The Impact of the Pandemic on Sports Companies: Comparative Rate Analysis of Champions League and Turkish Football Companies

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Abstract

Today, when sports have become a very important sector for the economy, football, which is one of the favorite elements of the sports sector, has a very large financial position among other sports branches. Many different organizations such as UEFA also contributed to this position. In this study, the effect of the Covid-19 epidemic, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, on football clubs was analyzed through the financial statements of football clubs. In the research, the ratio analysis method was applied through the financial statements of the three football clubs in the category of UEFA champions league leaders as of 5 May 2021 and the football companies traded in the BIST for the periods 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. As a result, it has been revealed that all clubs were affected negatively compared to the pre-pandemic period, but the three clubs, which are UEFA leaders, were less affected by the negative effects of the pandemic due to their strong financial resources and sporting successes. In the evaluation of the research, it has been revealed that Beşiktaş is the club with the best debt-paying power among the clubs in Turkey. It was evaluated that the net working capital of the other three clubs was negative. It is understood that the three clubs, which are the ranking leaders in 2021, have strong financial positions that do not differ much from each other. It is another result that the solvency and resource structures of Turkish football clubs and UEFA ranking leaders are far from each other. This situation is generally; It can be attributed to sportive success, the difference in the income balance and the increase in the exchange rate in our country.

Keywords: UEFA, Champions League, Turkish Football Companies, Ratio Analysis, Pandemic

Pandeminin Spor Şirketleri Üzerine Etkisi: Şampiyonlar Ligi ve Türk Futbol Şirketlerinin Karşılaştırmalı Oran Analizi

Özet

Sporun ekonomi için oldukça önemli bir sektör haline geldiği günümüzde, spor sektörünün favori unsurlarının başında gelen futbol diğer spor branşları arasında finansal açıdan oldukça büyük bir konuma sahiptir. UEFA gibi birçok farklı kuruluş da bu konuma katkı sağlamıştır. Bu çalışmada, Dünya Sağlık Örgütünün 11 Mart 2020 de pandemi olarak ilan ettiği Covid-19 salgının futbol kulüplerine etkisi, futbol kulüplerinin mali tabloları üzerinden analiz edilmiştir. Araştırmada 5 Mayıs 2021 yılı itibariyle UEFA şampiyonlar ligi liderleri kategorisinde yer alan

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üç futbol kulübü ile BİST'de işlem gören futbol şirketlerinin 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 ve 2021 dönemi mali tabloları aracılığıyla oran analizi yöntemi uygulanmıştır. Sonuç olarak bütün kulüplerin pandemi öncesine göre olumsuz yönde etkilendiği fakat UEFA lideri olan üç kulübün finansal kaynaklarının ve sportif başarılarının güçlü olması sebebiyle pandeminin olumsuzluğundan daha az etkilendiği ortaya konmuştur. Araştırmanın değerlendirmesinde Türkiye'deki kulüplerden en iyi borç ödeme gücüne sahip olan kulübün Beşiktaş olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Diğer üç kulübün ise net işletme sermayesinin negatif yönde seyrettiği değerlendirilmiştir. 2021 yılı sıralama lideri olan üç kulübün ise birbirlerine göre çok fark etmeyen güçlü finansal pozisyonlara sahip oldukları anlaşılmaktadır. Türk futbol kulüpleri ile UEFA sıralama liderleri arasında borç ödeme gücünün ve kaynak yapılarının birbirlerinden çok uzak olduğu da ortaya çıkan bir başka sonuçtur. Bu durum genel anlamda; sportif başarıya, gelirler dengesindeki farklılığa ve döviz kurunun ülkemizdeki artışına bağlanabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: UEFA, Şampiyonlar Ligi, Türk Futbol Şirketleri, Oran Analizi, Pandemi

INTRODUCTION

Technological innovations and tremendous progress in information processing provide significant benefits in predicting how fast, in what direction, in which periods and, in which sectors the economy will lead. The football sector, which is very closely related to the world economy, has also established itself as an economic power on its own. The fact that the football industry has become stronger financially among other sports branches has been effective because of the potential to be watched continuously since the past, transfer fees and the fact that the football branch has the highest number of spectators almost all over the world. Fans watch not only their own teams but also all teams with high viewing quality in many countries. This situation increases the income from the audience. The potential to create a strong financial source has made the existence of regulatory institutions a necessity in order to ensure the informal economy and justice in sports. Football clubs, whose financial structures have deteriorated for various reasons (applying to illegal sources in order to compete, taking on debt obligations that they cannot pay, etc.) have started to make losses by having difficulty in competition, and it has become necessary to take measures in the football sector in order to eliminate the negative effects of financial crises (20).

