



AEGEAN BOAT REPORT

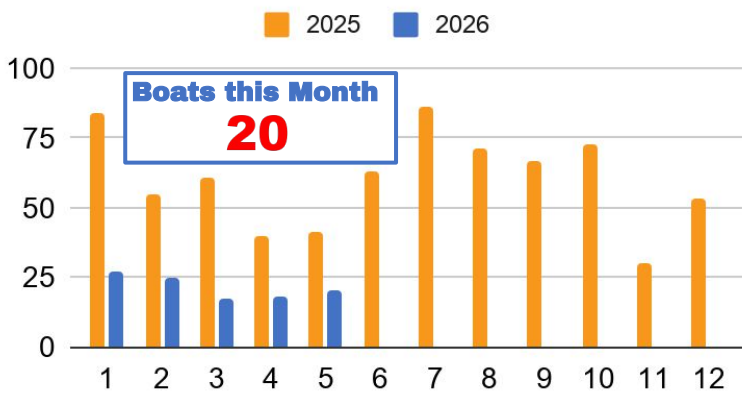
MONTHLY STATISTICS MAY 2026

People Registered on Aegean islands

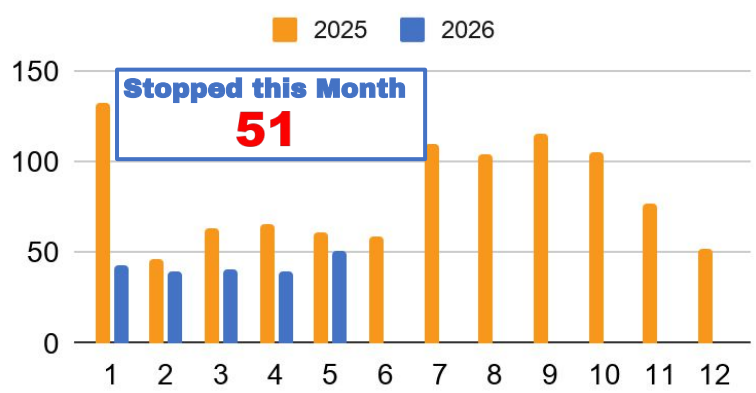


In 2026, people arriving is down 57.2%, compared to 2025. In May 20 boats was officially registered as arrived on the Greek islands, carrying a total of 453 people. Arrivals has decreased 6.6% compared to April, boats arriving is up 11.1%. Demographics on the islands: Men 46%, Women 23% and Children 31%

Boats Officially Arrived



Boats Stopped/Rescued by TCG



Arrivals has decreased 56.3% compared to the same month in 2025. 71 boats started their trip towards the Greek islands in April, carrying a total of 1.621 people. 20 boats made the trip, carrying a total of 453 people, the rest, 51 boats, 1.168 people, were picked up by the Turkish Coast guard, 29.1% of these people had officially been pushed back by the Greek Coast Guard, numbers manipulated by Turkish cover up, real number is much higher.

Total numbers so far this year



In 2026 213 boats have been stopped on their way towards Greece, 4.974 people have been arrested. Boats arriving on the Greek island has been reduced due to the Greek governments pushback tactics, on Greek islands and at sea, boats picked up by TCG has increased for the same reason. Population on the islands is 3.105 people.



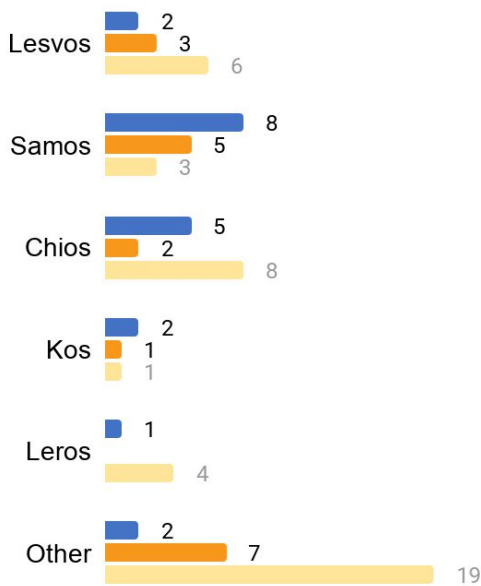
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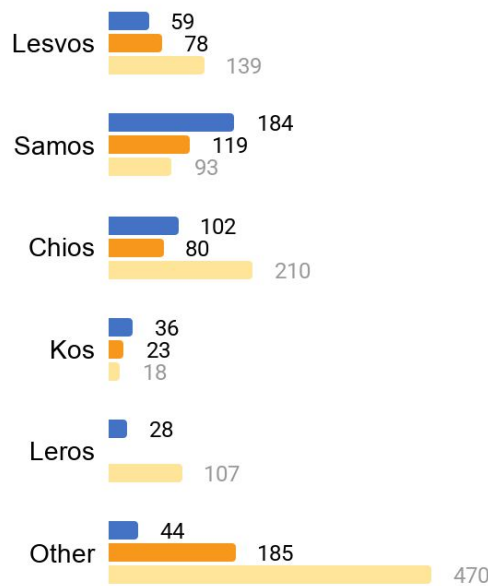
Arrivals and transfers by island

In May 874 people were transported to mainland, from the Greek islands. Transfers have increased 50.2% compared to April, when 582 people were transported. In the last 12 months population on the Aegean islands has decreased by 48.6%, from 6.044 to 3.105 people. The Greek government are trying to reduce arrivals on the Greek islands by illegally pushing back people crossing from Turkey towards the islands in small rubber boats.

