

**Trends in
the Caribbean
Netherlands
2018**

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Explanation of symbols

.	Data not available
*	Provisional figure
**	Revised provisional figure (but not definite)
X	Publication prohibited (confidential figure)
-	Nil
-	(Between two figures) inclusive
0 (0.0)	Less than half of unit concerned
empty cell	Not applicable
2017-2018	2017 to 2018 inclusive
2017/2018	Average for 2017 to 2018 inclusive
2017/'18	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2017 and ending in 2018
2016/'17-	
2017/'18	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2016/'17 to 2017/'18 inclusive

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

Colofon

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Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot #67 unit 9
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Information

Telephone +31 88 570 7070

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Foreword

What was the number of inhabitants on Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba in 2017? How many children attended primary school, and how many students were in secondary education? What were the main trends in the local labour market, and how many tourists visited the islands? The answers to these and more questions can be found in this new edition of Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2018. This edition further includes two broad thematic chapters, which discuss migration to and from the Caribbean Netherlands and the structure of the local education system on the three islands.

Growing demand from the Dutch central government has resulted in the compilation of new statistics and an increase in available data. Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands provides updated as well as new information, covering many aspects of life in the Caribbean Netherlands. The edition before you includes data on all three islands with topics including consumer prices, firefighting,

inbound tourism by air, international trade, nature and environment, life style and the young people of the Caribbean Netherlands.

This publication gives an impression of the diversity in facts and figures provided by Statistics Netherlands. The information can also easily be accessed through our press releases, available on our website, www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/dossier/caribisch-nederland. In addition, all our key figures can be found in our online database StatLine (statline.cbs.nl), on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/statistiekcbcs) and on our Twitter account (@statisticscbs).

I hope you find Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2018 a useful, enjoyable source of information.

**Director General,
Dr T.B.P.M. Tjin-A-Tsoi**

The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, December 2018

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Population dynamics

Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba became special municipalities of the Netherlands on 10 October 2010. Since then, the population of Bonaire has grown by almost 4 thousand or 25 percent. The number of inhabitants has dropped on St Eustatius, while on Saba the population has increased by 20 percent. In all three municipalities, external migration is the main factor in the local population changes.

Bonaire

Population dynamics on Bonaire are dominated by external migration. Between 2011 and 2017, nearly 10 thousand persons settled there while close to 7 thousand persons left the island. In the same period, there were 1.3 thousand live births and 0.6 thousand deaths. Given the low number of births and deaths, the impact of natural increase on population growth

is relatively small. On 1 January 2018, Bonaire had 19.5 thousand inhabitants.

People from the European part of the Netherlands formed the largest group of migrants. In the period 2011–2017, 4.3 thousand settled on Bonaire and 3.3 thousand left to return to the (European part of the) Netherlands. They accounted for one-third of all external migration and 26 percent of the population growth on Bonaire. Most of them are Dutch-born. The number of Antillean-born persons (born on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St Maarten, St Eustatius or Saba) migrating to the European part of the Netherlands is as large as the group remigrating. Most of them pursue studies there and return after a few years.

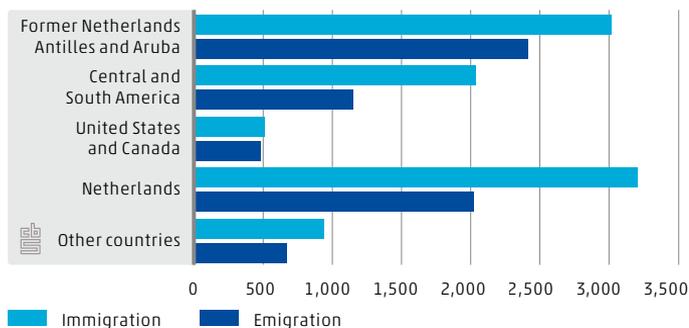
The second largest migrant group were people moving to and from Curaçao: 1.6 thousand Curaçao residents moved to Bonaire, while 1.0 thousand went in the opposite direction. The main reasons for migration to Curaçao were enrolment in education and work. Most of the migrants are Antillean-born.

The third largest group were people from other countries in Central and South America: 1.8 thousand moved to Bonaire, while only 0.2 thousand left for Central and South America. Most migrants came from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Colombia.

Saba

On 1 January 2018, Saba had 2.2 thousand inhabitants. Between 1 January 2011 and 1 January 2018, 2.5 thousand persons settled on Saba while almost 2.1 thousand persons left the island. In the same period, Saba recorded 95 live births and 90 deaths. Population change on Saba was therefore almost exclusively external migration. The bulk of immigration consisted of students from

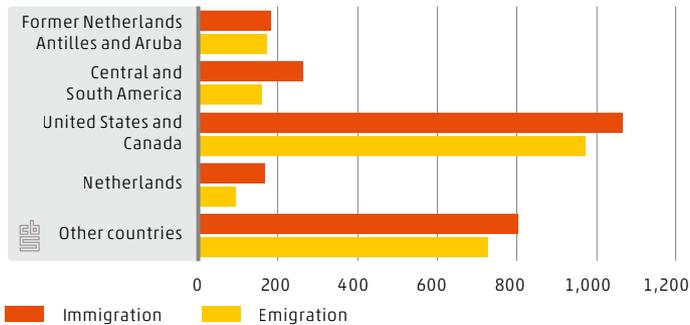
Bonaire, migration by country of birth, 2011-2017



the United States and Canada who enrolled for at least five semesters (2.5 years) at the Saba University School of Medicine, leaving Saba for their home country after graduation. Migration to and from the European part of the Netherlands was limited.

Most external migration from Saba by Antillean-born persons concerned migration to and from St Maarten. The number of Antillean-born persons moving between Saba and the European part of the Netherlands was limited: 64 Antillean-born Sabans moved to the European Netherlands while 54 returned.

Saba, migration by country of birth, 2011-2017



Saba's population increased by 0.4 thousand in the period 2011-2017. Part of this growth was on account of Canadian and American students. The second largest contribution to population growth was made by migrants from Central and South America. A minor group added to the population (67 persons) concerned people born in the European part of the Netherlands.

St Eustatius

Between 1 January 2011 and 1 January 2018, on balance 346 inhabitants left St Eustatius because of external migration. Natural increase did not compensate for their departure, as 224 babies were born and 111 persons died in the same period. The number of inhabitants was therefore lower by 263 on 1 January 2018 compared to seven years previously.

For most countries of birth, migration to and from St Eustatius balances out, except for the United States and to a lesser extent Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. The number of persons born in the US, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago is smaller now than it was before. In 2015, the island's population register was cleaned up; a large number of US citizens were no longer counted as residents of St Eustatius and were removed from the register as non-reported emigrants.

The number of Antillean-born persons from St Eustatius moving to and from the European part of the Netherlands was limited, with 167 Antillean-born Statians moving to Europe and 181 leaving in the opposite direction.

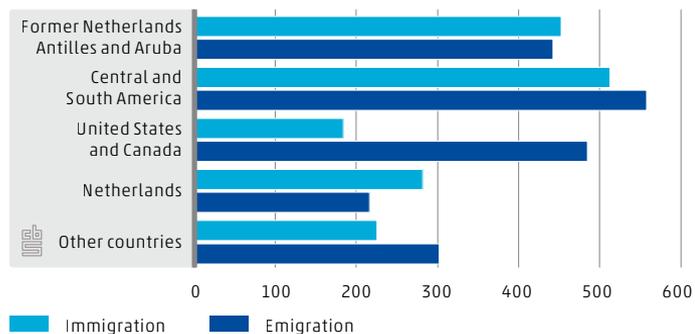
Quality of population figures

On all three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, local population figures have been affected by a register clean up. The basis for population figures is the Population Register PIVA. Removal of entries from the register results in a lower total population, while relaxation of quality

control may lead to a higher number of inhabitants. In 2012/2013, the number of inhabitants on Saba fell by almost 200 because of the register clean-up; in 2014/2015, the number of inhabitants on St Eustatius dropped by 800 for the same reason. In 2016, Bonaire's register clean-up resulted in a net decrease of 220 inhabitants.

In 2018, the official number of inhabitants on Saba rose by 135. This number is not definitive, however, as not all medical students who returned home actually reported their emigration.

St Eustatius, migration by country of birth, 2011-2017



Education system

As of 10 October 2010, education in the Caribbean Netherlands forms part of the Dutch national education system. The Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science is responsible for education policies. The education policy for the Caribbean Netherlands – as described in the first and second Education Agenda – has been aimed at raising the quality of local education to an acceptable level according to Dutch national and local standards. Due to scale and distance, it is not possible for the local education system to be organised in the exact same way as in the European part of the Netherlands. Moreover, Dutch is not the native language for many students, and each island has its own local culture, history and identity. Compulsory education has been introduced in the Caribbean Netherlands for all students aged 4 to 15 years, as well as a basic qualification requirement. Students

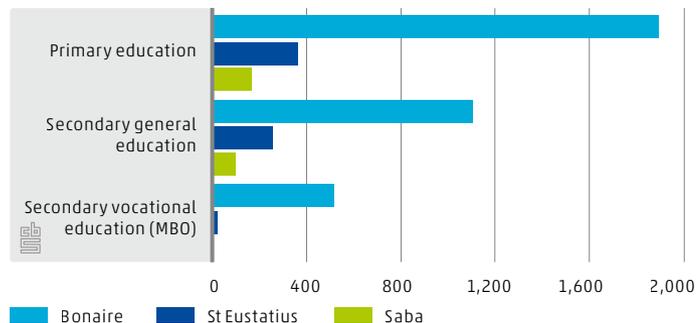
aged 16 to 17 years must continue education until they are 18, as long as they have not obtained their basic qualification. After that, they are required to work, study or combine work and studies.

Education as funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in the Caribbean Netherlands comprises primary (elementary) education, secondary general and secondary vocational education. There is no special needs education and no higher education. Special Expertise Centers Education Care offer second-line specialist expertise at all levels of the education system. The Council of Education and Labour Market in the Caribbean Netherlands works closely with secondary vocational schools (MBO). They look at what type of vocational education courses are needed to meet future needs in the regional labour market.

Secondary general education on Bonaire is similar to the European part of the Netherlands, with practical education, pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO), general secondary education (HAVO) and pre-university education (VWO). On Saba, secondary education follows the Caribbean system, with two junior years followed by either a vocational or an academic programme. Until the academic year 2015/'16, St Eustatius followed the European Dutch system, but it has gradually moved towards the Caribbean system since then.

There is no publicly funded higher education on the three islands, and publicly funded courses offered at MBO level are limited in scale (St Eustatius and Saba in particular). Until a few years ago, there was no publicly funded secondary vocational training on these two islands at all. Levels 1 and 2 of MBO are offered on St Eustatius and Saba as of the academic year 2012/'13. Bonaire already had publicly funded secondary vocational training at all four levels. The islands are collaborating with Curaçao, Aruba and St Maarten within

Pupils/students in government-funded education, 2017/'18



the Kingdom in order to provide pupils and students in the Caribbean Netherlands with more choices.

Private education

Aside from enrolling in a publicly funded school, students may opt for private education. There is a private primary school on Bonaire, for instance, and there are a number of private educational institutions offering secondary vocational education (MBO) and higher vocational education (HBO).

For university education, students from the Caribbean Netherlands mainly go to the

Netherlands, the United States, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. The university of Curaçao has a branch on Bonaire. There are also several private initiatives around the region. US universities located in this region are not or barely drawing local students from the Caribbean Netherlands. For example, the Saba University School of Medicine mainly has students from the United States and Canada.

Education level

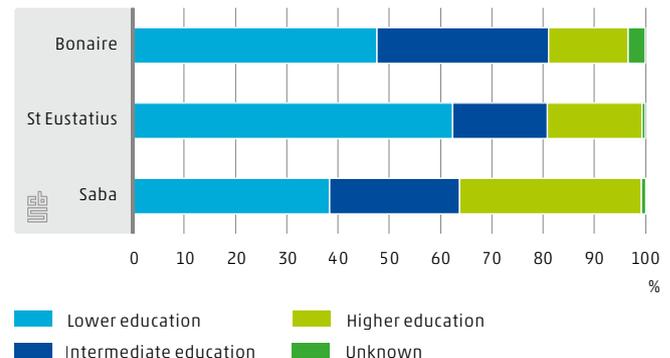
In the Caribbean Netherlands, more than 4 in 10 inhabitants were not born on one of the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The educational level of the island-born population is on average lower than of the population born elsewhere. The gap is large on Saba in particular due to the presence of the US university. The majority of the highly educated on Saba originate from the United States and Canada. These are teachers and students who came to Saba to pursue a Master's degree after obtaining their Bachelor's.

Highly educated inhabitants of Bonaire and St Eustatius are often graduates from Dutch or

US universities. In addition, many inhabitants who were born in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands were enrolled in higher education on the island of Curaçao.

The lower educated part of the population aged 15 and over occupies shares of 48 percent on Bonaire and 38 percent on Saba. They do not have any basic qualification for the labour market, i.e. a diploma at least at secondary vocational (MBO) or secondary general (HAVO/VWO) level. The share is even higher on St Eustatius, namely 62 percent.

Education level population (15 years and over), 2016

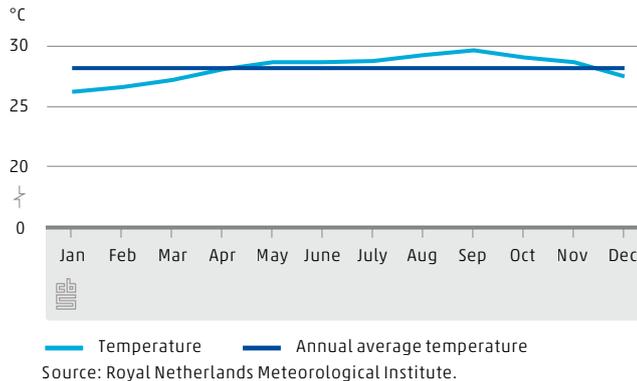




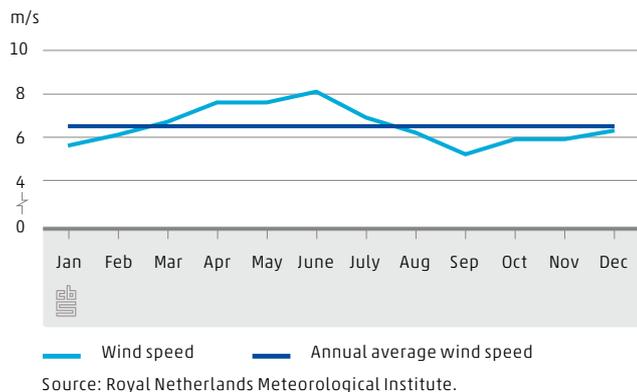
1. Bonaire

Climate

Monthly average temperatures, 2017



Wind speed, 2017



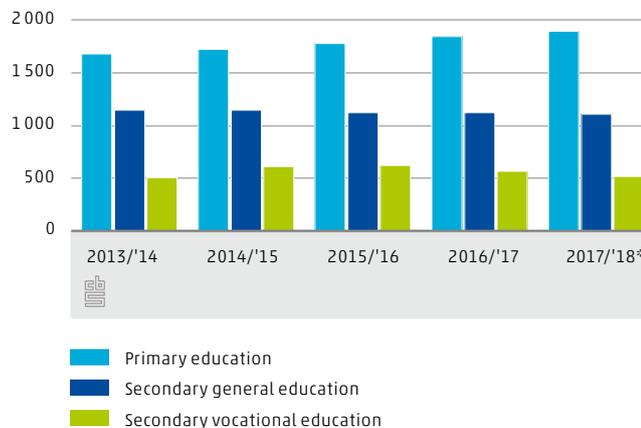
Education

Bonaire has eight government-funded schools, including seven primary schools. The secondary school offers both general and vocational education. On 1 October 2017, Bonaire had 3,525 pupils enrolled in these schools. Slightly over half were in primary education, nearly one-third in secondary general education and 15 percent in secondary vocational (MBO) education. Apart from these schools, there are a private primary school, a branch of the University of Curaçao and some private schools for secondary vocational and higher education. Students may also go to other countries in the Caribbean area, the United States or the Netherlands to enrol in secondary or higher education.

