



World Food Programme

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YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

February 2024

Highlights



In January 2024, more than half of the surveyed households in Yemen (52 percent) were unable to access adequate food, up by 11 percent from November 2023 and by six percent year-on-year. In IRG-controlled areas 55 percent reported inadequate access to food, compared to 51 percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities. However, the proportion of households unable to meet minimum acceptable food consumption in the north reached the highest recorded level in the past 16 months. This is largely associated with the ongoing pause in humanitarian food assistance in the north. Overall, in 18 out of the 22 governorates, the proportion of households reporting inadequate food consumption exceeded the "very high" threshold of ≥ 40 percent, with peaks recorded in Lahj Al-Jawf, Raymah, Al Baidha, and Al Dhali'. Moreover, around 55 percent of the surveyed households in Yemen adopted extremely negative food-coping strategies (rCSI ≥ 19), marking an increase of six percent year-on-year. [Click Here](#)



In January 2024, the total volume of fuel imported through Red Sea ports (Al-Hodeidah, As-Salif and Ras Issa ports) saw an increase by 31 percent compared to the previous month, and by 46 percent compared to January 2023. Similarly, fuel imports via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla increased by 23 percent from a month earlier and by 32 percent year-on-year. However, uncertainty remains particularly amid the ongoing tensions in the MENA region and the rise in shipping and insurance rates along the Red Sea route. [Click Here](#)



While the overall volume of food imports declined by around 20 percent during December 2023, it saw a 23 percent increase during January 2024, bouncing back to November 2023 levels. This monthly increase is primarily linked to existing orders and ships already in transit. Therefore, essential food items remained available in Yemeni markets during January 2024, with sufficient stocks to cover essential needs in the coming 2-3 months. However, close monitoring is necessarily over the coming months, especially in light of the mounting tensions in the MENA region, the rise in shipping and insurance costs via the Red Sea route, and the WFP's pause of food assistance and supply in the north. [Click Here](#)



General Food Assistance (GFA) remains paused in areas under Sana'a based authorities since December 2023, while WFP continued to assist nearly 3.6 million people in IRG-controlled areas with reduced rations, equivalent to around 40 percent of the WFP full ration per each distribution cycle. The WFP's needs-based plan is only five percent funded for the period from March to August 2024. WFP monitoring data extracted from a panel sample of GFA beneficiaries indicates that the pause of assistance in the north had significant negative implications on beneficiary households; the share of households experiencing poor food consumption increased from 24 percent in the baseline (cycle 5 in 2023) to 37 percent during January 2024, while those with inadequate food consumption increased from 58 percent to 67 percent during the same period. [Click Here](#)



In IRG-controlled areas, the Yemeni riyal lost 23 percent of its value against the US dollar compared to the previous year, reaching YER 1,627/USD by the end of January 2024. The exchange rate in areas under IRG is converging to the historic level recorded in late November 2021, during which the exchange rate had worsened to unprecedented levels of YER 1,654/USD. Key drivers include low foreign currency reserves and reduced crude oil exports and remittance inflows. It is worth noting that CBY-Aden has resumed foreign currency auctions in late January 2024, after nearly three months being on-hold. Conversely, the exchange rate in areas under Sana'a-based authorities appreciated by four percent on annual basis, reaching YER 526/USD by the end of January. [Click Here](#)



Pump prices for petrol and diesel experienced a slight decrease by five percent and one percent respectively during January 2024 in IRG-controlled areas, while remaining higher than their levels observed in the previous year by 19 and 25 percent, respectively. This increase is primarily associated with the ongoing currency depreciation in the south. Conversely, in areas under SBA, pump prices for petrol and diesel remained unchanged month-on-month, with a decline of four percent and 20 percent, respectively, on annual basis. [Click Here](#)



In January 2024, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) slightly decreased; by merely one percent compared to the previous month, while it remained 10 percent lower than January 2023 level. All sub-indexes exhibited an annual drop except for sugar, which increased by 16 percent year-on-year. This is mainly due to the tighter global supply outlook amid unfavourable weather conditions. In Yemen, sugar prices also saw an annual increase of nine percent in the north and 41 percent in the south. [Click Here](#)



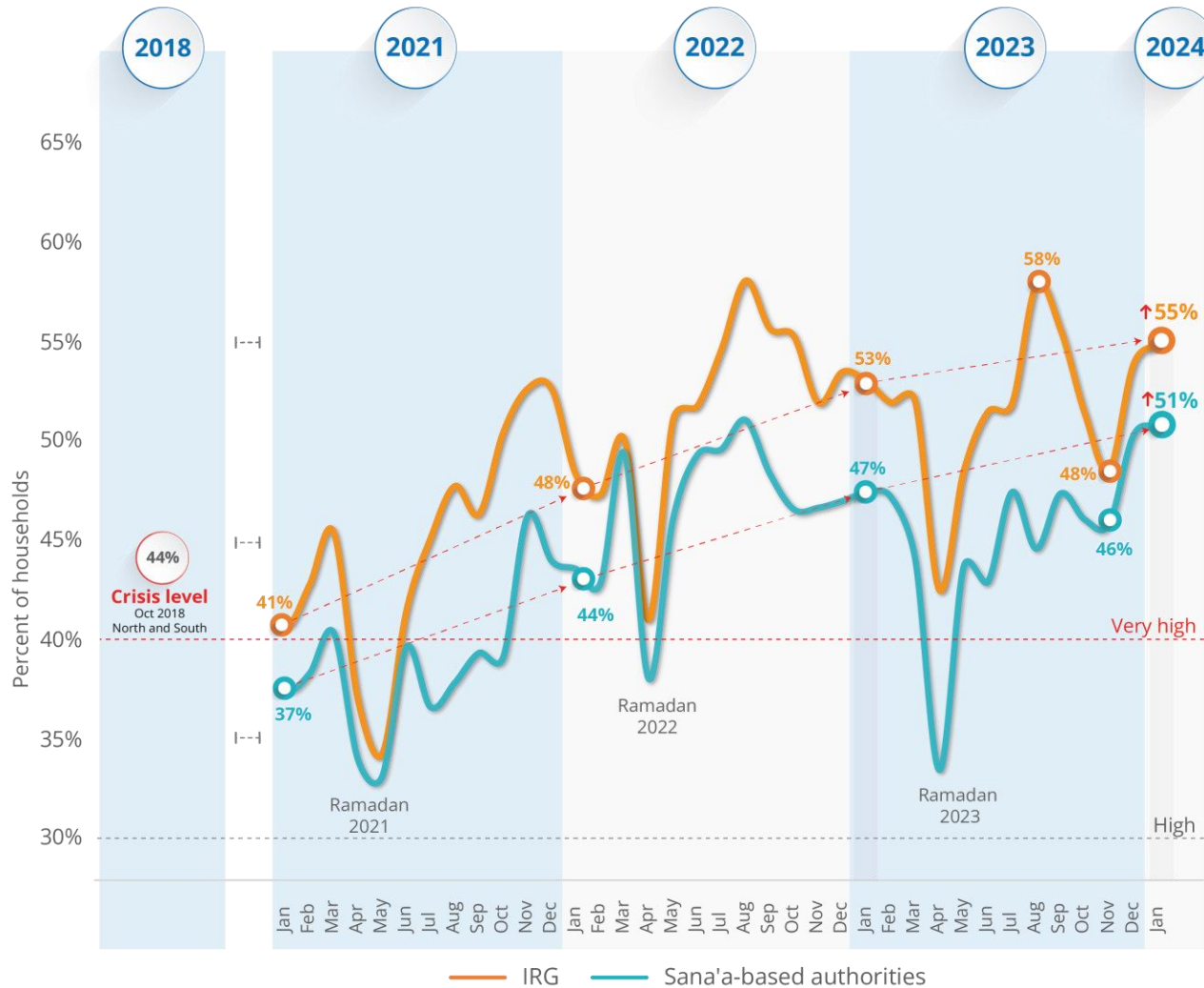
In January 2024, the cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in IRG-controlled areas increased by three percent compared to the previous month earlier and compared to January 2023. Ma'rib experienced the highest annual increase nationwide (up by 22 percent), mainly driven by the notable rise in transportation costs associated with increased pump prices for petrol and diesel in Ma'rib (up by 64 and 53 percent, respectively). According to the most recent IPC update for IRG-controlled areas, food prices in the south are expected to remain elevated during Q1-2024, mainly driven by the ongoing currency depreciation, high import bills, increased fuel prices and increased shipping costs due to the Red Sea crisis. Meanwhile, the cost of MFB increased by merely two percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities during January 2024, while remaining 11 percent lower than the recorded levels in January 2023. The consequences of Red Sea crisis, as well as the gap triggered by the pause in food assistance could pose further pressures in food prices in the north over the coming months. [Click Here](#)



