

COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

November 23, 2020 – IOM Regional Office for the European Economic Area, the European Union and NATO

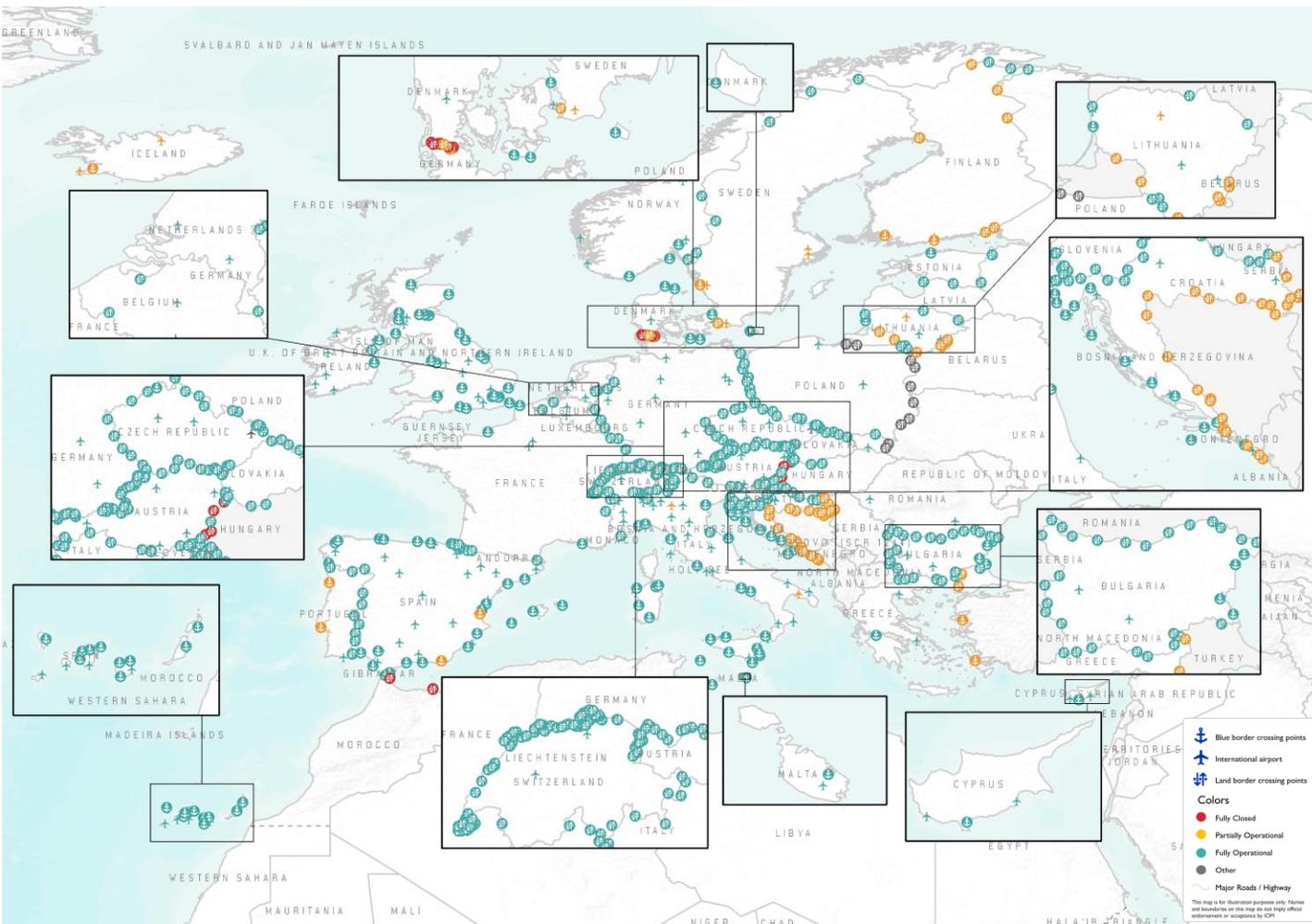
The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has affected global and regional human mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached 11,964,268 in the European Economic Area region (EEA) as of 26 November 2020 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). To better understand how the pandemic affects mobility at the Points of Entry (PoEs), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed an online tool and database which tracks changes in mobility at Points of Entry (airports, land and blue border crossing points). This includes preparedness and response measures to prevent, protect against, control and assist in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR). Among the mobility changes tracked by IOM are: 1) Movement restrictions on entry and/or exit, 2) Changes in visa requirements, 3) Restrictions applied to certain nationalities to disembark at this location, 4) Changes in identification documents needed to disembark, 5) Medical measures in place such as Health Staffing/Medical Personnel, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Infection prevention and control (IPC) and Surveillance and Referral.

