Fuel imports through Hudaydah decreased by 91 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared to quarter four of 2020. In February 2021, fuel import levels dropped to zero for the first time. The decrease is due to an ongoing dispute between the Government of Yemen (GoY) and de facto Houthi authorities over revenues from fuel imports through Hudaydah. In March, GoY allowed four fuel vessels to enter the port, carrying the equivalent of about one half of an average month's supply of fuel.

Food imports through Hudaydah and Saleef for the first quarter of 2021 increased by 45 per cent compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. In January 2021, food imports were the highest level ever recorded since UNVIM began tracking – reaching 144 per cent of the pre-blockade monthly average. In general, food import volumes have been in line with or above average levels in recent months.

Fuel prices in March 2021 were on average more than 300% higher than before the conflict. The ongoing fuel shortages reported across the country are a contributing factor to the increase of diesel prices in Q1 2021. Between the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, diesel prices increased by 36 per cent. Within quarter one, prices increased by 40 per cent from January to March.

Fuel imports via Hudaydah Port

Food imports via Red Sea ports

Diesel Prices in Yemeni Rial and % change since Jan 2015

Food basket prices increased on a monthly basis within the first quarter of 2021. In March 2021, prices were more than 200 per cent higher than the pre-crisis average. Compared to quarter four of 2020, food basket prices increased by 8 per cent in first quarter of 2021. Continuing price rises may reflect the volatility of the Yemeni rial. Food basket data represents the national average.