

Turkey



REGION: MENA

Also included in this region: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Turkish HE system closely follows the unitary model. Over 99% of HE students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018. Total enrolments rose by a bit over 220% between 2006 and 2018, outpacing the rest of the MENA and the Global South. Institutional numbers also doubled over this period, but given the faster growth in enrolments the average Turkish HEI grew larger. Over 90% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was above the average for the rest of the MENA region.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities	109	64	173
Short-cycle HEIs	Vocational institutions (MYO)	0	4	4

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

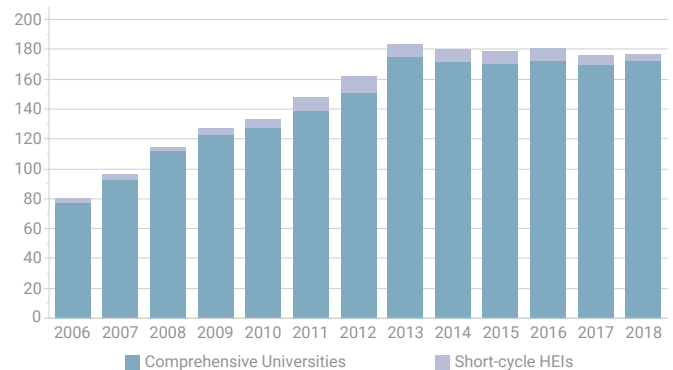
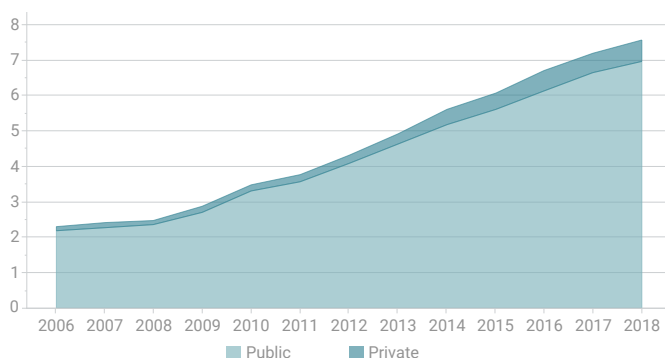


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



Istanbul University, Turkey



FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Turkey, the rest of MENA and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

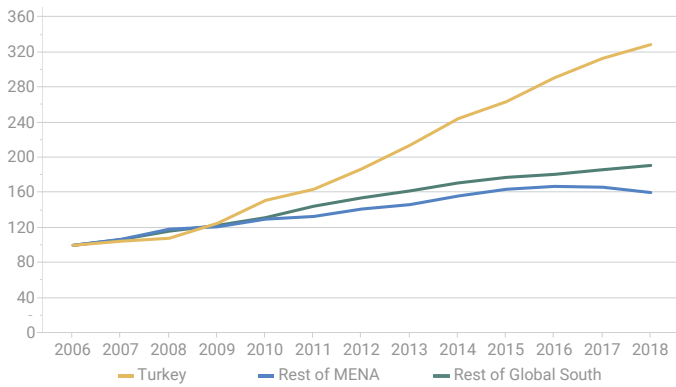


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Turkey and the rest of MENA, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

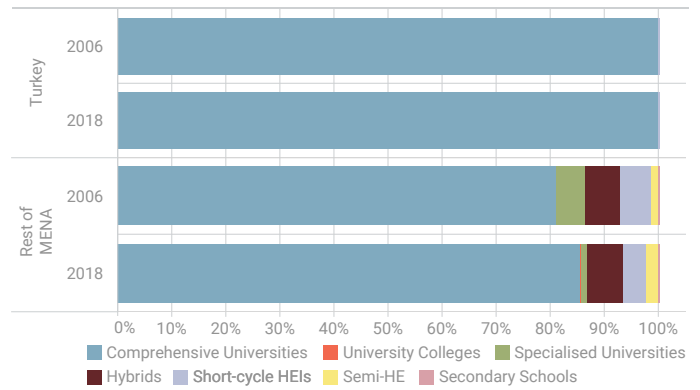


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Turkey and the rest of MENA, 2018

