

## EXAMINING THE EFFICIENCY OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION DURING A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD

### ULUSAL VE ULUSLARARASI DEMİRYOLU YÜK TAŞIMACILIĞI ETKİNLİĞİNİN BELİRLİ BİR ZAMAN DİLİMİNDE İNCELENMESİ

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#### ÖZET

Bu çalışmanın amacı, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Devlet Demiryolları (TCDD) işletmesinin 2010-2019 yılları arasındaki yurtiçi ve uluslararası yük taşımacılığındaki etkinlik değerlerini belirlemektir. Ayrıca, işletmenin hangi yıllarda daha etkin çalıştığını belirleyerek, bu bilgileri işlemeye ve ilgili kuruluşlara referans yılları ve öneriler sunmaya yönelik bir analiz gerçekleştirmektedir. Demiryolu yatırım maliyetlerinin çok yüksek olması sebebiyle, kaynakların verimli kullanılması büyük önem taşımaktadır. Bu çalışma, demiryolu kaynaklarının verimli kullanılmasına yol göstermesi açısından önem arz etmektedir. Ayrıca, bu çalışmada belirli bir zaman dilimindeki farklı girdi ve çıktı değişkenlerinin kullanılması, hem ulusal hem de uluslararası verilerin kullanılması sebebiyle diğer bilimsel çalışmalardan farklılık göstermektedir. Etkinlik ölçümünde, literatürdeki çalışmalar dikkate alınarak çıktı (Ton-km) ve girdi (taşınan yük miktarı, ana hat uzunluğu ve yük vagonu sayısı) değişkenleri kullanılmıştır. Araştırmada kullanılan veriler, TCDD'nin faaliyet raporları ile Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu'ndan elde edilmiştir. Araştırma verilerinin analizi için VZA (Verimlilik Zaman Analizi) tabanlı DEAP (Data Envelopment Analysis Program) yazılımı kullanılmıştır. Sonuç olarak, yurtiçi demiryolu yük taşımacılığında ortalama etkinlik %1,8 oranında azalırken, uluslararası demiryolu yük taşımacılığında ise %22,4 oranında bir düşüş yaşanmıştır. Her iki taşımacılık türü için 2010 yılı referans yıl olarak belirlenmiştir. Uluslararası demiryolu yük taşımacılığında etkinlik, bazı yıllarda kısmi bir iyileşme gösterse de, genel olarak sürekli bir azalma eğilimindedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Demiryolu taşımacılığı, lojistik yönetimi, tedarik zinciri yönetimi, dış ticaret, veri zarflama analizi.

#### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to determine the efficiency values of the Republic of Turkey State Railways (TCDD) in national and international freight transportation between 2010 and 2019. Additionally, the study aims to identify the years in which the company operated more efficiently, process this information, and provide reference years and recommendations to relevant institutions. Since railway investment costs are very high, the efficient use of resources is of great importance. This study is significant in terms of guiding the efficient use of railway resources. Moreover, the use of different input and output variables over a specific time period distinguishes this study from other scientific research, as it incorporates both national and international data. For efficiency measurement, output (tonne-kilometres) and input variables (amount of freight transported, main line length, and number of freight wagons) were used, following the relevant literature. The data used in the research were obtained from the activity reports of TCDD and the Turkish Statistical Institute. DEAP (Data Envelopment Analysis Program) software, based on Productivity Time Analysis, was used to analyze the research data. As a result, the average efficiency in national railway freight transport decreased by 1.8%, while the average efficiency in international railway freight transport decreased by 22.4%. The reference year for both types of transport was 2010. Although efficiency in international railway freight transport showed partial improvement in certain years, it generally exhibited a continuous downward trend.

**Keywords:** Railway transportation, logistics management, supply chain management, data foreign trade, envelopment analysis.



## 1. Introduction

Railway transportation has been actively utilized for both passenger and freight transport throughout history, including during wars and in everyday life. It directly contributes to the economic development of countries and plays a crucial role in social and cultural activities. During the Industrial Revolution, railway transportation was used to move heavy-volume products such as coal, iron, and steel. Today, it facilitates the transport of various packaged and unpackaged goods (Perçin & Çakır, 2012).

Rail transport is a more cost-effective option compared to air and road transport. It is preferred for its advantages, including the ability to carry larger volumes of goods, minimal impact from climate conditions, and high security. Additionally, the use of road-rail and rail-sea combinations is gradually enhancing the versatility of rail transport. Rail transport worldwide encompasses passenger trains, long-distance travel, suburban, and urban transport. A comprehensive rail network connects almost all continents. In Europe, rail is the most popular mode of transportation. Countries such as India, China, South Korea, and Japan extensively use rail for passenger transport (World Data Bank, 2022).

Railway transportation in Turkey began in 1856. It has become increasingly prevalent to meet the demands of advancing technology and growing human needs more economically. Both freight and passenger transportation in Turkey have shown continuous development over the years. The introduction of high-speed train infrastructure and the expansion of railways and rolling stock have accelerated improvements in both passenger and freight transport (Kazancıoğlu, 2012).

Rail systems play a crucial role in international transportation. Many of the cargoes required by ships can be supplied more easily and cost-effectively by rail. As a result, many ports are equipped with rail connections. Additionally, numerous products are transported to intercontinental customers via rail networks (Blagojevic et al., 2020).

