



Country Fact Sheet

Turkey

2019



Credit: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2016

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I. Checklist for a Voluntary Return



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Before the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ Request documents from the German authorities that might be needed later on
- ✓ Get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey depending on your arrival airport
- ✓ There is no need for any vaccinations for Turkey. It is advisable to be up to date on routine vaccinations including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and polio vaccine
- ✓ Find temporary accommodation

After the Return

The returnee should

- ✓ (Re-)register for health insurance and pension insurance system, apply for social welfare at the nearest SGK office (Social Security Office)
- ✓ Contact with services that provide assistance to search for jobs and housing
- ✓ Apply for child care, schools or other educational institutions
- ✓ Submit ID card
- ✓ Submit documents regarding return obtained from the Turkish Consulates and German authorities

II. Health Care

I. General information

In order to benefit from the Turkish healthcare system under the social security system, residents in Turkey must enroll with the Turkish Social Security Institution (Sosyal Güvenlik Kurumu - SGK). The health care system in Turkey consists of both private and public practices and facilities. Treatment in public hospitals is free of charge if the patient registered to the Social Security Institution (SGK). Private insurances depending on their scope, can cover expensive treatment expenses.

Benefits:

If registered under SGK, vaccination, laboratory tests for diagnosis, medical examinations, birth preparation, and post pregnancy treatments, as well as emergency treatment services are free of charge.

Costs:

Financial participation to benefit from the general health insurance (GSS) depends on the income amount of the beneficiary, starting from 76.75 TRY for Turkish ID holders.

Contact:

Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Security

Tel: 170;

E-mail: diyih@csgb.gov.tr

2. Medical treatment and medication

Medical facilities and doctors:

If registered with SGK, the person can receive free treatment in public hospitals. The person can buy the prescribed medicine at a pharmacy.

Procedure of admission:

You can contact ECZANE pharmacy directly without any registration or admission procedure.

Availability and costs of medication:

Beneficiaries can reach pharmacies easily. Each and every neighborhood has at least one pharmacy. Certain medicines are being sold with prescription and some are being sold over the counter (OTC) without prescription. The prescribed medicine costs are partially covered by SGK system.

You may see 2019 medicine price list via: <https://www.titck.gov.tr/dinamikmodul/100>

Health Care System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

No specific procedure applies for returnees to register into the system. After the beneficiary is registered to SGK, the children and wife/husband of the beneficiary will be directly considered as registered to the system and will benefit from free healthcare.

Registration procedure :

There are no specific procedures for a returnee to register. Returnees can apply for healthcare through the SGK agency in their residing province.

Required documents:

- Valid residence permit card or Turkish ID
- Application form (can be obtained from SGK offices)

III. Labour Market and Employment (1/2)

I. General information

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute's (TUIK) 2018 figures, GDP per capita was 9.632 USD per person in Turkey. The unemployment rate calculated in March 2019 is 13.5% while the unemployment rate for those younger than 25 is 24.5%.

Key facts about the Turkish labor market:

Increases in population size have outweighed employment growth for many years. The linkage between output growth and unemployment growth can be explained by changes in productivity. Job creation has been moderate since 1980, in spite of the relatively strong economic development. Slow job creation has negatively impacted female labor force participation especially.

According to the 2018 year end figures, the employment rate in Turkey is 45.4% which includes 71.7% male labour force and 33.6% female labourforce. Divided by sectors, the employment rates are as follows: agriculture 17.3%, industry 19.8%, construction 5.8% and service sector 57%.

2. Ways/ assistance to find employment

Returnees can find many vacancy announcements from online job search websites. Additionally, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) accepts job applications and provides assistance to Turkish ID holders in search of employment and provides vocational training/courses. For further information, see: <http://www.iskur.gov.tr>.

3. Unemployment assistance

General information on public and/or private unemployment assistance:

Those who lost their job out of their will and fault despite their desire, skill, health, and competence to work can benefit from the unemployment insurance services provided by İSKUR. Private unemployment assistance is being provided by banks and private insurance system with different requirements.

