DTM IRAQ
# CROSS-BORDER MONITORING REPORT
DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

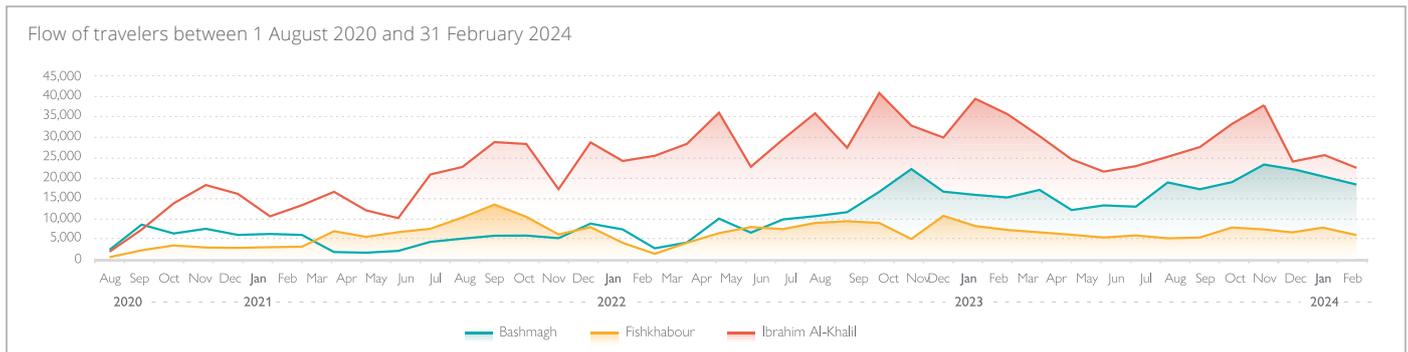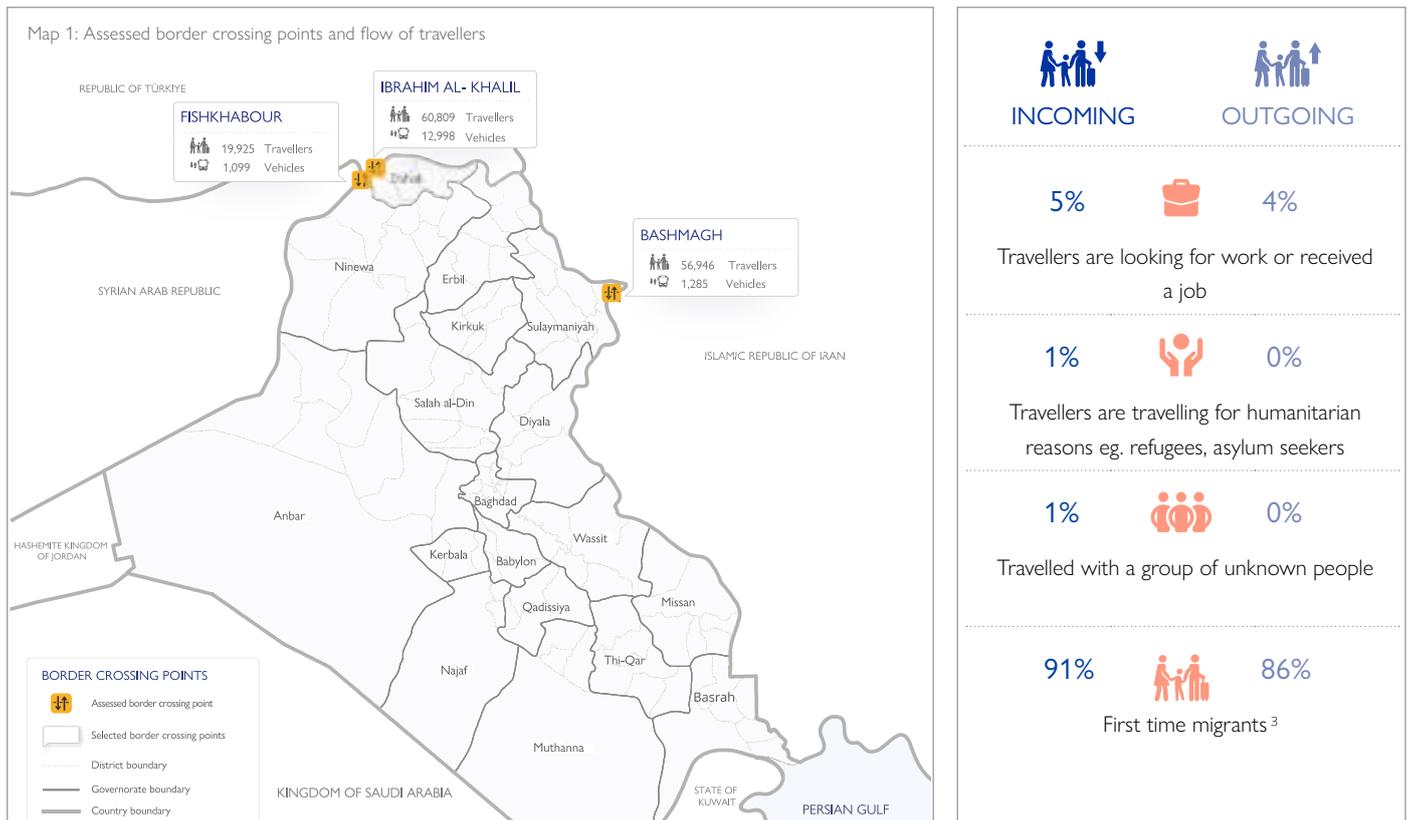IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