The European Football Association (UEFA), which was established for the football union and is one of the regulatory organizations, was established in 1952 (8). Since then, it has always put the financial regulations it has brought as a prerequisite for football clubs. One of these rules has been the Financial Fair Play (FFP) legislation. The main purpose of the legislation was to minimize the effect of financial sustainability on the financial structure of football clubs and to ensure that competition is harmonious and fair (18). The FFP legislation was adopted in 2010 and aimed to ensure that the clubs have a healthier economic structure and that the funds transferred to the football industry, which has become important as a sector, are made appropriate (17).

While all the rules for UEFA FFP legislation are progressing in line with the trend, the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, which started on December 1, 2019, has begun to be felt, especially in economic terms. Clubs under the umbrella of UEFA have taken their share of these negativities. However, UEFA showed with analysis reports that the effect of the pandemic deeply affected the clubs in 2020 season for football clubs and saved an estimated 2 billion Euros in additional local TV contract penalties and reductions for clubs (7). In this study, the general financial performances of the 4 big football clubs that are publicly traded companies in our country and the top three football clubs in the UEFA ranking in 2021 were analyzed. The main purpose of the analysis is to observe the financial and sportive success difference between the pandemic and the clubs included in the research and to evaluate what it is based on as a result.

Literature Review

When the studies on ratio analysis are examined, it is seen that the ratio analysis method is made in different analyzes according to the needs by using the financial statements related to many different sectors, and the ratio analysis method gives effective results in the analysis of the financial situation of the companies. Among these sectors, it is seen that ratio analysis is not used much in research related to the sports sector.

In his study, Aslan (1) revealed the financial performances of the sports clubs traded in BIST by using the ratio analysis method by making use of the 2014-2016 financial statements. As a result, he observed that sports

companies generally have problems with their financial liabilities and are in a negative situation in generating profits. In their study, Kardeniz et al (12) measured the financial performance of sports companies traded in the BIST for the period 2011-2013 using the ratio analysis method and also determined the bankruptcy risks by calculating Altman Z values. In the research of Güngör and Uzun Kocamış (11) one of the public football clubs in England; They calculated the profitability and financial structure ratios by using the financial statements of Arsenal, Everton, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur clubs for the years 2012-2016. They then revealed their financial performance by analyzing them with the TOPSIS method.

In his study, Dayı (6) calculated the current ratio, leverage ratio, interest coverage power; and total asset variables of the clubs using the 2010-2018 financial table data of the four big football clubs in the super league. In the continuation of the study, it has been shown that financial risk levels increase by using panel data and the least squares method. In their research, Beyazgül and Karadeniz (3) analyzed the cash flow statements of 29 football clubs in the Turkish Spor Toto Super League and 10 national leagues in Europe for the period 2013-2018. As a method of analysis, they used the cash flow-generated operations method.

In his study, Ergül (9) analyzed the relationship between their financial success and their success in football by using the financial statements of sports clubs traded in BIST, with the TOPSIS method, and revealed that the research obtained positive data as a result. In their study, Kızıl and Aslan (14) analyzed the percentage changes and the possible reasons for the changes, using the 2016-2018 financial statements of Galatasaray A.Ş. In their study, Garcia-del-Barrio and Rossi (10) examined how some leagues in 2009-2010 and 2015-2016 UEFA leagues affect clubs according to UEFA FFP regulations, using a dataset consisting of 560 observations and made some suggestions.

In their study, Özdurak and Ulusoy (15)observed the reactions of the stocks of football clubs traded in BIST in Turkey according to the match results and the effects of the stocks according to the news and produced an evaluation. In their study, Taştan and Donuk (19) conducted an analysis revealing the importance of the sportive success and financial success of football clubs by applying the institutionalization principles and firm performance scale, which is a relational screening method, to 217 professional football club managers.

Ratio Analysis

Ratio analysis is used to establish mathematical relationships in the economic, financial structure, and profitability issues that the business attaches importance to within the account or account components (21). Although there are data that show the situation well in the financial statements of any business, it will not be a realistic approach to make the right decisions about its financial performance by using only this information. For this purpose, ratio analysis is used to analyze alternative and correct data by associating them with each other (4).

Apart from the ratio of items that are known to be related in a financial analysis, businesses can determine new ratios in line with their needs. The results obtained after the analysis of the enterprises are compared with the results of the previous years of the enterprise and the sector averages. In addition to determining the development of the performance of the enterprise, business managers also use ratio analysis to see how much they have achieved their goals (1).

According to the purpose and functions in ratio analysis; Liquidity ratios, ratios related to financial structure, activity ratios, profitability ratios and growth and capital market performance ratios are used (16).

Liquidity ratios aim to reveal the level of adequacy by revealing the ability of enterprises to meet their short-term liabilities while evaluating the liquidity risk at the same time. The explanations of the liquidity ratios calculated in the research are given in Table 1. (13).

