

# Movement in and out of Gaza: update covering October 2022

16 Nov 2022

## Highlights

- On 04,10, and 17 October, the Israeli authorities closed their border crossings with Gaza during the Jewish holidays.
- More goods imported through Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossing/Salah Al Dien gate.
- There has been a slight decrease in the number of exits of people through Erez and Rafah crossing compare with September.

**Background:** Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of over two million Palestinian residents. Many of the current restrictions, originally imposed by the Israeli authorities in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza when the Israeli authorities imposed a blockade. While recently there has been some easing in importation restrictions, they continue to reduce access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future. The situation has been compounded by the restrictions imposed by the Egyptian authorities at Rafah crossing.



Palestinian workers from Gaza queuing at a checkpoint managed by Palestinian Authorities to cross to the Israeli-controlled Erez crossing before crossing to Israel for work. Source, OCHA oPt November 2022

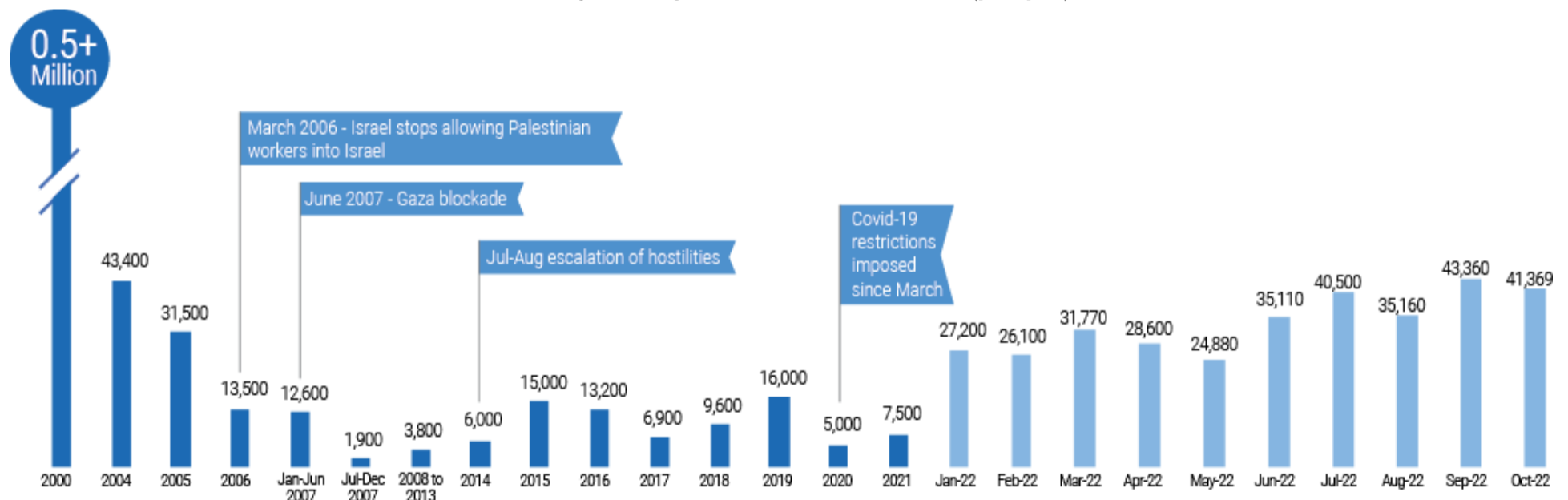


## Movement of people to Israel and the West Bank

- In October, Israeli authorities allowed nearly **41,370 exits of people from Gaza** (in most cases, travellers exited multiple times). This is 5 per cent lower than the number of exits in September and about six times higher than the monthly average in 2021. This is only about 8 per cent of the monthly average of exits in 2000, before Israel's imposition of the category-based access restrictions.
- About 89 per cent of the exits were by Palestinians allowed out under the 'traders' or 'economic needs' permit category, most of whom are employed as day labourers in Israel. The number of Palestinians with permits under this category currently stands at 17,134.
- Some 6 per cent of the exits were by patients referred for medical treatment in the West Bank or Israel and their companions. A total of 1,739 exit-permit applications were submitted for medical appointments scheduled for October, of which 31 per cent were not approved on time.

