

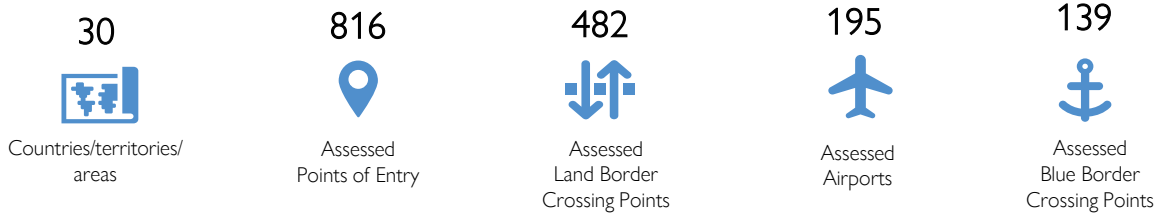
COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

February 28, 2021 – 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 23,045,988 in the European Economic Area region (EEA) as of 28 February 2021 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.

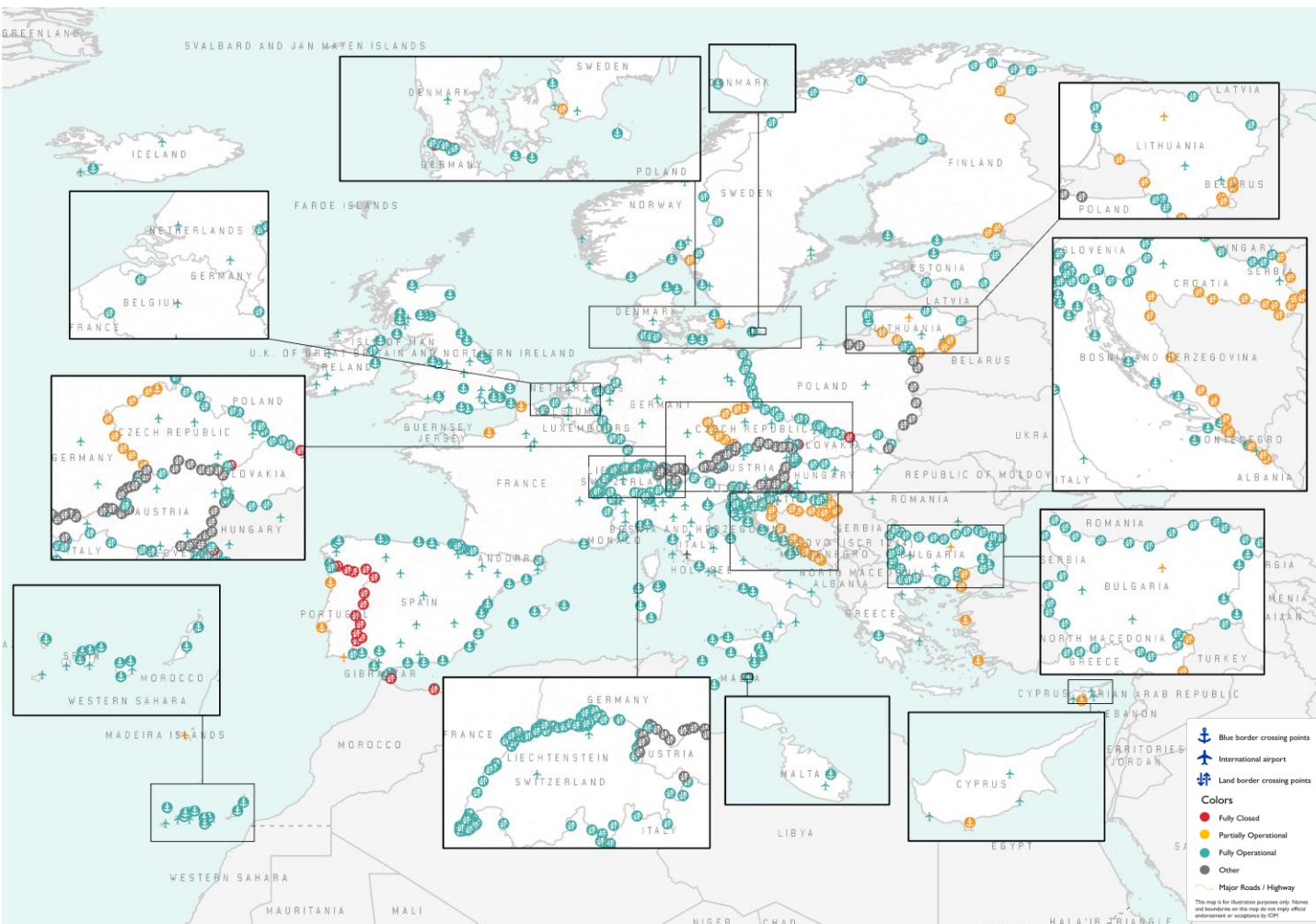
As of 28 February 2021, data was collected on 816 PoEs in 30 countries/territories/areas across the EEA region. These locations include: 482 land border crossings points, 195 airports, and 139 blue border crossing points (including sea, river and lake ports). This work is based on the information collected 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 the past year, between April 2020 and February 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. Since April last year, when the global data collection exercise was rolled out, a total of 816 PoEs have been assessed so far as of February 2021, which is 52 more than the 764 PoEs assessed in April.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.

