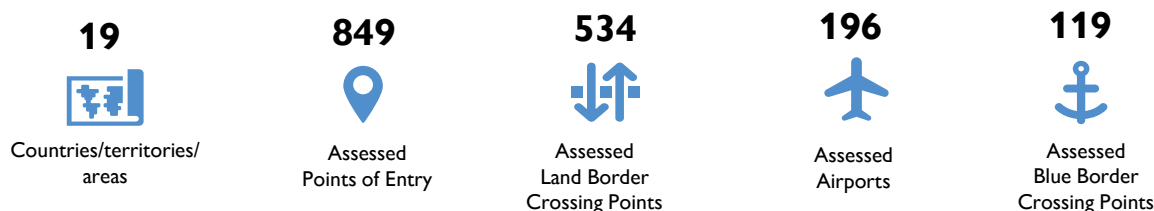


COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

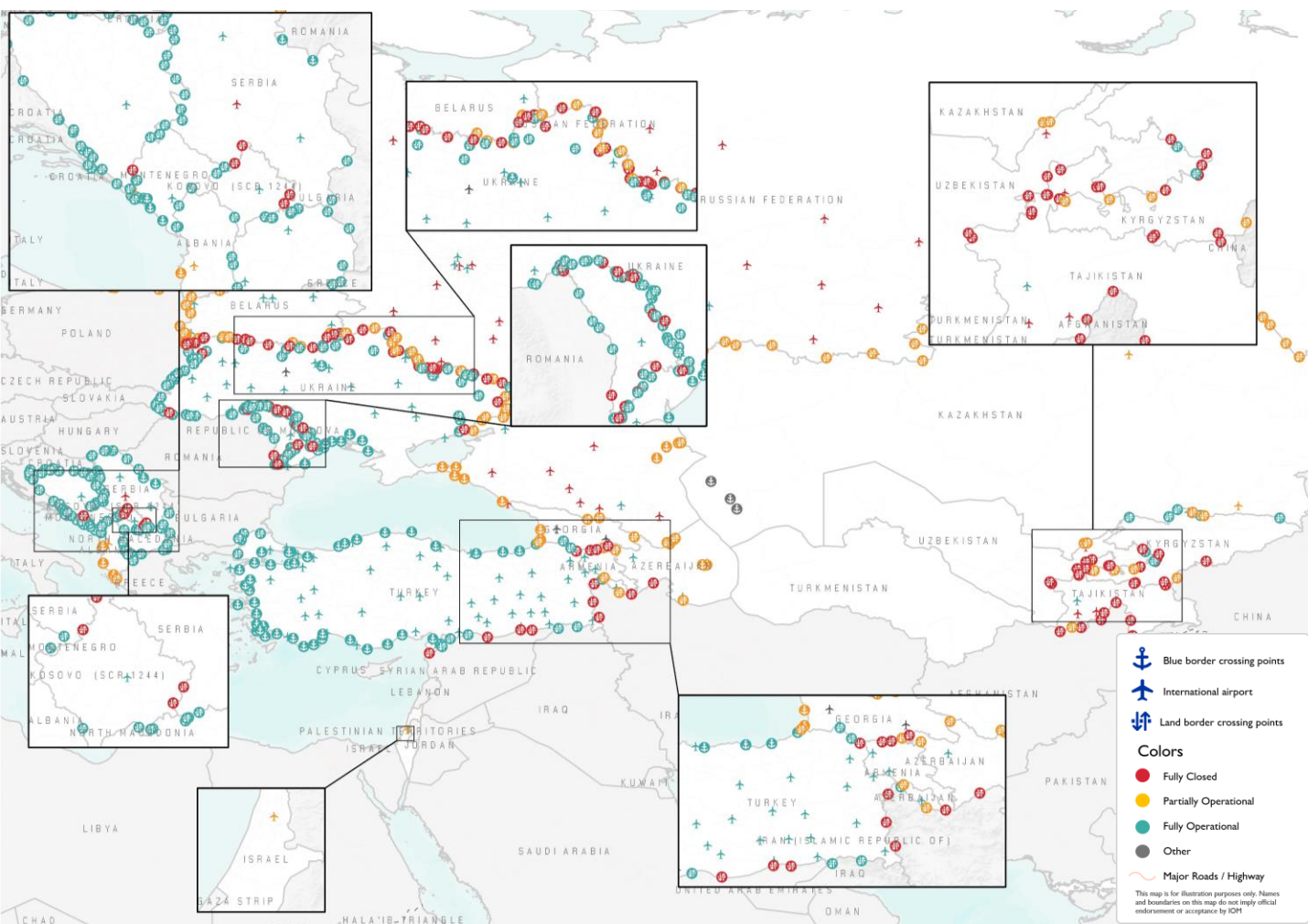
November 23, 2020 – IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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 4,879,897 in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (SEEECA) as of 26 November 2020 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). 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 PoEs (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 23 November 2020, data was collected on 849 PoEs in 19 countries/territories/areas across the SEEECA region. These locations include: 534 land border crossings points, 196 airports, and 119 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 PoE brief analysis provides an overview of the changes of the operational status and mobility restrictions over time, between April and November 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. In April – May 602 PoEs were assessed, in June – July 625, in August 627, in September 642, in October 709 PoEs, and in November a total of 849 PoEs were assessed.



