

# Chapter 37. Internal Migration of Turkey's Older Population

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## Introduction

Internal population movements began to gain momentum in the mid-1950s in Turkey due to significant political, economic and social transformation that the country had experienced after the Second World War (SIS, 1996; İçduygu & Sirkeci, 1998; Özbay & Yücel, 2001; Kocaman, 2008). Likewise, in many other contexts in Turkey too, internal migration gained speed and began to affect Turkey's economic, social and political dynamics with massive "rural to urban" flows in 1950s (SIS, 1996; Özbay & Yücel, 2001). This migration type continued to dominate 1960s and 1970s as well. Beginning from the 1980s, urbanization level increased substantial level and urban centers largely began to receive population from other district centers. That is to say, since then principal direction of migration changed to "urban to urban" type (Gedik, 1998).

Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, a significant number of people has been moving between localities. The amount of population who changed his or her province in order to settle in another province between 1970 and 1975 estimated as 1.7 million from official data (Doh, 1984). This figure was not involving non-recorded "grey" migration. According to the recent official statistics, nearly 2.7 million people likely to move between provinces each year (TurkStat, 2016). In other words, internal migration across provinces is a phenomenon that affects nearly 3.5 percent of Turkey's total population in our day.

Researchers have studied various dimensions of the Turkey's internal migration experience quantitatively by using population censuses data<sup>2</sup> which lastly carried out in 2000. The census data provides information about socio-economic characteristics, distributions of internal migrants by localities and reason of their movement. Since 2007 official population statistics have been collected from Address Based Population Registry System (ABPRS) that enables regular monitoring of population movement. Nevertheless, ABPRS can only provide limited information about characteristics of general population as well as internal migrants. For this reason, a survey, 'Population and Housing Census' (PHC), was

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<sup>2</sup> Demographic and Health Survey data can be used as well. Yet these data sets do not provide information at provincial level and they only cover experience of the ever-married women (15-49 ages). See (Özbay & Yücel, 2001); (Eryurt et al., 2015).

carried out in 2011 which aimed at to collect detailed information on population at provincial level that cannot be derived from (ABPRS). Migration was among the topics covered in the PHC 2011, enabling researchers to study pattern and level of the recent internal population movements in Turkey (TurkStat, 2013).

The purpose of this study is to bring some new insights to internal migration studies in Turkey by exploring internal migration of older population (55 age and above). Although internal migration and related issues have been subjected to several studies in Turkey, little is known about the experience of mobility among older people. Movement of this specific age group has not been examined in internal migration studies, probably due to fact that majority of the internal migrants (6 out of 10) are in 15-34 age group (TurkStat, 2013).

On the other hand, as seen in Table 1, the share of the older age group in total migrant population has been notably increasing over time; from 5.6 percent in 1995-2000 era to 7.3 percent in 2010-2011. This development is indeed closely related with the fact that Turkey has been in the last stage of its demographic transition. Thus both the number and the share of older population have been rapidly increasing today. According to the official population projections by the year 2023 population of 65 and above age group will reach 8.6 million (TurkStat, 2015). That is to say, they will constitute almost 10 percent of the country's total population. It is obvious that Turkey will have to face with challenges of population aging in soon. In this context, the link between the population aging and internal migration of older age group is becoming increasingly important. For this reason, the prevalent study is designed to present pattern and some characteristics of internal migration of older population in Turkey. The study will firstly show a direction of migration among different localities. Secondly, it presents net migration rates of older population by provinces. Thirdly, the study depicts reason of internal migration by sex and localities for older age groups.

