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# YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

January 2024



## Highlights



In December 2023, more than half of the surveyed households nationwide (51 percent) indicated lack of access to adequate food; **a nine percent increase compared to November and a four percent increase compared to the beginning of 2023**. In areas under IRG 54 percent of households reported inadequate food consumption, similarly 50 percent of interviewed households reported inadequate food consumption in areas under SBA. The ongoing pause in humanitarian food assistance is expected to have direct implications on increased food insecurity in the north during the coming months; especially amongst beneficiary households. **In addition to the widely prevalent patterns of inadequate food consumption, around 58 percent of the surveyed households in Yemen had adopted extremely negative food-coping mechanisms (rCSI ≥ 19) during December**, marking a 12 percent increase during 2023. [Click Here](#)



In 2023, the cumulative volume of imported fuel through the northern ports of Al-Hodeidah and As-Salif slightly increased by one percent compared to 2022. However, **there was a significant decline in fuel imports via Red Sea ports in December 2023, which declined by 40 percent compared to the previous month**. This decline can be largely attributed to storage capacity, escalating tensions in the MENA region and the rise in shipping and insurance rates along the Red Sea route. Close monitoring is necessary in the coming months. [Click Here](#)



The overall volume of food imports in 2023 increased by six percent during 2023. However, **the volume of imported food items saw a month-on-month decline of 17 percent via Red Sea ports and 62 percent via Aden and Mukalla ports in December 2023**. This decline is mainly associated with ongoing geopolitical tensions in the MENA region, impacting the rise in shipping and insurance costs via the Red Sea route, along with the WFP's pause of food assistance in the north. While main food items remained available in markets throughout 2023, some of the key traders anticipate shortages in food supply during Q1-2024 if tensions escalate further in the region. [Click Here](#)



As of December 2023, WFP paused General Food Assistance (GFA) in areas under SBA until further notice, impacting nearly 9.5 million people in the north. This decision is primarily a result of a severe funding crisis. While the full impact of the pause had not yet materialized, **there are indications of an increase in levels of severe deprivation amongst beneficiary households in the north**; the prevalence of poor food consumption (severe deprivation in food consumption) increased to 31 percent amongst beneficiary households during December, compared to 24 percent in December 2022. Meanwhile, WFP continued to provide assistance to approximately 3.5 million people in IRG areas with reduced rations, equivalent to around 40 percent of the full WFP ration per distribution cycle. [Click Here](#)



The local currency exchange rate continued to deteriorate in IRG-controlled areas. The Yemeni riyal experienced a 21 percent depreciation against the US dollar throughout 2023, reaching YER 1,526/USD by the end of December 2023. This decline is primarily attributed to low levels of foreign currency reserves and the reduction in crude oil exports and remittances inflows. It is noteworthy that CBY-Aden refrained from conducting foreign currency auctions in November and December, indicating concerns about the diminished foreign currency reserves. This situation could potentially heighten pressures on the riyal in the coming months. Conversely, the “controlled” exchange rate in areas under SBA appreciated by six percent during 2023, reaching YER 524/USD by the end of December. [Click Here](#)



In IRG-controlled areas, pump prices for petrol and diesel experienced a slight increase ranging from one to two percent compared to the previous month. These prices were also higher than the levels observed at the beginning of 2023, rising by 27 and 28 percent, respectively. This increase is primarily associated with the continuous currency depreciation in the south. Conversely, in areas under SBA, pump prices for petrol and diesel remained unchanged on a monthly basis, with a decline of four and 20 percent, respectively, observed throughout 2023. **While fuel prices remained stable in the north during December, they're likely to increase during the coming months along with the decrease in fuel imports via ports of Red Sea.** [Click Here](#)



In December 2023, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) slightly decreased by approximately one percent compared to the previous month, remaining 10 percent lower than in December 2022. All sub-indexes exhibited an annual decline except for sugar, which increased by 15 percent compared to the previous year, primarily due to a tighter global supply outlook. In Yemen, sugar prices also saw an annual increase of 10 percent in the north and 45 percent in the south. [Click Here](#)



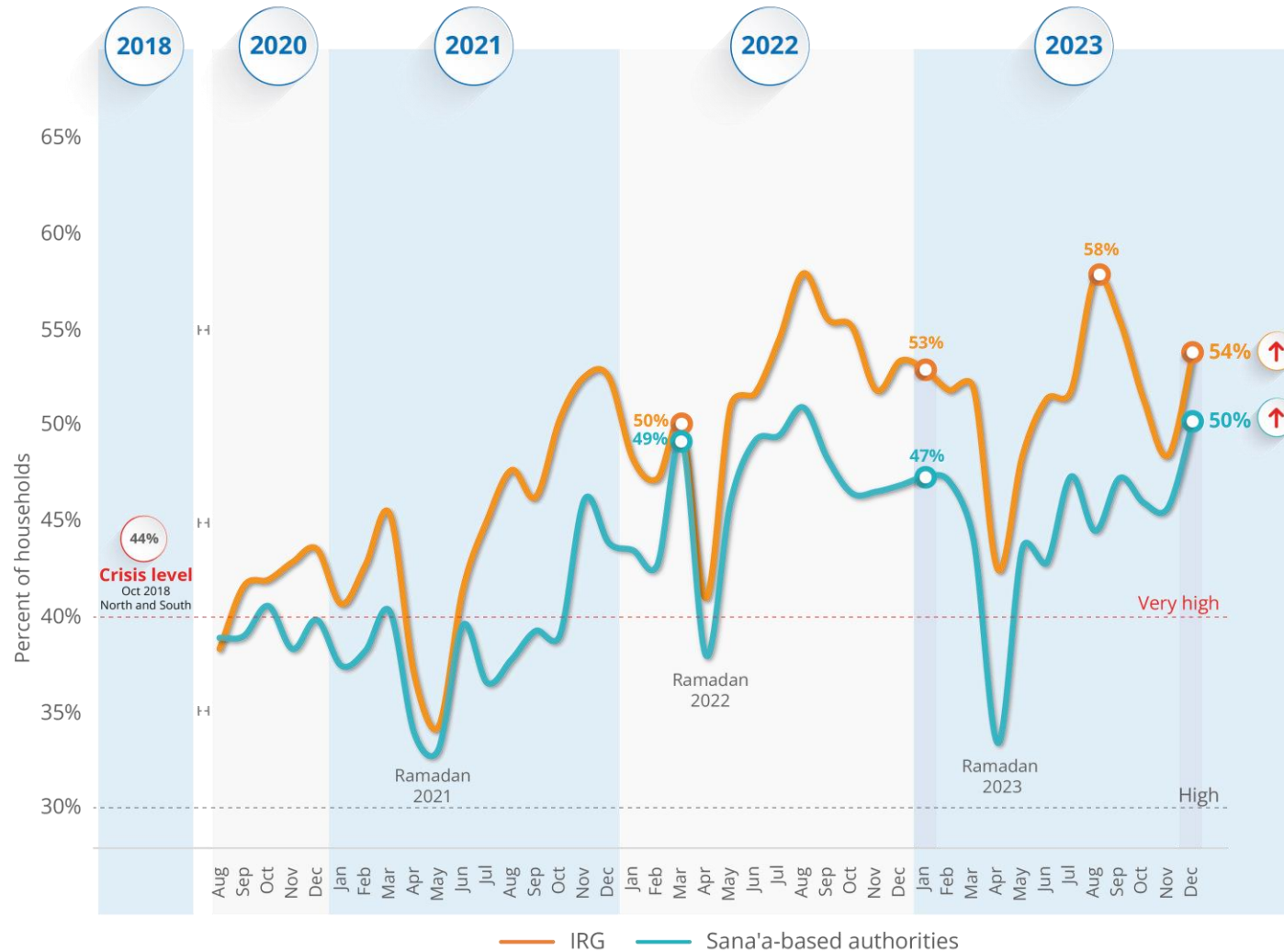
In IRG-controlled areas, the cost of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) remained at elevated levels, similar to the observed levels at the beginning of 2023. WFP mVAM data revealed that approximately 19 percent of surveyed households in the south identified high food prices as a significant obstacle to accessing adequate food. Conversely, the cost of the MFB experienced a 12 percent decrease in areas under SBA during 2023. This decline is primarily attributed to currency appreciation, reduced fuel prices, and strict price controls in the north. Al-Hodeidah, Dhamar, and Ibb governorates witnessed the highest decline in MFB cost during 2023, decreasing by 21, 19, and 18 percent, respectively. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that **food prices are expected to rise during the coming months due to the gap triggered by the pause in food assistance, as well as the potential shortages in food supply associated with the decrease in commercial imports of food.** [Click Here](#)



