

MIGRANTS PROFILE

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

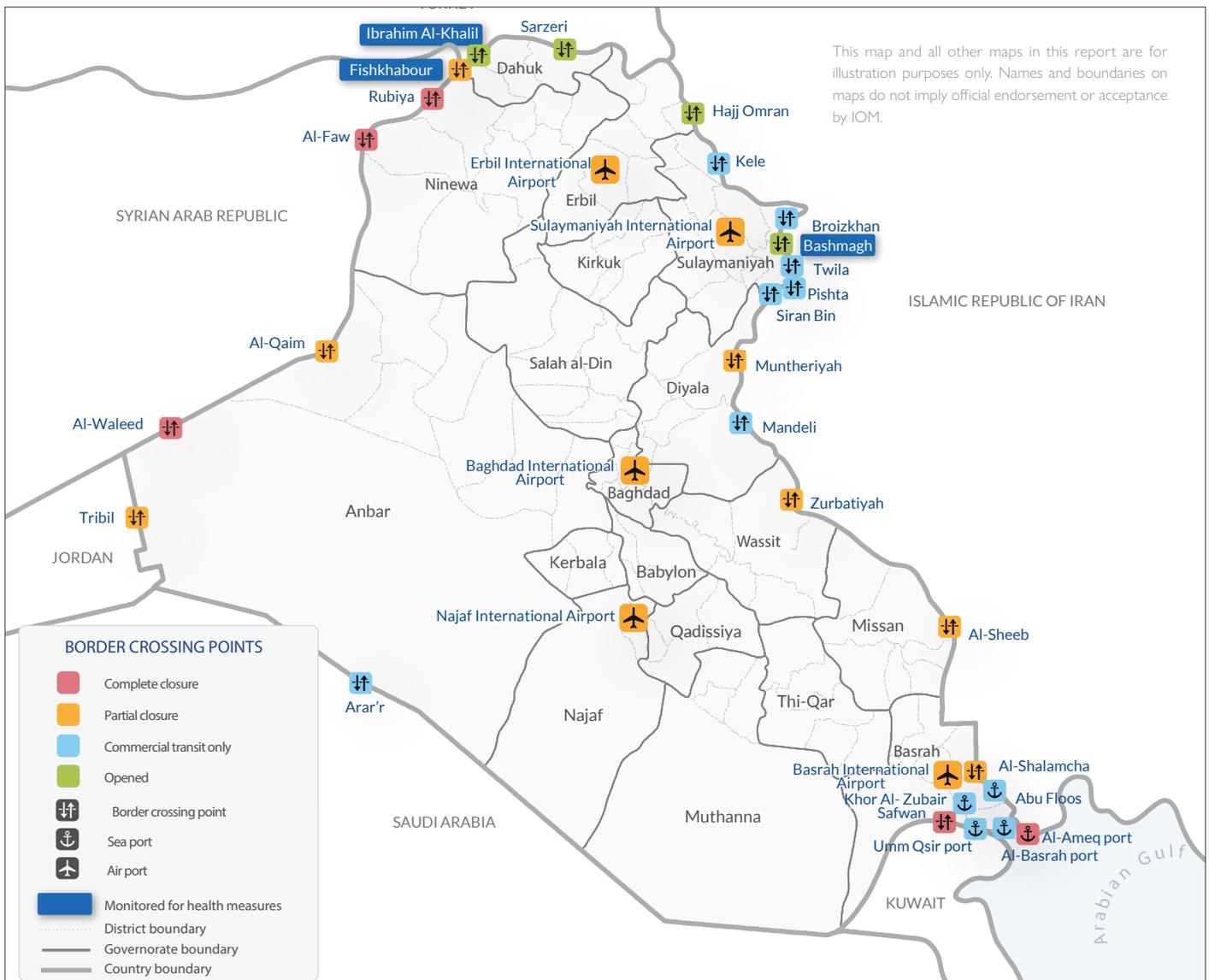
DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and Turkey – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. Cross-border monitoring is drawn from IOM’s DTM standard methodology, designed to capture and describe migration flows, and is part of IOM’s DTM Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, funded by the European Union, which aims to capture and describe migration flows in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.¹ Data displayed in this report were collected employing two approaches: a headcount of all travellers

entering or leaving Iraq and a survey of randomly selected travellers.

Data collection took place between 1 September 2020 and 28 February 2021 at five border crossing points: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering Syria, and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering Iran.²

Further details on the survey methodology, selection of respondents and border crossing points are available in the Methodological Overview in the last section of this report.³

Map 1: Status of border crossing points as of 28 February 2021



Update Date: 28 Feb 2021
 Data source: Cross border points collected through DTM teams using government, local council representative and residents of the region. Administrative Boundaries: OCHA (Modified)

1 An interactive dashboard presenting data on the volume of travellers, their socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel, and their awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention measures and at-risk populations can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/Remap#Dashboard>
 2 Due to mobility restrictions imposed by Iraqi authorities since March 2020 aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), data collection did not take place at Al-Shalamcha and Zurbatiyah points between 1 September 2020 and 11 October 2020. After resuming the data collection starting from 12 October 2020, these points witnessed a low flow of travellers. Please refer to the report 'Iraq Mobility Restrictions due to COVID-19' for more details on the mobility restrictions. Available at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions>
 3 Additional information on the methodology used for cross-border monitoring can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/Remap#Methodology>

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an overview of the overall movements of travellers observed at the monitored border crossing points. In this report, the term 'travellers' refers to all individuals crossing the international border with Iraq and the term 'migrants' refers to individuals who have changed their country of usual residence or those who have been away, or are planning to be away, from their country of nationality for at least three months.⁴ This report is focused in more detail on migrant groups, their socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel, travel arrangements, and history of migration. For analytical purposes, travellers are divided into five main groups according to their nationality,⁵ country of usual residence and duration of stay.

Temporary travellers – individuals who are crossing the international border with Iraq for a period of up to three months. Specifically, foreigners who usually reside abroad arriving in Iraq for up to three months or departing from Iraq after being in the country for up to three months. Also, Iraqi nationals returning to the country after having spent up to three months abroad or departing from Iraq with the intention to stay abroad for less than three months.

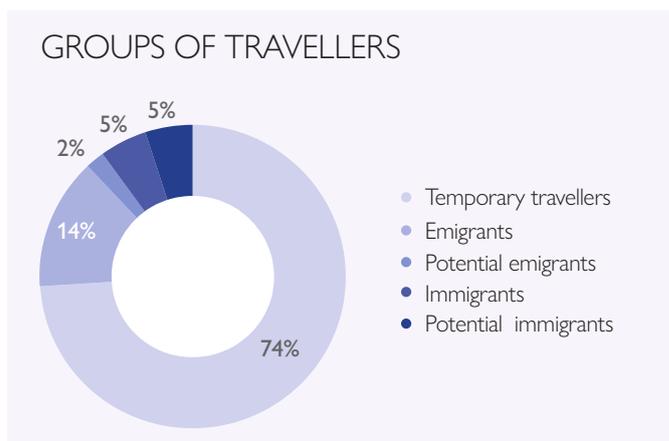
Emigrants – Iraqi nationals who moved away to another country, so that this country has effectively become their new country of usual residence, regardless of the intended length of travel.

Potential emigrants – Iraqi nationals who are departing from Iraq for three months or more and Iraqi nationals who are returning to Iraq after having

been abroad for three months or more.

Immigrants – foreign nationals who have moved away from their country of nationality, so that Iraq has effectively become their new country of usual residence, regardless of their intended length of travel.

Potential immigrants – foreign nationals who are entering Iraq with the intention to stay for a period of three months or more and foreign nationals who are departing from Iraq after having been in the country for three months or more.



4 According to the IOM definition, "migrant – an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration – Switzerland). For the purpose of collecting data on migration, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) defines "international migrant" as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" and "usual residence" as "the place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the past 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day) or for at least the past 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months" (UN DESA (1998), Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 – USA). When studying flows, the UN Recommendations on International Migration Statistics suggests to further differentiate international migrants by the criterion of duration of stay. Long-term international migrants are defined as those who move to a country other than their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year, while short-term international migrants are people who move to a country for a period of at least three months but less than one year (Global Migration Group (2017), Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development – Global Knowledge Partnership for Migration and Development (KNOMAD), World Bank, Washington, DC).

5 Nationality – the legal bond between an individual and a State, which can be acquired by birth or at any time after birth, automatic or non-automatic, based on attribution, declaration, or application (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration – Switzerland). To adjust the term to the survey format, nationality was defined as the country of birth.

TEMPORARY TRAVELLERS PROFILE

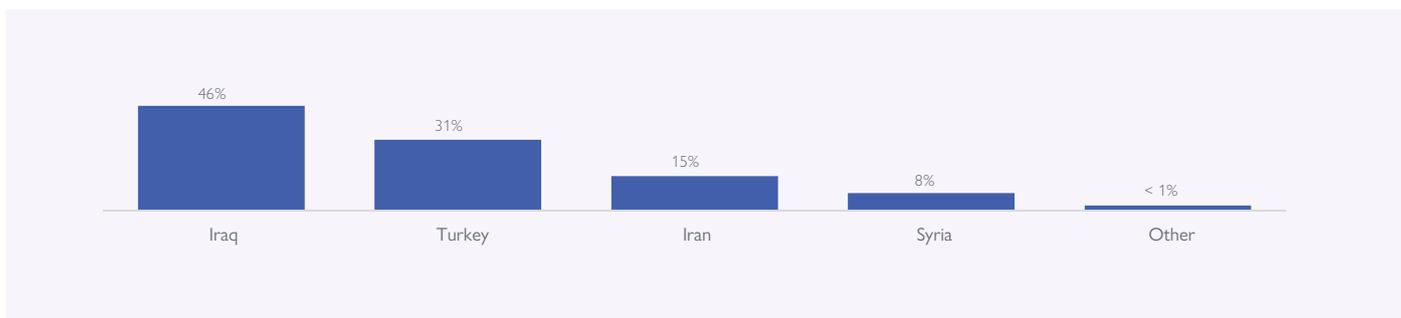


74% of all travellers

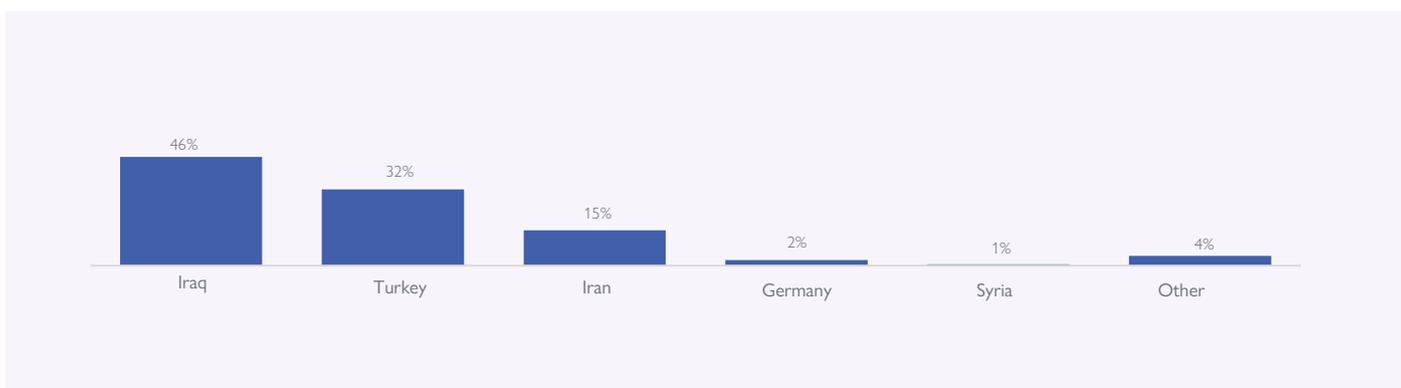
59,052 individuals who are crossing the international border with Iraq for a period of up to three months

Nearly three quarters of movements were temporarily, meaning that travellers spent, or were planning to spend, less than three months out of their country of usual residence. The main nationalities of travellers were Iraqis (46%), Turkish (31%) and Iranians (15%). Likewise, the main countries of usual residence were Iraq (46%), Turkey (32%) and Iran (15%). In addition, 8 per cent of travellers were Syrian nationals – although only 1 per cent still live there on a permanent basis. A small percentage of travellers usually live in other foreign countries (4%), mostly in Germany or other countries in the European Union (EU) and the Middle East.

MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TEMPORARY TRAVELLERS

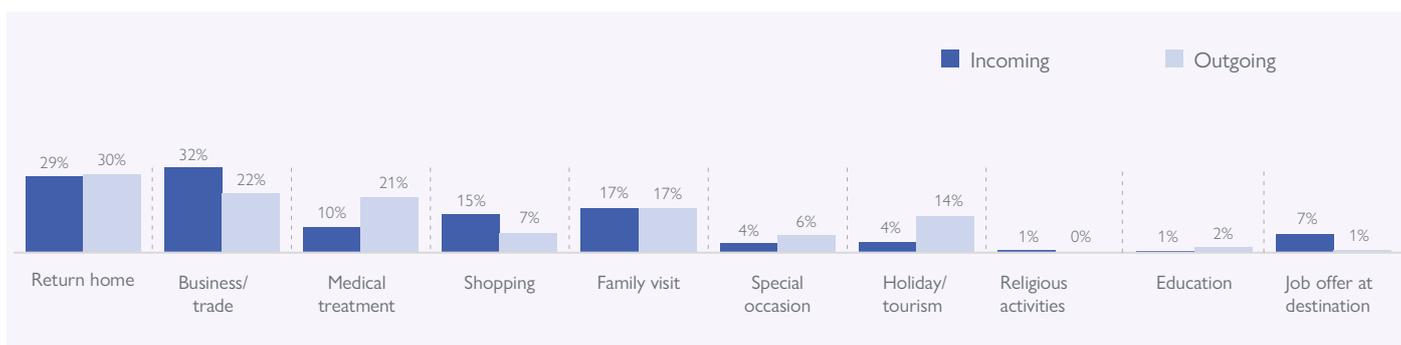


MAIN COUNTRIES OF USUAL RESIDENCE OF TEMPORARY TRAVELLERS

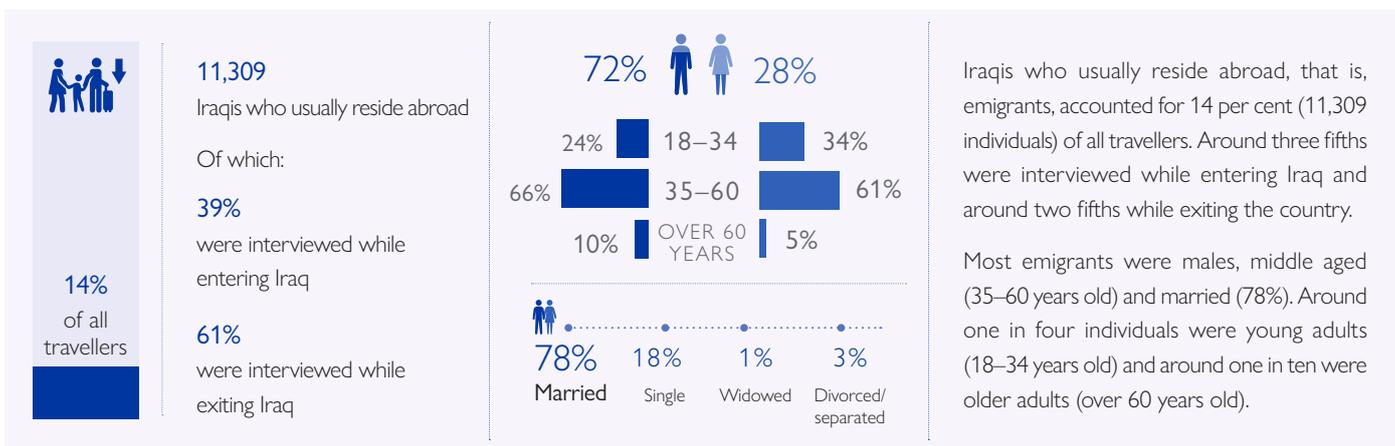


The main reasons for entering Iraq temporarily were conducting business or trade (32%), returning home (29%) and visiting family (17%). These were also the main reasons for departing from Iraq, together with the need to receive medical treatment abroad (21%). A small percentage of temporary travellers (7%) were entering because they received a job offer in Iraq.

REASONS FOR TEMPORARY TRAVELS

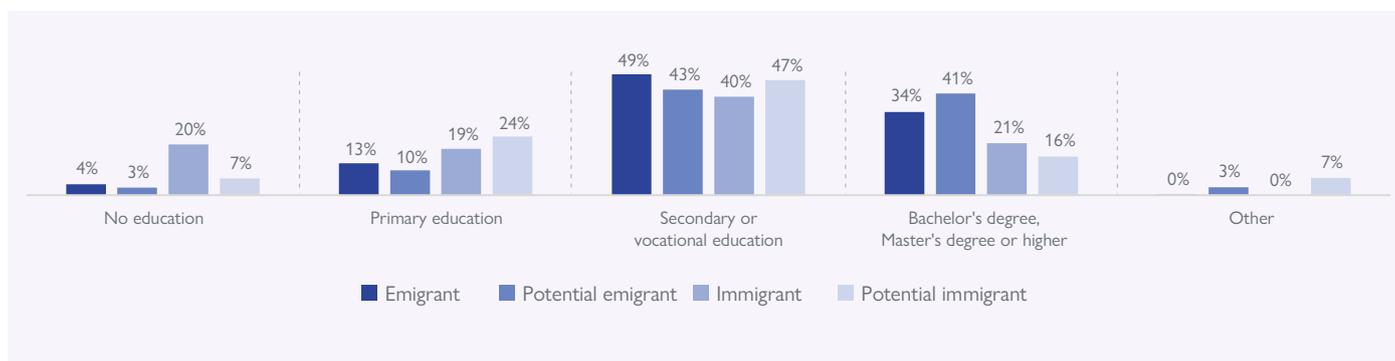


MIGRANTS PROFILE: EMIGRANTS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

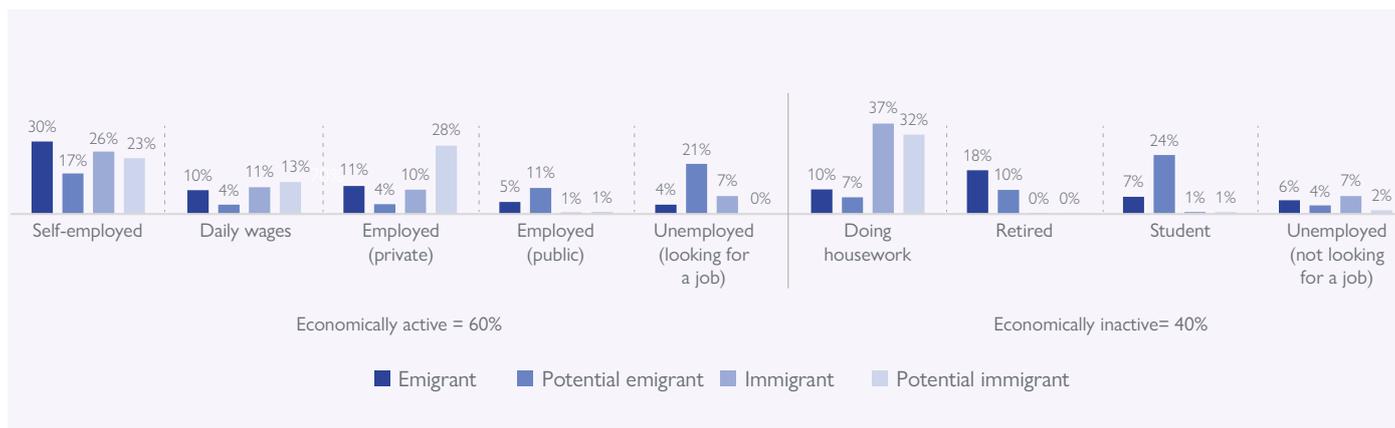


The level of education of Iraqi emigrants was generally high: around half had completed secondary education or vocational training and around one third had some form of higher education: a Bachelor's, a Master's or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees. Additionally, most of them were economically active across the following categories: self-employed (30%), employees in the private (11%) or public sectors (5%), and workers with daily wages (10%). Four per cent were unemployed and actively looking for a job. Around two fifths belong to the economically inactive population, namely retired persons (18%, the highest percentage among all migrant groups), persons doing housework (10%), students (7%) and individuals not looking for a job (6%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



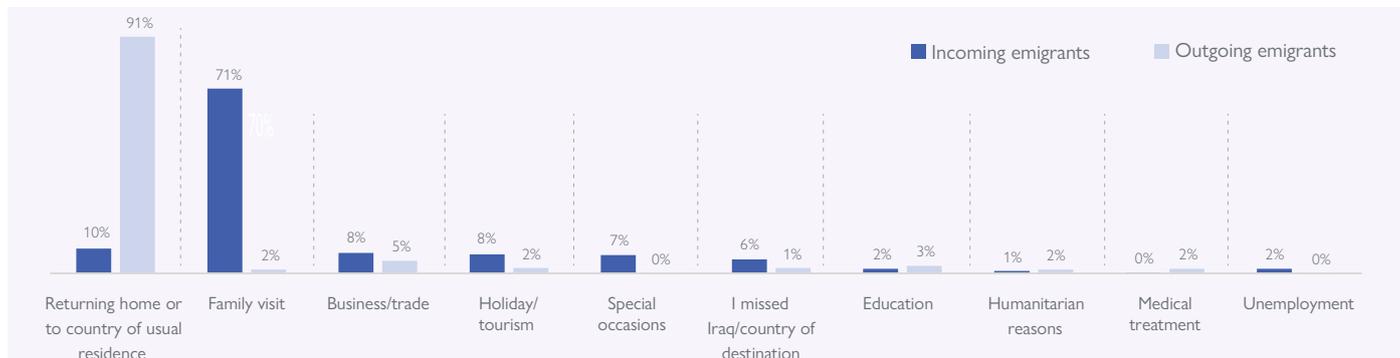
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



MIGRANTS PROFILE: EMIGRANTS – REASONS FOR TRAVEL AND ARRANGEMENTS

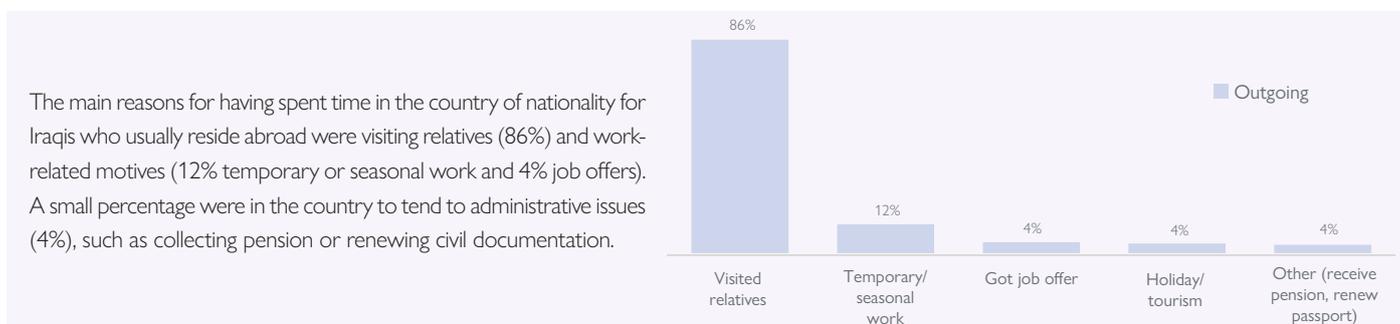
Iraqi nationals who have moved abroad tend to arrive in Iraq for family-related reasons, namely family visits (71%) and special occasions, such as weddings or funerals (7%). Additionally, 10 per cent named returning home as a reason for travel and 6 per cent named sentimental reason. Trade or business (8%), holiday (8%) and education (2%) were rarely mentioned. The main reason for departure was returning to the country of usual residence.

