



إتحاد الغرف التجارية الصناعية الزراعية الفلسطينية

Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

Week 33: 11-17 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.
- 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 most.
- This week, there is no coordination mechanism in action, because there is no truck entered Gaza Strip. Its unknown yet 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.
- During the reporting period, commission rate for obtaining cash ranged between 24% - 27%. This places an additional burden on citizens already suffering from difficult living conditions.

March 27, 2025

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

1. Executive Summary:

- This report, of weekly market analysis in Gaza Strip, covers the period from 11/03/2025 to 17/03/2025.
- This week witnessed continuation of the comprehensive closure imposed by the Israeli side on Gaza Strip last week.
- 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 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 most.
- 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.
- 14 out of 16 items have current prices higher than their prices in February 2025, while the other two items (kidney beans and macaroni) remained stable without any change.
- This week, there is no coordination mechanism in action, because there are no trucks allowed to enter Gaza Strip.
- It is not yet known whether the previous 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 24% and 27%. This places an additional burden on citizens already suffering from difficult living conditions.

2. Distribution of the Population in Gaza Strip:

The population map began to change drastically since Monday 27/01/2025, which was the first day that the Israeli occupation forces allowed the residents of Gaza Strip to move from south to north via Rashid and Salahudeen streets. Residents were allowed to move on foot through Al-Rashid St, or in vehicles through Salahudeen Street. Vehicles have to pass-through inspection machine as well as manual check. Starting Saturday 01/02/2025, movement in both directions was allowed with the same previous restrictions. Many reports confirmed that, as of 10 February, more than 650,000 people have been observed crossing from southern to northern Gaza Strip.



Figure (1): Map of crossings and divisions of Gaza Strip into North and South

3. Daily Crossing Points Status:

This week, the comprehensive closure imposed by the Israeli occupation on Gaza Strip on Sunday 02/03/2025 continued. All crossings are completely closed, as shown on the map in (Figure 1), as no trucks were allowed to enter at all. The situation is completely dependent on the stocks that entered during February, which according to local sources, are not sufficient for more than two weeks. Some items have completely ran out, while others have become scarce. The situation does not stop with food, but also with medicines, medical supplies, and fuel, threatening the ability of humanitarian organizations to continue their operations in Gaza Strip. All of this, unfortunately, is happening amid complete silence and a lack of clear international positions, in addition to the absence of any means of pressure on the Israeli side to reopen the crossings and resume the entry of aid, commodities, and supplies.

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. Through the following analyses, we highlight the changes in the 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:

- 14 out of 16 items have current prices higher than their normal prices before the war, by varying percentages depending on the availability of goods in the markets.
- Potato was the most increasing items, its average price this week reached more than 15 times higher than its pre-war price, followed by eggplant by about 11 times higher, then banana by 10 times higher.
- Lemon and onion also reached about 8 times higher than their prices before war.
- Many items (cucumber, tomato, apple, sugar, pepper, garlic, macaroni) ranged between 2-6 times higher.
- Rice and cooking oil were the least increasing items comparing with the pre-war prices, their current prices were above normal prices by 64% and 24% respectively.
- Flour price remained stable without any change, while kidney bean is the only item whose current price came below its pre-war price by 29%.

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	30.71	1,436%
2	Eggplant	2	21.67	983%
3	Banana	2.5	25	900%
4	Lemon	4	33.57	739%
5	Onion	2	15.5	675%
6	Cucumber	2	11.14	457%
7	Tomato	2	8.29	314%
8	Apple	5	16.5	230%
9	Sugar	3	8	167%
10	Pepper	10	26	160%
11	Garlic	10	26	160%
12	Macaroni	2.5	5	100%
13	Rice	8	13.14	64%
14	Oil	9	11.14	24%
15	Flour	35	35	0%
16	Kidney beans	7	5	-29%