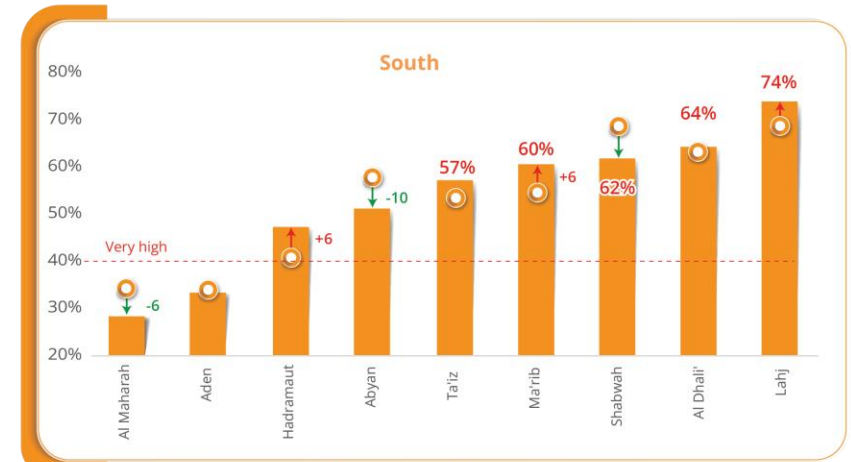
For more details, you can visit:
[WFP Yemen food security and market monitoring dashboard](#)



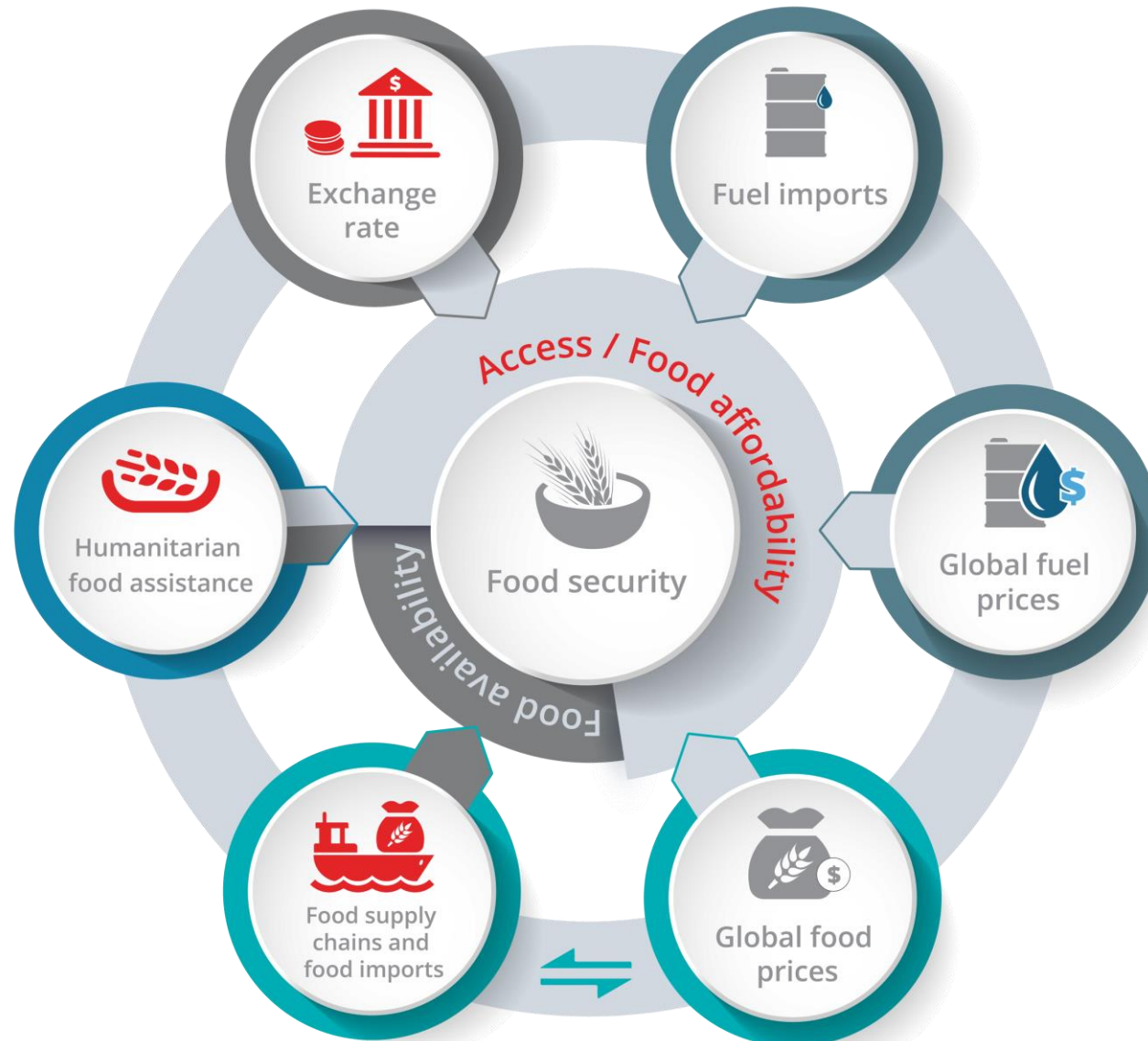
Food Security Outcomes (Inadequate Food Consumption by Governorate)



