

Research Article

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**A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY
PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA**
GEÇİCİ KORUMA ALTINDAKİ SURIYELİLER ÜZERİNE DEMOGRAFİK
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ABSTRACT

The civil war that started in 2011 in Syria caused a wave of emigration from this country to its neighbors. After the increase in violence and human rights violations in Syria, the intensity of immigration to Turkey has gradually increased. Since the beginning of 2021, the number of Syrians who took refuge in Turkey from Syria has been around 3.6 million. Although a small portion of the Syrians continue their lives in temporary accommodation centers in the border provinces, a large portion of them reside in major city centers. Despite the efforts, a large-scale migration has led to a variety of consequences. At this point, the two prominent topics are employment and social assistance. In this study, the socio-demographic characteristics, employment status and social assistance status of Syrians under temporary protection residing in Ankara were examined. A survey was carried out with the participation of 983 Syrian immigrants who were reached through a non-governmental organization. The research data were analyzed through the SPSS 22.0 statistical program. The findings obtained were presented and some suggestions were made in this regard.

Key Words: Migration, Employment, Social Assistance.

ÖZET

Suriye'de 2011'de başlayan iç savaş beraberinde bu ülkeden komşularına doğru bir göç dalgasına neden olmuştur. Şiddet ve insan hakları ihlallerinde yaşanan artış sonrası göç yoğunluğu giderek artmıştır. 2020 yılı itibari ile Suriye'den Türkiye'ye sığınan Suriyeli sayısı 3,6 milyona ulaşmıştır. Suriyelilerin küçük bir kısmı sınır illerindeki geçici barınma merkezlerinde yaşamlarını sürdürmesine karşın, çok büyük bir bölümü tüm Türkiye'de kent merkezlerine yayılmış durumdadır. Suriyeli bireylere yönelik olarak Türkiye tarafından yapılan çok önemli çalışmalara karşın, bu kadar büyük ölçekli bir göç hareketi doğal olarak çeşitli sıkıntılara neden olmuştur. Bu noktada öne çıkan iki konu başlığı istihdam ile sosyal yardımlardır. Bu çalışmada, Ankara'da ikamet eden geçici koruma altındaki 983 Suriyeli bireyin sosyo-demografik özellikleri, istihdam durumları ve sosyal yardım durumları anket yöntemi ile ele alınmıştır. Araştırma verileri SPSS 22.0 istatistik programı aracılığıyla analiz edilerek elde edilen bulgular ortaya koyulmuş ve bu doğrultuda bazı önerilerde bulunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Göç, İstihdam, Sosyal Yardım.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

INTRODUCTION

Considering the human mobility that has existed since the beginning of human history, the most intense period after World War II is experienced today. Our country Turkey is one of the few countries most affected by this migration as a result of its geographical location and adopting policies to assist individuals and groups affected by the crises in the region. Turkey, which is in the position of "transit country" on migration routes, has also become a center of attraction for international migration and has become a target country in migration mobility (Ünsal, 2019).

Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives and were injured in Syria due to the conflicts that have been going on since March 2011, and millions of Syrians had to leave their homelands. According to the data of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, during the civil war that has been going on for ten years now, 6.1 million of 22 million Syrians had to relocate within the country and 6.6 million had to leave the country. Syrians, who had to leave their country, migrated to neighboring countries, especially Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon (UNHCR, 2018).

Despite the fact that the world remained insensitive to the Syrian crisis, Turkey started and kept implementing an "open door policy" for the Syrians who left their countries due to the war, gave them the legal status of "Temporary Protection". It has been considered as a humanitarian responsibility to meet basic needs and enjoy human rights. Currently, individuals who are accepted under temporary protection status are provided by Turkey with opportunities in various fields such as health, education, social assistance and employment (Yıldız & Yıldız, 2017).

