

Impact of the Haiti crisis on mobility
Relocations from the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince.
Part 1 | Focus on the last 3 months: February 2024 to April 2024

Key observations (February 2024 to April 2024)

- 1. The population of the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (ZMPP) dropped to under 3 million in April 2024. This is lower than during the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions, when about 50,000 people had left the ZMPP for more rural areas.
- 2. 17,370 more people moved out of the ZMPP than into from February to April 2024. Main destinations: West department (Kenscoff, Gressier and Léogâne), Les Cayes, Jacmel and Cap Haitien.
- 3. Since January 2024, relocations out of the ZMPP have been increasing while relocations into the ZMPP from the rest of the country have been decreasing.
- 4. Decreases in population within the ZMPP are in 1re Section Turgeau (Port-au-Prince), 10e Section Thor (Carrefour) and 3e Section Bellevue (Tabarre), but we observe increases in 1re Section St Martin (Delmas) and 2e Section Morne l'Hôpital (Port-au-Prince).

Data used: monthly estimates of population per communal section (admin3) and estimates of population relocating between communal sections each month (change in dominant monthly location) - derived from anonymous mobile phone data, weighted using survey data and based on baseline population estimates in Haiti (methods: see 'about the data' on <https://haiti.mobility-dashboard.org>).

Disclaimer: The magnitude of most relocation flows we report are likely underestimates (and e.g. the population of the ZMPP may have decreased by more than 17,370 people since February), we will revise them by September 2024 but relative trends over time will remain unchanged.

The 10 largest net outflows from the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (ZMPP) from February to April 2024 were to these communal sections

Net outflows from ZMPP = outflows from ZMPP - inflows to ZMPP (for each communal section)

Section	Commune	Department	Net outflow from ZMPP (estimated number of people)
3e Section Sourcailles	Kenscoff	Ouest	960
1re Section Bourdet	Les Cayes	Sud	710
1re Section Bas Cap Rouge	Jacmel	Sud-Est	590
3e Section Petit Boucan	Gressier	Ouest	570
3e Section Grande Rivère	Léogâne	Ouest	490
2e Section Haut du Cap	Cap-Haïtien	Nord	480
2e Section Petite Rivière	Léogâne	Ouest	440
11e Section Ravine Sèche	Petit-Goâve	Ouest	440
1re Section Dessources	Léogâne	Ouest	350
1re Section Montagne Noire	Pétion-Ville	Ouest	320

From February to April 2024, more people left the ZMPP to move into these communal sections to move into the ZMPP.

These relocation flows have increased the population of these sections and decreased that of the ZMPP.

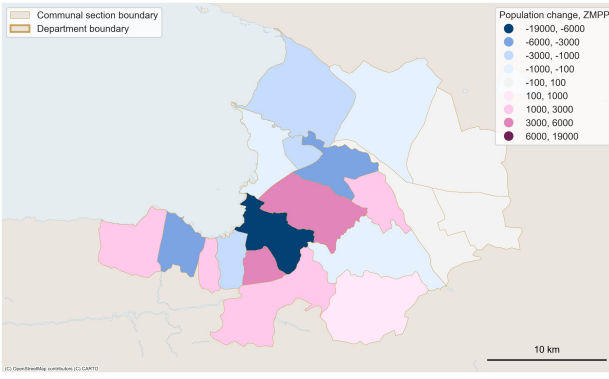
Overall, from February to April 2024, more people (17,370) moved out of the ZMPP than moved in.

Change in the number of residents in the ZMPP, per communal section, from January to April 2024.

The change in residents stem from relocation flows in and out of the ZMPP as well as relocation flows within the ZMPP.

