

MPM TÜRKİYE
Overview of Migrant Situation
Migrant Presence Monitoring

QUARTERLY REPORT
Q4 — October, November, December 2024

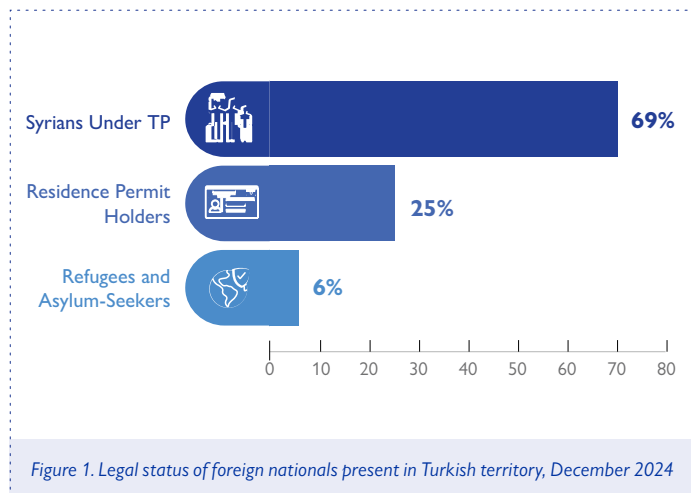


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BACKGROUND AND KEY FINDINGS

According to the latest available figures from the Turkish Presidency of Migration Management (PMM), there are more than 4.1 million foreign nationals present in Turkish territory, 3.1 million of whom are seeking international protection. Most are Syrians (2,901,478¹ individuals) who are granted temporary protection status. Another group of foreigners are international protection applicants and holders mainly from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 230,617² refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye as of 2024.



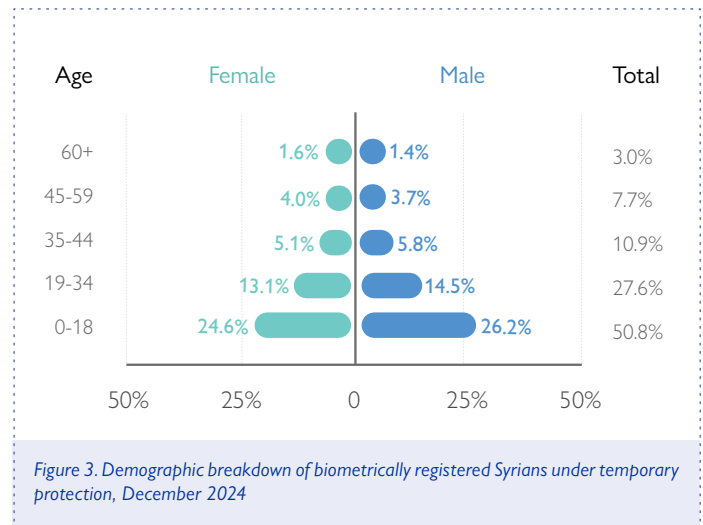
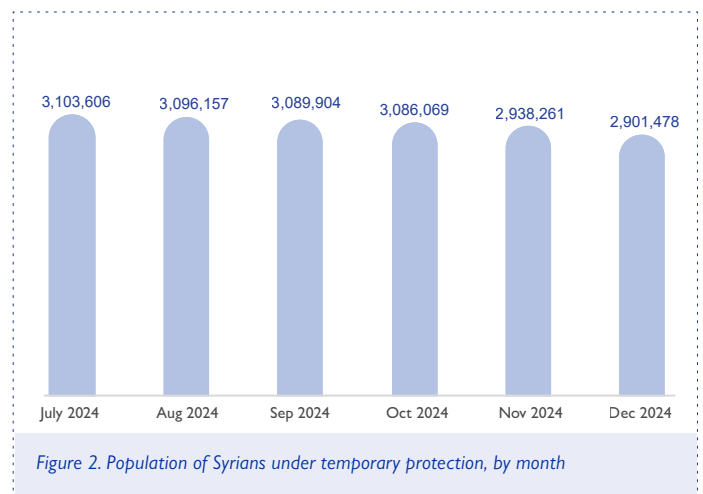
In addition, there are 1,056,632³ foreign nationals present in Türkiye, holding residence permits. Compared to the third quarter of 2024, this is an increase of 10,910 individuals.

