

# THE CITY OF KONYA, TURKEY

*Information provided by a Turkish government agency called Invest in Turkey*

## HISTORY OF KONYA

Konya is one of the oldest settlements of Anatolia. Konya's history goes back to prehistoric ages. It is understood with the researches that settlement was established in Konya in the years of 6000-5000 BC.

In ancient times, the city used to be named as "Iconium".

Çatalhöyük, which is the oldest and most advanced Neolithic era settlement found so far, is in the borders of Konya. In July 2012, Çatalhöyük was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Throughout the history, it was under control of the Hittites, Phrygians, Roman and Byzantines Empires, Seljuk and Anatolian Seljuk States. At the end Ottoman Empire ruled Konya.

Konya was conquered by Suleyman Shah, the ruler of the Seljuk Empire. After the foundation of Anatolian Seljuk State, Konya came under the hegemony of this state.

At the year 1074, Anatolian Seljuk Empire is established and İznik which is capital city of Anatolian Seljuk, at the end of first Crusade the capital city of this empire is moved to Konya. After being capital, Konya is developed day by day and decorated by very much architectural work, in short time is become one of the most developed city.

The city being the capital of Anatolian Seljuk State for long years, entered the rule of Karamanids (Karamanoğulları Beyliği) in 1277 and then entered the Ottoman rule with Fatih Sultan Mehmet's putting an end to Karamanid Dynasty.

Fatih Sultan Mehmet constituted Karaman State as 4<sup>th</sup> State at 1470, Konya is executed the center of this state. At 17<sup>th</sup> century Karaman state's border is enlarged, by the change of name takes new name which is Konya State at Tanzimat Reform Era.

During the Ottoman Empire, the tomb of Hz. Mevlana restored in the period of Yavuz Sultan Selim (Selim I). Also during the time of Selim II, various investments were made in Konya. During the time of Abdulhamit II,

railway connection was established. Especially, in 1901, with the assignment of Ferit Pasha as the governor, the development of the city was accelerated.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, some parts of the city were invaded by Italy for a very short period of time. Apart from it was not exposed to any other occupation of a foreign country.

Having a developed trade sector since the old periods due to its geographical location, Konya was the scene of intense commercial activity during Seljuk and Ottoman periods as well, by being on the route of caravans which was known as silk road.

Today, with its surface area of 40.813,52 km<sup>2</sup> (15.758,1 sq mi) and its population of over 2 million, Konya is one of the important cities of Turkish Republic.

In 1989, Konya became a metropolitan municipality. Selçuklu, Meram and Karatay are central districts of Konya and Konya continues its development with these districts.

## GEOGRAPHY AND TRANSPORTATION

### I. GENERAL GEOGRAPHY AND LAND FORMS

Konya city is in the southern part of Middle Anatolian Region named with its own name.

With an area of 41.001 km<sup>2</sup>, Konya is the largest province in Turkey.

Average altitude of Konya is 1.016 m. Neighboring provinces are the capital Ankara to the north, Isparta, Afyonkarahisar, Eskişehir to the west, Mersin, Karaman and Antalya to the south and Niğde and Aksaray to the east.

Konya hosts Turkey's greatest aluminium (bauxite) reserves in Seydişehir and world's greatest magnesite reserves (with 80 million tons of reserve) in Konya (in Meram district), besides these, there are coal, clay, cement raw materials, lead-zinc, barite mines and significant amount of underground water reserves.

Konya is generally has a broad and flat area with lowlands and plateaus. The terrain gets gradually rougher in the southern parts and the province's southernmost parts are mountainous, surrounded by Taurus Mountains.

Plateaus covered by rich steppes are important factors which effects the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

Lake Tuz (Tuz Gölü) is the second biggest lake in Turkey. Average depth of the lake is about 1.2 meters. Its surface area gets smaller in summer due to evaporation and in the dried parts salt residues form. The lake supplies a fair amount of Turkey's salt demand.

