



Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2021



**Trends in
the Caribbean
Netherlands**

2021

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*	provisional figure
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-	(between two numbers) inclusive
0 (0.0)	less than half of unit concerned
2016–2017	2016 to 2017 inclusive
2016/2017	average for the years 2016 up to and including 2017
2016/'17	crop year, financial year, school year etc., beginning in 2016 and ending in 2017
2004/'05–2016/'17	crop year etc. 2004/'05 up to and including 2016/'17

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

Colophon

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Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot #67 unit 9
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Foreword

The years 2020 and 2021 were exceptional years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its impact was felt throughout all aspects of life in the Caribbean Netherlands. One obvious effect related to COVID-19 was the drop in inbound tourism – a very important industry to the Caribbean Netherlands.

It is with great pleasure that I now present the latest edition of Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands; a comprehensive overview with updated as well as new information in a compact and colourful book. Aside from a vast array of recent data, it also describes developments in many areas, ranging from nature to energy, from income to economy and from labour to youth, all key aspects of life on Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius.

This publication is available in an electronic version as well as a hard copy (available from our office in Kralendijk). The statistics presented here are also available on our [website](#).

In addition, all key figures can be found in our online database, StatLine and on our Facebook page. Please contact us if you have any comments or questions.

As you go through the pages of this book, I hope you will find answers, ideas, insights and inspiration, and that you find in Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2021 a useful and enjoyable source of information.

Angelique Berg
Director General
The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, December 2021

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Corporate information

Statistics Netherlands (CBS)

In a society where the amount of information is growing explosively, free access to reliable and integral data is crucial. As the national statistical office, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) provides reliable statistical information and data to produce insight into social issues, thus supporting the public debate, policy development and decision-making while contributing to prosperity, well-being and democracy.

CBS was established in 1899 in response to the need for independent and reliable information that advances the understanding of social issues. This is still the main role of CBS. Through time, CBS has grown into an innovative knowledge institution, with continuous adoption of new technologies and developments in order to safeguard the quality of its data and its independent position.

CBS in the Caribbean Netherlands

Statistics Netherlands opened an office on Bonaire in 2010. The Bonaire office is responsible for all statistics referring to the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands: Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, compiling statistics about prices, population, labour, income, the economy, tourism and trade.



StatLine

StatLine is the database of Statistics Netherlands. Statistics Netherlands offers a wealth of figures about the economy and society in the Netherlands and Caribbean Netherlands, freely available as tables, graphs or maps.



If you have any questions, or can't find what you're looking for, please contact us:

Statistics Netherlands

Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 67, unit 9 | Kralendijk, Bonaire

Telephone number +599 717 8676

Email: caribischnederland@cbs.nl

Please find us on Facebook:



How does CBS calculate the figures?

The Statistics Netherlands Act of 1996 stipulated that CBS must reduce the administrative burden (from survey taking) to a minimum and allowed CBS to access government key registers for statistical purposes.

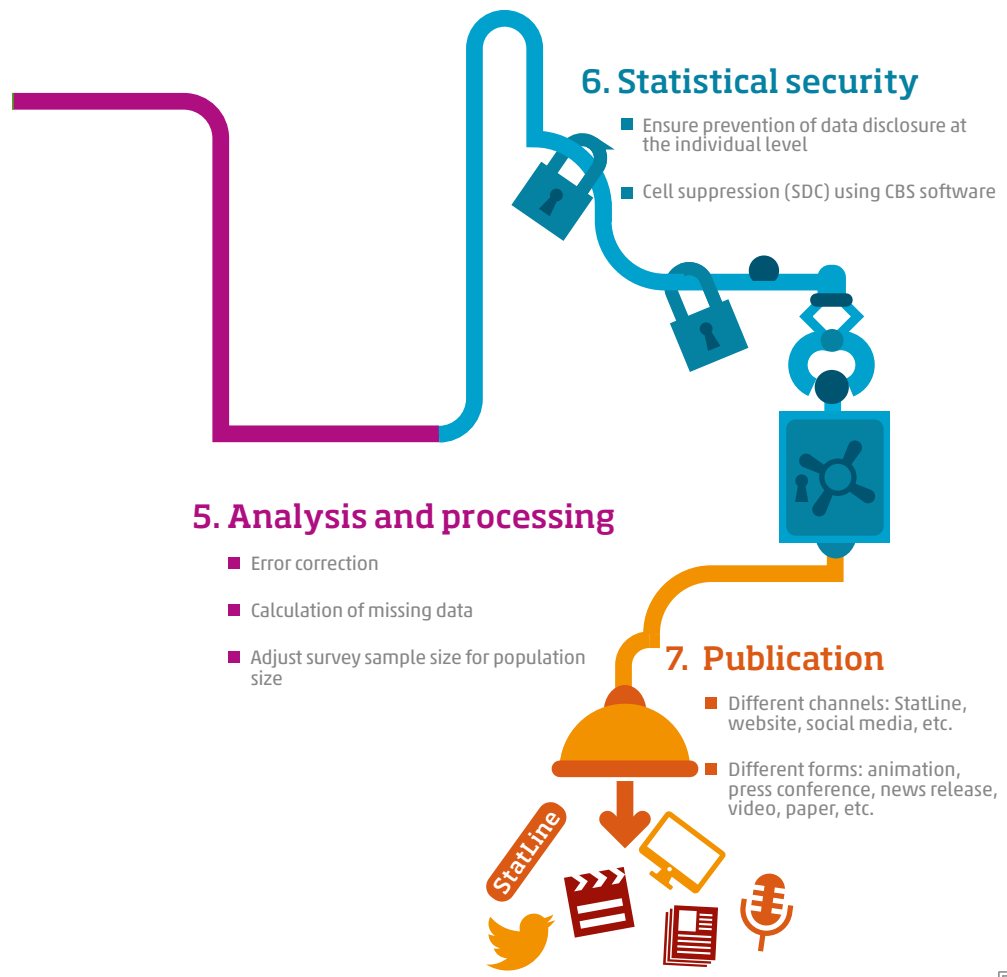
In addition to these government key registers, CBS is also increasingly using business records. For example, annual reports from businesses to calculate the GDP, or data from energy companies on household and business energy consumption.

Combining data from a variety of registers creates new possibilities. Moreover, new data sources are essential in maintaining the quality of statistics. Over the past few years, more and more new data sources have emerged and methods of collection have become increasingly varied. Combining all these data sources in an innovative and reliable way creates greater possibilities to produce new, up-to-date, society-oriented and more detailed statistics. With a keen eye for privacy and reliability.

The statistical process - step by step

1. **The question.** It may be requests from local governments, semi- governmental institutes or from a ministry, for instance.
2. **Preparations.** This phase contains several steps, starting with identifying what data are needed and what data are already available, such as data from PIVA-V (population register). PIVA-V is the central database available to authorised users. The next step is to determine if any additional data are needed and identify their sources. Examples include registers and surveys. If there are no adequate existing sources, an additional survey may need to be prepared. In this survey, the focus is on sample design and sample method, among other things.
3. **Data collection.** This involves obtaining data from all the necessary sources and performing technical inspections. If necessary, the surveys are conducted and the responses collected and entered.
4. **Anonymity.** Data from registers and survey questionnaires are pseudonymised as quickly as possible after they come in by immediately removing identifying attributes.
5. **Analysis and processing.** During the data analysis and processing, CBS identifies and corrects evident errors. In addition, various methods are used to estimate missing data, based on other available information. This is added to the existing sources. If – in case of a survey – a sample was drawn, the data are raised to match the requested population level.
6. **Statistical security.** Here, careful checks are performed with respect to possible disclosure of individual data in cells intended for publication. There may be no risk that data of individual companies and/or persons can be derived from the data. If such a risk exists, cells for publication are automatically aggregated or values are removed from those cells. CBS will never publish statistical information about individual persons and/or companies or provide this to third parties.
7. **Publication.** This important step entails dissemination of reliable and coherent statistical information among the largest possible audience. This is done via the media and directly, through various CBS channels (e.g. StatLine, website and social media). CBS uses various forms of publication (including animation, news release, paper, press conference, video etc.)





COVID-19 in the Caribbean Netherlands

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius just as it has impacted the rest of the world. On 31 March 2020, St Eustatius registered its first case of COVID-19; Saba and Bonaire followed soon after. Over the year 2020, Bonaire recorded 3 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. In 2021, up until end of September, Bonaire had 19 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. No confirmed COVID-19 deaths have been recorded on Saba and St Eustatius. The impact of COVID-19 was felt in all aspects of life in the Caribbean Netherlands. Although a cause-effect relationship cannot always be proved, there have been notable developments for example in the development of the island populations, numbers of visitors and (consumer) prices.

A brief overview of what COVID-19 has meant for the islands is given in this section, while the details are found throughout this publication.

COVID-19 timeline for the Caribbean Netherlands



Note: the above COVID-19 timeline has been updated until 30 September 2021. Any measures or changes after this date have not been taken into account.

After COVID-19 made its entrance on the islands, containment measures were introduced. These measures were necessary due to the islands' vulnerable position (limited healthcare facilities, no ICU capacity) and have affected tourism, the economy and society in general.

The first precautionary measures were taken on 14 March 2020, when Bonaire International Airport was closed for international flights. A few weeks later, on 15 April, regional flights to and from Curaçao and Aruba were also banned. Moreover, cruise ships were banned. On St Eustatius and Saba, the harbour and airport were closed for all flights from high-risk areas such as Europe and the United States as of 16 March 2020.

The consequences of these measures were obviously reflected in the number of aircraft movements to and from the Caribbean Netherlands. A decline of 87.7 percent was recorded in April 2020 compared to April 2019. The number of air passengers declined by 99.1 percent in the same period.

The exclusion of passengers flying in from high-risk countries has undoubtedly had a negative effect on the number of visitors arriving by air to the Caribbean Netherlands. For Bonaire, this meant a fall of 58 percent in 2020 relative to 2019, for Saba 67 percent and for St Eustatius 69 percent. From mid-March 2020 until August 2021, no cruise ships visited Bonaire. In the same period in 2019, Bonaire welcomed 173.9 thousand cruise passengers.

Besides restrictions for travel, as a result of further spreading of the virus, Bonaire had two lockdowns: one from 21–30 September 2020 and one from 18 March to 1 April 2021. During the latter, a curfew was put in place. Saba had a lockdown from 12 April to 9 May 2020. On St Eustatius, accommodation and food service establishments had to close their doors from 3 April to 15 May 2020, with the exception of take-out establishments. This was also the case for parts of September and October 2020.

In order to minimise the financial impact on residents due to COVID-19, the government put relief measures in place: allowances for electricity and internet were provided by the government as of 1 May 2020. Residents no longer had to pay a fixed usage tariff for electricity and fixed internet subscribers received a monthly discount of 25 US dollars. An additional subsidy on internet subscriptions was provided in January 2021 to the amount of 20 US dollars on St Eustatius and 10 US dollars on Saba.

Besides the above mentioned relief measures for consumers, the government introduced a package of emergency measures especially for companies. This emergency package consisted of financial support for wage costs and/or fixed overhead: for employees, 80 percent of the last earned salary (if certain conditions were met), for business owners this meant compensation of 85 percent of the fixed overhead, in the event of a turnover loss of more than 30 percent. These measures helped tackle the economic consequences of COVID-19.

COVID-19 also affected the education sector in Caribbean Netherlands. On Bonaire, all schools (primary and secondary) and daycare facilities closed their doors from 19 March through 11 May 2020. A second closure took place from 18 March through 12 April 2021. The Saba University School of Medicine closed its doors on 16 March 2020 and switched to online lectures. As of May 2020, the school provided its education with both online and (to a much lesser extent) physical attendance. All schools on St Eustatius were closed for a period of six weeks, from 30 March until 11 May 2020. The schools later closed their doors again in September 2020 and reopened after the October school break. However, online learning was implemented.

COVID-19 also impacted the data collection for statistical purposes. For example, the compilation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Caribbean Netherlands was affected because, at times, there was no or limited possibility to collect prices of certain products and

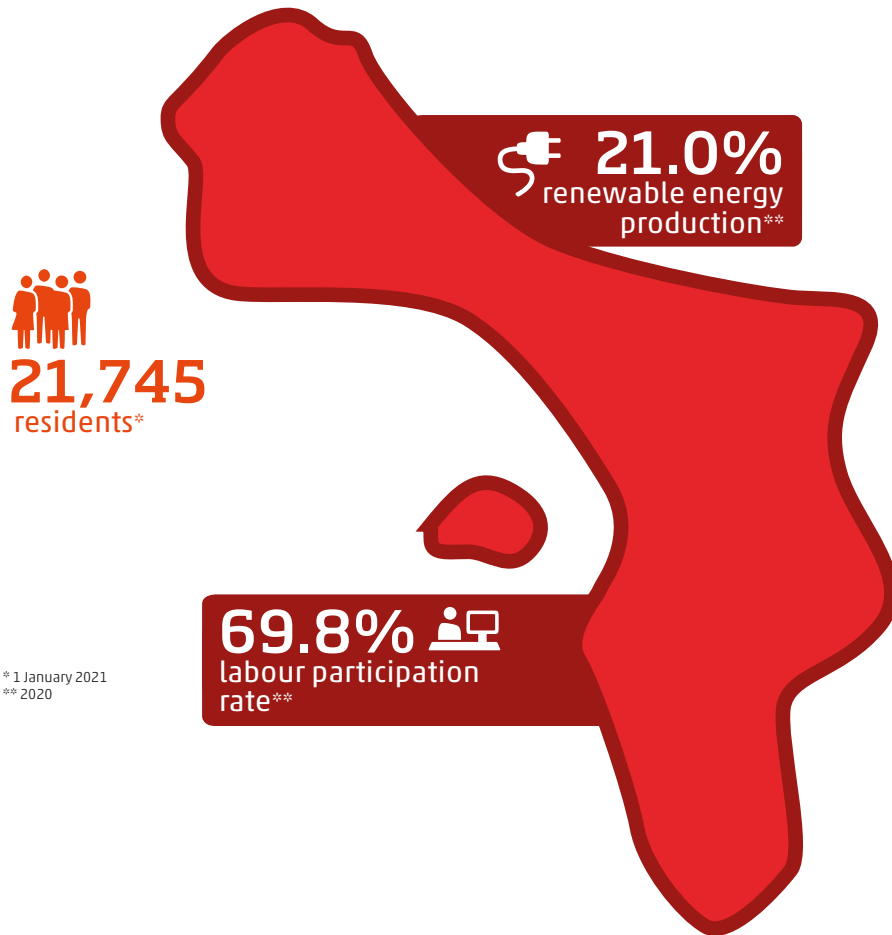
services. In some cases it was even impossible to observe prices. The latter was the case for Saba in April 2020, during the shelter in place, and for Bonaire during the lockdowns in September 2020 and in March 2021.

The Labour Force Survey Caribbean Netherlands (LFS-CN), from which the figures on the number of employed are taken, is usually held every two years, between October and December. Due to the COVID-19 measures, the survey could not be conducted earlier than between December 2020 and March 2021. The survey, which is usually held face-to-face, was also conducted via telephone on Bonaire in order to minimise contact between interviewers and interviewees.

After more than a year, everything slowly seemed to go back to normal in the Caribbean Netherlands. The first aircraft arriving from the US landed on Bonaire on 5 June 2021, more than one year after the start of the pandemic. As of 1 May 2021, Saba welcomed visitors again from low-risk countries and St Eustatius did so as of 14 June 2021. The first cruise ship was allowed on the shores of Bonaire on 2 September 2021.

Note: The described COVID-19 timeline has been updated until 30 September 2021. Any possible measures or changes after this date have not been taken into account.

1 Bonaire

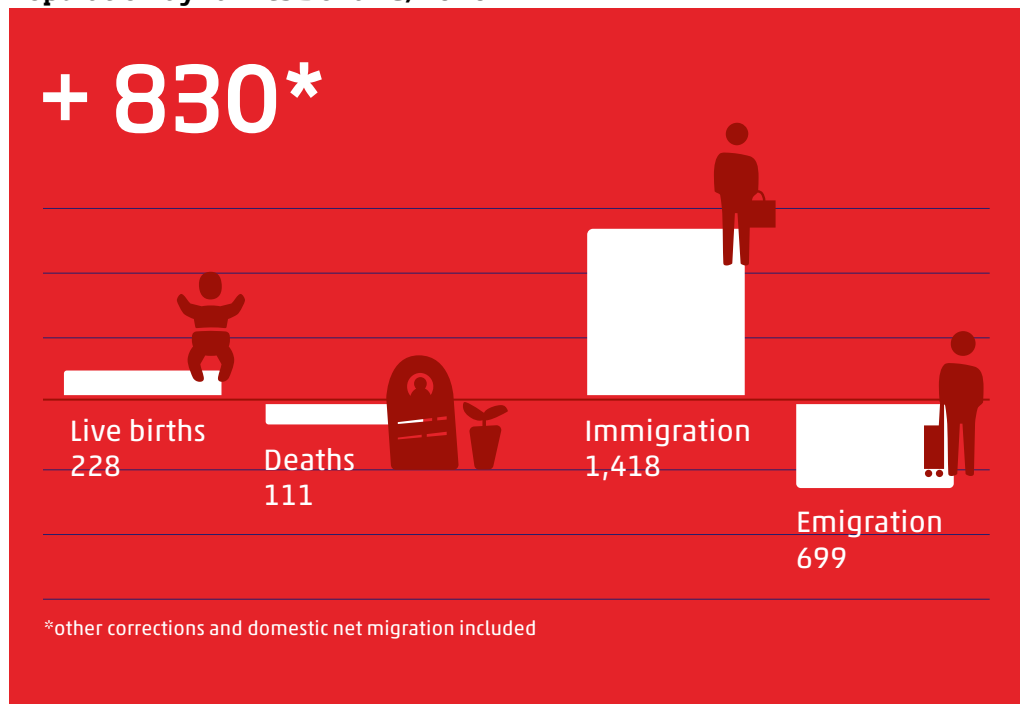


* 1 January 2021
** 2020



Population

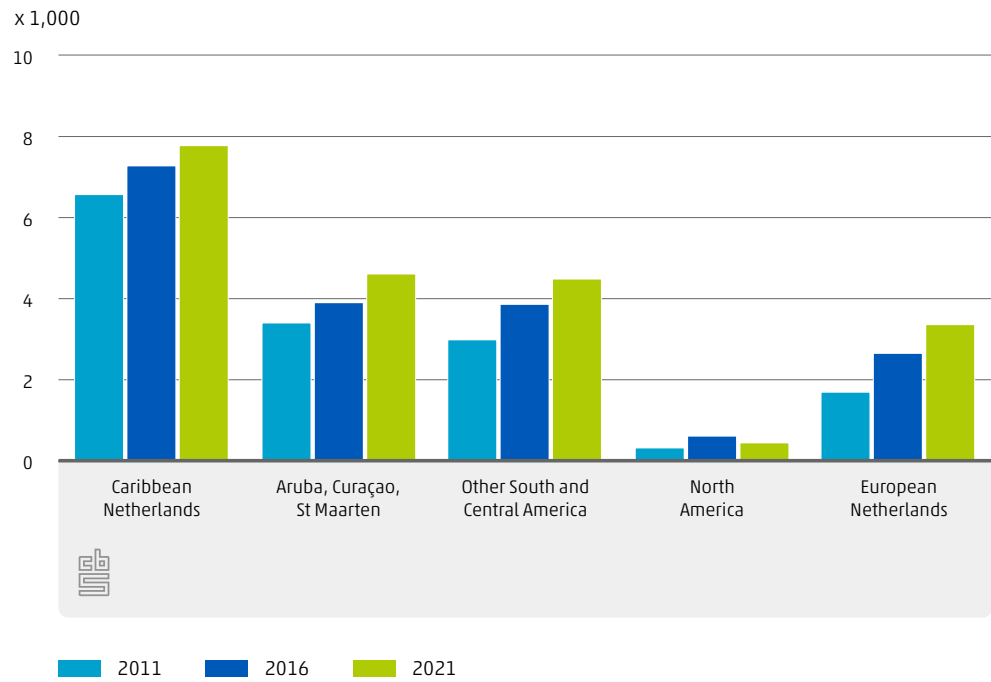
Population dynamics Bonaire, 2020



More births among young women on Bonaire

In 2020, Bonaire's population increased by 830 to 21.7 thousand. This growth rate is similar to 2019, but high compared to the growth over the previous five years. The number of inhabitants born in the Caribbean Netherlands, almost all of them on Bonaire, has risen by almost 1.2 thousand over the past decade. On 1 January 2021, Bonaire was home to almost 3.4 thousand persons born in the European Netherlands, almost twice as many as ten years previously.

Population by region of birth, 1 January, Bonaire

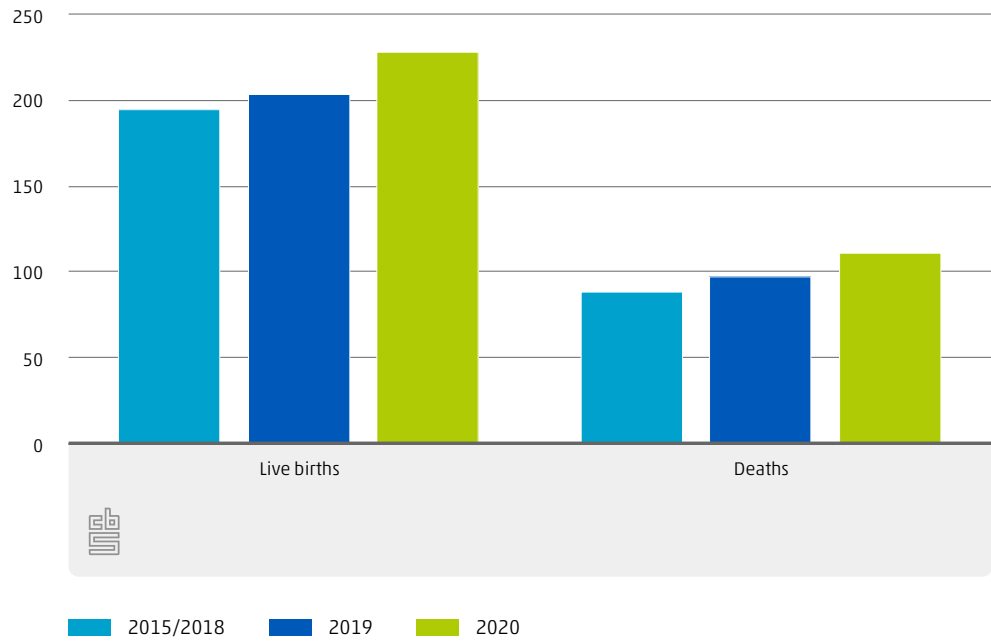


21,745 residents on
1 January 2021



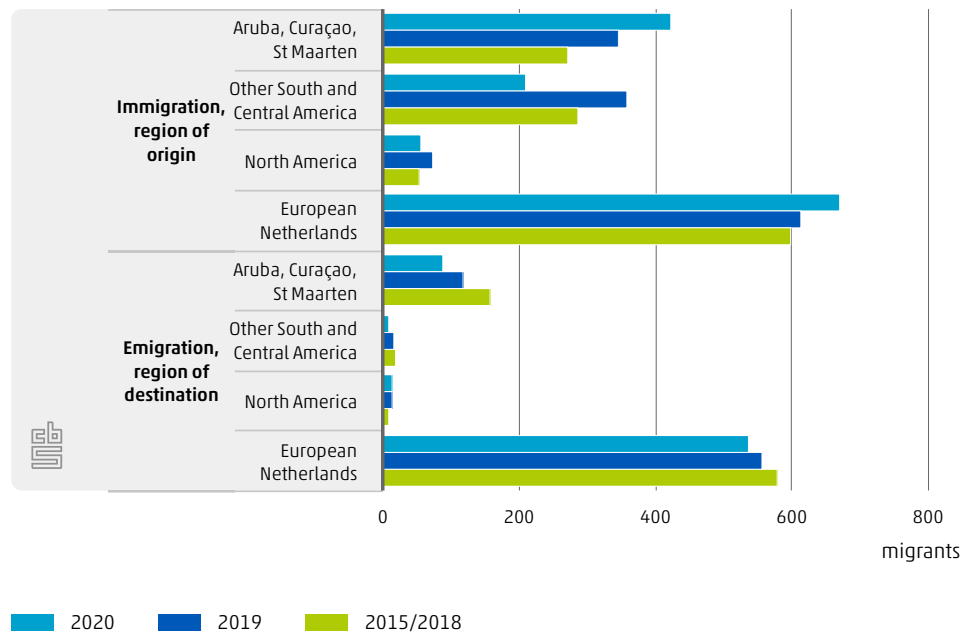
In 2020, there were 228 live births on the island, against on average 192 over the years 2015–2019. Women in the age group 25 to 29 years in particular had more children. The reason for this increase has not been investigated. A possible explanation is that, due to coronavirus measures, women were more likely to give birth on Bonaire itself.

Live births and number of deaths, Bonaire



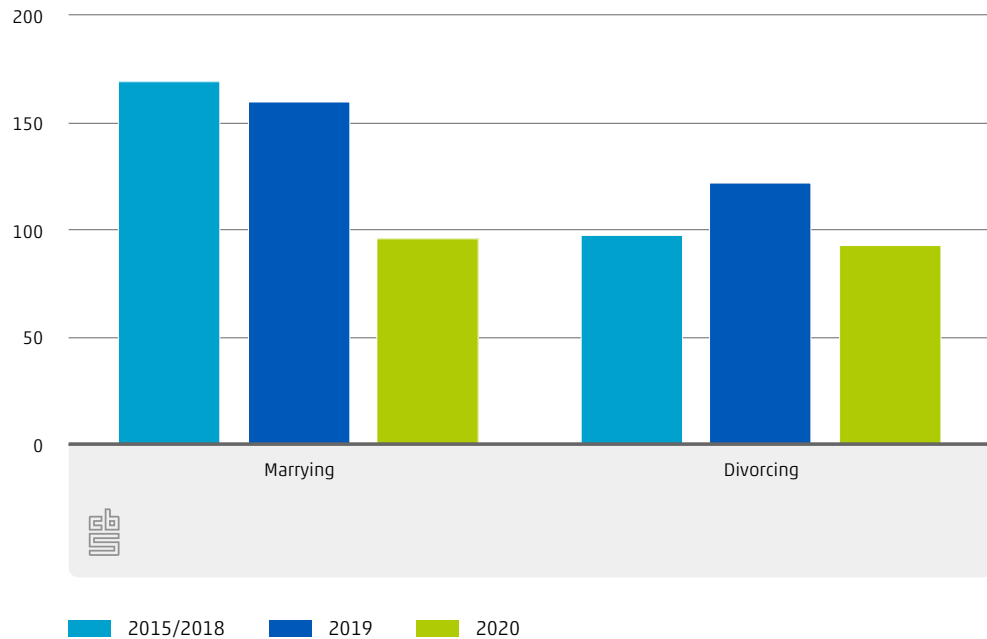
Mortality was relatively high with 111 deaths; this is more than in the previous year and also exceeds the average over the period 2015–2019. Mortality was up, among people in their sixties and seventies in particular. In 2020, Bonaire registered 3 confirmed COVID-19 deaths. In 2021 up until end of June, 17 confirmed COVID-19 deaths were recorded.

External migration by region of origin/destination, Bonaire



In 2020, immigration into Bonaire was higher than in previous years. There were relatively more migrants from the European Netherlands and Curaçao, but fewer from the Dominican Republic and Peru. Emigration declined, to Curaçao and Aruba in particular, and to a lesser extent to the European Netherlands.

Marrying and divorcing persons, Bonaire



The number of marriages declined sharply in 2020. Ninety-six Bonaire inhabitants were married, down from 160 in 2019. Due to COVID-19, grand weddings were not permitted on Bonaire, which may have led to the decline in 2020.

More information about the population of Bonaire is available here:

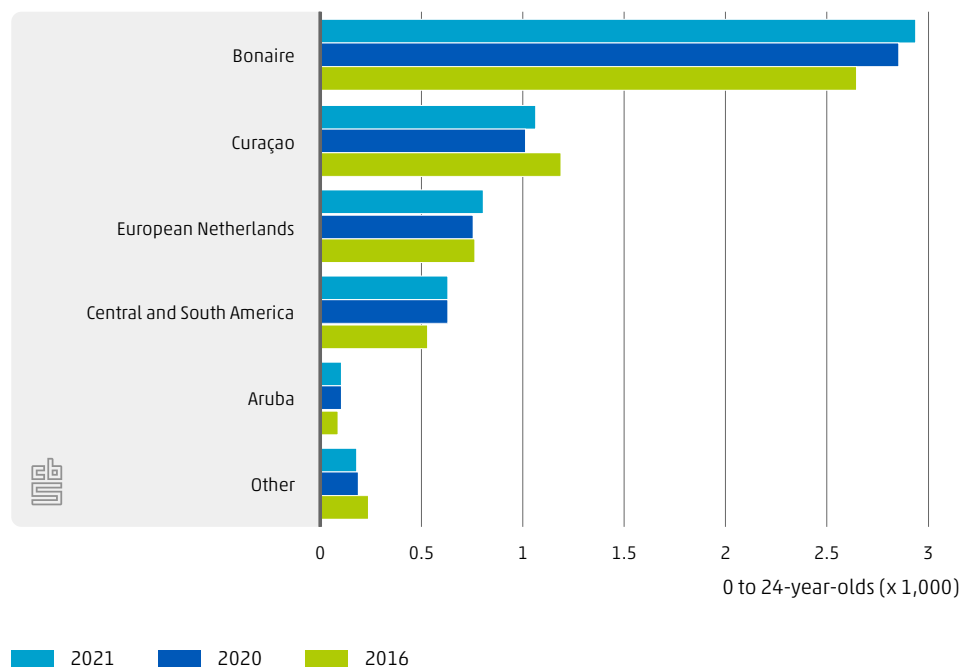


Youth

Only half of young Bonaire residents are island-born

In early 2021, Bonaire had 5.7 thousand young residents (0 to 24 years). Only half – 2.9 thousand – were born on the island; almost one-fifth were born on Curaçao and 14 percent in the European Netherlands. In addition, 11 percent were born in Central or South America, mostly in the Dominican Republic, Colombia or Venezuela, and 2 percent on Aruba. Relative to early 2020, the number of young people born on Bonaire, Curaçao and in the European Netherlands was up. Relative to five years ago, the highest increase was seen in young residents born on Bonaire itself and in Central or South America, while there was a decrease in the number born on Curaçao. The declining number of people born on Curaçao was partly due to improved medical facilities on Bonaire over the five years.

Young residents by region of birth, 1 January, Bonaire



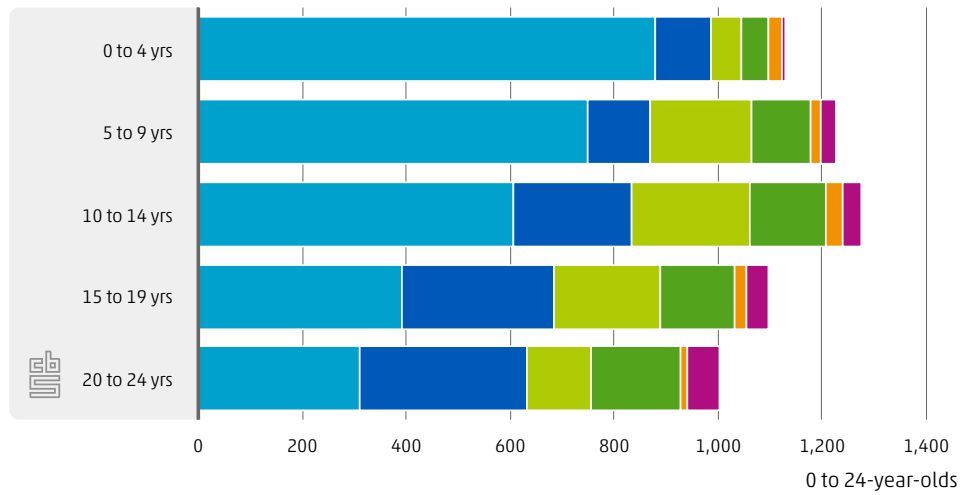
2.9 thousand residents under 25 on Bonaire are island-born



The number of Bonaire-born young people is relatively low among the higher age categories, mainly due to emigration. Of all 0-to-4-year-olds, 880 were born on the island, versus 311 young people aged 20 to 24. In the latter age group, a relatively high number was born on Curaçao. In addition, the young adults also include a fairly large group born in Central or

South America. Although the number born in the European Netherlands is highest in the 10 to 14-year-old age group, it is lower among the 15-to-20 and 20-to-24-year-olds.