As of 23 November 2020, data was collected on 795 PoEs in 28 countries/territories/areas across the EEA region. These locations include: 476 land border crossings points, 180 airports, and 139 blue border crossing points (including sea, river and lake ports). This work is based on the information collected by or available to IOM Country Offices in the region. This PoEs brief analysis provides an overview of the changes of the operational status and mobility restrictions over time, between April and November 2020. It is important to note that not all data on PoEs have been updated every month, meaning that the trend displayed does not necessarily represent the current situation of all PoEs. In April 764 PoEs were assessed, followed by 786 in May, 787 in June, 795 in July, 808 in August, 813 in September, 812 in October, and lastly 795 in November.¹



1. The change in the number of assessed PoEs can be due to limited information at any given month, or by assessing a PoE redundant relative to international mobility.

Overview of assessed international airports, land border crossing points and blue border crossing points in the EEA region

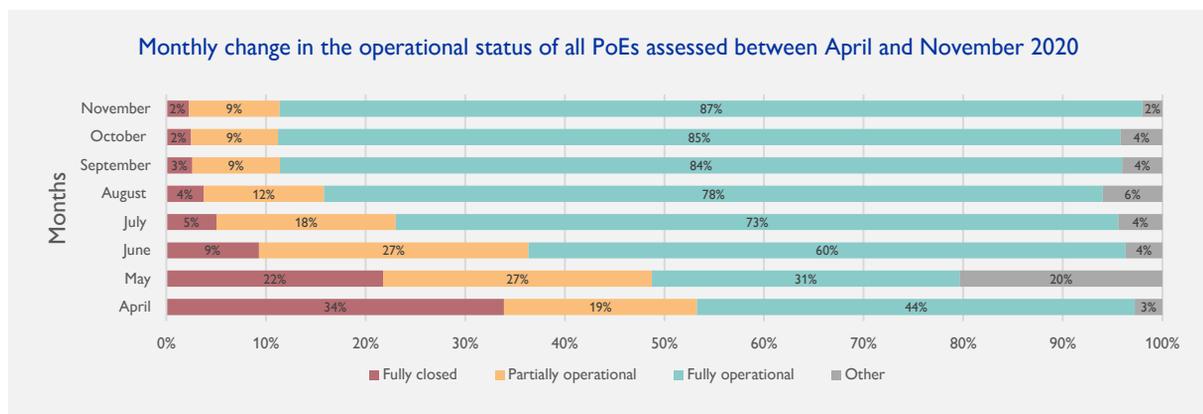


Changes in operational status over time (April – November 2020)

As of 23 November 2020, there have been changes in the number of travel restrictions worldwide since April, which are reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at the assessed locations. The information on the operational status of PoEs is collected according to the following classification: (1) closed for entry and exit, (2) closed for entry (3) closed for exit (4) open for commercial traffic only (5) open only to returning nationals and residents (6) open for entry and exit (7) other and (8) unknown. All types of measures were considered for airports, land and blue border crossing points.

In the EEA region, the operational status of border crossing points is characterized by the implementation of several restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Significant changes in operational status of the PoEs were observed between April and November.

