

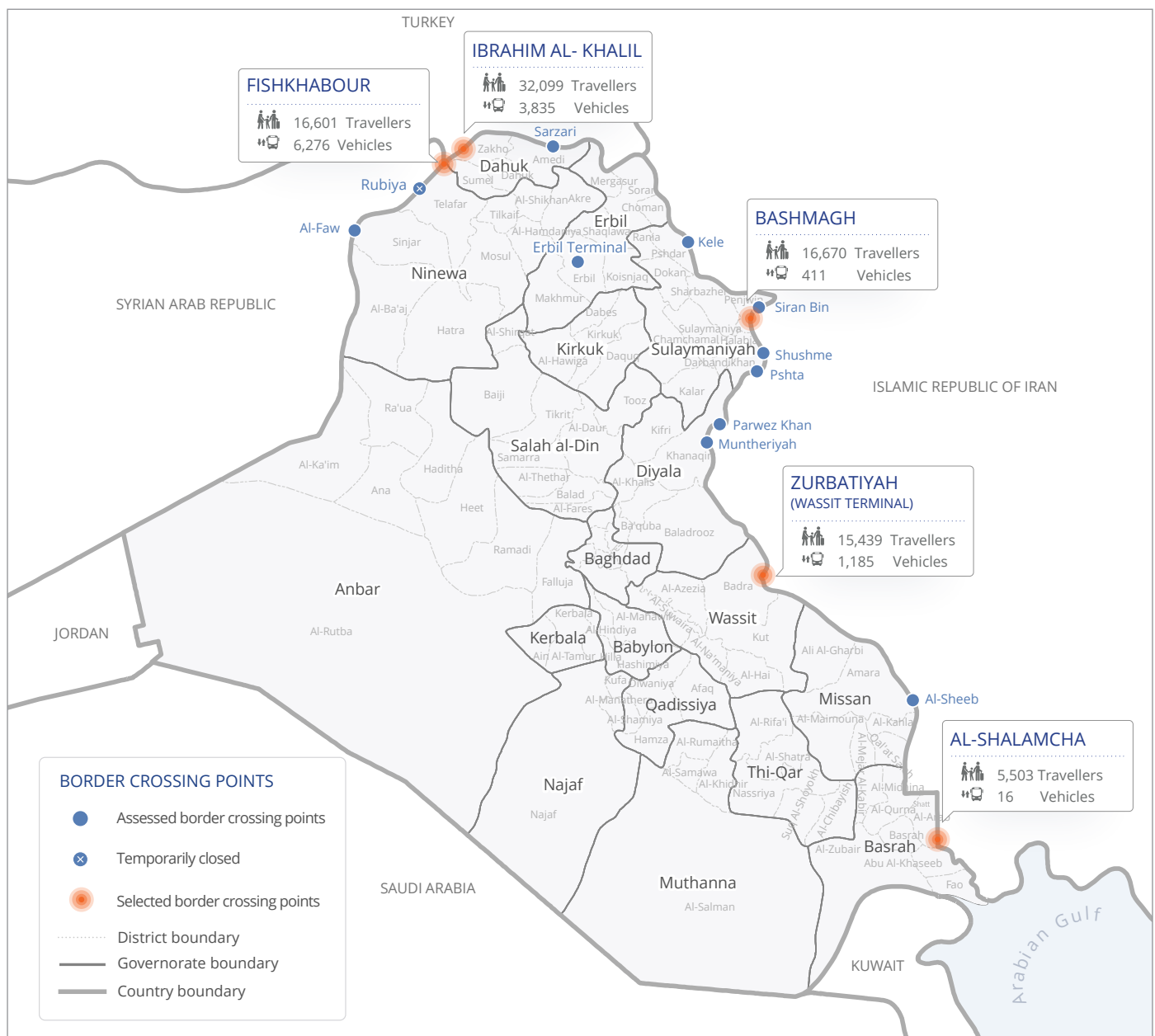
# TRAVELLERS' PROFILE AND POPULATION FLOW OVERVIEW

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: JANUARY 2020

APRIL 2020

DTM Iraq collects data at border crossing points with neighboring countries – the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey – to better understand migration movements in the Middle East. This data collection activity is part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project, targeting Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. The data for this report was gathered through counting exercises and surveys of travellers that took place at five border crossing points during January 2020. See methodology, page 12.

Map 1: Assessed and selected border crossing points



This map and all other maps in this report are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

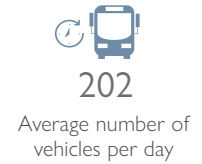
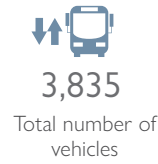
These border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs). Out of 16 locations assessed, five border crossing points were selected for data collection: Ibrahim Al-Khalil, bordering Turkey, Fishkhabour, bordering the Syrian Arab Republic and Bashmagh, Zurbatiyah (Wassit Terminal) and Al-Shalamcha, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.



