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

Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted a survey to gather opinions from a sample of bakery owners, including 15 out of the 46 bakeries in the governorate, representing 32.6% of the total sample.

The table below represents the average daily flour consumption before and after the war on Gaza, the percentage of decrease in daily consumption, and the duration of inventory availability.

No.	Area	Average Daily Consumption of flour Before War	Average Daily Consumption of flour After War	Decrease Percentage	Flour Inventory Duration
1	Beit Jala	10 bags of large size (30 kg each)	3 bags of large size (30 kg each)	50%	30 days
2	Bethlehem	6 bags of large size (30 kg each)	3 bags of large size (30 kg each)	50%	30 days
3	Bethlehem	1 ton	200 kg	80%	45 days
4	Bethlehem	10 bags of large size (30 kg each)	4 bags of large size (30 kg each)	60%	30 days
5	Bethlehem	15 bags of large size (30 kg each)	7 bags of large size (30 kg each)	53%	30 days
6	Bethlehem	6 bags of large size (30 kg each)	2 bags of large size (30 kg each)	67%	15 days
7	Dar Salah	6 bags of large size (30 kg each)	2 bags of large size (30 kg each)	67%	20 days
8	Doha	9 bags of large size (30 kg each)	4 bags of large size (30 kg each)	56%	10 days
9	Tuqu	4 bags of large size (30 kg each)	2 bags of large size (30 kg each)	50%	10 days
10	Tuqu	10 bags of small size (25 kg each)	5 bags of small size (25 kg each)	50%	50 days

The table above shows a significant decrease in daily flour production, particularly for "bread," representing 58.2% of the total decrease. This reduction is attributed to several factors mentioned by bakery owners, including:

1. Inability to distribute to cities and neighboring areas outside Bethlehem, such as Hebron, Ramallah, and Jericho.
2. Decline in incoming and local tourism to Bethlehem, where there was a reliance on distribution to hotels within the governorate.
3. Negative impact on consumption due to repeated school closures and the shift from physical to online education.



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4. A Decrease in Daily Consumption by consumers within the governorate.
5. Limitation of production to once a day.

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