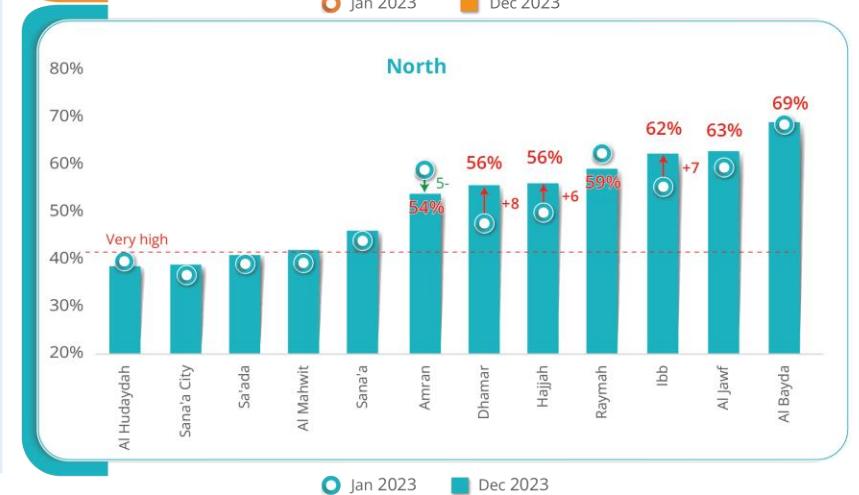
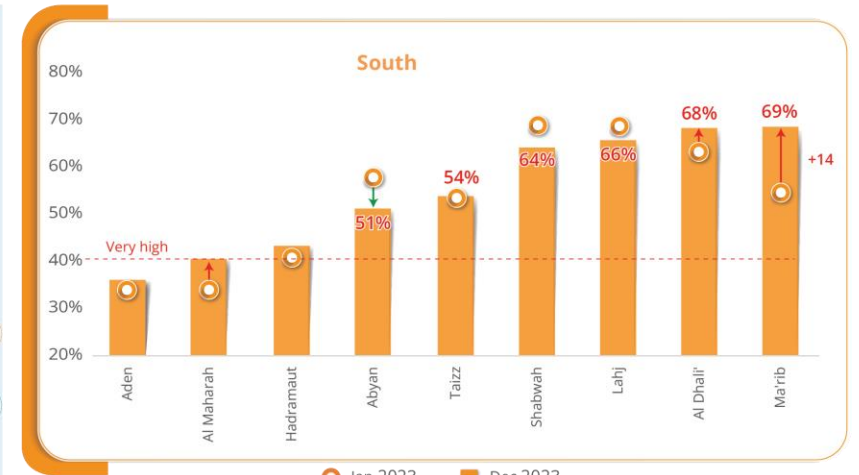
For more details, you can visit:  
[WFP Yemen food security and market monitoring dashboard](#)



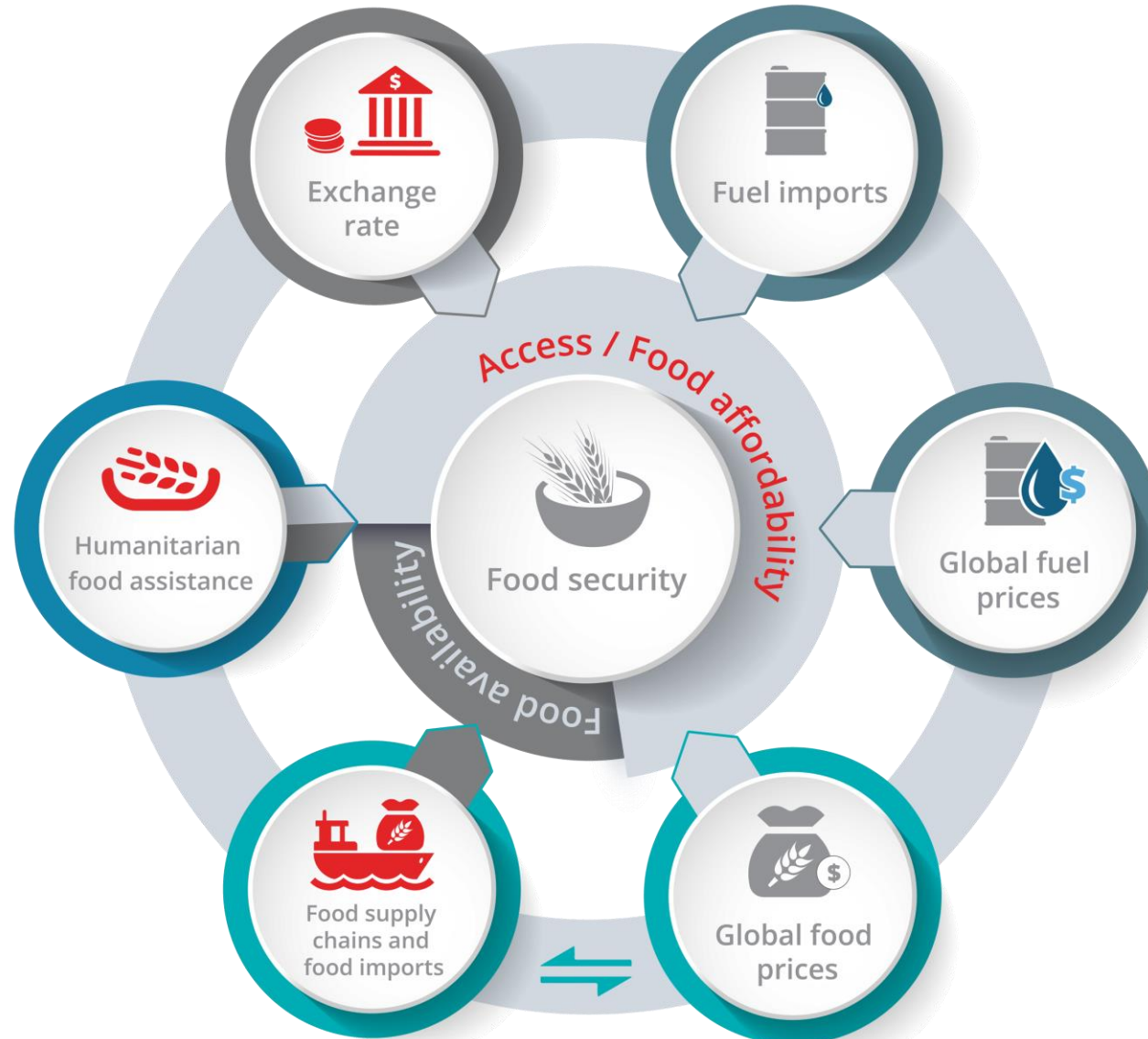
# Food Security Outcomes (Inadequate Food Consumption by Governorate)



