Statistics Netherlands

Press release

Increase in common crime

In 2002 some 5 million thefts, acts of vandalism and violence were committed against the Dutch population. It is the first time since 1999 that crime is on the increase again.

The number of crimes actually registered by the police increased in 2002 on the previous year. The almost 5 percent rise in the number of registered crimes brought the total to just over 1.4 million.

In 2002 the Dutch police solved 39 thousand more crimes than in 2001. This brings the percentage of crimes solved to 17.8 percent for 2002, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

Population experience increase in crime

The most common crimes committed against the Dutch population increased by 11 percent in 2002 to 5 million. Vandalism and theft were the most common crimes citizens experienced (each about 1.9 million), followed by acts of violence (about 1 million). Compared to 2001, vandalism increased by 16 percent in 2002 and theft by 12 percent.

More crimes registered

The police registered just over 1.4 million crimes in 2002, an increase of almost 5 percent on 2001. Two thirds of registered crime consists of crimes against property, including theft and breaking and entry.

Crimes registered by the police have been on the increase every year since 1998. The increase amounts to 16 percent for the entire 1998-2002 period.

More crimes solved

In 2002 the police solved 254 thousand crimes in total, 39 thousand more than in 2001. This brings the percentage of crimes solved to 17.8 percent. In 2001 the corresponding percentage was 15.9.

Violence-related crimes had the highest solving rate in 2002. Almost half of these types of crimes were solved. The crime solving rate was considerably lower for acts of vandalism and crimes against property.

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