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YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

May 2025

Food Security Updates



After a seasonal decline in March due to Ramadan, the prevalence of inadequate food consumption in Yemen rose sharply from 57 percent in March to 65 percent in April, surpassing pre-Ramadan levels. This includes an all-time high of 68 percent in areas under the internationally recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) and 63 percent in areas under the Sana'a-based authorities (SBA), with year-on-year increases of 24 percent and 29 percent, respectively. Severe levels of food deprivation (poor food consumption) also increased nationwide from 26 percent in April 2024 to 38 percent in April 2025, with SBA areas reaching a historic high of 38 percent. All governorates in Yemen exceeded the "very high" threshold of ≥ 20 percent for poor food consumption, with peaks recorded in Al Bayda, Raymah, Al Jawf, Lahj, and Ad Dali' governorates. Notably, severe levels of food deprivation have more than doubled in Ma'rib and Ibb governorates over the past year. [Click Here](#)

In addition, around 17 percent in IRG areas and 22 percent in SBA areas reported having at least one member who went an entire day and night without eating due to lack of food. To address food consumption gaps, severe food-based coping strategies (rCSI ≥ 19) were widely adopted, with a higher prevalence in SBA areas (45 percent) compared to IRG areas (38 percent). Nearly four in every five households in Yemen (78 percent) found themselves with no savings for further coping, reflecting eroded financial buffers and reduced resilience. Begging was also prevalent particularly in Sana'a, Amran, and Hajjah governorates (between 10 percent to 15 percent).

Key drivers of food insecurity in Yemen include the ongoing economic challenges, critical humanitarian assistance gaps caused by funding shortages, limited livelihood activities, and localized conflict across frontlines. The ongoing sharp decline in humanitarian funding is poised to deepen Yemen's food security crisis in the coming months. This is exacerbated by the estimated surge in mortality and morbidity as health facilities close and disease outbreaks multiply, according to [OCHA](#). Notably, Yemen accounts for more than one-third of [cholera](#) cases worldwide and 18 percent of related deaths.



In IRG-controlled areas, the cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) hit another all-time high in April 2025, marking an increase by five percent month-on-month and by 33 percent compared to the same period last year. This is mainly attributed to the 33 percent currency depreciation and elevated fuel prices and partly due to rising global food prices. The cost of essential food items has also increased, with year-on-year rises in the prices of sunflower oil (50 percent), red beans (32 percent), wheat flour (28 percent), and sugar (24 percent). At governorate-level, Al Maharah, Socotra, and Abyan recorded the highest annual rise in the cost of the MFB. The terms of trade (ToT) between wheat flour prices and unskilled labor wages – a proxy for purchasing power – declined by 12 percent year-on-year in IRG areas, reflecting the increasing strain on households' ability to obtain their essential food needs. In SBA areas, FAO data revealed a five percent drop in the cost of the MFB compared the same period in 2024, primarily due to price controls and caps. Nonetheless, the MFB cost in USD basis is higher in SBA areas than in IRG areas. [Click Here](#)



In IRG-controlled areas, WFP is currently assisting 3.4 million people per distribution cycle. The second food assistance cycle of 2025 was almost completed by mid-May, while the third cycle was still ongoing. In SBA-controlled areas, WFP has assisted around 1.7 million people under the second Targeted Emergency Food Assistance (TEFA) cycle of 2025. However, no distributions are currently ongoing, as incoming shipments to northern Yemen remain temporarily [halted](#). WFP has seen a significant reduction in contributions this year, with [Yemen](#) seeing the largest projected cut in assistance across all WFP operations. Projections suggest that funding cuts would leave 4.8 million people in Yemen without live-saving assistance as food insecurity is prevalent and likely to worsen further in the months to come. [Click Here](#)



In IRG-controlled areas, the Yemeni Riyal (YER) continued to depreciate and reached another all-time low of YER 2,511/USD 1 by the end of April 2025. The IRG Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) announced a directive in late April to temporarily suspend all foreign currency exchanges for a few days in response to this depreciation. The YER has lost 33 percent of its value against the US dollar year-on-year and nearly 73 percent over the past five years. Key drivers include low foreign currency reserves and revenue shortages due to halting crude oil exports in late 2022, which have contributed to a 54 percent depreciation of the YER since then. In SBA areas, the rial remained steady at YER 534/USD due to strict control by the authorities, with only one percent depreciation year-on-year. Nonetheless, there are economic concerns about liquidity, dwindling foreign reserves, and disruptions to international banking operations following the FTO designation. In mid-April, sanctions imposed on the International Bank of Yemen (a key financial institution in SBA areas) have disrupted its international operations, however it was able to maintain its local functions so far. Notably, WFP is facing challenges in processing payments to its partners nationwide. These difficulties are caused by financial restrictions related to the FTO designation and the liquidity crises in the banking sector. [Click Here](#)



From January to April 2025, total fuel imports through the Red Sea ports declined by 13 percent compared to the same period last year. Al Hodeidah and Ras Issa ports witnessed a series of attacks in April and May 2025, resulting in significant damage to port infrastructure. The Yemen Petroleum Company indicated that available fuel stocks are sufficient for an extended period and announced the resumption of operations at Ras Issa port in early May. However, close monitoring is necessary in the coming months, especially in light of the continued attacks on the Red Sea ports and the fuel import ban on SBA-linked entities via SBA-controlled ports following the FTO designation. In IRG areas, fuel imports via Aden and Mukalla ports saw a gradual increase every month since the beginning of 2025, but the accumulated volume during January-April 2025 remained 15 percent lower than the same period in 2024. Notably, IRG areas have faced prolonged power outages in April, due to fuel shortages at generating stations. [Click Here](#)



Despite the 24 percent annual decline in global crude oil prices, local fuel prices reached unprecedented levels in IRG-controlled areas, primarily driven by the ongoing currency depreciation and import challenges. In April 2025, pump fuel prices saw a year-on-year increase by 20 percent for petrol and by 29 percent for diesel. On the other hand, FAO data revealed that official petrol and diesel prices remained relatively stable in SBA areas (up by merely one percent year-on-year). [Click Here](#)



Food imports through all Yemeni sea ports between January and April 2025 rose by 14 percent compared to the same period last year. Food imports via the Red Sea ports registered an eight percent decline year-on-year, while the IRG-controlled ports of Aden and Mukalla saw a two-fold increase compared to the same period in 2024. Key Informants estimated that current food reserves in Yemen are likely to cover the need for two to three months. Food items were available in the Yemeni markets in April 2025, however access to food remained a challenge countrywide due to unaffordable food prices, declining household purchasing power, and insufficient humanitarian food assistance. [Click Here](#)



In April 2025, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) marginally rose by one percent from the previous month and by eight percent compared to the same period in 2024. This represents the highest level recorded over the past two years. All sub-indexes witnessed a year-on-year increase except for cereals and sugar (down by one percent and 11 percent, respectively). While the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index slightly declined by two percent month-on-month, it remained 21 percent higher than the levels observed one year ago, largely driven by firm global demand and tightening supplies. [Click Here](#)