Source: WFP monitoring data



# Drivers of Food Insecurity, beyond Conflict

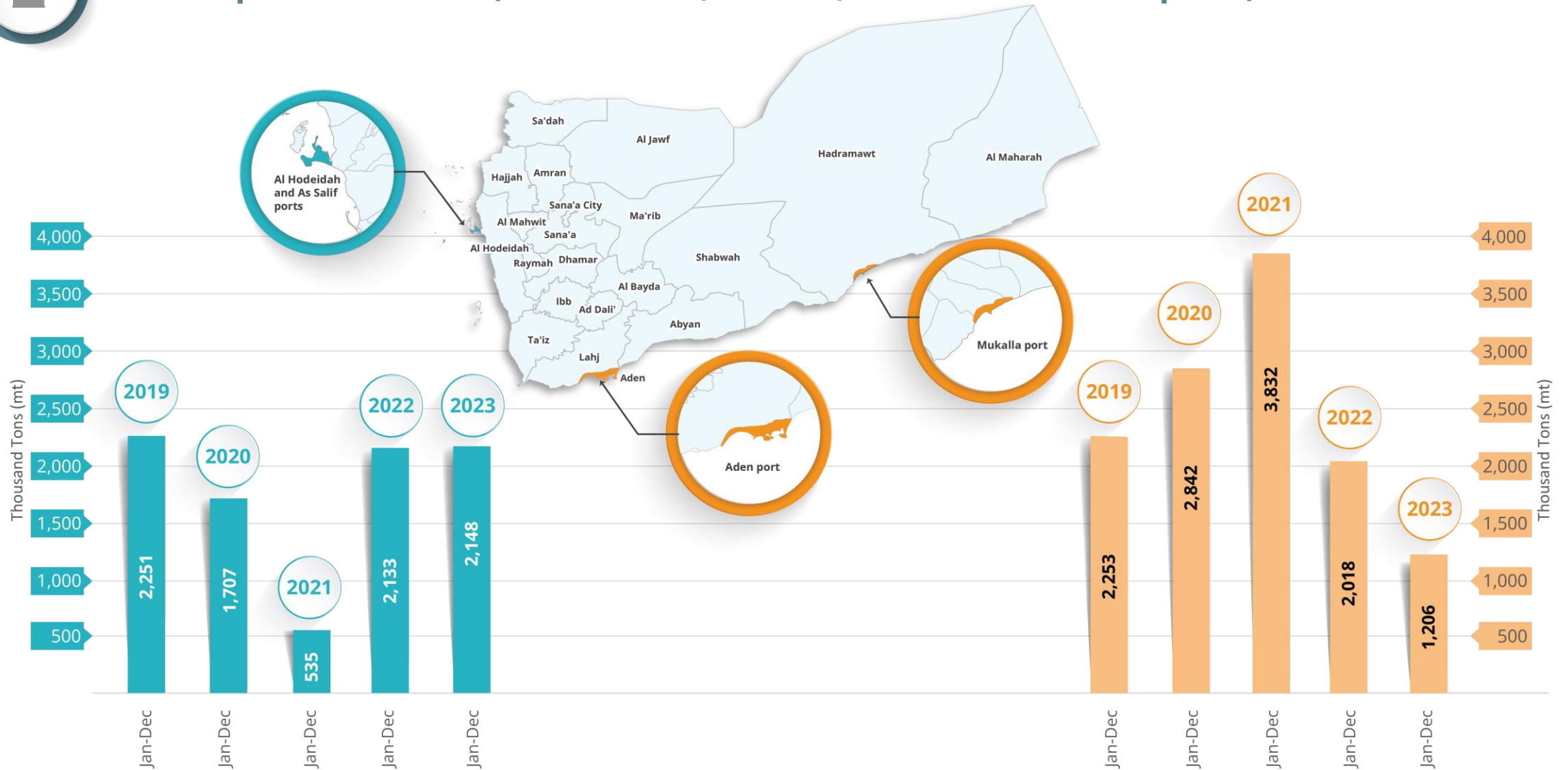








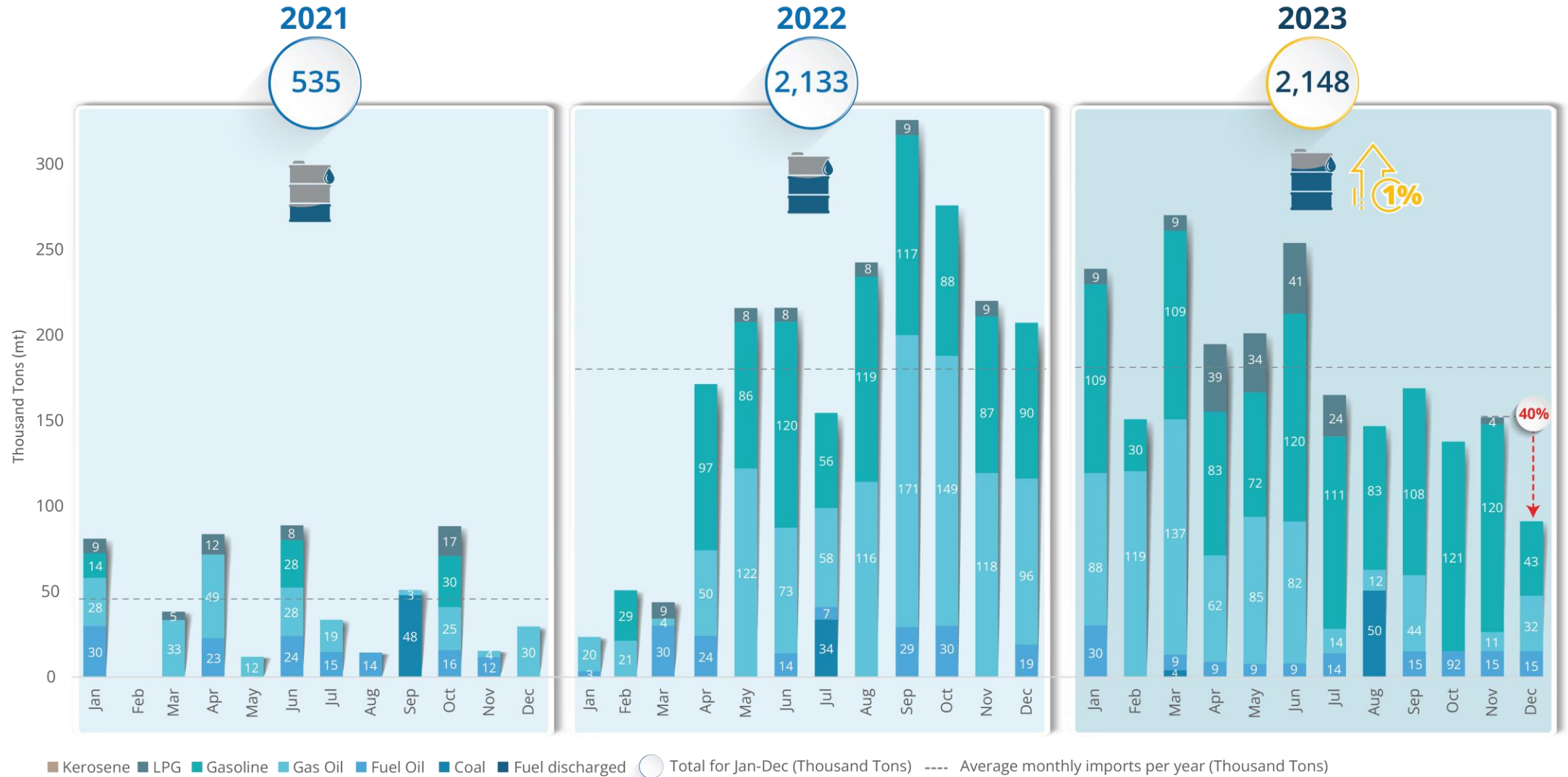
