

# SOCIAL AND HUMANITIES SCIENCES

## Modern Analysis and Researches

Editor

Abidin TEMİZER

M.Selçuk ÖZKAN

LIVRE DE LYON

2023

Social Sciences

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**Social and Humanities Sciences Modern Analysis and Researches**

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# PREFACE

Multidisciplinary studies in the social sciences and humanities have a key role in developing a holistic understanding of complex social phenomena.. By seamlessly integrating knowledge from various disciplines such as economics, business, geography, literature, law, etc., these interdisciplinary efforts offer a comprehensive perspective on the complex fabric of human behavior, culture and social structures. The interconnected nature of human experience requires scientists from various fields to come together to uncover the essence of complex social phenomena. This interdisciplinary collaboration not only enriches the depth of analysis but also enables the development of innovative solutions to address contemporary challenges. Through shared knowledge and perspective, multidisciplinary studies contribute to the advancement of both academic debate and practical applications in the social sciences and humanities.

This book has been prepared with the awareness of collaborative work in social sciences and humanities. The book consists of 10 chapters. I hope the book will be useful.

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CHAPTER VII

# THE POPULATION STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTIC OF KAŞ DISTRICT (ANTALYA)

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## 1. Introduction

In Arabic, the plural form of the word "nefs" is "nüfûs," which means "self; soul, life" and predominantly refers to people living in a specific area. The plural form "sükkân" or "sekene," which means "residing, dwelling," is also used interchangeably with "nüfus" to represent the population (Bozkurt, 2007). Population is a constantly changing phenomenon, always in motion and undergoing continuous changes. The number of people living on Earth fluctuates constantly due to events such as birth, death, and migration, making it a dynamic structure that cannot be fully captured by regular censuses (Tanoğlu; 1966: 29).

Population, in a general sense, can be defined as the number of people living in a specified area over a certain period (Sertkaya Doğan; 2022: 27). Physical geography elements are crucial factors influencing the distribution of the population on the landscape. The settlement patterns, whether clustered or dispersed, are directly related to the characteristics of the topography (Sertkaya Doğan; 2018: 47). The quantity and distribution of the population in any location, as well as the varying densities, are closely related to climatic conditions, landforms, soil, vegetation, hydrography, and underground resources (Yaman Kocadağlı; 2013: 42). Population Geography, a sub-discipline of Human Geography, is an essential subject to be emphasized, especially considering its relevance to agricultural life, industrial and commercial activities, urban geography research, political geography, transportation, and tourism (Sertkaya

Doğan; 2018: 47). Today, in order to ensure the development, progress and social welfare of a place, a region or a country, it is necessary to first know the population characteristics and take steps and create policies in this direction.

Population plays a prominent role in the development and functional characteristics of cities. A highly dynamic phenomenon, the population can vary for various social, political, and economic reasons. As one of the fundamental human resources, the population is a crucial parameter globally. Physical geography elements significantly influence the spatial distribution of the population. In the field of population studies, the population tends to be distributed primarily based on topography and landforms. Since the establishment of the Republic, there have been changes in the population of our country, and the statistics reflect the impact of these changes on the population size of Turkey, which had just emerged from war.

Population and settlement are two highly related geographical elements. Throughout history, areas suitable for settlement have also emerged as rapidly populated regions (Sertkaya Doğan; 2015: 76). Anatolia, especially, has been extremely significant in this regard, offering favorable conditions for human life and hosting different civilizations throughout history. Kaş, a district in the Mediterranean Region and a district of Antalya, has a long history of settlement dating back to ancient times. Kaş is situated to the south of the Mediterranean, north of Elmalı, east of Demre, and west of Seydikemer, separated by the Eşen River (Map 1). It is 190 km away from the center of Antalya and 100 km from Muğla. Additionally, the island of Meis is located 1.8 km across the sea. Kaş, frequently heard in the tourism sector, officially became a district in 1923. In the 1923 population census, Kaş had a population of 19,863, with 9,042 men and 10,821 women. Particularly in the early years of the Republic, pronatalist population policies led to an increase in the population nationwide. Subsequent general population censuses confirm this trend.

The main objective of the study is to analyze the population changes in the Kaş district from the Republic to the present day (1927-2022) using the principles of human geography. This analysis will be presented through various graphs, tables, and maps, focusing on the historical development, spatial distribution, and structure of the population in Kaş. It aims to reveal how the population has changed and transformed over the years and provide insights into current and future spatial usage.

The migration and exchange migrations that occurred following the transfer of Meis Island to Italian administration in 1912 affected Kaş's population, as

did the entire country. These developments in the population have changed the social and cultural character, population quantity, and density throughout the country. The attainment of "district" status by Demre (formerly known as Kale), a sub-district of Kaş, in 1987, led to changes in both its land area and population. These changes were reflected in numerical data. In the following years, the population in Kaş continued to show an increasing trend every year. Until the separation between urban and rural populations in 2012, the rural population was always higher. This was due to the intensive practice of agriculture and animal husbandry. With the development of tourism activities and administrative growth in the coastal areas, the urban population continued to increase. However, the rural population was consistently higher. This situation changed with Law No. 6360 on Metropolitan Municipalities, which abolished the distinction between urban and rural populations.

The population in the Mediterranean Region is particularly concentrated along the coastal belt. In the region, the districts located in the coastal areas around the Antalya Gulf are among the significant areas where the population gathers. Coastal areas within the Teke Peninsula, including Kaş district, essentially serve as the sole living space for the people in this region (Yaman Kocadağlı; 2022: 9).

Kaş, situated in a highly rugged terrain, has a total area of approximately 2,232 km², with 66% of it covered by forested areas. As of the implementation of Law No. 6360 on Metropolitan Municipalities on December 6, 2012, and subsequent amendments on March 22, 2013, Kaş has 54 neighborhoods.