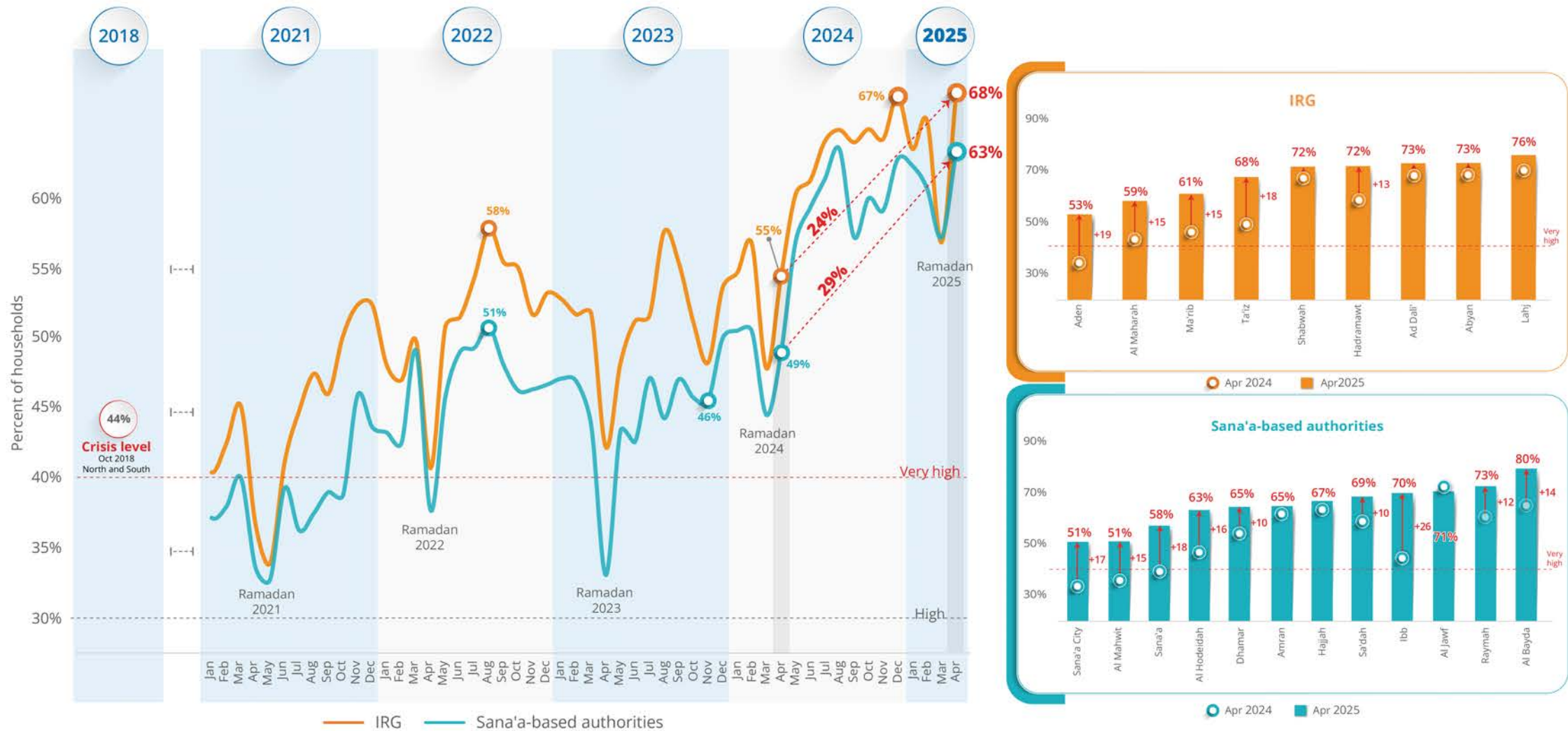


For more details:

[WFP Yemen food security and market monitoring dashboard](#)



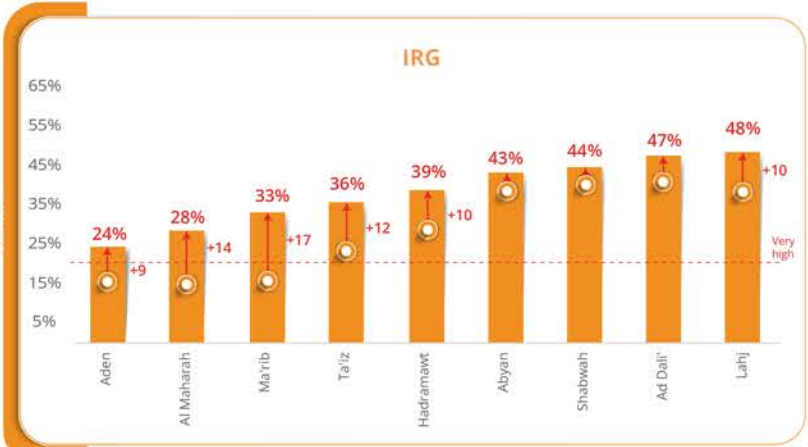
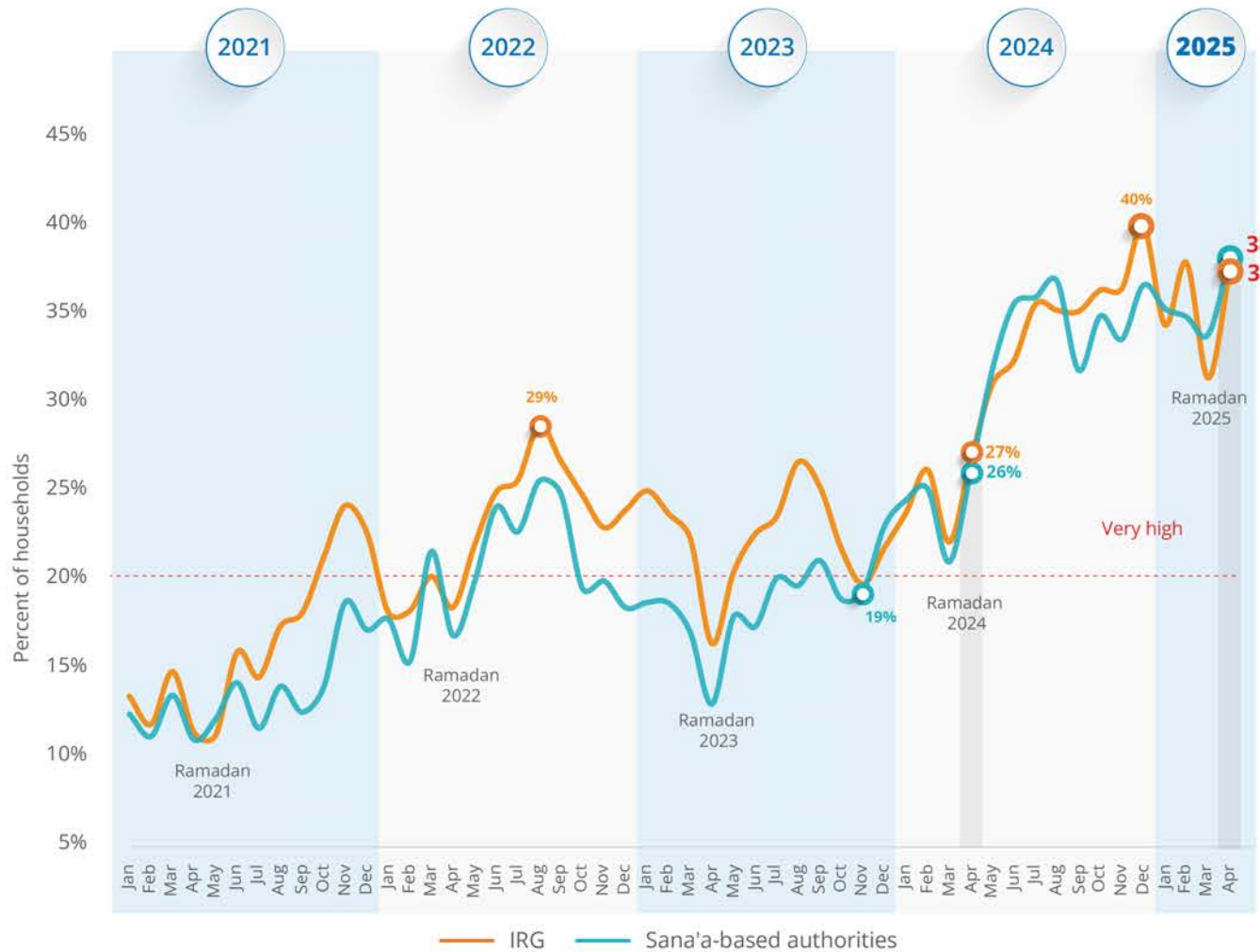
Food Security Outcomes (Inadequate Food Consumption)



