

MARKET MONITOR – GAZA

WFP Palestine/ Food Security Analysis
October 2024

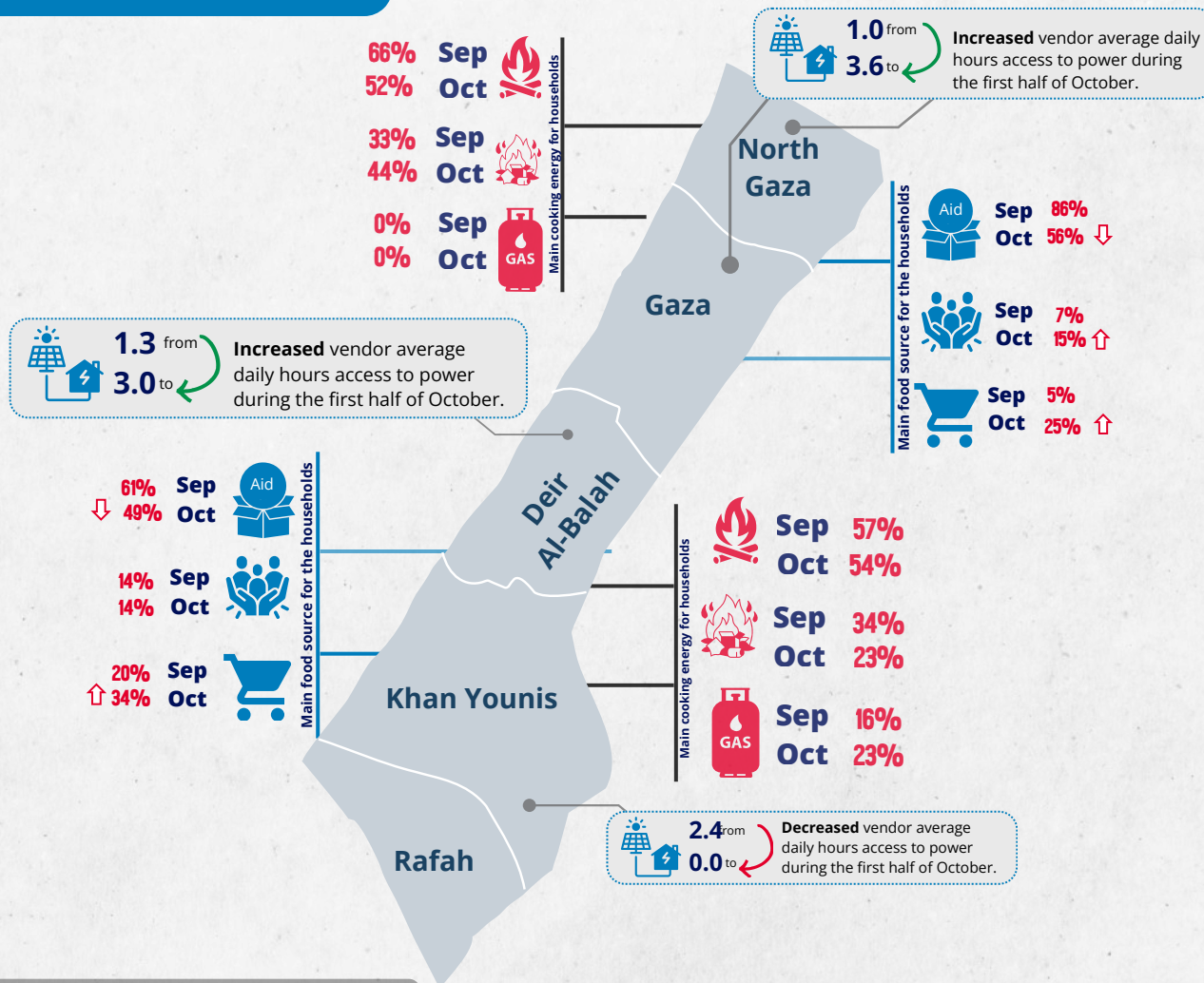
OVERVIEW

Based on the ongoing market and household surveys, this report highlights key developments **over the first two weeks of October**. Market conditions have further deteriorated during this period, marked by reduced availability of food, increased price volatility, and reduced market access. Additionally, significant shifts in household consumption patterns and increased reliance on alternative cooking energy sources have been observed.

