



إتحاد الغرف التجارية الصناعية الزراعية الفلسطينية

Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

# Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

**Week 11: October 08-14, 2024**

**26 October 2024**

## In this Report:

Success story " Shomar Biscuit Factory " ..... page 23

The case of the week: "Fisheries Sector in Gaza Strip and the impact of the Israeli war" ..... page 24

- The amount of Humanitarian Aid entering Gaza has exceeded what was entered by the the private sector for the first time in 2024.
- Basic commodities price increase has reached an unprecedented record in both parts of the Gaza Strip.

# Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

## 1 Introduction:

This report, of weekly market analysis in Gaza Strip, covers the period from 08/10/2024 to 14/10/2024. This week witnessed a complete closure on two consecutive days, 10/11/2024 and 10/12/2024. Erez crossing operated only one day, 10/14/2024, and only 28 trucks passed through it on that day, while Rafah crossing remained completely closed as usual. During the reporting period, only **486** trucks with a total of **9,267<sup>1</sup>** tons of commodities entered Gaza Strip. These trucks entered from two main<sup>2</sup> crossings only, Karm Abu Salem crossing (KAS) and Erez Crossing, 458 trucks and 28 trucks respectively, while no trucks entered through the Palestinian/Egyptian Rafah crossing, or any other crossing. The share of trucks for each crossing has significantly changed in favour of (KAS) crossing, its share has increased to more than 94% of the trucks that passed into Gaza Strip, while only less than 6% of the trucks passed through Erez crossing.

Since the Israeli occupation has divided Gaza Strip into two main parts, North Gaza and South Gaza with Wadi Gaza being the division line, Karm Abu Salem (KAS) and Rafah crossings operate mainly for the southern part of Gaza Strip, while Erez crossing operates for the Northern part of Gaza Strip. It should be noted that the trucks entering the north are part of the humanitarian sector and not of the private sector, as the Israeli occupation still prevents the private sector from importing and delivering commodities to the Northern part of Gaza Strip. The Occupation is not allowing Private Sector to send Goods from the south to the north either or vice versa. The Humanitarian Assistance entering the northern part of Gaza Strip does not meet the minimum needs of the remaining population there.

While the Israeli Occupation allows the private sector to import limited food items, for the Southern part, it prevents the private sector from importing any other non-food basic commodities. These prevented non-food basic commodities include, but not limited to: hygiene materials, clothing & footwear, medicines & medical supplies, fuel, etc. Some humanitarian organizations are allowed to bring such non-food commodities in limited to a very small extent.

## 2 Distribution of the Population in Gaza Strip:

Population statistics indicate that there are approximately 650,000 people in the northern part of Gaza Strip, which constitutes 29% of the total population of Gaza Strip before the war, and that there are approximately 1,400,000 people in the southern part of Gaza Strip, which constitutes 62% of the total population, and the remaining 200,000 people 9% are currently outside Gaza strip.

---

<sup>1</sup> This number does not include the load of 7 trucks, as there is no information about their contents in tons, these trucks was loaded by Medical Supplies and UN & NGOs equipment.

<sup>2</sup> West Eriz (Zikim) and Gate 96 are also being used to enter humanitarian aid to the north.

Figure (1): Map of dividing Gaza Strip into North and South of Gaza Valley



The data in Table No. (1), shows that more than 94% of the commodities entered Gaza Strip during the reporting period were through KAS crossing, Israeli occupation still restricts these commodities from passing into the Northern part of Gaza Strip. Therefore, the vast majority of commodities entered through KAS remained in the southern part of Gaza Strip. The commodities entered through Erez crossing constitutes less than 6%, remained in the Northern part.

It is worth noting that despite of the basic commodities entry, in limited quantities, to the North and South parts of the Gaza Strip, there is no proper distribution of these commodities, as there is a severe lack of some items based on the geographic location. While the north part of Gaza Strip suffers greatly from a shortage of food, vegetables, meat and eggs, there are some items somewhat available there, such as clothes, shoes and hygiene, while in the south these items are not available. However, food is better available than in the north, although during the reporting period it has significantly decreased due to the noticeable decrease in the number of entering trucks since the beginning of current month.

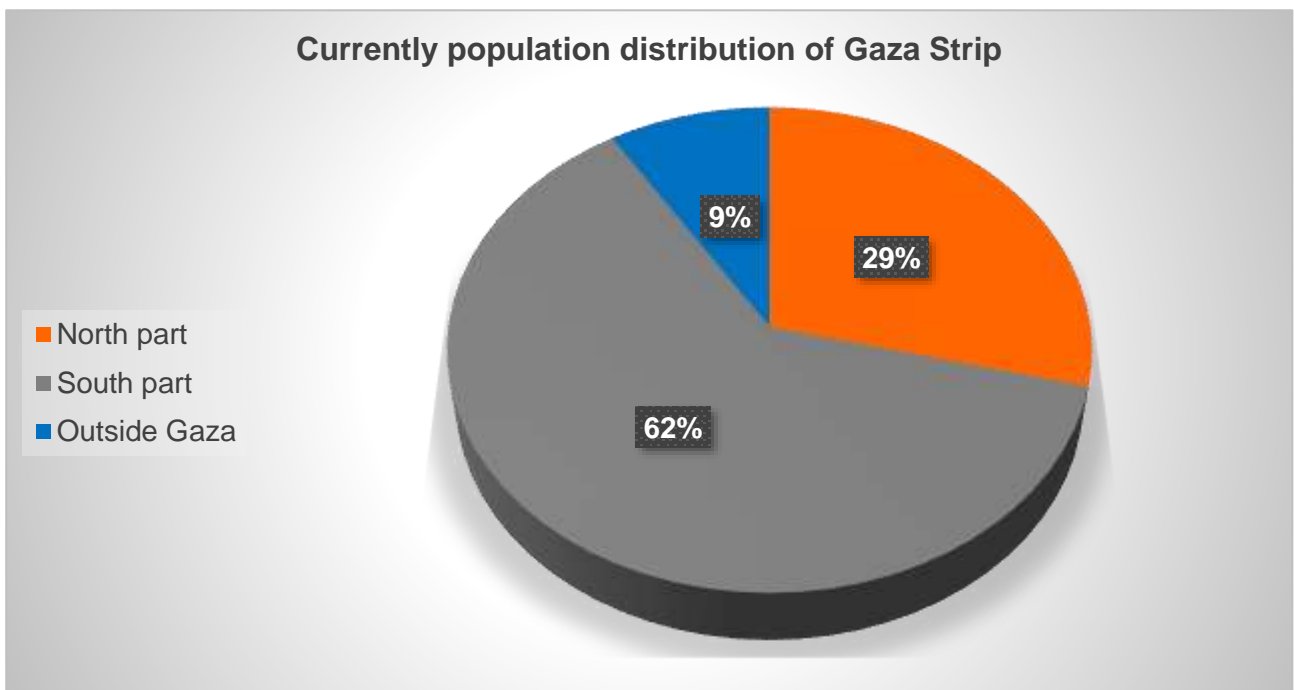


Figure (2): Currently population distribution of Gaza Strip.

The following figure shows the distribution of commodities between the North and the South based on the number of trucks. The numbers in this figure are based on the quantity of commodities entering through KAS and Erez crossings, and do not include trucks passing from the south of Gaza Strip to the north, because they are in very small portion and there are no accurate statistics regarding them.

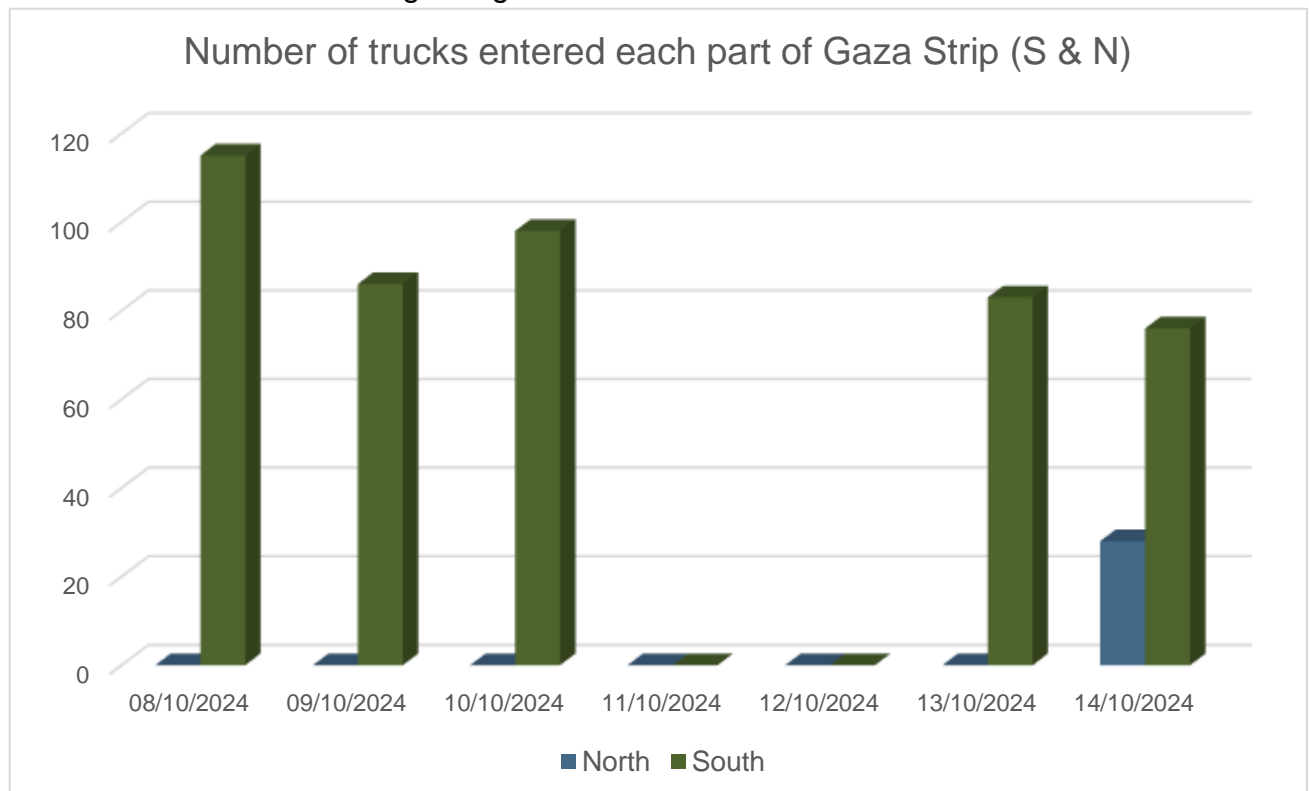


Figure (3): Number of trucks entered each part of Gaza Strip (South, North)

