

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.

In Q4 of 2025, monitors conducted [5,190 individual interviews](#) at the borders. Of those 80% were departing, and 20% were entering Ukraine.

**Entering Ukraine:** 1,018 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine in the Q4. Of those, 72% were female and 28% were male respondents. 22% were above the age of 60 years.

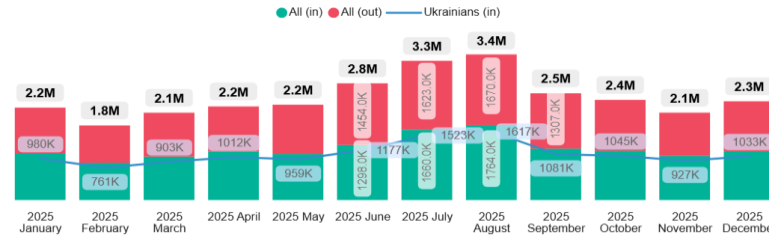
**Departing Ukraine:** 4,172 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine in Q4. 68% of respondents were female and 33% male. 13% of respondents were above 60 years.

**Main reasons to return to Ukraine**  
Q1 to Q4 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 Q4/2025, over [2,340 people received support at the borders](#).

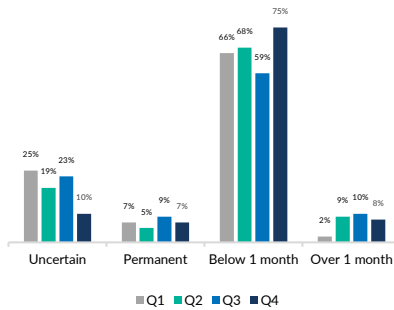
**Ukraine western border movement (in and out)**



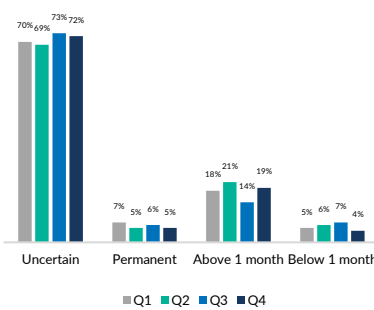
**Key cross-border mobility trends**

- In the first three quarters of 2025, the overall levels of cross-border mobility increased quarter by quarter, from 6.1 million crossings in Q1, to over 7.2 million in Q2, reaching over 9.2 million in Q3, followed by a drop in Q4 to 6.8 million.
- Q4/2025 saw decreasing cross-border mobility in October and November, followed by a slight uptake in December. These Q4 trends mirror those of 2024.
- Outbound movements dominated in Q4 with 45K more people departing than arriving. In November 2025 however, unlike in 2024, inbound movements prevailed with 20K.

**Intended duration of stay in Ukraine**  
Q1 to Q4 2025



**Intended duration of stay abroad**  
Q1 to Q4 2025



**Border monitoring trends: Returns to Ukraine – Q4 2025**

- In Q4/2025, returns to Ukraine due to [struggles to access health care in host countries](#) (32%), remained the main reason for returning, followed by homesickness (24%) and family-related reasons (18%) and the need to check on property left behind (17%). 4% indicated that they are coming to Ukraine to access Government assistance and services.
- In terms of intended duration of stay in Ukraine, short-term stays remained most prevalent in Q4/2025 with [75% saying they intend to stay in Ukraine for less than one month](#), the highest quarterly percentage in 2025. 10% were uncertain about their duration of stay, 8% planned to stay in Ukraine for over 1 month, while 7% planned to return permanently, a decrease by 2% compared to Q3.

**Border monitoring trends: Departures from Ukraine – Q4 2025**

- 28% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022, an increase by 9% from Q3. 20% reportedly departed to seek safety abroad, an increase by 5% from Q3.
- 8% of respondents said they were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). For 23% 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 the year. While in Q1, the second most important reason for departing was the lack of electricity, in Q2 and Q3 occupation of homes was more relevant. In Q4, mobilization fears as well as energy-related reasons, including lack of access to electricity, heating and water, were the most dominant reasons for departure, following safety and security concerns.
- 72% of respondents were unsure about the [period of their stay abroad](#). 5% of respondents intended to stay abroad permanently. Unlike for those who return to Ukraine, short-term stays abroad are less popular reported at 4%.
- 55% indicate that they [intend to return to Ukraine should the situation stabilize](#), a decrease by 1% from Q3. Over one third of respondents, 37%, was unsure and 7% indicated that they would not return, even should the situation stabilize aligning with the 5% of those who reportedly departed Ukraine permanently.
- [Improvements in the security situation remains the dominant factor influencing return decisions](#) for 45% of respondents, followed by a stabilization of the energy situation back home (29%) and access to job opportunities (24%). The cut or closure of assistance programmes in host countries was a factor for returns for 2% of respondents.

**Energy-related reasons for departure**  
Jan to Dec 2025

