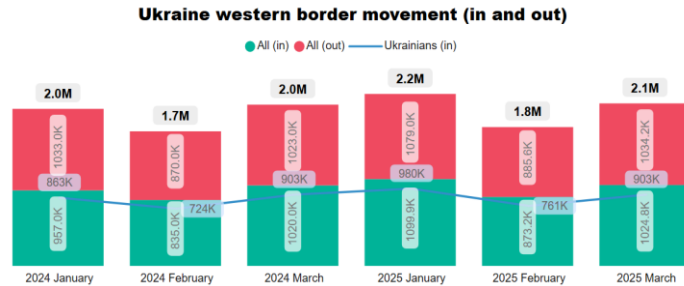


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

The monitoring findings are based on individual interviews conducted with people crossing the border, both those entering and exiting Ukraine and other observations made by the border monitors. As of 2025, a revised monitoring tool was deployed.



### Key cross-border mobility trends

- In Q1/2025, overall, the levels of cross-border mobility in the first three months of 2025 mirror those of Q1/2024, with notable yet temporary decline in cross-border mobility in February of both years.
- The downward trend in cross-border mobility that set in in September 2024 and prevailed throughout Q4/2024, with a only a slight uptake in December 2024, further continued in Q1/2025 with some 700K less border crossings in total compared to Q4/2024.
- During the first three months of 2025, the net inflow of 21K of January was at par with the combined net outflow of February (12K) and March (9K).

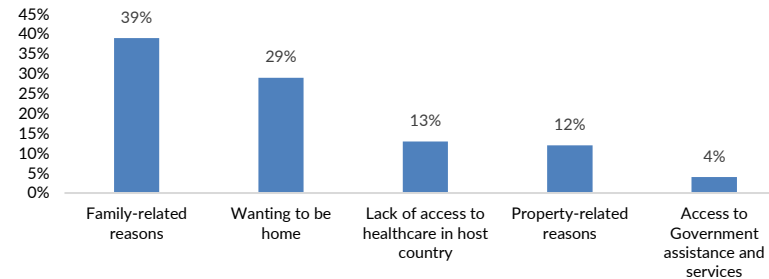
### Border monitoring trends: Returns to Ukraine

- In Q1/2025, [family-related reasons](#) were the overriding reason for people to return to Ukraine followed by the [desire wanting to be home](#). The need to [check on property](#) left behind and [struggles to access healthcare](#) in host countries remained prevalent considerations for returning to Ukraine, while 4% indicated that they are coming to Ukraine to [access Government assistance and services](#). Only 1% noted improvements in the security situation in the area of origin as a factor for returning.
- As in 2024, short-term stays remained most prevalent in Q1/2025, with [66% saying they intend to stay in Ukraine for less than one month](#), while one quarter of respondents was uncertain about the duration of stay. 8% of respondents intended to stay in Ukraine permanently.

### Border monitoring trends: Departures from Ukraine

- In Q1/2025, on average, 17% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022. 13% said that they are departing to seek safety abroad.
- 10% of respondents in Q1 said they were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). For 40% of them, this contributed to their decision to leave Ukraine
- [Nearly all respondents noted safety and security concerns as a main reason for their departure](#) throughout Q1. Concerns over their access to electricity remained the second most important factor, on average reported by nearly 8% of respondents.
- In Q1/2025, on average, 70% of surveyed individuals were unsure about the [period of their stay abroad](#). 7% of respondents intended to stay abroad permanently. Unlike for those who return to Ukraine, short-term stays abroad are least popular at 5%.
- In Q1/2025, on average, 60% indicate that they [intend to return to Ukraine should the situation stabilize](#), with gradually increasing positive responses from January to March. One third of respondents was unsure and 7% indicated that they would not return, even should the situation stabilize matching the 7% of those who departed Ukraine permanently.
- [Improvements in the security situation remains the dominant factor influencing return decisions](#) for an average of 56% of respondents in Q1, followed by access to job opportunities and a stabilization of the energy situation back home, each reported by an average of 18%. The cut or closure of assistance programmes in host country was a factor for returns for 4%, with small increases each month.

### Main reasons to return to Ukraine January to March 2025

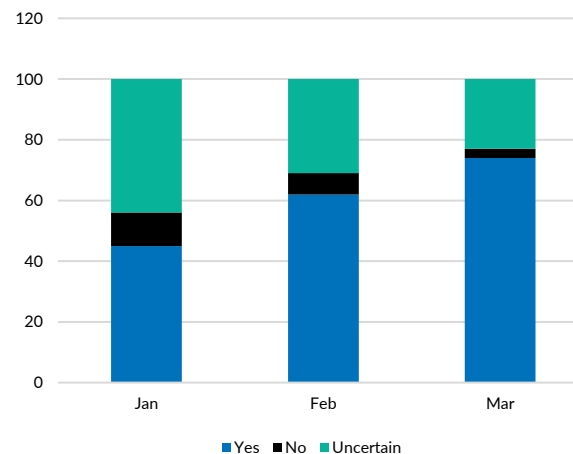


In Q1/2025, monitors conducted [5,475 individual interviews](#) at the borders. Of those 79% were departing, and 21% were entering Ukraine.

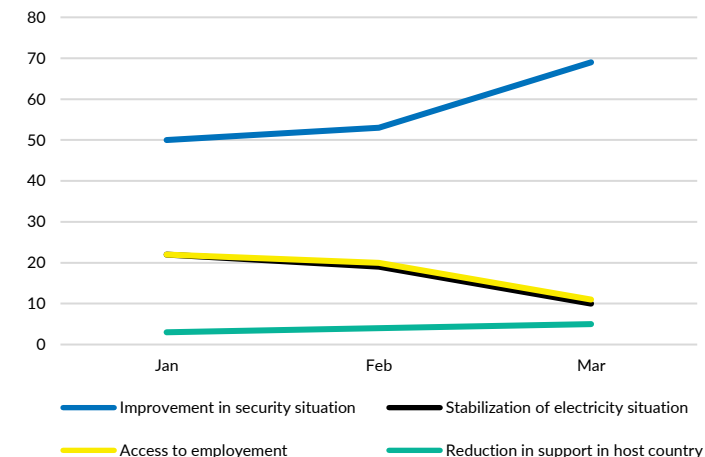
**Entering Ukraine:** 1,123 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine in Q1/2025. Of those, 87% were female and 13% were male respondents. 12% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

**Departing Ukraine:** 4,357 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine. 72% of respondents were female and 28% male. 11% of respondents were above 60 years.

### Intention to return should the situation stabilize January to March 2025



### Factors influencing return decisions January to March 2025



The border monitoring teams provide information, legal assistance, protection counselling and social support to people leaving Ukraine to seek international protection as well as to those returning to Ukraine. In Q1/2025, [nearly 2,650 people received support at the borders](#).