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Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

Week 9: September 25-30, 2024

09 October 2024

In this Report:

Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

1 Introduction:

This report, of weekly market analysis in Gaza Strip, covers the period from 25/09/2024 to 30/09/2024. The report covers only 6 days, to match the end of the week with the end of the month. The collected data indicate that, in the reporting period, there were a big decrease in the number of trucks and tonnage of the basic commodities entering Gaza Strip, in comparison with the same period of the previous week, by more than 21% and 34% respectively. During the reporting period, **633** trucks with a total of **15,213**[1] tons of commodities entered Gaza Strip. These trucks entered from two crossings only, Karm Abu Salem crossing (KAS) and Erez Crossing, 496 trucks and 137 trucks respectively, while no trucks entered through the Palestinian/Egyptian Rafah crossing, or any other crossing. There was no change on the share of trucks passed through each crossing during this week, the share of (KAS) crossing remained at 78%, and the share of Erez crossing at 22%.

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. 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.

[1] This number does not include the load of 5 trucks, as there is no information on its contents in tons, these trucks loaded by UN & NGOs equipment entered on 26/09/2024.

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.

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

The data in Table No. (1), shows that about 78% 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 22%, 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. For instance, no food items enter the North except for flour, egg and frozen chickens, while in the South there is a scarcity of Hygiene material.

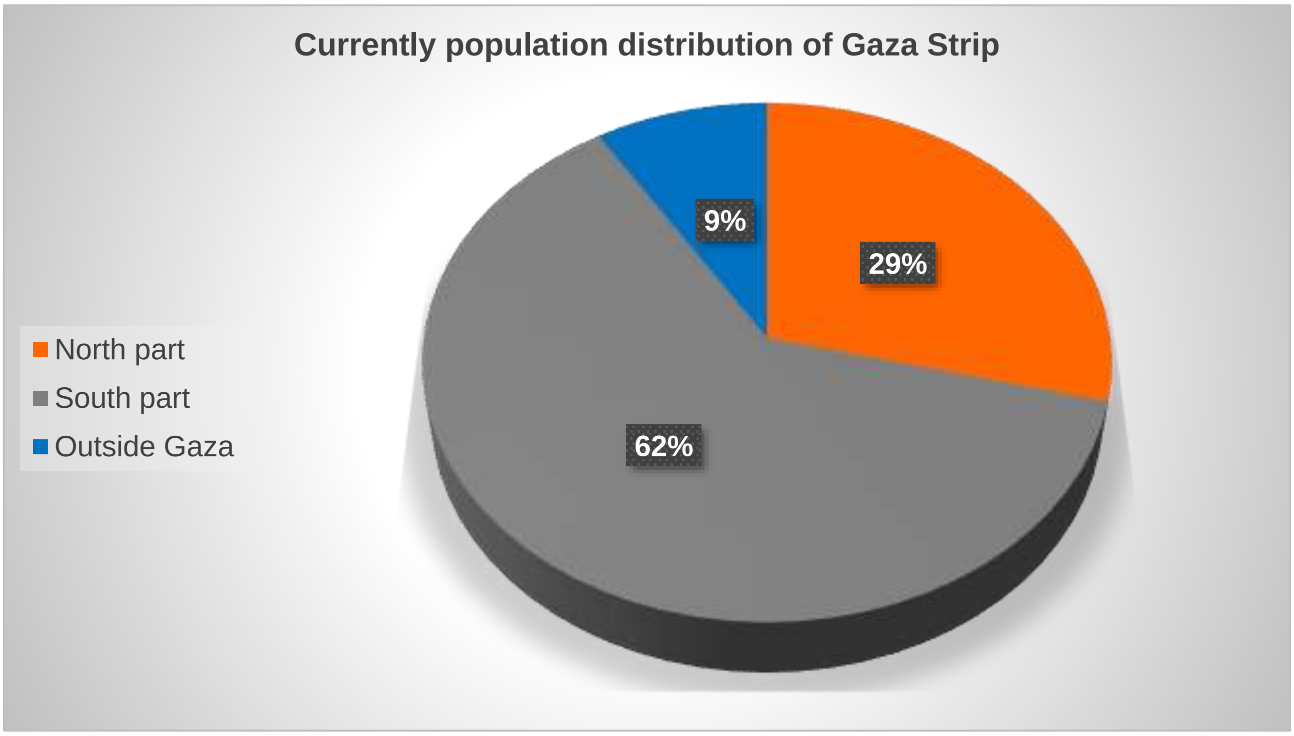

Figure (2): Currently population distribution of Gaza Strip.

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.

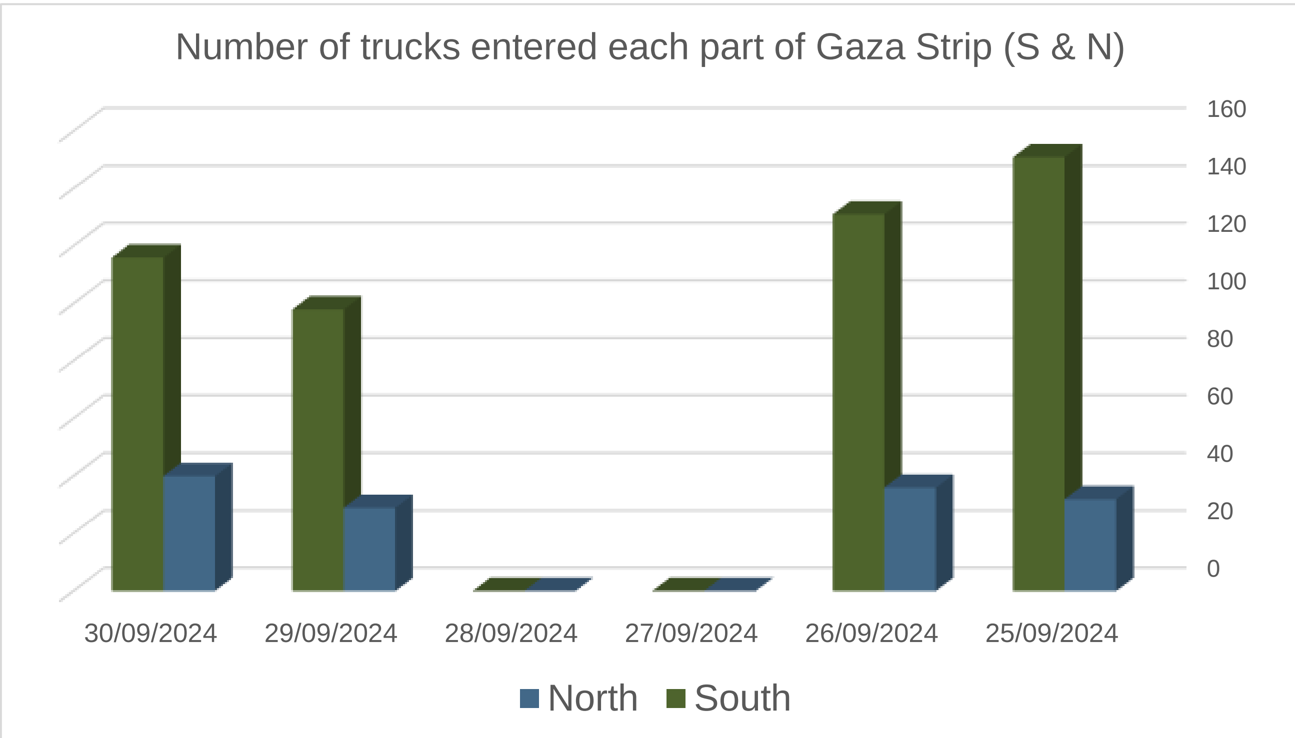

Figure (3): Number of trucks entered each part of Gaza Strip (South, North)

3 Daily Crossing Points Status:

Rafah crossing remains closed. Karm Abu Salem (KAS) crossing also continues to constitutes the largest share of trucks entering Gaza Strip. It is noteworthy that no commodities entered at all from any crossing on Friday 27/09/2024 and Saturday 28/09/2024.

