



# Türkiye

## Country Fact Sheet 2024

Funded by:



Federal Office  
for Migration  
and Refugees



Federal Office  
for Migration

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UN MIGRATION

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# Publisher

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This project is funded by the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).



The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

To benefit from the Turkish health care system, people have to register with the Turkish Social Security Institution (Sosyal Guvenlik Kurumu-SGK). In general, the Turkish health care system consists of private and public practices and facilities. For those registered with the SGK, treatment in public hospitals is free of charge. Private insurances, depending on their scope and coverage, can cover expensive treatment expenses. Within the SGK, vaccination, laboratory tests for diagnosis, medical examinations, birth preparation and post pregnancy treatments, as well as emergency treatment services are free of charge. The participation fee to benefit from the general health insurance (GSS) depends on the income of the beneficiary (starting from 600,08 TL for Turkish ID holders).

## Availability of medical facilities and doctors

If registered with SGK, beneficiaries can receive free treatment at public hospitals. Prescribed medication can be bought in pharmacies and is partially covered by SGK.

## Admission to medical facilities

SGK beneficiaries can receive free treatment at the respective community health center or in public hospitals. After an examination, people can contact the pharmacy directly without any registration or admission procedure.

## Availability and costs of medication

Beneficiaries can reach pharmacies easily. Every neighborhood has at least

# 1 Health Care

prescription, while others don't. The medicine price list (2023) can be found at this link: <https://www.titck.gov.tr/dinamikmodul/100>

## General information on COVID-19

19So far, a total of 152,721,239 doses of vaccines have been administered in Turkey. Thanks to these vaccinations, a significant decrease in the number of cases has been observed. In December 2022, there were 88,705 cases and 252 deaths, whereas in March 2023, there were 31,054 cases and 85 deaths. From March 2020, when the first case was reported, to March 2023, a total of 17,232,066 cases have been recorded nationwide in Turkey, with 102,174 deaths. With the second dose of vaccinations reaching 85,47 percent of the population throughout the country, compulsory mask use is no longer in effect as of 27 April 2022. However, all the services that came into effect when the pandemic began remain accessible to the whole of the population. To tackle the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Turkish Government has taken measures in line with the advice of the Science Commission (set up by the Ministry of Health). Within this framework, the Ministry of Health Communication Centre (SABIM) offers a free hotline service «184» to serve as coronavirus helpline in five languages (English, German, French, Arabic, Russian). Clients can request to be transferred to an interpreter.

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** There are no specific procedure for returnees to get registered. After being registered to SGK, family members (children/ spouses) of the beneficiary will also be considered as registered and will benefit from the free healthcare.

**Registration procedure:** There are no specific procedures. Returnees can apply for healthcare through the SGK agency in their residing province.

**Required documents:** For non-citizens: Residence permit (for non-citizens), passport. For Turkish citizens: Turkish identity card and an application form (to be obtained from SGK offices).



Photo: IOM 2016/ Muse Mohammed



## 2 Labour market

### General information on labour market

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the GDP per capita is 13.110 USD per person in Türkiye (end of 2023 - <http://Data.tuik.gov.tr>). While the unemployment rate was 8,7 percent and the unemployment rate for those younger than 25 was 15,6 percent, the employment rate was 49,3 percent in 2024. This includes 66,6 percent male and 32,4 percent female labor forces. The unemployment rate for women was 11,7 percent, and the unemployment of men was 7,2 percent. Employment rate divided by sector is: agriculture 14,6 percent, industry 20,8 percent, construction 6,6 percent and service sector 58,0 percent.

### Finding employmen

Vacancy announcements can be found through online job search websites such as <https://www.kariyer.net/> as well as through the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR). This agency accepts job applications and provides search assistance to Turkish ID holders. Additionally, this agency offers vocational training/courses. For further information, see: <https://www.iskur.gov.tr/>

### Unemployment assistance

Those who do not have a valid labour contract can benefit from the unemployment insurance services provided by İŞKUR. Private unemployment assistance is provided by banks and private insurance systems.



