



# GRAVE DECLINE IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**BETWEEN  
2016-2020 IN  
TURKEY**

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This study aims to analyze the impacts of the state of emergency declared after the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey on the academic achievements of the universities.

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After the coup attempt on July 15th of 2016 in Turkey, a total of 6,070 academics has been dismissed from 122 state institutions following 11 issued emergency decrees (KHK)[1]. 2,808 academics have been added to this list with the closure of 15 private universities [2]. In total, 8,878 academics have been dismissed from their jobs, corresponding to nearly 15 percent of the number of academics in Turkey. The academics who voluntarily left the country are not included in this number.

Considering graduate and undergraduate studies, an average of 12 years should be spent on being an academic. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the average amount of expenditure of a person starting from primary education until becoming an academic is approximately 124.448 USD [3].

**This means Turkey's financial loss to be roughly around \$ 1.1 billion.**

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In this study, the impacts on the worldwide success ranking of the universities after the cruelty that occurred in public universities in Turkey are examined. The top 50 universities of Turkey are also

amongst the 122 universities from where the academics were dismissed. The total number of dismissed academics from the 50 universities is 4,632. Table 1 and Figure 1 detail the number of dismissed academics on a university basis. Dumlupinar University ranks highest on that list, with its 13.6% of academics having been dismissed by emergency decrees. On average, one in every 7 scientists was dismissed. Figure 2 shows that 20 universities have the highest rate in this regard.

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Observing the rate of change in academic ranking on a university basis reveals that the success rankings of these institutions decreased by an average of 18%, despite 5% dismissal rate at the top 50 universities [4]. This is an important indicator showing the contribution of the dismissed academics to the scientific achievements in Turkey. Another issue to consider is that instead of dismissed academics, new academics were recruited between 2016 and 2019, thereby increasing the total number of academics by around 7% [5]. Despite the new recruitments, academic setbacks at such a high level are very thought-provoking. The universities which showed the most changes in the academic ranking are identified in Figure 3. Celal Bayar University ranks highest on that list, attracting large attention. It ranked 2,207 in the world university rankings before July 2016; however, its ranking dropped to 4,755 in December of 2019, a dramatic change by 109%. Celal Bayar University is followed by Bülent Ecevit University with a 70% drop rate. Noticeably, 42 of the 50 universities experienced a decrease in the world rankings, whereas only 8 universities' rankings remained the same.

In conclusion, the personal success index (contribution index of the dismissed to academic success), which is formed by dividing the change in the ranking by the rate of dismissing, was calculated. The aim was to calculate the impact of dismissed academics on the success of universities. At this point, the most notable one is Ege University which is ranked highest on that list. Although the total number of dismissed academics at Ege University was 45 and its rate is 1.4%, the global ranking of this university has decreased from 674 to 913, which indicates that academic success has decreased by 35%. The index of this university was calculated at 25.33. Similarly, in the third place of the list, although the total number of dismissed academics at Istanbul Technical University was 32 and the rate was 1.4%, the world ranking of this university decreased by 19% and its index was 13.76. The universities that have the highest index are stated in Figure 4.



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**TABLE I : THE NUMBER OF DISMISSED  
ACADEMICS FROM PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

