



Country profile - TURKEY

NAME:	<i>conventional long form:</i> Republic of Turkey/ <i>Turkiye Cumhuriyeti</i> <i>conventional short form:</i> Turkey/ <i>Turkiye</i>
CAPITAL CITY:	Ankara (Population: 3 085 000)
POPULATION:	63 500 000 (2000, est)
AREA:	779 452 km ²
BOUNDARIES:	<i>Land boundaries:</i> Total: 2 627 km <i>Border countries:</i> Armenia 268 km, Azerbaijan 9 km, Bulgaria 240 km, Georgia 252 km, Greece 206 km, Iran 499 km, Iraq 331 km, Syria 822 km <i>Coastline:</i> 8 333 km
REGIONS/ ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS:	The country is divided into 81 provinces (iller), each under a governor appointed by the central administration with a provincial council, and districts within these. There are also municipalities (16 large metropolitan municipalities and 3200 smaller towns)
MAIN ETHNIC GROUPS:	Turkish, Kurdish (26 in total)

GOVERNMENT

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Republic - parliamentary democracy.

Present constitution was adopted on 7 November 1982 and amended in 1995 and 1999.

HEAD OF STATE

President Ahmed Necdet SEZER (since May 2000). The President is elected by the National Assembly for a single seven-year term. The President is a politically neutral figure. He designates the leader of the biggest party as Prime Minister, and in practice, may have substantial influence behind the scenes, particularly at times of governmental crisis. The President can also delay legislation but has no right to veto it.

PRIME MINISTER

Recep Tayyip Erdogan (since March 2003). The Council of Ministers (Cabinet) is appointed by the President based on the nomination of the Prime Minister. There is also a National Security Council which serves as an advisory body to the president and the cabinet.

LEGISLATURE

Unicameral. The 550 members of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (*Turkiye Buyuk Millet Meclisi*) are elected by a popular vote for a term of 5 years. The electoral system is based on multi-seat constituencies, with the exclusion of parties failing to reach a threshold of 10 % although this does not apply to independent candidates.

GOVERNMENT - ELECTIONS

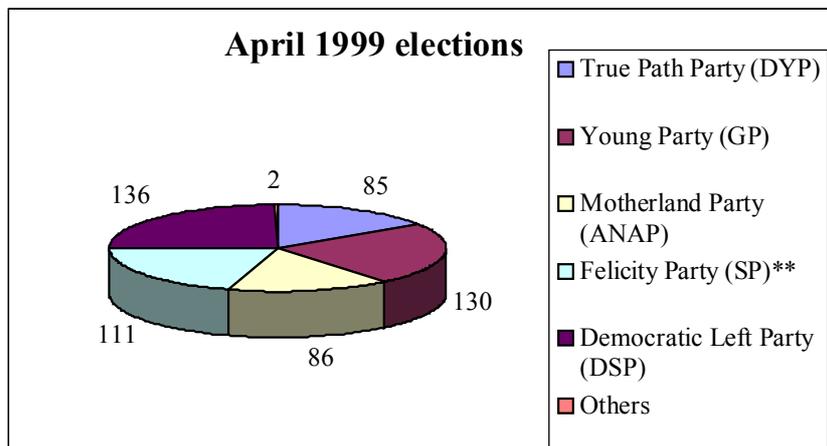
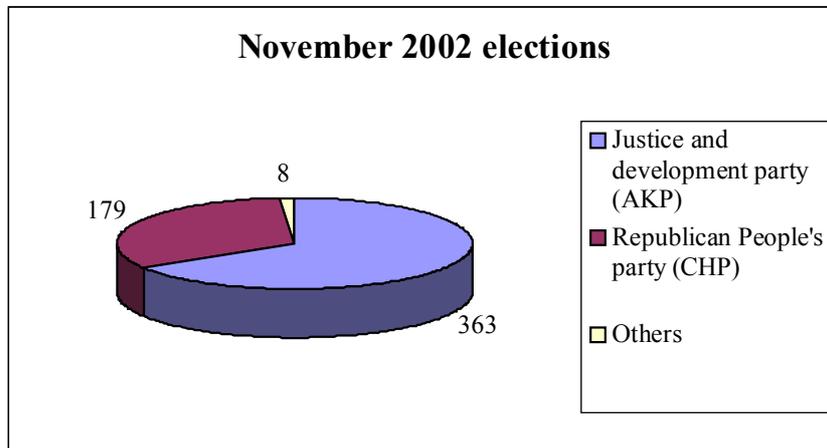
Last parliamentary elections took place in November 2002. A majority of seats was obtained by the Justice and Development Party (AKP).

