

# CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND CHANGES IN PALESTINE

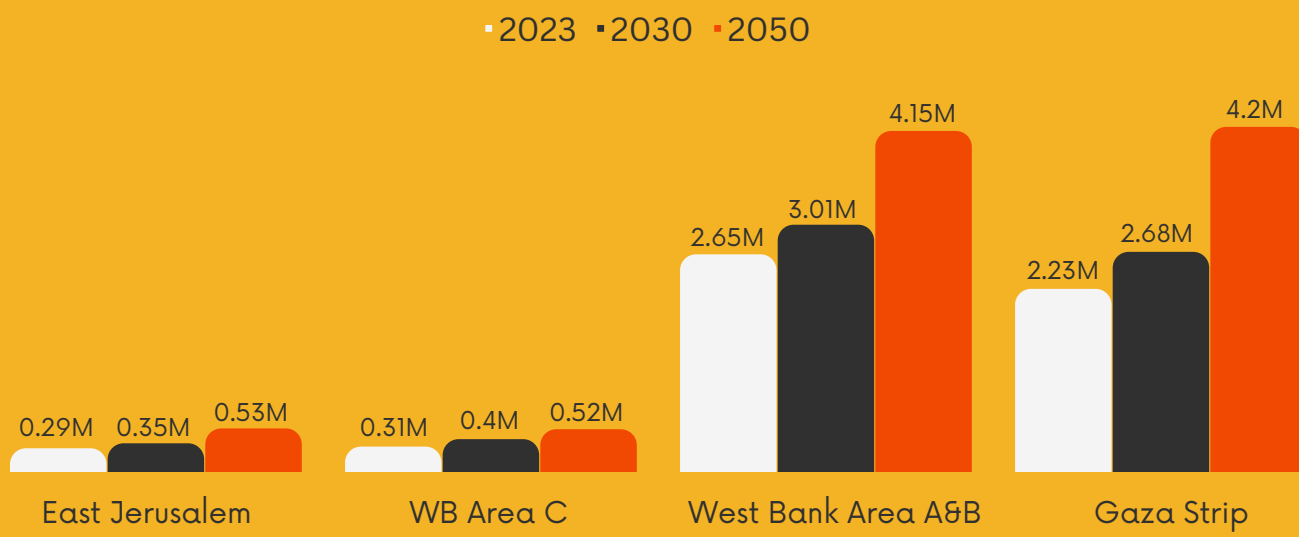
This infographic provides an overview of the current and projected population trends and demographic shifts in Palestine. It highlights the implications of these changes on the socio-economic sectors, and offers valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development and the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

