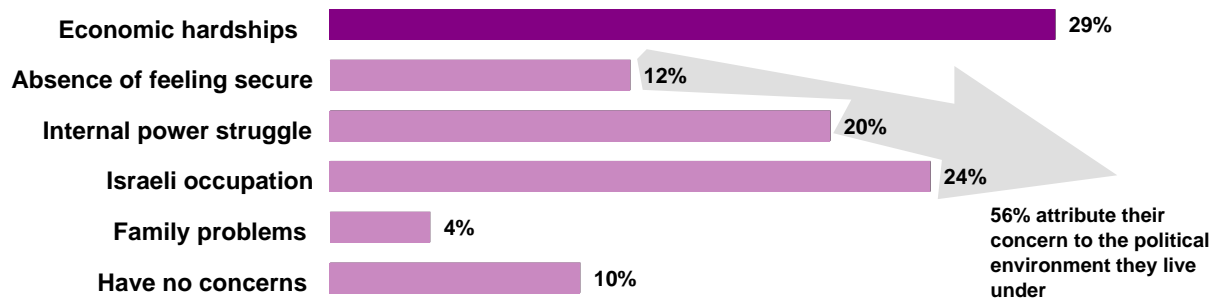


Table 3: The main reason for feeling concerned according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Economic hardship	31%	21%	29%	30%	38%	16%
Absence of security	14%	9%	14%	12%	12%	14%
Internal power struggle	25%	16%	29%	16%	15%	29%
Israeli occupation	19%	38%	29%	23%	16%	34%
Family problems (Health, etc...)	3%	7%	0%	6%	5%	2%
I am not concerned	9%	9%	0%	12%	14%	5%

Table 4: The main reason for feeling concerned according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Economic hardships	31%	28%	23%	27%	37%	33%	26%	33%	25%
Absence of security	12%	12%	9%	14%	16%	10%	13%	11%	16%



Internal power struggle	24%	17%	21%	19%	20%	22%	16%	22%	21%
Israeli occupation	21%	25%	25%	27%	16%	27%	28%	23%	22%
Family problems	1%	7%	6%	5%	5%	2%	1%	3%	4%
I am not concerned	10%	11%	17%	8%	7%	5%	15%	8%	12%

B. Feeling of security

To be concerned about something doesn't necessarily eliminate the feeling of security. Although the majority feels concerned about the current situation, but also the greater part feels secure towards themselves, their families and properties, mainly in the West Bank, amid Hamas supporters who are over 55 years old, as clarified in the tables, below.

Figure 4: Feeling secure towards yourself, your family and your property.

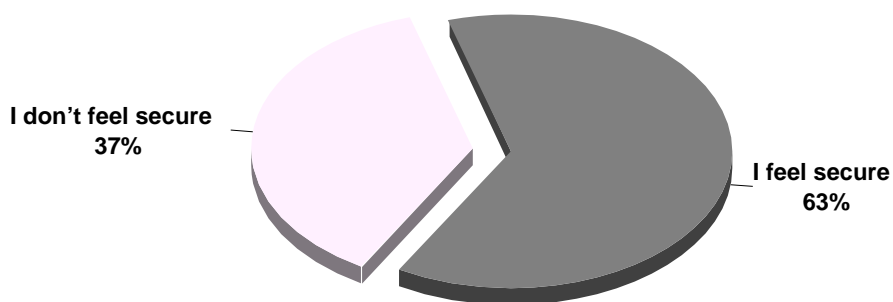


Table 5: Feeling secure towards yourself, your family and your property according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I feel secure	62%	71%	67%	61%	73%	49%
I don't feel secure	38%	29%	33%	39%	27%	51%

Table 6: Feeling secure towards yourself, your family and your property according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
I feel secure	66%	62%	69%	58%	62%	59%	70%	64%	61%
I don't feel secure	34%	38%	31%	42%	38%	41%	30%	36%	39%

C. Level of optimism



83% feels optimistic vs. 17% feels the opposite towards the New Year. The respondents, who look positively toward the future, reside in the West Bank and are substantially concentrated between Hamas supporters among women.

Figure 5: Level of optimism

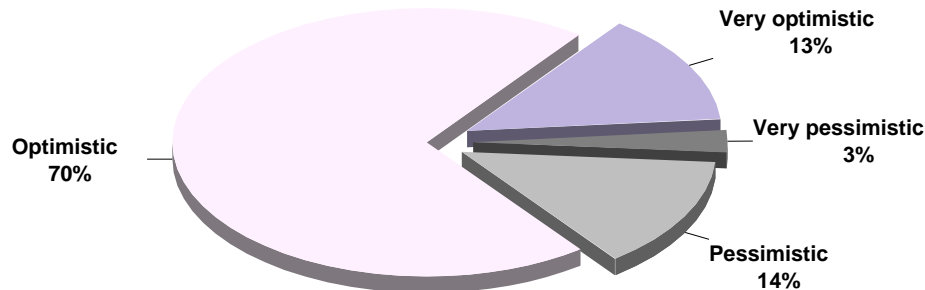


Table 7: Level of optimism according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very optimistic	15%	15%	7%	11%	17%	8%
Optimistic	70%	73%	60%	71%	70%	72%
Pessimistic	13%	11%	27%	15%	11%	18%
Very pessimistic	3%	0%	7%	3%	3%	2%

Table 8: Level of optimism according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Very optimistic	13%	13%	16%	10%	11%	15%	15%	13%	13%
Optimistic	67%	73%	67%	73%	74%	66%	74%	75%	66%
Pessimistic	16%	11%	14%	15%	11%	16%	9%	10%	18%
Very pessimistic	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%

D. Level of depression

The depression variable is an important indicator that helps in underpinning the social and psychological status of the respondents. The level of depression is based on a set of questions constructed to compose the depression indicator. In constructing this variable a set of five questions were asked. These questions were the following:

- In the past two weeks, did you feel good spirited?*
- In the past two weeks, did you feel relaxed?*
- In the past two weeks, did you feel energized?*
- In the past two weeks, did you feel healthy?*
- In the past two weeks, did you feel that your life was interesting?*



After examining the results, only 14% were found to be contented as opposed to 79% who were deemed to be depressed, as illustrated in figure 6, below. The higher rate of depression is more prevalent in Gaza Strip where 57% were found to be extremely depressed while the percentage was 31% in the West Bank, as noted in table 9. Higher level of depression was also observed among the respondents that do not trust any faction, among the respondents that trust Fateh, and among the older generations.

Figure 6: Level of depression

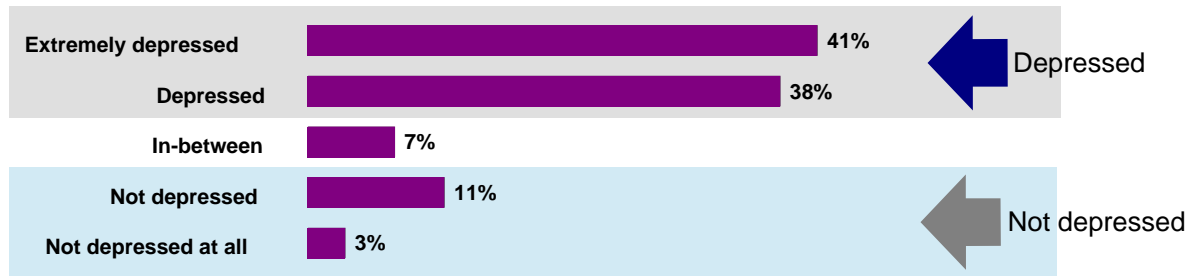


Table 9: Level of depression according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Extremely depressed	43%	32%	13%	43%	31%	57%
Depressed	34%	42%	60%	38%	41%	32%
In-between	9%	5%	0%	6%	9%	3%
Not depressed	11%	17%	27%	9%	14%	6%
Not depressed at all	3%	4%	0%	4%	4%	2%

Table 10: Level of depression according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Extremely depressed	42%	39%	34%	37%	47%	46%	55%	41%	42%
Depressed	38%	38%	40%	40%	35%	38%	24%	38%	37%
In-between	8%	7%	9%	9%	6%	5%	6%	6%	8%
Not depressed	10%	13%	15%	11%	12%	8%	7%	10%	10%
Not depressed at all	3%	3%	2%	4%	0%	3%	7%	4%	3%

II. Palestinian politics

A. Leadership

Although President Abbas remains more popular amongst the Palestinians than Ismael Hanieh, the Hamas leader, about half of the Palestinians said that they do not trust



either leader. Only 40% said that they trust President Abbas more and 10% mentioned Hanieh, as illustrated in figure 7, below.

