

MIGRANTS PROFILE

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: JANUARY– FEBRUARY 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

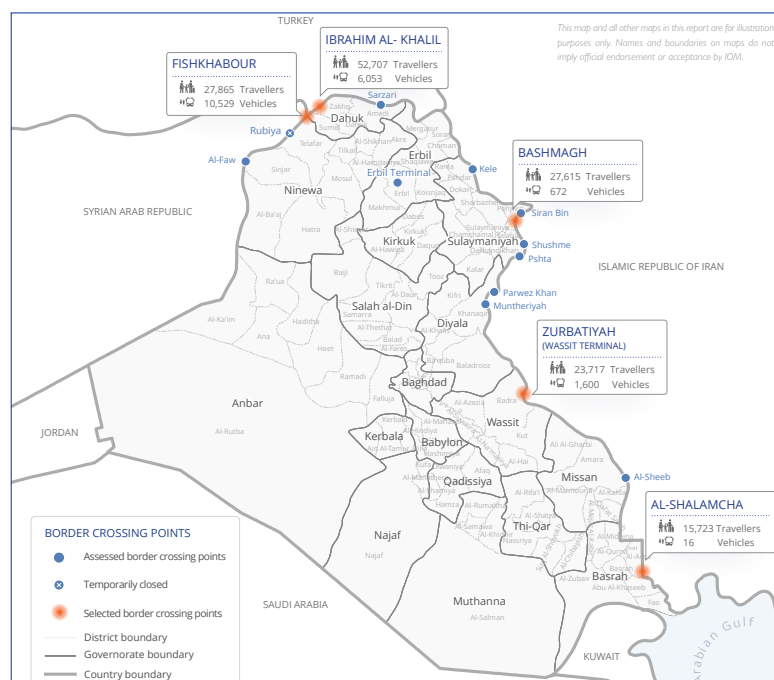
DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and Turkey – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. Cross-border monitoring is drawn from IOM's DTM standard methodology designed to capture and describe migration flows, and is part of IOM's DTM Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, funded by the European Union, which aims to capture and describe migration flows in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. Data displayed in this report was collected at five border point crossings in January and February 2020, employing two different approaches: 1) headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq, and 2) survey of randomly sampled travellers.

Border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs). Out

of 16 locations observed, five border crossing points were selected for data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering Syria, and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering Iran. Further details on the selection of respondents, survey methodology, and how the border crossing points were selected are available in the Methodological Overview in the last section of this report.¹

The report presents an overview of the overall movements of travellers observed at any of five selected border crossing points during January and February 2020. It is also focused in more detail on those travellers who are crossing the border for three or more months – they are referred to as migrants and comprise 12 per cent of all recorded travellers. Findings presented in this report relate to socio-demographic characteristics, reasons for travel and mobility history of this category of travellers.

Map 1: Assessed and selected border crossing points



TERMINOLOGY

In this report, the term 'travellers' refers to all individuals who are crossing international borders with Iraq and includes several categories of people. Most travellers are entering or exiting Iraq temporarily to visit family, go on holiday or religious pilgrimage, conduct trade or business or receive medical treatment. Fewer travellers are planning to stay or leave the country for longer periods or indefinitely for work, family or education, or on humanitarian grounds. Some travellers are planning to change or having already changed their place of usual residence, and can hence be considered emigrants (or immigrants) in all respects.²

For analytical purposes, travellers are divided into four groups that take into

account the intended length of travel,³ the direction of movement and their nationality:⁴

- **Incoming Iraqis** entering Iraq for three months or more after being abroad for three months or more;
- **Incoming foreigners** entering Iraq for three months or more;
- **Outgoing Iraqis** exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more;
- **Outgoing foreigners** exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more.

1 Additional information on the methodology used for cross-border monitoring can be found on the Iraq DTM portal at http://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/Remap/iom_dtm_CROSS_BORDER_MOVEMENT_MONITORING_METHODOLOGICAL_OVERVIEW.pdf

2 According to the IOM definition, "migrant – an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons" (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration – Switzerland). For the purpose of collecting data on migration, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) defines "international migrant" as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" and "usual residence" as "the place at which the person has lived continuously for most of the past 12 months (that is, for at least six months and one day) or for at least the past 12 months, not including temporary absences for holidays or work assignments, or intends to live for at least six months" (UN DESA (1998), Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 – USA).

3 According to the UN Recommendations on International Migration Statistics, the definition of an international migrant used for statistical purposes is "[A] long-term migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his/her new country of usual residence". However, when studying flows, the Recommendations suggests to further differentiate international migrants by the criterion of duration of stay. Long-term international migrants are defined as those who move to a country other than their country of usual residence for a period of at least one year, while short-term international migrants are people who move to a country for a period of at least three months but less than one year (Global Migration Group (2017), Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development – Global Knowledge Partnership for Migration and Development (KNOMAD), World Bank, Washington, DC).

4 Nationality – the legal bond between an individual and a State, which can be acquired by birth or at any time after birth, automatic or non-automatic, based on attribution, declaration, or application (IOM (2019), Glossary on Migration – Switzerland). To adjust the term to the survey format, nationality was defined as the country of birth.

TRAVELLERS PROFILE

Data collection took place at five border crossing points from 2 January to 23 February 2020 on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.⁵ During this period, DTM identified 147,627 individuals crossing the border points, 78,443 of whom entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow), and 68,984 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow).

Incoming flow was higher than outgoing flow at all five border crossing points.

Foreigners (60%) outnumbered Iraqis (40%) in the incoming flow, while the opposite applies to the outgoing flow, with Iraqis (62%) outnumbering

foreigners (38%). The main countries of nationality of foreign travellers corresponded to neighbouring countries, namely Turkey, Syria and Iran – irrespective of the direction of flow.

Most travellers have entered or exited Iraq temporarily, for a duration of up to three months, except for incoming Iraqis, only 28 per cent of whom were planning to stay in the country for such a short period of time. The main reasons for these temporary travels were visiting family, shopping and conducting business for all groups – except for outgoing Iraqis, whose main reasons for travel were holidays, to obtain medical treatment, and to participate in religious activities.



INCOMING



78,643

Total number of incoming travellers



10,845

Total number of incoming vehicles



OUTGOING



68,984

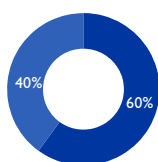
Total number of outgoing travellers



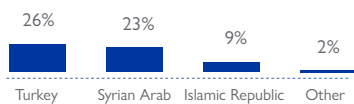
8,025

Total number of outgoing vehicles

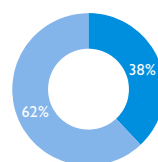
NATIONALITIES OF TRAVELLERS



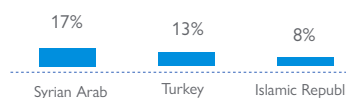
● Iraqis ● Foreigners



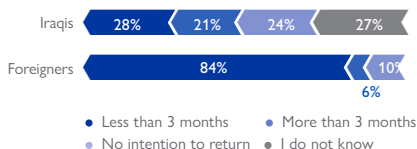
Other countries of nationality were Georgia and Germany.