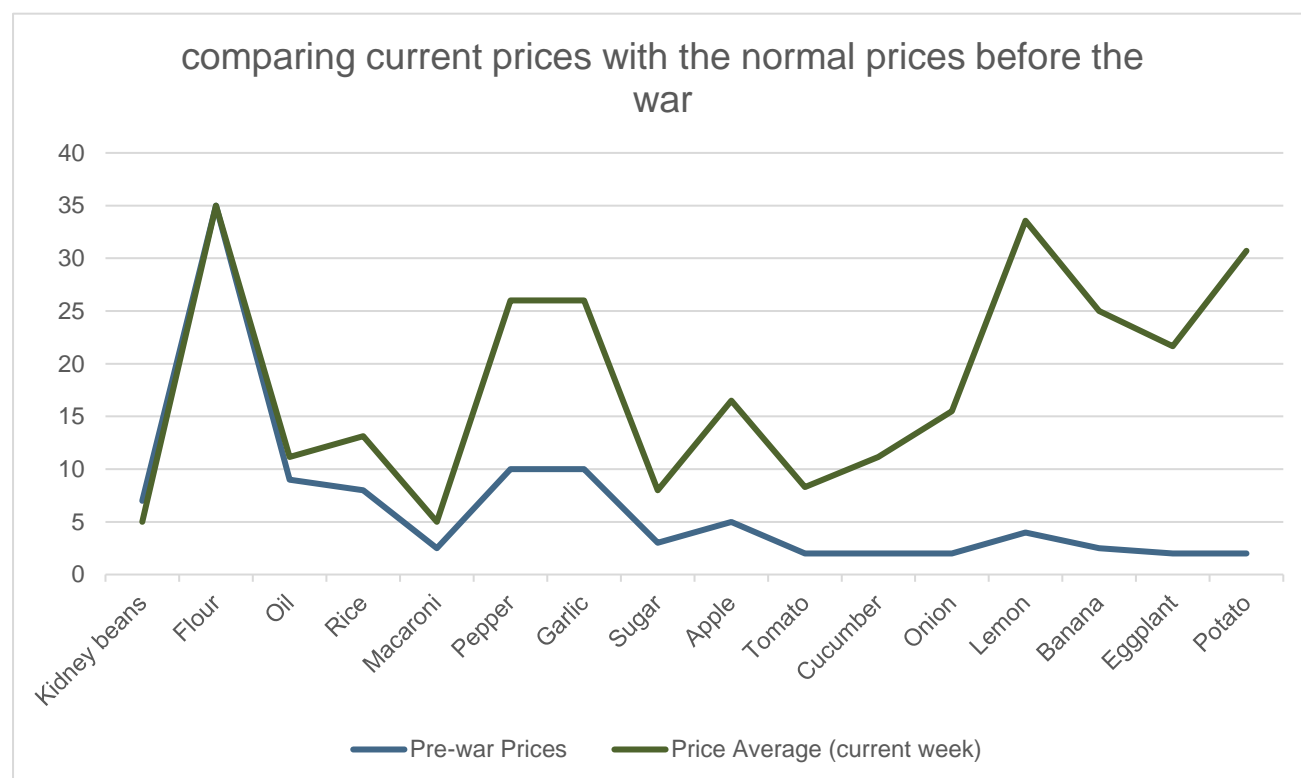


Figure (2): comparing current prices with the normal prices before the war.

4.3. Comparing Current Prices with the Price Average 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:

- 10 out of 16 items have current prices higher than their prices average in the previous week, one item remained stable, and the other 5 items (pepper, macaroni, kidney beans, tomato, cucumber) have lower prices than the previous week.
- banana was the most increasing item by more than 72%, followed by lemon by about 64%, and then onion by about 45%.
- Garlic was the least increasing item by about 5%, while the flour remained stable as in the previous week.
- Cucumber was the most decreasing item by more than 23%, followed by tomato by more than 19%, The reason for this decline is attributed to the presence of local crops of these two items, so their prices rose immediately due to the news of the closure of the crossings, and then they began to gradually decline with the availability of local quantities of them in the markets.

