

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 September and 30 November 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 September and November 2025, Ibrahim al-Khalil on the border with Türkiye saw the most traffic with a total of 54,257 travellers and 13,001 vehicles passing through the border crossing point, followed by Fishkhabour on the border with Syria with 18,496 travellers and 1,195 vehicles. In total, 2,324 travellers were surveyed — 1,723 at Ibrahim Al-Khalil and 601 at Fishkhabour. Of these, 349 were migrants,² while 1,975 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. In contrast, around 20 per cent of travellers crossing through the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point were retired.

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 (10%), while immigrants accounted for 21% of travellers through Fishkhabour.



72,753

Total number of
travellers

1,173

Average number of
travellers per day

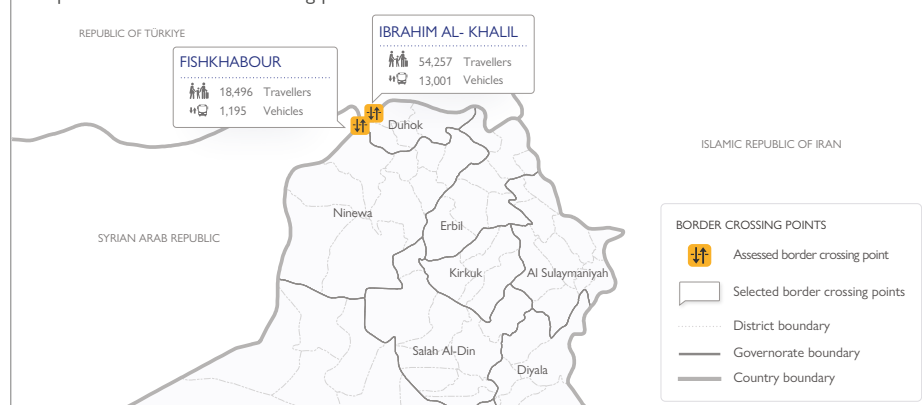
14,196

Total number of
vehicles

229

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

1%



<1%

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

0%



1%

Travelled with a group of
unknown people

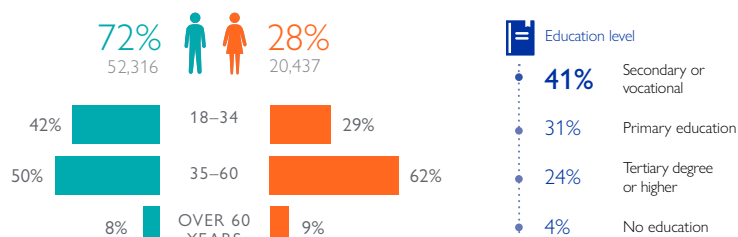
9%



8%

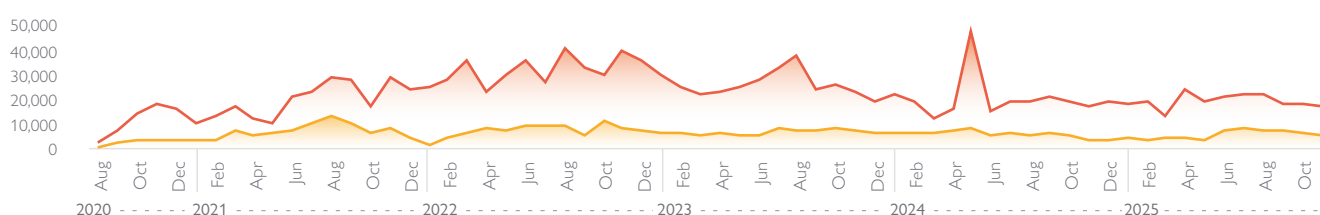
First time migrants³

Socio-demographic characteristics of travellers



Flow of travelers between 1 August 2020 and 30 November 2025

Fishkhabour Ibrahim Al-Khalil



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).



