

Study Summary

Ramallah is one of the cities of Palestine. It is located in the middle of West Bank. Commercial life in Ramallah depends on factors of production, which are generally based on the availability of investment and the existence of the headquarters of governmental institutions. This resulted in the increase in land transactions. This land is the property of the local inhabitants of Ramallah, but the workers in it are from outside Ramallah City.

Cities are a proof of man's progress, its development and urbanization. This is a distinct phenomenon on Earth Surface, and great achievement of mankind. The economic activities in their various forms and institutions appear in the city. Economy plays an important role in the development of cities and solving their problems.

Trade is considered an essential factor in the evaluation of the movement of the world, regional and local development, and it is one of the important economic activities. The factor that attracts people to these cities, especially traders, professionals and investors is the geographic and strategic site of these cities.

Conditions beyond man's control such as the location, land nature, crude minerals existing underground and the climate play important roles in the existence and development of cities, especially if these assets are used in a scientific, organized manner. The changes and developments have taken place in some cities are different. It is very difficult to have common features among different cities; each city is affected by its historical conditions, and its growth factors. Each city represents a unique phenomenon that is not repeated.

The trade sector in Ramallah City has been exposed to many deformations during the occupation period. Some economic activities that serve the Israeli Occupation have grown up, especially the wholesale ,the retail trade, and the necessary transport to facilitate the transport of imported goods from Israel.

Ramallah has been included in the territories of Palestinian National Authority in 1996 according to the Oslo Accord, and this has led to a great development since 1994-2000, as the Palestinian National Authority has established effective patterns to provide the services and the living needs of the people such as governmental departments, trade stores of different specialties, office buildings, stores, schools, hospitals, theatres in addition to developing the construction sector through big blocks of activity premises or the big housing units. The development of the infrastructure of Ramallah city was the main task which faced the Palestinian National Authority.

The services trade developed greatly and the trade of consumption and food stuffs trade increased. New trade activities appeared such as building materials trade and the trade of vehicles, electrical equipment, electronics, and furniture in addition to the increase in the number of banks, hotels and restaurants. This encouraged several local, foreign and Arab institutions to invest, especially after the bank sector became available. These banks give support to the trade sector, especially the general trade.

Ramallah city represents a trade and a administrative center which is characterized by a great construction activity.

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Ramallah has become the destination of business men and professionals. So, Ramallah has become the most important administrative, service and trade center in Palestine since 1994-2000. Most of the banks, private sector companies besides the national institutions have become the main headquarters, and it is considered an important cultural, educational center, and the city is considered an example of a variety of cultures and a place for intellectual variety.

Based on the preceding facts, emigration to this city has increased, (internal emigration) from Hebron, Nablus, Jerusalem, Tulkarm, Jenin, Gaza, Jericho and Bethlehem.

The increase in construction projects have encouraged the private sector to increase investment considerably which enabled it to absorb an appreciable part of unemployment and this made Ramallah a substitute of Jerusalem city.

This was the result of imposing a siege around Jerusalem and prevented entry to it, besides opening trade stores in Al-Ram which enlarged the commercial and economic role of Ramallah. Also Ramallah is near the industrial Zones of Al-Bireh and Bitounia. These Zones have become centers for industrialists which were established by Ramallah municipality in the past period.

This internal immigration made the population structure varied which led to a partial difference in customs and traditions that made Ramallah distinctive from other cities.

Despite the fact that the situation of the internal and external trade have improved, the Palestinian markets remained under the will of Israeli markets.

The Commercial activity in Ramallah city has been the only one that continued and grew after the Occupation.

This growth encouraged many citizens to engage in trade as a source of work which in turn gave rise to many trade stores in Ramallah city, and the appearance of a large number of institutions and associations that are interested in trade and to take Ramallah for their headquarters. It is not possible for anyone to distinguish the original people from the people from other areas, except by the name of the family or by asking about the original town.