Source: WFP monitoring data

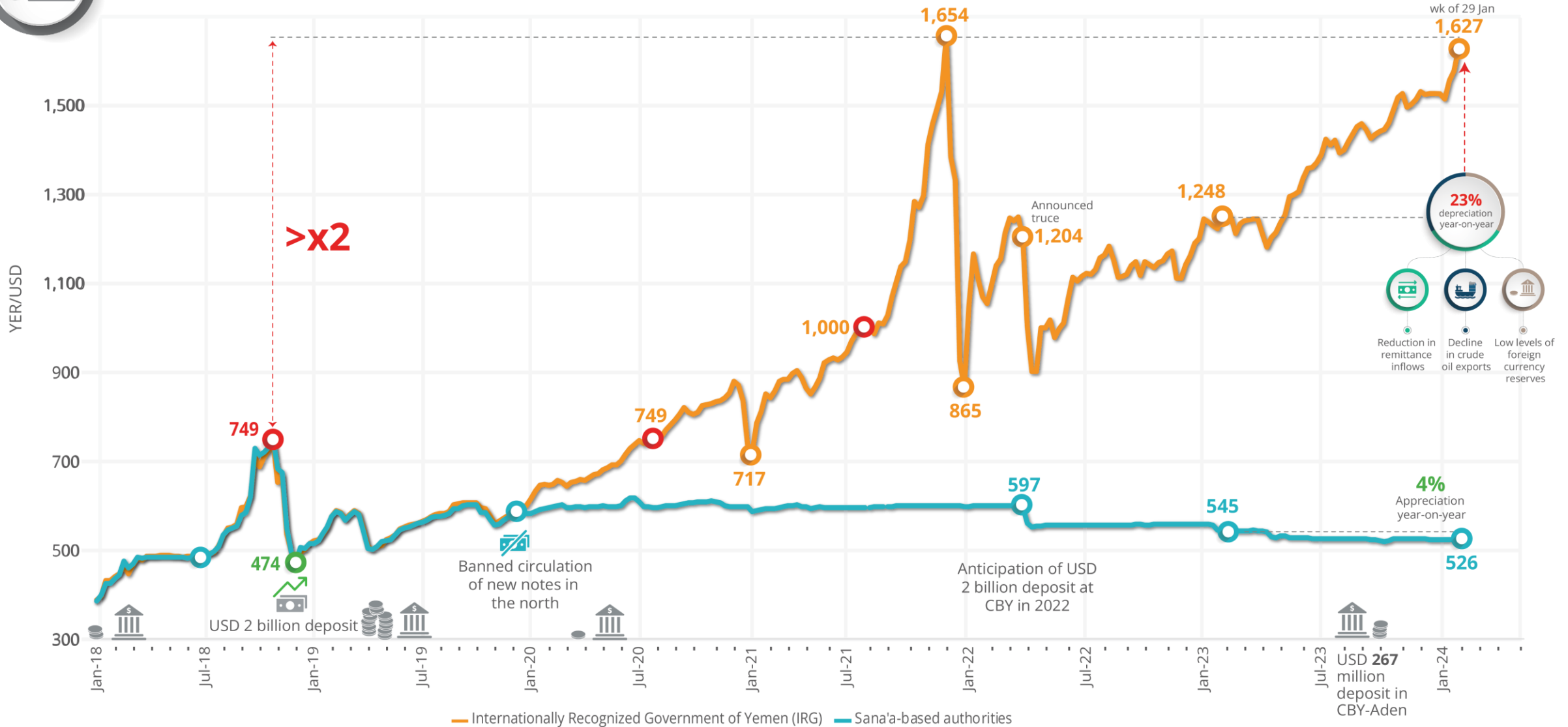


Drivers of Food Insecurity, beyond Conflict





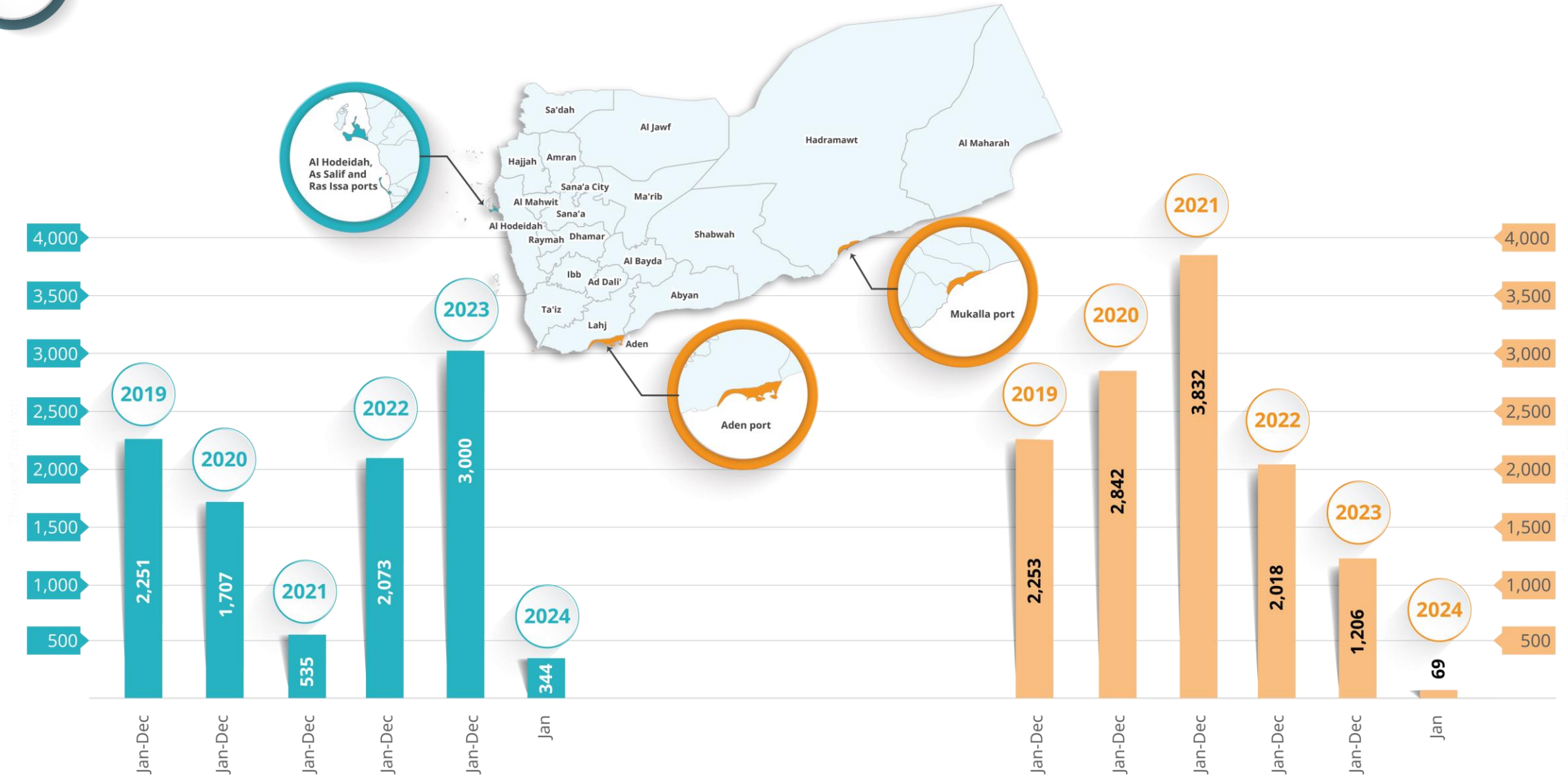
Exchange rate



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



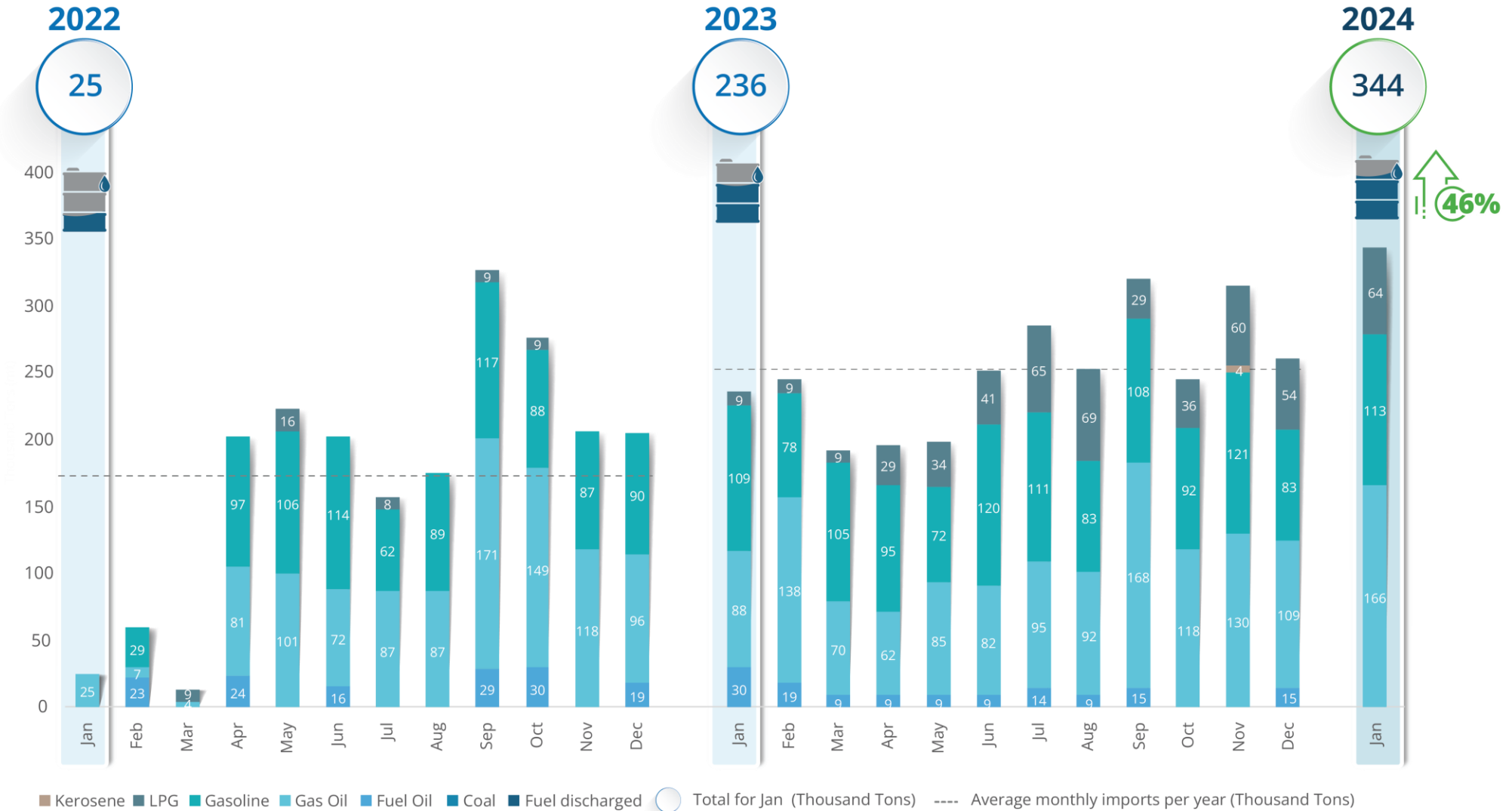
Fuel Imports in Yemen (Al Hodeidah, As Salif, Ras Issa, Mukalla and Aden ports)



Source: UNVIM, Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation and shipment data from Wilhelmsen
