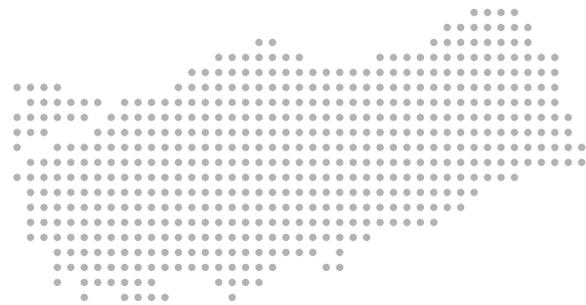


# Turkey



Women in decision-making: **0.142/5**

Socio-economic position of women: **0.25/5**

Violence against women: **1.75/5**

## Highlights

**14%**

women in parliament

**4%**

women senior ministers

**11%**

women on boards and 10% women presidents of the largest companies

**25%**

gender pay gap

**39.4%**

gender gap in full-time employment rates

**44%**

of infants between 3 and school-age in formal childcare

**0.26**

shelter places for women victims of violence per 10,000 inhabitants

## TRENDS:



Turkey is, together with Portugal so far the only country in Europe to have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on violence against women. In 2012 the Convention entered into national law and, throughout this process, awareness regarding violence against women has considerably increased. Police training for prevention and victim support is also envisaged.

Following 2011 elections, the number of women in parliament increased from 9.1% to 14.4%.

Discussions are underway to amend the Turkish Constitution. A proposal under consideration would make parity legislation a constitutional right.

The Capital Markets Board, Turkey's financial regulatory and supervisory agency, issued in 2012 a statement stipulating that at least one board member of publicly traded companies should be female.



In June 2011, the government of Turkey renamed the "State Ministry responsible for Women, Family and Social Services" as the ministry of "Family and Social Policies".

Although the proportion of women in parliament increased following the 2011 election, the number of women appointed to government declined to just 4% - 1 in 25 - the lowest figure of all EU and EU official candidate countries. The proportion of women senior officials is 3%.

As of December 2012, the regulatory requirement for state shelters for victims of violence against women now only applies to districts with 100,000 inhabitants, up from 50,000.

## UNDERSTANDING TURKEY

There is no legislation in place in Turkey for parity in decision-making in the political or private sector, and women's representation in parliament, government and corporate decision-making bodies remains among the lowest in Europe.

In 2011, only 25.6% of women were formally employed full-time in Turkey, as compared to 65% of men. This is a very slight increase on the 2010 figure of 24%. 58% of women's employment is in the informal economy.

Women's employment is strongly affected by the lack of formal care structures. Only 0.5% of dependent elderly persons receive formal care. Regarding children, only 44% of children between 3 and school-age are in formal childcare, by far the lowest proportion of any EU member or candidate country. A state childcare scheme is still under development.

According to official research carried out in 2008, between 26% and 57% of married or divorced women in Turkey have experienced domestic violence. There are 86 shelters for victims of violence against women in Turkey. 55 of them are NGO shelters; 31 are run by local government.

Women's sexual and reproductive health and rights are limited by conservative religious influence in Turkey. An overuse of conscientious objection limits access to legal abortion; there is no sexual education provided in schools.