Young residents by region of birth, 1 January 2021, Bonaire



- Bonaire
- Curaçao
- European Netherlands
- Central and South America
- Aruba
- Other

More information about youth on Bonaire is available here:



Please also visit our Youth Monitor with information on the Caribbean Netherlands:

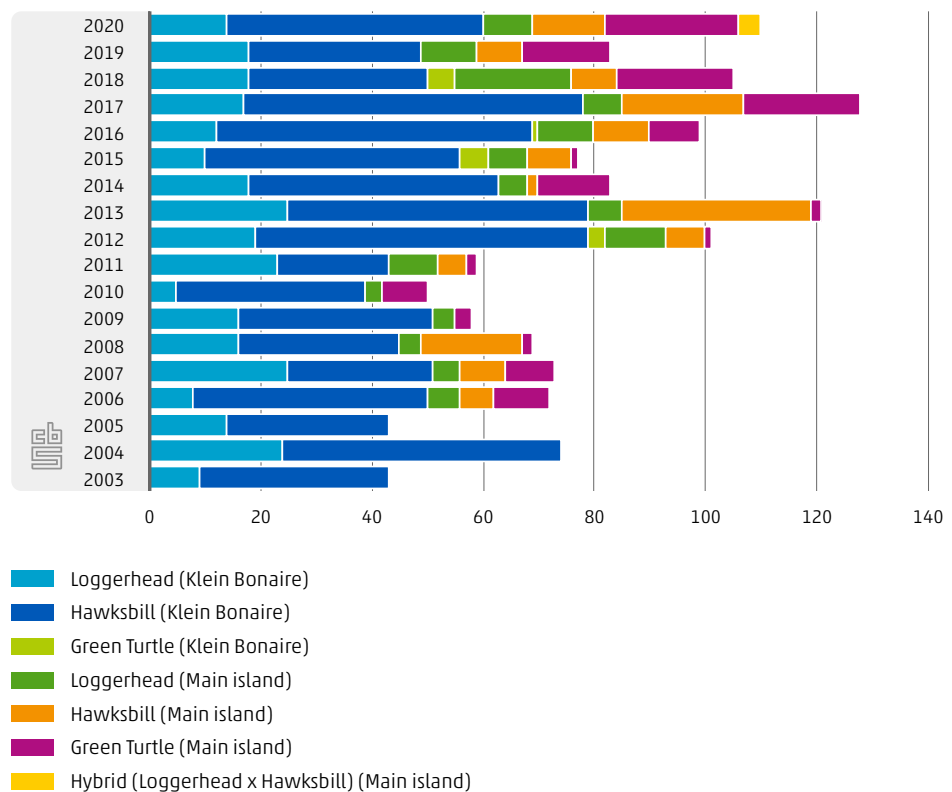


Nature

Sea Turtle nests

Turtles play a vital role in the health of the oceans, linking various ecosystems from beaches to seagrass beds and coral reefs. Bonaire is home to three of the world's seven species of sea turtles. Green and hawksbill turtles can be seen year-round, while loggerheads generally only visit during the nesting season. Since the start of the turtle nests surveys on Bonaire, a moderate increase in turtle nests has been observed.

Turtle nests, Bonaire

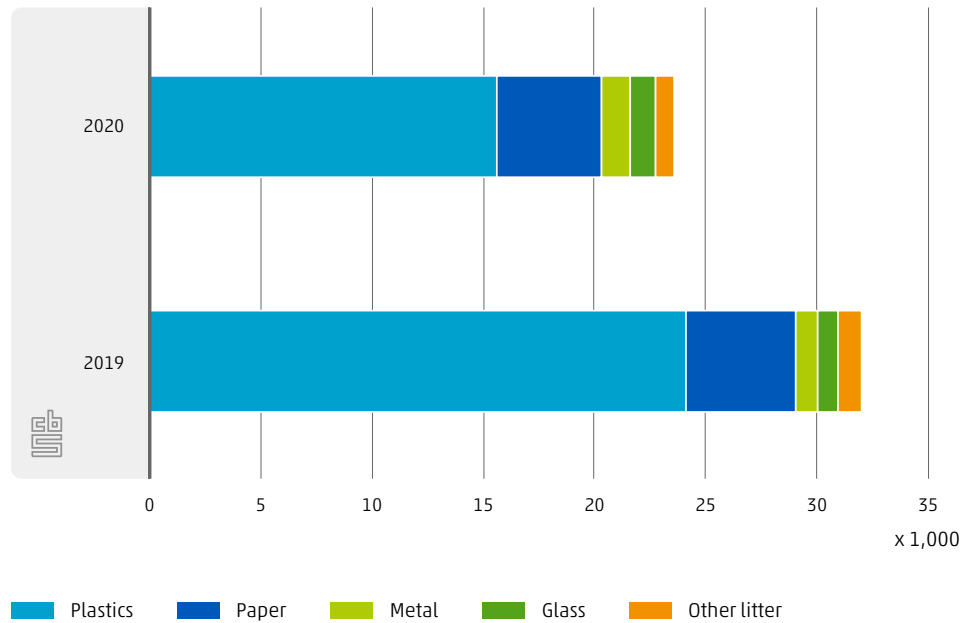


Source: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Litter

On Bonaire's beaches marine litter washes up containing a wide variety of litter items, of which plastics, paper, metal, glass are the most prevalent ones. In 2020 a reduction in marine litter items occurred, but it is too early to call this a trend.

Marine litter items, Bonaire



Source: Clean Coast Bonaire & WWF and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

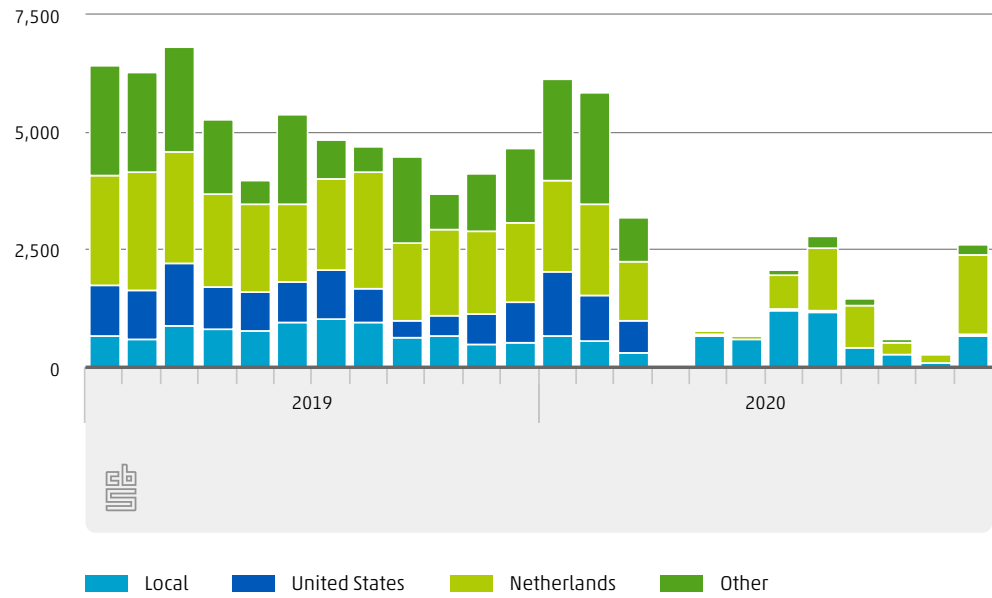
24 thousand or more plastic items
cleaned up on Bonaire's shores



Visitors to Washington Slagbaai Park

Every year, Bonaire's Washington Slagbaai Park welcomes visitors from all over the world. Dutch nationals make up the large majority of visitors, followed by tourists from the US and local people. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic – and shutdown of tourism in 2020 – there was a sharp decline in visitor numbers.

Visitors to Washington Slagbaai National Park, Bonaire

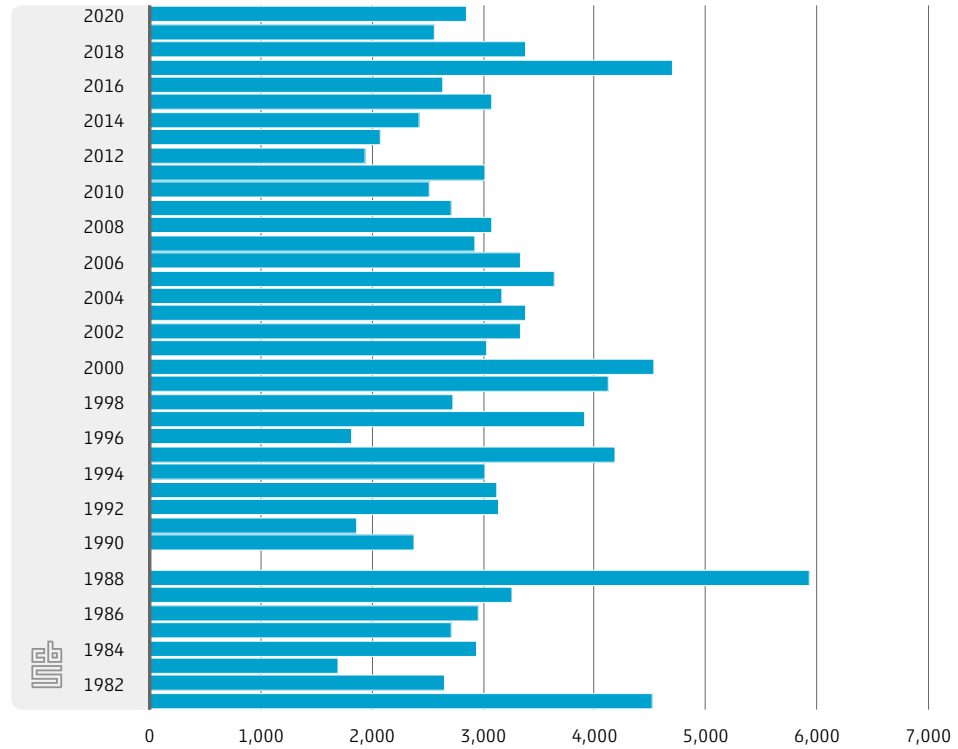


Source: STINAPA and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Flamingos

The annual average number of flamingos is an indicator for the health of salt lakes and wetlands. Bonaire has a relatively small, but regionally important, stable population of these migratory birds.

Flamingo abundance (yearly average)¹⁾, Bonaire



Source: Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire

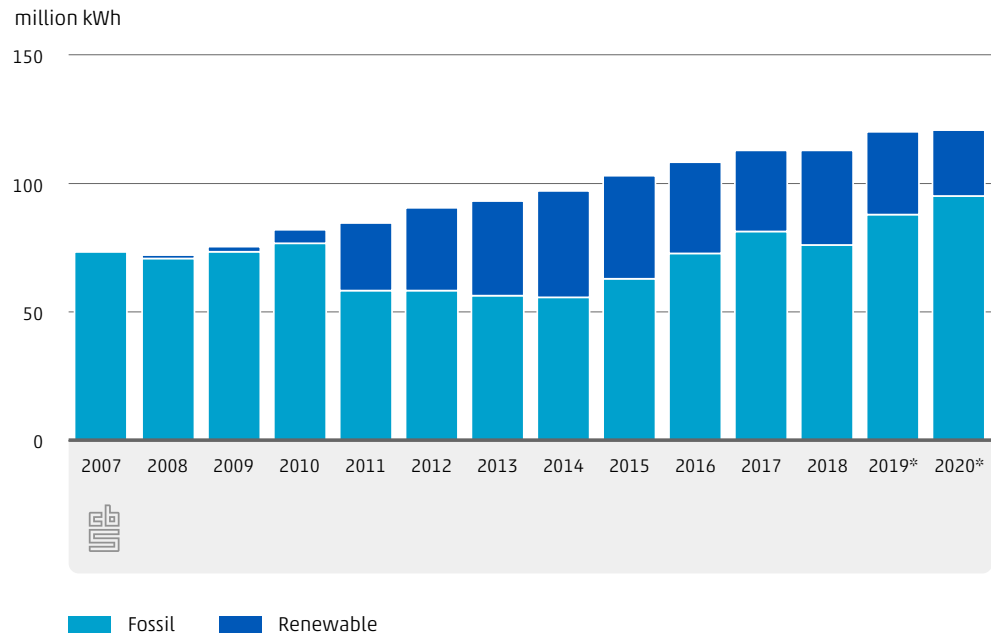
¹⁾ No data available for 1989

More information about turtle nests, marine litter, visits to the National Park and flamingo population on Bonaire is available here:



Energy and water

Electricity production, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

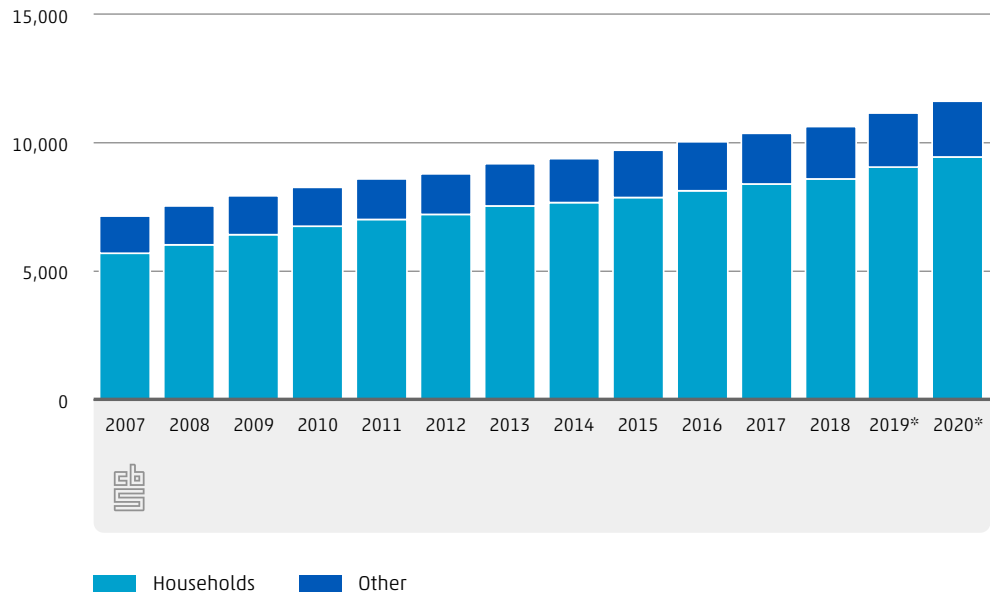
In 2020, Bonaire produced 121.2 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. This is 0.6 million kWh more than in the previous year and 63.3 percent more than in 2007, when production still stood at 74,2 million kWh. Of the total electricity production in 2020, 25.4 million kWh (21 percent) came from renewable sources, down from just under 27 percent the previous year. Practically all of it (99 percent) was produced by wind turbines. Solar panels generated the remaining 1 percent. The fact that less renewable electricity was produced from wind energy had to do with lower average wind speeds on Bonaire in 2020.

In 2020, 0.6 million more kWh of electricity were produced compared to 2019. This increase is less significant than in previous years. The number of connections increased almost as much as in 2019, both in homes and in businesses (478 new connections in 2019 and 498 in 2020). The average consumption per connection decreased. An explanation for this could be that, due to the lockdown, no tourists were able to visit Bonaire during most of 2020.

21% renewable energy
production in 2020



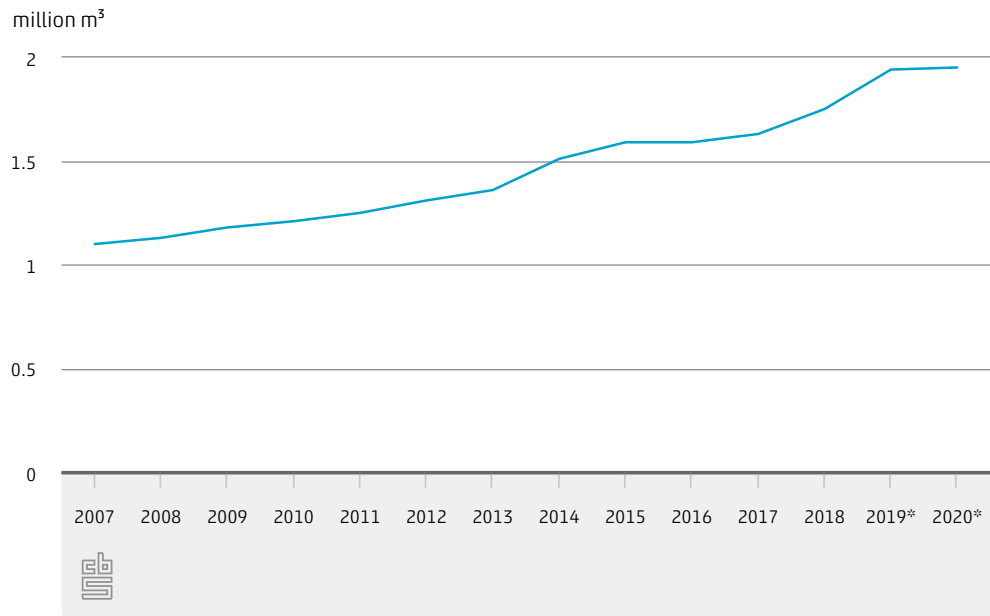
Electricity connections, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

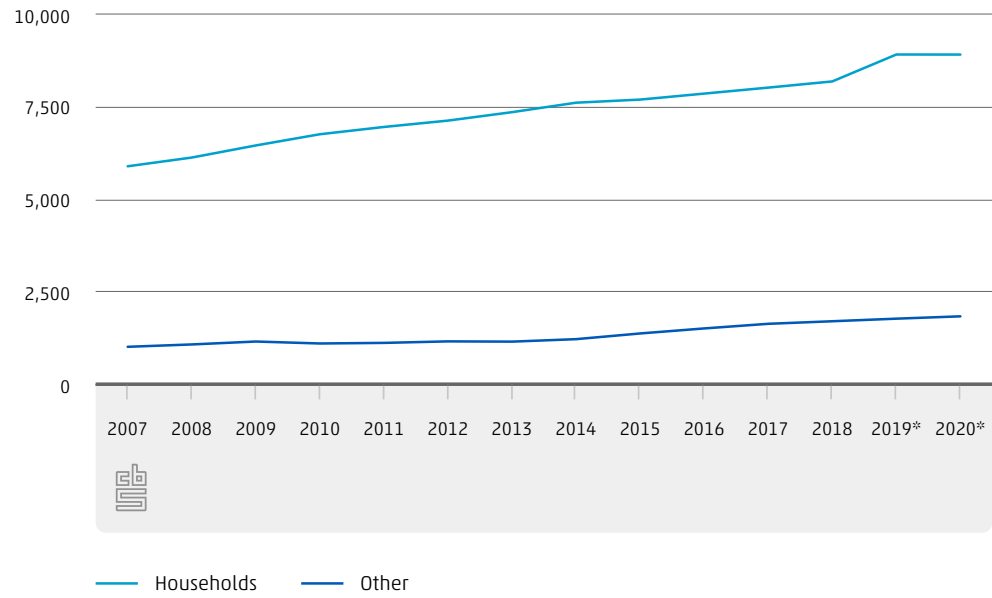
In 2020 Bonaire produced 2.0 million cubic metres (m³) of water. This is 77.5 percent more than in 2007, when 1.1 million cubic metres (m³) were produced. The increase in water production is partly due to population change. In 2011 there were 15,679 residents, against 20,915 in 2020. This represents an increase of 30 percent.

Water production, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

Water connections, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

More information about water and electricity production on Bonaire is available here:



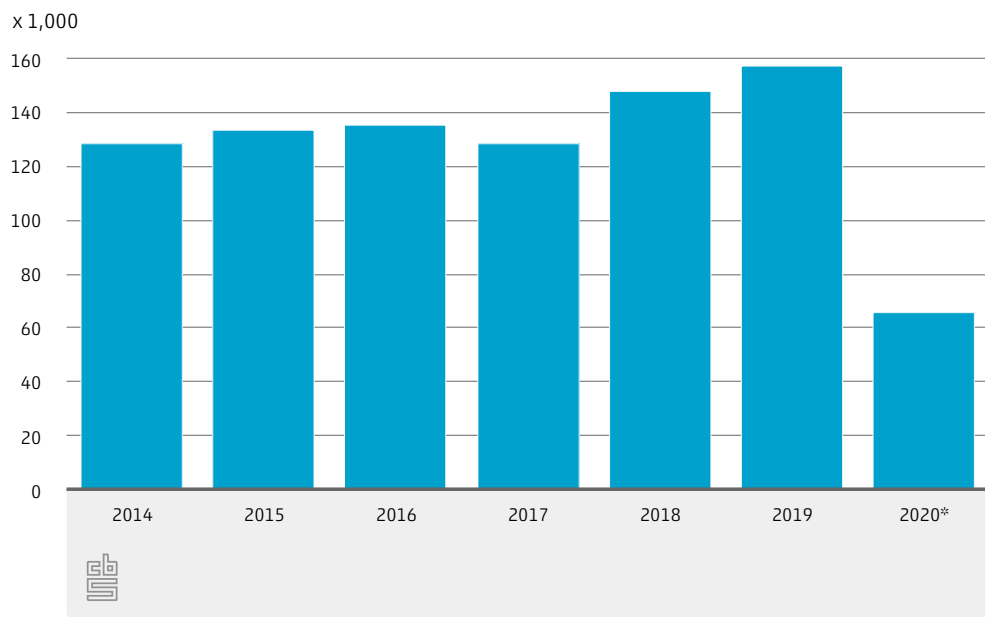
Tourism and transport

In 2020, the number of visitors (non-residents) arriving on Bonaire by air stood at 65.8 thousand. This is 58 percent down on 2019. The largest decrease occurred in April and May when, due to COVID-19 measures, the number of visitors arriving at Bonaire International Airport dropped to almost zero. As in previous years, most of the visitors in 2020 originated from the European Netherlands or the United States, at 43 and 16 percent respectively. Due to the ongoing travel restrictions, the tourism market did not recover in the first quarter of 2021. Only 11.4 thousand visitors arrived by air during this year's first quarter as compared to 37.8 thousand in Q1 2020 and 44.5 thousand visitors in Q1 2019. Approximately 50 percent of all visitors by air in Q1 2021 were Dutch nationals residing in the European part of the Netherlands. The share of visitors by air from the United States fell to 5 percent. In addition, the cruise sector was hit hard. Since mid-March 2020, no more cruise ships have visited Bonaire.

58% decline in visitors to Bonaire arriving by air in 2020

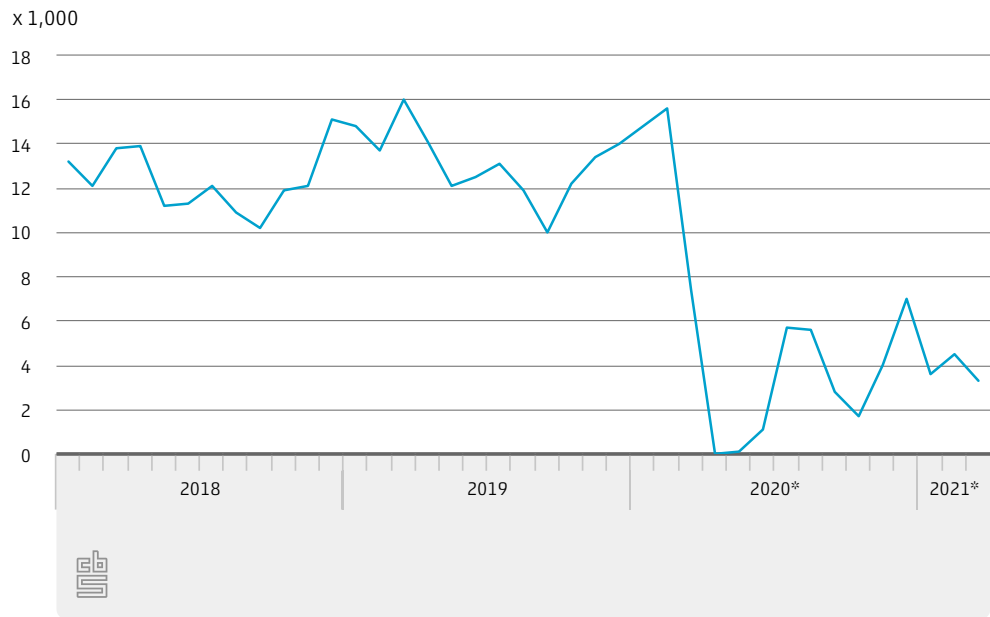


Visitors by air, Bonaire



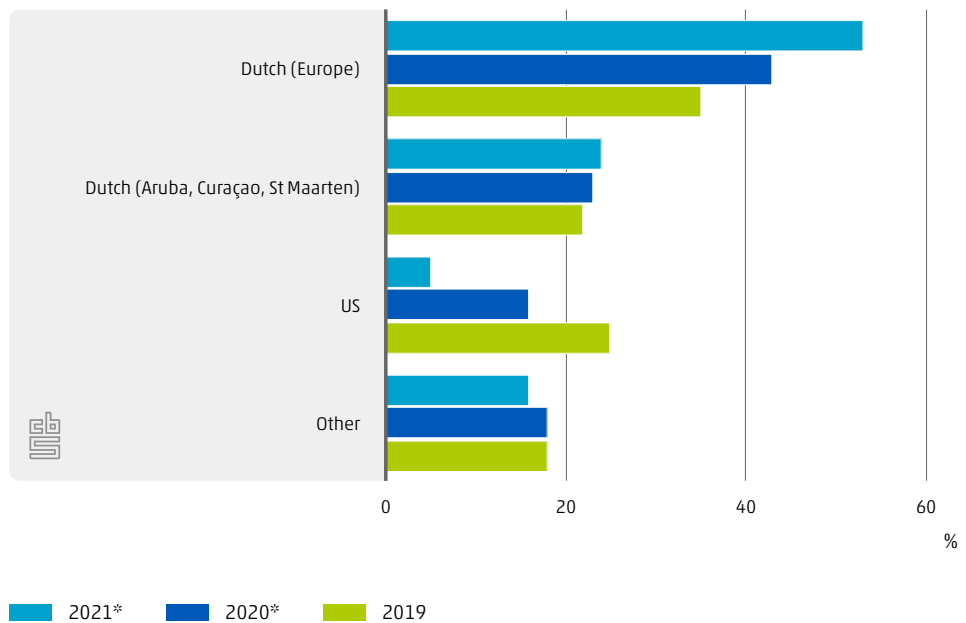
* Provisional figures

Visitors by air per month, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

Visitors by air to Bonaire, by nationality



* Provisional figures. The 2021 estimates are only based on data of the 1st quarter of 2021

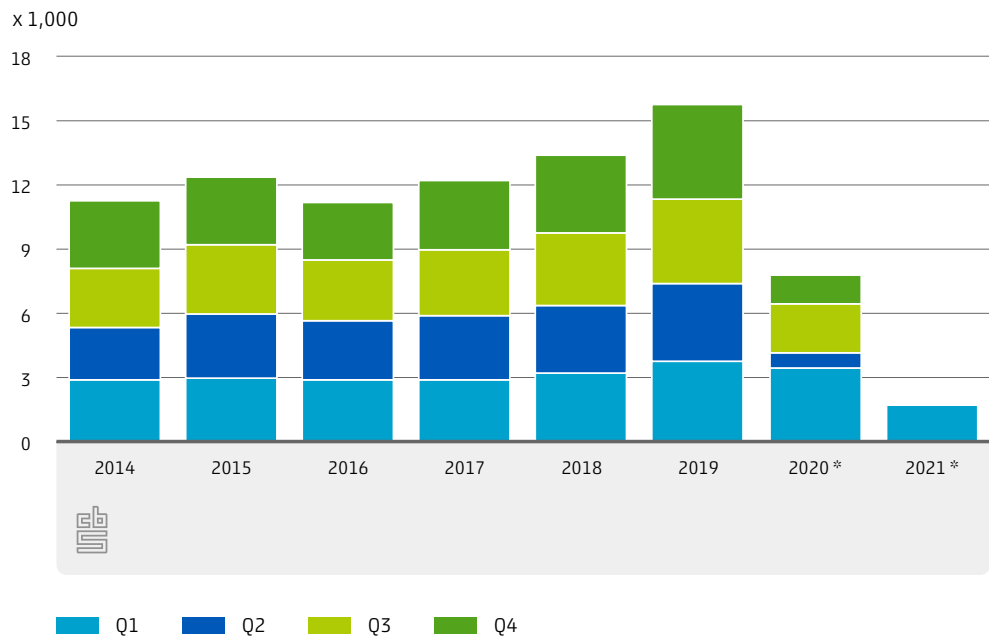
More information about inbound tourism by air on Bonaire is available here:



Traffic and Transport

In 2020, there were nearly 7.8 thousand aircraft movements to and from Bonaire, down 51 percent on the previous year. The number of passengers visiting Bonaire in 2020 declined by 58 percent. By mid-March, air traffic to and from Bonaire was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the first quarter of 2021, the number of passengers visiting Bonaire was 13.8 thousand, a 69-percent decrease on the first quarter of 2020. In 2020, 8 out of 10 passengers arrived from the airports of Curaçao, Amsterdam or Aruba.

Aircraft movements on Bonaire



* Provisional figures

More information about monthly airport data on Bonaire is available here:



Labour

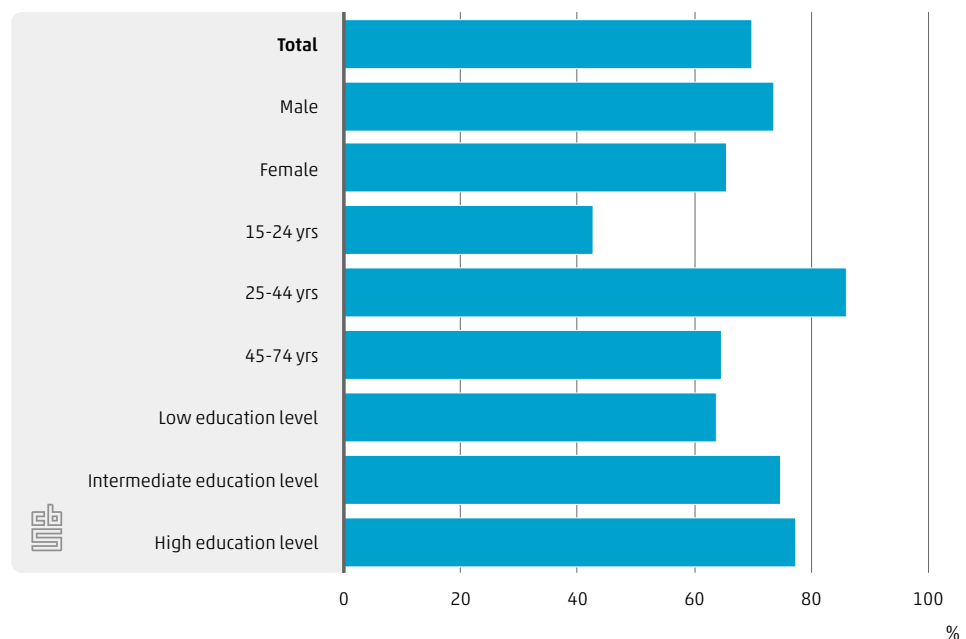
In 2020, the size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Bonaire was almost 16.5 thousand, with 69.8 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate was higher among men: 73.6 percent of the men were employed, versus 65.7 percent of the women. Participation was relatively low among young people: 42.7 percent for those between 15 and 24 years old. 64.0 percent of lower educated people were in employment, versus 74.8 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 77.4 of the highly educated. Bonaire's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. This is equivalent to almost 550 unemployed who were looking for work and immediately available.

4.6% was Bonaire's unemployment rate in 2020

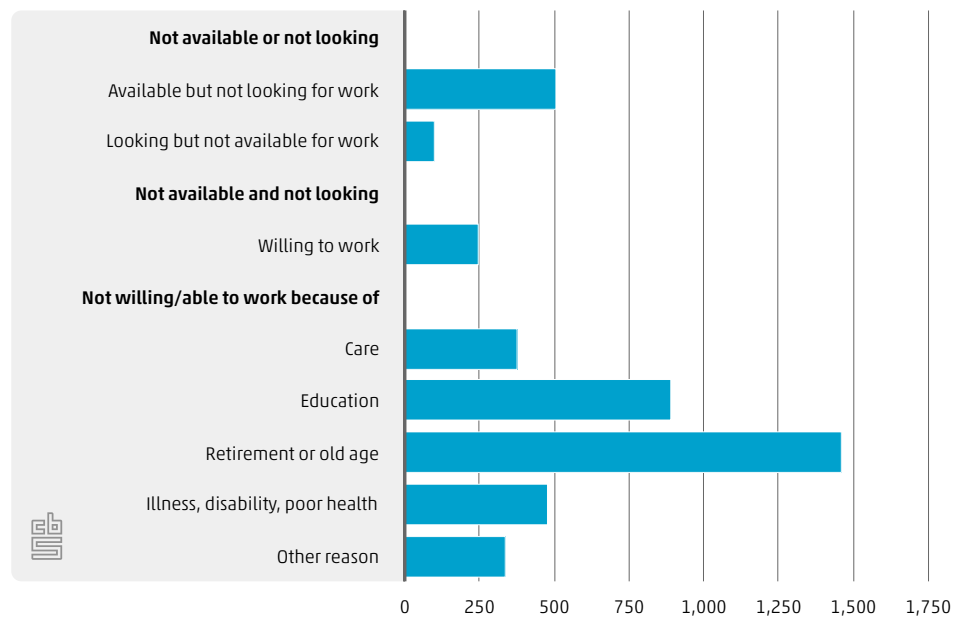


Just over 4.4 thousand Bonaire residents were not in the local labour force. They were not looking for work or not available at short notice; in most cases, a combination of both. A third (33 percent) were not prepared or unable to work due to old age or retirement. For 20 percent of those not in the labour force – young residents in particular – education was the predominant reason for not working. Other, smaller groups included people who were unable to work due to a disability or poor health (11 percent) or because they had to take care of relatives (9 percent).