# Fuel Imports in Yemen (Al Hodeidah, As Salif, Mukalla and Aden ports)



Source: UNVIM and shipment data from Wilhelmsen



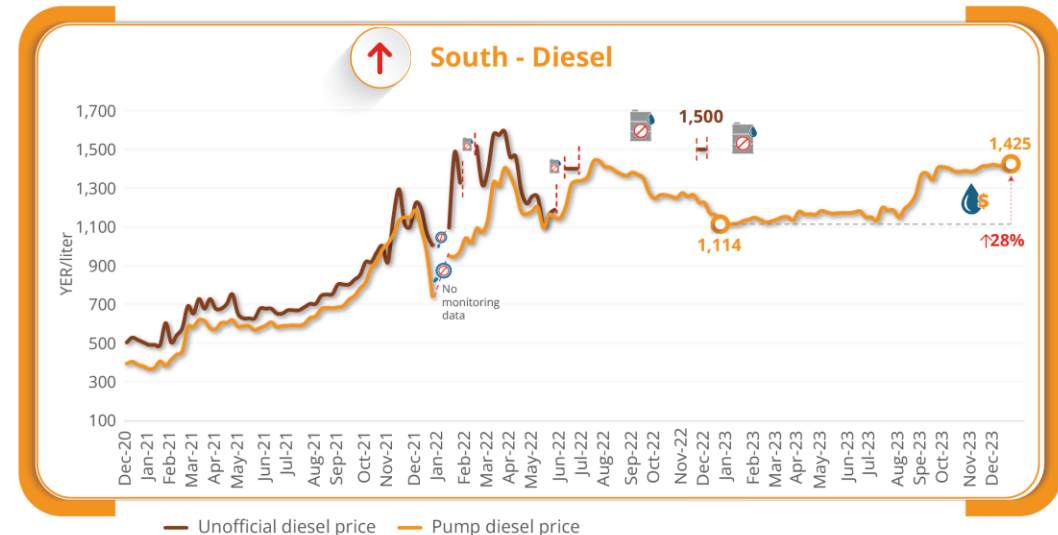
