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Research Article

BRICS COUNTRIES AND TÜRKİYE'S COMPETITION COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY SECTOR

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ABSTRACT

Economic problems driven by global crises have led to an increase in the power of developing countries against the economies of developed countries and created global economic unions. The economic union (BRIC), which was established by Brazil, Russia, India and China, which are considered to be the four biggest economies of the 21st century together with the United States, and represented by 5 countries with the inclusion of South Africa in 2011 and named as BRICS countries It has taken a leading position for developing economies.

Our country in the evaluations made at the level of the foreign trade balance, which has a positive position BRICS Under the subgroup of the furniture sector (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries in the face of how competition works include the 2010-2019 year performed to determine whether to position Turkey and the BRICS countries The levels of competition and specialization were calculated with the help of the Revealed Comparative Advantages Approach. Study results are seen in the presence of intense competition among all subgroups level in Turkey and China.

Keywords: BRICS, furniture sector, Türkiye, competition comparative analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

BRIC (Brazil, Russia, and India and China), which was first introduced into the literature in 2001 by the chief economist of Goldman Sachs, Jim O'Neill, was later named BRICS after South Africa was included in these countries. Jim O'Neill argued that BRICS countries will have a growing share in the world economy with their rich underground resources, geographic structures and population sizes and have the power to direct the economies. [1] The remarkable increase in the economic growth of these countries, their high domestic consumption capacity, production organizations and openness to cooperation show that they are in a structure that can direct the world economy. It shows that the global economic power can pass from countries considered as G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, England and USA) to BRICS countries [2, 3]. Especially the problems in the unipolar world system centered in America and the searches made against the economic hegemony of Western countries have made the BRICS countries look positively as an alternative block structure where Asian countries are dominant. [4]. The cheap labor and low production costs of the BRICS countries provided a high level of foreign capital

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and thus the increase in foreign trade volume and created values above the world average in the economic growth of the countries.

Our country's active role in regional and global issues in recent years is known as an effort to become one of the rising global powers. BRICS countries will now be considered in the near future of the European economy, Turkey is willing to take part. Turkey to take part in the BRICS find alternative opportunities and achievements will be possible to achieve, especially in terms of regional economic power [4]. The success it has achieved in the economic transformation in recent years shows that it can be at the forefront of membership to BRICS and that it is in a highly competitive position in this field. [5] Determining the position of our country's production power against the BRICS countries, which are the rising economic power, and the level of competitiveness, will make it possible for us to be prepared for a possible BRICS membership. For this reason, in our study, it is aimed to determine the competitive position of the furniture sector, which has an important position in the foreign trade structuring of our country and has a foreign trade surplus in recent years, against BRICS countries across its sub-product groups. In line with this approach help of Revealed Comparative Advantage competitive analysis of the furniture sector in Turkey and the BRICS countries it was carried out between the years 2010-2019.

1.1. Furniture Industry in the World and in Türkiye

Furniture, which is used for different purposes in all areas of life, is one of the rare sectors in our country that has not had a foreign trade deficit since 2001. The furniture industry sector, which appears in the field of production with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, has gained a structure that has increased its strength in our country in recent years with the participation of large-scale enterprises in the production area with different product mixes. [6] Especially, the furniture industry, which is in an active position in the field of foreign trade with EU member countries, realizes one third of its exports to EU countries and more than half of its imports from these countries. The export value of our country's furniture industry, whose development depends on its ability to export, has reached 3 billion 415 million dollars in 2019. This figure has increased by 27.1% compared to 2018. The value of our furniture imports in 2019 was 554 million, and it decreased by 6.6% compared to 2018. Exports worldwide are at the level of 197.3 billion dollars in 2019. The two major countries of world exports are China (32.8%) and Germany (6.9%). Turkey's share in world exports was 1.6%. When the world furniture import is taken into consideration, it is seen that a level of 190.4 billion dollars was realized in 2019. USA and Germany take the first place in import. [7] The protection of the furniture industry's competitiveness is extremely important for Turkey. For this reason, in order for the furniture industry to maintain its competitive power, it is necessary to determine the production areas where it is strong.