# BORDER POINT PROFILE

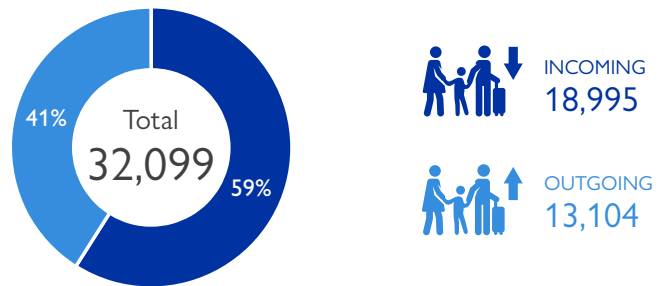
## IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

BORDERING COUNTRY: **TURKEY**



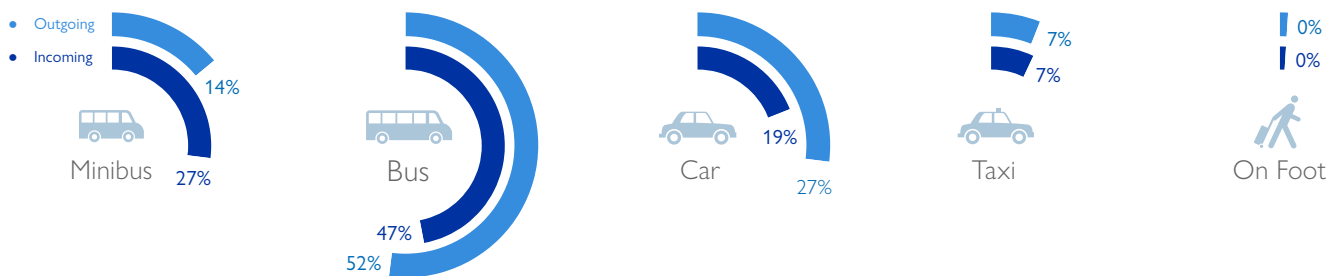
DTM Iraq collects data at the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point, which borders Turkey, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Ibrahim Al-Khalil point, data collection took place on weekdays from 2 to 30 January 2020 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



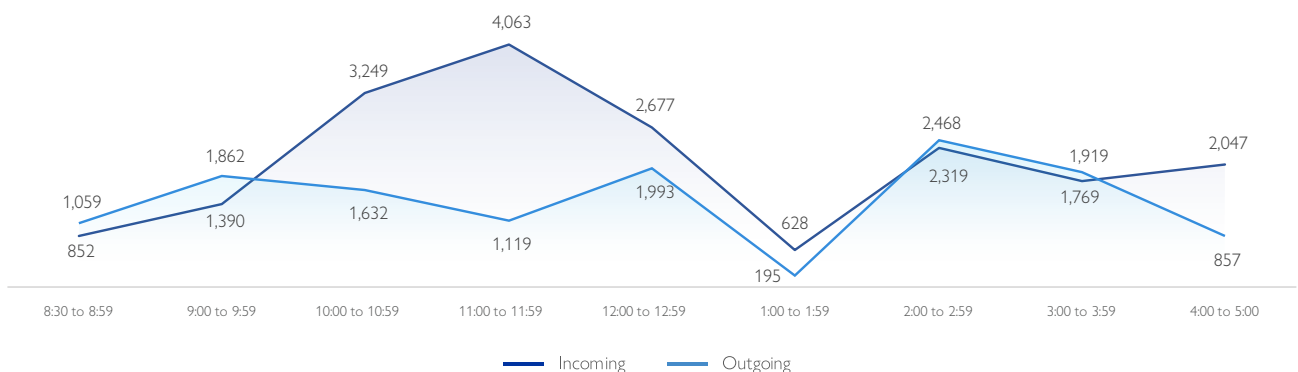
During this period, the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border crossing point witnessed a larger flow of travellers as compared to other points assessed. DTM identified 32,099 individuals crossing the Ibrahim Al-Khalil border point between 2 to 30 January, with 18,995 of them entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 13,104 individuals exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, the border was crossed by 1,689 travellers per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) and 202 vehicles (including private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The main means of transport for both types of flow were buses, private cars and minibuses.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of incoming travellers was higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peak crossings between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

# IBRAHIM AL-KHALIL

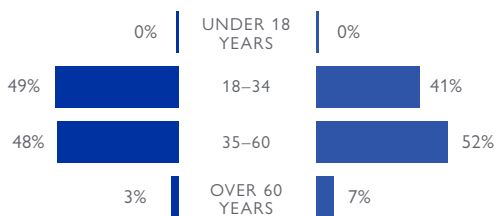
BORDERING COUNTRY: **TURKEY**

Most incoming and outgoing travellers were males aged 18–60 years. Women represented 21 per cent of all travellers (combining incoming and outgoing flows); the proportion of young females (18–34 years) among outgoing travellers was lower than the proportion of young females among incoming travellers. The main countries of nationality for incoming and outgoing travellers were Iraq and Turkey. The three main reasons for travel for individuals entering Iraq after being abroad were shopping, to visit family and for business or trade. For individuals exiting Iraq and heading to another country, the main reasons for travel also included shopping and business or trade, in addition to health care.