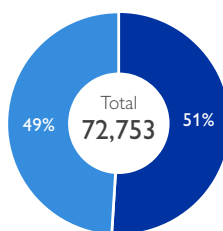
OUTGOING TRAVELLERS



INCOMING TRAVELLERS

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

35,419
Outgoing Travellers



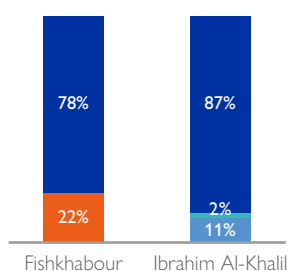
37,334
Incoming Travellers

Projected travellers' number and type⁴

30,235 Temporary Travellers

14,901 Iraqi
15,334 Non-Iraqi
3,658 Iraqi
1,526 Non-Iraqi

5,184 Migrants

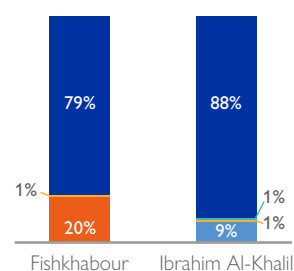


- **Temporary travellers** – individuals crossing an international border for up to three months.
- **Emigrants** – Iraqi nationals who reside in another country.
- **Potential emigrants** – Iraqi nationals travelling to another country for at least three months, or returning after at least three months abroad.
- **Immigrants** – foreign nationals who reside in Iraq.
- **Potential immigrants** – foreign nationals in Iraq planning to stay longer than three months, or departing after staying at least three months.

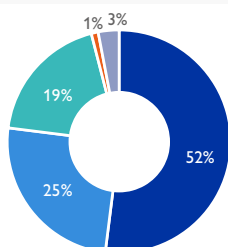
32,245 Temporary Travellers

11,394 Iraqi
20,851 Non-Iraqi
2,991 Iraqi
2,098 Non-Iraqi

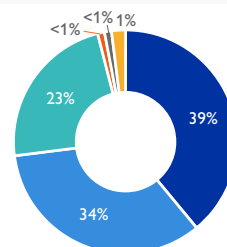
5,089 Migrants



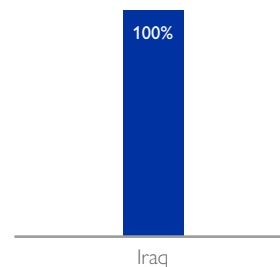
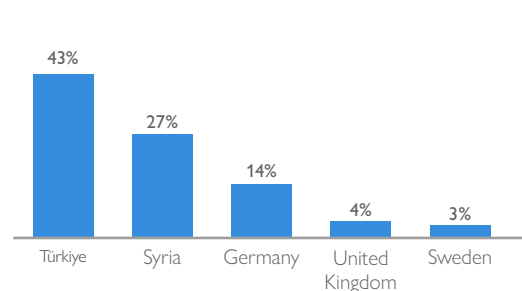
Main nationalities (all travellers)



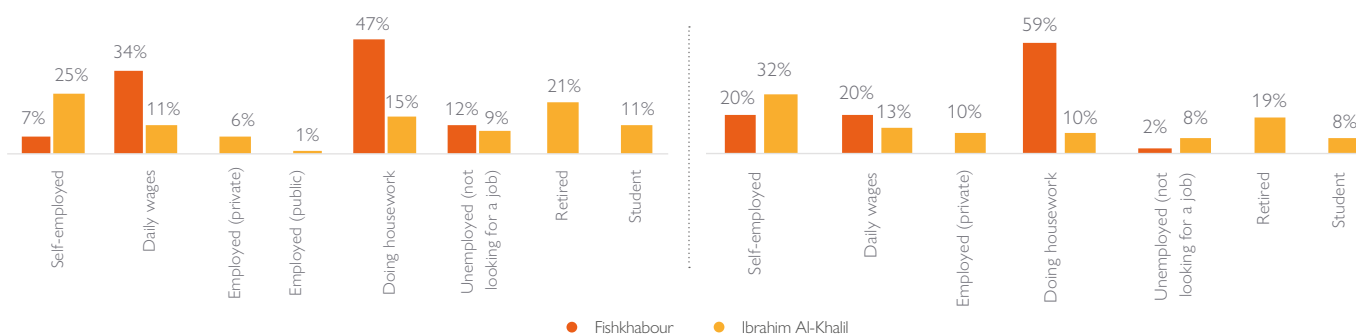
- Iraq
- Türkiye
- Syria
- Kuwait
- Iran
- Germany
- Others



Main countries of destination (excluding temporary travellers)

