GAZA CROSSINGS' OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - JUNE 2019

OCHA

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, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza and the imposition of a blockade. These restrictions limit access to livelihoods, essential 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 opening Kerem Shalom crossing on Friday for the entry of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) and an increase in the number of permits issued to merchants.

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

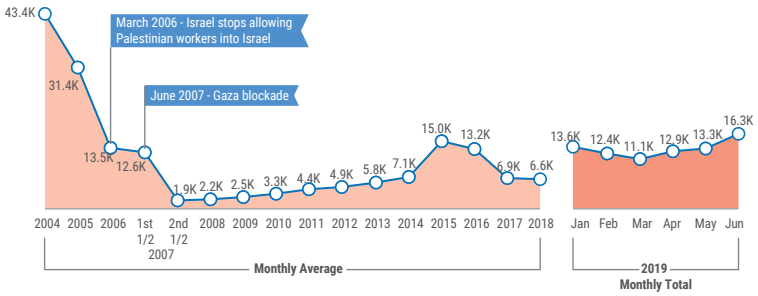


MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 24 days during daytime: from Sunday to Thursday, for the passage of permit holders of all permitted groups (primarily merchants, patients and accompaniers, foreign nationals and aid workers); and, on Fridays, for urgent cases and foreign nationals.
- The number of exits in June (16,332) was 29 per cent higher than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (12,654).
- As of June 2019, Israel has eased some of the preconditions for business people in Gaza to apply for permits to enter the remainder of the oPt and Israel, via Erez Crossing. These include reducing the minimum age of applicants to 25 years, compared to the previous requirement of being over 35 and married.
- Most exits (10,969) were of merchants, 44 per cent more than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (7,600). In recent months, the number of merchants with valid permits has increased from 1,800 to more than 3,000, but is still below the agreed quota of 5,000 (GACA).
- The number of exits of patients and their accompaniers (3,196) was 10 per cent higher than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (2,894).
- Israel approved 68 per cent of the 2,127 applications submitted for patient exit permits; the rest were either rejected or no answer was received by the time of the medical appointments (WHO).

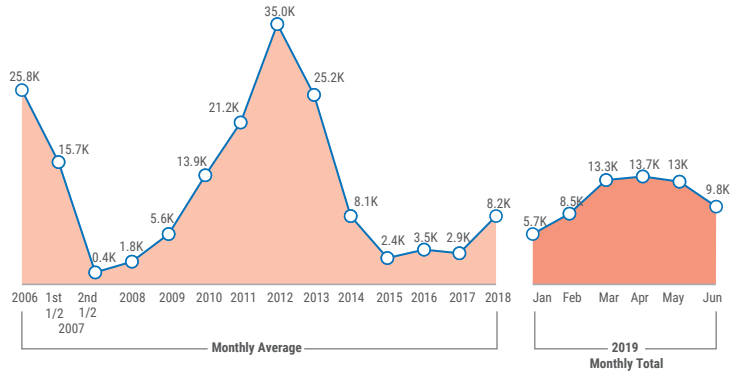
Crossings into Israel



RAFAH CROSSING

- Opened in both directions during daytime on 14 days, and in one direction on 2 days. Since July 2018, it has been operating five days a week (from Sunday to Thursday).
- A total of 9,817 crossings (4,926 entries into Gaza and 4,891 exits from Gaza) were recorded in June, 10 per cent less than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (10,849). Pilgrims accounted for 1,057 of the crossings in June.
- Since the beginning of 2019, Rafah Crossing has opened on 118 days, compared with 65 and 16 days respectively, during the same periods in 2018 and 2017.
- Despite the almost continuous operation of the crossing since July 2018, the exit of people has been delayed or impeded for a range of reasons, including unclear criteria regarding the selection of those allowed to cross.

