إتحاد الغرف التجارية الصناعية الزراعية الفلسطينية
Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

Week 34: 18-24 March, 2025.

In this Report:

- This week witnessed continuation of the comprehensive closure imposed by the Israeli side on Gaza Strip since 02/03/2025.
- This week has also witnessed a dramatic collapse of the ceasefire after nearly two months of its coming into effect.
- Israeli occupation issued a numerous evacuation orders for large areas of Gaza Strip, included (Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, East of Khan Yunis, West of Rafah, and both sides of the Netzarim axis).
- New evacuation orders led to new waves of forced displacement of residents, Reports indicate that the number of people who were forcibly displaced this week, has exceeded 142,000.

April 08, 2025

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

1. Executive Summary:

- This report, of weekly market analysis in Gaza Strip, covers the period from 18/03/2025 to 24/03/2025.
- This week witnessed continuation of the comprehensive closure imposed by the Israeli side on Gaza Strip since 02/03/2025.
- This week has also witnessed a dramatic collapse of the ceasefire after nearly two months of its coming into effect.
- The Israeli occupation resumed its war on Gaza Strip at the dawn of Tuesday 18/03/2025, with a massive wave of airstrikes targeting dozens of civilian homes.
- The following day, 19/03/2025, Israeli forces carried out a ground incursion along the Netzarim axis, and again separated the northern side of Gaza Strip from the southern side via Salah al-Din Street, which previously was for vehicle movement in both directions.
- Movement between the north and south via Rashid Street remained restricted to pedestrians, animal-drawn carts, and motorcycles.
- This week also witnessed the issuance of numerous evacuation orders for large areas of Gaza Strip, by the Israeli occupation, included (Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, East of Khan Yunis, West of Rafah, and both sides of the Netzarim axis). This has led to new waves of forced displacement of residents. Reports indicate that the number of people who were forcibly displaced this week, has exceeded 142,000.
- This closure cuts off the lifeline for more than 2 million Palestinians who have been experiencing unimaginable conditions for many months. Ensuring a continuous supply of aid is essential for their survival.
- According to the World Food Program (WFP), which has been supporting the operation of 25 bakeries around Gaza Strip, 6 of the 25 bakeries were forced to close, on 08/03/2025 due to the shortage of cooking gas. The remaining bakeries are at risk of closing within a few days unless the entry of flour and fuel is resumed.
- (WFP) also reported that it has approximately 63,000 metric tons of food destined for Gaza, equivalent to 2-3 months' worth of food distributions for 1.1 million people, awaiting entry permits.
- The Israeli decision to close all the crossings and halt the entry of all goods, aid, and supplies into Gaza Strip has been a major shock to the markets, leading to sharp escalation in most items' prices.
- This week, there is no coordination mechanism in action, because there are no commodities or goods allowed to enter Gaza Strip.
- It is not yet known whether the previous coordination mechanism will be valid if the crossings are reopened or whether a new mechanism will be established.
- During the reporting period, commission rate for obtaining cash ranged between 28% and 30%. This places an additional burden on citizens already suffering from difficult living conditions.

2. Distribution of the Population in Gaza Strip:

After nearly two months of the ceasefire, the demographic map of Gaza Strip was almost stable after a large number of displaced people returned to their areas from which they were displaced. Even those whose homes were completely destroyed, have set up their tents on the ruins of their destroyed homes. However, the resumption of the war on 03/18/2025 led to dramatic changes in the demographic map as a result of the issuance of orders by the Israeli occupation to the residents to evacuate many areas. These orders led to new waves of forced displacement. Reports indicate that more than 14,200 people were forcibly displaced from their areas during the reporting period, these areas include (Beit Hanoun - Beit Lahia - East Khan Yunis - West Rafah - both sides of the Netzarim axis).

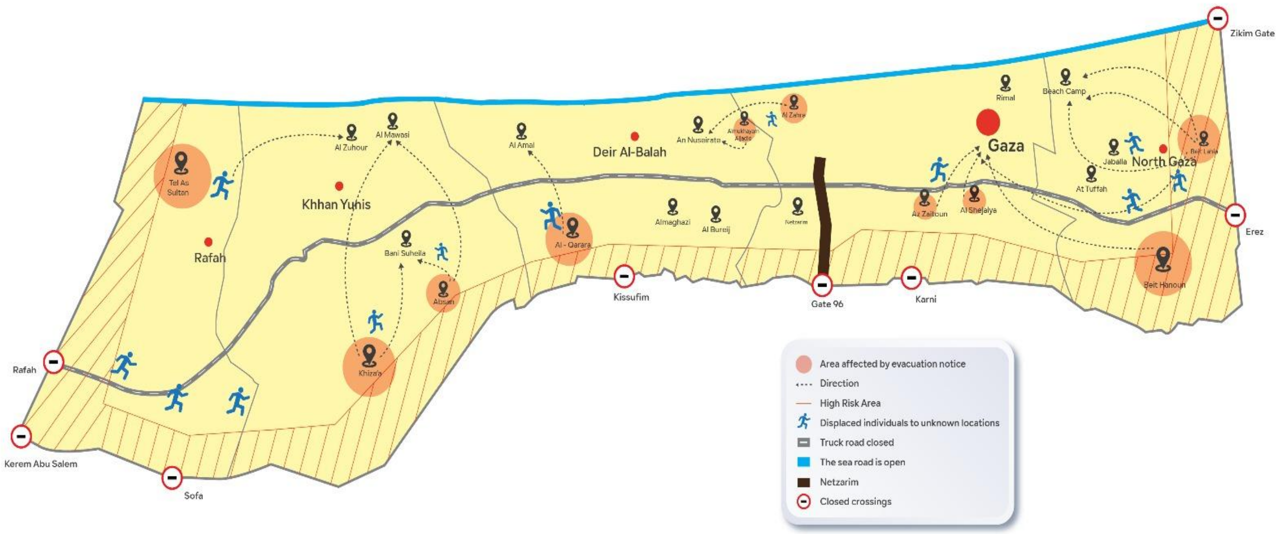

Figure (1): Map of crossings and new evacuation zones

3. Daily Crossing Points Status:

This week witnessed continuation of the comprehensive closure imposed by the Israeli side on Gaza Strip, starting on the morning of Sunday 02/03/2025. All crossings were completely closed, and absolutely nothing passed into Gaza Strip throughout the week. This cuts off the lifeline for more than 2 million Palestinians who have been experiencing unimaginable conditions for many months. According to local sources, the amount of food available inside Gaza Strip is sufficient for the population for a period ranging from 10 days to 2 weeks at the most. According to the World Food Program (WFP), which has been supporting the operation of 25 bakeries around Gaza Strip, 6 bakeries of them were forced to close due to a shortage of cooking gas on 08.03.2025, and the remaining bakeries are at risk of closing within a few days unless the entry of flour and fuel is resumed. (WFP) also reported that it has approximately 63,000 metric tons of food destined for Gaza, equivalent to 2-3 months' worth of food distributions for 1.1 million people, awaiting entry permits.

