

Socio-Economic Life in Turkey and Western Europe after COVID-19

COVID-19 Sonrası Türkiye ve Batı Avrupa'da Sosyo-Ekonomik Yaşam

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ÖZET

COVID-19 pandemik hastalığı nedeniyle 215'ten fazla ülkede yaklaşık 4 milyondan fazla enfekte vaka ve 300.000 ölüm olduğu gösterilmektedir. Sosyal mesafe, seyahat kısıtlamaları, imalatta düşüş ve eğitim tesislerinin kapatılması, bireysel gelir düşüşüne ve olağanüstü ekonomik gerilemeye yol açtı. Bununla birlikte, medikal sektörün arzı önemli ölçüde arttı. Yüz maskeleri, koruyucu üniformalar, medikal gözlükler ve havalandırma cihazları dünya genelinde en yoğun talep görmektedir. Çin'de Koronavirüsün kontrolsüz yayılmasına karşı alınan önlemlere ve karantinaya rağmen, batı Avrupa ülkeleri örneğin. İtalya, İspanya ve Fransa ne yeterince bilinçli ne de COVID-19'un sessiz izleri ve kısa sürede yayılmasıyla yüzleşmeye hazır. Hastaneler çok sayıda hasta için yeterli donanıma ve alana sahip değildi. Öte yandan Türkiye, dünya çapındaki ciddiyetten dolayı durumun farkında olarak, acil bir önlem olarak sosyal izolasyonu uyguladı ve bu da ölüm ve hastalık oranlarında belirgin bir düşüşe yol açtı. Vaka sayısında ve ölüm oranlarında kademeli bir düşüş olmasına rağmen, Türkiye ve Batı Avrupa'daki etkilenen ülkelerin hiçbirinde yaşam normal hızına geri dönmemiştir. Bu derlemede, Türkiye ve Batı Avrupa'nın farklı ekonomik sektörlerinde COVID-19 enfeksiyonunun etkisi ile ilgili bilgi sunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: COVID-19, Sosyo-ekonomi, Türkiye, Avrupa, Sosyal izolasyon

ABSTRACT

The data shows over 4 million infected cases and 300,000 deaths in more than 215 countries due to the pandemic disease of COVID-19. Social distancing, travel restrictions, fall in manufacturing, and closure of education facilities led to individual income decline and outstanding economic downturn. Nevertheless, the medical sector supply has significantly increased. Face masks, protective uniforms, medical glasses, and ventilation devices have been in its peak demand, globally. Despite the taken precautions and quarantine against uncontrolled spread of Coronavirus in China, the western European countries, e.g. Italy, Spain, France were neither aware enough nor ready to face the silent tread of COVID-19 and the spread of it in a short span of time. Hospitals did not have enough equipments and space for a vast number of patients. Turkey, on the other hand, being well aware of the situation due to the therebefore graveness worldwide, practiced social isolation as an immediate precaution step, which led to distinct decrease in mortality and morbidity rates. Although there is a gradual downfall in the number of cases and the mortality, the life is not back to its normal pace in any of the affected countries in western Europe. In this review, we scan the infection of COVID-19 in different economic sectors of the western Europe and Turkey.

Key Words: COVID-19, Socio-economic, Turkey, Europe, Social isolation

INTRODUCTION

Symptoms of severe acute respiratory infection like pneumonia or SARS-CoV-2 with unknown causes were clues for the new virus war family of the coronavirus (COVID-19) that wasn't previously been identified in human beings nor in any other creatures on earth. Despite informing the World Health Organization (WHO) by the China's Health Authorities about the outbreak of the disease in Wuhan, China in December of 2019, it quickly

propagated and became a globally persisting pandemic disease (Zhu et al., 2019; Iacu et al., 2020).

Moreover the (COVID-19) pandemic is found in more than 215 countries, statistical analyzation of our world data, showed 4 million cases of infection, and more than 300,000 thousand deaths. However; the latest situation is being updated by the World Health Organization (WHO) day by day (Lu et al., 2020; Anonymous 1, 2020; Zhou et al., 2020).

Leprosy, plague, smallpox, cholera, and malaria, which have affected many parts of the world in the

14th century, replaying their history again with (COVID-19) by increasing the rate of morbidity and mortality in a very large geographic area in a short time. The “Black Death”, was the most destructive pandemic disease the history had known. It killed 75-200 million of the world’s population after it provoked in China and from the center of Asia to be spread to most areas of Europe (EU) countries (Anonymous 1, 2020; William et al., 2020). Spanish flu was also a devastating historical disaster, which led to the death of 20-50 million people worldwide (William et al., 2020; Nicola et al., 2020; Iacu et al., 2020).

