



# Turkey (Türkiye)



**Background** Modern Turkey was founded in 1923 from the remnants of the Ottoman Empire by reformer and national hero Mustafa KEMAL, known as Atatürk or "Father of the Turks." One-party rule ended in 1950, and periods of instability and military coups have since fractured the multiparty democracy, in 1960, 1971, 1980, 1997, and 2016. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and NATO in 1952. In 1963, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community; it began accession talks with the EU in 2005. Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus in 1974 to prevent a Greek takeover of the island and has since acted as patron state to the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," which only Turkey recognizes. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a US-designated terrorist organization, began a separatist insurgency in Turkey in 1984, and the struggle has long dominated the attention of Turkish security forces. In 2013, the Turkish Government and the PKK conducted negotiations aimed at ending the violence, but intense fighting resumed in 2015. The Turkish Government conducted a referendum in 2017 in which voters approved constitutional amendments changing Turkey from a parliamentary to a presidential system.

<b>Capital</b>	name: Ankara
<b>Government type</b>	presidential republic
<b>Area</b>	total : 783,562 sq km land: 769,632 sq km water: 13,930 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters; harsher in interior
<b>Natural resources</b>	coal, iron ore, copper, chromium, antimony, mercury, gold, barite, borate, celestite (strontium), emery, feldspar, limestone, magnesite, marble, perlite, pumice, pyrites (sulfur), clay, arable land, hydropower
<b>Population</b>	total: 84,119,531 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	0.59% (2025 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	Turkish 70-75%, Kurdish 19%, other minorities 6-11% (2016 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Muslim 99.8% (mostly Sunni), other 0.2% (mostly Christians and Jews)
<b>Languages</b>	Turkish (official), Kurdish, other minority languages

<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: President Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN (since 28 August 2014) head of government: President Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN (since 9 July 2018)
<b>Legislative branch</b>	legislature name: Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (T.B.M.M))
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Sedat ÖNAL (since 17 June 2024)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Thomas J. BARRACK (since 14 May 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	upper-middle-income, diversified Middle Eastern economy; industrializing economy that maintains large agricultural base; key energy, tourism, and construction sectors; high inflation, interest rates, and foreign debt pose risk to financial stability
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$3.018 trillion (2024 est.) \$2.925 trillion (2023 est.) \$2.783 trillion (2022 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$35,300 (2024 est.) \$34,300 (2023 est.) \$32,700 (2022 est.)
<b>Exports</b>	\$372.756 billion (2024 est.) \$357.588 billion (2023 est.) \$346.602 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	Germany 9%, USA 6%, UK 6%, UAE 5%, Iraq 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	garments, cars, gold, refined petroleum, vehicle parts/accessories (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$367.022 billion (2024 est.) \$386.602 billion (2023 est.) \$383.7 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 13%, Russia 9%, Germany 9%, Switzerland 6%, USA 5% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	gold, refined petroleum, cars, plastics, natural gas (2023)

## Population Pyramid