Source: WFP monitoring data



Food Security Outcomes (Poor Food Consumption)



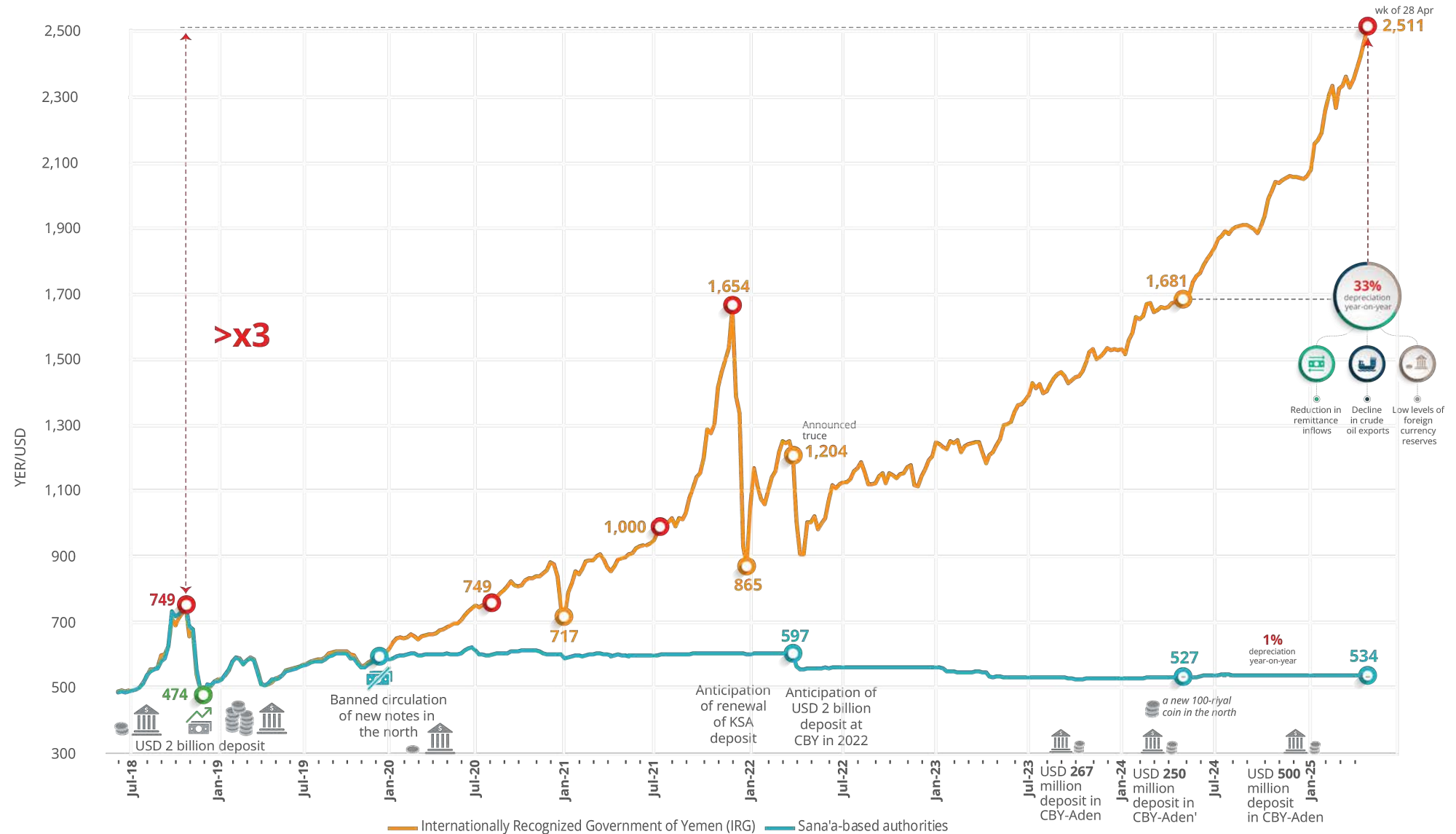
Source: WFP monitoring data

Drivers of Food Insecurity, beyond Conflict





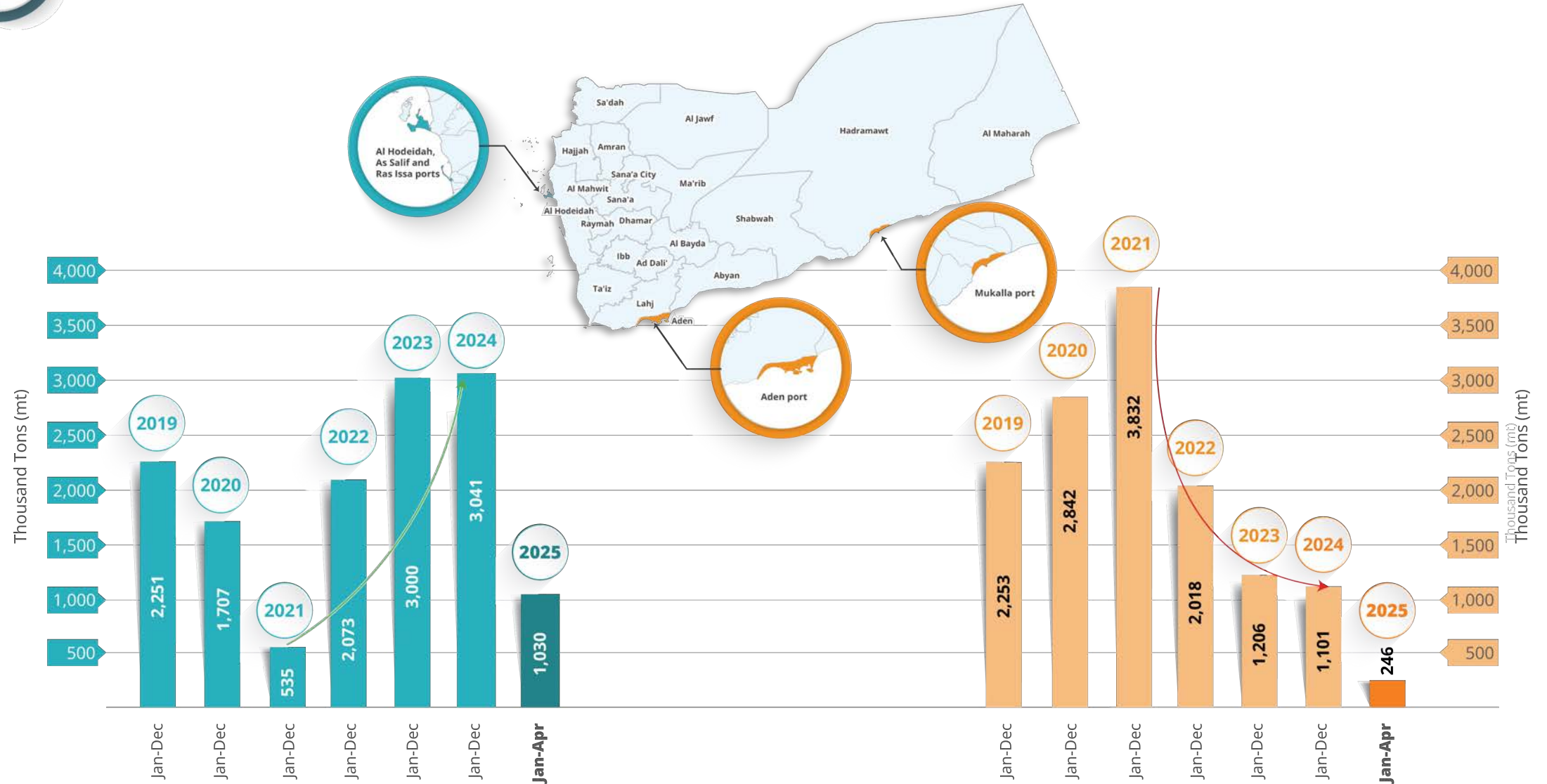
Exchange rate



