

GAZA CROSSINGS' OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - OCTOBER 2019



BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from the Gaza Strip have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians. Many of the restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s and also 2000s, when Israel shut down the Gaza airport and safe passage between Gaza and West Bank, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza, the imposition of a blockade and the closure of the Rafah crossing with Egypt (Rafah reopened in 2018). These restrictions limit access to livelihoods, essential basic services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future. In recent months, OCHA has witnessed some easing of restrictions such as the opening Kerem Shalom crossing on Fridays for the entry of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) and an increase in the number of permits issued to Palestinians classified as business people.



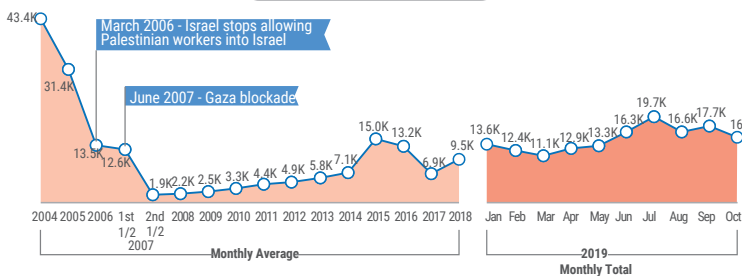
Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 23 days during daytime: from Sunday to Thursday, for the passage of Israeli issued permit holders of all authorized groups (primarily business people, patients and companions, foreign nationals and aid workers); and, on Fridays, for urgent cases and foreign nationals. The crossing was closed for four days due to Jewish holidays.
- The number of exits in October (15,999) was 8 per cent above the monthly average between January and September 2019 (14,847).
- In October 2019, Israel approved 2,528 permits for entering Israel and West Bank for Gaza residents, including 1,640 for Palestinians classified as business people.
- The number of exits by patients and their companions (2,512) decreased by 17 per cent, compared with the monthly average between January and September 2019 (3,029).
- Israel approved 58 per cent of the 1,764 applications submitted for patient exit permits; the rest were either rejected or not answered by the time of the medical appointments (WHO).
- The number of exits by Palestinians classified as business people, which constitute the largest category, increased by 21 per cent, compared with the monthly average between January and August (11,460 vs 9,450). Some of the people included in this category are believed to be day labourers.
- The total number of "business people" (including reported labourers) with valid permits has increased from 1,975 in December 2018 to more than 4,811 in October 2019, slightly below the quota of 5,000 reportedly agreed between the PA and Israel (PA General Authority for Civil Affairs).

Crossings into Israel

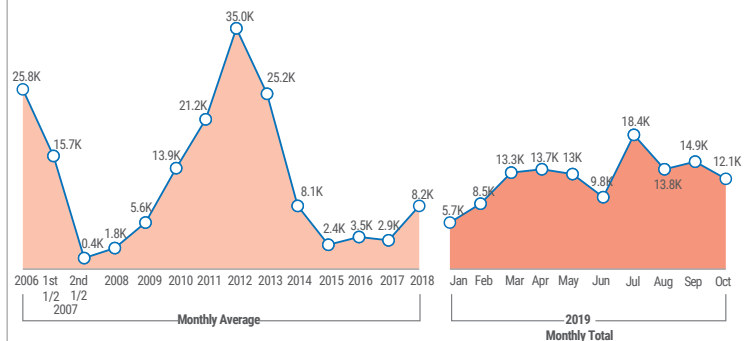


* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

RAFAH CROSSING

- Opened in both directions during daytime on 22 days.*
- A total of 12,127 crossings (4,499 entries into Gaza and 7,628 exits) were recorded in October, 2 per cent below the monthly average between January and August 2019 (12,349).
- Since the beginning of 2019, Rafah crossing has opened on 200 days, compared with 156 and 28 days respectively, during the same periods in 2018 and 2017.