Beysehir Lake is on the western part of Konya near Isparta-Konya border. Beysehir Lake is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest natural lake in Turkey and also the biggest fresh water lake in Turkey. It is also one of the most important national parks in Turkey. There are opportunities for water sports, mountain sports and hunting in the area of national park. The economic value of fishery is high. The lake has 2 beaches, 22 islands and lots of rock formations. Also the lake is important for tourism by being an important location for bird reproduction, feeding and sheltering.

Meke Lake in Karapınar district was declared as first grade natural protected area by Konya Protection Council of Culture and Natural entities.

## [II. TRANSPORTATION](#)

Since Konya is in the center of Turkey, it has a very advantageous location in terms of transportation opportunities. Konya is a crossroad between the roads passing through west to east and north to south.

### [1. Land Transportation](#)

Central location in Anatolia and large areas makes Konya having the largest intra-provincial road network in Turkey. Konya's road distance to various cities of Turkey is below:

Konya – İstanbul: 662 km

Konya - Ankara: 258 km

Konya - İzmir: 550 km

Konya – Antalya: 322 km

Konya – Mersin: 348 km

There are four major investments in the land transportation in Konya. The new Konya-Antalya project will shorten Konya-Antalya distance to 250kms and reduce the duration by an hour, the second new line will connect Konya's southern provinces to the Mediterranean coastline and the third project is to renovate Konya-Karaman-Mersin line, which will shorten the time to reach the largest port in Turkey. The last project is to build a new 120 km orbital motorway in Konya. All four projects are planned to be finished by the following terms.

Konya is on D715 that connects Ankara-Konya-Antalya and D300 road that connects Aksaray-Konya-Afyon. Afyon-Konya-Pozantı road has the assignment of TEM and E-Road (E981) and Ankara-Konya-Antalya road belongs to the network of TRACECA.

## [2. Railroad Transportation](#)

Konya has been benefiting from the railroad connection since 1898. The trains passing through Konya are Taurus Express, Middle Anatolia Blue Train and Meram Express. The most important work in railroad transportation is the high speed train project between Konya and Ankara. With the completion of this project in 2011, the transportation time between Konya and Ankara has decreased to 1 hour and 50 minutes. Connection between Konya and Eskişehir has been established in 2013 and Konya-İstanbul in 2015. Currently high speed trains takes 1:45 to Eskişehir and 4:15 to İstanbul.

High Speed Train connections to Antalya, Mersin and Kayseri is on the way.

## [3. Air Transportation](#)

Air transportation is provided by the civil facilities which are added to the Konya Air Base (which also hosts the Turkish Stars, aerobatic demonstration team of the Turkish Air Force). There are daily flights of several firms to İstanbul. 11 shuttles are between Konya-İstanbul everyday as well as direct flights to Europe during summer months.

## [Logistics Village](#)

The construction of a new logistics village was started in 2010. The process of concreting for the container areas has been completed. The whole construction of the village in Kayacik region is expected to be finished by 2020.

According to State Railways data, with the activation of Konya Logistics Village, it is aimed that current transportation capacity of 634.000 tons/year will increase to 1.679.000 tons/year. The plan is to transport

goods and raw materials that are crucial for Konya industry and agriculture. The competitiveness of these products will be possible with said logistics opportunities.

**The services to be presented in Konya Logistics Village can be summed up as:**

- Transition between transportation modes
- Availability of intermodal transfers and operations
- Providing services for loading, unloading, handling and weighing.
- Providing services for storage and warehousing.
- Providing customs and parking services.
- Peripheral services to be provided are: security, maintenance, client Office spaces, showrooms, meeting/conference rooms, catering facilities, commutation, banks, post Office, extra storage and warehousing, etc.

