

BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of approximately two million Palestinians in that area. Many of the current restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza and the imposition of a blockade. These restrictions continue to reduce access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future. The situation has been compounded by the restrictions imposed since June 2013 by the Egyptian authorities at Rafah Crossing, which had become the main crossing point used by Palestinian passengers in the Gaza Strip, given the restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings.



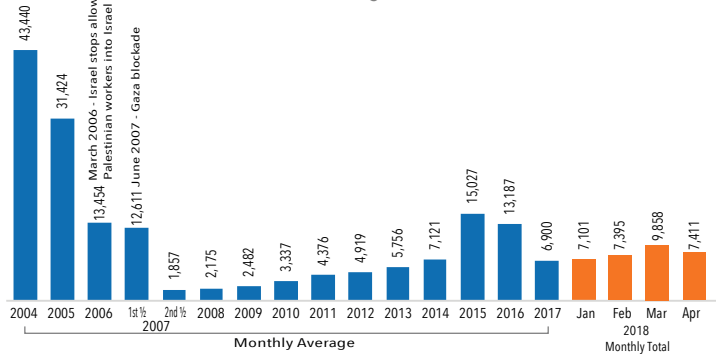
Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 25 days (closed on four Saturdays and one Friday) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Thursday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on three Fridays, as well as on two days of Israeli holidays, for exceptional humanitarian cases and foreign nationals.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during April was 9% below the monthly average in the first quarter of 2018, and 41% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Exits for trading and commercial purposes (3,323), which accounted for the largest number of crossings, increased by 2% compared with the monthly average of such exits in the first quarter of 2018 (3,267).
- The exit of patients and their companions (2,375) increased by 12% compared with the previous three months. The Israeli authorities stated that, in principle, they would not allow people injured in the demonstrations to exit Gaza for medical treatment in the West Bank or Israel.

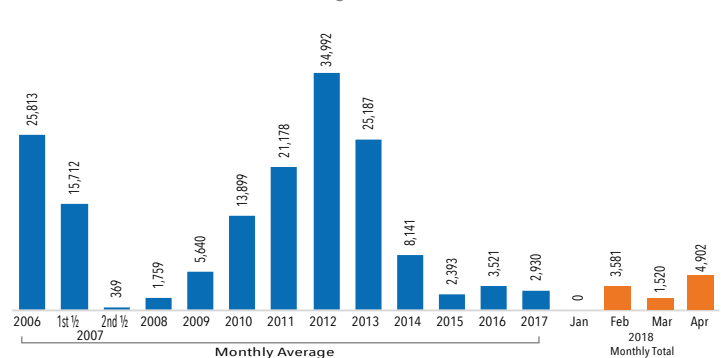
EREZ: Crossings into Israel



RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for six days in both directions, and one day in one direction (Entry into Gaza).
- A total of 4,902 crossings were recorded (798 entries and 4,104 exits).
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing has been partially open for only 17 days.
- At least 23,000 people, including humanitarian cases, are pre-registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, according to the local authorities in Gaza.
- Prior to the closure of Rafah in 2014, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed for health-related reasons (WHO).

RAFAH: Crossings in both directions



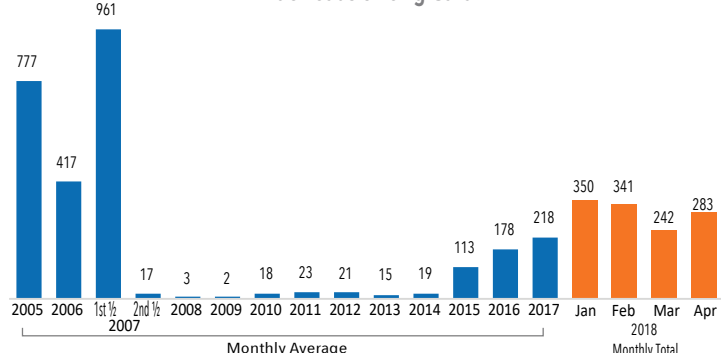
* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

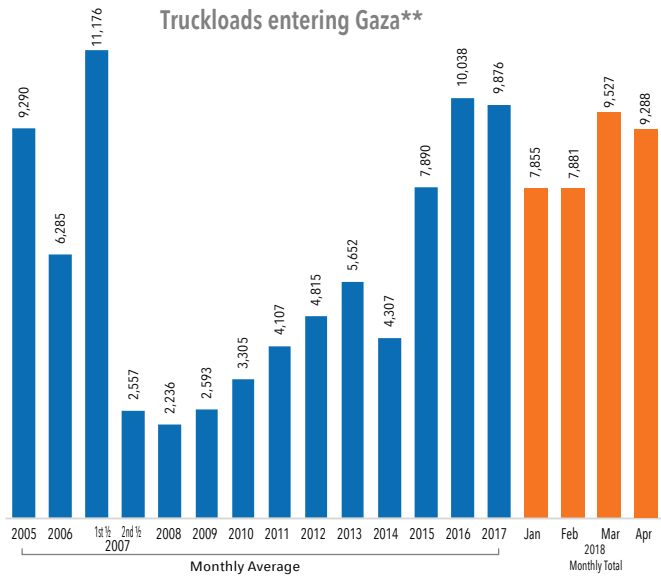
MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 19 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented an increase of 5% compared with April 2017, but was 70% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 172 truckloads of agricultural produce, 13 of fish, 5 of non-edible consumables and 5 of clothing;
 - Israel: 77 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
 - International markets: 11 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.