Table 1. Liquidity Ratios

Liquidity Ratios	Calculation Formula	Purpose of Use
Current	Current Assets / Short-Term Liabilities	Indicates the firm's ability to pay its short-term obligations.
Acid-Test	(Current Assets – Inventories) / Short-Term Liabilities	Indicates the firm's ability to pay its short-term obligations in the event of a cessation of sales..
Cash	(Fixed Assets + Securities) / Short-Term Liabilities	It shows the extent to which the liquid assets in the firm's current meet the short-term liabilities..
Source: (13)		

Ratios related to the financial structure are the ratios that measure the ability of the enterprise to meet its long-term obligations and are also based on the relationships between the foreign resources used by the enterprise and the equity components. The financial structure ratios and objectives used for the research are presented in Table 2. (2).

Table 2. Ratios Related to Financial Structure

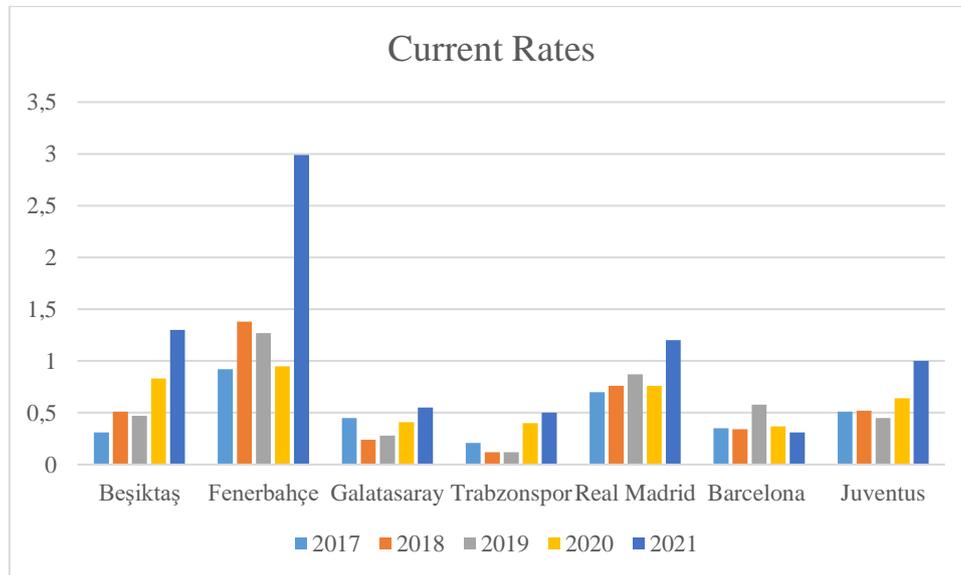| Financial Structure Ratios	Calculation Formula	Purpose of Use
Leverage ratio	Total Debt / Total Liability	Shows the share of total liabilities in business assets
Total Liabilities/Equity Capital	Total Debt / Equity	Determines the financial risk of the business.
Short Term Liabilities/Total Liabilities	Short Term Liabilities / Total Liabilities	Measures the weight of the short-term debts of the business.
Long-Term Liabilities/Liabilities Total	Long Term Liabilities / Total Liabilities	Measures the weight of long-term debts of the business.
Interest Coverage	Profit / Before Interest and Taxes	It measures how many times the net profit of the business is the interest payable..
Financial Liabilities/ Total Debts	Financial Debts / Total Debts	It shows the share of financial debts in total debts.
Tangible Fixed Assets/Long-Term Liabilities	Tangible Fixed Asset / Long-Term Liabilities	It measures the long-term credibility of the business.
Source: (2)		

DATA AND METHOD

In the research, the financial statements of the football clubs traded in BIST for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 were used and ratio analysis was made. In the same way, the financial reports of the football clubs that are in the top three in the UEFA Champions League ranking of 2021 were obtained from their websites and the same period was included in the research and the ratio analysis method was applied to the financial statements. In this study, liquidity and financial structure ratios are used. While analyzing the financial structure ratios, tangible fixed assets are not included in the research as they do not allow comparison because they are not available as an item in all foreign clubs.

RESULTS

The financial performance of the football clubs within the scope of the research was calculated and interpreted by the ratio analysis method. The findings of the research are presented in the tables and graphs below. In the study, the data of the financial statements of Turkish football clubs were obtained from the Public Disclosure Platform (KAP) and the financial statements of other teams were obtained from the management reports published on their websites.

