

ANALYZING THE ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN TURKEY BY USING 2000 CENSUS RESULTS¹

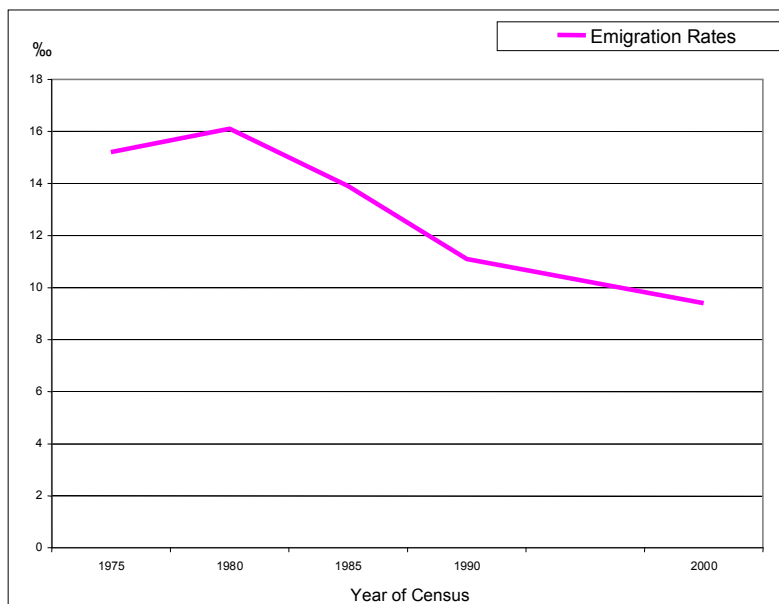
Yadigar Coşkun, A. Sinan Türkyılmaz.

Migration is more complex and multifaceted than any other demographic events. With the decline in fertility and mortality in many parts of the world, migration has taken on increased significance, becoming an important component of population dynamics in many countries (Waki, 2004). As the migration is seen as a prime driver of the international economy, the studies on international migration gained speed especially at the last decade on the 20th century. Studying international migration seems to be very crucial issue for both the country of origin and destination.

With this study it is aimed to give a picture on the international migration trends by using the 2000 census results. The question “How many members of this household who are not in the house now are in the a) country? b) abroad?” is going to be the starting point of the study and emigration rates will be estimated for provinces and regional divisions depending on the results of this question. The term “migrant” and “emigration” is directly related with the answer of this question. Any member of the households in Turkey who is in abroad at the time of census is considered as “emigrant”, and the household who has such member is accepted as “emigrant household”. These definitions do not include the purpose and the duration of the person in abroad, but the results of this question will give us the geographic distribution of the international migrants for Turkey.

In this study, 2000 census results are going to be discussed in terms of whether the information in census can be used to estimate recent emigration trends in Turkey under certain limitations stemming from the nature of data sets.

Figure 1. Emigration Rates (‰) by Censuses.

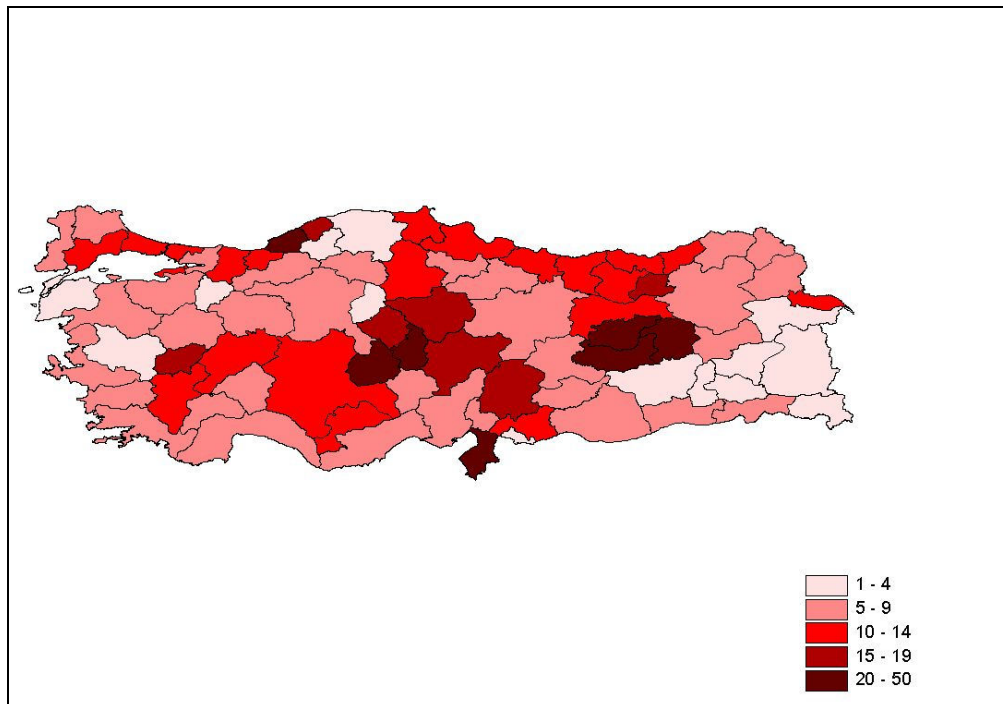


¹ This paper is prepared from the research project granted from Migration Research Program at the Koç University (MiReKoc)

Table 4.1. Emigration Rates (‰) by 5 Regions and Type of Place of Residence (2000 Census Results, Turkey)

Region	Urban	Rural	Total
West	8.9	7.1	8.4
South	10.0	13.1	11.2
Central	10.0	12.3	10.9
North	10.2	13.5	12.0
East	6.4	8.0	7.1
TURKEY	9.0	10.3	9.4

Map 1. Emigration Rates (‰), 2000 Census Results, Turkey, TOTAL.



Results indicate that, emigration rates are higher in east and central parts of the country in addition nearly no provinces from the West region which is the developed regions both economically and socially. Except this region, in rural areas the rates are higher than urban areas. Although the overall emigration rates seem to be decreasing in some provinces the emigration rates are increasing. The trends in the emigration in 50 years period will be seen easily. It is known that the first migrants are settled down in the destination countries, and although the labor migration is more or less finished to West European countries, short term migrants and asylum seekers are still increasing the number of Turkish citizens outside Turkey. Especially from the provinces whose relatives are from the frontiers of the labor migration happened in 60's and 70's and where the conflict between the separatist rebels and armed forces. The picture in which the central region and east region has the highest emigration rates should be explained by these two reasons. Hatay, on the other hand, has a different structure, as an important part of the population has relatives in Syria, and therefore the high rates will be explained by the continuing close relations between the families inside and outside the border.