



تأسست سنة ١٩٥٢

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The impact of Gaza War and the Closure of Main Crossings on the Food Sector in Bethlehem Governorate

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry is preparing reports that analyze the repercussions of the Gaza War and the closure of main crossings on various economic activities in Bethlehem Governorate. This report, prepared during the period from November 4th to November 8th, 2023, specifically focuses on evaluating the impact on the food sector. The comprehensive non-regular purposive sample included 40 establishments, representing 22% of the study community, comprising 179 establishments from BCCI General Assembly members at various locations in the governorate.

➤ Summary of Results and Recommendations:

1. Average Sales Volume Decreased by 56%:

Results indicated a significant increase in the sales volume of the food sector during the first week since the outbreak of Gaza war, with a 180% increase in sales for the establishments included in the study sample. However, after one month of the war, the sales volume for those establishments decreased by 56%. This is mainly attributed to the reduced purchasing power of consumers and the availability of food stocks after stockpiling **purchases** during the first week of the war. This is in addition to the repeated closures of the main entrances to the governorate and the inability of consumers from the 1948 territories to enter.

2. Average Workforce Reduction by 40%:

Results showed that 16 establishments, representing 40% of the study sample, reduced their workforce by approximately half. Meanwhile, 23 establishments, representing 57.5%, maintained their workforce before and after the war. Only one establishment, representing 2.5% of the study sample, increased its workforce.

3. 86% of Consumer Purchases Focus on Essential Goods:

The survey results indicate a shift in consumer behavior during the war, with a significant focus on essential food items. Secondary goods accounted for only 14% of consumer purchases.

Note: The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry retains detailed responses from the sample included in the study.