



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF TRADE



INDUSTRY



BUILDING MATERIALS



TURKEY

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BUILDING MATERIALS

Construction is one of the key sectors in Turkey, being one of the main drivers of private and public investments in Turkey. Because of economic reforms, Turkey has established a large and strong construction industry in a short time. Today, Turkish construction and engineering companies are able to design, erect, build and operate almost all kinds of civil and industrial projects such as dams, hydroelectric and thermal power plants, industrial plants, airports and seaports, large scale petroleum and natural gas pipelines, fertilizer plants, petrochemical complexes and refineries, motorways, tunnels, bridges, large housing projects, hotels and all kinds of sophisticated buildings. With around 9000 projects, Turkish contractors have achieved a volume of work exceeding US\$ 338,6 billion in 2016 in 114 foreign countries spread over four continents.

The concepts of advanced technology, on-time delivery, quick response, and high quality, use of reasonably priced Turkish labor and goods, and equipment and building materials of international standards have enabled the Turkish construction sector to compete with the world.

Turkey is a major producer of basic construction materials such as cement, building steel, timber, bricks, PVC, polyethylene, glass, ceramic tiles and sanitary ware, being especially strong and competitive in producing construction steel, cement, ceramic and glass products.

BASIC CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Iron and Steel

Turkey has a huge iron and steel industry, which produces major inputs for the construction industry. Turkey's steel production rose 31.5 million tons in 2015. More than 35.000 people are employed in the sector.

6.3 billion tons of long products exported in 2015, and major markets for long products are the UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Turkey produces different types of iron and steel pipes / pipefittings. Turkey's iron and steel pipes / pipefittings exports reached US\$ 1.4 billion in 2015. Major markets for iron and steel pipes / pipefittings are the USA, Iraq, The United Kingdom, Germany and Romania.

Cement

Cement, which is the basic construction material, is produced by 67 cement plants in Turkey. 19 of them are grinding units and the rest are integrated units. After the privatization program, capacity expansion and investments in technology in the sector accelerated. These positive developments has brought the quality of cement up to international standards. In 2015 Turkey's cement export ranked fifth in the world. In 2014, the Turkish

cement industry reached an annual production of 71.2 million tons. Turkish cement industry provides employment for more than 16 thousand employees. In 2015 major markets for Turkish cement exports were Syria, Libya, USA and Israel.

Natural Stones

Turkey's total probable marble reserves are 5.1 billion m³ –13.9 million tons. Turkey has a 33% share in the world's marble reserves. In Turkish natural stone sector, there are about 1.500 mines, 2.000 plants and 9.000 workshops. The sector has also more than 300 thousand employees. Processed marble ranks first with US\$ 1.1 billion exports in natural stone exports. In 2015, the main countries, which Turkey exported, processed marble to, were USA, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and France.

Ceramics

Ceramics are amongst Turkey's oldest and best-known products. Turkey's share in world ceramic tiles production rose to 3,2 %. This figure is 11% for Europe. There are also 30 thousand employments in the sector. Ceramic tile exports valued US\$ 501 million in 2015. Turkey ranks first in Europe in the production of ceramic sanitary ware, as well. Sanitary ware production reached 17 million units in 2015. Sanitary ware exports were about US\$ 198 million in 2015. Germany, UK, France, Italy and USA are top 5 export markets for Turkish sanitary ware products.

Glass

The glass industry is one of the most important and highly developed industries in Turkey. Today, a group of companies, namely, Sisecam, accounts for approximately 90% of annual production. There are about 20 large and medium-scale firms dealing with production in the sector other than Sisecam and a certain number of small ones are involved in production. The glass sector has approximately 20 thousand employees.

The Turkish glass industry has a highly intensive production technology and a vast accumulation of know-how combined with a high level of production capacity, good quality and wide sales services. The industry has shown an increasing trend in production in recent years and building glass production capacity was approximately 2,9 million tons in 2010. Exports of the glass industry have been increasing continuously and totaled US\$ 111 million in 2015. The major export countries are Azerbaijan, Israel, Bulgaria, Turkmenistan and Iraq.

Plastic-based Building Products

The domestic production of basic plastic raw materials has naturally resulted in a strong plastic processing industry in Turkey. At present, there are about 5,000 plastics processing companies, which are mainly small and medium-scale. In the plastic sector, more than 200 thousand people have been employed.

In 2015, US\$ 1.1 billion worth of plastic building materials were exported. The plastic building materials were exported mainly to Iraq, Russia, Turkmenistan and Georgia.

The Turkish plastic sector today has attained world standards as far as raw materials, semi-finished and finished products are concerned. Finished plastic products are expected to comply with the related Turkish standards (TSE), International standards (ISO) and the standards set by the EU.

Paints and Coatings

Parallel to the developments in the construction, automotive and marine industries of Turkey, the paints and coatings industry has also developed and has become one of the most dynamic sectors of the Turkish Industry.

In 2015, the total value of paints and coatings' exports reached US\$ 680 million. The paints and coatings industry products were exported mainly to Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan, China and Russia.

The paint sector has reached world quality standards. The number of firms, which have ISO 9000 certification, is rapidly increasing in Turkey. The dyes and paints sector has adapted itself to ecological standards which are particularly developed in Europe.

EXPORTS

Building materials exports reached about US\$ 16.9 billion in 2017.

