

OVERVIEW OF MIGRANT SITUATION SITUATION REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of migration in Türkiye on a monthly basis. For more details, please refer to Methodology section on [page 3](#).

OVERVIEW OF MIGRANT PRESENCE IN TÜRKİYE

According to the latest figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), there are more than 4.3 million foreigners in Türkiye, of whom 3.3 million are seeking international protection. Most of them are Syrians (3,089,904¹) who have been granted temporary protection status. Another group of foreigners are international protection holders mainly from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine. In 2023, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 258,416² refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye. In addition, 1,045,722³ foreigners with residence permits were in Türkiye as of September 2024, which is 128,291⁴ people less than in September 2023.

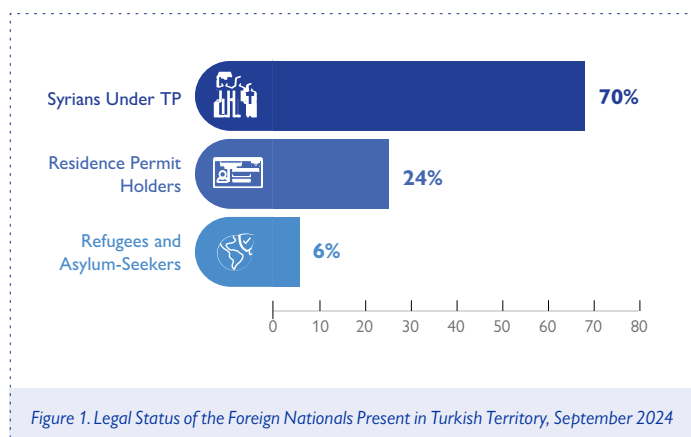


Figure 1. Legal Status of the Foreign Nationals Present in Turkish Territory, September 2024

Syrians under Temporary Protection

Türkiye's temporary protection regime grants 3,089,904 Syrian nationals the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as to have some access to basic services. There are 189,248 fewer Syrians currently living in Türkiye compared to the previous year.⁵

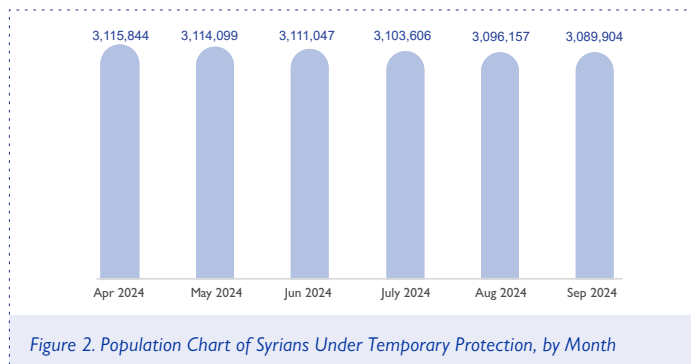


Figure 2. Population Chart of Syrians Under Temporary Protection, by Month

1 PMM, 2024.
2 UNHCR, 2023.
3 PMM, 2024.
4 IOM, 2023.
5 Ibid.

Residence Permit Holders

Foreigners who seek to stay in Türkiye beyond the duration of a visa or visa exemption, i.e. longer than 90 days, must obtain a residence permit. According to PMM, there are 1,045,722 residence permit holders in Türkiye with various categories of the residence permit. Residence permits include short-term residence permit, family residence permit, student residence permit, long-term residence permit, humanitarian residence permit and residence permit for victims of human trafficking. In Türkiye, a valid work permit and a work permit exemption confirmation document are both recognized as residence permits. As of 2023, there were 239,835 foreigners holding a work permit in Türkiye. In addition, there were 434 work permit holders who were working in free zones, 12,090 work permit holders with work permit exemption, and 76,707 work permit exemption were given to foreigners who worked in seasonal agriculture and animal husbandry.⁶

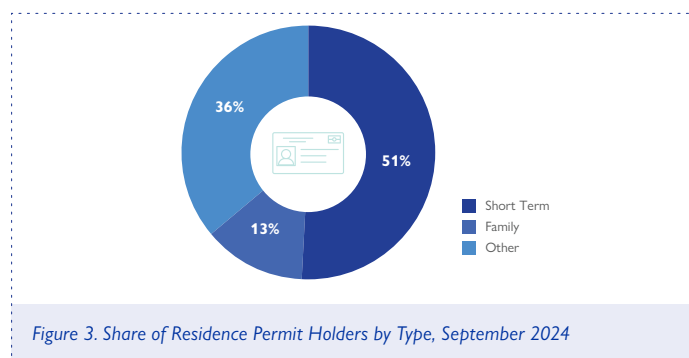


Figure 3. Share of Residence Permit Holders by Type, September 2024

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Türkiye

According to UNHCR, as of 2023, there are 258,416 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye, most of whom from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.⁷

