



The role of tradesmen and craftsmen in Mersin urban economics: An analysis of institutional, sectoral-based and location of activity

Ahmet Yaman¹

Abstract

Urbanization is not only a concentration of humans in city areas but also, the consumption and production activities that are comprised in urban space. In this sense, goods and services are developed through the urban economic actors, through labor, economic diversity, and prosperity. This article reviews the relationship between urban economics and tradesmen & craftsmen (TC). The focus is on analysing tradesmen and craftsmen's institutional, sectoral-based, and activity location. To do that, the research has adopted the qualitative research method strategy and an instrumental and multiple case study design. The study used the document analysis technique to collect data. It aims to illustrate how urban economics actors conduct their businesses across the city. To clarify that, this article benefits from the urban economics notion which explains the relation between urban economics structure and actors. This paper also argues that tradesmen and craftsmen are key actors who produce goods and services in urban economics and it is composed of three main parts, the first of which analyses urban economics notion within the historical background briefly. The structure of Mersin's urban economics is assessed in the second part of this article. Within the scope of the paper, first of all, tradesmen and craftsmen were analysed in terms of the institutional framework, sectoral based, and location-activity. What is evident from this research is that tradesmen and craftsmen both are supported by the state and TC has an institutional organization capacity that is spread whole over the national level. Also, TC provides the city's production process of goods and services based on sector.

Keywords: Urban economics, Tradesmen and craftsmen, Urban economics structure analysis, Mersin urban economics,

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of cities developing together with the social, economic, and political relationships of mankind has become the place where two-thirds of the world's population has resided and lived since the 21st century. In other words, today's society also presents itself as an urban society. On the one hand cities are defined as places, where population is concentrated, on the other hand they produce economic and social organizations therefore they contain two social realities at the same time. In the first practice, the city is seen as a place where social welfare, economic and social development, public and urban services are fully provided. In the second reality, they appear to be unequal and unhealthy places where infrastructure is lacking, poverty and deprivation, traffic,

¹Assist. Prof. Dr., Tarsus University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative, ahmetyaman@tarsus.edu.tr

 Orcid ID: [0000-0002-2359-8653](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2359-8653)



noise and air pollution are present. These two realities also define our vision of the city. The global risks and uncertainties that have emerged in recent years, the social, political, economic and demographic changes and transformations they bring have increased structural problems for many years.

Researches and investigations on these issues and their root causes continue to be included in the research agenda of various disciplines. Social problems, in which rapid change and transformation due to industrialization and urbanization in the world and in Turkey, are visible and reproducible appear in cities and urban spaces. In our time, which is also called the century of the city or the urban society, it is thought that 80 percent of the world's people will live in cities between 2018 and 2050. This change leads to problems such as inequality between regions and cities, unequal distribution of population, crime, violence, unemployment, irregular settlement and migration trends. Economic and social issues differing over time and space can also be seen as the dual and contradictory structure of industrialization and urbanization (Gottdiener & Hutchison, 2011: 2; Keleş, 2016: 133; Saunders, 1989: 12; Şengül, 2009: 15-20; Tekeli, 2011: 30-50).

Cities are social and economic constructs – ‘organized complexity’, as Jane Jacobs puts it in “The Death and Life of Great American Cities” (Jacobs, 1961). As Ed Glaeser suggests, cities are probably our greatest invention (Cheshire et al., 2014: 5). Complexity of cities is caused by production of economic, political and cultural structure. This structure is linked directly to the urbanization and industrialization process of cities. Economic geography examines why, where, and when food, shelter, commodities, money, cultural meanings, and landscapes are produced (Sheppard et al., 2004: 1-10).

The relationship between urbanization and industrialization that affects each other in positive or negative ways determines the development of urban economics. Therefore, this raises questions about why some cities are more productive than others, the environmental and social externalities of concentration occur in some cities, and there are increasing social and economic differences among some cities. While urban economics searches for answers to all these questions, in summary, it has questioned why people come together more in some cities. Apart from this basic question, urban economics also seeks answers to the following specific questions. How is the distribution of economic activities over urban space realized? How are economic inequalities in urban space explained? What characteristics of urban spaces affect economic development and how? How are policymaker decisions about the use and distribution of urban space formed? How do urban policy decisions affect the use of urban space? (Glaser, 2007: 2).

In this study, the social and economic place of tradesmen and craftsmen in Mersin's urban economics is investigated based on the questions developed by the urban economics discipline. In this context, the research has adopted the qualitative research method strategy, and an instrumental and multiple case study design, which aims to examine an issue in depth and to reveal the context of a phenomenon (Creswell, 2021: 101). Document analysis technique was used as data collection technique in the study. In this context, policy texts, research reports, institutional statistics, etc., which are the second data source, were examined (Corbetta, 2003: 287).

First of all, this paper shows how we can explain urban economics structure by theory of urban economics. Secondly, my objective is to provide evidence that the role of tradesmen and craftsmen in Mersin is the driver of urban economics on social and economic welfare. The theories of urban economics are described in the first part to define the scope of the research. The social and economic structure of Mersin is briefly covered in the second part, depending on the time and place. As a final point, the role of tradesmen and craftsmen in Mersin urban economics are evaluated in terms of institutional, social, and economic diversity, and places of activities.