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

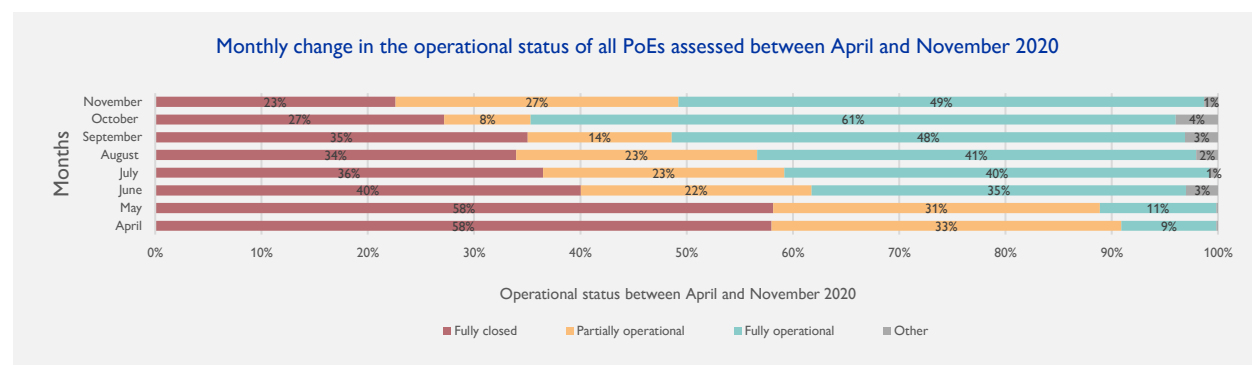


Changes in operational status over time (April – November 2020)

The effect of COVID-19 on global mobility is presently in flux. As of 23 November 2020, while travel restrictions remain in place, there have 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 information on the operational status of each PoE 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. Significant changes in operational status of the PoEs was observed between April and November.

Overall, over half (58%) of assessed PoEs were fully closed in April and May, respectively, while 40 per cent of them were fully closed in June, 36 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, 35 per cent in September, 27 per cent in October, and 23 per cent in November. Furthermore, one third (33%) of the assessed PoEs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational PoEs was 31 per cent in May, 22 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July and August, respectively, 14 per cent in September, 8 per cent in October, and 27 per cent in November. Finally, in April, 9 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully operational, while the share of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was 11 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July, 41 per cent in August, 48 per cent in September, 61 per cent in October, and 49 per cent in November. The number of fully operational PoEs decreased by 12 per cent in November, when compared with October (61% PoEs were fully operational). The drop in numbers of fully operational PoEs may be explained by the increasing numbers of partially operating PoEs observed in November. The number of partially operational PoEs increased significantly by 19 per cent in November, when compared with October (8% PoEs were partially operational).