**DEMOGRAPHY**

**POPULATION**

Konya is one of the biggest provinces of Turkey in terms of population size. According to the results of the Address-Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) for 2019, Konya has a population of 2.232.374, constituting 2,7 % of Turkey, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> among the provinces. Konya has a population density of 57 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Turkey – total population</b>	83.154.997
<b>Konya – province population</b>	2.232.374
<b>Annual growth rate (‰)</b>	12,1
<b>Population density per km<sup>2</sup></b>	57
<b>Area (including lakes and dams - km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	41.001

**Source:** TURKSTAT 2020

## POPULATION ACCORDING TO DISTRICTS

The most populous districts of Konya are Selçuklu, Meram and Karatay, which constitute the metropolitan area. Akşehir, Beyşehir, Cihanbeyli, Çumra, Ereğli, Ilgın, Kulu and Seydişehir are other major districts of Konya, outside of the metropolitan area with a population over than 50.000.

DISTRICTS	TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%)		POPULATION DENSITY PERSON/KM <sup>2</sup>	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
KARATAY	323.659	338.976	24,4	47,3	114	120
<b>MERAM</b>	<b>342.315</b>	<b>344.546</b>	<b>-10,1</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>189</b>
SELÇUKLU	648.850	662.808	14,7	21,5	336	343
<b>AHIRLI</b>	<b>5.084</b>	<b>4.753</b>	<b>105,7</b>	<b>-65,1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
AKÖREN	5.879	5.838	-20,8	-7,0	9	9
<b>AKŞEHİR</b>	<b>93.233</b>	<b>93.885</b>	<b>-10,8</b>	<b>7,0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>105</b>
ALTINEKİN	14.548	14.351	33,7	-13,5	11	11
<b>BEYŞEHİR</b>	<b>73.768</b>	<b>74.469</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>9,5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
BOZKIR	26.287	25.894	11,7	-15,0	24	23
<b>CİHANBEYLİ</b>	<b>52.525</b>	<b>51.748</b>	<b>-0,5</b>	<b>-14,8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>
ÇELTİK	10.071	9.713	52,5	-35,5	14	15
<b>ÇUMRA</b>	<b>66.794</b>	<b>67.282</b>	<b>11,7</b>	<b>7,3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
DERBENT	4.455	4.267	36,0	-42,2	12	12
<b>DEREBUCAK</b>	<b>6.473</b>	<b>6.031</b>	<b>23,2</b>	<b>-68,3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
DOĞANHİSAR	16.029	15.810	-5,5	-13,7	33	33
<b>EMİRGAZİ</b>	<b>8.949</b>	<b>8.535</b>	<b>30,4</b>	<b>-46,3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
EREĞLİ	145.389	146.998	12,3	11,1	66	66
<b>GÜNEYSINIR</b>	<b>9.458</b>	<b>9.288</b>	<b>17,4</b>	<b>-18,0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
HADİM	11.970	12.015	8,2	3,8	10	10
<b>HALKAPINAR</b>	<b>4.354</b>	<b>4.066</b>	<b>43,4</b>	<b>-66,1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
HÜYÜK	16.073	15.652	33,2	-26,2	36	35
<b>ILGIN</b>	<b>54.622</b>	<b>54.228</b>	<b>-3,7</b>	<b>-7,2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>
KADINHANI	33.036	32.144	37,9	-27,0	21	21
<b>KARAPINAR</b>	<b>49.766</b>	<b>49.978</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
KULU	50.667	50.825	22,3	3,1	23	23

<b>SARAYÖNÜ</b>	<b>26.875</b>	<b>27.026</b>	<b>13,3</b>	<b>5,6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
SEYDİŞEHİR	64.687	64.822	-3,2	2,1	44	44
<b>TAŞKENT</b>	<b>7.635</b>	<b>6.296</b>	<b>264,9</b>	<b>-175,4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>
TUZLUKÇU	7.280	6.529	112,5	-103,2	10	9
<b>YALIHÜYÜK</b>	<b>1.785</b>	<b>1.629</b>	<b>164,4</b>	<b>-87,4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>
YUNAK	23.093	21.972	55,5	-48,5	11	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.205.609</b>	<b>2.232.374</b>	<b>11,7</b>	<b>12,1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>

*Source: TURKSTAT 2020*

When it is compared according to 2018, in 2019 population decreased in Ahırlı, Akören, Altınekin, Bozkır, Cihanbeyli, Çeltik, Derbent, Derebucak, Doğanhisar, Emirgazi, Güneysınır, Halkapınar, Hüyük, Ilgın, Kadınhanı, Taşkent, Tuzlukçu, Yalılıhüyük, Yunak while increased in other districts. And also Selçuklu, Meram, Karatay and Akşehir have higher population density according to other districts.

