



Turkey

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General Information

- Continent: **Asia / Europe**
- Capital: **Ankara**
- Country Code: **TR**
- Official Language: **Turkish**
- Time Zone: **GMT +3**
- Currency: **Turkish Lira (TL)**

Turkey, country that occupies a unique geographic position, lying partly in Asia and partly in Europe.

Throughout its history it has acted as both a barrier and a bridge between the two continents.

Turkey covers an area of 783,562 km²; the country is more than twice the size of Germany or slightly smaller than the U.S. states of Texas and Louisiana combined.



General Information

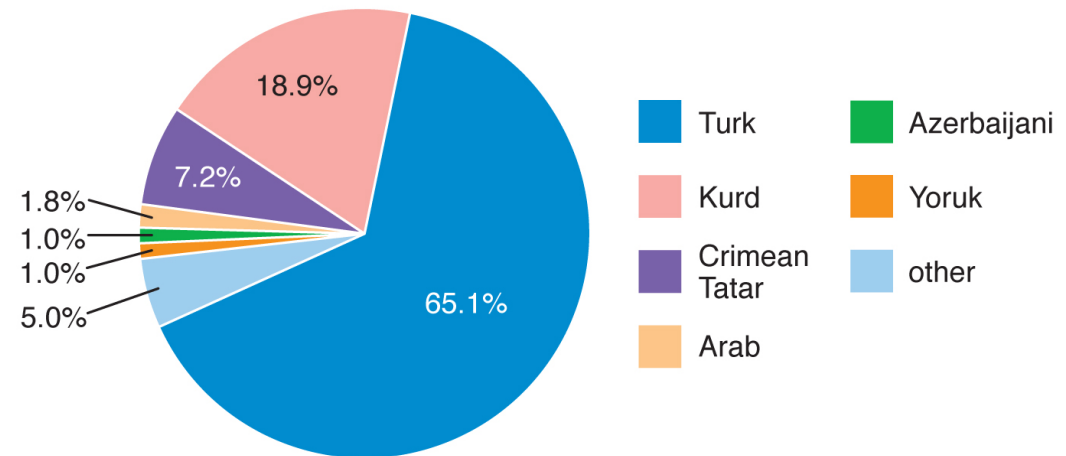
- Turkey is bounded on the north by the Black Sea, on the northeast by Georgia and Armenia, on the east by Azerbaijan and Iran, on the southeast by Iraq and Syria, on the southwest and west by the Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea, and on the northwest by Greece and Bulgaria. The capital is Ankara, and its largest city and seaport is Istanbul.
- The modern Turkish republic, founded in 1923 after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, is a nationalist, secular, parliamentary democracy. After a period of one-party rule under its founder, Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk), and his successor, Turkish governments since the 1950s have been produced by multiparty elections based on universal adult suffrage.



People

- According to the Turkish constitution, the word “Turk,” as a political term, includes all citizens of the Republic of Turkey, without distinction of or reference to race or religion; ethnic minorities have no official status. Linguistic data show that a majority of the population claim Turkish as their mother tongue; most of the remainder speak Kurdish and a small minority Arabic as their first language.

Ethnic composition (2000)

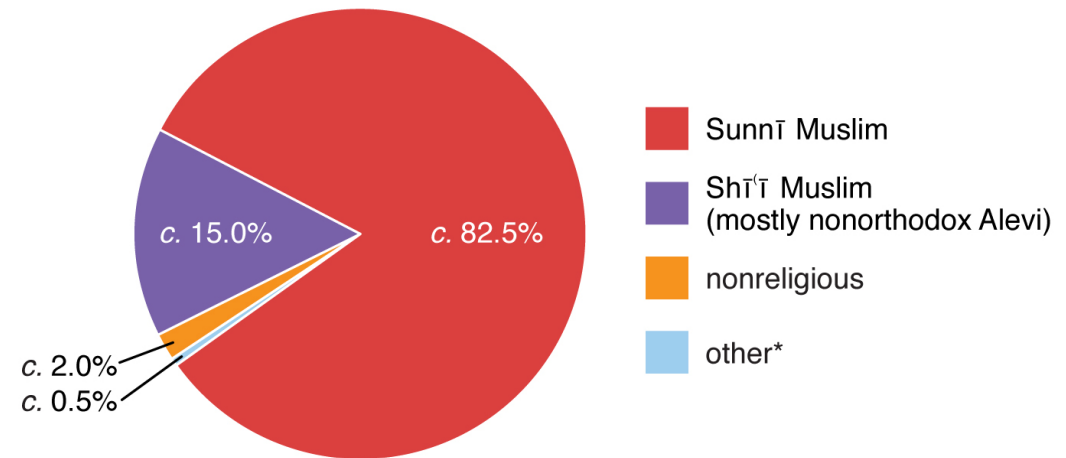


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Religion

- More than nine-tenths of the population is Muslim. Nevertheless, Turkey is a secular country. In a 1928 constitutional amendment, Islam was removed as the official state religion, and since that time the state has found itself periodically at odds with religion. The armed forces have maintained a vigilant watch over Turkey's political secularism, which they affirm to be a keystone among Turkey's founding principles. The military has not left the maintenance of a secular political process to chance, however, and has intervened in politics on a number of occasions.

