

ÇUKUROVA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**TURKEY**  
**ADANA & MERSİN**  
AT A GLANCE

JANUARY, 2014

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# Turkey at a Glance



**State** / Republic since October 29, 1923

**Capital** / Ankara, population 4.890.893

**Flag** / Red, with white crescent moon and star

**National Anthem** / İstiklal Marşı, writer Mehmet Akif ERSOY, composed by Ali Rıfat ÇAĞATAY and Osman Zeki ÜNGÖR

**National Holidays** / April 23, National Sovereignty and Children's Holiday, May 19, Remembering Atatürk, Youth and Sports Holiday, October 29, Republic Holiday, August 30, Victory Day, May 1, Labor Day

**Official Language** / Turkish

**Currency** / 1 Turkish Lira(TL) = 100 Kuruş

**International Telephone Code** / 00 90



The map that shows Turkey's location in Europe and the world

## Geography

**Area** / 783.562,38 km<sup>2</sup>

**Border lengths** / 2949 km in total, Bulgaria 269 km, Greece 203 km, Syria 911 km, Iraq 384 km, Iran 560 km, Nahcivan (Azerbaijan) 18 km, Armenia 328 km, Georgia 276 km.

**Shore lengths** / 7816 km in total; Black Sea 1778 km, Marmara Sea 1275 km, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea 4763 km

**Neighboring countries** / Bulgaria, Greece, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan-Nahcivan, Armenia, Georgia

**Five largest provinces** / İstanbul (13.854.740), Ankara (4.495.542), İzmir (4.005.459), Bursa (2.688.171), Adana (2.125.635)

**Highest mountain** / Mount Ararat 5165 m

**Longest river** / Kızılırmak 1355 km

**Climate** / Three different types of climate are visible in Turkey; warm Mediterranean climate in the shores of the Aegean and Mediterranean, terrestrial climate in Inner Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia, Thrace and East Anatolia and rainy Black Sea climate in the Black Sea region.



Turkey's highest peak is Mount Ararat at 5165 meters.



**Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK**  
(1881-1938), founder and first  
President of the Turkish Republic



**Abdullah GÜL**, the 11th President of  
the Turkish Republic has also served  
as Prime Minister



**Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN**, Prime  
Minister since March 15, 2003

## Population and Demography

**Inhabitants** / 75.627.384

**Population density** / 98 people/km<sup>2</sup>

**Population growth rate** / 12‰

**Urbanisation rate** / 77,3%, the rest live in villages and other rural areas

**Labourforce participation rate for the ages of 15-64** / % 67,6

(As of December 31, 2012)

## Political Structure

**Legislation** / The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) with 550 members; members of the TBMM are elected every four years and the latest election took place on June 12, 2011.

**Suffrage** / Citizens past the age of 18 are entitled to vote

**The Constitution** / Recognizes all basic rights and freedoms.

**The Constitutional Court** / Oversees if the laws passed in the TBMM are in harmony with the constitution.

**Founder of the Republic of Turkey** / Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, first President of the Turkish Republic between 29 October 1923 and 10 November 1938 has also served as President of the Provisional Government of Turkey from 1920 until 1921.

**President** / Abdullah Gül (since August 28, 2007) The President is chosen by the people from among either the TBMM members or Turkish citizens above the age of forty who have completed their higher education. The President is elected for five years and a person can only serve two terms as President.

**Prime Minister** / Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (As of March 15, 2003)

**Government** / Consists of the Cabinet and Prime Minister. 25 ministers serve in the Cabinet.

**Turkish Armed Forces** / Consists of Land, Air and Marines. Military service is mandatory for male citizens in Turkey.

**The Central Bank** / The only bank in Turkey that has the right to print money and determine the country's currency policy is the The Central Bank.

## Political Parties Represented in the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Number of Seats:

Justice and Development Party: 327 seats (ruling party)

Republican People's Party: 134 seats

Nationalist Movement Party: 52 seats

Peace and Democracy Party: 29 seats

Independent Members of the TBMM: 6 seats

## Local Self-Government

Local Self-Government consist of the special provincial administrations, municipalities and villages. But the most prominent local self-governments are municipalities. Mayors and municipal council members are directly elected by constituent body. The Municipality Law dated 1930 was redefined in 2005, providing municipalities with wide degree of administrative and fiscal autonomy. In 2008, municipal amalgamations occurred in Turkey, but the most extensive amalgamations occurred in 2012. There are 30 metropolitan municipalities in Turkey which consists of 81 cities. Special provincial administrations will be dismembered in these cities, making municipalities the only local self-government. After the municipal amalgamations, the number of municipalities has decreased to 1394 from 2950.

## Non Governmental Organizations

NGOs in Turkey are organized in five main categories; foundations, associations, unions, chambers and cooperatives. The total number of NGOs are over 150000 in Turkey, about 86000 of them are associations. The strongest and the most widely spread NGOs are chambers and commodity exchanges represented in the General Assembly of TOBB. TOBB is the legal and highest level representative of the Turkish private sector. TOBB has 365 members. 120000 companies from various sectors are registered in the chambers and exchanges all around Turkey.

## History

Turkey has been home to the Hittites, Phrygians, Lydians, Ionians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines and Turkish civilizations since 2000 B.C. After the Malazgirt victory in 1071, the doors of Anatolia were permanently opened to Turkish clans and the Ottoman State was established in 1299. The Ottomans widespread their land in the 16th century. In the following centuries the Ottomans lost their power and the country retained its current borders in 1920.



# Turkey in the World

## Membership to International Institutions

Turkey has closely followed international developments ever since its establishment and has been an active member of United Nations (UN), OECD, NATO, D-8, WHO, The Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Islamic Conference Organization. Turkey is a founding member of the UN. Turkey has sent soldiers to help the peace process in Korea, Somalia, Bosnia, Palestine and Afghanistan. Turkey, which was elected as a provisional member of the UN Security Council on October 2008 with votes from 151 countries, represented Western Europe for two years with Austria.

## Relationship Between the EU and Turkey

The Ankara Agreement, which was signed between Turkey and the European Economic Assembly(AET) in 1963 constitutes the legal basis of the relationship between Turkey and the EU. The Customs Union, which was put into effect on January 1, 1996, added another dimension to the relationship between the two parties.The highlight of the relationship was the Helsinki Summit in 1999, where it was decided to prepare a partnership document for Turkey. Turkey has accelerated its efforts in local reforms during its partnership process in the EU. These reforms which ensured and strengthened existing regulations included the widespreading of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech and thought and basic human rights. On October 3, 2005 in Luxembourg, Turkey has officially entered partnership dialogues with the EU. The process for full partnership still continues.

## Environment

The concept of sustainability has entered Turkish political documents with the Rio Summit in 1992 and the concept is being integrated into sector policies ever since that date. The first step in making sustainability operational was the announcement of the 6th Five Year Development Plan and the publishing of the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan.The 9th Development Plan states that “an integrated sustainability in economy, culture and social life is the basis of the strategy” and “promises to protect natural resources, cultural assets and the environment for the use of future generations.”

# Economy

## Important Macroeconomic Indicators of Turkey

GDP (billion USD)	786
Export volume, (billion USD)	153
Import volume, (billion USD)	237
Average Real Growth Rate (2002-2011)	5,2%
Unemployment Rate, 2012	9,2%
Inflation (Consumer Price Index) 2012 data	6,16%

## Economy and Workforce

Turkey is one of the countries that has quickly survived the global economic crisis. It is fastest growing economy in Europe. The economy has grown by approximately 5,2% between 2002 and 2011. In 2011, this number has reached 8,5%. In 2012, the economy has grown by 2,2%. GDP per capita has grown by 96,6% between the years 2002 and 2011 and reached 17.038 Dollars according to Purchasing Power Parity. Turkey has decreased its current account deficit by 36,6%, making the number 48,9 billion dollars. This is due to increase in product and service exports throughout 2012. Turkey's public debt is around 39,4%, way below 60%, which is the Maastricht criteria, lower than 21 EU countries.

Unemployment rate was recorded as 9,2% in 2012. Turkey has the 5th biggest workforce with 27,3 million in Europe after Russia, Germany, England and France.

## Foreign Trade and Foreign Capital

In 2012, Turkey's foreign trade volume has increased by 3,6% compared to 2011 and reached

389 billion dollars. Foreign trade deficit has decreased to 84 billion dollars. In 2012, exports have increased by 13,1% reaching 153 billion dollars while imports have decreased by 1,8%, reaching 237 billion dollars. Foreign currency deficit excluding energy, which was 58 billion dollars in 2011, has decreased by 46% making the number around 32 billion dollars. Turkey's exports have been steadily increasing in the past three years while imports are decreasing. Turkey's export to the countries in Africa has been significantly increasing in past three years. The top five countries that Turkey exports to are Germany, Iraq, Iran, England and the UAE. When it comes to import, the Russian Federation, Germany, China, USA and Italy are the top five countries. In 2012, Turkey has received 12,4 billion dollars from direct foreign investments and the number of companies with foreign capital have reached 33.081. The service sector is first in





foreign investments with 8 billion dollars while the industrial sector is second with 7,8 billion dollars and the agricultural sector is last with 32 million dollars. England, Austria, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany are the countries that heavily invest in Turkey.

## Free Zones

The total trade volume of 19 Free Zones where 54.022 people are employed, has increased by 29,8% in 2012 and has surpassed 23,05 billion dollars.

## Tourism

Foreign tourists to visit Turkey in 2012 has increased by 1,04% and reached 31,8 million. Turkey's revenues from tourism has increased 5,9 billion dollars compared to 2011 and reached 25,7 billion dollars. The revenue per tourist has increased to 798 dollars. Germany is first in tourist numbers, followed by the Russian Federation, England, Bulgaria, Georgia, Holland, Iran, France, USA and Syria.

## Logistics

There are 47 airports and 174 ports-piers in Turkey. 6 of the ports are managed by the Turkish Maritime Association while the rest are managed by the Turkish State Railways. The ports managed by the Turkish State Railways are being privatized to cater to growing demands. Railway transportation in Turkey is being widespread with the fast train system. Fast train voyages are being conducted regularly on the 888 kilometer Ankara-Eskişehir and Ankara-Konya routes. Sea trade forms approximately 88% of Turkey's international trade network and Turkey is 15th in the world in terms of fleet. Turkish Airlines has been named the fifth biggest airline in Europe with 39 million guests in 2012. Turkey has the 25th biggest fleet in the world. Also, Turkey has Europe's biggest ground fleet with 45 thousand trucks and 1420 companies.

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[www.ekonomi.gov.tr](http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr)

Ministry of Economy

[www.ubak.gov.tr](http://www.ubak.gov.tr)

Ministry of Transport, Maritime  
Affairs and Communications

[www.kultur.gov.tr](http://www.kultur.gov.tr)

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

# Social Life



**Çıralı, which is located 70 kilometers to the west of Antalya, is a secret heaven nestled inside lemon and orange groves with its crystal clear sea and golden beaches. The never ending fire of Yanartaş, which is situated on the slope of a hill in Çıralı, has been burning for centuries.**

## Health System

There is a well developed and widespread health system in Turkey. There are 74 medical faculties, 68 education and research hospitals, 31 dental faculties, 19 pharmaceutical faculties, 23 health sciences faculties, 78 health higher education schools, 16 nursing faculties and health vocational high schools in Turkey. All these institutions educate health personel and serve patients. Turkish doctors study for six years and continue their education on their chosen fields after their proficiency exam. The latest development in health has come in the form of family doctors. This practice enables easy follow up on the medical conditions of individuals.

## Social Security

The social security system in Turkey has been transforming since 2006 and at the end of this transformation process, SSK (Social Insurance Institution), Bağ-Kur (Social Security Organization for Artisans and the Self-Employed) and Emekli Sandığı (Retirement Fund for Government Employees) amalgamated under the roof of a unique institution called the SGK (Social Security Institution). After this amalgamation all citizens of the Turkish Republic can receive social security. With the new institution, social security in Turkey has become more reliable and an effective system. General Health Insurance has been made mandatory as of January 1, 2012. Those who are not insured by other agencies, children above the age of 18 (above 25, if still in school), those who were uninsured for 30 days have to pay their premiums to the institution every month. Age of retirement in Turkey has been raised

by progressive stages to 60 in men and 58 in women based on their initial date of premium payments and days worked.

## Leisure and Recreation

Turkey offers infinite possibilities in resort tourism, health and thermal tourism, winter sports, nature tourism, plateau tourism, ecotourism, congress and fair tourism, cruise tourism, golf tourism and religious tourism. The spaces that include all these amenities form attractive and strong routes and alternative connections.

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[www.sgk.gov.tr](http://www.sgk.gov.tr)  
Social Security Institution

[www.saglik.gov.tr](http://www.saglik.gov.tr)  
Ministry of Health

[www.kultur.gov.tr](http://www.kultur.gov.tr)  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism



**Orhun Epigraphs, the first examples of Turkish texts, (732-735 A.D.) have been placed under protection in the Orhun Museum in Mongolia.**



**Fikret Muallâ's unnamed oil painting on canvas**



**Mevlânâ Celalettin-i Rumi has written his thoughts and ideas in Mesnevi, a six volume book, as connected stories. (11th century)**

# Culture

Natural and Cultural Protected Sites	12272
Organized Excursion sites	132
Immovable Cultural Assets	98228
Official Museums	189
Private Museums	157
Private and Public Theatres	32
Official Orchestra	26
Public Libraries	1118
2012 data	

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## Turkish Language and Literature

Orhun Epigraphs, which are written in the Göktürk alphabet, the first alphabet used by the Turks, are the first Turkish texts. Upon accepting Islam, Turks have merged their old lifestyles with Islam and have written books such as: "Divânu Lûgati't-Türk", "Kutadgu Bilig" and "Atabetü'l-Hakayık", the first examples of Turkish literature in Islam. Scholars such as Mevlânâ Celaleddin-i Rûmî, Hacı Bektaş-ı Velî, Ahî Evrân-ı Velî and Yûnus Emre, have written books about the love of God and ethics, laying the foundations of the Turkish-Islam association. İbn-i Sina, the student of Farabi, is considered one of the cornerstones of philosophy in Europe in the Middle Age and became famous with the name "Avicenna".

Modern Turkish literature includes all examples in the genre such as stories, novels, critics, poems and theatre plays. Orhan Veli Kanık, who was the founder of the "Garip" movement along with Melih Cevdet Anday and Oktay Rifat, aimed to change the basis of Turkish poetry. The internationally famed poet Nazım Hikmet Ran was one of the most important names in modern Turkish poetry. Oğuz Atay is the first person to write post-modern works in Turkish literature. Authors such as Orhan Pamuk and Elif Şafak are also considered in the post modern literature category. Atilla İlhan, who

has contributed immensely to Turkish literature, has written poems, books and is also recognized as an important journalist and critic.

## Art and Handicrafts

The history of the art of Turkish tiling dates back to the Karahanlılar, one of the first Muslim Turkish states. This proves that this art has more than a 1000 year old history. Another visual art that was developed during the Ottoman period and used in decoration is calligraphy and the art of ebru, which is paper decoration. Archeologist and artist Osman Hamdi Bey, is known as the first Turkish archeologist. Şeker Ahmet Paşa, on the other hand, is regarded as one of the cornerstones of modern Turkish painting. The paintings, articles and poems of famous artists, poet and sculptor Bedri Rahmi Eyüboğlu are filled with themes like Anatolia and the love of humanity. He is mostly known for his 50 square meter mosaic panel inside the NATO building in Paris. Fikret Muallâ, who is famous for his tragic life as well as his paintings, had taken up painting in Germany and his various artworks were published in various German magazines. He has nearly 30 İstanbul portraits that have been exhibited at the Turkish pavillion in the New York World Exhibition.

