

MPM TÜRKİYE
Overview of Migrant Situation
Migrant Presence Monitoring

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



IOM
UN MIGRATION

GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

BACKGROUND AND KEY FINDINGS

According to the latest figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), there are more than 4.6 million foreigners in Türkiye, of whom 3.5 million are seeking international protection. Most of them are Syrians (3,214,780 individuals: 3,150,899 urban caseload and 63,881 residing in camps) who have been granted temporary protection status. There is an increase of 16,356 individuals in the number of Syrian nationals staying in camps in comparison to last year's figures.¹

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 296,685 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye as of mid of 2023.²

In addition, 1,107,032 foreigners present in Türkiye holding residency permits including 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.³

According to PMM, 254,008 migrants in an irregular situation of different nationalities were apprehended in Türkiye in 2023.⁴ Please see Page 4 for more details.

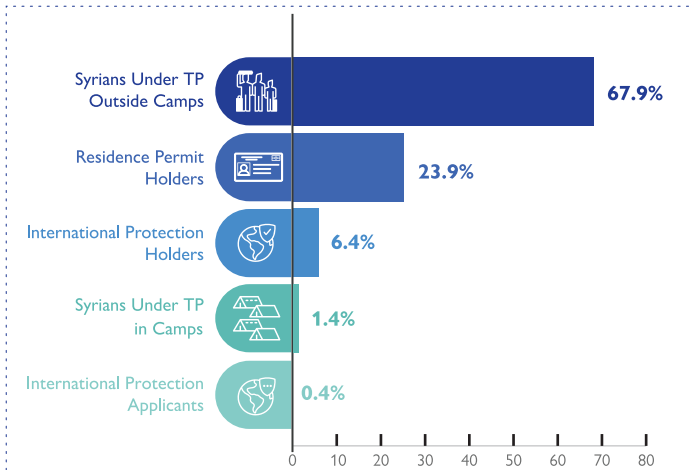


Figure 1. Legal Status of the Foreign Nationals Present in Turkish Territory, 2023 (%)

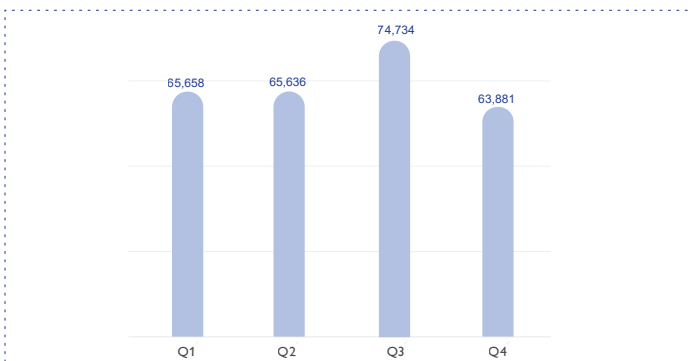


Figure 2. Syrians Under Temporary Protection Residing in Camps, at the End of Each Quarter in 2023

CATEGORIES OF FOREIGNERS IN TÜRKİYE

Temporary Protection (TP)

Türkiye's Temporary Protection regime grants 3,214,780 Syrian nationals the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as to have some access to basic services. The vast majority of 3,150,899 individuals live outside camps, mainly spread across cities at the Turkish border provinces of Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep and Hatay as well as other major cities in Türkiye. Also, 63,881 Syrians live in seven Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs).

The demographic breakdown of Syrian nationals under temporary protection is shown on the graph in Figure 3. Seventy eight per cent is below the age of 35.¹

