

## BACKGROUND

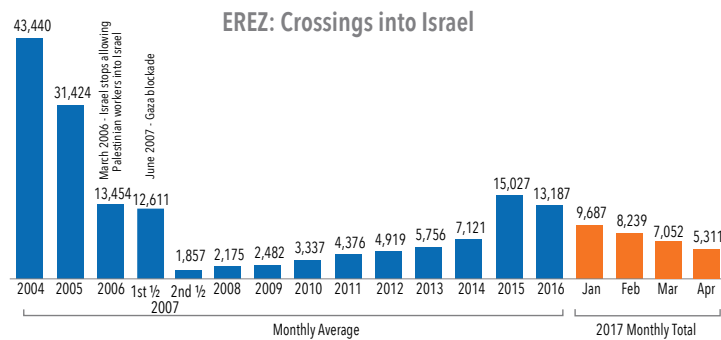
Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of 1.9 million Palestinians in that area. Many of the current restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza and the imposition of a blockade. 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\*

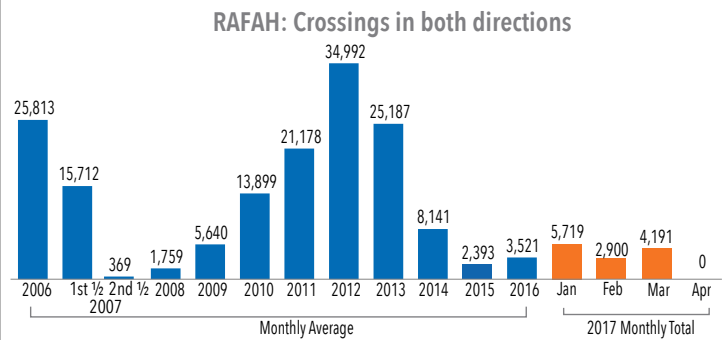
### EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on all of the 23 scheduled days, which excluded two days of closure due to Israeli holidays.
- Between 26 March and 6 April 2017, citing security concerns, the Hamas authorities in Gaza prevented passage through the 'Arba-'Arba checkpoint, which controls access to Erez Crossing, for the majority of permit holders.
- The decline in the overall number of crossings registered in previous months continued in April: it was 60% below the 2016 monthly average and the lowest since January 2015.
- Less than 60% of the 1,980 applications for exit permits for patients referred to medical treatment outside Gaza 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 crossing is accessible only to Israeli-issued permit holders, primarily medical and other humanitarian cases, merchants, internationals and aid workers.
- Erez Crossing is open from Sunday - Friday. Since February 2017, exit of Palestinians is not allowed on Fridays, except for humanitarian cases.



### RAFAH CROSSING

- Rafah Crossing between Gaza and Egypt was closed on all days during April, with no crossings recorded.
- Since October 2014, the crossing has been opened on 10% of the days, including 32 days in 2015, 44 days in 2016 and on 10 days, so far, in 2017.
- At least 20,000 Palestinians are pre-registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, according to the Hamas authorities in Gaza.
- Prior to the closure of the crossing in 2014, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed Rafah for health-related reasons (WHO).

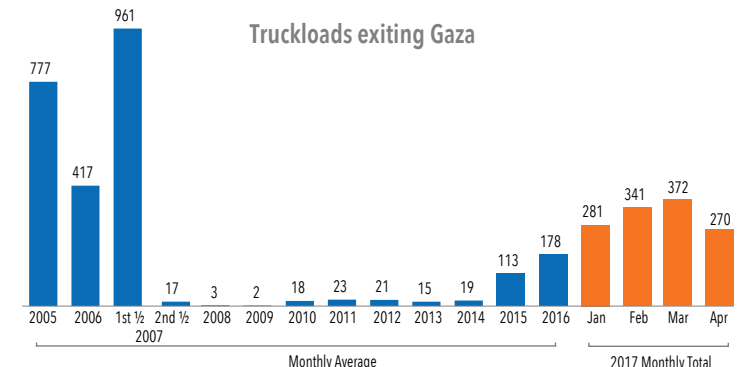


\* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

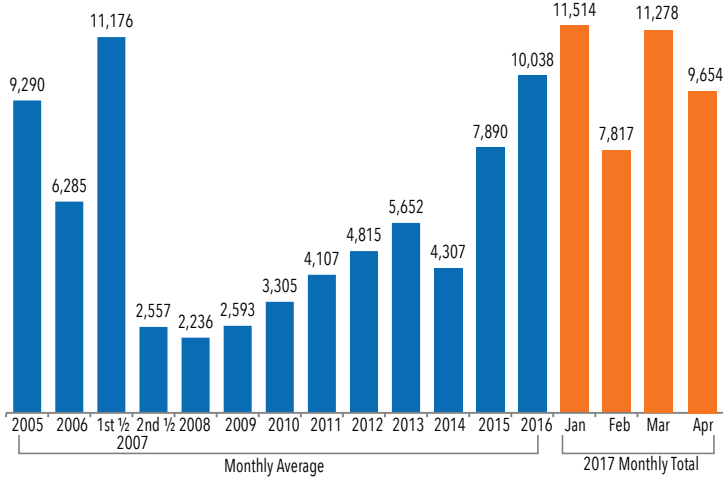
## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

### EXIT OF GOODS

- Exit of goods took place on 16 out of 23 scheduled days via Kerem Shalom crossing, which is currently the only regular commercial route between Gaza and the external world.
- 270 truckloads of goods exited. While this is an 18% decrease compared to the monthly average during the first quarter of 2017 and a 72% decline compared with the first half of 2007 (before the blockade), it represents an over 50% increase from the 2016 monthly average.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - 194 truckloads of agricultural products, three of clothing and five of furniture, to the West Bank;
  - 62 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap aluminum to Israel; and
  - Six truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.