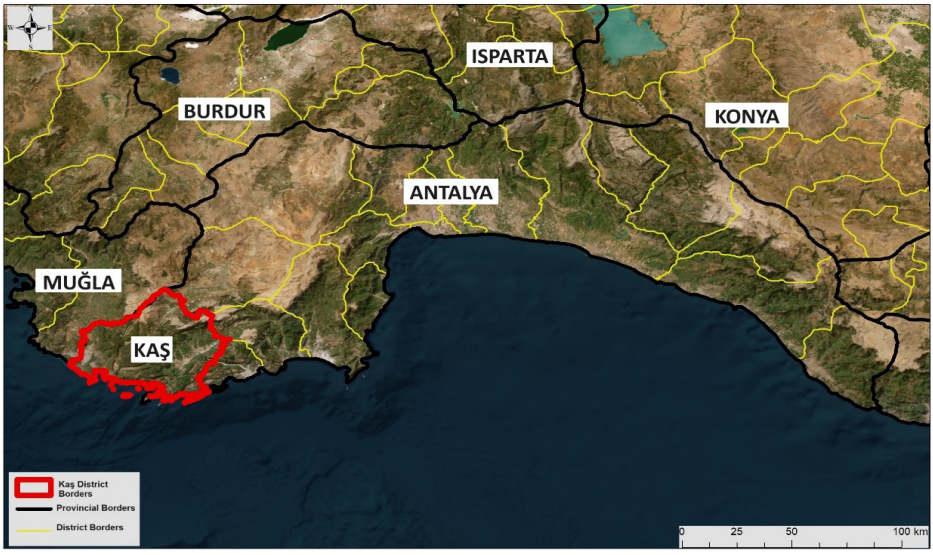
The area is dominated by a Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers and mild and rainy winters. The highest temperatures occur in July and August, while January is the coldest month. The high number of sunny days, and consequently, the extended swimming season, combined with historical and natural beauties, allows tourism activities to span throughout the year. The region is predominantly covered by the maquis vegetation, with pine and cedar trees forming extensive forest areas. Citrus fruits, particularly in valleys and coastal plains, constitute the main vegetation. Vegetable farming yields 3-4 harvests per year, with Kınık neighborhood in Kaş specializing in tomato production, contributing significantly to both domestic and international markets.

The surrounding areas of Kaş, especially in rural areas, have extensive wild olive groves ("delice"). Many of these olive groves have been improved through grafting. Kaş is considered the olive warehouse of Southwest Anatolia. Agriculture and fishing are fundamental economic activities for the city, but

Kaş is now primarily recognized as a tourism destination. The employment opportunities provided by tourism, especially during the summer months, lead to a significant increase in the population. Touristic centers like Patara and Kalkan attract a large number of visitors.

Since the 1990s, there has been an influx of British residents settling in the region, particularly in Kaş. After the 2000s, there has been a noticeable increase in the total population, with a significant surge in the general trend, and a rapid increase after the 1940-1945 period, which did not experience much growth (Yüzbaşı, 2020: 127). This situation arose due to a global war. In the following years, especially with the end of wars and the acceleration of technological and industrial activities, significant changes have occurred in global demographics and population policies (Doğan; 2011: 294). Particularly within the scope of pronatalist policies, there is a parallel situation in both the Turkish population and the study area.

The study involved a comprehensive literature review and was supported by fieldwork. In addition, population data between 1927 and 2022 were obtained from General Population Censuses (SSI) and the Address-Based Population Registration System (ABPRS). The analysis of these data resulted in the creation of tables and graphs. Raster and vector data were processed, and various interpolation maps were generated using the ArcGIS 10.6 program.




**Map 1:** Kaş Location Map

## 2. The Historical Development of Population in Kaş

"The most significant cause of fluctuations in population over the historical process is migration" (Sertkaya Doğan; 2009: 6). Indeed, a similar situation occurred in Kaş, as in all of Turkey. Just before the establishment of the Republic, in 1912, the administration of Meis Island, like Antalya, was handed over to the Italians. During this process, events such as migrations from Meis Island to Kaş and the Greek-Turkish exchange movement in 1923 affected not only our country but also the population of Kaş. Accordingly, while the Greek population living in Kaş migrated to Meis and Greece, Turks living in Meis and Thessaloniki were settled in Kaş. This mobility, influential in social and cultural terms, also changed the density and structure of the population.

In the first census of the Republic, it is observed that the number of small settlements was higher, which is quite understandable for the young Turkey just emerging from war. With the implementation of pronatalist population policies starting from the early years of the Republic, the sale and distribution of fertility-reducing substances were banned, resulting in an increase in population, especially until World War II (Köse, Sertkaya Doğan; 243, 244).

As seen in Table 1, in the first population census conducted in 1927, the total population of Kaş was 19,863. While the majority of this population lived in rural areas, a very small portion lived in urban areas. Numerically, 414 people lived in urban areas, while 19,449 people resided in rural areas (DİE, 1927). In 1935, the total population of Kaş was 22,050; in 1940, it was 23,304; in 1945, it was 23,560; in 1950, it was 27,037, and in 1955, it was 30,856. The overall upward trend in the population of Kaş continued until the 1980s. For example, in 1960, the total population reached 34,416; in 1965, it was 38,047; in 1970, it was 43,962; in 1975, it was 47,765, and in 1980, it reached 50,640 (SSI, TURKSTAT) (Table 1).

From the 1950s onwards, there was a population movement from rural areas to urban areas, and this trend continued in the 1980s. In Kaş district, during the period until the Metropolitan Municipality Law enacted in 2012, the rural population decreased while the urban population increased, but the rural population never exceeded the urban population. Due to the establishment of the Demre district in 1987, the population decreased. Therefore, the total population, which reached 56,683 in 1985, dropped to 40,469 by 1990. Correspondingly, by 2000, the total population was 47,519, the annual population growth rate was ‰16.61, and the annual urban population growth rate was ‰33.28. In 2007,

the population increased to 49,629, in 2012 it was 53,633, in 2017 it reached 57,123, and in 2022, it rose to 62,866 (TURKSTAT) (Table 2).

| Year | Total | Area ($Km^2$) | Population Density (Person/$Km^2$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1927** | 19.863 | 2.490 | 8 |
| **1935** | 22.520 | 2.490 | 9 |
| **1940** | 23.304 | 2.490 | 9 |
| **1945** | 23.560 | 1.873 | 12 |
| **1950** | 27.037 | 1.873 | 14 |
| **1955** | 30.856 | 2.199 | 14 |
| **1960** | 34.416 | 2.231 | 15 |
| **1965** | 38.047 | 2.231 | 17 |
| **1970** | 43.962 | 2.231 | 19 |
| **1975** | 47.765 | 2.231 | 21 |
| **1980** | 50.640 | 2.231 | 23 |
| **1985** | 56.683 | 2.231 | 25 |
| **1990** | 40.469 | 1.867 | 22 |
| **2000** | 47.519 | 1.867 | 25 |
| **2007** | 49.629 | 2.231 | 22 |
| **2008** | 50.786 | 2.231 | 23 |
| **2009** | 52.564 | 2.231 | 23 |
| **2010** | 53.145 | 2.231 | 24 |
| **2011** | 53.588 | 2.231 | 24 |
| **2012** | 53.633 | 2.231 | 24 |
| **2013** | 55.061 | 2.231 | 25 |
| **2014** | 55.574 | 2.231 | 25 |
| **2015** | 56.386 | 2.231 | 25 |
| **2016** | 56.720 | 2.231 | 25 |
| **2017** | 57.123 | 2.231 | 26 |
| **2018** | 58.600 | 2.231 | 26 |
| **2019** | 59.716 | 2.231 | 27 |
| **2020** | 60.839 | 2.231 | 27 |
| **2021** | 61.488 | 2.231 | 28 |
| **2022** | 62.866 | 2.231 | 28 |

