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TÜRKİYE MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITIES ANNUAL

2023

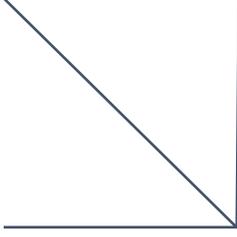
Assoc. Prof. Ali Zafer SAĞIROĞLU
Ramazan ÜNSAL
Furkan ÖZENCİ



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Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu | Ramazan Ünsal | Furkan Özenci

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PREFACE



The 2023 Türkiye Migration and Human Mobilities Annual, which constitutes the third volume of this series, continues to establish itself as a significant reference source in its field. Following the publication of the first two volumes, we received feedback indicating that the yearbooks have become valuable not only for those studying migration, but also for researchers and practitioners interested in a wide range of phenomena and developments that occurred throughout the respective year. Many have noted the rich information provided in the annual on diverse topics ranging from general tourism and health tourism to property acquisition and earthquakes. The positive reception of the annuals, which are steadily evolving into traditional reference work, provides strong motivation for our future efforts.

While the data and information presented in this volume have been compiled from open sources, we kindly request that users of this work provide appropriate citations and references in their own studies. This is both a matter of respecting the considerable effort invested by the contributors and of adhering to the principles of academic integrity. Although open sources may occasionally revise or remove the information they publish, scientific works such as this yearbook offer a stable and reliable foundation for preserving data over time.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the preparation and publication of this work, which was made possible through the great dedication of its authors. As with last year's volume, we are grateful to the Board of Trustees of the Migration Research Foundation for their encouragement and support in the publication of the 2023 Annual. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Foundation's generous supporters, as well as to the dedicated editors and staff of GAV Perspektif Publications.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023 led to the displacement of both local and foreign populations within Türkiye.

On 6 February 2023, a series of earthquakes with magnitudes exceeding 7.0 and centered in Kahramanmaraş resulted in the deaths of over 50,000 Turkish nationals and injured thousands of people. Foreign nationals residing in the 11 provinces designated as the earthquake zone were also adversely affected. Although precise information on the number of deceased or injured foreign nationals is not available, the 11 affected provinces were home to 2.45% of all foreign nationals holding residence permits in Türkiye, and 49.64% of all Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in the country. Based on these figures, it can be estimated that a total of 1,771,194 individuals under residence permits, or temporary protection were impacted by the earthquakes.



In 2023, the number of visitors arriving in Türkiye surpassed 55 million for the first time, reaching a total of 56,693,837.

The number of visitors to Türkiye exceeded 50 million for the first time in the history of the Republic in 2019. However, the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the following year had a profound impact on visitor numbers. This negative trend continued into 2021. Although the tourism sector began to recover in 2022 and the number of visitors once again exceeded 50 million, it remained slightly below the 2019 level. By 2023, however, the number of visitors surpassed 55 million for the first time, reaching 56,693,837. Of these, 49,209,180 were foreign nationals, while 7,484,657 were Turkish nationals residing abroad.



The number of visitors arriving Türkiye for health tourism exceeded 1.3 million, marking a new record.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of health tourists arriving in Türkiye had remained slightly above 700,000 at its peak. Like many other sectors, health tourism was deeply affected by the pandemic, with visitor numbers remaining relatively low throughout 2020 and 2021. However, by 2022, the number of health tourists increased rapidly, exceeding 1.2 million. This upward trend continued in 2023, reaching a total of 1,398,504 visitors. According to official assessments, the earthquakes that occurred on February 6 also had an impact on the health tourism sector, leading to the cancellation of some reservations. This suggests that the actual potential of health tourism may have been even higher than the level recorded in 2023.



In 2023, more people left Türkiye than moved into it.

In 2022, Türkiye experienced a net migration gain, with 494,052 people immigrating to the country and 466,914 emigrating, resulting in a positive net migration figure of 27,138. However, this trend reversed dramatically in 2023. That year, only 316,456 people immigrated to Türkiye, while 714,579 individuals emigrated, leading to a significant net migration loss of -398,123. The composition of emigrants also shifted notably. In 2022, 29.88% (139,531) of those who left Türkiye were Turkish nationals and 70.12% (327,383) were foreign nationals. In 2023, the share of Turkish nationals among emigrants rose to 40.78% (291,377), while foreign nationals accounted for 59.22% (423,202). A similar change was observed among immigrants. In 2022, 19.11% (94,409) of those arriving in Türkiye were Turkish nationals, while 80.89% (399,643) were foreign nationals. By 2023, the proportion of Turkish nationals among immigrants had increased to 32.13% (101,677), with foreign nationals making up 67.87% (214,779) of total arrivals.



2023: A Year marked by reverse migration for Russians and Ukrainians.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which marked the beginning of the ongoing war, nationals of both Russia and Ukraine migrated to Türkiye. In 2022, the number of Russian nationals arriving in Türkiye reached 99,786, while Ukrainian nationals numbered 32,465. By 2023, however, arrivals from these nationalities had declined significantly, with the number of Russian nationals dropping to 28,314 and Ukrainian nationals to 8,499. Conversely, departures from Türkiye among these groups increased sharply. In 2022, 11,862 Russian nationals and 4,161 Ukrainian nationals left the country, whereas in 2023 these figures rose to 71,956 and 16,895, respectively. Although the ongoing mobilization policies amid the continuing war are considered a possible driver of this return migration, no detailed information on the matter is available.



84.18% of foreign nationals holding residence permits in Türkiye reside in just ten provinces.

An examination of the provincial distribution of foreign nationals granted residence permits in 2023 shows that those residing in the top ten provinces account for 84.18% of all residence permit holders in Türkiye. In 2022, this proportion was 85.34%. In 2023, the provinces with the highest numbers of residence permit holders were İstanbul (554,183 persons, 50.09%), Antalya (116,502 persons, 10.53%), and Ankara (71,096 persons, 6.43%).



The number of foreign nationals residing in Türkiye on residence permits declined in 2023 amid a "silent policy shift".

In 2022, the number of residence permits issued to foreign nationals in Türkiye peaked at 1,354,094. In 2023, however, a change in residence permit issuance policy appears to have taken place, resulting in a decline to 1,107,032 foreign nationals holding residence permits. By type of residence permit, the numbers in the family, student, and other categories (including long-term, humanitarian, and victims of human trafficking) increased compared to the previous year, whereas the number of short-term residence permits decreased by approximately 300,000. This suggests that in 2023, a "restrictive policy" was implemented with respect to granting short-term residence permits.



Combating irregular migration continued to be a key focus for Türkiye.

Efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration, enhance border security, and coordinate apprehensions and deportations continued in 2023. Within this framework, 254,008 irregular migrants were apprehended inside Türkiye's borders, while 223,856 individuals were prevented from crossing at the borders. Among those apprehended, 130,611 were deported. The Mobile Migration Points Initiative, implemented for the first time in 2023, detected 63,324 irregular migrants. Additionally, by the end of the year, 371,433 foreign nationals whose visas, visa exemptions, or residence permits had expired and who had thus fallen into irregular status voluntarily left the country.



In 2023, the number of foreign nationals granted Turkish citizenship exceeded 400,000.

Statistics on foreign nationals granted Turkish citizenship are confined to the announcements made by the authorities. These announcements typically concern Syrians who have acquired citizenship, although occasionally broader statements are issued. In 2022 and 2023, the most comprehensive statements included nationals of Afghanistan and Syria, as well as Meskhetian (Ahiska) Turks and Uyghur Turks. The most recent announcement covering these groups in 2022 was made in August. According to this statement, 211,908 Syrian nationals, 39,294 Afghan nationals, 104,976 Meskhetian Turks, and 7,001 Uyghur Turks had been granted Turkish citizenship. In May 2023, it was announced that citizenship had been granted to 237,021 Syrians, 47,354 Afghans, 117,164 Meskhetian Turks, and 12,009 Uyghur Turks. By the end of the year, the only official statement—covering solely Syrian nationals—indicated that a total of 238,055 Syrians had been granted Turkish citizenship.



There has been a decline in applications for international protection.

In 2023, the number of individuals applying for international protection in Türkiye was reported as 19,017, marking the lowest level in the past twelve years. Among the applicants, Afghan nationals ranked first with 13,068 individuals, followed by Iraqi nationals with 2,776 and Iranian nationals with 1,416.



The number of Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye continued to decline.

The downward trend in the number of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP), which began in 2021, continued in 2023. From 3.7 million in 2021, the number decreased by approximately 500,000 over the past two years, reaching around 3.2 million. The total number of Syrians who voluntarily returned to their country from Türkiye between 2016 and the end of 2023 reached 615,678. Of this total, 76,346 returned in 2023, indicating a monthly average of 6,362 voluntary returns.



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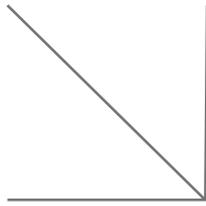
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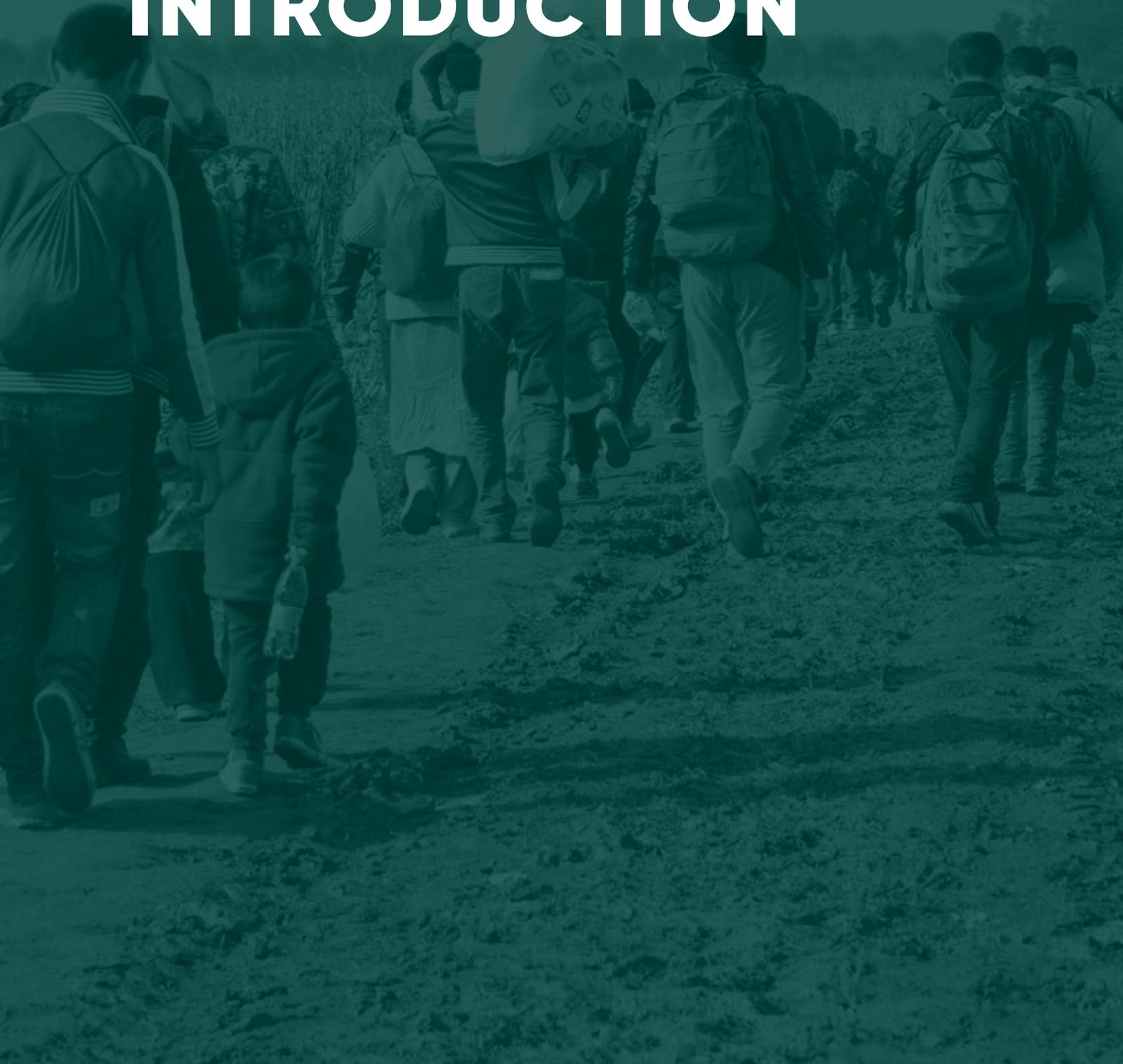
ABBREVIATIONS



AFAD	Afet ve Acil Durum Yönetimi Başkanlığı (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency)
Art	Article
Cf.	See
ÇSGB	Çalışma ve Sosyal Güvenlik Bakanlığı (Ministry of Labour and Social Security)
DB	Dışişleri Bakanlığı (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
EGM	Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü (General Directorate of Security)
GİB	Göç İdaresi Başkanlığı (Presidency of Migration Management)
HBÖGM	Hayat Boyu Öğrenme Genel Müdürlüğü (Directorate General for Lifelong Learning)
HEIMS	Higher Education Information Management System
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KKK	Kara Kuvvetleri Komutanlığı (Land Forces Command)
KTB	Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı (Ministry of Culture and Tourism)
LFIP	Law on Foreigners and International Protection
LRL	Land Registry Law
MEB	Milli Eğitim Bakanlığı (Ministry of National Education)
PL	Passport Law
SG	Sahil Güvenlik Komutanlığı (Turkish Coast Guard Command)
TB	Ticaret Bakanlığı (Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Trade)
TCRA	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad
TSK	Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri (Turkish Armed Forces)
TÜİK	Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (Turkish Statistical Institute)
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation
USHAŞ	Uluslararası Sağlık Hizmetleri Anonim Şirketi (International Health Services Incorporated Company)
YTB	Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı (Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities)
YÖK	Yükseköğretim Kurulu Başkanlığı (Council of Higher Education)



INTRODUCTION



The third volume of the Türkiye Migration and Human Mobilities Annual for the year 2023 consists of five chapters. **The first chapter**, titled “Entries into and Exits from Türkiye,” addresses tourism mobility in Türkiye. Subsections within this chapter include visitors to Türkiye, their nationalities, the provinces visited, purposes of travel, and day-trippers. According to data compiled from various institutions, Türkiye hosted **56,693,837** visitors in 2023. It should be noted that this figure represents the highest level ever reached in Türkiye’s tourism history. Among the incoming visitors, **49,209,180** were foreign nationals, while **7,484,657** were Turkish citizens residing abroad. Among foreign nationals, the largest number of visitors came from Germany and Russia. Additionally, Antalya and Istanbul were identified as the most preferred provinces for foreign nationals entering Türkiye. The year 2023 was also significant in terms of same-day visitors. After remaining below the one-million threshold since 2015, the number of same-day visitors exceeded this mark for the first time in 2023, reaching **1,535,223** individuals. Another important aspect of tourism mobility is health tourism. Particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic, Türkiye has made a remarkable breakthrough in this field. While the number of health tourists was approximately **400,000** in 2020, it rose to **1,398,504** by 2023.

The title of **the second chapter** is “Regular Migration and Human Mobility.” This chapter examines numerous issues ranging from residence permit holders to work permit holders, international students, marriage and divorce statistics, housing sales to foreigners, and foreigners granted Turkish citizenship. The analysis draws on data shared by various public institutions with the general public. The chapter begins with a discussion of migration into and out of Türkiye. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), the year 2023 recorded a negative net migration. In that year, **316,456** individuals migrated to Türkiye, while **714,579** people emigrated from Türkiye abroad. As a result, the net migration was recorded as **-398,123**. Regarding residence permits, which legally allow a foreign national to reside in Türkiye, the number of residence permit holders in 2023 decreased by approximately **250,000** compared to the previous year, totaling **1,107,032** individuals. This decline was attributed to a decrease in the number of short-term residence permit holders. The nationalities receiving the highest number of residence permits were ranked as follows: Turkmenistan, Russia, and Iraq. The number of work permits issued to foreign nationals legally authorized to work in Türkiye reached a peak of **239,835** in 2023. Approximately 45% of these permit holders (**108,520 individuals**) were Syrians. Furthermore, when examining international student mobility, which has shown a rapid upward trend over the last decade, Türkiye hosted **301,694** students in 2023. Among these students, nationals from Syria, Azerbaijan, and Iran ranked highest. It should be noted that 7% of international students in Türkiye are enrolled in open or distance education programs. Another important aspect to highlight is foreigners granted Turkish citizenship. Since the relevant institutions do not regularly publish data on citizenship, the statistics compiled in this section are based solely on official statements.

Accordingly, by mid-2023, a total of **413,548** individuals, including nationals from Afghanistan and Syria, as well as Meskhetian Turks and Uyghur Turks, were granted Turkish citizenship. By the end of the year, data was shared only regarding Syrian nationals, indicating that **238,055** Syrians had acquired Turkish citizenship.

The third chapter, titled “Irregular Migration and Human Mobility,” addresses irregular migration. Based on information published by various institutions, the chapter analyzes the number of irregular migrants in 2023, activities related to combating irregular migration, and data concerning migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) reported that a total of **254,008** irregular migrants were apprehended in 2023, and **223,856** individuals were prevented from entering the country. According to data from the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), the number of apprehensions at land borders increased from **7,899** in 2022 to **13,640** in 2023. The Bulgarian border was particularly notable in terms of border activity. In 2023, **7,081** individuals were apprehended at this border, nearly all of whom were caught during exit attempts. This figure corresponds to **51%** of those apprehended at land borders. According to the Coast Guard Command, the number of irregular migrants apprehended or rescued in territorial waters was **56,954**. Of this number, **54%** were rescued migrants, while **46%** were apprehended. Among the apprehended/rescued irregular migrants, nationals from Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of Congo ranked highest. In 2023, the number of irregular migrants deported was reported as **130,611**. Regarding migrant smuggling, a significant component of irregular migration, **10,482** migrant smuggling organizers were apprehended in 2023.

The fourth chapter, titled “International Protection,” presents statistics and data concerning foreigners under international protection and temporary protection status in Türkiye. The total number of international protection applications, which was **33,246** in 2022, decreased to **19,017** in 2023. The majority of applicants are nationals of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. The number of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in Türkiye decreased by **321,118** compared to the previous year. The figure, which was **3,535,898** in 2022, was reported as **3,214,780** in 2023. Between 2016 and 2023, the number of Syrians who voluntarily returned to their home country from Türkiye was **615,678**, while during the same period, a total of **63,941** Syrians were resettled in 29 countries.

In the final chapter, data on migration and human mobility in Türkiye following the earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023, in Kahramanmaraş, which directly affected 11 provinces, are presented. It is estimated that over 3 million people were displaced within the country as a result of the earthquake. However, official statements regarding the return of the earthquake victims to their original cities do not provide sufficient data.



ENTRIES TO AND EXITS FROM TÜRKİYE



The section titled “Entries to and Exits from Türkiye” can also be considered as tourism mobility based on the nature of the data analyzed. The reason for including tourism mobility in this study is the assumption that tourism and migration movements may be related. Foreign nationals who intend to choose Türkiye as their permanent residence initially appear in the “entry–exit” statistics. Moreover, the observed discrepancy between the number of foreign nationals entering (Figure 4) and those exiting (Figure 5) within the same year supports this assumption. Entry and exit data can serve not only as indicators of general tourism mobility but also as sources of both regular and irregular mobility. Additionally, in many cases, it is difficult to distinguish between tourism mobility and migration mobility.

Visitors who enter Türkiye and do not exit within the same year are believed to begin residing in Türkiye either regularly or irregularly. This situation can be explained in two ways: foreigners who enter Türkiye through legal means and do not leave by the end of their visa period may apply to public institutions and begin residing “registered” in Türkiye; alternatively, they may remain irregularly in Türkiye without applying to any public institution after their visa expires. Indeed, the former Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu’s statement¹ that some migrants entering Türkiye have torn their passports supports this notion. However, it is unknown whether foreigners staying irregularly in Türkiye plan to stay long-term or intend to move on to a third country.

Visitors to Türkiye may enter the country only through border gates designated by the Presidency of the Republic.² It is mandatory for visitors to present their passports or equivalent travel documents to the relevant officials upon entry.³ Foreign nationals intending to stay in Türkiye for a maximum of 90 days are required to obtain a visa from the Turkish consulates located in their country of residence.⁴ In addition, the issuance of visas at border gates continues as an exceptional practice; however, such visas granted at the border are limited to a maximum duration of 15 days.⁵ Furthermore, nationals of certain countries designated by the President may be exempted from visa requirements.⁶ It is estimated that Türkiye provides visa exemption facilities to citizens of 96 countries.⁷ Moreover, according to information

1 *Cumhuriyet*, “Soylu: Göçmenler Pasaportlarını Yırttıkları İçin Sınır Dışı Edilemiyor” [“Soylu: Migrants Cannot Be Deported Because They Have Torn Their Passports”] (May 11, 2022), accessed April 3, 2024.

2 Passport Law (PL), *Official Gazette* No. 7564 (24 July 1950), Law No. 5682, Art. 1.

3 PL, Art. 2. For provisions regarding Turkish citizens without a passport when entering Türkiye, see PL, Art. 3. The validity period of passports required to be presented upon entry into Türkiye must be at least 60 days beyond the visa period. For example, the passport validity of a person holding a 30-day visa must be at least 90 days. See Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), “Validity Period of Passports Required for Entry into Türkiye under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection,” accessed 30 March 2024.

4 Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP), *Official Gazette* No. 28615 (11 April 2013), Law No. 6458, Art. 11.

5 LFIP (Law on Foreigners and International Protection), Art. 13.

6 LFIP (Law on Foreigners and International Protection), Art. 12/1(a). The relevant article contains information on other cases where visa exemption is applied.

7 The reason why precise information cannot be clearly stated is that the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) has restricted access to the webpage where detailed information on this subject was previously published. The latest available data on countries benefiting from visa exemption was accessed on 29 September 2023. On that page, it was observed that the visa exemption policy

obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, nationals of 20 countries may enter Türkiye using their national identity cards, while nationals of eight countries may enter even if the validity period of their identity cards or passports has expired.⁸

The data evaluated in the section titled “Entry into and Exit from Türkiye” were obtained from the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT), the Ministry of Trade (MoT), the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and the International Health Services Incorporated Company (USHAŞ).

Together with USHAŞ, the PMM is one of the two institutions among those mentioned above that share only limited statistics with the public. The relevant data, published annually, are restricted to the distribution by year of foreign visitors entering Türkiye, the distribution by the top ten nationalities of those entering, the distribution by year of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye, and the distribution by the top ten nationalities of those departing. In addition, the PMM keeps its data on its website in an up-to-date format rather than as an archive. For instance, in 2024, when the PMM’s website is visited, one can access the data on the top ten nationalities of foreign visitors entering and departing from Türkiye in 2023; however, the data for 2022 have been removed from the site. The relevant data were accessed via the “Statistics” tab on the institution’s homepage, under the heading “Current Data” and the subheading “Entry–Exit.”

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) provides a rather extensive dataset on tourism mobility. Comprehensive statistics are made publicly available on topics such as the distribution of visitor numbers by year and month, the types of transportation used by visitors upon entry and exit, visitors’ nationalities, same-day visitors, and the provinces from which same-day visitors arrive. The relevant data were accessed by navigating to the “Tourism Statistics” section under the tourism tab on the Ministry’s website. From this section, it was observed that the user is redirected to the “Tourism Statistics” page of the General Directorate of Investment and Enterprises (YİGM), which is affiliated with the Ministry. On this page, by sequentially following the headings “Border Statistics,” “Statistics for Previous Periods,” and “Annual Bulletins,” the “2023 Border Entry–Exit Statistics” were reached.

applied to citizens of a total of 90 countries. On 23 December 2023, visa exemption was extended to the citizens of six additional countries. Accordingly, it can be stated that citizens of a total of 96 countries are able to enter Türkiye without a visa. The countries where visa exemption is applied are as follows: “Germany, United States of America, Andorra, Argentina, Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia, Estonia, Morocco, Finland, France, Guatemala, South Korea, Georgia, Croatia, Netherlands, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Spain, Israel, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Iceland, Japan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Canada, Montenegro, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Kosovo, Costa Rica, Kuwait, North Macedonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Hungary, Macau, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Moldova, Monaco, Nicaragua, Norway, Uzbekistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Seychelles, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, Oman, Uruguay, Jordan, Vatican City, Venezuela, New Zealand, Greece.” See Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Interior Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Countries Granted Visa Exemption by Türkiye,” accessed 29 September 2023; TRT Haber, “Altı Ülkenin Vatandaşları İçin Vize Muafiyeti Resmi Gazete’de” [“Visa Exemption for Citizens of Six Countries Published in Official Gazette”] (23 December 2023), accessed 30 March 2024.

8 The countries whose citizens are allowed to enter Türkiye using their national identity cards are as follows: “Germany, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Ukraine, Greece.” The countries whose citizens may enter Türkiye using passports or national identity cards that have expired are as follows: “Germany, passports/identity cards expired within the last year; Belgium, passports expired within the last five years; France, passports expired within the last five years; Spain, passports expired within the last five years; Switzerland, passports expired within the last five years; Luxembourg, passports expired within the last five years; Portugal, passports expired within the last five years; Bulgaria, passports valid for general use.” See Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), “Vatandaşlarının Ulusal Kimlik Belgeleri ile Ülkemize Girebileceği Ülkelerle İlişkin Liste” [“List of Countries Whose Citizens Can Enter Our Country with National Identity Documents,”] accessed 30 March 2024.

Passenger data were evaluated using the statistics provided monthly by the Ministry of Trade (MoT), which shares data on land border crossings, numbers of vehicles entering, and vehicle types. Relevant data were accessed through the Ministry's website by navigating to the "Statistics" section, then "Ministry Statistics," followed by "Customs Statistics," and finally the "Land Border Entry-Exit Data" headings. Among the statistical files encountered, only the file titled "Passenger Numbers by Land Border Gates" was used.

TurkStat provides complementary datasets to those published by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. TurkStat's published data include comprehensive information such as tourism revenues, tourism expenditures, reasons for visitors' arrivals, and number of overnight stays. In this study, emphasis was placed on visitors' reasons for coming to Türkiye. Relevant data were accessed from the tables included in TurkStat's bulletin titled "Tourism Statistics, Q4: October-December, 2023."

The scope of the data shared by USHAŞ can be considered limited. The institution publishes figures on the number of health tourists and health tourism revenues by year, based on data received from TurkStat. Data shared with the public by USHAŞ were accessed via the "Health Tourism Data" section on the company's official website.

Table 1. Distribution of institutions by frequency of data publication

Institutions	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Presidency of Migration Management	✗	✗	✓
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	✓	✗	✓
Ministry of Trade	✓	✗	✗
Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)	✗	✓	✓
International Health Services Inc. (USHAŞ)	✗	✗	✓

1.1. Data on Entries to and Exits from Türkiye

Türkiye holds a significant position worldwide in terms of the number of visitors it hosts. According to the data of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Türkiye has ranked among the top 10 countries hosting the highest number of tourists over the past decade. Notably, in 2022, it rose to fourth place in this ranking.⁹ However, when examining the list of countries earning the highest tourism revenues, it is observed that Türkiye had not entered the top 10

⁹ In 2022, Türkiye rose to the position of the fourth most visited country in the world. See *TRT Haber*, "Türkiye Dünyanın En Çok Turist Ağır-layan 4. Ülkesi Oldu" [Türkiye Became the World's 4th Most Visited Country], accessed March 31, 2024.

before 2022.¹⁰ In other words, starting from 2022, Türkiye has not only been among the countries hosting the highest number of tourists but has also attained a notable position in the ranking of countries generating the highest tourism income. The year 2022 was a milestone for Türkiye in terms of tourism activity and tourism revenues, and this trend continued in 2023.

Globally, the countries attracting the highest number of tourists (Figure 1) are France, Spain, and the United States. In 2022, France hosted 79.4 million visitors, Spain 71.7 million, and the United States 50.9 million, while in 2023, these numbers increased to 100 million for France, 85.2 million for Spain, and 66.5 million for the United States. On the other hand, when examining the countries generating the highest tourism revenues, this ranking appears somewhat different (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Distribution of the top 10 countries hosting the most tourists worldwide by year, 2014–2023¹¹

10 Compiled by the authors of the yearbook from the World Tourism Organization's reports entitled "Turizmde Öne Çıkanlar" ["Tourism Highlights"], published and disseminated to the international public between 2015 and 2024.

11 Compiled by the authors of the annual report based on data from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). See: United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), "Tourism Highlights – 2023 Edition" ["Tourism Highlights – 2023 Edition,"] accessed May 29, 2024; United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), "2024 Yılında Turizmde Öne Çıkanlar" ["Tourism Highlights – 2024 Edition,"] accessed April 23, 2025.

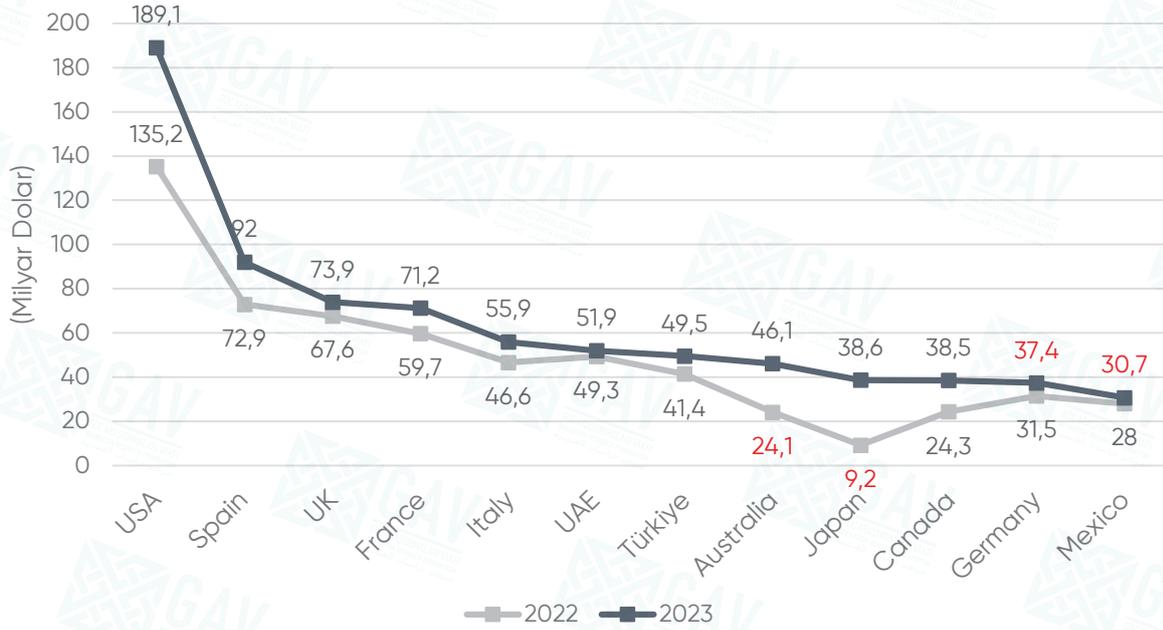


Figure 2. Distribution of the top 10 countries generating the highest tourism revenues worldwide by year, 2014–2023¹²

Table 2 presents the number of tourists hosted by Türkiye and the revenue generated from this tourism activity according to TurkStat and UNWTO. According to TurkStat, Türkiye hosted **41.4 million visitors** in 2014, increasing to **57.1 million** by 2023. According to UNWTO, the number of visitors was **39.8 million** in 2014 and rose to **55.2 million** in 2023. As seen in the table, there are discrepancies in visitor numbers between TurkStat and UNWTO data. This difference ranges from several hundred thousand visitors in some years to over one million in others.

The discrepancy in tourism revenues is of a different magnitude. It has been observed that in some years, the difference between the two institutions reaches as high as 10 billion US dollars. For example, according to the UNWTO, Türkiye first surpassed 40 billion dollars in tourism revenue in 2022. According to TurkStat, however, Türkiye had already exceeded 40 billion dollars in tourism revenue as early as 2014. The reason for the discrepancy between the two data sources could not be determined by the authors. While it is plausible that the difference during the examined period is related to the volatile exchange rate movements in Türkiye, the fact that in some years the gap between the two datasets exceeds 10 billion dollars remains a matter requiring further explanation.

According to TurkStat, Türkiye's tourism revenue was **41.3 billion US dollars** in 2014, remained below **40 billion dollars** until 2019, and then set a record at **42.9** billion dollars that year. The subsequent COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted tourism activity, causing tourism revenue to decline to as low as **15.3 billion dollars**. After the pandemic, revenues steadily increased along with visitor numbers, reaching **56.4 billion dollars** in 2023.

¹² Values highlighted in red indicate that the respective country was not among the top 10 countries hosting the most tourists in that year. Compiled by the authors of the annual report based on data from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). See: UNWTO, "2023 Yılında Turizmde Öne Çıkanlar" ["Tourism Highlights – 2023 Edition"]; UNWTO, "2024 Yılında Turizmde Öne Çıkanlar" ["Tourism Highlights – 2024 Edition"].

Although Türkiye's tourism revenues are presented differently by UNWTO compared to TurkStat, the periods of increase and decrease in revenues show a similar pattern to TurkStat's data. In 2014, Türkiye's tourism revenues were **29.6 billion US dollars**, declining to **13.3 billion dollars** during the COVID-19 pandemic period, and subsequently increasing steadily. As noted above, the **40 billion dollar** threshold was first exceeded in 2022, and tourism revenues rose to **49.4 billion dollars** in 2023.

In addition, for 2023, Türkiye's Minister of Treasury and Finance Mehmet Şimşek presented to the public a figure different from those of both institutions. According to Minister Şimşek's statement, Türkiye had set a target of 55.6 billion US dollars in tourism revenues for 2023, but the actual revenues amounted to **54.3 billion dollars**.¹³

Table 2. Annual distribution of number of visitors and tourism revenues in Türkiye by institution, 2014–2023¹⁴

Year	Number of Visitors		Tourism Revenues	
	TurkStat (Million)	UNWTO (Million)	TurkStat (Billion Dollar)	UNWTO (Billion Dollar)
2014	41.4	39.8	41.3	29.6
2015	41.6	39.5	37.7	26.6
2016	31.4	-	26.5	18.7
2017	38.6	37.6	31.3	22.5
2018	45.6	45.8	35.9	25.2
2019	51.9	51.2	42.9	29.8 ¹⁵
2020	18.8	15.9	15.3	13.3
2021	29.4	29.9	30.5	26.6
2022	51.4	50.5	50.2	41.4
2023	57.1	55.2	56.4	49.5

When visitor numbers are examined, the number of visitors to Türkiye was **41,627,246** in 2014, while by 2023 this figure had risen to **56,693,837**, reaching its peak. In addition, the first year in which the number of visitors exceeded 50 million was 2019, with **51,747,199** visitors.

As emphasized in previous volumes of the annual, tourism activity in Türkiye was deeply affected in 2016 and 2020, with visitor numbers declining by millions compared to the previous year. The decline in 2016 can be attributed to the military coup attempt, the aircraft crisis with Russia, counter-terrorism operations, and similar factors that prompted foreign governments to issue travel warnings to their citizens. In contrast, the decline in 2020 was clearly due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Although the tourism sector was adversely affected during both critical periods, the visitor numbers in the following years indicate that these negative impacts were not long-lasting.

13 *TurizmGüncel.com*, "Mehmet Şimşek: 2023 Yılında Turizm Geliri Hedefimize Ulaşamadık" ["Mehmet Şimşek: Tourism Revenue Target Not Reached in 2023"] accessed March 31, 2024.

14 The dash (-) indicates no data. Compiled by the authors of the yearbook from the data of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See: Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "Turizm Geliri, Gideri ve Ortalama Geceleme Sayısı (Turizm İstatistikleri, IV. Çeyrek: Ekim-Aralık, 2023)," [Tourism Revenue, Expenditure and Average Overnight Stay (Tourism Statistics, Q4: October–December, 2023).] accessed March 31, 2024. Compiled by the authors of the yearbook from the UNWTO's reports entitled *Turizmde Öne Çıkanlar* [Tourism Highlights] shared with the international public between 2015 and 2024.

15 In the report published by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2023 addressing the tourism sector during the coronavirus pandemic, Türkiye's tourism revenue for 2019 was revised to USD 34.3 billion.

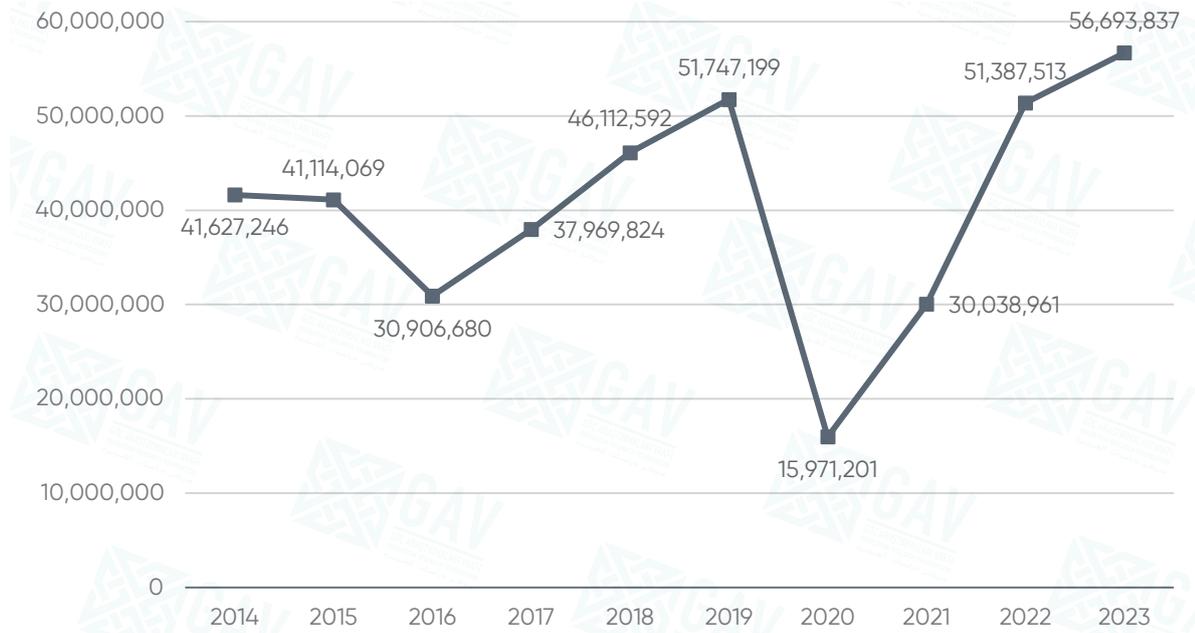


Figure 3. Annual distribution of visitors to Türkiye, 2014–2023¹⁶

When examining the annual distribution of foreign visitors entering Türkiye, it is observed that the highest number of foreign nationals visited in 2023. According to the Presidency of Migration Management, **35,115,789** foreign visitors entered Türkiye in 2014, rising to **47,699,715** in 2023. According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the number of foreign visitors was **36,837,900** in 2014 and increased to 49,209,180 in 2023.

A discrepancy of several hundred thousand people is observed between the data of the two institutions. The years with the highest differences are approximately 1.7 million in 2014, 1.6 million in 2015, and 1.5 million in 2023. While the relatively high discrepancy prior to 2017 can be considered natural due to the establishment and organizational development years of the PMM, it is noteworthy that the data difference observed in 2023 is again at a similar level. In contrast, the discrepancy between the institutions remained relatively low between 2017 and 2021. After 2021, the difference in data increased once again.

The reason the data discrepancy between the institutions is considered noteworthy is that both institutions rely on the same data source. It is believed that both PMM and MoCT obtain their data from the General Directorate of Security (EGM). The MoCT acquires these data indirectly, as the institution lists TurkStat as its source, while TurkStat indicates that it receives the data from the EGM. The PMM's reliance on the EGM can be explained by its use of the EGM's data infrastructure, as the institution does not explicitly specify the source of its data.¹⁷

¹⁶ Compiled from data provided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT), "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"], accessed 15 March 2024.

¹⁷ After its establishment, the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) used the Police Information Network (Pol-Net) database, which was affiliated with the General Directorate of Security (EGM), for approximately one year. From 2015 onwards, the Migration Registration System (GöçNet) of the PMM has been used. The Migration Registration System is an infrastructure that processes data on all foreigners in Türkiye, including those with residence or work permits, those entering or exiting the country, individuals under international or temporary protection, entry-barred persons, stateless persons, and deported individuals. Within this database, the PMM cooperates

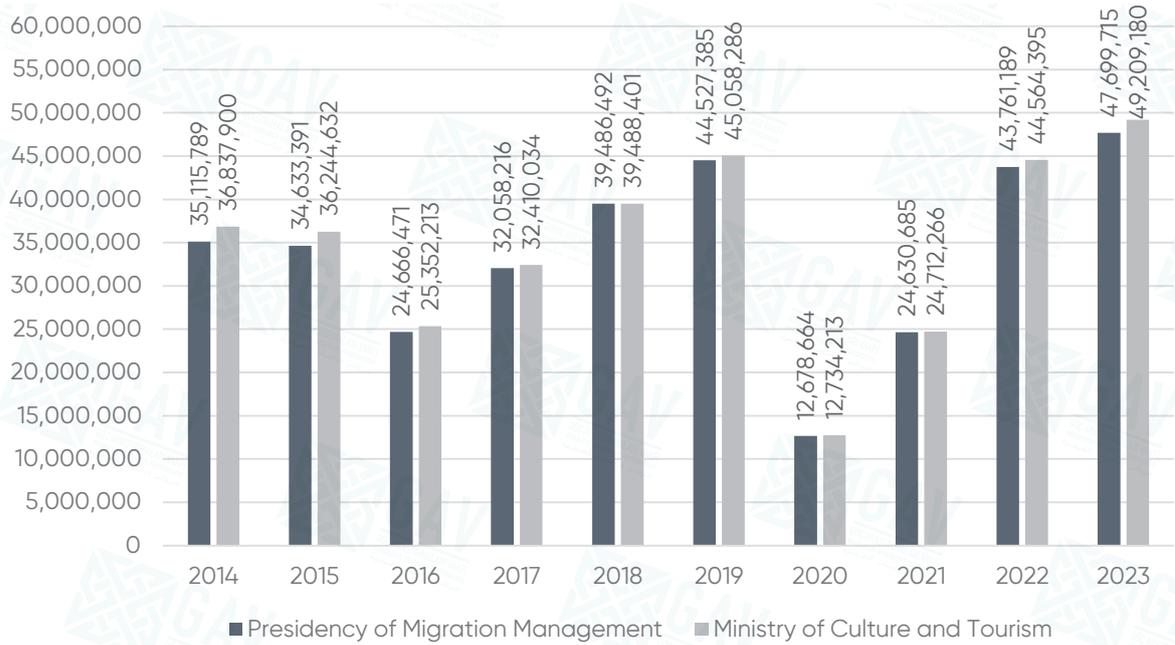


Figure 4. Annual distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye, 2014-2023¹⁸

According to the PMM, **31,780,393** foreign visitors departed from Türkiye in 2014, and this number increased to **48,138,361** in 2023. According to MoCT, **36,507,184** foreign visitors exited Türkiye in 2014, rising to **49,649,531** in 2023.

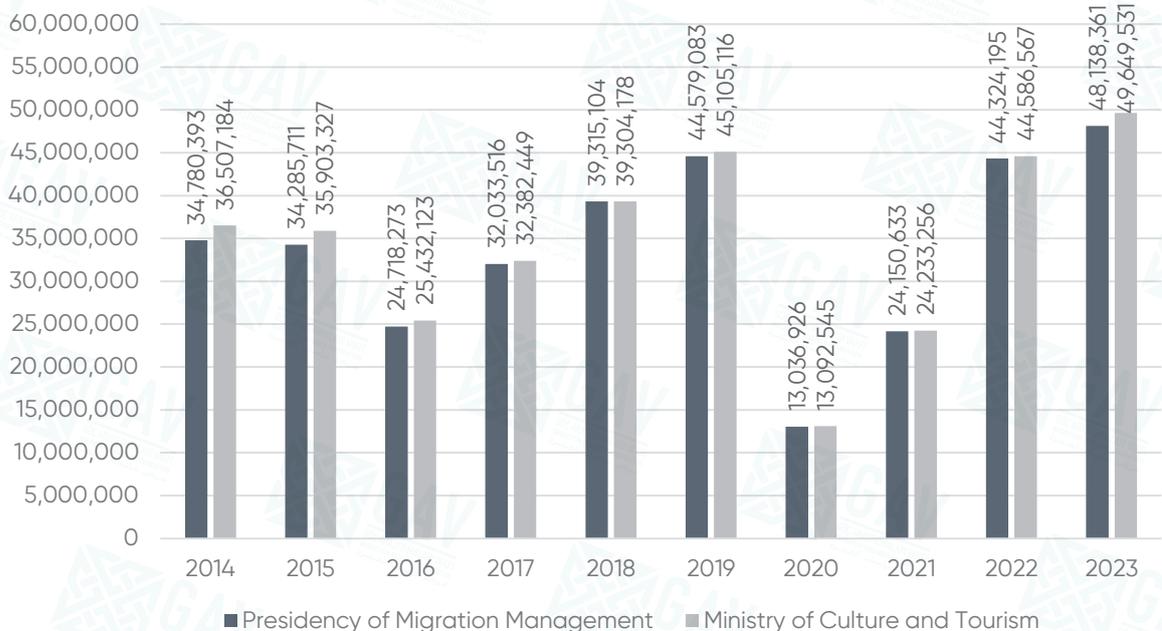


Figure 5. Annual distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye, 2014-2023¹⁹

with approximately twenty public institutions and organizations. For detailed information, see Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "Göç Kayıt Sistemi (GöçNet)" ["Migration Registration System (GöçNet)"], accessed 1 August 2023. The source was last accessed in August 2023, after which the page was no longer available.

18 Compiled from data provided by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Giriş-Çıkış" ["Entry-Exit"], accessed 20 March 2024; MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"].

19 Compiled from data provided by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See

When examining the monthly distribution of visitors to Türkiye, July, August, and September emerge as the peak months. In 2022, the months with the highest number of visitors were July with **7,720,692 (15.02%)**, August with **7,002,222 (13.63%)**, and September with **5,993,367 (11.66%)**. In 2023, these months again recorded the highest figures, with July at 8,295,907 (14.63%), August at **7,487,805 (13.21%)**, and September at **6,500,955 (11.47%)**. A similar pattern is observed for both foreign nationals and Turkish citizens residing abroad (TCRA). For both groups, the peak months of arrival in Türkiye are July, August, and September. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that Türkiye's tourism sector is particularly preferred for "summer tourism."

Examining the year-on-year changes in the number of visitors to Türkiye in 2023, it is observed that the total number of foreign nationals increased throughout most of the year. The only month in which the number of foreign nationals decreased compared to the previous year was November, with a decline of **1.02%**. For Turkish citizens residing abroad, the number of visitors in 2023 decreased compared to the previous year in February, May, and October. Specifically, visitor numbers fell by **6.48%** in February, **22.18%** in May, and **13.31%** in October.

Table 3. Monthly and nationality-based distribution of visitors to Türkiye 2022-2023²⁰

Months	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Foreign Nationals	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	Total	Foreign Nationals	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	Total	Foreign Nationals	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	Total
January	1,281,666	472,638	1,754,304	2,005,967	629,877	2,635,844	56.51	33.27	50.25
February	1,541,393	463,623	2,005,016	1,870,414	43,583	2,303,997	21.35	-6.48	14.91
March	2,079,565	472,568	2,552,133	2,335,728	495,854	2,831,582	12.32	4.93	10.95
April	2,574,423	549,793	3,124,216	3,321,824	578,687	3,900,511	29.03	5.26	24.85
May	3,873,212	656,919	4,530,131	4,500,242	511,197	5,011,439	16.19	-22.18	10.62
June	5,014,821	549,997	5,564,818	5,584,021	678,008	6,262,029	11.35	23.27	12.53
July	6,664,970	1,055,722	7,720,692	7,148,044	1,147,863	8,295,907	7.25	8.73	7.45
August	6,304,770	697,452	7,002,222	6,660,700	827,105	7,487,805	5.65	18.59	6.93
September	5,475,453	517,914	5,993,367	5,786,027	714,928	6,500,955	5.67	38.04	8.47
October	4,803,198	569,922	5,373,120	4,987,112	494,088	5,481,200	3.83	-13.31	2.01
November	2,551,483	402,877	2,954,360	2,525,345	475,792	3,001,137	-1.02	18.10	1.58
December	2,399,441	413,693	2,813,134	2,483,756	497,675	2,981,431	3.51	20.30	5.98
Total	44,564,395	6,823,118	51,387,513	4,209,180	7,484,657	56,693,837	10.42	9.70	10.33

PMM, "Giriş-Çıkış" ["Entry-Exit"]; MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"].

20 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

Looking at the monthly distribution of departing foreign visitors, in 2022 the months with the highest number of departures were August with **7,101,168** visitors (**15.93%**), September with **5,581,570** visitors (**13.19%**), and July with **5,713,250** visitors (**12.81%**). In 2023, these months were ordered as August with **7,480,707** visitors (**15.07%**), July with **6,255,588** visitors (**12.60%**), and September with **6,078,183** visitors (**12.24%**).

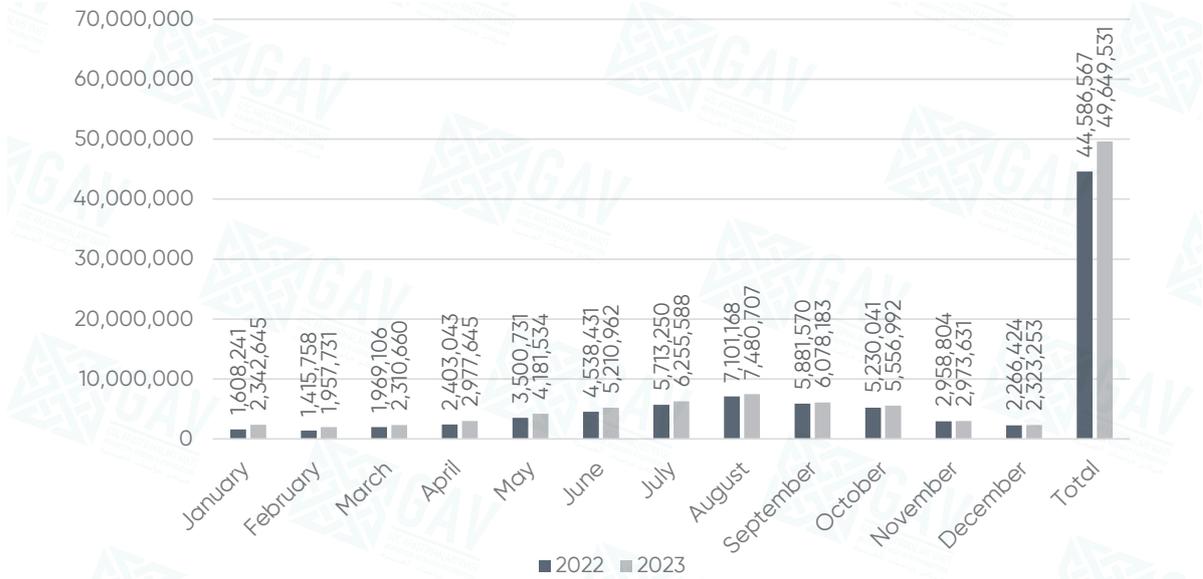


Figure 6. The monthly distribution of departing foreign visitors from Türkiye, 2022-2023²¹

1.2. Reasons for Visitor Arrivals

Slightly more than two-thirds of visitors to Türkiye (in 2022 and 2023) indicated “leisure, entertainment, sports, and cultural activities” as their reason for travel. In 2022, the most frequently cited reasons were **34,493,205 (67.15%)** for “leisure, entertainment, sports, and cultural activities,” **10,948,412 (21.31%)** for “visiting relatives and friends,” and **2,356,255 (4.59%)** for “shopping.” In 2023, the same reasons were ordered as **38,574,554 (67.58%)** for “leisure, entertainment, sports, and cultural activities,” **11,757,018 (20.60%)** for “visiting relatives and friends,” and **2,818,003 (4.94%)** for “shopping.”

21 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See MoCT, “2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri”. [“2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics”]

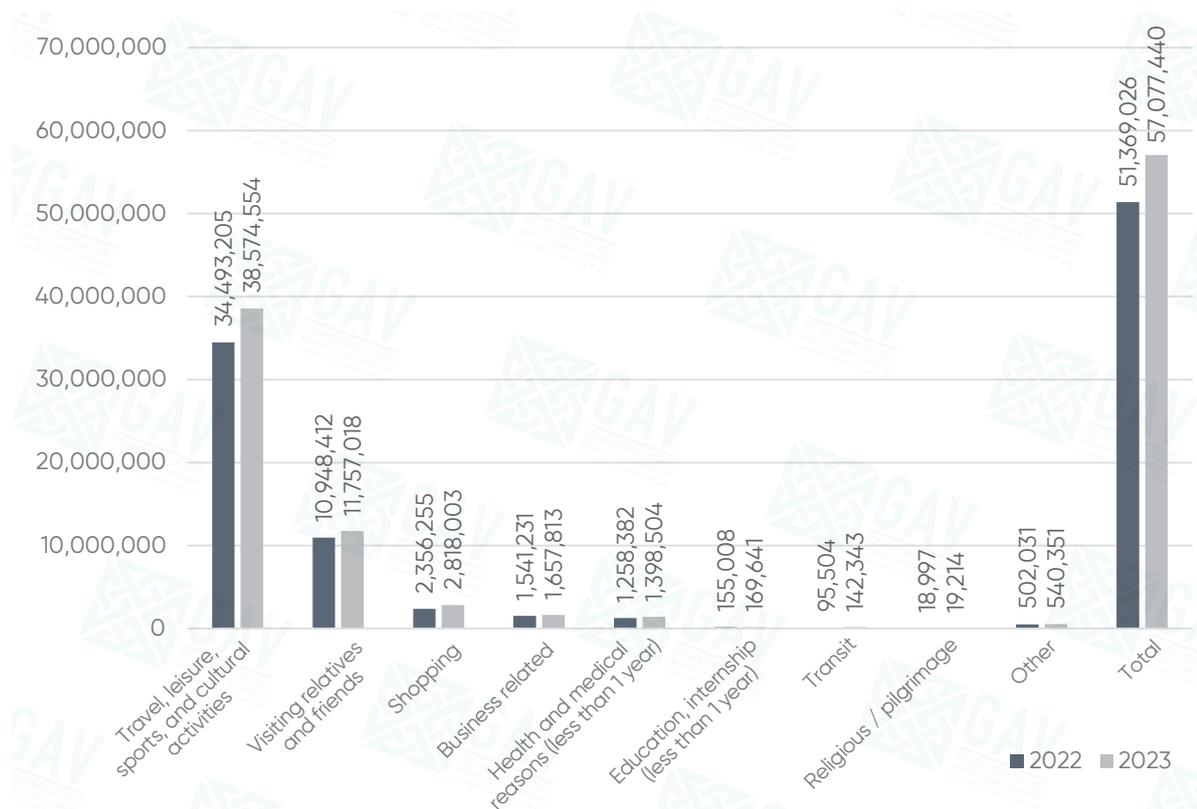


Figure 7. Distribution of visitors to Türkiye by reason for travel, 2022–2023²²

According to TurkStat statistics, in 2023 the highest number of visitors arrived in the third quarter (**22,428,234**). This was followed by the second quarter with **13,995,495** visitors and the fourth quarter with **12,472,145** visitors. The number of visitors in the first quarter was comparatively lower at **8,181,566**. A similar pattern can be observed when examining visitor types. For foreign nationals, the quarters with the highest arrivals were the third quarter (**19,740,776**), the second quarter (**12,319,348**), and the fourth quarter (**10,777,609**), whereas for Turkish citizens residing abroad, the highest arrivals occurred in the third quarter (**2,687,458**), the fourth quarter (**1,694,536**), and the second quarter (**1,676,147**).

