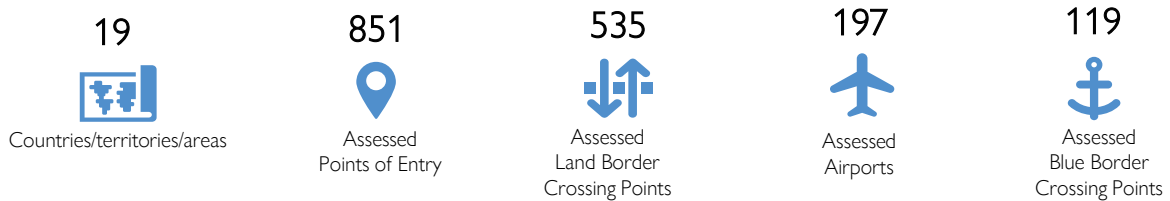


COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

January 27, 2021 – IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

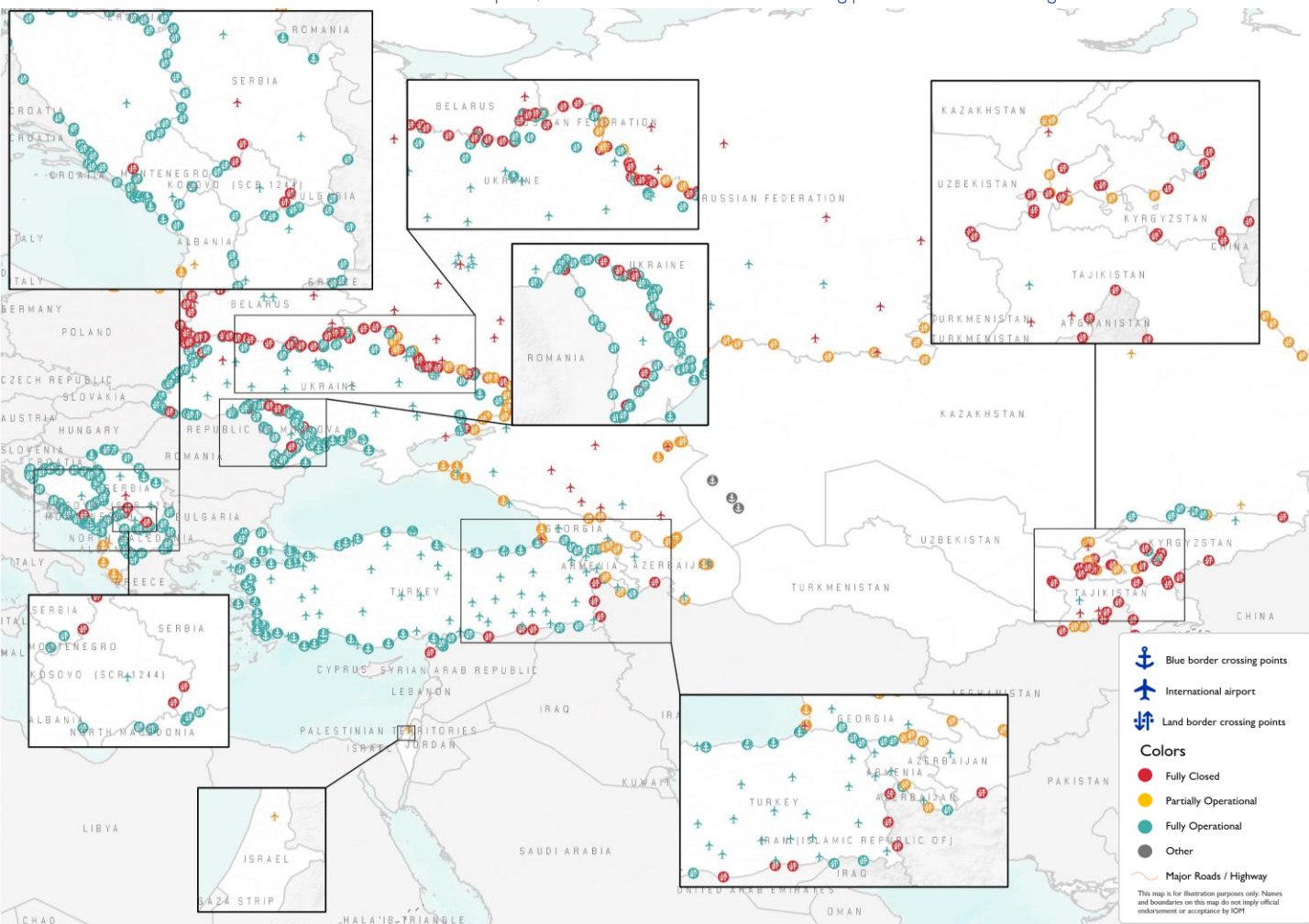
The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has affected global and regional human mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached 10,457,258 in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (SEEECA) as of 31 January 2021 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). To better understand how the pandemic affects the 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 PoEs (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 27 January 2021, data was collected on 851 PoEs in 19 countries/territories/areas across the SEEECA region. These locations include: 535 land border crossings points, 197 airports, and 119 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 between April 2020, when the global data collection exercise on PoEs' status was rolled out by IOM, and January 2021. 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. A total of 851 PoEs have been assessed in January 2021, which is 249 more than the 602 PoEs assessed in April 2020 at the beginning of the exercise.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 and blue border crossing points in the SEEECA region

