

COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

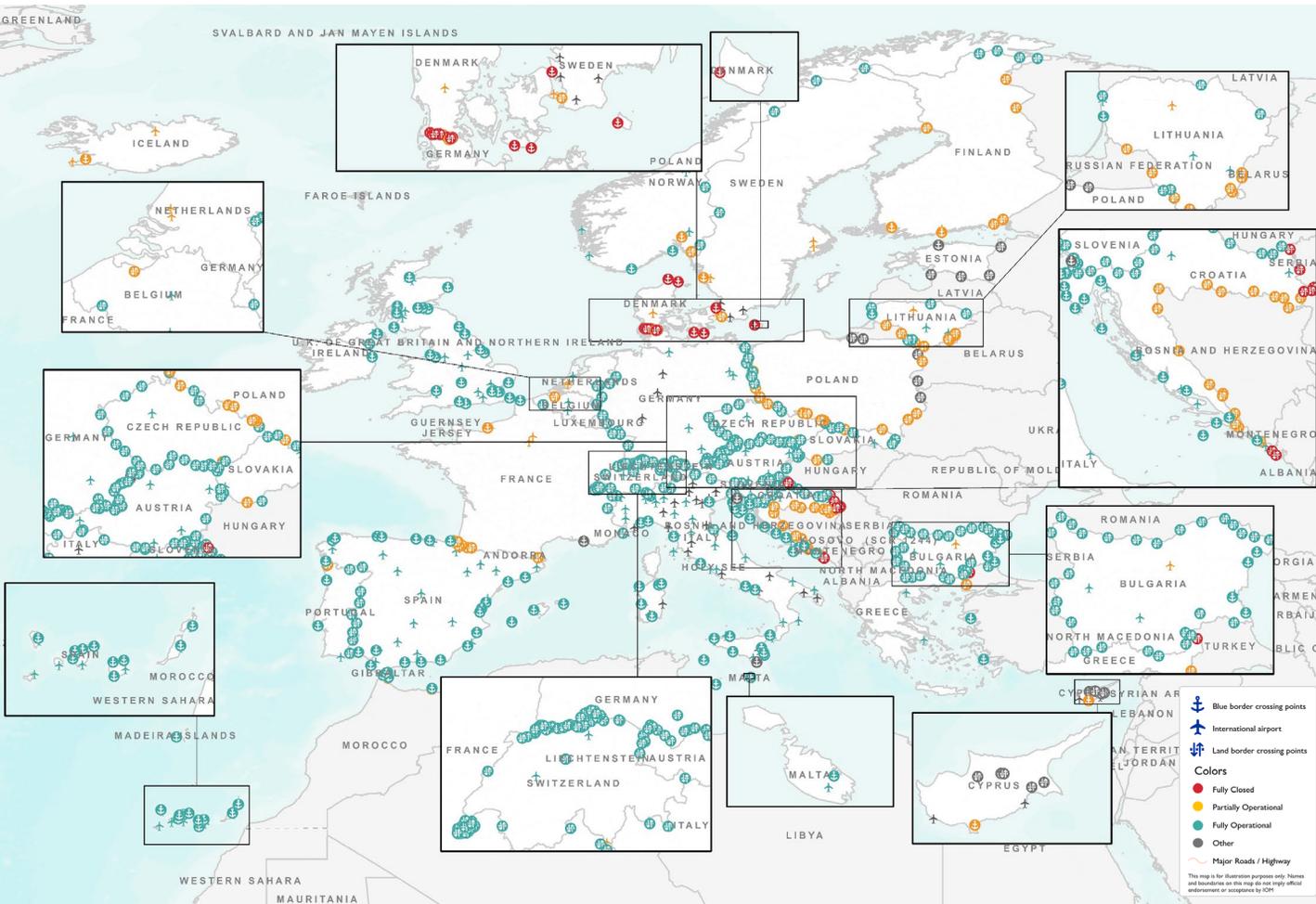
August 20, 2020 – IOM Regional Office for the European Economic Area, the European Union and NATO