The lack of trust in either leader is strong amongst the respondents that do not trust any faction. About 80% of this sector of society refrained from selecting either leader. Naturally, support for Abu Mazen is wide spread among the respondents that trust Fateh most (87%), while support for Hanieh is supported by 78% of the Hamas supporters.

Generally speaking, support for President Abbas is higher in the West Bank (47%) than in the Gaza Strip (34%), among male respondents, older generation respondents and respondents that are economically better off, as noted in tables 11 and 12, below.

Figure 7: Trust Abu Mazen vs. Hanieh

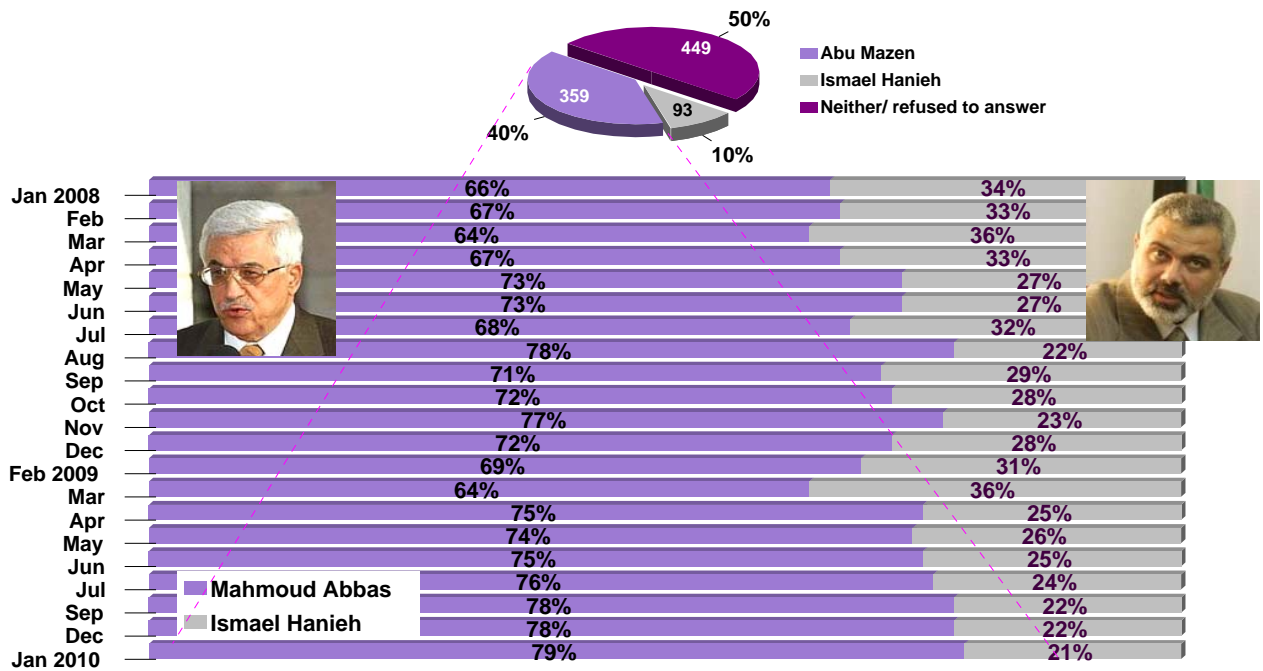


Table 11: Trust Abu Mazen vs. Hanieh according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Abu Mazen	87%	8%	27%	15%	46%	34%
Ismael Hanieh	1%	78%	13%	4%	7%	17%
Neither	12%	14%	60%	80%	47%	50%

Table 12: Trust Abu Mazen vs. Hanieh according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Abu Mazen	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
Ismael Hanieh	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Neither	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%



Abu Mazen	49%	34%	38%	38%	46%	44%	42%	36%	47%
Ismael Hanieh	14%	8%	12%	10%	13%	14%	6%	13%	9%
Neither	36%	58%	50%	53%	41%	43%	52%	51%	44%

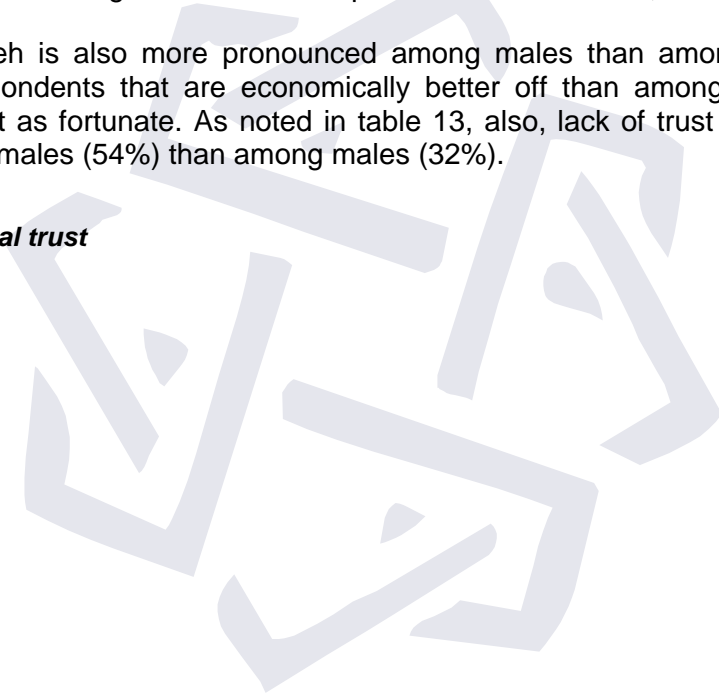
B. Factional support

Factional support is not dissimilar from leadership support. While 43% of the respondents indicated their trust in Hamas and 14% in Fateh, 43% of the respondents stated their lack of trust in any of the existing political or religious factions, as illustrated in figure 8.

As it is the case with leadership support, level of support for Fateh is more prominent among the West Bank respondents. Whereas, for example, 47% of the West Bank respondents indicated their trust in Fateh, the percentage in the Gaza Strip was only 37%. Conversely, whereas the level of support for Hamas in the West Bank did not exceed 6%, the percentage in the Gaza Strip was 3 times as much, as noted in table 18.

Support for Fateh is also more pronounced among males than among females, and among the respondents that are economically better off than among those who are economically not as fortunate. As noted in table 13, also, lack of trust in any faction is higher among females (54%) than among males (32%).