Wednesday 25/09/2024, has the largest number of trucks entered in one day during the reporting period, 183 trucks entered Gaza Strip, 151 trucks through KAS and 32 trucks through Erez crossing. On Thursday 26/09/2024, 167 trucks entered Gaza Strip, 131 trucks from KAS and 36 trucks from Erez. On both Friday 27/09/2024 and Saturday 28/09/2024 all the crossings were closed and no commodities entered at all from any of them. The number of entering trucks on Sunday 29/09/2024 declined to reach 127 trucks, 98 from KAS and 29 from Erez. On Monday 30/09/2024, 156 trucks entered to Gaza strip, 116 trucks through KAS and 40 trucks through Erez crossing.

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

Day	Date	Number of Trucks			Total
		Rafah	Erez	Karm Abu Salem (KAS)	
Wednesday	25/09/2024	0	32	151	**183**
Thursday	26/09/2024	0	36	131	**167**
Friday	27/09/2024	0	0	0	**0**
Saturday	28/09/2024	0	0	0	**0**
Sunday	29/09/2024	0	29	98	**127**
Monday	30/09/2024	0	40	116	**156**
Total		**0**	**137**	**496**	**633**

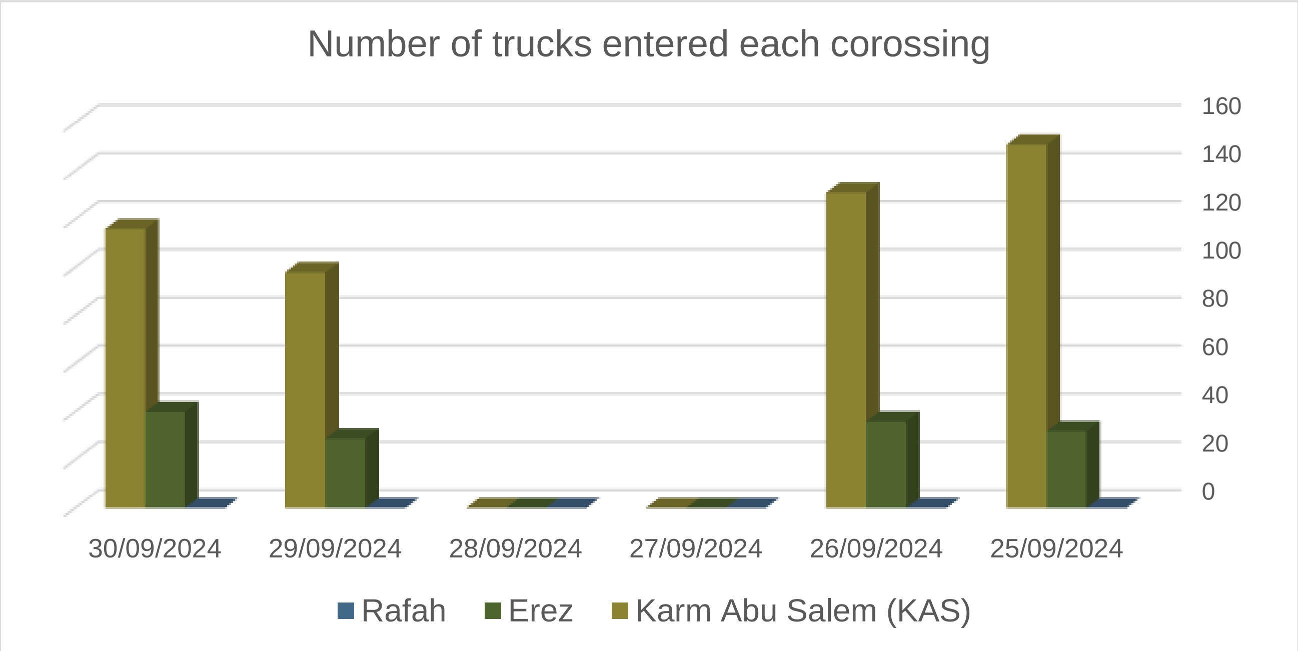

Figure (4): Number of trucks entered each corossing in the reporting period.

The average daily number of entering trucks during the reporting period is about 106 trucks, while the average in the previous week was 143 trucks. This significant decrease is due to the fact that all crossings into Gaza Strip were closed for two days during the reporting period. This decrease had a clear impact on the prices of goods in the markets on the next days.

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
25/09/2024	110	175	90	0	0	130	3,250
26/09/2024	60	100	220	N/A	165	136	2,700
27/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29/09/2024	50	30	255	0	298	132	1,960
30/09/2024	100	135	195	0	0	130	2,140

Note:

- the quantities of UN & NGOs equipment are not available in tons, the available data indicates that 5 trucks of UN & NGOs equipment entered on 26/09/2024.