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

#	Item	Price Average (previous week)	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current prices compared to the previous week
1	Banana	14.50	25	72%
2	Lemon	20.50	33.57	64%
3	Onion	10.71	15.5	45%
4	Potato	22.43	30.71	37%
5	Eggplant	18.71	21.67	16%
6	Rice	11.71	13.14	12%
7	Apple	14.86	16.5	11%
8	Oil	10.14	11.14	10%
9	Sugar	7.43	8	8%
10	Garlic	24.86	26	5%
11	Flour	35.00	35	0%
12	Pepper	26.71	26	-3%
13	Macaroni	5.43	5	-8%
14	Kidney beans	5.57	5	-10%
15	Tomato	10.29	8.29	-19%
16	Cucumber	14.50	11.14	-23%

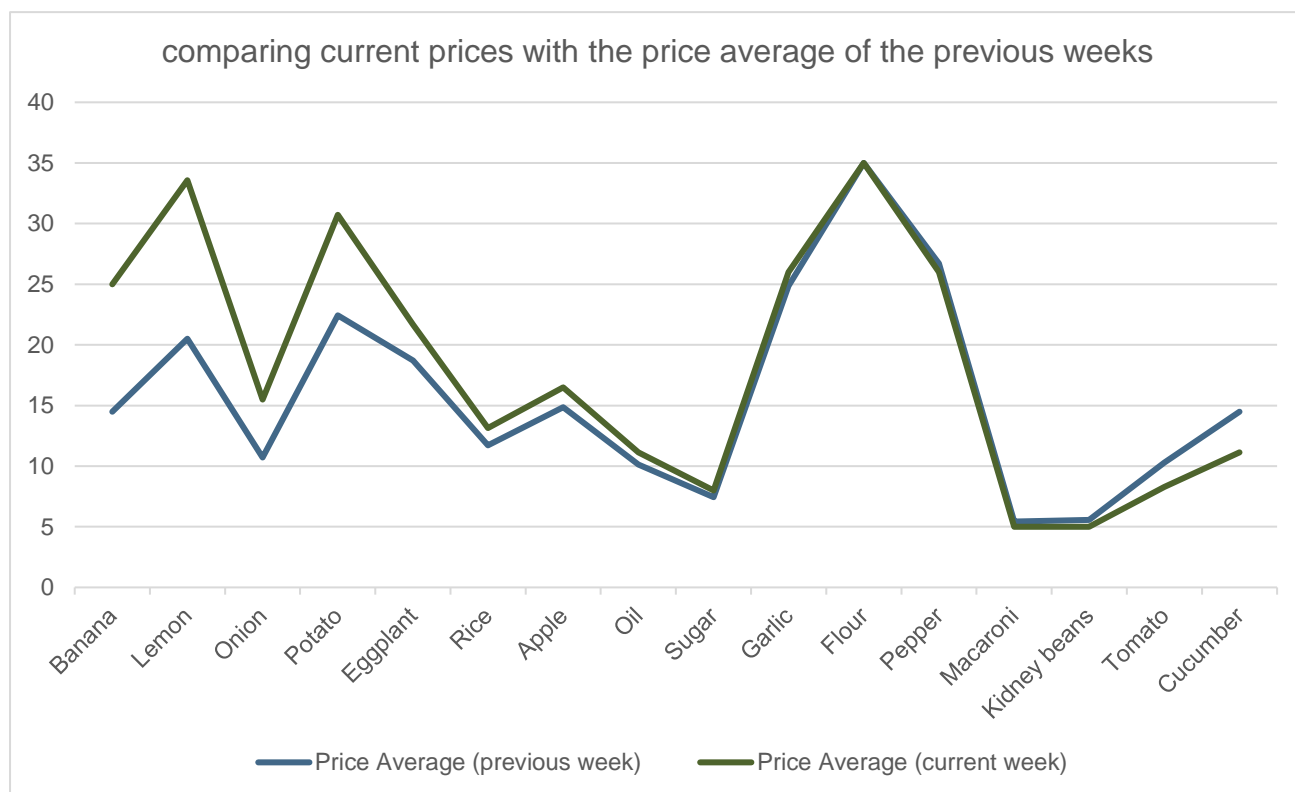


Figure (3): comparing current prices with the price average of the previous weeks.