A total of 179,160 have succumbed to the Covid-19 disease in the European Economic Area region (EEA) as of 3 September 2020 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The outbreak of the virus has affected global and regional mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. 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 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 20 August 2020, data was collected on 808 Points of Entry in 28 countries/territories/areas across the European Economic Area. These locations include: 478 land border crossings points, 193 airports, and 137 blue border crossing points (including sea, river and lake ports). This work is based on the information collected by IOM Country offices in the region. This PoE brief analysis provides an overview of the changes of impact on operational status and mobility restrictions over time, between April and August 2020. 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. Furthermore, in April 764 PoEs were assessed, in May, 786, in June, 787, in July, 795, and in August a total of 808 PoEs were assessed, hence reaching the highest number of PoEs assessed during the five-month period.



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 – August 2020)

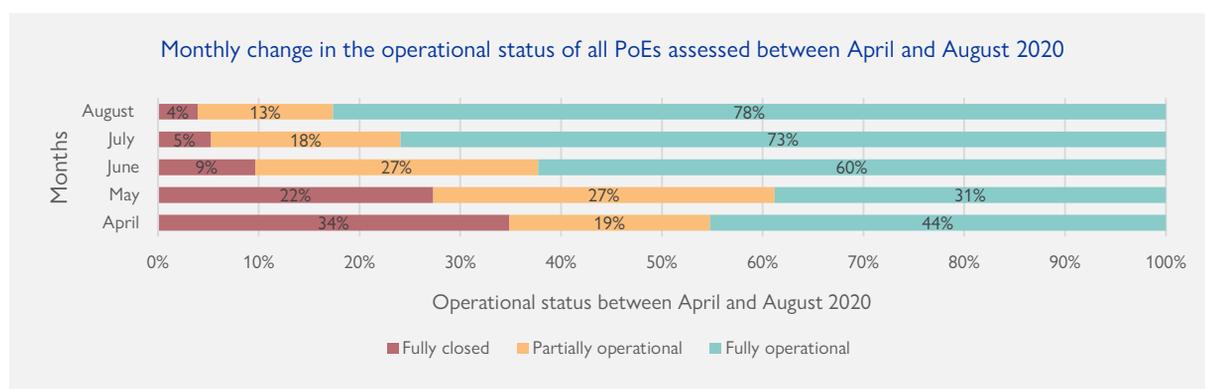
The effect of COVID-19 on global mobility is presently in flux. As of 20 August 2020, while travel restrictions remain in place, there has been changes in the number of travel restrictions worldwide being reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at the assessed locations. The following information on PoEs such as their operational status 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.

Points of Entry

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 and August.

Overall, one third (34%) of assessed PoE were fully closed in April, while 22 per cent of them were fully closed in May, only 9 per cent in June, 5 per cent in July, and 4 per cent in August. Furthermore, 19 per cent of the assessed PoEs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational PoEs was 27 per cent in May and June, respectively, 18 per cent in July, and 13 per cent in August.

Finally, in April, 44 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully operational, while the share of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was 31 per cent in May, 60 per cent in June, 73 per cent in July, and 78 per cent in August. This is an increase of 34 per cent of fully operational PoEs in August, when compared with April. Hence, noteworthy, during April – August, more PoEs were operating regularly or partially, than being fully closed.



Airports¹: A total of 21 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed in April, while the share of fully closed airports among those assessed was 7 per cent in May, 6 per cent in June and July, respectively, and only 1 per cent in August. Furthermore, 21 per cent of assessed airports were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational airports among those assessed was 23 per cent in May, 37 per cent in June, 9 per cent in July, and 8 per cent in August. Increasing numbers of airports operating regularly was observed between April and August. Over half (55%) of the assessed airports were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational airports among those assessed was 25 per cent in May, 52 per cent in June, 80 per cent in July, and 76 per cent in August. The number of operational airports increased by 21 per cent between April and August, however, throughout the five-month period (April – August), the largest share of airports being fully operational were recorded in July (80%). However, the high number can be explained by the extensive numbers of additional airports that had been assessed in August (193 airports assessed), when comparing with July (163 airports assessed).