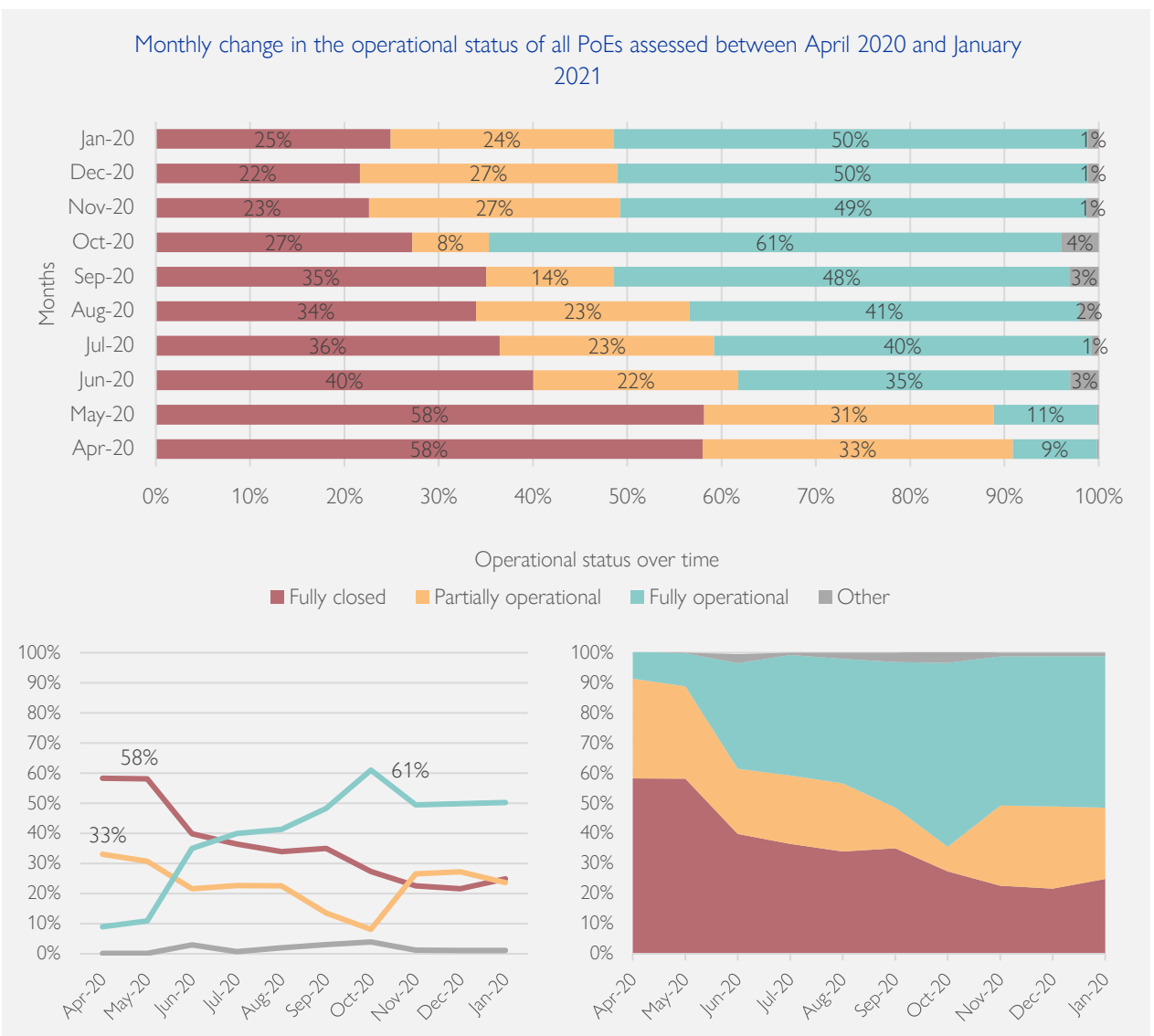


Changes in operational status over time: April 2020 – January 2021

As of 27 January 2021, while travel restrictions remain in place, there have been changes in the number of travel restrictions worldwide being reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at the assessed locations when comparing with April last year (2020). The information on the operational status of each PoE is collected according to the following classification: (1) closed for entry and exit, (2) closed for exit (3) closed for entry (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 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 was observed between April 2020 and January 2021.²

The number of **fully closed PoEs** among those assessed in the SEECA region decreased significantly (-37%) in December 2020 reaching only 22 per cent of the assessed PoEs compared to the peak of 58 per cent in April 2020. The downward trend of fully closed PoEs between April and December slightly reversed in January 2021, when the share of fully closed PoEs was 25 per cent (+3% in comparison with December 2020). Furthermore, the number of **partially operational PoEs** among those assessed decreased by 25 per cent in October (8%) since it peaked in April (33%). It is noteworthy to mention that the number of partially operational PoEs