



# Land & Settlements

## ■ Background

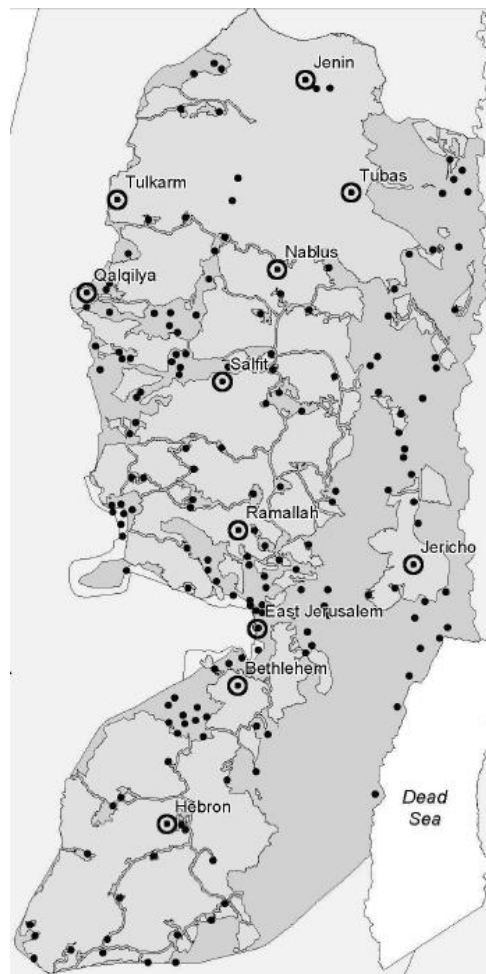
Settlements **breach international law** (e.g., Art. 49(6), Fourth Geneva Convention, stipulating: “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”) and various **UNSC resolutions** (e.g., Res. 465 of 1 March 1980 calling on Israel “to dismantle the existing settlements”).

The **Oslo Accords** deferred the issue of settlements, *inter alia*, to a later stage of talks in exchange for an Israeli commitment to disengage from the OPT and preserve Palestinian territorial integrity. However, the Oslo Accords included numerous protective measures for the settlements and settlers (e.g., exclusion from Palestinian jurisdiction, blanket limitations on Palestinian land use near settlements, Israeli control over land registration, zoning and security), allowing Israel to take unilateral actions and create more facts on the ground. As a result, the number of settlers has almost quadrupled since 1993 - despite numerous attempts at “freezing” all settlement expansion, such as the 2003 Road Map and other initiatives to restart negotiations. Things were made worse with a new Basic Law (**‘Referendum Law’** of March 2014), which requires a referendum on any future treaty that entails ceding land to which Israeli law applies (this includes East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights but not the West Bank).

**UN Security Council Resolution 2334** of 23 December 2016 reaffirmed that the establishment of Israeli settlements “has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law” and impedes the two-state solution, and called on Israel to “immediately and completely cease all settlement activities.” However, Israel intensified the expansion of settlements instead.

On 6 February 2017, the Knesset passed into law the contested outpost **“Regularization Bill”** granting, even retroactively, governmental recognition to numerous illegal settlement outposts, thus effectively enabling continued settlement construction and expropriation of privately owned Palestinian land. The government-appointed **Zandberg Committee** recommended in May 2018 to adopt a very flexible understanding of legal criteria for handling isolated outposts so as to **legalize** thousands of unauthorized settler homes (Berger, Y., “Israel Presents: How to Legalize West Bank Settlements Built on Private Palestinian Land,” *Haaretz*, 4 May 2018). In mid-October 2018, the Knesset’s Internal Affairs Committee called for the **retroactive legalization** of 70 outposts built on privately owned Palestinian land, e.g., by including them as neighborhoods of existing settlements.

Distribution of Settlements in the West Bank



**West Bank Areas A, B, C:**

Area	Oslo II, 1995	Wye River, 1998	Sharm El-Sheikh, 1999
A	2.0%	9.1%	17.2%
B	26.0%	20.9%	23.8%
C	72.0%	70.0%	59.0%

A map of the West Bank showing the locations of Area A, Area B, and Area C. The map includes labels for Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Hebron. Area A is the lightest gray, Area B is medium gray, and Area C is the darkest gray.

full Palestinian control; mainly urban areas.

Palestinian civil and Israeli security control; mainly populated rural areas.

full Israeli control; settlements, settlement access roads, buffer zones (near settlements, roads, strategic areas and Israel) and almost all of the Jordan Valley. Area C holds 63% of the West Bank's agricultural lands.

To make things worse, a new **Military Order (No. 1797)** was signed on 17 April 2018, effectively repealing existing Jordanian planning and construction law in the occupied West Bank, and abolishing the right to appeal against planned demolitions or obtain a permit retroactively.



