

MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE



VISION DOCUMENT

The Decade of Family *and* Population

2026 — 2035

*"Türkiye Rooted in Family, Strengthened by
Population Advancing into the Future"*

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Foreword

The family is the most fundamental institution that weaves the spiritual fabric of our nation and shapes its future; it is the center of motion and resilience of society. As the bearer of our civilizational heritage built up over thousands of years, the family is the hearth of our enduring values, the ground on which human nature is preserved, and the entrusted homeland of our generations. A strong Türkiye can rise only on the shoulders of strong families.

We are living through a period in which artificial intelligence and new digital technologies are targeting the institution of the family and the individual, and in which neoliberal cultural currents are seeking to exert pressure on our values. As is the case in many parts of the world, in our country too, the rate of population growth and the level of fertility have fallen worrying levels. In the face of this picture, which constitutes an existential threat to our nation, we as the State have taken — and continue to take — the measures necessary both to strengthen the family and to improve our demographic structure.

In 2025, which we declared the “Year of the Family,” we put into practice numerous projects, support measures and regulations. We launched the Family and Youth Fund across all 81 of our provinces and increased our

childbirth allowances. We took significant steps by establishing our Family Institute and our Population Policies Board.

With the Vision Document covering the 2026–2035 period, which we have designated the “Family and Population Decade,” we are placing all this work on a far more institutional, integrated and sustainable footing.

Serving as a road map that frames vital topics with an embracing perspective — from the protection of the family institution and generations to the promotion of marriage, from increasing the fertility rate to the quality upbringing of our youth, from ensuring the welfare of our elderly to in-place rural development and balanced population distribution — this Document stands as one of the most critical investments made in the future of Türkiye.

I congratulate all our institutions that have contributed to the preparation of the Vision Document, foremost among them our Ministry of Family and Social Services, and pray that all the work we will carry out under the motto “Türkiye Rooted in Family, Strengthened by Population, Advancing into the Future” will bring blessings to our nation.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President of the Republic of Türkiye



Preface

Throughout history, the family and the population have been the two most fundamental elements forming the basis of welfare and stability. The family, where generations are raised, values are transmitted and the consciousness of solidarity germinates, is the memory of a nation and the most important guarantee of both its present and its future. The population, in turn, is a multidimensional determinant of development and the survival of the state in many areas, from productive capacity to human capital, from national defense to social security, and from cultural continuity to quality of life.

In recent years, many countries across the world have come face to face with various processes of demographic change, and their consequences, including a falling fertility rate, rising age at first marriage, an increasing proportion of people who never marry, the shrinking of household size, depopulation in rural areas, and a growing share of elderly population. These trends partly reflect a mindset that delegitimizes the institutions of marriage and family and views population growth as a threat. Standing out as a priority area within Türkiye's development objectives, this picture is being addressed through an original, family-centered approach.

In order to translate the impact of the 2025 Year of the Family into a lasting policy framework, the period 2026–2035 has been declared the Decade of Family

and Population upon the approval of our President, Mr. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN. As the concrete and institutional reflection of this resolve, the Decade of Family and Population Vision Document constitutes a starting point and a strong foundation for the work to be carried out. The document is structured around five strategic priorities: protection of the family institution and generations; promotion of marriage; increasing the fertility rate; the quality upbringing of youth and ensuring elderly well-being; and in-place rural development together with the balanced distribution of the population. Within the implementation model, institutional capacity, legislation, communication, data infrastructure and diplomacy will be effectively mobilized. In line with the document's mainstreaming approach, a strong family and population structure will be treated as a shared priority of all public sectors.

I sincerely hope that the Vision Document, prepared with the understanding that the family is the foundation of society and the population is the guarantee of our nation's future, will be a means of blessings for our country. For a Türkiye strengthened by family and rising through its population, I extend my gratitude to our President, who has opened the way for this historic transformation and guided us with his leadership, and I thank my colleagues who worked devotedly on the preparation of the Vision Document, as well as all stakeholders who contributed.

Mahinur ÖZDEMİR GÖKTAŞ
Minister of Family and Social Services

General Framework

A strong family and population structure plays a vital role in the stable continuation of societies. In our country, the family is recognized as “the foundation of society,” a status guaranteed under Article 41 of the Constitution. The international conventions to which Türkiye is a party likewise define the family as “the natural and fundamental group unit of society” and impose on both the State and society the duty of protecting it.

Family: The smallest unit within society formed by the relationships among husband, wife, children and siblings, based on marriage and blood ties; household, kin (Turkish Language Association, April 2026).

Marriage: The civil-law contract that a woman and a man enter into before a duly authorized officer for the purpose of forming a family (Marriage Regulation, art. 2/f [as amended by Decision 2014/7126 of 29/12/2014]).

Türkiye continues its national and international work in this field with a will that has grown steadily stronger in recent years. It pursues this work by combining a sound technical and institutional framework with its deep-rooted historical heritage, ancient traditions and customs, and the cultural codes that shape its social life. The foundations of this resolve go back roughly twenty years, to the 2008 call for “at least three children” and the emphasis on a strong population. Today, the sharp decline in the fertility rate and other transformations in the family and demographic structure clearly bear out the accuracy of that foresight.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has described the decline in the fertility rate as “an existential threat greater than war,” underlining that the situation has reached an intolerable threshold and that the population is the nation’s greatest strength, and that determined steps will therefore be taken. Accordingly, 2025 has been declared the “Year of the Family,” and the period 2026–2035 has been designated the “Decade of Family and Population” so that holistic and lasting policies in this field can be put into practice.

2026–2035 The Decade of Family and Population

On 23 May 2025, our President officially declared the Decade of Family and Population.

The Vision Document presents national strategic priorities, the implementation model and the basic instruments as a coherent whole, reflecting Türkiye's distinctive approach to the issue. In contrast to the view that sees population as an obstacle to development, Türkiye regards the human being and the family both as the subject and as the fundamental source of development. Within this framework, the decline in fertility and the dissolution of family structure are defined as an existential matter that directly threatens society's ability to sustain itself; investment in the development of every individual and every family is regarded as an inseparable part of population policy.

Structure of the Document:

Taking the Presidential Circular on the Decade of Family and Population as its basis, this Vision Document has been prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services and with the contributions of public institutions, in order to translate the measures envisaged in that Circular into a structured implementation framework.

Family and Population Policies from a Historical Perspective

Throughout history, the family and marriage have enjoyed universal recognition as the fundamental institution of society in both sociological and legal terms. Indeed, many international instruments — most notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — affirm the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society. Population, in turn, has for centuries been regarded in many societies as an indicator of strength and prosperity.

Processes of social change rooted in the 19th century, in which industrialization and urbanization played a leading role, prepared the ground for the transformations that the family and the institution of marriage would undergo in the following century. During the same period, an inverse relationship was posited between population growth and food production, with the claim that this growth would lead to food shortages, hinder development and lie at the root of various global problems.

In the second half of the twentieth century, the institutions of family and marriage came under the influence of detrimental currents that instrumentalized

the discourses of individualization, human rights and freedom, and that were largely grounded in gender ideology. At the same time, policies premised on reducing fertility were implemented in many countries. Declines in the number of marriages, rising age at marriage, increasing rates of never-marrying and divorce, falling fertility rates, and shifts in the age-based and spatial distribution of the population have all been reflected in demographic indicators as concrete outcomes of those influences and policies. These transformations have, in turn, brought structural pressures in many fields — in particular education, employment, social security and national security.

Similar to the global picture, in Türkiye until the 1960s the population factor was viewed as one of the basic conditions of being a strong society; however, the First Development Plan (1963–1967) put forward the argument that high population growth hindered development. Under the heading “New Population Policy,” measures aimed at controlling population were introduced and it was stated that the provisions prohibiting population planning would be amended “immediately.”

While the inverse relationship posited between population growth and development continued to feature in subsequent development plans, legal arrangements were also put in place in line with this approach. With the Population Planning Law that came into force in 1965, provisions in the General Public Health Law that encouraged motherhood and childbearing — and provisions that hindered family planning — were repealed and replaced by family-planning-oriented provisions. On the grounds that the decline in fertility was insufficient, the Law on Population Planning, which entered into force in 1983, also legalized abortion, sterilization and castration practices alongside family planning.

Institutional structures were also established at the central and provincial levels. In 1965, the General Directorate of Population Planning was set up within the then Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; in 1983, following a new restructuring, it was reorganized as the General Directorate of Mother and Child Health and Family Planning. Mother and Child Health and Family Planning Centers were set up in the provincial organization alongside the central organization of the same Ministry. In the same year, a Population Planning Advisory Board was established, composed

of representatives of public institutions and of professional bodies of public-institution status.

Processes that eroded the family institution and policies aimed at reducing population thus emerged in the same historical period in a mutually reinforcing manner. The long-term and multilayered nature of these transformations — which deeply affect the foundations on which society's present and its vision of the future are built — sets out the scope of the measures that need to be taken and makes a holistic perspective indispensable.

International Examples

Family and population policies are today addressed as a strategic priority by many countries, and high-level institutional structures are being established accordingly:

- 01** In Hungary, the “Maria Kopp Institute for Demography and Families” was founded in 2018 to carry out research and analysis on family and population policies.
- 02** In Croatia, the “Council for the Demographic Revitalization of the Republic of Croatia” was established under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 6 April 2018; this was followed on 17 May 2024 by the establishment of the “Ministry of Demography and Immigration.”
- 03** In Serbia, the “Ministry of Family Care and Demography” was established in October 2020.
- 04** In Iran, the “National Population Headquarters” was set up in November 2021 under the chairmanship of the President.
- 05** In Italy, a Minister of State responsible for “Family, Natality and Equal Opportunities” was appointed in October 2022.
- 06** In the United Arab Emirates, the “Ministry of Family” was established in 2024.

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- 07** In Norway, alongside the Ministry of Children and Families, the “Birth Rate Committee” was established by Royal Decree in August 2024.
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- 08** In Indonesia, the “Ministry of Population and Family Development” was established on 21 October 2024.
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- 09** In South Korea, a “demographic national emergency” was declared on 19 June 2024 in view of falling fertility rates.
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- 10** In Russia, the “Council for the Implementation of State Demographic and Family Policy,” chaired by the President, was set up on 9 December 2024.
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- 11** In Japan, the Children and Families Agency — whose duties include addressing the country’s low birth rates — was established on 1 April 2023; the country also has a Minister of State for low fertility rates. The “Population Strategy Headquarters” was established within the Office of the Prime Minister on 18 November 2025.
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- 12** In France, a national fertility plan was launched in 2026 under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, Families, Autonomy and Persons with Disabilities.
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Key Advances in *Family* and Population Policies

In Türkiye, the call for “at least three children” in 2008 marked a strategic paradigm shift away from policies that limited population growth; from then on, determined steps began to be taken to expand the scope and effectiveness of work against the negative changes in the family and population structure.

Institutional Structuring

In 2011, an independent ministry centered on the family was established, placing this transformation on an institutional footing.

1989

Family Research Institution

Established by Decree-Law No. 396 as an entity attached to the Prime Ministry

2004

General Directorate of Family and Social Research

Reorganized by Law No. 5256 as an entity attached to the Prime Ministry

21 April 2021

Ministry of Family and Social Services
Established by Presidential Decree No. 73

2011

Ministry of Family and Social Policies
Established by Decree-Law No. 633

2018

Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services
Established by Decree-Law No. 703; its powers, duties and responsibilities were determined by Presidential Decree No. 1

The duties of the Ministry of Family and Social Services include the following:

- 01** Coordinating the work of formulating national policies and strategies against the adverse effects of social and cultural transformations on family structure and values;

- 02** Carrying out social services and assistance activities aimed at protecting family integrity and enhancing family welfare;

- 03** Ensuring cooperation and coordination among the relevant public institutions and civil society organizations in this field;

- 04** Monitoring the effects of changes in the population structure on the family institution, identifying problem areas, and contributing to the development of national population policy.

