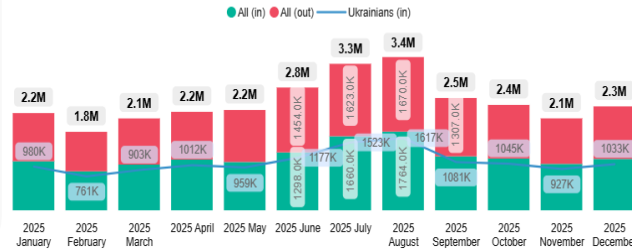


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

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.

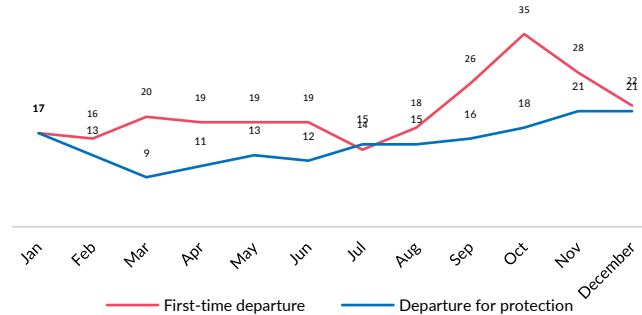
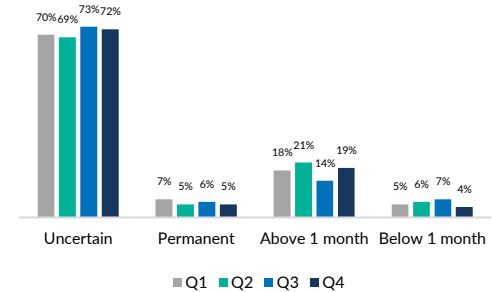
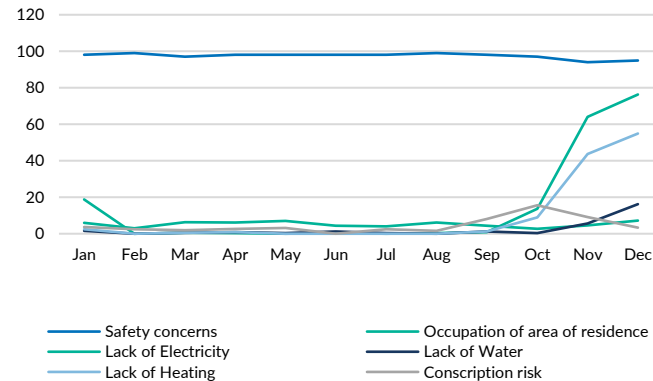
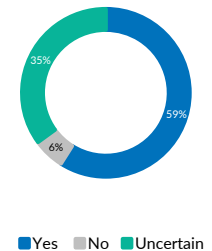
Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Key cross-border mobility trends

- In 2025, a total of 29.2 million border crossings were recorded – an increase of 1.1 million compared to 2024. In 2025,
- Cross-border movements in 2025 generally reflected patterns observed in 2024: A gradual and slow increase in movements in spring followed by the seasonal rise in cross-border movements in summer and the ensuing drop in such movements in September with lower cross-border movements in the last quarter of the year, with only a slight uptake in December due to holiday-related movements.
- A main difference between cross-border movements in 2024 and 2025 was that 2025 saw net inflows more frequently and in higher numbers. While in 2024, net inflows were recorded for three months totaling 167K, in 2025, net inflows were recorded in five months totaling 241K.
- In 2025, the largest net outflow was recorded in June, when 156K more individuals exited than entered the country. Conversely, the largest net inflow occurred in August 2025, with 94K more entries than exits.

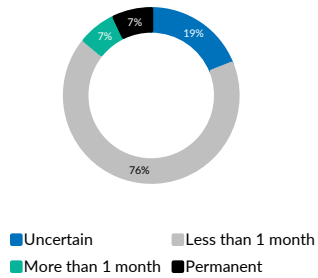
In 2025, border monitors conducted **22,100 individual interviews**. Of those 80% were departing, and 20% were entering Ukraine. 4,345 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine in 2025. Of those, 78% were female and 22% were male respondents. 16% of respondents were above the age of 60 years. 17,755 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine. 70% of respondents were female and 30% were male. 12% of respondents were above 60 years. Border monitors provide information, legal assistance, protection counselling and social support to people leaving Ukraine as well as to those returning to Ukraine. In 2025, over 9,600 people received support at the borders.

