



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

INDUSTRY



SILVER JEWELLERY



TURKEY
www.economy.gov.tr

SILVER JEWELLERY

The first major silver mines and examples of jewellery were recorded around 4000 BC, located in Anatolia. They were mostly the main source of silver for many of the growing cultures in that area of the world and others that would trade for silver.

Silver has been used for thousands of years as ornaments and utensils, for trade, and as the basis for many monetary systems. However, the basic most notable use of silver is its beauty and appeal as an item of jewellery. Silver has always been known to enhance the beauty of precious stones when set into a ring or a necklace.

Since the discovery of silver, Anatolia has been a major center for silver jewellery production. Think about a land which has developed its own techniques and figures in the art of jewellery production for thousands of years. All of the civilizations which have inhabited Anatolia have produced numerous objects for both religious and artistic purposes. People worked with metals, sometimes including precious and semiprecious stones. The Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians, Ionians, Lydians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuks and Ottomans all established their rule in Anatolia and created their own jewellery styles.

The most significant style among the different types of jewellery was brought to Anatolia by the Seljuks. Their great influence on the Turkish jewellery tradition is demonstrated by Turkoman jewellery which originated in Central Asia, and is still produced and worn by Turkoman tribes. Colored gemstones and pieces of glass with symbolic meanings, as well as silver and gold, are used in this jewellery which is still produced and worn in Turkey.

During the time of the Ottomans, a great importance was given to the jeweller's art. Many goldsmiths came to İstanbul from Khorasan, Tabriz, Bosnia, the Balkans, the Russian border and other parts of the Ottoman Empire in order to show their products and capabilities. With the rise of the Empire, it became much easier for goldsmiths to find the metals and precious stones that they needed for production. During and after the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, İstanbul became one of the world's most prominent centers for jewellery.

Traditional Turkish jewellery making techniques include filigree (telkari), niello (savat) and wickerwork (hasir). Filigree is a technique in which the artist creates motifs by soldering together fine silver wires. Since the wire used is often extremely delicate, this technique requires an almost infinite degree of patience. In the past, filigree was used for women's belts, bracelets, earrings and brooches. Filigreed women's accessories are now produced in only a few places in İstanbul and in a couple of places in Anatolia, namely Beypazari and Mardin.

The niello technique is based on tiny, delicately worked pieces of hand-painted enamel which are partitioned by precious metals. In wickerwork, another technique used by Turkish jewellers, delicate wires are woven together. Wickerwork is used mostly for silver jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Wickerwork products are mostly used in Mardin, Beypazarı and Trabzon.

Today, the Kapalıçarşı (Covered Bazaar in İstanbul) is one of the most important silver jewellery centers in Turkey. The history of the Kapalıçarşı dates back to the 15th Century. The core of the Bazaar was constructed between 1451-1481, during the reign of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror. The Bazaar was the centre of the domestic and international trade of the Ottoman Empire and it is still the most important trading centre of İstanbul for

handicrafts and its famous worldwide. It is assumed that nearly % 90 of silver used in Turkey is used in Kapalıçarşı. Also you can find silver jewellery items that come from Trabzon, Eskişehir, Beypazarı, Mardin-Midyat, Urfa and Gaziantep.

Turkish jewellery products are inspired by unique, rare collections of jewellery from different civilizations and cultures that have lived in Anatolia. In addition, handcraft and high technological production techniques coexist in jewellery design and production. Now Turkish jewelers are able to combine this unique, historical and cultural heritage with modern production and design capabilities and present its products to the world.

EXPORTS

Although silver jewellery constitutes a small part of the total Turkish jewellery exports, the sector has increased its exports significantly in the past ten years. The export value of silver jewellery sector was 1.7 million dollars in 1999, however it reached 103,1 million US Dollars by the end of 2011.

In 2011, the major destinations for silver jewellery exports were the USA, Germany, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Romania and the Russian Federation. Turkish silver jewellery was exported to some 100 countries around the world in 2011.

The Turkish silver jewellery industry also enjoys large sales to foreigners visiting Turkey. The sales to tourists usually increases between April and September in the Mediterranean and Aegean parts of Turkey.

Turkish Silver Jewellery Exports by Year HS: 711311 Value: US \$ 1,000

Yıl	İhracat
1999	1.724
2000	4.514
2001	6.175
2002	8.554
2003	13.439
2004	23.250
2005	29.869
2006	42.099
2007	59.812
2008	75.447
2009	68.467
2010	84.327
2011	103.106

Source: Republic of Turkey,
Ministry Of Economy

Turkish Silver Jewellery Exports by Destination
(HS Code: 711311); (Value: US \$ 1, 000)

Countries	2009	2010	2011
The USA	13.307	19.112	23.057
Germany	10.739	9.702	9.133
Spain	1.038	3.862	7.099
Saudi Arabia	1.226	1.849	4.355
Romania	6.179	4.953	3.917
The Russian Federation	3.678	3.630	3.845
France	1.123	1.044	3.335
Belarus	2.497	3.362	3.292
The UAE	4.874	6.839	2.987
Panama	621	929	2.706
Italy	1.267	1.006	2.017
Great Britain	1.126	1.205	1.997
Serbia	392	752	1.976
Iraq	880	1.612	1.894
Switzerland	957	1.255	1.705
Georgia	87	937	1.603
The Netherlands	880	1.000	1.484
Kazakhstan	389	637	1.480
Czech Republic	781	793	1.391
Poland	2.428	2.217	1.379
Israel	454	732	1.345
Mexico	170	667	1.283
Egypt	17	629	1.172
Hungary	916	923	1.089
Republic of South Africa	115	417	1.059
Portugal	416	638	1.036
Total including others	68.540	84.324	103.106

Source: Republic of Turkey, Ministry Of Economy

TRADE FAIRS

Five major jewellery fairs are held in Turkey.

- The “Antalya Jewellery, Silver and and Watch Fair” takes places in Antalya in April.
- The “Istanbul Int’l Watch, Clock, Jewellery, Machinery and Equipment Fair” takes place in February and
- “Istanbul Jewellery Show – IJS” takes place in March, both in İstanbul. “Izmir
- JEWEX” is organized in Izmir
- “Cukurova Gold and Jewellery Fair” takes place in Gaziantep in May.

USEFUL LINKS

- İstanbul Minerals and Metals Exporters’ Associations (IMMIB)
www.immib.org.tr/en/
- Turkish Jewellery Association
www.jtr.org.tr/En/Default.aspx



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

go further with Turkey

Prepared by

General Directorate of Exports

Address: İnönü Bulvarı No:36
06510 Emek
Ankara - Turkey

www.economy.gov.tr

Turkey Contact Point



+90 312 444 43 63