

## 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.



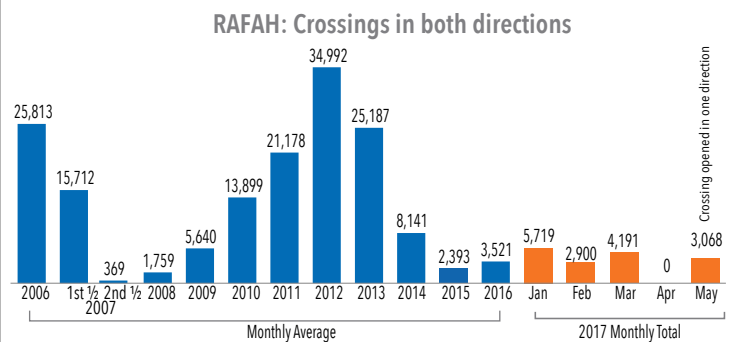
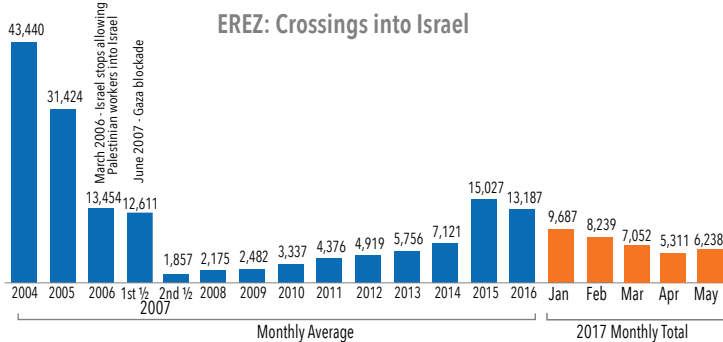
## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE\*

### EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 25 days (Closed on two days for Israeli holidays and on four Saturdays).
- The reduced volume of crossings continued during May, marking a 25% and 53% decline compared to the monthly averages in the first quarter of 2017 and 2016, respectively.
- 71% of the applications for exit permits by UN national staff in May received no response by the scheduled date of travel, compared to an average of 42% in the first quarter of 2017, and 3% of the applications were rejected.
- 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 to Thursday for all permit holders, and on Fridays for exceptional humanitarian cases and internationals.

### RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for four days for the entry of people into Gaza, while exit to Egypt was not allowed during May.
- 3,068 people entered Gaza, a 28% decrease compared to the monthly average in the first quarter of 2017 and a 78% decline compared to 2014, prior to the closure of the crossing on 24 October 2014.
- So far in 2017 the crossing has been opened on an average of 3 days per month, nearly the same as in 2016 and 2015.
- At least 20,000 Palestinians are pre-registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, according to the local 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).

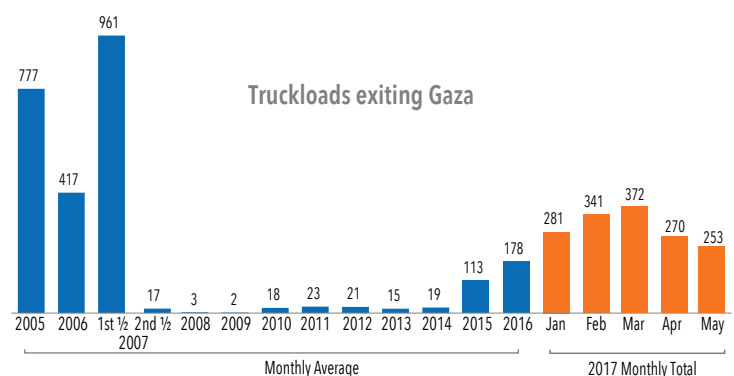


\* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

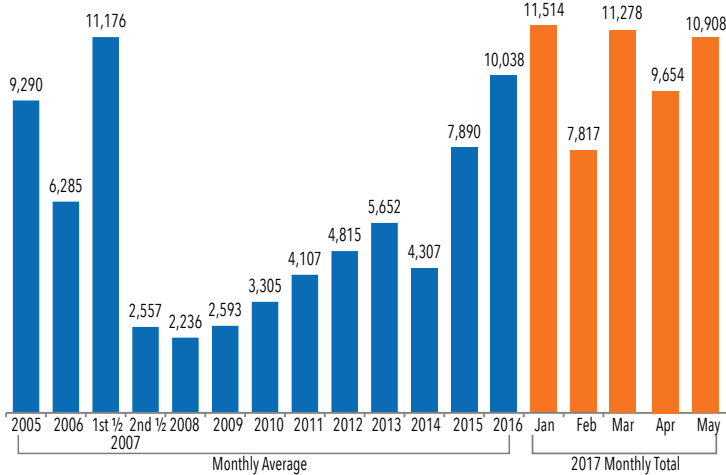
## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

### EXIT OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing is currently the only regular commercial route between Gaza and the external world.
- Exit of goods took place on 17 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited was 42% above the 2016 monthly average, but 24% and 74% below the monthly averages in the first quarter of 2017, and in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade, respectively.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - 203 truckloads of agricultural products, five of non-edible consumables, three of clothing and three of furniture, to the West Bank;
  - 31 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap aluminum to Israel; and
  - Eight truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.