Border monitoring trends: Departures from Ukraine

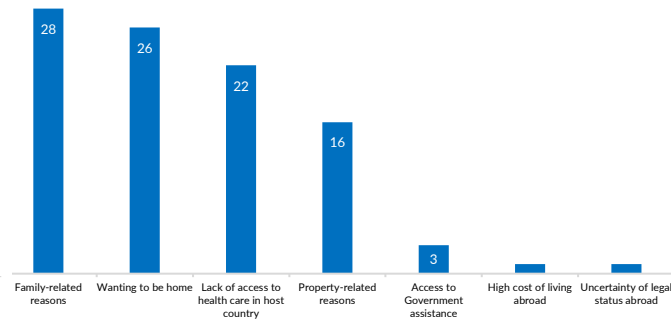
- In 2025, an average of 22% of respondents reported [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022. While the average share in the first half of the year was 18%, it rose to 24% in the second half. From September to December, it even increased to 28%. This increase is most likely linked to amendments to border-crossing rules allowing men aged 18–22 to leave the country, which entered into force at the end of August. The highest share was recorded in October, when 35% of respondents reported departing for the first time.
- On average in 2025, 15% of respondents were [leaving to seek safety](#) and 15% were returning to countries where they hold temporary protection. The highest percentage of people departing to seek safety abroad was recorded in November and December, when 21% reported travelling to seek safety.
- 9% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, 28% said that displacement situation influenced their decision to leave.
- In 2025, 97% of respondents cited security concerns [as their main reason for departure](#), making this the predominant reason for departure throughout the year. Energy-related reasons for departure started to surge from October onwards. In the fourth quarter of 2025, 51% of respondents reported electricity-related issues as a reason for departure, with levels peaking in December at 76%. Heating-related problems were cited by nearly 38% of respondents in Q4, rising to a peak of 55% in December, while water shortages were reported by 7.3% in Q4, also peaking in December at 16.2%. Fear of conscription was reported by an average of 5% of respondents. Similar to trends observed for first-time departures, this factor was cited more frequently from September 2025 onwards, increasing from an average of 3% earlier in the year to 8%, 16%, and 9% in September, October, and November 2025, respectively. Occupation of the area of residence was reported as a reason for departure by an average of 5% of respondents.
- In 2025, 71% of surveyed individuals were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#) – a consistent figure throughout year and 17% higher than in 2024. 18% planned to stay 1-12 months, while 5% reported plans to stay less than a month. 6% planned to stay abroad permanently.
- In 2025, 59% of respondents indicated their [intention to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize with a peak in March at 74% and lowest reporting in January at 45%. 35% of respondents were unsure whether they would return and 6% stated that they would not return.
- The vast majority of respondents (52%) mentioned that the [main factor influencing their return](#) would be an improvement of the security situation, while stabilization of the access to electricity and access to livelihoods were mentioned by 22% and 21%, respectively. For now, a reduction in support in host countries is only mentioned by 2% of respondents.

First-time departures & departures to seek safety
 January to December 2025

Intended duration of stay abroad
 Q1 to Q4 2025

Main reasons for departure
 January to December 2025

Intention to return should the situation stabilize
 January - December 2025


Intended duration of stay in Ukraine
January - December 2025



Top reasons for returning to Ukraine
January - December 2025



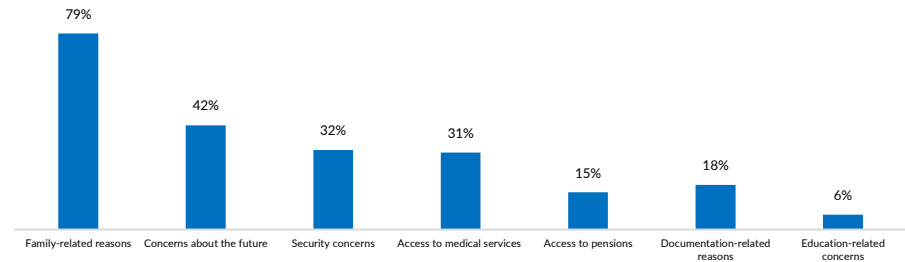
Border monitoring trends: Returns to Ukraine