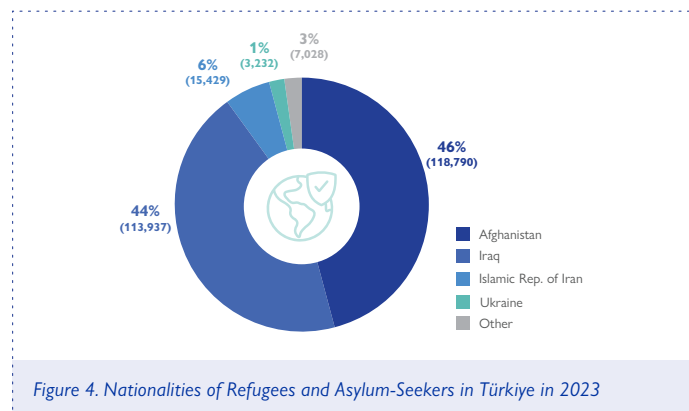
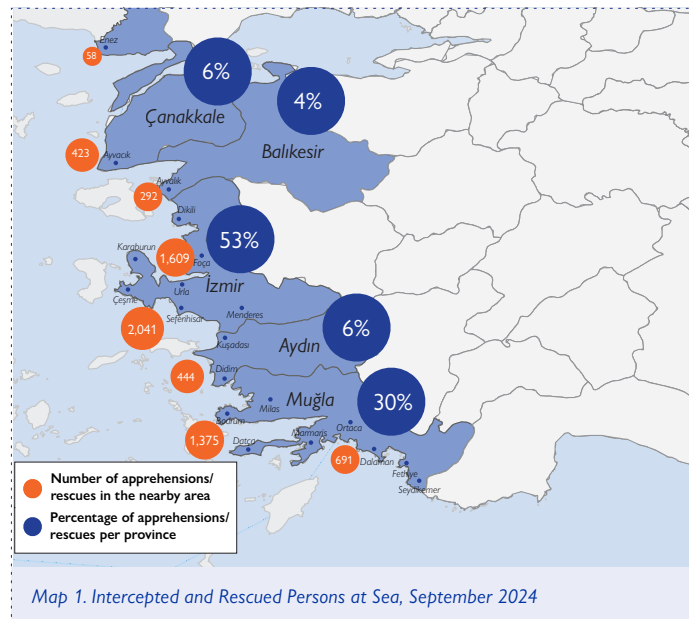


Figure 4. Nationalities of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Türkiye in 2023

6 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 2023.
7 UNHCR, 2023.

MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION

Türkiye has been experiencing considerable challenges related to migration for several years, hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees in the world, as well as migrants from other countries and areas, such as Afghanistan, Central Asia and Africa, for various reasons. Some of them come to Türkiye as their final destination, while others use it as a transit point to reach Europe. According to PMM data,⁸ the number of irregular migrants apprehended by the authorities in Türkiye reached its highest level in 2019, then dropped sharply in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has been increasing again since then. The term irregular migrants refers to those who entered Türkiye without proper documentation (among them, many Afghan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi nationals) and those who overstayed their visa or visa-free period (for example, Turkmen, Uzbek, Moroccan nationals).