According to PMM, 54,346⁴ migrants in irregular situation of different nationalities were apprehended in Türkiye in the fourth quarter. This figure was 62,349 in the previous reporting period (Q3) of 2024.⁵

CATEGORIES OF FOREIGNERS IN TÜRKİYE

Temporary Protection (TP)

Türkiye's temporary protection regime grants 2,901,478⁶ Syrian nationals the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as to have some access to basic services. There are 188,426 fewer Syrians currently live in Türkiye compared to the third quarter of 2024.⁷



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 1,056,632⁸ 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. As of 2023, there were 239,835 foreigners holding a work permit in Türkiye. In addition, there were 434 work permit holders who were working in free zones, 12,090 work permit holders with work permit exemption, and 76,707 work permit exemptions were given to foreigners who worked in seasonal agriculture and animal husbandry.⁹

1 PMM, 2024.
 2 UNHCR, 2024.
 3 PMM, 2024.
 4 Ibid.
 5 IOM, 2024.
 6 PMM, 2024.
 7 IOM, 2024.

8 PMM, 2024.
 9 Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 2023.

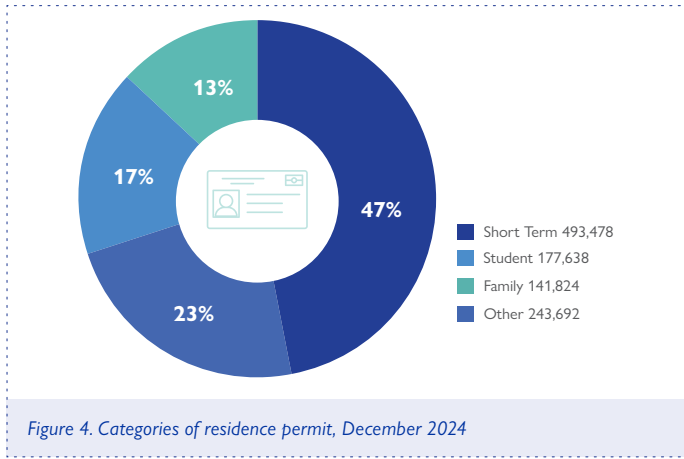
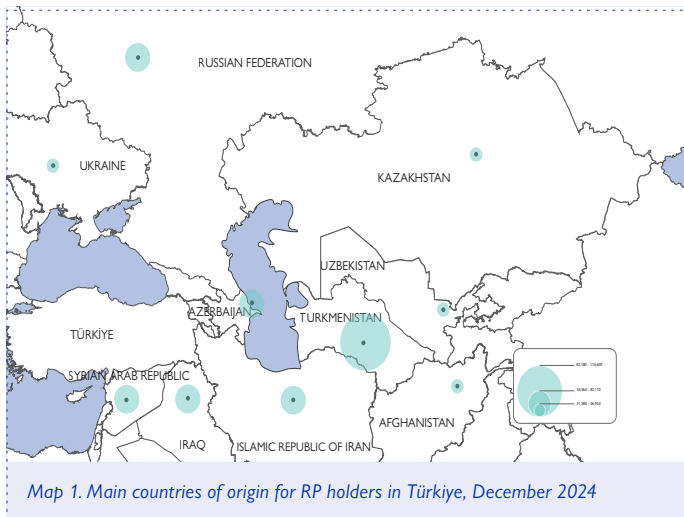


Figure 4. Categories of residence permit, December 2024

There are 493,478 short-term RP holders which compose the majority of all residence permit holders. The short-term RP holders are followed by 177,638 student and 141,824 family residence permit holders. Also 243,692 “other” residence permits were granted.¹⁰



Map 1. Main countries of origin for RP holders in Türkiye, December 2024

This map is for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

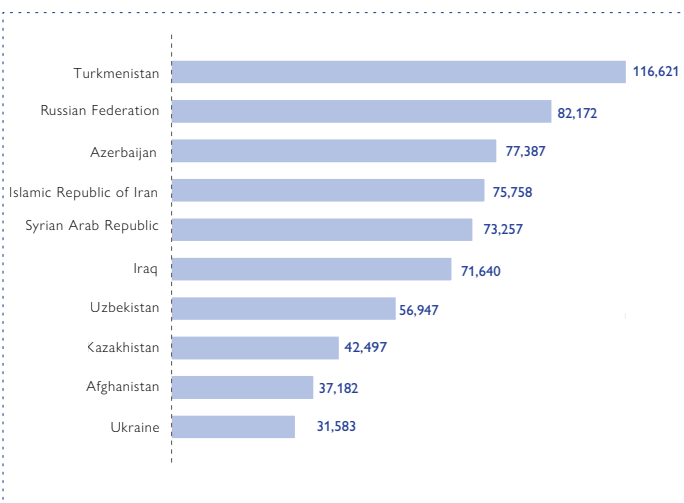


Figure 5. Top 10 Nationality groups for residence permit holders, December 2024

10 PMM, 2024.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Türkiye

According to UNHCR, as of 2024, there are 230,617 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye, most of whom from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.¹¹