Besides, it is of great importance to know what the economic needs of immigrants living in our country are, how and to what extent they are met, the problems and disadvantages they encounter in their way of reaching their livelihoods (Uslu Ak, 2021: 248). Therefore, with the two prominent topics such as employment and social assistance, this study is an attempt to discuss the socio-demographic characteristics, employment status and social assistance status of Syrians under temporary protection residing in Ankara.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROFILE OF SYRIANS IN TURKEY

The first group from Syria to Turkey entered on April 29, 2011 (Kaygısız, 2017: 3). According to the data of the Directorate General of Migration Management, the number of Syrians in our country under temporary protection as of September 10, 2020 is 3,616,574. (DGMM, 2020a). Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection by gender and age is shown in Table

Table 1. Distribution of Syrians Under Temporary Protection by Gender and Age

Age	Male	Female	Total	Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	255.523	118.897	502.232	40-44	84.631	75.667	160.298
5-9	282.449	259.388	541.857	45-49	60.397	57.169	117.566
10-14	203.343	184.339	387.582	50-54	49.788	48.816	98.604
15-18	141.894	118.364	260.258	55-59	37.926	37.966	75.892
19-24	286.120	212.449	498.569	60-64	28.412	29.228	57.640
25-29	202.697	147.743	350.440	65-69	20.318	20.724	41.024
30-34	158.997	115.841	274.838	70-74	7.726	8.698	16.424
35-39	118.897	96.761	215.658	75+	7.703	9.971	17.674

Source: DGMM (2020a)

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

As can be seen from the data in Table 1, 1,946,741 of the Syrian population are men and 1,669,833 are women. Looking at the distribution by age, it is seen that the majority of Syrians are in the 0-40 age range. The number of babies in the 0-4 age group among Syrians, most of whom were born in our country, is 502,232 as of September 10, 2020.

60,169 of the Syrians stay in 7 temporary accommodation centers in 5 provinces, 1 in Adana, 1 in Kilis, 1 in Kahramanmaraş, 3 in Hatay and 1 in Osmaniye. The total number of Syrians under temporary protection outside these centers is 3,556,566, and when we look at the distribution by provinces, Istanbul has the highest number of Syrians with 509,048 people. There are 97,952 Syrians under temporary protection in Ankara, which was examined within the scope of this research, and this figure is equal to 5.74% of the population of the province (DGMM, 2020a). The distribution of Syrians under temporary protection in 10 provinces with the highest number of Syrians is demonstrated in Figure 1.

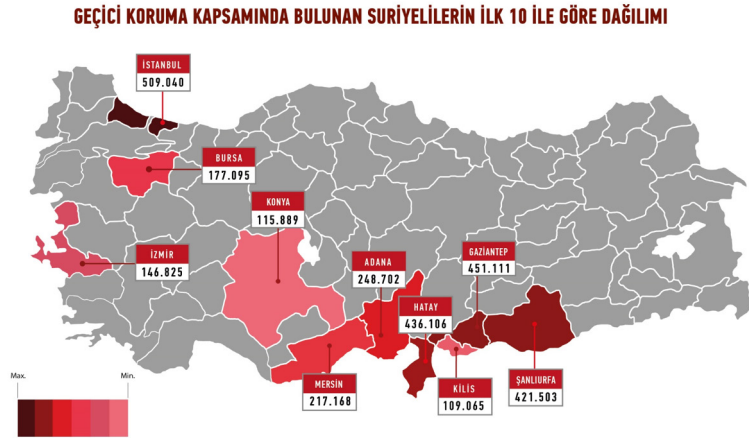


Figure 1. Distribution of Syrians Under Temporary Protection in the Top 10 Provinces

Source: DGMM (2020a)

It is seen that there is very limited information about the general education status of Syrians under temporary protection status in Turkey. In the study titled "First Stage Needs Analysis for Syrians under Temporary Protection Status in Turkey for the Period 2016-2018" published by the Ministry of Development within the framework of the Turkey-EU Refugee Agreement in 2016, it has been stated that the educational status of Syrians is at a much lower level than the average in Turkey, and approximately half of the Syrians who come to our country have never been to school or are not literate (Erdogan, 2019).

The number of Syrian children and youth in the 5-17 age group, which is also the compulsory school age, is increasing every year. According to the data of the Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Lifelong Learning, the number of Syrians at school age was 756,000, which corresponds to 49.76% of the total Syrian population in the 2014-2015 academic year, while the number increased to 1,082,172 which is the 29.40% of Syrians in the 2019-2020 period. Similarly, the rate of Syrians' access to education is increasing every year. While this figure was 30.42% in the 2014-2015 academic year, it increased to 62.29% in the 2019-2020 period (MoNE DGLL, 2020).