In 2023, foreign visitors indicated the following reasons for travel: **36,503,570 (73.97%)** for “leisure, entertainment, sports, and cultural activities,” **6,545,437 (13.26%)** for “visiting relatives and friends,” and **2,750,217 (5.57%)** for “shopping.” This profile remains consistent when analyzed by quarter. On the other hand, for Turkish citizens residing abroad, the primary reason for traveling to Türkiye was “visiting relatives and friends.” The most cited reasons among TCRA Turkish citizens were **5,211,581 (67.42%)** for “visiting relatives and friends,” **2,070,984 (26.79%)** for “leisure, entertainment, sports, and cultural activities,” and **183,835 (2.38%)** for “health and medical reasons (less than 1 year).”

22 Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See TurkStat, “Geliş Nedenine Göre Çıkış Yapan Ziyaretçiler (Turizm İstatistikleri, IV. Çeyrek: Ekim – Aralık, 2023)” [“Departing Visitors by Reason for Travel (Tourism Statistics, Q4: October–December 2023)”], accessed March 21, 2024.

Table 4. *Distribution of visitors to Türkiye by nationality and reason for travel, 2023²³*

Reason for Travel	Visitor Type ²⁴	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Total
Visiting Relatives and Friends	Foreign Nationals	1,441,629	1,434,191	2,073,221	1,596,397	6,545,437
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	1,206,178	1,167,550	1,645,727	1,192,126	5,211,581
	Total	2,647,807	2,601,741	3,718,948	2,788,523	11,757,018
Shopping	Foreign Nationals	670,707	704,807	641,824	732,879	2,750,217
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	23,374	11,647	22,564	10,201	67,786
	Total	694,081	716,454	664,388	743,080	2,818,003
Religious / Pilgrimage	Foreign Nationals	5,622	5,076	1,748	3,311	15,758
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	882	353	238	1,984	3,456
	Total	6,504	5,429	1,986	5,295	19,214
Education, Internship (less than 1 year)	Foreign Nationals	58,266	34,893	31,938	28,543	153,639
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	5,733	2,118	4,750	3,400	16,002
	Total	63,999	37,011	36,688	31,943	169,641
Tourism, Leisure, Sports, and Cultural Activities	Foreign Nationals	3,484,437	9,340,398	16,152,141	7,526,593	36,503,570
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	325,470	408,007	933,426	404,082	2,070,984
	Total	3,809,907	9,748,405	17,085,567	7,930,675	38,574,554
Business (Conference, Meeting, Assignment, etc.)	Foreign Nationals	346,168	390,500	326,792	420,691	1,484,152
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	46,748	41,648	44,177	41,088	173,661
	Total	392,916	432,148	370,969	461,779	1,657,813
Health and Medical Reasons (less than 1 year)	Foreign Nationals	348,866	289,976	244,338	331,490	1,214,669
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	62,624	44,824	35,864	40,522	183,835
	Total	411,490	334,800	280,202	372,012	1,398,504
Transit	Foreign Nationals	47,344	29,670	42,260	22,786	142,060
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	-	-	-	283	283
	Total	47,344	29,670	42,260	23,069	142,343
Other	Foreign Nationals	106,195	89,837	226,513	114,920	537,465
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	1,323	-	713	850	2,886
	Total	107,518	89,837	227,226	115,770	540,351
Total	Foreign Nationals	6,509,234	12,319,348	19,740,776	10,777,609	49,346,967
	Turkish Citizens Residing Abroad	1,672,332	1,676,147	2,687,458	1,694,536	7,730,473
	Total	8,181,566	13,995,495	22,428,234	12,472,145	57,077,440

23 Compiled from data provided by TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Geliş Nedenine Göre Çıkış Yapan Ziyaretçiler (Turizm İstatistikleri, IV. Çeyrek: Ekim – Aralık, 2023)" ["Visitors Leaving by Reason for Travel (Tourism Statistics, Q4: October–December, 2023)"].

24 In the data published by TurkStat, only figures for the total visitors and for Turkish citizens residing abroad are provided. It can be inferred from TurkStat's previous publications that the difference between these two groups corresponds to foreign nationals. Therefore, the reasons for travel of foreign visitors to Türkiye in 2023 were calculated by subtracting the number of Turkish citizens residing abroad from the total number of visitors, and the resulting values were entered into the relevant cells.

1.3. Modes of Transport Used by Foreign Visitors for Entry and Exit

Approximately three-quarters of foreign visitors entering Türkiye in 2022 and 2023 used air transport. In 2022, the most frequently used modes of transport were air with **33,889,650** visitors (**76.05%**), land with **9,002,404** visitors (**20.20%**), and sea with **1,653,603** visitors (**3.71%**). The number of visitors arriving by train remained relatively low, with **18,738** visitors (**0.04%**) choosing this mode. A similar pattern is observed in 2023, with **37,251,029** visitors (**75.70%**) using air, **9,512,282** visitors (**19.33%**) using land, and **2,418,660** visitors (**4.92%**) using sea transport. The number of visitors arriving by train was **27,209** (**0.06%**).

Table 5. Distribution of foreign visitors entering Türkiye by month and mode of transport, 2022–2023²⁵

Months	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
January	983,111	287,563	10,980	12	1,281,666	1,457,968	515,934	30,763	1,302	2,005,967
February	1,165,815	363,464	12,094	20	1,541,393	1,376,877	471,204	21,249	1,084	1,870,414
March	1,466,718	601,118	11,701	28	2,079,565	1,631,038	654,276	48,782	1,632	2,335,728
April	1,880,917	637,747	55,420	339	2,574,423	2,491,739	695,369	132,674	2,042	3,321,824
May	3,008,126	715,457	147,725	1,904	3,873,212	3,508,566	729,961	259,564	2,151	4,500,242
June	3,984,892	836,969	190,954	2,006	5,014,821	4,413,214	875,333	293,304	2,170	5,584,021
July	5,161,976	1,255,897	244,190	2,907	6,664,970	5,474,502	1,327,331	342,808	3,403	7,148,044
August	4,901,572	1,098,498	301,219	3,481	6,304,770	5,185,822	1,106,808	364,694	3,376	6,660,700
September	4,205,046	996,751	271,148	2,508	5,475,453	4,483,443	974,414	325,059	3,111	5,786,027
October	3,686,340	839,016	275,903	1,939	4,803,198	3,825,998	759,771	398,709	2,634	4,987,112
November	1,772,489	680,941	96,199	1,854	2,551,483	1,692,969	675,188	155,140	2,048	2,525,345
December	1,672,648	688,983	36,070	1,740	2,399,441	1,708,893	726,693	45,914	2,256	2,483,756
Total	33,88,650	9,002,404	1,653,603	18,738	44,564.395	37,251,029	9,512,282	2,418,660	27,209	49,209,180
Percent- age (%)	76.05	20.20	3.71	0.04	100.00	75.70	19.33	4.92	0.06	100.00

The modes of transport used by visitors departing from Türkiye show a profile similar to those arriving. In 2022, the most frequently used transport modes for departures were **33,932,465** by air (**76.10%**), **8,966,718** by land (**20.11%**), and **1,668,358** by sea (**3.74%**). In 2023, the pattern remained similar, with **37,567,264** using air (**75.66%**), **9,619,705** using land (**19.38%**), and **2,436,755** using sea (**4.91%**).

25 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

Table 6. Distribution of foreign visitors leaving Türkiye by month and mode of transport, 2022–2023²⁶

Months	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
January	1,244,988	352,340	10,902	11	1,608,241	1,708,757	602,366	30,092	1,430	2,342.645
February	1,052,099	351,922	11,726	11	1,415,758	1,411.002	523,713	21,943	1,073	1,957.731
March	1,407,271	550,027	11,786	22	1,969,106	1,598.910	660,193	50,148	1,409	2,310.660
April	1,694,122	652,809	55,589	523	2,403,043	2,146.308	696,025	133,546	1,766	2,977.645
May	2,658,932	690,217	149,615	1,967	3,500,731	3,214.281	701,448	263,628	2,177	4,181.534
June	3,579,577	764,750	191,681	2,423	4,538,431	4,081.317	832,042	295,704	1,899	5,210.962
July	4,537,879	933,161	240,063	2,147	5,713,250	4,944.916	968,146	340,038	2,488	6,255.588
August	5,425,348	1,363,949	308,130	3,741	7,101,168	5,732.088	1,374.693	369,779	4,147	7,480.707
September	4,508,189	1,093,726	276,688	2,967	5,881,570	4,680.209	1,063.177	331,520	3,277	6,078.183
October	4,069,654	878,340	280,183	1,864	5,230,041	4,338.000	816,386	400,135	2,471	5,556.992
November	2,164,883	694,570	97,435	1,916	2,958,804	2,128.639	689,994	152,990	2,008	2,973.631
December	1,589,523	640,907	34,560	1,434	2,266,424	1,582.837	691,522	47,232	1,662	2,323.253
Total	33,932,465	8,966,718	1,668,358	19,026	44,586,567	37,567.264	9,619.705	2,436.755	25,807	49,649.531
Percent- age (%)	76.10	20.11	3.74	0.04	100.00	75.66	19.38	4.91	0.05	100.00

1.4. Provinces Visited by Foreign Visitors in Türkiye

In 2023, foreigners entered 59 provinces in Türkiye. The number of provinces with 1–10,000 foreign entrants is **22**, 10,001–25,000 entrants **8**, 25,001–100,000 entrants **11**, 100,001–250,000 entrants **5**, 250,001–1,000,000 entrants **8**, 1,000,001–2,500,000 entrants **2**, 2,500,001–10,000,000 entrants **2**, and the number of provinces with more than 10 million entrants **2**.

26 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

Bursa	7,685	<1	5,969	<1	Muş	2	<1	1	<1
Çanakkale	22,646	<1	35,287	<1	Nevşehir	7,264	<1	7,274	<1
Denizli	24,319	<1	18,385	<1	Ordu	6,826	<1	21,297	<1
Diyarbakır	33,267	<1	25,955	<1	Rize	322	<1	289	<1
Edirne	4,636.437	10.40	4,715.580	9.58	Sakarya	4,861	<1	4,751	<1
Elazığ	19,033	<1	17,407	<1	Samsun	73,909	<1	64,834	<1
Erzincan	-	-	16	<1	Sinop	11,883	<1	13,478	<1
Erzurum	1,195	<1	809	<1	Sivas	393	<1	105	<1
Eskişehir	44,703	<1	30,640	<1	Şanlıurfa	337	<1	8,872	<1
Gaziantep	97,269	<1	119,668	<1	Şırnak	653,439	1.47	520,578	1.06
Giresun	680	<1	3,029	<1	Tekirdağ	15,685	<1	10,490	<1
Hakkari	150,505	<1	207,549	<1	Tokat	-	-	1	<1
Hatay	114,788	<1	85,371	<1	Trabzon	358,280	<1	431,859	<1
Iğdır	214,357	<1	323,632	<1	Uşak	41	<1	26	<1
Isparta	13,014	<1	12,467	<1	Van	436,387	<1	555,424	1.13
İstanbul	16,018.726	35.95	17,370.030	35.30	Yalova	6,770	<1	7,900	<1
İzmir	1,462.458	3.28	1,491.803	3.03	Zonguldak	33,809	<1	40,333	<1
Total						44,564.395	100,00	49,209.180	100,00

The majority of visitors entering Türkiye arrived via Antalya and İstanbul. In 2022, the provinces hosting the highest number of tourists were İstanbul with **16,018,726** visitors (**35.95%**), Antalya with **12,818,472** visitors (**28.76%**), and Edirne with **4,636,437** visitors (**10.40%**). By 2023, the ranking remained the same, with İstanbul hosting **17,370,030** visitors (**35.30%**), Antalya **14,749,811** visitors (**29.97%**), and Edirne **4,715,580** visitors (**9.58%**). As observed, in 2022, the combined share of foreign visitors entering Türkiye through these three provinces accounted for **75.11%** of all foreign visitors, while in 2023, this share was **74.58%**. Moreover, nearly all visitors to Antalya and İstanbul preferred air transportation, whereas almost all visitors to Edirne used land transportation.

Table 8. Distribution of foreign visitors to Türkiye by top 10 provinces and type of transport used, 2022-2023²⁹

Provinces	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
İstanbul	15,785.180	-	233,546	-	16,018.726	16,964.432	-	405,598	-	17,370.030
Antalya	12,757.742	-	60,730	-	12,818.472	14,654.040	-	95,771	-	14,749.811
Edirne	-	4,619.252	-	17,185	4,636.437	-	4,694.216	240	21,124	4,715.580
Muğla	2,460.356	-	529,375	-	2,989.731	2,633.688	-	691,804	-	3,325.492
Artvin	385	1,720.455	620	-	1,721.460	-	1,829.782	513	-	1,830.295

29 A dash (-) indicates missing data. Cells highlighted in red show that the corresponding province was not among the top 10 provinces with the highest number of visitor entries in that year. Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

İzmir	1,337,270	-	125,188	-	1,462,458	1,351,992	-	139,811	-	1,491,803
Aydın	-	-	511,817	-	511,817	-	-	790,462	-	790,462
Kırklareli	-	632,477	-	-	632,477	-	657,585	2	-	657,587
Ankara	495,724	-	-	-	495,724	638,785	-	-	-	638,785
Van	205	436,049	-	133	436,387	20	555,308	-	96	555,424
Şırnak	-	653,439	-	-	653,439	0	520,578	-	-	520,578
Other	1,052.993	1,376.781	192,327	1,553	2,623.654	1,008.072	1,254.813	294,459	5,989	2,563.333
Total	33,889.650	9,002.404	1,653.603	18,738	44,564.395	37,251.029	9,512.282	2,418.660	27,209	49,209.180

A similar pattern to that of incoming visitors was observed when examining the distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by the top 10 provinces. In 2022, the provinces with the highest number of departures were İstanbul with **16,207,775** visitors (**36.35%**), Antalya with **12,719,559** visitors (**28.53%**), and Edirne with **4,567,792** visitors (**10.24%**), while by 2023, the ranking remained the same, with İstanbul **17,705,581** visitors (**35.66%**), Antalya **14,765,205** visitors (**29.74%**), and Edirne **4,688,495** visitors (**9.44%**). Similar to incoming visitors, foreign visitors departing from Antalya and İstanbul predominantly used air transportation in both years, whereas those departing from Edirne mostly used land transportation.

Table 9. Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by top 10 provinces and vehicle types, 2022-2023³⁰

Provinces	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
İstanbul	15,973.408	-	234,367	-	16,207.775	17,300.715	-	404,866	-	17,705.581
Antalya	12,658.561	-	60,998	-	12,719.559	14,670.137	-	95,068	-	14,765.205
Edirne	-	4,550.287	-	17,505	4,567.792	-	4,668.239	248	20,008	4,688.495
Muğla	2,425.338	-	533,457	-	2,958.795	2,611.900	-	696,073	-	3,307.973
Artvin	414	1,709.195	614	-	1,710.223	-	1,856.954	510	-	1,857.464
İzmir	1,355.960	-	126,145	-	1,482.105	1,366.922	-	141,307	-	1,508.229
Aydın	-	-	517,847	-	517,847	-	-	800,036	-	800,036
Kırklareli	-	609,027	-	-	609,027	-	636,941	0	-	636,941
Ankara	496,798	-	-	-	496,798	636,487	-	-	-	636,487
Şırnak	-	684,723	-	-	684,723	4	581,426	-	-	581,430
Other	1,021.986	1,413.486	194,930	1,521	2,631.923	981,099	1,876.145	298,647	5,799	3,161.690
Total	33,932.465	8,966.718	1,668.358	19,026	44,586.567	37,567.264	9,619.705	2,436.755	25,807	49,649.531

When examining the distribution of passengers entering and departing via land border gates, in 2022, the most frequently used gates were Kapıkule Border Gate with **7,880,243** passengers (**27.45%**), Sarp Border Gate with **5,081,473** passengers (**17.70%**), and Habur Border

30 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

Gate with **4,688,541** passengers (**16.33%**), while by 2023, the ranking remained the same, with Kapıkule Border Gate **8,104,408** passengers (**25.01%**), Sarp Border Gate **6,332,920** passengers (**19.55%**), and Habur Border Gate **3,946,108** passengers (**12.18%**).

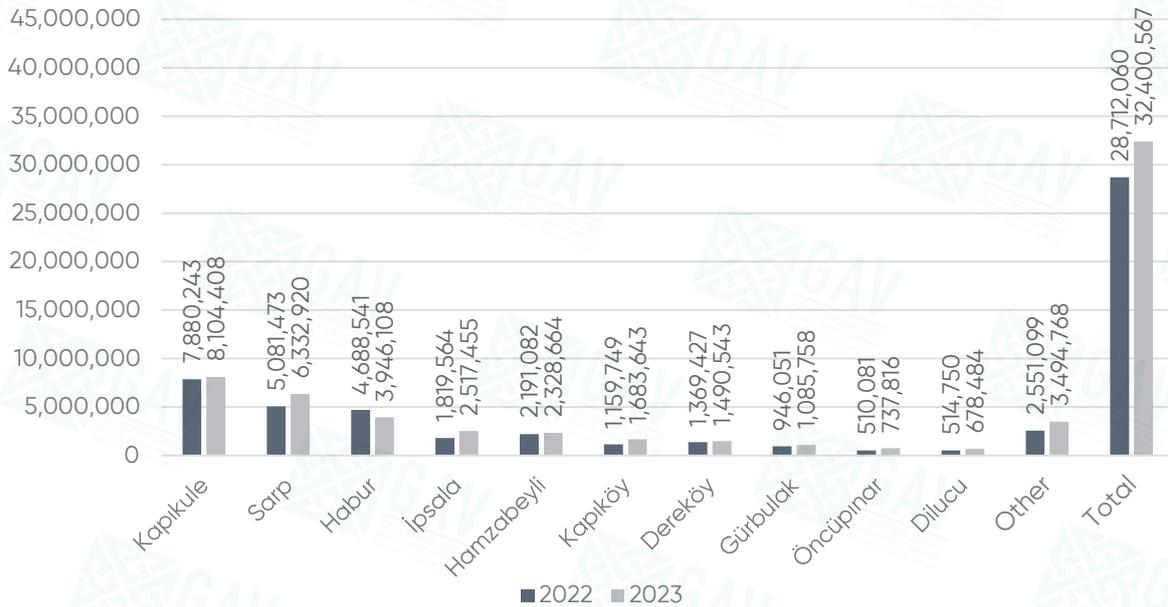


Figure 8. Distribution of passengers entering Türkiye via land border gates by border crossing points, 2022-2023³¹

1.5. Nationalities of Foreign Visitors

When examining the distribution of visitors arriving in Türkiye by nationality, in 2022 and 2023, nationals of Germany, the United Kingdom, and Russia were predominant. According to the Revenue Administration, in 2022, the highest numbers of foreign visitors were Germany with **5,591,588** visitors (**12.78%**), Russia with **5,219,071** visitors (**11.93%**), and the UK with **3,274,313** visitors (**7.48%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **6,220,071** visitors (**13.04%**), Germany with **6,096,399** visitors (**12.78%**), and the UK with **3,657,436** visitors (**7.67%**). According to MoCT in 2022, the highest numbers of visitors were Germany with **5,679,194** visitors (**12.74%**), Russia with **5,232,611** visitors (**11.74%**), and the UK with **3,370,739** visitors (**7.56%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **6,313,675** visitors (**12.83%**), Germany with **6,193,259** visitors (**12.59%**), and the UK with **3,800,922** visitors (**7.72%**).

Some differences between the two institutions were observed. The most notable of these is that, in both 2022 and 2023, French nationals were among the top 10 nationalities with the highest number of visitors according to the Revenue Administration, whereas according to

³¹ Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Trade. See: Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Trade (MoT), "Kara Kapılarına Göre Yolcu Sayıları (Kara Kapıları Giriş-Çıkış Verileri)" ["Passenger Numbers by Land Borders (Land Border Entry-Exit Data)"], Accessed 21 March 2024.

MoCT, United States nationals were included in the top 10 nationalities instead of French nationals.

Table 10. *Distribution of foreign visitors entering Türkiye by top 10 nationalities and institutions, 2022–2023³²*

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)	
	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
USA	-	1,013.478	-	1,334.337	-	31.66
Germany	5,591.588	5,679.194	6,096.399	6,193.259	9.03	9.05
Bulgaria	2,850.775	2,882.512	2,884.078	2,893.092	1.17	0.37
France	960,983	986,090	996,728	1,031,824	3.72	4.64
Georgia	1,521.449	1,514.813	1,632.820	1,633.977	7.32	7.87
The Netherlands	1,221.255	1,244.756	1,207.815	1,232.220	-1.10	-1.01
Iraq	1,205.926	1,208.895	1,052.822	1,051.721	-12.70	-13.00
UK	3,274.313	3,370.739	3,657.436	3,800.922	11.70	12.76
Iran	2,339.800	2,331.076	2,504.276	2,504.494	7.03	7.44
Poland	1,123.153	1,135.903	1,516.546	1,539.123	35.03	35.50
Russia	5,219.071	5,232.611	6,220.071	6,313.675	19.18	20.66
Other	18,452.876	17,964.328	20,369.370	19,680.536	10.39	9.55
Total	43,761.189	44,564.395	47,699.715	49,209.180	9.00	10.42

Foreign visitors arriving in Türkiye by air in 2022 were predominantly nationals of Germany with **5,124,613** visitors (**15.12%**), Russia with **4,915,284** visitors (**14.50%**), and the UK with **3,133,893** visitors (**9.25%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **5,891,833** visitors (**15.82%**), Germany with **5,605,623** visitors (**15.05%**), and the UK with **3,518,383** visitors (**9.45%**). Visitors arriving by land were mostly from Türkiye's neighboring countries. In 2022, the highest numbers using land transportation were Bulgaria with **2,654,624** visitors (**29.49%**), Georgia with **1,398,606** visitors (**15.54%**), and Iran with **931,626** visitors (**10.35%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Bulgaria with **2,606,593** visitors (**27.40%**), Georgia with **1,506,211** visitors (**15.83%**), and Iran with **1,179,055** visitors (**12.40%**). Visitors arriving by sea in 2022 predominantly included the United States with **284,982** visitors (**17.23%**), the UK with **190,933** visitors (**11.55%**), and Germany with **181,698** visitors (**10.99%**), whereas in 2023, these nationalities ranked as the USA with **515,844** visitors (**21.33%**), the UK with **236,163** visitors (**9.76%**), and Germany with **199,543** visitors (**8.25%**).

32 Cells highlighted in red indicate that the corresponding nationality was not among the top 10 nationalities with the highest number of foreign visitors in the relevant year. Compiled from the Presidency of Migration Management and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism data. See: PMM, "Giriş-Çıkış" ["Entry-Exit Statistics"]; MoCT, "2022 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2022 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]; MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]; Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu, Ramazan Ünsal, and Furkan Özenci, *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022* (GAV Perspektif, 2025).

Table 11. Distribution of foreign visitors entering Türkiye by top 10 nationalities and vehicle types, 2022–2023³³

Nationalities	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
Russia	4,915.284	236,100	80,592	635	5,232.611	5,891.833	274,785	145,507	1,550	6,313.675
Germany	5,124.613	370,300	181,698	2,583	5,679.194	5,605.623	385,308	199,543	2,785	6,193.259
UK	3,133.893	44,901	190,933	1,012	3,370.739	3,518.383	44,926	236,163	1,450	3,800.922
Bulgaria	207,476	2,654.624	15,141	5,271	2,882.512	256,183	2,606.593	24,393	5,923	2,893.092
Iran	1,396.393	931,626	2,889	168	2,331.076	1,321.394	1,179.055	3,891	154	2,504.494
Georgia	107,464	1,398.606	8,709	34	1,514.813	118,166	1,506.211	9,569	31	1,633.977
Poland	1,036.969	28,057	70,713	164	1,135.903	1,420.097	33,471	85,376	179	1,539.123
USA	718,106	9,941	284,982	449	1,013.478	806,325	11,561	515,844	607	1,334.337
The Netherlands	1,097.075	97,319	49,648	714	1,244.756	1,077.112	102,996	51,445	667	1,232.220
Iraq	550,955	656,989	915	36	1,208.895	518,821	532,414	471	15	1,051.721
Other	15,601.422	2,573.941	767,383	7,672	18,950.418	16,717.092	2,834.962	1,146.458	13,848	20,712.360
Total	33,889.650	9,002.404	1,653.603	18,738	44,564.395	37,251.029	9,512.282	2,418.660	27,209	49,209.180

According to the Revenue Administration, in 2022, the highest numbers of foreign nationals departing from Türkiye were Germany with **5,753,830** visitors (**12.98%**), Russia with **5,205,377** visitors (**11.74%**), and the UK with **3,315,291** visitors (**7.48%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **6,342,514** visitors (**13.18%**), Germany with **6,101,938** visitors (**12.68%**), and the UK with **3,661,087** visitors (**7.61%**). According to MoCT, in 2022, the highest departures were made by Germany with **5,689,999** visitors (**12.76%**), Russia with **5,080,835** visitors (**11.40%**), and the UK with **3,379,338** visitors (**7.58%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **6,436,491** visitors (**12.96%**), Germany with **6,198,262** visitors (**12.48%**), and the UK with **3,804,594** visitors (**7.66%**).

Table 12. Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by top 10 nationalities and institutions, 2022–2023³⁴

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)	
	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Presidency of Migration Management	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
USA	-	1,020.611	-	1,349.876	-	32.26
Germany	5,753.830	5,689.999	6,101.938	6,198.262	6.05	8.93
Bulgaria	2,885.339	2,875.588	2,895.109	2,904.113	0.34	0.99

33 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

34 A dash (-) indicates no data. Cells highlighted in red show that the respective nationality did not rank among the top 10 nationalities with the highest number of departing foreign visitors in that year. Compiled from data of the Presidency of Migration Management and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See: PMM, "Giriş-Çıkış" ["Entry-Exit"]; MoCT, "2022 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2022 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]; MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri"; Sağcıoğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

France	989,312	990,212	997,298	1,032,476	0.81	4.27
Georgia	1,525.607	1,521.215	1,637.432	1,638.642	7.33	7.72
The Netherlands	1,253.002	1,262.308	1,211.850	1,236.080	-3.28	-2.08
Iraq	1,244.327	1,234.827	1,087.595	1,086.747	-12.60	-11.99
UK	3,315.291	3,379.338	3,661.087	3,804.594	10.43	12.58
Iran	2,345.371	2,332.813	2,505.930	2,506.158	6.85	7.43
Poland	1,130.413	1,135.767	1,516.174	1,538.716	34.13	35.48
Russia	5,205.377	5,080.835	6,342.514	6,436.491	21.85	26.68
Other	18,676.326	18,063.054	20,181.434	19,917.376	8.06	10.27
Total	44,324.195	44,586.567	48,138.361	49,649.531	8.61	11.36

Foreign visitors arriving in Türkiye by air in 2022 were predominantly nationals of Germany with **5,145,468** visitors (**15.16%**), Russia with **4,792,214** visitors (**14.12%**), and the UK with **3,143,819** visitors (**9.26%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Russia with **6,001,592** visitors (**15.98%**), Germany with **5,624,585** visitors (**14.97%**), and the UK with **3,524,143** visitors (**9.38%**). Visitors arriving by land were mostly from Türkiye's neighboring countries. In 2022, the highest numbers using land transportation were Bulgaria with **2,641,518** visitors (**29.46%**), Georgia with **1,397,125** visitors (**15.58%**), and Iran with **909,444** visitors (**10.14%**), while in 2023, these nationalities ranked as Bulgaria with **2,609,889** visitors (**27.13%**), Georgia with **1,503,448** visitors (**15.63%**), and Iran with **1,158,327** visitors (**12.04%**). Visitors arriving by sea in 2022 predominantly included the USA with **286,562** visitors (**17.18%**), the UK with **191,184** visitors (**11.46%**), and Germany with **182,880** visitors (**10.96%**), whereas in 2023, these nationalities ranked as the USA with **518,897** visitors (**21.29%**), the UK with **236,472** visitors (**9.70%**), and Germany with **198,643** visitors (**8.15%**).

Table 13. Distribution of foreign visitors departing from Türkiye by top 10 nationalities and vehicle types, 2022-2023³⁵

Nationalities	2022					2023				
	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total	 Air	 Land	 Sea	 Train	Total
Russia	4,792,214	207,177	80,760	684	5,080,835	6,001,592	285,629	147,824	1,446	6,436,491
Germany	5,145,468	359,331	182,880	2,320	5,689,999	5,624,585	372,638	198,643	2,396	6,198,262
UK	3,143,819	43,421	191,184	914	3,379,338	3,524,143	42,781	236,472	1,198	3,804,594
Bulgaria	213,860	2,641,518	15,018	5,192	2,875,588	264,606	2,609,889	24,353	5,265	2,904,113
Iran	1,418,772	909,444	4,425	172	2,332,813	1,342,346	1,158,327	5,331	154	2,506,158
Georgia	115,418	1,397,125	8,596	76	1,521,215	125,258	1,503,448	9,907	29	1,638,642
Poland	1,036,951	28,053	70,592	171	1,135,767	1,420,098	33,142	85,299	177	1,538,716
USA	723,449	10,069	286,562	531	1,020,611	818,005	12,214	518,897	760	1,349,876

35 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

The Netherlands	1,118.568	93,081	50,108	551	1,262.308	1,085.567	98,228	51,835	450	1,236.080
Iraq	553,897	679,826	1,069	35	1,234.827	508,063	578,168	495	21	1,086.747
Other	15,670.049	2,597.673	777,164	8,380	19,053.266	16,853.001	2,925.241	1,157.699	13,911	20,949.852
Total	33,932.465	8,966.718	1,668.358	19,026	44,586.567	37,567.264	9,619.705	2,436.755	25,807	49,649.531

1.6. Same-Day Visitors

The concept of same-day visitors has been defined by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism under four categories. Visitors who do not stay overnight in their country of origin, those who use maritime vessels and visit the port area but remain on board overnight, visitors arriving by train who stay overnight on the train, and crew members whose country of permanent residence is not Türkiye and who spend their day in Türkiye are all considered same-day visitors.³⁶ However, in the section where MoCT provides detailed statistics of this type, only same-day visitors using maritime ports are visible

In the statistics published by MoCT, there are two separate tables showing foreign same-day visitors and total same-day visitors. The group accounting for the difference between these two types of same-day visitors has not been specified. Although it may be assumed that this group consists of Turkish citizens residing abroad, no information indicating this has been published by MoCT, and therefore it has not been included in Figure 9.

Examining the distribution of same-day visitors over the past 10 years, the highest number of same-day visitors to Türkiye was recorded in 2014. In 2014, the number of foreign same-day visitors was **1,813,308**, and the total number of same-day visitors was **1,816,002**, while by 2023, the number of foreign same-day visitors was **1,534,554**, and the total number of same-day visitors was **1,535,223**.

Although the number of same-day visitors decreased between 2014 and 2023, as seen in Figure 9, it has started to rise again. Between 2014 and 2018, the number of same-day visitors continuously declined, reaching **344,878** in 2018. In 2019, there was an increase. However, the **555,317** same-day visitors who came to Türkiye that year remained below the 2016 level. The following year, the spread of the coronavirus pandemic profoundly affected the tourism sector, and the number of same-day visitors fell to **77,234**, marking the lowest level in the past 10 years. In 2021, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on same-day visitors continued, with the number increasing by approximately **40,000** compared to 2020, reaching **113,520**. Nevertheless, 2022 can be considered a significant turning point for Türkiye in terms of same-day visitors, as **934,714** visitors came to Türkiye, surpassing the total of the previous six years. In 2023, more than **1.5 million** same-day visitors were hosted in Türkiye.

36 MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri"; ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics."]

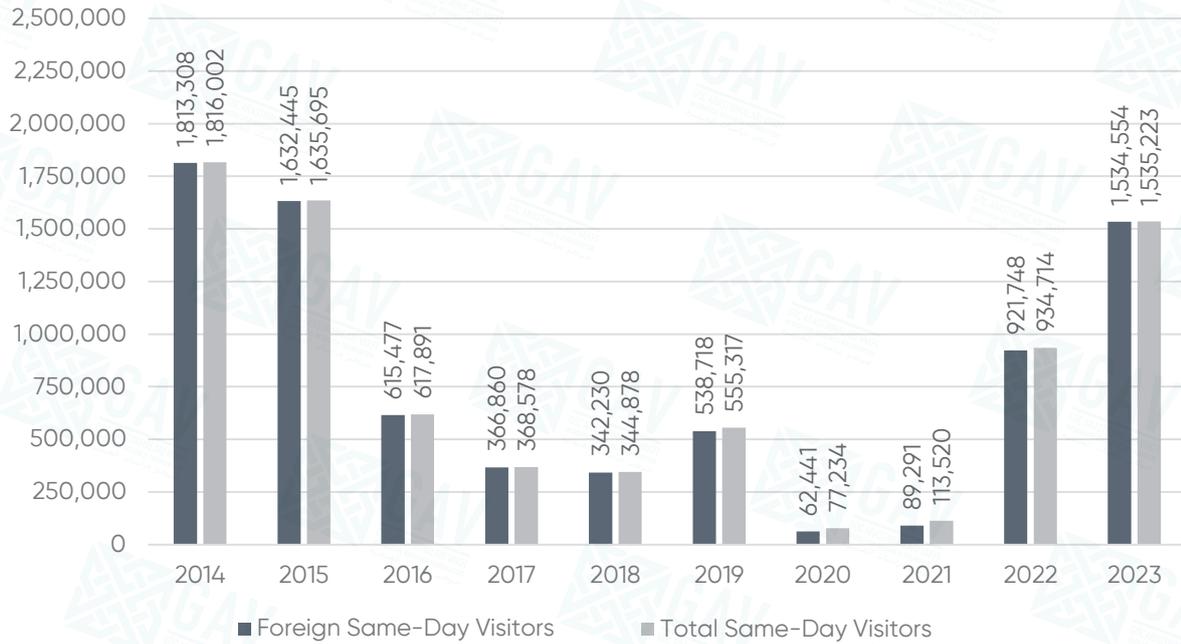


Figure 9. Distribution of same-day visitors arriving in Türkiye by year, 2014–2023³⁷

Examining the monthly distribution of same-day visitors, the highest numbers of same-day visitors to Türkiye occurred during the summer season and the beginning of autumn. In 2022, the months with the highest numbers were October with **176,786** visitors (**18.91%**), August with **166,535** visitors (**17.82%**), and September with **161,267** visitors (**17.25%**). By 2023, these months were ranked as October with **286,028** visitors (**18.63%**), August with **224,101** visitors (**14.60%**), and July with **213,082** visitors (**13.88%**).

Table 14. Monthly distribution of same-day visitors to Türkiye, 2022–2023

Months	2022		2023	
	Foreign National	Total	Foreign National	Total
January	2,189	4,110	9,820	9,820
February	1,642	4,081	3,633	3,633
March	569	569	24,951	24,962
April	32,130	32,207	83,938	84,033
May	86,259	86,437	173,710	174,090
June	108,199	108,370	184,493	184,676
July	124,327	126,187	213,082	213,082
August	164,355	166,535	224,101	224,101
September	157,817	161,267	203,383	203,383
October	176,193	176,786	286,028	286,028

37 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). See MoCT, 2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri". ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]

November	57,293	57,384	106,011	106,011
December	10,775	10,781	21,404	21,404
Total	921,748	934,714	1,534.554	1,535.223

In 2022, same-day visitors visited 37 ports across 15 provinces, while in 2023, this number decreased to 33 ports in 15 provinces. Among the provinces most preferred by same-day visitors, Aydın stood out. In 2022, the provinces hosting the highest numbers of same-day visitors were Aydın with **466,697** visitors (**50.63%**), Muğla with **197,225** visitors (**21.40%**), and İstanbul with **130,388** visitors (**14.15%**), whereas in 2023, these provinces ranked as Aydın with **732,748** visitors (**47.75%**), İstanbul with **301,904** visitors (**19.67%**), and Muğla with **275,381** visitors (**17.95%**). Additionally, the provinces with the highest proportional increase in visitor numbers were Ordu, Trabzon, and Bartın.

Table 15. Distribution of same-day visitors to Türkiye by the top 10 provinces, 2022–2023³⁸

Provinces	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)
Aydın	466,697	732,748	57.01
İstanbul	130,388	301,904	131.54
Muğla	197,225	275,381	39.63
Antalya	25,189	57,316	127.54
İzmir	46,016	56,377	22.52
Çanakkale	20,497	32,602	59.06
Bartın	5,214	16,666	219.64
Trabzon	4,552	15,034	230.27
Sinop	11,602	13,252	14.22
Ordu	345	9,899	2769.28
Samsun	7,813	8,182	4.72
Other	6,210	15,193	144.65
Total	921,748	1,534.554	66.48

Examining the distribution of foreign same-day visitors by the top 10 nationalities, in 2022, the nationalities with the highest numbers of same-day visitors were the USA with **255,958** visitors (**27.77%**), the UK with **116,686** visitors (**12.66%**), and Germany with **98,653** visitors (**10.70%**), whereas in 2023, these nationalities ranked as the USA with **468,024** visitors (**30.50%**), the UK with **143,568** visitors (**9.36%**), and Italy with **116,185** visitors (**7.57%**). Furthermore, when examining the rates of change in visitor numbers among the nationalities listed in Table 16, the largest positive changes were observed for Australia at **275.25%**, Russia at **135.05%**, and Italy at **128.05%**.

38 Compiled from data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See: MoCT, "2022 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2022 Border Entry-Exit Statistics"]; MoCT, "2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri" ["2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics."]

Table 16. *Distribution of same-day visitors to Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities, 2022-2023³⁹*

Nationalities	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)
USA	255,958	468,024	82.85
UK	116,686	143,568	23.04
Italy	50,947	116,185	128.05
Germany	98,653	108,677	10.16
Russia	40,023	94,073	135.05
Canada	31,819	68,713	115.95
Spain	33,679	48,423	43.78
İsrail	30,224	44,513	47.28
Australia	11,020	41,352	275.25
France	21,313	35,218	65.24
Greece	23,573	31,786	34.84
Other	207,853	334,022	60.70
Total	921,748	1,534,554	66.48

1.7. Health Tourism

Health tourism can be briefly defined as the act of individuals visiting a country other than their country of permanent residence for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.⁴⁰ The General Directorate of Health Services (SHGM) has adopted a broader interpretation of this definition, stating that visits to another country for the purpose of receiving “preventive, rehabilitative, therapeutic, or health-enhancing” services can be considered as health tourism.⁴¹ According to the Health Tourism Regulation, medical tourism encompasses “all types of health services and related support services received by natural persons who come to Türkiye from abroad for a temporary period for health purposes, who are not citizens of the Republic of Türkiye, or who are citizens of the Republic of Türkiye but reside abroad.”⁴² Another aspect addressed in the Regulation is the health of the tourist. The provision of health services in Türkiye to foreign visitors who experience an illness during their travel is also considered within the scope of the health tourism.⁴³

Institutions wishing to provide health tourism services in Türkiye apply by meeting the conditions specified in the Regulation. Applications are examined by the relevant Provincial

39 Compiled from data of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. See: MoCT, “2022 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri” [“2022 Border Entry-Exit Statistics”]; MoCT, “2023 Yılı Sınır Giriş-Çıkış İstatistikleri” [“2023 Border Entry-Exit Statistics.”]

40 Turkish Health Tourism Association (TSTD), “Health Tourism: General Information,” accessed April 1, 2024.

41 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), “Sağlık Turizmi Nedir?” [“What is Health Tourism?”], accessed April 1, 2024.

42 Regulation on International Health Tourism and Tourist Health, Official Gazette 30123 (July 13, 2017), art. 4-1-d.

43 Regulation on International Health Tourism and Tourist Health, art. 4-1-e.

Health Directorate, and authorization certificates are granted to the institutions deemed suitable.⁴⁴ Authorization certificates have been granted to 647 hospitals in 59 provinces,⁴⁵ 184 medical centers in 21 provinces,⁴⁶ 2,231 clinics in 51 provinces,⁴⁷ and 1,164 other health facilities in 35 provinces.⁴⁸ In addition, 1,110 institutions in 39 provinces have also been authorized as intermediary organizations.⁴⁹

Promotional activities showcasing Türkiye's capacity in the field of health tourism continued in 2023. In this context, both trade fairs were organized in Türkiye, and sector representatives conducted visits abroad.⁵⁰ Indeed, it can be said that some of the activities carried out in this field have yielded results in certain areas. For example, Algerian nationals, who previously preferred other countries for health tourism, have now chosen Türkiye as their destination.⁵¹ On the other hand, it can be said that with the growth of the sector, targets and investments have also increased. For example, Türkiye set a target of **1.8 million health tourists** for 2023,⁵² and it was estimated that approximately **20 billion USD** in revenue could be generated.⁵³ Furthermore, the fact that a businessperson operating in the sector made an investment of **20 million USD** in this field can be cited as an example of the business community's commitment to health tourism.⁵⁴

Views expressing negative aspects of the sector have also appeared in the media. Servet Terziler, President of the Turkish Health Tourism Association (TÜSATDER), stated that the sector has significant potential and that Türkiye's attractiveness is positively evaluated not only in terms of price but also regarding quality. In addition, Terziler noted that some

44 Regulation on International Health Tourism and Tourist Health, art. 8.

45 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), "Sağlık Turizmi Yetki Belgesi Almaya Hak Kazanan Sağlık Tesisleri (Hastaneler)" ["Health Facilities Eligible for Health Tourism Authorization Certificate (Hospitals),"] accessed April 1, 2024.

46 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), "Sağlık Turizmi Yetki Belgesi Almaya Hak Kazanan Sağlık Tesisleri (Tıp Merkezleri)" ["Health Facilities Eligible for Health Tourism Authorization Certificate (Medical Centers),"] accessed April 1, 2024.

47 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), "Sağlık Turizmi Yetki Belgesi Almaya Hak Kazanan Sağlık Tesisleri (Muayenehaneler)" ["Health Facilities Eligible for Health Tourism Authorization Certificate (Clinics),"] accessed April 1, 2024.

48 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), "Sağlık Turizmi Yetki Belgesi Almaya Hak Kazanan Sağlık Tesisleri (Diğer Sağlık Tesisleri)" ["Health Facilities Eligible for Health Tourism Authorization Certificate (Other Health Facilities),"] accessed April 1, 2024.

49 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Health Tourism (STDB), "Bakanlığımızca Yetkilendirilmiş Aracı Kuruluşlar" ["Authorized Intermediary Organizations by Our Ministry,"] accessed April 1, 2024.

50 Bahattin Gönültaş, "Sağlık Turizmi Sektöründen Almanya Çıkarması" ["German Delegation Visits Health Tourism Sector,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, January 17, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; *Dünya*, "İstanbul'da Sağlık Turizmi Fuarı: 22 Arap Ülkesinden Katılım Olacak" ["Health Tourism Fair in Istanbul: Participation from 22 Arab Countries Expected,"] January 26, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; Hülya Ömür Uyluş, "Başkentin Sağlık Turizmi Sektörü Afrika'ya Açılmaya Hazırlanıyor" ["The Capital's Health Tourism Sector Prepares to Expand into Africa,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, July 20, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; *Dünya*, "ABD-Türkiye Arasında Sağlık Turizmi Hattı" ["Health Tourism Line Between the U.S. and Türkiye,"] August 25, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; Yeşim Sert Karaarslan, Türkiye Sağlık Turizminde Dünyada 'Merkez' Olma Yolunda" ["Türkiye on the Way to Becoming a 'Center' in Global Health Tourism,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, August 16, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; *Milliyet*, "Bakan Koca: Türk Dünyası Acil Medikal Kurtarma Birimi Eğitimleri Başlayacak" ["Minister Koca: Emergency Medical Rescue Training for Turkic World to Begin,"] August 16, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

51 Esat Fırat, "Türkiye Cezayirilerin Yeni Sağlık Turizmi Destinasyonu Oldu" ["Türkiye Becomes a New Health Tourism Destination for Algerians,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, March 9, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

52 Furkan Gençoğlu, "Sağlık Turizminde 2023 Hedefi 1,8 Milyon Turist" ["2023 Target in Health Tourism: 1.8 Million Tourists,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, July 3, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

53 Furkan Gençoğlu, "Türkiye'nin Sağlık Turizmi Geliri 5 Adımla 20 Milyar Dolara Çıkabilir" ["Türkiye's Health Tourism Revenue Could Reach 20 Billion USD in 5 Steps,"] *Anadolu Ajansı*, April 22, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024; NTV, "Türkiye Sağlık Turizminde Hedef Büyüdü" ["Türkiye Sets Bigger Targets in Health Tourism,"] March 23, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

54 Doğukan Ünal, "Türk İş İnsanı Sağlık Turizmi Alanına 20 Milyon Dolarlık Yatırım" ["A Turkish Businessperson Invests 20 Million USD in the Health Tourism Sector,"] *DHA*, July 31, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

establishments performing aesthetic surgeries operate unofficially, thereby evading taxes and foreign currency regulations.⁵⁵ Fedakar Günsili, Board Member of the Central Anatolia Regional Representation of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB), expressed a similar view. Günsili stated that unofficial establishments harm Türkiye's image in the sector, attract customers by making promises beyond their capabilities, negatively affect customer satisfaction, and provide "pseudo-services" by convincing people with very low prices. These practices, according to Günsili, also alter the perspective of prospective health tourists toward Türkiye in a *negative way*.⁵⁶

It was understood in an interview with an official from USHAŞ that Türkiye's health tourism policy focuses on areas such as organ transplants, surgeries, and dental treatments. According to the same USHAŞ official, rather than emphasizing fields like aesthetic procedures or hair transplantation, Türkiye aims to establish its reputation through "more major undertakings."⁵⁷ Indeed, in the "Health Türkiye" website project, which serves as the brand face of Türkiye's health tourism, information is provided not only on the number of institutions offering health tourism services, professional personnel, and bed capacity, but also on organ transplants. According to this data, a total of **64,249 organ transplant** operations have been performed in Türkiye over the past five years.⁵⁸

On the other hand, it is not possible to fully determine the extent to which the official institutions' objectives have been realized in the sector. This is because, in their statements, the representatives of associations established by institutions in this field generally focus on aesthetic procedures. For example, the President of TÜSATDER highlighted the aesthetic procedures undertaken by health tourists visiting Türkiye. According to the President, Türkiye has become a destination for aesthetic procedures for visitors from Nordic countries, Europe, Australia, and the Equatorial region, and in this area, Türkiye has established itself as "a *global brand*."⁵⁹

In 2015, **395,019** health tourists visited Türkiye, whereas by 2023, this number had increased to **1,398,504**. Within the past nine years, the only year in which health tourism declined was 2020. In other words, the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the sector; however, a rapid recovery occurred in the following years. In 2020, the number of health tourists visiting Türkiye decreased by approximately **300,000** compared to the previous year, reaching **407,423**. Although the number of tourists increased to **670,730** the following year, this figure remained below the 2019 level. In 2021, the number of visitors coming to Türkiye for health tourism nearly doubled, rising to **1,258,382**.

55 *Dünya*, "Sağlık Turizminde 'Çantacı' ve 'Merdiven Altı' Tehdidi" ["'Bagmen' and 'Unlicensed' Threats in Health Tourism,"] August 17, 2023, accessed April 2, 2024.

56 *Gazete duvaR*, "Merdiven Altı Kliniklere Dikkat" ["Beware of Unlicensed Clinics,"] September 19, 2023, accessed April 2, 2024.

57 Interview with a USHAŞ official conducted by the authors of the annual, November 2022.

58 Health Türkiye (HT), "Sayılarla Türkiye'de Sağlık Sistemi" ["Türkiye Health System by Numbers,"] accessed April 1, 2024.

59 Özlem Yurtçu-Karabulut, "Sağlık Turizminde Coğrafi Fark: İsveç Norveç'e Kalça Büyütme, Güney Ülkelerine Liposuction, Basen Küçültme" ["Geographical Differences in Health Tourism: Sweden Prefers Hip Augmentation in Norway, Liposuction and Thigh Reduction in Southern Countries,"] *DHA*, June 10, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

As noted above, the target number of health tourists for 2023 was **1.8 million**. However, this figure fell short by approximately **400,000**. One possible reason for not reaching the target may be the earthquakes that occurred on 6 and 23 February 2023. The President of the Association of Private Hospitals and Health Institutions (OSHAD) stated that the health tourism sector contracted following the earthquakes. Prior to the earthquakes, foreign visitors had scheduled appointments at health institutions in Türkiye, but many canceled their appointments afterwards. Those most likely to exercise the cancellation option were individuals planning to come to Türkiye for aesthetic procedures. In addition, according to the President, the risk of an earthquake occurring in Istanbul continues to pose a barrier to tourists visiting Türkiye.⁶⁰

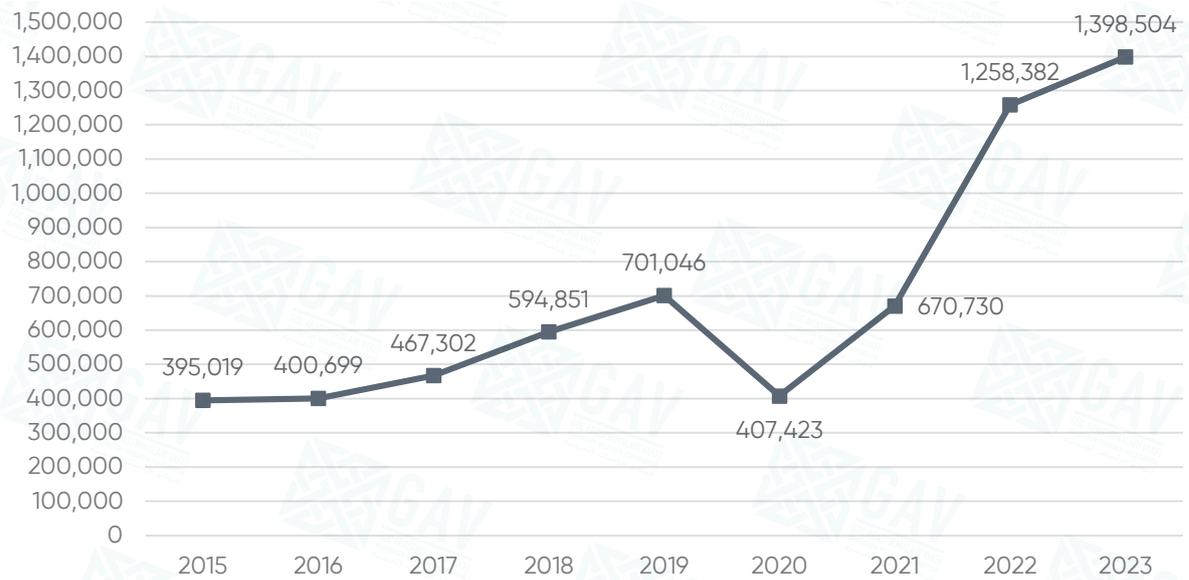


Figure 10. The annual distribution of health tourists visiting Türkiye, 2015–2023⁶¹

When examining the quarterly distribution of health tourists visiting Türkiye, the highest number of health tourists, **411,490 (29.42%)**, arrived in the first quarter. This pattern is consistent among both foreign nationals and Turkish citizens residing abroad. The periods with the highest number of foreign health tourists visiting Türkiye were the first quarter with **348,866 (28.72%)**, the fourth quarter with **331,490 (27.29%)**, and the second quarter with **289,976 (23.87%)**. For Turkish citizens residing abroad, the peak periods were the first quarter with **62,624 (34.07%)**, the second quarter with **44,824 (24.38%)**, and the fourth quarter with **40,522 (22.04%)**.

60 Şehriban Kıraç, "Depremle Sağlık Turizmi Yüzde 40 Küçüldü, Organizasyonların Yüzde 50'si Ertelendi" ["Health Tourism Decreased by 40% Due to the Earthquake, 50% of Organizations Postponed,"] *Cumhuriyet*, April 2, 2023, accessed April 1, 2024.

61 UŞHAŞ, "Sağlık Turizmi Verileri" ["Health Tourism Data"], accessed March 29, 2024.

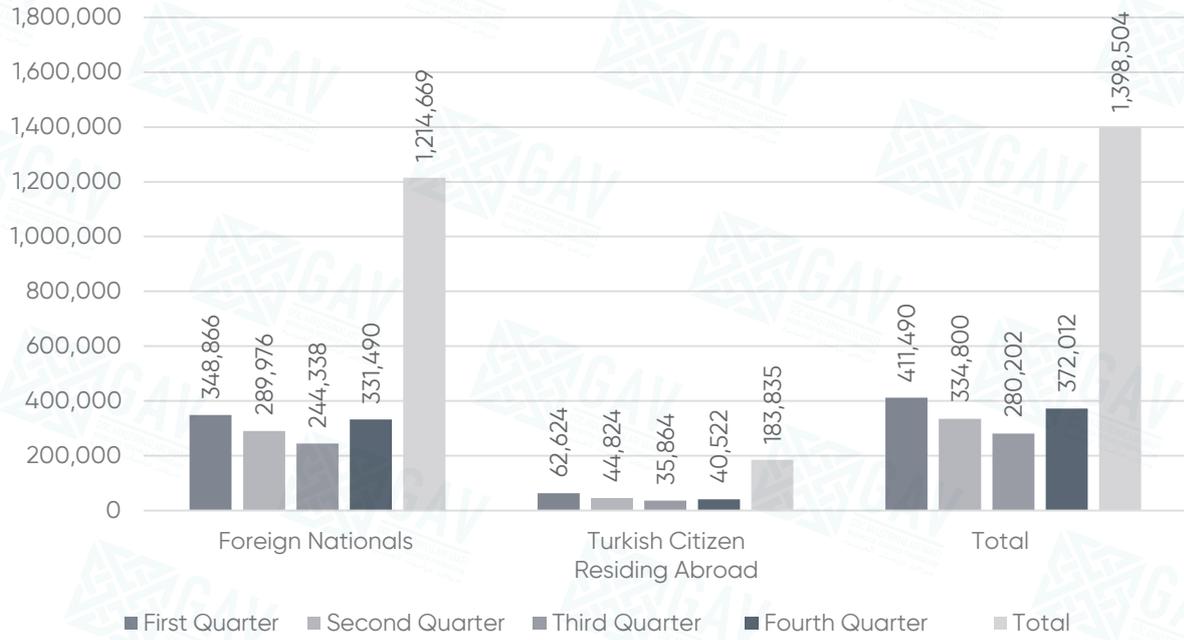


Figure 11. Distribution of visitors to Türkiye for health and medical purposes (less than one year) by nationality and quarter, 2023⁶²



REGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY



Regular migration can be defined as migration conducted through legal channels. It occurs when an individual or group of individuals leaves their country of permanent residence and enters the destination country in full compliance with the legislation of that country.¹ The Presidency of Migration Management evaluates regular migration based on visas, stateless persons² and residence permits.³

The data analyzed in this section, titled “Regular Migration and Human Mobility,” have been obtained from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MoLSS), Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), Ministry of National Education (MoNE) Directorate General for Lifelong Learning (DGLLL), Council of Higher Education (CoHE), and Turkish Statistical Institute (Turk-Stat).

