

Turkey at the Dawn of the 2020s: Old Challenges and New Prospects

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Year/Period	Commitment
1920s	The signing of the Treaty of Lausanne.
1952	Joining NATO.
1963	Signing an association agreement with the European Economic Community (now European Union).
1995	Establishment of a Customs Union with the European Union.
2004	Negotiations for full accession to the European Union has started but so far they have stalled.

Table 1. Turkey's International Commitments

Country	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Turkey	83703	82579	81407	80313	79278	78218	77182	76148	75176	74224
Germany	83165	83093	82906	82657	82349	81687	80983	80646	80426	80275
France	67634	67456	67265	67063	66831	66581	66312	65991	65651	65330
Italy	60315	60339	60459	60537	60628	60731	60789	60646	60339	60060
Spain	47151	47104	46729	46533	46450	46410	46455	46593	46766	46736
Poland	38358	38390	38413	38422	38427	38455	38484	38502	38534	38526
Romania	19241	19370	19477	19593	19706	19822	19916	19989	20060	20148
Netherlands	17433	17345	17232	17131	17030	16940	16865	16804	16755	16693
Belgium	11537	11486	11427	11375	11331	11274	11209	11159	11107	11038
Czechia	10707	10669	10626	10590	10565	10543	10525	10511	10509	10497
Greece	10665	10725	10733	10755	10776	10821	10892	10965	11045	11105
Sweden	10320	10279	10175	10058	9923	9799	9696	9600	9519	9449
Portugal	10287	10286	10284	10300	10326	10358	10401	10457	10515	10558

Table 2. The Population of Turkey and Selected EU Countries, 2011-2020 (000s)

Year	EU-POP (000s) (1)	TUR-POP (000s) (2)	TUR / EU POP (2)/(1)% (3)	EU-POP (0-14) (000s) (4)	TUR-POP (0-14) (000s) (5)	TUR/EU POP (0-14) (5)/(4)% (6)	EU-POP (0-14)/ EU-POP (4)/(1)% (7)	TUR-POP (0-14)/ TUR-POP (5)/(2)% (8)
2000	428154	64269	15.011	NA	18905	NA	16.687	29.415
2001	428915	65166	15.193	71574	18906	26.415	16.507	29.012
2002	429720	66003	15.360	70935	18906	26.653	16.310	28.644
2003	431310	66795	15.487	70346	18907	26.877	16.115	28.306
2004	432868	67599	15.617	69759	18936	27.145	15.911	28.012
2005	434497	68435	15.750	69134	18964	27.431	15.738	27.711
2006	435872	69295	15.898	68597	18981	27.670	15.596	27.392
2007	437405	70158	16.040	68218	18990	27.837	15.487	27.067
2008	438869	71052	16.190	67967	18715	27.536	15.430	26.341
2009	440238	72039	16.364	67931	18824	27.711	15.416	26.130
2010	440971	73142	16.587	67982	18869	27.756	15.385	25.798
2011	441597	74224	16.808	67938	18883	27.794	15.334	25.440
2012	442376	75176	16.994	67835	18872	27.820	15.313	25.104
2013	443023	76148	17.188	67841	18853	27.791	15.294	24.759
2014	443725	77182	17.394	67863	18856	27.786	15.257	24.431
2015	444682	78218	17.590	67843	18874	27.820	15.229	24.130
2016	445700	79278	17.787	67875	18906	27.854	15.212	23.848
2017	446392	80313	17.992	67903	18980	27.951	15.174	23.632
2018	447155	81407	18.206	67853	19109	28.162	NA	23.473
2019	448081	82579	18.429	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	448426	83703	18.666	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	448821	84845	18.904	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	449367	86005	19.139	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Table 3. Turkish and EU Population Compared

Source: European Commission (Database: AMECO) and author's calculations.