REASONS FOR THE CURRENT TRAVEL BY TYPE OF FLOW



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 1 per cent are not shown on this chart

REASONS FOR VISITING IRAQ



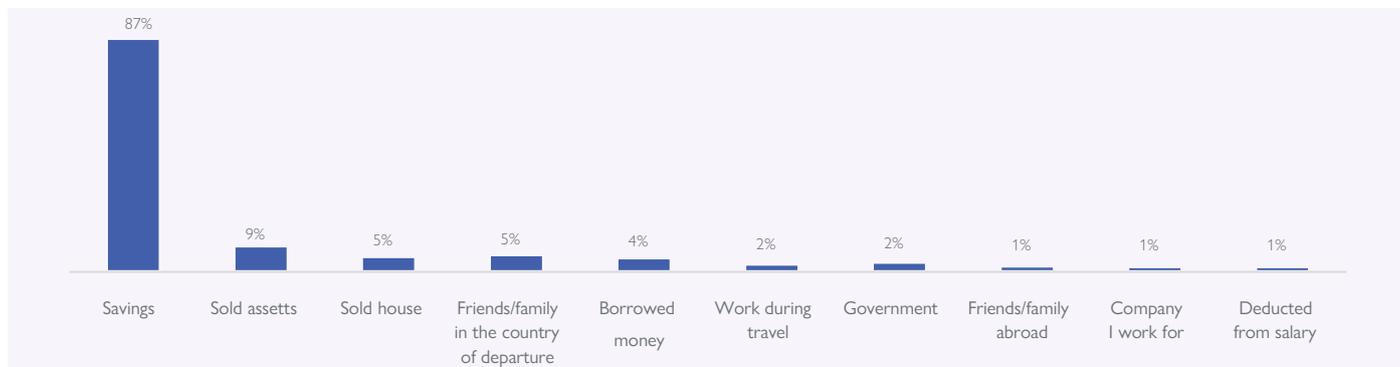
Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 1 per cent are not shown on this chart

TRAVEL GROUP

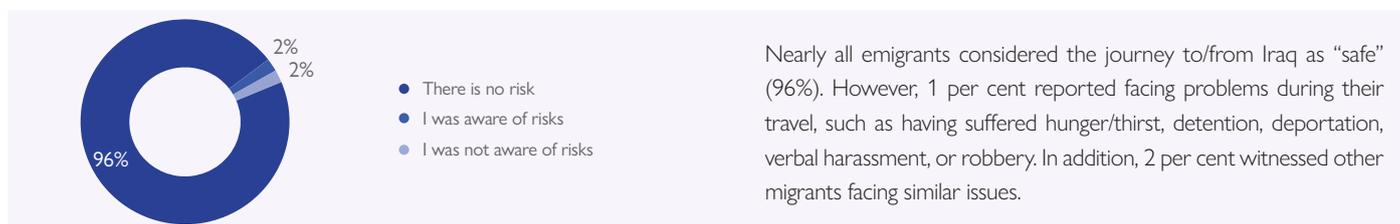


Nearly all emigrants paid for their journey with savings. A small percentage paid with other means such as selling assets (9%) or house (5%), and borrowing money (4%), etc.

WAYS TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL



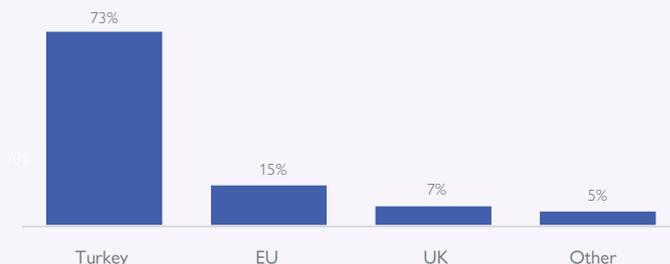
RISKS AWARENESS



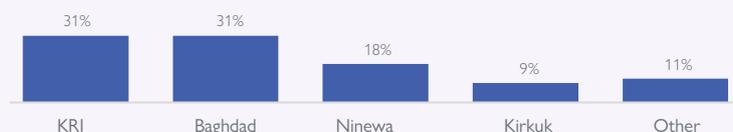
MIGRANTS PROFILE: EMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

MAIN COUNTRIES OF USUAL RESIDENCE

Around three quarters of Iraqi emigrants reported that their usual residence was in Turkey (73%). The remaining were living in a few countries in the EU – mostly Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, as well as the United Kingdom (UK) and other countries of Eastern Europe and the Middle East.



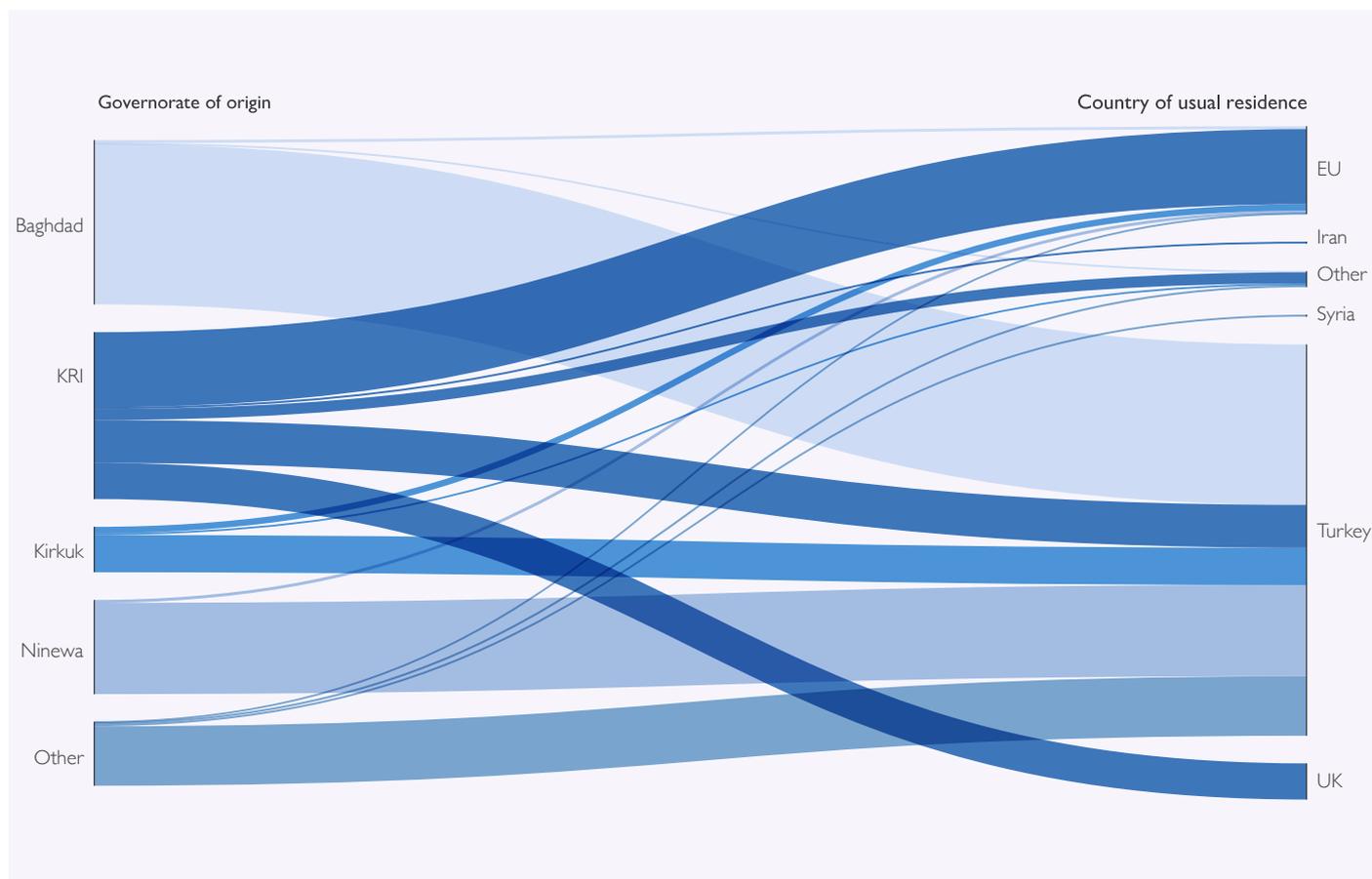
GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN



Around one third of Iraqi emigrants were from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), another one third were from Baghdad and the remaining were from other governorates in Federal Iraq.

Individuals originally from the KRI had mostly relocated in the EU, Turkey and the UK, whereas those from Federal Iraq were nearly all living in Turkey. Nearly all Iraqi emigrants were regular residents, since they hold a residence permit (88%) or a temporary visa for work or study reasons (6%).

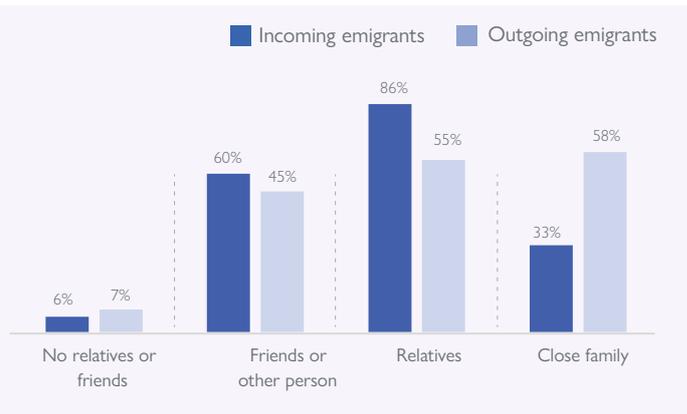
GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN BY MAIN COUNTRIES OF USUAL RESIDENCE



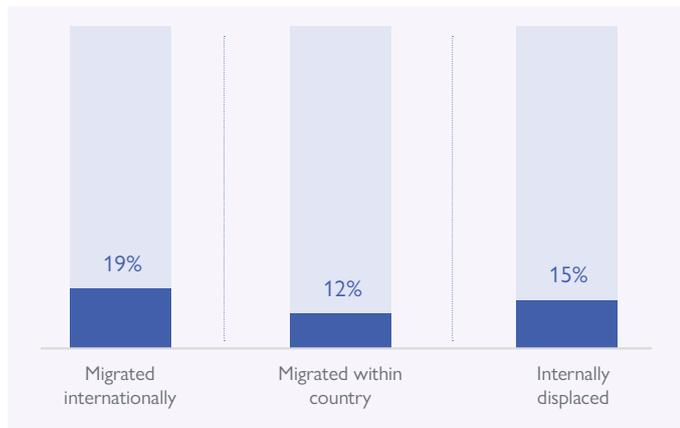
MIGRANTS PROFILE: EMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

TIES AT THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

Emigrants tended to have close ‘ties’ in both the country of origin and that of usual residence, as attested by the low share of individuals who had no relatives or friends at their destination (incoming emigrants with 6% and outgoing emigrants with 7%). Incoming emigrants had more often relatives and friends in Iraq than close family, whereas it was the opposite for outgoing emigrants, confirming that most emigrants have moved to their current country of usual residence with their families.



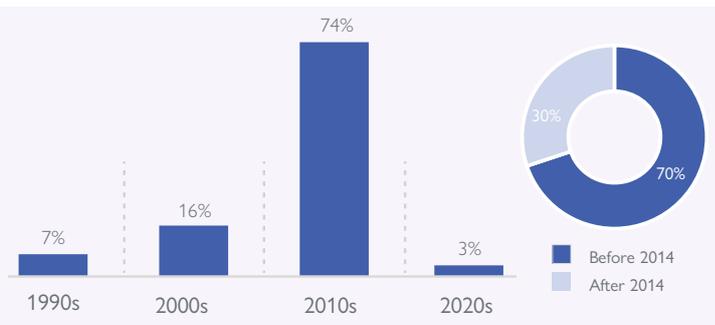
HISTORY OF MIGRATION



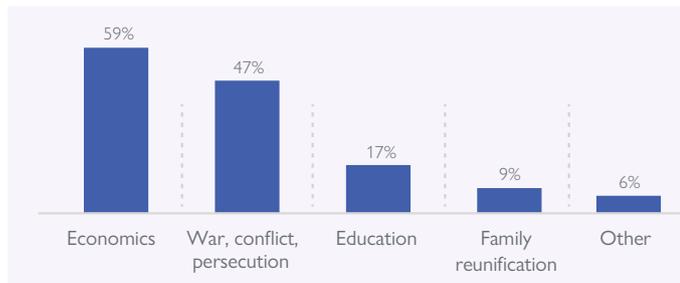
Many emigrants had a history of migration, namely international migration (19%), migration within the country (12%) and forced displacement (15%) – when forced to flee their homes to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters.

YEAR OF LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Most international migration occurred after 2014 (70%), the year of the most recent displacement crisis.⁶ Most emigrants who left Iraq after 2014 moved to Turkey, whereas those who left earlier migrated more often to the EU, the UK and other countries.



