

Population Trends Turkey

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Turkey, with a 1992 population of 59.6 million persons (nearly one-fourth of the U.S. population), ranks sixteenth in population size among the world's nations. Even though fertility levels and growth rates have declined in recent years and are projected to decline further, Turkey will still rank among the world's twenty largest countries in the year 2020. Turkey ranks comparatively lower (36th) in area (less than one-tenth of the U.S. area) than in population size.

Although fertility levels in Turkey have declined from 5.2 children per woman in 1975 to 3.4 in 1992, the population remains concentrated in the young ages (figure 1). The population growth rate (2.1 per-

cent), which also has declined, is still greater than the world average (1.7 percent). Turkey's current growth rate, if continued, implies that the population will double in roughly 33 years. With further projected fertility declines, the country's population is expected to exceed 100 million by 2027 and to be twice its current population by 2051.

At current mortality levels, a baby born in Turkey can expect to live, on average, 70 years. As in most countries, females in Turkey can expect to live longer (72 years) than males (68 years). Infant mortality was reduced by nearly half from 1980 to 1992, falling from 97 to 55 per 1,000 births.

Contraceptive Prevalence

In 1978, 38 percent of currently married women in Turkey were using some form of contraception. This increased to 53 percent by 1983 and again to 63 percent in 1988 (figure 2). In many countries, this high level of contraceptive prevalence often corresponds to a lower level of fertility than the 3.8 for 1988 found in Turkey. For example, the 1987 contraceptive prevalence level of 62 percent for Sri Lanka corresponded to a 1987 total fertility rate of 2.5 children per woman. However, Turkey's high reliance on traditional, less effective methods in part accounts for its comparatively higher fertility level.

Figure 1.
Total Population of Turkey, by Age: 1992 and 2020

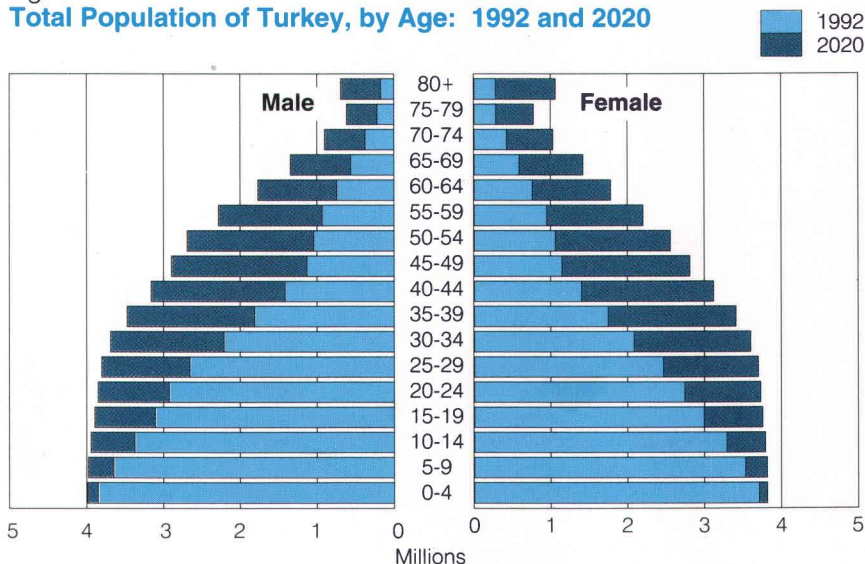
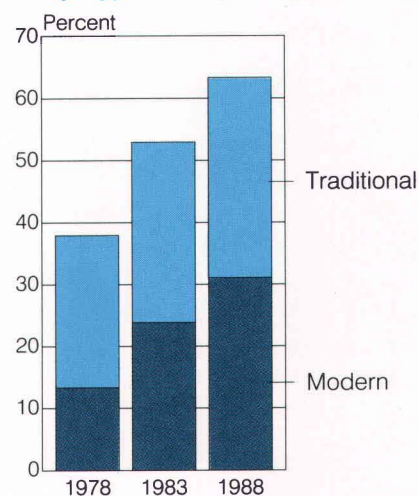


Figure 2.
Percent of Currently Married Women Using Contraception, by Type: 1978, 1983, and 1988



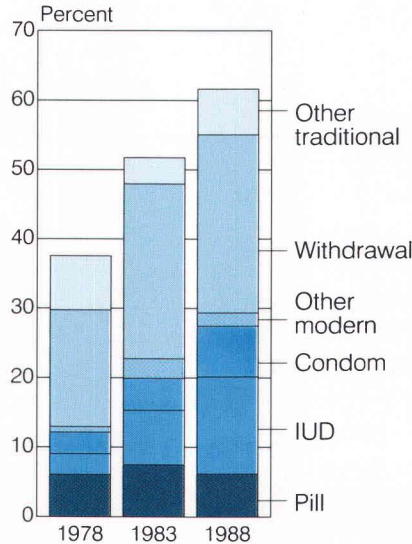
In 1988, nearly 98 percent of ever-married women knew at least one modern contraceptive method. However, only 31 percent of currently married women in reproductive ages were actually using a modern method.

