



CURRENT SITUATION REPORT OF MERSİN

Mersin is one of the southern cities of Turkey which is located in Mediterranean region. Archeological studies in Yumuktepe Mound show that the history of Mersin dates back to BC 6300. There are thirteen districts (included central district) and fourteen municipalities in Mersin. The biggest districts in the sense of population are respectively Tarsus, Akdeniz, Toroslar and Yenisehir, the smallest district of Mersin is Çamlıyayla.

Mersin takes part in the important cities of Turkey with its population existence. According to estimated data of Turkish Statistical Institute in 2015, Mersin population is 1.739.593. It is estimated that Mersin population will increase at the rate of 6,6 % in eight years according to population projection. With reference to TSI data in 2014, the people over the age of 60 who are living in all Mersin population are at the rate of 11,2 %. The 46,4 of this rate are men and 53,6% are women. It has been seen in the study on the basis of population that according to social security institution there are about 230.000 retired in Mersin which more convenient life conditions in comparison with other cities and depression rate, which arise in winter, is quite low because of the mass of sunny days in Mersin and is preferred frequently by retired and old adults.

Because of its productive soils, developed industry, rich underground and natural sources and having one of the biggest port in Turkey, Mersin is one of the most developed cities of Turkey. It is a very important centre in regard to maritime transport. It is a transfer centre from USA and Europe to the Middle East. Turkey's first free zone has established in Mersin. There are being in the first place textile about 570 user companies in this area.



General View of Mersin Port

Mersin has developed in agricultural field as well as in commerce. The 26% of Mersin's soils are used for agriculture. The primary obtained products are wheat, corn, barley, chickpea, soya bean, peanut and sesame. The most cultivated product as industrial products is cotton. Besides Anamur bananas produced in Mersin have become worldwide known. Apricot, walnut, cherry, peach and vegetables are also produced commonly. Citrus fruits are cultivated quite common. In addition to citrus fruits it is started to cultivate tropical fruits as strawberry, papaya, pepino, pineapple in last years.

It has Mediterranean climate in coastal area and continental climate in mountain area. Coastal area is covered with maquis and mountain area is covered with forest. Because of having Mediterranean climate Mersin is preferred frequently by older people for living.

(Month)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average Maximum Temperature °C	14	15	17	21	24	27	30	30	29	26	21	16	22
Average Minimum Temperature °C	5	6	8	12	15	19	23	23	19	15	10	7	13

The Monthly Average Temperature Table of Mersin

Mersin is one of the important coastal city of Turkey with its 321 km coastline. Mersin consists of natural sand with the length of 108-km. Mersin's important beaches are Anamur, Kızılkalesi, Susanoğlu, Yapraklı Koy and Ayas.



Yapraklı Koy Beach



Kızkalesi



Tisan Bay and Dana Island

There are many archaeological sites and museums as well as beaches. There are 454 archaeological sites which are 389 archaeological, 2 urban, 31 natural, 2 historical and 30 other archaeological sites. The museums in Mersin are Mersin, Atatürk House, Anamur, Silifke, Tarsus, Narlıkuyu Mosaic and St.Paul Monument Museum. Heaven and hell, Kızkalesi, Ayas, Yumuktepe, Soli-pompeipolis, Anemurium historical ruins and Kleopatra Gate are other interesting historical places.

Mersin has quite rich artefacts in terms of faith tourism. St. Paul lived in Tarsus which is a district of Mersin. Therefore the Vatican declared Tarsus as pilgrimage centre. Besides Eshab-I Kehf and Danyal prophet's tomb that are important for each monotheistic religion are also in Mersin. In UNESCO world temporary heritage list, there are three cultural assets of Mersin. These are; Alahan Monastery (February 25, 2000) the Well of St Paul and St Paul Church (April 13, 2012)

Faith tourism is quite common in Mersin. These are Gözne, Ayvagediği, Soğucak, Fındıkpınarı, Camlıyayla Namrun and Sorgun highlands.