**Table 1:** Total Population and Density of Kaş District (1927-2022)

**Source:** TURKSTAT, SSI, Kaş Municipality.

| Years | Population Growth Rate in Kaş (Per Thousand)) | Population Growth Rate in Turkey (Per Thousand) |
|---|---|---|
| **1927-1935** | 16 | 23 |
| **1935-1940** | 7 | 20,5 |
| **1940-1945** | 2,1 | 10,8 |
| **1945-1950** | 27,5 | 23 |
| **1950-1955** | 26,4 | 29,7 |
| **1955-1960** | 22 | 30,6 |
| **1960-1965** | 20 | 26,2 |
| **1965-1970** | 29 | 26,8 |
| **1970-1975** | 16,5 | 26,6 |
| **1975-1980** | 12 | 21,7 |
| **1980-1985** | 22,5 | 26,4 |
| **1985-1990** | -67,3 | 23 |
| **1990-2000** | 16 | 20 |
| **2000-2007** | 29,1 | 5,8 |
| **2007-2012** | 15,5 | 12 |
| **2012-2017** | 13 | 12,4 |
| **2017-2022** | 19,1 | 7,1 |

**Table 2:** Total Population Growth Rate of Kaş and Turkey (Per Thousand)

**Source:** TURKSTAT, SSI

Population, as seen in Graph 1, generally showed an increasing trend. While there was a decrease in the population trend due to the enlistment of approximately two million men for World War II in Turkey from 1940 to 1945, this decrease was not significantly observed in Kaş. This situation, as in the whole country, also led to a decline in the population of Kaş. With the end of the war, the population started to rise again. In 1945, the population, which was 23,560, increased to 27,037 in 1950. However, the population decreased in 1987 when Demre separated from Kaş and became a district. In the following years, it

increased again, giving the impression that it would continue to increase linearly in the future.

Changes in administrative boundaries in the district, sometimes resulting in changes in land area and population, have also reflected on population density. Although the total population, which has been consistently increasing, showed a decrease in terms of population density, especially in 1990 and 2007, it demonstrated an increasing trend in the following years (Table 1, Graph 1).

After the 1920s, the high growth rate of population experienced a decrease after the 1940s. In 1927, the population of Kaş, which was 19,963, increased to 22,520 eight years later in the 1935 census, with a growth rate of ‰16. In the same year, Turkey's population growth rate was ‰23. The population of Kaş, which was 23,304 with a population growth rate of ‰7 in 1940, only increased by 256 people to 23,560 in 1945, with a population growth rate of ‰2.1. During the years 1940-1945, the population growth rate decreased. In the same years, significant decreases were observed in Turkey's population growth rate. Indeed, the population growth rate, which was ‰20.5 in 1940, decreased to ‰10.8 in 1945. The sudden decrease in this growth rate was due to the impact of World War II, affecting the entire country's population. Fluctuations in the following years are related to changes in the number of sub-districts and villages affiliated with the Kaş district. In 1950, with a growth rate of ‰27.5, the population increased to 27,037. In 1955, with a growth rate of ‰26.4, it reached 30,856. Turkey's population growth rate increased to ‰23 in 1950 and continued to rise in 1955 to approximately ‰28.

Although the total population, which was 34,416 in 1960, reached 38,047 in 1965, the population growth rate was ‰20. Turkey's population growth rate was about ‰31 in 1960 and decreased to ‰26.2 in 1965. While Turkey's total population was 27,754,820 in 1960 and increased to 31,391,421 in 1965, the population growth rate decreased. This decrease can be attributed to the labor migration to Germany that started in 1958. In our country, after 1965, with the implementation of antinatalist policies in population policies, a decrease in birth rates was targeted. With this understanding, a trend towards a decrease in birth rates began to be observed.

The population, which was 43,962 in 1970, increased to 47,765 by 3,803 people in 1975. While the population growth rate in Kaş was ‰29 in 1970, it decreased to ‰16.5 in 1975. In Turkey, the population growth rate was approximately ‰26.7 in 1970 and ‰26.6 in 1975. In our country, after 1965, with the implementation of antinatalist policies in population policies, a trend towards a decrease in birth rates began to be observed.

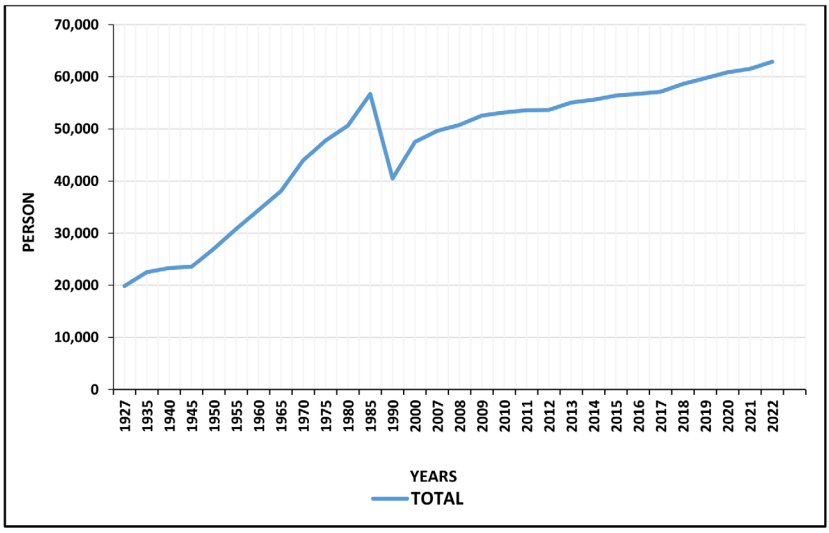
The population, which was 50,640 in 1980, increased to 56,683 by 6,043 people in 1985. While the population growth rate in Kaş was ‰12 in 1980, it increased to ‰22.5 in 1985. In 1980, when Turkey's population growth rate was approximately ‰22, it increased to ‰26.4 in 1985. The population growth rate in our country has followed a parallel course in Kaş district.

As previously mentioned, in 1987, with the separation of the Kale sub-district (Demre) from the Kaş district to become a separate district, the total population of Kaş decreased to 40,469 in 1990, and the population growth rate in 1990 dropped to ‰-67.3. Turkey's population growth rate in 1990 also decreased to ‰23. The main reasons for this decline can be attributed to antinatalist policies implemented since the 1960s, economic difficulties in 1978-1979, and the terrorist incidents in the 1980s. Fluctuations in population growth rates continued in the 1990s (Table 2) (Graph 2).