The data published by MoLSS include topics such as the annual distribution of foreigners granted work permits, distribution by provinces, education levels, nationalities, and economic activities, offering a comprehensive overview. However, the Ministry releases its data with considerable delay. For example, data for 2022 were published around November 2023. Additionally, in the statistics covering 2023, the Ministry removed previously published data on initial applications and extension applications. The relevant statistics were accessed through the “Statistics” section on the Ministry’s website, following the headings “Official Statistics Program” and “Work Permit Statistics.”

The data that can be evaluated under the “regular migration” heading by PMM are extensive and based on “entry-exit” statistics. These include the annual distribution of foreign residents with residence permits, distribution by provinces, distribution by types of residence permits, and the top 10 nationalities for each type of residence permit. Certain aspects of the PMM’s data publication policy pose challenges for researchers. These include the absence of a dedicated data archive, categorizing long-term, humanitarian, and human-trafficking victim residence permits under “other” without publishing separate statistics, and providing nationality data only for the top 10 nationalities. The data used in this study were accessed via the Directorate General’s website under the “Statistics” section, specifically under the “Current Data” heading and the subheading “Residence Permits.”

1 Richard Perruchoud (ed.) & Jillyanne Redpath-Cross (ed.), *Glossary on Migration* (PDF: International Organization for Migration, 2013), p. 26.

2 Within the framework of regular migration, stateless persons occupy a distinct position. A stateless person is defined as “an individual who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law and is regarded as a foreigner.” See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Genel Bilgi (Vatansızlar)” [General Information (Stateless Persons)], accessed April 3, 2024. The identification of such persons takes place in four steps. First, the individual applies to the relevant public authority. Second, representatives of the authority conduct interviews with the applicants. Third, the Ministry of Interior determines whether the applicants are indeed stateless. Finally, those recognized as stateless are issued a “stateless person identity document,” which may be revoked if the required conditions are not met. See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Vatansızlığın Tespiti (Vatansızlar)” [“Determination of Statelessness (Stateless Persons)”], accessed April 3, 2024.

3 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Düzenli Göç” [“Regular Migration”], accessed April 3, 2024.

MoNE shares data on international students in primary and secondary education through DGLL. The report provided by the Directorate includes statistics on international students as well as students of Syrian nationality by education level. These statistics were obtained from the “Monitoring and Evaluation Reports” section under the “Links” heading on the Directorate’s official website.

The Council of Higher Education shares its statistics through the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS). Both international students in higher education and international academic staff are covered in these statistics. For both categories, it can be said that the data provided by CoHE is comprehensive. Indeed, CoHE publishes detailed statistics such as the distribution of international students by universities, nationalities, and academic units, as well as the distribution of international academic staff by titles, universities, and nationalities. Moreover, the statistics shared by CoHE are also suitable for generating new data. The relevant statistics were accessed via the “Higher Education Statistics” section of Higher Education Information Management System, under the titles “2021–2022 Academic Year” and “2022–2023 Academic Year.” Within these sections, the subcategories “Number of Students” and “Academic Staff” contained the data evaluated in this study. In addition, the statistics under the title “Number of Students by Universities” in the “Student Statistics” section on the Higher Education Information Management System homepage were also used.

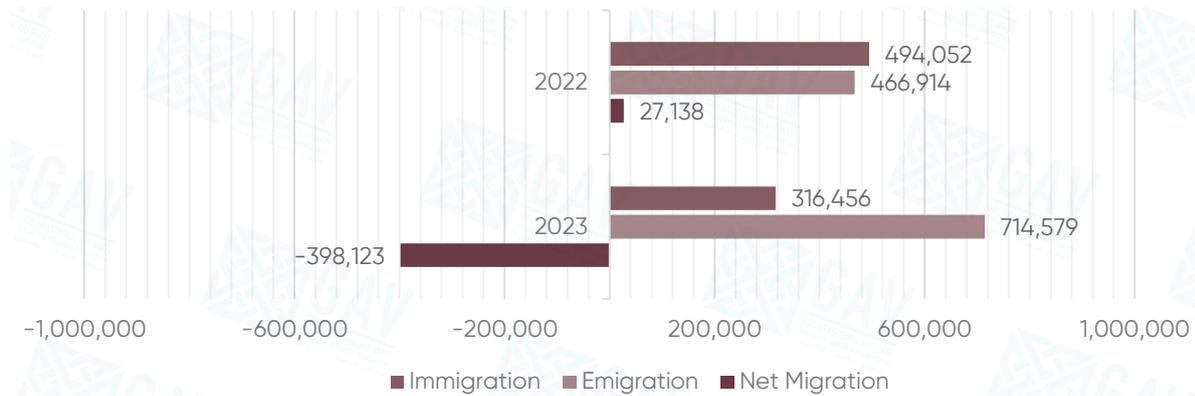
In this section of our study, data from several bulletins of the TurkStat have been utilized. The data obtained from the Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) include the distribution of the foreign national population in Türkiye by provinces and nationalities. These distribution tables also provide gender breakdowns. Moreover, the nationality-based distribution table presents a wide range of nationalities; however, both tables are limited to the last two years. In addition, the statistics in the table titled “Population by Province, Single Age, and Sex” were used for ratio calculations. In the marriage and divorce statistics, only nationality-based distribution tables are provided. In the housing sales statistics, tables are available on housing sales to foreign nationals by years, provinces, and nationalities. However, the table on provincial distribution covers only the top 10 provinces, while the nationality-based distribution includes the top 20 nationalities. Detailing these statistics would facilitate researchers’ ability to monitor and compare various areas. On the other hand, it is noteworthy that the total housing sales to foreigners presented in the nationality-based distribution table consistently differ from the data in the tables by years and provinces; however, the reason for this discrepancy has not been identified. Another category utilized from TurkStat concerns immigrants to and emigrants from Türkiye. This section includes data on foreigners’ nationalities, the year they began residing in Türkiye, their gender distribution, and their distribution across provinces.

Table 17. *Distribution of institutions by frequency of data publication*

Institutions	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS)	✗	✗	✓
Presidency of Migration Management (PMM)	✓	✗	✓
Ministry of National Education (MoNE)	✗	✗	✓
Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)	✗	✓	✓
Council of Higher Education (CoHE)	✗	✗	✓

2.1. Immigration, Emigration and the Foreign National Population in Türkiye

While 2022 was a year in which Türkiye experienced more immigration than emigration, in 2022, **494,052** people migrated to Türkiye, while **466,914** people emigrated from Türkiye. Accordingly, net migration stood at **27,138**. By 2023, however, the number of incoming migrants had decreased to **316,456**, whereas the number of outgoing migrants had risen to **714,579**. As a result, net migration dropped to **-398,123**.

**Figure 12.** *Distribution of Immigration, Emigration, and Net Migration in Türkiye 2022-2023⁴*

When examining the nationalities of those migrating to Türkiye (Figure 13), it is observed that the number of foreign nationals exceeds that of Turkish nationals. In 2022, out of a total of **494,052** people who migrated to Türkiye, **399,643 (80.89%)** were foreign nationals and **94,409 (19.11%)** were Turkish nationals. In **2023**, out of a total of **316,456**, **214,779 (67.87%)** were foreign nationals and **101,677 (32.13%)** were Turkish nationals. As can be seen, the number of foreign nationals migrating to Türkiye decreased compared to the previous year, whereas

4 Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "İllere ve Vatandaşlığa Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"], accessed September 8, 2024.

the number of Turkish nationals increased. Tracking these statistics in the coming years can help assess Türkiye's position as a "destination country," especially since, as noted above, the February 6 earthquakes may have influenced these figures.

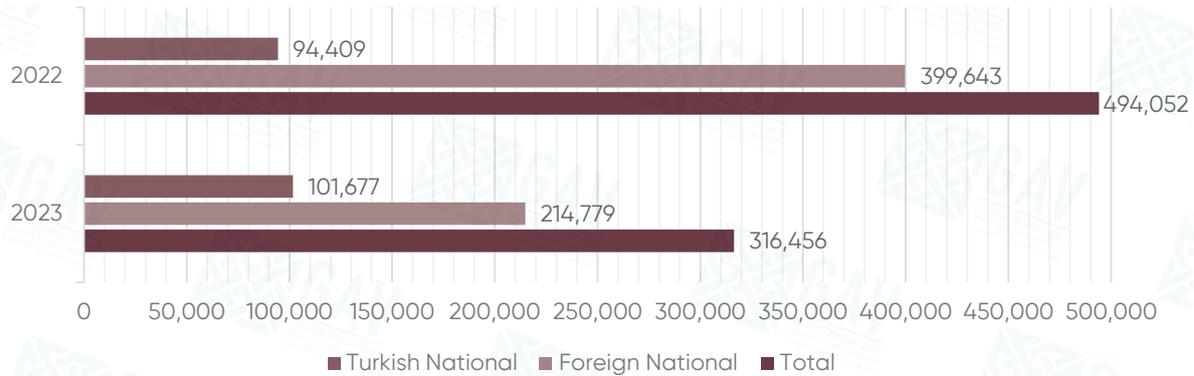


Figure 13. Distribution of migrants to Türkiye by nationality and year, 2022–2023⁵

Among those emigrating from Türkiye, foreign nationals remain predominant, similar to the pattern observed for incoming migrants. However, in 2023, the number of Turkish citizens leaving Türkiye increased dramatically. In 2022, of the total **466,914** people who emigrated from Türkiye, **327,383 (70.12%)** were foreign nationals and **139,531 (29.88%)** were Turkish citizens. By 2023, of the total **714,579** emigrants, **423,202 (59.22%)** were foreign nationals and **291,377 (40.78%)** were Turkish citizens. In 2023, the number of Turkish citizens emigrating from Türkiye rose by **108.83%** compared to the previous year, while the number of foreign nationals increased by **29.27%**.

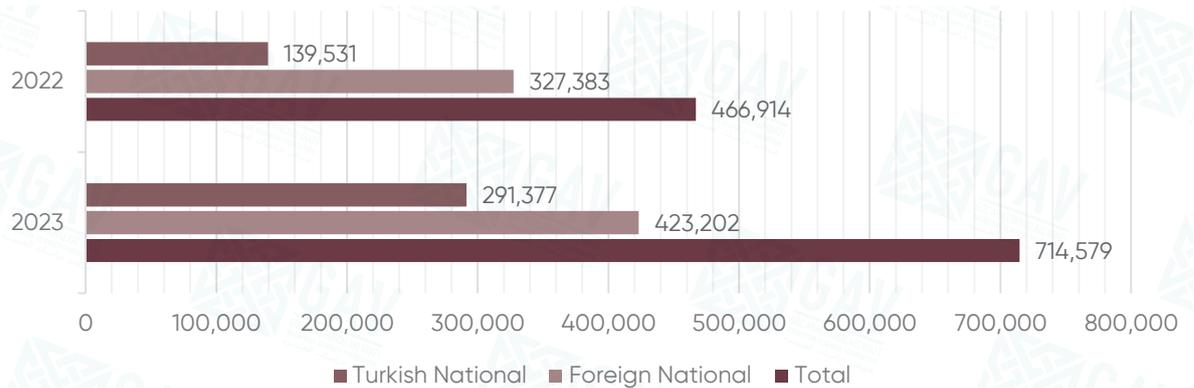


Figure 14. Distribution of emigrants from Türkiye by nationality and year, 2022–2023⁶

In 2022, the age groups with the highest number of immigrants to Türkiye were **60,040** individuals (**12.15%**) aged 25–29, **57,731** individuals (**11.69%**) aged 20–24, and **55,974** individuals (**11.33%**) aged 30–34. By 2023, these age groups shifted to **40,081** individuals (**12.67%**) aged 20–24, **34,031** individuals (10.75%) aged 25–29, and **32,444** individuals (**10.25%**) aged 15–19.

5 Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See TurkStat, "İllere ve Vatandaşlığa Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"].

6 Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Vatandaşlığa Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Immigration to and Emigration from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"].

Table 18. Distribution of immigration to Türkiye by age group, 2022-2023⁷

Age Groups	2022			2023		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	14,972	14,233	29,205	8,661	7,916	16,577
5-9	14,043	13,281	27,324	7,512	7,095	14,607
10-14	12,018	10,962	22,980	6,700	6,201	12,901
15-19	24,251	19,204	43,455	17,824	14,620	32,444
20-24	31,154	26,577	57,731	22,179	17,902	40,081
25-29	31,916	28,124	60,040	18,266	15,765	34,031
30-34	29,754	26,220	55,974	15,656	14,116	29,772
35-39	25,126	22,017	47,143	14,742	12,681	27,423
40-44	19,252	16,437	35,689	13,166	10,622	23,788
45-49	15,089	13,041	28,130	12,093	9,080	21,173
50-54	12,815	11,932	24,747	10,540	8,392	18,932
55-59	10,731	10,314	21,045	8,564	6,738	15,302
60-64	8,265	8,264	16,529	6,435	5,486	11,921
65-69	6,064	5,960	12,024	4,623	3,858	8,481
70-74	2,959	3,458	6,417	2,074	2,341	4,415
75+	2,792	2,827	5,619	2,360	2,248	4,608
Total	261,201	232,851	494,052	171,395	145,061	316,456

It has been observed that the age groups constituting the majority of emigrants from Türkiye display a similar structure to those immigrating to the country. In 2022, the age groups with the highest number of emigrants were 25–29 with **73,838** persons (**15.81%**), 30–34 with **62,742** persons (**13.44%**), and 20–24 with **59,841** persons (**12.82%**). In 2023, however, the leading age groups were 25–29 with **107,041** persons (**14.98%**), 30–34 with **92,008** persons (**12.88%**), and 20–24 with **89,506** persons (**12.53%**).

Table 19. Distribution of emigration from Türkiye by age group, 2022-2023⁸

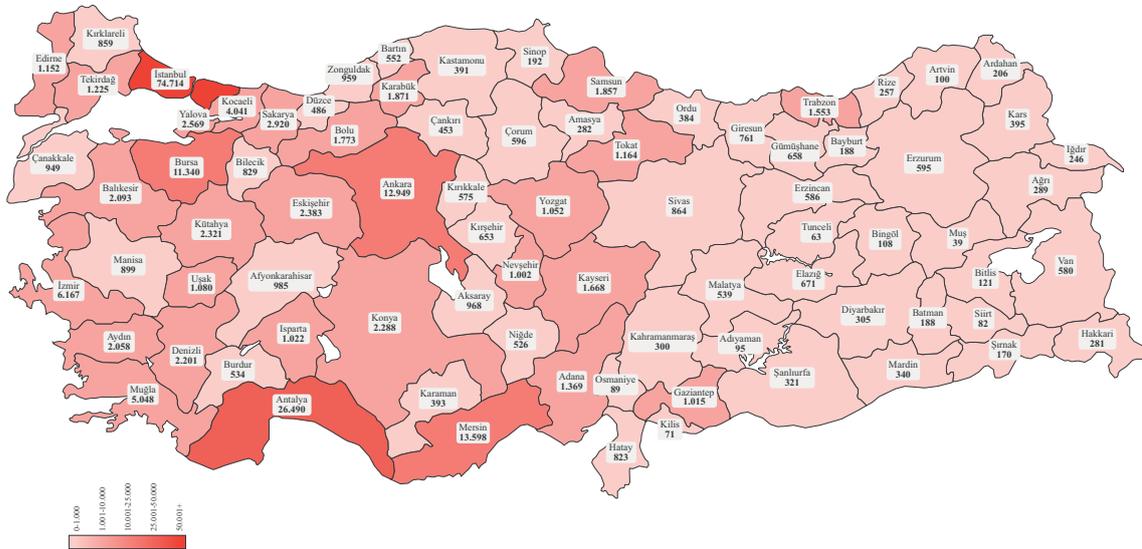
Age Groups	2022			2023		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	7,442	7,096	14,538	12,554	11,909	24,463
5-9	12,343	11,596	23,939	20,291	19,031	39,322

7 Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "Yaş Grubu ve Cinsiyete Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Immigration to and Emigration from Türkiye by Age Group and Sex (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"], accessed September 9, 2024.

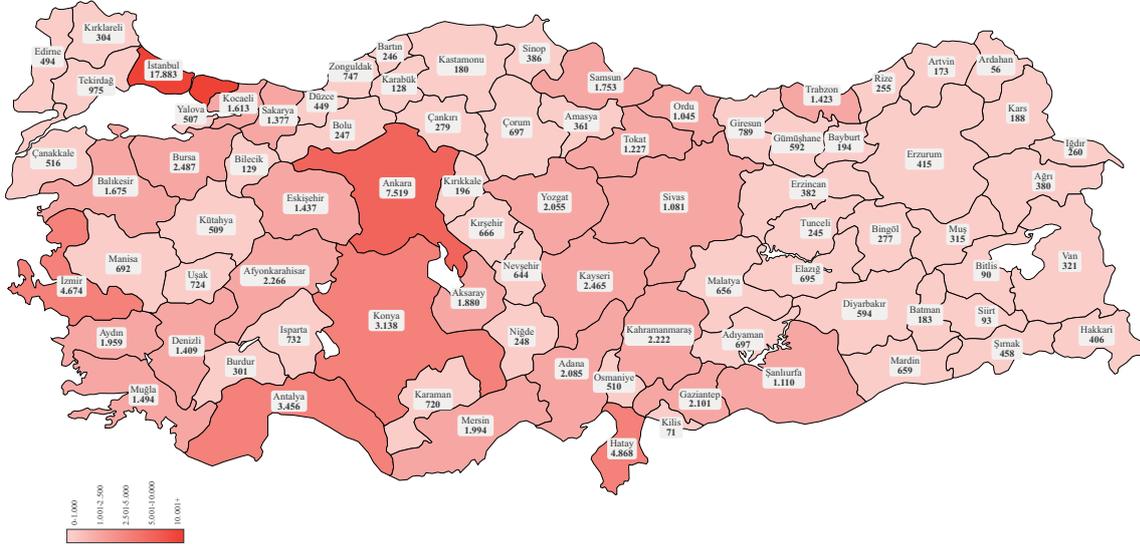
8 TurkStat, "Yaş Grubu ve Cinsiyete Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["International Migration Statistics, 2023: Immigration to and Emigration from Türkiye by Age Group and Gender."]

10-14	11,185	10,620	21,805	18,692	17,178	35,870
15-19	14,766	10,704	25,470	22,746	17,833	40,579
20-24	37,894	21,947	59,841	52,163	37,343	89,506
25-29	44,751	29,087	73,838	61,835	45,206	107,041
30-34	35,558	27,184	62,742	51,974	40,034	92,008
35-39	27,403	22,011	49,414	42,443	32,013	74,456
40-44	20,752	17,271	38,023	32,263	24,695	56,958
45-49	15,138	13,208	28,346	23,499	19,001	42,500
50-54	11,346	11,072	22,418	17,889	16,052	33,941
55-59	8,097	8,864	16,961	13,431	12,729	26,160
60-64	5,445	6,700	12,145	9,352	10,093	19,445
65-69	3,872	4,335	8,207	6,404	7,120	13,524
70-74	2,113	2,505	4,618	3,937	5,055	8,992
75+	2,140	2,469	4,609	4,713	5,101	9,814
Total	260,245	206,669	466,914	394,186	320,393	714,579

In 2023, considering the provincial distribution of foreign nationals migrating to Türkiye, it is observed that **51** provinces received between 1–1,000 migrants, **25** provinces received between 1,001–10,000 migrants, **three** provinces received between 10,001–25,000 migrants, **one** province received between 25,001–50,000 migrants (**Antalya, 26,490 persons**), and **one** province received more than 50,001 migrants (**Istanbul, 74,714 persons**).



When examining the provincial distribution of foreign nationals who migrated to Türkiye in 2023, it is observed that **53** provinces received between 1 and 1,000 migrants, **22** provinces received between 1,001 and 2,500 migrants, four provinces received between 2,501 and 5,000 migrants, one province received between 5,001 and 10,000 migrants (**Ankara, 7,519 migrants**), and one province received more than 10,001 migrants (**Istanbul, 17,883 migrants**).



Map 3. Distribution of Turkish nationals migrating to Türkiye by province, 2023¹⁰

When examining the distribution of migration to Türkiye by the top 10 provinces, it is observed that in 2022 and 2023, Istanbul was the most preferred province both for foreign nationals and Turkish nationals. In 2022, the provinces receiving the highest number of migrants were Istanbul with **174,734 (35.37%)**, Antalya with **73,109 (14.80%)**, and Ankara with **26,721 (5.41%)**. In 2023, the most preferred provinces were Istanbul with **92,547 (29.24%)**, Antalya with **29,946 (9.46%)**, and Ankara with **20,468 (6.47%)**. Accordingly, it can be stated that in 2022, nearly half of the migrants to Türkiye settled in Istanbul and Antalya, whereas in 2023, slightly more than one-third of them preferred these provinces.

As understood from Table 20, it can be stated that the provinces preferred by Turkish and foreign nationals differ relatively. In 2022, the provinces to which Turkish nationals migrated the most were Istanbul with **17,840 (18.90%)**, Ankara with **7,177 (7.60%)**, and Izmir with **4,902 (5.19%)**. By 2023, however, the most preferred provinces were Istanbul with **17,833 (17.54%)**, Ankara with **7,519 (7.39%)**, and Hatay with **4,868 (4.79%)**. The fact that Hatay and Kahramanmaraş ranked among the provinces receiving the highest number of Turkish migrants in 2023 is noteworthy, as these provinces were among the most severely affected by the earthquakes of 6 February 2023.

10 Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Vatandaşlığa Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)."]

In 2022, the provinces that received the highest number of foreign nationals were Istanbul with **156,894 (39.26%)**, Antalya with **69,441 (17.38%)**, and Ankara with **19,544 (4.89%)**. By 2023, however, this ranking changed to Istanbul with **74,714 (34.79%)**, Antalya with **26,490 (12.33%)**, and Mersin with **13,598 (6.33%)**. As shown in Table 20, while Mersin ranked fourth among the provinces most preferred by foreign nationals in 2022, it rose to third place in 2023. Conversely, Ankara fell by one rank in 2023 compared to the previous year, becoming the fourth most preferred province.

Table 20. *Distribution of migration to Türkiye by top 10 provinces and nationality, 2022-2023¹¹*

Provinces ¹²	2022			2023		
	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total
İstanbul	17,840	156,894	174,734	17,833	74,714	92,547
Antalya	3,668	69,441	73,109	3,456	26,490	29,946
Ankara	7,177	19,544	26,721	7,519	12,949	20,468
Mersin	1,841	17,118	18,959	1,994	13,598	15,592
Bursa	2,381	16,729	19,110	2,487	11,340	13,827
İzmir	4,902	12,107	17,009	4,674	6,167	10,841
Muğla	1,519	12,899	14,418	1,494	5,048	6,542
Hatay	3,975	874	4,849	4,868	823	5,691
Kocaeli	1,654	5,751	7,405	1,613	4,041	5,654
Konya	3,260	4,581	7,841	3,138	2,288	5,426
Sakarya	1,420	4,470	5,890	1,377	2,920	4,297
Kayseri	2,385	2,386	4,771	2,465	1,668	4,133
Aydın	2,114	4,873	6,987	1,959	2,058	4,017
Afyonkarahisar	2,226	1,296	3,522	2,266	985	3,251
Yalova	497	3,906	4,403	507	2,569	3,076
Kahramanmaraş	1,528	769	2,297	2,222	300	2,522
Other	36,022	66,005	102,027	41,805	46,821	88,626
Total	94,409	399,643	494,052	101,677	214,779	316,456

When examining the provincial distribution of foreign nationals who emigrated from Türkiye in 2023, it is observed that **38** provinces had between 1–1,000 emigrants, **39** provinces had between 1,001–10,000, one province had between 10,001–25,000 (**Muğla, 10,901 persons**), one province had between 25,001–50,000 (**Ankara, 27,438 persons**), and two provinces had more than 50,001 emigrants (**Antalya, 62,956 persons**, and **İstanbul, 183,635 persons**).

11 Cells highlighted in red indicate that the number of migrants from the corresponding nationality to the respective province did not rank among the top 10 most preferred provinces in Türkiye for that year. Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Vatandaşlığına Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)."]

12 The provincial ranking has been evaluated based on nationality.

As with immigration to Türkiye, Istanbul is also the province with the highest number of emigrants. In 2022, the provinces contributing the most to emigration from Türkiye were Istanbul with **184,638 (39.54%)**, Ankara with **45,552 (9.76%)**, and Antalya with **31,166 (6.67%)**. By 2023, these provinces were ranked as follows: Istanbul with **260,287 (36.43%)**, Antalya with **71,558 (10.01%)**, and Ankara with **50,416 (7.06%)**.

The provinces with the highest number of Turkish citizens emigrating abroad in 2022 were Istanbul with **38,932 (27.90%)**, Ankara with **12,224 (8.76%)**, and Izmir with **8,318 (5.96%)**, while in 2023, these provinces were ranked as follows: Istanbul with **76,652 (26.31%)**, Ankara with **22,978 (7.89%)**, and Izmir with **16,758 (5.75%)**. At the same time, the provinces with the highest number of foreign nationals emigrating abroad in 2022 were Istanbul with **145,706 (44.51%)**, Ankara with **33,328 (10.18%)**, and Antalya with **26,861 (8.20%)**, and in 2023, these provinces were ranked as follows: Istanbul with **183,635 (43.39%)**, Antalya with **62,956 (14.88%)**, and Ankara with **27,438 (6.48%)**.

Table 21. Provincial and nationality-based distribution of emigration from Türkiye, 2022-2023¹⁵

Provinces ¹⁶	2022			2023		
	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total
İstanbul	38,932	145,706	184,638	76,652	183,635	260,287
Antalya	4,305	26,861	31,166	8,602	62,956	71,558
Ankara	12,224	33,328	45,552	22,978	27,438	50,416
İzmir	8,318	5,653	13,971	16,758	8,567	25,325
Bursa	4,065	5,442	9,507	8,862	9,633	18,495
Mersin	2,493	6,516	9,009	6,081	9,990	16,071
Muğla	1,681	3,832	5,513	3,549	10,901	14,450
Samsun	1,412	14,401	15,813	3,513	9,885	13,398
Konya	3,622	3,298	6,920	6,834	5,649	12,483
Hatay	4,570	476	5,046	10,039	644	10,683
Adana	3,293	3,507	6,800	6,257	3,604	9,861
Yalova	526	6,221	6,747	1,082	6,077	7,159
Other	54,090	72,142	126,232	120,170	84,223	204,393
Total	139,531	327,383	466,914	291,377	423,202	714,579

When examining the distribution of foreign nationals migrating to Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities, it is observed that in 2022, the highest number of migrants were from Russia with **99,786 (20.20%)**, Ukraine with **32,465 (6.57%)**, and Iran with **25,802 (5.22%)**. By 2023, the top migrants were from Russia with **28,314 (13.18%)**, Azerbaijan with **17,676 (8.23%)**, and Turkmenistan with **15,575 (7.25%)**.

¹⁵ Cells highlighted in red indicate that the number of emigrants from the corresponding nationality to the respective province did not rank among the top 10 provinces with the highest emigration from Türkiye in that year. Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Vatandaşlığa Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Province and Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)."]

¹⁶ The provincial ranking has been evaluated based on nationality.

In 2023, among the nationalities listed in Table 22, Turkmenistan was the only nationality for which the number of migrants to Türkiye increased, with migration rising by **75.87%**. Conversely, the nationality with the largest decrease in the number of migrants to Türkiye compared to the previous year was Ukraine, with migration from Ukrainian nationals declining by **73.82%**. Ukrainian nationals were followed by Syrian nationals with a **73.51%** decrease and Russian nationals with a **71.63%** decrease.

Table 22. Distribution of foreign nationals migrating to Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities and their rates of change, 2022–2023¹⁷

Nationalities	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Russia	56,236	43,550	99,786	14,346	13,968	28,314	-74.49	-67.93	-71.63
Azerbaijan	9,288	8,944	18,232	9,486	8,190	17,676	2.13	-8.43	-3.05
Turkmenistan	4,055	4,801	8,856	6,703	8,872	15,575	65.30	84.79	75.87
Iran	12,560	13,242	25,802	6,699	7,796	14,495	-46.66	-41.13	-43.82
Afghanistan	14,919	6,550	21,469	9,252	3,480	12,732	-37.99	-46.87	-40.70
Uzbekistan	5,660	9,458	15,118	5,121	5,861	10,982	-9.52	-38.03	-27.36
Kazakhstan	6,997	8,716	15,713	4,890	5,923	10,813	-30.11	-32.04	-31.18
Germany	6,167	5,310	11,477	4,929	4,426	9,355	-20.07	-16.65	-18.49
Ukraine	10,331	22,134	32,465	3,177	5,322	8,499	-69.25	-75.96	-73.82
Iraq	10,228	9,017	19,245	4,034	3,639	7,673	-60.56	-59.64	-60.13
Syria	5,325	7,246	12,571	1,392	1,938	3,330	-73.86	-73.25	-73.51
Other	119,435	93,883	213,318	39,738	35,597	75,335	-66.73	-62.08	-64.68
Total	261,201	232,851	494,052	109,767	105,012	214,779	-57.98	-54.90	-56.53

When examining the distribution of emigration from Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities, it is observed that in 2022, the highest number of foreign nationals emigrating abroad were from Iraq with **65,406 (14.01%)**, Iran with **34,563 (7.40%)**, and Uzbekistan with **22,894 (4.90%)**. By 2023, the top emigrating nationalities were Russia with **71,956 (17.00%)**, Iraq with **66,300 (15.67%)**, and Afghanistan with **35,211 (8.32%)**.

In 2023, among foreign nationals emigrating from Türkiye, the nationalities showing the largest positive change compared to the previous year were Russia and Ukraine, as the number of Russian emigrants increased fivefold and the number of Ukrainian emigrants tripled. This can be attributed to compulsory military service policies due to the ongoing conflicts in both countries. Conversely, the number of emigrants from Uzbekistan decreased by **27.9%**, from Somalia by **25.66%**, and from Iran by **20.32%**.

¹⁷ Cells highlighted in red indicate that the number of migrants from the corresponding nationality did not rank among the top 10 nationalities migrating to Türkiye in that year. Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), "Vatandaşlık Ülkesine Göre Türkiye'ye Gelen ve Türkiye'den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Migration to and from Türkiye by Country of Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"], accessed 9 September 2024.

Table 23. Distribution of foreign nationals emigrating from Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities and their rates of change, 2022-2023¹⁸

Nationalities	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Russia	5,021	6,841	11,862	40,270	31,686	71,956	702.03	363.18	506.61
Iraq	35,379	30,027	65,406	35,439	30,861	66,300	0.17	2.78	1.37
Afghanistan	12,418	7,164	19,582	22,827	12,384	35,211	83.82	72.86	79.81
Iran	18,750	15,813	34,563	14,687	12,853	27,540	-21.67	-18.72	-20.32
Turkmenistan	10,055	5,554	15,609	13,039	7,616	20,655	29.68	37.13	32.33
Ukraine	1,408	2,753	4,161	5,390	11,505	16,895	282.81	317.91	306.03
Uzbekistan	9,581	13,313	22,894	6,453	10,053	16,506	-32.65	-24.49	-27.90
Azerbaijan	7,941	5,984	13,925	7,170	5,633	12,803	-9.71	-5.87	-8.06
Kazakhstan	3,080	4,098	7,178	4,549	5,942	10,491	47.69	45.00	46.15
Somalia	5,747	4,755	10,502	4,074	3,733	7,807	-29.11	-21.49	-25.66
Syria	4,210	2,802	7,012	3,606	3,047	6,653	-14.35	8.74	-5.12
Other	146,655	107,565	254,220	70,675	59,710	130,385	-51.81	-44.49	-48.71
Total	260,245	206,669	466,914	228,179	195,023	423,202	-12.32	-5.64	-9.36

There is a discrepancy between the table published by TurkStat for 2022, titled “Foreign Population in Türkiye by Year of Starting Residence, Sex, and Country of Citizenship, 2022”, and the table published in 2023 with the same title. In the table released in 2022, the number of foreign nationals who began residing in Türkiye in 2022 is reported to be approximately 408,000, whereas in the table published in 2023, the corresponding figure for 2022 is 236,000, as shown in Figure 15. Similar discrepancies are also present in retrospective data. Although the exact cause of this fundamental data difference is unclear, it is presumed that foreign nationals who emigrated from Türkiye have been excluded from the statistics. At the end of 2022, the foreign national population residing in Türkiye was **1,823,836**, whereas by the end of 2023, this population had decreased to **1,570,543**. However, the absence of an official statement from the agency regarding this change leaves the matter somewhat ambiguous. On the other hand, since the agency has removed previous years’ tables from its press releases and only made the most current table publicly available, this situation has been inferred from a table published by TurkStat that is preserved in the archives of the researchers conducting this study.

As of the end of 2023, a total of **1,570,543** foreign nationals reside in Türkiye, of which **762,672** are male and **807,871** are female. Among them, the number of individuals who began residing in Türkiye in 2022 was **236,946**, whereas by 2023 this number had decreased to **221,269**.

¹⁸ Cells highlighted in red indicate that the number of emigrants from the corresponding nationality did not rank among the top 10 nationalities emigrating from Türkiye in that year. Compiled from the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, “Vatandaşlık Ülkesine Göre Türkiye’ye Gelen ve Türkiye’den Giden Göç (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)” [“Migration to and from Türkiye by Country of Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)”].

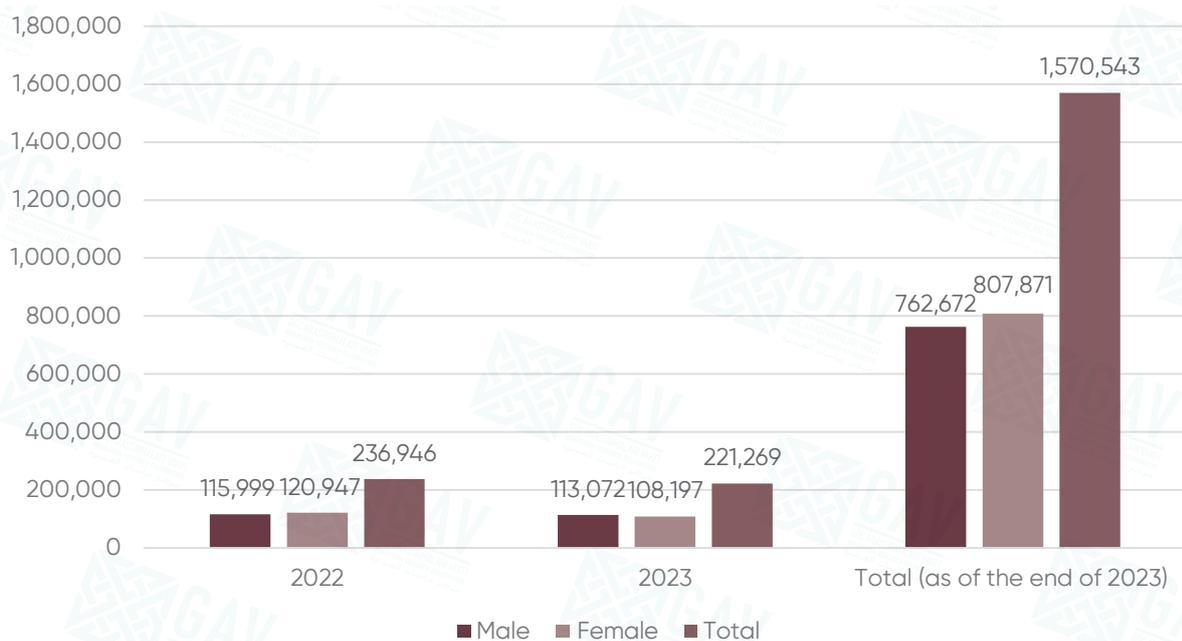


Figure 15. Foreign population in Türkiye by year of starting residence, 2022-2023¹⁹

When examining the distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by year of starting residence and age groups, at the end of 2021, the age groups with the highest foreign population were **126,664 (11.39%)** in the 25–29 age group, **124,002 (11.15%)** in the 30–34 age group, and **120,565 (10.84%)** in the 20–24 age group. By the end of 2023, these age groups were ranked as **188,165 (11.98%)** in 20–24, **178,302 (11.35%)** in 25–29, and **169,645 (10.80%)** in 30–34. Meanwhile, among foreign nationals who began residing in Türkiye in 2022, the highest numbers were **32,665 (13.79%)** in 20–24, **25,917 (10.94%)** in 25–29, and **23,914 (10.09%)** in 30–34 age groups. In 2023, new residents were distributed as **34,935 (15.79%)** in 20–24, **27,852 (12.59%)** in 15–19, and **25,721 (11.62%)** in 25–29 age groups.

Table 24. Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by year of starting residence and age groups,²⁰

Age Groups	Total Before 2022	Non-Accumulated		Total (As of End of 2023) ²¹
		2022	2023	
0–4	28,189	18,325	18,131	64,645
5–9	66,764	13,530	9,592	89,886
10–14	74,128	11,967	8,402	94,497
15–19	72,074	20,846	27,852	120,772
20–24	120,565	32,665	34,935	188,165
25–29	126,664	25,917	25,721	178,302

19 Compiled from the data of TurkStat (Turkish Statistical Institute). See TurkStat, “Türkiye’de İkamet Etmeye Başladığı Yıla, Cinsiyete ve Yaş Grubuna Göre Yabancı Uyruklu Nüfus (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)” [“Foreign Population in Türkiye by Year of Commencing Residence, Gender, and Age Group (International Migration Statistics, 2023)”], accessed 10 September 2024.

20 Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, “Türkiye’de İkamet Etmeye Başladığı Yıla, Cinsiyete ve Yaş Grubuna Göre Yabancı Uyruklu Nüfus (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)” [“Foreign Population in Türkiye by Year of Commencing Residence, Gender, and Age Group (International Migration Statistics, 2023)”]

21 It represents the cumulative data accumulated over the years, including the period prior to 2022.

30-34	124,002	23,914	21,729	169,645
35-39	111,162	21,716	19,184	152,062
40-44	93,458	16,676	14,665	124,799
45-49	74,778	12,593	11,234	98,605
50-54	63,425	10,705	9,490	83,620
55-59	52,375	9,355	7,526	69,256
60-64	39,533	7,671	5,691	52,895
65-69	29,153	5,693	3,829	38,675
70-74	18,329	3,083	1,905	23,317
75+	17,729	2,290	1,383	21,402
Total	1,112,328	236,946	221,269	1,570,543

As of the end of 2023, the foreign nationals most represented in Türkiye were **217,476 (13.85%)** from Iraq, **164,131 (10.45%)** from Afghanistan, and **114,293 (7.28%)** from Germany. As can be seen, foreigners from these three nationalities account for approximately one-third of the total foreign population in Türkiye. Among the nationalities shown in Figure 16, women generally outnumber men. The nationalities where women exceed men are Uzbekistan, Russia, and Iran. Among **54,594** Uzbek nationals, **17,010 (31.16%)** are male and **37,584 (68.84%)** are female; among **102,585** Russian nationals, **46,779 (45.60%)** are male and **55,806 (54.40%)** are female; and among **101,164** Iranian nationals, **47,384 (46.84%)** are male and **53,780 (53.16%)** are female.

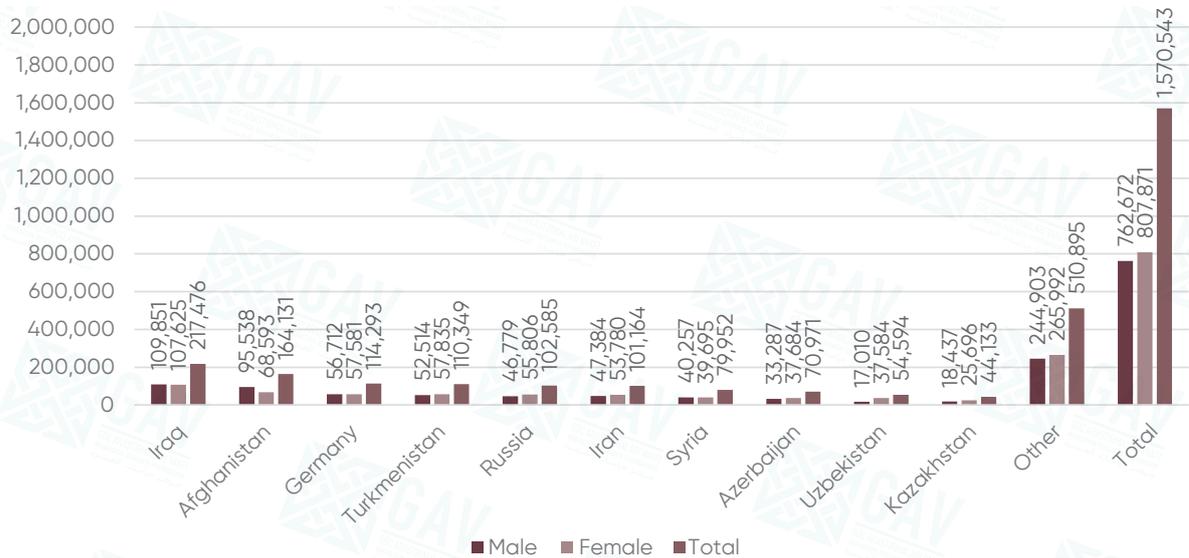


Figure 16. Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities, as of the end of 2023²²

Among foreign nationals who began residing in Türkiye in 2022, the largest groups were **36,215 (15.28%)** from Russia, **18,737 (7.45%)** from Afghanistan, and **17,643 (7.14%)** from Ukraine. In 2023, the largest groups of new residents were **28,483 (12.87%)** from Russia, **17,741 (8.02%)** from

22 Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Türkiye'de İkamet Etmeye Başladığı Yıla, Cinsiyete ve Vatandaşlık Ülkesine Göre Yabancı Uyruklu Nüfus (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Foreign Population in Türkiye by Year of Commencing Residence, Gender, and Country of Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)"], accessed 10 September 2024.

Azerbaijan, and **15,607 (7.05%)** from Turkmenistan. Furthermore, when examining the year-on-year changes in 2023 for new residents, the largest positive changes were observed among Turkmenistan nationals with a **129.62%** increase, Azerbaijan nationals with a **33.65%** increase, and Uzbek nationals with a **20.34%** increase. Conversely, the largest decreases were among Syrian nationals with a **66.28%** decline, Ukrainian nationals with a **51.43%** decline, and Iraqi nationals with a **31.79%** decline.

Table 25. Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by year of starting residence and top 10 nationalities, 2022-2023²³

Nationalities	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Russia	18,783	17,432	36,215	14,433	14,050	28,483	-23.16	-19.40	-21.35
Azerbaijan	6,520	6,754	13,274	9,522	8,219	17,741	46.04	21.69	33.65
Turkmenistan	2,949	3,848	6,797	6,719	8,888	15,607	127.84	130.98	129.62
Afghanistan	12,100	6,637	18,737	10,464	4,630	15,094	-13.52	-30.24	-19.44
Iran	7,738	9,181	16,919	6,783	7,881	14,664	-12.34	-14.16	-13.33
Uzbekistan	3,070	6,102	9,172	5,143	5,895	11,038	67.52	-3.39	20.34
Kazakhstan	4,422	5,643	10,065	4,902	5,934	10,836	10.85	5.16	7.66
Iraq	7,392	6,905	14,297	5,119	4,633	9,752	-30.75	-32.90	-31.79
Germany	5,327	4,567	9,894	4,932	4,429	9,361	-7.42	-3.02	-5.39
Ukraine	5,526	12,117	17,643	3,206	5,363	8,569	-41.98	-55.74	-51.43
Syria	4,612	6,483	11,095	1,595	2,146	3,741	-65.42	-66.90	-66.28
Other	37,560	35,278	72,838	40,254	36,129	76,383	7.17	2.41	4.87
Total	115,999	120,947	236,946	113,072	108,197	221,269	-2.52	-10.54	-6.62

Foreign nationals included in the statistics published by TurkStat comprise **residence permit holders, work permit holders, individuals under international protection, those holding documents equivalent to a residence permit, and former Turkish citizens who possess a blue card.** Individuals under temporary protection, short-term visitors arriving in Türkiye for courses, education, tourism, or similar purposes, and holders of short-term residence permits are not included in these statistics.

In 2022, there were **1,823,836** foreign nationals residing in Türkiye, whereas by 2023, this number had decreased to **1,570,543**. Examining the distribution of the foreign population by the top 10 nationalities, in 2022 the largest groups were **275,305 (15.09%)** from Iraq, **186,160 (10.21%)** from Afghanistan, and **151,049 (8.28%)** from Russia. By 2023, these nationalities were represented by **217,476 (13.85%)** from Iraq, **164,131 (10.45%)** from Afghanistan, and **114,293 (7.28%)** from Germany. Moreover, in 2022, individuals from the top 10 nationalities accounted

23 Cells highlighted in red indicate that the number of foreign nationals from the corresponding country commencing residence in Türkiye did not rank among the top 10 nationalities with the highest foreign population in that year. Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Türkiye'de İkamet Etmeye Başladığı Yıla, Cinsiyete ve Vatandaşlık Ülkesine Göre Yabancı Uyruklu Nüfus (Uluslararası Göç İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Foreign Population in Türkiye by Year of Commencing Residence, Gender, and Country of Citizenship (International Migration Statistics, 2023)."]

for **67.81%** of the total foreign population in Türkiye, while in 2023 this proportion slightly decreased to **67.47%**. In other words, individuals from the top 10 nationalities constitute just over two-thirds of all foreign nationals in Türkiye.

Among the nationalities listed in Table 26, in 2023 the largest male populations were from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Of the **275,305** Iraqi nationals, **140,973 (58.21%)** are male and **134,332 (41.79%)** are female; of the **186,160** Afghan nationals, **109,123 (50.51%)** are male and **77,037 (49.49%)** are female; and of the **79,952** Syrian nationals, **40,257 (50.35%)** are male and **39,695 (49.65%)** are female. Conversely, the nationalities with the largest female populations are Germany, Russia, and Turkmenistan. Of the **110,349** Turkmen nationals, **57,835 (52.41%)** are female and **52,514 (47.59%)** are male; of the **114,293** German nationals, **57,581 (50.38%)** are female and **56,712 (49.62%)** are male; and of the **102,585** Russian nationals, **55,806 (54.40%)** are female and **46,779 (45.60%)** are male. Additionally, the nationality with the highest proportion of women compared to men is Uzbekistan, where **37,584** women represent **68.84%** of the **54,594** Uzbek nationals, compared to **17,010** men.

Table 26. Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities and sex, 2022–2023²⁴

Nationalities	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Iraq	140,973	134,332	275,305	109,851	107,625	217,476	-22.08	-19.88	-21.01
Afghanistan	109,123	77,037	186,160	95,538	68,593	164,131	-12.45	-10.96	-11.83
Germany	54,532	55,921	110,453	56,712	57,581	114,293	4.00	2.97	3.48
Turkmenistan	59,037	57,410	116,447	52,514	57,835	110,349	-11.05	0.74	-5.24
Russia	75,060	75,989	151,049	46,779	55,806	102,585	-37.68	-26.56	-32.08
Iran	56,827	60,199	117,026	47,384	53,780	101,164	-16.62	-10.66	-13.55
Syria	51,385	47,975	99,360	40,257	39,695	79,952	-21.66	-17.26	-19.53
Azerbaijan	31,558	37,326	68,884	33,287	37,684	70,971	5.48	0.96	3.03
Uzbekistan	18,691	43,063	61,754	17,010	37,584	54,594	-8.99	-12.72	-11.59
Kazakhstan	18,845	26,685	45,530	18,437	25,696	44,133	-2.17	-3.71	-3.07
Ukraine	13,977	36,380	50,357	11,463	29,020	40,483	-17.99	-20.23	-19.61
Other	272,116	269,395	541,511	233,440	236,972	470,412	-14.21	-12.04	-13.13
Total	902,124	921,712	1,823,836	762,672	807,871	1,570,543	-15.46	-12.35	-13.89

The province in Türkiye with the highest number of foreign nationals is Istanbul, with **599,118 (38.15%)**, while the province with the lowest number is Bitlis, with **361 (0.02%)**. Moreover, the number of provinces with 1–1,000 foreign nationals is **56**; with 10,001–25,000 foreign nationals is **15**; with 25,001–100,000 foreign nationals is **7**; with 100,001–250,000 foreign nationals is **2**; and with more than 250,000 foreign nationals is **1**.

24 Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Vatandaşlık Ülkesine Göre Yabancı Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023)" ["Foreign Population by Country of Citizenship (Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2023)"], accessed 22 March 2024.

In 2022, the province in Türkiye with the highest number of foreign nationals was İstanbul, with **736,280 (40.37%)**, while the province with the lowest number was Ardahan, with **260 (0.01%)**. By 2023, the province with the highest number remained İstanbul, with **599,118 (38.15%)**, and the province with the lowest number was Bitlis, with **361 (0.02%)**.

Table 27. *Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by province, 2022–2023²⁷*

Provinces	2022		2023		Provinces	2022		2023	
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)		Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)
Adana	15,320	<1	12,696	<1	Kahramanmaraş	4,547	<1	3,753	<1
Adıyaman	1,852	<1	1,603	<1	Karabük	12,305	<1	11,746	<1
Afyonkarahisar	12,255	<1	11,270	<1	Karaman	3,172	<1	2,644	<1
Ağrı	1,211	<1	1,214	<1	Kars	1,246	<1	1,339	<1
Aksaray	17,607	<1	16,253	1.03	Kastamonu	4,586	<1	3,931	<1
Amasya	3,929	<1	3,508	<1	Kayseri	20,186	1.11	18,221	1.16
Ankara	156,786	8.60	142,287	9.06	Kırıkkale	7,990	<1	6,975	<1
Antalya	172,487	9.46	132,157	8.41	Kırklareli	3,428	<1	3,834	<1
Ardahan	260	<1	389	<1	Kırşehir	13,630	<1	11,529	<1
Artvin	581	<1	518	<1	Kilis	1,676	<1	1,170	<1
Aydın	15,532	<1	14,848	<1	Kocaeli	19,134	1.05	18,384	1.17
Balıkesir	12,341	<1	12,232	<1	Konya	31,974	1.75	28,025	1.78
Bartın	2,434	<1	2,496	<1	Kütahya	12,395	<1	11,816	<1
Batman	1,033	<1	1,054	<1	Malatya	4,844	<1	4,482	<1
Bayburt	553	<1	642	<1	Manisa	9,505	<1	8,251	<1
Bilecik	3,234	<1	3,553	<1	Mardin	3,506	<1	3,218	<1
Bingöl	487	<1	614	<1	Mersin	47,593	2.61	49,845	3.17
Bitlis	349	<1	361	<1	Muğla	31,123	1.71	25,086	1.60
Bolu	10,113	<1	9,694	<1	Muş	469	<1	490	<1
Burdur	4,613	<1	4,211	<1	Nevşehir	9,278	<1	8,528	<1
Bursa	61,150	3.35	59,284	3.77	Niğde	4,101	<1	3,960	<1
Çanakkale	5,828	<1	5,261	<1	Ordu	7,360	<1	6,108	<1
Çankırı	6,888	<1	5,181	<1	Osmaniye	934	<1	816	<1
Çorum	8,486	<1	6,676	<1	Rize	1,620	<1	1,539	<1
Denizli	14,822	<1	14,135	<1	Sakarya	28,095	1.54	25,749	1.64
Diyarbakır	1,728	<1	1,693	<1	Samsun	28,655	1.57	20,599	1.31
Düzce	7,333	<1	6,749	<1	Siirt	626	<1	575	<1
Edirne	7,035	<1	7,675	<1	Sinop	2,156	<1	2,114	<1
Elazığ	4,238	<1	4,041	<1	Sivas	7,401	<1	7,118	<1
Erzincan	3,907	<1	4,009	<1	Şanlıurfa	8,242	<1	6,038	<1
Erzurum	5,388	<1	4,586	<1	Şırnak	941	<1	994	<1
Eskişehir	26,785	1.47	25,001	1.59	Tekirdağ	9,107	<1	8,438	<1

27 Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Cinsiyete Göre Yabancı Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023)" ["Foreign Population by Province and Gender (Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2023)"], accessed 22 March 2024.

Gaziantep	15,567	<1	14,082	<1	Tokat	7,095	<1	7,162	<1
Giresun	5,732	<1	5,726	<1	Trabzon	15,180	<1	13,815	<1
Gümüşhane	2,363	<1	2,717	<1	Tunceli	397	<1	446	<1
Hakkari	764	<1	743	<1	Uşak	8,662	<1	8,038	<1
Hatay	5,250	<1	4,968	<1	Van	4,292	<1	3,615	<1
İğdır	875	<1	969	<1	Yalova	28,072	1.54	24,811	1.58
Isparta	9,659	<1	8,738	<1	Yozgat	10,062	<1	9,824	<1
İstanbul	736,280	40.37	599,118	38.15	Zonguldak	4,821	<1	4,789	<1
İzmir	40,375	2.21	37,776	2.41	Grand Total	1,823.836	100,00	1,570.543	100,00

Examining the distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by the top 10 provinces, in 2022 the provinces with the highest numbers of foreign nationals were İstanbul with **736,280 (40.37%)**, Antalya with **172,487 (9.46%)**, and Ankara with **156,786 (8.60%)**. By 2023, these provinces were ranked as İstanbul with **599,118 (38.15%)**, Ankara with **142,287 (9.06%)**, and Antalya²⁸ with **132,157 (8.41%)**. As can be seen, the number of foreign nationals in Ankara surpassed that in Antalya in 2023. Moreover, the proportion of residence permit holders in the top 10 provinces relative to the total number of residence permit holders in Türkiye was **73.17%** in 2022, decreasing slightly to **71.59%** in 2023.