Table 1. Migrated population by main age groups and sex, 1995-2000 and 2010-2011

Age groups	Male (%)		Female (%)		Total (%)	
	(1995-2000)	(2010-2011)	(1995-2000)	(2010-2011)	(1995-2000)	(2010-2011)
5-14	16.9	15.2	17.9	13.1	17.4	14.1
15-54	78.3	77.8	75.4	79.3	77.0	78.6
55+	4.8	7.0	6.6	7.6	5.6	7.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source:(Kocaman, 2008; Turkish Statistical Institute, 2013)

### Method

Data used in this study originated from ‘Population and Housing Census 2011’ (PHC) survey conducted by Turkish Statistical Institute, between 3 October and 31 December 2011(Turkish Statistical Institute, 2013). The PHC 2011 compiled information about labor force, employment and unemployment, reason for migration, disability and dwelling characteristics at province level. The PHC 2011

was carried out by face-to-face interviewing method in nearly 2.2 million households and institutional places (dormitories, nursing homes, military barracks etc.). In the survey almost 9 million people were interviewed in 81 provinces of Turkey.

Internal migration in this study meant to migration across provinces. Conventionally 65 age and above is defined as older age group. On the other hand, people may make a decision to migrate just before or after their retirement. That is why older age group is defined as those aged 55 and over in this study. Migrated older population is defined as the persons aged 55 and over and whose province of usual residence in the census date is different from the province of usual residence one year prior. Net migration rates for older population by provinces estimated according to the definitions and equation below:

**Older Population Net Migration:** It is the difference between in-migration and out-migration of older population for a specific province. If in-migration is more than out migration, net migration is positive. If out-migration is more than in-migration, net migration is negative.

**Older Population Net Migration Rate:** It is the number of net migration per thousand persons 55 and over ages who are able to migrate

$$m_{(i-i)} = [(M_i - M_o) / (P_{i,t+n} - 0.5 * (M_i - M_o))] * k$$

$m_{(i-i)}$ : Net migration rate

$M_i$ : In-migration of older population (55 and over ages)

$M_o$ : Out-migration of older population (55 and over ages)

$M_i - M_o$ : Net migration of older population (55 and over ages)

$P_{i,t+n}$ : Population 55 and over ages residing province "i" at the time "t+n"

i: The province in which migration is defined

k: Constant (k=1,000)

## **Results**

In order to understand migration pattern of older population the study firstly show to what extent direction of movement of this age group differs from the general population. Table 2 presents direction of migration among older migrated population and total population. Findings show that more than half of the older migrants and general population migrated from 'city to city' (nearly 54 percent and 59 percent respectively). Proportion of migrated older population moved from 'city to village' is 25 percent, whereas the same figure is only 15 percent among the total migrated population. The share of 'village to city' type of migration is almost the same for the two groups; 19 percent among the older migrants and 21 percent among the total migrated population. The lowest population movements between localities are from 'village to village' type of movement. There is a significant distinction regarding this type of migration; the proportion is 5.3 percent among the total population and almost 2 percent among the older migrated population.

According to the PHC 2011 data, 2 208 thousand people migrated people across provinces between 2010 and 2011. 6.5 percent of them (144 thousand) were of 55 ages and over. In terms of absolute numbers greater part of migration of older age people took place in the three metropolitan provinces: İstanbul received 29 thousand

and sent 35 thousand, Ankara received and sent almost 11 thousand and İzmir received 6 thousand and sent 7 thousand to other provinces.

Table 2. Migrated older population (55+) total migrated population by type of locality, 2010-2011

Type of locality	55+ (%)	Total migrated popl. (%)
City to city	53.7	58.5
City to village	25.4	14.9
Village to city	19.0	21.4
Village to village	1.9	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0

*Source: Figures 55+ estimated by the author; figures for total population (TurkStat, 2013)*

Net migration rates can give a better picture about the intensity of older age population movements for provinces. Regarding to the sign of net migrations results indicate four different groups of provinces:

In the first group, both older age net migration rates and general migration rates have positive sign; that is, these provinces gained population as a result of internal migration. There are 25 provinces (31 percent) in this group. Yalova, Kastamonu, Muğla, Bayburt and Sinop are the first five provinces where the older age migration rates have the highest value.