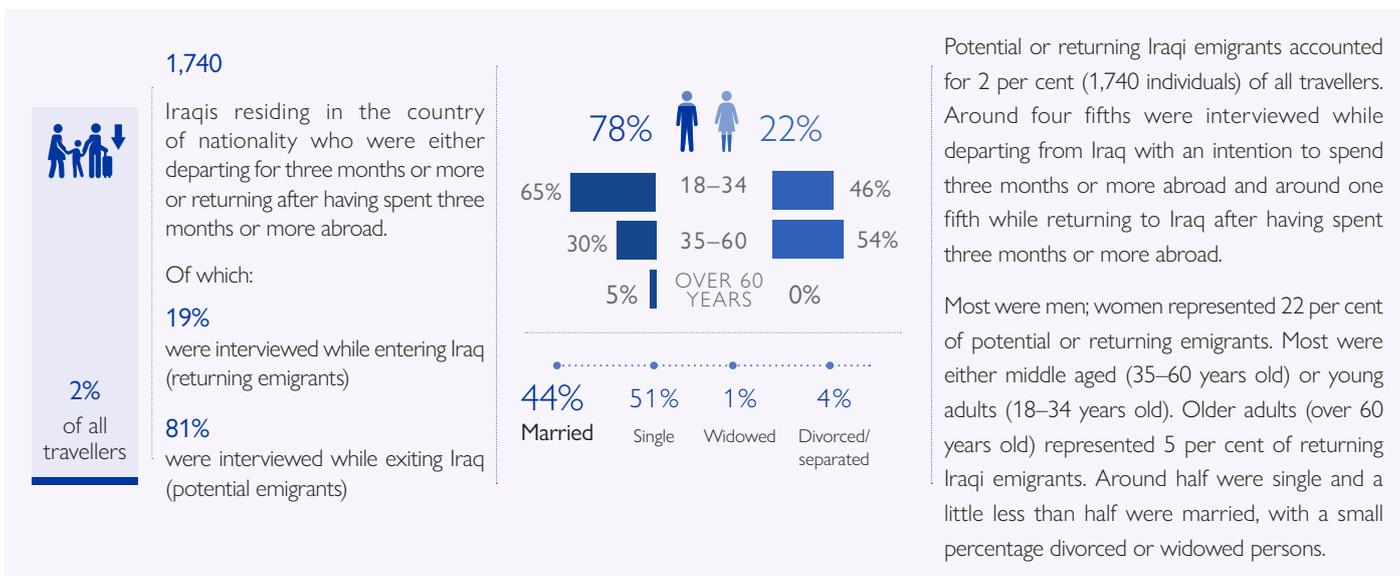
REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Economic factors were the most frequently mentioned reason for leaving Iraq (59%), followed by war, conflict, or persecution (47%). Other mentioned reasons were education (17%), family reunification (9%) and other reasons related to searching for a better life.

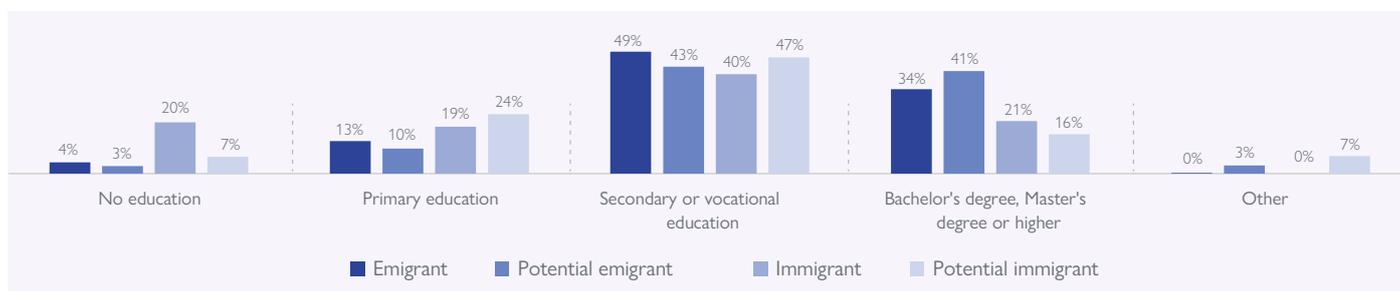
⁶ Experts and scholars identify three main waves of displacement antecedent the ISIL crisis 2014-2017. The first one began around the time when Saddam Hussein formally became the head of state in 1979 and lasted until 2003; the second one followed the 2003 intervention led by the United States of America which toppled Hussein’s regime; and the third took place between February 2006 and the end of 2008. During this last wave, the widespread sectarian violence and persecution of minorities brought the number of IDPs to 2.7 million and that of refugees to Syria, Jordan and other neighbouring countries to an estimated 1.8 million (IOM (2013), Barriers to Integration, Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Internal%20Displacement%20in%20Iraq-%20Barriers%20to%20Integration.pdf>)

MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

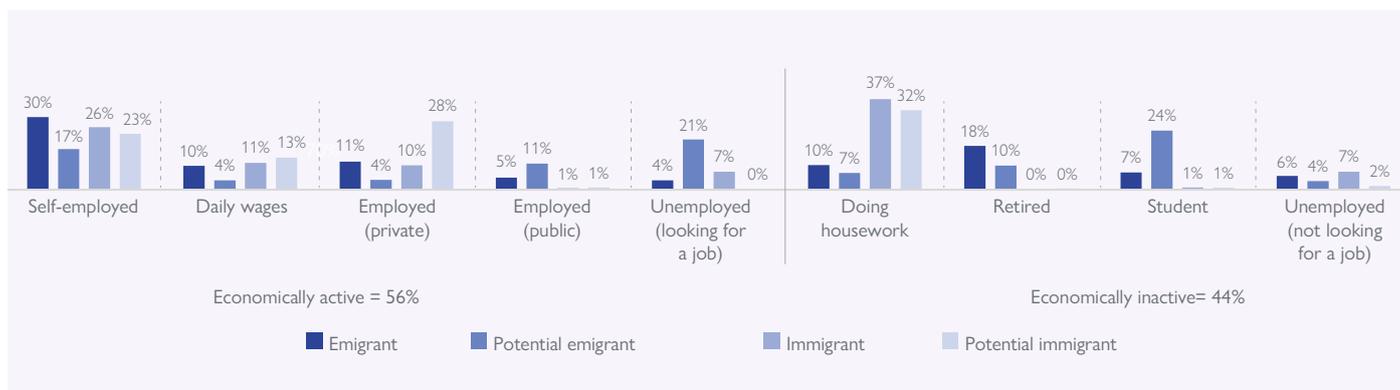


Generally, the education level of this group was quite high. Only a small percentage had no education (3%) or had only completed primary school (10%). Most had either completed secondary education or vocational training (43%) or held some form of higher education (41%). Even though this group had a high percentage of individuals with higher education, the percentage of unemployed individuals was at 21 per cent, which is much larger compared with the corresponding percentages for other migrant groups. In addition, this group also had a high percentage of students (24%), which is also noticeably higher compared with the corresponding percentage for other migrant groups.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



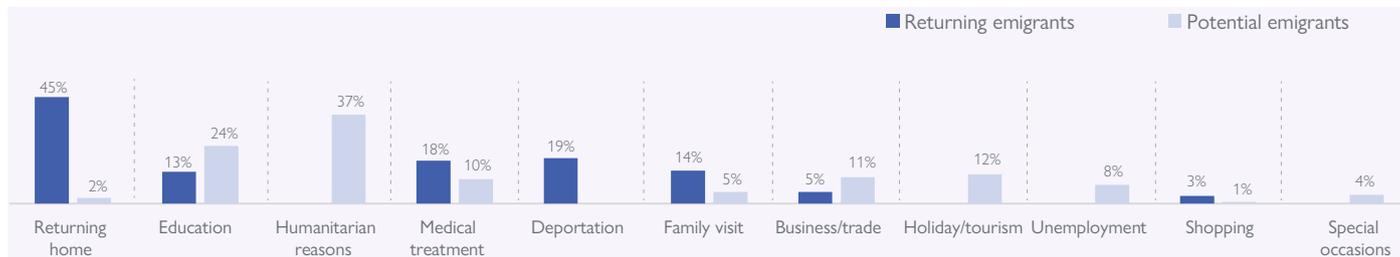
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS – REASONS FOR TRAVEL AND ARRANGEMENTS

Humanitarian reasons were the main push factor for leaving Iraq for a longer period, that is of three months and more. Around two fifths of potential emigrants stated that 'Iraq is not safe' for them. Other reasons were education (24%), followed by work-related purposes such as doing business/trade (11%) or looking for employment opportunities (8%), and seeking medical treatment abroad (10%).

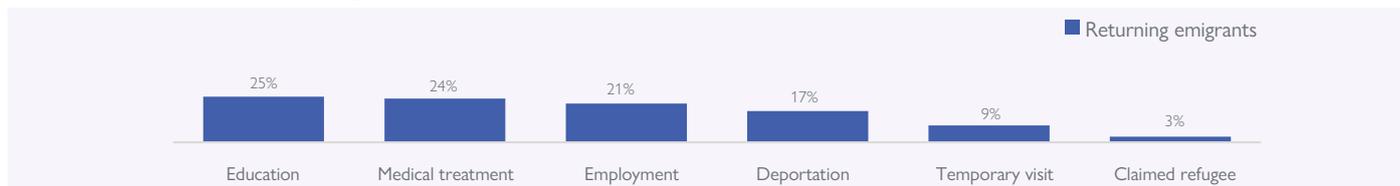
REASONS FOR THE CURRENT TRAVEL BY TYPE OF FLOW



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 1 per cent are not shown on this chart

For returning Iraqis who spent more than three months abroad, the main reasons for the current travel were returning home (45%), deportation (19%), returning after receiving medical treatment (18%), family visits (14%) and returning from studying (13%). This result corresponds with the main reasons for being abroad, that is, studying, receiving medical treatment, employment, either looking for it or working, and deportation. Three per cent of returning emigrants reported that they claimed refugee status.

REASONS FOR BEING OUT OF IRAQ



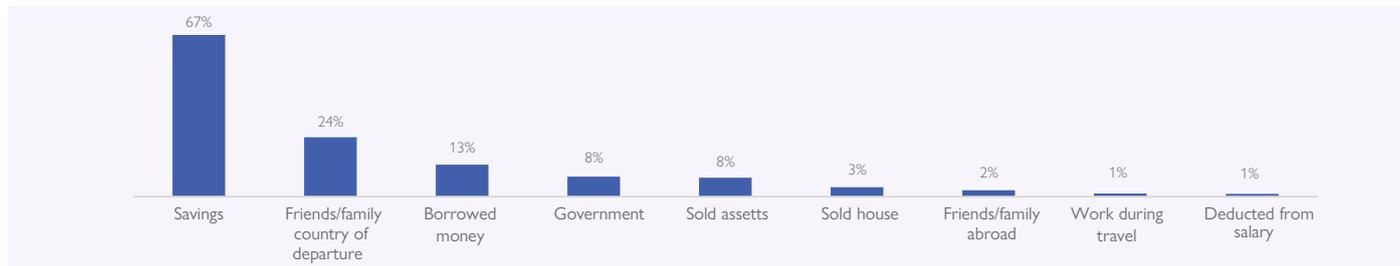
Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 1 per cent are not shown on this chart

TRAVEL GROUP



Around two fifths reported that they were helped to organize the journey, most often by family and friends (32%) but also by brokers/smugglers (10%). Most journeys were self-supported with savings (67%), or funds provided by friends or family (24%). However, some migrants had to borrow money (13%) or sell assets (8%) to pay for their journey. A small percentage reported working during travel to pay and paying after the journey from their salaries.

WAYS TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL



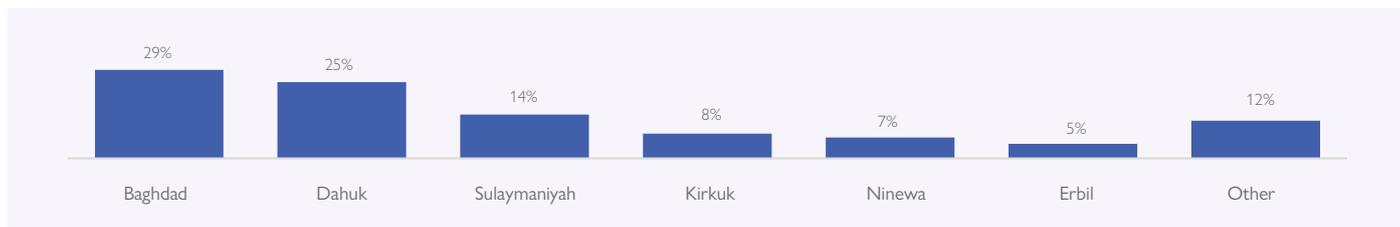
RISKS AWARENESS



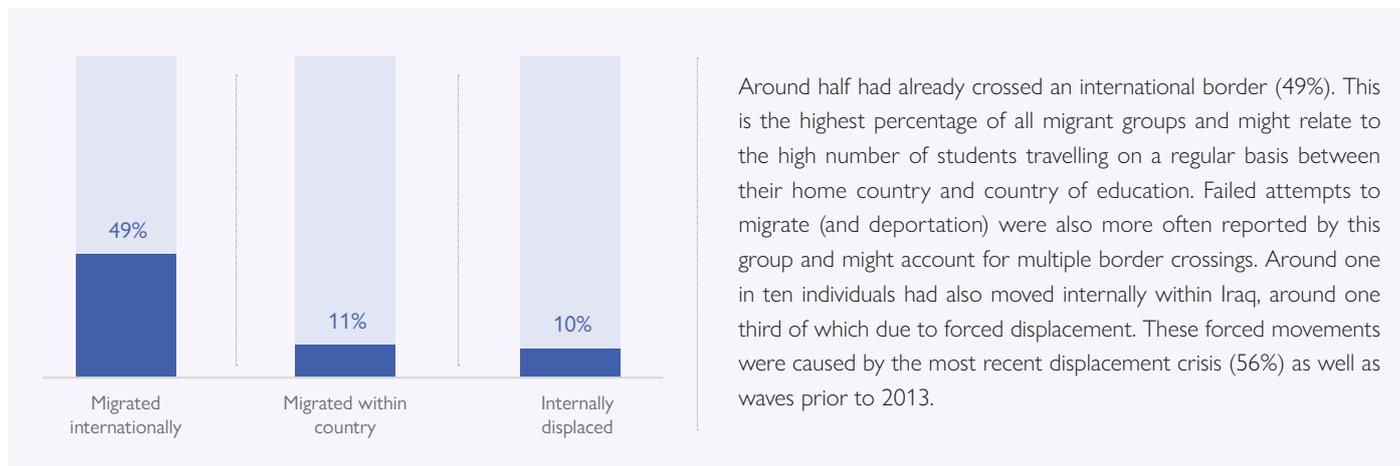
MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

The main governorates of origin of potential or returning Iraqi emigrants were Baghdad (29%), Dahuk (25%) and Sulaymaniyah (14%).

GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN

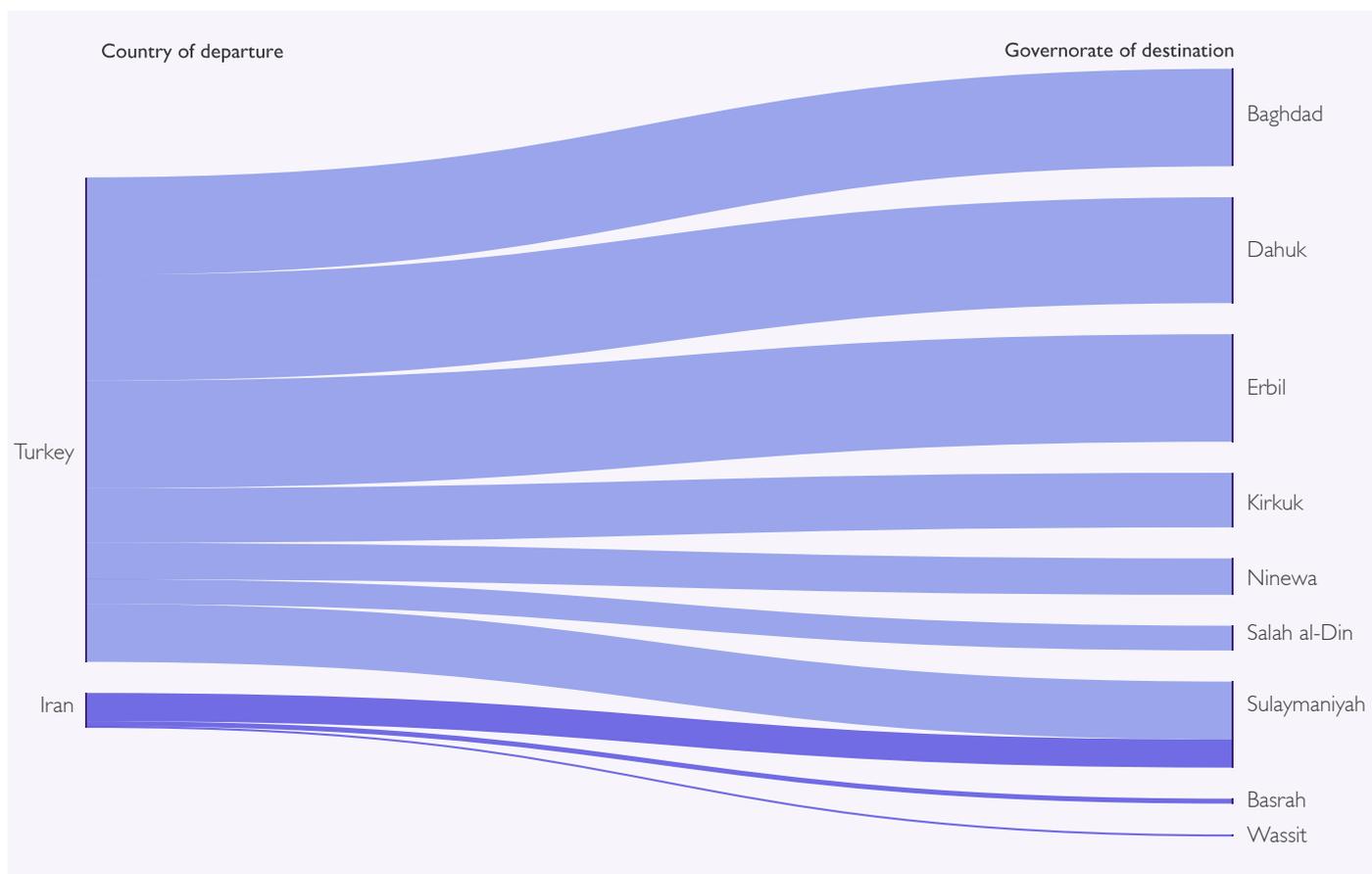


HISTORY OF MIGRATION



Most returning Iraqi emigrants arrived from Turkey and were mainly heading towards Dahuk, Erbil and Baghdad. Fewer were returning from Iran and were heading mainly to Sulaymaniyah.

RETURNING EMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE AND GOVERNORATE OF DESTINATION

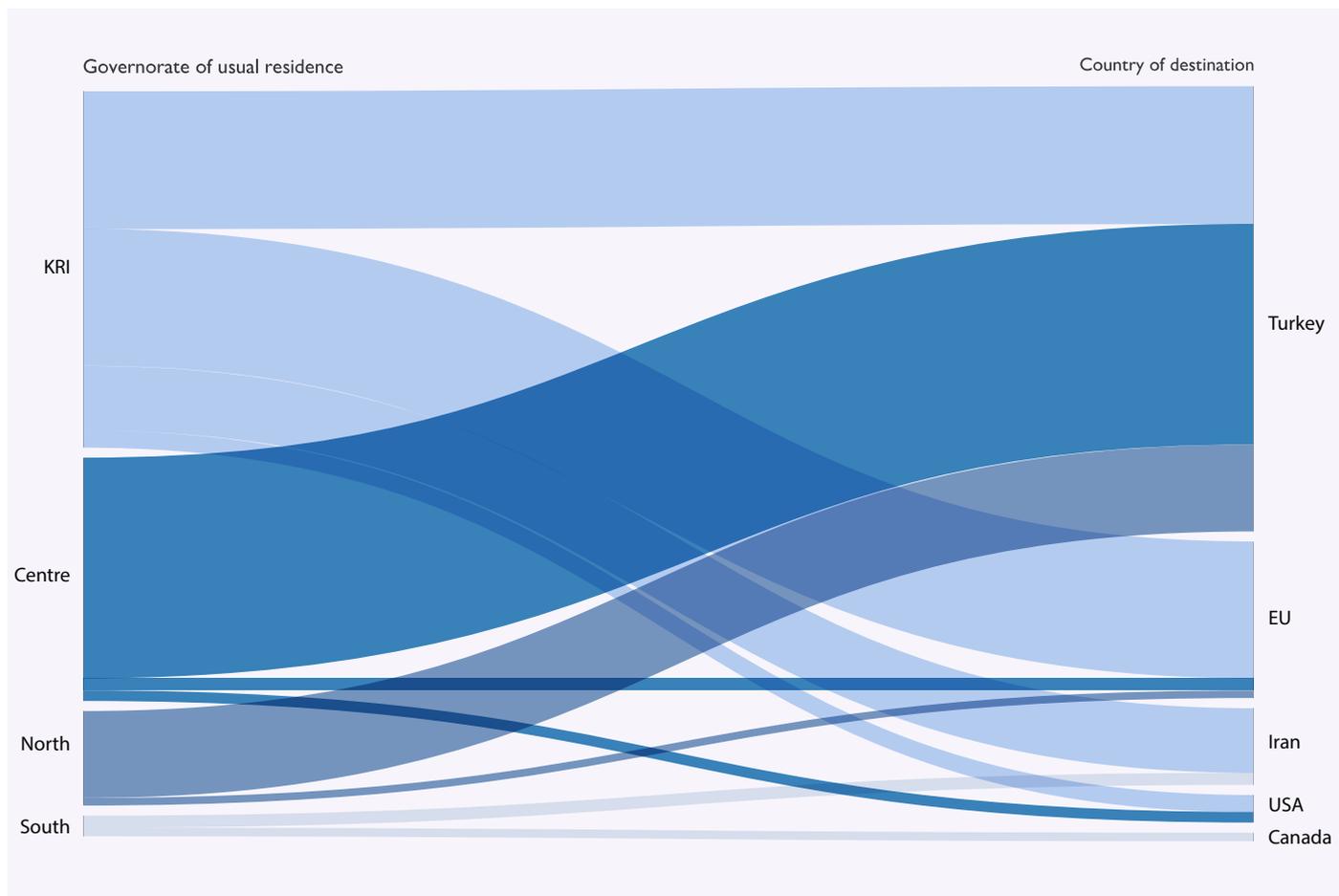


MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

Half of the potential emigrants departed from KRI, around one third from the central governorates in Federal Iraq: Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala and Wwasit; a little more than one tenth from the northern governorates: Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din; and few from the southern governorates such as Basrah and Muthanna.

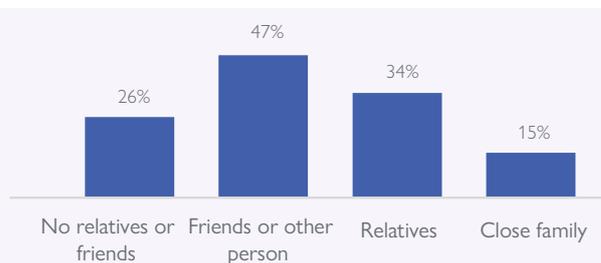
Generally, around three fifths of flows were towards Turkey; around one fifth towards EU countries; one tenth towards Iran; and a small percentage of those who departed from KRI were mainly heading towards the EU countries, Turkey and Iran. Potential emigrants from the central and northern governorates were mainly heading towards Turkey.

POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AND GOVERNORATE OF USUAL RESIDENCE

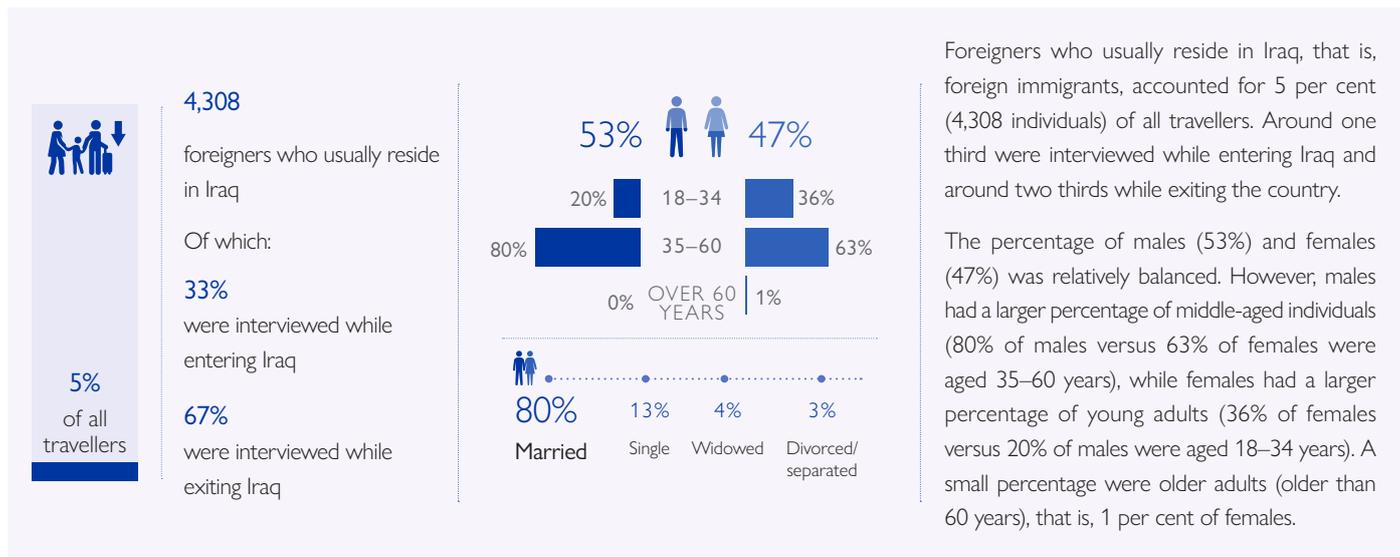


TIES AT THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

Most of those who were leaving the country already had ties at the country of destination, most often friends (47%) or relatives (34%) rather than close family (15%).