2. Theoretical and Methodological Approaches of Urban Economics

Cities are the hubs of capitalist expansion, serving as foci of innovation, corporate operations, and vital nodes that connect huge volumes of money, power, people, products, and information. Cities are also cultural meaning depositories, where people produce and consume the symbolic systems they employ to navigate the world. (Stutz & Warf, 2014: 273). Urban economics has been at the core of economic geography and plays an essential part in the development of regional science (Capello & Nijkamp, 2004: 3). The emergence of the urban economy as scientific research with consistent theoretical foundations begins with Alonso's study "Location and Land Use". Before Alonso, Von Thünen contributed to the development of urban economics with "Der Isolierte Staat in Beziehung auf Landwirthschaft und National Ökonomie". Sari stated that The model of Von Thünen focused on location selection decisions in the agricultural sector and propose a land use model. Von Thünen Model is important for urban economics discipline to not only clarify urban-rural rent and locational theory but also analysed location problems by using land use modeling (Sari, 2017: 311).

According to Capello and Nijkamp (2004), Von Thünen, Alonso, Christaller, and Lösch have made important contributions to spatial analysis by focusing on business and resident location and choice at the urban level. Here are the reasons for this strategic role of the urban economics. The initial argument lies in the nature of the city itself, being a complex system where societal, economic, environmental and political issues interact and describe models of urban growth. This is especially true for urban phenomena if regional science is seen as a collaborative effort across many spatially oriented fields This is particularly true for urban phenomena; a single discipline such as economics or political science, sociology, geography cannot be the source of an inclusive understanding of a city with all facets of its complexity. The following reason of the strategic role played by urban economics within regional science is that, given the economies of density of residential and productive activities, the territorial principles governing the spatial organization of activities are powerfully manifested at the urban level. The theories and models of urban economics have been developed around five principles that control the activities on urban area. Five principles have composed of the agglomeration, the accessibility, the spatial interaction, the urban hierarchy and the competitiveness (Capello & Nijkamp, 2004).

O'Sullivan emphasized that urban economics integrates economics and geography by examining the location decisions made by utility-maximizing households and businesses. In addition to identifying inefficiencies in location decisions, urban economics investigates various governmental policies that improve efficiency. There are six interconnected social realities that can be applied to the study of urban economics.

- “Market forces in the development of cities,
- Land use within cities,
- Urban transportation,
- Crime and public policy,
- Housing and public policy,
- Local government expenditure and taxes (O’Sullivan, 2011: 1-2)”

Cities are embedded in a larger economic context that shapes and produces their structure, function, and behavior in time and place (Stutz & Warf, 2014: 274). The availability of jobs and the distribution of those jobs are the primary reasons why cities exist. When there is a high concentration of jobs in an area, there will also be a high concentration of people living in that area. A city is created as a result (Brueckner, 2011: 1).

The Industrial Revolution was closely associated with the growth of cities. We know that industrialization and urbanization have been simultaneous. The development and tendency of industrialization and urbanization bring about the presence of workers and firms in urban areas (Stutz & Warf, 2014: 56).

Economic geography argues that labor, firms, and state are key agents in terms of urban economics. Although the relative importance of these agents has changed over time and space. They are vital agents that shape the reality of urban economics. Firms are key agents in creating jobs, commercializing innovation, and delivering new products and services to consumers. Territorial development and the location decisions of firms are in a symbiotic relationship. The state not only manages and shapes national or international trade but also determines or intervenes in the economy. Labour is one of the economic change agents. It has been envisioned of as a key production factor, a socioeconomic class, and a source of innovation and technological change (Aoyama et al., 2011: 1-16).

Within the scope of the research, tradesmen and craftsmen are considered key actors in urban economics structure. Departing from this hypothesis, this paper tries to demonstrate how craftsmen and tradesmen are defined in Mersin economy. What sorts of activities do they conduct? Where are the most commercial activities of tradesmen and craftsmen (TC) carried out?

3. The Structure of the Mersin Urban Economics

Mersin is known as a historical Mediterranean port city that has been an important settlement since early ages. Mersin has potential for further growth thanks to its strategic, historical, and cultural position between Europe and the Middle East as well as its mild climate (Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2019: 1-5; Unlü & Selvi, 2012: 3- 5).

Many different studies are carried out in disciplines such as sociology, urbanism, and public administration in terms of Mersin's historical, cultural, physical, social and economic structure. For instance, Beyhan et al, have examined the contextualization of urban growth and sprawl experienced in the coastal conurbation of Mersin in southern Turkey. Ünlü has researched the historical and commercial development of Mersin. Zorlu and Yaman studied small industrial policy analysis and its effect on the urban growth of Mersin. Bayraktar et al. analyzed the urban dimension of rural Turkey in terms of rural proliferation of the rural population in the coastal zone (Bayraktar et al., 2015; Beyhan et al., 2012; Unlü & Selvi, 2012; Yaman, 2021; Yaman & Zorlu, 2019).

Within the scope of the research, the basic features of Mersin urban economics are briefly mentioned. Also known as the pearl of the Mediterranean, Mersin's fertile lands, natural wonders, historical heritage, advantageous location, and many other aspects makes it among Turkey's most favoured cities in terms of both tourism and trade. According to Çukurova Development Agency, Mersin urban economics ranks sixth in Turkey in terms of agricultural production. Considering the GDP share of sectors in Turkey, the industry sector ranks 17th, and the services sector is 7th in Mersin (Mersin Development Agency, 2021).

