



## ETF COUNTRY INFORMATION FICHE

# TURKEY

### BASIC COUNTRY DATA

Total Population:

**77,695,904** 

(Last available year: 2014, *Turkstat*)

Youth dependency ratio:

**38.31%**



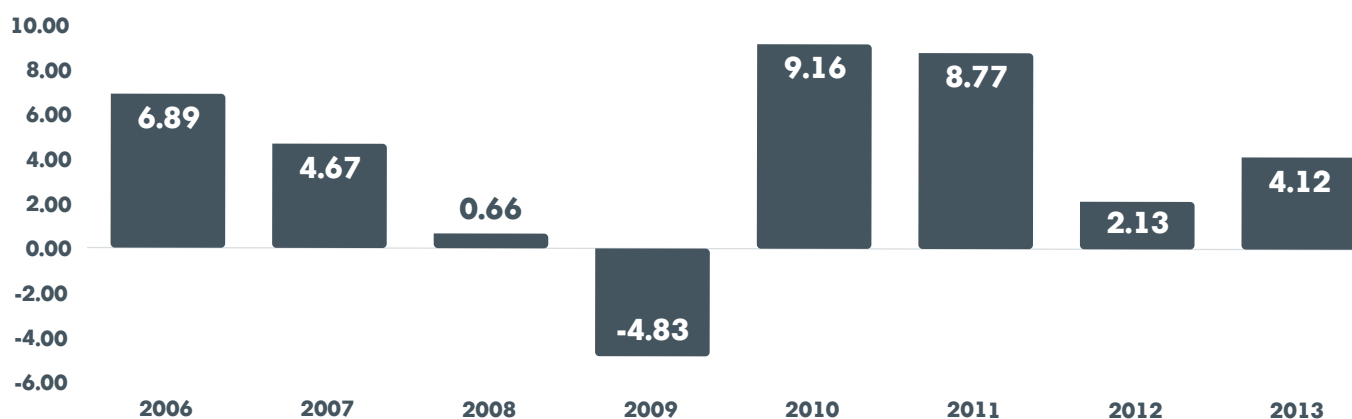
(Last available year: 2013, *World Bank*)

Public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP:

**2.86%**

(Last available year: 2006, *Unesco Institute of Statistics*)

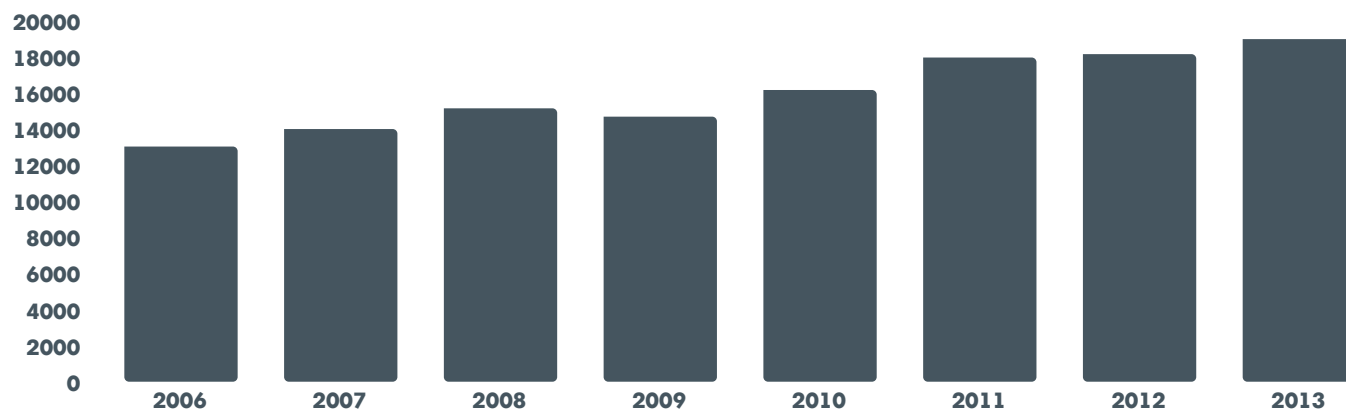
### GDP ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%)