KEY FINDINGS

- Alarmingly low food diversity has been noted throughout the Gaza Strip.
- Between August and September 2024, both the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Food CPI saw significant increases, with the overall CPI rising by 11% and the Food CPI skyrocketing by 77%. In comparison to pre-conflict September 2023, the overall CPI has surged by 283%, while the Food CPI has escalated by 312%.
- There is a growing reliance on burning waste for cooking energy in the northern governorates due to an absolute shortage of gas.
- Humanitarian assistance has decreased but remains the primary source of food for households in the Gaza Strip.
- After a surplus of wheat flour in previous months, a decline is expected, which is already affecting prices.
- In the first two weeks of October, the number of humanitarian and commercial trucks entering Gaza decreased significantly, with a daily average of 31 trucks, compared to the higher number of trucks in September and August.

MAIN FOOD & ENERGY SOURCES



MAP KEY

- Humanitarian aid
- Assistance from friends & family
- Market
- Firewood
- Waste burning
- Cooking gas
- Electricity (regardless of the source)

FOOD AVAILABILITY



DAILY AVERAGE TRUCKS HUMANITARIAN & COMMERCIAL **178** since the onset of conflict **36%** of pre-conflict average 500 trucks/day



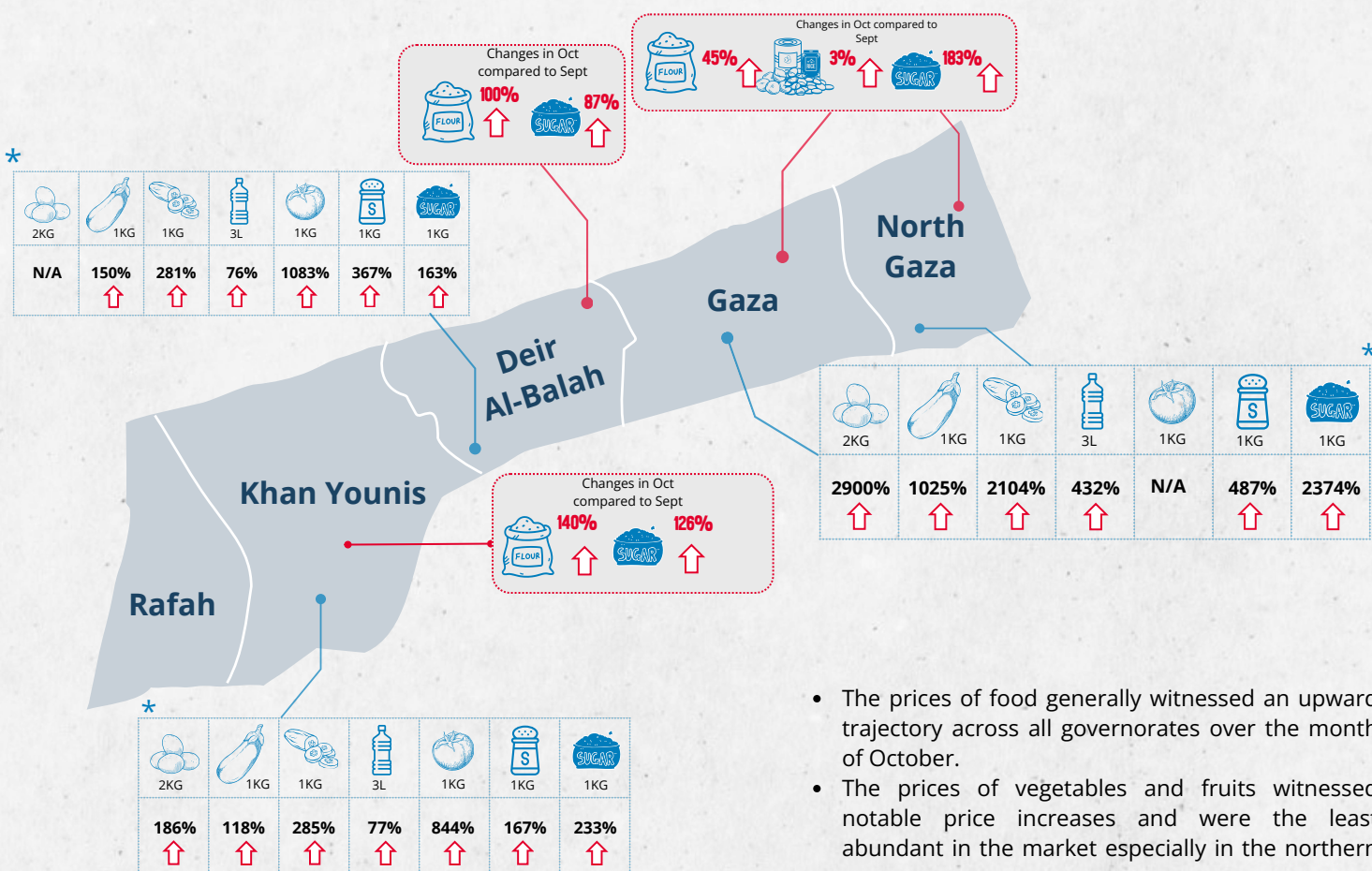
TOTAL HUMANITARIAN TRUCKS **32,926** since the onset of the conflict until Sep 30