Within the scope of domestic trade in 2020, total value of purchase and sale of Mersin, province compared to other provinces, was approximately 220 billion Turkish Liras per year (Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2021: 140). Agricultural production value (2020) reached 17,1 billion TL. This is the 5th highest value in Turkey. Mersin is the city where the highest fruit production was made (3.327.517 tons). This value corresponds to 13,3% of the fruit production in Turkey. Nine agricultural products Mersin holds the 1st place in their production in Turkey are Banana, Lemon, Loquat, Strawberry, Plum, Peach, Nectarine, Walnut, and Zucchini (Greenhouse Production, 2021). Mersin is the 1st city in Turkey in greenhouse fruit production (587.559.000 tons of fruits). This value corresponds to 60% of the greenhouse fruit production in Turkey. Mersin has 28 largest industrial companies which are in the first 1000 largest industrial companies. It has one of the longest coastlines in Turkey, with a coastline of 330 km. There are eight Cultural and Tourism Protection and Development areas and four cultural assets from Mersin in UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List. 1.125.985 people in total, including 195.385 foreigners visited Mersin (Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2021: 140- 156; Mersin Development Agency, 2021).

Analyzing the urban economics structure is a very difficult and complex process of a city that has been determined by economic growth and development, and technological, and demographic

changes (Balchin et al., 1995: 1). This paper tries to summarize the analysis of the urban economics structure of Mersin that has been influenced by local and national economic, social, and cultural factors. Araujo stresses that a study aiming to investigate the development of commercial activity needs to evaluate all sectors together (Mirás Araujo, 2008).

In Berry's study (as cited in Ünlü, 2012), commercial activities are classified as spatial distributions, sprawls, and areas of specialization. Kılıçarslan has proposed an analysis of urban economics structure as regards economic activities, analysis of economic-based and space analysis models (Kılınçaslan, 2018: 327-349).

As mentioned above, Mersin has urban economic size, diversity, and advantages at various levels thanks to its social, economic, and geographical advantages. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK, 2021). In the next section, the role of tradesmen and craftsmen in Mersin urban economics structure has been analyzed considering their institutional and economic diversities and spatial locations.

4. The Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TC) in Mersin Urban Economics: An Analysis of Institutional, Sectoral-Based and Location of Activity

Tradesmen and craftsmen are not only an economic enterprise but also a social group with a historical and sociological background. The historical background of tradesmen and craftsmen is based on the Ahi system, which dates back to the 13th century. Ahi system has determined the structure of vocational training (Usta, Çırak, Kalfa) and has controlled attitudes and behaviors in business life of tradesmen and craftsmen. Considering the purpose and scope of the study, this paper has emphasized that the institutional and cultural structures of tradesmen and craftsmen have been influenced by the Ahi system (Ceylan, 2013: 1-80; Erdem, 2008: 51-68; Yaman, 2020a: 20-28).

Turkish tradesmen and craftsmen who work in certain parts of the street or in a shop, or a hard keep in bodily operate more capital based, are described by Turkish Commercial Code Article 15 (Turkish Commercial Code, 2011). Also, Turkish Commercial Code define tradesmen and craftsmen not only with the component of income level, but also with an approach of vocation. For instance, plumber, plasterer etc. are counted to as a tradesmen and craftsmen regardless of their incomes (Işık, 2017: 4). Tradesmen and craftsmen are ruled by Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen and Professional Organizations Code (5362). According to this law, whether they are mobile or work in a shop they are defined as tradesmen and craftsmen who are determined in a list of vocations by the Coordination Board for Determining the Tradesmen and Craftsmen and the Merchants and Industrialists. Also, TC are defined as those whose economic activity does not exceed their physical capital, whose income is not as much as the merchant, who is taxed in a simple manner, who keeps books by single entry according to the business account and who is exempt from tax (Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Meslek Kuruluşu Kanunu, 2005). According to the TESK, the definitions specified in the laws mentioned above cannot fulfil the current needs of tradesmen and craftsmen. The definitions of tradesmen and craftsmen should include all activities, encourage entrepreneurship, increase employment, support growth, and be open to development (TESK, 2008: 4).

When we examine tradesmen and craftsmen regarding institutions, activities of economics, and location of activities, we see that they have a triple structure which consists tradesmen and craftsmen, chambers, and union. In this triple structure, they conduct their activities throughout the province. They compose of chambers that are established by tradesmen and craftsmen. The union is consisted of chambers that are responsible to all chambers throughout province by Code 5362 (TESK, 2018).

In the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, it is outlined that the state takes protective and supportive measures for tradesmen and craftsmen (T.C. Anayasası, 1982). Based on this, the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trades has Directorate General of Tradesmen, Craftsmen and Cooperatives which create policy based on social and economic conditions and development of tradesmen and craftsmen. Directorate General is responsible for determining the problems of

tradesmen and craftsmen and producing solutions to their problems across the country (T.C. Ticaret Bakanlığı Esnaf Sanatkarlar ve Kooperatifçilik Genel Müdürlüğü, 2022).