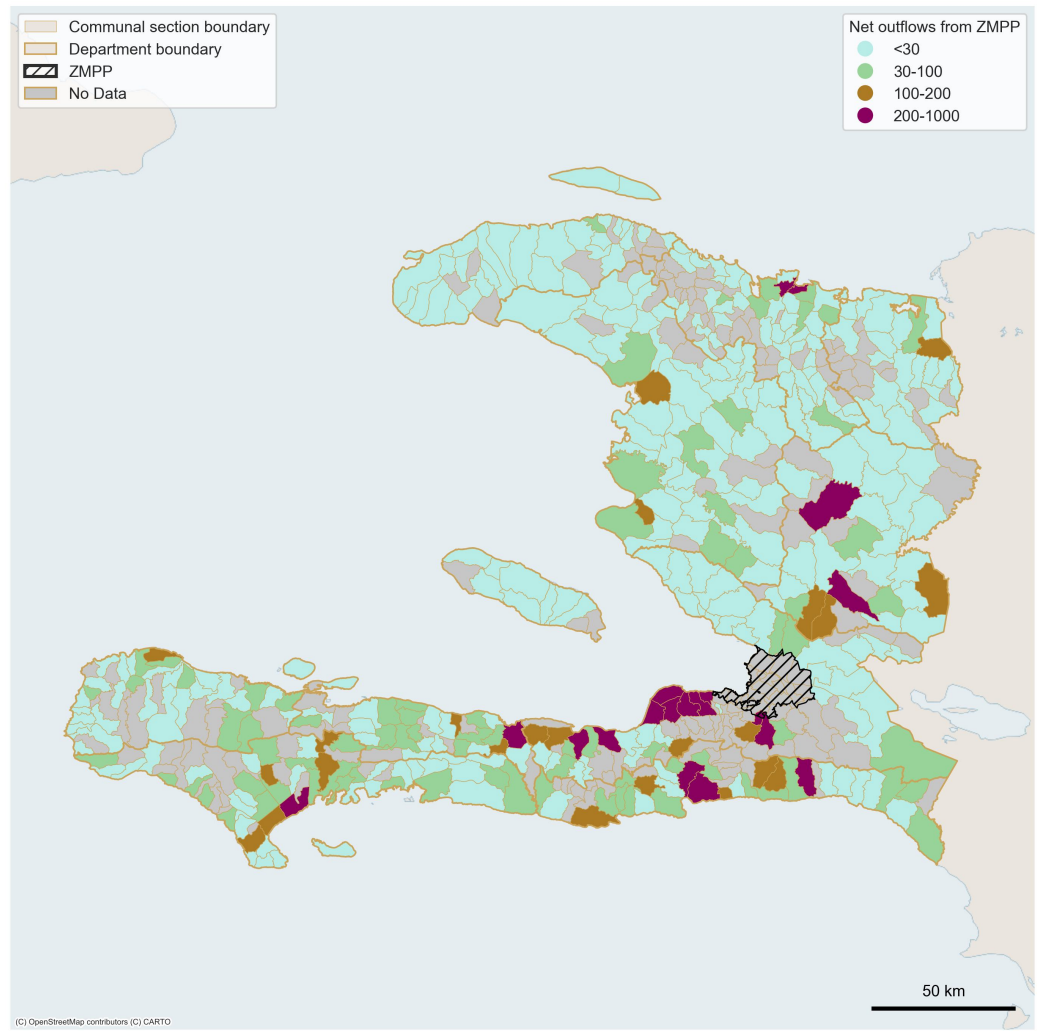
Largest decreases: 1re Section Turgeau (-18,510 people), 10e Section Thor (-5,050) and 3e Section Bellevue (-4,130).

Largest increases: 1re Section St Martin (+4,500) and 2e Section Morne l'Hôpital (+3,080)



More people moved out of the ZMPP than into, from February to April 2024. The main destinations (net relocation outflows) are West department (Kenscoff, Gressier and Léogâne), Les Cayes, Jacmel and Cap Haitien.

Net relocation outflows from the ZMPP = outflows from ZMPP minus inflows to ZMPP



Change in the number of ZMPP residents from February to April 2024 (low estimate)

-17,370

The map shows that, between February and April 2024, more people moved out of the ZMPP than into. This resulted in a decrease of 17,370 people in the estimated population of the ZMPP (the map shows net outflows (negative net flows) from the ZMPP to each communal section).

