

Israel has imposed a policy of closure towards the Gaza Strip since the early 1990s. This closure was supplemented in the mid-1990s by the construction of a fence around the perimeter of the territory. These measures have been accompanied by a range of restrictions on the movement of people and goods into, out of and within the Gaza Strip, many of which were intensified into a land, air and sea blockade, following the Hamas take-over of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Related to this, Israel has maintained a policy of separating the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip

from that of the rest of the oPt. Access restrictions remain one of the main drivers for the humanitarian crisis and are a persistent obstacle to sustainable recovery in the Gaza Strip. While the number of crossings of people through Erez and the import and exit of goods to and from Gaza via Kerem Shalom more than doubled in 2015, it has not offset the need arising from the general closure of the international crossing with Egypt, Rafah, and Israel's enforcement of the dual use items list which includes wide variety of goods such as (cement, wood, steel

bars,...). Exports/transfers of goods from Gaza via Kerem Shalom in 2015 constituted only 10% of the pre-blockade period. The other three commercial crossings: Nahal Oz, Sufa, Karni continued to be closed, and no expansion in the categories of people who are able to leave through Erez was introduced. In all, by the close of 2015, all 1.8 million Gaza residents continued to be denied free access to the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory, including religious sites, and to the outside world.

Key facts

365 km²

total area of Gaza Strip

1.8 Million

including 1.2 M refugees

Source: UNRWA

Only two of the five

crossings with Israel functioned, one for people (with permits issued by Israel), and the other one for commodities.

The only

crossing between Gaza and Egypt closed on (333) days in 2015.

Access to 17% of the Gaza Strip land land is restricted.

70% of the Gaza sea water are not accessible.

over 90%

of the water extracted from the Gaza aquifer is unsafe for human consumption and due to over-extraction the aquifer may become unusable by 2016.

Source: PCBS 2014

35.9%

Unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip

Source: PCBS

46.7%

Of the population of Gaza Strip is food insecure.

Source: 2015 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey FAO, UNRWA, WFP, PCBS

Breakdown of construction materials imports per agency

Restricted basic construction materials from Kerem Shalom only

Private Sector through the GRM	20,081
UNRWA	5,226
UNDP	578
Qatari Projects	559
Palestinian Water Authority	484
USAID	209
Turkish Projects	110
UNICEF	71
CMWU	20
ICRC	7
ANERA	5
Electricity Company	1

Movement of crossings through Rafah in both directions

Year	Arrivals	Departures	Open days
2006	155 K	155 K	207
2007	44 K	52 K	56
2008	10 K	11 K	96
2009	34 K	34 K	341
2010	82 K	85 K	317
2011	123 K	132 K	273
2012	208 K	211 K	312
2013	151 K	151 K	263
2014	48 K	50 K	158
2015	14 K	14 K	32

Fuel imports

Year	Petrol (Kbbl/day)	Gasoline (Kbbl/day)
2005	25.0	112.0
2006	21.8	101.7
2007	17.0	88.3
2008	4.3	41.0
2009	0.6	3.9
2010	0.8	2.9
2011	0.6	2.0
2012	1.6	5.9
2013	20.3	22.0
2014	39.0	89.0
2015	49.9	142.7

Year	Gas/Kg	Industrial Gasoline
2005	42.4	134.0
2006	43.4	74.6
2007	53.3	100.0
2008	42.0	100.7
2009	34.1	105.3
2010	38.1	69.1
2011	34.2	0.7
2012	33.8	24.5
2013	38.8	8.1
2014	44.5	58.9
2015	58.6	85.7

Number of crossings through Erez into Israel

In 2015, this constitutes 34% of the number of crossings in 2004.

Year	Number of crossings
2004	521.3 K
2005	377.1 K
2006	161.4 K
2007	86.8 K
2008	26.3 K
2009	30.2 K
2010	40.8 K
2011	53.5 K
2012	59.8 K
2013	70.0 K
2014	85.5 K
2015	181.2 K

Humanitarian imports compared to total imports

Year	Total imports	Humanitarian Imports
2015	94.8K	26.4K
2014	51.7K	14.6K
2013	65.1K	20.6K
2012	57.5K	18.1K
2011	49.3K	11.6K
2010	39.6K	4.2K
2009	31.1K	7.7K
2008	26.8K	2.3K

Percentage of construction materials out of total imports

Year	Percentage of imported basic construction materials
2006	47%
2007	48%
2008	21%
2009	0%
2010	3%
2011	17%
2012	27%
2013	33%
2014	23%
2015	59%

Exit of goods (# of truckloads)

Year	Number of truckloads
2015	1,350
2014	228
2013	182
2012	254
2011	270
2010	215
2009	21
2008	33
2007	5,774
2006	5,005
2005	9,319

To international markets

304

To Israeli markets

315

Transfer to West Bank

731

Major 3 exports from Gaza strip during 2015

Tomatoes: 375

Eggplants: 164

Cucumbers: 147

Creation date: 17/03/2016 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). www.ochaopt.org