



Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en
Documentatiecentrum

Cahier 2022-3

Capaciteitsbehoefte Justitiële Ketens t/m 2027

Beleidsneutrale ramingen

Summary

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Summary

Cahier

De reeks Cahier omvat de rapporten van onderzoek dat door en in opdracht van het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum is verricht. Opname in de reeks betekent niet dat de inhoud van de rapporten het standpunt van de Minister van Justitie en Veiligheid weergeeft.

Summary

Forecasting the demand on the Dutch justice system until 2027

In this report, the forecasts of the 'demand' for services of the police, prosecutors, courts and prisons until the end of 2027 are described. The forecasts were obtained by applying the so-called forecasting model PMJ that is developed for the Dutch criminal justice system and the civil and administrative justice systems. The base year for our forecasts was 2020. Any changes in legislation or policy later than 2020 could therefore not be incorporated.

PMJ is based on developments in society that fall outside the sphere of influence of the Ministry of Justice and Security. The model assumes that developments in society are the driving forces behind the trends in crime and private disputes. Four groups of factors can be distinguished: demographic structure of the population, economic conditions, social problems and other changes. Within each category, a number of background factors are distinguished. The combination of these factors represents certain classes of problems like social inequality, cultural conflicts, social isolation, and economic inequality.

The demographic factors used in the model are: the size of the population, the size of different age groups, the number of (children of) migrants (from Africa, Latin America, Asia excluding Indonesia and Japan, or Turkey) and men in particular in various age groups, and the number of minors (in the four main Dutch cities). The economic factors are the (youth) unemployment rate, the number of employed and unemployed people in the total labor force and within the age group of 15-24 years in particular, average annual income, purchasing power, the number of social benefits (including those for the unemployed), gross value added, tax and social security burden, costs of rental homes, the hourly rate of lawyers, the number of motor vehicles and mopeds, and the number of self-employed people. The social factors are the number of immigrants, the number of applications for political asylum, the number of underage refugees, the number of drug addicts, alcohol consumption, the yearly number of divorced people, the number of children involved in a divorce, the number of single parent families, the number of families with children, the level of education of children, the number of truants, internet usage, and the percentage of people connected to a church. The other factors are the number of police officers, the number of forensic investigators, the housing stock, the average property value, different types of court fees, and the money that people have to pay when applying for subsidized legal aid.

The forecasts of developments within the justice system are based on forecasts of the above-mentioned factors. If there are no changes in policy or legislation, the number of reported crimes is expected to increase by less than 1% per year in the period 2021-2027, and the number of suspects will increase by 1% per year. This increase will affect the workflow for all partners in the judicial system. Although the increase cannot be extrapolated in a straightforward fashion, the inflow of cases into the prosecutorial system will also increase by less than 1% per year and the number of cases brought to court will increase by 1% per year. The demand for prison capacity for adults will increase with 3% per year and the demand for prison capacity for minors will increase with 2% per year, due to the increase in the number of minors expected to be imprisoned.

The inflow of minor offences (misdemeanors) into the prosecutorial system will increase by 2% per year. The number of traffic offences will increase by 3% per year.

While the number of new civil cases at the sub district courts with a request is expected to decrease with less than 1% per year, civil cases with a summons will increase by 5% per year in the period 2021-2027. The number of new civil cases at the district courts will increase by less than 1% annually. The number of tax cases at the district courts will decrease by 2% per year while the number of other administrative cases will increase by 3% per year.

The expected developments in the number of applications for subsidized legal aid in criminal, civil, and administrative cases vary depending on the type of cases. Overall there is a slight increase.

The forecasts are based on information available at the moment. Both the PMJ forecasts as well as the forecasts of the factors are surrounded by uncertainty. Due to the recent COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine, this especially holds true for the economic forecasts. The direct effects of these crises are not incorporated in these forecasts. The forecasts are meant for 2023 and onwards and it is assumed, that in 2023 things will return to normal as far as COVID-19 is concerned. Therefore, the forecasts should be seen as a signal of what might happen if nothing changes. Unexpected events and new policy or legislation will probably alter the outcomes.

Het Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum (WODC) is het kennisinstituut voor het ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid. Het WODC doet zelf onafhankelijk wetenschappelijk onderzoek of laat dit doen door erkende instituten en universiteiten, ter ondersteuning van beleid en uitvoering.

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