

important role in connecting Palestine with the outside world.

### 1.2.6 Trade

Palestine's trade grew substantially during the Mandate. Whereas in 1922 total trade was £P 7,115,000, it grew to £P 50,862,000 by the end of 1944, a sevenfold increase.<sup>23</sup> Imports increased from £P 5,726,000 in 1922 to £P 36,224,000 in 1944. Exports increased from £P 1,389,000 in 1922 to £P 14,638,000 in 1944. A major proportion of this increase in trade, whether measured in value or volume, was during the 1930s when world trade declined substantially. The increase in imports and exports, as measured in value, continued during WWII. However, measured in 1939 prices, the volume of exports increased by about twofold and imports decreased by about half.<sup>24</sup>

### 1.2.7 National Income

As might be expected, the above outlined growth in population, money and capital stock inflows, transportation infrastructure, and trade also meant and was reflected in the substantial increase in national output. According to one set of estimates, net domestic product, in current prices, increased from £P 12,896,000 in 1922 to £P 210,397,000 in 1947, a sixteenfold increase. In 1936 prices, net domestic product increased by eight and a half times from £P 8,360,000 in 1922 to

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<sup>23</sup>*Statistical Abstract, 1944/45*, 63.

<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*, 66.