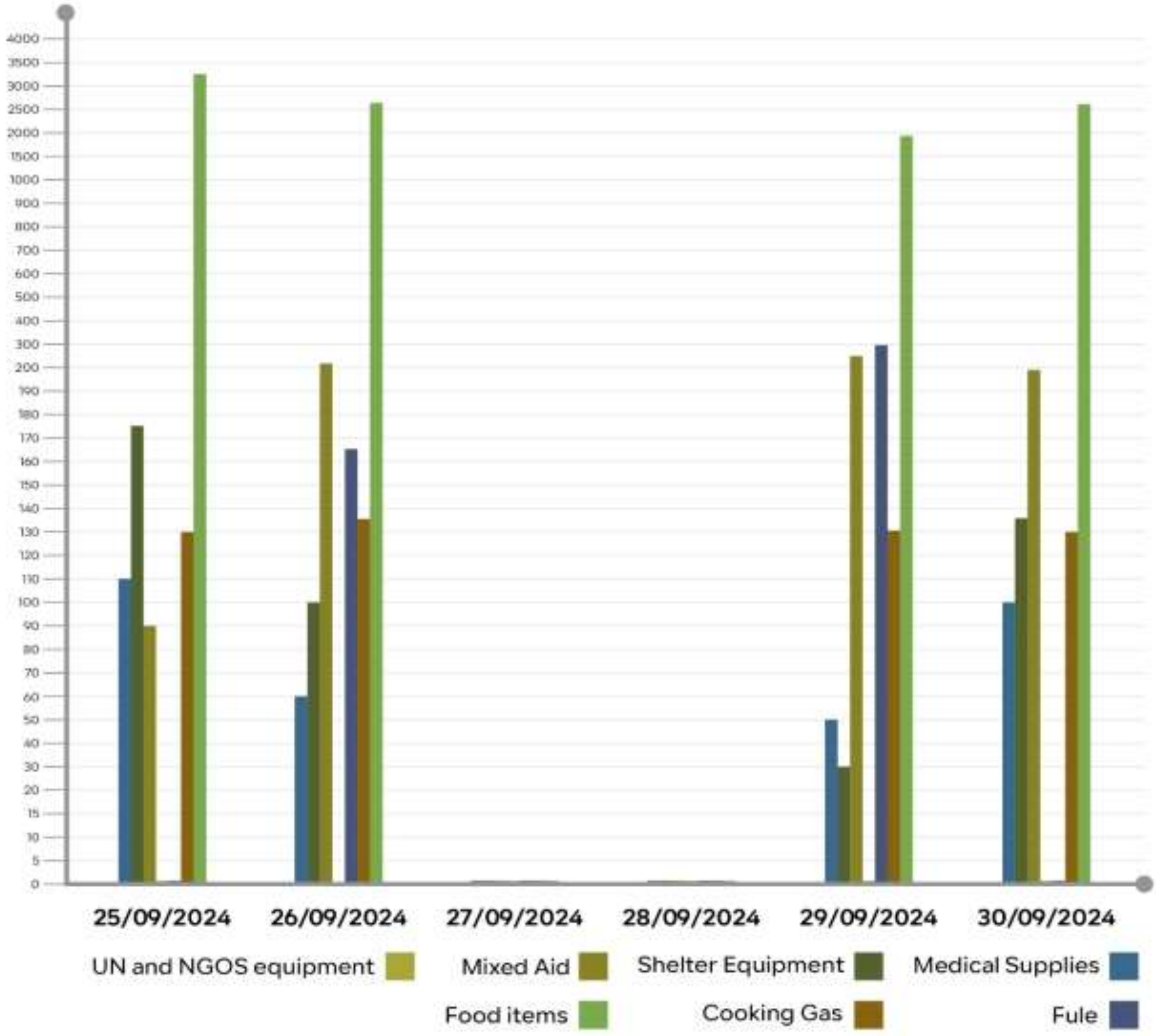

Figure (5): Types and ammount of commodities by tons.

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	
25/09/2024	9	13	6	0	0	6	149	**183**
26/09/2024	6	10	4	5	4	6	132	**167**
27/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
28/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
29/09/2024	5	4	16	0	7	6	89	**127**
30/09/2024	33	12	11	0	0	6	94	**156**
Total	**53**	**39**	**37**	**5**	**11**	**24**	**464**	**633**

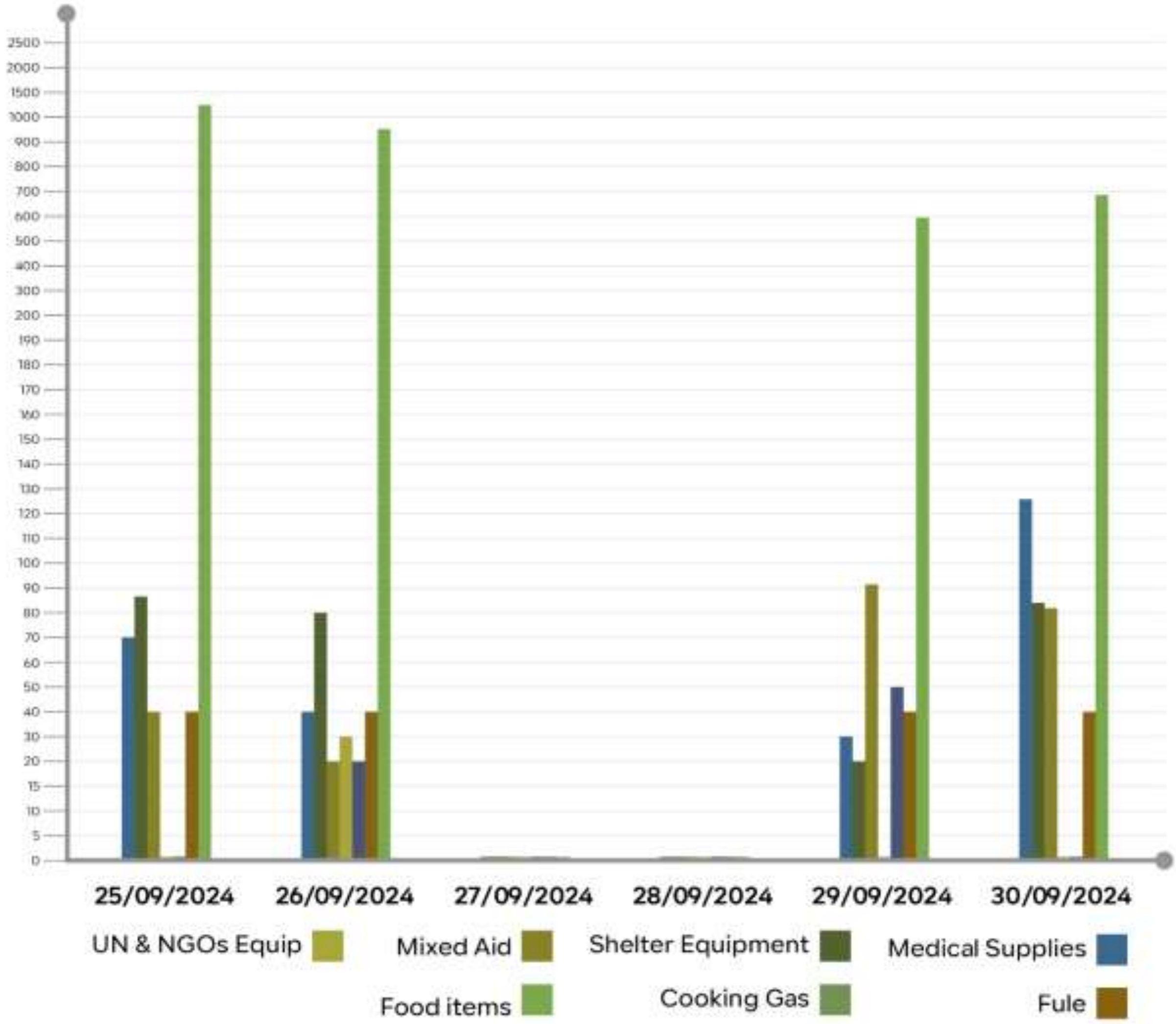

Figure (6): Types and ammount of commodities by Trucks.