4. Daily market prices for essential items:

The Israeli decision to close all the crossings and halt the entry of all goods, aid, and supplies into Gaza Strip has been a major shock to the markets, leading to sharp escalation in most prices. It is clearly noticeable that prices have started to rise again. Some items prices jumped quickly until they reached pre-ceasefire levels and more, and other items disappeared from the markets. The following analysis, highlights the changes in prices of basic commodities and compare the current week's prices with the prices of (pre-war, previous week, and the average of the previous month “February 2025”). We chose to compare with the average of February because it was the month with the highest flow of commodities into Gaza Strip as a result of the ceasefire.

4.1. Comparing Current Prices with normal prices before the war

When we compare the average prices of essential goods during this week with the normal prices of the same goods before the war, we find that:

- The current prices of 13 of the 14 commodities have increased compared to their pre-war prices, at varying rates depending on the availability of commodities in the markets, while one commodity has decreased compared to its pre-war price.
- Potato was the most increasing item, its average price this week reaching more than 24 times its pre-war price, followed by eggplant at more than 17 times higher, and then onion by about 16 times higher.
- Lemon and garlic increased by about 12 times higher than their pre-war prices, and sugar by about 10 times.
- Cucumber, tomato, macaroni, pepper and cooking oil prices ranged between 2-7 times higher.
- Flour and rice were the least increasing items by 119% and 138% respectively.
- kidney bean was the only item whose current price came below its pre-war price by 4%.

Table (1): comparing current prices with the normal prices before the war.

#	Item	Pre-war Prices	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current week prices compared to the Pre-war prices
1	Potato	2	50.71	2,436%
2	Eggplant	2	37.67	1,783%
3	Onion	2	33.71	1,586%
4	Lemon	4	52.50	1,213%
5	Garlic	10	130.00	1,200%
6	Sugar	3	31.71	957%
7	Cucumber	2	16.14	707%
8	Tomato	2	15.86	693%
9	Macaroni	2.5	11.43	357%

#	Item	Pre-war Prices	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current week prices compared to the Pre-war prices
10	Pepper	10	41.43	314%
11	Oil	9	29.86	232%
12	Rice	8	19.00	138%
13	Flour	35	76.67	119%
14	Kidney beans	7	6.71	-4%

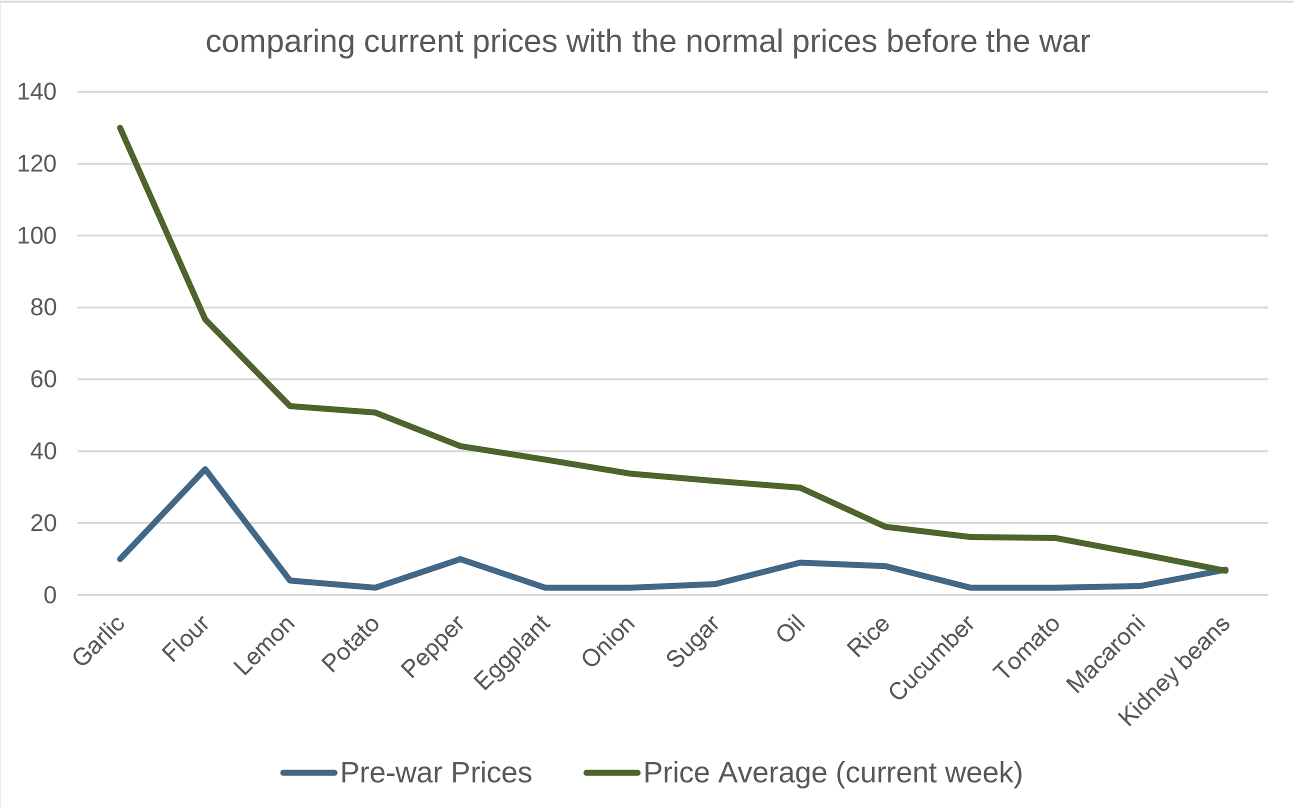

Figure (2): comparing current prices with the normal prices before the war.

4.3. Comparing Current Prices with the Price of the Previous Week

When we compare the average prices of essential goods during this week with the price average of the same goods in the previous week, we find that:

- All of the 14 items have current prices higher than their prices average in the previous week.
- Garlic was the most increasing item by 400%, followed by sugar which increased by more than 296%, and then cooking oil by more than 168%.
- Kidney beans and rice were the least increasing items by about 34% and 45% respectively.

Table (2): comparing current prices with the prices of previous week.