2011**General Directorate of Family and Community Services**

Established within the Ministry of Family and Social Services in 2011

The General Directorate of Family and Community Services operates as one of the six main service units of the central organization of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, alongside the General Directorates of Child Services, Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, the Status of Women, Social Assistance, and Relatives of Martyrs and Veterans.

2024**Department of Family and Population Policies**

Established within the General Directorate of Family and Community Services of the Ministry of Family and Social Services on 17 May 2024

The Department of Family and Population Policies is the first institutional structure to address population policies systematically from a fertility-supportive perspective. The Department continues its work under the umbrella of the Family Institute.

2024**Family Institute**

Established by Presidential Decree No. 171 of 25 December 2024

The Family Institute was set up to bring together, under a single roof and on a scientific basis, activities of data production, research and policy development in the fields of family and population. It is mandated to contribute to the effectiveness of services for children, young people, women, men, persons with disabilities and the elderly; to conduct nationally and strategically significant research with an inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach; and to reveal demographic changes and their reflections on family structure through scientific research and analysis.

National Policy Documents

2014–2018 – Tenth Development Plan

Target: “It is targeted that, through the policies to be implemented in the field of population, the total fertility rate will be gradually raised.”

2024–2028 – Twelfth Development Plan

Main Objective: “The principal aim is to maintain fertility above the population’s replacement level, to strengthen the institution of the family, to lower the rising average age at marriage by encouraging marriages at younger ages, to support having more than two children, thereby preserving a healthy and dynamic population structure, raising the physical and mental health and quality of life of the aging population, enhancing their functionality so that they can lead active and independent lives, ensuring their participation in economic and social life, and enabling them to access quality care and health services.”

Beginning with the Ninth Development Plan (in force during 2007–2013), Türkiye stopped including family-planning services in its development plans; the Tenth Development Plan (2014–2018) embraced for the first time the principle of gradually increasing the fertility rate.

The Twelfth Development Plan, covering 2024–2028, set out as its main objective keeping fertility above the replacement level and strengthening the institution of the family. The view that population growth is an obstacle to development has thus been left behind in our country’s policy framework.

2024–2028 Vision Document and Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family

Entered into force by Presidential Circular No. 2024/6 on 15 May 2024

5 Strategic Goals, 15 Strategic Targets, 100 Activities

1. Protecting the Family in the Face of Global Risks and Demographic Transformation
2. Raising the Welfare Level of Families
3. Increasing the Effectiveness of Family-Centered Social Policies and Services
4. Supporting the Family in the Process of Digitalization
5. Increasing the Resilience of Families to Disasters and Emergencies through Family-Sensitive Environmental Policies

2024–2028 Provincial Action Plans for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family

As of May 2025, provincial action plans have been finalized in all 81 provinces and are being implemented together with local stakeholders.

Issued on 15 May 2024 — International Day of Families and the 30th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family — Presidential Circular No. 2024/6 brought the “Vision Document and Action Plan for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family” (2024–2028) into force. Structured around five main objectives, the Plan addresses the themes of global risks and demography, welfare, social policy and services, digitalization, and the environment. As Türkiye’s first action plan placing the family at its center, it is of particular significance.

Boards

Two main boards as well as provincial boards have been set up to ensure that family and population policies are conducted in an integrated and coordinated manner.

2024**Coordination Board for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family**

Established by Presidential Circular No. 2024/6 of 15 May 2024

Provincial Coordination Boards for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family

Established by Presidential Circular No. 2024/6 of 15 May 2024

Work for the effective monitoring of the Action Plans for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family is carried out at the central level through the Coordination Board for the Protection and Strengthening of the Family – which meets under the chairmanship of the Minister of Family and Social Services and brings together the Ministers of Justice, Interior and Health, the President of Religious Affairs, and representatives of the relevant public institutions – and at the local level through the provincial coordination boards convened under the chairmanship of governors.

2024**Population Policies Board**

Established by Presidential Decree No. 172 of 25 December 2024

In 2024, the Population Policies Board was set up within the Ministry of Family and Social Services. Convened under the chairmanship of the Vice President of the Republic with the participation of relevant Ministers and senior representatives of public institutions, the Board is responsible for coordinating the strategies determined in the field of population policies and the implementation processes of public policies in this area. The Board's secretariat functions are carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

2025**2025 Year of the Family**

Declared by our President at the launch event held on 13 January 2025

On 13 January 2025, in order to combat the changes in the family and demographic structure and to strengthen the institution of the family, our President declared 2025 the Year of the Family.

The Year of the Family helped foster significant awareness among public institutions, the academic community, civil society organizations and citizens. Within the framework of the 2025 Year of the Family, around 20,000 events were held.

Through the Project for Supporting Young People Preparing to Marry, carried out under the Family and Youth Fund, our young people who are about to start a home are supported both financially and through education and counselling services. Launched as a pilot in the earthquake region on 15 February 2024, the project was rolled out across the country as of 13 January 2025.

The “My First Teacher is My Family” Mobile Application, designed as a digital guide for families, was made available. The application aims to support expectant parents and parents of children aged 0–18 in adopting positive attitudes and skills, to contribute to the upbringing of healthy generations, and to strengthen the role of parents in their children’s healthy development.

By identifying issues that threaten the family and society, the Ministry of Family and Social Services develops awareness-raising activities and implements training programs for adults. Within this scope, the Pre-Marital Education Program, the Family Education Program and Family Counselling services are offered with the aim of supporting the establishment of families on solid foundations and helping the families established to remain healthy and long-lasting.

Family and Population Diplomacy

Türkiye is taking its work on the protection of the family, generations and a strong population structure into the international arena through family and population diplomacy.

As of 6 September 2024, our country became the 31st member of the United Nations Group of Friends of the Family (GoFF). On the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly, the side event entitled “Better Together: Global Solidarity Rooted in the Family” placed the family on the agenda of the highest-level UN meeting.

At Türkiye’s proposal, the protection of the family, generations and a strong population structure has been included for the first time as a separate priority in the 2026–2035 Action Plan of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Decade of Family and Population (2026–2035)

Following Türkiye’s initiative, the proposal to declare 2026–2035 the “Family and Population Decade” within the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was endorsed at the senior officials’ level during the Islamic Conference held in January 2026, with final adoption expected at the Council of Foreign Ministers.

By including social policy among the working areas of the Organization of Turkic States, the Ministry of Family and Social Services has ensured that approaches strengthening the family and population are kept as a permanent item on the Organization’s agenda. Within this framework, the Ministerial Meeting on Social Policies was held in our country for the first time, and a declaration on the protection and strengthening of the family was signed at the conclusion of the meeting.

At the 28th Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the emphasis that strengthening the institution of the family and preserving a healthy population structure are among the basic determinants of long-term economic development was, on Türkiye’s proposal, included among the Organization’s priorities. The Minister of Family and Social Services serves as Co-Chair of the Joint Economic Commissions (JECs), and efforts are continuing to add to the JEC protocols of all countries with which the JEC mechanism operates a provision concerning cooperation on the strengthening of the family.

2025

International Family Forum

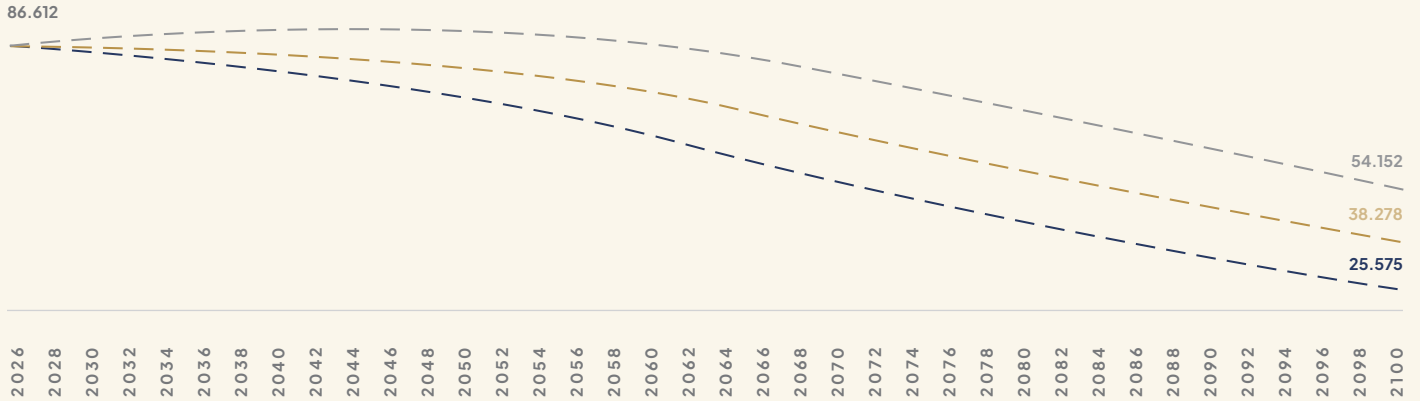
Following the International Family Forum held in Istanbul on 22–23 May 2025 with ministerial-level participation from 26 countries, the Ministerial Declaration on the theme of “Strengthening the Family” was signed by the Ministers.

Family diplomacy efforts led by the Ministry of Family and Social Services have produced concrete results: the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria and Egypt have declared 2026 a “Year of the Family,” and a process to declare a “Year of Family Welfare” has been initiated in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Active engagement is being maintained on family, population, social policy and human-rights matters in international platforms, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the OECD and the G20.

Family and Population According to *Main* Indicators

Building the Decade of Family and Population vision from a strategic perspective requires a data-based analysis of the changes in family structure and demographic indicators. Recent trends in variables ranging from the fertility rate to the age-based and geographical distribution of the population, and from marriage and divorce rates to household compositions, constitute the basic parameters of the family and population policies to be implemented over the coming decade.

Figure 1. Population by scenarios, 2026-2100

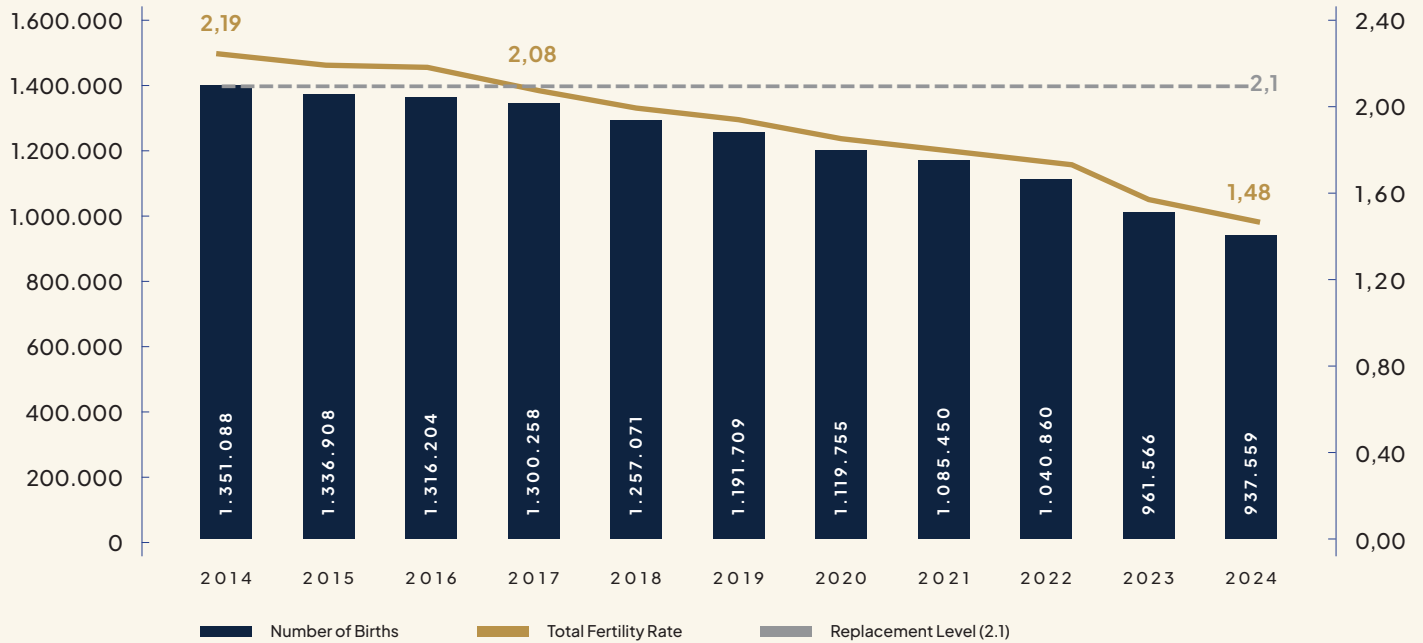


Note: Values given in millions in the source data are shown in thousands in the figure

Source: World Population Prospects 2024; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (Year of Publication: 2024) – Population Projections, 2023–2100; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2024).