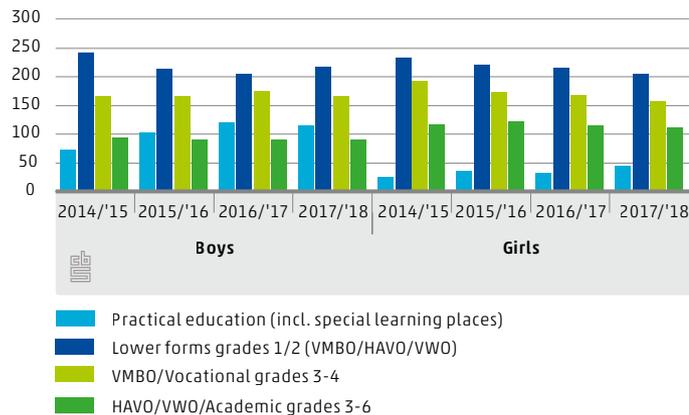
On 1 October 2017, Bonaire had 1,897 pupils enrolled in government-funded primary education: 920 girls and 977 boys between the ages of 4 and 11. By the time they reach the age of 12, they often enter secondary education. At primary schools on Bonaire, children speak Papiamentu and Dutch. Next to the seven government-funded primary schools on Bonaire, there is one private primary school.

Secondary general education on Bonaire is in line with the education system in the – European part of the – Netherlands. Pupils can enrol in VWO, HAVO, VMBO or practical education. Furthermore, there are special learning places for children with special needs. The language of instruction is Dutch, but Papiamentu can be followed as an optional subject. On 1 October 2017, Bonaire had 1,108 pupils enrolled in secondary general education: 519 girls and 589 boys. More boys than girls were enrolled in practical education or special learning places. More girls than boys were enrolled in upper HAVO and VWO.

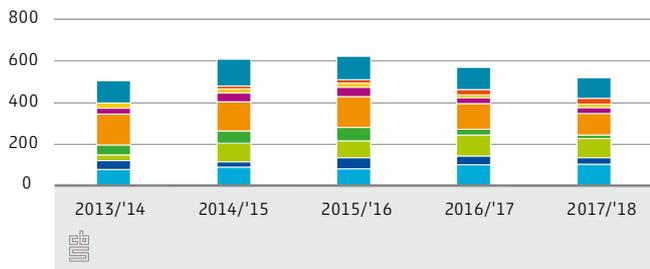
Pupils in government-funded schools, 1 October



Students in secondary general education

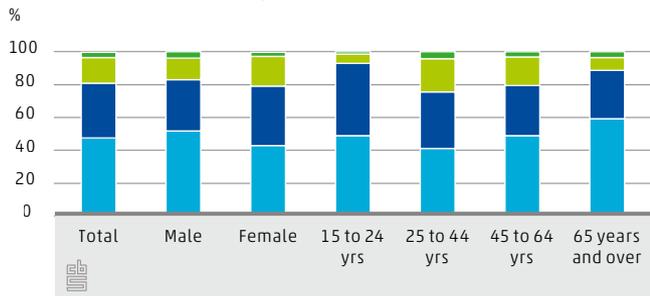


Students in secondary vocational education



- Assistant/entrance training (level 1)
- Construction and infrastructure
- Mechanical
- Media, design and information
- Economics and administration
- Security and sports
- Hospitality and bakery
- Tourism and recreation
- Health and welfare

Education level (15 years and over), 2016



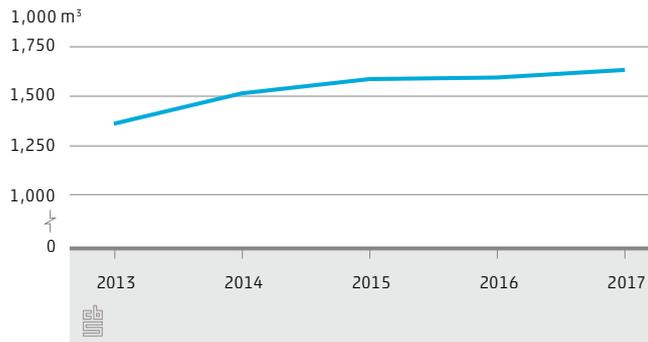
- Lower education
- Intermediate education
- Higher education
- Unknown

Students can attend secondary vocational education from around the age of 16 years. They go to school and receive training on the job or even work part-time at a training company which is recognised by the Council of Education and Labour Market Caribbean Netherlands (ROA CN). Secondary vocational students on Bonaire can choose from various disciplines at four different levels. Together with ROA CN, the school determines which courses should be offered in order to meet future demand on the labour market.

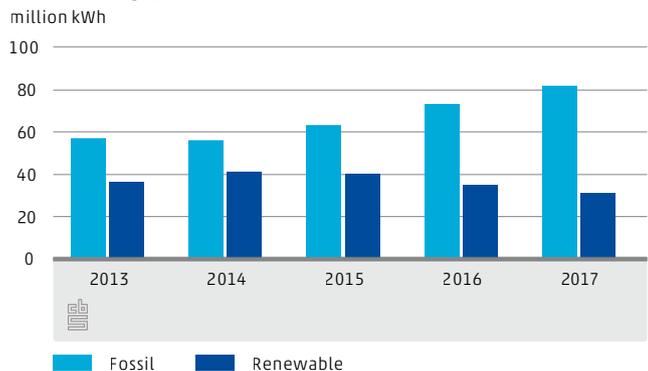
Over 16 thousand people (15 years or older) live on Bonaire. Almost half (48 percent) have a lower education level, 34 percent an intermediate and 16 percent a higher education level. Men have a lower education level than women. Of the men, 52 percent are lower educated, of the women 43 percent. Older residents have the lowest education level. Almost half of young people (15 to 24 years) are lower educated while 44 percent have an intermediate education level. A considerable proportion of Bonaire's youth (56 percent) are still in education.

Energy

Water production



Electricity production



Firefighting

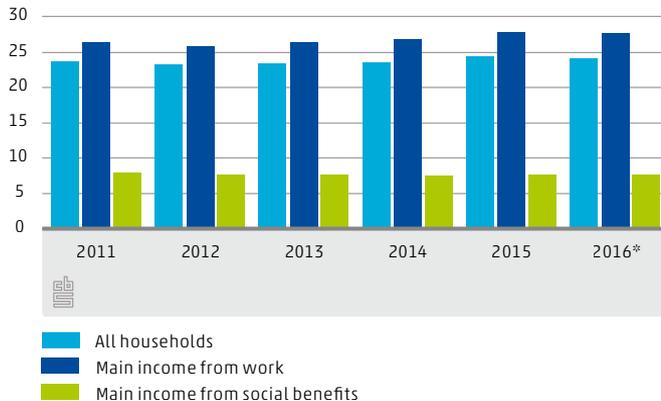
Firefighting

	2014	2015	2016	2017
In-house flooding	0	0	2	0
Search and rescue	3	3	0	0
Marine accidents - medical assistance	0	0	0	1
Firefighting				
Outdoor fires	93	101	56	99
Emergency firefighting	0	0	0	
Car fires	11	6	5	2
Indoor fires	16	13	18	21
No category	5	4	5	6
Assistance				
Emergency assistance	30	14	21	35
Non-emergency assistance	23	16	27	44
No category	1	0	6	5
Response to incidents involving hazardous substances				
Emergency response	0	2	0	1
No category	5	5	1	4
Services				
Billable	0	0	0	0
Non-billable	3	1	0	2
Unknown type	2	0	0	7
Aviation incidents				
Assistance to aircraft	0	0	0	0
Assistance at/around runway	1	2	0	2

Source: Fire department Caribbean Netherlands.

Median disposable household income

1,000 USD (in prices of 2016)

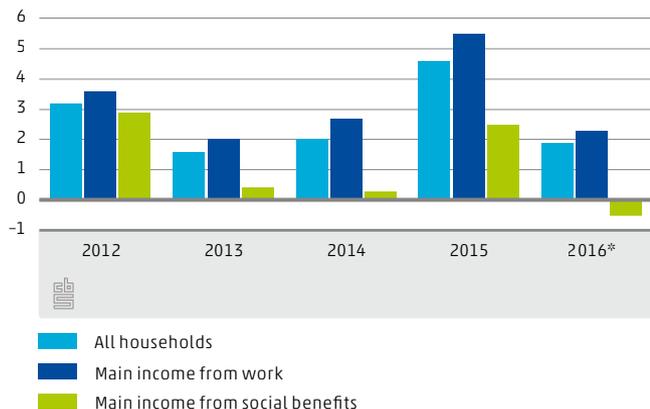


Income

In 2016, the median disposable income for households on Bonaire was 24.1 thousand US dollars. Households with income primarily from work had 27.4 thousand US dollars to spend; for households on social benefits, the disposable median income was 7.6 thousand US dollars. For both groups, the annual income in 2016 was nearly equal to the previous year, mainly due to unchanged minimum wages and social benefits.

Purchasing power development

year-on-year % change



In 2012, households on Bonaire had 23.3 thousand US dollars in median to spend. Their median disposable income rose subsequently to reach 24.4 thousand US dollars in 2015. The disposable income of working people grew by more than 7 percent in the same period, from 25.6 thousand US dollars in 2012 to 27.5 thousand in 2015. Social benefit recipients reached their highest income level in 2011 at 8 thousand US dollars. Their income remained rather stable in the years that followed.

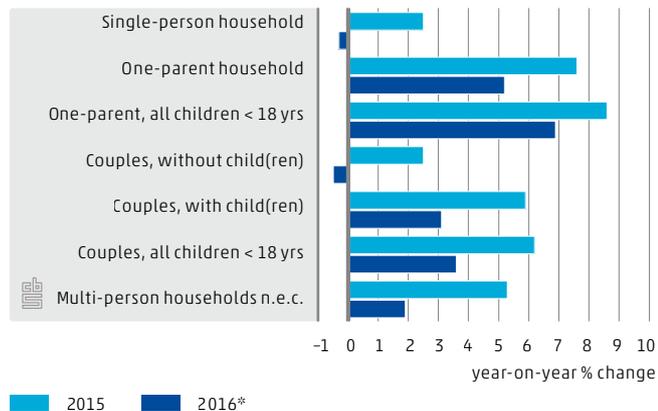
Purchasing power development

The purchasing power on Bonaire improved by 1.9 percent in 2016, although it declined for 45 percent of the population. For the working population, the median increase amounted to 2.3 percent. Social benefit recipients were negatively affected for the first time since 2012. Their purchasing power went down by 0.5 percent, mainly as a result of unchanged income from social benefits and rising consumer prices between 2015 and 2016.

The spending power of Bonaire residents has improved each year since 2012, most significantly in 2015 (4.6 percent). Every year, the increase was larger for working people than for the overall population; their purchasing power went up by 5.5 percent in 2015. The situation for social benefit recipients was best in 2012, when their purchasing power went up by 2.9 percent.

The purchasing power of households with children improved each year, more than for single-person households and couples without children. One-parent households

Purchasing power development

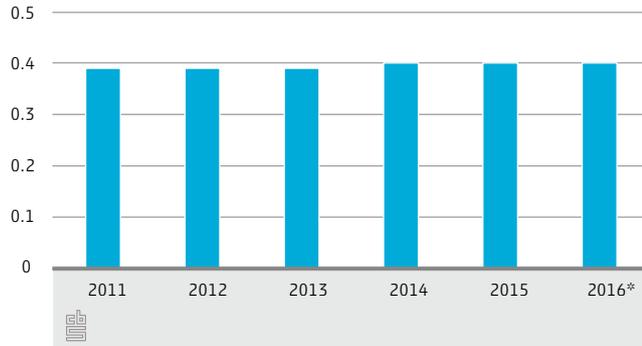


with all children aged 17 or younger profited the most. In 2015, their disposable income increased by 8.6 percent. After the introduction of the child benefit in 2016, their purchasing power rose again, by 6.9 percent. Members of single-person households and couples without children were faced with a purchasing power decline of 0.3 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

Introduction of child benefit

A child benefit was introduced in the Caribbean Netherlands in 2016. Households on Bonaire with children up to 18 years old

Gini coefficient



24.1 thousand USD was
the median disposable household
income in 2016*



received a monthly payment of 40 US dollars per child. In previous years, households with minor children had been able to use tax benefits for (up to two) children. Low-income households (not having to pay any or paying very low taxes) could not or only partially avail of this measure. Being income-independent, the child benefit contributes to all households with young children.

Income inequality

On Bonaire, income inequality is the most stable among the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. The Gini coefficient – the most widely used inequality measure varying between 0 (everyone has the same income) and 1 (one household has all the income) – had a value of 0.40 in 2016.

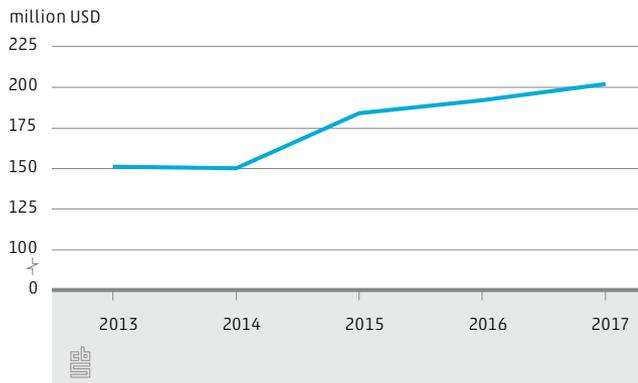
Income inequality on Bonaire has increased slightly since 2011. The Gini coefficient has risen from a value of 0.39 during the years 2011–2013 to 0.40 in subsequent years.

International trade

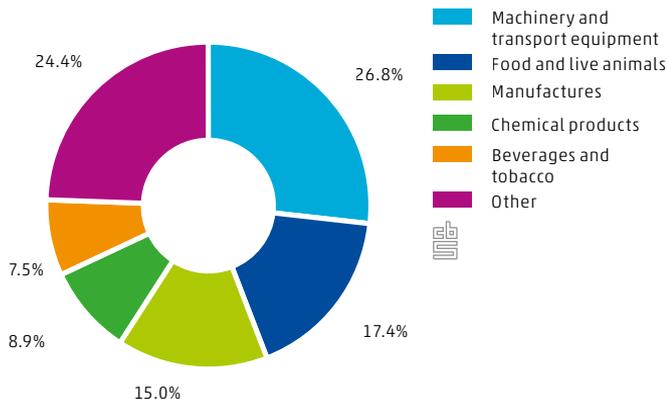
There is little manufacturing on Bonaire and many goods need to be imported. In 2017, the island's annual trade deficit stood at 202 million US dollars. This is 5 percent higher than in the previous year. The trade deficit increased by one-third over three years' time. In 2017, Bonaire goods imports were worth 213 million US dollars, while goods exports stood at 11 million US dollars. This was 6 percent and 25 percent up on the previous year, respectively.

