

Turkey

Statistics on migration flows in Turkey are limited to certain categories. There is no direct and reliable data source on total flows in and out of the country.

Information on labour emigration flows through official, state-administered channels is provided by the Ministry for Labour and Social Security (MLSS). The number of contract workers sent abroad by the Turkish Employment Office increased by 3% from 2008 to 2009, to 59 500. The two main destinations of Turkish contract workers were the Middle East (32 500) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (17 300).

Information on labour migration inflows to Turkey is also provided by the MLSS. In 2009, there were 9 300 new permits, an increase of 32% over the previous year. There are no available statistics for inflows of students or family migration.

The population of legally resident foreigners fell by about 6% between 2008 and 2009, from 175 000 to 163 000. Of these, 11% were for employment and 17% for study, with most of the others ethnic Turks from nearby countries living with relatives in Turkey. The leading nationalities of resident foreigners were Azerbaijan (11%), the Russian Federation and Bulgaria (8% each) and Germany (6%). Among the 17 500 work-permit holders, the main nationalities were the Russian Federation (11%), Germany (7%) and the United States (6%). Among the 27 000 students, the main group was Azerbaijanis (13%).

The total number of irregular migrants who were apprehended fell from 68 300 in 2008 to 34 300 in 2009. Of those found in Turkey, about one-third were overstaying workers, and the rest had entered illegally. One factor reducing illegal stay may be the elimination of visa requirements for citizens of Syria, Iran,

Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Jordan. Citizens of many other countries, including Iraq, are able to obtain visas at the Turkish border. Readmission agreements with most of these countries are still under negotiation.

The inflow of asylum seekers decreased from 13 000 in 2008 to 7 800 in 2009, although statistics for the first six months of 2010 suggest a return to the 2008 level. In 2009, half of applicants came from Iraq and a quarter from Iran. Most asylum seekers were transiting Turkey on their way to Europe.

In the context of the economic crisis, remittances fell by around 35%, from USD 1.4 billion to USD 930 million, according to the Bank of Turkey. They now represent less than 0.1% of GDP.

Migration policy developments in Turkey are closely related to the negotiations and legislative requirements for admission to the European Union. Two framework laws on Asylum and Aliens were originally planned to be approved by 2012. The “Development and Implementation Office on Asylum and Migration Legislation and Administrative Capacity” which had opened in October 2008 as an agency of the Ministry of Interior, pushed the task force to bring the deadline forward, to 2009-10. However, negotiations with the European Union have slowed down, and no legislation has been presented to Parliament.

For further information

www.iskur.gov.tr

www.tuik.gov.tr

www.nvi.gov.tr/English,En_Html.html

www.csqb.gov.tr

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

TURKEY

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.5	163.3
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	7 834
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Natural increase	13.8	12.3	11.5	11.3	13.2	11.8	809
Net migration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	2.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	0.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							

Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	67.7	64.6	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	68.0	61.9	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	24.1	24.2	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	31.5	26.4	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	9.6	12.7	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	8.4	14.7	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	9.6	12.8	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	8.9	16.6	..	..
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	6.8	8.4	0.7	-4.7	4.4	3.2	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	5.3	7.1	-0.5	-5.8	3.0	2.0	10 985
Employment (level in thousands)	-2.1	2.2	2.1	0.4	-0.3	1.6	21 777
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	6.9	10.4	10.7	13.7	9.5	11.0	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932441705>