PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN INAUGURATES HASANKEYF-2 BRIDGE

TURKEY CLIMBS UP TO 11TH PLACE GLOBALLY IN TERMS OF GDP

TURKEY EXTENDS SHORT-TERM WORK ALLOWANCE

TURKISH STARTUPS RECEIVED USD 508 MILLION INVESTMENT IN Q1

WIND ENERGY INVESTMENTS RISE IN TURKEY

ALIBABA RAISES SHARE IN TRENDYOL

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Message from the Investment Office
The Turkish government is pressing forward its efforts to mitigate Covid-19’s impact on the economy. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has announced that short-time work allowance arrangements will be upheld for April, May and June across all sectors.

On the global arena, international investors continued to make significant commitments in Turkey throughout April, with a range of cross-border transactions seen across multiple markets, including global online commerce giant Alibaba’s recent stake raise in Turkey’s largest e-commerce platform Trendyol and Finch Capital’s acquisition of Wirecard Turkey.

Turkey’s startup ecosystem attracted notable investments in the first quarter with 61 startups raising USD 508 million from angel investors and venture capital funds, setting a record in the process. Turkish on-demand grocery company Getir became Turkey’s second unicorn with a valuation of USD 2.6 billion.

Meanwhile, Turkey climbed up to 11th place globally in terms of GDP at PPP in 2020—up from a the 13th place in 2019.

As a side note, the success of Turkey’s first domestic car (TOGG) received German media recognition, with the country’s leading daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung stating that Turkey’s new national automobile would run head-to-head against Tesla, Volkswagen, among other potential competitors, buoyed by its powerful set of smart features.

A. Burak DAĞLIOĞLU
President, Investment Office

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the 10th Summit of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation via videoconference on April 8.

“We must focus on hi-tech production with high-added value in order to achieve strong and sustainable growth rates,” noted President Erdoğan, adding that Turkish citizens have been provided with the most advanced healthcare services during the pandemic, but Turkey has also delivered medical supplies to 157 countries and 12 international organizations.

Turkey Extends Short-term Work Allowance
The Turkish government continues to work at full speed in order to reduce the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic on the economy. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced that, for all sectors, the short-term work allowance has been extended for the months of April, May and June.

In addition, the VAT reduction in the tourism sector, which was otherwise due to expire at the end of May, has also been extended until the end of June.

President Erdoğan Inaugurates Hasankeyf-2 Bridge
On April 17, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan delivered a speech via video conference at the opening ceremony of the Hasankeyf-2 Bridge, built in southeastern Turkey.

President Erdoğan said, “With a total investment in excess of USD 54.3 million, Hasankeyf-2 Bridge will be one of the longest bridges in Turkey, running for 1001 meters. Connecting Batman, Mardin and Habur border gate, this bridge will have a multiplier effect on the regional trade.”

The bridge, constructed by the standards of a divided road, is set to have a pedestrian passageway.

“We Have Many Reasons to be Hopeful for the Future”
President Erdoğan then pivoted to the recent developments in the economy, stressing that the Turkish economy closed 2020 with a significant growth rate of 1.8 percent despite the novel coronavirus pandemic.

“We Have Administered 20 million Doses of Vaccine to our Citizens”
President Erdoğan also underlined that the World Health Organization and the western media praise Turkey’s success in the fight against the pandemic. “In 2020 alone, we launched healthcare facilities having a total bed capacity of 16,160. And, we have administered 20 million doses of vaccine to our citizens, where almost a hundred countries worldwide have no access to the first dose yet,” said President Erdoğan.

Turkey Develops Own Missile Technology
Turkey has managed to join the club of a handful of countries that developed their own indigenous air missile technology.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said the air-to-air missile BOZDOĞAN, developed by young technicians and engineers within the GÖKTUĞ project, scored a direct hit against its target on the first attempt in a missile test.
The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held by videoconference on April 7, 2021. Minister of Treasury and Finance Lütfi Elvan and Central Bank Governor Şahap Kavcıoğlu attended the meeting on behalf of Turkey.

Commenting on the meeting, Minister Elvan underlined three key topics including: the power of developing countries in the global recovery, the need for transparent and timely communication of developed countries’ central banks for financial stability, and the importance of making concrete decisions to support low-income countries.

Turkey climbs up to 11th place globally in terms of GDP

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its GDP forecasts for countries around the world in its latest World Economic Outlook April 2021 report.