OF COMMERCIAL TRUCKS, THE HIGHEST AVERAGE RECORDED IS **123** which is recorded in July 2024

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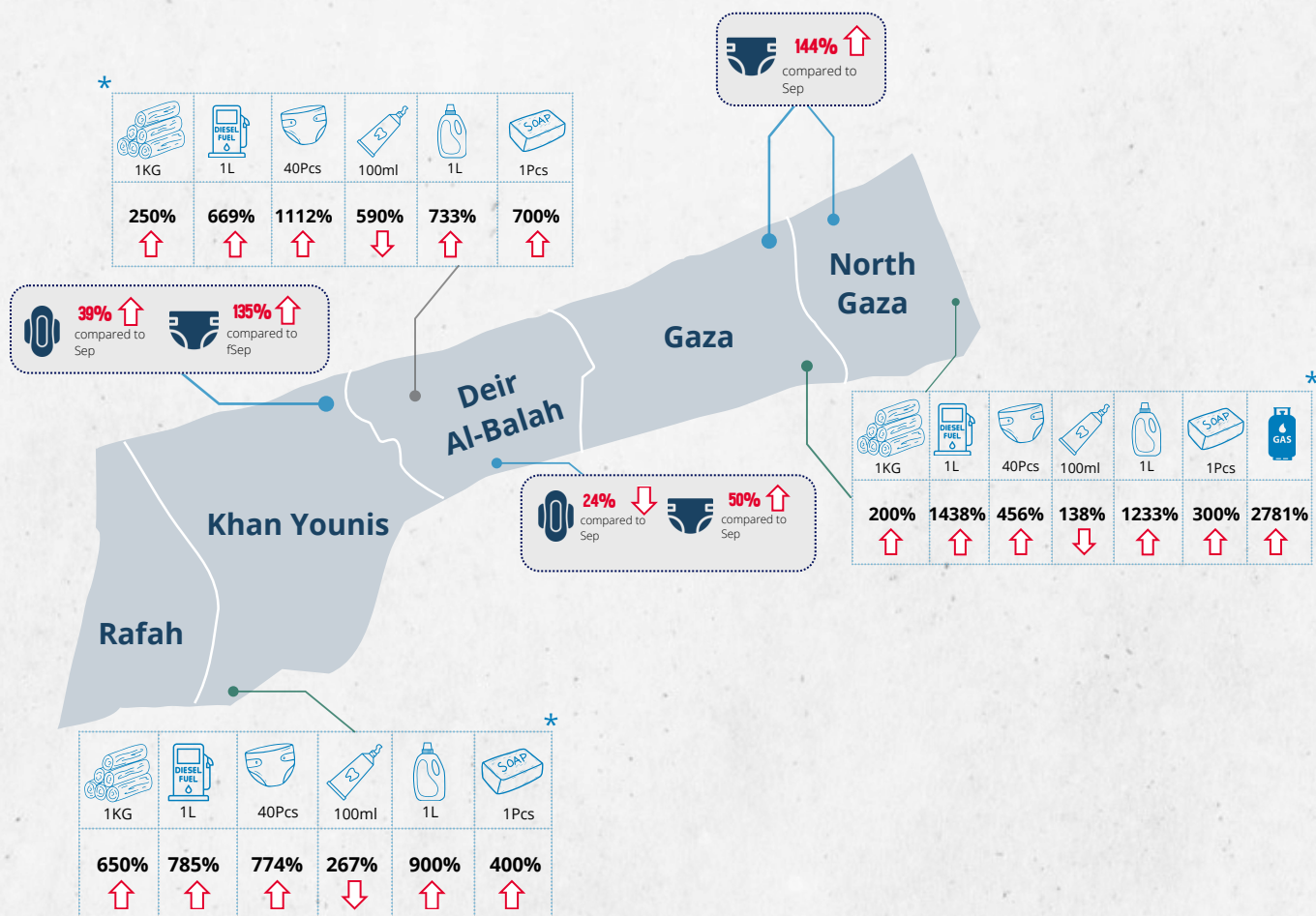
PRICE CHANGES FOR FOOD ITEMS



