

# TÜRKİYE MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITIES ANNUAL

2021

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GAV PERSPEKTİF

2ND  
EDITION



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Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu | Ramazan Ünsal | Furkan Özenci


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# FOREWORD



When accurate information is lacking, prejudice and distorted news often fill the gap. As migration and human mobility become central to debates in Türkiye like never before, misinformation on these topics is widespread. While discussions focus on asylum seekers and forced migrants, unfounded and speculative information about irregular movements also proliferates. These gaps in factual information are frequently exploited for political purposes. Türkiye needs a comprehensive and scientifically informed analysis of increasing migration and human mobility, followed by the development of sound policies and practices based on reliable data.

Human mobilizations have occurred throughout history, both in Türkiye and globally, and the migration challenges Türkiye faces are neither unprecedented nor unique. However, the current information age is marked by the ease of manipulating and distorting data. Therefore, accurate and reliable knowledge is crucial.

This annual aims to address gaps in understanding migration and human mobility in Türkiye. Many individuals contributed to this report, including Asst. Prof. Dr. Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu, Ramazan Ünsal, and Furkan Özenci, who diligently gathered and analyzed information and data over an extended period. The subsequent comparison, classification, and grouping of data were conducted with significant effort over several months.

The positive reception of the first edition led to its revision and reprinting, prompting further studies. Reprinting the study with a new design as part of the GAV Perspective publications is expected to enhance its value. We extend our gratitude to the Migration Research Foundation for their support in producing the second edition of the report.

**Asst. Prof. Ali Zafer SAĞIROĞLU**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## 2021 Highlights and Trends



### *The Presidency of Migration Management was founded.*

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**1.** Presidency of Migration Management was founded. On October 11, 2021, the Directorate General of Migration Management, which started its activities on April 11, 2014, was transformed into the Presidency of Migration Management. The establishment of the Presidency of Migration Management has been an important step towards a more effective and efficient management of human mobility in Türkiye in terms of improving migration management capacity, which is frequently mentioned in discussions on migration management and policies.

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### *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has continued.*

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**2.** The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt in Türkiye, as in other parts of the world, during the migration and human mobility period of 2021. Starting in March 2020, the pandemic started to have an impact on Türkiye and continued to affect human mobility with restrictions until April 2021. It is possible to trace the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on statistics in many areas from entry-exit figures to irregular migration movements. In 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is evident in the upward trend of the retracted mobilizations.

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***Compared to the previous year, the number of foreign people who entered Türkiye nearly doubled.***

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**3.** Compared to the previous year, the number of foreign people who entered Türkiye nearly doubled. The number of entries, which decreased with the pandemic, increased dramatically again after the impact of the virus was broken. The number of entries, which was 12,678,664 at the end of 2020, reached 24,630,685 at the end of 2021. However, it remained behind the pre-pandemic number of 44,527,385, which was the number of entries at the end of 2019.

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***The politicization of the migration agenda has accelerated and become more visible in politics.***

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**4.** The politicization of the migration agenda has accelerated and become more visible in politics. The increasing number of foreign nationals and asylum seekers in Türkiye has become more controversial in the political arena. The agenda on combating irregular migration and the return of migrants to their home countries has moved to the top of the agenda of other parties, especially with the entities that have emerged among opposition parties and their impact.

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***Debates on the return of Syrians have risen to the top of the agenda.***

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5. The debate on the return of Syrians has risen to the top of the agenda. For the first time in the Turkish political arena, the emergence of a political formation that is predominantly characterized by anti-refugee and anti-immigrant rhetoric has prompted both opposition and ruling parties to revisit their plans and projects concerning the return of Syrians. In this context, the issue has come to the public agenda more frequently and with more fierce debates than in previous years. Statistics indicate that an average of 4,000 to 5,000 Syrians voluntarily return to their country on a monthly basis.

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***The US withdrawal from Afghanistan has led to another round of migration and human mobility.***

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7. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan has led to new migration and human mobility. As of August 2021, with the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, there has been a resurgence of human mobility within the country. In parallel, irregular migration attempts and the burden of combating irregular migration have increased on Türkiye's eastern borders.

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***Türkiye's combat against irregular migration has intensified.***

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6. During 2021, the number of irregular migrants detained within Türkiye's borders was 162,996, while the number of those prevented from crossing the border was 451,096. The number of irregular migrants in 2021 shows an upward trend in all nationalities compared to the previous year. In 2021, among irregular migrants detected in Türkiye, Afghanistan and Syria nationals accounted for 57% of all irregular migrants. While the repatriation rate of irregular Afghan migrants was around 70% before the Taliban rule, this rate decreased to 40% in the following period and then increased to 50%. Among those who irregularly crossed to Europe through Türkiye's western borders, African, Afghan and Syrian nationals are the most prevalent, while Central Asian nationals among irregular migrants become irregular mostly due to visa violations.

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***The foreign nationals with residence permit and temporary protection status in Türkiye are concentrated in 16 different provinces.***

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8. Foreign nationals with residence permits and temporary protection status in Türkiye are concentrated in 16 different provinces. While 85% of foreigners with residence permits live in Istanbul, Antalya, Ankara, Bursa, Mersin, Yalova, Samsun, İzmir, Muğla, Sakarya; 78% of Syrians with temporary protection status live in Istanbul, Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, İzmir, Konya, Kilis. Both statuses are concentrated in Istanbul, Bursa, Mersin and Izmir.

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***International student mobility in higher education continued to increase.***

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10. International student mobility in higher education continued to increase. By 2021, the number of international students studying at higher education institutions in Türkiye increased by 21% compared to the previous year, from 185,047 to 224,048. This number corresponds to 2.71% of all students studying at higher education institutions in Türkiye

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***Yabancıların konut alımı artış eğilimi devam etmiştir.***

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9. While 45,483 foreign nationals acquired residential properties in Türkiye in 2019, in 2020 40,812 and in 2021 58,576 foreigners owned housing. House sales to foreigners, which declined in the previous year due to the impact of COVID-19, increased again in 2021. In 2021, 45% of all houses sold to foreigners were in Istanbul and 21% of them were in Antalya. Iranians (17%) ranked first among foreigners who bought houses in Türkiye, followed by Iraqis (14%) and Russians (9%).

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# POLICY SUGGESTIONS



1. Studies on migration management and public diplomacy should be expanded.

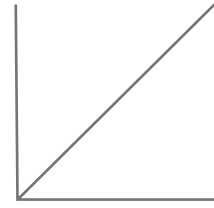
- A "Public Communication Strategy" on migration and migrants should be developed,
- Migration management strategy documents should be formulated and made public,
- The staff capacity of the Presidency of Migration Management should be improved in terms of quantity and quality,

2. The factors affecting irregular migrants' propensity to leave and return to the country of origin should be investigated and safe return strategies should be developed.

- Safe and dignified voluntary return mechanisms should be developed and diplomatic relations with source countries should be reinforced,
- Resettlement mechanisms to third countries should be used more effectively,
- Threats and risks to human life and dignity in source countries should be qualitatively analyzed and those in need of international protection should not be repatriated to areas where risks cannot be eliminated,

3. Statistics on migration and human mobility in Türkiye should be shared with the public and relevant experts in a more transparent and detailed manner, both to enable access to accurate information and prevent manipulation, and to increase the quality and quantity of academic studies. In this respect, the following are suggested regarding data sharing;

- Flexibility should be provided for restrictions on inter-institutional data transfer and sharing,
- A "Migration and Human Mobility Statistics Portal" that is accessible to the public and regularly updated by relevant institutions should be established,
- Statistics regarding all types of residence permits should be shared by the Presidency of Migration Management in a more comprehensive manner (types of permits, distribution of all nationalities, demographic information, etc.),
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Security publishes the previous year's statistics regarding "work permits" towards the end of the year. Statistics on work permits for foreigners should be published earlier and in shorter periods,



- Statistics on individuals granted Turkish citizenship (nationality distribution, demographic information, etc.) should be regularly shared on the websites of the Presidency of Migration Management, the Turkish Statistical Institute or the Directorate General of Civil Registration and Citizenship Affairs,
- The Turkish Statistical Institute should periodically publish statistics on migration and migrants,
- Contradictory statements sometimes appear in the statistics published by different state institutions on the same issues related to migrants. To address this, inter-institutional coordination should be implemented to ensure consistency and accuracy before data is release
- Support should be extended to meet the demand for statistics in academic research,

4. Türkiye has become a center of attraction for international students in higher education. This is very important for Türkiye's need for qualified human resource.

- In addition to increasing the number of international students, policies should be implemented to increase their qualifications,
- An impact analysis should be made on the quality of international students coming to Türkiye,
- An impact analysis of international students after graduation should be conducted,

5. The concentration of foreign nationals, especially who are under temporary protection and international protection, in cities where they are densely populated should be reduced.

- Strategies should be formulated to prevent tendencies such as concentration, introversion and radicalization,

6. Media and social media tools should be used more efficiently.

- Public service announcements on migration and migrants should be launched and broadcasted on television and social media channels widely,
- Fast, transparent, compelling and informative broadcasts should be carried out in order to combat manipulative and provocative discourse, especially on social media,
- Short films, videos and infographics that can be easily circulated on social media should be prepared

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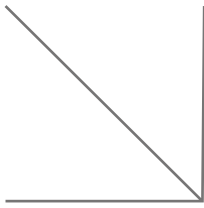
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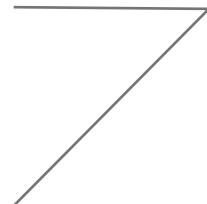


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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS



<b>ABPRS</b>	Address Based Population Registration System
<b>ALP</b>	Accelerated Learning Programme (UNICEF)
<b>Art.</b>	Article
<b>ECE</b>	The Early Childhood Education Project for Syrian and Turkish Children in Need in Türkiye
<b>EFTA</b>	European Free Trade Association
<b>EGM</b>	Directorate General of Security ("Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü")
<b>et al.</b>	And the others
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GİB</b>	Presidency of Migration Management ("Göç İdaresi Başkanlığı")
<b>GIZ</b>	German Society for International Cooperation
<b>GöçNet</b>	Migrant Registration System ("Göçmen Kayıt Sistemi")
<b>HBÖGM</b>	Directorate General of Life Long Learning ("Hayat Boyu Öğrenme Genel Müdürlüğü")
<b>İK</b>	Settlement Law ("İskan Kanunu")
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration (United Nations)
<b>JGK</b>	General Command of Gendarmerie ("Jandarma Genel Komutanlığı")
<b>KOM</b>	Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime ("Kaçakçılık ve Organize Suçlarla Mücadele Dairesi Başkanlığı")
<b>MEB</b>	Ministry of National Education ("Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı")
<b>MoCT</b>	Turkish Republic Ministry of Culture and Tourism
<b>MÖHUK</b>	Law on Private International Law and Procedural Law ("Milletler Arası Özel Hukuk ve Usul Hukuku Hakkında Kanun")
<b>MoT</b>	Ministry of Trade
<b>SG</b>	Turkish Coast Guard Command ("Sahil Güvenlik Komutanlığı")
<b>SUYE</b>	Social Cohesion and Life Education Program ("Sosyal Uyum ve Yaşam Eğitimi Programı")
<b>TAF</b>	Turkish Armed Forces
<b>TBMM</b>	Grand National Assembly of Türkiye ("Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi")
<b>TK</b>	Land Registry Law ("Tapu Kanunu")
<b>TRNC</b>	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
<b>TTK</b>	Tourism Incentive Law ("Turizmi Teşvik Kanunu")
<b>TÜİK</b>	Turkish Statistical Institute ("Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu")
<b>TVK</b>	Turkish Citizenship Law ("Türk Vatandaşlığı Kanunu")
<b>UAB</b>	Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure ("Ulaştırma ve Altyapı Bakanlığı")
<b>ÜİK</b>	International Workforce Law 6735 ("Uluslararası İşgücü Kanunu")
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>YÖBİS</b>	Higher Education Scholarship Statistics System ("Yüksek Öğrenim Burs İstatistik Sistemi")
<b>YÖK</b>	Council of Higher Education ("Yükseköğretim Kurulu")
<b>YUKK</b>	Law 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection ("Yabancılar ve Uluslararası Koruma Kanunu")
<b>ÇSGB</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Security ("Çalışma ve Sosyal Güvenlik Bakanlığı")



# INTRODUCTION



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Türkiye's unique geographical location places it in a distinctive position regarding migration and human mobility. In recent years, Türkiye has shifted from being solely a transit country to also becoming a destination for migrants. This change has led to an increase in irregular movements and requests for international protection alongside regular human mobility. Türkiye's 'attractive' features, resulting from socio-economic changes and transformations, draw migrants, while 'repulsive' factors in their countries of origin also push them towards Türkiye.

Türkiye's efforts to enhance its global role—through trade, tourism, student mobility, and short visits—appear to have accelerated international migration and human mobility to the country. Nations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, which have been battlegrounds for power struggles between major states like the US and Russia, have suffered from prolonged civil wars and political instability. People from these regions have been seeking protection. Conversely, individuals from countries facing deepening social and economic issues, such as Pakistan and Iran, are increasingly moving towards other nations.

This annual addresses the informational gap regarding migration and human mobility in Türkiye. Data from 2021 were meticulously gathered with great care and effort. The report is divided into four main chapters. The first chapter, 'Entry to and Exit from Türkiye,' includes statistics on visitors, day-trippers, and tourists arriving in and departing from Türkiye throughout 2021. The second chapter, 'Regular Migration and Human Mobility,' presents data on foreign nationals, covering residence permits, work permits, international students in higher and basic education, property purchases, marriages and divorces, and the acquisition of Turkish citizenship. The third chapter, 'Irregular Migration and Human Mobility,' analyzes data on irregular migration published by various institutions, including information on combating irregular migration, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking, based on data from six different sources. The fourth chapter, titled "International Protection," examines data on foreign nationals with international and temporary protection status in Türkiye, as well as information on resettlement and voluntary return.

Many institutions and organizations provide data on migration and human mobility in Türkiye, with the Ministry of Interior and its affiliated body, the Presidency of Migration Management, leading the way. The primary data source is the regular weekly publications by the Presidency, supplemented by statistics from other organizations that form the foundation of this study. This annual integrates information from various institutions, including the Turkish Statistical Institute, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the Ministry of National Education, the Council of Higher Education, the Ministry of Trade, the Turkish Armed Forces, the Directorate General of Security, the General Command of Gendarmerie, the Coast Guard Command, and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

In preparing the report, information disseminated through media and social media, while not always officially verified, has also been included. For certain topics, data not reflected in official statements were gathered from public statements by officials. Despite potential issues with this source, such information has been incorporated into the study to provide a comprehensive overview.







# ENTRANCE TO AND EXIT FROM TÜRKİYE



The primary sources of data on foreign visitors entering and leaving Türkiye are the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). Since 2015, GİB has collected data in a database called the Migration Registration System (GöçNet)<sup>1</sup> and publishes it weekly on its official website. The data for the 'Entry and Exit from Türkiye' section was obtained from the 'Statistics' section of the GİB website<sup>2</sup>, specifically under the 'Entry-Exit' sub-heading in the 'Current Data (Güncel Veriler)' category.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism publishes its data on the official website of the General Directorate of Investments and Enterprises. Monthly and annual data are available under 'Tourism Statistics.' For this report, we used the 'Border Entry-Exit Statistics for 2021,' found under 'Statistics for Previous Periods' in the 'Annual Bulletins' section of the 'Border Statistics' page on the Ministry's website.

The principles regarding entry into and exit from Türkiye are regulated in the Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection. Accordingly, the law states that "Entry into and exit from Türkiye shall be made at border gates with a valid passport or passport substitute documents".<sup>3</sup> In addition, foreigners who will stay in Türkiye for up to 90 days must obtain a visa by stating the purpose of their stay and a 90-day visa can be obtained for every 180 days. A foreign national wishing to visit Türkiye may request a visa from the consulates in the country of residence.<sup>4</sup> Another rule is that visas are also issued at border gates. In this case, visa documents can be issued by the governorship of the relevant province to foreign nationals who are at the border gates and document the date of departure from Türkiye. The maximum period of residence with visas issued at border gates is 15 days.<sup>5</sup> According to the Law, visa exemption is applied to individuals who will use sea ports for tourism purposes, provided that they do not exceed 72 hours.<sup>6</sup>

An analysis of the annual distribution of foreigners entering Türkiye, as published by the Presidency of Migration Management (see Figure 2.1), reveals that 29,704,394 people entered Türkiye in 2012<sup>7</sup>. By the end of 2021, this number had decreased to 24,630,685. Additionally, the number of visitors to Türkiye in 2019 was 44,527,385, but this figure dropped dramatically to 12,678,664 in 2020.<sup>7</sup>

1. After the establishment of the Presidency of Migration Management, the Police Information Network (Pol-Net) database of the Directorate General of Security was used for about a year, and since 2015, the Migrant Registration System (GöçNet) of the Presidency of Migration Management has been in use. The Migrant Registration System is an infrastructure where data on all foreigners in Türkiye with residence permits, work permits, entry and exit permits, under international protection and temporary protection, banned from entering Türkiye, stateless, deported, etc. are processed. Within the scope of this database, the Presidency of Migration Management cooperates with nearly twenty public institutions and organizations. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), "Migrant Registration System (GöçNet)", Accessed May 26, 2022.

2. Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT), "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics", Accessed May 26, 2022.

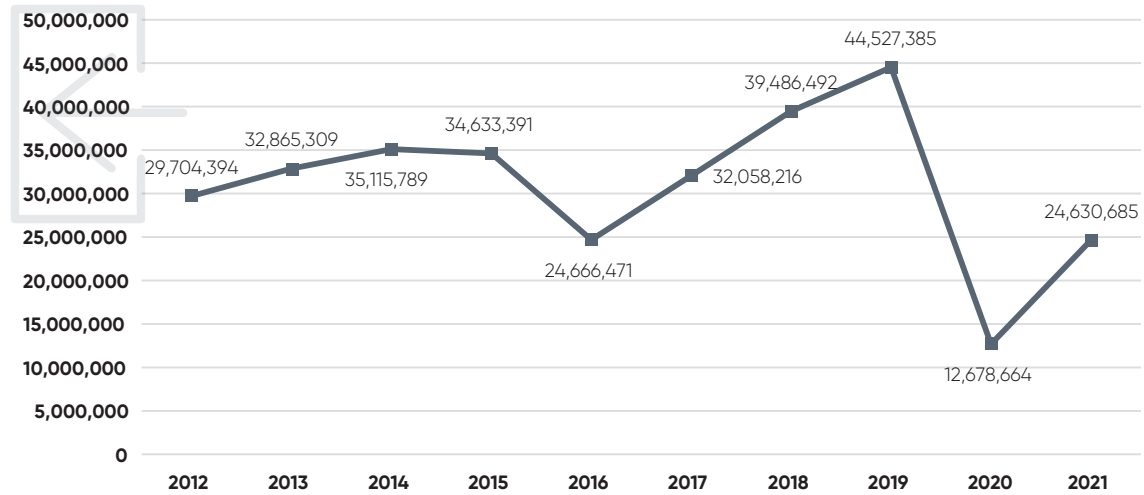
3. Law 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection (YUKK), Official Gazette 28615 (April 11, 2013), Law no: 6458, Art. 5.

4. YUKK, Art. 11.

5. YUKK, Art. 13.

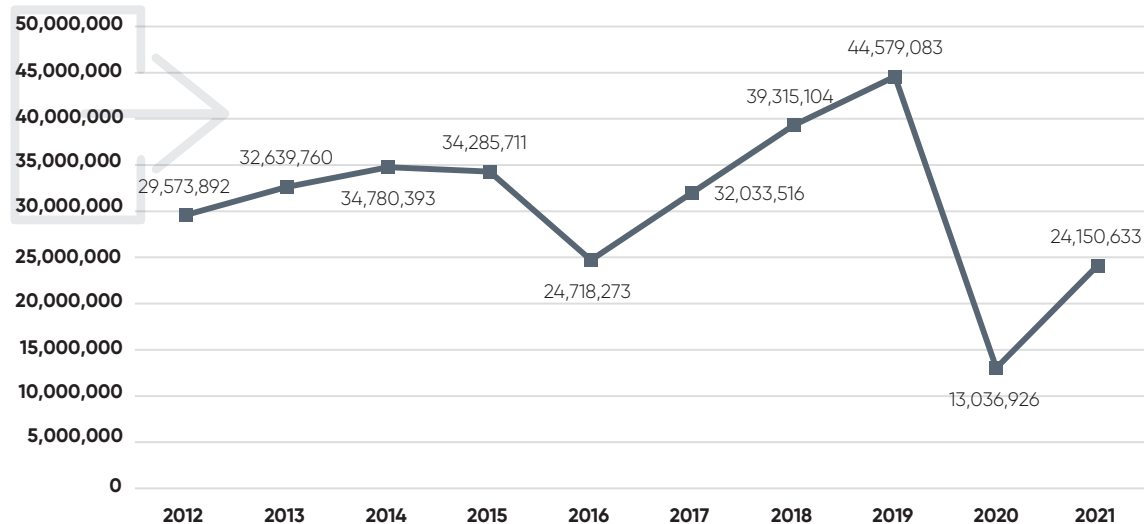
6. YUKK, Art. 12.

7. The data of the Presidency of Migration Management only includes data on foreigners visiting Türkiye, and the Presidency of Migration Management does not publish any data on visits to Türkiye by Turkish citizens residing abroad. On the other hand, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism publishes data on visits to Türkiye by Turkish citizens residing abroad. Therefore, when the data from both sources are compared, there is a significant difference: According to the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the total number of visitors to Türkiye is 30,038,961, while according to the data of the Presidency of Migration Management, the number of foreigners visiting Türkiye is 24,630,685. A significant part of the difference is related to the number of Turkish citizens residing abroad visiting Türkiye.



**Figure 2.1.** Distribution of foreigners entering Türkiye by year, 2012–2021<sup>8</sup>

Examining the data on departures from Türkiye (see Figure 2.2), it shows a pattern similar to that of entries into Türkiye. Specifically, the number of foreigners leaving Türkiye was **29,573,892** in 2012, but this figure dropped to **24,150,633** by 2021.



**Figure 2.2.** Distribution of foreigners exiting Türkiye by year, 2012–2021<sup>9</sup>

The dramatic drop in the number of people entering and leaving Türkiye in 2020 can be attributed to the coronavirus pandemic that began in 2019 and affected the entire world. During the pandemic, countries implemented intermittent quarantines and imposed various restrictions that significantly impacted human mobility.<sup>10</sup>

8 Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), "Entry-Exit", accessed 2022, May 22

9 GİB, "Entry-Exit".

These measures included border closures, flight bans, and flight restrictions. At the onset of the pandemic, many countries responded by rejecting flights from nations they considered high-risk and/or imposing bans on flights from those countries. Given that air travel is the primary mode of international mobility, these restrictions severely limited the ability of people to visit other countries. Since Türkiye reported its first coronavirus case on March 11, 2020, various countries imposed flight bans on Türkiye<sup>11</sup>. On March 27, 2020, Türkiye suspended all international flights<sup>12</sup>. Restrictions fluctuated throughout the year, with Türkiye easing measures in the summer of 2020. However, as coronavirus cases surged again towards the end of the year, new quarantines were implemented and flight bans were reinstated. By the summer of 2021, the normalization process had begun<sup>13</sup>, and the number of visitors both entering and leaving Türkiye had roughly doubled compared to 2020. Despite this recovery, visitor numbers were still below 2012 levels, underscoring the significant impact of the pandemic.

According to Table 2.1, which shows the distribution of visitors to Türkiye in 2021 by type and month, the total number of visitors for the year was **30,038,961**. Of these, **24,712,266 (82.26%)** were foreigners, while **5,326,695 (17.74%)** were Turkish citizens residing abroad. Monthly data reveals that July saw the highest number of visitors to Türkiye, with a total of **5,319,992**. In July, both the number of foreign visitors (**4,360,168**) and Turkish citizens residing abroad (**959,040**) peaked. Given that the summer tourism season runs from June to September, it is typical to see the highest visitor numbers during these months. Additionally, the relatively high number of visitors towards the end of the year can be attributed to winter tourism.

**Figure 2.1.** Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by type and by month, 2021<sup>14</sup>

Month	Foreigner	Citizen (Resident abroad)	Total
January	509,787	217,514	727,301
February	537,976	226,338	764,314
March	905,323	293,048	1,198,371
April	790,687	281,809	1,072,496
May	936,282	318,391	1,254,673
June	2,047,596	493,276	2,540,872
July	4,360,952	959,040	5,319,992

10 AJMC, "A Timeline of COVID-19 Developments in 2020", (2021, January 2).

11 Ayyıldız Huri Kaptan, "[One year since the detection of the first COVID-19 case in Türkiye]", Kırım Haber Ajansı (March 11, 2021), accessed July 23, 2022.

12 Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, "COVID-19 Tedbirleri Kapsamında 27 Mart Tarihli Uçuş Kısıtlamaları Hakkında" accessed July 23, 2022.

13 Euronews, "Coronavirus measures in Türkiye: Which restrictions will be lifted on July 1?" (June 28, 2021), accessed July 23, 2022.

14 MoCT, "2021 Entry-Exit Statistics"

<b>August</b>	3,982,168	648,166	4,630,334
<b>September</b>	3,513,453	485,852	3,999,305
<b>October</b>	3,471,540	495,823	3,967,363
<b>November</b>	1,763,982	317,261	2,081,243
<b>December</b>	1,892,520	590,177	2,482,697
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>5,326,695</b>	<b>30,038,961</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>%82.26</b>	<b>%17.74</b>	<b>%100</b>

Table 2.2 shows the distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye for 2020 and 2021, broken down by month, as well as the percentage change in visitor numbers between these two years. The data reveals a significant increase in foreign visitors to Türkiye in 2021, rising by **94.06%** compared to 2020. Notably, the months with the highest increases were April and May. In April 2021, the number of visitors surged by **3,262.18%** compared to the same month in the previous year, while in May, the increase was **3,038.83%**. Conversely, January and February experienced declines. In January 2021, foreign visitor numbers fell by **71.48%** compared to January 2020, and in February, the decrease was **68.96%**. These declines were primarily due to restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Table 2.2.** *Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by month and change rates, 2020–2021<sup>15</sup>*

Month	Year		Change Rate (%)
	2020	2021	
<b>January</b>	1,787,435	509,787	-71.48
<b>February</b>	1,733,112	537,976	-68.96
<b>March</b>	718,097	905,323	26.07
<b>April</b>	24,238	790,687	3162.18
<b>May</b>	29,829	936,282	3038.83
<b>June</b>	214,768	2,047,596	853.40
<b>July</b>	932,927	4,360,952	367.45
<b>August</b>	1,814,701	3,982,168	119.44
<b>September</b>	2,203,482	3,513,453	59.45
<b>October</b>	1,742,303	3,471,540	99.25
<b>November</b>	833,991	1,763,982	111.51
<b>December</b>	699,330	1,892,520	170.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,734,213</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>94.06</b>

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by month, along with the rate of change from the previous year. The data indicates that August 2021 had the highest number of departing visitors, totaling **4,593,059**. The months with the most significant positive changes compared to the same months in the previous year were April and May, with increases of **1,592%** and **1,298.48%**, respectively. Conversely, there were three months with negative changes. In January 2021, the number of departing foreign visitors was **582,216**, representing a

<sup>15</sup> MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

**72.08%** decrease from January 2020. February saw a **69.91%** decline, and March experienced a 16.18% drop.

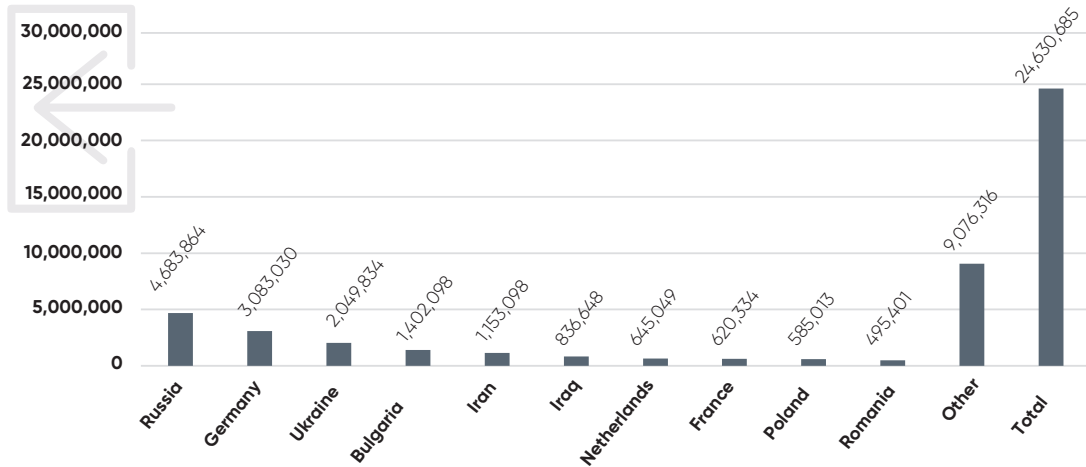
It is important to compare the profiles of foreign visitors entering and departing Türkiye. According to data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the number of foreign visitors entering Türkiye in 2021 increased by **94.06%** compared to 2020, while the number of departures grew by **85.09%**. This suggests that many foreign visitors who entered Türkiye in 2021 may not have left within the same year. Data from the Presidency of Migration Management supports this observation. The Revenue Administration reported that **24,630,685** people entered Türkiye, while **24,150,633** departed. In comparison, in 2020, **12,678,664** foreign visitors entered Türkiye and **13,036,926** left. Given these figures, there are a few possibilities to consider. Firstly, foreign visitors who entered Türkiye toward the end of 2021 might not have departed if their visas were valid beyond the year. Secondly, some visitors who arrived with a visa in 2021 may have stayed in Türkiye without registering their presence. Finally, it is possible that some foreign visitors registered with the authorities to stay in Türkiye longer.

**Table 2.3.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by month and change rates, 2020–2021<sup>16</sup>

Month	Year		Change Rate (%)
	2020	2021	
January	2,085,226	582,216	-72.08
February	1,682,590	506,266	-69.91
March	926,067	776,192	-16.18
April	53,796	910,230	1,592.00
May	54,840	766,928	1,298.48
June	137,880	1,507,737	993.51
July	542,781	3,350,237	517.24
August	1,724,568	4,593,059	166.33
September	2,200,338	3,664,055	66.52
October	2,015,347	3,802,633	88.68
November	974,200	2,102,260	115.79
December	694,912	1,671,443	140.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,092,545</b>	<b>24,233,256</b>	<b>85.09</b>

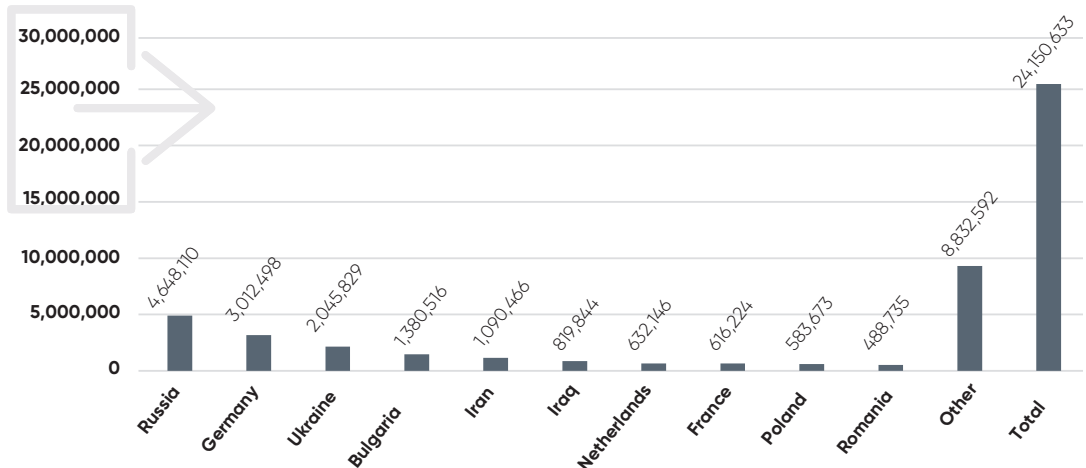
In 2021, the distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by nationality (see Figure 2.3) reveals that Russia, Germany, and Ukraine were the top three nationalities, with **4,683,864**, **3,083,030**, and **2,049,834** visitors, respectively. This indicates a notable concentration of visitors from European countries among the top ten nationalities. Additionally, only two neighboring countries are represented in the top ten: Iran, with **1,153,098** visitors, and Iraq, with **836,648** visitors.

The Presidency of Migration Management (GİB) provides data on the top ten nationalities entering Türkiye, along with the total number of entries. Although detailed information is not available, the large number in the "other" category (**9,076,316**) suggests a diverse range of nationalities among those entering Türkiye. Furthermore, it is observed that the top ten nationalities of visitors to Türkiye are concentrated in specific regions. To expand Türkiye's appeal and attract visitors from more countries, regional promotional activities could be undertaken to enhance tourism and broaden its reach.