 Fuel import data through the Ras Issa port was included, which revised the entire time series.



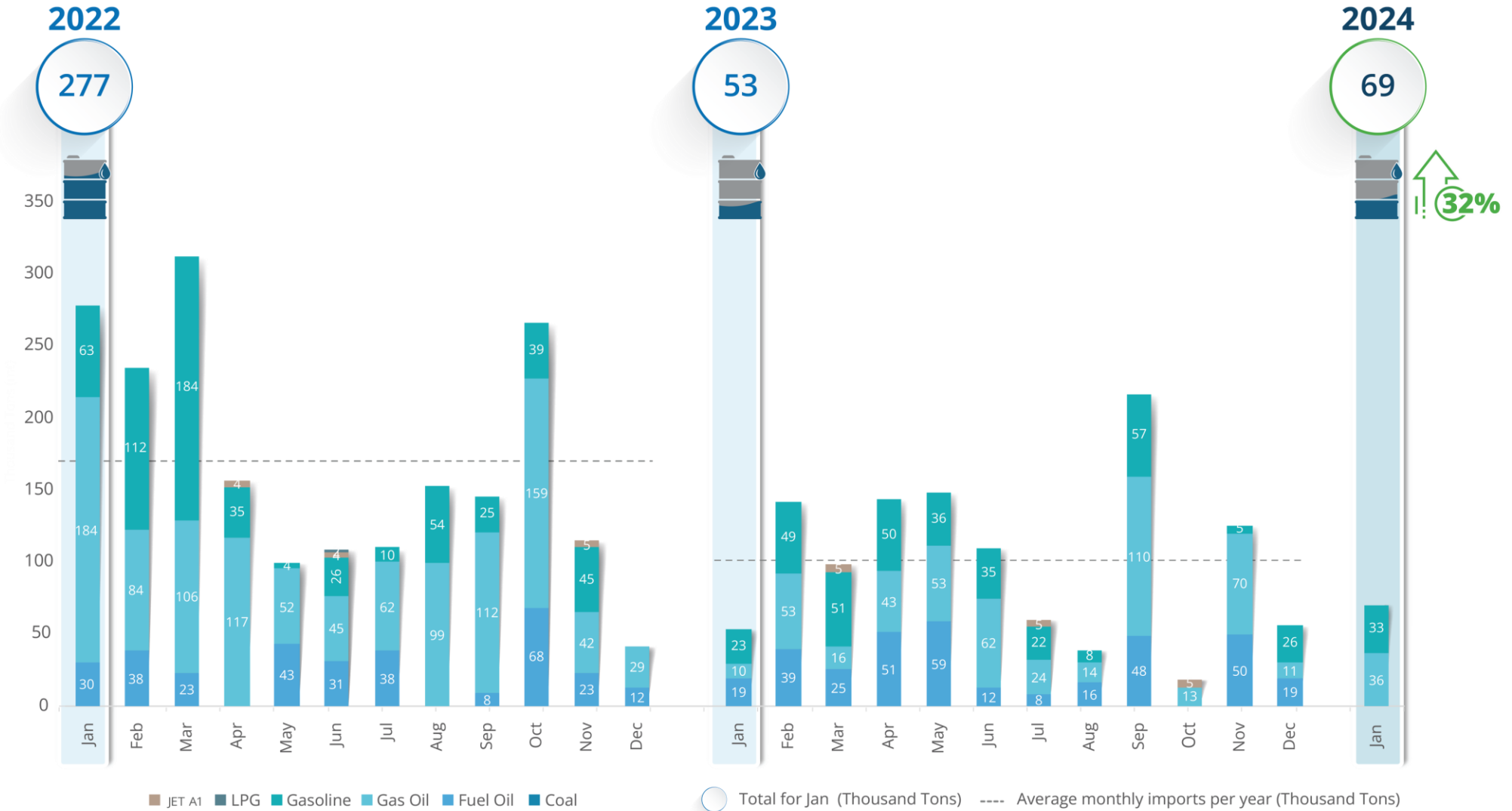
Fuel imports through Al Hodeidah, As Salif and Ras Issa ports



Source: Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
 Fuel import data through the Ras Issa port was included, which revised the entire time series.