In Turkey and worldwide the variety of disease spread between the populations was determined by aging, individual health status, natural environment, undeveloped health care system (Carlos et al., 2020; Anonymous 2, 2020; Moreno et al., 2020). However, elders were the largest affected group of the population due to their chronic disease and weak immune systems (Anonymous 2, 2020; Anonymous 3, 2020).

The effect of coronavirus on Socio-economic

The economic scene of World War Two was labeled as the black swan pandemic with (COVID-19) in 2020 (Anonymous 3, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020). It influenced a direct effect on the economy in several different ways. Its fast spread in the time where the countries were not prepared medically nor financially to hold uncontrolled numerous cases of patients and deaths in their hospitals in the absence of treatment and medical equipment. As consequences direct precaution of quarantine and personal isolation, were practiced strictly as a temporary solution around the world (Herring and Sattenspiel, 2007; Nicola et al., 2020).

Border shutdowns, travel restrictions paralyzed the world economy into crisis and recession. Textile, shoes, home appliances, and many other unnecessary saving-life consuming products has decreased its rate of manufacturing temporary. In contrast, the huge demand for medical supplies has significantly increased until this time. Face mask, Productive forms, gloves, and hygiene were in urgent need as first precaution aids toward coronavirus prevention. EU countries like Italy, Spain, and France were in critical situations of face mask shortage and ventilator supply (Anonymous 4, 2020; Iacu et al., 2020). However, medical manufacturing and supply of face masks in Turkey were well controlled by the health minister

domestically and internationally. Even though China as one of the biggest manufacturing countries in Asia, it has ordered 200 million masks from Turkey in its critical time (Anonymous 4, 2020). Thus, Turkey has played a vital role in supplying the EU countries around like Italy, France etc., with masks and medical supplies (Anonymous 5, 2020; Anonymous 26, 2020; Iacu et al., 2020).

Food production has also been in great demand due to the panic of insufficient nutrition. Summarizing the economic impact on the production of raw material, manufacturing finishing products, and industrial services will be presented in this review.

Production of raw material

Agriculture

Social isolation, travel bans, closure of hotels and restaurants has critically dropped 20% of the global demand in verification and transportation of nutrition products. Panic-buying has increased £1bn worth of food in the UK (Anonymous 7, 2020). Moreover, the demand for food products online and excessive bookings was a result of late deliveries or not arrive at all (Anonymous 8, 2020). The UK government played a role in providing certain populations in need like school children of low-income families and elderly with the needed or inquired nutrition and medical supply (Anonymous 9; 2020; Anonymous 10, 2020; Anonymous 11, 2020; Iacu et al., 2020). However, in Turkey, the government health insurance was supporting employees with their salary while in the quarantine period without going to work daily, while supporting poor families financially and with food supply. All these government initiatives of help and support was to subject the society to obey the obligations of isolation and self-precaution (Anonymous 10, 2020; Anonymous 11, 2020; Anonymous 12, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020).

2.3. Petroleum & Oil

The Conflict between increasing the oil target like Russia or extraordinary discounts in crude production like Saudi Arabia caused the steepest crash in daily price seen in 30 years – On March 23rd, Brent Crude dropped 24% from \$ 34/barrel to stand at \$ 25.70 (Anonymous 8, 2020; Anonymous 13, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020).

2.4. Manufacturing finishing products and industrial services

COVID-19 has influenced manufacturing businesses in the United Kingdom by 80% declination in turn

over the next 2 quarters. Moreover, Factors like self-isolation, working from home was not a viable option for all people (Anonymous 13, 2020; 14; Nicola et al., 2020).

Quarantine and self-isolation have affected many companies economically by decreasing consumption and interest. Companies such as BASF in China had to slowdown their activities by predicted growth 27, 28. S&P 500 stock market. Dow Jones Industry in the US have recorded a dramatical fall in their ordinary sales as well (Anonymous 8, 2020; Anonymous 14, 2020; Meo et al., 2020; Nicola et al., 2020).

2.5. Health care and pharmaceutical supply

The limited knowledge of the fast spread COVID-19 has directly affected the healthcare supply by a shortage in delivery of ICU beds, ventilators, surgical masks, N95 face masks, and low medication (Anonymous 15, 2020). Drug production has also affected the normal infrastructure revenue. In the US most of the pharmaceutical ingredients are imported largely from India (26%), (18%) from the EU, and (13%) from China. Theses limitation in medical supply obstructs manufacturing with a loss in medication revenue (Anonymous 13, 2020; Anonymous 16, 2020; Meo et al., 2020).

In contrary searching for vaccines and the development of the vital therapeutic drug was dramatically encouraged by US companies like Nano Viricides, Novavax, Vir Biotechnology, and Johnson & Johnson (Anonymous 7, 2020). Manufacturing companies like Novavax and the University of Oxford have funded \$4.4m to develop viable solutions in fighting COVID-19 (Anonymous 14, 2020; Anonymous 15, 2020). While companies and organizations like Gates Foundation, Welcome, and Master Card have funded \$ 125 million toward finding new treatments for COVID-19 (Anonymous 16, 2020; Anonymous 17, 2020; Meo et al., 2020).

