Zoning

After the signing of the Oslo Accords on September 13th 1993, the West Bank was divided into three zones according to the role of the authority present, namely Areas A, B, and C:

- Area A refers to all the urban Palestinian areas within the WBGS where the Palestinian Authority has full civil and security control. After the 1999 Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, this represents 17.2% of the West Bank.
- Area B refers to all the rural areas within the WBGS where the Palestinian Authority has civilian jurisdiction, but no security control. This currently makes up a further 23.8% of the West Bank.
- Area C refers to that area within the WBGS that is under full Israeli security and civil control. It includes the Israeli settlements, and military areas. This currently represents 59% of the West Bank.

Construction in Area C requires permits from the Israeli civil administration. Investments in Area A and B follow certain criteria:

- Local municipalities set land-usage regulations for lands that fall within their jurisdictions.
- Most of the lands within these zones are mapped and designated for different usages: Industrial, agricultural, residential, etc.
- Any land that is not within the jurisdiction of a municipality, and which is not designated for a certain use, is under the regulation of the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government.
- Investing in a non-designated area is viable through the consent of the local authority and Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, via necessary permits and licenses.
- Permits and licensing for investments are obtained from the local authority, or from the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, after careful consideration, by the latter, of the investment proposal.
- Permits and licenses are controlled and regulated by the local Authority and the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government.

Zoning

Palestinian Governorates:

- **Northern West Bank Governorates**

Governorates	Population (%)*	Economy
Jenin	256,212 (6.8%)	Agriculture, livestock, chemical industry, newly established industrial zone
Tubas	48,771 (1.3%)	Agriculture and farming
Tulkarem	158,213 (4.2%)	Agriculture: citrus fruits, olives, olive oil, wheat, potatoes, sesame
Nablus	321,493 (8.5%)	Agriculture, trade, traditional industries: soap, olive oil, handicrafts, textile manufacturing, stone quarrying, higher education
Qalqiliya	91,046 (2.4%)	Trade and commerce, previous labour exporter to Israel
Salfit	59,464 (1.6%)	Agriculture: olives, olive oil, grapes, apple orchards, almonds

- **Central Governorates**

Governorates	Population (%)*	Economy
Ramallah & Al-Bireh	278,018 (7.4%)	Services, trade, commerce, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry, public administration, higher education
Jericho	41,724 (1.1%)	Tourism, agriculture (mainly citrus fruits)
Jerusalem	362,521 (4.7%)	Dependant on pilgrimage, tourism, increasing high tech industry.

- **Southern Governorates**

Governorates	Population (%)*	Economy
Bethlehem	176,515 (4.7%)	Shopping, olive-wood and mother-of-pearl handicrafts, stone and marble cutting, higher education.
Hebron	551,310 (14.7%)	Grape and farming industry, stone and marble industry

- **Gaza Strip Governorates**

Governorates	Population (%)*	Economy
North Gaza	270,245 (7.2%)	Floral industry, agriculture (mainly citrus fruits), fishing, trade, local industry.
Gaza	496,410 (13.2%)	
Deir Al-Balah	205,534 (5.5%)	
Khan Yunis	270,979 (7.2%)	
Rafah	173,371 (4.6%)	

* Percentage of governorate population to total Palestinian population of WBGS.

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This paper was prepared by the Palestinian Economic Policy Institute (Mas) on behalf of the Palestine Investment Conference.