Figure 8: Factional trust



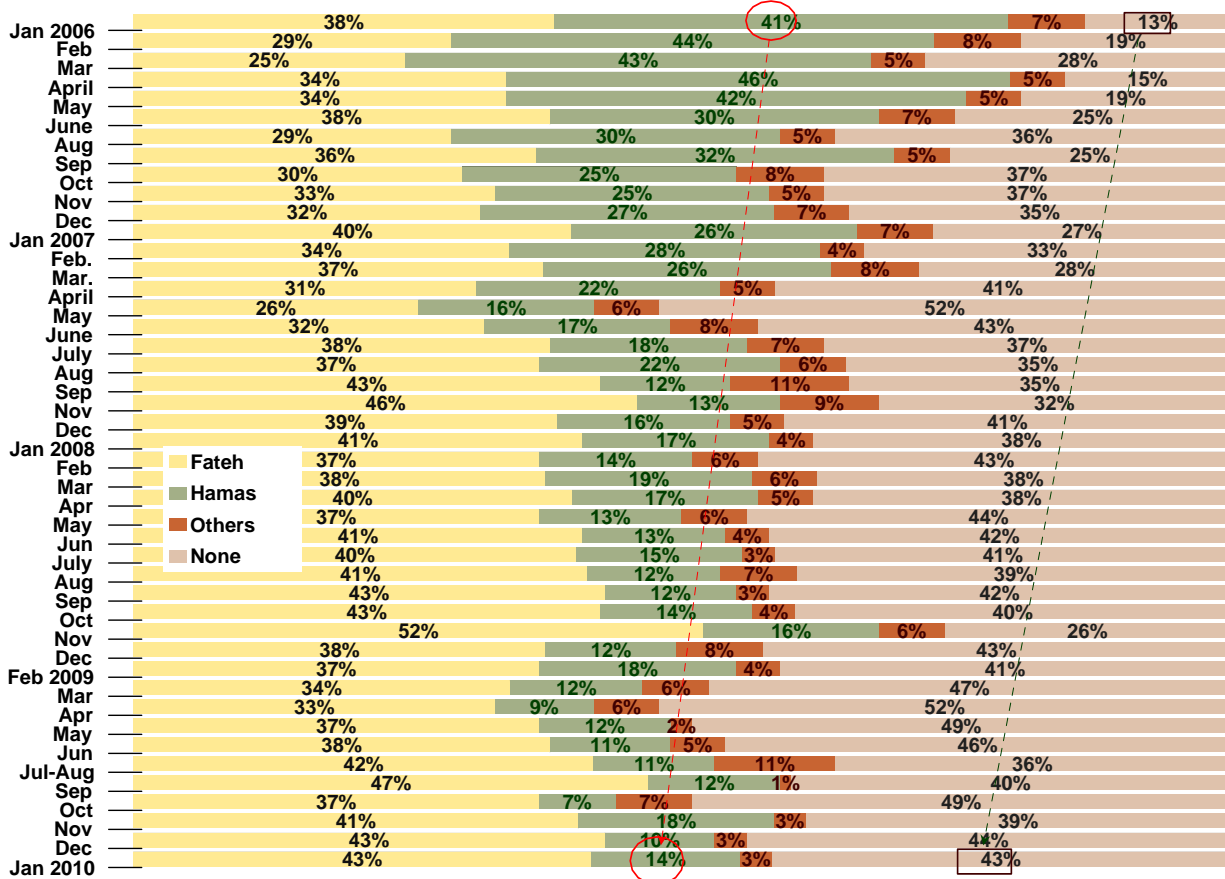


Table 13: Factional trust according to governorate, gender, age category and poverty level

	Governorate		Gender		Age category					Poverty all	
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Fateh	47%	37%	53%	34%	42%	40%	49%	44%	45%	37%	47%
Hamas	6%	18%	13%	10%	13%	9%	13%	12%	8%	15%	8%
Others	2%	3%	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%	0%	0%	3%	2%
None	45%	43%	32%	54%	41%	49%	37%	44%	47%	46%	43%

C. The Gaza vs. Ramallah governments

Previous surveys by NEC showed that support for Fateh is largely based on the belief that Fateh is more realistic while support for Hamas is closely related to the religiosity of Palestinians and the identification they have with Islam. In the following pages we will try to assess how Palestinians perceive the policies of both Fateh and Hamas, or the Ramallah governments as opposed to the Gaza government with respect to a number of pertinent issues.



1. Attitude about the best strategy

Despite the strong identification people have with Islam, only 9% of the respondents said that the Hamas strategy is the best for maximizing Palestinian national interest. Conversely, 42% believe that the Fateh strategy is the most appropriate. Again, about half refused to answer the question.

Once again, distrust in both the Hamas and Fateh policies is reflected more among the respondents that do not trust any faction (77%), among female respondents (55%), and among the respondents that live in poverty (51%). These and other results are overviewed in tables 14 and 15, below.

Figure 9: The best strategy to achieve the national supreme interests

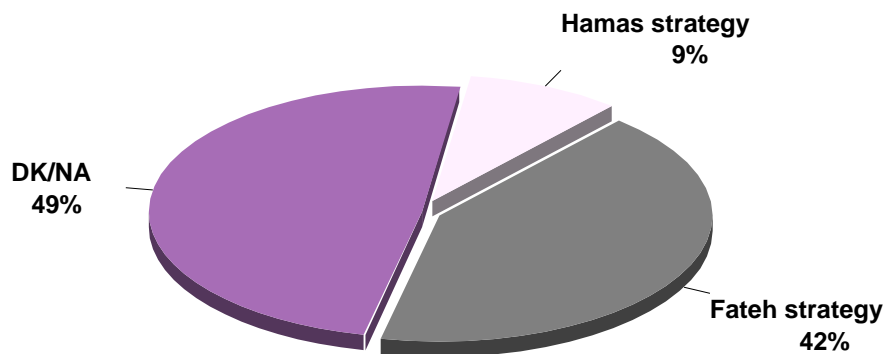


Table 14: The best strategy to achieve the national supreme interests according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh strategy	91%	9%	33%	18%	48%	36%
Hamas strategy	1%	68%	20%	5%	6%	15%
DK/NA	8%	23%	47%	77%	46%	49%

Table 15: The best strategy to achieve the national supreme interest according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Fateh strategy	51%	37%	42%	41%	46%	47%	41%	37%	50%
Hamas strategy	12%	8%	12%	9%	12%	12%	3%	12%	8%
DK/NA	37%	55%	46%	50%	42%	40%	57%	51%	42%



2. Attitude about the legitimate government in the oPt

Given the lack of trust on many issues related to both Fateh and Hamas, Palestinian public perceptions slightly changes when the questions were associated with the Fayyad government. As indicated in figure 10, below, support for the Fayyad government reaches 62% as opposed to 16% for the Hanieh Government. Whereas, as indicated earlier, about 50% voiced their lack of trust in either Fateh or Hamas leaderships or policies, only 22% of the respondents said neither government is illegitimate. Further analysis shows that the reason is because a significant percentage of the respondents that do not trust anyone gave their support to Salaam Fayyad who is known to be independent and not affiliated to any of the political or religious factions. Still, Fayyad gained significant support from the Fateh allies.

Figure 10: The legitimate government in the oPt

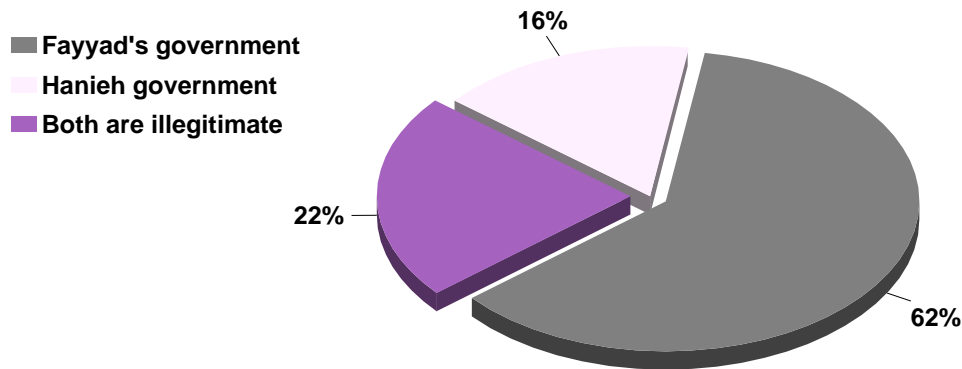


Table 16: The legitimate government in the oPt according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fayyad government	96%	14%	31%	34%	68%	51%
Hanieh government	0%	85%	54%	14%	12%	24%
Both are illegitimate	3%	1%	15%	52%	20%	25%

Table 17: The legitimate government in the oPt according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
The Fayyad government	65%	57%	59%	58%	66%	64%	64%	55%	66%
Hanieh government	18%	16%	17%	17%	13%	18%	15%	19%	14%
Both are illegitimate	17%	27%	24%	25%	20%	18%	21%	26%	20%



IV. Palestinian Israeli relations

A. The peace settlement

Support for a peace settlement with Israel remained the same since September 2009. Nearly 70% of the respondents continue to support reaching a peace agreement with Israel, as portrayed in figure 11. Even among the supporters of Hamas, 34%, as opposed to 85% among the Fateh supporters, support a peace settlement with Israel. As always, the position of the respondents that do not trust any faction falls in the middle of the positions of both Hamas and Fateh on the peace agreement with Israel. As pointed out in table 18, 66% of the non-partisans support reaching a peace settlement.

