

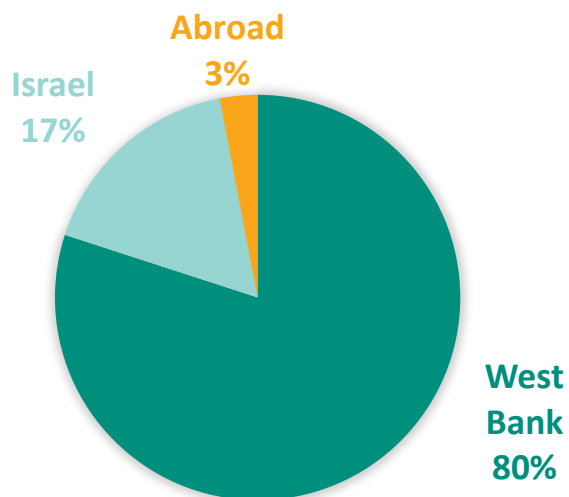
GAZA IN NUMBERS

EXIT OF GOODS

Since November 2014, Israel has allowed limited sale of Gaza-grown and produced goods in the West Bank. Since March 2015, Israel has also allowed an even smaller number of products from Gaza to be sold in Israel. From 2007-2014, only export abroad had been permitted. **The monthly average** number of truckloads of goods exiting Gaza to all destinations in the first half of 2017 was about 25 percent of the **monthly average** in 2007, before the closure was imposed.

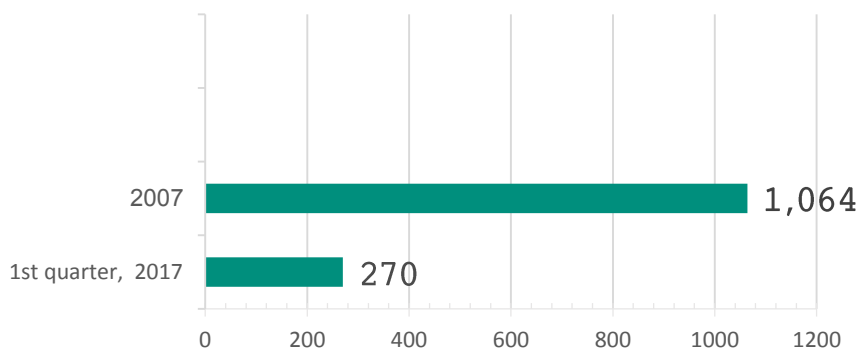
Sale of Gaza goods by destination

Percentage based on number of truckloads in 1st half of 2017



Exit of truckloads carrying goods from Gaza

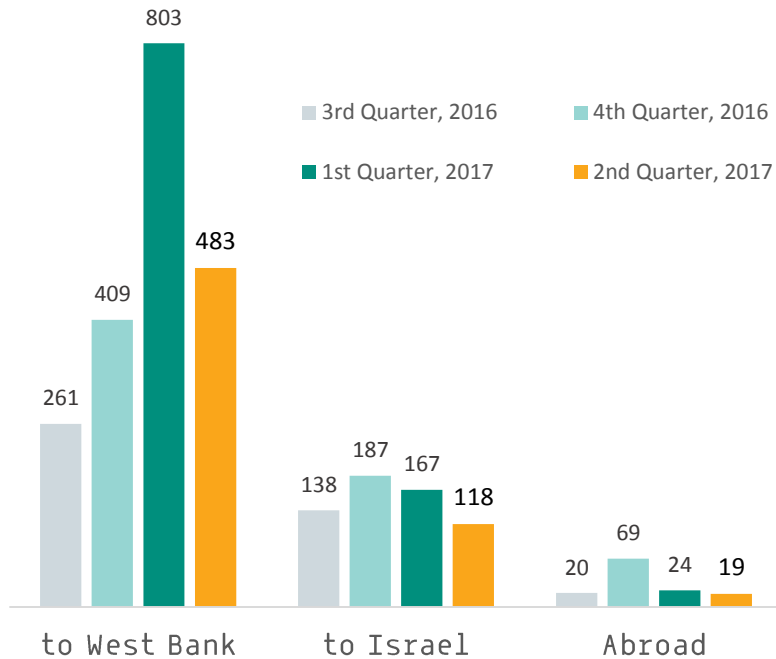
Monthly average of truckloads in 2007, compared to the first quarter of 2017



25%
 Percent of truckloads carrying goods from Gaza in the first half of 2017, compared to 2007