High cultural level and cultural studies are quite intense in Mersin. The rate of literacy is 99%. Fourth general directorate of state opera and ballet of Turkey is in Mersin. Mersin general directorate of state opera and ballet exhibition are on display Mersin Cultural Centre. " Mersin City Literature Prize" has been given with support of Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 2007.

" Mersin City Literature Prize" is first and only literature prize given on behalf of a city. Mersin Olba Photography Association , Mersin Photography Association, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality City Theatre, Icel Arts Club, Mersin Polyphonic Chorus Association, Mersin Cinema Association are important culture and art institutions. Mersin Metropolitan Municipality organizes free theatre exhibition for citizens. Each year there are cultural activities as Tarsus International Race Marathon, Akdeniz Municipality Children Theatres Festival, Mersin University Culture and Sport Festival, Silifke International Culture Week, Yenice Peace and Culture Festival, Tarsus Karacaoglan Poet Nights, Mersin Music Festival, Mersin International Music Festival, Mersin Turkish Classical Music Festival, Mersin Citrus Festival, Mersin Tantuni Festival in Mersin.



Mersin Citrus Festival



Mersin International Music Festival



Tarsus International Half Marathon

There are three universities in Mersin. Two of them are Foundation University and one of them is a state university. Mersin University which is named after city's own name was established in 1992. It has 11 faculties and 8 vocational high school and is a developing university which is accommodating 20.000 students. The other university in Mersin is Cag University which is located Yenice. The last established university is Toros University. There are also Marine Sciences Institute of Middle East Technical University (metu) and Istanbul Technical University, Tasucu Vocational School of Social Sciences of Selcuk University.



Mersin University

There are 34 hospitals totally in Mersin-wide. Eleven of them are private hospitals and twenty-eight of them are state hospitals. Besides there is a health research and application hospital which is connected with Mersin University, has 100.000 m2 area, 638 hospital rooms.

It gives ambulatory care services in 37 branches with 120 medical inspection and treatment rooms. Totally there are 18 operating rooms. Two of them are delivery rooms, one of them is obstetrics and gynaecology operating room, and fifteen of them are big operating rooms. There is a 50-bed emergency department including 30 adults and 20 children. There are 131 day treatment beds, radiologic knob, laboratories, intensive care unit with 127 beds in total, resuscitation knob, physical medicine and rehabilitation knob, nuclear medicine, radiotherapy knob, treatment centre which helps for fertility and sleep centre.



Mersin University Medical Faculty Hospital

In Mersin, there are total of 138 Family Health Centres, as follows; 23 in Akdeniz district, 7 in Anamur district, 1 in Aydınçık district, 4 in Bozyazı district, 1 in Camlıyayla district, 14 in Erdemli district, 5 in Gülnar district, 11 in Mezitli district, 4 in Mut district, 11 in Silifke district, 24 in Tarsus district, 20 in Toroslar district, 13 in Yenişehir district. According to 2014 data, in total there are 1392 doctors in Mersin. 430 of them are women and 962 of them are men.

MERSIN PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE						
HEALTH INSTITUTION NAME	CAPACITY/ STATEMENT	EXAMINATION NUMBERS IN 2015	PERSONNEL NUMBERS			
			DOCTORS	MEDICAL PERSONNELS	PERSONNELS APART FROM MEDICAL PERSONNELS	TOTAL
CAMLIYAYLA DISTRICT INTEGRATED HOSPITALS	There are 7 policlinics with 10-bed in Camliyayla District Integrated Hospital And there is not no hospitalization. Besides there are 1 dental unit, 2 x-ray units and 1 usg device.	7.869	4	24	7	35

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE CENTER AND CONNECTED UNITS (TUBERCULOSIS UNIT, CHILD ADOLESCENT WOMEN FERTILITY HEALTH SERVICES UNIT,EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER EDUCATION CENTER(KETEM), FITNESS CENTER etc.)	There are 13 policlinics in related units with 13 community health care centre.	209.502	89	536	126	751
FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS	There are 497 units and policlinics in 137 family health centres.	6.900.977	497	475	0	972
TOTAL		7.118.348	590	1.035	133	1.758