#	Item	Price Average (previous week)	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current prices compared to the previous week
1	Garlic	26.00	130.00	400%
2	Sugar	8.00	31.71	296%
3	Oil	11.14	29.86	168%
4	Macaroni	5.00	11.43	129%
5	Flour	35.00	76.67	119%
6	Onion	15.50	33.71	118%
7	Tomato	8.29	15.86	91%
8	Eggplant	21.67	37.67	74%
9	Potato	30.71	50.71	65%
10	Pepper	26.00	41.43	59%
11	Lemon	33.57	52.50	56%
12	Cucumber	11.14	16.14	45%
13	Rice	13.14	19.00	45%
14	Kidney beans	5.00	6.71	34%

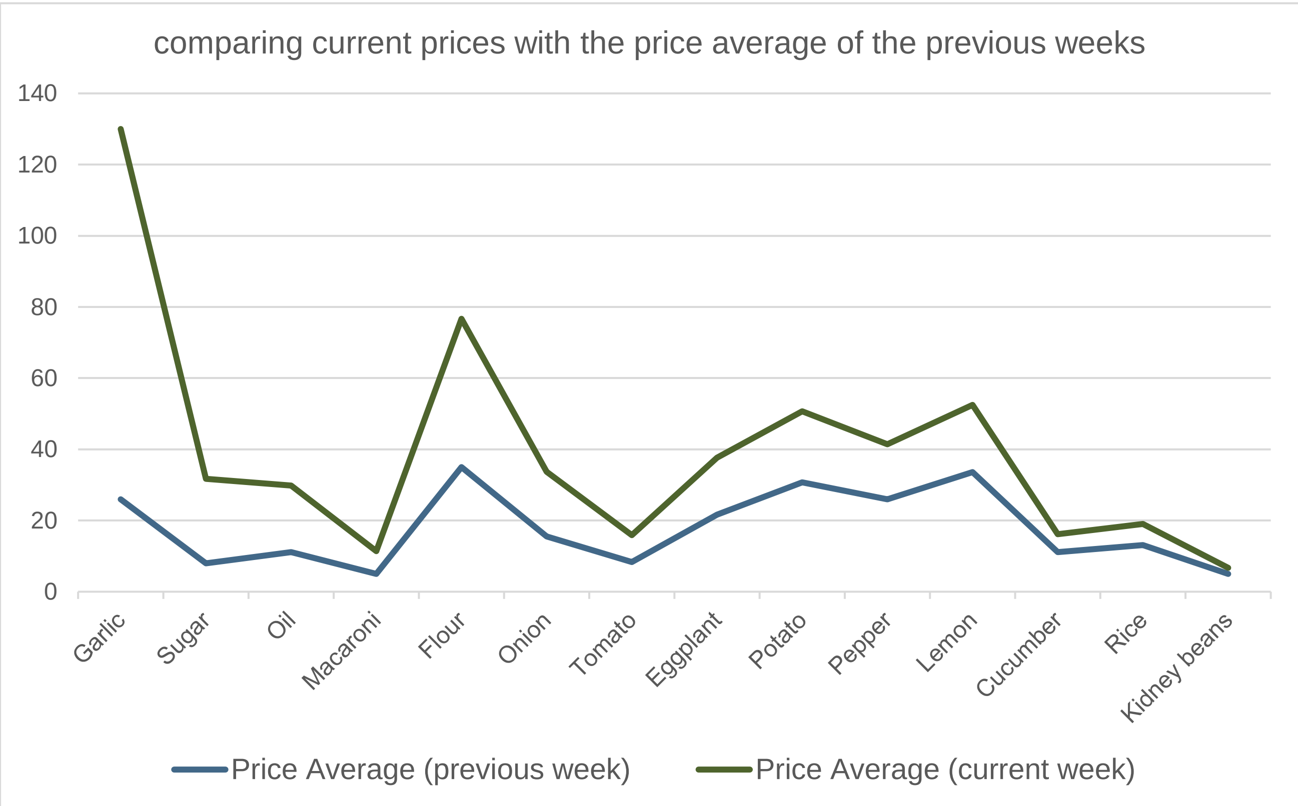

Figure (3): comparing current prices with the prices of the previous weeks.

4.2. Comparing Current Prices with the previous month prices "February":

- When we compare the average prices of essential goods during this week with the prices of the same goods in the previous month (February 2025), The month that witnessed the highest flow rate of trucks from the crossings into Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war, we find that:
- All of the 14 items have increased comparing to their average prices over the previous month (February 2025).
- Potato was the most increasing item by more than 583%, followed by lemon by about 670%, and then Garlic by 600%.
- Kidney beans and cucumber were the least increasing items by about 34% and 91% respectively.

Table (3): comparing current prices with the previous month prices.

#	Item	Price Average (previous month)	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current prices compared to Feb 2025
1	Potato	5.32	50.71	853%
2	Lemon	6.82	52.50	670%
3	Garlic	18.57	130.00	600%
4	Onion	4.95	33.71	582%
5	Sugar	6.23	31.71	409%
6	Eggplant	7.89	37.67	377%
7	Oil	9.16	29.86	226%
8	Rice	7.36	19.00	158%
9	Flour	30.20	76.67	154%
10	Tomato	6.43	15.86	147%
11	Macaroni	5.00	11.43	129%
12	Pepper	18.75	41.43	121%
13	Cucumber	8.45	16.14	91%
14	Kidney beans	5.00	6.71	34%

