

TURKEY

Whole country

Turkey is taken here as belonging to the southern and eastern Mediterranean bloc of countries. Turkey's population processes are reliably measured and the results published promptly. Censuses and surveys (vital records are still wanting) allow regular trends to be plotted. The key elements of this projection were extracted from the 1993 survey, especially the age-sex structures, distribution of children and average parity by woman's educational level.



Today, less than 9% of women aged 15-19 are still illiterate or semi-educated. These proportions will become residual in 2025. So, however high the fertility of illiterate and semi-educated women and however low its propensity to decline, its national fertility impact will be almost nil.

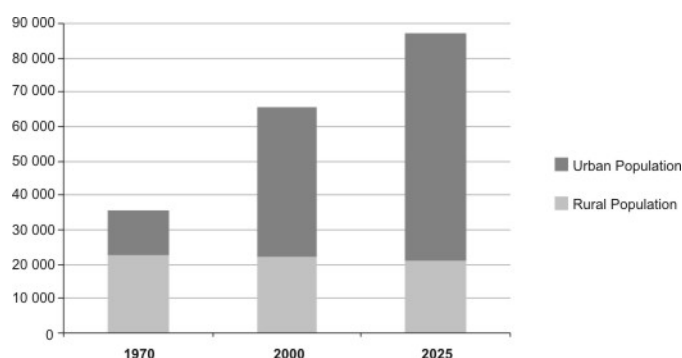
High fertility decline will continue as the number of educated women rises, and could fall below replacement by 2010. But a steady decline in already low female illiteracy means that illiterate women's fertility, although declining slowly, will have little effect on the national average.

The Turkish population - estimated at 65.6 million in 2000 - is forecast to rise to 87.3 million by 2025. This squares with other estimates: 87.9 million forecast by the UN (1998), 84.1 million projected by the Blue Plan (1992), 85 million predicted by the Turkish Statistical Institute, and 86.7 million according to the Turkish demographer Unalan.

Turkey's rapid demographic transition is being part-driven by urbanization. The growth of urban areas of over 10 000 people (43.5 million people in 2000 - 66.3%) will outpace that of the total population, rising to 66.4 million (76.1%) by 2025, by when the growth rate of urban areas - 17.1 per thousand - will still be significantly above the all-country rate.

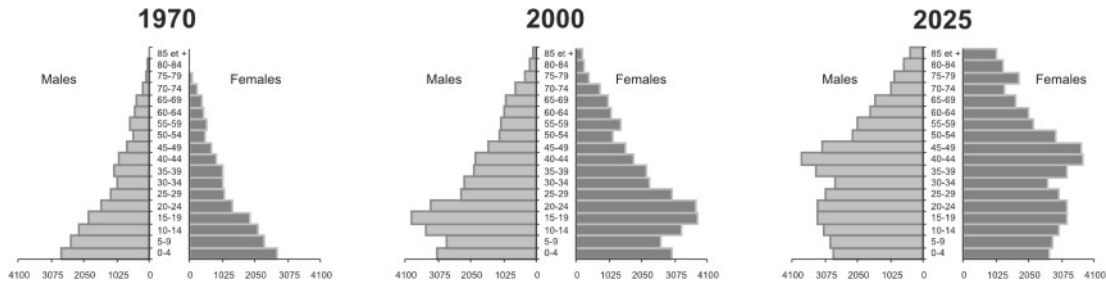
The Turkish population is set to increase by 21.7 million - 33% - by the end of the projection period in 2025. Notwithstanding the expected sharp fertility decline down to below-replacement - 1.87 children per woman in 2025 - the young age structure of the population harbours significant growth potential. The current rate of natural increase of approximately 15 per thousand will fall, but still remain fairly high at the end of the projection period: 8 per thousand. Turkey, with Egypt, is set to become one of the two "demographic giants" of the Mediterranean.

Figure 60. Rural population and urban population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



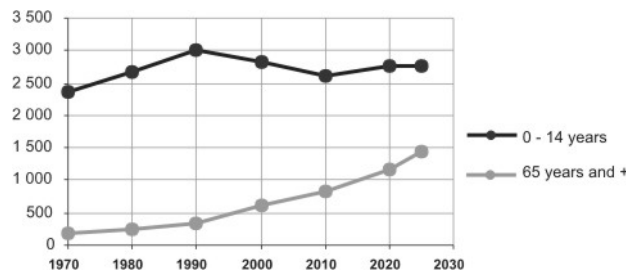
The age structure will get significantly older: the proportion of under-15s will fall from 27.9% in 2000 to 19.9% in 2025, while that of people aged 65 and older will approximately double to 13% in 2025 from 7.3% in 2000, and be 2.4 times higher in number, rising from 4.8 to 11.4 million.