Truckloads of goods exiting Gaza in the last year

By destination



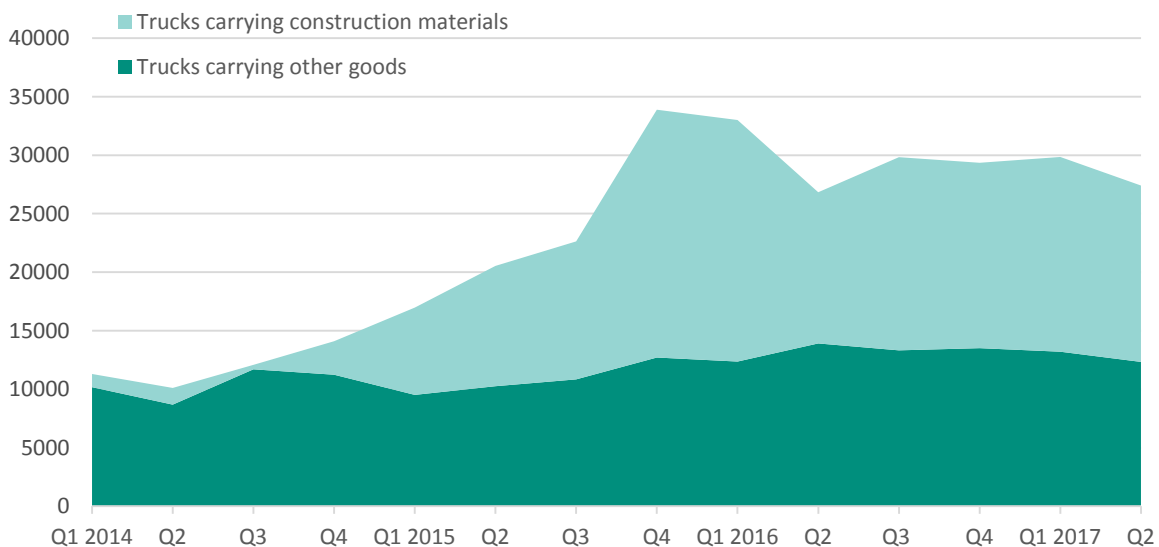
Most of the goods exiting Gaza are agricultural produce. Israel dictates what produce can be sold, where and when. Israel allows limited sale of textile and furniture in the West Bank, and limited sale of eggplant, tomatoes, furniture, textile and scrap metal in Israel. The units in the table represent truckloads.

ENTRY OF TRUCKS TO GAZA

In the first half of 2017, an average of about 9,542 truckloads of goods entered Gaza each month (excluding fuel), via Kerem Shalom Crossing. More than half the trucks entering carried “basic construction materials,” that is, cement, steel and gravel.

ENTRY OF TRUCKLOADS OF GOODS VIA KEREM SHALOM

By quarter



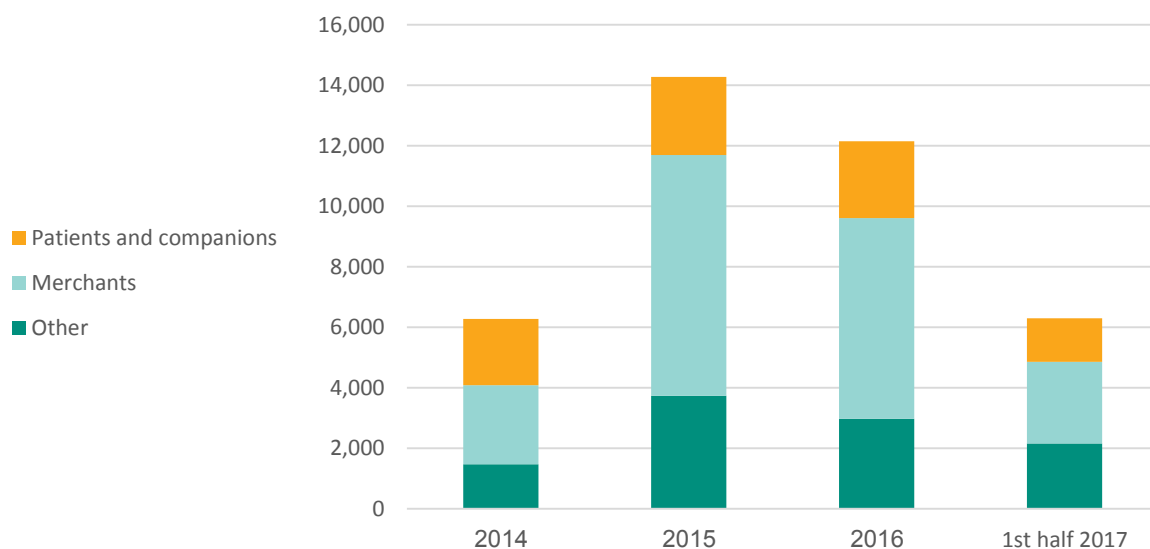
ENTRY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

From September 2014 to the end of June 2017, a total of 8,836,584 tons of construction materials entered the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) was established after the most recent military operation in 2014 (Operation Protective Edge). Almost all construction materials entering Gaza today go through the GRM. Decisions made in the framework of this complex mechanism are lacking in transparency. Many projects dependent on the GRM are significantly delayed. In late 2015, gravel was removed from the list of “dual-use” materials, and can now be purchased and brought into Gaza without restrictions or dependency on the GRM. Small quantities of construction materials enter occasionally from Egypt via Rafah Crossing. As the above table shows, much of the increase in the volume of goods entering Gaza since 2014 is attributed to the entry of construction materials via the GRM, while the volume of other goods entering remained largely unchanged.