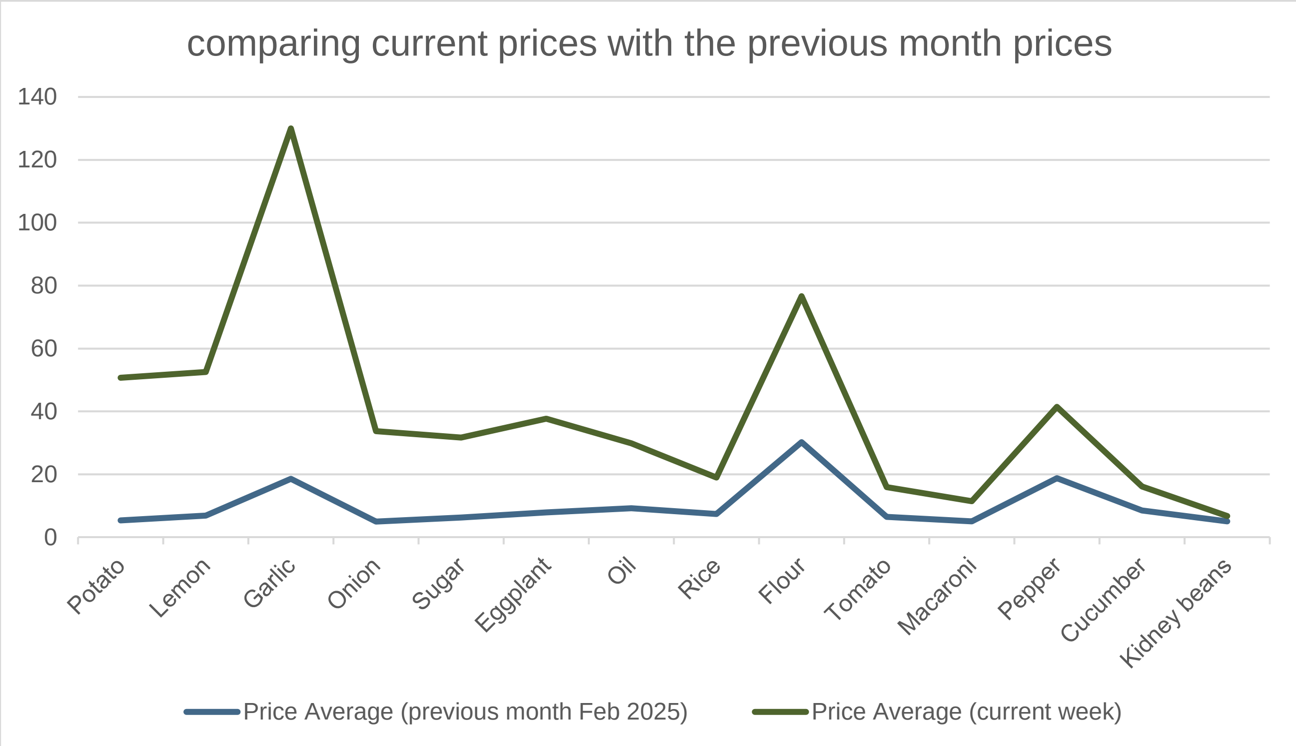

Figure (4): comparing current prices with the prices of previous month.

5. Electronic payment: The National Campaign “Cash Bilzamnash”

As part of efforts to overcome cash liquidity challenges, on December 2024, the Gaza Chamber of Commerce launched a national campaign to promote and encourage the use of electronic payment methods among various commercial service providers, in collaboration with the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The campaign included awareness-raising and educational activities, motivating merchants to adopt electronic payments, enhancing financial inclusion, achieving financial sustainability and reducing the cash liquidity crises. The campaign includes two major components i. Media activities and ii. Field activities. In the first phase of the campaign, 523 points of sale were targeted, including large shopping malls, medium-sized stores, and small kiosks, with the aim of collecting accurate data reflecting the adoption and use of electronic payment, as well as identifying the most prominent challenges facing the system.

6.1. The Situation Before the War

Before the war, E-wallets and E-payment systems were gradually spreading despite the economic and political challenges facing Gaza Strip. The most prominent of these systems were:

- **Money transfers:** Through local exchange companies.
- **Electronic wallets:** Some local companies began offering E-wallet services, such as (PalPay - JawwalPay).

- **Bank Visa cards:** Bank Visa and ATM cards were used to pay for purchases from relatively large stores. Many banks provided this service, such as (Bank of Palestine - Al-Quds Bank - The Palestine Islamic Bank).

6.2. The Situation Before the Campaign

At the beginning of the war in October 2023, the E-payment systems in the Gaza Strip were severely affected, facing numerous challenges that led to the disruption or significant reduction of digital payment services. The following are the most significant aspects affected by the war:

- **Disruption of infrastructure and destruction of internet and communications networks:** The communications infrastructure was repeatedly damaged, resulting in prolonged internet outages and the disruption of E-payment services.
- **Many financial service providers were shut down:** Many E-payment companies, such as PayPal, JawwalPay, and Aman, were affected due to the destruction of their offices or the interruption of services.
- **Parallelism in the banking sector:** Most bank branches were closed due to the intensity of the military attacks on Gaza Strip, and restrictions were imposed on money transfers.
- **Direct impact on merchants and consumers:** The use of electronic payments in stores declined, and the demand for cash increased, causing a significant decline in electronic payment transactions.

However, during the following months of the war, the use of electronic payment began to return again. A significant shift toward **E-payment** methods has been noted, especially as cash liquidity problems arose due to the closure of banks.