## Architecture

Turks have put great importance on religious structures after accepting Islam. Important developments occurred in architecture during the reign of the Seljuk State. In this period, Turks have constructed important buildings by merging Central Asian Turkish architecture and Islamic architecture. Mimar Sinan, who is regarded the world's most important architect, has shaped around 360 structures which included 84 mosques. Two of his works, Süleymaniye Mosque in İstanbul and Selimiye Mosque in Edirne have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.



**Orhan Pamuk has received the Nobel Literature Prize in 2006**



**Mimar Sinan, (1489-1588), his masterpiece is the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne. Breaking free of the handicaps of traditional Ottoman architecture, this mosque marks the climax of Sinan's work and of all classical Ottoman architecture.**

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**www.kultur.gov.tr**

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

**www.tdk.gov.tr**

Turkish Language Institution

**www.devtiyatro.gov.tr**

State Theatres

**www.cso.gov.tr**

The Presidential Symphony Orchestra





**İdil Biret,**  
world famous Turkish pianist



**Şefika Kutluer, the flute virtuoso,**  
also known as the “Magical Flute”



**Güher and Süher Pekinel, world famous sister pianists**

## Theatre

Muhsin Ertuğrul and Necati Cumalı are the two writers who have laid the foundations of modern Turkish theatre. Today, stage arts are performed by State theatres, municipality theatres and private theatres. In addition, world famous plays are performed all over Turkey during theatre festivals.

## Music

Music in Turkish society was performed accompanied by the rhythmic sound of the shaman drum before the acceptance of Islam. Later on, folk singers have used traditional instruments to play epic songs. The Presidential Symphony Orchestra is one of the oldest orchestras that has introduced polyphonic music in Turkey and music of Turkish artists to the world. During the Republic period, western music was regarded as priority and talented Turkish musicians were sent to European countries for education such as Ahmed Adnan Saygun, Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Cemal Reşit Rey, Hasan Ferit Alnar and Necil Kazım Akses. Saygun is the composer of the first Turkish opera and the first artist to receive the title State artist. “The Yunus Emre Oratorio” is his most famous piece. The first composer to be recognized in the West in polyphonic music is Cemal Reşit Rey. Musicians such as İdil Biret, Suna Kan, Güher and Süher Pekinel, flute virtuoso Şefika Kutluer are both pioneers in Turkey and well known around the world.

## Film

The first Turkish feature film is Metin Erksan’s “Susuz Yaz”, which received the Golden Bear Award at the 1964 Berlin Film Festival. “Uzak”, another important film in Turkish cinema, directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, received the Grand Jury Award at Cannes Film Festival in 2003. Fatih Akin’s “Gegen die Wand” (Duvara Karşı) also received the big award at the Berlin Film Festival. Ferhan Özpetek, who was a member of the jury at the 65th Venice Film Festival, has received many international awards. Fetih 1453, which is the most expensive film ever made in Turkey with a budget of 17 million dollars, describes the conquest of İstanbul. The wooden horse used in the 2004 movie Troy, is in the city of Çanakkale.

# Media



Internet Subscribers	16,6 million
Mobile Phone Subscribers	65,8 million
3G Subscribers	34,9 million
Total Yearly Circulation of Newspapers and Magazines	2,3 million
Number of Magazines in Circulation	3873
Number of Newspapers in Circulation	2905
Television Channels	1490
Radio Stations	1078
2012 data	

## Print Media

Journalism in Turkey began in 1860 with the newspaper called Tercüman-ı Ahvâl. This was followed by other newspapers which began to be published during the Turkish War of Independence. Today, the Turkish press continues its activities with daily newspapers and magazines which are distributed all over the country. The first radio in Turkey started broadcasting regularly in 1927. Television broadcasts began with the Turkish Radio and Television Institution, known as TRT. TRT, which began broadcasts nationally in 1952, are now followed by almost 1500 national, regional and local television stations. 2905 newspapers and 3873 magazines are currently being published in Turkey. Turkish radio and televisions continue their operations in harmony with the notion of free press. Private stations began broadcasting in 1990. There are nearly 20 news agencies in Turkey. The first agency is Anadolu Agency, which was established during the Turkish War of Independence. The most popular agencies are Doğan, İhlas Cihan, TGRT Haber, and Anka news agencies.



**There are 248 television stations in Turkey today**



**The front page of the Official Gazette, April 20, 1945**





## Digital Broadcasts, Communication and Information Services

Turkish users have access to cable, mobile internet, satellite, xDSL and audio and video services over the web. In Turkey, mobile broadband penetration is 12%, while this ratio is 47,5% in OECD countries. What is interesting in the broadband sector is that while xDSL subscribers are decreasing, mobile internet, fiber and cable internet subscribers are increasing. The three most popular mobile service providers in Turkey are Turkcell, Vodafone and Avea. Satellite broadcasts are relayed through a satellite dish and a receiver. There are two active satellite broadcast operators in Turkey; Digitürk (Digital Platform) and D-Smart (Doğan TV). Both are encoded and paid channels. TÜRKSAT is the only active participant in cable broadcast.

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## Support for the Media in the Turkish Constitution

According to the Turkish Constitution "The press is free and cannot be censored. The government takes all precautions to ensure freedom for press and for the people to receive news."

### Average print run of some of the most popular newspapers in Turkey

1- Zaman	1.106.461
2- Posta	443.591
3- Hürriyet	422.496
4- Sabah	317.619
5- Sözcü	278.517



Nearly 3000 newspapers are being published in Turkey

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<http://www.tk.gov.tr>  
Information Technologies and  
Communication Institute

[www.trt.net.tr](http://www.trt.net.tr)  
Turkish Radio and  
Television Institution

[des.byegm.gov.tr](http://des.byegm.gov.tr)  
Directorate General of  
Press and Information

# The Diversity of Turkey



**A balloon ride in Göreme National Park which includes amazing rock formations and spaces carved into rocks**



**Laodicea was built by Seleucid King II. Antiochus, around 3rd century B.C.**

**General view from Boshorus**



18 UNESCO has named 2013 the Year of Piri Reis, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the World Map drawn by Piri Reis, which also included the Atlantic Ocean and American shores. There are nearly 1000 cultural and natural assets in Turkey. 11 of them are already on UNESCO's World Heritage List while 37 of them are on the candidate list. The list includes Istanbul, a bridge that connects Europe and Asia, the archeological park that includes hippodrome, Ayasofya (Hagia Sofia), Aya İrini, Küçük Ayasofya Mosque and Topkapı Palace, Süleymaniye Preservation Site consisting of Süleymaniye Mosque and its vicinity and the Zeyrek Preservation Site that includes Zeyrek Mosque and its vicinity. The Zeugma archeological site in Gaziantep, Ephesus antique city in Izmir, Sümela Monastery in Trabzon, İshak Paşa Palace in Ağrı, Perge antique city in Antalya, Alanya, Kekova, Termessos National Parks, Aphrodisias antique city in Aydın, St. Pierre Church in Hatay, Bergama in Izmir, Gordion in Ankara, the Mausoleum of Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli in Nevşehir, and Mamure Castle, Alahan Monastery and St. Paul Church in Mersin are on the candidate list.



**The Celsus Library, built in 7th century B.C., is one of the symbols of Ephesus.**



**The thermal waters that flow from the travertines in Hierapolis, built by King Eumenes II, has healing qualities.**



**Amazing mosaics on display at Gaziantep Archeology Museum unearthed at Zeugma antique city**



**Sümla Monastery, built on steep cliffs around 395-365 A.D., is 1150 meters above sea level.**

## UNESCO World Heritage List

Nemrut Mountain within the borders of the city of Adıyaman's Kâhta country was built during the reign of Antiochus I. The Hierapolis (Pamukkale) antique city, which was built by Bergama king Eumenes II in 2nd century B.C., was famous for its metal and stone workmanship and cloths. It was an episcopacy center during the Byzantine period. Kastamonu, which is one of the best preserved cities in Turkey since 14th century, has been named a protected site with its traditional urban structure, wooden houses and monumental structure.

Ayasofya Museum, which was commissioned by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I between 532 and 537, was turned into a mosque by Fatih Sultan Mehmed. In terms of architecture, it is a dome basilica and is considered an important turning point in architectural history with its dome transition and support systems. Divriği Ulu Mosque, which harbors exceptional architectural characteristics as well as rich Anatolian style stone workmanship, was



**The famous map of Piri Reis, known for his contributions to naval research, life and tragic death, is being preserved at Topkapı Museum**

commissioned by Ahmet Şah and his wife Turan Melek along with the mosque between 1228 and 1229. This Islamic architecture masterpiece consists of a mosque that includes a double domed mausoleum and a hospital. Selimiye Mosque and Complex, which is Edirne's most important monumental structure, was dedicated to Sultan Selim II and built in the 16th century. The mosque and complex, which is an amazing structure with its technical perfection, size and aesthetic characteristics, is the masterpiece of Mimar Sinan and is considered one of the most magnificent structures in the world.

**Selimiye Mosque and complex, considered the most magnificent structure of its period, is the masterpiece of Mimar Sinan**



Hattusha (Çorum, Boğazköy), which was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1986, was an important center in Anatolia for centuries as the capital of the Hittite Empire. Xanthos antique city in Fethiye was the management center of Lycia in the antique age. The city, which was independent before it was invaded by Persians in 545 B.C., was completely burnt down nearly a century later. Letoon, which is four kilometers from Xanthos, was Lycia's religious center in the antique age. There are temples dedicated to Leto, Apollo and Artemis, a monastery, a fountain and a Roman theatre in this area. The 9 layers that can be observed in Troy antique city dates back 3000 years and the earliest settlement is dated back to the early Bronze Age.



**Divriği Ulu Mosque was commissioned by Ahmet Şah and his wife Turan Melek and built between 1228 and 1229.**



**Troy dated back to 3000 B.C.**



**Hattusha, the capital of the Hittite Empire was burnt down by King Anitta around 1700 B.C.**



**Xanthos and Letoon, which were built in 7th century B.C., were added to the UNESCO's world heritage list in 1988.**







**The painting depicting the Bodrum mausoleum**



**The remains of the mausoleum are exhibited at the Bodrum Museum**



**Column base with bas relief and carvings on display at the British Museum**

**The most important artifacts displayed at the İzmir Efes Museum are the Artemis cult statues and valuable gifts left at the temple.**

## Seven Wonders of the World

Two of the seven wonders in the world are in Turkey: "The Bodrum Mausoleum" and "The Ephesus Artemis Temple."

### Bodrum Mausoleum

When Halicarnassos, Bodrum today, became the capital of the Caria region in 353 B.C., the Bodrum mausoleum was built to honor King Mausollos by his sister and wife.

### The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus

The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus was built in 550 B.C. by the order of Lydian King Croesus and dedicated to Artemis. It is believed that the temple, which includes bronze and marble statues created by famous artists, consisted of 100 columns which were 90 meters high and 45 meters wide. Only a single column has survived to this date. Valuable artifacts unearthed during excavations at the temple in the 19th century are displayed at the British Museum.

**The Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the world, was built in 7th century B.C. The temple, made with marble blocks was used as a marketplace and a religious site. Only a single column remains from the temple today.**



## Thermal Centers and Spas

Turkey, which is located on an important thermal zone, is first in Europe and seventh in the world in terms of thermal resources. Sandıklı in Afyonkarahisar, Kızılcahamam in Ankara, Karamustafa Paşa and Oylat in Bursa, Gönen in Balıkesir, Balçova in İzmir, Balıklı Çermik in Sivas, Diyadin in Ağrı, Ziga in Aksaray, Çiftehane in Niğde and Ezine Kestanbol hot springs in Çanakkale are popular thermal centers. Hot springs and thermal waters are used in alternative treatments. Each year, thousands of local and foreign tourists visit these spas and stay at nearby hotels. There are different thermal centers with different characteristics and the waters in these centers are used in the treatment of skin conditions, rheumatism, gastrointestinal diseases and urinary tract infections.



**Sivas Kangal Balıklı Çermik Hot Springs are located 1425 meters above sea level.**



**The temperature of the water at Yalova Hot Springs is between 57 and 73 degrees centigrade.**

**Bursa Oylat Thermal spa**



**The temperature of the Yozgat Sarıkaya Hot Spring, 1115 meters above sea level, is between 44 and 47 degrees centigrade.**



**Ezine Kestanbol Hot Springs in Çanakkale. Water temperature is 78 °C at the source**



**Hüdai Hot Springs in the country of Sandıklı in Afyonkarahisar are famous for their mud baths. Treatment continues in these hot springs since early Christianity.**



**The most important settlements of the Olympos-Beydağları National Park are Phaselis (Tekirova) and Olympos, which were built in 7th century B.C. as part of the Rhodes Colony.**



**Termessos National Park was built on Güllük Mountain. Termessos first came on the historical scene after Alexander the Great passed by the region in 334 B.C.**

## Natural Parks

There are many endemic plants and animals in Turkey, a country which experiences all four seasons. Greenery which is preserved to protect nature and lakes that are located on migration paths of birds increase this diversity. There are 40 natural and historical national parks in Turkey. Some of these parks have been named national parks because of their historical importance and some because of their geological structure and flora and fauna. National parks are constantly being monitored by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.



**The Artvin Hatila Valley is a unique place with its interesting geological and geomorphic structure and unique plant groups.**



**Saklıkent Canyon in Muğla, Antalya has steep slopes and is 1100 meters above sea level**



**You can watch the growing bird population in April, May and June in one of the observation towers at Balıkesir Manyas Bird Paradise.**

# Adana at a Glance



## Adana's Basic Indicators

**Size (based on inhabitants)** / Turkey's 5th largest province

**Adana's foreign trade volume** / 4,96 billion \$

**Adana's export** / 1,91 billion \$

**Adana's import** / 3,05 billion \$

**Socioeconomic development index** / 16th  
(among 81 provinces)

**The share of Adana in Turkey's GDP** / 3,3%

**Its share in vegetative production** / 3,65%

**Unemployment rate, yearly-average** / 10,6%

**Inflation (Consumer Price Index)** / 5,82%  
2012 data



**Hüseyin Avni COŞ,**  
**The Governor of Adana**



**The Governorship Building**





Map showing location of the city of Adana in Turkey

## Geography

**Surface Area** / 14.045,56 km<sup>2</sup>

**Neighboring cities** / Hatay, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Niğde, Mersin

**Biggest counties and their population** /

Seyhan: 764.714, Yüreğir:420.929, Çukurova: 340.473, Ceyhan: 158.767, Sarıçam: 132.926, Kozan: 127.926

**Highest Mountain** / Demirkazık Hill with 3756 meters, Aladağlar

**Rivers** / Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers

**Lakes** / Çatalan Dam Lake, Seyhan Dam Lake, Ağyatan and Akyatan lagoons, Yumurtalık lagoons

**Surface** / Mountainous in the north, plains in the south

**Climate** / In the center and shores, the weather is hot and dry in the summer and warm and rainy during the winter. In areas farther away from the sea, terrestrial climate is dominant.