Crossings in both directions



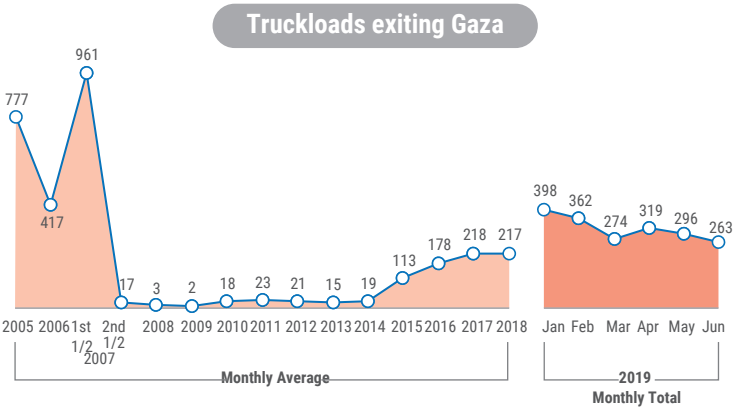
** The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.*

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS

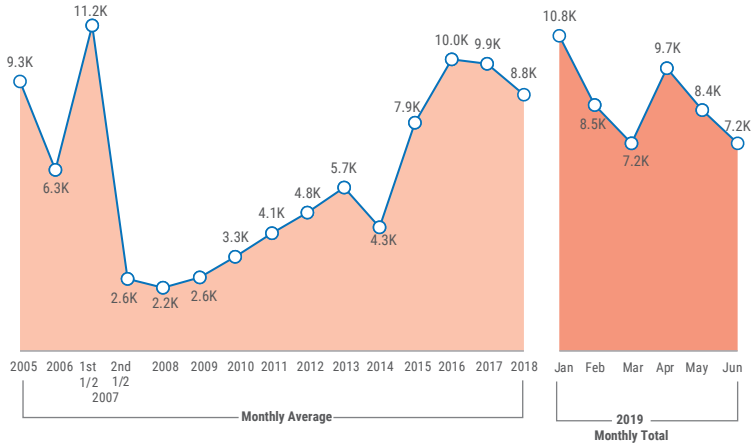
- Authorized goods exited through Kerem Shalom Crossing on 17 days.
- A total of 263 truckloads exited, which is 75 per cent more than in June 2018, but 73 per cent less than the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to:
  - West Bank: 156 truckloads of agricultural produce; 8 of fish; 8 of clothing; 5 of furniture and 2 of non-edible consumables;
  - Israel: 33 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments;
  - International markets: 51 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom is the only crossing allowing for a regular exit of goods.

Truckloads exiting Gaza



Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNSCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).

