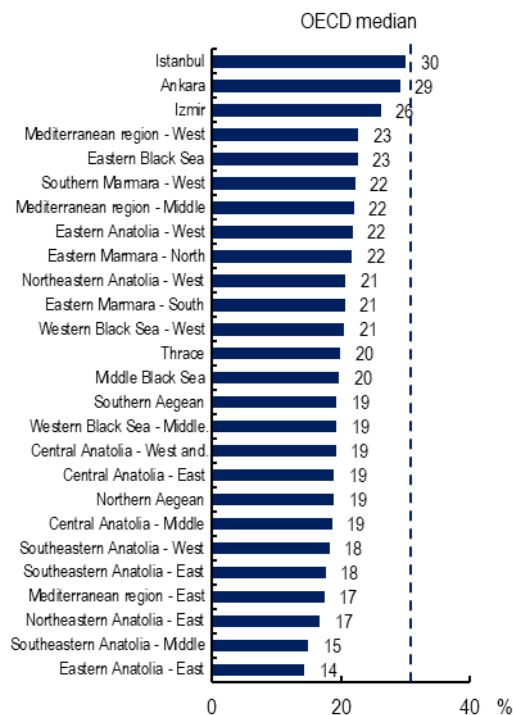# Turkey[1]

In Turkey, all regions had a lower share of jobs amenable to teleworking than the OECD median region. Disparities between regions however, are relatively large: the share of jobs in sectors most at risk ranges from 14% in Eastern Anatolia - East to 30% in Istanbul.

In 2019, unemployment rates in Turkey varied almost 4-fold across regions. Unemployment ranged from a low of 8.2% in Central Anatolia - West and South, and Western Black Sea - Middle and East to a high of 31% in Southeastern Anatolia - East.

In all but three regions, the number of people employed grew between 2008 and 2018. Istanbul, Turkey's capital, was responsible for 27% of net employment growth over this period.

## The potential impacts of COVID-19 on local labour markets

### Share of jobs amenable to teleworking



| Region | Share |
|---|---|
| Istanbul | 30 |
| Ankara | 29 |
| Izmir | 26 |
| Mediterranean region - West | 23 |
| Eastern Black Sea | 23 |
| Southern Marmara - West | 22 |
| Mediterranean region - Middle | 22 |
| Eastern Anatolia - West | 22 |
| Eastern Marmara - North | 22 |
| Northeastern Anatolia - West | 21 |
| Eastern Marmara - South | 21 |
| Western Black Sea - West | 21 |
| Thrace | 20 |
| Middle Black Sea | 20 |
| Southern Aegean | 19 |
| Western Black Sea - Middle. | 19 |
| Central Anatolia - West and. | 19 |
| Central Anatolia - East | 19 |
| Northern Aegean | 19 |
| Central Anatolia - Middle | 19 |
| Southeastern Anatolia - West | 18 |
| Southeastern Anatolia - East | 18 |
| Mediterranean region - East | 17 |
| Northeastern Anatolia - East | 17 |
| Southeastern Anatolia - Middle | 15 |
| Eastern Anatolia - East | 14 |

**While containment measures have restricted economic activity in some sectors, the rapid expansion of teleworking has helped maintain other jobs.** The share of jobs amenable to teleworking in all regions in Turkey is lower than the OECD median region, but widespread teleworking is more feasible in some regions than others. The share of jobs amenable to teleworking varies roughly 16 percentage points across regions, from 14% in Eastern Anatolia – East to 30% in Istanbul.