In 2017, Bonaire imported 57 million US dollars worth of machinery and transport equipment. This category was good for over one-quarter of total goods imports (213 million US dollars), followed by food products and live animals (17 percent) and manufactures (15 percent).

Trade deficit

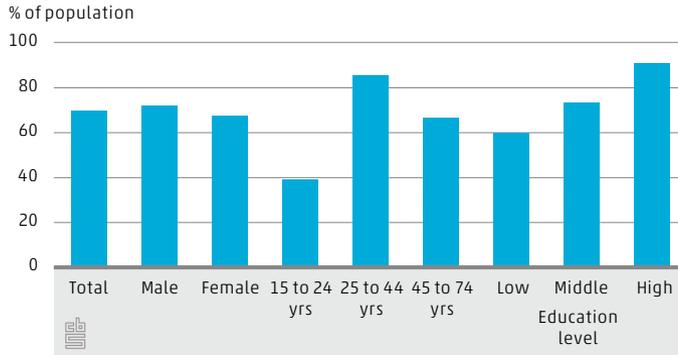


Value of imports, 2017

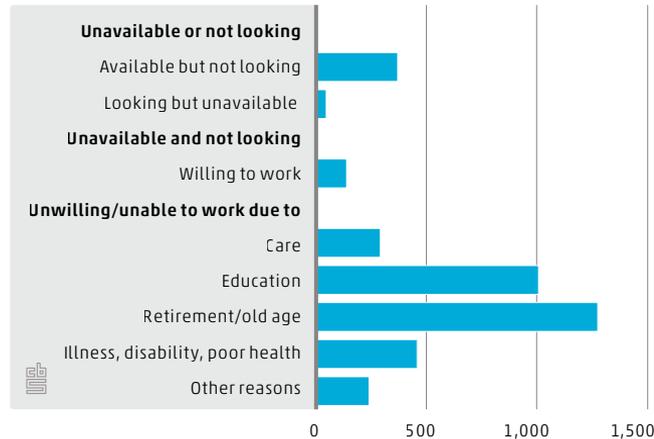


6.1% rise in total
import value of goods in 2017

Net labour participation, 2016



Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2016



Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Bonaire is 15.3 thousand, with 70 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate is higher among men: 72 percent of the men are employed versus 68 percent of the women. Participation is relatively low among young people. Labour force participation also increases with the level of educational attainment. Around 60 percent of lower educated people are in employment, versus over 70 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 90 percent of the highly educated. Bonaire's unemployment rate is just under 7 percent. This is equivalent to almost 800 unemployed who are actively looking and available for work.

Almost 4 thousand Bonaire residents do not form part of the local labour force. They are not looking, nor are they available for work; in most cases, a combination of both. A large group (one-third) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. For one-quarter of those

not in the labour force – young residents in particular – education is the predominant reason why they are unwilling or unavailable for work. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to a disability (12 percent) or because they have to take care of family (8 percent).

Employee jobs

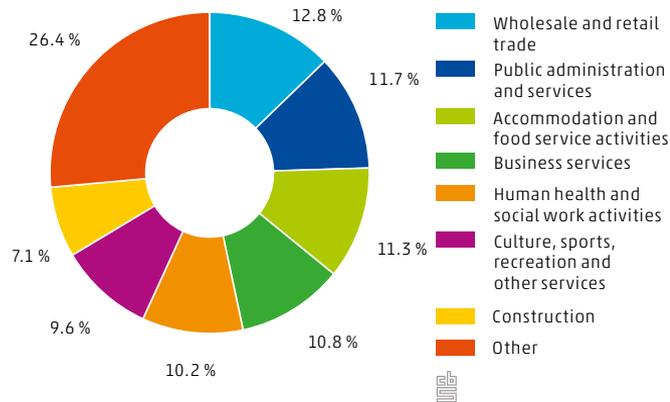
There are 9.3 thousand employee jobs on Bonaire. The sector with the highest number of jobs is wholesale and retail trade, followed by the public sector and accommodation and food service activities.

Employee wages

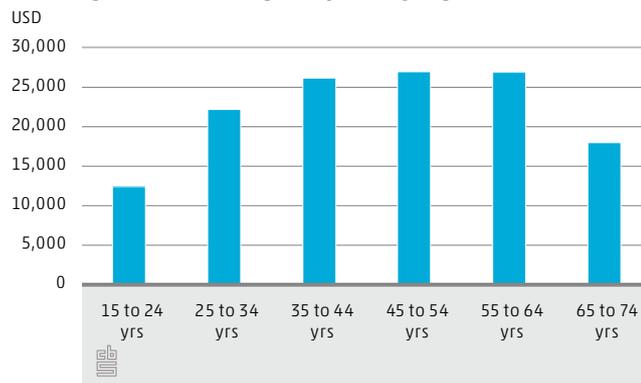
The average annual wage on Bonaire stood at 23.7 thousand US dollars in 2016, almost the same as in 2015. The median wage amounted to 19 thousand US dollars; this means that half of all employed people earned wages below this level while the other half earned higher wages. Wages vary widely, depending on the characteristics and type of work. In 2016,

women's wages were 8 percent lower than men's. This pay gap is narrowing: in 2011, the difference was 18 percent.

Employee jobs by economic activity, 2016*



Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2016*



Happiness and satisfaction levels, 2017



Lifestyle

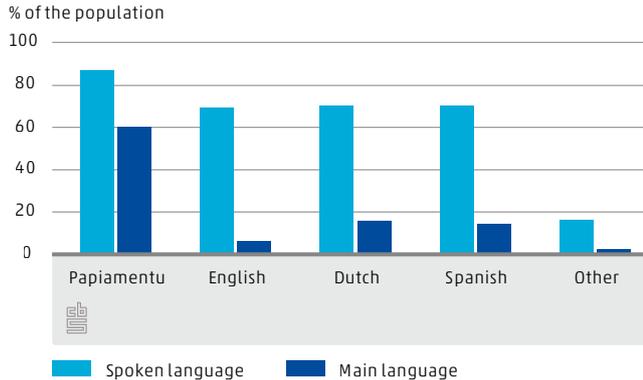
The majority of the population of Bonaire indicate they are religious, although this group is becoming smaller. In 2017, 81 percent said they belong to a religious denomination or ideological group, versus 88 percent in 2013. The percentage share of Roman Catholics decreased in particular, from 68 percent in 2013 to 60 percent in 2017. Catholicism therefore remains by far the island's largest religion. Seven percent of Bonaire residents are Pentecostals, 3 percent are Protestants and an approximately equal share are Evangelicals.

Nearly 9 in 10 residents of Bonaire (aged 15 and over) say they are happy. When asked to give a score, they would rate themselves an 8.1, just as in 2013. Life satisfaction in general would be rated 8.0. They are also satisfied with their education opportunities (score 7.6), daily activities (7.9) and financial situation (7.2).

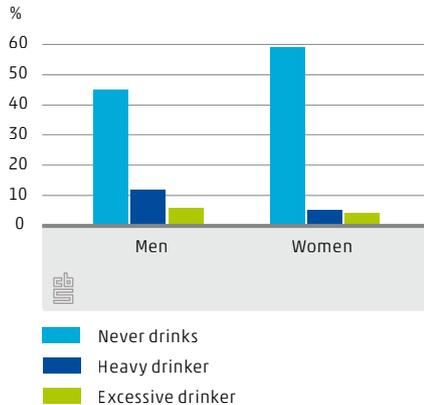
Religious denominations on Bonaire, 2017



Main and spoken languages, 2017



Drinking behaviour (15 years and over), 2017



Multilingualism is very common on Bonaire: 86 percent speak more than one language. The official language on Bonaire is Dutch. 60 percent indicate that Papiamentu is their main spoken language. For 16 percent, Dutch is the main language; another 15 percent have Spanish as their main language.

Five percent of Bonaire residents aged 15 and over are excessive drinkers, which means they consume more than 21 (for men) or 14 (for women) glasses of alcohol per week. Nine percent are heavy drinkers. For men, this means they drink 6 or more glasses of alcohol in one day at least once a week. For women this means that they drink 4 or more glasses of alcohol on one day at least once a week.

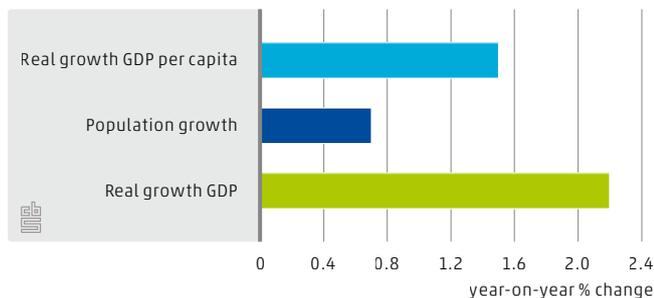
Nearly **9 in 10** Bonaire residents say they are happy



Macroeconomics

Bonaire's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 4.6 percent to a value of 434 million US dollars in 2016. The volume grew by 2.2 percent. GDP volume growth is calculated by adjusting the value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index. GDP per capita increased by 3.7 percent from 21,700 US dollars in 2015 to 22,500 US dollars in 2016. In volume terms, GDP per capita grew by 1.5 percent in 2016.

Real economy and population, 2016



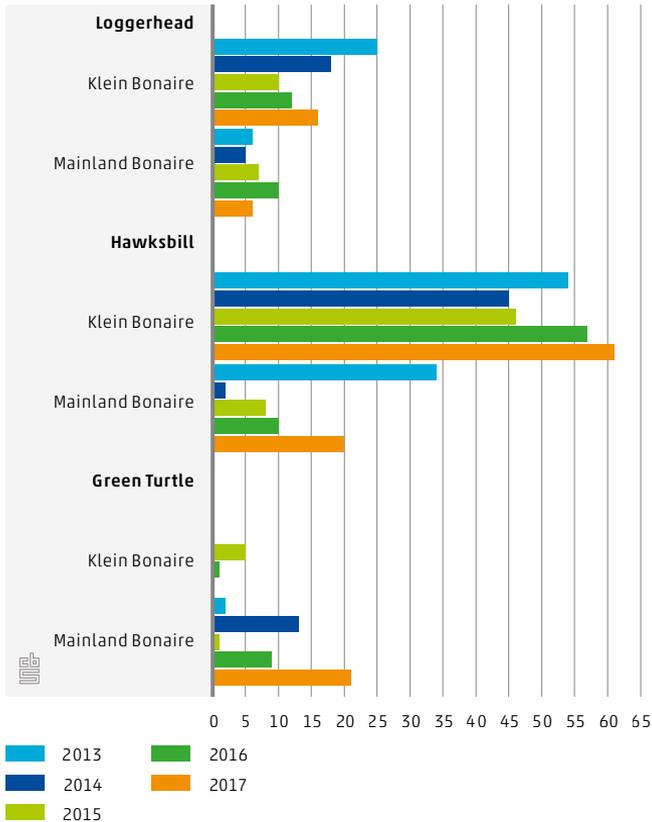
Gross domestic product

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	USD				
GDP (market prices)	372 mln	387 mln	403 mln	415 mln	434 mln
GDP per capita	21,900	21,600	21,600	21,700	22,500



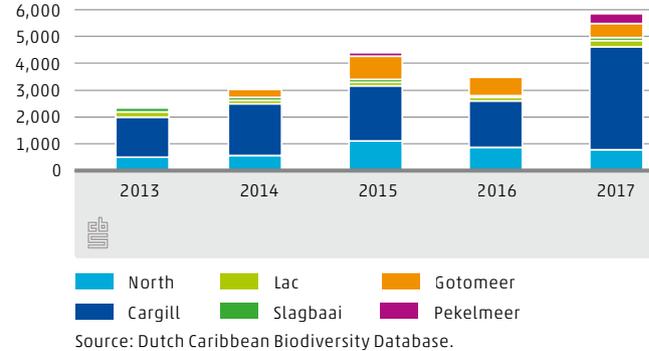
Nature

Total number of turtle nests



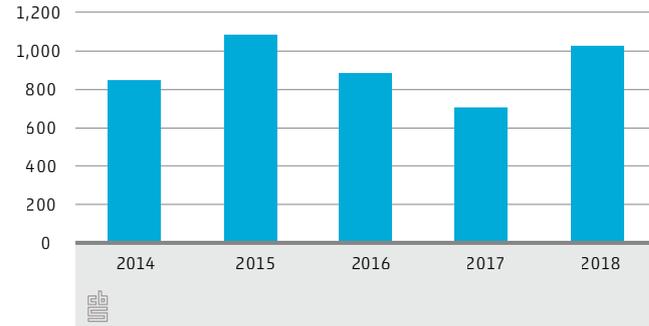
Source: Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database.

Annual average number of flamingos



Source: Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database.

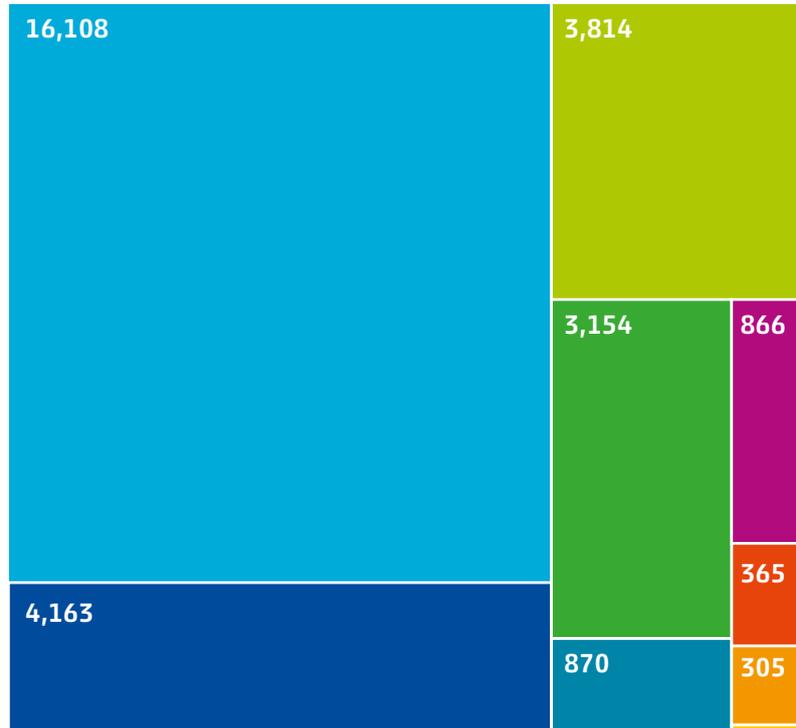
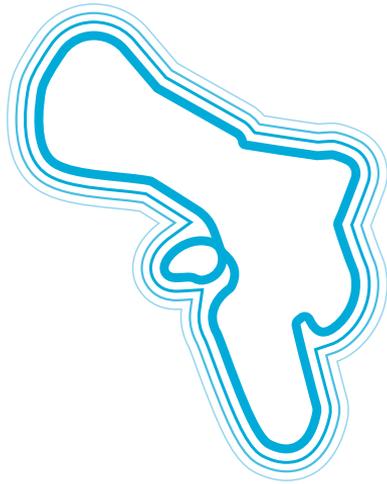
Parrot roosts



Source: Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database.

