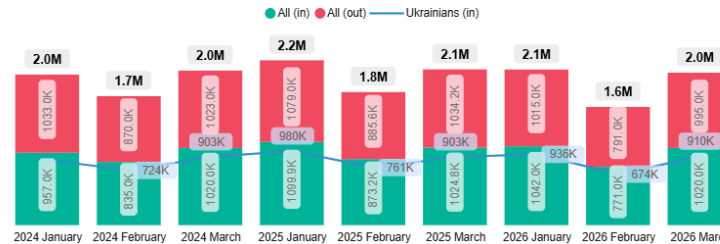


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

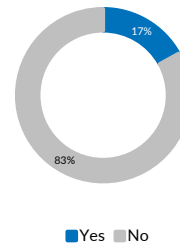
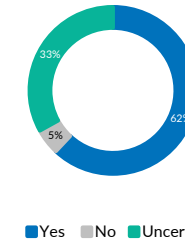
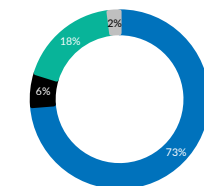
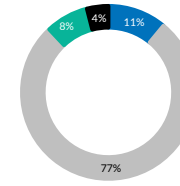
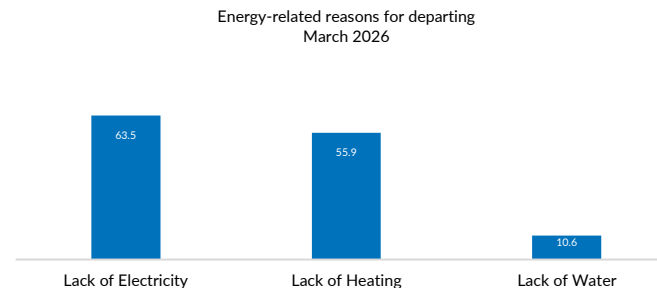
The monitoring findings are based on individual interviews conducted with people crossing the border, both those entering and exiting Ukraine and other observations made by the border monitors. As of 2025, a revised monitoring tool was deployed.

Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Key cross-border mobility trends

- In March 2026, the SBGS recorded just over 2 million border crossings – an increase of around 450K compared to February 2026. Compared to March 2025, the cross-border movement trends in March 2026 were 100K lower.
- Overall, these cross-border movement trends from January to March 2026 are consistent with the trends observed since 2023.
- In March 2026, a net inflow was recorded with 25K more people entering the country than exiting, whereas in 2024 and 2025 net outflows of 3K and 9K respectively, were recorded.

Border monitoring trends for March 2026: Departures from Ukraine

- 17% of respondents said they were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022, a decrease by 4% from February and equal to figures recorded in January. 15% reported departing to seek safety abroad (decrease by 3% from February) and 15% were returning to their TP countries (unchanged).
- Almost 6% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, 7% said that their displacement status influenced the decision to leave.
- 98% of those interviewed noted security concerns as a main reason for their departure. [Despite decrease in the energy-related reasons, these remained the second most frequently reported drivers for departure in March 2026](#). 64% reporting electricity issues (decrease by 10% from February), 56% heating problems (decrease by 11% from February), and almost 11% water shortages (25% decrease from February). Fear of conscription and occupation of areas of residence were each cited by 4% as reasons for departure.
- 73% were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#) (gradual increase by 5% from February and 11% from January). 18% planned to stay up to 12 months (3% decrease from February), while 2% consider staying abroad permanently (3% decrease compared to February). 6% planned to stay less than a month abroad, as in January and February.
- 62% of respondents indicated their [intention to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize (3% increase from February). 33% of respondents were unsure (4% decrease from February), and 5% stated that they would not return (unchanged from February). 46% of respondents mentioned the improvement of the security situation as the [main factor influencing their return](#), while 27% and 24% respectively, mentioned stabilization of their access to electricity and access to livelihoods. The cut of assistance programs abroad was mentioned by 2% of respondents as a factor for return.

 First-time departure since Feb 2022
 March 2026

 Intention to return should the situation stabilize
 March 2026

 Intended duration of stay abroad
 March 2026

 Intended duration of stay in Ukraine
 March 2026

 Energy-related reasons for departing
 March 2026

Border monitoring trends for March 2026: Returns to Ukraine

- 77% of respondents reported planning a short-term [stay in Ukraine](#) of less than one month, a decrease by 12% compared to February. 11% were uncertain about the length of their stay (4% increase compared to February), while 11% planned to stay 1–12 months, which is 10% increase compared to February. 4% intended to return permanently (1% increase).
- In March 2026, family-related reasons were [the primary reason for visiting Ukraine](#) mentioned by 30% of respondents, a 3% increase compared to February. This was followed by 24% of respondents reporting a lack access to health care in host countries. Other significant reasons included the need to check on property (22%) and homesickness (20%). Reasons such as access to government assistance and services, high cost of living abroad and improvement of the energy situation in Ukraine were mentioned by 1% each.

In March 2026, monitors conducted [2,232 individual interviews](#) at the borders, where 77% of respondents were departing and 23% entering Ukraine.

Entering Ukraine: 504 interviews were conducted with people entering Ukraine. 81% of respondents were female and 19% male. 24% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

Departing Ukraine: 1,728 interviews were conducted with people departing Ukraine. 66% of respondents were female and 34% male. 11% of respondents were above 60 years.

Reporting by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

In March 2026, the SBGS published updates on smuggling-related arrests and detentions, including the exposure of illegal border crossing schemes, with a notable increase in mid-March.

Reports described intercepted attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border irregularly, both individually and in groups. Few cases were reported of men trying to cross the border through [rivers](#), which is most likely attributed to the improvement of weather conditions. Also, individual cases were connected with forged documentation, [fake business trips](#) and [fictitious marriage](#).

One [case](#) concerned border guards in Chernihiv region foiling an attempted trafficking operation in which a 34-year-old suspect allegedly lured financially vulnerable women with false employment offers abroad for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The suspect was detained on 29 March while attempting to transport three women out of Ukraine.

In March 2026, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted 267 monitoring visits to the monitored BCPs. During these visits, [UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to 928 individuals](#). This support included counselling of 780 people, provision of legal assistance to 195 people, while 51 persons were provided with transportation services and 45 persons received social accompaniment.