Source: weekly WFP monitoring data (average weekly exchange rates)



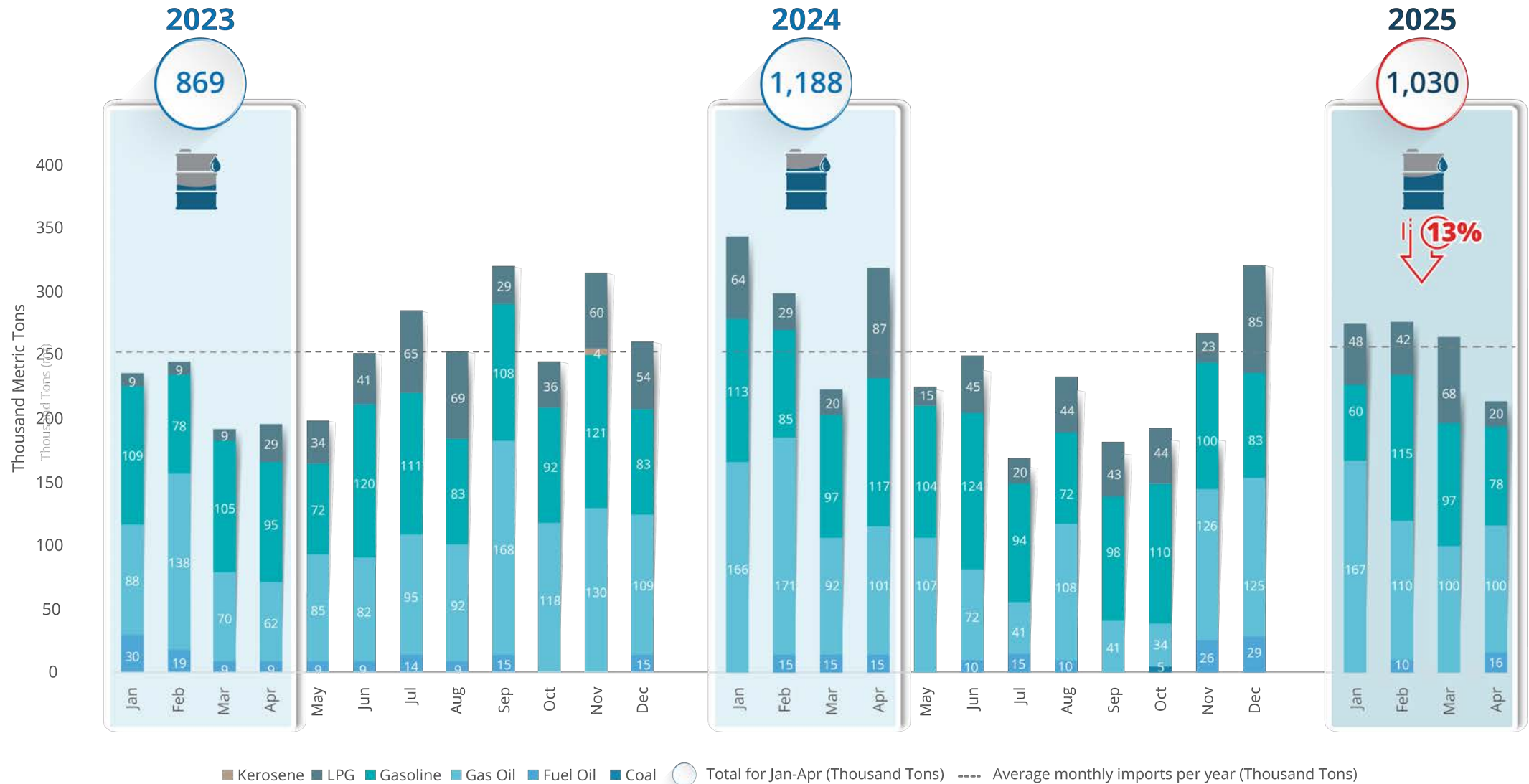
Fuel Imports in Yemen (Al Hodeidah, As Salif, Ras Issa, Mukalla and Aden ports)



Source: UNVIM, Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation and shipment data from Wilhelmsen