PARLIAMENT COMPOSITION (ELECTIONS OF NOVEMBER, 2002):

PARTY	NOVEMBER 2002		APRIL 1999	
	NUMBER OF SEATS	% OF VOTES	NUMBER OF SEATS	% OF VOTES
Justice and development party (AKP)	363	34.1	-	-
Republican People's party (CHP)	179	19.3	-	8.7
True Path Party (DYP)	-	9.5	85	12.0
Nationalist Action Party (MHP)	-	8.3	-	-
Young Party (GP)	-	7.2	130	18
Democratic People's Party (DEHAP)*	-	6.1	-	4.5
Motherland Party (ANAP)	-	5.1	86	13.2
Felicity Party (SP)**	-	2.5	111	15.4
Democratic Left Party (DSP)	-	1.3	136	22.2
Others	8	6.4	2	5.9
Total	550	100	550	100

* DEHAP votes in 1999 belong to HADEP

** SP vote in 1999 belong to FP and RP



ECONOMY

Source: European Commission, Progress report, October 2003

Main Indicators of Economic Structure in 2002 (as of 30 Sept. 2003)		
Turkey		
Population (average)	Thousand	69,626 E
GDP per head ^a	PPS Percent of EU average	23
Share of agriculture ^b in: - gross value added - employment	Percent	11.5
	Percent	33.2
Gross fixed capital formation/GDP	Percent	16.7
Gross foreign debt of the whole economy/GDP ^d	Percent	68.9
Exports of goods & services/GDP	Percent	28.8
Stock of foreign direct investment ^c	Million Euro	20644
	Euro per head	296
Long term unemployment rate	Percent of labour force	3.0

P: provisional data

a Figures have been calculated using the population figures from National Accounts, which may differ from those used in demographic statistics.

b Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing.

c Data refer to 2000.

Source: Eurostat unless otherwise indicated

EU RELATIONS

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

Signed on 12 September 1963, entered into force on 1st December 1964. However, in December 1997, at the European Council meeting in Luxembourg, the EU excluded Turkey from the list of candidates for enlargement. As a result, the Turkish government froze its relations with the EU until 1999. The relationship then improved and, at the Helsinki meeting of the European Council in December 1999, Turkey was accepted as a candidate for EU membership.

EU MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DATE

14 April 1987

EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPORTS

[COM \(2003\) 676](#)

[COM \(2002\) 700](#)

[COM \(2001\) 700](#)

[COM \(2000\) 713](#)

[COM \(1999\) 513](#)

[COM \(1998\) 711](#)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTIONS ON EC REPORTS

[01.04.2004 \(A5-0204/2004\)](#)

[05.06.2003 \(A5-0160/2003\)](#)

[20.11.2002 \(A5-0371/2002\)](#)

[13.06.2002 \(A5-0190/2002\)](#)

[15.11.2000 \(A5-0297/2000\)](#)

[6.10.1999 \(B5-0120, 0124, 0129 and 0140/1999\)](#)

[3.12.1998 \(A4-0432/1998\)](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations with Turkey have not yet been opened. In December 2002, the Copenhagen European Council agreed that, if at its meeting in December 2004 it decides that Turkey fulfils the Copenhagen political criteria, the EU will open negotiations without delay.

PRE-ACCESSION AID

Following the decision taken at the Helsinki European Council meeting in 1999, a pre-accession strategy for Turkey became operational. As for all candidate countries, this strategy is targeted at addressing the priorities identified in the Accession Partnership with Turkey. The Accession Partnership was adopted by the EU on 8 March 2001. The Commission has taken several decisions to increase financial support for Turkey, and, from the year 2000, the annual allocation has been doubled to € 177 million (mainly from the Meda II program). In December 2002, the Copenhagen European Council decided to strengthen the accession strategy and significantly increase pre-accession funding. Funding totalling € 1050 million is proposed for the period 2004-2006.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

EARLY HISTORY

After the division of the Roman Empire in the 4th century A.D., Asia Minor became part of the Eastern or Byzantine Empire with its capital at Byzantium (Constantinople). At the beginning of the 11th century, Turkic peoples began to arrive in Anatolia, a region with a long history of human settlement, including the Hittites, Phrygians, Persians, Greeks and Romans. The Seljuk Turks defeated the Byzantine army in 1071 and established a sultanate. The Turks continued to fight the Byzantines in Western Anatolia. One of the groups of Turks, which had formed principalities in Anatolia as Seljuk power declined, began to emerge as dominant, especially in the early 14th century under Osman I, who gave his name to the subsequent Ottoman dynasty. By the 16th century, the Ottoman principality had become a vast empire extending at its peak from the Persian Gulf to Morocco, including parts of south-eastern Europe. Thereafter a slow decline took place punctuated by periodic reforms.

