

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighbouring countries – 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 June and 31 August 2025. Travellers for face-to-face interviews are selected randomly through the adoption of a 'systematic step/interval' selection process and further details about sampling process are available in the [Methodological Overview](#) on the DTM website.

Between **June** and **August 2025**, Ibrahim al-Khalil on the border with Türkiye saw the most traffic with a total of **66,090 travellers** and **13,996 vehicles** passing through the border crossing point, followed by Fishkhabour on the border with Syria with **22,464 travellers** and **1,246 vehicles**. In total, 2,161 travellers were surveyed — 1,604 at Ibrahim Al-Khalil and 557 at Fishkhabour. Of these, **321 were migrants**,² while **1,840 were temporary travellers**. Based on this sample, weighted analysis was applied to ensure that the information presented in this report is representative of all travellers.

According to survey data almost two thirds of the travellers were male and a third were female. Most of them were middle-aged (35–60 years old) and economically active, working as daily wage laborers, self-employed individuals, or engaged in housework.

Most movements were temporary, meaning that travellers spent, or planned to spend, less than three months outside their country of usual residence. However, a **substantial share of travellers crossing through the Ibrahim al-Khalil border point were emigrants (11%), while immigrants accounted for 22% of travellers through Fishkhabour**.



88,554

Total number of
travellers

1,527

Average number of
travellers per day

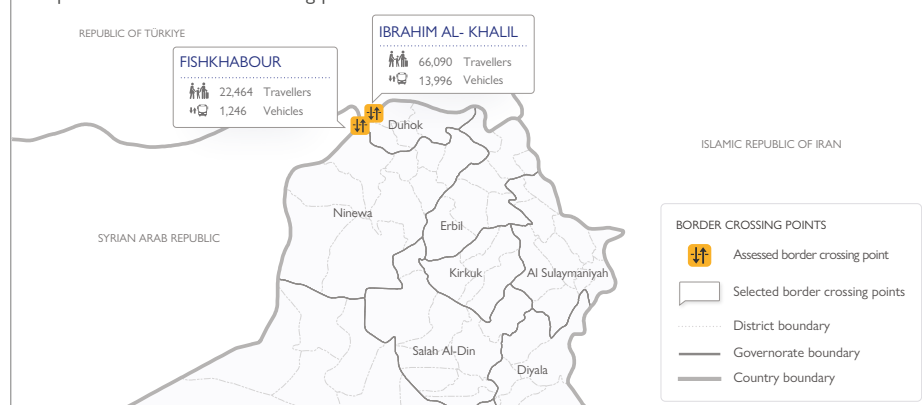
15,242

Total number of
vehicles

263

Average number of
vehicles per day

Map 1: Assessed border crossing points and flow of travellers



INCOMING



OUTGOING

<1%



<1%

Travellers are looking for work
or received a job

2%



0%

Travelled for humanitarian reasons
e.g. refugees, asylum seekers

0%



1%

Travelled with a group of
unknown people

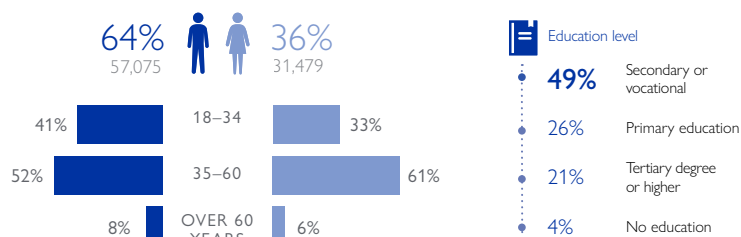
1%



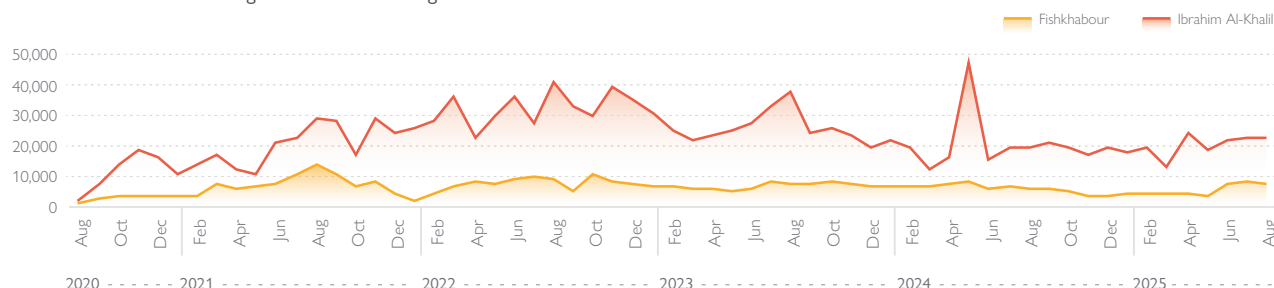
4%

First time migrants³

Socio-demographic characteristics of travellers



Flow of travelers between 1 August 2020 and 31 August 2025

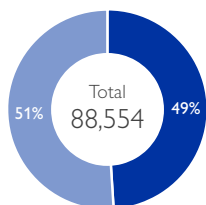


1 An interactive dashboard presenting data on the volume of travellers, their socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel, and protection risks can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/BorderMonitoring#CrossBorder>

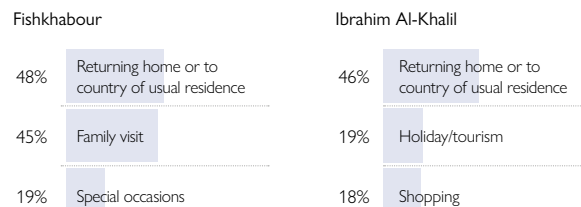
2 Individuals who have changed their country of usual residence or those who have been away, or planning to be away, from their country of nationality for at least three months.