Photo: Unsplash 2018/ alevision.co

## 2 Labour market

- People who have made payments for 600 days are entitled to receive unemployment benefit for 180 days
- People who have made payments for 900 days are entitled to receive unemployment benefit for 240 days
- People who have made payments for 1080 days, are entitled to receive unemployment benefit for 300 days.

The following employment offices are available:

- Ankara, Atatürk Bulvarı No:133 Kızılay, Tel: 0 312 425 06 86
- İstanbul, Lüleci Hendek Cad. No:4 Tophane İstanbul, 0 212 249 29 87 / 3 lines
- Bursa, Atatürk Cad . No:104 Bursa, Tel:224 222 43 25
- İzmir, 1362 Sok. No:29 Çankaya İzmir, Tel:0232 441 11 03 / 441 18 85
- Adana: Kayalıbağ Mahallesi Ordu-1 Caddesi No:1 Seyhan/Adana, Tel: 0322 323 84 44
- Şanlıurfa: Paşabağı Mah. 765. Sok. No:42/A Şanlıurfa, Tel: 0 414 313 15 17

### Further education and training

The Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) offers vocational training, seminars and courses such as

- Labour training courses (employment guaranteed)
- Job acquisition courses for those who want to be self-employed
- Job development courses
- Vocational training and rehabilitation activities for disabled persons
- Vocational training of convicts
- Trainings given to those who are recovered by the unemployment insurance

Vocational Training and Small Industry Support Foundation (MEKSA) is an organization that operates as a private vocational training foundation with branches throughout Turkey. It offers a wide range of educational opportunities.

Cinnah Cad 09-10 06634, Çankaya /Ankara  
Tel: 0312 468 15 25 Fax 0468 58 97 , Email: [meksa@meksa.org.tr](mailto:meksa@meksa.org.tr), URL: [www.meksa.org.tr](http://www.meksa.org.tr) Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı, Mesleki Eğitim Müdürlüğü - Teknikokullar-Ankara Tel: 0312 425 19 67

### Access for returnees

#### Eligibility and requirements:

Independent professionals who are not affiliated with an employer are not eligible. Beneficiaries who have worked full time and received a regular salary are eligible. The average rate of unemployment benefits will not exceed the net minimum salary.

**Registration procedure:** Applicants must apply at the Turkish Employment Office Directorates within 30 days after losing a job.

**Required documents:** ID card and a letter of termination from the employer

## 3 Housing

### General information on housing

Rents and house prices are changing almost on a daily basis. Therefore, it is really difficult to find an apartment for sale or rent, with house owners charging astronomical prices. The government introduced some regulations regarding this issue at the beginning of the year; however, those regulations either fail to take effect or are hardly observed by individuals. Expenses such as electricity and water prices depend on the providers. Thus, expenses can change from city to city. In 2022, 5,135,324 people applied for the social housing project that was initiated. For further details: <https://a.toki.gov.tr/Projeler/sosyal-konut.html>. People must regularly search for accommodation. Prices in various cities per m2 in TL:

Istanbul	40.262 for sale	234 for rent
Ankara	21.806 for sale	176 for rent
İzmir	34.905 for sale	207 for rent
Antalya	35.461 for sale	172 for rent
Bursa	22.924 for sale	147 for rent

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.endeksa.com/tr/analiz/turkiye/endeks/satilik/konut>

<https://www.endeksa.com/tr/analiz/turkiye/endeks/kiralik/konut>

### Finding accommodation

Accommodations are advertised through newspapers, estate agents or friends. Using the services of a real estate agency is the most efficient and common way. Following are the website links to some of the most common estate agents in Türkiye:  
<https://www.cb.com.tr/>  
<https://www.kwturkiye.com>  
<https://www.remax.com.tr/>  
<https://www.sahibinden.com.tr/>

### Social grants for housing

Most of the financial institutions in Türkiye offer loans for housing. Most of them have repayment patterns, varying from 5 to 10 years. TOKİ - a governmental construction institution- also offers loans for more affordable rates than banks (<http://www.toki.gov.tr/en/index.html>)

### Access for returnees

Shelter services are only available for homeless people. Temporary protection and housing facilities only provides support for people with special needs. This assistance is mostly provided by NGOs., which are available in some areas. For contact details please see the list in section VIII.