Due to the high infrastructure costs of railway transport, investments and operating activities are primarily funded by the public sector. Despite oversight and control under public supervision, the efficiency of railway transport can decline, and costs may increase due to the lack of competition. As a result, even in developed countries, adequate investment in rural areas is often lacking (World Data Bank, 2022).

The effective and efficient use of these substantial investments is crucial for maintaining competitive conditions. The depreciation and operating costs of vehicles that are not used effectively can continually rise. It is therefore essential to monitor the current situation on a regular basis by measuring the efficiency of rail transport in order to be able to plan future steps accurately.

Many national and international studies in the literature have investigated the efficiency of railway transport using the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) method. Some notable studies on railway efficiency include: Oum and Yu (1994), who examined the efficiency of railway companies in 19 OECD countries between 1978 and 1989 using the DEA method. Cowie (1999), who applied the DEA method to evaluate the technical and managerial efficiencies of both public and private railway companies. Yu and Lin (2008), who analyzed the freight and passenger efficiency of 20 different railway companies using the DEA method. Sameni et al. (2016), who studied the performance of passenger train stations.



Blagojevic et al. (2020), who evaluated the effectiveness of performance commitments in railway freight transportation.

Similar studies conducted in Turkey on railway transportation include: Erturan and Uysal (2013), who analyzed the efficiency of railway transportation in Turkey between 1981 and 2010. Bayat and Özdemir (2019), who examined the efficiency of railway transportation in five different regions of Turkey using the DEA method. Kazancıoğlu (2012), who conducted a study comparing the railway transportation efficiencies of Turkey and European countries. Kutlar et al. (2013), who analyzed the efficiency of 31 railway companies around the world. Perçin and Çakır (2012), who evaluated the efficiency of the Turkish Republic State Railways (TCDD) between 1975 and 2010. Sarıkaya et al. (2012), who examined the regional efficiency of TCDD in Turkey.

National and international studies have generally focused on railway activities related to freight (both national and international) and passengers. However, there is a lack of research on international rail freight activities. In Turkey, most studies focus on TCDD activities related to freight or passenger transport. To date, no studies have examined both domestic and international transport activities with recent data. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the efficiency of TCDD's domestic and international rail transport using recent data. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, data for 2020 and 2021 were excluded, and data for 2022 and 2023 were also unavailable. The efficiency measure used output (tonne-kilometres) and input (volume of freight transported, length of main line, and number of freight wagons) variables based on existing literature.

## 2. Conceptual Framework

The economic investment costs of railway transportation are high, and competition in this field is continually increasing. Consequently, various studies have been conducted to assess the efficiency of railway transportation. The DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) method is commonly used for efficiency measurements. The input and output variables in the DEA method are determined based on the preferences of the researchers. Therefore, it is crucial to carefully select the input and output variables in DEA (Akdamar and Eren, 2021).

George and Rangaraj (2008) studied the performance of railway regions in India using the DEA method they used operating costs and locomotive tractive power as input variables and tonne-kilometres and passenger-kilometres as output variables. Hilmola (2007) assessed the efficiency of 25 railway companies in Europe for cargo transportation. In this study, the number of personnel, locomotives, and wagons, as well as railway length, were used as input variables, while the amount of freight transported was the output variable. Yu (2008) analyzed the efficiency of 40 railway companies worldwide. The study used the number of personnel, wagons, and line length as input variables, with freight tonne-kilometres and passenger-km as output variables. Marchetti and Wanke (2017) investigated the efficiency of railway freight transportation in Brazil. They used the number of personnel and wagons as input variables, and tonne-kilometres (the amount of freight transported) as the output variable.

Guzman and Montoya (2011) conducted a study to assess railway efficiency in Spain. They used locomotive traction power, number of seats, load capacity, and distance traveled as input variables, while income obtained was the output variable. Bhanot and Singh (2012)



evaluated the efficiency of railway container operators in India. Their study used personnel, number of wagons, number of freight equipment, and containers as input variables, with tonne-kilometres and net profit as output variables.

Erturan and Uysal (2013) calculated the efficiency of railway transportation in Turkey between 1981 and 2010. They used personnel, number of passenger wagons, and line length as input variables, and passenger-km and load-km as output variables. Bayat and Özdemir (2019) investigated the efficiency of railway transportation in five different regions of Turkey. They used road-km, railway-km, number of ships calling at ports, number of aircraft landings and take-offs, GDP, and number of vehicles as input variables, and evaluated the turnover of the relevant logistics sectors as output variables. Kazancıoğlu (2012), in comparing the efficiency of railway transportation in Turkey and European countries, used line length, passenger-km, and number of passengers as input variables, with travel frequency as the output variable.

Perçin and Çakır (2012) investigated the efficiency of TCDD in Turkey between 1975 and 2010. They used the number of personnel, passenger-vehicle capacity, and freight-carrying capacity as input variables, and evaluated passenger-km and tonne-kilometres as output variables. Sarıkaya et al. (2012) also studied the efficiency of TCDD, using the total number of personnel, electrified and non-electrified line lengths, and annual locomotive operating time as input variables, and assessing passenger-km and freight-km as output variables.