Benefits and Costs:

- People who have paid a premium for 600 days, are entitled to receive unemployment subsidy for 180 days
- People who have paid a premium for 900 days, are entitled to receive unemployment subsidy for 240 days
- People who have paid a premium for 1080 days, are entitled to receive unemployment subsidy for 300 days

Employment offices:

Office	Address
Ankara	Atatürk Bulvarı No:133 Kızılay/ Ankara Tel: 0-312- 425 06 86 Lüleci Hendek Cad. No:4
Istanbul	Tophane/İstanbul 0-212- 249 29 87 / 3 lines Fax: 0-212 249 08 61 Atatürk Cad. No:104 Bursa
Bursa	Tel: 224 222 4325 Fax: 224 222 4328 1362 Sok. No:29 Çankaya /İzmir
Izmir	Tel:0-232- 441 11 03 - 441 1885 Fax : 0-232 441 10 41

4. Further education and training

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

- Labour training courses (employment guaranteed)
- Job acquisition courses for those wishing to be self-employed
- Job development courses
- Vocational training and rehabilitation activities for disabled persons
- Vocational training of convicts
- Training is given to those under unemployment insurance

III. Labour Market and Employment (2/2)

Mesleki Egitim ve Kucuk Sanayii Destekleme Vakfi (MEKSA):

A private vocational training foundation with branches throughout Turkey, offering a wide variety of training opportunities.

Cinnah Cad. 9/10
06634 Cankaya /Ankara;
Tel: 312. 468 15 25;
Fax: 468 58 97;
Email: meksa@tr.net;
URL: www.meksa.org.tr

Ministry of Education, General Directorate for Vocational Education Teknikokullar – Ankara;

Tel: 312 212 99 56/57

Email: cygm@meb.gov.tr

List of Vocational Schools Affiliated with İŞKUR:

<http://esube.iskur.gov.tr/Kurs/KursOnAir.aspx?ProgramTur=I>

Unemployment Assistance: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

- Independent professionals who are not affiliated with an employer are not eligible.
- For beneficiaries who have worked full-time and received a regular salary, the average rate of unemployment benefits can not exceed the net minimum salary.

Registration procedure:

Applicants have to apply at the Turkish Employment Office (İŞKUR) Directorates within 30 days after losing a job.

Required documents:

ID card and a letter of termination from the employer.



Credit: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2016

IV. Housing

I. General information

The table below highlights the average rent and sale prices for several cities as of February 2019. Expenses such as electricity and water prices vary according to the provider. Thus, expenses can change from city to city. It is possible to rent an apartment both in the city or countryside in every season of the year.

Housing facilities for returnees / social housing

There are currently no social housing programs specifically for returnees. They will have to search for accommodation in the regular market.

	For Sale (per m2)	For Rent (per m2)
	March 2019	March 2019
Istanbul	3.750 TRY	16 TRY
Ankara	1.835 TRY	10 TRY
Izmir	2.880 TRY	13 TRY
Antalya	2.194 TRY	10 TRY
Bursa	2.118 TRY	10 TRY

2. Ways/ assistance to find accommodation

One can find accommodation advertisements through newspapers, estate agents, or friends. Using the services of a real estate agency is the most efficient way. Most of the real estate agencies are professional and have experience with customers with specific needs.

3. Social grants for housing

Most of the financial institutions in Turkey offer loans for housing with repayment patterns varying from 5 to 10 years.

TOKİ, a governmental construction institution, also offers loans at more reasonable rates than banks (<http://www.toki.gov.tr/en/index.html>).

Housing: Access for Returnees / Vulnerable Groups

In Turkey, shelter services are available only for homeless people.

Temporary protection and housing facilities are being provided to people in special need. This assistance is mostly provided by NGOs and service scope depends on the place of return. For contact details, please see the list below section VIII.

V. Social Welfare (1/2)

I. General information

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security is responsible for employment and social security affairs in Turkey. To benefit from social security, applicants must enroll with the Turkish Social Security Fund (SGK). Returnees can benefit as well.

Costs:

The required financial participation to benefit from social security depends on the income of the beneficiary. The financial participation rate is being calculated through 30% of the gross income of the respective beneficiary.

Benefits:

Apart from the health care benefits described in section II, child allowance for civil servants are available in Turkey. Please consider the table below:

Age group	Computation	January-June 2019
0-6	500 x - monthly coefficient	65.30 TRY
Other children	250 x - monthly coefficient	32.65 TRY

2. Pension System

Both public and private pension systems are available in Turkey.

Costs:

Financial participation is paid under SGK. Other than SGK premiums, there are no additional costs or participation fees.

Benefits:

After fulfilling the required payments for the required time, the beneficiary will receive a monthly payment as a pension fee in accordance with the premium payment level.