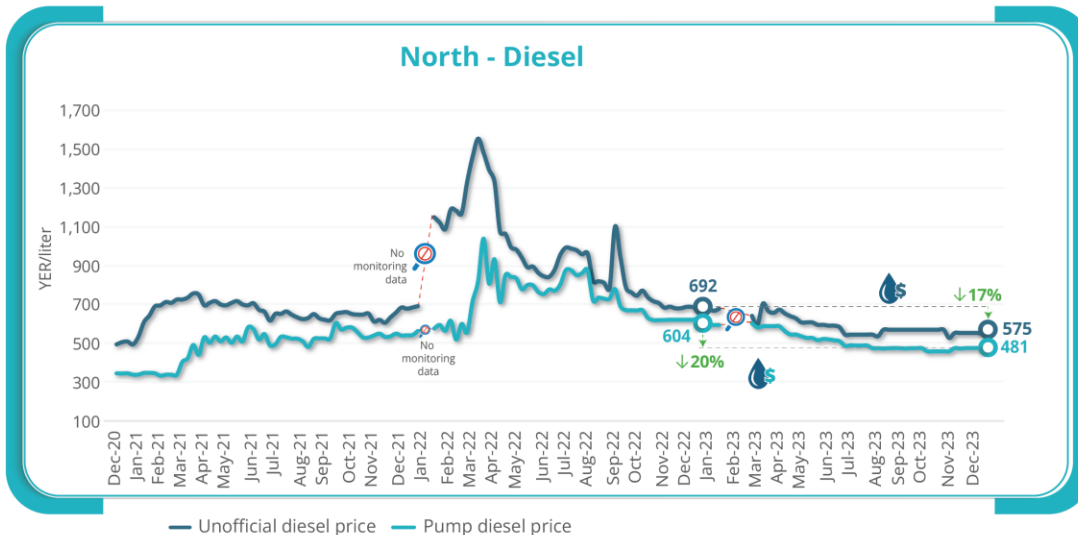
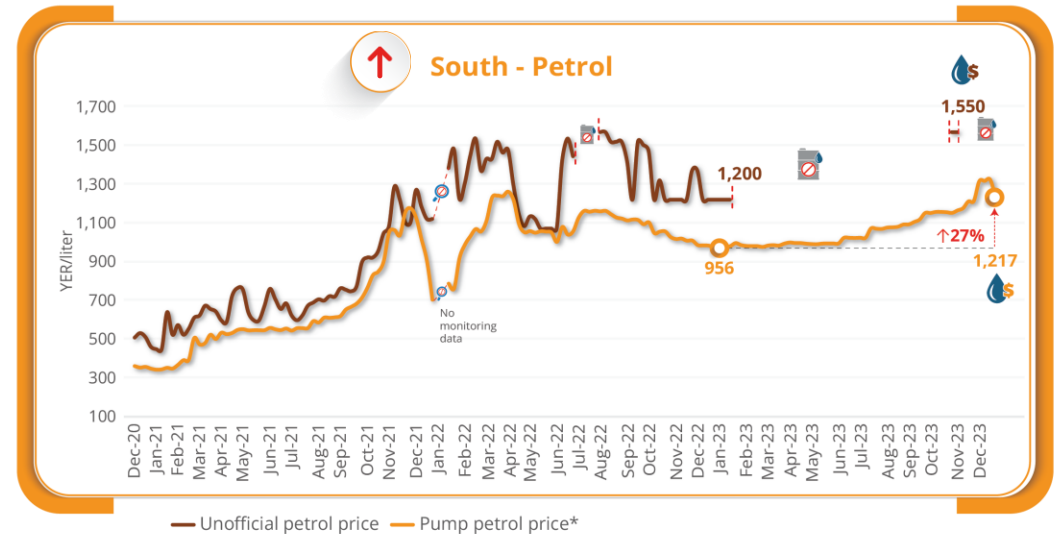
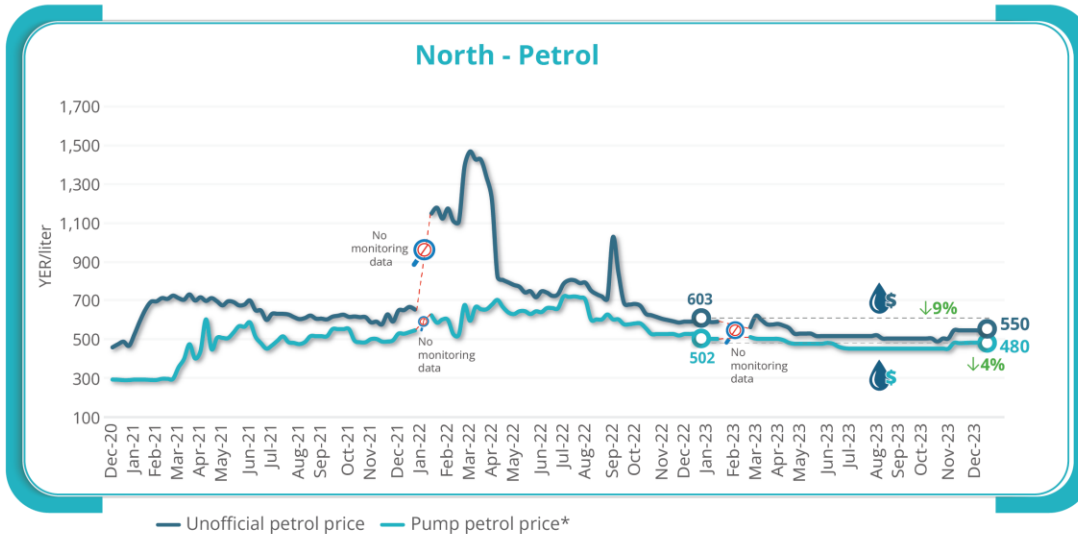
# Fuel imports through Al Hodeidah and As Salif ports