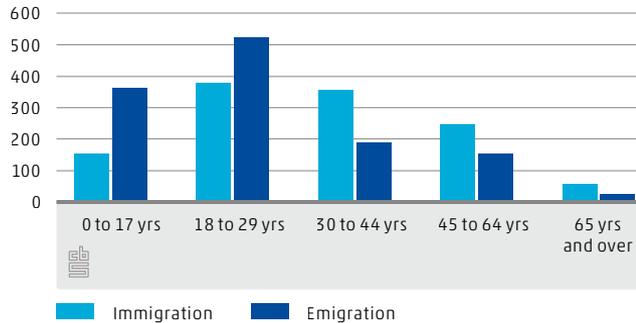
Relative habitat area Bonaire

(Excluding open and deep sea, hectares)



- Dry tropical forest
- Built-up area, agriculture
- Salt pans and salt lakes
- Degraded dry tropical forests
- Seagrass beds and seaweed beds
- Coral reefs
- Mangroves
- Beaches
- Caves

Migration of Antillean-born persons between Bonaire and the Netherlands, 2011/2017

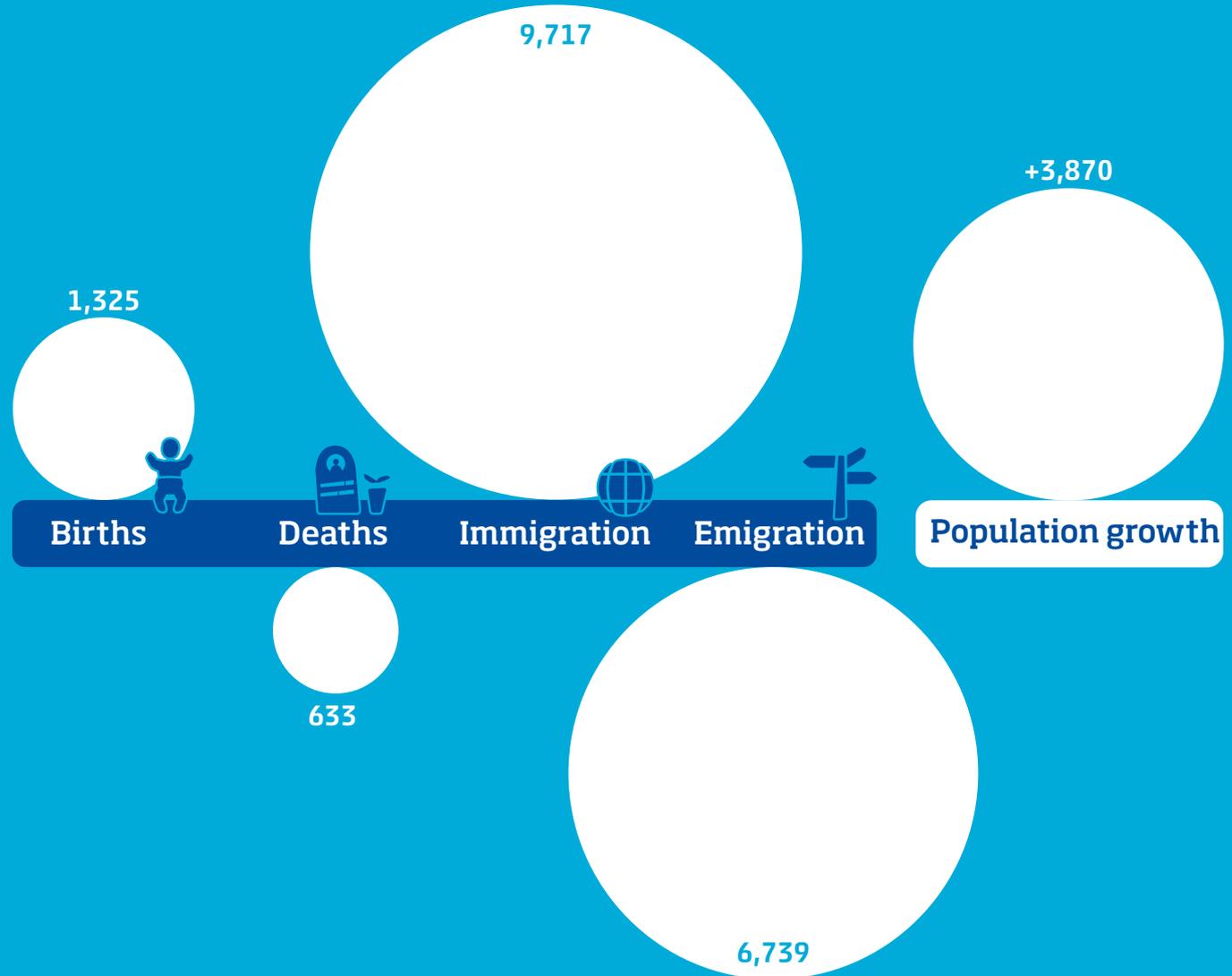


Population

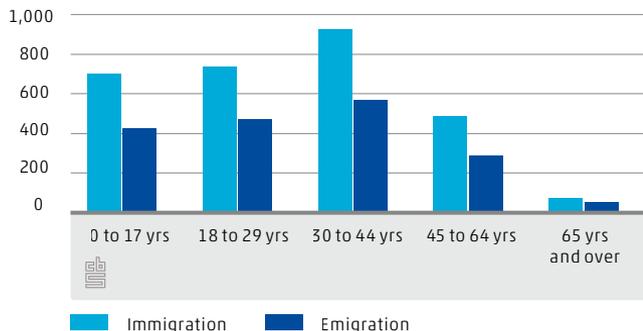
On 1 January 2018, Bonaire had 19.5 thousand inhabitants. The population has grown by nearly 4 thousand since the beginning of 2011. This was mainly due to the fact that more people settled on the island than left, and to a lesser extent because of natural population growth. Bonaire's population grew strongly between 2011 and 2013 in particular, by nearly 1 thousand inhabitants per year on average.

In the period 2011–2017, over 1.2 thousand Antillean-born persons (persons born on one of the Islands of the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba) migrated from Bonaire to the Netherlands. In the same period, nearly 1.2 thousand Antillean-born persons from the Netherlands resettled on Bonaire. The net migration rate is more or less balanced for this group. Many young people migrate to the Netherlands to study there, and most of them return to Bonaire after several years.

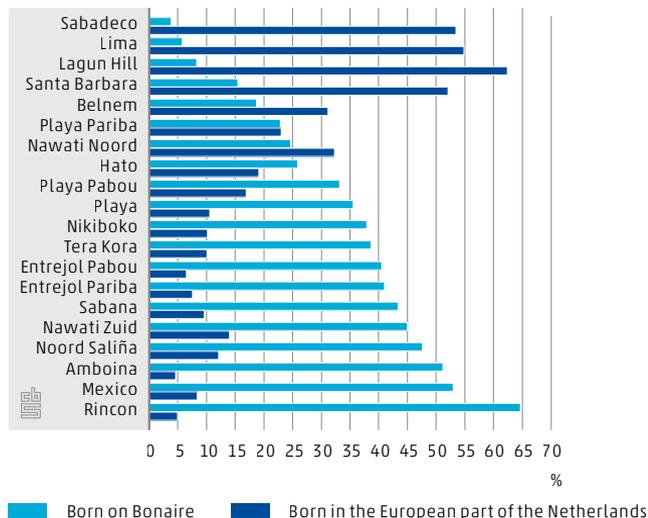
Population dynamics Bonaire, 2011-2017



Migration of Dutch-born persons between Bonaire and the Netherlands, 2011/2017



Share of inhabitants by country of birth and neighbourhood, 2017



The average length of stay in the Netherlands is 7 years.

Due to immigration, however, the number of Antillean-born persons on Bonaire has grown by 600 persons on balance, mainly from Curaçao.

Part of the migration to and from Bonaire is by persons who were born in the European Netherlands. Between 2011 en 2017, the net migration rate on Bonaire of persons born in the Netherlands stood at 1.1 thousand on balance. The majority of these migrants were either children or adults under the age of 50. There were hardly any persons aged 65 or older among this group.

On 1 January 2017, nearly 40 percent of Bonaire inhabitants were born on the island (over 7 thousand). The remaining 60 percent were predominantly from Central and South America (3.7 thousand), Curaçao (3.5 thousand), the Netherlands (2.8 thousand) and a small minority from Aruba (0.5 thousand).

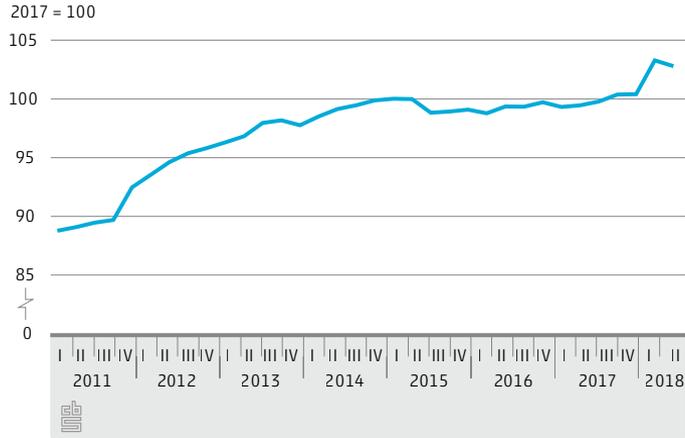
Rincon is the neighbourhood with the highest share of residents born locally (65 percent). There are also relatively large groups of native Bonairians in Mexico (53 percent), Amboina (51 percent) and North Saliña (48 percent). Native Bonairians are only found in small numbers in Lagun Hill, Lima and Sabadeco.

European Dutch live spread across the island with concentrations in Lagun Hill (where they occupy a share of 62 percent of the local population), Lima (55 percent), Sabadeco (53 percent) and Santa Barbara (52 percent). In absolute numbers, most European Dutch (over 300) live in Nikiboko, although their share in the local population is only 10 percent.

25% population growth
between 2011 and 2017



Consumer price index



Consumer price index



Prices

In 2017, consumer goods and services on Bonaire cost 0.5 percent more than in the previous year. The year-on-year price increase in 2016 was also 0.5 percent. Household products, bed linen and refrigerators in particular, were more expensive than in 2016. Petrol was also more expensive. On the other hand, prices of clothing and footwear went down by 4.3 percent.

0.5% year-on-year increase
in consumer prices in 2017



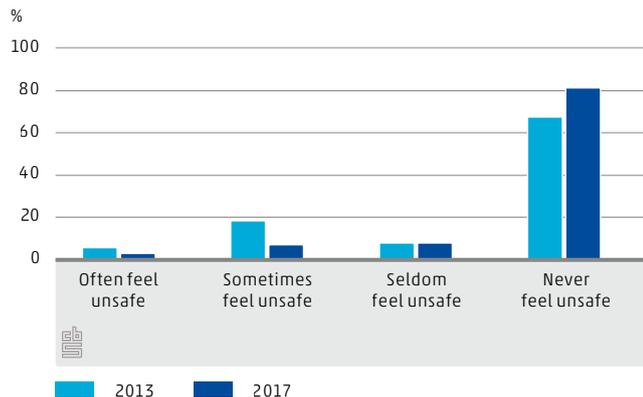
Security

Residents feeling safer

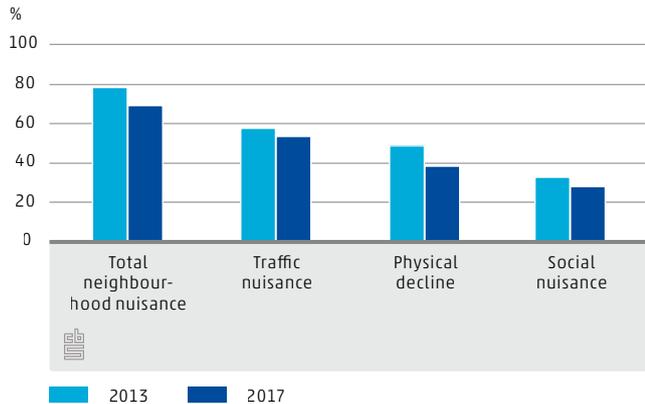
In 2017, the inhabitants of Bonaire felt safer than four years previously with over 80 percent indicating that they never felt unsafe, against two-thirds of residents in 2013. People on Bonaire awarded a score of 7.7 to safety within their own neighbourhood, up from 7.3 four years previously.

In 2017, more than 40 percent of Bonaire residents perceived their own neighbourhood to be crime-free, while an equal share of inhabitants reported there was little crime. On the other hand, 6 percent of inhabitants thought there was a high incidence of crime in their own neighbourhood. These percentages are similar to 2013.

Feelings of unsafety



Identified neighbourhood nuisances



90% rarely or
never felt unsafe



Majority reported neighbourhood nuisance

In 2017, 70 percent of Bonaire residents reported nuisances in their own neighbourhood. Road traffic nuisance was mentioned most often by people on Bonaire. Over half of the islanders reported this form of nuisance in their living environment, most often referring to speeding cars. Almost 40 percent of residents reported a physical decline in their environment including animal poop, litter, vandalised public items and/or graffiti on walls or buildings. Social nuisances, for instance drunken people or loitering youths in the neighbourhood, were mentioned by under 30 percent of Bonaire residents.

In 2017, the number of Bonaire residents who reported neighbourhood nuisances was lower than in 2013, when nearly 80 percent indicated these nuisances were a common problem. Traffic nuisances occurred equally often in 2017, while physical decline and social nuisances occurred less often than four years previously.

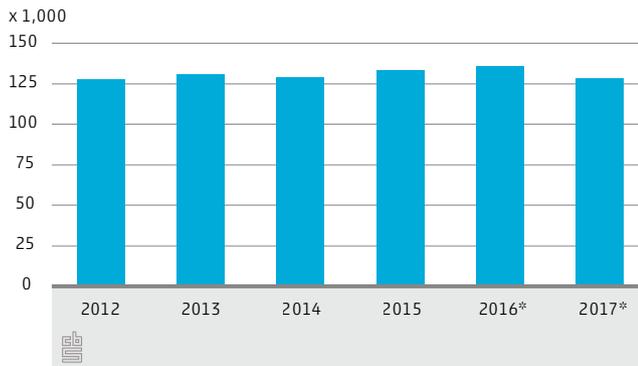
Tourism

In 2017, approximately 128.5 thousand tourists arrived on Bonaire by air, down by 5 percent on 2016. This may have been related to operational problems of a regional airline. Most tourists arriving on Bonaire by air are Dutch or US citizens.

