

PICTURE STORY

15 facts about Turkey

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This picture story offers additional background information on our research on feminism and Islam in Turkey (see ESI report “Sex and Power in Turkey”) and highlights the report's main themes. Turkey has a long road ahead of it in narrowing its gender gap. In a recent international study, Turkey ranked an embarrassing 105th of 115 countries - far behind the worst-ranking EU member. Improving gender equality will involve tackling a series of deeply entrenched problems, from improving access to education in rural regions to removing the institutional and social barriers to women's participation in the workforce.



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Population, urbanization, female literacy in Turkey, 1935-2000



Year	Population (m)	Urbanisation	Female literacy
1945	18.8	25 %	13%
1960	27.8	32 %	25 %
1980	44.7	44 %	55 %
2000	67.8	65 %	81 %

Global Gender Gap Index 2006



1.	Sweden	[...]	
2.	Norway		
3.	Finland	97.	Algeria
4.	Iceland	98.	India
5.	Germany	99.	Mali
6.	Philippines	100.	Ethiopia
7.	New Zealand	101.	United Arab Emirates
8.	Denmark	102.	Bahrain
9.	United Kingdom	103.	Cameroon
10.	Ireland	104.	Burkina Faso
11.	Spain	105.	Turkey
[...]		[...]	

Turkey's gender gap is also reflected in the economic status of women and men:

	Women (percent)	Men (percent)
Working	12	67
Unpaid family worker	8	3
Unemployed	3	10
Housewife	69	-
Retired	4	15
In education	1	3
Ill/disabled	2	2

Population growth between 1990 and 2000



annual population growth

1. Antalya:	4.2 percent	(p. 54)
2. Istanbul:	3.3 percent	(p. 54)
3. Van:	3.2 percent	(p. 55)
4. Hakkari:	3.2 percent	(p. 54)

net migration in 2000

1. Antalya:	plus 6.4 percent	(p. 54)
2. Istanbul:	plus 4.6 percent	(p. 54)
3. Van:	minus 4.3 percent	(p. 54)
4. Hakkari:	minus 1.2 percent	(p. 54)

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 54

Turkey's population



In 2005 there were some 1.3 million births in Turkey. The population increase was 1.3 percent in 2005 (p. 79).

Estimated population in 2005: 72 million (p. 81)
36.3 million men
35.7 million women

In Turkey in 2005: 72 million (p. 83)
48.5 million in cities
23.5 million in villages

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 80-85

Total female population



33,457,000 (in 2005) (p.43):

9,767,000	were 0-14		
14,557,000	were 15-39	8,817,000	married 177,000 divorced
9,120,000	were 40 and older	6,914,000	married 186,000 divorced (p. 43)

Of Turkey's 33.4 million women 16.4 million were mothers to 58.9 million children (p. 47). Each mother on average had 3.5 children.

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 43-48

Turkish households



According to the 2000 Census:

15,070,000 households (p. 49)

67,809,000 population

Average household: 4.5 persons (p. 49)

However, there are huge variations in household size between provinces. The percentage of households with more than 5 members also varies:

	household size	household more than 5 members
Izmir	3.6 persons	22 percent (p. 49)
Istanbul	3.9 persons	29 percent (p. 49)
Antalya	4.0 persons	30 percent (p. 50)
Kayseri	4.6 persons	47 percent (p. 50)
Malatya	5.4 persons	58 percent (p. 51)
Kars	6.0 persons	66 percent (p. 51)
Diyarbakir	6.8 persons	72 percent (p. 51)
Van	7.5 persons	77 percent (p. 51)

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 49-51

Marriages and Divorces in 2002



Turkey	447,820 marriages 51,096 divorces	(p. 65) 11 percent (p. 68)
Istanbul	70,332 marriages 8,947 divorces	(p. 65) 13 percent (p. 68)
Van:	5,484 marriages 66 divorces	(p. 67) 1 percent (p. 70)

In 2000, of the 4 million men and women in Turkey aged 40-44 only 124,000 were "never married". And of those in that age group who had married only 81,000 were divorced at some stage in their life.