An examination of the projections for the total population indicates that, while Türkiye's population stood at 86,092,168 in 2025, by 2100 it could fall to 54 million according to TURKSTAT's low scenario, to 38 million according to the United Nations' lower 80% prediction interval (PI), and to as low as 25 million according to its lower 95% PI.

Figure 2. Total fertility rate and number of births, 2014–2024

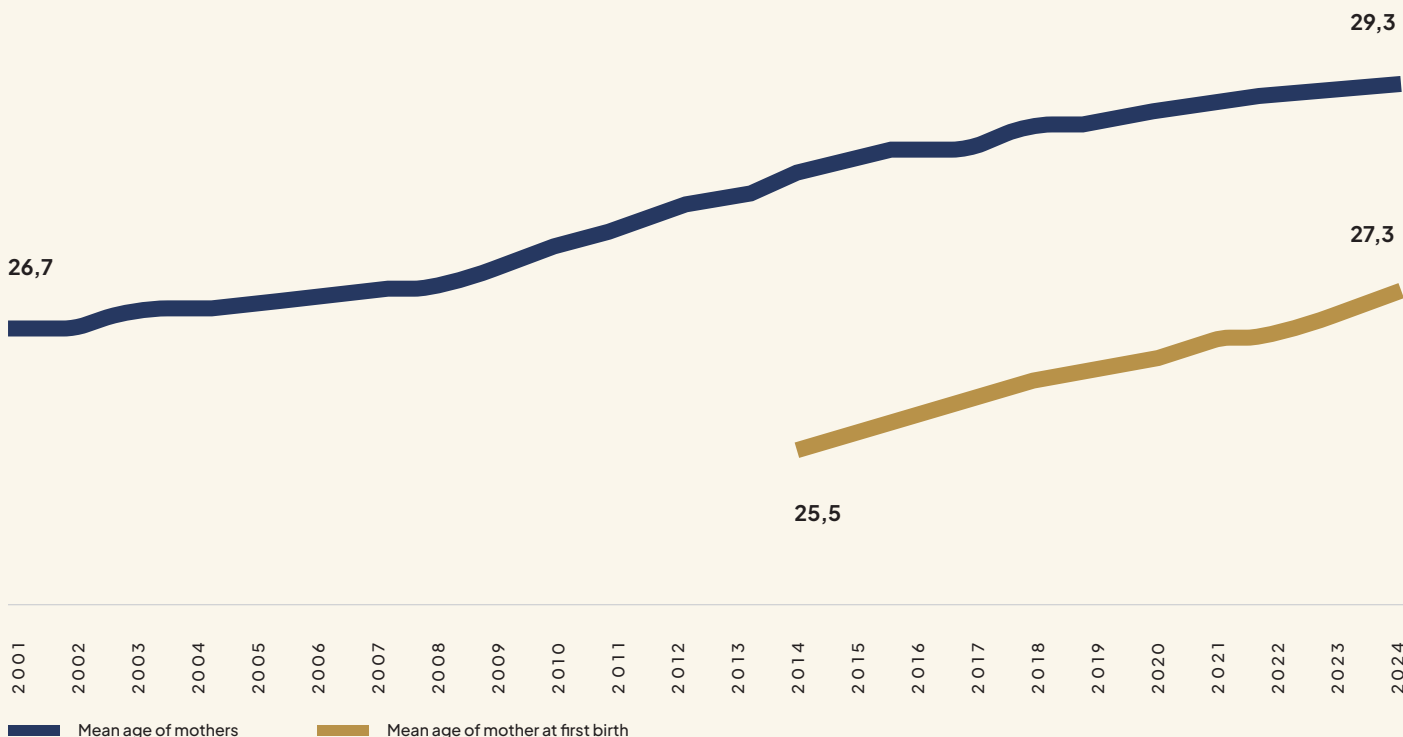


Source: Birth Statistics, 2024; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2025)

When Türkiye's demographic panorama is examined, the trends in the total fertility rate and in the number of births form the first basic indicator of the population's capacity for renewal. The fertility rate fell below 2.1 in 2017 and continued to decline, reaching 1.48 in 2024.

The annual number of births, which stood at 1,351,088 in 2014, fell below 1 million in 2023. In 2024, the number of births had dropped by more than 400,000 compared with ten years earlier, and in the provinces of Tunceli, Bayburt and Ardahan the annual number of births fell below 1,000.

Figure 3. Mean age of mothers and mean age of mother at first birth, 2001–2024

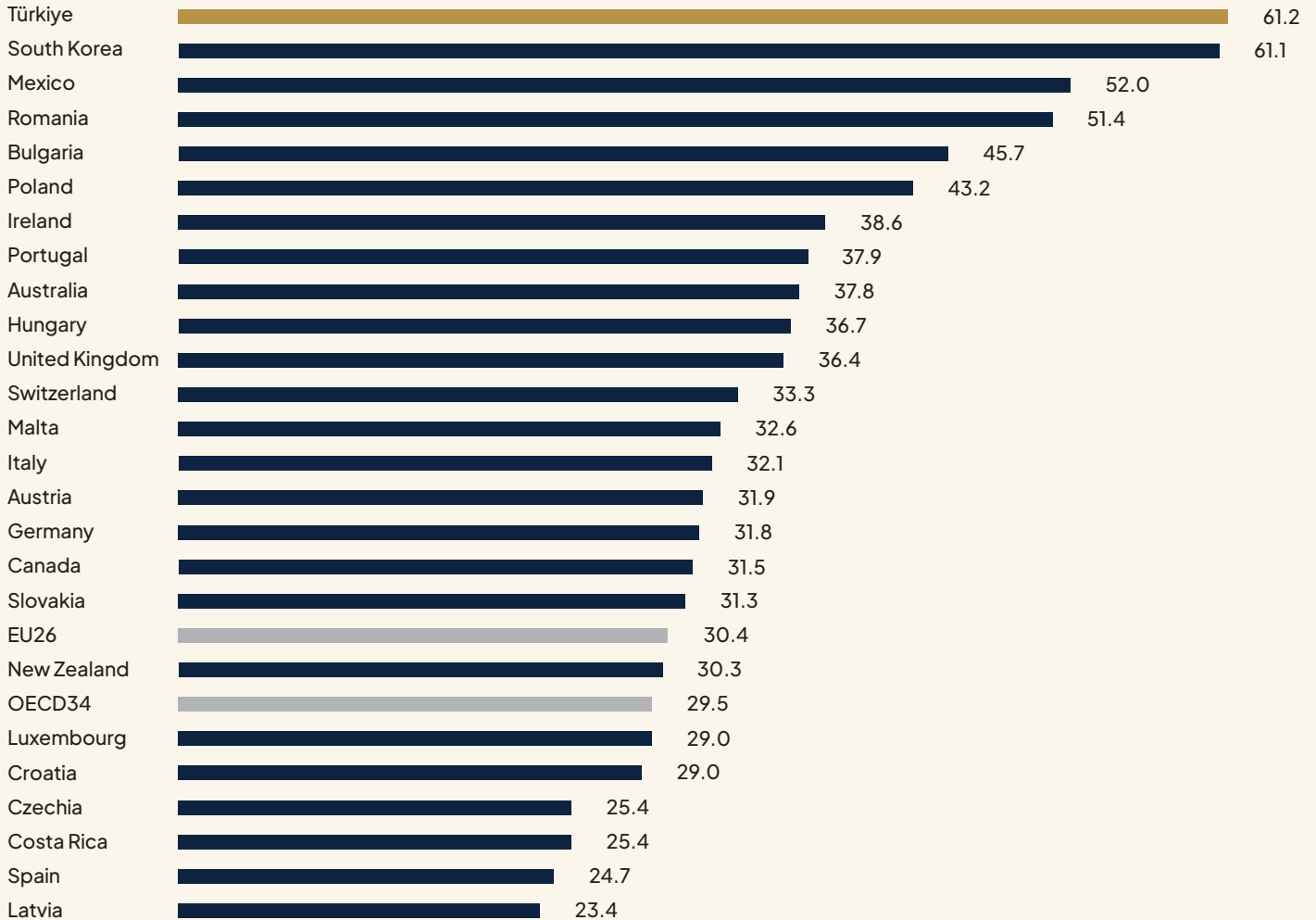


Source: Birth Statistics, 2024; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2025)

Data on the mean age of mothers and on the mean age at first birth point to a trend that reinforces the decline in the fertility rate and the number of births. The mean age of mothers, which stood at 26.7 in 2001, rose to 29.3 in 2024 and exceeded 30 in 12 of our provinces.

The mean age at first birth, which was 25.5 in 2014, rose to 27.3 in 2024. The upward trend observed in both indicators points to motherhood being increasingly postponed to later ages.

Figure 4. Share of caesarean sections in all deliveries (%), by country, 2023

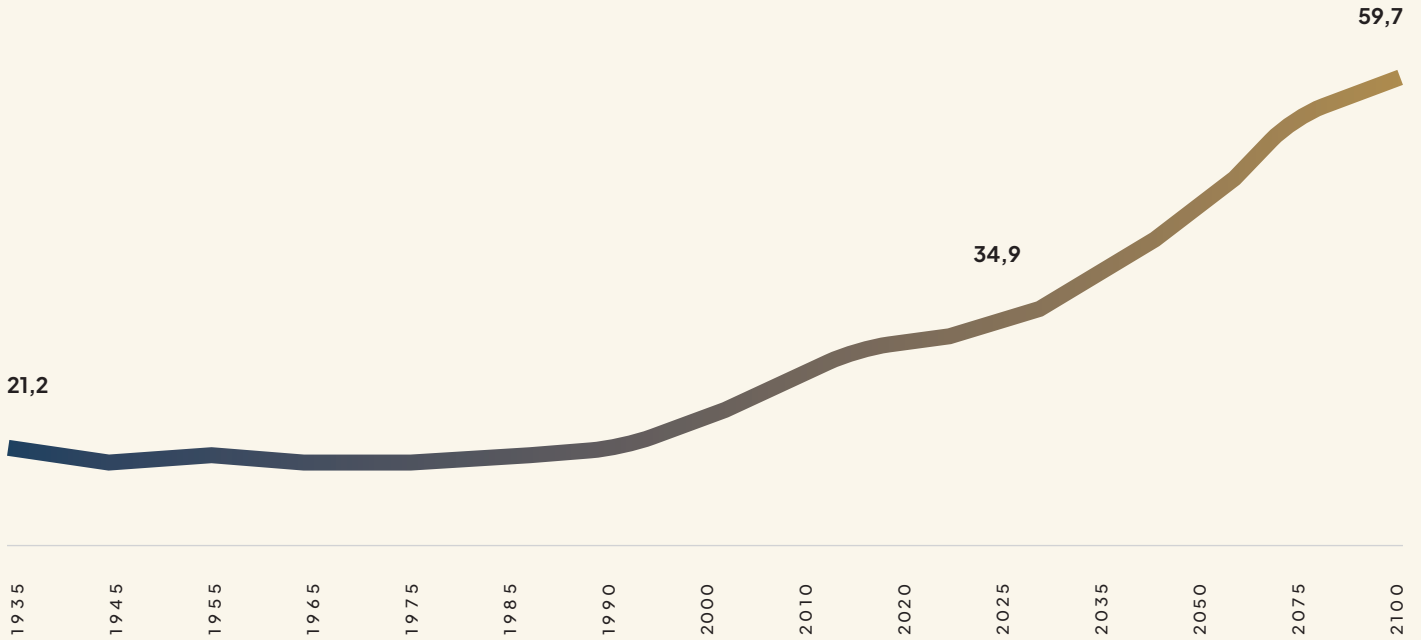


Source: Health Statistics Yearbook 2024; Ministry of Health (Year of Publication: 2025)

According to a report published by the World Health Organization in 2018, caesarean delivery is associated in subsequent pregnancies with complications such as uterine rupture, placental problems, ectopic pregnancy and infertility, and is therefore one of the factors related to fertility.

