

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. On 1 November 2017, pursuant to the Palestinian reconciliation agreement reached on 12 October, the Hamas authorities handed over control of the Gaza side of the Erez, Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings to the Palestinian Authority; a Hamas-run checkpoint that controlled access to the Erez crossing ("Arba' Arba") was dismantled.



MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 26 days (closed on five Saturdays) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Thursday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on Fridays, for exceptional humanitarian cases and foreign nationals.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during December was 14% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2017 and 54% below the monthly average in 2016.
- 2,034 Palestinians crossed Erez for medical reasons, the highest category, followed by 1,626 people who crossed for trading and commercial purposes.

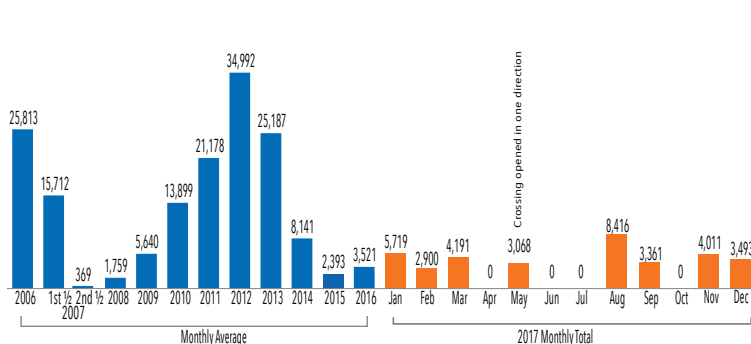
EREZ: Crossings into Israel



RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for four days in both directions.
- A total of 3,493 crossings were registered (2,536 exits and 957 entries).
- In 2017, Rafah crossing was partially opened for 36 days, the lowest number after 2015 when Rafah only opened for 32 days.
- At least 20,000 people with urgent needs 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.

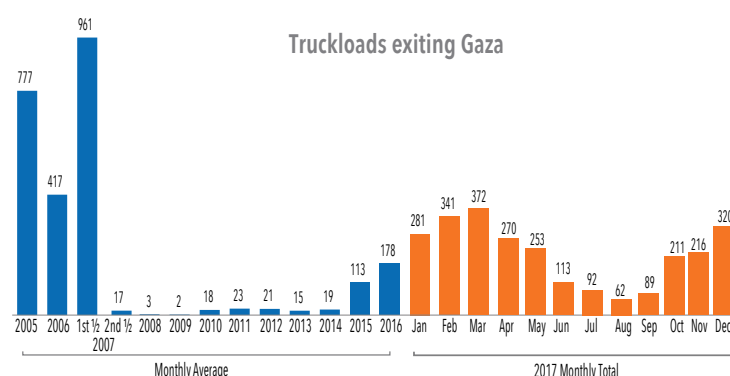


MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

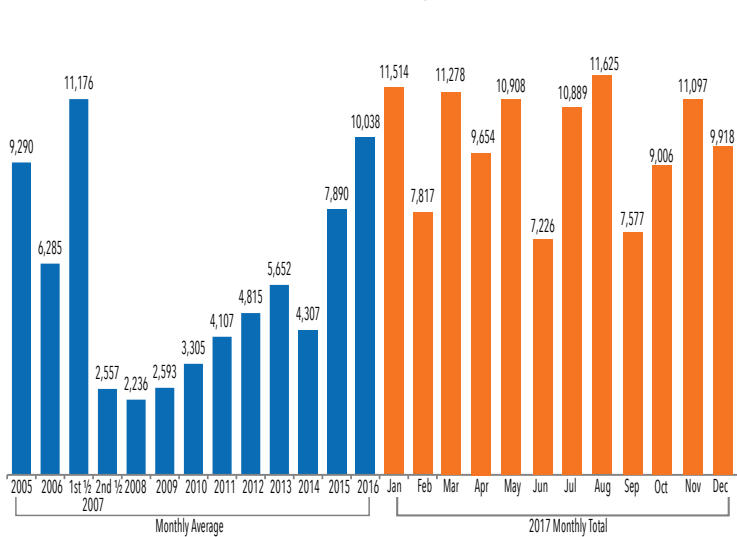
EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 19 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza represented a 6% increase compared with December 2016, but a 67% decline compared with the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - To the West Bank: 208 truckloads of agricultural produce, 9 of fish, 5 of clothing and 2 of non-edible consumables;
 - To Israel: 36 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
 - To international markets: 60 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**