General view of Seyhan River which flows through the city of Adana

## Population and Demography

**Inhabitants /** 2.125.635

**Yearly population growth /** 7,98‰

**Population of the city and county centers/**  
1.886.624

**Population density /** 153 people/ km<sup>2</sup>

**Urbanization rate /** 88,76%

**Net immigration speed /** -6,27‰

**Unemployment rate, yearly-average /** 10,6%  
2012 data

Adana, which is the fifth largest province in Turkey based on inhabitants, has a young population. Urbanization rate and inhabitants density is above Turkey's average. This young population that is concentrated in the urban area forms a big potential for growth. Yearly population growth has decreased compared to last year and is below Turkey's average. Between 2011 and 2012, 45.927 people have immigrated to Adana while 59.294 people have emigrated.



**The Adana Folk Dance troop  
performing a dance called “Çiftetelli”**



**The seal from the early bronze age that was unearthed at the Misis-Tatarlı Tumulus, an important religious center of the Hittite state in Cilicia.**

# History

## **The oldest civilizations in Adana**

1900 B.C.: Luwian Kingdom  
1500 B.C.: Arzawa Kingdom  
1900-1190 B.C.: Hittite Kingdom  
1190-713 B.C.: Kue Kingdom  
713-663 B.C.: Assyria Kingdom  
663-612 B.C.: Cilicia Kingdom  
612-333 B.C.: Persian Satrap  
333-323 B.C.: Hellenistic Period  
312-133 B.C.: Seleucid Period  
178-112 B.C.: Pirates  
112 B.C.- 395 A.D.: Roman Period  
638: Conquest of the Umayyad  
700-800: Abbasi rule  
900-1000: Byzantine rule

## **Turkish rule**

1000-1100: Seljuk rule  
1377-1510: Ramazanoğulları, Ottoman and Memlûklular Period  
1516: Adana is conquered by İbrahim Paşa and affiliated with Egypt  
1840: Adana is given back to the Ottoman state after the London Accord  
1867: The establishment of the Province of Adana  
1871: The establishment of the Adana Municipality

## **Recent History**

18 December 1918: Enemy forces officially invade Adana  
20 December 1921: The signing of the Ankara Accord with occupying states  
5 January 1922: Adana is freed from enemy occupation  
1956: Opening of the Seyhan Dam and Hydroelectric Plant  
5 June 1986: Adana Municipality becomes a Metropolitan Municipality and the establishment of Seyhan and Yüreğir counties

## The History of Adana

The name “Adana” comes from “Adania and Danuna” back in 1550 B.C. and the name hasn't changed throughout history. Byzantinian Historian Stefan (Etien) writes that the city of Adana was built by two brothers named “Adanos and Saros” and that Adanos gave his name to the city while Saros gave his name to the river. Archeological findings in the region have unearthed settlements that date back to the Paleolithic Age. The Tepebağ Tumulus was built in the Neolithic Age and is believed to be the oldest city in the Çukurova region.

Adana has been home to the Luwian, Arzawa, Hittite, Hue, Assyria, Cilicia, Persian, Hellenistic, Seleucid, Byzantine, Armenian, Memluk, Seljuk and Ottoman states since 2000 B.C. Adana, which was occupied in 1918, defeated its enemies in 1920. The Ottoman rule ended in the beginning of 1921 and gave way for the TBMM Government. After Adana was freed in January 5, 1922, the province was moved from Pozanti to Adana.



**The Misis Mosaic was made by the Romans in 4th century A.D.**



**Hittite bas relief, Hittite King II. Muvattali, 1310-1285 B.C.**



**Sacred bowls from the early bronze age that were unearthed during the excavations at Misis**



**Anawarza mosaic. It is believed that the Anawarza Castle and city were built by the Assyrians in 9th century B.C, or that it was rebuilt on top of an older settlement.**



## Artifacts in the Adana Archeology Museum

Adana has a very rich history that dates back 4000 years. There are a total of 43500 artifacts on display at the museum from the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze, Hittite, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods. There are marble and limestone statues and bas relief tombstones in the museum. The most important artifacts among these are the “God Tarhunda on a chariot” statue, “the Aphrodite statue” and the sarcophagus. On one of the long sides of the sarcophagus is a bas relief that depicts Hector’s dead body being returned to Troy in exchange for ransom; on the right, a depiction of King Priamos pleading with Achilles and dragons in the background.



**The statue of Roman Emperor Augustus on display at the museum, 27 B.C. – 14 A.D.**



**There are figures from the War of Troy on a sarcophagus dating back to 2nd century A.D. in the museum.**

**Medusa bas relief on a sarcophagus on display at the Adana Archeology Museum.**



**The statue of Roman Emperor Hadrian on display at the museum which was built in 1924 in the county of Seyhan.**



**Tarhunda, the God on a Chariot, from 800 B.C., belonging to the Hittite Period. Found in Çineköy.**

## The liberation of Adana on January 5, 1922

On August 5, 1920, Mustafa Kemal, Fevzi Çakmak and the TBMM members came to Pozantı and made the district the city center. On November 1920, the French Government officially recognized the Turkish TBMM Government. After the signing of the Ankara Accord in 1921, occupying states entirely left in 1922. This is when the city center was moved to Adana.



The 7mx15m Turkish flag that was carried around the streets of Adana to celebrate the liberation of Adana on January 5, 1922.

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[www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr](http://www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr)  
Adana Archeology Museum Directorate

[www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr](http://www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr)  
Adana Misis Mosaic Museum



# Municipality



**Zihni ALDIRMAZ,**  
Acting Mayor of Adana  
Metropolitan Municipality

## **Metropolitan Municipality Acting Mayor:**

Zihni ALDIRMAZ

(As of June 17, 2010)

**Metropolitan Municipality Council:** Consists of 35 elected members from various walks of life such as craftsmen, farmers, merchants, architects, engineers, sociologists, bankers, lawyers, tourism professionals, teachers, businessmen and retirees.



The old Municipality building which hosts the Adana Metropolitan Municipality Theatre and the 75.yıl Art Gallery.



### Political parties that represent Adana in the TBMM and the number of seats:

Justice and Development Party	: 6 ●●●●●●
Republican People's Party	: 4 ●●●●
Nationalist Movement Party	: 3 ●●●
Independent members of the TBMM	: 1 ●

## Adana Metropolitan Municipality

The Adana Metropolitan Municipality was established in 1989 and consists of three bodies; Metropolitan Council, Mayor and Municipal Committee. The Metropolitan Council, headed by acting Mayor Zihni ALDIRMAZ, consists of elected members and is the final decision making body of the organization.

## Non Governmental Organizations

In the city of Adana, all chambers and commodity exchanges under the roof of TOBB; such as the Adana Chamber of Commerce (ATO), Adana Chamber of Industry (ADASO) and the Adana Commodity Exchange (ATB) are the strongest NGOs. ATO, which was established in 1894 to regulate and monitor cotton trade, is one of the oldest trade chambers in Turkey.

Today, ATO has more than 25000 members. ADASO is one of the top organizations which support social and cultural activities in the city while working to improve the economy of the city. ATB was established in 1913 and is responsible for regulating safe trade of agricultural products and farm animals. The chamber has more than 1400 members.

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[www.adana.gov.tr](http://www.adana.gov.tr)  
Governorship of Adana

[www.adana-bld.gov.tr](http://www.adana-bld.gov.tr)  
Adana Metropolitan  
Municipality

[www.adana-to.org.tr](http://www.adana-to.org.tr)  
Adana Chamber  
of Commerce

[www.adaso.org.tr](http://www.adaso.org.tr)  
Adana Chamber of Industry

[www.adanatb.org.tr](http://www.adanatb.org.tr)  
Adana Commodity Exchange





**Navel type oranges which originate from California**



**18% of Turkey's total watermelon production comes from the Adana-Ceyhan district.**

# Agriculture

Agricultural production value / **4,61 billion TL**

The share of vegetative production value in Turkey / **3,7%**

The share of live stock and animal products value in Turkey / **1,3%**

The share of soy production in Turkey / **first with 69%**

The share of peanut production in Turkey /**first with 41%**

The share of citrus production in Turkey / **28%**

The share of corn production in Turkey / **28%**

The share of watermelon in Turkey / **18%**

The share of cotton production in Turkey / **12%**

2011 data

Çukurova, which is the world's third biggest plain, after California in the US and Po in Italy, will be the world's most important granary in the future. The Çukurova Region, where Adana is in the center, is a region where poly-cultural agriculture is widespread thanks to the fruitful lands enriched by the alluviums carried by Seyhan, Ceyhan and Berdan rivers and agreeable weather conditions. The total agricultural land in Adana is 539.000 hectares. 82,6% is fields, 8% is reserved for fruit and 6,9% is reserved for vegetable production. Irrigated agriculture is applied in 40% of the fields. Adana's most important agricultural products, in terms of shares in Turkey, are; soy, corn, peanut, citrus, watermelon, cotton, wheat and honey. Total vegetable production in Adana has increased by 27,8% between 2005 and 2011 while fruit production has increased by 10,2% in the same period. Adana has a 5% share in all of Turkey's vegetable production and 5,7% in fruit production. The biggest share in agricultural production in Adana goes to watermelon, with a share of 77, 9%.



More than two thirds of Turkey's entire soy production originates from Adana. The share of peanuts is around 40-45%. 28% of corn and citrus in the entire country comes from Adana while the share of cotton in this regard is 12%.

**Turkey exports 31% of all tangerine productions, 23% of orange productions and 12% of its entire grapefruit productions. Adana is one of the cities that produces the majority of oranges, tangerines and grapefruits.**



**In the past, Adana produced the majority of cotton in Turkey but ever since cotton fields were replaced with fruit orchards and fields where corn, soy and peanuts are grown, only 12% of the entire cotton production is now realized in Adana.**

**There are 17 stock farming facilities that has more than 200 cattles and 10 milk production facilities in Adana.**



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[www.adanatarim.gov.tr](http://www.adanatarim.gov.tr)  
Provincial Directorate of Food,  
Agriculture and Livestock



# Economy

## Adana's important macroeconomic indices

The share of Adana's economy within

Turkey's gross domestic product / **3,3%**

The foreign trade volume of Adana / **4,96 billion \$**

Exports of Adana / **1,91 billion \$**

Increase rate of exports compared to 2011 /  
**9,02%**

Imports of Adana / **3,05 billion \$**

Increase rate of imports compared to 2011 /  
**2,41%**

Inflation(Consumer Price Index), / **5,82%**  
2012 data



**Botaş Port is located in Yumurtalık  
as the world's 5th biggest energy  
distribution center.**



**The loading and unloading capacity  
of the Yumurtalık Free Zone Port is  
40.000 tons per day.**

In recent national strategic documents, the region of Çukurova is being named as an alternative to the Marmara basin in terms of development and a metropolitan attraction center. Energy investments that are being planned in the Ceyhan Energy-Specialised Industrial Zone have accelerated thanks to the regulation in incentives by the Ministry of Economy. In addition, the positive developments in exporting in 2012, the planned refinery, shipyards, petrochemical industry and flat iron production, have taken the region one step closer to making Adana a center of investments in energy.

There are also positive developments at the Adana Hacı Sabancı Organized Industrial Zone, which realizes 750 million dollars worth of exports every year and is considered the admiral ship of Adana's economy. The 277 firms that are operational at the zone are very important for the economy of the city. 56 of them are textile companies and make up the majority of the zone. This is followed by 39 companies in the metal industry, 30 in the food industry, 23 firms in plastic production. 22 firms in construction materials, 18 firms in chemical products, 13 firms in the paper industry, 13 firms in the furniture sector, 12 firms in the petrol products industry, 8 firms from the

machinery sector, 6 firms from the casting, 6 firms from the painting sector, 6 firms from the financial sector, 5 firms in the electricity sector, 5 firms in the storage sector, 4 firms in the packaging sector, 4 firms in the seeding sector, 4 firms from the transportation sector, and 3 firms from the glass industry. The textile sector has a 20% share, the metal sector has 14% share and the food sector has an 11% share in terms of number of companies in the zone.



## Investment incentives

During the January – October 2012 period, Adana was the second province in Turkey in terms of investment incentives with a total of 2,74 billion TL worth of investments. 87% of the investments were made in the energy sector. Adana is the number one province in Turkey when it comes to energy investments. This corresponds to 23% of the total investments in Turkey regarding energy.

**Adana Şakirpaşa Airport, which is only 3,5 kilometers from Adana city center and 69 kilometers from Mersin, has one composite runway and a 13 airplane capacity apron, has increased its passenger capacity to 5 million a year with the addition of the international terminal.**

## Workforce

If we were to look at unemployment numbers in Adana, the ratio of unemployed people had risen to 22% in 2009 due to the global economic crisis but this number has finally decreased to 10,6% in 2012. Rate of employment has risen to 46,4% in 2011, surpassing Turkey's average.

## Transportation Infrastructure

The Çukurova International Airport, which will be Turkey's second biggest airport after completion, will contribute greatly to the region's economy. Transportation opportunities in the city of Adana increase the economy and the competitive power of the city in foreign trade. Highway transportation is the main transportation method inside the city. The distributions of agricultural products, which are crucial to the city's economy, are carried mainly through highways. Important corridors between production centers and markets pass through the city. The total highway length in the city is 5597 kilometers, including village roads. Motorway length has increased since 2008, reaching 154 kilometers. Railway length is 183 kilometers and hasn't changed much since its establishment. In sea transportation, Adana has the Botaş Port and the Toros Adana Yumurtalık Free Zone (TAYSEB) Port. The TAYSEB Port can accommodate 9 ships at a time, including very large ships.

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[www.ekonomi.gov.tr](http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr)  
The Ministry of Economy

[adana.sanayi.gov.tr](http://adana.sanayi.gov.tr)  
Provincial Directorate of Science, Industry and Technology

[www.hazine.gov.tr](http://www.hazine.gov.tr)  
Undersecretariat of Treasury

[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)  
Turkish Statistical Institute

[www.cka.org.tr](http://www.cka.org.tr)  
Çukurova Development Agency

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)  
The EU Statistics Office (Eurostat)

[www.iso.org.tr](http://www.iso.org.tr)  
Istanbul Chamber of Industry

[www.adana-to.org.tr](http://www.adana-to.org.tr)  
Adana Chamber of Commerce

[www.adaso.org.tr](http://www.adaso.org.tr)  
Adana Chamber of Industry

[www.adanatb.org.tr](http://www.adanatb.org.tr)  
Adana Commodity Exchange

### Distribution of foreign investments according to countries

Country	Number of Companies
Germany	46
USA	21
Iraq	19
Syria	17
Holland	11
Italy	7
Spain	7
England	7
Israel	6
Other	74

Data, December 31st, 2011

### Culture and Sports Organizations

Adana is a city of festivals. It hosts festivals such as "The Altın Koza Film Festival", "Sabancı International Theatre Festival", "Adana International Aeronautics Festival", and the "International Çukurova Art Days". Adana has become one of our country's most important art centers with the Metropolitan Municipality and Seyhan Municipality City Theatre, Adana State Theatre, Hacı Ömer Sabancı Cultural Center Fine Art Gallery, AFAD - Kasım Gülek Art Gallery, Adana Metropolitan Municipality 75. Yıl Art Gallery and the Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra.

