

## Turkey



Although migration data for Turkey remains difficult to obtain, there are several indications that migration from and to Turkey in 2006 broadly continued similar trends to those observed in prior years.

Official emigration figures are not reported. The number of Turkish nationals seeking asylum continued to strongly decline, falling to around 8 000, a drop of about 30%. In contrast, contract-dependent temporary labour migration via the intermediary of the Turkish Employment Office increased by 35% in 2006 to reach about 81 000 persons. About half of this temporary migration is towards the Middle East (about 40 000, an increase of 60% over 2005). Within this region, Saudi Arabia stands out, accounting for 20 000 persons in 2006 – a three-fold increase compared to 2005. The remainder of the flows is essentially towards the Commonwealth of Independent States (about 37 000, an increase of 30%). Together, these two regions accounted for about 95% of the flows under this category. Temporary migration flows from Turkey to other OECD countries have been comparatively small for the past few years and in constant decline.

The number of granted residence permits in Turkey increased by almost one third and reached more than 186 000 in 2006. This increase is mainly due to permits granted on grounds other than work and study, including family migration. Irregular migration, *i.e.* clandestine workers (mainly from the Commonwealth of Independent States) and transit migrants (mainly from the Middle East) remains a significant element in international migration to Turkey. After a temporary fall in 2005, the number of apprehensions within Turkey (overstayers, mainly labour migrants) reached more than 50 000 in 2006, an increase of 19% compared to 2005). This figure is nevertheless still well below the peak of 95 000 in 2000. A similar evolution was observed with respect to apprehensions at the border (illegal entries and departures, mainly transit-type migrants).

Asylum seeking in Turkey increased by more than 15% compared to 2005 to reach 4 550 in 2006. This increase was due to the higher number of

asylum applicants from Iran (+32%), in addition to a greater number of asylum seekers from Somalia and Sudan, whereas application figures showed a decline of 31% of the number of applicants from Iraq.

For the first time since 1998, remittances increased markedly (more than 30%) and reached USD 1.1 billion or 0.3% of GDP in 2006. This is nevertheless still well below the 1998 height of USD 5.4 billion. In addition, cash transfer by travel almost doubled compared to 2005, to reach about USD 6.4 billion – the highest figure in a decade.

Attempts by several institutions to improve the collection and compilation of data on international migration in Turkey have not progressed significantly. Likewise, discussions on integrating immigration and emigration statistics into the computer-based central population registration system, established in 2004, have not yet concretised.

The 1934 settlement law which generally restricts immigration to persons of “Turkish descent and culture” was altered in September 2006 to relax this restriction for refugees to ensure compatibility with the 1951 Geneva Convention.

This measure forms part of the national action plan of 2005 which envisages a complete reform of immigration legislation and comprehensive institutional changes by 2012, to gradually align the Turkish immigration framework with the EU *acquis*.

Also in the context of the action plan, various measures were taken in 2006 to improve reception and housing of migrants. This included the opening of a Refugee Acceptance Shelter in Istanbul. It is planned to establish such shelters in seven different provinces by 2010. Further integration measures for refugees are envisaged for the following years, including training programmes and provisions for health related issues, ensuring labour rights, providing social assistance and access to social and cultural events.

### 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/Hakkimizda/Projeler,Spot\\_Mernis.html](http://www.nvi.gov.tr/Hakkimizda/Projeler,Spot_Mernis.html)

## Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	1.3	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.3	191.0
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		<b>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</b>		
Work	..	..	..	..			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..			
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..			
Free movements	..	..	..	..			
Others	..	..	..	..			
Total	..	..	..	..			
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average 2000-2006			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..			
Trainees	..	..	..	..			
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..			
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..			
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..			
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..			
Inflows of asylum seekers	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.6

## Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006
Real GDP (growth, %)	7.2	7.4	7.4	6.1	3.9	7.2	
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	5.3	2.4	7.0	4.8	2.1	5.9	7 904
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	2.8	-2.1	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	22 846
Unemployment (% of labour force)	7.5	6.4	10.0	9.7	6.9	9.7	
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	18.5	14.1	12.7	..	17.3	13.2	
Natural increase	16.9	14.1	12.7	..	16.0	13.2	
Net migration	1.6	-	-	..	1.3	-	
Total population	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)
<i>(Annual growth %)</i>							
Native-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level
<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 072

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/434618123512>

Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.