Table 28. Distribution of the foreign population in Türkiye by the top 10 provinces, 2022-2023²⁹

Provinces	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
İstanbul	364,816	371,464	736,280	285,203	313,915	599,118	-21,82	-15,49	-18,63
Ankara	74,037	82,749	156,786	67,063	75,224	142,287	-9,42	-9,09	-9,25
Antalya	74,552	97,935	172,487	54,910	77,247	132,157	-26,35	-21,12	-23,38
Bursa	30,324	30,826	61,150	29,288	29,996	59,284	-3,42	-2,69	-3,05
Mersin	25,414	22,179	47,593	28,101	21,744	49,845	10,57	-1,96	4,73
İzmir	17,753	22,622	40,375	16,057	21,719	37,776	-9,55	-3,99	-6,44
Konya	17,187	14,787	31,974	14,757	13,268	28,025	-14,14	-10,27	-12,35
Sakarya	14,462	13,633	28,095	13,274	12,475	25,749	-8,21	-8,49	-8,35
Muğla	13,703	17,420	31,123	10,671	14,415	25,086	-22,13	-17,25	-19,40
Eskişehir	14,066	12,719	26,785	12,960	12,041	25,001	-7,86	-5,33	-6,66
Samsun	14,484	14,171	28,655	10,141	10,458	20,599	-29,98	-26,20	-28,11
Other	241,326	221,207	462,533	220,247	205,369	425,616	-8,73	-7,16	-7,98
Total	902,124	921,712	1,823.836	762,672	807,871	1,570.543	-15,46	-12,35	-13,89

28 There are news reports indicating that Russians and Ukrainians constitute a significant presence in Antalya. See *EnSonHaber*, "Antalya'ya Rus ve Ukraynalı Akını: İki Sektörde İşler Yoğunlaştı" ["An Influx of Russians and Ukrainians to Antalya: Business Intensifies in Two Sectors"], accessed February 7, 2024; *Gazete Duvar*, "Antalya'da Kurulan Rus Şirket Sayısı Yüzde 527 Arttı" ["The Number of Russian Companies Established in Antalya Increased by 527%"], accessed February 7, 2024; NTV, "Antalya'da Rus ve Ukrayna Plakalı Araçlarla Korsan Taksicilik" ["Illegal Taxi Operations with Russian and Ukrainian Licensed Vehicles in Antalya"], accessed February 7, 2024; *Sözcü*, "Antalya'da Rus ve Ukraynalılar Kaçak Fotoğrafçılığa Da Başladı" ["Russians and Ukrainians in Antalya Also Began Engaging in Unlicensed Photography"], accessed February 7, 2024; T24, "The Era of Russian and Ukrainian Barbers in Antalya: Prices Set in Foreign Currency", accessed February 7, 2024.

29 Compiled from the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Cinsiyete Göre Yabancı Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023)" ["Foreign Population by Province and Gender (Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2023)."]

2.2. Residence Permits

A residence permit can be defined as a permit granted by a state to foreign nationals who wish to reside within its borders.³⁰ This definition is also reflected in the legislation. Under the Law on Foreigners and International Protection, a residence permit is defined as a “*permit document issued for the purpose of staying in Türkiye.*”³¹ According to the same law, a foreign national who wishes to stay in Türkiye for more than 90 days is required to obtain a residence permit.³² There are a total of six types of residence permits that foreigners wishing to stay in Türkiye can apply for. These are short-term, family, student, humanitarian, victim of human trafficking, and long-term residence permits.³³ According to PMM data, **nearly 3.3 million foreign nationals have been granted residence permits in the last 15 years.**³⁴

Examining the distribution of foreign nationals residing in Türkiye with residence permits over the years, the number of residence permit holders increased from **379,804** in 2014 to **1,107,032** in 2023. The peak year was 2022, with **1,354,094** residence permit holders. On the other hand, considering that the only year in the last ten years, aside from 2023, in which the number of residence permit holders decreased was 2020, when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were most strongly felt, the approximately **250,000 decrease in residence permit holders** in 2023 compared to the previous year is notable.³⁵

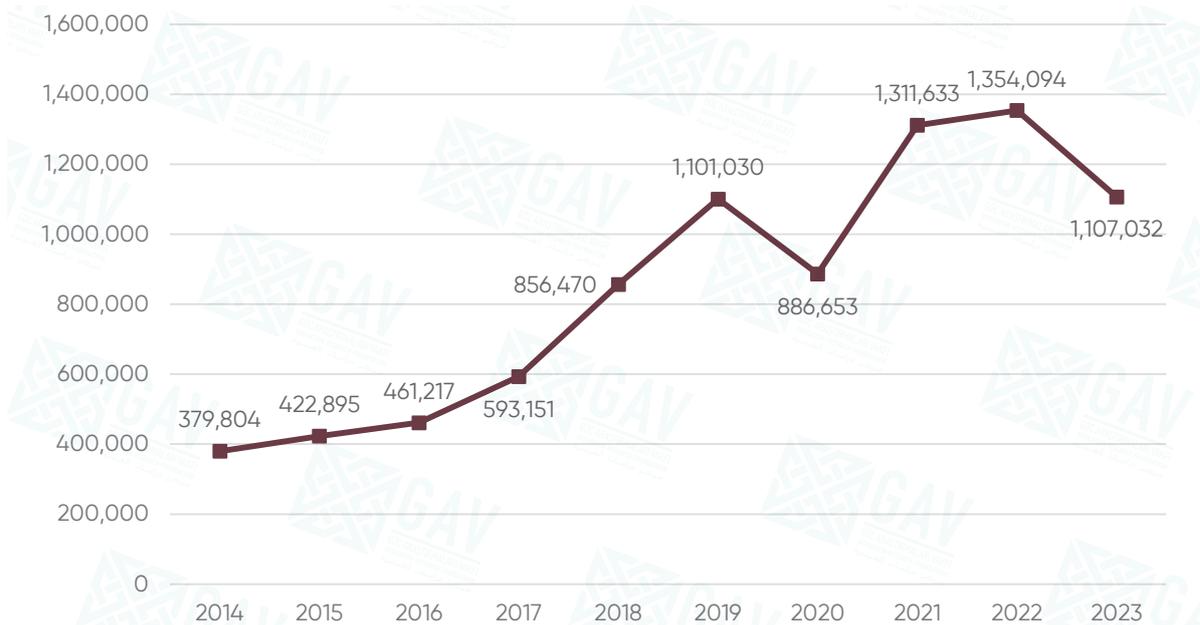


Figure 17. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye by year of residence permit, 2014-2023³⁶

30 Perruchoud (ed.) & Redpath-Cross (ed.), *Göç Sözlüğü Terimleri [Glossary on Migration Terms]*, p. 44.

31 LFIP (Law on Foreigners and International Protection), Official Gazette 28615 (11 April 2013), Law No. 6458, Art. 3/1-j.

32 LFIP (Law on Foreigners and International Protection), Art. 19.

33 LFIP (Law on Foreigners and International Protection), Art. 30.

34 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), “Göç Tarihi” [“Migration History,”] accessed 3 April 2024.

35 The decrease in the number of foreign nationals granted residence permits in 2023 has also been reported in the media. See NTV, “Türkiye’de Resmî İzinle İkamet Eden Yabancı Sayısı Düştü” [“Number of Foreign Nationals Officially Residing in Türkiye Decreased,”] accessed 4 April 2024; *Ekonomim*, “2023 Yabancılar İçin ‘Tersine Göç’ Yılı Oldu” [“2023 Became a ‘Reverse Migration’ Year for Foreigners,”] accessed 4 April 2024.

36 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior. See PMM, “İkamet

Examining the distribution of residence permits granted to foreigners in 2023 by type, the largest number of permits was for short-term residence, with **635,453 (57.4%)**. This was followed by student residence permits with **163,476 (14.77%)** and family residence permits with **117,939 (10.65%)**. The number of individuals in the “other” category, which includes humanitarian, victim of human trafficking, and long-term residence permits, was **189,402 (17.11%)**.

As observed in Figure 18, the source of the decline in 2023 is primarily due to the dramatic decrease in the number of short-term residence permit holders. Indeed, in 2023, the numbers in family, student, short-term, and other types of residence permits decreased compared to 2022 only for short-term residence permits.

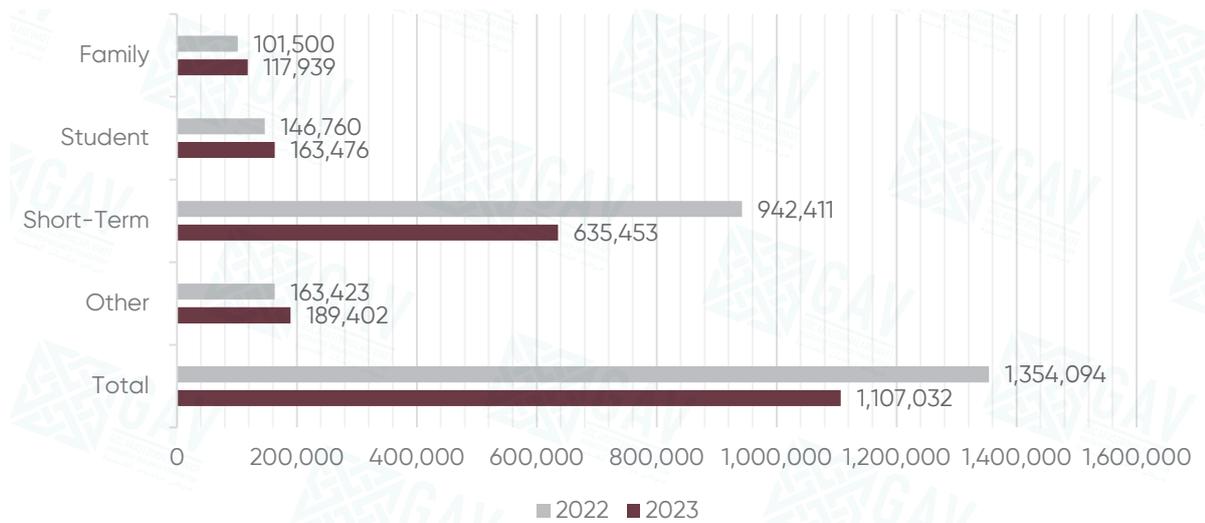


Figure 18. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye by type of residence permit, 2022-2023³⁷

The nationalities receiving the highest number of residence permits in Türkiye are Iraq, Russia, and Turkmenistan. In 2022, the largest groups were **149,859 (11.07%)** from Russia, **132,041 (9.75%)** from Iraq, and **115,001 (8.49%)** from Turkmenistan. By 2023, this ranking changed to **109,431 (9.89%)** from Turkmenistan, **100,268 (9.06%)** from Russia, and **91,109 (8.23%)** from Iraq. Furthermore, examining the top 10 nationalities receiving the most residence permits in 2023, only the number of Azerbaijani nationals increased compared to 2022, by **1.98%**.

Table 29. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities with residence permits, 2022-2023

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
Turkmenistan	115,001	8.49	109,431	9.89	-4.84
Russia	149,859	11.07	100,268	9.06	-33.09
Iraq	132,041	9.75	91,109	8.23	-31.00
Syria	100,722	7.44	79,406	7.17	-21.16

³⁷ İzinleri ["Residence Permits,"] accessed 4 January 2024.

37 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

Iran	95,036	7.02	79,379	7.17	-16.47
Azerbaijan	66,873	4.94	68,200	6.16	1.98
Uzbekistan	60,175	4.44	52,384	4.73	-12.95
Kazakhstan	45,018	3.32	43,244	3.91	-3.94
Afghanistan	51,701	3.82	41,885	3.78	-18.99
Ukraine	47,035	3.47	37,030	3.34	-21.27
Other	490,633	36.23	404,696	36.56	-17.52
Total	1,354,094	100.00	1,107,032	100.00	-18.25

Examining the distribution of foreigners in Türkiye with short-term residence permits by the top 10 nationalities, in 2022 the largest groups were **129,450 (13.74%)** from Russia, **118,865 (12.61%)** from Iraq, and **89,958 (9.55%)** from Turkmenistan. By 2023, these nationalities were ranked as **79,173 (12.46%)** from Iraq, **71,102 (11.19%)** from Turkmenistan, and **68,586 (10.79%)** from Russia. As shown in Table 30, the number of Russian nationals holding short-term residence permits in Türkiye decreased by approximately **60,000 (47.02%)**.

Table 30. *Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye with short-term residence permits by the top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023³⁸*

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
Iraq	118,865	12.61	79,173	12.46	-33.39
Turkmenistan	89,958	9.55	71,102	11.19	-20.96
Russia	129,450	13.74	68,586	10.79	-47.02
Syria	82,057	8.71	59,945	9.43	-26.95
Iran	69,341	7.36	47,007	7.40	-32.21
Afghanistan	40,289	4.28	30,160	4.75	-25.14
Uzbekistan	42,591	4.52	27,962	4.40	-34.35
Ukraine	34,599	3.67	26,150	4.12	-24.42
Azerbaijan	25,830	2.74	18,275	2.88	-29.25
Egypt	21,468	2.28	14,480	2.28	-32.55
Other	287,963	30.56	192,613	30.31	-33.11
Total	942,411	100.00	635,453	100.00	-32.57

In 2022, the nationalities receiving the highest number of student residence permits in Türkiye were **16,925 (11.53%)** from Azerbaijan, **15,531 (10.58%)** from Iran, and **11,454 (7.8%)** from Turkmenistan. By 2023, these nationalities were ranked as **19,960 (12.21%)** from Iran, **18,351 (11.23%)** from Turkmenistan, and **18,333 (11.21%)** from Azerbaijan. Furthermore, among the nationalities listed in Table 32, the top three nationalities with a positive year-on-year change in student residence permits in 2023 were Turkmenistan with **60.21%**, Kazakhstan with **30.21%**, and Iran with **28.52%**, whereas the nationalities with a negative change were Somalia with **24.31%**, Iraq with **21.83%**, and Jordan with **10.77%**.

38 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

Table 31. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye with student residence permits by the top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023³⁹

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
Iran	15,531	10.58	19,960	12.21	28.52
Turkmenistan	11,454	7.80	18,351	11.23	60.21
Azerbaijan	16,925	11.53	18,333	11.21	8.32
Kazakhstan	6,266	4.27	8,159	4.99	30.21
Syria	6,814	4.64	6,896	4.22	1.20
Egypt	5,040	3.43	6,274	3.84	24.48
Iraq	7,663	5.22	5,990	3.66	-21.83
Yemen	5,050	3.44	5,067	3.10	0.34
Somalia	6,664	4.54	5,044	3.09	-24.31
Jordan	5,542	3.78	4,945	3.02	-10.77
Other	59,811	40.75	64,457	39.43	7.77
Total	146,760	100.00	163,476	100.00	11.39

Examining the distribution of foreigners in Türkiye with family residence permits by the top 10 nationalities, in 2022 the largest groups were **12,984 (12.74%)** from Azerbaijan, **9,022 (8.85%)** from Uzbekistan, and **7,246 (7.11%)** from Russia. By 2023, these nationalities were ranked as **13,582 (11.52%)** from Azerbaijan, **11,674 (9.90%)** from Uzbekistan, and **10,947 (9.28%)** from Russia.

Table 32. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye with family residence permits by the top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023⁴⁰

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
Azerbaijan	12,984	12.74	13,582	11.52	4.61
Uzbekistan	9,022	8.85	11,674	9.90	29.39
Russia	7,246	7.11	10,947	9.28	51.08
Morocco	6,702	6.57	7,566	6.42	12.89
Turkmenistan	5,240	5.14	6,611	5.61	26.16
Ukraine	6,560	6.43	6,301	5.34	-3.95
Iran	4,817	4.73	5,900	5.00	22.48
Kyrgyzstan	3,902	3.83	4,558	3.86	16.81
Syria	3,659	3.59	4,526	3.84	23.69
Kazakhstan	3,227	3.17	3,626	3.07	12.36
Other	38,587	37.85	42,648	36.16	10.52
Total	101,946	100.00	117,939	100.00	15.69

39 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

40 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

For a neighborhood to be closed to foreigners holding residence permits, temporary protection status, or international protection, the proportion of foreigners with these statuses must exceed 20% of the neighborhood's population.⁴¹

According to an announcement made by PMM in mid-2022, a total of **781** neighborhoods across Türkiye were closed to the registration of new foreign nationals, "except for newborns and nuclear family reunification," and by June of the same year, this number had risen to **1,169**. As of June 2022, the distribution of closed neighborhoods, villages, or village areas by province was as follows: Adana **75**, Adıyaman **19**, Afyonkarahisar **20**, Ağrı **1**, Aksaray **11**, Amasya **1**, Ankara (all neighborhoods in Altındağ and Mamak, plus **15** in other districts), Antalya **10**, Bartın **3**, Batman **2**, Bayburt **1**, Bilecik **4**, Bingöl **1**, Bolu **10**, Burdur **10**, Bursa **19**, Çanakkale **10**, Çankırı **9**, Çorum **7**, Denizli **1**, Diyarbakır **3**, Düzce **2**, Elazığ **11**, Erzincan **5**, Eskişehir **3**, Gaziantep **162**, Giresun **1**, Gümüşhane **1**, Hatay **109**, Iğdır **1**, Isparta **4**, İstanbul **54**, İzmir **27**, Kahramanmaraş **32**, Karabük **7**, Karaman **1**, Kastamonu **7**, Kayseri **14**, Kırklareli **1**, Kırşehir **3**, Kilis **83**, Konya **18**, Kütahya **2**, Malatya **16**, Manisa **1**, Mardin **59**, Mersin **63**, Muğla **2**, Muş **1**, Nevşehir **15**, Niğde **10**, Osmaniye **8**, Rize **1**, Sakarya **3**, Samsun **5**, Sinop **2**, Sivas **5**, Şanlıurfa **170**, Tokat **1**, Trabzon **1**, Uşak **6**, Yalova **7**, Yozgat **4**.⁴²

At the beginning of 2023, the Bursa Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (BİGİM) announced that **781** neighborhoods across Türkiye were closed to registration. However, the announcement included information only on **19** neighborhoods located within Bursa province.⁴³ The information in the BİGİM announcement stating that **781** neighborhoods were closed to registration is considered to be outdated. As noted above, by June 2022, the number of neighborhoods closed to registration had reached **1,169**.⁴⁴

According to an announcement by the İstanbul Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (İİGİM), İstanbul was closed to temporary protection registrations in 2019. For residence permit holders, certain districts and neighborhoods are closed to new registrations. In January 2021, the districts of Esenyurt and Fatih were closed, and in October 2022, the districts of Avcılar, Başakşehir, Başgöçmenler, Esenler, Bahçelievler, Sultangazi, Küçükçekmece, and Zeytinburnu were closed to the registration of foreign nationals with residence permits. In addition, new registrations, except for newborns and core family reunification, were prohibited in **54** additional neighborhoods.⁴⁵

Examining the distribution of foreigners with residence permits by province in Türkiye, in 2022 the highest number of residence permit holders was in İstanbul with **705,133 (52.07%)**, while the lowest was in Tunceli with **48**. By 2023, the province with the highest number of residence permit holders remained İstanbul with **554,183 (50.09%)**, and the lowest was Tunceli with **52**.

41 Republic of Türkiye, İstanbul Governorship, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM), "İstanbul İlinde Bulunan Yabancılar Hakkında Basın Açıklaması (01.01.2023)" ["Press Release on Foreign Nationals in İstanbul (01.01.2023)"], accessed April 3, 2024.

42 Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), "Announcement on Neighborhood Closure," accessed April 3, 2024.

43 Republic of Türkiye, Bursa Governorship, Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (BİGİM), "Mahalle Kapatma Duyurusu Hk." ["Announcement on Neighborhood Closure"], accessed September 29, 2023. The page was no longer available after this date.

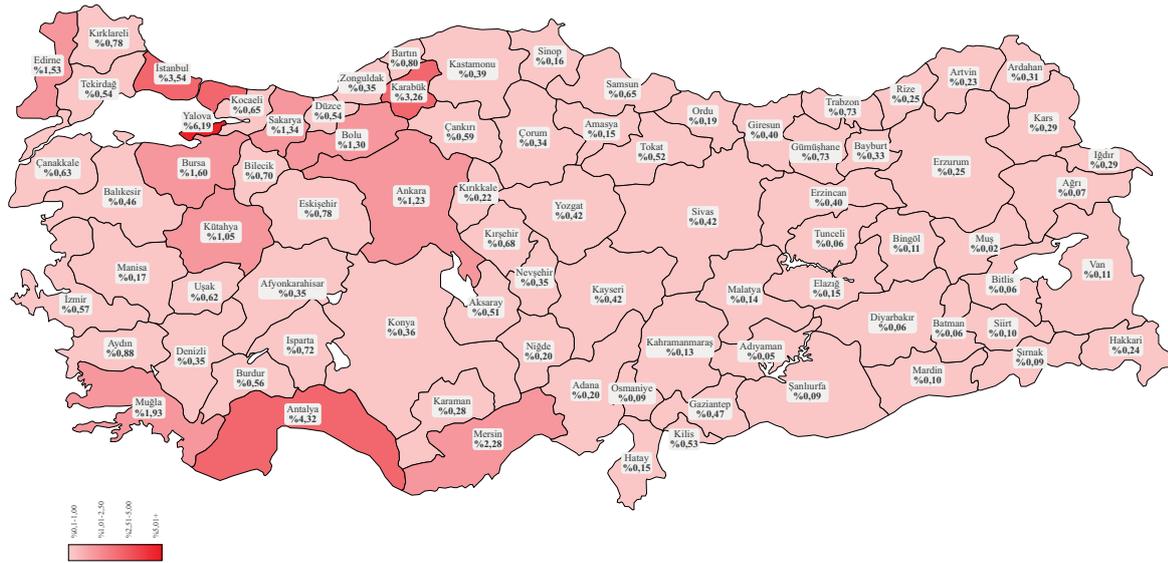
44 In July 2023, the Directorate General of Migration Management announced that the number of neighborhoods closed remained at **1,169**. See: Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), "İstanbul'da 39 İlçenin Yabancıların İkamet İzinlerine Kapatıldığı" ["Press Release Regarding Claims that Foreign Residence Permits Were Closed in 39 Districts of İstanbul"], accessed April 3, 2024.

45 İİGİM, "İstanbul İlinde Bulunan Yabancılar Hakkında Basın Açıklaması (01.01.2023)" ["Press Release on Foreign Nationals in İstanbul (01.01.2023)"]

Table 33. Distribution of foreign nationals in Türkiye by province with residence permits, 2022-2023⁴⁶

Provinces	2022		2023		Provinces	2022		2023	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Adana	6,642	<1	4,568	<1	Kahramanmaraş	2,160	<1	1,451	<1
Adıyaman	449	<1	329	<1	Karabük	8,545	<1	8,309	<1
Afyonkarahisar	2,669	<1	2,594	<1	Karaman	660	<1	747	<1
Ağrı	399	<1	378	<1	Kars	765	<1	813	<1
Aksaray	2,382	<1	2,246	<1	Kastamonu	1,671	<1	1,501	<1
Amasya	587	<1	523	<1	Kayseri	6,644	<1	6,129	<1
Ankara	84,346	6.23	71,096	6.43	Kırıkkale	581	<1	619	<1
Antalya	161,434	11.92	116,502	10.53	Kırklareli	2,710	<1	2,923	<1
Ardahan	159	<1	288	<1	Kırşehir	2,226	<1	1,687	<1
Artvin	460	<1	396	<1	Kilis	1,489	<1	830	<1
Aydın	11,234	<1	10,231	<1	Kocaeli	15,316	1.13	13,734	1.24
Balıkesir	5,354	<1	5,801	<1	Konya	11,498	<1	8,316	<1
Bartın	1,735	<1	1,657	<1	Kütahya	5,931	<1	6,043	<1
Batman	412	<1	402	<1	Malatya	1,358	<1	1,053	<1
Bayburt	149	<1	285	<1	Manisa	3,023	<1	2,493	<1
Bilecik	1,041	<1	1,589	<1	Mardin	883	<1	861	<1
Bingöl	205	<1	303	<1	Mersin	44,046	3.25	44,278	4.00
Bitlis	229	<1	209	<1	Muğla	27,158	2.01	20,592	1.86
Bolu	4,354	<1	4,207	<1	Muş	87	<1	81	<1
Burdur	1,405	<1	1,542	<1	Nevşehir	1,202	<1	1,107	<1
Bursa	53,276	3.93	51,541	4.66	Niğde	993	<1	762	<1
Çanakkale	4,164	<1	3,611	<1	Ordu	2,146	<1	1,474	<1
Çankırı	2,082	<1	1,216	<1	Osmaniye	680	<1	500	<1
Çorum	1,848	<1	1,821	<1	Rize	1,021	<1	866	<1
Denizli	4,409	<1	3,740	<1	Sakarya	15,056	1.11	14,744	1.33
Diyarbakır	1,283	<1	1,178	<1	Samsun	14,306	1.06	8,950	<1
Düzce	2,306	<1	2,230	<1	Siirt	360	<1	354	<1
Edirne	5,807	<1	6,409	<1	Sinop	375	<1	367	<1
Elazığ	767	<1	883	<1	Sivas	2,570	<1	2,723	<1
Erzincan	1,031	<1	984	<1	Şanlıurfa	4,487	<1	2,074	<1
Erzurum	1,944	<1	1,844	<1	Şırnak	441	<1	513	<1
Eskişehir	7,572	<1	7,101	<1	Tekirdağ	6,798	<1	6,318	<1

46 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management. See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.



Map 9. Distribution of foreign nationals with residence permits in Türkiye by proportion of provincial population, 2023⁴⁹

Examining the distribution of foreigners with residence permits in Türkiye by the top 10 provinces, in 2022 the population of residence permit holders in these provinces accounted for **85.34%** of all residence permit holders, while by 2023 this proportion had decreased slightly to **84.18%**. This indicates that a significant share of residence permit holders are concentrated in just **10** provinces. In 2022, the provinces with the highest number of residence permits were Istanbul with **705,133 (52.07%)**, Antalya with **161,434 (11.92%)**, and Ankara with **84,346 (6.23%)**. By 2023, the same provinces remained the top three with Istanbul at **554,183 (50.09%)**, Antalya at **116,502 (10.53%)**, and Ankara at **71,096 (6.43%)**.

Table 34. Distribution of foreign nationals with residence permits in Türkiye by top 10 provinces, 2022–2023⁵⁰

Provinces	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
İstanbul	705,133	52.07	554,183	50.09	-21.41
Antalya	161,434	11.92	116,502	10.53	-27.83
Ankara	84,346	6.23	71,096	6.43	-15.71
Bursa	53,276	3.93	51,541	4.66	-3.26
Mersin	44,046	3.25	44,278	4.00	0.53
İzmir	28,452	2.10	25,686	2.32	-9.72
Muğla	27,158	2.01	20,592	1.86	-24.18
Yalova	21,405	1.58	18,872	1.71	-11.83

49 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See: PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; TurkStat, "İl, Tek Yaş ve Cinsiyete Göre Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023)" ["Population by Province, Single-Year Age, and Gender (Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2023)"].

50 Compiled from the data of the Presidency of Migration Management. See PMM, "İkamet İzinleri" ["Residence Permits"]; Şağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

Sakarya	15,056	1.11	14,744	1.33	-2.07
Kocaeli	15,316	1.13	13,734	1.24	-10.33
Other	198,472	14.66	175,042	15.82	-11.81
Total	1,354.094	100.00	1,106.270	100.00	-18.30

2.3. Work Permits

A work permit is the document required for foreigners to work in Türkiye.⁵¹ Foreign nationals without this permit are prohibited from working or being employed in Türkiye.⁵² Three types of work permits can be issued in Türkiye: limited-term, unlimited-term, and independent work permits.⁵³ However, an examination of the statistics published by the Ministry indicates that until 2019, work permits were issued for all three types, whereas from 2019 onward, only limited-term work permits have been issued.

In its 2023 statistics, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security published, for the first time, a table including statistics by type of work permit. The MoLSS provided four types of permits for foreign nationals, granting a total of **329,066** permits. Of these, **239,835 (72.88%)** were standard work permits, **76,707 (23.31%)** were "exemption information forms for foreigners working in seasonal agricultural and livestock jobs," **12,090 (3.67%)** were "work permit exemptions," and permits for foreigners working in free zones were relatively low, with only **434 (0.13%)** issued.

Table 35. *Distribution of foreign nationals granted permits by type of document, 2023*⁵⁴

Type of Permit	Number of Permits
Work Permit	239,835
Work Permit Issued for Foreigners to Work in Free Zones ⁵⁵	434
Work Permit Exemption ⁵⁶	12,090
Information Form on Work Permit Exemption for Foreigners to Work in Seasonal Agriculture and Livestock Jobs ⁵⁷	76,707
Total	329,066

51 International Labor Law (ILL), *Official Gazette* No. 29800 (August 13, 2016), Law No. 6735, Art. 3/1-c.

52 ÜİK, art. 6/2.

53 ÜİK, art. 10.

54 Compiled from the data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MoLSS) and prepared by the authors. See: Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MoLSS), "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"], accessed March 19, 2025.

55 The MoLSS has added the following note for this category: "6735 sayılı Uluslararası İşgücü Kanunu'nun 18'inci maddesi uyarınca düzenlenen izinlere göre hesaplanmıştır." ["Calculated based on the permits issued under Article 18 of International Labor Law No. 6735."] See: MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"]

56 The MoLSS has added the following note for this category: "Uluslararası İşgücü Kanunu Uygulama Yönetmeliği'nin 48'inci ve 53'üncü maddeleri uyarınca düzenlenen izinlere göre hesaplanmıştır." ["Calculated based on the permits issued under Articles 48 and 53 of the Regulation on the Implementation of the International Labor Law."] See: MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"]

57 Note added by MoLSS: "Geçici Koruma Sağlanan Yabancıların Çalışma İzinlerine Dair Yönetmelik'in 5'inci maddesinin dördüncü fıkrası ve Uluslararası Koruma Başvuru Sahibi ve Uluslararası Koruma Statüsü Sahibi Kişilerin Çalışmasına Dair Yönetmelik'in 9'uncu maddesinin birinci fıkrası uyarınca düzenlenen izinlere göre hesaplanmıştır." ["Calculated based on the permits issued in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection and Article 9(1) of the Regulation on the Employment of Applicants for International Protection and Persons with International Protection Status."] See Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"],

The number of foreign nationals granted work permits increased from **45,823** in 2013 to **239,835** in 2023. Over the last 10 years, the only year in which the number of work permits decreased compared to the previous year was 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the number of work permits issued declined by approximately **20,000** compared to the previous year (**145,232**), reaching **123,574**. However, considering that the number of work permits granted in 2024 represents a **94.08%** change relative to 2020, it can be inferred that the decrease during the pandemic was only a temporary effect.

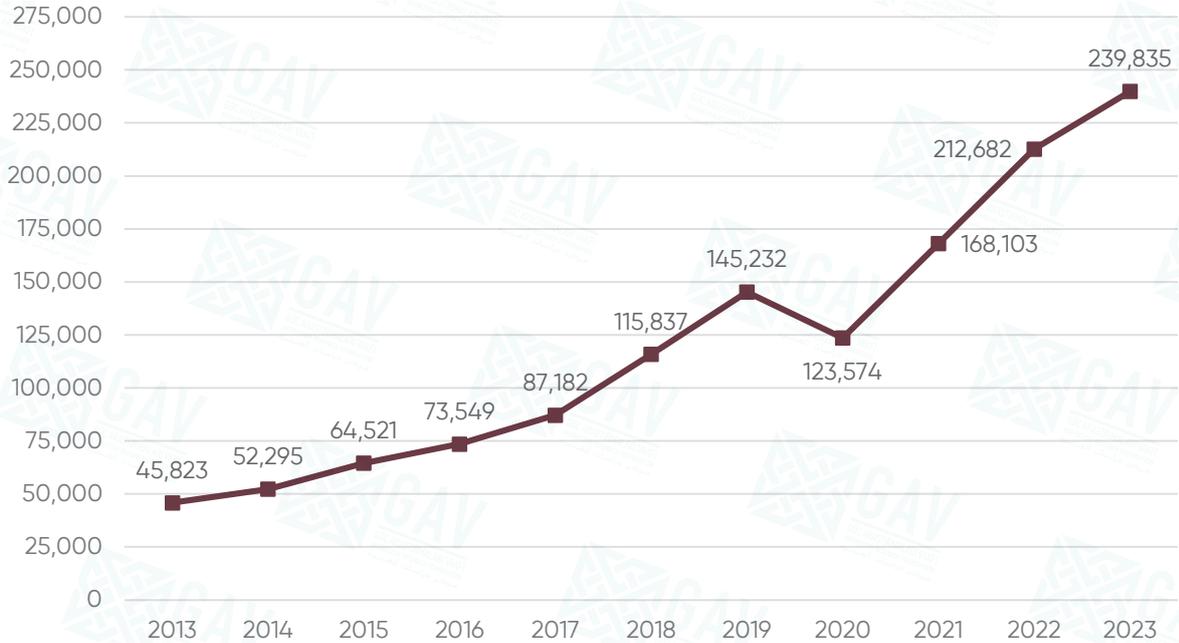


Figure 19. Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits in Türkiye by year, 2013–2023⁵⁸

Examining the distribution of foreigners granted work permits in Türkiye by gender, in 2022 **57,829 (27.19%)** were women and **154,853 (72.81%)** were men. By 2023, these numbers had changed to **66,299 (27.64%)** women and **173,536 (72.36%)** men.

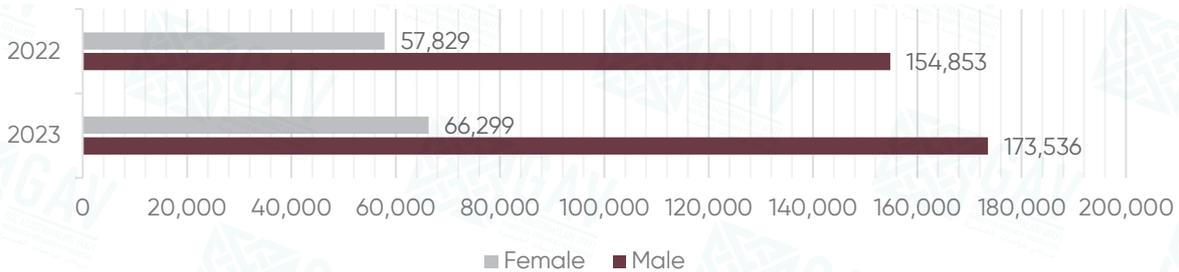


Figure 20. Distribution of foreign nationals granted work permits in Türkiye by gender and year, 2022–2023⁵⁹

The months with the highest number of work permits issued in 2022 were March with **23,666 (11.13%)**, April with **21,510 (10.11%)**, and June with **21,261 (10.0%)**. By 2023, the top months

58 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"]

59 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"],

shifted to December with **25,877 (10.79%)**, November with **24,806 (10.34%)**, and March with **22,584 (9.42%)**.

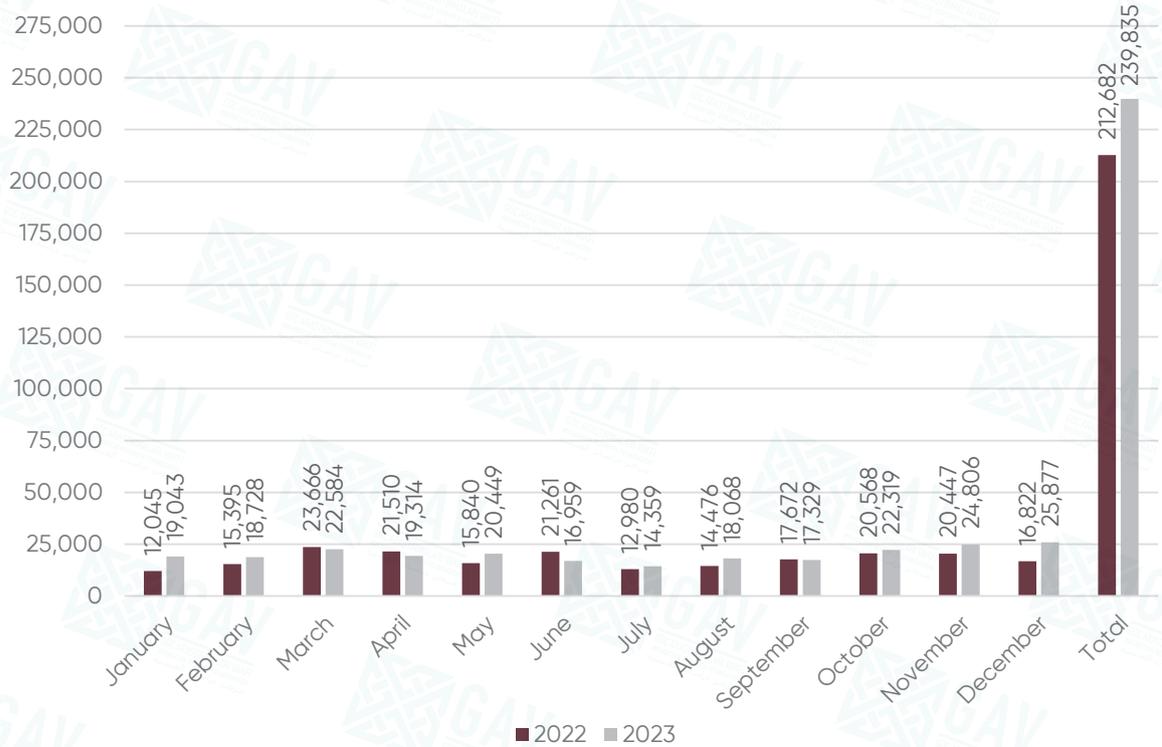


Figure 21. Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits in Türkiye by month, 2022–2023⁶⁰

Work permits in Türkiye are generally granted to “young” age groups. In 2022, the largest numbers of work permits were issued to foreigners aged **25–29 (49,787, 23.41%)**, **30–34 (41,139, 19.34%)**, and **20–24 (34,873, 16.40%)**. By 2023, the top age groups were **25–29 (53,773, 22.42%)**, **30–34 (46,623, 19.44%)**, and **35–39 (37,597, 15.68%)**. As can be seen, while the **20–24** age group was among the most granted work permits in 2022, in 2023, more work permits were issued to the **30–34** age group than to the **20–24** group. Furthermore, examining the year-over-year change in work permits by age group, the largest positive changes occurred in the **40–44 (26.61%)**, **45–49 (22.72%)**, and **35–39 (22.49%)** age groups.

Table 36. Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits in Türkiye by age group, 2022–2023⁶¹

Age Groups	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15–19	3,774	1,510	5,284	3,815	1,815	5,630	1.09	20.20	6.55
20–24	26,915	7,958	34,873	25,659	8,892	34,551	-4.67	11.74	-0.92

60 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022” [Work Permit Statistics – 2022], accessed 20 March 2024; MoLSS, “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023” [“Work Permit Statistics – 2023”]

61 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022”. [“Work Permit Statistics – 2022”]; MoLSS, “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023” [Work Permit Statistics – 2023].

25-29	39,277	10,510	49,787	42,103	11,670	53,773	7.20	11.04	8.01
30-34	30,412	10,727	41,139	34,894	11,729	46,623	14.74	9.34	13.33
35-39	21,664	9,030	30,694	26,862	10,735	37,597	23.99	18.88	22.49
40-44	13,122	6,928	20,050	17,037	8,348	25,385	29.84	20.50	26.61
45-49	8,256	4,901	13,157	10,336	5,810	16,146	25.19	18.55	22.72
50-54	5,605	3,172	8,777	6,506	3,796	10,302	16.07	19.67	17.37
55-59	3,485	1,891	5,376	3,686	2,116	5,802	5.77	11.90	7.92
60-64	1,587	844	2,431	1,741	983	2,724	9.70	16.47	12.05
65+	756	358	1,114	897	405	1,302	18.65	13.13	16.88
Total	154,853	57,829	212,682	173,536	66,299	239,835	12.06	14.65	12.77

In 2021, the highest numbers of work permits were issued to foreigners with high school or equivalent education (**67,502, 31.74%**), primary school education (**42,628, 20.04%**), and bachelor's degree (**38,708, 18.20%**). In 2022, these numbers were **85,975 (35.85%)** for high school or equivalent, **49,067 (20.46%)** for primary school, and **43,819 (18.27%)** for bachelor's degree holders. Furthermore, as shown in Table 38, in 2023 the number of work permits granted to foreigners with secondary school education (**43,754**) and those with bachelor's degree (**43,819**) were quite close. On the other hand, the "unknown" category in educational attainment is notable: in 2022, **17,279 (8.12%)** of work permit holders had unknown education level, while in 2023 this number dropped to **2,436 (1.02%)**. Although the 2022 figure appears relatively high, the **85.90%** decrease in 2023 is significant.

Table 37. Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits in Türkiye by educational attainment, 2022-2023⁶²

Level of Education ⁶³	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Early childhood education	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary school	38,658	3,970	42,628	45,144	3,923	49,067	16.78	-1.18	15.11
Secondary school	27,542	5,679	33,221	36,197	7,557	43,754	31.42	33.07	31.71
High school and equivalent	43,080	24,422	67,502	56,264	29,711	85,975	30.60	21.66	27.37
Associate degree	3,367	2,333	5,700	4,221	2,900	7,121	25.36	24.30	24.93
Bachelor's degree	21,996	16,712	38,708	25,740	18,079	43,819	17.02	8.18	13.20
Master's degree and above	4,350	3,294	7,644	4,338	3,273	7,611	-0.28	-0.64	-0.43
Unknown	15,860	1,419	17,279	1,614	822	2,436	-89.82	-42.07	-85.90
Total	154,853	57,829	212,682	173,536	66,299	239,835	12.06	14.65	12.77

62 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2021". [*Work Permit Statistics – 2021*]; MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022" [*Work Permit Statistics – 2022*].

63 In the statistics published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) in 2021, the education level of "okuryazar" ["literate"] was included; however, this category was removed in 2022 and replaced with "erken çocukluk dönemi eğitimi" ["early childhood education."]. Yet, in 2022, no individuals were recorded under this category. By 2023, this category was also removed.

In 2022 and 2023, approximately half of the foreigners granted work permits in Türkiye were Syrian nationals. In 2022, the top nationalities granted work permits were Syria with **113,208** individuals (**53.23%**), Russia with **11,561** (**5.44%**), and Turkmenistan with **8,962** (**4.21%**). By 2023, the figures were Syria **108,520** (**45.25%**), Russia **17,785** (**7.42%**), and Turkmenistan **13,128** (**5.47%**).

When examining the year-on-year change in the number of work permits granted, among the nationalities in Table 39, the largest positive increases were observed for Uzbekistan (**+80.39%**), Russia (**+53.84%**), and Turkmenistan (**+46.49%**). The only nationality with a negative change was Syria, with a **4.14%** decrease. Additionally, for some nationalities, the increase in work permits granted to men was significantly higher than that for women. For example, work permits for Uzbek men rose by **224.60%** compared to the previous year, while permits for Uzbek women increased by **35.31%**. Similarly, for Turkmen nationals, the number of work permits for men increased by **104.69%**, whereas for women, the increase was **20.72%**.

Syrian nationals occupy a dominant position among foreigners granted work permits. Considering the overall Syrian population in Türkiye, this situation can be regarded as “natural.” Furthermore, the proportion of Syrians aged **15–64** under Temporary Protection relative to those granted work permits can be considered relatively low. As of 31 December 2022,⁶⁴ the number of Syrians aged **15–64** was **1,988,750**, with the share of those granted work permits at **5.69%**. By 4 January 2024,⁶⁵ the population had decreased to **1,838,459**, and the share of work permit holders had risen to **5.90%**. The fact that over 5% of this population holds work permits suggests that Syrian nationals may be working or being employed informally. However, data on the age distribution of Syrians with residence permits have not been publicly shared, so this calculation could not include them. Therefore, if the calculation were based on the entire Syrian population, the proportion mentioned above is expected to be somewhat lower.

Table 38. *Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits in Türkiye by top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023*⁶⁶

Nationalities	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Syria	105,811	7,397	113,208	102,122	6,398	108,520	-3.49	-13.51	-4.14
Russia	6,663	4,898	11,561	11,140	6,645	17,785	67.19	35.67	53.84
Turkmenistan	2,750	6,212	8,962	5,629	7,499	13,128	104.69	20.72	46.49
Iran	4,079	2,826	6,905	4,978	3,543	8,521	22.04	25.37	23.40
Uzbekistan	1,114	3,563	4,677	3,616	4,821	8,437	224.60	35.31	80.39
Kyrgyzstan	2,212	4,436	6,648	2,919	5,268	8,187	31.96	18.76	23.15
Kazakhstan	1,585	3,157	4,742	2,828	3,629	6,457	78.42	14.95	36.17
Afghanistan	4,492	465	4,957	5,687	517	6,204	26.60	11.18	25.16

64 Drawn from the authors' archive.

65 Drawn from the authors' archive.

66 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022”. [*Work Permit Statistics – 2022*]; MoLSS, “Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023” [*Work Permit Statistics – 2023*].

Azerbaijan	2,371	2,122	4,493	3,299	2,737	6,036	3914	28.98	34.34
Indonesia	869	3,853	4,722	1,104	4,503	5,607	2704	16.87	18.74
Other	22,907	18,900	41,807	30,214	20,739	50,953	31.90	9.73	21.88
Total	154,853	57,829	212,682	173,536	66,299	239,835	12.06	14,65	12.77

In 2022, the sectors with the most work permits were: **18,785** people (**%8.83**) in Accommodation, **16,747** people (**%7.87**) in Wholesale trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles), and **15,146** people (**%7.12**) in Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel. By 2023, these sectors were: **22,747** people (**%9.48**) in Accommodation, **17,151** people (**%13.24**) in Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel, and **16,699** people (**%6.96**) in Wholesale trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles).

In 2023, the change in work permits by economic activities compared to 2022 shows that "office administration, office support and business support activities," which was not among the top 10 economic activities in the previous year, entered the top 10, while "food and beverage service activities" dropped in the ranking. Among the economic activities listed in Table 39, those with the largest positive change in the number of work permits compared to the previous year were **98.21%** increase in "construction of buildings outside buildings," **32.6%** increase in "manufacture of fabricated metal products (excluding machinery and equipment)," and **24.77%** increase in "office administration, office support and business support activities." The only economic activity showing a notable decrease was "manufacture of wearing apparel" with **17.82%** decline.

Another notable point is the high concentration of the "unknown" category among economic activities for which work permits were issued in MoLSS statistics. In **2022**, **5.38%** (**11,438**) of foreigners granted work permits fell into the unknown category, whereas by **2023**, this figure had decreased by **29.60%** to **8,052** (**3.36%**). This is an issue that requires clarification by MoLSS.

Table 39. Distribution of foreigners with work permits in Türkiye by the top 10 economic activities, 2022–2023⁶⁷

Economic Activities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	
Accommodation	18,785	8.83	22,747	9.48	21.09
Household activities as employers of domestic personnel	15,146	7.12	17,151	7.15	13.24
Wholesale trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles)	16,747	7.87	16,699	6.96	-0.29
Construction of non-residential buildings	8,233	3.87	16,319	6.80	98.21
Manufacture of garments	14,530	6.83	11,941	4.98	-17.82
Manufacture of fabricated metal products (excluding machinery and equipment)	7,945	3.74	10,556	4.40	32.86
Manufacture of textiles	9,777	4.60	9,798	4.09	0.21
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicles and motorcycles)	8,812	4.14	9,171	3.82	4.07

67 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022". ["Work Permit Statistics – 2022"]; MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" ["Work Permit Statistics – 2023"]

Education	7,302	3.43	7,510	3.13	2.85
Office management, office support, and business support activities	5,825	2.74	7,268	3.03	24.77
Food and beverage service activities	6,512	3.06	7,184	3.00	10.32
Unknown	11,438	5.38	8,052	3.36	-29.60
Other	81,630	38.38	95,439	39.79	16.92
Total	212,682	100.00	239,835	100.00	12.77

In 2023, the distribution of work permits granted to foreign nationals across provinces in Türkiye shows that fewer than **1,000** foreigners received a work permit in most provinces. The number of provinces where **1-1,000** foreigners were granted work permits is **60**, those with **1,001-2,500** is **8**, with **2,501-10,000** is **7**, with **10,001-25,000** is **4**, and provinces where more than **25,000** work permits were granted is **2**. The province with the fewest work permits granted is Tunceli with **5**, while the province with the highest is Istanbul with **83,429 (34.79%)**.

Table 40. The distribution of foreign nationals granted work permits by province in Türkiye, 2022–2023⁶⁸

Provinces	2022		2023		Provinces	2022		2023	
	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)		Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)
Adana	3,363	1.58	4,062	1.69	Kahramanmaraş	3,280	1.54%	2,576	1.07
Adıyaman	174	<1	115	<1	Karabük	131	<1	122	<1
Afyonkarahisar	365	<1	387	<1	Karaman	68	<1	62	<1
Ağrı	18	<1	33	<1	Kars	21	<1	40	<1
Aksaray	211	<1	391	<1	Kastamonu	105	<1	142	<1
Amasya	36	<1	47	<1	Kayseri	3,263	1.53%	3,779	1.58
Ankara	10,587	4.98	12,612	5.26	Kırıkkale	89	<1	114	<1
Antalya	22,107	10.39	27,564	11.49	Kırklareli	229	<1	441	<1
Ardahan	13	<1	5	<1	Kırşehir	41	<1	69	<1
Artvin	40	<1	44	<1	Kilis	1,056	<1	989	<1
Aydın	714	<1	712	<1	Kocaeli	6,080	2.86%	8,157	3.40
Balıkesir	458	<1	1,143	<1	Konya	4,728	2.22%	5,888	2.46
Bartın	74	<1	233	<1	Kütahya	171	<1	217	<1
Batman	83	<1	95	<1	Malatya	876	<1	815	<1
Bayburt	13	<1	9	<1	Manisa	879	<1	978	<1
Bilecik	183	<1	172	<1	Mardin	371	<1	441	<1
Bingöl	35	<1	31	<1	Mersin	13,553	6.37%	22,106	9.22
Bitlis	5	<1	11	<1	Muğla	3,574	1.68%	4,917	2.05
Bolu	663	<1	1,077	<1	Muş	13	<1	17	<1
Burdur	154	<1	130	<1	Nevşehir	240	<1	378	<1
Bursa	16,206	7.62	17,239	7.19	Niğde	86	<1	144	<1

68 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2022". [*Work Permit Statistics – 2022*]; MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri – 2023" [*Work Permit Statistics – 2023*].

Çanakkale	327	<1	344	<1	Ordu	113	<1	125	<1
Çankırı	161	<1	257	<1	Osmaniye	278	<1	255	<1
Çorum	118	<1	116	<1	Rize	110	<1	122	<1
Denizli	1,128	<1	1,268	<1	Sakarya	1,694	<1	2,097	<1
Diyarbakır	180	<1	194	<1	Samsun	480	<1	630	<1
Düzce	300	<1	337	<1	Siirt	36	<1	35	<1
Edirne	166	<1	268	<1	Sinop	98	<1	101	<1
Elazığ	148	<1	198	<1	Sivas	44	<1	47	<1
Erzincan	101	<1	115	<1	Şanlıurfa	2,165	1.02%	1,891	<1
Erzurum	108	<1	108	<1	Şırnak	22	<1	39	<1
Eskişehir	923	<1	1,302	<1	Tekirdağ	1,566	<1	1,866	<1
Gaziantep	13,111	6.16	12,262	5.11	Tokat	88	<1	107	<1
Giresun	56	<1	65	<1	Trabzon	712	<1	733	<1
Gümüşhane	18	<1	24	<1	Tunceli	2	<1	5	<1
Hakkari	5	<1	7	<1	Uşak	595	<1	996	<1
Hatay	3,018	1.42	2,293	<1	Van	89	<1	120	<1
Iğdır	20	<1	22	<1	Yalova	766	<1	980	<1
Isparta	247	<1	282	<1	Yozgat	36	<1	46	<1
İstanbul	82,147	38.62	83,429	34.79	Zonguldak	796	<1	693	<1
İzmir	6,354	2.99	7,552	3.15	Grand Total	212,682	100.00	239,835	100.00

In 2022, the provinces with the highest number of foreign nationals granted work permits were **82,147 (38.62%)** in Istanbul, **22,107 (10.39%)** in Antalya, and **16,206 (7.62%)** in Bursa, while in 2023, the same provinces were ranked as **83,429 (34.79%)** in Istanbul, **27,564 (11.49%)** in Antalya, and **22,106 (9.22%)** in Mersin. Among the provinces listed in Table 41, those showing the highest positive change in work permit numbers were Mersin with a **63.11%** increase, Muğla with a **37.58%** increase, and Kocaeli with a **34.16%** increase. The only province showing a negative change was Gaziantep with a **6.48%** decrease. Additionally, among these provinces, Istanbul was the only one where the number of work permits granted to men decreased while those granted to women increased. The number of work permits granted to foreign men in Istanbul fell by **3.07%**, whereas the number granted to women rose by **13.72%**.

Table 41. Distribution of foreign nationals with work permits by top 10 provinces in Türkiye, 2022-2023⁶⁹

Provinces	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
İstanbul	59,490	22,657	82,147	57,663	25,766	83,429	-3.07	13.72	1.56
Antalya	7,958	14,149	22,107	11,072	16,492	27,564	39.13	16.56	24.68
Mersin	11,340	2,213	13,553	18,859	3,247	22,106	66.31	46.72	63.11

69 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS). See MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri - 2022". [Work Permit Statistics - 2022]; MoLSS, "Çalışma İzin İstatistikleri - 2023" [Work Permit Statistics - 2023]

Bursa	14,843	1,363	16,206	15,722	1,517	17,239	5.92	11.30	6.37
Ankara	6,099	4,488	10,587	7,716	4,896	12,612	26.51	9.09	19.13
Gaziantep	11,786	1,325	13,111	11,093	1,169	12,262	-5.88	-11.77	-6.48
Kocaeli	5,507	573	6,080	7,502	655	8,157	36.23	14.31	34.16
İzmir	3,832	2,522	6,354	4,586	2,966	7,552	19.68	17.61	18.85
Konya	4,400	328	4,728	5,548	340	5,888	26.09	3.66	24.53
Muğla	1,380	2,194	3,574	2,188	2,729	4,917	58.55	24.38	37.58
Other	28,218	6,017	34,235	31,587	6,522	38,109	11.94	8.39	11.32
Total	154,853	57,829	212,682	173,536	66,299	239,835	12.06	14.65	12.77

2.4. International Students in Primary and Secondary Education

Türkiye, international students under the age of 18 who are enrolled in the formal education system are referred to in this study as primary and secondary education students. Primary education students include those attending elementary and lower secondary schools, while secondary education students cover those enrolled at the high school level.

The number of international students enrolled in primary and secondary education in Türkiye increased from **993,336** in 2022 to **1,006,821** in 2023. Examining the distribution of students by educational level, the number of preschool students rose from **64,218** in 2022 to **68,700** in 2023, while the number of elementary school students increased from **410,654** to **433,304**. In contrast, the number of lower secondary students declined from **355,019** in 2022 to **346,487** in the following year, and the number of high school students dropped from **163,445** to **158,960**. Notably, the decline in the numbers of lower secondary and high school students compared to the previous year is striking.

