

# Executive Summary

The total value of structures built in West Bank settlements (excluding infrastructures) amounts to 121.2 billion NIS, in 2015 prices. Over the past year, around 300 thousand square meters were added to the constructed area, with a value increase of about 8.9 billion NIS. Current building stock represents more than 100% increase over the past 18 years, from 4.85 million square meters in 1998 to 9.97 million square meters in 2015.

The annual governmental excess support (comparative to other Israeli regions) to local authorities in the West Bank stands at 570.1 million NIS, or 1,540 NIS per capita. The national average share of governmental support of local authority's budget stands at 28.9%, compared to 46.8% in the West Bank. State participation in the budgets of local authorities in the West Bank is 3,904 NIS per capita, compared to 3,431 in the Negev and 3,031 in the Galilee.

In addition, authorities in the West Bank received in 2015 balancing grants of around 360.7 million NIS. An average resident of the West Bank received 1,013.6 NIS, compared to the national average (excluding WB) of 335.0 NIS. Around the same difference is seen in development grants which are 2.8 times larger. A West Bank resident is receiving 99.3 NIS more than residents of the North (11%), 616.1 NIS more than residents of the south (155%) and 895.7 NIS more relative to Jerusalem district residents (760%).

Compared to 2014, the Settlement Division's budget suffered a reduction. In the Central Region the decline is of approximately 25.7% and in the Northern District, around 56%. However, in December 2015 the government decided on a dedicated transfer of excess funds to the division. The dedicated funds will divert some extra 79 million NIS to the division's Central Region's budget. At this point the total budget of the Settlement Division's Central Region stands at 81.03 million NIS.

In 2015 there was a decline of 35% in the budget of the Ministry of Construction and Housing for West Bank settlements, which is now estimated at about 2.1 million NIS. As part of submitted changes to the national budget a supplemental budget for Ma'ale Adumim in the amount of 10.7 million NIS is planned.

As of academic year 2015, 45% of the pupils in the West Bank study under the Ultra-Orthodox education sector and 39% are enrolled in religious state schools. West Bank religious pupils constitute about 18% of all religious pupils in the country. According to the

Ministry of Education 2015 budget (and to coalition agreements) West Bank pupils attending religious institutions will get 651.7 million NIS.

A new tax benefits scheme for preferred localities was approved in November 2015. The new layout includes, for the first time, some 17 thousands people living in West Bank settlements. The annual estimated cost of the new benefit is around 42 million NIS per year.

The total annual cost of the additional expenses for settlements in the West Bank amounted to 1.412 billion NIS in 2015. The additional annual expenditure per capita stands at 3,815 NIS and 18,034 per household. Settlements east of the barrier receive significantly greater additional expenses of 6,075 NIS per capita, compared to 3,145 for settlements west of the barrier. In 2015, the total estimated additional government spending in the West Bank rose by 28.4% or around 312.3 million NIS. The percentage change in direct expenses (intended to persons or households) was 85.8% (an increase of 44.5 million NIS) compared to 25.6% for indirect expenses (intended to municipalities or development). The per capita increase in spending was 23.5% (725 NIS) and the per household was 31.7%.