SERVICES PROVIDED FOR ELDER PEOPLE

- **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings**
- The entrance of parks and gardens are wide enough to go in and out for old and disabled people.
- Sidewalks in parks are reconstructed for old and disabled people.
- Cafes in parks are designed to be easily accessible for older and disabled people.
- The Ramps are installed for seniors and disabled people to reach the stairs which are constructed for eliminating the elevation differences in parks.
- There are rails by the side of stairs and ramps for old and disabled people.
- Urban furniture used in parks and gardens are free of obstructions that restrict the accessibility of old and disabled people.
- Public toilets can be found in parks and gardens which are accessible.
- ‘‘ Accessibility Detection and Inspection Commission’’ have been constituted of one each representative from transportation, affairs of science, studies and projects, strategy development and disabled people department. The duties of this commission are accessibility standards in the whole city of Mersin to identify, implement and carry out the work of accessibility.
- Pavements (sidewalk) in 14 streets are non-slip, wide enough for wheelchairs.
- The safety of Public areas is provided by police and public security services.

2) Transportation

- Since 2014, free boarding pass application is provided for people who are over 65 years old to use in transportation vehicles. Thanks to this service, all people over 65 can benefit from bus rides with free of charge.
- Smart stops have been used in 11 points of Mersin to travel stress free for older people. Thanks to this service, passengers can find out in which stop the bus is located and how far away the bus from their location is.
- Audio alarm system has been installed on 140 traffic intersection of the city's specific points. Thus old and disabled pedestrians cross over safer.
- There are 141 buses which are disabilities- and environmentally-friendly in Mersin. There are convenient door, ramp, and seating and audio alarm system for old people in this accessible buses.



- Smart Stop Services are in use to transfer older people.
- These works are in progress; to create a database regarding the statistics of disabled-old people in Mersin, to determine the necessity of disabled-old people, to direct them related places, to provide disabled-old people access facilities

- There are accessible car parks and drivers rest areas for old and disabled people.

3) Housing

- Old and disabled people oriented conditions for be wanted to allow general settlement and residential usage licence are reformed with the decision by Mersin Metropolitan Municipality. In accordance with edited decision;
 - a. There are toilets on the ground floor of the buildings and building complexes.
 - b. Habilitate for visually impaired people are signed from building entrance to elevator and elevator buttons are convenient for old people to use.
 - c. Disabled parking areas is designed to be close to the entry doors of the buildings in accordance with Turkish Standards Institute and reserving the 1/20 of the current parking space for them.
 - d. The platform should be wide enough for wheel chair to rotate 360 degrees.
 - e. The width of the elevator entrance should be in accordance with the standards in all buildings to allow wheel chair entrance and mobility for disabled people.
 - f. The wheelchair ramps at the building entrances should be constructed in accordance with the Turkish Standard Institutes.
 - g. Disabled friendly and age friendly plaques should be given to those buildings to represent at their entrances which are met with the required conditions
 - h. Having the generator has become obligatory for the shared space of the building.
- Home care services should be provided for old people in their own homes in terms of health care services.

4) Social Participation

- Old people rest home is opened in Tarsus district. Old people can join in social activities by coming here for one day and they can spend time with young volunteers in this house. Areas are created for doing exercise and walking in the park located in front of rest home.



- Promotional activities via internet, poster and paddle boards have been made and it continues in order to create awareness and sensibility for old people within 1 October International Day of Older Persons and 18-24 March Seniors Week as Mersin Metropolitan Municipality.
- Various social and cultural activities (conference, seminar, symposium) are organized by our municipality in cooperation with civil society organization
- In an attempt to increase life standards of disabled and old people.
- Dinner with music and entertainment are organized in order to have a good time and socialize the old people at regular intervals.



- According to the signed cooperation protocol, various activities are organized and will be organized as eid visits, tours, entertainments for special occasions and religious holidays or old adults who are staying in aged care facilities and are members of Mersin Needy Seniors Association.