Total Area of Palestinian Governorates (in km<sup>2</sup>)

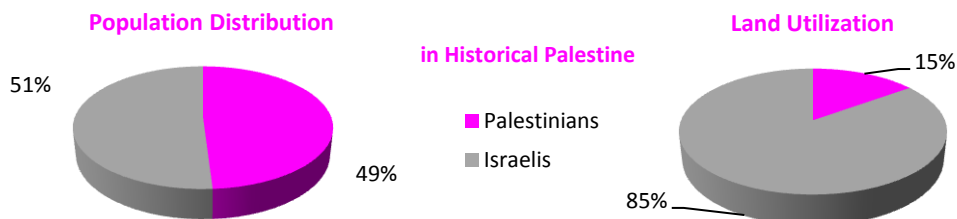
Governorate	Total Area	Governorate	Total Area
Jenin	583	Hebron	997
Tubas	402	<b>Total WB</b>	<b>5,655</b>
Tulkarm	246	North Gaza	61
Qalqilya	166	Gaza	74
Salfit	204	Deir Balah	58
Nablus	605	Khan Younis	108
Ramallah	855	Rafah	64
Jerusalem <sup>1</sup>	345	<b>Total Gaza</b>	<b>365</b>
Jericho	593	<b>TOTAL WBGS</b>	<b>6,020</b>
Bethlehem	659		

Source: PCBS, *Land Use Statistics*.<sup>1</sup> excl. the annexed part.

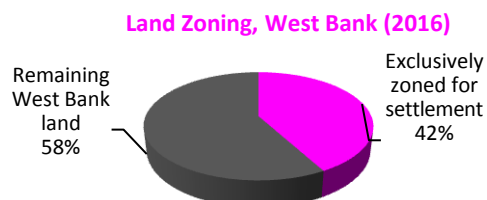
## ■ Land &amp; Land Confiscation

1 dunum = ¼ acre or 1000 m<sup>2</sup> or 1 km<sup>2</sup>

- Before the **War of 1948**, Palestinians owned about 87.5% of the total area of historical Palestine (26,323 km<sup>2</sup> or 26,323,000 dunums), while Jews owned 6.6% of the total lands. The remaining 5.9% was 'state land' as classified by the British Mandate (British Government, *A Survey of Palestine*, 1945-1946).
- Today, Israelis constitute around 52% of the total population in historical Palestine but **utilize** over 85% of the **total land** area, while Palestinians comprised 48% of the population and utilize less than 15% of the land (PCBS, *Press Release on the Occasion of Land Day*, March 2017).



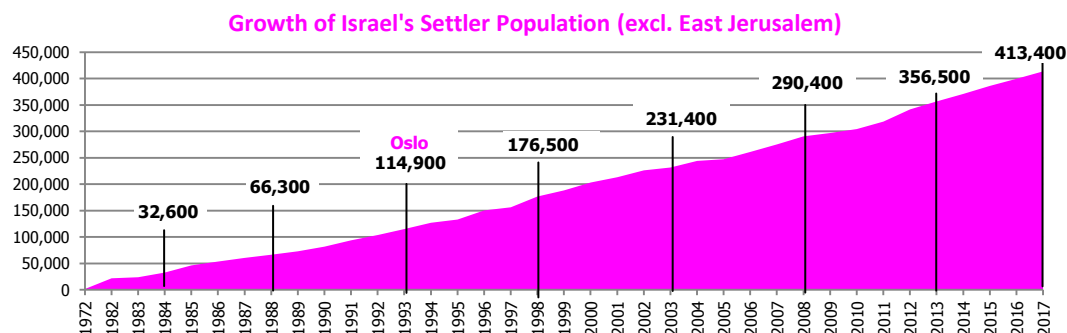
- The **status of settlement lands** is complicated. In the West Bank, only about 30% of the land is registered (since registration ceased following Israel's occupation in 1967) and Israel declared all unregistered and non-cultivated land as "state land" in the 1980s - subsequently building settlements there (World Bank, *Palestinian Economic Prospects: Aid, Access & Reform*. 2008). As Israel does not recognize Ottoman or British-era deeds, 72% of the West Bank is today considered "state land" (Halper, Jeff, *Obstacles to Peace a Reframing of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, Jerusalem: ICAHD, May 2018).
- Since 1967, Israel has **expropriated** some **24% of the West Bank** for settlements, highways, bypass roads, military installations, nature reserves and infrastructure (*Ibid.*).
- Declaring land as "**state land**" is a method of confiscation Israel has exploited to take control of West Bank land, allocating 99.76% (or 674,459 dunums) of "**state land**" in the West Bank to Israeli settlers, and just 0.24% (1,625 dunums) to Palestinians (Peace Now, *State Land Allocation in the West Bank - For Israelis Only*, July 2018).
- The **built-up area** of settlements is less than 2% of the territory, but settlers *de facto* **control** at least 42% of West Bank land (Peace Now, *Israeli Settlements 2016 Map*).
- About 48% of the settlements' built-up area are located on **privately owned Palestinian land** (PCBS, *Press Release on the Eve of the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Land Day March 30<sup>th</sup>*, 2017).