### Top 500 Industrial Companies

If we look at the first and second 500 biggest companies in Turkey, the report compiled by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry, we can see that in 2011, 11

### Companies that have made it to the first 500 in Turkey

1. Sasa Polyester San. A.Ş.
2. Temsa Global San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
3. Beyteks Tekstil San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
4. Marsa Yağ San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
5. Elita Gıda San. ve Tic. Ltd. Şti.
6. Artenius Turkpet Kimyevi Maddeler ve Pet Ambalaj Malzemeleri San. A.Ş.
7. Bossa Tic. Ve San. İşletmeleri T.A.Ş.
8. Adana Çimento Sanayii T.A.Ş.
9. Güney Çelik Hasır ve Demir Mamulleri San. Tic. A.Ş.
10. Wavin TR Plastik Sanayi A.Ş.
11. Özmaya Sanayi A.Ş.

firms from Adana have made it to the first 500 and 17 companies have made it to the second 500. The majority of the companies are from the agriculture-food, textile and chemical sectors.

### The Role of Small and Mid Size Companies in Economy

Small and mid size companies are important factors in dynamic economies because they can answer needs quickly and turn innovative ideas into new products. In Adana, these companies are crucial in establishing new business fields. This in turn, creates a more competitive environment and sizeable revenues. These companies are also important when it comes to employment. Between the years 1950 and 1990, the economy of Adana was based on large companies. As a matter of fact, between the years 1968 and 1980, 12 companies from Adana were in the top 100 biggest firms in Turkey. While Adana was 6th in Turkey in terms of companies, 5th in terms of employment and 4th in terms of the scope of firms in Turkey, a transition occurred in the scale and number of companies in the 1990's. This resulted in the decrease of large companies and increase in small and mid size companies, especially in sectors such as service, production and tourism. Adana is an ideal tourism city with its undiscovered treasures, authentic and traditional but modern and comfortable nature and rich cultural heritage.



## Tourism in Adana and the Mediterranean Games

Adana is the cultural capital of Cilicia with 297 archeological, urban and natural protected sites and 682 immovable cultural assets. The Çukurova Delta, which consists of the Akyatan Lagoon, Yumurtalık Lagoons and the Tuzla, Ağyatan lagoons which were put under protection, is important for the observation of water birds and sea turtles. Aladağlar National Park, which includes the highest peaks of the Taurus Mountains, is one of the most interesting places in Turkey in terms of geology. The Glacier Lakes at 3000 meters and the 50 meter waterfalls at 700 meters are important mountaineering and ecotourism destinations. Adana is a heaven when it comes to plateau tourism. Health tourism and gastronomy are the strongest areas in Adana's tourism. Adana serves quality health tourism to all foreign visitors with its accumulation in the health sector which was reshaped with new investments. The tourism and hotel sector is developing in Adana and offer employment. Both these sectors are improving with newly built hotels on both sides of Seyhan River. The number of quality beds will increase with the completion of 4 and 5 star hotels with tourism certificates. The canoe, rowing and handball competitions within the scope of the 17th Mediterranean Games, which were organized in Mersin and Adana between June 20 and 30, were held in Adana and this has created an important economical activity in the region.

## Foreign Capital Investments

215 companies with foreign capital are operational in Adana. 21% of these companies are from Germany, 10% from the USA, 9% from Iraq, 8% from Syria and 5% from Holland. Adana is 10th in Turkey in terms of companies with foreign capital. In 2011, Adana has climbed to the fourth spot in Turkey after Izmir, Mersin and Aydın regarding foreign capital with a 12,4% increase. 39% of companies with foreign capital operating in Adana work in the wholesale market, 25% in manufacturing, 9% in agriculture, 7% in construction, 4% in real estate and 4% in the mining sector.

## Foreign Trade

In 2012, Adana has increased its exports by 3% and has become the city that has increased its exports

the most. The majority of exports come from the manufacturing sector, with 85%. Adana mainly exports its products to Iraq, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, France, USA, Syria, China and Holland and receives imports mainly from Canada, Guatemala, South Africa, Germany, Panama, Somalia, Mauritania, Turkmenistan and Russia.

### Countries and Exports, Export Volumes

#### Top Ten Countries in Export

Country	Export (dollar)
Iraq	325.731.018
Germany	188.044.323
Italy	96.230.633
Russian Federation	94.653.882
Spain	87.332.817
France	82.436.342
USA	44.162.909
Syria	42.938.780
China	42.839.299
Holland	41.447.524

#### Top Ten Countries in Import

Country	Import (dollar)
Canada	563.532.055
Kocaeli Industrial Zone	307.596.039
Guatemala	268.156.338
Italy	145.833.859
South Africa	143.181.909
Antalya Industrial Zone	139.336.121
Germany	118.313.511
Panama	114.394.804
Somali	110.795.347
Mauritania	75.368.327
Turkmenistan	70.459.703
Russian Federation	67.704.960
Data 2011	



# Education

Number of Schools/Institutions	1.008
Number of Classrooms	12.775
Number of Students	460.740
Number of Teachers	21.638
Student per Classroom	
Primary Education	37
Secondary Education	32
Vocational and Technical Education	45
2013 data	

## Mandatory Basic Education

Mandatory basic education, which was previously regulated as 5 years of primary school followed by three years of secondary school, has been changed to 4 years of primary school, four years of secondary school and 4 years of high school, making mandatory education 12 years.

## Primary and Secondary Education

In the 2011-2012 school year, student numbers per teacher in primary education was 20 in Turkey, while this number was 22 in Adana. Also, the number of students per teacher in secondary education in Turkey during the same period was 16 in Turkey and was 17 in Adana.

Classrooms consist of classes between 32 and 37 students in primary and secondary education. There are approximately 460740 students, 1008 schools and 21638 teachers.

## Vocational and Technical Education

Classrooms in Adana, where there are 46114 students and 2690 teachers, consist of 45 students on average. Vocational and technical education was designed as a system that could provide qualified employees for the business sector. Students who graduate from these schools are given diploma supplements and/or sufficiency certificates as per their chosen fields.

## Universities

There are two state universities in Adana; Çukurova University and Adana Science and Technology University. New foundation universities will be established in the city after the appropriate law was passed in the TBMM. According to the regulation, the Kanuni University will be established in Adana.

There are 12 faculties, 4 tertiary schools, 13 vocational tertiary schools, one state conservatory, 3 institutes and 25 research and application centers at Çukurova University. There were 40709 students and 1599 academic personnel at the university during the 2011-2012 educational year. 36663 of the students were at graduate and undergraduate levels and 4046 of them were post graduate and doctorate students. In addition, 9786 new students registered in the university during the same period while 6369 students graduated.

The Adana Science and Technology University is a state university that was established in 2011. It has nine faculties; engineering and natural sciences, aviation and space sciences, nautical, fine arts, design and architecture, sociology, law, business management and tourism, foreign languages college, social sciences institute and science institute.

The ratio of university graduates in Adana compared to the total of university graduates in Turkey is 1,32%.



**Çukurova University was established in 1973 on hills that overlook the Seyhan Dam Lake in the town of Balcalı. The Balcalı Hospital is the region's largest hospital.**

W

[www.meb.gov.tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr)

Ministry of National Education

[www.osym.gov.tr](http://www.osym.gov.tr)

Student Selection  
and Placement Center

[www.adana.meb.gov.tr](http://www.adana.meb.gov.tr)

Provincial Directorate  
of National Education

[www.cu.edu.tr](http://www.cu.edu.tr)

Çukurova University

[www.adanabtu.edu.tr](http://www.adanabtu.edu.tr)

Adana Science and  
Technology University

# Science and Research



**Research works at bioengineering and equipment engineering**



**Genetic works at the food analysis lab**

26	Research and Application Centers
6	Institutes
2	Universities
23	Faculties
5	Tertiary Schools
13	Vocational Tertiary Schools
1.599	Academic Personnel
40.709	University Students

2011-2012 Education Year Data

## Science and Research

Science and research activities in Adana are carried out at 25 research centers at Çukurova University and the labs in Adana Science and Technology University. Besides universities and research centers, the Eastern Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute and the Çukurova Agricultural Enterprise have been carrying out important research projects for vegetative and animal products.

## Research Centers Affiliated with Çukurova University

25 research centers at Çukurova University mainly operate in the fields of medicine and agriculture. The others are centers that work on machine design, space sciences and solar energy, career management, family management, biotechnology, environmental issues, archeology, Turkology and Atatürk Ideals and Reforms History.

## The Eastern Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute

The Eastern Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute continues its activities in the county of Yüreğir in Adana on vegetative and animal

products. In the institute, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, projects of TÜBİTAK, the Ministry of Development and foreign supported projects regarding field plants, tea, pasture plants, information and agricultural mechanization are being carried out.

## Çukurova Agricultural Enterprise

The Çukurova Agricultural Enterprise, which is affiliated with the General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises, a public corporation, continues its productions in the county of Ceyhan in Adana on a 42.830 decares land.



**In 75% of the lands where wheat is grown in the Çukurova region and in the 15% of the entire lands in Turkey, seeds developed by the Eastern Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute are used.**



**Seminars on sunflower production are conducted by Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock personnel at the Çukurova Agricultural Enterprise**



**Even though the institution was engaged in breeding horses, donkeys and sheep ever since its establishment, it only continues its operations in milking with a special breed of cattle**

W

[www.cu.edu.tr](http://www.cu.edu.tr)  
Çukurova University

[www.adanabtu.edu.tr](http://www.adanabtu.edu.tr)  
Adana Science and Technology University

[www.cukurovataem.gov.tr](http://www.cukurovataem.gov.tr)  
The Eastern Mediterranean  
Agricultural Research Institute

[www.tigem.gov.tr](http://www.tigem.gov.tr)  
General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises





**People buying books at the Adana TÜYAP Book Fair**



**Çukurova University's Medical Faculty Balcalı Hospital has proved that it is one of the highest quality hospitals in Turkey with the "Joint Commission International" certificate it has received.**

## Social Life

Inhabitants	2.125.635
Yearly population growth rate	7,98%
Population density	153 people/km2
Population in city and county centers	1.886.624
Urbanization rate	88,76%
Net immigration	-13.367
Net immigration rate	-6,27%
The ratio of college and faculty graduates compared to population 15 and above:	9,7%
2012 data	

## Population

In 2012, the population of Adana has increased by 16380 people compared to 2011. Yearly population growth rate has decreased compared to last year, reached 7,98% and was below Turkey's average. Urbanization rate and population density are above Turkey's average. Adana, which is Turkey's 5th largest city in terms of population, has a young population that is centered in urban areas. This young population is an important potential for Adana.

## Health

Health services in Adana are provided by a total of 25 hospitals; two of them university hospitals, 11 private hospitals and 12 state hospitals. These institutions educate personnel, provide health services and also cater to the needs of foreign tourists who come to Adana through health tourism. In addition, there are many health institutions and medical centers. Between the years 2000-2010, the number of total hospital beds in Adana have increased by 65%, reaching 5918. The newly introduced family doctor application is being successfully carried out in Adana. With this application, tracking the health conditions of individuals has become easier and faster.

## Leisure and Recreation

Green areas, parks and water banks are ideal places for weekend getaways. People usually frequent the Seyhan Dam Lake. This large lake, surrounded by trees, is an ideal place for a picnic. Merkez Park next to the Seyhan River has a large park area close to the city. The Adana Archeology and Ethnography Museum, Atatürk House and Museum, Bebekli Church, Ulu Mosque, Yağ Mosque, Ramazanoğlu Mansion, Clock Tower, Tepebağ houses, Sinema Museum, Sıra Mansions and Gazipaşa Elementary School are other important structures in the city center. Karataş, Tuzla and Ağyatan lagoons, just 30 minutes from the city and the Yumurtalık ve Akyatan lagoons, 45 minutes from the city, have great courses for watching aquatic birds and endemic plants. During the summer, Yumurtalık (Ayas) and Karataş shores are ideal for swimming. Those in the city can go canoeing at Seyhan Dam Lake, sail, take a boat ride or fish. Sabancı Merkez Mosque, Merkez Park, Atatürk Park, bridges above Seyhan River and many other historical and natural spots are other weekend destinations.



**Mountain biking races at Adana Old Dam**



**Adana Seyhan Dam Lake and its vicinity is one of the places where the people of Adana spend time in nature during the weekends.**

### W

[www.csgeb.gov.tr](http://www.csgeb.gov.tr)

Ministry of Labor and Social Security (ÇSGB)

[www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com](http://www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com)

ÇSGB Regional Directorate

[www.saglik.gov.tr](http://www.saglik.gov.tr)

Ministry of Health

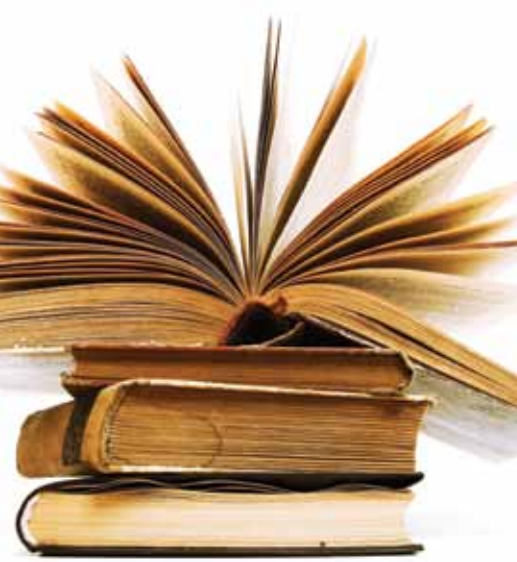
Provincial Directorate of Health

[www.iskur.gov.tr](http://www.iskur.gov.tr)

Regional Directorate of Labor and  
Employment Relations Institution

[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)

Turkish Statistical Institute  
Regional Directorate



# Culture

Number of libraries	17
Number of theatres	3
Number of orchestras	1
Number of museums	11
Number of art galleries	7
Number of festivals	10
2012 Data	

## Cultural Development and Art

The first city theatre to be established in Adana is the Adana City Theatre, which was built by Ziya Paşa in 1880. The State Theatres Adana Branch has been performing since 1981. As for classical music, the most important orchestra is the Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra performs every Friday night and Saturday morning at the Metropolitan Municipality Concert Hall.

**The Metropolitan Municipality Concert Hall where plays and oncerts are performed**



## Authors and Poets from Adana

### Yaşar Kemal and His Book: İnce Memed

Yaşar Kemal (Kemal Sadık Gökçeli) was born in 1923 in the village of Hemite. He became internationally famous after writing İnce Memed in 1955. The book was nominated for a Nobel Prize. The novel describes the ignorance of Anatolian people during the first years of the Turkish Republic and the poverty in villages. The novel is about the story of Memed, who rebels against the rulers in villages.



**Yaşar Kemal is the first Turkish author to be nominated for a Nobel Prize**

### Karacaoğlan and His Poems

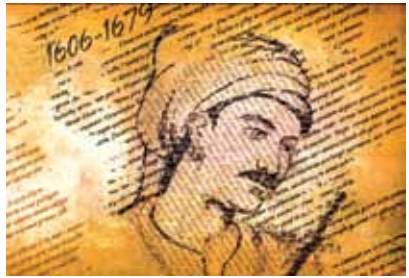
Karacaoğlan lived in the 17th century. It is believed that he lived in either Kozan or Feke. His place of birth and place of death is still unknown. According to the accounts of Hoca Hamdi Efendi, he died in the Cezel Plateau at the age of 96. His poems talks about the traditions of nomads and nature. Karacaoğlan has transformed Turkish poetry with his unique style. His Turkish works have a clear and simple tone. He has inspired many poets in the 17th and 18th century, as well as poets in the Republic period. Over 500 of his poems have been published.