Table 42. Numerical data on international students enrolled in primary and secondary education in Türkiye, 2022–2023⁷⁰

Level of Education	Grades	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)	
		Class Population	Population by Level of Education	Class Population	Population by Level of Education	Class Population	Population by Level of Education
Preschool	(Age 5)	64,218	64,218	68,070	68,070	6.00	6.00
Elementary School	Grade 1 (Age 6)	132,112	410,654	126,526	433,304	-4.23	5.52
	Grade 2 (Age 7)	110,755		120,657		8.94	
	Grade 3 (Age 8)	79,983		106,902		33.66	
	Grade 4 (Age 9)	87,804		79,219		-9.78	

⁷⁰ Compiled based on the data of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). See Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of National Education, Directorate General for Lifelong Learning (MoNE-DGLLL), "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2022" ["Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2022"], accessed 11 September 2024, p. 52; Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of National Education, Directorate General for Lifelong Learning (MoNE-DGLLL), "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2023" ["Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2023"], accessed 11 September 2024, p. 65.

Lower Sec- ondary School	Grade 5 (Age 10)	101,215	355,019	91,188	346,487	-991	-2.40
	Grade 6 (Age 11)	97,146		97,631		0.50	
	Grade 7 (Age 12)	81,056		91,040		12.32	
	Grade 8 (Age 13)	75,602		66,628		-11.87	
	Grade 9 (Age 14)	62,636		58,808		-6.11	
Upper Sec- ondary School (High School)	Grade 10 (Age 15)	33,422	163,445	43,771	158,960	30.96	-2.74
	Grade 11 (Age 16)	19,287		25,132		30.31	
	Grade 12 (Age 17)	19,881		16,821		-15.39	
	Preparatory Year (High School)	-		150		-	
	Accelerated Education Program (AEP) (A, B, C and D)	6,971		-		-	
	Open Schools	21,248		14,278		-32.80	
Total Numbers of Students		993,336	993,336	1,006.821	1,006.821	1.36	1.36

In Türkiye, **68.57%**⁷¹ of foreign nationals of primary and secondary school age were enrolled in school in 2022, increasing to **76.44%** in 2023.⁷²

In 2023, of the **136,011** foreign nationals of preschool age, **68,070** were enrolled in school; of the **479,150** of elementary school age, **433,304**; of the **374,683** of lower secondary school age, **346,487**; and of the **327,278** international students of upper secondary school age, **158,960** were attending primary and secondary education institutions in Türkiye. In other words, **50.05%** of preschool-age students, **90.43%** of elementary school-age students, **92.47%** of lower secondary school-age students, and **48.57%** of upper secondary school-age students were enrolled in school.

As seen in Table 43, school enrollment at the grade level for international students of elementary and lower secondary school age is mostly above **90%**. In contrast, it is notable that **74.61%** of international students in Grade 4 and **72.78%** of those in Grade 8 are enrolled in school. Meanwhile, enrollment among high school-age students dramatically declines as they approach Grade 12. This may be interpreted as a reflection of the relatively higher demand for elementary and lower secondary education among foreign nationals in Türkiye, compared to the lower emphasis placed on upper secondary education. Although we do not have data to confirm this, it is plausible that many students of upper secondary school age may have entered the workforce.

71 MoNE-DGILL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2022" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2022], p. 51.

72 MoNE-DGILL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2022" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2022], p. 51.

Table 43. Number of international students in Türkiye by level of education, 2023⁷³

Level of Education	Grades	Total Enrolled Students	Number of Students by Level of Education	School-Age Population	School-Age Population by Level of Education	Enrollment Rate by Grade (%)
Preschool	(Age 5)	68,070	68,070	136,011	136,011	50.05
Elementary School	Grade 1 (Age 6)	126,526	433,304	131,620	479,150	96.13
	Grade 2 (Age 7)	120,657		124,632		96.81
	Grade 3 (Age 8)	106,902		116,714		91.59
	Grade 4 (Age 9)	79,219		106,184		74.61
Secondary School	Grade 5 (Age 10)	91,188	346,487	91,371	374,683	99.80
	Grade 6 (Age 11)	97,631		96,100		101.59
	Grade 7 (Age 12)	91,040		95,671		95.16
	Grade 8 (Age 13)	66,628		91,541		72.78
High School	Grade 9 (Age 14)	58,808	158,960	87,298	327,278	67.36
	Grade 10 (Age 15)	43,771		85,864		50.98
	Grade 11 (Age 16)	25,132		78,991		31.82
	Grade 12 (Age 17)	16,821		75,125		22.39
	Preparatory Year (High School)	150		-		-
	Accelerated Education Program (AEP) (A, B, C and D)	-		-		-
	Open Schools	14,278		-		-
Total Numbers of Students		1,006.821	1,006.821	1,317.122	1,317.122	76.44

The total enrollment rate of Syrians of primary and secondary school age increased from **66.76%** in 2022 to **75.65%** in 2023. This pattern is consistent across all levels of education. In other words, in 2023, the enrollment rates of Syrians under Temporary Protection by level of education increased in every educational stage compared to the previous year. However, notably, while the number of students at the preschool level rose from **50,102** to **56,050**, and at the elementary level from **335,689** to **365,000**, the numbers at the lower secondary (**283,478** to **278,593**) and upper secondary (**113,240** to **112,217**) levels declined compared to the previous year.

73 Compiled based on the data of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). See MoNE-DGILL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2023" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2023], p. 65.

Table 44. Enrollment rates of Syrians under Temporary Protection by level of education, 2022-2023⁷⁴

Level of Education		2022	2023
Preschool (Age 5)	Number Of Students	50,102	56,050
	Enrollment Rate	41.36%	47.40%
Elementary School (Ages 6-9)	Number Of Students	335,689	365,000
	Enrollment Rate	77.85%	90.85%
Lower Secondary School (Ages 10-13)	Number Of Students	283,478	278,593
	Enrollment Rate	79.98%	93.53%
High School (Ages 14-17)	Number Of Students	113,240	112,217
	Enrollment Rate	42.69%	43.96%
Total	Number Of Students	782,509	811,860
	Enrollment Rate	66.76%	75.65%

In 2022 and 2023, the majority of foreign nationals attending primary and secondary education institutions in Türkiye were Syrians. Additionally, while the number of Syrian students increased in 2023 compared to the previous year, the number of students from other nationalities decreased across all levels of education. In 2022, of the **993,336** foreign students enrolled in primary and secondary education in Türkiye, **782,509 (78.78%)** were Syrian and **210,827 (21.22%)** were from other nationalities. By 2023, of the **1,006,821** students, **811,860 (80.64%)** were Syrian and **194,961 (19.36%)** were from other nationalities.

Table 45. Distribution of international students in primary and secondary education in Türkiye by nationality, 2022-2023⁷⁵

Level of Education		2022	2023
Preschool (Age 5)	Number Of Syrian Students	50,102	56,050
	Number Of Other International Students	14,116	12,020
	Total	64,218	68,070
Elementary school (Ages 6-9)	Number Of Syrian Students	335,689	365,000
	Number Of Other International Students	74,965	68,304
	Total	410,654	433,304
Lower Secondary School (Ages 10-13)	Number Of Syrian Students	283,478	278,593
	Number Of Other International Students	71,541	67,894
	Total	355,019	346,487
High School (14-17 Yaş)	Number Of Syrian Students	113,240	112,217
	Number Of Other International Students	50,205	46,743
	Total	163,445	158,960
Total	Number Of Syrian Students	782,509	811,860
	Number Of Other International Students	210,827	194,961
	Total	993,336	1,006,821

74 Compiled based on the data of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). See MoNE-DGLLL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2023" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2023], p. 66.

75 Compiled based on the data of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). See MoNE-DGLLL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2022" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2022], p. 52; MoNE-DGLLL, "İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2023" [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2023], p. 66.

In addition to formal education, the Ministry of National Education provides foreign nationals with educational opportunities through various courses. These include courses such as “Social Cohesion and Life,” “Turkish for Foreigners,” “Family School,” and “Qur’an (Elifba) Reading.” Among these, the course specifically designed for primary education students is “Turkish Language Instruction for Foreigners (Ages 6–12) Level 1.” In 2023, a total of **7,889** children benefited from this course, comprising **4,033** boys and **3,856** girls.⁷⁶

2.5. International Students in Higher Education

Internationalization in higher education broadly encompasses both increasing institutional international cooperation and hosting a greater number of foreign nationals. A key component of internationalization in terms of human resources can be considered international students. International students are defined as individuals who move from their country of permanent residence to another country for the purpose of completing their higher education.⁷⁷

Governments prioritize international student mobility for reasons such as economic benefits and human resource acquisition. Globally, countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia have long been active in this field.⁷⁸ Although Türkiye took steps regarding international student mobility in the 1990s,⁷⁹ the importance given to international student mobility increased in 2010.⁸⁰ Investments made in this area after 2010 have paid off, and by 2018, Türkiye was included among the top 10 countries worldwide hosting the highest number of international students.⁸¹

As shown in Figure 22, the number of international students studying in Türkiye has increased rapidly over the past 10 years. While **48,183** international students were enrolled in Türkiye in the 2013–2014 academic year, this number rose to **301,694** in the 2022–2023 academic year.

76 Compiled based on the data of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). See MoNE-DGLLL, “İzleme ve Değerlendirme Raporu 2023” [Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2023], p. 69.

77 Faruk Levent, “The Economic Impacts of International Student Mobility in the Globalization Process,” *Journal of Human Sciences* 13, no. 3 (2016): 3853; Ali Zafer Sağıroğlu, “Dünyada ve Türkiye’de Uluslararası Öğrenci Trendleri” [“International Student Trends in the World and in Türkiye”], in *Uluslararası Öğrenci Sempozyumu Bildiriler Kitabı 2015* [Proceedings of the International Student Symposium 2015], ed. Ali Ankmert (Istanbul: Federation of International Student Associations, 2016), 34.

78 Bekir S. Gür et al., *Küresel Eğilimler Işığında Türkiye’de Uluslararası* [International Students in Türkiye in the Light of Global Trends] (Istanbul: SETA Publications, 2012).

79 This refers to the initiation of the *Great Student Project*, a student program launched by Türkiye in the 1990s when Türkiye recognized the independence of the Turkic states in Turkistan to promote social and cultural relations. For the Great Student Project, see Selim Öztürk, *Büyük Öğrenci Projesinden Türkiye Bursları Projesine Geçiş Süreci ve Türkiye’nin Öğrenci Politikasındaki Değişim* [From the Great Student Project to the Türkiye Scholarships Project: The Transition Process and Changes in Türkiye’s Student Policy] (Ankara: Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, Master’s Thesis, 2014), 43–52; Hacı Murat Terzi, *Türkiye’s Great Student Project* (Ankara: Ufuk University, Institute of Social Sciences, Master’s Thesis, 2013), 29.

80 The establishment of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) in 2010, initially including the Department of Foreign Students (later renamed the Department of International Students), marked an important step for Türkiye’s participation in international student mobility. Since then, Türkiye has developed policies on this mobility and as noted, is now among the top ten countries hosting the most students. See Law on the Organization and Duties of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, Official Gazette 27544 (6 April 2010), Law No. 5978, Art. 11.

81 *TRT Haber*, “Türkiye, Yabancı Öğrenci Sayısıyla Dünyada İlk 10’a Girdi” [“Türkiye Enters the Top 10 in the World by Number of International Students”], 6 December 2020, accessed 28 March 2024.

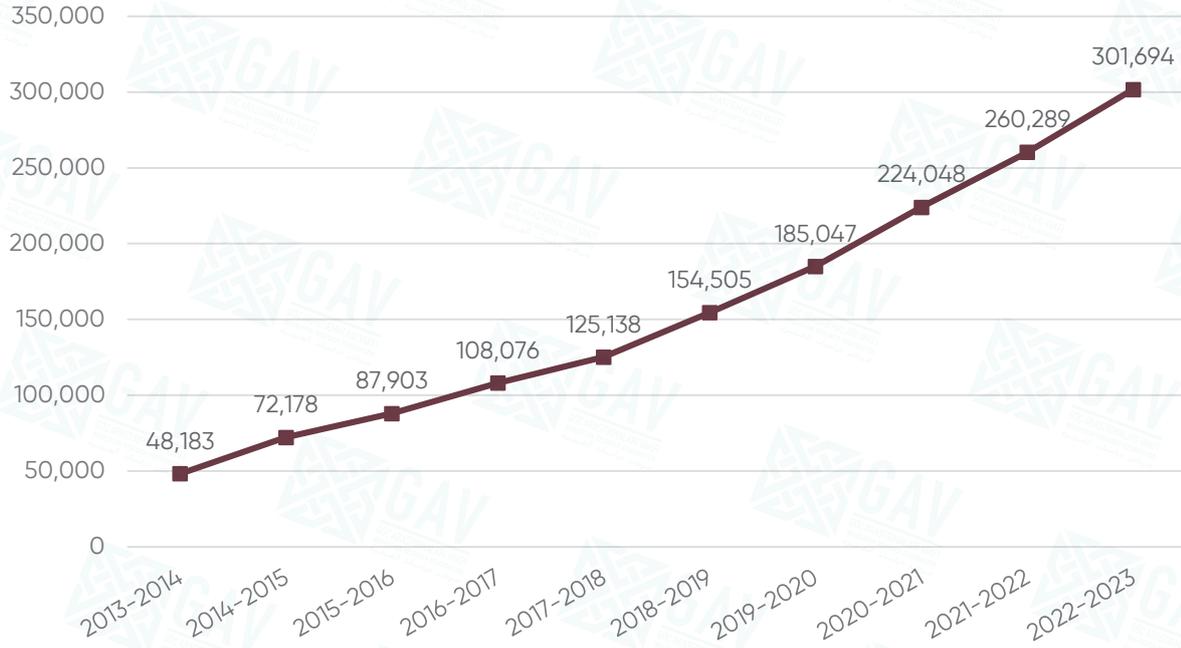


Figure 22. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by academic year, 2014–2023⁸²

When comparing the number of international students studying in Türkiye with that of Turkish citizens, in the 2021–2022 academic year, there were **260,289** international students and **8,296,959** Turkish students. By the 2022–2023 academic year, the number of international students had risen to **301,694**, while the number of Turkish students decreased by more than 1.3 million to **6,950,142**. Meanwhile, the proportion of international students relative to Turkish citizens increased from **3.14%** in 2021–2022 to **4.34%** in 2022–2023.

82 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2013-2014 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2013–2014 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2014-2015 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2014–2015 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2015-2016 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2015–2016 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2016-2017 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2016–2017 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2017-2018 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2017–2018 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2018-2019 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2018–2019 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2019-2020 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2019–2020 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2020-2021 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2020–2021 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023.

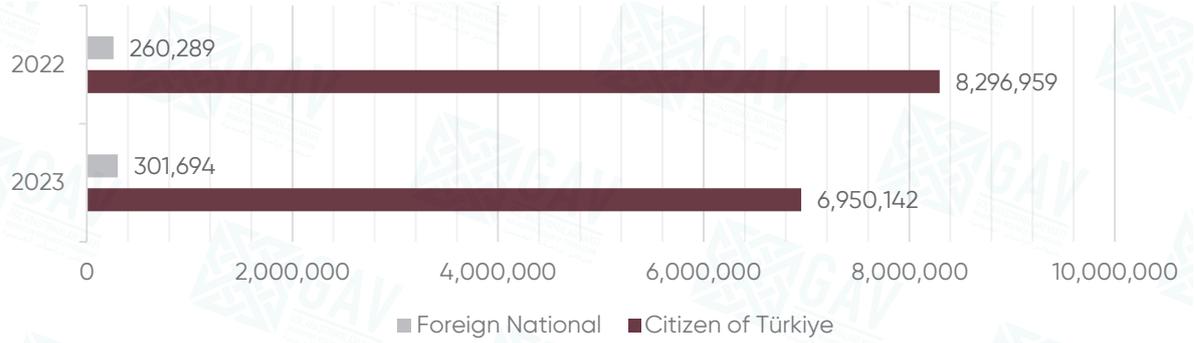


Figure 23. Distribution of students in higher education institutions in Türkiye by nationality, 2022–2023⁸³

In the 2021–2022 academic year, of the **260,289** international students studying in Türkiye, **98,181 (37.72%)** were female and **162,108 (62.28%)** were male. In the 2022–2023 academic year, of the **301,694** students, **122,024 (40.45%)** were female and **179,670 (59.55%)** were male.

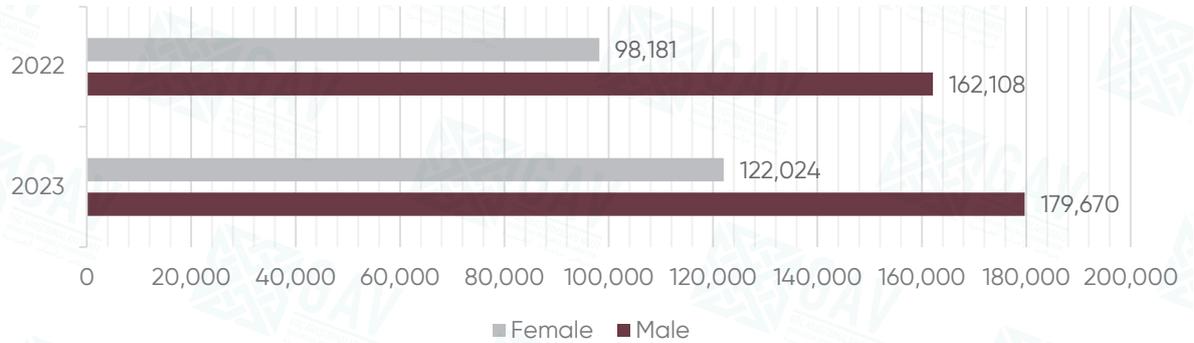


Figure 24. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by gender, 2022–2023⁸⁴

In 2022, of the **260,289** international students studying in Türkiye, **64,911 (24.94%)** were enrolled in private universities and **195,378 (75.06%)** in public universities. By 2023, of the **301,694** international students, **87,236 (28.92%)** were enrolled in private universities and **214,458 (71.08%)** in public universities. As can be seen, private universities increased their share of international student mobility in Türkiye in 2023 compared to the previous year.

83 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”]; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”]; Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğrenci Sayıları Özet Tablosu (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Summary Table of Student Numbers (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 23 September 2023; Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğrenci Sayıları Özet Tablosu (Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Summary Table of Student Numbers (Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 23 September 2023.

84 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”]; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”].

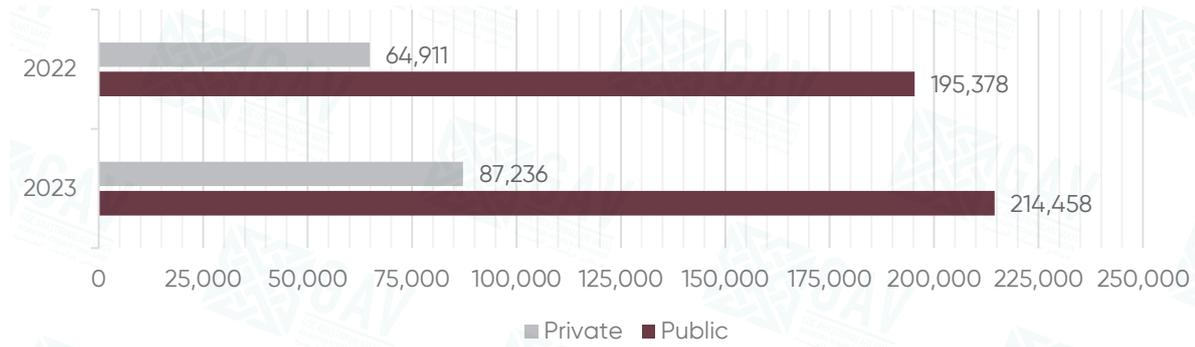


Figure 25. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by type of university, 2022–2023⁸⁵

In both the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years, the majority of international students in Türkiye’s higher education institutions were enrolled at the undergraduate level. In the 2021–2022 academic year, the largest group consisted of **185,732** students (**71.36%**) at the undergraduate level, **33,306** (**12.80%**) at the associate degree level, and **30,499** (**11.72%**) at the master’s level. Doctoral students numbered **10,752** (**4.13%**), representing the smallest group among the various levels of study. By the 2022–2023 academic year, the numbers had increased to **217,810** (**72.20%**) for undergraduates, **40,832** (**13.53%**) for associate degree students, **31,980** (**10.60%**) for master’s students, and **11,072** (**3.67%**) for doctoral students.

Table 46. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by level of study, 2022–2023⁸⁶

Levels of Study	2021–2022 Academic Year			2022–2023 Academic Year			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Associate degree	19,585	13,721	33,306	21,898	18,934	40,832	11.81	37.99	22.60
Undergraduate	115,974	69,758	185,732	131,188	86,622	217,810	13.12	24.18	17.27
Master’s	19,457	11,042	30,499	19,377	12,603	31,980	–0.41	14.14	4.86
Doctorate	7,092	3,660	10,752	7,207	3,865	11,072	1.62	5.60	2.98
Total	162,108	98,181	260,289	179,670	122,024	301,694	10.83	24.28	15.91

Examining the distribution of international students in Türkiye by nationality, in the 2021–2022 academic year, the largest groups were **53,097** (**20.40%**) from Syria, **28,922** (**11.11%**) from Azerbaijan, and **17,010** (**6.54%**) from Iraq. By the 2022–2023 academic year, these rankings changed to **58,213** (**19.30%**) from Syria, **34,247** (**11.35%**) from Azerbaijan, and **22,632** (**7.50%**) from Iran. Furthermore, examining the rate of change among the top 10 nationalities with

85 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”]; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”].

86 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğrenim Düzeyleri ve Birimlere Göre Uluslararası Öğrenci Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Level of Study and Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 23 September 2023; Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğrenim Düzeyleri ve Birimlere Göre Uluslararası Öğrenci Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of International Students by Level of Study and Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 23 September 2023.

the most international students, the largest positive increases were observed for students from Kazakhstan (**82.50%**), Iran (**52.04%**), and Egypt (**22.30%**).

Table 47. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023⁸⁷

Nationalities	2021–2022 Academic Year			2022–2023 Academic Year			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Syria	31,666	21,431	53,097	32,890	25,323	58,213	3.87	18.16	9.64
Azerbaijan	20,181	8,741	28,922	23,023	11,224	34,247	14.08	28.41	18.41
Iran	6,958	7,928	14,886	10,157	12,475	22,632	45.98	57.35	52.04
Turkmenistan	8,607	6,971	15,578	8,901	9,349	18,250	3.42	34.11	17.15
Iraq	11,000	6,010	17,010	9,948	6,224	16,172	-9.56	3.56	-4.93
Somalia	7,685	3,389	11,074	6,540	3,503	10,043	-14.90	3.36	-9.31
Egypt	5,277	2,570	7,847	6,304	3,293	9,597	19.46	28.13	22.30
Afghanistan	6,930	2,072	9,002	6,812	2,391	9,203	-1.70	15.40	2.23
Kazakhstan	2,271	2,586	4,857	4,116	4,748	8,864	81.24	83.60	82.50
Yemen	6,342	1,372	7,714	6,599	1,599	8,198	4.05	16.55	6.27
Jordan	4,620	1,898	6,518	5,022	2,244	7,266	8.70	18.23	11.48
Other	50,571	33,213	83,784	59,358	39,651	99,009	17.38	19.38	18.17
Total	162,108	98,181	260,289	179,670	122,024	301,694	10.83	24.28	15.91

In the 2021–2022 academic year, the universities hosting the largest numbers of international students were Karabük University with **11,931 (4.58%)**, Kütahya Dumlupınar University with **8,281 (3.18%)**, and Bahçeşehir University with **5,790 (2.22%)**. By the 2022–2023 academic year, the rankings had changed to Karabük University with **11,908 (3.95%)**, İstanbul Medipol University with **7,380 (2.45%)**, and Kütahya Dumlupınar University with **7,255 (2.40%)**. Among the universities listed in Table 48, the most notable change occurred at İstanbul Medipol University. While it hosted **4,033** international students in 2021–2022, the number increased by **82.99%** to **7,380** in 2022–2023. On the other hand, a decline in international student numbers was observed at some universities. Among these, the largest negative changes were at Kütahya Dumlupınar University (**12.39%**), Çankırı Karatekin University (**10.67%**), and Anadolu University (**6.86%**).

87 Cells highlighted in red indicate that the relevant nationality was not among the top ten nationalities from which the most international students came in the respective academic year. Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See Council of Higher Education (CoHE), "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Uyruklarına Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Nationality (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023; Council of Higher Education (CoHE), "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Uyruklarına Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Nationality (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 23 September 2023.

Table 48. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by top 10 universities and gender, 2022–2023⁸⁸

Universities	2021–2022 Academic Year			2022–2023 Academic Year			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Karabük University	8,997	2,934	11,931	8,673	3,235	11,908	-3.60	10.26	-0.19
İstanbul Medipol University	1,919	2,114	4,033	3,264	4,116	7,380	70.09	94.70	82.99
Kütahya Dumlupınar University	6,122	2,159	8,281	4,969	2,286	7,255	-18.83	5.88	-12.39
Bahçeşehir University	3,448	2,342	5,790	3,966	2,822	6,788	15.02	20.50	17.24
İstanbul University	2,949	2,426	5,375	3,418	2,831	6,249	15.90	16.69	16.26
Altınbaş University	3,818	1,811	5,629	4,010	2,131	6,141	5.03	17.67	9.10
İstanbul Gelişim University	2,595	1,621	4,216	3,211	2,176	5,387	23.74	34.24	27.78
İstanbul Aydın University	3,237	1,873	5,110	3,326	2,036	5,362	2.75	8.70	4.93
Bursa Uludağ University	3,259	2,214	5,473	3,089	2,247	5,336	-5.22	1.49	-2.50
Anadolu University	3,656	2,002	5,658	3,012	2,258	5,270	-17.61	12.79	-6.86
Sakarya University	3,079	1,881	4,960	2,793	1,858	4,651	-9.29	-1.22	-6.23
Çankırı Karatekin University	3,496	1,273	4,769	3,121	1,139	4,260	-10.73	-10.53	-10.67
Other	115,533	73,531	189,064	132,818	92,889	225,707	14.96	26.33	19.38
Total	162,108	98,181	260,289	179,670	122,024	301,694	10.83	24.28	15.91

Another aspect to consider is international students enrolled in open or distance education units. The number of international students in this type of education was **17,678** in the 2021–2022 academic year, increasing to **21,494** in 2022–2023. The proportion of international students in open or distance education units relative to all international students in Türkiye's universities was **6.79%** in 2021–2022 and **7.12%** in 2022–2023. Furthermore, the majority of international students in these education units were female. In 2021–2022, of the **17,678** students enrolled in such units, **8,880 (50.23%)** were female and **8,798 (49.77%)** were male. In 2022–2023, of the **21,494** students, **11,721 (54.53%)** were female and **9,773 (45.47%)** were male.

The universities hosting the largest numbers of international students in open or distance education units in the 2021–2022 academic year were Anadolu University with **10,097 (57.12%)**, Atatürk University with **4,637 (26.23%)**, and İstanbul University with **2,906 (16.44%)**. In the 2022–2023 academic year, these universities remained the top three, with Anadolu University hosting **11,171 (51.97%)**, Atatürk University **6,585 (30.64%)**, and İstanbul University **3,689 (17.16%)** international students.

88 Excluding open and distance education units. Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

Table 49. *Distribution of international students in open and distance education units in Türkiye by university and gender, 2022–2023⁸⁹*

Universities	2021–2022 Academic Year			2022–2023 Academic Year			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Anadolu University	5,543	4,554	10,097	5,536	5,635	11,171	-0.13	23.74	10.64
Atatürk University	1,992	2,645	4,637	2,629	3,956	6,585	31.98	49.57	42.01
İstanbul University	1,246	1,660	2,906	1,587	2,102	3,689	27.37	26.63	26.94
Ankara University	12	15	27	13	15	28	8.33	0.00	3.70
Applied Sciences University of Isparta	5	5	10	8	13	21	60.00	160.00	110.00
Afyon Kocatepe University	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8,798	8,880	17,678	9,773	11,721	21,494	11.08	31.99	21.59
Grand total	162,108	98,181	260,289	179,670	122,024	301,694	10.83	24.28	15.91
Rate (%)	5,43	9,04	6,79	5,44	9,61	7,12	-	-	-

Table 50 compares the international student populations at universities hosting the largest numbers of students in open or distance education units. When examining the proportion of international students in open or distance education units relative to the total number of international students at the respective universities, in the 2021–2022 academic year, the ratio was **69.29%** at Atatürk University, **64.09%** at Anadolu University, and **35.09%** at İstanbul University. In the 2022–2023 academic year, these proportions increased to **71.86%** for Atatürk University, **67.95%** for Anadolu University, and **37.12%** for İstanbul University.

Table 50. *Distribution of international students in open and distance education units in Türkiye by type of education and university, 2022–2023⁹⁰*

Universities	2021–2022 Academic Year				2022–2023 Academic Year			
	Full-Time Students	Open or Distance Education Students	Total	Rate (%) ⁹¹	Full-Time Students	Open or Distance Education Students	Total	Rate (%) ⁹²
Anadolu University	5,658	10,097	15,755	64,09	5,270	11,171	16,441	67,95
Atatürk University	2,055	4,637	6,692	69,29	2,579	6,585	9,164	71,86
İstanbul University	5,375	2,906	8,281	35,09	6,249	3,689	9,938	37,12

89 A dash (–) indicates that no data is available. Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyumlu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyumlu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

90 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyumlu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyumlu Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

91 It indicates the proportion of international students enrolled in the open or distance education units of the respective university relative to the total number of international students at that university.

92 It indicates the proportion of international students enrolled in the open or distance education units of the respective university relative to the total number of international students at that university.

In the 2021–2022 academic year, the provinces with the largest numbers of international students in Türkiye were İstanbul with **73,572 (28.27%)**, Ankara with **16,991 (6.53%)**, and Karabük with **11,931 (4.58%)**. In the 2022–2023 academic year, the rankings remained the same, with İstanbul hosting **94,176 (31.22%)**, Ankara **19,558 (6.48%)**, and Karabük **11,908 (3.95%)** students. Examining the rate of change in student numbers, Table 51 shows that the number of female students increased compared to the previous academic year, while in some provinces, the number of male students decreased. The provinces with negative changes for male international students were Kütahya (**18.70%**), Eskişehir (**8.69%**), and Karabük (**3.60%**). Conversely, the provinces with the largest positive changes in student populations were İzmir (**65.45%**), İstanbul (**28.01%**), and Ankara (**15.11%**).

Table 51. Distribution of international students in Türkiye by top 10 provinces and gender, 2022–2023⁹⁵

Provinces	2021–2022 Academic Year			2022–2023 Academic Year			Rate of Change (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
İstanbul	43,685	29,887	73,572	53,577	40,599	94,176	22.64	35.84	28.01
Ankara	9,831	7,160	16,991	11,234	8,324	19,558	14.27	16.26	15.11
Karabük	8,997	2,934	11,931	8,673	3,235	11,908	-3.60	10.26	-0.19
Sakarya	4,969	2,657	7,626	5,682	3,020	8,702	14.35	13.66	14.11
İzmir	2,980	2,068	5,048	4,649	3,703	8,352	56.01	79.06	65.45
Eskişehir	4,934	2,677	7,611	4,505	3,134	7,639	-8.69	17.07	0.37
Kütahya	6,146	2,195	8,341	4,997	2,320	7,317	-18.70	5.69	-12.28
Bursa	3,775	2,438	6,213	3,928	2,697	6,625	4.05	10.62	6.63
Samsun	3,127	1,785	4,912	3,104	1,956	5,060	-0.74	9.58	3.01
Konya	3,179	1,722	4,901	3,130	1,874	5,004	-1.54	8.83	2.10
Other	70,485	42,658	113,143	76,191	51,162	127,353	8.10	19.94	12.56
Total	162,108	98,181	260,289	179,670	122,024	301,694	10.83	24.28	15.91

2.6. International Academic Staff in Higher Education

In the human dimension of internationalization in higher education, alongside international student mobility, the mobility of international academic staff is also significant. One aspect

Stat). Population ratios by province were calculated using the 2023 population data. See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyrıklı Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"; TurkStat, "İl, Tek Yaş ve Cinsiyete Göre Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları 2023)" ["Population by Province, Single Age, and Gender (Address-Based Population Registration System Results 2023)"].

95 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyrıklı Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyrıklı Öğrencilerin Eğitim Birimlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of International Students by Educational Units (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

of international student mobility involves academic staff working at universities outside their country of permanent residence on a project-based or short-term basis, while the other involves permanently working at a university in another country.⁹⁶ The focus here is on international academic staff who are permanently employed in Türkiye.

Examining the distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions over the years, the number of international academic staff, which was **2,944** in the 2014–2015 academic year, peaked at **3,325** in 2019–2020, and has since steadily declined to **3,069** in 2022–2023. This level is noteworthy as it is even lower than in 2015–2016 (**3,114**). The Council of Higher Education (CoHE) is aware of this decline and has been developing solutions to address it. Indeed, at a workshop organized by CoHE on internationalization, recommendations were proposed to “*facilitate the necessary procedures and processes to ensure the permanence of academic staff; improve employment conditions, personal rights, working hours, appointment and promotion criteria, and contract conditions.*”⁹⁷



Figure 26. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by year, 2015–2023⁹⁸

96 Mehmet Gök, “Türkiye’de Yabancı Akademisyen İstihdamı, Karşılaşılan Sorunlar ve Örnek Mahkeme Kararları” [“Employment of Foreign Academics in Türkiye, Challenges Faced, and Sample Court Decisions,”] *Alanya Academic Review* 6/1 (2022), 1989; Bahadır Erişti et al., “Yükseköğretimde Uluslararasılaşma: Uluslararası Öğrencilerin Bulunduğu Sınıflarda Ders Veren Öğretim Elemanlarının Öğretim Sürecinde Yaşadıkları Sorunlar ve Çözüm Önerileri” [“Internationalization in Higher Education: Problems and Solutions Experienced by Faculty Teaching in Classes with International Students,”] *Journal of History, Culture and Art Research* 7/2 (June 2018), 353; İsmail Öz and Pınar Laloğlu, “Beyin Göçü Açısından Yabancı Uyruklu Yükseköğretim Elemanlarının Kazanımı: Erzurum Atatürk Üniversitesi Örneği” [“Recruitment of Foreign Higher Education Staff from the Perspective of Brain Drain: The Case of Atatürk University in Erzurum,”] *Journal of Social Sciences Institute of Atatürk University* 22/2 (June 2018), 1098–1099 (1093–112). In addition, procedures regarding the employment of international faculty are carried out in accordance with the “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanı İstihdamıyla İlgili Usul ve Esaslar” [“Procedures and Principles Regarding the Employment of Foreign Faculty”], Council of Higher Education (CoHE) (2014).

97 Council of Higher Education (CoHE), *Yükseköğretimde Uluslararasılaşma ve Türkiye’deki Üniversitelerin Uluslararası Görünürlüğü Çalıştay Raporu* [Internationalization in Higher Education and the International Visibility of Universities in Türkiye: Workshop Report] (Ankara: Ankara University Press, 2023), 53.

98 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2014–2015 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2014–2015 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2015–2016 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign

In the 2021–2022 academic year, there were **3,132** international academic staff and **184,702** Turkish academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions. By the 2022–2023 academic year, the number of international academic staff had slightly decreased to **3,069**, while Turkish academic staff numbered **184,566**. The proportion of international academic staff relative to Turkish academic staff declined from **1.70%** in 2021–2022 to **1.66%** in 2022–2023.

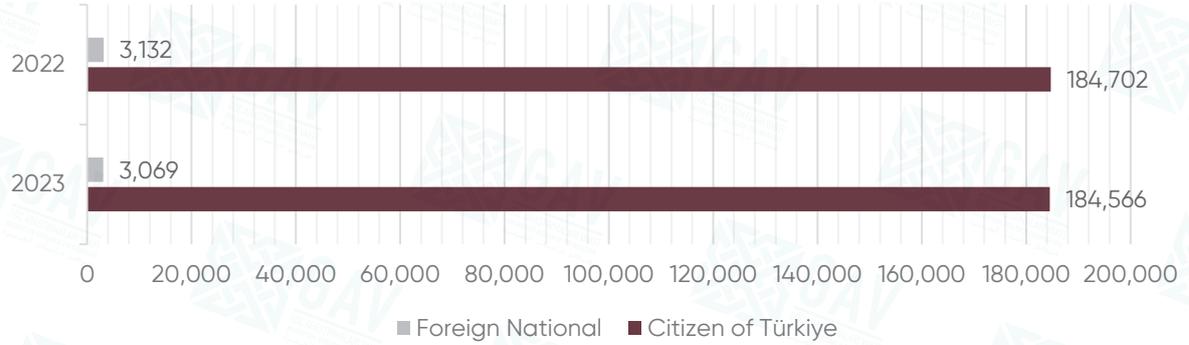


Figure 27. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by nationality, 2022–2023⁹⁹

In the 2021–2022 academic year, of the **3,132** international academic staff employed in Türkiye's higher education institutions, **1,286 (41.06%)** were female and **1,846 (58.94%)** were male. In the 2022–2023 academic year, of the **3,069** international academic staff, **1,293 (42.13%)** were female and **1,776 (57.87%)** were male. As can be seen, the proportion of female international academic staff relative to males slightly increased in 2022–2023 compared to the previous academic year.

Faculty by Academic Position (2015–2016 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”, accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2016–2017 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2016–2017 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2017–2018 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2017–2018 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2018–2019 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2018–2019 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2019–2020 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2019–2020 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2020–2021 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2020–2021 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023.

99 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Faculty by Academic Position (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; Council of Higher Education (CoHE), “Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Faculty by Academic Position (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021–2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”]; CoHE, “Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022–2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)” [“Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)”].

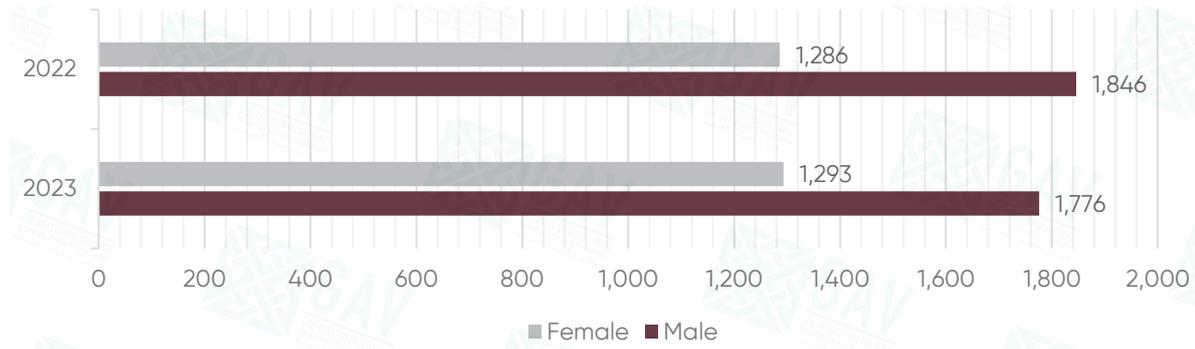


Figure 28. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by gender, 2022–2023¹⁰⁰

International academic staff predominantly preferred public universities in both the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years. In 2021–2022, of the **3,132** academic staff, **1,470 (46.93%)** were employed at private universities and **1,662 (53.07%)** at public universities. In 2022–2023, of the **3,069** international academic staff, **1,433 (46.69%)** were at private universities and **1,636 (53.31%)** at public universities.

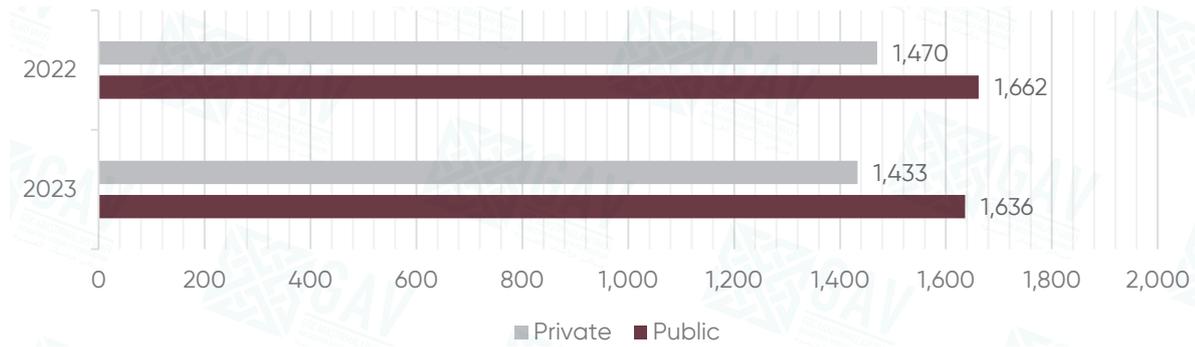


Figure 29. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by type of university, 2022–2023¹⁰¹

In the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years, the majority of international academic staff held the titles of assistant professor and research assistant. In 2021–2022, the largest groups were **1,586 (50.64%)** instructors, **970 (30.97%)** assistant professors, and **208 (6.64%)** professors. In 2022–2023, the rankings remained similar, with **1,518 (49.46%)** instructors, **959 (31.25%)** assistant professors, and **210 (6.84%)** professors.

100 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

101 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021–2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022–2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

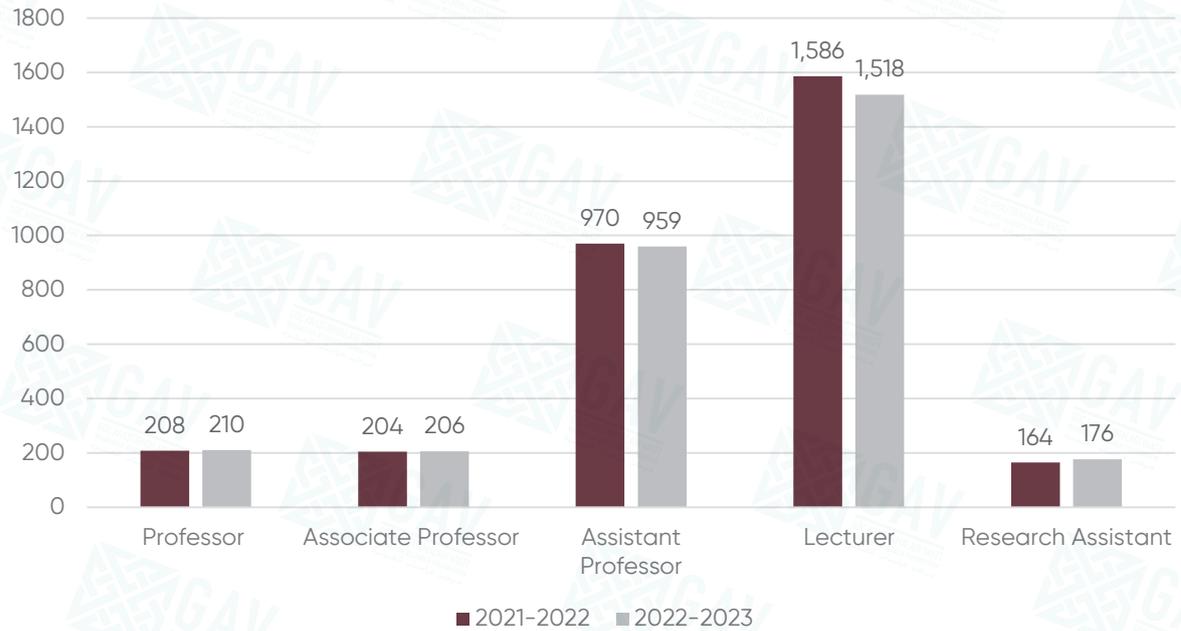


Figure 30. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by academic title, 2022-2023¹⁰²

Examining the distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye by the top 10 nationalities, in the 2021–2022 academic year, the largest groups were **390 (12.45%)** from Iran, **296 (9.45%)** from the USA, and **264 (8.43%)** from Syria. In the 2022–2023 academic year, the top nationalities were **433 (14.11%)** from Iran, **257 (8.37%)** from Syria, and **253 (8.24%)** from Azerbaijan.

Table 52. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by academic title and top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023¹⁰³

Nationalities	2021-2022						2022-2023					
	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lect.	RA	Total	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lect.	RA	Total
Iran	10	15	197	162	6	390	15	21	206	187	4	433
Syria	8	12	88	153	3	264	6	17	84	144	6	257
Azerbaijan	46	23	51	66	68	254	47	17	54	72	63	253
USA	19	13	64	198	2	296	18	10	62	158	2	250
Germany	14	12	53	77	12	168	9	11	43	80	15	158
UK	11	11	26	127	-	175	12	10	25	109	-	156

102 Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021-2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022-2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

103 A dash (-) indicates that no data is available. Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Uyuşuna ve Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Nationality and Academic Position (2021-2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 24 September 2023; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyruklu Öğretim Elemanlarının Uyuşuna ve Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Nationality and Academic Position (2022-2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"], accessed 24 September 2023.

Egypt	6	4	35	64	1	110	6	6	37	64	2	115
TRNC	16	16	23	34	18	107	13	13	28	35	14	103
Russia	10	10	14	50	-	84	10	11	18	47	-	86
Iraq	-	10	28	37	3	78	2	7	28	35	4	76
Other	68	78	391	618	51	1,206	72	83	374	587	66	1,182
Total	208	204	970	1,586	164	3,132	210	206	959	1,518	176	3,069

The university employing the largest number of international academic staff is Bilkent University. In the 2021–2022 academic year, the universities with the highest numbers of international academic staff were Bilkent University with **192 (6.13%)**, İstanbul University with **125 (3.99%)**, and METU with **100 (3.19%)**. In the 2022–2023 academic year, the top universities were Bilkent University with **177 (5.77%)**, İstanbul University with **126 (4.11%)**, Başkent University with **95 (3.10%)**, and METU with **95 (3.10%)**.

Table 53. Distribution of international academic staff in Türkiye's higher education institutions by academic title and top 10 universities, 2022–2023¹⁰⁴

Universities	2021-2022						2022-2023					
	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lect.	RA	Total	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lect.	RA	Total
İ.D. Bilkent University	10	17	72	93	-	192	7	15	67	88	-	177
İstanbul University	6	6	7	105	1	125	4	7	8	106	1	126
Başkent University	4	1	5	10	57	77	4	1	8	10	72	95
Middle East Technical University	17	10	32	40	1	100	16	8	35	35	1	95
Boğaziçi University	8	9	25	36	-	78	8	10	21	35	-	74
İstanbul Aydın University	4	5	28	42	-	79	4	4	28	31	-	67
Koç University	3	4	21	41	-	69	4	6	20	36	-	66
Ankara University	2	2	4	39	4	51	1	2	6	45	2	56
Gaziantep University	3	-	22	16	-	41	3	4	31	18	-	56
Hacettepe University	2	2	3	39	10	56	3	1	3	38	9	54
İstanbul Gelişim University	5	4	44	18	-	71	3	2	34	14	-	53
Turkish - German University	8	2	13	34	2	59	2	3	14	32	1	52
Other	136	142	694	1,073	89	2,134	151	143	684	1,030	90	2,098
Total	208	204	970	1,586	164	3,132	210	206	959	1,518	176	3,069

104 Cells highlighted in red indicate that faculty members from the respective institution did not rank among the top 10 universities in the given academic year. Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE). See CoHE, "Yabancı Uyrıklı Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2021-2022 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2021-2022 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"]; CoHE, "Yabancı Uyrıklı Öğretim Elemanlarının Akademik Görevlerine Göre Sayıları (2022-2023 Öğretim Yılı Yükseköğretim İstatistikleri)" ["Numbers of Foreign Faculty by Academic Position (2022-2023 Academic Year Higher Education Statistics)"].

2.7. Property Sales to Foreigners

Foreign property acquisition has been regulated through various legislations since 1934. Following the enactment of the Land Registry Law in 1934, foreigners gained the right to purchase property in Türkiye based on the principle of reciprocity.¹⁰⁵ However, in the 1980s, the principle of reciprocity was partially abandoned, and it was stipulated that citizens of countries determined by the Council of Ministers could purchase property in Türkiye without the application of the reciprocity principle.¹⁰⁶ In subsequent periods, a series of amendments were made regarding this matter, and today, the consideration of national interests is taken into account in the acquisition of property by foreigners in Türkiye. According to the current version of the law, citizens of countries designated by the President are permitted to acquire real estate in Türkiye.¹⁰⁷

In 2014, **18,959** properties in Türkiye were purchased by foreign nationals, rising to **35,005** in 2023. However, the peak year for property sales was 2022 with **67,490** units sold. Considering that property sales declined in 2016, a year marked by intensified terrorist incidents, tensions in bilateral relations with other countries, and a military coup attempt, and in 2020 when the impact of the coronavirus pandemic was strongly felt, the dramatic decrease in property sales to foreigners in 2023 compared to the previous year is noteworthy.¹⁰⁸ This situation is believed to be related to the Turkish economy. Indeed, the sharp increase in property prices and fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate in recent years may have also affected foreigners' decisions to purchase property.

Indeed, Hakan Bucak, Board Member of the Real Estate Service Exporters Association, cited the economic situation as a reason for the decline in property sales to foreigners. He also emphasized that political uncertainties and past or expected earthquakes are important factors. Another point highlighted by Bucak is that foreigners have started preferring other countries for property investment, thereby reducing Türkiye's attractiveness.¹⁰⁹ In another interview, Burak Selim Çokgör emphasized the significant impact of the earthquake and noted that deposit interest rates have become more attractive. According to Çokgör, foreigners have started preferring to deposit their money in banks rather than invest in properties that may be at risk of collapse in an earthquake.¹¹⁰ Another news report suggested that property sales declined because Russian and Ukrainian nationals showed a tendency to return to their home countries.¹¹¹

105 Land Registry Law (LRL) (Initial Version), *Official Gazette* No. 2892 (December 29, 1934), Law No. 2644, art. 35.

106 Law on the Addition of a Paragraph to Article 35 of the Land Registry Law No. 2644 dated 22 November 1934 and to Article 87 of the Village Law No. 442 dated 18 March 1924, *Official Gazette* 18445 (28 June 1984), Law No. 3029, art. 1.

107 Land Registry Law (LRL) (Current Version), *Official Gazette* 2892 (29 December 1934), Law No. 2644, art. 35.

108 In 2023, not only did housing sales to foreigners not decline, but the number of houses purchased by Turkish citizens also reached the lowest level in the past nine years. See TurkStat, Housing Sales Statistics, December 2023, accessed 23 March 2024. A notable detail regarding the 2023 decline is that many foreign buyers could not take delivery of their homes on time. See Ali Kemal Erdem, "Vatandaşlık veya Yatırım Amaçlı Türkiye'ye Gelen Çok Sayıda Yabancı Da Konut Mağduru Oldu", ["Many Foreign Nationals Coming to Türkiye for Citizenship or Investment Also Became Housing Victims,"] *Independent Türkçe* (25 May 2023), accessed 24 March 2023.

109 Ahmet Hamdi Girgin, "Yabancıya Konut Satışı Niye Düştü?" ["Why Did Housing Sales to Foreigners Decline?"] *HaberTürk* (7 February 2024), accessed 23 March 2024.

110 Gülben Dikmen, "Housing Sales to Foreigners Plummeted: Lowest Level in 31 Months," *Sözcü* (17 December 2023), accessed 23 March 2024.

111 *EnSonHaber*, "Yabancıya Konut Satışları Çakıldı: 31 Ayın En Düşük Seviyesi" ["Housing Sales to Foreigners Are Gradually Declining"] (17 February 2024), accessed 23 March 2024.



Figure 31. Distribution of property sales to foreigners in Türkiye by year, 2014-2023¹¹²

In 2022, the highest property sales were in June with **8,630 (12.79%)** units, April with **6,447 (9.55%)**, and December with **6,386 (9.46%)**. In 2023, the highest sales occurred in January with **4,161 (11.89%)**, March with **3,415 (9.76%)**, and February with **3,350 (9.57%)**.

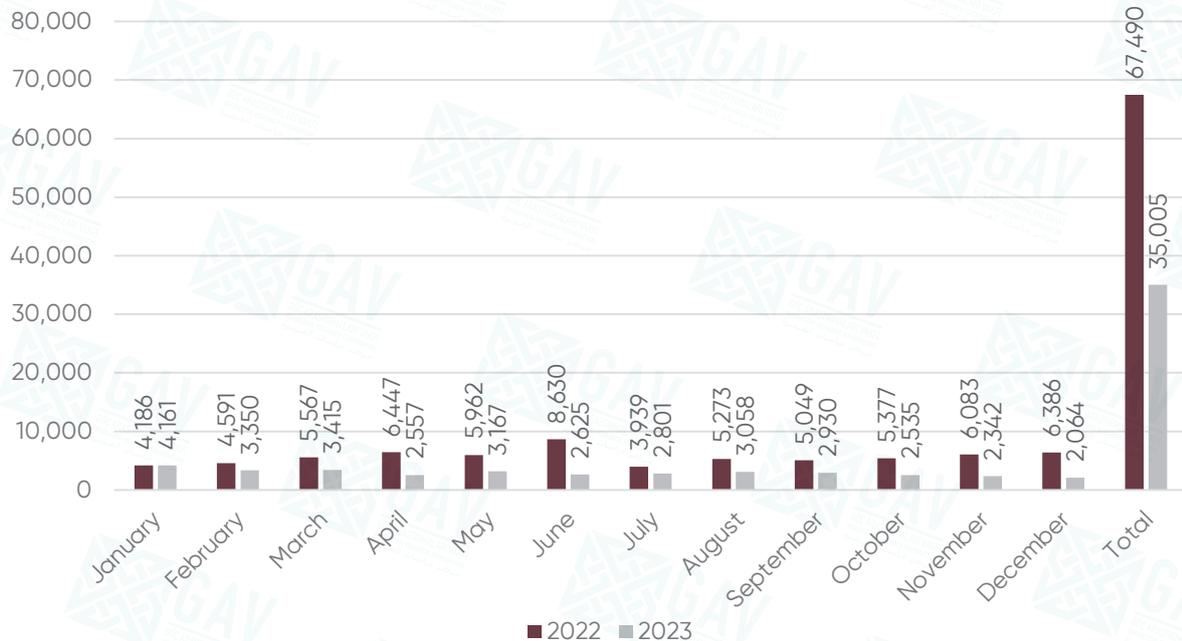


Figure 32. Distribution of property sales to foreigners in Türkiye by month, 2022-2023¹¹³

¹¹² Compiled by the authors based on the data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). See TurkStat, "Yabancılarla Yapılan Konut Satış Sayıları (Konut Satış İstatistikleri, Aralık 2023)" ["Number of Housing Sales to Foreigners (Housing Sales Statistics, December 2023)"], accessed 20 March 2024.

¹¹³ Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "Yabancılarla Yapılan Konut Satış Sayıları (Konut Satış İstatistikleri, Aralık 2023)" ["Property Sales to Foreigners (Housing Sales Statistics, December 2023)"].

