LANCET COUNTDOWN: TRACKING PROGRESS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
In collaboration with Wellcome

A decade tracking progress on health and climate change

TÜRKIYE

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
DATA SHEET 2026

Health and Climate Change in Türkiye

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change tracks the connections between health and climate change. In its tenth iteration, the 2026 Global Report shows that the health impacts of climate change have escalated and frequently accelerated in the decade since the Paris Agreement came into force.

This document presents key country-level findings from the 2026 Lancet Countdown report for Türkiye.

Climate change is driving most of the extreme heat now experienced in Türkiye. Heatwave exposure among young children and older adults has risen sharply, and more working hours are being lost to heat, mostly among agricultural workers.

Türkiye's energy system remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, with coal still central to power generation and road transport almost entirely fossil fuelled. Fossil-fuel subsidies also continue to outweigh carbon-pricing revenues, despite rapid growth in renewables.

Food-related emissions and diet-related deaths are both rising in Türkiye, driven by growing red meat and dairy consumption and too few healthy plant-based foods. This points to a missed opportunity for health and climate gains.

Heat and Health

Exposure to high temperatures increases the risk of heat-related illness and mortality. Vulnerable groups, including older adults, young children, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing conditions, face the greatest risks.

87% of the heatwave days that people in Türkiye were, on average, exposed to between 2021 and 2025 would not have been expected to occur without climate change. (Indicator 1.1.1)

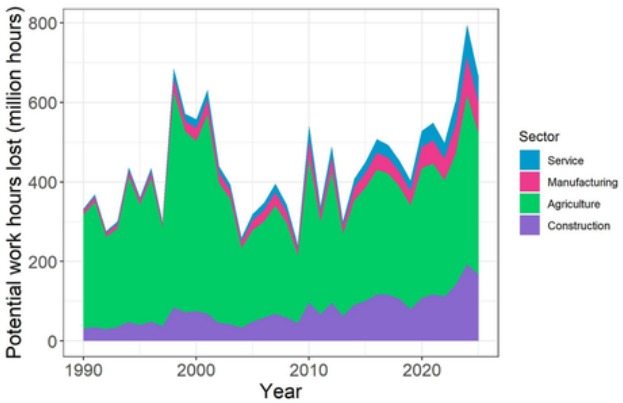
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HEAT

Heat stress reduces labour productivity, undermining livelihoods and the social determinants of health. In Türkiye, this has direct implications for income, food security, and access to care.

- The average annual economic value of heat-related mortality losses in those over age 65 was $4.3 billion between 2021 and 2025, which is equivalent to 245,800 average incomes of Türkiye. This is a 291% increase since 2000 to 2004. (Indicator 4.1.2)
- The potential income lost from reduced labour capacity due to heat was US$2.6 billion in 2025. Workers in the agricultural sector were the most severely affected, incurring 45% of the losses. (Indicator 4.1.3)

Children under one year of age and adults over 65 experienced an average of 17 and 15.7 additional heatwave days per year, respectively, between 2016 and 2025. This was an increase of 288% and 271% compared with the 1986–2005 baseline. (Indicator 1.1.1)

Annual potential work hours lost, disaggregated by economic sector. Türkiye, 1990 to 2025.



People were exposed to 164 more hours of moderate or higher risk of heat stress if undertaking moderate outdoor physical activity (e.g., brisk walking) per year in 2016-2025 compared with the 1990s. In total exposure to hours of moderate or higher risk of heat stress reached nearly 500 hours per year. (Indicator 1.1.2)

Heat exposure caused an annual loss of 550 million potential labour hours on average, between 2016 and 2025, which is 35% higher than the average year in the 1990s. The agriculture sector was most affected, accounting for 58.5% of losses. (Indicator 1.1.3)

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Extreme Weather Events and Health

Wildfires, droughts, and dust storms are increasing in frequency and severity due to climate change. These events degrade air quality, disrupt food and water systems, and elevate risks of respiratory, cardiovascular, and infectious diseases. In Türkiye, health systems face rising demand during and after such events.