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE THROUGH EREZ CROSSING

Israel limits the exit of Palestinians via Erez Crossing to three main categories: merchants, patients and their companions, and exceptional humanitarian cases. In 2016, an average of 12,000 exits of Palestinians was recorded per month, less than 2.5 percent of the monthly average of exits in 2000, before the Second Intifada. The monthly average of exits dropped a further 48 percent during the first half of 2017. The monthly average during the first quarter of 2017 was 6,302 exits.

Monthly average number of exits



Merchants make up the largest category of people exiting Gaza, at about 42 percent of all exits. Given that Rafah Crossing has been mostly closed since mid-2013, the need to travel through Erez Crossing has increased. This need has only partially been met by the increase in exits through Erez Crossing. In the first half of 2017 the number of exits of merchants dropped by about 59 percent to 2,696, compared to the monthly average during 2016, which was 6,637 exits.

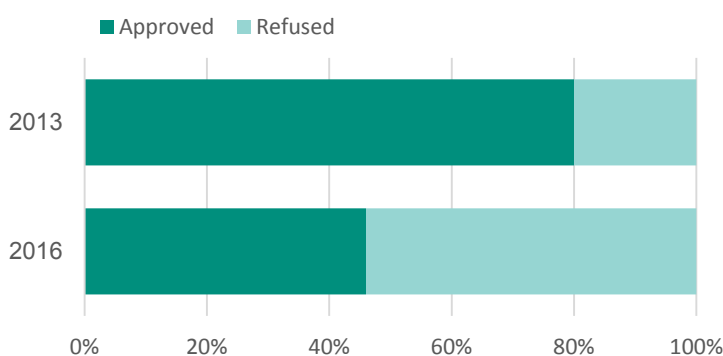
The category of “Other” includes people traveling abroad via Allenby Bridge and people traveling to the West Bank or Israel to visit family in the case of a funeral, serious illness, wedding or similar humanitarian need. People from this category are often denied permits, or their applications are delayed for long periods of time. The category also includes relatives of prisoners who travel to visit them and Palestinian Authority VIPs.

SECURITY PRECLUSIONS AND MERCHANT PERMITS

Since the end of 2015, we have been [documenting](#) an alarming increase in the trend of merchants being denied permits on ‘security grounds.’ According to figures provided by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), only 46 percent of permit applications were approved through November 2016, compared to an 80 percent approval rate in 2013. According to our sources, as of July 2017, there are only 831 valid permits held by Gaza merchants, in addition to 141 senior merchant permits (BMG), compared to roughly 3,600 permits that were valid in January 2016 and 1,363 permits at the beginning of March 2017.

Permits compared to refusals

Merchants are the largest category of people exiting through Erez and their work is vital for Gaza’s economy. Yet, [according to figures](#) provided by COGAT, there was a sharp drop of 23 percent in the number of merchant permit holders – from 3,181 in January 2016 to 2,438 in September. In August 2016, 1,130 merchant permit applications were refused, compared to 574 refusals in January 2016.



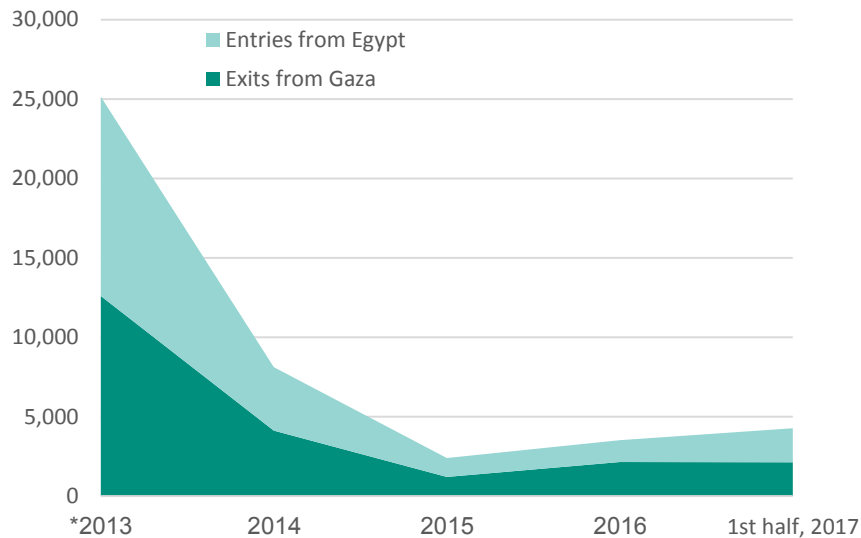
-23%

Drop in the number of traders holding travel permits

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE THROUGH RAFAH

Egyptian-controlled Rafah Crossing has been mostly closed since mid-2013. It was only open for exit from Gaza during 25 days throughout 2015, 42 days in 2016, and 11 days during the first half of 2017. On the few days when the crossing is open, only people meeting stringent travel criteria are permitted to travel and preference is given to people appearing on lists produced by Egypt.

Monthly average number of crossings via Rafah



* During the first half of 2013, the crossing operated normally and some 40,000 entries and exits were recorded there each month. The crossing closed after the fall of the Morsi regime in Egypt. The numbers in the table represent the monthly average for each year.

For more figures on movement of people and goods, updated monthly, click [here](#).