Religious affiliation (2005)



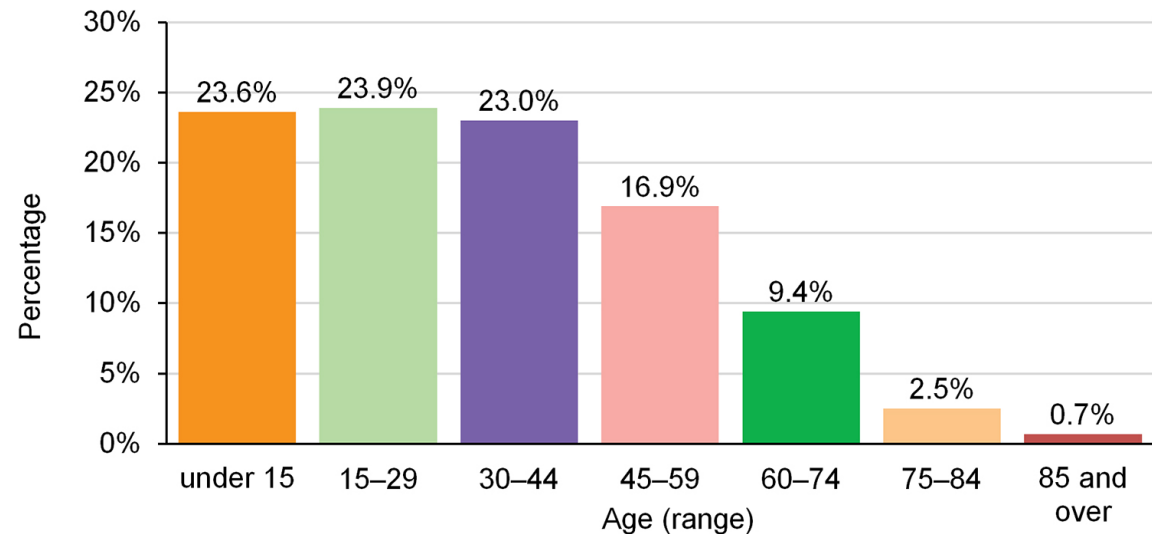
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*Mostly Christian.

Demography

- Overall, the population is fairly young. About half the population is under the age of 30. The birth rate and the death rate are both slightly below the world average. Life expectancy is 78 years for women and 73 years for men.

Turkey age breakdown (2017)

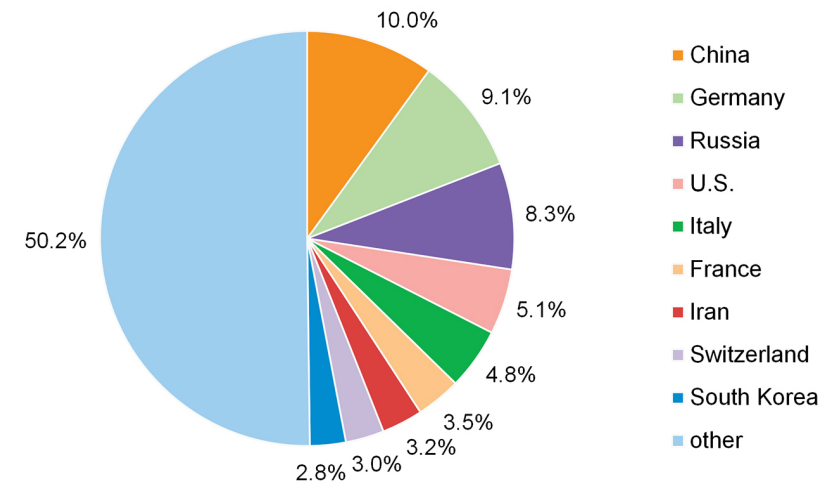


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Trade

- Foreign trade has played an increasing role in the Turkish economy since World War II. Until the 1960s most exports were derived from agriculture, and most of the remainder consisted of minerals and raw materials; imports were mainly limited to machinery, transportation equipment, and manufactured goods.
- The leading exports are textile fibres, yarns, fabrics, and clothing, iron and steel, fruits and vegetables, livestock products, tobacco, and machinery. Imports include machinery, chemicals, petroleum products, transportation equipment, and consumer goods. About half of all trade is with Europe, where Germany is the main trading partner. Russia and China are major sources of imports, and significant trade also takes place within the Middle East, particularly with the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, the main recipients of Turkish exports in the region; Algeria and Israel are also trade partners in the region.

Turkey major import sources (2017)*



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*Provisional.

Climate

- Aegean and Mediterranean coastal areas enjoy the typical Mediterranean climate. There is hardly a drop of rain during the sunny and hot summer (May to October). The water temperature in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas is warm and fluctuates between 23° and 28°C from north to south. The region around the Sea of Marmara, including Istanbul, has a transitional climate between Oceanic climate and semi-Mediterranean climate.



Food

- Fully justifying its reputation, Turkish Cuisine is always a pleasant surprise for the visitor. It combines Mediterranean, Central Asian, Caucasian, and Arabic influences, and is extremely rich. Beef is the most important meat (lamb is also common while pork is forbidden & extremely hard but not impossible to find). The most common preparations are roasting and grilling, which produce the famous Turkish kebabs, including döner kebab and köfte. Kebabs are dishes of plain or marinated meat either stewed or grilled. Almost every district of Anatolia has its own kebab specialty.



Purchasing Power

Water (0.33 liter bottle)	1.22 TL / \$ 0,15
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	3,50 TL / \$ 0,43
Milk (regular), (1 liter)	3.83 TL / \$ 0,47
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	20,00 TL / \$ 2.48
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	20,00 TL // \$ 2.48
Apples (1kg)	4,60 TL / \$ 0,57
One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	2.75 TL / \$ 0,34
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat	19.00 TL / \$ 2.35

Differences between the United States

- Small talks with strangers
- Food
- Addressing people with their first names
- Shoes on, or off?
- Housing
- Car Plates (City/State)
- Public Transportation / Car usage

Thank you!