The use of both modern and traditional methods increased between 1978 and 1988, with modern method use increasing more rapidly than traditional methods. This increased use of contraception has contributed to the decline of fertility in Turkey (Hacettepe University, 1989).

In 1988, a greater proportion of currently married urban women (69 percent) were using contraception than rural women (56 percent). Since similar percentages of women in both urban and rural areas rely on traditional methods (33 and 31 percent, respectively), the urban-rural difference in contraceptive use may be essentially attributed to greater use of modern methods in urban areas (36 percent) than in rural areas (25 percent). Among the country's five regions, the level of overall contraceptive use ranges from high levels of 65, 68, and 70 percent in the North, Central, and West regions, respectively, to low levels in the higher fertility East (51 percent) and South (53 percent) regions.

While overall percentages of currently married women using contraception may at first appear relatively high, when use by method is considered, the picture is somewhat altered (figure 3). For example, withdrawal, at 26 percent, remains the most commonly practiced method in Turkey. During the 1978-88 period, IUD use more than quadrupled from 3 to 14 percent and was the second most popular method in 1988. Reported use

Figure 3. Trends in Current Use of Contraception Among Currently Married Women of Reproductive Age, by Method: 1978, 1983, and 1988



of oral contraception actually declined from 8 percent in 1983 to 6 percent in 1988, the same level as measured 10 years earlier.

Different patterns of method use exist by age in Turkey (figure 4). Although traditional method use in 1988 still exceeded the use of modern methods for all ages combined, women age 25 to 34 were more reliant on modern methods (39 percent) than traditional methods (34 percent). Even for this age group, however, withdrawal remains the most common method, followed by IUD use (table 1).

In addition to contraceptive use, abortion has become more frequent in Turkey since 1983, when abortion became available to women upon request up to the tenth week of pregnancy. The number of induced abortions per 100 pregnancies has steadily increased from 15 in 1984 to about 24 in 1987. Thus, nearly 1 of every 4 pregnancies was terminated by an induced abortion.

Women age 35 to 39 are most likely to terminate a pregnancy (figure 5). In 1987, over 40 percent of pregnancies to women age 35 to 39 were reported to end in an induced abortion.

The demand for fertility limitation is implicitly indicated by the percent of currently married women who do not want additional children (figure 6). As the number of living children increases, the percent wanting no more children also increases. The need for better contraception also is implied when women have more children than they desire. In 1988, 44 percent of ever-married women had more living children than the

Figure 4. Percent of Currently Married Women Using Contraception, by Type and Age: 1978, 1983, and 1988