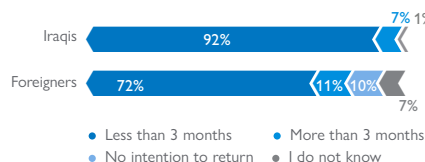
● Iraqis ● Foreigners



INTENDED LENGTH OF JOURNEY

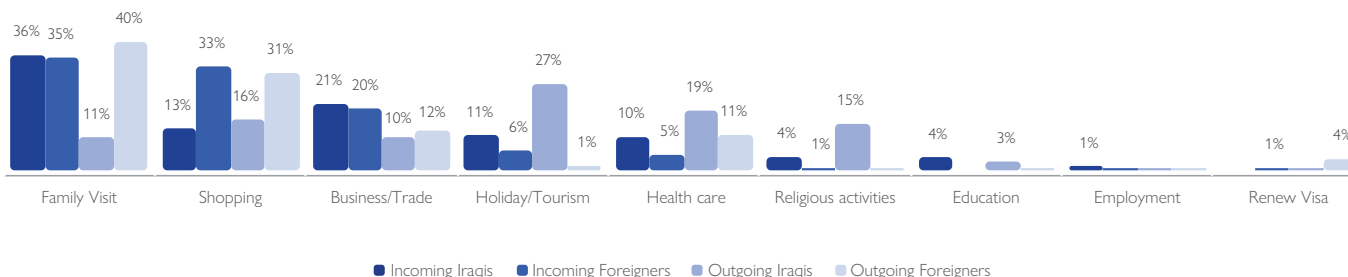


● Less than 3 months ● More than 3 months
● No intention to return ● I do not know



● Less than 3 months ● More than 3 months
● No intention to return ● I do not know

REASONS FOR TEMPORARY TRAVEL FOR A DURATION OF UP TO THREE MONTHS



Further analysis is conducted only for travellers who are planning to be away or stay in the country for a period of three months and are referred to as migrants in this report (12% of all travellers).⁶

1,686

Iraqis entering Iraq after being abroad for three months or more

6,485

Foreigners entering Iraq for three months or more

3,025

Iraqis exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more

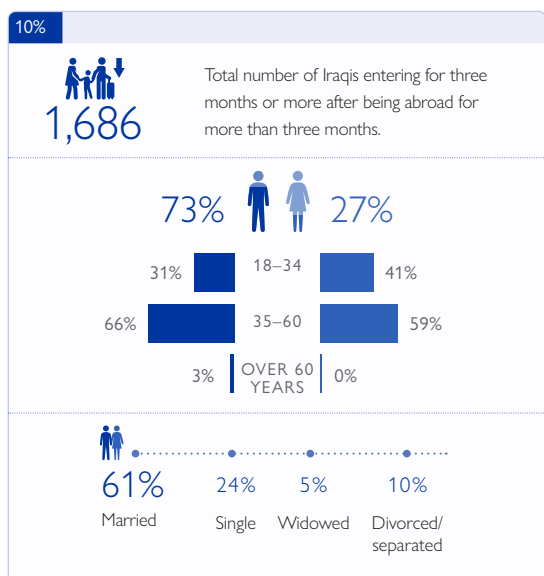
6,127

Foreigners exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more

5 All data collection activities were stopped on 24 February due to heightened restrictions during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Please refer to the report "Iraq Mobility Restrictions due to COVID-19" for more details on the mobility restrictions imposed since March 2020 to curb the spread of the virus. Available at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions>

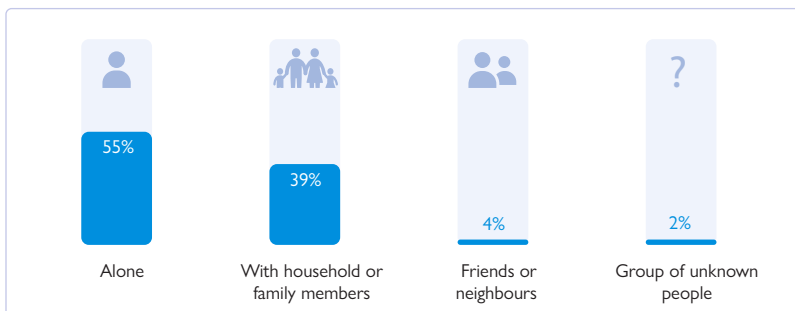
6 Iraqis who are planning to stay in the country for less than three months or were abroad for less than three months were excluded from the analysis due to the temporary nature of their travel.

MIGRANTS PROFILE: INCOMING IRAQIS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



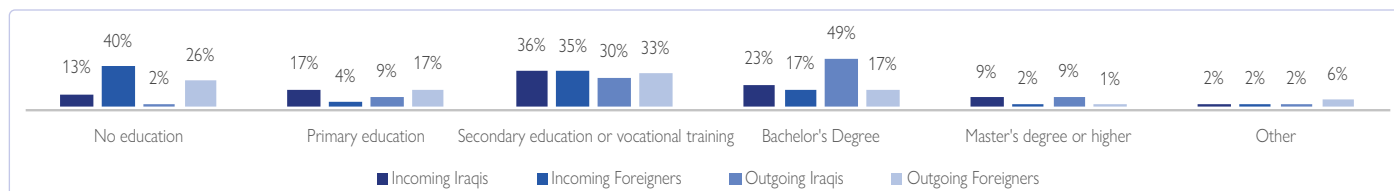
Incoming Iraqis accounted for 10 per cent (1,686 individuals) of all migrants. This group included more males (73%) than females (27%), most were middle aged, 35–60 years old, (60%) and married (61%). In addition, most travellers in this group were either travelling alone (55%) or with family (39%); however, this varied by the traveller’s country of usual residence: those residing abroad were more likely to travel with family, while those residing in the country more often travel alone.

TRAVEL GROUP

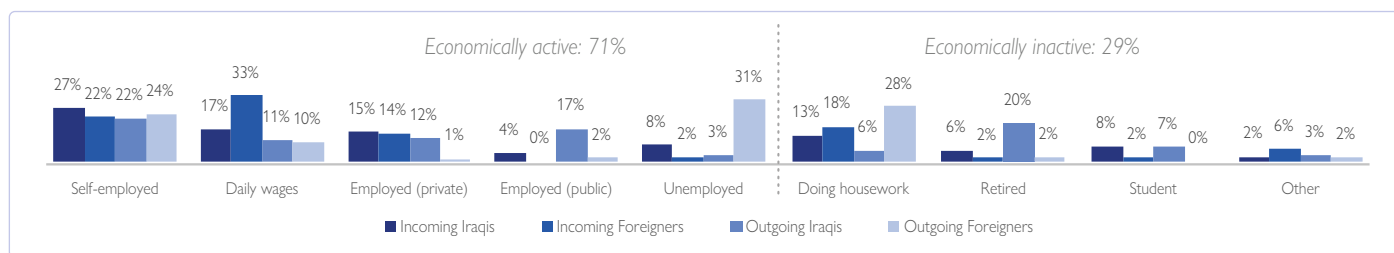


Generally, Incoming Iraqis are well educated: 36 per cent have completed secondary education or vocational training, and 33 per cent hold a Bachelor’s degree, a Master’s or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Additionally, most of them were economically active across the following categories: self-employed (27%), workers with daily wages (17%), and employees in the private (15%) or public sectors (4%). Eight per cent is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Around one third belong to the economically inactive population: persons who are doing housework (13%), students (8%) or retired persons (6%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

