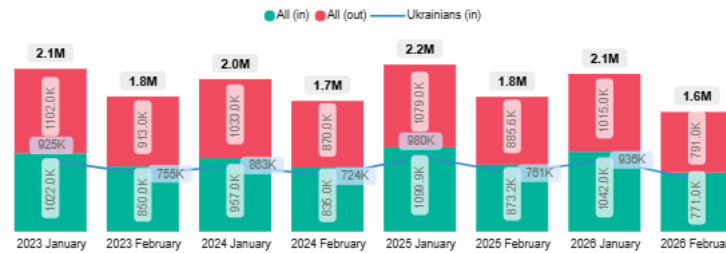


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

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.

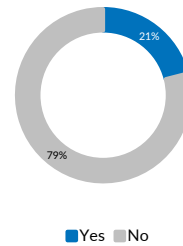
Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Key cross-border mobility trends

- In February 2026, the SBGS recorded nearly 1.6 million border crossings - a decrease of nearly 500K from January 2026, confirming cross-border movement trends for January to February since 2023.
- Compared to February cross-border mobility of previous years, 2026 figures are the lowest to date.
- A net outflow was recorded for February 2026 with 20K more people exiting the country than entering it. Net outflows were also recorded for February in 2025 (12K), 2024 (35K) and 2023 (63K).

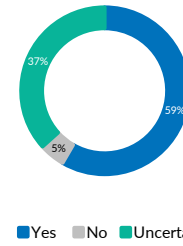
Border monitoring trends for February 2026: Departures from Ukraine

- 21% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022, an increase by 4% from January. 18% reported departing to seek safety abroad and 15% were returning to their TP countries, increasing by 2% and 1%, respectively, compared to January.
- 5% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, almost 16% said that this influenced their decision to leave.
- 92% of those interviewed noted security concerns as a main reason for their departure. [Energy-related reasons remained the second most frequently reported drivers for departure in February 2026](#), with 74% reporting electricity issues (decrease by 3% from January), 67% heating problems (increase by 10% from January), and almost 36% water shortages (increase by 11% from January). Fear of conscription was mentioned by 4% (2% decrease). Occupation of areas of residence was mentioned by 3% among the reasons for departure.
- 68% were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#) (an increase by 6% from January). 21% planned to stay 1-12 months (4% decrease from January). 6% reported plans to stay less than a month (same as for January), and 5% planned to stay abroad permanently (2% decrease compared to January).
- 59% of respondents indicated their [intention to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize (8% decrease from January). 37% of respondents were unsure in their return intentions, representing an 11% increase from January, and 5% stated that they would not return (2% decrease). 41% of the respondents mentioned the improvement of the security situation as the [main factor for their return](#), while 35% and 22% respectively mentioned stabilization of their access to electricity and access to livelihoods. The cut of assistance programs abroad were mentioned by 2% of respondents as a factor for return.

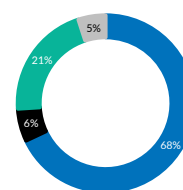
First-time departure since Feb 2022 February 2026



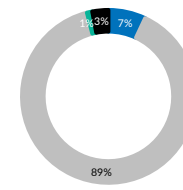
Intention to return should the situation stabilize February 2026



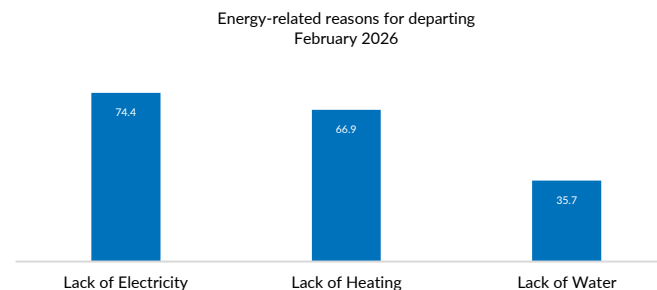
Intended duration of stay abroad February 2026



Intended duration of stay in Ukraine February 2026



Energy-related reasons for departing February 2026


Border monitoring trends for February 2026: Returns to Ukraine

- 89% of respondents reported planning a short-term [stay in Ukraine](#) of less than one month, which is a notable increase by 16% compared to January. 7% were uncertain about their length of stay (3% decrease compared to January), and only 1% planned to stay 1-12 months, which is 13% decrease compared to January. 3% intended to return permanently (1% decrease).
- In February 2026, the need to check on property was [the primary reason for visiting Ukraine](#) mentioned by 28% of respondents, which represents a 15% increase compared to January. This was followed by family-related reasons and access to health services reported by 27% and 25% respectively. Other reported reasons included homesickness (14%), and access to government assistance and services (3%).

In February 2026, monitors conducted [1,465 individual interviews](#) at the borders, where 75% of respondents were departing, and 25% entering Ukraine.

[Entering Ukraine](#): 369 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine. 76% of respondents were female and 25% male. 26% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

[Departing Ukraine](#): 1,096 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine. 68% of respondents were female and 31% male. 14% of respondents were above 60 years.

Reporting by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

- In February 2026, the SBGS published updates on smuggling-related arrests and detentions, including the exposure of illegal border crossing schemes. The reports described intercepted attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border irregularly, both individually and in groups.
- Individual irregular crossing attempts were reported in mountainous areas and across rivers, including one fatal [case](#) in the Dnister river. Group attempts of irregular border crossing involved the assistance of citizens of countries bordering Ukraine, including [Moldova](#) and [Hungary](#).
- In one [reported](#) case concerning the attempt of irregular border crossing by a group, the SBGS indicated that smugglers were expected to receive up to USD 60,000 per group of five people and used an ambulance as means of transportation.

In February 2026, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted 208 monitoring visits to the monitored BCPs. During these visits, [UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to 553 individuals](#). This support included counselling of 476 people, provision of legal assistance to 89 people, while 45 persons were provided with transportation services and 4 persons received social accompaniment.