### 3 Daily Crossing Points Status:

Rafah crossing remains closed all the time. Karm Abu Salem (KAS) crossing also continues to constitute the largest share of trucks entering Gaza Strip. This week, most of the trucks passed through (KAS) crossing, Erez crossing operated only one day, all crossings were closed for 2 consecutive days, 11/10/2024 and 12/10/2024. On Tuesday 08/10/2024, 115 trucks passed through (KAS) crossing and no trucks passed through Erez crossing. On Wednesday 09/10/2024, the number of trucks decreased to reach 86 trucks, all of them entered from (KAS) crossing. On Thursday 10/10/2024, 98 trucks passed through (KAS) crossing. On Friday 11/10/2024 and Saturday 12/10/2024, no trucks entered into Gaza Strip. On Sunday 13/10/2024, 83 trucks passed into Gaza Strip through (KAS) crossing. On Monday the number of trucks reached 104, 76 trucks passed through (KAS) crossing, and 24 trucks passed through Erez crossing.

Table (1): Number of trucks entered through each crossing in the reporting period.

Day	Date	Number of Trucks			Total
		Rafah	Erez	Karm Abu Salem (KAS)	
Tuesday	08/10/2024	0	0	115	115
Wednesday	09/10/2024	0	0	86	86
Thursday	10/10/2024	0	0	98	98
Friday	11/10/2024	0	0	0	0
Saturday	12/10/2024	0	0	0	0
Sunday	13/10/2024	0	0	83	83
Monday	14/10/2024	0	28	76	104
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>486</b>

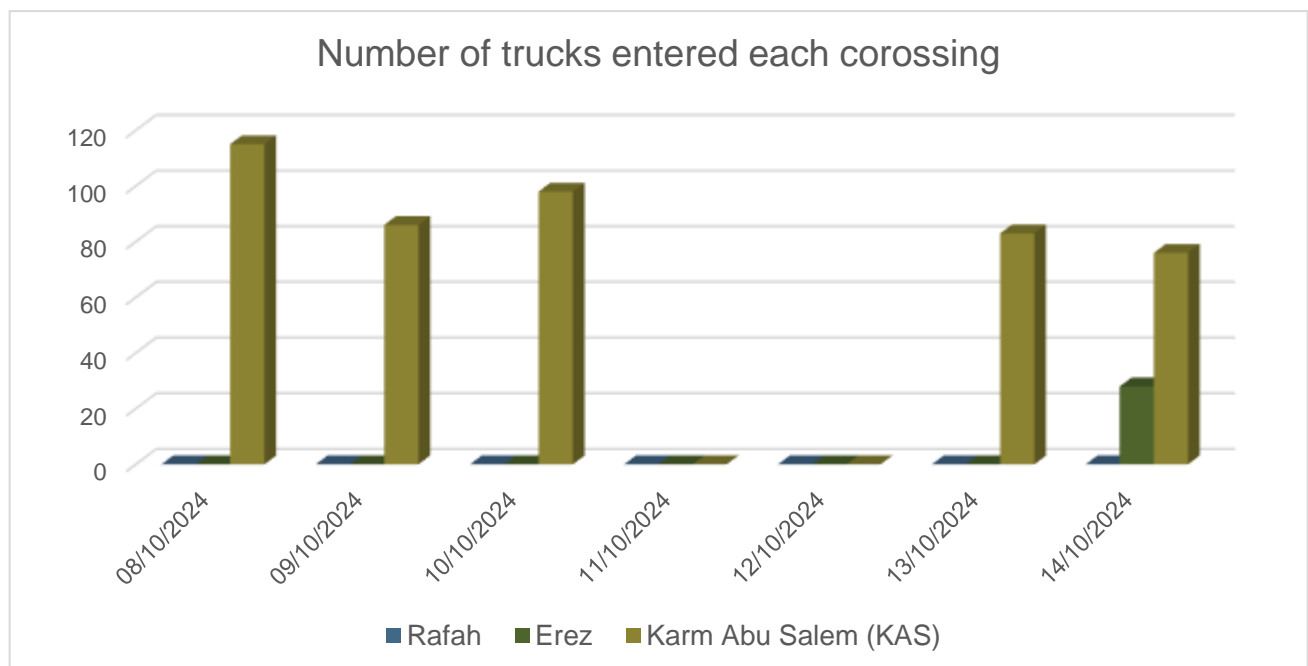


Figure (4): Number of trucks entered each crossing in the reporting period.

The average daily number of entering trucks during the reporting period is about 69 trucks, while the average in the previous week was less than 22 trucks. This improvement is due to the fact that crossings were back to work, but not as its normal capacity. Commodity prices are still very high compared to previous weeks.

## 4 Entering Commodities:

### 4.1 Commodities Classification:

This week, the types of commodities entering Gaza Strip, in the north and south, are divided into 7 main categories: food items – shelter equipment – medical supplies – combined aid – fuel – cooking gas – UN & NGOs equipment. There is no prioritization or stability in the importation of these goods. This lack of prioritization and stability has affected local market prices, as will be explained later, in the market analysis section. There is no proper geographic distribution to the entering commodities, neither in quantities nor in varieties. The following tables show the categories of entering commodities and their amount in tons and trucks, on daily basis:

Table (2): Types and ammount of commodities in Tons.

Date	Types and Amounts of Commodities (Tons)						
	Medical Supplies	Shelter Equipment	Mixed Aid	UN and NGOS equipment	Fuel	Cooking Gas	Food items
08/10/2024	70	265	75	0	309	128	1,610
09/10/2024	N/A	255	105	0	0	110	810
10/10/2024	0	165	180	N/A	249	128	955
11/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13/10/2024	N/A	45	15	0	254	132	1,275
14/10/2024	10	70	15	N/A	0	132	1,905

#### **Note:**

- The quantities of Medical Supplies are not available in tons on 09/10/2024 and 14/10/2024, the available data indicates that 2 trucks Medical Supplies entered on 08/10/2024, and one truck entered on 14/10/2024.
- The quantities of UN & NGOs equipment are not available in tons, the available data indicates that 2 trucks of UN & NGOs equipment entered on 10/10/2024, and one truck entered on 14/10/2024.