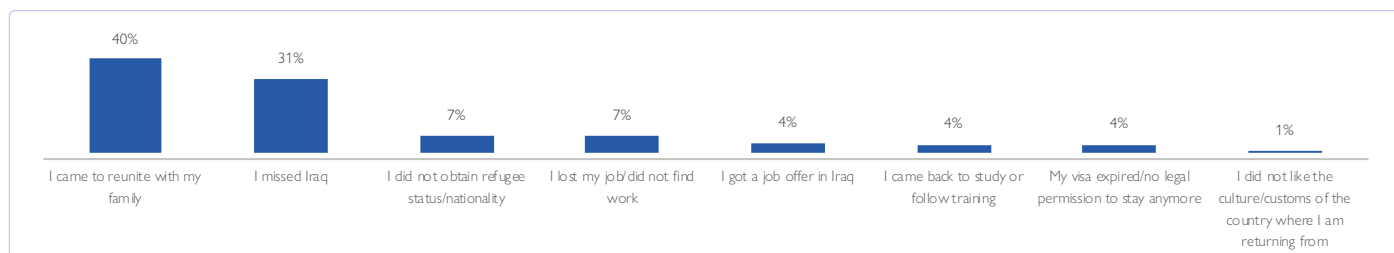


CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



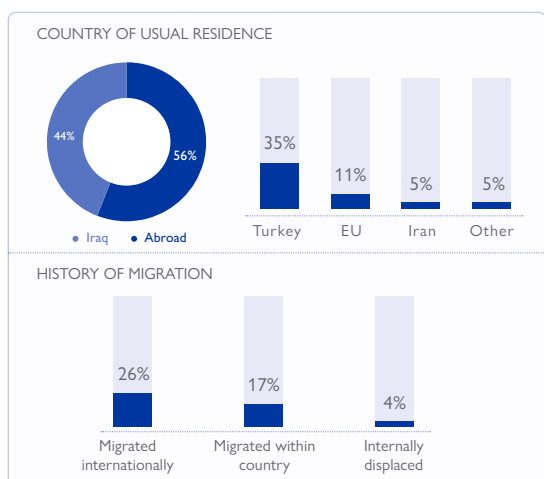
Family reunification and homesickness were the main travel reasons for incoming Iraqis, with no significant difference between those who changed their usual residence or not. Only around one in ten people from this group reported travelling due to work reasons, either because they lost their job or got a job offer.

REASONS TO ENTER IRAQ



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options ‘other reasons’ and ‘I don’t know’ are not shown on this chart.

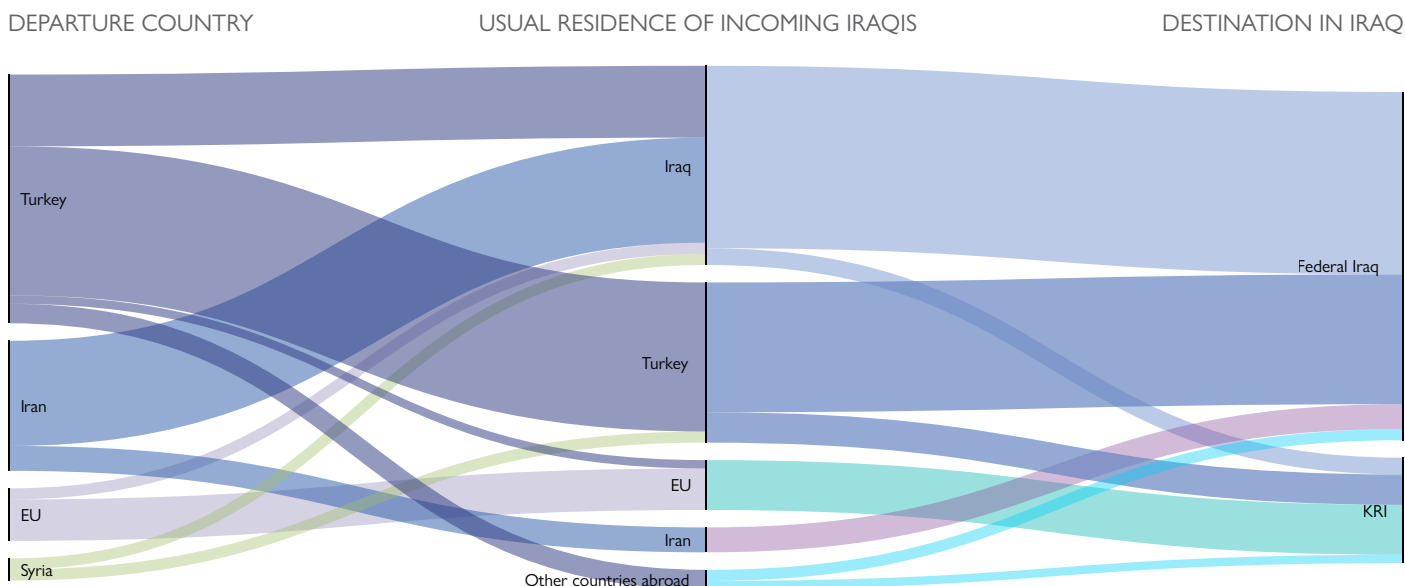
MIGRANTS PROFILE: INCOMING IRAQIS – MOBILITY HISTORY



More than half of incoming Iraqis reported that their usual residence was abroad (56%) and could hence be considered as emigrants.⁷ Amongst this group, most reside in Turkey, with the remaining living in Iran and a few European countries. Many were already familiar with domestic and international migration, as well as forced displacement. In fact, nearly half of the incoming Iraqis who usually reside in Turkey were formerly internally displaced persons (IDPs).⁸

Incoming Iraqis who reported usually residing in Iraq (44%) also had a history of migration. This migration experience was more likely to be reported as domestic rather than international, as demonstrated by only one in four of these individuals having crossed an international border previously.

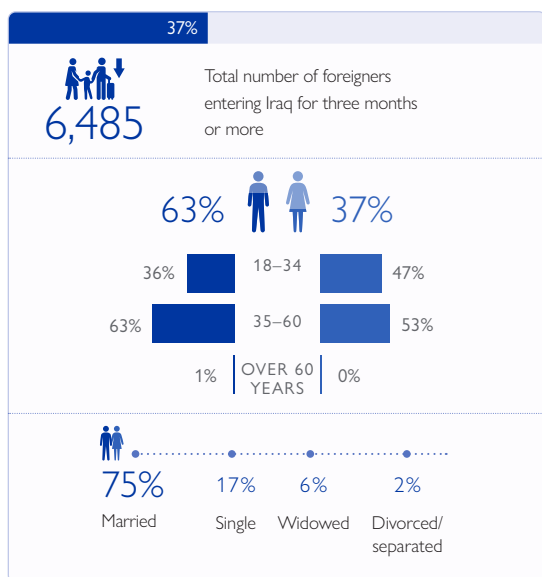
Around half of incoming Iraqis came from Turkey, around one third came from Iran, and the remaining came from Syria and a few countries in the European Union (EU) – which were generally where they, or their relatives, have moved to.



⁷ Around 15 per cent of incoming Iraqis hold a double nationality, generally migrants who have moved to European countries, such as Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom, hence it is presumably the nationality of the country where they now permanently reside.

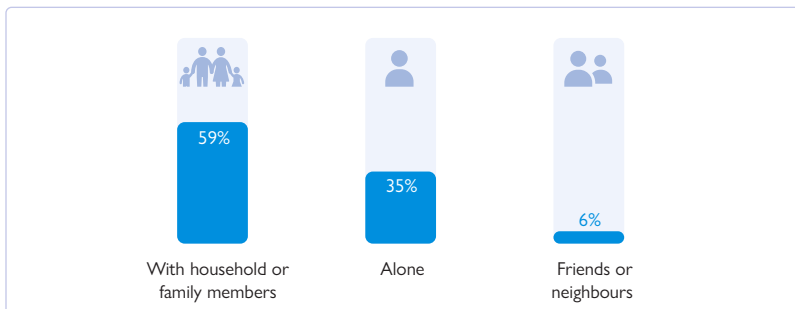
⁸ Experts and scholars identify three main waves of displacement prior the ISIL crisis 2014-2017. The first one began around the time when Saddam Hussein formally became the Head of State in 1979 and lasted until 2003; the second one followed the 2003 intervention led by the United States of America, which toppled Hussein's regime; and the third took place between February 2006 and the end of 2008. During this last wave, the widespread sectarian violence and persecution of minorities brought the number of IDPs to 2.7 million and that of refugees to Syria, Jordan and other neighbouring countries to an estimated 1.8 million (IOM 2013), Barriers to Integration. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Internal%20Displacement%20in%20Iraq-%20Barriers%20to%20Integration.pdf>.