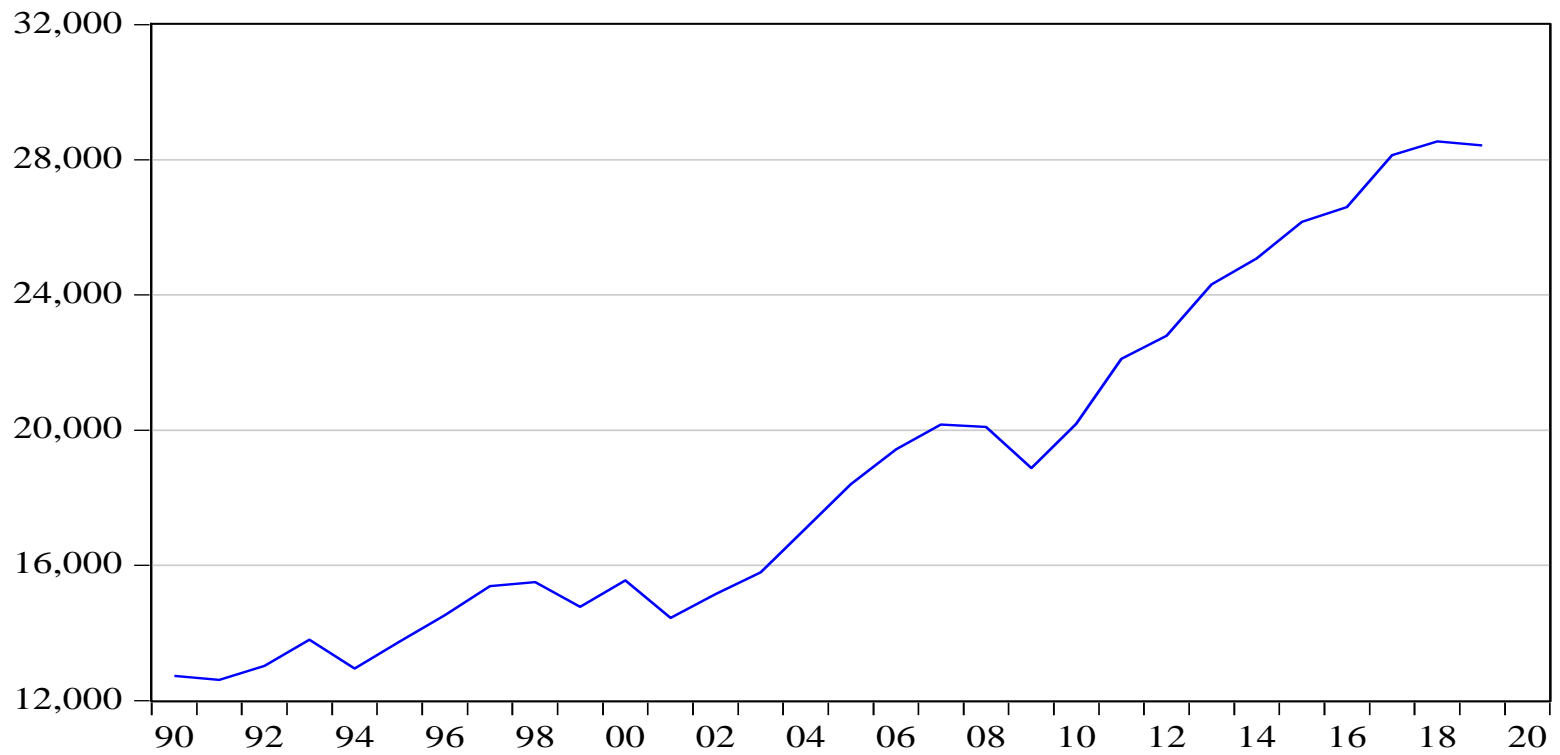


Figure 1. *GDP per capita PPP (constant 2017 international \$)*

Source: World Bank and