## POPULATION GROWTH

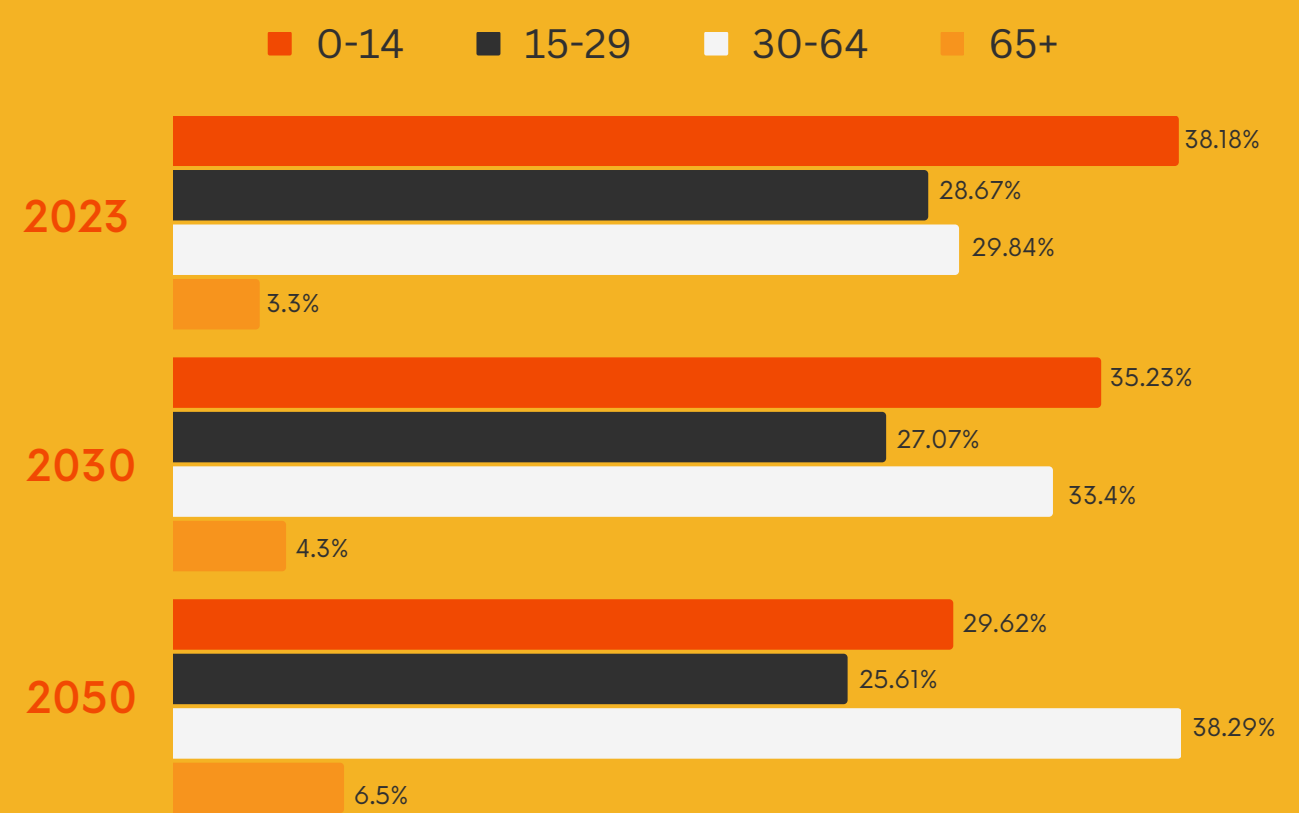


Current population: **5.48** million  
Projected population in **2030**: **6.44** million  
Projected population in **2050**: **9.4** million  
Growth rate: **2.3%**  
**Sex Ratio**  
Current: 103.3 - 2030: 103.1 - 2050: 103.42

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



## AGE STRUCTURE



## FERTILITY



Current Total Fertility Rate: **3.84**  
Projected Total Fertility Rate **2030**: **3.4**  
Urban: **3.8** Rural: **4.4** Refugee camps: **3.5**  
Use of modern contraception methods among married couples: **42.7**

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## MORTALITY & LIFE EXPECTANCY

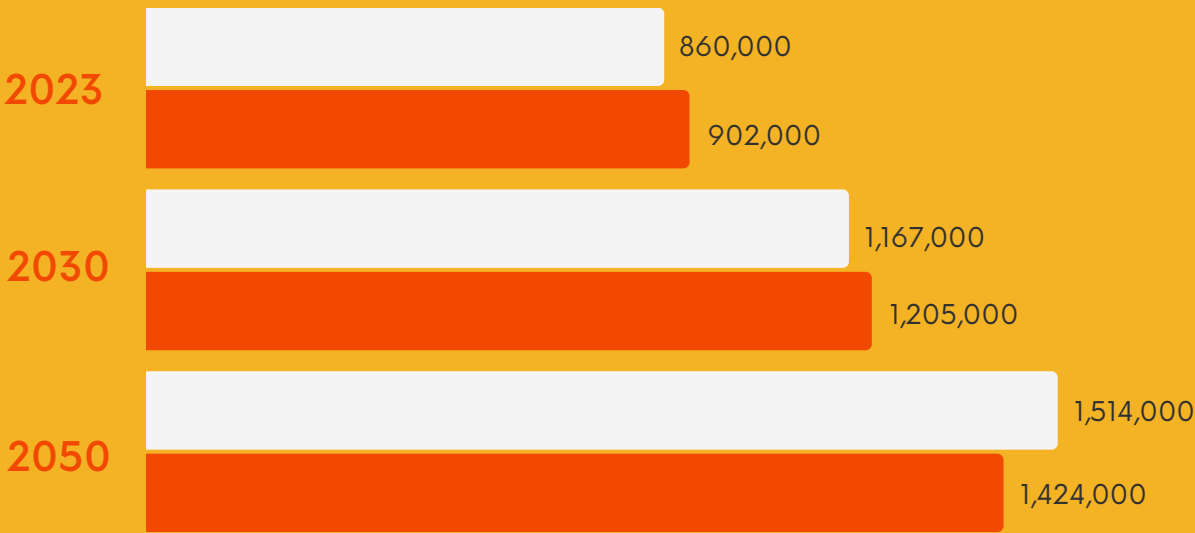


Crude Death Rate: **3.7** per 1,000 people  
Infant Mortality Rate: **12.1** per 1,000 people  
Life Expectancy: **74** years