In 2000, the total population of Kaş was 47,519, and the population growth rate in 2000 increased to ‰16. This increase continued, and in 2007, the total population, which was 49,629, experienced an increase of 2,110 people over the seven-year period from 2000 to 2007. This situation reflected in the population growth rate as ‰29.1. In 2000, Turkey's population growth rate was ‰20, and after 7 years in 2007, it decreased to ‰5. The main reasons for this decline include population-reducing policies in the country and the dramatic decrease in birth rates due to women's increased participation in the workforce. Additionally, the shift to using ADNKS (Address-Based Population Registration System) for population censuses starting from this year also affected the changes in the data.

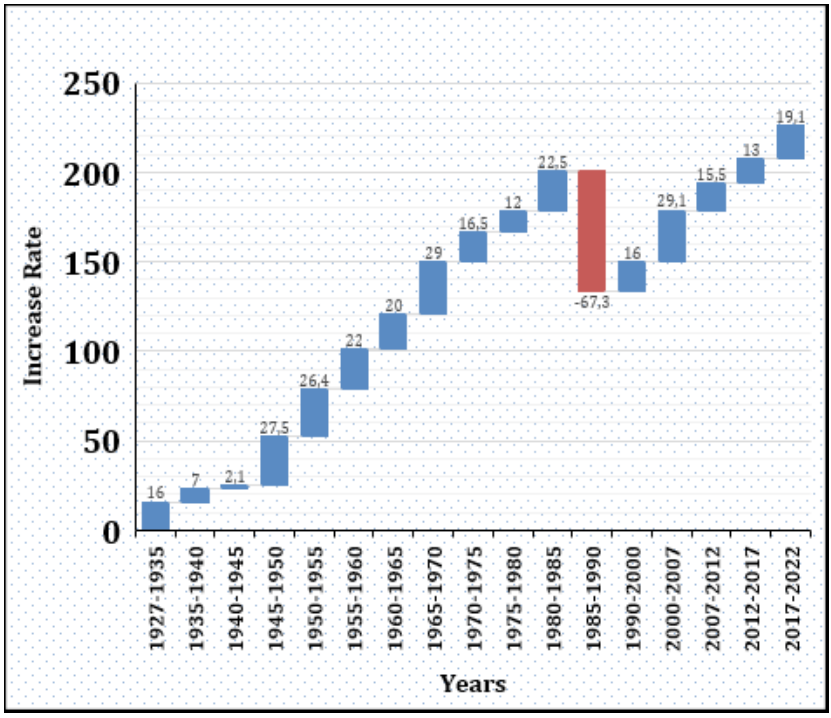
In 2012, with an increase of 4,004 people, the Kaş population reached 53,633, and the population growth rate in 2012 was ‰15.5. Turkey's population growth rate in 2012 was ‰12. The population increase in Kaş and Turkey occurred in parallel.

Despite the population increasing by 3,490 people to 57,123 in 2017, the population growth rate between 2012 and 2017 dropped to ‰13. While the population of Kaş district showed a continuous upward trend, the population growth rate did not follow the same trend. In the same year, Turkey's population growth rate was ‰12.4. A similar increase is observed here, indicating that the district's population is increasing. In 2022, with a total population of 62,866 in Kaş, the population growth rate for the year 2022 increased to ‰19.1. In contrast, Turkey's population growth rate in 2022 was ‰7.1. This increase in Kaş's population growth rate is not surprising, considering the active tourism activities in the district (Table 2, Graph 1,2).




**Graph 1: Population Amount of Kaş District Between 1927-2022**

**Source:** SSI, TURKSTAT.




**Graph 2:** Population Growth Rate of Kaş District
Over the Years (Per Thousand) (1927-2022)

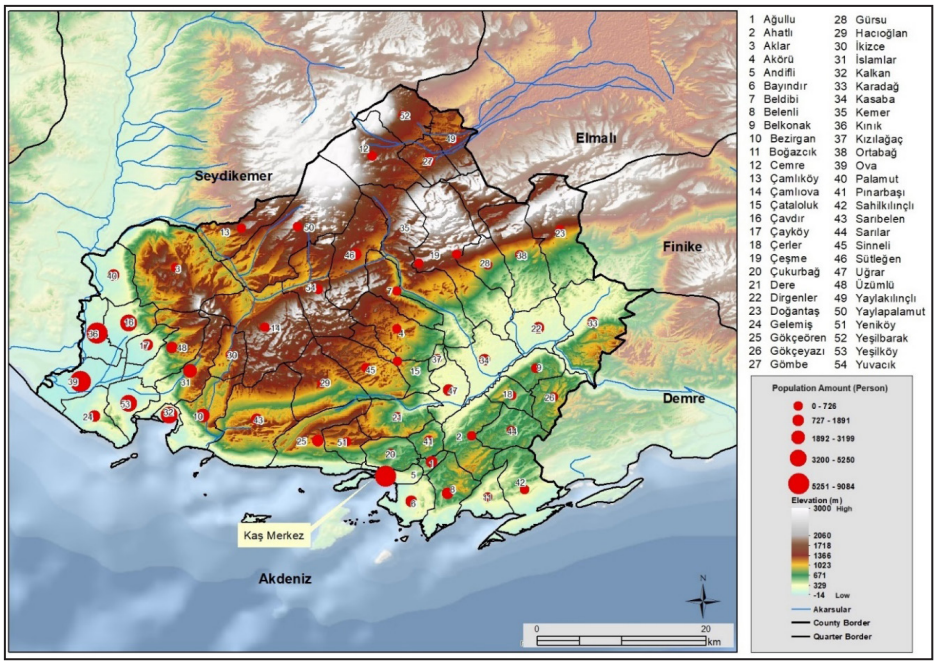
**Source:** SSI, TURKSTAT.