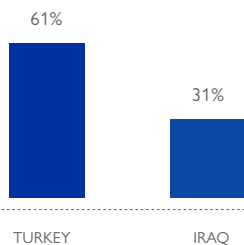


## INCOMING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers

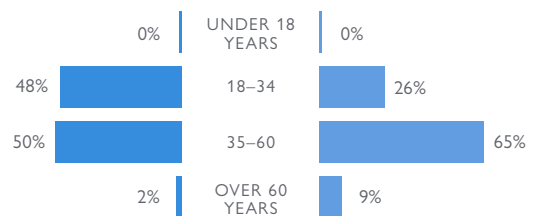


Other countries of nationality were the Islamic Republic of Iran, Georgia and Germany.

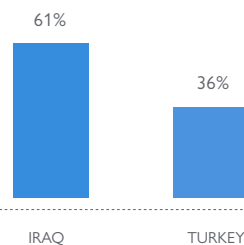


## OUTGOING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers



Other countries of nationality were the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

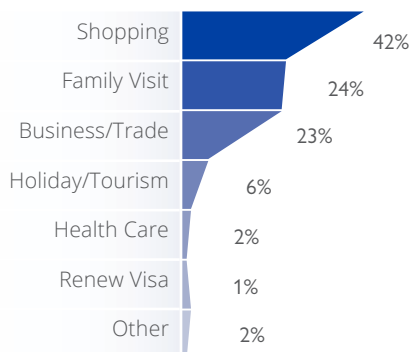


**81%** of incoming travellers plan to remain in Iraq for less than three months

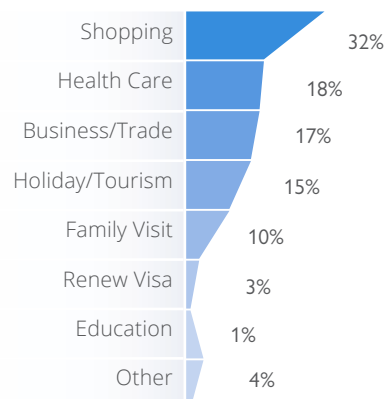


**94%** of outgoing travellers plan to be away from Iraq for less than three months

Reasons for travel

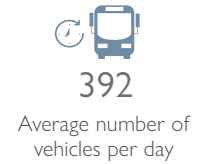
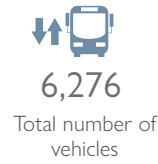


Reasons for travel



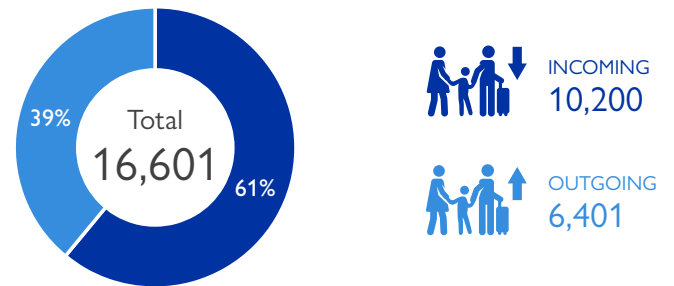


**BORDER POINT PROFILE**  
**FISHKHABOUR**  
 BORDERING COUNTRY: SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



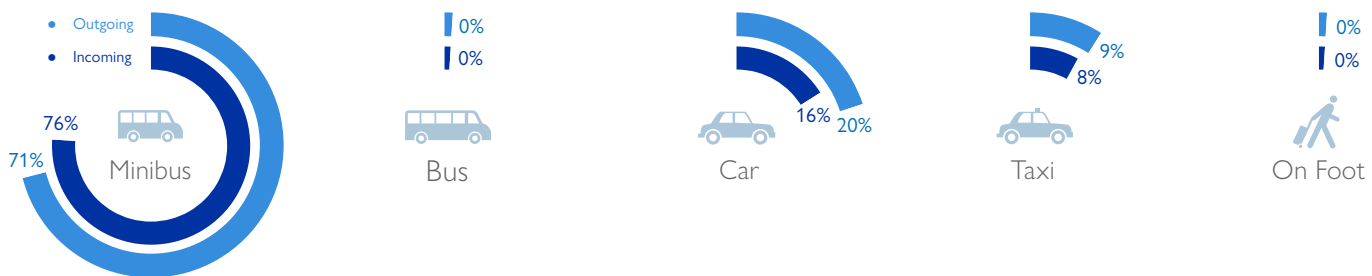
DTM Iraq collects data at the Fishkhabour border crossing point, which borders the Syrian Arab Republic, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Fishkhabour point, data collection took place on weekdays from 5 to 30 January 2020 during official working hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