	Atilan Toplam	Genel Toplam	Atilan Oran (%)
Abant İzzet Baysal	78	1333	5.9
Adıyaman	67	862	7.8
Adnan Menderes	54	1726	3.1
Afyon Kocatepe	93	1360	6.8
Akdeniz	115	2492	4.6
Anadolu	68	2188	3.1
Ankara	133	3732	3.6
Atatürk	152	2703	5.6
Balıkesir	67	1032	6.5
Bülent Ecevit	71	1287	5.5
Canakkale 18 Mart	205	1653	12.4
Celal Bayar	140	1651	8.5
Cumhuriyet	56	1858	3
Dicle	172	1935	8.9
Dokuz Eylül	46	3381	1.4
Dumlupınar	168	1239	13.6
Ege	45	3175	1.4
Erciyes	145	2398	6
Erzincan	54	916	5.9
Eskişehir Osmangazi	46	1542	3
Fırat	47	1741	2.7
Gazi	233	3982	5.9
Gaziantep	128	1644	7.8
Gaziosmanpaşa	59	1286	4.6
Gebze Teknik	19	154	12.3
Hacettepe	74	3720	2
Harran	68	1012	6.7
İnönü	58	1672	3.5
İstanbul	192	5445	3.5
İstanbul Teknik	32	2211	1.4