### 3. Population Distribution by Districts

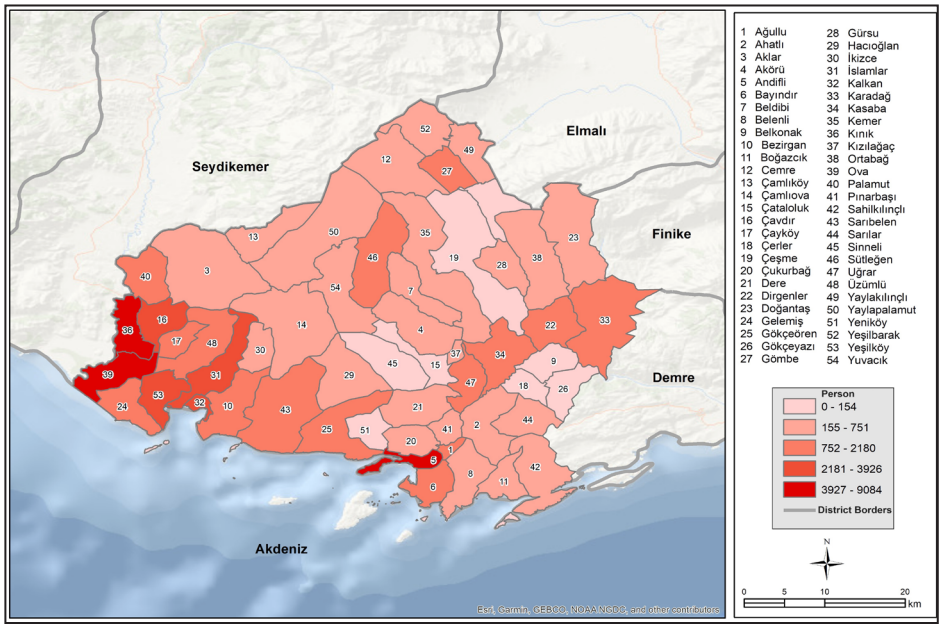
Kaş, situated on a highly rugged terrain, has attempted to establish settlement areas through the terracing of the mountain slopes. The city's development direction has been influenced by the narrow coastal region and the mountain ranges immediately to the north, shifting towards Seydikemer-Fethiye, another attraction center, in the west-northwest direction (Map 2-3). With the opening of the coastal road in the 1990s, relationships with the immediate surroundings have intensified, making transportation relatively easier. Over time, this situation has facilitated the development of tourism.

Settlements and population are concentrated along the valley, especially in the Eşen River valley, forming the border with Seydikemer. The presence of historical tourism resources and suitable areas for tourism activities in this region has been influential in the concentration of population. Additionally, the proximity to water sources and fertile agricultural areas are fundamental reasons for the population density in this area. When examined on the map, it is evident that settlement is concentrated on the plain. In fact, one of the areas with dense population is Andifli District, considered the center of Kaş district, where service areas are densely located (indicated by number 5 on the map). Population density along the coast is higher compared to settlements in the inland areas. The population distribution shown on Map 2 varies between 0 and approximately 1000 meters in elevation levels.

In Kaş, where we observe the topography's influence on settlement distribution and population density, the areas with dense population form the upper limit of settlement. Accordingly, it can be said that this level reaches up to 2000 meters. Settlements in higher elevations, such as Gömbe District, are used as summer resorts and attract seasonal migration from the coastal areas. The topography plays a significant role in shaping the distribution of settlements and population density in Kaş.




**Map 2:** Settlement and Population Distribution by Elevation Levels




**Map 3:** Distribution of Kaş District Population by District (2022)

According to the distribution provided in Map 3, the population is concentrated in areas that can be considered as the central neighborhoods of Kaş, where the service sector has relatively developed. These areas include Andifli and Kalkan districts, which are central to Kaş, and Ova, Yeşilköy, and Kınık districts, where agricultural activities are intensively carried out. However, these activities can be financially insufficient at times, leading to seasonal migration.

The total population of Andifli district is 9,084, while Kalkan district has a population of 3,926. Ova district has a total population of 5,780, Yeşilköy district has 3,925, Kınık district has 6,120, Bezirgan district has 2,180, Çavdır district has 3,830, and İslamlar district has 2,789 people. These eight district collectively constitute approximately 60% of the total population (Table 3) (Map 2).

| Neighbourhood Name | Total Population | Male Population | Female Population | Neighbourhood Name | Total Population | Male Population | Female Population |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gömbe** | 1260 | 627 | 633 | **Çukurbağ** | 646 | 347 | 299 |
| **Bezirgan** | 2180 | 1114 | 1066 | **Ağullu** | 1123 | 575 | 548 |
| **Palamut** | 1177 | 594 | 583 | **Sinneli** | 129 | 76 | 53 |
| **Gürsu** | 219 | 99 | 120 | **Belkonak** | 42 | 20 | 22 |
| **Belenli** | 751 | 380 | 371 | **Dere** | 184 | 91 | 93 |
| **Yaylakılınçlı** | 322 | 165 | 157 | **Yeşilbarak** | 511 | 249 | 262 |
| **Yaylapalamut** | 234 | 116 | 118 | **Uğrar** | 888 | 458 | 430 |
| **Gelemiş** | 859 | 445 | 414 | **Karadağ** | 1246 | 640 | 606 |
| **Çerler** | 88 | 44 | 44 | Çataloluk | 138 | 73 | 65 |
| **Çavdır** | 3830 | 1976 | 1854 | **Yeniköy** | 131 | 71 | 60 |
| **Hacıoğlan** | 299 | 151 | 148 | **Pınarbaşı** | 212 | 106 | 106 |
| **Ahatlı** | 255 | 127 | 128 | **Sarılar** | 200 | 103 | 97 |
| **Akörü** | 405 | 212 | 193 | **Kınık** | 6120 | 3107 | 3013 |
| **İslamlar** | 2789 | 1477 | 1312 | **Ova** | 5780 | 3009 | 2771 |
| **Çamlıköy** | 197 | 100 | 97 | **Yuvacık** | 276 | 146 | 130 |
| **Çeşme** | 154 | 87 | 67 | **Kemer** | 550 | 283 | 267 |
| **Aklar** | 368 | 196 | 172 | **Yeşilköy** | 3925 | 2026 | 1899 |
| **Dirgenler** | 990 | 518 | 472 | **Kalkan** | 3926 | 2039 | 1887 |
| **Üzümlü** | 1410 | 704 | 706 | **Beldibi** | 254 | 139 | 115 |
| **Boğazcık** | 224 | 108 | 116 | **Doğantaş** | 627 | 331 | 296 |
| **Sarıbelen** | 1085 | 560 | 525 | **Andifli** | 9084 | 4738 | 4346 |
| **Kasaba** | 1581 | 845 | 736 | **Ortabağ** | 212 | 100 | 112 |
| **İkizce** | 190 | 104 | 86 | **Sahilkılınçlı** | 243 | 120 | 123 |
| **Sütleğen** | 892 | 473 | 419 | **Gökçeören** | 1455 | 735 | 720 |
| **Çamlıova** | 189 | 97 | 92 | Çayköy | 1519 | 791 | 728 |
| **Bayındır** | 891 | 433 | 458 | **Cemre** | 275 | 143 | 132 |
| **Kızılağaç** | 221 | 114 | 107 | **Gökçeyazı** | 110 | 61 | 49 |

**Table 3:** Total Population of Districts and Distribution by Gender (2022)

### 4. Urban and Rural Population

In Kaş district, the number of villages, which was 60 in 1935, decreased to 59 in 1940. The number of village settlements, which was 55 in 1950, increased to 56 in 1955. In 1960, Kaş, which had 29 neighborhoods affiliated with the Central Township, 13 neighborhoods in Kale Township, and 15 neighborhoods in Kalkan Township. In 1980, there were 33 neighborhoods in the Central Township, 9 in Kale Township, and 16 in Kalkan Township. However, in 1987, with the separation of Demre, which was affiliated with Kaş, as a township and becoming a district, a decrease in population was observed. By the year 2000, there were 33 neighborhoods in the Central Township, and 18 neighborhoods in Kalkan Township. In 2022, there are a total of 55 neighborhoods (TURKSTAT).