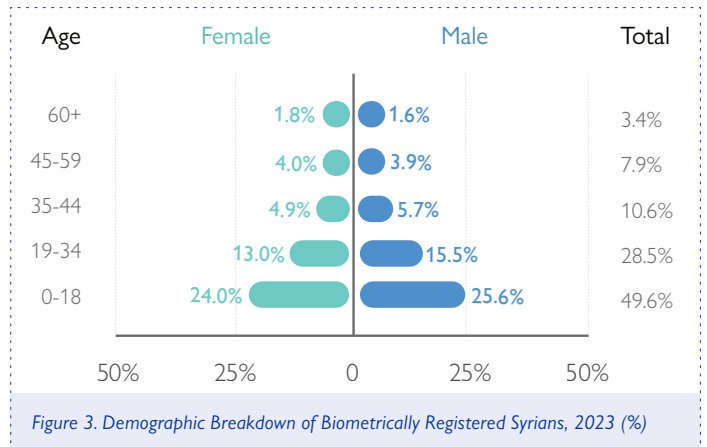
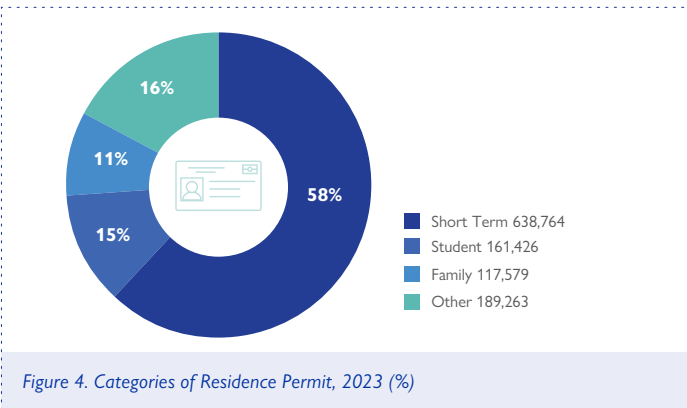


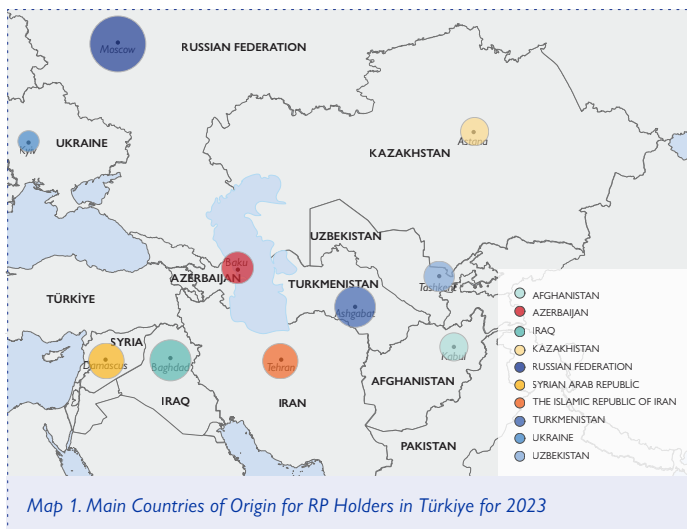
Figure 3. Demographic Breakdown of Biometrically Registered Syrians, 2023 (%)

Residence Permit (RP)

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 1,107,032 residence permit holders in Türkiye with various categories of the residence permit, including 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.³ According to latest available data, as of 2022, there were 212,682 foreigners holding a work permit in Türkiye.⁵



There are 638,764 short-term residence holders which compose the majority of all residence permit holders. The short-term residence holder number compared to previous year has decreased by 303,647 individuals. The RP holders are followed by 161,426 student residence permit holders. Additionally, there are 117,579 family residence permits granting the right to residence. Moreover, 189,263 “other” residence permits were granted. Also, there is an increase by 25,840 in the number of other residency permit category in comparison to last year’s figures.³



Map 1. Main Countries of Origin for RP Holders in Türkiye for 2023

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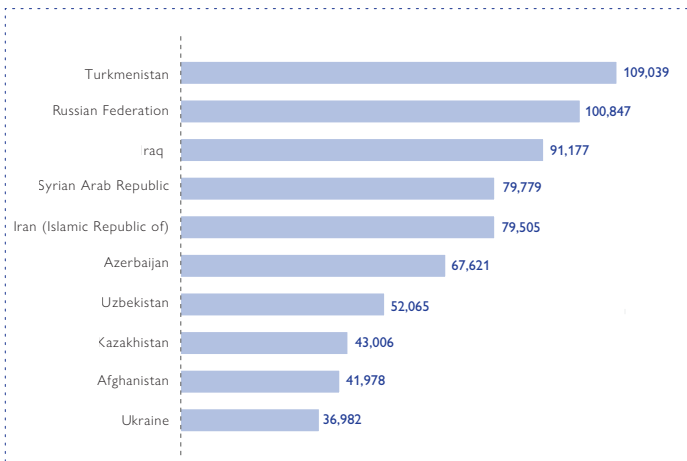