Table 3. Liquidity Ratios

Liquidity	Beşiktaş 2017 - 2018	Fenerbahçe 2017 - 2018	Galatasaray 2017 - 2018	Trabzonspor 2017 - 2018	Real Madrid 2017 - 2018	Barcelona 2017 - 2018	Juventus 2017 - 2018
Current	0,31 - 0,51	0,92 - 1,38	0,45 - 0,24	0,21 - 0,12	0,70 - 0,76	0,35 - 0,34	0,51 - 0,52
Acid Test	-0,10 - 0,10	0,56 - 1,23	-0,31 - -0,48	-0,93 - -0,54	-0,98 - -0,82	-0,57 - -1	-1,08 - -1,58
Liquidity	**Beşiktaş 2018 - 2019**	**Fenerbahçe 2018 - 2019**	**Galatasaray 2018 - 2019**	**Trabzonspor 2018 - 2019**	**Real Madrid 2018 - 2019**	**Barcelona 2018 - 2019**	**Juventus 2018 - 2019**
Current	0,51 - 0,47	1,38 - 1,27	0,24 - 0,28	0,12 - 0,12	0,76 - 0,87	0,34 - 0,58	0,52 - 0,45
Acid Test	0,10 - 0,23	1,23 - 1,17	-0,48 - -0,54	-0,54 - -0,68	-0,82 - -0,66	-1 - -0,80	-1,58 - -1,62
Liquidity	**Beşiktaş 2019 - 2020**	**Fenerbahçe 2019 - 2020**	**Galatasaray 2019 - 2020**	**Trabzonspor 2019 - 2020**	**Real Madrid 2019 - 2020**	**Barcelona 2019 - 2020**	**Juventus 2019 - 2020**
Current	0,47 - 0,83	1,27 - 0,95	0,28 - 0,41	0,12 - 0,40	0,87 - 0,76	0,58 - 0,37	0,45 - 0,64
Acid Test	0,23 - 0,54	1,17 - 0,85	-0,54 - -0,96	-0,68 - -0,84	-0,66 - -1,46	-0,80 - -0,75	-1,62 - -1,61
Liquidity	**Beşiktaş 2020 - 2021**	**Fenerbahçe 2020 - 2021**	**Galatasaray 2020 - 2021**	**Trabzonspor 2020 - 2021**	**Real Madrid 2020 - 2021**	**Barcelona 2020 - 2021**	**Juventus 2020 - 2021**
Current	0,83 - 1,30	0,95 - 2,99	0,41 - 0,55	0,40 - 0,50	0,76 - 1,20	0,37 - 0,31	0,64 - 1
Acid Test	0,54 - 1,02	0,85 - 2,68	-0,96 - -1,76	-0,84 - -1,33	-1,46 - -1,76	-0,75 - -0,63	-1,61 - -1,19

Figure 1. Current Ratios of Clubs by Years

The results of the liquidity ratios calculated in order to determine whether the enterprises can pay their short-term liabilities on time are given in Table 3. Looking at the data, it has been calculated that the current ratio is 0.67, the average for the relevant sports clubs. If this ratio is considered as the sector average, it can be seen from Chart 1 that there is a normal current ratio fluctuation for clubs. If it is accepted that the ratio of 0.67 shows that the solvency is sufficient, it can be said that the structure of the current assets and the distribution of the maturities of short-term foreign resources in 2021, together with the current ratio, for the Fenerbahçe club, which is outside this ratio and shows a sudden increase, is negatively affected by this ratio. When Graph 1 is analyzed based on the pandemic period, it can be seen that the current ratio is affected even in football clubs with a strong financial structure in 2020 and 2021. In other words, it can be said for clubs other than Galatasaray, Trabzonspor, and Barcelona, that the income of the audience decreased during the pandemic period, the matches were postponed and borrowed more, and the short-term liabilities turned into long-term and the current assets were financed with long-term foreign resources.

When the acid-test ratio of football clubs is considered, it can be said that the ratio close to 1 indicates a significant situation for short-term debt solvency, and the highest level of compliance by years is in Real Madrid, Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe, and Juventus clubs. In general, the fact that the odds data of the clubs are close to each other can be expressed as a general situation related to the structure of the sector. Only when compared

to football clubs in Turkey, it can be stated that Beşiktaş is ahead of other Turkish clubs in the 2021 UEFA rankings and that the debt balance enters 2021 stronger and reflects positively on its performance. The rates of Fenerbahçe, which is in the second place in the ranking, can be interpreted in a similar way. Of course, as in the ratio analysis, Fenerbahçe's sudden exit for 2021 and its ratio higher than 1 does not indicate the adequacy of its solvency, since it is a situation that cannot be determined only with this ratio. In clubs where the ratio is generally below 1; It can be stated that the solvency of Barcelona, Galatasaray, and Trabzonspor is weaker than other clubs.
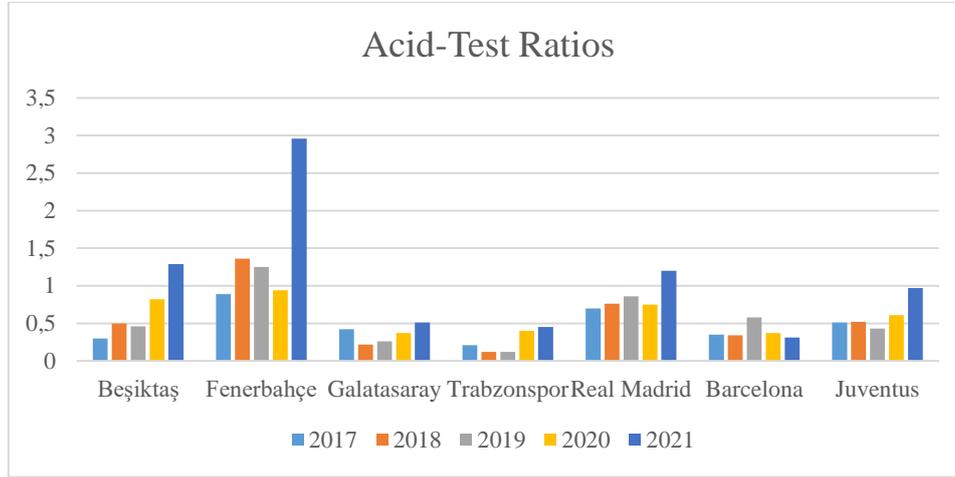

