

## 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.

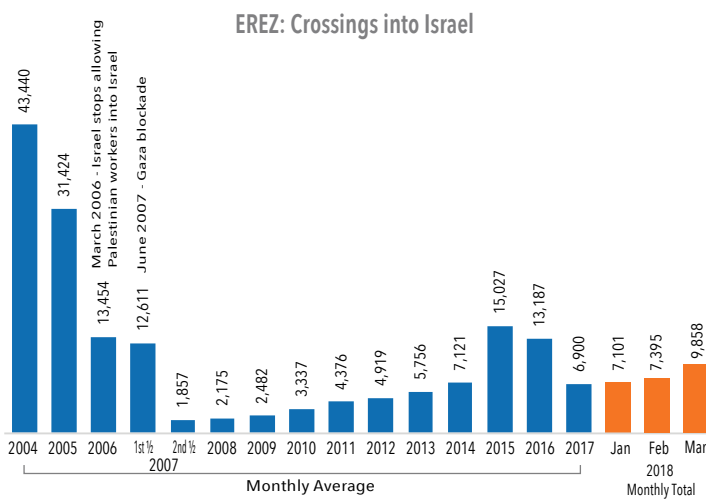


Interactive versions of the following charts are available at [www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/](http://www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/)

## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE\*

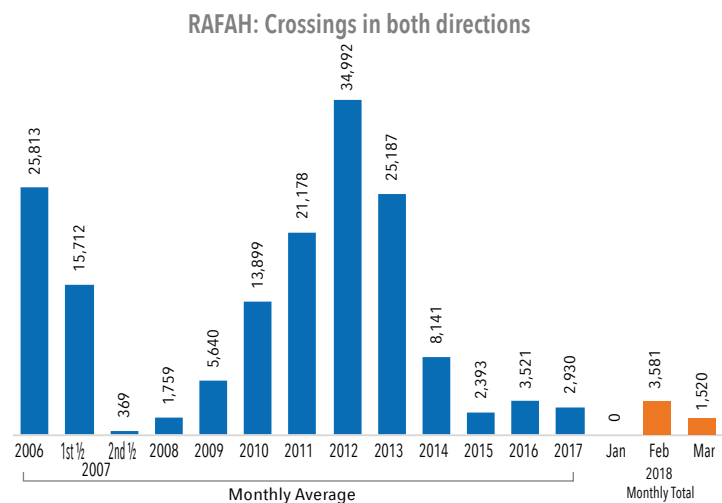
### EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 26 days (closed on four 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 March was 43% above the monthly average in 2017 but 22% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Exits for trading and commercial purposes (5,076) more than doubled compared to the monthly average of such exits in 2017 (2,477), constituting the largest category.



### RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for one day in both directions, and two days in one direction (Entry into Gaza).
- A total of 1,520 crossings were recorded (830 entries and 690 exits).
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing was partially open for only ten days.
- In 2017, Rafah crossing was partially open for only 36 days.
- At least 23,000 people, including humanitarian cases, 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).

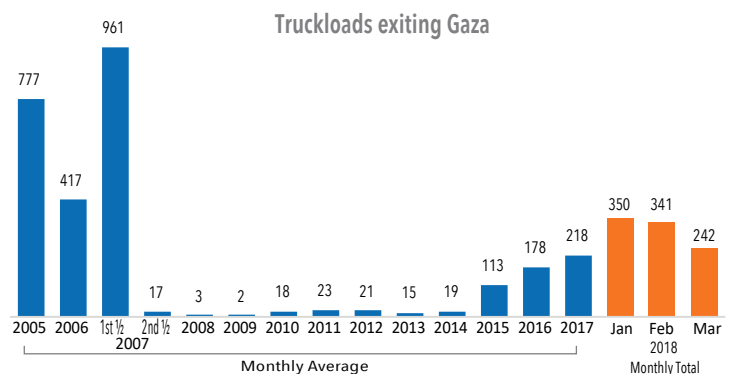


\* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

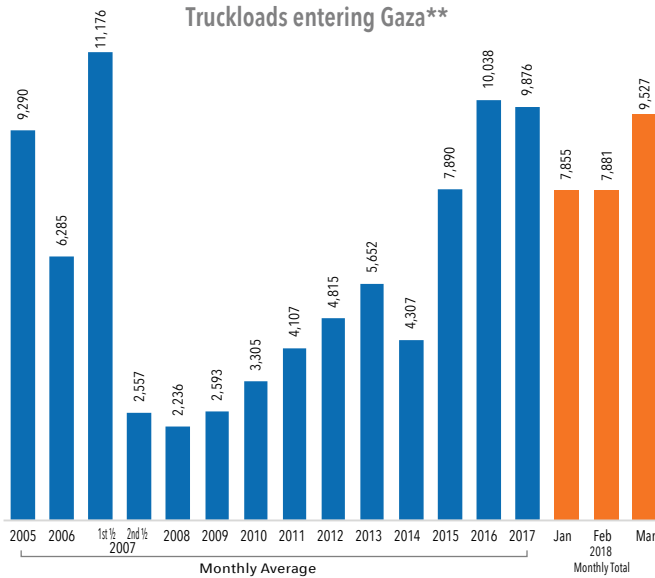
## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

### EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 20 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented a decline 35% compared with March 2017, but was 75% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - West Bank: 128 truckloads of agricultural produce, 9 of fish, 8 of non-edible consumables and 3 of clothing;
  - Israel: 79 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
  - International markets: 15 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