Crossings in both directions



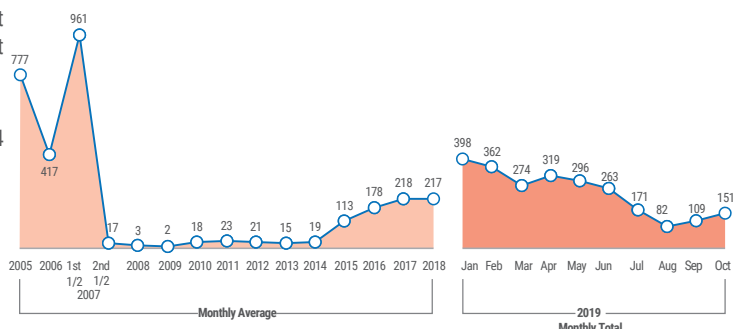
* Since July 2018, it has been operating five days a week (from Sunday to Thursday).

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

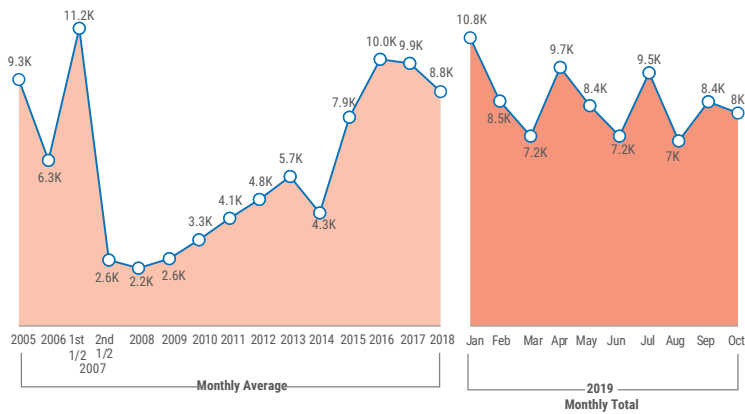
EXIT OF GOODS

- Authorized goods exited through the Kerem Shalom crossing on 15 days.
- A total of 151 truckloads exited, which is 27 per cent lower than the equivalent figure for October 2018, and 84 per cent less than the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to:
 - **The West Bank:** 99 truckloads of agricultural produce; 15 of fish; 9 of clothing; 4 of furniture and 3 of non-edible consumables;
 - **Israel:** 21 truckloads of palm fronds, scrap metal, furniture and garments;
- Kerem Shalom is the only crossing allowing for the regular exit of goods.

