



**2019**

# **BAHÇESARAY**

## **DISTRICT REPORT**





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## **History of Bahcesaray:**

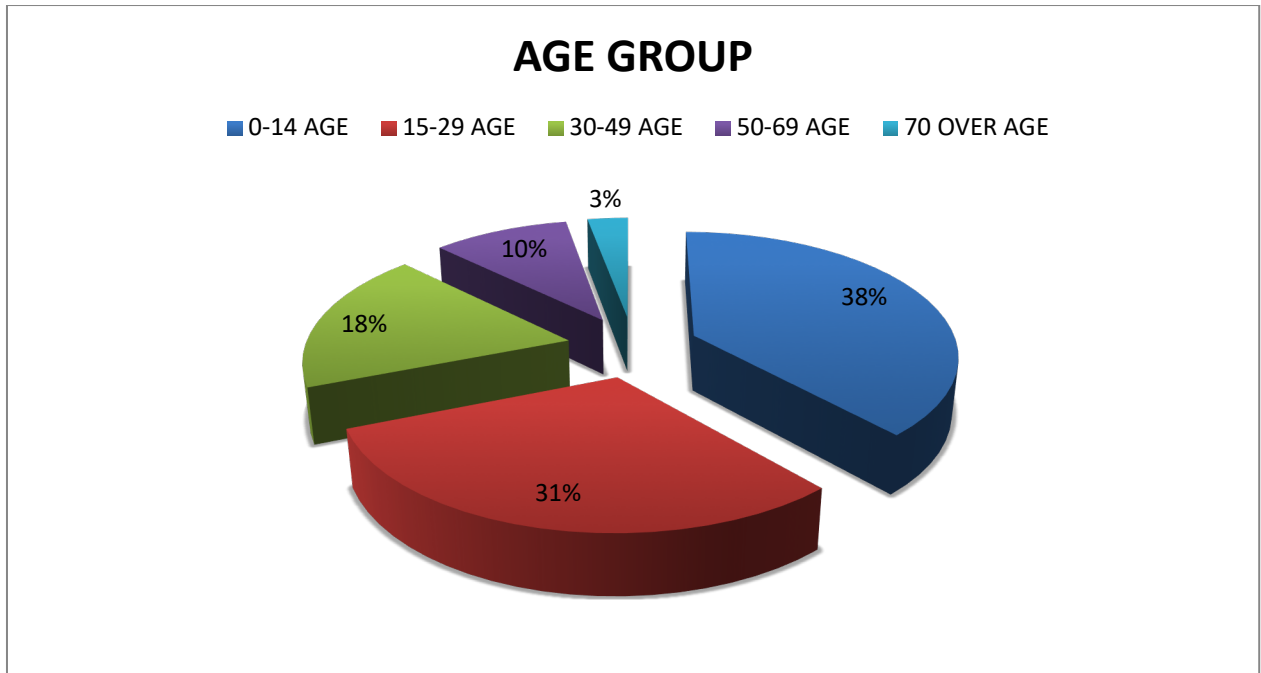
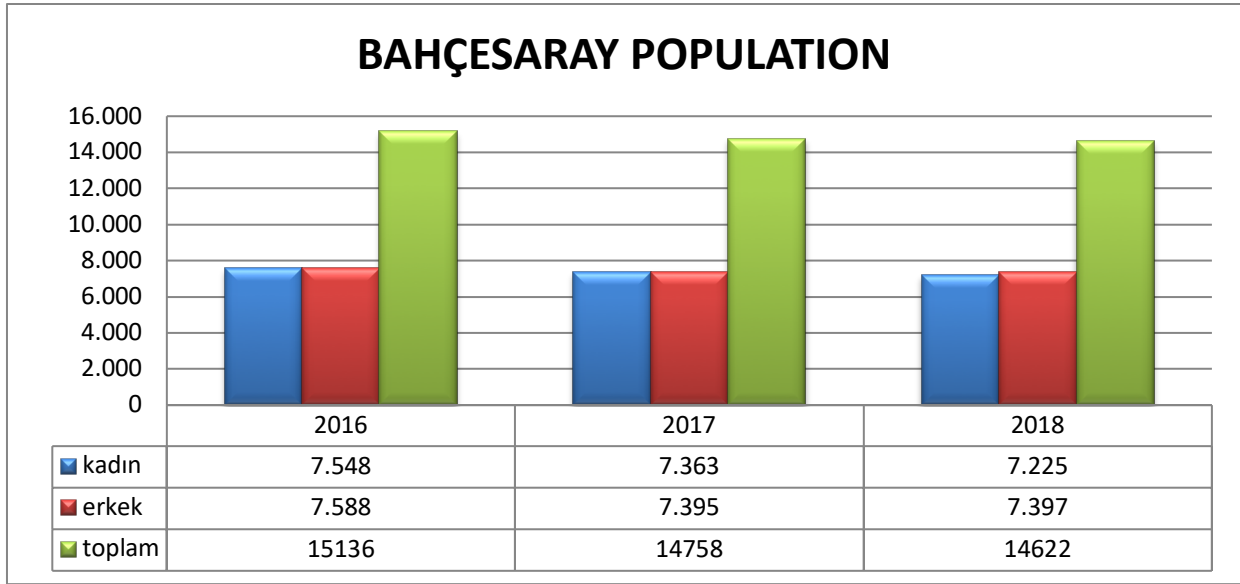
The old name of Bahçesaray and still used by the public is Müküs. Mucus is an Arabic word and plural of the word mex. Meaning of the dictionary; and the sum of these. It is also used as a meeting point and base.

