



AEGEAN BOAT REPORT

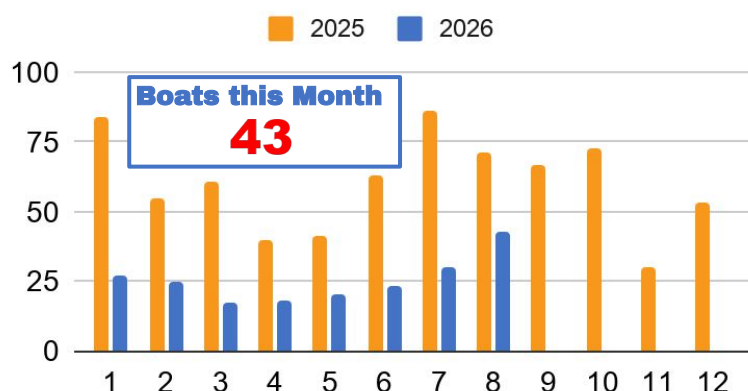
MONTHLY STATISTICS AUGUST 2026

People Registered on Aegean islands

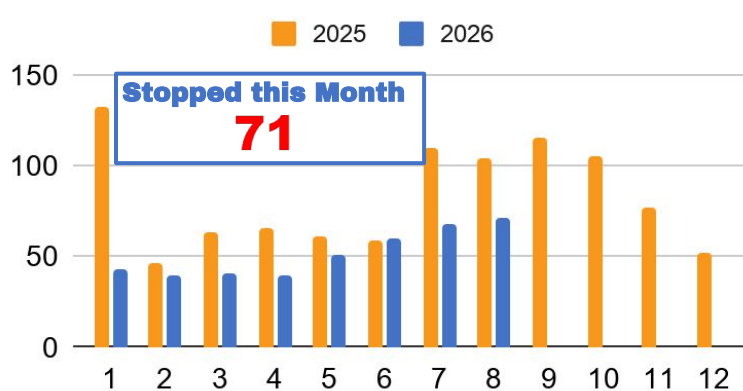


In 2026, arrivals are down 60.2% compared to 2025. In August, 43 boats were officially registered as having arrived on the Greek islands, carrying a total of 1.190 people. Arrivals increased by 30.6% compared to July, while the number of boats arriving increased by 43.3%. Demographics on the islands: Men 46%, Women 23% and Children 31%.

Boats Officially Arrived



Boats Stopped/Rescued by TCG



Arrivals decreased by 42.8% compared to the same month in 2025. In August, 114 boats carrying 3.032 people started their journey towards the Greek islands. Of these, 43 boats carrying 1.190 people arrived, while the remaining 71 boats, carrying 1.842 people, were picked up by the Turkish Coast Guard. At least 11.9% of these people had officially been pushed back by the Greek Coast Guard. Turkish authorities continue to underreport pushbacks; the actual number is therefore believed to be significantly higher.

Total numbers so far this year



In 2026, 412 boats have been stopped on their way towards Greece, and 9.582 people have been arrested. The number of boats arriving on the Greek islands has increased slightly, despite the Greek government's continued pushback practices in the Aegean Sea. Boats picked up by TCG have also increased. The population on the islands is 5.067 people.



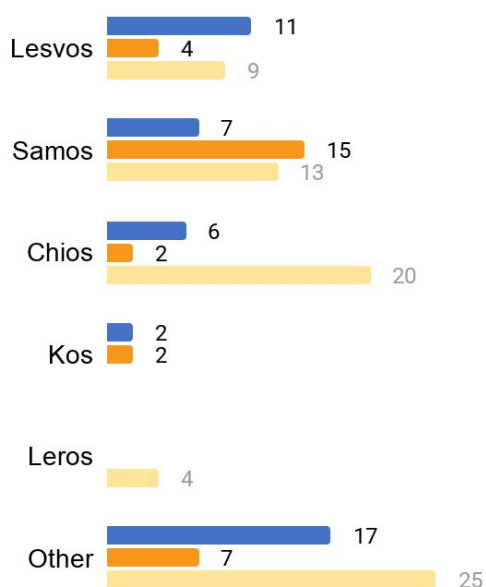
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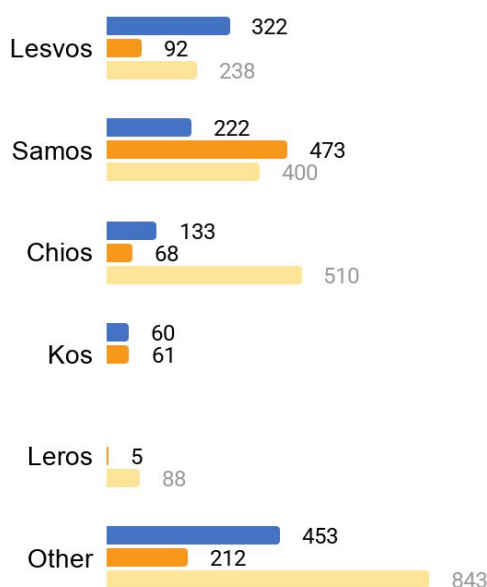
Arrivals and transfers by island

In August, 527 people were transported from the Greek islands to the mainland. Transfers decreased by 58.7% compared to July, when 1.275 people were transported. In the last 12 months, the population on the Aegean islands has decreased by 9%, from 5.567 to 5.067 people. The Greek government continues to reduce arrivals on the Greek islands by illegally pushing back people crossing from Turkey towards the islands in small rubber boats.

