



Office of the State Comptroller  
Annual Report 70C | 2021

**Judea and Samaria Region**

**Staff Officers in the  
Civil Administration  
in the Judea and  
Samaria Region**

Abstract



# Staff Officers in the Civil Administration in the Judea and Samaria Region

## Abstract

### Background

The Civil Administration is subordinate to the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), and its mission is, inter alia, to implement government policy in the Judea and Samaria region and to promote the policy in regard to civilian affairs, in coordination with the government ministries, the IDF and the Defense Establishment. Pursuant to the law that is applied in Judea and Samaria, the Civil Administration is tasked with managing civilian affairs in Judea and Samaria for the welfare and benefit of the population and providing and operating the public services, while considering the need to maintain public order and safety. Staff officers, who serve as the government ministries' professional representatives, are engaged in carrying out the Civil Administration's mission.

### Key figures

**25**

staff officers in the Civil Administration serve as professional representatives of the government ministries and are subordinate to both the military echelon and the civilian echelon

**314**

employees were employed in the Civilian Administration in 2019, 202 of whom were Israeli civil servants and 112 were Palestinian employees

**60%**

of the real-estate transaction files were scanned without scanning the certification of the transfer of the rights, which is the basis for registration in the land registers

**About 4 years**

duration of the process of computerizing the land registers in Judea and Samaria, which has not yet been completed.

**99,500**

the quota of permits to employ Palestinian workers in Israel that were approved by the government in 2018

**About 50%**

of the wages of a significant portion of Palestinian workers in Israel are transferred by them to "brokers"


**1.5 years**

have passed since the government resolution to revise the method of employing Palestinian workers in Israel in order to rectify failures discovered in the method of employment, which has not yet been revised

**8 years**







have passed since the Civil Administration's internal auditor retired and the position has not yet been filled

## Audit actions

-  From September 2018 to June 2019, the Office of the State Comptroller examined the activity of the staff officers in the Civil Administration. Organizational matters were examined during the audit and their activity and employment as civil servants were reviewed. The audit focused on activities of the offices of the employment, legal and land registration staff officers and on the planning bureau. During the audit, the Office of the State Comptroller conducted a process that included representatives of the Palestinian population on the subjects of employment, real estate and planning, as well as representatives of the Israeli population residing in Judea and Samaria.

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## Key findings

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-  **Interfaces between the Civil Administration and the Government Ministries** – government ministries have difficulties implementing their authorities and professional responsibility towards the staff officers, and most of them do not maintain professional control over the staff officers who are representatives of their ministries in Judea and Samaria.
  -  **Land registration arrangements are not being promoted with respect to Israeli settlement in Judea and Samaria** – due to the failure to resolve disagreements between the Civil Administration and the Ministry of Justice, land registration arrangements have not been advanced, which affected the Israeli residents of Judea and Samaria with respect to their ability to register real-estate ownership and rights in the land registers in Judea and Samaria, and which intermittently prevented progress in the process of computerization of real estate procedures in Judea and Samaria.
  -  **Trading in Palestinians' work permits** – the persistent phenomenon of trading in the work permits of Palestinians and of unlawfully collecting payments from Palestinian workers by employers and brokers were caused, inter alia, due to the failure to implement a government resolution.
  -  **Failure to fulfill the obligation to enforce the use of work permits for Palestinian workers in Israeli settlements within Judea and Samaria** – the staff officer in charge of employment is not enforcing the use of work permits, notwithstanding the security risk involved in employing Palestinian workers without lawful work permits.
  -  **Lack of a computerized system for the land register in Judea and Samaria** – real estate in Judea and Samaria is being registered using hard-copy registers and consequently, it is exposed to errors, inaccuracies, to deliberate biases in exceptional cases and to a non-optimal level of service.