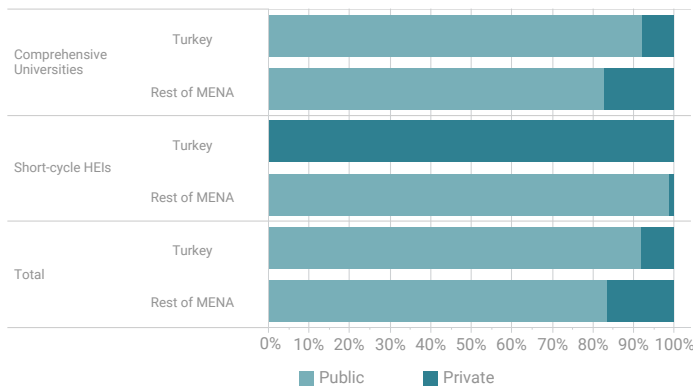
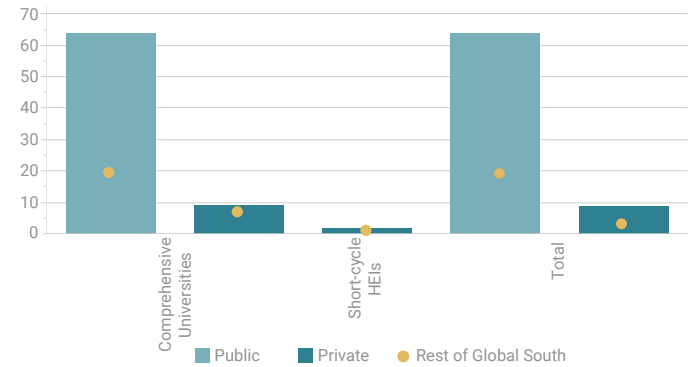


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type, Turkey and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Turkey roughly doubled between 2006 and 2018, basically in parallel with the rest of the MENA but slower than across the rest of the Global South. Transfers to public universities increased a bit more quickly, but still fell in per-student terms by almost 30% as enrolments grew faster. Some of the additional public funding sought to replace income from tuition fees, which dropped as a proportion of institutional revenue over the period of interest. Public HE spending on in 2018 was equal to 0.7% of GDP, up slightly from 2006. This figure placed Turkey close to the average across the rest of the Global South but well below the average for the rest of the MENA.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Turkey, the rest of MENA and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

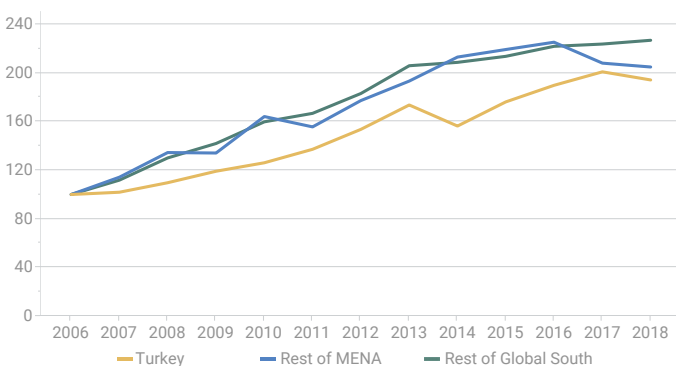


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Turkey, the rest of MENA and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

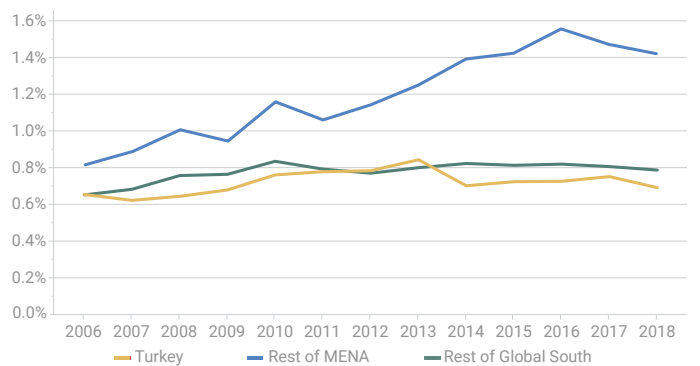


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Turkey and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