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 week, we find that:

- 14 out of 16 items have current prices higher than their prices in February 2025, while the other two items (kidney beans and macaroni) remained stable without any change.
- Potato was the most increasing item by more than 479%, followed by lemon by about 394%.
- Flour and cooking oil were the least increasing items comparing with the previous month prices, their current prices were above Feb. 2025 prices by about 16% and 21% respectively.
- We note that the first 5 items in the list are vegetables and fruits. This is due to the fact that the imported quantities are only sufficient for a few days due to their short shelf life and the lack of suitable storage spaces. Regarding tomato and cucumber, as we mentioned previously, the presence of local crops has limited their price increases, as the case with other vegetable items.

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

#	Item	Price Average (previous month Feb 2025)	Price Average (current week)	% Of change in current prices compared to Feb 2025
1	Potato	5.3	30.71	477%
2	Lemon	6.8	33.57	392%
3	Onion	4.9	15.5	213%
4	Eggplant	7.9	21.67	175%
5	Banana	12.9	25	94%
6	Rice	7.4	13.14	79%
7	Apple	10.7	16.5	55%
8	Garlic	18.6	26	40%
9	Pepper	18.8	26	39%
10	Cucumber	8.4	11.14	32%
11	Tomato	6.4	8.29	29%
12	Sugar	6.2	8	28%
13	Oil	9.2	11.14	22%
14	Flour	30.2	35	16%
15	Kidney beans	5	5	0%
16	Macaroni	5	5	0%

