Cross-border movement of people

Summary of 2020 statistics of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

Access to territory

Migration to/from Ukraine has significantly decreased as compared to the same period of 2019, with 6.9 million foreigners and stateless persons having crossed (3.4 million in and 3.5 million out) Ukrainian borders in 2020 (vs. 27.32 million both; 13.71 million in and 13.61 out in 2019).

At the same time, the number of foreigners and stateless persons denied entry to Ukraine has decreased from 22,200 in 2019 to 13,000 in 2020 (by 41%).

CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC OF FOREIGNERS AND STATELESS PERSONS IN/OUT UKRAINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>ENTERED UKRAINE</th>
<th>MOVED OUT OF UKRAINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>20.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top 4 nationalities of denied entry foreigners:

- Citizens of the **Russian Federation** – 22.3% (vs 32.7% in 2019)
- Citizens of Turkey – 17% (vs 15% in 2019)
- Citizens of Moldova – 13% (vs 8% in 2019)
- Citizens of India – 4%.

Out of total number denied entry: 3% were Belarusians (vs 1.6% in 2019); 1.5% were Syrians (vs 1.4% in 2019); 2.3% were Uzbeks (vs 3.1% in 2019).

**Foreigners denied entry, by country of origin in 2020, in %**
Accelerated Readmission

The number of foreigners and stateless persons returned to Ukraine under EU-Ukraine readmission agreement has decreased by 34.4% as compared to the same period of 2019.

381 foreigners (including 64 Turks, 47 Afghans, 32 Bangladeshis, 30 Iraqis, 30 Vietnamese, 14 Russians, 14 Somalis, 1 Syrian) were returned to Ukraine in 2019 and 250 foreigners (including 60 Turks, 31 Indians, 31 Bangladeshis, 29 Algerians, 11 Afghans, 11 Syrians and 8 Somalis) in 2020.
Due to implementation of the procedures of the Implementation Protocols with MDA (not implemented in 2019) and the RF (not implemented in 2018-19) the number of foreigners and stateless persons removed from Ukraine under the Readmission agreements increased in more than 5 times (by 400%) in 2020. Out of 162 persons: 95 were removed to Moldova (14 of them are stateless persons from the Transnistria!), 46 (30 to ROM; 10 to POL; 6 to SVK ) to the European Union countries, 18 to the Russian Federation; 3 to BEL. 30 foreigners were removed from Ukraine in 2019.

Irregular migration

In 2020, 706 foreigners and stateless persons were held administratively liable for violation of border regime (art. 202 of the Code of Admin Offences - CUAO). This figure is 42.6% lower than in 2019 (1,230).

There is a major decrease (70.1%) in number of foreigners and stateless persons charged with violation of registration procedures or violation of term of stay in Ukraine revealed at border crossing points (par. 2 of art. 203 of the CUAO). In 2019 this number was 31,150.

Number of persons detained for illegal border crossing or an attempt thereof (204-1 of the CUAO) decreased as compared to same period of 2019 (1,115 persons in 2020 vs 1,685 persons in 2019).
The biggest groups charged: 206 MDA; 183 UKR (at BCPs between Ukraine and the Russian Federation: “Hoptivka”- 78; “Synkivka”- 35; “Milove”-32; “Bachyvsk”-17; other -21).

There was an increase (by 124%) in the number of persons held administratively liable under art. 204-2 of the CUAO (Violation of rules of entry and exit into the temporary occupied territory of Ukraine): 5,233 persons (including 5,087 Ukrainians and 146 foreigners, among them: 94 citizens of RUS; 10 AZE; 6 ARM; 5 MDA and some other countries nationals) in 2019 vs 11,700 persons in 2020. The latter included 11,600 Ukrainians, 110 Russians, 19 Azeris and some other countries nationals.
Detention

The number of foreigners and stateless persons detained in SBGS holding facilities has decreased by 26%: 1,555 persons in 2019 vs. 1,149 in 2020.

Number of persons detained in SBGS holding facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown of detained persons by SBGS Directorates

- Western Regional Directorate, 796
- Southern Regional Directorate, 186
- Eastern Regional Directorate, 98
- Units of Central Subordination (including SBCP Kyiv - Boryspil, Zhulyany airports), 69
There is a decrease (by 26%) in the number of persons placed in Migrant Custody Centers based on court decisions initiated by the SBGS for the purpose of identification and / or securing expulsion from Ukraine - 219 persons, including: 42 Bangladeshis, 40 Afghans, 25 citizens of Sri Lanka, 20 Algerians, 13 Indians in 2020 vs 296 persons, including: 48 Afghans, 10 Somalis, 4 Syrians, 3 Russians, 2 Palestinian during 2019.

![Number of persons placed to Migrant Custody Centers based on court decisions initiated by the SBGS](image)

Almost the same number of asylum-seekers, registered with SMS placed in Migrant Custody Centers until completion of their asylum procedure - for their attempt of irregular exit Ukraine: 31 (13 SYR, 4 RUS, 3 IRQ) in 2020 (apprehended by Lviv – 13, Mukachevo – 9, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi – 4, Chop – 3, Chernihiv and Luhansk – 1 each BGDs for illegal border crossing or an attempt thereof) vs 28 asylum-seekers in 2019.