4.2 Food items details:

As shown in table (2), food items constitute about 80% of the total commodities entered to Gaza Strip within the report period, with a total of 10,050 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	
25/09/2024	0	240	80	240	360	1140	1190	**3,250**
26/09/2024	40	200	80	400	320	880	780	**2,700**
27/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
28/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
29/09/2024	0	120	175	240	280	710	435	**1,960**
30/09/2024	0	140	60	200	160	1240	340	**2,140**
Total	**40**	**700**	**395**	**1,080**	**1,120**	**3,970**	**2,745**	**10,050**

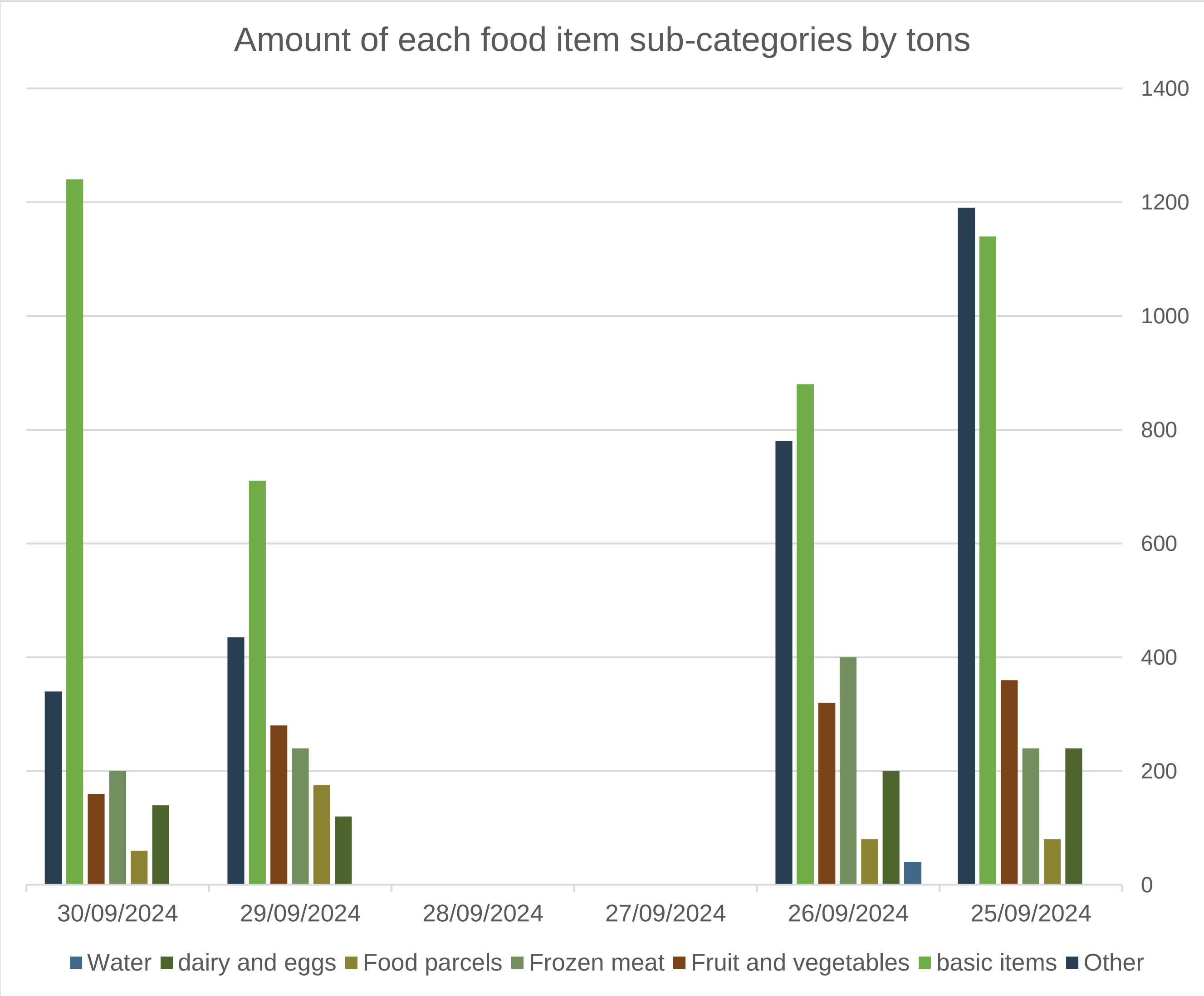

Figure (7): Amount of each food item sub-categories by tons.

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	
25/09/2024	0	11	4	11	17	52	54	**149**
26/09/2024	2	10	5	20	15	42	38	**132**
27/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
28/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
29/09/2024	0	5	8	11	13	32	20	**89**
30/09/2024	0	6	3	9	7	54	15	**94**
Total	**2**	**32**	**20**	**51**	**52**	**180**	**127**	**464**

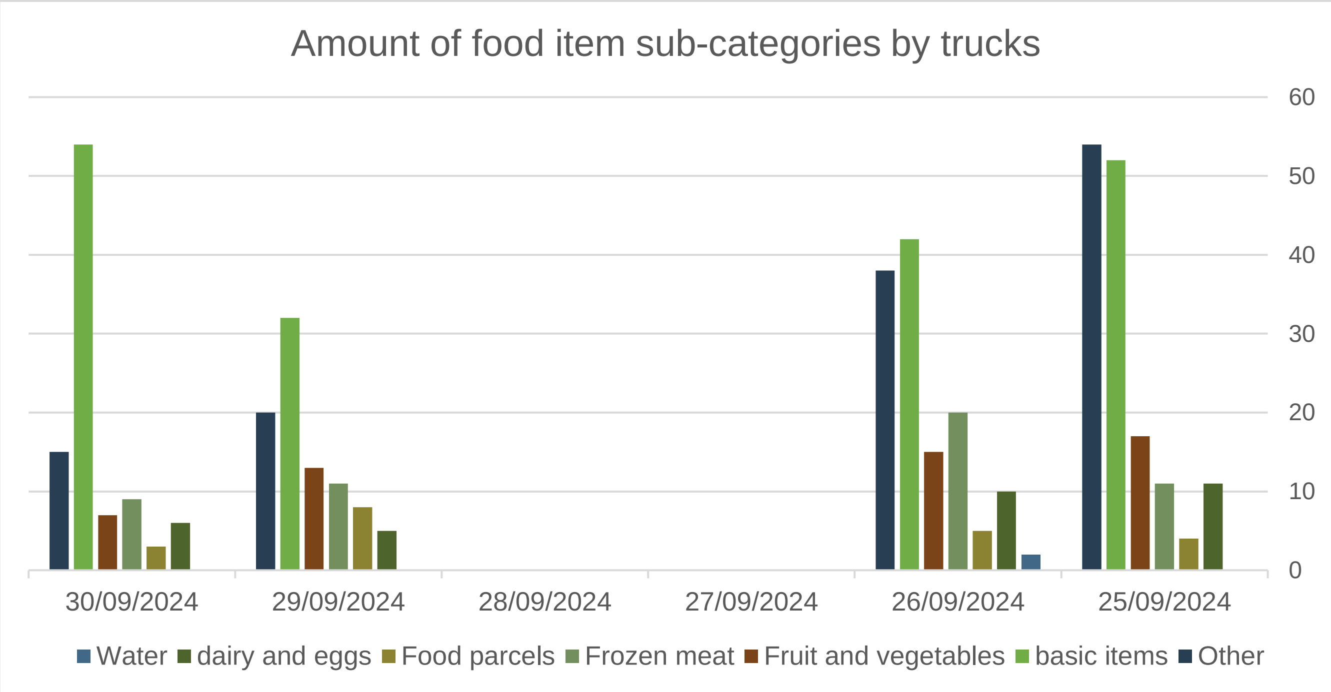

Figure (8): Amount of food item sub-categories by trucks.