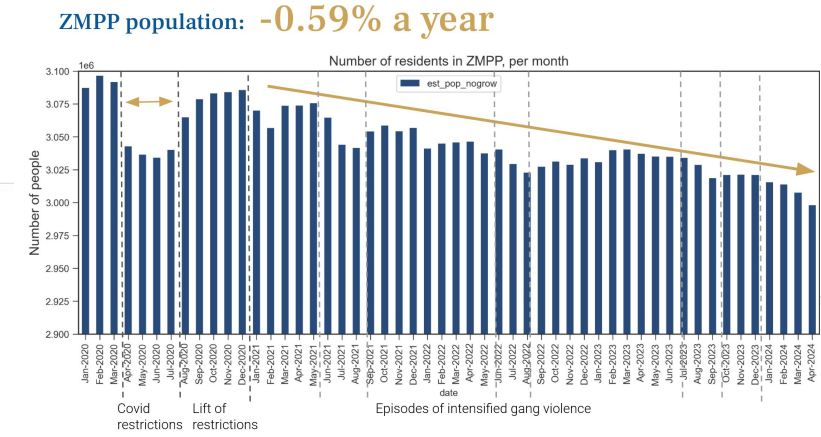
Our data show that for each communal section, more people arrived from the ZMPP than moved there (there were no net inflows to the ZMPP from any communal section for this time period).

For most communal sections, the number of people moving in from the ZMPP, and moving out of those sections to the ZMPP, is similar (the numbers of inflows and outflows to/from the ZMPP are similar), so the netflows from these communal sections to the ZMPP are close to 0 (light blue on the map).

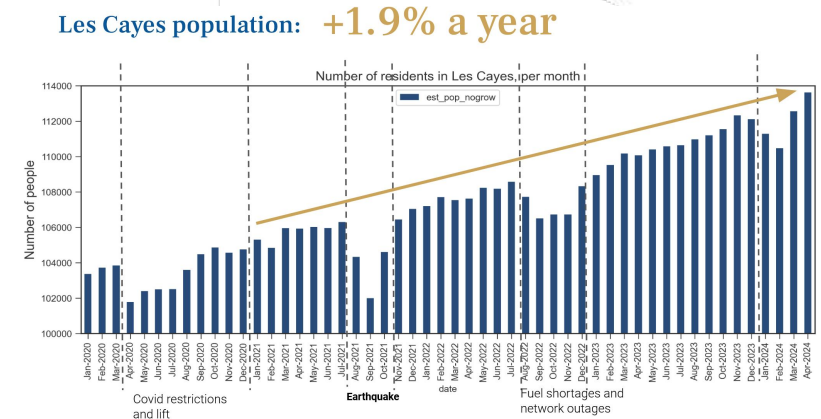
However, we note that for 100+ communal sections, more people moved into these sections from the ZMPP, than moved to the ZMPP from these sections (there are net outflows from the ZMPP to the sections displayed in green, brown and purple on the map). The main destinations are to other parts of West (Kenscoff, Léogâne, and Gressier), and to the Greater South (Les Cayes and Jacmel (see purple areas).

There are other notable net outflows (displayed in green, brown and purple) to Cap Haitien and other towns (Gonaives, St Marc, Jérémie, Hinche, Mirebalais) and also to the border points (Ouanaminthe and Belladere; Anse-à-Pitres to a lesser extent, but not to the Jimani border point).

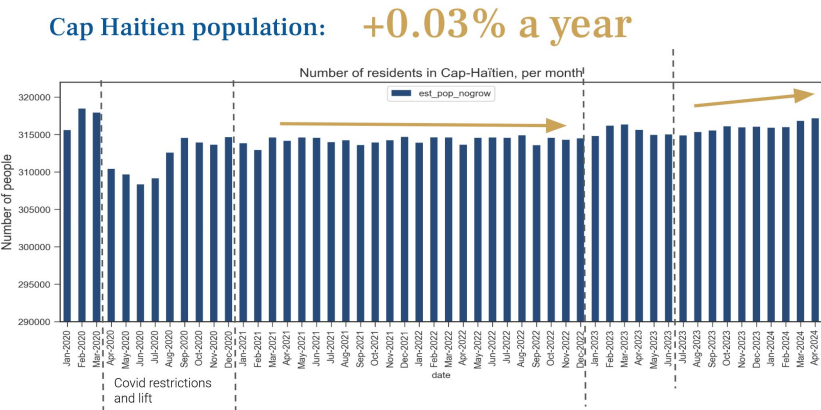
4+ years trend in urban population due to internal mobility. The ZMPP population has, for the first time, dropped to under 3 million in April 2024 (even lower than during the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions). Population in Les Cayes has increased, and is stable in Cap Haitien.