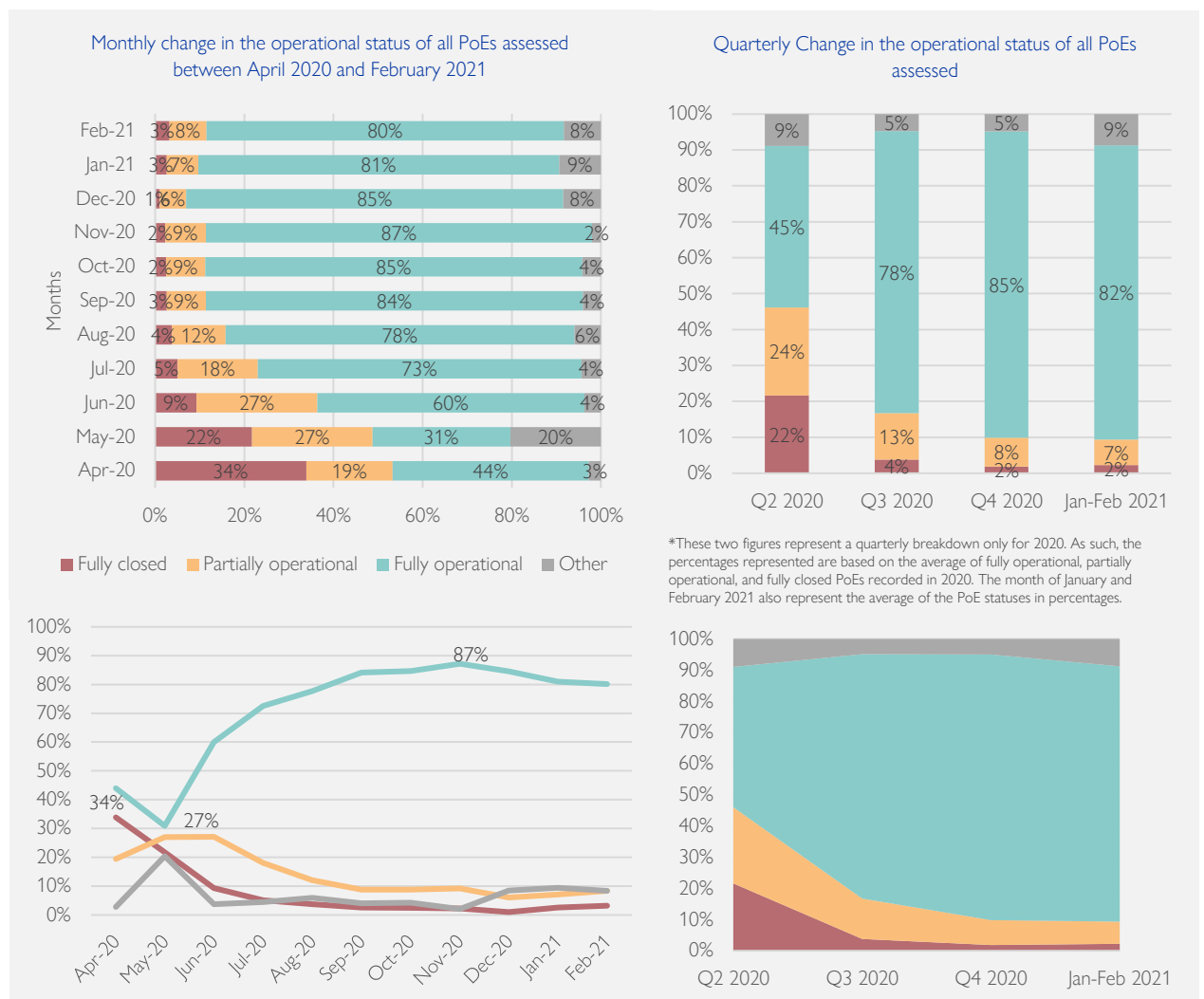
Overview of assessed international airports, land border crossing points and blue border crossing points in the EEA region