2.6. Tourism

Traveling was one of the biggest factors in the transmission of the disease and infection, now it is one of the hard-hit sectors. More than 50 million jobs in tourism and global traveling viewed to be at high risk (Anonymous 17, 2020; Anonymous 18, 2020).

In the first 3 months of 2019, Vietnam's revenue in tourism was nearly 1.45 million; however, it has dropped to 644,000 in January 2020, which is

predicting to be dropped into \$5 billion by the coming 6 months of 2020 (Anonymous 18, 2020; Anonymous 19, 2020). In the US most unnecessary traveling was banned, the border between US-Canada was closed and the restriction of giving visa services was all factors in disruption of the US tourism economy (Anonymous 19, 2020; Anonymous 20, 2020). The president of the EU commission has stopped all non-essential travel from outside as a result, travel suspensions were seen similarly across areas of Asia and Africa (Anonymous 20, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020; Meo et al., 2020).

In Italy tourism revenue fell 40-80%, while in France 30-40%. The International Air Transport association lost its revenue of passenger business between \$63-\$113 billion (Anonymous 21, 2020; Anonymous 22, 2020; Anonymous 23, 2020; Meo et al., 2020).

3. The prevalent of the disease in Turkey

Turkey was not different from the other parts of the world, the first case diagnosed with COVID-19 was found on 11 March 2020, and the first death was recorded on 17 March 2020. 150 death recorded in 20 days (Anonymous 23, 2020; Anonymous 24, 2020). As a result, the Ministry of Health has announced strict rules on controlling the spread of the disease by limited domestic movement and abroad trips, bans curfew especially for over the age of 65, and distance education system was practiced in advance. flights were stopped coming from and to China, Italy, South Korea, and Iraq. Borders with Iran was closed (Anonymous 24, 2020; Anonymous 25, 2020). These precautions helped the country to control the pandemic more strictly than EU. The number of infections and patients decreased dramatically after its peak period in April, where the number of infections recorded to reach 148067 and the number of deaths 40962. However, in May the number of infections and deaths have decreased significantly as shown in graphs below figure 1,

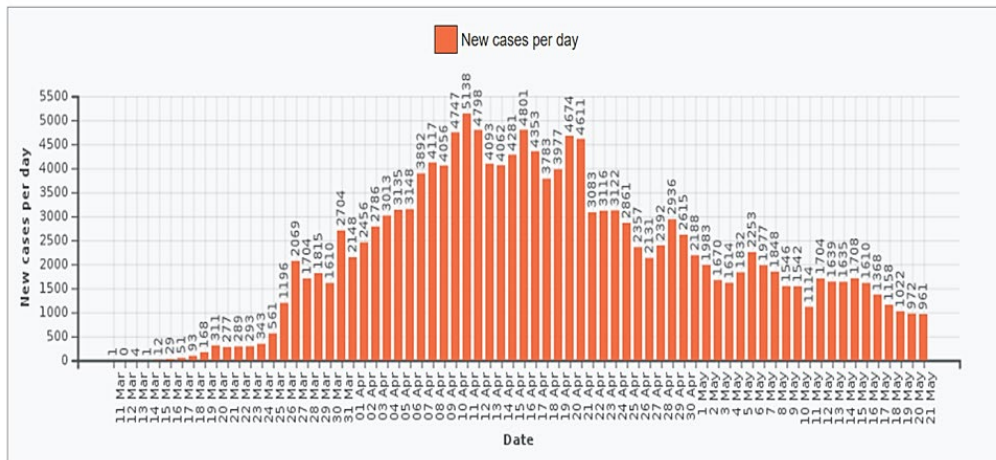


Figure 1: Number of cases was announced in the period of 11 Mart to 21 May.