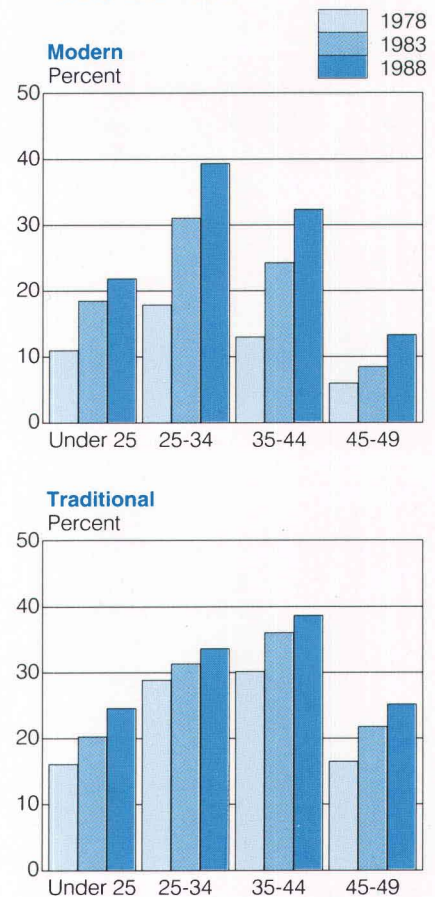


Figure 5.
Induced Abortions Per 100 Pregnancies, by Age: 1987

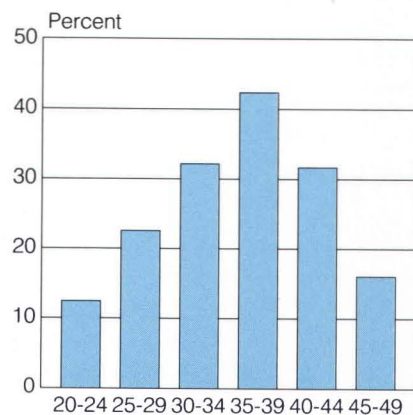


Figure 6.
Percent of Currently Married Fecund Women Who Want No More Children, by Number of Living Children: 1978 and 1988

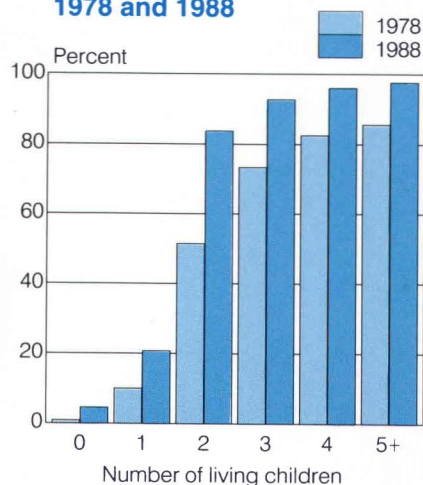
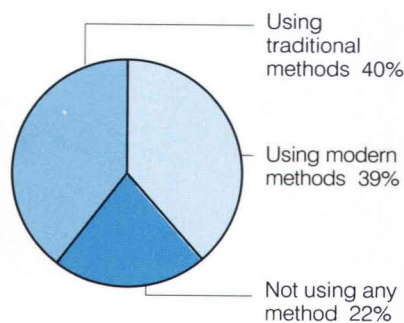


Figure 7.
Contraceptive Use Among Currently Married Women Wanting No More Children: 1988



number they desired. Average desired family size in Turkey declined from 3.0 children in 1978 to 2.7 in 1983 and then to 2.1 by 1988. In 1978, nearly half of women with 2 surviving children reported that they still wanted more; by 1988, 84 percent of currently married women with 2 children did not want any more children.

One indicator of unmet need for permanent methods of contraception in Turkey is the contraceptive use pattern of women who do not want any more children (figure 7). In 1988, over half (62 percent) of currently married women, or an estimated 5.7 million women, did not want any more children, yet were either not using any contraception or were using a traditional method.

Urbanization

The population of Turkey is undergoing rapid urbanization. In 1950, 21 percent (or 4.5 million) of the population lived in urban areas (U.N., 1991). By 1992, the number of persons living in urban areas had increased to 38 million (or 64 percent of the total population). By 2020, the urban population will grow by close to an additional 40 million persons, or almost as much as the entire 1975 population of Turkey, with urban dwellers accounting for 84 percent of the total population.

The urban agglomerations of Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir together account for about one-third of the total urban population of Turkey. Nearly 1 of every 5 urban residents lives in Istanbul, the largest urban agglomeration in the country.

Population Composition

Turkey's population remains relatively young; 56 percent of the population are under age 25, and 36 percent are under age 15. However,

previous and projected fertility declines will result in diminishing proportions under age 15. In absolute terms, while Turkey's total population will increase by 34 million between 1992 and 2020, the number of children under age 15 during the same period will essentially remain stable.

The total population increase between 1992 and 2020 is not distributed evenly by age (figure 1 and table 1). Among all persons added to Turkey's population in the next 28 years, only 6 percent of the increase will be in ages under 15, while most of the increase will occur in ages 15 to 64 (80 percent or 27 million persons), with the remaining 14 percent (5 million) occurring in ages 65 and over. Considering the female population only, 56 percent of their increase will be in the child-bearing ages.

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More detailed information can be obtained on request from the Chief, Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-3700.