## 2.1. Data Set and Method

This study investigates TCDD activities in national and international freight transport. The data used were obtained from TCDD activity reports and the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). Due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on both the world and Turkey, data for 2020 and 2021 were excluded from the study, as they could potentially affect the results. Data for 2022 and 2023 were also inaccessible. To obtain more reliable results, the study analysed data from 2010 to 2019.

In this research, the efficiency values of national and international railway freight transport between the specified years are calculated. This analysis will identify effective and ineffective years, investigate the reasons for inefficiencies, and provide recommendations for future actions for TCDD, based on the activities observed during the effective years.

Perçin and Çakır (2012) conducted efficiency studies on TCDD between 1975 and 2010, and Erturan and Uysal (2013) studied TCDD's efficiency between 1981 and 2010. This study extends these previous analyses by focusing on the years 2010 to 2019. The DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) method, widely used in the literature, was employed to evaluate the efficiency of national and international railway freight transportation. Efficiency analyses were performed using the DEAP (Data Envelopment Analysis Program) Windows software. The constant returns to scale (CCR) method was chosen to account for the impact of decision-makers on input and output variables. Additionally, the input-weighted method was used to assess the effect of input variables on output. The research data include three input variables and one output variable, as informed by the literature. Details of the output and input variables are presented in Table 1.



**Table 1***Information on Output and Input Variables Used in the Research*

Output Variables	Explanation of Variables	Measurement Unit of Variables
*Tonne-kilometres	A unit of measurement for transporting one ton of cargo one kilometre	Ton
Input Variables	Explanation of Variables	Measurement Unit of Variables
*International or National	Amount of Load Carried by Wagons	Ton
*Amount of Cargo Carried	Length of Main Line Used in Transportation	Km
*Main Line Length	Number of Wagons Used in Freight Transport	Piece
*Number of Freight Wagons		

## 2.2. Data Envelopment Analysis

Performance analyses are typically conducted based on economic, technical, and allocation efficiencies, using both parametric and nonparametric approaches. Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), a nonparametric method, is one of the most widely used techniques for efficiency evaluation. DEA is extensively applied across various fields, including education, healthcare, logistics, public services, production, and the service sector (Sarıkaya et al., 2012).

Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) is a multi-criteria decision-making technique based on linear programming, developed by Farrell in 1957. Known as “Decision Making Units” (DMUs) in the literature, DEA is a non-parametric method that estimates efficiency using input and output variables (Kazancıoğlu, 2012).

Charnes, Cooper, and Rhodes (1978) developed the constant returns to scale (CCR) model, while Banker, Charnes, and Cooper (1984) introduced the variable returns to scale (BCC) model, shaping Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) into its current form. The CCR and BCC models are among the most commonly used in the literature. DEA methods can be oriented towards either inputs or outputs. The data used in DEA must be positive values, as negative or zero values are not permissible. Additionally, the number of data points for each Decision Making Unit (DMU) should be consistent. The steps in the DEA process include selecting the DMUs, determining the input and output variables, choosing and applying the model, and interpreting the results (Bayat and Özdemir, 2019).

### 2.2.1. CCR Model

To evaluate this model, calculations are performed on "m" input variables and "s" output variables across "n" Decision Making Units (DMUs). The objective function is maximized by assigning equal weights to the inputs and outputs of each DMU.

$$H_k \text{ maximum} = \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rk}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ik}} \quad (1)$$

To make the calculations more objective, two constraints are established. The first constraint ensures that none of the efficiency measurement results, calculated using the weights, exceed 100% (1). If they do, the total factor efficiency will be considered infinite (2). The second constraint specifies that none of the weights can be negative (3).



$$\frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_{rk}Y_{rk}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_{ik}X_{ij}} \leq 1; \quad j= 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (2)$$

$$u_{rk}, v_{ik} \geq 0 \quad r= 1, 2, \dots, s \quad i= 1, 2, \dots, m \quad (3)$$

In formula (2) above, the data envelopment model is derived by setting the denominator of the objective function to 1 and converting it into a linear programming model. This model can be solved using the Simplex algorithm, which represents the infinite element solution set (Gökmen et al., 2018).

### *Input-Driven Data Envelopment CCR Model*

The DEA model established for input is presented below (Perçin and Çakır, 2012).

$$Q_k = \sum_{r=1}^s u_{rk}Y_{rk} \quad (4)$$

$$\sum_{r=1}^s u_{rk}Y_{rk} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_{ik}X_{ij} \leq 0; \quad k \text{ ve } j= 1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m v_{ik}X_{ik} = 1$$

$$u_{rk} \text{ ve } v_{ik} \geq e \quad r= 1, 2, \dots, s \quad i= 1, 2, \dots, m$$

According to the analysis results, the efficiency rates of each Decision Making Unit (DMU) are calculated. The potential improvement percentage rates (Pi) are determined using the input and output variables of inefficient DMUs. If the "Pi" percentage is negative, it indicates that the values of the variables should be reduced by the "Pi" rate. If it is positive, the values should be increased by the "Pi" rate. A "Pi" value of zero means that no improvement is necessary for achieving efficiency. Information about the "Pi" value is provided in Formula 5 (Özden, 2008).

$$Pi(\%) = \left( \frac{\text{Targeted} - \text{Actualized}}{\text{Actualized}} \right) \times 100 \quad (5)$$

### **3. Findings**

The efficiency evaluations of TCDD for international and national freight transportation between 2010 and 2019 were calculated separately. Efficiency calculations were conducted for each year individually, identifying ineffective years and calculating potential recovery percentage rates.