Note: Share of jobs amenable to teleworking is based on the types of tasks performed in different occupations, and the share of those occupations in regional labour markets. However, these figures do not account for gaps in access to IT infrastructure across regions, which could further restrict teleworking potential. See Annex 1.A of the full report for further information on the calculation of both indicators. The OECD median is the median of OECD regions with available data.
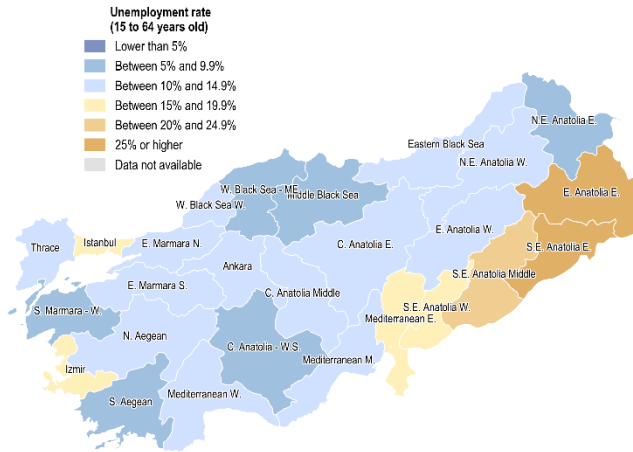
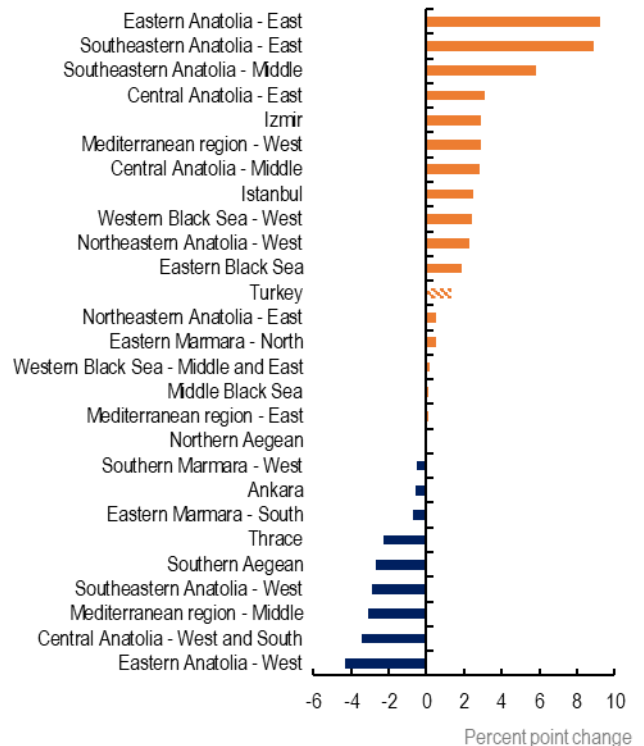Source: OECD (2020), *OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020*, https://doi.org/10.1787/959d5ba0-en.

## Local labour market performance prior to COVID-19

### Unemployment rate, 2019

### Change in unemployment rate, 2008-2018

**Unemployment rate**
**(15 to 64 years old)**
- Lower than 5%
- Between 5% and 9.9%
- Between 10% and 14.9%
- Between 15% and 19.9%
- Between 20% and 24.9%
- 25% or higher
- Data not available

Note:  The unemployment rate is computed as the share of unemployed people over the labour force, for the age group 15-64.
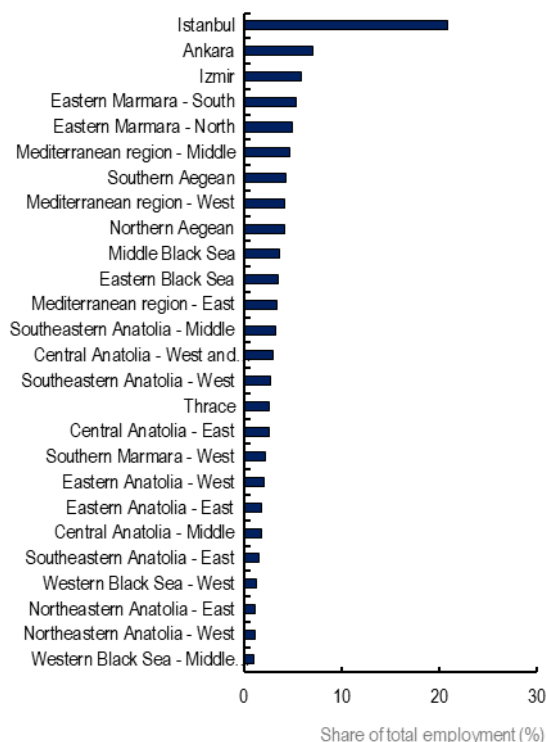Source: OECD (2020), "Regional labour markets", *OECD Regional Statistics (database),* https://doi.org/10.1787/f7445d96-en.