Figure 11: Support or oppose a peace settlement with Israel

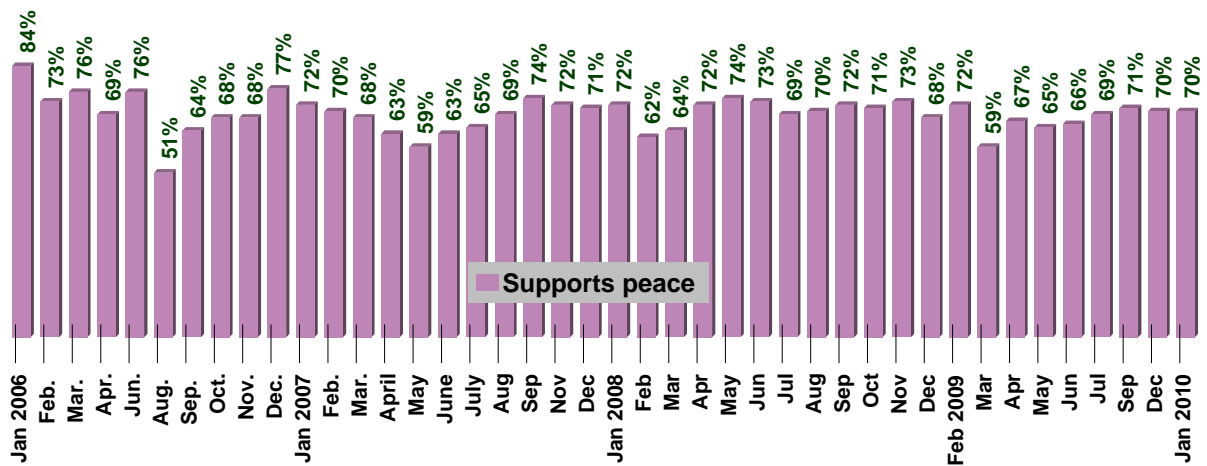


Table 18: Support or oppose a peace settlement with Israel according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support	85%	34%	57%	66%	76%	60%
Oppose	15%	66%	43%	34%	24%	40%

Table 19: Support or oppose a peace settlements with Israel according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category				Poverty		
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Support	72%	68%	60%	75%	71%	72%	81%	65%	74%
Oppose	28%	32%	40%	25%	29%	28%	19%	35%	26%



B. Hamas and Israel

The attitude towards the position of Hamas towards the existence of the state of Israel carries a lot of significance and provides explanations about the extent to which the Palestinian public accepts coexistence with Israel. Since NEC started its monthly survey more than four years ago, the respondents were asked about whether they approved of Hamas's position towards Israel, a position which essentially opposes the presence of Israel on the historic land of Palestine which is perceived by Hamas as being inherently Islamic.

Without any exception, Palestinian position in this regard, has consistently been against the Hamas's position¹. About two thirds of the Palestinians reject the position of Hamas. This position is shared by most Palestinians except by the majority of the supporters of Hamas who line behind the organization.

When examining the results according to the demographic characteristics of the population, it is evident that the younger the respondents are the more likely they are to support the position of Hamas towards the existence of Israel (41% of the respondents between the age of 18 and 24 support the position of Hamas while only 24% of the respondents over the age of 55 that share their view). This is also the case for the respondents that are economically worse off. Whereas 42% of the respondents that live in poverty support Hamas' position, the percentage among the respondents that are economically better off is only 27%. This and other results are overviewed in tables 20 and 21, below.

Figure 12: Support or oppose Hamas' position towards the elimination of Israel

¹ Unlike the Israeli position towards the existence of a Palestinian state

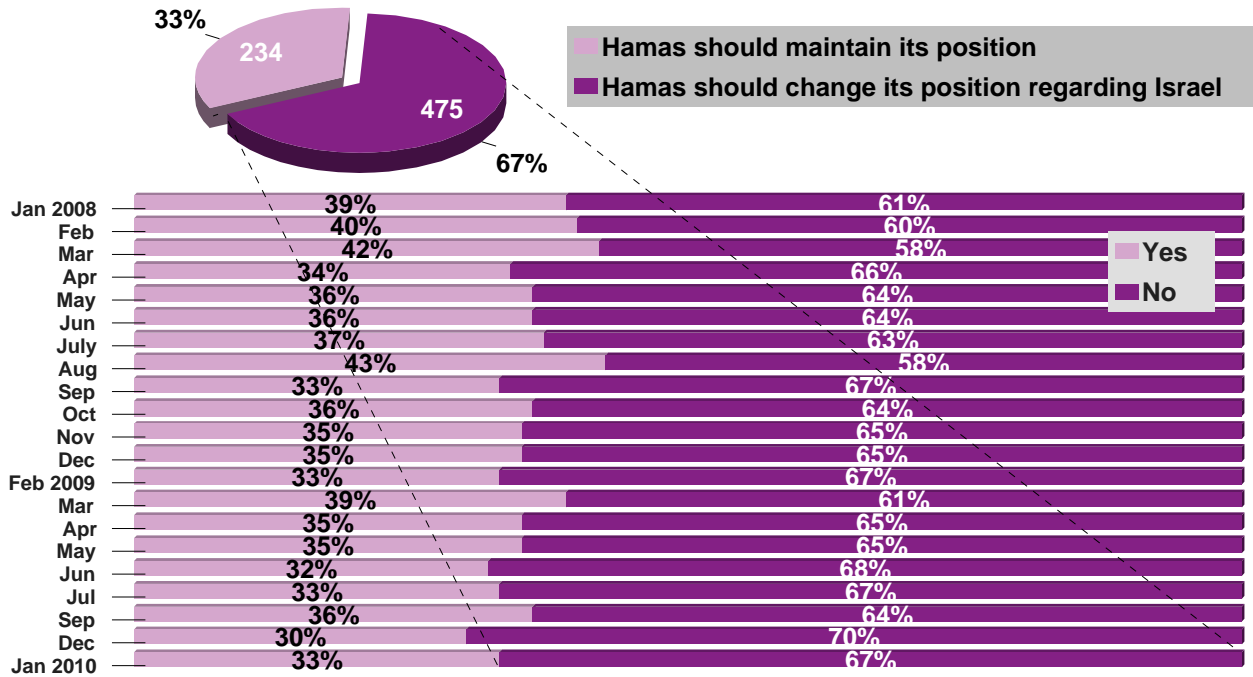


Table 20: Support or oppose Hamas' position towards the elimination of Israel according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Hamas should maintain its position	16%	77%	60%	31%	30%	37%
Hamas should change its position	84%	23%	40%	69%	70%	63%

Table 21: Support or oppose Hamas' position towards the elimination of Israel according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Hamas should maintain its position	30%	35%	41%	29%	34%	31%	24%	42%	26%
Hamas should change its position	70%	65%	59%	71%	66%	69%	76%	58%	74%

V. Elections



A. The presidential election

Without any doubt, the preference for elections runs in line with the various positions the respondents held as far as Fateh and Hamas were concerned. As was the case with factional and leadership support, the preference people have about the presidential candidate they will vote for if elections were held soon is the same. As pointed out in figure 13, below, 45% said that they will vote for the Fateh candidate and 9% mentioned the Hamas candidate but a full 38% said that they will refrain from voting for any candidate. Only 8% said that they will elect another candidate.