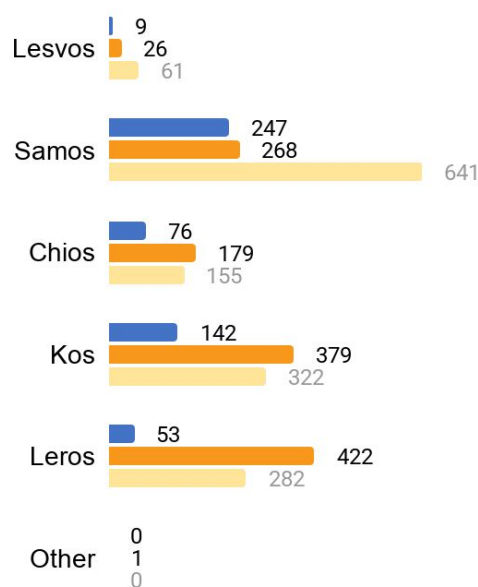
Boats



Arrivals

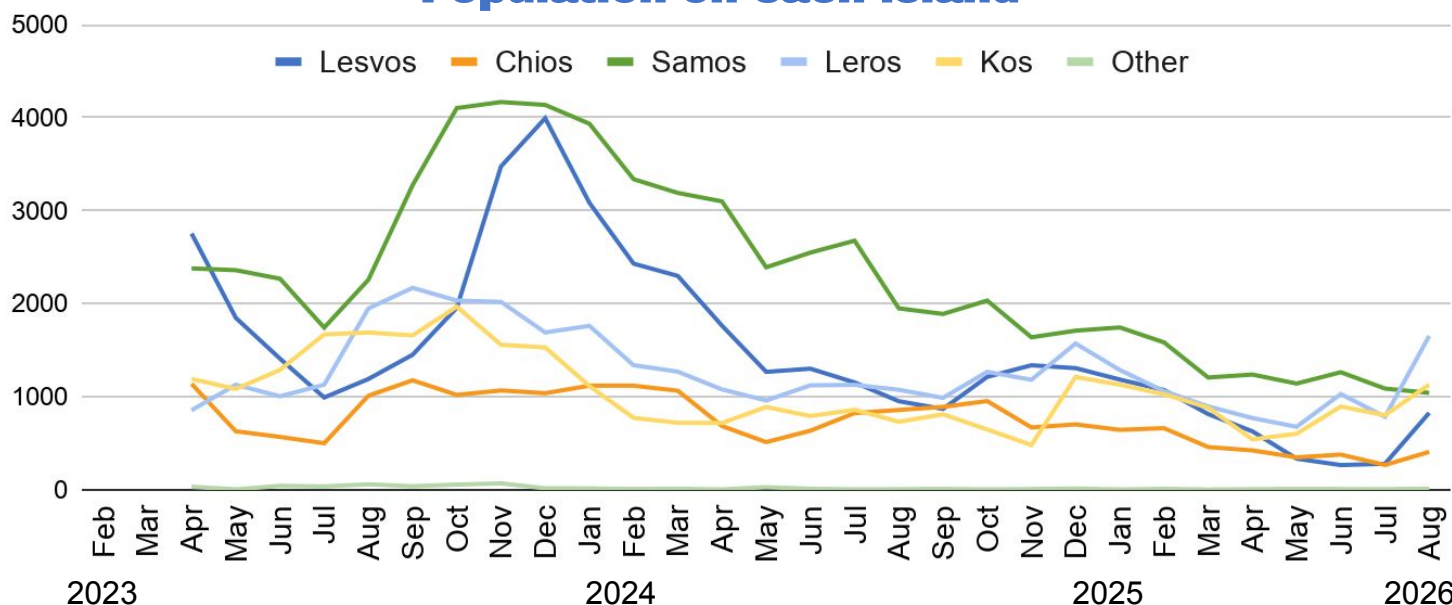


Transfers



■ Aug-2026 ■ Jul-2026 ■ Aug-2025

Population on each island



Official capacity on the islands is 14.843 people. Today's population is 9.776 people below maximum capacity. At the end of August 2025, the total population was 5.567; one year later it is 5.067, a decrease of 500 people in 12 months on the Greek islands. In the last 12 months, 3.957 people have been pushed back by Greek authorities.