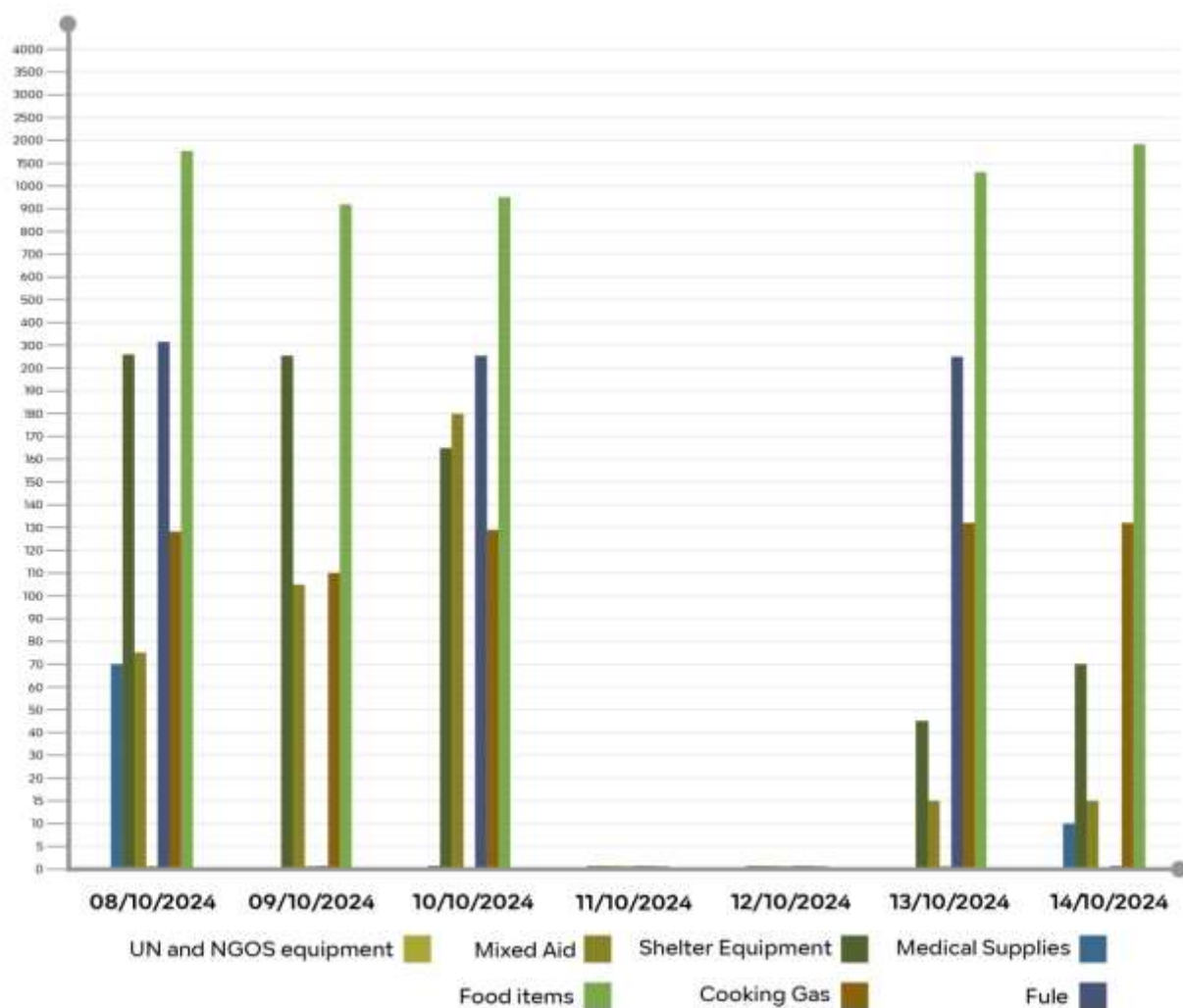


Figure (5): Types and ammount of commodities in tons.

Table (3): Types and ammount of commodities by Trucks.

Date	Types and Amounts of Commodities (Trucks)							Total
	Medical Supplies	Shelter Equipment	Mixed Aid	UN & NGOs Equip.	Fuel	Cooking Gas	Food items	
08/10/2024	10	18	5	0	7	6	69	115
09/10/2024	2	24	7	0	0	5	48	86
10/10/2024	0	14	12	2	6	6	58	98
11/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13/10/2024	2	4	2	0	6	6	63	83
14/10/2024	1	6	1	1	0	6	89	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>486</b>



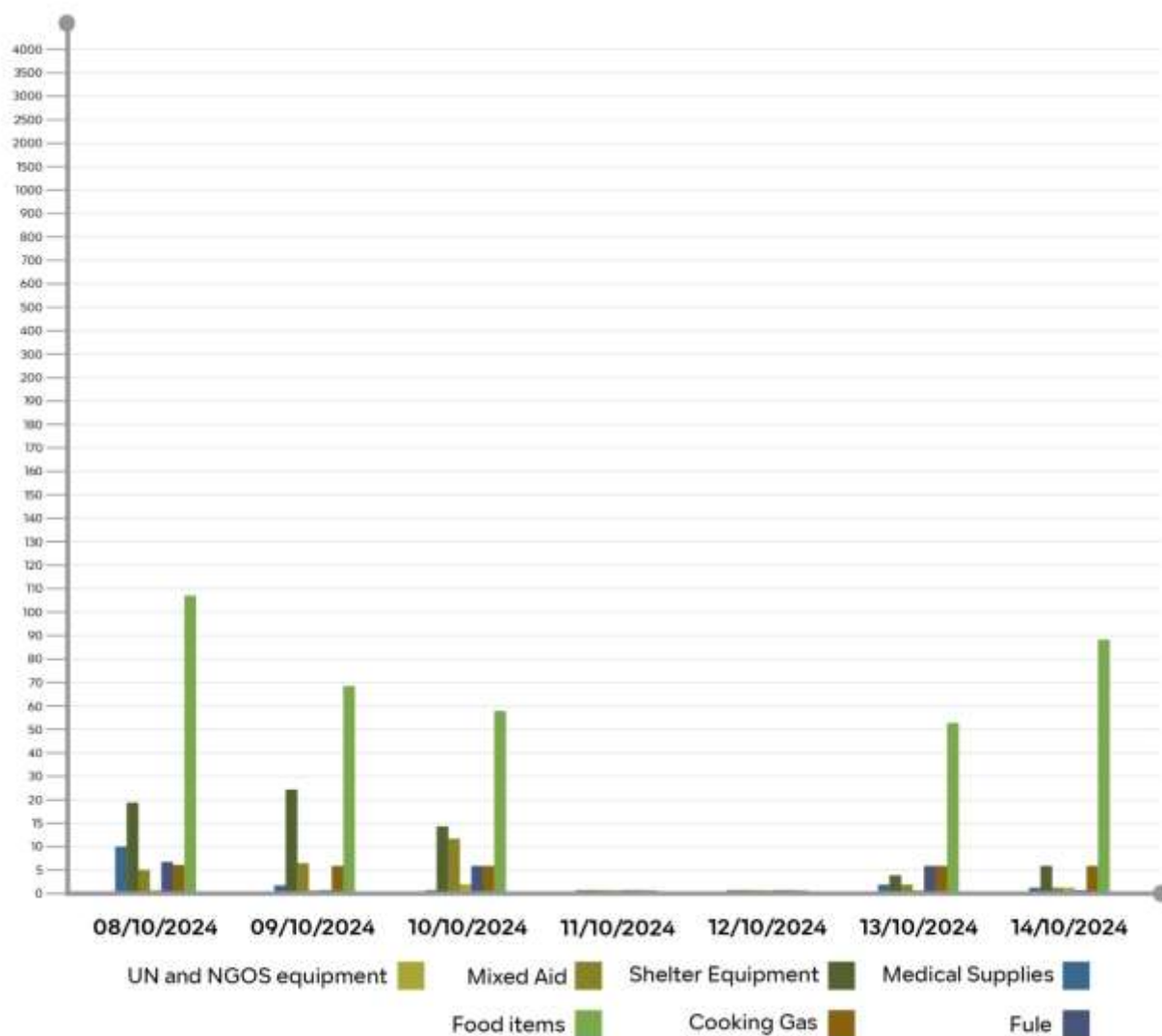


Figure (6): Types and ammount of commodities by Trucks.

#### 4.2 Food items details:

As shown in table (2), food items constitute more than 70% of the total commodities entered to Gaza Strip within the report period, with a total of 6,555 tons. The details of these food items and its components include (7) sub-categories, as follows:

1. Basic items such as (oil - sugar - flour - rice - legumes - ...).
2. Vegetables and fruits.
3. Frozen meat including (red meat - chicken - fish).
4. Food parcels.
5. Eggs and dairy products.
6. Other items such as (spices and seasonings - biscuits - noodles).
7. Water.

The following table shows the quantities of each of the sub-categories in tons:



Table (4): Amount of each food item sub-categories by tons.

Date	Food items categories amount (Tons)							Total
	Water	dairy and eggs	Food parcels	Frozen meat	Fruit and vegetables	basic items	Other	
08/10/2024	200	0	40	120	80	870	300	<b>1,610</b>
09/10/2024	0	0	20	0	0	110	680	<b>810</b>
10/10/2024	60	0	450	0	0	65	380	<b>955</b>
11/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
12/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
13/10/2024	0	0	160	0	0	595	520	<b>1,275</b>
14/10/2024	0	40	110	40	120	980	615	<b>1,905</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>4,650</b>

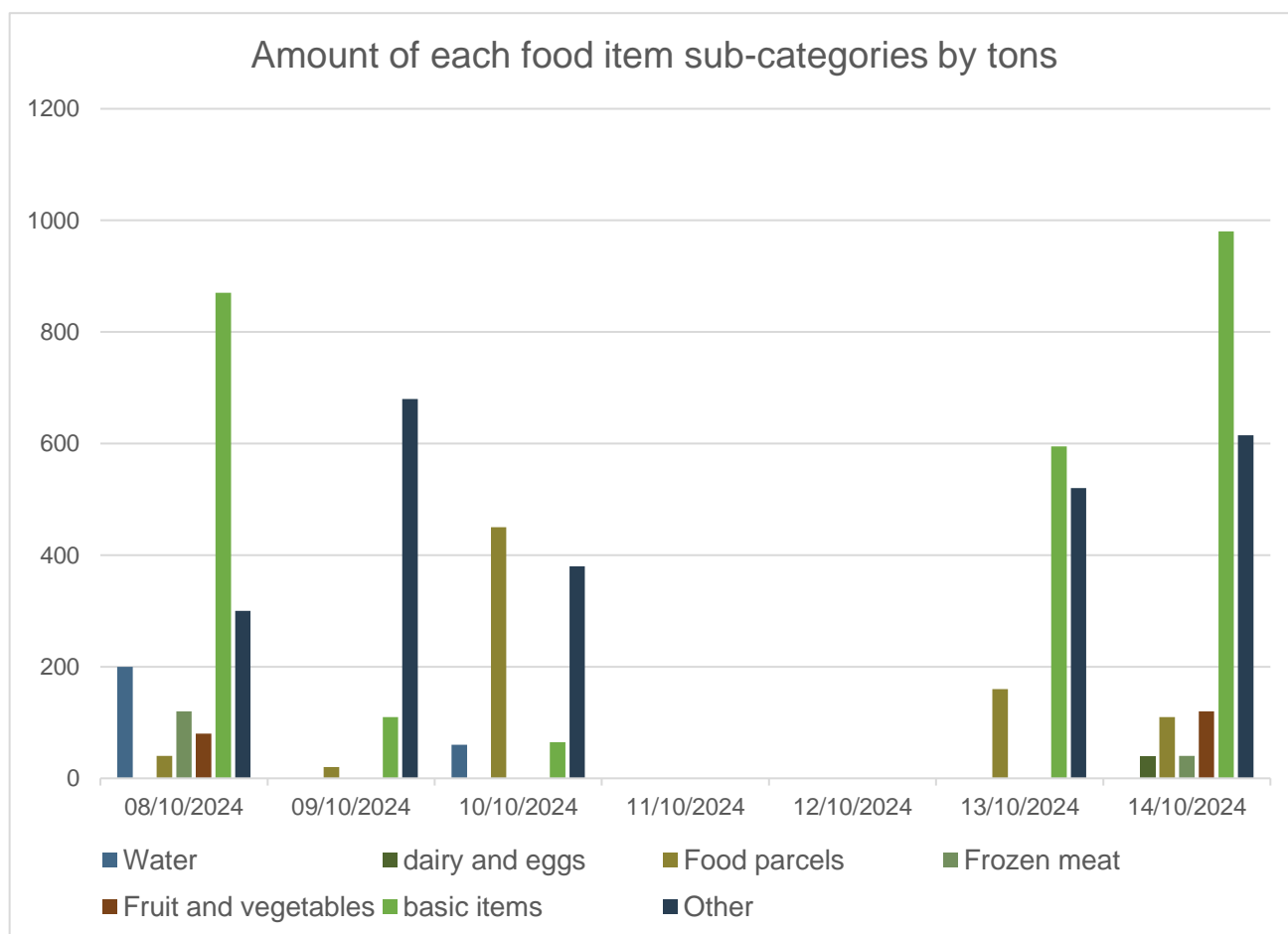


Figure (7): Amount of each food item sub-categories by tons.