The proportion of respondents that said that they will not participate in the elections is higher among women (48%) than men (26%) and among the respondents that live in poverty (43%) as opposed to those that are economically better off (33%). As would be expected, 74% of the respondents that do not trust any faction said that they will not participate in the elections.

Figure 13: The party that the respondents would vote for, in case the presidential elections were held next week

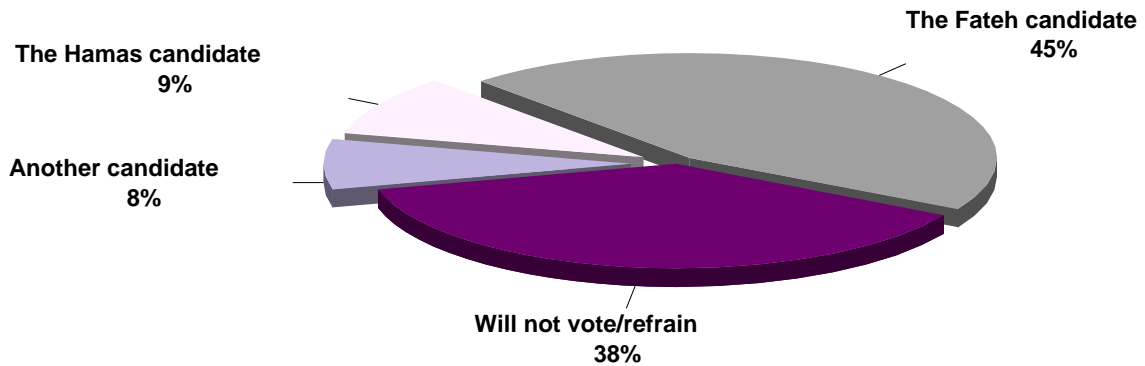


Table 22: The party that the respondents would vote for, in case the presidential elections were held next week according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	Bank West	Gaza Strip
Fateh candidate	90%	8%	14%	12%	50%	37%
Hamas candidate	0%	75%	7%	2%	6%	15%
Other candidate	2%	5%	43%	12%	7%	9%
Will not vote or refrain	8%	12%	36%	74%	37%	39%

Table 23: The party that the respondents would vote for, in case the presidential elections were held next week according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender	Age category	Poverty
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	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Fateh candidate	55%	36%	43%	39%	52%	47%	50%	38%	51%
Hamas candidate	12%	8%	9%	8%	13%	14%	4%	11%	8%
Other candidate	7%	8%	9%	11%	5%	8%	2%	8%	8%
Will not vote or refrain	26%	48%	39%	42%	30%	32%	44%	43%	33%

B. The legislative elections

The results for the legislative election are more or less the same as for presidential elections. About 49% of the respondents said that they will vote for the Fateh candidate while only 10% mentioned the Hamas candidate. Again, 34% of the respondents indicated their reluctance to participate in the elections, as portrayed in figure 14, below.

58% of the Palestinians believe that legislative elections will take place in 2010. This view is higher in the West Bank (63%) than in the Gaza Strip (53%)

NEC believes that the results of the elections will be significantly different for a number of reasons. The first reason is that the Fateh vote will be fragmented and the attitude people have about Fateh will not reflect their behavior because of the disillusionment Fateh supporters have with the organization and many of its symbols, as well as with the dissatisfaction they have towards the manner by which the Fateh leadership is dealing with Israel. In addition, NEC believes that the majority of the non-aligned respondents will support the Hamas also because of the high level of religiosity among this sector of the population.

As is the case with the attitude with the presidential elections, the respondents that indicated their unwillingness to participate were females, the younger respondents and the respondents that are economically better off. Support for the Hamas list is higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank among females than males, and among the young respondents than among the respondents that are older, as noted in tables 24 and 25, below.

Figure 14: The party that the respondents would vote for in case the legislative elections were held next week

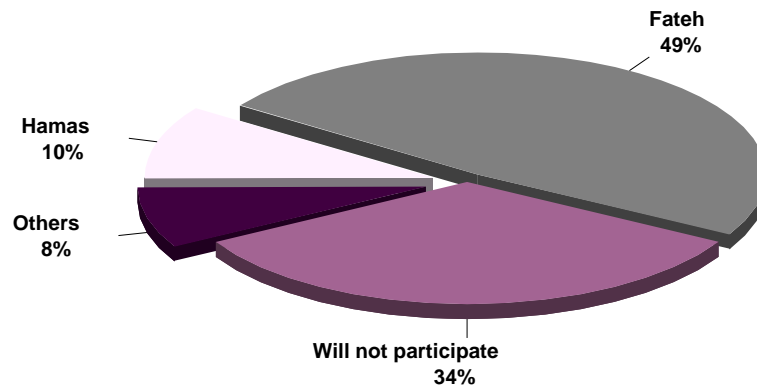




Table 24: The party that the respondents would vote for in case the legislative elections were held next week according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh list	91%	8%	14%	14%	52%	42%
Hamas list	0%	79%	7%	2%	6%	16%
Others	2%	4%	50%	13%	7%	9%
Will not vote or refrain	6%	8%	29%	72%	34%	33%

Table 25: The party that the respondents would vote for in case the legislative elections were held next week according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category				Poverty		
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Fateh list	58%	40%	45%	44%	56%	48%	59%	42%	54%
Hamas list	12%	8%	9%	7%	13%	14%	4%	11%	9%
Others	8%	8%	10%	10%	4%	9%	4%	9%	7%
Will not vote or refrain	22%	44%	35%	39%	27%	28%	33%	38%	30%

VI. Expectations towards 2010

A. The differences between 2009 and 2010

The respondents seem positive about 2010 and think that it will be better than the previous years. The majority feels optimistic and the higher level of optimism is among the Hamas supporters, females, and among the respondents that are economically better. Positive attitude about the year 2010 is most likely due to the strong faith people have with the will of God. The positive attitudes the various sectors of the respondents have about 2010 are overviewed in tables 26 and 27, below.

Figure 15: Perceptions about the difference between 2009 and 2010

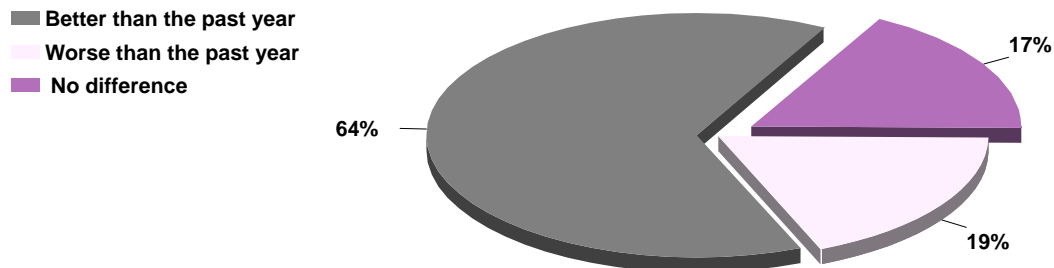




Table 26: Perceptions about the difference between 2009 and 2010 according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Better than the past year	62%	70%	50%	63%	63%	64%
Worse than the past year	17%	15%	36%	21%	18%	21%
No difference	22%	15%	14%	16%	19%	15%

Table 27: Perceptions about the difference between 2009 and 2010 according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Better than the past year	58%	68%	65%	60%	66%	54%	75%	69%	57%
Worse than the past year	22%	16%	17%	23%	16%	21%	17%	16%	22%
No difference	20%	16%	18%	17%	18%	25%	8%	15%	20%

B. The success of the reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas in 2010

Not only are the respondents positive about the year 2010, they are also positive about the success of reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas. About 63% of the respondents believe that the year 2010 will witness reconciliation between the two main conflicting Palestinian parties, as illustrated in figure 16, below.

