



# TURKEY



**Size:** Slightly larger than Texas

**Population:** 80.6 million (Texas has 26 million.)

**Languages:** Turkish, Kurdish and many minority languages

**Religion:** Almost 100% Muslim

**Currency:** Turkish lira

Half of Turkish residents work in the services sector, and the rest are split between agriculture and industry.

Just over 87% of the population is literate.

Seventeen percent of Turks live below the poverty level.

Very long history of complex territorial disputes with Greece

**Climate:** Weather varies across the country. Western and southern Turkey have a mild Mediterranean. The Plateau has great temperature differences between day and night. Near the Black Sea it is wet, warm and Eastern parts have long hard, snowy winters.

**Clothing and fashion:** In cities, many people wear Western clothing. Turkey is still a Muslim country so people dress conservatively. Women dress modestly and do not expose shoulders, legs, or cleavage. Many also wear scarves to cover the head and neck in observance of Muslim standards of modesty. In cities, many people wear Western clothing.

**Food:** Turkish cuisine varies by region and ethnicity. It includes different stews of vegetables and lamb or beef, kebabs and yogurt. Many dishes are similar to Greek cuisine. Pork is not eaten because of Muslim rules. Although alcohol is forbidden in Islam, some Turks do consume it.