Figure 2. Acid-Test Ratios of Clubs by Years

Table 4. Financial Structure Ratios

Financial Structure	Beşiktaş 2017-2018	Fenerbahçe 2017-2018	Galatasaray 2017-2018	Trabzonspor 2017-2018	Real Madrid 2017-2018	Barcelona 2017-2018	Juventus 2017-2018
Lever	1,77 - 1,53	1,56 - 1,70	1,62 - 1,29	1,56 - 2,44	0,56 - 0,54	0,84 - 0,87	0,77 - 0,84
Foreign/ Equity	-2,28- -2,87	-2,75 - -2,41	-2,60 - -4,42	-2,77 - -1,69	1,31 - 1,20	5,59 - 6,92	4,70 - 9,04
Short Term Resource	1,34 - 1,08	0,77 - 0,65	0,81 - 1,03	0,73 - 1,25	0,41 - 0,42	0,77 - 0,67	0,46 - 0,37
Long Term Resource	0,43 - 0,45	0,79 - 1,05	0,81 - 0,25	0,83 - 1,19	0,15 - 0,12	0,07 - 0,20	0,31 - 0,47
Financial Structure	**Beşiktaş 2018-2019**	**Fenerbahçe 2018-2019**	**Galatasaray 2018-2019**	**Trabzonspor 2018-2019**	**Real Madrid 2018-2019**	**Barcelona 2018-2019**	**Juventus 2018-2019**
Lever	1,53 - 1,70	1,70 - 1,32	1,29 - 1,19	2,44 - 1,89	0,54 - 0,53	0,87 - 0,90	0,84 - 0,91
Foreign / Equity	-2,87 - -2,4	-2,41 - -4,05	-4,42 - -6,2	-1,69 - -2,1	1,20 - 1,13	6,92 - 9,24	9,04 - 27,5
Short Term Resource	1,08 - 1,39	0,65 - 0,72	1,03 - 0,89	1,25 - 1,07	0,42 - 0,41	0,67 - 0,50	0,37 - 0,38
Long Term Resource	0,45 - 0,31	1,05 - 0,60	0,25 - 0,29	1,19 - 0,81	0,12 - 0,11	0,20 - 0,39	0,47 - 0,53
Financial Structure	**Beşiktaş 2019-2020**	**Fenerbahçe 2019-2020**	**Galatasaray 2019-2020**	**Trabzonspor 2019-2020**	**Real Madrid 2019-2020**	**Barcelona 2019-2020**	**Juventus 2019-2020**
Lever	1,70 - 1,95	1,32 - 1,38	1,19 - 1,18	1,89 - 1,95	0,53 - 0,62	0,90 - 0,97	0,91 - 0,75
Foreign / Equity	-2,4 - -2,04	-4,05 - -3,6	-6,2 - -6,5	-2,1 - -2,4	1,13 - 1,69	9,24 - 40,8	27,5 - 3,72
Short Term Resource	1,39 - 0,88	0,72 - 0,94	0,89 - 0,56	1,07 - 0,60	0,41 - 0,33	0,50 - 0,65	0,38 - 0,34
Long Term Resource	0,31 - 1,06	0,60 - 0,44	0,29 - 0,62	0,81 - 1,35	0,11 - 0,29	0,39 - 0,31	0,53 - 0,41
Financial Structure	**Beşiktaş 2020-2021**	**Fenerbahçe 2020-2021**	**Galatasaray 2020-2021**	**Trabzonspor 2020-2021**	**Real Madrid 2020-2021**	**Barcelona 2020-2021**	**Juventus 2020-2021**