Number of ZMPP residents		Annual change in ZMPP residents	
Date	ZMPP population*	Year	Change in ZMPP population*
Jan 2020	3,087,070	Jan 2020 - Jan 2021	- 17,080
Jan 2021	3,069,990	Jan 2021 - Jan 2022	- 28,890
Jan 2022	3,041,100	Jan 2022 - Jan 2023	- 10,380
Jan 2023	3,030,720	Jan 2023 - Jan 2024	- 15,330
Jan 2024	3,015,390	Jan 2024 - Apr 2024	- 17,370
Apr 2024	2,998,020		



Number of Les Cayes residents		Annual change in Les Cayes residents	
Date	Les Cayes population*	Year	Change in Les Cayes population*
Jan 2020	103,370	Jan 2020 - Jan 2021	+ 1,930
Jan 2021	105,300	Jan 2021 - Jan 2022	+ 1,890
Jan 2022	107,190	Jan 2022 - Jan 2023	+ 1,760
Jan 2023	108,950	Jan 2023 - Jan 2024	+ 2,330
Jan 2024	111,280	Jan 2024 - April 2024	+ 2,340
April 2024	113,620		



Number of Cap Haitien residents		Annual change in Cap Haitien residents	
Date	Cap Haitien population*	Year	Change in Cap Haitien population*
Jan 2020	315,580	Jan 2020 - Jan 2021	- 1,750
Jan 2021	313,830	Jan 2021 - Jan 2022	+ 70
Jan 2022	313,900	Jan 2022 - Jan 2023	+ 900
Jan 2023	314,800	Jan 2023 - Jan 2024	+ 1,100
Jan 2024	315,900	Jan 2024 - April 2024	+ 1,280
April 2024	317,180		

*Estimates of monthly residents are based on the change in dominant location where subscribers are present for each calendar month to the next (monthly relocations). Number of subscribers relocating are weighted to obtain a number of people, but natural growth and international migrations are not taken into account. Our estimates relocations are currently underestimates, and the ZMPP has likely lost more people since 2020 than indicated here.

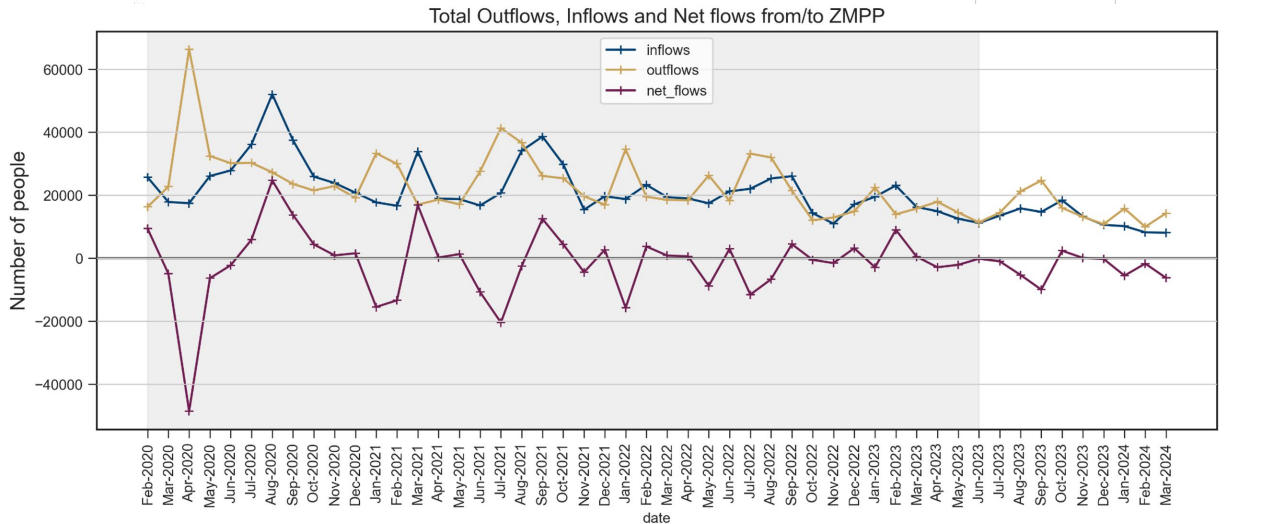
Since 2021, the ZMPP population has decreased by around 72,000 people due to internal mobility (this is likely an underestimate), in contrast, the population of Les Cayes has increased by nearly 2% a year since 2021, partly due to people moving in from the ZMPP.