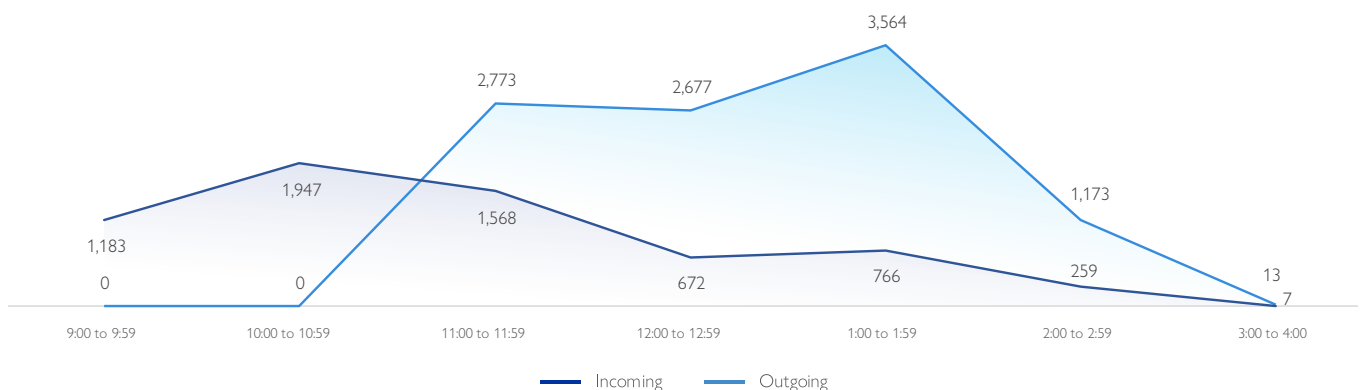
During this period, the Fishkhabour border crossing point witnessed a moderate flow of travellers compared to other points assessed. DTM identified 16,601 individuals crossing the Fishkhabour border point between 5 and 30 January, 10,200 of whom entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 6,401 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, 1,038 travellers crossed the border per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) along with 392 vehicles (including private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The main means of transport for both types of flow were minibuses, private cars and taxis.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of incoming travellers was higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peak crossings between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)





# TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

## FISHKHABOR

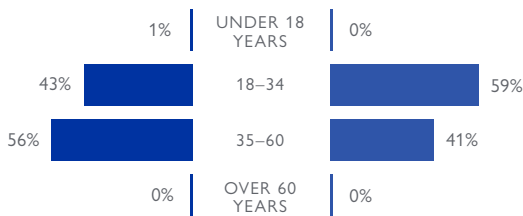
BORDERING COUNTRY: **TURKEY**

Around half of travellers for both types of flow were aged 18–34 years and another half were aged 35–60 years. Women represented 50 per cent of all travellers (combining incoming and outgoing flows) with the proportion of females lower in the incoming flow compared to the outgoing. Almost all travellers were Syrians. The three main reasons for travel were family visits, business or trade and health care.



### INCOMING

Age and gender distribution of travellers

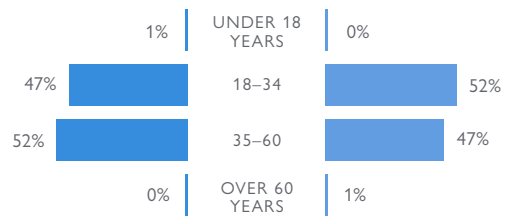


Main nationalities of adult travellers



### OUTGOING

Age and gender distribution of travellers

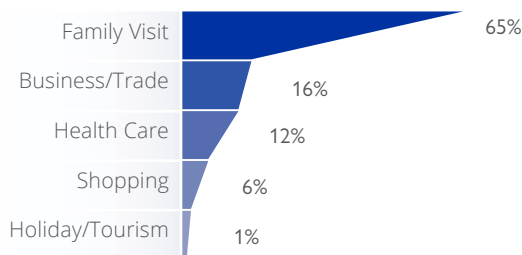


Main nationalities of adult travellers



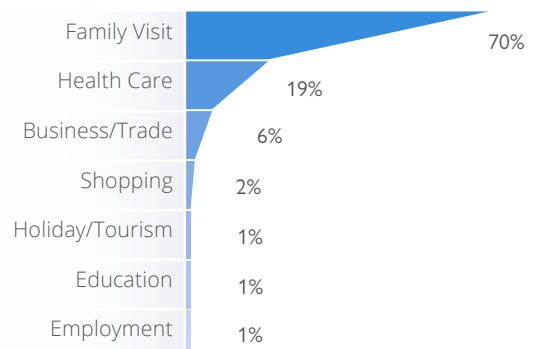
**69%** of incoming travellers plan to remain in Iraq for less than three months  
(25% reported that they did not want to return)

Reasons for travel



**72%** of outgoing travellers plan to be away from Iraq for less than three months  
(23% reported that they did not want to return)

Reasons for travel





BORDER POINT PROFILE

# BASHMAGH

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



16,670

Total number of travellers



1,042

Average number of travellers per day



411

Total number of vehicles

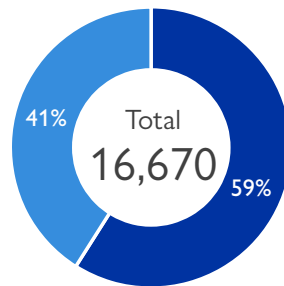


26

Average number of vehicles per day

DTM Iraq collects data at the Bashmagh border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Bashmagh point, data collection took place on weekdays from 2 to 30 January 2020, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow



**INCOMING**  
9,805

**OUTGOING**  
6,865

During this period, the Bashmagh border crossing point witnessed a moderate flow of travellers compared to other points assessed. DTM identified 16,670 individuals crossing the Bashmagh border point between 2 and 3, 9,805 of whom entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 6,865 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, 1,042 travellers crossed the border point per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) along with 26 vehicles (mostly private cars). Most travellers crossed this border point on foot, with only a few crossings by private car.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation

- Outgoing 0%
- Incoming 0%



Minibus



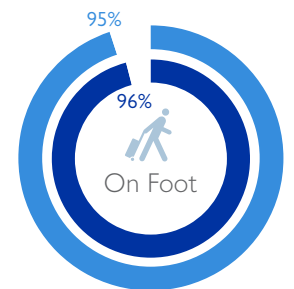
Bus



Car

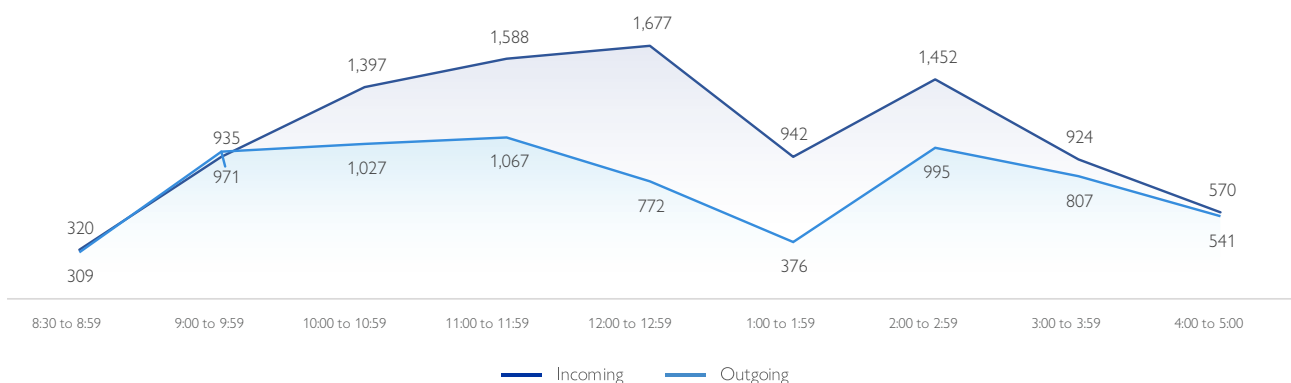


Taxi



The number of incoming travellers is higher than the number of outgoing travellers for this border crossing point, with peak crossings from about 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

# BASHMAGH

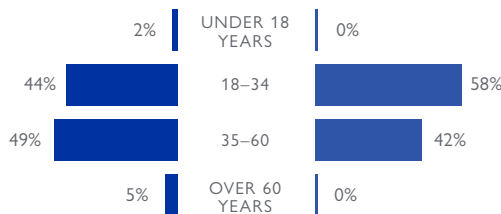
BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Most outgoing travellers were aged 35–60 years, while around half of incoming travellers were aged 18–34 years and another half were aged 35–60 years. Women represented 27 per cent of all travellers (combining incoming and outgoing flows). Most travellers (from both categories) were Iraqi and Iranian. The three main reasons for travel for incoming travellers were holiday or tourism, business or trade and family visits. For outgoing travellers, main reasons were family visits, shopping and health care.

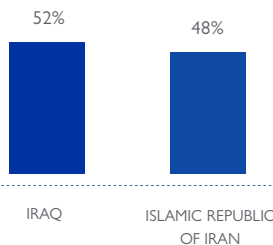


## INCOMING

Age and gender distribution of travellers

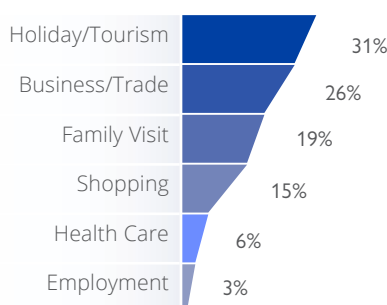


Main nationalities of adult travellers



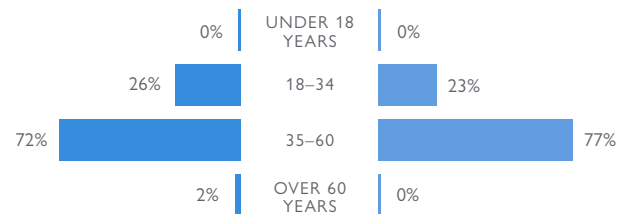
**44%** of incoming travellers plan to remain in Iraq for less than three months (27% reported that they did not want to return and 19% did not know yet)