- In the scope of the Family Week dated on May 15-21, memorial porcelain plates are given by Mersin Metropolitan Municipality “in the scope of 41 kere maşallah project” to 200 married couples who have been married at least for 41 years. This event was held in Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Congress and Exhibition Centre with live music provided by the City Orchestra and dinner by the Municipality.

- Gymnastics and stretching are exercised with seniors at specific times every morning in the scope of “ Yes for conscious Sports” Project. This project aims to provide the participation of seniors as the other people in the same conditions in social life.



5) Respect and Social Inclusion

- Mersin Büyükşehir Belediyesi olarak Mersin Kent Konseyi’nin düzenlemiş olduğu “Yaşlı Sorunları” hakkında düzenlenen çalıştayda görev alınarak, çalıştaya katkıda bulunulmuştur.
- As Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, we took a charge in the “ Old Adults Problems” workshop to contribute to workshop which was hold by Mersin City Council.
- Mersin Metropolitan Municipality was sponsor to elected old people from Mersin for “ distinguished senior citizen” award ceremony in 2015. The elected seniors in award ceremony was determined with election which was held by the TURYAK Seniors Council Association. The TURYAK consists of 22 Metropolitan Municipality and non-governmental organizations (ngos).
- We participated in “ Age-Friendly Cities Symposium’ ’held in Bursa on 26-27 November 2015.
- "Turkey is getting old” themed panel was held to raise awareness about aging.
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- Services for seniors in need of protection, disabled people, seniors and patient seniors was taught with the Project called the Europe Training of Patient and Senior Care Trainees run by Mezitli Public Education Centre in a two-week training course.



6) Civic Participation and Employment

- Old-age pension are paid for seniors over 65 who have not no income.
- There is a theatre of seniors. They play their theatre in various days.
- Business - passtime courses are held for preventing to become withdrawn of seniors and feeling themselves useful.



7) Commication and Information

- “Click Tour around Mersin” Project run by Mersin Metropolitan Municipality provides users of all ages included senior to easily reach all information and data about Mersin via the operating system designed in a simple manner
- Services by Municipality and informing are clear, understandable for seniors.

8) Community Support and Health Services

- ‘Early Signs of Alzheimer’ and ‘Is it possible to foreknow and prevent Alzheimer?’ themed training meeting was made by Alzheimer Association.
- ‘Alzheimer Training Camps’ are organized by Alzheimer Association.
- There are 34 healthcare organizations which services as private and state hospitals. 10 of them service medical home for patient seniors.
- In Mersin, there are total of 138 Family Health Centres as follows; there are 23 in Akdeniz district, 7 in Anamur district, 1 in Aydıncık district, 4 in Bozyazı district, 1 in Camlıyayla district, 14 in Erdemli district, 5 in Gülnar district, 11 in Mezitli district, 4 in Mut district, 11 in Silifke district, 24 in Tarsus district, 20 in Toroslar district, 13 in Yenişehir district.
- Mersin Metropolitan Municipality gives public relief to Mersin Branch of Turkey Alzheimer Association in order to complete the construction of Seniors Care Centre and remedy the deficiencies of it.
- We give The Mersin Branch of Turkey Alzheimer Association public relief and financial support in order to meet the supplies and accommodation expenses of Alzheimer and Dementia Camp which has been conducted together for 6 years.
- We have 11 patient transport vehicle (ambulances). We transport old, sick abed and in need of care people in Mersin-wide.

Social welfare are made for disabled and old adults who can prove that he/she is in need. These welfares are as follows; 1124 diapers, 261 wheelchairs, 33 electric-powered wheelchairs.



- We provide regularly mouth and dental health and eye health services within the program with equipped mobile health screening vehicles on weekdays and weekends in office hours for all seniors who cannot benefit from health services adequately, whether they have health insurance or not, at the locations where it is difficult to provide the health services, rural areas where the transportation is difficult for those who are disabled and sick-abled seniors.



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