MIGRANTS PROFILE: INCOMING FOREIGNERS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



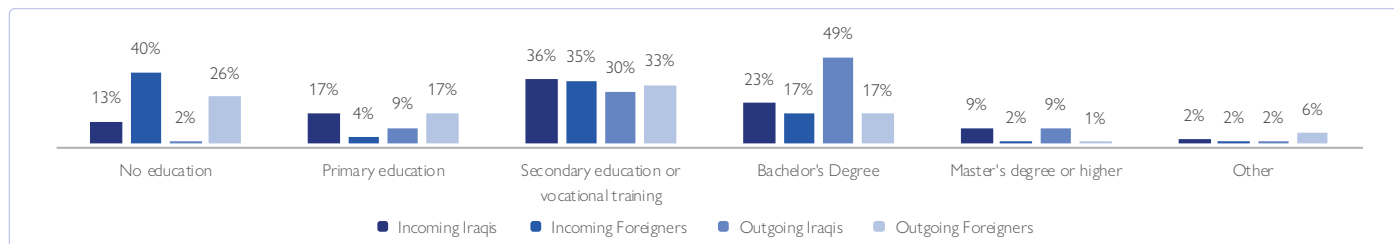
Incoming foreigners are the largest group of migrants (37% or 6,485 individuals). Compared to incoming Iraqis, there were more women (4:6 ratio). In general, most incoming foreigners traveled either with family (59%) or alone (35%). This depended on whether or not they had established their usual residence in Iraq: foreigners residing in Iraq were more often travelling with family, and foreigners residing abroad were more often travelling alone or with friends.

TRAVEL GROUP

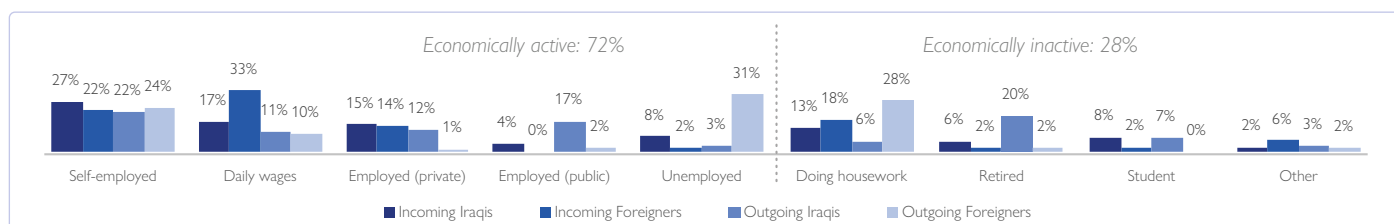


Compared with other migrants, incoming foreigners had the highest proportion of persons with no education (40% of total, 50% of women and 34% of men). The second largest group was persons with secondary school or vocational training (35%), followed by those having attained a Bachelor's degree (17%). Incoming foreigners also had the highest proportion of workers with daily wages (33%) amongst all migrant groups that crossed the borders. Around one fifth were self-employed (all men), while around the same portion did housework (all women), and 14 per cent were employed in the private sector. Only two per cent of incoming foreign migrants were unemployed and currently looking for a job.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

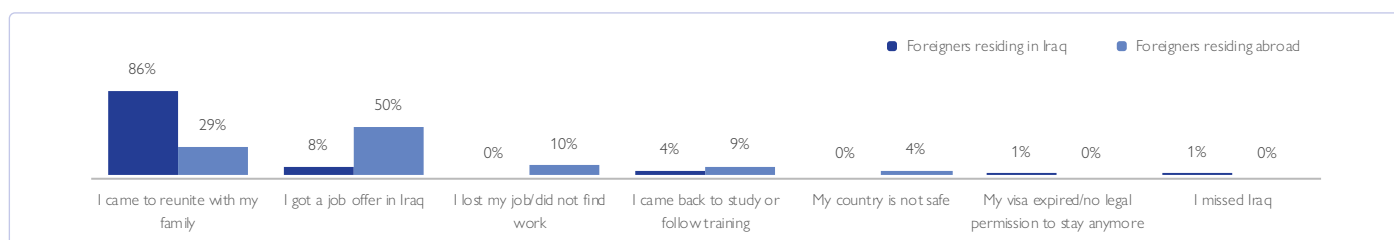


CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

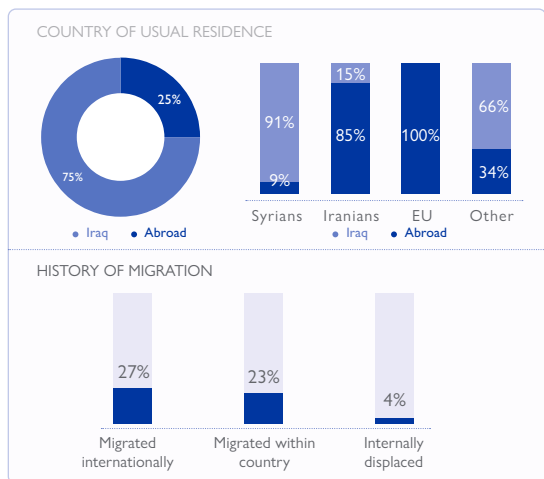


Reasons for entering Iraq also vary according to whether foreigners have established their usual residence in Iraq or not. Family reunification was the main reason for the majority foreigners residing in Iraq – only around one in ten were travelling for work or education. By contrast, half of the incoming foreigners usually residing in their home countries entered Iraq for work-related reasons, and to lesser extent for family reasons. A small portion of incoming foreign migrants (4%) who usually reside abroad entered Iraq due to humanitarian reasons related to the security situation in their home countries.