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, infrastructure equipment and combined aid. The ratio between the amount of commodities entering to the private sector and to the humanitarian aid still without significant change compared with the previous week, humanitarian aid increased to 41% instead of 40% in the previous week, and private sector decreased to 59% instead of 60% 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		
25/09/2024	Food items	91	1,980	58	1,270	149	3,250
	Cooking Gas	6	130	0	0	6	130
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	6	90	6	90
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	13	175	13	175
	Medical Supplies	0	0	9	110	9	110
Subtotal 1		**97**	**2,110**	**86**	**1,645**	**183**	**3,755**
26/09/2024	Food items	89	1,840	43	860	132	2,700
	Cooking Gas	6	136	0	0	6	136
	Fuel	0	0	4	165	4	165
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	5	0	5	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	4	220	4	220
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	10	100	10	100
	Medical Supplies	0	0	6	60	6	60
Subtotal 2		**95**	**1,976**	**72**	**1,405**	**167**	**3,381**
27/09/2024	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
Subtotal 3		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
28/09/2024	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
Subtotal 4		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
29/09/2024	Food items	61	1,350	28	610	89	1,960
	Cooking Gas	6	132	0	0	6	132
	Fuel	0	0	7	298	7	298

Date	Items	Private Sector		Humanitarian Aids		Total Number of trucks	Total amount by tons
		Trucks	Tons	Trucks	Tons		
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	16	255	16	255
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	4	30	4	30
	Medical Supplies	0	0	5	50	5	50
Subtotal 5		**67**	**1,482**	**60**	**1,243**	**127**	**2,725**
30/09/2024	Food items	76	1,740	18	400	94	2,140
	Cooking Gas	6	130	0	0	6	130
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	11	195	11	195
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	12	135	12	135
	Medical Supplies	0	0	33	100	33	100
Subtotal 6		**82**	**1,870**	**74**	**830**	**156**	**2,700**
Total		**341**	**7,438**	**292**	**5,123**	**633**	**12,561**

5 Daily market prices for essential items:

Data about market prices were collected from the markets 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. It was noted that there are some items price increased by more than 1400% 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 25/09/2024 to 30/09/2024 were as follows:

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

#	Item	25/09	26/09	28/09	21/09	29/09	30/09	Average	St. Dev
1	Tomato	22	25	38	35	35	35	31.67	**6.50**
2	Pepper	40	40	36	36	32	28	35.33	**4.68**
3	Frozen chicken	26	26	28	28	30	35	28.83	**3.37**
4	Garlic	28	20	20	20	20	20	21.33	**3.27**
5	Frozen chicken thigh	24	25	25	25	26	30	25.83	**2.14**
6	Frozen chicken wing	15	15	15	15	16	20	16.00	**2.00**
7	Egg	40	40	43	43	43	43	42.00	**1.55**

#	Item	25/09	26/09	28/09	21/09	29/09	30/09	Average	St. Dev
8	Lemon	15	12	15	15	14	16	14.50	**1.38**
9	Potato	10	10	12	11	12	13	11.33	**1.21**
10	Cucumber	10	9	10	9	8	7	8.83	**1.17**
11	Frozen veal	55	55	55	55	57	57	55.67	**1.03**
12	Onion	10	10	10	10	10	12	10.33	**0.82**
13	Banana	18	20	20	20	20	20	19.67	**0.82**
14	Apple	15	15	15	17	15	15	15.33	**0.82**
15	Eggplant	9	9	10	10	9	9	9.33	**0.52**
16	Flour	38	38	38	38	38	38	38.00	**0.00**
17	Oil	8	8	8	8	8	8	8.00	**0.00**
18	Sugar	6	6	6	6	6	6	6.00	**0.00**
19	Rice	11	11	11	11	11	11	11.00	**0.00**
20	Kidney beans	10	10	10	10	10	10	10.00	**0.00**
21	Macaroni	6	6	6	6	6	6	6.00	**0.00**
22	Bottled water box	24	24	24	24	24	24	24.00	**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 (flour – cooking oil – sugar - rice – kidney beans – Macaroni - bottled water box).

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 (onion – banana – apple – eggplant).

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 (tomato – pepper – frozen chicken – garlic – frozen chicken thigh – frozen chicken wings – egg).