Author's Calculations

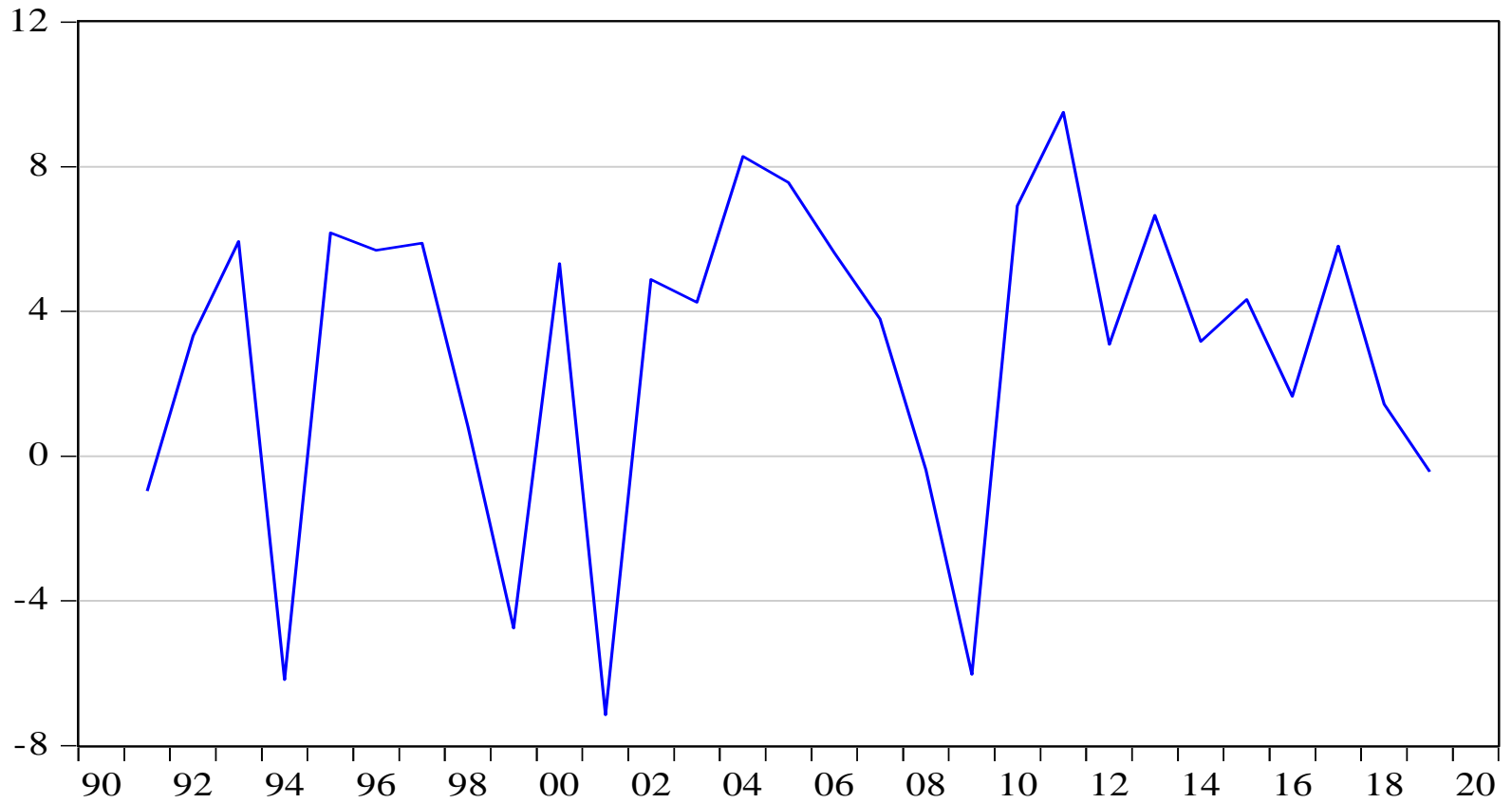


Figure 2. GDP per capita PPP Growth (constant 2017 international \$)