The efficiency values of national railway transportation are presented in Table 2. According to the data, national railway transportation operated efficiently (with a value of 1) in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2018. In the other five years, the efficiency value was below 1. On average, the enterprise operated efficiently 98.2% of the time and inefficiently 1.8% of the time over the 10-year period for national freight transportation. The year with the lowest efficiency was 2014 (0.933%), followed by 2019 (0.955%). The reference set identifies other DMUs that should serve as benchmarks for each Decision Making Unit (DMU) to improve efficiency. Among the efficient DMUs, 2010 was the most frequently referenced year, serving as a reference 5 times, while 2015 was referenced 2 times.



**Table 2***Efficiency Values of National Transportation, Reference Sets, and Reference Frequencies*

Years	CCR Event Value	Reference Set	Number of Reference Indicators
2010	1.000	2010	5
2011	0,957	2015-2010	0
2012	1.000	2012	0
2013	1.000	2013	0
2014	0.933	2010-2018	0
2015	1.000	2015	2
2016	0,992	2010	0
2017	0,985	2018-2015-2010	0
2018	1.000	2018	3
2019	0.955	2010-2018	0
Average	0.982		

To enable ineffective DMUs to become effective, potential improvement rates (Pi values) were calculated and are shown in Table 3. The improvement potential is ranked from highest to lowest in the following years: 2014, 2019, 2016, 2011, and 2017. The year with the highest improvement potential is 2014. In this year, potential improvements can be achieved by reducing input data by 6.67% and 18.97% for the amount of freight transported nationally, main line length, and number of freight wagons, respectively. For 2019, a 15.85% improvement can be achieved in the number of freight wagons and a 4.54% improvement in the amount of freight transported domestically. While the highest improvements in the amount of freight transported and the number of freight wagons were observed in 2014 (-6.67% and -18.96%), the greatest improvement in main line length was noted in 2016 (-11.22%). Similarly, improvements can be achieved if the inputs in 2016, 2011, and 2017 are reduced as indicated in Table 3. These findings suggest that the business has available resources but is not utilizing them efficiently.

**Table 3***Potential Improvement Rates for Ineffective Years in National Transportation (%)*

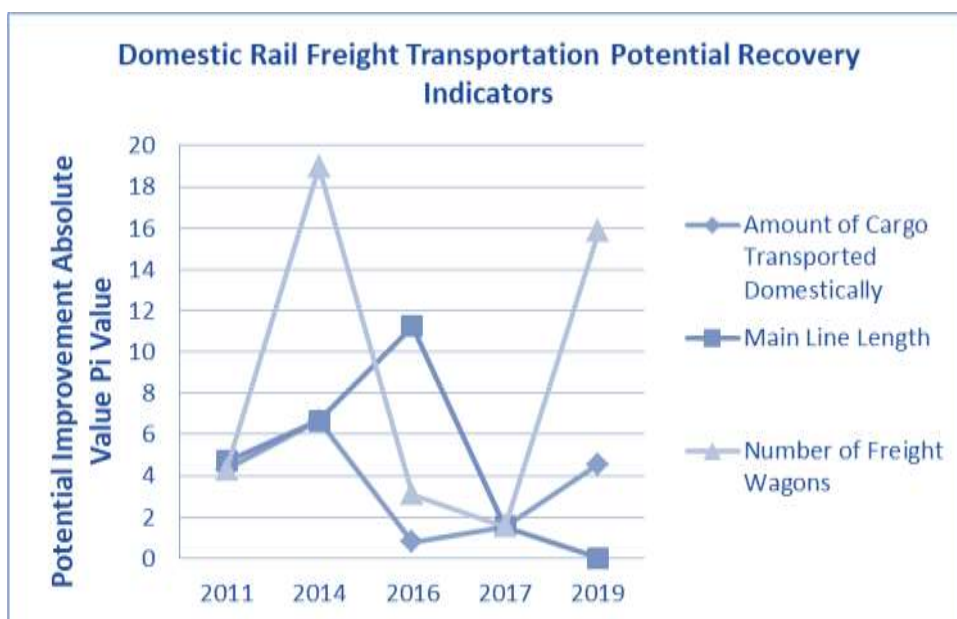
Years	Amount of Cargo Transported Domestically	Main Line Length	Number of Freight Wagons	Total Pi % Ratio
2011	-4,315857284	-4,70269364	-4,315857143	-13,33440807
2014	-6,670344828	-6,670345329	-18,96729056	-32,30798072
2016	-0,776870928	-11,22922684	-3,096709249	-15,10280702
2017	-1,532380161	-1,532376114	-1,532379999	-4,597136274
2019	-4,536459757	0,000	-15,854	-20,39045976

Information on the potential improvement percentage values for national railway freight transport is shown in Figure 1. The figure indicates that while the amount of freight transported domestically, the length of the main line, and the number of freight wagons increased in 2014, only the length of the main line increased in 2016, with the other two variables decreasing. From 2016 to 2017, only the amount of freight transported domestically increased, while the other variables decreased. In 2019, although there was a decrease in the length of the main line since 2016, increases in the amount of freight transported domestically and the number of freight wagons were observed. The increases depicted in the graph suggest that efficiency was lower during these years.