- Israel has constructed a network of **bypass roads** in the West Bank to circumvent and isolate Palestinian localities and block their development, while linking settlements to one another and to Israel proper. Under the pretext of military or security purposes Palestinians are **denied access** to most of the roads as well as to a 50-75 m buffer zone on each side of them.
- Since 1967, Israeli organizations have used “**archaeological preservation**” as a **pretext** to dispossess Palestinians of land and cultural/historical assets and expand their settlement enterprise across the West Bank. This is done by manipulating the jurisdiction of settlements to include antiquity sites, by taking over such sites, or using excavations to retroactively justify the establishment of new settlements (Yesh Din/Emek Shaveh, *Appropriating the Past: Israel’s Archaeological Practices in the West Bank*, December 2017).
- A **new Israeli NIS 1.4 billion plan** that addresses environment problems in the West Bank and includes the **transfer of waste** from Jerusalem to a yet to be built waste treatment facility near Ma’ale Adumim settlement, is seen by opposition lawmakers and Palestinians as an attempt to divert funds to Jewish settlements and annex the territory under the pretext of building of infrastructure (Berger, Y., “Israel Promoting Plan to Recycle Its Trash in the West Bank,” *Haaretz*, 6 August 2018).
- In February 2018, the Knesset passed a bill that **extends the state’s jurisdiction** outside of its borders, bringing colleges and universities in settlements under the authority of the Israeli **Council for Higher Education**, no longer questioning the extraterritorial application of Israeli law.
- Another attempt towards *de facto* annexation is a bill, passed by the Knesset on 28 May 2018 in the first of three readings, which will give the **Jerusalem District Court jurisdiction over land disputes** in the West Bank (which since 1967 had been under the jurisdiction of the Israeli High Court). The intention is to further extend and formalize Israel’s application of its domestic law and legal structures in territory that is beyond its sovereign borders; to give settlers an advantage in court over Palestinian plaintiffs; and (c) to circumvent a High Court which is considered to give too much attention to international law.

## ■ Settler Population

- According to **Peace Now**, the total number of settlers in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, has reached **413,400** in 2017.
- According to Israeli CBS data, the settler **growth rate** in 2017 was 3.5% - way larger than Israel’s general growth rate of 2% (Jews only: 1.7%), which indicates it is not only “natural growth” but a clear expansionist policy of the Israeli government. The number of **settlers** in the **West Bank** reached **413,400** at the end of 2017. The West Bank settler population is equivalent to 4.6% of Israel’s total population, or 6% of Israel’s Jewish population (CBS, *Statistical Abstract of Israel 2018*).

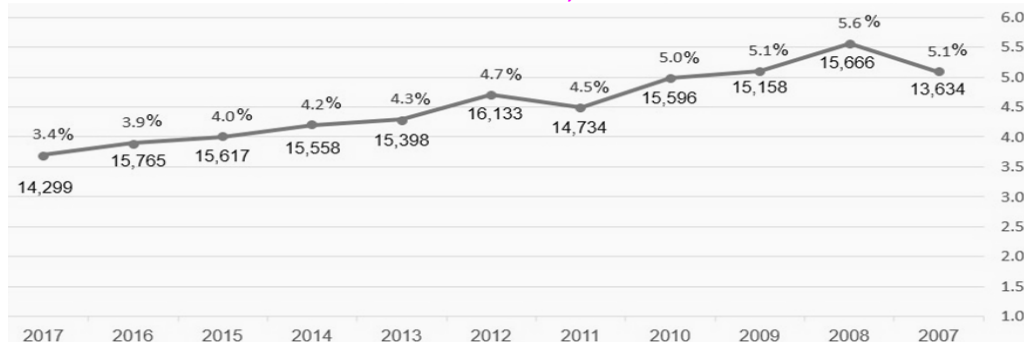


Source: Israeli Ministry of Interior, and Israeli CBS.

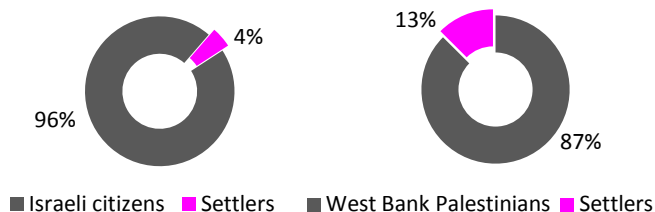
- According to the Interior Ministry’s Population Immigration and Border Authority (PIBA), there were **435,708** Israelis living in over 150 West Bank settlements and illegal outposts in 2017, in-

cluding **14,299** that were added in **2017**. However, the **settler growth rate** has **decreased** for the sixth consecutive year, from 3.9% in 2016 to 3.4% (for which the settlers' Yesha Council blames an alleged "quiet freeze" on settlement building), although it still outpaces Israel's national average of just under 2%. The settler population, with 47% below the age of 18, is far **younger** than the rest of the Israeli-Jewish population (27%) ("Settler growth rate declines for sixth straight year," *The Times of Israel*, 21 January 2018).