The largest group of foreigners purchasing property in Türkiye are Russian nationals.¹¹⁴ In 2022, the distribution of property sales by nationality shows that the highest sales were to Russian nationals with **16,312 (23.91%)** units, Iranian nationals with **8,223 (12.06%)**, and Iraqi nationals with **6,241 (9.15%)**. In 2023, the ranking of these nationalities remained the same, with **10,560 (29.94%)** units sold to Russians, **4,272 (12.11%)** to Iranians, and **1,917 (5.44%)** to Iraqis.

Table 54. *Distribution of property sales to foreigners in Türkiye by top 10 nationalities, 2022–2023*¹¹⁵

Nationalities	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)
Russia	16,312	10,560	-35.26
Iran	8,223	4,272	-48.05
Iraq	6,241	1,917	-69.28
Ukraine	2,574	1,720	-33.18
Kazakhstan	2,702	1,440	-46.71
Germany	2,705	1,363	-49.61
Azerbaijan	1,330	832	-37.44
Kuwait	1,671	822	-50.81
Saudi Arabia	1,090	810	-25.69
USA	1,329	693	-47.86
Afghanistan	1,732	644	-62.82
Other	22,301	10,195	-54.28
Total ¹¹⁶	68,210	35,268	-48.29

The highest property sales were in Antalya, İstanbul, and Mersin. In 2022, the provinces with the most property sales to foreigners were İstanbul with **24,953 (36.97%)** units, Antalya with **21,860 (32.39%)**, and Mersin with **4,316 (6.40%)**. In 2023, these provinces were ranked as Antalya with **12,702 (36.29%)**, İstanbul with **11,229 (32.08%)**, and Mersin with **3,016 (8.62%)**.

Table 55. *Distribution of property sales to foreigners in Türkiye by top 10 provinces, 2022–2023*¹¹⁷

Provinces	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)
Antalya	21,860	12,702	-41.89
İstanbul	24,953	11,229	-55.00
Mersin	4,316	3,016	-30.12
Ankara	2,687	1,023	-61.93

114 The fact that Russians are the top nationality purchasing property in Türkiye has also attracted media attention. See Cumhuriyet, "Bir Rus, Antalya'da 80 Daire Alıp Otele Çevirdi: 'Sadece Kendi Yurttaşlarına Kiralıyor'" ["A Russian Bought 80 Apartments in Antalya and Turned Them into a Hotel: 'He Only Rents to His Own Citizens'"] (11 September 2023) Accessed 24 March 2024; TürkRus, "24 Apartmanlar Sadece Ruslara Kiralandı" (11 September 2023) Accessed 24 March 2024; Tolga Yıldırım, "Ruslar İlk Sırada! Antalya'da Satılan 5 Konuttan 1'ini Yabancılar Aldı" ["Russians Are First! One in Five Properties Sold in Antalya Bought by Foreigners"] (20 October 2023) Accessed 24 March 2024; Finans Gündem, "Türkiye'de Konut Alan Ruslar Dertli" ["Russians Buying Property in Türkiye Are Concerned"] (27 December 2023) Accessed 24 March 2024.

115 Cells highlighted in red indicate that nationals of the relevant country were not among the top 10 nationalities purchasing the most properties in that year. Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute and prepared by the authors. See TurkStat, "Ülke Uyruklarına Göre Yabancılar Yapılan Konut Satış Sayıları (Konut Satış İstatistikleri, Aralık 2023)" ["Property Sales to Foreigners by Country of Nationality (Housing Sales Statistics, December 2023)"] Accessed 20 March 2024.

116 In the 2022 and 2023 datasets published by TurkStat, the tables showing housing sales to foreigners by nationality report a higher total number of housing sales compared to other tables; the reason for this discrepancy could not be determined.

117 A dash (–) indicates that no data is available. Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "İllere Göre Yabancılar Yapılan Konut Satış Sayıları (Konut Satış İstatistikleri, Aralık 2023)" ["Number of Housing Sales to Foreigners by Province (Housing Sales Statistics, December 2023)"], accessed 20 March 2024.

Bursa	2,002	953	-52.40
Yalova	1,817	937	-48.43
İzmir	1,322	739	-44.10
Muğla	-	593	-
Kocaeli	-	562	-
Trabzon	1,019	548	-46.22
Sakarya	1,259	-	-
Samsun	1,014	-	-
Other	5,241	2,703	-48.43
Total	67,490	35,005	-48.13

2.8. Marriage-Divorce

"In this section examining "marriage and divorce" statistics, data from TurkStat were used. TurkStat statistics present married and divorced individuals by nationality and gender. In 2015, the number of foreign brides was **18,814**, reaching **31,029** in 2023. Additionally, between 2015 and 2020, the number of foreign brides ranged between **15,000** and **25,000**, but after 2020, this number increased rapidly. On the other hand, between 2015 and 2023, the number of foreign grooms remained lower compared to brides, but except for 2020, when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was intense, it showed a continuous upward trend. In 2015, **3,566** foreign grooms married in Türkiye, and by 2023, this number had risen to **6,345**.

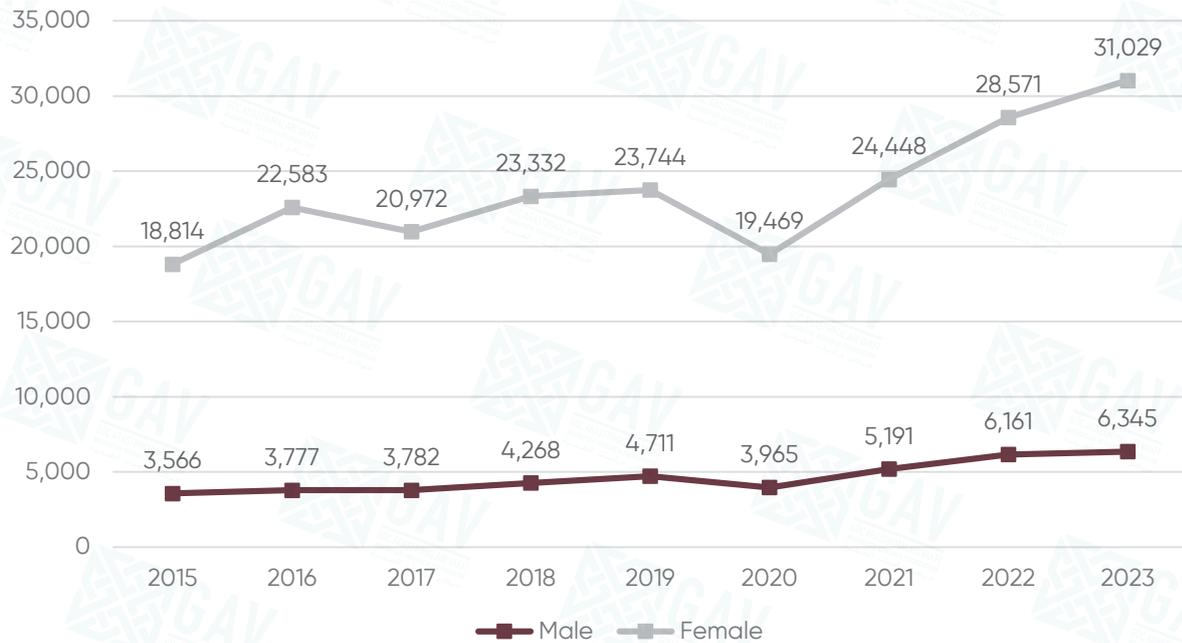


Figure 33. Distribution of foreign grooms and brides married in Türkiye by year, 2015-2023¹¹⁸

In 2023, the number of foreign grooms married in Türkiye increased by **2.99%** compared to the previous year, while the number of foreign brides increased by **8.60%**. Despite the rise in marriages among foreigners, the decline in marriages among Turkish citizens is noteworthy. In 2023, the number of Turkish grooms decreased by **1.60%**, and Turkish brides decreased by **2.09%** compared to the previous year. As a result, the total number of marriages in Türkiye in 2023 decreased by **1.55%** compared to the previous year.

Table 56. *Distribution of foreign nationals married in Türkiye by gender and nationality, 2022–2023*¹¹⁹

Gender	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total	Turkish National	Foreign National	Total
 Male	568,197	6,161	574,358	559,090	6,345	565,435	-1.60	2.99	-1.55
 Female	545,787	28,571	574,358	534,406	31,029	565,435	-2.09	8.60	-1.55

2022 In 2022, the foreign grooms married in Türkiye were mostly from Germany with **1,536 (24.93%)**, Syria with **1,266 (20.55%)**, and Austria with **354 (5.75%)**. By 2023, the ranking of these nationalities remained the same, with **1,387 (21.86%)** from Germany, **1,219 (19.21%)** from Syria, and **326 (5.14%)** from Austria. Regarding foreign brides, in 2022, the highest numbers were from Syria with **3,761 (13.16%)**, Uzbekistan with **3,178 (11.12%)**, and Azerbaijan with **2,555 (8.94%)**. In 2023, these rankings shifted to **3,716 (11.98%)** from Uzbekistan, **3,519 (11.34%)** from Syria, and **2,818 (9.08%)** from Azerbaijan.

Table 57. *The distribution of foreign grooms and brides by the ten most common nationalities in Türkiye, 2022–2023*¹²⁰

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)	
	 Male	 Female	 Male	 Female	 Male	 Female
USA	134	164	194	177	44.78	7.93
Afghanistan	310	232	316	275	1.94	18.53
Germany	1,536	2,475	1,387	2,243	-9.70	-9.37
Austria	354	467	326	445	-7.91	-4.71
Azerbaijan	214	2,555	254	2,818	18.69	10.29
Bulgaria	122	583	159	483	30.33	-17.15

ma İstatistikleri, 2023" ["Marriages by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023)"], accessed 20 March 2024.

119 Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, Marriages by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023).

120 A dash (–) indicates that no data is available. Cells highlighted in red indicate that individuals of the relevant nationality are not among the top 10 nationalities with the highest number of divorces. Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Erkek ve Kadının Uyuşuna Göre Evlenmeler (Evlenme ve Boşanma İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Marriages by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023)"].

Morocco	21	2,460	22	2,128	4.76	-13.50
The Netherlands	131	93	86	128	-34.35	37.63
Iraq	178	504	178	523	0.00	3.77
UK	129	282	156	382	20.93	35.46
Iran	167	914	222	1,025	32.93	12.14
Kyrgyzstan	-	1,027	17	1,149	-	11.88
Uzbekistan	20	3,178	38	3,716	90.00	16.93
Russia	68	1,576	82	2,339	20.59	48.41
Syria	1,266	3,761	1,219	3,519	-3.71	-6.43
Turkmenistan	65	1,201	104	1,817	60.00	51.29
Ukraine	13	1,078	-	1,079	-	0.09
Other	1,433	6,021	1,585	6,783	10.61	12.66
Total	6,161	28,571	6,345	31,029	2.99	8.60

The number of foreign women and men who divorced in Türkiye has generally remained at similar levels over the past nine years. However, in 2022 and 2023, this trend shifted noticeably in favor of men. In 2015, the number of foreign women who divorced was 3,214, rising to 3,689 by 2023. The peak in divorces occurred in 2021, with 4,029 cases. In contrast, 3,214 foreign men divorced in 2015, reaching a peak of 3,986 in 2021, but the following year the number dramatically dropped to 720. By 2023, this decline continued, with 715 foreign men divorcing.

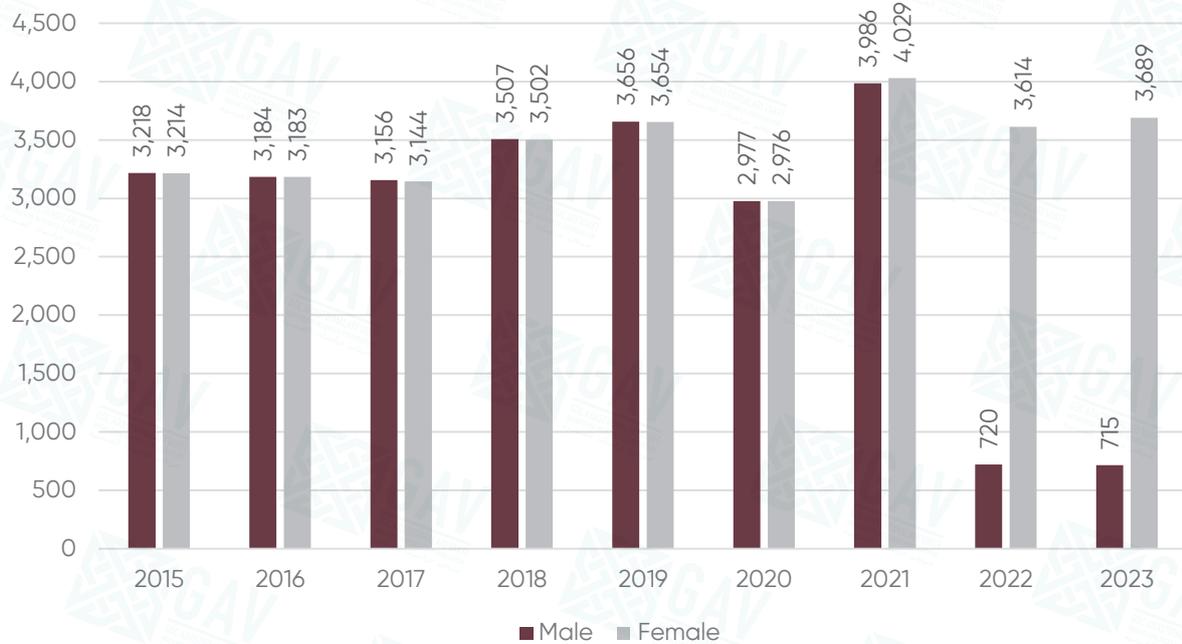


Figure 34. The distribution of foreign men and women who divorced in Türkiye by year, 2015-2023¹²¹

121 Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Erkek ve Kadının Uyuşuna Göre Evlenmeler (Evlenme ve Boşanma İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Divorces by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023)"], accessed 20 March 2024.

In 2023, the number of divorces in Türkiye decreased by 5.01% compared to the previous year. Among Turkish nationals, the number of divorced women decreased by 5.03% and men by 5.16%. For foreign nationals, the number of divorced men decreased by 0.69%, whereas the number of divorced women increased by 2.08%.

Table 58. *The distribution of divorced foreign nationals in Türkiye by gender and nationality, 2022–2023*¹²²

Gender	2022			2023			Rate of Change (%)		
	Turkish Nationals	Foreign Nationals	Total	Turkish Nationals	Foreign Nationals	Total	Turkish Nationals	Foreign Nationals	Total
 Male	180,234	720	180,954	171,166	715	171,881	-5.03	-0.69	-5.01
 Female	177,340	3,614	180,954	168,192	3,689	171,881	-5.16	2.08	-5.01

In 2022, the foreign national men who divorced most frequently in Türkiye were from Germany with **243** individuals (**33.75%**), Syria with **82** individuals (**11.39%**), and Austria with **46** individuals (**6.39%**). In 2023, the ranking remained the same, with **249** men (**34.83%**) from Germany, **75** men (**10.49%**) from Syria, and **40** men (**5.59%**) from Austria. Among women, the nationalities with the highest number of divorces in 2022 were Germany with **473** individuals (**13.09%**), Azerbaijan with **472** individuals (**13.06%**), and Syria with **421** individuals (**11.65%**). In 2023, the order changed slightly: Azerbaijan with **490** individuals (**13.28%**), Germany with **422** individuals (**11.44%**), and Syria with **368** individuals (**9.98%**).

Table 59. *The distribution of divorced foreign nationals by gender and the top 10 nationalities in Türkiye, 2022–2023*¹²³

Nationalities	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)	
	 Male	 Female	 Male	 Female	 Male	 Female
USA	15	-	16	21	6.67	-
Afghanistan	16	-	24	-	50.00	-
Germany	243	473	249	422	2.47	-10.78
Austria	46	60	40	57	-13.04	-5.00
Azerbaijan	20	472	28	490	40.00	3.81
Bulgaria	15	89	18	109	20.00	22.47
Morocco	-	230	-	210	-	-8.70
Georgia	-	107	5	102	-	-4.67
The Netherlands	22	27	18	26	-18.18	-3.70

122 Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Erkek ve Kadının Uyuşuna Göre Boşanmalar (Evlence ve Boşanma İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Divorces by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023)"].

123 A dash (-) indicates that no data is available. Cells highlighted in red indicate that individuals of the relevant nationality are not among the top 10 nationalities with the highest number of divorces. Compiled by the authors based on the data of TurkStat. See TurkStat, "Erkek ve Kadının Uyuşuna Göre Boşanmalar (Evlence ve Boşanma İstatistikleri, 2023)" ["Marriages by Nationality of Male and Female Spouses (Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2023)"].

Iraq	23	32	20	51	-13.04	59.38
UK	23	65	21	68	-8.70	4.62
Iran	24	81	34	74	41.67	-8.64
Kyrgyzstan	-	110	-	123	-	11.82
Uzbekistan	-	335	4	349	-	4.18
Russia	-	220	7	201	-	-8.64
Syria	82	421	75	368	-8.54	-12.59
Turkmenistan	5	115	-	147	-	27.83
Ukraine	-	162	-	173	-	6.79
Other	186	615	156	698	-16.13	13.50
Total	720	3,614	715	3,689	-0.69	2.08

When comparing marriage and divorce numbers, it is observed that among foreign men the nationalities with the highest number of marriages and divorces coincide, whereas among women, although Uzbek nationals are among the most married, they do not rank within the top three nationalities for divorces.

2.9 Granting of Turkish Citizenship

Within the scope of our Annual, one of the issues that is difficult to monitor is the data on foreigners granted Turkish citizenship. As in previous years, in 2023 no institution shared statistics on this matter on a regular basis; the data obtained within the study were derived from public statements made by official authorities. Another difficulty is the reduction of this issue merely to Syrians. The statements made by the Minister of Interior in 2023 followed this direction. The Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2023 turned the issue of foreigners granted Turkish citizenship into a major topic of debate on the public agenda, especially during the election campaign period.

On 15 April 2022, prior to the 2023 general elections, the then Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu stated that **230,998** Syrians had been granted Turkish citizenship. According to Soylu's statement, **130,914** of them were adults, while **100,084** were children.

In 2023, the information shared on this matter was based on a social media post.¹²⁴ The table included in the photo shared in this post is consistent with the table presented to the public on television by the former Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu. However, as no official denial or confirmation has been provided by authorities regarding the matter, it is not known whether the data fully reflects reality. On the other hand, it is believed that the statistics concerning Syrians in subsequent statements after the date of this post are consistent with the statistics presented in the visual. According to the post shared on 31 May 2023, a

¹²⁴ Some sources note that the image in question was shared by the Ministry of Interior. However, no such release could be found in the Ministry's official sources. See TR Haber, "İçişleri Bakanlığı, Türk Vatandaşlığı Kazanan Yabancı Uruklu Kişilerin Sayısını Paylaştı." ["The Ministry of Interior Shared the Number of Foreign Nationals Who Acquired Turkish Citizenship,"] X (May 31, 2023, 01:20).

total of **413,548** foreigners were granted Turkish citizenship. Of these, **237,021** were Syrian nationals, **117,164** were Meskhetian Turks, **47,354** were Afghan nationals, and **12,009** were Uyghur Turks. Among the Syrians granted citizenship, **134,271** were adults, while **102,750** were children. In addition, it was stated that **39,901** of the foreigners granted citizenship had made investments exceeding **11 billion dollars** as Turkish citizens.

According to the statement made by Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya on 8 November 2023, a total of **237,995** Syrians were granted Turkish citizenship, of whom **156,987** were adults and **81,008** were under 18. Minister Yerlikaya stated that children born in Türkiye to Syrians under Temporary Protection were not granted Turkish citizenship. Approximately one month after this statement, on 17 December 2023, Minister Yerlikaya issued a new statement regarding the number of Syrians granted citizenship. According to the Minister's statement, **134,422** were adults and **100,633** were children. In addition, the Minister indicated that **156,987** Syrians had reached adulthood. Finally, in almost all of the statements made by Ministry officials, it was mentioned that citizenship had been granted on an "exceptional" basis.¹²⁵

When examining the change in the number of foreigners granted Turkish citizenship in 2023 compared to 2022, it was observed that between 18 August 2022 and 31 May 2023, **8,060** Afghan nationals, **12,188** Meskhetian Turks¹²⁶, and 5,008 Uyghur Turks were granted Turkish citizenship. In addition, between 5 December 2022 and 17 December 2023, **16,384** Syrians were granted Turkish citizenship.

Table 60. *Distribution of foreigners granted Turkish citizenship by nationality, 2022–2023*

Nationalities	18.08.2022 ¹²⁷	05.12.2022 ¹²⁸	15.04.2023 ¹²⁹	31.05.2023 ¹³⁰	08.11.2023 ¹³¹	17.12.2023 ¹³²
Afghanistan	39,294	-	-	47,354	-	-
Meskhetian (Ahıska)Turks	104,976	-	-	117,164	-	-
Syria	211,908	221,671	230,998	237,021	237,995	238,055

125 For detailed information on the exceptional acquisition of Turkish citizenship, see Turkish Citizenship Law (TVK) (Law No. 5901), *Official Gazette* No. 27256 (May 29, 2009), Art. 12; Regulation on the Implementation of the Turkish Citizenship Law, *Official Gazette* No. 27544 (April 6, 2010), Council of Ministers Decree No. 2010/139, Art. 20.

126 In a statement in September 2023, President Erdoğan declared that before the AKP came to power, 4,840 Meskhetian Turks had been granted citizenship, whereas under the AKP government this number had risen to nearly 60,000. See *Yeni Şafak*, "Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan Türkiye'nde Ahıska Türklerini Kabul Etti" ["President Erdoğan Received Meskhetian Turks at the Turkish House,"] accessed March 29, 2024.

127 Since the most comprehensive statement in 2022 was made on August 18, 2022, these data have been included within the annual scope. See *Takvim*, "İçişleri Bakanı Süleyman Soylu'dan Flaş 'Cemevi' ve 'Suriyeli Sığınmacı' Açıklaması!" ["Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu's Striking Statement on 'Cemevis' and 'Syrian Refugees!'" accessed August 18, 2023.

128 General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs, "Bazı Basın ve Sosyal Medyada Yer Alan 'Seçmen Kütüklerinde 466 Bin Suriyeli Tespit Edildi' Şeklinde Gerçeği Yansıtmayan İddialara İlişkin Kamuoyu Duyurumuz!" ["Our Public Announcement Regarding the Unfounded Allegations in Certain Media and Social Media Outlets Claiming that '466 Thousand Syrians Were Found in the Voter Registers,'] X (December 2, 2022, 15:51), accessed March 25, 2024; Dünya, "221 Bin 671 Suriyeli, Türk Vatandaşlığını Aldı" ["221,671 Syrians Acquired Turkish Citizenship"] (December 5, 2022), accessed March 20, 2024.

129 NTV, "Kaç Yabancıya Vatandaşlık Verildi? İçişleri Bakanı Süleyman Soylu Açıkladı" ["How Many Foreigners Were Granted Citizenship? Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu Announced"] (April 15, 2023), accessed March 24, 2024.

130 On May 31, 2023, a table concerning foreigners who had acquired Turkish citizenship circulated on social media. The format of the table corresponded to those previously shared live on air by former Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu; however, no official confirmation or denial was issued by the authorities. See *23 Derece*, "Gazeteci Yalçın Arı Sonradan Vatandaşlık Alan Yabancı Sayılarını Açıkladı." ["Journalist Yalçın Arı Announced the Numbers of Foreigners Who Later Acquired Citizenship,"] X (May 31, 2023, 13:27).

131 *EnSonHaber*, "Minister Yerlikaya Announced the Number of Syrians Who Acquired Citizenship" (November 8, 2023), accessed March 25, 2024.

132 *T24*, "Bakan Yerlikaya, Vatandaşlık Alan Suriyeli Sayısını Açıkladı" ["Minister of Interior Yerlikaya Announced the Number of Syrians Granted Citizenship"] (December 17, 2023), accessed March 24, 2024.

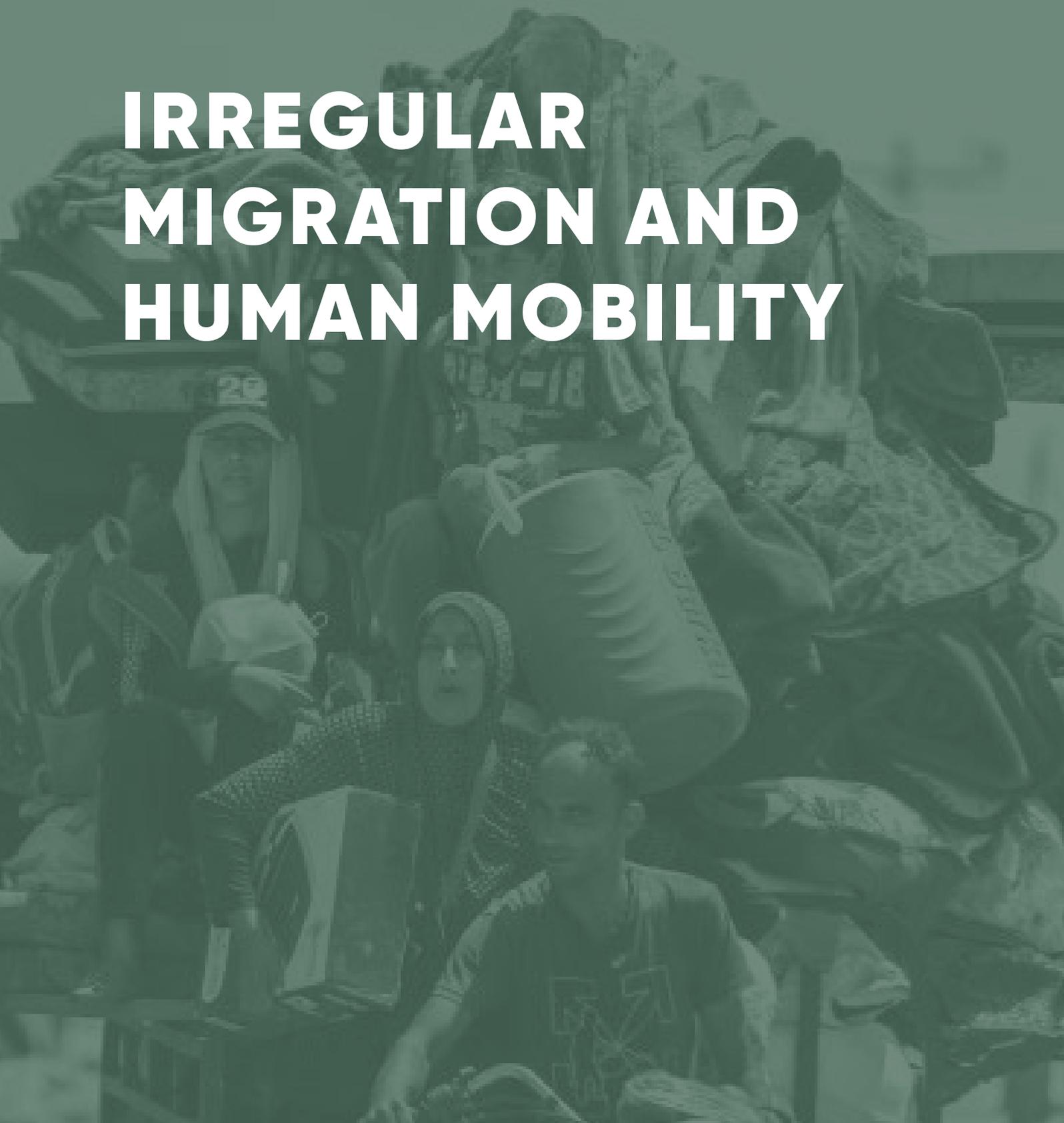
Uyghurs	7,001	-	-	12,009	-	-
Total	363,179	-	-	413,548	-	-

The importance of acquiring Turkish citizenship through investment for Türkiye is evident from the statements made by Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya during a television program. Minister Yerlikaya participated in the Arabic broadcast of Al Jazeera and denied claims that the process of granting Turkish citizenship to foreigners who purchased property within the legal thresholds had been suspended. Yerlikaya stated that the process was proceeding in accordance with the law and that the citizenship application process for those applying through property purchase took 2–3 months, including the necessary examinations.¹³³

133 *BirGün*, "Bakan Yerlikaya: Konut Satışı Karşılığında Vatandaşlık Alma Süreci Durmadı" ["Minister Yerlikaya: The Process of Acquiring Citizenship Through Real Estate Purchases Has Not Stopped"] (August 28, 2023), accessed March 28, 2024.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY



This section presents data and analyses on irregular migration and human mobility in Türkiye for 2023. As noted in the *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*, “data on irregular migration were obtained from a total of seven sources, including one main source (Directorate General of Migration Management). These sources can be listed as the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), General Directorate of Security (EGM), Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), Coast Guard (CG), and Ministry of Trade (MoT). In addition, the data published by the Coast Guard regarding ‘Coast Guard–Gendarmerie and Security Joint Apprehensions’ can be treated as a separate category among irregular migration sources.”

The most important source of data on migration in Türkiye is undoubtedly the Directorate General of Migration Management. Therefore, PMM’s data have always been used as the basis for the final figures on irregular migration. PMM publishes data on irregular migration on its official website and on the X platform, formerly known as *Twitter*. In addition, statements made on various platforms by the Directorate General of Migration Management and the Ministry of Interior have also been used as sources.

Another important source is the figures published by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF). These figures represent the number of migrants apprehended during irregular migration attempts at land borders, and the data are published daily. The daily recorded data have been organized by the authors.¹ In addition, the figures reported during the “Weekly Press Briefing Meetings” conducted by the Ministry of National Defense (as far as could be determined) from 6 July 2023 onward have also been used.

The figures on irregular migrants published by the Gendarmerie General Command have been compiled both from the public order statistics² published monthly on its website and from the *2023 Administrative Activity Report*.³

The number of individuals apprehended or rescued during irregular migration attempts by sea is shared by the CG.⁴ These data are shared on the official website of the CG on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.

Another dataset published on CG website is the (Joint-1) “joint apprehensions,” carried out within the framework of joint operations by the Coast Guard, Gendarmerie General Command, and EGM. These data “include information on irregular migrants detected by the

1 Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), “Günlük Faaliyetler” [Daily Activities] (accessed daily throughout the year).

2 Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), “Veriler” “Data” (accessed April 21, 2024)

3 Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), *2023 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu [2023 Annual Administrative Activity Report]*.

4 Coast Guard Command (CG), “Güncel Faaliyetler” [“Current Activities”] (accessed daily throughout the year).

Coast Guard on land and apprehended by the Gendarmerie and Security units before reaching the sea.”⁵ The data are published on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.

The second set of joint apprehensions (Joint-2) is published by EGM. The operations, titled “Peace Operations for Combating Irregular Migration,” are conducted by EGM in cooperation with the Gendarmerie General Command, CG, and the provincial units of the Directorate General of Migration Management within their respective areas of responsibility. The data are titled this way because they are published on EGM’s official website.

The final source, published by the Ministry of Trade, is the “number of irregular migrants,” which is based on data derived from “criminal and administrative case counts.”⁶

The table below presents a comparative overview of the data publication intervals of the relevant institutions and sources.

Table 61. Data publication frequency of relevant institutions on irregular migration

Intitutions	Data Publication Intervals			
	Daily	Weekly	Mothly	Anually
Presidency of Migration Management (PMM)	✗	✓	✓	✓
Turkish Armed Forces (TAF)	✓	✓	✗	✓
Gendarmerie General Command (GGC)	✗	✗	✓	✓
Coast Guard Command (CG)	✓	✗	✓	✓
Joint-1 (CG, GGC, and EGM)	✓	✗	✓	✓
Joint-2 (EGM)	✗	✗	✓	✗
Ministry of Trade (MoT)	✗	✗	✓	✓

As also stated in the *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual Report–2022*, “although there are similarities in the terminology used by each institution regarding the situation of irregular migrants, certain differences can be observed. For interventions carried out by law enforcement agencies against irregular migrants, the Directorate General of Migration Management, Turkish Armed Forces, EGM, Gendarmerie General Command and Ministry of Trade use the term ‘apprehension.’ In contrast, in the data published by CG, irregular migrants are categorized as either ‘apprehended’ or ‘rescued.’ In the data published by the Ministry of Trade, the term ‘kaçak göçmen’ (illegal migrant) is used instead of irregular migrant. These differences have been preserved as they are in the relevant sections.”

5 Coast Guard Command (CG), “Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri” [“Irregular Migration Statistics”] (accessed April 21, 2024).

6 Ministry of Trade (MoT), “Kaçakçılıkla Mücadele Verileri” [“Anti-Smuggling Data”] (accessed April 14, 2024).

3.1. Irregular Migration Data by Institution

The following graph, showing the number of irregular migrants apprehended in Türkiye between 2020 and 2023, indicates that the number, which had decreased to **122,302** in 2020, began to rise again. The number of apprehended irregular migrants increased to **162,996** in 2021 and **285,027** in 2022, before being recorded as **254,008** in 2023. The deduplicated number was reported as **181,584**. Between 2005 and 2023, the total number of apprehended irregular migrants was calculated as **2,540.613**.



Figure 35. Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by year, 2005-2023⁷

The table below, showing the distribution of irregular migrants apprehended in 2023 by institution and month, provides an overall view of the figures that will be presented in detail in the following sections. However, it should be noted that the final number of apprehended irregular migrants belongs to PMM (**254,008**) and does not represent the total of the other institutions in the table.

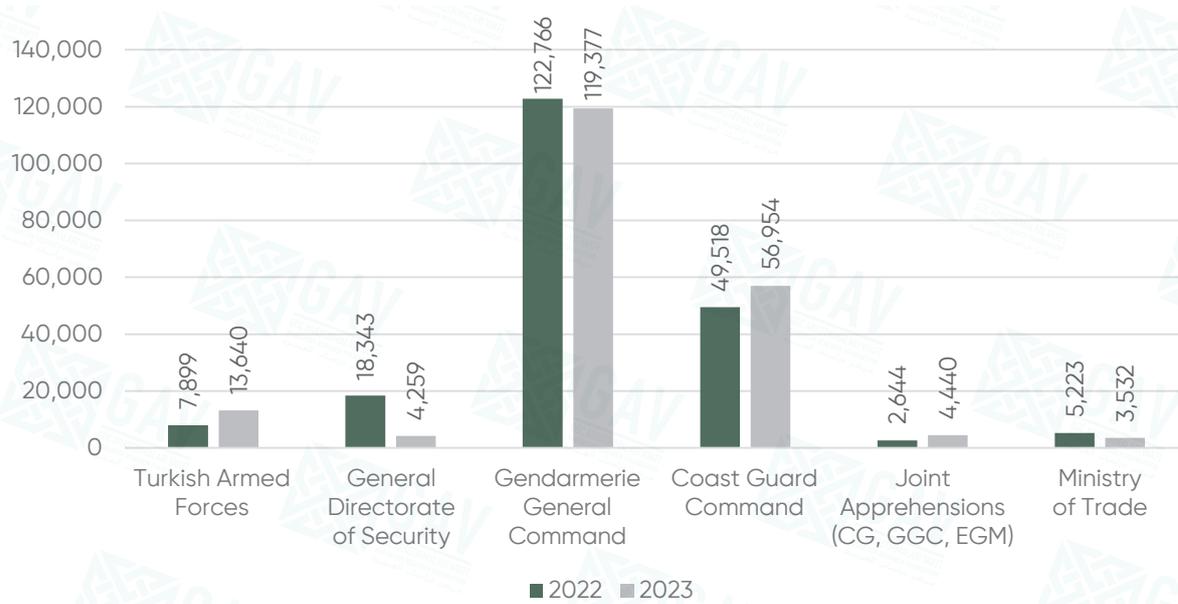
In the total row at the bottom of the table, two different figures are provided for TAF, GGC, and CG. This is due to the differences between the "total numbers reported by the institutions" and the "sum of the numbers shared by the institutions throughout the year." These differences are explained in detail in this and subsequent tables.

⁷ Prepared based on data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For detailed information, see PMM, "Düzensiz Göç" ["Irregular Migration"] (accessed March 8, 2024).

Table 62. *Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by institution and month, 2023⁸*

Months	Turkish Armed Forces		Gendarmerie General Command	Coast guard Command	Joint-1 (CG, GGC, EGM)	Joint-2 (EGM)	Ministry of Trade	PMM
	Entry	Exit						
January	148	281	8,048	3,025	102	716	-	14,499
February	65	310	4,582	1,802	43	-	-	9,683
March	123	839	8,453	2,614	194	775	-	14,309
April	156	396	5,645	2,806	386	731	-	12,798
May	112	484	4,787	3,161	215	-	-	13,776
June	167	547	6,316	3,102	107	839	-	17,898
July	126	556	8,439	2,909	452	-	-	27,252
August	221	1,538	14,663	5,005	787	-	-	32,771
September	220	1,940	21,856	9,623	514	1,198	-	38,569
October	344	2,079	17,369	10,736	1,012	-	-	32,909
November	248	1,454	10,392	4,830	211	-	-	21,361
December	258	575	8,827	7,341	417	-	-	18,183
Total	2,188	10,999	119,377 (119,074)	56,954 (57,252)	4,440	4,259	3,532	254,008
	13,187 (13,640)							

When looking at the graph below comparing the numbers of irregular migrants apprehended by institutions in 2022 and 2023, the increase in figures for TAF and CG is notable. According to TAF data, **7,899** irregular migrants were apprehended in 2022, while this number rose to **13,640** in 2023. Similarly, the number reported by CG last year as **49,518** was stated as **56,954** in 2023.

**Figure 36.** *Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by institution, 2022–2023⁹*

8 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the relevant institutions.

9 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the relevant institutions.

3.1.1. Presidency of Migration Management

Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) reported that the number of irregular migrants apprehended at the country's borders, in territorial waters, and within the country in 2023 was **254,008**. The deduplicated number of apprehended irregular migrants was reported as **181,584**.¹⁰ The total number of apprehended irregular migrants, which was **285,027** in 2022, decreased by **10.88%** in 2023. When examining the monthly differences between the two years, significant discrepancies can be observed, particularly in **May, June, and September**.

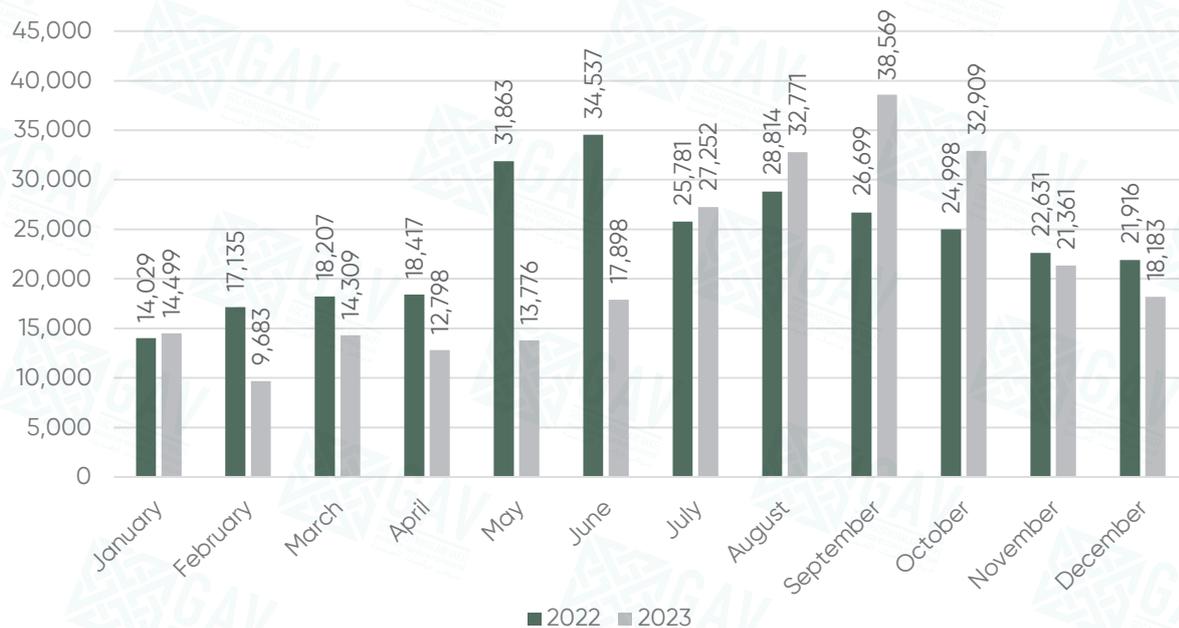


Figure 37. Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by month, 2022-2023¹¹

The table below shows the distribution of the **254,008** irregular migrants apprehended throughout the year by the top ten nationalities. Accordingly, in 2023, **68,687** Afghan, **58,621** Syrian, **18,113** Pakistani, **14,328** Palestinian, **13,040** Turkmen, **9,649** Bangladeshi, **8,803** Uzbek, **7,295** Moroccan, **6,383** Yemeni, and **6,085** Iraqi irregular migrants were apprehended. Afghan and Syrian nationals accounted for **50%** of the apprehended irregular migrants.

Table 63. Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by the top ten nationalities, 2023¹²

Nationalities	Numbers	Rate (%)
Afghanistan	68,687	27%
Syria	58,621	23%
Pakistan	18,113	7%

¹⁰ Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Düzensiz Göç" ["Irregular Migration"] (February 7, 2024).

¹¹ Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Directorate General of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), "Irregular Migration" (February 7, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

¹² Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Directorate General of Migration Management. For detailed information, see Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), "Irregular Migration."

Palestine	14,328	6%
Turkmenistan	13,040	5%
Bangladesh	9,649	4%
Uzbekistan	8,803	3%
Morocco	7,295	3%
Yemen	6,383	3%
Iraq	6,085	2%
Other	43,004	17%
Total	254,008	100%

Compared to the previous year, the significant decrease in the number of Afghan irregular migrants apprehended in 2023 is notable. This number, which was **115,775** in 2022, decreased to **68,687** in 2023. On the other hand, the number of apprehended Syrian irregular migrants increased, rising from **45,909** last year to **58,621** this year. When examining the other nationalities in the top ten, a similar trend to the previous year can be observed.

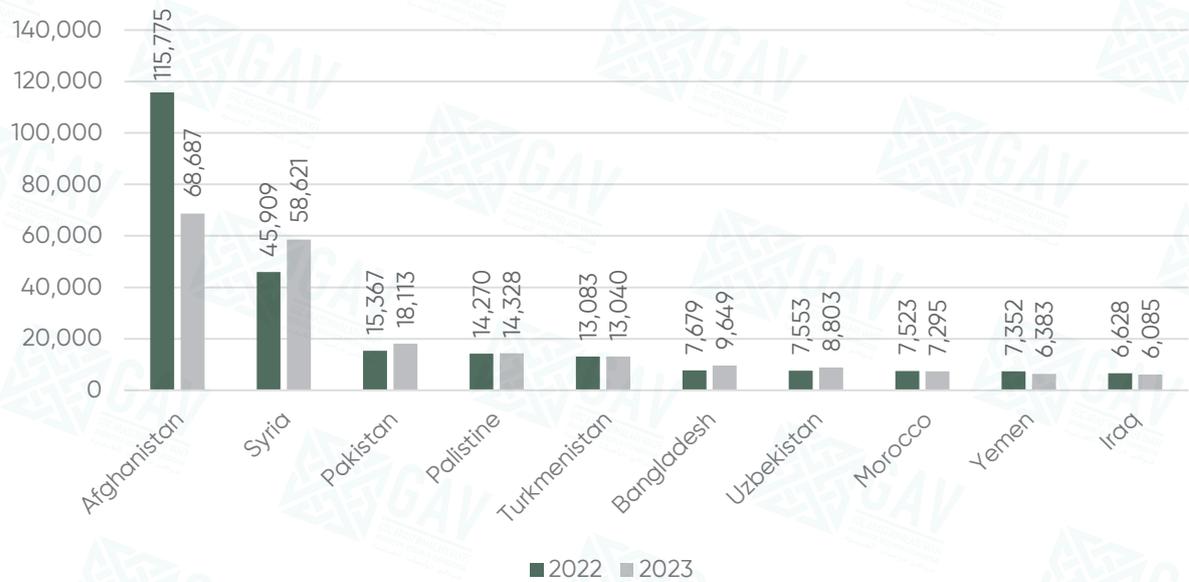


Figure 38. Distribution of apprehended irregular migrants by the top ten nationalities, 2022-2023¹³

3.1.2. Turkish Armed Forces

The data from the “Daily Activities” published daily by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), one of the key sources on irregular migrant numbers, have been recorded and organized on a daily basis by the authors.¹⁴ Therefore, the information provided below should be considered “as

¹³ Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see PMM “Düzensiz Göç” [“Irregular Migration”]; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

¹⁴ Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For detailed information, see *Turkish Armed Forces (TAF), “Günlük Faaliyetler”* [“Daily Activities”] (accessed daily throughout 2023).

far as could be determined.” The organized figures are presented in detail in the tables below. Accordingly, in 2023, the number of individuals apprehended while attempting irregular crossings at Türkiye’s land borders increased by **68%** compared to 2022. This increase was mainly observed in apprehensions that occurred during exit attempts from the country.

As also stated in the 2022 Annual, unlike previous years, for the first time in 2022, the number of individuals apprehended during exit attempts from Türkiye exceeded the number of those apprehended upon entry into the country.¹⁵ This trend continued in 2023. The number of irregular migrants apprehended while attempting to exit the country exceeded those apprehended while attempting to enter. In 2022, **4,957** irregular migrants were apprehended during exit attempts, while this number rose to **10,999** in 2023. The number apprehended during entry attempts was **2,865** last year and **2,188** in 2023. The total number of individuals apprehended during crossing attempts in 2023 was calculated as **13,187**. However, during the “Weekly Press Briefing Meetings” conducted by the Ministry of National Defense (as far as could be determined) from 6 July 2023 onward, a different year-end figure of **13,640** was mentioned.

The table below presents the figures reported cumulatively during the “Weekly Press Briefing Meetings” held between 6 July and 28 December. The table also provides the cumulative number of terrorists among those apprehended during illegal border crossing attempts, as well as the total number of individuals prevented from crossing the border.

Accordingly, between 1 January and 28 December, the number of individuals apprehended during illegal border crossing attempts was reported as **13,640**. The details of entry and exit attempts were not specified. In another announcement made in the first week of 2024 (04.01,2024), the number of apprehensions since the beginning of 2023 was reported as **13,758**. Since this figure likely also includes the first 3–4 days of 2024, the number of apprehensions in 2023 can be formulated as **13,640 ≤ X ≤ 13,758**. However, in the tables presented later, the entry and exit figures collected and calculated by the authors throughout the year are shown, as they provide more detailed information.

Between 1 January and 28 December, the number of individuals prevented from crossing the border was **207,289**. The number of apprehended terrorists was **605**, corresponding to **4.4%** of those apprehended.

Table 64. Numbers reported in TAF's weekly press briefings, 2023¹⁶

	Date of Announcement	Number of Individuals Apprehended While Attempting Illegal Border Crossings (Cumulative)	Number of Apprehended Terrorists (Cumulative)		Percentage of Terrorists Among Those Apprehended (%)	Number of Individuals Prevented from Crossing the Border (Cumulative)
			FETÖ Members	FETÖ+Other Terrorists		
January- June	-	-	-	-	-	-
July	06.07.2023	3,736	174	268	7.17	118,425
	13.07.2023	3,876	181	279	7.20	122,956
	20.07.2023	4,065	201	306	7.53	125,822
	27.07.2023	4,258	216	326	7.66	128,812
August	03.08.2023	4,468	236	347	7.77	131,944
	10.08.2023	4,752	236	356	7.49	134,935
	17.08.2023	4,931	245	369	7.48	138,011
	24.08.2023	5,282	255	380	7.19	141,406
	31.08.2023	5,756	285	417	7.24	145,697
September	07.09.2023	6,423	316	451	7.02	150,584
	14.09.2023	6,890	340	487	7.07	153,412
	21.09.2023	7,442	345	497	6.68	158,380
	28.09.2023	8,063	360	524	6.50	162,415
October	05.10.2023	8,593	369	533	6.20	166,611
	12.10.2023	9,230	373	537	5.82	171,382
	19.10.2023	9,863	382	548	5.56	176,338
	26.10.2023	10,413	389	555	5.33	179,677
November	02.11.2023	10,974	394	560	5.10	182,129
	09.11.2023	11,521	396	566	4.91	185,205
	23.11.2023	12,467	402	576	4.62	191,766
	30.11.2023	12,687	406	581	4.58	194,157
December	07.12.2023	12,889	407	583	4.52	196,524
	17.12.2023	13,156	410	590	4.48	199,898
	21.12.2023	13,502	415	598	4.43	203,968
	28.12.2023	13,640	420	605	4.44	207,289
2024	04.01.2024	13,758	-	-		209,402

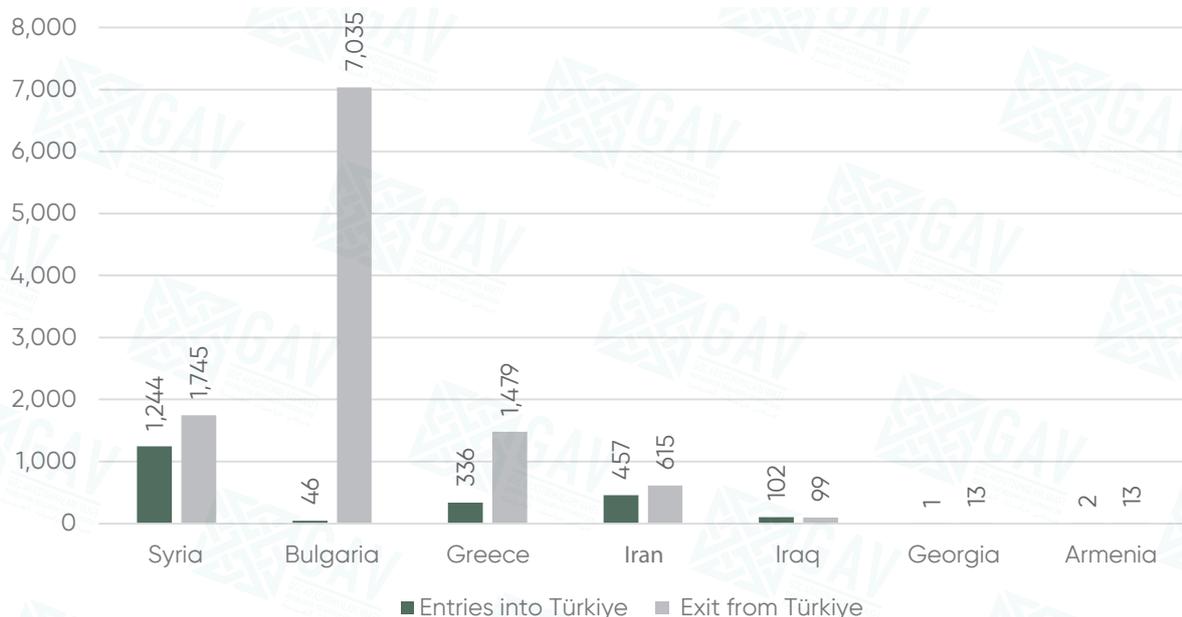
In 2023, border activity was recorded in the following order: Bulgaria (**7,081**), Syria (**2,989**), Greece (**1,815**), and Iran (**1,072**).

16 Ministry of National Defense (MoND), "Haftalık Basın Bilgilendirme Toplantıları" ["Weekly Press Briefings"], compilation of press releases (accessed July 6, 2023; July 13, 2023; July 20, 2023; July 27, 2023; August 3, 2023; August 10, 2023; August 17, 2023; August 24, 2023; August 31, 2023; September 7, 2023; September 14, 2023; September 21, 2023; September 28, 2023; October 5, 2023; October 12, 2023; October 19, 2023; October 26, 2023; November 2, 2023; November 9, 2023; November 23, 2023; November 30, 2023; December 7, 2023; December 17, 2023; December 21, 2023; December 28, 2023; January 4, 2024).

Table 65. Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry into and exit from Türkiye, by border, 2022-2023¹⁷

2022					2023				
Entry into Türkiye		Exit from Türkiye		Total	Entry into Türkiye		Exit from Türkiye		Total
From Syria	979	To Syria	1,005	1,984	From Syria	1,244	To Syria	1,745	2,989
From Bulgaria	512	To Bulgaria	1,678	2,190	From Bulgaria	46	To Bulgaria	7,035	7,081
From Greece	336	To Greece	1,236	1,572	From Greece	336	To Greece	1,479	1,815
From Iran	907	To Iran	982	1,889	From Iran	457	To Iran	615	1,072
From Iraq	126	To Iraq	30	156	From Iraq	102	To Iraq	99	201
From Georgia	2	To Georgia	18	20	From Georgia	1	To Georgia	13	14
From Armenia	3	To Armenia	8	11	From Armenia	2	To Armenia	13	15
Total	2,865	Total	4,957	7,822	Total	2,188	Total	10,999	13,187 ¹⁸
				7,899					13,640 ¹⁹

During entry attempts into Türkiye, the highest number of irregular migrants was apprehended at the Syrian border (**1,244**), while during exit attempts, the highest number was apprehended at the Bulgarian border (**7,035**). At the Syrian border, those apprehended during exit attempts (**1,745**) exceeded those apprehended during entry attempts (**1,244**). Similarly, the figures at the Greek border were recorded as **1,479** and **336**, respectively.

**Figure 39.** Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry into and exit from Türkiye, by border, 2023²⁰

17 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF "Günlük Faaliyetler" ["Daily Activities"]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıröğlü et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

18 This figure does not include 38 individuals apprehended by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) while attempting to cross from the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, nor 31 individuals apprehended by the TAF while attempting to cross from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus. The overall total reflects only the number of individuals apprehended during irregular crossings within the borders of the Republic of Türkiye.

19 See Table 64.

20 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For detailed information, see TAF, "Günlük Faaliyetler"

When comparing the individuals apprehended during entry attempts into Türkiye by border and year, the decreases at the Iranian and Bulgarian borders are notable. These numbers fell from **907** to **457** at the Iranian border and from **512** to **46** at the Bulgarian border. An increase was observed only at the Syrian border, where the number rose from **979** in 2022 to **1,244** in 2023.

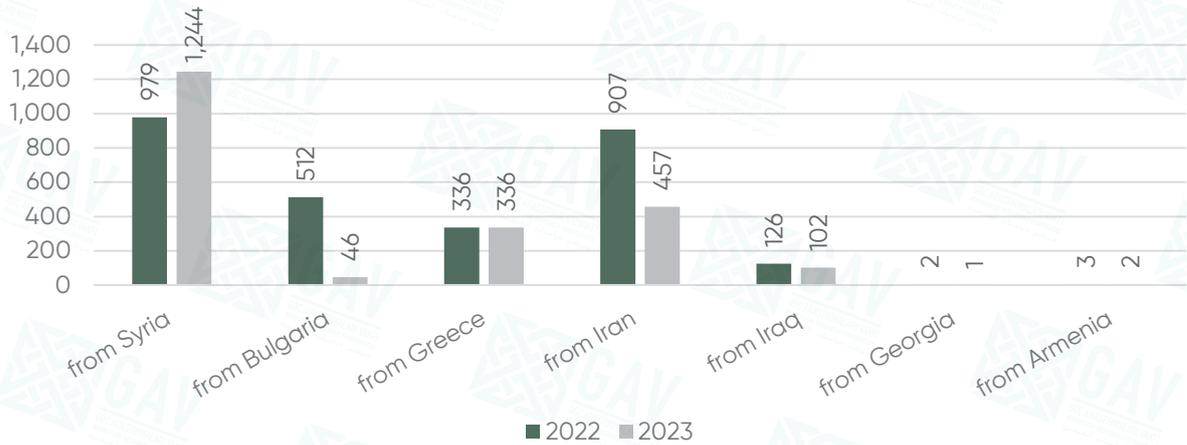


Figure 40. Number of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry attempts into Türkiye, by border, 2022-2023²¹

When comparing the individuals apprehended during exit attempts from Türkiye by border and year, the significant increase at the Bulgarian border stands out. The number, which was **1,678** last year, rose to **7,035** in 2023.

