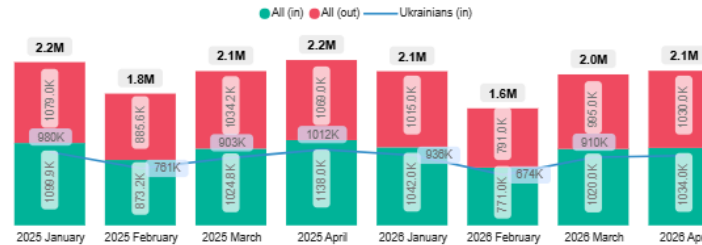


Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted [border monitoring at 30 crossing points](#) between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

The monitoring findings are based on individual interviews conducted with people crossing the border in both directions, and overall observations by the border monitors. As of 2025, a revised monitoring tool was deployed.

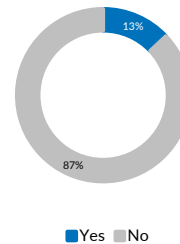
Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Key cross-border mobility trends

- In April 2026, the SBGS recorded nearly 2.1 million border crossings, an increase of approximately 50K from March 2026.
- Overall, these cross-border movement trends from January to April 2026 are reflecting the trends observed in the first trimester of 2025, although the overall number of border crossings in 2026 thus far is 500K lower than in 2025.
- In April 2026, the entry-exit balance was rather steady, with a small net inflow of 4K people more arriving than departing the country.
- Due to Easter holidays, longer waiting times were observed for several days in early April.

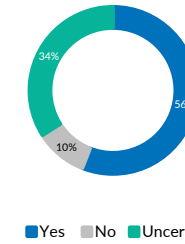
Border monitoring trends for April 2026: Departures from Ukraine

- 13% of respondents were [departing Ukraine for the first time](#) since 24 February 2022, a decrease by 4% from March and the lowest figure recorded in 2025–2026 to date. 13% reported departing to seek safety abroad (decrease by 2% from March) and 16% were returning to their TP countries (increase by 1% from March).
- 7% of respondents were [internally displaced prior to departing Ukraine](#). Of those, over 12% said that their displacement status influenced the decision to leave.
- All respondents (100%) cited security concerns as [the main reason for their departure](#). For the first time in 2026, energy-related reasons were not a main contributor to departure-decisions of people. Fear of conscription was the second most frequently cited reason, reported by 6% of respondents. This was followed by the occupation of areas of residence, mentioned by nearly 4%. Other reported reasons for departure included lack of electricity (2.7%), damaged or destroyed public infrastructure (1.5%), and lack of adequate housing (1.2%).
- 73% were unsure about the [duration of their stay abroad](#) (same as in March). 14% planned to stay up to 12 months (4% decrease from March), while 6% planned to stay abroad permanently (4% increase compared to March). 6% planned to stay less than a month abroad, with reporting levels stable since the beginning of the year.
- 56% of respondents indicated their [intention to return to Ukraine](#) should the situation stabilize (6% decrease from March). 34% of respondents were unsure (1% increase from March), and 10% stated that they would not return (5% increase from March). 48% of respondents mentioned the improvement of the security situation as the [main factor influencing their return](#), while stabilization of access to electricity and access to livelihoods were each mentioned by 25% of respondents. The cut in assistance programs abroad was mentioned by 2% of respondents as a factor for return.

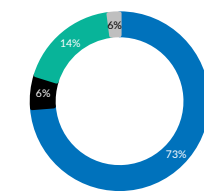
First-time departure since Feb 2022 April 2026



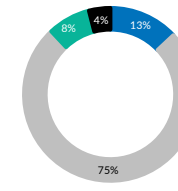
Intention to return should the situation stabilize April 2026



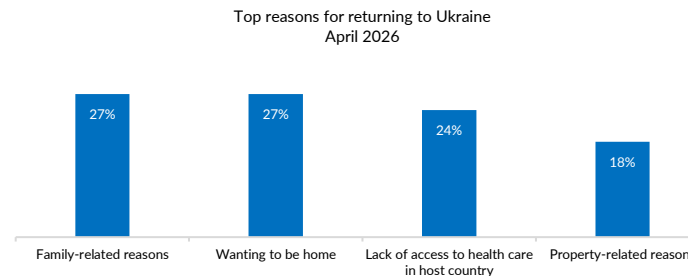
Intended duration of stay abroad April 2026



Intended duration of stay in Ukraine April 2026



Top reasons for returning to Ukraine April 2026


Border monitoring trends for April 2026: Returns to Ukraine

- 75% of respondents reported planning [a short-term stay in Ukraine](#) of less than one month, a decrease by 2% from March. 13% were uncertain about the length of their stay (2% increase from March), while 8% planned to stay 1–12 months. 4% intended to return permanently (same level reported as in March).
- In April 2026, 27% of respondents cited family-related reasons and homesickness, respectively, [as the primary reasons for visiting](#). This was followed by 24% of respondents reporting limited access to health care in host countries, unchanged compared to March. Additionally, 18% of respondents indicated the need to check on their property as a reason for visiting. Reported less frequently were access to government assistance, stabilization of the security situation in the home area, and uncertainty regarding legal status abroad, each mentioned by 1% of respondents.

In April 2026, monitors conducted [2,437 individual interviews](#) at the borders, where 77% of respondents were departing and 23% entering Ukraine.

Entering Ukraine: 554 interviews where 79% of respondents were female and 20% male. 21% of respondents were above the age of 60 years.

Departing Ukraine: 1,883 interviews where 69% of respondents were female and 30% male. 12% of respondents were above 60 years.

Information by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

In April 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-April.

Reports described intercepted attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border irregularly, majorly in groups. The reported cost for irregularly crossing the border ranged from USD 200 to USD 12,000.

During the reporting period, the SBGS published information on two cases related to the prevention of human trafficking in Volynska, Sumska and Zakarpatska oblast. One [case](#) involved a mother attempting to sell her child. Another [case](#) concerned a Slovak citizen born in Zakarpatska oblast, who is suspected of luring financially vulnerable women with job offers abroad for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Law enforcement identified five cases of women affected by this scheme, including a 16-year-old girl.

In April 2026, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted 259 monitoring visits to the monitored BCPs. During these visits, [UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to 883 individuals](#). This support included counselling of 738 people, provision of legal assistance to 202 people, while 55 people were provided with transportation services and 37 individuals received social accompaniment.