Drawing on the WHO's 1985 statement that "there is no justification for any region to have a caesarean rate higher than 10–15%," an ideal caesarean rate of between 10 and 15% has been widely accepted. In its 2015 statement, the WHO observed that "caesarean rates above 10% are not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn mortality rates."

According to data from the Ministry of Health, this rate stood at 61.2% in Türkiye in 2024. When the share of caesarean sections among all deliveries is compared across countries, our country ranks among the highest worldwide on this indicator. Based on data for 24 countries and 2 international organizations from OECD Health Data 2025 and the EUROSTAT database, rates range from 23% to 61%; after Türkiye, South Korea ranks second at 61.1% and Mexico third at 52%.

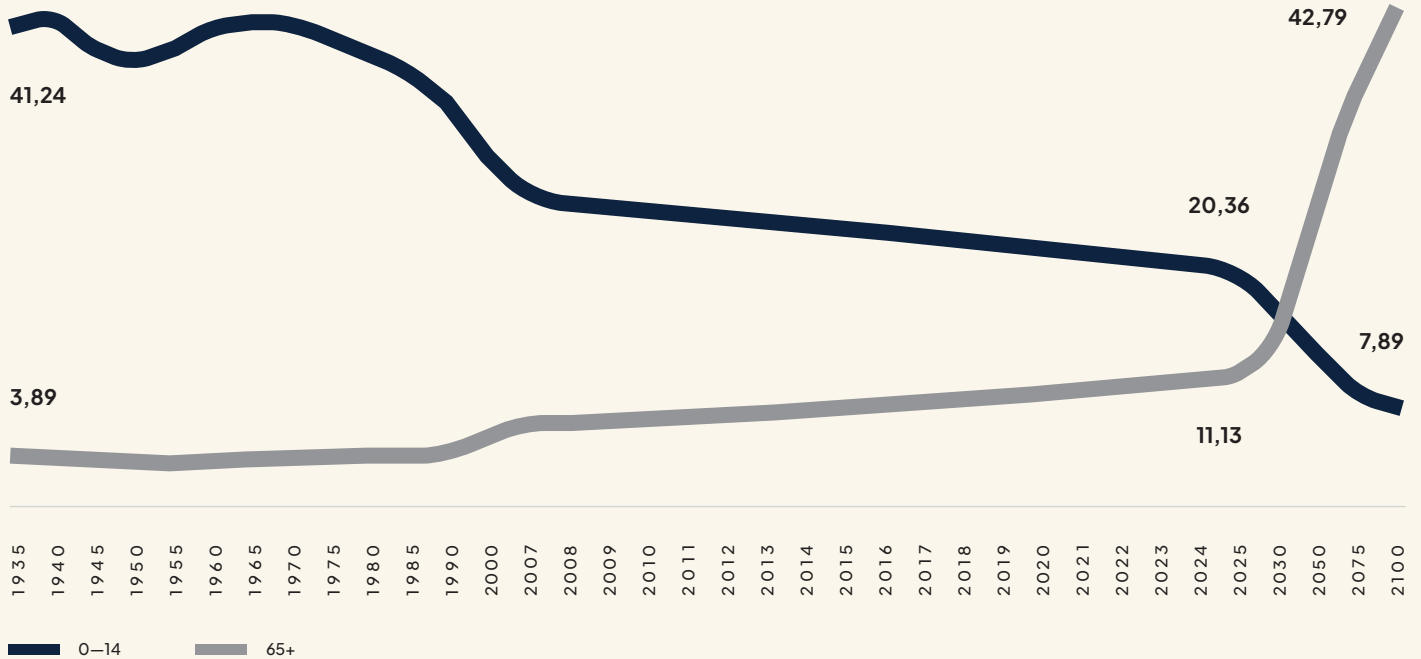
Figure 5. Median age, 1935–2100

Source: Birth Statistics, 2024; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2025) – Population Projections, 2023–2100; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2024)

The median age, an important indicator of the age distribution of the population, has been on a continuous upward trend since 1970, reaching 34.9 in 2025.

This means that one in every two people in Türkiye is now around 35 years old. Population projections show that the median age will continue to rise, reaching 59.7 by 2100 according to the low scenario.

Figure 6. Share of the 0-14 and 65+ age groups in the total population (%), 1935-2100

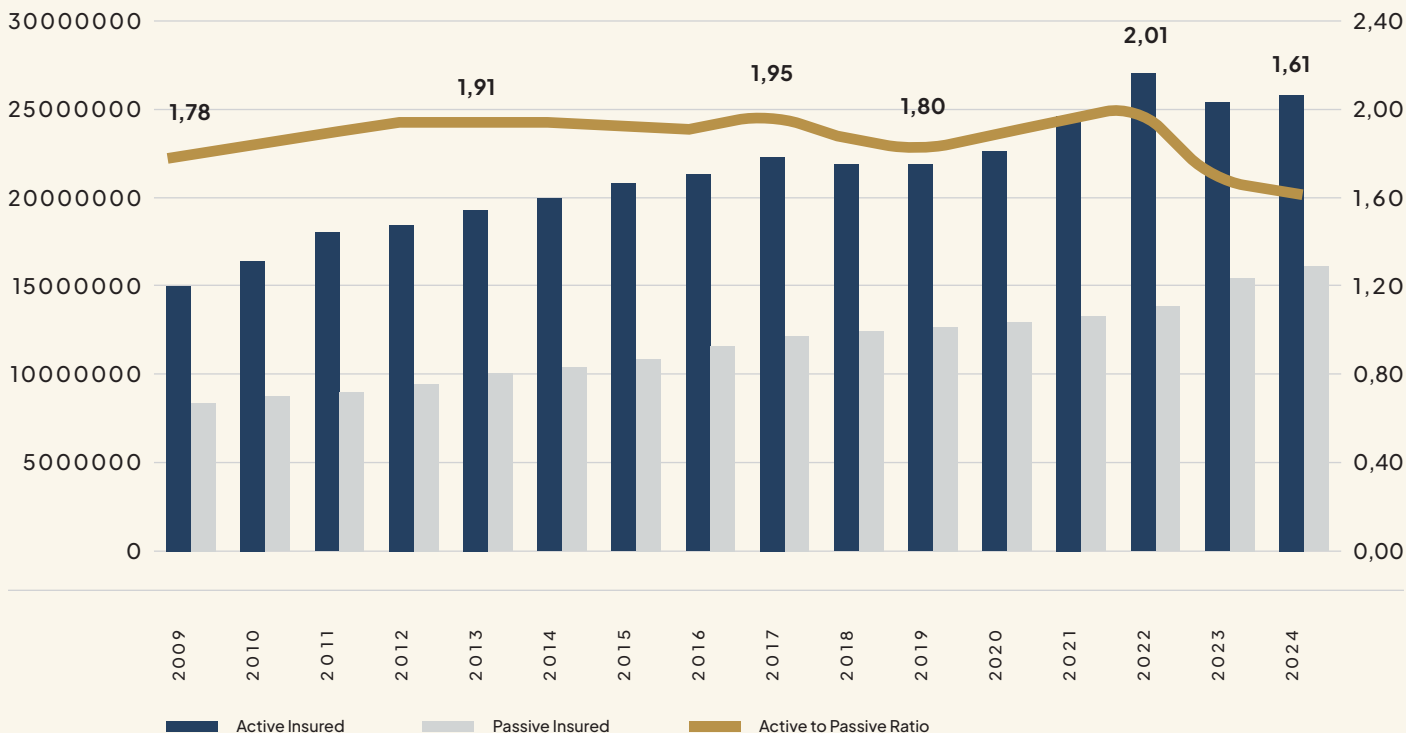


Source: Elderly Statistics, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Publication: 2026)

In Türkiye, while the child and youth population is decreasing, the share of those aged 65 and over is increasing. As of 2025, the elderly population share has risen to 11.1%.

According to all population projection scenarios, the 0-14 age group and the 65-and-over age group are projected to converge between 2030 and 2040. By 2100, the share of the elderly population is projected to reach 33.6% under the main scenario and 42.8% under the low scenario. Even the most optimistic (high) scenario foresees that by 2100 about one in three people (28.2%) will be elderly.

Figure 8. Numbers of active and passive insured persons and active-to-passive ratio, 2009–2024

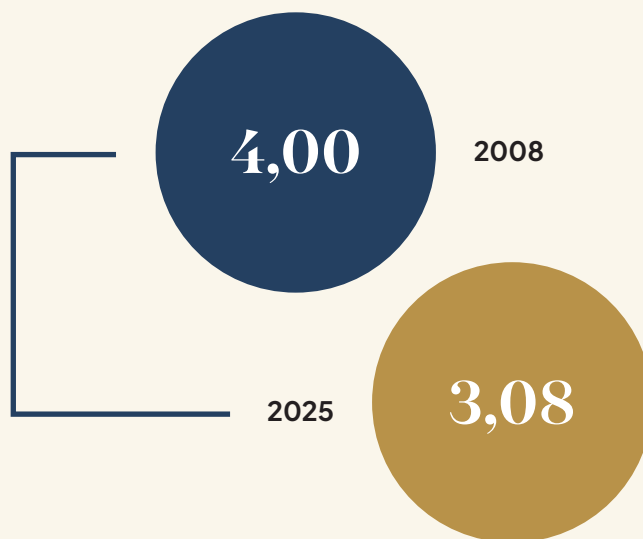


Source: Statistical Yearbooks of the Social Security Institution (2010–2024); Social Security Institution (Most Recent Year of Publication: 2025)

The decline of the working-age population alongside the growing share of the elderly has direct implications for the balance of the social-security system.

The ratio of active insured persons paying contributions to passive insured persons benefiting from the system is considered ideal at four or above — that is, at least four workers for every retiree or passive insured person — while a ratio below two indicates that the system is in a financially critical state. In Türkiye, the active-to-passive ratio fell to 1.61 in 2024.