Figure 5. Top 10 Nationality Groups for Residence Permit Holders in Türkiye in 2023

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Türkiye

According to UNHCR, as of 2023, there are 296,685 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye, most of whom from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.²

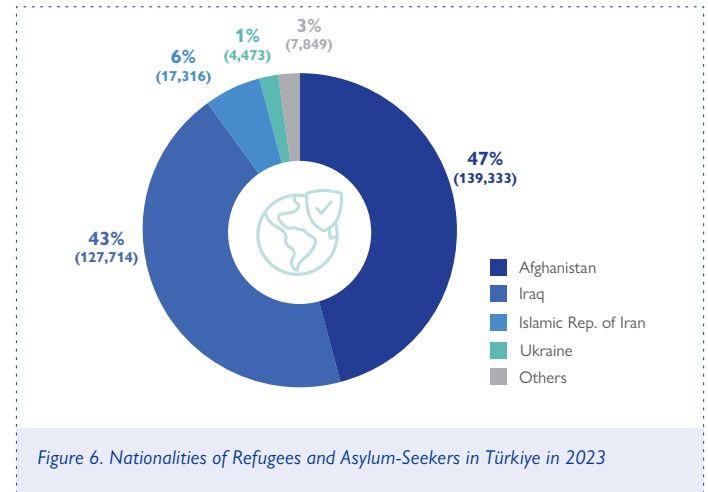


Figure 6. Nationalities of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Türkiye in 2023

MIGRANTS IN AN IRREGULAR SITUATION

According to PMM, 254,008 migrants in an irregular situation and 10,482 migrant smugglers have been recorded in 2023. Most migrants in an irregular situation entered Turkish territory from neighboring countries including Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, and transited or resided in Türkiye before attempting to cross the Aegean Sea to Europe. The top three nationalities in 2023 are Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Occupied Palestinian Territory.⁴

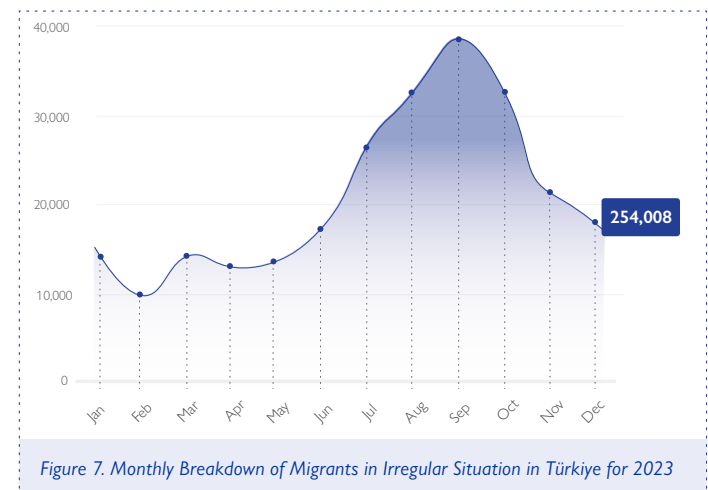
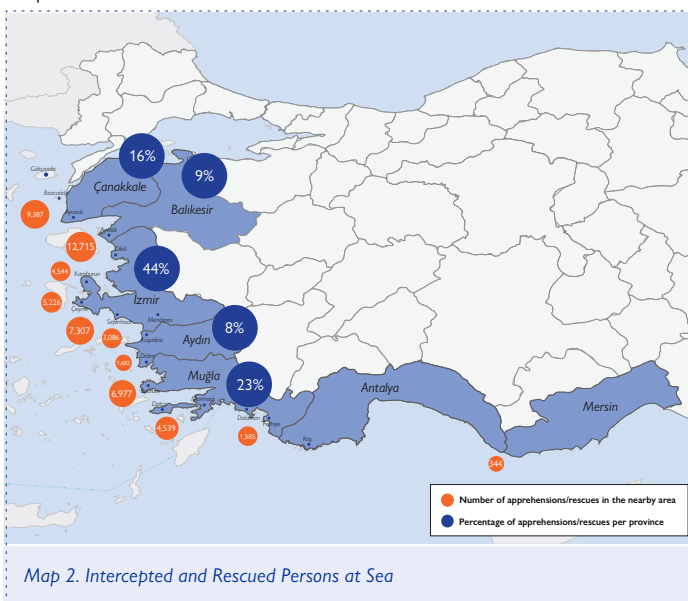