Net labour participation (15 to 74 yrs), Bonaire, 2020

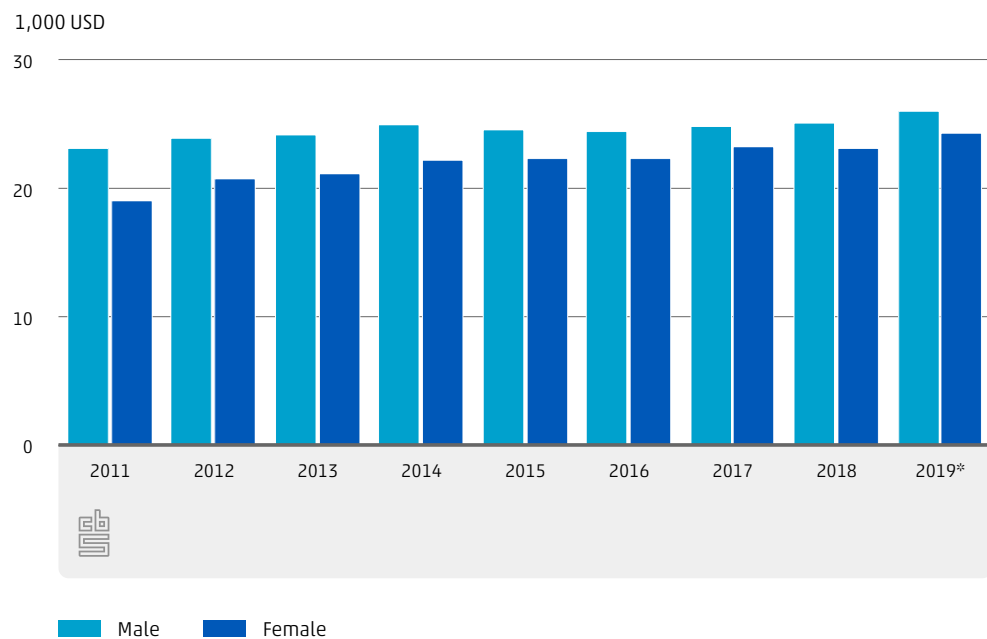


Population not in labour force (15 to 74 yrs), Bonaire, 2020



The average annual wage of employee jobs on Bonaire was 25.2 thousand US dollars in 2019. This is 4 percent more than in 2018. Women's wages were 6 percent lower than men's. Half of the jobs had earnings of less than 20 thousand US dollars.

Average annual wage of employee jobs, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

More information about jobs and wages on Bonaire is available here:

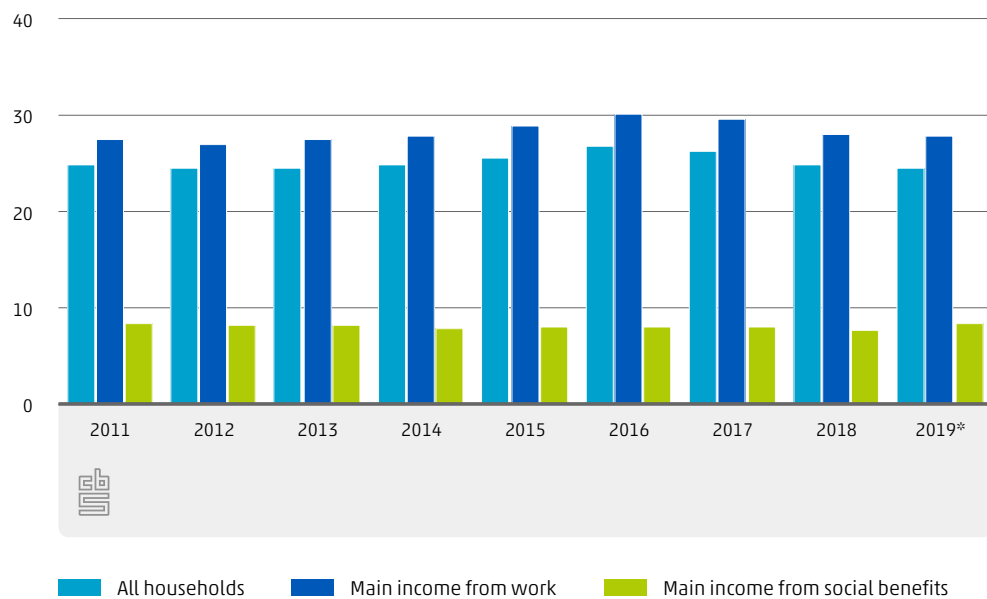


Income

In 2019, the median disposable household income on Bonaire was 24.6 thousand US dollars, equaling the level of 2013; it grew as of that year and peaked at 26.8 thousand US dollars in 2016. By 2019, the median income had dropped by more than 2 thousand US dollars relative to 2016. The same pattern was seen among households with incomes primarily from work. In 2019 they had 27.9 thousand US dollars to spend, i.e. nearly 2.5 thousand less than in 2016. For households receiving social benefits, the median income stood at 8.4 thousand US dollars in 2019, up by nearly 8 percent on 2018.

Median disposable household income, Bonaire

1,000 USD (in prices of 2019)



* Provisional figures

More information about the income of households on Bonaire is available here:



Purchasing power development

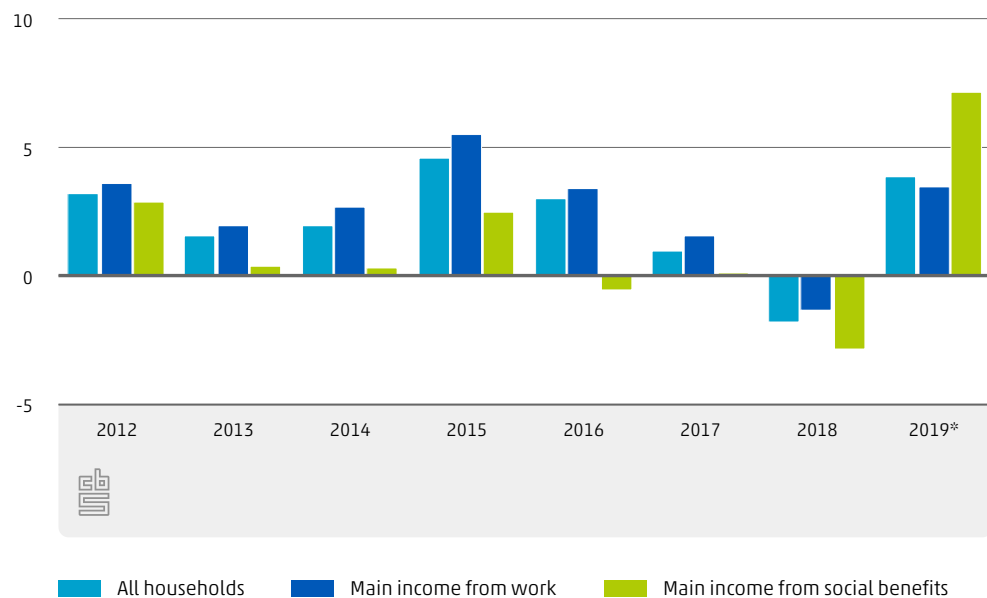
In 2019, median purchasing power on Bonaire was up by 3.9 percent on 2018. Wages were raised that year, with a structural increase in minimum wages and social benefits adding an extra 5.0 percent to the regular indexation. The employed profited from a 3.5-percent increase in median purchasing power. The largest increase in buying power was recorded among households with incomes primarily from social benefits, adding up to 7.2 percent. By contrast, in 2018 the median purchasing power had decreased.

3.9% growth in the purchasing power on Bonaire in 2019



Median purchasing power development, Bonaire

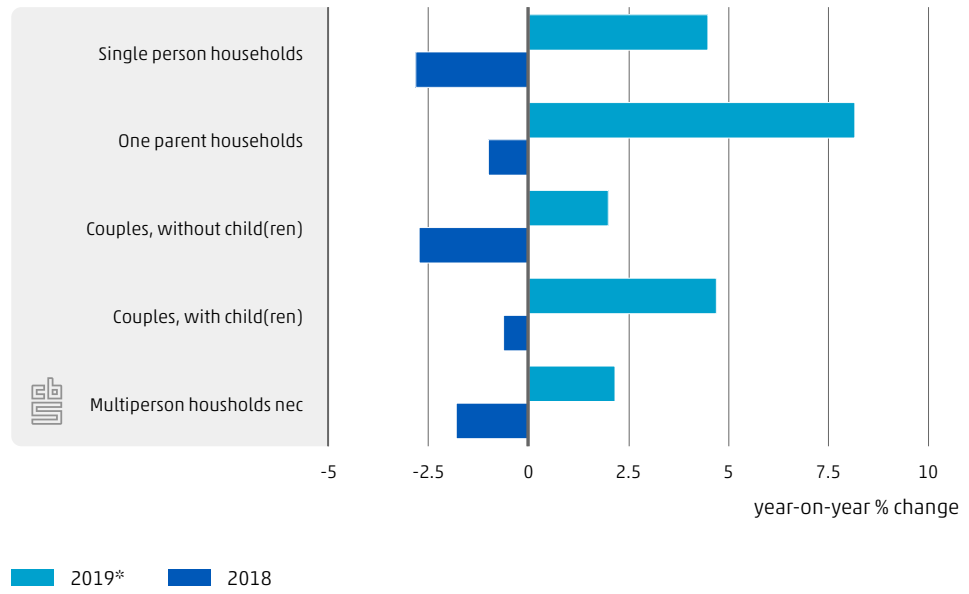
year-on-year % change



* Provisional figures

In 2019, purchasing power growth applied to persons in all household types on Bonaire. Due to a higher child benefit rate, purchasing power rose particularly rapidly for households with underage children. For those in one-parent households, the buying power increase was most substantial, namely 8.2 percent. For couples with children, buying power increased by 4.7 percent. Median purchasing power still decreased in 2018 for all household types.

Median purchasing power development by household composition, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

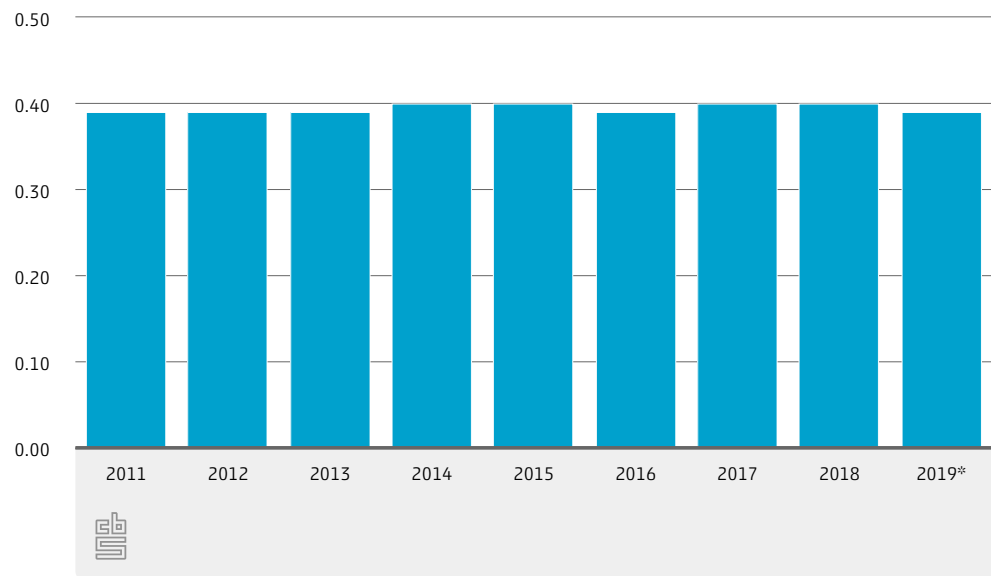
More information about the purchasing power on Bonaire is available here:



Income inequality

Bonaire has the most stable income inequality in the Caribbean Netherlands. The Gini coefficient was 0.39 in 2019. Disparities in standardised disposable income have remained virtually unchanged since 2011. As for the Gini coefficient, 0 means total equality: every household has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one household has all the income, the rest has none.

Gini coefficient, Bonaire



* Provisional figures

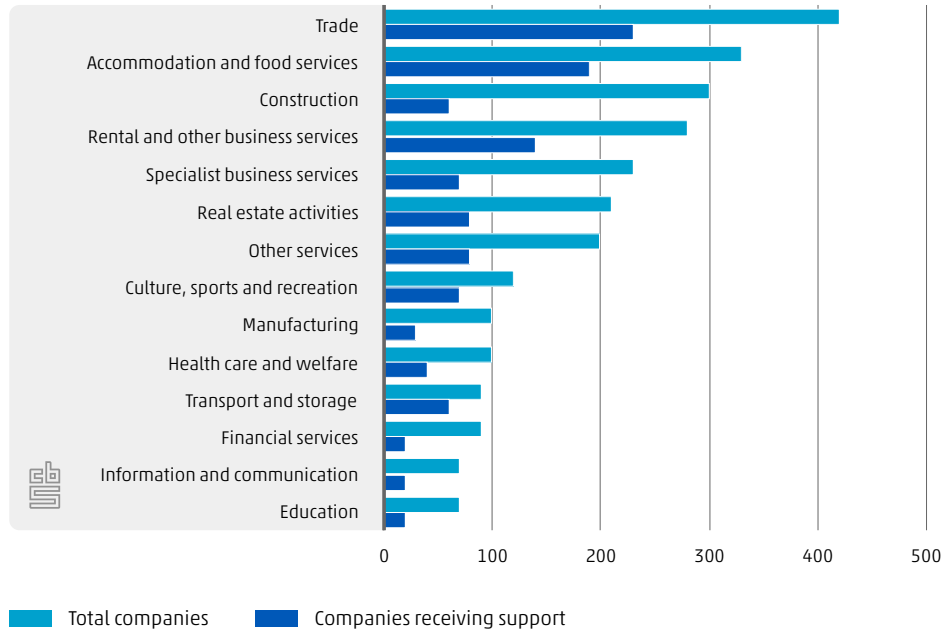
More information about the income inequality on Bonaire is available here:



Support for companies

As of March 2020, a package of emergency measures has been in place in the Caribbean Netherlands to tackle the economic consequences of the coronavirus crisis. On Bonaire, 45 percent of businesses availed of a financial contribution towards their wage costs and/or fixed overhead last year, with USD 28.1 million being paid out for wage costs and 13.4 million for fixed charges. Of all contributions, 36 percent were intended for the accommodation and food services sector.

Companies receiving support through the emergency package by sector, Bonaire, 2020



Applications were made for wage and living cost allowances related to 3.5 thousand jobs of both employees and self-employed. One-third of these applications were made in the accommodation and food services sector.

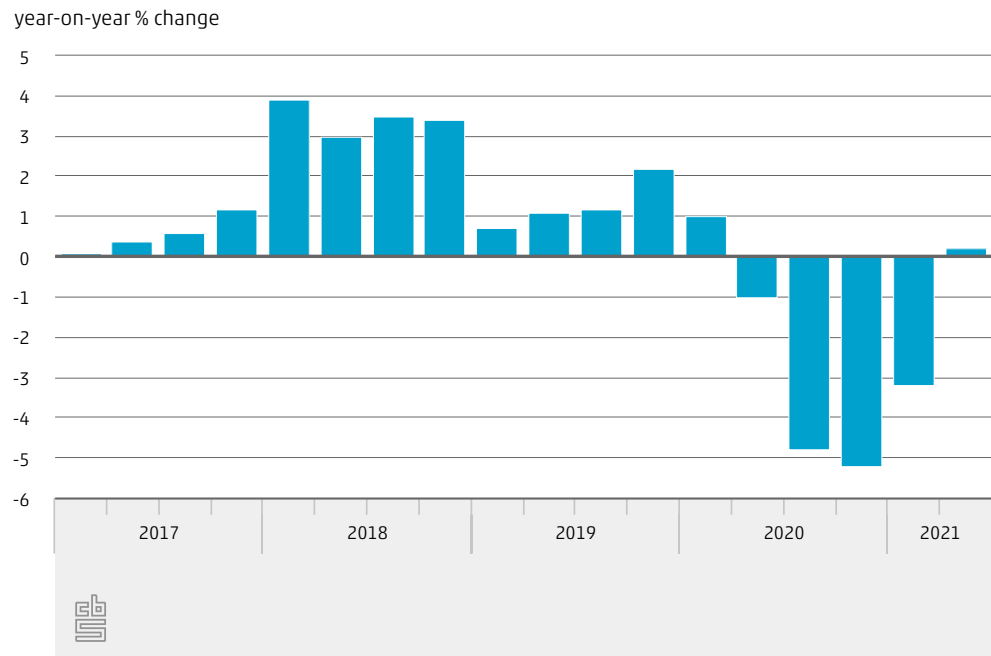
More information about companies receiving support through the emergency package on Bonaire is available here:



Consumer prices

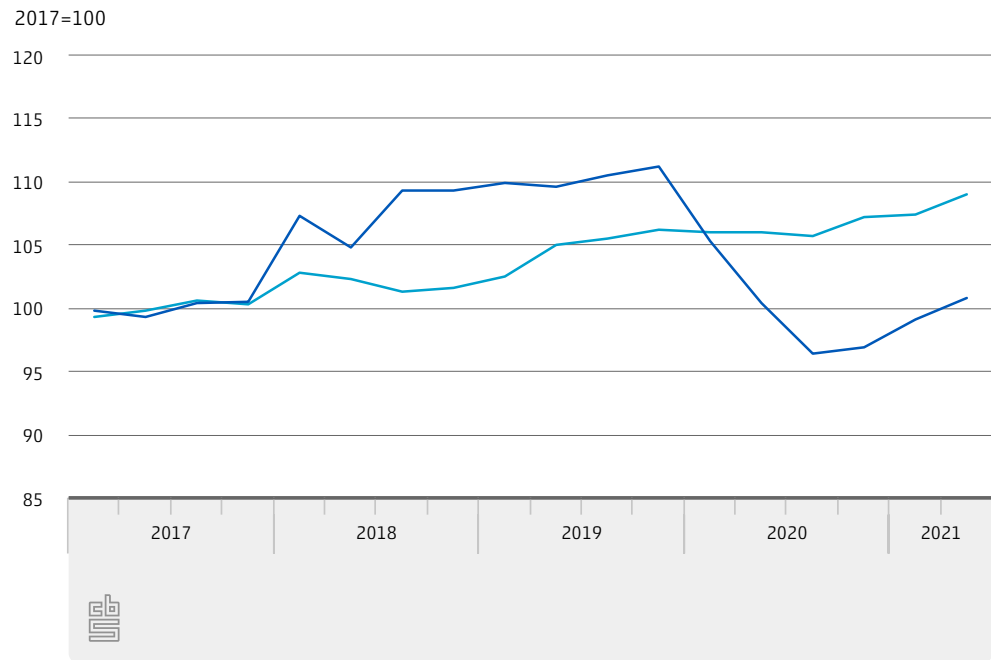
In 2020, prices of consumer goods and services on Bonaire dropped by 2.5 percent. This is a sharp decrease after 2019, when prices rose by 1.3 percent year-on-year. In the first half of 2021, prices increased again relative to the second half of 2020.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), Bonaire



The price index of housing, water and energy fell by 9.6 percent in 2020 and prices for communication by 11.4 percent. This was caused mainly by government subsidies on electricity, water and internet (relief measures in the context of the coronavirus epidemic).

Consumer Price Index (CPI), Bonaire



Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 1.4 percent compared to 2019. Restaurants were 1.9 percent more expensive than in 2019 while transport went up by 1.4 percent. Prices of clothing and footwear, furnishing and household equipment, recreation and accommodation and food services all rose slightly.

2.5% price drop on Bonaire
in 2020



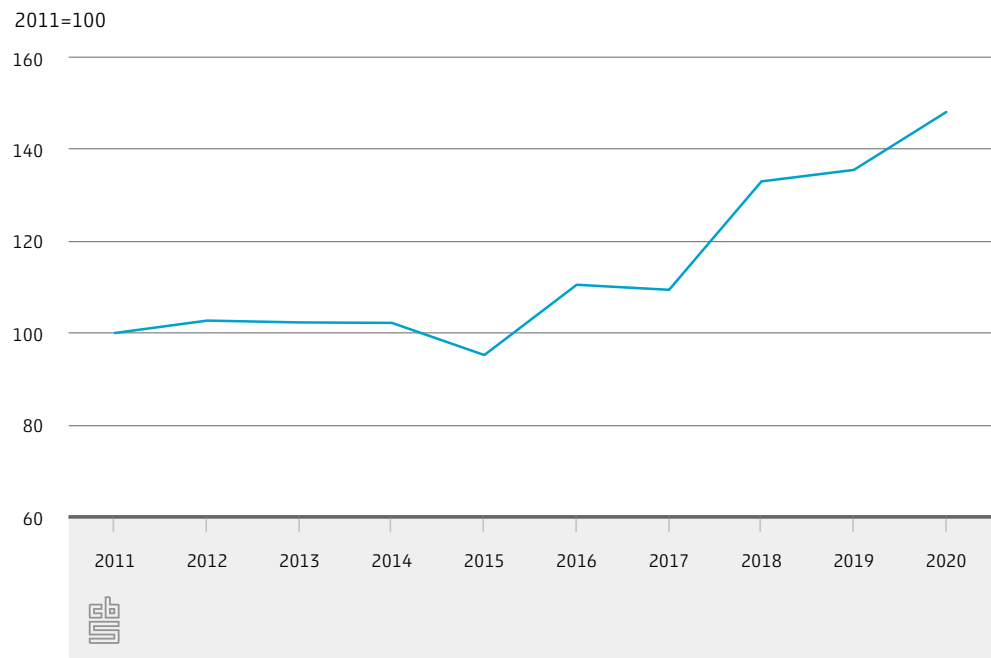
More information about the consumer price index (CPI) for Bonaire is available here:



House prices

In 2020, prices of residential property on Bonaire reached the highest point since the beginning of measurement in 2011. Houses had become 48.1 percent more expensive. Relative to 2019, the price index rose by 9.3%.

Price index of dwellings, Bonaire

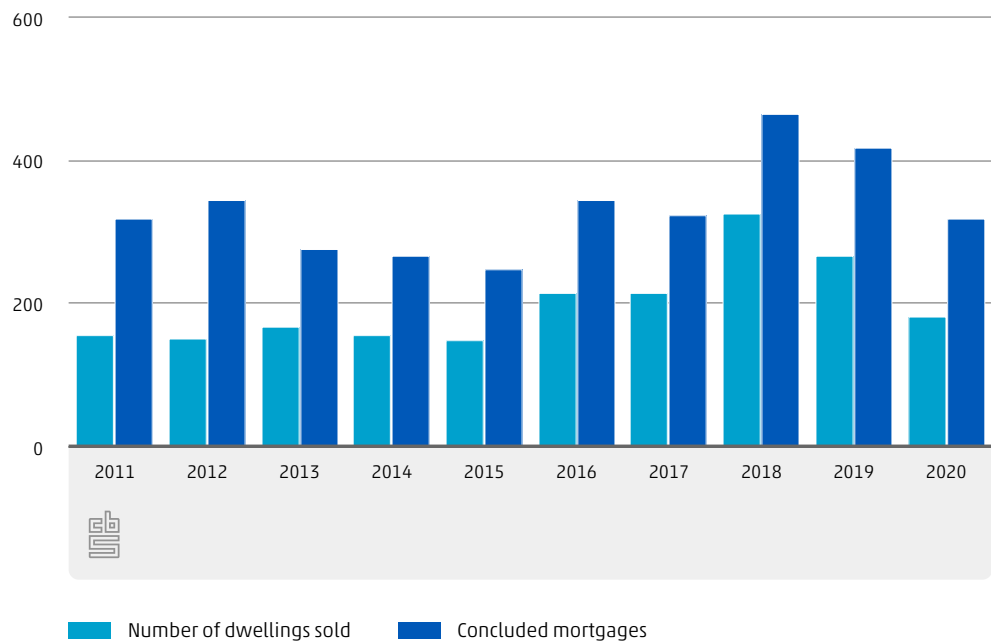


48.1% rise in house prices
since 2011



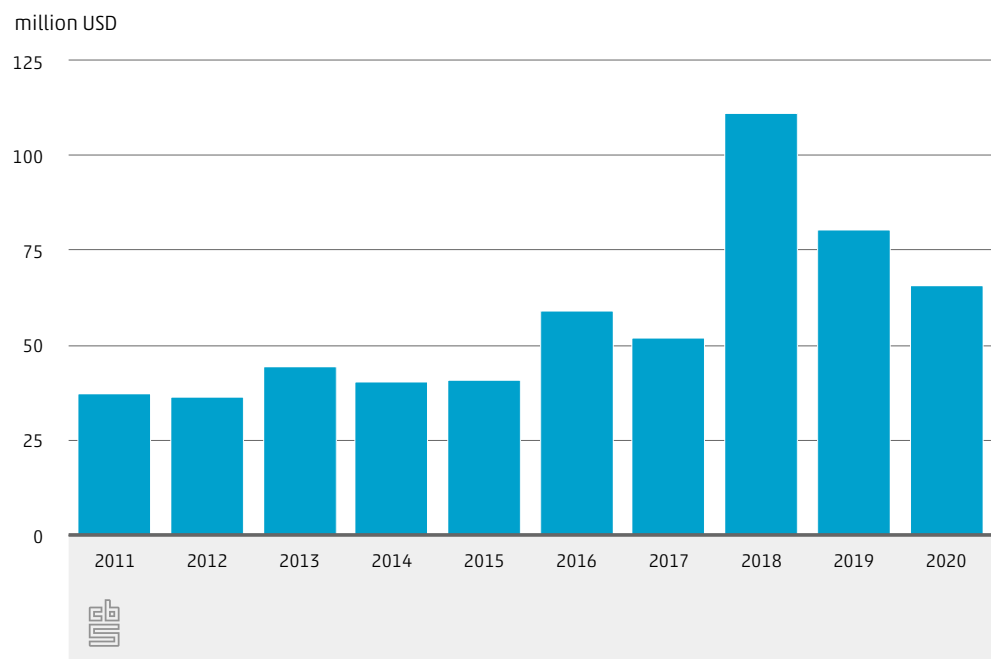
Unlike prices, the number of housing transactions fell on Bonaire. In 2020 the number of dwellings sold stood at 182, down 31.6 percent on the previous year. Relative to 2018, the year with the highest number of transactions to date, 44.3 percent fewer houses were sold. In 2020, 318 house mortgages were issued, down 23.7 percent on the previous year. These also included remortgages and mortgages for building plots.

Number of sold dwellings and concluded mortgages, Bonaire



Looking at the total transaction value of dwellings sold on Bonaire, the pattern is quite similar to the number of dwellings in transaction: a sharp rise in 2018 followed by consecutive declines in 2019 and 2020. Calculating the average dwelling price however, i.e. dividing total transaction value by number of transactions, 2020 shows the highest average: approximately 362 thousand US dollars per dwelling sold.

Total transaction value of dwellings sold, Bonaire



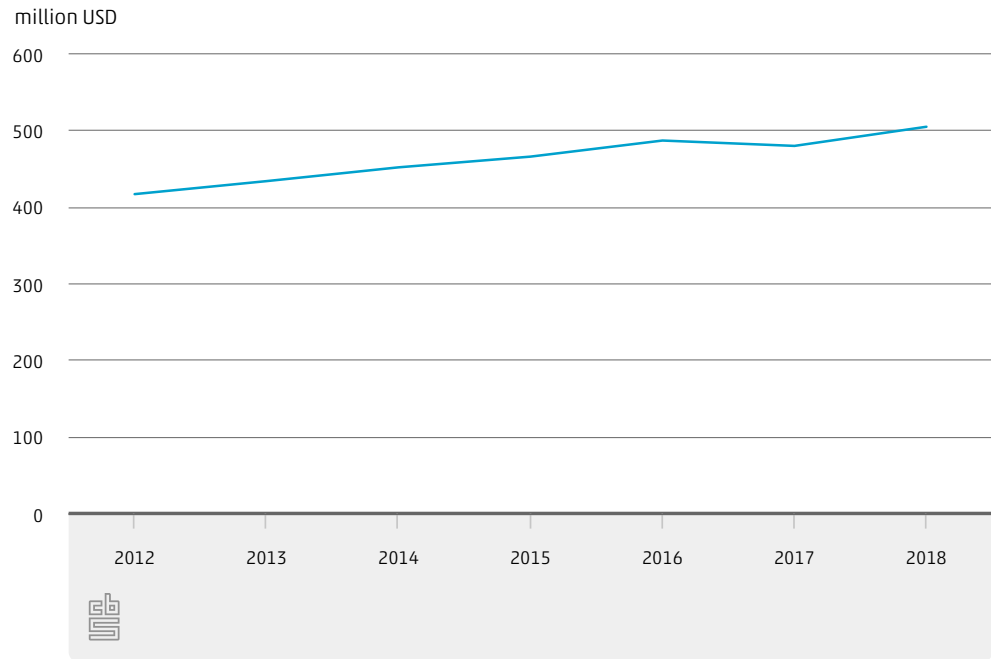
More information about dwellings on Bonaire is available here:



Macroeconomics

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Bonaire increased from 480 million US dollars in 2017 to 505 million US dollars in 2018.¹⁾ This represents an annual growth rate of 5.0 percent.

Gross domestic product, Bonaire

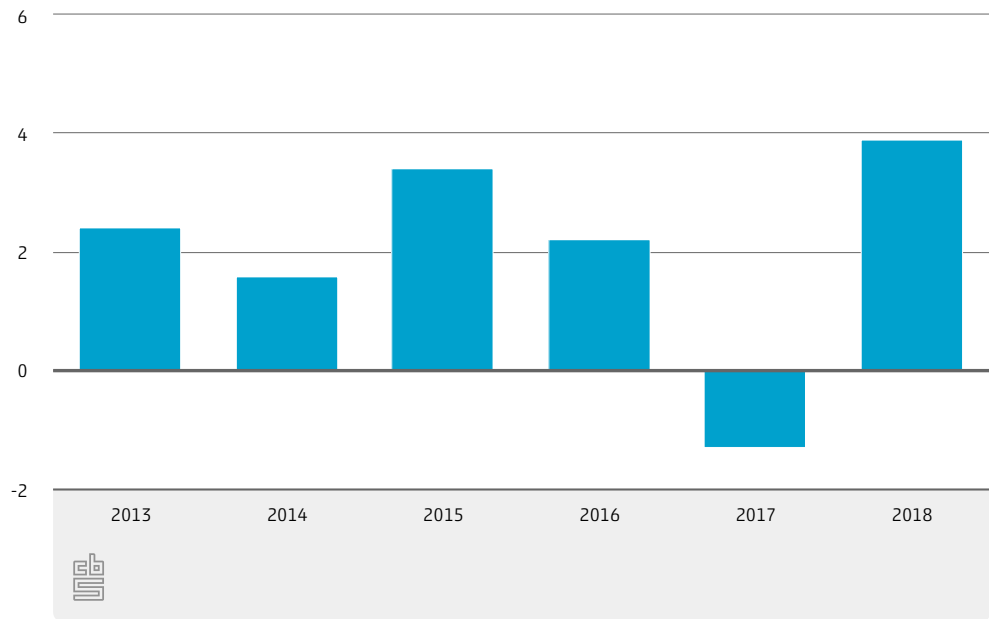


In volume terms, GDP increased by 3.9 percent year-on-year. The volume growth of GDP is calculated by adjusting value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index.

¹⁾ Statistics Netherlands publishes GDP figures for the Caribbean Netherlands two years following the reporting period. Earlier publication has not been feasible due to data availability.

