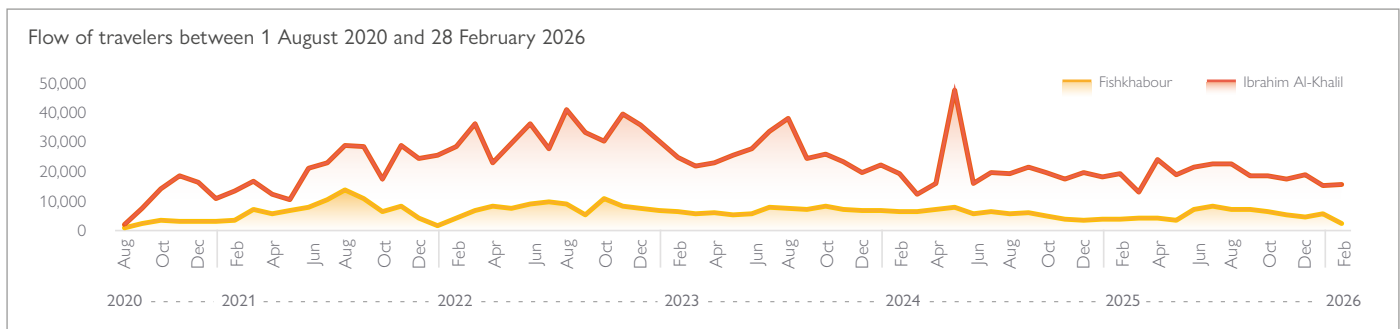
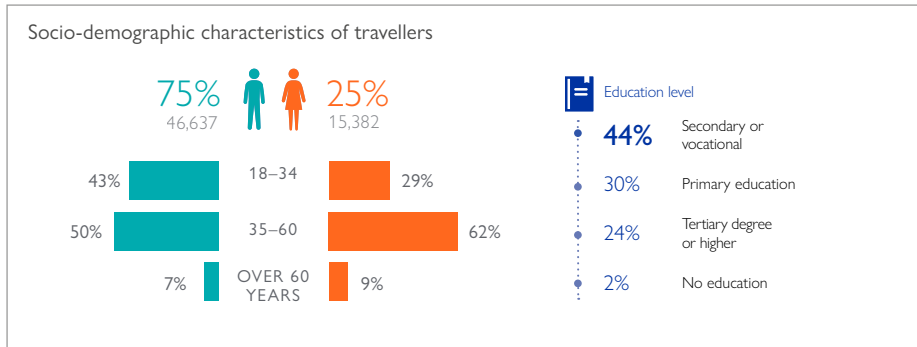
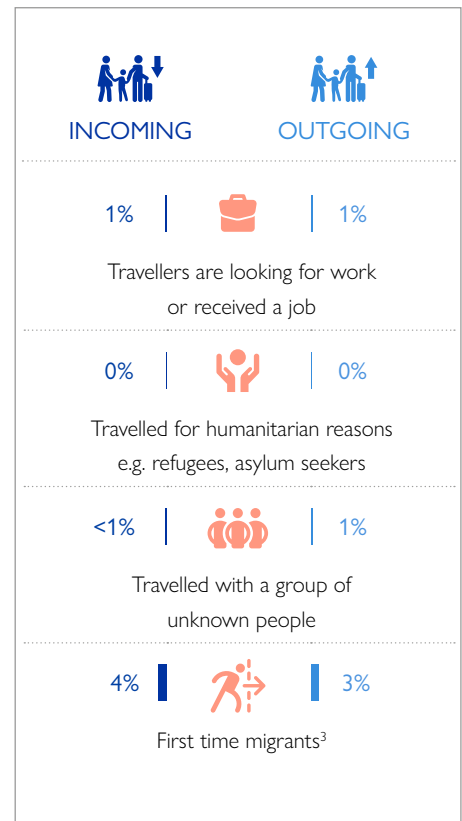
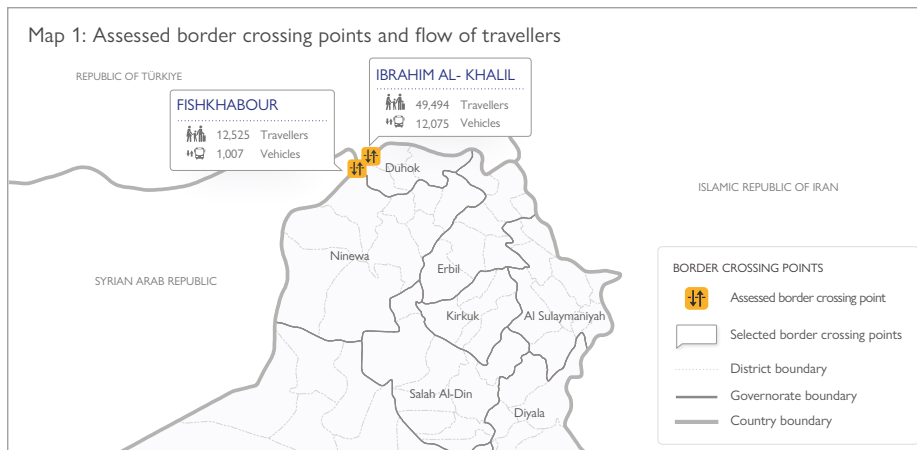


DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighbouring countries – the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and the Republic of Türkiye (Türkiye) – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. [Cross-border monitoring](#) is designed to capture and describe migration flows.¹ Data 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 December 2025 to 28 February 2026. 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 **December 2025 and February 2026**, **Ibrahim al-Khalil on the border with Türkiye** saw the most traffic with a total of **49,494 travellers and 12,075 vehicles** passing through the border crossing point, followed by **Fishkhabour on the border with Syria** with **12,525 travellers and 1,007 vehicles**. In total, 2,233 travellers were surveyed — 1,654 at Ibrahim Al-Khalil and 579 at Fishkhabour. **Of these, 332 were migrants,² while 1,901 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 75 percent of the travellers were male and a quarter 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 21 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 notable share of travellers crossing through the **Ibrahim Al-Khalil** border point were emigrants, accounting for **10 per cent of both incoming and outgoing movements**. In contrast, immigrants represented a larger share of movements through **Fishkhabour**, accounting for **21 percent of outgoing travellers and 22 percent of incoming travellers**.



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).



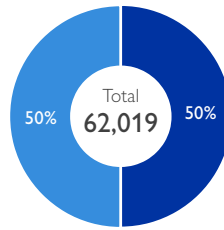
OUTGOING TRAVELLERS



INCOMING TRAVELLERS

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

30,800
Outgoing Travellers



31,219
Incoming Travellers

Projected travellers' number and type⁴

26,648 Temporary Travellers

14,279 Iraqi
12,369 Non-Iraqi

4,152 Migrants

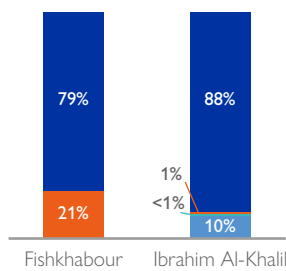
2,935 Iraqi
1,216 Non-Iraqi

27,116 Temporary Travellers

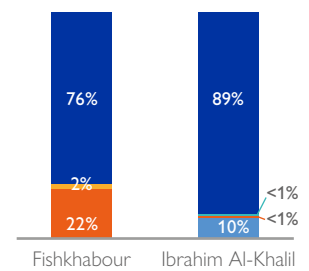
8,711 Iraqi
18,405 Non-Iraqi

4,103 Migrants

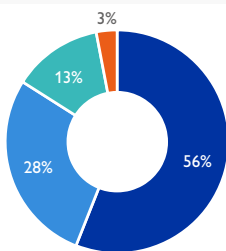
2,579 Iraqi
1,524 Non-Iraqi



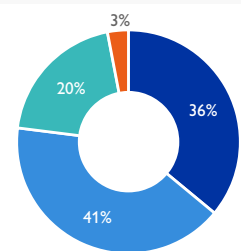
- **Temporary travellers** – individuals crossing an international border for up to three months.
- **Emigrants** – Iraqi nationals who reside in another country.
- **Potential emigrants** – Iraqi nationals travelling to another country for at least three months, or returning after at least three months 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.



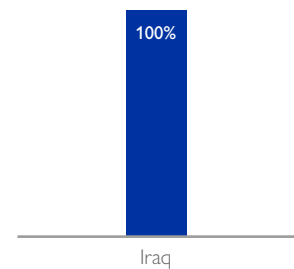
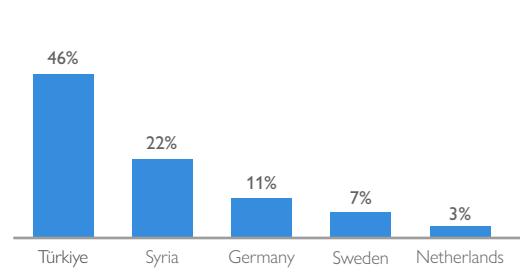
Main nationalities (all travellers)