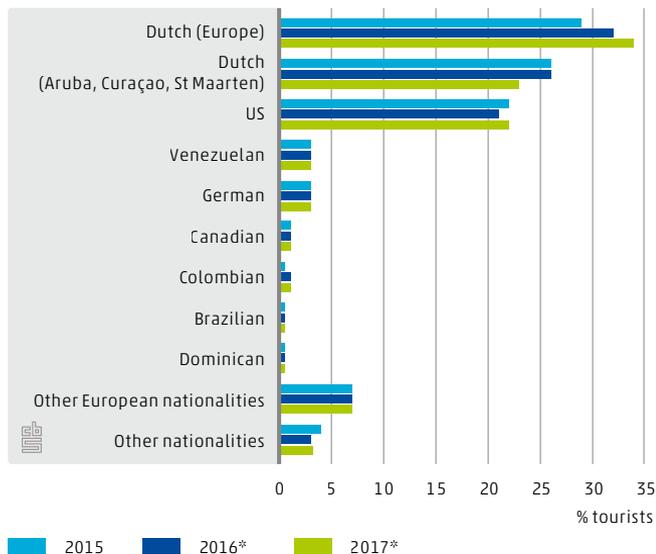
As for Dutch tourists, the share arriving from the European part of the Netherlands seems to have grown somewhat against a slightly decreasing share of Dutch tourists from Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten in 2017.

In contrast with tourist air travel, 2017 was an exceptionally good year for Bonaire's cruise tourism. The number of cruise passengers increased by no less than 88 percent: 407.3 thousand cruise passengers in 2017 compared to 216.5 thousand in 2016. Bonaire put in a lot of effort to bring more cruises to the island. In addition, two cruises from the Windward Islands were diverted to Bonaire on account of Hurricane Irma.

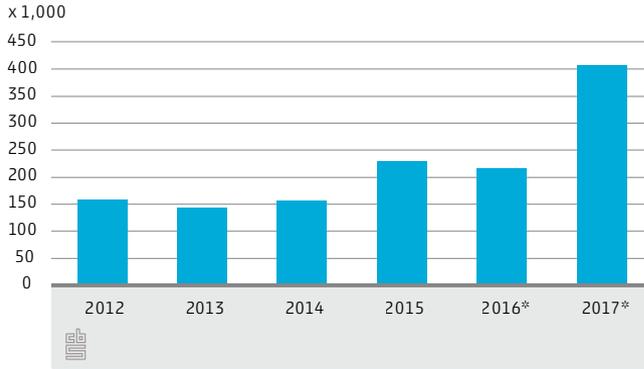
Number of tourists arriving by air



Inbound tourism by air, by nationality

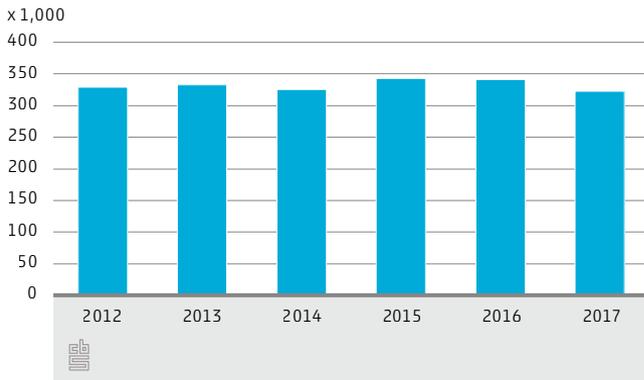


Inbound cruise passengers



In 2017, there were nearly 12.2 thousand aircraft movements to and from Bonaire, a 9.5 percent increase on the previous year. The number of passengers visiting Bonaire in 2017 declined by over 6 percent, however. As of 2012, the number of passengers visiting Bonaire has seen a slight increase. Most air passenger arrivals on Bonaire are either flying from or into Curaçao. Amsterdam and Atlanta are the second and third most popular destinations.

Passenger numbers at Flamingo Airport



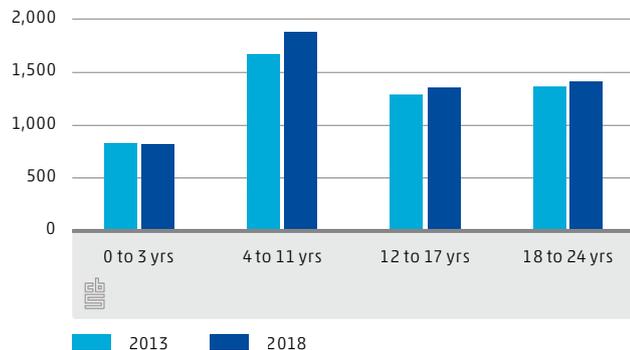
12.2 thousand aircraft movements in 2017

Youth

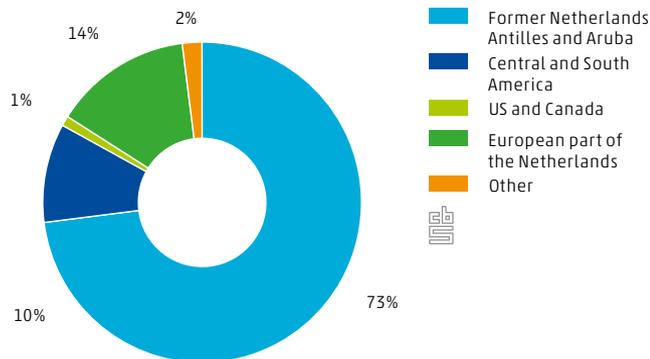
At the beginning of 2018, the population of Bonaire included 5.5 thousand people under the age of 25. The number of young residents of Bonaire has increased over the past five years, especially the number of primary school age children. On the other hand, the share of young people relative to the overall population has decreased from over 29 percent in 2013 to 28 percent in 2018. This share is almost similar to the share of young people in the European part of the Netherlands.

Most of the young people on Bonaire – 73 percent – were originally born in the former Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius or St Maarten. The share who were born in the European part of the Netherlands amounts to 14 percent. A small majority (54 percent) of the children on Bonaire live in a family with both parents and 25 percent in single-parent families. In nearly 14 percent of households on Bonaire, parents and children live with other relatives and non-relatives.

Youth by age group, 1 January



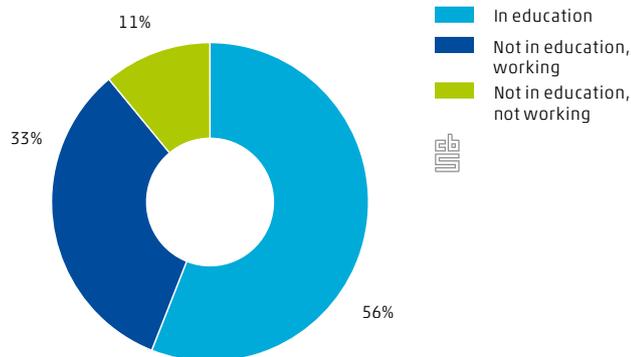
Youth by country of birth, 1 January 2017



In 2016, just over half of all 2.1 thousand young people in the age group 15 to 24 years were enrolled in education. It is unusual for the young residents of Bonaire in education to have paid work (11 percent). Education is also one of the main reasons for young people on Bonaire they are unwilling to work or unavailable for work. Of the remaining group of young people, 33 percent were employed, while 10.5 percent were neither in education nor in employment.

School leavers with a basic qualification are more likely to find work than early school leavers. A basic qualification refers to a diploma in senior general secondary education (HAVO, VWO) or the basic vocational track (MBO-2) and is considered to be the minimum level of education that allows people to succeed on the labour market in both the short and long term. In 2016, one out of five young residents of Bonaire were not in education and did not have such a qualification.

Youth in education or employment, 2016



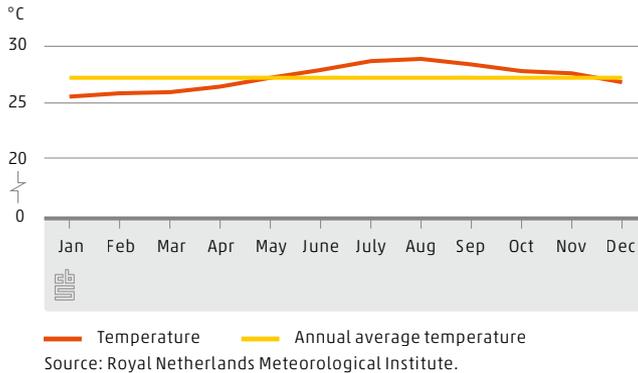
11% of young people in education are in paid work in 2016



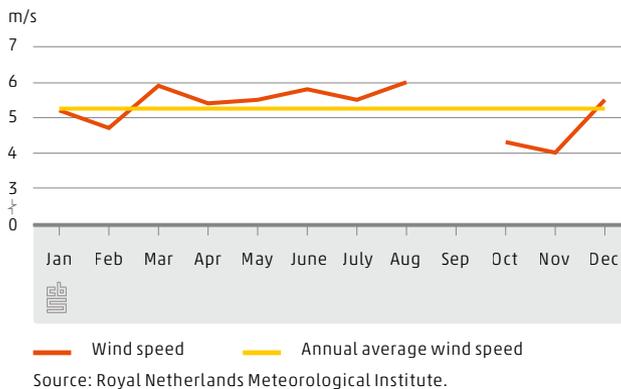
2. Saba

Climate

Monthly average temperatures, 2017



Wind speed, 2017



Education

Saba has two government-funded schools; one teaches primary, the other secondary education. The secondary school offers both general and vocational education. On 1 October 2017, Saba had 274 pupils enrolled in government-funded schools, of whom 61 percent in primary education, 37 percent in secondary general education and 2 percent in secondary vocational (MBO) education. Government-funded secondary vocational education did not exist on Saba until 2012/'13. Students may also go to other countries in the Caribbean area, the USA or the Netherlands to enrol in secondary or higher education.

1+2

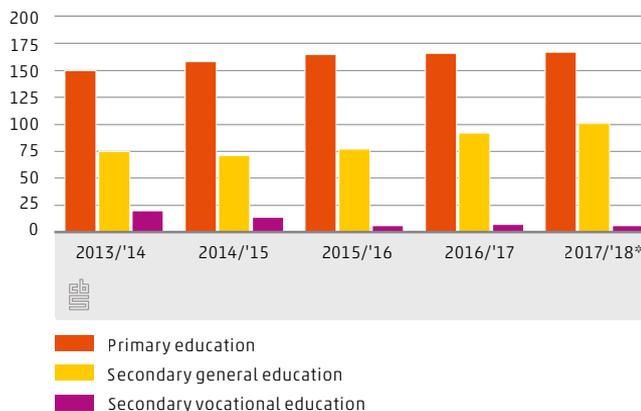
274 students attended government-funded schools in 2017/'18*

On 1 October 2017, Saba had 167 pupils enrolled in primary education: 75 girls and 92 boys, between the ages of 4 and 11. By the time they reach the age of 12, they often enter secondary education. At primary schools on Saba, children speak English and Dutch.

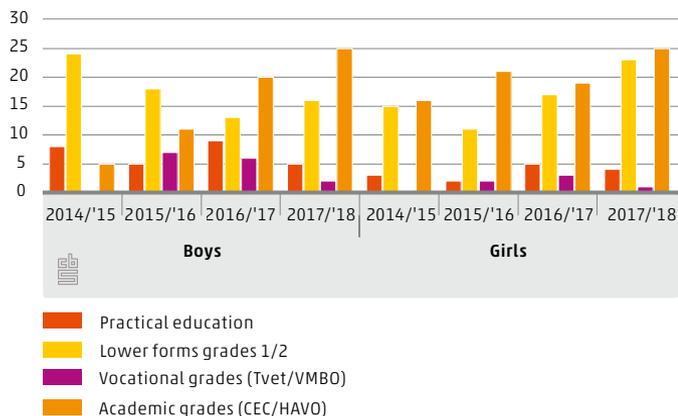
Secondary general education on Saba is in line with the education system in the Caribbean area, with English as the language of instruction. Dutch is a so-called strong foreign language. After their examination in grade 2, students can opt for a vocational or an academic programme. On 1 October 2017, Saba had 101 students enrolled in secondary general education: 53 girls and 48 boys.

Students can attend secondary vocational education from around the age of 16. They go to school and receive training on the job or even work part-time at a training company which is recognised by the Council of Education and Labour Market Caribbean

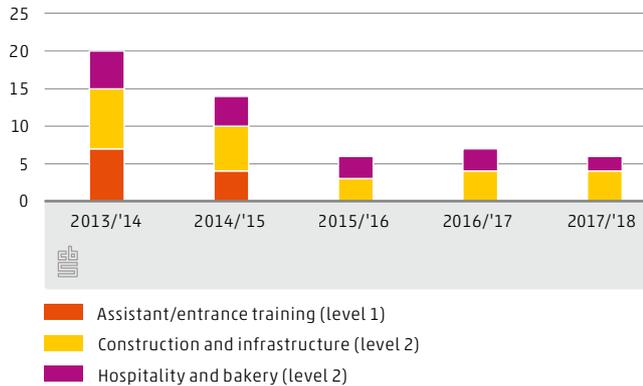
Pupils in government-funded schools, 1 October



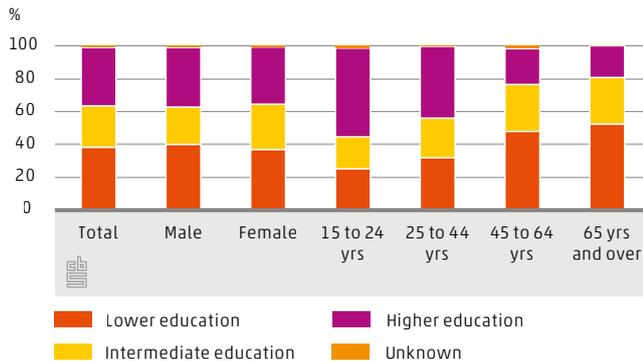
Students in secondary general education



Students in secondary vocational education



Education level (15 years and over), 2016



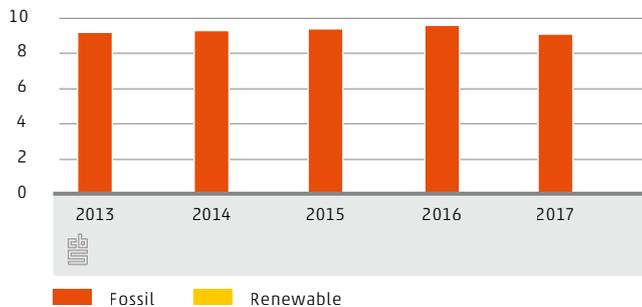
Netherlands (ROA CN). Secondary vocational students on Saba can choose from various disciplines at two different levels. Together with ROA CN, the school determines which courses should be offered in order to meet future demand on the labour market.

Almost 1.7 thousand people (15 years or older) live on Saba. Of the three islands in the Caribbean Netherlands, people on Saba have the highest level of education: 35 percent of residents are highly educated, 25 percent have an intermediate education level and 38 percent a lower education level. The Saba University School of medicine is located on the island, which is a private American university. Over 60 percent of those in education (government-funded and private) on Saba are American or Canadian. There is a significant difference in education level between residents who were born in the Caribbean Netherlands and those who were not born there. In general, the latter have a higher education level.

Energy

Electricity production

million kWh



Firefighting

Firefighting

2014 2015 2016 2017

Medical evacuation

Emergency medical evacuation	0	0	0	0
No category	1	2	0	1
Search and rescue	0	1	2	0

Firefighting

Outdoor fires	2	5	7	3
Indoor fires	1	1	0	1
No category	0	1	0	0

Assistance

Emergency assistance	7	5	7	7
Non-emergency assistance	4	6	2	27
No category	1	0	0	0

Services

Billable	0	0	0	0
Non-billable	1	0	0	0
Response to incidents involving hazardous substances	0	0	1	2

Aviation incidents

Major alarm involving crash	0	1	0	0
Marine accidents - medical assistance	0	0	0	1

Source: Fire department Caribbean Netherlands.