Lever	1,95 - 1,73	1,38 - 1,26	1,18 - 1,28	1,95 - 1,99	0,62 - 0,66	0,97 - 1,43	0,75 - 0,68
Foreign / Equity	-2,04 - -2,35	-3,6 - - 4,77	-6,5 - -4,52	-2,4 - -2	1,69 - 1,96	40,8 - -3,28	3,72 - 2,19
Short Term Resource	0,88 - 0,63	0,94 - 0,30	0,56 - 0,34	0,60 - 0,42	0,33 - 0,23	0,65 - 0,78	0,34 - 0,31
Long Term Resource	1,06 - 1,1	0,44 - 0,96	0,62 - 0,93	1,35 - 1,56	0,29 - 0,42	0,31 - 0,64	0,41 - 0,37

When Table 4 and Figure 3 are examined, it is considered normal for the leverage ratio to be around 0.50; It can be said that the ratio of Real Madrid football club follows a normal course. In fact, the period when this rate is on the rise coincides with the beginning of the pandemic period. It can be stated that this trend, in which other football clubs, with the exception of Beşiktaş and Barcelona Football Club, have been financed with foreign resources since 2017, reversed with the effect of the pandemic in the period until 2021.
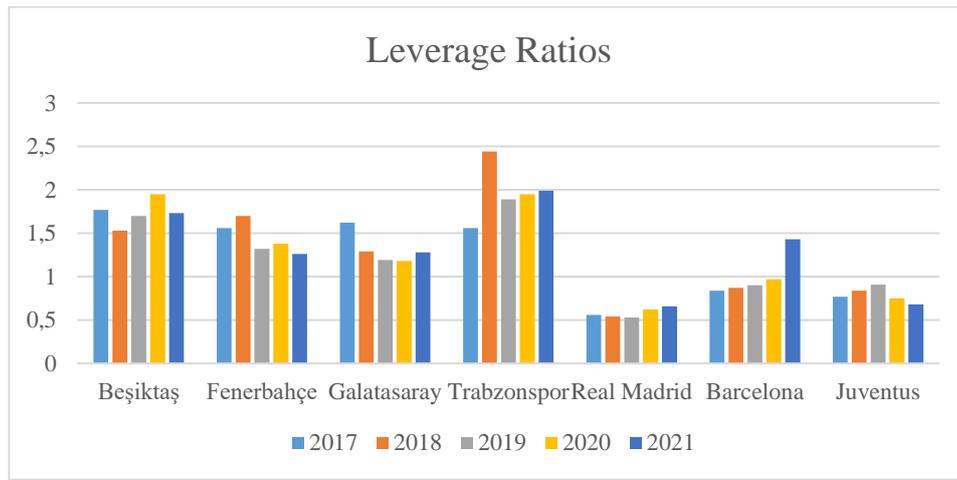

Figure 3. Leverage Ratios of Clubs by Years

When we look at the ratio of foreign resources to own resources in Figure 4, it is seen that the ratio is above 1 and 2 in the UEFA champions league trio. In Turkish football companies, on the other hand, it is seen that the relationship between the equity and foreign resources of the enterprise may be in a difficult situation in the face of the crisis. It is understood from the table that the club that gave the most meaningful result was Real Madrid. The fact that the pandemic period has been effective since 2020 has also affected the financial risk of clubs globally, and as it can be understood from the data in the table, a ratio below or above 1 indicates the presence of financial risk. We can explain this situation as it may cause risky factors in the face of a crisis. Because the ratio of 1 and less than 1 is accepted as an indication that the crisis can be overcome more easily and with less damage (5). We can say that Barcelona and Juventus Sports Clubs have increased to high levels instantly and that there are more funds from third parties than the funds of the partners during the pandemic period.
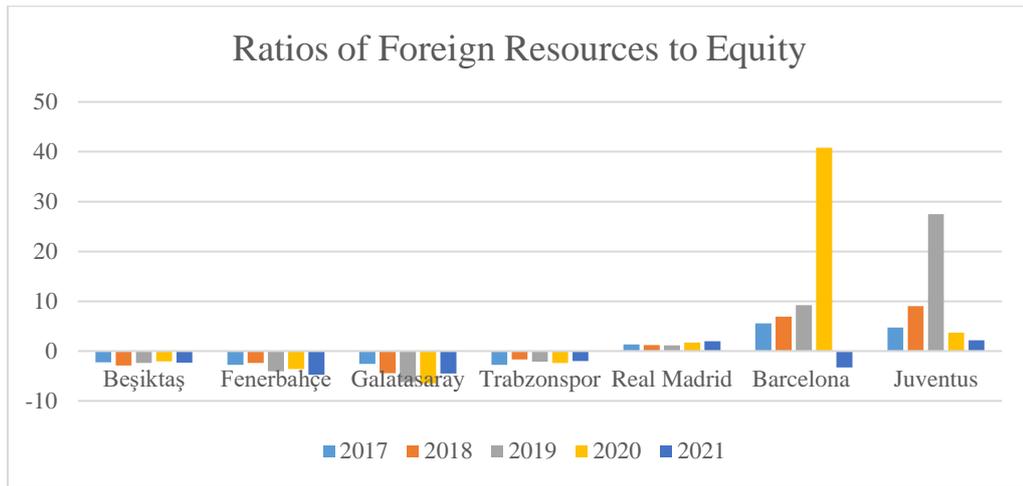
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Figure 4. Ratios of Foreign Resources to Equity of Clubs by Years