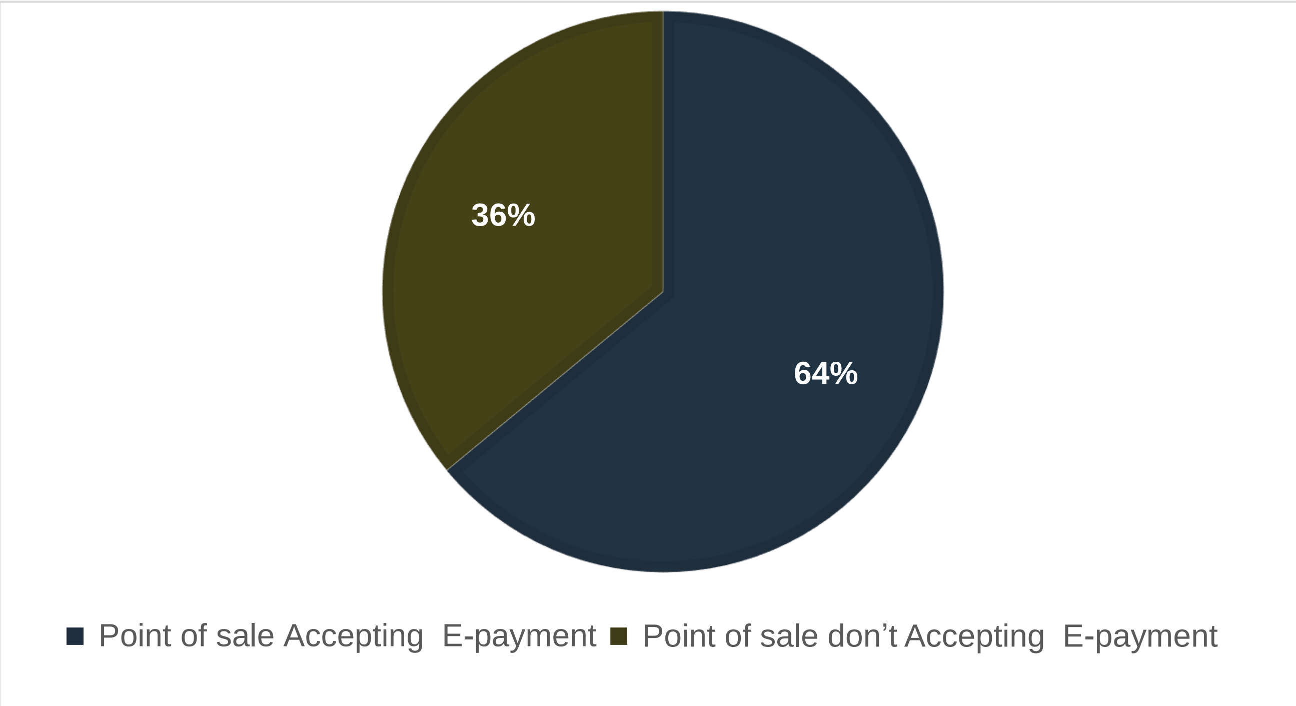

Figure (5): percentage of point of sale accepting E-payments as on November 2024

Based on a field survey conducted by the Gaza Chamber of Commerce in November 2024, the month immediately preceding the launching of the campaign, to a sample consisted of 50 points of sale distributed throughout Gaza Strip, about the acceptance of E-payment. The results showed that: around **64%** of point of sale accepting E-payments, comparing with **36%** don't accept, driven by the liquidity crisis and the scarcity of usable cash.

6.3. Survey Sample Description

In March 2025, after 4 months of the campaign launching, Gaza Chamber of Commerce conducted a new survey targeting 523 points of sale. The sample included 523 different-sized sales points distributed across Gaza Strip, as shown in Table No. (4), noting that Rafah Governorate was not included in the sample because it was completely evacuated and there was no commercial activity there during the campaign's implementation.

Table (4): Distribution of the survey sample across Gaza Strip.

#	Governorate	Number of points of sale	Percentage %
1	Gaza	255	49%
2	North of Gaza	55	11%
3	Al-Wusta	104	19%
4	Khan Younis	109	21%
Total		**523**	**100%**

The target sample is divided equally between points selling food items and points selling non-food items, as shown in the following figure.

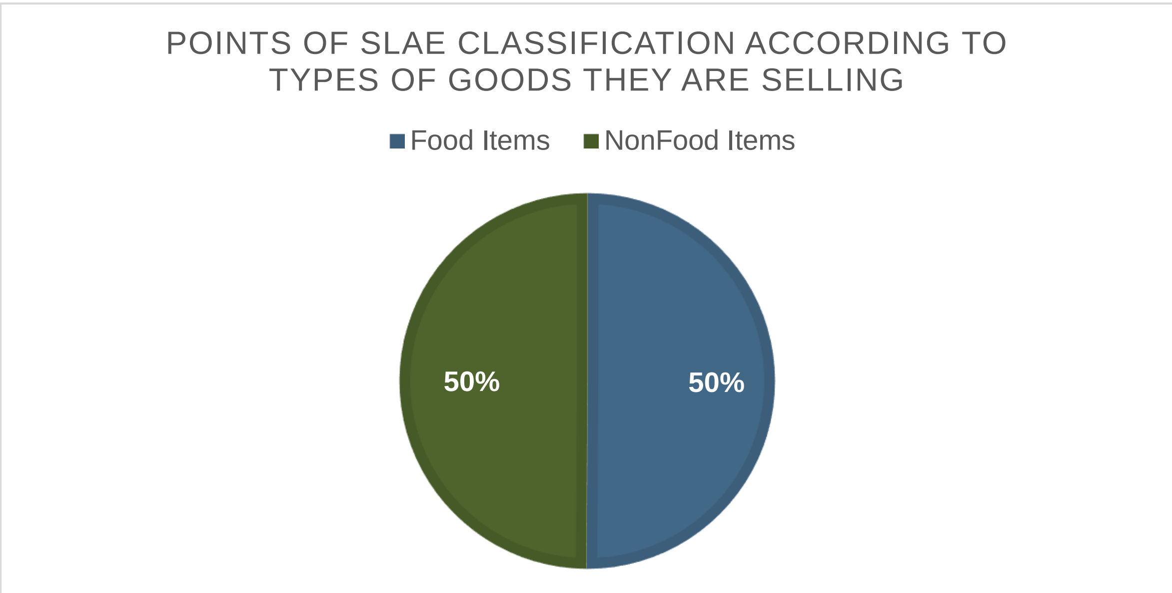

Figure (6): points of sale classification according to types of goods they are selling.

The points of sale in the target sample were classified based on the merchant size into 3 levels: large merchant, medium merchant, and small merchant.

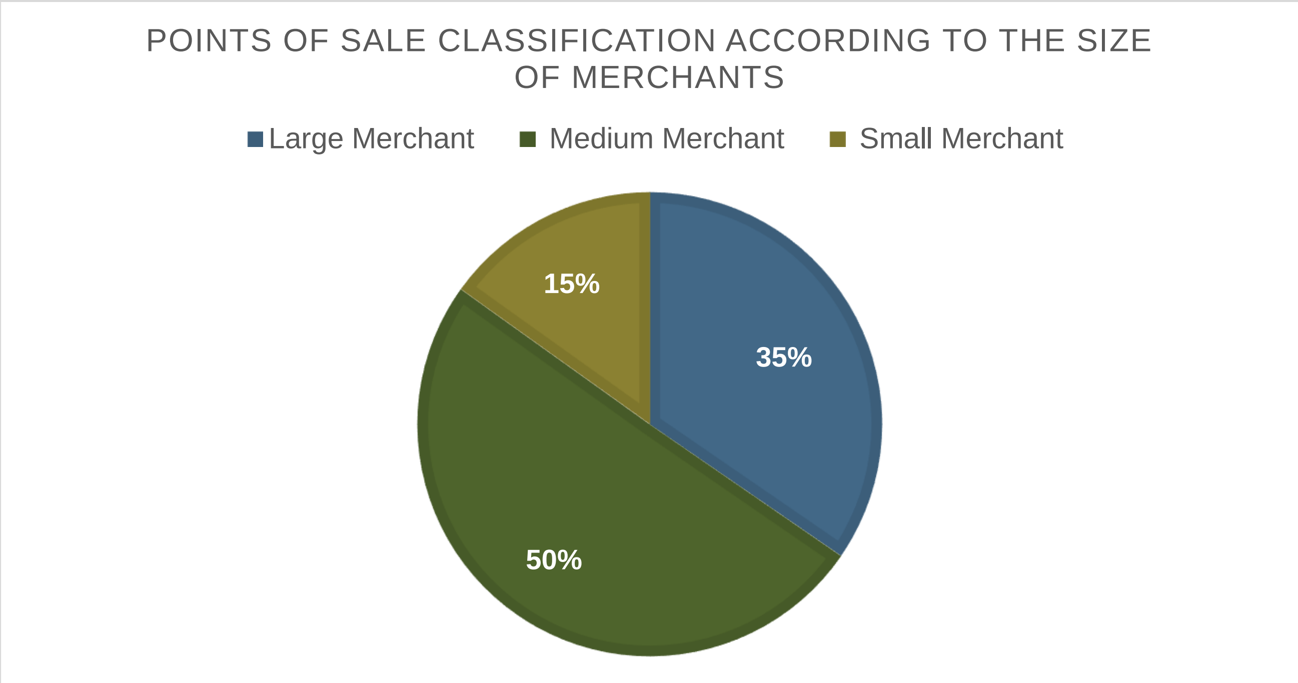

Figure (7): points of sale classification according to the size of merchants.