Figure 7. Monthly Breakdown of Migrants in Irregular Situation in Türkiye for 2023

Intercepted and Rescued Persons at sea

According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) daily reports, TCG recorded 56,954 migrants in an irregular situation at sea and registered 20 fatalities in 2023. During the reporting period, there was an increase of 7,429 intercepted persons on sea by TCG compared to the previous year. The top ten nationalities of intercepted or rescued persons are Afghanistan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, Eritrea, Liberia, Congo, Bangladesh, Iraq and Central African Republic.⁶



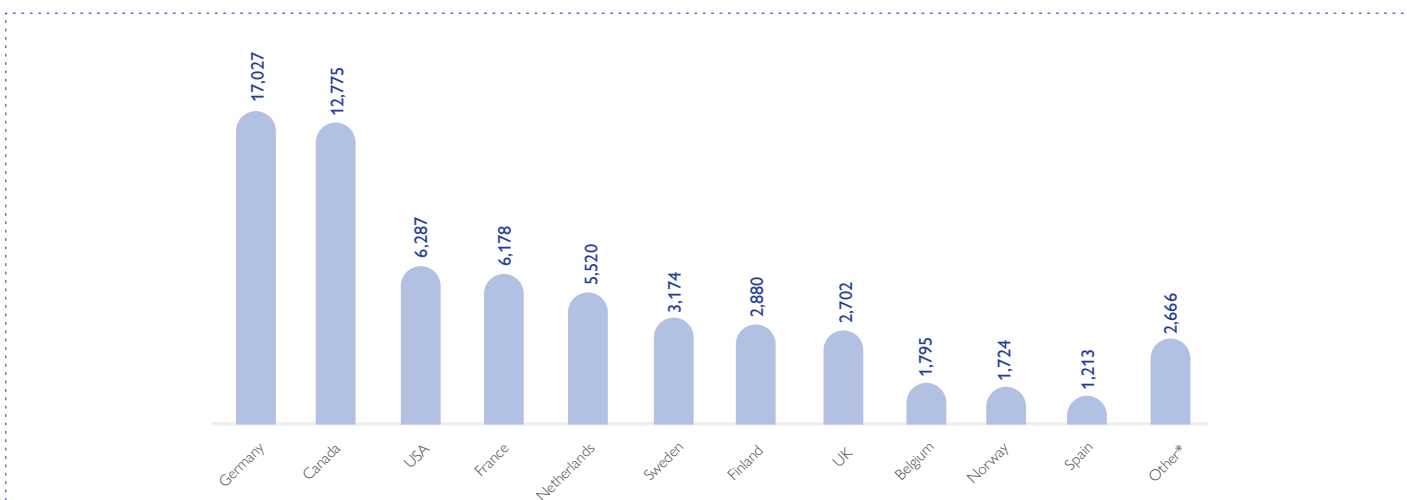
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Interceptions and Rescues by TCG by Month in 2023 (1 January — 31 December)				
Month	Events	Migrants in Irregular Situation	Deaths	Facilitators
	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas	All Seas
January	105	3,025	0	3
February	68	1,802	0	4
March	94	2,614	11	12
April	89	2,806	0	6
May	109	3,161	1	17
June	125	3,102	0	20
July	104	2,909	0	12
August	190	5,005	0	9
September	304	9,623	0	32
October	342	10,736	1	24
November	165	4,830	7	6
December	204	7,341	0	24
Total	1,899	56,954	20	169

RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIANS FROM TÜRKİYE

The resettlement of Syrians aims to replace disorganized and irregular migratory flows by facilitating organized and safe pathways to third countries under different schemes since 2016. According to PMM data, 63,941 persons have been

resettled under this instrument, with primary resettlement destinations being Germany, Canada, the United States of America (USA), France and Netherlands.¹

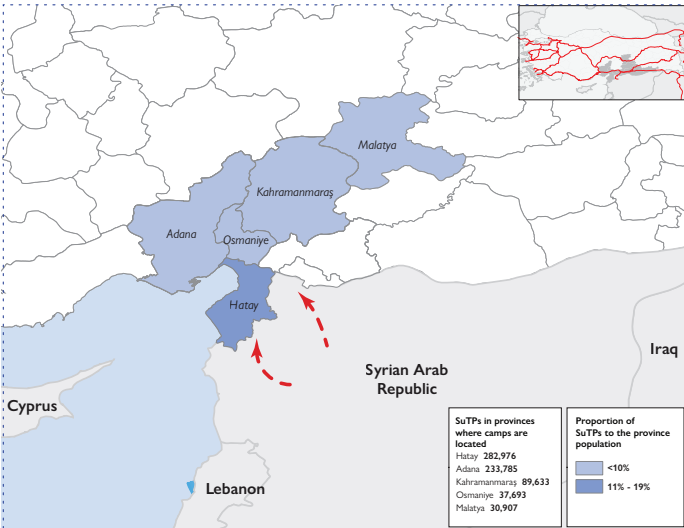


*Portugal, Italy, Australia, Romania, Croatia, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Denmark, Malta, New Zealand

Figure 8. Resettlement of Syrians to Third Countries (2016-2023)

ACCOMODATION CAPACITY AND SERVICES FOR HOSTING FOREIGN NATIONALS IN TÜRKİYE

There are seven Temporary Accommodation Centers for persons under TP (mainly for Syrians) dispersed in five cities in Türkiye namely Adana, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Osmaniye and Malatya run by PMM. The density map of the Syrian nationals under temporary protection in the provinces, where camps are located, in comparison to the province populations are shown below.¹



Map 3. Temporary Accommodation Centers for Syrians Under TP

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According to PMM statistics, a total population of 63,881 are currently residing in the camps. During the one year period, there was an increase of 16,356 Syrian nationals in the camps' population. The camp populations in provinces are provided in the table below.¹

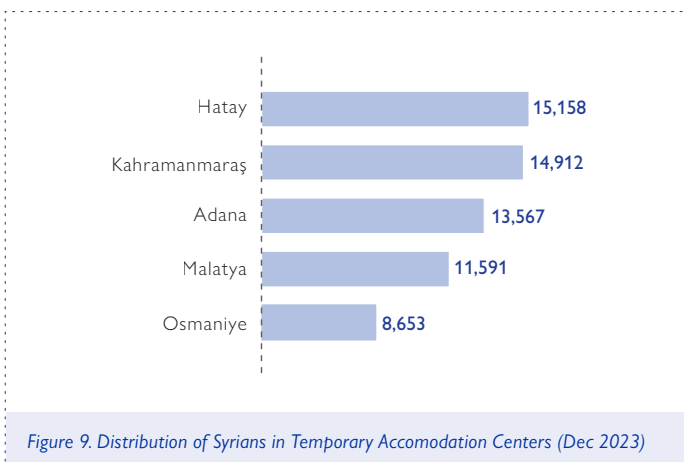


Figure 9. Distribution of Syrians in Temporary Accommodation Centers (Dec 2023)

Removal centers host and monitor foreigners under administrative detention. 30 removal centers are operating in the provinces of Adana, Ağrı, Ankara, Antalya, Aydın, Balıkesir, Bursa, Çanakkale, Çankırı, Edirne, Erzurum, Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Kütahya, Malatya, Muğla, Niğde, Şanlıurfa, Van and Iğdır. In total, the removal centers can currently hold 20,540 persons.⁷



VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VoTs)

According to PMM, the gradual decline in trafficking victims' numbers between 2010-2013 was replaced by a progressive increase starting from 2013 and continued until 2017. In 2019, 215 individuals were identified as VoT, 282 in 2020, 402 in 2021, 345 in 2022 and 226 as of December 2023.⁸