When we examine the short-term liabilities ratio, the fact that this ratio generally exceeds the level of 0.33 means that a company has very high short-term debt and increases the risk of repayment (5). At the same time, the high level of the ratio is another indicator of negative net working capital. The clubs where this ratio is the best according to the years are Real Madrid and Juventus. In the period when the pandemic was declared in 2020, it is understood from the table that this rate of Turkish football clubs increased economically. However, it is seen from the table that in this process that is customary for 2020, these rates are tried to be reduced for the clubs in 2021 and successful rates are tried to be reached. However, there is a possibility that these short-term debts may also be translated into long-term debts.
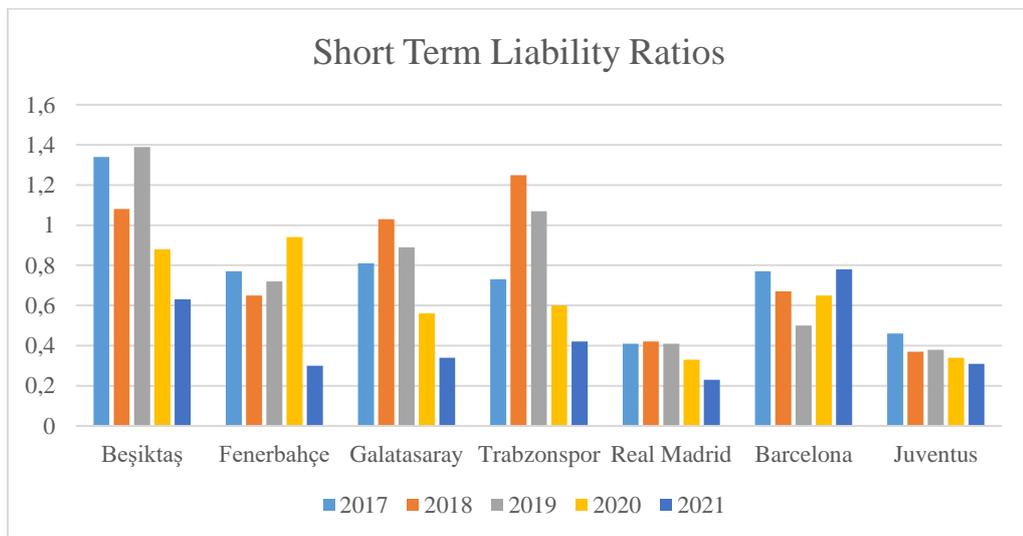

Figure 5. Short-Term Liability Ratios of Clubs by Years

As seen in Figure 6, it can be said for all clubs that there is a great increase in the ratio of long-term foreign resources to resources in all clubs except Juventus Football Club in 2021, and the effect of the pandemic also plays a role in this situation. Based on the data, it is possible to interpret that all of the clubs, except for foreign clubs, which remained low in short-term foreign resources in 2021, switched to long-term borrowing, and therefore, there was a decrease in the ratio of short-term debts. Another reason for the long-term borrowing of Turkish Football Clubs can be expressed as the increase in income losses due to the pandemic and the fact that foreign currency debts are affected by fluctuating exchange rates despite these losses.
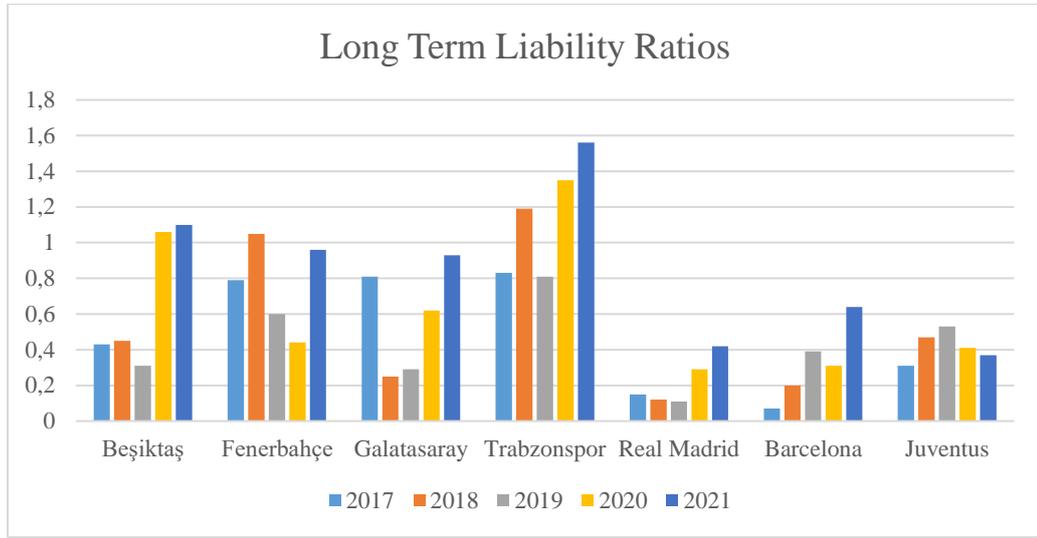
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Figure 6. Long-Term Liability Ratios of Clubs by Years