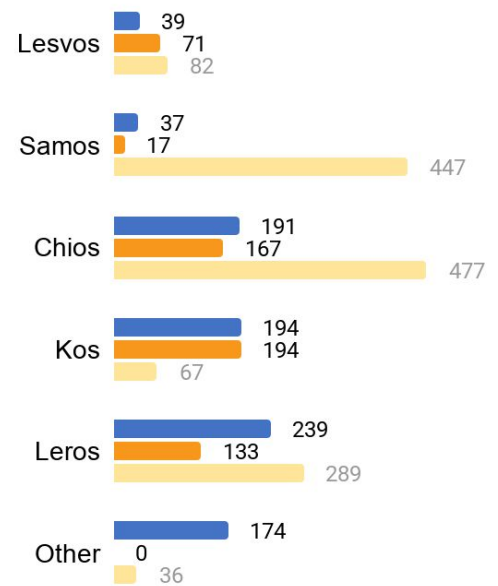
Boats



Arrivals

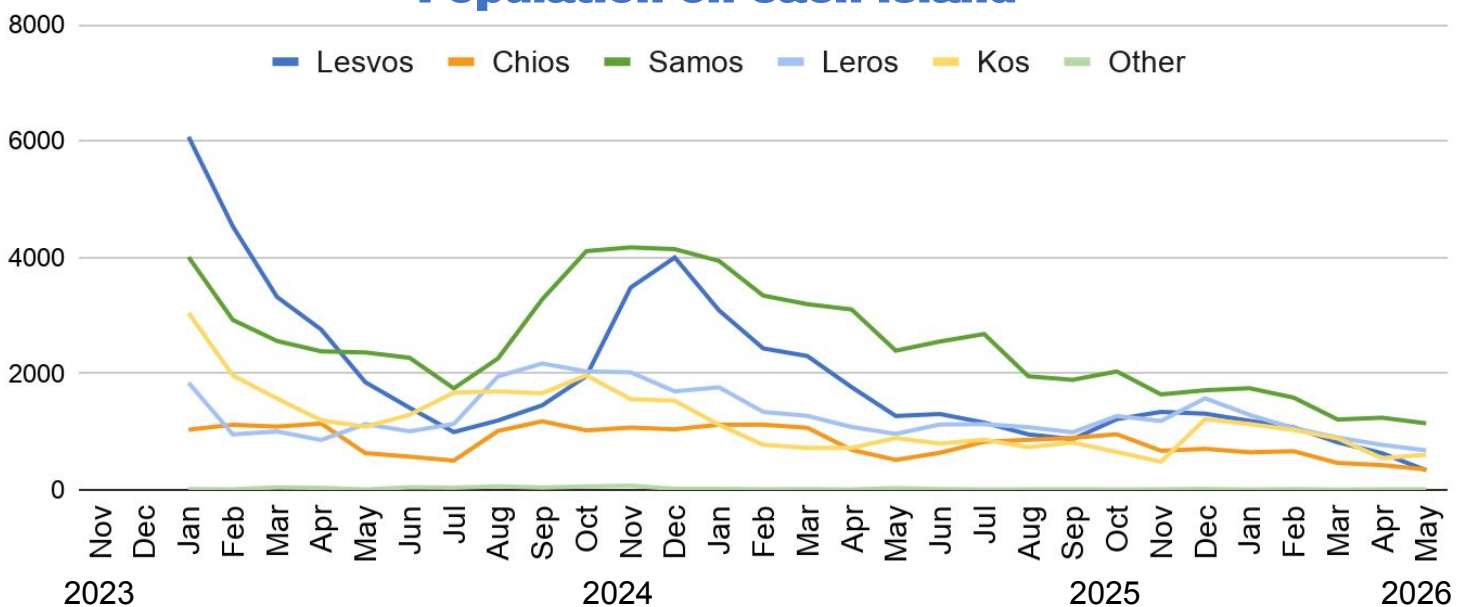


Transfers



■ May-2026 ■ Apr-2026 ■ May-2025

Population on each island



Official capacity on the islands is 14.843 people. Today's population is 11.738 people under max total capacity. In the end of May 2025 total population was 6.044, one year later its 3.105, population has decreased by 2.939 people in 12 months on the Greek Islands. In the last 12 months 5.247 people have been pushed back by Greek authorities.