Table (5): Amount of each food item sub-categories by trucks.

Date	Food items categories amount (Truck)							Total
	Water	dairy and eggs	Food parcels	Frozen meat	Fruit and vegetables	basic items	Other	
08/10/2024	10	0	2	5	4	35	13	69
09/10/2024	0	0	1	0	0	7	40	48
10/10/2024	3	0	27	0	0	5	23	58
11/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13/10/2024	0	0	8	0	0	30	25	63
14/10/2024	0	2	4	2	6	46	29	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>327</b>

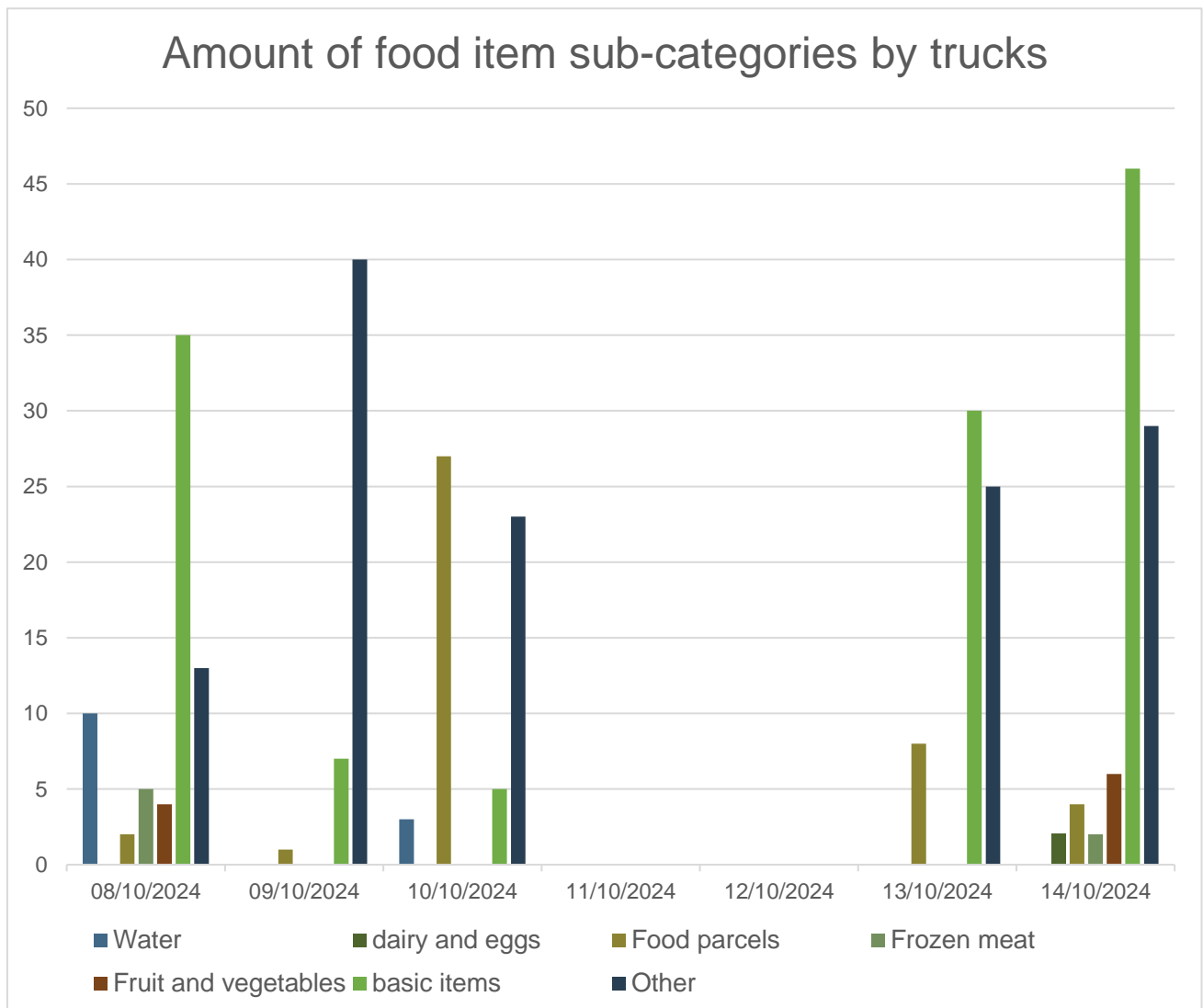


Figure (8): Amount of food item sub-categories by trucks.

### 4.3 Commodities Providers:

The commodities entered Gaza Strip during the report period vary between the private sector and humanitarian sector. While the private sector is limited to some food items, the humanitarian sector aid extends to food items, medical supplies, shelter equipment, UN & NGOs equipment and combined aid. For the first time since 01/08/2024, the ratio of commodities entering as humanitarian aid exceeds the ratio of commodities entering for the private sector. This is due to the new restrictions recently imposed by the Israeli occupation regarding the private sector's import of commodities, which we referred to it as difficulties in the previous report. Humanitarian aid ratio increased to reach 58% instead of 31% in the previous week, while the private sector ratio decreased to reach 42% instead of 69% in the previous week. The following table shows the commodities entering according to the source (private sector - humanitarian aid):

Table (6): commodities entering according to the provider (private sector - humanitarian aid)

Date	Items	Private Sector		Humanitarian Aids		Total Number of trucks	Total amount by tons
		Trucks	Tons	Trucks	Tons		
08/10/2024	Food items	54	1270	15	340	69	1610
	Cooking Gas	6	128	0	0	6	128
	Fuel	0	0	7	309	7	309
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	5	75	5	75
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	18	265	18	265
	Medical Supplies	0	0	10	70	10	70
<b>Subtotal 1</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>1398</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2457</b>
09/10/2024	Food items	7	110	41	700	48	810
	Cooking Gas	5	110	0	0	5	110
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	7	105	7	105
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	24	255	24	255
	Medical Supplies	0	0	2	n/a	2	0
<b>Subtotal 2</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1280</b>
10/10/2024	Food items	8	125	50	830	58	955
	Cooking Gas	6	128	0	0	6	128
	Fuel	0	0	6	249	6	249
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	2	n/a	2	0

	Mixed Aid	0	0	12	180	12	180
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	14	165	14	165
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 3</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1677</b>
11/10/2024	Food items	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 4</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
12/10/2024	Food items	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 5</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
13/10/2024	Food items	30	595	33	680	63	1275
	Cooking Gas	6	132	0	0	6	132
	Fuel	0	0	6	254	6	254
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	2	15	2	15
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	4	45	4	45
	Medical Supplies	0	0	2	n/a	2	0
<b>Subtotal 6</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1721</b>
14/10/2024	Food items	56	1180	33	725	89	1905
	Cooking Gas	6	132	0	0	6	132
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	1	n/a	1	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	1	15	1	15

	Shelter Equipment	0	0	6	70	6	70
	Medical Supplies	0	0	1	10	1	10
<b>Subtotal 6</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2132</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>5,357</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>9,267</b>

## 5 Daily market prices for essential items:

Data about market prices are collected from the markets in the two side of Gaza Strip. In the Southern part, prices were collected in the “humanitarian region” in the southern part of Gaza Strip (South of Wadi Gaza), specifically in Nuseirat, Deir al-Balah, and Khan Younis markets. While in the Northern part, prices were collected from Gaza city market "Palestine Square Market". It was noted that there are some items prices increased by more than 1700% compared to what it was before the war. This increase is attributed to several factors, the most important of them are the availability of the item and the volume of demand on it (supply and demand, and lack of prioritization). Prices of many goods have a sharp fluctuation from day to day, in direct correlation with changes in the status of the crossings and the types and quantities of imported goods (instability of supplies flow). The prices for the reporting period, from 08/10/2024 to 14/10/2024 were as follows:

Table (7): Daily market prices ILS/Kg for essential items (South of Gaza Strip)

#	Item	08/10	09/10	10/10	11/10	12/10	13/10	14/10	Ave.	St. Dev
1	Onion	17	22	27	28	45	48	48	33.57	13.10
2	Potato	28	30	30	50	50	n/a	n/a	37.60	11.35
3	Flour	40	40	50	55	55	55	55	50.00	7.07
4	Tomato	37	37	47	48	55	48	50	46.00	6.68
5	Garlic	32	45	45	48	48	n/a	n/a	43.60	6.66
6	Oil	8	8	15	20	20	13	20	14.86	5.43
7	Sugar	7	7	20	13	15	7	10	11.29	4.99
8	Frozen veal	n/a	n/a	55	60	50	60	60	57.00	4.47
9	Lemon	17	20	25	17	20	18	17	19.14	2.91
10	Pepper	40	40	40	36	40	40	40	39.43	1.51
11	Eggplant	10	10	10	9	10	10	12	10.14	0.90
12	Frozen chicken wing	26	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.50	0.71
13	Cucumber	9	9	9	9	10	9	9	9.14	0.38
14	Frozen chicken	n/a	60	60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.00	0.00
15	Rice	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13.00	0.00
16	Kidney beans	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10.00	0.00
17	Macaroni	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6.00	0.00

#	Item	08/10	09/10	10/10	11/10	12/10	13/10	14/10	Ave.	St. Dev
18	Egg	120	120	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120.00	0.00
19	Bottled water box	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23.00	0.00

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

### 5.1 Fixed-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is (0), meaning that their prices were stable and did not change throughout the reporting period, these goods are (frozen chicken – rice – kidney beans – Macaroni – egg – bottled water box). It should be noted that although the standard deviation value of frozen chicken and eggs is zero, this does not reflect the stability and consistency of their prices in the market, but rather is due to their unavailability in the market except for two days during the reporting period.