Table 1.
Population Indicators for Turkey: 1980 to 2020
(Population in thousands)

Indicator	1980	1990	1992	2000	2020
POPULATION					
Total country . . .	45,121	57,130	59,640	69,624	93,362
Urban	19,754	35,048	38,252	51,544	78,141
Rural	25,367	22,082	21,388	18,080	15,221
Male, total country					
All ages	22,890	28,949	30,211	35,217	47,021
0 to 14	9,318	10,643	10,884	11,515	11,918
6 to 12	4,193	4,818	4,956	5,350	5,557
13 to 18	3,193	3,714	3,836	4,332	4,699
15 to 44	9,849	13,378	14,142	17,055	21,899
15 to 49	10,800	14,470	15,275	18,684	24,797
15 to 64	12,689	17,083	17,998	21,851	31,547
65+	883	1,223	1,329	1,851	3,556
Female, total country					
All ages	22,230	28,181	29,429	34,407	46,341
0 to 14	8,825	10,291	10,525	11,095	11,417
6 to 12	3,934	4,680	4,808	5,162	5,328
13 to 18	2,947	3,560	3,705	4,199	4,519
15 to 44	9,475	12,691	13,423	16,301	21,304
15 to 49	10,421	13,795	14,567	17,892	24,114
15 to 64	12,315	16,431	17,333	21,148	30,646
65+	1,090	1,459	1,571	2,165	4,278
Married females					
15 to 49	7,538	9,746	10,346	12,949	18,261
15 to 19	488	450	468	538	587
20 to 24	1,408	1,738	1,797	2,069	2,444
25 to 29	1,498	2,055	2,177	2,528	3,267
30 to 34	1,224	1,813	1,951	2,463	3,367
35 to 39	1,069	1,523	1,637	2,162	3,199
40 to 44	1,000	1,177	1,291	1,765	2,878
45 to 49	850	989	1,025	1,425	2,517
DEPENDENCY RATIO					
Both sexes	80.4	70.5	68.8	61.9	50.1
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (years)					
Both sexes	62.6	68.9	69.9	73.8	79.7
Male	60.9	66.7	67.6	71.3	76.9
Female	64.5	71.2	72.3	76.4	82.7
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 births)					
Both sexes	96.5	61.6	55.2	33.3	10.7
Male	102.5	65.5	59.1	36.6	12.2
Female	90.3	57.4	51.2	29.9	9.1
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (per woman)					
	4.6	3.6	3.4	2.8	2.2

Note: Dependency ratio is the ratio of persons under age 15 and over age 65 to those age 15 to 64 years.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, unpublished work tables.

Table 2.
Contraceptive Prevalence Among Currently Married Women 15 to 49 Years, by Method: 1978, 1983, and 1988

Method	Percent current users			Percent distribution of users		
	1978	1983	1988	1978	1983	1988
ALL	38.0	53.0	63.4	100	100	100
MODERN	13.4	23.9	31.1	35	45	49
Oral	6.1	7.5	6.2	16	14	10
IUD	3.0	7.9	14.0	8	15	22
Condom	3.1	4.6	7.3	8	9	12
Female sterilization . . . . .	.4	1.1	1.7	1	2	3
Other modern . . . . .	.8	2.8	1.9	2	5	3
TRADITIONAL	24.6	29.1	32.3	65	55	51
Withdrawal	16.8	25.2	25.7	44	48	41
Other traditional	7.8	3.8	6.6	21	7	10

Source: Hacettepe University, 1980; 1987; 1989; and unpublished tabulations.

Table 3.
Contraceptive Prevalence Among Currently Married Women 15 to 49 Years, by Method and Age: 1988

Method	<25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 49
ALL	46.5	73.1	71.1	38.5
MODERN	21.9	39.4	32.4	13.3
Oral	5.7	8.2	5.3	1.2
IUD	9.9	19.8	12.9	2.4
Condom	5.4	7.9	8.8	4.0
Female sterilization . . . . .	.1	1.2	2.7	4.4
Other modern . . . . .	.8	2.3	2.6	1.2
TRADITIONAL	24.6	33.7	38.7	25.2
Withdrawal	20.5	27.2	30.0	18.5
Other traditional	4.1	6.5	8.7	6.7
CHILDLESS WOMEN: 1988				
Percent of ever-married women age 45 to 49 3.8				

Source: Hacettepe University, 1980; 1987; 1989; and unpublished tabulations.

Table 4.
Fertility Rates
(Per 1,000 women)

Age	1974-75	1978	1992
15 to 19	112	105	62
20 to 24	304	292	191
25 to 29	259	246	199
30 to 34	180	174	127
35 to 39	117	114	70
40 to 44	47	43	26
45 to 49	14	2	2
Total fertility rate per woman	5.2	4.9	3.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Center for International Research, unpublished work tables.