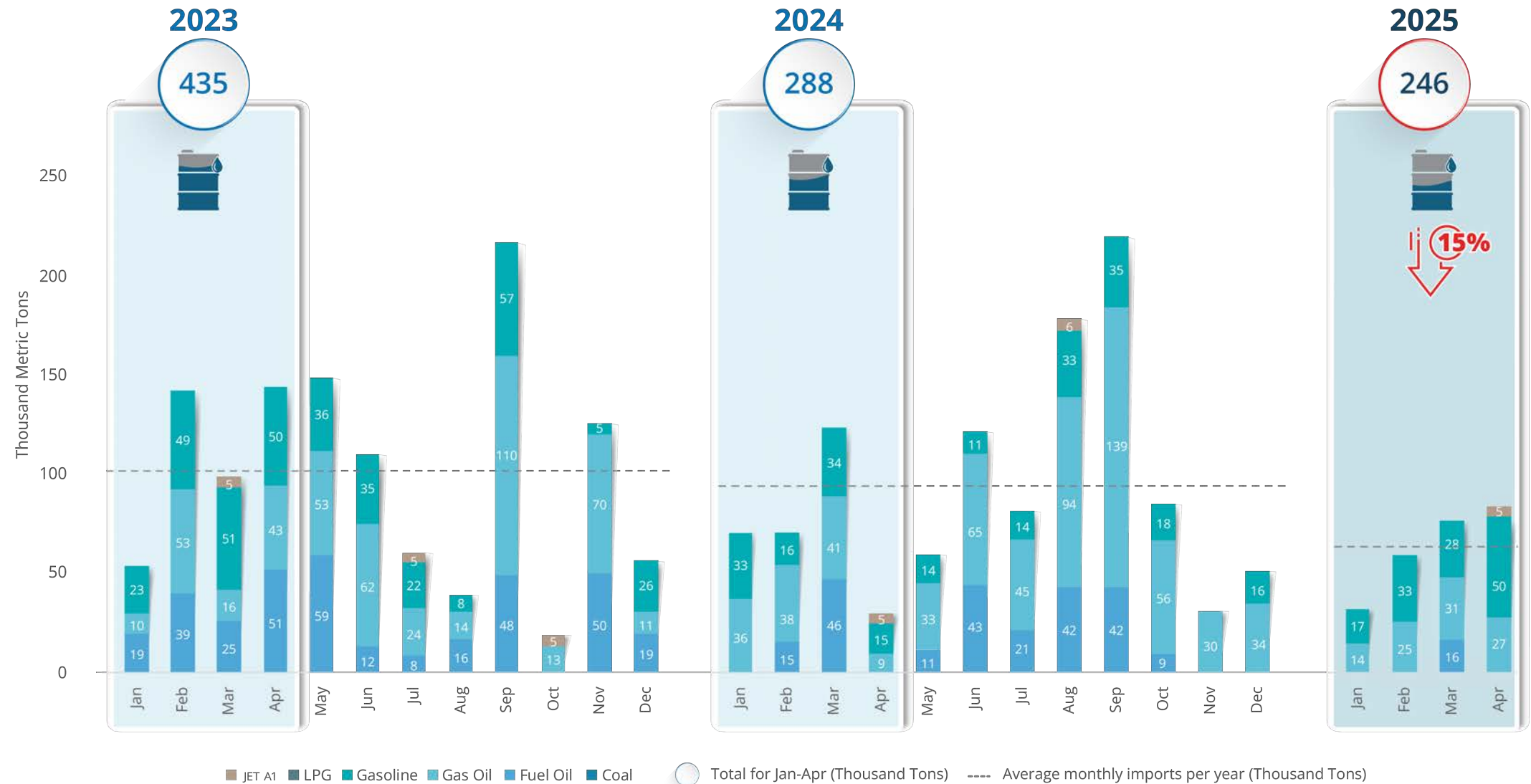
Fuel imports through Al Hodeidah, As Salif and Ras Issa ports



Source: Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
The data source since July 2024 is Wilhelmsen