### 5.2 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 (eggplant – frozen chicken wing – cucumber).

### 5.3 Volatile-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is greater than (1), meaning that they witnessed sharp fluctuations in prices during the reporting period, these goods are (onion – potato – flour – tomato – garlic – oil – sugar – frozen veal – lemon – pepper).

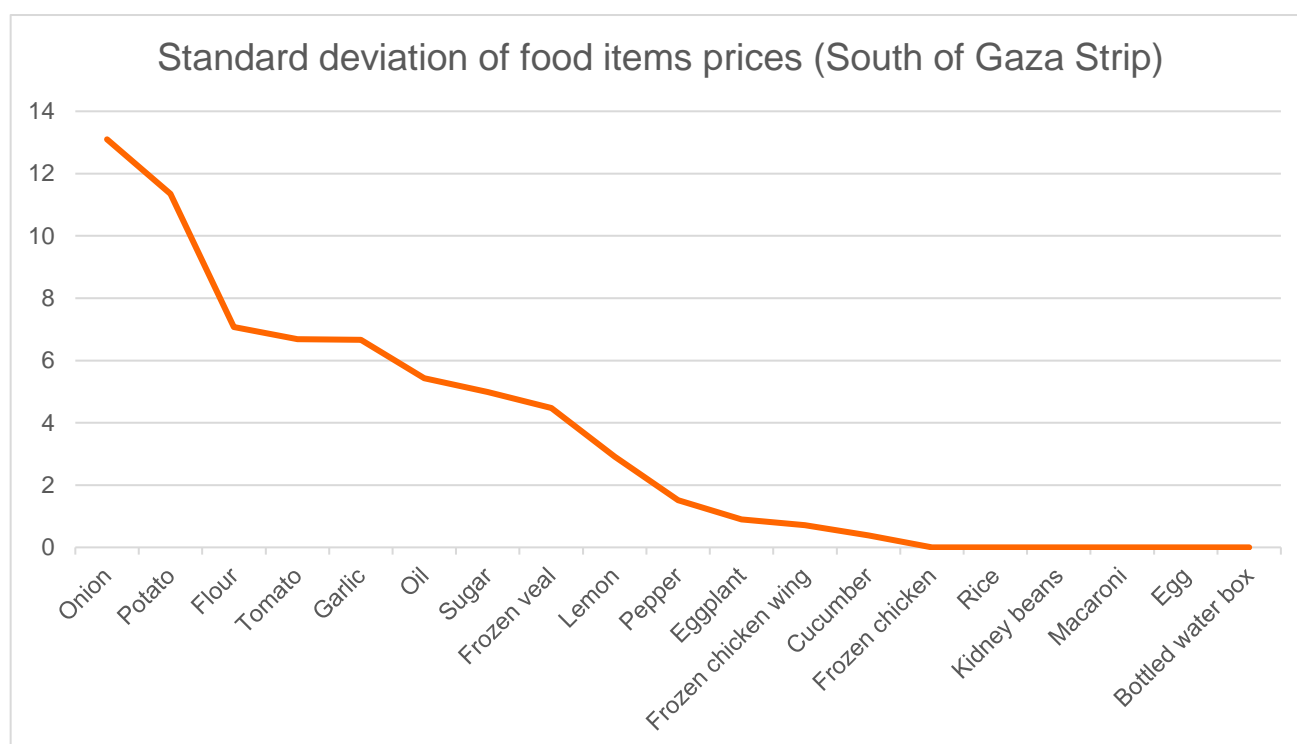


Figure (9): Standard deviation of food items prices (South of Gaza Strip)

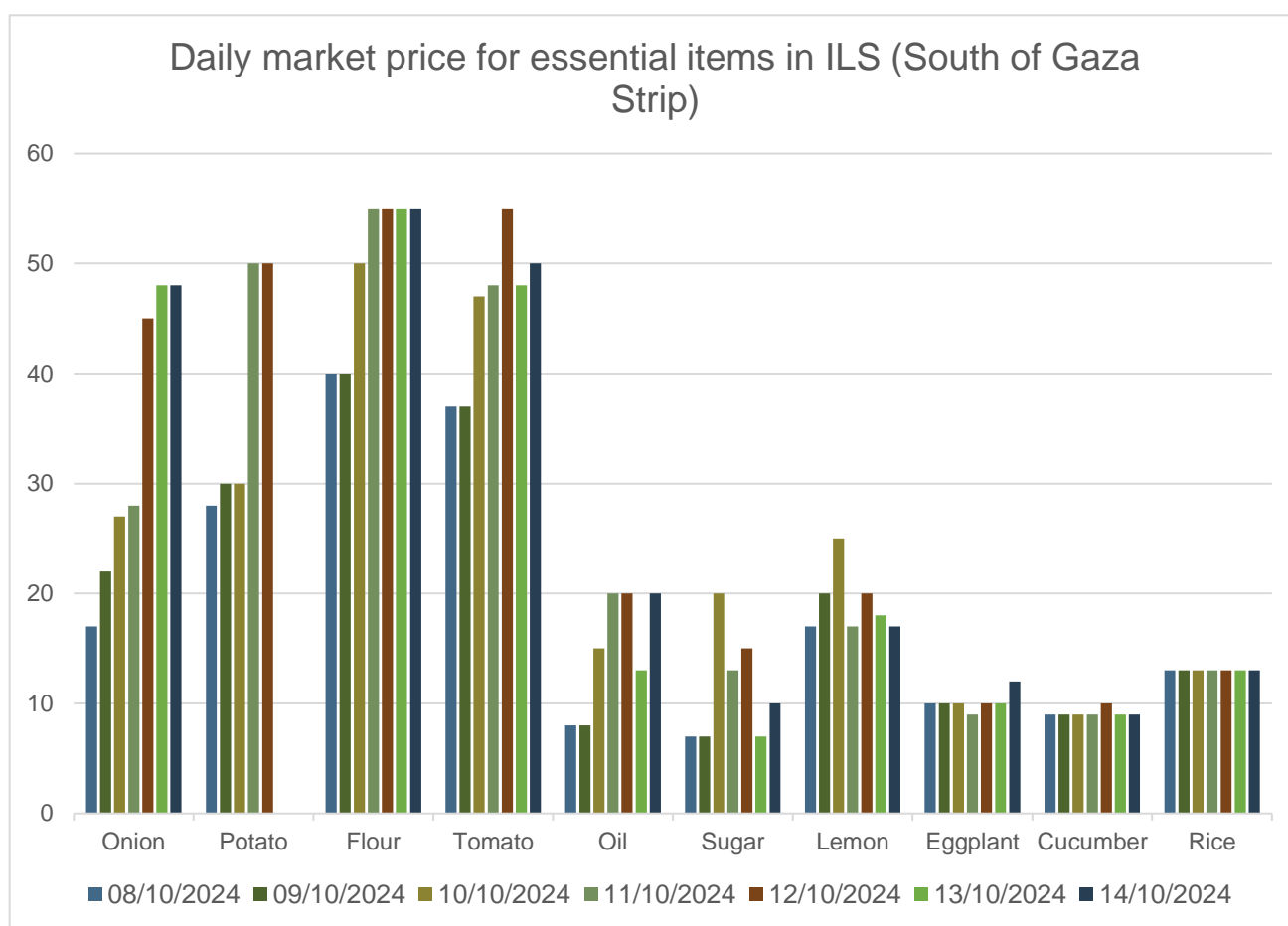


Figure (10): Daily market price for essential items in ILS (South of Gaza Strip)

#### 5.4 Retailers Price Analysis from 08/10/2024 – 14/10/2024:

As an example:

- Product 1: **onion.**
  - Opening Price: 17.
  - Closing Price: 48.
  - Percentage Change: 182%.
- Product 2: **Oil.**
  - Opening Price: 8.
  - Closing Price: 20.
  - Percentage Change: 150%
- Product 3: **Flour.**
  - Opening Price: 40.
  - Closing Price: 55.
  - Percentage Change: 38%
- Product e: **Tomato.**
  - Opening Price: 37.
  - Closing Price: 50.
  - Percentage Change: 35%



#### 5.4.1 Importers prices:

By comparing commodity prices between importers and retailers, we find that retailer prices to consumers are approximately 30% higher than importers (wholesalers) for basic materials, vegetables and fruits, and 40% for frozen meat. This is considered, to some extent high percentage, and is attributed to the high costs of sales services such as: transportation, security escort, storage, refrigeration and energy.