Generally, in Kaş, which relies on agriculture and animal husbandry for livelihood, the rural population has been higher. The settlement population, especially starting from the 1950s and continuing due to rural-to-urban migration, increased. However, tourism activities that began to increase in the 1980s, especially the renovation of the South Antalya coastal road in 1980, increased Kaş's connection with the inland and paved the way for new structures in the east and west directions.

With the opening of the coastal road in 1990, urban development gained significant momentum. We see the reflections of this situation on the population in Table 1. Especially in the 1990s, the population in the region increased throughout the year due to the desire of British tourists who came to the region in the 1990s to rent or lease the houses they bought here and not to leave them empty. Especially in settlements, significant income is generated through intensive vegetable farming activities, and with improved olive trees, Kaş is an important olive and olive oil producer. In addition to fishing activities, the population, which began to earn economic income through tourism activities, started to migrate from rural areas towards the center.

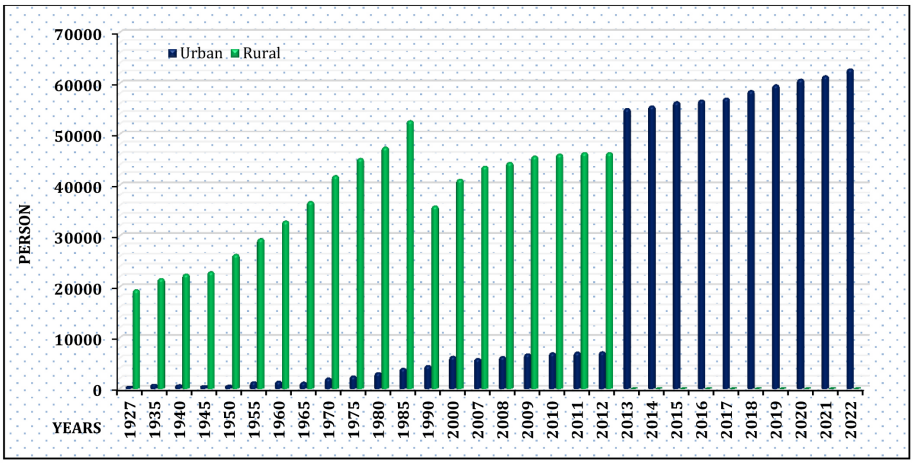
In Turkey, after the migration from rural areas to cities from the 1950s onwards, there was an increase in urban population. While the rural population, which continuously decreased from 1950 to 1980, experienced a small increase in 1990 and 2000, it began to decrease for the first time in terms of quantity, and the rural population, which was around 25 million at the specified date, has now decreased to around 17 million (Yılmaz; 2015: 163). However, during these developments in the country, the situation in Kaş district was different,

and although there was an increase in urban population, the rural population was always higher in the years mentioned.

Although there was an increase in the city population in general until 2013, this rate had a small share in the general population. While only 2% of the total population constituted the urban population in 1927, this rate was 14% in 2012, which is the last year the urban and rural population distinction was made. However, it is still observed that the rural population is more significant. By 2013, with Law No. 6360, all villages, townships, and towns gained the status of a neighborhood, thus eliminating the distinction between rural and urban populations (Table 4) (Graph 3). However, although this had an administrative impact on the existence of neighborhoods with rural characteristics, it did not have much effect in terms of quality. The total population of neighborhoods that can be considered as central neighborhoods (Andifli, Kalkan Neighborhoods) and other neighborhoods where the population is concentrated (Çavdır, İslamlar, Bezirgan, Yeşilköy, Kınık, Ova Neighborhoods) in 2022 (calculated with a population of over 2000) was calculated as 37,634, constituting 60% of the total population.

| Year | Total | Urban | Rural | Year | Total | Urban | Rural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1927** | 19.863 | 414 | 19.449 | **2008** | 50.786 | 6.322 | 44.464 |
| **1935** | 22.520 | 867 | 21.653 | **2009** | 52.564 | 6.857 | 45.707 |
| **1940** | 23.304 | 753 | 22.521 | **2010** | 53.145 | 7.041 | 46.104 |
| **1945** | 23.560 | 588 | 22.972 | **2011** | 53.588 | 7.192 | 46.396 |
| **1950** | 27.037 | 642 | 26.395 | **2012** | 53.633 | 7.258 | 46.375 |
| **1955** | 30.856 | 1.372 | 29.484 | **2013** | 55.061 | 55.061 | - |
| **1960** | 34.416 | 1.479 | 32.937 | **2014** | 55.574 | 55.574 | - |
| **1965** | 38.047 | 1.269 | 36.778 | **2015** | 56.386 | 56.386 | - |
| **1970** | 43.962 | 2.099 | 41.863 | **2016** | 56.720 | 56.720 | - |
| **1975** | 47.765 | 2.493 | 45.272 | **2017** | 57.123 | 57.123 | - |
| **1980** | 50.640 | 3.158 | 47.482 | **2018** | 58.600 | 58.600 | - |
| **1985** | 56.683 | 4.002 | 52.681 | **2019** | 59.716 | 59.716 | - |
| **1990** | 40.469 | 4.560 | 35.909 | **2020** | 60.839 | 60.839 | - |
| **2000** | 47.519 | 6.361 | 41.158 | **2021** | 61.488 | 61.488 | - |
| **2007** | 49.629 | 5.922 | 43.707 | **2022** | 62.866 | 62.866 | - |

**Table 4:** Rural Urban Population of Kaş District (1927-2022).




**Graph 3:** Distribution of Urban and Rural Population Between 1927-2022

**Source:**TURKSTAT.

## 5. Age Structure and Gender Ratios of Kaş Population

As in determining other characteristics of the population, understanding and evaluating the distribution by gender structure and age groups is crucial. Knowledge of age groups enables a better understanding of the active population, labor force capacities, dependent population, and characteristics of population movements, allowing for evaluation and the creation of projects and projections in this context (Balcı Akova; 2011: 77).

The age and gender structure of the population in a country is highly important for determining military, economic, and sociological policies. Examining the population quantity and its age groups provides the opportunity to identify the active and employable population as well as the dependent population, contributing to the evaluation of population movements and enabling the creation of projects and projections in this context (Balcı Akova; 2011: 77).

