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## **Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists in the World**

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## **Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists in the World**

### **Abstract**

This research note presents the research rankings of Turkish economists in the world using *RePEc* database as of January 2014. The long-run research ranking data running from 2003 to 2013 are utilized to identify the research success of Turkish economists working at universities and institutions all over the world.

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## Introduction

Ranking economic institutions and economists with different purposes seems to be getting easier and more reliable due to recent improvements in information technology which provides extensive databases for researchers.

Within these databases in economics, *RePEc* (Research Papers in Economics <http://ideas.repec.org>) is the largest bibliographic database with over 6000 journals and series and offers over 1 500 000 items of research which can be browsed or searched and over 1 3000 000 items which can be downloaded in full text.

As a voluntary organization, *RePEc* was established in 1992 with the aim of disseminating all kinds of economics research papers. As of January 2014, *RePEc* has around 39000 registered economists from over 75 countries. *RePEc* presents extensive research statistics on different aspects of economists, economic institutions by monthly in addition to quarterly and annual frequencies. Recently, *RePEc* has started to produce the research ranking statistics with decade frequency and these ranking statistics are based on 34 different criteria.

The *RePEc* database has been utilized extensively in recent studies by several researchers to identify and rank economists and economic institutions; see for example: Chang and McAleer (2013), Tol (2013a and 2013b), Zimmermann (2013), Halicioglu (2013 and 2011) Gibson *et al.* (2012), Seiler and Wohlrabe (2011), Dezhina and Dashkeev (2008), Mishra (2008), Novarese and Zimmermann (2008), and Kim *et al.* (2007).

Zimmermann (2013) discusses the pros and cons of the *RePEc* ranking methodology in comparison to other methodologies in the literature and argues that its methodology is sound and its reliability will improve further as its coverage extends.

This note argues that out of several research ranking frequencies, the data obtained from the longest data span should reveal the most reliable research rankings for the economists and institutions.

## Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists in the World

As of January 2014, *RePEc* revealed the research ranking statistics for 34 different criteria over the period 2003-2013 for almost 39 000 economists. These statistics also present *RePEc* rankings of institutions and economists in terms of the top 5%, the top 10, the top 25%, according to each individual criterion in addition to the average of 34 criteria.

The research ranking place of Turkish economists is presented in Table 1 using the *RePEc* top 5% list based on the average of 34 criteria. The top 5% list also reveals the exact place of an individual economist amongst 39 000 researchers but this situation is not possible if an economist is ranked above 5% list such as the top 5% and higher.

**Table 1: Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists 2003-2013**

Name	<i>RePEc</i> Ranking	Affiliation	The place PhD and year obtained
1. Daron Acemoglu	3	Department of Economics, MIT	LSE, UK, (1992)
2. Asli Demirguc-Kunt	38	World Bank	Ohio State University, (1990)
3. Dani Rodrik	84	IAS, Princeton University	Princeton University, (1985)
4. Ayhan Kose	312	IMF	University of Iowa, (1996)
5. Sebnem Kaleli-Ozcan	642	Department of Economics, University of Maryland	Brown University, (2000)
6. Refet Gurkaynak	673	Department of Economics, Bilkent University, Turkey	Princeton University, (2004)
7. Tayfun Sonmez	788	Department of Economics, Boston College	University of Rochester, (1995)
8. Fatih Guvenen	837	Department of Economics, University of Minnesota	Carnegie Mellon University, (2001)
9. Nezh Guner	886	Department of Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics	University of Rochester, (2000)
10. Ali Kutan	935	Department of Economics, Southern Illinois University	Arizona State University, (1990)
11. Suleyman Basak	1043	Department of Finance, London Business School	Carnegie Mellon University, (1993)
12. Ali Hortacsu	1501	Department of Economics, University of Chicago	Stanford University, (2001)
13. Ferda Halicioglu	1557	Department of Economics, Yeditepe University, Turkey	Istanbul University, (1996)
15. Erdal Tekin	1635	Department of Economics, Georgia State University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (2001)
16. Naci Mocan	1738	Department of Economics, Louisiana State University	City University of New York (1989)
17. Selahattin Imrohoroglu	1769	Department of Finance and Business, University of Southern California	University of Minnesota, (1988)

**Source:** own evaluations from <http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.all10.html> accessed on 07/02/2014.

According to Table 1, only 17 Turkish economists are listed in the top 5% of the *RePEc* research ranking. Out of these Turkish economists, Daron Acemoglu ranked the top place being the 3<sup>rd</sup> best research economist who is also regarded as the most likely Turkish economist to be awarded the Nobel Prize winner in the future. Out of these 17 Turkish economists only two of them are working for Turkish Universities, Bilkent and Yeditepe, respectively. It should be noted that they are private universities. The majority of those Turkish economists are in US universities apart from two economists, one is in the UK and another in Spain.

Only 2 of the 17 Turkish economists are working for the top international organizations such as World Bank and IMF but they seem to be very research active in economics.

Out of 17 Turkish economists, only one of them, Ferda Halicioglu, holds PhD from a Turkish University and his PhD thesis is in Turkish, whilst the rest of them obtained their PhDs from top US universities.

Dani Rodrik is the oldest PhD holder (1985) whereas Refet Gurkaynak is the youngest PhD holder (2004).

## Concluding Remarks

This brief research note tried to identify some common characteristics of the research success of Turkish economists in the world using the *RePEc* database. It seems crystal clear that the research success of Turkish economists is related to the PhD degrees obtained from reputable US universities. Turkish Universities should improve substantially their PhD programmes in economics if they want to produce top performing research economists. It is also evidently clear that these PhD programmes should be offered in English. Unfortunately, there are less than a handful of universities in Turkey able to offer PhD programmes in English. In order to reverse the brain drainage of Turkey, the Turkish government should design new policies to provide incentives for those economists who wish to return to Turkish Universities.

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