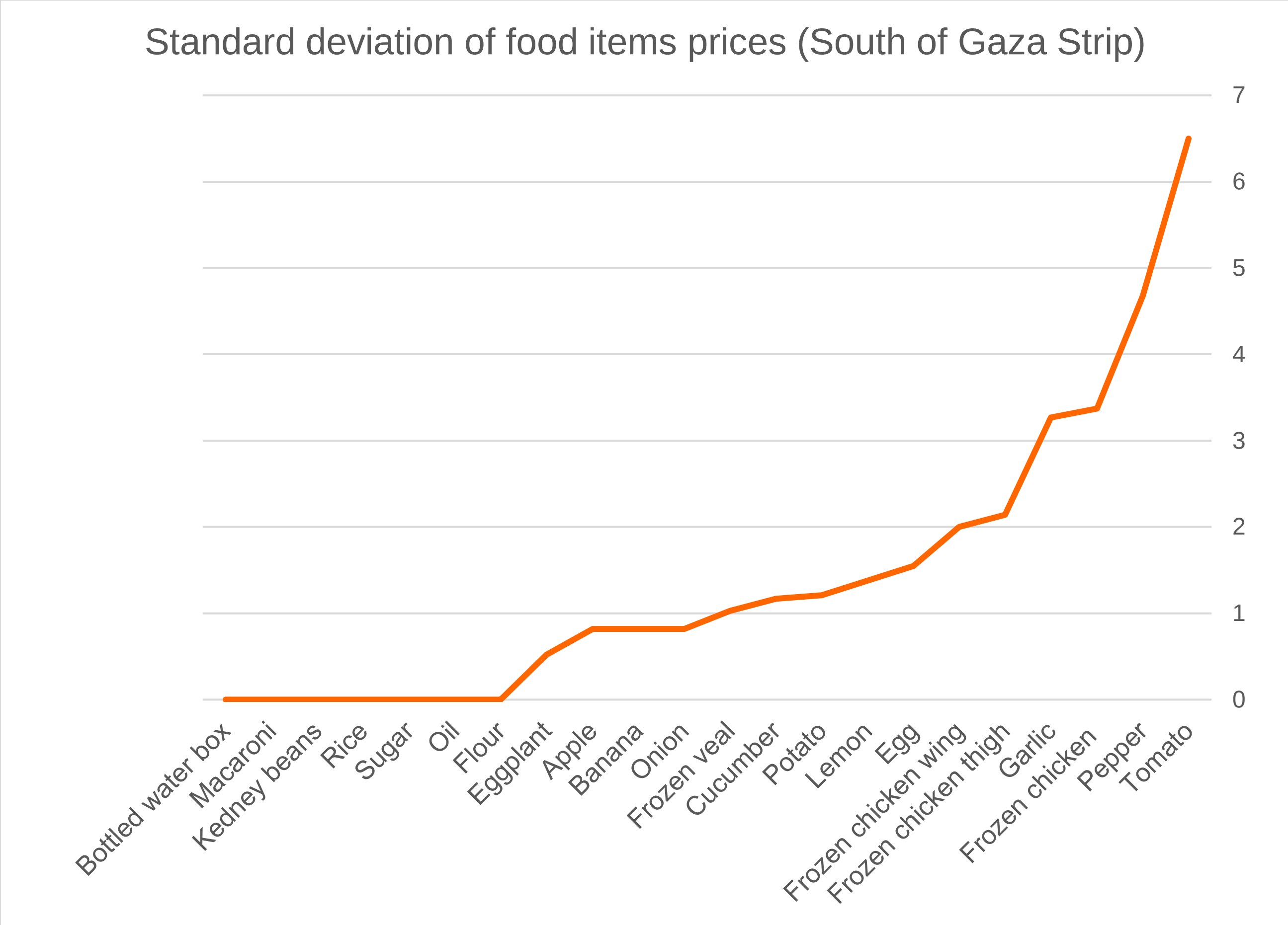

Figure (9): Standard deviation of food items prices (South of Gaza Strip)

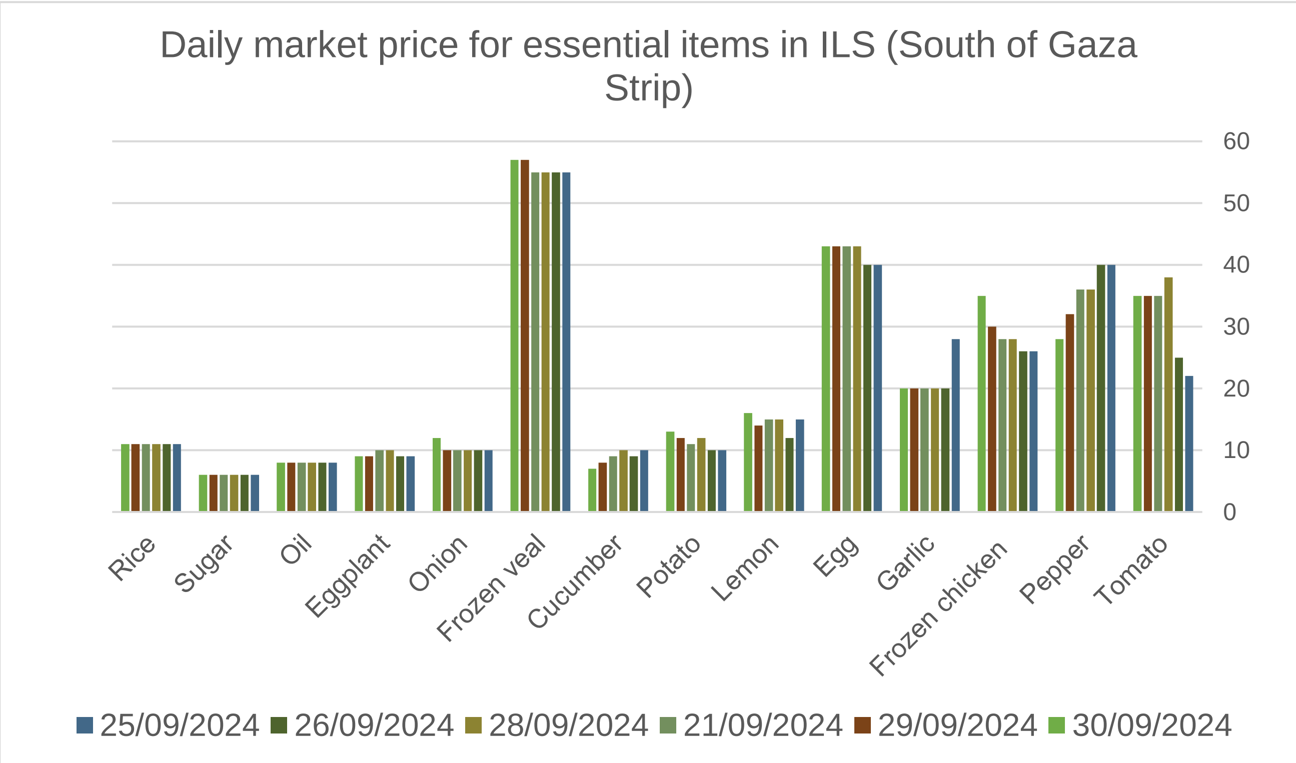

Figure (10): Daily market price for essential items in ILS (South of Gaza Strip)

5.4 Retailers Price Analysis from 25/09/2024 – 30/09/2024:

As an example:

- Product 1: **Tomato**.
  - Opening Price: 22.
  - Closing Price: 35.
  - Percentage Change: 59.10%.
- Product 2: **Frozen Chickens**.
  - Opening Price: 26.
  - Closing Price: 35.
  - Percentage Change: 34.62%
- Product 3: **Pepper.**
  - Opening Price: 40.
  - Closing Price: 28.
  - Percentage Change: - 30%
- Product e: **Garlic**
  - Opening Price: 28.
  - Closing Price: 20.
  - Percentage Change: -28.57%

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 period, there was a significant decrease in the number of trucks entering Gaza, compared with the same period in the previous week, the total is about **633** trucks, distributed between Karm Abu Salem crossing and Erez crossing.
  - Significant fluctuations were observed in the number of trucks from day to day, with a complete shut of crossings on 27/09/2024 and 28/09/2024, impacting the availability of goods on the following days.
- Variety and Quantity of Goods:
  - Quantities varied greatly on certain days, particularly on 27/09/2024 and 28/09/2024, in these days the supply was at its minimum, which affected market prices to escalate, especially, since the average daily quantities entering Gaza Strip are still far below the required level, and are not sufficient for the population daily needs.
  - It was also noted that some retailers offered discounts on some short shelf life items due to the availability of huge quantities of these items. Many basic commodities were scarce in the markets, especially hygiene material and footwear.