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Turkish language learning is also regarded as an important topic for Syrians under temporary protection. In addition to formal education activities for Syrians by the Ministry of National Education, courses for teaching Turkish are organized within the Public Education Centers at provincial and district levels. In the period of 2014-2019, 302,096 Syrians attended these courses, in which the modules of "Teaching Turkish to Foreigners", created by the Ministry by taking different age groups into account, were used (MoNE DGLL, 2020).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF SYRIANS IN TURKEY

Syrians under temporary protection status in Turkey were not granted the right to work legally until January 2016, and all employees worked informally during this period (Kaygisiz, 2017: 5).

The right to work for the Syrian individuals under temporary protection status is regulated through the "Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners Provided Temporary Protection", which entered into force in 2016. With the aforementioned regulation, foreigners in this status are required to obtain a work permit in order to be employed. According to the regulation, foreigners can apply for a work permit after a period of 6 months upon the temporary protection registration is granted. Work permit applications are made by employers via e-government system but individuals who work independently are also given the opportunity to apply on their own behalf. In addition, there is a work permit exemption for foreigners with this status who will work in seasonal agriculture or animal husbandry (Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners Under Temporary Protection, 2016).

The provinces where the Syrian individual are registered are taken as basis for granting the right to apply for work permits. In addition, the employment quota application has been implemented in evaluating the work permit applications of individuals under temporary protection status. In accordance with the Regulation, the employment quota of foreigners with this status is carried out within the following framework (Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection, 2016):

- The number of foreigners under temporary protection status to work in the workplace is less than 10% of the number of Turkish employees,
- If the total number of employees in the workplace is less than 10, employing at most 1 individual under temporary protection status,
- Not applying an employment quota if it is documented that no Turkish citizens with similar qualifications can be found in the 4 weeks prior to the permit application.

Based on the data of TurkStat 2017 Household Labor Force Survey, the International Labor Organization (ILO) published a report titled "Syrians in the Turkish Labor Market". According to the report, 930,000 of around 2,100,000 Syrians of working age in Turkey participate in the workforce, and the total employment rate of Syrians is approximately 40%. This figure corresponds to 2.8% of the working population in Turkey. With 79.4%, the vast majority of Syrian male individuals participate in the labor force. According to the report, 75% of Syrians work for more than 45 hours per week, which is the legal working period.

When the distributions according to the sectors worked are examined, it is seen that the textile sector comes first (ILO, 2017). The sector breakdown of Syrians is as follows:

Table 2. Sector Breakdown of Syrians in Turkey

Textile	31,1%
Accommodation	17,7%
Production	17,1%
Construction	13,2%
Agriculture	7,8%
Other	13,1%

Kaynak: ILO (2017)

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

There are generally three basic categories of employment of Syrians under temporary protection. The first of these is that Syrians establish independent companies and become employers. Employees of these businesses, which differ according to the development level of the province, are generally Syrians within the framework of the labor law. In the second category, it is observed that an independent workplace is opened to work as tradesmen and craftsmen and they operate in businesses such as restaurants, barbershops and jewelers. Another category is working with an employer, especially in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and trade as stated above (Turkish Medical Association, 2016).

Syrians face various problems in participation of work life, and it is possible to list these problems as follows (Kaygısız, 2017; Gürsoy & Aksoy, 2019):

- Social exclusion and discrimination,
- Problems regarding working conditions,
- Financial problems,
- Discontinuity and uncertainty,
- Certification of language proficiency and other competencies in finding a job,
- Working in jobs that do not match their competence level and educational background,
- Difficulties in obtaining a work permit,
- Local workforce regarding Syrians as rivals in relevant sectors.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PRACTICES FOR SYRIANS

Social assistance for Syrians under temporary protection within the scope of the Syrian immigration to Turkey is an important tool in terms of social policy. The social assistance practices are mainly carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, Turkish Red Crescent and municipalities. In addition, various national non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations stand out as prominent stakeholders in social assistance practices.

The procedure and principles regarding how to implement social assistance applications are addressed in Article 30 of the Temporary Protection Regulation, titled "Social Assistance and Services". Relevant to the article, foreigners who are in need and under temporary protection can benefit from social assistance in accordance with the procedures and principles determined by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Incentive Fund Board specified in the Social Assistance and Solidarity Encouragement Law No. 3294. Pursuant to the same article, the access to social services of the Syrians in need of social assistance is regulated according to the procedures and principles determined by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (Temporary Protection Regulation, 2014).