In the Gaza Strip, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Food CPI experienced significant increases between August and September 2024, as well as when compared to pre-conflict levels in September 2023. Between August and September 2024, the overall CPI rose by 11 percent, while the Food CPI surged by 77 percent. The year-on-year comparison between September 2023 (pre-conflict) and September 2024 reveals even more dramatic changes. The overall CPI increased by 283 percent. Similarly, the Food CPI increased by 312 percent. These sharp increases in the CPI and Food CPI were caused by the severe impact of the ongoing conflict on consumer prices, particularly food prices. The disruption of supply chains, destruction of infrastructure, and restricted movement have all contributed to these unprecedented price hikes, exacerbating the already critical humanitarian situation in Gaza.

* Compared to pre-conflict prices

PRICE CHANGES FOR NON-FOOD ITEMS



- Northern Governorates:** In October, non-food item prices spiked, compared to September 2023, wood prices rose 200%, sanitary pads 150%, and laundry detergent 515%.
- Deir Al-Balah:** Prices increased, with wood rising 250% during October compared to September 2023. Hygiene items saw major increases: sanitary pads were up 282%, and toilet paper had the highest jump at 1600%.
- Khan Younis:** Wood prices increased by 650% in October but compared to pre-conflict levels. Diesel increased by 785%, while baby diapers surged 774%, and gasoline prices saw the highest rise at 1959%.

* Compared to pre-conflict prices

MAP KEY

	Tents		Toothpaste
	Diapers		cleaning products
	Firewood		Sanitary pads

ACCESS TO THE MARKET

In October, market access across the Gaza Strip experienced a significant downturn, particularly in North Gaza, where 87 percent of households were unable to reach markets, reflecting a sharp deterioration compared to September. Similarly, half of households in Gaza City and Deir al-Balah, and 58 percent in Khan Younis, reported significant challenges in accessing markets, highlighting the barriers to market access across Gaza Strip.

The primary barriers to market access are rooted in two key factors: severe financial constraints and rising prices, exacerbated by security concerns, especially in North Gaza and Gaza governorates. These compounded challenges are heightening food insecurity, as households face difficulties not only in finding essential goods but also in affording and accessing them. The intersection of financial hardships, limited market access, and worsening food security highlights the severity of the crisis in Gaza Strip.

As a result, food accessibility has deteriorated across all governorates in the Gaza Strip, with all households reporting reduced access to food compared to September, further intensifying the region's already critical food insecurity situation.

CRISIS ON EVERY CORNER: THE DETERIORATION OF MARKET AND FOOD SECURITY IN NORTH GAZA & GAZA

In the heart of Gaza, where the resilience of the people is tested daily, the market scene tells a story of despair. The once-bustling streets, alive with the vibrancy of trade, now echo with the haunting cries of vendors struggling to survive in an environment plagued by high prices and dwindling supplies. Locally made cheeses and dairy products—crafted from powdered milk sourced through aid—are becoming luxuries rather than staples.

In addition to deteriorating market conditions, there was a sharp deterioration in food security in October. Levels of poor food consumption have increased, with increased adaptation to negative coping strategies for survival. Households are skipping meals, cutting back on portion sizes, and consuming less nutritious food. These measures, once temporary, have become permanent as hunger grows to severe and catastrophic levels across the northern governorates.