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 65-70

Declining numbers of youth dependents



Across Turkey there has been a dramatic fall in the number of dependents, as a result of a **sharp fall in the number of youth dependents** (ages 0-14):

1950	38.2 percent
1960	40.4 percent
1975	40.5 percent
1980	39.0 percent
1985	37.5 percent
1990	34.9 percent
2001	29.5 percent
2005	28.3 percent

Further reading

Until 1960

Turkish Statistical Institute: Population by age group, 1935-1990

1965-1990

Turkish Statistical Institute: Population by age group, 1935-1990

Until 2000:

Turkish Statistical Institute: Population & Demographic Indicators

Ratio of teachers and students



Primary education:

Istanbul:	1,722,556 pupils	50,303 teachers	1:34
Van:	404,155 pupils	11,303 teachers	1:36

Secondary education:

Istanbul:	539,856 pupils
Van:	54,524 pupils

In Istanbul the ratio secondary to primary pupils is 31 percent. In Van it is 13 percent.

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 111

Labor Force Statistics 2005



Labor force statistics: 50,826,000 people 15 or older
22,046,000 people work

In Istanbul 8,396,000 people 15 or older
3,556,000 people work
42.4 percent employment rate

In Van 1,121,000 people 15 or older
417,000 people work: 200,000 agriculture (48 percent)
49,000 industry/construction
168,000 services
37.2 percent employment rate

Further reading

Turkish Statistical Institute: *Turkey's Statistical Yearbook 2005*, p. 162-163

Tensions between men and women



"some 34 percent of people in Turkey perceive high levels of tensions between men and women – a level which is substantially greater than that found in the new EU member states (8 percent) and in the EU 15 (12 percent)."

"Moreover, the figure for Turkey masks an interesting gender gap: some 42 percent of women in Turkey consider that there is a lot of tension between the sexes, compared with 25 percent of Turkish men. In contrast, little or no gender gap emerges in the EU member states." (p. 46)

Further reading

Richard Rose and Yusuf Ozcan, *Quality of Life in Turkey*, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2007

Support for arranged marriages



"When TNS-PIAR asked a nationwide sample of married Turks in 1997 about the circumstances of their union, 69 percent of respondents said it was an arranged marriage, and the modal response was that the couple had not met prior to the marriage being agreed."

In 2005: the proportion of people with an arranged marriage had fallen to 54 percent.

"Among younger, unmarried Turks, 90 percent think that the best way to meet a spouse is through dating and getting to know a potential partner, while only 10 percent endorse an arranged marriage." (p. 39)

Further reading

Richard Rose and Yusuf Ozcan, *Quality of Life in Turkey*, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2007

Turkey as a religious society



Since 1999, there has been a shift to increased religiosity in 2006:

"I am not very religious" has decreased	from 9.4 to 3.6 percent
"I am sort of religious" has decreased	from 55 to 33.9 percent
"I am quite religious" has increased	from 25 to 48.5 percent
"I am very religious" has increased	from 6 to 12 percent.

Further reading

Binnaz Toprak/Ali Carkoglu, *Religion, Society and Politics in Changing Turkey*, November 2006

Turks and secularism



In 2006, 9 percent of the people wanted to have a religious state based on the Sharia (Islamic law). This is down from 21 percent in 1999.

Among AKP voters the percentage (of those who say they want a seriat based state) is 14, among those who voted for CHP it is 7.

Further reading

Binnaz Toprak/Ali Carkoglu, Religion, Society and Politics in Changing Turkey, November 2006

Turks and the headscarf



Headscarf wearing has decreased since 1999. In 1999 27.3 were not wearing a headscarf, in 2006, 36.5 are uncovered.

However, a widespread perception is that the use of the headscarf has increased. In 2006 25 percent said that there was a significant increase of women who covered. 39 percent said there was a small increase. 21.8 percent said there was no increase.

This perception was particularly strong among those who defined themselves as left-wing or secular.

Further reading

Binnaz Toprak/Ali Carkoglu, Religion, Society and Politics in Changing Turkey, November 2006