MAY 2024

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighbouring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), 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 December 2023 and February 2024. Further details on the survey methodology, selection of respondents and border crossing points are available in the Methodological Overview on the DTM website.

Between December 2023 and February 2024, Ibrahim al Khalil saw the most traffic with a total of 60,809 travellers and 12,998 vehicles passing through the border crossing point, whilst Fishkhabour saw the least traffic with 19,925 travellers and 1,099 vehicles passing through the border.

Around 6 in 10 of travellers were male, with a significant portion between 18 and 34 years old (42%). A smaller portion were female (34%), with 63 per cent being between 35 and 60 years old, showcasing a contrast with the male demographic, where younger individuals were more prevalent. More than half of all travellers had a secondary education level or a tertiary degree or higher, while only 3 per cent of the travellers reported having no form of education. Only 24 per cent of travellers have a stable income, mostly working in the private sector, while more than half of all travellers have either an unstable income [2] (51%) or were unemployed (6%) at the time of the survey. A small proportion of travellers had received a job offer (5% of incoming travellers and 4% of outgoing travellers). Regarding protection risks, only 1 per cent of travellers entered Iraq for humanitarian reasons. Additionally, a majority of travellers reported being first time migrants, having never migrated within their country of habitual residence or across borders.
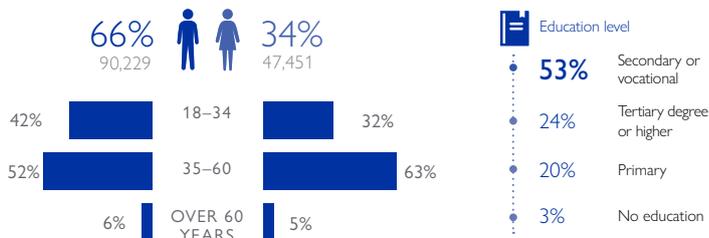
| 137,680 Total number of travellers | 2,185 Average number of travellers per day | 15,382 Total number of vehicles | 244 Average number of vehicles per day |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

Map 1: Assessed border crossing points and flow of travellers

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

FISHKHABOUR
19,925 Travellers
1,099 Vehicles

IBRAHIM AL- KHALIL
60,809 Travellers
12,998 Vehicles

BASHMAGH
56,946 Travellers
1,285 Vehicles

Ninewa
Erbil
Kirkuk
Sulaymaniyah
Salah al-Din
Diyala
Anbar
Baghdad
Wassit
Kerbala
Babylon
Qadissiya
Missan
Najaf
Thi-Qar
Basrah
Muthanna

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
STATE OF KUWAIT
PERSIAN GULF

BORDER CROSSING POINTS
Assessed border crossing point
Selected border crossing points
District boundary
Governorate boundary
Country boundary

INCOMING        OUTGOING

5%  [briefcase]  4%
Travellers are looking for work or received a job

1%  [hands]  0%
Travellers are travelling for humanitarian reasons eg. refugees, asylum seekers

1%  [group]  0%
Travelled with a group of unknown people

91%  [family]  86%
First time migrants [3]

Flow of travelers between 1 August 2020 and 31 February 2024



45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb
2020    2021                    2022                          2023                    2024