Fuel imports through Aden and Mukalla ports

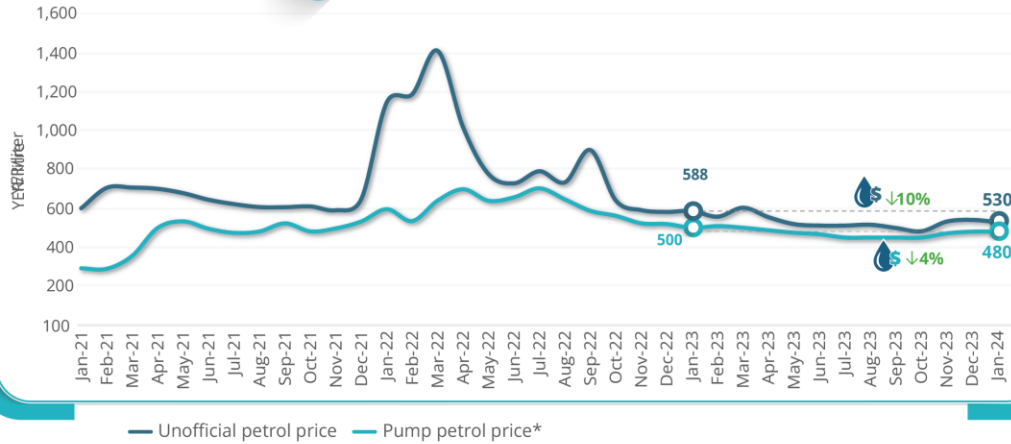




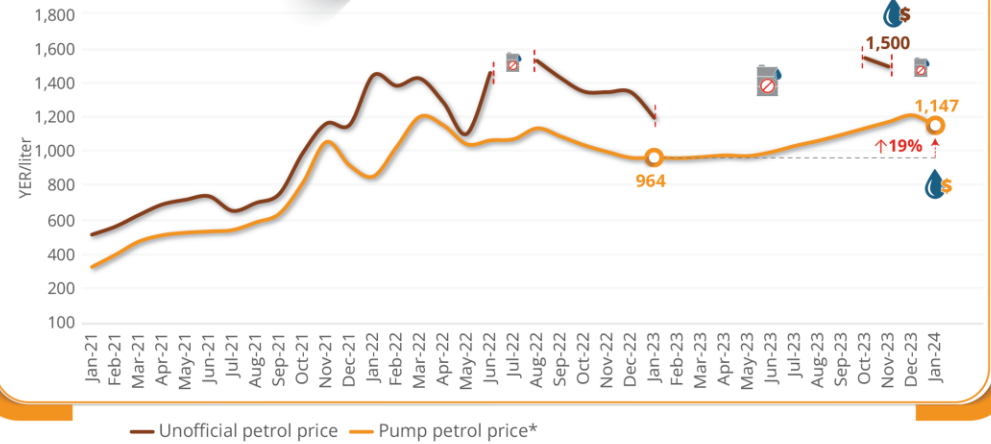
Fuel prices



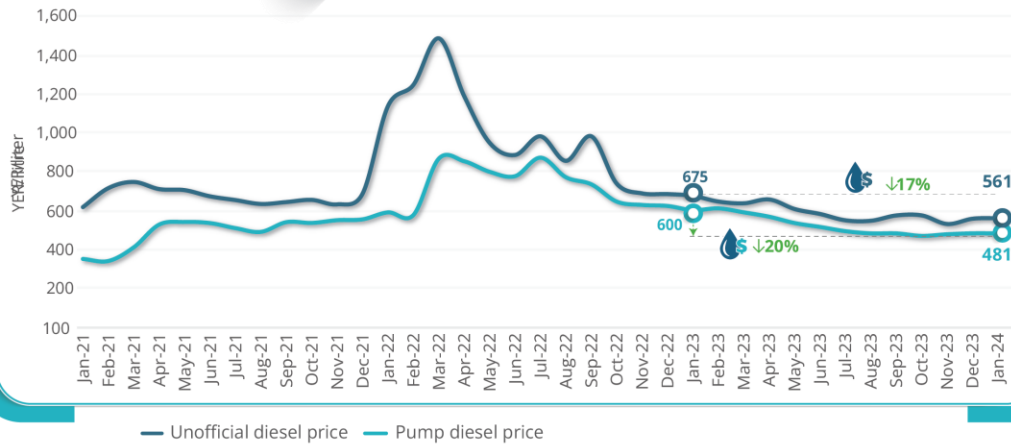
North - Petrol



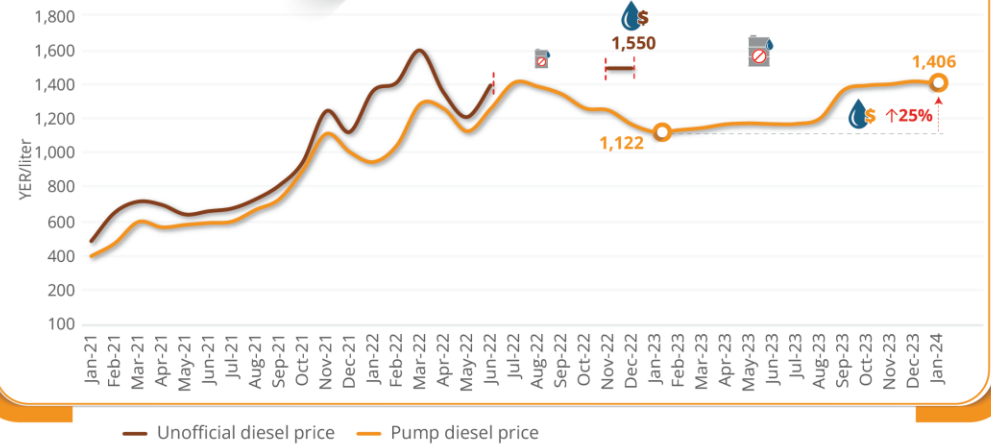
South - Petrol



North - Diesel



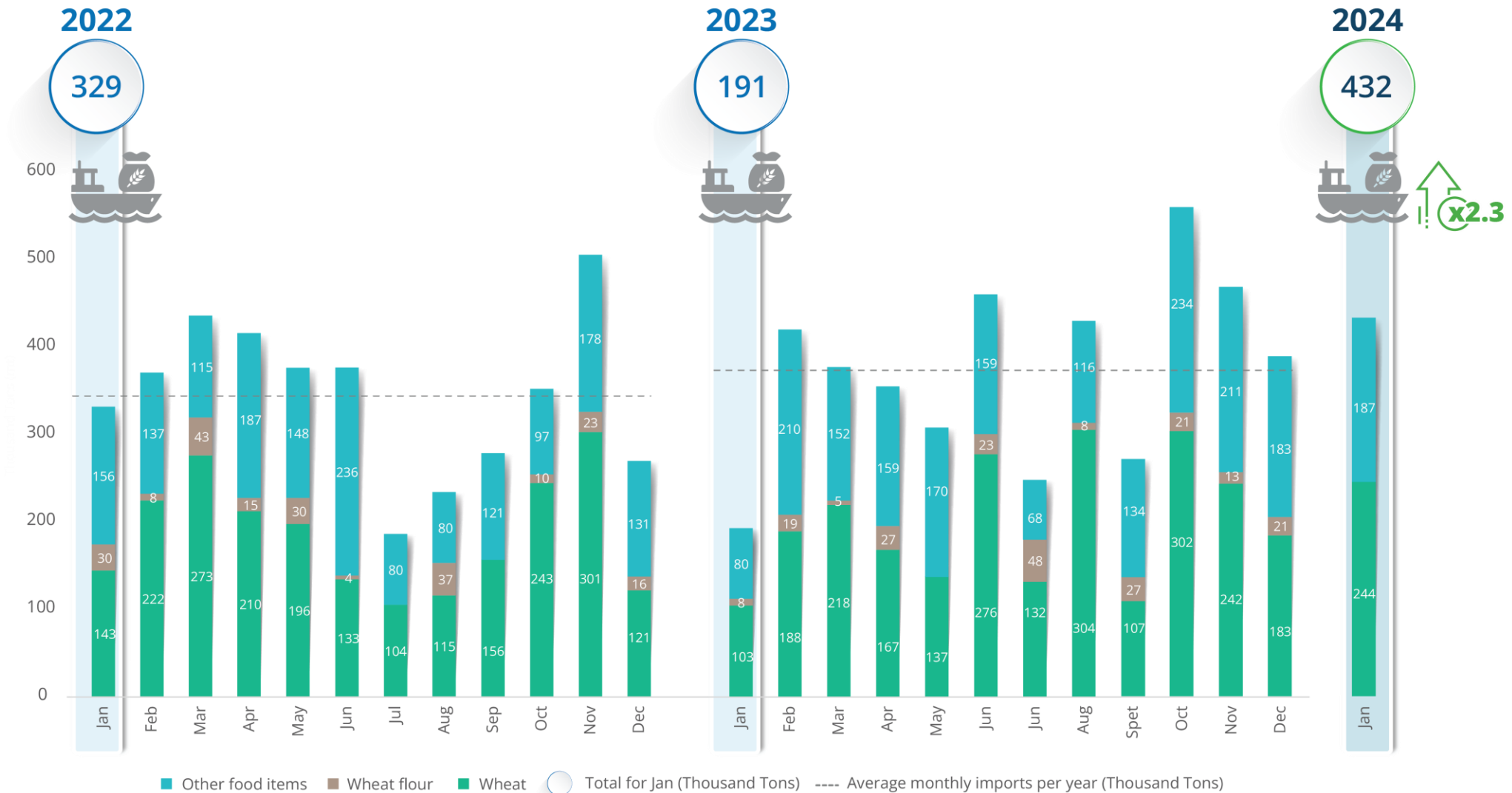