**“Sabancı International Theatre Festival” is organized every year and is the only international festival that lasts for a month**

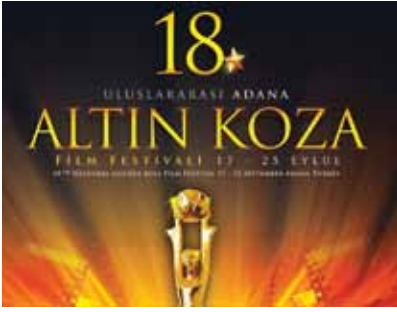
### Theatre and Festivals

The Sabancı International Theatre Festival is being organized since 1998 by the Sabancı Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and State Theatres. Many national and international troops perform during the festival. The annual festival, which is the only festival that lasts for an entire month, is followed by nearly 60000 people. While the plays were being performed only in Adana until 2005, some of the plays are now being performed at the Istanbul Sabancı University Entertainment Hall since 2005. So far, the festival has hosted 67 theatre troops and 5000 artists from countries such as Spain, Slovakia, Ireland, France, Bulgaria, Greece, England, The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Japan, Germany, Serbia, Russia, Australia, Italy, USA, Romania, Egypt, Switzerland, Denmark, Israel, Slovenia, Poland, Georgia, Moldova, Korea, Macedonia and the Netherlands. A total of 525 plays were staged during the festival. The festival, which welcomes guests from all over Turkey,



**Karacaoğlan, who lived in the 17th century, has transformed Turkish poetry.**





The logo of the “Altın Koza” International Film Festival



Famous Turkish actress Fatma GİRİK received the Best Actress Award at the first film festival for her role in the movie “Ezo Gelin”



The poster of the festival organized to commemorate a member of the Adana Photography Amateurs Association

receives more than 60 thousand viewers each year. The festival this year began on March 27 with a play by Italian theatre troop “Studio Festi”. The show, prepared especially for the 15th anniversary of the festival by Italian, German, Turkish and French troops, included giant platforms on Seyhan River that depicted the fruitful lands of Çukurova, cotton fields, sunflowers and orange groves. The second part of the show was the stage for an amazing light and water show, accompanied by musician Can Attila’s traditional Anatolian music concert.

## Adana International Aeronautical Games Festival

The festival, which took place on May 18-20, 2012, is the only festival in Turkey for very light engine airplanes.

## Film Festivals

Altın Koza Film Festival has become an important platform in the movie sector which welcomes movies and artists from all over the world. The festival, which symbolizes Çukurova’s cotton, was first organized in 1969 by the Municipality of Adana and the Adana Cinema Club. The festival, which is also sponsored by the Turkish Film Archive today, is one of the most important cultural activities in Turkey. The Altın Koza Culture and Art Festival has also increased importance for Turkish cinema by organizing the First National Feature Film Competition in 1992. The festival also showcases paintings, theatre plays, music and photography works. The festival, which continues to be organized since 2005, is now an international event with the addition of programs such as World Cinema, Mediterranean Films and the International Mediterranean Countries Short Film Competition.

## Music and Adana Suna Kan

Suna Kan, whose talent was discovered at a very early age and dubbed the wonder kid, is regarded as the best violin virtuoso in Turkey. She worked as a soloist at the Presidential Symphony Orchestra for many years. She was born in Adana in 1936 and has been a state artist since 1971.



## Symphony Orchestra

The only orchestra in Adana for classical music enthusiasts is the Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra which was established in 1992. The orchestra also invites foreign conductors and artists as guest musicians. The orchestra performed in Cologne on November 10 to commemorate Atatürk.

## Art

Art, caricature, photography, relieve, graphic print and design exhibitions in Adana take place at the Adana 75. Yıl Art Gallery, Sabancı Cultural Center, Taşmekan Art Gallery, Uğur Boya Art Gallery, Akbank Adana Art Gallery, Anadolu Fine Arts Center, and the Adana Cement Industry Art Gallery throughout the year.

## Architecture

The golden age of Adana architecture was the end of the 15th century and the 16th century when the Ramazanoğulları chose Adana as their capital. During that period, the city quickly grows with the addition of new neighborhoods. Many of the important buildings in Adana were constructed during this period. The first construction works in the historical neighborhood of Tepebağ date back to the Neolithic Age. Tepebağ, which is located on a hill across Seyhan River, is being turned into an archeology park and the houses and public buildings from the 18th century are being renovated and turned into boutique hotels, cafes and restaurants. The Ramazanoğlu Mansion was built in 1495 during the reign of Halil Bey. The three storey mansion was made with stone and bricks and is one of the oldest houses in Turkey.



Famous Turkish violin virtuoso Suna Kan



Oil on canvas by Ertuğrul ATEŞ, on display at the Adana 75. Yıl Art Gallery



Ramazanoğlu Mansion which was built in 1495 during the reign of Halil Bey



Yaverin Mansion was built in 1903 and restored in 2008 by the Municipality of Kozan



**Sailing competitions organized  
by the Adana Tennis and  
Mountaineering Club**



**Off shore races organized  
at Seyhan Dam Lake**



**Rafting at Fekke**



**Trekking**

# The Diversity of Adana

Adana, which is at the center of the fruitful lands of Çukurova, known as Cilicia in the antique age, is a trade and culture center. It has been home to many civilizations and today, its borders stretch from Tarsus in the west to Hatay in the east. It has cultural and natural diversity with assets such as Anawarza, Şar and Misis excursion sites, Karataş Magarsus antique city, Yumurtalık Ayas antique port city, Kozan-Sis, Saimbeyli-Haçın, Akören churches, the historical Varda German Bridge, Eynel-Kapukaya canyons, Kapuzbaşı waterfalls and Aladağlar National Park. Adana also has rafting courses in Eynel Canyon, Fekke-Göksu Canyon and Pozantı-Çakıt, trekking courses that lead to glacial lakes at Aladağlar, climbing courses at Demirkazık and Taurus Mountains and rowing-canoeing and off shore courses at Seyhan Dam Lake. Nature enthusiasts and ornithologists can observe endemic plants and aquatic birds facing extinction at Akyatan and Ağyatan Bird Preservation sites and Tuzla and Yumurtalık lagoons. Paragliding is available at Kabasakal, which is very close to the city center. Local delicacies include the world famous Adana kebab, dried eggplant stuffing, lentil meatballs, meatballs with garlic, turnip juice and other unique dishes. The region's cherries, fish at Karataş and Yumurtalık are also famous. Plateaus such as Tekir, Bürücek, Belededik, Kemişli, Fındıklı, Ecemiş, Kızıldağ, Horzum and Annaşa also offer traditional delicacies.

## Seyhan

The county of Seyhan, which takes its name from the Seyhan River that flows through the city, is the first settlement area in Adana and is the management, business and culture center of Adana. It harbors important structures and areas such as the historical Tepebağ Quarter and Large Clock, Ulu Mosque, Ramazanoğlu Mansion and the Sabancı Merkez Mosque. Cultural spots such as the Adana Culture and Art Center, the Sabancı Cultural Center, Seyhan Cultural Center, Adana Archeology Museum, Adana Atatürk Museum, the Culture and Art Museum and the Metropolitan Municipality Theatre are all located in Seyhan.



**The old government building, today's District Governor's Office, was built in 1901**



**The Dişçi Ethem Mansion, renovated by the Adana Metropolitan Municipality**

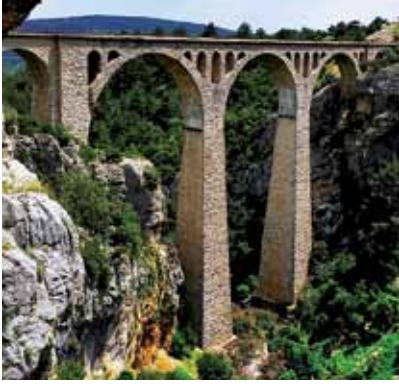


**The Adana Saint Paul Catholic church, known as "Bebekli Kilise" by the locals**



**Ulu Mosque and Complex, the 16th century masterpiece of the Ramazanoğulları, is one of the most important historical structures in the city.**





**The German Bridge, 210 meters long and 108 meters high, was commissioned by Emperor Kaiser between 1903 and 1905 as part of the Baghdad Railway 7-B Project.**



**Yerköprü Waterfall**



**Western Church in Akören, 6th century B.C.**

## Natural and Cultural Heritage

### German (Varda) Bridge

The construction of the bridge, located in the village of Hacıkırı, began in 1903 and finished in 1905. The bridge is one of the symbols of WW1.

### Karaisalı-Kapıkaya and Eynel Canyons, Yerköprü Waterfall

It is a small borough in the north of the Seyhan Basin outside the city center. The majority of the borough is in the rural area and hosts summer houses in the high plateaus in the north.

### Karataş-Magarsus

Karataş is a port city that was established on important trade and military roads in 1900 B.C. and its name in the antique age was Magarsus. Magarsus antique city was built approximately five kilometers to the west of the town center on the slope where the lighthouse is located. In the past, Magarsus had a magnificent castle, an amphitheatre that overlooked the sea and the Temple of Athena. Today, only rubble stones remain from the antique city.

### Aladağ-Akören Church Valley

Akören is built on the ridge of a cliff. There are two churches in the area which were built in 6th century A.D. according to their epigraphs. The foundations of houses and cisterns are located around the churches. One of the epigraphs suggests that one of the churches was built on top of a Roman temple. Typical Roman tombs and ceramic pieces represent the Roman period.



**Canoeing in Çakıt Valley in Şekerpınarı**

## Anawarza Antique City

It is believed that the antique city, which encompasses a 2 kilometer square area from east to west and a 3 kilometer square area from north to south, was built by the Assyrians in 9th century B.C. and was built on top of an older settlement. Roman Emperor Augustus renamed the antique city Caesarea after visiting the region in 19 B.C.



**Anawarza Castle built by the Assyrians in 9th century B.C.**

## Pozantı-Belemedik and Çakıt Valley

Pozantı-Belemedik is located on the easiest accessible transportation road that connects the Çukurova Region and the shores of the Mediterranean to Inner Anatolia. Also, by passing through Pozantı, it provides transport to and from Inner Anatolia (Cappadocia, Ihlara Valley, Konya, Ankara, Kayseri), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Adana, Mersin, Osmaniye, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Hatay) and the Southeastern Anatolia Region (Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Mardin). Aladağlar National Park and Demirkazık summit, Çiftehane hot springs, Ulukışla Karagöl and Bolkar mountains are regions that are active in tourism during the summer. People going to these touristic destinations can stay at Pozantı or take part in daily tours.



**Ayas castle was built with a polygonal plan like Kizkalesi.**

## Tufanbeyli, Şar Komana Antique City

There are Roman, Byzantine and Hittite period remains in the village of Şar such as Ala Kapı, Kırk Church and the antique theatre. Tufanbeyli was an important center in the Cilicia Kingdom.



**Kozan Castle was built by the Assyrians**

## Yumurtalık (Ayas Castle)

The historical names of Ayas, a 2500 year old historical city, include "Aigea or Hiegea and Aegea". "Hiegea" meaning hygienic, is known as the mother of Hippocrates in mythology. It is believed that the grandfather of Hippocrates was Aesculapius, the God of Health. It is believed that Hippocrates, who decided to open his first medical school in this region, realized the first organ transplant in the world by attaching the arm of a black man to a white man.



**Karası Castle was built in 333 B.C. by Alexander the Great.**

## Kozan (Sis) and Karası Castles

The Kozan castle is in the line of sight of Andı, Anawarza and Tumlu castles. The castle, which was known as the Fog Castle in history, was built by the Assyrians and was renovated as the city exchanged hands. The Karası Castle was built on a hill in 333 B.C. by Alexander the Great.





**Demirkazık is the highest hill of Aladağlar with 3756 meters**



**The most important characteristic of Kapuzbaşı waterfall is that it flows down in the same way it exits its source.**



**Tepe Lake, one of the Demirkazık lakes at 3050 meters**

## Natural Parks

### Aladağlar National Park

Aladağlar, which have the highest peaks of the Taurus Mountains, are one of the most interesting places in Turkey in terms of geology. Glacial lakes and Kapuzbaşı waterfalls are worth seeing. In the lower altitudes of the national park, there are Turkish red pine, black pine and fir trees. Nearly all of the plants that grow between rocks have colorful flowers. Wild boar, wild goat, wolf, various birds and coyotes live in the park. Aladağlar has popular climbing routes frequented by local and international mountaineers. You can watch the sunrise at 3756 meters at Demirkazık hill.

### Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls

Kapuzbaşı waterfalls are larger than most waterfalls in the world, except Victoria in Uganda and Niagara Falls, in terms of altitude flow. Waters flow from 700 meters. The waterfalls feed from icy waters and snow on the peaks of Aladağlar.

### Glacial lakes, “Trekking” Routes

Bolkar lakes, Çiftehan-Darboğaz lakes, Aladağ-Seven Lakes and Demirkazık lakes harbor Turkey's most popular hiking and trekking routes. There is a great trekking course that starts from Emli Valley and runs through Sokullupınar district and Seven Lakes.



**Büyük Lake at Aladağlar**

## **Akyatan Lagoon, Tuzla, Ağyatan and Yumurtalık Lagoons**

The Çukurova Delta, which is made up of the Akyatan Lagoon, Tuzla, Ağyatan and Yumurtalık Lagoons, is very important for aquatic birds. This spot is the feeding and resting place of immigrating birds in Turkey. In addition to flamingos, the majority at the delta, ducks, Eurasian coot, teal, small sand bird, red tail, silver gull and great white heron also live at the delta. There are over 6000 flamingos currently living in Akyatan Lake, which is thought to have been formed approximately 10 thousand years ago. Nearly 30 thousand aquatic birds were recorded during the Akyatan-Tuzla Lagoons Management Project initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In addition, there are 163 flamingo nests in the lagoon.



**Karataş-Tuzla lagoon**



**Wild ducks make up the majority of aquatic bird colonies at the Akyatan-Tuzla lagoons.**

## **Bolkarlar (the intersection of four cities)**

The peaks of Bolkar Mountains range from west to east as Aydos Hill (3430 m), Eçerkaya Hill (3347 m) and Medetsiz Hill (3524 m). The trekking course which starts at Çiftahan and stretches all the way to Medetsiz Hill through Maden village is an ideal place for nature walks.