The figures of May-Dec 2023 are based on the data from Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation  
 Data of fuel imports through Red Sea ports during November 2023 was revised and updated by the shipping agents



# Fuel prices

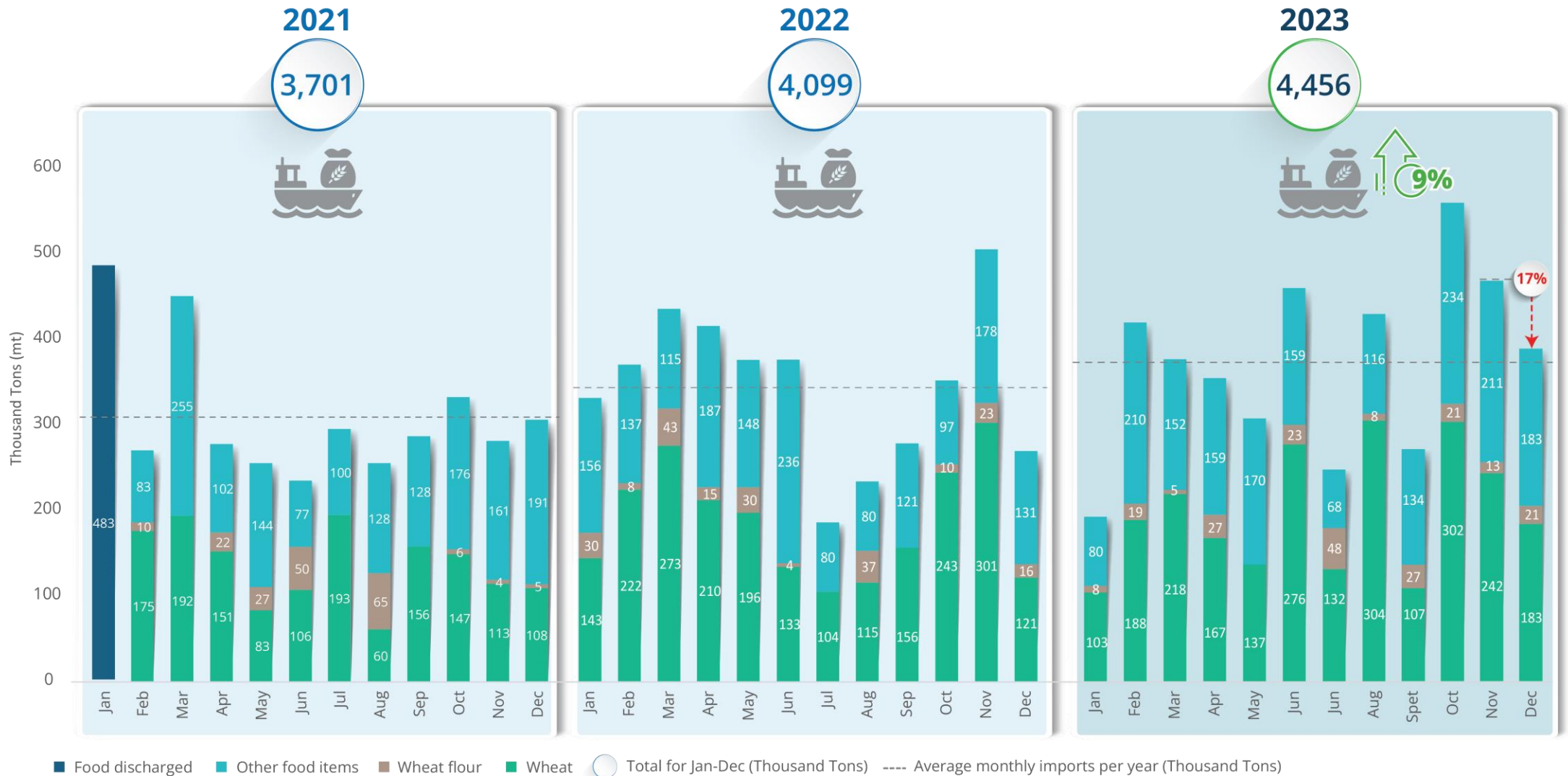


Pump price: The average price of the official and commercial petrol/diesel sold through the gas stations





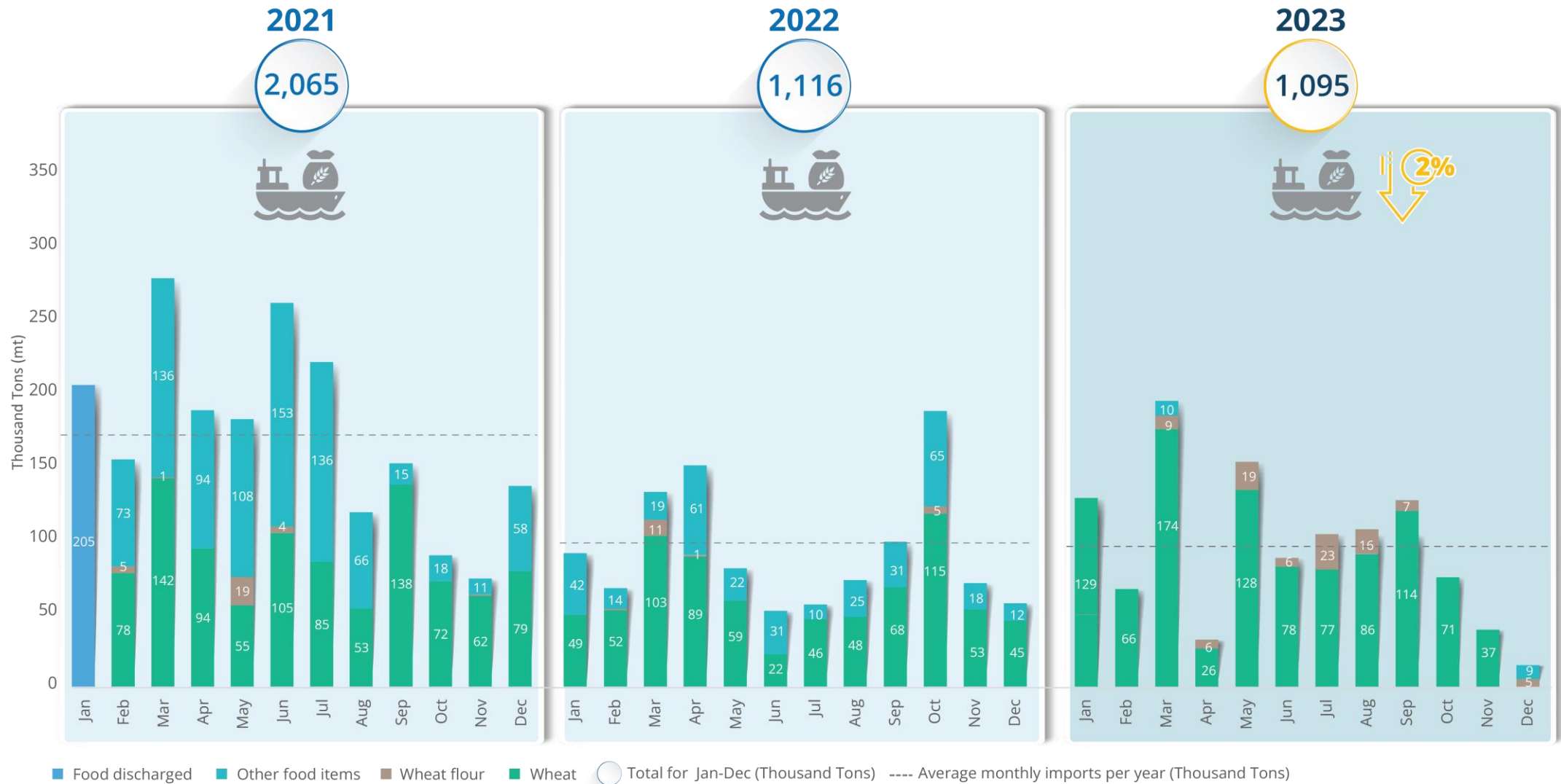
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# Food Imports (Aden and Mukalla Ports)