#### 5.4.2 Market Conditions in Gaza:

- Truck Movement Variations:
  - During this report, there was a slight improvement comparing to the previous week, the total is about **486** trucks, distributed between Karm Abu Salem crossing and Erez crossing. Erez crossing operated only one day during the reporting period, on 14/10/2024, and only 24 trucks passed through it.
  - Completely shut of all crossings were observed on 11/10/2024 and 12/10/2024, impacting the availability of goods on the following days.
- Variety and Quantity of Goods:
  - In this week, the supply was at its minimum, which affected market prices to escalate, especially, since the quantities entered Gaza Strip are very small compared to the required level, and are not sufficient for the population daily needs.

#### 5.5 Market price in the Northern part of Gaza Strip:

This week, 13 food items price were obtained from the northern part of Gaza Strip. The prices still indicate unprecedented levels of increase. When comparing the average prices of these items with the average prices of the same items in the south of Gaza Strip, where prices of goods are already 5-10 times higher than they were before the war, we note the following: The price of garlic in the north is 14 times higher than its price in the south. The prices of some items in the north are 8 times higher than the south (sugar, pepper). Other items prices are 3-5 times higher (onion, cucumber, oil, potato, eggplant, rice, egg, lemon). The only two items which prices are lower in the north than in the south are the flour and macaroni, the flour price in the north is about 39% below of its price in the south during the reporting period. This decrease in flour prices in the North is attributed to the entry of more than sufficient quantities of flour into the north as humanitarian aid, as well as the operating of number of bakeries there. While the price of macaroni is about 33% lower than its price in the south, this is due to the availability of sufficient quantities of macaroni in the north.

Table (8): Price of food items in the northern part of Gaza Strip (ILS/Kg).

#	Item	08/10	09/10	10/10	11/10	12/10	13/10	14/10	Ave.	St. Dev
1	Pepper	300	400	400	300	300	300	300	328.57	<b>48.80</b>
2	Sugar	80	80	80	105	105	105	105	94.29	<b>13.36</b>
3	Flour	45	45	45	20	20	20	20	30.71	<b>13.36</b>
4	Potato	140	120	120	148	148	148	148	138.86	<b>13.21</b>

#	Item	08/10	09/10	10/10	11/10	12/10	13/10	14/10	Ave.	St. Dev
5	Onion	168	160	160	172	172	172	172	168.00	5.66
6	Lemon	45	45	45	50	50	50	50	47.86	2.67
7	Oil	65	65	65	60	60	60	60	62.14	2.67
8	Eggplant	37	36	36	38	38	38	38	37.29	0.95
9	Cucumber	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45.00	0.00
10	Garlic	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600.00	0.00
11	Rice	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45.00	0.00
12	Macaroni	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00	0.00
13	Egg	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360.00	0.00

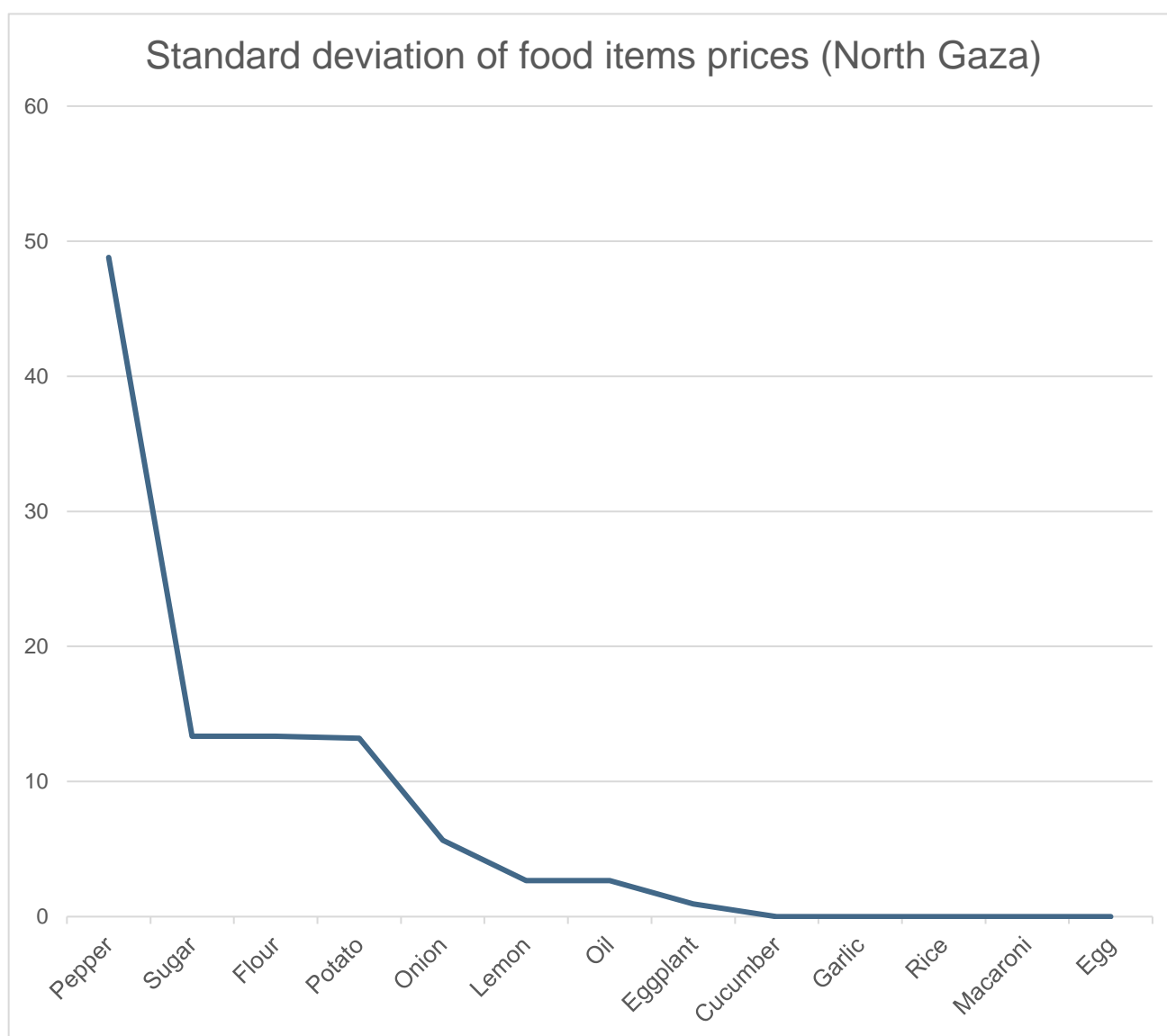


Figure (11): Standard deviation of food items prices (North Gaza).

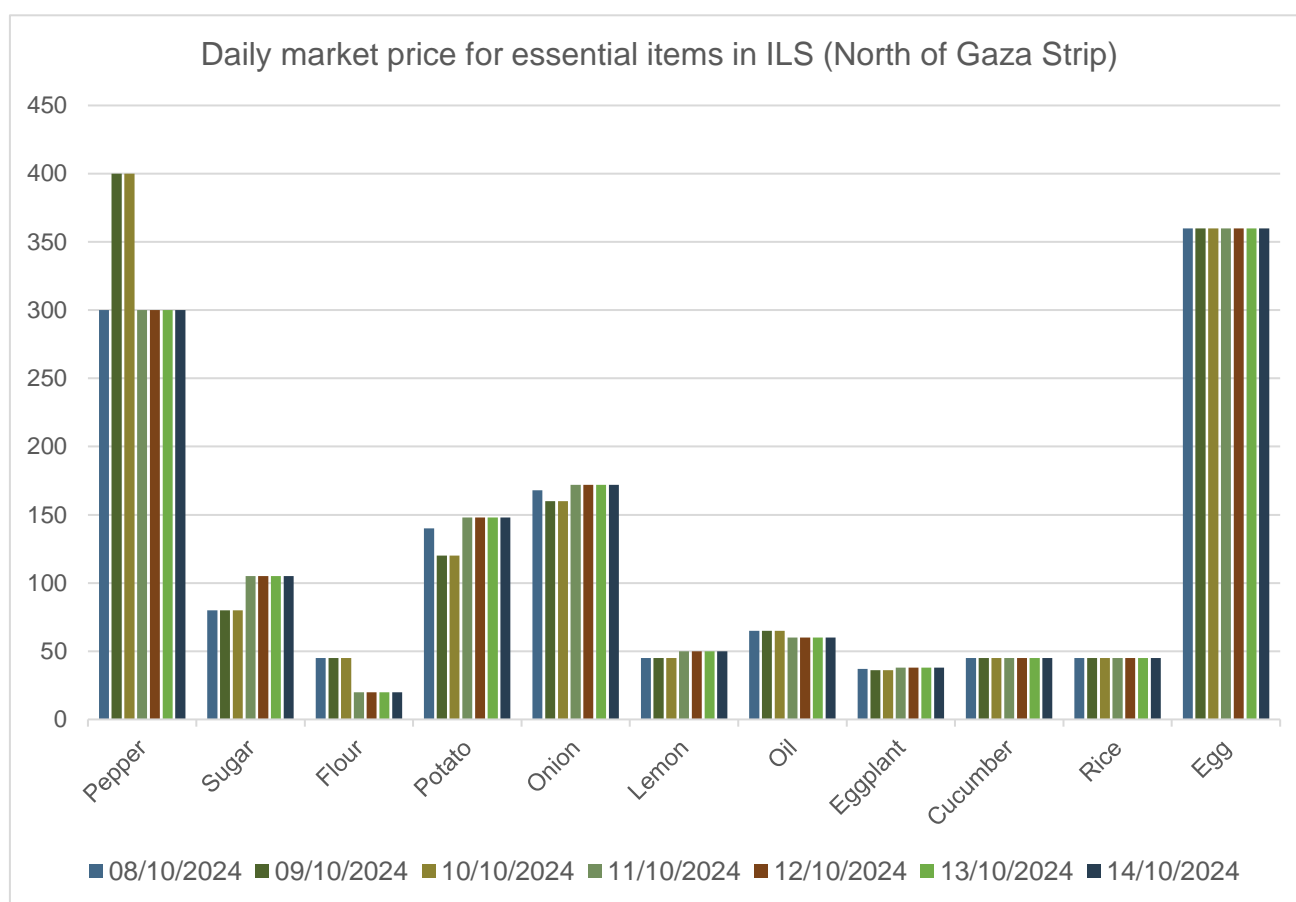


Figure (10): Daily market price for essential items in ILS (North of Gaza Strip)