## 3 Housing



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Tolga Ahmetler



## 4 Social welfare

### Social welfare system

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security is responsible for employment and social security affairs in Türkiye. Applicants must register with the Turkish Social Security Fund (SGK) to benefit from social security. Returnees can benefit from this system as well. The required participation fee depends on the individual income of the beneficiary. The participation rate is calculated as 30 percent of the gross income. Despite the high price increases experienced in Turkey in the last year, there has been no increase in childbirth benefits. Child allowance for civil servants is available. A Birth Assistant Payment is made to couples: 300 TL for the first child, 400 TL for the second child and 600 TL for the third and more children. These payments are made one time only. For example, a couple with 3 children will have received 1300 TL in total after the birth of their third child.

#### Access for returnees:

**Eligibility and requirements:** Returnees with a residence permit, who have lived in Turkey permanently (for at least one year) and have no health insurance under the legislation of their home country, have to pay a monthly compulsory fee. Beneficiaries must register the system and must pay in advance at least 180 days of insurance premium to benefit from the social security system/healthcare. The insurance will take effect automatically and beneficiaries will continue to benefit from the system for an additional six months even after leaving work. The insurance must have been taken out at least 60 days prior to the diagnosis.

**Registration procedure:** Returnees can register with the system through social security offices located throughout the country.

**Required documents:** For non-citizens: Residence permit (for non-citizens), passport. For Turkish citizens: Turkish identity card and an application form (to be obtained from SGK offices).

## 4 Social welfare

### Pension system

There is a public and a private pension system available. Participation fee is paid at SGK. Other than SGK premiums, there are no additional costs or additional participation fees. On condition that the beneficiary fulfills the requirements, he/she will receive a monthly pension fee in accordance with the premium payment level.

#### Vulnerable groups

People older than 65 years, disabled people over 18 years and persons who have relatives under age 18 with disabilities whose legal guardianship they assume can receive a regular monthly payment.

#### Required documents:

- Application form
- Health report by a board of experts
- 3 photos
- Document justifying disability to be submitted to the Provincial Finance Office
- A document proving the monthly income

**Widowed individuals and orphans:** Immediate families of insured individuals who died after retiring and/or who worked for at least 10 years are entitled to widow or orphan assistance. If the deceased worked for more than 5 years, his/her children under age 18, children in secondary school under the age of 20 and children enrolled in higher education under the age of 25 are entitled to orphan assistance. For more information see: <https://sgk.gov.tr/>

#### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** Turkish citizens above age 18, expatriates who can document their work abroad (which could include 1 year of unemployment), and spouses and citizens without any occupation above age 18 can benefit from a pension if they have paid their premiums to SGK, Bağkur or Emekli Sandığı in a foreign currency, for the whole or part of their stay abroad.

**Registration procedure:** Apply/register to social security SGK to which the person has paid their premium within two years of their arrival. Premiums paid from abroad can be transferred to Turkey and paid back in Turkish Liras calculated at the exchange rate at the time of the transfer. Housewives register with Bağkur.

**Required documents:** Certified copy of national ID card, letter of declaration and commitment, receipt confirming payment, 2 photos.