Figure 9. Average household size, 2008–2025



Source: Central Distribution System; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

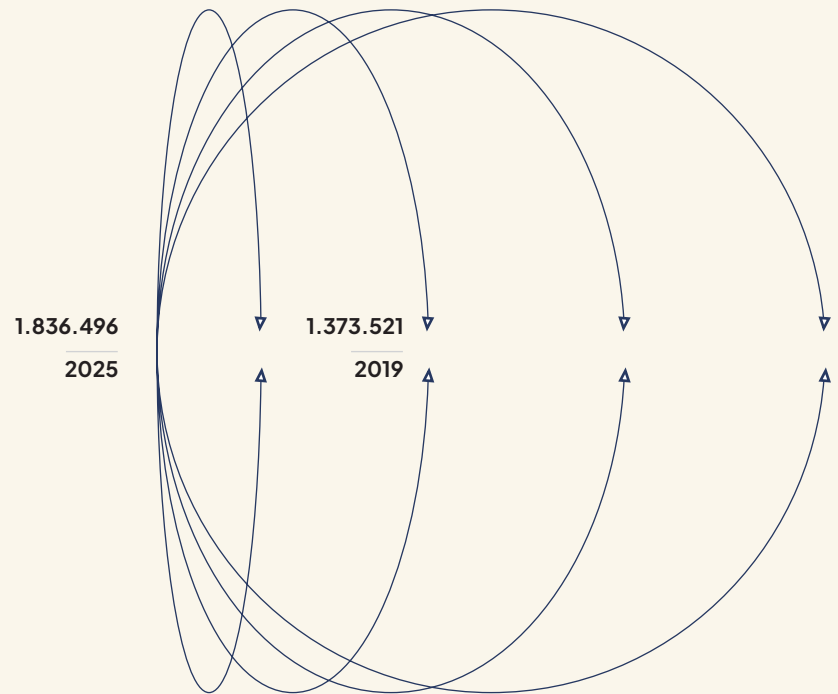
As one of the consequences of changes in other demographic indicators — such as the decline in fertility, the rise in never-marrying and divorce rates, and the decline in inter-generational coresidence — families are becoming smaller.

The average household size has been on an uninterrupted downward trend, falling to 3.08 in 2025.

Figure 10. Share of one-person households (%), 2014–2025



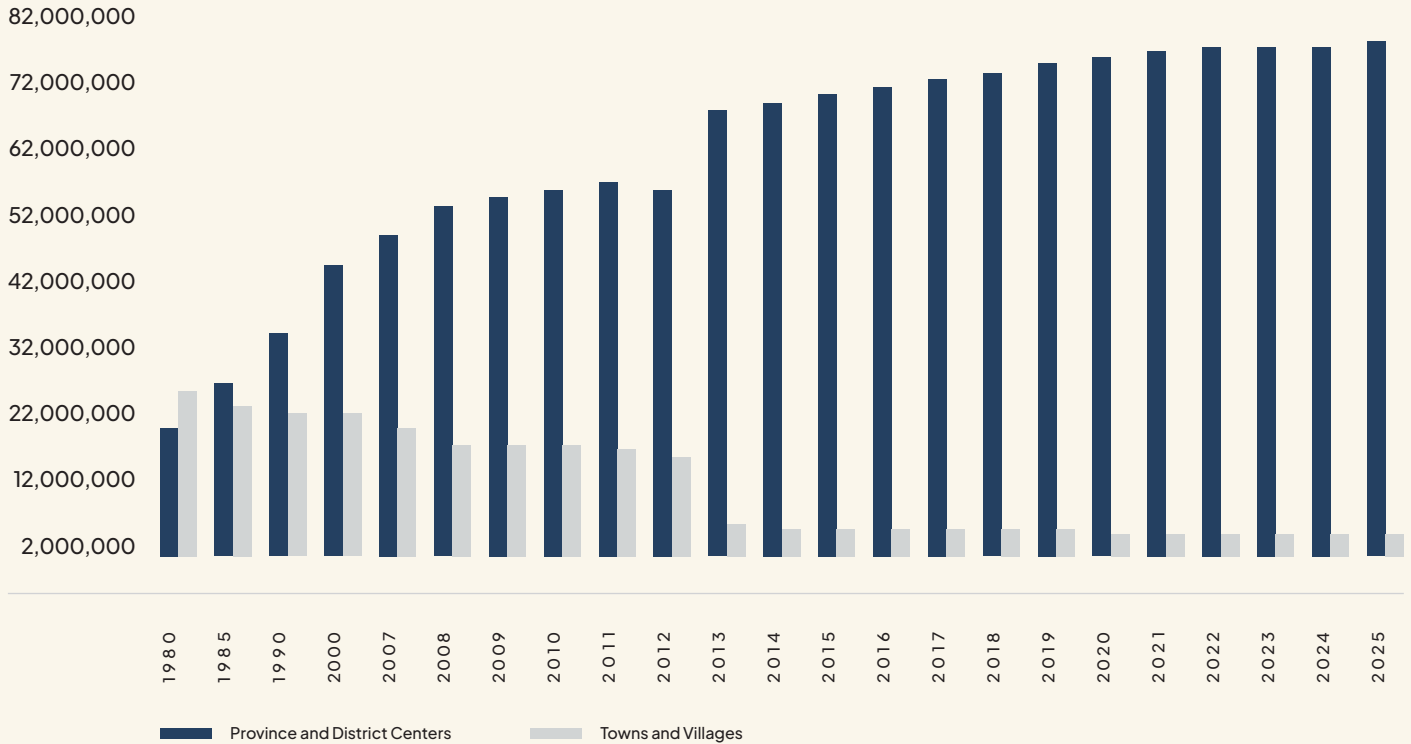
Source: Population Statistics Portal; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

Figure 11. Number of elderly persons living alone, 2019–2025

Source: Elderly Statistics, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2026)

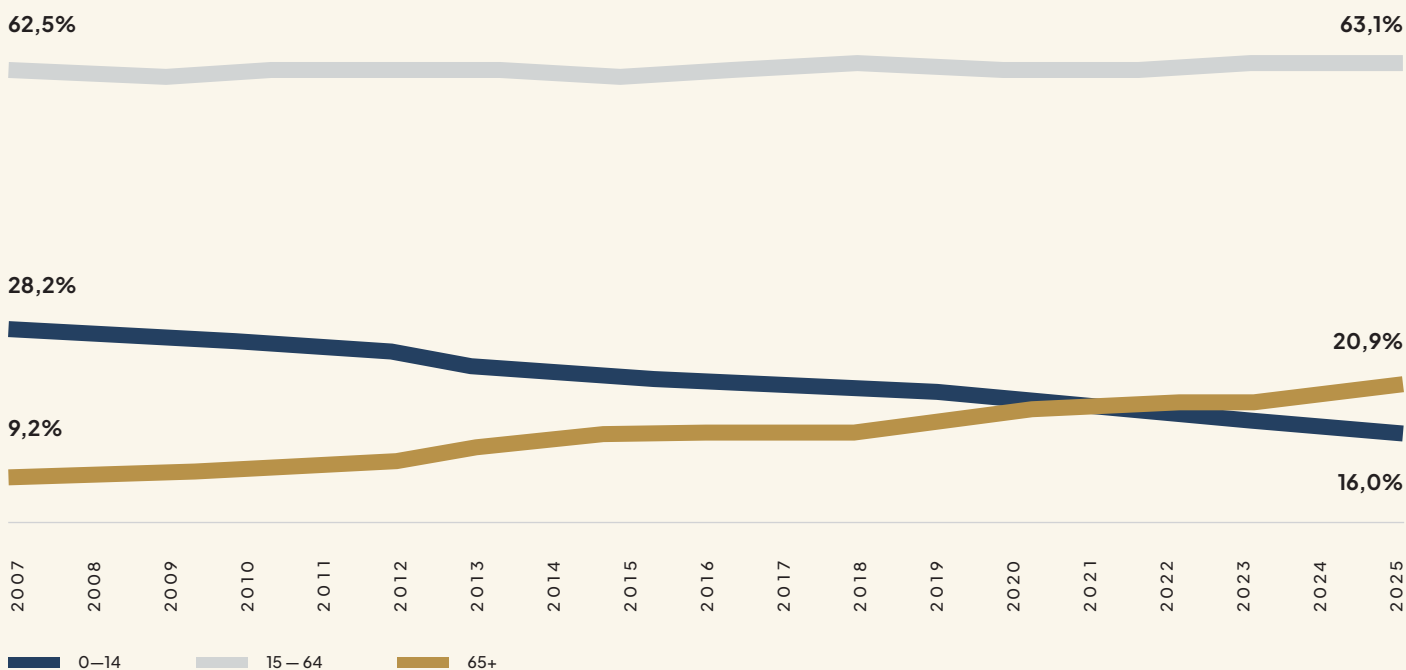
In 2025, the share of one-person households consisting of individuals living alone rose to 20.5%, while the number of elderly persons living alone reached 1,836,496.

Figure 12. Population by place of settlement, 1980–2025



Source: Address–Based Population Registration System Results, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

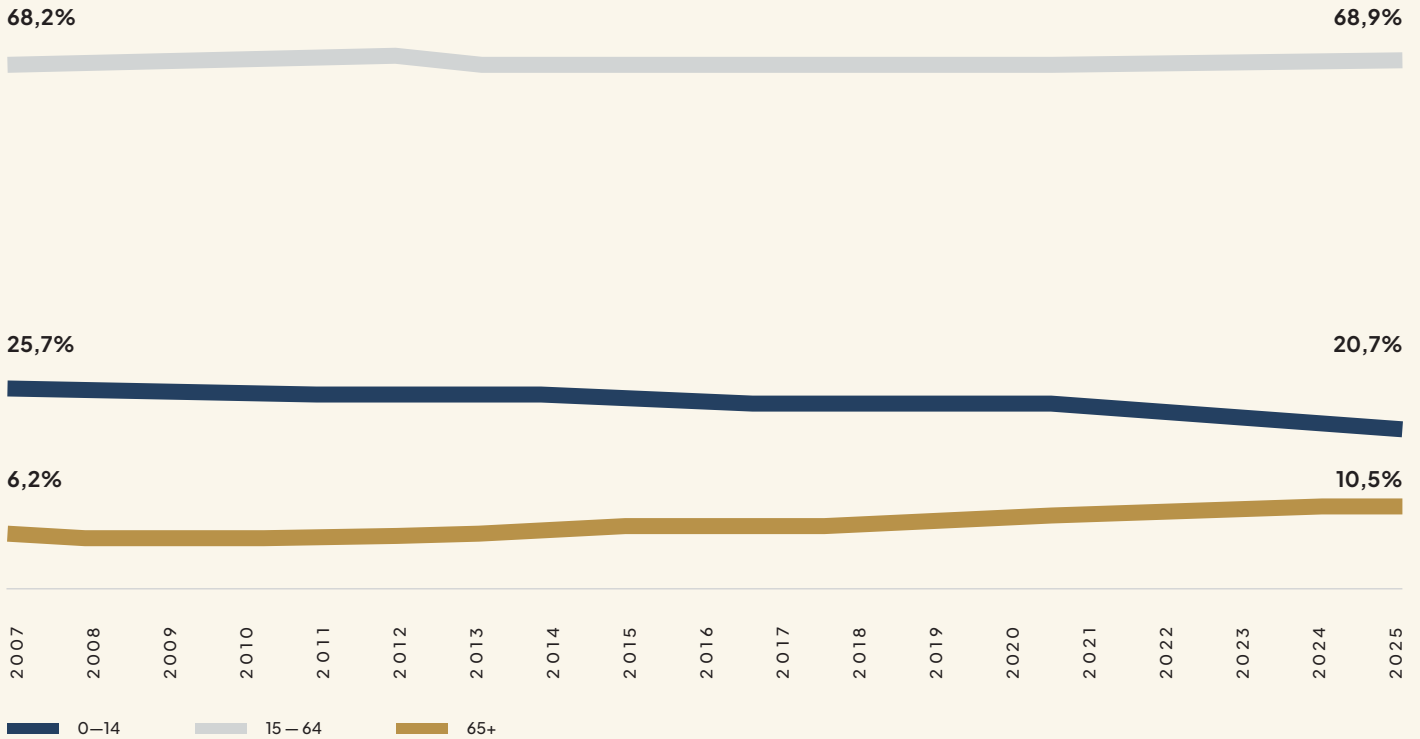
Population loss in rural areas has also increased significantly. The population of towns and villages, which stood at 25,091,950 in 1980, fell to 5,536,693 in 2025, while the population of province and district centers rose from 19,645,007 to 80,555,475 over the same period. In other words, in 1980, 56.1% of the population lived in rural areas and 43.9% in urban areas; by 2025, these shares had become 6.4% and 93.6%, respectively.