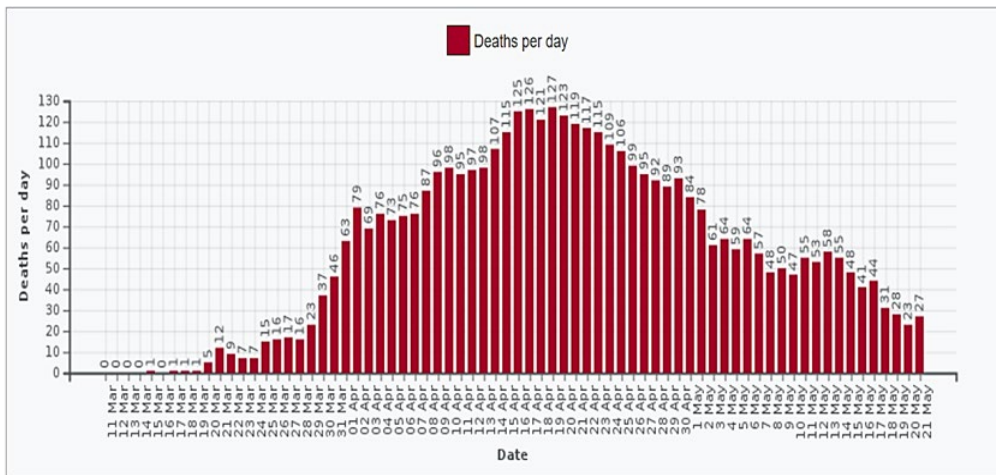


Figure 2: Number of deaths was announced in the period of 11 Mart to 21 May

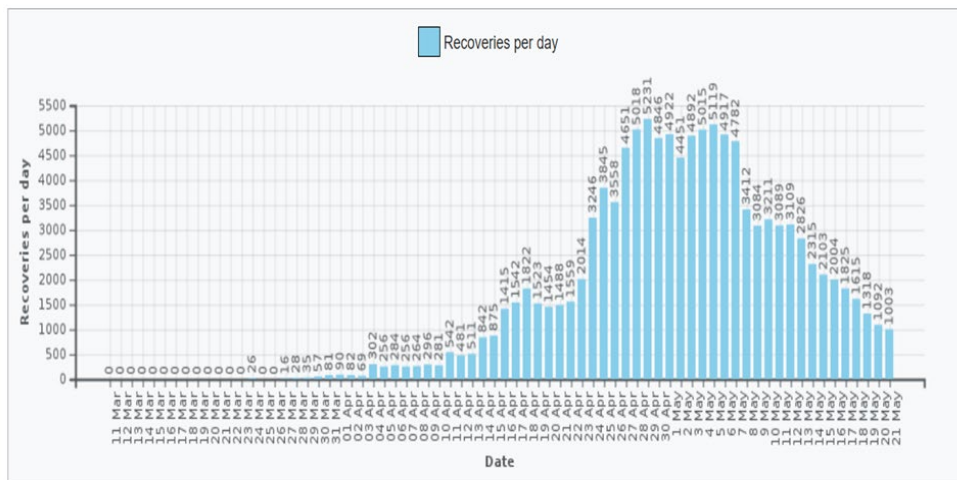


Figure 3: Number of recoveries was announced in the period of 11 Mart to 21 May

4. Turkey Response Economically

The pandemic of COVID-19 has effected the sector of the Turkish economy in many fields. Shortage in raw material input from EU and China was a result of working on stocks and cancelation of international textile and garment production, which reduced the ordinary stander of manufacturing to half. As a consequence most of these factories orientated to manufacturing the pandemic demand goods of masks and protective suits for financial revenue (Anonymous 24, 2020; Anonymous 25, 2020; Iacu et al., 2020).

5. European Response Economically

The unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic reunited areas in the Eurozone like UK and Switzerland to release a rescue package of €1.7tn in an attempt to avoid an economical drop (Anonymous 22, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020).

Besides of asset-purchase programmer of €750bn which, was announced by the European Central Bank (ECB) in stabilizing and strengthening the Euro. European Commission has collated a €25 bn to the cause and has agreed to more flexible policy rules on a budget to encourage public spending and the enhance of affected trade by their corresponding government (Anonymous 17, 2020; Anonymous 18, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020). While the state development bank (KfW) in Germany has provided €500bn in loans to aid companies affected by the pandemic crisis (Anonymous 23, 2020; Anonymous 24, 2020; Anderson et al., 2020). Italy, Spain, and France have promised € 200bn and € 345bn, respectively, to support trade and economic (Anonymous 23, 2020; Anonymous 24, 2020; Anonymous 26, 2020; Nicola et al., 2020; Iacu et al., 2020).

6. Conclusion

The silent emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has altered the worldwide social and economic status dramatically. Very strong public health custody encouraged business cooperation in supply of face masks, productive uniforms, drugs, and medical equipment provision. Tremendous amount of financial reinforcement or recovery packages have coincided with the paralyzed usual economic revenues of agriculture, petroleum, tourism, and manufacturing sectors. Worldwide governmental precautions regarding the isolation and social distancing led to economic downturn over the quarantine time.

The recovery period of this health crisis being unpredicted may lead to a recession in most of the western European countries as well as in the global economy. Despite the disease being originated in China, countries like Italy, Spain, and France have been devastated tremendously and consequently the income of their employees have decreased. Turkey getting the sickness later than the western European countries, had an opportunity to observing the taken precautions both in China and the western Europe. Therefore, the taken measures like an immediate social isolation and medical supply by the ministry of health led to a promising control over the epidemic, domestically. Yet, an economic downturn was inevitable. Although the life has never returned back to its normal routine, gradual recovery by government restrictions is in sight.

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