Bashmagh     Fishkhabour     Ibrahim Al-Khalil

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#CrossBorde
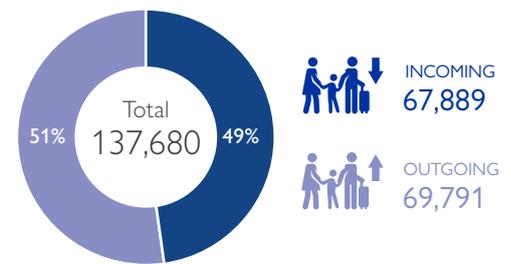2   Unstable income refers to the following reported income sources: daily wages, doing housework and self-employment
3   First time migrants refer to travellers who never migrated both within their country of habitual residence and internationally
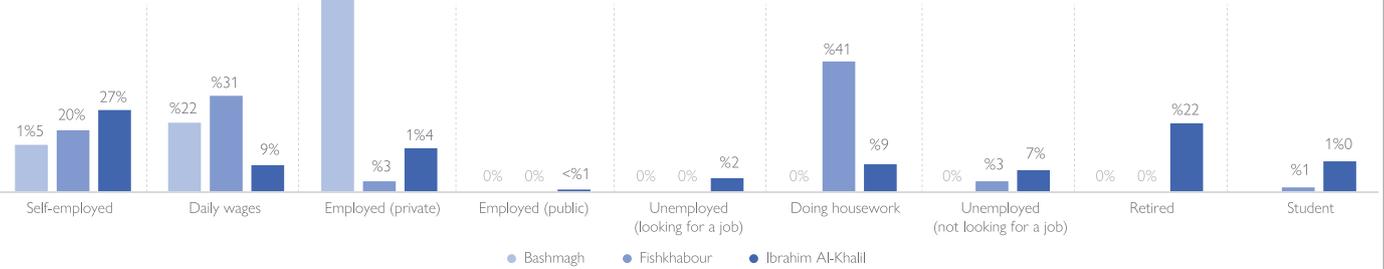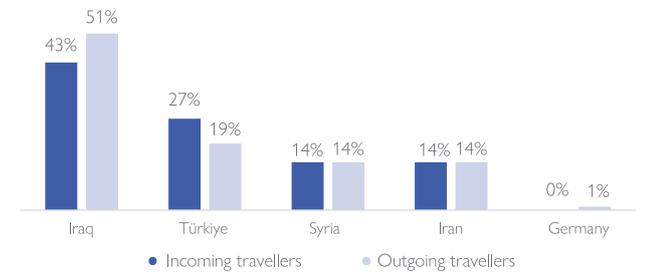
## Socio-demographic characteristics of travelers

**66%** 90,229 | **34%** 47,451

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 42% | 18–34 | 32% |
| 52% | 35–60 | 63% |
| 6% | OVER 60 YEARS | 5% |

**Education level**
- **53%** Secondary or vocational
- 24% Tertiary degree or higher
- 20% Primary
- 3% No education

## Number and percentage of travelers by type of flow

Total **137,680**
- 51% / 49%

INCOMING **67,889**

OUTGOING **69,791**

## Employment status

| | Self-employed | Daily wages | Employed (private) | Employed (public) | Unemployed (looking for a job) | Doing housework | Unemployed (not looking for a job) | Retired | Student |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bashmagh | %1 / 5 | %22 | %63 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | — |
| Fishkhabour | 20% | %31 | %3 | 0% | 0% | %41 | %3 | 0% | %1 |
| Ibrahim Al-Khalil | 27% | 9% | %1 / 4 | <%1 | %2 | %9 | 7% | %22 | %1 / 0 |

Legend: Bashmagh · Fishkhabour · Ibrahim Al-Khalil

## Main countries of origin, all travelers (top five)

| | Iraq | Türkiye | Syria | Iran | Germany |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Incoming travellers | 43% | 27% | 14% | 14% | 0% |
| Outgoing travellers | 51% | 19% | 14% | 14% | 1% |

## Main countries of destination, excluding temporary travelers (top six)

| | Iraq | Türkiye | Iran | Syria | Germany | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Incoming travellers | 100% | | | | | |
| Outgoing travellers | | 36% | 24% | 19% | 8% | 4% |
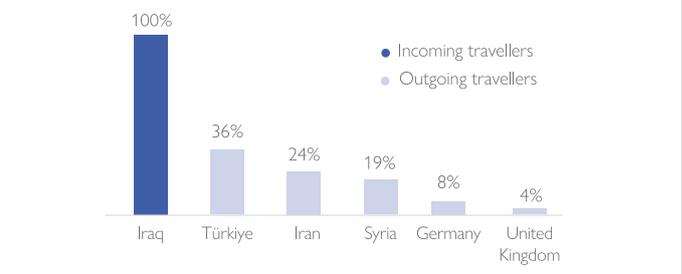
## Top three reasons for travel, by border crossing point

**Bashmagh**
- 31% Returning home or country of usual residence
- 20% Holiday/tourism
- 16% Family visit

**Fishkhabour**
- 50% Returning home or country of usual residence
- 41% Family visit
- 18% Special occasions

**Ibrahim Al-Khalil**
- 37% Returning home or country of usual residence
- 33% Shopping
- 16% Holiday/tourism

## Types of travelers

**Bashmagh**: 12% / 88%
**Fishkhabour**: 19% / 81%
**Ibrahim Al-khalil**: 1% / 1% / 13% / 85%

Legend: Emigrants · Immigrants · Potential immigrants · Potential emigrants · Temporary travelers

**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.

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