Land border crossing points²: Regarding assessed land border crossing points, 35 per cent of them were completely closed in April, while the share of fully closed land border crossing points among those assessed was 28 per cent in May, 11 per cent in June, 5 per cent in July and August, respectively. Moreover, 17 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational land border crossing points among those assessed was 33 per cent in May, 21 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July, and 17 per cent in August. Almost half (44%) of the assessed land border crossing points were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational land border crossing points was 32 per cent in May, 67 per cent in June, 69 per cent in July, and 76 per cent in August. The number of operational land border crossing points increased by 32 per cent when between April and August 2020.

Blue border crossing points³: Less than half (45%) of the blue border crossing points were completely closed in April, while the share of fully closed blue border crossing points among those assessed was 17 per cent in May, 11 per cent in June, and only 4 per cent in July and August, respectively. At the same time, 24 per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational blue border crossing points among those assessed was 13 per cent in May, 21 per cent in June, 14 per cent in July, and 5 per cent in August. Thirty per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were reported as being operational in April, while the share of fully operational blue border crossing points was 33 per cent in May, 67 per cent in June, 76 in July, and 88 per cent in August. The number of operational blue border crossing points increased by 57 per cent between April and August (see page 3, for further information).

1. 150 airports were assessed in April. The number of assessed airports increased from 150 to 193 by August 2020.

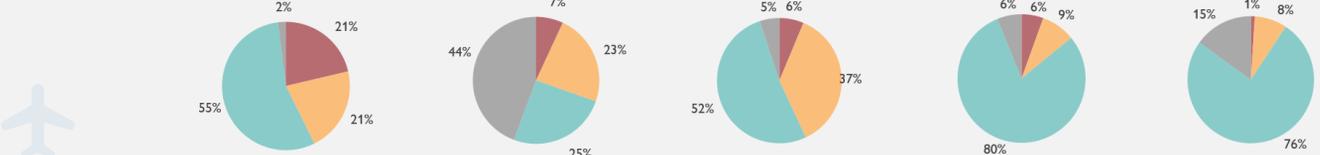
2. 453 land border crossing points were assessed April. The number of assessed land border crossing points increased from 453 to 478 by August 2020.

3. 141 blue border crossing points were assessed. The number of assessed blue border crossing points decreased from 141 to 137 by August 2020.

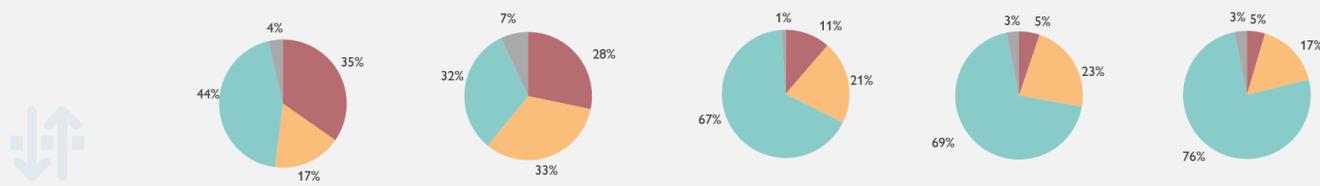
Operational Status – Comparison: April – August 2020