Figure 13. Share of town and village populations by age group (%), 2007–2025

Source: Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

An examination of the broad age-group distribution of the population living in towns and villages shows that the population in the 15–64 age group has remained relatively stable over the years, while the share of the 0–14 age group has fallen from 28.2% to 16.0% and the share of those aged 65 and over has risen from 9.2% to 20.9%. As of 2022, the elderly population in rural areas has surpassed the child population in the 0–14 age group.

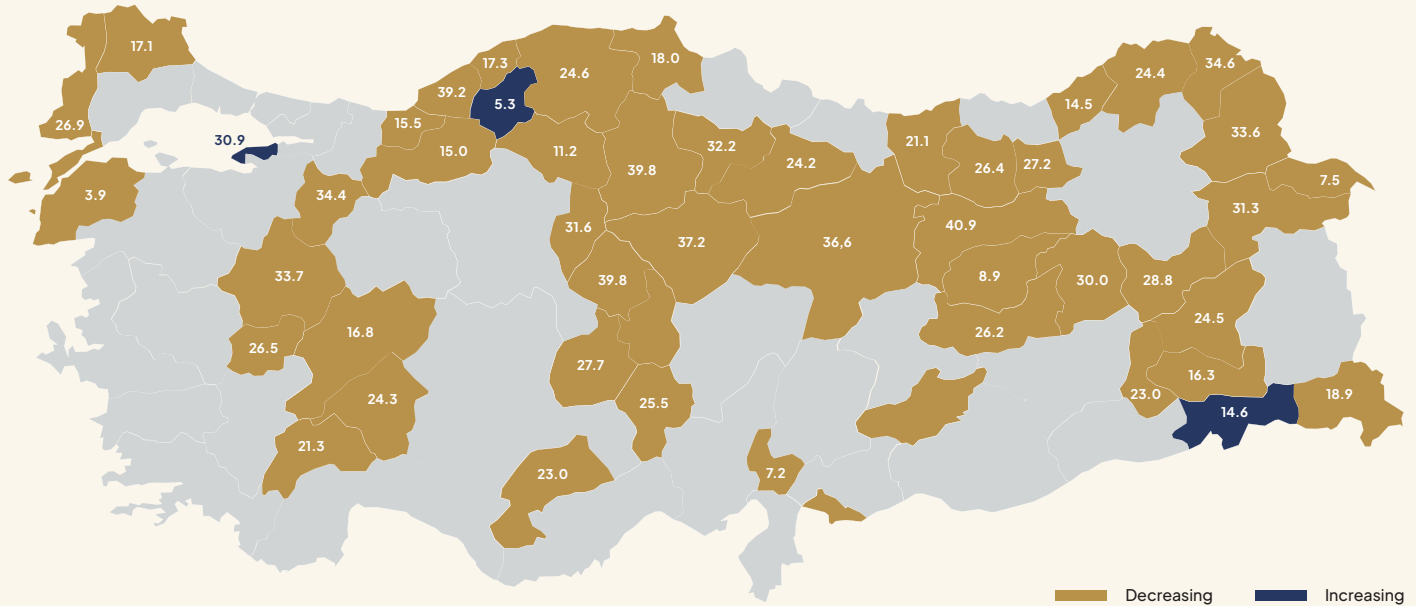
Figure 14. Share of provincial and district-center populations by age group (%), 2007–2025



Source: Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

The age-group distribution of the population living in provincial and district centers shows a picture similar to that of towns and villages, particularly for the 15–64 age group.

However, the upward trend in the elderly population and the downward trend in the 0–14 age group continue more sharply in rural areas than in urban ones.

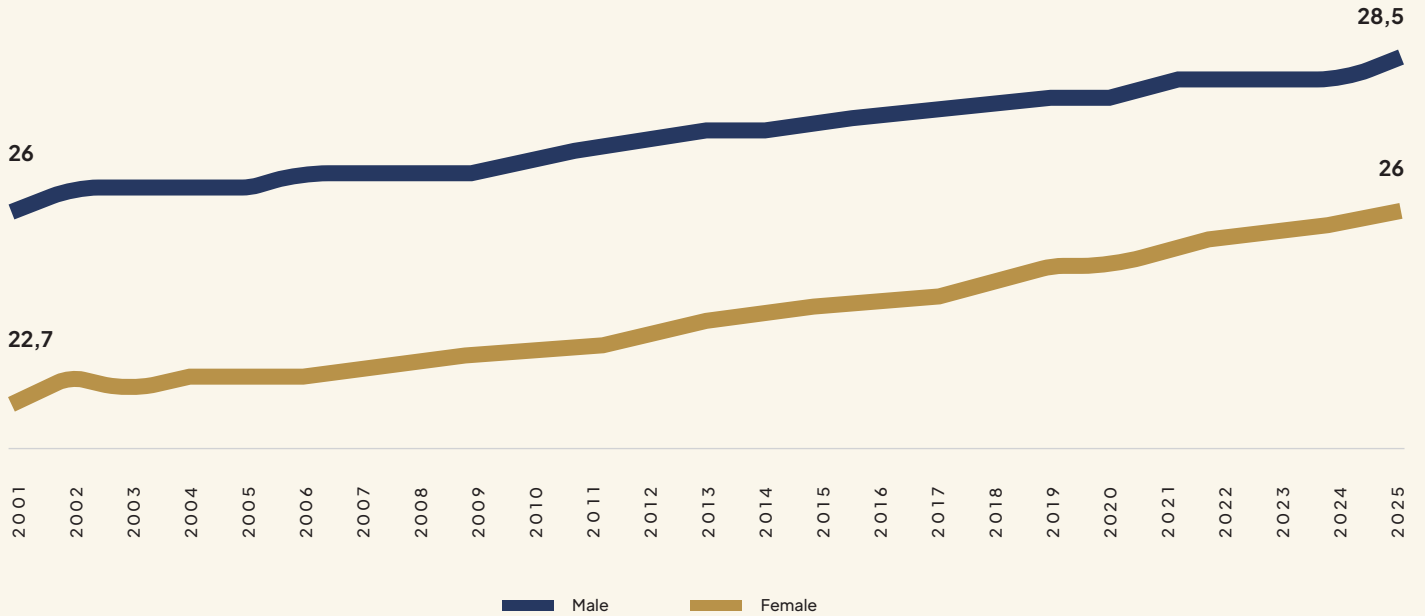
Figure 15. Rate of change in town and village populations by province (%), 2008–2025

Note: Provinces (30 metropolitan municipalities) whose towns and villages had their legal status abolished pursuant to Law No. 6360 of 12 March 2012 are shown in grey

Source: Address-Based Population Registration System Results, 2025 and 2009; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2026 and 2010)

An examination of changes in the population living in towns and villages on a provincial basis between 2008 and 2025 reveals declines ranging from 40.9% (Erzincan) to 3.9% (Çanakkale) in 48 of our provinces.

By contrast, Şırnak, Karabük and Yalova are the only provinces where the town and village population increased over the same period.

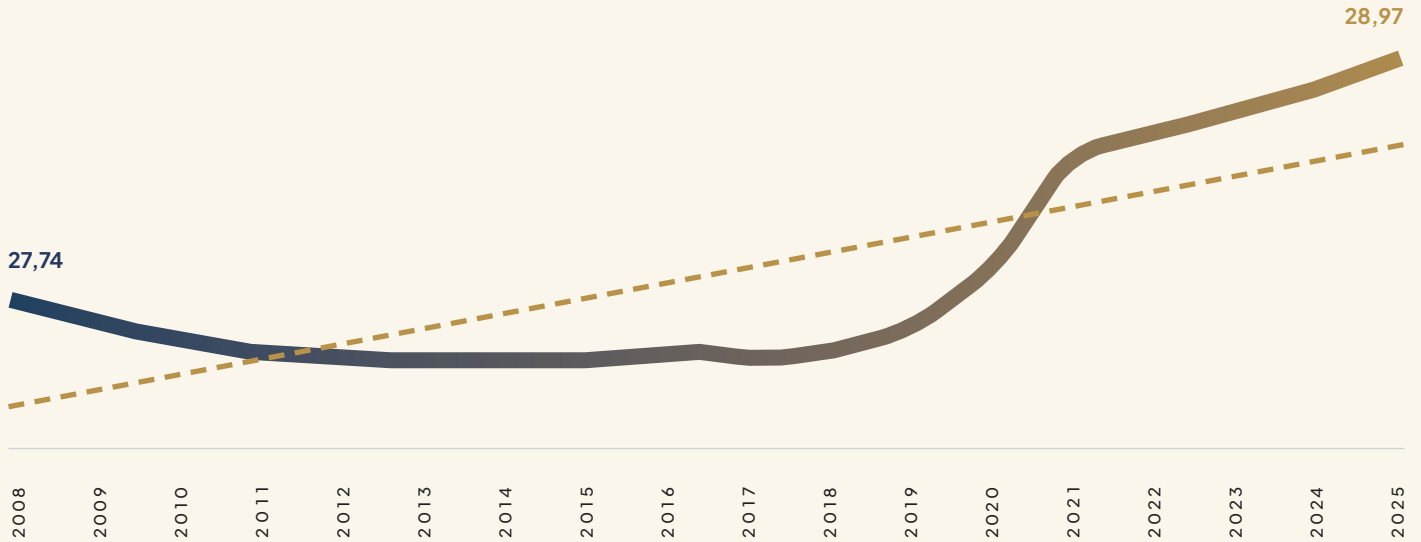
Figure 16. Mean age at first marriage by sex, 2001–2025

Source: Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

The age at marriage in our country has been on a continuous upward trend.

In 2025, the mean age at first marriage rose to 28.5 for men and 26 for women. In two of our provinces (Tunceli and Artvin), this figure for men has exceeded 30.

Figure 17. Never-married rate (%), 2008-2025

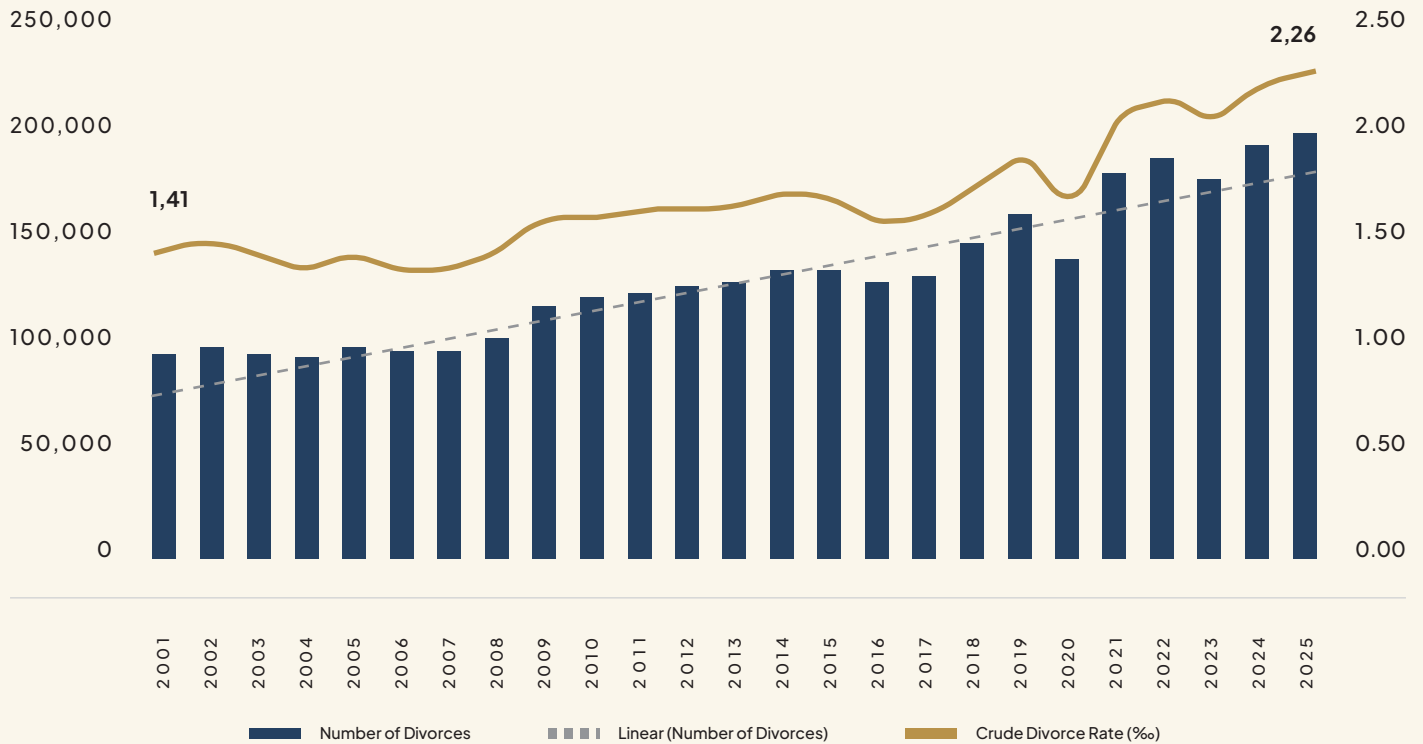


Source: Population Statistics Portal; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

In Türkiye, alongside late marriage, never-marrying is also becoming increasingly common.

