

Türkiye



General Information



Population

84 979 913 (World Bank 2022)

84 680 273 (STAT TR 2021)



Immigration

6 052 652 (Eurostat 2019)

677 042 (STAT TR 2019)



Emigration

3 411 408 (UN Emigration Stock 2020)

330 289 (STAT TR 2019)



Working-age population

57 898 247 (World Bank 2022)

34 624 000 (STAT TR 2022)



Unemployment rate

10.4 % (World Bank 2022)

10.9 % (STAT TR 2022)



GDP

907 118 435 952.7 current prices USD (World Bank 2022)

15 811 200 000 000 current prices TRY (STAT TR 2021)



Refugees and IDPs

Refugees

3 368 976 (UN Refugee Stock 2023)

4 000 000 (STAT TR 2022)

Asylum Seekers

260 605 (UNHCR 2023)

29 256 (STAT TR 2021)

IDPs

1 200 000 (STAT TR 2005)



Citizenship

By Birth: Conditional

By Descent: Conditional

Dual Citizenship: Conditional

Years of Residency: 5



Territory

783 562 km² (CIA World Factbook)

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

[Ministry of Interior](#)

Line Ministries

[Ministry of Family and Social Services](#)

[Ministry of Culture and Tourism](#)

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

Agencies

[Turkish Republic Presidency of Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior](#)
[The Migration Board](#)

Key Policy Documents

[Law on Foreigners and International Protection](#)

[Temporary Protection Regulation](#)

[National Strategy on Harmonization and the National Action Plan](#)

[Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Irregular Migration](#)

Relevant Publications

[ICMPD Regional Migration Outlook 2021: Turkey & Western Balkans](#)

[ICMPD Migration Outlook 2022: Western Balkans & Turkey](#)

[IRRA Research Report Migration Governance in Turkey](#)

[Aida Country Report: Turkey](#)

[IOM MPM Türkiye: Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean and Beyond](#)

[The Political Economy of Migration and Integration: Effects of Immigrants on the Economy in Turkey \(Research\)](#)

Turkey is a country of emigration, immigration and transit. It features a growing and ageing population that reached **84.680.273** in 2021. Around two-thirds of the growth is attributed to natural replenishment and another one-third to immigration. Turkey's potential net migration rate is negative, yet immigration to the country has been on the rise.

Considerable labour emigration of Turkish nationals as of the 1960s resulted in the establishment of a prominent Turkish diaspora abroad, reaching a total of **3.411.408** in 2020. The number rises to **6.5 million** when all Turkish citizens living abroad are considered. Germany hosts the largest Turkish community of **1.3 million**, followed by France hosting **700.000** Turkish nationals, the Netherlands with **414.186**, the United Kingdom with **400.000**, and Austria with **270.000** persons.

The financial and economic crisis that started in 2018 has generated new waves of out-migration. In **2018** and **2019**, outflows from Turkey exceeded 330.000 persons per year, up to 40% of whom were Turkish nationals. Among foreigners who left Turkey in these two years, the most populous groups comprised nationals of Iraq, Turkmenistan, Syria and Afghanistan. The continuing economic downturn of 2022 may further stimulate out-migration. In July 2022, inflation in Turkey hit **79.6%** and the Turkish Lira further weakened. Moreover, the unemployment rate stood at **10.9%** for the entire working-age population and 20.3% for the youth, which contributes to emigration aspirations among the youth. Notably, in 2019, over **40%** of the emigration flow consisted of persons who were 20 to 35 years of age. According to research estimates, recent labour migrants from Turkey are mostly skilled workers employed in such sectors as **information technology, engineering, and academia**.

Between 2016 and 2018, **6.081** academics were dismissed due to political reasons in Turkey, pushing **hundreds** of them to seek job opportunities abroad. Some affluent Turkish nationals have also opted for emigration. Between 2013 and mid-2022, a total of **587** Turkish nationals acquired residency rights or citizenship in Greece upon purchase of property as part of the so-called Golden Visa program and ranked as the second largest beneficiary group after Chinese investors. Additionally, Turkey sends close to **50.000** students abroad for higher education annually.