**Figure 2.3.** Distribution of individuals entering Türkiye through border gates by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>17</sup>

In 2021, the distribution of foreigners departing from Türkiye by nationality (see Figure 2.4) shows that Russia, Germany, and Ukraine had the highest numbers of departures. Specifically, Russia had **4,648,110** departures, Germany had **3,012,498**, and Ukraine had **2,045,829**.



**Figure 2.4.** Distribution of individuals exiting Türkiye through border gates by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>18</sup>

Table 2.4 displays the distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by the top ten nationalities and provinces. It shows that the majority of visits were to Istanbul, with **9,025,004** visitors, and Antalya, with 8,737,168 visitors. In Istanbul, the top three nationalities were Germans (823,935 visitors),

<sup>17</sup> GİB, "Entry-Exit".

<sup>18</sup> GİB, "Entry-Exit".



Iranians (**781,986 visitors**), and Russians (**747,285 visitors**). For Antalya, the leading nationalities were Russians (**3,586,008 visitors**), Germans (**1,267,497 visitors**), and Ukrainians (**1,271,673 visitors**).

The "other" category also reveals notable differences: in Antalya, the number of visitors classified under "other" was **1,714,816**, while in Istanbul, it was significantly higher at **5,174,952**. This indicates a diverse range of nationalities among visitors to Istanbul. Overall, the "other" category accounts for **9,131,762** visitors, or **37.04%** of all foreign visitors..

**Table 2.4.** 2.4. Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by the top ten nationalities and the top ten provinces, 2021<sup>19</sup>

Province	Germany	Bulgaria	France	Netherlands	Iraq	Iran	Poland	Romania	Russia	Ukraine	Other	Total
Ankara	86,581	582	9,747	20,988	41,320	36,997	720	230	10,152	51,392	140,456	399,165
Antalya	1,267,497	20,509	74,965	133,427	22,777	62,389	416,924	165,283	3,586,908	1,271,673	1,714,816	8,737,168
Artvin	1,186	602	481	356	127	1,100	555	171	11,970	3,615	250,774	270,937
Edirne	301,455	1,139,043	102,918	79,431	4,253	17,062	10,968	177,866	5,617	46,821	714,175	2,599,609
Iğdır	34	4	6	18	-	19,869	-	2	321	44	123,307	143,605
İstanbul	823,935	50,318	379,600	256,931	341,490	781,986	37,643	90,043	747,285	340,821	5,174,952	9,025,004
İzmir	296,037	4,619	27,910	48,814	330	39,287	28,769	1,152	7,686	18,817	164,153	637,574
Kırklareli	2,982	178,928	706	662	66	110	2,961	51,924	10,327	14,946	14,387	277,999
Muğla	89,568	4,545	6,899	20,462	229	1,620	85,320	8,004	287,787	273,809	249,396	1,027,639
Şırnak	7,148	135	228	3,014	389,255	1,527	106	83	129	160	21,741	423,526
Other	208,792	3,510	18,033	81,498	36,777	191,145	1,110	1,420	26,240	37,910	563,605	1,170,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,085,215</b>	<b>1,402,795</b>	<b>621,493</b>	<b>645,601</b>	<b>836,624</b>	<b>1,153,092</b>	<b>585,076</b>	<b>496,178</b>	<b>4,694,422</b>	<b>2,060,008</b>	<b>9,131,762</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>
Rate (%)	12.48	5.68	2.51	2.61	3.29	4.67	2.37	2.01	19	8.34	37.04	100

19 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. For detailed information, see MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

According to Table 2.5, which outlines the distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by nationality, their share over the year, and changes compared to the previous year, Poland experienced the highest growth rate with a **300.99%** increase. In contrast, Bulgaria saw the smallest change, with a **12.86%** increase. In terms of overall visitor share, Russian visitors had the largest proportion among the top ten nationalities, accounting for **19%** of all visitors in 2021. Romanian visitors had the smallest share at **2.01%**.

Despite the overall increase in the number of visitors from the top ten nationalities in 2021, some nationalities saw a decrease in their share of total visitors compared to 2020. For example, while the number of Bulgarian visitors increased by approximately **150,000** from 2020, their share of all visitors decreased by about **4%** to **5.68%**. Similarly, although the number of Romanian visitors grew by more than **200,000**, their share fell to **2.01%**.

**Table 2.5.** *Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by the top ten nationalities, change rates, and nationality shares, 2020–2021<sup>20</sup>*

Nationality <sup>21</sup>	Year		Change Rate (%)	Nationality Share (%)	
	2020	2021	2020 / 2021	2020	2021
Germany	1,118,932	3,085,215	175.73	8.79	12.48
Bulgaria	1,242,961	1,402,795	12.86	9.76	5.68
France	311,708	621,493	99.38	2.45	2.51
Netherlands	271,526	645,601	137.77	2.13	2.61
Iraq	387,587	836,624	115.85	3.04	3.39
Iran	385,762	1,153,092	198.91	3.03	4.67
Poland	145,908	585,076	300.99	1.15	2.37
Romania	269,076	496,178	84.40	2.11	2.01
Russia	2,128,758	4,694,422	120.52	16.72	19.00
Ukraine	997,652	2,060,008	106.49	7.83	8.34
Other	5,474,343	9,131,762	166.81	42.99	36.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,734,213</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>94.06</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>





20 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. For detailed information, see MoCT, "2021 Border Entry–Exit Statistics".

21 Based on 2021, the top 10 nationalities are listed.

Table 2.6 details the distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye in 2021 by means of transportation and month. The majority of visitors used air transportation, totaling **20,326,854** people, which represents **82.25%** of all visitors. Land transportation was the second most common method, with **4,176,219** visitors (**16.9%**), followed by sea transportation with **207,606** visitors (**0.84%**). Train travel was the least used, with only **1,587** visitors (**0.01%**).


Among the monthly data, August saw the highest number of sea arrivals, with **34,682** visitors. The peak month for air travel was July, with **3,557,033** visitors. July also saw the highest numbers for land transportation (**778,981** visitors) and train travel (**450** visitors). Overall, July accounted for **17.65%** of all visitors for the year.

**Table 2.6.** Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by month and mode of transportation ,2021<sup>22</sup>

Month	Mode of Transportation				Total	Rate (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
January	9,241	400,784	99,756	6	509,787	2.06
February	8,843	414,049	115,080	4	537,976	2.18
March	10,837	743,029	151,447	10	905,323	3.66
April	11,015	633,406	146,255	11	790,687	3.20
May	9,878	764,662	161,730	12	936,282	3.79
June	16,555	1,700,006	330,949	86	2,047,596	8.29
July	24,488	3,557,033	778,981	450	4,360,952	17.65
August	34,682	3,366,575	580,383	528	3,982,168	16.11
September	26,277	3,064,808	422,201	167	3,513,453	14.22
October	22,191	3,027,706	421,440	203	3,471,540	14.05
November	20,805	1,331,435	411,661	81	1,763,982	7.14
December	12,794	1,323,361	556,336	29	1,892,520	7.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,606</b>	<b>20,326,854</b>	<b>4,176,219</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>82.25</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100</b>	

In 2021, Table 2.7 illustrates the distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by mode of transportation and month. August had the highest number of departures, with **4,593,059** people, accounting for **18.95%** of all departures. Among these, the majority used air transportation, totaling **3,766,842** people.

**Table 2.7.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by month and mode of transportation, 2021<sup>23</sup>

Month	Mode of Transportation				Total	Rate (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
January	9,224	461,708	111,278	6	582,216	2.40
February	9,034	381,330	115,898	4	506,266	2.09
March	10,487	611,130	154,565	10	776,192	3.20
April	11,359	732,936	165,925	10	910,230	3.76
May	10,084	611,166	145,661	17	766,928	3.16
June	16,347	1,207,997	283,363	30	1,507,737	6.22
July	22,310	2,792,284	535,520	123	3,350,237	13.82
August	35,853	3,766,842	789,225	1,139	4,593,059	18.95
September	27,604	3,153,966	481,962	523	3,664,055	15.12
October	23,008	3,330,893	448,238	494	3,802,633	15.69
November	20,933	1,677,434	403,758	135	2,102,260	8.68
December	12,831	1,151,067	507,529	16	1,671,443	6.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>209,074</b>	<b>19,878,753</b>	<b>4,142,922</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>24,233,256</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>82.03</b>	<b>17.10</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100</b>	

23 MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

According to Table 2.8, which details the preferred vehicle types for the top ten nationalities visiting Türkiye, the distribution is as follows: Ukraine had the highest number of sea travelers, with **32,114** visitors. Russia led in air travel, with **4,640,139** visitors. Bulgaria had the highest number of land travelers, with **1,319,874** visitors. Germany had the most visitors traveling by train, with **640** people.

**Table 2.8.** Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by the top ten nationalities and mode of transportation, 2021<sup>24</sup>

Nationality	Mode of Transportation				Total	Share (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
Germany	3,009	2,769,344	312,222	640	3,085,215	12.48
Bulgaria	1,865	80,957	1,319,874	99	1,402,795	5.68
France	1,963	515,153	104,334	43	621,493	2.51
Netherlands	1,032	561,039	83,483	47	645,601	2.61
Iran	1,468	943,206	208,293	125	1,153,092	4.67
Iraq	145	424,292	412,187	-	836,624	3.39
Poland	1,381	569,093	14,600	2	585,076	2.37
Romania	2,671	263,367	230,136	4	496,178	2.01
Russia	24,333	4,640,139	29,949	1	4,694,422	19.00
Ukraine	32,114	1,960,946	66,944	4	2,060,008	8.34
Others	138,045	7,599,318	1,394,197	622	9,131,762	36.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,606</b>	<b>20,326,854</b>	<b>4,176,219</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>82.25</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100</b>	

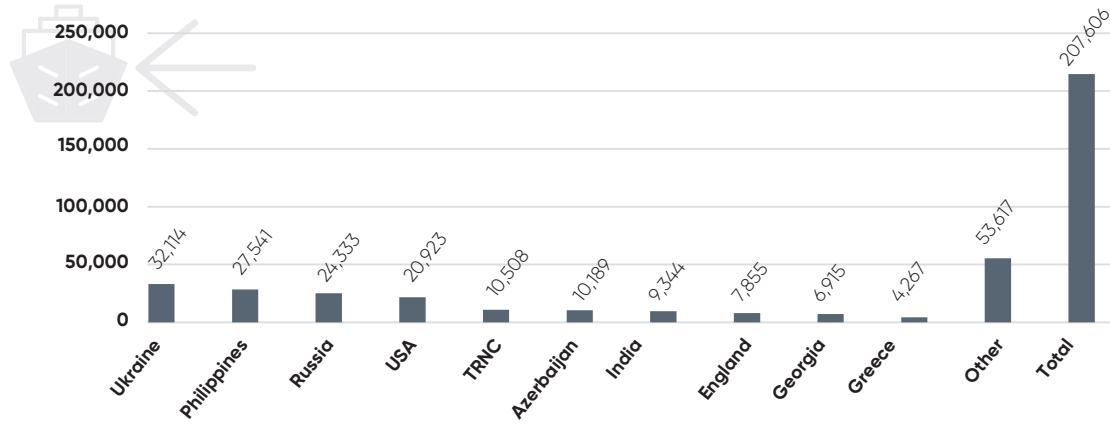
Table 2.9 illustrates the distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by nationality and vehicle type. The data shows that: Russian visitors predominantly used air transportation, with **4,602,714** people. Bulgarian visitors mostly used land transportation, totaling **1,295,761** people. Ukrainian visitors favored sea transportation, with **31,821** people. German visitors primarily used rail transportation, with **1,033** people.

**Table 2.9.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by the top ten nationalities and mode of transportation, 2021<sup>25</sup>

Month	Mode of Transportation				Total	Share (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
Germany	2,965	2,718,087	292,526	1,033	3,014,611	12.44
Bulgaria	1,806	83,471	1,295,761	180	1,381,218	5.70
France	1,763	514,012	101,484	91	617,350	2.55
Netherlands	1,034	553,653	77,836	168	632,691	2.61
Iran	2,105	867,348	220,884	115	1,090,452	4.50
Iraq	201	414,669	404,960	-	819,830	3.38
Poland	1,247	568,077	14,399	2	583,725	2.41
Romania	2,528	261,219	225,742	31	489,520	2.02
Russia	25,135	4,602,714	30,909	1	4,658,759	19.22
Ukraine	31,821	1,959,025	65,756	-	2,056,602	8.49
Others	138,469	7,336,478	1,412,665	886	8,888,498	36.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>209,074</b>	<b>19,878,753</b>	<b>4,142,922</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>24,233,256</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>82.03</b>	<b>17.10</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

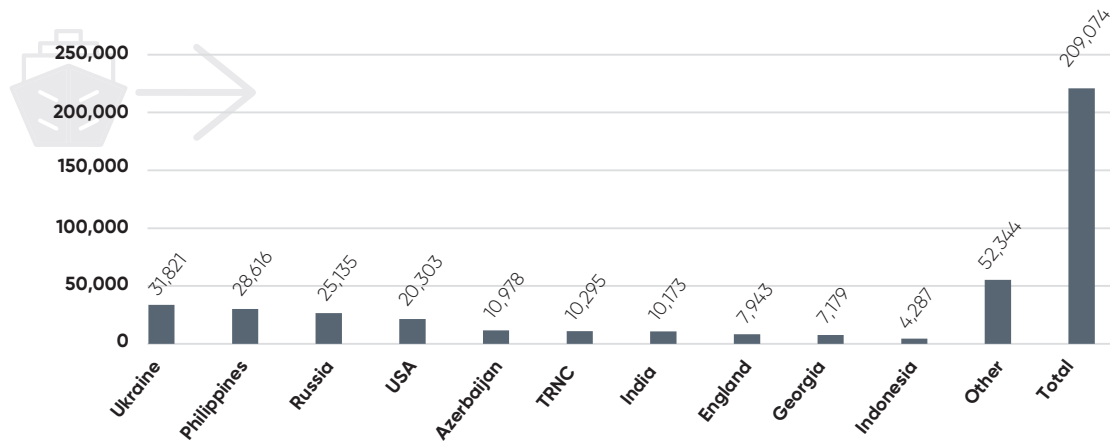
25 MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

Examining Figure 2.5, which displays the distribution of visitors arriving in Türkiye by sea according to nationality, reveals that Ukrainian visitors favored the sea route the most, with **32,114** people. They are followed by visitors from the Philippines, numbering **27,541**, and Russia, with **24,333** people. Notably, the relatively high number of visitors from the **Philippines** by sea is particularly striking.<sup>26</sup>



**Figure 2.5.** Distribution of foreign visitors arriving in Türkiye by sea vessels by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>27</sup>

Analyzing Figure 2.6, which shows the distribution of foreigners departing from Türkiye by sea vessels according to nationality, reveals that the highest number of departures were made by Ukrainians, with **31,821** people, followed by Filipinos with **28,616**, and Russians with **25,135**. It is noteworthy that the number of foreign visitors departing Türkiye by sea vessels exceeds the number of those arriving by the same means.



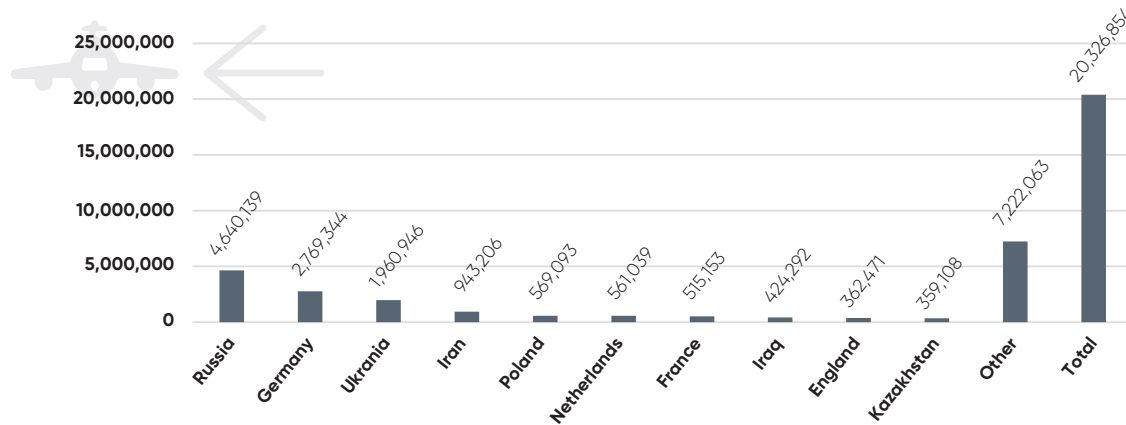
**Figure 2.6.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by sea vessels by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup> The Philippines is a country rich in maritime tourism with the advantage of its geographical location. Accordingly, it may be considered natural for the citizens of the Philippines to organize touristic trips by sea. For detailed information, see Emin Atasoy, "Filipinler Cumhuriyeti'nin Turizm Başkenti: Boracay Adası", *Uluslararası İnsan ve Sanat Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 5/6 (December 2020), 70.

<sup>27</sup> MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

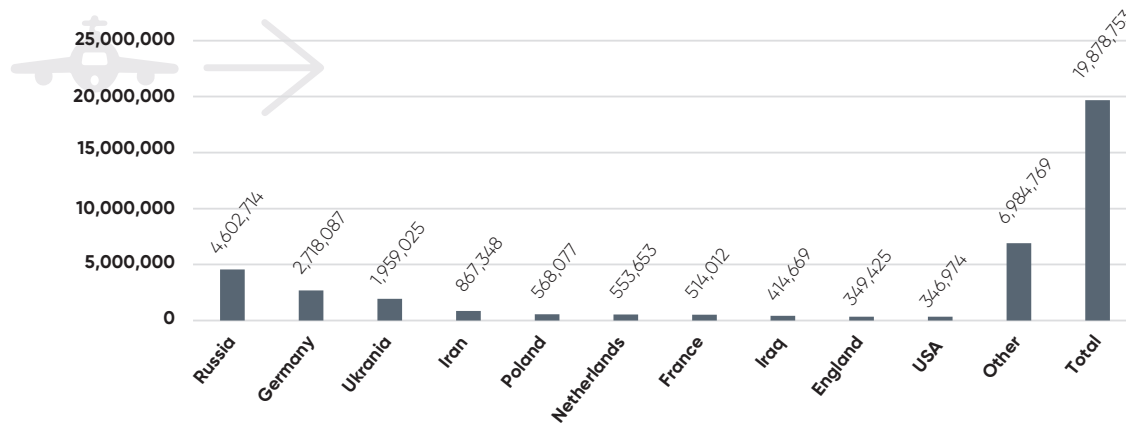
<sup>28</sup> MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

In 2021, a total of **20,326,854** foreign visitors to Türkiye used air transportation. The leading nationalities among these visitors were Russia, with **4,640,139** people; Germany, with **2,769,344** people; and Ukraine, with **1,960,946** people. Analyzing Figure 2.7, which shows the distribution of foreign visitors using aircraft by nationality, it is evident that most visitors came from Europe.



**Figure 2.7.** Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye arriving by aircraft by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>29</sup>

Analyzing Figure 2.8, which shows the distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by air according to nationality, reveals that the top nationalities were Russia, with **4,602,714** people; Germany, with **2,718,087** people; and Ukraine, with **1,959,025** people. Comparing the numbers of foreign visitors who entered and left Türkiye by air, it is determined that **448,101** people did not depart from Türkiye.



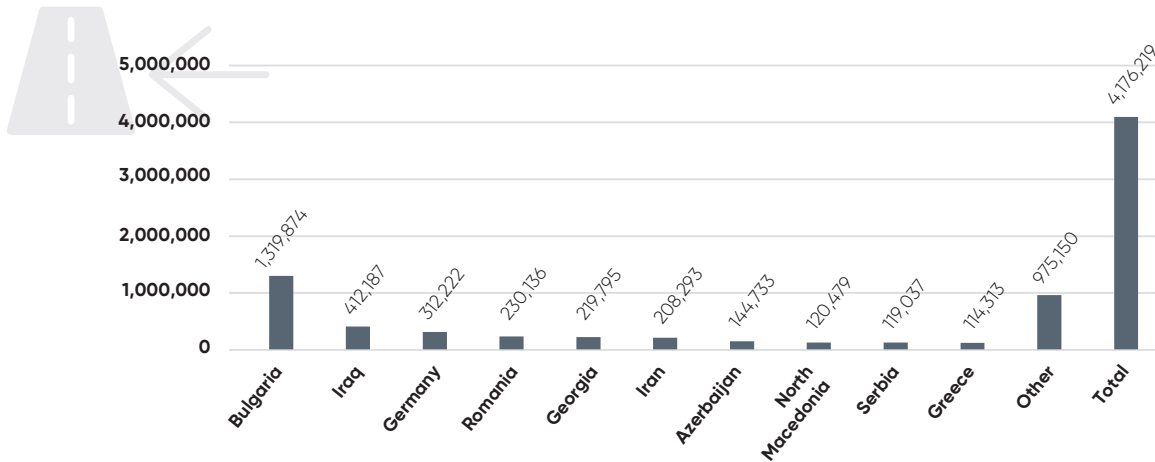
**Figure 2.8.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by aircraft by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>30</sup>

29 MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"..

30 MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

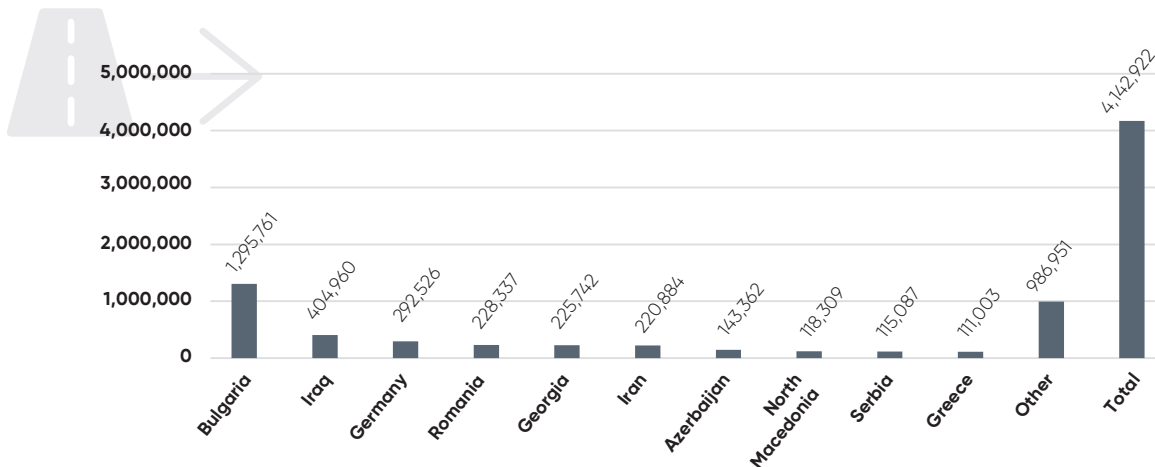


Analyzing Figure 2.9, which shows the distribution of foreign visitors arriving in Türkiye by land vehicles according to nationality, reveals that the highest number of arrivals were from Bulgaria, with **1,319,874** people; Iraq, with **412,187** people; and Germany, with **312,222** people. Notably, **54.46%** of all foreigners who used land vehicles to enter Türkiye were from neighboring countries.



**Figure 2.9.** Distribution of foreign visitors arriving in Türkiye by land vehicles by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>31</sup>

Figure 2.10 illustrates the distribution of foreigners leaving Türkiye by land vehicles according to nationality. The top three nationalities are Bulgaria, with **1,295,761** people; Iraq, with **404,960** people; and Germany, with **292,526** people.





**Figure 2.10.** Distribution of foreign visitors leaving Türkiye by land vehicles by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>32</sup>

31 MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

32 MoCT "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

In 2021, **9,025,004** foreign visitors (**36%**) entered Türkiye through İstanbul, while **8,737,168** (**35%**) entered through Antalya, with most of these visitors using air transportation. Among those arriving by land vehicles, the majority used the land border gates in Edirne, totaling **2,598,285** people. For sea arrivals, Muğla was the most popular entry point with **53,480** people, followed by İstanbul with **37,100** people. Notably, the majority of foreign visitors arriving by train entered Türkiye through Edirne, with **1,324** people.

**Table 2.10.** Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by the top ten provinces and mode of transportation, 2021<sup>33</sup>

Province	Mode of Transportation				Total	Rate (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
Ankara	-	399,165	-	-	399,165	1.62
Antalya	1,963	8,735,205	-	-	8,737,168	35.36
Artvin	367	339	270,231	-	270,937	1.10
Edirne	-	-	2,598,285	1,324	2,599,609	10.52
Iğdır	-	-	143,605	-	143,605	0.58
İstanbul	37,100	8,987,904	-	-	9,025,004	36.52
İzmir	6,491	631,083	-	-	637,574	2.58
Kırklareli	-	-	277,999	-	277,999	1.12
Muğla	53,480	974,159	-	-	1,027,639	4.16
Şırnak	-	-	423,526	-	423,526	1.71
Other	108,205	598,999	462,573	263	1,170,040	4.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,606</b>	<b>20,326,854</b>	<b>4,176,219</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>24,712,266</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>82.25</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100</b>	

<sup>33</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. For detailed information, see MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

Table 2.11 shows that, similar to arrivals, the majority of foreigners departing from Türkiye did so from Istanbul (**8,729,293 people, or 36.02%**) and Antalya (**8,651,056 people, or 35.70%**), with air transportation being the most commonly used mode.

Comparing the distribution of foreigners entering and leaving Türkiye by mode of transportation, it is observed that approximately **450,000** individuals who used air transportation and around **30,000** who used land transportation had not yet departed by the end of 2021. Conversely, approximately **1,500** people who used sea transportation and about **1,000** who used train transportation had left Türkiye in greater numbers than those who had entered by these modes.

**Table 2.11.** Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by the top ten provinces and mode of transportation, 2021<sup>34</sup>

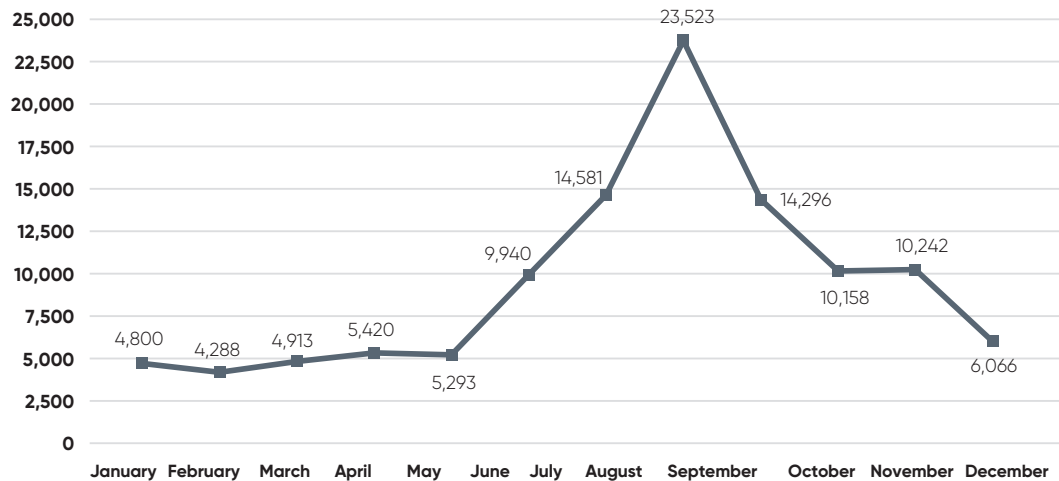
Province	Mode of Transportation				Total	Rate (%)
	 Sea	 Air	 Land	 Train		
Ankara	-	381,116	-	-	381,116	1.57
Antalya	1,618	8,649,438	-	-	8,651,056	35.70
Artvin	368	297	286,110	-	286,775	1.18
Edirne	-	-	2,515,985	2,283	2,518,268	10.39
Hatay	4,110	3,348	131,810	-	139,268	0.57
İstanbul	39,209	8,690,084	-	-	8,729,293	36.02
İzmir	5,401	627,882	-	-	633,283	2.61
Kırklareli	-	-	278,349	-	278,349	1.15
Muğla	53,862	961,987	-	-	1,015,849	4.19
Şırnak	-	-	420,181	-	420,181	1.73
Other	104,506	564,601	510,487	224	1,179,818	4.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>209,074</b>	<b>19,878,753</b>	<b>4,142,922</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>24,233,256</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>82.03</b>	<b>17.10</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>100</b>	

34 MoCT "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

According to Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, visa exemptions apply to individuals arriving by sea ports for tourism purposes, provided their stay does not exceed 72 hours<sup>35</sup>. Additionally, based on border statistics published by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, day-trippers are exclusively those who enter Türkiye by sea vessels. Therefore, it can be inferred that this provision of the law pertains specifically to day-trippers.

The term "day-tripper" was first defined at the United Nations International Conference on Tourism and Travel in 1963 as visitors who stay in a country for less than 24 hours.<sup>36</sup> National legislation aligns with this definition but specifically applies the concept to day-trip facilities and day-trip boats. Day-trip boats are those that pick up passengers from a port for tourism, sightseeing, or sports and return them to the same port on the same day.<sup>37</sup> Day-trip facilities, which can be established by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, must comply with Coastal Law No. 3621, be suited for public benefit, offer free access, and exclude accommodation.<sup>38</sup>

In 2021, Figure 2.11 shows that the highest number of day visitors to Türkiye occurred in August, with **23,523** people, followed by July with **14,581** people and September with **14,296** people. Conversely, day visitor numbers were relatively low during the winter and spring months.



**Figure 2.11.** Monthly distribution of day-trippers to Türkiye, 2021<sup>39</sup>

35 YUKK, Art. 12/2-b.

36 Füsün Esenkal-Çökeli, et al. "International Basic Documents (Conventions) on which International Tourism Agreements are Based", 15th Traditional Tourism Symposium 2016 Proceedings Book, ed. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Doğubay (Balıkesir: Balıkesir University Faculty of Tourism, 2016), 1/565.

37 Maritime Tourism Regulation, Official Gazette 27298 (July 24, 2009), Art. 24/1.

38 Tourism Incentive Law (TTK), Official Gazette 17635 (March 16, 1982), Law no: 2634, Art. 6/2.

39 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. For detailed information, see MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

Examining Table 2.12, which details the rate of change and distribution of foreigners visiting Türkiye as day-trippers by month, reveals that the highest positive changes occurred in August (**299.52%**), July (**235.26%**), and September (**228.53%**). Conversely, the largest negative changes were observed in January (**-81.06%**), February (**-70.99%**), and March (**-53.63%**).

**Table 2.12.** Distribution of foreign day-trippers to Türkiye by month and change rate, 2020-2021<sup>40</sup>

Month	Year		Change Rate (%)
	2020	2021	
January	15,315	2,901	-81.06
February	8,341	2,420	-70.99
March	6,427	2,980	-53.63
April	2,557	3,185	24.56
May	2,090	2,277	8.95
June	3,865	6,369	64.79
July	3,412	11,439	235.26
August	5,227	20,883	299.52
September	4,182	13,739	228.53
October	3,852	10,075	161.55
November	3,546	10,241	188.80
December	3,627	2,782	-23.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,441</b>	<b>89,291</b>	<b>43.00</b>

In 2021, Table 2.13 shows the distribution of day visitors to Türkiye by ports in the top ten provinces and by nationality. The leading nationalities among day visitors were the United States (18,978 people, or 21.25%), the Philippines (10,964 people, or 12.28%), and Ukraine (10,816 people, or 12.11%). The majority of day-trippers visited ports in Muğla (45,312 people), Samsun (20,947 people), and Aydın (8,605 people). This indicates that the ports in these provinces are well-suited for maritime tourism. To further develop maritime tourism in Türkiye, it is recommended to enhance port facilities and investments in these and other coastal provinces.

40 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. For detailed information, see MoCT, "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".

Among the day-trippers to Türkiye in 2021, notable distributions by nationality and port include 11,597 US nationals staying in Muğla and **6,720** in Aydın; **1,722** Philippine nationals in Muğla and **2,064** in Samsun; and **4,502** Ukrainian nationals in Sakarya and **4,046** in Samsun, all for periods not exceeding 24 hours. Particularly noteworthy is the relatively high number of visits to Samsun by Philippine visitors.

Furthermore, a significant finding is the concentration of day-trippers of the same nationality in specific regions. For instance, 4,478 out of 5,787 UK visitors chose Muğla for their day visits, while 2,675 out of 3,487 Azerbaijani visitors opted for Samsun. This highlights Muğla and Samsun as key ports for day-trippers from particular nationalities.