increased significantly again in November, December, and January representing 27, 27, and 24 per cent respectively of all PoEs. Finally, a noticeable increase of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was observed during the reporting period. The largest share of **fully operational PoEs** was recorded in October (61%), and the smallest share was recorded in April (9%), representing a significant increase of 52 per cent when comparing the two months.

Since October, a new drop in the number of fully operational PoEs has been observed (49% in November, 50% in December, and January, respectively). This is in line with an increasing number of partially operational PoEs observed in November and December, and of fully closed PoEs observed in January.



The accelerating increase of COVID-19 cases continues to impact mobility globally and in the region. However, an increasing number of the assessed PoEs in the SEECA region is reported to have changed status since April 2020, from being fully closed to being fully operational or partially operational.

In January 2021, a new slight increase in the share of fully closed PoEs among those assessed is registered compared to December 2020.

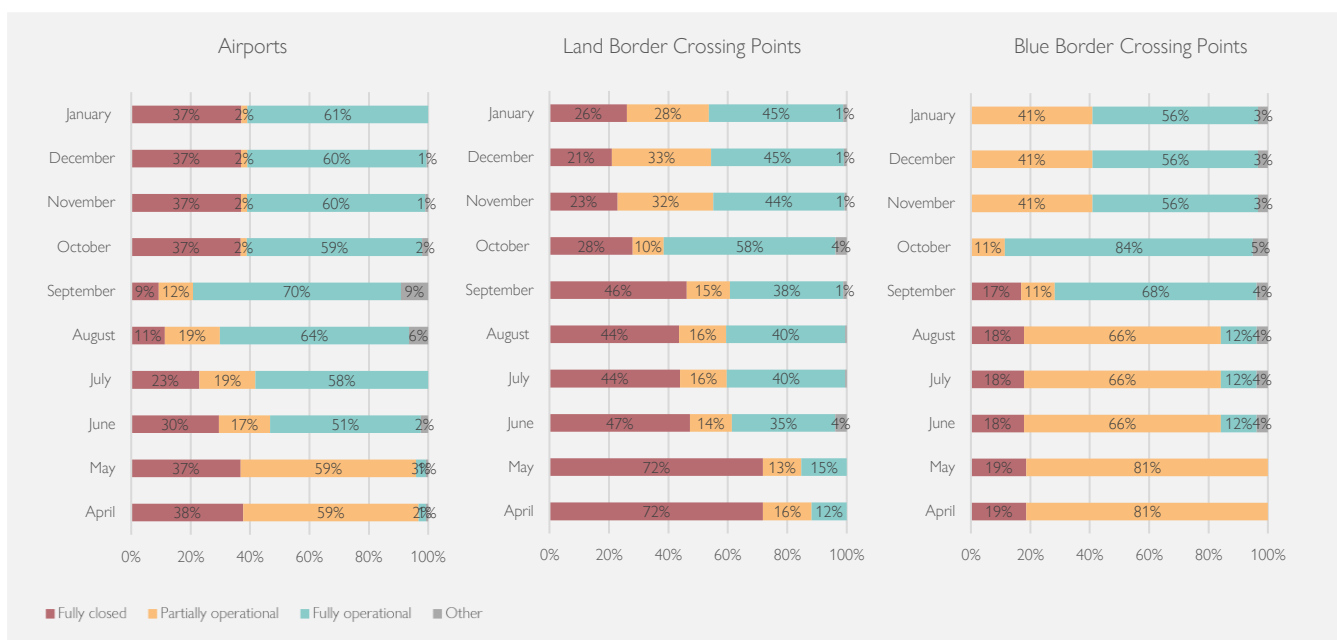
2. The months from April to December always refer 2020 while January refers to 2021 within the scope of this report.