South - Diesel



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



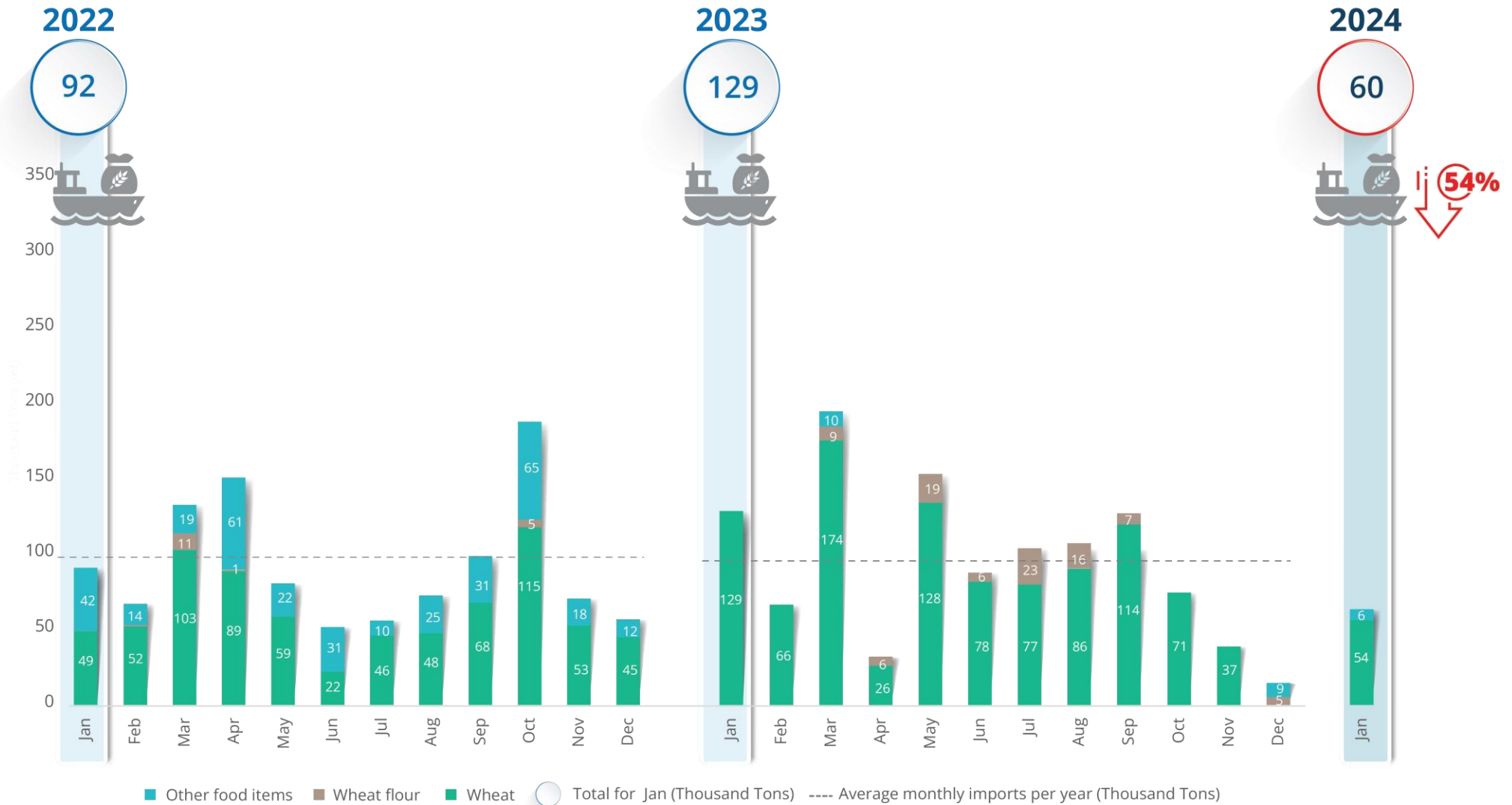
Food Imports (Al Hodeidah and As Salif ports)



Source: UNVIM until Apr 2023. The figures of May 2023 – Jan 2024 are based on the data from Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation



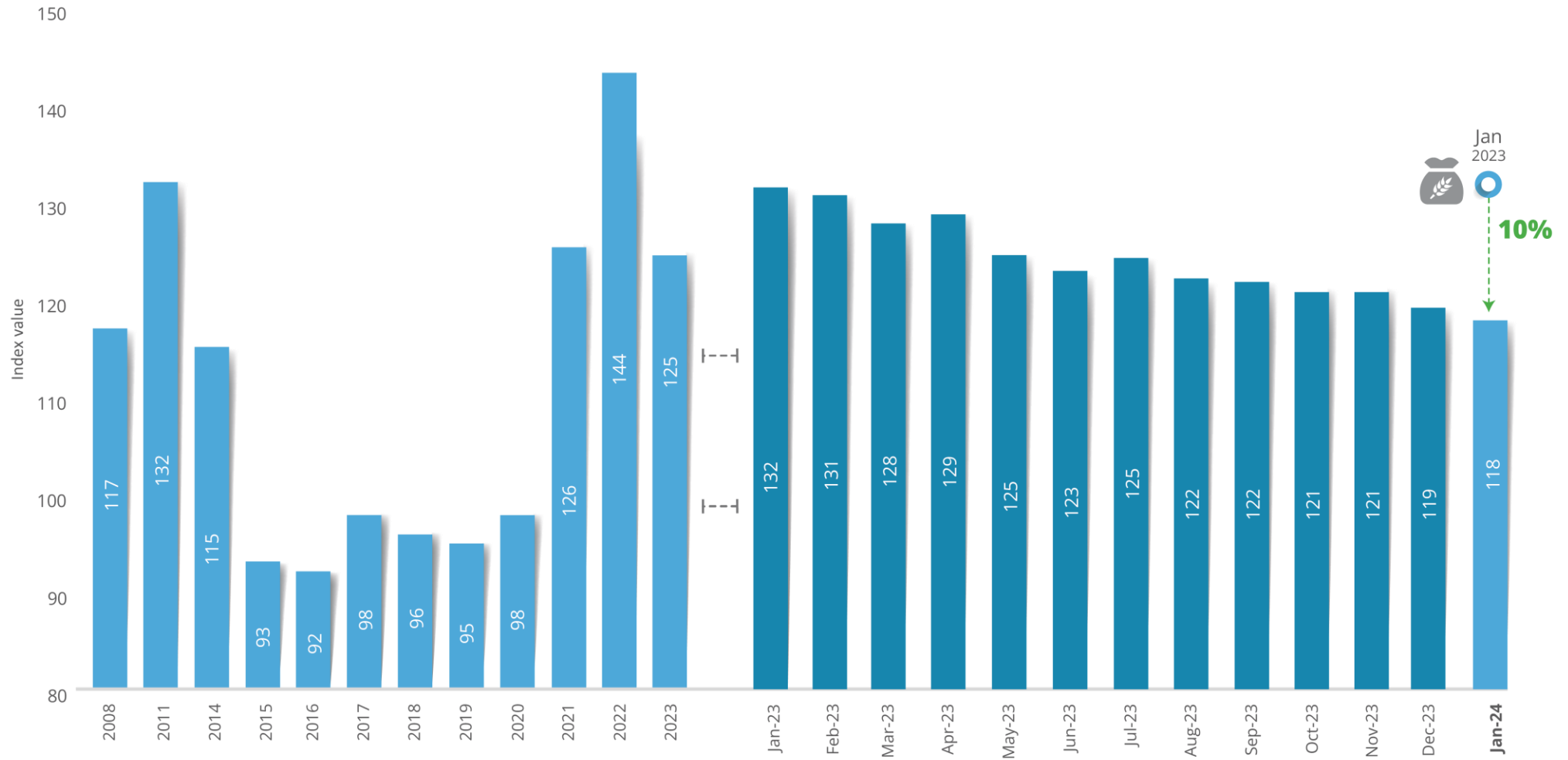
Food Imports (Aden and Mukalla Ports)



Source: Aden Ports Authority
 The figures of December 2023 and January 2024 are based on the data from Wilhelmsen due to the absence of data from Aden Ports Authority



Global food prices

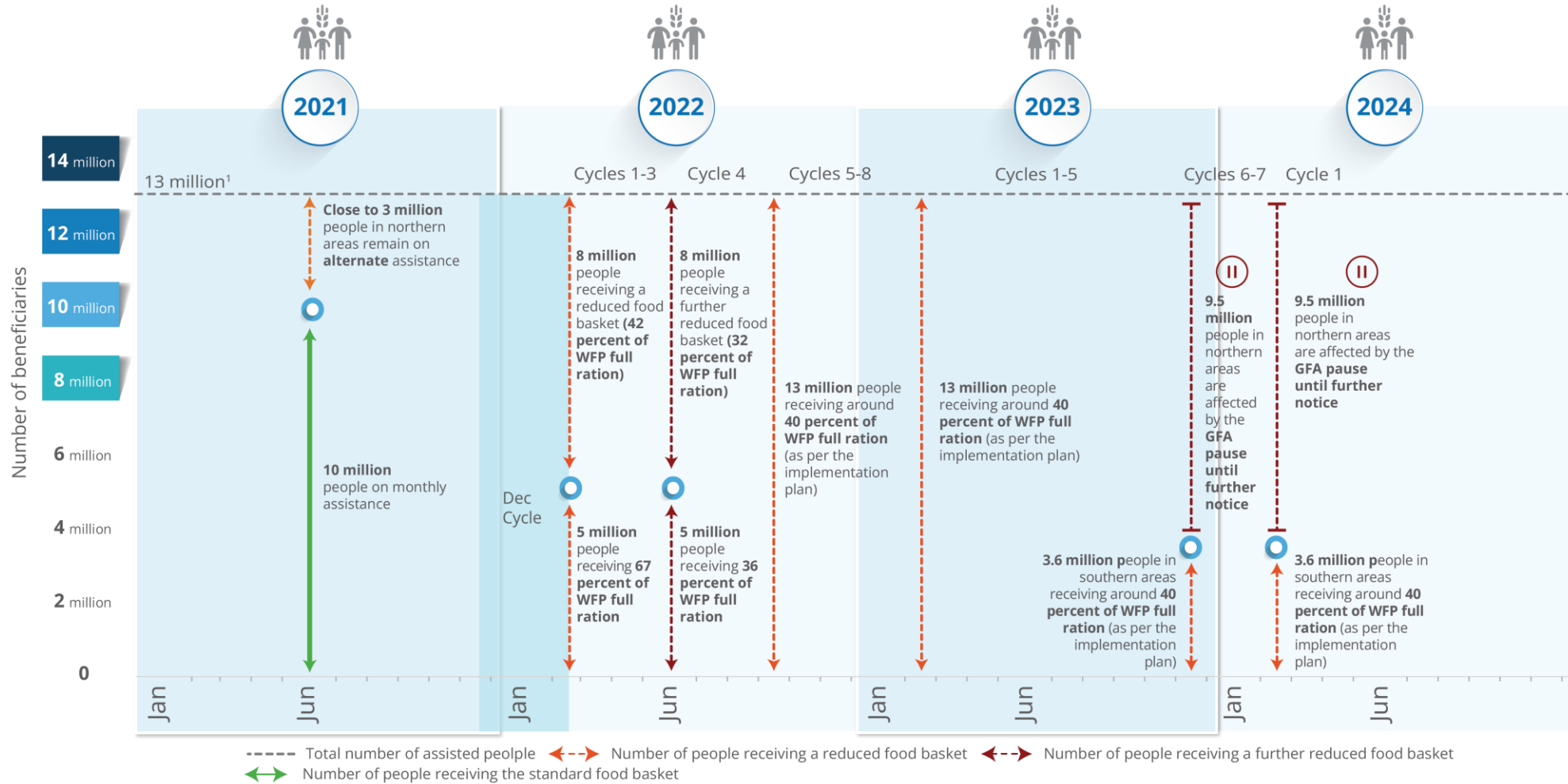


Source: FAO global food price index (FFPI)

The decline of the global FFPI during Jan 2023 – Jan 2024 was mainly driven by the decrease in the subindexes for cereals, dairy and oils by 19, 18 and 13 percent respectively. In January 2024, the FAO Sugar Price Index remained 16 percent higher than its level recorded in January 2023.