Overall, one third (34%) of the assessed PoEs were fully closed in April, while the share of those fully closed was 22 per cent in May, 9 per cent in June, 5 per cent in July, 4 per cent in August, 3 per cent in September, and only 2 per cent in October and November, respectively. Furthermore, 19 per cent of the assessed PoEs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational PoEs was 27 per cent in May and June, respectively, 18 per cent in July, 12 per cent in August, and 9 per cent in September, October, and November, respectively. Finally, in April 44 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully operational, while the share of fully operational PoEs was 31 per cent in May, 60 per cent in June, 73 per cent in July, 78 per cent in August, 84 per cent in September, 85 per cent in October, and 87 per cent in November. The number of fully operational PoEs increased by 43 per cent in November, when compared with April.



Airports:² 21 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed in April, while the share of fully closed airports among those assessed was 7 per cent in May, 6 per cent in June, 5 per cent in July, while only 1 per cent in August, September, and October, respectively. None of the international airports were reportedly closed in November. Furthermore, 21 per cent of assessed airports were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational airports was 24 per cent in May, 37 per cent in June, 9 per cent in July, 8 per cent in August, 7 per cent in September, 6 per cent in October, and 7 per cent in November. Increasing number of airports operating regularly was observed between April and November. Over half (56%) of the assessed airports were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational airports among those assessed was 25 per cent in May, 52 per cent in June, 80 per cent in July, 76 per cent in August, 81 per cent in September, 82 per cent in October, and 93 per cent in November. The number of operational airports increased by 37 per cent between April and November. Throughout the seven-month period, the largest share of airports being fully operational was recorded in November. Between October and November alone, the number of operational airports increased by 11 per cent. It is, however, noticed that the number of assessed airports has increased significantly, from 150 airports in April up to the 198 airports in August, September, and October, while the number of assessed airports decreased slightly in November (180 airports were assessed). This may partially explain the change.

Land border crossing points:³ 35 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points (LBCPs) were completely closed in April, while the share of fully closed LBCPs among those assessed was 28 per cent in May, 11 per cent in June, 5 per cent in July and August, respectively, and 4 per cent in September, October, and November, respectively. Moreover, 17 per cent of the assessed LBCPs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational LBCPs was 33 per cent in May, 21 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July, 16 per cent in August, and 10 per cent in September, October, and November, respectively. Less than half (44%) of the assessed LBCPs were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational land border crossing points was 32 per cent in May, 67 per cent in June, 69 per cent in July, 76 per cent in August, 83 per cent in September, and October, respectively, and 84 per cent in November. The number of operational LBCPs increased by more than one third (40%) between April and November 2020.

Blue border crossing points:⁴ Less than half (45%) of the blue border crossing points (BBCPs) were completely closed in April, while the share of fully closed BBCPs among those assessed was 17 per cent in May, 11 per cent in June, only 4 per cent in July and August, respectively, while no assessed BBCP was reported to be closed in September, October, and November. At the same time, 24 per cent of the assessed BBCPs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational BBCPs was 13 per cent in May, 21 per cent in June, 14 per cent in July, 5 per cent in August, 7 per cent in September, and October, respectively, and 9 per cent in November. Thirty per cent of the assessed BBCPs were reported as being operational in April, while the share of fully operational BBCPs was 33 per cent in May, 67 per cent in June, 76 per cent in July, 88 per cent in August, 92 per cent in September, 93 per cent in October, and 91 per cent in November. The number of operational BBCPs increased by 61 per cent between April and November (see page 3, for further information).