**The waterfall at Maden village**



# Mersin at a Glance



**Hasan Basri GÜZELOĞLU,**  
The Governor of Mersin

## Mersin's Basic Indicators

**Size (based on inhabitants)** / Turkey's 9th largest province

**Socioeconomic development index** / 24th (among 81 provinces)

**Foreign trade volume of the Mersin's hinterland** / 20,9 billion \$

**Export of the Mersin's hinterland** / 7,6 billion \$

**Import of the Mersin's hinterland** / 13,3 billion \$

**Foreign trade volume of firms in Mersin** / 2,44 billion \$

**Export of firms in Mersin** / 1,31 billion \$

**Import of firms in Mersin** / 1,13 billion \$

**Unemployment rate, yearly-average** / 10,6%

**Inflation (Consumer Price Index)** / 5.82%  
2012 data



**The Governorship Building**

## Geography

**Surface Area** / 15.853 km<sup>2</sup>

**Neighboring cities** / Adana, Antalya, Konya, Karaman, Niğde

**Biggest counties and their populations** /

Tarsus: 318.615, Akdeniz: 281.157, Toroslar: 276.420, Yenişehir: 212.813, Mezitli: 151.394, Erdemli: 129.044

**Highest Hill** / Medetsiz Hill at 3529 meters, Bolkarlar

**Rivers** / Göksu River, Berdan Stream

**Lakes** / Akgöl and Paradeniz lagoon, Keklik Lake, Aygır Lake, Kamışlı Lake, Uzun Lake

**Surface** / The province contains plateaus that stretch all the way to the highest peaks of the Taurus Mountains in the north and stretches all the way to the southwest along eastern Mediterranean. Plains in and around Mersin start at the Mersin-Adana border and continue all the way to Silifke, parallel to the mountains.

**Climate** / Mediterranean climate is dominant in the shores of Mersin so the summers are hot and dry and winters are warm and rainy. Terrestrial climate is dominant in mountainous regions.



The map of Mersin which shows city borders



Kızkalesi, which takes its name from the town it is located in, was built on a small islet. Its epigraph states that it was commissioned by Leon I in 1199.





## Population and Demography

**Inhabitants** / 1.682.848

**Yearly population growth rate** / 8,94‰

**Population density** / 109 people/ km<sup>2</sup>

**Population of city and county centers** / 1.327.870

**Urbanization rate** / 78, 91%

**Net immigration rate** / -4,03‰

2012 data

### Political parties that represent Adana in the TBMM and the number of seats:

Justice and Development Party : 4 ● ● ● ●

Republican People's Party : 4 ● ● ● ●

Nationalist Movement Party : 2 ● ●

Independent members of the TBMM : 1 ●



Silifke folk Dance troop performing



# History

## Oldest civilizations in Mersin

7000-6500 B.C. Oldest Neolithic Age Settlement Layer

4500 B.C.: Neolithic Age, the first castle like structure in Yumuktepe

4000-3000 B.C.: The first copper smelting facility with the arrival of the Bronze Age

3000-2700 B.C.: Early Bronze Age

1900-1200 B.C.: Hurri, Luwian, Arzawa, Hittite kingdoms, Kizzuvatna civilization

1190-112 B.C.: Kue, Assyria, Cilicia, Persian, Hellenistic, Seleucids, Pirates, Romans

395 A.D.: Collapse of the Roman Empire

700-800: Abbasi rule

900-1000: Byzantine rule

1000-1100: Seljuk period

## Mersin's history:

1800-1850: The village hosts the Turcoman clan

1850: Greeks that come from the Cappadocia region become prominent in the population

1866: Mersin becomes a port and trade center after the city is connected to the railway network where the agricultural products of Çukurova are exported

1873: Salih Bey, the first Mayor of Mersin is appointed

## Recent History

1918: Mersin is officially occupied by enemy forces  
January 3, 1922: Mersin is freed from enemy occupation

1924: Mersin becomes a province

1933: Mersin is merged with the province of İçel and named "İçel"

1950-1951 Müfide İlhan, Turkey's first female Mayor is appointed to Mersin.

1993: Mersin Municipality becomes a metropolitan municipality

2002: The name "İçel" is changed to "Mersin"



The marble lion statue from the Roman period on display at the Mersin Museum



**Tarsus mosaic. It is believed that Tarsus mosaic was used in a saloon of an ancient Greek house**



**Gözlükule Bronze Age artifacts and artifacts unearthed at Tarsus Cumhuriyet area, Donuktaş – Roman temple and Danyal Mosque Camii are displayed in the Archaeological and Ethnography Wings at the Tarsus Museum.**



**Head of Hadrianus Roman Empire on display at the Mersin Museum A.D. 117-138**

## The History of Mersin

Mersin, since 1700 B.C., has hosted civilizations such as the Kizzuvatna Kingdom, Phrygians, Persians, Seleucids, Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, Arabs, the Anatolian Seljuk State, the Armenian Kingdom, Karamanoğulları, Ramazanoğulları and Ottomans. Mersin, which was invaded during WW1, was freed on January 3, 1922. Mersin was named a province in 1924, was merged with the province of İçel in 1933. The name was changed to Mersin in 2002.



**Inscription about the settlement of Arsinoe city (Bozyazı-Çubukkoyağı), on display at the Mersin Museum, 260 B.C.**



**Amphorae designed for marine transport, taken from shipwrecks of the Bronze Age, on display at the Anamur Museum**

## Mersin Museums

Archeological and ethnographic artifacts are displayed in three different galleries at the Mersin Museum. In the first hall, there are Roman period marble statue head, steles and amphorae. Terracotta tombs were unearthed in the antique city of Pompeipolis. Artifacts that date back to the Stone, Bronze and Early Bronze Age, unearthed during excavations at ancient settlements like Yumuktepe and Gözlükule are displayed in the second gallery. These artifacts include bowls with two handles, bowls with handles that resemble cups, amphorae and various colored bowls. In addition, various earthenware, glass and bronze objects, bronze, silver and gold coins belonging to the early Bronze Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods are also displayed in this gallery. The lead figurine from 2000 B.C. and seals from the Hittite period are important artifacts at the museum. Silver Urartu bracelets, beads, seals and various jewelry from the Hellenistic period, glass items from the Roman period, golden tiaras and earrings are also exhibited. Various stone artifacts and pithos are displayed in the garden of the museum. There are 999 coins and 446 ethnographic items in display at the museum. Mosaics that depict geometric designs and plants unearthed during excavations in Anamur, red and black figurines dating back to 6th century B.C. unearthed in Aydıncık, stone epigraphs, mill stones, terracotta statues and bas reliefs from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods and stone engravings that depict ornamental plants and animals are displayed at the Anamur Museum. The Silifke Museum displays a silver coin collection found in Meydancık Castle belonging to the Hellenistic period, various jewelry from the 2nd and 4th centuries, candelabrum, and terracotta and stone statues. There are also decorated vases from the 4th and 5th centuries B.C. at the museum. Mersin also hosts the State Art and Sculpture Museum and Gallery, The Tarsus Museum, St Paul Museum, Taşucu Amphora Museum, Atatürk Museum and Mersin Nautical Museum, where valuable artifacts are exhibited.



**In the Yumuktepe Display at the Mersin Museum, artifacts unearthed during excavations, stone and obsidian tools, terracotta bowls, weaving weights, axes, knives, a glass scarab and a glass candelabrum from the Islamic period are displayed**



**Gözlükule Bronze Age artifacts and artifacts unearthed at Tarsus Cumhuriyet area, Donuktaş – Roman temple and Danyal Mosque Camii are displayed in the Archeological Wing at the Tarsus Museum.**



**Terracota tools unearthed at Anamur are displayed in the Ethnographic Wing at the Anamur Museum**

## The liberation of Mersin on January 3, 1922

Mersin, which was liberated on January 3, 1922, celebrates the events with various ceremonies every year.



**Head of the Young Girl  
Statue at the Mersin  
Museum, Roman period,  
3-4th century A.D.**



**Antique Greek  
potteries  
displayed at the  
Anamur Museum**



**Female bust in the Mersin  
Museum, Roman period,  
30 B.C.- 330 A.D.**



**Antique Greek lekythos potteries  
unearthed at Anamur displayed  
at the Anamur Museum**



**4th and 5th century B.C. artifacts from  
the Hellenistic Period on display at  
the Silifke Museum**



**Shots from the memorial  
service commemorating the  
liberation of Mersin at the  
Congress and Exhibition  
center of the Mersin  
Metropolitan Municipality**



# Municipality



**Metropolitan Municipality Mayor:**  
Macit ÖZCAN (Since 1999)

**Metropolitan Municipality Council:** Consists of 31 elected members from various walks of life such as craftsmen, farmers, merchants, architects, engineers, sociologists, bankers, lawyers, tourism professionals, teachers, businessmen and retirees.



**Macit ÖZCAN, Mayor of Mersin  
Metropolitan Municipality**

## Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

The Mersin Metropolitan Municipality was established in 1993 and consists of three bodies; Metropolitan Council, Mayor and Municipal Committee. The Metropolitan Council, headed by Mayor Macit ÖZCAN, consists of elected members and is the final decision making body of the organization.

## Non Governmental Organizations

In Mersin, the Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MTSO) established in 1886, Mersin Commodity Exchange (MTB), Mersin Chamber of Maritime Trade (MDTO) and Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TTSO) are the most powerful professional institutions. MTSO has more than 20000 members. Turkey's first chamber of commerce is TTSO, which was established in Tarsus. MTB is responsible for regulating and monitoring safe trade of agricultural products and farm animals. MDTO is the only maritime trade chamber that belongs to a single city. It has a big role in developing and improving sea commerce in Mersin.

**Mersin Metropolitan Municipality  
(stone building)**







**Organic strawberry production is becoming widespread in Silifke and Atayurt.**



**Bunch tomatoes have become very popular thanks to their unique aroma and taste.**



**20 tons of special types of bananas developed by the Çukurova University called "Azman" and "Şimşek" are being produced each year. The smell and taste of these types are the same as the traditional Anamur banana while their weight is closer to imported bananas.**

# Agriculture

Agricultural production value / **5,5 billion TL**

The share of vegetative production value in Turkey / **4,9%**

The share of live stock and animal products value in Turkey / **1,2%**

The share of fruit production of Mersin in Turkey / **first with 11%**

The share of citrus production of Mersin in Turkey / **first with 33%**

The share of vegetable production of Mersin in Turkey / **third with 7%**

The share of greenhouse products of Mersin in Turkey / **second with 16%**

2011 data

The total agricultural land in Mersin is 406.000 hectares. 65% of this land is reserved for dry agriculture and 35% is reserved for irrigated agriculture. A wide range of products are grown in Mersin. Field plants are mainly produced due to the density of dry agricultural fields and the number one product is wheat, which is widespread in the counties of Tarsus and Mut. Citrus, banana, apricot, strawberry, apple and cherry are mainly grown in irrigated fields. In addition, open field and greenhouse vegetable production has a big place in the city's economy. Tomatoes make up 50% of all vegetable production. Strawberry producers in the counties of Silifke export over 15 tons of products each year. Strawberry harvest season, which is around 4 months in Turkey, has been extended to 8 months in Silifke. The micro climatic climate of Anamur enables the growth of a sub-tropic greenhouse product named the Anamur banana. One third of Turkey's yearly banana needs are provided by Anamur.

**Lemons make up 34% of Turkey's total citrus export. Mersin is the number one lemon producer in Turkey.**



# Economy

## Mersin's important macroeconomic indices

**Foreign trade volume of the Mersin's hinterland/** 20,9 billion \$

**Exports of the Mersin's hinterland /** 7,6 billion \$

**Imports of the Mersin's hinterland /** 13,3 billion \$

**Foreign trade volume of firms in Mersin /** 2,44 billion \$

**Exports of firms in Mersin /** 1,31 billion \$

**Imports of firms in Mersin /** 1,13 billion \$

**Unemployment rate /** 10,6%

2012 data



Mersin, which is an important logistics center and port city, is one of the country's most important economic development centers with its agriculture and food industry, tourism and logistics sectors. The Çukurova Region, which also includes Mersin, is being called an alternative growth point to the Marmara basin and regarded as an attraction point. Mersin, which as an important gateway in Turkey that opens up to the Middle East, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Europe, the Russian Federation and Central Asia Turkic Republics, becomes more important with its strategic location and logistical capabilities.

The 116 companies operating out of the Mersin-Tarsus Organized Industrial Zone have an important role in the economy of Mersin. The metal goods-machine and transportation vehicles industries have numerical superiority in the zone with 38 companies. This is followed by chemical, petrol goods, tire and plastic goods industries with 28 companies, 24 companies that work in the food, liquor and tobacco industry, 9 companies from the metal industry, 9 companies from the stone and mining industry, 4 companies from the wood and furniture industry and 4 companies from the paper and paper products industry.

## Workforce

Unemployment rate in Mersin has soared to 14,1% in 2010 due to the global economic crisis but is now around 10,6%. Employment rate has reached 47,5% and has surpassed Turkey's average.

## Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation in Mersin is mainly carried out via highways, railways and sea. Even though there isn't an airport in Mersin, air services are carried out via the Adana Şakirpaşa Airport, which is 69 kilometers from the city. There are fast train services between Mersin and Adana and the journey lasts only 45 minutes. The fact that the city is close to big international markets and has string transportation opportunities, make Mersin an attraction point for many companies in the Mediterranean, Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Russian



**The Mersin Free zone Port was established in 1986 as Turkey's first and biggest private sector port and is managed by MESBAŞ.**



**The MIP Port is an important hub port built by the expertise of PSA International and AKFEN.**



**The project of the Çukurova Regional Airport, which will be the joint airport of Adana and Mersin, has begun with the contract signed between DHMİ and Çukurova International Airport in May 2012. The project is expected to be completed in 20 months.**

Federation and Turkic Republics. This strengthens the competitive power of Mersin in international trade and its economy. Distribution of fruits and vegetables, an important trade in the economy of Mersin, is realized mainly via highways. Important corridors between production areas and markets pass through the city. The total highway length in the city, including village roads, is 6463 kilometers. Motorway length has reached 157 kilometers. The railway length is 106 kilometers. The Mersin International Port (MIP), which is open for international petrol and product transportation and cruise ships, the port at the Mersin Free Zone, Taşucu Port and the Mersin Marina which is open for international yacht tourism are hubs in sea transportation.

## Top 500 Industrial Companies

According to the first and second 500 biggest companies report, compiled by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry for the year 2011, 2 companies from Mersin have made it to the first 500 and 7 have made it to the second 500 in 2011. Five of these companies operate in the agriculture-food sector, one in the cement sector, two in the metal products and construction materials sector and one in the mining sector.

## Tourism in Mersin and the Mediterranean Games

108 kilometers of the 321 kilometer long shore of Mersin is made up of natural beaches. These beaches host hundreds of tourists each year. Mersin, which is an outdoor museum with its natural and cultural assets, is being recognized lately in national and international fairs. The city harbors important touristic assets such as the Alahan Monastery, Heaven and Hell, Kızkalesi, Ayaş, Eshab-ı Kehf Cave, antique remains of Anamurium and Cleopatra door. There are important beaches in Anamur, Kızkalesi, Susanoğlu and Ayaş. Tisan, Taşucu, Narlıkuyu and Dana Island are frequented by domestic tourists. Gözne, Ayvagediği, Soğucak, Fındıkpınarı, Çamlıyayla, Namrun and Sorgun are popular plateaus. The county of Tarsus in Mersin has become the center of religious tourism ever since Pope XVI. Benedict declared 2008 the year of Saint Paul. The

Alahan Monastery in Mut and the Saint Paul Museum in Tarsus have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008.

In addition, the International Mersin Music Festival is organized in religious and antique sites such as Kanlıdivane, Tarsus St. Paul Museum, the Latin Catholic Church, Mersin Cultural Center and Kızkalesi. The untapped nature of Mersin, its rich cultural heritage and mystical religious sites makes Mersin an ideal vacation spot for Christians. Mersin has hosted the 17th Mediterranean Games on June 20-30, 2013. 32 competitions have been organized during the games. Nearly 3000 sportsmen from 24 countries have been hosted in Mersin and Adana. The games have generated an important economic activity in the region.



