The economy in Palestine depends mainly on agriculture. The majority of Palestinian lands are made up of villages. There are only a few big cities there. Palestinian society is still primarily a rural society. There are a large number of villages. For instance, the city of Jenin includes nearly 40 villages in its district. The economy of each village relies heavily on agriculture.

The second parameter of the economy is work in Israel. A large number of Palestinian youths used to be a workforce in Israel. They used to make a good income, which greatly supported the local economy here. However, following the Intifada that started around September 2000, the borders between Palestinian lands and Israel were blocked. And more recently, due to the construction of the separation wall between the Palestinian cities and villages and the Israeli counterparts, almost all opportunities to work in Israel have ceased. As a result, this has affected the Palestinian economy terribly.

The Palestinian economy is very much entwined with the economy of Israel. As such, all the imported goods reach the ports in Israel before being shipped to the Palestinian areas. In addition, the workers in Palestine used to work in Israeli cities. With the beginning of the Intifada, all of that stopped, which negatively affected the economy here. Nowadays, people to a large degree suffer seriously from the problem of unemployment. Many
youths can’t find a job opportunity even if they are educated, with a university degree. Living under occupation, we don’t have salaries. Even if they are offered, salaries are usually very small. All of this exacerbates the problem of the economy.

There are some local products manufactured locally in cities. Factories are limited in number, but they partially support the economy in Palestine. For instance, Nablus is famous for soup factories. In Ramallah, there are a few medicine factories. In Hebron, there are factories for furniture and shoes. Jenin is a rural area, and therefore its economy depends in essence on agriculture. Ramallah, which is close to Jerusalem, is a trade area. It is very close to the borders of Israel, and therefore is an active area for trade.
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