Lesvos	826	Kos	1130
Samos	1041	Leros	1654
Chios	406	Other	10

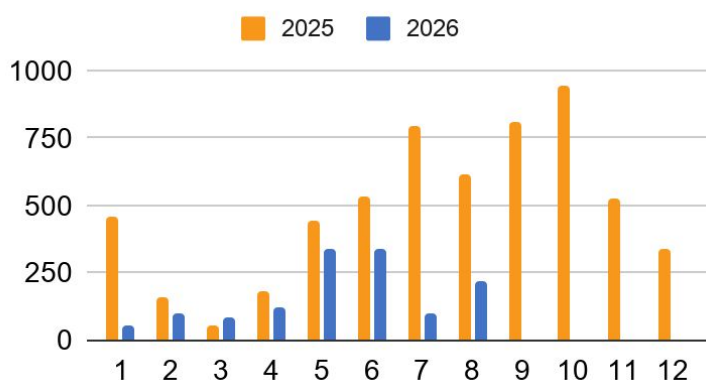


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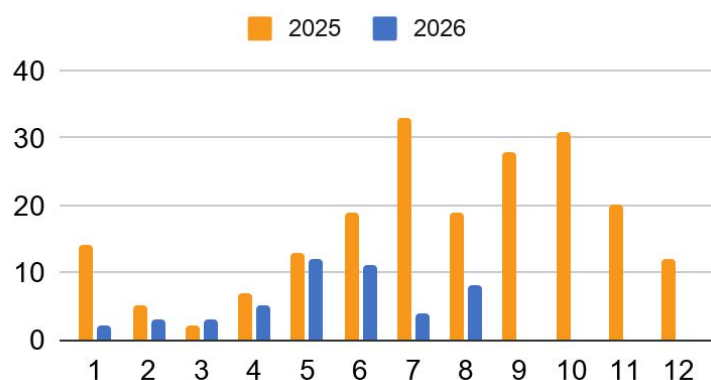
Under international law, men, women and children have the right to seek asylum, regardless of whether they enter a country with valid travel documents. Pushbacks are the illegal practice of preventing people from accessing that right by forcing them back across a border or into the waters of another state without an individual assessment of their protection needs. Since March 2020, Aegean Boat Report has documented thousands of alleged pushbacks in the Aegean, with many people reporting violence, theft, arbitrary detention and abandonment at sea by Greek authorities.

Pushbacks - people



Total people 2026: **1.351**

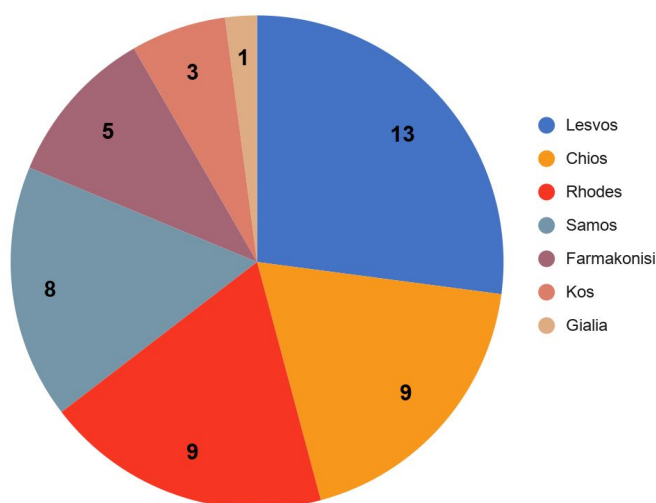
Pushbacks



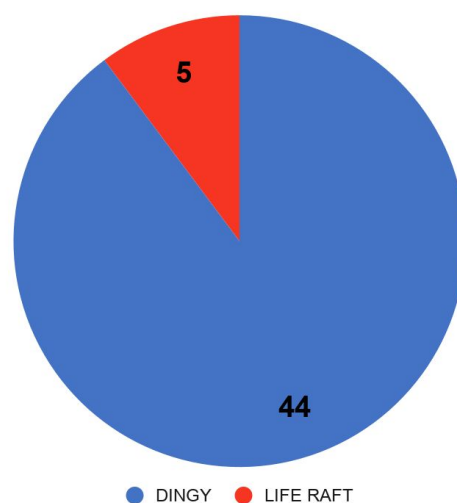
Total pushbacks 2026: **48**

In August, Aegean Boat Report registered 8 pushback cases in the Aegean Sea, involving 220 children, women and men who tried to reach safety in Europe. Most were stopped at sea and forced back across the border, left helplessly drifting in boats and life rafts at sea after being illegally deported by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), acting on orders from the Greek government. So far, there has been no meaningful reaction from the EU to these illegal practices.

Pushbacks by island



Pushbacks by craft type



Of 8 registered pushback cases in August, 2 were carried out using rescue equipment/life rafts. In these cases, 50 people — children, women and men — were forced into 3 life rafts and left helplessly drifting at sea by the Hellenic Coast Guard. The continued use of life-saving equipment as a tool for illegal deportations shows that this dangerous and systematic practice remains part of Greece's pushback operations in the Aegean.