MIS376

KNOWLEDGE MAPPING AND DATA VISUALIZATION

REPORT PART

THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN TURKEY

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With the Covid-19 outbreak, layoffs have increased considerably. My hypothesis was that layoffs would increase in proportion to the increase in the number of cases. I created a map showing the number of cases by size and the number of deaths by color with a date filter starting on 01.2021, the date when the high corona virus case was reported in Turkey. I evaluated the cases and deaths with the monthly average on the map that shows the number of cases and deaths I created.

In order to make the graph clearer, I created the visual that shows the monthly average figures and the change according to the other month. At the time when the case numbers were announced at the peak, the increase in the number of deaths made sense.

I thought that the unemployment rate was the highest in the month with the highest average number of cases and deaths. (JUNE 12, 2021) I noticed that in June 2021, the unemployment level did not reveal the highest level. When I researched the reasons for this, I learned that layoffs were prohibited and unpaid leave was applied. As you can see in the graph1.2, the month with the most applications for pandemic support is June.

The chart 1.3 showed the monthly variation of unemployment figures. In this chart, I used the data of 01.01.2021 - 01.05.2021 to show the figures for the period when the pandemic was most intense.

At the end of April, the highest number of unemployment (unpaid leave) was experienced. The reason for this was the full closure notice to be implemented across the country. A full-time curfew was imposed, starting at 19:00 on Thursday, April 29, 2021 and ending at 05:00 on Monday, May 17, 2021.

The cities that were most affected by the total closure were the cities where tourism and restaurant businesses were concentrated. For example, Antalya, Muğla.. At the same time, this number increased more due to the fact that tourists in these regions panicked and left the region due to lack of information. Domestic tourists who came to the region for tourism left the cities with the news of the closure and returned to the cities where they resided. Thus, the increase in these regions, which generate income through tourism and restaurants, continued over time.

We had cities that were not affected by these full closure bans. The first reason for this was that the full closure coincided with the harvest season. Seasonal workers and field owners who came to the region for agriculture were exempted and permissions were provided. Thus, the work in these regions continued and was not reflected in the unemployment figures. Examples of these regions are   Gaziantep (Pistachio Harvest), Rize (Tea Harvest). With the continuation of the work in these regions, the people who were taken on unpaid leave in the cities went to these regions as seasonal workers. Thus, we did not see the same effect in unemployment numbers in this period when the number of cases reached the highest level.

COVID-19 does physically affect older people at a higher rate, but younger age groups feel the financial effects. The service sector has had to lay off a lot of people due to many businesses being considered non-essential, such as salons and clothing stores. About 40% of the service sector consists of people aged 16 to 24.They are the most affected. Economists say the unemployment rate could rise another 10% by the end of the year. Since we do not know when the epidemic will end, we cannot determine the estimated damage that may occur. How long will it take to return Turkey to its pre-covid-19 state? I don't have an answer to this, but I'm wondering how we're going to try to restart the economy when this is all over