19TH CENTURY

With the rise of nationalism non-Turkish peoples of the empire gradually obtained independence: the Greeks, in 1830, followed later by the Serbs, Bulgars and Albanians. In the middle of the century, the Ottoman rulers responded with a reform movement known as the *Tanzimat*, which modernised the administration and army. Large-scale public works were also undertaken. Constitutional reforms, including a representative parliament, were suspended in the latter part of the century but the more repressive and autocratic rule which followed led to the growth of a new liberal opposition movement, the Young Turks.

20TH CENTURY

- 1908-1918: The Young Turk Revolution of 1908 forced the Sultan to restore the constitution and parliament. A counter-revolution of April 1909 was defeated and the sultan dethroned. Initially, party politics flourished and reforms were introduced in many fields. However, the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 enabled a triumvirate led by Enver Pasha to take power. Turkey entered World War I in alliance with the Central Powers.
- 1918-1944: During the Turkish war of independence (1918-1923), effective power passed to a nationalist movement led by Mustafa Kemal. A provisional government was established in Ankara in April 1920. The sultanate was abolished in November 1922 and the Republic of Turkey established in 1923, following the signature of the Treaty of Lausanne. Turkey managed to prevent the partition of Anatolia foreseen in the initial Allied plans. Its first president was Mustafa Kemal ('Atatürk'), who established a single-party state, breaking away from the country's past and promoting a secular national identity in a process of reform and modernisation. After his death in 1938, the Republican People's Party retained power under his successor, former Prime Minister Ismet Inonu, who kept Turkey neutral during most of World War II.
- 1945-1960: In 1945, President Inonu ended the single-party system and, in 1946, the newly-formed Democratic Party, led by Adnan Menderes, entered parliament and won the 1950 election. Turkey was admitted to NATO in 1952.
- 1960s: A military coup in 1960 was followed by the trial and execution of Menderes and others. Elections were held in October 1961 and a succession of coalition governments followed. In 1965, the Justice Party led by Suleyman Demiral won the election and retained power in the 1969 election.
- 1970s: A military coup in 1971 put a government of technocrats into office until 1973. The elections of 1973 and 1977 failed to produce stable majority governments.
- 1980s: The five-man junta established by General Evren after the 1980 coup held power until 1983. In 1982, a more restrictive constitution was approved by referendum and general Evren was elected President. Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party (Anap) won the 1983 election, which only three parties were

allowed to contest. Subsequently, new parties were formed, but Anap increased its majority in the 1987 election. Mr Ozal succeeded General Evren as President in 1989.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 1991: In the October election, Anap lost its majority and former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel returned to office at the head of a coalition of his True Path Party (DYP) and the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).
- 1993: Mr Demirel was elected President following the sudden death of President Ozal. Tansu Ciller became Prime Minister and DYP leader.
- 1995: The coalition government fell in September, following disagreements between the DYP and the Republican People's Party (CHP) with which the SHP had recently merged. In the December elections, the Islamist Welfare Party (Refah) won the largest share of the vote with over 21%. An Anap -DYP coalition government lasted only a few months.
- 1996-1997: A coalition with the DYP headed by Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan came to power, but Mr Erbakan resigned in June 1997. After attempts to form a new coalition failed, a minority government of Anap, the Democratic Left (DSP) and DTP led by Mesut Yilmaz took office, supported by the CHP.
- 1998-1999: The Welfare Party was banned in February and was succeeded by the new Islamic Virtue Party (Fazilet). The minority government collapsed in November 1998 and, in January 1999, DSP leader Bulent Ecevit became Prime Minister at the head of minority caretaker government. Following the April elections, Mr Ecevit led a coalition government of DSP, Anap and the Nationalist Action Party (MHP). In February 1999, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan was captured by Turkish security forces. The Kurdish issue was a dominant one in Turkish political life, particularly in the 1990s, and the war against the PKK was costly in human and economic terms and led to international criticism of human rights' abuses.
- 2000: Following an unsuccessful attempt by Mr Ecevit to secure parliamentary support for constitutional amendments to allow Mr Demirel to be elected for a second term as President, the ruling coalition's presidential candidate Ahmet Necder Sezer was elected President in May.
- 2002: In the November parliamentary elections, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) led by Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a large majority and formed a government headed by its deputy leader Abdullah Gül.
- 2003: In March, Mr Erdogan became Prime Minister following his election to parliament.

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Useful links

European Commission
DG Enlargement

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/turkey/index.htm>

EU Representation in Turkey

<http://www.deltur.cec.eu.int/english/main-e.html>

Turkish Foreign Ministry

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/grupa/ad/adc/default.htm>

Turkish Parliament (in Turkish)

<http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/>

EuroInfocentre

<http://www.kobinet.org.tr/kosgebabm/english/index.html>

Media

Turkish Daily News (in English)

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com/>