**Table 2.13.** Distribution of foreign day-tripper visitors to Türkiye by the top ten nationalities and the top ten provinces, 2021<sup>41</sup>

Province	USA	Philippines	Ukraine	Russia	England	Azerbaijan	Indonesia	Germany	Georgia	Greece	Other	Total
Aydın	6,720	-	49	287	520	-	4	115	-	14	896	8,605
Giresun	-	31	123	143	-	97	-	-	26	-	0	420
İstanbul	609	-	-	-	774	-	-	18	-	8	260	1,669
Kocaeli	-	343	203	105	-	53	8	1	67	24	403	1,207
Muğla	11,597	7,722	918	669	4,478	-	2,735	2,026	11	1,656	13,500	45,312
Mersin	1	32	33	6	1	12	-	-	10	14	141	250
Sakarya	-	-	4,502	1,198	-	199	-	9	10	-	390	6,308
Samsun	7	2,064	4,046	7,037	11	2,675	21	3	1,879	71	3,133	20,947
Trabzon	-	515	764	1,140	-	296	-	-	37	18	233	3,003
Yalova	7	159	53	57	1	35	-	-	26	4	607	949
Other	37	98	125	21	2	120	2	0	19	9	188	621
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,978</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>10,816</b>	<b>10,663</b>	<b>5,787</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>19,751</b>	<b>89,291</b>
<b>Rate (%)</b>	<b>21.25</b>	<b>12.28</b>	<b>12.11</b>	<b>11.94</b>	<b>6.48</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>2.43</b>	<b>2.34</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>22.12</b>	<b>100</b>

41 MoCT "2021 Border Entry-Exit Statistics".





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# **REGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITIES**



According to the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), "regular migration" refers to migration that occurs through legal channels.<sup>42</sup> In this context, regular migration in Türkiye will be examined under several key areas: residence permits, work permits, international students in higher education, international students in primary and secondary education, property ownership, marriage, divorce, and the acquisition of Turkish citizenship. The primary sources for information on regular migration and human mobility include the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (ÇŞGB), the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), and the Ministry of National Education (MEB).

In 2021, the Turkish Statistical Institute published data on foreigners with residence permits, work permits, blue cards, and those under international protection in Türkiye. This data, available in the statistical table titled "Foreign Population by Country of Citizenship" through the Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) on their website, does not include Syrian nationals under temporary protection or foreigners with residence permits for less than three months. The data indicates that there are **1,796,036** foreigners from **131** different nationalities in Türkiye, though the exact number of countries categorized as "other" is not specified. The statistics were compiled to show the distribution of foreign nationals by region. Of the foreigners residing in Türkiye, **33.63%** come from countries neighboring Türkiye, **18.39%** from Turkic republics, **16.05%** from Europe, **14.53%** from Asia, **10.33%** from Africa, and **7.07%** from other regions around the world.

Analyzing the distribution of foreigners in Türkiye by the top ten nationalities (Table 3.1.), it is observed that the largest groups are from Iraq, with **322,015** individuals (**17.96%**), followed by Afghanistan with **183,567** individuals (**10.24%**), and Iran with **128,883** individuals (**7.19%**). Notably, these top ten nationalities account for **67.61%** of all foreigners in Türkiye.

Among the top ten nationalities, **30.98%** are from Türkiye's neighboring countries (Iraq, Iran, Syria), while **16.9%** come from Turkic republics (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan). Additionally, foreigners from European countries (Germany and Russia) represent **9.44%** of the top ten nationalities.

42 Richard Perruchoud (ed.) & Jilyanne Redpath-Cross (ed.), Göç Terimleri Sözlüğü (PDF: UN International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2013), 26

**Table 3.1.** Distribution of foreigners in Türkiye by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>43</sup>

Nationality	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>44</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>45</sup>	Total	Rate (%) <sup>46</sup>
<b>Iraq</b>	166,675	51.76	155,340	48.24	322,015	17.96
<b>Afghanistan</b>	106,625	58.08	76,942	41.92	183,567	10.24
<b>Iran</b>	64,747	50.23	64,136	49.77	128,883	7.19
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	65,140	52.54	58,825	47.46	123,965	6.91
<b>Syria</b>	56,555	54.09	47,999	45.91	104,554	5.83
<b>Germany</b>	50,203	48.93	52,389	51.07	102,592	5.72
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	23,085	32.44	48,060	67.56	71,145	3.97
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	31,490	45.92	37,072	54.08	68,562	3.82
<b>Russia</b>	25,170	37.68	41,616	62.32	66,786	3.72
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	15,927	40.36	23,527	59.64	39,454	2.20
<b>Other<sup>47</sup></b>	285,240	49.13	295,562	50.87	580,513	32.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>890,857</b>	<b>49.71</b>	<b>901,179</b>	<b>50.29</b>	<b>1,792,036</b>	<b>100.00</b>

In 2021, the provincial distribution of foreigners in Türkiye (Table 3.2.) reveals that the highest concentrations are in Istanbul, with **740,954** individuals (**41.34%**), followed by Ankara with **173,264** individuals (**9.66%**), and Antalya with **136,946** individuals (**7.64%**). Together, these three provinces account for **58.64%** of all foreigners in Türkiye. Conversely, the provinces with the fewest foreigners are Bitlis, with 207 individuals (0.01%), Ardahan, with **270** individuals (**0.01%**), and Tunceli, with **366** individuals (**0.02%**).

Regarding the percentage of foreigners in each province compared to the provincial population, only one province—Yalova—has a ratio exceeding 10%, with **10.48%**. Two provinces fall into the 5–10% range: Ankara at **9.66%** and Antalya at **7.64%**. There are 43 provinces where the foreign population constitutes between 1% and 5% of the total provincial population. The remaining 35 provinces have foreign populations below 1%. Overall, foreigners make up **2.11%** of Türkiye's total population.

43 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "Foreign Population by Country of Citizenship", accessed May 26, 2022.

44 Refers to the ratio of foreign males to females in the respective nationality.

45 Refers to the ratio of foreign women to men in the respective nationality compared to men.

46 Refers to the proportion of the respective nationality among all foreigners.

47 "Other" category includes stateless individuals (397 individuals), individuals of unknown nationality (165 individuals) and other countries.

**Table 3.2.** Distribution of foreigners in Türkiye by province, 2021

Province	Total	Rate(%) <sup>48</sup>	Population of Foreigners in relation to Provincial Population	Province	Total	Rate(%) <sup>49</sup>	Population of Foreigners in relation to Provincial Population
Adana	15,899	0.88	0.70	Kahramanmaraş	4,260	0.23	0.36
Adıyaman	1,625	0.09	0.25	Karabük	10,727	0.59	4.30
Afyonkarahisar	12,419	0.69	1.66	Karaman	3,201	0.17	1.23
Ağrı	1,117	0.06	0.21	Kars	1,626	0.09	0.57
Aksaray	17,436	0.97	4.06	Kastamonu	5,242	0.29	1.39
Amasya	4,206	0.23	1.25	Kayseri	20,859	1.16	1.45
Ankara	173,264	9.66	3.01	Kırıkkale	8,357	0.46	3.02
Antalya	136,946	7.64	5.22	Kırklareli	3,118	0.17	0.85
Ardahan	270	0.01	0.28	Kırşehir	14,005	0.78	5.76
Artvin	604	0.03	0.35	Kilis	2,009	0.11	1.37
Aydın	12,090	0.67	1.06	Kocaeli	17,384	0.97	0.85
Balıkesir	11,991	0.66	0.95	Konya	30,486	1.70	1.33
Bartın	2,206	0.12	1.09	Kütahya	11,773	0.65	2.03
Batman	1,247	0.06	0.19	Malatya	4,766	0.26	0.58
Bayburt	575	0.03	0.67	Manisa	9,554	0.53	0.65
Bilecik	3,516	0.19	1.53	Mardin	3,109	0.17	0.36
Bingöl	403	0.02	0.14	Mersin	39,172	2.18	2.07
Bitlis	207	0.01	0.05	Muğla	22,547	1.25	2.20
Bolu	11,077	0.61	3.46	Muş	456	0.02	0.11
Burdur	5,115	0.28	1.86	Nevşehir	9,264	0.51	3.00
Bursa	54,276	3.02	1.72	Niğde	4,612	0.25	1.26
Çanakkale	6,039	0.33	1.08	Ordu	7,766	0.43	1.02
Çankırı	6,489	0.36	3.30	Osmaniye	840	0.04	0.15
Çorum	9,955	0.55	1.89	Rize	1,718	0.09	0.49
Denizli	15,991	0.89	1.52	Sakarya	28,086	1.56	2.64
Diyarbakır	1,657	0.09	0.09	Samsun	39,912	2.22	2.91
Düzce	6,978	0.38	1.74	Siirt	721	0.04	0.21
Edirne	5,900	0.32	1.43	Sinop	2,314	0.12	1.05
Elazığ	2,436	0.13	0.41	Sivas	7,194	0.40	1.13
Erzincan	3,720	0.20	1.56	Şanlıurfa	10,616	0.59	0.49
Erzurum	4,916	0.27	0.64	Şırnak	866	0.04	0.15
Eskişehir	26,362	1.47	2.93	Tekirdağ	7,641	0.42	0.68
Gaziantep	18,020	1.00	0.84	Tokat	7,103	0.39	1.17
Giresun	5,621	0.31	1.24	Trabzon	14,333	0.79	1.75
Gümüşhane	2,221	0.12	1.47	Tunceli	366	0.02	0.43
Hakkari	1,347	0.07	0.48	Uşak	8,471	0.47	2.26
Hatay	5,093	0.28	0.30	Van	4,983	0.27	0.43
Iğdır	954	0.05	0.46	Yalova	31,100	1.73	10.68
Isparta	10,163	0.56	2.28	Yozgat	10,510	0.58	2.51
İstanbul	740,954	41.34	4.67	Zonguldak	4,931	0.27	0.83
İzmir	34,733	1.93	0.78	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,792,036</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2.11</b>

48 Represents the ratio of foreigners in the respective province to the total number of foreigners.

49 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), "Province, Single Age and Population by Sex", accessed May 26, 2022.



### 3.1. Residence Permits

The primary source for this section is the data published under the "residence permits" sub-heading within the "current data" section of the Presidency of Migration Management's website.

According to Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, a residence permit is defined as "a permit to stay in Türkiye".<sup>50</sup> Foreigners intending to stay in Türkiye for longer than the duration of their visa or visa exemption, or for more than 90 days, are required to obtain a residence permit.<sup>51</sup> The law specifies six types of residence permits available in Türkiye: short-term, family, student, long-term, humanitarian, and those for victims of human trafficking.<sup>52</sup> While applications for residence permits are generally made at consulates in the applicant's country of residence prior to arrival in Türkiye, there are exceptional circumstances that allow for applications to be submitted directly within Türkiye.<sup>53</sup> These exceptions include requests from judicial and administrative authorities, applications for long-term, student, and humanitarian residence permits, permits for victims of human trafficking, transitioning from a family residence permit to a short-term permit, individuals completing higher education in Türkiye who need a short-term residence permit, and applications for children born in Türkiye to parents who already hold residence permits. Additionally, applications can be made in cases where it is deemed unreasonable or impractical for the foreigner to leave Türkiye.<sup>54</sup>

Applications for extension can be made before a residence permit expires. Specifically, an extension application can be submitted any time from 60 days before the permit's expiration date up until the permit expires.<sup>55</sup> Looking at Türkiye's regular migration patterns, there has been a significant upward trend over the past decade. Although irregular migration and asylum-seeking have often been more prominent in discussions, the number of residence permits issued has consistently increased each year. According to data from the Presidency of Migration Management (Figure 3.1.), the number of foreigners with residence permits rose from **321,548** in 2012 to **1,311,633** by 2021. Despite a dip in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the number of residence permits in 2021 has exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

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50 YUKK, Art. 3/1-i.

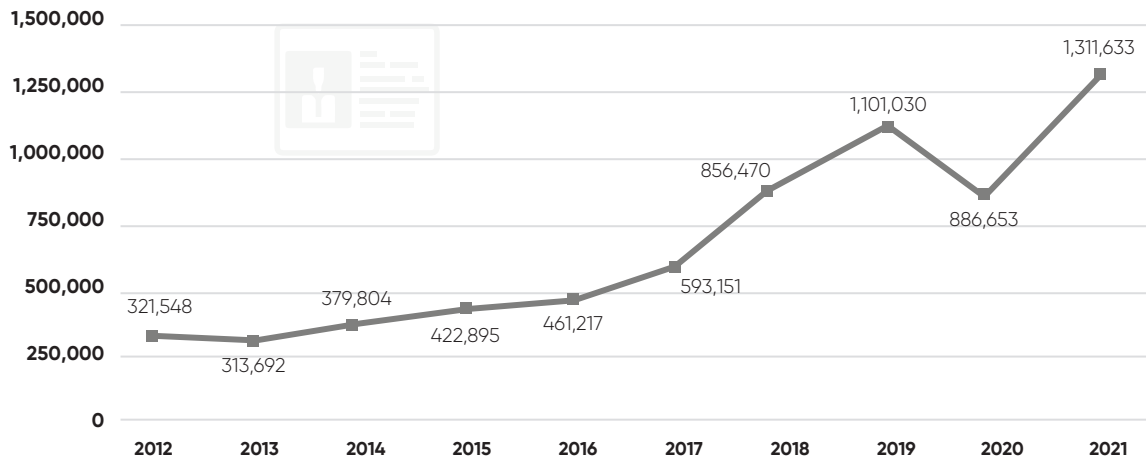
51 YUKK, Art. 19.

52 YUKK, Art. 30.

53 YUKK, Art. 21.

54 YUKK, Art. 22.

55 YUKK, Art. 24.



**Figure 3.1.** Distribution of the number of foreigners granted residence permit by year, 2012–2021<sup>56</sup>

Short-term residence permits are generally issued to foreigners coming to Türkiye for tourism, investment, education, or research. In addition, short-term residence permits are granted to Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) citizens, individuals deemed necessary by judicial and administrative authorities, those transitioning from a family residence permit to a short-term residence permit<sup>57</sup>, and investors in Türkiye (along with their spouses and minor children), even if they are not employed in Türkiye. Typically, short-term residence permits are granted for up to two years at a time. However, there are some exceptions: TRNC citizens and investors who are not working in Türkiye can receive permits for up to five years, although there is no limit on the number of times this can be renewed. Additionally, individuals participating in Turkish language courses can be granted short-term residence permits for up to two consecutive periods. International students who graduate from higher education institutions in Türkiye can apply for a one-time short-term residence permit valid for up to one year, provided they apply within six months of their graduation date.<sup>58</sup>

Family residence permits are issued to the foreign spouses, minor children, and dependent children of foreigners who hold any type of residence permit, as well as those under subsidiary protection or refugees<sup>59</sup>. This type of permit can be granted for up to three years at a time, provided it does not exceed the duration of the primary residence permit holder's permit. Additionally, due to legal differences in the foreigner's home country, only one spouse can receive a family residence permit if the individual has been married to multiple people.

<sup>56</sup> GİB, "Residence Permits" Accessed January 1, 2022.

<sup>57</sup> The transition from a family residence permit to a short-term residence permit is subject to certain conditions: in the event of the death of the sponsor of the family residence permit, a short-term residence permit may be granted to those who remain with the family residence permit without any requirement for the duration of stay in Türkiye (by which is meant the time the foreigner has spent in Türkiye); in the case of divorce of a foreigner married to a Turkish citizen, a short-term residence permit may be granted provided that the foreigner has stayed in Türkiye for three years. However, if it is decided by the legal authorities that the foreign spouse is a victim of violence, the foreigner is not required to stay in Türkiye. Foreigners who have completed 18 years of age may be granted a short-term residence permit upon request if they have stayed in Türkiye for at least three years. For detailed information, see YUKK, Art. 34.

<sup>58</sup> YUKK, Art. 31

<sup>59</sup> In the Law, foreigners applying for a residence permit for their family, those with subsidiary protection status and refugees are referred to as "supporters". For detailed information, see YUKK, Art. 34/7.

residence permit if the individual has been married to multiple people.<sup>60</sup> The law also addresses those who make utilitarian marriages and apply for family residence permit. If a Turkish citizen marries a foreigner and applies for a family residence permit, the governorates have the authority to verify whether the marriage was arranged. If it is determined that the marriage was arranged, the family residence permit will not be granted, and any previously issued permit will be revoked.<sup>61</sup>

Foreigners who come to Türkiye to study at any level of higher education can obtain a student residence permit. Additionally, foreign students whose care and expenses are covered by real or legal persons can be granted a one-year residence permit, which can be extended. However, student residence permits cannot be issued for courses that are shorter than one year.<sup>62</sup>

Long-term residence permits in Türkiye are available to foreigners who have resided in the country for eight years or who meet the conditions specified by the Ministry of Interior, with approval from the Ministry. However, refugees, conditional refugees, individuals under subsidiary protection, humanitarian residence permit holders, and those under temporary protection are not eligible for long-term residence permits.<sup>63</sup>

To qualify for a long-term residence permit, applicants must meet several conditions: they must have lived in Türkiye for at least eight uninterrupted years, not have received social assistance in the past three years, have valid health insurance, and possess sufficient income to support themselves.<sup>64</sup> Additionally, long-term residence permits confer various rights and obligations, including the obligation to perform military service, the right to vote and run for office, eligibility for public sector jobs, and the ability to import vehicles with exemptions.<sup>65</sup>

Humanitarian residence permits are granted to foreigners who are in Türkiye due to urgent reasons and who do not meet the conditions for other types of residence permits, especially when returning them to their initial asylum country or a safe third country is not possible or reasonable. This permit is issued particularly when the best interest of the child is at stake or if the enforcement of a deportation decision is impractical under extraordinary circumstances.<sup>66</sup>

Foreigners who are strongly suspected of being victims of human trafficking may be granted a victim residence permit for up to **30** days by the governorates. This permit aims to help them recover from their experiences and cooperate with the authorities.<sup>67</sup> In Türkiye, there are six types of residence permits available to foreigners. However, the Presidency of Migration Management only publishes statistics on the number of foreigners holding short-term, family, and student residence permits. The number of foreigners holding other types of residence permits is categorized under "other."

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60 YUKK, md. 34.

61 YUKK, md. 37.

62 YUKK, md. 38.

63 YUKK, md. 42.

64 YUKK, md. 43.

65 YUKK, md. 44.




66 YUKK, md. 46.

67 YUKK, md. 48.

In 2021, the distribution of residence permits by type and nationality, as shown in Table 3.3., reveals that the total number of residence permits issued was **1,311,633**. Among these, short-term residence permits were the most common, issued to **963,562** individuals (**73.46%**). This was followed by student residence permits, granted to **117,071** people (**8.92%**).

Regarding the distribution of nationalities, the largest number of short-term residence permits were issued to Iraqis, with 151,998 individuals. Azerbaijanis received the most student residence permits, totaling 15,550, and they also had the highest number of family residence permits, with 12,260 issued. Overall, Iraqis were the most frequent recipients of all types of residence permits, with a total of 163,650 permits issued.

**Table 3.3.** Distribution of residence permit holders by type of residence permit and the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>68</sup>

Nationality	 Short-term	 Student	 Family	Other <sup>68</sup>	Total
Afghanistan	44,340	4,530	-	6,458	55,268
Azerbaijan	30,793	15,550	12,260	7,399	66,002
Morocco	-	-	4,823	-	-
Iraq	151,998	6,480	-	5,180	163,650
Iran	85,201	9,922	3,701	4,586	103,410
Kazakhstan	-	-	3,028	35,820	38,848
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	3,676	-	-
Libya	21,632	-	-	-	-
Egypt	23,454	3,693	-	6,100	33,247
Uzbekistan	53,968	-	6,774	7,208	67,950
Russia	50,144	-	6,717	9,121	65,982
Somalia	-	6,890	-	-	-
Syria	89,525	5,871	2,829	6,222	104,447
Turkmenistan	97,082	9,996	4,724	7,823	119,625
Ukraine	-	-	6,269	-	-
Jordan	-	4,555	-	-	-
Yemen	-	4,082	-	-	-
Others	315,425	45,502	34,951	97,326	493,204
<b>Total</b>	<b>963,562</b>	<b>117,071</b>	<b>89,752</b>	<b>141,248</b>	<b>1,311,633</b>
<b>Ratio (%)<sup>70</sup></b>	<b>73.46</b>	<b>8.92</b>	<b>6.84</b>	<b>10.76</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>68</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GiB, "Residence Permits".

<sup>69</sup> The figures mentioned in the "Other" section are obtained by subtracting the total number of short-term residence permits, student residence permits and family residence permits issued for the respective nationality from the total number of people issued for the respective nationality.

<sup>70</sup> The ratio of the respective type of residence permit to the total number of residence permits.





Artvin	474	0.04	0.27	Kilis	1,865	0.14	1.27
Aydın	8,487	0.65	0.74	Kocaeli	14,427	1.10	0.70
Balıkesir	5,071	0.39	0.40	Konya	11,443	0.87	0.50
Bartın	1,603	0.12	0.79	Kütahya	5,211	0.40	0.90
Batman	656	0.05	0.10	Malatya	1,427	0.11	0.17
Bayburt	132	0.01	0.15	Manisa	3,342	0.25	0.22
Bilecik	1,010	0.08	0.44	Mardin	869	0.07	0.10
Bingöl	130	0.01	0.04	Mersin	35,163	2.68	1.85
Bitlis	126	0.01	0.03	Muğla	19,554	1.49	1.91
Bolu	4,901	0.37	1.53	Muş	65	0.005	0.01
Burdur	1,297	0.10	0.47	Nevşehir	1,154	0.09	0.37
Bursa	47,743	3.64	1.51	Niğde	2,053	0.16	0.56
Çanakkale	4,027	0.31	0.72	Ordu	2,486	0.19	0.32
Çankırı	1,859	0.14	0.94	Osmaniye	649	0.05	0.11
Çorum	2,214	0.17	0.42	Rize	1,104	0.08	0.31
Denizli	6,008	0.46	0.57	Sakarya	15,219	1.16	1.43
Diyarbakır	1,376	0.10	0.07	Samsun	24,308	1.85	1.77
Düzce	1,859	0.14	0.46	Siirt	454	0.03	0.13
Edirne	5,089	0.39	1.23	Sinop	460	0.04	0.21
Elazığ	799	0.06	0.13	Sivas	1,777	0.14	0.27
Erzincan	1,009	0.08	0.42	Şanlıurfa	5,779	0.44	0.26
Erzurum	1,839	0.14	0.24	Şırnak	424	0.03	0.07
Eskişehir	8,313	0.63	0.92	Tekirdağ	6,180	0.47	0.55
Gaziantep	14,901	1.14	0.69	Tokat	2,545	0.19	0.42
Giresun	1,631	0.12	0.36	Trabzon	6,344	0.48	0.77
Gümüşhane	247	0.02	0.16	Tunceli	50	0.004	0.05
Hakkari	1,291	0.10	0.46	Uşak	2,165	0.17	0.58
Hatay	2,624	0.20	0.15	Van	2,637	0.20	0.23
Iğdır	633	0.05	0.31	Yalova	24,359	1.86	8.37
Isparta	4,234	0.32	0.95	Yozgat	1,633	0.12	0.39
İstanbul	692,007	52.76	4.36	Zonguldak	1,818	0.14	0.30
İzmir	23,902	1.82	0.54	Grand Total	1,311,633	100.00	1.55

Foreigners with residence permits are primarily concentrated in a few cities: Istanbul has the highest number with **692,007** individuals (**52.76%**), followed by Antalya with **125,376** individuals (**9.56%**), and Ankara with **101,151** individuals (**7.71%**). Together, these three cities account for **70.03%** of all residence permits issued. Notably, the top ten cities host **84.53%** of all residence permit holders, indicating a significant concentration. This suggests that residence permit holders are concentrated in specific cities rather than being evenly distributed across the country.

**Table 3.5.** Distribution of residence permit holders by the top ten provinces, 2021<sup>75</sup>

Province	Number of Residence Permits	Rate (%)
<b>İstanbul</b>	692,007	52.76
<b>Antalya</b>	125,376	9.56
<b>Ankara</b>	101,151	7.71
<b>Bursa</b>	47,743	3.64
<b>Mersin</b>	35,163	2.68
<b>Yalova</b>	24,359	1.86
<b>Samsun</b>	24,308	1.85
<b>İzmir</b>	23,902	1.82
<b>Muğla</b>	19,554	1.49
<b>Sakarya</b>	15,219	1.16
<b>Other</b>	202,851	15.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,311,633</b>	<b>100.00</b>



### 3.2. Work Permits

The data used in this section has been obtained from the Directorate General of International Labour Force of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (ÇŞGB). The relevant data is available on the Directorate General of International Labour Force's website under the "Statistics" section, specifically in the "Foreigners' Work Permits" area, under the title "Foreigners' Work Permits Statistics – 2020."

The regulations regarding work permits are outlined in Law No. 6735 on International Labor Force and the Implementation Regulation of the International Labor Force Law. According to the law, a work permit is defined as "an authorization granting a foreigner the right to work and reside in Türkiye" for a specified period.<sup>76</sup> Additionally, under Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection, a work permit is considered a type of residence permit.<sup>77</sup> Law No. 6735 explicitly prohibits foreigners from working in Türkiye without a valid work permit.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Residence Permits".

<sup>76</sup> International Workforce Law 6735 (UİK), Official Gazette 29800 (August 13, 2016), Art. 3/1-c.

<sup>77</sup> YUKK, Art. 27.

<sup>78</sup> UİK, Art. 6/2.

"For work permits in Türkiye, applications can be made directly to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security or, if applying from outside Türkiye, through Türkiye's diplomatic missions in the relevant countries. For foreigners applying from abroad, the local mission will forward the necessary documents to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. Foreign applicants must have been residing in Türkiye with a residence permit for at least six months to apply from within the country.<sup>79</sup> Additionally, public institutions and organizations that wish to employ foreigners must apply to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security before the foreigners begin their employment.<sup>80</sup> Moreover, foreigners intending to work in health and education services that require professional qualifications must obtain preliminary approval from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.<sup>81</sup>

For successful work permit applications, foreigners can initially be granted a work permit for up to one year to work at a specific employer or within the same sector. For extension applications, the first extension can be granted for up to two years, and the second extension for up to three years. Foreigners applying for a permit in a different sector can receive an extension for up to one year. Foreigners who have long-term residence permits or who have lived in Türkiye for eight years can apply for an indefinite work permit.<sup>82</sup>

For refugees and those with subsidiary protection status, the identity document provided also serves as a work permit. Additionally, applicants can apply for a work permit six months after their international protection application has been submitted.<sup>83</sup>

Until 2019, Türkiye issued three types of work permits: independent work permits, indefinite work permits, and fixed-term work permits. An independent work permit allowed a foreigner to work in Türkiye under their own name and account. An indefinite work permit provided the right to work without any time constraints, while a fixed-term work permit referred to work permits with specific time limits.<sup>84</sup> Since 2019, only fixed-term work permits have been issued to foreigners.<sup>85</sup>

Analyzing the distribution of work permits granted over the years (Table 3.6.), the number of permits increased from **17,466** in 2011 to **123,574** in 2020. The year with the highest number of work permits issued was 2019, with 145,232 permits granted. The decline observed in 2020 is likely related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regarding the sex distribution of work permit holders, a continuous decrease in the proportion of women compared to men has been observed since 2013. In 2013, **62%** of foreign work permit holders were women and **38%** were men. By 2020, the proportion of women had dropped to **33.9%**, while the proportion of men had risen to **66.1%**.

79 UİK, Art. 7.

80 Implementing Regulation on International Workforce Law 6735, Official Gazette 31738 (2/2/2022), Art. 13.

81 UİK, Art. 8.

82 UİK, Art. 11.

83 YUKK, Art. 89/4-a, 89/4-b.

84 UİK, Art. 3/1-a.

85 Ministry of Labor and Social Security (ÇSGB), "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020" Accessed March 5, 2022."

**Table 3.6.** Number of work permits issued by year and sex, 2011–2020<sup>86</sup>

Year	Number of Work Permits						Total
	Female		Male		Unkown		
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	
2011	8,396	48.1	9,070	51.9	0	0.0	17,466
2012	19,552	60.6	12,727	39.4	0	0.0	32,279
2013	28,406	62.0	17,417	38.0	0	0.0	45,823
2014	31,308	59.9	20,986	40.1	1	0.0	52,295
2015	37,621	58.3	26,899	41.7	1	0.0	64,521
2016	35,601	48.4	37,948	51.6	0	0.0	73,549
2017	37,756	43.3	49,426	56.7	0	0.0	87,182
2018	48,087	41.5	67,750	58.5	0	0.0	115,837
2019	50,690	34.9	94,542	65.1	0	0.0	145,232
2020	41,853	33.87	81,721	66.13	0	0.0	123,574

Examining the distribution of fixed-term work permits by month in 2020, as shown in Table 3.7, it is observed that the highest number of permits, totaling **28,723 (23.24%)**, was issued in July. It is noteworthy that no work permits were granted to foreigners in April.

**Table 3.7.** Distribution of periodic work permits by month, 2020<sup>87</sup>

Month	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%) <sup>88</sup>	Month	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%)
January	11,635	9.41	July	28,723	23.24
February	12,452	10.07	August	10,517	8.51
March	6,316	5.11	September	8,656	7.00
April	0	0.00	October	11,131	9.00
May	239	0.19	November	18,549	15.01
June	831	0.67	December	14,525	11.75
			<b>Total</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

86 ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020".

87 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. For detailed information, see ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020".

88 Represents the ratio of the number of work permits issued to foreigners in the respective month over the whole year.

In 2020, the distribution of fixed-term work permits by sex and age groups (Table 3.8) reveals that the majority of work permits were granted to foreigners aged **20-44**, accounting for **80.29%** of all permits. The largest single age group among permit holders was **25-29** years old, with **26,130** individuals (**21.14%**). Additionally, it is noteworthy that 760 work permits were issued to individuals aged 65 and over.

Excluding the age group of 65 and over, the distribution of work permits by sex shows that the proportion of foreign male workers decreases with age, while the proportion of foreign female workers increases. Overall, foreign men with work permits represent **66.13%** of the total, whereas foreign women make up **33.87%**. The largest age group for foreign men holding work permits is 25-29 years old, with **19,360** individuals, while for foreign women, it is **30-34** years old, with **7,728** individuals. The age group with the highest proportion of foreign men compared to women is 15-19 years old, at **85.37%**, while the highest proportion of foreign women is found in the **60-64** age group, at **52.11%**.

**Table 3.8.** Distribution of periodic work permits by sex and age range, 2020<sup>89</sup>

Age Group	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>90</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>91</sup>	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%) <sup>92</sup>
15-19	2,248	85.37	385	14.63	2,633	2.13
20-24	15,452	81.97	3,398	18.03	18,850	15.25
25-29	19,360	74.09	6,770	25.91	26,130	21.14
30-34	16,378	67.94	7,728	32.06	24,106	19.50
35-39	10,962	61.22	6,941	38.78	17,903	14.48
40-44	6,599	53.78	5,670	46.22	12,269	9.92
45-49	4,444	49.53	4,527	50.47	8,971	7.25
50-54	3,086	49.32	3,171	50.68	6,257	5.06
55-59	1,877	48.26	2,012	51.74	3,889	3.14
60-64	865	47.89	941	52.11	1,806	1.46
65+	450	59.21	310	40.79	760	0.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,721</b>	<b>66.13</b>	<b>41,853</b>	<b>33.87</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

89 ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020".

90 Refers to the ratio of foreign men to women in the respective age group who were granted work permits.

91 It refers to the ratio of foreign women in the respective age group who were granted work permits compared to men.

92 Indicates the ratio of the respective age group in the total number.

In 2020, the distribution of work permits among foreigners by education level (Table 3.9) reveals that the highest number of permits were issued to individuals with a high school education, totaling **36,582**, or **29.6%** of the total. This is followed by those with a university education, totaling **23,721** (19.19%), and those with literacy education, totaling **21,676** (17.54%). It is noteworthy that a relatively high number of work permit holders, **9,137** individuals or **7.39%**, had an unknown education level.

When comparing education levels with sex, it is observed that the largest number of foreign women with work permits had a high school education (**17,810**), followed by university education (**9,371**), and middle school education (**6,291**). For foreign men, the largest numbers were those with a high school education (**18,772**), literacy education (**17,630**), and university education (**14,350**).

**Table 3.9.** Distribution of periodic work permits by sex and education level, 2020<sup>93</sup>

Education Level	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>94</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>95</sup>	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%) <sup>96</sup>
<b>Literate</b>	17,630	81.33	4,406	18.67	21,676	17.54
<b>Elementary School</b>	8,464	90.34	905	9.66	9,369	7.58
<b>Middle School</b>	10,430	62.37	6,291	37.63	16,721	13.53
<b>Highschool</b>	18,772	51.31	17,810	48.69	36,582	29.6
<b>Associate Degree</b>	1,815	60.07	1,206	39.93	3,021	2.44
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	14,350	60.49	9,371	39.51	23,721	19.19
<b>Master's Degree or Higher</b>	2,062	61.60	1,285	38.40	3,347	2.70
<b>Unknown</b>	8,198	89.72	939	10.28	9,137	7.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,721</b>	<b>66.13</b>	<b>41,853</b>	<b>33.87</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>93</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Residence Permits".

