

1. IMMIGRANTS

1.1. Total number of immigrants

.....	1,328,405 (2005) ⁴
As percentage of total population.....	1.8% (2005) ⁵
Gender ratio.....	52.6% female (2005) ⁶

1.2. Status of immigrants

Permanent residence status

Table 1. Number of foreigners with residence permits in Turkey by reason of granting the permit (2005-2007)⁷

	2005	2006	2007
Work	23,184	23,381	24,881
Education	22,650	25,803	28,455
Other reasons	122,284	150,011	171,872
Total	168,118	199,195	225,208

Source: Directorate General of Security, Department of Foreigners, Borders and Asylum, Turkey.

⁴ United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2005) *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Directorate General of Security, Department of Foreigners, Borders and Asylum, Turkey.

2. EMIGRANTS

2.1. Total number of emigrants

..... 4,402,914 (2005)¹⁵
As percentage of total population..... 6% (2005)¹⁶

2.2. Status of emigrants and countries of destination

Table 8. Statistics regarding Turkish nationals abroad (2005)¹⁷

Country	Number of Turkish Nationals	Employed Turkish Nationals			Unemployed Turkish Nationals	Unemployment rate	
		Dependent Employee	Independent Employee	Total		Turkish	General
Germany	1,764,041	458,243	64,600	522,843	210,821	32.5	11.7
France	359,034	87,992	5,000	92,992	21,275	25	9.9
Netherlands*	358,846	118,000	11,500	129,500	13,000	10.7	6.2
United States	250,000	114,000	—	114,000	—	—	—
United Kingdom	150,000	50,000	13,000	63,000	4,279	9.4	4.7
Cyprus	146,442	46,010	—	46,010	—	—	9.4
Austria	116,882	52,021	3,000	55,021	10,834	17.2	8.7
Saudi Arabia	115,000	115,000	—	115,000	—	—	—
Switzerland	75,448	34,200	818	35,018	4,382	9.8	3.4
Australia	63,000	23,500	6,000	29,500	5,000	14.5	—
Denmark *	54,859	21,165	2,609	23,774	4,406	20.8	5.8
Greece	48,880	3,563	—	3,563	—	—	—
Canada	41,000	29,000	—	29,000	—	—	—
Belgium	39,885	13,412	1,743	15,155	5,416	36	8.5
Sweden	34,965	5,000	—	5,000	1,500	13.4	5.8
Israel	30,000	6,000	—	6,000	—	—	10.3
Russian Federation	22,808	22,808	—	22,808	—	—	9

¹⁵ World Bank, Development Prospects Group (2008) *Migration and Remittances Factbook*.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ministry of Labour of the Republic of Turkey, External Relations and Services for Workers Abroad, http://www.diyih.gov.tr/yayinlar/dosyalar/pdf/diyih_2005_raporu.pdf

6.9. Important migration actors within the country

International actors

The **Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey** is the channel for day-to-day relations between the European Commission and Turkey, and reports to Brussels on the latest political, economic, and commercial developments. It monitors and reports to Brussels the political and economic developments related to Turkey's reform process related to the EU *acquis* and short- and medium-term priorities under the accession partnership. The Delegation also actively supports Turkey's accession and negotiation process by direct involvement in the preparatory and follow-up stages of the process.

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The main focus of the **International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)** office in Turkey is the processing of refugee applications for resettlement in the United States. Currently, ICMC Turkey covers Turkey, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen, India, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, and Pakistan. Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan are also covered by the programme, although processing is currently not being conducted in these countries.

ICMC Turkey is committed to the monitoring of refugee caseloads, as well as working closely with local health clinics, municipalities, and other private and state entities. It strives to provide a human face for refugees as they are guided through the resettlement process. It works closely with Caritas Istanbul, the Istanbul Inter-Parish Migrants Program and the Refugee Legal Aid Program, The Light House, and The Human Resource Development Foundation.

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http://www.icmc.net/e/programmes_operations/present_programmes/turkey.htm

The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** office in Ankara promotes the ILO policy and programmes and international labour standards in Turkey. It develops, implements, and monitors technical cooperation programmes and projects. It also administers fellowship programmes both for Turkish nationals abroad and fellows from other countries in Turkey. ILO Ankara also maintains an information resource centre and a publication sales programme.

INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN TURKEY

Turkey has become a country of immigration. Since the late 1980s with the first influx of Iranian nationals fleeing the Islamic revolution, and more significantly since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, with the tightening of the borders of the EU and Turkey's growth within the global economy, Turkey has received millions of foreigners coming and settling in Turkey for asylum, business, employment, retirement or education. However, because of their spontaneous, unplanned and informal nature, these immigration flows have gone largely unnoticed for a long time. As a result, the issue of integration of these populations had not been raised until recently and no public policy was in place to facilitate integration. However, the nature of immigration policy and the structure of Turkish society and economy had meant that some immigrants could use other channels of integration. Finally, a new comprehensive immigration law was passed in April 2013 that openly refers to the need of integration of immigrant populations and the active role that Turkish authorities can play in this process.

The nature of immigration in Turkey: no need for integration?

Even though Turkey has always been a country receiving important numbers of immigrants into its territory, it is only in the last 30 years that immigration had meant a more visible cultural diversity in the country. From 1923 until the late 1980s, the large majority of people immigrating into Turkey were people who fell under the loose understanding of "Turkishness." Such immigrants were usually Sunni Muslim and/or Turkish speakers from the Balkans mainly, and the goal of the Turkish government was to fully assimilate them in order to reinforce the cultural homogeneity of the country: integration then meant assimilation. At the same time, Turkey has witnessed a steady emigration of its non-Muslim population (mainly Greeks, Armenians, Jews and Assyrians), further diminishing the cultural diversity of the country.

The arrival of Iranians in the 1980s, Iraqis (mainly Iraqi Kurds) in the early 1990s, Russians, Moldovans, Ukrainians, Romanians in the mid-1990s, and even more countries of origins spanning across Africa, Europe and Asia in the 2000s, has reversed this trend. As these new incoming populations could not fall under the category of "Turkishness," cultural diversity expanded considerably. However, this new phenomenon did not spark a new discussion regarding Turkey's new cultural diversity and the question of how to incorporate these populations into Turkish society.

There are a number of reasons why this public discussion did not happen. One is because these inflows were unplanned: they were mainly spontaneous, either dictated by political upheavals and conflicts in the case of refugee movements, or encouraged by new economic opportunities sparked by the economic transition of the former Soviet space and Turkey's integration in the global economy. In any case the Turkish government had nothing to do with these new arrivals: it had not been actively recruiting foreign labor the way most Western European countries had done in the 1960s, it did not have appropriate laws and regulations to deal with asylum and immigration, and it did not realize until later in the 2000s that Turkey had indeed, unintentionally, become a country of immigration. The large majority of immigrants in Turkey are not legally recognized as immigrants: they are usually either "tourists" or "irregular foreigners."

Another reason why the issue of immigration did not become a public issue is related to the relative invisibility of immigrants. A number of studies have shown that immigrants often opt to remain as far away from public sight as possible. Some happen to be invisible, simply because they work as domestic workers (nannies for young children or