Truckloads exiting Gaza





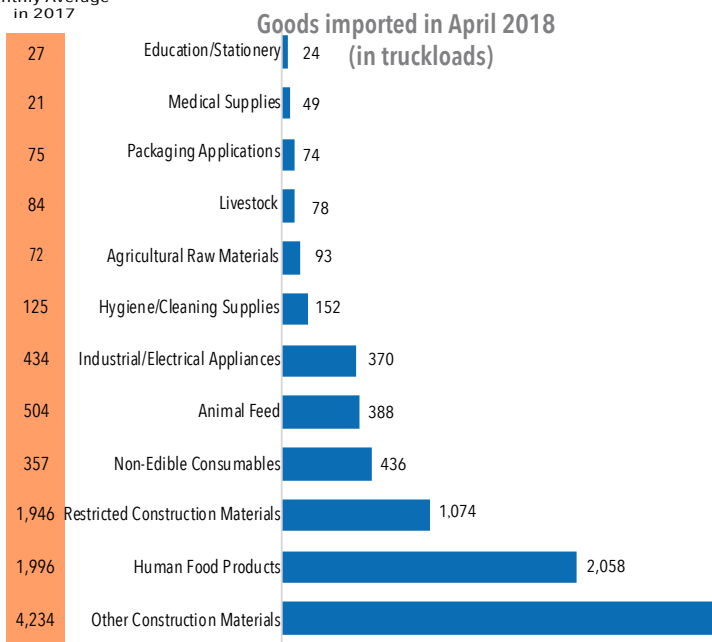
ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 19 days.
- The Rafah crossing was closed during the month for the entry of goods (except fuel); however, 259 truckloads of goods have been allowed into Gaza via an alternative nearby gate.
- The volume of goods that entered in April increased by some 10% compared to the monthly average since the beginning of 2018, but was 6% below the monthly average recorded in 2017.
- 4% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 5,566 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (55%).
- 19% of construction materials' truckloads contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a 'dual use' were approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- The volume of construction material truckloads that entered in April was 10% below the monthly average in 2017.
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

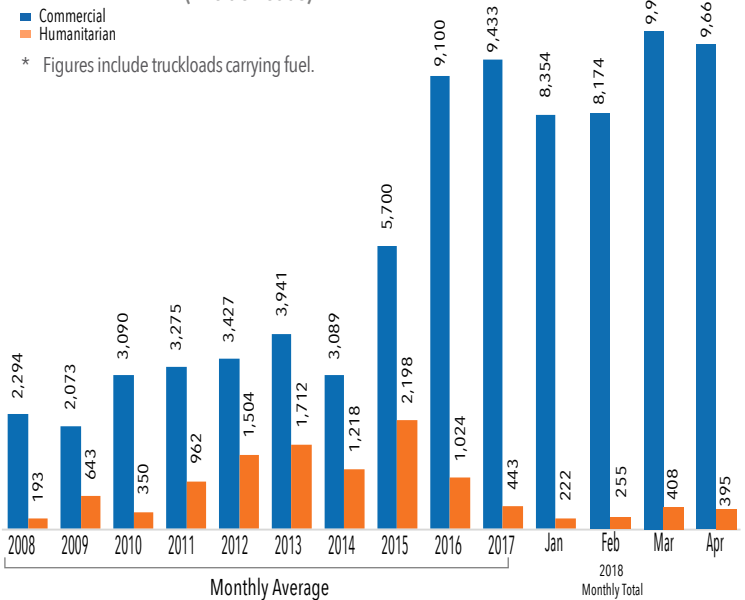
* Closed on four Saturdays, four Fridays and three days due to Israeli holidays.

** Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

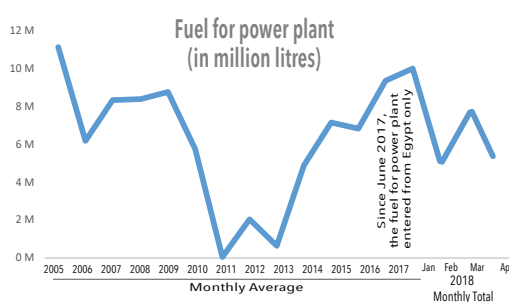
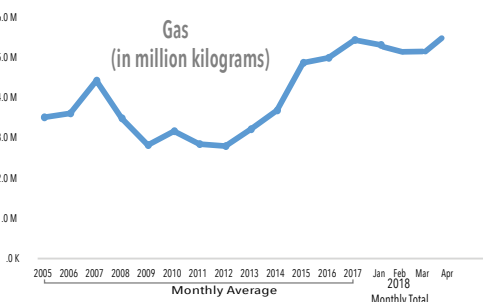
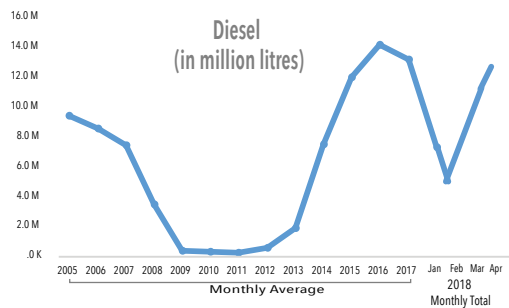
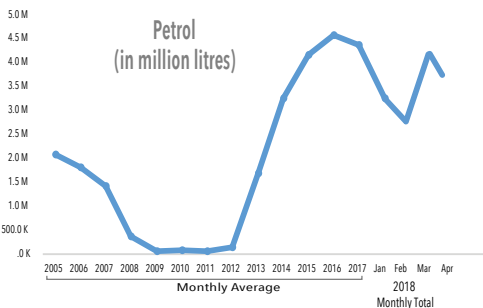
Monthly Average in 2017



Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom opened on 19 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 15.1 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,530 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 74% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Rafah Crossing opened on 7 days during April for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 5 million litres of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- One million litres of petrol.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in April were 7% below the monthly average in 2017.