

GAZA CROSSINGS' OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - APRIL 2019



BACKGROUND

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



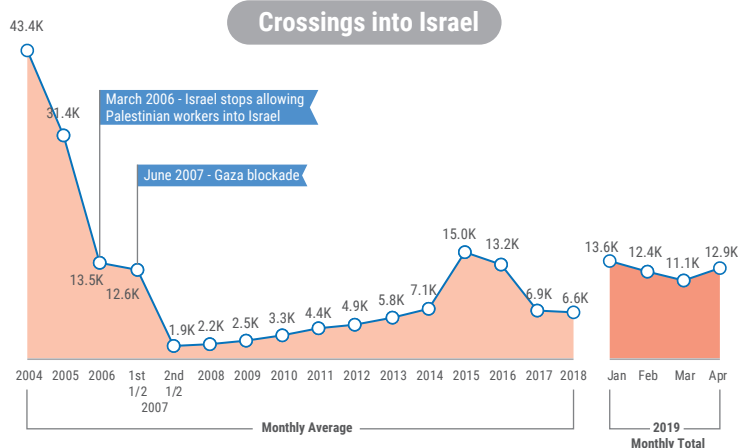
Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/



MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

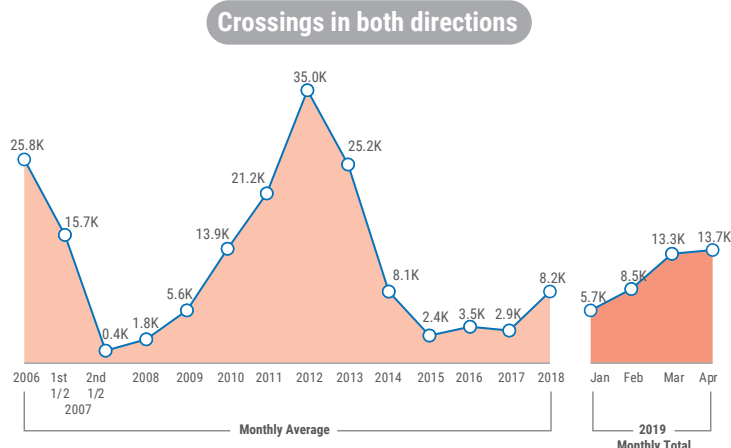
- Opened on 24 days during daytime hours: from Sunday to Thursday, for exit of all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on Fridays, only for urgent medical cases and foreigners.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during April was 4% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (12,359).
- Exits of merchants for trade and commercial purposes (7,558) accounted for the largest number of crossings, 3% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- The exit of patients and their companions (3,140) was 12% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- 64% of the 2,162 applications for exit permits by patients were approved by Israel, and the rest were either rejected or had not been answered at the time of the scheduled medical appointments (WHO).



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

RAFAH CROSSING

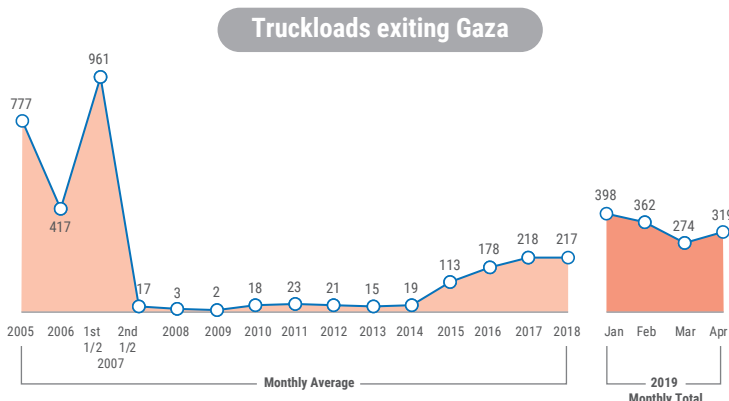
- Opened in both directions during daytime hours for 10 days, and another 9 days in one direction. Since July 2018, the Rafah Crossing has been operating five days a week (Sunday through Thursday).
- A total of 13,699 crossings (7,226 entries and 6,473 exits) were recorded in April, including 6,916 pilgrims, 49% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (9,186).
- Since the beginning of 2019, the Rafah Crossing opened for 81 days during daytime hours, compared to 17 and 12 days during the same periods in 2018 and 2017, respectively.
- Despite the almost continuous operation of the crossing since July 2018, the exit of people through it has been delayed and impeded for a range of reasons, including unclear criteria regarding the selection of those allowed to cross every day.