GDP volume growth, Bonaire

year-on-year % change

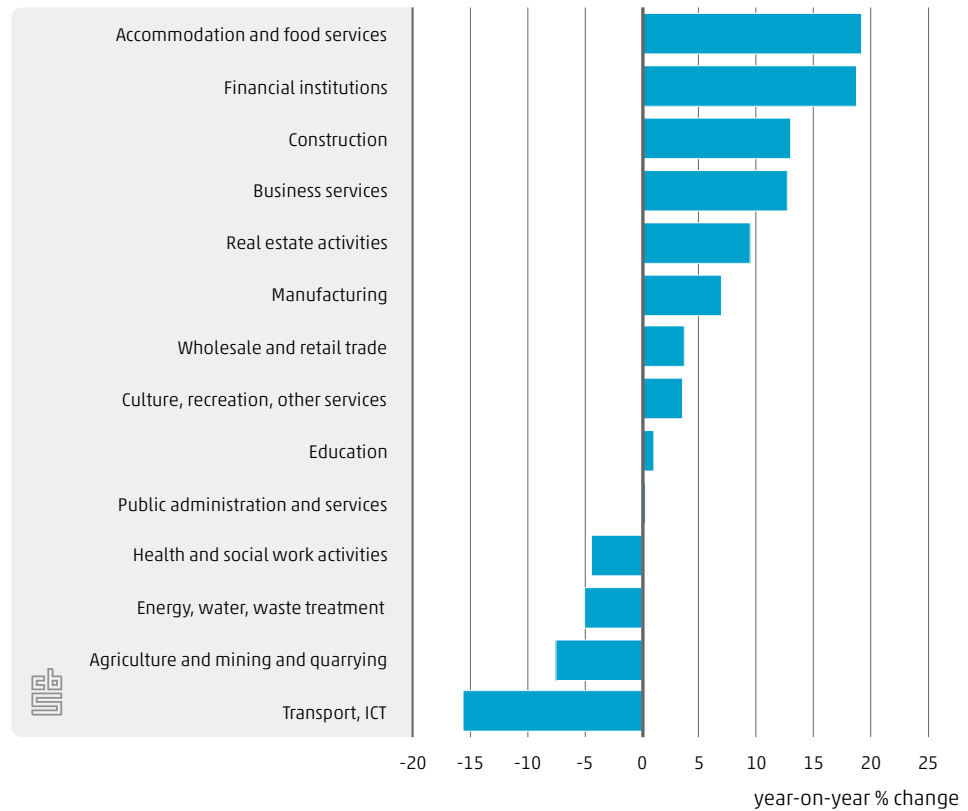


3.9% real economic growth
in 2018 year-on-year



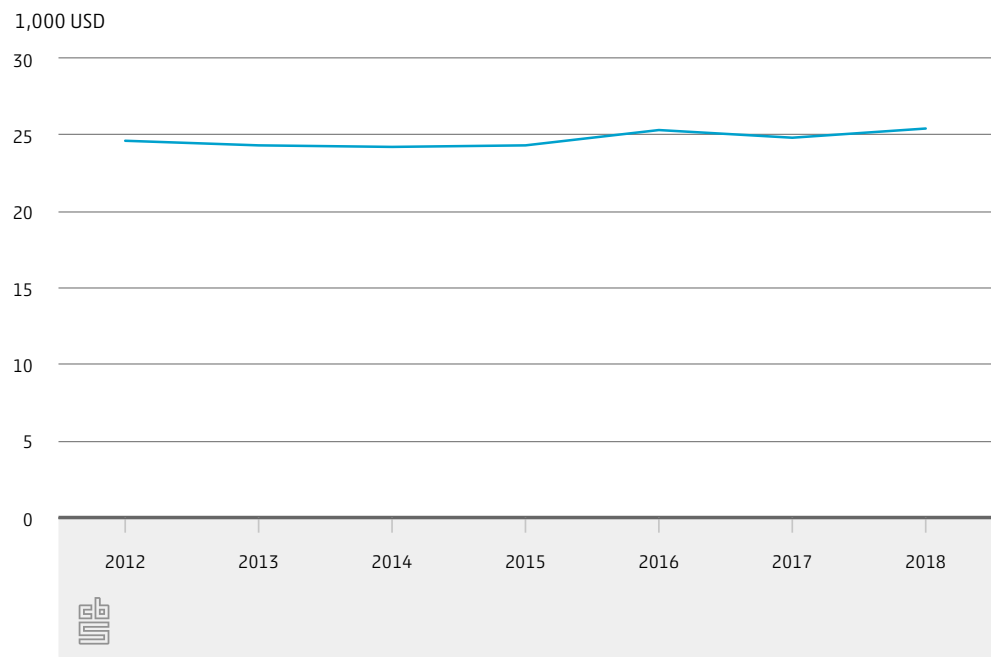
The increase in GDP on Bonaire was mainly driven by the accommodation and food services sector. This sector grew by 19.3 percent, making it the fastest-growing sector in 2018 together with financial institutions (18.8 percent). The growth in accommodation and food services is associated with the opening of new hotel and catering establishments in that year.

Gross value added (volume) on Bonaire, 2018



GDP per capita increased slightly from 24.8 thousand US dollars in 2017 to 25.4 thousand US dollars in 2018.

GDP per capita, Bonaire



More information on the Gross Domestic Product of Bonaire is available here:



Definitions

Gross domestic product (market prices) (GDP):

The final result of productive activities of production units in the Netherlands. It equals the sum of value added in all sectors of industry, and includes some transactions that are not classified by sector of industry.

Volume change:

The weighted average of the changes in the volume and quality of the parts of particular goods or service transactions or the value added.

GDP per capita (as defined by Eurostat):

The indicator is calculated as the ratio of real GDP to the average population of a specific year.

International trade

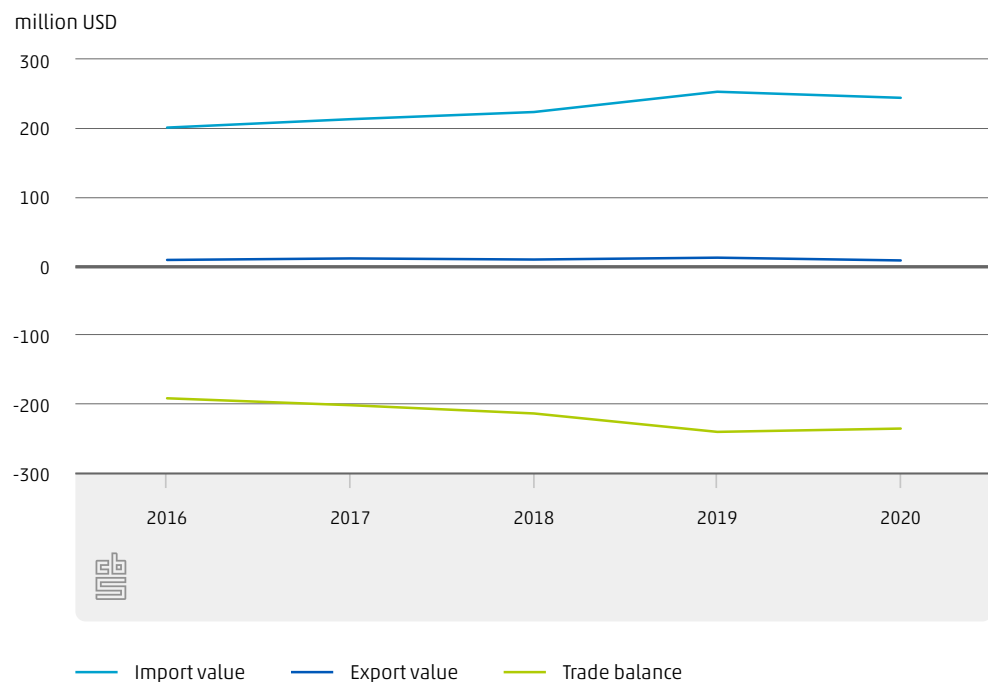
Since little manufacturing or production takes place on Bonaire, most goods need to be imported. The island has a structural trade deficit. In 2020, Bonaire's trade deficit was 236 million US dollars. This is 2 percent lower compared to 2019, representing the first trade deficit decrease in six years' time.

236 million USD was the trade deficit on Bonaire in 2020



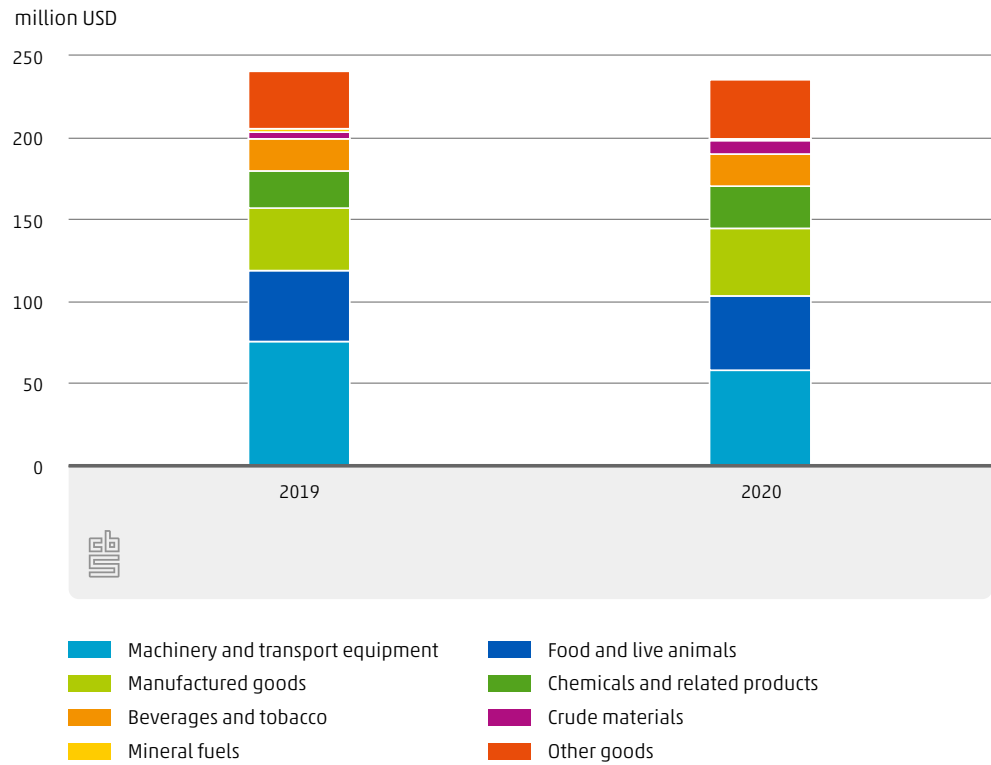
In 2020, goods imports and exports on Bonaire amounted to 244 million and 8 million US dollars, respectively. Both imports (-3 percent) and exports (-33 percent) declined on the previous year.

Imports and exports of goods, Bonaire



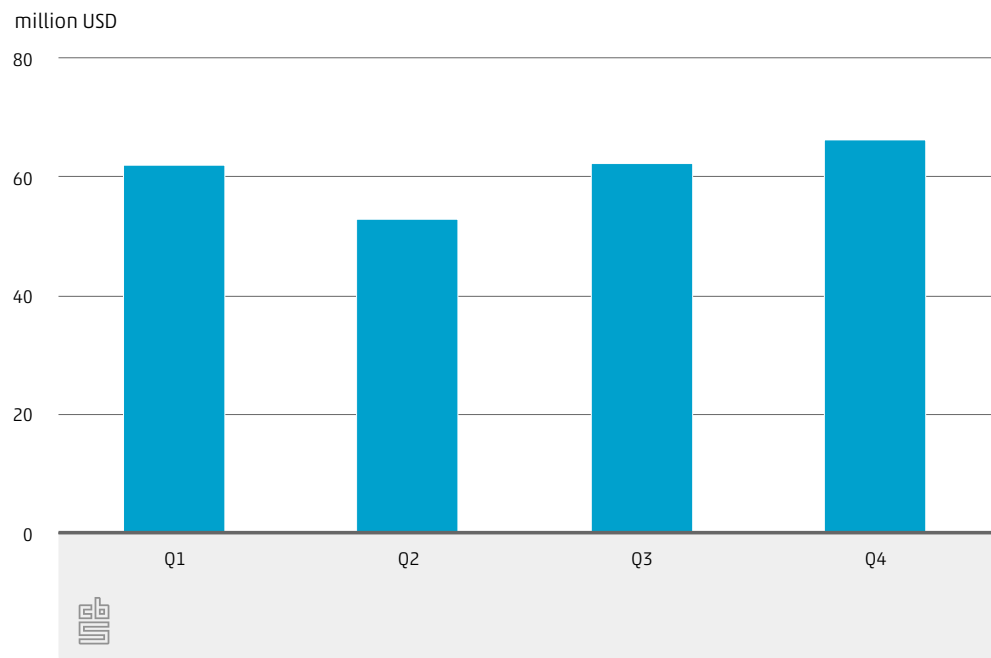
There is no indication that Bonaire's smaller trade deficit in 2020 was a direct result of the coronavirus crisis. Compared to 2019, Bonaire had larger deficits for most categories of goods – including goods for dealing with the crisis, such as face masks, disinfectants, medical goods and instruments. The smaller deficit is entirely attributable to a lower import value of machinery and transport equipment.

Composition of trade deficit, Bonaire



However, in the second quarter of 2020, the import of goods showed the sharpest quarterly decrease (-13 percent) in seven years' time. Due to the coronavirus crisis, Bonaire had almost one-fifth fewer customs declarations of imported goods than in the same quarter of 2019.

Imports of goods, Bonaire, 2020

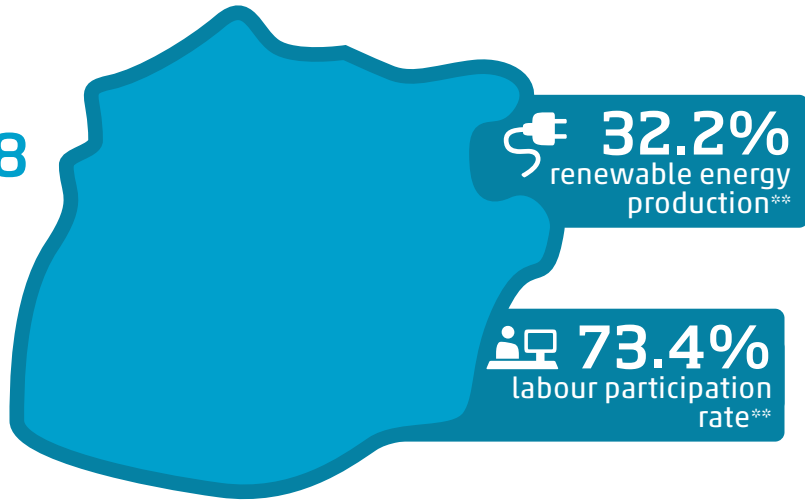


More information about international trade on Bonaire is available here:



2 Saba


1,918
residents*

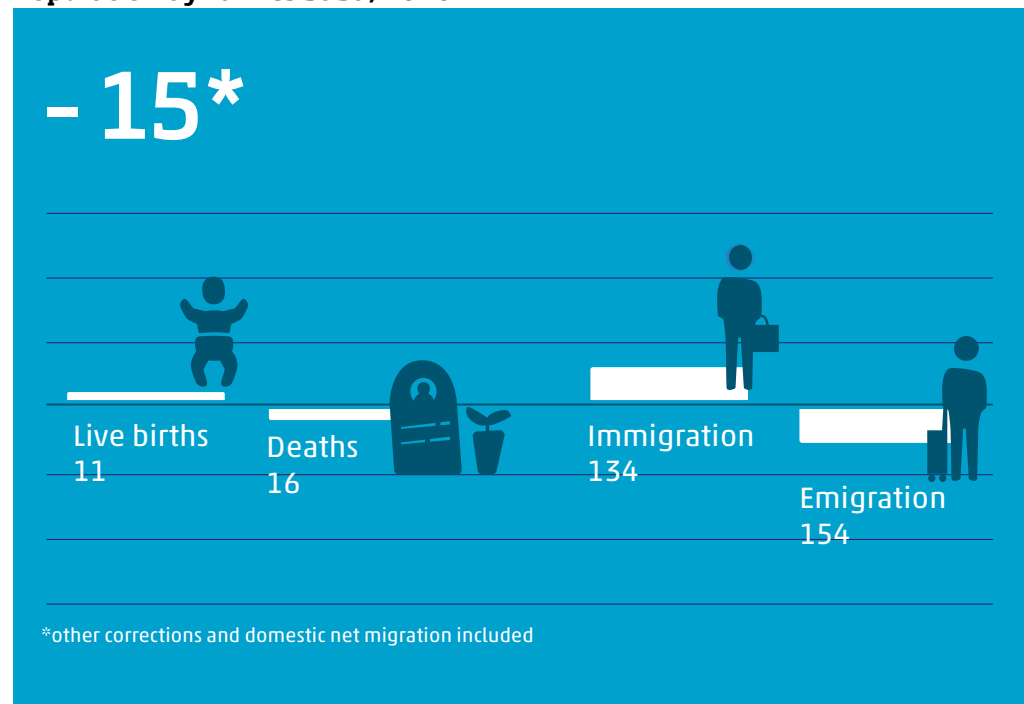


* 1 January 2021
** 2020



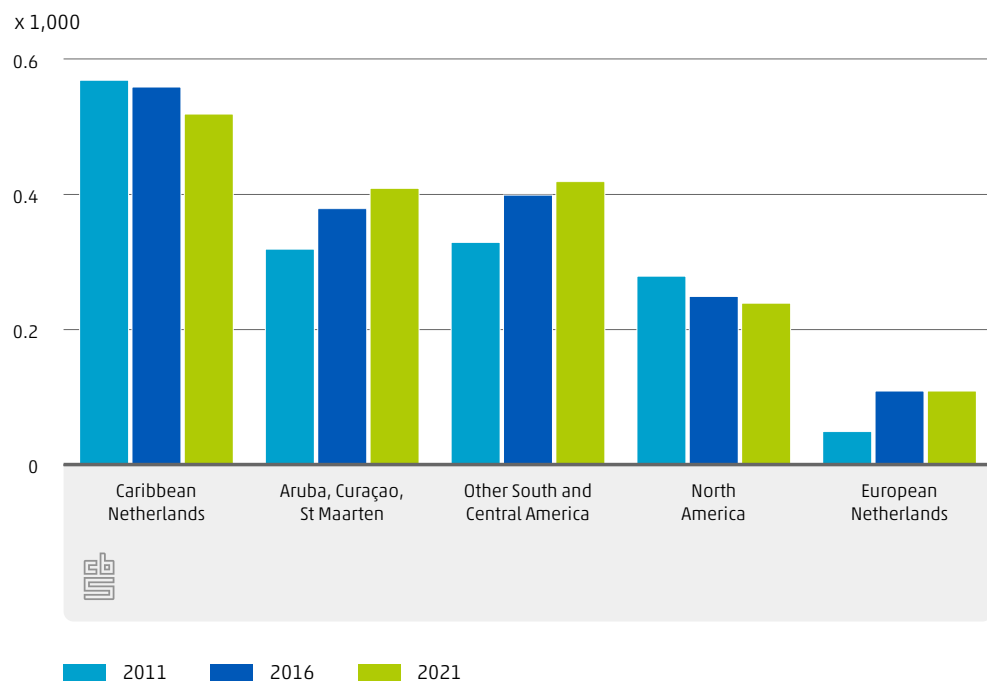
Population

Population dynamics Saba, 2020



Fewer international students

Population by region of birth, 1 January, Saba

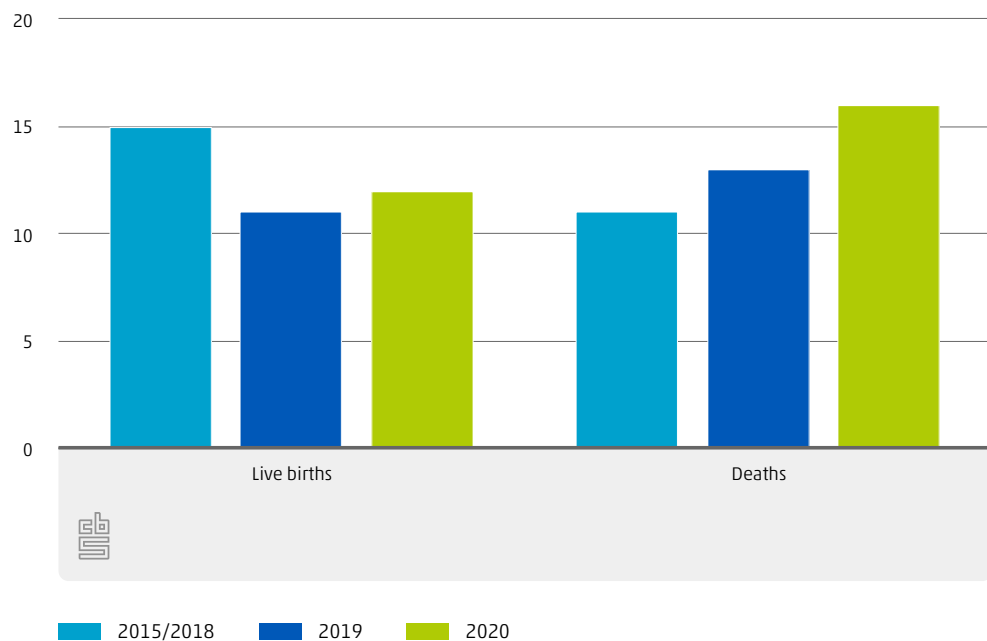


On Saba, the number of inhabitants declined slightly in 2020. Nevertheless, over the past ten years its total population has increased by 136: from 1,797 to 1,918. The number of residents born in the Caribbean Netherlands, almost all of them born on Saba itself, has decreased from 570 to 515 in this time period. At the same time, the number of inhabitants born on St Maarten has gone up. The population growth in the past decade comes mostly from migrants born in South and Central America or in the European Netherlands.

1,918 residents on Saba as of
1 January 2021

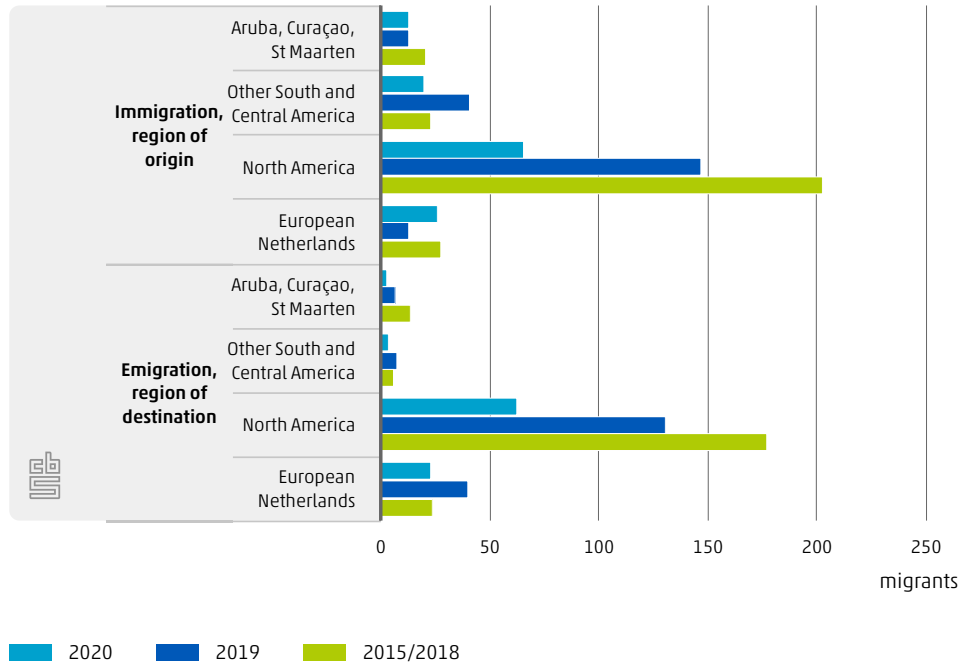


Live births and number of deaths, Saba



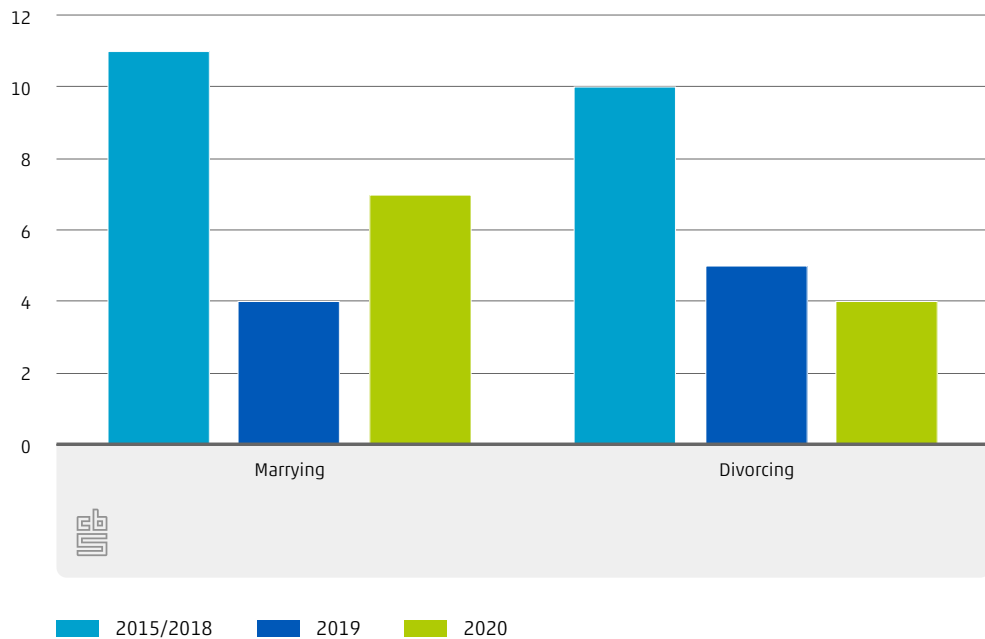
Natural growth was negative in 2020; there were fewer births and slightly more deaths. Over the past five years, on average 14 children were born on the island while 13 inhabitants died.

External migration by region of origin/destination, Saba



The island saw a significant drop in external migration. Immigration decreased from 175 in 2019 to 79 persons in 2020. Emigration was also down, from 191 to 95 persons. The main reason is that the Saba University School of Medicine only offered online tuition; on balance, significantly lower numbers of students therefore arrived on Saba from the United States and Canada compared to previous years. Emigration to these countries declined as well.

Marrying and divorcing persons, Saba



7 inhabitants of Saba married in 2020, compared to 4 in 2019. The number of divorces has declined in recent years.

More information about the population of Saba is available here:

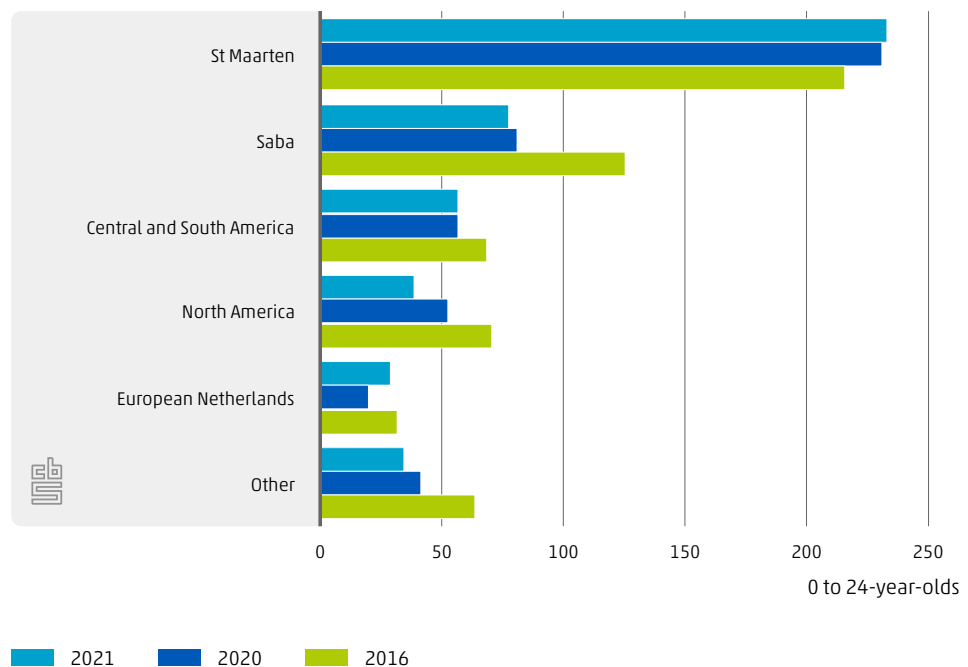


Youth

Only 1 in 6 young Saban residents are island-born

In early 2021, Saba had almost 500 young residents (0 to 24 years). Only 1 in 6 of them were born on the island. Half were born on St Maarten; this is partly due to better childbirth facilities on that island. In addition, 12 percent of the young residents were born in Central or South America, 8 percent in North America and 6 percent in the European Netherlands. The majority of young people originating from Central or South America were born in either the Dominican Republic or Colombia. The number of young people born in North America declined relative to early 2020 because fewer medical students came to the island. The number of young people born in the European Netherlands increased in the same period. Compared to five years ago, the number of young residents born on St Maarten increased; nearly all other groups showed a decrease.

Young residents by region of birth, 1 January, Saba



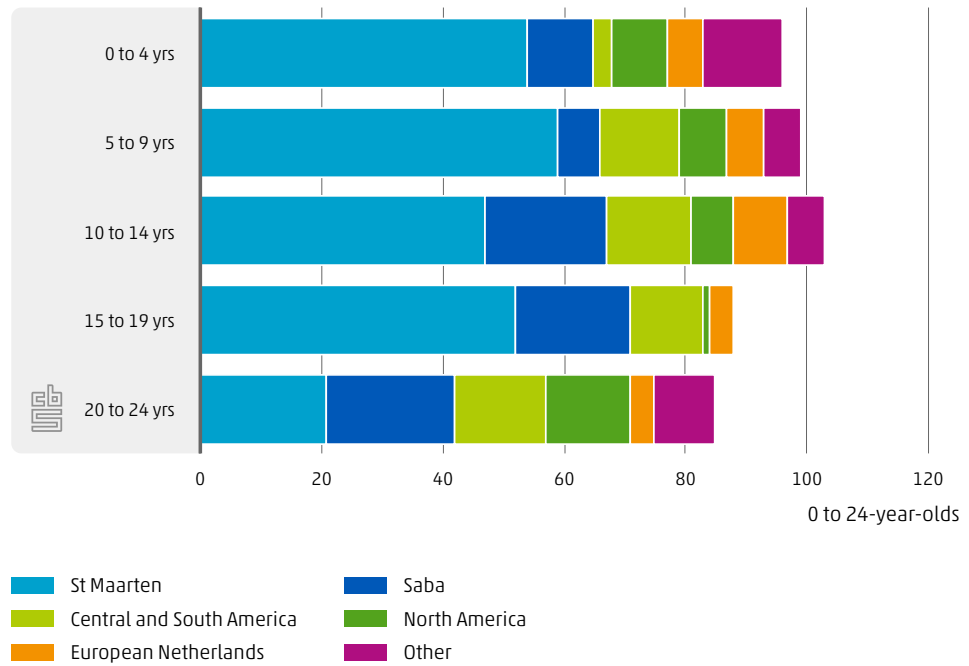
233 residents under 25 on Saba are born on St Maarten



The number of young people born on Saba is relatively low among the youngest age groups, probably because more children of Saban mothers were born on St Maarten over the past decade. Among the 20 to 24-year-olds, the number born in North America is relatively high;

this is partly due to the presence of a medical school on the island, which attracts students from there.

Young residents by region of birth, 1 January 2021, Saba



More information about youth on Saba is available here:



Please also visit also our Youth Monitor with information on the Caribbean Netherlands:

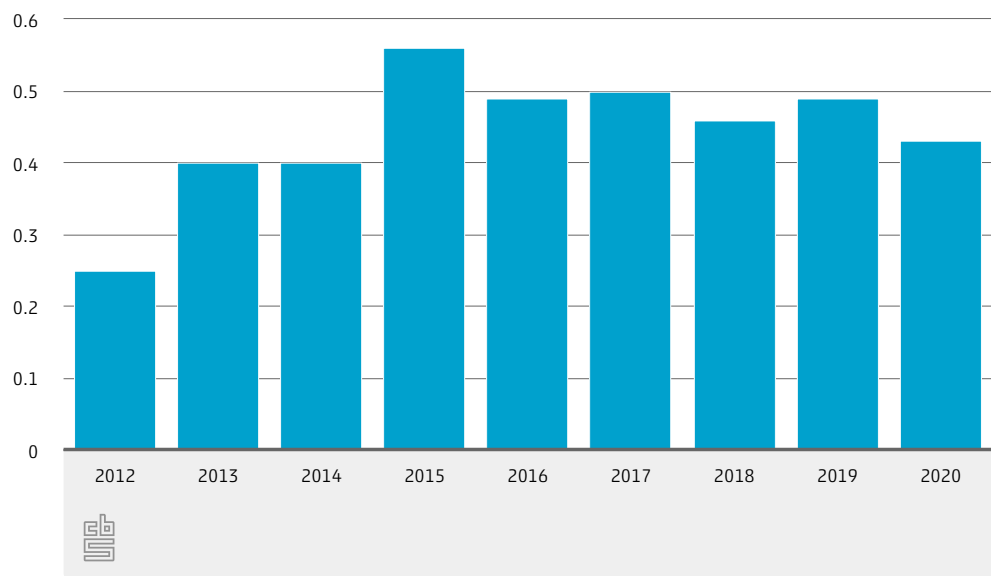


Nature

Groupers sighted per dive

As predators, groupers keep fish populations in balance. Groupers are vulnerable to overfishing because they are a commercially important fish species. Since 2012, the chances of seeing a grouper on a dive have increased and it has stabilised over the last five years. For example, in 2020 the chance of seeing a grouper during a dive was 43 percent.

Groupers sighted per dive, Saba

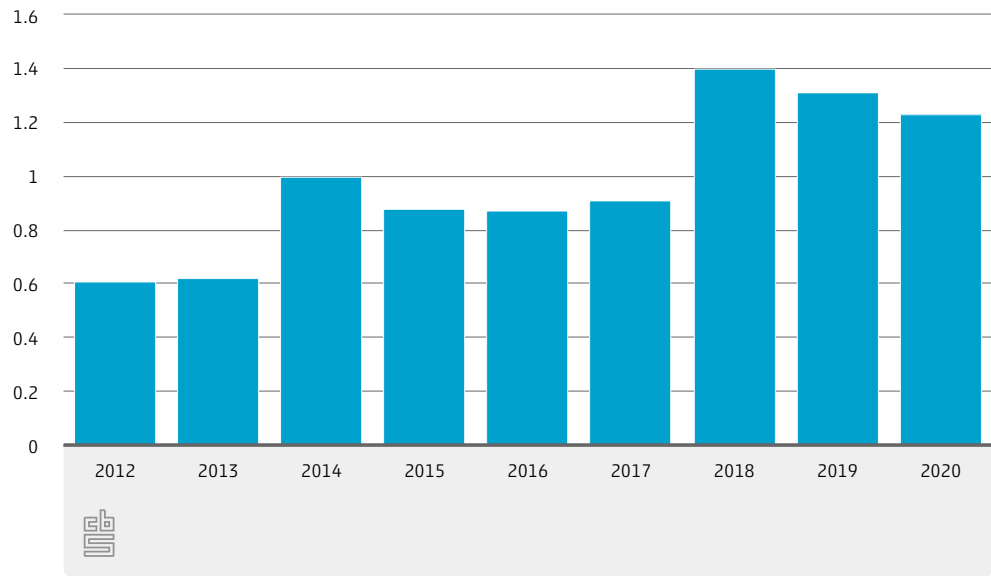


Source: Sea Saba and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Sharks sighted per dive

Sharks are top predators that prey on large fish, including groupers. Sharks are an indicator species for the ocean's health. The number of sharks sightings during dives has increased over the years.

