

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.

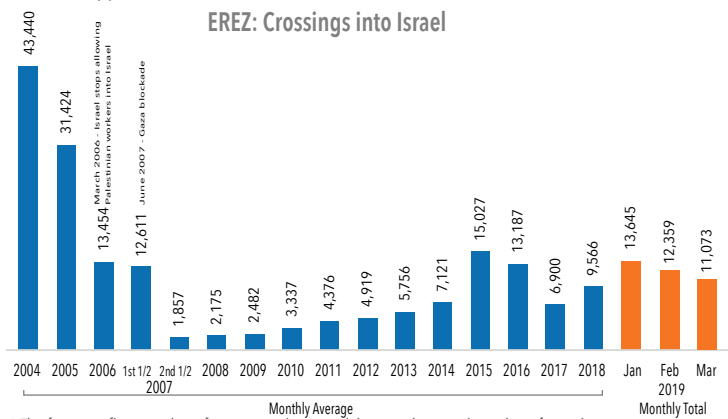


Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

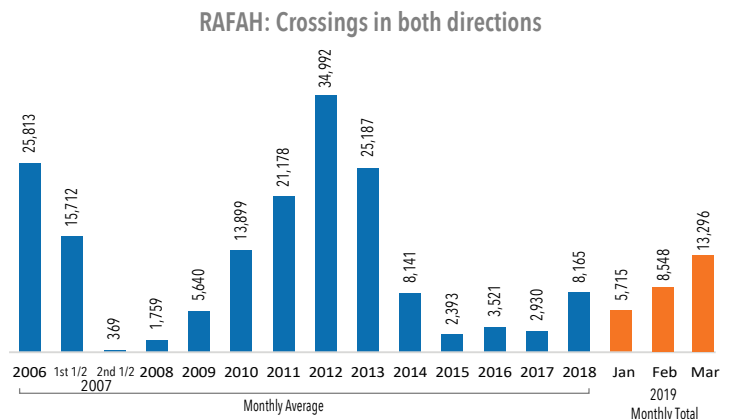
- Opened on 26 days during daytime hours for pedestrian access only: from Sunday to Thursday, for exit of all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on Fridays, only for urgent medical cases and foreigners.
- From 25 March until 30 March, Israeli authorities closed the crossing in the context of heightened tensions, except for urgent pre-coordination humanitarian cases.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during March is 15% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (13,002).
- Exits for trade and commercial purposes (6,590) accounted for the largest number of crossings, recording a 14% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- The exit of patients and their accompaniers (2,720) was 4% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- 64% of the 2,004 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 14 days, and another 7 days in one direction. Since July 2018, the Rafah crossing has been operating five days a week (Sunday through Thursday).
- A total of 13,296 crossings (5,135 entries and 8,161 exits) were recorded in March, including 5,205 pilgrims, 86% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (7,131).
- Since the beginning of 2019, the Rafah crossing opened for 62 days during daytime hours, compared to 10 and 12 days during the same periods in 2018 and 2017, respectively.
- Despite the almost continuous operation of the crossing since July 2018, access 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.