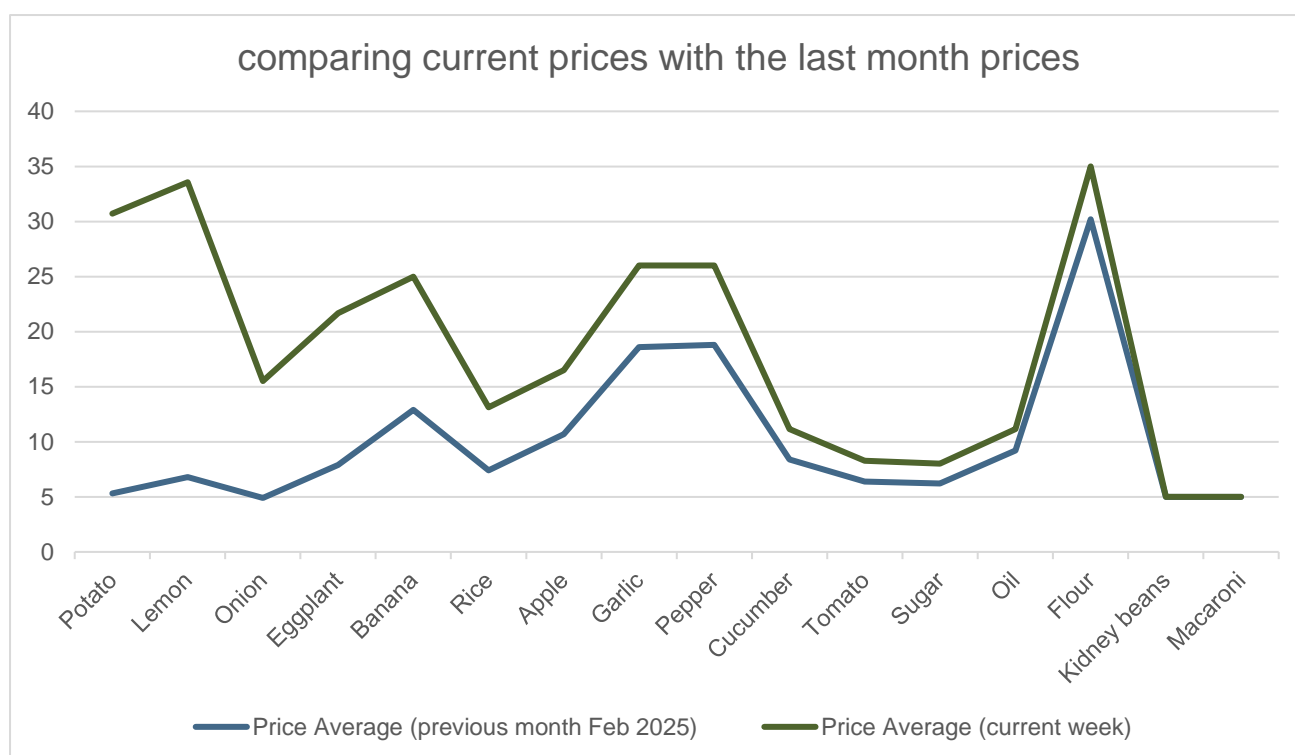


Figure (4): comparing current prices with the previous month prices.

5. 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.

5.4. 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.

6. The Cash Crisis and the Fees for Obtaining It

6.1. The Situation Before the War

Before the outbreak of the war, banks in Gaza were operating at full capacity. Withdrawals and deposits were carried out smoothly through ATMs and branches spread throughout the

Strip. Citizens relied on Banks to obtain the cash needed for their daily transactions. Consequently, electronic payment systems were limited, but were available for use in big shops and institutions. There was no liquidity crisis at all, and cash was available in sufficient quantities in the markets, maintaining the stability of buying and selling without the need to pay additional fees.

6.2. Impact of the War

With the outbreak of the war, many banks were bombed, destroying a large percentage of their branches and ATMs. According to initial reports, more than 70% of Bank Branches and ATMs in Gaza were out of service due to bombing or power outages, causing a near-total halt to cash withdrawals from banks. In addition, banks stopped receiving new supplies of liquidity due to Israeli restrictions on the entry of cash, leading to a severe shortage of banknotes in circulation.

6.3. Statistics and Figures

- **destruction of banking facilities:** 70% of bank branches in Gaza were exposed to direct or indirect damage as a result of the bombing, while more than 70% of exchange offices were out of service due to power outages or a lack of liquidity.
- **Decreased availability of cash:** The amount of worn or unusable cash due to the war is estimated at 40% of the total cash in circulation before the war.
- **Increased cost of obtaining cash:** The percentage of obtaining cash ranged between 10% and 30%, according to collected data.
- **Decreased purchasing power:** Due to the high commissions imposed on cash, citizens' purchasing power has decreased, leaving many unable to secure basic needs.

6.4. The Cash Provider Phenomenon:

Under these circumstances, a new phenomenon has emerged, known as "cash providers." Individuals, whether merchants or otherwise, provide cash to customers in exchange for a percentage called a "commission." The beneficiary customer transfers money via various electronic wallets to the cash provider's bank account and receives the amount in cash, minus the commission. This generates huge profits for the providers. The commission rate charged by these individuals ranged between 24% - 27% during the reported period as shown in the following table. This places an additional burden on citizens already suffering from difficult living conditions.

Table (4): commission rate for obtaining cash – current week.

Date	Commission rate
11/03/2025	24%
12/03/2025	24%
13/03/2025	24%
14/03/2025	24%
15/03/2025	25%
16/03/2025	27%
17/03/2025	27%