Airports:³ The highest share of **fully closed international airports** of those assessed was recorded in April (38%), although it remained relatively stable in May, October, November, December, and January (37%, respectively). Only in September, a significant drop in the share of fully closed airport was reported (-28%), with only 9 per cent of them reported as fully closed. However, between September and October again the share of fully closed airports among those assessed increased from 9 to 37 per cent to then remain stable until January 2021. Furthermore, over half (59%) of assessed airports was partially operational in April and May, while the share of **partially operational airports** dropped significantly by 57 per cent in October, November, December, and January (2%, respectively), which represents the smallest share of partially operational airports recorded during the reporting period. The largest share of **fully operational airports** among those assessed was recorded in September (70%), marking a significant increase of 68 per cent when compared with April (2%), which recorded the smallest share of fully operational airports during the reporting period. Overall, the number of fully operational airports among those assessed remained relatively steady in May (51%), July (58%), August (64%), October (59%), November, December (60%), and January (61%).

Land border crossing points:⁴ The largest share of **fully closed land border crossing points (LBCPs)** of those assessed was recorded in April and May (72%, respectively), while the smallest share was recorded in December (21%), representing a significant decrease of 51 per cent when comparing the first two months of the reporting period. Relatively significant monthly decreases of fully closed LBCPs were observed between April and May (72%, respectively), and June (47%) followed by July and August (44%, respectively), and between September (46%) and October (28%), November (23%), and January (26%). Although the share of fully closed LBCPs remained small during the fourth quarter of 2020 (October–December), there has been a slight increase up to 26 per cent of the total in January according to the most recent developments. Moreover, along with the closure of slightly more LBCPs, it is observed that the largest share of **partially operational LBCPs** was recorded in December (33%), while the smallest share was recorded in October (10%), representing a significant increase of 23 per cent between the two months. The number of LBCPs operating only partially remained relatively steady between April and October (10% in October, 13% in May, 14% in June, 15% in September, and 16% in April, July, August, respectively), however, changed significantly by November (32%), December (33%), and January (26%). Alone between December and January, the number of partially operational LBCPs dropped by 6 per cent, which is in line with an increasing number of fully closed LBCPs observed in January this year. Finally, the largest share of **fully operational LBCPs** was observed in October (58%), and the lowest recorded in April (12%), representing a significant increase of 46 per cent when comparing the two months. By April and May only 12 and 15 per cent of all assessed LBCPs were fully operational, however, this changed in June (35%), and onwards, where an increasing number of LBCPs started to operate more regularly.