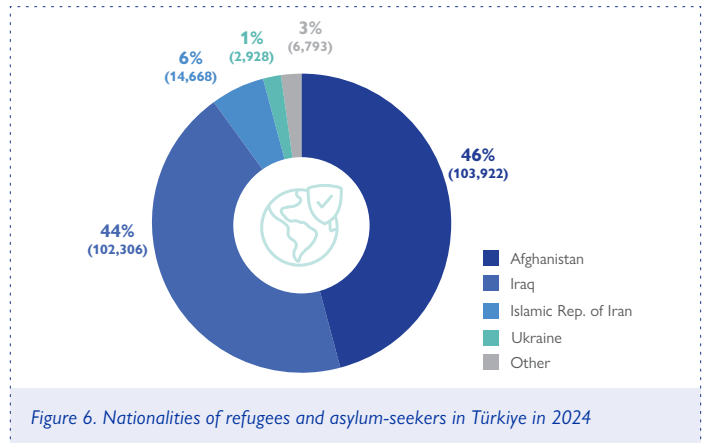


Figure 6. Nationalities of refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye in 2024

MIGRANTS IN IRREGULAR SITUATION

According to PMM, 225,831 migrants in irregular situation and 13,020 migrant smugglers have been recorded as of December 2024. Most migrants in 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 2024 are from Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkmenistan.¹²

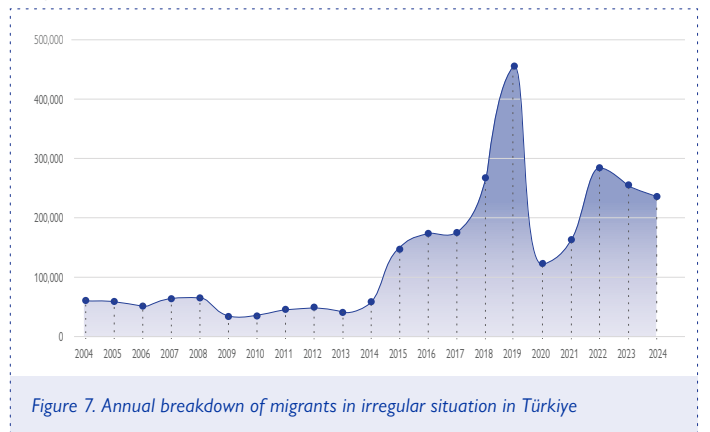


Figure 7. Annual breakdown of migrants in irregular situation in Türkiye

Intercepted and Rescued Persons on sea

According to Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) daily reports, TCG recorded 15,044¹³ migrants in irregular situation and five deaths in the fourth quarter of 2024. During the reporting period, there has been an decrease of 2,290 intercepted persons on sea by TCG compared to the previous reporting period. The top ten nationalities as reported by migrants are from Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Egypt, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Yemen, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Somalia and Senegal.

11 UNHCR, 2024.

12 PMM, 2024.

13 TCG, 2024.

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VoTs) AND SERVICES FOR HOSTING FOREIGN NATIONALS IN TÜRKİYE

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. A total of 215 individuals were identified in 2019, 282 in 2020, 402 in 2021, 343 in 2022, 223 in 2023 and 179 as of December 2024.¹⁴

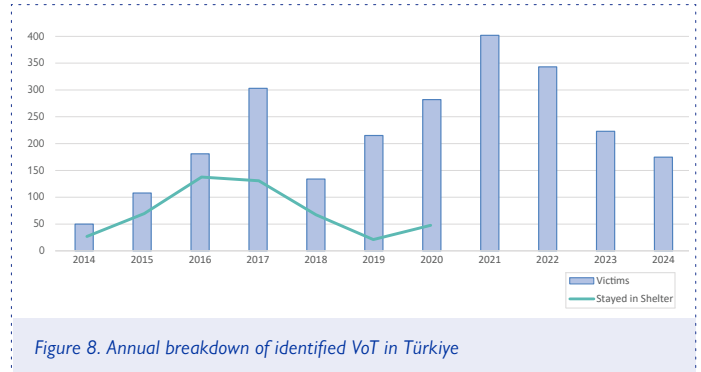


Figure 8. Annual breakdown of identified VoT in Türkiye

The number of victims of trafficking in shelters have not been published since 2021.