Airports:¹ 38 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed in April, while the share of fully closed airports among those assessed was 37 per cent in May, 30 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July, 11 per cent in August, 9 per cent in September, 37 per cent in October, and November, respectively, marking a significant change. The number of fully closed international airports increased by 28 per cent in October, and November, respectively, when comparing with September, where only 9 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed. Furthermore, over half (59%) of assessed airports were partially operational in April and May respectively, while the share of partially operational airports among those assessed was 17 per cent in June, 19 per cent in July and August, respectively, and 12 per cent in September, and only 2 per cent in October, and November, respectively. While an increasing numbers of airports started to operate regularly again in June, July, August, and September, an increasing number of airports closing was observed in both in October and November. Only two per cent of the assessed airports were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational airports among those assessed was 3 per cent in May, 51 per cent in June, 58 per cent in July, 64 per cent in August, 70 per cent in September, 59 per cent in October, and 60 per cent in November. The number of operational airports increased significantly by 68 per cent between April (38%) and September (9%), while this number decreased significantly again in October and November to 37 per cent, respectively, comparable to the month of May (37%).

Land border crossing points:² 72 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were completely closed both in April and May, while the share of those fully closed was 47 per cent in June, 44 per cent in July and August, respectively, 46 per cent in September, 28 per cent in October, and 23 per cent in November. Moreover, 16 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational land border crossing points was 13 per cent in May, 14 per cent in June, 16 per cent in July and August, respectively, 15 per cent in September, 10 per cent in October, and 23 per cent in November. Twelve per cent of the assessed land border crossing points were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational land border crossing points was 15 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July and August, respectively, 38 per cent in September, 58 per cent in October, and 44 per cent in November. The number of operational land border crossing points increased significantly by 46 per cent between April and October, while the number of fully operational land border crossing points decreased by 14 per cent between October and November alone, thus, indicating a downward trend of the operational land border crossing points. It is, however, important to note that more land border crossing points were assessed in November (102 additional land border crossing points), which may partially explain the change.

Blue border crossing points:³ 19 per cent of the blue border crossing points were completely closed in April and May, respectively, while the share of those fully closed was 18 per cent in June, July, and August, respectively, 17 per cent in September, while none of the assessed blue border crossing points were closed in October, and November, reportedly. At the same time, 81 per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were partially operational in April and May, respectively, while the share of partially operational blue border crossing points among those assessed was 66 per cent in June, July and August, respectively, 11 per cent in September, and October, and 41 per cent in November. In April and May, none of the assessed blue border crossing points was reported as operational (75 out of 75 assessed points), while this number changed slightly in June, July and August, respectively, where 12 per cent of the assessed blue border crossing points were operational and changed more in September, October, and November when 68, 84 and 56 per cent of the points were reported to be operational. A significant decrease of operational blue border crossing points was observed between October and November. The number of operational blue border crossing points decreased by 28 per cent within a month, which can be explained by the upward trend in the numbers of partially operational blue border points observed the same reporting period (see page 3, for further information). Some 40 additional blue border crossing points were assessed in November, which may partially explain the change.

1. By April and May a total of 122 airports were assessed. In September, 198 airports were assessed, and in November a total of 196 airports were assessed.

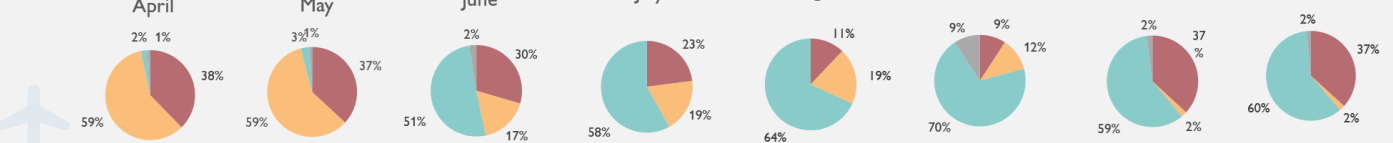
2. By April and May a total of 405 land border crossing points were assessed. In August, 433 land border crossing points were assessed, in October 432, and in November 534 land border crossing points were assessed.

3. By April and May a total of 75 blue border crossing points were assessed. In June, 79 blue border crossing points were assessed, and in November a total of 119 blue border crossing points assessed.