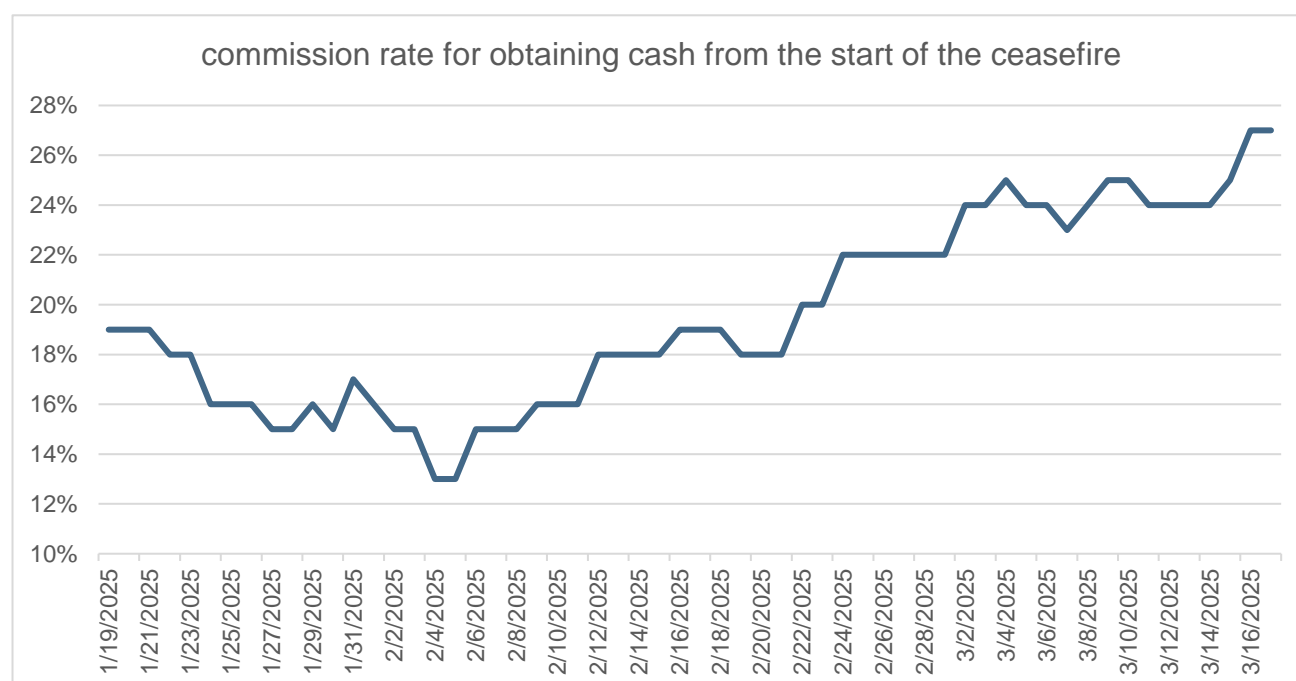


Figure (5): commission rate for obtaining cash from the start of the ceasefire

6.5. Recommendations and Solutions:

- **Promote and encourage the use of electronic payment methods:** The adoption of digital payment systems must be accelerated and facilitated, and reliance on paper money must be reduced by promoting alternative solutions such as e-wallets.
- **Entry of new cash liquidity:** Coordinate with international bodies and utilize lobbying and advocacy efforts to ensure the entry of new banknotes into Gaza's banks to alleviate the crisis.
- **Impose restrictions on commission trading:** The relevant authorities must establish oversight mechanisms to control cash traders and combat the financial exploitation of citizens.
- **Reform the banking sector:** Damaged bank branches must be rehabilitated and damaged ATMs repaired as quickly as possible.

6.6. Conclusion

The war in Gaza has led to a severe cash crisis, forcing citizens to resort to commission traders who charge high fees to provide cash. With banks destroyed and liquidity cut off, commission trading has become a painful reality, draining household income and impacting the local economy. The proposed solutions require joint cooperation between financial institutions and international bodies to promote sustainable alternatives that reduce reliance on paper money and ensure the continuity of economic operations in Gaza. Without immediate intervention, the crisis will worsen, exacerbating citizens' living costs and affecting the stability of the local market.

7. 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 routes 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.