Median disposable household income

1,000 USD (in prices of 2016)



Purchasing power development

year-on-year % change



Income

In 2016, Saba had the highest median disposable income within the Caribbean Netherlands. The rise in minimum wages and social benefits contributed to this. The median (annual) income of Saba households was 26.1 thousand US dollars, almost 3 percent more than in 2015. Households with income mainly from work had 28.8 thousand US dollars to spend in 2016.

The median disposable income on Saba has gradually increased since 2013, when it was 24.4 thousand US dollars. This had risen by almost 7 percent in 2016. The income of working people was highest in 2012, when they had 29.1 thousand US dollars to spend. In the period between 2014 and 2016, this income remained rather stable.

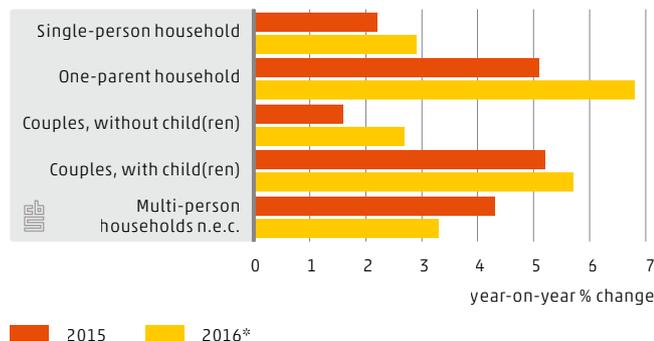
Purchasing power development

In 2016, people on Saba saw their purchasing power improve the most among the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. The 4.8 percent growth merely resulted from extra indexation

of the minimum wages and social benefits as well as the introduction of the child benefit. People in households with primary income from work or their own company benefited as well: their purchasing power increased by 3.7 percent. Purchasing power development has seen an annually rising trend. From +4.6 percent in 2012, it declined to +3.1 percent in both 2014 and 2015, but went up again in 2016. Working people as well were positively affected each year. In 2012, purchasing power rose by 5 percent, the highest increase so far.

For all households, purchasing power improved in 2015 and 2016. In both years, households with children were better off than those without children. In 2015, the purchasing power of couples with children rose by 5.2 percent and for one-parent households by 5.1 percent. With the introduction of the child benefit in 2016, it became even 6.8 percent for one-parent households. Couples without children saw their situation improve as well. However, 2.7 percent increase was the lowest of all households.

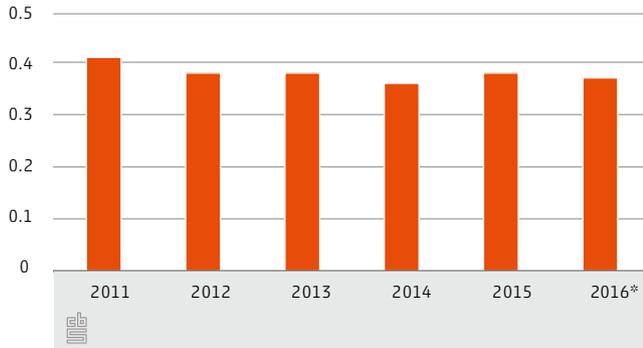
Purchasing power development



Introduction of child benefit

In 2016, the child benefit was introduced in the Caribbean Netherlands. On Saba, households with children up to 18 years old received a monthly payment of 42 US dollars per child. In previous years, households with children could avail of the tax benefit for (up to two) children. Low income households (not paying much in taxes) were unable, or only partly able, to avail of this scheme. As the child benefit is not dependent on income, it contributes to all households with young children.

Gini coefficient



Income inequality

In 2016, Saba has the lowest income inequality within the Caribbean Netherlands. The Gini coefficient was 0.37. In terms of the Gini coefficient, 0 means total equality: everyone has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one person has all the income, the rest has none.

In the period before 2015, the Gini coefficient declined from a value of 0.41 in 2011 to 0.36 in 2014. It went up again after 2014, although not as much as on the other Caribbean islands.

4.8% increase in
purchasing power in 2016*



International trade

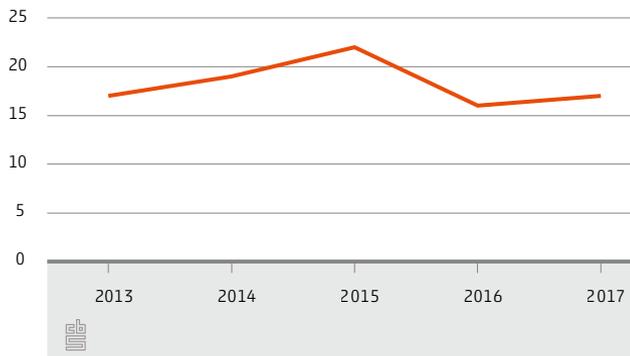
On Saba, there is very little manufacturing and many goods need to be imported. Exports are low at a value of 0.3 million US dollars. The trade deficit in 2017 amounted to 17 million US dollars, 7 percent more than in the previous year. There was a peak in 2015, reaching 22 million US dollars.



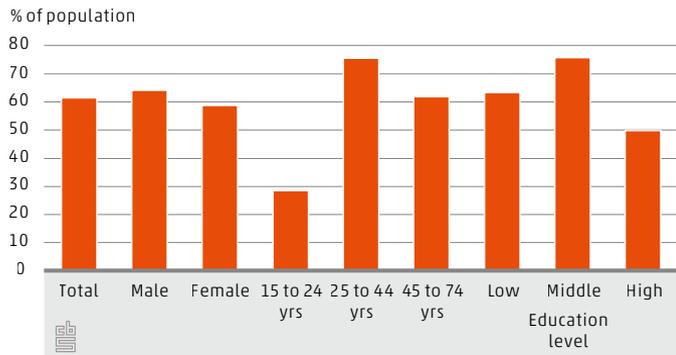
17 million USD
trade deficit in 2017

Trade deficit on Saba

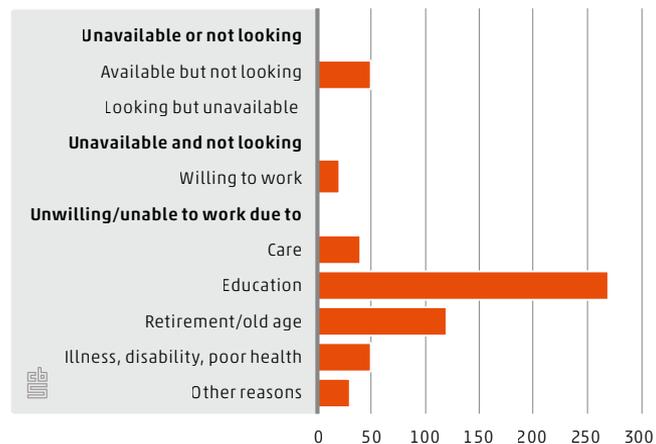
million USD



Net labour participation, 2016



Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2016



Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Saba is slightly under 1.6 thousand, with 62 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate is higher among men, and lower among young people than among middle and older age groups. Participation rates are lowest among the highly educated; a relatively large group of medical students living on the island do not combine their studies with work. Among people with low educational attainment, 63 percent are in work, versus 76 percent of those with intermediate education level and 50 percent of the highly educated. Saba's unemployment rate has been low at just over 3 percent.

Almost 600 residents of Saba do not form part of the local labour force. They are not looking, nor are they available for work; in most cases, it is a combination of both. A large group (21 percent) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. However, education is still the main reason (for almost half of

this group) why people on the island are unwilling or unable to work. This is primarily the effect of a relatively large group of young people who are enrolled in the medical university. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to a disability (9 percent) or because they have to take care of family (6 percent).

Employee jobs

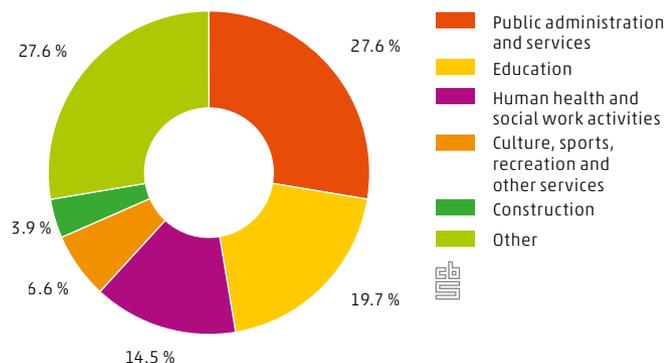
There are 760 employee jobs on Saba. The medical university has a significant impact on the island's labour market. Apart from the public sector, education is the sector with the highest number of jobs, followed by the health care sector.

Employee wages

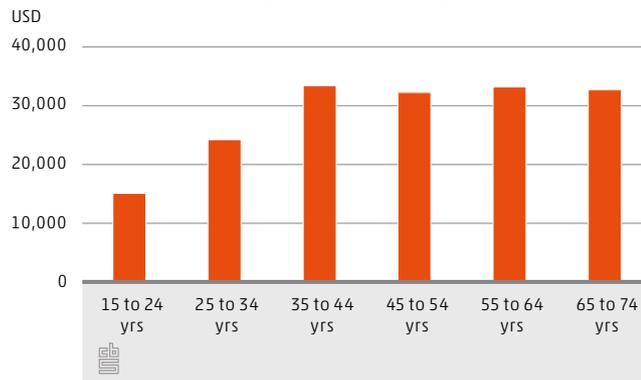
The average annual wage on Saba stood at 29.3 thousand US dollars in 2016, representing an increase of 3 percent relative to 2015. The median wage was 21.7 thousand US dollars. This means that half of all employed people earned wages below this level while the other half earned higher wages. Wages vary widely, depending on the characteristics and type of work. In 2016,

women's wages were 18 percent lower than men's. This pay gap is narrowing: in 2011, the difference was 23 percent.

Employee jobs by economic activity, 2016*



Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2016*



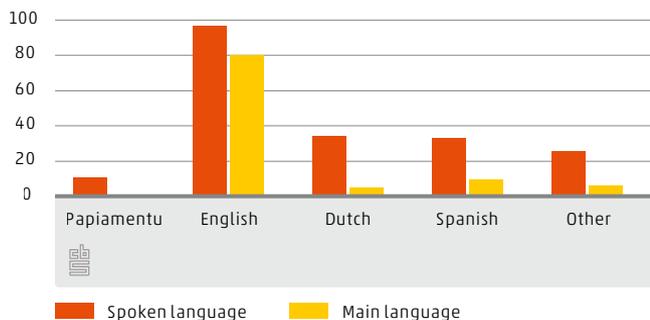
Happiness and satisfaction, 2018

% of the population



Main and spoken languages, 2018

% of the population



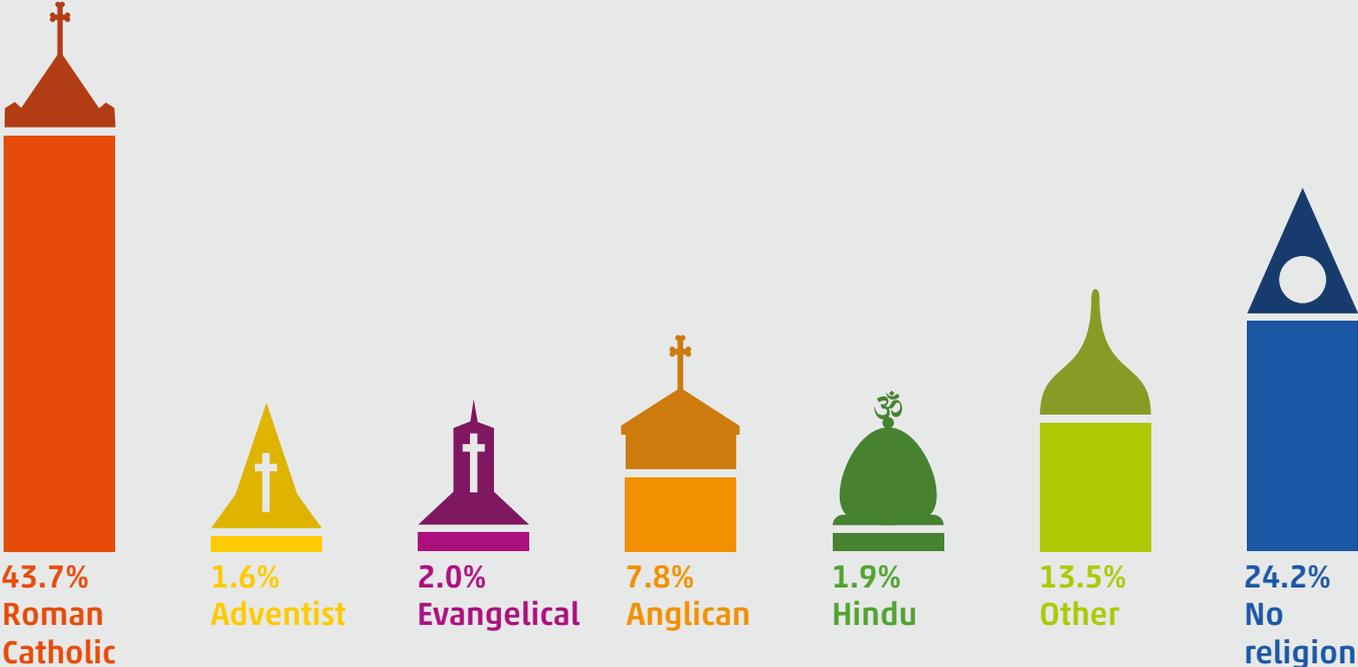
Lifestyle

In 2018, three-quarters of the population on Saba (aged 15 and over) say they are religious. This was 83 percent in 2013. Over 4 in 10 are Roman Catholic, the same share as in 2013. Eight percent say they belong to the Anglican Church. The other denominations are relatively small: 2 percent are Evangelic, 2 percent Adventist, and 2 percent Hindu.

More than 9 in 10 inhabitants (aged 15 and over) say they are happy. Rated with a score, this would be an 8.3. Life satisfaction in general would be rated 8.2. They are also satisfied with their education opportunities (score 7.7), daily activities (7.9) and financial situation (6.7).

Two-thirds of Saba's population are multilingual, with 80 percent speaking English as their main language. For 5 percent, Dutch is the main spoken language; another 10 percent have Spanish as their main language.

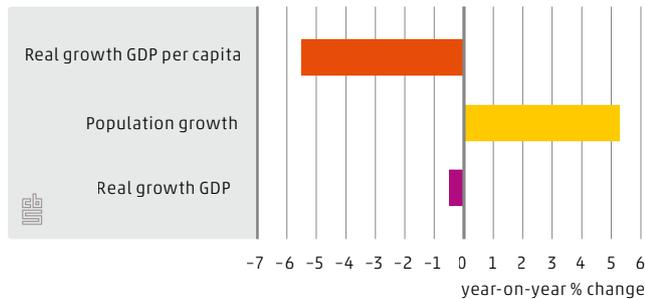
Religious denominations on Saba, 2018



Gross domestic product

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	USD				
GDP (market prices)	42 mln	45 mln	46 mln	47 mln	48 mln
GDP per capita	21,400	23,600	25,100	24,900	24,200

Real economy and population, 2016



Macroeconomics

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Saba increased by 2.6 percent to 48 million US dollars in 2016. The volume of GDP decreased by 0.5 percent. GDP volume growth is calculated by adjusting the value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index. GDP per capita decreased by 2.8 percent from 24,900 US dollars in 2015 to 24,200 US dollars in 2016. In volume terms, GDP per capita decreased by 5.5 percent in 2016.