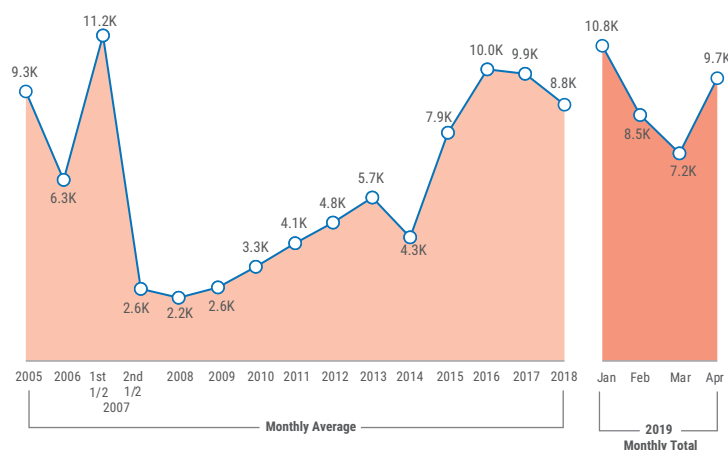
MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

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 (319), represented a 13% increase, compared with April 2018. However, it was 67% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 206 truckloads of agricultural produce; 13 of fish; 7 of non-edible consumables; 7 of furniture and 5 of clothing.
 - Israel: 61 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments.
 - International markets: 20 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.