Settler Growth Rates, 2007-2017



Source: "Settler growth rate declines for sixth straight year," *The Times of Israel*, 21 Jan. 2018 (Courtesy: Yesha Council)

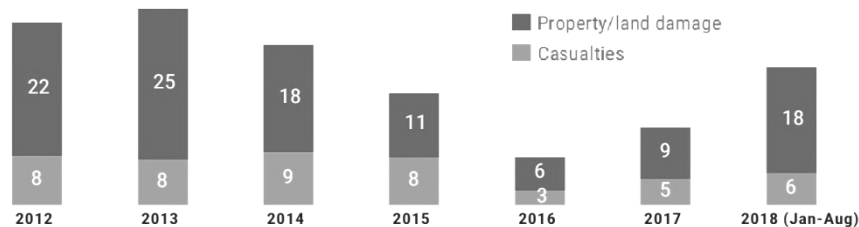
Settlers as portion of  
Israeli population      West Bank population

Source: Peace Now, Data: CBS.

- **PCBS** counts **653,621 settlers** at the end of 2017: including 306,529 in the Jerusalem Governorate (=46.9%), of which and **225,335** in annexed East Jerusalem. The **ratio** of settlers to the Palestinian population is 22.6 per 100 (up from 21.4 in 2016) in the West Bank and 79.9 in annexed East Jerusalem (PCBS, *Israeli Settlements in Palestine, Annual Statistical Report 2017*, November 2018).
- **Settlers in Area C** are with 5% annual growth the fastest growing demographic group (for comparison: in Israel proper the rate is only 1.9%) (OCHA, 2017). The **ultra-Orthodox**, who make up around 10% of the total Israeli population, now count for **one third of the settlers** in the West Bank ("Ultra-Orthodox population grows in Israeli settlements," *AFP*, 9 May 2018).
- In 2018 (as of 22 October), OCHA recorded 230 incidents of **settler violence** (e.g., assaulting Palestinians, damaging property, trees or crops, raiding villages). The number of settler attacks against during 2018 grew by 57% and 175% compared with 2017 and 2016, respectively (OCHA, *Protection of Civilians*, 9-22 October 2018). The PLO Negotiations Affairs Department recorded **339 settler attacks** between Jan. and Aug. 2018.
- Settler violence often comes in the shape of so-called "**price-tag**" attacks (see <http://peacenow.org/entry.php?id=1077> for a 2011-2017 timeline of such attacks).



### Monthly Average of Israeli-Settler Related Incidents Causing Casualties or Property Damage

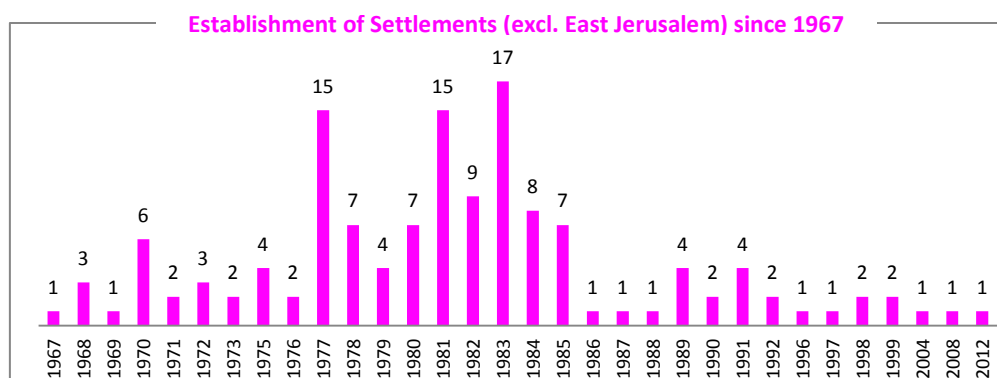


Source: OCHA, *oPt Humanitarian Bulletin*, August 2018.

- Of over 1,200 investigations into **settler crimes against Palestinians** opened between 2005 and 2017, only 3% have resulted in a conviction. Of 225 investigation files monitored by Yesh Din between 2014 and the end of August 2017, 185 had been processed by the end of 2017, with 21 (11.4%) resulting in indictments and 118 (64%) being closed (during the period 2005-2017 a total of 82% cases were closed). In 2016, Yesh Din documented 113 incidents of ideologically motivated crime against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank (Yesh Din, Data Sheet, December 2017: *Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank*, January 2017).