<sup>94</sup> Compiled from data provided by the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Residence Permits".

<sup>95</sup> The ratio of the number of foreigners with residence permits in the corresponding province to the total number of residence permits.

<sup>96</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, "Population by Province, Single Age and Sex".

Table 3.10 illustrates the distribution of temporary work permits issued to foreigners by sex and the top ten nationalities. According to the data, **50.47%** of these permits were issued to Syrians (**62,369 people**), 7.86% to Turkmen (9,721 people), and **3.94%** to Georgians (**4,873 people**). Overall, work permits were issued to foreigners from a total of 56 different nationalities.

When examining the distribution of work permits by sex, it is observed that the highest number of permits issued to men were for Syrians (**58,402**), followed by Iranians (**2,178**) and Afghans (**1,661**). For women, the highest number of work permits were issued to Turkmen (**8,351**), followed by Georgians (**4,638**) and Syrians (**3,967**).

**Table 3.10.** Distribution of periodic work permits by sex and the top ten nationalities, 2020<sup>97</sup>

Nationality	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>98</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>99</sup>	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%) <sup>100</sup>
Syria	58,402	93.63	3,967	6.37	62,369	50.47
Turkmenistan	1,370	14.10	8,351	85.90	9,721	7.86
Georgia	235	4.83	4,638	95.17	4,873	3.94
Uzbekistan	562	12.83	3,821	87.17	4,383	3.54
Iran	2,178	54.24	1,837	45.76	4,015	3.24
Kyrgyzstan	824	23.51	2,681	76.49	3,505	2.83
Russia	1,578	50.52	1,546	49.48	3,124	2.52
Azerbaijan	1,403	47.64	1,542	52.36	2,945	2.38
Ukraine	439	39.34	1,832	80.66	2,271	1.83
Afghanistan	1,661	86.46	260	13.54	1,921	1.55
Other <sup>101</sup>	13,069	53.45	11,378	46.55	24,447	19.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,721</b>	<b>66.13</b>	<b>41,853</b>	<b>33.87</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.11 displays the distribution of temporary work permits by sector. The sectors with the highest number of work permits issued are: "household activities as employers of domestic staff" with **23,627 permits (19.11%)**, "wholesale trade" with **9,476 permits (7.66%)**, and "clothing manufacturing" with **8,158 permits (6.60%)**.

97 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. For detailed information, see ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020.

98 Refers to the ratio of foreign men of the respective nationality granted work permits compared to women.

99 Refers to the ratio of foreign women granted work permits for the respective nationality compared to men.

100 Indicates the ratio of the number of work permits issued for the respective nationality to the total number.

101 Represents the number of the first 10 nationalities granted work permits minus the total number. In addition, the countries published by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security under the category of "other" are also included under this heading.

It is notable that the number of work permits issued under the "unknown" category is relatively high, totaling **6,005** permits. Additionally, excluding the sectors listed under the "unknown" category provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, work permits were issued across a total of **99** different sectors..

**Table 3.11.** *Distribution of periodic work permits by sector, 2020*<sup>102</sup>

Economic Activities	Total	Rate (%) <sup>103</sup>
Household activities as employers of domestic workers	23,627	19.11
Wholesale trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles)	9,476	7.66
Manufacture of clothing	8,158	6.60
Accommodation	6,915	5.59
Textile product manufacturing	5,359	4.33
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles)	4,640	3.75
Education	4,273	3.45
Human health services	4,242	3.43
Manufacturing of fabricated metal products (excluding machinery and equipment)	3,738	3.02
Food and beverage service activities	3,057	2.47
Food product manufacturing	2,781	2.25
Office management, office support, and business support activities	2,629	2.12
Construction of exterior building structures	2,505	2.02
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	2,371	1.91
Furniture Manufacturing	2,193	1.77
Activities of the organizations of which one is a member	1,834	1.48
Manufacture of machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified	1,822	1.47
Manufacture of leather and related products	1,819	1.47
Building construction	1,772	1.43
Travel agency, tour operator, and other reservation services and related activities	1,461	1.18
Other service activities	1,445	1.16
Real estate activities	1,332	1.07
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,293	1.04
Administrative management activities and administrative consulting activities	1,205	0.97
Unkown	6,005	4.85
Other <sup>104</sup>	17,622	14.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

102 Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. For detailed information, see ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020".

103 It refers to the ratio of the respective sector in all work permits.





104 Sectors with less than 1000 foreigners are not included in the table and grouped under the heading "other".



In 2021, work permits were issued to foreigners with **47.18% (58,306 individuals)** in Istanbul, **7.17% (8,871 individuals)** in Bursa, and **6.69% (8,277 individuals)** in Antalya.

When examining the distribution by sex among the top ten provinces where work permits were issued, foreign men were most commonly found in Istanbul (**36,783 individuals**), Bursa (**7,837 individuals**), and Gaziantep (**5,578 individuals**). In contrast, foreign women were most commonly found in Istanbul (21,523 individuals), Antalya (**5,253 individuals**), and Ankara (**4,272 individuals**). Additionally, the highest proportions of foreign men compared to women were in Kahramanmaraş (**94.01%**), Konya (**90.02%**), and Gaziantep (**89.08%**). For women compared to men, the highest proportions were in Antalya (**63.46%**), Ankara (**54.9%**), and İzmir (**52.65%**).

**Table 3.12.** Distribution of temporary work permits by sex and the top ten provinces, 2020<sup>105</sup>

Province	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>106</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>107</sup>	Fixed-Term Work Permit	Rate (%) <sup>108</sup>
<b>İstanbul</b>	36,783	63.09	21,523	36.91	58,306	47.18
<b>Bursa</b>	7,837	88.34	1,034	11.66	8,871	7.17
<b>Antalya</b>	3,024	36.54	5,253	63.46	8,277	6.69
<b>Ankara</b>	3,509	45.10	4,272	54.90	7,781	6.29
<b>Gaziantep</b>	5,578	89.08	684	10.92	6,262	5.06
<b>Mersin</b>	3,918	80.51	949	19.49	4,867	3.93
<b>İzmir</b>	2,193	47.34	2,439	52.65	4,632	3.74
<b>Konya</b>	2,102	90.02	233	9.98	2,335	1.88
<b>Kocaeli</b>	1,699	79.70	433	20.30	2,132	1.72
<b>Kahramanmaraş</b>	1,773	94.01	113	5.99	1,886	1.52
<b>Other<sup>109</sup></b>	13,305	73.01	4,920	26.99	18,225	14.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,721</b>	<b>66.13</b>	<b>41,853</b>	<b>33.87</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

In 2020, work permits issued to foreigners included **94,097 permits (76.14%)** for "initial applications" and **29,477 permits (23.86%)** for "extension applications." According to the distribution by month, the highest number of work permits, **28,723 (23.24%)**, were granted in August.

On the other hand, examining the distribution of work permits by application type, the highest number of "initial applications" were issued in July (**19,117 permits**), November (**15,721 permits**), and December (**11,128 permits**). For "extension applications," the most permits were issued in July (**9,606 permits**), December (**3,397 permits**), and October (**2,846 permits**).

105 ÇSGB, "Work Permits for Foreigners, 2020".

106 Refers to the ratio of foreign men granted work permits compared to women in the respective province.

107 Indicates the ratio of foreign women granted work permits compared to men in the respective province.

108 Represents the proportion of the respective province in the total number of temporary work permits.

109 Those outside the top 10 provinces are grouped under the heading "Other".

The higher number of "initial applications" compared to "extension applications" can be attributed to two factors. First, there is a large number of foreigners applying for a work permit for the first time. Second, according to the relevant legislation, if a foreigner who already holds a work permit applies for a permit in a different sector, this is classified as an initial application.<sup>110</sup>

**Table 3.13.** *Distribution of work permits by month and application type, 2020<sup>111</sup>*

Month	Application Type				Total	Rate (%) <sup>112</sup>
	First Application	Rate (%) <sup>113</sup>	Extension Application	Rate (%) <sup>114</sup>		
January	9,520	81.82	2,115	18.18	11,635	9.41
February	10,309	82.78	2,143	17.22	12,452	10.07
March	5,228	82.77	1,088	17.23	6,316	5.11
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	103	43.09	136	56.91	239	0.19
June	498	59.92	333	40.08	831	0.67
July	19,117	66.55	9,606	33.45	28,723	23.24
August	7,736	73.55	2,781	26.45	10,517	8.51
September	6,452	74.53	2,204	35.47	8,656	7.00
October	8,285	74.43	2,846	35.57	11,131	9.00
November	15,721	84.75	2,828	15.25	18,549	15.01
December	11,128	76.61	3,397	23.39	14,525	11.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,097</b>	<b>76.14</b>	<b>29,477</b>	<b>23.86</b>	<b>123,574</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.14 shows the distribution of work permits issued in 2020 by application type and sex. According to this data, **82.38%** of work permits issued to men were for initial applications, while **17.62%** were for extension applications. For women, **63.97%** of work permits were for initial applications, and **36.03%** were for extension applications.

<sup>110</sup> UİK, Art. 80.

<sup>111</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. For detailed information, see ÇSGB, "Foreigners' Work Permits, 2020".



<sup>112</sup> Refers to the ratio of the number of work permits issued in the respective month compared to the total number.

<sup>113</sup> The ratio of "first application" type of work permit to "extension application" type of work permit issued in the relevant month.

<sup>114</sup> Ratio of "extension application" type of work permit to "first application" type of work permit issued in the respective month.

When examining the distribution of work permits issued for "extension applications" by sex, it is notable that **15,078** permits were granted to women, which is higher than the number issued to men. This suggests that women may have a greater tendency to continue working in the same sector.

**Table 3.14.** Distribution of work permits by sex and application type, 2020<sup>115</sup>

Sex	Application Type				Total	Rate (%) <sup>116</sup>
	First Application	Rate (%) <sup>117</sup>	Extension Application	Rate (%) <sup>118</sup>		
 Male	67,322	82.38	14,399	17.62	81,721	66.13
 Female	26,775	63.97	15,078	36.03	41,853	33.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,097</b>	<b>76.14</b>	<b>29,477</b>	<b>23.86</b>	<b>123,574</b>	



### 3.3. International Students in Higher Education

Data on international students is available on the websites of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), including "Study in Türkiye"<sup>119</sup> and the Higher Education Information Management System. On the "Study in Türkiye" website, the "why Türkiye?" section includes a tab called "higher education in numbers," which uses data exclusively from the "number of international students by year" section. The Higher Education Information Management System is the primary source for this data. On its website, the "student statistics" section includes a "number of students by nationality" subsection. By selecting "academic year," "university," "type of university," "city," and "nationality," users can access the data by clicking the "generate report" button.

In the 21st century, international students are a significant aspect of global education, reflecting the competitive nature among countries. In Türkiye, international students have been a focal point over the past decade, as emphasized in the strategic documents prepared by the Council of Higher Education. Among the Council's goals are increasing the number of international students and enhancing institutional capacity.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>115</sup> ÇSGB, "Foreigners' Work Permits, 2020".

<sup>116</sup> Represents the ratio of the number of work permits issued for the respective sex type to the total number.

<sup>117</sup> Indicates the ratio of "initial application" type of work permits to "extension application" type of work permits issued for the respective sex.

<sup>118</sup> Ratio of "extension application" type of work permits to "first application" type of work permits issued for the respective sex type.

<sup>119</sup> Study in Türkiye serves as the advertising face of the Council of Higher Education in the field of internationalization in higher education. Through "Study in Türkiye", the Council of Higher Education aims to inform international students about "scholarship opportunities, international students' experiences in Türkiye, living conditions and culture". For detailed information, see Council of Higher Education (YÖK) International Relations Department, "Study in Türkiye" Accessed July 22, 2022.

<sup>120</sup> Council of Higher Education (YÖK), "Strategy Document on Internationalization in Higher Education (2018-2022)" Accessed May 27, 2022.

Looking at the distribution of international students coming to Türkiye to study (Table 3.15.), the number of international students, which was **31,933** in the 2011–2012 academic year, reached **224,048** in the 2020–2021 academic year. On the other hand, when the ratio of international students to the total number of higher education students in Türkiye is considered, this ratio, which was **0.74%** in the 2011–2012 academic year, reached **2.71%** in the 2020–2021 academic year.

**Table 3.15.** *Distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for educational purposes by year, 2011–2020<sup>121</sup>*

	2011 – 2012	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014	2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016	2016 – 2017	2017 – 2018	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020	2020 – 2021
<b>Incoming International Students</b>	31,933	43,251	48,183	72,178	87,903	108,076	125,138	154,505	185,047	224,048
<b>Higher Education Students in Türkiye</b>	4,303,550	4,923,940	5,619,079	6,062,886	6,689,185	7,198,987	7,560,371	7,740,502	7,940,133	8,240,997
<b>Ratio of Incoming International Students to Students in Türkiye<sup>122</sup></b>	0.74	0.87	0.85	1.19	1.31	1.50	1.65	1.99	2.33	2.71

According to YÖK statistics, in the 2020–2021 academic year, there were **224,048** international students enrolled in higher education institutions in Türkiye. Of these, **63.82%** were men and **36.18%** were women. However, according to statements from YÖK President Erol Özvar reported in the media, the number of international students in Türkiye's higher education institutions reached **255,000** from **198** countries in the 2021–2022 academic year.<sup>123</sup>

121 While analyzing the number of international students studying in Türkiye, the data for the 2011–2012 academic year and the 2012–2013 academic year were compiled from the data on the Council of Higher Education's "Study in Türkiye" website. For detailed information, see Study in Türkiye, Higher Education by Numbers, Accessed May 27, 2022. The data from the 2013–2014 academic year to the present day was obtained from the official website of the Council of Higher Education for statistics and compiled and added to the table. For detailed information, see Council of Higher Education (YÖK), "Higher Education Information Management System" Accessed 26.05.2022. On the other hand, although both websites are managed by the Council of Higher Education, it has been observed that there are differences in the numbers in Study in Türkiye and Higher Education Information Management System. In this respect, the Higher Education Information Management System, which has been sharing data on international students since the 2013–2014 academic year, has been taken as a basis. In addition, while the Study in Türkiye page shows year-based distribution, the Higher Education Information Management System shares data based on the academic year. In this respect, it is difficult to compare data between the two websites.

122 It refers to the ratio of international students coming to Türkiye to study to the total number of students.

123 Erkan Doğan, "The Number of International Students in Türkiye has reached 255 thousand from 198 countries", Bilim ve Sağlık Haber Ajansı (May 6, 2022) Accessed 27.05.2022.

**Table 3.16.** *Distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for education by sex, 2020–2021 academic year*<sup>124</sup>

Academic Year	Male	Rate (%) <sup>125</sup>	Female	Rate (%) <sup>126</sup>	Total
2020-2021	142,998	63.82	81,050	36.18	224,048

In Türkiye, **77.28%** of international students are studying at state universities, while **22.72%** are enrolled in private universities. The significant difference between state and private universities for international students can be attributed to factors such as higher tuition fees at private universities, the number of available spots for international students, and the admission criteria of the universities.

**Table 3.17.** *Distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for education by type of university, 2020–2021 academic year*<sup>127</sup>

Academic Year	Private	Rate (%) <sup>128</sup>	State	Rate (%) <sup>129</sup>	Total
2020-2021	50,882	22.72	173,070	77.28	224,048

In Türkiye, the distribution of international students by nationality shows that the largest groups are from Syria, with **47,482** students (**21.19%**); Azerbaijan, with **23,770** students (**10.6%**); and Turkmenistan, with **19,384** students (**8.65%**). Of the international students in Türkiye<sup>130</sup>, **36.02%** come from neighboring countries (5 countries), **22.35%** from Turkic republics (5 countries), and **12.02%** from Africa (9 countries). The remaining nationalities are spread across various regions.

In Türkiye, there are a total of 31 nationalities with more than a thousand international students each. Excluding unknown, stateless, and other categories, international students in Türkiye come from **195** different nationalities.

Regarding the sex distribution of international students, **63.82%** are male and **36.18%** are female. The top nationalities for male international students are Syria (**29,400 students**), Azerbaijan (**17,142 students**), and Turkmenistan (**11,206 students**). For female international students, the leading nationalities are Syria (**18,082 students**), Turkmenistan (**8,178 students**), and Azerbaijan (**6,628 students**).

124 Prepared by compiling data from the Council of Higher Education. For detailed information, see YÖK, "Higher Education Information System".

125 Refers to the ratio of male international students to female international students studying in Türkiye in the 2020–2021 academic year.

126 Refers to the ratio of female international students to male international students studying in Türkiye in the 2020–2021 academic year.





127 Prepared by compiling data from the Council of Higher Education. For detailed information, see YÖK, "Higher Education Information System".

128 Refers to the ratio of the number of international students studying at private universities compared to state universities in the 2020–2021 academic year.

129 Refers to the ratio of the number of international students studying at state universities compared to private universities in the 2020–2021 academic year.

130 Calculated by considering the nationalities of more than 1,000 international students.

**Table 3.18.** Distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for education by nationality and sex, 2020–2021 academic year <sup>131</sup>

Nationality	 Male	 Rate (%) <sup>132</sup>	 Female	 Rate (%) <sup>133</sup>	Total	Rate (%) <sup>134</sup>
Syria	29,400	61.91	18,082	38.09	47,482	21.19
Azerbaijan	17,142	72.11	6,628	27.89	23,770	10.60
Turkmenistan	11,206	57.81	8,178	42.19	19,384	8.65
Iraq	9,993	67.52	4,806	32.48	14,799	6.60
Iran	5,621	50.08	5,602	49.92	11,223	5.00
Afghanistan	6,686	79.33	1,742	20.67	8,428	3.76
Somali	5,788	71.09	2,353	38.91	8,141	3.63
Yemen	4,765	81.74	1,064	18.26	5,829	2.60
Egypt	4,032	69.26	1,789	30.74	5,821	2.59
Jordan	3,854	72.48	1,463	37.52	5,317	2.37
Germany	2,032	40.97	2,927	59.03	4,959	2.21
Bulgaria	2,070	46.70	2,362	53.30	4,432	1.97
Palastine	2,849	72.40	1,086	27.60	3,935	1.75
Nigeria	2,517	79.30	657	20.70	3,174	1.41
Pakistan	2,125	72.08	823	27.92	2,948	1.31
Kazakhstan	1,441	49.53	1,468	50.47	2,909	1.29
Greece	1,371	48.49	1,456	51.51	2,827	1.26
Morocco	1,192	47.09	1,339	52.91	2,531	1.12
Uzbekistan	1,547	63.89	874	36.11	2,421	1.08
Indonesia	1,415	62.83	837	37.17	2,252	1.00
China	1,242	55.17	1,009	44.83	2,251	1.00
Chad	1,644	84.26	307	15.74	1,951	0.87
Libya	1,203	70.18	511	29.82	1,714	0.76
Kyrgyzstan	888	53.85	761	46.15	1,649	0.73
Russia <sup>135</sup>	874	53.06	773	46.94	1,647	0.73
Sudan	1,064	74.66	361	25.34	1,425	0.63
Kosova	649	51.22	618	48.78	1,267	0.56
Lebanon	820	68.44	378	31.56	1,198	0.53
Djibouti	809	67.98	381	32.02	1,190	0.53
Algeria	605	55.25	490	44.75	1,095	0.48
Albania	449	42.15	616	57.85	1,065	0.47
Unknown	67	61.46	42	38.54	109	0.04
Stateless	11	68.75	5	31.25	16	0.01
Other <sup>136</sup>	15,627	62.78	9,262	37.22	24,889	11.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,998</b>	<b>63.82</b>	<b>81,050</b>	<b>36.18</b>	<b>224,048</b>	<b>100</b>

131 Prepared by compiling data from the Council of Higher Education. For detailed information, see YÖK, "Higher Education Information System".

132 Refers to the ratio of male international students of the respective nationality studying in Türkiye compared to female international students.

133 Refers to the ratio of female international students of the respective nationality studying in Türkiye compared to male international students.

134 The proportion of international students of the respective nationality studying in Türkiye compared to the total number of international students.

135 International students coming from the autonomous republics of the Russian Federation to study in Türkiye are grouped under Russia.

136 Nationalities with more than 1,000 international students have been added to the list, while nationalities with less than 1,000 international students have been under other.

The distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for their studies according to their universities is shown in Table 3.19. The universities hosting the most international students are Anadolu University with 11,660 students (%5.20), Karabük University with 9,768 students (%4.35), and İstanbul University with 8,287 students (%3.69). Among the top 20 universities hosting the most international students, 16 are public universities and 4 are private universities.

In terms of sex distribution, the universities with the highest number of male international students are Anadolu University with 7,111 students, Karabük University with 7,495 students, and İstanbul University with 4,452 students. Conversely, the universities hosting the most female international students are Anadolu University with 4,549 students, İstanbul University with 3,835 students, and Karabük University with 2,273 students.

**Table 3.19.** Distribution of international students coming to Türkiye for education by the top twenty universities and sex, 2020–2021 academic year<sup>137</sup>

University	Male	Rate (%) <sup>138</sup>	Female	Rate (%) <sup>139</sup>	Total	Rate (%) <sup>140</sup>
Anadolu University (D)	7,111	60.98	4,549	39.02	11,660	5.20
Karabük University (D)	7,495	76.73	2,273	23.27	9,768	4.35
İstanbul University (D)	4,452	53.72	3,835	46.28	8,287	3.69
Bursa Uludağ University (D)	3,206	59.98	2,139	40.02	5,345	2.38
Bahçeşehir University (V)	3,193	61.40	2,007	38.60	5,200	2.32
İstanbul Aydın University (V)	3,315	63.81	1,880	36.19	5,195	2.31
Altınbaş University (V)	3,545	69.78	1,535	30.22	5,080	2.26
Atatürk University (D)	2,519	53.17	2,218	46.83	4,737	2.11
Ondokuz Mayıs University (D)	2,946	63.31	1,707	36.69	4,653	2.07
Trakya University (D)	2,152	50.81	2,083	49.19	4,235	1.89
Ankara University (D)	2,404	57.67	1,764	42.33	4,168	1.86
Sakarya University (D)	2,566	65.32	1,362	34.68	3,928	1.75
Kütahya Dumlupınar University (D)	2,908	76.38	899	23.62	3,807	1.69
Gaziantep University (D)	2,052	57.81	1,497	42.19	3,549	1.58
Çankırı Karatekin University (D)	2,560	74.50	876	25.50	3,436	1.53
Mersin University (D)	1,771	59.13	1,224	40.87	2,995	1.33
İstanbul Gelişim University (V)	1,857	63.03	1,089	36.97	2,946	1.31
Uşak University (D)	1,879	66.41	950	33.59	2,829	1.26
Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University (D)	2,026	73.03	748	26.97	2,774	1.23
Kastamonu University (D)	2,084	75.58	673	24.42	2,757	1.23
Other	80,957	63.90	45,742	36.10	126,699	56.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,998</b>	<b>63.82</b>	<b>81,050</b>	<b>36.17</b>	<b>224,048</b>	<b>100</b>

137 It has been prepared by compiling data from the Council of Higher Education. For detailed information, see YÖK, "Higher Education Information Management System."

138 It expresses the ratio of male international students studying at the respective university compared to females.

139 It expresses the ratio of female international students studying at the respective university compared to males.

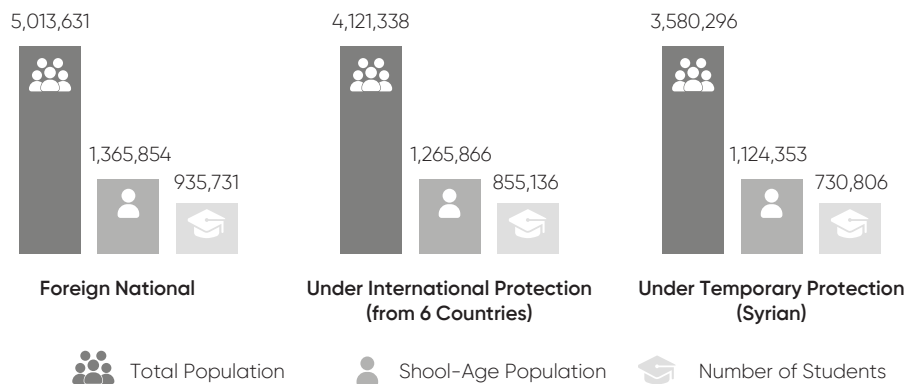
140 It expresses the ratio of international students studying at the respective university to the total number.



### 3.4. International Students in Primary Education

"In the section titled "International Students in Primary Education," the data used has been obtained from the Ministry of National Education's Directorate General of Lifelong Learning. The relevant unit's website previously shared data on international students in two different ways. The first method was through the "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations" section on the unit's homepage. This file was updated monthly and did not have an archive on the website. However, the data that had been regularly shared until January 2022 has been completely removed from the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning's website. The second method involved the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning's monitoring and evaluation reports. Although these reports, published since 2017, included data on international students, their primary purpose was to provide information on adult education activities. It was found that, starting with the 2021 report, data previously found in the "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations" file were incorporated into the monitoring and evaluation reports. Additionally, in this section, all educational levels categorized by the Ministry of National Education as primary, secondary, and high school are collectively referred to as "primary education." However, the tables and figures within the study follow the titles used by the Ministry of National Education.

Based on the data for the 2021-2022 academic year (Figure 3.2), among all foreign nationals in Türkiye, 935,731 out of 1,365,854 individuals of primary education age are students. Additionally, among 1,265,866 individuals under international protection, 855,136 are students, and among 1,124,353 individuals under temporary protection, 730,806 are students..



**Figure 3.2.** Data for 2021-2022 academic year (cumulative)<sup>141</sup><sup>142</sup>

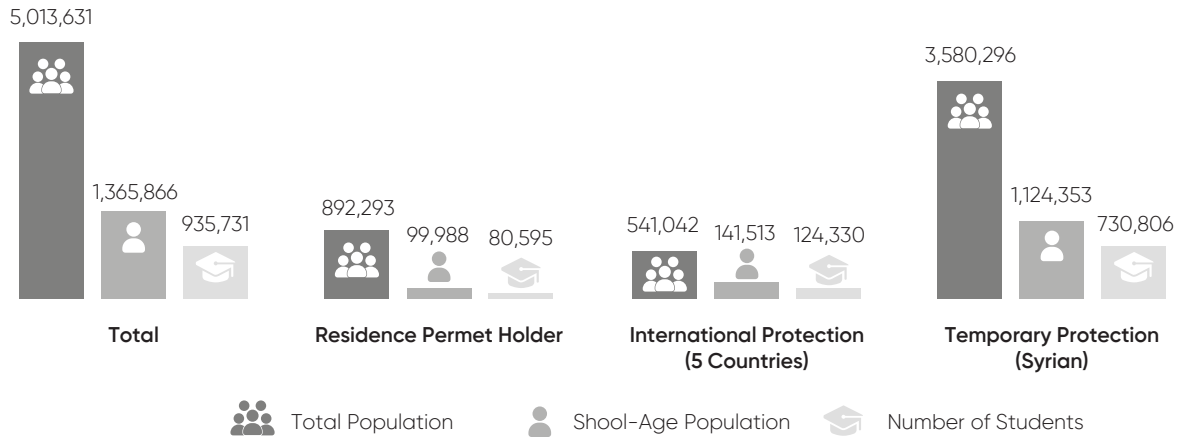
When subtracting the number of foreign students under international protection from the total number of foreign students, the resulting number represents foreign students in Türkiye with residence permits. Similarly, by excluding students under temporary protection from those under international protection, we obtain the number of students under international protection excluding Syrian students. Accordingly, the number of foreign students with residence permits

<sup>141</sup> Countries under international protection have been identified in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021 published by the Ministry of National Education, and these countries are Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, and Palestine. For detailed information, see Güzin Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021" (Ministry of National Education Directorate General of Lifelong Learning, 2022), md. 34.

<sup>142</sup> The Ministry of National Education (MEB) Directorate General of Lifelong Learning, "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations" Accessed January 8, 2022.

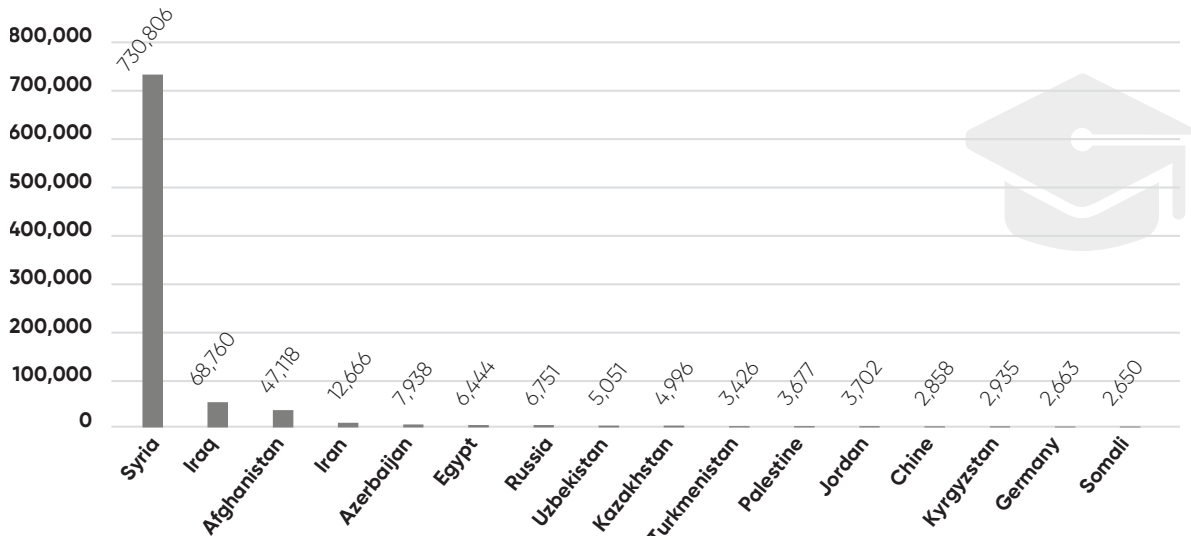


in Türkiye is 80,595. The number of foreign students under international protection (from 5 countries) is 124,330, while those under temporary protection (from Syria) number 730,806. On the other hand, considering the school-age population in primary education, out of 99,988 individuals with residence permits, 80,095 are students; out of 141,513 individuals under international protection (from 5 countries), 124,330 are students; and out of 1,124,353 individuals under temporary protection (from Syria), 730,806 are students.



**Figure 3.3.** Data for 2021-2022 academic year (non-cumulative)<sup>143</sup>

Figure 3.4 illustrates the distribution of foreign students in Türkiye by nationality. According to the data for the 2021-2022 academic year, the highest number of foreign students are from Syria, with 730,806 individuals; followed by Iraq, with 68,760 individuals; and Afghanistan, with 47,118 individuals. It is noteworthy that the top three nationalities among foreign students are those under international protection in our country.



**Figure 3.4.** Distribution of foreign students by nationality, 2021<sup>144</sup>

<sup>143</sup> It has been prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations."

<sup>144</sup> It has been prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations."

When analyzing the distribution of foreign students by education level (Table 3.20), it is observed that in the 2021–2022 academic year, a total of 935,731 foreign students were receiving education in Türkiye. Of these, 879,885 were registered in the e-School system and 9,712 were registered in YÖBİS. Additionally, there were 53,170 students enrolled in preschool, 387,037 in primary school, 325,198 in secondary school, and 105,379 in higher education. Furthermore, the highest number of foreign students in the 2021–2022 academic year were in the first grade, with 120,878 students.

