

BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians in that area. 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.

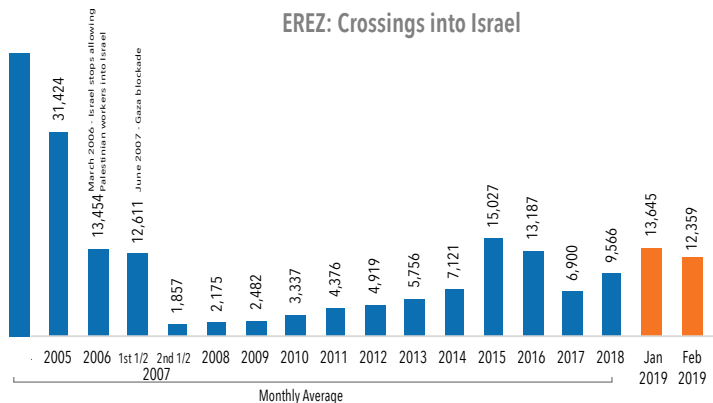


Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

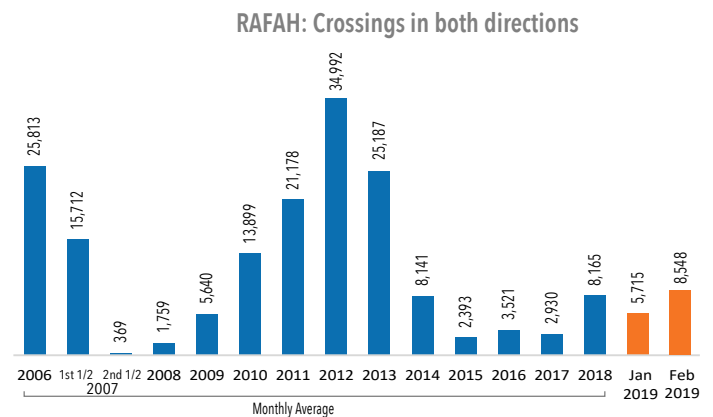
- Opened on 24 days during daytime hours: from Sunday to Thursday, for exit of all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on Fridays, only for urgent medical cases and foreigners.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during February increased by 29%, compared to the monthly average in 2018 (9,566).
- Exits for trade and commercial purposes (7,616) accounted for the largest number of crossings, recording a 63% rise from the monthly average of such exits in 2018 (4,671).
- The exit of patients and their companions (2,458) decreased by 2%, compared with the monthly average of such exits in 2018 (2,520).
- 72% of the 1,637 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

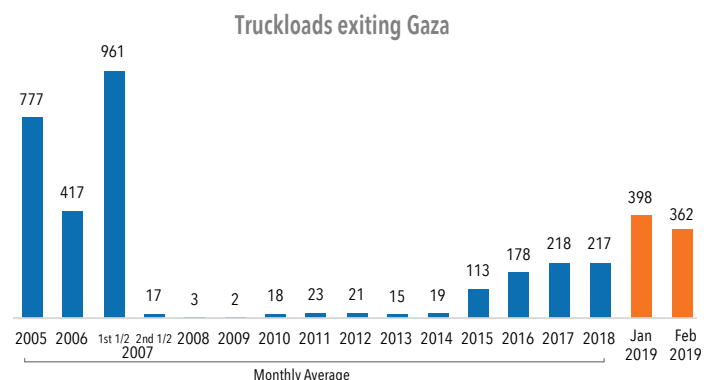
- Opened in both directions for 20 days during daytime hours. Since July 2018, the Rafah crossing has been operating five days a week (Sunday through Thursday).
- A total of 8,548 crossings were recorded (2,500 entries and 6,048 exits), 5% above the monthly average in 2018 (8,165).
- In 2018, the Rafah crossing opened for 198 days during daytime hours, compared to 36 days during the whole of 2017.
- 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 for the selection of travelers allowed to cross every day.



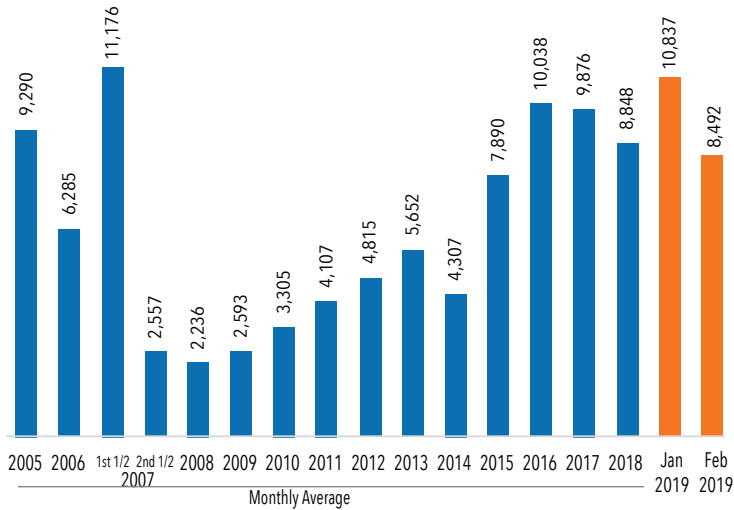
MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 20 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented a 6% increase compared with February 2018. However, it was 62% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 268 truckloads of agricultural produce, 11 of fish, 5 of furniture, 5 of non-edible consumables and 4 of clothing;
 - Israel: 39 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
 - International markets: 30 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.