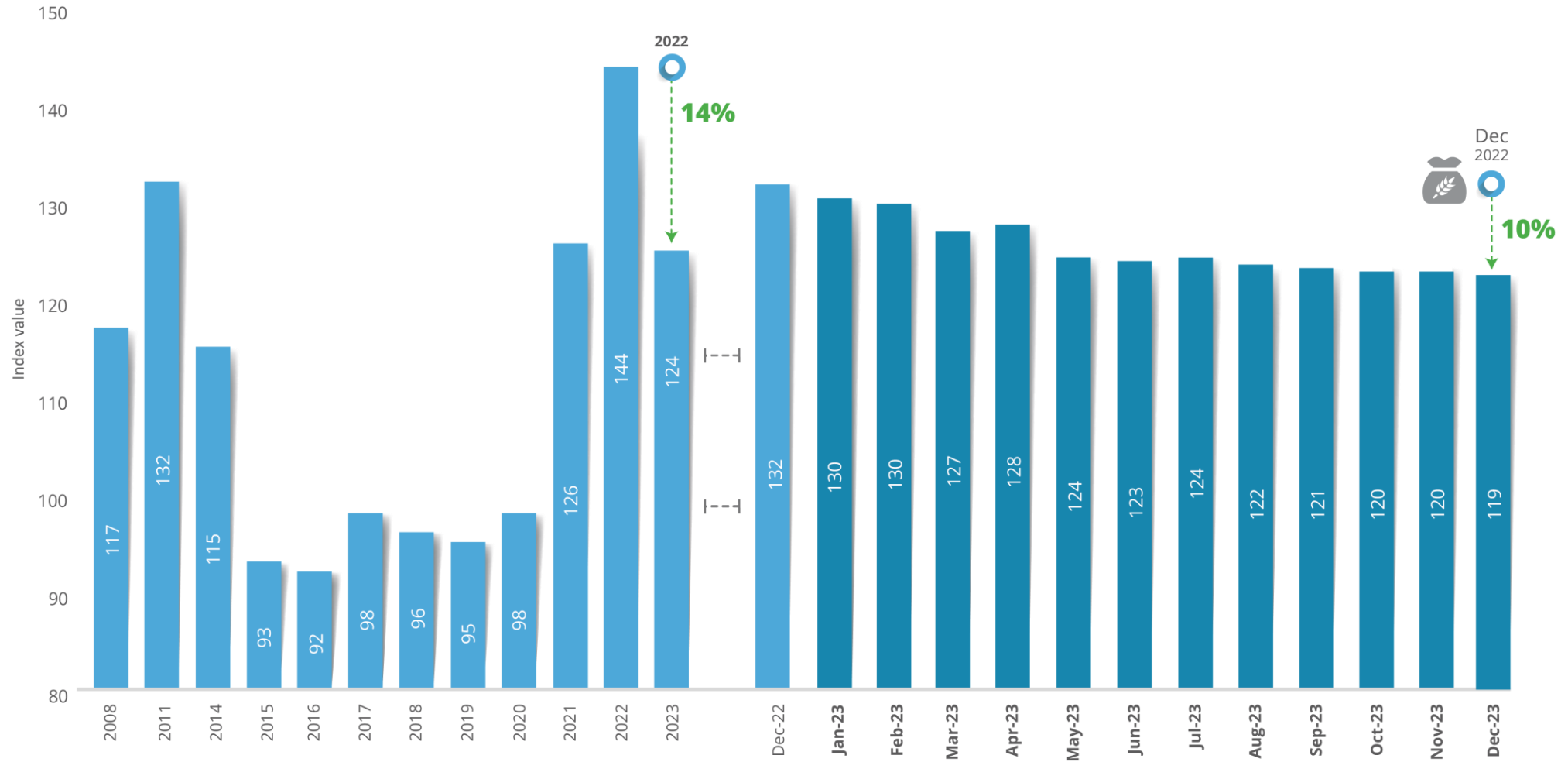


Source: Aden Ports Authority

The figures of December 2023 are based on the data from Wilhelmsen due to the absence of data from Aden Ports Authority during December 2023



# Global food prices



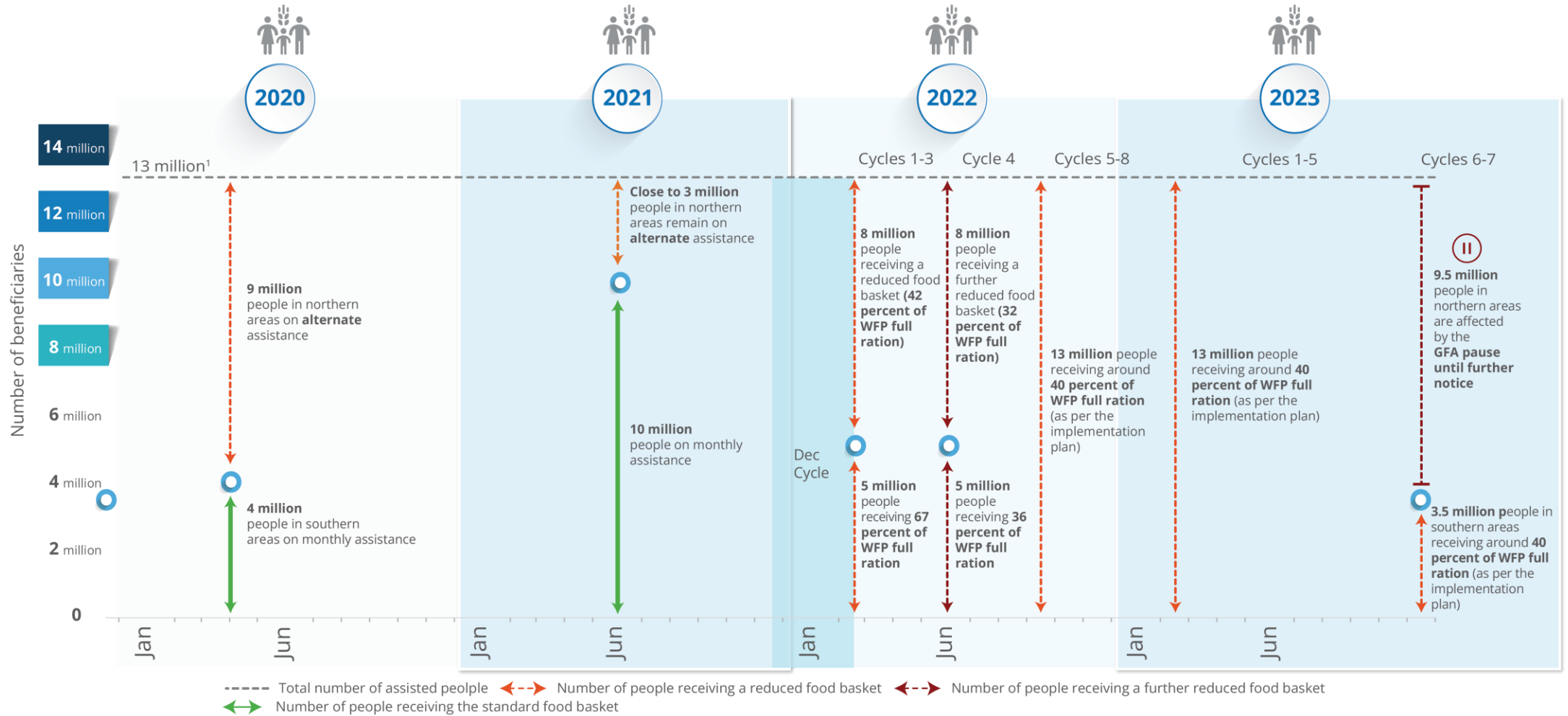
Source: FAO global food price index (FFPI)

The decline of the global FFPI during Dec 2022 - Dec 2023 was mainly driven by the decrease in the subindexes for cereals, dairy and oils by 17, 16 and 15 percent respectively. In December 2023, the FAO Sugar Price Index remained 15 percent higher than its level recorded in December 2022.