5.5 Market price in the Northern part of Gaza Strip:

This week, 15 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 23 times higher than its price tn the south. The prices of some items in the north are 10-15 times higher than the south (onion, sugar, potato, apple). Other items prices are 4-8 times higher (egg, tomato, pepper, eggplant, lemon, cucumber, oil, rice). 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 76.67% 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 20% 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	25/09	26/09	28/09	21/09	29/09	30/09	Average	St. Dev
1	Garlic	600	600	480	480	480	360	500.00	90.33
2	Pepper	320	320	240	240	240	80	240.00	87.64
3	Lemon	25	25	120	120	120	40	75.00	49.60
4	Eggplant	120	120	28	28	28	30	59.00	47.26
5	Potato	100	100	160	160	160	120	133.33	30.11
6	Apple	160	160	160	160	160	200	166.67	16.33
7	Egg	330	330	330	330	330	360	335.00	12.25
8	Tomato	N/A	N/A	220	220	220	240	225.00	**10.00**
9	Oil	35	35	30	30	30	45	34.17	**5.85**
10	Cucumber	45	45	35	35	35	40	39.17	**4.92**
11	Sugar	70	70	75	75	75	75	73.33	**2.58**
12	Flour	8	8	8	8	8	9	8.17	**0.41**
13	Onion	160	160	160	160	160	160	160.00	**0.00**
14	Rice	45	45	45	45	45	45	45.00	**0.00**
15	Macaroni	4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00	**0.00**

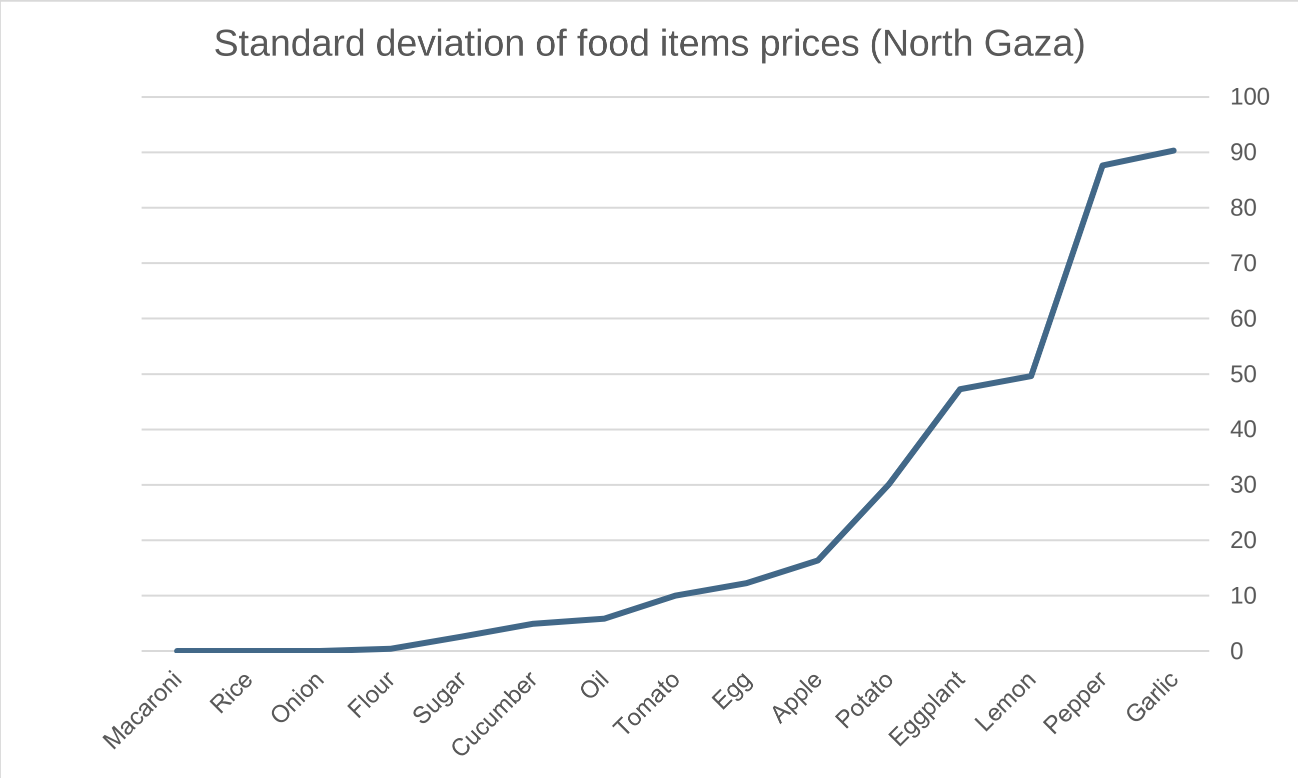

Figure (11): Standard deviation of food items prices (North Gaza).

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 tomato price is about 16 times higher, while some items reached 2-6 times higher (potato, onion, eggplant, cucumber, lemon, pepper, egg, apple, garlic, sugar). Some items remained stable and its prices ranged between 8-25% above what it was before the war (macaroni, flour, oil), we notice a significant increase in the price of flour in the south, as it returned to almost 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 unprecedently sharp, the tomato price reached about 113 times higher, some items price ranged between 50-80 times higher (onion, potato, garlic). Some items price ranged between 20-40 times higher (apple, eggplant, egg, sugar, pepper, cucumber, lemon). The prices of rice and oil are 5 and 6 times higher respectively. However, flour and macaroni prices have decreased from what they were before the war. 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	Tomato	2	31.67	1483.50%	225.00	11150.00%
2	Onion	2	10.33	416.50%	160.00	7900.00%
3	Potato	2	11.33	466.50%	133.33	6566.50%
4	Garlic	10	21.33	113.30%	500.00	4900.00%
5	Apple	5	15.33	206.60%	166.67	3233.40%
6	Eggplant	2	9.33	366.50%	59.00	2850.00%
7	Egg	12	42.00	250.00%	335.00	2691.67%
8	Sugar	3	6.00	100.00%	73.33	2344.33%
9	Pepper	10	35.33	253.30%	240.00	2300.00%
10	Cucumber	2	8.83	341.50%	39.17	1858.50%
11	Lemon	4	14.50	262.50%	75.00	1775.00%
12	Rice	9	11.00	22.22%	45.00	400.00%
13	Oil	8	8.00	0.00%	34.17	327.13%
14	Macaroni	5	6.00	20.00%	4.00	-20.00%
15	Flour	35	38.00	8.57%	8.17	-76.66%

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 :
  - 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:

- There are news about the intentions of the Israeli occupation to decrease the entry of private sector goods by 50% beginning October 1st, 2024.
- 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.
- 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 routs to shorten travel distances and avoid routs 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 stationary, sheltering material, etc.
19. Find and promote mechanisms to control markets, prevent monopoly and control prices as much as possible.
20. Directing humanitarian organizations to coordinate with the Chambers of Commerce when there is a need to buy basic commodities from the local market to avoid the elevation in prices for the consumer as much as possible.

Success Story: Hamooda Al-Ashi

Mr. Hamouda Al-Ashi, the owner of a 450 sqm plastic factory that manufactured kitchen plastic wear and medical plastic sandals in the northern part of Gaza Strip. Mr. Al-Ashi, who was forced to flee his home, totally lost his factory to an air strike upon the war on Gaza. This destruction of the factory was not only physical, but also had a significant impact on the livelihoods of his 19 workers whose only source of income was depending on the factory.

Being used to work and produce he decided to defy all odds and start producing again. This decision was not an easy one, he needed a factory building, new equipment and machinery with all necessary infra structure. Mr. Al-Ashi, rented a piece of land in Al Zawayda town and installed a 500 sqm used green house on it and covered it with strong polythene sheeting. He bought and salvage parts of destroyed machines, from nearby factories, and repair them with the help of local technicians. With scarce resources and high costs of raw materials, the new factory started operating at 25% of its previous capacity. He has now 9 workers and producing the much-needed plastic containers to store olive oil, as the olive oil season has just started.

