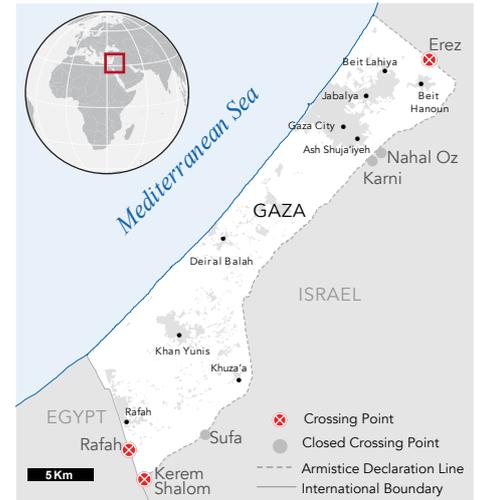


## BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of 1.9 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 citing security concerns. 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 above restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings.



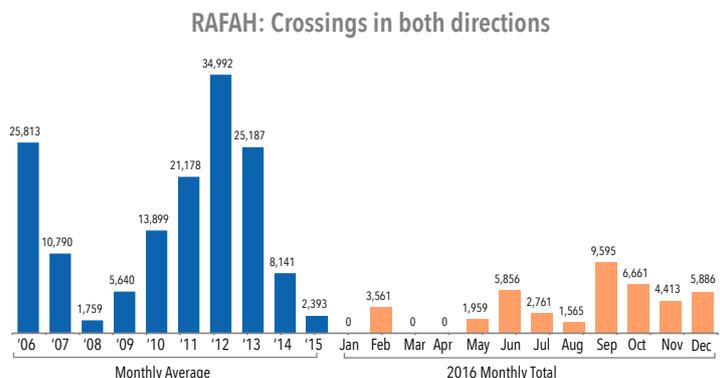
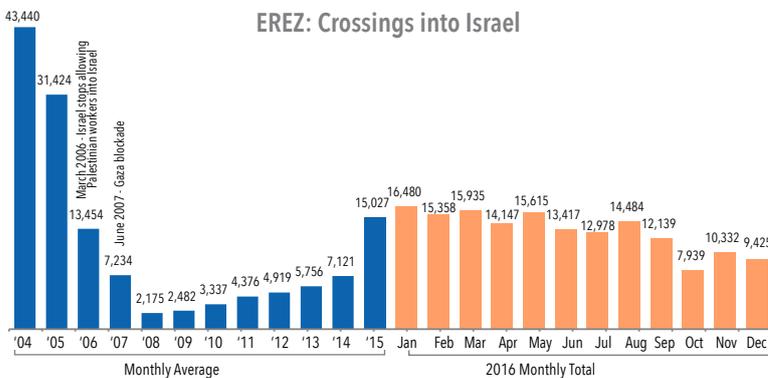
## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE\*

### EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on all 26 scheduled days.
- The overall number of crossings into Israel was 30% below the monthly average of 13,530 crossings recorded since the beginning of 2016.
- The decline can be attributed to a possible tightening of Israel's restrictions on the access of people into Israel.
- The denial rate for exit permits for national UN staff from Gaza stood at 44% in December.
- The rate of approval for exit permits for patients referred to medical treatment stood at 58.3% (out of 2,596 applications), while the remaining applications were denied or remained pending at the time of their scheduled appointment.
- The crossing is accessible only to Israeli-issued permit holders, primarily medical and other humanitarian cases, merchants, and aid workers.

### RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for 6 days in both directions.
- A total of 5,886 people crossed on both directions compared to a monthly average of 3,307 since the beginning of 2016.
- Since October 2014, the crossing has been closed on all but 83 days. It was partially open only 44 days in 2016, compared to 32 in 2015.
- At least 20,000 Palestinians are pre-registered and waiting to travel to Egypt, according to the local authorities.
- Prior to the closure of the crossing in 2014, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed Rafah for health-related reasons.



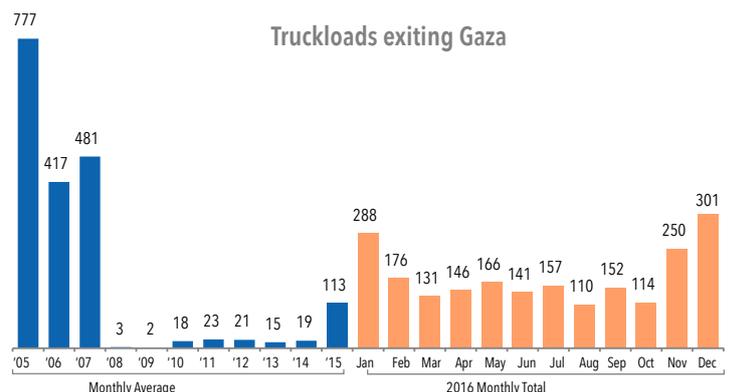
\* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.