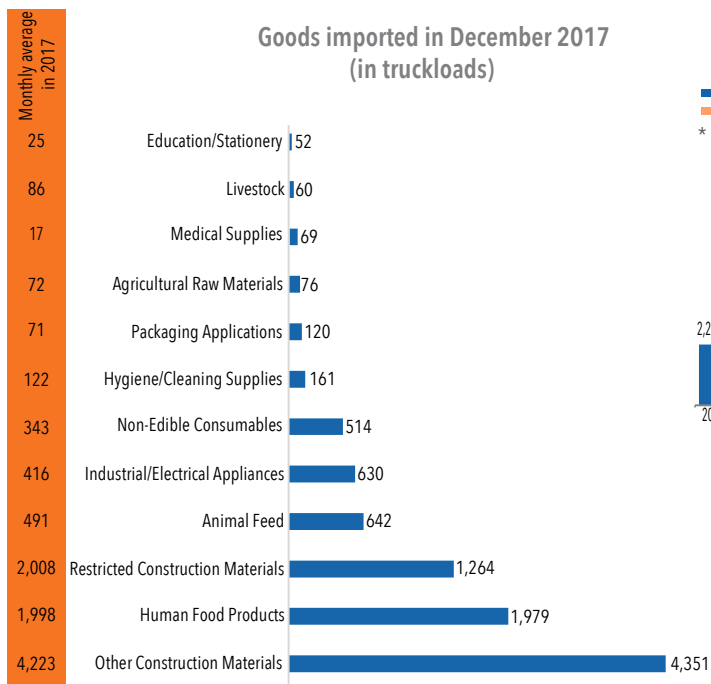
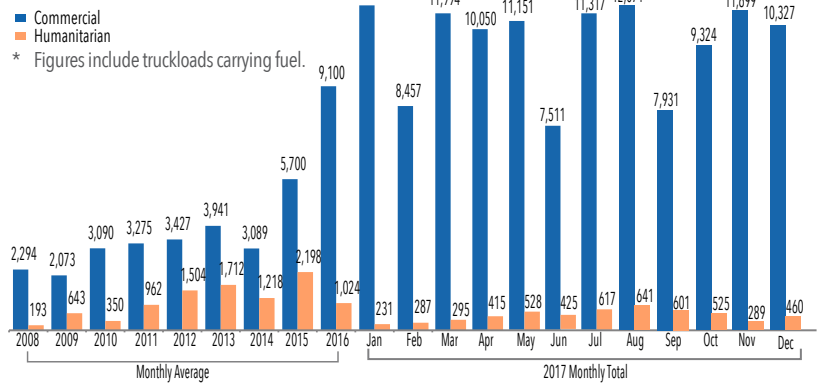
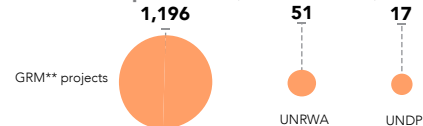


ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 20 days.*
- The volume of goods that entered in December was nearly the same as the monthly average recorded since the beginning of 2017, but 11% below the first half of 2007, prior to the imposition of the blockade.
- 4% of the imported truckloads were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 5,615 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (52%).
- 22% of construction material truckloads contained (Cement, Steel bars) items defined by Israel as having a 'dual use', approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remained closed.

* Closed on five Saturdays, five Fridays and one day due to Israeli closure.

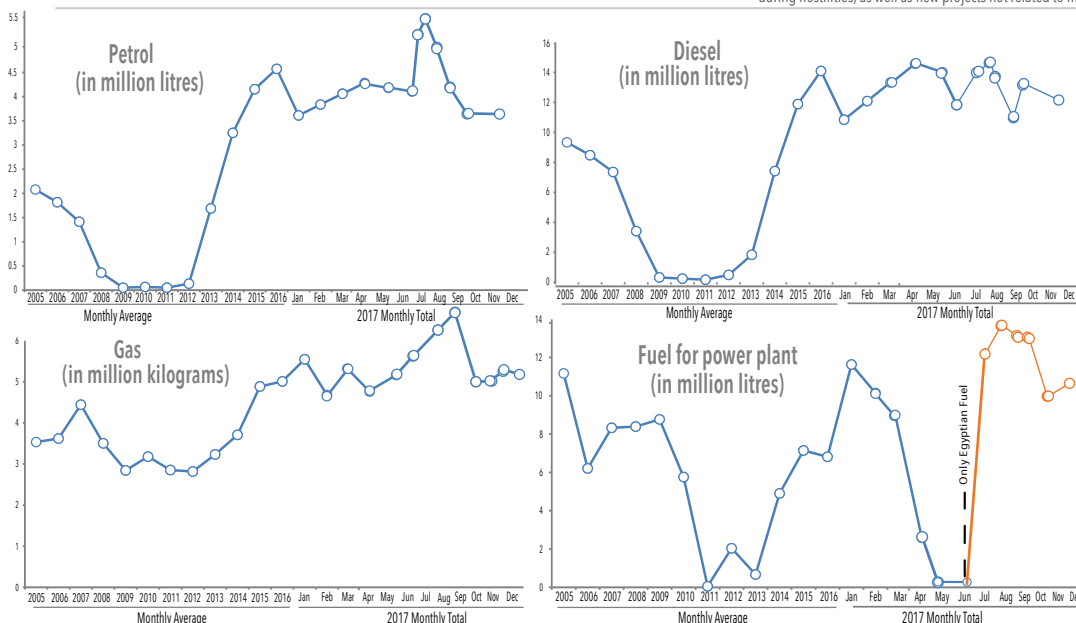
** Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Goods imported in December 2017
(in truckloads)Humanitarian vs. commercial imports
(in truckloads)*Entry of restricted basic construction materials in December
per sector (in truckloads)*

* Primarily includes cement and steel bars.

** The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) is a temporary agreement between the Government of Palestine, the Government of Israel and the United Nations, reached in September 2014, to allow the entry of items defined by Israel as having a "dual" civilian/military use. These include building materials for repairs and reconstruction of private housing and infrastructure damaged or destroyed during hostilities, as well as new projects not related to hostilities.

FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom opened on 22 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 14.1 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,379 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 72% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Rafah Crossing opened on 29 days during December for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 11.5 million litres of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 1.6 million litres of petrol.