Within the scope of temporary protection, Syrians are supported with AFAD Card (provided by Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) and Red Crescent Card (provided by Turkish Red Crescent). With the AFAD Card given to the heads of families living in the temporary accommodation centers, 100 TL per person is assisted. The Red Crescent Card, on the other hand, was implemented in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent, UN World Food Program and Halkbank, and a cash aid application of 50 TL for those staying in the accommodation centers and 100 TL for those who reside in provinces (Syrians in Turkey, 2018).

Another social assistance program for Syrians under temporary protection is the Social Cohesion Assistance Program funded by the European Union and carried out jointly by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Associations (IFRC), the Turkish Red Crescent and the Ministry of Family and Social Services. Through the program, people in need and living outside of the temporary accommodation centers receive cash assistance in order to meet their needs such as food, clothing and shelter. As a result of the assessment of the vulnerability, cash assistance is made every month, at the amount of 120 TL, for each person in the family via the Red Crescent Card (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

In this study, it is aimed to examine the socio-demographic characteristics and employment status of Syrians under temporary protection residing in Ankara and to analyze the situation and needs for this group in the context of social work.

Research Model

This study, which aims to reveal the demographic characteristics of Syrian individuals who want to work, is a research designed in the descriptive survey model, which is one of the quantitative research methods. Scanning models are a research model that helps to describe a past or present situation as it is (Karasar, 1999). This model allows to reveal the opinions, attitudes, behaviors and tendencies of the people through the information obtained by asking various questions from a wide audience (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2006). In this study, the descriptive scanning model has been used in order to reveal the profiles of Syrian adult individuals.

Universe and Sample

The universe of this research consists of adult women and men under Temporary Protection who immigrated from Syria to Turkey, seeking work and / or currently work in Ankara. Since reaching all the people in the universe will cause difficulties both economically and in terms of time, a sample has been chosen. For this, first of all, non-governmental organizations established by Syrians working in the context of immigration were contacted. Individuals who agreed to participate in the study voluntarily were referred by them. The snowball sampling technique was used in the selection of the people in the sample. Volunteer Syrian individuals were included in the sample. The sample of the research consisted of 983 Syrians with temporary protection status residing in Ankara. Demographic and personal information of these people is presented in the findings section.

Data Collection Tool

In order to reveal the demographic characteristics of Syrian individuals, "demographic information form for Syrian individuals under temporary protection status" was prepared and used by the author. This information sheet contained a total of 25 questions. These questions were mainly about participants' employment status, marital status, gender, age, educational background, professional experience in Syria, professional experience in Turkey, Turkish language proficiency, disability status and disability type if disabled, income levels, monthly incomes, monthly social assistance, the number of dependents, and other additional information.

Data Collection and Analysis Process

The data were collected between March- May 2020 using the information form. Each participant was contacted with the

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

support of an interpreter and the information form was applied face to face. In the interviews, informed consent to participate in the research was obtained from the participants and it was guaranteed that their personal information would only be used within the scope of the research and their private data would not be shared with third parties.

The collected data were transferred to the Ms Excel file and this data file was examined and cleaned for incomplete, incorrect, and repeated answers. Then, the data set was transferred to the SPSS 22 program and the analysis were made with the help of this program. Demographic and personal characteristics of the participants were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques such as frequency and percentage. The findings obtained are presented in the following section.

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristics of Syrian Individuals

The data set contains demographic and personal data of 983 Syrian nationals. While 926 (94.2%) of the participants of the study agreed to participate in the research, 57 (5.8%) of them did not agree to participate in the research. Participants' personal information such as gender, age, marital status, educational status and student status are given in Table 1.