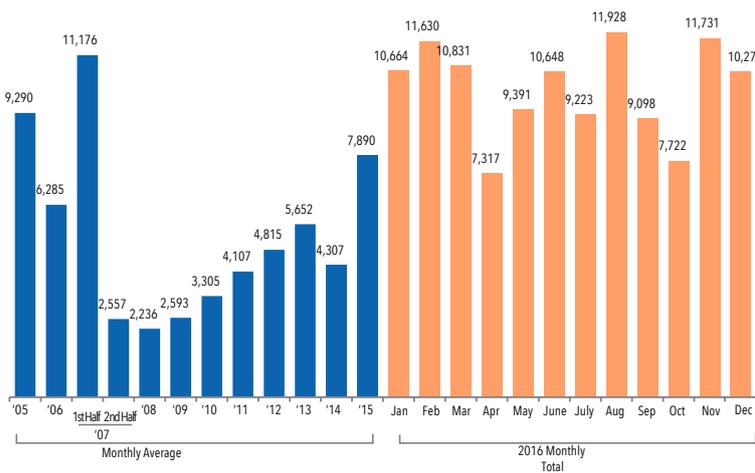
## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

### EXIT OF GOODS

- The Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel operated for exiting goods on 21 out of 26 scheduled days.
- 301 truckloads of goods exited Gaza, an 80% increase compared to the monthly average since the beginning of 2016, attributed to the start of the main season for the export/transfer of produce.
- Trucks exited to the following destinations:
  - 213 truckloads of agricultural products, 5 of furniture and 2 of clothing, to the West Bank.
  - 69 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap metal/aluminum to Israel;
  - 12 truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.



### Truckloads entering Gaza



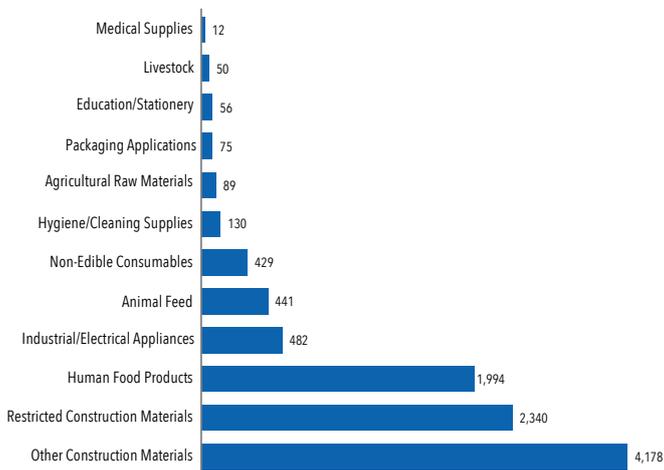
### ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom, which is the only functional commercial route between Gaza and the external world, operated on 21 out of 26\* scheduled days.
- The volume of imports this month increased by 3%, compared to the monthly average since the beginning of 2016.
- Rafah commercial crossing exceptionally opened on three days, allowing 64 truckloads of construction materials to enter Gaza and 40 commercial cars.
- 4% of the truckloads of goods that entered in December were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- Out of 10,276 truckloads, 6,518 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (58%). These included 2,340 truckloads of materials defined by Israel as 'dual use' items, approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remained closed.

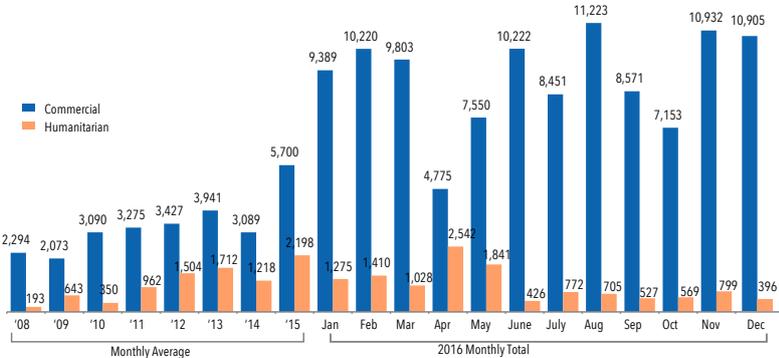
\* Kerem Shalom crossing is open Sunday - Thursday daytime hours only.

\*\* The above figures exclude the fuel truckloads, which was 1,025 truckloads in December.

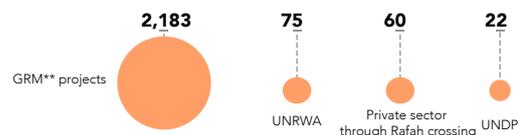
### Goods imported in December 2016 (in truckloads)



### Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)



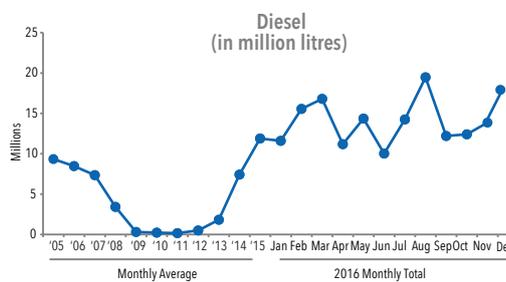
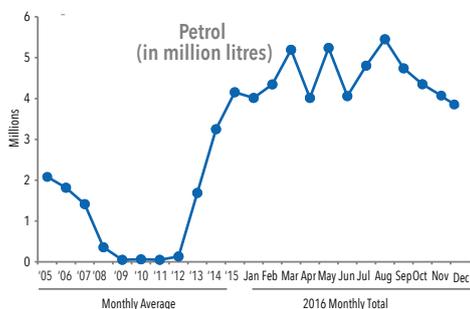
### Entry of restricted basic construction materials in December per sector (in truckloads)\*



\* Primarily includes cement and steel bars; aggregates were removed from the "dual use" list in 2015.

\*\* The GRM is a temporary agreement between the Government of Palestine and the Government of Israel, brokered by the United Nations 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 remained the only crossing available for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 22 million litres of petrol and diesel;
- 7.3 million litres of industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 4,754 tons of cooking gas, which represents around 63% of the estimated needs of around 7,500 tons, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association. (June 2016 estimate).