## **Geography of Bahçesaray:**

Bahçesaray district has an area of 576 km<sup>2</sup> and is 1670 meters above sea level. Van city center is 110 km away. It is also possible to go to the district via Hizan. It is surrounded by steep high mountains and hills with harsh terrain and natural conditions. It has a narrow settlement. The district is bordered by Çatak in the east, Hizan in the Bitlis province in the west, Gevaş in the north, and Pervari in Siirt in the south. At the foot of Mount Ağırov in the north of the district, the stream called Müküs (Bahçesaray), which emerges from the spring of Serkahni (Fountain Head), reaches the border of Pervari after passing through the long and narrow valley. The climate of the district is harsh continental climate. Winters are cold and snowy. Abdomen stay on the ground is very long. Summers are hot and arid like the climate in the region. Transportation to the district becomes difficult during periods of snowfall.

## **Bahçesaray Population Structure:**

The district of Bahçesaray has a lower population density compared to the other districts of Van. The vast majority of the population lives in villages. According to 2018 data, the population of Bahçesaray district was calculated as 14,622. The female population is 49% (7,225) and the male population is 51% (7,397). The population of the district has decreased compared to the last two years.



38% of the population of Bahçesaray district consists of 0-14 age group and 31% is between 15-29 age group. It can be said that the population of the district has a young structure.

#### **Bahcesaray Education:**

According to the data of Bahçesaray district national education directorate, there are 55 schools and institutions in the district. With these;

- Number of classrooms: 210
- Number of students: 4,479



## BAHÇESARAY

- Number of teachers: 282

In the number of students per classroom;

- Primary Education: 22
- Secondary education: 20
- Vocational and technical education: 20.

### **Bahcesaray Tourism:**

Bahçesaray district is a district with high tourism potential. However, there are problems in using this potential. As a result of uncovering and exploiting this potential, the district will provide great economic benefits. It is important to use this tourism potential in the introduction of the district. There are important historical buildings in Bahçesaray district. It has an important potential not only for cultural tourism but also for winter tourism. The area is snow-covered 7 months a year and there are skiing areas. In addition to this, rafting sports can be arranged on the Müküs Creek passing through the district.



Historical buildings in the district;

### **Saintes Femmes (Saint Women's Monastery):**

The monastery named “Tzayativank” and De Saint Dean Babtiste üzerinde is located on a small valley about 1 km away from the area where the Delan Creek meets the Mucus Stream. The locals called the monastery “Dira Meleşehi.. According to Armenian sources based on Hrispin and the Holy Cross Culture, the church was said to have been built in the Xth century in order to hide the relic fragment.