8. Conclusion

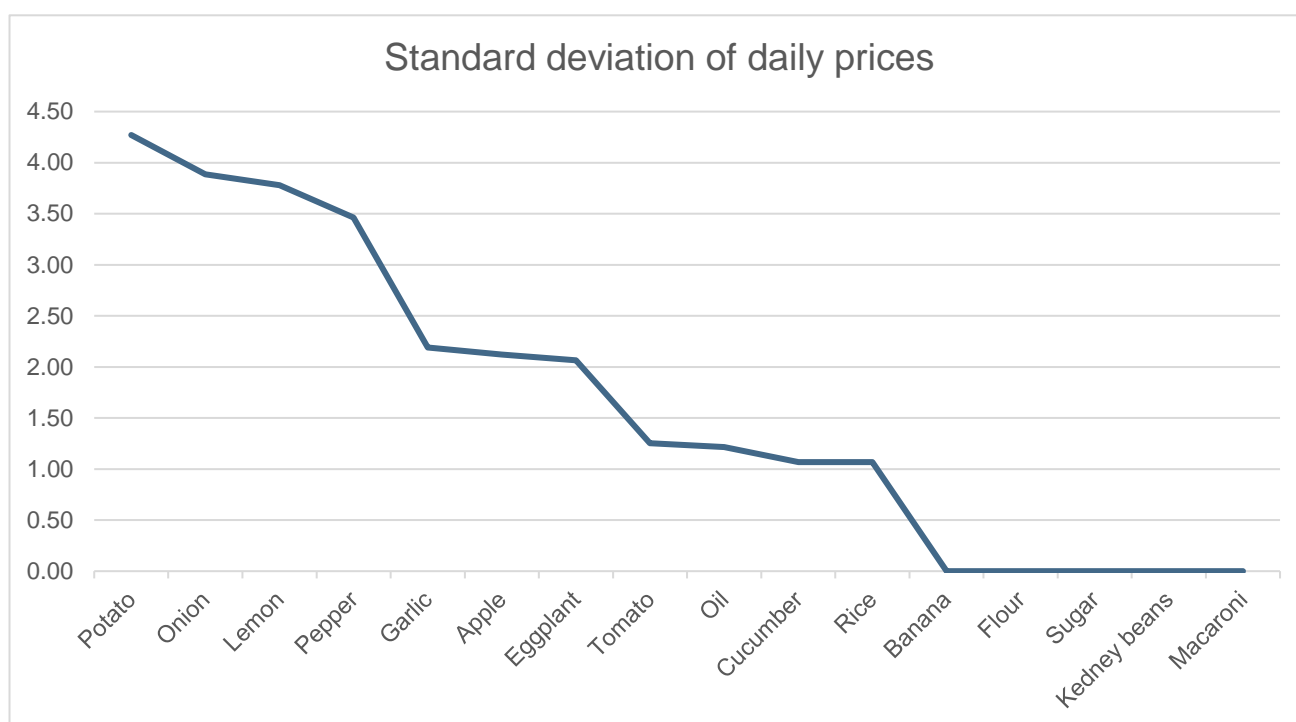
The Israeli side continued to close all crossings and prevent any commodities from entering into Gaza Strip, which portends an imminent famine. Many items disappeared from the markets immediately, which were only entering in daily consumption quantities, such as cooking gas, or items that can't be stored 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.

9. Annex

9.1. Daily price in Gaza:

Table (5): Standard deviation of daily prices

#	Item	11/03	12/03	13/03	14/03	15/03	16/03	17/03	Average	St. Dev
1	Potato	25	25	35	35	33	32	30	30.71	4.27
2	Onion	12	12	12	20	18	19	NA	15.50	3.89
3	Lemon	35	35	30	30	35	30	40	33.57	3.78
4	Pepper	28	24	28	24	28	30	20	26.00	3.46
5	Garlic	24	24	24	28	28	28	NA	26.00	2.19
6	Apple	NA	18	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	16.50	2.12
7	Eggplant	20	20	20	22	23	NA	25	21.67	2.07
8	Tomato	10	10	8	8	7	8	7	8.29	1.25
9	Oil	13	10	10	10	12	11	12	11.14	1.21
10	Cucumber	10	10	10	12	12	12	12	11.14	1.07
11	Rice	12	12	14	14	14	12	14	13.14	1.07
12	Banana	NA	NA	25	NA	NA	NA	25	25.00	0.00
13	Flour	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35.00	0.00
14	Sugar	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8.00	0.00
15	Kidney beans	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00	0.00
16	Macaroni	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5.00	0.00



eFigure (6): 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. These goods are (banana, flour, sugar, kidney beans, Macaron)

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. There are no items in this category this week.

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 (potato, onion, lemon, pepper, garlic, apple, eggplant, tomato, cooking oil, cucumber, rice).