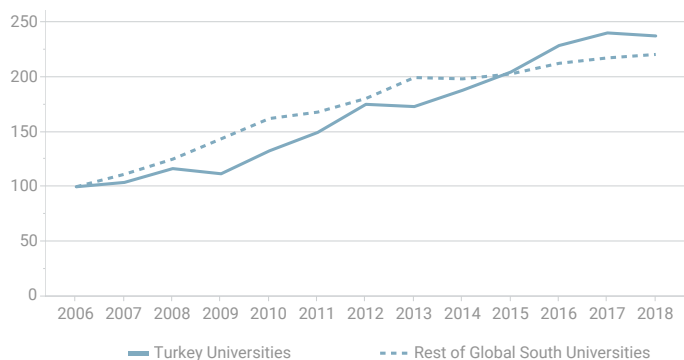


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Turkey and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

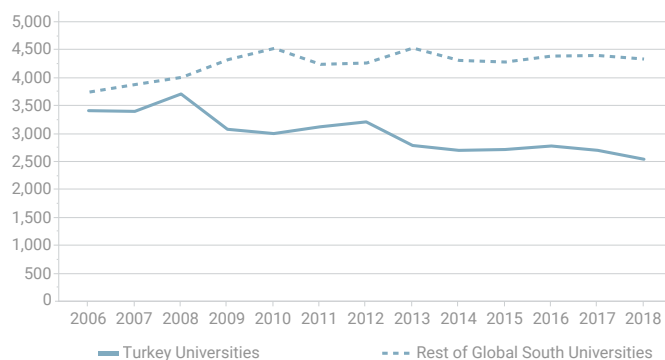
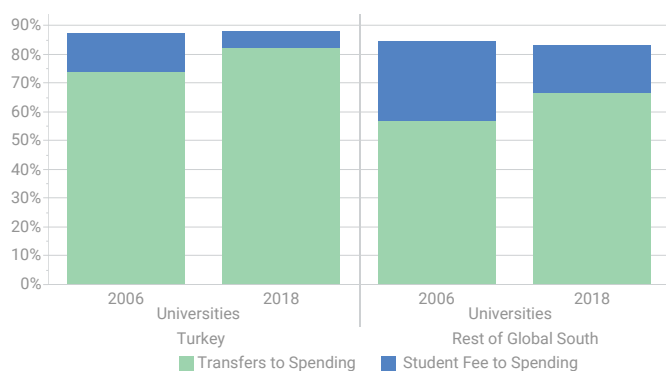


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Turkey and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Turkey has a mixed inclusive free public and undifferentiated fee-charging student fee regime. A little over one-third of students in Turkey received tuition waivers and thus paid no tuition fees in 2018. Per-student fee income from the students at public universities who do pay fees fell by about half between 2006 and 2018, from about USD 600 per to USD 300. This might, however, have been the result more of an influx of distance education students paying lower fees than a lowering of “regular fees” per se.

FIGURE 13 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Turkey, the rest of MENA and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018

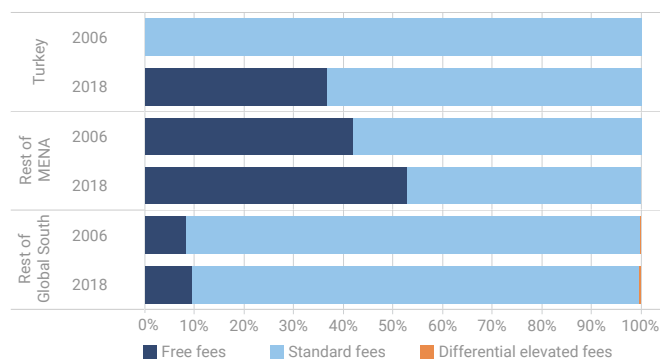
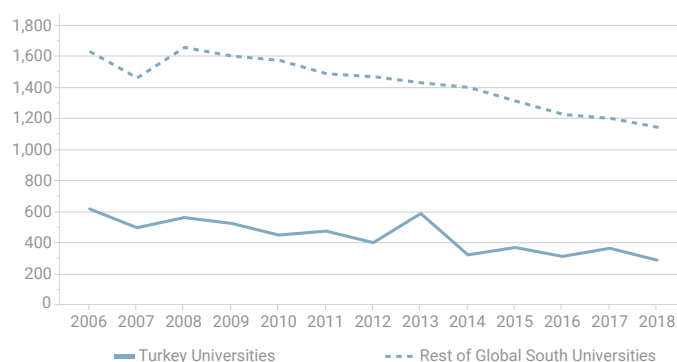


FIGURE 14 – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Turkey has a multi-pronged Oeuvres Universitaires approach to student assistance, which includes loans, grants and subsidised residence fees. In 2018, loans predominated over the two other forms of assistance by a combined 2:1 ratio. Recipient numbers increased from 2006 to 2018 for all three forms of student financial aid, but rarely as fast as total enrolments, which meant that the percentage of students receiving aid fell. Total student financial aid disbursements increased relative to GDP from 0.15% to 0.28%, with this latter level well above the averages for the rest of the MENA and the Global South.

TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Study grants and priority scholarships from the General Directorate for Credit and Dormitories	Merit and need-based	444,429	1,530,198,488
Loans	Basic and tuition fee loans from the General Directorate for Credit and Dormitories	Need-based	1,163,467	4,323,609,860
Residence space	Subsidies from the General Directorate for Credit and Dormitories	Need-based for free accommodation	331,914	633,898,313

FIGURE 16 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product in Turkey, the rest of MENA and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

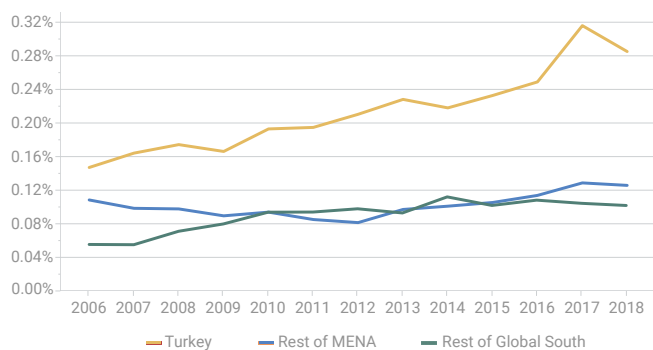


FIGURE 17 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Turkey and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

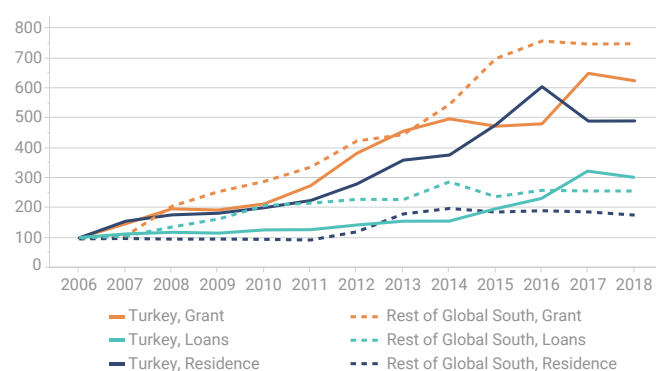


FIGURE 18 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Turkey and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

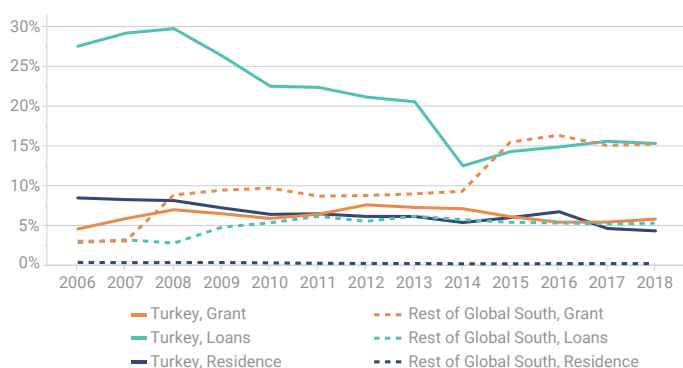
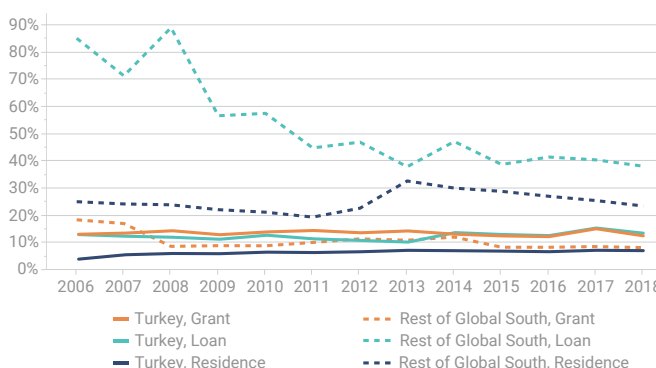


FIGURE 19 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Turkey and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).