

## Turkey and migration

Turkey, once a dominantly migrant sending country, has evolved into a receiving and a transit country in the last three decades. On one hand, due to wars and conflicts in its neighbouring countries and regions, an unprecedented large number of migrants and refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria moved to Turkey either to settle there or to move farther West in the last decade. On the other hand, emigration of Turkish born people has increased, though the demographic structure of the emigrant population has been changing. In this research, we examine the trends and heterogeneity of migration flows from and to Turkey according to age, sex and educational attainment. Further, we discuss factors related to emigration with a special focus on emigration of highly educated young women. Figures 1 and 2 present the largest immigration and emigration flows. For each period five countries with the largest flow are selected.

## Data sources

In this research we use immigration and emigration flows of Turkey by age and educational attainment between 1990-1994 & 2015-2019 (Yildiz & Abel, forthcoming). The authors used Random Forest models and Rogers-Castro migrations schedules to estimate migration proportions by age and education and disaggregated sex-specific migration flows by Abel and Cohen (2022).

Figure 1. Highest immigration flows to Turkey (males)

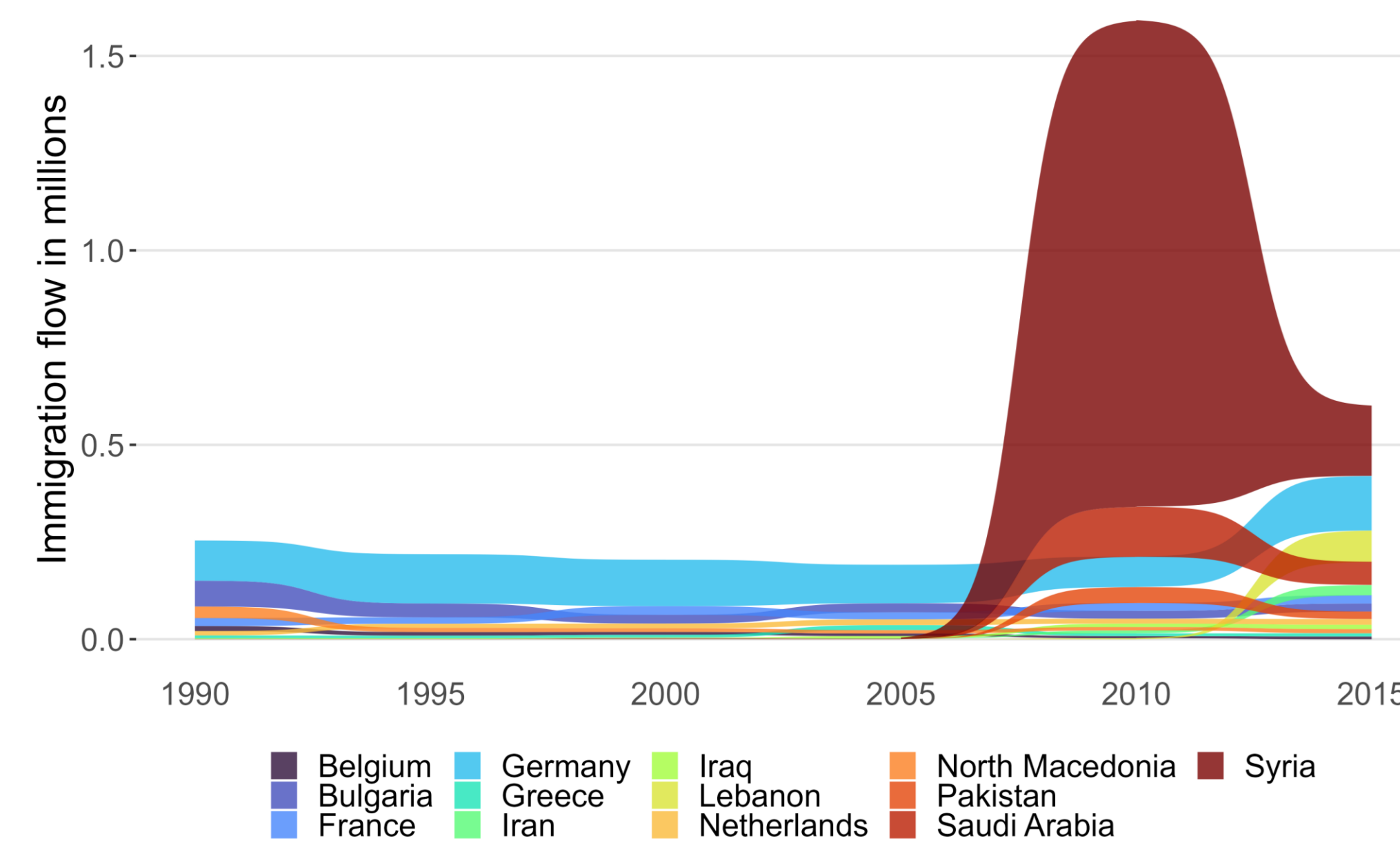
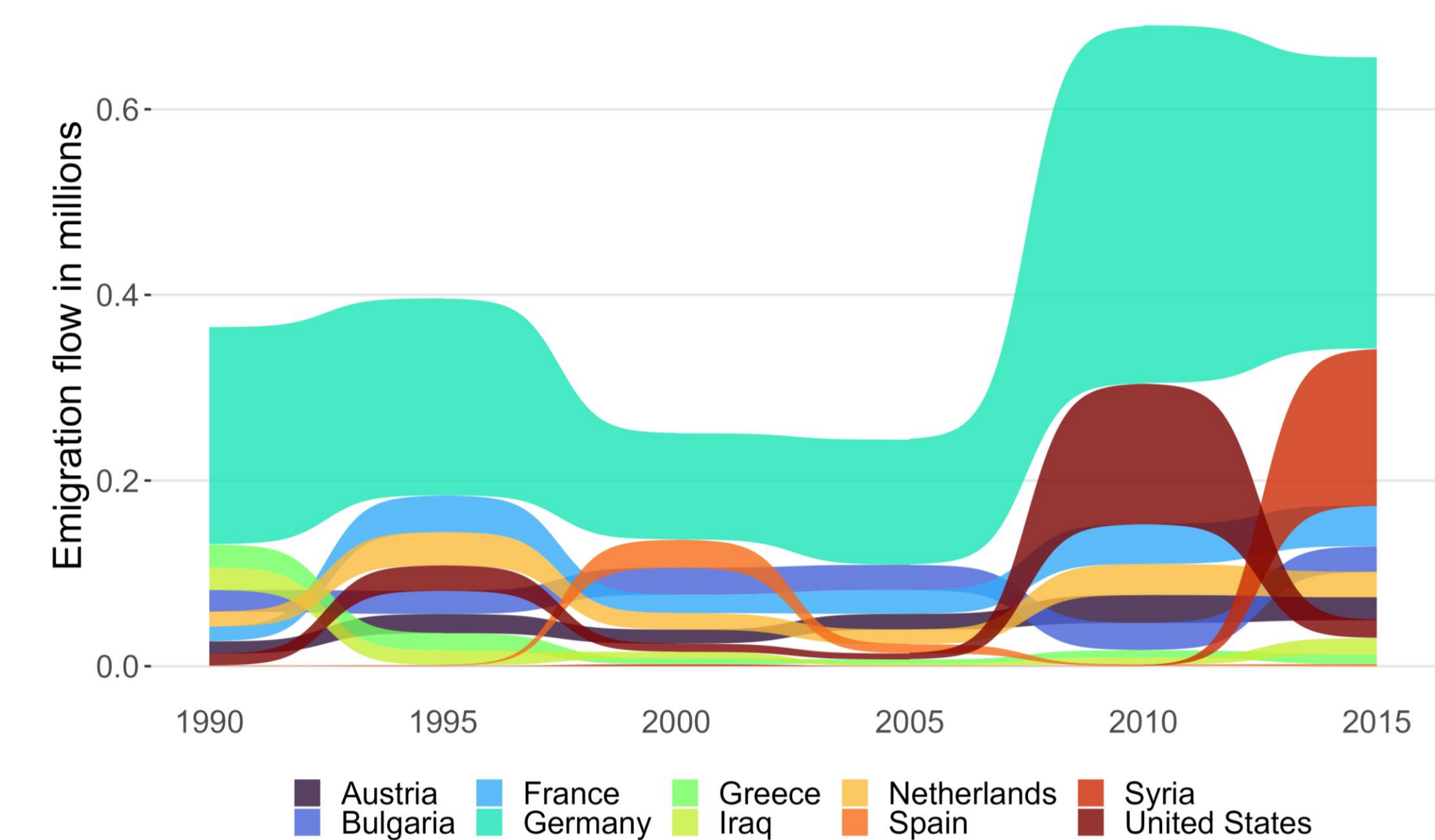