Source: World Bank and Author's Calculations

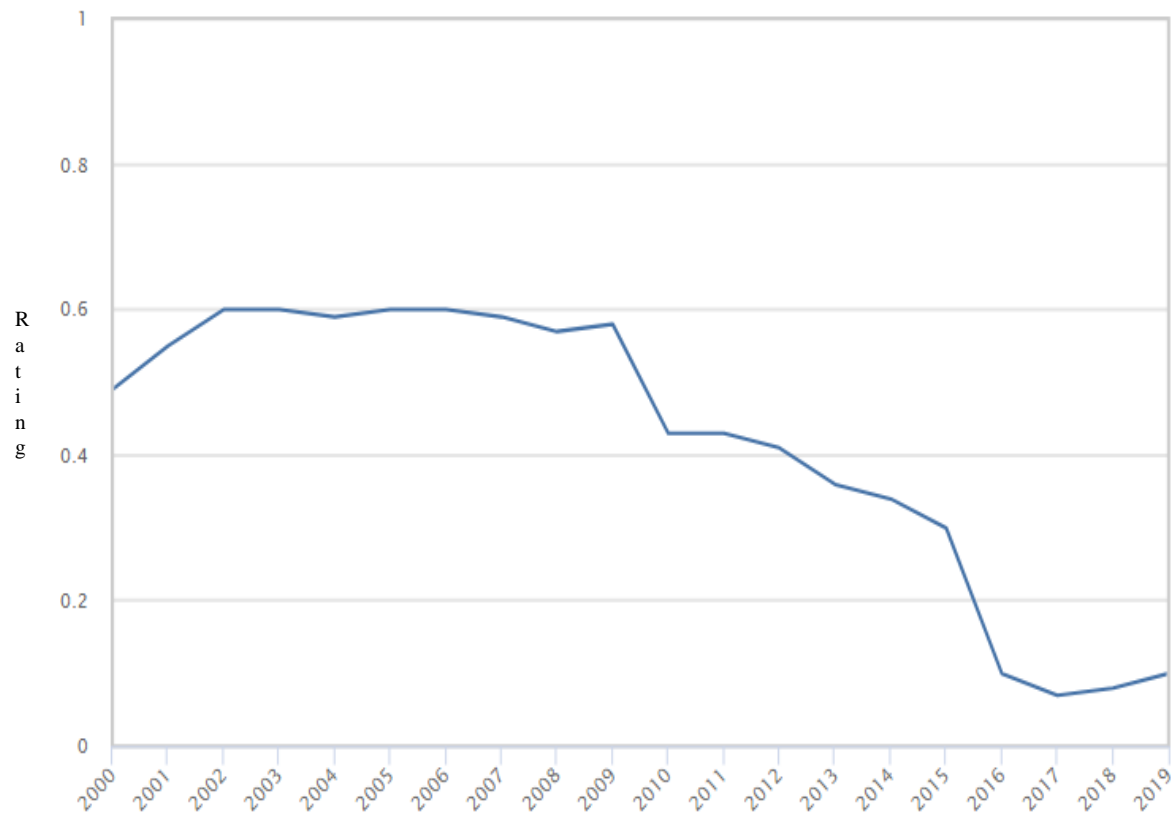


Figure 3. Academic Freedom Index, 2000-2019 [Scale: Interval, from low to high (0-1)]

Note: This index is based on the question “To what extent is academic freedom respected?” According to the V-Dem Institute’s clarification “Academic freedom is understood as the right of academics, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express freely their opinion about the institution or system in which they work, freedom from institutional censorship and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies (UNESCO 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel). The Academic Freedom Index is designed to provide an aggregated measure that captures the de facto realization of academic freedom, including the degree to which higher-education institutions are autonomous.”