REASONS TO ENTER IRAQ

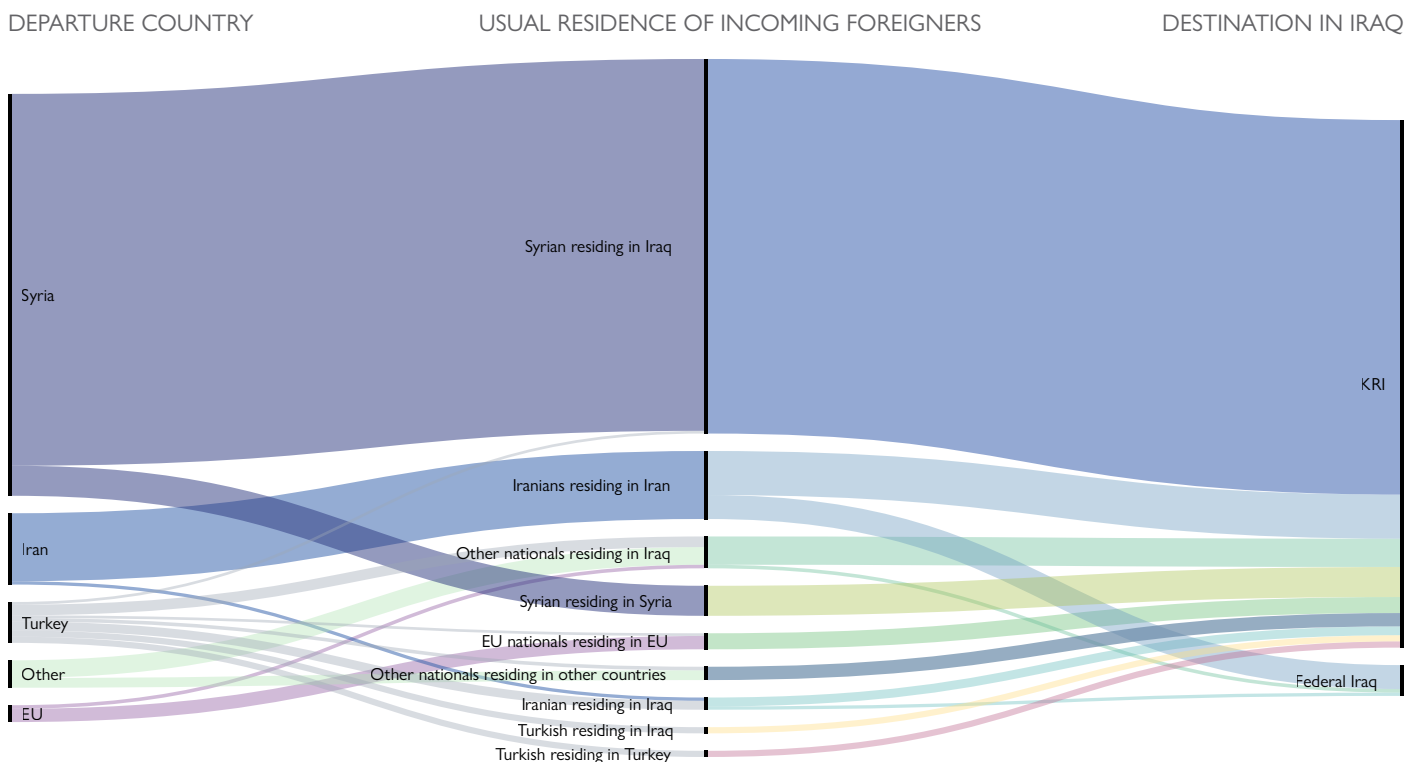


Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

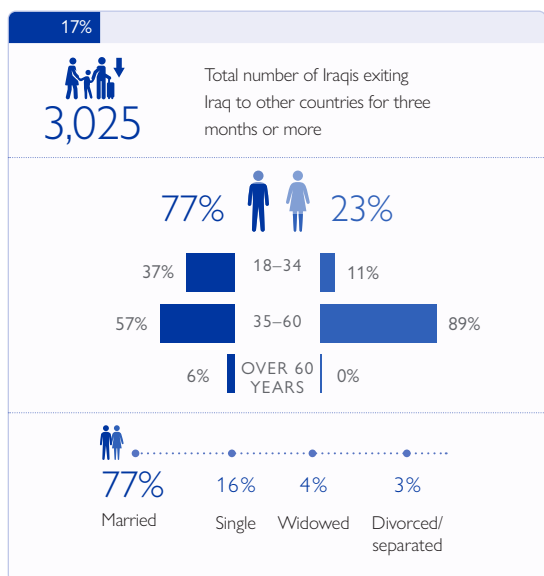


Three quarters of incoming foreigners were Syrians, 14 per cent were Iranians, and the rest were Turkish and EU nationals of other countries such as Georgia. The majority of this group reside in Iraq, with a only quarter residing abroad for most of the year prior to data collection. Syrians have mainly established their usual residence in Iraq (91%) – possibly after experiencing internal migration in Syria – and could hence be considered as immigrants. All EU nationals, including those from Germany, Netherlands or Sweden, reside abroad.

Most incoming foreigners were heading towards Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), while only five per cent were heading to Federal Iraq – with most of this group being Iranians travelling to the governorates of Najaf, Kerbala and Wasset, which might be explained by the religious and socio-economic links with Iran.

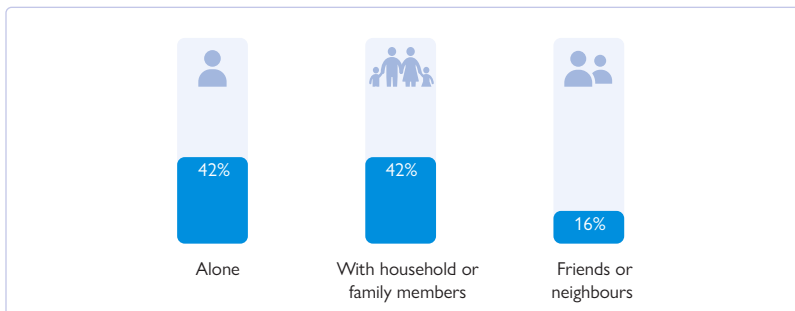


MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING IRAQIS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



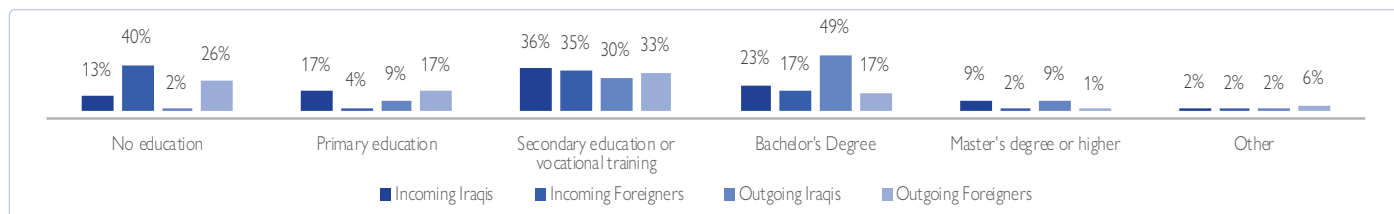
Outgoing Iraqis account for 17 per cent of all migrants. This group included more males (77%) than females (23%), and the majority of them were middle-aged and married – representing similar characteristics to incoming Iraqis. They were generally recorded travelling either with family (42%) or alone (42%). However, Iraqis residing abroad were more likely to travel with family, while Iraqis residing in the country were more likely to travel alone or with friends.

TRAVEL GROUP

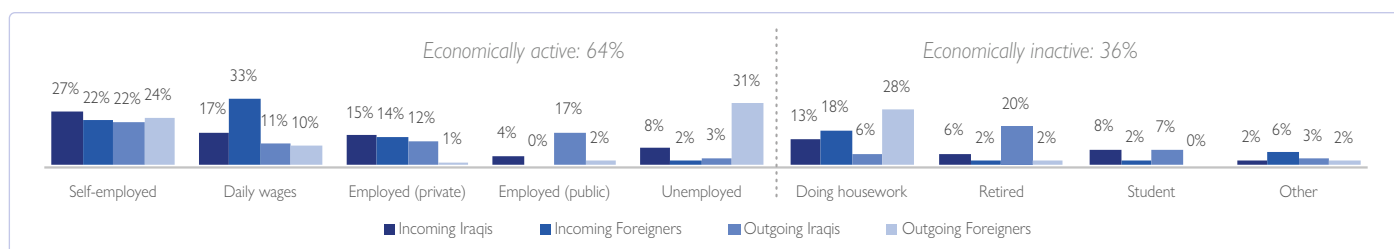


Outgoing Iraqis' level of education was high compared with other migrant groups: over half hold a Bachelor's degree, a Master's or a PhD, while around one third had secondary education or vocational training. Although most of them were economically active, the percentage was lower than among other groups due to relatively high portion of retiree among them. Only three per cent were unemployed and currently looking for a job.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