Source: World Bank

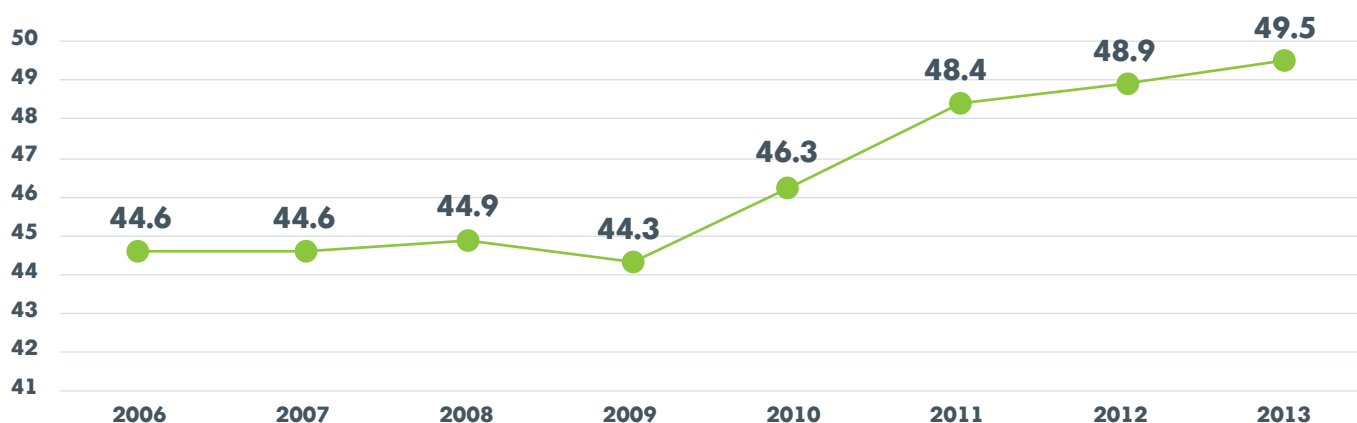


## GDP PER CAPITA (CURRENT INTERNATIONAL \$)



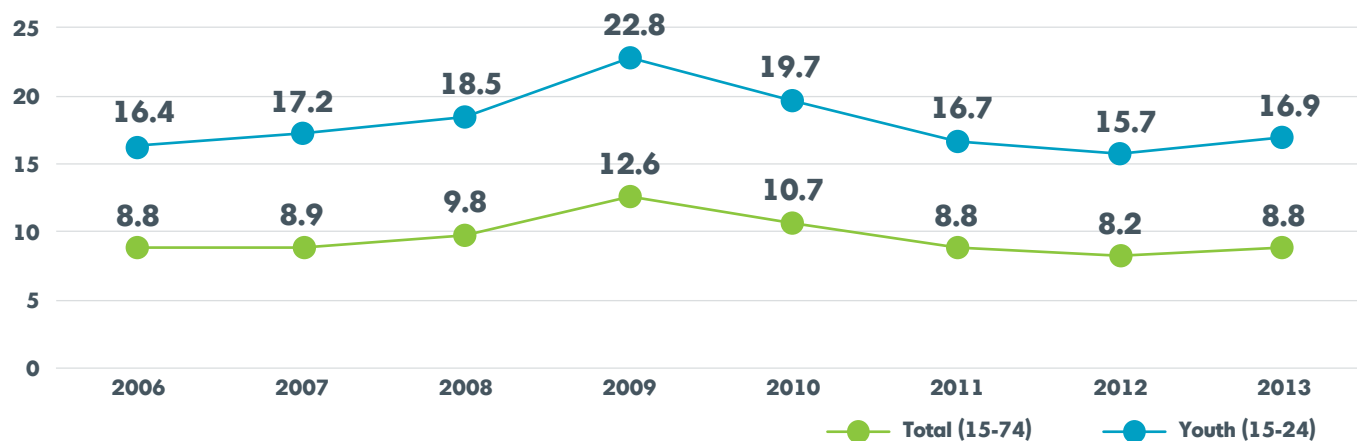
Source: World Bank.

## EMPLOYMENT RATE 15-64 (%)



Source: Eurostat.

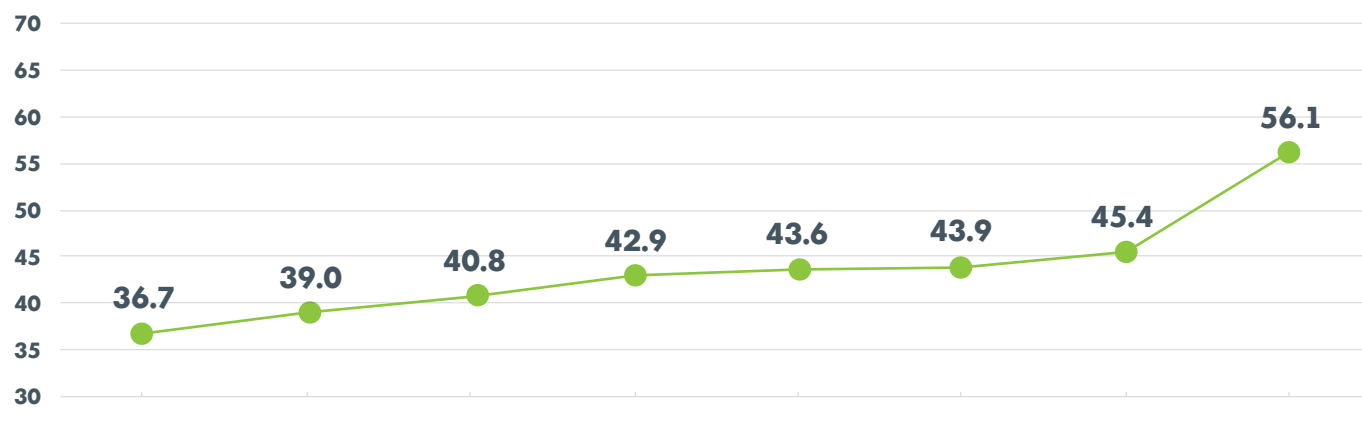
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)



