

## Turkey



Information on migration statistics in Turkey is scarce. There is no direct and reliable data source on flows in and out of the country.

Information on labour emigration flows through official State channels is provided by the Ministry for Labour and Social Security (MLSS). The number of contract-dependent temporary workers sent abroad by the Turkish Employment Office in 2008 decreased to 57 000, from around 75-80 000 in the previous two years. The two main receiving regions were the Middle East (25 000) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (19 500). These labour emigration flows do not include outflows due to other reasons (mainly family reunification, marriage migration and asylum-seeking).

In 2008, the number of immigrants in Turkey who held residence permits was almost 175 000, a 5% decline from the stock of the previous year. A significant proportion of immigrants came from Turkish-speaking populations from neighbouring countries. In addition, there were significant irregular migration flows of clandestine workers, transit migrants and rejected asylum seekers. Transit migrants came to Turkey mainly from the Middle East (Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan) and from Asia and Africa. Almost 66 000 irregular migrants were apprehended in 2008.

The number of asylum seekers from Turkey to Europe continued to increase in 2008. Even if the number of Turkish asylum seekers to Europe was similar to that of previous year (under 7 000), the number of applications from third country nationals (mostly from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan) increased. In addition, the number of asylum seekers in Turkey reached 12 891 applicants. There was a considerable increase in the number of asylum applicants from Iraq (comprising more than half of the asylum seekers), but also from Afghanistan (2 642) and Somalia (647).

Remittances again increased by around 10% in 2008, reaching USD 1.32 billion. In addition, “luggage trade” made by migrants to Turkey remained an important inflow of foreign currency at USD 6.2 billion.

In the policy domain, a Development and Implementation Office on Asylum and Migration Legislation and Administrative Capacity was established in October 2008 under the Ministry of Interior. Although it has limited resources, it is meant to make progress on the new Law on Asylum and Law on Aliens in the context of Turkey’s integration to the EU-based international migratory and asylum regimes.

### **For further information:**

[www.iskur.gov.tr](http://www.iskur.gov.tr)

[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)

[www.nvi.gov.tr/English,En\\_Html.html](http://www.nvi.gov.tr/English,En_Html.html)

## Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

## TURKEY

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
					1997-2002	2003-2008	2008			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	1.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.3	175.0			
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2008					
Work	..	..	..	..						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..						
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..						
Free movements	..	..	..	..						
Others	..	..	..	..						
Total	..	..	..	..						
Temporary migration	2000	2007	2008	Average 2003-2008						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	..	..	..	..						
Trainees	..	..	..	..						
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..						
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..						
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..						
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	12 981			
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	18.4	14.1	..	..	15.4	..	..			
Natural increase	16.9	14.1	..	..	14.9	..	..			
Net migration	1.6	0.0	..	..	0.8	..	..			
Stocks of immigrants	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	..	1.9	..	..	..	..	..			
Foreign population	..	0.4	..	..	..	..	..			
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Labour market outcomes	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	..	..	68.0	67.7	..	..	..			
Foreign-born men	..	..	66.3	68.0	..	..	..			
Native-born women	..	..	23.7	24.1	..	..	..			
Foreign-born women	..	..	30.2	31.5	..	..	..			
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	..	..	8.7	9.6	..	..	..			
Foreign-born men	..	..	8.4	8.4	..	..	..			
Native-born women	..	..	8.7	9.6	..	..	..			
Foreign-born women	..	..	8.1	8.9	..	..	..			
Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2007	2008	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	7.2	6.8	4.7	0.9	2.4	5.9	..			
GDP/capita (level in US dollars)	5.5	5.3	3.4	-0.3	1.0	4.6	11 693			
Employment (level in thousands)	2.8	-2.1	1.5	2.1	0.2	1.4	21 694			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	8.0	6.9	10.1	10.7	8.2	10.4	..			

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/884156612204>