

NEWS

Turkey Launces Trade Center in Chicago



The Turkish Trade Center (TTC) was opened in Chicago, USA. TTC, which was implemented to transport the products of Turkish industrialists and traders to the US market and to ensure that they are permanent there, will operate on an area of 10,000 square meters under the name of Turkish Trade Center Chicago (TTC Chicago).

Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan and TOBB President Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu attended the simultaneous introductory meeting in Ankara and Chicago for the opening of TTC Chicago. Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan, in her speech, said that while the main goal of the Ministry is to increase exports on the one hand and to develop integration with branding, value added, domestic production, design, innovation and global value chains in production and exports.

For detailed information, please click [here](#).

Turkey Will Reinforce Its Place in The Value Chain

Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan gave details on Turkey's trade path and the Ministry's digitalisation activities during the Covid-19 process. Pekcan said "We need to adapt to the digital economy as much as we can to achieve these goals. So, we developed quite an extensive project to put the digitalisation infrastructure of the digital age we are in into the service of our traders.



With the introduction of the Easy Export Platform, far ahead of all its foreign counterparts, we have stepped into a brand new era in foreign trade and started a digital export revolution in our Ministry. We believe that with its scope, quality, target group, influence area and its technology, the Easy Export Platform went beyond all projects that we completed until now and has the quality to directly influence Turkey's export."

For detailed information, please click [here](#).

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Turkey's Exports Top \$169.5B in 2020

Turkey's exports reached \$169.5 billion in 2020, Minister of Trade announced, citing preliminary data.

The headline figure, despite the severe economic contraction and shrinking in foreign demand in our export markets, especially in EU, is the exporters' success, Ruhsar Pekcan stressed during a year-end foreign trade evaluation meeting in the capital Ankara.



Pekcan underlined that the reading surpassed the medium-term economic program's export target of \$165.9 billion for the year.

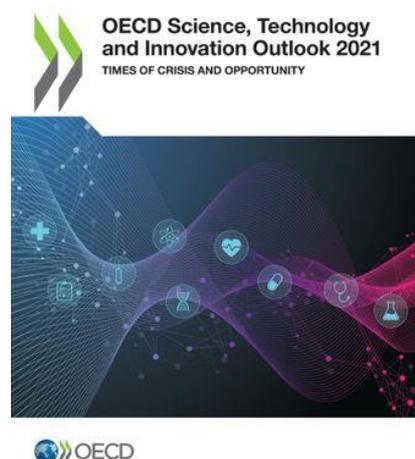
Turkey's imports rose by 4.3% on an annual basis to reach \$219.4 billion last year, Pekcan said, adding: "Turkey's imports excluding gold stood at \$194.2 billion, posting a decline of 2.4% during the same period."

In December, Turkey recorded all-time high monthly export figure of \$17.8 billion, up 16% year-on-year, she also said.

For detailed information, please click [here](#).

OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Outlook 2021

Science and innovation have played essential roles in providing a better understanding of the virus and its transmission, and in developing hundreds of candidate therapeutics and vaccines over a very short period. Digital technologies have enabled large parts of the economy and society to continue to function, mitigating the impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has underscored more than in other recent crises the importance of science and innovation to being both prepared and reactive to upcoming crises. The pandemic has also stretched research and innovation systems to their limits, revealing gaps that need filling to improve overall system resilience and preparedness for future crises. It is a wake-up call for all and highlights the need to re-set science, technology and innovation (STI) policies to better equip governments with the instruments and capabilities to direct innovation efforts towards the goals of sustainability, inclusivity and resiliency.



For the full report, please visit [OECD website](#).

SECTORS

Turkey's Turksat 5A Satellite Launched into Space

Turkey launched its Turksat 5A satellite to orbit on January 8. The Falcon 9 rocket launched from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in the U.S., carries Turksat 5A satellite.



"The first signal came from our Turksat 5A satellite after 35 minutes. Our satellite continues its journey and this journey will take 4 months. Then we will do our tests and the satellite will be activated," Turkey's Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Adil Karaismailođlu said. "With Turksat 5A's coming into service, we will add the Middle East and Africa Continents to our coverage in addition to the East and the West," he added.

The broadcast satellite will settle into orbit in four months and is expected to start service in the second half of 2021. Turksat 5A will provide television services and improve broadband data networks. Once Turksat 5A comes into service in orbit, the number of Turkey's active communication satellites in space will increase to 7.

For the source of information, please click [here](#).

Turkey Launches First Lithium Production Plant

Turkey launched its first lithium production plant, the Eti Maden Lithium Carbonate Production Plant, in Eskişehir, which is expected to contribute to the country's energy needs over the next years. The plant was opened with a ceremony attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan with a video conference on December 26.

"We will hopefully meet more than half of our lithium demand, all of which we currently import,



once the plant operates in full capacity," said President Erdoğan, referring to lithium carbonate and marketable boron products, which are produced by using the boron and lithium in wastes. "We plan to supply the lithium to be used in the batteries of the TOGG car from this plant," President Erdoğan added. The plant, which will start production with 10 tons per year, is expected to increase production gradually to 600 tons per year in the next 3 years. Domestically produced lithium will be used in the batteries of electric cars, phones and tablets.

For the source of information, please click [here](#).

Turkish Wine

Turkey ranks 6th in the world for grape production, producing more than 4 million tons of grapes per year in a 500 thousand hectare vineyard area, the world's 4th largest grape growing area after Spain, France, and Italy.

Today, it is known that wine production started in Eastern Anatolia. The history of viticulture in this region dates back about 6000 years. The first historical record of wine production in the region is recorded as Nippur tablets, among the oldest written documents in the world, dated to 3800 BC. According to Hugh Johnson, a prominent wine writer, it is natural to claim that Turkey is the homeland of wine if the vineyards planted in Noah's Ararat Mountains are considered to be the first vineyards. He also adds that there is evidence of wine consumption by upper socioeconomic class Hittites during the 4th century BC.



Advantage of Turkish wine is coming from its ecological mosaic which provides nesting and breeding areas for thousands of fauna and flora species.

For detailed information please click [here](#).

Send Us Your Inquiry

For your inquiries about Turkish exports,
please contact << ihrticari@trade.gov.tr >> by indicating
the Harmonized System (HS) Code of the product/sector of your interest.

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