Migrations from Turkey to abroad for half a century have proceeded in the recent times by undergoing important changes. Moreover, it has been observed that there exist various types and ways of foreigner migration from abroad to Turkey which began from 1980 onwards and became clarified in the 2000s. It is supposed to observe the new aspect, dimensions, effects and problems of this immigration which leads Turkey to be an immigration country rather than an emigrant country in the international immigration system of Turkey, and therefore, to reform the strategies of migration policy. The recent process in Turkish external migration has attracted the attention of researchers and has just begun to be revised in the literature. Besides the empirical studies and the studies that examine several immigrant groups of foreign origin, the researches which investigate the distribution of immigrants from abroad locationally are insufficient. This study is aimed to focus on who migrated from abroad to Turkey and where they migrated later on the basis of the 2000 General Census.

By the end of the 20th century, the population of the individuals born abroad and of foreign nationality has presented an ongoing increase. In 1980 it was confirmed that there were 50,000 foreign nationals and 868,000 born abroad; in 2000 there were 267,000 foreign nationals and 1,260,000 born abroad. The immigrants coming from abroad who showed increases and decreases in certain periods were 1,287,446 between the years 1980-2000. According to the 2000 General Census, 234,111 people have immigrated from abroad to Turkey. As in the internal migration, the external migration tends towards the western part of the country, particularly big cities. Thusly, % 44 of the migration occurred in big cities; % 33.4 in the centre of towns and provinces; the rest % 22.5 in the countryside. The fact that % 51.9 of immigrants were born in Turkey gives rise to “comeback migration” thought with regard to the external migration. Moreover, that % 77.7 of them are Turkish nationals supports this judgment. On the other hand, the foreign nationals whose number has reached to 50,251 (% 21.5) are non-negligible. The big cities where the external nationals are grouped and the touristic centers on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts are also the areas immigrants of foreign origin have settled down.