Source: Eurostat.



## SHARE OF VET IN SECONDARY EDUCATION (%)



Source: ETF calculation on Turkstat.

**Economic growth in Turkey slowed during 2015 after GDP expanded at a lower-than-expected pace of 2.9% in 2014. Turkey is the 18th largest economy in the world, and the government goal is to for the country to be ranked among the 10 largest world economies by 2023. It is relatively well placed in global competitiveness rankings, at 45th out of 148 in the 2014–2015 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index (GCI).**

This relative success is attributed to a vibrant business sector built on efficiency gains from the large, highly competitive domestic market coupled with well-developed infrastructure, particularly in terms of roads and air transport. The GCI Report cited the need to enhance competitiveness by emphasizing the role of innovation and skills as the key drivers of economic growth, adding that: 'It is therefore crucial to address these structural challenges to ensure more sustainable and inclusive growth. More than ever, cooperative leadership among business, government and civil society is needed to re-establish sustainable growth and raise living standards in the country' (World Economic Forum, 2014).

Turkey's unemployment rate has climbed to its highest level since 2010, as economic activity slowed in several sectors, but the worsening unemployment is mainly attributable to workforce expansion and youth (15-24) unemployment is a particular problem. Prominent gender disparities persist, as do other kinds of marginality (mainly in regard to disability, gender, and specific geographical areas). There are five illiterate women to every illiterate man and the labour force is still characterised by a low level of schooling. At present, around 29% of young people (aged 15 to 29) are not in work, education or training (Eurostat, 2014) although this trend is on the decline.

Turkey has a growing population, currently totalling 77,695,904, and a youth dependency ratio of 38.31 %. The country still lags behind EU benchmarks in education, training and employment, but it is making rapid progress. Early school abandonment of 39.9% stands substantially above the EU benchmark, but the figure has improved from 46.9% in 2007. Moreover, these figures do not yet include the full effect of the extending of compulsory education to 12 years of schooling introduced in the 2012-2013 school year. Public spending on education in Turkey as a share of GDP in 2013 is still low (3.1%) in relation to the ambitious reform programmes.

Turkey is a European Union (EU) accession candidate country, a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the G20, and an increasingly important donor to the ODA Bilateral Official Development Assistance.

The country's Economic Reform Programme is mainly focused on macroeconomic and fiscal reforms. It features national priorities such as programmes to improve labour market effectiveness and develop basic and occupational skills. It also recognises the challenge of establishing better links between education and the labour market



## **VET and employment policy: Progress since 2012**

Catching up with the EU and world standards in the area of human resources is one of the important targets of the reforms launched by the Turkish government. Turkey has set long-term targets for 2023 and is assessing them periodically. The Vision 2023, Tenth Development Plan (2014–2018), Lifelong Learning Strategy and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Strategy (2014–2018) all set targets and roadmaps, and are all linked to the EU strategy. There is a high level of ownership and full connection to EU and global practices on long-term policy planning.

The issue of skills development is also approached in the newly adopted National Employment Strategy (2014–2023), both through initial and continuing VET. The employment strategy seeks to create a better relationship between education and employment by providing education and training that is more relevant to the labour market, and through strengthening the use of qualification standards. Specific employment policies for the priority sectors also provide room for skills improvement as a key precondition for raising employment, inclusion and competitiveness levels.

Policy priorities for VET follow the overall developmental objectives of the country, with greater attention placed on skills relevance and inclusiveness when deploying education and training programmes. Recent improvements in educational attainment and extended years of schooling, coupled with robust economic growth, provide grounds for some degree of catch up.

Public and private sector policies are increasingly focused on job growth and inclusive institutions and programmes. These are considered to be crucial factors for the promotion and enhancement of decent and productive employment opportunities for young men and women, including those identified as vulnerable groups. Reducing unemployment, attaining a flexible labour market structure, establishing an effective relationship between education and the labour market, and extending active labour market programmes are issues that have moved from the stage of policy discourse to immediate action. Implementation of new, innovative and effective education and training policies is becoming common practice, coupled with good multi-level governance models.