Sharks sighted per dive, Saba

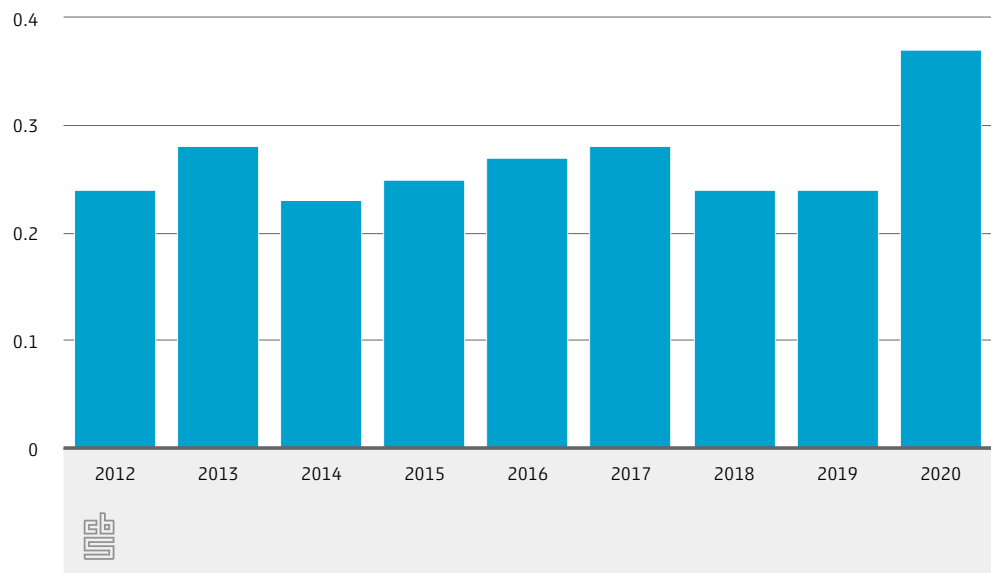


Source: Sea Saba and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Rays sighted per dive

The likelihood of seeing a ray during a guided diving excursion is stable. In 2020 the chance of seeing a ray during a dive was 37 percent.

Rays sighted per dive, Saba

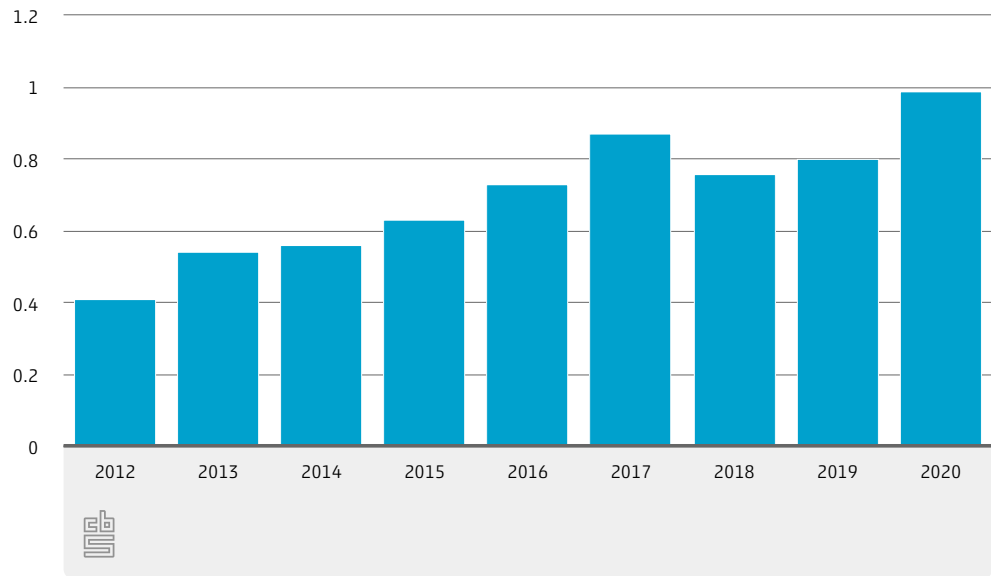


Source: Sea Saba and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Turtles sighted per dive

Over the years, the chance of seeing a turtle whilst diving on Saba has increased. In 2020 probably all divers saw a turtle as the chance of seeing a turtle during a dive was 99 percent.

Turtles sighted per dive, Saba



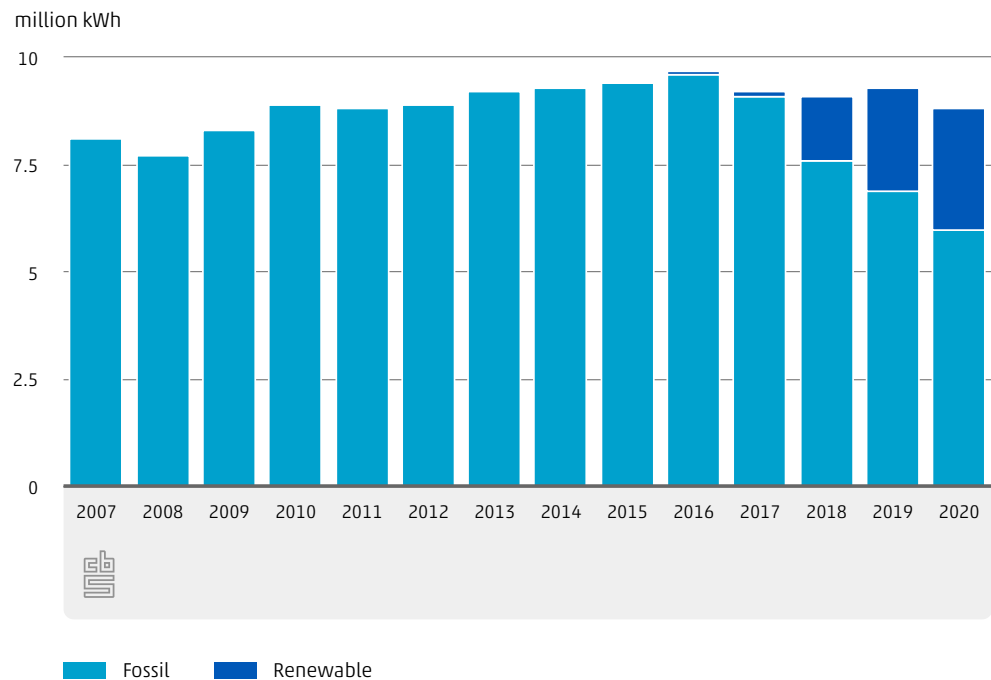
Source: Sea Saba and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

More information about the number of groupers, sharks, rays and turtles sighted on dive on Saba is available here:



Energy

Electricity production, Saba



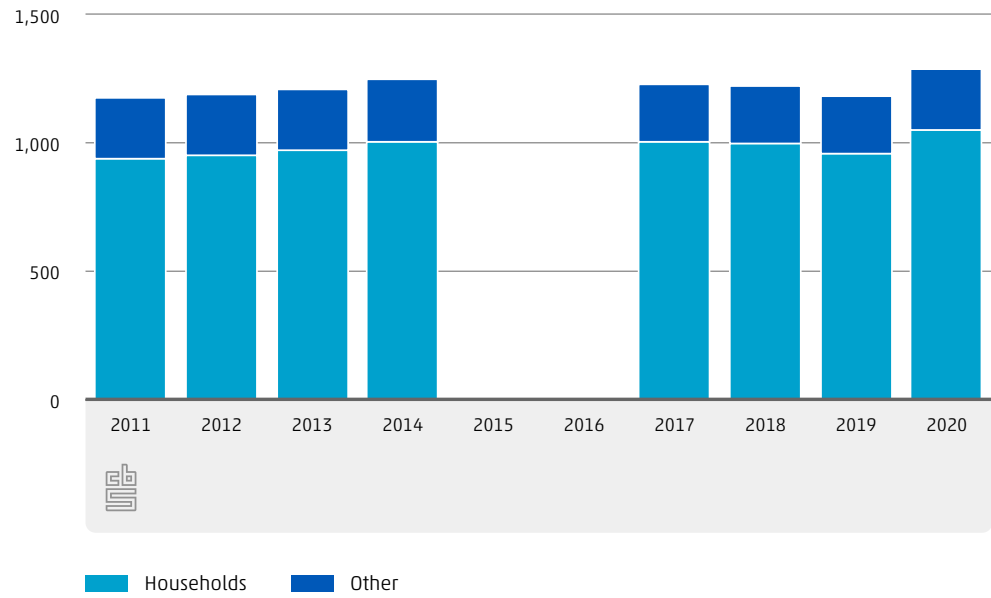
In 2020, a total of 8.7 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity were produced on Saba. This is 6.5 percent less than in the previous year. Of the electricity produced in 2020, 2.8 million kilowatt hours came from renewable sources. This is 32.2 percent of the total production and represents a significant increase compared to the previous year, when the share of renewable electricity was just 25.7 percent.

Electricity consumption was 6.5 percent lower in 2020 than electricity production. One explanation for the decrease may be that no tourists were able to visit Bonaire during most of 2020 due to the lockdown.

Electricity connections

In 2020 the total number of electricity connections on Saba was almost 1,290. This is an increase of 9.4 percent over a ten-year period. There were almost 1,180 connections in 2011. There are two categories of connections: domestic and non-domestic connections. In 2020 there were 1,050 domestic connections, representing an increase of 10 percent compared to 2011, when there were 943. The number of non-domestic connections has remained almost the same over the years at approximately 234.

Electricity connections¹⁾, Saba



¹⁾ No data available for 2015 and 2016

More information about water and electricity production on Saba is available here:



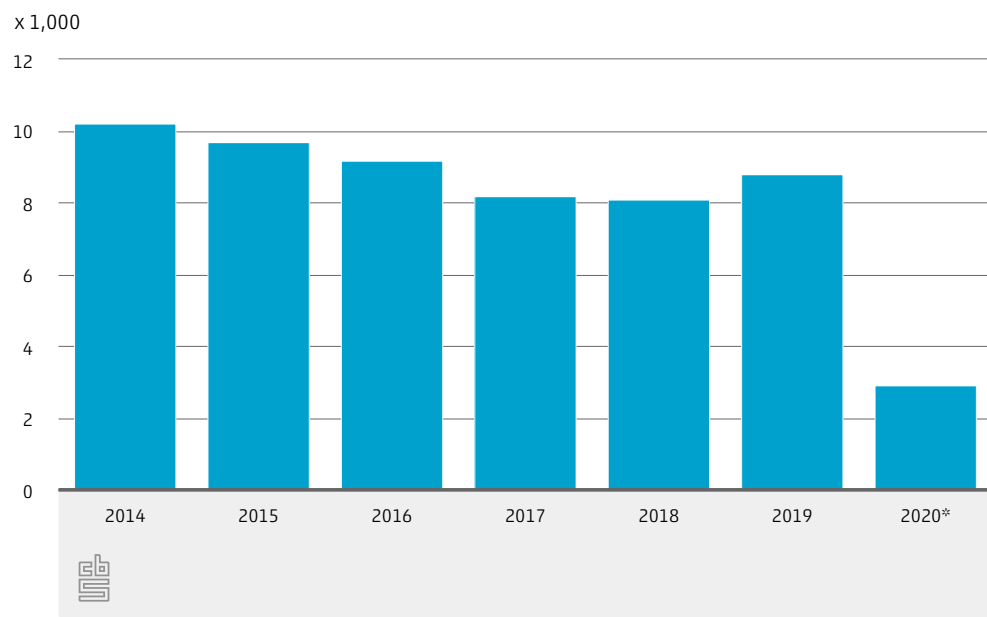
Tourism and transport

In 2020, the number of visitors (non-residents) arriving by air on Saba reached 2.9 thousand. This represents a decrease of 67 percent on the previous year. The tourism sector in Saba was strongly affected by the COVID-19 measures. As of April 2020, the tourism sector almost came to a standstill. The distribution by nationality of the visitors by air on Saba changed slightly in 2020. The share of visitors from Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten declined from 29 to 21 percent, whereas shares of visitors from the United States and the European part of the Netherlands increased from 25 to 27 percent and from 17 to 19 percent, respectively. In 2020, 3.2 thousand passengers arrived on Saba by yacht or ferry, a decrease of 67 percent on 2019.

2.9 thousand visitors at Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport in 2020

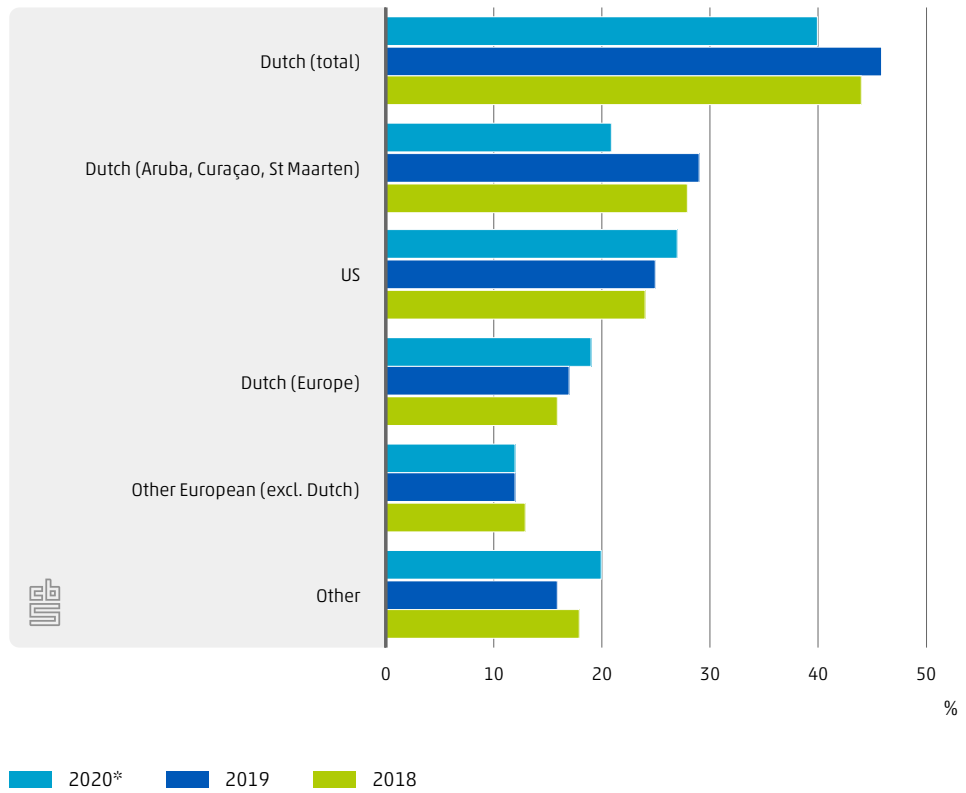


Visitors by air, Saba



* Provisional figures

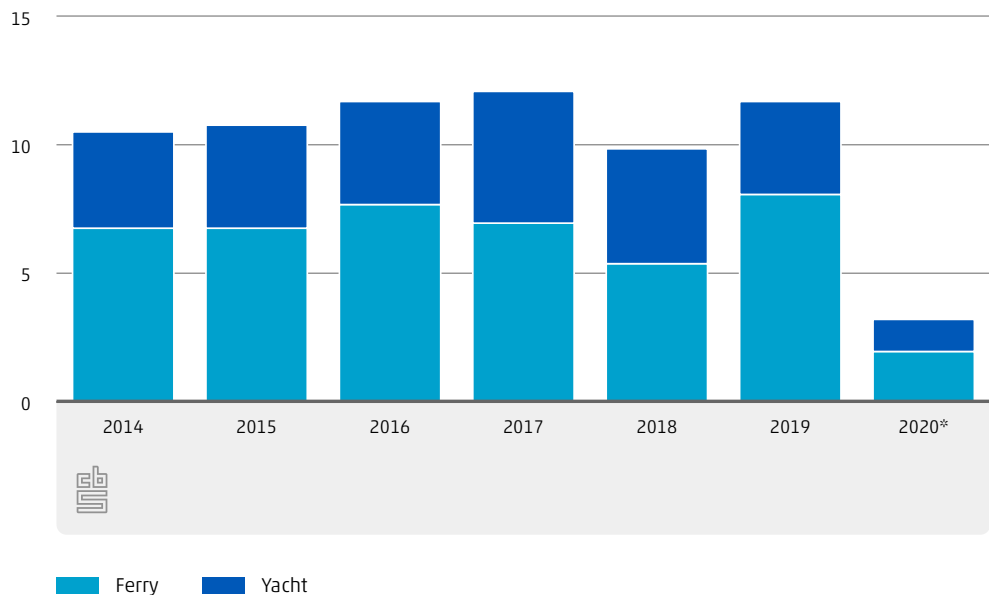
Visitors by air to Saba, by nationality



* Provisional figures

Ferry and yacht passengers, Saba

x 1,000



* Provisional figures

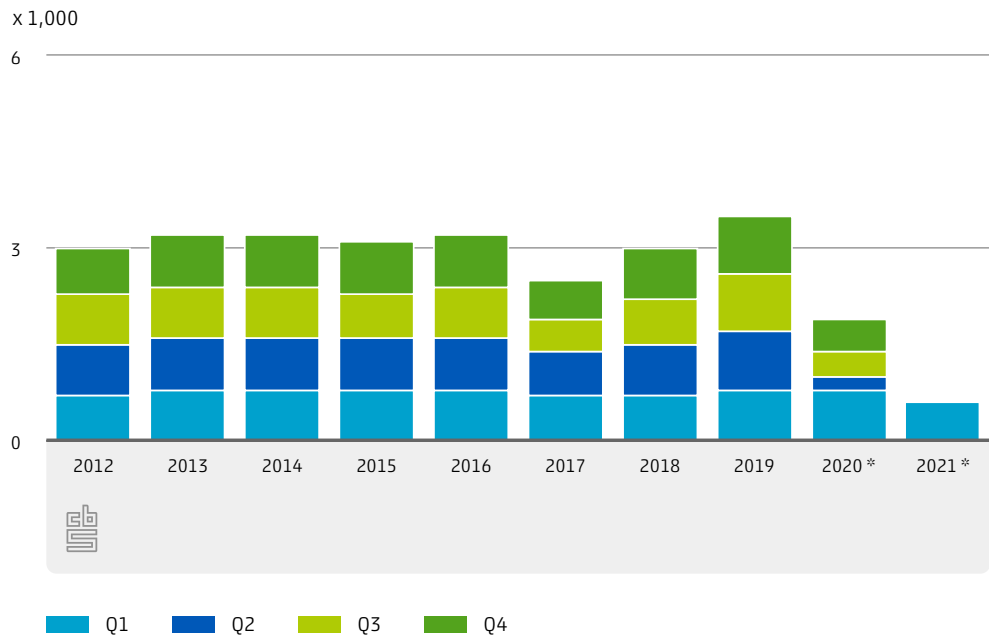
More information about inbound tourism by air on Saba is available here:



Traffic and Transport

In 2020, there were 1.9 thousand aircraft movements to and from Saba, a decline of 47 percent on the previous year. The number of passengers flying to and from Saba's airport declined by almost 71 percent. The drop in number of flights and passengers to and from Saba was the result of COVID-19 restrictions. Saba's airport was disrupted for regular air traffic operations for some time. In the first quarter of 2021, 570 flights were operated to and from Saba, versus 760 in the same quarter one year previously.

Aircraft movements on Saba



* Provisional figures

More information about monthly airport data on Saba is available here:



Labour

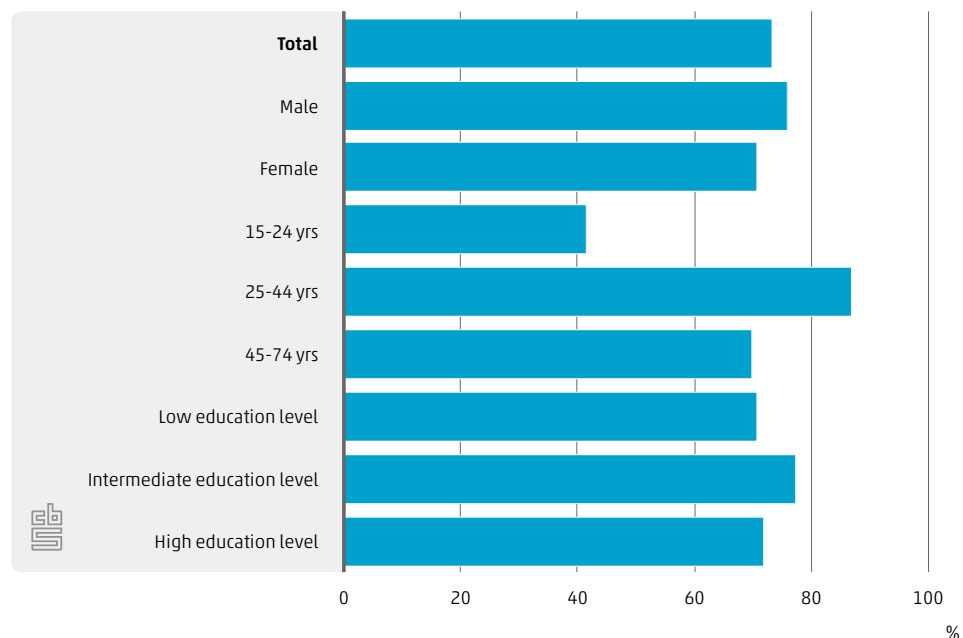
In 2020, the size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Saba was slightly over 1.5 thousand, with 73.4 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate was higher among men than among women and lower among the young than among the middle-aged and older age groups. Among people with low educational attainment, 70.9 percent were employed, versus 77.5 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 72.0 percent among the highly educated. Saba's unemployment rate has been relatively low at just over 3 percent.

76.0% of men on Saba are employed versus 70.9% of the women

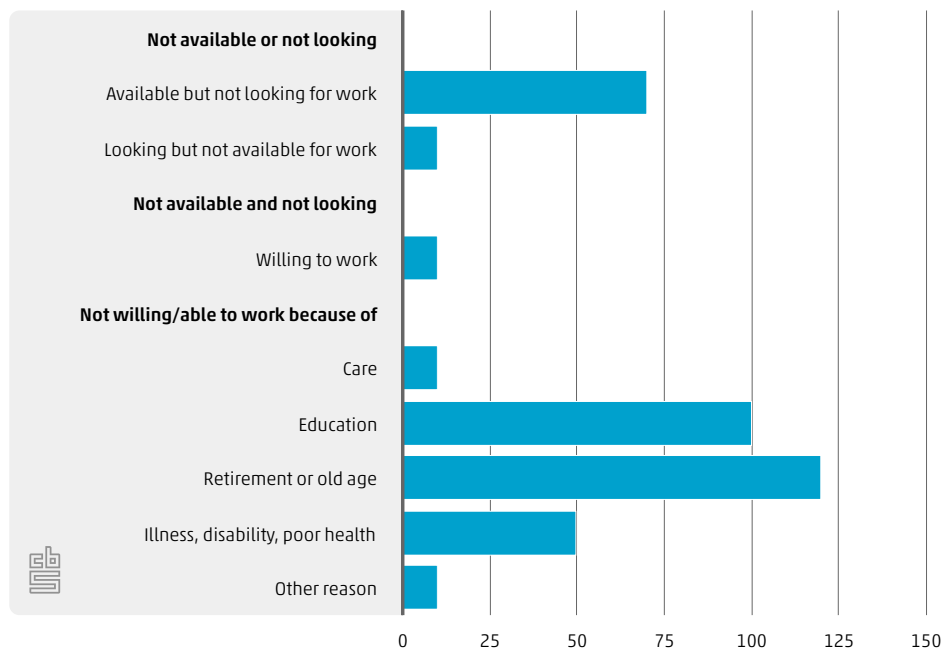


370 residents of Saba were not in the local labour force. They were not looking for work or not immediately available; in most cases a combination of both. A third (33 percent) were not prepared or unable to work due to old age or retirement. Another prominent reason for not working was education (26 percent). Other smaller groups not in the labour force included people who were unable to work due to a disability or poor health (14 percent) or because they had to take care of family members (3 percent).

Net labour participation (15 to 74 yrs), Saba, 2020

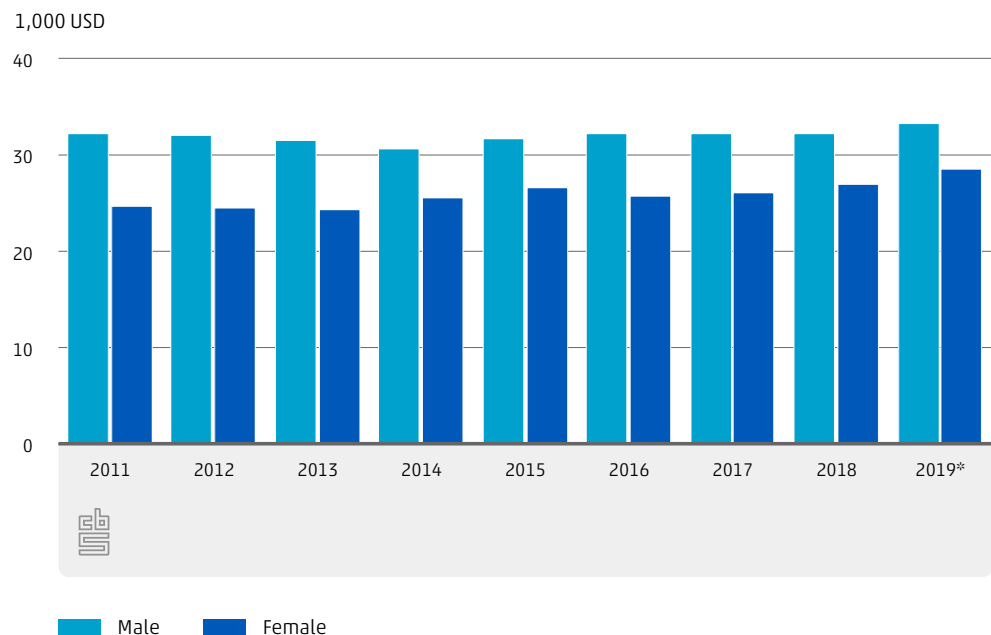


Population not in labour force (15 to 74 yrs), Saba, 2020



The average annual wage of employee jobs on Saba was 30.4 thousand US dollars in 2019. This is 5.0 percent more than in 2018. Women's wages were 14.0 percent lower than men's. Jobs earning less than 20 thousand US dollars occupied a share of 39.0 percent.

Average annual wage of employee jobs, Saba



* Provisional figures

More information about jobs and wages on Saba is available here:

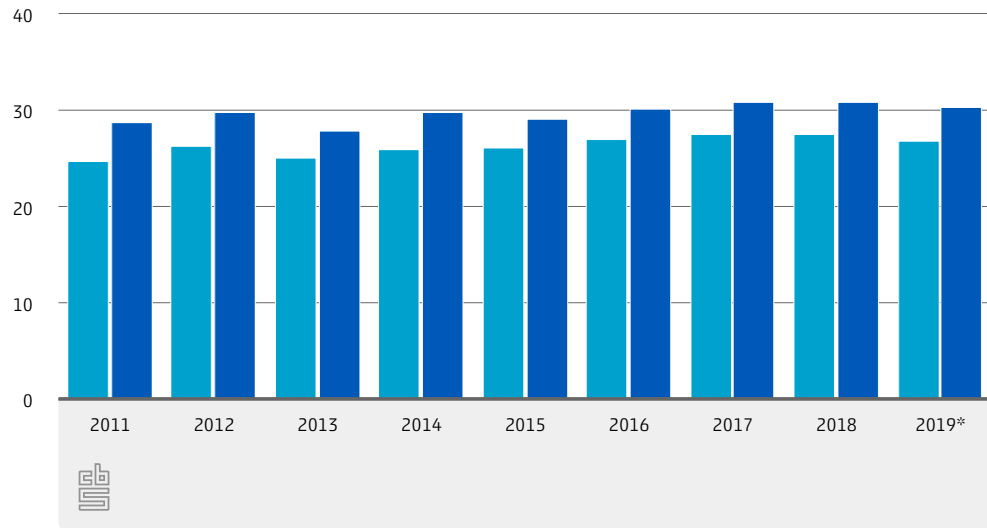


Income

In 2019, the median disposable household income on Saba stood at 26.8 thousand US dollars. Between 2013 and 2018, it gradually increased to 27.6 thousand US dollars; this was followed by a decline. For households primarily depending on income from work, in 2019 the median disposable income stood at 30.3 thousand US dollars.

Median disposable household income, Saba

1,000 USD (in prices of 2019)



■ All households ■ Main income from work

* Provisional figures

More information about the income of households on Saba is available here:

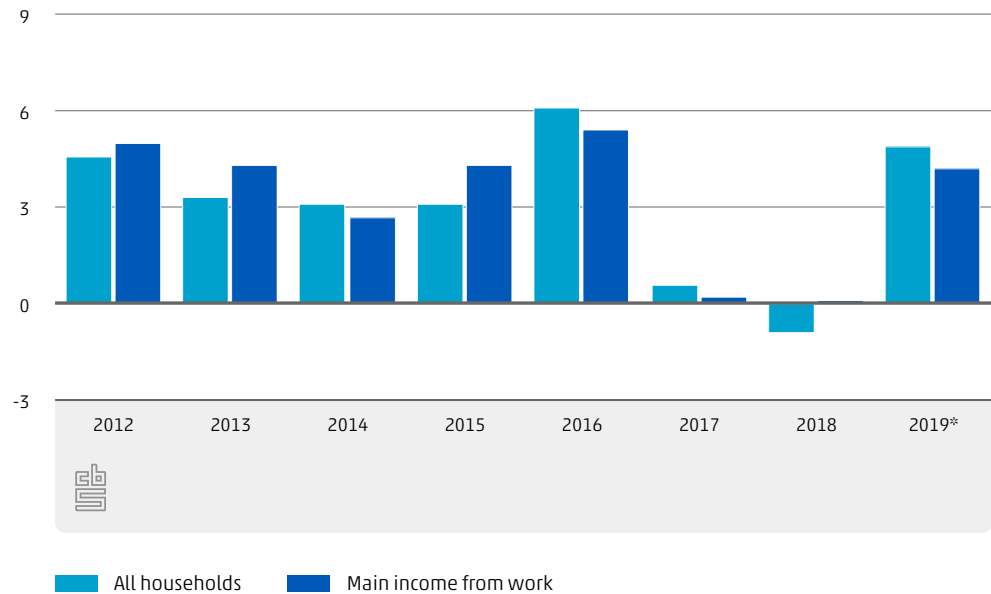


Purchasing power development

Saba recorded positive developments in purchasing power between 2012 and 2017. After facing diminished purchasing power in 2018, the population saw a substantial increase again in 2019. Wages were raised and a structural increase in minimum wages and social benefits added 5.0 percent to the regular indexation. This resulted in 4.9 percent growth in purchasing power for the overall population. Working people saw a 4.2-percent purchasing power increase.

Median purchasing power development, Saba

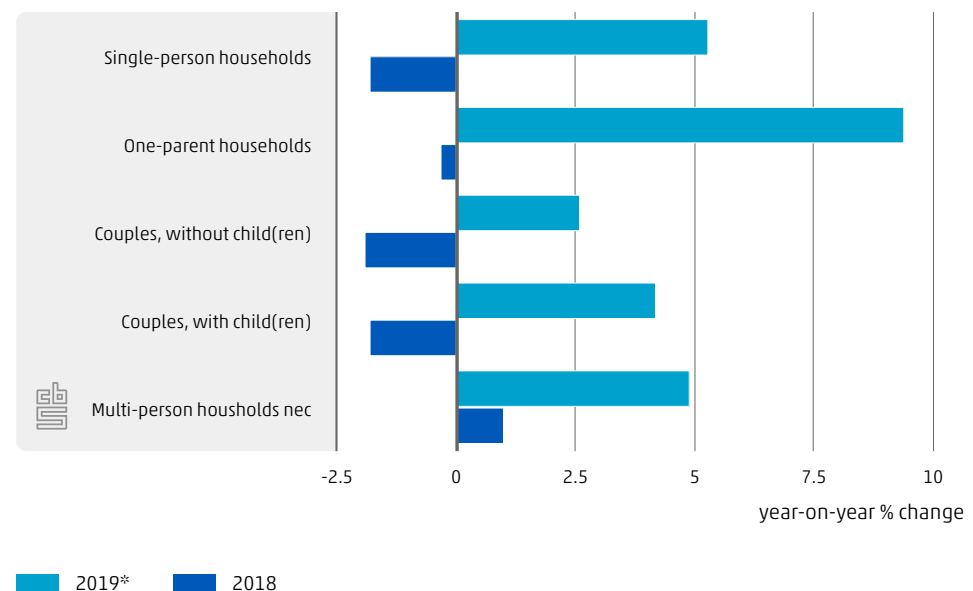
year-on-year % change



* Provisional figures

In 2019, purchasing power rose for all types of households on Saba. Due to an increase in child benefit, people in one-parent households were most favourably affected as their buying power went up by 9.4 percent. In 2018, most types of households were negatively affected.