**Figure 1**

*Potential Improvement Percentage Values for National Rail Freight Transportation*



The efficiency values of international railway transportation are shown in Table 4. According to the data, international railway transportation was efficient (with a value of 1) in 2010 and 2011. In the other years, the efficiency values were below 1. Over the 10-year period, the company operated 77.4% efficiently in international freight transportation and 22.6% inefficiently. The year with the lowest efficiency was 2015 (0.580%), followed by 2017 (0.596%). Among the efficient Decision Making Units (DMUs), 2011 was referenced 8 times and 2010 was referenced once.

**Table 4**

*Efficiency Values of International Transportation, Reference Sets, and Reference Frequencies*

Years	CCR Event Value	Reference Set	Number of Reference Indicators
2010	1.000	2010	1
2011	1.000	2011	8
2012	0.921	2011-2010	0
2013	0.766	2011	0
2014	0.759	2011	0
2015	0.580	2011	0
2016	0.637	2011	0
2017	0.596	2011	0
2018	0.722	2011	0
2019	0.759	2011	0
Average	0.774		

To enable ineffective DMUs to become effective, potential improvement rates (Pi values) were calculated and are shown in Table 5. The years with the highest overall improvement potential are 2015 and 2016. For 2015, effectiveness can be achieved by reducing the amount of internationally transported freight by 42.035%, the main line length by 57.64%, and the number of freight wagons by 57.53%. For 2016, effectiveness can be achieved by reducing the amount of internationally transported freight by 36.27%, the main line length by 59.86%, and the number of freight wagons by 57.53%. Similarly, efficiencies can increase if the inputs in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2019 are reduced at the specified rates. The greatest improvement in the amount of internationally transported freight and main line





length was observed in 2017 (-40.39% and -60.72%), while the greatest improvement in the number of freight wagons was noted in 2016 (-57.53%). These findings indicate that the company is not fully utilizing its resources in international railway transportation.

**Table 5**

*Potential Improvement Rates for Ineffective Years in International Transportation*

Years	Amount of International Cargo Transported	Main Line Length	Number of Freight Wagons	Total Pi % Ratio
2012	-7,929062647	-7,929063866	-25,88937084	-41,74749735
2013	-23,42389019	-30,68998264	-49,81185575	-103,9257286
2014	-24,06646814	-50,10638131	-52,118664	-126,2915135
2015	-42,0357943	-57,64486294	-57,49188027	-157,1725375
2016	-36,27804478	-59,86171038	-57,53148186	-153,671237
2017	-40,39922865	-60,72937487	-51,77642531	-152,9050288
2018	-27,83328502	-47,18452219	-37,04219027	-112,0599975
2019	-24,08638148	-36,23550012	-35,22131171	-95,54319331

Information on potential improvement percentages for international rail freight is shown in Figure 2. The data show that from 2012 to 2017, the amount of freight transported internationally, the length of main lines and the number of freight wagons increased. However, in 2016, only the volume of international freight transport decreased. From 2017 to 2019, all input factors show a decrease. The increases shown in the graph indicate that productivity was lower in these years.

**Figure 2**

*Potential Improvement Values for International Railway Freight Transportation by Year*



#### 4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The investment costs for the infrastructure and superstructure elements used in railway transportation are substantial. High-cost investments also lead to additional expenses, such as depreciation. By utilizing its resources effectively and efficiently, the enterprise can reduce costs and significantly enhance its profitability. The national and international transportation performances of TCDD, the primary public institution in Turkey, were evaluated separately for the period between 2010 and 2019.



National railway transportation was effective in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2018, while it was not effective in 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019. Additionally, there was an average efficiency loss of 1.8%. The year most frequently referenced for improving efficiency is 2010, which was cited 5 times. Following this, 2018 was referenced 3 times, and 2015 was referenced 2 times (see Table 2 and Table 3).

Your analysis of national railway transportation efficiency highlights some key points. For instance:

- 2010 emerged consistently as a reference year for efficiency, reinforcing its significance from previous studies.
- 2014 to 2016 showed an increase in main line length, but a decrease in the amount of freight transported and the number of freight wagons. This suggests a potential area for improvement in balancing these variables.
- From 2016 to 2019, there was a notable improvement in the use of main line length and freight wagons, indicating better resource utilization during this period.

This approach helps pinpoint areas where efficiency can be enhanced and provides a benchmark for future performance improvements.

For international railway transport:

- 2010 and 2011 were identified as the years of effective operation.
- From 2012 to 2019, there was a notable decline in efficiency, with an average efficiency of 77.4%, resulting in a 22.6% loss.
- 2011 was the most referenced year for improving efficiency, highlighting its optimal performance during this period, followed by 2010.

This suggests that the methods and practices from these effective years could be examined and potentially replicated to improve efficiency in subsequent years.