Tradesmen and craftsmen who carry out their activities in different occupational groups in Figure 1. When TC establish their business in tax administration, they have to apply to the Directorate of Registry for Tradesmen and Craftsmen within the union. TC are to be registered to chambers of profession that is determined by the law 5362. TC are directly linked to their chambers of profession in terms of supporting personal and business development, vocational training and providing their technical assistance. The chambers are indirectly affiliated with the unions of which there is only one in each province. The unions develop policies throughout the province for the social and economic development of chambers which TC and their employees are affiliated to. The unions represent all of the TC and the chambers at local and national level. Confederation is the top of the organizational structure of TC. The Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen is responsible for formulating policy regarding social and economic development, technological transformation of retailers and ensuring health services etc. In order to do that, the confederation carries out initiatives at the government and international level (Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Meslek Kuruluşu Kanunu, 2005; TESK, 2008, 2018).

Mersin Union of Chambers of Tradesmen and Craftsmen has 69 professional chambers and approximately 60.000 TC businesses registered. Mersin Union operates and formulates policy based on social, economic and technical assistance throughout the province. The sectors with the most workplace registration among professional chambers are the enterprises operating in the service, manufacturing and food, industrial, health and beauty, textile and clothing fields etc. (Yaman, 2019).

According to the Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen Confederation Statistical Report (TESK), As presented in Figure 2, 2,100,000 tradesmen and craftsmen have operated their businesses throughout Turkey with 2,274,000 workplaces up to now. Mersin has approximately 55.000 tradesmen and craftsmen (TESK, 2021). The tradesmen and craftsmen are also analysed.

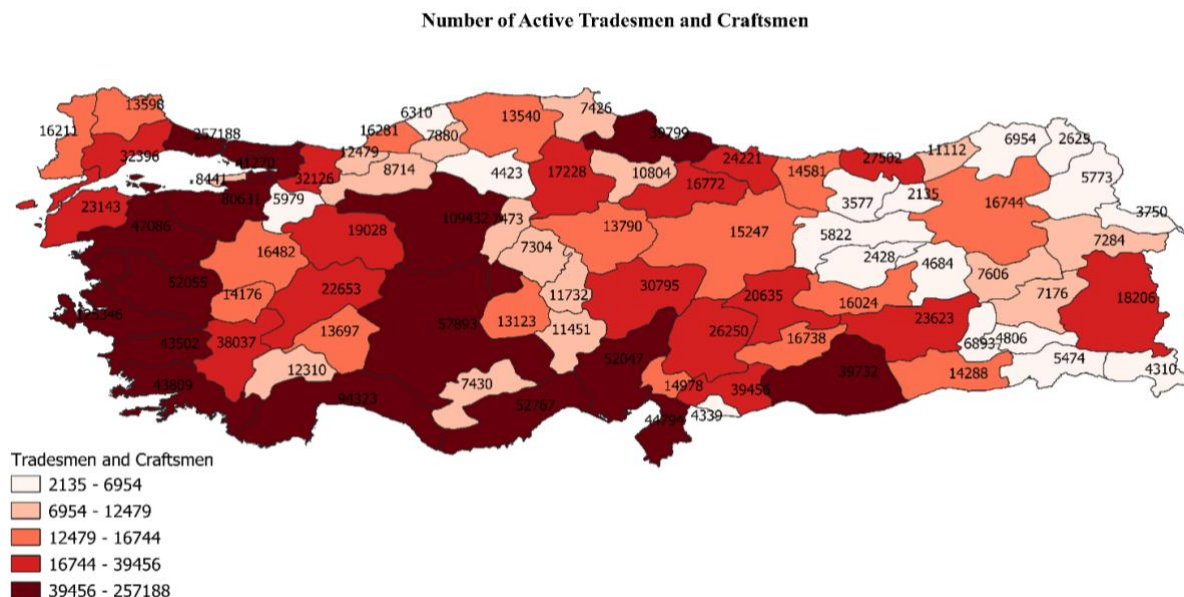


Figure 2. Number of Active Tradesmen and Craftsmen in Turkey, Source: TESK, 2022

Mersin Union of Chambers of Tradesmen and Craftsmen (MERSİN ESOB) analysed tradesmen and craftsmen in terms of demographic features, sector-based and location of activity. According to MERSİN ESOB, 76 per cent of the 56,259 enterprises operate in the service sector and 24 per cent in the manufacturing sector. While the average age of the TC is 46, the life expectancy of their enterprises has been determined as 10,6 years. 18% of tradesmen and craftsmen are women.

The tradesmen and craftsmen are located in all districts and neighborhoods of Mersin. TC continues their activity spread over three regions which are called center, east and west. About fifty per cent of the enterprises of TC operate the city centre of Mersin as in Table 1 (Yaman, 2022a).

Tablo 1. Regional Distribution of Tradesmen and Craftsmen Enterprises

Regional Distribution of Tradesmen and Craftsmen Enterprises		
Regions*	Frequency	Percent
Centre	27923	49,6
West	17980	32,0
East	10356	18,4
Total	56259	100,0

*Center (Mersin and Mezitli), West (From Erdemli to Anamur Districts), East (Tarsus and Çamlıyayla)

The tradesmen and craftsmen have been analyzed based on their location of activity throughout the province. As presented in Figure 3, it was determined that traders were clustered primarily in the food sector, followed by the transport sector, and finally in the health and beauty sector.

