

# Border monitoring: Departures related to the energy situation

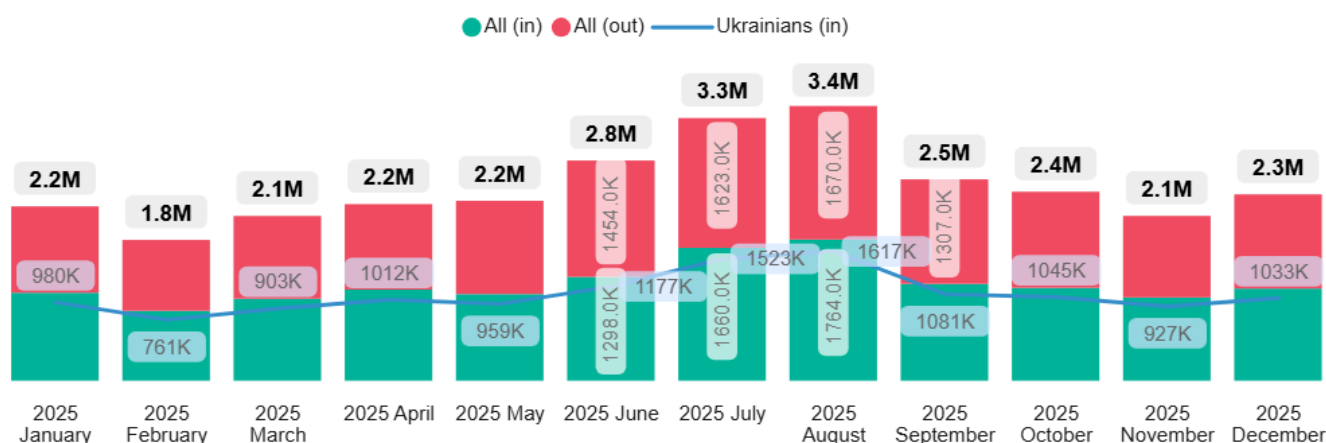
## Ad hoc report – January to December 2025

In 2025, the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine recorded 29.2 million border crossings between Ukraine and its EU neighbours. UNHCR and its 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 since mid-March 2022.

### Overview on cross-border movements in 2025

In 2025, along its western borders, the SBGS recorded 29.2 million border crossings. Of those, 14.7 million were outgoing, and 14.5 million incoming. Overall, this constitutes an increase of over 1 million border crossings compared to 2024, when 28.1 million cross-border movements were recorded by the SBGS. Similar to 2025, in 2024, slightly higher outgoing movements were observed.