The second group, consist of 29 provinces (36 percent), shows the opposite picture of the first one. Both sign of older age net migration rates and general migration rates are negative; that is, this kind of provinces lost their older age and general population. Ağrı, Van, Muş, Hakkari and Bingöl are the first five provinces where the older age migration rates have the highest negative value.

In the third group there are 21 provinces (26 percent). The older age net migration rates have positive and general net migration rates have negative sign in this group. That is provinces in this group gained older age population while overall they lost their population. Isparta, Osmaniye, Amasya, Rize and Sivas are the first five provinces where net migration rate for older population have the highest positive value.

In the fourth group, there are 6 provinces (7 percent); Gümüşhane, Karabük, Bilecik, İstanbul, İzmir and Ankara. While the older age migration rates have negative, general migration rates have positive value in these provinces; that is, they lost older age population as population of these provinces increased due to internal migration.

Findings from the PHC 2011 data reveals that the reason for migration for slightly more than 6 out of 10 migrated older age people is 'migration related to any member of the household' (see Table 4). This factor is 2 times more prevalent among older age female migrants than among male counterparts (83 percent versus 42 percent respectively). Almost one quarter of the male older migrated people has moved due to work related reasons (17 percent for seeking a job and 7 percent for assignation). Movement for work related reasons for female older age migrants is almost none exist.

Table 3. Provincial net migration rates (%) for population 55 years and over, 1 year and over

	(55+)	(1+)		(55+)	(1+)
ADANA	-2.4	-4.8	KAHRAMANMARAŞ	-0.6	-5.9
ADYAMAN	-2.1	-11.0	KARABÜK	-5.5	4.9
AFYONKARAHİSAR	1.1	-6.3	KARAMAN	1.2	-0.2
AĞRI	-17.4	-24.0	KARS	-6.8	-20.1
AKSARAY	1.5	-5.3	KASTAMONU	9.7	0.8
AMASYA	3.5	-7.6	KAYSERİ	3.6	3.6
ANKARA	-0.2	8.4	KIRIKKALE	-5.3	-20.5
ANTALYA	4.7	9.9	KIRKLARELİ	5.2	11.5
ARDAHAN	-4.4	-23.5	KIRŞEHİR	-6.7	-3.4
ARTVİN	0.1	-5.0	KİLİS	0.3	-18.5
AYDIN	5.0	3.4	KOCAELİ	1.9	6.2
BALIKESİR	1.5	0.6	KONYA	-1.1	-0.6
BARTIN	1.4	0.7	KÜTAHYA	-0.8	-3.3
BATMAN	-2.8	-12.1	MALATYA	2.2	0.2
BAYBURT	8.6	7.1	MANİSA	-0.3	-0.9
BİLECİK	-4.8	1.6	MARDİN	-3.9	-14.9
BİNGÖL	-10.7	-7.1	MERSİN	0.1	1.2
BİTLİS	-0.4	-17.4	MUĞLA	8.6	8.2
BOLU	1.1	8.4	MUŞ	-11.9	-17.7
BURDUR	2.3	3.4	NEVŞEHİR	2.9	-2.6
BURSA	1.3	5.2	NİĞDE	-3.4	-6.1
ÇANAKKALE	4.3	4.8	ORDU	2.7	-10.9
ÇANKIRI	-2.2	-23.7	OSMANİYE	4.4	-6.8
ÇORUM	0.8	-15.5	RİZE	3.0	-7.9
DENİZLİ	1.0	3.7	SAKARYA	3.5	2.9
DİYARBAKIR	-5.7	-13.3	SAMSUN	2.9	-5.6
DÜZCE	0.5	5.4	SİİRT	-10.6	-17.6
EDİRNE	5.9	10.1	SİNOP	7.9	4.3
ELAZIĞ	3.8	-5.0	SİVAS	3.0	-14.4
ERZİNCAN	6.3	-9.6	ŞANLIURFA	-0.2	-3.9
ERZURUM	-4.8	-6.6	ŞİRİNAK	-4.3	-8.6
ESKİŞEHİR	1.1	6.7	TEKİRDAĞ	2.8	12.8
GAZİANTEP	1.3	2.2	TOKAT	-3.1	-29.8
GİRESUN	5.8	-6.6	TRABZON	-6.1	-19.2
GÜMÜŞHANE	-7.5	2.6	TUNCELİ	2.1	-26.6
HAKKARİ	-11.6	-22.7	UŞAK	0.8	-1.0
HATAY	1.3	-2.1	VAN	-12.7	-26.4
IĞDIR	-8.5	-9.0	YALOVA	10.2	8.4
ISPARTA	7.6	-6.3	YOZGAT	-8.4	-24.8
İSTANBUL	-3.1	9.4	ZONGULDAK	1.5	-3.4
İZMİR	-0.7	2.7			