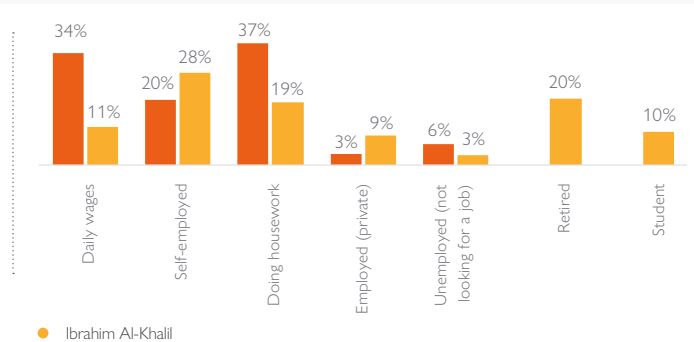
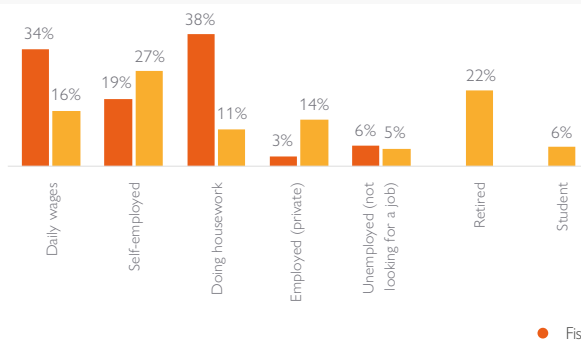
- Iraq
- Türkiye
- Syria
- Other



Main countries of destination (excluding temporary travellers)

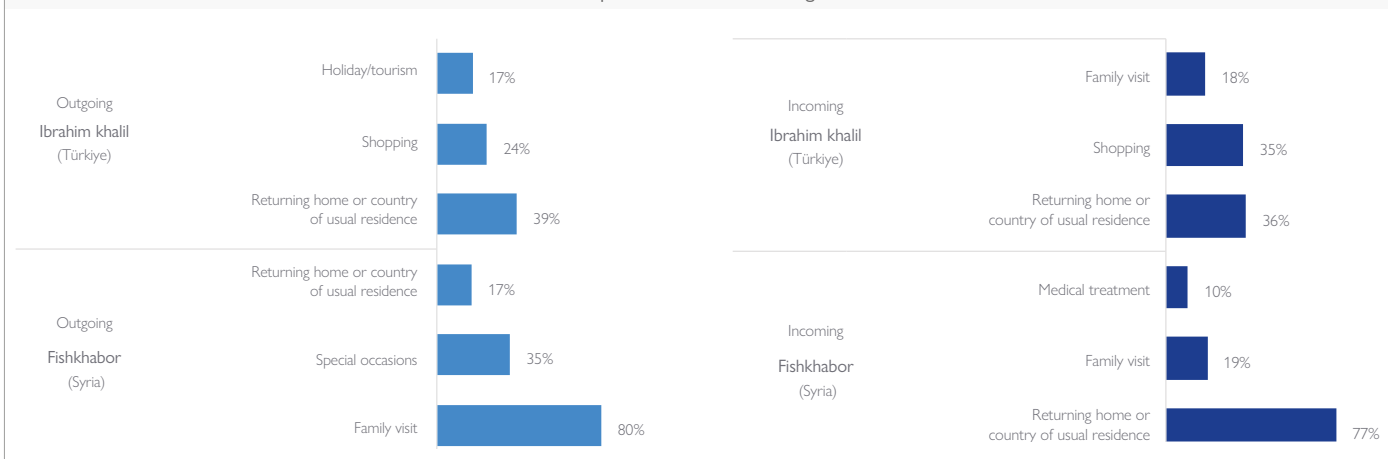


Employment status, excluding temporary travellers



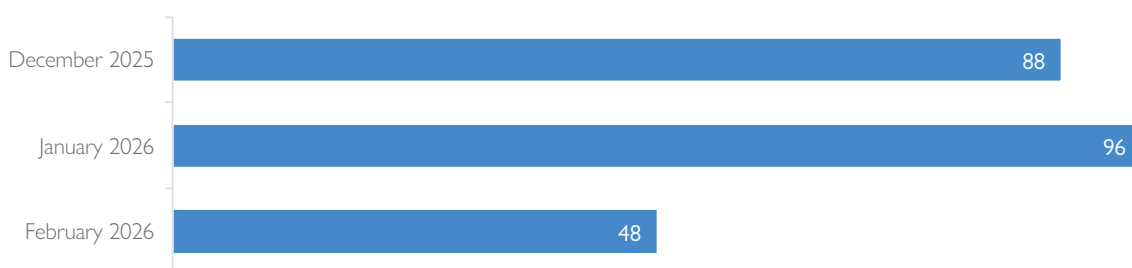
⁴ Numbers of travellers, disaggregated by type, are projected estimates calculated using weighted analysis to be representative of all travellers.

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 Fishkhabour border point. During the reporting period from December 2025 to February 2026, 88 Syrians returned in December, 96 in January, and 48 in February after surrendering their Kurdistan Region residency permits, bringing the total number of returnees to 5,160 between June 2025 and February 2026 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 December 2025 to February 2026. Over a 24-hour monitoring period, authorities reported **169 individuals in December, 98 in January, and 118 in February** as non-voluntary returnees. The DTM Flow Monitoring team independently confirmed 30 individuals in December, 27 individuals in January and 18 in February 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, the United Kingdom, and Greece, while some cases broadly indicated intended movement towards Europe without a specific country identified. 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.