### YOUNG POPULATION – POTENTIAL WORKFORCE

Population under 35 constitutes 55,1% of Konya's population, totalling 1.229.811 people.

Examining Konya's population, people between the ages of 15-64 constitutes 66,6% of the population. 24% of Konya is between the ages of 0-14 and 9,5% is over the age of 65.

Konya shows similar distribution of population regarding age structure. 67,8% Turkey's population is between the ages of 15-64. The numbers are 23,1% for people between 0-14 and 9,1% for people over 65.

### PLACE OF KONYA IN THE WORLD POPULATION

Konya with a population of over 2 million, has more than 50 countries around the world. Among these countries, Slovenia, Estonia, Luxembourg, Malta, such as the European Union member countries as well as the European countries Iceland, Montenegro, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican and countries such as Qatar, Gabon, Gambia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Suriname. Brunei and Belize are located.

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Qatar	2.155.446	30.04.2014
Namibia	2.113.077	28.08.2011
Macedonia	2.075.301	2017
Lesotho	2.074.000	1.07.2013
Slovenia	2.060.589	9.08.2013
Botswana	2.024.904	22.08.2011
Latvia	2.013.400	1.06.2013
Gambia	1.849.000	1.07.2013
Guinea-Bissau	1.704.000	1.07.2013
Gabon	1.672.000	1.07.2013
Equatorial Guinea	1.622.000	1.07.2010
Trinidad and Tobago	1.328.019	9.01.2011
Estonia	1.286.540	1.01.2013
Mauritius	1.257.900	3.07.2011
Esvatini	1.250.000	1.07.2013
Bahrain	1.234.571	27.04.2010
Timor-Leste	1.066.409	11.07.2010
Djibouti	864.618	1.07.2011
Southern Cyprus	862.000	31.12.2011
Fiji	858.038	1.07.2012
Guyana	784.894	1.07.2010
Bhutan	737.320	9.08.2013
Comoros	724.300	1.07.2012
Montenegro	620.029	1.04.2011
Luxembourg	602.005	2018
Solomon Islands	561.000	1.07.2013
Suriname	534.189	13.08.2012
Cape Verde Islands	491.875	16.06.2010
Malta	475.701	2017
Brunei	393.162	20.06.2011
Bahamas	351.461	3.05.2010
Iceland	323.810	1.07.2013
Maldives	317.280	1.07.2010



Belize	312.971	12.05.2010
Barbados	274.200	1.07.2010
Vanuatu	264.652	1.07.2013
Samoa	187.820	7.11.2011
Sao Tome and Principe	187.356	13.05.2012
Saint Lucia	166.526	10.05.2010
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	109.000	1.07.2013
Kiribati	106.461	1.07.2013
Grenada	103.328	12.05.2011
Tonga	103.036	30.11.2011
Micronesia	101.351	1.07.2013
Seychelles	90.945	26.08.2010
Antigua and Barbuda	86.295	27.05.2011
Andorra	76.246	1.07.2012
Dominica	71.293	14.05.2011
Marshall Islands	56.086	1.07.2013
Saint Kitts and Nevis	54.000	1.07.2013
Liechtenstein	36.842	31.12.2012
Monaco	36.136	31.12.2012
San Marino	32.382	31.05.2013
Palau	20.901	1.07.2013
Nauru	11.000	1.06.2018
Tuvalu	10.200	1.06.2018
Vatican City	801	2018

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) 2020

## EDUCATION

There are five universities in Konya, three being public and two private, namely Selçuk University, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya Technical University, KTO Karatay University, and Konya Food and Agriculture University.