Median purchasing power development by household composition, Saba



* Provisional figures

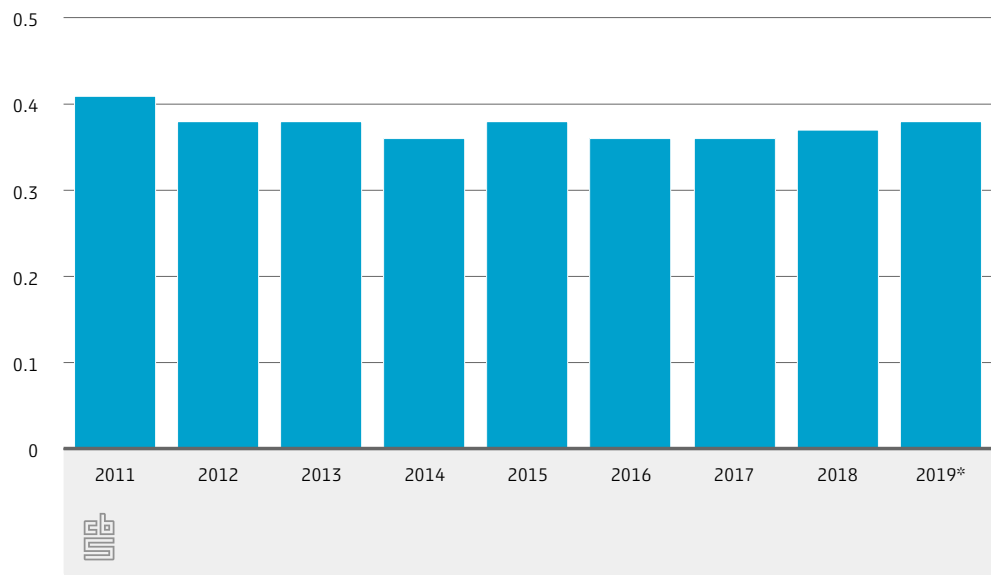
More information about the purchasing power on Saba is available here:



Income inequality

Since 2012, Saba has had the lowest income inequality in the Caribbean Netherlands. The value of the Gini coefficient was 0.38 in 2019. As for the Gini coefficient, 0 means total equality: every household has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one household has all the income, the rest has none. In 2011 the Gini coefficient was 0.41. From 2012 to 2019, the Gini value fluctuated between 0.36 and 0.38.

Gini coefficient, Saba



* Provisional figures

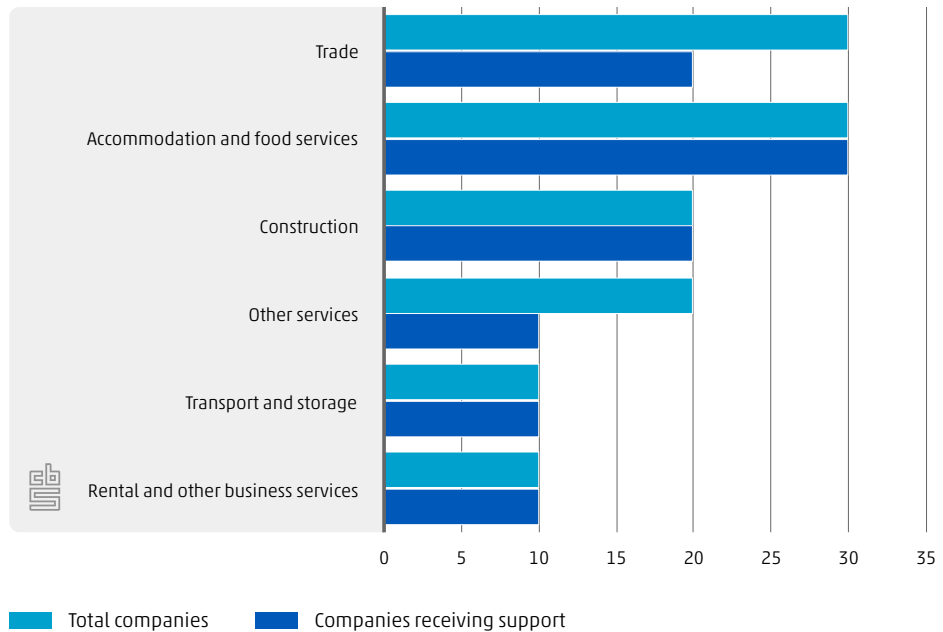
More information about the income inequality on Saba is available here:



Support for companies

As of March 2020, a package of emergency measures has been in place in the Caribbean Netherlands to tackle the economic consequences of the coronavirus crisis. On Saba, 55 percent of businesses availed of a financial contribution towards their wage costs and/or fixed charges last year, with a total of 1.7 million US dollars being paid out for wage costs and 0.7 million for fixed charges. Of all contributions, 27 percent were intended for the accommodation and food services sector.

Companies receiving support through the emergency package by sector, Saba, 2020



Applications were made for wage and living cost allowances related to 210 jobs of both employees and self-employed. Almost one-fifth of these applications were made in the accommodation and food services sector.

More information about companies receiving support via the emergency package on Saba is available here:

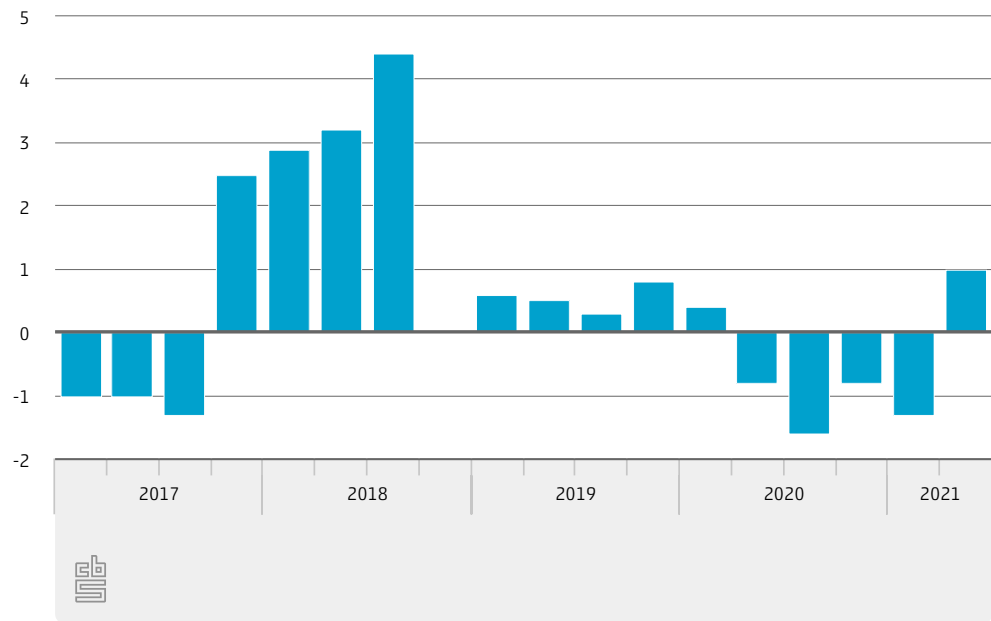


Consumer prices

On Saba, in 2020 prices for consumer goods and services decreased by 0.7 percent relative to the previous year, when consumer prices were up by 0.5 percent year-on-year.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), Saba

year-on-year % change

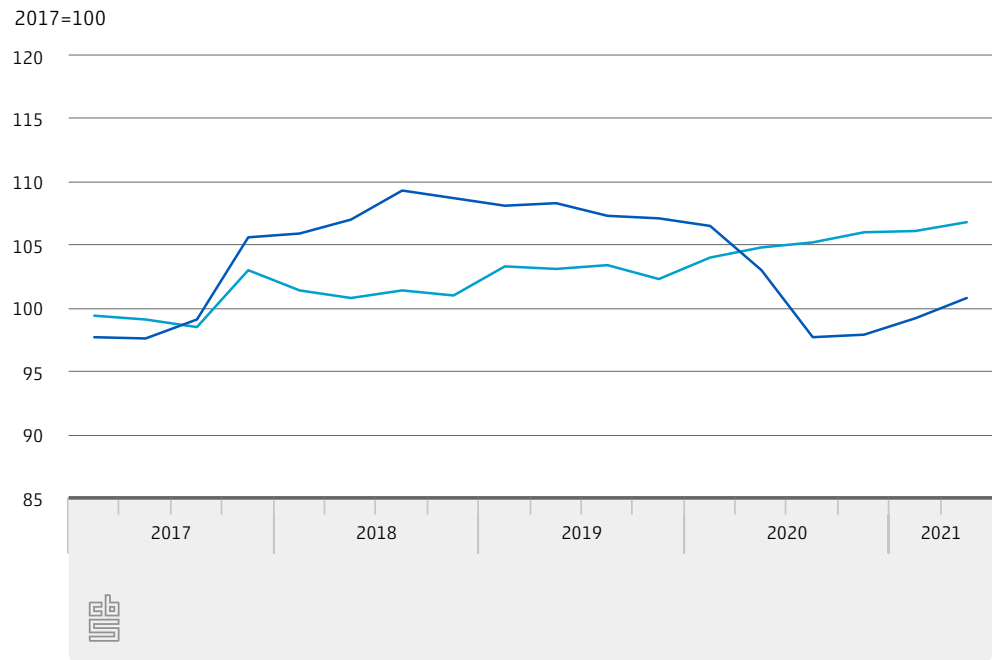


Prices of housing, water and energy dropped by 6.0 percent and communication prices by 6.1 percent. This was mainly caused by government subsidies on electricity, water and internet (relief measures in the context of the coronavirus epidemic).

1.9% rise in food and non-alcoholic drink prices in 2020



Consumer Price Index (CPI), Saba



Prices of furniture and household equipment increased by 5.3 percent, while those of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 1.9 percent. Prices of clothing and footwear went down by 3.5 percent.

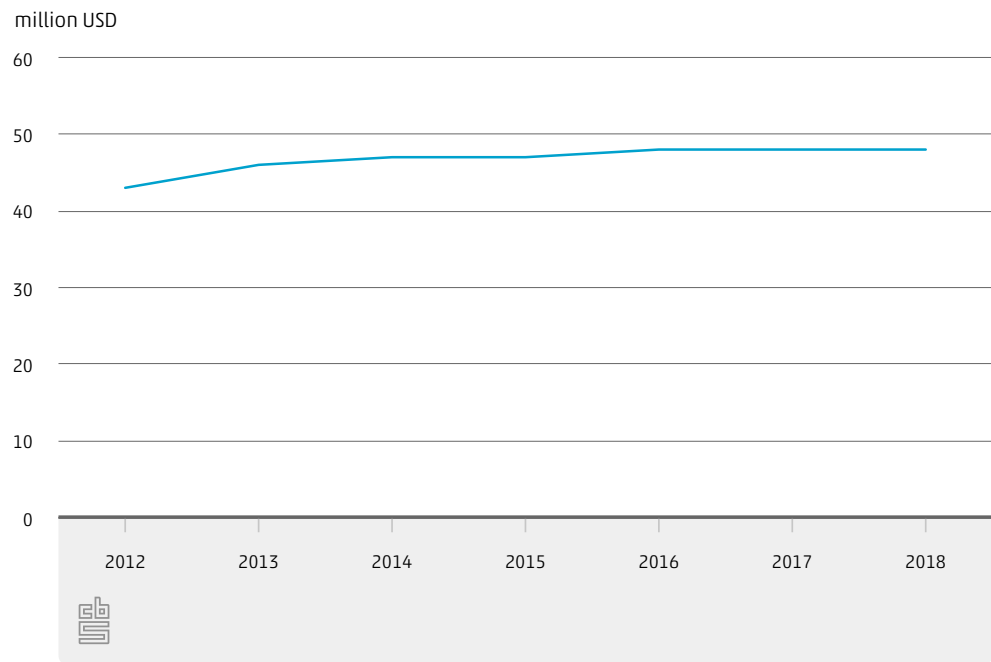
More information about the consumer price index (CPI) for Saba is available here:



Macroeconomics

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Saba was worth 48 million US dollars in 2018.¹⁾

Gross domestic product, Saba

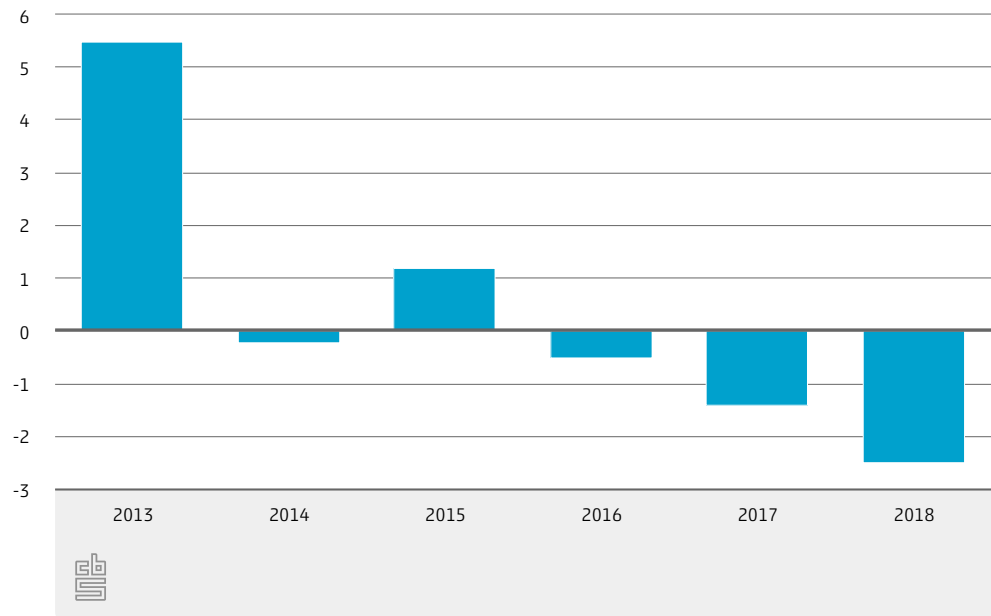


In volume terms, GDP decreased by 2.5 percent. The volume growth of GDP is calculated by adjusting value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index.

¹⁾ Statistics Netherlands publishes GDP figures for the Caribbean Netherlands two years following the reporting period. Earlier publication has not been feasible due to data availability.

GDP volume growth, Saba

year-on-year % change



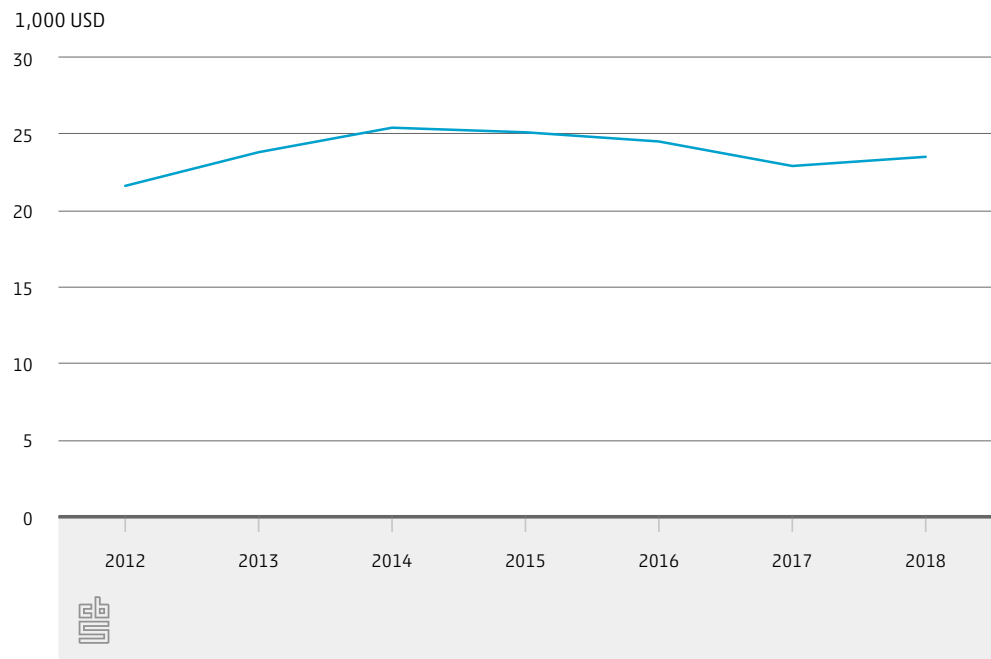
The contraction was caused by the effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria. Inbound tourism by sea and air dropped in 2018. This diminished the gross value added of the accommodation and food services sector. The education sector shrank as well, due to a declining number of students in 2018 relative to the previous year.

GDP per capita rose slightly from 22.9 thousand US dollars in 2017 to 23.5 thousand US dollars in 2018.

23,500 USD was the GDP
per capita in 2018



GDP per capita, Saba



More information on the Gross Domestic Product of Saba is available here:



Definitions

Gross domestic product (market prices) (GDP):

The final result of productive activities of production units in the Netherlands. It equals the sum of value added in all sectors of industry, and includes some transactions that are not classified by sector of industry.

Volume change:

The weighted average of the changes in the volume and quality of the parts of particular goods or service transactions or the value added.

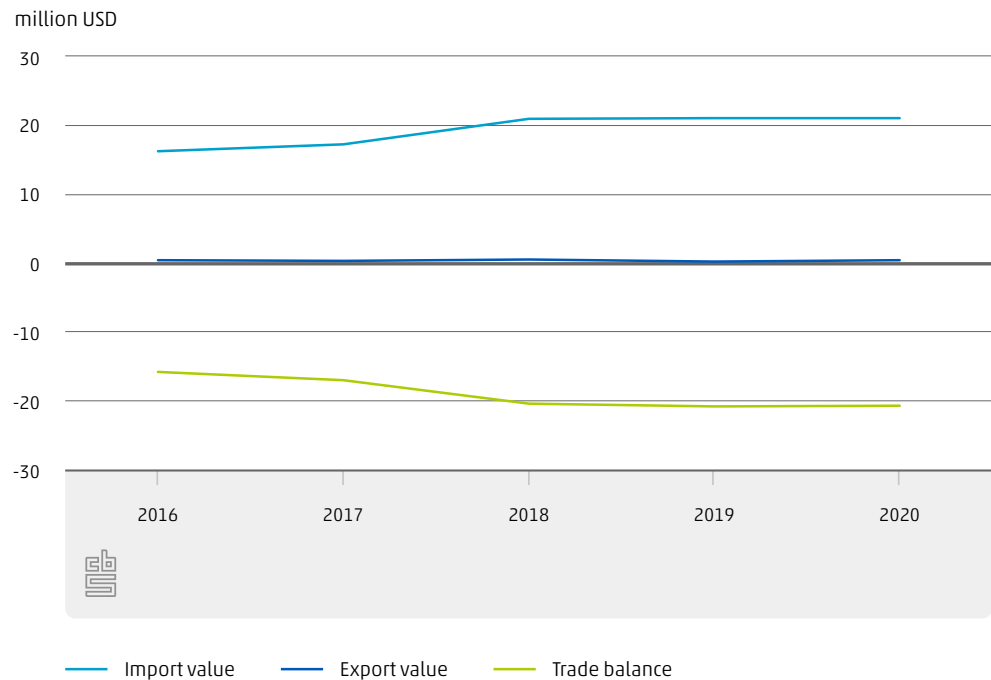
GDP per capita (as defined by Eurostat):

The indicator is calculated as the ratio of real GDP to the average population of a specific year.

International trade

Since little manufacturing or production takes place on Saba, most goods need to be imported. In 2020, Saba's trade figures were comparable to those of 2019. Goods imports (21 million US dollars) remained virtually unchanged, while exports increased by 0.2 million US dollars. On balance, Saba's trade deficit (21 million US dollars) decreased by 1 percent in 2020.

Imports and exports of goods, Saba



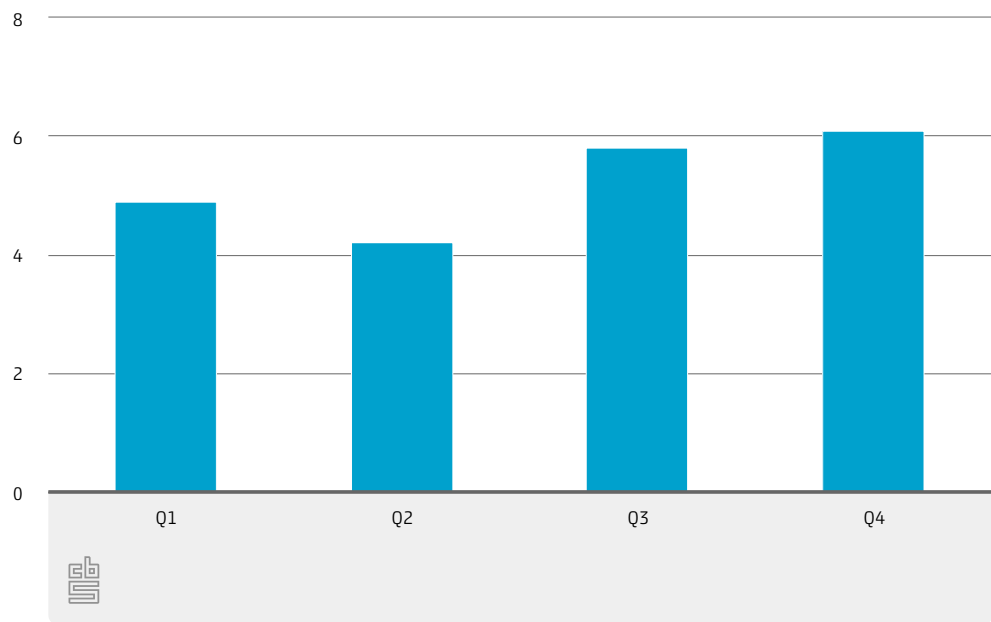
21 million US dollars was the value of imports on Saba in 2020



There are no indications that Saba's slightly smaller trade deficit in 2020 is directly related to the coronavirus crisis. Furthermore, in the separate quarters of 2020 there were no significant decreases in the numbers of customs declarations compared to the same quarters in 2019. Goods imports into Saba reached their highest value (6 million US dollars) in the fourth quarter and their lowest value (4 million US dollars) in the second quarter of 2020.

Imports of goods, Saba, 2020

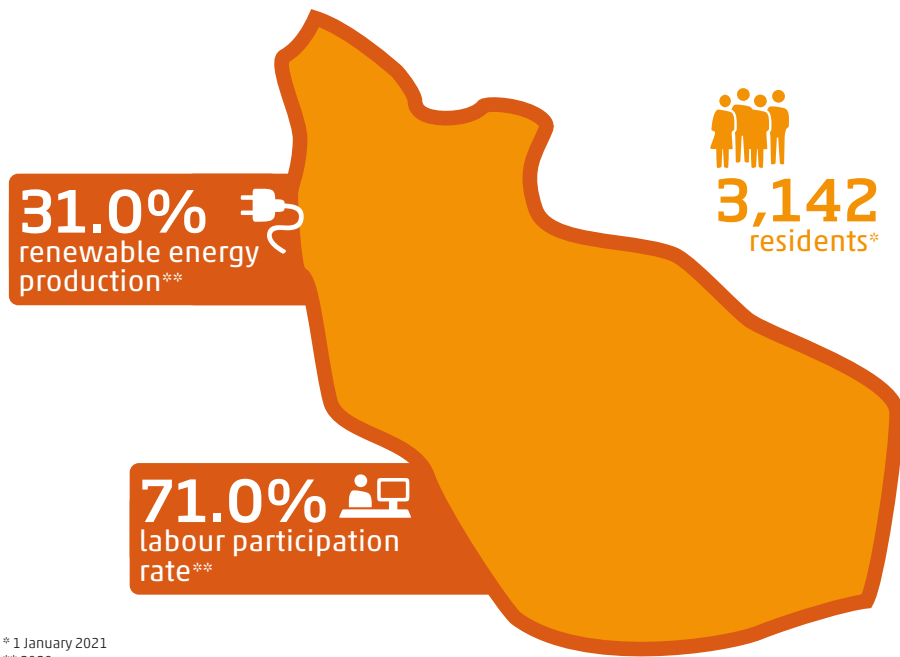
million USD



More information about international trade on Saba is available here:



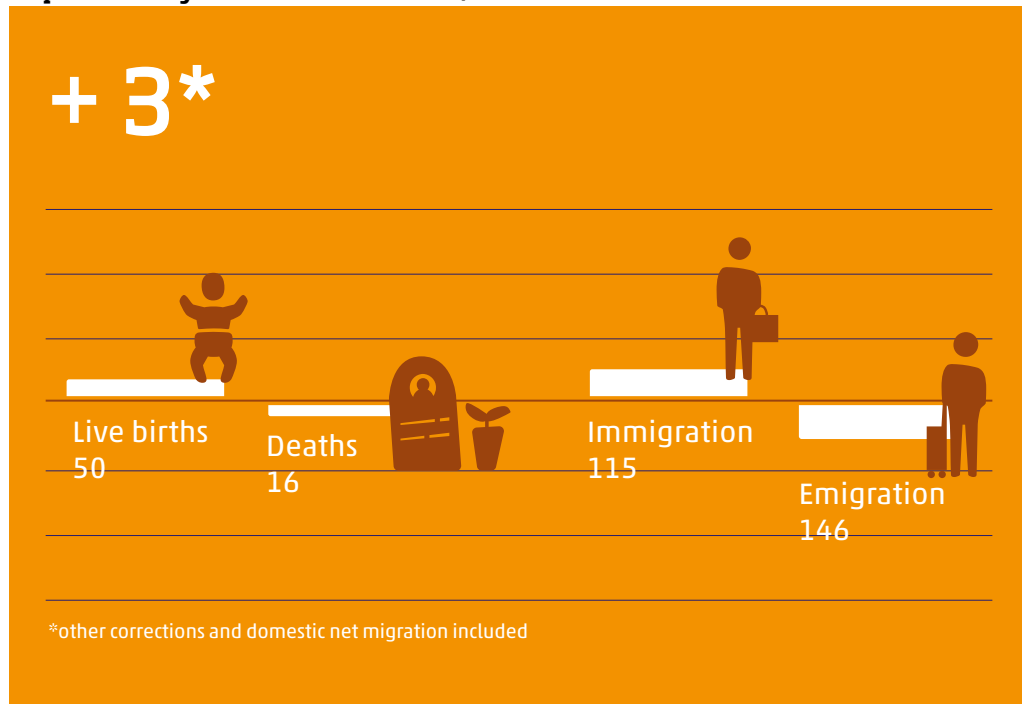
3 St Eustatius



* 1 January 2021
** 2020

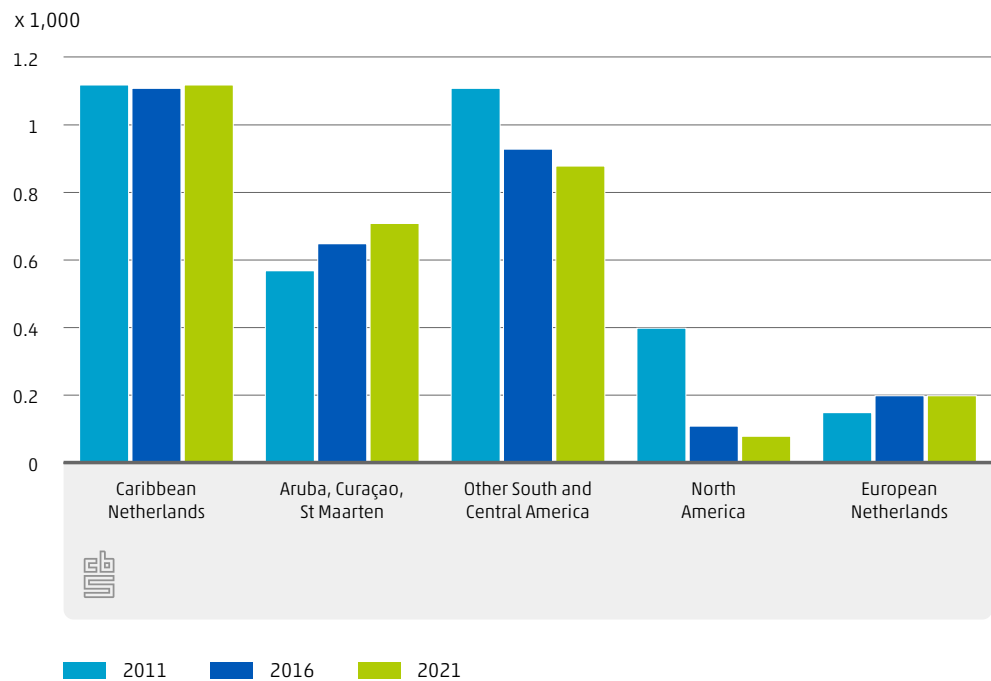
Population

Population dynamics St Eustatius, 2020



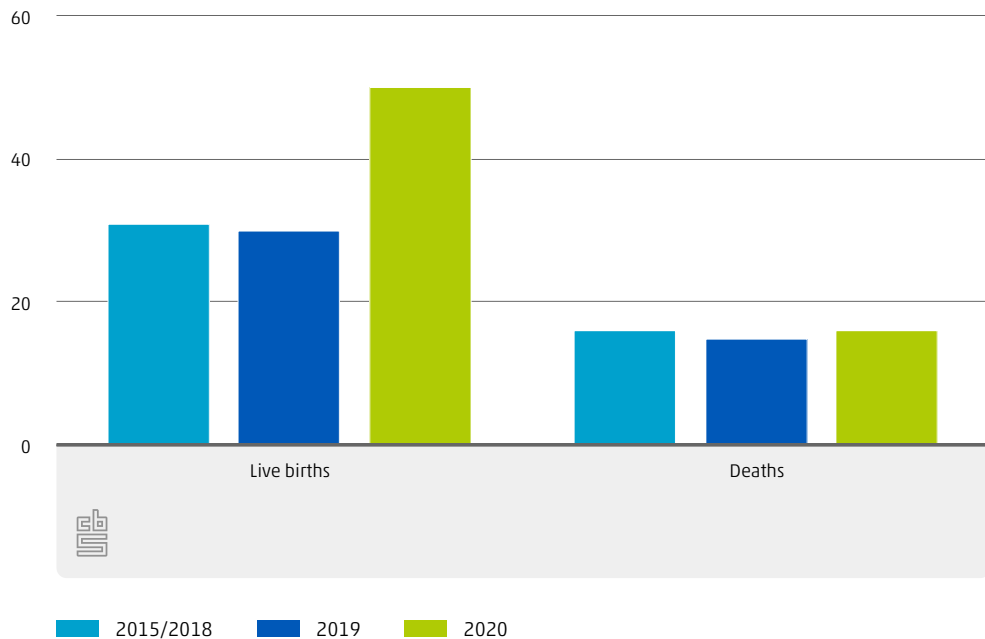
Immigration halved in 2020

Population by region of birth, 1 January, St Eustatius



On St Eustatius, the number of inhabitants did not change much in 2020. On 1 January 2021, St Eustatius counted 3,142 inhabitants. This is 469 fewer than in 2011. The number of residents born in the Caribbean Netherlands (1.1 thousand, almost all of them born on the island – has not changed over the past decade. The population decline mainly concerned persons born in the United States; due to clean-ups of the population register, the records of US-born persons showed they had moved back to their home country.

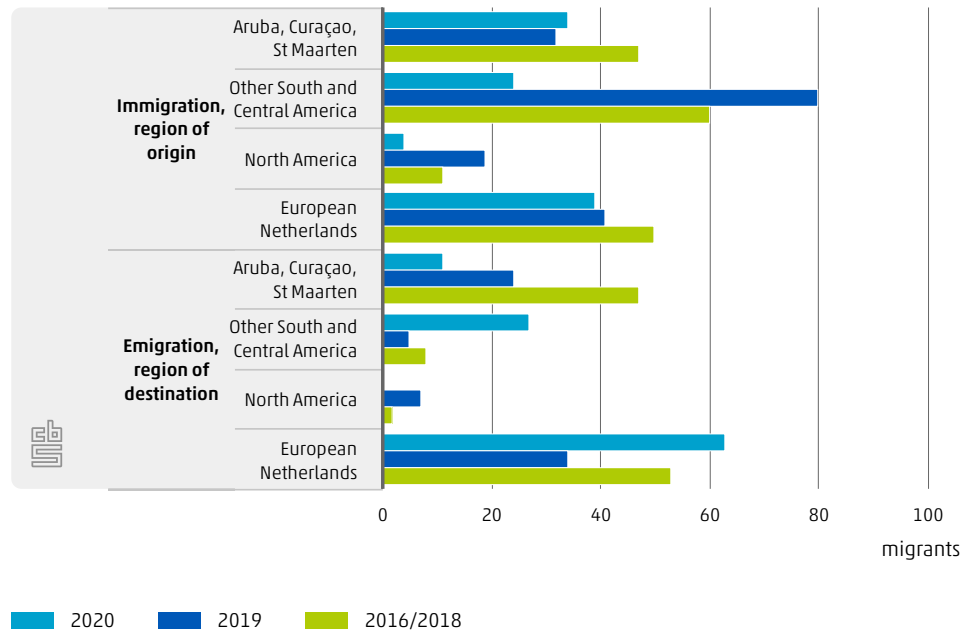
Live births and number of deaths, St Eustatius



In 2020, the total number of live births was relatively high: 50, up from 30 in 2019 and an average of 32 in the period 2015–2019. The birth rate on St Eustatius increased most notably among inhabitants in their thirties. The reason for this increase has not been investigated. A possible explanation is that, due to coronavirus measures, women were more likely to give birth on St Eustatius itself rather than on St Maarten. Mortality in 2020 was comparable to the preceding five years. On average 17 deaths were recorded on Statia each year.

