

# Population Movements In Turkey International Migrations

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## **Abstract**

*External migrations have been experienced many times throughout the history of Republic in Turkey. While a part of them have occurred as the population exchange from the Balkan countries, another part has consisted of labor migration especially after 1960. Turkey, which is both a migration-receiving and emigrant country, has demographically witnessed intense population movements.*

*External migrations are the population movements to outside of the country. A part of these migrations (like brain drain, labor, migrations, permanent migrations) occur voluntarily and another part forcedly (such as population exchanges, migrations caused by terror and national disasters). Many problems arise in both migration-receiving and emigrant regions as a result of the population movements in Turkey. Inequalities and imbalance are observed between the regions in both population distribution and the investments in the whole the country. The external migrations, which have been performed in Turkey since 1927, and their causes and results are discussed in this study.*

**Keywords:** Migration, Turkey, External Migrations, Population,

## **1. Introduction**

The population movements that occur through the abandonment of the country of residence and settlement in another country with the purpose of working for a long time or settlement are defined as external migration. External migrations take place in different ways such as population exchange, forced migrations, voluntary migrations, labor migrations and brain drains. Efforts have been made within the historical process to examine the types, causes and results of the external migrations and the external migration movements in our country.

Migration, which is described as the geographic movement of a family or the individuals from one place to another, occurs in two ways. The first one is the internal migration, which is defined as the population movements within the country, and the latter is the external migration expressed as the international population movement. While the internal migrations don't lead to any change in the arithmetic population

density of a country, external migrations cause arithmetic population change as a result of an increase or decrease effect in the total population of the country.

Virtually, the external migrations can also be explained with the push-pull theory as in all the migration cases. According to this theory, the driving forces that lead to the abandonment of the residence area and the attractive elements in the destination are the main influential factors in migration. Generally, economic reasons are dominant in external migrations. The factors such as unemployment, low salary, difficulties in working conditions and nonfulfillment of financial expectations and general difficulties in living conditions, which cause the abandonment of the country of residence, are defined as the push factors. Pull factors in the country, where people want to live, can be mentioned as better economic status, better working conditions, high salary and better living conditions.

## **2. External Migrations**

External migrations are the migrations performed from one country to another. These migrations can be forced as well as voluntary. Migrations between the countries increase together with the growth in the transportation and communication opportunities. Migration is also a socio-cultural matter due to global boundaries and transitions (Chambers I., 2014:13). As in the whole world, structural changes were also experienced in Turkey both economically and socio-culturally after the World War II (Doğan Sertkaya Ö., 2009:2). Turkish external labor migration tended towards Western Europe, especially Germany in 1961. Migrations were performed in following years through the guest worker agreements signed with other Western European and Scandinavian countries. As of 1970, guest worker agreements began to be terminated due to the economic stagnation in Western European countries. Labor migrations constitute a larger part of the external migrations when compared to the other types of external migration.

External migrations, which are the population movements including the migrations that are performed by going beyond the borders of a country from both directions and from one country to another for the purpose of a long-term residence, working or settlement, differ as per their causes of development.

**2.1. Forced Migrations (Asylum Migrations):** Asylum migrations to other countries to escape from war, suppression or persecution. For example, the migration of a part of the Northern Iraqi people to Turkey during the Gulf War in 1991 was of this type.

**2.2. Change of Location (Population Exchange):** Migrations which are performed in reliance on the principles of an agreement and occur through the exchange of the country populations. For instance, changes of location were observed by reason of the agreements with Greece after the War of Independence. The migrations which are performed in reliance on the principles of an agreement and occur through mutually changing the country populations are called population exchange. The population exchange, which was executed between Turkey and Greece with the Lausanne Peace Treaty after the War of Independence, can be given as an example for the population exchanges. As a result of this exchange, about 1,200,000 Rums in Anatolia went to Greece and 500,000 Turkish people in Greece came to Turkey. Western Thracian Turks and Istanbul Rums were excluded. Population exchanges are among the forced migrations and they are not encountered so often. They generally develop due to the decisions made after wars.