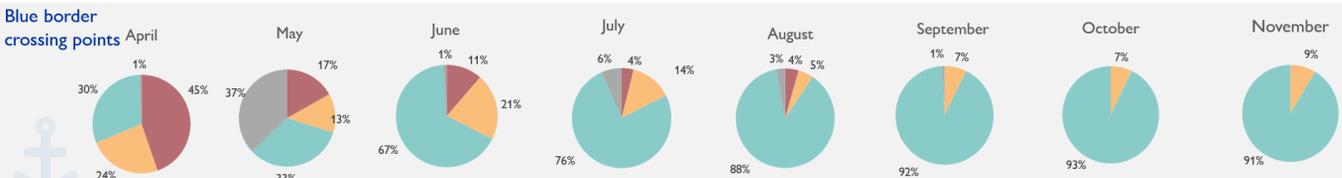
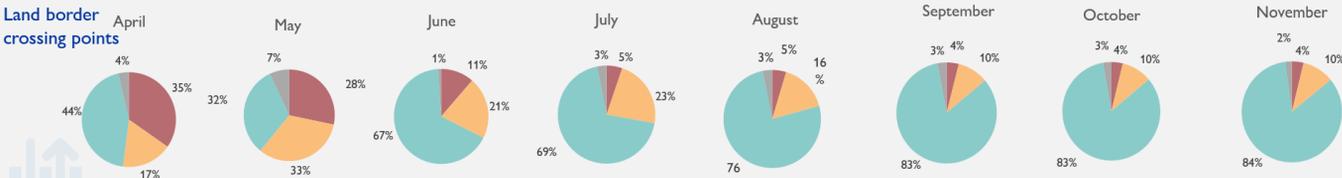
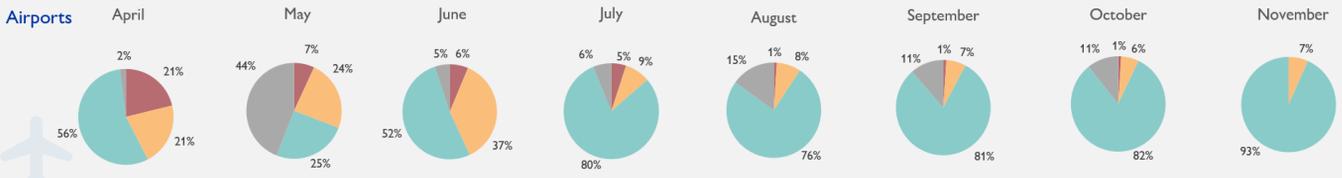
2. By April a total of 150 airports were assessed, while in November a total of 180 airports were assessed.

3. By April a total of 453 land border crossing points were assessed, while in November a total of 476 land border crossing points were assessed.