Accordingly, growth forecast for the Turkish economy has been revised upwards to 6 percent in 2021, up from 5.5 percent. With this, Turkey is among the top three emerging economies with the highest growth expectations for 2021 after India and China.

Meanwhile, Turkey climbed up to 11th place globally in terms of GDP at PPP in 2020—up from a the 13th place in 2019.

Turkey among the top five economies in OECD’s Composite Leading Indicators

The OECD’s latest Composite Leading Indicators (CLI) revealed that the Turkish economy has one of the strongest economies among the 33 countries in the index.

As of March 2021, Turkey is the fifth country with the strongest CLI indicator, scoring 101.77 points next only to Chile, Brazil, Estonia and China, the OECD CLI shows. Turkey was in the list with a 76.63 indicator at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Minister Elvan attends G20 Finance Ministers meeting

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**TURKISH STARTUPS RECEIVED USD 508 MILLION INVESTMENT IN Q1**

In the first quarter of 2021, 61 startups raised USD 508 million from angel investors and venture capital funds, setting a record for the Turkish startup ecosystem.

According to Startup.Watch’s “Turkish Startup Ecosystem Quarterly Report-Q1 2021”, Getir became the second unicorn in Turkey with a valuation of USD 2.6 billion.

Led by Dream Games, which received the highest investment after Getir, the activity in the gaming industry continued in 2021 with 15 gaming startups receiving USD 60 million investment in the first quarter. Turkey ranked 10th in Europe and 2nd in the Middle East and North Africa angel and venture capital investment leagues.

**WIND ENERGY INVESTMENTS RISE IN TURKEY**

With USD 1.2 billion investments, Turkey ranked 5th among the European countries that invested most in wind energy in 2020. WindEurope’s “Financing and Investment Trends in the European Wind Industry in 2020” report unveiled. Despite the devastating effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Europe spent EUR 42.8 billion in new wind energy plants in 2020, the second-highest annual sum so far, the report figured. Offshore wind farm investments reached a new high of EUR 26.3 billion, financing 71 GW of new offshore capacity.

Turkey also ranked fourth in terrestrial wind energy investments according to the report.

In the meantime, Turkey’s Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez said in the first quarter of 2021, Turkey added 1,233 MW to its total capacity of which 1,207 MW sourced by renewable energy, having 97.9 percent share in total.

**FRANKFRUTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG: TOGG TO CHALLENGE TESLA, VOLKSWAGEN AND OTHER COMPETITORS**

Germany’s Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) stated that the electric car developed by Turkey’s Automobile Initiative Group (TOGG) will compete with Tesla, Volkswagen, and any other future competitors with its smart features. According to FAZ’ news story, TOGG’s smart car will be able to travel more than 500 kilometers on a single charge and will be recharged 80 percent in half an hour. Packed with a full set of innovative features, the smart car will be a rival for Tesla, Volkswagen and any other potential competitors, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung stated.

Meanwhile, the article found that Turkey has already sold KARSAN’s locally manufactured electric buses to Germany. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan also attended the test drive of the first locally manufactured autonomous electric bus co-produced by KARSAN and ADASTEC, the article further stated.

TOGG was established in 2018 under the leadership of The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) as a collaboration between five conglomerates. TOGG has been the first Turkish mobility brand to win the IF Design Award, one of the world’s most prestigious design awards, in 2021.

**TURKEY’S VACCINE CANDIDATE GOES FULL STEAM AHEAD**

Turkish Republic’s candidate COVID-19 vaccine studies based on a brand-new technique known as virus-like particles (VLP) and entered the human trials phase.

Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank has volunteered for the vaccine’s clinical trials, highlighting that the vaccine produced by Turkey’s Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBITAK) will be more effective when compared to other vaccines throughout the world.
The Radisson Hotel Group is fully committed to its investment plans in Turkey with three new hotels to be launched in 2021, Deputy Chairman for Africa and Turkey and Business Development Director Ramsay Rankoussi stated. “People are ready to travel in 2021 and they will turn to safe countries such as Turkey,” he added.

The group will open two hotels in May, one in the western tourist town of Bodrum and another in Aliağa/Izmir. The third one will be opened at the end of the year in Mount Erciyes - Kayseri, home to ski resorts. “Turkey is a country of focus for our group and a precious market. We will launch three more hotels in Istanbul and Bursa as part of our 2022 plans,” Rankoussi added.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism unveiled a vaccination plan for tourism sector that started on April 7, in order provide a safe and uninterrupted tourism season in 2021. A “Safe Tourism Certification” will be issued for the hotels and tourism facilities after vaccination. Turkey is expected to record a 30 percent increase in tourism revenues this year.