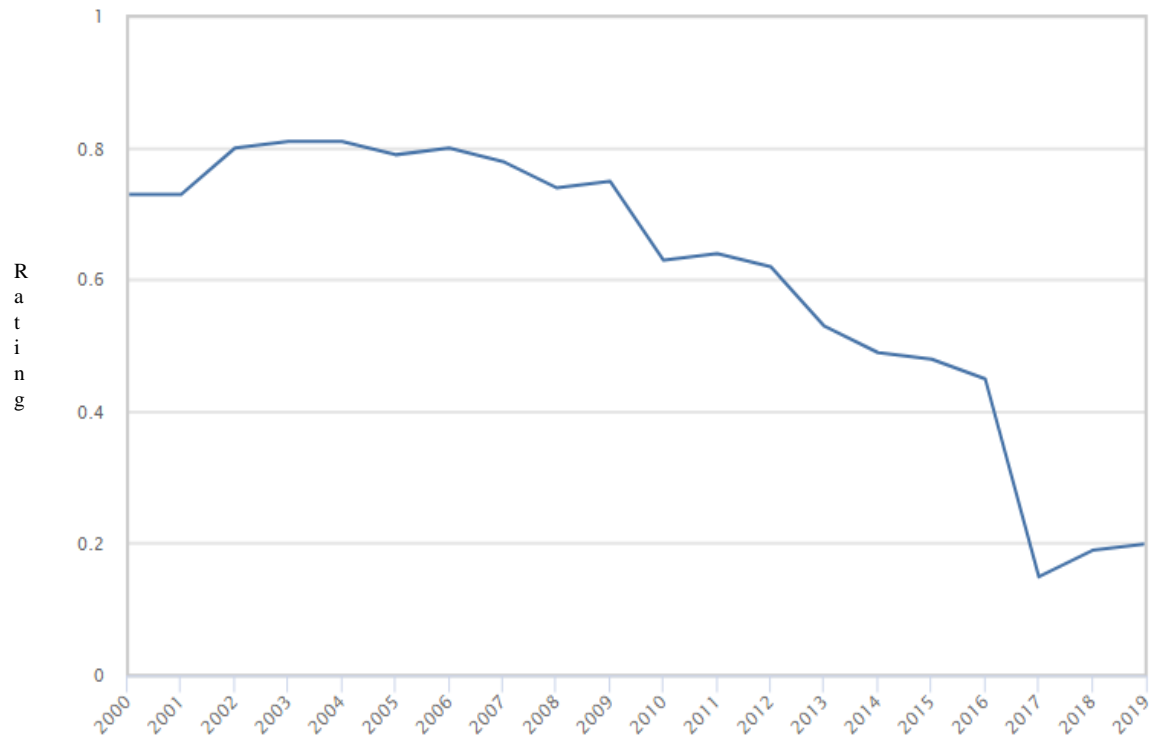


Figure 4. *Rule of Law Index, 2000-2019 [Scale: Interval, from low to high (0-1)]*

Note: This index is based on the question “To what extent are laws transparently, independently, predictably, impartially, and equally enforced, and to what extent do the actions of government officials comply with the law?” According to the V-Dem Institute’s clarification “The index is formed by taking the point estimates from a Bayesian factor analysis model of the indicators for compliance with high court (v2juhccomp), compliance with judiciary (v2jucomp), high court independence (v2juhcind), lower court independence (v2juncind), executive respects constitution (v2exrescon), rigorous and impartial public administration (v2clrspct), transparent laws with predictable enforcement (v2cltrnslw), access to justice for men (v2clacjstm), access to justice for women (v2clacjstw), judicial accountability (v2juacct), judicial corruption decision (v2jucorrdc), public sector corrupt exchanges (v2excrtps), public sector theft (v2exthftps), executive bribery and corrupt exchanges (v2exbribe), executive embezzlement and theft (v2exembez).”

Conclusions

- ▶ Turkey should deal with its old challenges such as becoming a full member of the European Union. However, there are many impediments to overcome.
 - ▶ Turkey wants to become a great (world) power, but the prospects are dismal. Its strong population and economy is undermined by internal structural problems.
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