Or international railway transport:

- 2015 and 2016 were identified as years with the highest improvement potential.
- In 2015, the potential for increasing efficiency was significant with suggested reductions: 42.035% in the amount of internationally transported freight, 57.64% in the main line length, and 57.53% in the number of freight wagons.
- From 2012 to 2017, there was underutilization of resources in terms of the amount of freight transported internationally, main line length, and number of freight wagons.
- 2016 showed some improvement in the amount of freight transported internationally, but this improvement was not sustained, leading to a decline by 2017.
- 2017 to 2019 saw efficiency improvements across all input factors, indicating better utilization of resources during this period.

The data suggests that focused adjustments and optimizations, particularly in resource allocation and utilization, could enhance efficiency in international railway transportation.

The study's limitations include the number of input and output variables used and the specific time period of data collection. While the selected variables are crucial for



understanding railway transportation efficiency, the scope of this study could be expanded. The Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) method, though widely used, is not the only method available for efficiency measurement. Future research could explore alternative methods or incorporate additional variables to gain a more comprehensive view. Additionally, future studies could benefit from examining the efficiency of logistics operations at train stations and using a broader range of input and output variables. This expanded approach could provide more nuanced insights into the effectiveness of railway transportation systems and contribute to more targeted improvements.

The efficiency of international railway freight transport is lower than that of national railway freight transport. Railway resources are not used effectively enough on the international stage. International railway transport performed well only in 2010 and 2011; however, its efficiency declined over time, with no improvement observed in 2019. In particular, efficiency dropped to its lowest levels in 2015 and 2017. This decline is attributed to the preference for other modes of transport over railways in foreign trade. Research indicates that railway transport is inadequate for foreign trade. Enhancing its appeal is crucial for the country's development.

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## Geniřletilmiř Özet

Demiryolu tařımacılıęı, havayolu ve kara yoluna göre daha maliyet etkin bir tařımacılık seeneęidir. Bir seferde daha fazla ürün tařıma kapasitesi, iklim kořullarından daha az etkilenme ve yüksek güvenlik gibi avantajları nedeniyle demiryolu tařımacılıęı daha fazla tercih edilmektedir. Ayrıca, karayolu-demiryolu ve demiryolu-denizyolu kombinasyonlarının birlikte kullanılması, demiryolu tařımacılıęının kullanılabilirlięini giderek artırmaktadır. Dünya genelinde demiryolu tařımacılıęında yolcu trenleri, uzun mesafeli seyahatler, banliyö ve kentsel ulařım söz konusudur. Dünyada, neredeyse tüm kıtaları birbirine baęlayan kapsamlı bir demiryolu aęı mevcuttur. Avrupa kıtasında, en popüler tařıma yöntemi demiryolu ile gerekleřtirilmektedir. Hindistan, Çin, Güney Kore ve Japonya, yolcu tařımacılıęında demiryolunu kapsamlı bir řekilde kullanmaktadır (Word Data Bank, 2022).

Türkiye'de demiryolu tařımacılıęı, 1856 yılında ilk olarak bařlatılmıřtır. Geliřen teknoloji ve artan insan ihtiyalarının daha ekonomik bir řekilde karřılanması amacıyla demiryolu tařımacılıęı daha yaygın bir řekilde kullanılmaya bařlanmıřtır. Türkiye'de yük ve yolcu tařımacılıęı, yıllar boyunca sürekli bir geliřim göstermiřtir. Hızlı tren altyapılarının devreye girmesi ve daha fazla demiryolu ile araların kullanılmasıyla, yolcu ve yük tařımacılıęındaki geliřme hız kazanmıřtır (Kazancıoęlu, 2012).

Demiryolu tařımacılıęının altyapı maliyetlerinin yüksek olması nedeniyle, yatırımlar ve iřletme faaliyetleri kamu sektörü tarafından yürütölmektedir. Kamu denetimi altında kontrol saęlanmasına raęmen, rekabet eksiklięi nedeniyle demiryolu tařımacılıęının etkinlięi azalmakta ve maliyetleri artmaktadır. Bu nedenle, geliřmiř ölkelerde bile kırsal bölgelere yeterli yatırım yapılmamaktadır (Word Data Bank, 2022).

Yerli ve yabancı alıřmalar genellikle tařınan yükler (hem yurtii hem yurtdıřı) ve yolcuların demiryolu etkinlikleri üzerine odaklanmıřtır. Ancak, uluslararası demiryolu yük tařımacılıęındaki etkinliklere yönelik yeterince alıřma bulunmamaktadır. Türkiye'de yapılan alıřmalar ise genellikle TCDD'nin yük veya yolcu tařımacılıęının etkinlikleri üzerinedir. Son yıllardaki verilerle hem yurtii hem de uluslararası tařımacılıęın etkinliklerini inceleyen bir alıřmaya rastlanmamıřtır. Bu nedenle, bu alıřmada son yıllardaki veriler kullanılarak TCDD'nin hem yurtii hem de uluslararası demiryolu tařımacılıęının etkinlik deęerleri incelenmiřtir. Bu alıřmada, dünya genelinde etkili olan COVID-19 salgını nedeniyle 2020 ve 2021 yıllarına ait veriler göz önüne alınmamıřtır. 2022 ve 2023 yılları verilerine de ulařılamamıřtır. Etkinlik ölçümünde, literatürdeki alıřmalar ışığında ıktı (tonne-kilometres) ve girdi (tařınan yük miktarı, ana hat uzunluęu ve yük vagonu sayısı) deęiřkenleri kullanılmıřtır.