1.2. BRIC Countries and Turkey's Foreign Trade in Furniture

Considering the recent economic developments, it is seen that the global crisis experienced in 2008 caused the actors that shaped the world economy to change. The failure of America and the European Union to manage the 2008 economic crisis well paved the way for developing economies and new unions. Thus, it has enabled new and powerful actors to enter the world economy. One of the most important of these actors is the BRICS countries formed by China, Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa. The most important features of the countries included in the BRICS are their foreign exchange reserves, which are an important force in global wars and crises. In the world foreign exchange reserves ranking, China (It has 30% of the world foreign exchange reserves.), Brazil, Russia and India are among the top 10. [8] Turkey After 2002, unlike the BRICS countries are in a position to constantly open the current account balance. The current

account deficit problem as a result of failing to meet the import of export problems in Turkey's economic strength and development constitute. The most accurate and future-oriented activity for the current account deficit is to increase our production power. Therefore, the position of the economic union is planning to take place in Turkey should be evaluated correctly.

Determining the position of the production and competitiveness of the furniture sector, which has not had a foreign trade deficit since 2001, against BRICS countries and having a sustainable competitive advantage with the necessary support are among the vital economic issues. Foreign trade figures for the furniture industry are shown in Table 1. [9]

Table 1. Furniture Industry Sector in Foreign Trade-Turkey (1,000 dollars)

Years	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance
2010	1.786.405	1.080.935	705.470
2011	2.110.174	1.389.296	720.878
2012	2.420.661	1.204.663	1.215.998
2013	2.830.674	1.492.689	1.337.985
2014	2.970.948	1.588.941	1.382.007
2015	2.753.604	1.376.358	1.377.246
2016	2.174.499	1.007.001	1.167.498
2017	2.573.426	946.851	1.626.575
2018	3.130.599	843.291	2.287.308
2019	3.489.375	731.084	2.758.291

The positive increase in the current account balance between 2010 and 2019 is around 300%. The increasing trend of exports and the decrease in imports over the years show the effectiveness of the production and market power of the furniture industry. Foreign trade figures at the level of BRICS countries are shown in the tables below (Table 2, Table 3, Table 4).

Table 2. Furniture Industry Sector in Foreign Trade-Brazil and Russia (1,000 dollars)

Years	Brazil			Russia		
	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance
2010	882.664	726.722	155.942	293.153	2.820.120	-2.526.967
2011	911.741	885.440	26.301	263.830	3.791.879	-3.528.049
2012	1.063.782	1.079.418	-15.636	449.308	4.498.725	-4.049.417
2013	792.008	1.308.746	-516.738	467.997	4.672.473	-4.204.476
2014	894.397	1.220.045	-325.648	464.012	4.281.271	-3.817.259
2015	697.797	1.036.822	-339.025	377.304	2.290.253	-1.912.949
2016	677.508	871.352	-193.844	409.657	1.994.667	-1.585.010
2017	714.780	897.215	-182.435	494.237	2.703.111	-2.208.874
2018	770.926	995.890	-224.964	567.506	2.872.185	-2.304.679
2019	759.868	993.427	-233.559	666.336	2.896.580	-2.230.244

Examining the data in Table 2, it is seen that Brazil's furniture foreign trade figures are not high. Brazil has a foreign trade deficit after 2012. In addition, there is a decrease in export values and an increase in imports. It has a high foreign trade volume in Russia's Furniture industry. However, the high current account deficit is related to the increase in imports despite the increase in exports.

When the data in Table 3 are examined, it is seen that India has a positive foreign trade balance in 2013 and 2019, but does not have a foreign trade deficit that can be considered significant. As in the Brazilian example, South Africa, which had a foreign trade deficit in 2012 and after, and had a growing deficit with each passing year, experienced a significant decrease in export level between 2010-2019.

Table 3. Furniture Industry Sector in Foreign Trade-India and South Africa (1,000 dollars)

Years	India			South Africa		
	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance
2010	706.825	795.969	-89.144	839.937	666.473	173.464
2011	901.082	1.042.900	-141.818	766.383	759.633	6.750
2012	1.010.204	1.048.619	-38.415	638.414	821.657	-183.243
2013	1.193.880	1.147.716	46.164	564.107	809.478	-245.371
2014	1.204.430	1.232.627	-28.197	528.968	764.099	-235.131
2015	1.276.529	1.479.862	-203.333	457.380	781.312	-323.932
2016	1.353.830	1.462.388	-108.558	381.979	693.224	-311.245
2017	1.440.219	1.744.253	-304.034	397.402	710.006	-312.604
2018	1.661.015	1.849.116	-188.101	418.238	782.151	-363.913
2019	1.841.819	1.700.966	140.853	362.594	747.528	-384.934

China, which is the rising economic power of recent years, is a considerable economic power in the furniture industry. When the data in Table 4 are examined, it is noteworthy that the doubling increases in the export volume especially within the scope of 2010-2019. The fact that imports remained at the same levels within this period indicates that the raw materials and semi-finished products required for production have reached a position that can be met from within the country. The foreign trade surplus formed in parallel with the increase in exports supports the country's leading position in the world economy.

