



Labor Markets and Wealth

Vocational Training Program, ISKUR (Turkey)

The National Employment Agency of Turkey (ISKUR) provides services for individuals who register as unemployed through its offices around the country. ISKUR's main focus is on vocational training programs, which are not only targeted at disadvantaged groups or youth but at all individuals with at least 15 years old and complete primary education. The Turkish Ministry of Labor evaluated the impact of courses in 23 Turkish provinces that started in the last quarter of 2010 with the assistance of the World Bank.

The program offered three months (around 340 hours, 6 hours a day) of **free in-classroom practical training**, with average course size of 28 trainees, provided by **private or public institutions**. Roughly 72% of the individuals who received an offer to participate in the program completed courses in:

- computerized accounting;
- provision of services (babysitter, cashier, waiter, caring for the elderly);
- craftsmanship or machine operators (welder, natural gas fitter, plumber, mechanic);
- technical occupations (computer technician, computer-aided designer, electrical engineer);
- professional occupations (web designer, computer programmer, IT support specialist).

Trainees who accepted the offer received a small transfer of 15 Turkish Lira (US\$10 in 2010) per completed day of training.



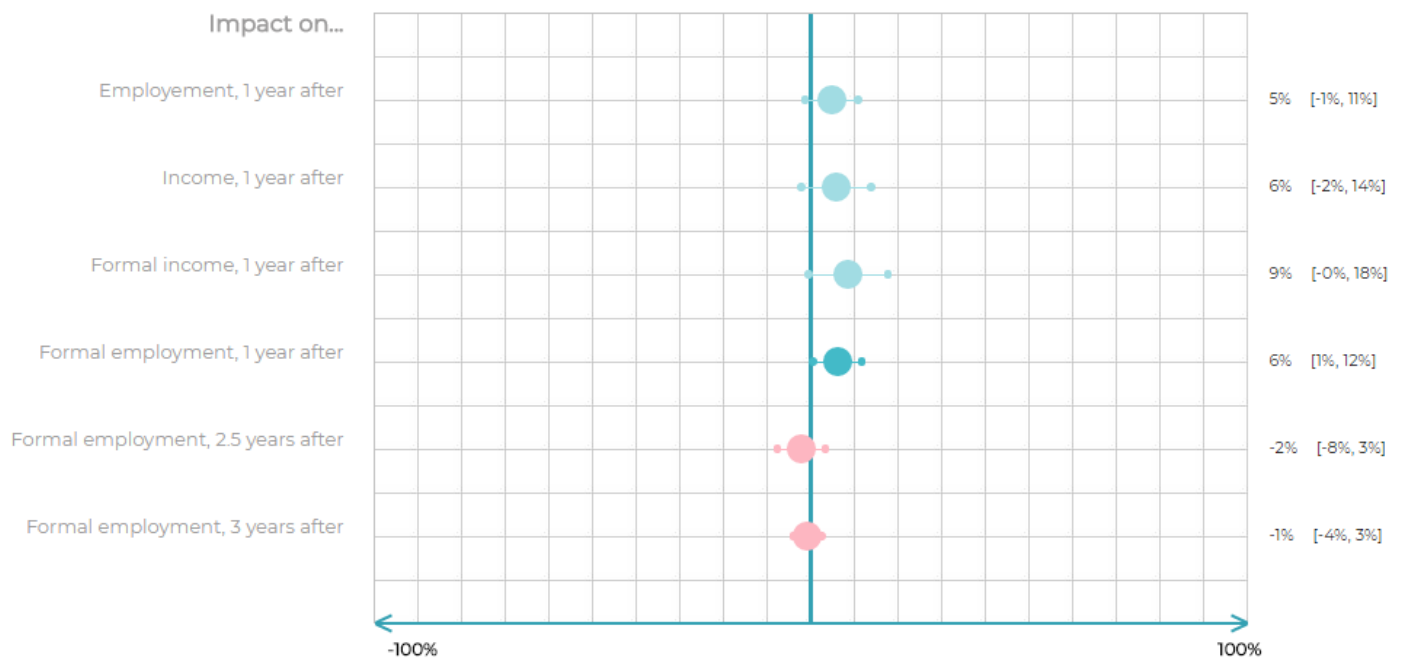
Impacts of the program

- Trainees were **more likely to be employed** and earned **higher salaries** both in formal and informal jobs, 1 year after the end of the program
- They were also **6% more likely to be formally employed** and earned **higher salaries** on these formal jobs, 1 year after the end of the program
- **3 years after** the end of the program the impacts on **formality** had dissipated



(for more information click here)

Support:



The presented results were taken from the academic articles of Sarojini Hirshleifer [↗](#), David McKenzie [↗](#), Rita Almeida [↗](#) and Cristobal Ridao-Cano [↗](#)

References:

Hirshleifer, S., McKenzie, D., Almeida, R., & Ridao-Cano, C. (2016). The impact of vocational training for the unemployed: experimental evidence from Turkey. *The Economic Journal*, 126(597), 2115-2146.

Sorted and straightforward information on the impact of public policies and social programs.

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