### Truckloads entering Gaza\*\*

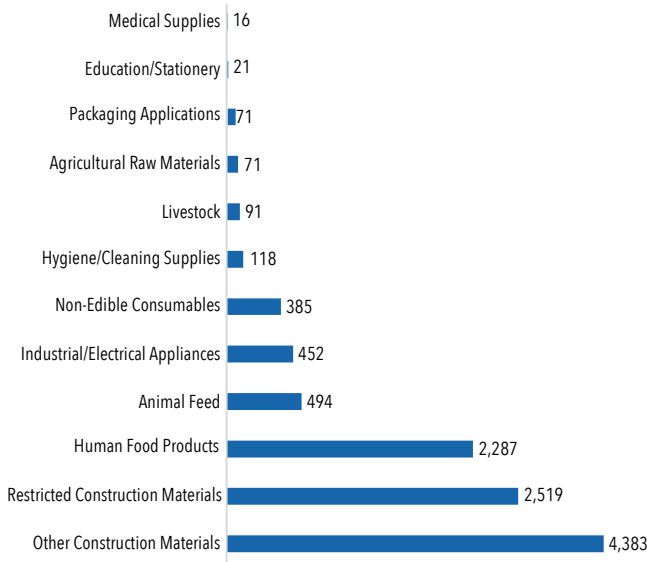


### ENTRY OF GOODS

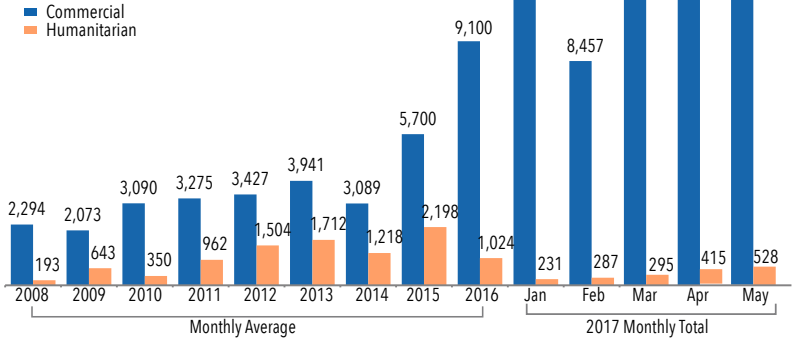
- Kerem Shalom Crossing operated on 19 days\*.
- Rafah crossing exceptionally opened on four days, allowing 381 truckloads of goods to enter Gaza, the largest volume through this crossing since June 2015; nearly 70% of truckloads this month were basic construction materials.
- The volume of goods that entered this month was above the monthly averages recorded during the first quarter of 2017 and in 2016 (9% and 11% respectively), and the same as the monthly average in the first half of 2007 (before the blockade).
- 5% of the imported truckloads were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 6,902 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (58%).
- 36% 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.

\* Closed on four Fridays, four Saturdays and four days for Israeli holidays.  
\*\* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel

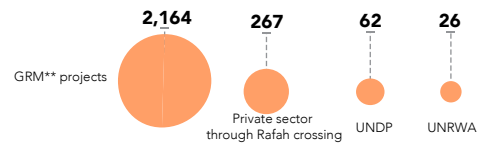
### Goods imported in May 2017 (in truckloads)



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

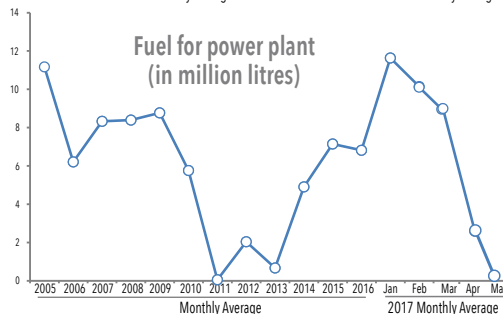
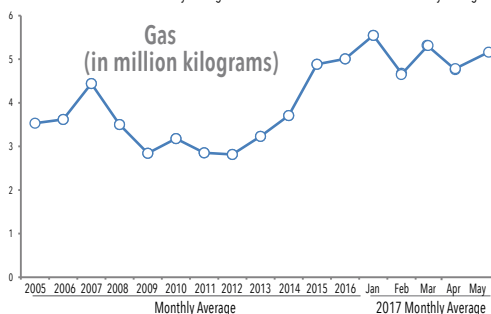
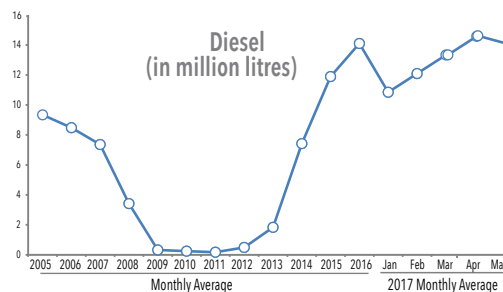
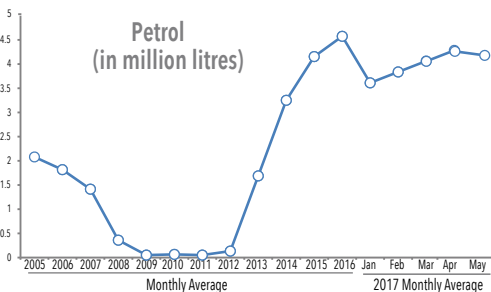


### Entry of restricted basic construction materials in May per sector (in truckloads)\*



\* 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:
- 19.7 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
  - 5,173 tons of cooking gas, which represents around 69% of the estimated needs of around 7,500 tons, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.
  - No industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) entered Gaza, due to the lack of funds. The GPP, which shut down on 17 April 2017, remained closed during the month, resulting in electricity blackouts of 20-22 hours a day.