Between the ages of 15-64, the group is referred to as the active population, while the age groups of 0-14 and 65 and above are considered as the dependent population. The care for these groups is typically provided by the middle age group, which ranges from 15 to 65 years old and is actively working and producing. The proportion of the active population to the total population is referred to as the activity rate economically. The excess of the dependent group tends to exacerbate social and economic difficulties in countries, often

constituting the general population structure of developing nations (Çalışkan; 2018-19: 113-118). In general, the population between the ages of 15-64 represents the productive population, while those aged 0-14 and 65 and above, inclusive, are considered the consumer population (Sertkaya Doğan; 2015: 233).

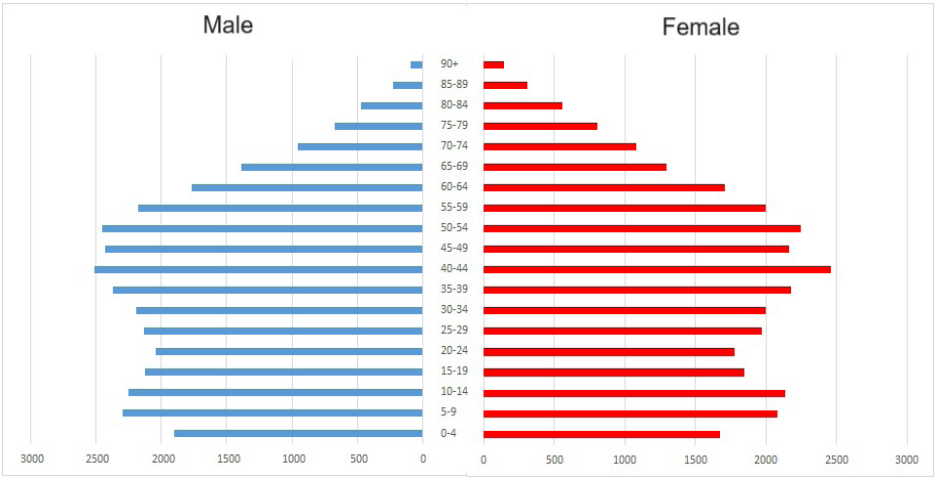



**Figure 1:** Population Pyramid of Kaş District for 2022

**Source:**TURSTAT.

In the Kaş district, the number of male and female populations has consistently remained close to each other throughout almost every period. This is clearly observed when examining data from 1927 to 2022. Particularly in recent years, factors such as increased education levels and participation in the economic workforce by women, along with changes in their social status, have been influential in this regard (Yüceşahin, Özgür; 2008: 136). These developments, embracing a quality lifestyle at the societal level, supported by balanced and healthy nutrition, and increased awareness in the face of diseases, have played a decisive role in extending life expectancy (Yüceşahin, 2009: 3). Additionally, there may be social, economic, and political reasons, as well as technological developments and changes that have led to a decrease in birth rates, especially in developing countries (Reed, et al.; 1999: 2,3). This situation has also manifested itself in the Kaş district, contributing to a decline in birth rates.

In the population pyramid for the year 2022, it is noticeable that birth rates have decreased (Figure 1). When examining the age structure of the population for the year 2022, the population in the active age group (15-64 years old) is 42,539, constituting approximately 68% of the total population. The age group of 0-14 years old totals 12,322, and the dependent population aged 65 and above

is 8,005, making a total of 20,327 people and accounting for 32% of the total population. This indicates a significant labor force potential for Kaş and, with the increase in the population aged 90 and above, suggests an improvement in living conditions and quality of life.

The population aged 0-4 years old, which is represented at the bottom of the pyramid and also reflects the number of births, is 3,467, constituting 5% of the total population. This age group is showing a decreasing trend (Figure 1). This population structure for Kaş is commonly observed in countries where the development level is rapidly increasing. Factors such as technological advancements leading to improved healthcare, increased life expectancy, higher levels of education, and active participation of women in the workforce have shaped the population pyramid.

The difference between the male and female population, which consistently increased from 1927 to 1985, particularly due to the enlistment of men during World War II, did not become significantly larger after that year. Despite administrative reasons leading to a decrease in population after 1985, the gap between the male and female populations continued to increase in the following years (Table 5).

| Year | Female | Male | Total | Year | Female | Male | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1927** | 10.821 | 9.042 | 19.863 | **2008** | 24.792 | 25.994 | 50.786 |
| **1935** | 11.773 | 10.747 | 22.520 | **2009** | 25.596 | 26.968 | 52.564 |
| **1940** | 12.238 | 11.066 | 23.304 | **2010** | 25.851 | 27.294 | 53.145 |
| **1945** | 12.167 | 11.393 | 23.560 | **2011** | 26.086 | 27.502 | 53.588 |
| **1950** | - | - | 27.037 | **2012** | 26.255 | 27.378 | 53.633 |
| **1955** | - | - | 30.856 | **2013** | 26.817 | 28.244 | 55.061 |
| **1960** | 17.319 | 17.097 | 34.416 | **2014** | 27.014 | 28.560 | 55.574 |
| **1965** | 18.940 | 19.107 | 38.047 | **2015** | 27.402 | 28.984 | 56.386 |
| **1970** | 21.999 | 21.963 | 43.962 | **2016** | 27.598 | 29.122 | 56.720 |
| **1975** | 23.287 | 24.478 | 47.765 | **2017** | 27.785 | 29.338 | 57.123 |
| **1980** | 25.140 | 25.500 | 50.640 | **2018** | 28.415 | 30.185 | 58.600 |
| **1985** | 27.491 | 29.192 | 56.683 | **2019** | 28.916 | 30.800 | 59.716 |
| **1990** | 19.616 | 20.853 | 40.469 | **2020** | 29.533 | 31.306 | 60.839 |
| **2000** | 23.228 | 24.291 | 47.519 | **2021** | 29.875 | 31.613 | 61.488 |
| **2007** | 24.323 | 25.306 | 49.629 | **2022** | 30.423 | 32.443 | 62.866 |