The sectors of the population that are more positive about reconciliation were the respondents that trust Hamas, more so than the respondents trusting Fateh, women, more than men, and the respondents that live in poverty. No significant differences were noticed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or between the different age groups, as outlined in tables 28 and 29.

Figure 16: Attitudes towards the success of the reconciliation efforts between Fateh and Hamas in 2010

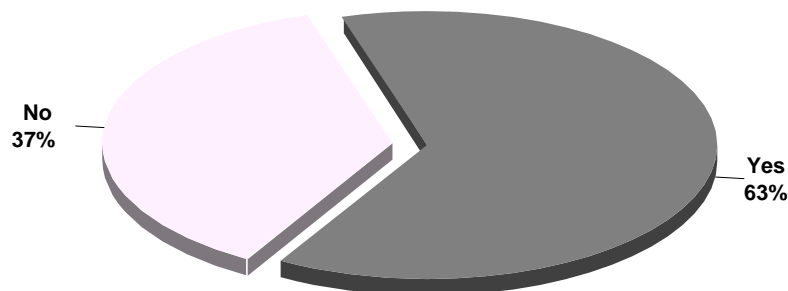




Table 28: Attitudes towards the success of reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas in 2010 according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	57%	65%	67%	66%	63%	63%
No	43%	35%	33%	34%	37%	37%

Table 29: Attitudes towards the success of reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas in 2010 according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Yes	56%	70%	62%	60%	64%	63%	81%	71%	56%
No	44%	30%	38%	40%	36%	37%	19%	29%	44%

VII. Attitude towards the construction of a wall between Egypt and Gaza

When asked about their views towards the intention of Egypt to construct a wall to prevent infiltrations and stop the tunnels from operating between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, 89% of the respondents indicated their opposition to that step. Only 11% approved of this construction.

Even among the respondents that trusts Fateh, only 22% said that they support the Egyptian decision. Surprisingly, as pointed out in table 30, more Gazans support the Egyptian decision than West bankers, Whereas only 8% of the West Bank respondents approved of the erection of the wall be Egypt, the percentage among the Gaza respondents that shared their view was 16%.

Figure 17: Support or oppose the Egyptian decision in constructing a wall in order to prevent the goods from entering the Strip

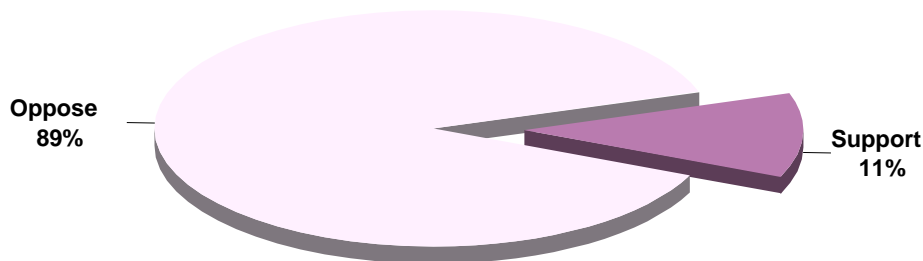


Table 30: Support or oppose the Egyptian decision in constructing a wall in order to prevent the goods from entering the Strip according to factional trust and governorate



	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support	22%	3%	0%	5%	8%	16%
Oppose	78%	97%	100%	95%	92%	84%

Table 31: Support or oppose the Egyptian decision in constructing a wall in order to prevent the goods from entering the Strip according to gender, age category and poverty level

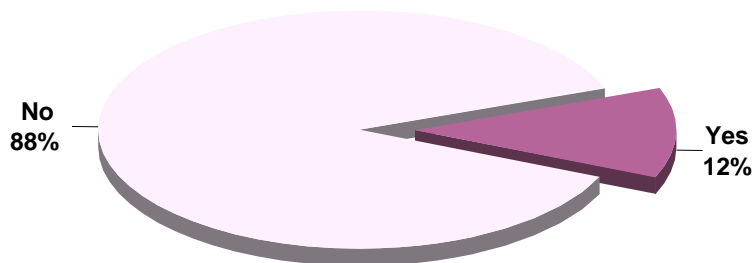
	Gender		Age category				Poverty		
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Support	15%	8%	10%	13%	11%	13%	10%	9%	15%
Oppose	85%	92%	90%	87%	89%	87%	90%	91%	85%

VIII. Migration

A. Emigration in 2009

About 12% of the households said that at least one of the household members had emigrated in 2009. This result was the same irrespective of area of residence or factional trust.

Figure 18: Level of emigration of at least one household member during 2009



When asked about the main reason behind the emigration, 36% said that it was for employment while 20% said to search for a better life. Emigration due to employment was more prevalent among families that live in poverty than among households that are economically better off, as noted in table 33.

Figure 19: The main reason behind the immigration in 2009

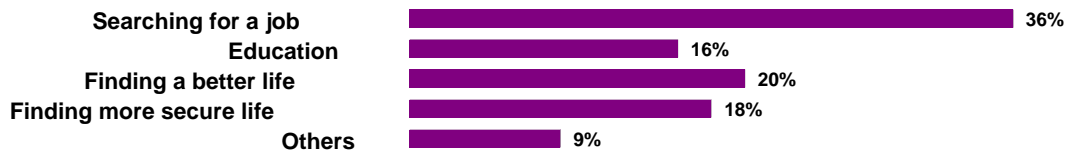


Table 32: The main reason behind the immigration in 2009 according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Searching for a job	33%	43%	50%	47%	39%	31%
Education	23%	14%	25%	12%	20%	13%
Finding a better life	20%	0%	25%	12%	18%	24%
Finding more secure life	20%	29%	0%	18%	14%	24%
Others	5%	14%	0%	12%	10%	7%

Table 33: The main reason behind the immigration in 2009 according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Searching for a job	35%	39%	46%	18%	33%	47%	20%	43%	35%
Education	18%	17%	21%	18%	13%	6%	30%	11%	19%
Finding a better life	15%	22%	21%	27%	13%	18%	30%	15%	23%
Finding more secure life	25%	11%	13%	27%	27%	24%	0%	17%	16%
Others	8%	11%	0%	9%	13%	6%	20%	13%	7%

B. Internal migration

Only 8% of the respondents said that a member of their household has migrated internally. The small percentage of internal migration in 2009 does not enable any analysis about whether this migration was higher in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank nor about any other explanatory variable. What is evident, however, is that internal migration was primarily targeting the Ramallah district. As illustrated in figure 21, below, 47% of those who migrated internally migrated to the Ramallah district.

Figure 20: The families who had moved to another area or governorate during 2009

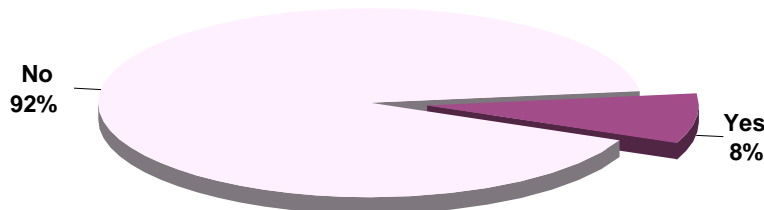
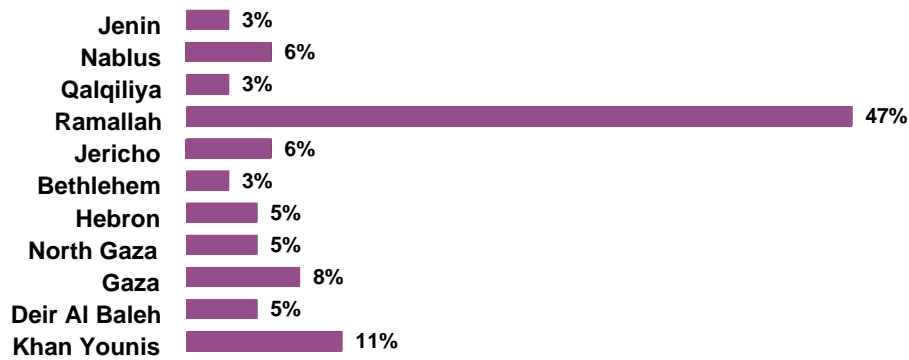


Figure 21: The governorate that the families moved to during 2009



C. Attitudes towards emigration

Although a mere 12% of the households said that some of their household members have migrated during 2009, 23% of the respondents that were interviewed in January said that they would like to emigrate if they have the opportunity to do so.