Truckloads of goods exiting Gaza



Truckloads entering Gaza*

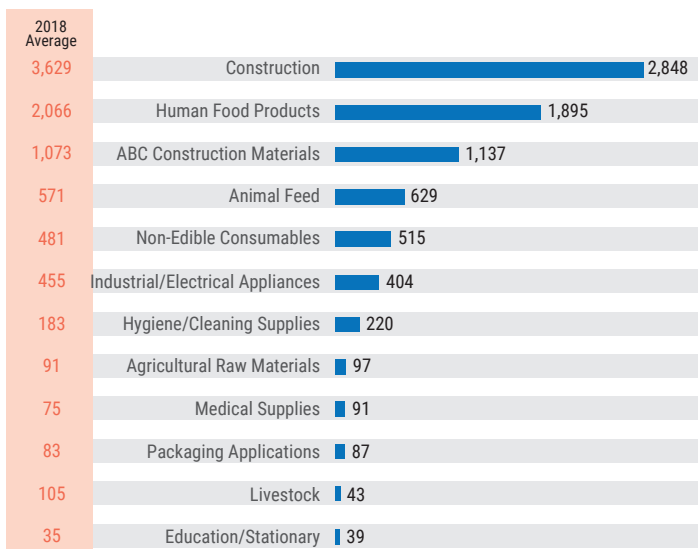


ENTRY OF GOODS

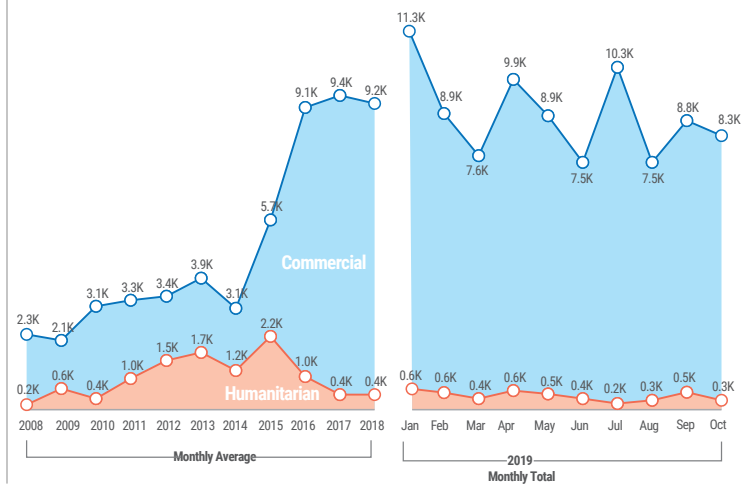
- The Kerem Shalom crossing opened for imports on 16 days (Sunday to Thursday), allowing the entry of 7,340 truckloads of goods, 8 per cent below the monthly average between January and September 2019 (7,963). The types of goods allowed in are heavily restricted by Israel, citing security concerns.
- Some four per cent of the goods entered were for humanitarian agencies.
- An additional 665 truckloads of goods entered from Egypt through the Salah ad Din Gate, 18 per cent above the monthly average between January and September 2019 (562).
- 3,680 truckloads entered through Kerem Shalom carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (50 per cent).

* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

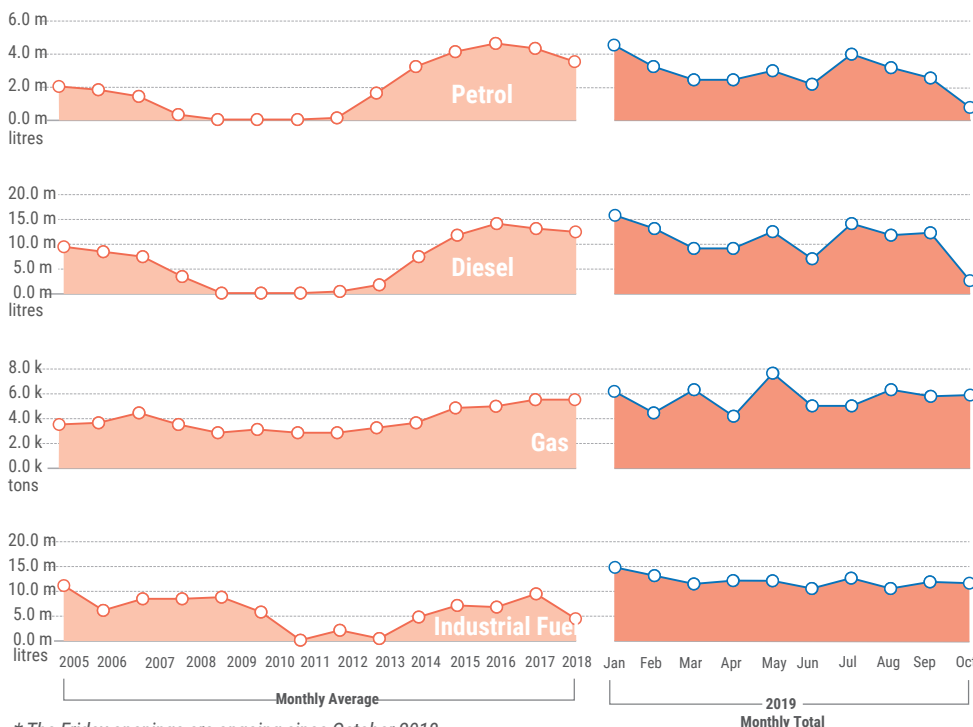
Goods imported in October 2019 (in truckloads)



Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



*Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



* The Friday openings are ongoing since October 2018.

FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 21 days for the import of fuel, including on Fridays, during which Qatari-funded fuel entered for the GPP.*

In total, this allowed the entry of:

- 2.3 million litres of diesel;
- 0.6 million litres of petrol;
- 134 tons of cooking gas; and
- 11.3 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the GPP.

Salah ad Din Gate operated on 12 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of 6,037 tons of cooking gas; data for diesel and petrol is not available from the source.