- While in the first half of 2025 family-related reasons (33%) and homesickness (28%) were the predominant reasons for return to Ukraine, this pattern shifted in the second half of 2025, when difficulties in accessing health care in host countries emerged as the main reason for return (30%). Over the year, the fourth most frequently reported reason for return was the need to check on property in Ukraine (16%). Access to governmental assistance was cited by 3% of respondents as a reason for return. Other additional factors included high living costs and uncertainty regarding legal status abroad, reported by 2% and 1% of respondents, respectively.
- Intended periods of stay in Ukraine remained broadly similar to 2024. In 2025, an average of 7% of respondents reported an intention to remain permanently in Ukraine, unchanged from 2024. Short-term stay intentions declined, from 85% of respondents intending to stay for less than one month in 2024 to 67% in 2025. However, overall, also in 2025, short-term visits of less than one month remained the predominant duration of stay for those arriving to Ukraine. An average of 19% of respondents were uncertain about the duration of their stay in Ukraine; this share was lowest in Q4 at 10% and highest in Q1 at 25%. 7% of respondents planned a medium-term stay of 1–12 months.

Key findings on arrivals at the Domanove BCP

- In 2025, 10,569 Ukrainians arrived through the Domanove corridor, including 902 children (almost 9%), with the highest numbers of arrival of 4358 and 3636 people reported in Q3 and Q4, respectively. Arrival through this corridor requires valid Ukrainian documents, which may include return certificates, typically obtained at the Ukrainian consulate in Minsk. The duration of the travel depends on the place of origin and is reported to last 2 to 3 days. The border crossing procedure itself can take up to 5 hours.
- In 2025, border monitors conducted 1505 interviews with arrivals through the Domanove corridor, i.e. with almost 14% of all arrivals.
 - 80% of respondents were female.
 - 53% of respondents were above 60 years old.
 - 11% of respondents were travelling with children.
- Most respondents, 91%, travelled from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT) of Ukraine (primarily from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, followed by Donetsk oblast). 5% of respondents travelled from the Russian Federation (RF) and 4% from Belarus.
- Main reasons for movement: 79% of respondents cited family reunification and other family-related reasons as the most important factor for travelling from the TOT, Belarus or the RF through this corridor. Concerns about the future in the TOTs were also a significant factor for 42% of respondents, while nearly one third (32%) noted the deteriorating security situation in the TOTs as a key factor. Access to medical services and documentation needs were factors for 31% and 18% of respondents. On average in 2025, 15% of respondents reported access to pensions as a factor, with the highest share recorded in Q4 2025 - 21%, compared to an average of almost 12% in Q1–Q3 2025. This increase is likely attributed to amendments introducing new identification procedures to confirm eligibility for pension payments. 6% cited education-related concerns as factors influencing their travel decision. Notably, fear of conscriptions was not often mentioned in Q1 – Q3 of 2025, however in Q4 this concern was reported by 6%. Other factors, including fear of persecution, pressure to obtain Russian documents were reported by a combined total of less than 5% of respondents.
- Duration of stay and intentions: Overall, 52% of arrivals in 2025 intended to stay permanently. The highest share of permanent stay intentions was observed in Q1 (71%), while slightly below half of respondents reported such intentions during Q2–Q4 of 2025. In 2025, 8% of respondents were undecided about the duration of their stay. Over the course of the year, the share of respondents planning short- to medium-term stays in Ukraine to resolve specific issues increased from 21% in Q1 to an average of 46% during Q2–Q4.
- Intentions: Among respondents who were uncertain about the period of their stay or planned short- to medium-term stays in 2025, 82% intended to return to the TOTs after resolving documentation, pension or family-related issues. while 18% planned to move onward to other countries.

Main reasons for movement
January to December 2025



Planned duration of stay in Ukraine
For arrivals from January to December 2025