## EDUCATION

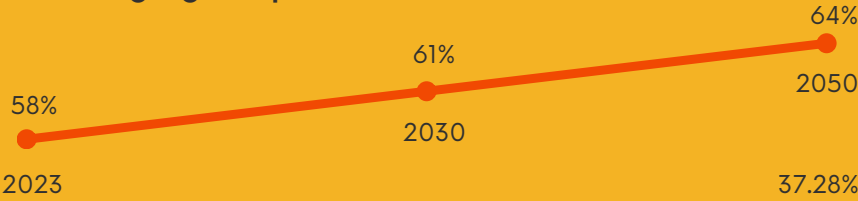
### School Enrollment

■ Males ■ Females

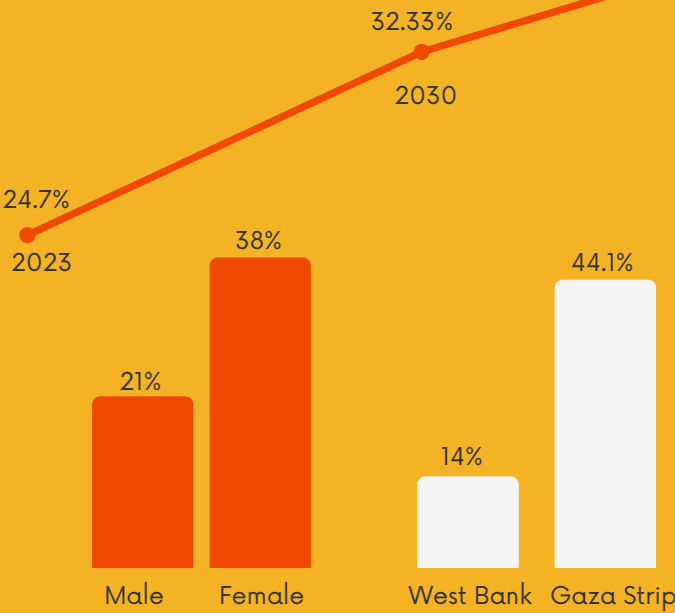


## EMPLOYMENT

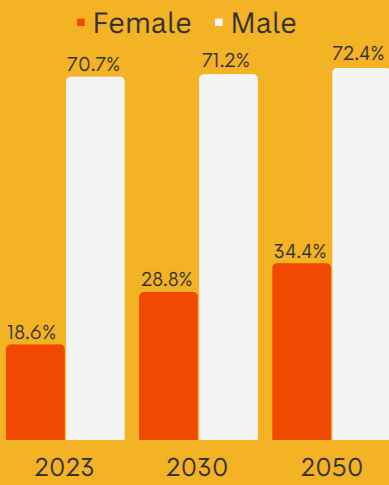
### Working Age Population



### Unemployment Rate

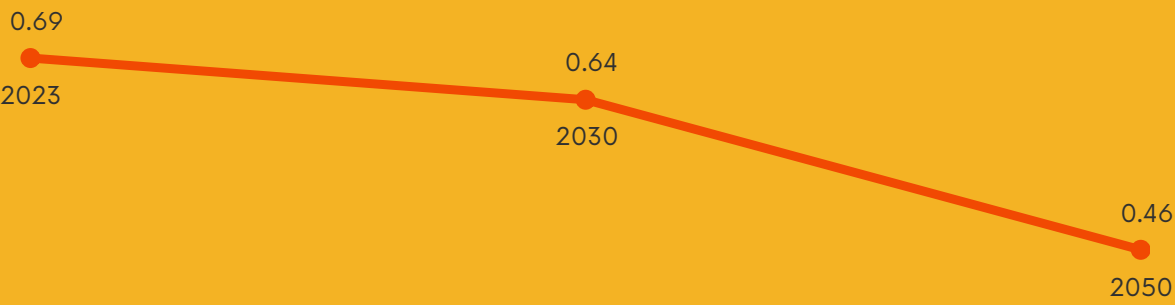


### Labor Force Participation Rate



## DEPENDENCY RATIO

**Population dependency ratio:** the share of the dependents 0-14 years and 65 years and over to the active age population 15-64 years.



