Access & movement of people and goods in 2015

OCHA

1 JANUARY -31 DECEMBER 2015

Israel has imposed a policy of closure towards the Gaza Strip since the early 1990s. This closure was supplemented in the mid-1990s by the construction of a fence around the perimeter of the territory. These measures have been accompanied by a range of restrictions on the movement of people and goods into, out of and within the Gaza Strip, many of which were intensified into a land, air and sea blockade, following the Hamas take-over of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Related to this, Israel has maintained a policy of separating the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip from that of the rest of the oPt. Access restrictions remain one of the main drivers for the humanitarian crisis and are a persistent obstacle to sustainable recovery in the Gaza Strip. While the number of crossings of people through Erez and the import and exit of goods to and from Gaza via Kerem Shalom more than doubled in 2015, it has not offset the need arising from the general closure of the international crossing with Egypt, Rafah, and Israel's enforcement of the dual use items list which includes wide variety of goods such as (cement, wood, steel bars,…). Exports/transfers of goods from Gaza via Kerem Shalom in 2015 constituted only 10% of the pre-blockade period. The other three commercial crossings: Nahal Oz, Sufa, Karni continued to be closed, and no expansion in the categories of people who are able to leave through Erez was introduced. In all, by the close of 2015, all 1.8 million Gaza residents continued to be denied free access to the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory, including religious sites, and to the outside world.

Key facts

365 km² total area of Gaza Strip

1.8 Million including 1.2 M refugees
Source: UNRWA

Only two of the five crossings with Israel functioned, one for people (with permits issued by Israel), and the other one for commodities.

The only crossing between Gaza and Egypt closed on (333) days in 2015.

Access to 17% of the Gaza Strip land land is restricted.

70% of the Gaza sea water are not accessible.

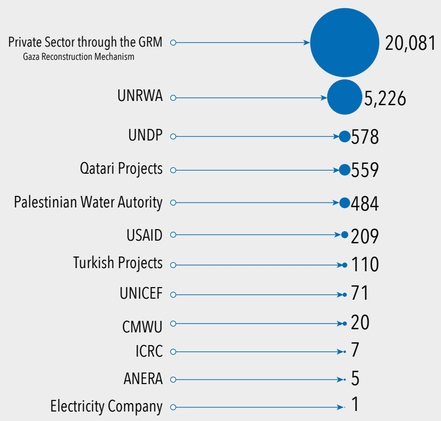
over 90% of the water extracted from the Gaza aquifer is unsafe for human consumption and due to over-extraction the aquifer may become unusable by 2016.
Source: PCBS 2014

35.9% Unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip
Source: PCBS

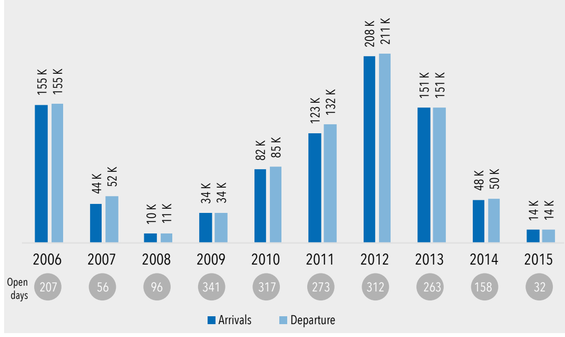
46.7% Of the population of Gaza Strip is food insecure.
Source: 2015 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey FAO, UNRWA, WFP, PCBS