## 5.6 Comparison of Prices:

The data indicates that the average of prices in the South of Gaza Strip during the reporting period are significantly higher than they were before the war, and the amount of increase varies from one item to another. For example, the price of potato is about 19 times higher, and the price of onion is about 17 times higher, while some items reached 5-10 times higher (egg, eggplant, lemon, cucumber). Some items reached 2-4 times higher (garlic, pepper, sugar, oil). Some items remained stable and its prices ranged between 20-44% above what it was before the war (rice, flour, macaroni), we notice increase in the price of flour in the south, as it returned to about 43% above what it was before the war. This is due to the delay in the of delivery of flour to citizens by humanitarian organizations. This delay is attributed to the obstacles facing the entry of humanitarian aid trucks through the crossings.

In the North part of Gaza Strip, the price increase was unprecedentedly sharp, the price of onion and potato reached about 84 and 69 times higher respectively. Some items price ranged between 20-60 times higher (garlic, pepper, sugar, egg, cucumber, eggplant). Some items price ranged between 5-12 times higher (lemon, oil, rice). However, flour and macaroni prices have decreased from what they were before the war by about 12% and 20% respectively. This sharp decrease is attributed to the entry of large quantities of flour by humanitarian organizations and the operating of many bakeries as well, and the availability of sufficient quantities of macaroni in the north.

Table (9): comparison between prices before and after the war

#	Item	Price before the war	Average of price (South)	% Of change	Average of price (North)	% Of change
1	Onion	2	33.57	1579%	168.00	8,300%
2	Potato	2	37.60	1780%	138.86	6,843%
3	Garlic	10	43.60	336%	600.00	5,900%
4	Pepper	10	39.43	294%	328.57	3,186%
5	Sugar	3	11.29	276%	94.29	3,043%
6	Egg	12	120.00	900%	360.00	2,900%
7	Cucumber	2	9.14	357%	45.00	2,150%
8	Eggplant	2	10.14	407%	37.29	1,765%
9	Lemon	4	19.14	379%	47.86	1,097%
10	Oil	8	14.86	86%	62.14	677%
11	Rice	9	13.00	44%	45.00	400%
12	Flour	35	50.00	43%	30.71	-12%
13	Macaroni	5	6.00	20%	4.00	-20%

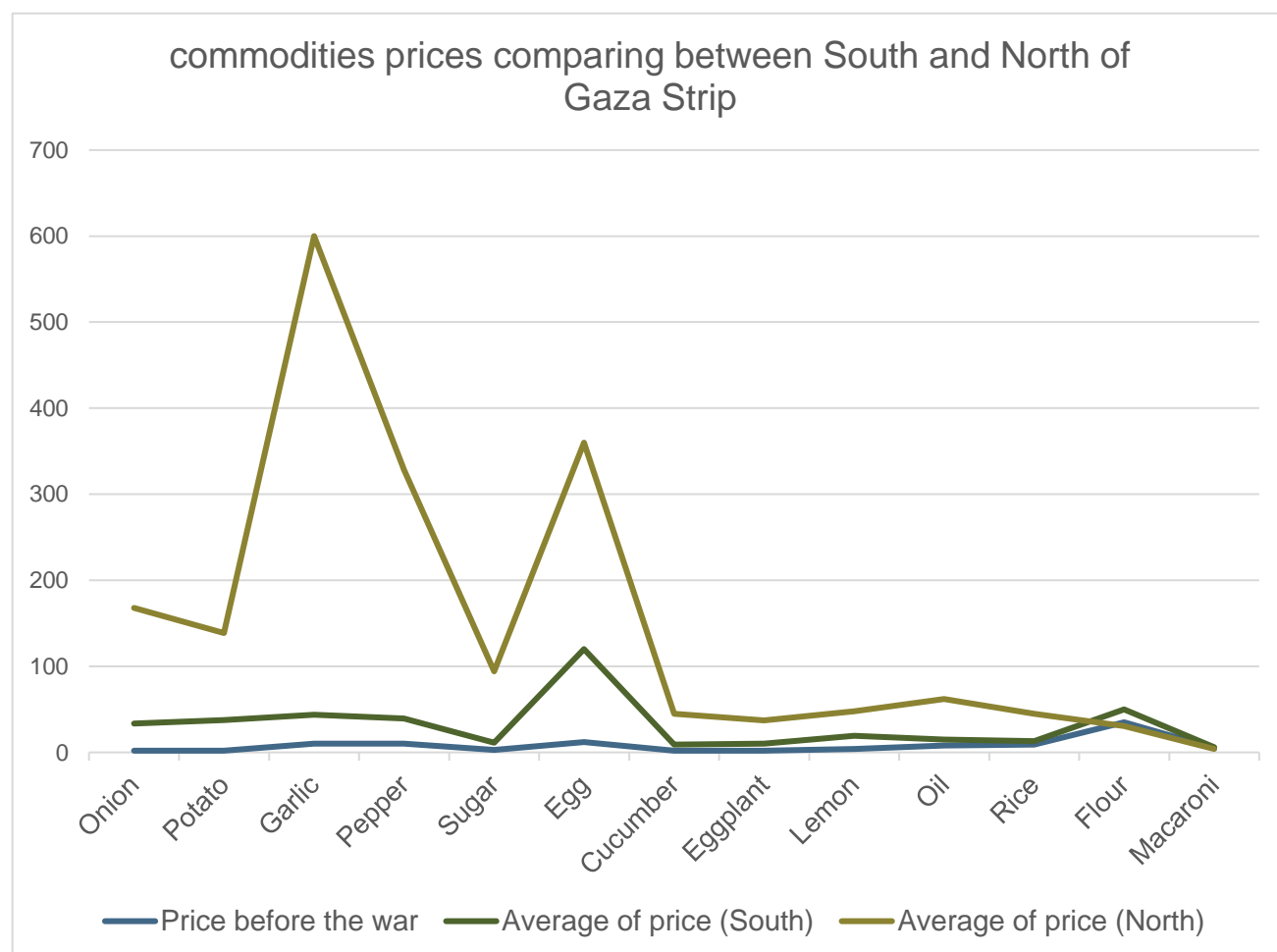


Figure (): commodities prices comparing between South and North of Gaza Strip.

## 6 Coordination Mechanism:

The Israeli Occupation Coordination and Liaison Directorate (CLA) has introduced and implemented a new system to issue permits for coordinating goods entry. The CLA issued new instructions / Clarifications to use the new coordination system for the Private Sector goods entry to Gaza Strip, the instruction was published and sent to the importers directly, without any consultation or coordination with the PNA or any other regulatory Palestinian body. The new instructions / clarifications, are as follows:

- The CLA disseminated the link <https://Matak.co.il> to access the new coordination system, to be used by the approved / vetted importers to submit their coordination applications.
- Only approved importers are allowed to access the new coordination system, otherwise the system will direct the non-approved importers to the General Inquiry Center, phone No.: 0747642929.
- The system can be accessed using the computer or mobile telephone device from 07:00 to 14:00 hours.
- The Importer has to enter his details such as Importer No., ID number and mobile number.
- The system gives the importer a detailed commodities list (Categories and Subcategories) to select from and submit his detailed application. Only limited food items are listed in the system to select from.
- Categories include “Dried Food, Cold / Frozen Food, etc.” Subcategories include “Wheat, sugar, salt, tea, coffee, catchup, semolina, etc. for the Dried Food Category, and milk powder, coco powder, butter cheese, whole chicken, chicken breast, etc. For the Cold / Frozen Food Category”
- The Importer has to select the goods details and submit the source of goods contact details as well as the driver’s details and the truck registration number. If the truck details are used by another applicant on the system, the importer will have to use an alternative truck and enter its details.
- The Importer will have to submit his application several times as the system keeps on giving error messages, apparently due to the load of users. Once the system gives the message “Registration is accepted” then the Imported application for coordination is approved.
- The number of granted coordination to each Importer will have weekly limit, depending on the situation.
- The number of granted coordination to each Importer will vary from for each crossing (Tarqoumya, Tulkarm or directly from Israel).
- New Importers who are not yet approved / vetted, should send the following documents to this email [mnz@mgar.co.il](mailto:mnz@mgar.co.il) :
  - The registration certificate from the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy.
  - **Bank statement starting from 2022 showing the importers commercial transactions.**

### 6.1 Coordination Charges:

- There is evidence that Importers buy coordinations from Israeli vetted importers, the cost of buying a coordination reached 100,000 ILS.