In a capital increase, the Turkish e-commerce platform Trendyol receives an additional investment of USD 330 million from its partner Alibaba Group.

With this injection, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba’s share in Trendyol raised to 86.5 percent. Alibaba has made its initial investment to Trendyol in 2018. Trendyol’s valuation reached USD 11 billion with this investment.

Turkey’s e-commerce volume was USD 32 billion in 2020 rising 66 percent y-o-y.

Alibaba’s share in Trendyol reached 86.5 percent with an additional investment of USD 330 million. Alibaba has made the initial investment to Trendyol in 2018.

Finch Capital, a FinTech-focused venture capital company with offices in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, announced plans to acquire Wirecard Turkey.

The acquisition will take place through Nomu Pay, an entity bent on investments in payment assets. In a press statement, Radboud Vlaar-Managing Partner of Finch Capital-explains, “We see tremendous growth opportunities to further enhance payments for Turkey’s 80 million inhabitants. We are excited to team up with Wirecard Turkey and we continue to actively look for further M&A opportunities in the region to speed up its growth and development.”

Founded in 2008, Wirecard Turkey started its operations the following year as the Turkey’s first direct carrier billing service provider. It offers payment services in three major categories: Direct Carrier Billing (DCB), Credit Card Acquiring and E-money.

Having operations in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, Kuwaiti coffee delivery application COFE has now announced its plans to expand into Turkey. The company has raised USD 10 million from Kuwaiti Al Imtiaz Investment Group to fund its new operations.

“From its early days, COFE has shown tremendous potential as a unique offering that caters to discerning coffee connoisseurs and their consumption habits, while helping to grow and transform revenue streams for vendors. Our partners have recognized this and are confident in our ability to serve existing customers and vendors, while expanding into new markets,” Ali Al-Ebrahim-founder of COFE- said in a press statement.

The COFE App sensation was founded in Kuwait by Al-Ebrahim back in 2017 and was officially launched in 2018.

Kuwaiti coffee delivery application COFE has now announced its plans to expand into Turkey. The company has raised USD 10 million from Kuwaiti Al Imtiaz Investment Group to fund its new operations.

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Japan’s HIS Travel and Turkey’s Sun Group signed an agreement brokered by the Investment Office to set out the “Cappadocia Express”, the luxury train tour project.

The agreement is the outcome of a long-standing effort by Investment Office to push forward cooperation between Japan-Turkey, explained Burak Dağlioğlu, President of the Investment Office, highlighting the possibilities for rail transit for tourists that the agreement is set to offer.

HIS Global is one of the top 10 travel operators in the world with headquarters in Japan and more than 500 offices in more than 70 countries. Founded in 1993, Sun Group took part in various railway projects and high-speed train project.

On April 8, Sanofi Pasteur and Birgi Mefar Group celebrated their 10th anniversary in Turkey via a virtual conference.

Speaking at the conference, Investment Office Vice President Ahmet İhsan Erdem said, “We want to transfer more technology to Turkey. We have a medical technology ecosystem that is rapidly growing and moving toward globalization. Last year, Turkey was a center of interest in the health sector with healthcare spending reaching TRY 200 billion,” Erdem added.

On April 5, Investment Office and AmCham Turkey co-hosted the first series of webinars entitled “GVC Talks-Investment Perspective” that brought together industry experts and practitioners to discuss the transformation of GVCs. Among the attendees of the webinar were Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology Çetin Ali Dönmez; Deputy Chair of AmCham Turkey Canan Özsoy and Deputy GM of Ford Otosan Dave Johnston.

Investment Office Vice President Ahmet İhsan Erdem offered insights into Turkey’s investment climate in the changing world to the participants.

“A task force has been established with the participation of relevant ministries, agencies, and private sector representatives in order to prepare Turkey’s investment climate for the changing global environment. Furthermore, the recent reform package has also included exclusive reform and policy actions to increase Turkey’s participation in GVCs,” said Erdem.

Investment Office President A. Burak Dağlioğlu addressed Japanese investors at a webinar co-hosted with the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment (JOI), touching on the two countries’ ever-growing friendly ties that began with the frigate Ertuğrul and have evolved into commercial relations over 150 years.

Giving examples of Japanese investments in Turkey such as HIS Travel, Başakşehir Cam and Sakura Hospital, Ebara, Daihatsu Paper, and mentioning the recent MoU signed with JOI, Dağlioğlu underlined Turkey’s consent to increase bilateral investments and cooperation with Japan.