### ■ Settlements & Outposts

- Peace Now** currently lists **130 settlements** and **101 unauthorized outposts** in the West Bank (excl. East Jerusalem with another 28 settlements and numerous enclaves). In total, 119 outposts were established, of which two were evicted (Migron and Amona) and 15 were legalized. At least 35 others are in the process of being legalized.
- In 2017, **one new settlement** - Amihai (near Nablus, for evacuees of the Amona outpost) - and **three new outposts** were established: Neve Achi (Ramallah), Kedem Arava (Jericho), and Shabtai's Farm (Dahariya) (Peace Now, *Annual Settlement Construction Report for 2017*, March 2018).
- The Israeli **CBS** records 126 so-called "Jewish Localities in the Judea and Samaria Area".
- PCBS** figures for 2017 count a total of 435 Israeli "sites," including **150 settlements** (of which 125 are affiliated with the Yesha Council, and 25 annexed to Israel), **116 outputs** and **169 others** (e.g., military bases) (PCBS, *Israeli Settlements in Palestine, Annual Statistical Report 2017*, November 2018).
- Israel has helped establish at least 14 **outposts** in the West Bank since 2011, even though the government was supposed to have ceased the practice in 2005 (Berger, Y., "Israel Helped Establish 14 Illegal West Bank Outposts Since 2011," *Haaretz*, 25 December 2017).



Source: Peace Now, *Settlement List*, 2018.



## Settlements in the West Bank, 2018

Name	Pop.	Establ.	District	Name	Pop.	Establ.	District
Adora	421	1984	Hebron	Har Shmuel <sup>4</sup>		1998	Ramallah
Alei Zahav	1,643	1982	Tulkarem	Hashmonaim	2,762	1985	Ramallah
Alfei Menashe	7,583	1983	Tulkarem	Hebron		1978	Hebron
Almog	175	1977	Jericho	Hermesh	223	1982	Jenin
Almon	1,190	1982	Ramallah	Hinanit	1,164	1981	Jenin
Alon	<sup>1</sup>	1990	Ramallah	Immanuel	3,309	1983	Tulkarem
Alon Shvut	3,180	1970	Bethlehem	Itamar	1,151	1984	Nablus
Amihai		2017	Nablus	Kalia	386	1970	Jericho
Argaman	130	1968	Jericho	Karmeit Tzur	1,047	1984	Hebron
Ariel	<b>19,220</b>	1978	Tulkarem	Karne Shomron	6,560	1978	Tulkarem
Asfar	510	1983	Hebron	Kedumim	4,323	1977	Tulkarem
Ateret	875	1981	Ramallah	Keidar	1,294	1985	Bethlehem
Avnei Hefetz	1,759	1990	Tulkarem	Kfar Adumim	4,271	1979	Ramallah
Barqan	1,536	1981	Tulkarem	Kfar Etzion	1,099	1967	Bethlehem
Bat Ayin	1,307	1989	Bethlehem	Kfar Ha'oranim	2,700	1998	Ramallah
Beit Arye	4,322	1981	Ramallah	Kfar Tapuah	970	1978	Tulkarem
Beit El	6,115	1977	Ramallah	Kiryat Arba	7,109	1972	Hebron
Beit Ha'arava	183	1980	Jericho	Kiryat Netafim	910	1983	Tulkarem
Beit Horon	1,175	1977	Ramallah	Kochav Ha'shachar	1,985	1977	Ramallah
Beitar Illit	<b>51,636</b>	1985	Bethlehem	Kochav Ya'akov	7,313	1985	Ramallah
Bqa'ot	172	1972	Jericho	Ma'ale Adumim	<b>37,670</b>	1975	Bethlehem
Bracha	2,339	1983	Nablus	Ma'ale Amos	390	1981	Bethlehem
Bruchin	602	1999/2012 <sup>2</sup>	Tulkarem	Ma'ale Efraim	1,206	1970	Jericho
Carmel	407	1981	Hebron	Ma'ale Levona	826	1983	Ramallah
Chemdat	230	1980	Jericho	Ma'ale Mihmash	1,287	1981	Ramallah
Dolev	1,310	1983	Ramallah	Ma'ale Shomron	935	1980	Tulkarem
Efrat	8,658	1980	Bethlehem	Ma'on	502	1981	Hebron
El'azar	2,568	1975	Bethlehem	Maskiyot	253	2009	Jericho
Eli	3,649	1984	Nablus	Masu'a	149	1970	Jericho
Elkana	3,898	1977	Tulkarem	Matityahu	772	1981	Ramallah
Elon More	1,653	1979	Nablus	Mechola	471	1970	Jericho
Enav	684	1981	Tulkarem	Mechora	142	1973	Jericho
Eshkolot	491	1982	Hebron	Mevo Dotan	386	1978	Jenin
Etz Efraim	1,225	1985	Tulkarem	Mevo Horon	2,517	1970	Ramallah
Geva Binyamin/Adam	4,860	1984	Ramallah	Migdal Oz	605	1977	Bethlehem
Gilgal	178	1970	Jericho	Migdalim	269	1983	Jericho
Gitit	324	1973	Jericho	Mitzpe Shalem	174	1971	Jericho
Givat Ze'ev	<b>16,865</b>	1983	Ramallah	Mitzpe Yericho	2,164	1978	Jericho
Giv'on <sup>3</sup>		1977	Ramallah	Modi'in Ilit	66,847	1996	Ramallah
Giv'on Ha'hadasha	1,135	1980	Ramallah	Na'ale	1,661	1988	Ramallah
Gva'ot		1984/1997 <sup>2</sup>	Bethlehem	Na'ama	100	1982	Jericho
Haggai	592	1984	Hebron	Nahliel	639	1984	Ramallah
Halamish	1,278	1977	Ramallah	Negohot	277	1999	Hebron
Hamra	127	1971	Jericho	Nerya <sup>5</sup>		1991	Ramallah
Har Adar	3,980	1986	Ramallah	Netiv Ha'gdud	190	1976	Jericho
Har Gilo	1,262	1972	Bethlehem	Neve Daniel	2,278	1982	Bethlehem