Fuel imports through Aden and Mukalla ports



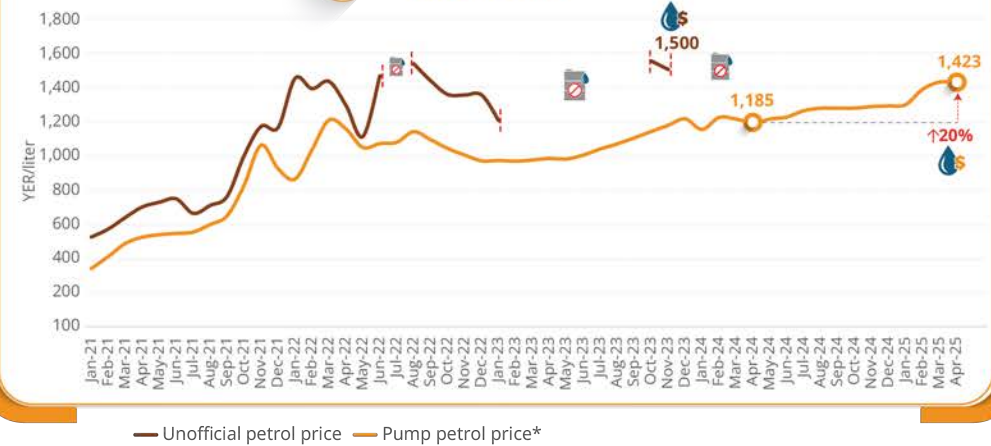


Fuel prices

Sana'a-based authorities - Petrol



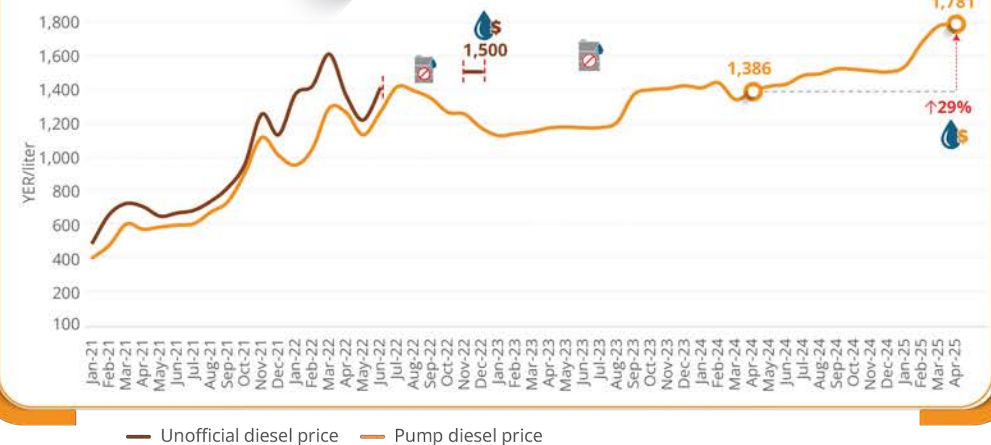
IRG- Petrol



Sana'a-based authorities - Diesel



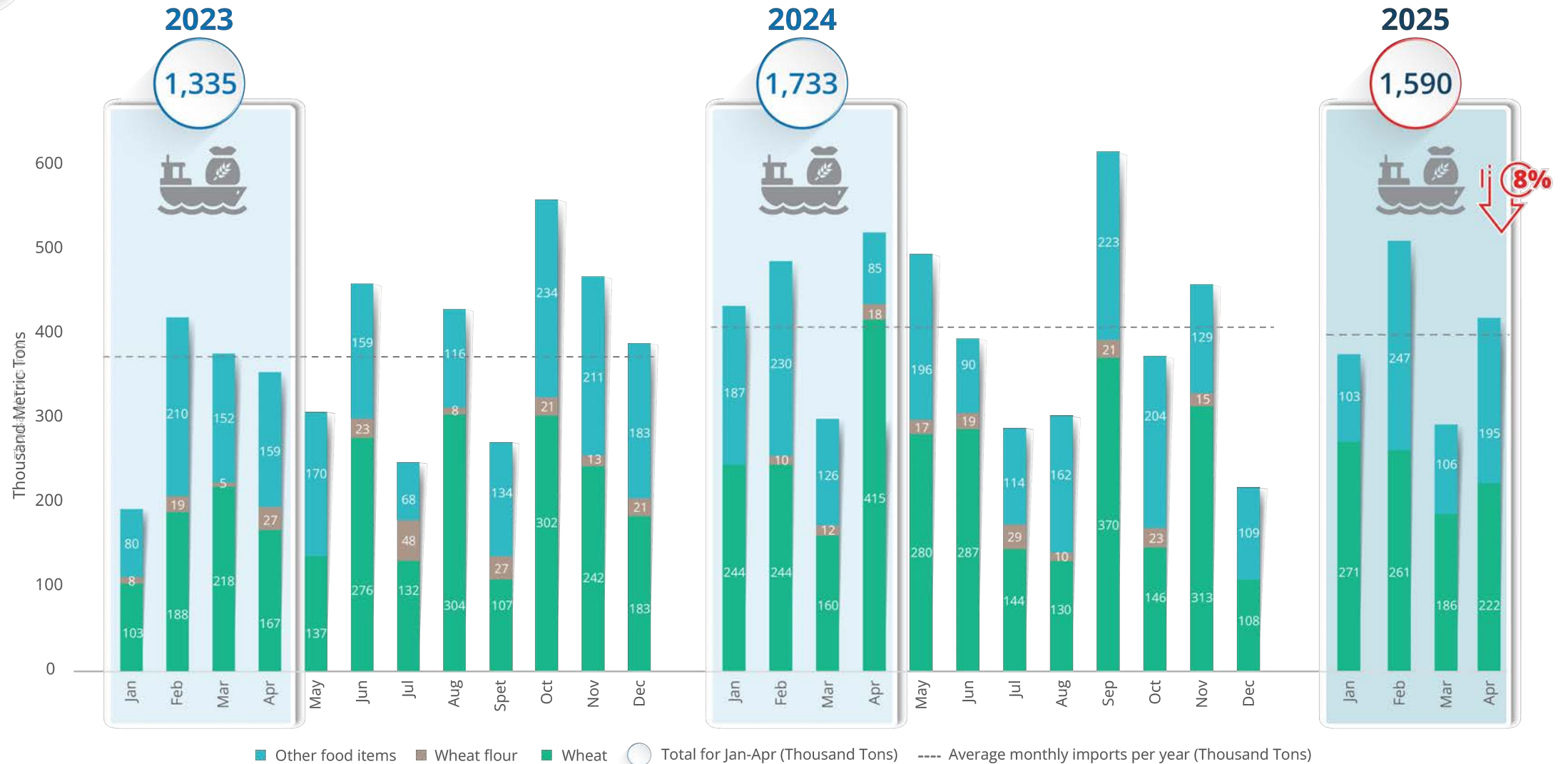
IRG- Diesel



*Pump price: The average price of the official and commercial petrol/diesel sold through the gas stations
In IRG-controlled areas, unofficial diesel prices appeared only in Ma'rib governorate at YER 1,500/liter in April 2025
WFP was unable to collect market price data in SBA areas since Jun 2024 due to security concerns*



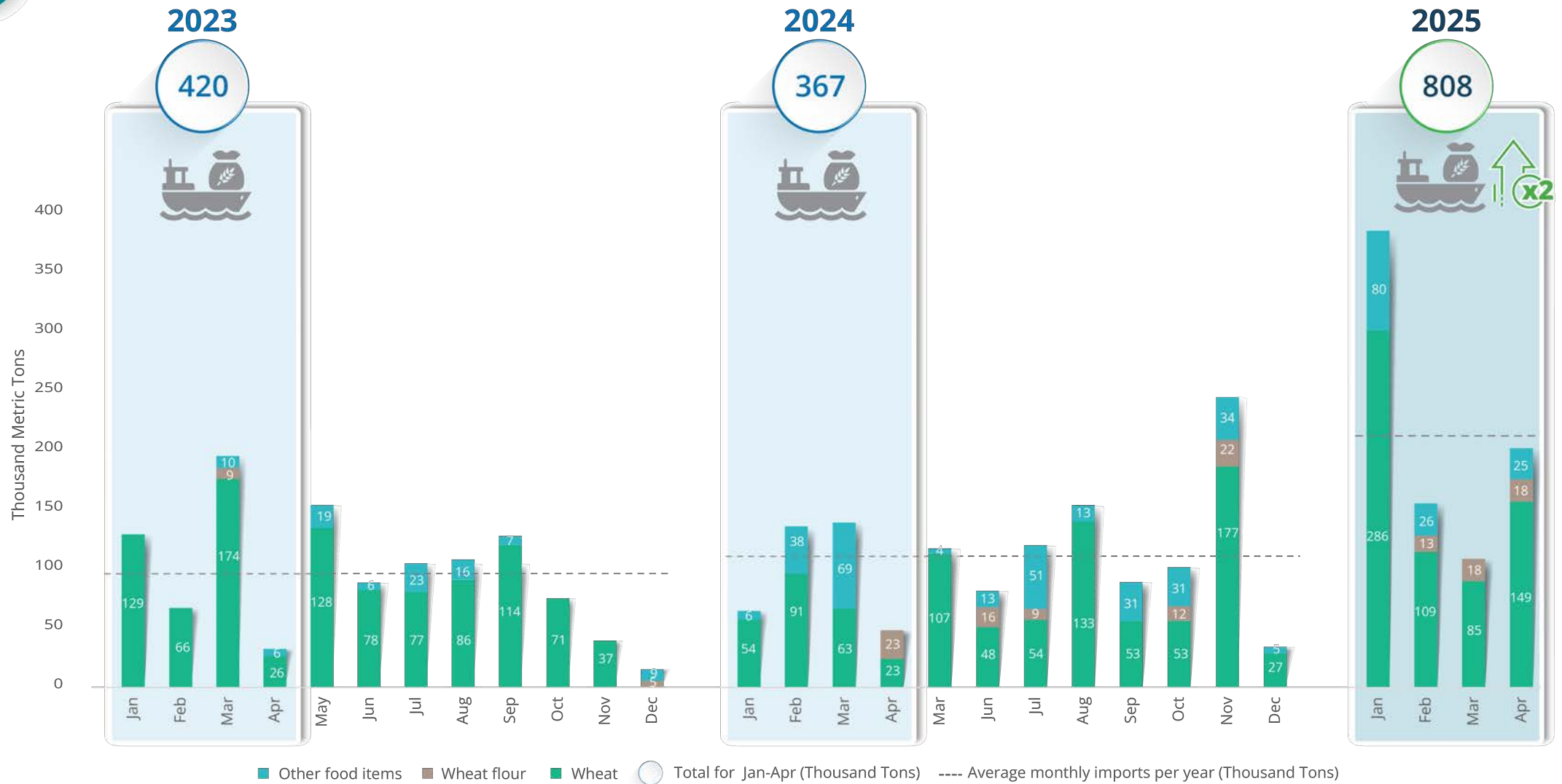
Food Imports (Al Hodeidah and As Salif ports)