Over the years, the number of people who have never married has increased by 36%, and the proportion of people who have never married among the population aged 15 and older has increased by 4%. In 2025, among the 20-24 age group, the share of never-married women rose to 79% and that of never-married men to 94%.

Figure 18. Number of divorces and crude divorce rate, 2001–2025



Source: Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2025; Turkish Statistical Institute (Accessed: 2026)

Divorce data also reflect the transformation of the institution of marriage.

The annual number of divorces has more than doubled over 24 years, while the crude divorce rate has risen from 1.41 to 2.26 per thousand over the same period. The increase has been uninterrupted, with a clear acceleration observed in 2021 and 2022.



Source: Internal Migration Statistics, 2024; Turkish Statistical Institute (Year of Publication: 2025)

An examination of Türkiye's net migration rate maps for internal migration shows that the number of net out-migration provinces is 51 and the number of net in-migration provinces is 30; out-migration is largely concentrated in the eastern regions.

This points to an asymmetric pattern in the spatial distribution of the population.

Vision & Mission

Within the framework of the Decade of Family and Population, which represents the manifestation of a strong State resolve that regards the family as the foundation of society and the population as the guarantee of our nation's future:

Our Vision

A Türkiye that begins in the human being, takes root through the family, grows with generations, draws strength from population, and advances into the future

Our Mission

To establish an integrated and long-term policy framework that protects the human being, the family and generations; encourages marriage and childbearing; reinforces inter-generational solidarity; and strengthens the population structure across every part of the country.

Core Approach

Mainstreaming of Family and Population Policies

A strong family and population structure is a shared priority of the entire public administration, and achieving concrete results from this priority over the ten-year period will require its integration into the targets of all sectors, particularly education, health, labor, agriculture, environment and the economy. In this context, public institutions will develop their strategic plans, budgets and performance targets in such a way as to encompass the family and population dimension. Implemented across the country through both central and provincial structures, this approach will also be reflected in national and international policy documents and country programs.

All public policies and programs will be systematically assessed in terms of their effects on the family institution and the population structure. A strong family and population structure will thus become an inseparable component of all sectoral work in the public sphere.

12th Development Plan:

163. The need persists for the development of effective policies, implemented through education, culture, and media channels, to strengthen the institution of the family, ensuring the continuity of society through conscious and healthy generations, penetrating into every aspect of work and social life.

719. The main objective is to strengthen the family that is founded through marriage bond between woman and man, as the carrier of national and spiritual values, to protect it from all kinds of harmful tendencies, ensuring the upbringing of healthy generations, maintaining a dynamic population structure and development in a stable manner.

803. The main objective is to maintain a healthy and dynamic population structure by keeping fertility levels above the replacement level, strengthening the institution of the family, incentivizing marriages at younger ages through the reduction of the rising average age of marriage, and supporting having more than two children. This is to preserve the physical and mental health and quality of life of the aging population, enhance their functionality to sustain active and independent lives, ensure their participation in economic and social life, and enable them to benefit from quality care and health services.

Core Values

Family-Centeredness

Grounding all policies in the principle of safeguarding the peace of the family, protecting it from external threats and strengthening it as a whole — as an irreplaceable institution founded on the marriage union of a woman and a man, in which generations are raised

The Sanctity of Human Life

Treating every stage of life as valuable and worthy of protection, as the fundamental moral basis of our policies

Inter-Generational Trust and Solidarity

Embracing an active understanding of solidarity in which every generation supports and learns from the others, with the responsibility of carrying the legacy of those before and leaving a strong social foundation to those after

Cultural and Spiritual Foundation

Drawing our policies from our rich cultural heritage and from the civilizational basin built upon values such as love, respect, compassion, loyalty, responsibility and modesty

National Will and Distinctive Stance

Adopting in family and population policies a distinctive and resolute stance that draws on our country's deep-rooted historical heritage and national will

Core Principles

Decision–Making Based on Scientific Knowledge

Conducting policies on an evidence–based footing drawn from valid and reliable data obtained through scientific methods

A Holistic and Multi–Stakeholder Approach

Adopting an approach in which all relevant stakeholders are included with an interdisciplinary understanding and in which actions are taken in coordination

Accountability and Transparency

Tracking and reporting the fulfillment of commitments within a verifiable framework

Responsible Media and Digital Climate

Creating a safe media and digital environment by upholding the freedom to receive information while taking an ethical stance against broadcasting practices that harm child development, the family institution and social ethics

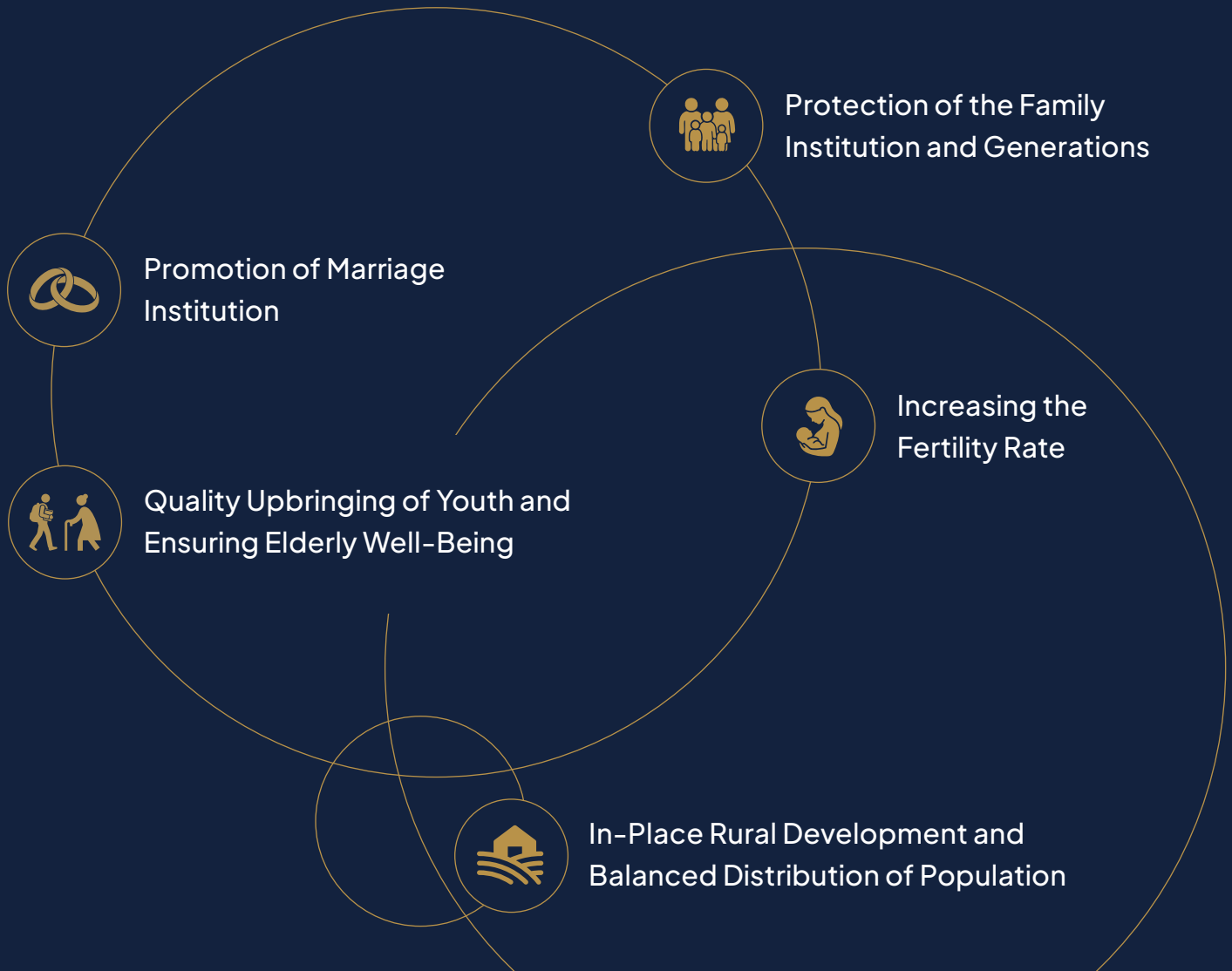
Local Sensitivity

Developing and implementing policies with attention to regional differences and local needs

Strategic *Priorities*

5 - AXIS

2026 - 2035





Protection of the *Family* Institution and Generations

The family is the most fundamental social institution, founded on the marital union of a woman and a man, in which generations are raised with national and spiritual values and brought into the life of society. As the first link of social protection, the family provides an irreplaceable environment for the healthy development of the individual. Indeed, scientific studies show that children raised in a stable family environment are stronger academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. What guarantees the healthy continuity of this carrier structure — where peace is secured, trust takes root, enduring values are reinforced and the heritage of civilization is transmitted — is the protection of generations. For it is healthy generations that keep alive a society's identity and shape its future.

Today, the family institution and generations face multidimensional threats. Detrimental currents imposed on a global scale — the attempted erasure of the distinction between the sexes foremost among them — seek to render meaningless the biological differences between women and men, to blur such constitutive elements as marriage and parenthood, and to erode value systems passed from one generation to the next. Creating systematic pressure across a wide field — from media to education and from the

interpretation of international conventions to policy documents — these currents seek to transform the family institution and generations at their roots. To this process, new kinds of influences such as disinformation, algorithmic content steering and artificial-intelligence-assisted manipulation have been added with the spread of digital media. On the other hand, deepening tendencies toward individualization form a new ground that weakens family ties, while harmful habits and addictions hold the future of generations captive. This multidimensional pattern of threats makes it essential to take comprehensive and resolute measures for the protection of the family institution and generations.

The strategic priority of “Protection of the Family Institution and Generations” aims to strengthen the social foundation of the family as the marital union of a woman and a man, to take account of sex-specific rights and needs, and to establish an integrated, widespread and sustained policy framework that protects the family, children and young people against all kinds of adverse interventions.



Promotion of *Marriage* Institution

Marriage is the declaration of a shared decision freely made by a woman and a man, in the presence of society and under legal guarantee. It is at the same time a constitutive act recognized and protected by both the State and society. The healthy functioning of the institution of marriage forms the very ground of the family's existence, makes possible the renewal of the population, and nourishes the spirit of social solidarity. For this reason, the promotion of marriage is a priority concern of family and population policies as well as of the social, spiritual and cultural sphere.

While the age at marriage in Türkiye is rising, never-married rates are increasing across all age groups. Alongside structural factors that objectively delay marriage, a transformation of mindset is also at work. For a growing segment, marriage is now perceived as an institution at odds with individual freedom and is, on that view, treated as something that can be postponed or wholly given up.

