

Country Profile “Turkey”

Geography:

Turkey occupies a surface area of 774.815 square kilometers. About three percent of the total area lies in Southeastern Europe.

The three sides of Turkey are surrounded by seas; Black Sea, The Sea of Marmara, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea.



The climate is characterized by variations of temperature and rainfall, depending on topography of the country. The typical climate condition of Turkey include dry, hot summers and cold, rainy, snowy winters.

History: Anatolia was dominated by the Seljuqs for almost two centuries. At the end of the First World War, a new Turkish State was created. The Republic was proclaimed on 29 October 1923.

Turkey has a parliamentary, multi-party democratic system.

Administrative Divisions: Turkey is administratively divided into 81 provinces. These are further subdivided into districts, subdivisions and villages. The head of the province is the governor. A major and a municipal council elected by the municipal electoral body. Every locality with a population of more than 2000 is entitled to form a municipal administration. Education and health services are mainly provided by the central government but municipalities of metropolis also provide limited health services for those who are at lower economic and social strata.

Social and Cultural Features: Turkey varies in social and cultural structure with modern and traditional life styles within the society. For the inhabitants of metropolitan areas daily life is similar to the Western countries. On the other hand, people living in outskirts of urban areas and rural settlements are relatively conservative and traditional. Family ties are still strong and influential in the formation of values, attitudes, aspirations and goals. Although laws are considered to be quite liberal on gender equality, patriarchal ideology characterizes the social life in many ways.

Religion: The citizens of Turkey are predominantly Muslim (98% of total population).

Economy: Turkey is classified as a middle- income country. Despite some progress, reducing inflation pressure, increasing export revenues etc. remain key issues. The recent global financial crisis emerged in the world economy and Turkey has also been affected this crisis. The most important effect is the cut in public investments especially in social sector provisioning. On the other hand unemployment and poverty has been increasing since late 2007.

Regional Divisions: The diverse geographical, climatic, cultural, social and economic characteristics of different parts of the country are the basis for the conventional regional breakdown within Turkey. Five regions (West, South, Central, North and East) are distinguished, reflecting to some extent, differences in socioeconomic development levels and demographic conditions within the country.

The West region is the most densely settled, the most industrialized and the most socio-economically advanced region of the country. The region includes Istanbul which is Turkey's largest city. The Central region includes Ankara, the capital and the second populous city. The East region is considered the least developed part of country.

Population: Turkey's population was 13.6 million according to the first national census which was conducted four years after the establishment of the Republic. The population of Turkey was 67.4 million according to the latest population census (2000).

Turkey's population was declared 75 627 384 by TURKSTAT at 31 December 2012. The latest population growth rate was 12 per thousands (2012).

Turkey has a young population structure as a result of high fertility and growth rates of the recent past. The median age was 30.1 in 2012 (for men 29,5 and for women 30.6). The "0-14" age group was 24.9% and the age group of over 65 years old was reached 7.5%, the age group of "15-64" was reached 67.6% (2012) (2012, TURKSTAT). It is expected that increase in the population size of 15-64 and 65% will continue also in the next years (15-16% of total population will be 65+ in 2050) while population size of youth will nearly stabilize.

Marriage, predominantly civil, is widely practiced in Turkey. Religious marriages also account for a significant proportion of the marriages, however the widespread custom is to have a civil as well as a religious ceremony. The universality of marriage in Turkey is observed in the low proportions never married. Marriages in Turkey are also known to be still very stable due to the close family ties.

Health Care System in Turkey: In 2003, Health Transformation Program was launched in Turkey, in December of 2004 the Turkish family medicine legislation passed from National Assembly and family medicines has been started all of 81 provinces in Turkey till the end of 2010.

Summary Indicators: Turkish Demographic and Health Surveys (1993-2008)

Reference:

- 1) Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies (2009) **Turkey Demographic and Health Survey, 2008**. Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, Ministry of Health General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning, T.R.Prime Ministry Undersecretary of State Planning Organization and TÜBİTAK, Ankara, Turkey.
http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/tdhs08/TDHS-2008_Main_Report.pdf
- 2) Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies (2010) **Summary Indicator: Turkey Demographic and Health Surveys 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008**.
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