**Table 3.20.** Distribution of all foreign students by nationality, 2021–2022 academic year<sup>145</sup>

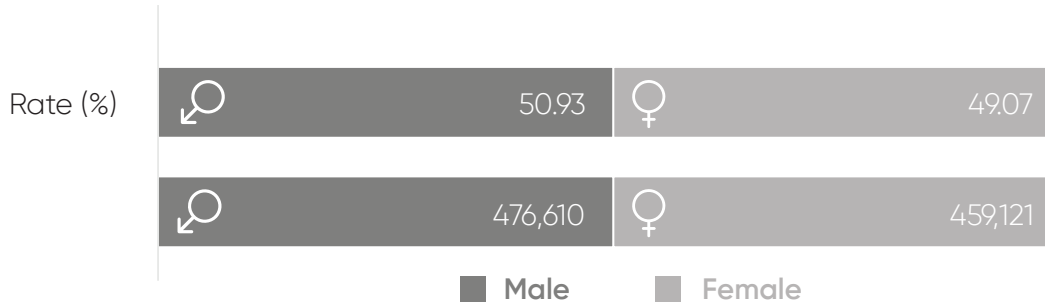
Grade	E-School Registered Student	YÖBİS Registered Student <sup>146</sup>	Total	By Educational Stage	School-Age Population Total	Total Population by Educational Stage	Percentage by Educational Stage
<b>Pre-school (5 years)</b>	53,134	36	53,170	53,170	137,075	137,075	%38.79
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade (6 years)</b>	120,738	140	120,878	387,037	135,893	495,971	%78.04
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (7 years)</b>	79,676	131	79,807		131,124		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (8 years)</b>	87,846	122	87,968		111,503		
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade (9 years)</b>	98,263	121	98,384		117,451		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade (10 years)</b>	95,919	84	96,003	335,198	115,271	412,921	%81.18
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade (11 years)</b>	83,682	109	83,791		109,906		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade (12 years)</b>	91,402	87	91,489		94,823		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade (13 years)</b>	63,860	55	63,915		92,921		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade (14 years)</b>	35,050	48	35,098	105,379	84,665	319,917	%50.11
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade (15 years)</b>	29,494	26	29,520		79,117		
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade (16 years)</b>	25,539	9	25,548		78,123		
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade (17 years)</b>	15,199	14	15,213		78,012		
<b>Highschool Prep</b>	83	0	83	83			
<b>ALP (A, B, C and D)</b>	0	8,730	8,730	8,370			
<b>Open Schools</b>	0	0	46,134	46,134			
<b>Total Number of Students<sup>147</sup></b>	<b>879,885</b>	<b>9,712</b>	<b>935,731</b>	<b>935,731</b>	<b>1,365,884</b>	<b>1,365,884</b>	<b>%68.51</b>

In the 2021–2022 academic year, a total of 935,731 international students—comprising 476,610 males and 459,121 females—were enrolled across all levels of education in the Ministry of National Education system.

<sup>145</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergency Situations."

<sup>146</sup> Higher Education Scholarship Statistics System (YÖBİS) is a website similar to the e-School system, established in 2014 by the Ministry of National Education to track Syrian students under temporary protection in Türkiye. For detailed information, see Sözcü, "Syrian Students, Under YÖBİS Tracking!" Accessed May 24, 2022. Although YÖBİS was established to track Syrian students, as seen in Figure 3.9, the number of students registered in YÖBİS has significantly decreased. Foreign students are also registered in the e-School system.





<sup>147</sup> According to the data published by the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning on December 13, 2021, the total number of students is 928,045, with 874,301 registered in e-School and 9,288 registered in YÖBİS. For detailed information, see Migrants et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021," 112.



**Figure 3.5.** Distribution of all foreign students by sex, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>148</sup>

When analyzing the enrollment rates of all foreign students (see Table 3.21), it is observed that 935,731 students—representing 68.51% of the 1,365,884 individuals within the primary education age group—are enrolled in school. The enrollment rates by educational stage are as follows: 38.79% for preschool, 78.04% for primary school, 81.18% for secondary school, and 50.11% for higher secondary education. This indicates that while enrollment rates generally increase with each stage of education, there is a notable decrease at the higher secondary education stage.

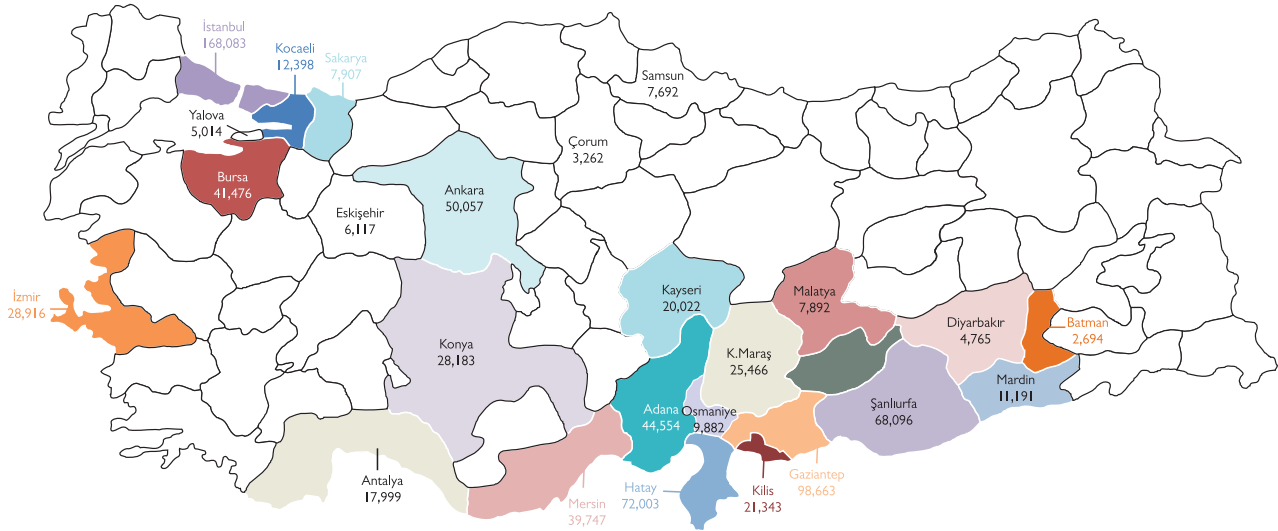
**Table 3.21.** Enrollment rates of all foreign students by educational level, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>149</sup>

	 Sex	 Number of Students	 School-Age Population	 Percentage Rate (%)
Pre-School	Male	27,073	-	-
	Female	26,097	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,170</b>	<b>137,075</b>	<b>38.79</b>
Primary School	Male	199,937	-	-
	Female	187,100	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>387,037</b>	<b>495,971</b>	<b>78.04</b>
Middle School	Male	171,210	-	-
	Female	163,988	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>335,198</b>	<b>412,921</b>	<b>81.18</b>
Highschool	Male	78,390	-	-
	Female	81,936	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160,326</b>	<b>319,917</b>	<b>50.11</b>

<sup>148</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<sup>149</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

Map 3.2 displays the distribution of foreign students across various provinces. It shows that the highest concentrations of foreign students are in Istanbul (168,083), Gaziantep (68,663), and Hatay (72,003). Additionally, it can be observed that the majority of foreign students are concentrated in southeastern Türkiye.



**Map 3.2.** Distribution of all foreign students by provinces with the highest concentration, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>150</sup>

Table 3.22 shows the distribution of foreign students under international protection by level of education. It indicates that 806,536 students are registered in the e-School system and 9,071 students are registered in YÖBİS, resulting in a total of 855,136 students enrolled in the Ministry of National Education systems. Comparing this to the school-age population, it is found that 67.55% are currently enrolled in school.

**Table 3.22.** Enrollment rates of all foreign students by educational level, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>151</sup>

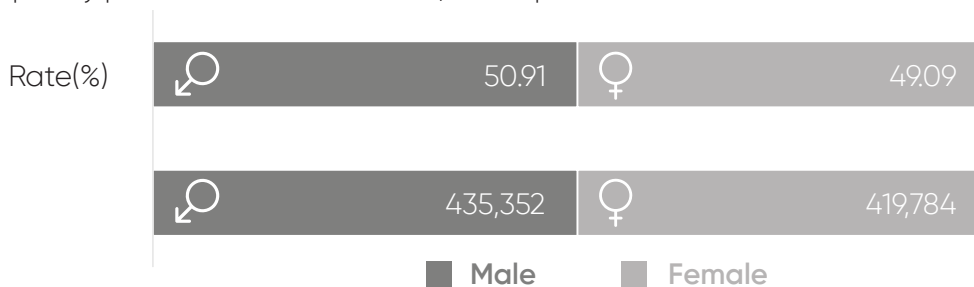
Grade	E-School Registered Student	YÖBİS Registered Student	Total	By Educational Stage	School-Age Total Population	Total Population by Educational Stage	Percentage by Educational Stage
Preschool (5 years)	46,370	10	46,380	46,380	129,113	129,113	35.92
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade (6 years)	113,883	73	113,938	361,777	127,879	463,776	78.01
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (7 years)	74,154	84	74,238		122,893		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade (8 years)	81,435	71	81,506		103,581		
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade (9 years)	92,034	61	92,095		109,313		

150 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

151 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade (10 years)</b>	89,747	53	89,800		107,454		
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade (11 years)</b>	77,618	59	77,677	311,207	101,910	381,275	81.62
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade (12 years)</b>	85,369	50	85,419		86,841		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade (13 years)</b>	58,280	31	58,311		85,070		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade (14 years)</b>	29,993	40	30,033		77,256		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade (15 years)</b>	24,871	18	24,889	87,714	72,114	291,712	46.54
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade (16 years)</b>	21,129	8	21,137		71,276		
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade (17 years)</b>	11,645	10	11,655		71,066		
<b>Highschool Prep</b>	26	0	26		26		
<b>ALP (A, B, C and D)</b>	0	8,503	8,503	8,503			
<b>Open Schools</b>	0	0	39,529	39,529			
<b>Total Number of Students<sup>152</sup></b>	<b>806,536</b>	<b>9,071</b>	<b>855,136</b>	<b>855,136</b>	<b>1,265,866</b>	<b>1,265,866</b>	<b>67.55</b>

Among the students under international protection in Türkiye, 435,352 (50.91%) are male and 419,784 (49.09%) are female. However, due to the lack of data from the Ministry of National Education on the distribution of the age population by sex and the Presidency of Migration Management's discontinuation of sharing age and sex distribution for foreigners under temporary protection since mid-2021, a comparison cannot be made.



**Figure 3.6.** Distribution of students under international protection by sex, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>153</sup>

<sup>152</sup> According to the data published by the Ministry of National Education on 12/13/2021, the total number of students is 854,839, of which 807,627 are registered in E-School and 8,679 are registered in YÖBİS. For detailed information, see Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 113.

<sup>153</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

Table 3.23 shows the schooling rates of foreign students under international protection in Türkiye by educational stage. It reveals that the highest schooling rates are in secondary school, at 81.62%, and in primary school, at 78.01%. However, it is noteworthy that the schooling rate drops to 46.54% when moving from secondary school to high school.

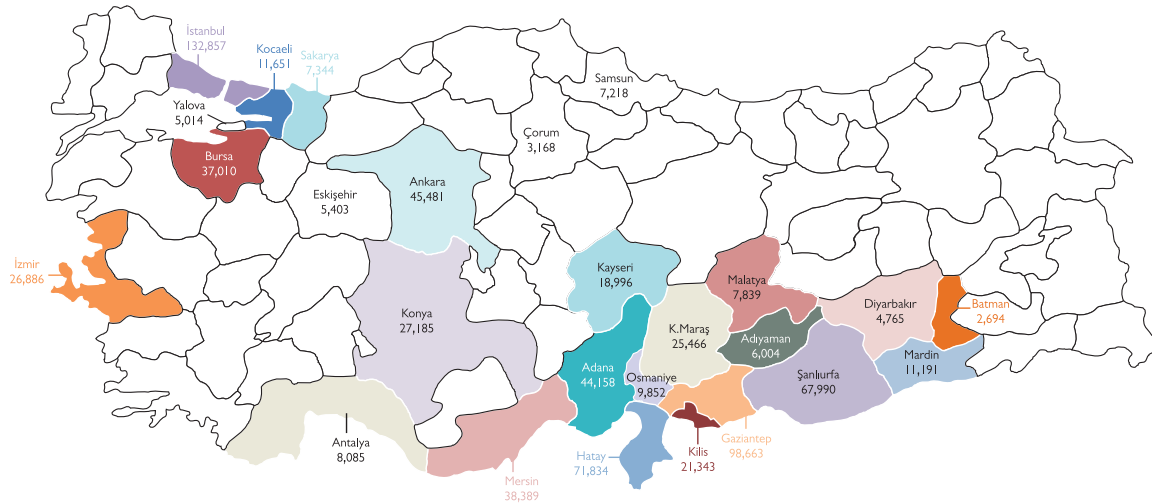
**Table 3.23.** Enrollment rates of foreign students under international protection by educational level, 2021–2022 academic year <sup>154</sup>

Educational Stage	Sex	Number of Students	School-Age Population	Percentage Rate (%)
Preschool	Male	23,585	-	-
	Female	22,795	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46,380</b>	<b>129,113</b>	<b>35.92</b>
Primary School	Male	186,977	-	-
	Female	174,800	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>361,777</b>	<b>463,766</b>	<b>78.01</b>
Middle School	Male	158,844	-	-
	Female	152,363	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>311,207</b>	<b>381,275</b>	<b>81.62</b>
Highschool	Male	65,946	-	-
	Female	69,826	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>135,772</b>	<b>291,712</b>	<b>46.54</b>

**Map 3.3** illustrates the distribution of foreign students under international protection across various provinces in Türkiye. Similar to the overall distribution of foreign students, Istanbul has the highest number with 132,857 students, followed by Gaziantep<sup>155</sup> with 99,295 and Hatay with 71,834. Additionally, when subtracting the number of foreign students under international protection from the total number of foreign students in southeastern Türkiye, it is evident that a substantial portion of the foreign students in this region are under international protection.

<sup>154</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<sup>155</sup> While the number of students receiving education in Gaziantep among all foreign students is 98,663, the number of students under international protection in Gaziantep is 99,295 according to the Ministry of National Education data. Considering that the number of all foreign students includes those under international protection, this number suggests that an inadvertent mistake was made while sharing the data.



**Map 3.3.** Distribution of foreign students under international protection by provinces with the highest concentration, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>156</sup>

Table 3.24 shows the distribution of foreign students under temporary protection. It reveals that a total of 730,806 students under temporary protection are receiving education in Türkiye, with 688,694 registered in the e-School system and 8,039 in YÖBİS.

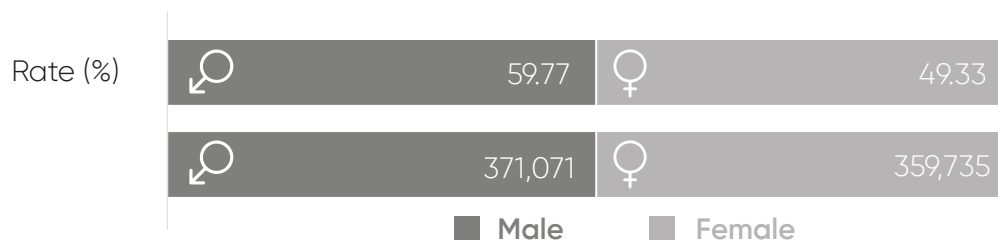
**Table 3.24.** Distribution of foreign students under temporary protection (Syria), 2021-2022 academic year<sup>157</sup>

Grade	E-School Registered Student	YÖBİS Registered Student	Total	By Educational Stage	School-Age Total Population	Total Population by Educational Stage	Percentage by Educational Stage
Preschool (Age 5)	40,545	2	40,547	40,547	118,083	118,083	34.34
1st Grade (Age 6)	101,080	16	101,096	313,695	116,754	417,546	75.13
2nd Grade (Age 7)	64,049	24	64,073		111,031		
3rd Grade (Age 8)	69,167	32	69,199		92,017		
4th Grade (Age 9)	79,291	36	79,327		97,744		
5th Grade (Age 10)	78,329	24	78,353		95,707		
6th Grade (Age 11)	66,435	22	66,457	268,752	90,334	335,952	80
7th Grade (Age 12)	74,613	19	74,632		75,390		
8th Grade (Age 13)	49,298	12	49,310		74,521		
9th Grade (Age 14)	23,457	4	23,461		67,544		
10th Grade (Age 15)	18,672	8	18,680	65,885	62,251	252,772	42.65
11th Grade (Age 16)	15,218	1	15,219		61,520		
12th Grade (Age 17)	8,521	4	8,525		61,457		
Highschool Prep	19	0	19	19			
ALP (A, B, C and D)	0	7,835	7,835	7,835			
Open School	0	0	34,073	34,073			
<b>Total Number of Students<sup>158</sup></b>	<b>688,694</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>730,806</b>	<b>730,806</b>	<b>1,124,353</b>	<b>1,124,353</b>	<b>65</b>

156 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

157 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

158 According to the data published by the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning on 13.12.2021, 690,633 are registered in E-School and 7,796 are registered in YÖBİS. The total number of registered students is 731,713. For detailed information, see Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 113.



**Figure 3.7.** Distribution of foreign students under temporary protection (Syrian) by sex, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>159</sup>

The Ministry of National Education has identified several factors contributing to the inadequate access to education for Syrian nationals under temporary protection in Türkiye. Key issues include differences in educational systems, as Syria follows a 6+3+3 structure with non-compulsory high school education, which contrasts with Türkiye's system. Additionally, children from economically disadvantaged families may need to start working after secondary school instead of continuing their education. Families planning to migrate to a third country may avoid enrolling their children in Turkish schools, while language barriers can deter students from attending due to insufficient Turkish proficiency. Long absences from school may lead to reluctance to return, and cultural preferences for maintaining traditional structures further influence educational decisions.<sup>160</sup>

Examining the schooling rates of foreign students under temporary protection in Türkiye by educational level reveals the following: 34.34% for preschool, 75.13% for primary school, 80% for secondary school, and 42.65% for high school. Notably, while schooling rates are relatively high for primary and secondary education, they drop significantly to 42.65% at the high school level. This dramatic decrease underscores a critical issue in maintaining educational continuity for these students as they progress through their schooling.

**Table 3.25.** Enrollment rates of foreign students under temporary protection (Syria) by educational level, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>161</sup>

Educational Stage	Sex	Number of Students	School-Age Population	Percentage Rate (%)
Preschool	Male	20,617		
	Female	19,930		
	Total	40,547	118,083	34.34
Primary School	Male	162,123		
	Female	151,572		
	Total	313,695	417,546	75.13
Middle School	Male	136,649		
	Female	132,103		
	Total	268,752	335,952	80
Highschool	Male	51,682		
	Female	56,130		
	Total	107,812	252,772	42.65

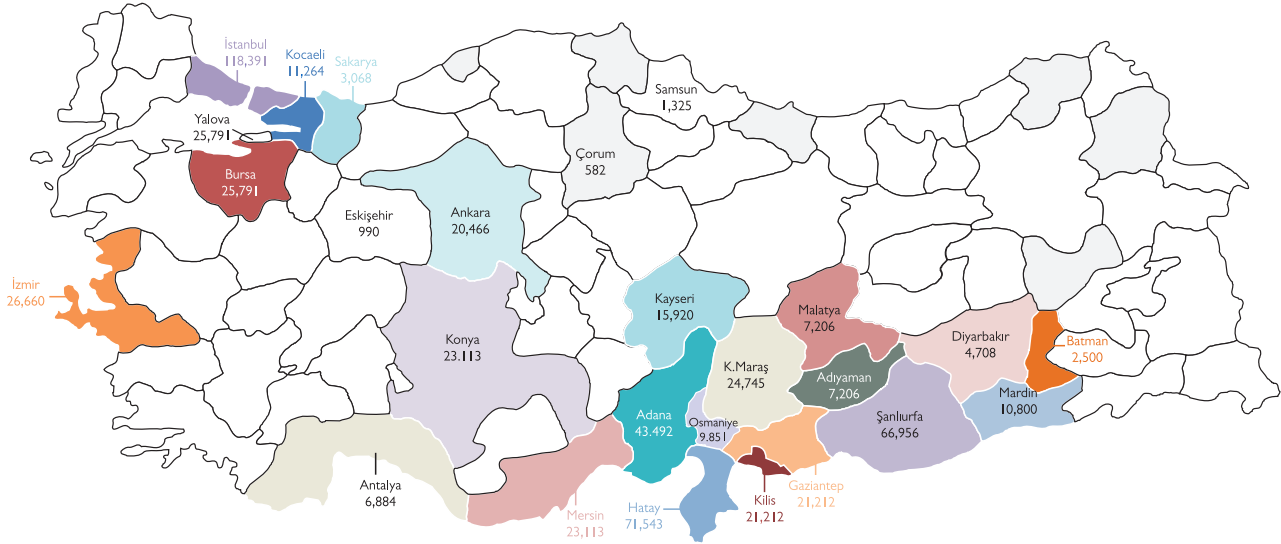
<sup>159</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<sup>160</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Migration and Education in Emergencies".

<sup>161</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies". Students includes those under international protection, this number suggests that an inadvertent mistake was made while sharing the data.

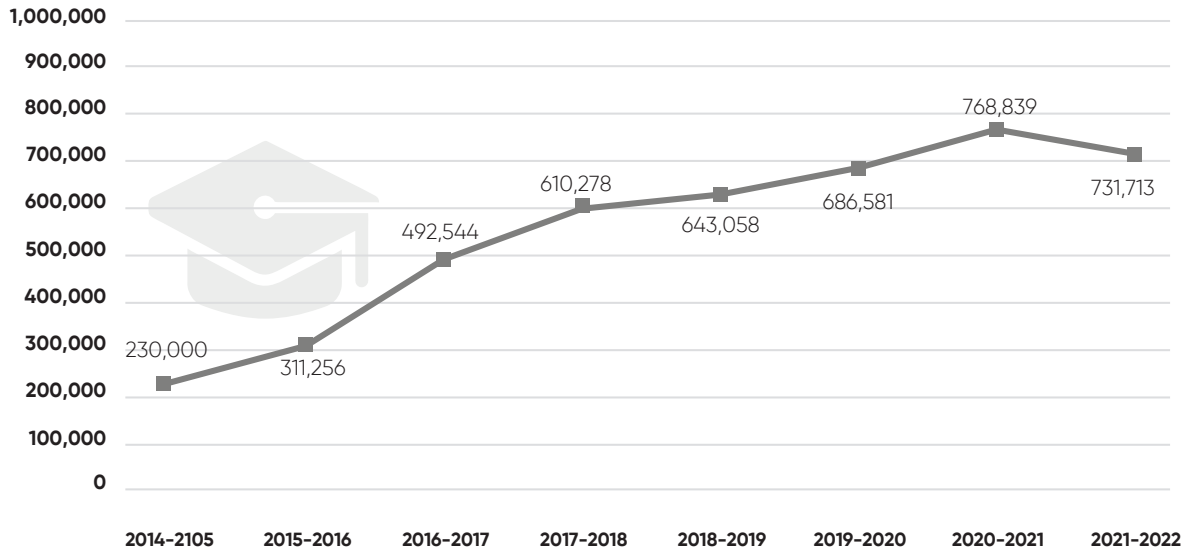


Foreign (Syrian) students under temporary protection in Türkiye are primarily concentrated in İstanbul, with 118,391 students, Gaziantep, with 97,861, and Hatay, with 71,543. Additionally, it is observed that Syrian students are predominantly located in the southeastern region of Türkiye.



**Map 3.4.** Distribution of foreign students under temporary protection (Syria) by provinces with the highest concentration, 2021-2022 academic year<sup>162</sup>

Figure 3.8 illustrates the distribution of Syrian students under temporary protection in Türkiye over the years. The number of Syrian students increased from 230,000 in the 2014-2015 academic year to 731,713 in the 2020-2021 academic year.

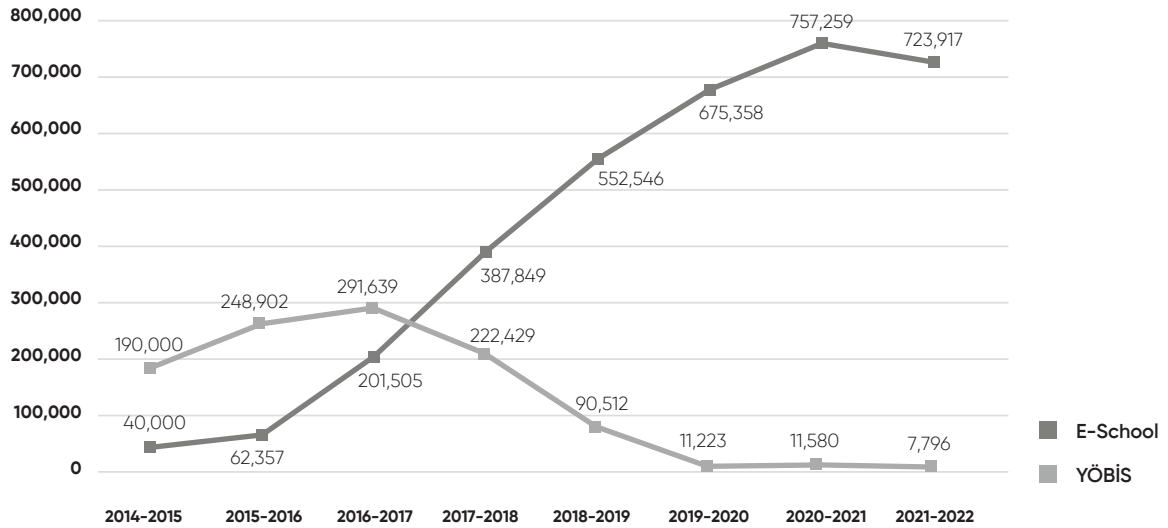


**Figure 3.8.** Distribution of school enrollment numbers of Syrian students under temporary protection in Türkiye by year, 2014-2021<sup>163</sup>

<sup>162</sup> MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<sup>163</sup> Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 115.

Figure 3.9 shows the distribution of foreign students under temporary protection in Türkiye according to the Ministry of National Education systems from 2014 to 2021. The number of Syrian students registered in YÖBİS decreased significantly from 190,000 in the 2014–2015 academic year to 11,580 in the 2020–2021 academic year. In contrast, the number of Syrian students registered in the e-School system increased substantially from 40,000 in the 2014–2015 academic year to 723,917 in the 2021–2022 academic year, reaching its peak of 757,259 in the 2020–2021 academic year.



**Figure 3.9.** Distribution of the number of Syrian students under temporary protection in e-School and YÖBİS (Higher Education Scholarship Statistics System) by year, 2014–2021<sup>164</sup>

When analyzing non-formal education activities for all foreigners between 2014 and 2021, it is found that the majority participated in general courses, with 1,110,406 participants, followed by Turkish language teaching courses with 551,604 participants, and vocational courses with 195,387 participants. Notably, the number of participants in Turkish reading and writing courses (82,289) exceeded those in Turkish language teaching courses.

**Table 3.26.** Nonformal educational activities for all foreigners, 2014–2021<sup>165</sup>

	Male	Rate (%)	Female	Rate (%)	Total
<b>Trainees Participating in General Courses</b>	479,530	43.19	630,876	56.81	1,110,406
<b>Trainees Participating in Vocational Courses</b>	52,741	27	142,646	73	195,387
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Language Teaching Courses</b>	225,151	40.82	326,453	59.18	551,604
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Literacy Courses</b>	40,696	49.13	42,133	50.87	82,829

164 Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 116.

165 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

Table 3.27 displays non-formal education activities for foreigners under international protection. Between 2014 and 2021, the highest participation was observed in general courses, with 1,033,222 participants, followed by Turkish language teaching courses, which had 533,976 participants.

**Table 3.27.** Nonformal education activities for foreigners under international protection, 2014- 2021 academic year <sup>166</sup>









	 Male	 Rate (%)	 Female	 Rate (%)	Total
<b>Trainees Participating in General Courses</b>	452,443	43.79	580,779	56.21	1,033,222
<b>Trainees Participating in Vocational Courses</b>	40,968	27.71	106,881	72.29	147,849
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Language Teaching Courses</b>	218,663	40.95	315,313	59.05	533,976
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Literacy Courses</b>	38,219	50.12	38,035	49.88	76,254

Table 3.28 illustrates non-formal education activities for foreigners under temporary protection between 2014 and 2021. The most attended courses were general courses, with 915,606 participants, and Turkish language teaching courses, with 480,110 participants. Additionally, it is observed that women under temporary protection in Türkiye are more active in participating in all non-formal education activities compared to men.

**Table 3.28.** Nonformal education activities for foreigners under temporary protection (Syrian), 2014-2021 academic year <sup>167</sup>

	 Male	 Rate (%)	 Female	 Rate (%)	Total
<b>Trainees Participating in General Courses</b>	396,603	43.32	519,003	56.68	915,606
<b>Trainees Participating in Vocational Courses</b>	36,768	27.86	95,228	72.14	131,996
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Language Teaching Courses</b>	193,422	40.29	286,688	59.73	480,110
<b>Trainees Participating in Turkish Literacy Courses</b>	31,263	49.82	31,495	50.18	62,758

It has been determined that a total of 131 foreigners from 131 countries participated in the courses offered for foreigners in Türkiye. According to the distribution of participants by nationality (Table 3.29), the highest number of participants are Syrian nationals, with 230,239

<sup>166</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".

<sup>167</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Ministry of National Education. For detailed information, see MEB, "Migration and Education in Emergencies".

people, followed by Afghans with 12,898 people and Iraqis with 6,794 people. Notably, Syrian participants constitute a significant majority, accounting for 86.38% of all participants.

An analysis of the number of courses offered reveals that a total of 266,541 people (124,686 men and 141,855 women) participated in 24,197 courses. It is noteworthy that, among the top ten nationalities participating in these courses, women outnumber men in every nationality group. Specifically, courses were opened for Syrian nationals, with 9,348 courses, followed by 2,583 courses for Afghan nationals and 1,795 courses for Iraqi nationals.




**Table 3.29.** Distribution of courses for foreigners and trainee data in Türkiye by nationality, 2021<sup>168</sup>

Nationality	Number of Courses	Male Trainee	Female Trainee	Total Number of Trainees
Syria	9,348	110,166	120,073	230,239
Afghanistan	2,583	6,229	6,669	12,898
Iraq	1,795	2,786	4,008	6,794
Iran	1,374	774	1,738	2,512
Azerbaijan	1,097	342	974	1,316
Germany	1,119	274	1,008	1,282
Turkmenistan	708	218	728	946
Russia	504	200	723	923
Kazakhstan	427	200	475	675
Uzbekistan	457	99	422	521
Other	4,785	3,398	5,037	8,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,197</b>	<b>124,686</b>	<b>141,855</b>	<b>266,541</b>

Analyzing the distribution of courses offered for foreigners in Türkiye by the top ten courses (Table 3.30) reveals that Turkish language teaching is the most prevalent. The courses with the highest attendance include "Social Cohesion and Life" with 133,831 participants, "Turkish for Foreigners (A1)" with 16,938 participants, and "Teaching Turkish to Foreigners (Ages 6-12) Level 1" with 10,507 participants. Among the most popular courses by number of offerings are "Level II Placement Test in Reading and Writing" with 978 courses, "Level I Placement Test in Reading and Writing" with 968 courses, and "Turkish for Foreigners (Level A1)" with 917 courses.

168 Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 119.

**Table 3.30.** Distribution of foreign trainees in Türkiye by the top ten courses attended, 2021<sup>169</sup>

Program	 Number of Courses	 Male Trainee	 Female Trainee	Total Number of Trainees
<b>Social Cohesion and Life</b>	363	70,941	62,890	133,831
<b>Turkish for Foreigners (Level A1)</b>	917	5,053	11,885	16,938
<b>Teaching Turkish to Foreigners (Ages 6-12) Level I</b>	299	5,233	5,274	10,507
<b>Intensive Basic Level Literacy Training Program</b>	826	3,685	5,103	8,968
<b>Reading and Writing Level I Placement Exam</b>	968	5,155	1,674	6,829
<b>Reading and Writing Level II Placement Exam</b>	978	5,001	1,461	6,462
<b>Turkish for Foreigners (Level A2)</b>	413	2,020	4,400	6,420
<b>Teaching Turkish to Foreigners (Ages 13-17) Level I</b>	245	2,763	2,637	5,400
<b>Teaching Turkish to Foreigners (Ages 6-12) Level II</b>	124	1,964	1,949	3,913
<b>Teaching Turkish to Foreigners (Ages 13-17) Level II</b>	167	1,930	1,782	3,712

The Ministry of National Education collaborates with various institutions and organizations to support foreign children receiving education in Türkiye. In this context, there are four primary projects.<sup>170</sup>

The Early Childhood Education Project for Syrian and Turkish Children in Need in Türkiye (ECE), implemented in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), spans from 2020 to 2022. The project's goal is to "expand early childhood education services and increase access to early childhood education." The expected outcomes include enhancing institutional capacities, providing incentives for the professional development of experts and managerial staff, "strengthening parent education," and improving the competencies of relevant personnel.

The Social Cohesion and Life Education Program (SUYE), developed in collaboration with the Presidency of Migration Management, covers the period from 2019 to 2022. The project's aim is to facilitate the social, economic, and cultural integration of Syrians under temporary protection and foreigners with legal residency in Türkiye. One of the key outcomes of the program is to address the integration needs of these foreigners and to strengthen their connections with the wider society.

In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a cash support project was developed for schools with a high concentration of foreign students during the 2021-2022 academic year and implemented as a one-time initiative in June 2021. The project aimed to address the cleaning materials and renovation needs of educational institutions, ensuring a better learning environment for students.