■ Fully Closed ■ Partially Operational
■ Fully Operational ■ Other

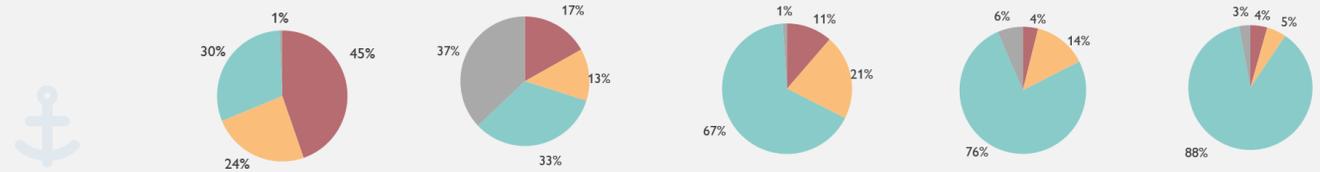
Airports



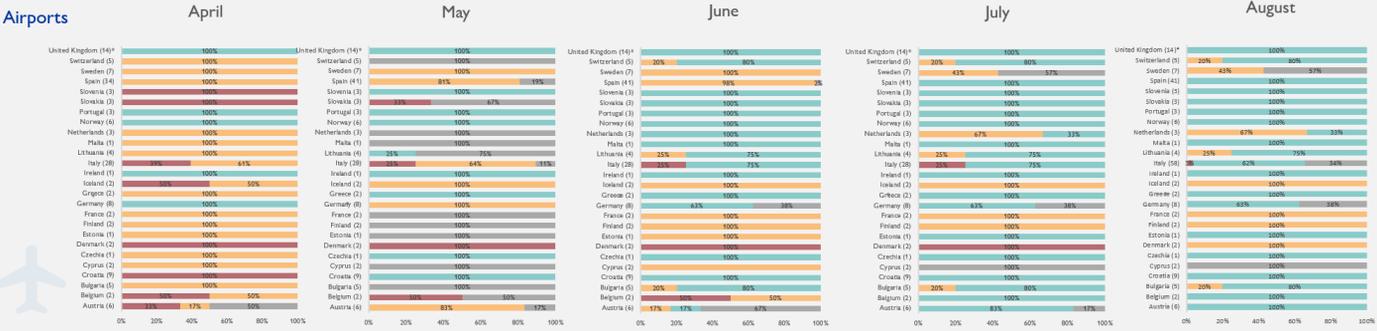
Land border crossing points



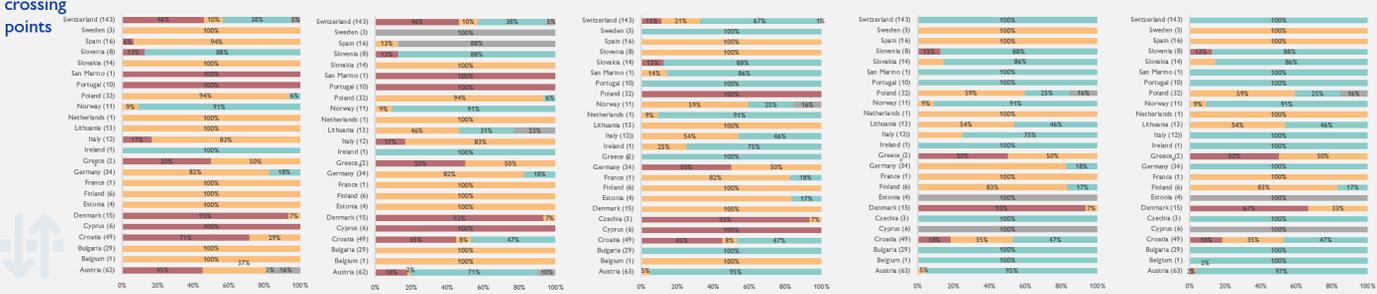
Blue border crossing points



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



Land border crossing points



Blue border crossing points



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".

* United Kingdom of Great and Northern Ireland

Changes in mobility restrictions over time (April – August 2020)

Various changes in mobility restrictions of the border crossing points was observed between April and August. Mobility restrictions refer to restrictions of movements imposed both by entrance at PoEs and by exit through the PoEs, and medical measures.