### Truckloads entering Gaza\*\*



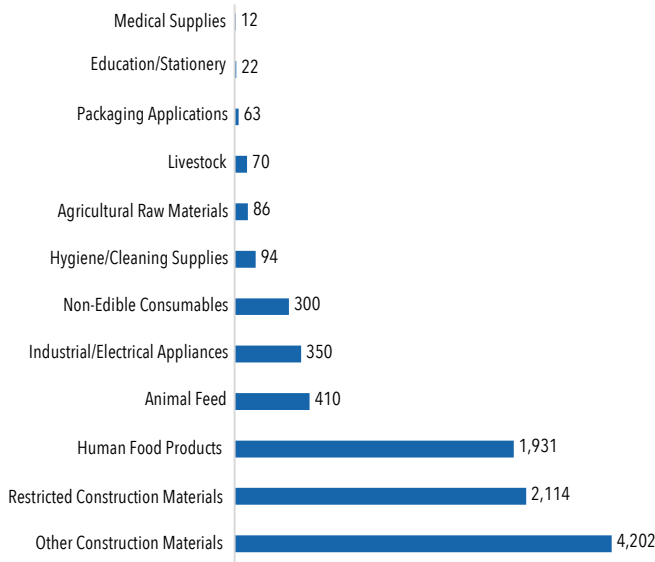
### ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom Crossing operated on 17 out of 23\* scheduled days.
- No goods were allowed to enter via the Rafah Crossing with Egypt.
- The overall volume of truckloads entering this month was slightly below the monthly averages during the first quarter of 2017 and the entire 2016 (4-6%), and 13% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007 (before the blockade).
- 4% of the truckloads of goods that entered in April were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 6,316 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (60%).
- 22% of truckloads with construction materials carried items defined by Israel as 'dual use' items, approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remained closed.

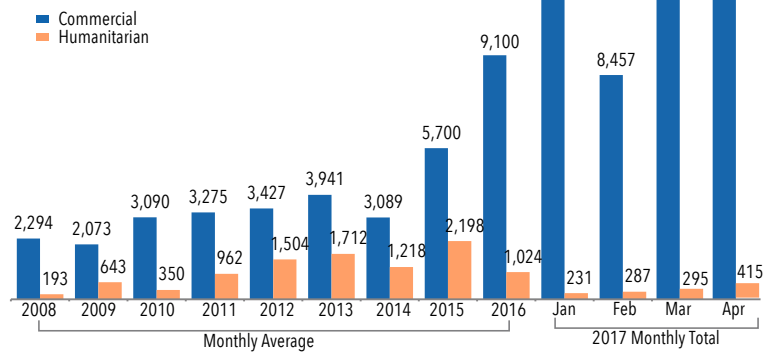
\* Kerem Shalom crossing is open Sunday - Thursday

\*\* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel

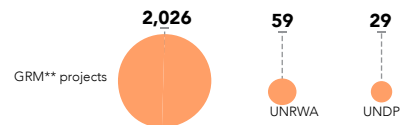
### Goods imported in April 2017 (in truckloads)



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



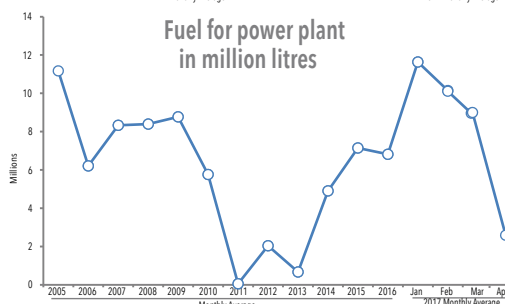
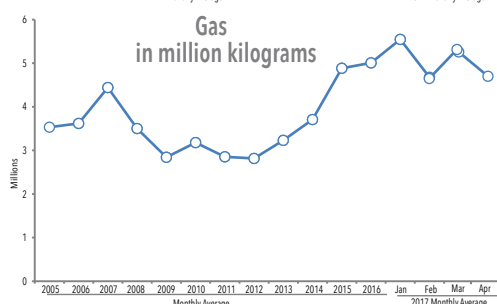
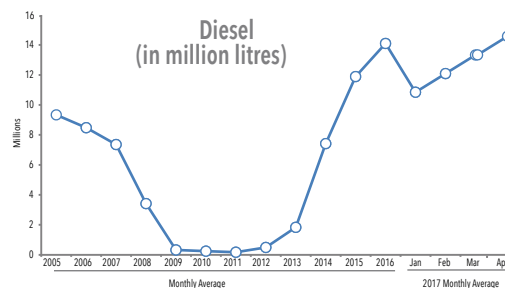
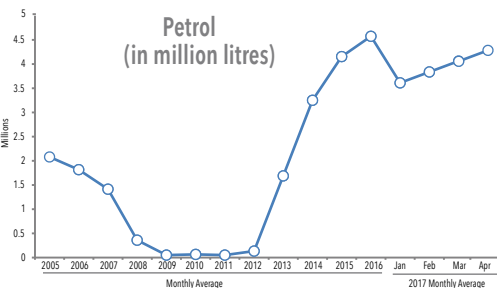
### Entry of restricted basic construction materials in April per sector (in truckloads)\*



\* 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:

- 2.1 million litres of industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant, a 80% decline compared to the monthly average during the first quarter of 2017 and one of the lowest such figures since 2013; the shortage of fuel, which occurred due to the lack of funds, forced the GPP to shut-down on 17 April for the rest of the month, triggering electricity blackouts of 20-22 hours a day;
- 20 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 4,507 tons of cooking gas, which represents around 60% of the estimated needs of around 7,500 tons, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.