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Unemployment falls

Turkey's unemployment rate in March goes down 1.6 percentage points year-on-year to 10.1pct, according to official data

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Turkey's unemployment rate stood at 10.1 percent in March, falling 1.6 percentage points on a yearly basis, the country's statistical authority said on Monday.

TurkStat said the number of unemployed persons aged 15 and over -- 3.2 million last March -- decreased 432,000 year-on-year.

"In the same period, non-agricultural unemployment rate occurred as 11.9 percent with a 1.8 percentage point decrease," TurkStat said.

"While the youth unemployment rate including persons aged 15-24 was 17.7 percent with a 3.7 percentage point decrease, the unemployment rate for persons aged 15-64 occurred as 10.3 percent with a 1.7 percentage point decrease."

The number of employed people rose by some 1 million to nearly 10.3 million over the same period, pushing the employment rate up to 47.1 percent with a 1 percentage points annual increase, the institute added.

Breaking down employment by sector, 17.7 percent of

people are employed in agriculture, 19.7 percent in industry, 7.3 percent in construction, and 55.3 percent in services, TurkStat said.

Official data showed that the labor force participation rate (LFPR) was 52.4 percent -- a 0.2-percentage point increase year-on-year -- while the number of people in the labor force reached 31.7 million -- up 578,000.

The male LFPR stood at 71.8 percent -- down 0.1 percentage point -- while the female rate was 33.4 percent -- up 0.5 percentage...

MORE DETAILS



Joint Turkey-US patrol forces enter Syria's Manbij



By Levent Tok and Selen Temizer

MANBIJ - Turkish Armed Forces in cooperation with U.S. troops on Monday

began patrolling the northern Syrian city of Manbij, local sources said.

Armoured vehicles of Turkish army were stationed around Sajur stream which

divides Jarablus town, in the Operation Euphrates Shield area, and Manbij.

The joint forces carried out patrols in an area overlooking the U.S. **MORE DETAILS**



Greek MP nabbed for urging coup

KOMOTINI - A far-right Greek lawmaker was arrested for demanding a coup following a historic deal between Greece and Macedonia which ended a decade-long name dispute, local media reported Monday.

Konstantinos Barbarousis, an MP of Golden Dawn, was arrested from his friend's

house near Athens, where he was hiding from the police, after a fiery speech in the Greek parliament on Friday.

Barbarousis described the Greece-Macedonia deal as "treason" and called for the arrest of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Defense Minister Panos Kammenos and President Prokopis Pavlopoulos... **MORE DETAILS**

Over 270 drug smugglers arrested in 5 months

VAN - More than 270 suspected drug smugglers were arrested and over two tons of heroin seized during several anti-drug operations in the eastern Turkish province of Van, according to a security source on Monday.

Provincial security forces carried out 111 anti-narcotics operations in five consecutive months and seized 160 kilograms of marijuana, over

seven kilograms of opium, and over 27 kilograms of synthetic drugs, said a security source requesting anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to media.

The source added that the court remanded 99 suspects out of those arrested.

In 2017, over a ton of heroin and several kinds of drugs were also seized in the same province. **MORE DETAILS**



EU extends sanctions against Russia

ANKARA - The European Union has extended sanctions on Russia for one more year over its actions against Ukraine, the European Council said on Monday.

In a statement, the council said the measures apply to

EU persons and EU-based companies through June 23, 2019.

The range of the sanctions is "limited to the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol," the largest city on the peninsula, it said.

The sanctions... **MORE DETAILS**