Kafkas	30	890	3.4
Kahramanmaraş Sutcu Imam	126	1305	9.7
Karabük	50	995	5
Karadeniz Teknik	44	2528	1.7
Kırıkkale	74	1226	6
Kocaeli	57	2098	2.7
Marmara	102	3201	3.2
Mersin	33	1630	2
Muğla Sıtkı Kocman	38	1523	2.5
Mustafa Kemal	105	1060	9.9
Niğde Ömer Halisdemir	36	891	4
Öndokuz Mayıs	123	2347	5.2
Pamukkale	181	1995	9.1
Sakarya	97	2010	4.8
Selçuk	126	2732	4.6
Süleyman Demirel	271	2303	11.8
Trakya	29	1701	1.7
Uludağ	38	2474	1.5
Yıldız Teknik	114	1754	6.5
Yüzüncü Yıl	73	1705	4.3

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FIGURE I: THE NUMBER OF DISMISSED ACADEMICS FROM PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

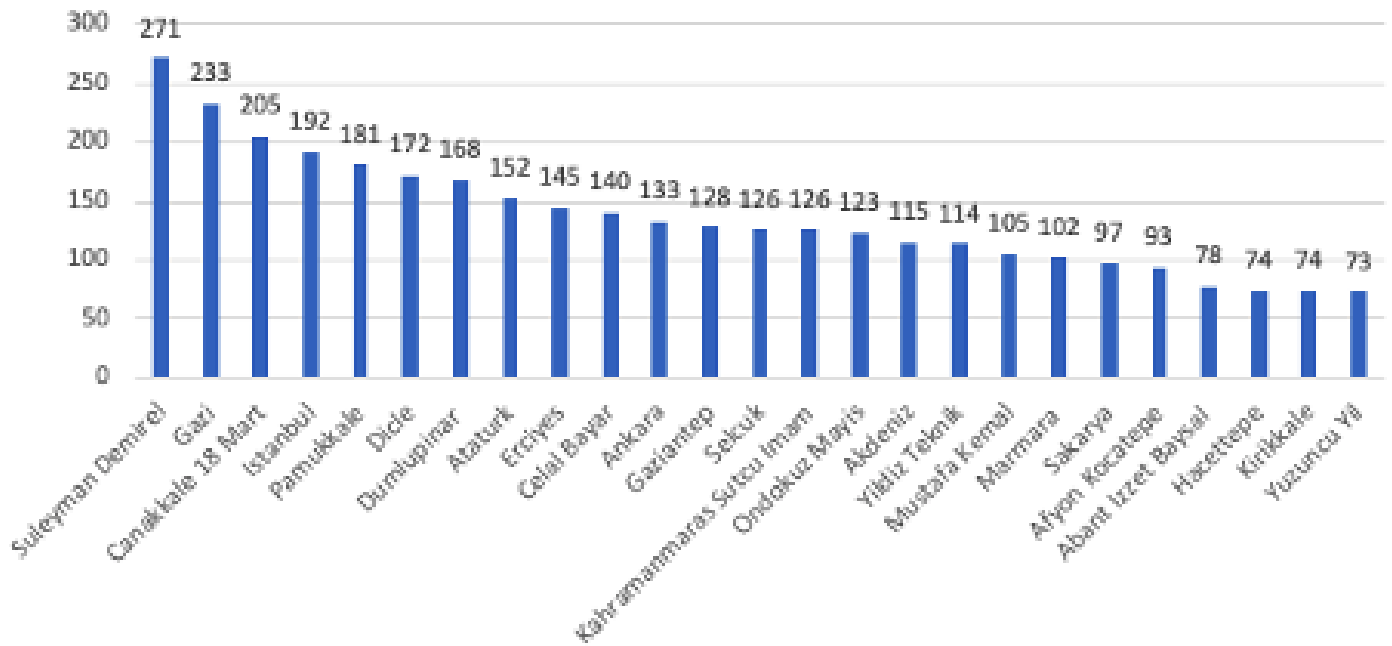
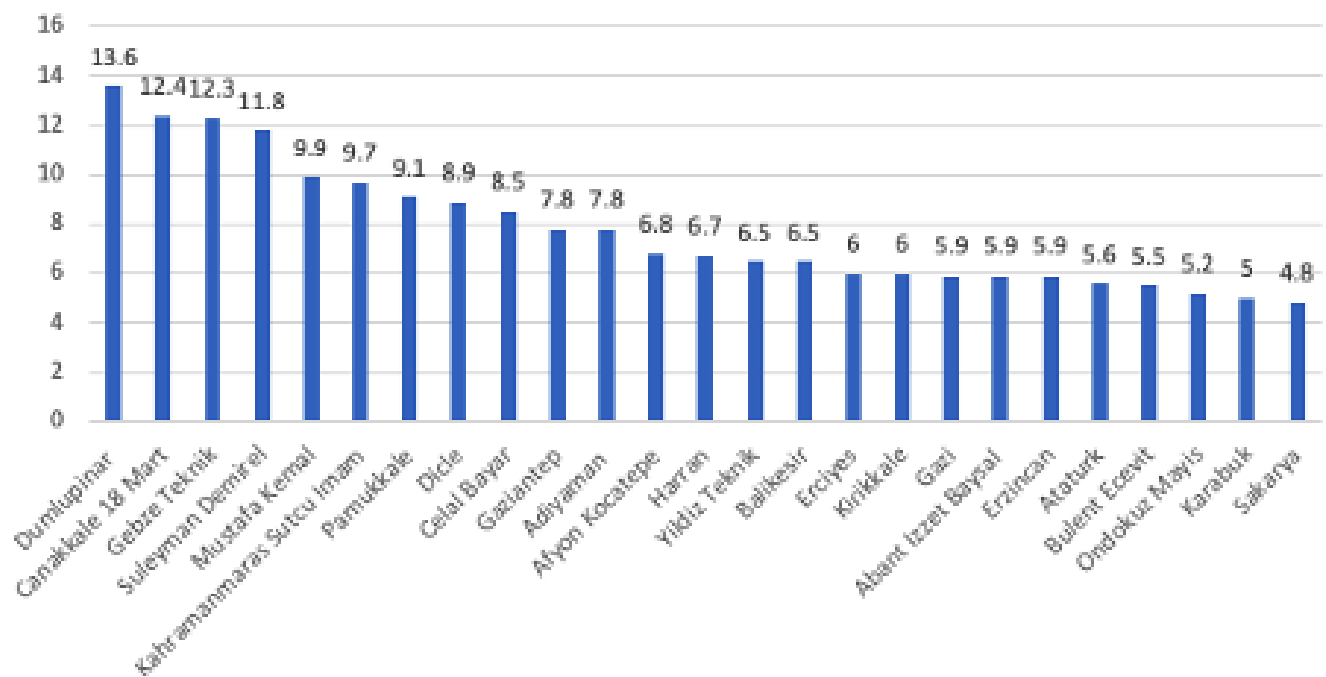