The political context has played an important role in emigration from Turkey for international protection purposes. Domestic clashes in the period 1984-2005 produced **more** than one million internally displaced persons, mostly Kurds, and as many as **227.236** refugees in 2006. More recently, the 2013 Gezi Park protests and the 2016 military coup attempt triggered a new wave of emigration and an increase in the number of both asylum applications and the number of recognized refugees originating from Turkey, amounting to **105.019 and 46.327** respectively in 2021. The same year, there were **20.315** asylum applications from Turkish nationals in the EU, and 6.345 received some form of protection. The majority of asylum applications were filed in Germany, France and the Netherlands with the figures reaching **7.065, 4.965 and 2.460** respectively.

Irregular migration from Turkey to the EU has also been increasing albeit moderately. The number of Turkish nationals staying illegally in the EU doubled in the past five years, reaching **19.390** in 2021. The number of those ordered to leave has also grown from **6.650** in 2016 to **10.305** in 2021, yet the return rate has slightly declined from 27% to 21% in the same

period. Moreover, the number of Turkish nationals refused entry at the border remained within 4000-5000 persons per year in the past decade.

As of 2020, the immigrant stock in Turkey was estimated at 6.052.652, with most migrants being nationals of Syria, Germany, Iraq, North Macedonia, Afghanistan and Greece. In 2019, the immigration flow amounted to 677.042, of whom 98.554 were Turkish citizens and 578.488 were foreign nationals. In 2020, foreigners received 123.574 work permits. Of these, 62.369 were acquired by Syrians, followed by 9.721 Turkmens, 4.873 Georgians, 4.383 Uzbeks, and 4.015 Iranians. Most work permits were issued for employment in domestic work, textile, and trade. At the end of July 2022, a total of 1.427.076 immigrants had residency permits in Turkey.

Over the past decade, Turkey received four million asylum-seekers, mainly from Syria, thereby hosting the largest refugee population in the world. By mid-2022, the number of Syrians living in Turkey under temporary protection amounted to 3.648.983. While this put an undue burden on the migration management capacities of the country, Turkey has also economically benefited from the Syrian migration. By 31 March 2022, 200.950 Syrians acquired Turkish citizenship and 505.190 returned to Syria since the beginning of the war in 2011. In addition, Turkey received 29.256 new applications for international protection in 2021, a sharp decrease compared to the peak of 114.537 in 2018. Nationals of Afghanistan, followed by Iraq and Iran, constituted the largest share of applicants. In the context of the war in Ukraine, 140.000 Ukrainians, who are subject to a visa-waiver program, entered Turkey by May 2022.

Though Turkey had an open-door policy for Syrians at the beginning of the war in 2011, its eastern borders were tightened in 2016. The same year, Turkey signed a Statement with the EU, taking an obligation to prevent irregular travel between Turkey and the Greek islands and accept people who arrived from Turkey to the Islands irregularly. For each person returned to Turkey, the EU agreed to resettle one Syrian who waited in Turkey and provide funds to Turkey to aid the Syrian community. By mid-2022, 34.499 Syrians were resettled from Turkey to EU countries, mainly to Germany. Beyond the EU, 19.226 Syrians were resettled from Turkey to countries such as Canada, the US, and the UK between 2014 and 2022. The implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement has also seen its share of criticism and controversy, yet this cooperation will likely continue.

Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding with FRONTEX to stop irregular entries in 2012. Since then, border management technologies and strategies have been strengthened and diversified. In June 2022, Turkey introduced a mandatory check of travel warrants for anyone transporting foreigners between different Turkish provinces to deter the movement of irregular migrants in the country. 162.996 people without documents including 70.252 Afghans and 23.469 Syrians were detected in Turkey in 2021, a sharp decrease from 454.662 recorded in 2019. By mid-April 2022, Turkey detected 55.627 and deported 21.087 irregular immigrants, and prevented 127.256 irregular entries.

In 2013, Turkey adopted the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, providing Syrians with the legal basis for acquiring temporary protection. In 2018, the country transitioned to a presidential system and the Presidency of Migration Management became the key actor in migration management. This has resulted in a greater focus on national security in terms of immigration. In 2021, the country adopted the Strategy and the National Action Plan on Irregular Migration, which prioritize voluntary returns, international

cooperation, and readmission agreements. Since 2016, Turkey has run **citizenship by investment** program, under which **25,969** foreigners, increasingly Russians, acquired Turkish passports.

Turkey was one of the five co-conveners of the Global Refugee Forum and endorsed the Global Compact on Refugees with a specific focus on international responsibility-sharing. The country is a party to the Prague Process and the Chair of the Budapest Process.