### **Saint Sauver Monastery:**

This monastery is located at the end of the valley of Arinc River, near the village of Atitzans, 2 km from the junction of Mucus and Arinc Creek. away. It is known as “White Church or Diraspi.. Monastery, Hz. A church attributed to Mary consists of a chapel and monk cells for Jamatun and John the Baptist.

### **Sanit Georges (Pouthkouvank) Monastery Church:**

This monastery is located on the southern slope of Mount Aghirof, at the end of the mouth gedik passage. The monastery is also known as Saint Georges and Rooster Monastery. According to a manuscript dated 1317 at the British Museum, it was an important cultural center of the Vastpurakan Kingdom in the XIV century. The school formed here continued until the end of the XIV century. The school was closed in the XV century, but the monastery continued its activities. Along with these churches, there are Andzghonts Monastery Church and Saint Jaques Church.

### **Red Mosque:**

The mosque, located in the Kale Quarter of Bahçesaray, is unknown when it was built and has a three-phase building phase that has been expanded in different periods. Since it does not have an inscription and a foundation, it is thought that it was built by one of the Müküs beys from the XVI century considering the historical process.

### **Şeyh Şemsettin Mosque:**

The mosque located in Güneyyamaç village of Bahçesaray was built in 1709 according to the inscription. The building, which was planned as a two-storey building on a sloping terrain, was burned in 1915 during the rebellion and occupation, and then the first floor was renovated. There are two inscriptions in the mosque, one on the entrance gate of the courtyard and the other on the south side of the mosque.



### **Red Bridge:**

The bridge built on the Mucus River, Bahcesaray to Hizan on the road route, 4 km. south. Named after the red bricks in its arch, the construction date of the bridge is unknown. Like other bridges in the region, it is thought to have been built between XIV and XVII

centuries. It is the most remarkable architectural work of Bahçesaray district.

### **Mir Hasan-ı Veli Dervish Lodge:**

The construction date of Mir Hasan-ı Veli Dervish Lodge, which is located in Bahcesaray Kale neighborhood and is actually a complex, is not known. The complex, known as "Mir Hasan Veli Zawiyesi" among the people and visited with a respectable spirituality, Bahçesaray is the only showy example of Ottoman Islamic Architecture.

### **Economics of Bahçesaray:**

Bahçesaray economy is weaker than Van districts. The most important livelihoods are walnut and honey production. Agriculture and animal husbandry is done in the region. Mucus honey is famous. Significant income is obtained by selling the stump of walnut trees. Furniture and wood carving made of walnut timber is on the way to development in the district. Agriculture is generally done around Mucus Stream.

### **Agriculture:**

The district is lower in terms of agricultural area compared to other districts. This is due to the fact that the settlement area is mountainous and rugged. Agriculture is generally done around Mucus stream. The most important agricultural product is wheat. The products that are produced are generally intended for family living. In addition, there are vegetable orchards in the district. These products are again for family subsistence. The most important product of the district is walnut.

<b>Total area</b>	<b>Field of Cereals and Other Crop Products</b>	<b>Fallow Area</b>	<b>Field of fruit, beverage and spice plants</b>	<b>Vegetable gardens area (decar)</b>
26.290	20.711	150	5.285	144
Dekar	Dekar	Dekar	Dekar	Dekar

Kaynak: Gıda, Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı

Other fruits The majority of the beverage and spring crops area consists of walnut trees. According to 2018 data, agricultural production in Bahçesaray;



## Cereals and Other Herbal Products Production:

Name of the product	Planted area (decare)	Production (tons)
Total Production	20.711	30.340

## Vegetable Production:

Name of the product	Planted area (decare)	Production (tons)
Total Vegetable Production	144	228

## Fruit Production:

Name of the product	Planted area (decare)	Production (tons)
Total Fruit Production	5.285	1.639

We see that the production is in the form of subsistence economy. Families often use their production for themselves. In the district where agricultural potential is high, modern techniques should be used in agriculture in order to increase productivity.

