

## Abstract

This study aims at contributing to the methodology of assessing the added value of the street trading and applying it to measure the impact of street trading activity on the GDP in the West Bank in Palestine. It also aims at describing the main characteristics of street trading activity in Ramallah and Al-Bireh cities and to find out the level of its contribution to the internal immigration as well as to the respondents' families.

The lack of alternative job opportunities, health issues and family-related issues are the main reasons why this phenomenon appeared. The street trading business in Palestine is a male business since 96% of the sample workers in this sector are males. The average age of the sample is 37 years. Almost two-thirds of respondents are married against 23% single. And the educational level is, in general, low. There appears what seems to be an inverse internal immigration (i.e. emigration from the city to a rural area). Approximately three-fourths of the street traders depend on special arrangements with their products' suppliers, but there are no actual or permanent sources of financing for them. The average daily income of street trading activities is NIS128, or NIS38,544 per year, which contributes to a value of \$32,200,000 or a share equals to 0.4% of the total GDP in the WB. The income generating from street trading is approximately equal to that generated from other resources for the families of the street traders. It contributes to 49% of the total family income. In other words, street trading is a major income source for families in Palestine.

The study's main recommendation is that the street trading activity must be encouraged by the government and local authorities. The study also recommends that the unlicensed street traders should register their businesses in order to legalize it and practice their activities freely.