6.3. The Result of the Campaign

The results show that 90% of the surveyed points of sale accept E-payment methods, while the remaining 10% do not. The high acceptance rate of E-payment methods reflects the trend toward digital transformation in most financial transactions, which contributes to speeding up procedures, reducing human error, and increasing security. Conversely, the remaining 10% may represent individuals or entities that still prefer or are forced to use traditional methods due to limited access to technology or infrastructure issues.

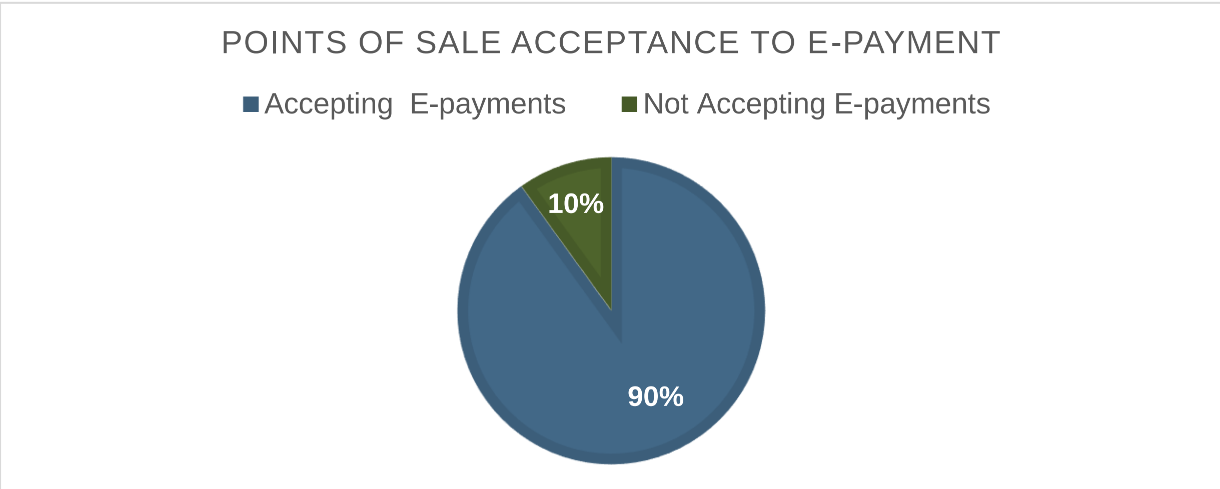

Figure (8): points of sale acceptance to E-payment.

The results also show a clear preference for merchants to combining a range of different e-payments options. This preference may be due to the benefits offered by using a variety of services, such as the convenience offered by banks or the diverse features offered by different E-wallets.

- **10% using “JawwalPay” Wallet only:** This percentage indicates that “JawwalPay” Wallet is not the most popular option among users.
- **12% using “PalPay” Wallet only:** The usage for “PalPay” Wallet is also low compared to some of the other apps in the survey.
- **57% using all wallets and deal with all banks:** This percentage is the highest among the options, indicating that the majority of sellers prefer the variety and flexibility of dealing with multiple banking services and E-wallets.
- **37% using the Bank of Palestine application:** This percentage reflects the popularity of the Bank of Palestine app among users, indicating that it is one of the main options relied upon by a large number of sellers to manage their financial affairs digitally.

Table (5): Percentage of point-of-sale adoption of various E-payment methods.

#	The method used	Number of points of sale	Percentage %
1	JawwalPay Wallet only	53	10%
2	PalPay Wallet only	65	12%
3	All wallets and all banks’ apps	300	57%
4	Bank of Palestine app	195	37%

Some problems facing points of sale that limit or hinder their use of E-payment methods, the results were as follows:

- **70% face problems with the internet:** This high percentage indicates that poor internet connectivity is one of the most prominent challenges facing points of sale when conducting electronic transactions. This may be due to the poor internet infrastructure in some areas.
- **15% face problems with electricity:** This percentage is also high and indicates that power outages are a major challenge. Power outages can affect the ability of points of sale users to conduct electronic financial transactions.
- **4% face difficulties dealing with wholesalers:** This percentage indicates that a small percentage of users face problems with wholesalers who do not accept E-payments, forcing them to sell in cash.
- **8% face problems with POS devices:** This percentage indicates that some POS users face difficulty using POS devices in stores or commercial locations. These problems may be related to device malfunctions or complex payment procedures.
- **1% do not have a bank account or application:** This is a low percentage, meaning that most sellers have bank accounts or banking applications that enable them to

conduct electronic transactions. However, there is still a small number of individuals who do not have these accounts.

- **2% are facing liquidity problems:** This percentage indicates that some sellers may not have enough funds in their accounts to make E-payments. This may reflect economic problems or a lack of available credit for some sellers.