![Asylum-seekers registered with SMS placed in Migrant custody centers for their attempt of irregular exit Ukraine, by country of origin](image)

Asylum-seekers registered with SMS placed in Migrant custody centers for their attempt of irregular exit Ukraine

![Asylum-seekers registered with SMS placed in Migrant custody centers for their attempt of irregular exit Ukraine](image)
Forced return / expulsion procedures

In 2020, there was a decrease (by 49%) on number of persons with regard to whom SBGS decided on forced return from Ukraine. Such decisions were made in cases of 408 foreigners and stateless persons (including 103 Turks, 101 Moldovans, 26 Indians, 22 Algerians, 19 stateless persons). In 2019, SBGS adopted decisions on forced return from Ukraine 799 (including 80 stateless persons, 19 Afghans; 16 Iraqis and 3 Syrians).
The biggest number of decisions on forced return adopted by the following SBGDs: Lviv – 128; Chop – 52; Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi – 46; Podilsk – 37; Chernivtsi – 35; Lutsk – 19; Mukachevo – 17; other SBGDs – 74.

The number of SBGS' lawsuits on forced expulsion from Ukraine satisfied by the Ukrainian courts decreased (by 38%) to 149 in 2020 (including on 20 Iraqis, 20 Sri Lankais, 17 Indians, 16 Algerians) vs 239 in 2019.

Decisions on forced return adopted in 2020

The implementation rate in 2020 is 59% (88 court decisions were actually implemented, including with regard to 15 LKA; 15 IRQ; 12 IND) vs 85% (202 decisions) in 2019.
Access to asylum

The number of foreigners and stateless persons who applied for asylum through SBGS officials and were transferred/referred to migration service is 80 altogether in 2020 (vs 62 in 2019 vs 104 in 2018).

Out of those asylum-seekers who applied through the SBGS:
- **67.5%** (54) applied from **SBGS temporary holding facilities**
- **8.8%** (7) applied during **irregular border crossing**
- **23.7%** (19) applied during **regular entry** (received SBGS' consultation on asylum procedure at BCPs).

To compare, in 2019, out of those **62** asylum-seekers who applied through the SBGS, **22.6%** (14) applied during the irregular entry; **54.8%** (34) applied for asylum from SBGS’s temporary holding facilities (after they attempted to irregularly exit UKR towards the EU), and **22.6%** (14) applied during regular entry (received SBGS’ consultation on asylum procedure at BCPs).

It includes **7** foreigners and stateless persons (5 RUS, 1 UZB, 1 STA) who **applied for asylum through SBGS officials during irregular border crossing** at Kharkiv (1 - STA), Zhytomyr (1 - RUS), Chop (1 – UZB, 1 - RUS), Sumy (2 – RUS), SBCP Kyiv airports (1 - RUS) BGDs and were transferred to Migration Service during 2020.
It also includes 19 persons (11 BLR, 5 CMR, 3 LBY) who applied for obtaining explanations on asylum procedures during regular entry at BCPs and were referred to SMS.

It also includes 54 asylum-seekers who applied from SBGS temporary holding facilities (18 SYR, 16 AFG; 5 RUS; 3 IRQ; 2 EGY; 2 ERI; 2 LKA; 1 AZE; 1 CHN; 1 IRN; 1 SOM; 1 SDN; 1 VNM). 31 of them were transferred to MCCs under the court formulation “detention until completion of RSD procedures”. It covers 13 SYR; 4 RUS; 3 IRQ; 3 YEM; 1 EGY; 1 SUD; 1 BGD; 1 SOM; 1 AFG; 1 IRN; 1 KAZ, 1 LKA. Other 23 who applied for asylum after the court hearing could be placed in the MCC under different formulations: «detention for identification and expulsion», «detention for identification», «detention to ensure transfer of person as per Ukraine’s international agreements on readmission», «detention for expulsion». In 2020 UNHCR partners conducted 55 monitoring visits to 6 THF out of 16. Usually SBGS provide UNHCR partner staff with access to the detainees only after their investigation and court procedures on detention are over.
54 asylum applications took place in the following THFs BGDs: Luhansk (1 RUS); Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi (4: 2 SYR, 1 IRQ, 1 IRN); Lviv (12: 3 SYR, 2 AFG, 2 RUS, 2 EGY, 1 CHN, 1 YEM, 1 SDN); Mukachevo (12: 8 SYR, 4 AFG); Chernihiv (1 RUS); Odesa (6: 4 SYR, 2 IRQ); Chop (18: 10 AFG, 2 LKA, 2 ERI, 1 AZE, 1 SYR, 1 SOM, 1 RUS).