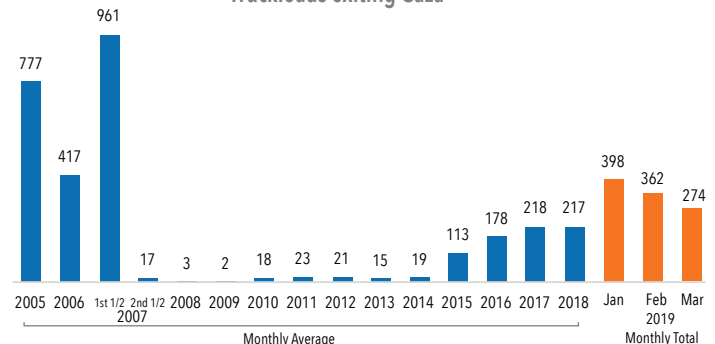


MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

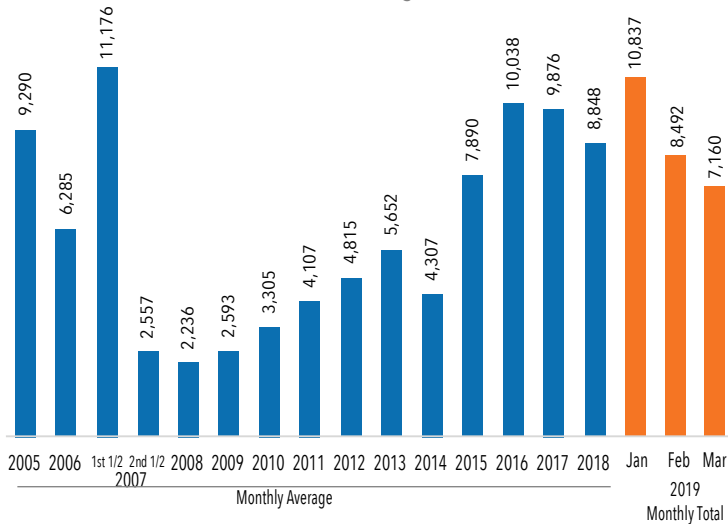
EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 16 days; the exit of goods was prohibited from 25 to 30 March by the Israeli authorities.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented a 12% increase, compared with March 2018. However, it was 71% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 194 truckloads of agricultural produce; 14 of fish; 8 of clothing; 6 of non-edible consumables and 4 of furniture.
 - Israel: 30 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments.
 - International markets: 18 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.

Truckloads exiting Gaza



Truckloads entering Gaza*



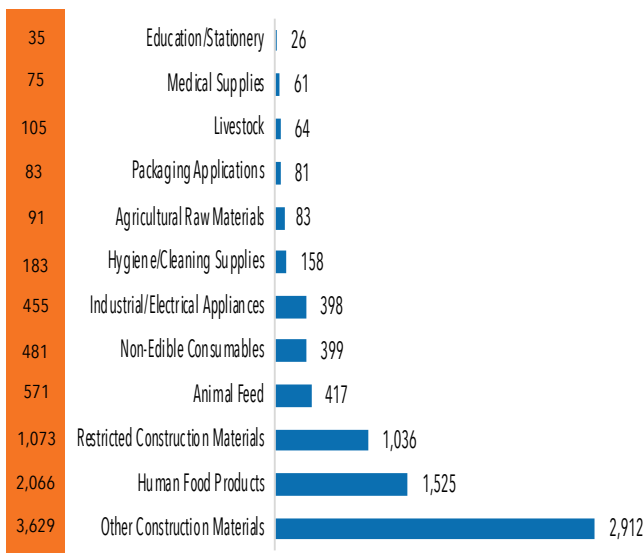
ENTRY OF GOODS

- The Kerem Shalom Crossing operated on 17 days (closed on Fridays and Saturdays), allowing the entry of 6,662 truckloads of goods, 26% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (9,030).
- The crossing was closed for the import of goods from 25 to 30 March.
- An additional 498 truckloads of goods were allowed entry from Egypt via the Salah ad Din gate (controlled by the de-facto authorities), 21% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019 (634); 190 of the truckloads contained cement and steel bars.
- 4% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 3,948 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (49%); the volume of construction materials imported in March was 29% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.
- 26% of the truckloads of construction materials contained cement or steel bars, the import of which is restricted by Israel, but enabled via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

