

## Introduction

Despite the non-stop construction of the Israeli separation wall, and other daily obstacle measures, restricting the movements of persons and goods through the country, the JACCI was able to show success due to the following:

- Increased the number of members.
- Introduced new services.
- In process of Completion of companies' profiles.
- Publishing regular Newsletters.
- Responding several email requests.
- Lobbying for better investment opportunities in Jerusalem.

## Open Meeting

On April 4, 2005, The Jerusalem Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Economy, have held an open meeting headed by H.E. the Minister of Economy, Engineer Mr. Mazen Sinnokrot- and Messrs. Ahmad H. Zughayar- Chairman of JACCI, Azzam Abu Saud- Director of JACCI, and a number of businessmen in East Jerusalem and its District.

In this meeting, the minister said that the Ministry of Economy, is now planning to establish an industrial area in Jerusalem district, and is currently looking forward to find a suitable land for this purpose. He also said that the Palestinian Ministry Council took a decision to revive the Cement Factory Project in Hebron.

A long debate took place between the businessmen and the Minister, whereas the Minister listened to the complaints of the Palestinians and answered many important questions, all related to the current economic situation prevailing in East Jerusalem.

## New Designed Website

The staff members at JACCI express their gratitude and thanks to SIDA and particularly to Mr. Ingmar Nilsson, the Vice President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden, for their continued efforts and contributions to keep the Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, more efficient and well developed.

We would like also to appreciate and thank Mr. Kristian Rankloo, the international project manager at CCISSD for his cooperation with the Swedish Company, [Kapacitet](http://www.kapacitet.se), which helped in launching the new website by providing us with a Web Content Management System (Leap). Which is easy to use and a user friendly system. Our new website address is [www.jerusalemchamber.org](http://www.jerusalemchamber.org).

## News of the Private Sector

A joint Palestinian delegation from both the private and public sectors, had participated in Dafus Forum, for four days work, at the end of January 2005 in Switzerland.

The delegation had the opportunity to meet with many businessmen, representing big international firms, and enabled them understand the needs of the Palestinians and at the same time requested their help to benefit from the technology program, in the Palestinian territories, particularly in educational matters.

The said delegation also discussed the opportunities of how to get financial assistance, and loans from European organizations in order to be able to settle new projects aiming at supporting the Palestinian economy and the private sector.

## International Trade Statistics

Due to the importance of international relations in a period that focus on the coalition, policies that governed the nature of economic relations between countries, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), established the foreign trade statistics department, so as to produce the Palestinian foreign trade figures on imports and exports and all related indicators. PCBS, published its reports on goods since 1996, while this report contains data on goods, and services taking into account that services include transactions with Israel only since 2000.

The result indicate that the total value of imports of goods in 2002 was US\$ 1,515,608 distributed on 2145 commodities with a decrease by 24% compared with 2001. on the other side the results indicate that imports of services was US\$ 66,333 distributed on 46 services with a decrease of 26% compared with 2001.

The direct imports of commodities from Arab Countries in 2002 was US\$ 31,074 with an increase by 22% compared with 2001, while direct exports to Arab Countries in 2002 was US\$ 15,093 with an increase by 4% compared with 2001.

Regarding the direct imports from American Countries, the results indicated that the value of imports was US\$ 81,581 in 2002 with a decrease by 9% compared with 2001, while direct exports of commodities to American Countries in 2002, was US\$203,000 with an increase by 4% compared with 2001.

On the export side, the results revealed that the direct exports in 2002, was US\$ 24,541 and 50% of the whole exports was exported to Jordan, while it was 63% in 2001.

**Chamber's Staff**

You are welcome to contact us at the Jerusalem Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry at any time.



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Jerusalem Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry

**Chamber's News and Activities**

**Long Years of  
Steadfastness & Sacrifice**

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