



Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en
Documentatiecentrum

Cahier 2023-5

Capaciteitsbehoefte Justitiële Ketens t/m 2028

Beleidsneutrale ramingen

Summary

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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 2028

In this report, the forecasts of the 'demand' for services of the police, prosecutors, courts and prisons until the end of 2028 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 2021. Any changes in legislation or policy later than 2021 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 subdivided into different age groups, gender, and marital status, the number of 12 to 17-year-olds (in the four main Dutch cities), 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, the number of immigrants, the number of applications for political asylum, and the number of underage refugees.

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 individual and household income, the number of social benefits (including unemployment benefits, benefits income support, and disablement benefits), gross domestic product, gross value added, social security burden, the hourly rate of lawyers, the average contribution for subsidized legal aid, the number of motor vehicles and mopeds, and the number of self-employed people.

The social factors are 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 number of people with a low or high education level, the number of truants, and internet usage.

The other factors are the number of police officers, the number of forensic investigators, resources of the police, the (rental) housing stock, the average property value, and different types of court fees.

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 2022-2028, and the number of suspects will decrease by less than 1% per year. This will affect the workflow for all partners in the judicial system. Although these

expectations cannot be extrapolated in a straightforward fashion, the inflow of cases into the prosecutorial system is expected to remain constant and the number of cases brought to court will increase by 1% per year. The demand for prison capacity for adults will increase with 2% per year and the demand for prison capacity for minors will increase with 1% 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 1% per year. The number of traffic offences will increase by 2% per year.

While the number of new civil cases at the sub district courts with a request is expected to decrease with 1% per year, civil cases with a summons will increase by 4% per year in the period 2022-2028. 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 increase by less than 1% per year while the number of other administrative cases is expected to remain constant.

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.

The forecasts are based on information available during Fall 2022 and are meant for 2024 and onwards. Both the PMJ forecasts as well as the forecasts of the factors are surrounded by uncertainty. Due to the war in Ukraine, this especially holds true for the economic forecasts. The direct effects of this crisis is not incorporated in these forecasts. Unexpected events and new policy or legislation will probably alter the outcomes. Therefore, the forecasts should be seen as a signal of what might happen if nothing changes.

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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