Key observations (2020 to 2024)

1. The population of the Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (ZMPP) has generally declined since January 2021 (by 71,970 people; 0.59% a year) due to internal mobility.
2. However, we've observed frequent back and forth movements between the ZMPP and the rest of the country since 2020 (+/- 1% of population), due to COVID-19 restrictions and then episodes of gang violence.
3. For the first time, in April 2024, the ZMPP population has dropped to under 3 million (2,998,020 people) - this is fewer people than during the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions.

Disclaimer: Please see first page: the magnitude of most relocation flows we report here are underestimates (e.g. more than 71,970 people have likely left the ZMPP for other regions within Haiti since 2021). We will revise our estimates, but this will not affect the observation that the ZMPP population is lower in April 2024 than in April 2020 at the time of COVID-19 restrictions, which can serve as a comparison point.

4+ years trend in relocations in and out of the ZMPP
Back and forth movements between the ZMPP and the rest of the country since February 2020. Recently (January - April 2024), more people are leaving than arriving



There has been an alternation of net outflows and net inflows in the past 4+ years from/to the ZMPP (net flow alternatively positive then negative), meaning that on some occasions more people left than moved in (e.g. during the COVID-19 restrictions we observe a peak of outflows from the ZMP), and vice versa (e.g. immediately after the lift of COVID-19 restrictions people came back (peak of inflows)).

When the netflow to the ZMPP is negative, the population of the ZMPP decreases.

In July-September 2023, more people left the ZMPP than arrived (-16,280, including -9,980 in September alone). Then, in October-November 2023, more people (+2,470) moved into the ZMPP (perhaps coming back), while both the number of people moving out and the number of people moving in decreased (perhaps a consequence of road blockades). However, similar decreases in mobility has been observed previously (e.g. April - June 2023)).

More recently, between February and April 2024, we observe again more people leaving than moving into the ZMPP (-17,370) - this is because the number of people leaving the ZMPP is increasing again, while the number of people moving in (or coming back) hasn't stopped decreasing since September 2023.

About this work

Flowminder’s ‘Population Mobility Data for Disaster Management’ project aims to improve the availability and use of mobile operator data (Call Detail Records, CDR data)-derived population-scaled estimates on population mobility, density and/or displacement data among humanitarian actors, with a particular focus on Haiti. Through this project, Flowminder will enable access to, and use of reliable and user-friendly information by humanitarian organisations for disaster preparedness and response, while strengthening its CDR processing and analysis software, FlowKit, to better support humanitarian sector data needs.

Authors & funders

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This study was made possible thanks to the anonymised (aggregated) mobile phone usage data provided by Digicel Haiti.

We welcome feedback to help us improve future reports and requests for specific types of analysis.

Please email info@flowminder.org with any feedback and suggestions, or if you have any specific analytical requirements we can support

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This data is fully anonymised. This approach complies with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR2016/679). Data is processed on a server installed behind the mobile network operator’s firewall in Haiti, and no personal data leaves the operator’s premises.

Data considerations

The estimates shown are our best current assessment of movements. However, there are a number of uncertainties. The information should be interpreted together with other available evidence.

For more information about our methods, please read our *Haiti Mobility Data Indicators* documentation on residents and relocation [here](#).

Data sources

- Pseudonymised mobile phone usage data from Digicel Haiti
- Data products: Flowminder

Previous report(s)

Our most recent previous report on displacements in Haiti was published on 14 March 2024: [Gang violence in downtown Port-au-Prince | Mobility situation report: Haiti \(29 February - 12 March 2024\)](#)
<https://www.flowminder.org/resources/publications-reports/haiti-gang-violence-in-downtown-port-au-prince-mobility-situation-report-29-february-12-march-2024>

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