**Mersin hosted the 17th Mediterranean Games on June 20-30, 2013. Turkey ranked second in the list of medal-winning countries with 47 gold, 43 silver and 36 bronze medals.**

## Foreign Capital Investments

Investment opportunities in Mersin continue to grow. In recent years, Mersin has invested in organized industrial zones, the free trade zone and its ports, has strengthened its infrastructure and has managed to draw attention from foreign investors. There are 500 companies with foreign capital operating in Mersin. Mersin is 8th in Turkey in this regard. 47% of companies with foreign capital operate in the wholesale-retail trade, 14% in the communication, transportation and storage services sector, and 12% in the production industry, mainly food and

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[www.ekonomi.gov.tr](http://www.ekonomi.gov.tr)

Ministry of Economy

[mersin.sanayi.gov.tr](http://mersin.sanayi.gov.tr)

Provincial Directorate of Science, Industry and Technology

[www.treasury.gov.tr](http://www.treasury.gov.tr)

Undersecretariat of Treasury

[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)

Turkish Statistical Institute

[www.cka.org.tr](http://www.cka.org.tr)

Çukurova Development Agency

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

EU Statistics Office AB (Eurostat)

[www.iso.org.tr](http://www.iso.org.tr)

Istanbul Chamber of Industry

[www.mtso.org.tr](http://www.mtso.org.tr)

Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[www.tarsustso.org](http://www.tarsustso.org)

Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[www.mdto.org](http://www.mdto.org)

Mersin Chamber of Maritime Commerce

[www.mersintb.org](http://www.mersintb.org)

Mersin Commodity Exchange



**The Opening Ceremony of the 17th Mediterranean Games held in Mersin on June 20, 2013.**

### Industrial companies from Mersin which have made it to

### the top 500 list in Turkey

1. Çimsa Çimento San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
2. Başhan Tarımsal Ürünleri Pazarlama San. ve Dış Tic. A.Ş.
3. Arbel Bakliyat Hububat San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
4. Çukurova İnşaat Makinaları San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
5. Memişoğlu Tarım Ürünleri Ticaret Ltd. Şti.
6. Durum Gıda San. ve Tic. A.Ş.
7. Tilaga Madencilik ve Sınai Yatırımlar A.Ş.
8. Özbal Çelik Boru San. Tic. ve Taahhüt A.Ş.
9. Sezon Piringç ve Tarım Ürünleri Gıda San. Tic. A.Ş.

beverage production, textile, furniture production and chemical production. 48% of these companies are partnered by Middle Eastern companies, 28% by European Union companies and 11% by other Asian companies.

## Foreign Trade

In 2012, exports realized by companies in Mersin have decreased by 2,09% making the total 1,31 billion dollars while imports have decreased by 8,7%, making the total 1,13 billion dollars. Foreign trade volume has decreased by 5,07% making the total 2,44 billion dollars. The decrease in exports is related to the agricultural and forestry sector while the decrease in imports is related to the wholesale and retail sector. 17% of the exports and 9% of the imports realized in the Mersin hinterland have been established by firms based in Mersin. Mersin exports mainly to Iraq and the Russian Federation while imports mostly from India, USA and China.

## Culture and Sports Organizations

Mersin is a city of festivals. The International Tarsus Marathon, the Akdeniz Municipality Children's Theatre Festival, Mersin University Culture and Sports Festival, the International Silifke Cultural Week, Yenice Peace and Culture Festival, Tarsus Karacaoğlu Poetry Nights, the Mersin International Music Festival, the Mersin Classical Music Festival and the Mersin Citrus Festival are important events not only in Mersin but the entire country.

## Top 12 countries Mersin imports from

Country	Import (Dollar)
India	136.508.723
USA	126.936.822
China	115.584.505
Canada	88.649.457
Italy	80.830.464
Russian Fed.	66.101.047
Germany	53.501.165
South Korea	47.679.431
Israel	39.370.451
Greece	36.433.010
Equator	33.332.779
Venezuela	29.566.290

## Countries and Export Numbers Top 12 Countries Mersin Exports to

Countries	Export ( Dollar)
Iraq	227.368.628
Russian Fed.	125.304.788
Iran	81.722.739
Germany	80.887.018
Ukraine	55.705.424
Mersin Free Zone	51.401.178
Turkish Rep. of Northern Cyprus	50.543.685
Israel	34.410.632
Egypt	31.409.970
Azerbaijan	26.191.092
France	24.100.765
Romania	23.834.794

2011 data



# Education



Number of Schools/Institutions:	798
Number of Classrooms:	12.099
Number of Students:	372.195
Number of Teachers:	20.697
Student per classroom	
Primary Education	30
Secondary Education :	30
Vocational and Technical Education :	37
2013 Data	

## Primary and Secondary Education

There are nearly 258895 students in 544 schools and 13230 teachers in primary and secondary education in Mersin. Student numbers per teacher in primary education in Mersin is 18, while this number is 20 in Turkey and in secondary education, student numbers per teacher in Mersin is 15, while that number is 16 in Turkey. Classrooms consist of between 30 and 37 students in primary and secondary education.



## Vocational and Technical Education

Vocational and technical education was designed as a system that could provide qualified employees for the business sector. There are 46414 students and 2690 teachers in these types of schools in Mersin and classrooms are made up approximately 37 students. Institutions that want to teach with international standards can receive accreditations from the necessary institutions empowered by the Proficiency Institution.



## Universities

There are three universities in Mersin, one is a state

Mersin University, Çiftlikköy campus



university, and two are foundation universities. In addition, some academic units of out of state universities are located in Mersin such as the METU Marine Sciences Institute and the Selçuk University Silifke-Taşucu Vocational Tertiary School.

There are a total of 29503 students and 1346 academic personnel at the Mersin University, which hosts 11 faculties, 5 institutes and 20 tertiary schools. The university was established in 1992 at the Çiftlikköy campus, on hills overlooking the Mediterranean. The Mersin University Medical Faculty Research and Application Hospital, is one of the largest hospitals in the region. There are 2854 students and 138 academic personnel in Çağ University and the university harbors 3 faculties and one institute. Toros University has 224 students and 27 academic personnel and has three faculties and two institutes.

In 2011, the ratio of faculty graduates in Mersin compared to the same age group in the city was 9,9%. In the 2010-2011 educational year, 4631 students graduated from the universities in Mersin.



Çağ University in Yenice



Toros University Bahçelievler campus

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[www.osym.gov.tr](http://www.osym.gov.tr)

Student, Selection and Placement Center

[www.mersinkulturturizm.gov.tr](http://www.mersinkulturturizm.gov.tr)

Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism

[www.mersin.meb.gov.tr](http://www.mersin.meb.gov.tr)

Provincial Directorate of National Education

[www.mersin.edu.tr](http://www.mersin.edu.tr)

Mersin University

[www.cag.edu.tr](http://www.cag.edu.tr)

Çağ University

[www.toros.edu.tr](http://www.toros.edu.tr)

Toros University

# Science and Research

27	Research and Application Centers
17	Faculties
8	Institutes
7	Tertiary and Vocational Tertiary Schools,
1	State Conservatory
1.511	Academic Personnel
32.581	University Students

2011-2012 Education Year Data

## Science and Research

Science and research activities in Mersin are carried out at 25 research centers at the Mersin University. The Mersin University Advanced Technology, Education, Research and Application Center (MEITAM) is fairly new and is one of these research centers. In addition to these centers, the Alata Horticulture Research Station Directorate, affiliated with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, continues its applied agricultural researches.

Here are the research centers at Mersin University: Continuous Education Center, Education in Distance Center, Continuous Education Application and Research Center, Chamber Music Application and Research Center, Tourism Application and Research Center, Foreign Trade and Logistics Application and Research Center, Food Researches and Application Center, Mediterranean Cities Research Center, IT Research and Application Center, Women's Problems Research Center, Cilicia Archeology Research Center, First Aid Research and Application Center, Atatürk Ideals and Turkish History Research and Application Centre, Mersin University Restoration and Preservation Center, Education in Distance Application and Research Center, Strategic Research Center, Health Research and Application Center, Turkish Language





**Research works at the Mersin University Advanced Technology Education, Research and Application Center's Food analysis lab**

Application and Research Center, Career Management Center and Sea Turtles Application and Research Center.

## MEİTAM

High technology analysis and research is available at MEİTAM with experts and highly trained researchers. The institute also provides educational workshops for private and public employees. The center includes the Food Research and Application Center (MUGAM), Cilicia Archeology Research Center (KAAM), Ground Mechanics Application and

Research Center and the Language Sciences Center. Analysis of flour and flour products are conducted at MUGAM. KAAM works on projects regarding the archeology and historical importance of the Cilicia region. In the Language Sciences Department, the Turkish language is being advertised and compiled via a graphic interface on the web.

The research centers at Çağ University are: Atatürk Ideals and Reforms History Research and Application Center, Space Observation Application and Research Center, and The EU Application and Research Center. The Research Centers at Toros University are: Social, Economic and Market Research Center, Environment, Climate and Energy Application and Research Center and the Psychological Consultancy Research Center.

## Alata Horticulture Research Station

The Alata Garden Culture Research Station Directorate, affiliated with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, continues agricultural researches regarding citrus and other subtropical fruits, various climatic fruits, and grape like fruits, viticulture, ornamental plants, medicinal herbs and beekeeping. The station also engages in determining types of garden plants, diversifying the species, developing techniques for growth, soil inspections, fertilizing options, growing elite materials for suggested types, building breeding areas, finding solutions to the problems of farmers in the region and educating related technical personnel. The station realizes soil analysis, plant analysis, fertilizer analysis and irrigation water analysis.

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**[www.meb.gov.tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr)**

Ministry of National Education

**[www.osym.gov.tr](http://www.osym.gov.tr)**

Student Selection and Placement Center

**[www.mersin.edu.tr](http://www.mersin.edu.tr)**

Mersin University

**[www.toros.edu.tr](http://www.toros.edu.tr)**

Toros University

**[www.cag.edu.tr](http://www.cag.edu.tr)**

Çağ University

# Social Life

Inhabitants	1.682.848
Yearly population growth rate	8,94‰
Population density	109 people/km <sup>2</sup>
Population in city and county centers	1.327.870
Urbanization rate	78,91%
Net immigration	-6.802
Net immigration rate	-4,03‰
The ratio of college and faculty graduates compared to population 15 and above:	9,9%
2012 data	



The trekking course inside Lamas valley, which starts from “Limonlu - Kayacı valley” and stretches all the way to Sarıaydın village in Silifke, is frequented by tourists from Germany, Holland and Belgium.

## Population

In 2012, the population of Mersin has increased by 14909 compared to the previous year. Yearly population growth rate has decreased by 8,94‰ and was below Turkish average. Population density is above Turkey's average. Mersin is Turkey's 9th largest province in terms of inhabitants. Between the years 2011 and 2012, 46721 people have immigrated to Mersin, while 53523 have left the city.



Shots from Mersin city center

## Health

72 There are a total of 24 hospitals in Mersin, one medical faculty, 11 private hospitals and 12 public hospitals. In addition, there are many health institutions and medical centers. Total hospital bed capacity in Mersin is 3202. There is one doctor per 996 people. The newly introduced family doctor application is being successfully carried out in Mersin. The premedical education program of the Mersin University Medical Faculty has been accredited in accordance with national standards.



MS Deutschland with 350 voyagers docked at Mersin Port

## Leisure and Recreation

During the summer, the people of Mersin and tourists flock to cooler places. Parks, beaches and





**Nusret Mine Ship, an important ship for the War of Çanakkale, on display at the Çanakkale Park in Tarsus**



**Kültürpark, one of the columned avenues that stretch along the entire shoreline at Adnan Menderes Boulevard**

**The waterfall at Mersin Suntras (Santa Iras) is ideal for daily trips and sampling fish**



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**[www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com](http://www.isvesosyalguvenlik.com)**  
ÇSGB Regional Directorate  
**[www.mersinsm.gov.tr](http://www.mersinsm.gov.tr)**  
Provincial Directorate of Health

**[www.iskur.gov.tr](http://www.iskur.gov.tr)**  
Regional Directorate of Labor and Employment Relations Institution  
**[www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)**  
Turkey Statistical Institute Regional Directorate

# Culture

Number of libraries	7
Number of theatres	3
Number of cinemas	5
Number of opera, ballet, orchestra and choirs	4
Number of museums	7
Number of art galleries	11
Number of festivals	4
2012 Data	



There are 41682 books at the Mersin Public Library.

## Cultural Development and Art

Art and cultural activities in the city are widespread. The Mersin State Opera and Ballet, which is Turkey's fourth state opera and ballet, performs at the Mersin Cultural Center. Each year, activities such as the International Mersin Music Festival, the Mersin Turkish Classical Music Festival and the Mersin International Nevit Kodallı Polyphonic Choirs Festival are being organized in the city. The Mersin Photography Club (MFD), the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality City Theatre, İçel Art Club, the Mersin Polyphonic Choirs Club and the Mersin Cinema Club organize important activities. Various county municipalities also have theatre troop which perform for free.





**Famous poet Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan,  
1925-1984, Tarsus.**

## Authors and Poets from Mersin

### Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan

Ümit Yaşar Oğuzcan was born on August 22, 1926 in Tarsus. He opened an art gallery in Istanbul. He began writing poems in 1940. Oğuzcan, who has a total of 50 books, including poetry, novels and 13 anthologies, is one of Turkey's most popular poets and is also known for his poetry records and lyrics. He mostly wrote about love, loss and yearning but concentrated on themes like depression, death and pain after his son's death in 1973.

## Theatre and Festivals

### Metropolitan Municipality City Theatre

The theatre was established in 1984 to introduce the art of theatre in Mersin. Since that date, the theatre stages national and international plays for the people of Mersin.

### Mersin International Music Festival

The festival, which begins in spring, is the first classical music festival in Anatolia. The festival became a member of European Festivals Association (EFA) in 2007 and has received interest from international artists and groups. The city welcomed world famous stars for two weeks including opera diva Michele Crider, singer Christina Branco, and Polish pianist Artur Dutkiewicz. In addition, the ballroom dancers of world famous dance group "Braunschweiger Tanz-Sport-Club" also performed at the festival. The festival also includes song competitions, art exhibitions, photography exhibitions and conferences.

### Citrus Festival

The festival, which hosts dance, music, theatre and acrobatic groups from all over the world, is organized at one of the most beautiful places in the city. The festival is organized to celebrate multicultural activities and turning citrus fruits into art.

### Soli Sun Festival

The festival, which takes place at the Soloi

Pompeipolis antique city in Viranşehir, is organized every year in the second half of June. The festival aims to highlight the region which has historical importance. Concerts, theatre plays and bazaars are organized during the festival.

## Music

### Mersin State Classical Turkish Music Choir

The choir, which was established in 2008, is Turkey's 8th choir and is the only choir in the Mediterranean Region. The choir, which performs to introduce Turkish classical music nationally and internationally, gave its first concert in 2009.

### Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory

The conservatory consists of the Turkish Classical Music and Turkish Traditional Folk Music departments. Each department offer four years of education and written music, solfege, music composition, vocal training, repertoire, literature, diction, public speech, instrument management, choir and solo classes are available at the conservatory.