Removal centres host and monitor foreigners under administrative detention. 30 removal centres 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 centres can currently hold 20,540 persons.¹⁵



Removal Centres

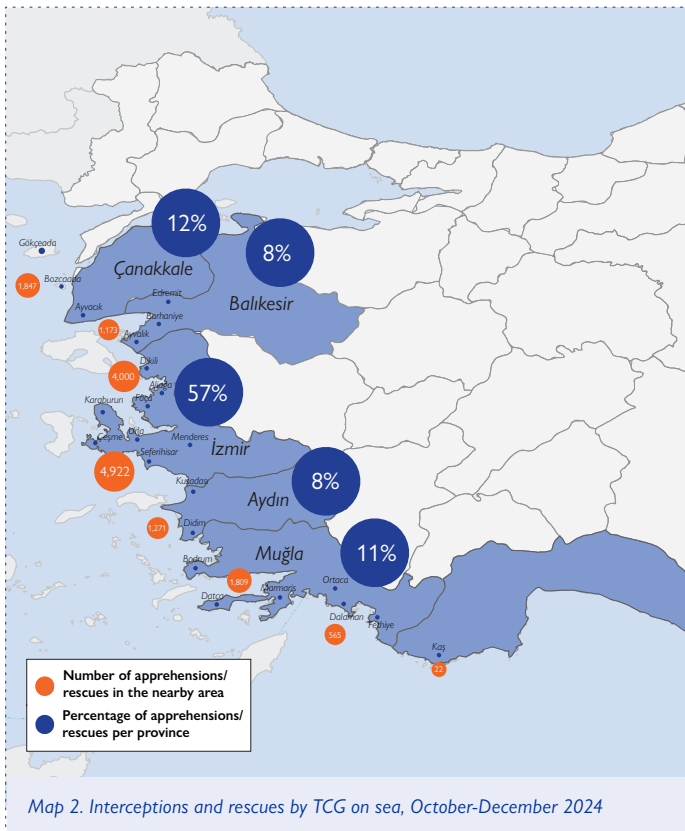
20,540
Current Capacity (Managed by PMM)

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

The data presented in this report is compiled from secondary sources on a quarterly basis. The data is collected between the first and tenth day of each month following the reporting period, depending on the availability of the data from secondary sources. These sources encompass data and statistics provided by government authorities and UN organizations. No primary data collected by the MPM programme is presented in this report. The selection of sources is undertaken with the intent of achieving a comprehensive portrayal of the migration context and flows in Türkiye.

¹⁴ PMM, 2024.
¹⁵ Ibid.



Map 2. Interceptions and rescues by TCG on sea, October-December 2024

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Interceptions and Rescues by TCG by Month in 2024 (1 January - 31 December)				
Month	Events	Migrants in Irregular Situation	Deaths	Facilitators
All Seas				
January	110	3,654	5	10
February	185	6,099	0	19
March	118	3,058	23	19
April	113	3,116	1	19
May	151	3,665	3	31
June	141	3,756	0	28
July	166	4,473	8	45
August	245	6,431	0	51
September	238	6,430	0	106
October	188	5,078	0	64
November	222	6,355	1	56
December	134	3,611	4	36
Total	2,011	55,726	45	484

Table 1. Number of migrants intercepted and rescued by TCG, and events, deaths, facilitators on sea by month

Data Categories

The report focuses on several distinct categories of migration data:

- 1. Migrants present in Türkiye by migration status:** This presents data on the stock of migrants reported to be in Türkiye by their migration status. Distinction is made between individuals with a refugee status, individuals with a temporary protection status, and individuals who hold a residence permit. Data is extracted from PMM and UNHCR statistics.
- 2. Migrants in an irregular situation by nationality:** This category pertains to migrants who find themselves in irregular or undocumented situations. Information is gathered from the PMM statistics.
- 3. Migrants intercepted or rescued at sea:** This is flow data on migrants who are intercepted or rescued while attempting to cross by sea to Europe. It is collected from TCG regular reports. The reports include the number and self-declared nationalities of migrants intercepted or rescued by the TCG whether at sea or land.

LIMITATIONS

Source Reliability

While the data sources were chosen for their credibility and authority, inherent limitations of secondary sources exist. Different sources may employ varying methodologies and definitions for data collection, leading to potential variations in the reported figures. For instance, according to IOM's Glossary on Migration (2019), a migrant in an irregular situation is defined as a person who moves or has moved across an international border and is not authorized to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party. Nevertheless, IOM is unable to confirm the criteria used by the PMM in practice to identify migrants in an irregular situation. Additionally, the accuracy of the data relies on the transparency and accuracy of the original reporting entities.

Data Accuracy and Verification

Despite efforts to validate and cross-reference data from various secondary sources, it is important to acknowledge that the accuracy and reliability of the compiled information might not be fully verifiable. Secondary data inherently presents a challenge in terms of traceability to original data collection processes. Therefore, inability to directly verify the accuracy of the data remains a limitation, and it is recommended that users of this report exercise caution and consider the potential margin of error associated with

the data.

Data Gaps and Incompleteness

Migration data is often affected by gaps due to the informal nature of some migration movements and the challenges of data collection. The report acknowledges the possibility of underrepresentation or omission of 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 exercised when generalizing findings to specific cases or predicting future trends.

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