Bu alıřmada, TCDD iřletmesinin yurtii ve uluslararası yük tařımacılıęındaki etkinlikleri arařtırılmaktadır. Arařtırmada kullanılan veriler, TCDD faaliyet raporları ve Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu (TÜİK) verilerinden elde edilmiřtir. Arařtırmada, COVID-19 salgınının tüm dünyayı ve Türkiye'yi etkilemesinden dolayı, 2020 ve 2021 yılı verileri arařtırmanın sonuçlarını deęiřtirebileceęinden dikkate alınmamıřtır. 2022 ve 2023 yıllarındaki verilere de ulařım saęlanamamıřtır. Bu nedenle, alıřmada daha rasyonel sonuçlara ulařabilmek için 2010-2019 yılları arasındaki veriler deęerlendirmeye alınmıřtır.



Perçin ve Çakır (2012), 1975-2010 yılları arasında, Erturan ve Uysal (2013) ise 1981-2010 yılları arasında TCDD üzerine etkinlik araştırmaları yapmışlardır. Bu çalışmada, önceki araştırmaların devamı niteliğinde olarak 2010-2019 yılları tercih edilmiştir. Yurtiçi ve uluslararası demiryolu yük taşımacılığının etkinliğini değerlendirmek için literatürde en çok kullanılan yöntemlerden biri olan Verimlilik Zeka Analizi (VZA) yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Etkinlik analizleri için VZA tabanlı DEAP (Data Envelopment Analysis Program) Windows programı kullanılmıştır. Çalışmada, karar vericilerin girdi ve çıktı değişkenleri üzerindeki etkisini göz önünde bulundurmak amacıyla sabit getiri yöntemi (CCR) tercih edilmiştir. Ayrıca, girdi değişkenlerinin çıktı üzerindeki etkisini belirlemek için girdi ağırlıklı yöntem kullanılmıştır. Araştırma verileri, literatürdeki çalışmalar dikkate alınarak üç girdi ve bir çıktı değişkeninden meydana gelmektedir.

TCDD işletmesinin 2010-2019 yılları arasında uluslararası ve yurtiçi yük taşımacılığı ile ilgili etkinlik değerlendirmeleri ayrı ayrı hesaplanmıştır. Etkinlik hesaplamaları her bir yıl için ayrı ayrı değerlendirilmiş, etkin olmayan yıllar belirlenmiş ve potansiyel iyileşme yüzde oranları hesaplanmıştır.

Yurtiçi demiryolu taşımacılığının etkinlik değerleri Tablo 2'de gösterilmektedir. Verilere göre, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 ve 2018 yıllarında yurtiçi demiryolu taşımacılığının verimli (1) çalıştığı görülmektedir. Diğer 5 yıldaki etkinlik değerinin 1'in altında olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. Ortalama etkinlik değerine bakıldığında, yurtiçi yük taşımacılığında işletmenin 10 yıl boyunca %98,2 oranında verimli çalıştığı, %1,8 oranında ise verimsiz çalıştığı görülmektedir. En düşük verimliliğe sahip olan yıl 2014 (%0,933) iken, onu takip eden yıl 2019 (%0,955) olmuştur. Referans kümesi, her bir karar verme biriminin (KVB) daha etkin olabilmesi için referans alınması gereken diğer KVB'leri göstermektedir. Etkin olan KVB'ler arasında, 2010 yılı en fazla referans gösterilen yıl olup 5 kez referans alınmıştır; 2015 yılı ise 2 kez referans gösterilmiştir.

Etkin olmayan KVB'lerin etkin olabilmesi için, potansiyel iyileşme oranları (Pi değerleri) hesaplanmış ve Tablo 3'te gösterilmiştir. İyileşme potansiyelinin en yüksekten en düşüğe doğru sırasıyla 2014, 2019, 2016, 2011 ve 2017 yıllarında olduğu anlaşılmaktadır. İyileşme potansiyeli en yüksek olan yıl 2014'tür. Bu yılda, yurtiçi taşınan yük miktarı, ana hat uzunluğu ve yük vagonu sayısında sırasıyla %6,67 ve %18,97 oranlarında girdi verilerinin azaltılmasıyla potansiyel iyileşme sağlanabilmektedir. 2019 yılında, yük vagonu sayısında %15,85 ve yurtiçi taşınan yük miktarında %4,54 oranlarında iyileşme sağlanabilmektedir. Yurtiçi taşınan yük miktarı ve yük vagonu sayısında en fazla iyileşme 2014 yılında (-6,67 ve -18,96) gözlemlenirken, ana hat uzunluğunda en büyük iyileşme 2016 yılında (-11,22) gerçekleşmiştir. Bu yıllara benzer şekilde, 2016, 2011 ve 2017 yıllarındaki girdilerin Tablo 3'teki kadar azaltılması durumunda etkinliklerin artabileceği anlaşılmaktadır. Bu durumlar, işletmenin elindeki kaynakların mevcut olduğunu fakat yeterince değerlendirilemediğini göstermektedir.