Necessary regulations can be made in universities for these two concepts which are important for students. For example, it may be suggested to expand the social spaces within the university, to create platforms where students can

Demographic Information	f	%
<i>Gender</i>	760	77,3
Male	223	22,7
Female		
<i>Age</i>	445	45,3
18 – 30	204	20,8
31 – 40	141	14,3
41 – 50	152	15,5
51 – 60	41	4,2
above 61		
<i>Marital Status</i>	636	64,7
Married	347	35,3
Unmarried		
<i>Graduation level</i>	74	7,5
Primary School	531	54
Middle School	215	21,9
High School	61	6,2
University(2 years)	98	10
University(4 years)	4	0,4
Graduate School		
<i>School Enrollment</i>	23	2,3
ongoing	960	97,7
completed/ dropped		

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Descriptive findings regarding gender, age, marital status, educational status and student status Syrian individuals participating in the research are as follows:

Considering the personal and demographic characteristics of the participants, in terms of gender; 760 people (77.3%) are women and 223 people (22.7%) are men. In terms of age, 445 people (45.3%) 18 - 30 years old, 204 people (20.8%) 31 - 40 years old, 141 people (14.3%) 41 - 50 years old, 152 people (15.5%) 51 - 60 years old and the remaining 41 people are 61 years and over. In terms of marital status, 636 people (35.3%) are married while 347 people (64.7%) are not. In terms of educational status, 74 participants (7.5%) were graduates of primary school, 531 (54%) secondary school, 215 (21.9%) high school, 61 (6.2%) undergraduate (2-year program), 98 (10%) undergraduate (4-year programs) and 4 people (0.4%) have a graduate education level. 23 participants are still students, while the remaining 960 people are not students.

Table 2. Distribution of age and educational status by gender

Age		Male (n=760)		Female (n=223)	
		f	%	f	%
Age	18 - 30	350	46,1	95	42,6
	31 - 40	156	20,5	48	21,5
	41 - 50	97	12,8	44	19,7
	51 - 60	118	15,5	34	15,2
	Above 61	39	5,1	20	0,9
Educational Status	Primary School	74	9,7	-	-
	Middle School	405	53,3	126	56,5
	High School	162	21,3	53	23,8
	Undergraduate(2years)	45	5,9	16	7,2
	Undergraduate(4years)	71	9,3	27	12,1
	Graduate School	3	0,4	1	0,4

The distribution of the age and education status of the individuals participating in the study according to their gender is given in Table 2. 350 (46.1%) of the men were in the 18-30 age group, 156 (20.5%) in the 31-40 age group, 97 (12.8%) in the 41-50 age group, 118 (15.5%) are between 51-60 years old and 39 (5.1%) are 61 years old and over. 95 (42.6%) of the women were in the 18-30 age group, 48 (21.5%) in the 31-40 age group, 44 (19.7%) in the 41-50 age group, 34 (15.2%) are between 51-60 years old and 20 (0.9%) are 61 years old and above.

When the distribution of educational status by gender is taken into consideration, 74 (9.7%) of the male participants were found to be primary school graduates, 405 (53.3%) were secondary school graduates, 162 (21.3%) high school graduates, 45 (5.9%) undergraduate 2- year program graduates, 71 (9.3%) undergraduate 4-year program graduates and 3 (0.4%) have graduate degrees. 126 (56.5%) of the women were graduates of secondary school, 53 (23.8%) of them were graduates of high school, 16 (7.2%) undergraduate 2- year program graduates, 27 (12.1%) undergraduate 4- year program graduates and 1 (0.4%) have master's / doctoral degree.

The areas of expertise of Syrian individuals with undergraduate degrees vary. The distribution of these fields according to departments is given in Table 3. Some departments were specified by only one participant and the ones with a frequency of 1 were not shown in the table.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Table 3. Undergraduate programs of the Syrian participants

Undergraduate programs	f
Undergraduate (4-year programs)	
<i>Law</i>	12
Civil Engineering	9
English Language Teaching	3
Primary School Teaching	3
Electrical Engineering	3
Computer Engineering	2
English Literature	2
Mechanical Engineering	2
Mechanics Engineering	2
Agricultural Engineering	2
Psychology	2
Architecture	2
Mathematics Teaching	2
Dentistry	2
Undergraduate (2-year programs)	
Trading	4
Electronics	3
Mechanics	2
Tourism	2
Economy	2
Nursery	2
Anesthesiology	2

* The most common undergraduate fields are given in this table.

Considering the 4- year undergraduate programs areas of the participants, the departments of the participants are as follows: 12 law graduates, 9 civil engineering graduates, 3 English language teaching graduates, 3 classroom teachers, 3 electrical engineering graduates, 2 computer engineering graduates, 2 electronic engineering graduates, 2 people English literature graduates, 2 mechanical engineering graduates, 2 mechanics, 2 agricultural engineering, 2 psychology, 2 architecture, 2 math teacher and 2 dentistry graduates. As for the 2- year undergraduate programs of the participants, 4 people have trade, 3 people have electricity, 2 people have mechanics, 2 people have tourism, 2 people have economics, 2 people have nursing and 2 people have diplomas in anesthesiology departments.