**Table 5:** Female and Male Population Between 1927-2022

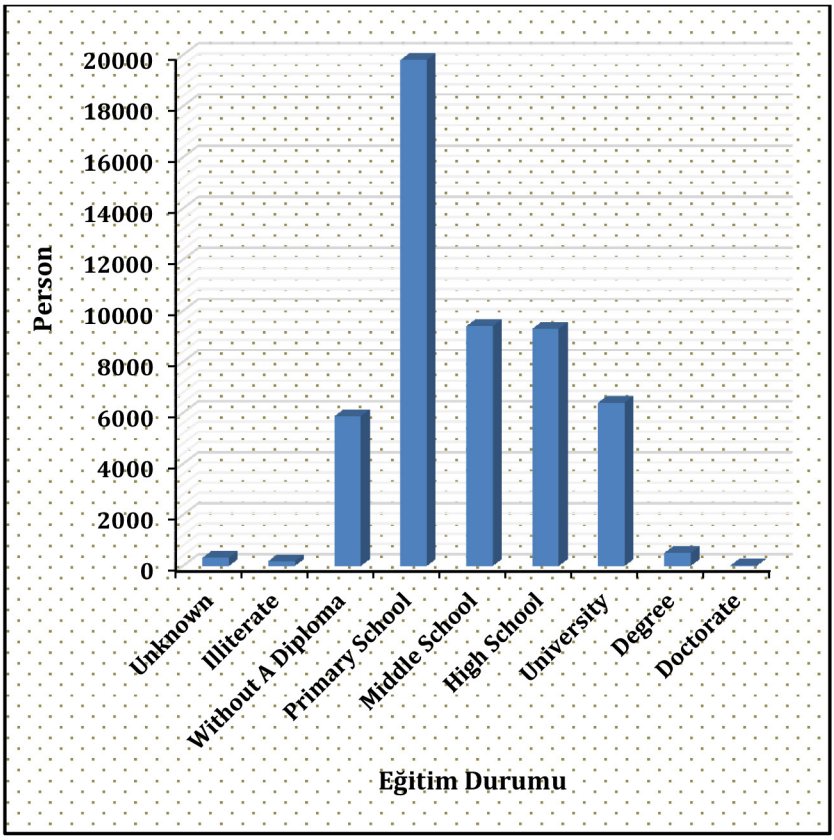
**Source:** TURKSTAT, SIS.

The population in the district is generally concentrated in the central areas, particularly in neighborhoods where tourism activities are intense, and in areas where economic activities such as agriculture and animal husbandry are prevalent. Andifli, Kınık, Ova, İslamlar, Bezirgan, Kalkan, Yeşilköy, and Çavdır neighborhoods are among those with a high concentration of population. Additionally, especially during the summer months, the population increases significantly, reaching up to about four times the total population of the district and reaching around 250,000 people. The central neighborhood of Andifli, and the neighborhoods of Kalkan, İslamlar, and Yeşilköy, where villa tourism is quite intense, are the main areas where the population concentrates.

As a result, due to the Mediterranean climate being dry and having a high number of sunny days, occasional difficulties arise in terms of resource usage, with a particular emphasis on water scarcity. This situation can lead to challenges in rapidly depleting water resources, creating ecological pressures. Moreover, in the Mediterranean coastal region where temperatures can reach 45º to 50º Celsius, the excessive use of air conditioning and other cooling devices also negatively impacts resources.

### 6. Educational Status of the Population

The education status of the population provides information about the educational levels, social, and cultural characteristics of the region. In the Kaş district, the literacy rate is quite high, constituting 82% of the total population. There are 19,811 individuals who have completed primary school, representing 32% of the total population. The total population with higher education is 6,942, making up 11% of the total population. Although the literacy rate is high overall in the district, it can be said that the overall education level is not necessarily high.




**Graph 4:** Educational Status of Kaş District

## 7. Conclusion

The Kaş district, now an important tourism center, has been populated since ancient times. Despite having a highly challenging terrain for settlement, it has always attracted attention due to its location. In the ancient period, it stood out prominently due to its favorable position for maritime transportation. Although it does not have an active commercial port today, tourism activities, along with agriculture and animal husbandry, constitute the primary source of livelihood for the district. However, these activities can sometimes be financially insufficient, leading to seasonal migration to other areas.

Together with the Republic, Kaş, which gained district status, has generally shown an increasing trend in the total population from the first census in 1927 to the present. However, there have been fluctuations in some periods. Indeed,

during the years 1940-1945, due to the global state of alertness caused by World War II, our country was affected, and a large part of the male population was conscripted. This situation also reflected on the population rates of settlements in our country, leading to a tendency of population decline. However, there is not a significant difference observed in Kaş. In 1987, the separation of Kale (Demre) district to become an independent district has been another factor reducing the population. In this case, the decrease is attributed to administrative changes.

Kaş district, with its narrow coastal strip and a high mountain massif in the northern part, has seen the development of settlement towards the direction of Seydikemer-Fethiye, which is another center of attraction, in the west-northwest direction. This area constitutes the flattest terrain of the district and includes fertile fields. This region is highly suitable for agricultural activities, and intensive farming is carried out. Additionally, the abundance of historical tourism resources in this area has contributed to its dense population.

When evaluating the urban and rural population of Kaş district, it can be observed that until the enactment of Law No. 6360 on Metropolitan Municipality, the rural population has always been higher than the urban population. With its general characteristics, the settlement, where agricultural and livestock activities are intensively carried out, has provided new employment opportunities with the tourism activities that started to develop after the 1980s. Despite the continuous increase in the urban population due to migrations from surrounding villages (whether affiliated with Kaş or not) to the city center between 1927 and 2022, the rural population has always been higher. Additionally, it is noted that the male and female populations have closely followed each other within the total population.

The population pyramid, depicting the age groups and gender structure in terms of the workforce potential, active, and dependent populations, indicates a decrease in birth rates, a high workforce potential, and a significant number of elderly individuals (65+). Furthermore, it can be said that there has been an improvement in health conditions associated with these demographic trends. Although the available workforce in the settlement seems advantageous, it also brings about employment challenges in the economic context. Particularly, during the winter months when tourism activities, which are intense in the summer, tend to decrease seasonally, economic concerns arise. Agriculture and livestock activities, prominent in the region, serve as a supporting factor for economic activities throughout the year.

The population is generally concentrated in the center and in neighborhoods where agricultural and livestock activities are intensive. The economic relationship between economic activities and the workforce can be shown as the reason for this concentration. Although the increased population in tourist centers during the summer months is considered an economic value for the region, it is also quite challenging in terms of environmental conditions. The total population of the district, which is 62,866, is known to increase up to approximately 4 times (up to 250,000) depending on the season, and this concentration in specific areas creates ecological pressure. Environmental and noise pollution, along with the rapid depletion of existing resources, are concerns. During field studies, it is known that water scarcity is experienced in areas with concentrated villa tourism, such as Kalkan and İslamlar neighborhoods. The intensive use of air conditioners and other cooling devices also contributes to increased resource consumption. This density is observed in almost every tourism center, and measures should be taken to minimize environmental damage by balancing conservation and utilization, especially during the increased resource usage in the summer months, which economically contributes to the region.

Population, being a highly dynamic variable, has experienced fluctuations in Kaş district from time to time, but it has generally shown an upward trend. This increase is expected to continue in the coming years. Therefore, planning and policies in the region should be developed taking this trend into account.

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