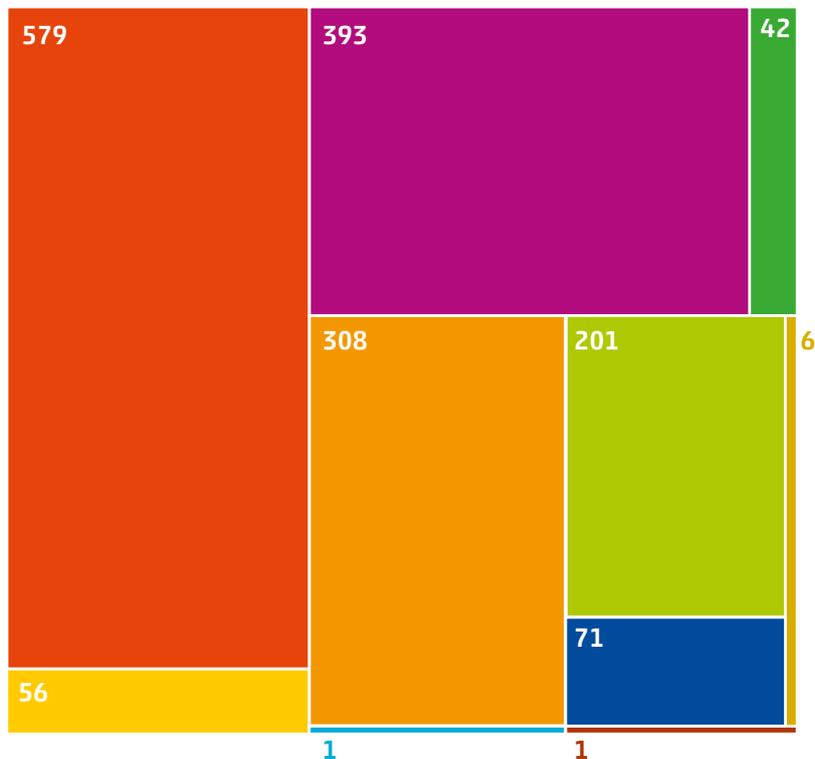
5.5% decrease of
real GDP per capita in 2016



Nature

Relative habitat area Saba

(Excluding open sea, deep sea and Saba bank, hectares)



- Dry tropical forest
- Built-up area, agriculture
- Degraded dry tropical forests
- Coral reefs
- Seagrass beds and seaweed beds
- Bare rocks
- Rain forest
- Beaches
- Caves
- Cloud forest

Population

Saba had nearly 2.2 thousand inhabitants at the beginning of 2018. Around 350 persons have been added to the population since 1 January 2011. In 2013 and 2014, there was negative net migration. On Saba as well, people were still registered in the population registry, but had since moved away. The majority are American and Canadian students who received part of their medical training on Saba.

In the period 2011–2017, over 60 Antillean-born persons (persons born on one of the Islands of the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba) migrated from Saba to the Netherlands. In the same period, 54 Antillean-born persons from the Netherlands resettled on Saba. The net migration rate is more or less balanced for this group. Many young people migrate to the Netherlands to study there, and most of them return to Saba after several years. The average length of stay in the Netherlands is 5 years.



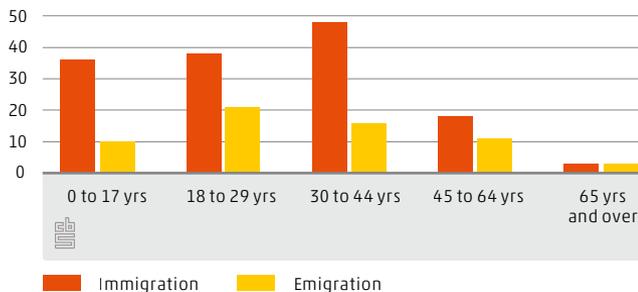
Over **20%** population
growth between 2011 and 2017

There is more migratory movement between Saba, St Maarten and Curaçao than Saba and the European part of the Netherlands. Net migration comes out slightly positive.

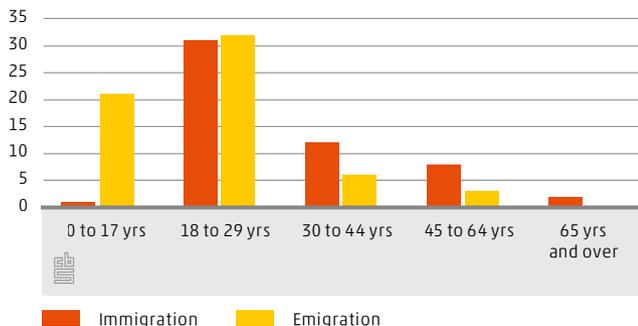
In the period 2011–2017, around 80 people born in the European part of the Netherlands settled on Saba. The majority were children and people in their thirties and forties.

There are considerably fewer people aged 50 and over migrating between Saba and the European part of the Netherlands.

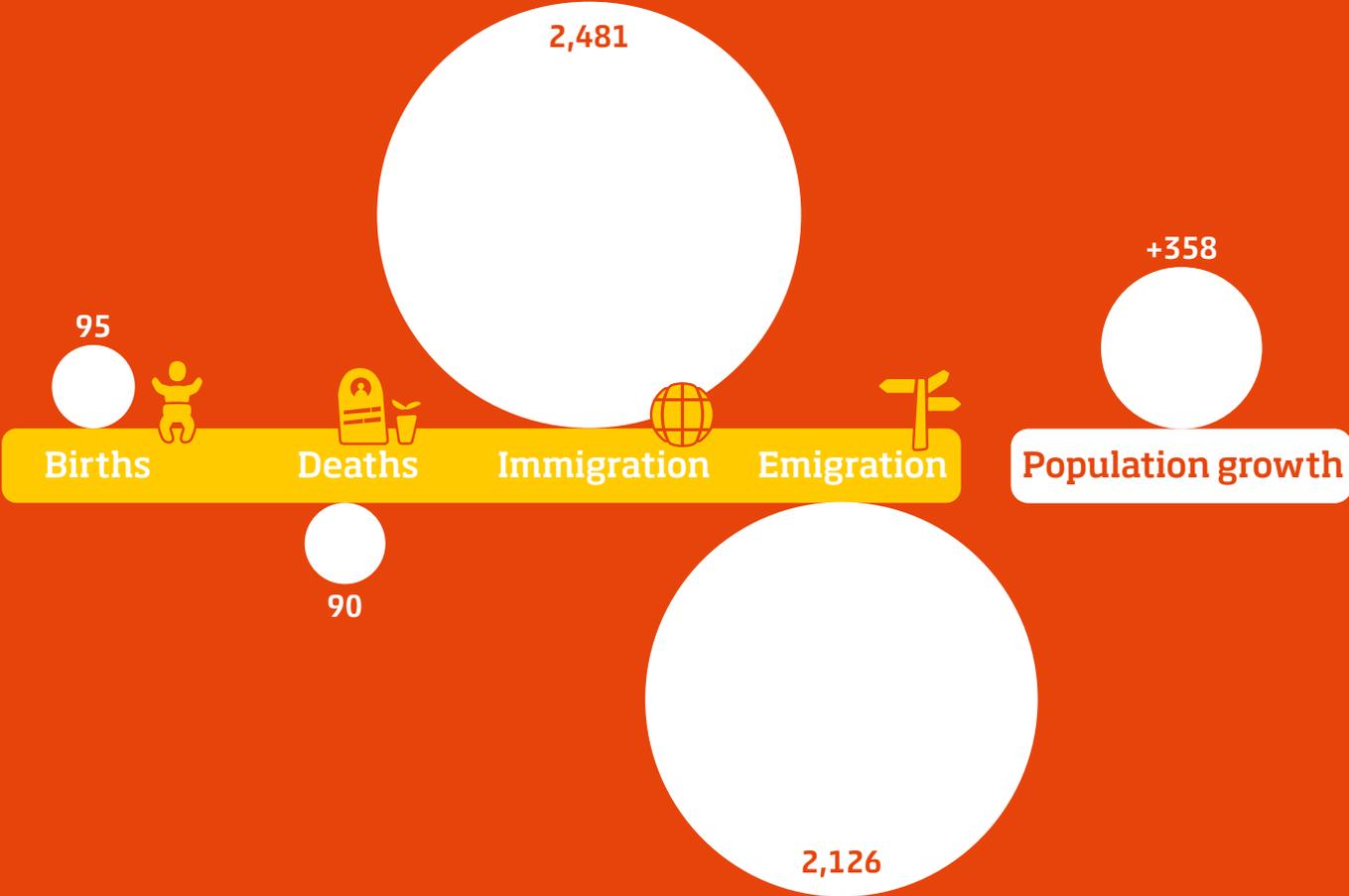
Migration of Dutch-born persons between Saba and the Netherlands, 2011/2017



Migration of Antillean-born persons between Saba and the Netherlands, 2011/2017



Population dynamics Saba, 2011-2017



Prices

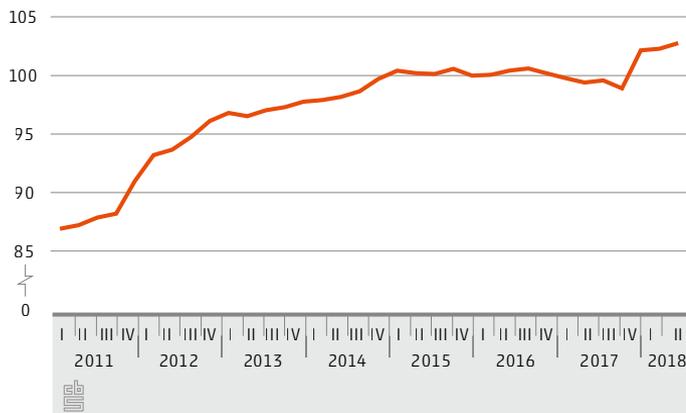
In 2017, consumer goods and services on Saba cost 0.2 percent less than in the previous year. Average price levels were lower year-on-year in the first three quarters. Hurricane Irma made goods scarce, pushing prices up in the fourth quarter. The overall price level in 2017 remained below 2016 levels, however. Telephony and the Internet were 6.9 percent cheaper than in 2016. Food and non-alcoholic beverages were also less expensive than in the previous year.

0.2% year-on-year
drop in consumer prices in 2017



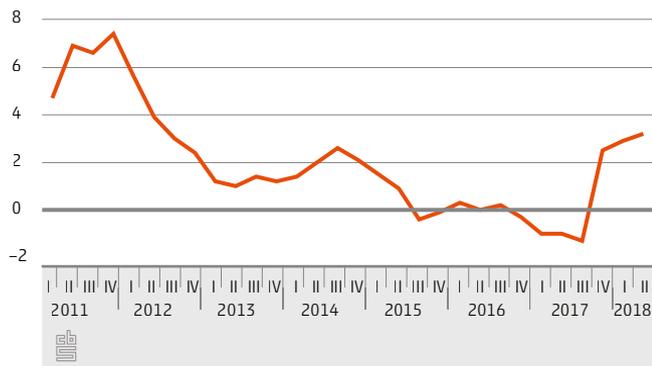
Consumer price index

2017 = 100



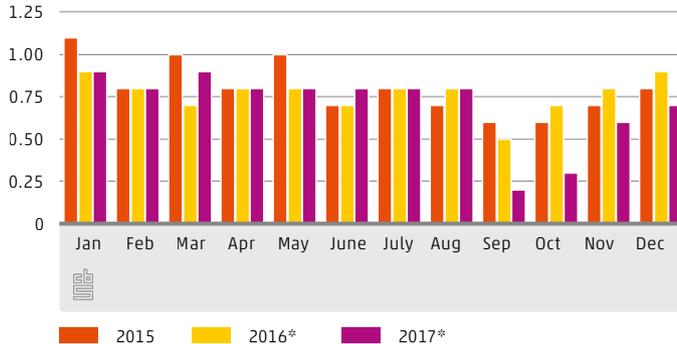
Consumer price index

year-on-year % change



Inbound tourism by air

x1,000

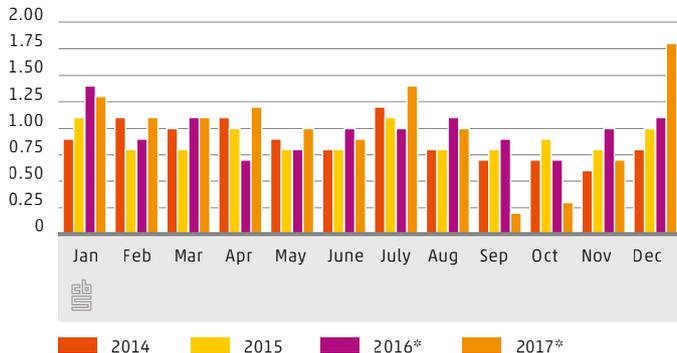


Tourism

On Saba, the number of tourist arrivals by air was up until September 2017, increasing by 5 percent compared to 2016. Due to Hurricane Irma, the number of inbound tourists fell drastically in September and October. Although November and December showed a slight recovery, inbound tourism by air was ultimately down by 9 percent year-on-year to a total of 8.4 thousand arrivals (including business travellers).

Inbound passengers by sea

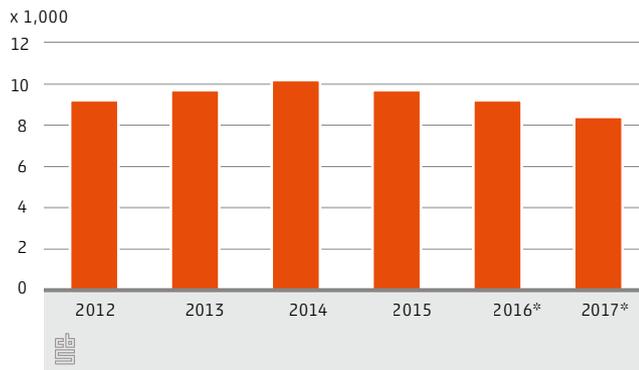
x1,000



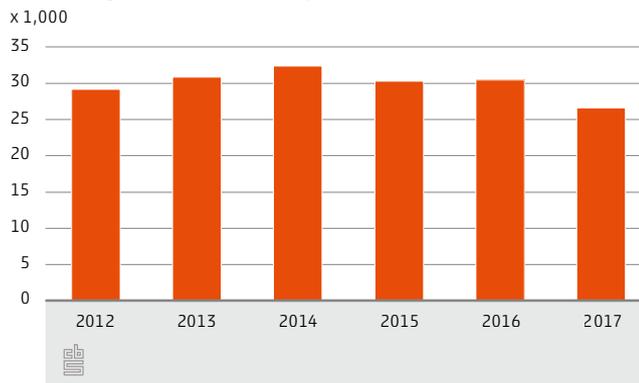
In 2017, the number of passengers arriving on Saba by sea grew by 3 percent to 12.1 thousand passengers relative to 2016. Especially in December, many passengers arrived by boat or ferry.