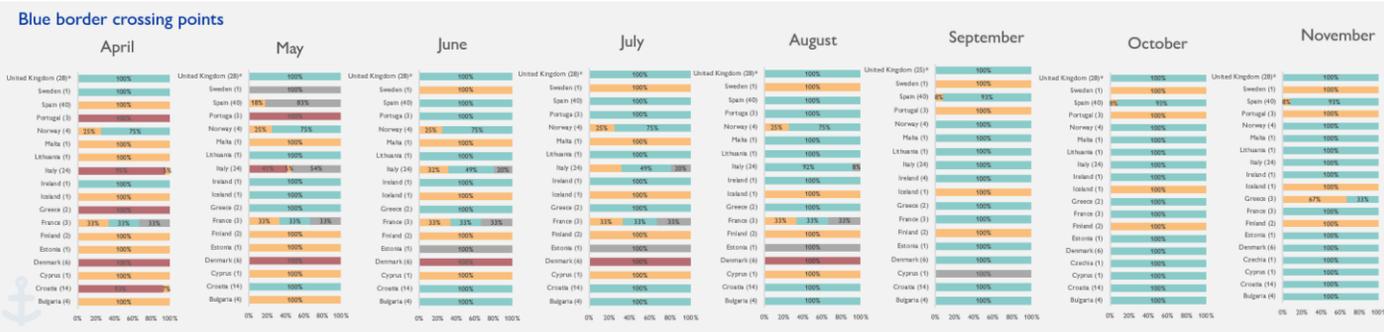
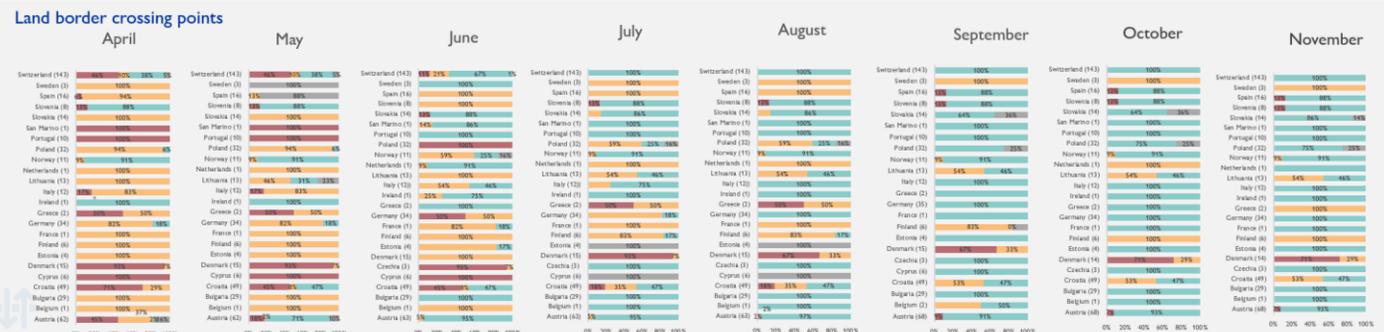
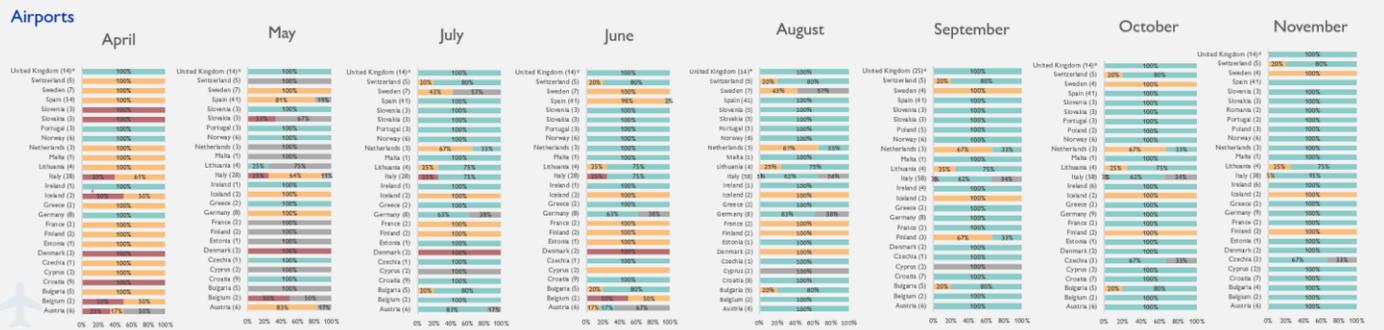
4. By April a total of 141 blue border crossing points were assessed, while in November 139 blue border crossing points were assessed.

Operational Status – Comparison: April – November 2020

■ Fully Closed
 ■ Partially Operational
 ■ Fully Operational
 ■ Other



Operational Status breakdown by country/territory/area in the EEA region



* United Kingdom of Great and Northern Ireland

Notes: 1) The totals in the pie charts are relative to the assessed Points of Entry; 2) Under the category "Partially Operational" IOM includes "closed for entry", "closed for exit", "open only to returning nationals and residents" and "open for commercial traffic only".

Changes in mobility restrictions over time (April – November 2020)

Slight changes in the type of mobility restrictions of the border crossing points were observed between April and November. Mobility restrictions refer to restrictions of movements imposed both by entrance at PoEs and by exit through the PoEs, and medical measures.