Truckloads entering Gaza*



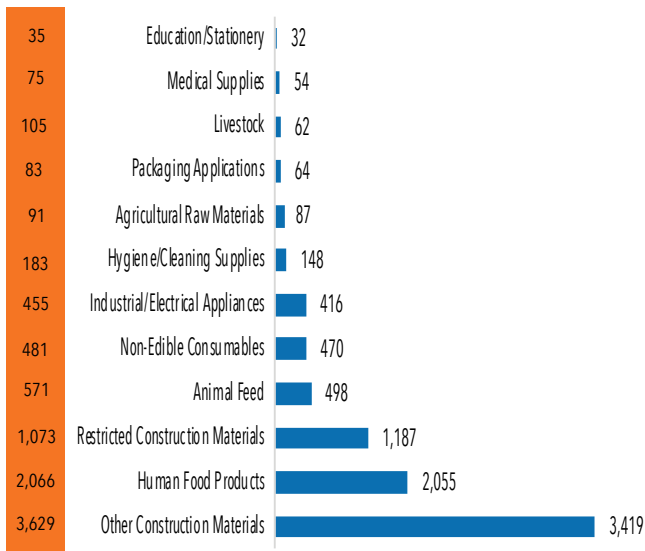
ENTRY OF GOODS

- The Kerem Shalom crossing operated on 20 days (closed on Fridays and Saturdays), allowing the entry of 7,968 truckloads of goods, 5% below the monthly average in 2018 (8,424).
- An additional 524 truckloads of goods were allowed entry from Egypt via the Salah ad Din gate (controlled by the de-facto authorities), 24% above the monthly average in 2018 (424); 191 of the truckloads contained cement and steel bars.
- 6% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 4,606 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (49%); the volume of construction materials imported in February was the same as the monthly average in 2018.
- 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.

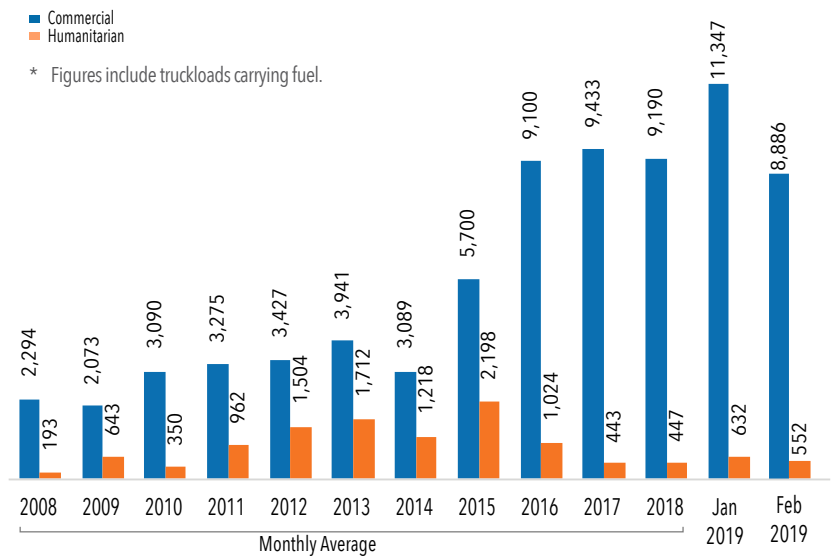
* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average in 2018

Goods imported in February 2019 (in truckloads)



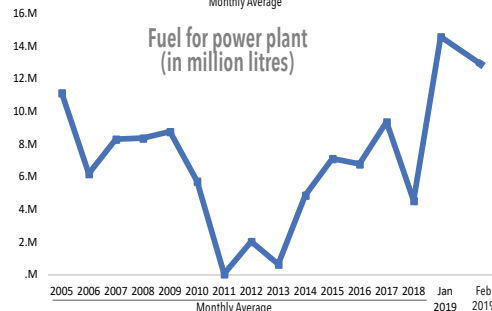
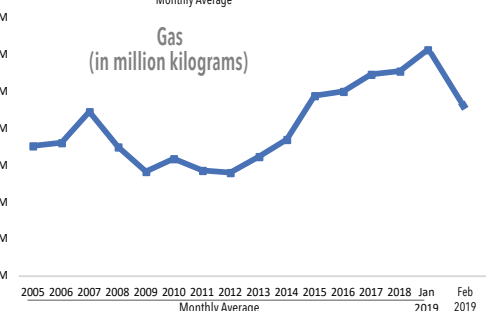
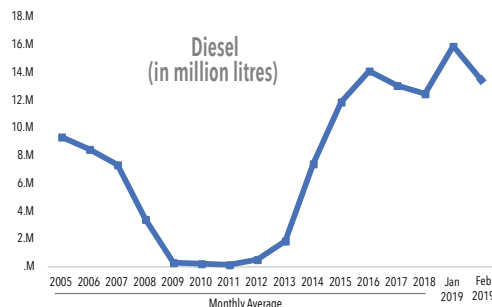
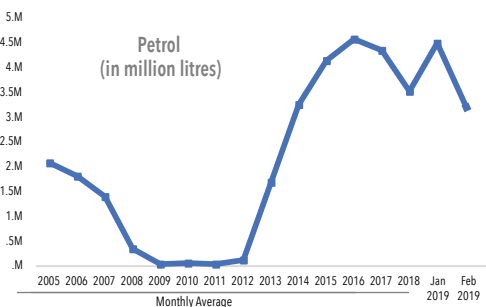
Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 24 days for the import of fuel; exceptionally opened on four Fridays for the entry of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.

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

- 5.9 million litres of diesel;
 - 1.2 million litres of petrol;
 - 1,042 tons of cooking gas; and
 - 13.1 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.
- Salah ad Din Gate operated on 10 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 7.1 million litres of diesel;
 - 2 million litres of petrol; and
 - 3,345 tons of cooking gas.

The volume of petrol and diesel that entered in February was close to the monthly average in 2018.