During January 2016, the number of ships berthing, as well as the volume of food and fuel imports into Yemen increased compared to December 2015. This has led to increases in the availability of both food and fuel in local markets, resulting in a decrease in prices. Fuel imports, however, still remain 15 per cent lower than pre-crisis monthly requirements.

Monthly food imports and price fluctuation

Commercial and humanitarian food imports in January 2016 increased by 29 per cent compared to December 2015 and by 5 per cent compared to November 2015. This month, humanitarian food imports constituted 11 per cent. This improvement in supply has led to a decrease in food prices in some governorates, mostly where markets are functioning well. Overall, however, food prices in January 2016 dropped 12 per cent from December 2015 to settle at two per cent higher than pre-crisis levels.

Fuel imports in January 2016 increased significantly, reaching 464,138 MT, compared to 82,699 MT in December 2015. The January 2016 imports represent 85 per cent of monthly needs, with fuel availability improving in most governorates, especially at parallel markets. The average monthly price of fuel in January 2016 dropped in most governorates compared to December 2015.

Status of ships at ports per month (Jun 2015 - Jan 2016)

Despite a number of reported bureaucratic delays for ships entering Yemeni ports, a 26 per cent increase in the number of ships berthing was recorded in January 2016. A total of 77 ships berthed compared to 61 ships in December 2015, representing the highest number of ships since April 2015. This includes 48 ships at berth in Al Hudaydah, 17 in Aden, 11 in Saleef, one in Al Mukalla and one in Nishtun.

Average delays in entering ports (Dec 2015 and Jan 2016)

The capacity of the ports to absorb the increase in ships berthing is not sufficient to meet demand. Delays are still taking place in all major ports, with the highest delays in ships reported at anchorage. In January 2016, Al Hudaydah and Aden ports experienced higher delays at anchorage and slight decreases in delays at berth.