Table 4. Furniture Industry Sector in Foreign Trade-China (1,000 dollars)

Years	Export	Imports	Current Account Balance
2010	50.584.033	3.060.824	47.523.209
2011	59.336.352	2.780.539	56.555.813
2012	77.886.189	2.872.045	75.014.144
2013	86.414.580	3.063.736	83.350.844
2014	93.374.119	3.373.789	90.000.330
2015	98.734.456	3.233.847	95.500.609
2016	89.500.006	3.235.812	86.264.194
2017	89.816.691	3.699.547	86.117.144
2018	96.416.994	3.971.384	92.445.610
2019	99.499.771	3.527.753	95.972.018

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1. Materials

Furniture industry is one of the most important production branches of the forestry industry sector and adds positive values to the foreign trade volume of our country. It is aimed to

determine the competitive position of our furniture industry against BRICS countries. In the study covering the years of 2010-2019, the competitive position of furniture products traded in six different subgroups according to the international foreign trade classification was determined by the analysis. Foreign trade figures used for the study were obtained from the Trade Map website. Furniture industry subgroups according to the international definition are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Furniture Industry Subgroups

Product Code	Product Label
9401	Seats, whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding medical,
9402	Medical, surgical, dental or veterinary furniture, e.g. operating tables, examination tables, . . .
9403	Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding seats and medical, surgical, dental or veterinary . .
9404	Mattress supports (excluding spring interiors for seats); articles of bedding and similar furnishing, . . .
9405	Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated . . .
9406	Prefabricated buildings, whether or not complete or already assembled

2.2. Method

There are many methods developed in the historical process in order to measure international competitiveness. These methods, which are used in accordance with the purpose, primarily benefit from foreign trade data in order to measure the competitiveness of companies, industry and countries. In our study; Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA), which was created by Liesner (1958) to measure competitiveness and later developed by Balassa (1965) and widely used until today, was used. The index developed by Liesner (1958), which aims to measure the competitiveness by using export data and compares the exports of the country in any sector or product group with the exports of other countries or product groups, was developed by Balassa (1965) due to some deficiencies.

A value less than 1 that will be obtained as a result of the index with the formulation and definitions below indicates that the country does not have competitive power in terms of comparative advantages explained at the relevant goods level, that is, it has a disadvantage and a value greater than 1 is specialized in that product group, that is, it has revealed comparative advantage [10, 11, 12, 13].

The Balassa index was formulated as follows:

$$RCA_{ij} = (x_{ij} / X_j) / (x_{iw} / X_w) \text{ where;} \quad (1)$$

RCA_{ij} ; revealed comparative advantage index for the i_{th} goods of the j_{th} country.

x_{ij} : j_{th} country's i_{th} exported goods

X_j : j_{th} country's total exports

x_{iw} : i_{th} goods of the global exports

X_w : total global exports

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The calculations made using the Revealed Comparative Advantages Index developed by Balassa at the furniture sub-product group level are shown in the tables below.

3.1. Seats, whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding medical,)

The results obtained as a result of the calculations made at the level of years are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Seats, whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding medical,)

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,264	0,023	0,028	2,785	1,728	1,399
2011	0,261	0,017	0,049	2,801	1,151	1,464
2012	0,227	0,028	0,081	3,129	0,884	1,246
2013	0,199	0,030	0,097	2,886	0,723	1,351
2014	0,145	0,026	0,101	2,649	0,560	1,315
2015	0,144	0,028	0,110	2,469	0,437	1,234
2016	0,142	0,034	0,115	2,373	0,371	1,255
2017	0,118	0,043	0,128	2,402	0,316	1,259
2018	0,108	0,035	0,140	2,476	0,316	1,355
2019	0,106	0,043	0,148	2,461	0,245	1,435
Average	0,171	0,030	0,099	2,643	0,673	1,331

The results of the calculations Turkey has increased over the years, the competitiveness of products in the 9401 group. The competitive value, which was 1.399 in 2010, reached its highest level in 2011. Turkey was ranked second after China with competitive value of 1.435 in 2019. The high competitive advantage achieved by China in all years in this product group is clearly seen. Although China achieved the highest value in 2012, it experienced a decrease in its competitive advantage over the years examined. The obtained results indicate that Turkey can increase their competitiveness through access to the leading position in this product group. It is clearly seen that other BRICS member countries are in a non-competitive structure in the 9401 coded product group. The success of South Africa in this field in 2010 and 2011 decreased significantly in the following years and its competitive power decreased to insignificant levels.

3.2. Medical, surgical, dental or veterinary furniture, e.g. operating tables, examination tables.

The analyzes made and the results obtained in the 9402 coded product group are shown in Table 7. When Table 7 is worth examining Turkey's border with that level in 2010 ($0.992 < 1$) in the competition, showing a significant improvement in 2019 have reached a level superior position ($1.387 > 1$). Turkey has achieved significant growth in 2013. It decreased in the following years, but a position was obtained that resulted in an increase within the scope of the years examined. China is a country that can rival Turkey. It can be clearly seen that other countries are far from competition at this sub-product group level. Turkey has significantly reduced over the years, the competition that exists between disadvantage with China.

Table 7. Medical, surgical, dental or veterinary furniture, e.g. operating tables, examination tables.

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,576	0,008	0,212	1,134	0,387	0,992
2011	0,426	0,015	0,319	1,226	0,269	1,095
2012	0,426	0,022	0,283	1,371	0,392	1,118
2013	0,355	0,025	0,276	1,416	0,334	1,813
2014	0,188	0,002	0,011	0,077	0,014	0,074
2015	0,313	0,042	0,305	1,527	0,268	0,942
2016	0,233	0,035	0,396	1,391	0,355	1,073
2017	0,177	0,044	0,309	1,452	0,287	1,175
2018	0,151	0,026	0,293	1,497	0,228	1,309
2019	0,145	0,039	0,259	1,704	0,337	1,387
Average	0,299	0,025	0,266	1,279	0,287	1,097

3.3. Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding seats and medical, surgical, dental or veterinary).

Analysis results are shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s.(excluding seats and medical, surgical, dental or veterinary).

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,672	0,079	0,367	2,659	0,499	1,532
2011	0,510	0,079	0,034	2,754	0,369	1,657
2012	0,506	0,096	0,378	3,139	0,348	1,738
2013	0,475	0,092	0,359	2,970	0,328	1,984
2014	0,467	0,104	0,384	2,759	0,362	2,100
2015	0,489	0,108	0,440	2,609	0,350	1,916
2016	0,508	0,139	0,493	2,540	0,303	1,833
2017	0,499	0,151	0,472	2,499	0,279	1,769
2018	0,525	0,146	0,518	2,448	0,265	1,926
2019	0,532	0,172	0,569	2,316	0,284	2,075
Average	0,518	0,116	0,401	2,669	0,338	1,853

Turkey has a competitive advantage in this product group in all years. Turkey has reached the highest competitive position in 2014. In this product group, as in other sub-product group it is Turkey's only rival of China. The decline shows that China's competitiveness in the years Turkey has showed a significant increase in this period. Turkey is in a position to be a leader in this product group.

3.4. Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated.

This product group among the three countries (China, India and Turkey) is experiencing a competitive battle. Although China has become an important role in Turkey and India are important competitiveness. The competitiveness of Turkey between 2010-2019 years has experienced an increase in the level of 27.3%. India, on the other hand, completed this period

with an increase of 19%. It may also be a contest between China and Turkey in terms of competition.

Table 9. Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated.

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,147	0,024	1,297	4,765	0,833	1,124
2011	0,139	0,021	1,172	4,802	0,778	1,038
2012	0,107	0,042	1,265	4,733	0,775	0,922
2013	0,117	0,054	1,299	4,392	0,794	1,009
2014	0,128	0,050	1,320	4,069	0,771	1,013
2015	0,133	0,060	1,529	3,828	0,719	1,002
2016	0,138	0,067	1,593	3,915	0,700	0,990
2017	0,140	0,058	1,496	4,014	0,612	1,153
2018	0,123	0,050	1,536	4,009	0,631	1,245
2019	0,129	0,062	1,546	3,822	0,534	1,431
Average	0,130	0,048	1,405	4,234	0,714	1,092

3.5. Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated.

Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated. Analysis results are shown in Table 10. In this product group, the competitive advantage that continues to increase within the years obtained and examined by China is clearly seen. China has the sole say in this product group.

Table 10. Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; illuminated.