Complaints are everywhere: pharmacies are empty, health facilities lack vital medicines for chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, and demand for imported goods is palpable. The people are caught in a vicious cycle of scarcity and exploitation, as prices soar, driven by a lack of liquidity and the manipulative practices of some opportunistic traders.

In a landscape where aid has become the backbone of market, the prevailing sentiment is one of discontent and resentment. As one vendor said, "Nothing new in the market, the exorbitant price is the master of the situation." The once vibrant marketplace now resembles a war zone, where every hour brings fresh price hikes.

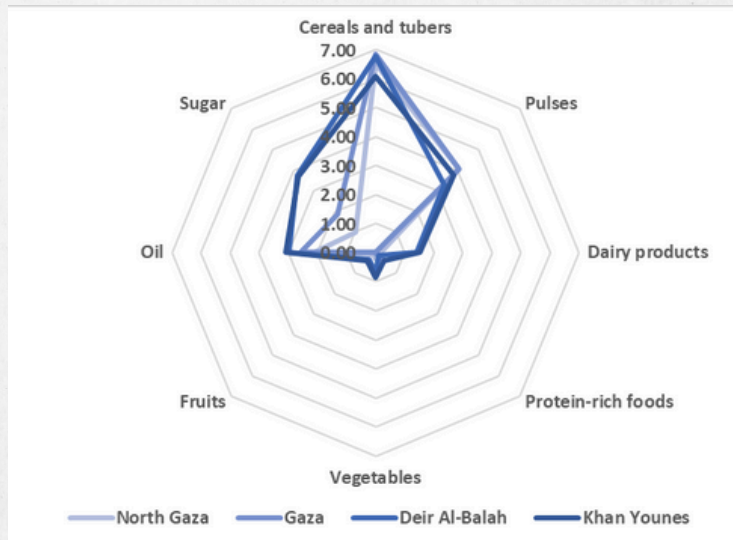
The current winter season, usually a time of increased activity in the markets, now feels oppressive as vendors sell what little they can get. Aid-dispensing tents provide a glimmer of hope, but the reality is that these distributions barely scratch the surface of a much deeper need. As the months drag on, the chilling reality remains that the people of northern Gaza depend heavily on assistance—food, financial support, and even basic supplies for children are urgently needed.

Each day, the local economy teeters on the brink of collapse, driven by inflated prices and scarcity. The overwhelming consensus is clear: without increased international aid and support for local traders, the situation will only worsen.

FOOD DIVERSITY

- Alarmingly poor food diversity observed across the Gaza Strip.
- Significant decline in household consumption of key food groups in October compared to September.
- Dairy product consumption is almost completely absent in Gaza and North Gaza, with very low levels in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Younis.
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is nearly non-existent in Gaza and North Gaza and remains critically low in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Younis.
- Consumption of cereals and tubers remains stable.
- Extremely low consumption of protein-rich foods (red and white meat, eggs).
- Moderate consumption of pulses, though showing a decrease across all governorates.

Average consumption (day/week) for each food group



FOOD AVAILABILITY IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL SHOPS & RESTOCKING

- In the first two weeks of October, there was a significant decrease in the number of both humanitarian and commercial trucks entering Gaza compared to September and August.
- In the northern governorates, wheat flour and canned food are the only available food items, though there has been a decrease compared to September. Dairy products are unavailable, while vegetables, fruits, eggs, and vegetable oil face significant shortages and are priced very high. Other items like pulses and rice are moderately accessible.
- In Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, there is a significant decrease in staple foods such as wheat flour, canned goods, rice, legumes and vegetable oil, but they are still available. However, there is a shortage of vegetables, with dairy products and eggs being in severe scarcity.
- Following a surplus of wheat flour in previous months, there is a strong likelihood of a decline, which has already begun to impact prices.
- Overall, the uncertainty surrounding the entry of humanitarian and commercial trucks has caused price volatility in the Gaza Strip, particularly hindering access to the northern governorates.

WFP Palestine
www.wfp.org/countries/Palestine

Country Director : Antoine Renard
 Contact: Salah Lahham, Head of VAM, Salah.Lahham@wfp.org

Prepared by the WFP Palestine Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit.