

**A statement from the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association on the dismissal of the Chair of the Turkish Statistical Institute, Sait Erdal Dinçer**

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The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA) note with concern the dismissal of Sait Erdal Dinçer as head of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) by Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, at a time when the country is experiencing high levels of inflation.

The United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics clearly set out the professional and scientific standards for official statistics, to ensure reliable and robust information to aid decision-making. As learned societies with memberships of government statisticians across the world, the RSS and ASA look to highlight the importance of these principles in maintaining public trust.

The RSS and ASA condemn political interference in the production of official statistics and urge President Erdoğan to reassure those statisticians working for the TUIK that they are free to produce objective statistical information that serves not just the government but the Turkish public. This is essential to ensure a healthy democracy in Turkey and to maintain international credibility in its statistics.