Professional Experiences of the Participants in Syria

When the professional experiences of the participants before their asylum in Turkey are examined, it is seen that many people have more than one professional experience in their country. Considering the first professional experiences of the participants in their own countries, 171 different types of professions emerged. While 764 of the participants have only one professional experience in their own country, 112 of them have a second or more professional experience and 107 are

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

unemployed or have not worked at all. Descriptive statistical findings regarding the first professional experiences of all participants are given in Table 4. Those who express a profession 3 or less are considered in the "other" group.

Table 4. Professional experiences of the participants in Syria

Professional Experience	f	%
<i>Student (Undergraduate/ High School)</i>	185	18,8
<i>Unemployed</i>	107	10,9
<i>Driver (taxi, truck etc.)</i>	89	9,1
<i>Teacher (English, Math, Arabi etc.)</i>	55	5,6
<i>Worker (agriculture, construction, textile, etc.)</i>	50	5,1
<i>Tailor</i>	39	4
<i>Furniture maker</i>	30	3
<i>Electrician (home, construction, workplace, etc.)</i>	25	2,5
<i>Civil Servant</i>	25	2,5
<i>Painter (house, construction, wall, etc.)</i>	23	2,3
<i>Housewife</i>	20	2
<i>Hairdresser / Barber</i>	19	1,9
<i>Business owner (factory, store, etc.)</i>	18	1,8
<i>Repairman (phone, computer, etc.)</i>	18	1,8
<i>Engineer (electrical, construction, machinery, etc.)</i>	14	1,4
<i>Auto repairer (engine, bodywork, spare parts, etc.)</i>	10	1
<i>Sales consultant</i>	9	0,9
<i>Carpenter</i>	8	0,8
<i>Dessert maker</i>	8	0,8
<i>Pharmacist</i>	6	0,6
<i>Machinist</i>	6	0,6
<i>Lawyer</i>	5	0,5
<i>Grocer</i>	5	0,5
<i>Accountant</i>	5	0,5
<i>Trader</i>	5	0,5
<i>Manufacturer (rope, bag, chandelier, etc.)</i>	5	0,5
<i>Welder</i>	4	0,4
<i>Tiremaker</i>	4	0,4
<i>Accountant</i>	4	0,4
<i>Textile supplier</i>	4	0,4
<i>Butcher</i>	4	0,4
<i>Other (n <4 for each profession)</i>	174	17,5

* Those who express a profession 3 or less are considered in the "other" group.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Professional Experience of the Participants in Turkey

It is seen that some of the participants continue their professions after migrating Turkey, some of them are unemployed and some of them have professional experience in different business lines. Considering the first professional experiences of the participants in Turkey, it was concluded that they worked in 146 different occupational areas. While 516 of the participants have only one professional experience in Turkey, 337 of them have second or more professional experience and 130 of them are unemployed. Descriptive statistical findings regarding the first professional experiences of all participants are given in Table 5.

Table 5. Professional experiences of the participants in Turkey

Professional experiences	f	%
Worker (agriculture, construction, textile, furniture, etc.)	217	22,1
Unemployed / Unemployed	130	13,2
Furniture maker	96	9,8
Tailor	59	6
Driver (taxi, truck, etc.)	53	5,4
Hairdresser / Barber	26	2,6
Teacher (English, Mathematics, Arabic etc.)	22	2,2
Translator (Turkish - Arabic, Arabic - English.)	19	1,9
Electrician	17	1,7
Painter (house, construction, wall, etc.)	16	1,6
Welder	16	1,6
Sales Consultant	14	1,4
Auto repairer (engine, bodywork, spare parts, etc.)	13	1,3
Repairman (phone, computer, etc.)	12	1,2
Manufacturing (pipes, bags, etc.)	11	1,1
Housewife	10	1
Assistant cook	9	0,9
Guard	9	0,9
Carpenter	9	0,9
Chef/cook	8	0,8
Dishwasher	8	0,8
Blacksmith	8	0,8
Engineer	8	0,8
Dessert maker	8	0,8
Plumber (sanitary, natural gas, etc.)	8	0,8
Officer	6	0,6
Accountant	6	0,6
Gardener	5	0,5
Student	5	0,5
Computer work	4	0,4
Tiremaker	4	0,4
Grocery worker	4	0,4
Other (n <4 for each profession)	148	14,7

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

* Those who express a profession 3 or less are considered in the "other" group.