Breakdown of construction materials imports per agency

Restricted basic construction materials from Kerem Shalom only



Movement of crossings through Rafah in both directions

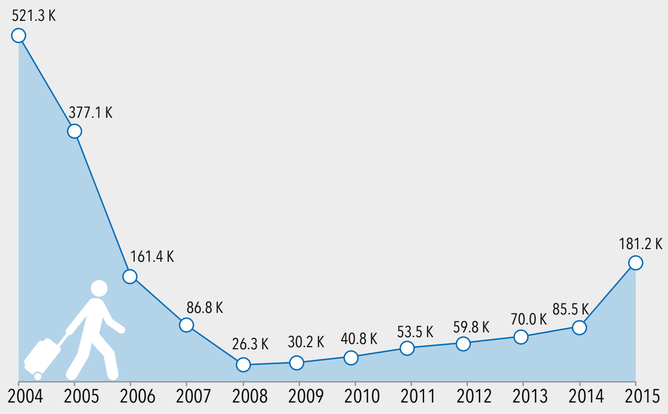




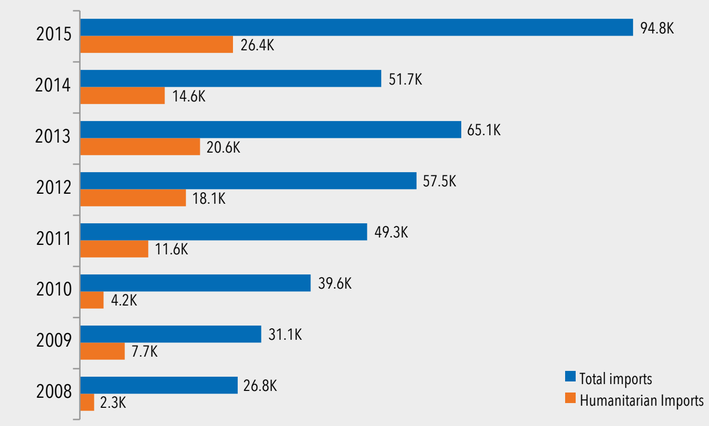


Number of crossings through Erez into Israel

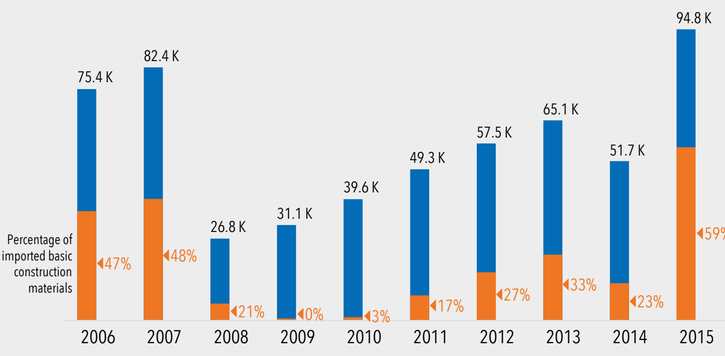
In 2015, this constitutes 34% of the number of crossings in 2004.



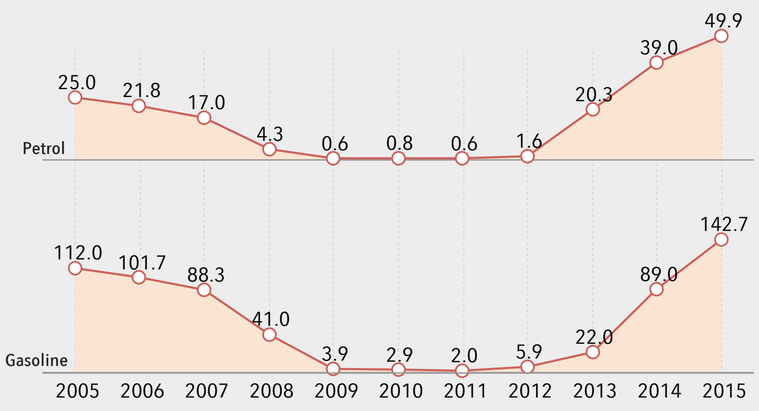
Humanitarian imports compared to total imports

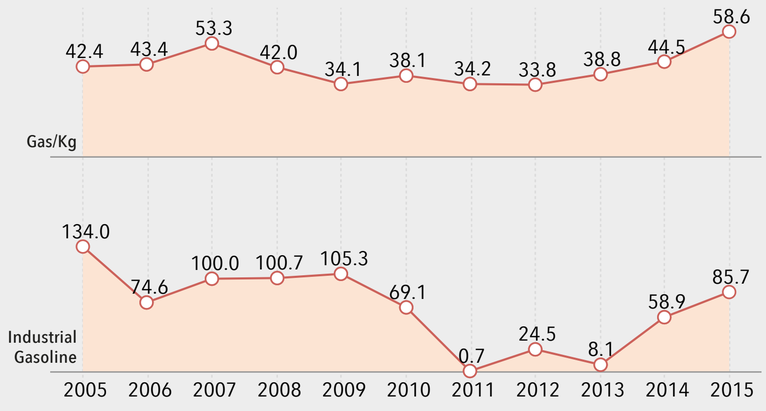


Percentage of construction materials out of total imports



Fuel imports





Exit of goods (# of truckloads)