169 Göçmenler et al., "HBÖGM Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2021", 121. 63

170 MEB, "Education in Migration and Emergencies".



### 3.5. Housing Procurement

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) publishes monthly news bulletins under the heading “Housing Sales Statistics.” These bulletins include cumulative data on all residential property sales in Türkiye for the relevant month. Among the specific sections related to sales to foreigners, the bulletin features: “House Sales to Foreigners, 2013–2021,” “House Sales to Foreigners, December 2021,” and “Most House Sales by Nationality in 2021 Were Made to Iranian Citizens.” Additionally, detailed data on this topic is available on the website, which also hosts the news bulletin. Key sources in this section include: “Number of House Sales to Foreigners by Nationality,” “Number of House Sales to Foreigners by Province,” and “Number of House Sales to Foreigners,” all of which are published in the “Statistical Tables” section of the website.

There are several legislative provisions concerning the purchase of real estate by foreigners in Türkiye. According to the Land Registry Law No. 2644, individuals of nationalities designated by the President of the Republic may acquire real estate in Türkiye if it is deemed to be in the country's interest.<sup>171</sup> The amendment introduced by Law No. 6302 stipulates that foreign ownership of real estate cannot exceed ten percent of the land area in a district and 30 hectares per individual.<sup>172</sup> Under the Value Added Tax (VAT) Law No. 3065, non-resident foreign individuals are exempt from VAT on the initial delivery of buildings constructed as residences or workplaces. If it is determined that the individual does not meet this condition, any unpaid tax and additional penalties are collected from them.<sup>173</sup> Moreover, foreigners who purchase a residence in Türkiye for at least USD 400,000 (or its foreign currency equivalent) and commit to not transferring the property for three years may be eligible for Turkish citizenship under exceptional circumstances.<sup>174</sup> Additionally, there is a decision to encourage companies based in Türkiye that offer real estate sales services, particularly those targeting foreign clients.<sup>175</sup>

Another significant factor influencing house sales is the economic situation. In Süleymanlı's article analyzing the relationship between the exchange rate and housing sales to foreigners from 2013 to 2019, it is noted that the socio-economic and political conditions of the investment country play a crucial role in property purchases. Süleymanlı also highlights that foreign demand for housing increased dramatically in 2018 compared to previous years. This surge in demand coincided with a rise in the exchange rate in Türkiye, suggesting a connection between the two phenomena. In other words, as the exchange rate in Türkiye increased, the cost for foreign buyers decreased, leading to a higher demand for property purchases.<sup>176</sup>

Examining the distribution of housing sales to foreigners by year (see Figure 3.10), the number of housing units sold to foreign nationals rose significantly from 12,181 in 2013 to 58,576<sup>177</sup> in 2021.

171 Land Registry Law (TK), Official Gazette 2892 (December 22, 1934), Law no: 2644, Art. 35/1.

172 Law Amending the Land Registry Law and Cadastral Law, Official Gazette 28296 (May 18, 2012), Law no: 6302, Art. 1.

173 Value Added Tax Law (VAT Law), Official Gazette 18563 (October 25, 1984), Law no: 3065, Art. 13/1-i.

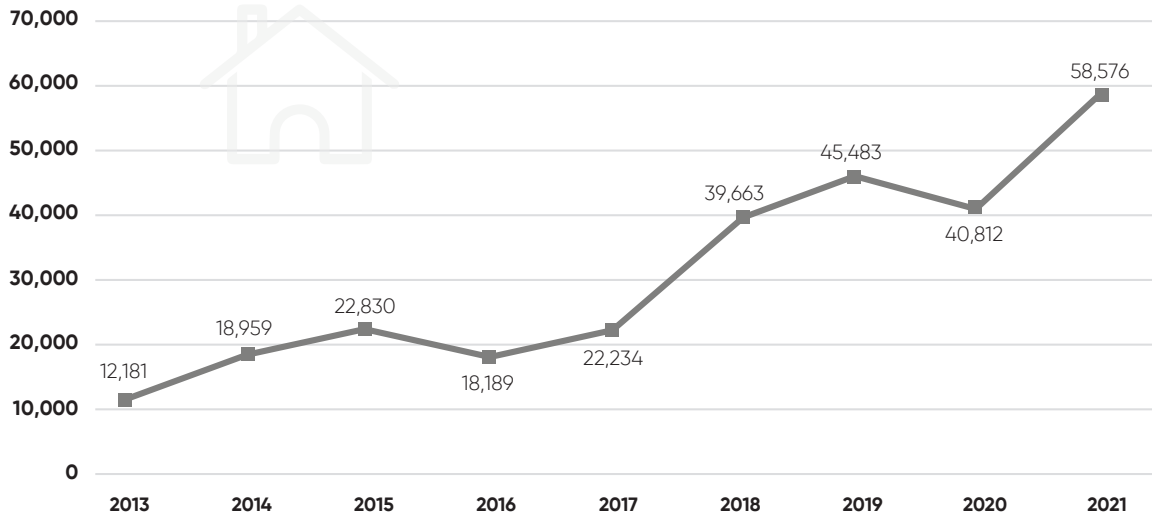
174 Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 20.

175 Decision on Defining, Classifying and Supporting Service Exports, Official Gazette 31816 (April 20, 2022), Decree No: 5448, Art. 48/1-ç.

176 CavidSüleymanlı, Türkiye’de Yabancıların Konut Edinimi ile Döviz Kuru Arasındaki İlişki: Eşbütünleşme Analizi(2013–2019), Bingöl Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisi, 3/2 (December 2019), 134.

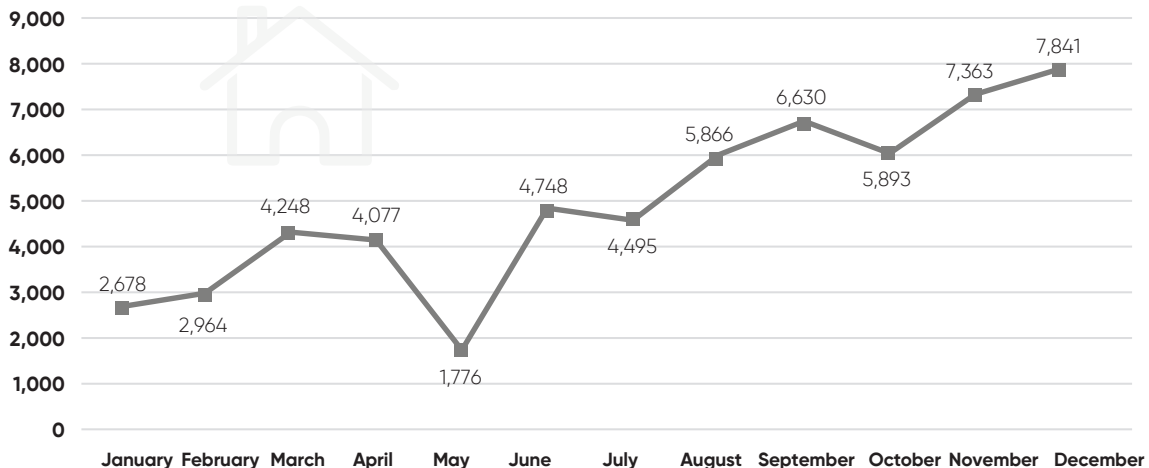
177 In the data published by the Turkish Statistical Institute, the total number of house sales in 2021 was announced as 58,576 in the distribution tables according to provinces, months and years. On the other hand, the distribution table by nationalities shows that the sales made in 2021 were 59,282.

On the other hand, the decline in housing sales in 2016 can be attributed to the political tension in Türkiye, while the decrease in 2020 is likely related to the coronavirus pandemic.



**Figure 3.10.** Distribution of residential property sales to foreigners by year, 2013-2021<sup>178</sup>

Figure 3.11 shows the distribution of house sales to foreigners by month. The highest number of sales occurred in December, with 7,841 units, followed by November with 7,363 units, and September with 6,630 units. This data indicates that house sales to foreigners tend to increase towards the end of the year.

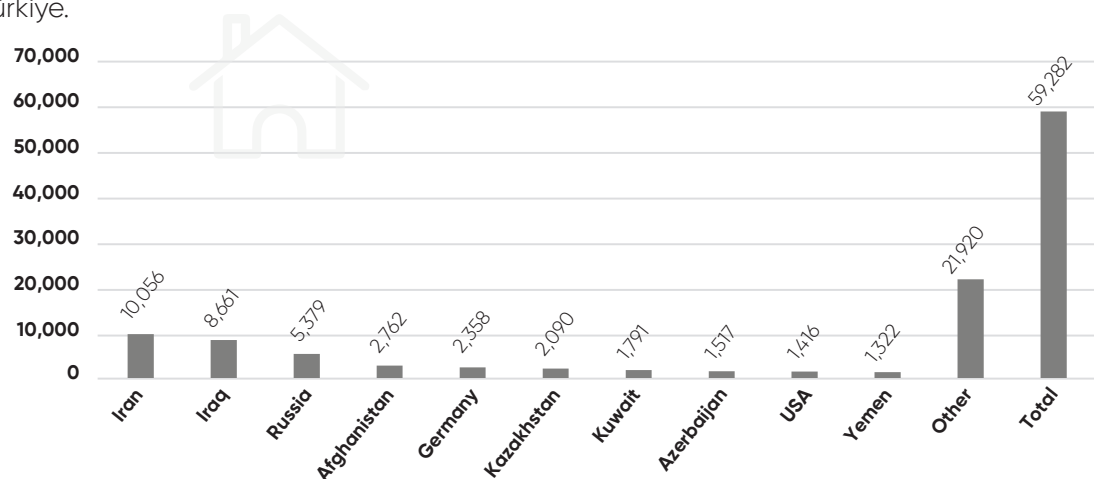


**Figure 3.11.** Distribution of residential property sales to foreigners by month, 2021<sup>179</sup>

<sup>178</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, "Housing Sales to Foreigners" Accessed March 18, 2022.

<sup>179</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, "Housing Sales to Foreigners".

According to data published by the Turkish Statistical Institute (see Figure 3.12), the highest number of house sales in 2021 were made to foreigners from Iran, with 10,056 units; Iraq, with 8,661 units; and Russia, with 5,379 units. The relatively high figure in the “Other” category, totaling 21,920 units, suggests a diverse range of nationalities interested in purchasing property in Türkiye.



**Figure 3.12.** Distribution of residential property sales to foreigners by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>180</sup>

In 2021, the distribution of house sales to foreigners across the top ten provinces (see Table 3.31) indicates that the highest number of sales occurred in Istanbul, with 26,469 units (45.18%), followed by Antalya with 12,384 units (21.14%), and Ankara with 3,672 units (6.26%).

**Table 3.31.** Distribution of housing sales to foreigners by the top ten provinces, 2021<sup>181</sup>

Province	Housing Sales	Rate (%) <sup>182</sup>
Istanbul	26,469	45.18
Antalya	12,384	21.14
Ankara	3,672	6.26
Mersin	2,513	4.29
Yalova	1,818	3.10
Bursa	1,683	2.87
Izmir	1,411	2.40
Samsun	1,262	2.15
Sakarya	1,157	1.97
Trabzon	952	1.62
Other	5,255	8.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,576</b>	<b>100</b>

180 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), “Number of Housing Sales to Foreigners by Nationality” Accessed March 18, 2022.

181 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), “Number of House Sales to Foreigners by Province” Accessed March 18, 2022.

182 The ratio of the number of house sales to foreigners in the corresponding province compared to the total number.



When analyzing the distribution of house sales to foreigners by the top ten nationalities and by month (see Table 3.32), it is observed that the highest number of sales in December were to foreigners from Iran, with 1,462 units; Iraq, with 1,039 units; and Russia, with 885 units.

**Table 3.32.** Distribution of housing sales to foreigners by the top ten nationalities and month, 2021<sup>183</sup>

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Rate (%)
<b>Iran</b>	459	477	663	557	231	683	619	911	1,323	1,265	1,406	1,462	10,056	16.96
<b>Iraq</b>	385	432	644	546	239	773	712	900	990	926	1,075	1,039	8,661	14.60
<b>Russia</b>	260	259	419	402	119	300	365	451	540	543	836	885	5,379	9.07
<b>Afghanistan</b>	168	230	302	229	98	250	229	313	270	188	231	254	2,762	4.65
<b>Germany</b>	65	96	142	144	87	192	198	262	298	256	322	296	2,358	3.97
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	69	119	166	188	80	165	166	176	210	191	278	282	2,090	3.52
<b>Kuwait</b>	58	41	49	78	43	151	189	264	281	189	185	263	1,791	3.02
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	68	77	106	131	47	164	127	138	162	120	185	192	1,517	2.55
<b>USA</b>	62	63	91	125	54	150	153	173	143	109	142	151	1,416	2.38
<b>Yemen</b>	88	79	120	134	63	113	103	110	139	97	123	163	1,322	2.24
<b>Other</b>	1,030	1,122	1,583	1,598	735	1,885	1,703	2,234	2,350	2,079	2,658	2,943	21,920	36.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>4,826</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>5,932</b>	<b>6,706</b>	<b>5,963</b>	<b>7,441</b>	<b>7,930</b>	<b>59,282</b>	<b>100</b>



### 3.6. Marriage – Divorce

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) publishes data on all marriages and divorces in Türkiye in a newsletter titled “Marriage and Divorce Statistics.” This bulletin includes information on foreign nationals as well. Detailed data on marriages involving foreigners in Türkiye are available in files titled “Marriages According to the Country of Birth of the Man and Woman” and “Marriages According to the Nationality of the Man and Woman,” which can be found in the “Marriage Statistics” section of the “Statistical Tables” on the website where the newsletter is published. Similarly, data on divorces involving foreigners in Türkiye are published in the “Divorce Statistics” section, with files titled “Divorces According to the Country of Birth of the Man and Woman” and “Divorces According to the Nationality of the Man and Woman.”

Matters concerning the marriage of foreigners in Türkiye are governed by the Marriage Regulation. According to this Regulation, it is possible for one of the spouses to be a Turkish citizen, or for two foreigners to marry in Türkiye. The marriage ceremony is conducted by an authorized marriage officer in Türkiye.<sup>184</sup>

<sup>183</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, “Number of Housing Sales to Foreigners by Nationality”.

<sup>184</sup> Marriage Regulation, Official Gazette 18921 (November 7, 1985), Art. 12/1/1

Examining foreign marriages in Türkiye (Table 3.33), 4,976 grooms (0.9%) and 23,687 brides (4.2%) are foreign nationals. This indicates that at least one of the parties in these marriages is likely a Turkish citizen.

**Table 3.33.** Distribution of foreign marriages by sex and share in total marriages (%), 2021<sup>185</sup>










Nationality	 Groom	 Groom (%)	 Bride	 Bride (%)	Total
<b>Foreign</b>	4,976	%0.9	23,687	%4.2	28,663
<b>Turkish</b>	556,734	%91.9	538,023	%95.8	533,047
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,710</b>	<b>%100</b>	<b>561,710</b>	<b>%100</b>	<b>561,710</b>

Table 3.34 shows the distribution of foreign nationals married in Türkiye by sex and nationality. According to the table, 1,254 grooms (25.2%) were from Germany, 1,030 (20.7%) were from Syria, and 274 (5.5%) were from Austria. Among the brides, 3,458 (14.6%) were from Syria, 2,392 (10.1%) were from Azerbaijan, and 2,321 (9.8%) were from Uzbekistan.

**Table 3.34.** Distribution of the married by sex and nationality, 2021<sup>186</sup>

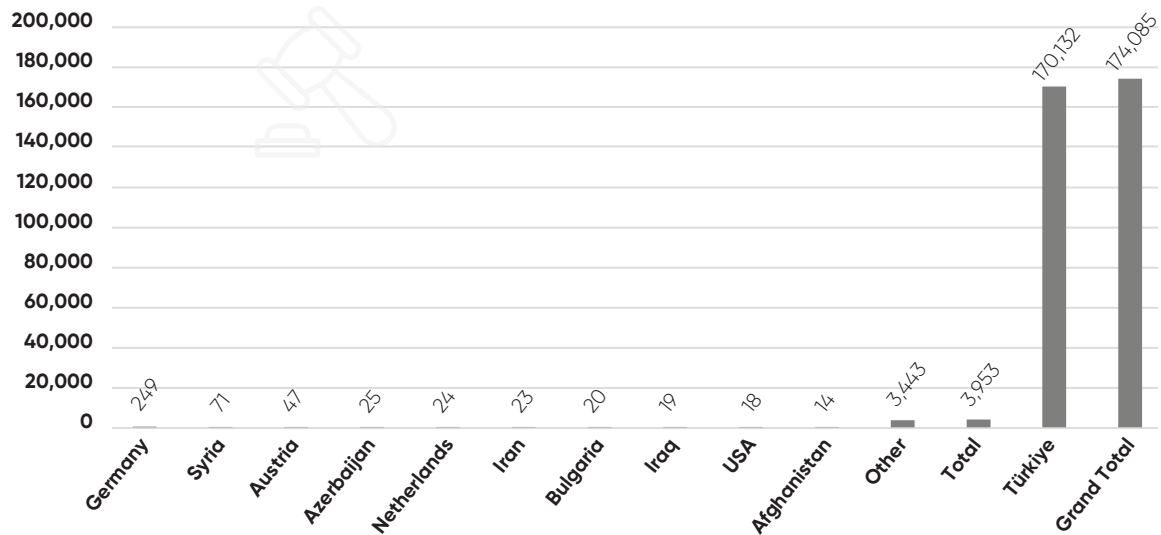
	 Groom	 Groom (%)	 Bride	 Bride (%)
<b>Afghanistan</b>	209	4.2	-	-
<b>Germany</b>	1,254	25.2	2,227	9.4
<b>USA</b>	119	2.4	-	-
<b>Austria</b>	274	5.5	-	-
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	174	3.5	2,392	10.1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	114	2.3	-	-
<b>Morocco</b>	-	-	1,990	8.4
<b>Iraq</b>	159	3.2	-	-
<b>Iran</b>	114	2.3	-	-
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	-	-	782	3.3
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	-	-	2,321	9.8
<b>Russia</b>	-	-	1,208	5.1
<b>Syria</b>	1,030	20.7	3,458	14.6
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	-	-	1,042	4.4
<b>Ukraine</b>	-	-	900	3.8
<b>Other</b>	1,518	30.5		31.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23,687</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>185</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), "Marriages by Nationality of Men and Women" Accessed March 2, 2022.

<sup>186</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, "Marriages by Nationality of Men and Women".

When examining divorce legislation, the common law of the countries where the spouses are citizens serves as the basis for divorce cases. However, if one of the parties is a Turkish citizen, the law of the place where that person actually resides is observed. If neither party is a Turkish citizen, Turkish law is applied.<sup>187</sup> Additionally, Çiçekli's article on the jurisdiction of Turkish courts in divorce cases involving foreigners states that for Turkish courts to have jurisdiction, at least one of the parties must have resided in Türkiye for the last six months.<sup>188</sup>

Analyzing the distribution of divorces by the nationality of men according to the top ten nationalities (Figure 3.13), it is observed that the most divorced foreign men come from Germany (249), Syria (71), and Austria (47). Additionally, the high number recorded under the "other" category indicates significant diversity in the nationalities of divorced men. It is also noteworthy that the proportion of divorced men in Türkiye compared to foreign nationals is relatively low, at 2.32%.



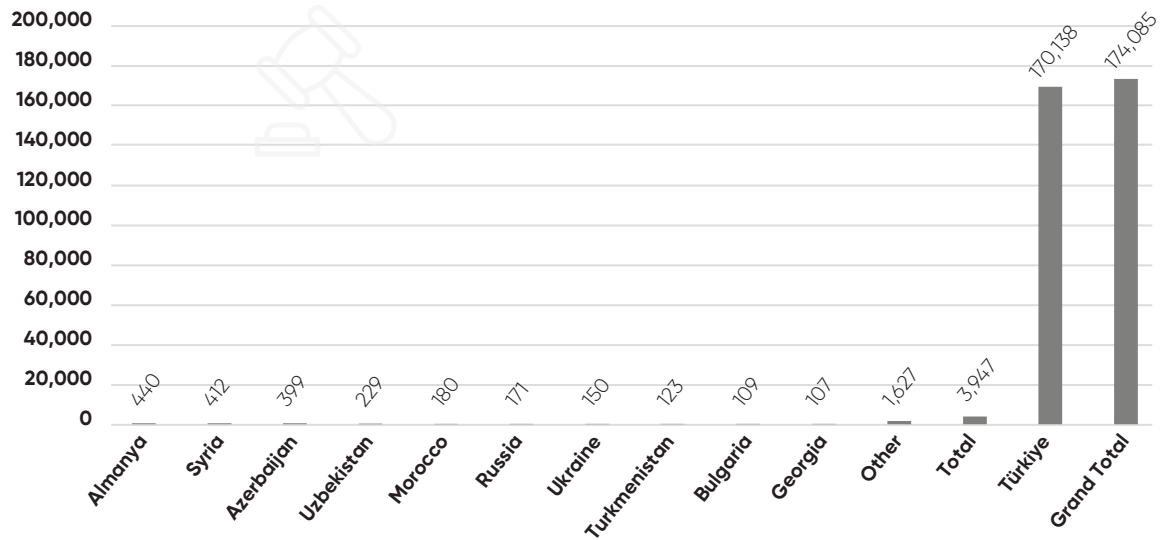
**Figure 3.13.** Distribution of divorces according to the first ten nationalities of the man, 2020<sup>189</sup>

Figure 3.14 shows the distribution of divorces by the top ten nationalities of women. According to this figure, the highest number of divorces occurred among foreign women of German nationality (440), Syrian nationality (412), and Azerbaijani nationality (399). Additionally, it is noteworthy that the proportion of divorced women in Türkiye compared to foreign nationals is relatively low, at 2.31%.

<sup>187</sup> Law on Private International Law and Procedural Law (MÖHUK), Official Gazette 26728 (December 12, 2007), Law no: 5718, Art. 14/1.

<sup>188</sup> Bülent Çiçekli, *Yabancı Unsurlu Boşanma Davalarında Türk Mahkemelerinin Milletlerarası Yetkisi*, Türkiye Barolar Birliği (TBB) Dergisi, 56 (January 2005), 244.

<sup>189</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), "Divorces by Nationality of Men and Women" Accessed March 2, 2022.



**Figure 3.14.** Distribution of divorces according to the first ten nationalities of the woman, 2020<sup>190</sup>



### 3.7. Acquisition of Turkish Citizenship

The principles regarding Turkish citizenship are regulated by Turkish Citizenship Law No. 5901 and the Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law. Turkish citizenship can be acquired in two ways: by birth and through subsequent means. Subsequent acquisition of Turkish citizenship is subject to three conditions: a decision by the competent authority, adoption, and exercising the right to vote and to be elected.<sup>191</sup> According to Article 14 of Law No. 5901, the decision of the competent authority can be made in four ways: general acquisition of Turkish citizenship, acquisition by exception, re-acquisition, and acquisition through marriage.<sup>192</sup>

To acquire Turkish citizenship through the general process, foreigners must apply to the governorships.<sup>193</sup> The required conditions include residing in Türkiye for at least five years, providing evidence of intent to live in Türkiye (such as starting a business, completing education, getting married, or having a close relative who has acquired Turkish citizenship), demonstrating sufficient Turkish language proficiency, having "good morals" as a responsibility of living in society, and showing adequate income to support oneself.<sup>194</sup> The applicant is interviewed by a commission that evaluates whether the foreigner meets the application requirements, including their ancestry, Turkish language proficiency, ability to support themselves, and adaptation to Türkiye's social structure.<sup>195</sup>

<sup>190</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Statistical Institute. For detailed information, see TÜİK, "Divorces by Nationality of Men and Women".

<sup>191</sup> Turkish Citizenship Law (TVK), Official Gazette 27256 (June 12, 2009), Law no: 5901, Art. 5, 9.

<sup>192</sup> Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Official Gazette 27544 (April 6, 2010), Art. 14.

<sup>193</sup> The competent authority for the acquisition of Turkish citizenship in general is the Ministry of Interior. For detailed information, see Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 16/1.

<sup>194</sup> Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 15/1.

<sup>195</sup> Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 19/1.

The primary criterion for acquiring Turkish citizenship in exceptional cases is that the applicant must not pose a threat to national security or public order. If the applicant meets this criterion, the approval of the President is required. If the applicant does not meet this condition, the Ministry of Interior will reject the application. Turkish citizenship by Presidential decree in exceptional cases can be granted under four specific conditions: to individuals who have made significant contributions or investments in Türkiye in fields such as industry, technology, science, economics, social affairs, or sports; to those holding long-term residence permits; to foreign spouses and minor children; and to individuals who must be naturalized or are accepted as immigrants.<sup>196</sup>

The requirements for foreigners to acquire Turkish citizenship under exceptional circumstances by investing in Türkiye are outlined in the relevant regulation. The applicant must meet at least one of the following conditions: invest at least USD 500,000 or its foreign currency equivalent in Türkiye; contribute at least USD 500,000 or its equivalent to funds designated by the Insurance and Private Pension Regulation and Supervision Agency, and maintain this amount in the funds for three years; purchase real estate worth at least USD 400,000 or its equivalent, with the stipulation that the property cannot be sold for at least three years; establish a workplace employing at least 50 people; deposit at least USD 500,000 or its equivalent in a Turkish bank account, provided the funds are held for at least three years; hold at least USD 500,000 or its equivalent in Turkish real estate investment fund participation shares or venture capital investment fund shares, provided these are held for at least three years.<sup>197</sup> Additionally, another requirement for exceptional citizenship is that the applicant must be recognized as an immigrant. If the applicant meets the definition of a migrant<sup>198</sup> as per Settlement Law No. 5543, they may obtain citizenship under exceptional circumstances.

Individuals who have renounced or lost their Turkish citizenship may reacquire it, provided they do not pose any threat to national security.<sup>199</sup> Turkish citizenship can also be acquired through adoption for minors adopted by a Turkish citizen.<sup>200</sup> Additionally, individuals who lost their Turkish citizenship due to their parents may regain it by exercising their right to choose within three years.<sup>201</sup>

Acquisition of Turkish citizenship through marriage is subject to several conditions: the marriage must have lasted at least three years, the couple must live in a genuine family union, the applicant must not engage in behavior incompatible with the marriage union<sup>202</sup> and they must not pose a threat to national security. If the spouse of a foreigner applying for citizenship through marriage dies after the application date, the requirement of maintaining

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196 TVK, Art. 12.

197 Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law (TVK), Art. 20.

198 According to the 5543 Settlement Law, a migrant is "a person of Turkish ancestry and Turkish culture who has come to Türkiye individually or collectively for the purpose of settlement and has been accepted". For detailed information, see Settlement Law (IK), Official Gazette 26301 (September 26, 2006), Law no: 5543, Art. 3/d.

199 TVK, Art. 13,25,43.

200 TVK, Art. 17.

201 TVK, Art. 21.

202 In the relevant regulation, the situation incompatible with the marriage union is defined as prostitution or mediation in prostitution. For detailed information, see Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 28/1-b.

a family union is waived for the citizenship application.<sup>203</sup> However, if it is found that the applicant is under criminal prosecution, convicted, imprisoned, or if the marriage lasted less than three years, was dissolved through divorce, or the spouse died before the application date, the application will be canceled. To acquire Turkish citizenship through marriage, two separate commissions conduct examinations: first, the Provincial Security Directorate conducts an investigation<sup>204</sup>, and then a commission established by a competent authority interviews the applicant and their spouse to verify the authenticity of the marriage.<sup>205</sup>

Data on foreigners granted Turkish citizenship is typically released to the public through press releases, with information primarily available for Syrian nationals. In 2021, such data was rarely shared. The last official announcement was made in 2019, when President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reported that 110,000 Syrians had been granted Turkish citizenship.<sup>206</sup> Since then, only claims have been made until October 2021. For instance, a report prepared by CHP Deputy Chairman Prof. Dr. Fethi Açıkel on May 9, 2021, stated that 150,000 Syrians had been granted citizenship<sup>207</sup>, but this claim was neither confirmed nor denied by the authorities. In October 2021, a report published by the Ministry of Interior in the press stated that 174,726 Syrians had been granted Turkish citizenship.<sup>208</sup>

In 2022, Ministry of Interior officials began to share more detailed data. Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu issued a press release regarding Syrians who were granted Turkish citizenship in 2021. According to Soylu's statement on migration to Türkiye, a total of 193,293 Syrians, including those granted citizenship before 2011, were granted Turkish citizenship by December 31, 2021. Of those granted citizenship, 84,152 are children.<sup>209</sup>

Data on foreigners granted Turkish citizenship should be published periodically on the website of a relevant institution<sup>210</sup>. It is also crucial that this data includes detailed information on the nationalities of those granted citizenship.<sup>211</sup>

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203 Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 25.

204 Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 28.

205 Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, Art. 29.

206 Mert Öz, "How many Syrians were made Turkish citizens?", *Sözcü* (August 28, 2021), Accessed July 22, 2022.

207 *Milliyet*, "150 thousand Syrians given citizenship" (May 9, 2021), Accessed July 22, 2022.

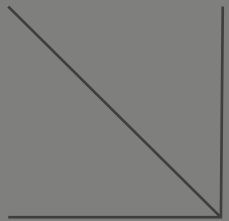
208 CNN Türk, "174 thousand Syrians became Turkish citizens" (October 12, 2021), Accessed July 22, 2022.

209 Ömer Çetin, "Minister Soylu: 193 thousand 293 Syrians became Turkish citizens", *Sabah* (February 17, 2022), Accessed July 22, 2022.

210 At this point, this data can be published on the website of the Presidency of Migration Management, the Turkish Statistical Institute or the Directorate General of Civil Registration and Citizenship Affairs.

211 According to the press statements of Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu and Deputy Minister İsmail Çataklı, the number of Syrians granted Turkish citizenship reached 200,950 by the end of May 2022. For detailed information, see Ankara Gündemi with Ercan Gürses, "Minister Soylu Challenged 'Silent Invasion Soros Game': On July 15, We Will Finish the Unfinished Work", *TGRT Haber* (May 5, 2022), Accessed May 27, 2022; Net Bakış, 'Çataklı, Explained the Situation of Syrians and the Fight Against Irregular Migration', *TvNet* (May 23, 2022), Accessed May 27, 2022..

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# IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITIES





Irregular migration is defined in the Glossary of Migration Terms as “entering, staying, or working in a country without the necessary permits or documentation required by the migration regulations of the destination country.” Accordingly, an irregular migrant is described as “a person who lacks legal status in the transit or host country due to illegal entry, violation of entry conditions, or the expiration of a visa.”<sup>212</sup>

The UN Migration Agency (IOM) defines irregular migration as the movement of individuals that occurs outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing entry into or exit from a country of origin, transit, or destination.<sup>213</sup>

In other words, irregular migration refers to “foreigners entering, staying in, or leaving a country illegally, or entering legally and not departing within the legal timeframe.” An irregular migrant is a person who either enters, stays, and leaves a country illegally or enters legally and remains beyond the authorized period.<sup>214</sup>

For the source country, irregularities can be said to exist when a person crosses an international border without a valid passport or travel document or fails to meet administrative requirements to leave the country.<sup>215</sup>

Based on the definitions above, the phenomenon of irregular migration can be analyzed under six categories:

**Table 4.1.** *Irregular migration categories*

	Legal residency	Illegal residency
Legal entry into the country	Illegal working	Illegal working/unemployment
Illegal entry into the country	Illegal working	Illegal working/unemployment

As Table 4.1 shows, the phenomenon of irregular migration can manifest in the following forms:

- Legal entry, legal residency, but illegal working.
- Legal entry, illegal residency, and illegal working.
- Legal entry, illegal residency, with unemployment or non-employment.
- Illegal entry, legalized residency, but illegal working.
- Illegal entry, illegal residency, and illegal working.
- Illegal entry, illegal residency, with unemployment or non-employment.<sup>216</sup>

212 Perruchoud (ed.) & Redpath-Cross (ed.), *Glossary of Migration Terms*, 26-7.

213 IOM, “Key Migration Terms” Accessed: December 12, 2021.

214 GİB, 2016 Türkiye Migration Report (Ankara: Göç İdaresi Başkanlığı Yayınları, 2017), 20

215 Perruchoud (ed.) & Redpath-Cross (ed.), *Glossary of Migration Terms*, 26.

216 Sühâl Şemşit, “Avrupa Birliği Politikaları Bağlamında Uluslararası Göç Olgusu ve Türleri: Kavramsal Bakış”, *Yönetim ve Ekonomi Dergisi*, 25/1 (April 2018), 281

This classification also includes the following scenarios:

- Individuals who enter the country legally but remain after their visa has expired.
- Individuals who enter the country legally but violate the conditions of their visa (e.g., working without a work permit) are still considered irregular migrants.
- Additionally, illegal exits from the country fall within the scope of irregular migration.

In summary, for a foreigner to be considered an irregular migrant, at least one of the following conditions must be met: the individual either enters and/or attempts to leave Türkiye without a valid document or permit in accordance with Turkish legislation, or acts outside the legal rights granted to foreigners within the country, such as working or participating in formal education processes without proper authorization. Additionally, individuals operating under a tourist visa or visa exemption but engaging in activities beyond what is permitted may also be classified as irregular migrants.