**2.3. Voluntary Migrations:** Migrations that occur with the migration of people to other countries or continents for a permanent living upon their own will on account of various reasons. For example, migration of the Europeans to America was a voluntary migration.

**2.4. Labor Migrations:** Migrations from under- or less developed countries, where unemployment rates are high, to industrialized countries with high employment opportunities. With this type of migration, unemployment decreases in the countries that send workers and socio-economic, political and cultural relationships develop between the countries. For example, labor migrations have been performed from Turkey to different European countries such as Belgium, Netherlands, France, Switzerland and especially Germany as of 1960.

In 1960s, Turkey supported the international labor migrations. The purpose of sending so many workers is to orient the surplus labor from Turkey to other countries, and in return, to create opportunities for the Turkish workers to practice their occupational knowledge, which they gained in other countries, in Turkey when they come back. Western European countries demanded workers from other countries to meet their labor needs for the purpose of reestablishing the European economy which had been devastated after the World War II in 1960s (Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands etc.). Migrations tended towards countries like Saudi Arabia, Libya and Jordan for infrastructure and building services when the Western European countries put an end to worker recruitment after 1980s. Labor migration tended towards Former Soviet Republics in 1990s.

**2.5. Brain Drain** They are the migrations that develop when well-educated people go to countries which offer better work opportunities. The countries that mostly go through brain drains: India, Pakistan, China, the Philippines, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran, Nigeria and Central Asian states. The countries that are mostly exposed to brain drains are the countries such as USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway, where the level of development is relatively high. Brain drain is observed in less developed countries more often and tends towards the developed countries. Some brain drains occur from developed countries towards developed countries. Brain drain has become popular among doctors, engineers and scientists since 1960s.

### **3. The effective factors in external migrations**

We see the existence of various effective factors when the external migrations are viewed as of the Republic Period in Turkey.

Migrations have been performed both from the Balkans to Turkey and from Turkey to the Balkans within the period that developed with the foundation of the Republic and the recognition of the Turkish Republic by all the world countries. Firstly in this sense, a protocol was signed regarding the Turkish-Greek population exchange between Turkey and Greece in Lausanne on 30 January 1923 following the Treaty of Constantinople which was concluded with Bulgaria in November 1913 (Babuş, F., 2006: 128). This agreement was related to the forced exchange of the Rums, who had been settled in the Turkish lands outside Istanbul, and the Turkish people, who had been settled in the Greek lands outside the Western Thrace. Hundreds of people came into action and a major mutual migration wave began together with this population exchange. While around 1.5 million Rums immigrated to Greece, approximately 500,000 people came to Turkey.

Because people who lived in the Balkans and Anatolia came from different social and economic backgrounds, new regulations had to be made after the population exchanges. The matters such as the economic activities the immigrants, for whom settlement would be provided, used to deal with in their places of origin, the agricultural products they grew, the number of family members and age groups were handled in detail. Commissions were established and immigration offices rendered services in big cities like Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara to overcome these problems. It is seen in the studies that the immigrants were grouped as tobacco sellers, farmers, vine growers and olive cultivators depending on the localities they came

from. The aim at this point was both to allow the immigrants to do the work they are better at and to prevent the invaluable homeland from exposure to unconsciousness. The agricultural sector - the most important economic activity for Turkey, which was already having hard times economically - and the financial source that would be provided from it were pretty significant. Therefore, attention was paid during the settlement activities for the high-level protection of agriculture as much as possible.

People who came from Greece to Turkey constituted the section that mostly dealt with agriculture. However, the people who went from Turkey to Greece were generally craftsmen dealing with trade in Anatolia. Thus, during the determination of the settlement areas for the immigrants who came to Turkey, the areas suitable for their agricultural activities were identified and attempts were made to settle them down in these areas. On the other hand, the gap which appeared after the craftsmen left Anatolia had to be filled. A range of precautions were taken to overcome the negative effects of these population exchanges with minimum loss in an economically troublesome period, when the Turkish Republic was founded. It is a known fact that the minorities, especially Rums have a significant role both in trade and industrial and service sectors. Turkish people started to have a say in these sectors to fill the gap caused by the minorities' abandonment of Turkey, and hence, a new period was initiated in the national economy as well. For these reasons, important changes and developments occurred in Turkey both socially and economically.