Konya hosts 3 medical schools: Meram Medical School, a faculty of Necmettin Erbakan University, KTO Karatay Medical School and Selçuklu Medical School, a faculty of Selçuk University.

Konya has the %2.94 of the primary schools (729), %3.13 of secondary schools (601), and there are 366 secondary education institutions in Konya.

Konya is the 8th city in Turkey with its student number. The total student number is %3 of Turkey.

More schools are opening in Konya for forthcoming sectors. Shoemaking Vocational School for Girls in Aykent Shoemakers Industrial Site is a good example.

With 222.886 university graduates, Konya has an educated population. Konya also hosts 23.886 master's degree holders (6th), 5.112 PhDs (4th) and over 100.000 university students (8th).

Konya hosts more than 5.000 academics with 882 of them being professors. Konya is 4th in Turkey in both of these categories.

Konya also hosts vocational schools of higher education providing a qualified workforce to various sectors.

English medium schools are also present in Konya for the education of investors' children.

Schooling rate for Konya is 90,53% for school-age.

The number is 16 students per teacher at primary level.

The number of students per teacher is 14 on high school levels in Konya.

Selçuk University, approximately 70.000 students 23 faculties, 6 institutes, 47 research centers, and a conservatory, is the biggest university in the city.

KTO Karatay University has 6 faculties, 3 institutes, and 7 research centers with more than 8.500 students. The other state university, Necmettin Erbakan University has 20 faculties, 4 institutes, and 56 research centers with over 37.000 students.

Konya Food and Agricultural University is continuing education with its 3 faculties, 2 institutes, and 4 research centers with 400 students.

Konya Technical University has 4 faculties, 1 institute, and approximately 20.000 students.

## ECONOMY

- ◆ Important region in agricultural and industrial production.
- ◆ Regarded as the “Capital of SMEs” with around 45,000 SMEs.
- ◆ Also known as the “granary” of Turkey.
- ◆ Leading producer of flour, salt and sugar production in Turkey.
- ◆ The only province in Turkey that aluminum mineral is prospected.
- ◆ Strong automobile spare parts industry with hosting prominent Turkish companies in this sector.
- ◆ Machine production, automotive supply industry, metal casting, agricultural tools and machinery production, food production industry and shoemaking are the leading sectors in Konya.
  - ◆ 45% share in the Turkish market of metal processing machines,

- ◆ 70% share in the Turkish market of vehicle-mounted equipment sector
- ◆ 45% of Turkey's agricultural machinery production
  
- ◆ 12th in Turkey with \$2 billion exports in 2019
  
- ◆ Top 5 export countries: Iraq, Germany, Italy, USA and Russia.
  
- ◆ 18th in Turkey with \$877.5 million imports in 2019
  
- ◆ Top 5 import countries: Russia, China, Ukraine, Germany and Italy
  
- ◆ Roughly \$1.15 billion trade surplus in 2019
  
- ◆ Exporting more than 170 countries
  
- ◆ From 2000 to 2019, exportation value increased 23 times
- ◆ 2,000 exporting companies
  
- ◆ 385 foreign direct investments from 54 countries
  
- ◆ 6 firms in the "Turkey's Top 500 Industrial Enterprises" and 15 in "Turkey's 2<sup>nd</sup> Top 500 Industrial Enterprises"
  
- ◆ With 2,041 trademark registrations, 46 patents and 33 utility model registrations in 2019
  
- ◆ 52.1% employment rate (Konya-Karaman region)
  
- ◆ 50.7% labor force participation rate (Konya-Karaman region)
  
- ◆ 5.9% unemployment rate (Konya-Karaman region)

## CULTURE AND TOURISM

With her deep-rooted history, Konya has been a cradle to many cultures and civilizations throughout history. Hosting some of the oldest Christian settlements and shrines, Konya also has a strong place in cultural tourism attractions. In this context, Konya is one of the centers of cultural tourism as well as belief tourism. Important historical and cultural values such as Sille, Hagia Elenia, Ancient City of Kilistra, Eflatunpınar Monument, Çatalhöyük, Karahöyük, İvris Rock Reliefs, Bolat, and Bouleterion show the potential of Konya regarding this subject.

