

Turkey

Demographics for Turkey

Population:	69,660,559 (July 2005 est.)
GDP (by PPP method):	US\$508.7 billion
Currency (inc code):	New Turkish Lira (YTL)
Language(s):	Turkish (official), Kurdish, Arabic, Armenian, Greek
Internet country code:	.tr

Elementary and secondary education

The Turkish Education System includes pre-schools, compulsory eight-year primary schools, three- or four-year secondary schools, and post-secondary programs. Only a small portion of the students attend a pre-school program prior to the primary school. Students start primary school at the age of six and continue until 14. Compulsory education in Turkey lasts eight years. This new system that was established in 1997 replaced the former system of five years of primary school that was compulsory, followed by three years of middle school. Upon the completion of primary education, students are awarded the İlköğretim Diploması (Basic Education Diploma).

Secondary education follows eight years of primary education and covers general and vocational high schools that provide three years of education and technical high schools that provide four years of education. Starting in 2005-2006, secondary education will be four years for all schools. General high schools – Lycees – prepare students for higher education. The general high schools have a number of variants with different specialties. In their second year, students following the general program in high schools may choose to follow specialized curriculum in the natural sciences, literature and mathematics, the social sciences, foreign languages, art or physical education.

Vocational high schools provide three-year secondary education, train qualified people for various professions and also prepare students for higher education. Technical high schools offer a four-year program. Subjects offered in the first year are the same as in the vocational high schools. Secondary education students obtain the Lise Diploması (High School Diploma) which is the prerequisite for entry to higher education.

Higher education

In the Turkish Higher Education system, higher education is defined as all post-secondary programs with a duration of at least two years. Each university consists of faculties and four-year schools offering Bachelor's level programs and two-year vocational schools offering pre-Bachelor's (associate's) level programs of a strictly vocational nature. In addition, two- and four-year programs are offered through distance education by Anadolu University. There are 468 types of Bachelor's and 267 types of pre-Bachelor's level programs operating in 2,835 Bachelor's and 3,336 pre-Bachelor's programs in universities (2004).

Currently, there are 54 state and 23 private foundation universities in Turkey. Private universities have been established starting in 1986. Private universities have only to conform to the basic academic requirements and structures set forth in the law. Apart from this, they are completely free to manage their own affairs according to rules and regulations adopted by their boards of trustees, in which lay members in most cases make up the majority.

Admission to higher education is centralized and based on a nationwide single-stage examination administered by the Student Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM) every year. The examination, named the Student Selection Examination (ÖSS), consists of verbal and quantitative parts. Candidates with scores below a certain threshold (120 points) are offered a restricted choice of higher education programs.

In 2004, close to 1.8 million students took the University Entrance Examination and only 391,752 students were placed in the two- and four-year programs of all the universities including 232,752 students admitted to the Anadolu University for its distance education programs.

Graduate-level programs consist of Master's and Doctoral programs, coordinated by institutes for graduate studies. Medical speciality training programs equivalent to Doctoral level programs are, however, carried out within the faculties of medicine and the training hospitals owned by the Ministry of Health.

To be eligible to apply to a graduate school, one has to score a minimum of 45 out of 100 from the central postgraduate education examination (LES) given twice a year by ÖSYM. Some programs also require international standardized tests, such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Graduate

Management Admission Test (GMAT), and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Universities, faculties, institutes and four-year schools are established by law, while two-year vocational schools, departments, and divisions are established by the Council of Higher Education. Likewise, the opening of a degree program at any level is subject to ratification by the Council of Higher Education. The Council of Higher Education is a 22-member corporate public body responsible for the planning, coordination and supervision of higher education within the provisions set forth in the Higher Education Law. Its members are appointed by the President of the Republic.

Most institutions in Turkey operate using an academic calendar that has two 14-week semesters. The Fall semester usually covers October-January period and the Spring semester covers February-June period. Some universities also offer courses in the summer semester.

In the universities, the medium of instruction is Turkish. Some universities use English, French and German as the language of instruction with one preparatory year.

Although the state universities charge minimal tuition fees and are practically free at all levels including Business Administration and MBA programs, private universities charge tuition in a wide range up to \$20,000 per year.

Management education

In Turkey, management education that leads to an academic degree is provided by universities. In addition, consulting companies, associations, and in-house training programs of companies offer various programs on particular topics and management development programs.

Undergraduate programs lead mostly to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration following a four-year study. Programs are offered by Business Administration Departments located usually in Colleges of Administrative Sciences and Economics or Colleges of Business. The curricula of undergraduate programs differ from one university to another. Some universities offer a general core program common with other programs for two years and then area courses that include core and elective courses in management. Some universities offer only courses in management with a restrictive set of electives in other areas.