**Before the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates in Turkey were generally high, but varied almost 4-fold across regions**. Rates ranged from a low of 8.2% in Central Anatolia - West and South, and Western Black Sea - Middle and East to a high of 31% in Southeastern Anatolia - East in 2019. Looking at the decade following the 2008 crisis, just over one-third of regions had unemployment rates lower in 2018 than in 2008. Regional gaps in unemployment also grew over this period, due to relatively larger increases in the regions with the highest rates in 2008. For example, the unemployment rate increased by 9 percentage points in Southeastern Anatolia - East, which had the highest unemployment rate in 2008.

## Change in net employment, 2008-2018
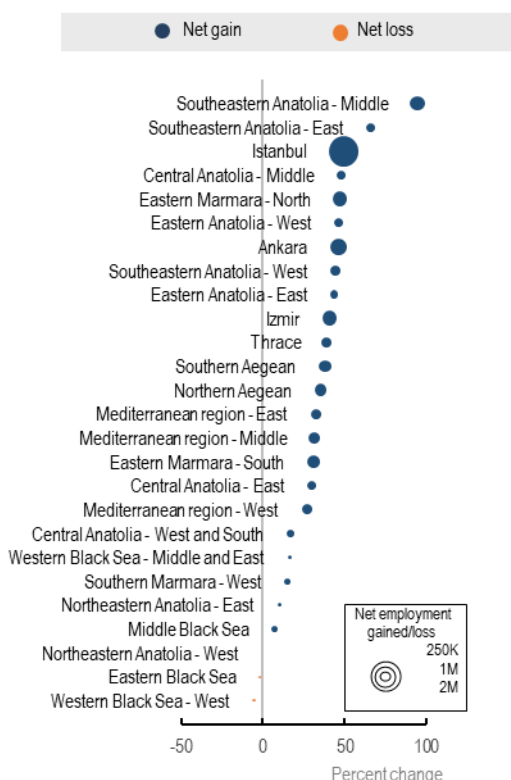
## Employment by region, 2018



Source: OECD (2020), "Regional labour markets", *OECD Regional Statistics (database),* https://doi.org/10.1787/f7445d96-en.

**In all but three regions, the number of people employed grew between 2008 and 2018.** Istanbul, Turkey's capital, was responsible for 27% of net employment growth over this period, and in 2018, accounted for almost 21% of all employment in Turkey.

## Active labour market policies: institutional arrangements

**Active labour market policies will be of growing importance as the COVID-19 response moves from emergency supports to facilitating labour market transitions.** The institutional arrangements for these policies, and the role of subnational governments, varies significantly across countries.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | **Centralised, including branch offices of national ministry / agency** | İŞKUR, the Turkish Employment Agency (which is affiliated to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services), is responsible for the organization of active labour programmes, including vocational training courses, on-the-job training programmes, and other courses, programmes, projects and special applications to maintain and increase employment, develop the professional qualifications of the unemployed, decrease unemployment, and integrate groups that require special support into the labour market. Services are provided through Provincial Directorates and Service Centers of İŞKUR. Provincial Employment and Vocational Training Boards (PEVTB) located in each of the 81 provinces serve as a local platform for stakeholder engagement for employment policies, as well as vocational training and lifelong learning. |
| | *Decentralised to subnational governments* | |
| | *Fully outsourced or delivered through network of public, private, and/or non-profit providers* | |
| | *Combined system with shared competences, or different systems for different target groups* | |

Source: OECD (forthcoming), "Local and regional variations in labour market and skills policies: A cross-country comparison", *OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers*; OECD (2017), *Employment and Skills Strategies in Turkey*, OECD Reviews on Local Job Creation, https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264279506-en.

[1] Data is presented at the TL2 level, which typically corresponds to the first administrative tier of subnational government. See Reader's Guide of the full report for more information on the methodologies behind the calculations.