As per SMS data, number of asylum-seekers transferred/referred by SBGS to migration authority increased for 29% in 2020 (597 asylum applications, were submitted countrywide in 2020 (including by 195 (32.6%) irregularly entering) vs 1,036 asylum applications, were submitted countrywide in 2019 (including by 272 (26%) irregularly entering. However, the 2020 SMS statistics reflects only 47 (7.8%) applications handed over through SBGS (vs 28 (2.7%) in 2019 vs 80 in 2020 and 62 in 2019 SBGS data.
Statistics on Syrian nationals for 2020

13,400 Syrian nationals are reported to have entered Ukraine in 2019 (vs 16,000 in 2019 vs 14,000 in 2018 vs 12,000 in 2017).

181 Syrians were denied crossing of the Ukrainian border on entry to Ukraine (vs 291 in 2019 vs 369 in 2018 vs 372 in 2017).

54 Syrians were held administratively liable for illegal border crossing or an attempt thereof (204-1 of Code of Admin Offences) in 2020 vs 9 in 2019 vs 8 in 2018 vs 43 in 2017.

11 Syrians have been returned to Ukraine under the EU-Ukraine readmission agreement.

In 2020, SBGS did not submit any lawsuits on forced expulsion of Syrians from Ukraine. In 2019, Ukrainian courts satisfied lawsuits on forced expulsion of 3 Syrians from Ukraine (vs 0 in 2018 vs 1 in 2017).

21 Syrians are reported to have applied for asylum through border guards in 2020 vs 3 in 2019 vs 5 in 2018 vs 4 in 2017.
Statistics on stateless persons for 2020

2,600 stateless persons entered Ukraine during 2020 and 102 stateless persons were denied entry to Ukraine (vs 8,248 entered and 270 were denied entry in 2019; 8,243 entered and 315 were denied entry in 2018; 7,500 stateless persons entered Ukraine and 333 were denied entry in 2017).

36 stateless persons were charged for irregular border crossing or attempt thereof (vs 67 in 2019; 111 in 2018).

In 2020, 0 stateless persons were returned to Ukraine under readmission agreements.

Number of SBGS’s decisions on forced return of stateless persons - 14. They were implemented through readmission agreement with MDA (vs 80 in 2019; 136 in 2018; 106 in 2017).

No lodged lawsuits on forced expulsion of stateless persons (vs 0 in 2019; 3 in 2018; 1 in 2017).
Key trends identified:

- Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, in 2020 cross-border movements in Ukraine nosedived by 75%. SBGS stopped admission to Ukraine of foreigners and stateless persons from 16.03.2020. Number of operational BCPs decreased from 219 to 49, and later to 19. The foreigners’ access to the territory was re-established on 12 June subject to availability of medical insurance and two weeks observation for foreigners from the covid effected countries. The access to the territory for foreigners has been suspended again from 29.08 to 30.09.2020. Accordingly, the number of foreigners denied entry to Ukraine has also decreased by 41% (particularly, citizens of the RF remain the top nationals denied entry in the context of the ongoing armed conflict at the East of Ukraine).

- Number of foreigners and stateless persons returned to Ukraine under EU-Ukraine readmission agreement has decreased by 34.4% as compared to the same period of 2019.

- Due to implementation of the procedures of the Implementation Protocols with MDA (not implemented in 2018-19) the number of foreigners and stateless persons removed from Ukraine under Readmission agreements increased in more than 5 times (by 400%) in 2020 (162) in comparison with 2019 (30).

- Number of Syrian nationals who enter Ukraine for the last four years stopped growing due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Similarly, the number of Syrian nationals denied entry decreased.

- 68.5% less stateless persons entered Ukraine in 2020. The number of stateless persons charged for illegal border crossing or an attempt thereof decreased by 34%. The biggest groups charged: 206 MDA; 183 Ukrainians (at BCPs between Ukraine and the Russian Federation: “Hoptivka”- 78; “Synkivka”- 35; “Milove”-32; “Bachyvsk”-17; other -21).

- The number of foreigners and stateless persons detained in SBGS holding facilities has decreased by 26%. This may be explained by the general reduction of cross-border movements in 2020. Traditionally 69% (796) of foreigners and stateless persons were detained in SBGS THF under supervision of the Western Regional Directorate, meaning they were trying to leave through the Western border into the EU countries.

- There was a significant increase (by 124%) in the number of persons (11,700) held administratively liable under art. 204-2 of the CUAO (Violation of rules of entry and exit into the temporary occupied territory of Ukraine). It included 11,600 Ukrainians, 110 Russians, 19 Azeris and some others.

- The number of foreigners and stateless persons who applied for asylum through SBGS officials increased by 29% (80) in 2020 as compared to 2019 (62). Nationals of Syria (18) occupy the first place among foreigners applied for asylum through SBGS officials at THF; while (5) Russians among those who apply during irregular entry and (11) Belorussians among those who apply during regular border crossing vs Russians who were no. 1 in 2019.

- The statistics on asylum-seekers handed over by SBGS to SMS provided by SBGS (80) and by SMS (47) are always contradictory, signifying a lack of information exchange and unified approaches to statistics among the state agencies.

- In 2020, number of implemented court decision (88) of forced expulsions of foreigners from Ukraine dropped twice as compared to 2019 (202). This may be explained by suspension of flights from Ukraine for four months due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

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