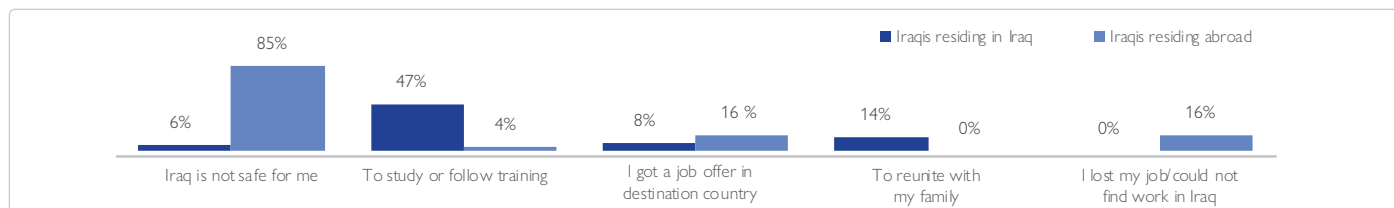


CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



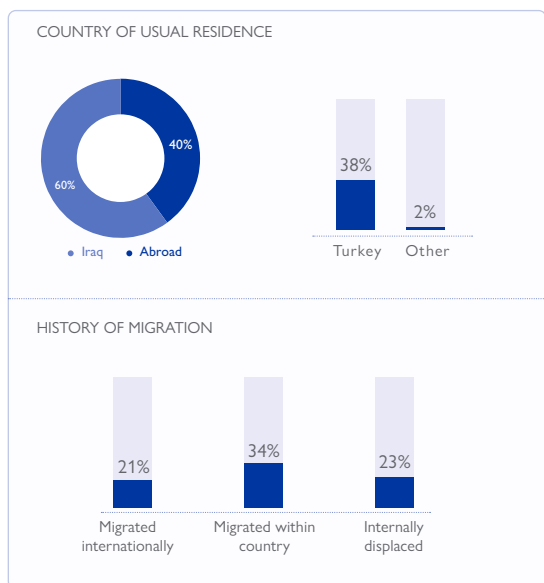
Outgoing Iraqis reported various reasons for leaving the country, which varied according to whether they usually reside in Iraq or not. For the majority (85%) of Iraqis residing abroad, the security situation in Iraq was the main push factor for travel. In addition, around one third of them reported travelling from Iraq due to work-related reasons, including losing their job in Iraq or acquiring a new job in a destination country. Conversely, for almost half of the outgoing Iraqis residing in the country, the main reasons for their travel related to education (47%), family reunion (14%), and getting a job offer in a destination country (8%).

REASONS TO EXIT IRAQ



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING IRAQIS – MOBILITY HISTORY



Sixty per cent of outgoing Iraqis reside in Iraq and the rest (40%) reside abroad mainly in Turkey, and can hence be considered as immigrants.⁹ Outgoing Iraqis residing in Turkey were mainly from the governorates of Baghdad, Ninewa and Basrah.

A little more than one third of the group of outgoing Iraqis had a history of migration within the country and around one fifth were internally displaced; these percentages are the highest compared to other migrant groups, meaning this group is most familiar with experiences of internal displacement.

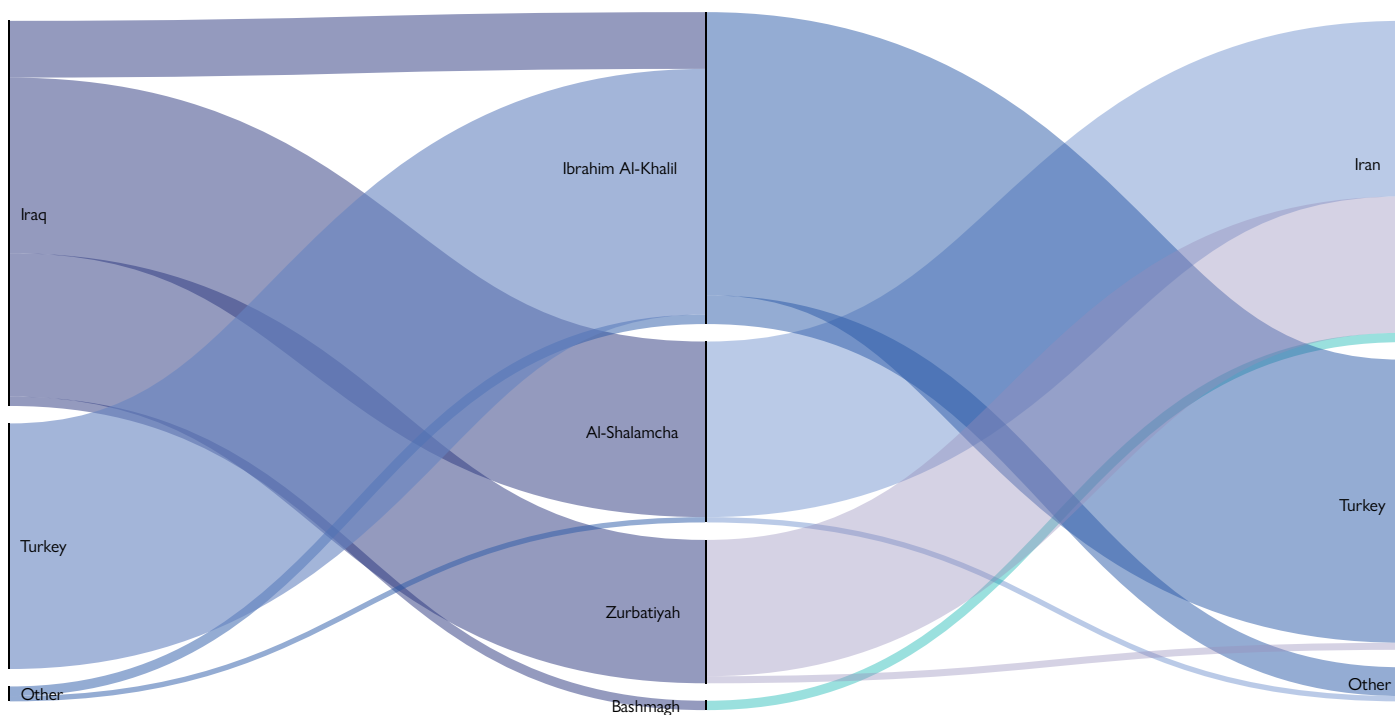
One in five outgoing Iraqis had a history of migration across the border, and those who moved to Turkey reported also experiencing internal migration and displacement. In this case, reasons for forced movements may still be relevant since most Iraqis residing in Turkey mentioned the security situation in Iraq as the main reason for travel.

Half of the outgoing Iraqis were travelling through Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing points, mainly to Turkey (91%), while only a small portion were heading to other European countries. Three quarters of migrants who cross at Ibrahim Al-Khalil were Iraqis returning to their usual residence in Turkey. Additionally, around half of the outgoing Iraqis were individuals residing in Iraq and travelling to Iran through Al-Shalamcha and Zurbatiya border points.