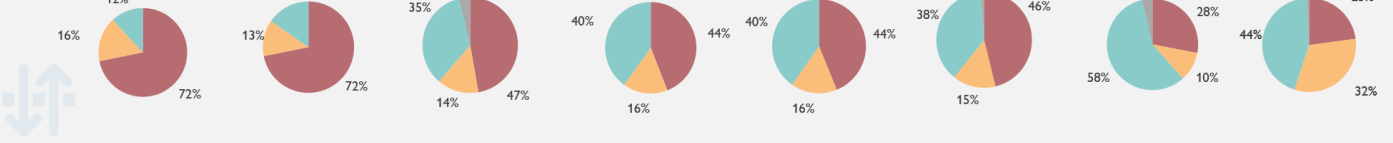
Operational Status – Comparison: April – November 2020

■ Fully Closed ■ Partially Operational
■ Fully Operational ■ Other

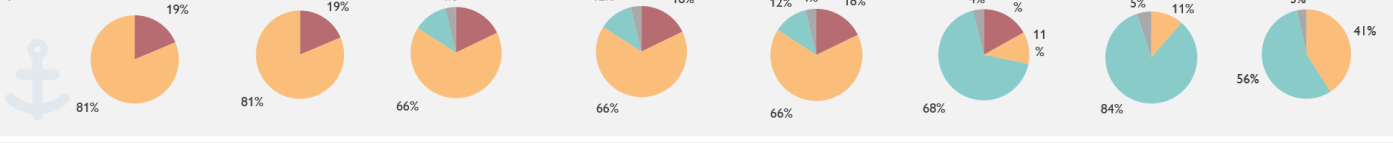
Airports



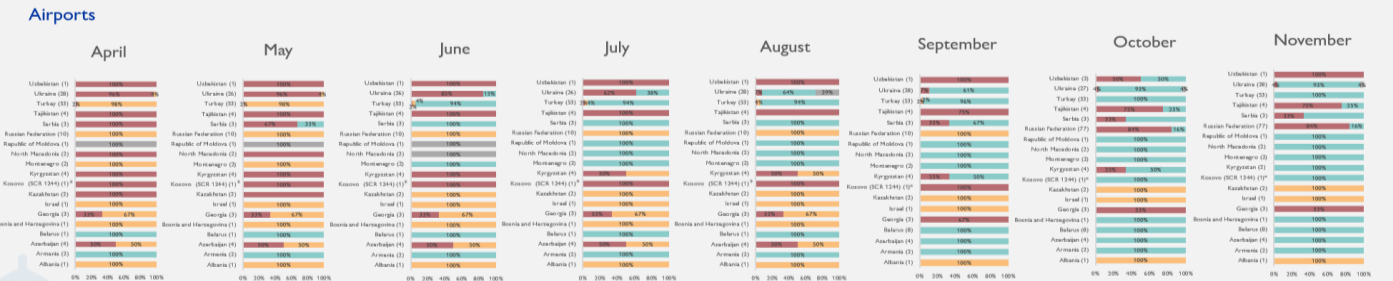
Land border crossing points



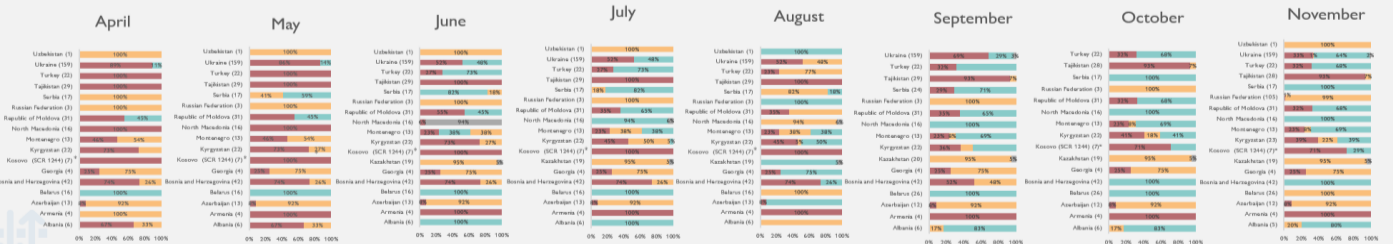
Blue border crossing points



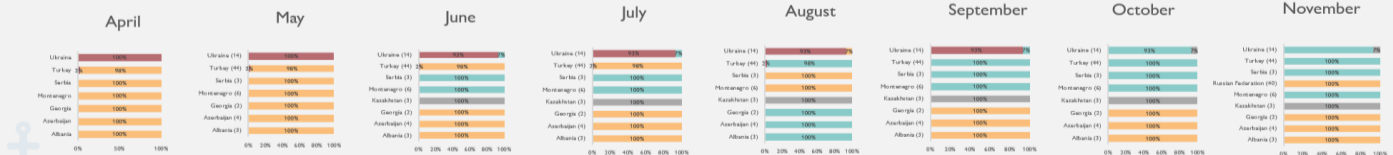
Operational Status breakdown by country/territory/area in the SEECA region