Truckloads entering Gaza*

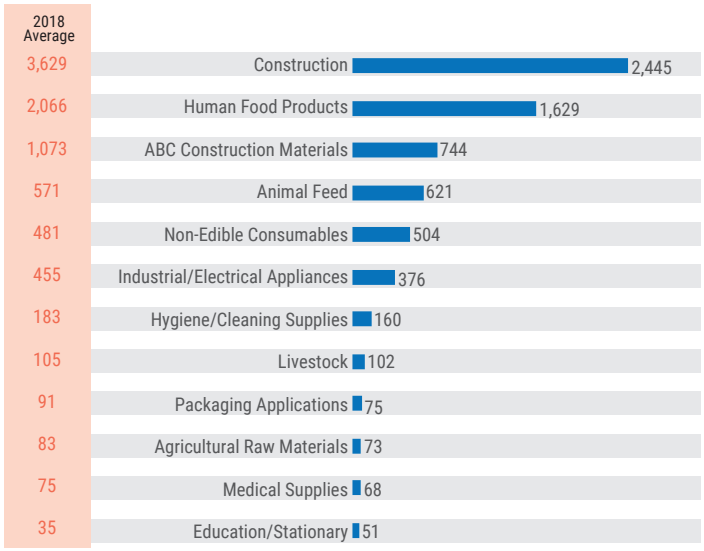


ENTRY OF GOODS

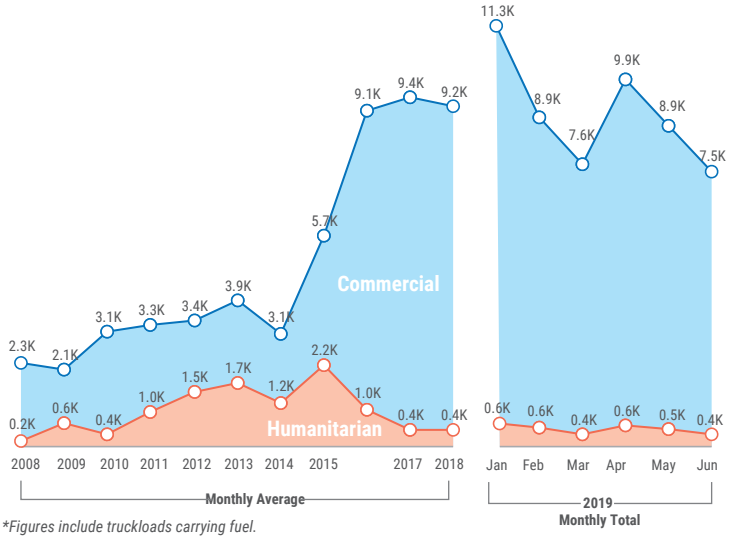
- The Kerem Shalom Crossing operated on 18 days (Sunday to Thursday), and closed for two days for Muslim holidays and one day for a Jewish holiday, allowing the entry of 6,848 truckloads of goods, 18 per cent less than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (8,395).
- Some 5 per cent of the goods entered were for humanitarian agencies.
- An additional 343 truckloads of goods entered from Egypt through the Salah ad Din Gate, 35 per cent less than the monthly average between January and May 2019 (528).
- A total of 3,189 truckloads entering through Kerem Shalom carried construction materials. While this constituted the largest category of imports (46 per cent), it was 30 per cent less than the monthly average for such goods between January and May 2019.
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings remained closed by Israel.

** Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.*

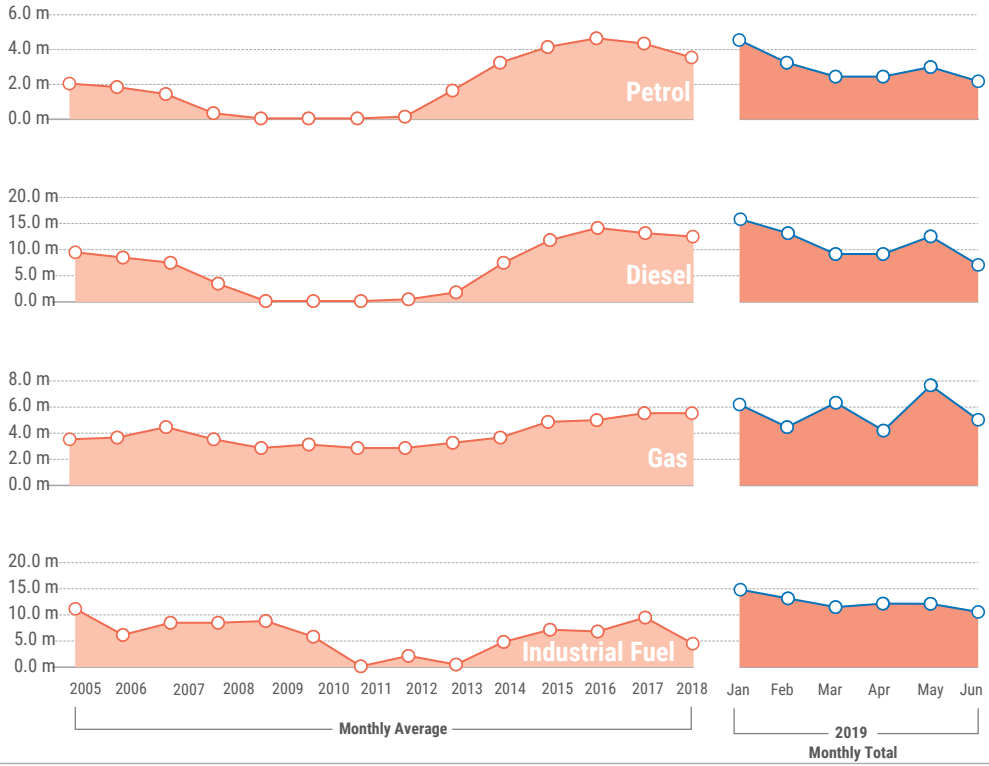
Goods imported in June 2019 (in truckloads)



Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



**Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.*



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 21 days for the import of fuel, exceptionally opening on all four Fridays for the entry of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP). In total, this allowed the entry of:

- 2.5 million litres of diesel;
- 1.2 million litres of petrol;
- 824 tons of cooking gas; and
- 10.6 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the GPP.

Salah ad Din Gate operated on 9 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 4.3 million litres of diesel;
- 1 million litres of petrol; and
- 4,199 tons of cooking gas.

The volume of petrol and diesel that entered in June was 39 per cent below the monthly average between January and May 2019.

Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNSCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).