Nili	1,552	1981	Ramallah	Sansana	377	1999	Hebron
Niran	71	1977	Jericho	Sha'arei Tikva	5,259	1983	Tulkarem
Nirit <sup>6</sup>		2004	Tulkarem	Shadmot Mehola	608	1979	Jericho
Nofei Prat <sup>7</sup>		1992	Ramallah	Shaked	864	1981	Jenin
Nofim	690	1987	Tulkarem	Shani <sup>6</sup>		1981	Hebron
Nokdim	1,708	1982	Bethlehem	Shavei Shomron	784	1977	Nablus
Ofarim <sup>8</sup>		1989	Ramallah	Shilo	2,948	1979	Ramallah
Ofra	3,605	1975	Ramallah	Shim'a	625	1985	Hebron
Oranit	7,626	1985	Tulkarem	Shvut Rachel		1991	Ramallah
Otniel	976	1983	Hebron	Susiya	978	1983	Hebron
Ovnat	112	1983	Jericho	Tal Menashe		1992	Jenin
Pedu'el	1,371	1984	Tulkarem	Talmon	3,879	1989	Ramallah
Petzael	257	1975	Jericho	Teko'a	2,752	1977	Bethlehem
Pnei Hever	548	1982	Hebron	Telem	362	1982	Hebron
Psagot	1,775	1981	Ramallah	Tene	756	1983	Hebron
Rechelim	668	1991	Nablus	Tomer	226	1978	Jericho
Reihan	185	1977	Jenin	Tzofim	1,622	1989	Tulkarem
Revava	1,682	1991	Nablus	VeredJericho	252	1980	Jericho
Rimonim	625	1977	Ramallah	Yafit	149	1980	Jericho
Ro'i	165	1976	Jericho	Yakir	1,863	1981	Tulkarem
Rosh Tzurim	934	1970	Bethlehem	Yatir/Mezadot Yehuda	466	1983	Hebron
Rotem	131	2009	Jericho	Yitav	321	1970	Jericho
Sal'it	818	1977	Tulkarem	Yitzhar	1,468	1983	Nablus

Source: Peace Now, *Settlement List*, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> officially part of Kfar Adumim

<sup>2</sup> first as military outpost; then as civilian settlement

<sup>3</sup> united with Givat Ze'ev

<sup>4</sup> officially part of Givat Ze'ev

<sup>5</sup> officially part of Talmon, aka Talmon B.

<sup>6</sup> town inside Israel that expanded into the West Bank

<sup>7</sup> officially part of Kfar Adumim.

<sup>8</sup> united with Beit Arye in 2004

## ■ Housing Starts & Ongoing Construction

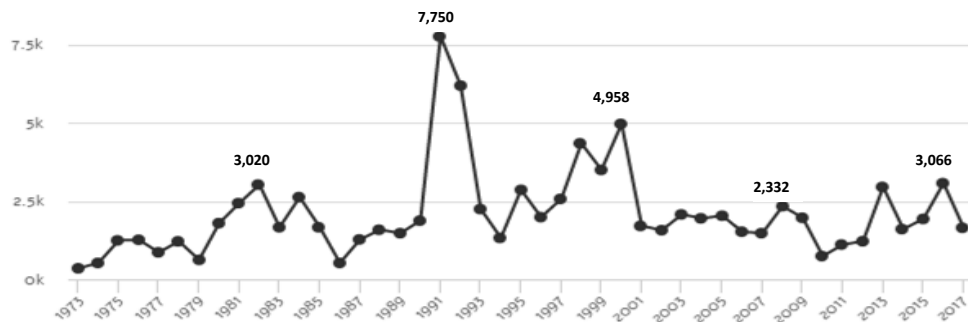
- In 2017, construction began on **2,783 new housing units** in West Bank settlements, around 17% higher than the yearly average rate since **2009**. Of these, 78% took place in **isolated settlements**. At least 10% (282 units) of the total units was built illegal according to Israeli laws, mainly in outposts. An additional **6,742 housing units** were **advanced** through promotions of plans in 59 different settlements (compared to 2,657 units in 2016). **Tenders** were published for **3,154 units** - a two-decade record high (Peace Now, *Annual Settlement Construction Report for 2017*, March 2018).
- According to Peace Now, in the year and a half since President **Trump took office** some **14,454 settler units** were approved in the West Bank, which is more than three times the amount approved in the year and half before his inauguration (4,476 units).
- On 22 August 2018, the Israeli Defense Ministry's **High Planning Council** (which is in charge of regulating construction in the West Bank) **advanced plans for 1,004 new settlement units**, 96% of which are located deep inside of the West Bank. Of the total, 620 units were approved for deposit for public review and 382 units were given final approval for construction.
- In the first half of 2018, **construction began** on 1,073 new settlement units, and another 1,075 new units have been **completed**, marking together a 66% increase over the 870 in the first half of 2017 (CBS data).