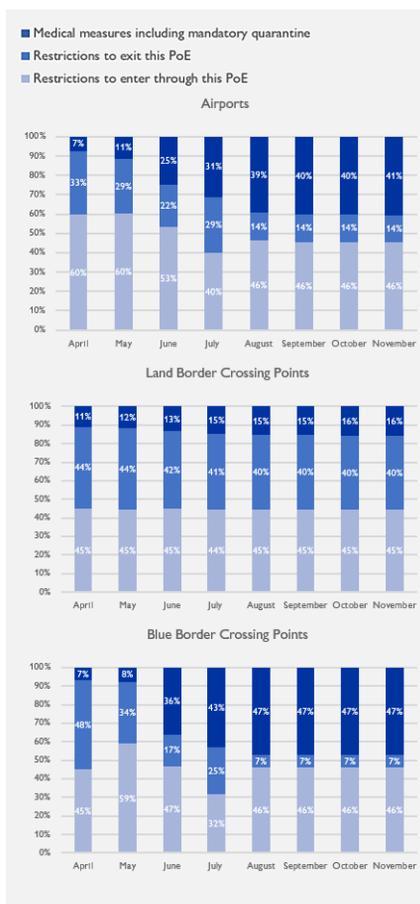
In April and May, 60 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs at international airports, while restrictions at entry were 53 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July, 46 per cent in August, September, October, and November, respectively. At the same time, 33 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs at international airports in April, while restrictions at exit were 29 per cent of the total in May, 22 per cent in June, 29 per cent in July, and 14 per cent in August, September, October, and November, respectively. The number of medical measures including mandatory quarantine measures increased significantly in September, October, and November, when comparing with April (34% increase from April to November): in April, 7 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoEs, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 11 per cent in May, 25 per cent in June, 31 per cent in July, 39 per cent in August, 40 per cent in September, and October, respectively, and 41 per cent in November.

Regarding the land border crossing points, restrictions imposed on entering through particular PoEs remained relatively stable between April and November. In April, May, June, August, September, October, and November, 45 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while in July, 44 per cent of restrictions were entry restrictions. Furthermore, in April and May, 44 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, respectively, while restrictions at entry were 42 per cent in June, 41 per cent in July, and 40 per cent in August, September, October, and November, respectively. The number of medical measures increased only slightly in October and November, when compared with April: in April, 11 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 12 per cent in May, 13 per cent in June, and 15 per cent in July, August and September, respectively, and 16 per cent in October, and November, respectively.

With regards to the blue border crossing points, in April, 45 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, while restrictions at entry were 59 per cent of the total in May, 47 per cent in June, 32 per cent in July, and 46 per cent in August, September, October and November, respectively. Moreover, in April 48 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on existing through particular PoEs, while restrictions at exit were 34 per cent in May, 17 per cent in June, 25 per cent in July, and 7 per cent in August, September, October and November, respectively. Significant increases of imposed medical measures were observed in June, July, August, September, October, and November when compared with April and May: in April, 7 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 8 per cent in May, 36 per cent in June, 43 per cent in July, and 47 per cent in August, September, October, and November, respectively.

Most of imposed restrictions overall concern the entry through the PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points), and to a lesser extent exit through or medical restrictions imposed at those PoEs. The highest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded in April and May: 60 per cent at the assessed airports, 59 per cent at the blue border crossing points, and 45 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded in July: 40 per cent at the assessed airports, 44 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 32 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

Mobility Restrictions– Comparison: April – November 2020 (%)



Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – November 2020

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Airports	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	60%	60%	53%	40%	46%	46%	46%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	29%	22%	29%	14%	14%	14%	14%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	7%	11%	25%	31%	39%	40%	40%	41%
Land border crossing points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	45%	45%	45%	44%	45%	45%	45%	45%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	44%	44%	42%	41%	40%	40%	40%	40%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	11%	12%	13%	15%	15%	15%	16%	16%
Blue border crossing points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	45%	59%	47%	32%	46%	46%	46%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	48%	34%	17%	25%	7%	7%	7%	7%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	7%	8%	36%	43%	47%	47%	47%	47%