Blue border crossing points:⁵ The largest share of **fully closed blue border crossing points (BBCPs)** of those assessed was recorded in April and May (19%), and remained relatively stable in June, August (18%), and September (17%). However, this changed significantly in the fourth quarter of 2020 (October – December) and January 2021, when none of the assessed BBCPs was fully closed. The share of **partially operational BBCPs** among those assessed decreased significantly by 70 per cent in September and October (11%, respectively) from the peak reached in April and May (81%, respectively). Furthermore, by the beginning of the pandemic, it was observed that none of the BBCPs were fully operational. This changed in June, July, and August (12%, respectively) when the assessed BBCPs reportedly started to operate for the first time after restrictive measures were imposed. The share of **fully operational BBCPs** peaked in October (84%), marking a significant increase of 72 per cent when compared with June, July, and August (12%, respectively). However, between October and November, December, and January (56%, respectively), the number of fully operational BBCPs dropped by all most one third (28%), thus representing a downward trend according to most recent trends (see page 4, for further information).

Monthly change in operational status by type of location (PoE) assessed between April 2020 and January 2021



Note: "Type of location" refers to the type of PoEs assessed, which are airports, land and blue border crossing points.

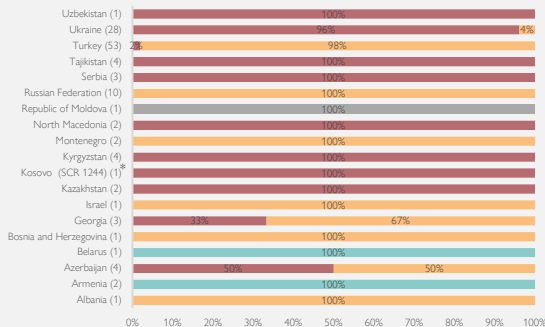
³ By April and May a total of 122 airports were assessed. In September, 198 airports were assessed, in November and December a total of 196 airports were assessed, while a total of 197 airports were assessed in January 2021.

⁴ By April and May a total of 405 land border crossing points were assessed. In August, 433 land border crossing points were assessed, in October 432, in November 534, and in December and January, a total of 535 land border crossing points were assessed.

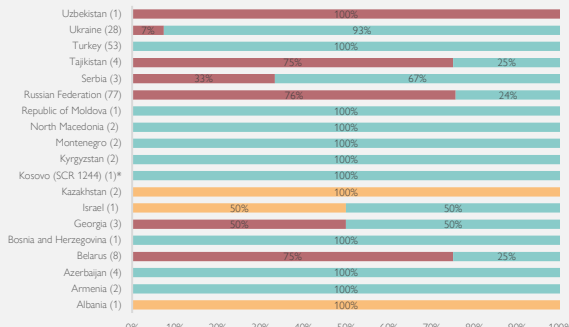
⁵ By April and May a total of 75 blue border crossing points were assessed. In June, 79 blue border crossing points were assessed, and in November, December, and January a total of 119 blue border crossing points assessed.