- Throughout 2018, Israel has advanced plans for hundreds of **new settlement units** located across the West Bank, of which **80%** are to be built in **isolated settlements** and some 1,500 units **outside of the “built up”** area of existing settlements. There are also plans to establish two entirely new settlements (Peace Now).

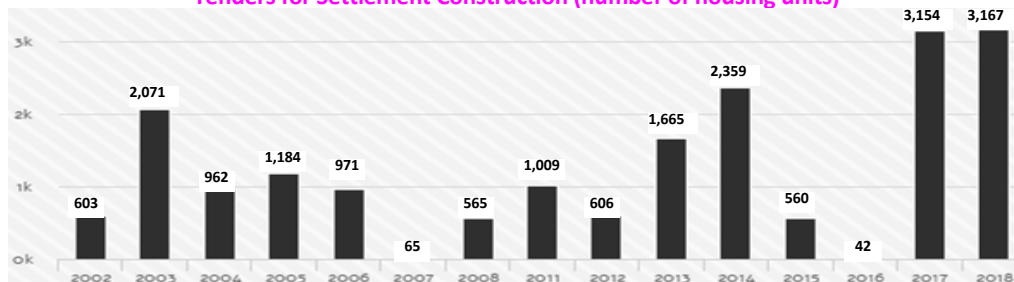


### Constructions Starts



Source: Israeli CBS.

### Tenders for Settlement Construction (number of housing units)



Source: Peace Now (<http://peacenow.org.il/en/settlements-watch/settlements-data/construction>; Data: CBS).

## ■ Israeli Government Spending

- Government expenditure** in settlements includes - besides high security costs – subsidizing house prices, mortgage grants (up to 95% of the cost), Priority ‘A’ categorization (for state-subsidized benefits and incentives such as 7%-tax breaks, free schooling and school busing, and business grants). Accordingly, the government also loses tax revenues.
- Settlement units are often marketed as part of the **“Buyer’s Price” program**, under which the government sells land at low prices to construction companies, which in turn commit to offering future settlement units at below market prices, thus creating a **financial subsidy** that incentivizes Israelis to move into settlements.
- A recent *Haaretz* investigation revealed that the **World Zionist Organization’s Settlement Division** has funneled **public funds** to provide dozens of **loans** over the past two decades to fund the establishment of **unauthorized outposts and farms** across the West Bank, even in cases where the government was aware that the plots in question were Palestinian-owned and had mistakenly been transferred to the division (Berger, Y., “Revealed: Israeli Taxpayers Helped Bankroll Illegal West Bank Outposts for Decades”, *Haaretz*, 22 October 2018).