Map 1. Intercepted and Rescued Persons at Sea, September 2024

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

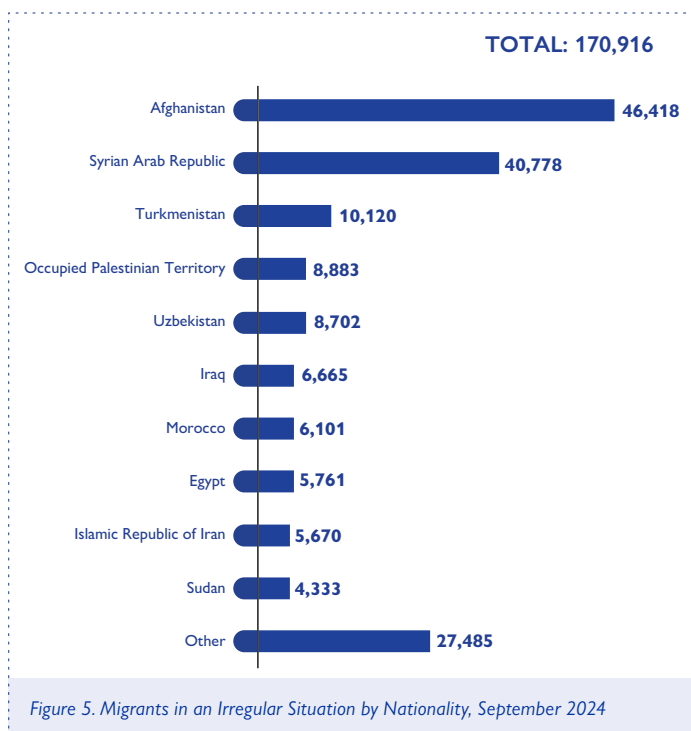


Figure 5. Migrants in an Irregular Situation by Nationality, September 2024

Intercepted and Rescued Persons at Sea

In September 2024, the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) intercepted 6,430⁹ migrants and reported no fatalities among those crossing. Comparing to September 2023, there is a decrease of 3,193 intercepted individuals, from the 9,623 migrants in irregular situation recorded at the time.¹⁰ These figures only include those intercepted and rescued by the TCG, while the actual number of migrants and refugees who attempt to cross from Türkiye to Europe by sea may be higher. Interceptions and rescues at the so-called ‘hotspots’ in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas are shown on the map.

The top ten nationalities as reported by migrants are Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Yemen, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia and Cameroon.

Interceptions and Rescues by TCG by Month in 2024 (1 January - 30 September)				
Month	Events	Migrants Rescued and Intercepted	Deaths	Facilitators
All Seas				
January	110	3,654	5	10
February	185	6,099	0	19
March	118	3,058	23	19
April	113	3,116	1	19
May	151	3,665	3	31
June	141	3,756	0	28
July	166	4,473	8	44
August	245	6,431	0	50
September	238	6,430	0	102
Total	1,467	40,682	40	323

8 PMM, 2024.
9 TCG, 2024.
10 IOM, 2023.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

This report uses monthly data from secondary sources. Data are collected between the first and the tenth day of the following month, depending on when the sources publish the data. No primary data from the IOM MPM programme are presented in this report. Sources were chosen from government authorities and UN agencies to provide a complete picture of the migration situation and flows in Türkiye.

Data Categories

The report covers different types of migration data:

- 1. Migrants in Türkiye by migration status (stock):** This shows the number of migrants reported to be in Türkiye by their migration status. It distinguishes people with a refugee status, a temporary protection status, or a residence permit. Data come from PMM and UNHCR statistics.
- 2. Migrants in an irregular situation by nationality (stock):** This is about migrants who are in irregular or undocumented situations. Data come from PMM statistics.
- 3. Migrants intercepted or rescued at sea (flow):** This is about migrants who are intercepted or rescued while trying to cross to Europe by sea. Data come from TCG regular reports, which include the number and self-reported nationalities of migrants intercepted or rescued by the TCG at sea or land.

LIMITATIONS

Sources

The data sources were selected based on their trustworthiness and expertise, but secondary sources have inherent limitations. Different sources may use different methods and definitions to collect data, which may cause variations in the figures they report. For example, IOM Glossary on Migration (2019) defines a migrant in an irregular situation as a person who crosses or has crossed an international border and does not have permission to enter or stay in a State according to the law of that State and the international agreements that bind that State. However, IOM cannot confirm whether the PMM uses the same criteria to identify migrants in an irregular situation. The data quality also depends on how transparent and accurate the original reporting entities are.

Data Validity and Verification

Despite efforts to check and compare data from various secondary sources, it is important to recognize that the accuracy and reliability of the compiled information may not

be fully verifiable. Secondary data pose a challenge in terms of tracking the original data collection processes. Therefore, the limitation of not being able to verify the data directly remains, and it is advised that users of this report exercise caution and consider the possible margin of error associated with the data.

Data Gaps and Incompleteness

Migration data are often affected by gaps due to the informal nature of some migration movements and the difficulties of data collection. The report acknowledges the possibility of underreporting or excluding certain migration flows or presence due to factors such as incomplete reporting, differing definitions, and unreported cases.

Generalization and Predictive Limitations

While the data analysis provides insights into the overall migration context in Türkiye, caution should be used when applying findings to specific cases or predicting future trends.

REFERENCES

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CITATION

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IOM Mission to Türkiye
İlkbahar Mahallesi, Konrad Adenauer
Caddesi, No:61-63,
Çankaya / Ankara-Türkiye

    @IOMTürkiye
 turkiye.iom.int |  mpmturkey@iom.int

IOM Gaziantep Sub Office
Güvenevler Mahallesi
29069.Sokak No:15 Tuğay
Şehitkamil / Gaziantep-Türkiye

IOM Türkiye Displacement Tracking Matrix
<https://dtm.iom.int/republic-of-türkiye>