International Business Brief

About the Author

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The Central Anatolia Region:
An Overview

Part One of a four-part series on Turkey.

Zekeriya Mizrak, Ph.D., *Visiting Scholar*

The Central Anatolia Region, one of Turkey's seven census-defined geographical regions, is located in Turkey's center and covers approximately 19 percent of the nation's land with its 151,000 km². Only the Eastern Anatolia Region is larger in size. The Nevsehir, Aksaray, Kirikkale and Kirsehir provinces are entirely within the borders of the Central Anatolia Region (see Figure 1). Its other provinces are partially in the Eastern Anatolia, Black Sea, and Mediterranean regions.

According to the statistical regional classification, the Central Anatolia Region has four designated areas: TR 51 (Ankara), TR 52 (Konya and Karaman), TR 71 (Kırıkkale Aksaray, Niğde, Kırşehir and Nevşehir) and TR 72 (Kayseri, Sivas and Yozgat). In total, the Central Anatolia Region has eleven major cities.

The geographical location of the region makes it a transportation center. The region's climate consists of dry, sunny summers and cold winters with rain and snow. Wheat fields are spread over the land while orchards and vineyards are also common.

Central Anatolia has 15 percent of the Turkish population. Ankara, as the nation's capital and largest city of the Central Anatolia region, has the highest population density of the area (190 persons/km²). Other cities of the region are less crowded compared to the national average, but have similar rate of population growth (see Table 1).

Regional Economy

Agriculture and animal husbandry are important sources of income in Central Anatolia. Approximately

FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF TURKEY AND ITS REGIONS

Source: Modified from ESRI's ArcGIS maps

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF THE FOUR AREAS OF THE CENTRAL ANATOLIA REGION AND THE NATION

	Population	Population Ratio: City/Nation	Population Density (persons/km²)	Annual Population Increase	GDP per Person, 2006	Unemployment Rate, 2009	Exports per Person, 2009	Imports per Person, 2009	Inflation, 2009
Turkey	*72,561,312*	*75.5%*	*94*	*14.5*	*$6,684*	*14.00%*	*$1,846*	*$2,824*	*$6.50*
TR 51: Ankara	4,650,802	97.1%	190	22.2	$9,056	13.60%	$1,179	$5,119	$6.00
TR 52: Konya and Karaman	2,224,547	72.8%	47	11.1	$4,938	10.10%	$468	$375	$6.60
TR 71: Kırıkkale Aksaray, Nigde, Kırsehir and Nevsehir	1,504,789	61.2%	48	8.0	$4,654	14.90%	$164	$161	$7.40
TR 72: Kayseri, Sivas and Yozgat	2,326,584	73.8%	39	11.6	$4,639	13.20%	$511	$628	$6.70

The Kayseri province is one of the most important industrial centers of the Central Anatolia Region.

one-third of the domestically produced grain comes from this region. Historically led by the Konya province, followed by the Ankara province, wheat is the prominent grains produced in the region. One-third of the domestic potato production occurs in this region. Additionally, industrial crops of sugar beets are widely cultivated. Konya, Ankara, Nigde, Nevsehir and Kayseri are significant contributors to fruit growing and viticulture.

There are small and medium-sized industrial facilities in Central Anatolia. Carpet weaving is concentrated in areas of the Kayseri, Sivas and Konya provinces. The main industrial facilities in the region are concentrated in urban centers, such as Ankara, Eskisehir, Kayseri, Sivas, Konya, Kirikkale and Corum.

The Kayseri province, located on the plains at the northern foot of Erciyes Mountain to the east of Nevsehir, is one of the most important industrial centers of the Central Anatolia Region. Of particularly great importance are the textile industry, food industry, carpet weaving, copper works and leather processing.

Iron, lignite and chromium are extracted from the mineral-rich lands of Kayseri and then exported. Other minerals are used in making metal goods. Exports from this province are sent to European, African and Middle Eastern countries. European and Far Eastern countries, as well as the United States, are import partners of the Kayseri province.

As one of the oldest provinces in Central Anatolia, Konya has become an industry and trade center for the nation. With its growing industrial sector, wide agricultural areas and universities, Konya is developing as a modern city. With a strategic location in the country, Konya is an important transportation hub. During recent years, Konya has become a center of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the machine parts and automotive component parts industries. Other important industries are agriculture, machinery production, flour production, food and shoe production.

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