Both shelters for victims of trafficking are operational with a total capacity of 42 individuals. The shelters are operated by PMM.⁸

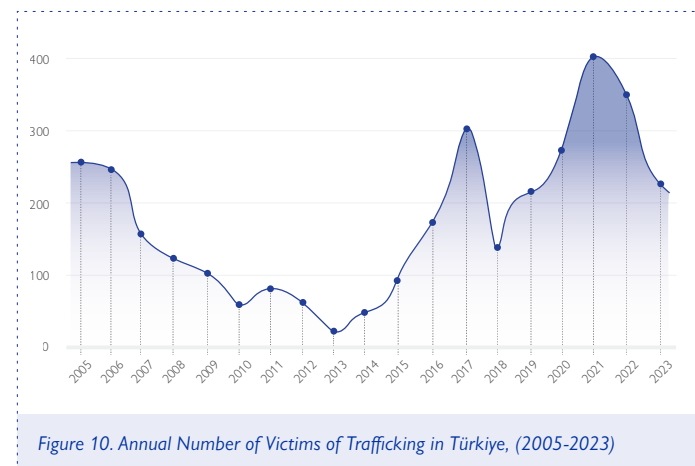
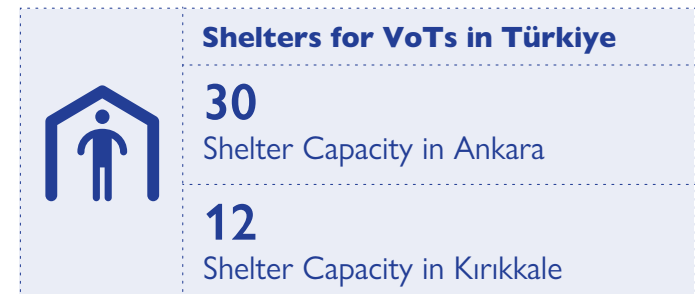


Figure 10. Annual Number of Victims of Trafficking in Türkiye, (2005-2023)

MAIN EXIT AND ENTRY POINTS

Known entry points by land: Hatay, Kilis, Şanlıurfa (from the Syrian Arab Republic), Silopi, Çukurca (from Iraq), Şemdinli, Yüksekova, Başkale, Ağrı, Doğubeyazıt (from the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Known entry points by air: İstanbul, İstanbul Sabiha Gökçen, Antalya, Esenboğa Ankara (from third countries)

Known exit points by sea: Çeşme, Ayvalık, Didim, Bodrum,

Küçükkuyu (Locations close to Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Symi, Kos and Rodos), and Kırklareli, Kocaeli, İstanbul on the Black Sea.

Known exit points by land: Edirne (to Greece and Bulgaria), Kırklareli (to Bulgaria)

Known exit points by air: İstanbul, İstanbul Sabiha Gökçen (to certain EU member states)



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METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

This report uses annual 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 focuses on several distinct categories 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.

4. Migrants resettled from Türkiye: It refers to migrants who are resettled from Türkiye to other countries. Data come from PMM statistics.

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.

DISCLAIMERS/REFERENCES

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Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), June 2024. Overview of Migrant Situation - Annual Report (2023). IOM, Türkiye. For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer IOM [Terms and Conditions](#).

¹ Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27> on 09.01.2024

² Data retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=s8FnAw> on 09.01.2024

³ Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/residence-permits> on 09.01.2024

⁴ Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/irregular-migration> on 09.01.2024

⁵ Data retrieved from <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/media/93249/calisma-izini-istatistikleri-2022.xlsx> on 06.05.2024

⁶ Data retrieved from <https://en.sg.gov.tr/irregular-migration-statistics> on 09.01.2024

⁷ Data retrieved from <https://www.goc.gov.tr/sinir-disi-119817> on 09.01.2024

⁸ Data retrieved from <https://en.goc.gov.tr/victims-of-human-trafficking2019> on 09.01.2024

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IOM Mission to Türkiye
Birlik Mahallesi, Şehit Kurbanı Akboğa
Sokak, No:24,
Çankaya - Ankara / Türkiye



@IOMTürkiye



turkiye.iom.int



mpmturkey@iom.int

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

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