Reasons for travel

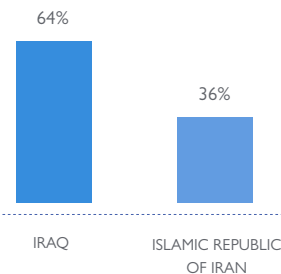


## OUTGOING

Age and gender distribution of travellers

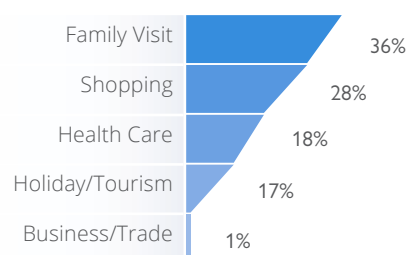


Main nationalities of adult travellers



**67%** of outgoing travellers plan to be away from Iraq for less than three months

Reasons for travel





BORDER POINT PROFILE

# ZURBATIYAH - WASSIT TERMINAL

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



15,439

Total number of travellers



965

Average number of travellers per day



1,185

Total number of vehicles

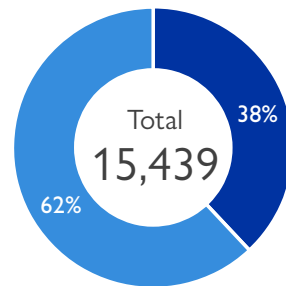


74

Average number of vehicles per day

DTM Iraq collects data at the Wassit Terminal border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Wassit Terminal point, data collection took place on weekdays from 2 to 30 January 2020, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

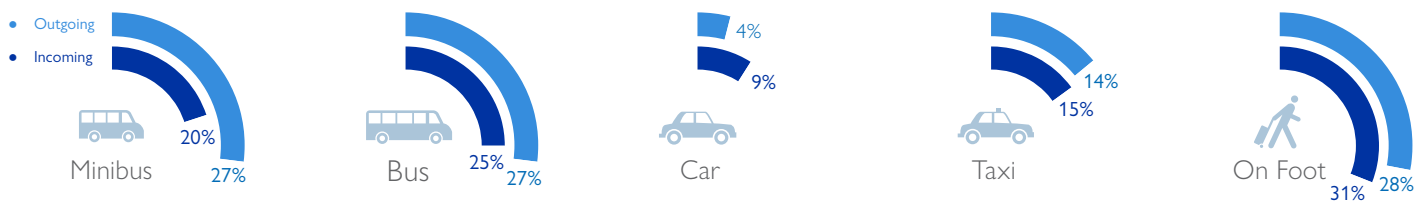


**INCOMING**  
5,868

**OUTGOING**  
9,571

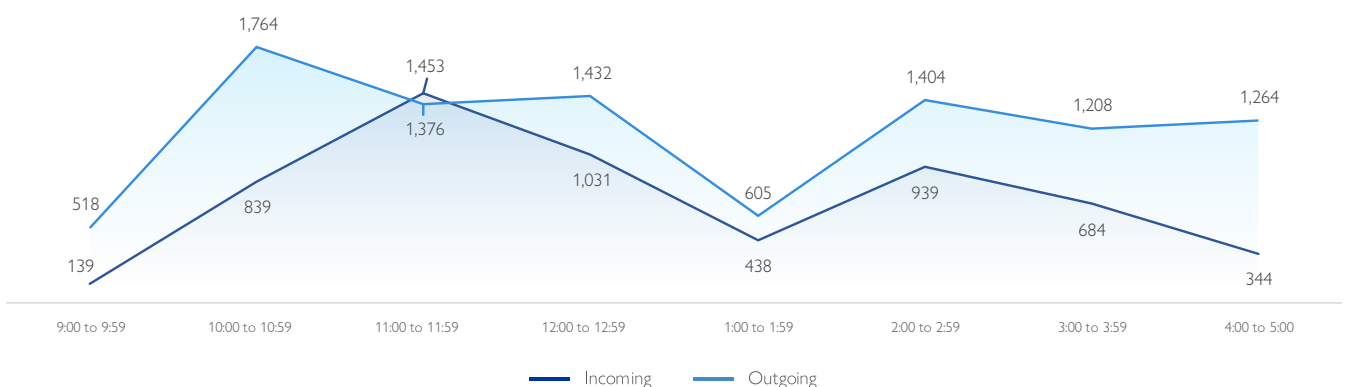
During this period, the Wassit Terminal border crossing point witnessed a moderate flow of travellers compared to other points assessed. DTM identified 15,439 individuals crossing the Wassit Terminal border point between 2 and 30, 5,868 of whom entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 9,571 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, 965 travellers crossed the border point per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows), along with 74 vehicles (including private cars, taxis, buses and minibuses). The main means of transport for incoming travellers were minibuses and buses, and one-third of travellers crossed on foot.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers was higher than the number of incoming travellers at this border crossing point, with peak crossings between 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The incoming flow of travellers tends to have peaks from about 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)







TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

# ZURBATIYAH - WASSIT TERMINAL

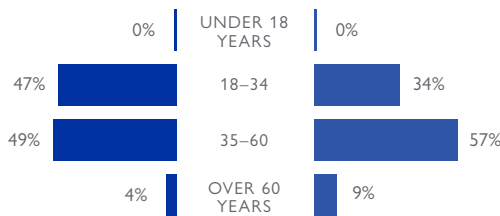
BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Most outgoing travellers were aged 35–60 years, while around half of incoming travellers were aged 35–60 years with a small portion aged over 60 years. Women represented 38 per cent of all travellers (combining incoming and outgoing flows). Almost all travellers were Iraqi. The three main reasons for travel for incoming travellers were for a holiday or tourism, religious activities and to visit family. For outgoing travellers, the main reasons were religious activities, for a holiday or tourism and health care.