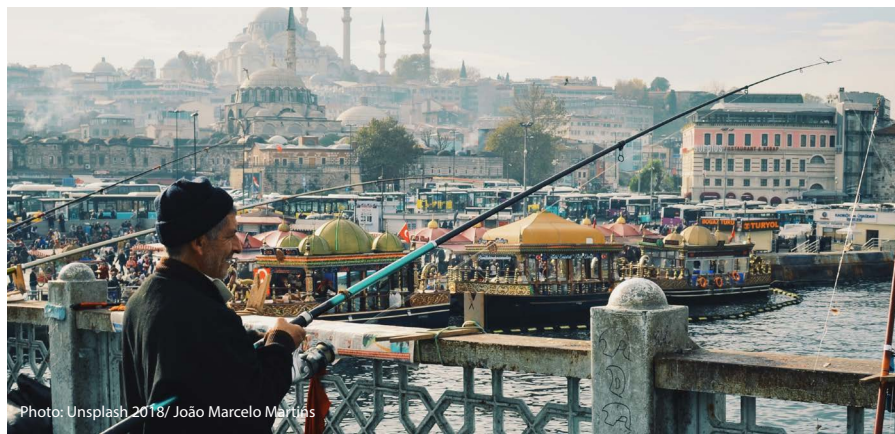


Photo: Unsplash 2018/ João Marcelo Martins

## 5 Education

### General information on education

In Türkiye, the education system of 12 compulsory years applies to boys and girls. In 2012-2013 educational year, a new system called 4+4+4 was introduced in order to enforce vocational training and religious education options.

### Cost, loans, and stipends

In public educational institutions, there are no tuition fees for daytime university education. For evening classes, the tuition fees can vary from university to university. The number of dormitories can vary depending on the room allocation and city. Loans for university students are as follows: 2000 TL for undergraduates; 4000 TL for degree students and 6000 TL for PhD students throughout the educational year of 2021-2024. All the loans are to be paid back after the education period. In addition to public loans, many private and governmental institutions offer annual loans as well. The General Directorate of Credit and Dormitories Agency is a state agency and provides loans to students who are pursuing their education in any higher education institution in Türkiye. Application deadlines and requirements can be found here: <https://kygm.gsb.gov.tr/>

### Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Applications for diploma equivalence can be submitted to the Higher Education Board in person or via mail.

Applicants for diploma equivalence need:

- Photocopy of the national ID
- Original or a certified copy of the previous school's diploma

- Original of the diploma
- Translated version of the diploma
- Official transcript and the original of the diplomas that the student has received studying abroad

### Access for returnees

**Registration procedure:** The equivalence procedure applies to those who have completed either their total or partial secondary education abroad. The equivalence for primary school is decided by the Primary School Administrations. Requests for this equivalence can be made through the Ministry of National Education ([www.meb.gov.tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr)) or consulates abroad.

### Required documents:

- For high school: the education certificate of the last academic year or relevant diploma
- For a vocational high school education: Certificate from the vocational training school abroad, relevant diploma or attendance records of the school completed prior to vocational training

The equivalence for Bachelor's degree, postgraduate and undergraduate students are decided by YÖK (Higher Education Board) upon submitting the following documents

- High school education certificate or graduation certificate, alternatively a certified copy
- High school equivalence document requested from the consulates abroad and/or from the Ministry of National Education in Turkey

## 5 Education



Photo: IOM 2016/ Muse Mohammed

- Original of the Bachelor's degree diploma or the relevant documents pertaining to postgraduate and/ or undergraduate studies, or a certified Turkish translation of these documents by Turkish Embassies abroad or by the notary
- Originals or certified copy of diplomas obtained abroad
- Photocopy of the ID card
- Certified copy of the passport including the pages indicating the dates of entry and exit
- Letter stating the reasons for asking for an equivalence
- Envelope size 26 x 35 cm

The equivalence application forms can be obtained at the General Documents Unit, YÖK Bilkent Ankara. For further information:

- Tel 90 312 298 7142,
- Website: <https://edenklik.meb.gov.tr/>
- Address: Yükseköğretim Kurulu Başkanlığı, 06539 Bilkent, ANKARA



## 6 Children

### General situation of children and infants

34 percent of the Turkish population is made up of 22.206.034 children. While the total schooling rate in public schools is 91,7 percent (2022-2023), the rate of secondary school for girls is 81,8 percent and 78,8 percent for boys. Nevertheless, private schools in primary education have an important role in Türkiye.