Source: UNVIM until Apr 2023. The figures between May 2023 – Jun 2024 are based on the data from Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
The data source since July 2024 is Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)
In April 2025, food imports through Red Sea ports were six percent higher than the 12-month moving average



Food Imports (Aden and Mukalla Ports)



Source: Aden Ports Authority

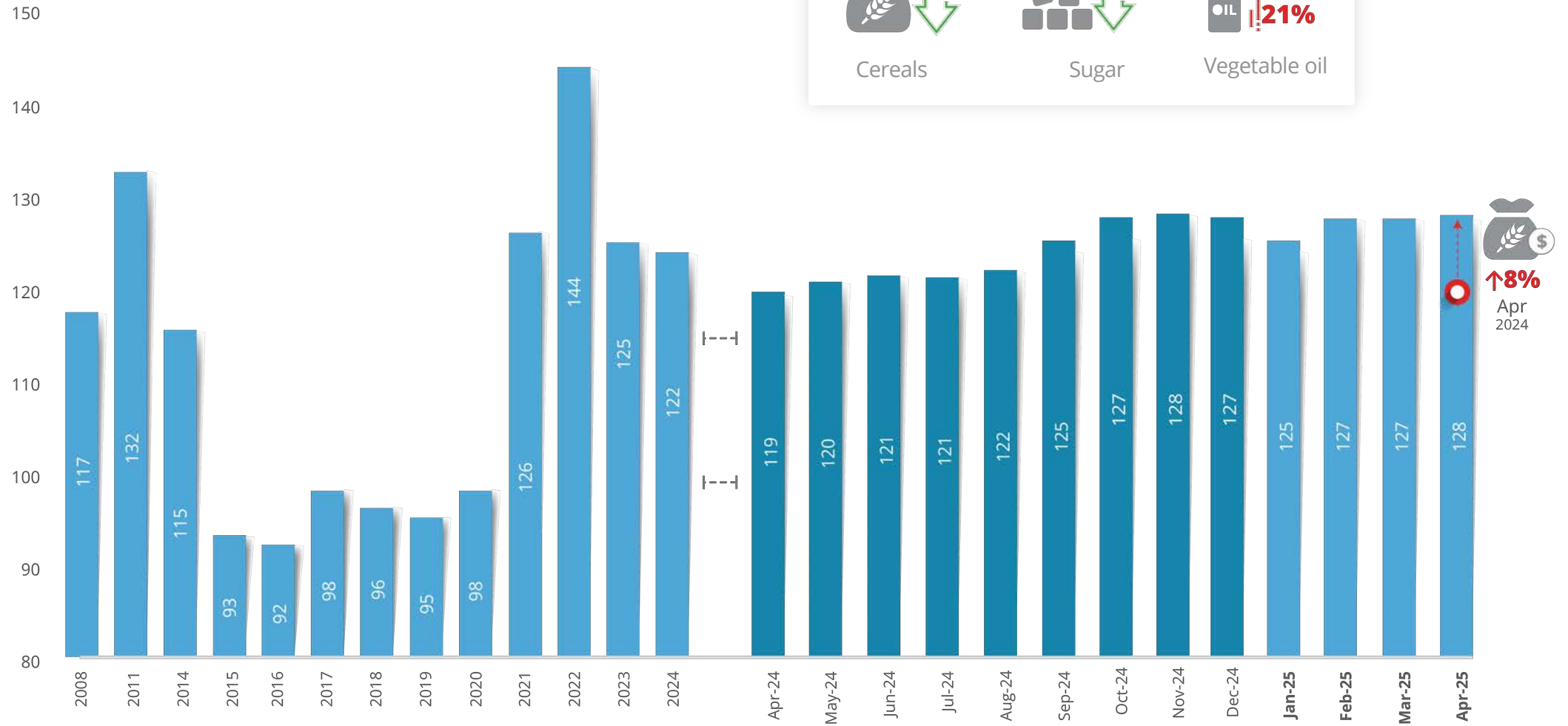
The figures between December 2023-June 2024 are based on the data from Wilhelmsen due to the absence of data from Aden Ports Authority

The data source since July 2024 is Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)

In April 2025, food imports through Aden and Mukalla ports were 35 percent higher than the 12-month moving average