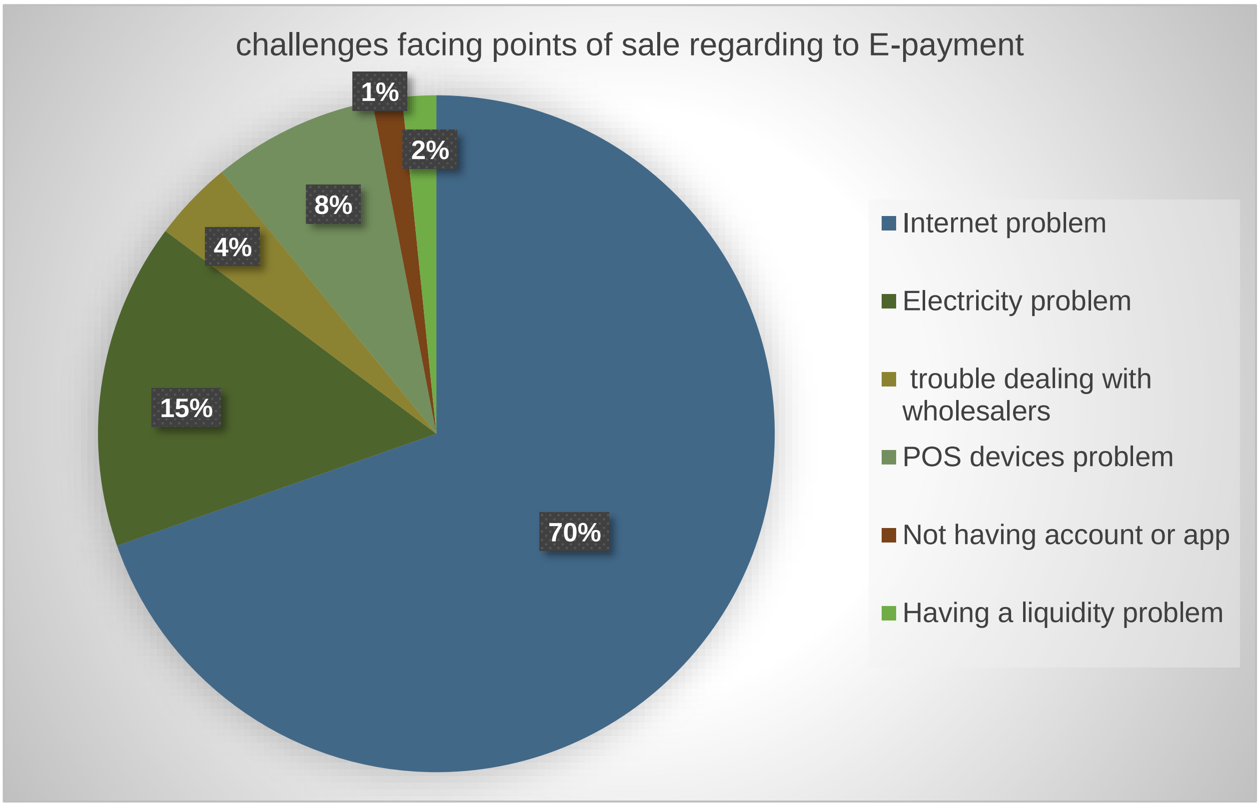

Figure (9): challenges facing points of sale regarding to E-payment.

6. Previous success stories: The progress and challenges

Despite of the war on Gaza, many success stories were achieved by entrepreneurs, workshop owners, craftsmen, and small businesses. They were able to increase production and expand their businesses, especially after commodities flow rate increased, and the decrease in production costs. This phase of growth led to the employment of more workers and employees, which contributed to a temporary improvement in the economic situation. A large portion of these businesses' owners returned to their original areas in northern Gaza, where they resumed their businesses. This progress was short-lived, With the closure of the crossings in March 2025 and the resumption of the war. These businesses faced a severe crisis due to fuel and gas shortages and the difficulty of movement between the north and south. Some businesses are on the verge of complete closure, while others have been forced to significantly reduce their operations to maintain a minimum level of operation. The continuation of this situation will affect the future of these businesses, their sustainability, and the employment opportunities associated with them.

7.1. "Green Girls Group" for Agricultural Production: Ambitious Entrepreneurs

After the challenges faced by the Green Girls Group project, led by Ghaida Samir Qudaih, due to the war, the closure of the crossings significantly impacted the project. The project relies on an **electric generator** to operate water wells, but with fuel and gas prices **rising by more than 2,500%,** production costs have become extremely high, leading to increased prices for the vegetables produced. Furthermore, the **resumption of the war** has made it difficult to transport vegetables from the farm to the markets. If these conditions persist, the project is at risk of coming to a complete halt.

7.2. Al-Bawwab garment Factory: A Journey of Success and Rise

After the ceasefire and the improvement of the situation, the factory witnessed a temporary recovery, allowing it to increase production and hire new workers. However, the closure of the crossings and the resumption of the war on 18/03/2025, led to a **25% drop in production**, forcing the factory to lay off **25 workers**, due to the high transportation costs to reach the factory in Deir al-Balah, in addition to the increased cost of fuel needed for operation. The lack of raw materials on the market also disrupted delivery schedules for organizations that rely on the factory to supply clothing and blankets to hospitals, threatening the continuity of its operations under these difficult circumstances.

7. Coordination Mechanism:

This week, there is no coordination mechanism in action, because there is no trucks entry to Gaza Strip. It is not yet known whether the previous mechanism will be valid if the crossings are reopened and the entry of aid, supplies, and commodities into Gaza Strip resumes, or whether a new mechanism will be established.

8. Difficulties:

- Israeli Authorities have implemented a closure and completely stopped the entry of humanitarian aid or private sector goods into Gaza.
- Lack of cash liquidity is magnifying the malnutrition and hunger crisis.
- Lack of storage and cold storage prevented wholesalers and retailers from storing reasonable quantities of goods to help stabilize the markets and respond to emergencies.
- Lack of power to maintain goods cold chain and enable e-payments over the internet.
- Lack of clothing and sheltering material such as tarpaulin and nylon sheets has caused a sharp increase in its prices in the market.
- The deterioration of basic living conditions of people in all aspects
- The continued closure of commercial crossings has led to a shortage of food supplies, increasing the prices of available commodities in the markets.
- The scarcity of flour, for example, has caused most bakeries to close, significantly increasing its price.
- The lack of water and agricultural materials has led to a decline in agricultural production, increasing the need for imports at high prices.

9. Recommendations:

1. Immediate resumption and increase (in quantity and variety) of humanitarian aid entering Gaza Strip to include variant nutritious needs.
2. Allow the private sector to import basic commodities items, and expand the types and quantities of goods, cover all areas in distribution, and stocking in the Southern and Northern parts of Gaza to stabilize prices and make essential goods available to people.
3. Allow access to power through solar energy to enable maintain the cold chain for dairy products and frozen meats and vegetables.
4. Allow private sector Importers to import and enter goods for all parts of Gaza Strip using all available crossings.
5. Allow humanitarian and commercial trucks access the different crossings and all routs to shorten travel distances, in order to avoid paying high sums of money for transportation.
6. Allow Gaza traders to import directly through international ports to avoid paying high prices and commissions
7. Partner between Chambers of Commerce, as the umbrella for the private sector, with donor projects such as Tasdeer's, Anera and WFP to support the back to business for trade, industry and agriculture.
8. Promote electronic Wallets and other means of e-payments among consumers and retailers' network. Enable retailers receive e-payments and electronic cash vouchers of the humanitarian organizations, by restoring power and internet to their shops.