## 6.2 Difficulties:

- Israeli Authorities have implemented their trade policy and reduced the number of truckloads to Gaza to more than 50%, as well as fears to reduce it gradually till it is stopped completely.
- Israeli occupation still limits the importers who can get coordination to about 18 importers only.
- Commercial goods entering Gaza Strip are still significantly lower than pre-conflict levels and do not meet essential needs.
- The number of vetted Importers is too small and need to be increased.
- The vetting procedure is exhaustive as it requires documentations and lots of information from Importers
- The allowed basic commodities to enter Gaza Strip is much limited and does not respond to residents' basic needs.
- The Private Sector is still not allowed to use Eriz crossing, or any other crossing, to provide supplies to Northern part of Gaza Strip. No goods are allowed from North to South or vice versa.
- The delivery of aid and commercial supplies into Gaza remains unreliable due to crossings and routs access restrictions and ongoing security issues.
- Challenges in importing from the West Bank due to double crossings and long waiting time on both crossings.
- Increased transportation costs within the West Bank to 300% due to sudden unplanned transportation requests, and long delays on the crossings.
- High transportation costs within Gaza due to high fuel and spare parts prices.
- Price increase of goods ranging from 5% to 10% from the source in the West Bank due to unplanned demand.
- 80% of Importers experienced damages to Goods during transportation.
- 53% of Importers experienced Goods detention for different periods by the Israeli's.
- Cost of security escorts and transportation of goods within Gaza Strip, averaging 10,000 shekels per a truck or a convoy of several trucks.
- Cost of coordination could reach to 100,000 ILS.
- Lack of cash liquidity and closure of all Bank branches except one or two ATM is magnifying the malnutrition and hunger crisis.
- Lack of storage and cold storage which prevents wholesalers and retailers from storing reasonable quantities of goods to help stabilize the markets.
- Lack of power to maintain goods cold chain and enable e-payments over the internet.
- Lack of hygiene products has caused a sharp increase in diseases such as Hepatitis A, impetigo, Scabies, and other fast spreading and contagious diseases.
- Many humanitarian organizations resort to purchase vegetables and fruits from the local market, at any price, and distribute them as humanitarian aid. This purchase caused demand increase while supply is limited. Traders also elevated prices for humanitarian organizations as these organizations pay whatever prices Traders ask for. This price elevation was applied to consumers as well.

- Lack of sheltering material such as tarpaulin and nylon sheets has caused a sharp increase in its prices in the market.

## 7 Recommendations:

1. Immediate increase (in quantity and variety) of humanitarian aid entering Gaza Strip to include variant nutritious needs, with focus on areas suffering from malnutrition and famine in the Northern part of Gaza Strip, through coordination with International Organizations.
2. increase the number of commercial trucks, 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. Increase the number of importers who are allowed to bring basic commodities into Gaza Strip.
4. Allow access to power through solar energy to enable maintain the cold chain for dairy products and frozen meats and vegetables.
5. Increase cooking gas entering Gaza to enable people cook their food properly.
6. increase the amount of commodities entering the Northern part of Gaza Strip to ensure that aid reaches those in need without delay.
7. Allow private sector Importers to import and enter goods for Northern part of Gaza Strip using all available crossings.
8. Allow access to hygiene products since it is causing a major concern of disease spreading among population such as hepatitis A, scabies, etc.
9. Allow humanitarian and commercial trucks access the different crossings and all routes to shorten travel distances and avoid routes controlled by looters, in order to avoid paying high sums of money for security escorts.
10. Allow Gaza traders to import directly through international ports to avoid paying high prices and commissions
11. Partner between Chamber of Commerce, as the umbrella for the private sector and Industry, with donor projects such as Tasdeer's, Anera and WFP to support the back to business for retail recovery, agriculture etc to reduce reliance on street vendors.
12. 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.
13. Allow private sector to import other basic commodities such as hygiene material, medicines, sheltering material, clothes and footwear, etc.
14. Urgently allow to bring agricultural and livestock production supplies into Gaza Strip, and support small farmers with seeds, tools and fertilizers to reduce dependence on external supplies and provide local food sources.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Find a more 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.
18. Lift all imposed restrictions on the Private Sector to import all humanitarian needs and commodities such as school stationery, sheltering material, etc.
19. Find and promote mechanisms to control markets, prevent monopoly and control prices as much as possible.



## The Success Story of Shomar Biscuit Factory



**The Shomar Biscuit Factory** was established in 1970 in the middle area of the Gaza Strip, it was considered as one of the most prominent family projects that employed more than 110 workers. The factory had eight production lines and more than 45 advanced machines, producing 12 candy and biscuits products. The factory was destroyed and put out of business by the recent Israeli aggression.

The Shomar family refused to surrender and decided to restart the factory, relying on limited resources, in very difficult conditions. They were able to salvage and repair one machine and bought another to operate a production line that manufactures candy balls and toffee. The factory returned to production, with 20% of its original capacity employing 30 workers.

The downturn of the factory's workforce to 27% and its production to 17% was not the only challenge as the restrictions imposed on Gaza have caused production costs to increase significantly, affecting its competitiveness in the market. The increase of production cost is attributed to the scarcity of fuel needed to operate the machines forcing the factory to buy fuel from the black-market costing 10 times its normal price.

Despite these challenges, the Shomar family seeks to restore all production lines and enhance its contribution to the local economy. The family needs financial and technical support to provide energy and raw materials, with the aim of doubling production and reducing the cost of products, which helps provide competitive prices for consumers and supports local workers.



## 8 The case of the week: "Fisheries Sector in Gaza Strip and the impact of the Israeli war"

### 8.1 Situation before the war:

- Although the fisheries sector in Gaza Strip was suffering from multiple challenges before the outbreak of the war, it was playing a vital role in the local economy.
- There were about 2,500 families in Gaza Strip their life depending on fishing industry, in addition 1,500 families were depending on industries related to fishing such as (boat maintenance - ice making - net making).
- There were about 1,100 motorized boats licensed by the Ministry of Transportation, in addition to 900 boats without (oars).
- The average local fish production ranged between 1,700 and 1,800 tons annually, while the consumption rate reached 20,000 tons annually, and the gap was covered by importing frozen fish.
- The average income of fishermen was about 1,500 ILS per month, which helped them secure the needs of their families.
- 96% of the boat engines were expire, but the fishermen still depended on them because the Israeli occupation was preventing introduction of new engines.

### 8.2 The impact of the war:

The recent war caused great destruction to the fisheries sector, like other economic sectors, and this is represented in:

- A complete ban on fishing, but some fishermen risk entering a distance of no more than tens of meters for fear of attack by the Israeli occupation forces.
- 150 fishermen were killed, 30 of them while trying to secure their families' livelihood.
- 1,050 boats were completely destroyed, equivalent to 95% of the fishing boats in Gaza Strip.



- Currently, there is complete reliance on small boats that operate with paddles without an engine because they do not need fuel, and they operate in areas close to the shore, which are usually poor in fish.
- The annual production rate decreased to only 500 tons due to the war.
- The average income of fishermen eroded to less than 500 ILS per month, in light of the exorbitant prices of goods.
- Important infrastructure for the fisheries sector was destroyed, such as fishermen's rooms, warehouses, and equipment, as well as the complete destruction of Gaza port.
- Fish prices increased by 200-300%.
- In Gaza Strip, a large number of boats are sunk in the port basin, some of which can be reclaimed, while in the south (Deir al-Balah and Khan Yunis) some fishermen buried their boats in the sand and some pulled them far from the sea to hide them.

### **8.3 The current gap:**

When comparing current production with actual need, we find that the current production of the fishing sector has decreased by 70% compared to what it was before the war, and with the current import and storage conditions that suffer from great difficulties, and the entry of frozen fish only in very small quantities, the gap in the local fish market reaches 95%.

### **8.4 Recommendations:**

- Activate pressure and advocacy means to open the sea to the fishermen and activate the safe fishing area.
- Provide fishing tools for fishermen.
- Provide fuel for boats that are still intact so that they can return to work.
- Maintain partially damaged boats in order to return them to work, and work on supplying new engines for boats.
- Reconstruct and rehabilitate the infrastructure of the fisheries sector, including (ports - warehouses - fishermen's rooms)
- Provide the raw materials necessary for the manufacture and maintenance of fishing boats.
- Provide the possibility of manufacturing fiberglass boats or importing boats from Egypt.





## 9 Conclusion

There has been an improvement in comparison to the previous week, however the volume of commodities flowing into Gaza Strip during October is still below the average for previous months, and far below the required level that meets the needs of the population. When comparing the average number of trucks during the first two weeks of October with the same period in August and September, the situation in October is catastrophic in every sense of the word. The daily average number of trucks dropped from 160 trucks in both August and September to less than 46 trucks in October. This is due to the repeated closure of the crossings for several days, as well as the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation, which are mentioned in this report.

The data during the current reporting period indicates that the Israeli occupation continues to practice a policy of collective punishment against the residents of Gaza Strip, as many essential commodities are still not allowed to enter Gaza Strip. Despite recent relative ease of coordination process due to the new digital coordination system introduced recently by the CLA, the private sector companies continue to be restricted in the import process, and is limited to only some food items. The lack of transparency in the followed coordination mechanism, and the continued closure of Palestinian/Egyptian Rafah crossing, has serious repercussions on the Palestinian economy as a whole, as well as on the lives of the residents. The residents of the northern part of Gaza Strip also continue to suffer from famine, due to the severe restrictions on the entry of goods in general and the total blocking of private sector goods to enter the Northern part, in particular. The Israeli Authorities have reduced the number of private sector truckloads entering Gaza Strip by more than 50%, there are fears that they will reduce the number of truckloads gradually till it is completely stopped.

*\*All photos in this report are used with consent.*