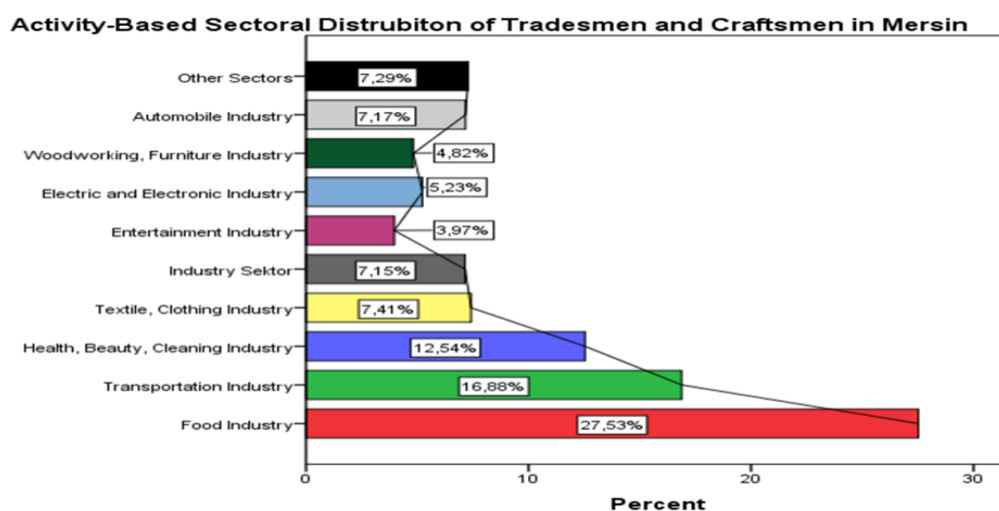


Figure 3. Sectoral Distribution of Tradesmen and Craftsmen in Mersin

The urban concept is explained as a socio-economic living area in which economic activities are also conducted, as well as being a place where people live together. The growth of the city and the socio-economic development of its inhabitants are mutually related. A city's location, size, and development process also determine its spatial functions. Cities have residential and labor zones which play a key role in developing the city and the well-being of the people who live there. The tradesmen and craftsmen's enterprises are also affected by the process of determining the working areas of the city. As a community with over 2 million tradesmen and craftsmen, TESK has the largest share in the national economy, employment, and taxes. So, in other words, The President of TESK stressed that SMEs generate 75,8% of jobs in Turkey; 96% of all enterprises are SMEs, 92% of which are micro-sized enterprises, which are TC. The TC generally want to operate in workplaces with modern, technical, and technological infrastructure (Güldağ et al., 2021; Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği, 2019; Yaman, 2021: 376).

The city's built environment and the development of social and economic infrastructure have intersected each other (Penpecioglu, 2016). The tradesmen and craftsmen not only meet the daily consumption needs of the city but also take an active part in the production process. In order to realize the consumption and production functions of the city, the tradesmen and craftsmen, especially

those who work in the manufacturing sector, seek to operate their work in the industrial area. The construction of industrial areas dates back to the planned economic period of Turkey. Up to now, the policy of industrial estate construction has shaped the scale, the space, and the conjuncture of the city. The process of building industrial estates has not only been supported by the governments of Turkey but also been planned by the municipalities of the cities (Yaman, 2022b: 33-61; Yaman & Zorlu, 2020: 572). Within the framework of the research, the planning of cities and industrial estates was not focused in detail.

On the other hand, the relations between the industrial estate and the tradesmen and craftsmen are examined regarding Mersin urban economics. As of 2018, there are 858 industrial estates in Turkey, 135 of which are in city centers. The industrial estates occupy the agendas of the country and cities in two ways. The first is to relocate industrial estates in the city center and the other is to build new ones in the cities (Habertürk, 2017; TMMOB Bursa İl Koordinasyon Kurulu, 2011; Yaman, 2021: 5-7).

Tablo 2. Active Industrial Estates and Capacities of Mersin Urban Economics

The Name of Industrial Estates (KSS: Small Industrial Estate)	District	Total Workplaces	Empty Workplaces	The average number of employees
MERSİN KSS	AKDENİZ	705	15	4000
TIRMİL KSS	AKDENİZ	460	33	1800
TARSUS KSS	TARSUS	273	8	450
ERDEMLİ KSS	ERDEMLİ	300	0	600
SİLİFKE KSS	SİLİFKE	204	0	816
MEZİTLİ KSS	MEZİTLİ	132	0	260
ANAMUR KSS	ANAMUR	560	0	1200
MUT KSS	MUT	230	0	330
TOROSLAR KSS	TOROSLAR	88	0	270
BOZYAZI KSS	BOZYAZI	55	0	150
MEZİTLİ SEVKİYATÇILAR KSS	MEZİTLİ	32	0	350
TARSUS/YENİCE KSS	YENİCE	38	5	66
TARSUS KEMALPAŞA KSS	KEMALPAŞA	90	15	200
ÖZ GÜLNAR KSS	GÜLNAR	73	0	45
KARGIPINARI KSS	ERDEMLİ	52	2	110
TOPLAM		3292	78	10647

Mersin has fifteen small industrial estates, as shown in Table 2, with 98 percent of the workplaces occupied at full capacity (Mersin Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası, 2021: 100). According to the Mersin ESOB, 4545 tradesmen and craftsmen work in the manufacturing sectors in Toroslar, Yenişehir, Mezitli, and Akdeniz districts. So to say, all of these enterprises seek to work in an industrial estate in order to increase the economic efficiency of the enterprises and to reduce the damage to the environment and health, according to the Mersin ESOB. In this sense, Mersin ESOB and Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry take the initiative to formulate public opinion in favor of developing the urban economics of the town (Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği, 2020; Mersin İmece Haber, 2016; Yaman, 2020b, 2021). The construction and planning of industrial estates in Mersin is a complex process. The purpose and scope of the study on this subject have not been

emphasized in detail. In this paper, I tried to illustrate that tradesmen and craftsmen not only produce goods and services but also contribute to urban economics. Industrial areas have a main role in the development of the city. In other words, planned industrial areas positively affect urban growth and the urban economics (Logan & Molotch, 1987: 12). Therefore, within the scope of study, the industrial estate and the TC relationship were considered on Mersin case. According to Mersin ESOB, the enterprises of TC continue their activities among neighborhoods and under apartments in the city center.

Table 3. Sectoral Distribution of Enterprises of TC in the City Centre.

Districts / Sectors ²	Automobile	Furniture	Metal	Marble	Recycling	Electric	Printing Press	Building
AKDENİZ	841	301	734	30	30	116	130	95
TOROSLAR	196	279	295	15	20	63	15	85
MEZİTLİ	216	151	198	17	14	55	21	45
YENİŞEHİR	137	171	100	12	16	92	9	46
TOPLAM	1390	902	1327	74	80	326	175	271

Source: Mersin Union of Chambers of Tradesmen and Craftsmen

As shown in Table 3, the enterprises of TC not only have impacted on the environment and human health but also, they cause noise and visual pollution in the city center. Although tradesmen and craftsmen create a series of negative results while operating in the city, they also contribute to urban economic growth, employment creation etc. As illustrated in Table 2, the fifteen industrial estates in Mersin provide employment to approximately 10 thousand people.

As presented in Figure 3, 76% of enterprises of TC operating in 8 sectors and 63 professions run in the neighborhoods and streets of the city, under the apartments. It is known that the activities of these enterprises adversely affect the environment and human health in the city center (Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği, 2016; Yaman, 2020c).

The retail enterprises of tradesmen and craftsmen has been considered a driver of Mersin urban economics structure. In this paper I present commercial classifications of Mersin economics based on the systematic observations of local cases regarding density, diversity and clustering of activities

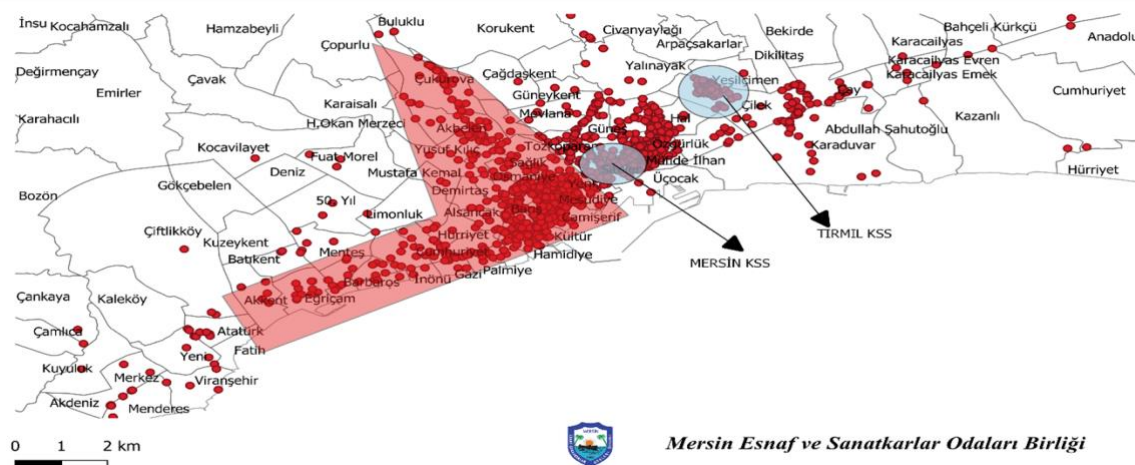


Figure 3. Distribution of Enterprises of TC in the City Geography

² The sectors are determined by NACE (Nomenclature statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne). It is used by the EU to demonstrate various statistical classification of economic activities since 1970 (Yaman, 2021: 28). In this paper, the Sectors were prepared according to the NACE codes and the law numbered 5362.

According to Mersin ESOB, these enterprises are classified by “Establishment of Workplaces and Working Permits, Law on Enactment of Decree Laws and Work Permits and Working Licenses, sanitary, 2nd and 3rd class non-sanitary and open-air entertainment Licensing”.

5. Conclusion: The role of Tradesmen and Craftsmen in Urban Economics

In this paper, urban economics has been clarified not only as a historical background but also, economics and geography has been explained as an intersectional relationship. As stressed above, cities are the hubs of capitalist expansion, serving as foci of innovation, corporate operations, and vital nodes that connect huge volumes of money, power, people, products and information. This paper contributes to present a connection that can be analyzed in line with tradesmen and craftsmen in terms of urban economics structure. In addition, the proposed connection is generalizable. Tradesmen and craftsmen are not only an economic enterprise but also a social group with a historical and sociological background. They carry out their activities in different occupational groups. TC institutional organization is established as chambers and a union in urban areas. They represent tradesmen and craftsmen to formulate urban and public policy according to the law numbered 5362. As a community with over 2 million members, tradesmen and craftsmen have the largest share in the national economy, employment and taxes. The case study is Mersin, has 69 professional chambers and approximately 60.000 TC businesses registered.