USUAL RESIDENCE

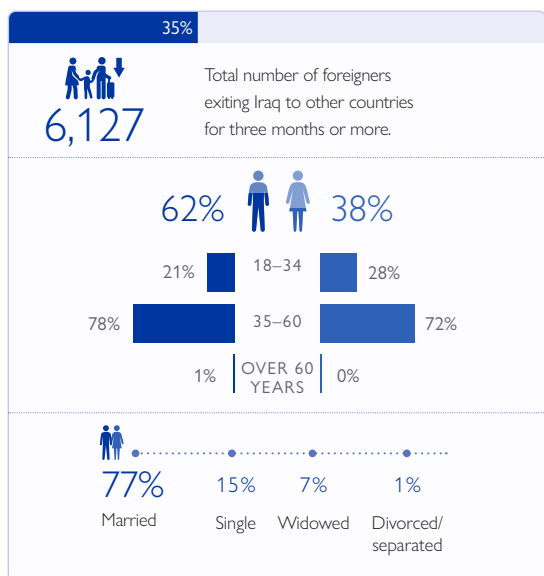
BORDER CROSSING POINT

DESTINATION COUNTRY



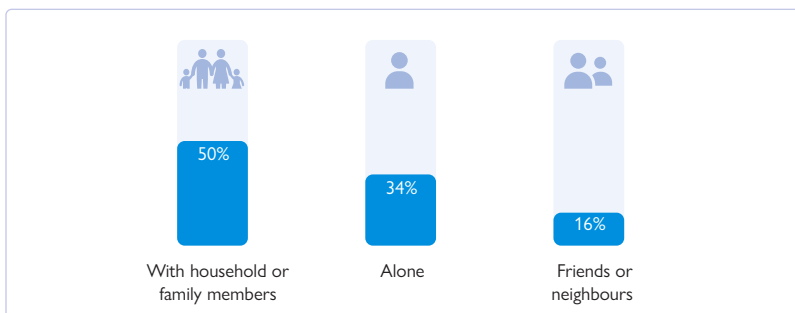
⁹ Around 10% of outgoing Iraqis hold a second nationality.

MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING FOREIGNERS – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS



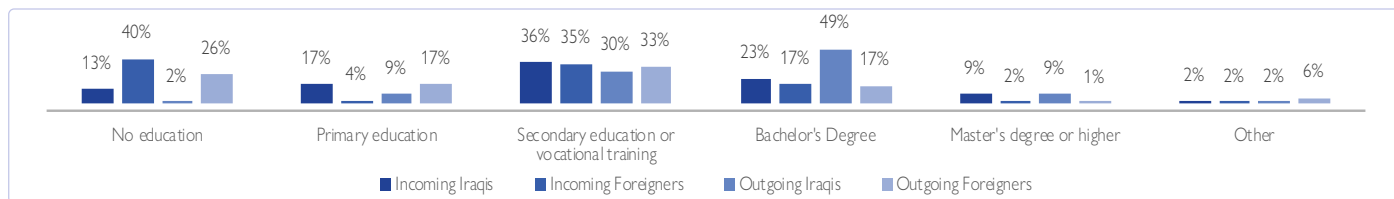
Outgoing foreigners were the second largest group and represent 35 per cent of all migrants across the four assessed border points. Consistent with incoming foreigners, around one in three of this group were women (38%). In general, outgoing foreigners were more likely to be older than other groups, with nearly three quarters belonging to the middle-aged group. Half of them were travelling either with family (50%) or alone (34%); however, foreigners residing in Iraq were more likely to travel with family.

TRAVEL GROUP

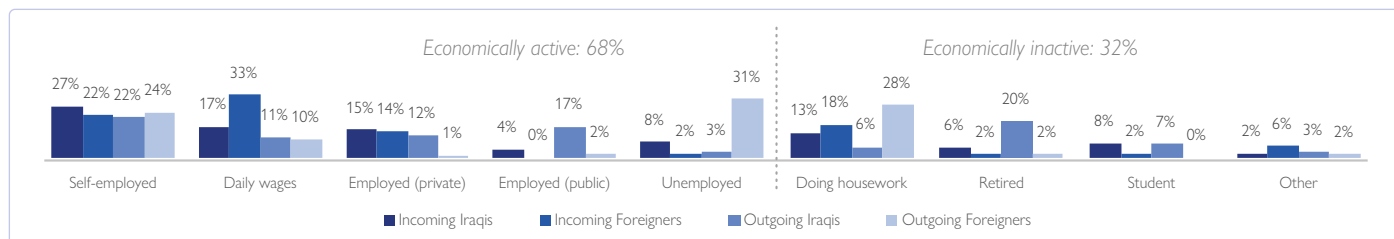


Around one in three outgoing foreigners had secondary school or vocational training, while around a quarter had no education, and just under a fifth had only completed primary school. Although most of them were economically active, this group ranks lower than other groups due to a relatively high number doing housework. Around one in three were unemployed and actively looking for a job (nearly all of whom male), which is the largest portion compared to other migrant groups.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

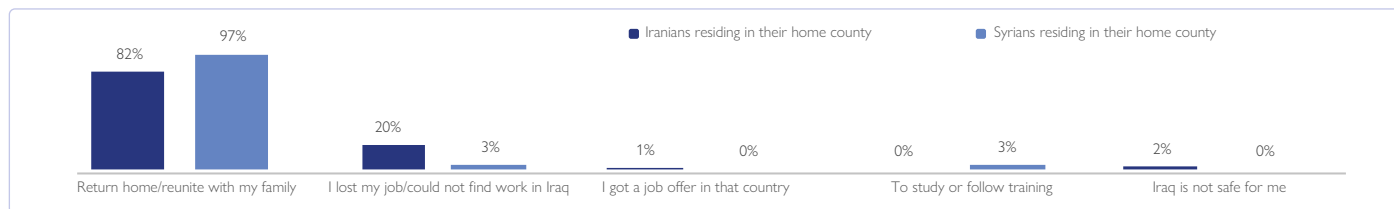


CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



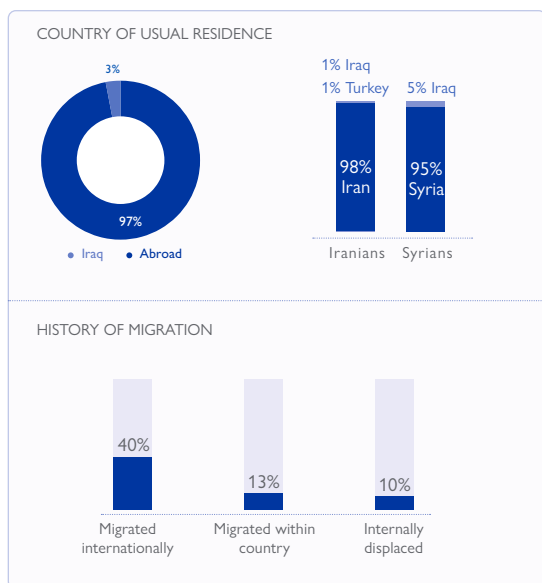
Reported reasons for travel differed among outgoing foreigners depending on their nationalities and country of usual residence. As such, for the majority of Syrians residing in their home country, family reunion and returning home to Syria were the main reported reasons for leaving Iraq. For Iranians residing within their home county, family reunion and losing or not finding job in Iraq were the second main reasons for travel.

REASONS TO EXIT IRAQ



Note: Respondents could choose more than one option, response options 'other reasons' and 'I don't know' are not shown on this chart.