Between 1923-1960, approximately 300,000 people emigrated within the immigrant flow from Macedonia to our country, which began in 1924, continued in 1936 and carried on with the Free Immigration Agreement concluded in 1953, besides the Turkish-Greek population exchange.

In the next periods, migrations from Bulgaria outwards drew attention. The migration wave which firstly started with the Turkish-Bulgarian Residence Agreement in 1925 continued in 1946, 1951. In the following years, "Close Relative Migration Agreement" was concluded between Turkey and Bulgaria in 1968-1979 and migrations were performed within this framework. The last migration from Bulgaria consists of the population movements which started in 1989 and carried on discontinuously until 1995. As a result of these migrations, around 1.5 million Turkish people came to Turkey.

Apart from Greece, Former Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, families also emigrated from other countries to Anatolia in the Republic Period. Immigrants from countries such as Romania, West Turkistan, East Turkistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan settled down in Turkey. Migrations also occurred from Turkey outwards besides the migrations from abroad to Turkey. Especially after 1950, workers began to go abroad, especially to Germany. Today, we have workers in France, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Sweden, USA, Australia, Libya, S. Arabia, Kuwait and Central Asian countries. As explained, Turkey is both an migration-receiving and emigrant country (Deniz,O. 2009:28) The changes in the world system based on the globalization and their reflection on Turkey have caused the country formats to encounter foreign population flows, which are increasing day by day (Yakar M., Temurçin K., 2013:218). Western European countries entered into a rapid industrialization process following the end of the World War II in 1945 and preferred to meet their resulting labor need by employing foreign workers. The most important factor for the development of this situation was the employment of these workers for lower salaries. In the same periods, Germany began to receive workers from relatively less developed Mediterranean countries such as Italy, Greece and Portugal to meet its worker deficit that expanded over time. On 31 October 1961, "Turkish Labor Agreement" was concluded between the State of Republic of Turkey and Federal Republic of Germany, and the first official Turkish labor migration was initiated in this way.

#### 4. Causes and results of the external migrations

Causes of external migrations:

1. Population exchange with international agreements (Change of location)
2. Wars,
3. Change in international borders,
4. Going for work due to economic reasons.
5. Desire for having better working and living conditions.
6. Higher development indexes of the migration-receiving countries.

Results of external migration:

1. The workers remittance entering into the emigrant country increased.
2. Country promotions increased and therefore tourism developed.
3. A partial solution was found for the employment problem of the increasing population.
4. While the arithmetic population density decreases in the emigrant country, it increases in the migration-receiving country.
5. The increase in the number of immigrants in the migration-receiving country may lead to socio-economic imbalances over time.

A- Total    B- Men    C- Women

Country	A	B	C
<b>Total</b>	<b>234 111</b>	<b>130 762</b>	<b>103 349</b>
Germany	73 736	40 670	33 066
Bulgaria	27 470	12 994	14 476
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus	13 844	8 805	5 039
Azerbaijan	9 127	4 554	4 573
Russian Federation	8 626	5 606	3 020
Netherlands	8 013	4 462	3 551
France	7 746	4 142	3 604
United States of America	7 561	4 451	3 110
Saudi Arabia	6 334	5 137	1 197
United Kingdom	5 708	2 920	2 788
Austria	5 557	3 250	2 307
Switzerland	5 370	2 817	2 553
Islamic Republic of Iran	5 138	3 188	1 950
Iraq	4 617	2 679	1 938
Kazakhstan	4 153	2 309	1 844
Belgium	2 740	1 439	1 301
Romania	2 730	1 220	1 510
Uzbekistan	2 104	1 146	958
Greece	2 011	1 042	969