The healthcare system also provides free health care for children until the age of 18. Within this scope, an "Extended Immunization Program" is implemented in Türkiye. This includes vaccination services for the control and complete elimination of pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, rubella, mumps, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and H. influenza type b. These vaccinations are free of charge for all children. Through this program, Turkish children became polio-free in 2002, and newborn tetanus, which caused a high mortality, was eliminated in 2009. According to the Turkish Statistics Institute, the number of children (15-17 years) working in an economic activity was 720.000 (22,1%) in 2023 (no data has been found). Therefore, a National Programme on "the Elimination of Child Labour (2017-2023)" was launched with the goal of eradicating child labor. In this regard, the year 2018 was declared as "The Year to Combat Child Labour."

### Ministry of Family, and Social Services, Directorate General of Child Services

This Directorate was established to help vulnerable children and is the main organization for this in Türkiye. In coordination with the following organization, they provide different services.

**Child Homes:** are house-like units for children in need between the age of 0-18.

### Child Homes Buildings Complex (ÇES)

The ÇES is an institution offering housing facilities, similar to social service units which are located on the same campus, where children in need of protection can receive support.

### Directorates of Child Homes Coordination Center (ÇEKOM)

These are centers established to carry out the planning, opening, and functioning of child homes in the provinces. They ensure and control the expenditures and coordinate between Child Homes.

### Child Support Centers

These are centers providing temporary care and protection for children requiring psychosocial support because of being dragged into crime, being victims of crime or facing social dangers in the street. They determine their physical, emotional, physiological and social needs.

### Child Protection First Response and Evaluation Units (ÇOKİM)

These are units providing services until the appropriate service model is determined. This refers to children with certain protection needs e.g. children being dragged into crime.

### Anne ve Çocuk Eğitim Vakfı (AÇEV) (Mother and Child Education Foundation)

## 6 Children

The organization develops and implements science-based education programs for children in need, parents and young women across the country. Tel: 90 (212) 213 42 20 / 213 46 39 Website: <https://www.acev.org/>

### Anne ve Bebek Sağlık Vakfı (Maternal and Child Health Foundation)

The main purpose is to reduce infant mortality in Türkiye. The organization holds seminars and fund-raising activities.



Photo: IOM 2019/ Tolga Ahmetler



## 7 Contacts

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
UN agency for migration  
İlkbahar Mahallesi Konrad Adenauer Caddesi No:61-63  
Çankay/ Ankara  
+90 (0) 312 454 30 00  
ankmission@iom.int  
<http://www.turkey.iom.int/>

IGAM –İltica ve Göç Araştırmaları Merkezi  
Promotion and protection of refugee rights  
+90 (0) 312 440 23 55  
<http://www.igamder.org>

Türkiye İş Kurumu  
Labour market  
Emniyet Mahallesi Mevlana Bulvarı Nr.:  
42 Ankara, TR  
+90 (0) 312 216 30 00  
+90 (0) 312 216 30 01  
<http://www.iskur.gov.tr>

The Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants  
Protection for refugees  
Birlik Mahallesi Katar Caddesi  
Nr. 11, Çankaya / Ankara  
+90 312 427 55 83  
sgdd@sgdd-asam.org  
[www.sgdd.org.tr](http://www.sgdd.org.tr)

Humanitarian Relief Foundation  
Food distribution  
Büyük Karaman Caddesi,  
Taylasan Sokak, 3, Fatih, İstanbul  
Tel: 00 90 0212 631 21 21  
E-posta: info@ihh.org.tr  
Web: <http://ihh.org.tr/>