Graduate business education consists of Master's and Doctoral-level education. Master's level business education includes general programs such as Master of Business Administration (MBA) and also specialized programs in functional areas such as marketing, finance, and marketing. These programs are usually offered by Social Sciences Institutes or Management Institutes in the universities.

MBA education is quite new in Turkey. Currently there are only 17 universities offering MBA programs. MBA programs are offered in various formats including two-year full-time, part-time, evening, and weekend programs. Following the establishment of the first Executive MBA program at Koç University in 1994, there are also executive MBA programs for managers with a minimum of three- to five-years of experience.

Business doctoral programs prepare candidates to conduct scholarly research in specialized areas. Most of the doctoral programs admit students who have Master's degrees. It is also possible to start the PhD program following the completion of an undergraduate program. The doctoral program includes core courses after which a qualifying examination is conducted. Once a student passes the examination then he or she is designated as a candidate and conducts research with the supervision of his or her advisor and committee. Upon successfully defending the thesis, a PhD degree is awarded.

Faculty

Although the total number of faculty members in the Turkish Higher Education system increased by almost four-fold in 20 years, the number of students per faculty member has increased from 43 in 1983 to 46 in 2003 and the number of students per educator has increased from 15 in 1983 to 16 in 2003 due to the rapid increase of the university students.

The total number of faculty members teaching business administration courses is 1,600. Most of the full-time faculty members hold doctoral degrees. In addition, executives are also used as part-time instructors.

Students

Currently, there are 19.4 million students in Turkey: 0.4 million in pre-schools, 10.5 million in primary schools, 3.6 million in secondary schools, 3 million in extension programs, and 1.9 million in universities.

Out of 1.9 million university students, 334,000 attend two-year vocational programs, 766,000 attend four-year programs, 82,000 students are in the Master's programs, 24,000 students are in the PhD programs, and 10,000 are in MD programs. The remaining 750,000 students are in the Open University which is the distance-education program offered by Anadolu University. At present, the total enrollment in the private universities is 77,000 and accounts for only 4.6 percent of the total.

There are close to 300,000 students studying in business administration programs of 77 universities in Turkey.

Accreditation

In Turkey, starting a new program requires the authorization of the Higher Education Council. In addition, the Higher Education Council decides on the equivalency of international programs to the programs in Turkey. As a result,

authorization by the Higher Education Council can be considered as an accreditation. However, there is no special national accreditation system.

Issues facing Turkish management education

The main issue for the Turkish Higher Education system is the increasing demand for higher education. It is expected that 5 million students will take the University Entrance Examination by the year 2010. Recent demographic projections by the State Institute of Statistics clearly show that the rate of population growth in the higher education age cohort (18-21) is declining in Turkey, and that it will stabilize in the future. Therefore, the increase in the number of students taking the central examination is mainly due to the increase in participation rates in primary and secondary education. For example, the participation rate in secondary education increased from 32 percent in 1986 to 56 percent in 1998.

Despite this high demand, the capacity at the universities is sufficient to handle only 10 percent of the students taking the exam excluding the distance education. Given the limited number of seats available at the universities, Turkey is faced with the challenge of reconciling quantity with quality in higher education.

One of the main implications of this trend is the need for educating future academicians in all fields including management. This requires starting new doctoral programs and increasing the number of participants in these programs without sacrificing the quality.

Another implication is the scarcity of the number of seats that can be allocated to international students. Faced with the extremely high demand from the Turkish students, universities allocate a limited number of seats for international students.

In terms of the total number of publications in all areas in the international journals tracked by ISI databases, with 22,000 articles in 2003, Turkey is 22nd in the world and ahead of countries including Denmark, Austria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Ireland, Portugal, and Hungary. However, the number of international publications in management is limited and produced by academicians in a small number of universities. Establishing a quality research program in management is also an important issue for Turkey.

Another issue facing the MBA education is the profile of the students. Work experience is not a requirement for all the MBA programs in Turkey due to some special conditions that prevail in Turkey. First, the military service obligation for male students after finishing undergraduate studies poses an important obstacle to set a minimum work experience requirement. It is possible to get only a one-year deferment after graduation and an increasing number of companies in the Turkish business environment require the completion of the military service prior to full-time employment. Another reason for the low level of work experience in the programs offered by private

universities is the fact that the tuition is basically paid by parents who do not want their children to postpone their studies and who encourage them to complete all their studies before any full-time professional position.

Turkey's European Union candidacy for full membership is also a new impetus for the Turkish Higher Education system. Being included in the Erasmus program increased the student and faculty mobility from and to Turkey. Many universities established a network of partner institutions in a relatively short period of time.

Finally, improving and assuring the quality in higher education is of great importance for Turkey. Combined with the internationalization efforts and European Union membership, there will be a greater demand for international accreditation in coming years.

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