Some links are, however, missing in the formal feedback mechanisms, in particular as regards the use of information on how well VET graduates perform in the labour market.

## **Country priorities for VET and employment reforms**

- Quality of work and the role of training and certification (especially in risky and dangerous occupations), recognition of prior learning, modernisation of work-based learning arrangements (e.g. apprenticeship) and the further development of a consistent skills anticipation system (with both vertical and horizontal dimensions and on short- to long-term horizons) are key priorities for the future.
- Addressing the challenge of the high-tech skills, low-tech skills and re-skilling from a lifelong learning perspective required to meet the demands of a knowledge-based economy in transition.
- Reducing unemployment with a focus on youth and female participation in the workforce, attaining a more flexible labour market structure, establishing an effective relationship between education and labour market and extending the active labour program.

## **ETF interventions**

As a result of Government and EU Delegation requests, the ETF is active in EU/Turkey-driven and funded thematic platforms in the HRD sector (education and training, employment and social inclusion) focusing in the areas of lifelong learning, the Turkish National Qualification System, Accreditation and Quality Assurance for VET and employability.

Turkey participates in ETF regional projects on entrepreneurial learning (SBA assessment) and the continuous professional development of VET teachers. Furthermore, the ETF supports implementation of the Bruges Process in the EU candidate countries in cooperation with Cedefop.



## Support to the EU Delegation

Expertise input to EUDEL policy dialogue with Government and other donors in the HRD sector- contributing to HRD analysis, EC regular update, IPA I and II implementation monitoring.

EU projects	Period	Budget	ETF role
IPA I Human Resources Development (employment, education and social policies)	2007-13	EUR 474.7m	Expertise input for selected policy measures: monitoring of implementation
IPA II Human Resources Development (employment, education and social policies)	2014-2020	EUR 435.0 m	Expertise input for selected policy measures: monitoring of implementation

## Key donors in VET

EU, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, British Council, EU Bilateral Agreements.

## Key publications

- ETF, *Torino Process Report 2014: Turkey*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/9F403AEA2FDD04E1C1257E26003D927B/\\$file/TRP%202014%20Turkey\\_EN.pdf](http://www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/9F403AEA2FDD04E1C1257E26003D927B/$file/TRP%202014%20Turkey_EN.pdf)
- ETF, *FRAME Skills 2020 Turkey*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/BFBD8EDB61F89B52C1257D640032324D/\\$file/FRAME%20Skills%202020%20Turkey.pdf](http://www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/BFBD8EDB61F89B52C1257D640032324D/$file/FRAME%20Skills%202020%20Turkey.pdf)
- ETF, *Turkey – Review of Human Resources Development*:  
[www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Turkey\\_HRD](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Turkey_HRD)
- ETF, *Inventory of NQF recent developments in ETF's partner countries – Turkey*:  
[https://connections.etf.europa.eu/wikis/home?lang=en-us#/wiki/Wf591e43b607e\\_4ccf\\_8d94\\_a3256a255147/page/Turkey%20-%20NQF%20Inventory](https://connections.etf.europa.eu/wikis/home?lang=en-us#/wiki/Wf591e43b607e_4ccf_8d94_a3256a255147/page/Turkey%20-%20NQF%20Inventory)
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Development, *Turkey Tenth Development Plan (2014–2018)*:  
[www.kalkinma.gov.tr/Lists/Yaynlar/Attachments/628/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20%282014-2018%29.pdf](http://www.kalkinma.gov.tr/Lists/Yaynlar/Attachments/628/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20%282014-2018%29.pdf)
- World Bank, *Turkey's transitions: integration, inclusion, institutions (Vol. 2)*:  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/12/20470497/turkeys-transitions-integration-inclusion-institutions-vol-2-main-report>
- UNESCO-UNEVOC Online Library World TVET Database - Country Profiles-Turkey:  
[www.unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=World+TVET+Database&ct=TUR](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/go.php?q=World+TVET+Database&ct=TUR)

## Key Turkish Institutions

- Ministry of Development:  
[www.mod.gov.tr/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Pages/index.aspx)
- Ministry of National Education:  
<http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/index1.asp>
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security:  
[www.csgeb.gov.tr/csgebPortal/csgeb.portal](http://www.csgeb.gov.tr/csgebPortal/csgeb.portal)
- Turkey Statistical Institute:  
[www.turkstat.gov.tr/Start.do](http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/Start.do)

## ETF Country Desk

**Lida Kita**

**Tel.: +39 011 630 2291**

**Email: [lida.kita@etf.europa.eu](mailto:lida.kita@etf.europa.eu)**