FIGURE II: THE RATE OF DISMISSED ACADEMICS FROM PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES



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FIGURE III: THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES' REGRESSIONS IN THE SUCCESS RATES

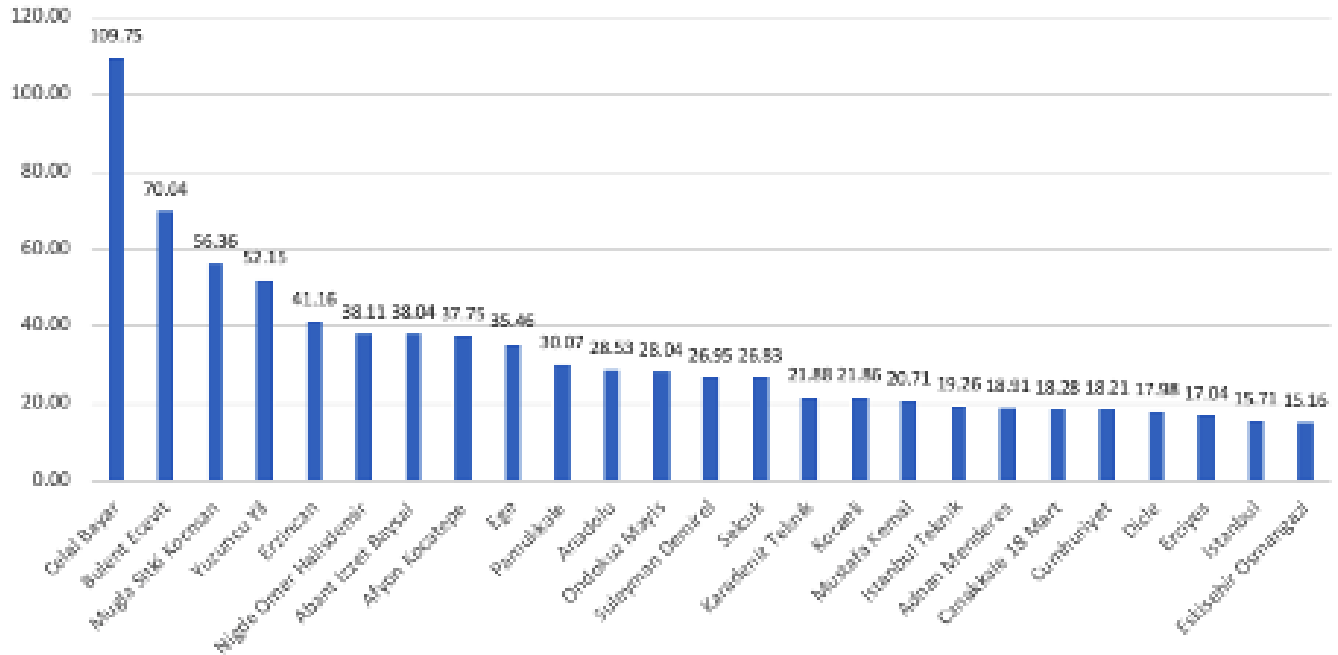
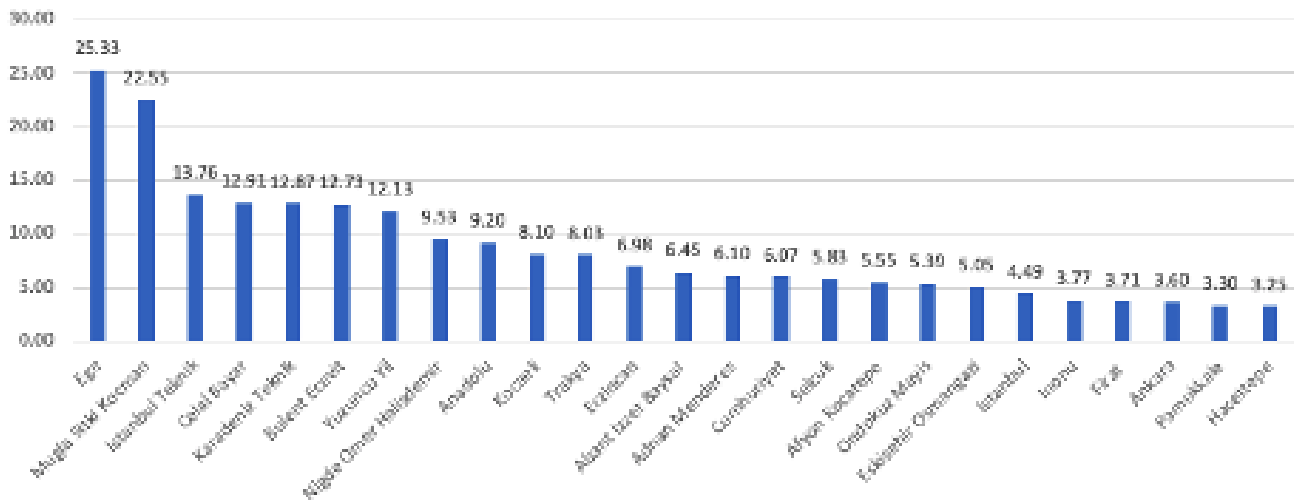


FIGURE IV: THE CHANGE OF THE SUCCESS IN THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND THE DISMISSALS RATE



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This paper is produced by  
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**This study aims to analyze the impacts of the state of emergency declared after the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey on the academic achievements of the universities.**

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