Investment Office briefs Japanese investors at a webinar

Investment Office hosts webinar series with AmCham Turkey

Investment Office attends Sanofi Pasteur – Birgi Mefar 10th anniversary event

In “Cappadocia Express” sets out

In “Investment Office Briefs” Japanese investors at a webinar

In “Investment Office hosts webinar series with AmCham Turkey”
**APR 26** - INVESTMENT OFFICE MAKES PRESENTATION FOR ESKİŞEHİR CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY

Mehmet Tangut and Fatih Çelik of the Investment Office made presentations on top reasons to invest in Turkey and the Turkish machinery industry’s outlook at a webinar held by the Eskişehir Chamber of Industry for participants from Spain’s Barcelona Chamber of Commerce and Industry and France’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.

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**APR 16** - GERMAN & UAE BASED INVESTORS BRIEFED ON TURKEY’S INVESTMENT PROSPECTS

Investment Office Country Advisor to the United Arab Emirates Rahim Albayrak attended a webinar on business ties between German and Turkish investors at a webinar hosted by the Turkish Business Council in Dubai & Northern Emirates (TBC) and the German-Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Türkei) where he shed light on Turkey’s investment prospects.

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**APR 16** - WEBINAR FOR SPANISH INVESTORS ON TURKEY’S PPP AGENDA

Investment Office Country Advisor to Spain Yasemen Korukçu and Expert Zeki Emre Tekin addressed Spanish investors with a presentation on Turkey’s investment climate and latest PPP agenda at an exclusive webinar held jointly with the Aragon Business Confederation - CEDE Aragón and featured Turkey’s Ambassador to Spain Cihad Erginay and Turkey’s Commercial Attaché in Barcelona Elif Berrak Taşyürek as speakers.

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**APR 15** - INVESTMENT OFFICE OFFERS JAPANESE INVESTORS INSIGHTS INTO TURKISH AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Investment Office Country Advisor Yuichi Aoki addressed Japanese investors with a presentation on the Turkish automotive industry at a hybrid webinar held at the HQ of Japanese automotive research and publication company Fourin in Nagoya.

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**APR 13** - TURKEY’S MACHINERY SECTOR MAKES ITS DEBUT AT HANNOVER MESSE

Investment Office Head of Overseas Activities Department Furkan Karayaka and Expert Fatih Çelik contributed to the Hannover Messe 2021 Digital Edition | Investment Opportunities in Turkey Conference with a welcome address and a detailed presentation on Turkey’s machinery sector.

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**APR 13** - INVESTMENT OFFICE ATTENDS THINK GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN US

Necmettin Kaymaz of the Investment Office delivered a presentation on investing and doing business in Turkey at the Think Global Conference organized by the International Trade Council.
TURKEY: HUB FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Within 4-hours flight, easy access to multiple markets of USD 25.55 trillion GDP, USD 7.9 trillion trade, and 1.3 billion people.

Booming economy reaching USD 717 billion in 2020, up from USD 236 billion in 2002.

Over USD 225 billion of FDI between 2003-2020, while the total amount of FDI attracted between 1980-2002 stood at USD 15 billion.

ACCESS TO MULTIPLE MARKETS

**Europe**
GDP: $19.9 trillion
Import: $6.8 trillion
Population: 601.1 million

**Russia**
GDP: $1.70 trillion
Import: $257 billion
Population: 144.4 million

**Central Asia & Caucasus**
GDP: $0.3 trillion
Import: $76.6 billion
Population: 90.5 million

**MENA**
GDP: $3.65 trillion
Import: $755.6 billion
Population: 456.7 million

**TOTAL**
GDP: $25.55 trillion
Import: $7.8 trillion
Population: 1.3 billion

Source: World Bank, 2019
Comtrade, 2019
AVERAGE ANNUAL REAL GDP GROWTH (%) (2003-2020)

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Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

The fastest growing economy in Europe and one of the fastest growing economies in the world with an average annual GDP growth rate of 5.1% over the past 18 years.

(2003-2020, TurkStat)

SOPHISTICATED CONSUMER BASE

A population of 83.6 million, half of which is under the age of 32.7.

(2020, TurkStat)

Largest youth population compared with the EU.

(2020, Eurostat)

80.9 million fixed and mobile broadband internet subscribers.

(2020, Q3)

SKILLED AND DEDICATED LABOR FORCE

Over 31 million young, well-educated and motivated professionals.

(2020, TurkStat)

Around 900,000 students graduate annually from 211 universities.