Humanitarian food assistance*



*WFP food assistance, all figures are rounded

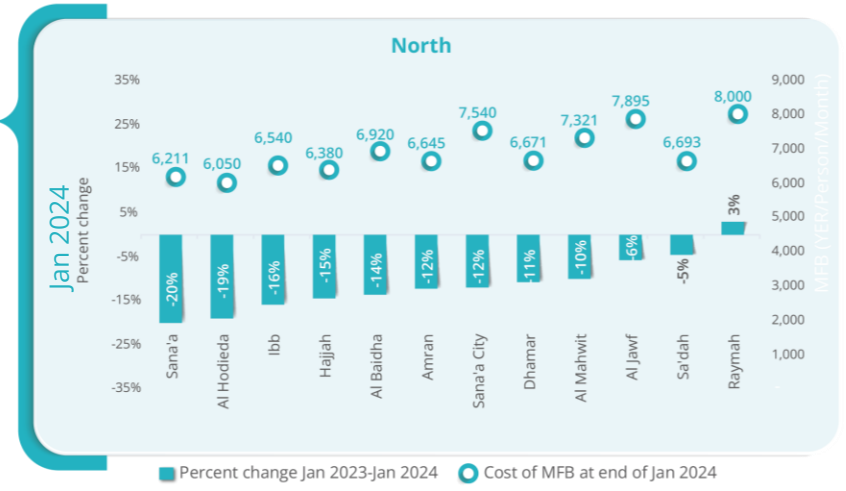
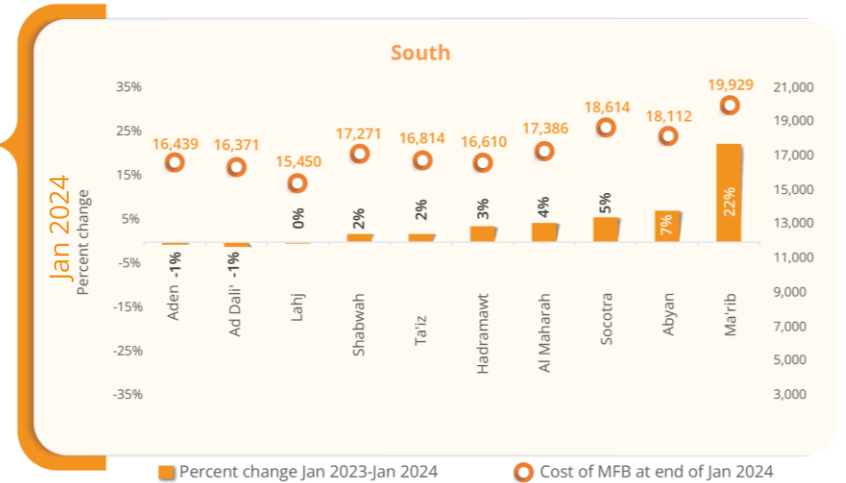
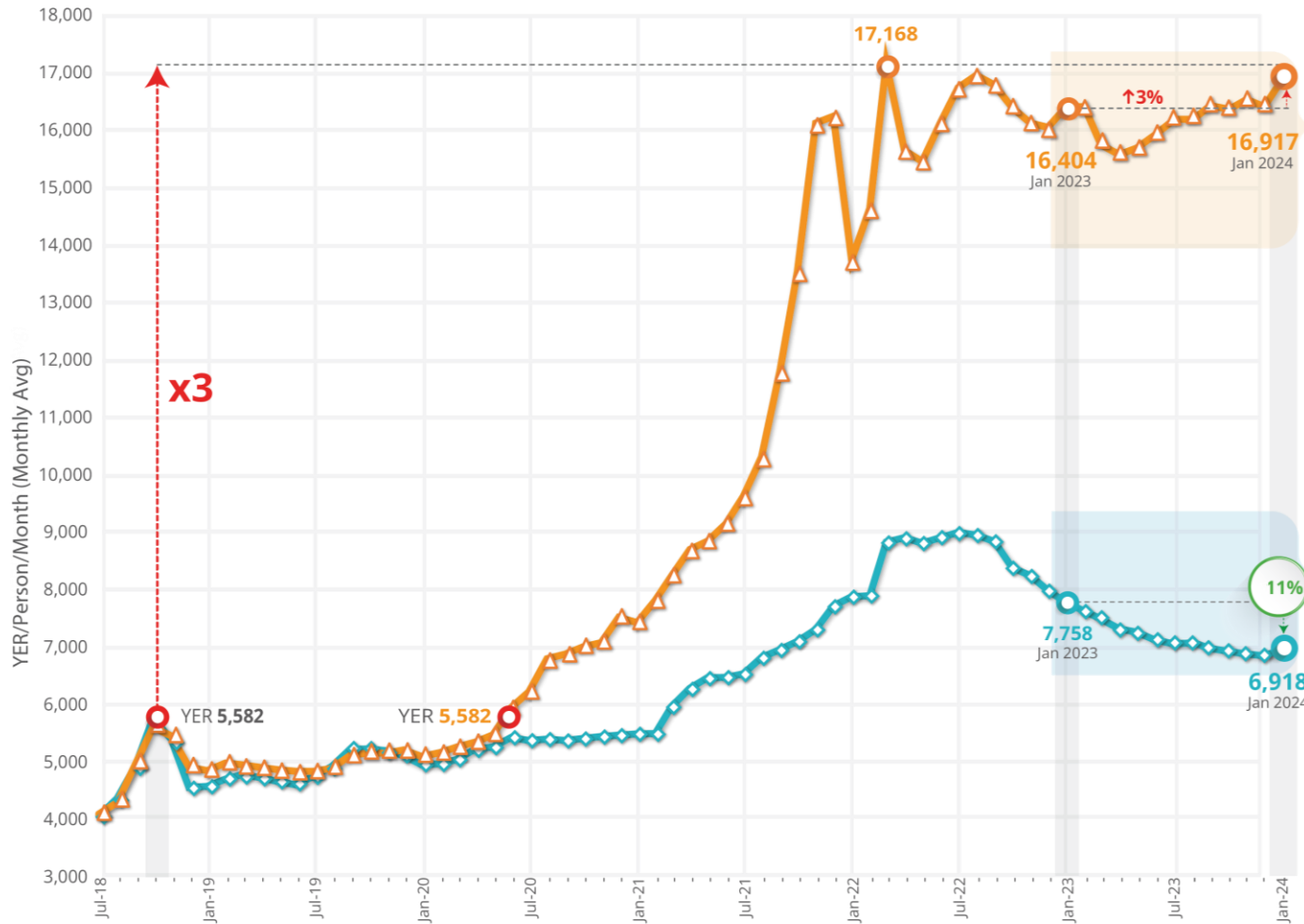
1 The figures reflect the implementation plan

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

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Contact information:

Richard Ragan, WFP Country Director, wfp.sanaa@wfp.org

Riham Abuismail, Head of Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM), riham.abuismail@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: Abdullah Alharazi, OIM Unit, abdullah.alharazi@wfp.org