66% more births on Statia
in 2020

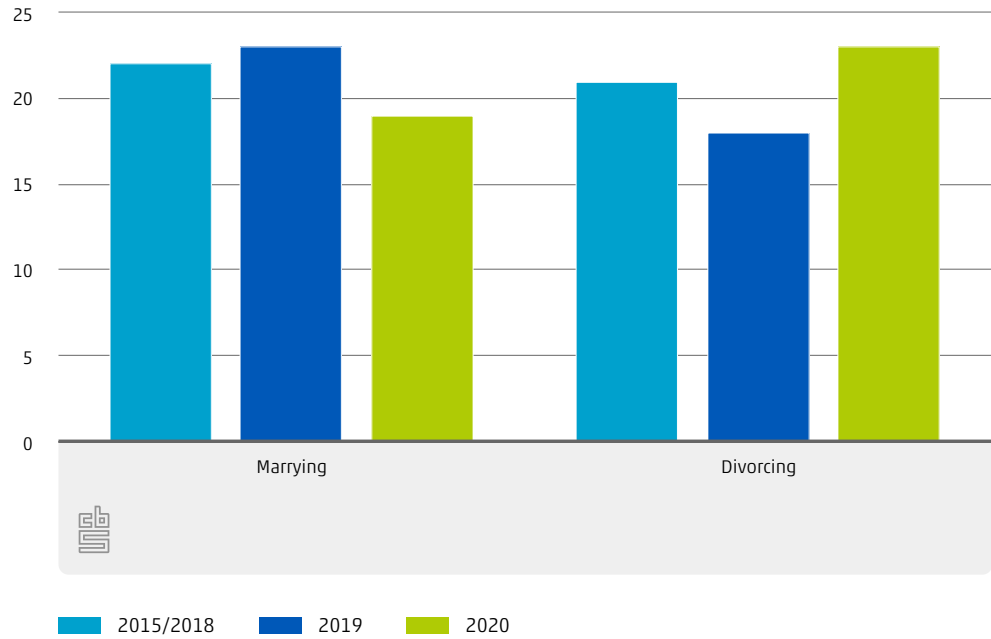
External migration by region of origin/destination, St Eustatius



Overall, net migration was negative. Compared to previous years, immigration was nearly halved: from around 200 on average to 115 in 2020. The drop in immigration was seen among multiple origin countries, mostly the Dominican Republic. Emigration rose from around 90 in 2016–2019 to 115 in 2020.

50% fewer immigrants in 2020

Marrying and divorcing persons, St Eustatius



In 2020 19 inhabitants of St Eustatius married. This is slightly less than in 2019 and the average for the period 2015–2018 (23 and 22 persons respectively).

St Eustatius: Less thirty+ population due to cleansing of register.

More information about the population of St Eustatius is available here:

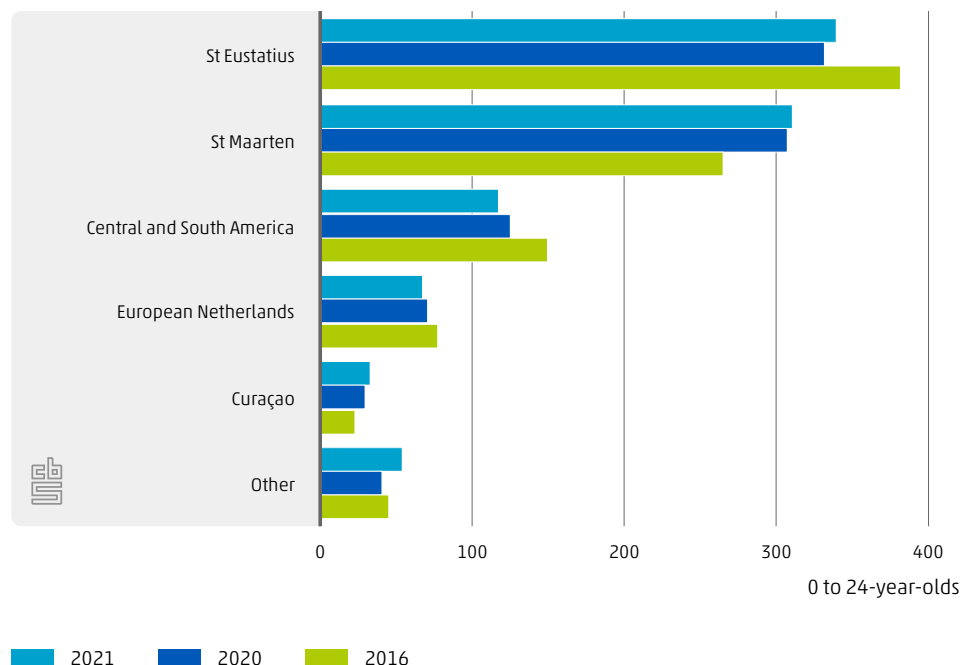


Youth

Almost 4 in 10 young people were born on St Eustatius

In early 2021, St Eustatius had more than 900 young residents (0 to 24 years). Almost 4 in 10 were born on the island. An approximately equal proportion of the young people were born on St Maarten, partly due to better childbirth facilities on this island. In addition, 13 percent of the young residents were born in Central or South America, 7 percent in the European Netherlands and 4 percent on Curaçao. Half of those from Central or South America were born in the Dominican Republic. Relative to early 2020, a small decrease was seen in the number of young people born in Central or South America, and a small increase in the number born on St Eustatius. Compared to five years ago, fewer children were born on St Eustatius, in Central or South America or in the European Netherlands; more were born on St Maarten and Curaçao.

Young residents by region of birth, 1 January, St Eustatius

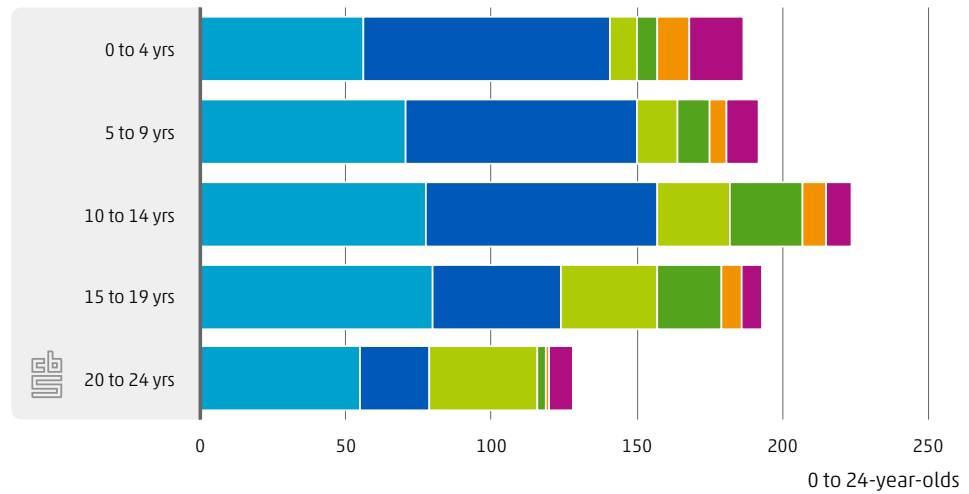


The number of young adults (20 to 24 years) on the island is relatively small compared to the younger age categories. This is partly due to migration processes. In the category 20–24 years, the numbers born on St Eustatius, St Maarten, European Netherlands and Curaçao are smaller than in the younger categories, while a larger number was born in Central or South America.

924 residents of St Eustatius are between 0 and 24 years old



Young residents by region of birth, 1 January 2021, St Eustatius



More information about youth on St Eustatius is available here:



Please also visit also our Youth Monitor with information on the Caribbean Netherlands:

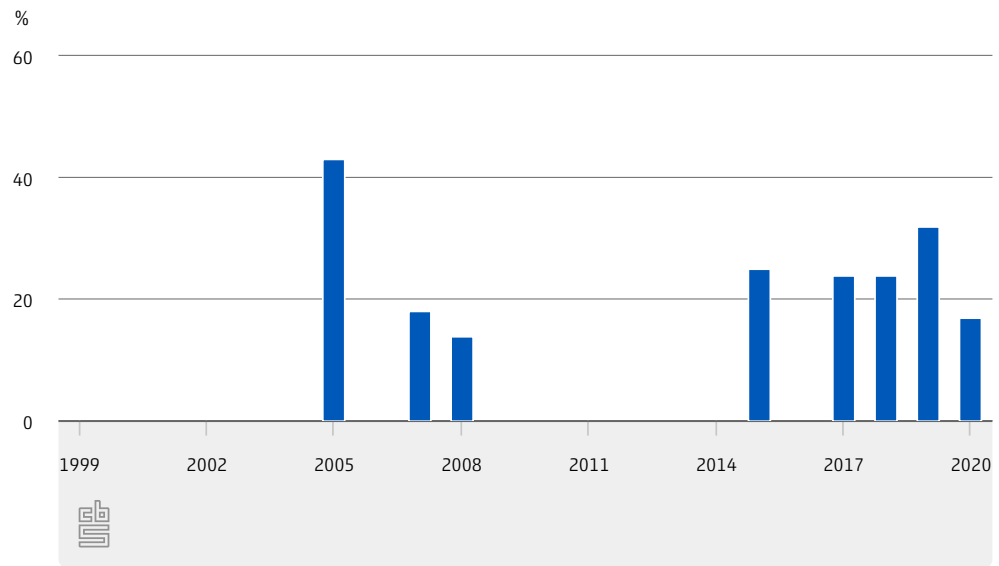


Nature

Reef Health Index

The health of coral reefs is measured through the Reef Health Index on a scale from 1 (critical) to 5 (very good). The index is determined by coral cover, microalgae cover (growing partly on the corals), herbivorous fish (that eat algae) and, large groupers and snappers (that eat smaller fish).

Fleshy macroalgae cover ¹⁾, St Eustatius

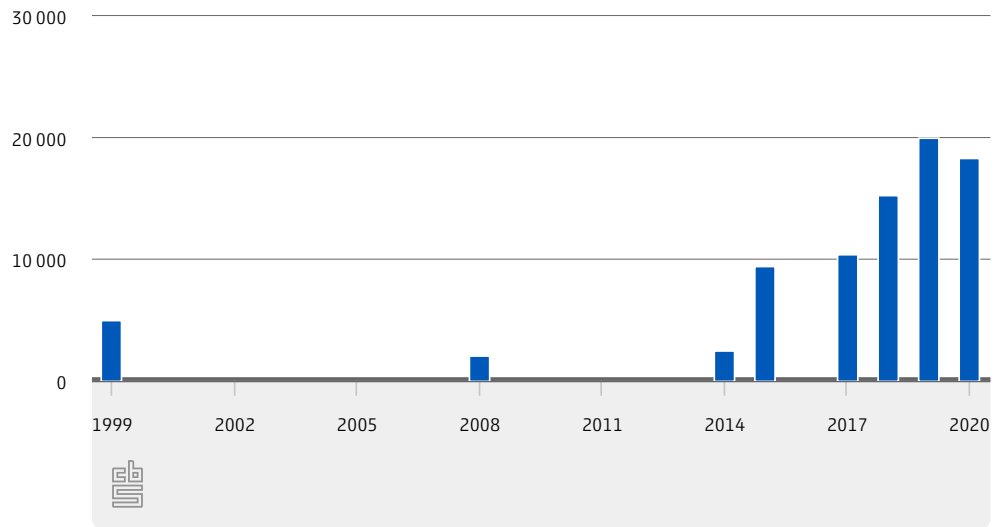


Source: Kitson-Walters, K. (the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality & CNSI-NIOZ) and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

¹⁾ No data available for 1999 to 2004, 2006, 2009 to 2014 and 2016

Herbivorous fish mainly consist of parrotfish and surgeonfish.

Key herbivorous fish ¹⁾, St Eustatius

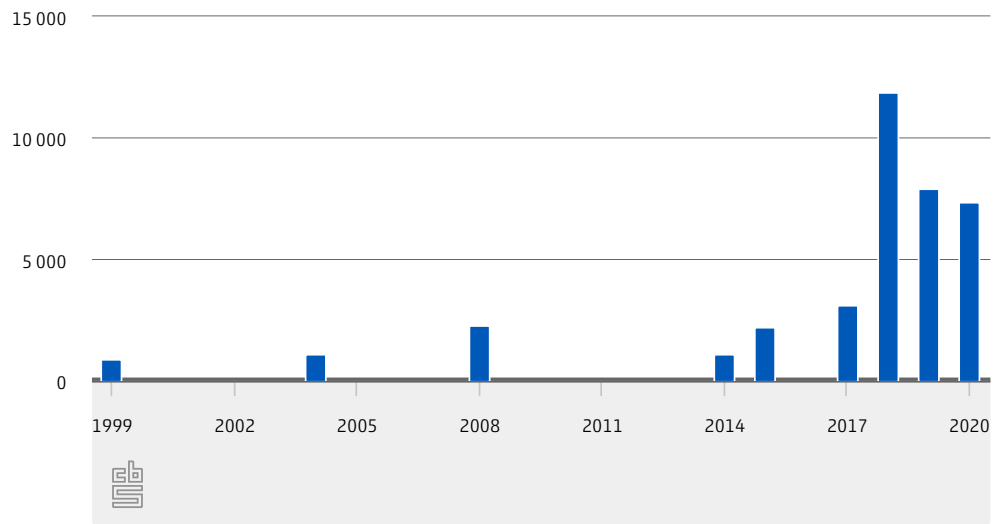


Source: Kitson-Walters, K. (the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality & CNSI-NIOZ) and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

¹⁾ No data available for 2000 to 2007, 2009 to 2013 and 2016

Groupers and snappers are commercially important fish species for human consumption.

Key commercial fish ¹⁾, St Eustatius

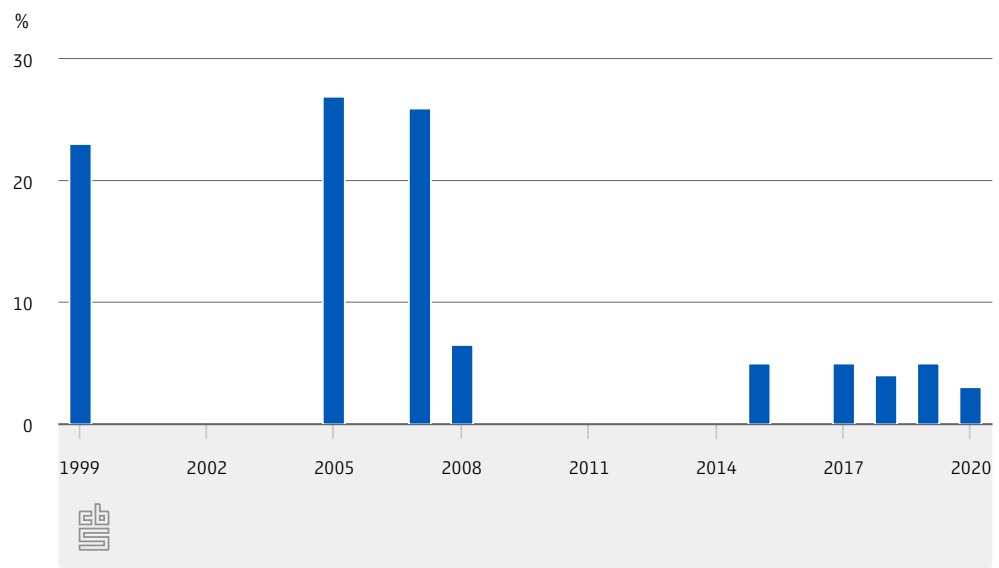


Source: Kitson-Walters, K. (the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality & CNSI-NIOZ) and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

¹⁾ No data available for 2000 to 2003, 2005 to 2007, 209 to 2013 and 2016

The coral cover has declined sharply since 1999.

Coral Cover ¹⁾, St Eustatius



Source: Kitson-Walters, K. (the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality & CNSI-NIOZ) and Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

¹⁾ No data available for 2000 to 2004, 2009, 2010 to 2014 and 2016

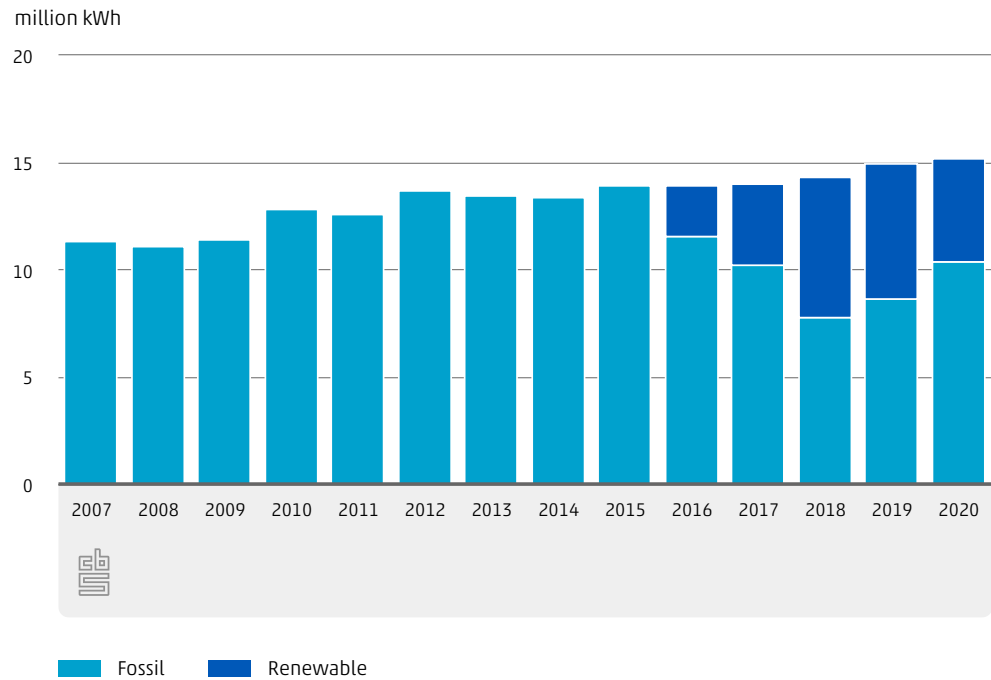
The Reef Health Index remained stable for the last four years and is considered fair due to the 'very good' biomass levels of key herbivorous fish and commercially important fish. The health of the coral reefs themselves is critically low.

More information about the reef health index of St Eustatius is available here:



Energy and water

Electricity production, St Eustatius



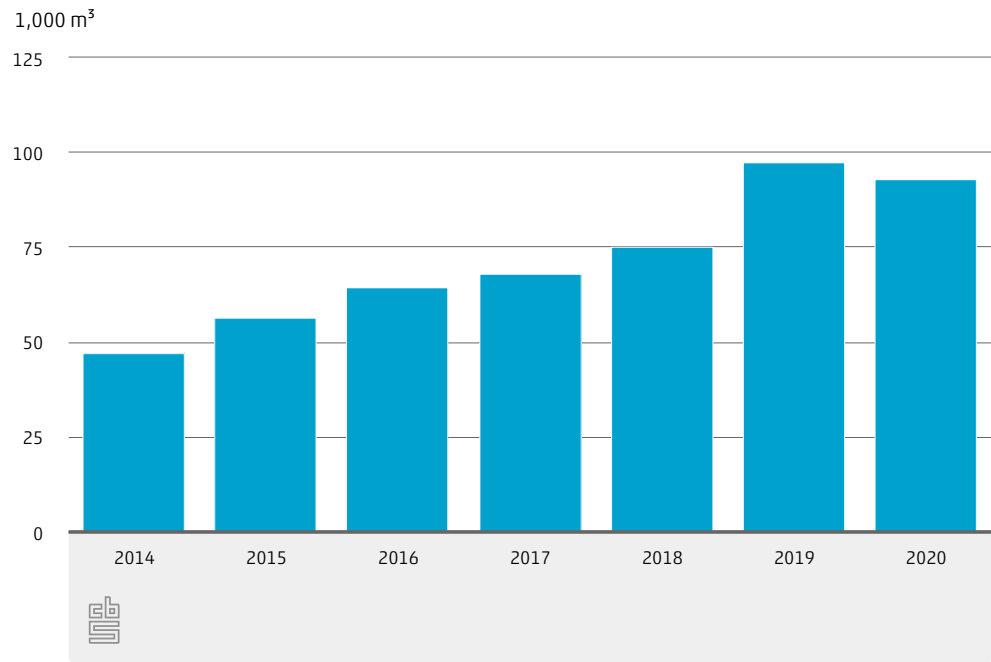
Over a period of fourteen years, electricity production on St. Eustatius increased by 34 percent, from 11.3 million kilowatt hours (kWh) in 2007 to 15.2 million kilowatt hours in 2020. Of the total electricity production in 2020, 4.8 million kilowatt hours (31 percent) came from renewable sources. In 2019 the share of renewable electricity production was 41.9 percent and this was generated by solar panels.

The generation of sustainable energy started in 2016 when the first solar farm was constructed. In November 2017 that farm was expanded, resulting in a doubling of solar electricity production.

31% share of renewable
electricity production in 2020



Water production, St Eustatius



In 2020, water production on St Eustatius was 0.0931 million cubic metres (m³). In 2014 the total was just 0.0473 million cubic metres, so this represents an increase of 97 percent over a 7-year period. In 2020 water production decreased by 0.0042 million cubic metres on 2019. Normally, water production increases every year. One explanation for the decrease could be that, due to the lockdown, no tourists were able to visit St. Eustatius during most of 2020.

More information about water and electricity production on St Eustatius is available here:



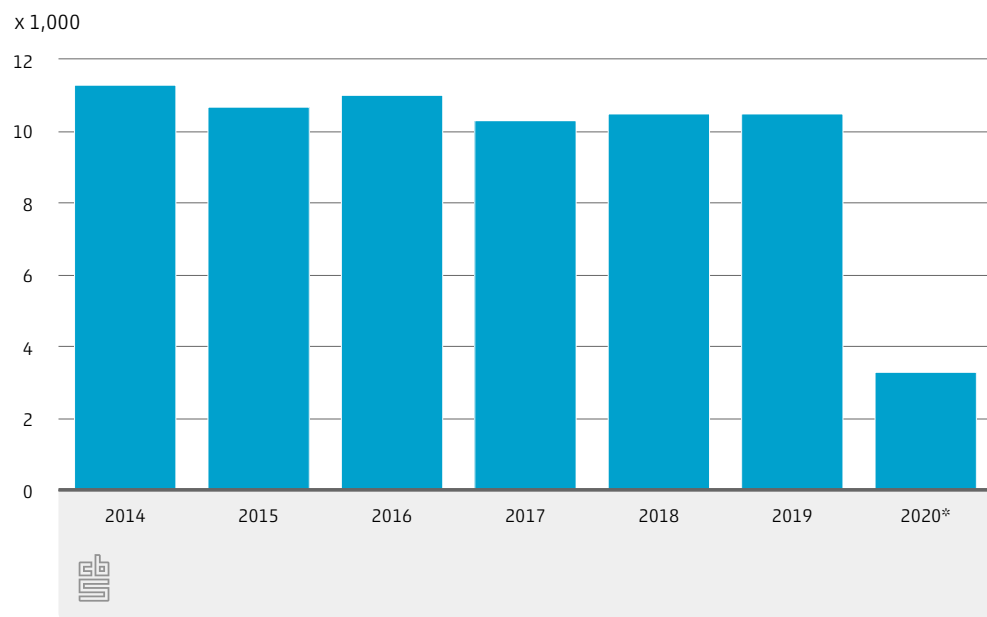
Tourism and transport

In 2020, the number of visitors (non-residents) arriving by air on St Eustatius stood at 3.3 thousand. This represents a decrease of 69 percent on 2019. After two normal months, the tourism sector on St Eustatius was clearly affected by the coronavirus crisis. From April through October, hardly any visitors arrived on St Eustatius. The main countries of origin of the visitors by air in 2020 were the European Netherlands (22 percent) and Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten (31 percent). In December 2020, F.D. Roosevelt Airport was given a new hub function enabling direct flights between Bonaire and St Eustatius next to its connection to and from St Maarten. St Eustatius does not have a regular ferry connection with St Maarten.

3.3 thousand visitor arrivals by air
only in 2020

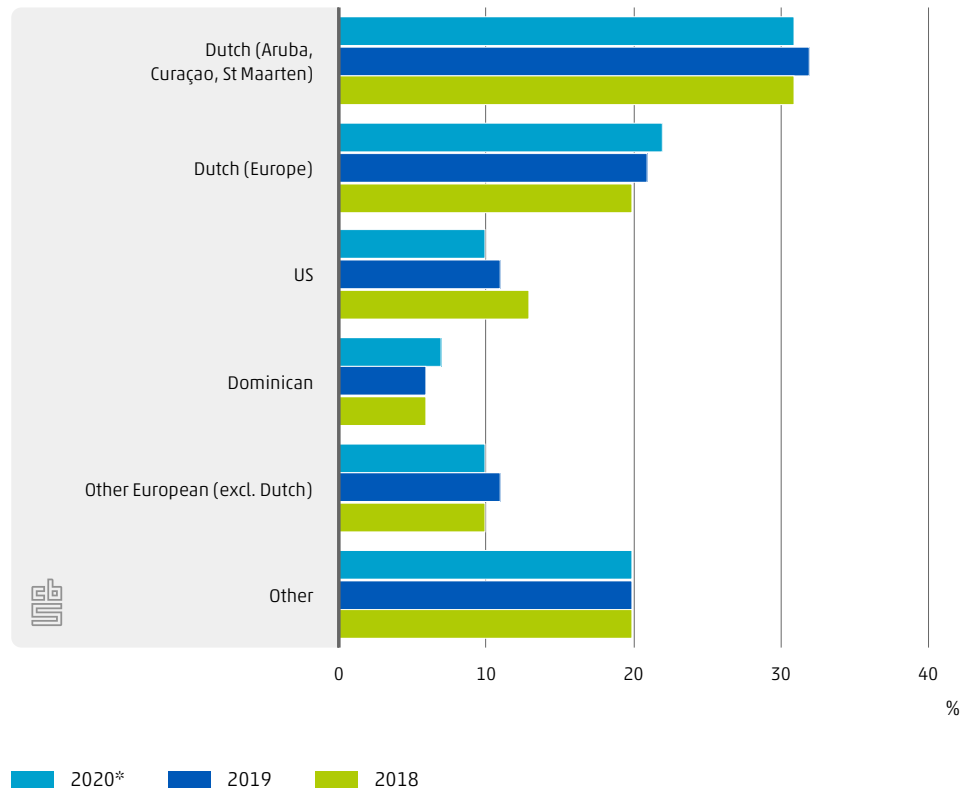


Visitors by air, St Eustatius



* Provisional figures

Visitors by air to St Eustatius, by nationality



* Provisional figures

More information about inbound tourism by air on St Eustatius is available here:

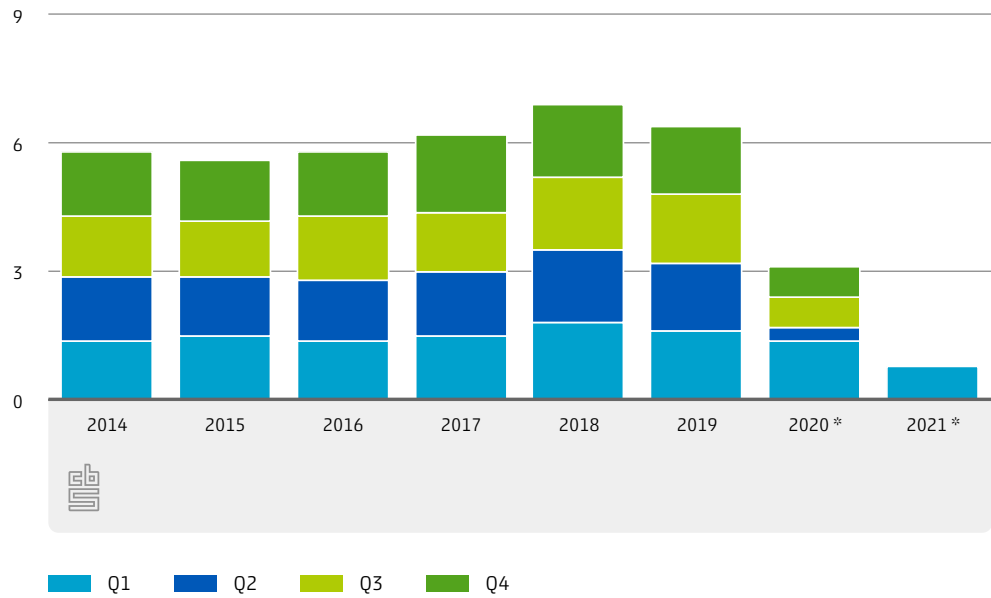


Traffic and Transport

In 2020, there were 3.0 thousand aircraft movements to and from St Eustatius, down 53 percent on the previous year. The number of passengers visiting St Eustatius in 2020 declined even further, by 68 percent. Air traffic on St Eustatius was halted for some time due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the fourth quarter of 2020, air traffic decreased by 59 percent on the previous year. In that quarter, the number of passengers also remained far behind (82 percent) the level of one year previously.

Aircraft movements on St Eustatius

x 1,000



* Provisional figures

More information about monthly airport data on St Eustatius is available here:



Labour

In 2020, the size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on St Eustatius was 2.4 thousand, with 71.0 percent in employment. Male labour force participation was slightly above average: 71.8 percent, against 70.1 percent of the women. Participation was relatively low among young people. Two-thirds (65.6 percent) of the lower educated were in employment, versus 78.8 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 89.8 percent of the highly educated.

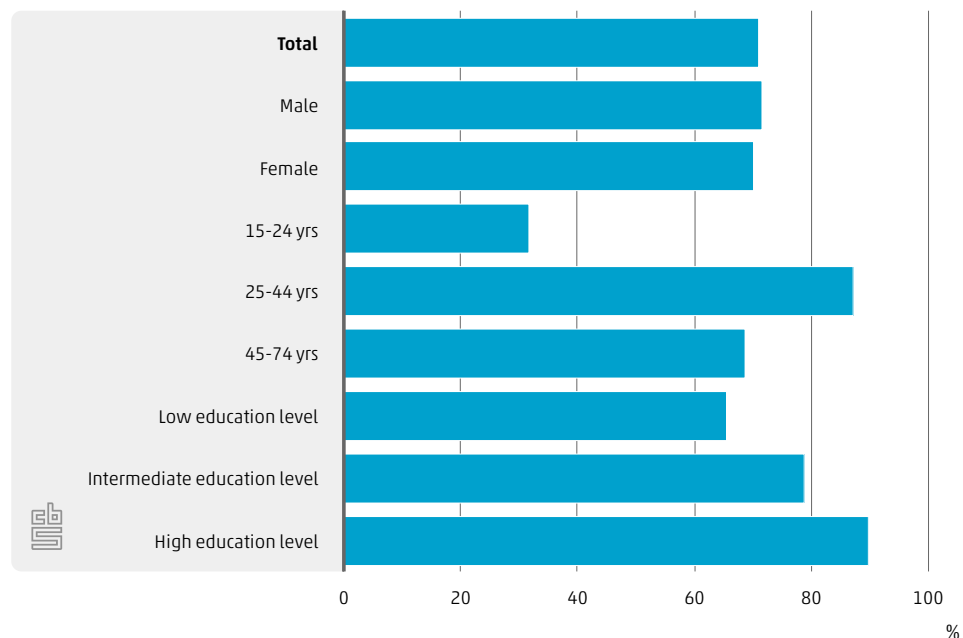
In 2020, Statia's unemployment rate was 2.3 percent of the labour force, equivalent to 40 unemployed.

71.0% of the 2.4 thousand
in the Statian labour force are employed

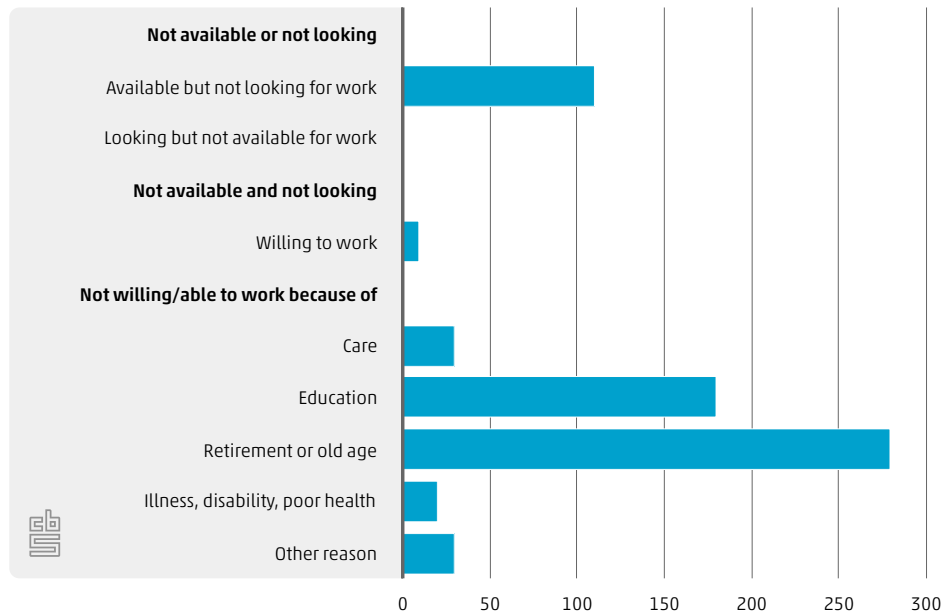


Of all Statian residents, 660 were not in the local labour force. They were not looking for work or not immediately available; in most cases, a combination of both. A large group (42 percent) were those not prepared or unable to work due to old age or retirement. At 27 percent, education was also an important reason for local – mainly young – residents not to be working. Other, smaller groups include those unable to work due to a disability or poor health (3 percent) or people who have to take care of a family (4 percent).