Reinforced by digitalization and individualization, this perception undermines the social standing of marriage, blunts the will to formalize unions, and creates a cultural climate in which non-marital cohabitation is normalized. As a multidimensional issue affecting

the individual, the family and society, this calls for comprehensive measures regarding the institution of marriage.

The strategic priority of “Promotion of Marriage” aims to safeguard the social standing of the institution of marriage, to ensure that marriages are built on solid foundations and sustained in a healthy manner, to encourage young adults to marry, and to strengthen multidimensional mechanisms that facilitate marriage.



Increasing *the Fertility* Rate

The child represents the future of the family and the continuation of generations; from ancient cultures to the present day, the child has been the most concrete expression of fertility, hope and the joy of life. Every child born within a family carries meaning that joins not only their household but also their nation and humanity. For this reason, the promotion of fertility is, beyond securing the future of our country, an effort to rebuild society's vital energy and world of meaning. Population is the basis of human-centered development, and protecting the population's replacement threshold is of vital importance for the very survival of the State, from the sustainability of social-security systems to national defense, and from economic growth to the maintenance of social vitality.

In Türkiye, the fertility rate has fallen markedly below the threshold required for the population to renew itself. This has shaken our demographic balance, exposing our population structure to the risks of decline, aging and growing isolation. As findings such as the demographic-economic paradox also indicate, the trend in fertility cannot be explained by economic conditions alone; it is a multilayered process intertwined with structural difficulties in work-family balance and with transformations in mindset, life

practices and social values. This process leads to a rising age at first motherhood and to a decline in the number of births.

The strategic priority of “Increasing the Fertility Rate” aims to consolidate motherhood and fatherhood as a social value through their decisive role in the emotional, cognitive and moral development of the child; to support the multi-child family structure through economic, social, health and cultural policies as a whole; to put in place arrangements that enable parents to harmonize their education and working life with their family responsibilities; to establish an integrated policy framework that encourages and facilitates childbearing; and thereby to raise the fertility rate above the population's replacement level.



Quality Upbringing of *Youth* and Ensuring *Elderly* Well-Being

A healthy social structure rests on the balance between productive young generations and well-rooted older generations. The strength of a society is shaped not only by its population size but also by the depth of investment made in each individual in terms of health, education and values. Young people represent this quality as it is carried into the future; the elderly are the living representatives of effort, experience, accumulated knowledge and social memory. Maintaining this balance means laying the foundations needed to build not only the present but also the future of society. The upbringing of a well-equipped young population and the dignified, healthy lives of the elderly are two important components forming the basis of social cohesion, inter-generational continuity and confidence in a shared future.

When young people are deprived of the opportunity to realize their potential and contribute to society, they may face such risks as psychological fragility, identity crises, the erosion of values and the weakening of spirituality and of social-responsibility consciousness. These risks can adversely affect both individual and collective productive capacity and can have lasting negative consequences for the families that this generation will form. In societies in which the welfare

of the elderly is not adequately attended to, the opportunity for individuals who have contributed to society for many years to lead a dignified life narrows, while pressure on care, health and social-security systems grows. The weakening of inter-generational ties leaves young people deprived of the chance to benefit from the accumulated experience of preceding generations and leaves the elderly with loneliness and social isolation.

The strategic priority of “Quality Upbringing of Youth and Ensuring Elderly Well-Being” aims to strengthen policies that support raising a young population that is competent in academic and technical skills; well-equipped socially, psychologically and morally; and imbued with a sense of social responsibility and national service. It also aims to develop sustainable social-security and health systems for the welfare of the elderly, together with diversified care and integrated support models — particularly family-based and community-based ones — and to reinforce inter-generational solidarity along the axis of values such as goodness and loyalty and the transfer of technological experience.



In-Place *Rural* Development & Balanced Distribution of Population

Integrating population policies with spatial planning and settlement perspectives produces multidimensional, mutually reinforcing gains in the fields of economic sustainability, food security and reliability, ecological balance, the family institution and national security. Protecting and strengthening the rural population safeguards the continuity of agricultural production, the vitality of local economies and the management of natural resources with a sense of stewardship. A balanced population distribution, in turn, eases the burden of housing and infrastructure in cities, lays the ground for family-friendly construction patterns and contributes to a stronger social welfare.

Owing partly to internal migration, a significant share of the population has become concentrated in cities, while the process of depopulation has accelerated in rural areas. Among the reflections of this process are the rising average age of farmers, the risk of agricultural land lying fallow, and a marked divergence in the fertility rate between rural and urban areas. Rapid urbanization, in turn, deepens the problems of housing, nutrition, transport, health and the environment; together with the increasing pressure on childcare and the work-family balance, it also weakens the family structure. This twofold picture makes a comprehensive policy

approach indispensable, one that increases the attractiveness of rural areas, balances migration flows and centers on family-friendly urbanization.

The strategic priority of “In-Place Rural Development and Balanced Distribution of Population” aims to strengthen economic and social life in rural areas, to raise the quality of life in an integrated manner, to expand opportunities for production, employment and entrepreneurship, particularly for women and young people, to extend the service infrastructure that supports family formation, to transform urban spaces from a family- and child-centered perspective, to link housing policy with demographic targets, and to restructure regional development policies within an integrated framework that takes account of the balanced distribution of the population.

Implementation Model

The Decade of Family and Population Vision Document is a strategic framework document to be implemented under the auspices of the Presidency. To enable the strategic priorities set out in this document to be put into practice at the institutional level, regular action plans will be prepared and monitored using a systematic technique based on a dynamic cycle.

Central Coordination:

Coordination and data-sharing processes for all work to be carried out in line with the strategic priorities will be ensured by the Ministry of Family and Social Services. This will be done in cooperation with the Ministry concerned for the relevant strategic priority.

Assessment:

Activities planned for implementation under the Vision Document will be assessed in terms of their effects on the family and population. The assessment methodology will be developed by the Ministry of Family and Social Services and will serve as guidance for all institutions.

Planning and Monitoring System:

Action plans covering two-year periods will be prepared and monitored on an annual basis for activities to be carried out by public institutions in line with the strategic priorities.

Each year, the previous year will be monitored and the next two years planned. To assess the implementation of the plans, an annual “Türkiye Family and Population Vision Monitoring Report” will be prepared by the Ministry.

Planning and Monitoring Cycle (2026–2035)

Period	Plan in Force	Monitoring	Plan Prepared/Updated
2026	-	-	2027–2028 Action Plan
2027	2027–2028 Action Plan	-	2028–2029 Action Plan
2028	2028–2029 Action Plan	2027 Monitoring Report	2029–2030 Action Plan
2029	2029–2030 Action Plan	2028 Monitoring Report	2030–2031 Action Plan
2030	2030–2031 Action Plan	2029 Monitoring Report	2031–2032 Action Plan

Period	Plan in Force	Monitoring	Plan Prepared/Updated
2031	2031-2032 Action Plan	2030 Monitoring Report	2032-2033 Action Plan
2032	2032-2033 Action Plan	2031 Monitoring Report	2033-2034 Action Plan
2033	2033-2034 Action Plan	2032 Monitoring Report	2034-2035 Action Plan
2034	2034-2035 Action Plan	2033 Monitoring Report	2035 Action Plan
2035	2035 Action Plan	2034 Monitoring Report	-
2036	End of the 10-Year Period	10-Year Monitoring Report	-

Implementation *Instruments*

All activities to be carried out in line with the strategic priorities will be planned within an integrated model in which implementation instruments built on five basic components take precedence.

5 - AXIS

2026 - 2035





Institutional Capacity

The administrative, professional and technical capabilities of the institutions involved in carrying out the vision will be enhanced on the principle of continuous improvement.

Specialized capacity within the Ministry of Family and Social Services will be reinforced to ensure consistent implementation of the vision's strategic priorities across institutions, monitoring of policy processes, and the standardization of data and information flows.

The provincial organizations will also be brought within the institutional structuring; a strong network of coordination and communication between the central and provincial levels will be established in cooperation with the relevant institutions, and local implementation capacity will be reinforced.

Specialized training modules will be developed to enhance the professional competence of public personnel working in the field of family and population policies.

In the official documents, plans and programs, and in-service training of public institutions, a conceptual framework consistent with family and population policy will be taken as the basis; guidance on this framework will be provided by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

The technical infrastructure and software systems required for the effective implementation of family and population policies will be developed.

The culture of cooperation among institutions will be reinforced, and platforms facilitating the sharing of information and good practices will be set up.



Legislation

The compatibility of the legislation in force with family and population goals will be reviewed systematically by the relevant institutions under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services. Work will then be carried out to revise identified inconsistencies from a family-centered perspective.

In the legislative drafting process, an assessment will be conducted with regard to the impact on the family and population. This assessment process will be carried out in an integrated manner with the methodology to be developed by the Ministry of Family and Social Services, and the results will be reflected in regulatory impact analyses.

The legislative basis required to ensure that incentives and rights supporting the family institution are placed under legal guarantee will be reinforced.

Aspects of international instruments and bilateral agreements that are at odds with national family and population policies will be identified and negotiating positions will be determined accordingly.

Legislation



Data Infrastructure

In order to conduct policy and implementation processes on a scientifically evidence-based footing, a data-production and analysis platform – informed by the data of TURKSTAT and other relevant institutions and reflecting a family and population policy perspective – will be set up under the coordination of the Ministry of Family and Social Services to strengthen the national data infrastructure.

National, strategic and official-statistics-producing research aimed at regularly monitoring changes in the family and population structure, analyzing their root causes, and examining the consequences of these changes for individuals, families and social welfare will be conducted under the responsibility of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

Public institutions will systematically identify, in their respective areas of duty, the short-, medium- and long-term risks that changes in the family and population structure may give rise to, and will take preventive measures based on this analysis.

Work to develop the academic infrastructure – including the opening of graduate programs and encouragement of research – will be supported, and funding mechanisms that prioritizes research in the field of family and population will be established.

Policies and research will, in line with the country's priorities, also be carried out at the international level, with comparative data production and joint research collaborations being supported.



Diplomacy

Diplomatic initiatives will be undertaken to incorporate policies that strengthen the family and population into the international acquis.

Coordination will be developed with countries holding similar positions against international normative impositions that erode the institution of the family; the attention of the international community will be drawn to demographic risks; and institutional cooperation with countries having similar demographic dynamics will be reinforced.

A common stance against global threats and international cumulative experience will be reinforced. Türkiye's family and population policy position will be defended in international negotiations in a consistent and well-documented manner. Active advocacy will be carried out to strengthen, in international policy documents, the approach that recognizes "the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society" against the attempts to erase the distinction between the sexes.

Türkiye's leading role in international forums will be consolidated, and Türkiye's family-centered social model will be promoted as a global brand.

International and regional organizations and bilateral and multilateral mechanisms will be developed to enable the transfer of good-practice examples.

International representation, negotiation and commitment processes in the field of family and population policies will be conducted in accordance with the framework of this document.



Communication

An effective communication strategy comprising information, awareness-raising and educational activities will be put into practice so that the vision is embraced by all parts of society.

National communication campaigns highlighting the social value of marriage, family life, parenthood, having children and respect for the elderly will be organized; close cooperation will be established with the media, digital content producers, the academic community, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

In all educational programs — including formal levels of education and non-formal education — preserving a strong family and population structure will be treated as a fundamental component.

Awareness of responsible media use will be raised, and digital-literacy and responsible-media-use training will be widely disseminated.

The share of content addressing family and parental roles will be increased in public broadcasting; for private broadcasters, alongside family-friendly broadcasting standards, incentive and voluntary-commitment mechanisms will be developed to disseminate this approach.

The competent authorities will, within the relevant legislation, identify and assess content liable to negatively affect the family institution and a strong population structure, and will take the necessary measures against such content.

A regular dialogue mechanism will be set up between social-media platforms and on-demand broadcasting services on the one hand, and the competent authorities on the other.