The highest percentage wanting to leave was from the Gaza Strip and from within the younger respondents. As indicated in tables 34 and 35, below, about 30% of Gaza respondents (as opposed to 17% of West Bank respondents) indicated their desire to leave to another country so did 30% of the younger generation respondents. Even among female respondents, a full 19% said that they would like to emigrate. Not many differences were observed between the respondents that trust Hamas or the respondents that trusts Fateh.

Figure 22: The respondents who prefer to move to another country.

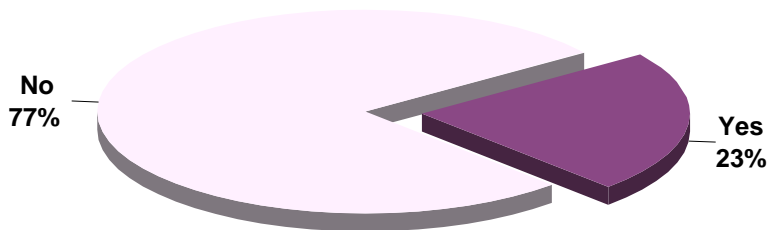


Table 34: The respondents who prefer to move to another country according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	22%	22%	40%	24%	17%	30%
No	78%	78%	60%	76%	83%	70%



Table 35: The respondents who prefer to move to another country according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Yes	25%	19%	30%	25%	20%	17%	7%	23%	24%
No	75%	81%	70%	75%	80%	83%	93%	77%	76%

IX. Perceptions towards the media

A. The most trusted newspaper

Al Quds newspaper occupies the first position in being the most trusted newspaper. About 43% of the respondents pointed to Al-Quds newspaper as the newspaper that they trust most, followed by Al-Ayyam with 7%. Around 31% of the respondents said that they do not read newspapers.

Newspaper readership seems to be stronger in the West Bank, among the male respondents, and among the respondents that trust Fateh. About 38% of the respondents that do not trust any faction said that they do not read newspapers. These results are detailed in tables 36 and 37, below.

Figure 23: The most trusted newspaper

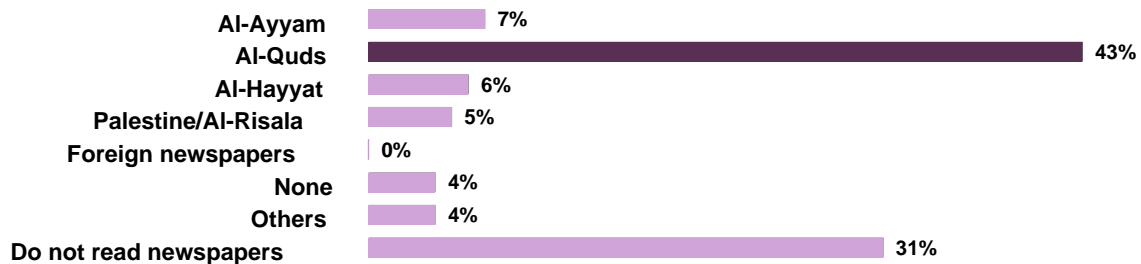


Table 36: The most trusted newspaper according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Al-Ayyam	9%	4%	20%	5%	8%	6%
Al-Quds	55%	30%	33%	37%	56%	25%
Al-Hayyat	6%	5%	0%	5%	7%	5%
Palestine/Al-Risala	3%	19%	7%	4%	1%	12%
Foreign newspapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
None	2%	3%	13%	6%	2%	6%
Others	2%	8%	0%	5%	1%	7%
Do not read newspapers	22%	32%	27%	38%	26%	38%



Table 37: The most trusted newspaper according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Al-Ayyam	9%	6%	8%	8%	7%	6%	3%	7%	8%
Al-Quds	51%	37%	41%	46%	42%	39%	43%	37%	49%
Al-Hayyat	5%	7%	7%	9%	6%	3%	2%	6%	6%
Palestine/Al-Risala	6%	4%	6%	3%	6%	9%	6%	7%	4%
Foreign newspapers	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
None	5%	2%	5%	4%	3%	3%	6%	5%	3%
Others	4%	4%	4%	6%	2%	5%	0%	5%	2%
Do not read any	21%	40%	29%	25%	34%	34%	40%	33%	27%

B. Attitudes towards the most trusted TV station

The Qatar-based Aljazeera remains as the most trusted TV station by the Palestinian public with about 47% of them said that it is the channel they trust most. Palestine TV which broadcasts from the West Bank was ranked 2nd with 19% of the public favoring it, Al-Aqsa TV station which is the mouthpiece of Hamas in the Gaza Strip was cited by 7% of the respondents.

Palestine TV is trusted by 26% of Gaza respondents and by only 15% of the respondents from the West Bank. Al-Jazeera seems to be losing ground in the Gaza Strip in favor of Palestine TV. Still, however, Al-Jazeera continues to be most trusted by the young generation Palestinians. Whereas, for example, 50% of the respondents falling between the ages of 18 and 24 years cited Al-Jazeera as the most trusted TV channel, the percentage among the respondents that are above the age of 55 who shared their view was only 30%.

More Palestinians over the age of 55 trust Palestine TV than Al-Jazeera

Figure 24: The most trusted TV channel

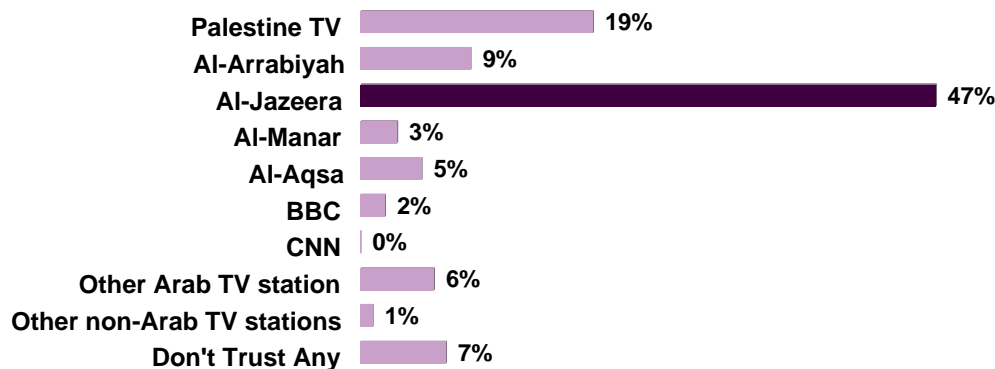




Table 38: The most trusted TV channel according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Palestine TV	34%	10%	0%	11%	15%	26%
Al-Arrabiyah	15%	3%	7%	8%	8%	12%
Al-Jazeera	36%	42%	47%	52%	55%	33%
Al-Manar	3%	5%	7%	3%	4%	2%
Al-Aqsa	1%	35%	13%	2%	3%	9%
BBC	2%	0%	0%	2%	1%	4%
CNN	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Arab TV station	4%	1%	0%	9%	5%	6%
Other non-Arab TV stations	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Don't trust any	4%	3%	27%	12%	8%	7%

Table 39: The most trusted TV channel according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Palestine TV	20%	19%	17%	15%	22%	19%	31%	24%	16%
Al-Arrabiyah	12%	8%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	7%	11%
Al-Jazeera	46%	47%	50%	48%	47%	44%	30%	42%	52%
Al-Manar	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	6%	3%	3%	3%
Al-Aqsa	6%	4%	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%	7%	3%
BBC	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%
CNN	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Other Arab TV	2%	8%	3%	4%	7%	8%	8%	6%	6%
Other non-Arab TV	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Don't trust any	6%	8%	9%	9%	5%	6%	11%	9%	6%

III. The economy

A. Evolution of poverty

The level of poverty in the oPt remained stable. About 49% of the respondents were found to be living in poverty.