Figure 61. Population age structure (by 5-year age groups) 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



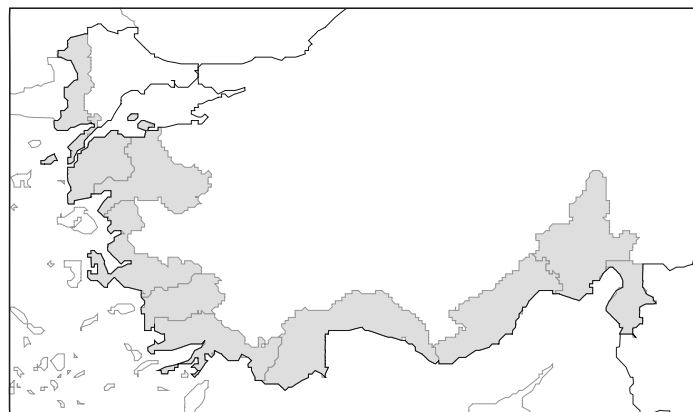
The labour market may experience demographic tensions up to 2005 as the labour supply pool increases from 1.4 million now to 1.5 million. After that, both the gross and net (less retirement exits) number of job seekers will drop sharply: gross entries will fall to 1.3 million in 2025, while the net number of 987 000 in 2000 will drop to just 561 000 by 2025. These figures put some perspective on the fears which the Turkish labour market inspires in the Europe of Fifteen. Indeed, its early onset fertility transition may even compel Turkey to look towards Central Asia or the Arab world for imported labour in the medium term.

Figure 62. Populations aged 15-and-under and 65-and-over, 1970-2025 (in thousands)



Mediterranean coastal regions

Only 10 of Turkey's 80 provinces are Mediterranean. Their aggregate population of 13.7 million in 2000 accounts for just over a fifth of the total population (20.9%). This does not include Istanbul (10 million people in 2000), situated on the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Black Sea. However, even without the political (Ankara) and economic (Istanbul) capitals, the Mediterranean coast exhibits more



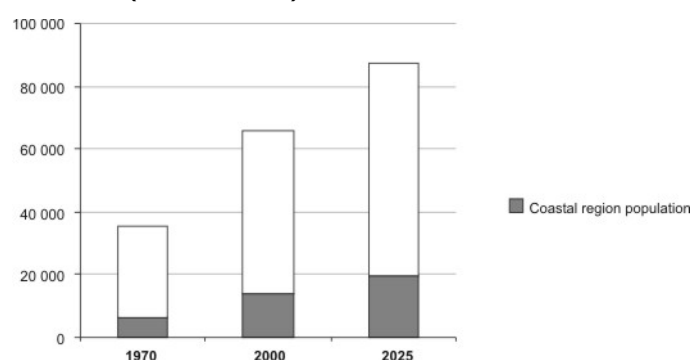
dynamic population growth than the non-coastal regions.

Between 1970 and 1995, Turkey's Mediterranean coastal population doubled from 6.6 to 12.6 million - a rate of 2.6% a year - compared to the slower 2.1% rest-of-country rate. Some coastal regions have strong migration pull factors, others push factors. Izmir (3% mean annual rate of growth between 1970 and 1995), Adana (2.9%), Icel (3.6%), Antalya (3.4%) and Hatay (2.8%) exercise strong migrant pull, Balıkesir (1.2%), Aydın (1.8%) Muğla (2.1%), Canakkale (0.8%) and Edirne (1.1%) significantly less so.

Recent trends suggest that the Mediterranean regions will continue to draw population from the non-coastal regions, although at a slower rate. In the next 25 years, the coastal population will rise from 13.7 to 19.5 million, i.e., 5.8 million people, at the mean annual rate of 1.4%. This figure, albeit lower than in the past (2.6%), is due less to the Mediterranean regions' loss of pull factors and the surge of in-migration than to the spread of the fertility transition to all regions.

The coastal population's rate of natural increase in particular will fall to very low levels (below 1% between 2020 and 2025) as the birth rate declines sharply to 13.5 per thousand. This shows their comparative growth advantage over the non-coastal regions: the coastal population will add 15.9 million people at an annual growth rate of just 1.07%, rising from 51.9 to 67.8 million people. In other words, 27% of the future population growth will be on the Mediterranean coast, although it accounts for less than 21% of the current population.

Figure 63. Mediterranean coastal regions population as a share of total population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



The past urban explosion (1970-1995) was not confined to the Mediterranean. The population of coastal urban areas of over 10 000 people almost tripled from 2.6 to 7.8 million people (4.4% a year). But non-Mediterranean urban areas (including the Istanbul metropolitan belt) grew at a similar rate of 4.2%, from 10.2 to 29.3 million. In 1995 Turkey had 102 coastal urban areas of over 10 000 people. Of the 11 Mediterranean towns of over 100 000 people, those with the greatest population retention and migrant pull factors between 1970 and 1995 were the half-million-strong cities of Mersin (6.1%) and Antalya (6.5%). Izmir (nearly 2 million people), and Adana (over 1 million), by contrast, grew at the slower rates of 3.8% and 4.2% respectively, but exerted a bigger migrant pull because of their size. The other urban areas in the same class - Balikesir (3.2%), Iskenderun (2.8%), Antakya (2.9%), Aydin (3.5%) and Edirne (3.1%) - recorded comparatively low growth, the exceptions being Tarsus and Osmaniye (4.4%).

Population growth in the Mediterranean zone will increase the population of urban areas of over 10 000 people from 9.2 million in 2000 to 14.4 million in 2025, at the significantly slower mean annual rate of 1.8%. But urban areas of over 10 000 people will continue to exert a strong migrant pull. As a result, urbanization of the coastal regions will increase significantly, from 67.1% to 73.8%, increasing the coastal urban population share slightly from 21.1% in 2000 to 21.7% in 2025.

Figure 64. Rural and urban population of the Mediterranean coastal regions 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)