The resilience of Hamouda did not only brought him back to work, but also restored the livelihoods of about 10 of his former workers, despite of the significant security, economic and logistical obstacles. Today, Hamouda Al-Ashi stands as a symbol of perseverance and creativity in rebuilding the industrial sector in Gaza, inspiring many other damaged factories to replicate his success to mitigate the effects of war.

Mr. Hamouda Al-Ashi said that he could expand his facility, to produce more items and quantities, if there was a source of raw material and power supply.






Palestine

8 The case of the week:

The Food Security Huge Gap:

Gaza Strip is facing a major agricultural crisis as a result of the damages caused by the recent war on Gaza. The damages did not reach much of the agricultural land and farms only, but also many greenhouses and nurseries that are essential for the continuation of agricultural production were destroyed. 44% of Palestinian families lost their sources of local agricultural production in Gaza Strip, which were allocated for family consumption. This situation led to a huge significant decline in vegetable production and an increase in their prices in local markets. According to the latest statistics from the United Nations Satellite Center (UNOSAT), 67% of agricultural land (more than 10 thousand hectares) were destroyed, which negatively

and hugely affected the food security of the people of Gaza.

8.1 Causes of the problem:

1. Destruction of greenhouses:
   Greenhouses are the base foundations that farmers in Gaza rely on to achieve continuous productivity throughout the year. The ongoing war has led to the destruction of a large number of these greenhouses, which has led to:
   - Decline in agricultural production: Due to the destruction of these vital infrastructures, crops can no longer be grown at the required rate, leading to a decrease in production.
   - Lack of crops in the markets: As a result of the decline in production, the quantities of vegetables available in local markets have decreased, which has led to a significant increase in prices.
2. Destruction of nurseries:

Nurseries play a crucial role in providing the seedlings needed to start farming operations. Due to the damage caused by the war and the scarcity of production inputs and lack of resources, almost all nurseries are out of services, which has led to:

- Increase in seedling prices: With the scarcity of operating nurseries and the high demand for seedlings, their prices have increased, adding a burden on farmers.
- Delay in planting seasons: The lack of seedlings has prompted farmers to delay the planting process, which has contributed to the shortage of crops and the increase in their prices.

3. Destruction of Infrastructure:

   Power supply is crutial in the agricultural production cycle of agriculture, without electricity there will be no water, and without water vegitable and fruits can not be grown. Farmers depend on getting electricity from 3 sources: i) The Public Electric Network, ii) Renuable Solar Energy, or iii) Diesel Operated Generators. The Israeli Occupation had cut the power off of the whole Gaza Strip, targetd and destroyed Solar Energy Systems and banned the entry of fuel. Furthermore the Occupation destroyed the irrigation carrier lines and networks supplying farms and greenhouses with water. Therefore the production of irrigation water was drastically reduced, which has lead to the following:

   - Decrease in planted area and a subsecuant decrease in vegitable and fruit production.
   - Sharp price increase of vegitables and fruits in the markets.

4. Banning Agriculture Produce Inputs:

   The Israeli Occupation has banned the entry of all goods including agriculture production inputs such as (Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, polythene water pipes, polythene sheets, packing material, etc.). This ban had its direct sharp effect on decresing the agricultural production. Farmers who wanted to plant their land did not find the needed seedlings or seeds to plant. The lucky farmers who managed to find the seedlings could not give proper care to their plants as they did not find the needed fertilizers or pesticides. This situation has lead to the following:

   - Severe shortage in production due to Declining supply and increasing demand: Declining agricultural production means fewer crops are available in the markets, while demand for vegetables remains constant or increases.

- Increased production costs: Farmers trying to rehabilitate their lands face significant challenges, the most important of which is the lack of agricultural production inputs.

8.2 Required Interventions:

International attention to the agricultural sector in Gaza has become necessary due to the impact of this crisis on food security in the area. There is a need to provide immediate as well as long-term solutions to address these challenges:

1. Immediate response and support:
   - Supporting agricultural nurseries: Direct support to restart nurseries and provide seedlings at affordable prices to farmers.
   - Providing agricultural production inputs: These inputs include energy resources, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and tools. The aim is to help farmers restore their production capacity as quickly as possible.
2. Sustainable agricultural development plans:
   In addition to immediate interventions, there is a need to develop the agricultural sector in Gaza by adopting long-term plans aimed at enhancing its ability to cope with the crises. For example:
   - Implementing projects aimed at improving the sustainability of the agricultural sector by adopting modern technologies such as vertical and intensive agriculture.
   - Climate-resilient agriculture: Focusing on enhancing farmers' ability to deal with climate change and environmental challenges by adopting more efficient and

environmentally friendly agricultural practices such as water-saving irrigation systems, and solar-powered greenhouses.

3. Economic recovery and capacity building:
   Work to provide financial and technical support to farmers through:
   - Supporting small farmers: Providing grants and small loans to help farmers rehabilitate their farms and purchase the necessary tools.
   - Training programs: Organizing training programs to provide farmers with new skills that enable them to improve productivity and reduce costs.
4. Promoting regional trade and market access:
   In light of the restrictions imposed on trade movement inside and outside Gaza, efforts must be made to improve farmers' opportunities to access regional and international markets. These efforts include:
   - Improving market access: Facilitating the process of exporting agricultural products from Gaza by improving crossings procedures and easing border restrictions.
   - Strengthening supply chains: Providing sustainable supply channels to ensure that farmers obtain essential agricultural materials, such as fertilizers and seeds at normal prices.

9 Conclusion

This week witnessed a significant decrease in the number of trucks that passed into Gaza Strip compared to the same period of the previous week by 21%, this is due to the completely closing of all crossings for two days during the reporting period. There is a continuation of similarity in some patterns, such as: a) The continued closure of the Palestinian/Egyptian Rafah crossing throughout the period of this report and previous reports, c) The private sector remain constitutes the largest share of entered commodities, the ratio of humanitarian aid and private sector remained the same as in the previous week at about 40% and 60% respectively. It was also noted that the prices of vegetables and fruits continued to rise despite the relative stability in the quantities entering through the crossings. The price of tomato was the most increasing on both parts of Gaza Strip, in the south it reached 16 times higher than its price before the war, while in the north, it reached 113 times. This is attributed to the fact that many humanitarian organizations resorted to purchasing vegetables and fruits from the local market and distributing them as humanitarian aid, which increases demand on them while supply remains limited. In this week there were a significant increase in the price of flour in the south, and its return to almost what it was before the war. This is due to the delay in the of delivery of flour to citizens by humanitarian organizations, this is due to the obstacles facing the entry of humanitarian aid trucks through the crossings. The new coordination system has failed to improve the goods entry into Gaza, furthermore purchasing coordination is going on at high prices reaching 100,000/- NIS.

The data during the current reporting period is similar to the previous report in many aspects. This similarity means 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. There are news about the intentions of the Israeli occupation to decrease the entry of private sector goods by 50% beginning October 1st, 2024.

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