In the long-term debt ratio, it is considered a good situation that the numerical value of the ratio does not exceed 0.16 under normal conditions. If it is above this rate, action can be taken to reduce the long-term foreign resource rate (5). The club that best provided this situation was Real Madrid in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Trabzonspor has the most difficult financial data in terms of long-term foreign resources. In general, the chart shows that the irreducible long-term debt capacity of all clubs has increased over the years and peaked in 2020 and 2021, the pandemic period.

When we look at the Turkish football clubs, it can be said that the economic assets are constantly financed by their own resources, since the ratio of foreign resources to equities is in minus digits according to the data of all years included in the research, and this situation causes loss. At the same time, long-term borrowing added to this situation seems to be a good tool for a temporary period, but it can be stated that it brings extra obligations to the clubs.

CONCLUSION

Looking at the dates of the study, 2017, 2018, and 2019 are years when there is no pandemic, but 2020 and 2021 are the years when there is a closure due to the pandemic both in Turkey and around the world, and there is an economic recession for the sports world. Stadium revenues, one of the revenues that football depends on, completely disappeared in 2020 due to the pandemic. This situation also led to a decrease in the liquidity ratios of the clubs. Except for Barcelona and Fenerbahçe, which are among the clubs included in the research, in 2020, the other clubs brought their current ratios to a balanced level compared to 2019.

The importance of including Turkish football club companies in the study; They are chosen because they have the best financial position for the football industry in Turkey, together with their effective investments by making their assets sustainable. The importance of the other included UEFA 2021 ranking leaders is to observe the ratios that separate the most successful clubs within UEFA, including Turkish football clubs, financially. Considering the financial structure ratios and liquidity ratios of these top 3 clubs that were successful in 2021, in the period of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, it can be concluded according to the information and analyses obtained from the financial statements that physical success in 2021 brings financial success as well as financial success.

It has also been revealed in the results of the analysis that Real Madrid, which is in the best position in the financial structure ratios revealed and is also the leader of the UEFA 2021, has a financial performance integrated with the sports performance. In other ranking leaders, this ratio is not so bad. There seems to be a good financial performance that almost reflects the ranking. However, it is possible to say that the leverage ratio of the financial structure ratios of the four big football clubs in our country exceeds 1, due to the lack of capital and excessive borrowing for these clubs, and the effect of inflation on the passive structure by looking at the financial statements.

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As a result, it can be evaluated that the clearest situation for the clubs included in the analysis should be financial strength for performance and good performance for financial strength. As a result of this comparison, it will be important for the beginning of the income-expenditure balance that Turkish football clubs continue their existence and strengthen the results obtained through ratio analysis, focusing on firm value, seeking solutions in a way that will be least affected by inflation and making sustainable innovations in transfer fees. At the same time, it is seen that the unpreparedness of Turkish Football Clubs during the pandemic period and the uncertainty of their foreign currency debts encourage them to choose long-term borrowing instead of short-term borrowing. However, it is seen from the data and rates that this is a step that reduces the net working capital to negative.

Looking at the general data, it is seen that Beşiktaş Sports Club has the best debt repayment power among Turkish Football Clubs. It is understood from the graphs that the payment difficulties of Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray, and Trabzonspor are close to each other. Since the ratios of these clubs are close to each other in the general graphs, testing different analysis techniques and examining the audit reports will give more accurate results for other clubs since it will not give a definite result about the level of payment difficulties. The most important difference from similar studies in the literature so far is the observation of the pandemic and the selection technique of the clubs involved in the research. Another comment is that Abdurrahim Albayrak, who served as the 2nd President of Galatasaray in the 2018-2021 period before the death of Mustafa Cengiz, the 37th president of Galatasaray, who lost his life on November 28, 2021, during the article study, said that he was happy to pay the debts of Galatasaray in TL. He stated that he had translated it too. As a result of the study, it is seen that Galatasaray differs from Fenerbahçe and Trabzonspor in terms of financial strength in converting its debts to TL. It can be said that the evaluation of Galatasaray's financial performance in the coming years will make a positive difference, as well as the foreign exchange burden in other clubs multiplying the debt.

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