### Mersin State Opera and Ballet

Mersin State Opera and Ballet continues to perform ballet, opera and concerts since 1992. In the past 20 years, it has performed 1809 shows and has reached 648.582 people. It has also performed in countries such as Georgia, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Italy and Syria.

## Art

Painter Hüseyin SEVİM's artwork dated 1952 depicts the shore of Mersin in the afternoon. Again, Remzi İREM's oil painting depicts the business centers on Uray Avenue. Güzin Akdemir has opened her 10th individual exhibition at the Mersin Görsel Art Gallery.

## Architecture

Buildings that are examples of Mersin's urbanization, which was formed in about 150 years, can be categorized in four groups. One of them is traditional Turkish houses, made from stone and wood, and



The poster of the 3rd Soli Festival at the Soloi Pompeipolis antique city, organized by the Mezitli Municipality.



A concert by the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory choir



Opera at the Mersin Cultural Center



**Painter Hüseyin Sevim's 1952 painting  
"Shore of Mersin in the afternoon"**



**Business centers on Uray Avenue  
from Remzi İrem's oil painting**



**Mersin  
Atatürk  
House and  
Museum  
commis-  
sioned by  
Swiss citizen  
Krizmon in  
1917.**

they can mostly be seen on İstiklal and Mücahitler Avenue and neighboring streets. The houses in the second category resemble the houses in Chios Island and are seen around "Yoğurt Pazarı" district. They are two storey houses made from stone and their stone workmanship is amazing. Another group includes Eastern Mediterranean style houses. Their ground floors are made from stone while upper floors were made with lath and plaster. Stone and walls made from lath and plaster were widely used in these arched structures. The halls on the upper floors have traditional characteristics. Examples such as "Taş Inn", which have stone arches, still stand today. Trade buildings such as markets, business centers, warehouses and inns usually have these characteristics.

Mersin Atatürk House and Museum was commissioned in 1917 by Swiss citizen Krizmon. The house was then bought by the Tahinci family and nationalized in 1980. Atatürk stayed in this house with his wife for 11 days in 1925. Today, the building serves as a museum.



**Old Tarsus houses are examples of  
Turkish-Islam architecture**

**W**

[www.kultur.gov.tr](http://www.kultur.gov.tr)

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

[www.mersin.bel.tr/konservatuvar](http://www.mersin.bel.tr/konservatuvar)

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Conservatory

[www.dobgm.gov.tr](http://www.dobgm.gov.tr)

State Opera and Ballet General Directorate

[www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr](http://www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr)

Mersin Museum, Tarsus Museum,

Silifke Museum, Anamur Museum

[www.mersinkutup.gov.tr](http://www.mersinkutup.gov.tr)

Mersin Public Library

[www.mersin.edu.tr/kutuphane](http://www.mersin.edu.tr/kutuphane)

Mersin University Central Library

[www.mtso.org.tr](http://www.mtso.org.tr)

MTSO Art Gallery

<http://oda.mtso.org.tr>

MTSO's project called "from the station to the Lighthouse: Mersin"



# The Diversity of Mersin

Mersin, located to the west of Çukurova region which was named Cilicia in the antique age, has always been a port city where important sea trade was intense. Today, the physical borders of Mersin stretch all the way to Kaledran in the west and Adana in the east.

It has entered UNESCO's World Heritage List with the Tarsus Saint Paul Monumental Museum and Well, Mut Alahan Monastery and Anamur Mamure Castle and is like an outdoor museum with its natural and cultural heritage.

It is an important religious tourism destination with Alahan Monastery, located at 1200 meters above sea level in Mut, Aya Tekla Church in Silifke and St Paul Church in Tarsus, where Christians drink from the well of Saint Paul.

Ornithologists can observe plants facing extinction, aquatic birds and sea turtles at Göksu Bird Paradise in Silifke and at Akgöl-Paradeniz lagoons.

The trekking course, which starts at Limonlu, passes through Kayacı Valley and stretches all the way to the villages of Kızılgeçit and Sarıaydın, is an ideal walking route for tourists.

Be sure to sample local tastes such as kerebiç, tantuni; humus made in Tarsus, cezerye and şalgam;



**The Aydıncık-Kelenderis Mosaic was the world's first city plan**



**A picture from the Offshore Championship, which is organized each year in Mersin**



**Cambazlı Church on the Olba-Susanoğlu road in the village of Cambazlı, dated back to 6th century**



**Interesting karstic shape that resemble the Iron Mask in Limonlu-Lamas Valley**



**The Eastern Church in the Mut Alahan Monastery was built by a monk named Tarasis between 440-442 A.D.**



**The interior of the St. Paul Monument Museum which was formerly a church**



**Christians who came to the region for pilgrimage used to drink from the well of St. Paul**

tasty sea products in Narlıkuyu and the traditional dishes in Gözne, Ayvagediği and Çamlıyayla.

## UNESCO World Heritage List

### Mut Alahan Monastery

The Alahan Monastery was added to the World Heritage List in 2000. Saint Paul from Tarsus and Barnaby traveled through Anatolia in 41 A.D. to spread Christianity. Temples were built in places the saints visited. A similar temple was built at the spot where Alahan Monastery stands today. The monastery was only built in 5th century after Christianity was officially recognized. Evliya Çelebi called the monastery the work of an artist in 17th century. Its western church has been demolished. The Eastern Church however serves as an excursion site. At the entrance of the demolished western church, there is a bust of Jesus and depictions of various angels.

### Tarsus Saint Paul Monument Museum and Well

The home of Saint Paul in Tarsus was named a pilgrimage site in 2008 by the Vatican. St. Paul's well and the remains surrounding the house have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Tarsus is one of the first places where Christianity was spread. The well, found in the courtyard known as the house of St. Paul in the city center, is known as the Well of St. Paul. A few walls were unearthed during excavations in the garden. The well and the remains are important for Christians living in Tarsus. Remains of the house that were unearthed are protected by a glass wall.

### Anamur Mamure Castle

The castle was added to the World Heritage Candidate List in 2012. The castle, located 6 kilometers to the south of Anamur has cesspools and trenches to protect the castle from sea and land attacks. There is a mosque, fountain and bath inside the castle that was used by the Romans, Byzantines, Karamanoğulları and Ottomans.

## Religious Tourism Centers

### Silifke Azize Aya Tekla (Meryemlik)

Azize Aya Tekla (Meryemlik), which was considered a pilgrimage site in early Christianity, is an important religious site for Christians and Muslims. The Bible says that the tomb of Mary is in Mersin but can never be located. The cave where Aya Tekla lived was considered sacred after her disappearance and was used as a secret worship area until the religion was accepted in 312 A.D. This cave was turned into a church in the 4th century.



The cave where Saint Aya Tekla lived was turned into a worship site.

### Tarsus Ashab-ı Kehf Cave

This is another important religious site. Ashab-ı Kehf was a ruler and there are young people on his left and right. In the Kehf part of the Quran, the prayers of these characters are written. When the ruler finds out that these people have run and are in hiding, he takes his men and heads to the cave and seals the entrance of the cave. According to legend, these young people manage to survive and continue to sleep for 309 years. They are woken up by divine intervention.



The interior of the Tarsus Yedi Uyurlar and Ashab-ı Kehf cave

### Erdemli Kanlıdivane (Canytellis) Antique City

The history of the city, which was the religious center of the Olba Kingdom, dates all the way back to 3rd century B.C. The city, which was named Neapolis in the 4th century, lived its most glorious days during this period. The city, which was established as a Christianity center by Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II (408-450), was built around a 60 meter deep pothole. According to legend, criminals were thrown into this deep pit and were eaten by animals.



A manuscript that depicts "Yedi Uyurlar"



The main basilica in Canytellis Antique City dated back to 3rd century B.C.

Inside the pothole, there is a bas relief that depicts a woman sitting on a sofa and two male figures. There are basilicas made from cut stones, avenues, rock tombs, cisterns and stones bas reliefs around the pothole. There is a tower in the southwest of the pothole from 3rd century B.C. On the northern necropolis, there is a monumental tomb erected for the husband of Queen Aba and her two sons.



**The Church of Virgin Mary inside the pit named Heaven, 70 meters deep and 135 meters long**



**The pit called Hell, 128 meters deep**



**Kara Castle around Korykos excursion site**

## Natural and Cultural Heritage

### Cennet –Cehennem (Heaven and Hell)

There are two important karstic pits near the borough of Narlıkuyu located on the Mersin-Silifke highway called the Cennet and Cehennem pits. The Cehennem pit is narrower and steeper than the other. That is why you cannot walk to the bottom and you need a rope or a ladder. There is a Hellenistic period temple near the historical stairway that leads to the base of the Cennet pit. You can hear the underground river clearly at the base of the pit.

### Erdemli Korykos-Kızkalesi Excursion Site

Kızkalesi was heavily used during the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. It was determined that the first settlements dated back to 4th century B.C. from the artifacts unearthed in the necropolis. The castle, named after the town, was built in 12th century A.D. on an islet near the shore. In the excursion site, which was at an olive oil export center, the outer and inner castle, churches, cisterns, aqueducts, stone tombs, sarcophagi and stone covered Roman roads are still strong.

### Adamkayalar

At the fifth kilometer of the asphalt road from Kızkalesi towards the village of Hüseyinler, you will reach Şeytan Deresi Valley after the 2 kilometer stone road in the west. In the nine niches on the steep slope of the valley, you will see bas reliefs of 11 males, 4 women, 2 children and one goat inside the rocks.

### Ayaş Elaiussa Sebaste

The Elaiussa-Sebaste Excursion site on the 55th kilometers of the Mersin-Silifke highway was built at the end of 2nd century B.C. It was heavily populated during the Roman and Byzantine periods. There is a necropolis, antique theatre, cisterns and aqueducts inside the protected historical site.

### Aydıncık-Kelenderis Caves

In Aynalıgöl Cave, which hosts handmade ceramic



pieces from the Late Bronze Age and various animal bones, there is also a fresh water lake and all other characteristics that can be found in a cave. In Aydıncık there are more interesting caves such as Yalan Dünya cave, located on the Aydıncık-Gülnar highway, the Kurt ini Cave, which is only accessible through the sea and the Kaynar Underwater Cave which is partially submerged in water.



**Human and animal figures as bas reliefs inside the niche at Adamkayalar, 2nd century A.D.**



**The Agora of the Elaiussa-Sebaste excursion site was built at the end of the 2nd century during the Roman and Byzantine periods.**



**Aynalıgöl's entrance is 46 meters above sea level. The cave is 555 meters long, 100 meters wide and 18 meters in height. There is a 47 meter deep pond inside the cave.**

## **Silifke-Uzuncaburç**

The best protected historical remains in Mersin are located in the town of Uzuncaburç, located 30 kilometers to the north of Silifke. The Temple of Zeus, the monumental tomb with a pyramid roof, the columned avenue, theatre, festival door, fountain, the Temple of Luck and Victory Door are Roman era remains. The Temple of Zeus was turned into a church in 5th century after the spreading of Christianity in the area and more churches were built. The name of the town was changed to "Uzuncaburç" after the region was invaded by Turks.



**Uzuncaburç monumental tomb**





**The temple of Zeus in Uzuncaburç was commissioned by Nikator I, king of Seleucid. The Byzantines turned it into a church in the 5th century.**



**The triple statue group unearthed during the excavations at Soli Pompeipolis on display at the Mersin Museum, 2-3rd century A.D.**



**The mosaic in the Narlıkuyu Mosaic Museum that depicts the three beautiful women Aglaia, Thalia and Euphrosyne**

## **Anamurium (Anemurion) antique city**

The city was connected to the Macedonia Kingdom during Alexander's eastern expedition in 333 B.C. and the city became known as "Anamurium", which mean the windy tip. The excursion site encompasses a very large area. Written texts state that it was a port city in 4th century B.C. and was under the reign of the Assyrian Kingdom in 8th century B.C.

## **Narlıkuyu**

Narlıkuyu is different from other bays with its cold and fresh water. Water resources under the sea are responsible for the temperature of the water. One of these sources is the underground water that comes from Cennet pothole, which is located 1,2 kilometers from Narlıkuyu. Today, the potholes known as Cennet and Cehennem are connected to each other with a 2 kilometer asphalt road. Swimming is usually preferred by foreign tourists in the bay since the water is reatively cold but fishermen and boats frequently use the bay. There are various fish restaurants around the bay.

## **Viranşehir Soli Pompeipolis Antique City**

The city of Soli, meaning sun, was built by Dorians that came from Rhodes around 700 B.C.



**The excavations in the antique city, overseen by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Governorship of Mersin and the Municipality of Mezitli, have been completed after 14 columns in the southern tip of the columned avenue were placed in 2012.**

## Special Protected Sites

### Göksu Delta

The Göksu Delta, which is 14800 hectares, is located in the southern tip of Silifke, on a shore plain formed by Göksu River. Two lagoons, Paradeniz and Akgöl, are located in the west of Göksu River. There are ten settlements within the borders of the special protected site and the total protection area is 226 square kilometers. 106 of 140 bird types in Turkey and 12 of 24 endangered bird species live in the delta. There are 8 endemic and 32 rare plants in the delta, which has 441 plant types in total. Since the delta is used regularly, it is also very important to flamingos. "Caretta Caretta" and "Chelonia Mydas" sea turtles have five different breeding grounds in the shores of Mersin, Kazanlı, 100. yıl Davultepe, Erdemli, and Anamur, and more than 1000 nests have been spotted in May and June.

### Paradeniz Lagoon and Akgöl

In the delta, which is one of the most important marshy areas in the Mediterranean, there are agricultural fields, lakes, swamps, beaches, settlements, Akgöl and Paradeniz lagoons, shallow seasonal ponds, drainage channels and rice fields. The Göksu Delta Protected Site was placed under preservation in accordance with the Ramsar Accord that was signed in 1971 in Iran.



Göksu Delta is one of the breeding areas of Caretta Caretta sea turtles.



The summer duck, which is facing extinction, lives at the delta.



Heron birds at Akgöl and Paradeniz Lagoon.



Pancratium maritimum, naturally pops up in Paradeniz Lagoon

A flamingo pack at Paradeniz Lagoon and Akgöl





**A ski resort and courses will be built at Karboğazı/Elmalı Straits, located between Tekir Plateau and the town of Gülek, in the very near future.**



**Infrastructure works still continue for the 8000 bed capacity "Tarsus-Kazanlı Tourism Center".**

## **Important Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Regions (KTKGB)**

### **Karboğazı KTKGB**

The Gülek Karboğazı Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Region, which has been declared as one of the 24 tourism development sites in Turkey, will be turned into a winter resort and ski center which will cater to the needs of over 5 million people living in the region. The 3500 meter long course and 6-7 courses of various sizes are now operational. The biggest advantage of the region is that tourists can both enjoy winter-nature tourism and resort tourism at the same time since the region is only an hour away from Adana, Mersin and Niğde. Karboğazı KTKGB is one of the regions that will receive incentives in tourism investments.

### **Tarsus - Kazanlı KTKGB**

The Tarsus-Kazanlı Tourism Center will be built on a 3 million square meter area and will include 2 golf courses with international standards, a congress center, a health complex and 8000 beds. After completion, the center will be a hot destination for European tourists.

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**NOTES :**