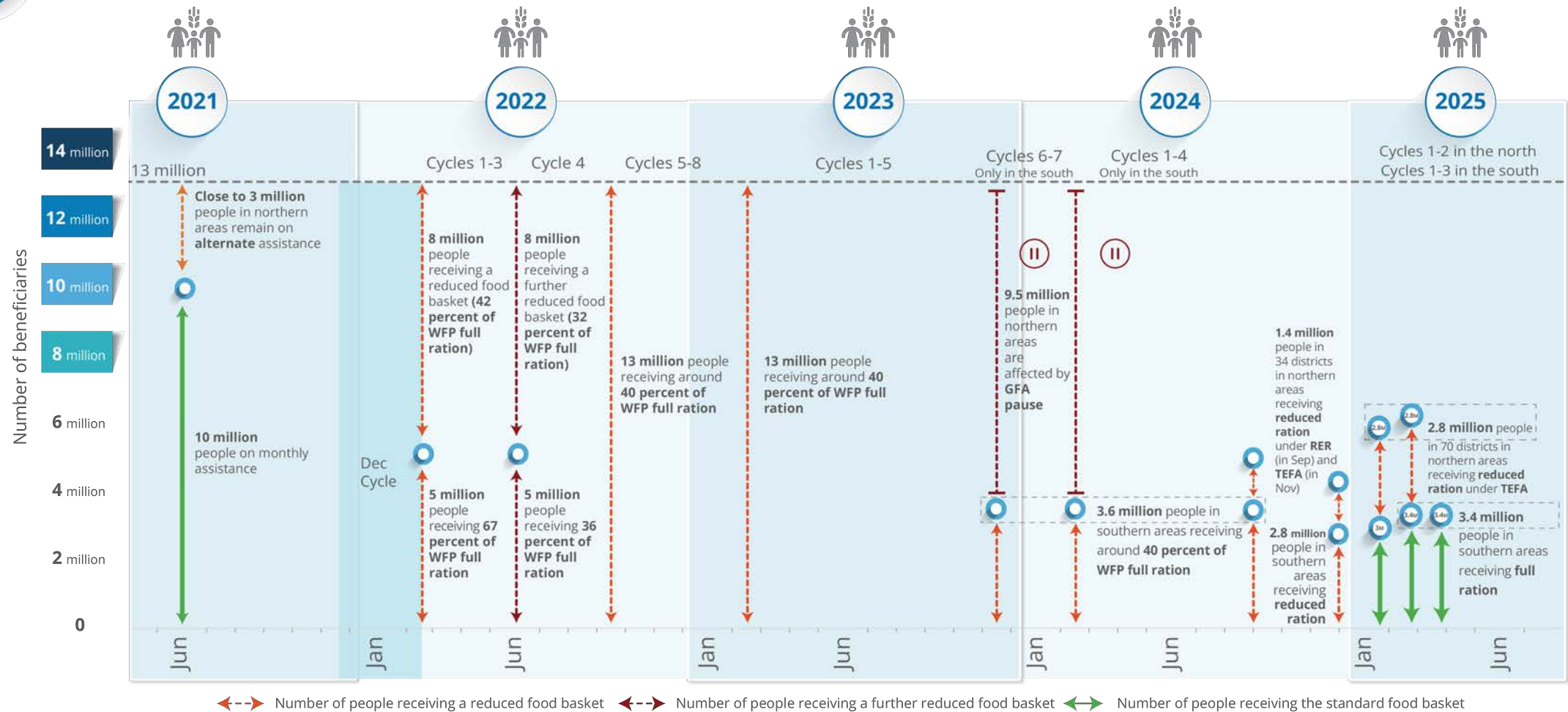


Global food prices





Humanitarian Food Assistance*



*WFP food assistance, all figures are rounded

1 The figures reflect the implementation plan

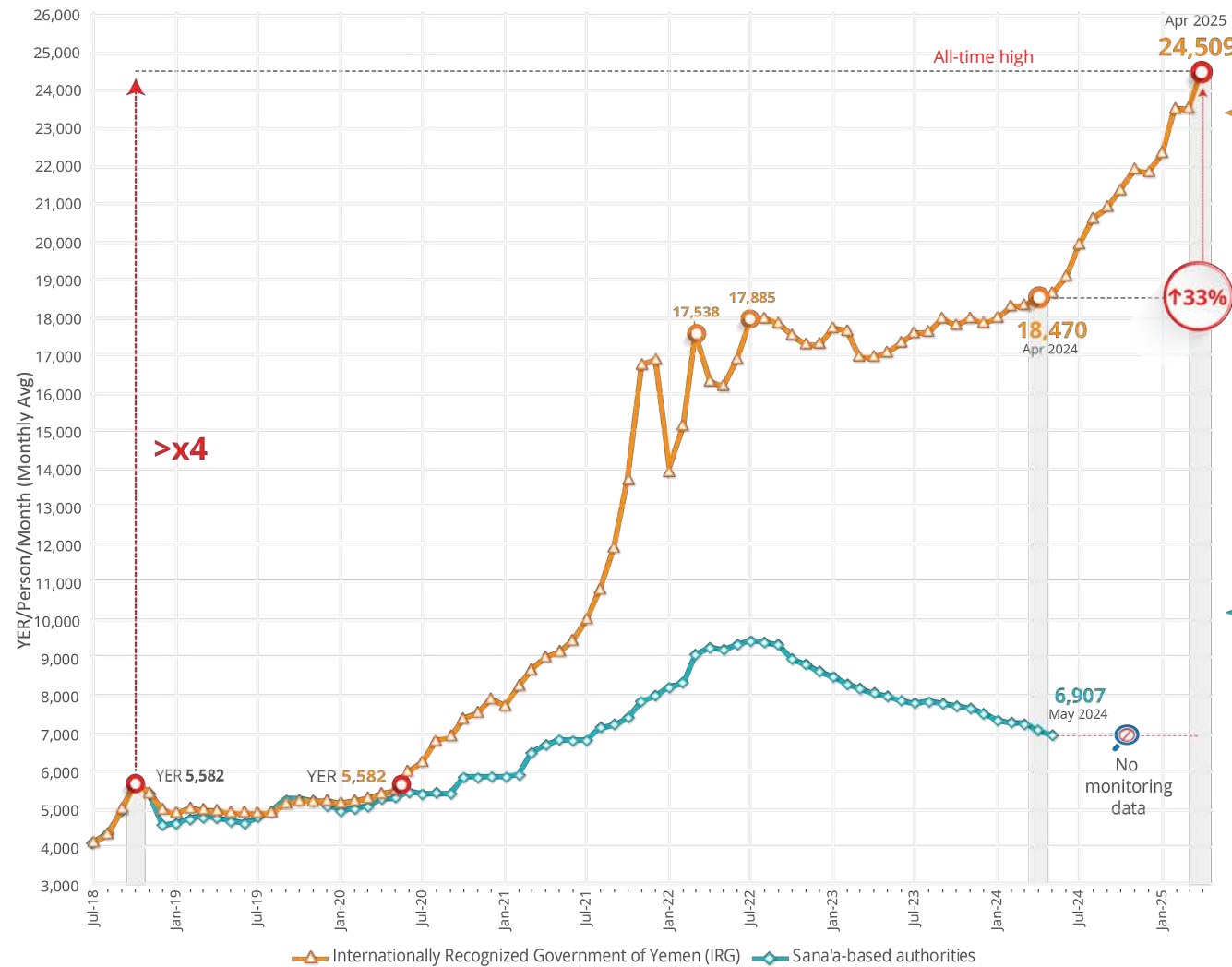
2 WFP full ration is equivalent to 1,650 Kcal per person per day for a period of 30 days. Since 2022, food assistance is provided on a cycle basis rather than monthly basis

3 The second TEFA cycle of 2025 targeted 2.8 million people in 70 districts. However, due to operational challenges, WFP had only reached around 1.7 million people so far

4 Food Security Impact of Reduction in WFP Funding: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/food-security-impact-reduction-wfp-funding>



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. In the MFB calculation, prices of palm oil were replaced with sunflower oil prices, which revised the entire time series since October 2020.

The MFB cost in Socotra in Apr-2025 was calculated using the prices of palm oil.

The price data reflects the prices collected from the main cities in each governorate.

WFP was unable to collect market price data in SBA areas since June 2024 due to security concerns.

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Contact information:

Siemon Hollema, WFP Deputy Country Director, wfp.sanaa@wfp.org

Fawad Raza, Head of VAM, RAM Unit, fawad.raza@wfp.org

Abdelrahman Hamza, Food Security Analyst, RAM Unit, abdelrahman.hamza@wfp.org

Design/layout: OIM Unit, [**CO_YEM_OIM@wfp.org**](mailto:CO_YEM_OIM@wfp.org)