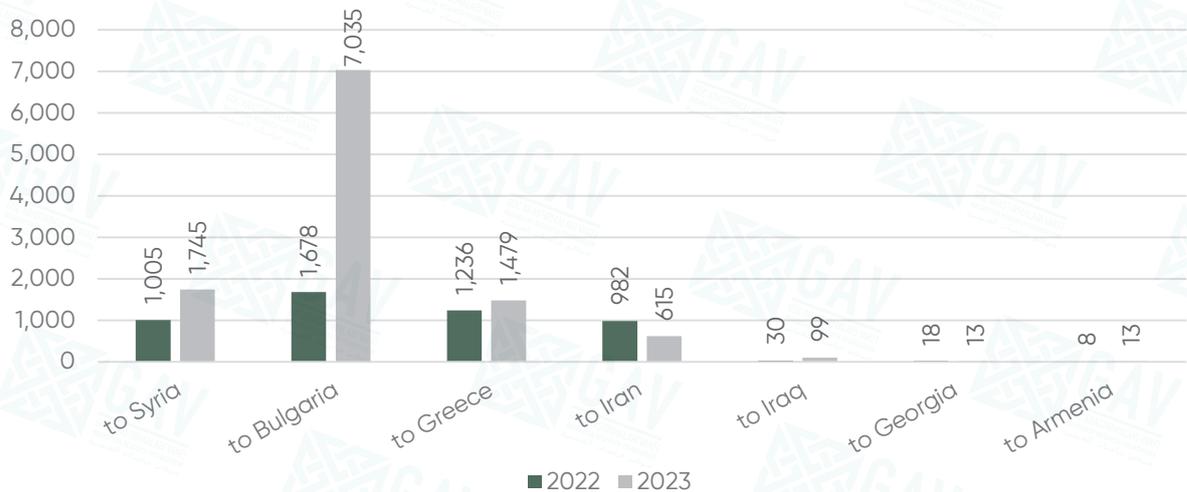


Figure 41. Number of individuals apprehended by TAF during exit attempts from Türkiye, by border, 2022-2023²²

[“Daily Activities.”]

21 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, “Günlük Faaliyetler” [“Daily Activities.”]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

22 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, “Günlük Faaliyetler” [“Daily Activities.”]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

In 2023, when examining the distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry attempts into Türkiye by border and month, no significant monthly variation is observed. On average, **182** individuals were apprehended per month. Among those apprehended during entry attempts, **56% (1,244)** were at the Syrian border, **20% (457)** at the Iranian border, and **15% (336)** at the Greek border.

Table 66. Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry attempts into Türkiye, by border and month, 2022–2023²³

Year	Months	from Syria	from Bulgaria	from Greece	from Iran	from Iraq	from Georgia	from Armenia	Total
2023	January	108	10	9	18	1	1	1	148
	February	29	11	16	6	3	0	0	65
	March	53	0	38	24	7	0	1	123
	April	87	0	33	25	11	0	0	156
	May	52	2	25	16	17	0	0	112
	June	46	1	97	18	5	0	0	167
	July	60	2	29	28	7	0	0	126
	August	114	13	11	59	24	0	0	221
	September	123	2	23	66	6	0	0	220
	October	153	4	20	156	11	0	0	344
	November	191	0	27	22	8	0	0	248
	December	228	1	8	19	2	0	0	258
	Total	1,244	46	336	457	102	1	2	2,188
2022	Total	979	512	336	907	126	2	3	2,865

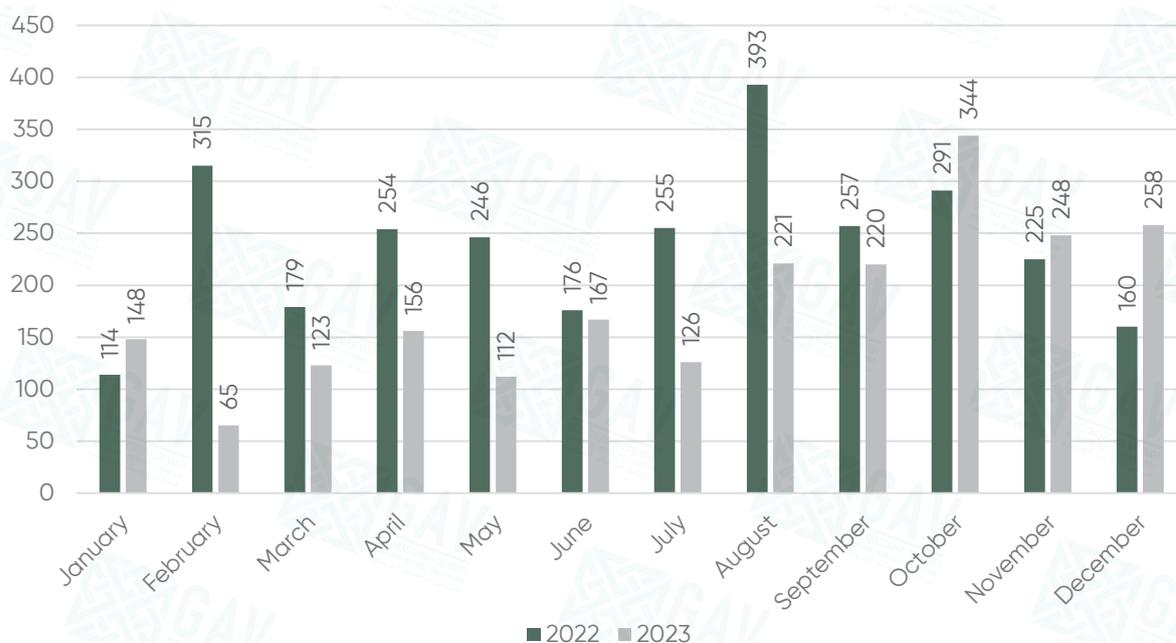
In 2023, when examining the distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during exit attempts from Türkiye by border and month, noticeable monthly variations can be observed. These attempts increased particularly in the second half of the year, starting from the summer months. On average, **916** individuals were apprehended per month during exit attempts, while the numbers for July (**1,538**), August (**1,940**), September (**2,079**), and October (**1,454**) were significantly above the average. Among those apprehended during exit attempts, **64% (7,035)** were at the Bulgarian border, **15% (1,745)** at the Syrian border, and **13% (1,479)** at the Greek border.

23 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, "Günlük Faaliyetler" ["Daily Activities."]; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

Table 67. Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during exit attempts from Türkiye, by border and month, 2022–2023²⁴

Year	Months	to Syria	to Bulgaria	to Greece	to Iran	to Iraq	to Georgia	to Armenia	Total
2023	January	94	82	45	46	8	6	0	281
	February	111	106	39	32	17	0	5	310
	March	139	566	57	61	16	0	0	839
	April	157	197	26	12	2	0	2	396
	May	86	299	58	37	2	2	0	484
	June	156	309	54	20	2	1	5	547
	July	184	283	68	9	12	0	0	556
	August	235	1,071	148	70	14	0	0	1,538
	September	225	1,325	270	93	24	2	1	1,940
	October	113	1,501	304	159	2	0	0	2,079
	November	123	1,017	241	73	0	0	0	1,454
	December	122	279	169	3	0	2	0	575
	Total	1,745	7,035	1,479	615	99	13	13	10,999

2022	Total	1,005	1,678	1,236	982	30	18	8	4,957
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**Figure 42.** Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during entry attempts into Türkiye, by month, 2022–2023²⁵

24 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, "Günlük Faaliyetler" ["Daily Activities."]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

25 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, "Günlük Faaliyetler" ["Daily Activities."]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

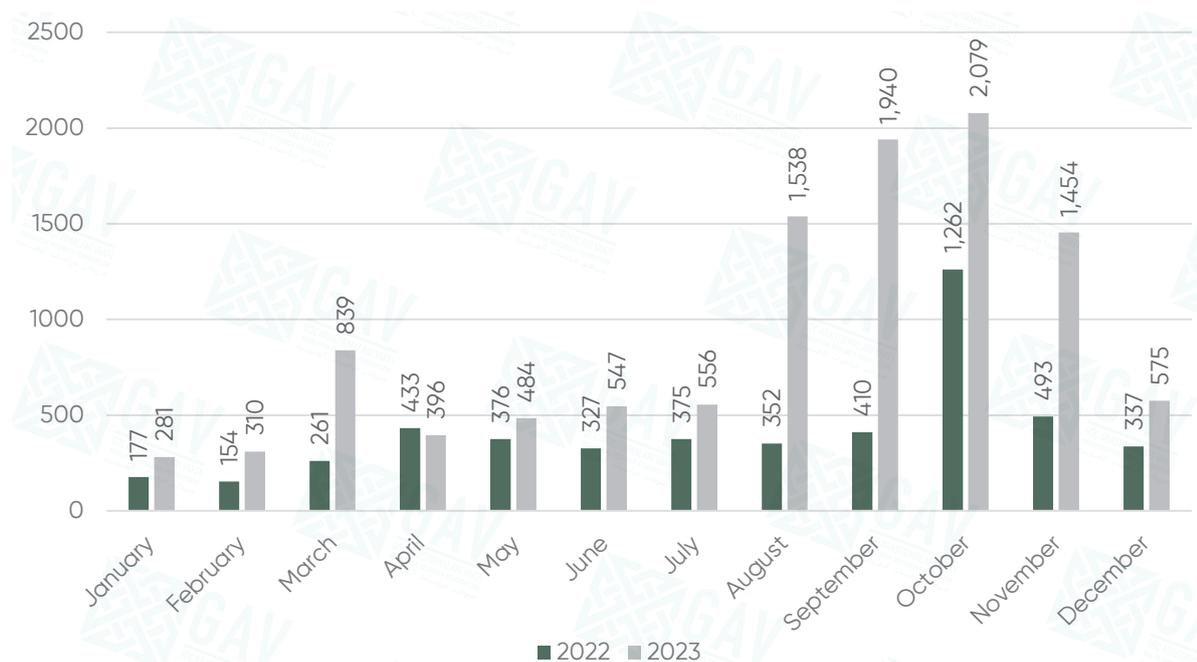


Figure 43. Distribution of individuals apprehended by TAF during exit attempts from Türkiye, by month, 2022-2023²⁶

3.1.3. Gendarmerie General Command

The irregular migration data published by the Gendarmerie General Command (GGC) are presented in the monthly reports available under the "Combating Crime" section of its official website, as well as in the GGC activity reports.²⁷

As stated in the *GGC 2023 Activity Report*, **14,918** incidents occurred in **2023**, and legal action was taken against **119,074** foreigners.²⁸ On the other hand, when the figures in the monthly public order reports are aggregated, the number **119,377** emerges. There is a discrepancy of **840** in the number of incidents and **303** in the number of apprehended irregular migrants between the Activity Report and the totals in the public order reports.

A similar situation is observed in the 2022 figures. While the 2022 Activity Report²⁹ lists **42,188** incidents and **158,474** "irregular migrants/foreigners subject to administrative action," the totals in the public order reports are **26,570** and **122,766**, respectively. There is a discrepancy of **15,618** in the number of incidents and **35,708** in the number of apprehended irregular migrants.

²⁶ Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Turkish Armed Forces. For 2023 figures, see TAF, "Günlük Faaliyetler" ["Daily Activities."]; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

²⁷ Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), "Veriler" ["Data"] (accessed May 5, 2025); Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), "Raporlar" ["Reports"] (accessed May 5, 2025).

²⁸ Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), *2023 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu* [2023 Annual Activity Report].

²⁹ Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), *2022 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu* [2022 Annual Activity Report].

Table 68. GGC – Number of Irregular Migration Incidents and Monthly Distribution of Apprehended Irregular Migrants, 2022–2023³⁰

Year	Months	Number of Irregular Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants	
2023	January	1,445	8,048	
	February	756	4,582	
	March	1,382	8,453	
	April	1,097	5,645	
	May	798	4,787	
	June	958	6,316	
	July	1,011	8,439	
	August	1,081	14,663	
	September	1,504	21,856	
	October	1,835	17,369	
	November	759	10,392	
	December	1,452	8,827	
	Total		14,078	119,377
	Total Number in the 2023 Activity Report (Irregular Migrants/Foreigners Subject to Administrative Action)		14,918	119,074
Discrepancy		840	303	
2022	Total	26,570	122,766	
	Total Number in the 2022 Activity Report (Irregular Migrants/Foreigners Subject to Administrative Action)	42,188	158,474	
	Discrepancy	15,618	35,708	

3.1.4. Coast Guard Command

The irregular migration data of the Coast Guard Command (CG) are shared on its official website under "Statistics"³¹ in the "Current Activities and Archive"³² section, as well as in its activity reports.

Some discrepancies occasionally arise among these sources. First, while the Statistics section publishes monthly and annual data quantitatively, the Current Activities and Archive section contains daily and qualitative data. Second, the apprehension or rescue of irregular migrants is reported only in the daily data and in the *Coast Guard Command 2023*

30 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Gendarmerie General Command. For 2023 figures, see *Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), "Asayiş İstatistikleri" ["Public Order Statistics"]* (accessed May 5, 2025) and *GGC, 2023 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu [2023 Annual Activity Report]*, p. 47; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

31 Coast Guard Command (CG), "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"] (accessed April 8, 2024).

32 Coast Guard Command (CG), "Güncel Faaliyetler" ["Current Activities"] (accessed daily throughout the year).

Administrative Activity Report. Third, information on the nationalities of apprehended and rescued irregular migrants is available only in these data.

Another important aspect of these data is the discrepancy between the totals of the daily published data and the figures published monthly. Regarding this issue, the CG notes in the daily data that “the shared data include information on incidents that occur during migration by sea and during search and rescue operations, and therefore may change upon the completion of these incidents.”³³ Consequently, these differences have been taken into account in the forthcoming tables and analyses, and the relevant issues are clarified in the footnotes.

The table below presents the data on irregular migration movements published by the CG for 2022–2023. In 2022, **1,617** irregular migration incidents occurred, with a total of **49,518** irregular migrants apprehended or rescued, and **41** irregular migrants lost their lives. In 2023, the number of incidents increased by **17%** compared to the previous year to **1,899**, and the number of apprehended/rescued irregular migrants rose by **15%** to **56,954**. The number of deaths was recorded as **20**.

Table 69. *Irregular Migration Data in the Coast Guard Command Sources, 2022–2023*³⁴

Year	Number of Irregular Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants	Number of Migrants Who Lost Their Lives
2022	1,617	49,518	41
2023	1,899	56,954	20
Rate of Change (%)	17	15	-51

Table 70 shows the monthly distribution of irregular migrants apprehended and rescued by the CG. The table also highlights the discrepancies between the figures published daily and those published monthly. Accordingly, while the number of irregular migrants apprehended/rescued in 2023 was reported as **56,954** at the end of the year and in the *CG 2023 Administrative Activity Report*, the total calculated by aggregating daily figures amounts to **57,252**. This indicates a difference of **298** people. In months other than February, March, April, and July, the figures shared sometimes show surpluses and sometimes deficits.

Another difference in the table concerns the numbers of irregular migrants apprehended and rescued. While the *CG 2023 Administrative Activity Report* lists **30,866** rescued and **26,088** apprehended persons, the totals calculated by aggregating daily figures are **30,698** and **26,554**, respectively. This indicates a difference of **168** in the number of rescues and **466** in the number of apprehensions.

Another point concerns Turkish citizens. In the daily reports, although the number of apprehended/rescued Turkish citizens is provided, they are not included in the overall total.

33 Coast Guard Command (CG), “Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri” [“Irregular Migration Statistics”].

34 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For 2023 figures, see Coast Guard Command (CG), “Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri” [“Irregular Migration Statistics”]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

Therefore, the other side of the table presents a scenario in which Turkish citizens are also included.

Table 70. Number of irregular migrants apprehended and rescued by the CG by month, 2022–2023³⁵

Month	Rescued	Apprehended	Total	CG Monthly Reported Figures	Difference	Apprehended/rescued Turkish citizens ³⁶	Total including Turkish citizens	CG Monthly Reported Figures	Difference
January	2,082	905	2,987	3,025	38	6	2,993	3,025	32
February	1,186	616	1,802	1,802	0	1	1,803	1,802	-1
March	1,894	720	2,614	2,614	0	1	2,615	2,614	-1
April	1,995	811	2,806	2,806	0	0	2,806	2,806	0
May	1,881	1,268	3,149	3,161	12	6	3,155	3,161	6
June	1,411	1,684	3,095	3,102	7	4	3,099	3,102	3
July	1,480	1,429	2,909	2,909	0	0	2,909	2,909	0
August	2,679	2,656	5,335	5,005	-330	4	5,339	5,005	-334
September	4,336	5,198	9,534	9,623	89	1	9,535	9,623	88
October	5,637	4,987	10,624	10,736	112	4	10,628	10,736	108
November	2,523	2,365	4,888	4,830	-58	3	4,891	4,830	-61
December	3,594	3,915	7,509	7,341	-168	4	7,513	7,341	-172
Total	30,698	26,554	57,252	56,954	-298	34	57,286	56,954	-332
CG Monthly Activity Report	30,866	26,088	56,954	56,954	-	-	-	56,954	-
Difference	168	-466	-298	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rescued	Apprehended	Total	CG Monthly Reported Figures	Difference	Apprehended/rescued Turkish citizens	Total including Turkish citizens	CG Monthly Reported Figures	Difference
2022 Total	32,053	17,116	49,169	49,518	349	117	49,286	49,518	232

When the numbers of apprehended/rescued irregular migrants are compared between 2022 and 2023, the decrease in the rescue rate and the increase in the apprehension rate become apparent. In 2022, of the total **49,286** irregular migrants apprehended/rescued by the CG, **65%** were rescued and **35%** were apprehended, whereas in 2023 these rates changed to **54% (30,866)** and **46% (26,088)**, respectively.

35 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For 2023 figures, see Coast Guard Command (CG), "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"]; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

36 Turkish nationals are listed in the data published by the Coast Guard Command as "ülkeyi yasa dışı yollarla terk etmeye çalışan şahıs" ["individuals attempting to leave the country illegally"], and it appears that these individuals are not included in the total number of rescued or apprehended persons.

Table 71. *Distribution of irregular migrants apprehended and rescued by the CG, 2022–2023³⁷*

		2022		2023	
		Rate (%)	Numbers	Rate (%)	Numbers
Total of daily and monthly re-reported figures	Rescued	32,053	65	30,866	54
	Apprehended	17,233	35	26,088	46
	Total	49,286	100	56,954	100
Year-end reported total		49,518		56,954	
Difference		232		0	

Table 72 presents the distribution of apprehended/rescued irregular migrants by nationality. The table includes only 38 nationalities for which the total number of apprehensions/rescues at year-end was **10 or more**. The top ten nationalities are, in order: Afghanistan (**20,073**), Palestine (**10,646**), Syria (**9,810**), Yemen (**6,045**), Congo (**2,132**), Liberia (**1,480**), Sudan (**1,015**), Egypt (**1,004**), Iraq (**737**), and Eritrea (**602**). The total of these nationalities (**53,544**) represents **94%** of the total **57,252 (56,954)** irregular migrants apprehended/rescued.³⁸

Table 72. *Distribution of irregular migrants apprehended/rescued by the CG by nationality, 2023³⁹*

Nationalities	Numbers	Nationalities	Numbers
Afghanistan	20,073	Sierra Leone	124
Palestine	10,646	Ethiopia	63
Syria	9,810	South Africa	61
Yemen	6,045	Togo	43
Congo	2,132	The Gambia	41
Liberia	1,480	Côte d'Ivoire	33
Sudan	1,015	Ghana	29
Egypt	1,004	Djibouti	28
Iraq	737	Pakistan	27
Eritrea	602	Nigeria	25
Mali	485	Libya	22
Iran	442	Gabon	17
Central African Republic	412	Morocco	16
Somalia	410	Lebanon	14
Angola	260	Uganda	13
Cameroon	236	Burkina Faso	13
Haiti	222	Tunisia	10

37 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For 2023 figures, see *Coast Guard Command (CG), "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"]*; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*. Since the details of rescues and apprehensions are not provided in the monthly and annual statistics and appear only in the daily activity reports, the table and commentary for 2022 were prepared based on the total annual figure of **49,286** obtained from the daily activity reports. For 2023, the numbers of rescued and apprehended individuals are based on the figures reported in the *Sahil Güvenlik Komutanlığı 2023 İdare Faaliyet Raporu [Coast Guard Command 2023 Administrative Activity Report]*.

38 Since nationality information is not provided in the monthly and annual statistics and appears only in the daily activity reports, the relevant table and commentary were prepared based on the total annual figure of **57,252** obtained from the daily activity reports.

39 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For 2023 figures, see *Coast Guard Command (CG), "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"]*.

Guinea	167	Algeria	10
Senegal	158	Tchad	10
Unspecified	237	Other⁴⁰	80
Total		57,252⁴¹ (56,954)	

The table below presents the distribution of apprehended/rescued irregular migrants by the top 38 nationalities and by month. Accordingly, the highest numbers of apprehended/rescued irregular migrants were recorded in October (**10,624**), September (**9,534**), and December (**7,509**).

Table 73. Distribution of irregular migrants apprehended/rescued by the CG by nationality and month, 2023⁴²

Nationalities	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Afghanistan	835	703	544	598	732	800	942	1,644	2,911	3,420	2,269	4,675	20,073
Palestine	411	415	577	611	741	604	665	877	1,544	2,368	1,000	833	10,646
Syria	104	24	102	174	320	211	126	911	3,485	3,042	708	603	9,810
Yemen	312	173	211	607	691	1,025	830	851	662	284	142	257	6,045
Congo	523	168	290	226	199	58	74	220	132	126	62	54	2,132
Liberia	289	60	396	168	50	64	16	61	118	155	70	33	1,480
Sudan	2	0	4	2	3	14	34	152	114	143	207	340	1,015
Egypt	15	0	55	5	64	27	4	20	37	263	183	331	1,004
Iraq	7	0	23	45	172	78	16	50	106	197	25	18	737
Eritrea	98	52	80	96	16	55	70	17	21	17	22	58	602
Mali	147	55	67	44	12	21	16	33	12	32	19	27	485
Iran	7	1	12	18	40	28	4	56	69	145	9	53	442
Central African Republic	103	21	60	36	12	20	19	30	37	44	5	25	412
Somalia	25	36	37	53	25	15	6	71	66	47	12	17	410
Angola	25	16	25	11	23	8	14	33	32	37	17	19	260

40 The "Other" category includes nationalities for which the total number of irregular migrants apprehended or rescued during the year does not exceed ten, representing 80 irregular migrants from a total of 35 countries.

41 Turkish nationals are listed in the data published by the Coast Guard Command as "ülkeyi yasa dışı yollarla terk etmeye çalışan şahıs" ["individuals attempting to leave the country illegally"], and it appears that these individuals are not included in the total number of rescued or apprehended persons. Therefore, the apprehended/rescued Turkish citizens (34 individuals) have not been included in the total count.

42 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For detailed information, see CG, "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"]. Since nationality information is not provided in the monthly and annual statistics and appears only in the daily activity reports, the relevant table and commentary were prepared based on the total annual figure of 57,252 obtained from the daily activity reports.

Unspecified	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	230	0	0	6	0	237
Cameroon	9	15	9	10	2	19	4	20	39	37	41	31	236
Haiti	27	6	18	19	8	14	10	12	20	54	17	17	222
Guinea	7	5	11	2	5	4	7	6	29	37	21	33	167
Senegal	8	8	21	14	7	9	21	11	7	22	13	17	158
Sierra Leone	1	0	9	2	2	4	0	2	37	50	9	8	124
Ethiopia	3	9	14	19	0	4	3	1	6	0	0	4	63
South Africa	5	3	12	3	4	4	7	6	6	6	5	0	61
Togo	3	6	8	9	0	0	0	1	1	8	3	4	43
The Gambia	4	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	4	15	5	4	41
Côte d'Ivoire	0	4	5	4	2	1	0	0	1	5	6	5	33
Ghana	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	5	16	1	1	29
Djibouti	2	0	1	7	2	2	5	0	0	7	0	2	28
Pakistan	4	0	1	9	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	6	27
Nigeria	0	0	4	5	1	1	2	1	2	4	3	2	25
Libya	0	15	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	22
Gabon	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	4	17
Morocco	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	5	0	2	4	16
Lebanon	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	4	0	1	14
Uganda	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	13
Burkina Faso	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	13
Tunisia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	2	10
Algeria	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	1	10
Tchad	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	10

Other	4	4	2	4	8	1	4	13	11	16	2	11	80
Total	2,987	1,802	2,614	2,806	3,149	3,095	2,909	5,335	9,534	10,624	4,888	7,509	57,252

CG Monthly Data	3,025	1,802	2,614	2,806	3,161	3,102	2,909	5,005	9,623	10,736	4,830	7,341	56,954
Difference	38	0	0	0	12	7	0	-330	89	112	-58	-168	-298

Türkiye	6	1	1	0	6	4	0	4	1	4	3	4	34
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The map below presents the numbers and rates of apprehensions/rescues by province, prepared by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM) using data from the CG.⁴³ According to the map, İzmir ranks first in 2023 with **44%**, followed by Muğla (**23%**), Çanakkale (**16%**), Balıkesir (**9%**), and Aydın (**8%**).

43 International Organization for Migration (IOM). Türkiye – Overview of Migrant Situation – Annual Report (Jan-Dec 2023).



Map 12. Distribution of the numbers and rates of irregular migrants apprehended/rescued by the CG by province, 2023

3.1.5. Joint-1 (Coast Guard Command, Gendarmerie General Command, and General Directorate of Security)

Another dataset shared by the CG regarding irregular migrant numbers should be presented under a separate heading. This dataset is referred to as “CG-GGC and EGM Joint Apprehensions” and includes information on irregular migrants identified on land and apprehended by the Gendarmerie and General Directorate of Security before reaching the sea.⁴⁴

Table 74 presents the numbers of irregular migrants apprehended and the number of migration incidents in joint operations. Accordingly, in 2023 a total of **159** migration incidents occurred, and **4,440** irregular migrants were apprehended during these incidents.

Table 74. Joint apprehension statistics of the CG, Gendarmerie General Command, and General Directorate of Security, 2022–2023⁴⁵

Year	Month	Number of Migration Incidents	Number of Irregular Migrants
2023	January	10	102
	February	2	43
	March	9	194
	April	17	386
	May	9	215
	June	5	107
	July	10	452
	August	18	787
	September	15	514
	October	37	1,012
	November	9	211
	December	18	417
	Total	159	4,440
2022	Total	65	2,644

3.1.6. Joint-2 (General Directorate of Security)

The data presented in this section, which can be considered the second set of joint apprehensions, were obtained from announcements published on the website of the General Directorate of Security. These apprehensions were conducted by the General Directorate of Security, the Gendarmerie General Command, and the CG within their respective areas of responsibility, in cooperation with the provincial units of the Directorate General of Migration Management, as part of the “Security Operations for Combating Irregular Migration.”⁴⁶

In 2022, the “Security Operations for Combating Irregular Migration” were conducted a total of 12 times, once each month. In 2023, as far as could be identified, the operations were carried out five times. The operations involved inspections of “abandoned buildings where foreign nationals might reside, areas of high residence density, public entertainment venues, truck garages, terminals, ports and fishing shelters, and public transportation stops and stations” in January, March, April, June, and September, with the aim of “effectively combating irregular migration and migrant smuggling.” A total of **74,221** locations were inspected, categorized as “abandoned buildings”, “public places”, “terminals”, and “other places.”

45 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Coast Guard Command. For 2023 figures, see *Coast Guard Command (CG), “Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri”* [“Irregular Migration Statistics”]; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

46 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security and the Ministry of Interior. General Directorate of Security (EGM), “Ülke Geneline Düzensiz Göç ile Mücadeleye Yönelik Huzur Uygulaması” [“Nationwide Peace Operation Against Irregular Migration”], compilation of press releases (accessed January 26, 2023; April 1, 2023; April 19, 2023; June 14, 2023; September 21, 2023).

Table 75. *Distribution of locations inspected within the Security Operations for Combating Irregular Migration, 2022–2023*⁴⁷

Months	Operation/ Announcement Date	Locations Inspected				
		Abandoned Buildings	Public Places	Terminals	Other Places	Total
January	24.01.2023	5,285	9,870	425	3,630	19,210
February	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	31.03.2023	5,350	9,489	454	3,441	18,734
April	18.04.2023	5,162	8,858	468	3,379	17,867
May	-	-	-	-	-	-
June	13.06.2023	5,026	9,473	404	3,507	18,410
July	-	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	21.09.2023	-	-	-	-	6,340
October	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023 Total		20,823	37,690	1,751	1,957	74,221
2022 Total		68,651	129,590	5,809	46,999	256,444

The table below presents the monthly distribution of irregular migrants apprehended within the operations. In total, **67,749** foreign nationals were questioned, and **4,259** irregular migrants were apprehended during the operations.

Table 76. *Number of irregular migrants apprehended within the Security Operations for Combating Irregular Migration, 2022–2023*⁴⁸

Months	Operation/ Announcement Date	Total Number of Persons Questioned	Number of Foreign Nationals Questioned	Number of Irregular Migrants Apprehended
January	24.01.2023	337,822	26,591	716
February	-	-	-	-
March	31.03.2023	311,287	19,307	775
April	18.04.2023	-	-	731
May	-	-	-	-
June	13.06.2023	-	-	839
July	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-

47 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security. For 2023 figures, see General Directorate of Security (EGM), "Ülke Genelinde Düzensiz Göç ile Mücadeleye Yönelik Huzur Uygulaması" ["Nationwide Peace Operation Against Irregular Migration"], compilation of press releases; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

48 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security. For 2023 figures, see General Directorate of Security (EGM), "Ülke Genelinde Düzensiz Göç ile Mücadeleye Yönelik Huzur Uygulaması" ["Nationwide Peace Operation Against Irregular Migration"], compilation of press releases; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

September	21.09.2023	338,043	21,851	1,198
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-
2023 Total		987,152	67,749	4,259
2022 Total		-	-	18,343

2023 In 2023, new operations targeting migrant smuggling organizers and irregular migrants were also conducted. Information on the operations, referred to as "Kalkan" (Shield), carried out nationwide in Türkiye, is provided below. Data for the first two of the five operations conducted in 2023 are not available, while information on the remaining operations has been shared. Accordingly, as far as can be determined, a total of **7,300** irregular migrants were apprehended in the third, fourth, and fifth Kalkan operations.

The Kalkan-3 operation was carried out in border areas, resulting in the apprehension of **1,222** irregular migrants. The Kalkan-4 operation was conducted in a total of 37 provinces – Adana, Afyonkarahisar, Ağrı, Aksaray, Amasya, Antalya, Artvin, Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bitlis, Bolu, Bursa, Çanakkale, Edirne, Elazığ, Erzincan, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Iğdır, Isparta, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırklareli, Kilis, Kocaeli, Konya, Muğla, Nevşehir, Niğde, Ordu, Sakarya, Şanlıurfa, Tekirdağ, and Van – at **126** different locations by the Gendarmerie and the General Directorate of Security, resulting in the apprehension of **4,568** irregular migrants.

The Kalkan-5 operation was carried out in 20 provinces – İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Adana, Ağrı, Antalya, Bitlis, Bolu, Çanakkale, Edirne, Gaziantep, Iğdır, Kocaeli, Konya, Malatya, Muğla, Nevşehir, Sakarya, Şanlıurfa, and Van – at **63** different locations, resulting in the apprehension of **1,510** irregular migrants.

Table 77. Number of irregular migrants apprehended within the Kalkan operations⁴⁹

	Operation/ Announcement Date	Number of Provinces Where Operations Were Conducted	Number of Irregular Migrants
Kalkan-1 Operation	-	-	-
Kalkan-2 Operation	-	-	-
Kalkan-3 Operation	15.11.2023	-	1,222
Kalkan-4 Operation	25.12.2023	37	4,568
Kalkan-5 Operation	31.12.2023	20	1,510
Total	-	-	7,300

49 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security. General Directorate of Security (EGM), "Kalkan Operasyonları basın açıklaması derlemesi" ["Kalkan Operations compilation of press releases"] (accessed November 16, 2023; December 26, 2023; January 1, 2024).

3.1.7 Ministry of Trade

Table 78 was compiled from data⁵⁰ published on the official website of the Ministry of Trade and from the *2023 Activity Report of the Ministry of Trade, General Directorate of Customs Enforcement*, reflecting “migrant apprehensions” and the “number of judicial and administrative proceedings” recorded in customs statistics. Accordingly, **2,118** judicial and administrative proceedings took place in 2022, and **1,729** in 2023. During these proceedings, **5,223** irregular migrants were apprehended in 2022, while **3,532** irregular migrants were apprehended in 2023.

In 2023, of the irregular migrants apprehended, **1,852** were Syrian, while **301** were Afghan nationals. The remaining **1,379** irregular migrants were reported to be from **65** different countries.

Table 78. Irregular migration data of the Ministry of Trade, 2021–2023⁵¹

Year	Number of Incidents	Afghanistan	Syria	Other	Number of Irregular Migrants
2021	1,385	1,165	1,529	1,085 (53 country)	3,779
2022	2,118	1,478	2,340	1,405 (61 country)	5,223
2023	1,729	301	1,852	1,379 (65 country)	3,532
2022–2023 Rate of Change (%)	-18.37	-79.63	-20.85	-1.85	-32.38

Of the **3,532** irregular migrants apprehended in 2023, **72%** were apprehended by the Edirne and Gürbulak (Ağrı) Customs Enforcement Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Directorates.

Table 79. Distribution of irregular migration data by the Ministry of Trade, according to the Customs Enforcement Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Directorates, 2021–2023⁵²

		2021	2022	2023	Total
At the Edirne Customs Enforcement Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate	Number of Incidents	674	1,237	1,115	3,026
	Number of Irregular Migrants	1,476	2,982	2,154	6,612
At the Gürbulak (Ağrı) Customs Enforcement Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate	Number of Incidents	258	362	168	788
	Number of Irregular Migrants	1,119	1,227	373	2,719
Other	Number of Incidents	453	519	446	1,418
	Number of Irregular Migrants	1,184	1,014	1,005	3,203
Total	Number of Incidents	1,385	2,118	1,729	5,232
	Number of Irregular Migrants	3,779	5,223	3,532	12,534

50 Ministry of Trade (MoT), “Kaçakçılıkla Mücadele Verileri” [“Anti-Smuggling Data”], accessed April 14, 2024.

51 For detailed information, see Ministry of Trade (MoT), [“Anti-Smuggling Data”], and Ministry of Trade, Directorate General of Customs Enforcement (DGCE), 2023 Activity Report (DGCE, 2024), p. 49.

52 For detailed information, see Ministry of Trade, Directorate General of Customs Enforcement (DGCE), 2023 Faaliyet Raporu [2023 Activity Report] (DGCE, 2024), p. 49.

3.2. Combating Irregular Migration

Since the previous sections presented general data on irregular migration, this section focuses on border interdictions, the number of deportations, readmission procedures, and other related measures.

As noted in the 2022 Annual, “three main aspects stand out in combating irregular migration in Türkiye: the first is preventing entry into the country at the borders; the second is apprehending irregular migrants at the borders, in territorial waters, and within the country; and the third is returning/deporting apprehended irregular migrants to their countries of origin.”⁵³

Similarly, Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya summarizes Türkiye’s policy on combating irregular migration as follows: “We carry out this struggle in four stages. First, addressing the problem at its source, before it leaves the country of origin. Second, implementing effective border security measures. Third, ensuring effective identification and apprehension within the country. Fourth, establishing fast and efficient deportation procedures. We conduct these measures at all times in accordance with our public order and security, without compromise, and in line with our civilization and humanitarian values.”

Minister Yerlikaya also stated that, starting from the second half of 2023, as a result of the measures taken to combat irregular migration, irregular migrants began to change their routes and seek new migration paths:

“As a result of the operations, **112,404** irregular migrants were apprehended over 120 days [June–October]. Of these, **48,339** were deported to their countries of origin. Deportation procedures for the remaining irregular migrants are still ongoing. As we intensified our efforts against irregular migration in the field, **120,531** foreign nationals whose visas had expired, residence permits had lapsed, or whose stay was otherwise unauthorized, returned to their countries. Thanks to the successful work of our border units, in just the last 120 days, the entry of **80,946** irregular migrants into our borders was prevented. [...] In Istanbul, a total of 304 operations targeting irregular migrants and migrant smuggling organizers have resulted in the detention of **451** suspects. Of these, **94** were remanded in custody, and **43** were placed under judicial control. During this period, **42,257** irregular migrants were apprehended in Istanbul, of whom **10,642** have been deported so far. Deportation procedures for the remaining migrants are still ongoing. [...] The number of irregular migrants in our country will decrease rapidly. As a result of these determined efforts, irregular migrants have begun seeking new migration routes. In the countries of origin, organizers are reportedly advising each other, ‘Authorities in Türkiye are acting very strictly on the ground; do not go.’ Prospective migrants are also telling the organizers, ‘I will not give this money for the Türkiye route; take me somewhere else.’ This situation has developed over the course of 120 days.”⁵⁴

53 Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

54 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) : “İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: ‘Düzensiz Göçmenler Yeni Göç Rotası Arayışına Girdi’ ” [“Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: ‘Irregular Migrants Have Started Seeking New Migration Routes’”] (accessed October 12, 2023).

3.2.1. *Border Interdictions*

In 2023, the number of irregular migrants apprehended within the country, at the borders, and in territorial waters was **254,008**, while the number of irregular crossings prevented at Türkiye's borders was **223,856**. In 2022, these numbers were reported as **285,027** and **280,206**, respectively.

Although a decrease in apprehensions and interdictions is observed compared to the previous year, looking at the last three years, the total number of irregular migrants apprehended is **702,031**, and the number of interdictions at the borders is **955,158**, highlighting Türkiye's sustained efforts in combating irregular migration in recent years. Between 2021 and 2023, the combined total of "border interdictions" and "apprehensions at the borders, in territorial waters, and within the country" exceeded **1.6 million**.

Table 80. *Combating Irregular Migration, 2021-2023*⁵⁵

Year	Apprehended at the Borders, in Territorial Waters, and Within the Country	Prevention at the Borders	Total
2021 ⁵⁶	162,996	451,096	614,092
2022 ⁵⁷	285,027	280,206	565,233
2023 ⁵⁸	254,008	223,856	477,864
Total	702,031	955,158	1,657,189

3.2.2. *Deportation*

When examining deportation figures, another important step in combating irregular migration, an increase of approximately **5%** compared to the previous year can be observed. The number of irregular migrants deported, reported as **124,441** in 2022, was reported as **130,611** in 2023. The deportation rate, expressed as **71%** in 2022, was not explicitly stated by the competent authorities for 2023.

Table 81. *Number of irregular migrants deported, 2022-2023*⁵⁹

Years	Number of Irregular Migrants Deported	Deportation Rate
2022	124,441	71%
2023	130,611	-
Total	255,052	-

55 Prepared by the authors. The sources of the figures provided in the table are indicated in the footnotes next to each year.

56 Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2021*.

57 Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

58 Ministry of Interior (MoI), "Bakanımız Sayın Yerlikaya: '2023 Yılında, 3 Bin 744 Göçmen Kaçakçısı Tutuklandı' " ["Our Minister Ali Yerlikaya: 'In 2023, 3,744 Human Traffickers Were Arrested'"] (accessed February 1, 2024).

59 For 2023 figures, see Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), *2023 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu [2023 Annual Activity Report]*; Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: 'Sınırlardaki Düzensiz Göç Baskısı Yüzde 60 Azaldı, Rota Değişti' " ["Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: 'Pressure of Irregular Migration at the Borders Decreased by 60%, Route Changed'"] (accessed December 25, 2024). For 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

When examining the distribution of irregular migrants deported in 2023 by period, it is evident that deportation numbers increased in the second half of the year. The number, approximately **48,000** in the January–June period, rose to around **82,000** in the July–December period. This trend aligns with the measures implemented in Türkiye to combat irregular migration from the middle of 2023 onward.

Table 82. *Distribution of irregular migrants deported by period within the year, 2023⁶⁰*

	Month	Number of Irregular Migrants Deported
Q1	January–March	26,819
Q2	April–June	21,401
Q3	July–September	39,825
Q4	October–December	42,566
Total		130,611

The nationalities of deported irregular migrants are not known with certainty. The most detailed information on the subject was provided by Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya on 25 June 2023. According to this information, between 1 January and 22 June, a total of **46,633** irregular migrants were deported, including **15,028** to Afghanistan, **1,952** to Pakistan, and **29,653** to other countries.⁶¹ No information regarding the nationalities of **83,978** irregular migrants deported between 23 June and 31 December has been reported.

In addition, by the end of 2023, it was reported that **371,433** foreign nationals whose visas/visa exemptions or residence permits had expired (thereby becoming irregular migrants) voluntarily left the country as a result of measures to combat irregular migration.⁶²

In 2022, the number of return centers was **30**, which decreased to **28** by mid-2023, while the return capacity, **20,540** in 2022, dropped to **18,220**. It was noted that one return center in Hatay and one in Malatya, which were operational in 2022, were closed in 2023. However, it has been reported that three new return centers, with capacities of **450** in İstanbul/Çatalca, **1,000** in İstanbul/Arnavutköy, and **400** in Bayburt, totaling **1,850**, are planned to be opened.

Table 83. *Return centers and their capacities in Türkiye⁶³*

2022			2023		
Rank	Provinces	Capacity	Rank	Provinces	Capacity
1	Adana	450	1	Adana	450
2	Ağrı	1,000	2	Ağrı	1,000
3	Ankara	1,000	3	Ankara	1,000

60 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), *2023 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu [2023 Annual Activity Report]*, p. 61.

61 Ali Yerlikaya, "Düzensiz Göçle Mücadelemiz Aralıksız Devam Ediyor" ["Our Fight Against Irregular Migration Continues Uninterrupted"], X (Twitter) (June 25, 2023, 12:43).

62 Ministry of Interior (MoI), "Bakanımız Sayın Yerlikaya: '2023 Yılında, 3 Bin 744 Göçmen Kaçakçısı Tutuklandı' " ["Our Minister Ali Yerlikaya: 'In 2023, 3,744 Human Traffickers Were Arrested'"] (accessed February 1, 2024).

63 For 2023 figures, see Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior (MoI), *İçişleri Bakanlığı 2023 6 Aylık Sunuşu [Ministry of Interior 2023 Six-Month Presentation]*; for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

4	Antalya	200	4	Antalya	200
5	Aydın	600	5	Aydın	600
6	Balıkesir	200	6	Balıkesir	200
7	Bursa	200	7	Bursa	200
8	Çanakkale	740	8	Çanakkale	740
9	Çankırı	1,000	9	Çankırı	1,000
10	Edirne	520	10	Edirne	520
11	Erzurum 1	1,050	11	Erzurum 1	1,050
12	Erzurum 2	850	12	Erzurum 2	850
13	Gaziantep	850	13	Gaziantep	850
14	Hatay	220	14	İğdır	1,500
15	İğdır	1,500	15	İstanbul (Binkılıç)	420
16	İstanbul (Binkılıç)	420	16	İstanbul (Silivri)	190
17	İstanbul (Silivri)	190	17	İstanbul (Tuzla-Konteyner)	900
18	İstanbul (Tuzla-Konteyner)	900	18	İzmir	850
19	İzmir	850	19	Kayseri	850
20	Kayseri	850	20	Kırklareli	850
21	Kırklareli	850	21	Kocaeli	570
22	Kocaeli	570	22	Kütahya	500
23	Kütahya	500	23	Malatya 1	500
24	Malatya 1	500	24	Malatya 2	420
25	Malatya 2	420	25	Muğla	70
26	Malatya 3	2,100	26	Niğde	390
27	Muğla	70	27	Şanlıurfa	700
28	Niğde	390	28	Van	850
29	Şanlıurfa	700			
30	Van	850			
	Total	20,540		Total	18,220

3.2.3. Readmission

No data have been reported regarding the number of irregular migrants returned to Türkiye from European Union countries in 2023. The most recent information on the subject was provided in 2022, indicating that a total of **2,139** irregular migrants were returned.

3.2.4. Other Practices

The *Mobile Migration Points Practice*, which has been implemented by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) since 19 July 2023, is one of the new steps taken by Türkiye in combating irregular migration. Shortly after Ali Yerlikaya became the Minister of Interior, he introduced the *Mobile Migration Points* practice and explained its content as follows:

“This practice was the first of its kind in the world. When deemed necessary, our security forces conduct identity checks on foreigners. Those who cannot present an identity document are invited to the Mobile Migration Points vehicles. In these vehicles, a migration expert and an interpreter are present. Both fingerprint checks of the foreigner are carried out in the vehicle, and the necessary verifications are made through the GöçNet database. If the foreigner is found to be an irregular migrant, they are directly referred to the Removal Centers so that deportation procedures can be carried out.”⁶⁴

The practice, which first started in İstanbul, soon spread to all 30 metropolitan cities, and the number of mobile vehicles reached **97** by the end of 2023. Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya’s statement on the subject, dated 17 December 2023, is as follows:

“With the success of the model we first implemented in İstanbul, on 4 October we expanded our practice to 57 points in Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, and Adana. As of 1 December, we also established our Mobile Migration Points in all metropolitan cities. Today, in all 30 of our metropolitan cities, 97 Mobile Migration vehicles are in service. By the end of December, the number of Mobile Migration Points vehicles will reach 162.”⁶⁵

Another statement made by Minister Yerlikaya at the end of the year reveals the balance sheet of the first three months of practice:

“In the first 3 months since the practice began, we conducted only 50,000 identity checks, and the number of vehicles was fewer; among every 100 foreigners questioned, 74.5% turned out to be irregular migrants.”⁶⁶

Within the first six months since the beginning of the practice, 63,324 irregular migrants were identified and sent to the Removal Centers to be processed.

64 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Düzensiz Göçmenlerin Tespitini Kolaylaştıran ve Hızlandıran Mobil Göç Noktası Araçlarının Sayısı 162’ye Çıktı” [“The Number of Mobile Migration Units Facilitating and Accelerating the Detection of Irregular Migrants Increased to 162”] (accessed February 27, 2024).

65 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: ‘Düzensiz Göçmenlere ve Göçmen Kaçakçılığı Organizatörlerine Asla Geçit Vermiyoruz’ ” [“Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: ‘We Never Allow Irregular Migrants and Human Trafficking Organizers to Pass’”] (accessed December 17, 2023).

66 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: ‘Sınırlardaki Düzensiz Göç Baskısı Yüzde 60 Azaldı, Rota Değişti’ ” [“Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: ‘Pressure of Irregular Migration at the Borders Decreased by 60%, Route Changed’”] (accessed December 25, 2024).

Table 84. Number of irregular migrants identified through the mobile migration point application, 2023⁶⁷

	First 1 Month	First 3 Months	First 6 Months
Identity Check	-	49,999	182,962
Number of Irregular Migrants Detected	21,192	37,289	63,324
Detection Rate (%)	-	74.5	34.1

In his speech at the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT) during the deliberations on the Ministry of Interior's budget for 2024, Minister Yerlikaya also made statements regarding other practices carried out in the fight against irregular migration in 2023:

"Today, a security wall has been completed along 1,160 kilometers, corresponding to 80 percent of the Iran and Syria borders, and a 1,234-kilometer patrol road has also been completed. Work continues on the remaining 20 percent. We have established 341 electro-optic towers—250 on the eastern border and 91 on the western border—serving our border areas with high technological capacity. Thanks to this system, we monitor 740 kilometers of our eastern border and 350 kilometers of our western border. In addition, we ensure border security with 284 thermal cameras, 151 elevator towers, 139 armored surveillance vehicles, and seismic detection systems. Thanks to these systems, the entry of 203,437 irregular migrants has been prevented at our borders over the last 11 months."⁶⁸

3.3. Migrant Smuggling

According to the data from the Ministry of Interior and PMM, a total of **10,482** migrant smuggling organizers were apprehended in 2023. Among these suspects, **3,744** were detained, and **1,479** were placed under judicial control.⁶⁹

When examining the distribution of apprehended organizers by institutions, **4,902 (5,380)** individuals were apprehended by the Gendarmerie General Command, **169** by the Coast Guard Command, and **69** jointly by the CG, GGC, and EGM. In addition, **449** individuals were apprehended by the EGM (jointly with other institutions).

67 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Mobil Göç Noktalarında 21 Bin 192 Yabancıcının Yasal Kalış Hakkı Olmadığı Tespit Edildi ["At Mobile Migration Units, 21,192 Foreigners Were Found to Have No Legal Right to Stay"] (accessed August 22, 2023); Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: 'Sınırlardaki Düzensiz Göç Baskısı Yüzde 60 Azaldı, Rota Değişti' " ["Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: 'Pressure of Irregular Migration at the Borders Decreased by 60%, Route Changed'"] (accessed December 25, 2024).

68 Anadolu Agency (AA), "İçişleri Bakanı Yerlikaya: '2023'ün 11 ayında 1069 terörist etkisiz hale getirildi' " ["Minister of Interior Yerlikaya: '1,069 Terrorists Neutralized in the First 11 Months of 2023'"] (accessed December 16, 2023).

69 Ministry of Interior (MoI), "Bakanımız Sayın Yerlikaya: '2023 Yılında, 3 Bin 744 Göçmen Kaçakçısı Tutuklandı' " ["Our Minister Ali Yerlikaya: 'In 2023, 3,744 Human Traffickers Were Arrested'"] (accessed January 31, 2024).

Table 85. *Distribution of apprehended migrant smuggling organizers by institutions and months, 2022-2023⁷⁰*

	Month	Joint-1 (CG, GGC, EGM) ⁷¹	Joint-2 (EGM, etc.) ⁷²	Gendarmerie General Command ⁷³	Coast Guard Command ⁷⁴	PMM ⁷⁵
2023	January	3	28	304	3	-
	February	0	-	125	4	
	March	0	15	292	12	
	April	17	15	321	6	
	May	11	-	318	17	
	June	17	17	428	20	
	July	22	-	253	12	
	August	40	-	368	9	
	September	18	26	784	32	
	October	50	-	753	24	
	November	1	82	444	6	
	December	28	266	512	24	
	Total	207	449	4,902⁷⁶	169	10,482
2022	Total	69	441	3,864	293	9,147

In the nationwide Huzur operations aimed at combating irregular migration, **101** individuals were apprehended; in the Kalkan-3 operation conducted in November, **82**; in the Kalkan-4 operation carried out in December, **192**; and in the Kalkan-5 operation, **74** individuals were apprehended, totaling **348** migrant smugglers. Among the **449** organizers apprehended in these operations, **76** were Turkish citizens, **25** were foreign nationals, while no information is available regarding the nationality of **348** individuals

Table 86. *Distribution of migrant smuggling organizers apprehended by the General Directorate of Security by Turkish and foreign nationalities, 2022-2023⁷⁷*

Month	Date of Operation	Apprehended Organizers		
		Turkish National	Foreign National	Total
January	24.01.2023	20	8	28
February	-	-	-	-

70 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the relevant institutions.

71 The data from Coast Guard Command (CG), "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"], were compiled and prepared by the authors.

72 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security. For details, see General Directorate of Security (EGM), "Ülke Geneline Düzensiz Göç ile Mücadeleye Yönelik Huzur Uygulaması" ["Nationwide Peace Operation Against Irregular Migration"], compilation of press releases; EGM, "Kalkan operasyonları basın açıklaması derlemesi" ["Kalkan Operations compilation of press releases"].

73 The 2023 data of the Gendarmerie General Command were compiled and prepared by the authors. For detailed information, see GGC, "Asayiş İstatistikleri" ["Public Order Statistics"] compilation.

74 The data from CG, "Düzensiz Göç İstatistikleri" ["Irregular Migration Statistics"], were compiled and prepared by the authors.

75 The data from PMM, "Düzensiz Göç" ["Irregular Migration"] were compiled and prepared by the authors.

76 The total number reported in *JGK 2023 Faaliyet Raporu* [GGC 2023 Activity Report] is 5,380.

77 Prepared by the authors based on press releases from the General Directorate of Security. For details, see General Directorate of Security (EGM), "Ülke Geneline Düzensiz Göç ile Mücadeleye Yönelik Huzur Uygulaması" ["Nationwide Peace Operation Against Irregular Migration"], compilation of press releases; EGM, ["Kalkan Operations compilation of press releases"].

March	31.03.2023	13	2	15
April	18.04.2023	10	5	15
May	-	-	-	-
June	13.06.2023	15	2	17
July	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-
September	21.09.2023	18	8	26
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	82
December	-	-	-	266
Subtotal		76	25	-
2023 Total		-	-	449
2022 Total		263	178	441

3.4. Human Trafficking

According to the data from the Presidency of Migration Management, the number of human trafficking victims rescued in Türkiye in 2023 was **226**.



Figure 44. Distribution of human trafficking victims in Türkiye by year, 2005–2023⁷⁸

⁷⁸ Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "İnsan Ticaretiyle Mücadele" ["Combating Human Trafficking"] (accessed January 30, 2024).

The table below shows the human trafficking figures shared by the Gendarmerie General Command. Accordingly, in 2023, the GGC identified **40** human trafficking incidents, in which **114** victims were rescued, and **133** traffickers were apprehended. These figures are reported in the *GGC 2023 Activity Report* as **40**, **113**, and **127**, respectively.

Table 87. Human trafficking data released by the Gendarmerie General Command, 2022-2023⁷⁹

Year	Month	Number of Incidents	Victim of Human Trafficking	Apprehended Human Trafficker
2023	January	5	7	11
	February	5	12	14
	March	5	18	25
	April	1	5	4
	May	3	7	8
	June	0	0	0
	July	3	4	7
	August	4	11	8
	September	1	14	5
	October	5	8	12
	November	2	8	20
	December	6	20	19
		Total	40	114
	Total Number in the 2023 Activity Report	40	113	127
	Difference	0	-1	-6
2022	Total	57	93	158

79 Prepared by the authors based on data compiled from the Gendarmerie General Command. For 2023 figures, see Gendarmerie General Command (GGC), "Asayiş İstatistikleri" ["Public Order Statistics"] and *JGK 2023 Yılı Faaliyet Raporu [GGC, 2023 Annual Activity Report]* (2023); for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION



This section presents data on “international protection” and “temporary protection” statuses in Türkiye.