## Number of agricultural tools and machinery;

- Tractor: **13**
- Other Tools and Machines: **82**

## Farming:

Livestock is the most important source of livelihood of Bahçesaray district as in other districts. However, it is lower than other districts in terms of number of animals. Beekeeping has an important place in animal husbandry. Honey production is one of the most important livelihood sources after walnut.

Cattle	Number of sheep	Number of Goats	Milk Production (tonne)	Honey Production (tonne)
4.005	32.285	8.007	4.526	362

According to 2018 data, there are 32,285 sheep, 8,007 goats and 4,005 cattle in the district. An average of 4,526 tons of milk is obtained annually from

these animals. Milk, yogurt, cheese, wool are obtained. During the long winter time due to the climate of the district, families take precautions accordingly and stock their products. A large quantity of the products produced is evaluated in terms of subsistence economy.

### **Bahçesaray Walnut Production:**

Perhaps the most important share in the name of Bahçesaray is the walnut trees and the walnut fruit. Walnut is the most famous product of Bahçesaray.

Walnuts belong to the group of hard shelled fruits. Hazelnut in Turkey then the most grown hard-shelled fruit. In recent years, both the bark and the tree of the fruit, which has increased consumption, are utilized.

### **Inside Walnut Usage:**

Walnut inside has a great contribution to health. The contribution of proteins and vitamins to human health was understood. It is recommended to consume daily. In addition, walnut interior is very much used especially in bakery products.

### **Usage of Walnut Wood:**

The value of walnut wood is due to its irregular, multi-shaped and very mixed color. Walnut anatomical, physical, mechanical and processing properties are good, high polishing ability has a decorative wood. For this reason, it is considered as rifle gun and pistol grip in the arms industry, especially in the production of massive furniture and coating, and is used in parquet production, sports instruments, musical instruments, carving and many other places.

Use of Green Shell: Green shell; It is used as a natural dyestuff for dyeing wool, cotton and silk yarns. In addition, the green crust is dried and ground to clean the intestinal worms.



## *Bahçesaray Walnut Production:*

Name of the product	Area of bulk orchards (decare)	Production (tons)	Average yield per tree (kg)	Number of trees at fruiting age	Number of trees without fruit age	Total number of trees
Walnut	4.733	1.381	33	42.000	26.900	68.900

The total number of trees in Van province is calculated as 272 thousand. 26% of these trees are located in Bahçesaray district. Van walnut production in 2018 is 5,392 tons. 26% of the total walnut production is in Bahçesaray district.

This potential of Bahçesaray district, which is at the forefront both in the number of walnut trees and in walnut production, will make an important contribution to the district economy. It is clear that increasing walnut demand as a result of cultivation of new walnut trees and improvement of existing trees can be met from this district. Walnut production of other districts is as follows;

**Edremit:** 477 Tonnes

**Ercis:** 309 Tonnes

**Gevaş:** 1,363 Tonnes

**Muradiye:** 86 Tonnes

**Tusba:** 140 Tonnes

**Çatak:** 1.580 Tons

**İpekyolu:** 56 Tonnes

### **Bahcesaray Honey Production:**

Bahçesaray stands out with honey production after walnut production. In the district where quality and organic honey is produced, fishing is one of the basic livelihoods of the people.

Honey is a very useful food that is taken by bees from flowers and fruit buds and swallowed nectar, which is formed by the chemical change in the organs of bees called honey stomach by means of invertase enzyme and placed in honeycomb cells in the hive.

Bahçesaray district is a closed area and its current geographical structure is very suitable for beekeeping. The region is rich in plant diversity

