GAZA CROSSINGS' OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - OCTOBER 2018

BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians in that area. Many of the 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.



MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 27 days (closed on four Saturdays and one day for a Jewish holiday) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Friday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers). On four days only a few urgent medical cases and foreigners were allowed through.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during October was 24% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018.
- Exits for trade and commercial purposes (5,373) accounted for the largest number of crossings, 27% above the monthly average of such exits since the beginning of 2018 (4,234).
- The exit of patients and their accompaniers (3,386) increased by 45%, compared with the monthly average of such exits since the beginning of 2018 (2,328).
- 63% of the 2,851 applications for exit permits by patients were approved, and the rest were either rejected or had not been answered at the time of the scheduled medical appointments.



* 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

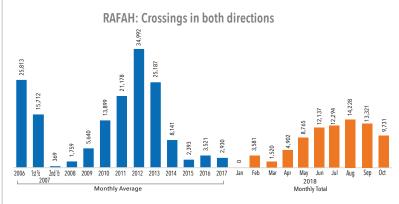
- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 17 days. On three days the crossing was closed, reportedly in response to violence during demonstrations and shooting of rockets towards Israel.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month was almost the same compared with October 2017, but was 78% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
- West Bank: 140 truckloads of agricultural produce, 17 of fish, 10 of non-edible consumables and 4 of clothing;
- Israel: 36 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments;
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.

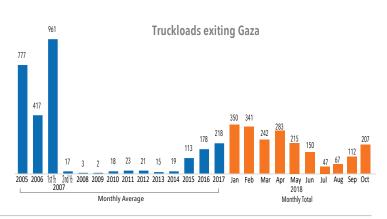


teractive versions of the following

charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings

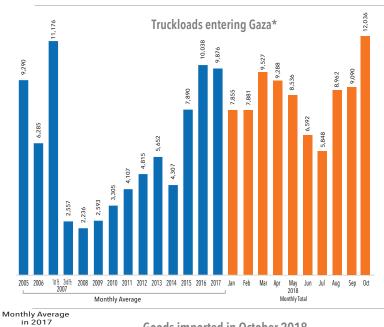
- Opened in both directions for 22 days. Since July 2018, the Rafah crossing has been operating five days a week (Sunday through Thursday).
- A total of 9,731 crossings were recorded (3,122 entries and 6,609 exits), 26% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018 (7,743).
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing has been open for 156 days during daytime hours, compared to 36 days during the whole of 2017.
- Despite the almost continuous operation of the crossing, access of people through it has been delayed and impeded due to unclear criteria for the selection of travelers allowed to cross every day.





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Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNSCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).



27

75

72

21

84

125

434

504

357

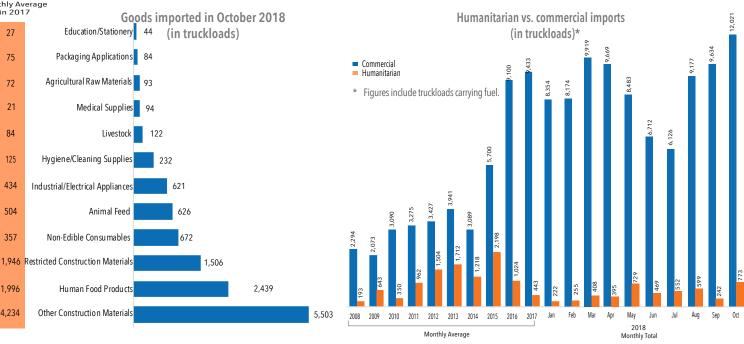
1,996

4,234

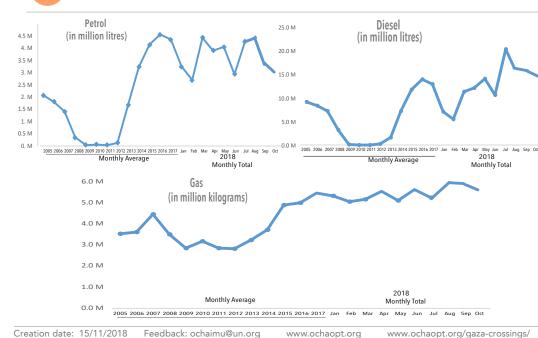
ENTRY OF GOODS

- The Kerem Shalom crossing operated on 19 days, and closed on Fridays and Saturdays, one day due to Jewish holidays, and three days reportedly in response to violence during demonstrations and shooting of rockets towards Israel.
- During October, 11,271 truckloads of goods entered through Kerem Shalom, 44% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018 (7,810).
- An additional 765 truckloads of goods were allowed from Egypt via the Salah ad Din gate (controlled by the Gaza authorities), compared to a monthly average of 365 truckloads since the beginning of 2018.
- 6% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 7,009 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (58%); the volume of construction materials imported in October was 68% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018.
- 77% of the imported construction materials from Kerem Shalom contained cement or steel bars, whose import is restricted by Israel but enabled via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 19 days for the import of fuel; Israel halted the import of fuels on five days, reportedly in response to violence during demonstrations and shooting of rockets towards Israel. In total the following amounts of fuel and cooking gas were allowed into Gaza:

- 10.4 million litres of petrol and diesel;
- 1,335 tons of cooking gas; and

• 89 truckloads of Qatari funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.

Salah ad Din Gate operated on 13 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 6 million litres of diesel;
- 1.6 million litres of petrol; and
- 4,365 tons of cooking gas.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in October were 8% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018

Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNSCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).