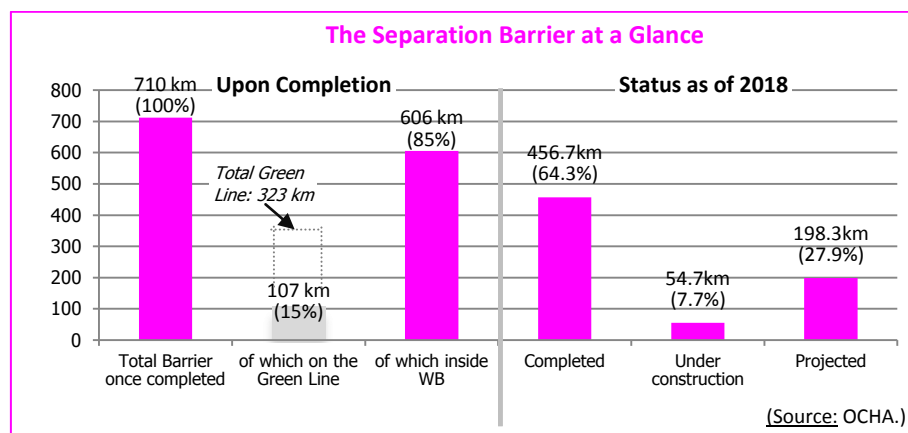
- Some 37% of the World Zionist Organization (WZO)'s Settlement Division's rental **properties** are located inside of West Bank settlements, where it also offers **mobile homes for rent** for 20-30% cheaper than in Israel proper (Berger, Y., "World Zionist Organization Rents Out Homes in West Bank Settlements for Less Than in Israel Proper," *Haaretz*, 8 May 2018).
- On 14 October 2018, the Israeli Cabinet voted to expedite the establishment of a **new 31-unit settlement** on Shuhada Street in the heart of **Hebron** at a cost of NIS 22 million. If implemented, this will be the first new government-backed settlement in Hebron since 2002.
- Israeli taxpayers also pay for **evicting illegal outposts**, providing temporary housing for the evacuees and compensating them. On 12 August 2018, the Knesset Finance Committee approved the transfer of **NIS 35 million** for the construction of new housing sites for the 65 families evacuated from the **Amona** and **Netiv Ha'avot** outposts (Berger, Y., "Israel Allots \$9.5 Million to Build New Settlement for Evacuees of Illegal Outposts," *Haaretz*, 13 August 2018).
- Some 80% of all Israeli **security** forces in the West Bank are busy **guarding settlements**, only 20% "secure" the 1967 lines (Peace Now Infographic, *50 Years of Occupation - The Security Burden Continues*, 2017).
- Plans are underway to **double the size of the Israeli Civil Administration staff** in the West Bank, adding 280 employees to mainly aid the growing number of settlers ("Civil Administration to add staff for first time since 1993 Oslo Accords," *Israel Hayom*, 31 October 2018).
- In March 2018, the Knesset approved its **state budget for 2019**; with NIS 480 billion in total (US\$ 137 billion) it increased by 2.6% compared to 2018. Some 11.5% of the total (US\$21 billion) is allocated to the Defense Ministry and expenditure on the army, internal security, occupation and settlement amounts to almost 25% of the budget.
- The Israeli Minister of Social Equality, Gila Gamliel, has recently **allocated NIS 1.5 million** to a **film project** – jointly with the Menachem Begin Heritage Center and the Yesha Settler Council - that will glorify the history of the settlement movement and of leading settlement figures (Lis, J. "Israeli Ministry to Film 1.5 Million-shekel Oral History of 'Legends of Settlement'", *Haaretz*, 8 October 2018).
- A recent report on how **Israeli banks** facilitate and profit from settlements by **financing** and becoming partners in construction projects concludes that these banks are complicit in war crimes, including pillaging (Human Rights Watch, *Bankrolling Abuse: Israeli Banks in West Bank Settlements*, 2018).

## ■ Israel's Separation Barrier

- Construction of the separation barrier began in June 2002 - officially for security reasons, though Palestinians and many observers see it as part of an Israeli strategy to **annex** large parts of West Bank land while encircling Palestinian population centers. East of the barrier – which runs through some of the most fertile parts of the West Bank in the form of either an 8-m high **concrete wall** (mainly around East Jerusalem) or of trenches, fences, razor wire and military-only roads - is a 30-100-m wide 'buffer zone' with electrified fences, sensors and patrol roads and some armed sniper towers.
- On 9 July 2004, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled that Israel's construction of the barrier was "contrary to international law" as it involves destruction/confiscation of Palestinian property and imposes severe movement restrictions, and that Israel must "cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem," return seized property and compensate Palestinian landowners whose interests have been damaged by its construction. The ICJ's Advisory Opinion was confirmed by **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** Res. ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004. In Dec. 2006, UNGA established the **United Nations Register of Damage** Caused by the Construction of the Wall (UNROD), which, by 16 June 2017, had collected 62,578 claims (mostly agriculture losses) and over 1 million supporting documents (<http://www.unrod.org/>).



- The barrier's total **length** (constructed and projected) with 710 km is more than twice the length of the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line = 323 km) between the West Bank and Israel; upon completion, only 15% of the barrier will run on the **Green Line** or in Israel, while 85% will be **inside the West Bank**. Some 9.4% of West Bank land, including East Jerusalem, is located between the barrier and the Green Line. Some 65 of the 150 West Bank **settlements** and over 85% of the total settler population are located on the 'Israeli' side of the barrier's route (OCHA Map, *West Bank- Access Restrictions*, January 2017).
- At least 10% of the most **fertile land** in the West Bank has been lost due to construction of the Separation Barrier (UNCTAD, *Report on UNCTAD's Assistance to the Palestinian People*, 2016).
- Information on **companies involved in building the wall** and how can be found here: <https://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/companiesbuildingwall.pdf>.



### Recommended Research Sources:

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<http://www.poica.org>  
<http://www.btselem.org/topic/settlements>  
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