Net labour participation (15 to 74 yrs), St Eustatius, 2020

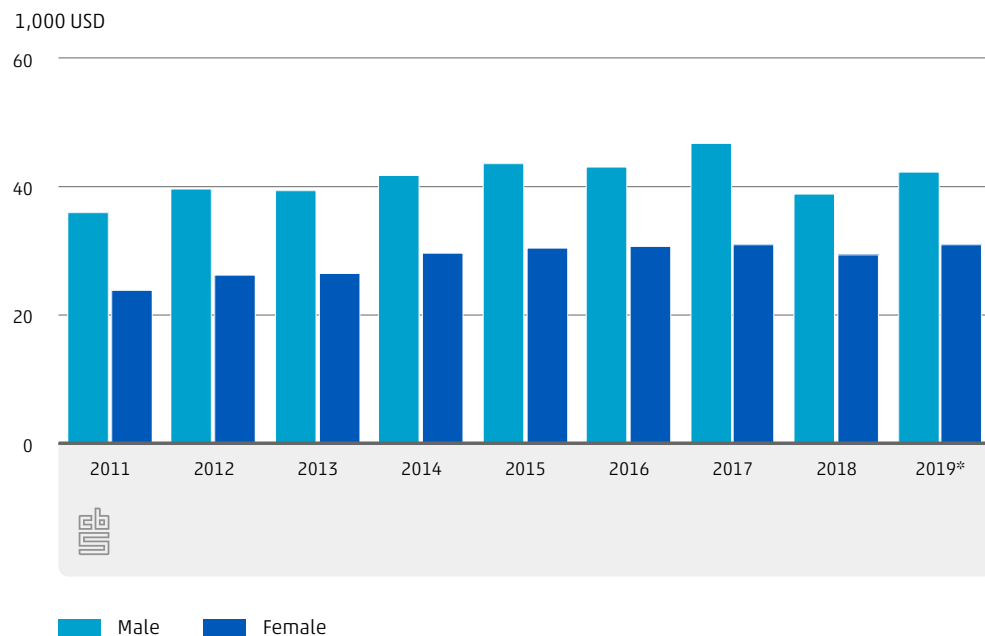


Population not in labour force (15 to 74 yrs), St Eustatius, 2020



The average annual wage of employee jobs on St Eustatius was 36.4 thousand US dollars in 2019. This is 7 percent more compared with 2018. Women's wages were 26 percent lower than men's. Over a third of employee jobs (36 percent) had earnings less than 20 thousand US dollars.

Average annual wage of employee jobs, St Eustatius



* Provisional figures

More information about jobs and wages on St Eustatius is available here:

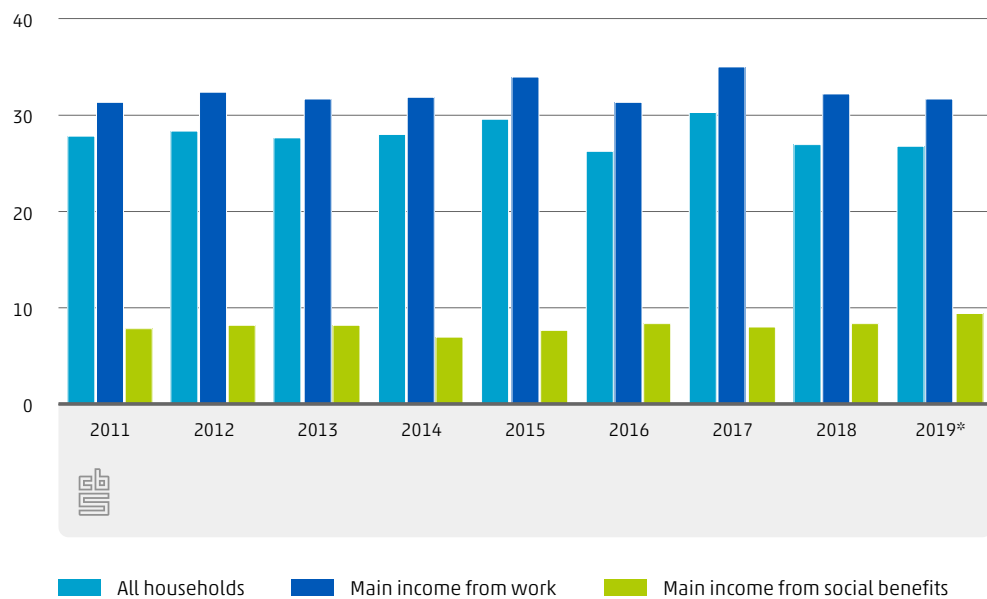


Income

Households on St Eustatius have the highest median disposable income of the Caribbean Netherlands. In 2019, households in median had 26.9 thousand US dollars to spend. This was 3.5 thousand US dollars less than in 2017, when the median income was at its peak. The same pattern is visible among households with incomes primarily from labour. Peaking at 35.1 thousand US dollars in 2017, their median income dropped to 31.8 thousand US dollars in 2019. The median income for households receiving social benefits grew substantially in 2019, to 9.5 thousand US dollars.

Median disposable household income, St Eustatius

1,000 USD (in prices of 2019)



* Provisional figures

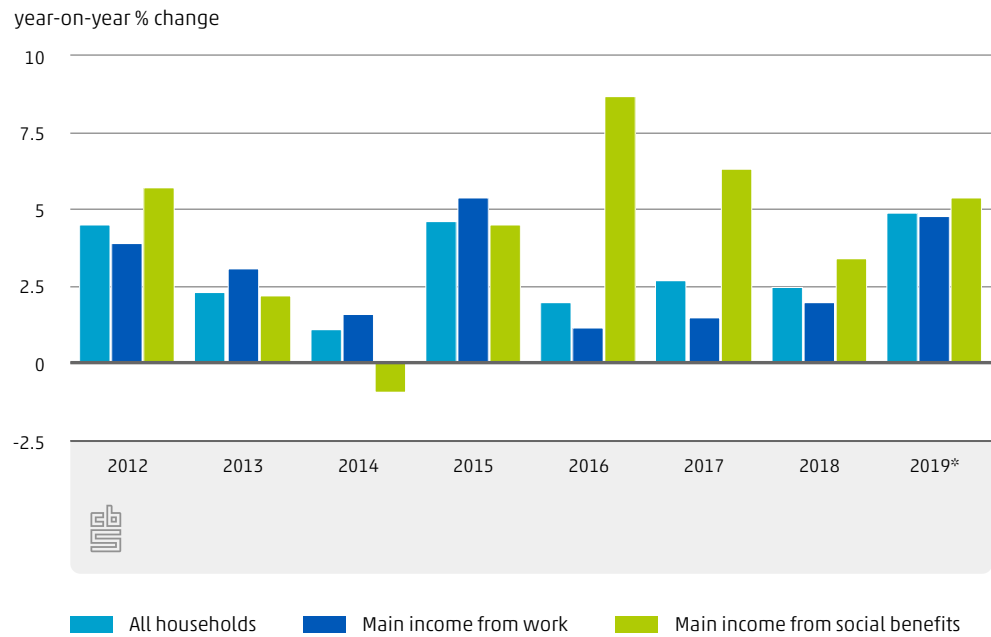
More information about the income of households on St Eustatius is available here:



Purchasing power development

The purchasing power for people on St Eustatius has increased each year since 2012. In 2019 the median growth of 4.9 percent was at its highest level, as wages increased and both minimum wages and social benefits received a structural increase of 5.0 percent on top of the regular indexation. For working people, the purchasing power rose by 4.8 percent in 2019. People in households on social benefits saw the greatest improvement: their median purchasing power rose by 5.4 percent. Fewer than 1 out of 6 persons in this group were negatively affected.

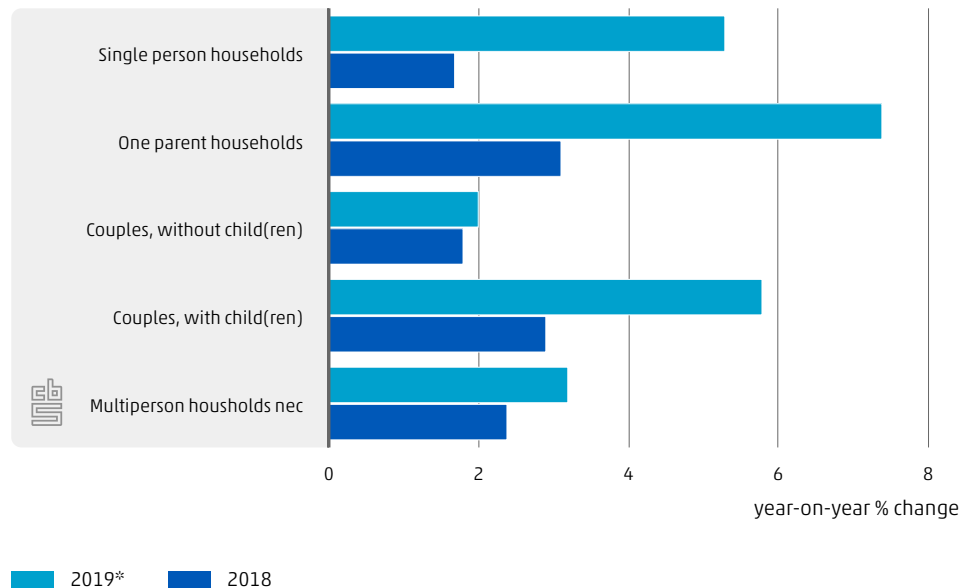
Median purchasing power development, St Eustatius



* Provisional figures

In 2019, as in the previous year, the median purchasing power grew for every type of household. Due to a higher child benefit, people in households with (minor) children gained the most. One-parent households experienced the largest growth in spending power, namely 7.4 percent. Fewer than 1 out of 3 persons in these households were negatively affected. Among couples with children, the purchasing power increased by 5.8 percent.

Median purchasing power development by household composition, St Eustatius



* Provisional figures

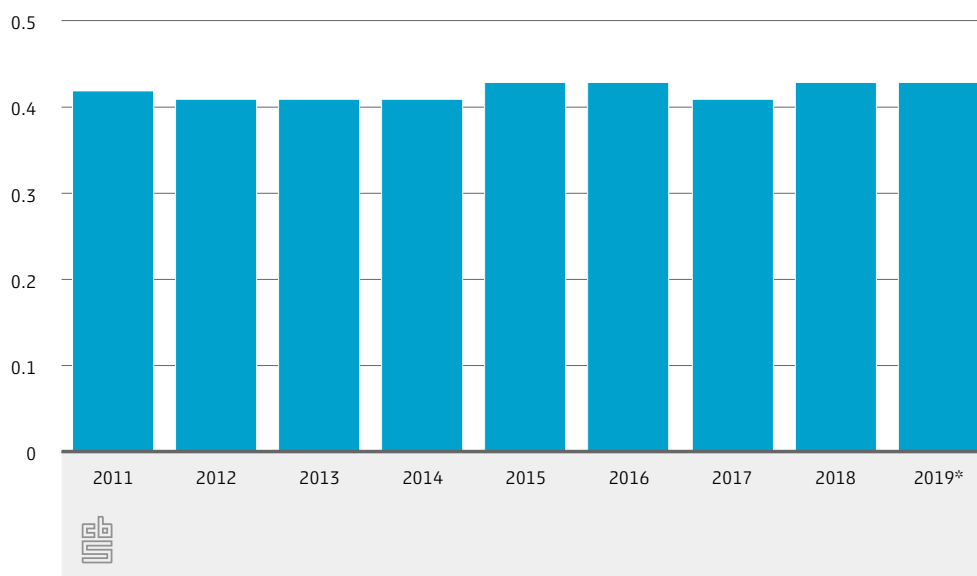
More information about the purchasing power on St Eustatius is available here:



Income inequality

St Eustatius has the largest income inequality of the three islands. In 2019 the Gini coefficient had a value of 0.43. In terms of the Gini coefficient 0 means total equality: every household has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one household has all the income, the rest has none. In the period 2011 to 2014 and in 2017, there was less income inequality than in the other years.

Gini coefficient, St Eustatius



* Provisional figures

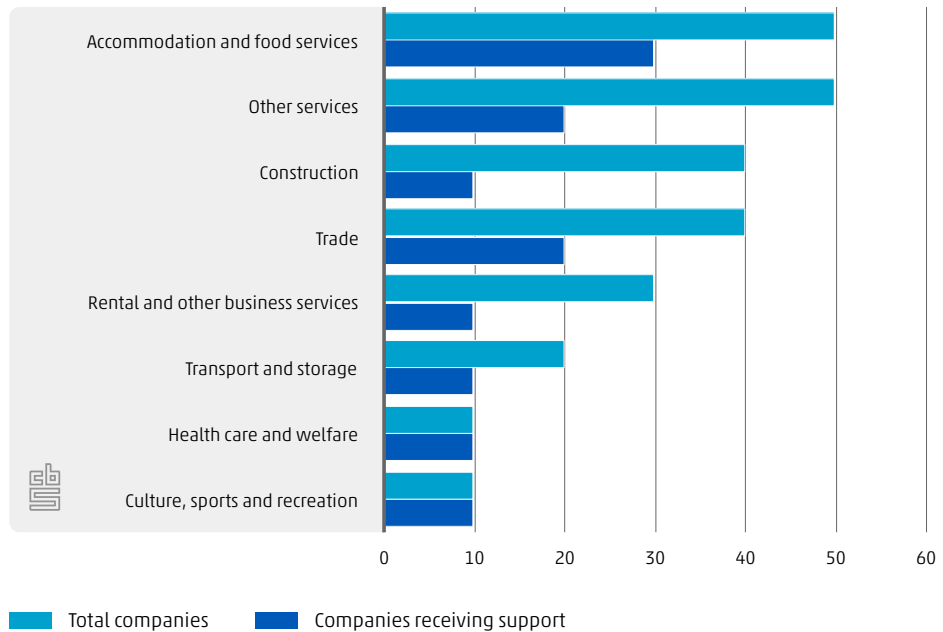
More information about the income inequality on St Eustatius is available here:



Support for companies

As of March 2020, a package of emergency measures has been in place in the Caribbean Netherlands to tackle the economic consequences of the coronavirus crisis. On St Eustatius, 47 percent of businesses availed of a financial contribution towards their wage costs and/or fixed charges last year, with a total of 2.7 million US dollars being paid out for wage costs and 0.7 million for fixed charges. Of all contributions, 19 percent were intended for the accommodation and food services sector.

Companies receiving support through the emergency package by sector, St Eustatius, 2020



Applications were made for wage and living cost allowances related to 320 jobs of both employees and self-employed. Almost one-fifth of these applications were made in the accommodation and food services sector.

More information about companies that received support via the emergency package on St Eustatius is available here:

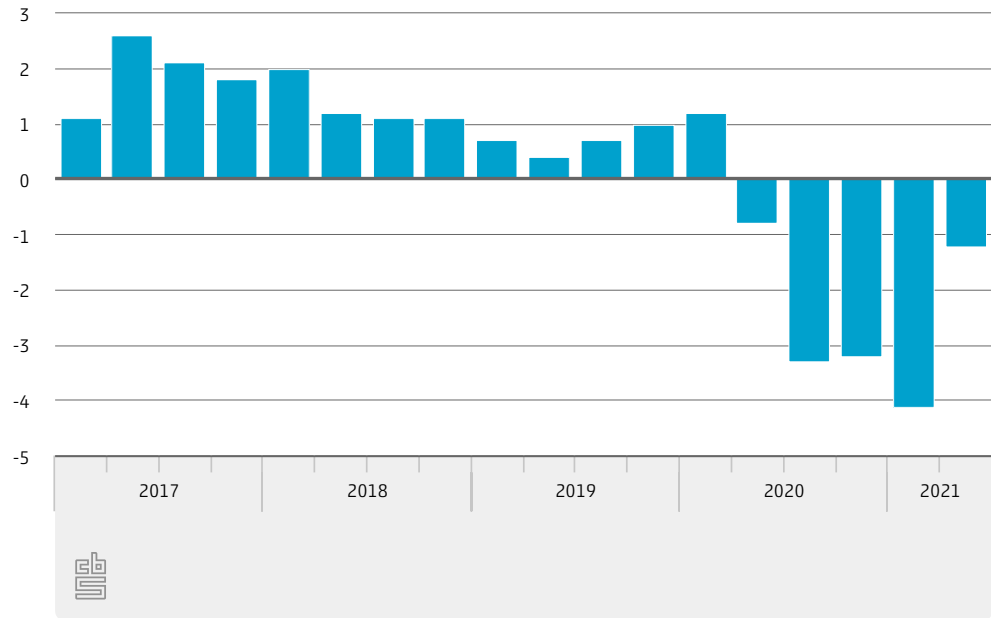


Consumer prices

In 2020, prices for consumer goods and services on St Eustatius fell by 1.5 percent compared to the previous year. Prices went up by 0.7 percent in 2019.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), St Eustatius

year-on-year % change

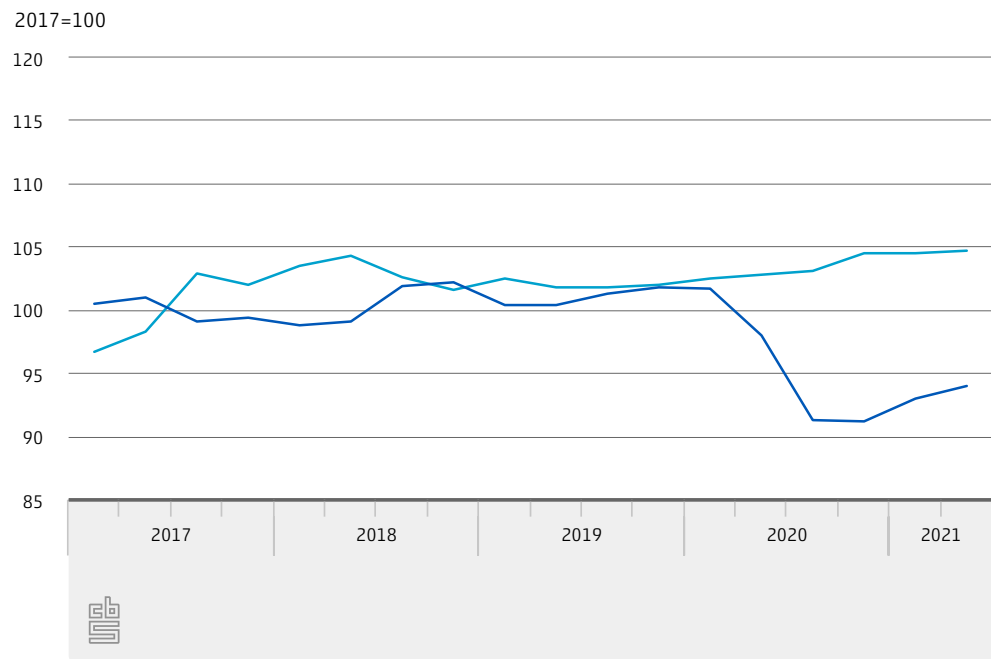


Prices of housing, water and energy dropped by 5.4 percent and communication prices by 9.2 percent. This was mainly caused mainly by government subsidies on electricity, water and internet (relief measures in the context of the coronavirus epidemic).

5.4% price drop for housing, water and energy on Statia in 2020



Consumer Price Index (CPI), St Eustatius



Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 1.2 percent whereas prices of clothing and footwear fell by 4.4 percent.

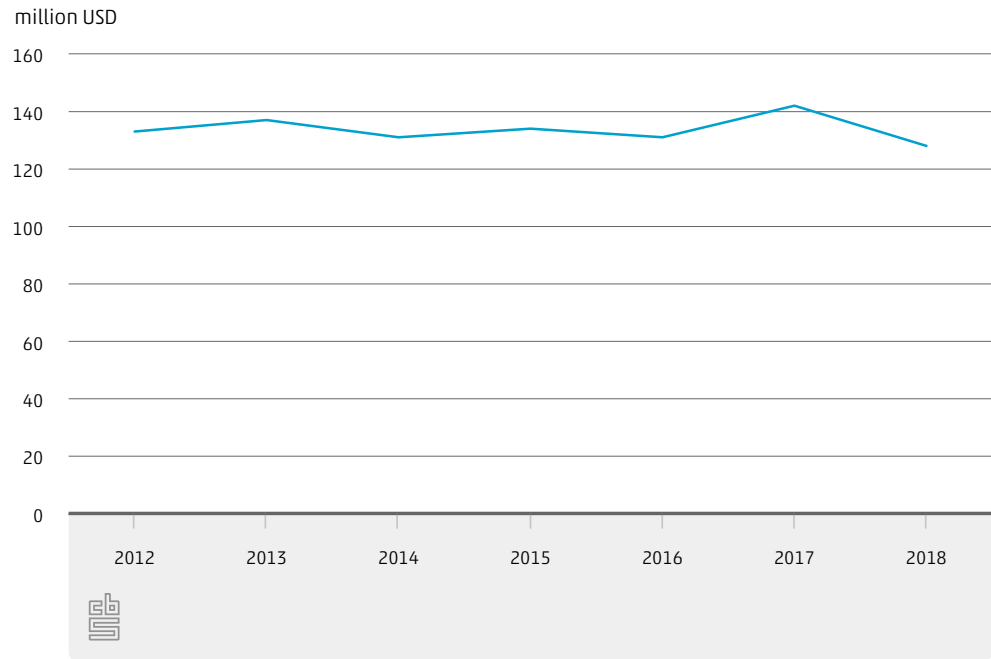
More information about the consumer price index (CPI) for St Eustatius is available here:



Macroeconomics

The gross domestic product (GDP) of St Eustatius contracted from 142 million US dollars in 2017 to 128 million US dollars in 2018.¹⁾ This represents an annual decrease of 9.8 percent.

Gross domestic product, St Eustatius



In volume terms, GDP decreased by 11.8 percent. The volume growth of GDP is calculated by adjusting value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index.

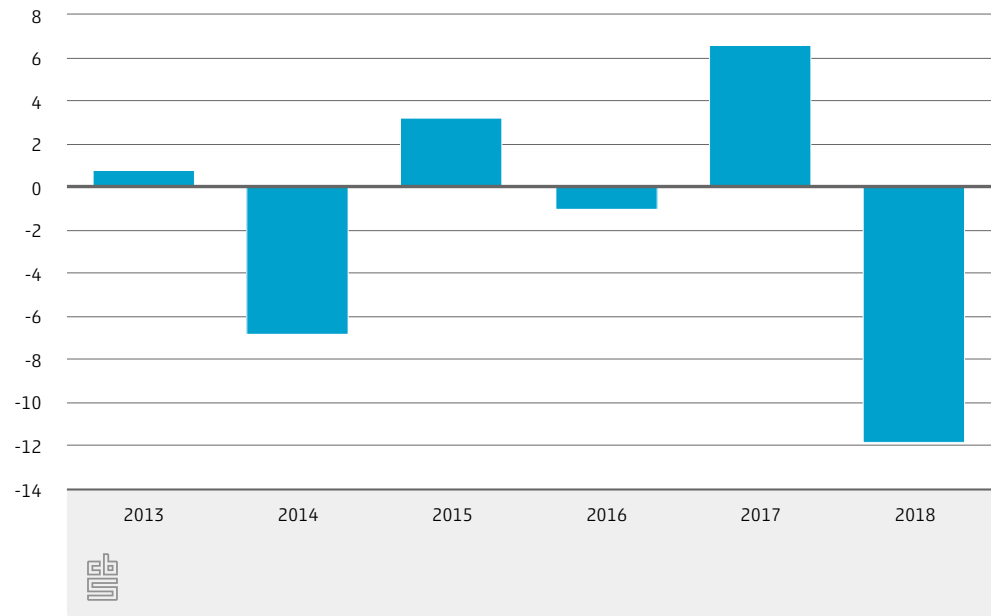
128 million USD was the GDP
in 2018



¹⁾ Statistics Netherlands publishes GDP figures for the Caribbean Netherlands two years following the reporting period. Earlier publication has not been feasible due to data availability.

GDP volume growth, St Eustatius

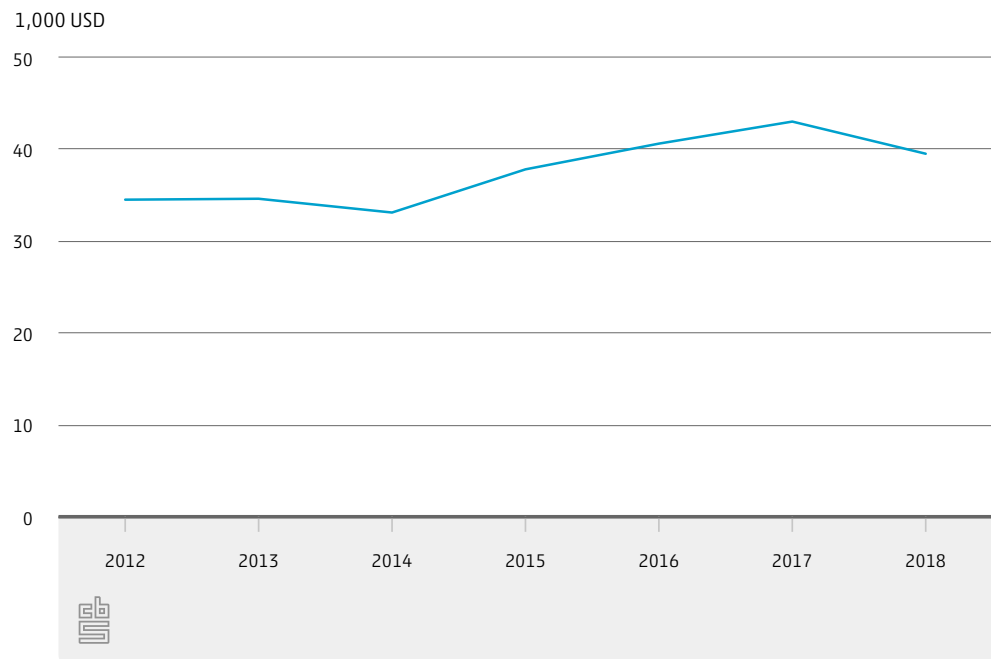
year-on-year % change



The contraction is linked to a few large companies on the island. Their production is mainly export-oriented and dependent on regional developments in the oil sector. They were affected by the hurricanes Irma and Maria, which moved along the Windward Islands in September 2017. These companies have a substantial effect on GDP; on national income, the effect is much more limited. The profits of these companies are not included in the national income as they are wholly foreign-owned enterprises.

GDP per capita decreased from 43.0 thousand US dollars in 2017 to 39.5 thousand US dollars in 2018.

GDP per capita, St Eustatius



More information on the Gross Domestic Product of St Eustatius is available here:



Definitions

Gross domestic product (market prices) (GDP):

The final result of productive activities of production units in the Netherlands. It equals the sum of value added in all sectors of industry, and includes some transactions that are not classified by sector of industry.

Volume change:

The weighted average of the changes in the volume and quality of the parts of particular goods or service transactions or the value added.

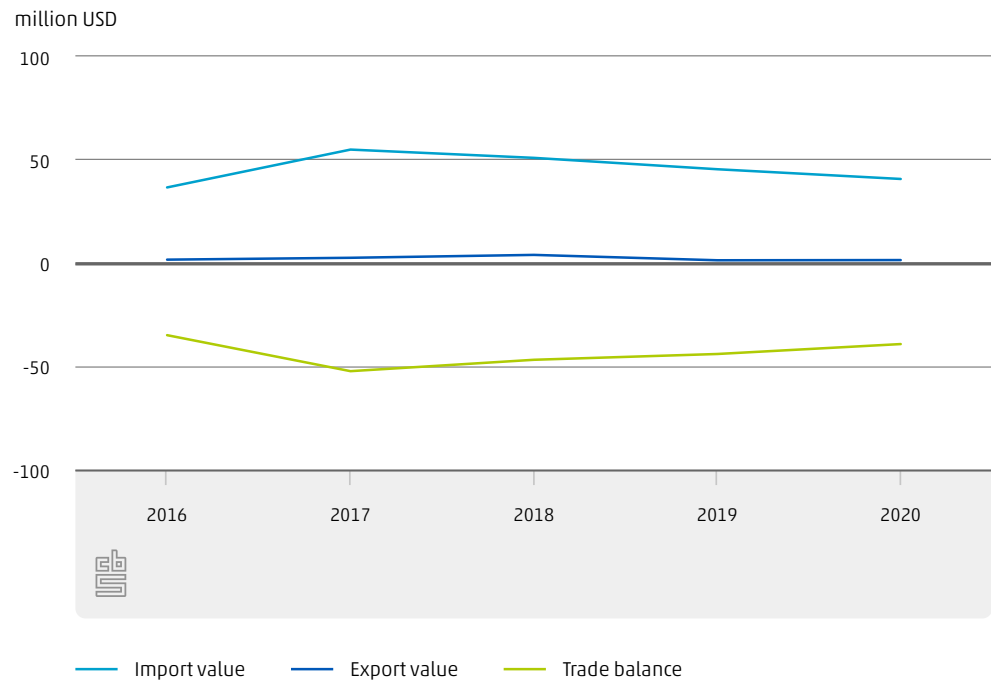
GDP per capita (as defined by Eurostat):

The indicator is calculated as the ratio of real GDP to the average population of a specific year.

International trade

Since little manufacturing or production takes place on St Eustatius, most goods need to be imported. Over a span of three years, the island's trade deficit decreased by one-quarter. In 2020, it stood at 39 million US dollars, i.e. 11 percent smaller than in the previous year. Imports fell by 10 percent, reaching 41 million US dollars in 2020. Goods exports (1 million US dollars) were up by 13 percent year-on-year.

Imports and exports of goods, St Eustatius



41 million USD was the value of goods imports on Statia in 2020

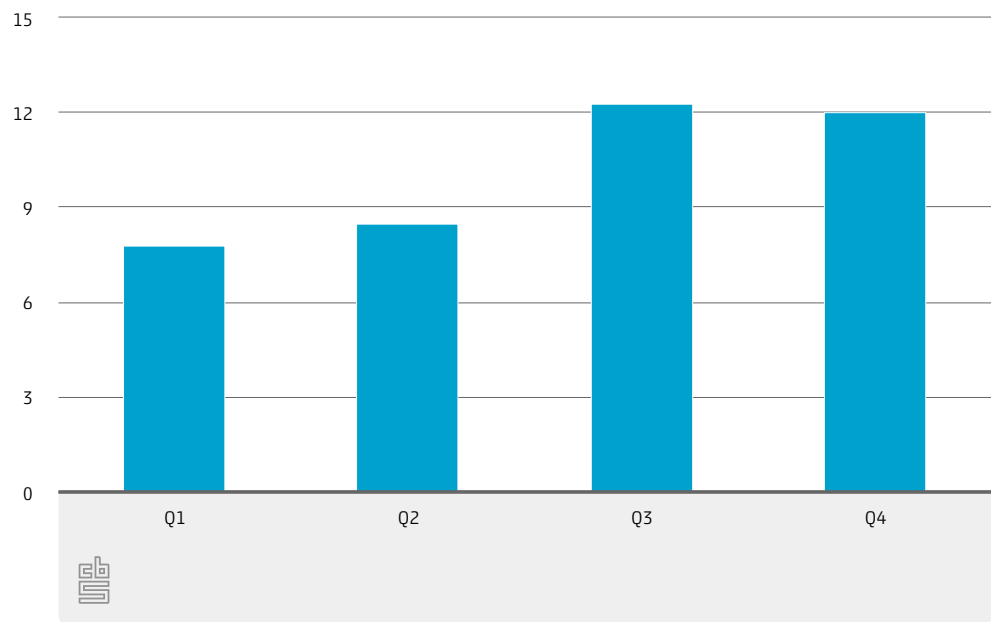


There is no indication that St Eustatius' smaller trade deficit in 2020 was a direct result of the coronavirus crisis. Furthermore, there were no significant decreases in the numbers of customs declarations between the separate quarters of 2020 and 2019.

St Eustatius' goods imports reached their highest value (12 million US dollars) in the third quarter and their lowest (8 million US dollars) in the first quarter of 2020.

Imports of goods, St Eustatius, 2020

million USD



More information about international trade on St Eustatius is available here:



Sources

Population

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; population, sex, age and country of birth](#)
StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; population, births, deaths, migration](#)
Customised table – [Bevolkingsontwikkeling Caribisch Nederland \(Dutch only\)](#)
News release – [Caribbean Netherlands more births in 2020](#)

Youth

StatLine – [Youth monitor theme Caribbean Netherlands \(Dutch only\)](#)
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Nature

Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database – [Central repository for biodiversity related research and monitoring data from the Dutch Caribbean](#)

Energy

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; connections and production of electricity and water](#)

Tourism

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands: inbound tourism by air; nationality](#)
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News release – [Tourism in the Caribbean Netherlands hit hard by the Coronavirus pandemic](#)
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Customised table – [Cruise ship passengers](#)

Labour

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Income

StatLine – [Caribbean NL; income of private households](#)

StatLine – [Caribbean NL; purchasing power development persons in private households](#)

StatLine – [Caribbean NL; income inequality for private households](#)

Consumer prices: Consumer price index

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; consumer price index \(CPI\) 2017=100](#)

House prices

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands, Bonaire; sold dwellings price index 2011=100](#)

Macroeconomics

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands, Bonaire; gross value added, branches](#)

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; gross domestic product \(GDP\)](#)

Definition – [Gross Domestic Product](#)

Definition – [Volume change](#)

Definition – [GDP per capita](#)

International trade

StatLine – [Caribbean Netherlands; import and export values per island](#)