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,062	0,085	0,220	3,768	0,406	1,073
2011	0,063	0,028	0,244	3,919	0,374	1,037
2012	0,054	0,054	0,238	4,541	0,302	0,771
2013	0,043	0,057	0,176	4,651	0,272	0,811
2014	0,040	0,059	0,155	4,577	0,268	0,688
2015	0,033	0,057	0,168	4,613	0,236	0,506
2016	0,033	0,079	0,182	4,590	0,227	0,554
2017	0,028	0,078	0,180	4,402	0,210	0,510
2018	0,025	0,072	0,169	4,379	0,254	0,493
2019	0,028	0,076	0,177	4,428	0,193	0,446
Average	0,040	0,064	0,190	4,386	0,274	0,688

In this product group, the competitive advantage that continues to increase within the years obtained and examined by China is clearly seen. China has the sole say in this product group.

3.6. Prefabricated buildings, whether or not complete or already assembled.

The results of the study are shown in Table 11.

Table 11. Prefabricated buildings, whether or not complete or already assembled.

Years	Brazil	Russia	Indian	China	South Africa	Türkiye
2010	0,272	0,314	0,185	1,604	1,493	2,996
2011	0,823	0,142	0,182	1,645	1,394	3,302
2012	2,448	0,410	0,216	1,621	1,405	3,682
2013	0,357	0,341	0,193	1,377	0,981	3,567
2014	1,502	0,304	0,261	1,471	1,065	3,106
2015	0,642	0,439	0,399	1,292	1,048	3,462
2016	0,477	0,556	0,286	1,331	0,792	2,317
2017	0,377	0,413	0,255	1,420	1,112	2,280
2018	0,258	0,385	0,331	1,289	1,065	2,628
2019	0,277	0,560	0,420	1,424	0,865	2,549
Average	0,743	0,386	0,272	1,447	1,122	2,988

Turkey has an important competitive advantage. China and South Africa is well positioned to rival Turkey. Brazil's success in 2012 and 2014 did not continue in the following years, and fell behind in terms of competition in this field. In the case of the protection of the competitive advantages possessed prefabricated sub-group of products in the world market in Turkey to have a say in the next year will be an expected situation.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, the BRICS countries and Turkey in the lower level of the furniture industry product groups are intended to determine the competitive position. The analysis results are presented in a clear manner in which they have important competitive advantages of China and Turkey.

Seats, whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof, n.e.s. (Excluding medical,. In the sub group, this has continued competitive advantage against other countries, China and Turkey. China has the competitive advantage that between the years 2010-2019 showed a -11.6% decrease in the level of Turkey has increased the level of 2.5%.

Medical, surgical, dental or veterinary furniture, e.g. operating tables, examination tables,. . . (9402) in the product group Turkey has achieved significant competitive advantage with changes in the level provided in 2019, while 40% are in a position to compete on the border in 2010. Within the same years, China maintained its first place with an increase of 50%.

Another product group showed a significant increase in Turkey Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excluding seats and medical, surgical, dental or veterinary. (9403) product group. Representing an increase of approximately 35% for Turkey in 2019 and 2075 has increased the level of competition events. Over the same period, China has shown a -13% reduction in its competitiveness.

Mattress supports (excluding spring interiors for seats); articles of bedding and similar furnishing,. China, which is the absolute competitive ruler in the (9404) product group, has experienced a -20% decrease in competitive advantage over the years. India, which ranks second in this product group, has increased by 19% in its competitive position between 2010-2019. Turkey is ranked third with a competitive advantage in the show with the increase in the level of 27.3% next year showed it would be more effective in a competitive position.

Lamps and lighting fittings, incl. searchlights and spotlights, and parts thereof, n.e.s; China, which is the only dominant position in the illuminated (9405) product group, is unrivaled in the market. The competitive advantage of having Turkey in 2010 and 2011 showed significant reductions in recent years.

Turkey, China and South Africa Prefabricated buildings to have a competitive advantage, whether or not complete or already assembled (9406), Turkey ranks first in the product line. Unlike other product groups, Turkey is situated in front of the Chinese in this product group. Turkey within the scope of review of the year - a 15% level has maintained its first place although it has shown a decrease. In this product group, China decreased by -11% and South Africa by -42%.

Turkey has a significant competitive advantage over the BRICS countries in the furniture industry. Turkey is seen clearly that China is the only competitor in this field. It is imperative in today's world of the effective and efficient use of resources, with significant gains in power sector of the furniture industry which Turkey has achieved and can have an influence on world markets.

China's manpower, raw material resources and international investments are seen as the main reasons for being in the first place. In this area which has a strong information technology infrastructure and the economy by strengthening Turkey's encouragement and support, and the development will provide significant advantages.

Turkey should use the furniture industry as the locomotive of development and stability and should make the necessary investments in this area.

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