In this context, while it is challenging to accurately determine the specific types of irregular movements based on non-detailed data sources, making some "predictions" and discussing high probabilities is still meaningful. Türkiye has long been both a destination and transit country for thousands of irregular migrants from Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, and Palestine, as well as from African countries like Congo and Somalia. In Türkiye's border cities with Europe, such as Edirne and Kırklareli, and in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas between Türkiye and Europe, as well as along the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolian borders with neighboring Asian countries, numerous irregular migration cases occur almost daily. Sometimes, up to a thousand irregular migrants are detained in these regions.

In recent years, the number of studies on the phenomenon of irregular migration in Türkiye has been almost negligible. Additionally, the available data is dispersed across various institutions, and the terminology used by these sources varies. While official sources use the term "apprehension" to describe the identification of irregular migrants by competent authorities and their subsequent official procedures, this study uses terms such as "detention" throughout. Similarly, the term "apprehension" is also used for the "organizers of irregular migration incidents." For the main subject of the study, the terms "irregular migration" and "irregular migrants" are preferred over "illegal migration" and "illegal migrants."

This section presents data and analysis on Türkiye's irregular migration flows in 2021. The data is primarily collected from five sources: the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), General Command of Gendarmerie (JGK), the Ministry of Trade (MoT), and the Coast Guard Command (SG). Additionally, the Coast Guard Command's website provides monthly updates under the title "Coast Guard - Gendarmerie and Police Joint Apprehensions," detailing the "number of irregular migration incidents," the "number of irregular migrants," and the "number of organizers apprehended." Among these sources, the Presidency of Migration Management publishes total statistics from various institutions, including the Directorate General of Security, but excludes data from the Ministry of Trade.<sup>217</sup>

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217 GİB, 2016 Türkiye Migration Report, 56.

Table 4.2 shows the data release intervals of the relevant sources. The data published by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) reflects entry and exit attempts at the borders. Similarly, the statistics from the Coast Guard Command primarily reflect those "captured" at sea during attempts to exit Türkiye and those "rescued" as a result of push-backs. The "joint apprehensions" reported by the Coast Guard Command (SG), as well as those conducted jointly with the General Command of the Gendarmerie (JGK) and the Directorate General of Security (EGM), pertain to individuals detained on land without attempting to reach the sea. The General Command of Gendarmerie's statistics on the number of irregular migrants are compiled from data categorized under public order, and primarily reflect migrants who are staying irregularly within Türkiye's borders. The "number of irregular migrants" reported by the Ministry of Trade is based on the "number of incidents of judicial and administrative proceedings."

**Table 4.2.** Data publication intervals of relevant sources

	Data Publication Intervals			
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
Presidency of Migration Management				
Turkish Armed Forces				
General Command of Gendarmerie				
Coast Guard Command				
Coast Guard Command, General Command of Gendarmerie, and Directorate General of Security (Joint)				
Ministry of Trade				

#### 4.1. Data on Irregular Migration by Institution

Table 4.3 shows the number of irregular migrants detained between 2005 and 2021. Analysis of the statistics reveals that, in the ten-year period leading up to 2015, the number of irregular migrants was consistently just below or slightly above the 50,000 mark. However, after 2015, there was a dramatic increase in the number of irregular migrants, with figures reaching 170,000 in 2016 and 2017.

The table also indicates a second upward trend that began after 2018, peaking in 2019. The COVID-19 outbreak and pandemic in 2020 caused a relative decrease in irregular migration, but the numbers remained higher than those recorded in 2014 and earlier. In 2021, an upward trend resumed as movement restrictions were reduced.

**Table 4.3.** *Distribution of the number of irregular migrants detained by year, 2005–2021<sup>218</sup>*

Year	Number of Migrants Detained	Year	Number of Migrants Detained
2005	54,428	2014	58,647
2006	51,983	2015	146,485
2007	64,290	2016	174,466
2008	65,737	2017	175,752
2009	34,345	2018	268,003
2010	32,667	2019	454,662
2011	44,415	2020	122,032
2012	47,510	2021	162,996
2013	39,890		

Table 4.4 shows the distribution of the number of irregular migrants detained in 2021 by institution and month. It is important to note that the numbers reported by different institutions do not cumulatively represent the total number of irregular migrants detained in 2021. While each institution's figures relate to their specific areas of responsibility, a significant portion of these statistics may overlap. The irregular migrant data from all institutions are compiled and managed by the Presidency of Migration Management.

218 Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GIB, "Irregular Migration" Accessed January 6, 2022..

Therefore, the most accurate reflection of the total number of irregular migrants is the figure of 162,996, as announced by the Presidency of Migration Management at the end of the year.

**Table 4.4.** Distribution of the number of detained irregular migrants (overall) by month, 2021

Month	TAF ENTRY	TAF EXIT	JGK	SG	SG, JGK, EGM*	Ministry of Trade	GİB
January	7,367	61	4,663	391	195	-	6,959
February	5,758	42	5,633	723	329	-	7,505
March	6,933	106	7,798	1,251	344	-	10,114
April	13,764	404	7,634	2,104	271	-	10,809
May	6,872	195	5,003	862	10	-	9,866
June	7,289	204	8,389	1,651	188	-	14,576
July	13,028	168	-	1,736	92	-	14,846
August	11,518	237	10,947	2,444	228	-	19,602
September	1,011	1,384	-	3,682	84	-	15,775
October	416	296	9,502	2,670	103	-	16,516
November	450	680	9,780	3,592	96	-	19,587
December	159	150	9,218	2,570	316	-	16,841
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,565</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>78,567</b>	<b>23,676</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>3,779</b>	<b>162,996</b>

According to the Presidency of Migration Management, the total number of irregular migrants detained within and at the borders of Türkiye by the end of 2021 was 162.996. Table 4.5 shows the distribution of this number by nationality. Among the detained irregular migrants, those from Afghanistan rank highest, with 70.252 individuals. This figure represents 43% of all identified irregular migrants. In second place are individuals from Syria, with 23.469 people, constituting 14% of all irregular migrants. Third on the list are Pakistanis, with 16.133 individuals, making up 10% of the total. Nationals from Afghanistan, Syria, and Pakistan together account for 67% of all irregular migrants detained in 2021.

**Table 4.5.** Distribution of detained irregular migrants by the top ten nationalities, 2021<sup>219</sup>

Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
<b>Afghanistan</b>	70,252	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	4,329
<b>Syria</b>	23,469	<b>Bangladesh</b>	4,170
<b>Pakistan</b>	16,133	<b>Iran</b>	3,503
<b>Somali</b>	5,232	<b>Palestine</b>	3,491
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	4,803	<b>Other</b>	23,206
<b>Iraq</b>	4,408	<b>Total</b>	<b>162,996</b>

When the statistics published by the Presidency of Migration Management are examined, three different irregular mobility characteristics towards Türkiye in the first ten nationalities stand out. The first group is the countries that border Türkiye. Syrian nationals rank second in irregular migration mobility in Türkiye. Along with Syrians, Iraqi and Iranian nationals also constitute the largest group of temporary protection and international protection status and applicants in Türkiye.<sup>220</sup>

The second group consists of distant countries that view Türkiye as either a transit or destination country for moving to third countries, despite not being direct neighbors. Among these countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Palestine, and Bangladesh are within the top ten nationalities. This pattern, extending primarily from Central Asia to Southern Africa, serves as significant evidence of irregular migration flows from distant countries to Türkiye. It is believed that a substantial portion of irregular migrants from these countries are attempting to use Türkiye as a route to reach European countries.

The third group consists of foreign nationals from Central Asian countries residing in Türkiye. Among these, nationals from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are included in the top ten nationalities. Although irregular migration from this group is not prominently observed at border crossings, it is believed to be related to their stay and work status within Türkiye. It is suspected that violations of visa duration and type are among the primary reasons for these irregularities.

#### **4.1.1. Turkish Armed Forces**

The Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) are an important source for irregular migration statistics. On their website, under the "Press and Media Activities" section, and specifically within the "Daily Activities" heading, data on the number of individuals who attempt to cross Türkiye's land borders irregularly and are "captured" is published daily by border regions.<sup>221</sup> The Land Forces and the Naval Forces Command each provide information specific to their areas of responsibility. Information on border crossings is only included in the updates from the Land Forces Command. The absence of data on irregular migrants in the Naval Forces Command's updates is likely due to the fact that data on maritime crossings are maintained by the Coast Guard Command under the Ministry of Interior.

On the Turkish Armed Forces website, daily updates include information on the number of individuals detected attempting to cross the border from each country, as well as details on any illegal goods and items seized. These updates are published daily on the relevant page and are removed the following day. The daily data has been systematically recorded and organized by one of the study's authors, Ramazan Ünsal.

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220 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet" Accessed April 1, 2022; Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), "International Protection" Accessed January 6, 2022

221 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Armed Forces. For detailed information, see TAF, "Daily Activities".

The number of irregular migrants detained by the Turkish Armed Forces during attempts to enter or exit Türkiye is shown in Table 4.6. In 2021, the Turkish Armed Forces detained 74,565 irregular migrants attempting to enter Türkiye and 3,927 attempting to exit. In total, 78,492 irregular migrants were detained by the Turkish Armed Forces throughout the year.

Among these numbers, the highest irregular migration is observed during attempts to enter Türkiye from Syria (71,775) and during attempts to exit Türkiye to Greece (2,665). The numbers of migrants attempting to enter Türkiye from Iran (1,603) and Greece (999) are also notable. It is important to highlight that not only are the attempts to enter Türkiye significant, but the attempts to exit Türkiye (3,927) are also considerable.

**Table 4.6.** Number of irregular migrants detained by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) during their attempts to enter and exit the country<sup>222</sup>

ENTRY INTO TÜRKİYE		EXIT FROM TÜRKİYE	
From Syria	71,775	To Syria	663
From Greece	999	To Greece	2,665
From Bulgaria	2	To Bulgaria	12
From Iraq	143	To Iraq	71
From Iran	1,603	To Iran	472
From Georgia	1	To Georgia	12
From Armenia	11	To Armenia	4
To Armenia-Georgia	1	To Armenia-Georgia	2
From TRNC to Türkiye	30	From Türkiye to TRNC	25
From the Greek Cypriot Administration to Türkiye	0	From Türkiye to the Greek Cypriot Administration	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,565</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,927</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>78,492</b>	

Table 4.7 shows the distribution of irregular migrants detained by the Turkish Armed Forces during attempts to enter Türkiye, broken down by month and border. It indicates that the majority of irregular migrants use the Syrian border (71,775), which accounts for 96% of the 74,565 irregular migrants detained during entry attempts. Other notable borders are Iran (1,603) and Greece (999).

In 2021, with an average of 6,213 irregular migrants detained monthly, April (13,764), July (13,028), and August (11,518) stand out with significantly higher numbers of detentions during attempted crossings. This suggests that the decrease in natural barriers such as snow, winter, and harsh weather conditions during the spring and summer months may contribute to an

222 TAF, "Daily Activities".

increase in border crossings.

**Table 4.7.** Distribution of those detained by the TAF during attempted entry into Türkiye by border and by month, 2021<sup>223</sup>

ATTEMPTS TO ENTER TÜRKİYE										
Month	From Syria	From Greece	From Bulgaria	From Iraq	From Iran	From Georgia	From Armenia	From Armenia - Georgia	From TRNC	Total
January	7,205	17	0	20	107	0	0	0	18	7,367
February	5,691	38	0	5	23	0	0	0	1	5,758
March	6,910	7	0	2	3	0	0	0	11	6,933
April	13,392	112	0	1	249	1	9	0	0	13,764
May	6,718	139	0	2	13	0	0	0	0	6,872
June	7,195	58	0	26	10	0	0	0	0	7,289
July	12,773	226	0	23	6	0	0	0	0	13,028
August	10,912	89	2	13	501	0	1	0	0	11,518
September	473	71	0	8	458	0	1	0	0	1,011
October	228	53	0	5	130	0	0	0	0	416
November	164	182	0	13	90	0	0	1	0	450
December	114	7	0	25	13	0	0	0	0	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,775</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>74,565</b>

Table 4.8 shows the distribution of irregular migrants detained by the Turkish Armed Forces during attempts to exit Türkiye, broken down by month and border. The table reveals that, on average, 327 irregular migrants were detained each month while attempting to leave Türkiye. Notably, this number surged to dramatic levels in September (1,384) and November (680).

It is evident that 68% of those caught attempting to exit Türkiye were using the Greek border (2,665). The other borders where most detentions occurred were Syria (663) and Iran (472).



**Table 4.8.** Distribution of those detained by the TAF during the attempted exit from Türkiye by border and by month, 2021<sup>224</sup>

ATTEMPTS TO EXIT TÜRKİYE											
Month	To Syria	To Greece	To Bulgaria	To Iraq	To Iran	To Georgia	To Armenia	To Armenia - Georgia	To TRNC	To the Greek Cypriot	Total
January	40	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	61
February	16	23	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	42
March	36	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	106
April	110	289	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	404
May	75	116	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	195
June	52	138	2	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	204
July	88	50	0	14	16	0	0	0	0	0	168
August	98	87	0	18	29	4	0	0	0	1	237
September	39	1,294	7	15	26	0	3	0	0	0	1,384
October	30	115	2	3	145	1	0	0	0	0	296
November	28	430	0	5	214	0	1	2	0	0	680
December	51	59	0	8	27	5	0	0	0	0	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>2,665</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,927</b>

#### 4.1.2. General Command of Gendarmerie

Data published by the General Command of Gendarmerie (JGK) can be found on the "Crime Fighting" section of the institution's website, under the "Data" section where monthly reports are posted.<sup>225</sup> These reports generally contain four main categories within "Public Order Statistics": "Public Order," "Smuggling and Organized Crime" (KOM), "Materials and Suspects Seized in Smuggling and Organized Crime Incidents," and the final section, "Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking Incidents." In the "Irregular Migration" section, monthly data is provided under the headings "Incident," "Irregular Migrant," and "Smuggling Organizer."

224 Prepared by compiling data from the Turkish Armed Forces. For detailed information, see TAF, "Daily Activities".

225 General Command of Gendarmerie (JGK), "Data" Accessed March 15, 2022.

As shown in Table 4.9, in 2021, the General Command of Gendarmerie identified a total of 20,664 irregular migration incidents. In these incidents, 78,567 irregular migrants were apprehended, and 2,505 human smuggling organizers were caught.

**Table 4.9.** *Monthly distribution of irregular migration incidents, detained irregular migrants, and apprehended migrant smuggling organizers, 2021<sup>226</sup>*

Months	Number of Irregual Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants	Number of Human Smuggling Organizers
January	1,351	4,663	100
February	1,887	5,633	155
March	2,363	7,798	196
April	1,898	7,634	230
May	1,419	5,003	141
June	1,638	8,389	233
July	-	-	-
August	2,784	10,947	267
September	-	-	-
October	2,234	9,502	434
November	2,308	9,780	392
December	2,782	9,218	357
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,664</b>	<b>78,567</b>	<b>2,505</b>

In 2021, the General Command of Gendarmerie did not release data for July and September. The average number of irregular migrants detained over the ten months for which data was available is 7,856. If we assume that the number of irregular migrants detained in the months for which data was not released is around this average, it can be inferred that the total number might exceed 94,000.

#### 4.1.3. Coast Guard Command

The Coast Guard Command (SG) is another significant source for determining the number of irregular migrants. Operating under the Ministry of Interior, the Coast Guard Command regularly shares data related to irregular migration movements. Information is typically gathered from the "Current Activities and Archive" section<sup>227</sup> under "Our Activities" on the Coast Guard Command's official website, where statistics are usually published daily. Previously, data on irregular migrants were reported under a single category for both "rescued" and "apprehended" migrants. However, since March 2020, these figures have been reported separately. For the purposes of this study, the numbers for irregular migrants are presented as a total rather than

226 Prepared by compiling data from the General Command of Gendarmerie. For detailed information, see General Command of Gendarmerie (JGK), "Public Order Statistics", Accessed March 15, 2022.

227 Coast Guard Command (SG), "Current Activities".

being split into "rescued" and "apprehended." Another source of data on irregular migrants provided by the Coast Guard Command is found with the title of "Irregular Migration" under the "Statistics" section within the "Our Activities" tab on their website<sup>228</sup>. In this section, the Coast Guard Command publishes monthly statistics on irregular migration, comparing the current year's data with that of the previous year. This section includes information on the number of incidents, the number of irregular migrants, the number of deceased migrants, and the number of apprehended smugglers. The data provided here pertains specifically to detentions occurring at sea.

Table 4.10 presents data on irregular migration activities for 2021 from the Coast Guard Command sources. According to the table, there were 848 irregular migration incidents during the year, resulting in the detention of a total of 23,676 irregular migrants. Additionally, the table shows that 113 smugglers were apprehended and 15 irregular migrants were reported deceased.

**Table 4.10.** Data on irregular migration mobility from the Turkish Coast Guard Command sources, 2021<sup>229</sup>

Number of Irregular Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants	Number of Deceased Migrants	Number of Apprehended Smugglers
848	23,676	15	113

Table 4.11. shows the distribution of detained irregular migrants by nationality. Among the top 20 nationalities listed in the table, Afghanistan (4,450), Syria (4,052), Somalia (3,340), Palestine (2,053), Congo (1,787), and Pakistan (1,132) stand out. The sum of these six nationalities (16,814) accounts for 71% of the total 66 nationalities of irregular migrants detained.

**Table 4.11.** Distribution of irregular migrants detained by the Turkish Coast Guard Command by nationality, 2021<sup>230</sup>

Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
<b>Afghanistan</b>	4,450	<b>Djibouti</b>	419
<b>Syria</b>	4,052	<b>Iran</b>	301
<b>Somali</b>	3,340	<b>Liberia</b>	241
<b>Palestine</b>	2,053	<b>South Africa</b>	190
<b>Congo</b>	1,787	<b>Egypt</b>	176
<b>Pakistan</b>	1,132	<b>Senegal</b>	142
<b>Yemen</b>	920	<b>Cameroon</b>	132
<b>Eritrea</b>	809	<b>Ginea</b>	118
<b>Middle Africa</b>	774	<b>Türkiye</b>	106
<b>Iraq</b>	739	<b>Other<sup>231</sup></b>	886
<b>Bangladesh</b>	649	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,416</b>

228 Coast Guard Command (SG), "Irregular Migration Statistics" Accessed March 15, 2022.

229 Prepared by compiling data from the Coast Guard Command. For detailed information, see SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

230 Compiled from the data of Coast Guard Command. For detailed information, see SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

231 "Other" nationalities refer to irregular migrants of nationalities that do not exceed 100 in total during the year.

Table 4.12 shows the distribution of detained irregular migrants by their top 20 nationalities and by month. According to this table, the highest number of detained irregular migrants was recorded in September with 3,699 people, followed by November with 3,593 people, and October with 2,638 people. On the other hand, when examining the distribution of detained irregular migrants by nationality across the months, Afghan nationals were most numerous in April with 979 people, Syrian nationals in November with 1,254 people, and Somali nationals in September with 632 people.

**Table 4.12.** Distribution of detained irregular migrants by nationality (top 20) and month, 2021<sup>232</sup>

Nationality	Months												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
<b>Afghanistan</b>	20	162	455	979	261	354	438	275	571	120	346	469	4,450
<b>Syria</b>	113	42	276	273	85	68	138	286	484	585	1,254	448	4,052
<b>Somali</b>	89	83	146	313	95	286	315	474	632	417	354	136	3,340
<b>Palastine</b>	16	18	38	59	52	101	93	136	212	390	441	497	2,053
<b>Congo</b>	55	244	93	157	82	62	130	263	216	229	136	120	1,787
<b>Pakistan</b>	0	0	2	0	64	141	94	250	399	77	98	7	1,132
<b>Yemen</b>	4	2	10	55	40	58	55	43	45	62	189	357	920
<b>Eritrea</b>	15	28	4	44	31	47	38	70	88	112	143	189	809
<b>Middle Africa</b>	32	67	65	42	34	13	108	97	66	140	52	58	774
<b>Iraq</b>	16	0	34	48	2	130	92	26	305	33	52	1	739
<b>Bangladesh</b>	0	0	0	0	4	61	61	148	91	64	164	56	649
<b>Djibouti</b>	0	0	0	11	22	80	75	104	99	8	1	19	419
<b>Iran</b>	9	0	33	11	2	38	16	21	159	3	9	0	301
<b>Liberia</b>	0	0	1	0	34	33	11	30	22	37	64	9	241
<b>South Africa</b>	10	3	43	1	0	32	1	5	46	28	21	0	190
<b>Egypt</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	96	45	17	1	176
<b>Senegal</b>	3	3	9	2	4	7	6	2	4	28	45	29	142
<b>Cameroon</b>	0	4	4	3	4	6	10	17	17	22	17	28	132
<b>Ginea</b>	1	12	3	24	0	2	5	17	2	19	26	7	118
<b>Türkiye</b>	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	11	19	5	0	63	106
<b>Other <sup>233</sup></b>	8	55	35	24	17	27	42	99	126	214	164	75	886
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>3,593</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>23,416</b>

232 Prepared by compiling data from the Coast Guard Command. For detailed information, see SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

233 Nationalities expressed as "other" refer to irregular migrants of nationalities that do not exceed 100 in total during the year.

#### 4.1.4. Coast Guard Command, General Command of Gendarmerie — and Directorate General of Security (Joint)

Another significant source of information about irregular migrant numbers is also related to the Coast Guard Command. On the Coast Guard Command's website, under the "Activities" tab, the "Statistics" section includes a part titled "Irregular Migration." This section provides monthly data under the heading "Coast Guard-Jandarma and Police Joint Detentions," showing figures for "irregular migration incidents," "number of irregular migrants," and "number of apprehended smugglers." These data include information on irregular migrants detected on land and apprehended by Jandarma and Police units before they could embark at sea.<sup>234</sup>

Table 4.13 displays the number of detained irregular migrants and smugglers, as well as the number of irregular migration incidents, resulting from joint operations by the Coast Guard Command, the General Command of Gendarmerie, and the Directorate General of Security. According to the table, a total of 50 irregular migration incidents occurred in 2021, during which 2,256 irregular migrants were detained and 44 smugglers were apprehended.

**Table 4.13.** Coast Guard Command, the General Command of Gendarmerie, and the Directorate General of Security joint detention statistics<sup>235</sup>

Month	Number of Irregular Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants	Number of Apprehended Smugglers
January	2	195	0
February	6	329	11
March	5	344	2
April	7	271	8
May	1	10	0
June	6	188	11
July	3	92	2
August	5	228	4
September	2	84	2
October	5	103	1
November	3	96	0
December	5	316	3
<b>Total</b> <sup>236</sup>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>44</b>

234 SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

235 Prepared by compiling data from the Coast Guard Command. For detailed information, see SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

236 The data shared includes irregular migrants detected by the Coast Guard Command on land and apprehended by the Gendarmerie and Police units before sailing to sea.

#### 4.1.5. Ministry of Trade

The final source of information regarding irregular migrant numbers discussed in this section is provided by the Ministry of Trade. On the Ministry of Trade's website, under the "Statistics" tab and the "Ministry Statistics" section, there are data on "illegal migrant apprehensions" within the "Customs Statistics."<sup>237</sup> The following Table 4.14 has been created from these data.

The Ministry of Trade has reported that, based on "judicial and administrative action incident numbers," there were 1,385 incidents, during which a total of 3,779 irregular migrants were detained.

**Table 4.14.** Ministry of Trade irregular migration data <sup>238</sup>

Term	Number of Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants
2021	1,385	3,779

## 4.2. Combat Against Irregular Migration

The data on irregular migration efforts in Table 4.15 have been compiled from various statements made by the Ministry of Interior. According to statements by Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu and Deputy Minister İsmail Çataklı<sup>239</sup>, two major issues related to irregular migration emerged in Türkiyein 2021: first, detaining irregular migrants at the borders and within the country, and second, preventing entry into the country from the borders. An examination of Table 4.15 reveals that, in 2021, along with 162,996 individuals apprehended at the borders and within the country, attempts by 451,096 individuals to cross the borders were prevented. This situation highlights Türkiye's engagement with over 610,000 irregular migrants throughout the year and underscores the significance of addressing this issue.

**Table 4.15.** Combat against irregular migration, 2021

	Those detained within the country	Those prevented
2021	162,996	451,096

237 Ministry of Trade (TB), "Data on Combating Smuggling" Accessed March 20, 2022.

238 Based on judicial and administrative proceedings. For detailed information, see TB, "Data on Combating Smuggling".

239 Muhammed Boztepe, "Minister of Interior Soylu: 253,299 people were prevented from entering our country illegally at our borders in 2021", Anadolu Ajansı (August 4, 2021), Accessed March 25, 2022; Serdar Açıl, "Çataklı: In 2020, the number of foreigners prevented from entering the country at the border was 505 thousand 375, this year so far 307 thousand 850", Anadolu Ajansı (6 September 2021), Accessed 25 March 2022; Orhan Onur Gemici & Cemil Murat Budak, "Interior Minister Soylu: (New migration movement from Afghanistan) It is being touted as a new development on the Taliban axis", Anadolu Ajansı (15 September 2021), Accessed 25 March 2022; Kemal Karadağ et al., "Interior Minister Soylu: 5,558 people joined the terrorist organization in 2014, today there are 48", Anadolu Ajansı (22 November 2021), Accessed 25 March 2022; Ahmet Sertan Usul, "Türkiye's "removal centers" capacity will increase to 20 thousand", Anadolu Ajansı (17 April 2022), Accessed 17 April 2022..

### 4.2.1. Repatriation

The information presented here regarding deportations is based on statements made by the Interior Minister, the Deputy Interior Minister, and officials from the Presidency of Migration Management. The lack of statistical sharing by the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB) has led to this figure being used as a reference for deportation issues.

According to statements from officials at the Presidency of Migration Management, about 50% of the irregular migrants who were apprehended were repatriated to their home countries.<sup>240</sup> The numbers of Afghans being deported are particularly noteworthy. On September 15, 2021, Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu stated that by September 2021, 71% of the irregular Afghan migrants identified within Türkiye had been sent back to Afghanistan. He also noted that this percentage dropped to around 60% after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.<sup>241</sup> Twenty days after these remarks, Minister Soylu mentioned, "Until the Taliban administration took over, we had repatriated 80% of those we apprehended to Afghanistan."<sup>242</sup>

On February 24, 2022, the Minister stated, "Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, we had stopped returning individuals to Afghanistan due to airport conditions. Starting January 27, we resumed sending irregular Afghans back to Afghanistan. We have conducted 5 flights so far, working to facilitate this through voluntary return."<sup>243</sup> From this statement, it is understood that deportations to Afghanistan were halted between September 2021 and January 27, 2022. According to the Minister's comments, the process of returning irregular Afghan migrants to Afghanistan resumed after January 27, 2022.

On September 23, 2021, the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB) published data showing that 44,656 irregular Afghan migrants were detained in 2021.<sup>244</sup> Comparing this number with the Minister's statements and considering the 70% repatriation rate<sup>245</sup> it can be estimated that approximately 31,641 of these individuals were "repatriated" to Afghanistan. This implies that about 45% of the total 70,272 Afghan irregular migrants<sup>246</sup> identified in 2021 were sent back to their country.

On the other hand, Ramazan Seçilmiş, Director General of Combating Irregular Migration and Deportation Affairs at the Presidency of Migration Management, stated that approximately 50% of the detained irregular migrants were repatriated to their home countries.<sup>247</sup>

Based on official statements regarding the return of Afghan nationals to their country in 2021, it is understood that nearly half of the detected irregular Afghan migrants were sent back to Afghanistan.

240 Usul, "Türkiye's "removal centers" capacity to increase to 20,000".

241 En Son Haber, "Süleyman Soylu: 71 percent of captured Afghans sent" (September 15, 2021), Accessed April 17, 2022.

242 İsmet Karakaş, "Interior Minister Soylu: We entered every region that could not be entered and conducted operations", Anadolu Ajansı (October 11, 2021), Accessed April 17, 2022.

243 Haberler.com, "There are around 3 million 700 thousand Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye" (February 17, 2022), Accessed April 17, 2022.

244 GİB, "Irregular Migration", Accessed September 25, 2021.

245 En Son Haber, "Süleyman Soylu: 71 percent of apprehended Afghans sent back" (September 15, 2021), Accessed April 17, 2022.

246 GİB, "Irregular Migration", Accessed January 8, 2022.

247 Usul, "Türkiye's "removal centers" capacity to increase to 20 thousand".

### 4.2.2. *Expulsion*

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The numbers related to expulsions, similar to those on repatriations, are derived from statements by the Interior Minister, the Deputy Interior Minister, and officials from the Presidency of Migration Management. Due to the lack of statistical sharing by the Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), it is not possible to determine the exact figures for 2021. The statements indicate that over the past five years, more than 300,000 individuals have been deported.<sup>248</sup> It is understood that the majority of these deportations involved foreigners who were either attempting to enter or exit Türkiye illegally or who were sent back to their countries of origin due to violations related to their residence permits or the duration of their stay in Türkiye.

Additionally, it has been reported in the media that many of the Syrians deported from Türkiye were involved in various "criminal activities." Official sources state that approximately 20,000 of these individuals were deported. Interior Minister Soylu has stated, "We have deported a total of 317,098 individuals to date. Since 2016, 19,336 Syrians have been deported due to security issues. In 2020, the success rate for deportations in Europe was 18%, while our rate for returning those apprehended was 40%. In 2022, the success rate for deportations increased by 73% compared to the same period last year, reaching 41.2%, with a total of 20,636 individuals deported."<sup>249</sup> In another press statement, it was reported that since 2016, the number of irregular migrants sent back to their countries of origin has reached 320,172.<sup>250</sup>

Removal Centers are facilities in Türkiye where expulsion processes for irregular migrants are carried out. According to statistics released by the Presidency of Migration Management at the end of 2020, there were 26 removal centers with a total capacity of 16,108. By the end of 2021, statistics showed that the Kırıkkale Removal Center was no longer listed, the total number of removal centers had decreased to 25, and the total capacity was 15,908. However, statements from GİB officials indicate that the number of removal centers and their capacities will be increased, including those currently under construction.<sup>251</sup>

### 4.2.3. *Readmission*

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Readmission Agreements are one of the most effective methods for international cooperation in combating irregular migration. These agreements require countries to take measures against irregular migration and ensure that irregular migrants are repatriated to their countries of origin or the last transit country, in accordance with human rights protections and international norms. These agreements facilitate the safe return of individuals who are irregularly present in one country to the agreed-upon source country or the last transit country, according to the terms and conditions specified in the agreement.

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248 Milliyet, "Minister Soylu: 19,336 Syrians were removed from the country due to public order problems" (April 13, 2022) Accessed April 17, 2022.

249 Milliyet, "Minister Soylu: 19,336 Syrians were removed from the country due to public order problems".

250 Usul, "Türkiye's "removal centers" capacity to increase to 20 thousand".

251 Usul, "Türkiye's "removal centers" capacity will increase to 20 thousand".



Türkiye has signed Readmission Agreements as part of its efforts to combat irregular migration with transit and destination countries. Since 2001, Readmission Agreements have been signed between our country and Syria, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Ukraine, Pakistan, Russia, Nigeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yemen, Moldova, Belarus, Montenegro, Kosovo, Norway, and the European Union. In addition to these, a Memorandum of Understanding was also made between Türkiye and the European Union on March 18, 2016.<sup>252</sup> Today, the readmission of migrants who irregularly cross from our country to Europe is also taking place within the framework of this memorandum.

The number of migrants that Türkiye has received under the Readmission Agreement has not been disclosed by the Presidency of Migration Management, so these figures have been obtained from statements made by officials. However, it is unclear from these statements how many migrants were readmitted in which year. For example, the statements made by Deputy Minister of Interior İsmail Çataklı on December 2, 2021, only provide a summary of the issue:

*"Greece has only been able to return 2,319 out of those who crossed over to us so far. In other words, it couldn't operate its domestic legal system. Because it couldn't, these individuals remained in its hands. For this reason, they started to apply inhumane methods, setting aside all humanitarian and moral values, including international law. What did we do? In this context, we resettled 30,801 people in Europe. Normally, we were supposed to resettle 2,319 people, but we operated the system quickly, and we have resettled almost 15 times the number sent by Greece to Europe. We have fulfilled all our obligations under the March 18 Agreement."<sup>253</sup>*

### 4.3. Migrant Smuggling

According to Table 4.16, a total of 7,918 human smuggling organizers were caught in 2021. The General Command of Gendarmerie captured 2,505, the Coast Guard Command captured 113, and a joint operation by the Coast Guard Command, the General Command of Gendarmerie, and the Directorate General of Security captured 44 human smuggling organizers.

**Table 4.16.** Number of migrant smuggling organizers apprehended, 2021

Presidency of Migration Management <sup>254</sup>	General Command of Gendarmerie <sup>255</sup>	Coast Guard Command <sup>256</sup>	Coast Guard Command, General Command of Gendarmerie, Directorate General of Security <sup>257</sup>
7,918	2,505	113	44

252 GiB, "Türkiye's Combat against Irregular Migration", Accessed April 17, 2022.

253 Sinan Uslu, "Interior Ministry talked about 'Greek persecution of asylum seekers in the Aegean' in the Assembly", Anadolu Ajansı (December 2, 2021), Accessed April 17, 2022.