Konya's traditional handicrafts and folkloric values are part of cultural tourism. Carpet, spoon and rifle making, pottery, tile making, and calligraphy are points of interest for tourists. Semah, folk dancing, and Sufi music constitute the major folkloric values of Konya.

Konya bears the traces of a history spanning back to 7.000 BC. The province has a rich history with her archaeological sites, natural and historical protected areas, caves and civil architecture.

The capital of the Sultanate of Rum, Konya has a huge potential in tourism with world-renowned figures such as Rumi and Nasreddin Hodja.

There are 7 museums in Konya city center (Mevlana, Karatay, İnceminare, Sırçalı Medrese, Atatürk, Ethnography and Archaeology Museums) and 4 in districts (Catalhoyuk, Eregli, Aksehir Western Front and Arksehir Archaeology Museums).

There are 135 hotels in Konya 7 of which have 5 stars. There are bedding capacity more than 14.000. Besides, Konya hosts more than 150 travel agencies with Operation License.

Bedding capacity is more than 6.500 in 39 tourism operation licensed hotels. The total bedding capacity will be almost 11.000. Also, there are 14 touristic licensed restaurants.

There is one UNESCO World Heritage Site in Konya (Çatalhöyük). Eşrefoğlu Mosque, Konya-A Capital of Seljuk civilization, Anatolian Seljuk Madrasahs and Eflatunpınar Hitite Spring Sanctuary are in the tentative list.

As two manuscript libraries where our national and local culture is kept in the record, Konya has Regional Manuscript Library and Yusufaga Manuscript Library. There are 18.118 handwritten and 73.503 printed books in these libraries.

Beyşehir Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in Turkey, is one of the leading places in nature and hunting tourism. With new investments and efficient promotion, the lake and its surroundings will become one of the leading attractions in the province in the coming years.

The districts of Konya that are situated over the Taurus Mountains, are very suitable for trekking and mountain sports. Also, there is potential for hunting tourism in mountainous and woodland areas.

The province is also rich with caves in Balatini, Körükini, Suluin, Sakaltutan, Susuz, Tınaztepe, Pınarbaşı, and İncesu Caves.

There are also prominent areas suitable for birdwatching. The areas of the Salt Lake within the region are home to the largest colonies of flamingos in the world. Regarding other fauna, there are wild sheep in Bozdağ and jade horses in Karaman's Karadağ area.

Turkey is one of the top seven countries in the world regarding geothermal springs. There are over 1.000 springs with temperatures between 20-100°C. There are more than 200 touristic establishments in the country on these springs and one of these is in Konya.

Traditional handicrafts and folkloric values are parts of cultural tourism. Konya is one of the richer provinces in this regard, is promoting her carpet making, spoon making, rifle making, pottery, calligraphy, and handmade tools craftsmanship traditions. Semah ceremony, folklore, folk dancing, Sufi music and prominent figures such as Rumi, Yunus Emre, and Nasreddin Hodja constitute some of the local values of the region.

## HEALTH

There have been a large number of investments in the health sector during recent years. The number of specialist physicians is 1.996, practitioners is 4.827, and the number of nurses 4.681

There are three medical schools in Konya in Necmettin Erbakan University Medical School, Selcuk University Medical School, and KTO Karatay University Medical School.

Konya has 45 hospitals with a total bedding capacity of 7.500.

By 2018, the ratio of bed number for one person is equal with Turkey average which is 2.

Additionally, Konya City Hospital is under construction which has 1.200 bedding capacity.

**Source:** *Turkish Statistical Institute*

## [FAIRS IN KONYA](#)

[To reach to the list of fairs that are held in Konya, please click.](#)

[To get more information about the fair and exhibition center, please click.](#)

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**Resource:** Invest in Konya

**Web link (May 2020):** <http://www.investinkonya.gov.tr/en/konya.asp?SayfaID=1>

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