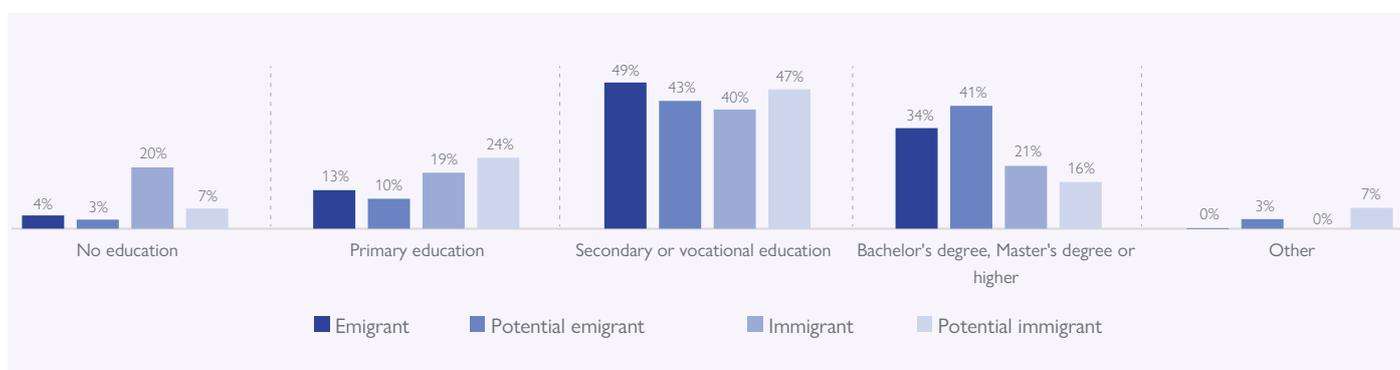
MIGRANTS PROFILE: IMMIGRANTS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



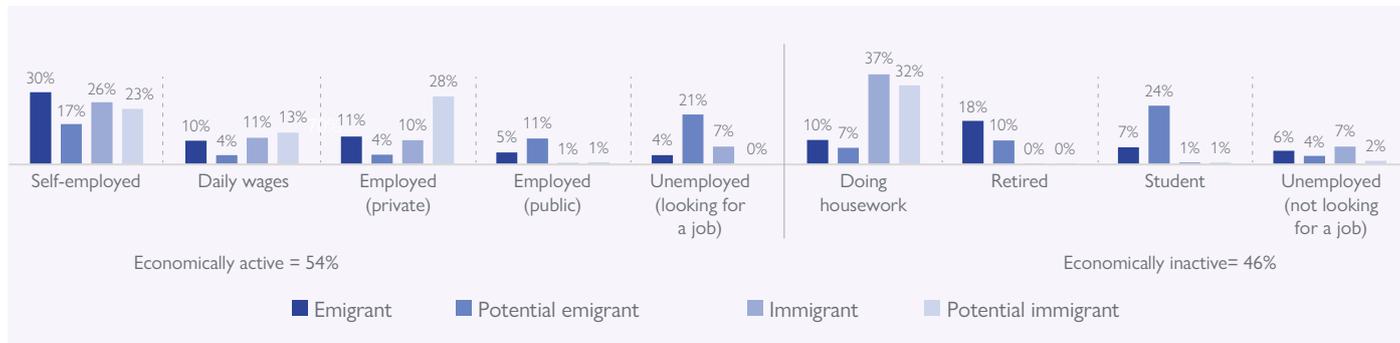
The education level of immigrants in Iraq was lower compared to other groups. The percentage of individuals with either only primary education completed or with no education accounted for around two fifths. This is much larger compared with the corresponding percentage for emigrants and potential emigrants. The percentage of individuals with some form of higher education was at 21 per cent, which is much lower compared with the corresponding percentage for emigrants and potential emigrants. The remaining two fifths of immigrants had secondary education or vocational training.

The percentage of individuals who belong to the economically inactive population was also larger compared with other migrant groups. The largest group among this category was individuals doing housework (37%), followed by unemployed individuals not looking for a job (7%). The percentage of persons doing housework was noticeably higher compared with the corresponding percentage for emigrants and potential emigrants. Among the economically active population, the largest categories were self-employed individuals (26%), followed by workers with daily wages (11%), employees in private sector (10%) and unemployed individuals who were actively looking for a job (7%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



MIGRANTS PROFILE: IMMIGRANTS – REASONS FOR TRAVEL AND ARRANGEMENTS

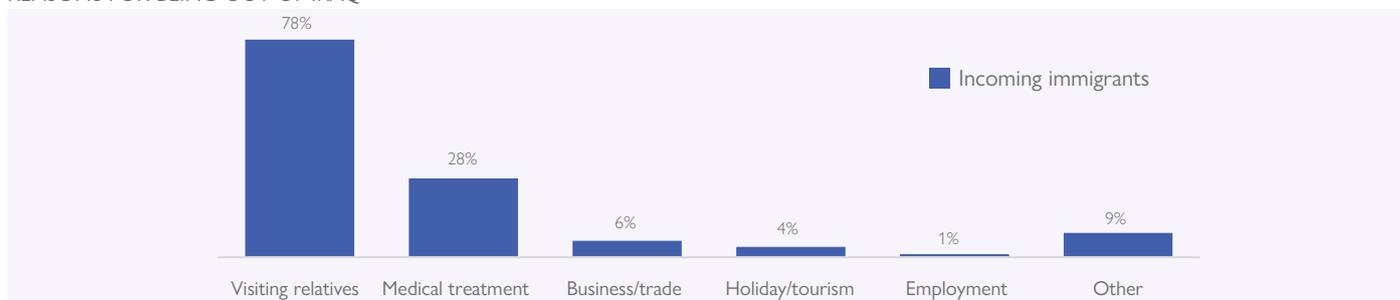
Visiting family and returning home or to the country of usual residence were the main reasons for border crossing for both directions of flow, followed by health-related reasons (23% of incoming and 12% of outgoing) and special occasions, such as weddings or funerals (14% of incoming and 15% of outgoing). This result corresponds with reasons for being abroad for three months and more, which for around three quarters was visiting family and for one quarter was receiving medical treatment.

REASONS FOR THE CURRENT TRAVEL BY TYPE OF FLOW



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 3 per cent are not shown on this chart.

REASONS FOR BEING OUT OF IRAQ



TRAVEL GROUP



Nearly all migrants paid for their journey with savings (92%), and some paid with the help of family or friends, either in the country of origin or abroad. A small percentage paid with other ways such as borrowed money (6%) or work during the journey (3%).

WAYS TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL



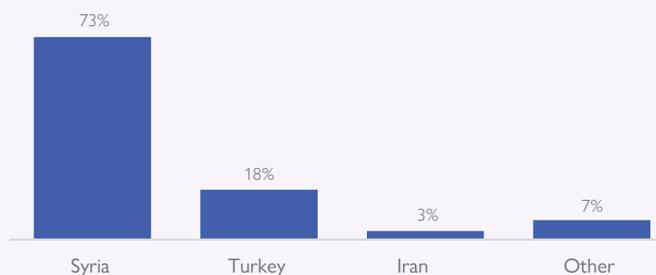
RISKS AWARENESS



MIGRANTS PROFILE: IMMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

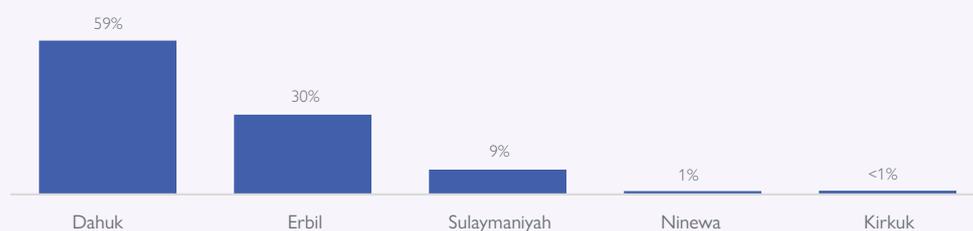
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Around three quarters of foreigners who usually reside in Iraq were from Syria, around one fifth were from Turkey and the remaining percentage were from Iran and from a few other countries, namely Georgia, Germany, Ukraine, and the United States.



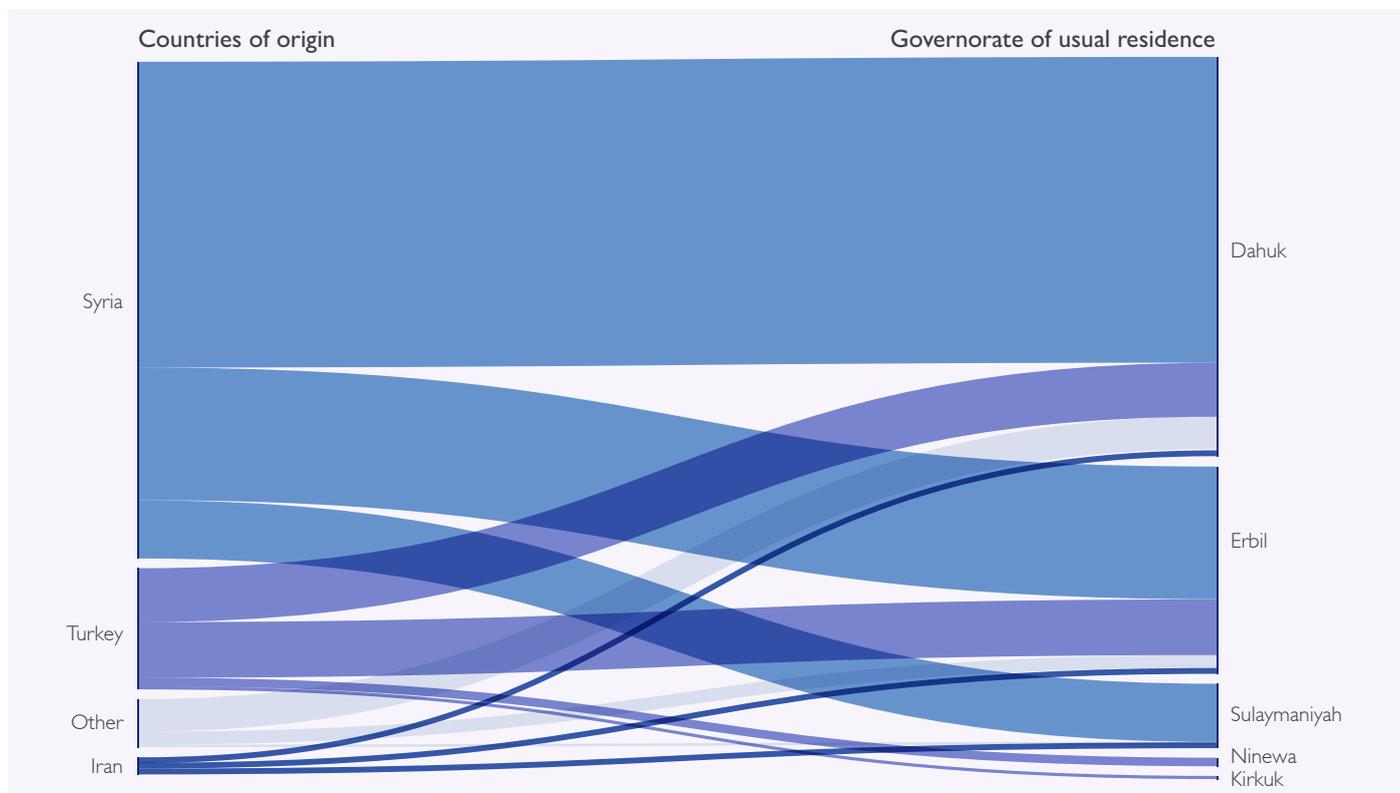
Nearly all foreigners had resettled in the KRI, most in Dahuk (59%), Erbil (30%) and a few in Sulaymaniyah (9%). All were regular residents since they hold a residence permit (98%), with few holding a temporary visa for employment or studying (2%).

GOVERNORATES OF USUAL RESIDENCE



Most Syrians settled in Dahuk, and fewer in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, while Turkish nationals equally resettled between Dahuk and Erbil.