Source: The calculations of the net migration rate for population 55 years and over done by the author

Table 4 also shows that health is equally important reason for the movement for male and female older migrated population (almost 1 out of 10 for both sexes). Proportions of migration for marital reasons or for education are negligible for both sexes.

Table 4. Migrated 55 age and above population by reason of migration and sex, 2010-2011

Reason of migration	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Migration related to any member of the household	41.7	83.2	64.3
Other	21.6	3.9	12.0
Health	11.2	10.2	10.6
To seek/To find a job	17.3	0.8	8.3
Assignment/Change of job	6.8	0.6	3.4
Marriage/Divorce	1.4	1.3	1.3
Education	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Source: Estimated by the author*

Table 5. Migrated 55 age and above population by reason of migration and direction of migration, 2010-2011

Reason of migration	City to city (%)	City to village (%)	Village to city (%)	Village to village (%)
Migration related to any member of the household	62.9	56.4	77.8	72.3
Other	12.1	18.4	3.3	7.1
Health	11.5	10.2	9.0	8.8
To seek/To find a job	6.9	11.4	8.2	11.1
Assignment/Change of job	4.8	2.6	1.0	0.4
Marriage/Divorce	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.0
Education	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Source: Estimated by the author*

Table 5 reveals that of nearly 8 out of 10 older migrants move from 'village to city' due to reason of the 'migration related to any member of the household'. Primary reason of movement among those who move 'city to village' is also 'migration related to any member of the household', yet proportion reduces to 56 percent. Proportions of migration 'to seek/to find a job' were 11 percent among migrants, who move from 'city to village' and among from 'village to village'. Ranging between 9 to 11 percent health is another notable reason of movement regarding all migration directions. 'Marriage/divorce' is not a significant reason for movement overall, though it is the most common among those who move 'city to city'

## Discussion

This study shows that migration patterns of the older aged migrants have some different features from the general population. These differences should be taken into account for migration management. In fact, appropriate policies towards to migration can only be developed by regularly learning numbers of different sorts of migrants and characteristics of their migration patterns.

Findings of this research facilitate our understanding of internal migration patterns and population aging processes. At first, in the 21 provinces of Turkey (the third group) while the older age net migration rates have positive sign, the general net migration rates have negative sign. That is to say, there has been inflow of older age groups in these provinces while younger age groups have been leaving. For this reason, the prevalent migration patterns may have accelerating affect on the population aging in these locations. The same argument holds for villages as well; due to fact that one fourth of the older age migrant population migrates from cities to villages. Second, the study shows that ‘migration related to any member of household’ is the major reason of movement for older people. That is to say, when older people, in particular older women, migrate across provinces this event is most likely to arise from their familial bonds. Therefore, a relationship between (strong) ‘family ties’ and migration patterns deserve to be reconsidered in further research. Lastly, it should be noted that at least one fourth older male migrants move across provinces for work related reasons. Motivation of finding a job is an important motivation for them as in the younger age groups.

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