### REFERENCES

Current and Future Demographic Trends and Changes (2023)  
Palestinian MICS survey 2019-2020  
PCBS Labor Force Survey (2022)  
World Bank statistics (2021)

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## KEY CHALLENGES

- The **political instability, restrictions on movement, and limited autonomy** hinder effective governance and policy implementation for creating an enabling environment to tackle demographic challenges and foster socio-economic progress in Palestine.
- The Gaza Strip is confronted with a pressing challenge as its **population density**, currently at **6,000 inhabitants** per square kilometer, is projected to exceed **13,000 inhabitants** per square kilometer by 2050 with a population of 4.2 million. This rapid increase in population density poses significant strains on resources, infrastructure, and overall quality of life.
- The **increase in the working-age population** presents both an opportunity and a significant challenge, as there is a need to create sufficient employment opportunities. Failure to adequately address this challenge could result in high unemployment rates and social and economic disparities.
- The population growth poses a challenge of increasing **poverty**, especially in the Gaza Strip, if the Palestinian market fails to provide sufficient employment opportunities.
- A substantial augmentation of **educational institutions, skilled educators, healthcare facilities, and qualified medical professionals** is needed to address the needs of an expanding population. However, the limited economic resources and constrained access to resources further compound the difficulty in meeting these growing demands.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Demographic Dividend:** The declining fertility rates in Palestine present an opportunity to harness the demographic dividend, as it leads to a larger working-age population relative to dependents. This demographic shift offers potential for increased productivity, economic growth, and development. Furthermore, the projected high support ratio by 2050 presents a significant opportunity for Palestine to fully capitalize on the demographic dividend and drive economic prosperity. To seize this opportunity, policymakers must prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and job creation, ensuring the necessary infrastructure and resources are in place to maximize the potential benefits.
- **Investment in human capital development:** by equipping the working-age population with quality education and skills training, improving healthcare access and services, and fostering an environment conducive to job creation and entrepreneurship, Palestine can maximize the benefits of the demographic dividend, leading to sustained economic development.
- **Social Progress:** Palestine is experiencing significant improvements in mortality indicators and increased life expectancy. These demographic changes present a valuable opportunity for the country to foster socio-economic progress and improve the overall well-being and quality of life for Palestinians.

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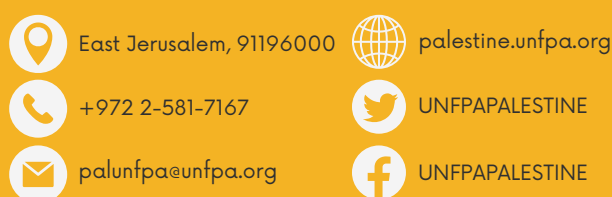
## RECOMMENDATIONS

The development actors should take immediate action to address the population trends and transition in Palestine. The following recommendations are crucial for achieving sustainable development and improving the well-being of the Palestinian people:

- **Develop the Health Sector:** Increase the density of healthcare professionals, enhance healthcare infrastructure, and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare services, particularly in marginalized and remote areas. This includes improving preventive healthcare measures and promoting awareness of healthy lifestyles.
- **Enhance Reproductive Healthcare:** Improve access to modern contraception methods, promote reproductive health awareness, and provide high-quality comprehensive healthcare services for women and young people to enable informed family planning decisions.
- **Invest in Education:** Increase investments in education at all levels, focusing on early childhood education, reducing gender disparities, and enhancing the quality of education to develop a skilled and productive workforce.
- **Alleviate Poverty:** Develop comprehensive strategies that address the specific needs of different regions, with targeted interventions to reduce poverty rates among larger families. Strengthen social welfare systems and promote inclusive economic development to create sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- **Promote Political Stability:** Foster a conducive political environment that supports peace, stability, and cooperation. Advocate for free movement of people and goods, and create ideal conditions for the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities across different regions.
- **Seek International Support:** Engage with the international community, donor organizations, and development agencies to seek support and collaboration in addressing the population trends and transition in Palestine.
- **Strengthen Data Collection and Monitoring:** Enhance data collection systems and establish regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for population trends. This will enable evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions.

**We must act now** to create a brighter future for Palestine. By implementing these recommendations, we can harness the potential demographic dividend, improve living conditions, ensure the well-being of all Palestinians, and achieve sustainable development.

United Nations Population Fund  
State of Palestine Office



UNFPA, delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled