

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. Since 9 July 2018, Israel has significantly tightened its restrictions on imports to Gaza and banned the exit of all goods, reportedly in response to the launching of incendiary kites from Gaza into Israel, which has caused extensive property damage.



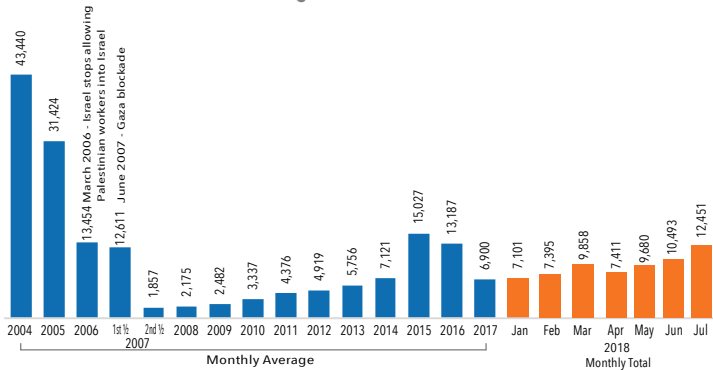
Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 27 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 four Fridays, for exceptional humanitarian cases and foreign nationals.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during July was 44% above the monthly average in the first half of 2018, and the largest figure recorded since August 2016.
- Exits for trade and commercial purposes (7,124) accounted for the largest number of crossings, double the monthly average of such exits in the first half of 2018 (3,505).
- The exit of patients and their accompaniers (2,802) increased by 27%, compared with the monthly average of such exits in the first half of 2018 (2,205).

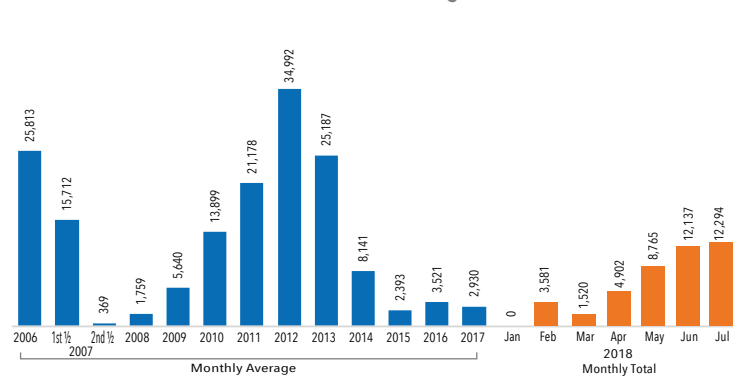
EREZ: Crossings into Israel



RAFAH CROSSING

- The Rafah crossing has been continuously open in both directions since 12 May. In July, it was open in both directions during the entire month, except for two days.
- A total of 12,294 crossings were recorded (6,419 entries and 5,875 exits), the largest figure recorded since 2014.
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing has been open for 88 days during daytime hours, compared to 36 days during the whole of 2017.
- The exit of pre-registered people, including humanitarian cases, continued to be prioritized.
- According to the Egyptian authorities, as of the beginning of July, Rafah crossing will open every day, except for Fridays and Saturdays, until further notice.

RAFAH: Crossings in both directions



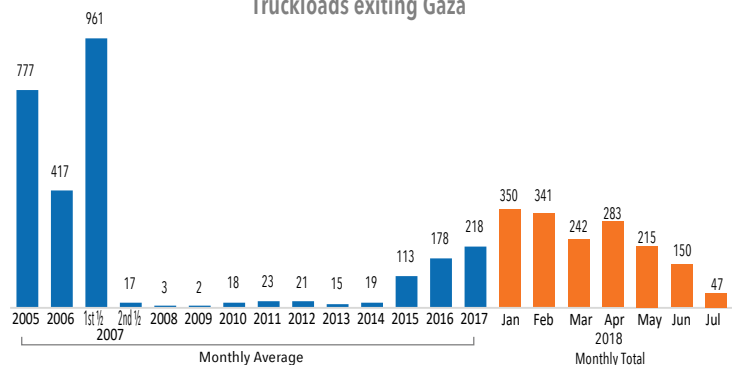
* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

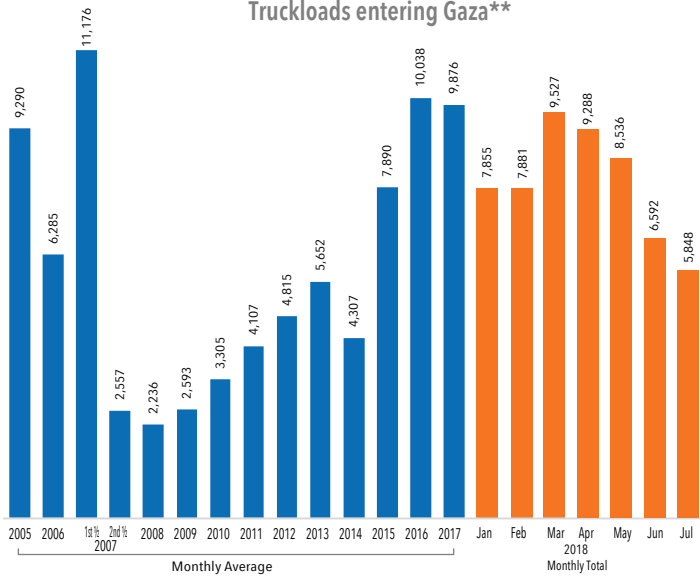
EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 7 days. Goods have been prohibited from exiting by the Israeli authorities since 9 July.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented a decrease of 49%, compared with July 2017, and was 95% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 18 truckloads of agricultural produce, 5 of fish, 4 of non-edible consumables and 2 of clothing;
 - Israel: 17 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
 - International markets: 1 truckload 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**