Truckloads entering Gaza*

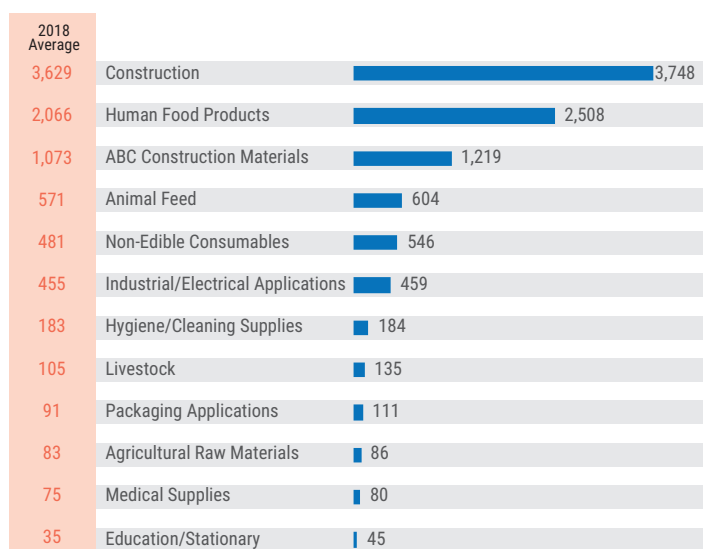


ENTRY OF GOODS

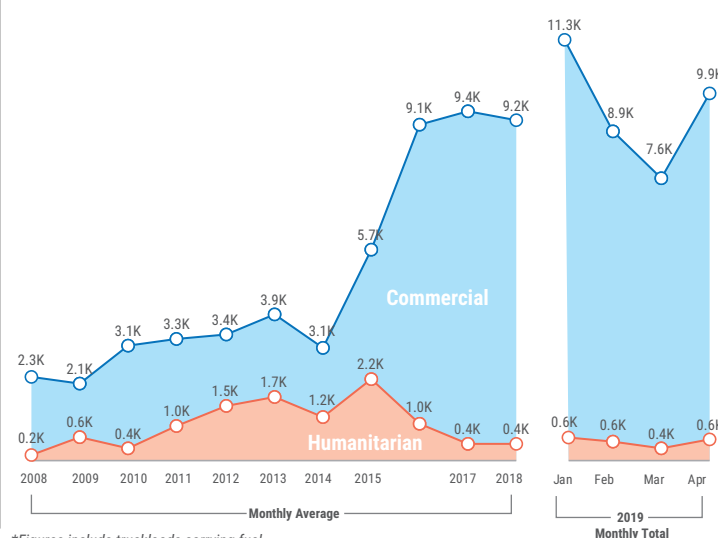
- The Kerem Shalom Crossing operated on 21 days (closes on Fridays and Saturdays), allowing the entry of 9,207 truckloads of goods, 12% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (8,241).
- 5% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- An additional 518 truckloads of goods were allowed entry from Egypt via the Salah ad Din gate (controlled by the de-facto authorities), 12% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (589); 99 of the truckloads contained cement and steel bars.
- 4,967 truckloads carried construction materials including ABC construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (49%); the volume of construction materials imported in April was the same as the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- 25% of the truckloads of construction materials contained cement or steel bars, the import of which is restricted by Israel, but is enabled via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

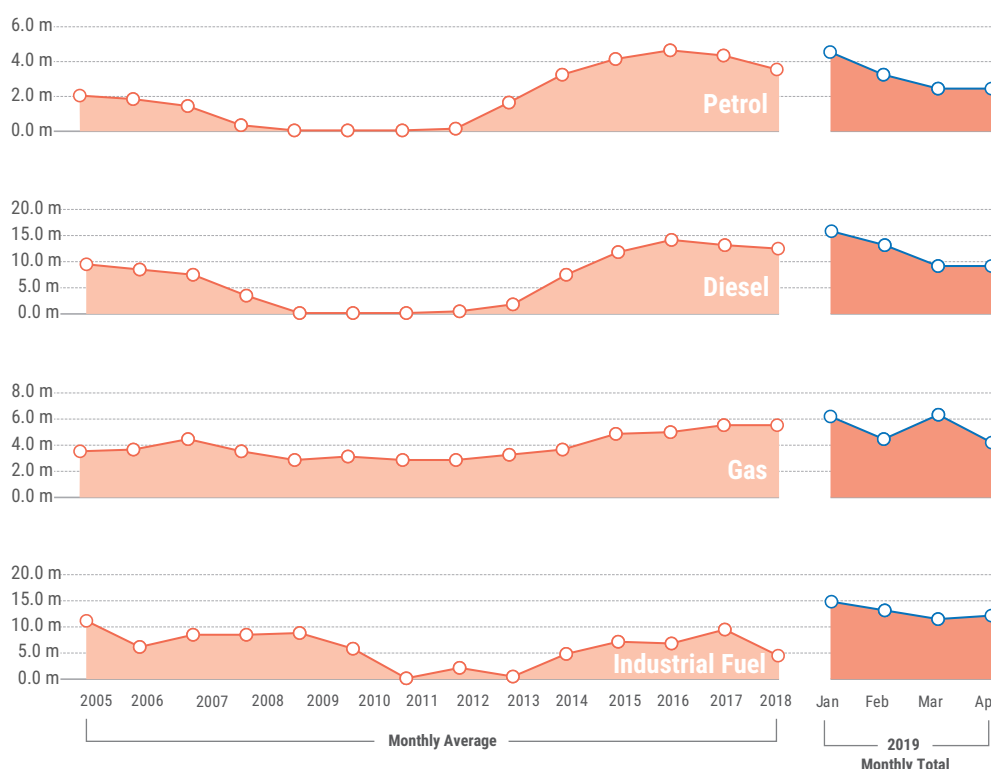
Goods imported in April 2019 (in truckloads)



Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



*Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 23 days for the import of fuel. it was exceptionally opened on two Fridays for the entry of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.

In total, the following amounts of fuel and cooking gas were imported into Gaza:

- 4 million litres of diesel; 0.8 million litres of petrol.
 - 155 tons of cooking gas; 12.2 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.
- Salah ad Din Gate operated on 10 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 4.9 million litres of diesel; 1.6 million litres of petrol; and
 - 4,064 tons of cooking gas.

The volume of petrol and diesel that entered in April is 28.5% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.