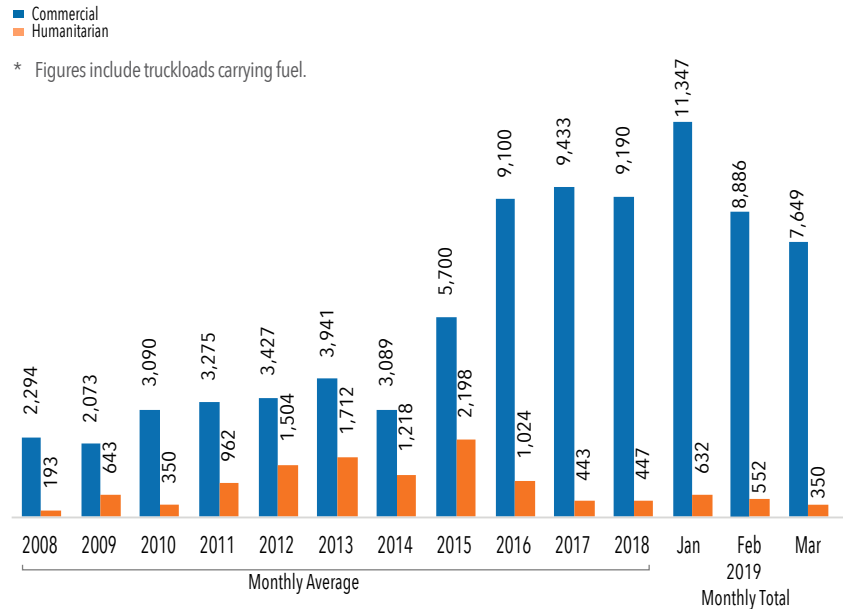
* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average in 2018

Goods imported in March 2019 (in truckloads)



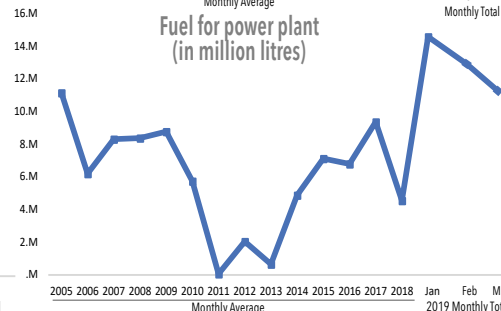
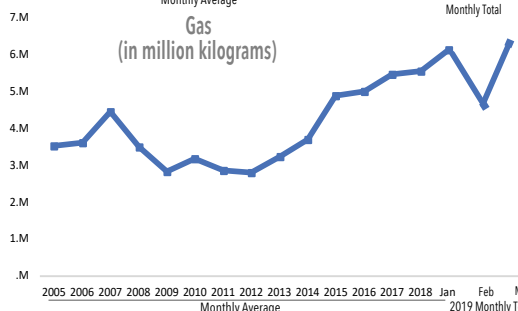
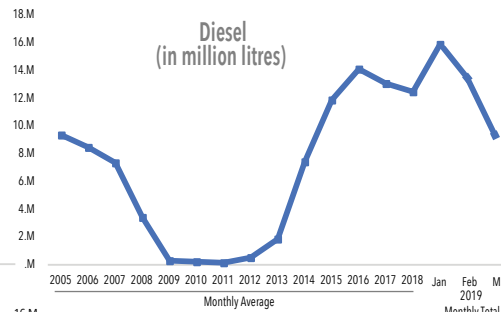
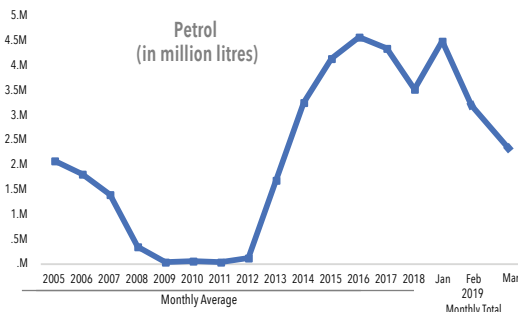
Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 22 days for the import of fuel. It was exceptionally opened on four Fridays for the entry of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant and closed from 25 to 30 March.

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

- 2.7 million litres of diesel; 0.83 million litres of petrol.
 - 1,203 tons of cooking gas; 11.4 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.
- Salah ad Din Gate operated on 12 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 6.3 million litres of diesel; 1.6 million litres of petrol; and
 - 5,154 tons of cooking gas.

The volume of petrol and diesel that entered in March is 37% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2019.