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

While many travel restrictions remain in place to date, between April 2020 and February 2021 there have been changes in the number of travel restrictions imposed globally and at a regional level, being reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at each location. 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 region, the operational status of border crossing points is characterized by the implementation of several restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. In the following analysis, most trends over time are presented comparing the average results in terms of operational status of PoEs and of mobility restrictions imposed for Q2 2020 (April – June), Q3 2020 (July – September), Q4 2020 (October – December) and the period January – February 2021.²

On average, the number of **fully closed PoEs** among those assessed in the EEA region decreased significantly in December (-20%) during the fourth quarter of 2020, reaching only 2 per cent of the assessed POEs compared to the peak of 22 per cent recorded in Q2 of 2020. The downward trend of fully closed PoEs between April and December, remained steady in January and February 2021 (3%, respectively). Furthermore, the number of **partially operational PoEs** among those assessed decreased by 17 per cent in Q4 of 2020 (8%), since it peaked in April (24%). The number of partially operational PoEs decreased further in January and February 2021, representing 7 and 8 per cent, respectively of all PoEs. Finally, a noticeable increase of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was observed since April to date. The largest share of **fully operational PoEs** was recorded in Q4 of 2020 (85%), and the smallest share was recorded in Q2 (45%), representing a significant increase of 40 per cent when comparing the two quarters. A new drop in the number of fully operational PoEs has been observed in January and February 2021 (81 and 80%, respectively).



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

By February 2021, a new slight decrease in the share of fully operational PoEs among those assessed is registered compared to December 2020.

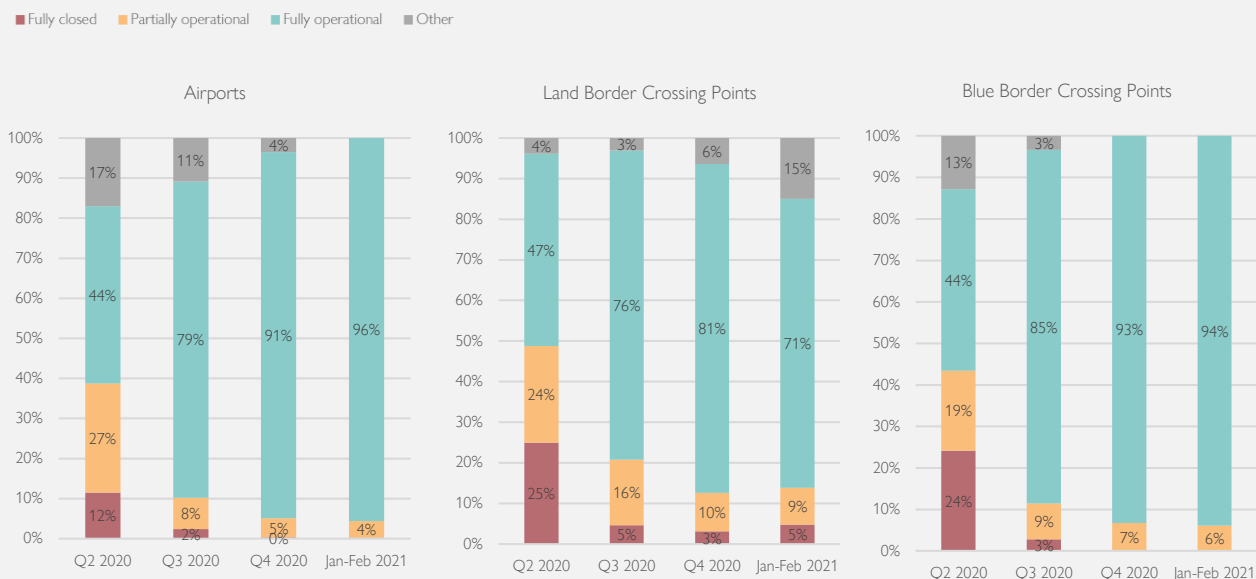
2. The months from April to December always refer to 2020, while January and February refer to 2021 within the scope of this report.