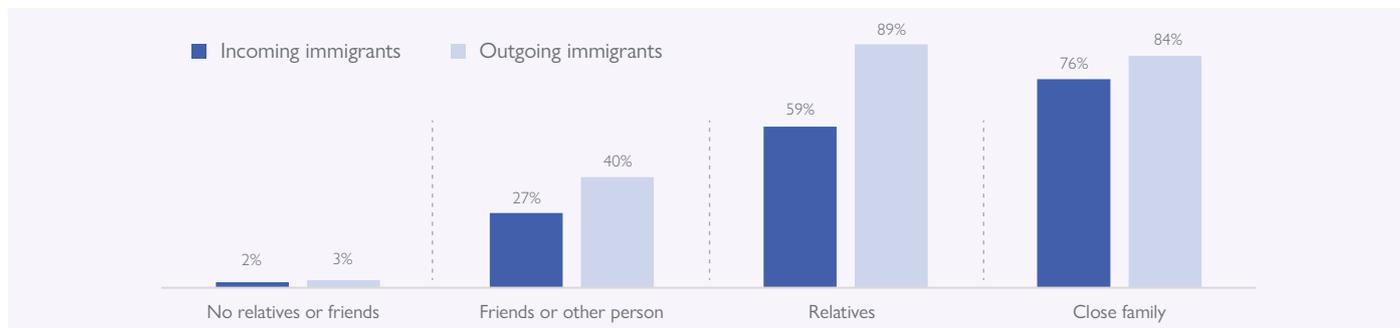
GOVERNORATES OF USUAL RESIDENCE BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



MIGRANTS PROFILE: IMMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

Immigrants had close 'ties' with both their country of origin and Iraq. The percentage of individuals with no relatives or friends at the destination was very low (2% of incoming and 3% of outgoing). Nearly all outgoing immigrants had close family and relatives in the country of origin. Incoming immigrants more often reported having close family in Iraq and less often having friends and relatives. Nearly all Syrians moved to Iraq with their close family, while only one quarter of Turkish nationals moved with close family, three fifths moved alone, and the remaining percentage moved with friends or relatives.

TIES AT THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

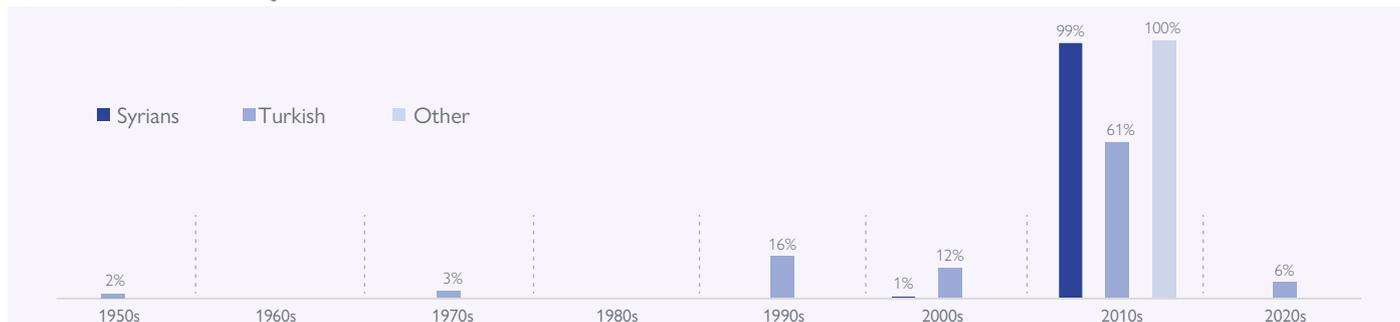


HISTORY OF MIGRATION



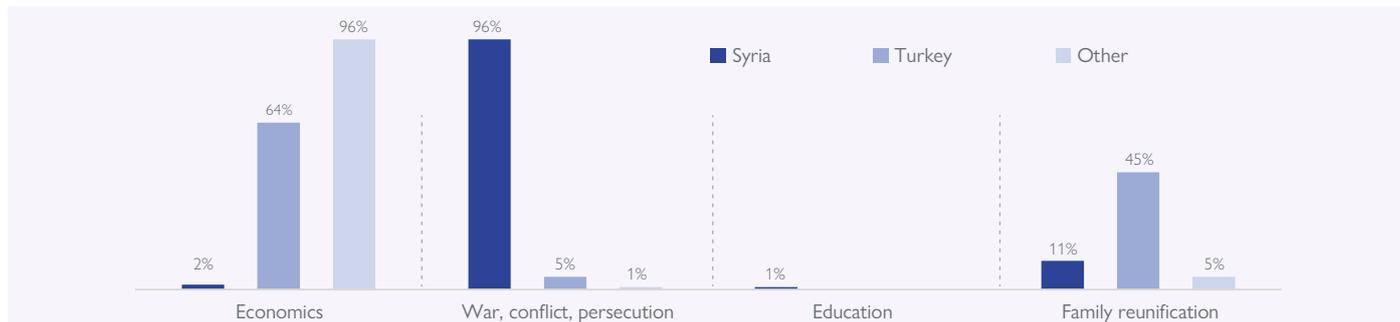
Most migration occurred in the 2010s, with some Turkish nationals having moved to Iraq in the 1990s and 2000s. Syrians started arriving in Iraq after 2011 with a peak between 2015 and 2016 and a steady decrease afterwards.

YEAR OF MOVING TO IRAQ

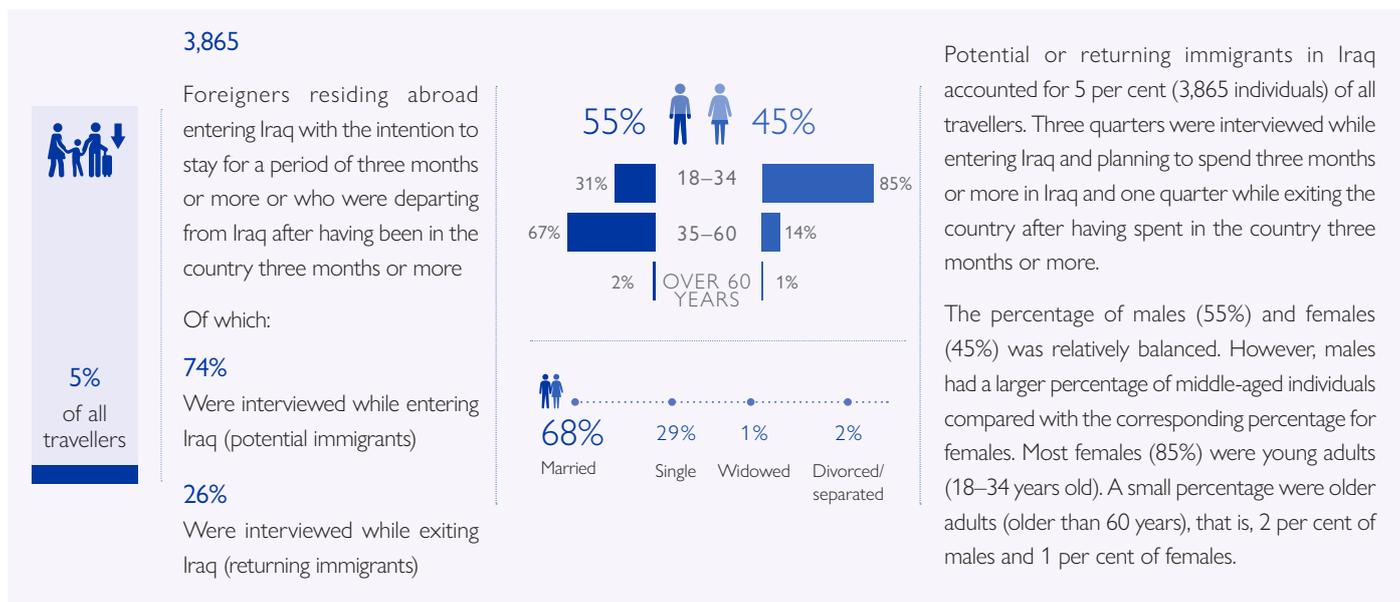


Reasons for leaving the country of nationality differ across nationalities. For nearly all Syrian immigrants, they left due to the conflict, while for Turkish immigrants, it was either due to economic or family reasons. Other foreigners migrated due to economic reasons.

REASONS FOR LEAVING COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY

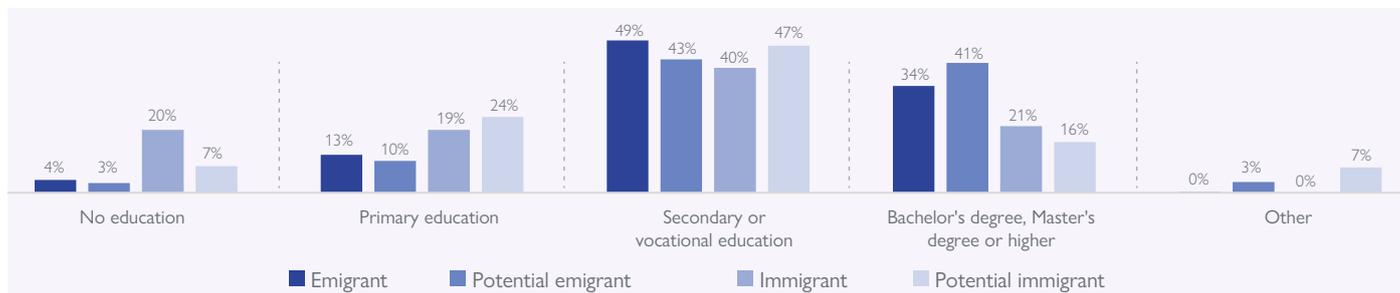


MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



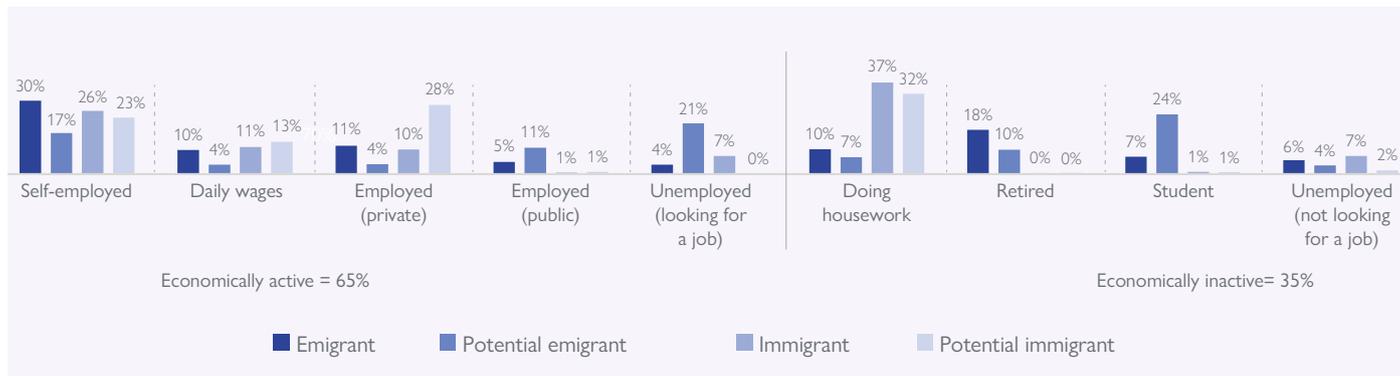
The education level of potential or returning immigrants was lower compared to emigrant groups. The percentage of individuals with either only primary education completed or with no education accounted for around one third. This is much larger compared with the corresponding percentage for emigrants and potential emigrants. The percentage of individuals with some form of higher education was at 16 per cent, which is much lower compared with the corresponding percentage for emigrants and potential emigrants. Around half of this group had secondary education or vocational training.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



The percentage of individuals who belong to the economically active population was larger compared with other migrant groups and accounted for around two thirds. The largest categories were employees in the private sector (28%) and self-employed individuals (23%), followed by daily paid workers (13%). Around one third belong to the economically inactive population, mostly individuals doing housework (32%), with few students (1%) and unemployed individuals not looking for a job (2%).

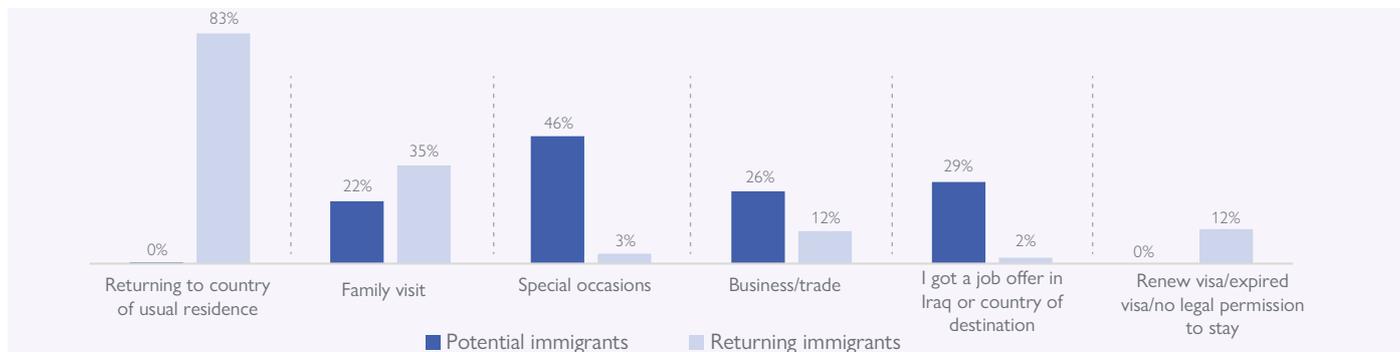
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS – REASONS FOR TRAVEL AND ARRANGEMENTS

Returning to the country of usual residence was the main travel reason for returning immigrants, followed by visiting family (35%), doing business (12%) and renewing visas (12%). For potential immigrants, the main reasons for arriving in Iraq were special occasions, such as weddings or funerals (46%), employment in Iraq (29%), business (26%) and visiting family (22%).