The poverty level is significantly higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank. Whereas 59% of the households in the Gaza Strip were determined as falling under the poverty line, the percentage in the West Bank is 41%, as indicated in table 40. Moreover, respondents trusting Hamas seem to be more impoverished than the Fateh respondents. As also indicated in table 40, 62% of Hamas supporters live in poverty as opposed to 41% of the respondents who trusts Fateh most. Respondents that do not trust any faction fall in between the positions of Fateh and Hamas in as far as poverty levels are concerned. Approximately 48% of the respondents that do not trust any faction live in poverty.



Figure 25: Evolution of the poverty levels in the oPt

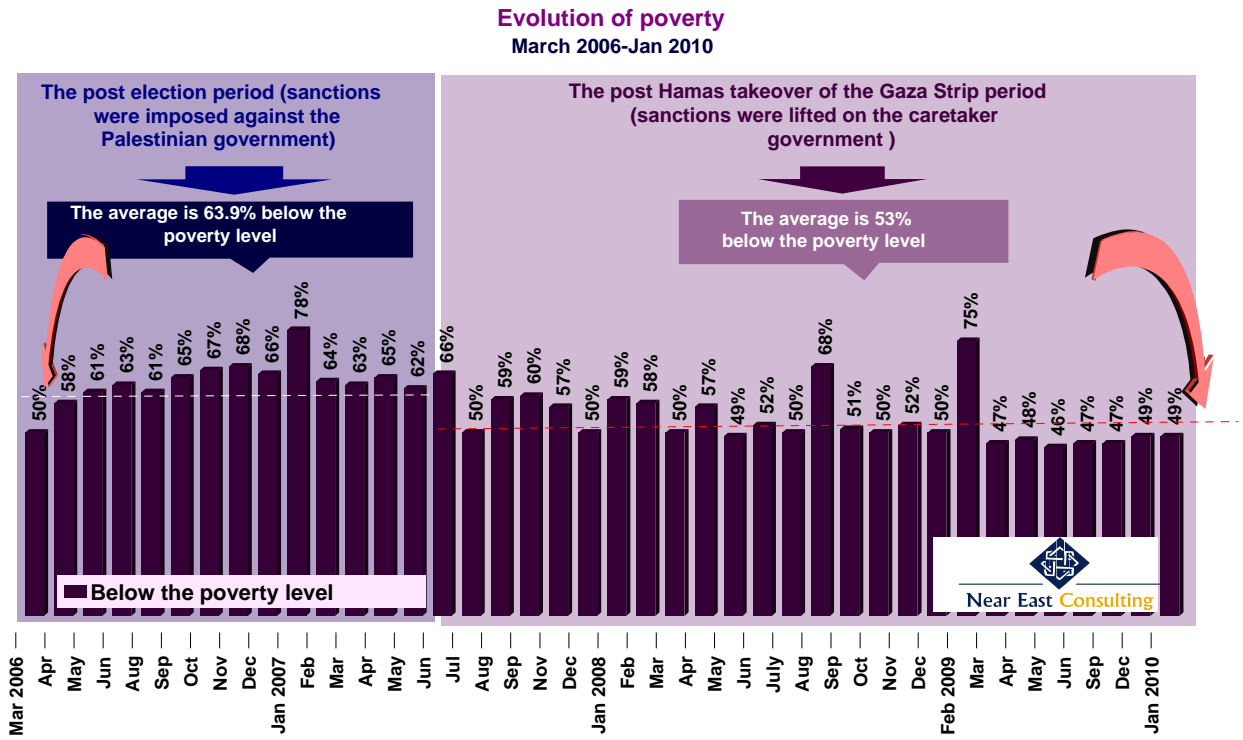


Table 40: Poverty according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Below poverty	41%	62%	57%	48%	41%	59%
Above poverty	59%	38%	43%	52%	59%	41%

Table 41: Poverty according to gender and age category

	Gender		Age category				
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.
Below poverty	48%	49%	55%	39%	43%	55%	71%
Above poverty	52%	51%	45%	61%	57%	45%	29%

B. Employment

About 65% of the respondents that are part of the labor force said that they are fully employed, 16% partially employed, and 19% said that they were not employed at all.



Unemployment levels are significantly higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank. While 13% of the respondents that participate in the labor force in the West Bank said that they were unemployed, the percentage in the Gaza Strip reached 27%.

The highest levels of unemployment are among the respondents that are below the age of 24 and whose households are determined to be impoverished. As pointed out in table 43, 34% of the respondents that live in poverty said that they are not employed, compared to a mere 8% from within the families that live above the poverty level.

Figure 26: Labor force

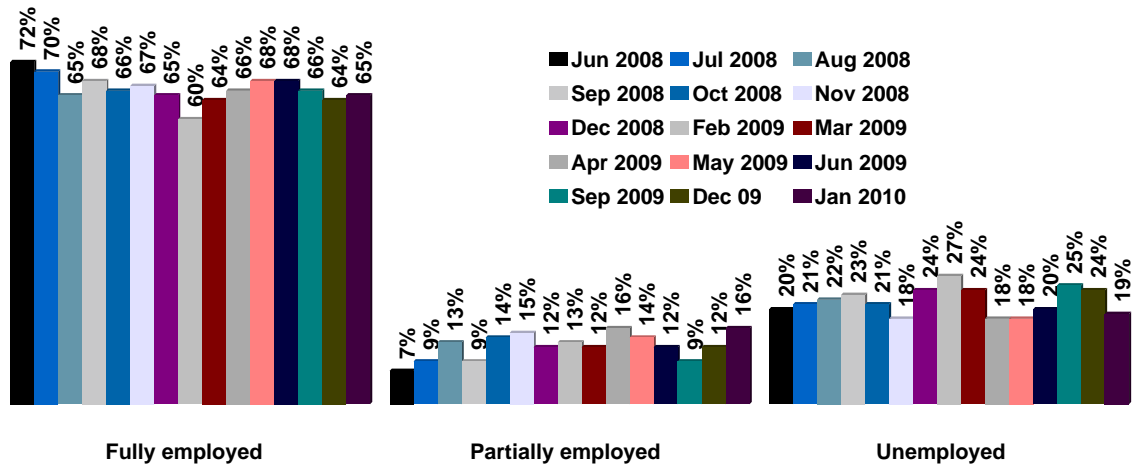


Table 42: Labor force according to factional trust and governorate

	Factional trust				Governorate	
	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Employed full-time	68%	66%	60%	65%	69%	60%
Employed part-time	15%	17%	0%	15%	18%	13%
Not employed	17%	17%	40%	20%	13%	27%

Table 43: Labor force according to gender, age category and poverty level

	Gender		Age category					Poverty all	
	Male	Female	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55 yrs.	Below poverty	Above poverty
Full-time	66%	62%	47%	64%	77%	75%	42%	45%	79%
Part-time	15%	19%	18%	23%	10%	13%	13%	21%	12%
Not employed	18%	19%	35%	13%	14%	13%	46%	34%	8%