Airports:³ The largest share of **fully closed international airports** was recorded in the second quarter of 2020 (12%), while the share of fully operational airports dropped significantly by 10 per cent in Q3 of 2020 (2%). However, during the fourth quarter of 2020, and the two first month of 2021 (January – February), none of the assessed airports were reportedly closed. Furthermore, almost one third (27%) of assessed airports was partially operational in Q2, while the share of **partially operational airports** dropped significantly by 19 per cent in Q4 of 2020 (5%), further dropping in January and February (4%), which represent the smallest share of partially operational airports recorded the entire reporting period. The largest share of **fully operational airports** among those assessed was recorded in January and February (96%), marking a significant increase of 51 per cent when compared with Q2 (44%). Overall, the number of fully operational airports among those assessed remained relatively steady in Q4 (91%), and in January and February (96%).

Land border crossing points:⁴ The largest **share of fully closed land border crossing points (LBCPs)** of those assessed was recorded in the second quarter of 2020 (25%), while the smallest share was recorded in Q4 (3%), representing a significant decrease of 22 per cent when comparing the two quarters. Alongside the closure of slightly more LBCPs, the largest share of **partially operational LBCPs** of those assessed was recorded in Q2 (24%), while the smallest share was recorded in Q4 of 2020, January and February 2021 (9%), representing a decrease of 15 per cent. Finally, the largest share of **fully operational LBCPs** was observed in Q4 of 2020 (81%), and the lowest recorded in Q2 (47%), representing an increase of 34 per cent when comparing the two quarters. However, during January and February 2021 a slightly decreasing number all assessed LBCPs operated regularly. In January and February 2021, 71 per cent of all assessed LBCPs were fully operational, which is a 10 per cent less when compared with Q4 of 2020.

Blue border crossing points:⁵ The largest share of **fully closed border crossing points (BBCPs)** of those assessed was recorded in second quarter of 2020 (24%), while none of the assessed BBCPs were reportedly fully closed in Q4 of 2020, and the two first month of 2021 (January – February). Furthermore, the share of **partially operational BBCPs** among those assessed decreased by 13 per cent in January and February 2021 (6%), from the peak reached in Q2 (19%). At the beginning of the pandemic, 44 per cent of all assessed BBCPs were recorded as fully operational. This changed significantly in Q3 (85%), Q4 (93%), and in January and February (94%). The share of **fully operational BBCPs** peaked in January and February (94%), marking a significant increase of 51 per cent when compared with the second quarter of 2020 (43%), thus representing a slight upward trend according to most recent trends (see page 4, for further information).

Quarterly change in operational status by type of location (PoE) assessed between April 2020 and February 2021*



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

*These two figures represent a quarterly breakdown only for 2020. As such, the percentages represented are based on the average of fully operational, partially operational, and fully closed PoEs recorded in 2020 by type of location. The month of January and February 2021 also represent the average of the PoE statuses in percentages.

3. By April a total of 150 airports were assessed, in November, 180 airports were assessed, in December 188 airports were assessed, in January 2021 190 airports were assessed, while a total of 195 airports were assessed in February 2021.

4. By April a total of 453 land border crossing points were assessed, in November and December 476 LBCPs were assessed, respectively, in January 2021 480 LBCPs were assessed, while a total of 482 LBCPs were assessed in February 2021.

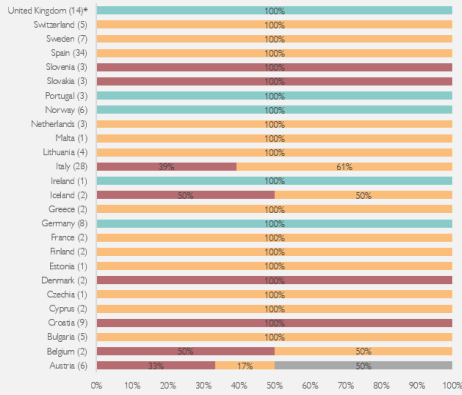
5. By April a total of 141 blue border crossing points were assessed, while in November, December, January and February 2021, a total of 139 blue border crossing points were assessed.

