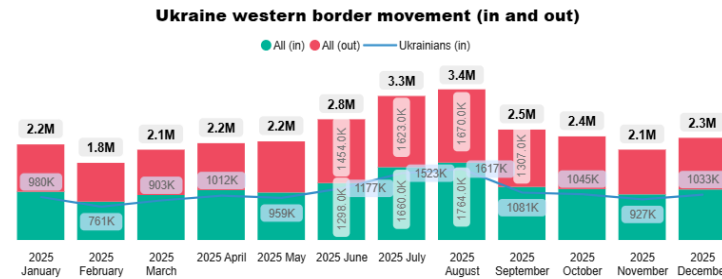


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

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.



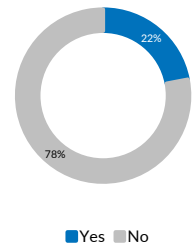
Key cross-border mobility trends

- In December 2025, the SBGS recorded 2.3 million border crossings, reflecting an increase of more than 200K compared to November, and marking the typical holiday-season uptake in cross-border mobility. This pattern is consistent with trends observed in 2024.
- Despite higher overall cross-border mobility in 2025 compared to 2024, cross-border mobility in December 2025 was lower by 100K than in December 2024.
- In December 2025, outbound movement prevailed with a reported net outflow of 25K.

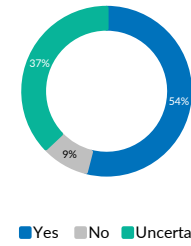
Border monitoring trends for December 2025: Departures from Ukraine

- 22% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022 (6% decrease compared to November). 21% reported departing to seek safety abroad and 16% were returning to the TP countries – same figures as for November 2025.
- Nearly 8% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, 21% said that this influenced their decision to leave.
- 95% of those interviewed noted security concerns as a main reason for their departure. [Energy-related reasons were the second most frequently reported drivers for departure](#): 76% reported electricity issues, nearly 55% heating problems, and 16% water shortages, representing a 10–12% increase across all three energy-related factors compared to November. Occupation of areas of residence was mentioned by 7% (increase by almost 3% compared to November and by 5% in October). Fear of conscription was mentioned by 3% (6% and 12% decrease compared to November and October respectively).
- 74% of surveyed individuals were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#) (as in November). 17% planned to stay 1-12 months (3% decrease from November). 3% reported plans to stay less than a month (1% decrease compared to November), while 5% planned to stay abroad permanently – a 3% increase from November.
- 54% of respondents indicated their [intention to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize (3% decrease compared to November), while 37% were unsure and 9% stated that they would not return. 43% of the respondents mentioned that the [main factor for their return](#) would be an improvement of the security situation, while stabilization of the access to electricity and access to livelihoods were mentioned by 31% and 24% respectively, similar to November.

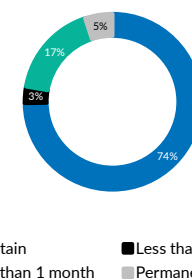
First-time departure since Feb 2022
December 2025



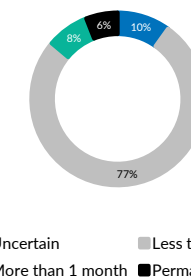
Intention to return should the situation stabilize
December 2025



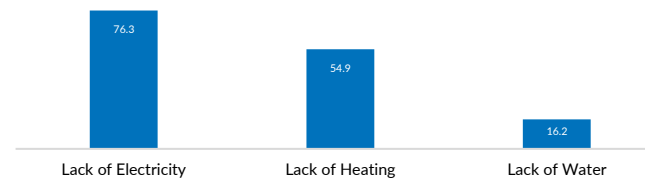
Intended duration of stay abroad
December 2025



Intended duration of stay in Ukraine
December 2025



Energy-related reasons for departing
December 2025



Border monitoring trends for December 2025: Returns to Ukraine

- 77% of respondents reported planning a short-term [stay in Ukraine](#) of less than one month – a 6% increase compared to November. 10% were uncertain about the length of stay, and 8% planned to stay 1–12 months, each reflecting a 2% decrease compared to November. 6% intended to return permanently (1% decrease).
- Limited access to healthcare in the host country was [the primary reason for visiting Ukraine](#) mentioned by 28% of respondents in December. This was followed by homesickness and family-related reasons reported by 26% and 24% respectively. Other reported reasons included the need to check on property (18%), uncertainty regarding legal status abroad (2%) and high cost of living abroad (1%).

In December 2025, monitors conducted [1494 individual interviews](#) at the borders. Of those 80% were departing, and 20% were entering Ukraine.

[Entering Ukraine](#): 248 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine in December 2025. Of those, 76% were female and 24% were male respondents. 24% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

[Departing Ukraine](#): 1,246 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine. 68% of respondents were female and 33% male. 13% of respondents were above 60 years.

Reporting by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

- In December 2025, the SBGS published updates on smuggling-related arrests and detentions, including the exposure of illegal border crossing schemes. The updates included reports of intercepted attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border irregularly, both individually and in groups. Overall, the number of such publications in December was lower compared to previous months.
- From mid-December onward, the SBGS [issued](#) reports indicating increased passenger traffic, mainly at border crossing points in the Lviv and Volyn regions; however, on 30 December, it [reported](#) a decrease in traffic intensity.
- On 18 December, the SBGS [reported](#) that in Odesa region, as a result of a Russian air attack, traffic to certain border crossing points to the state border with Moldova was restricted. According to border monitors, the route was re-opened two days later.

In December 2025, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted 237 monitoring visits to the monitored BCPs. During these visits, [UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to 914 individuals](#). This support included counselling of 817 people, provision of legal assistance to 123 people, while 38 persons received social accompaniment and 38 persons were provided with transportation services.