Language Proficiency

All of the participants have stated that they have different levels of Turkish language proficiency. 2 people have English language proficiency in addition to Turkish. When the Turkish language proficiency levels of the participants are examined, it is concluded that 493 people (50.2%) have low level, 291 people (29.6%) have medium level and 199 people (20.2%) have good level Turkish language proficiency. Information on this issue was collected based on the statements of the participants.

Disability Status

Based on the statements of the participants, the reported disabilities, disorders and illnesses are as follows; 22 people (2.2%) physical (orthopedic along with the problems in arm, leg, hand, etc.), 3 people (0.3%) vision, 3 people (0.3%) hearing, 3 people (0.3%) mental disability, 1 person (0.1%) epilepsy, 1 person (0.1%) speech and 1 person (0.1%) nervous disorders. 34 of the participants (3.5%) reported that they had a physical disability.

Household Status of the Participants in Ankara

The number of individuals in the household where the participants live varies. Table 6 shows the distribution of the number of individuals in their household. 431 (43.8%) of Syrian individuals are in a 1-3-person household, 416 (42.3%) in a 4-6-person household, 110 (11.2%) in a 7-9-person household, 18 people (1.8%) live in a household of 10 or more. 8 people (0.8%) did not state how many people they live with in their households.

Table 6. Number of individuals living in the household

The Number of Persons in the Household	f	%
1-3	431	43,8
4-6	416	42,3
7-9	110	11,2
10 and above	18	1,8
Not specified	8	0,8

Looking at the income distribution of the participants, 126 people (12.8%) stated that they had an average monthly income of 1000 TL or less. Besides, 190 people (19.3%) had income between 1001 TL - 2000 TL, and 9 people (0.9%) with the income of 2001 TL - 3000 TL. And only one person reported his/her income as 3001 TL and above. 657 people did not want to reveal their income. Table 7 includes the distribution of the monthly income of the participants. Table 7 includes the distribution of the monthly income of the participants.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Table 7. Household monthly income

Income	f	%
1000TL and below	12 6	12,8
1001TL - 2000TL	19 0	19,3
2001TL - 3000TL	9	0,9
3001TL and above	1	0,1
Not specified	65,7	66,8

196 of the participants (19.9%) stated that they had social assistance from Turkish Red Crescent (the card system mentioned above), while the remaining 787 (80.1%) chose not to answer the question about Turkish Red Crescent card. The distribution of the monthly card income of the participants is given in the Table 8. Monthly card income of 38 people (3.9%) is 500 TL and below, 88 people (9%) card income is between 501 TL - 1000 TL, 11 people (1.1%) card income is 1001 TL and above. The number of participants who stated that they had a card income but did not want to mention the amount they received was 59 (5.9%).

Table 8. Social Assistance from Turkish Red Crescent

Social Assistance from Turkish Red Crescent	Income	f	%
Yes	500TL and below	38	3.9
	501TL- 1000TL	88	9.0
	1001TL and above	11	1.1
No	Not specified	59	5.9
		787	801

Among the participants, the number of male individuals who have a spouse was recorded as 87 (8.9%), while the number of male individuals who do not have a spouse was 232 (23.6%). The number of female individuals with a spouse is 37 (3.8%) and the number of women who do not have a spouse is 279 (28.4%). The marital status of the participants is given in Table 9. the number of women who do not have a spouse is 279 (28.4%). The marital status of the participants is given in Table 9.

Table 9. Marital Status

	Marital Status	f	%
Male	Yes	87	8,9
	No	232	23,6
	Not Specified	664	67,5
Female	Yes	37	3,8
	No	279	28,4
	Not Specified	667	67,9

In the period of the data collection, 7 of the women stated that they were pregnant and 216 of them were not pregnant.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

Conclusion

It is important to carry out integrative and informative social cohesion activities with immigrants, to organize harmonization activities that establish work peace in the labor market, and to expand social service practices with the society, in order to make the results of immigrant employment positive (Uslu Ak, 2021:251). Moreover, considering that the phenomenon of immigration is among the main causes of urban unemployment, social policies that emphasize the adaptation and integration process of immigrants to the cities such as Ankara should be further regulated.