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

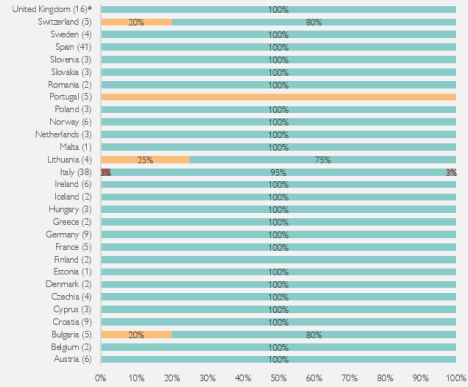
■ Fully closed
 ■ Partially operational
 ■ Fully operational
 ■ Other

Airports

April 2020

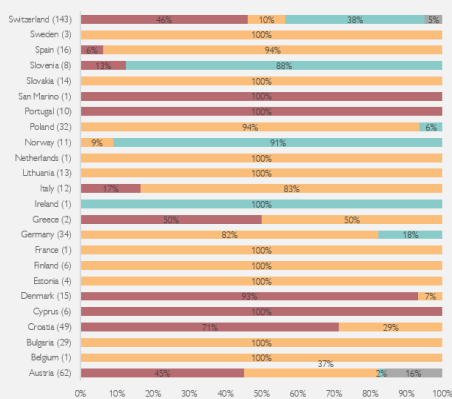


February 2021

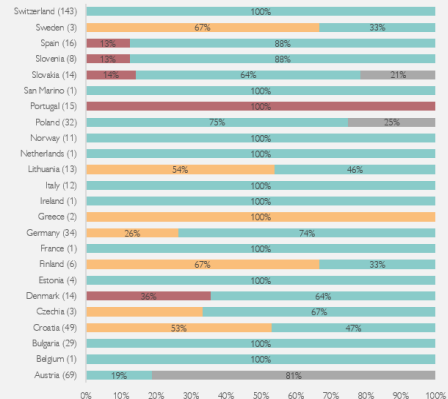


Land Border Crossing Points

April 2020

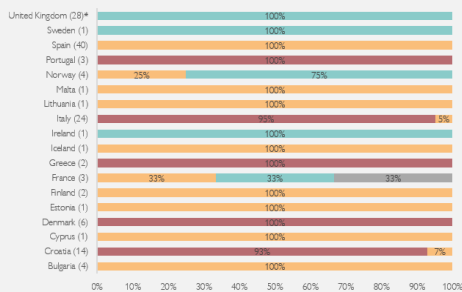


February 2021

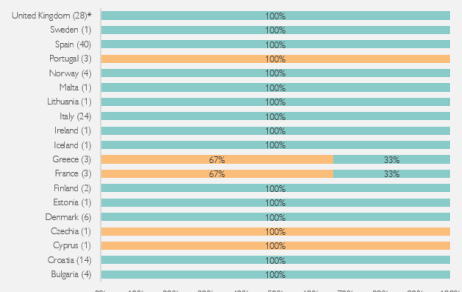


Blue Border Crossing Points

April 2020



February 2021



* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Operational Status – Comparison: April 2020 – February 2021