Land border crossing points



Blue border crossing points



* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Notes:

- The totals in the pie charts are relative to the assessed Points of Entry each month
- 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 – October 2020)

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

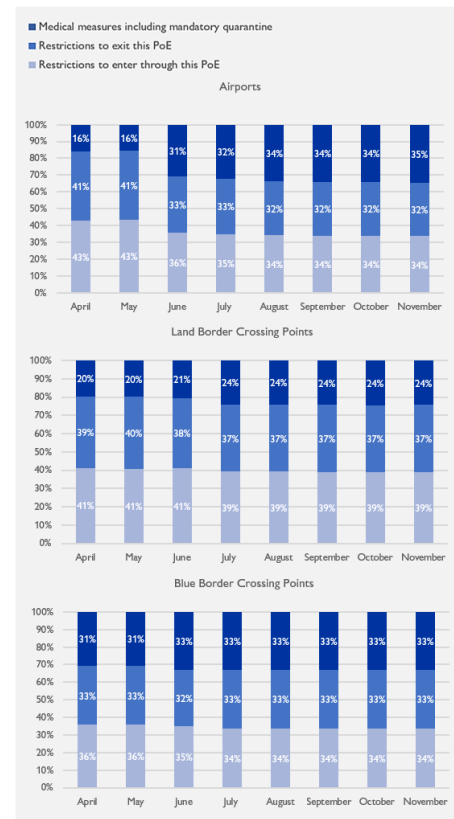
In April and May, 43 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs at the international airports, respectively, while in June 36 per cent, in July 35 per cent, and in August, September, October, and November, 34 per cent, respectively. At the same time, in April and May, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs at the international airports, respectively, while in June and July, 33 per cent, respectively, and in August, September, October, and November, 32 per cent, respectively. The number of medical measures including mandatory quarantine restrictive measures increased in June and July when compared with April and May: in April and May, 16 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoEs, respectively, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 31 per cent in June, 32 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, September, October, and November, respectively, and 35 per cent in November. The share of medical measures increased by 19 per cent in November when comparing with April and May (16%, respectively).

Regarding the land border crossing points, in April, May, and June, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while in July, August, September, October, and November 39 per cent, respectively. Furthermore, in April 39 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while in May 40 per cent, in June 38 per cent, in July, August, September, October, and November, 37 per cent, respectively. Similarly, the number of medical measures had increased slightly by July when compared with April, May and June: in April and May, 20 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while medical measures were 21 per cent in June and 24 per cent in July, August, September, October, and November, 24 per cent, of all restrictions.

With regards to the blue border crossing points, in April and May 36 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while the share was 35 per cent in June, 34 per cent and in July, August, September, October, and November, respectively. Moreover, both in April and May 33 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while the share was 32 per cent in June, and 33 per cent in July, August, September, October, and November, respectively. Only a slight increase of imposed medical measures was observed in June and July when compared with April and May: 31 per cent of the restrictions in April and May were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while the share of medical measures was 33 per cent in June, July, August, September, October, and November, respectively.

Overall, the majority of imposed restrictions concern the entry through the PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points in the SEECA region), 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 April and May: 43 per cent at the assessed airports, 41 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 36 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded in August (status remained the same in September, October and November): 34 per cent at the assessed airports, 39 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 34 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – November 2020 (%)



Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – November 2020

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Airports	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	43%	43%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	41%	41%	33%	33%	32%	32%	32%	32%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	16%	16%	31%	32%	34%	34%	34%	35%
Land border crossing points	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	41%	41%	41%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	39%	40%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	20%	20%	21%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Blue border crossing points	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	36%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	31%	31%	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%