This study is a descriptive study conducted with 983 Syrian individuals in order to reveal the demographic profiles of Syrian individuals in Turkey, Ankara. Most of the participants in the study are male (n = 760, 77.3%), 18-30 years old (n = 445, 45.3%), married (n = 636, 64.7%) and have a secondary school education level (n = 531, 54%). Approximately one-sixth of the respondents have undergraduate and postgraduate education level. Considering the areas of expertise of these individuals, the most common areas are law and civil engineering in terms of 4-year programs of undergraduate departments and trade in terms of 2-year programs of undergraduate departments. In a report prepared to reveal the profiles of Syrian individuals, it was stated that Syrians are below the general education average in Turkey, almost half of them are illiterate or do not attend school at all (Erdoğan, 2019).

When the professional experiences of the participants in Syria are examined, the most common professions are recorded as driving, teaching and unskilled working. 107 of the participants (10.9%) did not work at all while in Syria. When looking at the professional experiences in Turkey, the most common professional experience is unskilled working (n = 217, 22.1%). Agriculture, construction, textile, furniture- making and physical work are among the most common sectors for the participants.

The number of unemployed participants in Turkey is higher than the number of unemployed while in Syria. This means that unemployment has increased along with migration and some participants cannot find a job. While in Syria, most of the people who worked as teachers, civil servants, worked in their own workplaces and worked in more qualified jobs could not transfer their experiences to the environments they lived after they came to Turkey. Most of these people have worked as workers in less qualified jobs and in different fields (agriculture, construction, textile, etc.) in Turkey.

When the general professional experiences of the participants are evaluated, it is seen that individuals working in more qualified jobs and in their own jobs in Syria started to work in less qualified jobs after immigrating to Turkey. After immigration, the number of unemployed has increased, the number of qualified jobs has decreased considerably, and the number of students has decreased from 185 to 5. This situation can be interpreted as that some of the participants were unable to find a job, started working instead of continuing their education in order for livelihood, and many Syrian individuals preferred to do any job to earn money despite their own professional experience.

All of the participants speak Turkish; however, language proficiency levels differ. Half of the participants have low Turkish language proficiency, while the rest have medium and high language proficiency. 34 of the participants have disabilities and

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

the most common type of disability is physical disability. When households and income are examined, most of the participants live in households of 1-3 people and 4-6 people. The monthly income level of the participants is even below the minimum wage and is between 1001 TL - 2000 TL. Approximately one fifth of the participants have social assistance from Turkish Red Crescent and this income of the majority is between 501 TL - 1000 TL.

The findings of various studies are in parallel with the findings obtained in this study. After immigration, Syrians adapted to the environments they lived in, began to engage in economic activities and joined Turkish business life (Erdoğan, 2019). The participation of Syrian individuals in the Turkish labor market has taken place in different ways. Some individuals continue their trades and craftsmanship by establishing their own companies or opening their own workplaces (Korkmaz, 2018). Some individuals have taken their place in the labor market depending on an employer, especially in the agriculture, construction, trade and industry sectors (Turkish Medical Association, 2016). In a study conducted with migrants in Turkey, it was revealed that the majority of Syrians worked in commercial services, agriculture, skilled craft services and construction sectors before immigration, but those who joined the Turkish labor market after migration generally worked in unskilled jobs, textile and construction sectors (Turkish Red Crescent and World Food Program, 2019). In another study conducted with refugees, it was reported that a quarter of the Syrians work in a regular job, the rest do not work or work occasionally / daily, and the majority work as unskilled workers (İşcan & Çakır, 2019).

Considering the current situation that Syrian individuals will not to return to their own countries due to the lack of political stability and peace in Syria, it is necessary to develop the necessary legislation and policies to ensure the social cohesion of Syrian individuals in Turkey and their effective and efficient participation in the labor market. In addition, considering the age characteristics and professional experiences of Syrian individuals, it is important to fulfill these demands of those who want to continue their education and to develop policies and practices that enable those who want to work to be employed in working conditions that are worthy of human dignity, taking into account the professional experience characteristics in their country of origin.

A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY ON SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION: THE CASE OF ANKARA

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