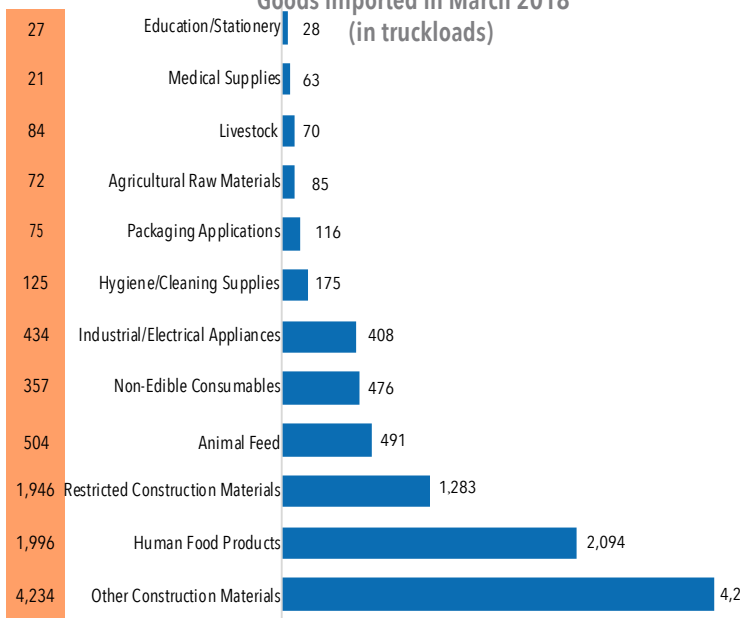
- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 20 days.
- The Rafah crossing was closed during the month for the entry of goods (except fuel), however, 157 truckloads of goods have been allowed into Gaza via an alternative nearby gate.
- The volume of goods that entered in March increased by some 20% compared to the previous two months, but was 4% below the monthly average recorded in 2017.
- 4% of the imported truckloads were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 5,521 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (53%).
- 23% of construction materials' truckloads contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a 'dual use', approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- The volume of construction material truckloads that entered in March was 11% below the monthly average in 2017.
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

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

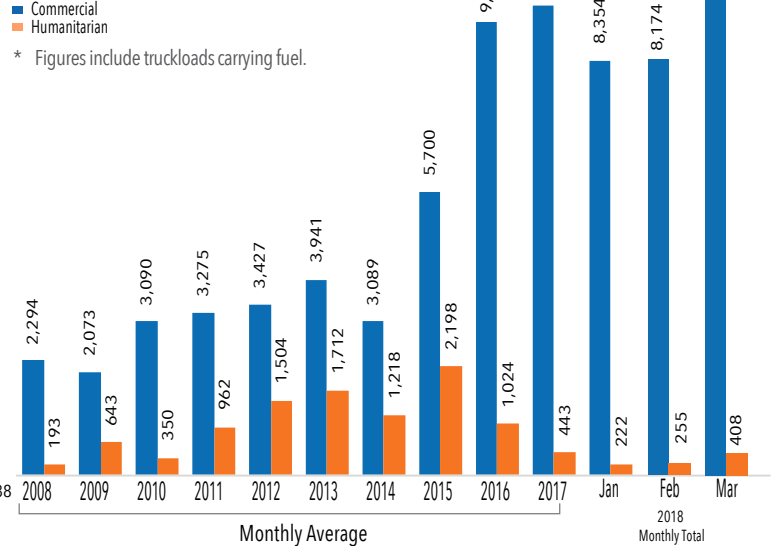
\*\* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

### Monthly Average in 2017

### Goods imported in March 2018 (in truckloads)



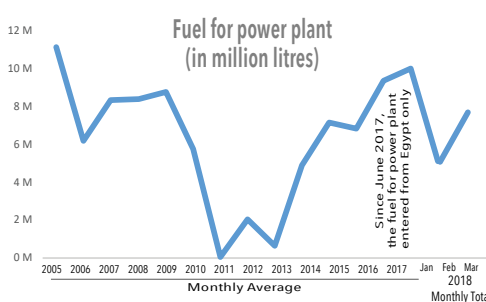
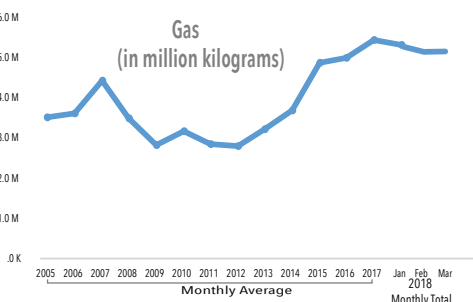
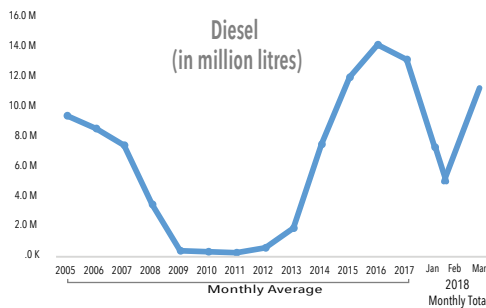
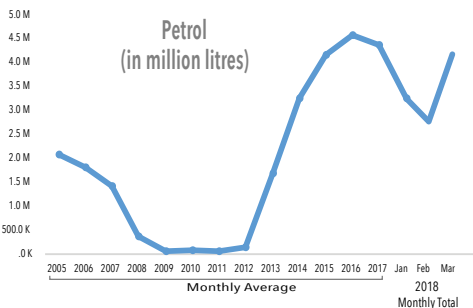
### Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)\*



\* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



## FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



### FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom opened on 21 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 14.7 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,169 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 69% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Rafah Crossing opened on 7 days during March for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 7.7 million litres of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 1.2 million litres of petrol.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in March were 83% above the monthly average in 2017.