

The Better Justice Association Puts the Spotlight on Judicial Statistics:

“Statistics related to justice should provide strategic support to development”

2 September 2024

The judicial year starts on 02 September 2024. To mark the start of the 2024-2025 Judicial Year, the Better Justice Association has reviewed the “Justice Statistics” published by the Ministry of Justice, Directorate General for Criminal Records and Statistics.

The main points of the review, which emphasizes that justice statistics should produce sound data concerning disputes arising directly or indirectly from matters affected by the economy and the success of the judiciary in bringing resolve to these disputes to provide strategic contribution to Türkiye’s economic power, competitiveness and improvement to the national welfare, are as follows:

“For Türkiye to overcome the middle income trap by means of fast paced development, it is imperative for the state, and therefore the Ministry of Justice, to develop statistical criteria that will help to reveal the services, performance and quality of the judiciary according to regional differences, create an internally competitive system, and provide the necessary strategic support required for the development of the nation, while at the same time ensuring transparency and accountability.

However, it is not appropriate for the Ministry of Justice to collect and publish statistical data regarding its own areas of responsibility. For the service providing organisation to publish its own statistics is problematic in terms of transparency, accountability and objectivity. Any suspicion of whether there may be a bias in presentation of the data is sufficient to undermine the presumed benefit of the statistics. Even if the statistics were sound and true, any question mark as to the statistics published by an organisation would lead to an undermining of its reputation and credibility. As the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) was established by Law No 5429 regarding the production and organisation of official statistics, it would be more appropriate if TURKSTAT were to publish justice statistics.

Justice statistics should include classified data, collated on the basis of development regions and courts of appeal, broken down by provinces and districts, and compiled as to accurately identify the impact of differences in the degree of regional development on the priorities, needs and performance of the judiciary.

Judicial work should be monetised, the total amount of fees and other duties collected, and the time spent to resolve disputes should be translated into a monetary value, to be able to make an assessment of whether the judiciary brings added value to society or a burden.

Judicial statistics should include information related to lawyers, alongside information on judges and prosecutors, as lawyers are one of the three main components of the judiciary. The perception that the judiciary, of which functions include allegation, defence and adjudication, comprise only of judges and prosecutors should change.

The praxis of assigning a new reference number to a case file by each judicial authority which receives the file should end. When a case that has been revoked by way of appellate, it is given a new case reference number as if it has just been filed, even though it has been years since it was first filed – thus, concealing the fact that the cases have been pending for years.”

To see the Better Justice Association’s complete review of the justice statistics, [click here](#).