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

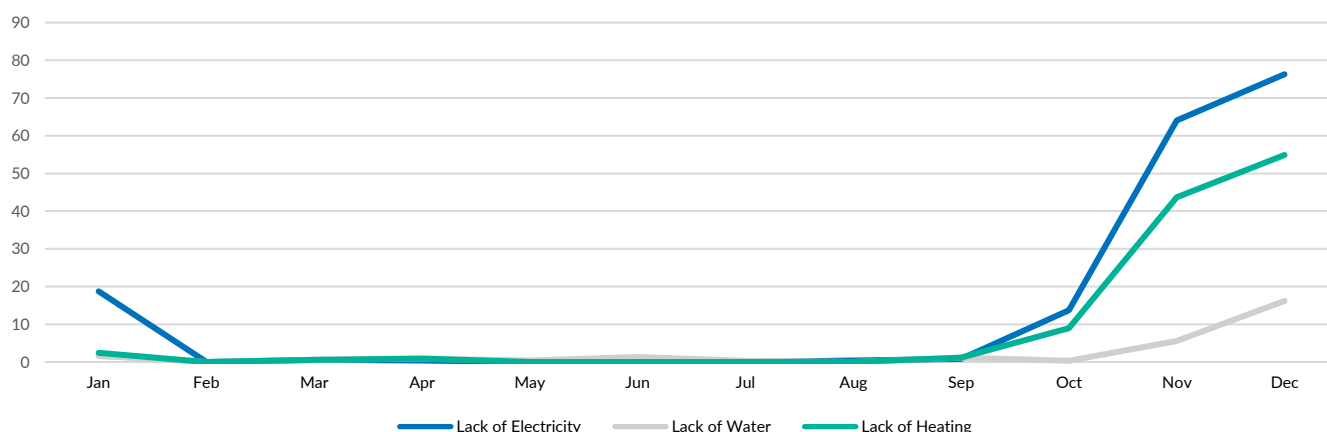


In 2025, UNHCR’s partners conducted over 22,000 interviews at the borders. 80% of interviews were carried out with people departing Ukraine, and 20% with people arriving to Ukraine. The following border monitoring findings are based on these interviews.

### Departures related to the energy situation in 2025: overview

While in quarter 4 of 2025 cross-border movements overall decreased, departures related to the impact of the war on the energy situation – notably challenging access to electricity, heating and water – began to increase in October 2025 and rose further in November and December 2025, notably as winter conditions set in.

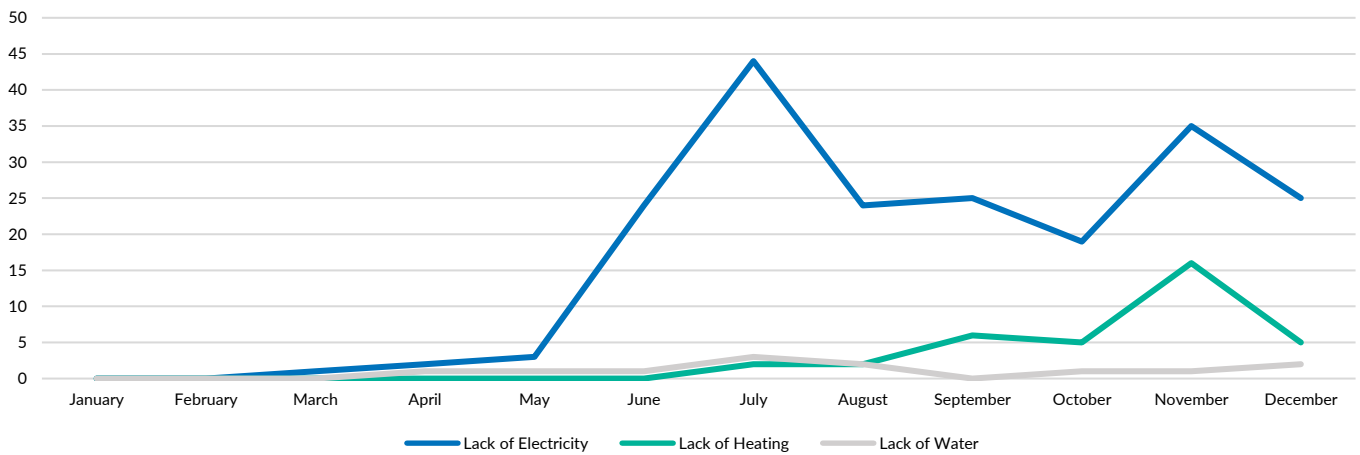
Energy-related reasons for departures  
Jan to Dec 2025



### Energy situation-related departures: comparison 2024 - 2025

In both years, lack of electricity was the most relevant of the three energy situation-related factors for departures, followed by lack of heating and lack of water. However, in 2025, energy situation-related departures started to surge later in the year. In 2024, initial increases in such departures began in June with the onset of Russia’s attacks against Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. In 2025, the main such increase started in October. In 2024, energy situation-related departures related to lack of electricity peaked in July, while lack of heating was most challenging in November. Lack of water contributed only minimally to departures. In 2025, a gradual increase in departures related to all three energy situation-related reasons – electricity, heating, water – was observed from October to December 2025. In 2024, no such gradual increase in such departures was observed. Energy situation-related departures tend to mirror attacks on energy the energy infrastructure, explaining the different patterns observed in 2024 and 2025.

Energy-related reasons for departures  
Jan to Dec 2024



Considering the relentless attacks affecting Ukraine’s energy system coupled with the deterioration of winter conditions, it is anticipated that trends observed in the last quarter of 2025 will continue to prevail in early 2026.