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 2020 – February 2021

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

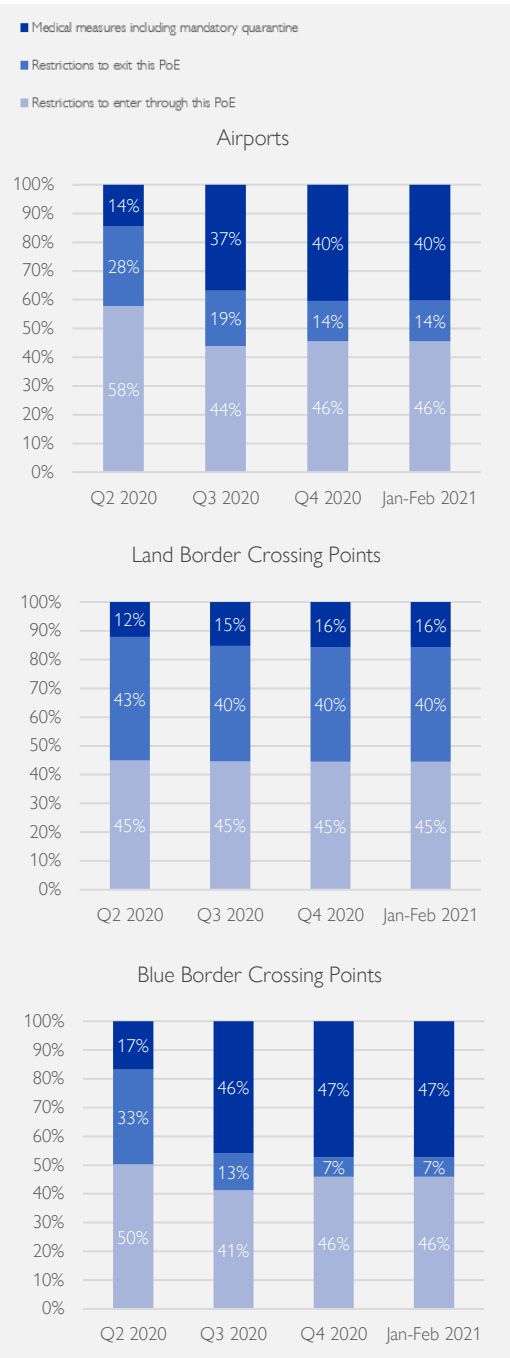
The largest share of **restrictions imposed on entering** through particular PoEs at the **international airports** was recorded in the second quarter of 2020 (58% of all restrictions), while the restrictions imposed at entry were 44 per cent of total restrictions imposed in Q3 of 2020, hence dropping by 14 per cent between Q2 and Q3, increasing slightly by 2 per cent between Q4 of 2020 and February 2021. Furthermore, Q2 of 2020, recorded the largest share (28%) of **restrictions imposed on exiting** through particular PoEs at the international airports, when compared with the fourth quarter of 2020, and the two first months of 2021 (14%, respectively). The number of restrictions in average increased by 14 per cent between Q2 and February 2021. The share of **medical measures including mandatory quarantine measures** increased significantly between Q2 and Q3 of 2020: in Q2, 14 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoE, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 37 per cent in Q3. It then increased to 40 per cent in Q4, which status remained the same in the two first months of 2021.

Regarding the **LBCPs**, on average 45 per cent of the **restrictions were imposed on entering** through particular PoEs throughout the entire reporting period (from April 2020 to February 2021). Furthermore, the largest share of **restrictions imposed on exiting** through particular PoEs was recorded in Q2 of 2020 (43%), while these were 40 per cent during Q3 and Q4 of 2020, and in January – February of 2021, representing a slight decrease of only 3 per cent. The share of **medical measures** increased slightly in Q4 of 2020 when compared with Q2 the same year: in Q2, 12 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while medical measures were 15 per cent in Q3. It then increased slightly to 16 per cent in Q4 until February 2021.

With regards to the **BBCPs**, Q2 of 2020 (50%) recorded the highest share of **restrictions imposed on entering** through particular PoEs, when compared with the Q3 (41%). Furthermore, the largest share of **restrictions imposed on exiting** through particular PoEs was recorded in Q2 (33%), while the smallest share was recorded in the fourth quarter of 2020, and in January and February 2021 (7%), representing a significant drop of 26 per cent. The share of **medical measures imposed** increased significantly in Q3 of 2020 when compared with Q2: in Q2, 17 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while medical measures were 41 in Q3 of 2020. The number of medical measures imposed increased further to 46 per cent in Q4 of 2020 until February 2021.

Most of **all imposed restrictions** concern the entry through the 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 the second quarter of 2020: 58 per cent at the assessed airports, 50 per cent at the BBCPs, while 45 per cent at the assessed LBCPs remained steady throughout the entire reporting period. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded between July 2020 and February 2021: 44 per cent at the assessed airports, and 41 per cent at the assessed BBCPs.

Mobility Restrictions – Quarterly comparison: April 2020- February 2021 (%)



Mobility Restrictions – Quarterly comparison: April 2020 – February 2021

Location type	Mobility Restriction	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Jan-Feb 2021
Airports	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	58%	44%	46%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	28%	19%	14%	14%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	14%	37%	40%	40%
Land Border Crossing Points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	45%	45%	45%	45%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	43%	40%	40%	40%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	12%	15%	16%	16%
Blue Border Crossing Points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	50%	41%	46%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	13%	7%	7%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	17%	46%	47%	47%