

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.

Administrative information on labour emigration flows is provided by the Ministry for Labour and Social Security (MLSS). The number of contract workers sent abroad by the Turkish Employment Office decreased from 2009 to 2010 by 8%, to 54 800. The two main destinations of Turkish contract workers were the Middle East (34 000) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (19 000).

Information on labour migration inflows to Turkey is also provided by the MLSS. In 2010, there were 9 300 new permits, the same as in the previous year. More than half the work permits were issued to foreigners with a tertiary qualification. There are no available statistics for inflows of students or family migration.

While no figures are available for the total number of residence permits in 2010, in 2009, there were 163 000 permit-holders. 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%). The number of international students in Turkish universities exceeded 21 000 in 2011.

The number of irregular migrants apprehended fell by half from 2008 to 2009, to 34 300, and remained at that level in 2010 (32 700). Of those apprehended in Turkey, about two-thirds 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 increased from 7 800 in 2009 to 9 200 in 2010, below the 2008 level (13 000). In 2010, 40% of applicants came from Iraq and 31% from Iran. Most asylum seekers were transiting Turkey on their way to Europe.

In the context of the economic crisis, remittances have fallen by around 35%, from USD 1.4 billion in 2008 to USD 930 million in 2009. A further decrease by 11% was recorded in 2010, when remittances stood at USD 830 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. Developments in 2010 included an amendment to the implementing regulation of the law on Work permits for Foreigners, softening the conditions for asylum seekers to apply for work permits, and the provision of increased penal sentences for human smugglers. The Draft Law on Foreigners and International Protection was prepared. This law combines the two separate laws originally planned (the Law on Aliens and the Law on Asylum) to provide a comprehensive legal framework for migration and asylum in Turkey.

The conclusion of readmission agreements with the European Commission as well as with non-EU countries constitutes a substantive issue in view of the harmonisation of Turkish law on migration and asylum with the EU *acquis*. In 2010-11, Turkey concluded readmission agreements with Pakistan and the Russian Federation. A draft text of the EC-Turkey readmission agreement was prepared in 2010 and negotiations concluded by the end of February 2011, without acceptance from the Turkish side.

Finally, since 2008, Turkey has devoted growing attention to border management issues. In 2010, visa procedures were modernised through the implementation of online processing and the introduction of biometric security measures. The modernisation of Turkish border crossing points, required for the implementation of EU integrated border management, continued over the period 2009-10. A co-ordination board for integrated border management (IBM) was established. Turkey continued its negotiations to conclude a working arrangement with European Union's border management agency, FRONTEX. The Turkish Ministry of the Interior and the Greek Ministry for Citizen Protection signed joint declarations in 2010 and ordered stricter border control on the Aegean Sea and Turkish-Greek land borders. However, IBM issues and the transfer of border security control from Turkish military to civilian command continue to be debated between Turkey and the European Union.

For further information:

www.iskur.gov.tr

www.tuik.gov.tr

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

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

TURKEY

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
					2001-05	2006-10	2010
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	..	..	..	0.4	..	..	29.9
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>	2009	2010	2009	2010			
Work	..	..	..	..
Family (incl. accompanying family)	..	..	..	..
Humanitarian	..	..	..	..
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..
Temporary migration	2005	2009	2010	Average			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	..	..	..	..
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	..	..	..	..
Seasonal workers	..	..	..	..
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..
Other temporary workers	..	..	..	..
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	9 226
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total						..	..
Natural increase	13.8	12.3	11.3	..	12.9	..	..
Net migration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	2.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign population	0.4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							

Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	64.6	66.7	..	66.8	
Foreign-born men	..	..	61.9	64.5	..	65.0	
Native-born women	..	..	24.2	26.1	..	24.2	
Foreign-born women	..	..	26.4	27.8	..	29.1	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	..	..	12.7	10.5	..	10.0	
Foreign-born men	..	..	14.7	12.4	..	10.6	
Native-born women	..	..	12.8	11.6	..	10.4	
Foreign-born women	..	..	16.6	14.1	..	11.5	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2009	2010	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	6.8	8.4	-4.8	9.0	4.7	3.3	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	5.3	7.1	-5.9	7.6	3.3	2.0	15 666
Employment (level in thousands)	-2.1	2.2	0.4	6.0	0.6	2.4	23 094
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	6.9	10.4	13.7	11.7	10.2	11.2	

Notes and sources are at the end of the part.

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