Ministry of Family and Social Services  
Financial support and protection  
Eskişehir Yolu Söğütözü  
Mah. 2177. Sok. No: 10/A 06510  
Çankaya/ANKARA  
+ 90 705 50 15  
abdiliskiler@aile.gov.tr  
<https://www.aile.gov.tr/>

Directorate General of Child Services  
Social and educational support  
Eskişehir Yolu Söğütözü Mah. 2177  
Sk. No: 10 / A Floor: 10/11/12/13  
T+90 (0) 312 705 50 00

Women Entrepreneurs Association  
Counselling and support  
Büyükdere Caddesi, Nr. 199, Şişli  
+ 90 212 266 82 61  
kagider@kagider.org  
<https://kagider.org/>

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Social Security Process:** Returnees should apply at the Labor and Social Security Consultancy and Attache's office to start the health and social security process. More information: +90 312 444 32 01 | [diyih@csgb.gov.tr](mailto:diyih@csgb.gov.tr). [www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/](http://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/)
- **Health Insurance:** To benefit from general health insurance, applicants must have a permanent address in Türkiye. For this reason, they should apply at the general directorate of population and citizenship affairs. More information: +90 312 591 2100 (01- 02) [www.nvi.gov.tr/](http://www.nvi.gov.tr/)
- **Education:** If returnees would like to continue their education in Türkiye, they have to address their education attaché's office abroad or office of education counselor. If the educational institution is registered with e-okul (e-school), the organization is part of the Turkish educational institution. <http://abdigm.meb.gov.tr/www/yurt-disi-temsilkilerimiz/icerik/27>
- **E-Devlet:** Applicants can obtain an e-devlet (e-state) account through Turkish embassies and consulates. Turkish citizens living abroad can use that website to access services easily via <https://iris.turkiye.gov.tr/Giris/>

### Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Health Insurance:** Returnees should apply to the provincial directorate of population and citizenship affairs to benefit from general health insurance and update their addresses. <https://www.nvi.gov.tr/il-nufus-mudurlukleri>
- **Social Security:** In case the living address will change, returnees should apply to the provincial directorate of the social security institution: [http://www.sgk.gov.tr/wps/portal/sgk/tr/kurumsal/il\\_mudurlukleri](http://www.sgk.gov.tr/wps/portal/sgk/tr/kurumsal/il_mudurlukleri)
- **Recognition of certificates:** To obtain a diploma equivalency certificate, applicants should apply to the Board of Higher Education. If needed, applicants are requested to be included in the placement and proficiency system. 0850 470 0 965 [denklik@yok.gov.tr](mailto:denklik@yok.gov.tr) <https://denklik.yok.gov.tr/iletisim>
- **Education:** Applicants who want to continue their primary and secondary education should apply to the provincial directorates of national education. [https://www.meb.gov.tr/baglantiilar/mem/index\\_ilmem.php](https://www.meb.gov.tr/baglantiilar/mem/index_ilmem.php)
- **Employment:** Applicants who want to enter the labor market should apply to the Turkish Employment Agency: <https://www.iskur.gov.tr/iletisim>

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Bureaucratic Operation:** Applicants who would like to receive general information regarding procedural and bureaucratic operations, should visit the website <https://www.ytb.gov.tr/>, 0(312) 218-40-00, [info@ytb.gov.tr](mailto:info@ytb.gov.tr), [trytb@hs01.kep.tr](mailto:trytb@hs01.kep.tr)

### Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **E-Devlet:** Applicants who have no e-devlet (e-state) account, should approach a post office to get registered. <https://www.ptt.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Banka/DigerTicariIslemler.aspx>

## 9 Virtual Counselling

### Migrant assistance in Türkiye

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Türkiye. Local IOM staff can be contacted in Turkish and English through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.



### Contact Enver at IOM Türkiye

WhatsApp/Viber: +90 538 861 38 35

Monday to Thursday from 08:00 – 12:00 (CET)