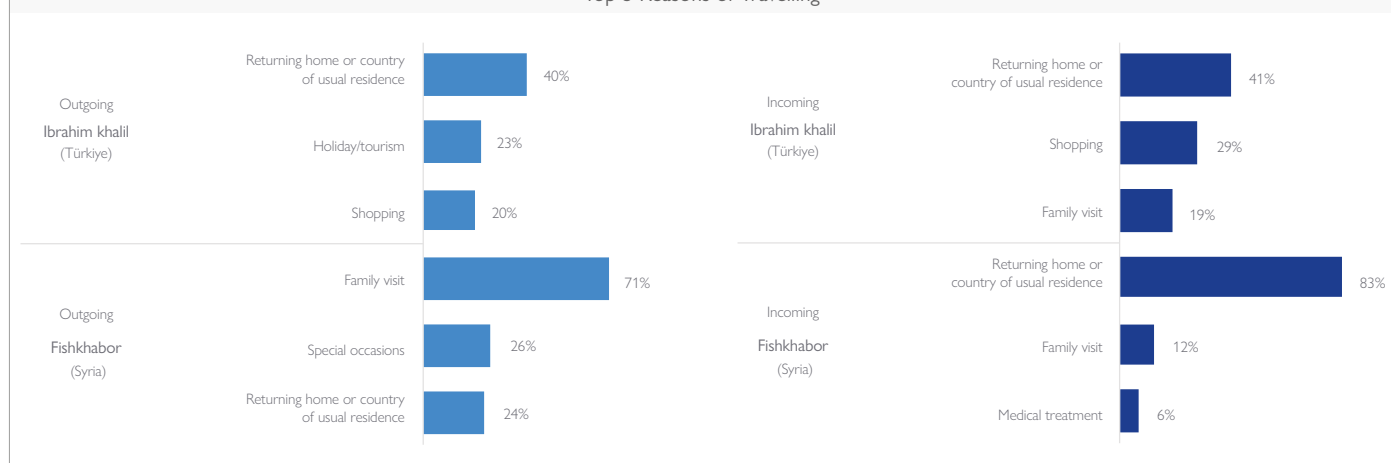


Employment status, excluding temporary travellers



⁴ Numbers of travellers, disaggregated by type, are projected estimates calculated using weighted analysis to be representative of all travellers.

Top 3 Reasons of Travelling⁵



Return of Syrian nationals via Fishkhabour border point

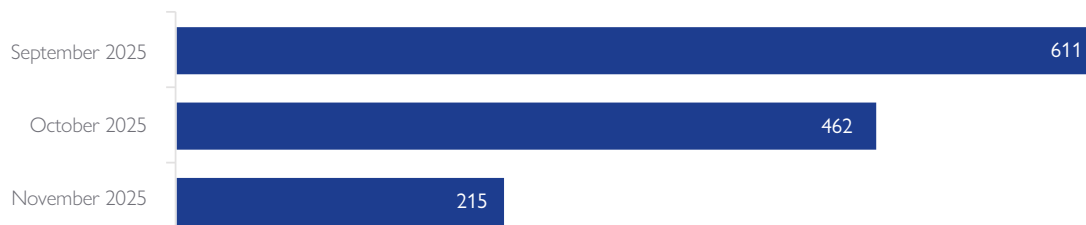
DTM established coordination with the Asayesh Directorate and relevant authorities to obtain regular data on Syrian return movements through the Fishkhabur border point. During the reporting period from **September to November 2025, 836 Syrians returned in September, 166 in October and 120 in November** after surrendering their Kurdistan Region residency permits, bringing the total number of returnees to 4,928 between June and November 2025 through Fishkhabour border point.



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 September to November 2025. Over a 24-hour monitoring period, authorities reported **611 individuals in September, 462 in October, and 215 in November** as non-voluntary returnees. The DTM Flow Monitoring team independently confirmed 208 individuals in September, 234 individuals in October and 54 in November with the remaining returns occurring outside the team's working hours.

Most non-voluntary returnees were detained while attempting to cross from **Türkiye into Greece**, with additional cases involving interceptions at the **Türkiye–Bulgaria border or arrests inside Türkiye** due to expired or invalid documentation. The majority were intercepted while attempting to migrate irregularly to European destinations, primarily **Germany and the Netherlands**, followed by the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Canada. Following detention, individuals were handed over to the Asayesh (Kurdish Security Forces) through the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point, where DTM staff recorded arrivals during official monitoring hours.



⁵ Percentages may sum to more than 100 per cent as respondents were able to select more than one reason for travel.