Iron and steel products were the largest product group in sector exports. Within this group, iron & steel bars, sections and wires (US\$ 6.3 million) rank first, and pipes and pipefittings (US\$ 1.4 million) rank second by value. Insulated wires and cables with an export value of US\$ 1.3 billion were one of the largest product groups. Plastic-based building products exports also ranked high with a value of US\$ 1.1 billion in 2017.

Turkish building materials were exported to about 200 countries in 2017. The main export markets are Germany, Iraq, the UAE, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

Turkish building materials are exhibited in international and local fairs organized in Turkey. Some of them are listed below.

Table 1: Turkey's Exports of Major Building Materials (Value: US\$ 1,000)

	2015	2016	2017	Share in 2016 export markets
Gypsum	51.517	55.148	49.462	Nigeria (22), Russia (9), Georgia (8), Bulgaria (4), Ukraine (3)
Cement	549.590	494.786	531.367	USA (14), Israel (10), Syria (7), Colombia (4), Libya (4)
Paints	392.917	350.430	361.313	Iraq (7), Iran (7), China (5), Azerbaijan (4), Uzbekistan (4)
Plastic based building mat.	1.109.210	895.523	872.718	Iraq (15), Germany (4), Georgia (4), Turkmenistan (4), Bulgaria (4)
Wood based building mat.	465.486	425.850	506.228	Iran (29), Iraq (13), Turkmenistan (7), Azerbaijan (3), Georgia (3)
Wall papers	7.556	4.757	9.580	Iran (22), Turkmenistan (12), Iraq (8), Azerbaijan (6), Saudi Arabia (5)
Processed natural stones	1.016.531	924.175	927.616	USA (30), Saudi Arabia (12), Iraq (7), UAE (5), Israel (5)
Mineral wools	19.291	18.378	19.057	Israel (17), Iraq (12), Turkmenistan (12), Azerbaijan (6), Georgia (4)
Articles of asphalt, plaster, cement and concrete	77.058	81.214	86.746	USA (16), Iraq (9), Ethiopia (6), Israel (6), Georgia (4)
Bricks	6.417	6.056	7.612	UK (55), USA (7), Northern Cyprus (5), Turkmenistan (5), Iraq (4)
Ceramic tiles	500.353	512.539	551.645	Germany (15), USA (11), Israel (10), UK (9), Canada (7)
Ceramic sanitary ware	198.112	211.985	230.844	Germany (16), UK (11), France (10), Italy (8), USA (4)
Glass	111.255	114.153	134.045	Israel (10), Bulgaria (6), Morocco (5), Turkmenistan (4), UK (4)
Glass Wool	91.150	84.872	89.862	Israel (10), Germany (9), Italy (7), Egypt (5), Spain (5)
Iron and steel bars sections and wires	4.040.399	3.486.884	3.600.550	USA (15), UAE (12), Egypt (9), Israel (8), Yemen (6)
Iron and steel nails, bolts, nuts, screws	328.304	344.208	409.548	Germany (34), USA (7), Bulgaria (3), Slovakia (3), France (3)
Iron and steel sanitary ware	65.861	60.952	59.557	Germany (9), UAE (6), Poland (6), Iran (6), Egypt (5)
Iron and steel pipes and pipe setting	1.402.360	1.161.242	1.433.958	Iraq (14), USA (13), UK (8), Romania (6), Germany (6)
Iron and steel radiators	387.750	366.453	426.597	UK (30), Romania (9), China (7), Germany (7), Poland (4)

Iron and steel based other building materials	1.245.014	1.000.592	1.047.702	Turkmenistan (14), Iraq (12), Algeria (7), Ethiopia (6), Saudi Arabia (4)
Aluminum sanitary ware	118.094	116.282	114.532	Egypt (32), Saudi Arabia (7), Germany (5), Italy (5), UK (4)
Aluminum based building materials	838.952	793.846	892.240	Germany (17), Iraq (8), Turkmenistan (6), UK (3), Iran (3)
Locks and metal mountings	555.129	565.927	615.642	Romania (7), Iran (7), Russia (6), Germany (5), USA (5)
Heating and cooling equipment	623.599	673.576	779.244	Germany (16), UK (9), Italy (8), Spain (7), China (5)
Lifts and skip hoists	41.894	50.451	58.507	Kazakhstan (17), Israel (7), Iraq (7), Georgia (5), Algeria (4)
Taps and valves	15.146	27.622	33.598	Germany (52), Iraq (4), Chile (3), Iran (3), Egypt (2)
Electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits	484.740	447.185	463.012	France (15), Iran (9), Germany (5), Ukraine (3), Russia (3)
Insulated wires and cables	1.322.504	1.230.496	1.397.783	UK (29), Israel (8), Iraq (8), Germany (4), Turkmenistan (3)
Lighting fittings	247.781	256.147	232.335	Turkmenistan (8), Saudi Arabia (6), Germany (6), UAE (5), Iraq (4)
Prefabricated buildings	249.030	168.571	168.262	Germany (13), Iraq (12), Malaysia (8), UAE (5), Saudi Arabia (5)

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute

TRADE FAIRS

- [Fairs in Turkey](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology
www.sanayi.gov.tr
- Turkish Statistical Institute
www.tuik.gov.tr
- The Association of Real Estate Investment Companies
www.gyoder.org.tr
- Turkish Contractors Association
www.tmb.org.tr
- Turkish Ceramic Federation
www.serfed.com
- Association of Turkish Building Material Producers
www.imsad.org
- Turkish Iron and Steel Producers Association
www.dcu.org.tr
- Turkish Cement Manufacturers' Association
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