# Humanitarian food assistance\*



\*WFP food assistance, all figures are rounded

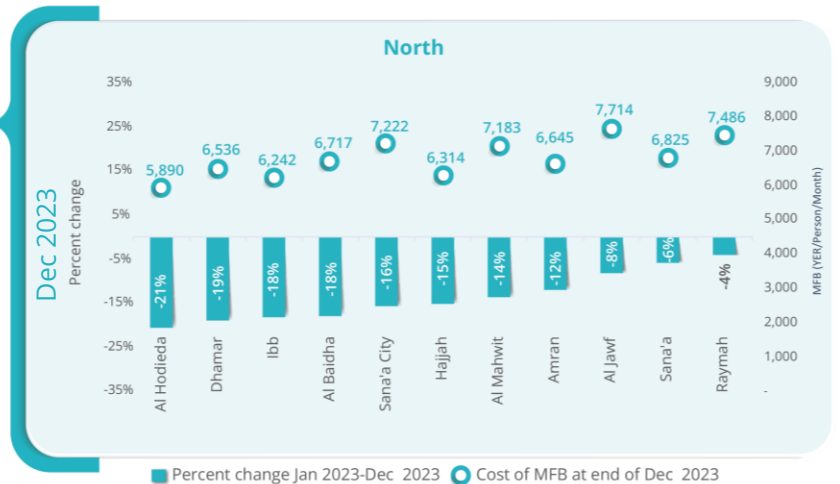
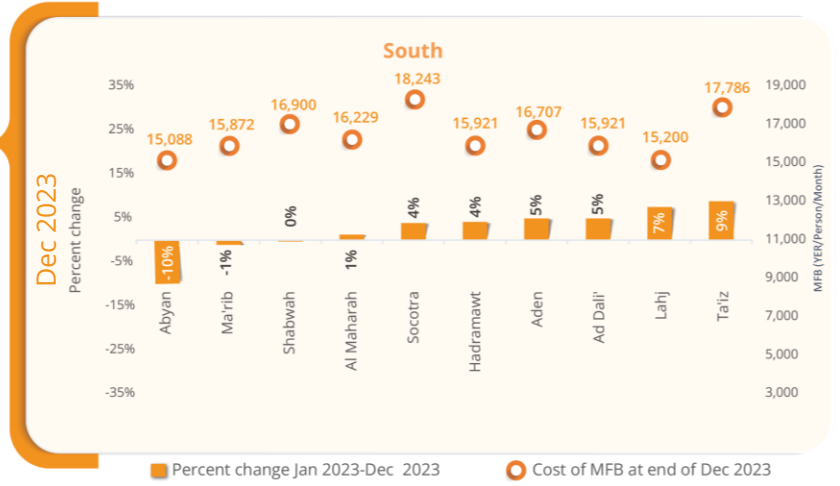
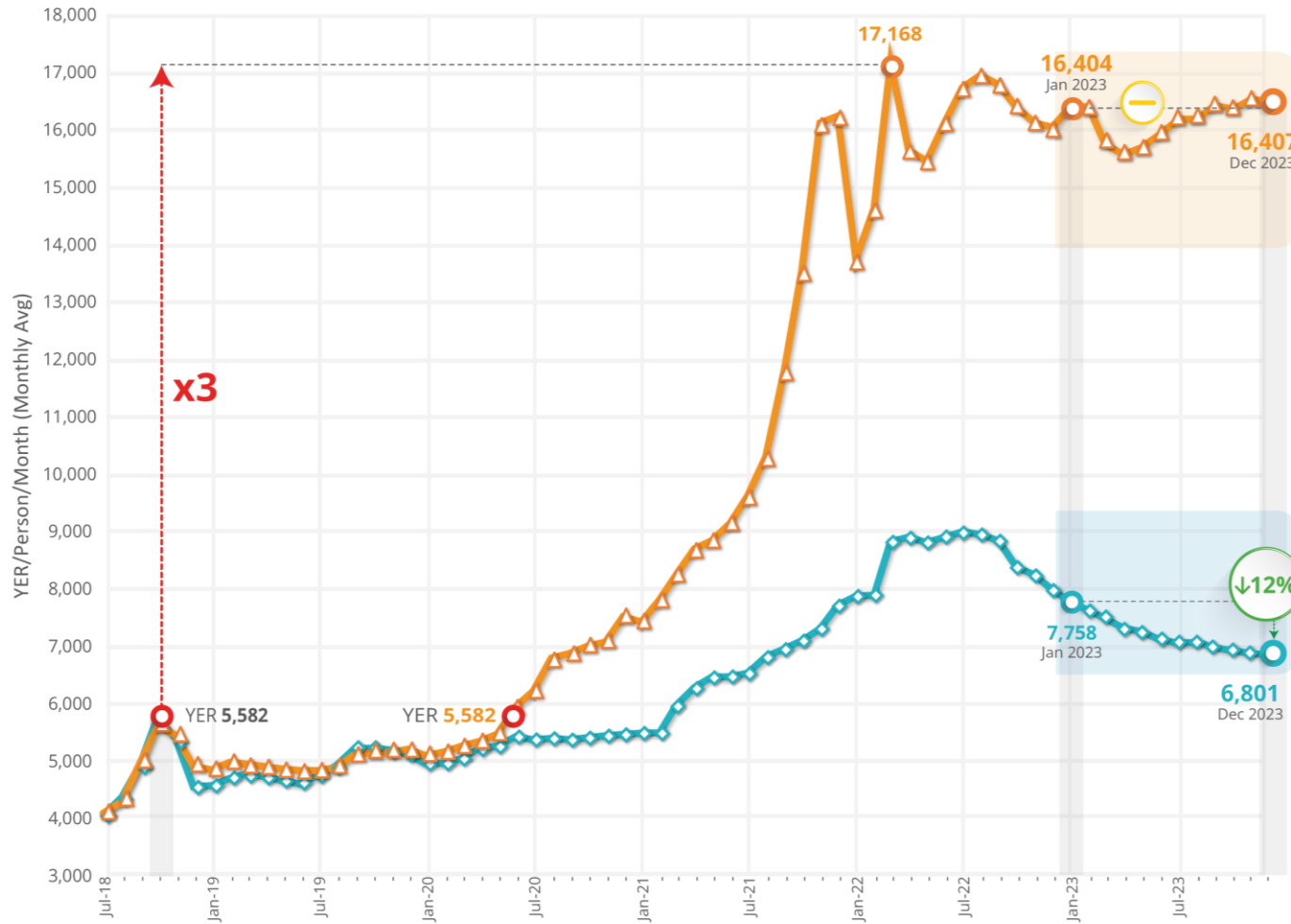
<sup>1</sup> The figures reflect the implementation plan

<sup>2</sup> WFP full ration is equivalent to 1,650 Kcal per person per day for a period of 30 days. Since 2022, food assistance is provided on a cycle basis rather than monthly basis

<sup>3</sup> Starting December 2023, General Food Assistance (GFA) has been paused until further notice in areas under Sana'a-based authorities, mainly due to limited funding and the absence of an agreement with the authorities on a smaller programme that matches available resources to the neediest families.



# Average cost of minimum food basket (food affordability)



Source: Weekly WFP monitoring data  
 The minimum food basket includes 10.71 kg wheat flour, 1.43 kg red beans, 1.14 L vegetable oil, 0.36 kg sugar and 0.14 kg salt per person per month  
 Prices data for Sa'dah is not available

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