Social Welfare System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

Most returnees with a residence permit who have been living in Turkey permanently for at least one year, and who do not hold health insurance under the legislation of their home country, must make compulsory monthly payments into the scheme. In order to benefit from the social security system for health expenses, a beneficiary must be enrolled in the system and must have paid at least 180 days of insurance premium out of which 60 days have to be made prior to the diagnosis.

Registration procedure:

Returnees can enroll in the system through social security offices located throughout the country.

Registration documents :

- Residence permit card
- Turkish ID card and its number
- Passport

V. Social Welfare (2/2)

Pension System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

- Turkish citizens above age 18
- Expatriates who can document their work abroad (which could include 1 year of unemployment)
- Spouses and citizens without any occupation above age 18 can benefit from a pension, if they have paid their premiums to SGK, Bağ-kur or Emekli Sandığı in a foreign currency, for the whole or part of their stay abroad

Registration procedure:

- Register with the social security institution SGK
- Housewives register with Bağ-kur
- Apply to social security to which the person has paid their premium within two years of their arrival
- Premiums paid from abroad can be transferred to Turkey and paid back in Turkish Liras calculated at the exchange rate at the time of the transfer

Registration documents:

- Petition
- Certified copy of national ID card
- Letter of declaration and commitment
- Receipt confirming payment
- 2 photos

3. Vulnerable Groups

A regular monthly payment is made to persons older than 65 years, to disabled persons over 18 years and to persons who have relatives under age 18 with a disabilities, whom they are legally bound to look after.

Required documents:

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

Widowed individuals and orphans:

Immediate families of insured individuals who died after retiring and/or who worked for 10 years or more are entitled to widowed or orphan assistance.

If the deceased worked for more than 5 years, his/her children under age 18, children in secondary school under the age of 20 and children enrolled in higher education under the age of 25 are entitled to orphan assistance.

For more information see: www.sgk.gov.tr.

VI. Educational System (1/2)

I. General information

In Turkey, the education system of 12 compulsory years applies to men and women. In 2012-2013 a new system called 4+4+4 was introduced in order to enforce vocational training and religious education options.

Educational Level	Age
Child care/nursery school	0 – 3
Kindergarten	0 – 5.5
Primary Level	
Elementary School	5.5 – 9
Secondary Level	
Middle School	9 – 13
High School	13 – 17
Higher Education	
College, university, professional school, etc.	From 17

2. Cost, loans and stipends

In public educational institutions, there are no tuition fees for day-time university education. For evening class universities, tuition fees can vary from university to university. Loans are provided by the Institution of Loans and Dormitories.

The number of dormitories can vary according to the room allocation and city. Loans for university students during the 2017-2018 education period consisted of 425 TRY.

This loan has to be paid back after the education period. In addition to public loans, many private and governmental institutions offer loans on a yearly basis.

Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition:

The General Directorate of Credit and Dormitories Agency is a state agency and provides 425 TRY loans to students who are pursuing their education in any higher education institution in Turkey. Application periods and requirements can be found through this web page <http://yurtkur.gsb.gov.tr/>.

3. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

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

- Photocopy of the national ID
- Original or a certified copy of the previous school's diploma
- Original of the diploma
- Translated version of the diploma
- Official transcript and the original of the diploma supplement (the latter taken in one of the member countries of the EU)
- Translated version of the official transcript

Educational System: Access and Registration Procedure for Returnees

The equivalence procedure applies to those who have completed either their total or partial secondary education abroad. The equivalence for primary school is decided on by the primary school administrations. Requests for this equivalence can be made at the Ministry of National Education (www.meb.gov.tr) or consulates abroad.

Required documents:

- Proof that the student has studied abroad for the past two years (attendance records) or a relevant diploma
- For “lycees”, the attendance records of the last three years or relevant diploma
- For a vocational “lycee”, attendance records from the vocational training school abroad, relevant diploma or attendance records of the school completed prior to vocational training

VI. Educational System (2/2)

The equivalence for Bachelor's degree, postgraduate and undergraduate students are decided by YÖK upon presentation of the following documents:

- Lycee attendance records or graduation certificate, alternatively a certified copy
- Lycee equivalence document requested from the consulates abroad and/or from the Ministry of National Education in Turkey
- Original of the Bachelor's degree diploma or the relevant documents pertaining to postgraduate and/or undergraduate studies, or a certified Turkish translation of these documents by Turkish Embassies abroad or by the notary
- Original or certified copy of diplomas obtained abroad
- Photocopy of the ID card
- Certified copy of the passport including the pages indicating the dates of entry and exit
- Letter stating the reasons for asking for an equivalence
- Envelope size 26x35cm

The equivalence application forms can be obtained at:

- The General Documents Unit, YÖK Bilkent / Ankara, or by Email, addressed to the Directorate of YÖK, 06539 Bilkent / Ankara

For further information:

Tel: + 90.312.298.7142; Fax: + 90.312.266.5060

Email: denklik@yok.gov.tr

Address: Yükseköğretim Kurulu Başkanlığı;
06539 Bilkent / ANKARA



VII. Concrete Support for Returnees

1. Reintegration assistance programs

Some private NGOs provide language courses in order to speed up the reintegration process. There is no government provided reintegration assistance for returnees in Turkey yet.