This paper also argues that tradesmen and craftsmen are key actors who produce goods and services in urban economics. The method used for the research is case study and document analysis technique. The paper was composed of three main parts, the first of which briefly analyses urban economics within the historical context. The second looks at the structure of the Mersin urban economics, and within the scope of the paper, first of all, tradesmen and craftsmen were analyzed in terms of the institutional framework, sectoral based, and location-activity. Recent studies have focused on cluster analysis to gain understanding into commercial structures. Considering my specific research purpose, this research analyzes tradesmen and craftsmen enterprises across urban geography to demonstrate economic activities of TC according to the NACE codes and the law numbered 5362. Hence, TC has an institutional organization capacity that is spread whole over the national level. Also, TC provides the city’s production process of goods and services based on sectoral-driven.

References

- Aoyama, Y., Murphy, J. T., & Hanson, S. (2011). *Key Concepts in Economic Geography*. SAGE Publications.
- Balchin, P. N., Hull, G. H., & Kieve, J. L. (1995). *Urban Land Economics and Public Policy*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bayraktar, U., Beyhan, B., Kiper, N., Yoloğlu, A. C., & Erkiş, H. (2015). Akdeniz Bölgesi’nde Kentleşme Sürecinin Kırsal Bileşenleri: 70 Yıl Sonra Erdemli. *Journal of Planning*, 25(2), 134–146. <https://doi.org/10.5505/planlama.2015.96977>
- Beyhan, B., TAUBENBÖCK, H., SUFFA, S., ULLMANN, T., RAUH, J., & DECH, S. (2012). Urban Growth and Sprawl of Mersin City, Turkey: Change Analysis Based on Earth Observation and Socio-Economic Data. *Megaron / Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Architecture E-Journal*, 7(1), 3–25. <https://dx.doi.org/>
- Brueckner, J. K. (2011). *Lectures on Urban Economics*. The MIT Press.
- Capello, R., & Nijkamp, P. (2004). The Theoretical and Methodological Toolbox of Urban Economics: From and Towards Where? In R. Capello & P. Nijkamp (Eds.), *Urban Dynamics and Growth: Advances in Urban Economics* (pp. 1–24). Elsevier.
- Ceylan, K. (2013). *Ahilik: Türk - İslam Medeniyetinde Dünyevi ve Uhrevi Sistem*. T.C. Gümrük ve Ticaret Bakanlığı Kültür Yayınları.

- Cheshire, P. C., Nathan, M., & Overman, H. G. (2014). *Urban Economics and Urban Policy Challenging Conventional Policy Wisdom*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.
- Corbetta, P. (2003). *Social Research: Theory, Methods and Techniques*. SAGE Publications.
- Creswell, J. W. (2021). *Nitel Araştırma Yöntemleri: Beş Yaklaşımına Göre Nitel Araştırma ve Araştırma Deseni*. Siyasal Kitabevi.
- Erdem, E. (2008). *Ahilik: Ahlakla Kalitenin Buluştuğu Bir Esnaf Teşkilatlanma Modeli*. Detay Yayıncılık.
- Glaser, E. L. (2007). *The Economic Approach to Cities*.
- Gottdiener, M., & Hutchison, R. (2011). *The New Urban Sociology* (4th ed.). Westview Press.
- Güldağ, H., Munyar, V., & Oğuz, Ş. (2021). Questions and Answer. *Trtmonitor*. <https://www.trtmonitor.net/qa-with-bendeve-palandoken-president-of-the-confederation-of-turkish-tradesmen-and-craftsmen-tesk/>
- Habertürk. (2017). Sanayi Siteleri Taşınıyor. <https://www.haberturk.com/ekonomi/is-yasam/haber/1555524-sanayi-siteleri-tasiniyor-iste-detaylar>
- Işık, Ü. (2017). *Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Meslek Kuruluşları Yöneticileri El Kitabı*. TESK.
- Keleş, R. (2016). *Kentleşme Politikası* (15th ed.). İmge Kitabevi.
- Kılınçaslan, İ. (2018). *Kent Ekonomisi* (2nd ed.). Ninova Yayınları.
- Logan, J. R., & Molotch, H. L. (1987). *Urban Fortunes The Political Economy of Place*. University of California Press.
- Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. (2019). *Mersin: The world City*. Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. (2021). *MFTSO Ekonomik Rapor*.
- Mersin Development Agency. (2021). *InvestinMersin. Why Mersin*. <http://www.investinmersin.org/invest/nedenmersin/ekonomi-2.html>
- Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği. (2016). *Mahalle Aralarında Kalan Sanayi İşyerleri Büyük Sorun*. <http://www.mersinesob.org.tr/v2/tr/?s=ihsaniye>
- Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği. (2019). *Mersin ESOB Başkanlar Kurulu Toplantısı*. <http://www.mersinesob.org.tr/v2/mersin-esob-baskanlar-kurulu-yapildi-3/>
- Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği. (2020). *Haberler*. 2020. <http://www.mersinesob.org.tr/v2/mersin-esnaf-chp-buyuksehir-adayi-vahap-secerle-bulustu/>
- Mersin İmece Haber. (2016). *Sanayi Sitesi Beklerken Bölge Ranta Mı Açıldı?* <http://www.mersinimecehaber.com/mersin/sanayi-sitesi-beklerken-bolge-ranta-mi-acildi-h10013.html>
- Mersin Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası. (2021). *Ekonomik Rapor*.
- Mirás Araujo, J. (2008). The Commercial Sector in an Early-Twentieth Century Spanish City, La Coruña 1914-1935. *Journal of Urban History*, 34(3), 458–483. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144207311191>
- O’Sullivan, A. (2011). *Urban Economics*. McGraw-Hill.
- Penpecioglu, M. (2016). *Yapılı Çevre Üretimi, Devlet ve Büyük Ölçekli Kentsel Projeler Kapitalist Kentleşme Dinamiklerinin Türkiye’deki Son 10 Yılı*. In İnşaat Ya Resulullah (pp. 163–181). İletişim Yayınları.
- T.C. Anayasası, 1 (1982).
- Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Meslek Kuruluşu Kanunu*, (2005).
- Turkish Commercial Code*, (2011).
- Sarı, B. Ö. (2017). *Kent Ekonomisi ve Kentsel Planlama*. In S. S. Özdemir, Sarı, B. Ö. Sarı, & N. Uzun (Eds.), *Kent Planlama* (pp. 309–329). İmge Kitabevi.
- Saunders, P. (1989). *Social Theory and the Urban Question* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- Şengül, H. T. (2009). *Kentsel Çelişki ve Siyaset Kapitalist Kentleşme Süreçlerinin Eleştirisi* (2nd ed.). İmge Yayınevi.