9. Urgently allow to bring agricultural and livestock production inputs into Gaza Strip, and support small farmers with seeds, tools and fertilizers to reduce dependence on external supplies and provide local food sources.
10. Provide sufficient quantities of fuel and truck spare parts to transportation companies at normal prices to reduce commercial transportation costs and limit the unjustified rise in commodity prices in the markets.
11. Provide the necessary funding to rehabilitate commercial facilities including storage and cold storage facilities that can easily return to work to contribute to early recovery and market stability.
12. Find effective, accountable and transparent mechanisms to coordinate the entry of commodities from the crossings and strengthening the role of chambers of commerce in managing this situation, to ensure proper prioritization and distribution.
13. Lift all imposed restrictions on the Private Sector to import all humanitarian needs and commodities such as school stationary, sheltering material, etc.
14. Find and promote mechanisms to control markets, prevent monopoly and control prices as much as possible.

10. Conclusion

This week witnessed, in addition to the continued comprehensive closure of the crossings, the collapse of the ceasefire, which made the situation worse and exacerbated the crisis in Gaza Strip. For the third consecutive week, the Israeli side continued to close all crossings and prevent any commodities from entering into Gaza Strip, which portends an imminent famine. Many items disappeared from the markets immediately, which were only entering in daily consumption quantities, such as cooking gas, or items that can't be stored for long periods, such as frozen meat. The prices of many other items have risen significantly. Many humanitarian organizations have warned of the repercussions of the continued Israeli closure of the crossings, and called on the international community to intervene immediately to pressure the Israeli side to reopen the crossings and resume the entry of humanitarian aid. This closure may also affect, in addition to food security, the continuation of humanitarian services, such as medical services, water, and others.

11. Annex

9.1. Daily price in Gaza:

Table (6): Standard deviation of daily prices

#	Item	18/03	19/03	20/03	21/03	22/03	23/03	24/03	Average	St. Dev
1	Garlic	120	120	120	160	NA	NA	NA	130.00	**20.00**
2	Eggplant	60	60	NA	30	20	28	28	37.67	**17.64**
3	Flour	45	NA	75	85	85	85	85	76.67	**16.02**
4	Onion	25	30	16	45	35	45	40	33.71	**10.80**
5	Sugar	40	40	45	25	27	25	20	31.71	**9.69**
6	Potato	40	60	60	45	60	45	45	50.71	**8.86**
7	Tomato	25	25	20	15	10	8	8	15.86	**7.56**
8	Pepper	45	48	45	40	48	32	32	41.43	**6.97**
9	Cucumber	25	20	16	20	12	10	10	16.14	**5.79**
10	Oil	25	25	35	35	33	28	28	29.86	**4.41**
11	Lemon	50	55	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52.50	**3.54**
12	Rice	20	16	20	20	19	20	18	19.00	**1.53**
13	Macaroni	10	10	12	12	12	12	12	11.43	**0.98**
14	Kidney beans	7	6	7	7	6	7	7	6.71	**0.49**

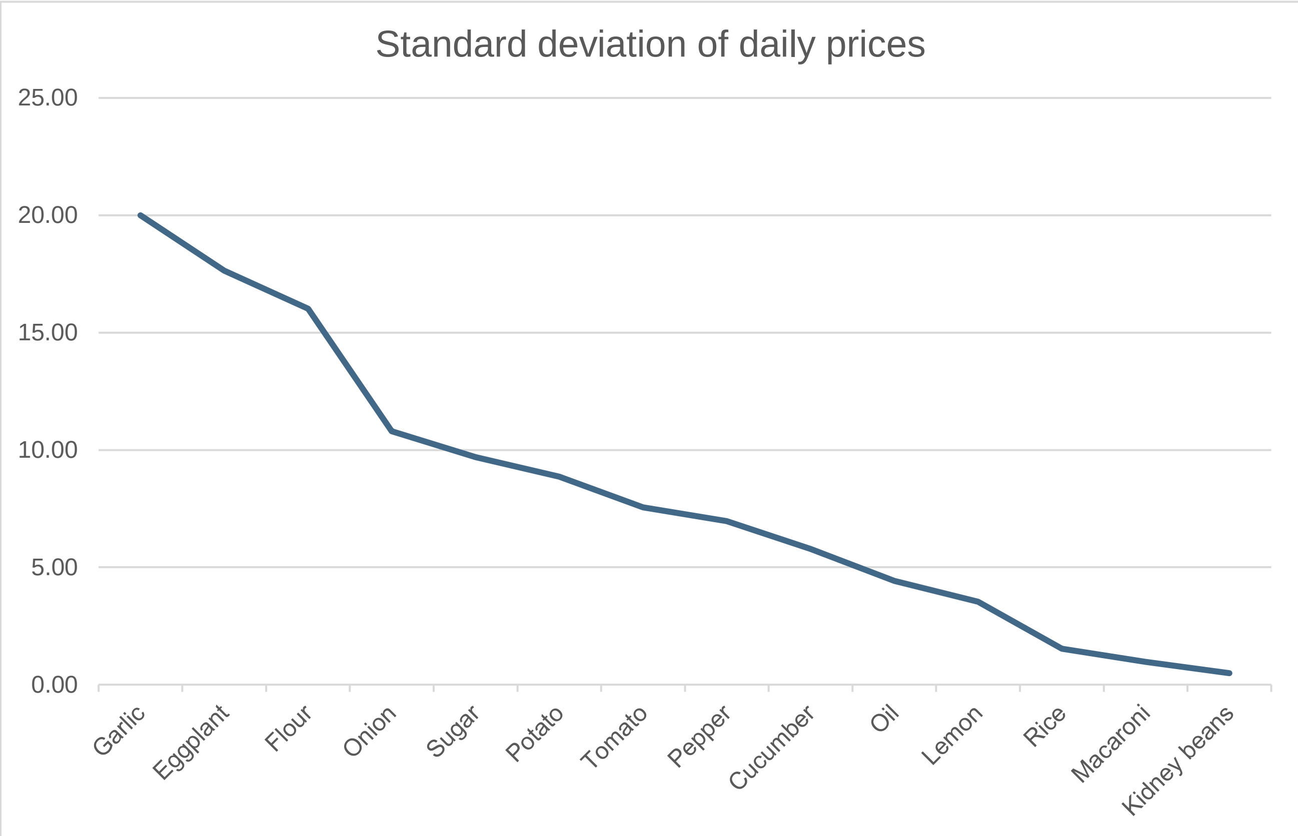

Figure (10): Standard deviation of daily prices

Price volatility:

From the previous tables, goods can be grouped according to the severity of price fluctuations based on the standard deviation value into three categories:

Fixed-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is (0), meaning that their prices remained completely stable throughout the reporting period. No items are locating in this category.

Stable-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation ranges between (0-1), meaning that their prices changed at slight rates during the reporting period. These goods are (Macaroni, Kidney beans).

Volatile-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is greater than (1), meaning that they experienced sharp fluctuations in prices during the reporting period. These goods are All goods except (Macaroni, Kidney beans).