Airports

April

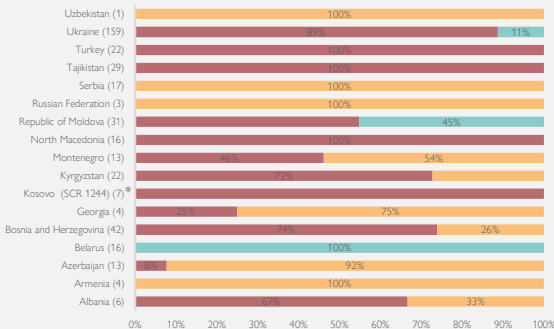


January

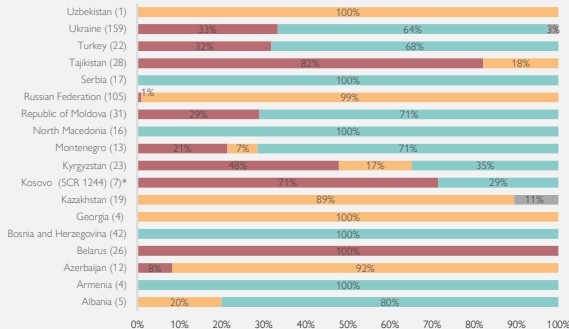


Land Border Crossing Points

April

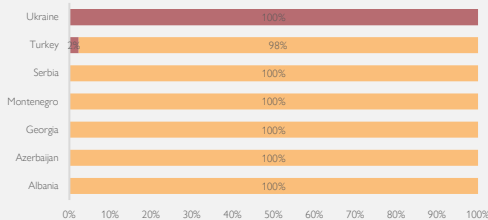


January

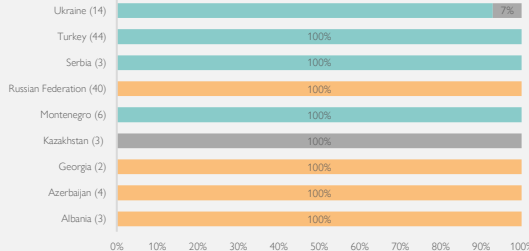


Blue Border Crossing Points

April



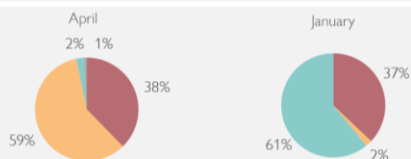
January



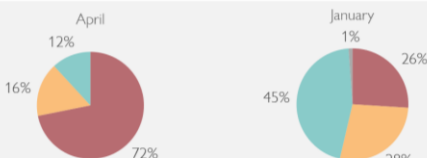
* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Operational Status – Comparison: April 2020 – January 2021

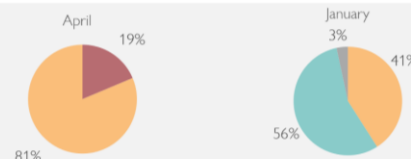
Airports



Land Border Crossing Points



Blue Border Crossing Points



Notes:

- The totals in the pie charts are relative to the assessed Points of Entry in April 2020 and January 2021.
- 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 2020 – January 2021

Slight changes in the type of mobility restrictions at the border crossing points were observed between April 2020 and January 2021. Mobility restrictions refer to restrictions of movements imposed both by entrance at PoEs and by exit through the PoEs, and medical measures.

The largest share of **restrictions imposed on entering** through particular PoE at the **international airports** was recorded in April and May (43% of all restrictions, respectively), while the restrictions imposed at entry were 34 per cent of total restrictions from August until January hence dropping by 9 per cent between April and January. Furthermore, April and May, recorded the largest share (41%, respectively) of **restrictions imposed on existing** through particular PoEs at the international airports, when compared with the period from September to January (32%). Similarly, the number of restrictions decreased by 9 per cent between April and January. The share of **medical measures including mandatory quarantine measures** increased in June and July when compared with April and May: in April and May, 16 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoEs, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 31 per cent in June, 32 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, September, and October, respectively, and 35 per cent in November, December, and January. The share of medical measures increased by 19 per cent in November, December, and January, when compared with April and May.

Regarding the **LBCPs**, 41 per cent of the **restrictions were imposed on entering** through particular PoEs in April, May, and June, while these were 39 per cent of the total from July until January, representing a slight decrease of only 2 per cent. Furthermore, May (40%) recorded the largest share of **restrictions imposed on existing** through particular PoEs when compared with July until January (37% each month). The number of restrictions decreased by 3 per cent between May and January. The share of **medical measures** increased slightly by July when compared with April, May and June: in April and May, 20 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while medical measures were 21 per cent of total measures in June and 24 per cent from July until January.

With regards to the **BBCPs**, April and May (36%, respectively) recorded the highest share of **restrictions imposed on entering** through particular PoEs, respectively, when compared with the period from July to January (34%, respectively), representing a slight decrease of 2 per cent. The share of **restrictions imposed on existing** through particular PoE remained steady throughout the entire reporting period (33%), while the share was 32 per cent in June. The share of **medical measures** imposed on particular PoEs also remained steady throughout the entire reporting period with only a slight increase observed in June until January when compared with April and May: 31 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures in April and May, respectively, while the share of medical measures was 33 per cent from June until January.

Most of **all imposed restrictions** concern the entry through PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points), and to a lesser extent the 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: 43 per cent at the assessed airports, 41 per cent, 41 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 36 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded from August until January: 34 per cent at the assessed airports, 39 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 34 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

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



Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April 2020 – January 2021

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Airports	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	43%	43%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	41%	41%	33%	33%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	16%	16%	31%	32%	34%	34%	34%	35%	35%	35%
Land Border Crossing Points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	41%	41%	41%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	39%	40%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	20%	20%	21%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Blue Border Crossing Points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	36%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	31%	31%	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%