From 2021 to 2025, people in Türkiye were on average exposed to 75 days per year of very high or extremely high wildfire danger. Compared to 2003-2012, this was an increase of 7 days (10%). In 2025, there was a record-breaking 93 days of very high or extremely high wildfire danger. Wildfire smoke caused an annual average of 4,200 deaths, equivalent to 5.2 deaths per 100,000, in Türkiye from 2021 to 2025, up from 3,500 annual average deaths in 2003 to 2012. (Indicator 1.2.1)

An average of 70% of Türkiye's land area experienced at least one month of extreme drought per year from 2021 to 2025, up from 15% from 1981 to 1990. In 2025, 25.5% of Türkiye's land area experienced over 6 months of extreme drought. (Indicator 1.2.2)

Air Pollution, Energy Transition, and Health Co-benefits

Fossil fuel combustion contributes to harmful air pollution, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and premature mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Türkiye's annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) was 20.6 μg/m^3, more than four times the WHO's recommended annual guideline of 5 μg/m^3.[1] Reducing dependence on polluting fuels can improve air quality and protect health, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As of 2023, coal made up 25% of Türkiye's total energy supply and 35.5% of electricity generation. Renewables accounted for 11.5% of total energy supply and 20.3% of electricity, an increase of 89% and 161% respectively since 2016. (Indicator 3.1.1)

In 2023, 23% of household energy came from electricity; however, 58% came from fossil fuels (liquid fossil fuels and natural gas). (Indicator 3.1.2)

In 2023, fossil fuels still accounted for 99.5% of all road transport energy. (Indicator 3.1.3)

Türkiye had a net-negative carbon revenue in 2024, indicating that fossil fuel subsidies exceeded carbon-pricing revenues. The country saw a net subsidy of US$2.2 billion, which is equivalent to 4% of the national health budget. (Indicator 4.3.2)

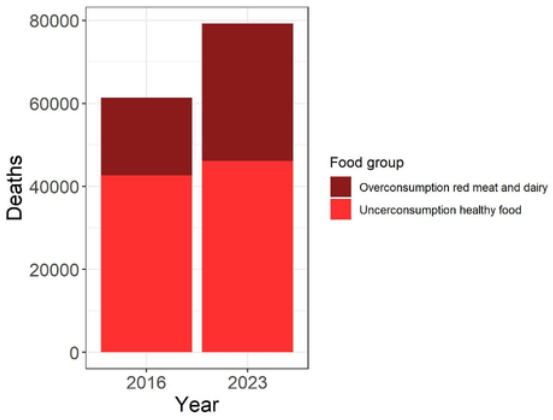
Agriculture and Diet

Severe droughts, heat stress, and erratic rainfall are devastating agricultural yields, driving up food prices, and threatening national food security. This agricultural disruption shifts diets toward cheap, energy-dense, but nutrient-poor foods, escalating rates of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and diet-related chronic diseases. Protecting public health requires transitioning to sustainable, climate-resilient farming and promoting healthy, plant-rich local diets that deliver dual health and environmental co-benefits.

The emissions associated with demand for agricultural food products increased by 33% between 2016 and 2023. Red meat and dairy emissions increased by 38% in the same time period and accounted for 67.5% of all consumption-related emissions in 2023. (Indicator 3.3.1)

In 2023, 33,200 deaths were linked to eating excessive dairy, red meat, and processed meat, increased by 77% (14,400 deaths) from 2016. Another 46,100 deaths were linked to not eating enough healthy plant-based foods, like fruits, vegetables, beans, whole grains, nuts, and seeds, up from 42,600 in 2016. (Indicator 3.3.2)

The graph shows the number of deaths attributable to dietary imbalances in 2016 and 2023 - namely high intake of red meat and dairy and low intake of nutritious plant-based foods.



Romanello M, Walawender M, Israelsson J et al. The 2026 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: A decade of escalating health harms and a decisive moment for all. The Lancet 2026; published online October 2026. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(26)01779-4
World Health Organization (2024). Annual mean concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in urban areas (μg/m3)