Etkin olmayan KVB'lerin etkin olabilmesi için, potansiyel iyileşme oranları (Pi değerleri) hesaplanmış ve Tablo 5'te gösterilmiştir. İyileşme potansiyeli toplamda en yüksek olan yıllar 2015 ve ardından 2016'dır. 2015 yılı için, uluslararası taşınan yük miktarının %42,035, ana hat uzunluğunun %57,64 ve yük vagonu sayısının %57,53 oranlarında azaltılması durumunda etkin olabileceği anlaşılmaktadır. 2016 yılı için ise, uluslararası taşınan yük miktarının %36,27, ana hat uzunluğunun %59,86 ve yük vagonu sayısının %57,53



oranlarında azaltılması durumunda etkin olabileceği görülmektedir. Bu yıllara benzer şekilde, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 ve 2019 yıllarındaki girdilerin belirlenen oranlarda azaltılması durumunda etkinliklerin artabileceği anlaşılmaktadır. Uluslararası taşınan yük miktarı ve ana hat uzunluğunda en fazla iyileşme 2017 yılında (-40,39 ve -60,72) görülürken, yük vagonu sayısında ise en büyük iyileşme 2016 yılında (-57,53) gerçekleşmiştir. Bu durum, işletmenin uluslararası demiryolu taşımacılığında elindeki kaynakları yeterince değerlendiremediğini göstermektedir.

Yurtiçi demiryolu taşımacılığı, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 ve 2018 yıllarında etkin çalışırken, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017 ve 2019 yıllarında etkin çalışmamaktadır. Ayrıca, ortalama etkinlikte %1,8 oranında bir kayıp yaşanmıştır. Verimliliğin geliştirilmesi için en fazla referans alınması gereken yıl 2010 olup, bu yıl 5 kez referans gösterilmiştir. Bunu takiben 2018 yılı 3 kez, 2015 yılı ise 2 kez referans alınmıştır (Tablo 2 ve Tablo 3).

Ayrıca, Perçin ve Çakır (2012) ile Erturan ve Uysal (2013) tarafından yapılan TCDD işletmesindeki etkinlik çalışmalarında, 2010 yılı en etkin yıl olarak belirlenmiş ve referans alınması gereken yılların başında gelmektedir. 2010 yılı için, önceki yapılan çalışmalara benzer şekilde bu çalışmada da benzer sonuçlara ulaşılmıştır. Potansiyel iyileşme oranında, 2014 yılından 2016 yılına kadar ana hat uzunluğunda yükselmeler görülürken, yurtiçi taşınan yük miktarı ve yük vagonu sayısında düşüş gözlemlenmektedir. Ana hat uzunluğunun 2016'dan 2019'a kadar giderek artan bir etkinlikle kullanıldığı, yük vagonlarının ise 2014'ten 2017'ye kadar daha verimli kullanıldığı görülmektedir (Şekil 1).

Uluslararası demiryolu taşımacılığının 2010 ve 2011 yıllarında etkin bir şekilde çalıştığı, ancak 2012'den 2019'a kadar olan yıllarda etkinliğinin azaldığı tespit edilmiştir. Ortalama etkinlik %77,4 olduğu için %22,6 oranında bir kayıp meydana gelmiştir. Verimliliği artırmak için en fazla referans alınması gereken yılın 2011 yılı olduğu (8 kez), ardından 2010 yılının (1 kez) geldiği anlaşılmaktadır. İyileşme potansiyelinin toplamda en yüksek olduğu yıl 2015 olup, bunu 2016 yılı takip etmektedir. 2015 yılı için, uluslararası taşınan yük miktarının %42,035, ana hat uzunluğunun %57,64 ve yük vagonu sayılarının %57,53 oranlarında azaltılması durumunda etkinliğin artabileceği anlaşılmaktadır (Tablo 4 ve Tablo 5). Uluslararası taşınan yük miktarı, ana hat uzunluğu ve yük vagonu sayıları 2012'den 2017'ye kadar etkin bir şekilde kullanılamamıştır. 2016 yılında sadece uluslararası taşınan yük miktarında bir miktar etkinlik iyileşmesi görülmüş, ancak 2017 yılına kadar bu iyileşme tekrar düşüşe geçmiştir. 2017'den 2019'a kadar ise tüm girdi faktörlerinde etkinlik iyileşmesi gözlemlenmektedir (Şekil 2).

Uluslararası demiryolu yük taşımacılığının etkinliği, yurtiçi demiryolu yük taşımacılığının etkinliğinden daha düşüktür. Uluslararası alanda, demiryolu kaynakları yeterince etkin bir şekilde kullanılmamaktadır. Uluslararası demiryolu taşımacılığı yalnızca 2010 ve 2011 yıllarında iyi performans göstermiştir; ancak zamanla gerileme yaşanmış ve 2019 yılında da iyileşme sağlanamadığı görülmüştür. Özellikle 2015 ve 2017 yıllarındaki etkinlik, en düşük seviyelere gerilemiştir. Bunun nedeni, dış ticarete taşımacılığın demiryolu yerine diğer taşıma türlerinin tercih edilmesidir. Bir diğer araştırma sonucuna göre, demiryolu taşımacılığı dış ticarete yetersiz olmaktadır. Ülke kalkınması açısından cazip hale getirilmesi çok önemlidir.



## Additional Information

***Conflict of interest information:*** The author acknowledges that there is no conflict of interest in the study.

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