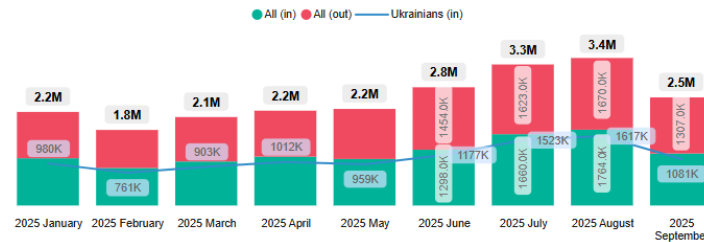


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

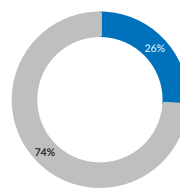
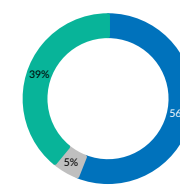
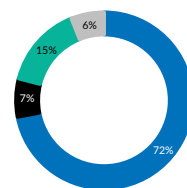
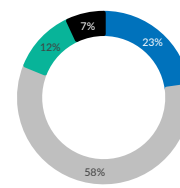
The monitoring findings are based on individual interviews conducted with people crossing the border, both those entering and exiting Ukraine and other observations made by the border monitors. As of 2025, a revised monitoring tool was deployed.

Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Key cross-border mobility trends

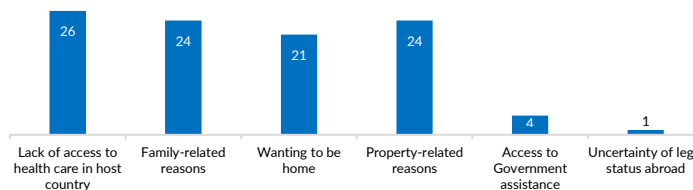
- In September 2025, over 2.5 million border crossings were recorded – a significant decrease of over 900K from August 2025.
- While overall border crossing trends in 2025 continue to align with those observed in 2024, in September 2025, some 200K more border crossings were recorded than in September 2024.
- In September 2025, and contrary to July and August 2025, outbound movements dominated, with 97K more individuals leaving the country than entering – the second highest net outflow recorded since the beginning of 2025 to date. While in September 2024, outbound trends also dominated, they stood at 45K.

Border monitoring trends for September 2025: Departures from Ukraine

- 26% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022 (8% increase compared to August) – the highest figure since the beginning of 2025 to date. 16% reported that they were departing to seek safety abroad and 13% were returning to countries where they have temporary protection.
- 8% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, some 17% said that this contributed to their decision to leave Ukraine.
- 98% of those interviewed noted security concerns as a main reason for their departure. Fear of conscription and temporary occupation of their home areas followed, reported by 8.1% and 4.4%, respectively. The rise in conscripted-related departures (up from 1.5% in August) may relate to recent legal changes allowing men aged 18–22 to cross the border. Inadequate housing was noted by 2.4%, while totally 3.2% cited lack of heating, water, and electricity.
- 72% of surveyed individuals were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#). 15% planned to stay 1-12 months, 6% for less than a month, and 7% permanently. Figures remained consistent with August 2025, showing only a 1–2% variation.
- Of those interviewed, 56% indicated that they [intended to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize (3% increase compared to August), while 39% were unsure and 5% indicated that they would not return (3% decrease compared to August). 53% the respondents mentioned that the main factor for their return would be an improvement of the security situation, while access to livelihoods and stabilization of the access to electricity were mentioned by 21% each.

 First-time departure since Feb 2022
 September 2025

 Intention to return should the situation stabilize
 September 2025

 Intended duration of stay abroad
 September 2025

 Intended duration of stay in Ukraine
 September 2025

Border monitoring trends for September 2025: Returns to Ukraine

- 59% of respondents reported planning a short-term [stay in Ukraine](#) of less than one month – a 3% increase from August. 23% were uncertain about the length of stay, an 8% increase from August. 12% planned to stay 1–12 months. 7% intended to return permanently – 10% decrease from August.
- Limited access to healthcare in the host country was the primary [reason for return to Ukraine](#) reported by 26% of respondents. This was followed by family-related reasons and the need to check on property each mentioned by 24% of respondents. Other reported reasons included homesickness (21%), access to government services (4%) and uncertainty regarding legal status abroad (1%).
- 22% of respondents indicated Kyiv and Kyivska oblast as their [return destination](#), followed by Odeska oblast (18%), and Kharkivska (16%).

 Top reasons for returning to Ukraine
 September 2025


In September 2025, monitors conducted [1,626 individual interviews](#) at the borders. Of those 80% were departing, and 20% were entering Ukraine.

Entering Ukraine: Of 318 interviewed, 72% were female and 28% were male respondents. 22% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

Departing Ukraine: of 1,308 interviewees departing Ukraine, 67% were female and 33% male. 14% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

Reporting by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

- In September 2025, the SBGS published updates on smuggling-related arrests and detentions, including the exposure of illegal border crossing schemes. The updates also reported on intercepted attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border irregularly, both individually and in groups.
- The SBGS [published](#) information about the testing of the new Entry/Exit System (EES) in the EU, which was implemented on the Polish side of the Shehyni BCP in Lvivska oblast. The announcement also noted the possibility of delays at the border due to the new system. As of 12 October, the EES is expected to come into force. The new system applies to short-term stays of up to 90 days within any 180-day period. Passports will no longer be stamped at border crossings; instead, entries and exits will be recorded digitally, including the collection of photos, fingerprints, and other biometric data.

In September 2025, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted 252 monitoring visits to the monitored BCPs. During these visits, [UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to 594 individuals](#). This support included counselling of 490 people, the provision of legal assistance to 91 people, while 37 persons were provided with transportation services and 26 persons received social accompaniment.