**Background:** Palestinians are banned from leaving Gaza via Israel, including for passage to the West Bank, unless they obtain an Israeli-issued exit permit. Only those belonging to certain categories, primarily traders (including de facto daily labourers), patients and their accompaniers, and aid workers, can apply for such permits. Other people are not eligible for a permit, even if they do not pose a security risk, according to the Israeli authorities. In most cases, the Israeli authorities do not provide specific reasons for the rejection of an application. If an application is approved, the permit holder may cross through the Israeli-controlled Erez crossing, which operates during the daytime, from Sunday to Thursday, and on Fridays for urgent cases and foreign nationals only.

Monthly average of exits to/via Israel (people)

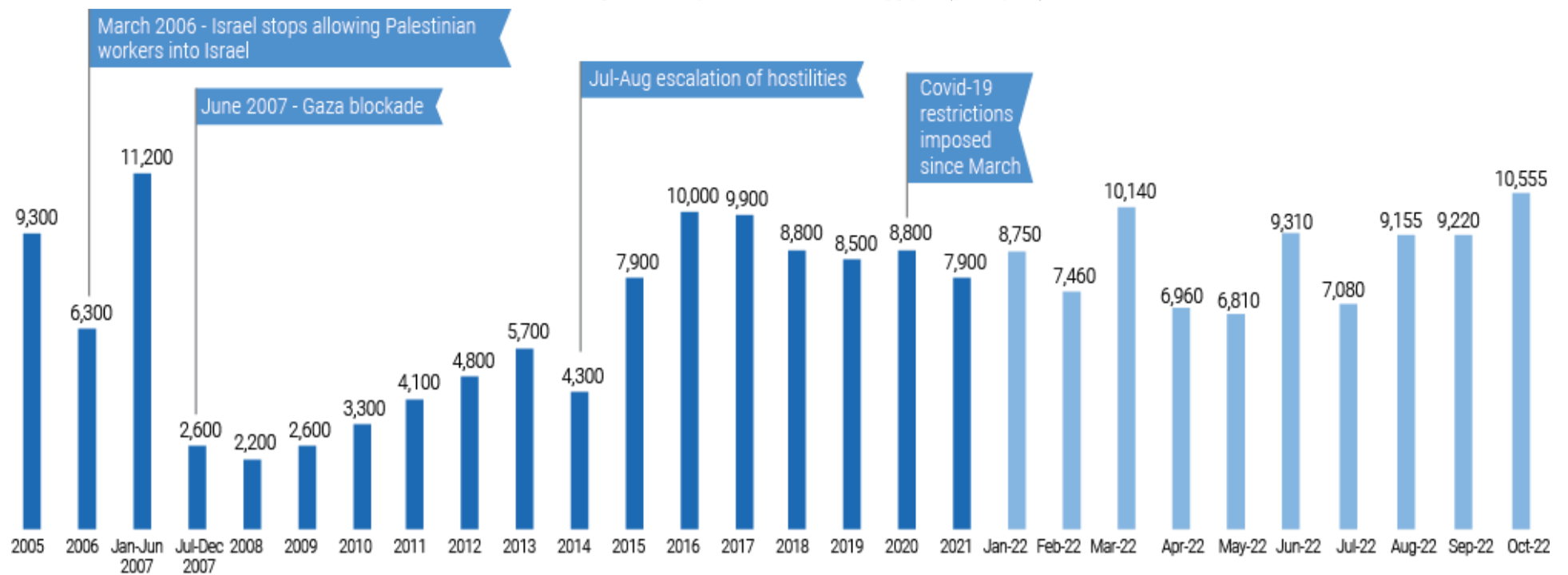


## Movement of people to Egypt

- Egyptian authorities allowed about **13,200 exits in October** (some travellers may have exited multiple times). This is 4 per cent lower than the number of exits allowed in September, and 57 per cent more than the monthly average in 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions largely applied.
- **456 people were denied entry to Egypt by the Egyptian authorities**, compared with **324 denials** in September 2022.

**Background:** Palestinians wishing to leave Gaza via Egypt must register with the local Palestinian authorities two to four weeks in advance. People may also apply directly to the Egyptian authorities, using the services of a private company. The procedures and decisions by both authorities lack transparency. Those that are approved exit through the Rafah Crossing, controlled by the Egyptian authorities, which operates from Sundays to Thursdays. The journey through the Sinai desert is often lengthy and includes multiple stops for checks by Egyptian security forces.