## INCOMING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers



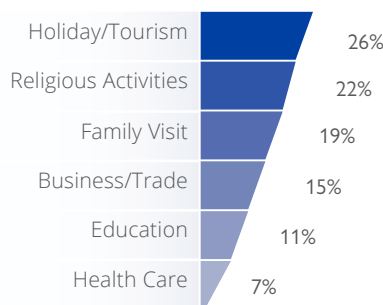
IRAQ

Another country of nationality was the Islamic Republic of Iran.



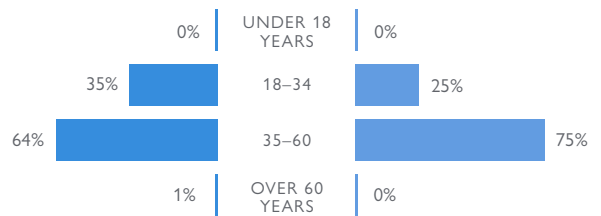
**22%** of incoming travellers plan to remain in Iraq for less than three months (30% plan to be in Iraq for more than three years and 35% reported that they did not want to return)

Reasons for travel



## OUTGOING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers



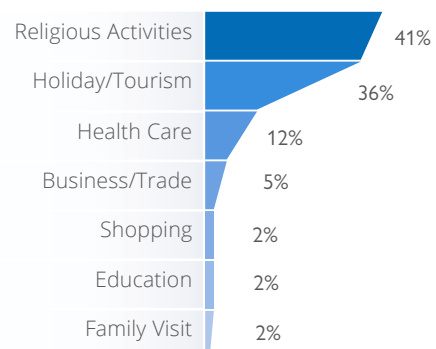
IRAQ

Another country of nationality was the Islamic Republic of Iran.



**95%** of outgoing travellers plan to be away from Iraq for less than three months

Reasons for travel





BORDER POINT PROFILE

# AL-SHALAMCHA

BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



5,503

Total number of travellers



344

Average number of travellers per day



16

Total number of vehicles

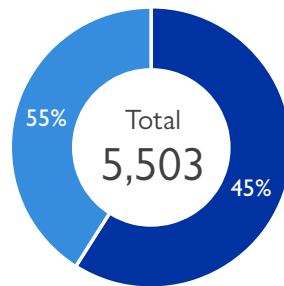


1

Average number of vehicles per day

DTM Iraq collects data at the Al-Shalamcha border crossing point, which borders the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to better understand migration movement in the Middle East as a part of the Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP) project. At the Al-Shalamcha point, data collection took place during weekdays from 2 to 30 January 2020, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Number and percentage of travellers by type of flow

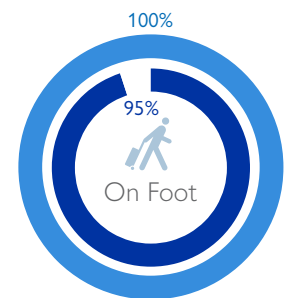
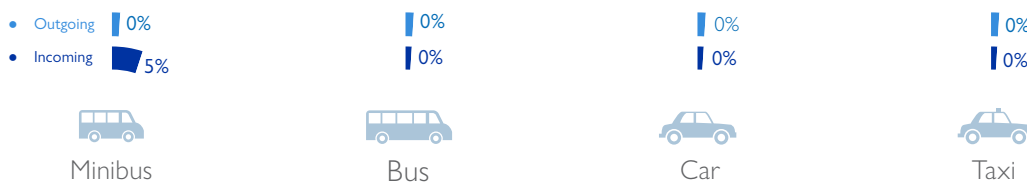


