



This file photo taken on May 4, 2018, shows an employee working at the facility of Turkish pharma company Abdi Ibrahim.

# Firms eye becoming ‘global pharma hub’

ANKARA

Turkey is eager to become a global pharmaceutical hub thanks to its strong export network, geographical location, demographics and production plants, according to the secretary general of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Turkey (İEİS).

“With its 100 pharmaceutical and 11 raw material production plants, 680 companies, 33 R & D centers and 40,000 employees, our industry generates more than 12,000 products,” Savaş Malkoç told Anadolu Agency ahead of the World Pharmacists Day on Sept. 25.

“Some 88 percent of the products consumed in Turkey are locally produced,” Malkoç noted.

Turkey is an attractive market for the pharma industry with its demographics and improving quality in healthcare services beside being a geographical hub connecting some of the world’s most dynamic pharma markets, he said, and added: “According to 2020 data, the Turkish pharmaceutical market was the eighteenth largest in the world.”

Turkish pharmaceutical industry exports to nearly 180 destinations including the European Union, Commonwealth of

Independent States, North Africa, East Asia and the Middle East, he underlined.

The industry’s exports jumped 27.3 percent, hitting an all-time high of \$1.8 billion in 2020, Malkoç said.

The market has reached to 47.9 billion Turkish Liras (\$6.7 billion) in 2020, growing 17.7 percent on a value basis, he said, adding that on a unit basis, the market narrowed by 7 percent to 2.2 billion.

Underlining that the COVID-19 has shown the crucial importance of a pharmaceutical industry for countries, Malkoç said Turkey has experienced the privilege of having a strong and self-reliant pharmaceutical industry during this period.

Biotechnological products have been gradually strengthening their role for the treatment of a number of diseases, Malkoç said, adding their share in the world market has hit 30 percent.

“There is a similar situation in our country. The share of the Turkish biotechnological pharmaceutical market reached 25 percent in 2020,” he said.

However, he cited that Turkey was largely dependent on foreign sources in this product group with imports worth nearly \$1.6 billion per year.