## Monthly average of exits to Egypt (people)



## Incoming goods

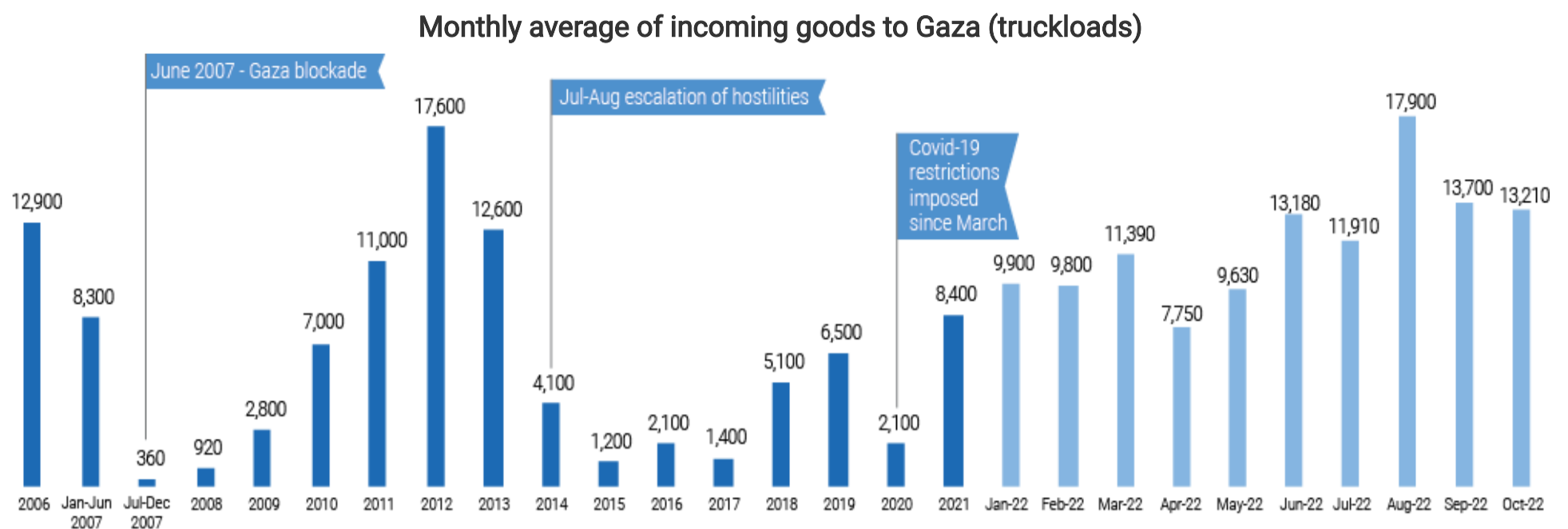
### General goods (excluding fuel and gas)

- In October, about 10,555 truckloads of authorized imported goods entered Gaza, this is 14 per cent above the previous month, and 34 per cent more than the monthly average in 2021. This was 6 per cent lower than the monthly average on the eve of the blockade in 2007, although Gaza's population has grown by more than 55 per cent since then.
- Of the goods entered, 49 per cent were construction materials and 21 per cent were food supplies. About 4 per cent were humanitarian aid facilitated by international organizations, including food and medical supplies.
- Some 59 per cent of the imported goods entered via Israel. The volume was 15 per cent higher than the previous month, and 8 per cent above the monthly average in 2021.
- Of the goods entered via Israel, over 30 per cent were construction materials (mainly aggregates, cement, and steel bars). This was 18 per cent below the monthly average recorded in 2021.
- Some 41 per cent of the imported goods entered from Egypt through Rafah crossing, which opened for imports in 13 days. This is 14 per cent higher than the volume in September, and about three times more than the monthly average in 2021.

**Background:** Since the imposition of the blockade in 2007, the Israeli authorities have restricted the entry into Gaza of goods they consider having a dual (civilian and military) use, such as building materials, certain medical equipment, and some agricultural items. Some of these goods may be allowed entry, following a lengthy application and review process. It is worth noting that, recently, a limited number of these items have been allowed to enter Gaza (e.g.: cement and steel bars). The entry of all goods from or via Israel (including non-restricted goods) is only possible via the Kerem Shalom crossing, following prior coordination with Israeli authorities. Since 2018, goods have also entered Gaza regularly from Egypt, via the Rafah crossing, controlled by the Egyptian authorities, and then through the adjacent Salah Ad Din Gate, controlled by the local authorities.