2. Financial and administrative support

There is no specific financial and administrative support provided by the Turkish Government for returnees in Turkey.

3. Support to start income generating activities

There is no specific financial and administrative support provided by the Turkish Government for returnees in Turkey.

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (1/3)

International, Non-Governmental and Humanitarian Organizations

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Phone: +90 (0) 3124543000

Email: ankmission@iom.int

Internet: <http://www.turkey.iom.int/>

UNHCR

Tel: +90 (0) 3124097300 / 444 48 68

Email: unhcr-asam.line@sgdd-asam.org

Internet: <http://www.unhcr.org/turkey.html>

ASAM

Phone: +90 (0) 3122126012-13-14 // 444 48 68

Email: info@sgdd-asam.org

Internet: <http://sgdd.org.tr/>

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation

Phone: +90 (0) 2126312121

Email: info@ihh.org.tr

Internet: <https://www.ihh.org.tr/en/news/turkey>

IGAM – İltica ve Göç Araştırmaları Merkezi

Phone: +90 (0) 3124402355

Internet: <http://www.igamder.org/>

IBC International Blue Crescent Relief And Development Foundation

Phone: +90 (0) 2163841486

Email: info@ibc.org.tr

Internet: <https://www.ibc.org.tr/EN/613/our-offices>

IGAM – İltica ve Göç Araştırmaları Merkezi

Phone: +90 (0) 3124402355

Internet: <http://www.igamder.org/>

IBC International Blue Crescent Relief And Development Foundation

Phone: +90 (0) 2163841486

Email: info@ibc.org.tr

Internet: <https://www.ibc.org.tr/EN/613/our-offices>

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (2/3)

Relevant local authorities (employment offices, health/pension insurances etc.)

Employment :

Turkish Employment Agency

Internet: <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/>

Pension and Insurance:

Social Security Institution

Internet: <http://www.sgk.gov.tr/wps/portal/sgk/tr/>

Pension and Insurance:

Ministry of Family and Social Policies

Internet: <http://en.aile.gov.tr/>

Health:

Ministry of Health

Internet: <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/>

Services assisting with the search for jobs, housing, etc.

Ofis Emlak

3. Etap Meydanı 143. Sok. Tepe Blokları 17335 ada c 4/5
Blok, Daire:2

Eryaman Mh. - Etimesgut – ANKARA

Phone: +90 (0) 312 282 18 48

Internet: <http://www.ofisemlak.com.tr/>

Employment – Kariyer Akademi

<https://www.kariyer.net/>

Emlak Jet

<https://www.emlakjet.com/>

RE/MAX

PK 237 80220 Şişli 34361, İstanbul

Phone: +90 (0) 212 232 4820

Fax: +90 (0) 212 232 4827

Email: info@remax.com.tr

Hurriyet Emlak

<https://www.hurriyetemlak.com/>

Sahibinden.Com

<https://www.sahibinden.com/kategori/emlak-konut>

VIII. Contact Information and Useful Links (3/3)

Other contacts (e.g. NGOs for women and children, microcredit-lending)

AÇEV – Anne ve Çocuk Eğitim Vakfı

Phone: +90 (0) 2122134220

Email: acev@acev.org

Internet: <https://acev.org/>

Sağlık ve Eğitim Vakfı

Phone: +90 (0) 2165315738

Email: iletisim@sev.org.tr

Internet: <http://www.sev.org.tr/>

KAGİDER - Kadın Girişimciler Derneği

Phone: +90 (0) 2122668261

Email: kagider@kagider.org

Internet: <http://www.kagider.org/>

Anne ve Bebek Sağlığı Vakfı

Phone: +90 (0) 2163496906

Email: info@annevebebek.org

Internet: <https://www.annevebebek.org/>



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For further information please visit the information portal on
voluntary return and reintegration *ReturningfromGermany*:

<https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries/turkey>