- Sheppard, E., Barnes, T. J., Peck, J., & Tickell, A. (2004). Introduction: Reading Economic Geography. In *Reading Economic Geography* (pp. 1–11). Blackwell Publishing Inc.
- Stutz, F. P., & Warf, B. (2014). *The World Economy Geography, Business, Development*. Pearson Education Limited.
- T.C. Ticaret Bakanlığı Esnaf Sanatkarlar ve Kooperatifçilik Genel Müdürlüğü. (2022). Hakkımızda. <https://esnafkoop.ticaret.gov.tr/kurumsal/hakkimizda>
- Tekeli, İ. (2011). Kent, Kentli Hakları, Kentleşme ve Kentsel Dönüşüm Yazıları. Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları.
- TESK. (2008). *Esnaf ve Sanatkar Raporu*.
- TESK. (2018). *TESK Hakkında*. TESK.
- TESK. (2021). *Sicil İstatistikleri*. <https://www.tesk.org.tr/view/mevzuat/liste.php?Guid=902743d2-11e2-11ea-9eaf-000c29b32a85>
- TMMOB Bursa İl Koordinasyon Kurulu. (2011). *TMMOB Basın Açıklaması*. <https://www.tmmob.org.tr/icerik/bursa-ikk-besob-sanayi-sitesi-projesiyle-ilgili-bir-kez-daha-uyariyoruz-bu-inattan-ve-bu>
- TUIK. (2021). Küçük ve orta büyüklükteki girişim istatistikleri, 2020. Haber Bülteni. <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Kucuk-ve-Orta-Buyuklukteki-Girisim-Istatistikleri-2020-41129#:~:text=2019 yılında doğan KOBİ girişim,%14%2C7'ye%2C>
- Unlü, T., & Selvi, T. (2012). Gelişen ticaret, değişen kent Mersin.
- Yaman, A. (2019). *2018 Ocak-Haziran Dönemi Mersin İli Esnaf ve Sanatkar Ekonomi Raporu*.
- Yaman, A. (2020a). *Kadın Esnaf ve Sanatkarların Profillerinin ve Sorunlarının Sosyolojik Analizi*. Mer-Ak Yayınları.
- Yaman, A. (2020b). *Mersin Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Odaları Birliği Mersin İli Sanayi Sitesi Sorunu Mevcut Durumu ve Çözüm Önerileri*.
- Yaman, A. (2020c). *Mersin İli Sanayi Sitesi Sorunu Mevcut Durumu ve Çözüm Önerileri Raporu*.
- Yaman, A. (2021). Kentin Gelişimi ve Sanayi Sitesi İlişkisi Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme: Mersin Örneği. *Turkish Studies Social Sciences*, 16(1), 375–394.
- Yaman, A. (2022a). *Mersin 2021 Yılı Esnaf ve Sanatkar Raporu*.
- Yaman, A. (2022b). *Türkiye'nin Sanayi Sitesi Politikası: Kentsel Politikanın Üretimi ve Dönüşümü*. Paradigma Akademi.
- Yaman, A., & Zorlu, F. (2019). Türkiye'de Kentsel Politikalar Bağlamında Küçük Sanayi Siteleri Üretimi ve Dönüşümü: Mersin Örneği. In *1. Ulusal Mersin Tarihi Kent Sempozyumu Bildiri Tam Kitabı* (pp. 51–79). Toros Üniversitesi. <https://mersintarihikent.toros.edu.tr/dosyalar/bildiri.pdf>
- Yaman, A., & Zorlu, F. (2020). Kamu Politikalarının Dönüşümü: Türkiye'de Sanayi Siteleri Deneyimi. In *Türkiye Kentleri ve Bölgeleri* (pp. 569–583). Kentsel ve Bölgesel Araştırmalar Ağı (KBAM). <https://app.box.com/s/rvnfp50ro19w09giyshq5gagztf0zte4>
- Yavan, N. (2021). *Türkiye Endüstri Coğrafyası*. Acıkders Sanayi Coğrafyası. https://acikders.ankara.edu.tr/pluginfile.php/90972/mod_resource/content/0/Hafta_3-Sanayinin_Olculmesi_ve_Buyuklugu.pdf