- Of the goods entered from Egypt, more than 76 per cent were construction materials. Most of the remaining goods were food items.



## Fuel and gas

- The volume of petrol and diesel entered Gaza from Israel and Egypt in October 2022 decreased by 17 per cent compared with September, which is 10 per cent higher than the monthly average in 2021.
- The volume of industrial diesel for the Gaza power plant (GPP) is 13 per cent above that entered in September. Still, this is 17 per cent more than the monthly average in 2021.
- Cooking gas imports increased by five per cent compared with September, however it's still 21 per cent higher than the monthly average in 2021.

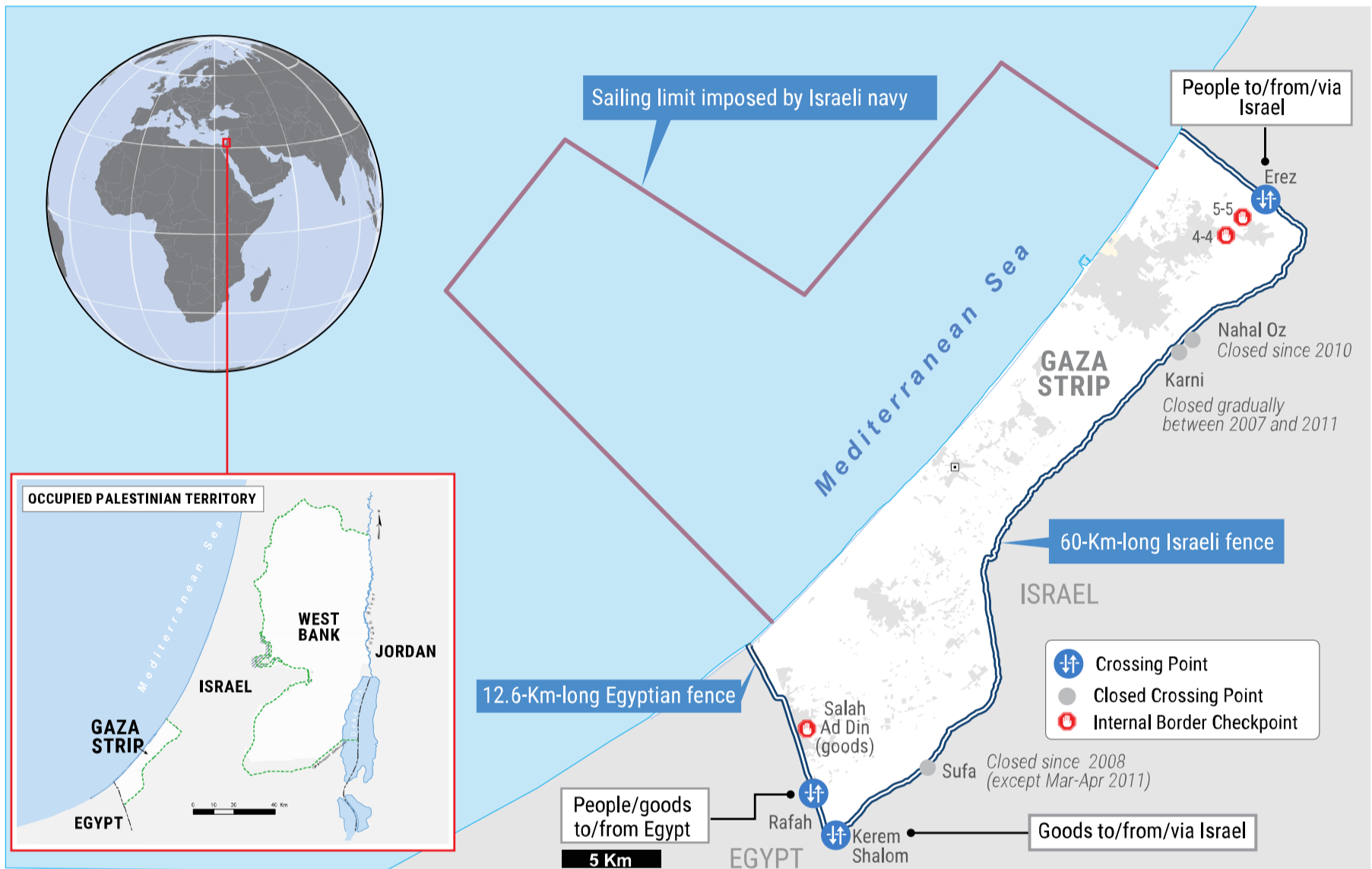
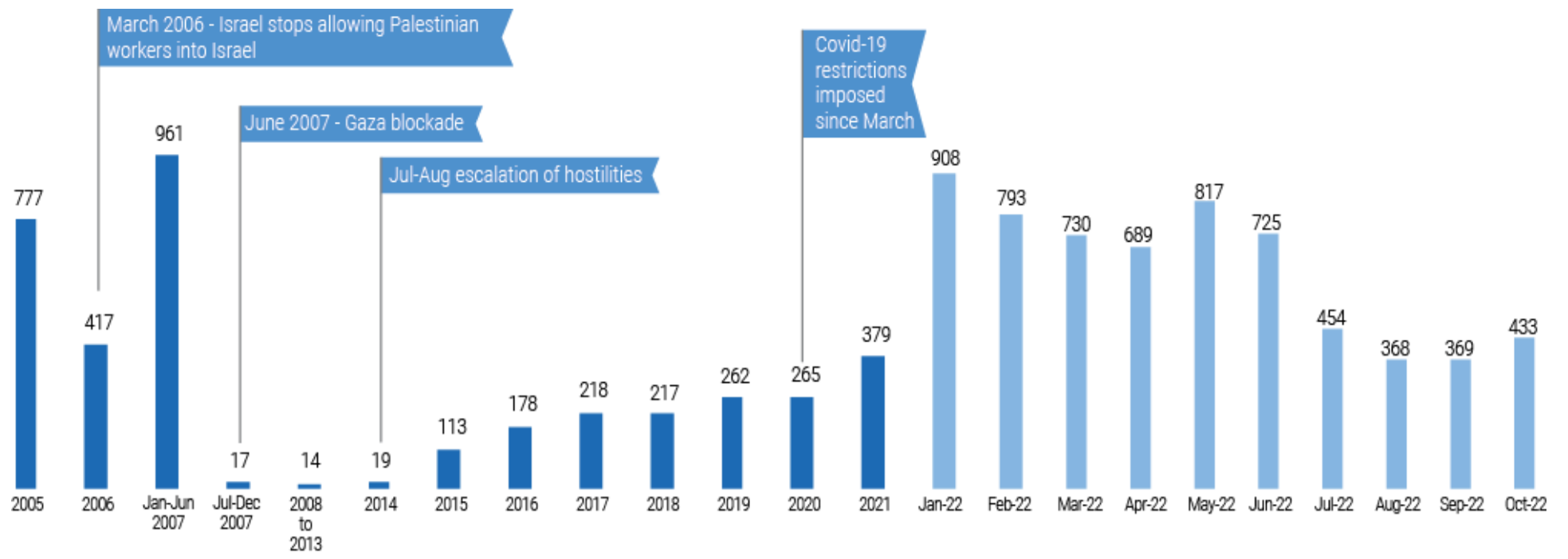
## Outgoing goods

- In October, the Israeli authorities allowed **285 truckloads of authorized goods to exit Gaza**, 29 per cent more than in the previous month. Still, this was 70 per cent below the monthly average on the eve of the blockade in 2007.
- **Some 59 per cent of the outgoing goods went to the West Bank and 41 per cent to Israel.** Vegetables accounted for 78 per cent of the exited goods, and textiles for 10 per cent, while the remainder included furniture, aluminium scrap used copper, furniture, and fish.
- **Another 148 truckloads exited Gaza to Egypt, carrying scrap iron, scrap aluminium, and used batteries.** This is slightly lower than the previous month.

*Background: Most products traded outside of Gaza are transported to markets via the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing, where various physical and administrative restrictions apply. The exit of goods to the West Bank and Israel, the main markets, was totally banned between 2007 and 2014, then gradually reinstated. Since August 2021, certain goods have been exported to Egypt, via Rafah crossing.*

## Monthly average of outgoing goods from Gaza (truckloads)





Data source: Ministry of National Economy in Gaza. More data: [ochaopt.org/data/crossings](https://ochaopt.org/data/crossings)