Georgia	1 979	919	1 060
Afghanistan	1 779	1 204	575
Albania	1 481	789	692
Turkmenistan	1 477	1 121	356
Australia	1 369	670	699
Kirghizstan	1 334	785	549
Libya	1 239	972	267
Italy	1 162	755	407
Republic of Macedonia	1 154	589	565
Syria	1 132	569	563
Denmark	1 107	580	527
Sweden	984	475	509
Israel	895	735	160
Japan	865	511	354
Republic of Moldova	721	109	612
Canada	701	367	334
Norway	678	353	325
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	552	373	179
Egypt	445	323	122
Jordan	390	250	140
China	378	231	147
Lebanon	352	210	142
Spain	291	183	108
Kuwait	275	215	60
Bangladesh	227	209	18
Tajikistan	216	173	43
Bosnia-Herzegovina	213	146	67
India	210	136	74
Palestinian National Authority	207	181	26
Other Countries	5 913	3 185	2 728

**Table: 1: Migration from abroad to Turkey as per countries, (2000)**

Source: General Census 2000

When Table 1 is considered, it is seen that immigrants mostly come from Germany, Bulgaria and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to our country. Labor migration to Germany since 1960, returns due to reasons like retirement today and returns from Bulgaria and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to the homeland have an effect on the development of this situation.

## A- Total    B- Men    C- Women

City	A	B	C	City	A	B	C
Adana.....	4 136	2 442	1 694	Kocaeli.....	4 279	2 457	1 822
Adıyaman.....	396	279	117	Konya.....	5 300	3 104	2 196
Afyon.....	2 135	1 200	935	Kütahya.....	1 794	990	804
Ağrı.....	415	276	139	Malatya.....	858	520	338
Amasya.....	806	485	321	Manisa.....	2 066	1 116	950
Ankara.....	17 660	10 055	7 605	Kahramanmaraş...	1 550	964	586
Antalya.....	10 002	5 269	4 733	Mardin.....	744	439	305
Artvin.....	693	472	221	Muğla.....	3 368	1 707	1 661
Aydın.....	3 063	1 570	1 493	Muş.....	222	151	71
Balıkesir.....	4 065	2 009	2 056	Nevşehir.....	1 949	1 097	852
Bilecik.....	540	321	219	Niğde.....	576	326	250
Bingöl.....	396	308	88	Ordu.....	1 947	1 206	741
Bitlis.....	120	66	54	Rize.....	986	666	320
Bolu.....	708	458	250	Sakarya.....	2 245	1 353	892
Burdur.....	873	500	373	Samsun.....	2 796	1 756	1 040
Bursa.....	17 948	9 134	8 814	Siirt.....	113	71	42
Çanakkale.....	1 285	695	590	Sinop.....	996	565	431
Çankırı.....	441	247	194	Sivas.....	2 108	1 238	870
Çorum.....	1 380	845	535	Tekirdağ.....	5 573	2 855	2 718
Denizli.....	3 962	2 209	1 753	Tokat.....	966	562	404
Diyarbakır.....	836	527	309	Trabzon.....	3 318	1 702	1 616
Edirne.....	1 318	777	541	Tunceli.....	224	163	61
Elazığ.....	914	675	239	Şanlıurfa.....	803	542	261
Erzincan.....	754	446	308	Uşak.....	1 575	906	669
Erzurum.....	881	580	301	Van.....	1 760	1 115	645
Eskişehir.....	2 012	1 170	842	Yozgat.....	2 377	1 330	1 047
Gaziantep.....	2 166	1 270	896	Zonguldak.....	2 071	1 192	879
Giresun.....	1 666	980	686	Aksaray.....	1 822	1 131	691
Gümüşhane.....	598	347	251	Bayburt.....	236	176	60
Hakkari.....	363	252	111	Karaman.....	1 042	601	441
Hatay.....	4 596	3 288	1 308	Kırıkkale.....	446	257	189
Isparta.....	1 621	850	771	Batman.....	232	131	101
İçel.....	3 474	1 974	1 500	Şırnak.....	445	262	183
İstanbul.....	54 644	29 409	25 235	Bartın.....	667	412	255
İzmir.....	18 025	9 440	8 585	Ardahan.....	287	194	93
Kars.....	549	363	186	Iğdır.....	635	420	215
Kastamonu.....	595	354	241	Yalova.....	1 401	759	642
Kayseri.....	3 912	2 266	1 646	Karabük.....	308	182	126
Kırklareli.....	1 546	780	766	Kilis.....	105	64	41
Kırşehir.....	1 124	692	432	Osmaniye.....	386	249	137
				Düzce.....	917	551	366