Figure 2. Highest emigration flows from Turkey (males)



### Immigration to Turkey

- Push factors: Internal and international conflicts in the region
- Pull factors: Welcoming migration policies of Turkey (agreements with the EU and the UN)
- Increased competition especially for low-skill jobs
- Increased real estate prices
- Potential stratification between old and new immigrants, also by sex and ethnicity
- Informal sector & Potential segmentation in the workforce

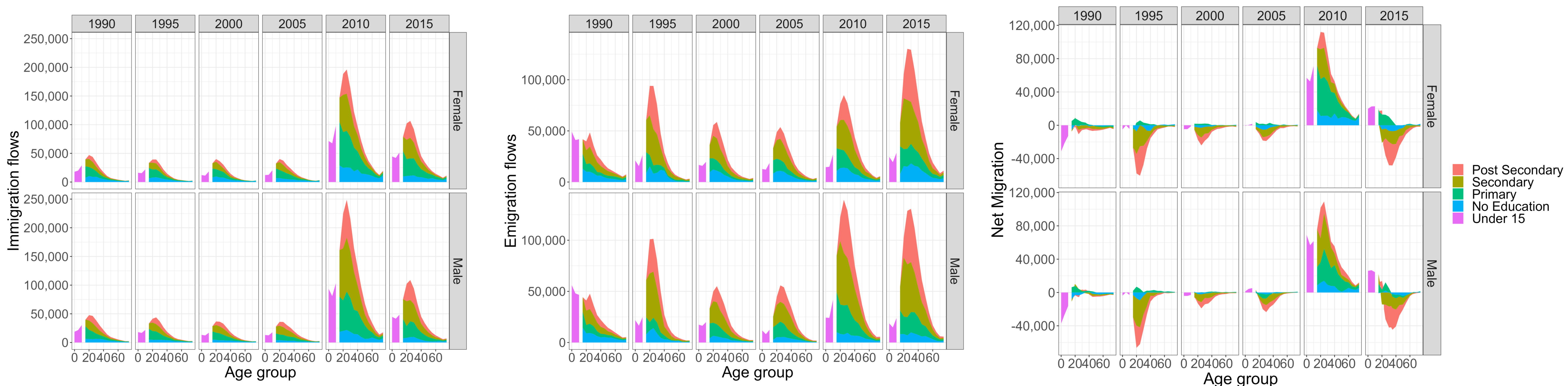
### Emigration from Turkey

- Push factors: Increasing resources for migration (income, skills, information, language competency)
- Pull factors: Attraction of receiving countries (easier visa requirements for skilled workers, democratic societal conditions, gender equality)
- Feminization of emigration from Turkey (more women emigrating individually instead of family union)
- Risk of skill related underemployment, especially for women

## Key Findings

- Both emigration and immigration have increased after 2010
- Young men with low levels of education is the largest immigrant group
- Highly educated young men and women are the majority of emigrants

Figure 3. Immigration (left), emigration (centre) and net migration (right) flows by age, sex and educational attainment



## Conclusion

- Immigration and emigration patterns of Turkey are changing
- Increasing skilled emigration from Turkey especially for women is worth noticing
- Although recent studies point out gender inequality in Turkey as a push factor, our preliminary models indicate that increasing resources for migration are more effective in skilled women's emigration from Turkey

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