## **CROSS-BORDER MONITORING REPORT**



DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: MARCH 2023 - MAY 2023

**JULY 2023** 

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighbouring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and the Republic of Türkiye (Türkiye) – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. Cross-border monitoring is designed to capture and describe migration flows.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 March and 31 May 2023. Due to budget constraints, starting from 1 March 2023 data collection takes place at three border points only, namely Bashmagh, bordering Iran, Fiskhabour, bordering Syria and Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Türkiye. Fishkhabour border crossing point was closed for travellers and commercial exchange between 20 and 31 May. Further details on the survey methodology, selection of respondents and border crossing points are available in the Methodological Overview on the DTM website.

Between March and May 2023, Ibrahim al Khalil saw the most traffic with a total of 69,825 travellers and 13,236 vehicles passing through the border crossing point, whilst Fishkhabour saw the least traffic with 16,909 travellers and 828 vehicles passing through the border. Two thirds were males, either young-adults (18-34 years old) or middle-aged (35-60 years old). One third were females, most were middle-aged (35-60 years old). Almost half of travellers had a secondary or vocational education background. The main employee statuses were employed in the private sector, working on daily wages or self-employment. A small proportion of travellers were looking for work or had received a job offer (6% of incoming travellers and 4% of outgoing travellers). Regarding protection risks, one per cent of travellers entered Iraq and one per cent of travellers exited Iraq for humanitarian reasons. In addition, six per cent of travellers who exit Iraq rely on the services of smugglers or brokers to arrange their travel.



132,168
Total number of travellers



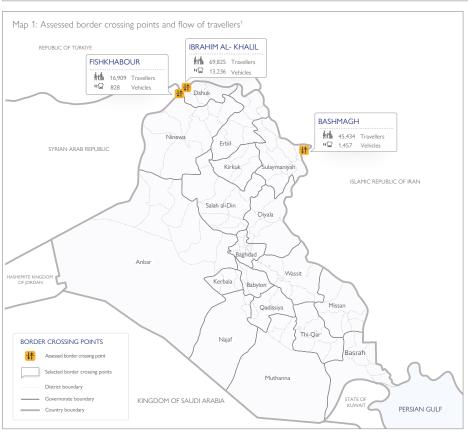
1,862
Average number of travellers per day

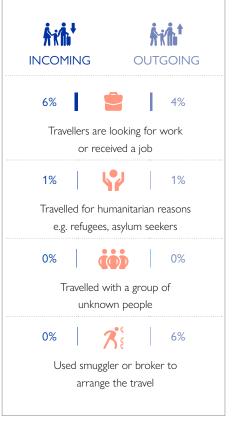


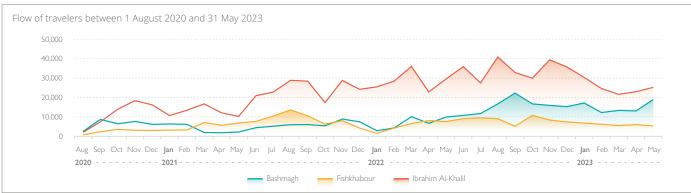
15,521
Total number of vehicles



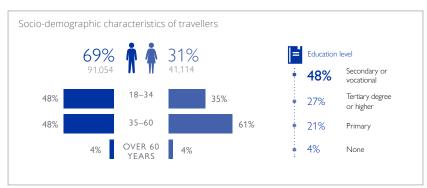
Average number of vehicles per day

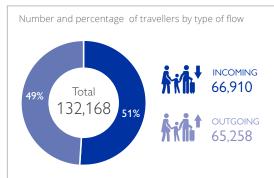


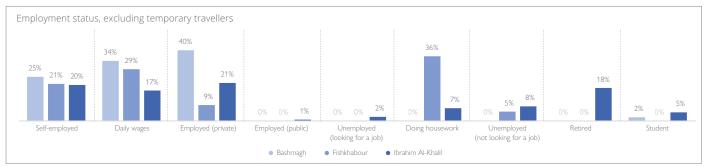


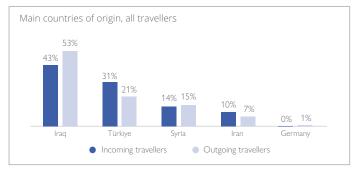


<sup>1</sup> An interactive dashboard presenting data on the volume of travellers, their socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel, and protection risks can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at https://iraqdtm.iom.int/BorderMonitoring#CrossBorder



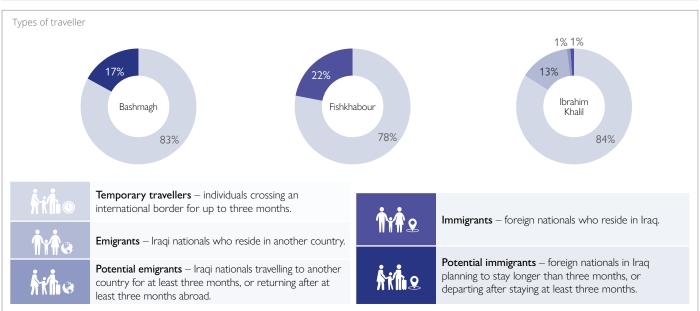








Top three reasons for travel, by border crossing point						
Bashmagh		Fishkh	Fishkhabour		Ibrahim Al-Khalil	
23%	Job offer in Iraq or country of destination	49%	Returning home or to country of usual residence	36%	Returning home or to country of usual residence	
22%	Returning home or to country of usual residence	38%	Family visit	34%	Shopping	
19%	Holiday/tourism	23%	Special occasions	13%	Family visit	







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