MIGRANTS PROFILE: OUTGOING FOREIGNERS – MOBILITY HISTORY



Just over half of the outgoing foreigners were Iranians (55%) and the rest were Syrians (45%), with both groups mostly residing in their home countries and a small number moved to Iraq or Turkey.¹⁰

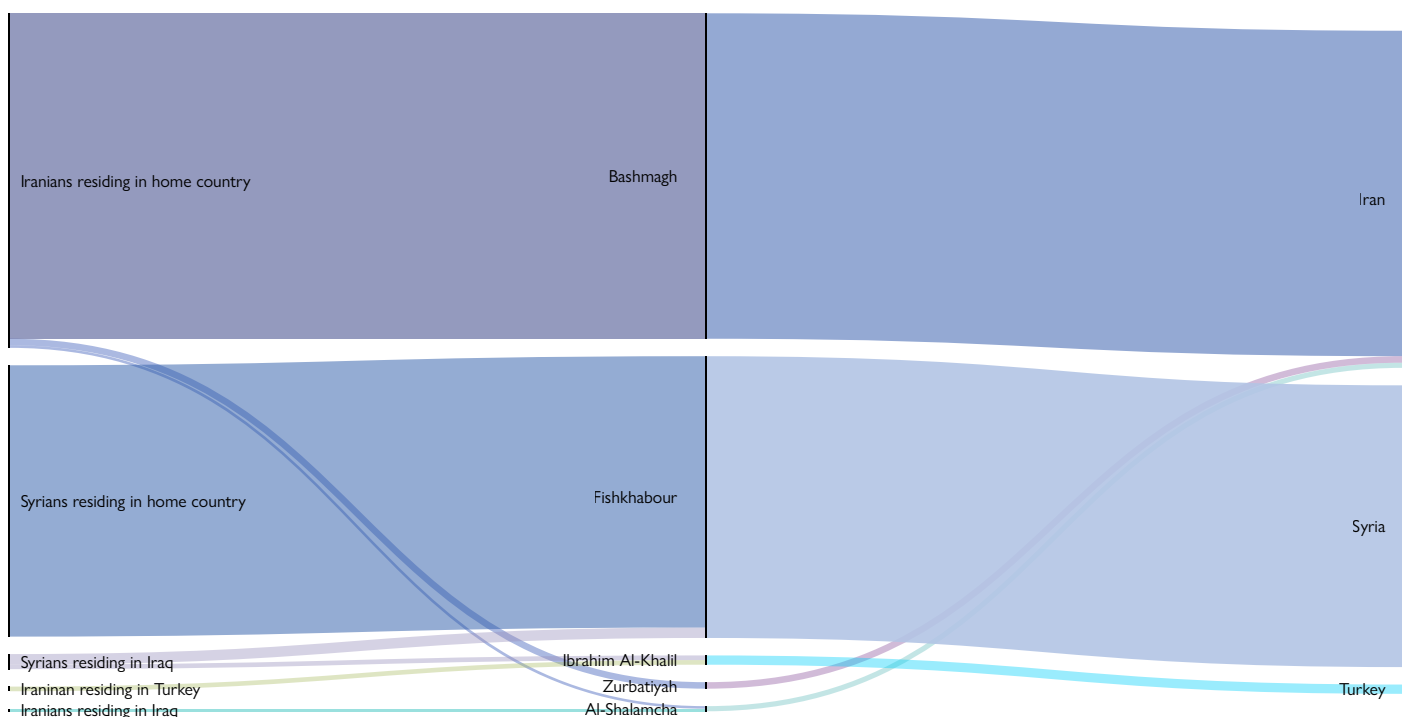
Forty per cent of all outgoing foreigners had a history of international migration. Iranians reported experiencing international migration more commonly than Syrians; however, Syrians were more likely to have experienced internal migration.

Outgoing foreigners traveled either through Bashmagh (51%) or Fishkhabour (45%), with a small number exiting through other monitored border crossing points. At Bashmagh, all migrants were Iranians returning to their home country. The same applies to Syrians returning to their home country via the Fishkhabour border crossing. Only a small portion of outgoing foreigners exit to Turkey through Ibrahim Al-Khalil.

NATIONALITY AND USUAL RESIDENCE

BORDER CROSSING POINT

DESTINATION COUNTRY



¹⁰ Outgoing foreigners seem to have held the nationality of the country they were born in: only 5% have a second nationality (all Syrians).

METHODOLOGY

Data displayed within this report was collected by IOM's enumerators at five border point crossings in January and February 2020. Travellers who visited their destination countries for three or more months are referred to as migrants in this report, and comprise 12 per cent of all recorded travellers. Analysis findings presented within this report relate to this category of travellers.

The data collection took place at five border crossing points during the months of January and February 2020 on weekdays only, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. IOM's enumerators were not collecting information during a lunch break of 30 minutes between 12:30 pm and 2:00 p.m. The enumerator team was comprised of 14 staff members deployed across Iraq (35% of enumerators were female and 65% were male).

The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs).¹¹ Specific criteria were used to select the border crossing points, including: 1) high volumes of daily crossings to and from neighbouring countries; 2) diversity, both in geography and type of border point (official/unofficial border points, bus stations, etc.); and 3) ability of staff to reach and operate from the location for daily data collection and fund optimization.

Out of 16 locations assessed, five border crossing points were selected for data collection:

- Ibrahim Al-Khalil in Dahuk Governorate, bordering Turkey;
- Fishkhabour in Dahuk Governorate, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Bashmagh in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) in Wassit Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- Al-Shalamcha in Basrah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The data collection methodology for cross-border monitoring in Iraq was developed in cooperation with the IPAZIA Ricerche. It includes employing two different approaches: 1) headcount of all travellers entering or leaving Iraq, and 2) survey of randomly sampled travellers identified as entering or exiting Iraq

The counting exercise aims to count all individuals crossing national borders and to identify the total volume of travellers who enter Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and travellers who exit Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). Counting was conducted by observation, using tablets to record the type of flow (incoming/outgoing), the time of crossing (day, hour, minutes), and the number of travellers as well as their means of transport (whether by private car, taxi, bus or minibus – up to 15 seats).

The survey aims to collect information about travellers and was conducted through face-to-face interviews, using tablets to record socio-demographic characteristics, mobility history, and reasons for travel. Respondents were selected randomly through the adoption of a 'systematic step/interval' – i.e. travellers are systematically selected at fixed intervals from the start of the workday. The interval was fixed at 1:5 (one in every five individuals were selected for an interview). All travellers aged 18 years and older who were crossing borders were eligible for an interview, regardless of their nationality. Sampling weights were applied to generalize the characteristics of travellers.

DTM identified 147,627 travellers crossing the border points during the reporting period, 3,830 travellers were sampled using systematic selection, 3,203 interviews were conducted and 627 refused to take part in the survey or were not able or not eligible to answer. This report is focused on four groups of travellers:

TRAVELLERS	INCOMING IRAQIS	INCOMING FOREIGNERS	OUTGOING IRAQIS	OUTGOING FOREIGNERS	OTHER SURVEYED TRAVELLERS
	Iraqis entering Iraq for three months or more after being abroad for three months or more	Foreign travellers entering Iraq for three months or more	Iraqis exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more	Foreign travellers exiting Iraq to other countries for three months or more	Travellers entering or exiting Iraq on a temporary basis – for less than three months
Weighted value	1,686	6,485	3,025	6,127	108,254
Sample size	53	119	84	174	2,773

Data presented in this report is representative of the migrants crossing at any of the five selected border points between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 pm during weekdays only. Data should not be generalized to all of inter and intra-regional migration; rather, the data captures information on migration at the five border points monitored. Data collected in assessed border points should not lead to assumptions about flows in non-assessed border points or areas without monitoring points.

DISCLAIMER

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

¹¹ Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



Funded by
the European Union

© 2020 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.