**📌 Palestinian workers who are employed in the land registry unit** – although an employee of the land registry, who provides service to the Palestinian population in Judea and Samaria was detained by the Palestinian Authority, nobody in the Civil Administration or another Defense authority examined the expected outcomes and effects of his detention, or the possibility of information being leaked to the Palestinian Authority in additional instances as well.



**Backups of real-estate transaction files** – in 2013, the Civil Administration recognized the need to back-up the transaction files and land registers and began a backup process for them.

**Expansion of the Civil Administration's supervision and control over the staff officers** – between 2017 – 2019, the Civil Administration expanded the supervision and control over the staff officers using periodic control reports.

**Actions and involvement by the Ministry of Justice relating to real estate in Judea and Samaria** – the Ministry of Justice expressed willingness and invested resources to promote the issue of a Register of Authorizations, which may facilitate the residents of the Israeli settlements in the territories of Judea and Samaria.

## Key recommendations

- 💡** The head of the Civil Administration and COGAT, in collaboration with the government ministries, should regulate and define the content of the professional directives to staff officers and the scope of the supervision and professional control required in relation to them.
- 💡** The Ministry of Justice and the Civil Administration should take joint action to achieve the targets and accomplish the tasks at hand in relation to improving and optimizing the service being provided to residents of Judea and Samaria and, if there are disagreements between them, they should submit them for the resolution by the COGAT.
- 💡** The authorities responsible for implementing government resolutions and particularly, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, COGAT and the Civil Administration, should take action so that the new employment model relating to the employment of Palestinians in the construction industry in Israel will be implemented as soon as possible.
- 💡** The Civil Administration should improve the supervision of the mode of employment of Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and to fully utilize the enforcement tools available to it on the basis of the resources allocated to it.

- 💡 The Ministry of Justice and the Civil Administration should accelerate the computerization of the land registration in Judea and Samaria in order to improve the service to residents, to simplify the work processes in the land registries while saving resources, to ensure that the information is preserved and to enable the provision of up-to-date information regarding the status of real-estate rights in Judea and Samaria.

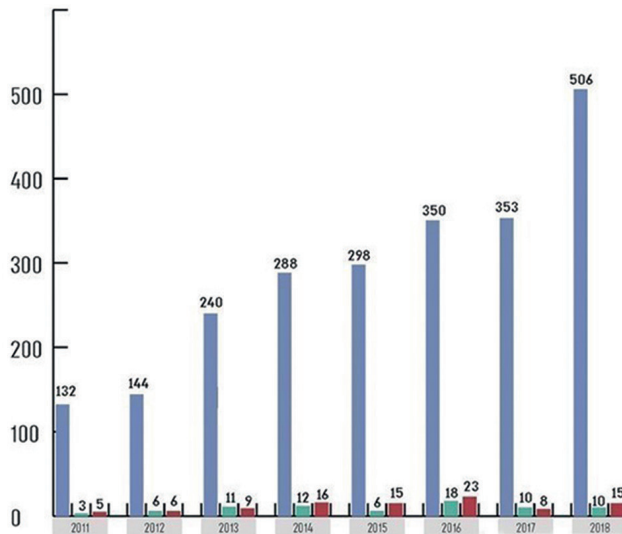
## The main deficiencies



Source: according to Civil Administration data; processed by the Office of the State Comptroller.



## Number of files discussed by the First Registration of Land Committee (2011 – 2018)



- First Registration of Land Committee's final decisions on local files
- First Registration of Land Committee's final decisions on Israeli files
- Number of files heard

Source: according to Civil Administration data; processed by the Office of the State Comptroller.

## Summary

The audit found deficiencies in the Civil Administration's activity and in the activity of the government ministries that are responsible for providing professional guidance to the staff officers in Judea and Samaria. The rectification of the deficiencies raised in the audit, some of which have persisted for many years already, will affect the fulfillment of the Civil Administration's mission and will lead to improved service to the population in Judea and Samaria. The head of the Civil Administration, COGAT and the government ministries should be required to promptly rectify the deficiencies.