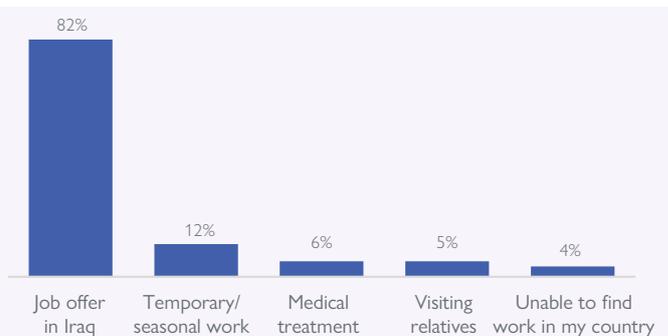
REASONS FOR THE CURRENT TRAVEL BY TYPE OF FLOW



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; response options 'other reasons' and reasons with less than 2 per cent are not shown on this chart

REASONS FOR BEING IN IRAQ FOR THREE MONTHS OR MORE

Most individuals departing from Iraq after having spent three months or more in the country were economic migrants. Most received a job offer in Iraq (82%), had temporary or seasonal work (12%) or were trying to find employment (4%).

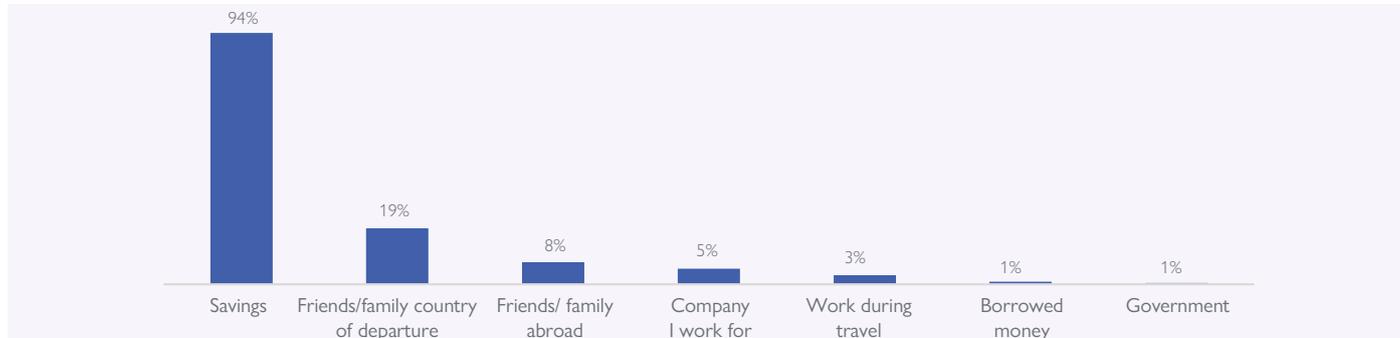


TRAVEL GROUP

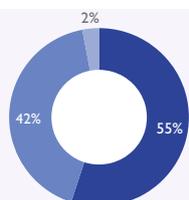


Nearly all potential or returning immigrants paid for their journey with savings (94%) and some paid with the help of family or friends, either in the country of departure or abroad. A small percentage paid with other ways such as with the help of the company they work for (5%) or by working during the journey (3%).

WAYS TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL



RISKS AWARENESS



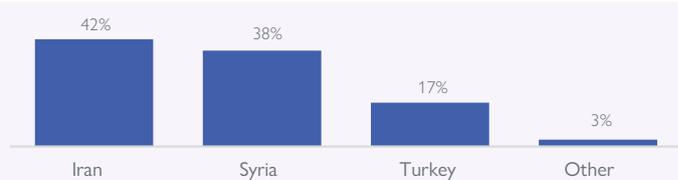
- There is no risk
- I was not aware of risks
- I was aware of risks

A little more than half of potential and returning immigrants considered the journey to/from Iraq as “free of risks”, whereas as much as two fifths stated that they were “not aware of risks”. Facing problems during the journey or witnessing other migrants facing problems was not reported.

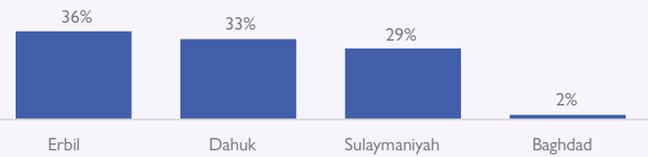
MIGRANTS PROFILE: POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS – MOBILITY HISTORY

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Potential or returning immigrants in Iraq were either Iranians (42%) or Syrians (38%), with some coming from Turkey (17%). Three per cent came from a few other countries, namely the US, Georgia, Ukraine and the UK.



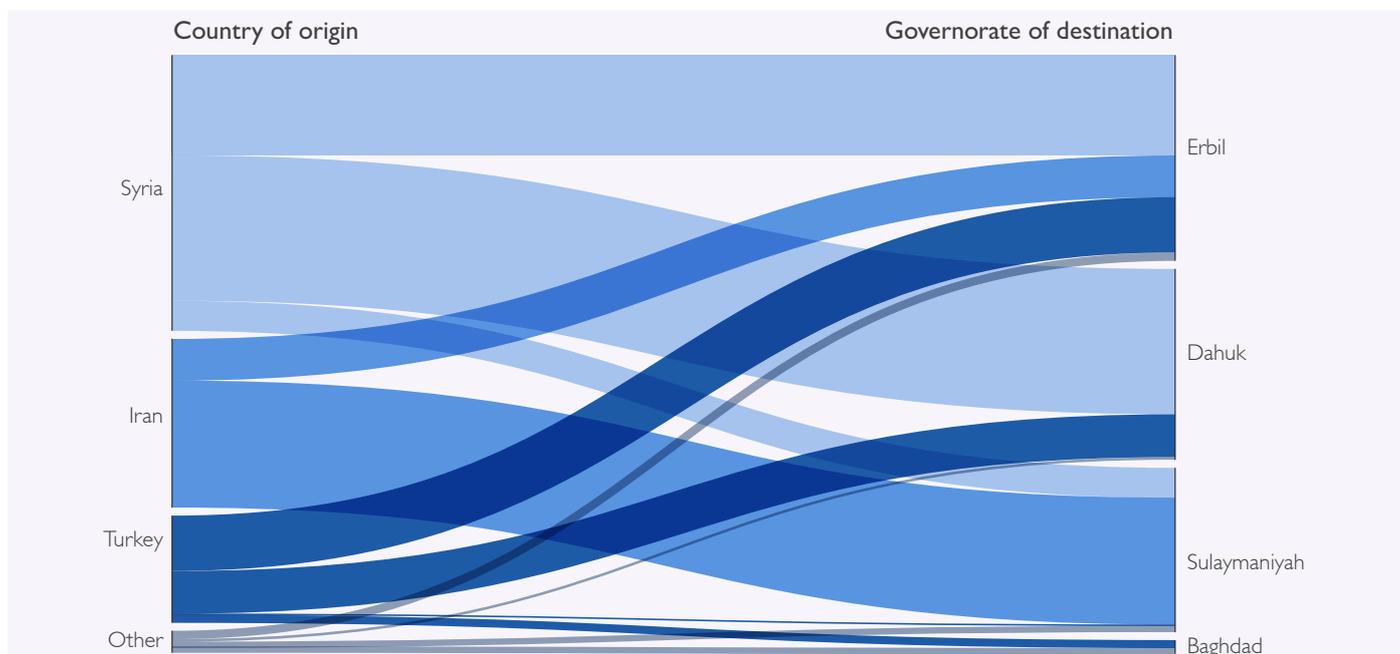
GOVERNORATE OF DESTINATION FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS



Nearly all of those who were departing the country had stayed in the KRI, almost equally spread between Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates.

Most Iranians arriving in Iraq were heading towards Sulaymaniyah, while Syrians and Turkish nationals were heading either to Erbil or Dahuk. All immigrants departing from Iraq were heading towards their countries of nationality.

GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN BY GOVERNORATE OF DESTINATION FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS

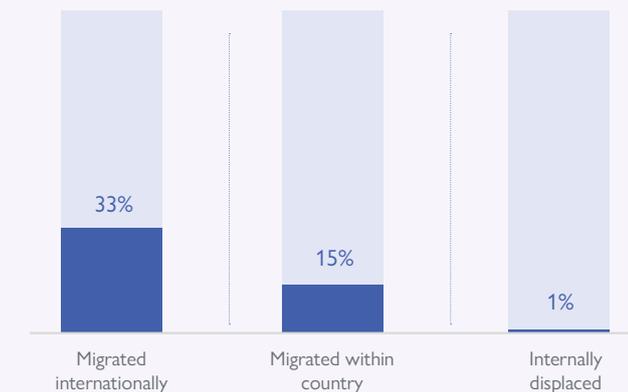


TIES AT THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS

Potential immigrants had close ties in Iraq. Only 6 per cent had no relatives or friends in the country, while most had relatives (57%), close family (48%) or friends (39%).



HISTORY OF MIGRATION FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS



Around one third of individuals had already crossed an international border. This is the second highest percentage, compared with the corresponding shares for other migrant groups after the 'potential immigrant' group. In addition, 15 per cent had migrated within national borders.

METHODOLOGY

Data gathering for this report took place at five border crossing points between 1 September 2020 and 28 February 2021 on weekdays only, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a lunch break of 30 minutes between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Data were collected through IOM's enumerators, composed of 14 staff members deployed across Iraq (35% of enumerators are female).

The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs).⁷ Specific criteria were used to select the border crossing points, including: 1) high volumes of daily crossings to and from neighbouring countries; 2) diversity, both in geography and type of border point (official/unofficial border points, bus stations, etc.); and 3) ability of staff to reach and operate from the location for daily data collection and fund optimization.

Out of 16 locations assessed, five border crossing points were selected for data collection:

- Ibrahim Al-Khalil in Dahuk Governorate, bordering Turkey.
- Fishkhabour in Dahuk Governorate, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Bashmogh in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) in Wassit Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Al-Shalamcha in Basrah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The data collection methodology for cross-border monitoring in Iraq was developed in cooperation with IPAZIA Ricerche. The methodology uses two different approaches: 1) headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq, and 2) survey of randomly sampled travellers identified as entering or exiting Iraq.

The counting exercise aims to count all individuals crossing national borders and to identify the total volume of travellers who enter Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and travellers who exit Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). Counting was conducted by observation, using tablets to record the type of flow (incoming/outgoing), the time of crossing (day, hour, minutes), and the number of travellers as well as their means of transport (whether by private car, taxi, bus or minibus – up to 15 seats).

The survey aims to collect information about travellers and was conducted through face-to-face interviews, using tablets to record socio-demographic characteristics, mobility history and reasons for travel. Respondents were selected randomly through the adoption of a 'systematic step/interval' – that is, travellers are systematically selected at fixed intervals from the start of the workday. The interval was fixed at 1:3 (one in every three individuals were selected for an interview). All travellers aged 18 years and older who were crossing borders were eligible for an interview, regardless of their nationality. Sampling weights were applied to generalize the characteristics of travellers.

DTM identified 143,335 individuals crossing the border points during the reporting period, 6,632 travellers were sampled using systematic selection, 5,986 interviews were conducted and 646 refused to take part in the survey or were not able or not eligible to answer.

	TEMPORARY TRAVELLERS	IMMIGRANTS	POTENTIAL IMMIGRANT	EMIGRANTS	POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS
TRAVELLERS	Individuals who are crossing the international border with Iraq for a period of up to three months.	Foreigners who usually reside in Iraq regardless of the intended length of travel.	Foreigners who usually reside abroad arriving in Iraq with the intention to stay for a period of three months or more or departing from Iraq after being in the country for three months or more.	Iraqi nationals who usually reside abroad regardless of the intended length of travel.	Iraqi nationals who are departing from Iraq and intending to spend three months or more abroad or returning Iraqi migrants who are arriving in their country of nationality after being abroad three months or more.
Weighted value	59,052	4,308	3,865	11,309	1,740
Sample size	4,634	237	329	661	125

DISCLAIMER

Data presented in this report are representative of the migrants crossing at any of the five selected border points between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 pm during weekdays only. Data should not be generalized to all inter and intra-regional migration; rather, data capture information on migration at the five border points monitored. Data collected in assessed border points should not lead to assumptions about flows in non-assessed border points or areas without monitoring points.

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

⁷ Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>