**Table 2: Migration from abroad as per cities, 2000**

Source: General Census 2000

**Note:** Data of 2000 are used in statistical tables, which are the latest published data (DİE (SIS). 2003). Data of 2015 related to the statistics of migration from abroad on the basis of cities hadn't been published on the date when the study was executed.

It is observed in Table 2 that most of the migrations from abroad are performed to Bursa and Ankara, and especially Istanbul. Istanbul comes on top of the development of this situation, because it is a world metropolis and a city preferred especially by people who perpetually return from Europe to Turkey for permanent residence. While Ankara is preferred, because it is a capital city and the most developed city of the Central Anatolia, Bursa is one of the cities where intensive migration is observed from abroad, because the immigrants who come from the Balkans are especially placed here.

## **5. Conclusion**

Migration in Turkey is a case observed in each period of the Turkish history (İçduygu, A., Erder, S. and Gençkaya, Ö. F. 2009:184). Migrations occur not only in Turkey but anywhere around the world, and the causes of the migrations generally have the same characteristics. Although migration existed in each period of the history, it has escalated by gaining speed especially over the last fifty years because of the fact that globalization has increased the income difference and welfare level between the societies, and it continues to escalate (Çam F., 2014: 17). People have to adapt themselves to the changing and developing events of the era. In Turkey, migrations started to become prevalent especially after 1950s, when mechanization enhanced. Together with the beginning of mechanization in agriculture, workers who lost their jobs came in search of new opportunities. As of 1960, labor migrations began from Turkey outwards. A new movement of migration started in Turkey after the end of 1990s. Especially Mediterranean and Aegean coasts of Turkey - one of the countries where people who are retired from various countries of Europe want to live - are preferred. Therefore, European existence on the Turkish coasts draws attention and causes spatial, social and economic changes. For example, Alanya, Side, Manavgat, Kuşadası and Çeşme are among the areas which attract attention in this sense. As a consequence of the legal regulations, which ease the property possession of the foreigners in Turkey, intense interest has arisen on the property possession by the foreigners since the beginning of 2000s.

Approximately 5 million Turkish people live abroad; around 4 million in Germany and other European countries, 300,000 in North America, 200,000 in the Middle East and 150,000 in Australia. These numbers constitute an 8-million population considering them together with around 3 million immigrants, who returned to Turkey permanently. Today, a significant part of the Turkish society living abroad resides in their country of residence permanently and has gained the right of citizenship in the countries where they live. The Turkish population that lives abroad today increases depending rather on family reunification and relatively high birth rate. Today, they maintain their existence as the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation in the countries where they went as workers in 1961 for the first time.

Turkish immigrants have made a great contribution to the economic development of the migration-receiving countries. Most of the Turkish citizens who live abroad aren't just workers anymore, but they take part in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the migration-receiving countries as professionals such as academician, scientist, doctors, engineer, lawyer, journalist, businessmen, artist, politician and sportsman in various fields. Economically, many Turkish citizens have switched from the position of worker to that of employer. The number of the Turkish establishments is around 140,000 in Europe (70,000 in Germany). These establishments provide employment for approximately 640,000 people (330,000 in Germany). Total annual return of these establishments has exceeded 50 billion Euros (32.7 billion Euros in Europe). According to the latest statistics, consumption expenditure of the Turkish people in Western Europe is 22.7 billion Euros.



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