3 First time migrants refer to travellers who never migrated both within their country of habitual residence and internationally (excluding temporary travellers).

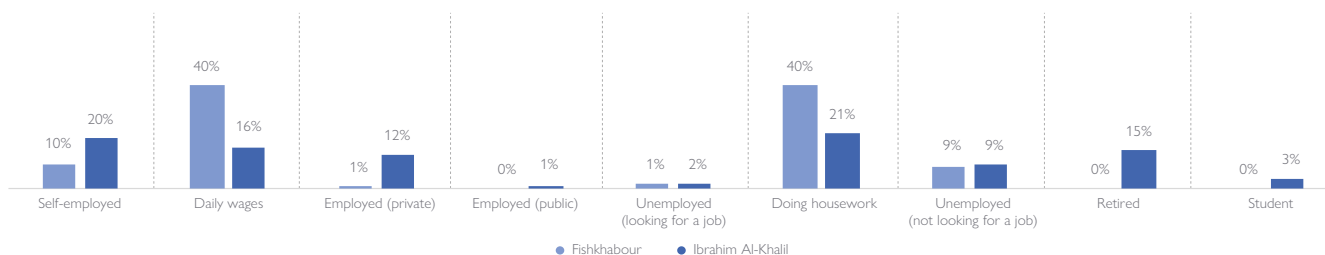
Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



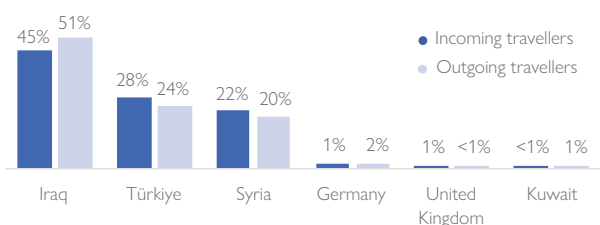
Top three reasons for travel, by border crossing point



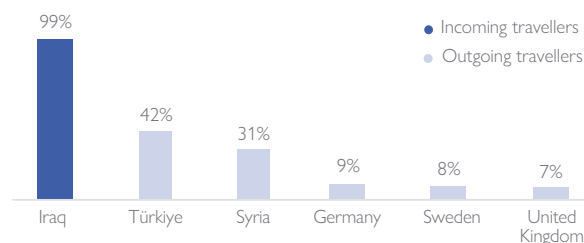
Employment status, excluding temporary travellers



Main countries of origin, all travellers (top five)



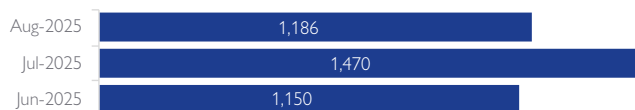
Main countries of destination, excluding temporary travellers (top six)



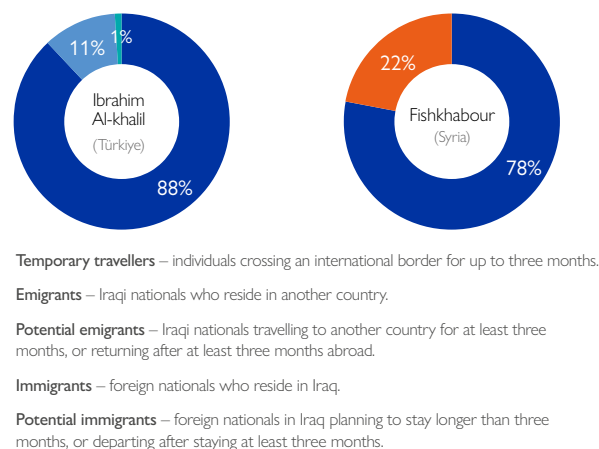
Return of Syrian Nationals via Fishkhabour Border Point

DTM established coordination with the Asayesh Directorate and relevant authorities to obtain regular data on Syrian return movements through the Fishkhabour border point, following a recent wave of returns after fines for residency violations were waived. During the reporting period from June to August 2025, **1,150 Syrians returned in June, 1,470 in July, and 1,186 in August** after surrendering their Kurdistan Region residency permits. The fine exemption remains valid until 15 September 2025, and returnees are not permitted to re-enter Iraq.

Number of Syrian Returnees via Fishkhabour after Surrendering Their Kurdistan Region Residency Permits



Types of traveller



Non-voluntary Return of Iraqi Nationals via Ibrahim Al-Khalil Border Point

According to information provided by government authorities operating at the border point, non-voluntary returns of Iraqi nationals through Ibrahim Al-Khalil (the border point with Türkiye) were recorded during the reporting period from June to August 2025. Over a 24-hour monitoring period, authorities reported **247 individuals in June, 397 in July, and 294 in August as non-voluntary returnees.**

The DTM Flow Monitoring team independently confirmed 69 individuals in June and 143 individuals in August, with the remaining returns occurring outside the team's working hours.

Most of the non-voluntary returnees were detained while attempting to cross from Türkiye into Greece, with some cases involving non-voluntary returns from Bulgaria to Türkiye. These individuals were subsequently handed over to the Asayesh—Kurdish Security Forces—through the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point, where DTM staff were present to record their arrival.

Number of Non-voluntary Returned Iraqi Individuals