(2019, CoHE)
According to the European Investment Bank, Turkey ranks 1st in Europe in total value of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects during the 2015-2019 period.

**USD 132 billion**
Total value of PPP contracts 2003-2020 period.

**8,200 km**
Total length of motorways in Turkey by 2035 once the 320 km currently under construction and the 4550 km planned projects are completed.

**4,700 km**
Total length of high-speed railways in Turkey by 2023 once the planned projects with the total length of 3500 km are completed.

**179**
Total number of PPP projects in Turkey during the 2003-2019 period.

**44,350**
Number of hospital beds to be introduced once 31 integrated health campuses are put into operation across Turkey. Of those, 20 will be PPP city hospitals with a total bed capacity of 30,750.

**200 million**
Annual passenger capacity once all stages of the newly commissioned Istanbul Airport in Turkey are completed.

For more info
invest.gov.tr/en/Sectors/Pages/infrastructure.aspx
“China is Turkey’s third largest trade partner and second largest import partner. As two major emerging economies in the world, it is our wish that the two countries will learn from each other and strive towards win-win goals based on mutual needs in various fields.”

ICBC Turkey is a full-license bank holding commercial bank, investment bank, and asset management licenses with 44 branches and 21 securities business offices with around 860 employees. Its branch network covers areas where the economy and banking industry are active in Turkey (these areas cover nearly 70 percent of GDP of Turkey). As the world’s largest commercial bank, ICBC attaches tremendous importance to the Turkish market. ICBC Turkey is a young member of the ICBC Group. Based on the growth potential of the regional market and the support of local regulators and the ICBC group, we aim to become the leading bank of the “Belt and Road Initiative” and the preferred bank of “Chinese elements”. As a key international subsidiary of the group, ICBC Turkey has already provided a wide array of high-quality financial services for the Turkish economy. In the future, it will provide a greater contribution to promoting economic and social development, and will continue to contribute more to the deepening of the mutually beneficial and win-win economic and trade cooperation between China and Turkey through the implementation of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. In the process, ICBC Turkey will continue to devote effort to building the links of economic and trade exchanges between China and Turkey, playing the role of a think-tank, putting forward strategic and forward-looking suggestions, taking tangible integrated financial services to promote investment and trade contacts between China and Turkey, and improving Turkey’s global position in the finance industry.

ICBC Turkey

Gao XIANGYANG
Chairman, ICBC Turkey

45 years of experience as a domestic manufacturer in Turkey

Andrew N. LIVERIS
Former Chairman & CEO, DOW

Following the Toyota Way, we implemented the Toyota Production System to produce high-quality motor vehicles in Turkey.

Toshihiko KUDO
President & CEO,
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Turkey

There is a huge need for tires in and around Turkey, as well as in Europe, Russia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Turkey has great advantages such as customs duty exemption to the Customs Union agreement, and also the location of Turkey is very convenient for transportation to these markets. Considering all, Turkey is very attractive for production and exports.

In addition, the Turkish government supports foreign and local investors from different aspects such as incentives. At the same time, with the help of the Investment Office, we managed to team up with AKO, one of the biggest tire distributors in Turkey, and built a joint venture.

Norifumi FUJIMOTO
Former President & CEO,
Sumitomo Rubber Industries Turkey

Turkey is very attractive for production and exports
WHO WE ARE

Investment Office is the official organization that:

• Promotes the investment environment of Turkey and provides assistance to investors.

• Reports directly to the President of the Republic of Turkey.

WE ARE HERE TO FACILITATE YOUR INVESTMENT IN TURKEY

WHAT WE DO

• Presenting investment opportunities to the investors and providing assistance during all the stages of their investments.

• Serving as the reference point for international investors and the point of contact for all institutions engaged in promoting and attracting investments at national, regional and local levels.

• Offering free-of-charge services including market information and analyses, site selection, B2B meetings, coordination with relevant governmental institutions, and facilitating legal procedures and applications such as establishing business operations, incentive applications, obtaining licenses and work permits.

HOW WE HELP

• Multilingual (Turkish, English, German, French, Italian, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Korean)

• One-Stop-Shop approach

• Result-oriented

• Private sector approach with full confidentiality

• Focusing on high-tech, value-added and employment generating investments.

OUR GLOBAL LOCATIONS

invest.gov.tr
Investment Office, the official investment advisory body of Turkey, is a knowledge-center for foreign direct investments and a solution partner to the global business community at all stages of investments. It provides customized guidance and qualified consulting before, during and after entry into Turkey.