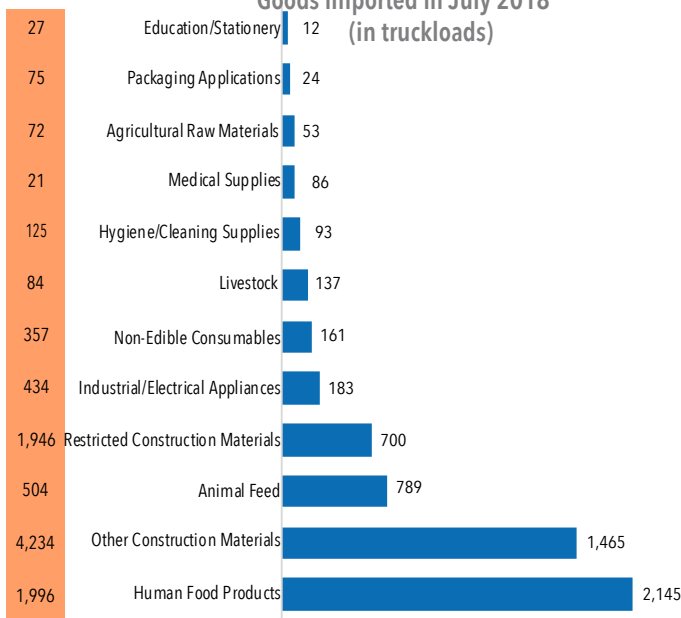
ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 23 days.
- 5,237 truckloads of goods were allowed to enter Kerem Shalom, the lowest figure recorded since January 2015. The incurred decline is attributable to the introduction of restrictive measures on imports on 9 July.
- 758 truckloads of goods and fuel were allowed from Egypt into Gaza via the Salah ad Din gate, compared to 209 truckloads that crossed on average per month in the first half of 2018.
- The volume of goods imported in July was 29% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2018, and 41% lower than the monthly average recorded in 2017.
- 8% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 2,165 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the second largest category of imports (33%); however, the volume of construction materials imported in July was 49% below the monthly average in the first half of 2018.
- 18% of the imported construction materials from Kerem Shalom contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a 'dual use' and were allowed to enter via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

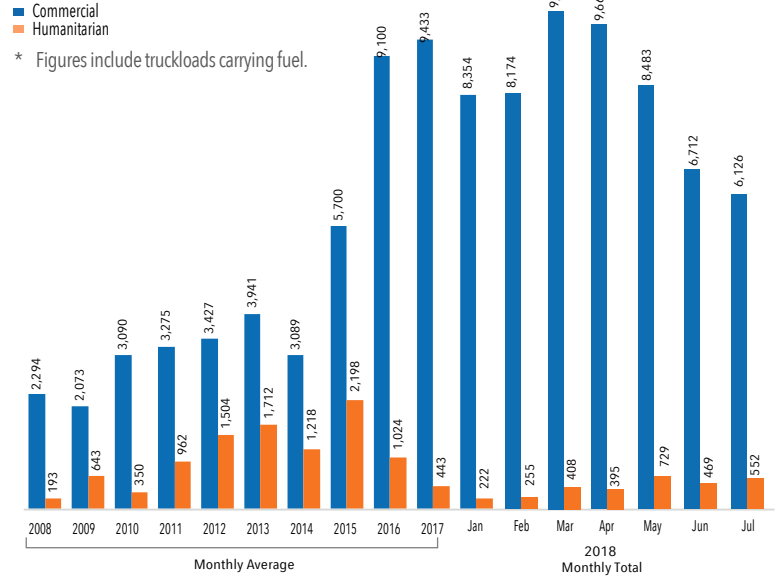
* Closed on four Saturdays, four Fridays.
 ** Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average in 2017

Goods imported in July 2018 (in truckloads)



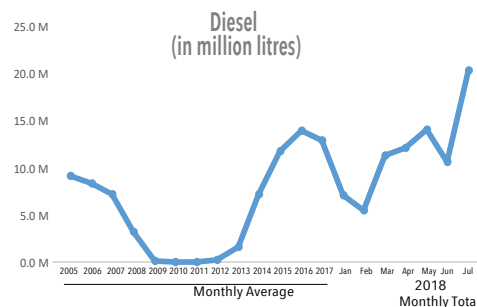
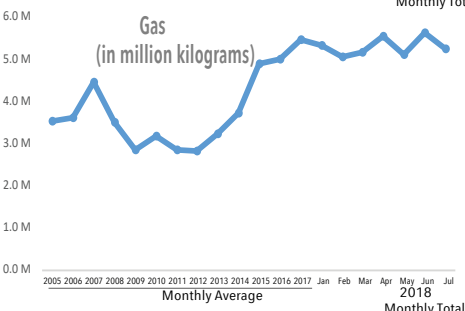
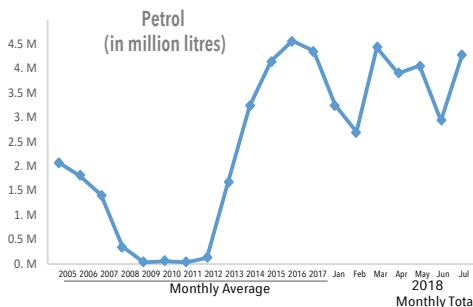
Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom opened on 18 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 16.7 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,254 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 70% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Salah ad Din Gate opened on 10 days during July for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 6.5 million litres of diesel.
- 1.4 million litres of petrol.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in June were 21% below the monthly average in 2017.