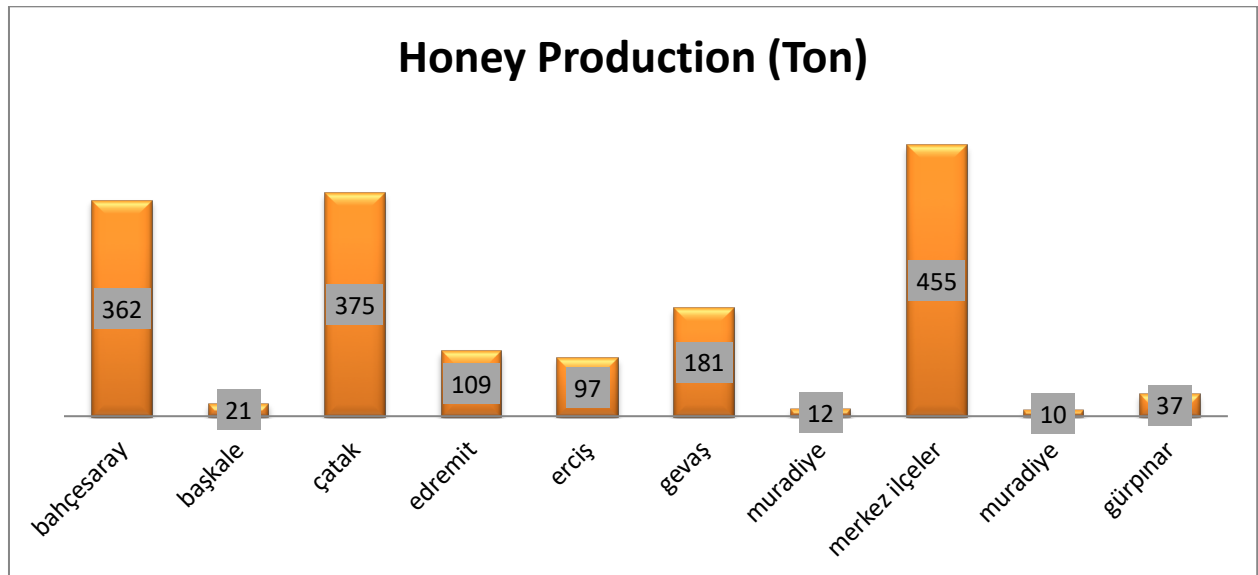


Bahçesaray honey is important for quality and organic honey. Beekeeping is carried out in the district by traditional methods. Honey harvest started in spring and continues until autumn.



Animal Name	Number of Businesses	Total Sleeve	Honey Production (Ton)
<b>Beekeeping</b>	212	27.874	362

According to 2019 data, beekeeping activities are carried out in 212 enterprises in Bahçesaray. The total amount of honey obtained from 27,874 hives is 362 tons. In 2019, a total of 1,659 tons of honey was produced in Van. 9% of total honey production was realized in Bahçesaray district.



In 2018, Bahçesaray district is the province that produces the highest amount of honey after Çatak district and Central districts.

### Highlights of Bahçesaray;

- ❖ Walnut trees and walnut fruit potential,
- ❖ Geographical environment suitable for beekeeping activities,
- ❖ Rich plant diversity for organic honey production,
- ❖ Presence of historical touristic places,
- ❖ Water sports can be done on the Mucus Stream passing through the district,

- ❖ Presence of natural water resources,
- ❖ Geography and climate suitable for winter tourism,
- ❖ Rich pasture for livestock,

### **Investment Areas:**

- ❖ Investment areas focused on walnut fruit,
- ❖ Use of rich walnut tree in furniture sector,
- ❖ Investments related to quality and organic honey production,
- ❖ Suitable climate and geography for winter tourism, hosting historical places and using the tea passing through the district for water sports in tourism investments,
- ❖ High quality and rich water resources and investment in this area,
- ❖ Investments in animal products.

### **Things to do in the district:**

- ❖ Improving the existing transport routes, Giving necessary support to honey producers,
- ❖ Good introduction of the district honey and walnut,
- ❖ Preservation and enrichment of the existing bee population,
- ❖ Protection of walnut tree areas and increasing the cultivation of walnut trees,
- ❖ Extending agricultural lands and carrying out productive works,
- ❖ Providing necessary support to agricultural producers,
- ❖ Performing the restoration works of historical touristic places and gaining this to tourism,
- ❖ Opening of ski resorts for winter tourism,
- ❖ Conducting the necessary studies to prevent migration from the district,
- ❖ Support to civil society organizations,
- ❖ Giving importance to district education,
- ❖ Opening of vocational and technical education schools.



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