254 GiB, "Irregular Migration"

255 Compiled from the data of the General Command of Gendarmerie. For detailed information, see JGK, "Public Order Statistics".

256 SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

257 SG, "Irregular Migration Statistics".

#### 4.4. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is defined as "the exploitation of individuals for the purpose of gain or benefit through coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power, taking advantage of a person's vulnerability, or obtaining the consent of individuals who have authority over others, including the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of individuals."<sup>258</sup>

In 2021, the number of human trafficking victims rescued in Türkiye was recorded as 403.<sup>259</sup> Table 4.17 shows the figures related to human trafficking published by the General Command of the Gendarmerie. Accordingly, the number of human trafficking cases identified by the Gendarmerie is 34, the number of human trafficking victims is 142, and the number of traffickers apprehended is 153.

**Table 4.17.** *The numbers on human trafficking by the General Command of Gendarmerie*

Month	Number of Incidents	Victims of Human Trafficking	Human Trafficker
January	1	8	10
February	1	2	2
March	3	7	9
April	6	39	17
May	0	0	0
June	5	9	7
July	-	-	-
August	2	4	4
September	-	-	-
October	5	9	12
November	7	59	67
December	4	5	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>153</b>

258 GİB, Türkiye's Combat against Human Trafficking, 2020 Annual Report (Ankara: Göç İdaresi Başkanlığı Yayınları, 2020).

259 GİB, "Combating Human Trafficking" Accessed January 27, 2022.





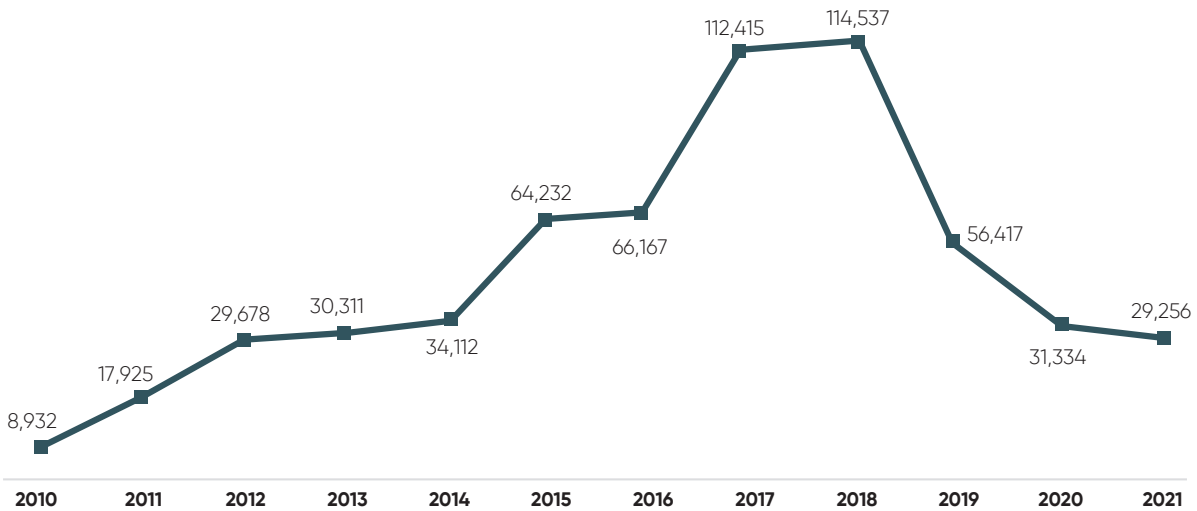
# INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



International protection is a framework concept. Individuals seeking asylum can apply for asylum either individually or en masse. The international protection system outlined by Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection is based on these two types of protection. Accordingly, data regarding those who apply for individual protection from Türkiye is categorized into the "international protection" status and the "temporary protection" status applied in mass emergencies.

### 5.1. International Protection

The international protection statistics of the last decade indicate a dramatic increase until 2018, followed by a notable decrease in the last three years. It is observed that the number of asylum applications requested from Türkiye in 2020 and 2021, particularly during the pandemic period, was in the tens of thousands, and according to the data from the Presidency of Migration Management, a total of 29,256 international protection applications were made to Türkiye in 2021.

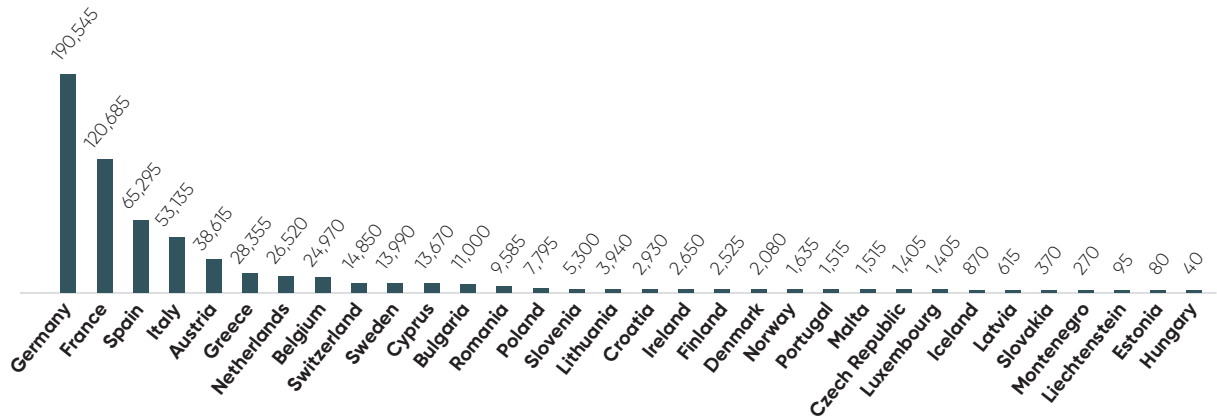


**Figure 5.1.** Distribution of international protection applications by year, 2010–2021<sup>260</sup>

In 2021, the number of international protection applications received by Türkiye positioned it as the sixth country with the highest number of applications among the European Union (EU) and EFTA countries. Compared to the data from 2019, it is understood that in 2021, Italy (53,135) and Austria (38,615) received more applications, while Greece (28,355) received fewer applications than Türkiye (29,256).<sup>261</sup>

260 GİB, "International Protection" Accessed April 01, 2022.

261 GİB, "International Protection".



**Figure 5.2.** Foreigners applying for international protection in EU and EFTA countries, 2021<sup>262</sup>

As seen in Table 5.1, among the top three nationalities subject to international protection in Türkiye, nationals from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran constitute a significant majority. According to the data released by the Presidency of Migration Management, among the total of 29,256 people who applied for international protection in Türkiye in 2021, 21,926 were from Afghanistan, 4,961 from Iraq, and 1,032 from Iran.

On the other hand, the UNHCR Türkiye office states that the number of foreign nationals with international protection status in Türkiye is 330,000. This includes 162,760 from Iraq, 125,104 from Afghanistan, and 24,300 from Iran.

**Table 5.1.** Distribution of foreigners under international protection in our country by nationality, 2021

Nationality	The top 3 nationalities having applied for international protection in 2021 (GİB) <sup>263</sup>	International protection applicants and status holders in Türkiye (top 3 countries of origin) (UNHCR TR) <sup>264</sup>
Afghanistan	21,926	125,104
Iraq	4,961	162,760
Iran	1,032	24,300
Other	1,337	7,836 (circa)
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,256</b>	<b>320,000</b>

262 GİB, "International Protection".

263 GİB, "International Protection".

264 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet".

## 5.2. Temporary Protection

Temporary protection status is one of the important mechanisms of the international protection regime. The temporary protection regime also holds a significant place within the Foreigners and International Protection Law enacted in 2013. Following this, the Temporary Protection Regulation issued on October 13, 2014, was transformed into a Presidential Regulation with the Presidential Decision No. 1851 dated December 24, 2019.

The temporary protection regime is a protection mechanism activated in cases of emergency and mass migration influxes. Like other international protection statuses, temporary protection status is also a temporary status. In this sense, in Türkiye, temporary protection status is only open to citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic who arrived after the events that began in 2011. Within this framework, as of the end of 2021, there are 3,736,799 holders of temporary protection status Syrians in Türkiye. As a result of the intensifying conflicts in Syria since 2011, Türkiye is one of the countries most affected by the displaced population.

The Temporary Protection Regulation, which came into force based on Article 91 of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection No. 6458 dated April 4, 2013, refers to the protection provided to foreigners who have been forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country they left, and have come to our borders in mass or individually during this mass influx period seeking urgent and temporary protection, or who have crossed our borders and whose requests for international protection cannot be evaluated individually.<sup>265</sup>

The purpose of the regulation is to regulate the procedures and principles of temporary protection that can be provided to foreigners who have been forced to leave their country, cannot return to the country they left, and have come to our borders in mass or crossed our borders for urgent and temporary protection, and whose requests for international protection cannot be evaluated individually, in accordance with Article 91 of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection No. 6458 dated April 4, 2013, as well as the acceptance of these individuals into Türkiye, their stay in Türkiye, their rights and obligations, the procedures to be carried out upon their exit from Türkiye, measures to be taken against mass movements, and matters related to cooperation between national and international organizations.<sup>266</sup>

As stated in the sixth article of the regulation, "No one within the scope of this Regulation shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, or sent to a place where their life or freedom would be threatened due to their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinions."<sup>267</sup>

*"Syrian citizens who apply for protection from Turkish authorities, refugees from Syria, and stateless persons are accepted into Türkiye under the temporary protection regime and can benefit from the temporary protection provided by the Turkish government. They are not repatriated to Syria under normal circumstances unless they request it themselves."*<sup>268</sup>

265 Temporary Protection Regulation, Official Gazette 29153 (October 22, 2014), Art. 3.

266 Temporary Protection Regulation, Art. 1.

267 Temporary Protection Regulation, Art. 6.

268 UNHCR, "Temporary Protection in Türkiye" Accessed April 25, 2022..

"Since April 28, 2011, Syrian citizens, stateless persons, and refugees from Syria who have arrived in Türkiye have been granted temporary protection by the Turkish government.

"This section presents data on Syrians under temporary protection. Accordingly, looking at Table 5.2, the increase in the number of Syrians under temporary protection over the years is noteworthy. The number, which was 14,237 in 2012, reached 224,655 in 2013, and one year later, it reached 1.5 million. In 2015, when Russia became involved in the war in Syria, this number exceeded 2.5 million. The figure surpassed 3.4 million in 2017 and has remained at these levels since then. In 2021, the number of Syrians under temporary protection was recorded as 3,736,799.

**Table 5.2.** Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection by year, 2012–2021<sup>269</sup>

Year	Number of Syrians under Temporary Protection
2012	14,237
2013	224,655
2014	1,519,286
2015	2,503,549
2016	2,834,441
2017	3,426,786
2018	3,623,192
2019	3,576,370
2020	3,641,370
2021	3,736,799

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of Syrians under temporary protection and the change rates within the year 2021. Accordingly, the provinces where the Syrian population is densely settled are ranked as Istanbul, Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, İzmir, Konya, and Kilis. The total Syrian population in these cities (2,914,917) constitutes 78% of all Syrians in Türkiye (3,736,799), which is noteworthy. It is observed that the mentioned top ten provinces are mostly industrial and trade cities. Additionally, the four border provinces of Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, and Kilis host 38% of Syrians in Türkiye.

During the year 2021, the growth rate of Syrians in Türkiye between the beginning and the end of the year is seen to be 2.55%. This growth rate may be related to new arrivals from Syria or children born in Türkiye. When looking at the change rates in cities, an increase of over 2% in the registration rates of Syrians is observed in cities like Istanbul, Gaziantep, Mersin, Konya, and Bursa.

<sup>269</sup> Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see Presidency of Migration Management (GİB), "Temporary Protection" Accessed January 1, 2022.



**Table 5.3.** *Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection by the top ten provinces and change rates, 2021<sup>270</sup>*

	January	December	Change Rate
<b>İstanbul</b>	518,930	534,096	2.92%
<b>Gaziantep</b>	450,016	460,664	2.37%
<b>Hatay</b>	433,972	435,650	0.39%
<b>Şanlıurfa</b>	421,676	427,640	1.41%
<b>Adana</b>	252,382	255,911	1.40%
<b>Mersin</b>	222,696	238,396	7.05%
<b>Bursa</b>	178,386	183,313	2.76%
<b>İzmir</b>	147,623	149,708	1.41%
<b>Konya</b>	118,034	122,736	3.98%
<b>Kilis</b>	105,625	106,803	1.12%
<b>Other</b>	794,429	821,882	3.46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,643,769</b>	<b>3,736,799</b>	<b>2.55%</b>

By the end of 2021, it is seen that approximately 1.4% of Syrians in Türkiye lived in temporary accommodation centers. The number of those living in temporary accommodation centers is 51,471, while the number outside the centers is 3,685,328. When examining the change throughout the year, it is understood that the number of those staying in temporary accommodation centers decreased by 12.39% from January to December.

**Table 5.4.** *Distribution of Syrians inside and outside temporary accommodation centers, 2021<sup>271</sup>*

	January	December	Change Rate
<b>Those Residing in Temporary Accommodation Centers</b>	58,752	51,471	-12.39%
<b>Those Residing out of Temporary Accommodation Centers</b>	3,585,027	3,685,328	2.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,643,769</b>	<b>3,736,799</b>	<b>2.55%</b>

The distribution of Syrians under temporary protection in temporary accommodation centers shows that Adana/Sarıçam (16,957), Kahramanmaraş/Central (9,663), Osmaniye/Cevdetiye (8,271), and Kilis/Elbeyli (8,212) Temporary Accommodation Centers stand out. The change rates within the year 2021 indicate a decreasing trend in the number of Syrians residing in temporary accommodation centers.

This situation is evaluated as a result of the policies implemented since 2018 aimed at reducing the population in temporary accommodation centers.

Table 5.5 shows the change rates throughout the year in the camps. Accordingly, the popula-

270 GİB, "Temporary Protection" Accessed January 6, 2021/December 30, 2021.

271 GİB, "Temporary Protection".

tion residing in the Temporary Accommodation Centers decreased from 58,752 in January 2021 to 51,471 at the end of December. The largest decrease occurred in the Sarıçam and Apaydın Temporary Accommodation Centers in Adana.

**Table 5.5.** Distribution of the number of Syrians under temporary protection by temporary accommodation center and change rates throughout the year, 2021

Province	TAC	Population in TAC <sup>272</sup>		Değişim oranı
		Ocak	Aralık	
Adana (1)	Sarıçam	20,947	16,957	-19.05%
	Altınözü	2,651	2,451	-7.54%
Hatay (3)	Yayladağı	3,537	3,320	-6.14%
	Apaydın	3,222	2,597	-19.40%
Kahramanmaraş (1)	Merkez	10,500	9,663	-7.97%
Kilis (1)	Elbeyli	8,473	8,212	-3.08%
Osmaniye (1)	Cevdetiye	9,422	8,271	-12.22%
<b>Total</b>		<b>58,752</b>	<b>51,471</b>	<b>-12.39%</b>
<b>Number of Syrians Outside Temporary Accommodation Centers</b>		<b>3,585,027</b>	<b>3,685,328</b>	<b>2.80%</b>

The decrease in the Osmaniye Temporary Accommodation Center is also noteworthy. Table 5.6 relates to the age and sex distribution of Syrians under temporary protection. The official figures announced by the Presidency of Migration Management from January to December 2021 indicate changes across various age groups. Accordingly;

There is a general declining trend observed in the age group of 0-4 years. This trend can largely be attributed to the dramatic decrease in the newborn female population. The increase in the newborn male population can also be considered stable compared to the increases in other age groups. This data, which should be supported by further research, can also be interpreted as an indication of the declining birth rate trend among Syrians in Türkiye.

There is an increasing trend in the age groups of 5-9 and 10-14 years. In the next age groups, 15-18 and 19-24, the trend remains negative again. While there is a continuing upward trend in the age groups of 25-29, 30-34, and 35-39, there is generally a stagnation or slight increase trend in the age groups of 40-44, 45-49, and 50-54.

The increase trend in the age groups of 55-59, 60-64, and 65-69 is notable. Remarkably, there is a general increase trend observed in the age groups of 70 and above. Excluding males aged 70-75 and 85-90, the increase trend in the age group of 70 and above appears to be the highest among all age groups. It should be noted that the small increases in the numbers of older age groups appear proportionally large due to the low numbers in these age groups.

The downward trend in the first age groups suggests that the birth rates among Syrians are also decreasing. The increase rate in the school-age group of 5-14 years can be explained by

the enrollment rates in schools. It is observed that the trend in the younger and middle-aged groups is either negative or stagnant, while there is a resurgence of an increasing trend after the age of 55. The numerically small but proportionally significant increase in the older age groups raises the possibility that older groups within Syria may also have a tendency to migrate to Türkiye.

**Table 5.6.** Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection by age, sex and change rates, 2021<sup>273</sup>

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	January	December	Change Rate (%)	January	December	Change Rate (%)	January	December	Change Rate (%)
0-4	262,142	264,306	0.83	257,969	246,733	-4.36	520,111	511,039	-1.74
5-9	275,602	294,539	6.87	257,246	276,631	7.54	532,848	571,170	7.9
10-14	214,405	221,374	3.25	187,627	207,962	10.84	402,032	429,336	6.79
15-18	152,711	139,804	-8.45	124,342	119,734	-3.71	277,053	259,538	-6.32
19-24	293,245	287,125	-2.09	218,605	216,317	-1.05	511,850	503,442	-1.64
25-29	207,183	223,863	8.05	146,867	162,468	10.62	354,050	386,331	9.12
30-34	160,518	168,813	5.17	117,413	122,519	4.35	277,931	291,332	4.82
35-39	119,648	126,668	5.87	97,284	99,197	1.97	216,932	225,865	4.12
40-44	85,087	86,557	1.73	75,924	75,465	-0.60	161,011	162,022	0.63
45-49	59,688	58,670	-1.71	57,045	57,358	0.55	116,733	116,028	-0.60
50-54	47,904	46,543	-2.84	45,758	45,397	-0.79	93,662	91,940	-1.84
55-59	32,988	35,414	7.35	33,536	35,466	5.76	66,524	70,880	6.55
60-64	22,701	23,346	2.84	23,699	24,106	1.72	46,400	47,452	2.27
65-69	14,683	15,206	3.56	15,379	16,054	4.39	30,062	31,260	3.99
70-74	8,215	8,986	9.39	8,819	9,898	12.23	17,034	18,884	10.86
75-79	4,561	4,419	-3.11	5,617	5,477	-2.49	10,178	9,896	-2.77
80-84	2,075	2,421	16.67	2,851	3,231	13.33	4,926	5,652	14.74
85-89	1,301	1,152	-11.45	1,670	1,701	1.86	2,971	2,853	-3.97
90+	599	788	31.55	862	1,091	26.57	1,461	1,879	28.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,965,256</b>	<b>2,009,994</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>1,678,513</b>	<b>1,726,805</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>3,643,769</b>	<b>3,736,799</b>	<b>2.55</b>

### 5.3. Resettlement

"Resettlement is under temporary protection to the transfer of individuals with international protection application status or those another country to obtain refugee status or long-term residence permits."<sup>274</sup>

Data on the resettlement of Syrians is published cumulatively by the Presidency of Migration Management since 2014, rather than on an annual basis. In 2021, the number of Syrians resettled to third countries from Türkiye was obtained from this cumulative total. The difference between the first data dated 01/06/2021 and the last data dated 12/30/2021 has been taken into account, and the results are presented in Table 5.7.

Accordingly, it is understood that a total of 1,387 Syrians were resettled in 4 countries under the resettlement program in 2021. These countries are Canada (through UNHCR and directly, a total of 950), the USA (152), the UK (117), and Switzerland (168).<sup>275</sup> It is not known whether there are Syrians resettled in other countries.

**Table 5.7.** Resettlement of Syrians to third countries, 2014-2021<sup>276</sup>

Country	Resettlement of Syrians to Third Countries Between 2014 and 2020	Resettlement of Syrians to Third Countries Between 2014 and 2021		Departures
	As of January 2021	December 2021	Difference Along 2021	Change Rate (%)
<b>Canada (UNHCR)</b>	5,214	6,164	950	18.22
<b>Canada (First hand)</b>	2,645	2,645	0	0.00
<b>United States of America</b>	3,944	4,096	152	3.85
<b>England</b>	2,450	2,567	117	4.78
<b>Norway</b>	1,926	1,926	0	0.00
<b>Sweden</b>	168	168	0	0.00
<b>Switzerland</b>	0	168	168	
<b>Australia</b>	115	115	0	0.00
<b>Austria</b>	58	58	0	0.00
<b>Belgium</b>	46	46	0	0.00
<b>Luxembourg</b>	46	46	0	0.00
<b>Romania</b>	43	43	0	0.00
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	18	18	0	0.00
<b>New Zealand</b>	15	15	0	0.00
<b>Iceland</b>	13	13	0	0.00
<b>Netherlands</b>	3	3	0	0.00
<b>France</b>	1	1	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,705</b>	<b>18,092</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>8.30</b>

274 GİB, 2016 Administrative Activity Report (Ankara: Göç İdaresi Başkanlığı, 2017), Accessed January 1, 2022

275 Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Temporary Protection".

276 GİB, "Temporary Protection".

Table 5.8 shows the applications made for leaving the country by those with conditional refugee and temporary protection status, as well as those who were resettled. Looking at Table 5.8, which compiles data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Presidency of Migration Management, it is seen that the number of applicants for resettlement to a third country according to the UNHCR in 2021 was 12,270. The number of individuals whose applications were approved by the same institution and who were resettled to another country is approximately 7,400. It is understood that 76% of those whose applications were accepted (5,624) were of Syrian nationality, while 12% (888) were of Afghan nationality. The UNHCR states that these individuals were resettled in 13 countries.<sup>277</sup> On the other hand, data from the Presidency of Migration Management indicates that a total of 1,387 Syrian citizens were resettled to a third country throughout 2021.<sup>278</sup>

**Table 5.8.** *Distribution of conditional refugees and temporary protection beneficiaries who applied to leave the country and were resettled, 2021*

Month	UNHCR Number of Individuals with Conditional Refugee or Temporary Protection Status Who Have Applied to Depart (Cumulative Total)	Number of Individuals Resettled (Cumulative Total)	GİB (Number of Syrians Resettled Throughout 2021) <sup>288</sup>
January <sup>279</sup>	-	315	
February	-	-	
March <sup>280</sup>	-	429	
April <sup>281</sup>	-	1,530	
May <sup>282</sup>	-	1,955	
June <sup>283</sup>	-	2,792	
July			
August <sup>284</sup>	5,600	4,300	
September <sup>285</sup>	6,500	5,400	
October <sup>286</sup>	8,400	5,900	
November			
December <sup>287</sup>	12,270	7,400	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,270</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>1,387</b>
<b>Resettled Individuals by Nationality</b>	Syrian (%76)	5,624	1,387
	Afghan (%12)	888	-
	Other (12)	888	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,400</b>	<b>1,387</b>

277 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet, November–December 2021" Accessed February 1, 2022.

278 Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Temporary Protection".

279 Taken from Table 5.7. See the relevant table for details

280 UNHCR, "Operational Update, January 2021" Accessed February 1, 2022

281 UNHCR, "Operational Update February–March 2021" Accessed February 1, 2022.

282 UNHCR, "Current Activities April 2021" Accessed February 1, 2022.

283 UNHCR, "Current Activities May 2021", Accessed February 01, 2022

284 UNHCR, "Current Activities June 2021", Accessed February 01, 2022.

285 UNHCR, "Current Activities July–August 2021", Accessed February 01, 2022.

286 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet September 2021", Accessed February 1, 2022: February 1, 2022.

287 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet October 2021", Accessed February 1, 2022: February 1, 2022.

288 UNHCR, "Türkiye Fact Sheet November–December 2021", Accessed February 1, 2022: February 1, 2022.

Table 5.9 shows statistical information regarding Syrians exiting our country under the one-to-one formula.

Placement under the one-to-one formula is defined as "the return of a Syrian irregular migrant who has crossed from Türkiye to the Greek islands in exchange for the placement of a Syrian foreigner in European Union countries within the framework of the March 18 agreement."<sup>289</sup> Since the implementation of the one-to-one formula in April 2016, the number of Syrians placed in European Union countries has been reported as a total of 31,616 by the end of 2021.<sup>290</sup>

Statistical information regarding Syrians exiting our country under the one-to-one formula is not published by the migration administration on a monthly or yearly basis. Instead, cumulative total numbers have been disclosed in occasional statements since 2016. The numbers for Syrians exiting our country under the one-to-one formula in 2021 have also been derived from this cumulative total. Accordingly, the difference between the initial data dated 01/06/2021 and the final data dated 12/30/2021 has been taken as the basis. The results obtained are presented in Table 5.9.

In this context, it is understood that 4,061 Syrians were placed in eight EU countries under the formula in 2021.<sup>291</sup>

**Table 5.9.** Statistical information on Syrians leaving our country under the one-to-one formula

	COUNTRY	From April 2016 to January 2021 (as of January 6, 2021)	From April 2016 to December 2021 (as of December 30, 2021)	Total Change in 2021 <sup>292</sup>	Change Rate
1	GERMANY	10,012	12,062	2,050	20.48%
2	FRANCE	4,779	4,972	193	4.04%
3	NETHERLANDS	4,464	4,798	334	7.48%
4	FINLAND	2,196	2,477	281	12.80%
5	SWEDEN	2,167	2,654	487	22.47%
6	BELGIUM	1,344	1,795	451	33.56%
7	SPAIN	754	901	147	19.50%
8	ITALY	396	396	0	0.00%
9	PORTUGAL	332	450	118	35.54%
10	CROATIA	250	250	0	0.00%
11	AUSTRIA	213	213	0	0.00%

289 GİB, "2016 Türkiye Migration Report", 20.

290 GİB, "Temporary Protection" Accessed January 6, 2021/December 30, 2021.

291 GİB, "Temporary Protection".

292 Prepared by compiling data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see GİB, "Temporary Protection"

12	LUXEMBOURG	206	206	0	0.00%
13	LITHUANIA	102	102	0	0.00%
14	BULGARIA	85	85	0	0.00%
15	ROMANIA	68	68	0	0.00%
16	ESTONIA	59	59	0	0.00%
17	LATVIA	46	46	0	0.00%
18	SLOVENIA	34	34	0	0.00%
19	DENMARK	31	31	0	0.00%
20	SWITZERLAND <sup>293</sup>	24	0	(-24)	-100.00%
21	MALTA	17	17	0	0.00%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>27,579</b>	<b>31,616</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>14.64%</b>

According to Tables 5.7, 5.8, and 5.9, in 2021, among the 7,400 people resettled to third countries by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 5,624 were of Syrian nationality. Additionally, the Presidency of Migration Management reported that in the resettlement program for third countries in 2021, a total of 5,448 Syrians left Türkiye for a third country, including 1,387 sent directly and 4,061 through the one-to-one formula.

There is no information available regarding how many of those sent by the UNHCR correspond to the numbers announced by the Presidency of Migration Management. According to the statements made by Deputy Interior Minister İsmail Çataklı to the press on December 2, 2022, it is understood that far more people have been resettled to third countries than the numbers returned from Greece after the agreement made in 2016:

*"In this context, we have resettled 30,801 people to Europe. We were supposed to resettle 2,319 people, but we operated the system quickly, and we have resettled nearly 15 times what Greece sent. We have fulfilled all our obligations under the March 18 Agreement."<sup>294</sup>*

293 While the data published by the Presidency of Migration Management dated January 6, 2021 shows that there are 24 people who left Türkiye and settled in Switzerland within the scope of the one-to-one formula, this number is shared as "0" in the data dated December 30, 2021. Considering that the data was published cumulatively, it is thought that an inadvertent mistake was made

294 Uslu, "Ministry of Interior told 'Greek persecution of asylum seekers in the Aegean' in Parliament".

## 5.4. Voluntary Return

Türkiye has become a target country for migrants, especially in recent years, in addition to being a transit country. Therefore, over the years, the number of migrants attempting to enter our country irregularly, and those who fall into irregular status even if they enter through legal means, has been steadily increasing. The voluntary return mechanism is used as a tool not only to deport irregular migrants from our country but also to prevent "deported irregular migrants from returning to our country" and to ensure "the improvement of the conditions of irregular migrants in their countries of origin, facilitating their departure from our country in a manner that is dignified, compliant with international standards, and based on voluntariness."

*"In this context, an additional regulation was made on December 24, 2019, in the Law on Foreigners and International Protection No. 6458 to establish the foundations of the National Supported Voluntary Return Mechanism. With this regulation, the Presidency of Migration Management will be able to provide support to irregular migrants wishing to voluntarily exit to their home country/third country, victims of human trafficking, and foreigners in the international protection application process, as specified in the 'Voluntary Return Regulation'."*

*The voluntary return mechanism states that "the returns of irregular migrants will be carried out on a voluntary basis, the duration of stay in removal centers will be shortened, administrative lawsuits arising from disputes between the administration and foreigners will be eliminated, and the material burden on the administration regarding return processes is expected to decrease."<sup>295</sup>*

Although the number of foreign nationals who voluntarily return to their country from Türkiye or are returned within a legal framework is not included in official statistics, it has been obtained from information provided by officials in their occasional statements.

In the first month of 2021, there was no data available on the subject; however, during a monthly press conference held by İsmail Çatakli on December 4, 2020, it was stated that the number of Syrians who have voluntarily returned to Syria since 2016 is 419,040<sup>296</sup>, while it was declared to be 484,400 in a statement made on February 4, 2022.<sup>297</sup> Accordingly, it can be understood that approximately 65,360 people returned to Syria within a period of about 15 months. Therefore, it is estimated that between 50,000 and 60,000 Syrians returned to their country in 2021 alone. These numbers indicate that an average of about 4,000 to 5,000 Syrians voluntarily returned to their country each month.

<sup>295</sup> GIB, "Türkiye's Struggle with Irregular Migration".

<sup>296</sup> Independent Türkçe, "Interior Ministry announced the number of Syrians returning to their country" (December 4, 2020), Accessed April 25, 2022.

<sup>297</sup> İhlas Haber Ajansı, "Ministry of Interior Spokesperson Çatakli: 'The number of Syrians returning to their country: 484 thousand 400, the number of Syrians registered in our country as of today: 3 million 739 thousand 859 people'" (February 4, 2022), Accessed April 20, 2022.



Deputy Minister of Interior İsmail Çataklı stated that the vast majority of Syrians returning to their country are "returns to regions where Türkiye has ensured security and normalized the situation."<sup>298</sup>

**Table 5.10.** Distribution of Syrians returning to their country by year and month, 2016–2022

	Number of Syrians Returned to Their Country Since 2016
December 4, 2020 <sup>299</sup>	419,040
<b>2021</b>	
January 2021	-
February 2021	-
March 2021	-
April (04/06/2021) <sup>300</sup>	431,780
May 2021	-
June (06/05/2021) <sup>301</sup>	441,571
July (07/03/2021) <sup>302</sup>	448,649
August 2021	-
September (09/15/2021) <sup>303</sup>	462,026
October (10/12/2021) <sup>304</sup>	-
November (11/03/2021) <sup>305</sup>	469,170
December 2021	-
<b>2022</b>	
January 2022	-
February (02/04/2022) <sup>306</sup>	484,400
<b>Between December 2020 and February 2022 (Approximately 15 months)</b>	<b>65,360</b>

298 Kemal Karadağ, "Deputy Minister of Interior İsmail Çataklı: We are starting to take fingerprints in all countries in Africa where visas are issued", Anadolu Agency (24 February 2022), Accessed 24 April 2022.

299 Independent Turkish, "Interior Ministry announces number of Syrians returning to their country".

300 Orhan Onur Gemici, "86 terrorists were neutralized in internal security operations in March", Anadolu Agency (6 April 2021), Accessed 24 April 2022.

301 T24, "What is the current information about Syrians in Türkiye?" (August 26, 2021), Accessed April 24, 2022.

302 Burcu Çalık-Göçümlü, "Deputy Interior Minister Çataklı: 92 terrorists neutralized in June", Anadolu Agency (September 3, 2021), Accessed 24 April 2022.

303 Gemici & Budak, "Interior Minister Soylu: (New migration movement from Afghanistan) It is being touted as a new development on the Taliban axis".

304 Milliyet, "174 thousand Syrians became Turkish citizens" (October 12, 2021), Accessed April 24, 2022.

305 Berna Akkaya, "Last minute! The number of Syrians returning to their country reached 469,170" (November 3, 2021), Accessed April 24, 2022.

306 İhlas Haber Ajansı, "Ministry of Interior Spokesperson Çataklı: The number of Syrians returning to their country: 484 thousand 400, the number of Syrians registered in our country as of today: 3 million 739 thousand 859 people".



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