4.1. International Protection

As stated in the *2022 Annual*, “the number of international protection applications in Türkiye showed a continuous increasing trend from 2010 to 2018. During this nine-year period, the number of applications rose from the **8,000** level to the **114,000** level, before experiencing a dramatic decline in 2019 and 2020. First decreasing to the **56,000** level, then to the **31,000** level, the number of applications dropped to **29,256** in 2021. In 2022, the number of applications increased to **33,246**.¹ In 2023, applications decreased to **19,017**, the lowest number in the last **12** years.

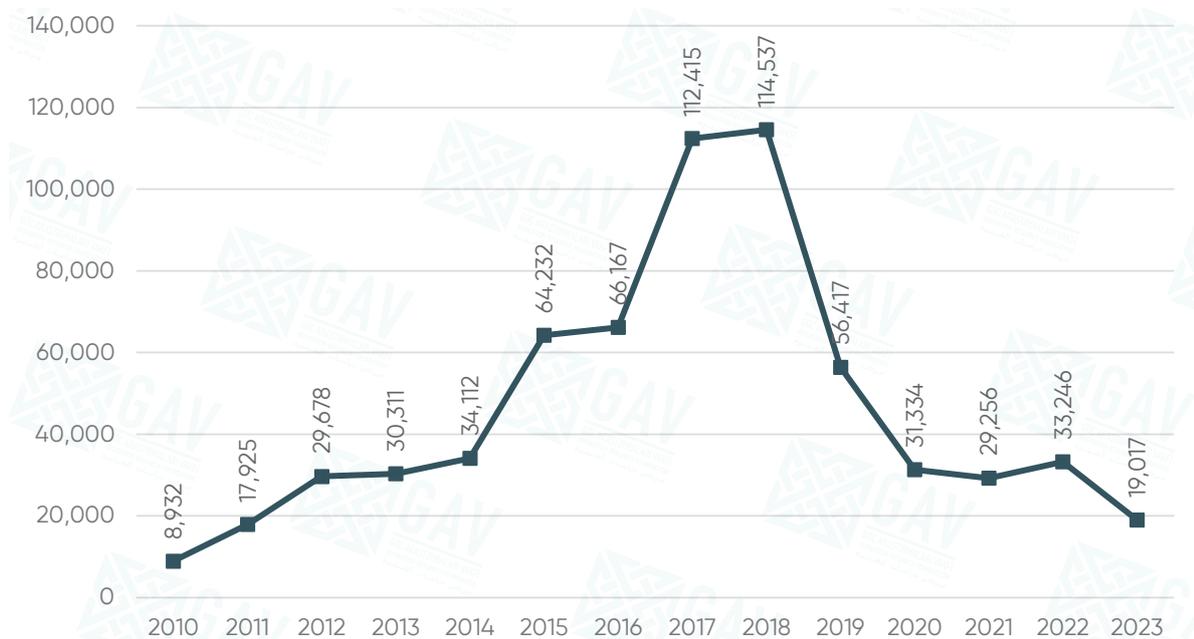


Figure 45. Distribution of international protection applications by year, 2010–2023²

Among the international protection data published by the Presidency of Migration Management, the number of international protection applications in European Union (EU) and

¹ Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

² Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Uluslararası Koruma” “International Protection” (accessed April 5, 2024).

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries is also included. However, these data have not been updated for a long time and still reflect figures from 2022. Therefore, the statements from the 2022 Annual are reproduced here directly:

"In 2021, Türkiye was the sixth country among European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries receiving the highest number of international protection applications. In 2022, with **33,246** applications, Türkiye fell to the ninth position. Germany ranked first with **243,835** applications, followed by France (**156,455**), Spain (**117,945**), Austria (**112,245**), Italy (**84,290**), Greece (**37,375**), the Netherlands (**37,020**), and Belgium (**36,740**)."³

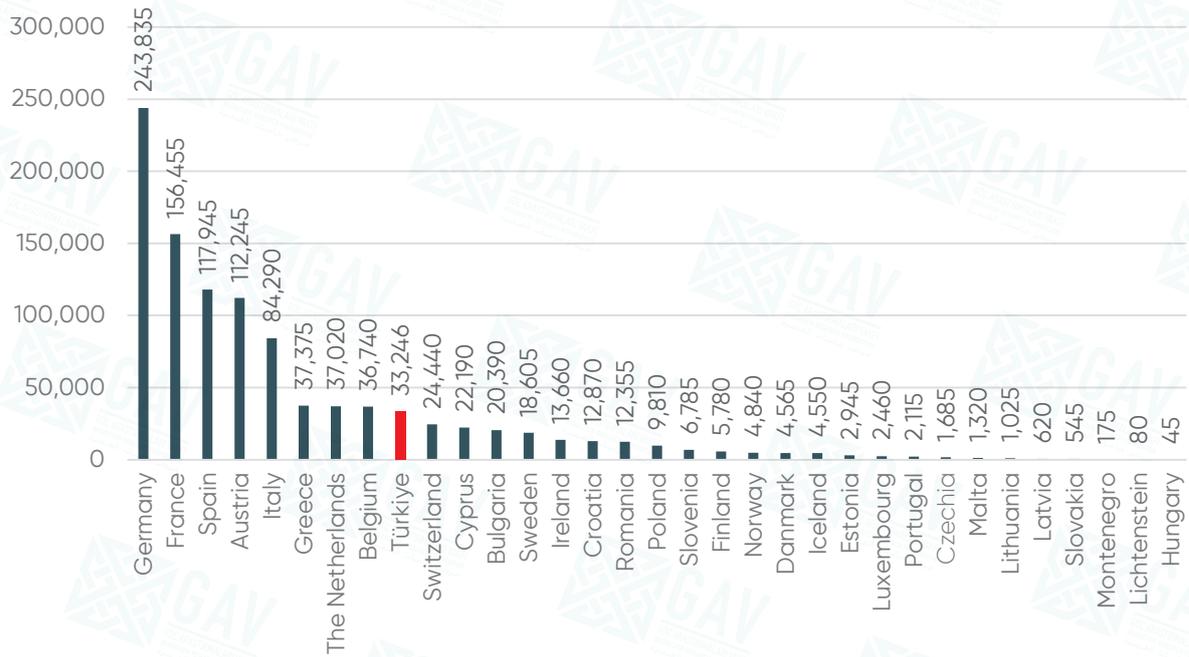


Figure 46. Foreign nationals applying for international protection in EU and EFTA countries, 2022⁴

The table below contains the numbers of international protection applicants and holders of international protection status for **2022–2023**. The figures are based on data published by the Ministry of Interior, PMM, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN-HCR).

As of the end of 2023, since the figures were not clearly specified in the relevant sources, they were compiled from official statements made at the end of the year. Accordingly, the number of individuals under international protection in Türkiye, reported as **296,685**⁵ in June 2023, was **259,468**⁶ in November and **262,638**⁷ on 17 December 2023. In all three sources, the nationalities of the international protection holders were not specified.

3 Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

4 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Uluslararası Koruma ["International Protection"]" (accessed August 1, 2024).

5 Ministry of Interior (Mol), *İçişleri Bakanlığı 2023 6 Aylık Sunuşu [Ministry of Interior 2023 Six-Month Presentation]*.

6 Ministry of Interior (Mol), *İçişleri Bakanlığı 2024 Bütçe Sunuşu. [Ministry of Interior 2024 Budget Presentation]*.

7 PMM, "İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: 'Düzensiz Göçmenlere ve Göçmen Kaçakçılığı Organizatörlerine Asla Geçit Vermiyoruz' " ["Minister

The number of international protection applications was announced as **19,017** at the end of the year. Among these applicants, **13,068** were from Afghanistan, **2,776** from Iraq, and **1,416** from Iran. According to UNHCR, at the end of 2023, the total number of international protection (IP) applications and status holders was **222,000**, of which **106,241** were from Afghanistan, **101,028** from Iraq, and **10,041** from Iran.

Table 88. *Distribution of foreigners under international protection and applicants by nationality in Türkiye, 2022-2023^a*

Nationalities	2022			2023		
	Top 3 nationalities of international protection applicants in Türkiye (PMM)	International Protection Applicants and Status Holders (Ministry of Interior)	As of mid-2022: International protection applicants and status holders in Türkiye (top 3 countries of origin) (UNHCR)	Top 3 nationalities of international protection applicants in Türkiye (PMM) ⁹	International Protection Status Holders (Ministry of Interior – as of December 17, 2023) ¹⁰	As of the end of 2023: International protection applicants and status holders in Türkiye (top 3 countries of origin) (UNHCR) ¹¹
Afghanistan	19,400	-	135,445	13,068	-	106,241
Iraq	4,083	-	132,166	2,776	-	101,028
Iran	-	-	15,135	1,416	-	10,041
Ukraine	7,183	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,632	-	-	1,757	-	-
Total	33,246	307,521	318,000	19,017	262,638	222,000

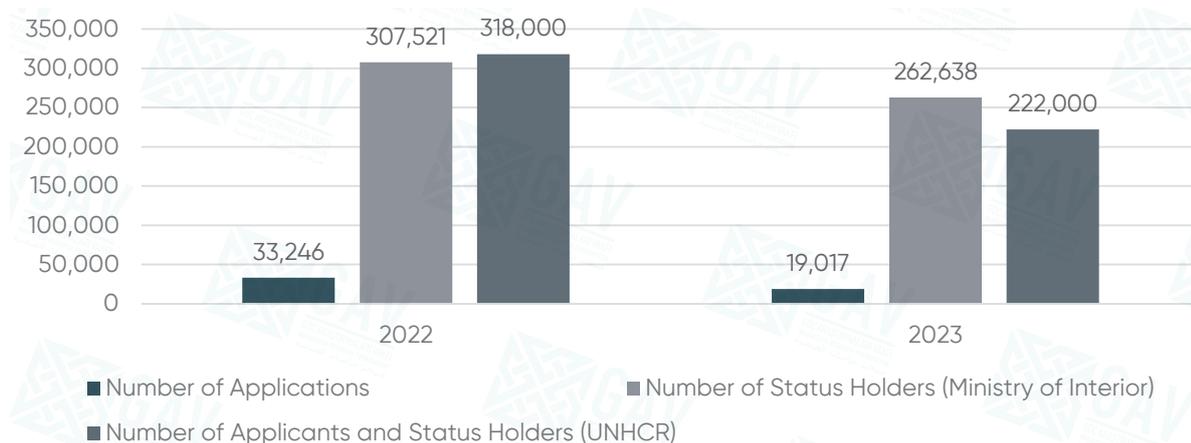


Figure 47. *Distribution of international protection applicants and foreigners under international protection in Türkiye, 2022-2023*

of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: 'We Do Not Allow Irregular Migrants and Human Smuggling Organizers Under Any Circumstances.' Accessed December 17, 2023.

8 Compiled by the authors using data from the Ministry of Interior, PMM, and UNHCR. Sources for the 2023 figures are indicated in the footnotes of the respective column headings; for 2022 figures, see Sağıröçlü et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

9 PMM, "Uluslararası Koruma" ["International Protection"]

10 PMM, "İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: 'Düzensiz Göçmenlere ve Göçmen Kaçakçılığı Organizatörlerine Asla Geçit Vermiyoruz' ["Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: 'We Never Allow Irregular Migrants and Human Trafficking Organizers to Pass'"] (accessed December 17, 2023).

11 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Türkiye Fact Sheet-April 2024*.

4.2. Temporary Protection

As of the end of 2023, there are **3,214,780** Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in Türkiye. The number of Syrians under Temporary Protection, which generally showed an increasing trend until 2021, began to decline from 2022 onwards. The figure, **3,535,898** in 2022, decreased by **321,118** to **3,214,780** in 2023. The proportion of Syrians under Temporary Protection in Türkiye decreased by **9%** from 2022 to 2023.



Figure 48. Number of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) by year, 2012–2023¹²

Table 89 shows the distribution of Syrians under Temporary Protection across the top ten provinces. Accordingly, in 2023, the provinces with the highest Syrian population are similar to the previous year: İstanbul, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, İzmir, Konya, and Kahramanmaraş. Only Ankara, which ranked tenth in 2022, was replaced by Kahramanmaraş. The total Syrian population under Temporary Protection in the top ten provinces (**2,498,815**) constitutes **78%** of all Syrians under Temporary Protection in Türkiye (**3,214,780**).

When examining the change rates in the provinces, notable decreases are observed in Hatay (**20.59%**), Şanlıurfa (**19.08%**), and İzmir (**14.69%**).

Table 89. Distribution of the top ten Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and their rate of change between 2022 and 2023¹³

Provinces	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	
İstanbul	1	543,973	1	529,403	-2.68
Gaziantep	2	461,149	2	426,051	-7.61

12 Compiled by the authors using data from the Directorate General of Migration Management. For detailed information, see Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"] (accessed January 31, 2024).

13 Compiled by the authors using data from the Directorate General of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"] (accessed January 31, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

Şanlıurfa	3	370,793	3	300,057	-19.08
Hatay	4	356,361	4	282,976	-20.59
Adana	5	252,080	5	233,785	-7.6
Mersin	6	238,213	6	223,158	-6.2
Bursa	7	183,749	7	170,136	-7.41
İzmir	8	145,302	8	123,952	-14.69
Konya	9	122,986	9	119,664	-2.70
Kahramanmaraş	11	96,856	10	89,633	-7.46
Ankara	10	97,004	11	88,835	-8.42
Other	-	667,432	-	627,130	-6.04
Total	-	3,535,898	-	3,214,780	-9.08

As of the end of 2023, **98% (3,150,899)** of Syrians under Temporary Protection in Türkiye live outside temporary accommodation centers, while **2%(63,881)** reside in temporary accommodation centers. While the overall number of Syrians under Temporary Protection has decreased, the increase in the population within temporary accommodation centers may be due to the major earthquakes that occurred in Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023. As shown in the *Post-Earthquake Migration and Human Mobility: Situation Assessment Report*, just before the earthquake, on 2 February 2023, **47,467** Syrians were in temporary accommodation centers, and after the earthquake, on 16 March 2023, this number rose to **67,548**.¹⁴ This situation suggests the possibility that some Syrians in the earthquake region were relocated to temporary accommodation centers following the disaster.

Table 90. Number and distribution of Syrians under Temporary Protection inside and outside temporary accommodation centers, and their rate of change between 2022 and 2023¹⁵

	2022		2023		Rate of Change (%)
	Number	%	Number	%	
Those Residing in Temporary Accommodation Centers	47,525	1.34	63,881	2%	34.42
Those Residing Outside Temporary Accommodation Centers	3,488,373	98.66	3,150,899	98%	-9.67
Total	3,535,898	100	3,214,780	100	-9.08

When examining the distribution of SuTP across temporary accommodation centers, the center in Kahramanmaraş city is the most used (**14,912**). It is followed by Adana/Sarıçam (**13,567**), Malatya/Beydağı (**11,591**), Osmaniye/Cevdetiye (**8,271**), and Hatay/Altınözü (**7,766**).

14 Ali Zafer Sağiroğlu, Ramazan Ünsal, and Furkan Özenci, *Deprem Sonrası Göç ve İnsan Hareketlilikleri: Durum Değerlendirme Raporu [Migration and Human Mobility After the Earthquake: Situation Assessment Report]* (AYBU-GPM, 2023), p. 17.

15 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see PMM, "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"] (accessed January 31, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

Table 91. Distribution of Syrians under the Temporary Protection (SuTP) by Temporary Accommodation Centers, 2022–2023¹⁶

Provinces	TAC (Temporary Accommodation Center)	TAC Population		Rate of Change (%)
		2022	2023	
Adana (1)	Sarıçam	15,856	13,567	-14.44
Hatay (3)	Altınözü	3,983	7,766	94.98
	Yayladağı	3,146	3,393	7.85
	Apaydın	2	3,999	-
Kahramanmaraş (1)	Merkez	9,629	14,912	54.87
Kilis (1)	Elbeyli	7,423	-	-
Osmaniye (1)	Cevdetiye	7,486	8,653	15.59
Malatya (1)	Beydağı	-	11,591	-
Total		47,525	63,881	34.42
Number of Syrians Residing Outside Temporary Protection Centers		3,488,373	3,150,899	-9.67
Total		3,535,898	3,214,780	-9.08

According to Table 92, which shows the age and gender distribution of SuTP, significant decreases in the overall population were observed from 2022 to 2023, except in the 65–69 and 75–79 age groups. Notable declines occurred particularly in the 0–4, 10–14, 19–24, and 30–34 age groups. The pronounced decrease in younger age groups compared to the elderly population may be related to lower birth rates, the departure of Syrians from Türkiye, and the lower tendency of older individuals to migrate. Of the **321,118** decrease in 2023, **91% (292,698)** occurred in the 0–39 age range.

Table 92. Distribution of Syrians under the Temporary Protection (SuTP) by Age, Gender, and Rate of Change, 2022–2023¹⁷

Age Groups	Male			Female			Total			
	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)	2022	2023	Rate of Change (%)	2022	2023	Difference	Rate of Change (%)
0–4	286,939	258,548	-9.89	268,310	242,182	-9.74	555,249	500,730	54,519	-9.82
5–9	266,907	260,360	-2.45	251,999	246,120	-2.33	518,906	506,480	12,426	-2.39
10–14	209,182	181,653	-13.16	196,586	171,641	-12.69	405,768	353,294	52,474	-12.93
15–18	135,373	123,899	-8.48	116,753	112,189	-3.91	252,126	236,088	16,038	-6.36
19–24	242,598	195,647	-19.35	188,659	168,722	-10.57	431,257	364,369	66,888	-15.51
25–29	204,066	175,124	-14.18	150,327	142,300	-5.34	354,393	317,424	36,969	-10.43
30–34	152,287	126,497	-16.94	114,256	105,816	-7.39	266,543	232,313	34,230	-12.84
35–39	121,490	106,484	-12.35	94,248	90,100	-4.40	215,738	196,584	19,154	-8.88
40–44	83,323	75,159	-9.80	70,935	68,933	-2.82	154,258	144,092	10,166	-6.59

16 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see PMM, "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"] (accessed January 31, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

17 For 2023 figures, see Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"] (accessed January 31, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

45-49	57,710	52,242	-9.47	56,393	53,865	-4.48	114,103	106,107	7,996	-7.01
50-54	43,499	40,379	-7.17	42,784	41,731	-2.46	86,283	82,110	4,173	-4.84
55-59	34,245	31,463	-8.12	34,589	33,604	-2.85	68,834	65,067	3,767	-5.47
60-64	22,054	20,889	-5.28	23,161	22,501	-2.85	45,215	43,390	1,825	-4.04
65-69	14,391	14,442	0.35	15,614	15,936	2.06	30,005	30,378	-373	1.24
70-74	8,690	8,502	-2.16	9,679	9,442	-2.45	18,369	17,944	425	-2.31
75-79	4,143	4,221	1.88	5,080	5,143	1.24	9,223	9,364	-141	1.53
80-84	2,234	2,087	-6.58	3,035	2,825	-6.92	5,269	4,912	357	-6.78
85-89	1,057	1,012	-4.26	1,520	1,449	-4.67	2,577	2,461	116	-4.50
90+	720	669	-7.08	1,062	1,004	-5.46	1,782	1,673	109	-6.12
Total	1,890,908	1,679,277	-11.39	1,644,990	1,535,503	-6.66	3,535,898	3,214,780	321,118	-9.08

4.3. Resettlement

This section presents the numbers of resettlements of Syrians under Temporary Protection. "Resettlement refers to the transfer of foreigners under international protection application status or temporary protection to another country for the purpose of obtaining refugee status or acquiring a long-term residence permit."¹⁸

Before presenting the resettlement figures published by the Presidency of Migration Management, an important point should be highlighted. Until **7 December 2023**, PMM released the figures for both "resettlement" and "departures under the one-to-one formula" separately. However, it appears that after this date, the data were consolidated. The combined figures were published under the heading of resettlement for the first time on **21 December 2023**. Therefore, in this section, the resettlement and one-to-one placement figures up to **7 December 2023** are presented in separate tables, followed by a single consolidated table for the year-end figures. Since the first two tables are dated 7 December 2023 and the last one 31 December 2023, differences in the numbers are observed.¹⁹

Since the resettlement figures have been published cumulatively by PMM from 2014 onwards, the number of SuTP resettled within the year was calculated by taking the difference between the figures dated 31 December 2022 and 7 December 2023.

2014-2023 The number of SuTP resettled to third countries between 2014 and the end of 2023 was reported as **24,563**. The difference between the figure announced at the end of 2022 (**20,219**) and the figure dated 7 December 2023 (**24,563**) was calculated as **4,344**. Accordingly, **4,344** SuTP were resettled to five countries in 2023. Of these, **2,288** were resettled

18 Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), *2016 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu [2016 Annual Activity Report]* (Ankara: Directorate General of Migration Management, 2017), accessed January 5, 2023.

19 Another point to note regarding these differences is that resettlement figures are reported starting from 2014, whereas the number of individuals resettled through the One-to-One Formula is reported starting from 2016. Resettlement data prior to December 21, 2023, begin from 2014, while figures reported from that date onward start from 2016.

to Canada (through UNHCR), **1,941** to the United States, **75** to the United Kingdom, **35** to Switzerland, and **5** to Norway.

Table 93. *The number of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) resettled to third countries between 2014 and 2023²⁰*

Provinces	2021	2022		2023	
	End of December 2021 (30.12.2021)	End of December 2022 (31.12.2022)	(Difference between 30 December 2021 and 31 December 2022)	End of December 2023 (7 December 2023)	(Difference between 30 December 2022 and 7 December 2023)
	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries between 2014 and the end of 2021 (cumulative)	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries between 2014 and the end of 2022 (cumulative)	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries in 2022	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries between 2014 and the end of 2023 (cumulative)	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries in 2023
Canada (UNHCR)	6,164	7,748	1,584	10,036	2,288
Canada (Direct)	2,645	2,650	5	2,650	0
USA	4,096	4,534	438	6,475	1,941
UK	2,567	2,650	83	2,725	75
Norway	1,926	1,926	0	1,931	5
Switzerland	168	185	17	220	35
Sweden	168	168	0	168	0
Australia	115	115	0	115	0
Austria	58	58	0	58	0
Belgium	46	46	0	46	0
Luxembourg	46	46	0	46	0
Romania	43	43	0	43	0
Lichtenstein	18	18	0	18	0
New Zealand	15	15	0	15	0
İceland	13	13	0	13	0
The Netherlands	3	3	3	3	0
France	1	1	1	1	0
Total	18,092	20,219	2,127	24,563	4,344

As another type of resettlement, the One-to-One Formula is defined as “the placement of a Syrian foreign national in a European Union country in exchange for the return of a Syrian irregular migrant who crossed to the Greek islands via Türkiye under the 18 March agreement.”²¹ Between April 2016 and 2023, it has been reported that **39,647** Syrians under Temporary Protection were resettled to EU countries under the One-to-One Formula.²²

20 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Geçici Koruma” [“Temporary Protection”]; for 2021 and 2022 figures, see Sağiroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

21 Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), *2016 Türkiye Migration Report* (Ankara: Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management), p. 20.

22 Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), “Temporary Protection” (accessed January 31, 2024).

Similar to the calculation of resettlement figures, the number of SuTP who departed from Türkiye under the One-to-One Formula in 2023 was determined by calculating the difference between the figures dated 31 December 2022 and 7 December 2022. Accordingly, it is understood that **2,884** SuTP departed from Türkiye under the One-to-One Formula in 2023.

In 2023, of the **2,884** Syrians under Temporary Protection resettled to ten European Union countries, the majority were placed in Germany (**1,791**), France (**421**), Spain (**302**), Finland (**169**), and Romania (**146**).

Table 94. Statistical information on Syrians under the Temporary Protection (SuTP) departing from Türkiye under the One-to-One Formula, 2022–2023²³

Countries	2022			2023	
	April 2016 to 30 December 2021	April 2016 to 31 December 2022	Number of Syrians who departed from Türkiye under the one-to-one formula in 2022 (difference between 30 December 2021 and 31 December 2022)	April 2016 to 7 December 2023	Number of Syrians who departed from Türkiye under the one-to-one formula in 2023 (difference between 31 December 2022 and 7 December 2023)
Germany	12,062	15,042	2,980	16,833	1,791
Austria	213	213	0	219	6
Belgium	1,795	1,795	0	1,795	0
Bulgaria	85	85	0	85	0
Denmark	31	31	0	31	0
Estonia	59	59	0	59	0
Finland	2,477	2,707	230	2,876	169
France	4,972	5,650	678	6,071	421
Croatia	250	250	0	250	0
The Netherlands	4,798	5,519	721	5,520	1
Spain	901	911	10	1213	302
Sweden	2,654	3,142	488	3,174	32
Italy	396	396	0	399	3
Latvia	46	46	0	46	0
Lithuania	102	102	0	102	0
Luxembourg	206	206	0	206	0
Malta	17	17	0	17	0
Portugal	450	450	0	463	13
Romania	68	108	40	254	146
Slovenia	34	34	0	34	0
Total	31,616	36,763	5,147	39,647	2,884

As stated at the beginning of this section, the resettlement and One-to-One Formula placement figures have been published in a consolidated form since 21 December 2023. The

23 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see *Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection"]* (accessed January 2, 2024); for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual–2022*.

consolidated data are presented in the table below. Accordingly, between 2016 and 2023, the total number of Syrians under Temporary Protection resettled to 29 countries was **63,941**.

Table 95. Number of Syrians under the Temporary Protection (SuTP) resettled to third countries between 2016 and 2023 (including those resettled through the One-to-One Formula)²⁴

Countries	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries between 2016 and the end of 2023	Countries	Number of Syrians resettled to third countries between 2016 and the end of 2023
USA	6,287	Switzerland	220
Germany	17,027	Italy	399
Australia	266	Iceland	0
Austria	219	Canada (UNHCR)	10,125
Belgium	1795	Canada (Direct)	2,650
Bulgaria	85	Latvia	46
Denmark	31	Lichtenstein	0
Estonia	59	Lithuania	102
Finland	2,880	Luxembourg	206
France	6178	Malta	17
Croatia	250	Norway	1,724
The Netherlands	5520	Portugal	463
UK	2,702	Romania	254
Spain	1,213	Slovenia	34
Sweden	3174	New Zealand	15
Total		63,941	

Table 96, which presents applications to leave the country and resettled cases of persons with conditional refugee status and Syrians under Temporary Protection, provides the 2022–2023 figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and PMM. Accordingly, in 2022, the number of individuals applying for resettlement to a third country was reported by UNHCR as **11,803**, and the number of persons whose applications were approved and who were resettled to another country was **5,927**.²⁵ In 2023, the number of applications was **16,800**, and the number of persons resettled was **10,200**.

Yearly changes can be tracked through UNHCR Türkiye's operational update and fact sheet. According to *UNHCR's Türkiye Operational Update-June 2023*, the files of **7,924** persons with conditional refugee status and SuTP were submitted for resettlement assessment to 17 countries in 2023, over **6,700** individuals departed from Türkiye to be resettled in 16 countries, and "priority was given to vulnerable groups in the earthquake-affected region during resettlement processes." In *UNHCR's Türkiye Fact Sheet-September 2023*, it is indicated that, as of the end of September, half of the **10,200** individuals resettled to third countries were earthquake survivors. According to *UNHCR's Türkiye Fact Sheet-February 2024*, the number

24 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management. For 2023 figures, see PMM, "Geçici Koruma" ["Temporary Protection."]

25 For 2022 figures, see Sağıröçlü et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

of resettlement application files in 2023 was **16,800**, and 94% of them were from the earthquake-affected region.²⁶ Additionally, data shared by PMM indicate that **4,344** SuTP were resettled to third countries in 2023.

Table 96. Applications for departure from Türkiye and distribution of those resettled among conditional refugees and individuals under Temporary Protection, 2022-2023²⁷

2022				2023			
Month	UNHCR		PMM	Month	UNHCR		PMM
	Cumulative number of conditional refugees and individuals under Temporary Protection Status applying to depart from Türkiye	Cumulative Number of Resettled Individuals	Number of Syrians Resettled During 2022		Cumulative Number of Conditional Refugees and Individuals under Temporary Protection Status Applying to Depart from Türkiye	Number of Syrians Resettled During 2023	Number of Syrians Resettled During 2023
January	-			January	-	-	
February	1,285	850		February	-	-	
March	-	-		March	-	-	
April	-	-		April	-	-	
May				May	-	-	
June	10,584	5,144		June ²⁸	7,924	6700+	
July			-	July	-	-	-
August	-	-		August	-	-	
September	11,803	5,927		September ²⁹	-	10,200	
October	-	-		October	-	-	
November	-	-		November	-	-	
December	-	-		December	-	-	
Total	11,803	5,927	2,127	Total³⁰	16,800	10,200	4,344

4.4. Voluntary Return

One of the final and most significant topics concerning Syrians under Temporary Protection is voluntary return. According to the statement by the Minister of Interior, Ali Yerlikaya, dated

26 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Türkiye Operational Update-June 2023* (UNHCR, 2023); UNHCR, *Türkiye Fact Sheet-September 2023* (UNHCR, 2023); UNHCR, *Türkiye Fact Sheet-February 2024* (UNHCR, 2024).

27 Compiled by the authors using data from the Presidency of Migration Management and UNHCR. Figures for 2023 are indicated in the footnotes next to the respective months; for 2022 figures, see Sağıroğlu et al., *Türkiye Migration and Human Mobility Annual-2022*.

28 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Operational Update-June 2023*, (UNHCR, 2023).

29 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Türkiye Fact Sheet--September 2023*, (UNHCR, 2023).

30 UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Türkiye Fact Sheet--September 2024*, (UNHCR, 2024).

30 December 2024, the number of Syrians who voluntarily returned to their home country from Türkiye between 2016 and 2023 was **615,678**. The statement indicated that **76,346** Syrians returned in 2023. However, another statement on 31 January 2024 reported that **82,000** Syrians returned in 2023.³¹ Nevertheless, the first figure is used as the basis in the table.

Table 97. Cumulative number of Syrians voluntarily returning to their country from 2016 to 2023³²

Years	Cumulative Number of Syrians Returning to Their Country Since 2016	Number of Syrians Returning to Their Country During the Year	Monthly Average
2017	117,919	117,919	9,826
2018	291,043	173,124	14,427
2019	384,292	93,249	7,770
2020	423,611	39,319	3,276
2021	480,574	56,963	4,747
2022	539,332	58,758	4,897
2023	615,678	76,346	6,362

It is also known that a portion of Syrians returned to their home country due to the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023. As stated in the Post-Earthquake Migration and Human Mobility: Situation Assessment Report, in a statement dated 27 March 2023, Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar indicated that approximately **60,000** Syrians voluntarily returned to their home country following the earthquake.³³ However, it is not known how many of those who left subsequently returned to Türkiye.

As stated at the beginning of this section, as of the end of 2023, there were **3,214,780** Syrians under Temporary Protection in Türkiye. At the end of 2022, this number was **3,535,898**, reflecting a decrease of **321,118** individuals. When the number of known voluntary returnees (**76,346**) is subtracted from this total, an uncertainty arises regarding the resulting figure (**244,772**). The main reason for this uncertainty may be the update works conducted by PMM on the numbers of Syrians. The remaining portion of the uncertainty could consist of those who departed to third countries, either regularly or irregularly, as well as those who obtained Turkish citizenship.

31 Ministry of Interior (Mol), "Bakanımız Sayın Yerlikaya: '2023 Yılında, 3 Bin 744 Göçmen Kaçakçısı Tutuklandı' " ["Our Minister Mr. Yerlikaya: 'In 2023, 3,744 migrant smugglers were arrested' "] (accessed 31 January 2024).

32 PMM, "İçişleri Bakanı Ali Yerlikaya: 'Okulların Kapanmasıyla Gönüllü Geri Dönüş Sayısı Çok Daha Yukarıya Çıkacak' " ["Minister of Interior Ali Yerlikaya: 'With the Closure of Schools, the Number of Voluntary Returns Will Rise Significantly' "] (accessed 30 December 2024).

33 Sağiroğlu, et al. *Deprem Sonrası Göç ve İnsan Hareketlilikleri: Durum Değerlendirme Raporu [Post-Earthquake Migration and Human Mobility: Situation Assessment Report]*.

The background of the page is a photograph of a multi-story building that has been severely damaged by an earthquake. The structure is partially collapsed, with debris and twisted metal visible. In the lower right foreground, a white car is partially buried under the rubble. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark red filter. At the top left, there are two small white squares followed by a horizontal white line.

**POST-EARTHQUAKE
MIGRATION AND
HUMAN MOBILITY
FOLLOWING THE
6 FEBRUARY 2023
KAHRAMANMARAŞ-
CENTERED
EARTHQUAKES**

The earthquakes that occurred on 6 February 2023, with epicenters in Pazarcık and Elbistan, Kahramanmaraş, measuring 7.7 and 7.6 in magnitude, resulted in the deaths of **53,537** individuals and injuries to **107,213** people.¹ Millions of people living in 11 provinces were affected by these earthquakes, with homes and workplaces destroyed, bringing daily life to a temporary halt. The severity of this disaster consequently led to large-scale human mobility.

An earthquake is a tectonic movement within the Earth's crust that, in terms of its consequences, displaces and mobilizes people. The destruction and losses resulting from earthquakes affect and transform every aspect of people's lives. In particular, individuals who have previously been displaced and are in a situation of forced migration are more likely than other groups to be displaced once again by a natural disaster such as an earthquake.

This section has been compiled from the study titled *Post-Earthquake Migration and Human Mobility: Situation Assessment Report* [Deprem Sonrası Göç ve İnsan Hareketlilikleri: Durum Değerlendirme Raporu], authored immediately after the earthquakes by the Annual authors, in order to provide a general framework on migration and human mobility following the 6 February 2023 earthquakes. In the following sections, which serve as a brief summary of the report, most of the content is quoted directly from the report. Evaluations related to the *2023 Internal Migration Statistics* have been added additionally. The section covers the local and foreign population residing in the earthquake-affected region, internal migration within Türkiye following the earthquakes, movements toward Syria, and irregular migration along the western borders.

As of 2023, a total of **15,784,390** people reside in the areas designated as earthquake zones. This number corresponds to approximately one-fifth (**17.51%**) of all Turkish citizens and foreign nationals in Türkiye. Of those affected by the earthquake in some way, **14,013,196 (88.78%)** are Turkish citizens, while **1,771,194 (11.22%)** are foreign nationals. Among the foreign nationals, **1,738,035 (98.13%)** are Syrians under Temporary Protection, and **33,159 (1.87%)** hold residence permits. This clearly shows that almost all foreign nationals affected by the earthquake are Syrians. **49.64%** of Syrians under Temporary Protection were directly affected by the earthquake.

1 Ministry of Interior (MoI), "Türkiye'nin Birlik ve Dayanışma Gücü Depremle Sınandı, Asrın Felaketi Asrın Dayanışmasına Dönüştü!" ["Türkiye's Unity and Solidarity Tested by the Earthquake, The Disaster of the Century Turned into the Solidarity of the Century!"] (accessed 8 February 2024).

Table 98. Foreign nationals in the area affected by the earthquakes on 6 February 2023, 2022–2023²

Provinces	Turkish National (TurkStat, 2022)	Presidency of Migration Management (PMM)			Grand Total
		Temporary Protection	Residence Permit	Total	
Adana	2,274,106	250,711	6,359	257,070	2,531,176
Adıyaman	635,169	21,688	450	22,138	657,307
Diyarbakır	1,804,880	21,672	1,270	22,942	1,827,822
Elazığ	591,497	12,188	801	12,989	604,486
Gaziantep	2,154,051	460,150	11,767	471,917	2,625,968
Hatay	1,686,043	354,648	2,903	357,551	2,043,594
Kahramanmaraş	1,177,436	91,640	2,137	93,777	1,271,213
Kilis	147,919	87,409	1,388	88,797	236,716
Malatya	812,580	31,421	1,339	32,760	845,340
Osmaniye	559,450	38,285	647	38,932	598,337
Şanlıurfa	2,170,110	368,223	4,098	372,321	2,542,431
Total	14,013,196	1,738,035	33,159	1,771,194	15,784,390
Grand Total	85,279,553	3,500,964	1,354,707	4,855,671	90,135,224
Rate (%)	16.43	49.64	2.45	36.48	17.51

On February 14, 2023, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated in a press briefing following the cabinet meeting that the number of those evacuated and those who left the region on their own amounted to **2.2 million**.³ Presidential Spokesperson İbrahim Kalın reiterated in a statement regarding the elections that the number of people who had left the region exceeded two million.⁴ In addition, according to AFAD's press release dated February 24, 2023, the number of individuals accommodated in public dormitories and hotels "inside and outside the disaster zone" was **1,914,292**, while **528,146** people were evacuated from the earthquake region.⁵ In a statement dated March 1, 2023, it was further announced that "the total number of persons evacuated from Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Adana, Adıyaman, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, and Elazığ by the Gendarmerie General Command and on their own initiative, who subsequently registered with the governorates and district governorships in the provinces they relocated to, was **1,971,589**."⁶

The most recent and precise figures on the matter were shared with the public by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on March 1, 2023. Accordingly, it was reported that 3.3 million people had left the earthquake-affected region, and 800,000 people had moved to their villages.⁷

2 Compiled from data of the Turkish Statistical Institute. See TurkStat, "İllere ve Cinsiyete Göre Yabancı Nüfus (Adrese Dayalı Nüfus Kayıt Sistemi Sonuçları, 2023)" [Foreign Population by Province and Gender (Address Based Population Registration System Results, 2023)].

3 HaberTürk, "Kabine Toplantısı kararları açıklandı! 14 Şubat 2023 Kabine Toplantısı kararları ve sonuçları" ["Cabinet Meeting Decisions Announced! Decisions and Outcomes of the 14 February 2023 Cabinet Meeting"] (15 February 2023), accessed 27 February 2023.

4 Milliyet, "Aksi yönde mutabakat olmazsa seçim mayısta" ["If No Agreement Is Reached Otherwise, the Election Will Be in May"] (24 February 2023), accessed 27 February 2023.

5 Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye (AFAD), Kahramanmaraş'ta Meydana Gelen Depremler Hk Basın Bülteni-35" ["Press Release-35 on the Earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş"], accessed 27 February 2023.

6 Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye (AFAD), "Kahramanmaraş'ta Meydana Gelen Depremler Hk Basın Bülteni-36" ["Press Release-36 on the Earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş"], accessed 5 March 2023.

7 *SonDakika.com*, "Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan: 'İnsanımızın önüne yeni bir gelecek, yeni bir hayat sereceğiz'" ["President Erdoğan: 'We Will Present Our People with a New Future, a New Life,' "] accessed 1 March 2023.

In a fact sheet published by AFAD on March 19, 2023, it was stated that 1,634,866 people had been evacuated from the region.⁸

According to the report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on March 1, 2023, an estimated total of **2,465,122** people, both Turkish citizens and foreign nationals, were displaced in the earthquake-affected region.⁹ This figure corresponds to approximately 15% of those affected by the disaster. In addition, a news report published by Anadolu Agency a few weeks after the earthquake shared information obtained from public sources. According to this report, **1,116,040** residents of the earthquake zone had begun residing in provinces outside the disaster region. At that time, the provinces hosting the largest number of earthquake survivors were Ankara with **205,454** people, Antalya with **154,086** people, and Mersin with **65,496** people.¹⁰ However, it is highly likely that the figures provided by Anadolu Agency include only Turkish citizens.

As of the end of 2022, there were a total of **3,535,898** registered SuTP in Türkiye, whereas on April 6, 2023, this number had decreased by **109,179** to **3,426,719**. The number of SuTP announced four days before the earthquake was **3,500,964**, indicating a decrease of **34,934** people from the beginning of the year until the earthquake. Moreover, from the aftermath of the earthquake until March 30, 2023, there was a further decrease of **65,666**, which suggests that SuTP may have left Türkiye. In his statement dated March 27, 2023, Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar also supported this assumption by noting that around **60,000** Syrians had returned to their country.¹¹ Furthermore, data released by the Presidency of Migration Management on April 6, 2023, show that between February 2 and April 6 the decrease in the number of SuTP was **74,245**, while since the beginning of the year the total decrease amounted to **109,179**.

When examining the numbers of SuTP in the earthquake-affected provinces, notable changes can be observed in Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, and Kilis. Between February 2, 2023 (before the earthquake) and April 6, 2023 (after the earthquake), the numbers of SuTP decreased by **21,548** in Hatay, **15,612** in Şanlıurfa, **7,576** in Gaziantep, **6,825** in Adana, and **9,487** in Kilis. The only province showing an increase was Diyarbakır, where the number of SuTP rose from **21,672** before the earthquake to **21,806** on March 30, an increase of **134**. In the 11 provinces, the total decrease was **62,863** after the earthquake and **75,942** since the beginning of the year.¹² However, the exact number of Syrians and other foreign nationals who left the earthquake zone and relocated within Türkiye after the disaster remains unknown.

8 AFAD, "Kahramanmaraş – Pazarcık 7.7 Mw ve Kahramanmaraş–Elbistan 7.6 Mw Depremleri Bilgi Notu (19.03.2023 – 10.30)" ["Kahramanmaraş–Pazarcık 7.7 Mw and Kahramanmaraş–Elbistan 7.6 Mw Earthquakes Fact Sheet (19 March 2023 – 10:30)"],

9 International Organization for Migration (IOM), *2023 Earthquakes Displacement Overview – Türkiye* (March 2023).

10 Muhammet Ali Yiğit, "Depremzedeler yurdun dört bir yanında misafir ediliyor" ["Earthquake Victims Are Being Hosted Across the Country"], Anadolu Agency (24 February 2023), accessed 27 February 2023.

11 Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Türkiye (MND), "Milli Savunma Bakanı Hulusi Akar, Sınırın Sıfır Noktasında Hem İncelemelerde Bulundu Hem de Gündeme Dair Açıklamalar Yaptı" ["Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar Inspected the Border Zero Point and Made Statements on Current Issues"], accessed 1 April 2023.

12 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Defense (MND), "Milli Savunma Bakanı Hulusi Akar, Sınırın Sıfır Noktasında Hem İncelemelerde Bulundu Hem de Gündeme Dair Açıklamalar Yaptı" ["Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar Conducted Inspections at the Border Zero Point and Made Statements on Current Issues"], accessed 1 April 2023.

Table 99. Change in the number of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in the earthquake-affected area, 2023¹³

Provinces	31.12,2022	2.02,2023	16.03,2023	23.03,2023	30.03,2023	6.04,2023	Difference between 2 February and 6 April	Difference from the beginning of the year to 6 April
Adana	252,080	250,711	24,905	244,003	244,006	243,886	-6,825	-8,194
Adıyaman	22,252	21,688	21,507	21,494	21,484	21,508	-180	-744
Diyarbakır	21,670	21,672	21,789	21,808	21,811	21,806	+134	+136
Elazığ	12,230	12,188	12,188	12,179	12,183	12,181	-7	-49
Gaziantep	461,149	460,150	452,189	452,453	452,669	452,574	-7,576	-8,575
Hatay	356,361	354,648	337,644	337,508	334,854	333,100	-21,548	-23,261
Kahramanmaraş	96,856	91,640	90,551	90,575	90,585	90,547	-1,093	-6,309
Kilis	87,686	87,409	82,662	81,661	79,950	77,922	-9,487	-9,764
Malatya	31,376	31,421	31,229	31,212	31,221	31,213	-208	-163
Osmaniye	38,661	38,285	38,010	38,016	38,017	37,824	-461	-837
Şanlıurfa	370,793	368,223	357,278	356,234	353,711	352,611	-15,612	-18,182
Toplam	1,751,114	1,738,035	1,688,952	1,687,143	1,680,491	1,675,172	-62,863	-75,942
Syrians in Temporary Protection Center	3,535,898	3,500,964	3,447,837	3,443,219	3,435,298	3,426,719	-74,245	-109,179

One of the ambiguous issues concerning Syrians and other foreign nationals in the earthquake-affected region is the number of those who lost their lives and those injured. As of February 15, reports indicated that **6,100** Syrians had died¹⁴ and that the bodies of **2,306** Syrians had been transferred to Syria through the border gates.¹⁵ On March 4, 2023, however, Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu announced the number of deceased Syrians as **4,267**.¹⁶ It is understood from various statements and news reports that there is no certainty regarding the exact number of deceased Syrians.

Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar stated that as of 19 February, 10,633 Syrians had voluntarily returned to their country, and as of 21 February, the total number had exceeded 20,000.¹⁷ According to press reports dated 23 February 2023, 35,000 Syrians exited through the border gates.¹⁸ On 28 February 2023, Minister Akar announced that a total of between

13 Compiled by the authors of the yearbook based on the data released by the Presidency of Migration Management (PMM) on the dates indicated in the table.

14 *Karar*, "Bin 702 mültecinin cenazesi Suriye'ye gönderildi" ["1,702 Refugees' Bodies Sent to Syria"] (16 February 2023), accessed 1 April 2023.

15 Nafiseh Kohnavard, "Syrian Earthquake Victims in Türkiye Send Their Relatives' Bodies to Syria," *BBC Turkish* (19 February 2023), accessed 1 April 2023.

16 Pir and Pazarcıbaşı, "Türkiye'deki Suriyeli depremzedeler yakınlarının cenazelerini Suriye'ye gönderiyor" ["Minister Soylu: 45,968 People Lost Their Lives in the Earthquakes, 4,267 of Them Were Syrians:"]

17 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Defense (MND), "Milli Savunma Bakanı Hulusi Akar ve Beraberindeki Genelkurmay Başkanı Org. Yaşar Güler, Son Deprem Ardından Hatay Kent Merkezinde İncelemelerde Bulundu" "Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar and Chief of General Staff Gen. Yaşar Güler Conducted Inspections in the Hatay City Center Following the Recent Earthquake," accessed 1 April 2023.

18 *HaberTürk*, "Deprem ardından geri göç... İşte ülkesine dönen Suriyeli sayısı!" ["Return Migration after the Earthquake: Number of Syrians Who Returned to Their Country"] (24 February 2023), accessed 1 April 2023.

40,000 and 42,000 Syrians had returned to their country.¹⁹ In another statement on 27 March 2023, Minister Akar said that “around 60,000 Syrians who lost their relatives and homes after the earthquake voluntarily returned to their country.”²⁰ It was noted that the Syrians who exited did so within the scope of voluntary return and permitted exit, and that they would be able to return within a period of 3 to 6 months.

Irregular migration movements observed at the borders after the earthquake have also been evaluated as another significant issue. Accordingly, during the 23-day period following 6 February, the number of irregular migrants apprehended by the Turkish Armed Forces while attempting to cross from Syria into Türkiye was recorded as 29, while the number apprehended while attempting to cross from Türkiye into Syria was 74. In February overall, the number of irregular migrants apprehended during attempted crossings was 34 for entries and 106 for exits. In March, the number of apprehensions during irregular crossing attempts at the Syrian border remained at a level similar to the previous month. In the first three months of 2023, 192 irregular migrants were apprehended while attempting to cross from Syria into Türkiye, whereas 336 were apprehended while attempting to cross from Türkiye into Syria. Although the movement along the Syrian border appears to be at “normal” levels, a relative upward trend has been observed at the western borders. In the first three months of 2023, statistical data provided by TAF regarding movements along the borders with Greece and Bulgaria indicate a particularly dramatic increase in attempted crossings from Türkiye into Bulgaria. Accordingly, while the number of apprehensions during border crossing attempts was **82** in January 2023, this figure rose sevenfold to **582** in March.²¹

In conclusion, an extraordinary level of human mobility was observed in the region following the earthquake. Millions of people lost their homes and access to shelter, and many aspects of social life such as employment and education were affected by the earthquakes. People experienced material losses as well as severe psychological traumas, and in an effort to escape the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty and to seek protection, they left the region.

Although the exact number of people who moved to other cities, resettled, or returned to their original place of residence during the process is not known, the *2023 Internal Migration Statistics* published by TurkStat provide a basis for certain estimates. While the number of people migrating within Türkiye was announced as **2,791,156** in 2022, this figure increased by 659,797 in 2023, reaching **3,450,953**. The number of people who left the 11 provinces directly affected by the earthquake was calculated as **739,485**. A large part of this figure most likely represents those who migrated after the earthquake. Indeed, when examining the reasons for migration in these 11 provinces, the category of “other” stands out. **66%** of those who left these provinces, corresponding to **493,316** people, reported “other” reasons for leaving. Looking at past years, the “other” category was never recorded at such high levels in the provinces of the earthquake zone. Furthermore, it is also observed that in 2023, except for

19 TRT Haber, “Bakan Akar: 40-42 bin Suriyeli ülkelerine güvenli ve gönüllü olarak döndü” [“Minister Akar: 40–42 Thousand Syrians Returned Safely and Voluntarily to Their Country”] (28 February 2023), accessed 1 April 2023.

20 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Defense (MND), “Millî Savunma Bakanı Hulusi Akar, Sınırın Sıfır Noktasında Hem İncelemelerde Bulundu Hem de Gündeme Dair Açıklamalar Yaptı” [“Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar Conducted Inspections at the Border Zero Point and Made Statements on Current Issues”], accessed 1 April 2023.

21 Compiled based on the data of the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF).

major cities such as Istanbul and Ankara, the “other” category was not cited at levels comparable to those in the earthquake-affected provinces.

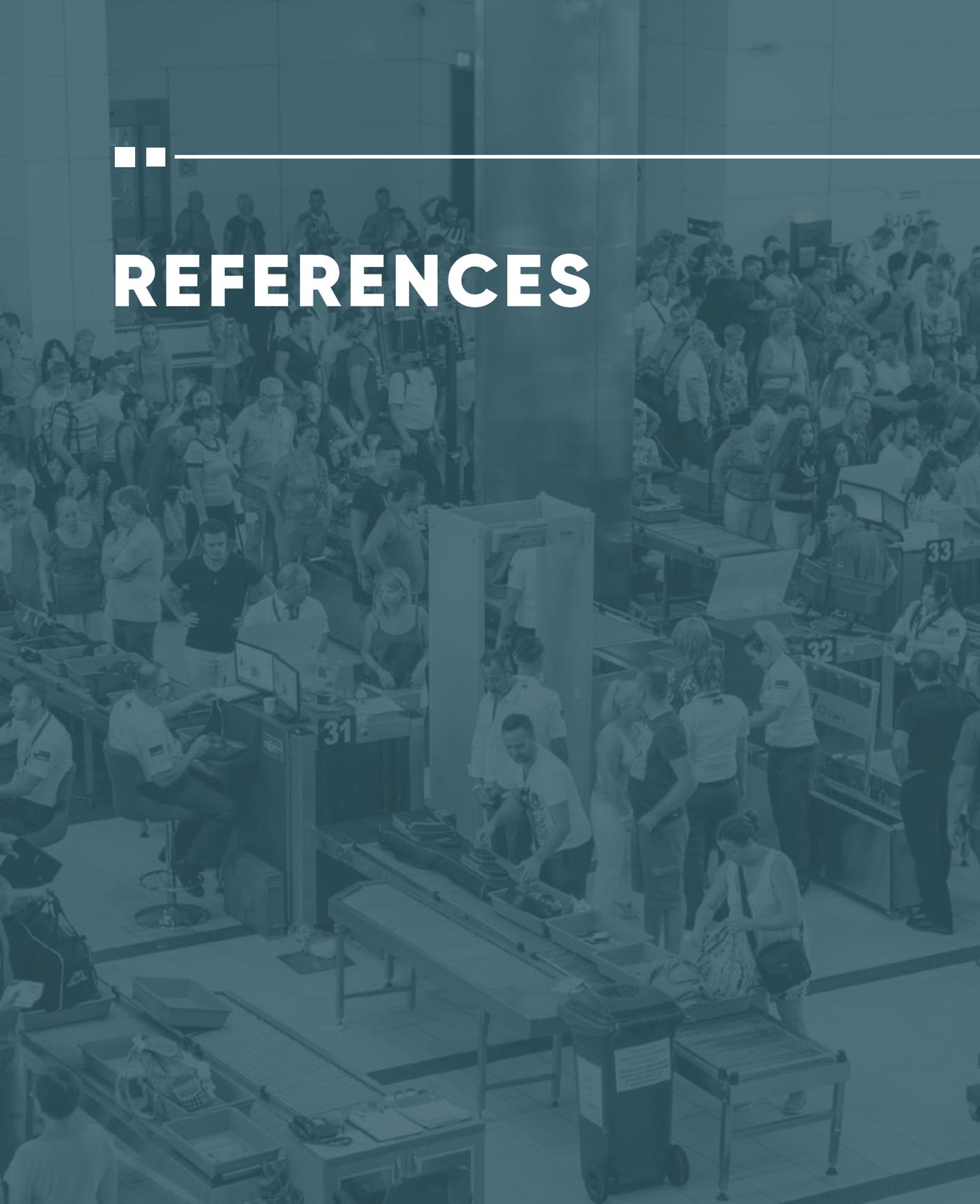
In particular, in the provinces that were more severely affected by the earthquake compared to other provinces—Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya, and Adıyaman—the number of people who migrated citing “other” reasons was considerably high. Of the **164,247** people who migrated from Hatay, **90% (149,171)** left due to “other” reasons. Similarly, **91% (94,007)** of the **102,621** people from Malatya, **87% (71,855)** of the **82,119** people from Kahramanmaraş, and **87% (42,258)** of the **48,372** people from Adıyaman also reported “other” reasons for leaving their provinces. It is therefore estimated that the overwhelming majority of these figures represent people who migrated due to the earthquake.

Table 100. Migration numbers by reason for migration in provinces affected by the earthquake, 2023²²

Provinces	Total	Immigration Reason											
		Assignment / Job change	Starting a job / Finding employment	Education	Change in marital status / Family reasons	Better housing and living conditions	Migration dependent on a household / family member	Joining family / Returning to hometown	Health / Care	Home purchase	Retirement	Other	Unknown
Adana	77,898	8,267	6,999	14,654	3,885	1,939	5,813	1,601	415	1,412	902	30,691	1,320
Adıyaman	48,372	326	589	3,831	73	371	314	20	56	25	12	42,258	497
Diyarbakır	63,878	7,814	6,659	12,072	3,139	1,385	6,694	805	163	774	341	23,335	697
Elazığ	24,456	3,078	2,787	4,335	1,091	979	2,572	868	131	419	188	6,962	1,046
Gaziantep	73,835	7,688	5,628	12,748	3,151	1,457	5,259	652	194	1,158	665	34,104	1,131
Hatay	164,247	606	1,193	9,456	168	824	755	41	387	81	26	149,171	1,539
Kahramanmaraş	82,119	558	930	6,622	123	489	481	36	126	48	13	71,855	838
Kilis	7,604	1,052	745	1,310	408	229	661	30	17	129	51	2,662	310
Malatya	102,621	470	868	4,896	105	614	408	35	192	62	29	94,007	935
Osmaniye	30,896	3,739	2,706	5,369	1,422	575	1,938	328	466	351	271	13,336	395
Şanlıurfa	63,559	7,428	5,741	11,013	3,783	1,749	6,429	463	138	1,040	222	24,935	618
Total	739,485	41,026	34,845	86,306	17,348	10,611	31,324	4,879	2,285	5,499	2,720	493,316	9,326



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