Lesvos	333	Kos	601
Samos	1141	Leros	676
Chios	347	Other	7

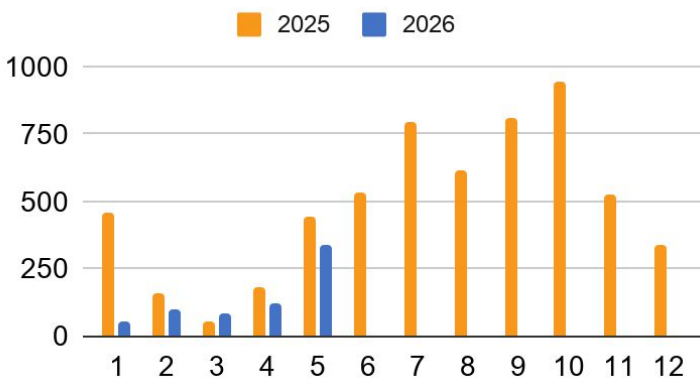


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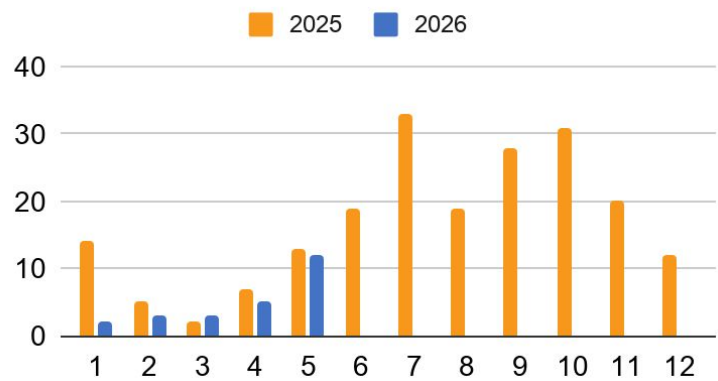
It is the legal right of men, women or children to enter a country with or without paperwork, if they intend to apply for asylum. Pushbacks are the illegal practice of a state preventing them from doing so by stopping them entering its territory, or forcing them back across a border or into the waters of another state. The Greek government has hugely increased illegal pushbacks of refugees since March 2020, with some victims stating they have been beaten and robbed by Greek officials before being forced back across borders, or into the sea.

Pushbacks - people



Total people 2026: 698

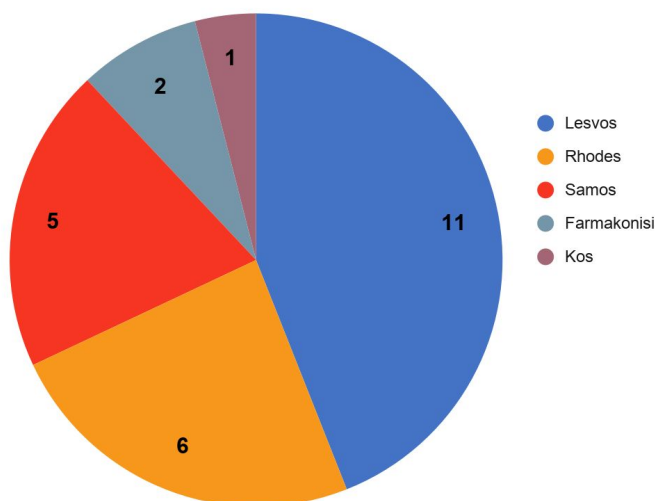
Pushbacks



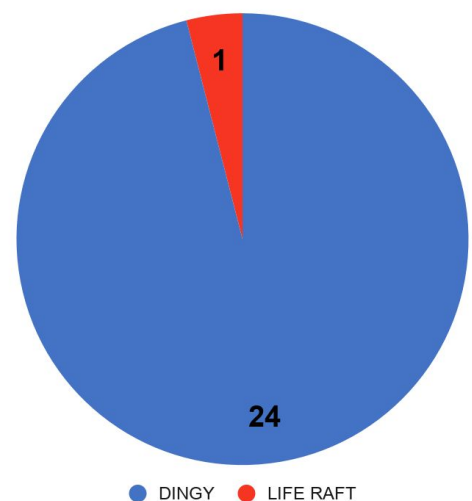
Total pushbacks 2026: 25

In May Aegean Boat Report have registered 12 pushback cases in the Aegean Sea, involving 340 children, women and men who tried to reach safety in Europe. Most of them was stopped at sea and forced back across the border, left helplessly drifting in boats and life rafts in the middle of the sea, illegally deported by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), on orders from the Greek government, so far there has been no reaction from the EU on these illegal atrocities.

Pushbacks by island



Pushbacks by craft type



No cases involving the use of life rafts were documented this month. This does not indicate a change in practice. The use of life rafts to carry out push backs in the Aegean is well documented, with people left drifting at sea without means of navigation. In previous months, a percentage of those recovered by Turkish authorities had already been pushed back by Greek authorities, pointing to a continued pattern despite the absence of recorded cases.