**INCOMING**  
2,452

**OUTGOING**  
3,051

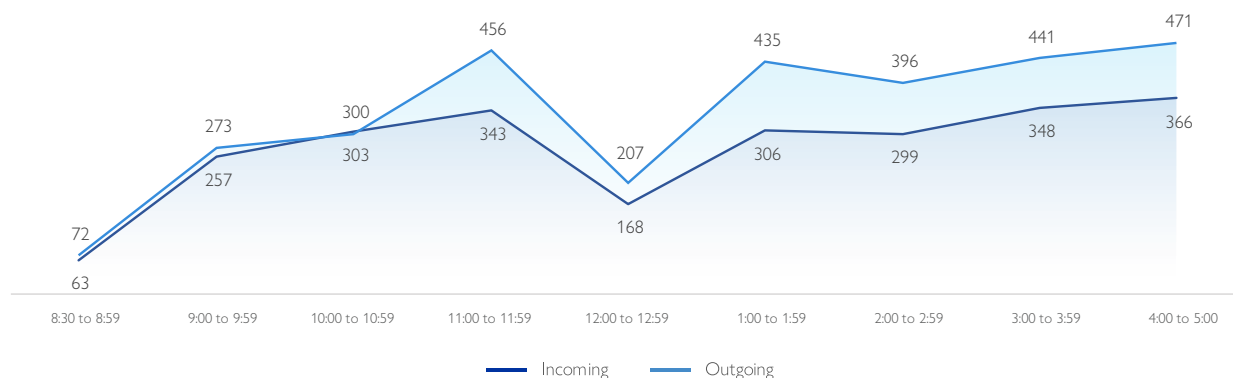
During this period, the Al-Shalamcha border crossing point witnessed a low flow of travellers compared to other points assessed. DTM identified 5,503 individuals crossing the Al-Shalamcha border point between 2 and 30, 2,452 of whom entering Iraq after being abroad (incoming flow) and 3,051 exiting Iraq to another country (outgoing flow). On average, 344 travellers crossed the border point per day (combining incoming and outgoing flows) with only one vehicle crossing per day. At the Al-Shalamcha point, crossing is not allowed for vehicles starting from the beginning of the year. Almost all travellers crossed this border point on foot, with only a few crossings by minibus.

Percentage of travellers by means of transportation



The number of outgoing travellers is higher than the number of incoming travellers at this border crossing point, with peak crossings from 11:00am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 – 5:00 pm.

Number of travellers by type of flow during the day (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)





TRAVELLERS' PROFILE

# AL-SHALAMCHA

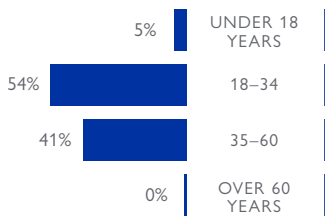
BORDERING COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Most outgoing travellers were aged 35–60 years, while more than half of incoming travellers were aged 18–34 years and small portion were aged over 60 years. Only men took part in the survey of travellers due to cultural norms, as only male enumerators were present at the border crossing point in January. All surveyed travellers were Iraqi. The three main reasons for travel for incoming travellers were shopping, business or trade and health care. For outgoing travellers, main reasons were shopping, religious activities, health care and business or trade.



## INCOMING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers

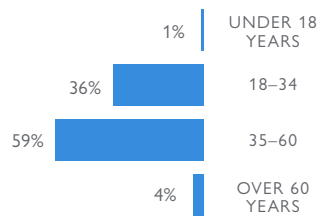


IRAQ



## OUTGOING

Age and gender distribution of travellers



Main nationalities of adult travellers



IRAQ

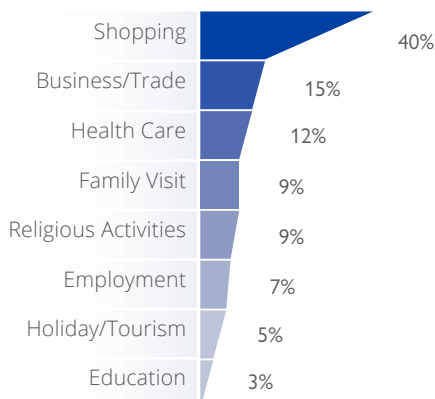


**64%** of incoming travellers plan to remain in Iraq for less than three months

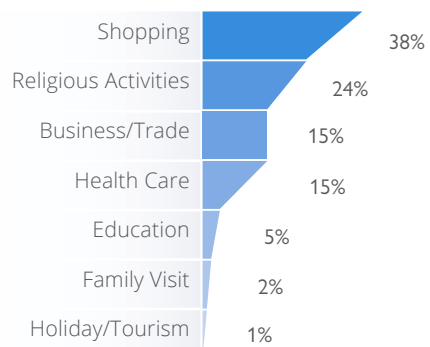


**88%** of outgoing travellers plan to be away from Iraq for less than three months

Reasons for travel



Reasons for travel



## METHODOLOGY

The data for this report was gathered through counting exercises and surveys of travellers which took place at five border crossing points during the month of January 2020 on weekdays from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, with a lunch break of 30 minutes any time between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm. Data was collected through IOM's enumerators, composed of 14 staff members deployed across Iraq (35% of enumerators are female).

The border crossing points were selected based on observations conducted in May 2019 by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs).<sup>1</sup> Specific criteria were used to select the border crossing points: 1) high volume of daily crossings leading to border 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; and
- Al-Shalamcha in Basrah Governorate, bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The counting exercise aims to enumerate all individuals crossing national borders and to identify the total volume of travellers entering 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 by means of transport (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 gender, age, nationality and purpose of travel. Travellers 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 will be selected for an interview). All travellers aged 18 years and older who were crossing borders were eligible for an interview, regardless of their nationality. The data was weighted according to the distribution of travellers per type of flow.

Data presented in this report is representative of individuals crossing at each of the selected border points separately between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm during weekdays only. Data should not be generalized and does not represent a full picture of inter and intra-regional migration, but rather of migration flows at the specific 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the methodological note for more details. Available online at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



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