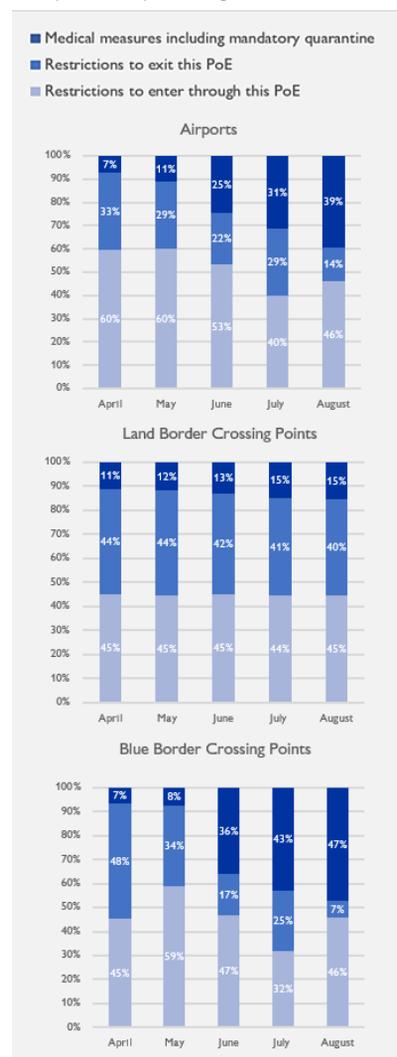
In April and May, 60 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through PoEs at international airports, respectively, while in June 53 per cent, in July 40 per cent, and in August 46 per cent. At the same time, in April, 33 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through this type of PoEs at international airports, while in May 29 per cent, in June 22 per cent, in July 29 per cent, and in August 14 per cent. The number of medical measures including mandatory quarantine restrictive measures increased significantly by August when comparing with April: In April, 7 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed, while in May 11 per cent, in June 25 per cent, in July 31 per cent, and in August 39 per cent.

Regarding the land border crossing points, restrictions imposed on entering through this type of PoEs remained relatively stable between April and August. In April, May, June and August, 45 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through this type of PoEs, respectively, while in June, 44 per cent. Furthermore, in April and May, 44 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through this type of PoEs, respectively, while in June 42 per cent, in July 41 per cent, and in August 40 per cent. The number of medical measures increased only slightly by July and August when compared with April – June: In April, 11 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed, while in May 12 per cent, in June 13 per cent, in July and August 15 per cent, respectively.

With regards to the blue border crossing points, in April, 45 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through this this type of PoEs, while in May 59 per cent, in June 47 per cent, in July 32 per cent, and in August 46 per cent. Moreover, in April 48 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on existing through this type of PoEs, while in May 34 per cent, in June 17 per cent, in July 25 per cent, and in August 7 per cent. Significant increases of imposed medical measures were observed in June, July and August when compared with April and May: In April, 7 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed, while in May 8 per cent, in June 36 per cent, in July 43 per cent, and in August 47 per cent.

Overall, most of the restrictions were imposed by entering the PoEs across the assessed airports, land and blue border crossing points within the EEA region. The highest number of restrictions were recorded in April and May: 60 per cent at the assessed airports, 45 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 45 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points in April, and 59 per cent in May, while the lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs were recorded in July: 40 per cent at the assessed airports, 44 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 32 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

Percentage: Mobility Restrictions– Comparison: April – August 2020



Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – August 2020

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August
Airports	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	60%	60%	53%	40%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	29%	22%	29%	14%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	7%	11%	25%	31%	39%
Land border crossing points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	45%	45%	45%	44%	45%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	44%	44%	42%	41%	40%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	11%	12%	13%	15%	15%
Blue border crossing points	→ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	45%	59%	47%	32%	46%
	← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	48%	34%	17%	25%	7%
	Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	7%	8%	36%	43%	47%