In 2017, there were 2.6 thousand aircraft movements to and from Saba, a decline by almost 16 percent on the previous year. The number of passengers flying through Saba's airport declined by almost 13 percent, however. The drop in number of flights and passengers to and from Saba was partly the result of Hurricane Irma. Saba's airport was closed for one and a half weeks and regular air traffic operations were disrupted for weeks. In September 2017, a mere 90 flights were operated to and from Saba, versus 260 in the same month one year previously.

Inbound tourism by air



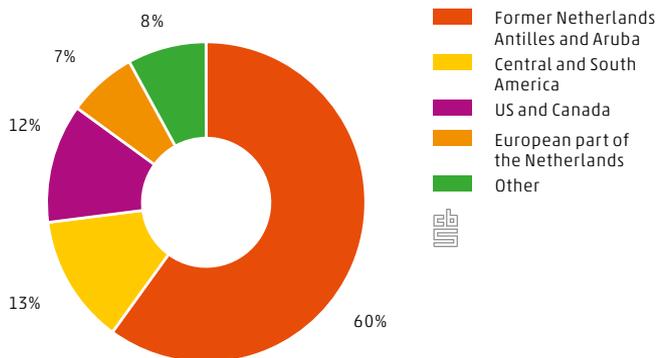
Passenger numbers at Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport



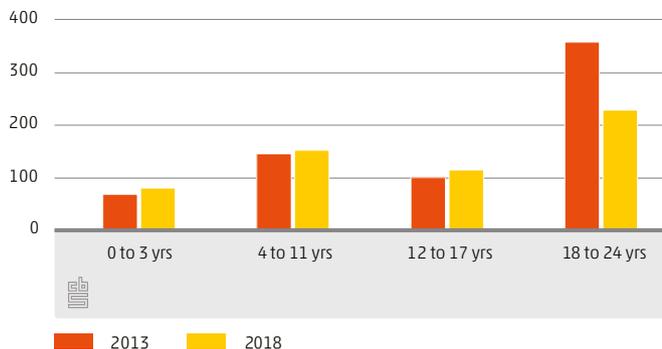
12.1 thousand passengers
arriving by sea in 2017



Youth by country of birth, 1 January 2017



Youth by age group, 1 January



Youth

At the beginning of 2018, the population of Saba included 0.6 thousand people under the age of 25. The number of young people on Saba has decreased over the past five years, especially the number of 18 to 24-year-olds. The share of young people in the population has also decreased: from 34 percent in 2013 to 27 percent in 2018. This is around 1 percentage point lower than the share of young people in the European part of the Netherlands. The relatively high number of 18 to 24-year-olds on Saba is explained by the presence of a medical university on the island.

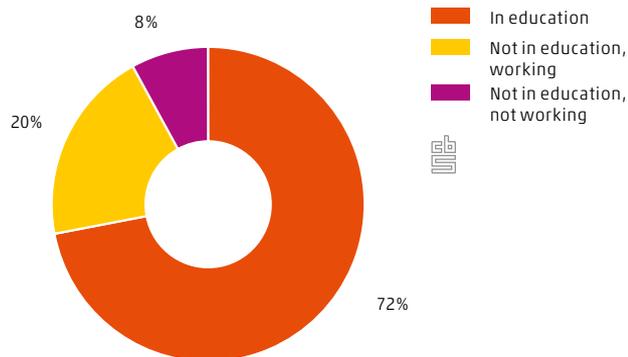
Most of the young people on Saba – 60 percent – were originally born on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius or St Maarten. The share who were born in the European part of the Netherlands amounts to 7 percent. Relatively many young people on Saba were born in either Canada or the United States; these are predominantly medical students. This group of students also explains the relatively large share of young persons living in single-person households. Less than half (46 percent) of young people born on Saba live with both

Youth in households on Saba, 1 Jan. 2017



-  Child in two-parent household
-  Child in one-parent household
-  Single person
-  Partner in couple
-  Single parent
-  Other

Youth in education or employment, 2016



7% decrease in the share of young people in 2013-2018



parents in one family and 23 percent live in single-parent families. Nearly 9 percent of all 0 to 24-yrs-olds live with their parents, other relatives and non-relatives.

In 2016, nearly 72 percent of the 0.3 thousand young people in the age group 15 to 24 years were enrolled in education. It is unusual for young Saba residents in education to have paid work (12 percent). Education is also one of the main reasons they are unwilling to work or unavailable for work. Of the remaining group of young people, 20 percent were employed and 8 percent were neither in education nor in employment.

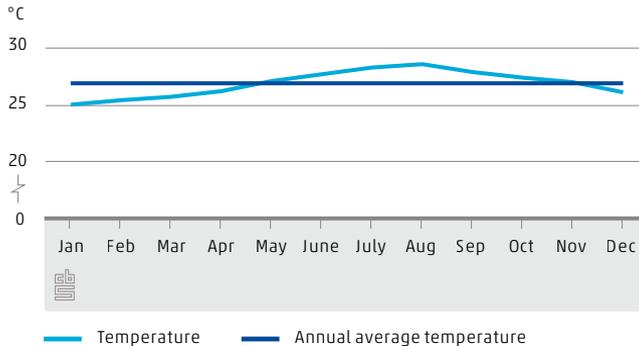
School-leavers with a basic qualification are more likely to find work than early school-leavers. A basic qualification refers to a diploma in senior general secondary education (HAVO, VWO) or the basic vocational track (MBO-2) and is considered to be the minimum level of education that allows people to succeed in the labour market, in the short and long term. In 2016, 11 percent of the young people on Saba were not in education and did not have such a qualification.



3. St Eustatius

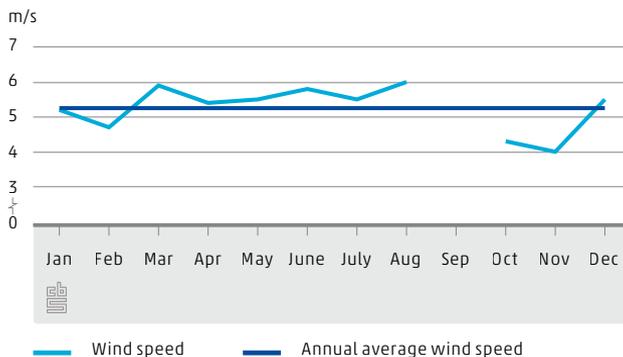
Climate

Monthly average temperatures, 2017



Source: Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute.

Wind speed, 2017



Source: Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute.

Education

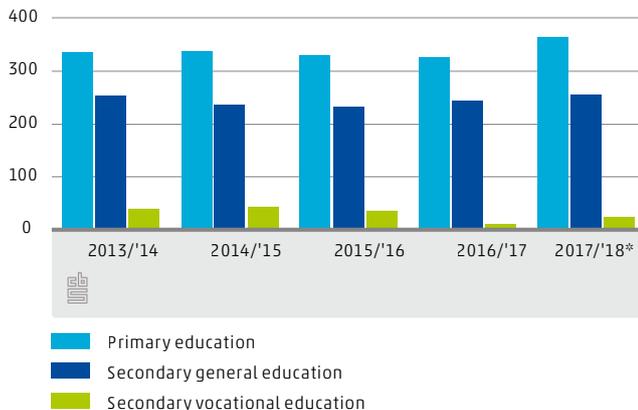
St Eustatius has five government-funded schools including four primary schools. The secondary school offers both general and vocational education. On 1 October 2017, St Eustatius had 645 pupils enrolled in these schools, of whom 57 percent were in primary education; 40 percent were in secondary general education, while the rest (4 percent) attended secondary vocational (MBO) schools. Government-funded secondary vocational education did not exist on St Eustatius until 2012/'13. Students may also go to other countries in the Caribbean area, the USA or the Netherlands to enrol in secondary or higher education.

On 1 October 2017, St Eustatius had 365 pupils enrolled in primary education: 173 girls and 192 boys between the ages of 4 and 11. By the time they reach the age of 12, they often enter secondary education. At primary schools on St Eustatius, children speak English and Dutch.

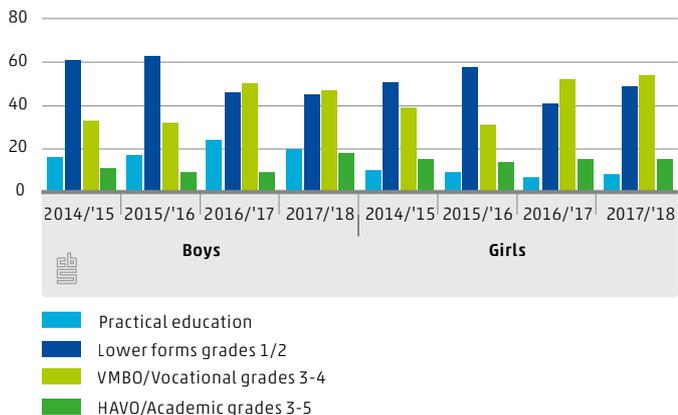
Until recently, secondary general education on St Eustatius was in line with the education system in (the European part of) the Netherlands. Students could enrol in HAVO, VMBO or practical education with Dutch as the instruction language. In the school year 2015/'16, the same education system as on Saba was introduced for general secondary education. This is in line with the education system around the Caribbean area. The system was adapted gradually, starting from grade 1. English became the language of instruction and Dutch was turned into the main foreign language. This left open the possibility for pupils to continue their education in the European part of the Netherlands. On 1 October 2017, St Eustatius had 256 secondary school students: 126 girls and 130 boys.

Students can attend secondary vocational education from around the age of 16. They go to school and receive training on the job, or even work part-time at a training company which is recognised by the Council of Education and Labour Market Caribbean Netherlands (ROA CN). Secondary vocational students on St Eustatius can choose from various disciplines at two

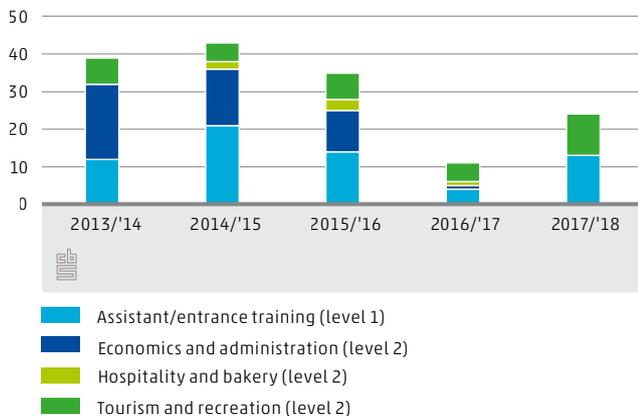
Pupils in government-funded schools, 1 October



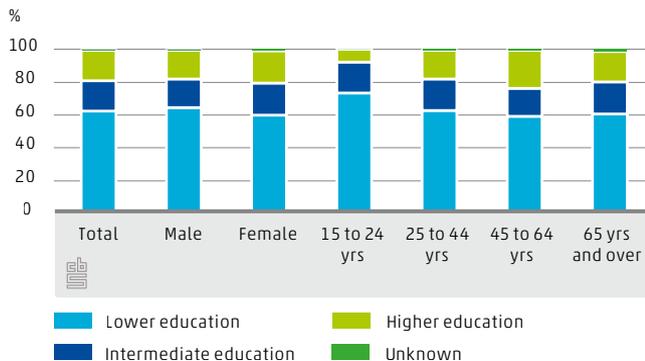
Students in secondary general education



Students in secondary vocational education



Education level (15 years and over), 2016



different levels. Together with ROA CN, the school determines which courses should be offered in order to meet future demand on the labour market.

Almost 2.6 thousand people (15 years or older) live on St Eustatius. Among the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, people on St Eustatius have the lowest level of education: 62 percent are lower educated, 18 percent have an intermediate education level and 19 percent are highly educated. Men have a lower education level than women. Of the men 65 percent has a lower education level, of the women 60 percent. Older inhabitants have the lowest education level. In addition, 73 percent of the youth (15 to 24 years) has a lower education level. However, a considerable proportion of Statian youth are still in education (61 percent).

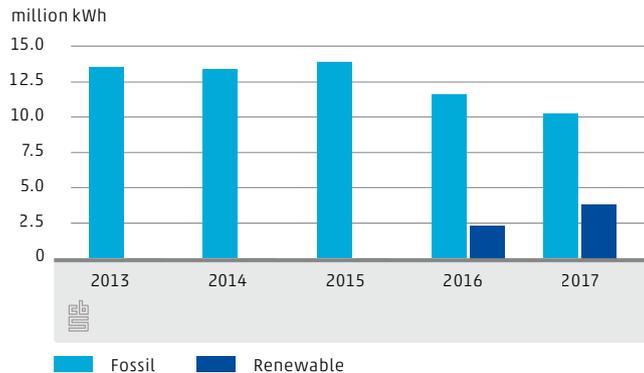
645

students attended
government-funded schools in 2017/'18*

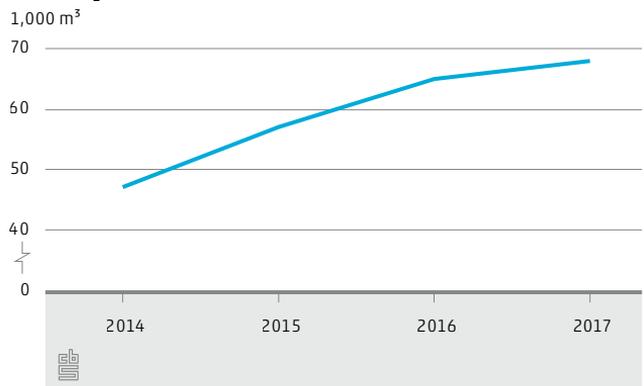


Energy

Electricity production



Water production



Firefighting

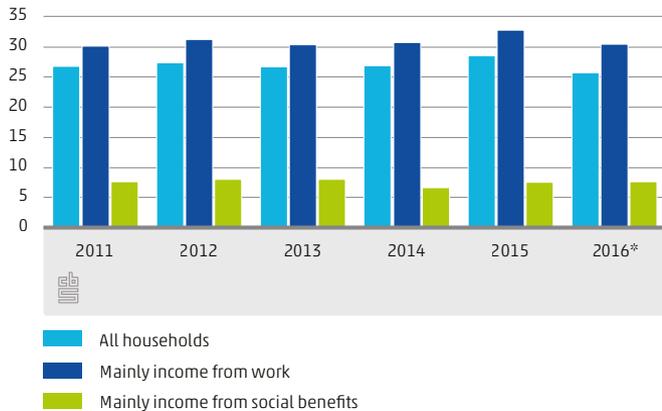
Firefighting

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beehive	0	0	1	2
Firefighting				
Outdoor fires	6	2	11	10
Car fires	0	1	1	0
Indoor fires	2	3	2	1
No category	2	1	0	0
Assistance				
Emergency assistance	0	3	2	6
Non-emergency assistance	0	5	5	21
No category	0	0	0	1
Response to incidents involving hazardous substances	0	1	0	1
Services - non-billable	0	0	1	1
Aviation incidents	0	1	0	0
Search and rescue	0	0	0	2

Source: Fire department Caribbean Netherlands.

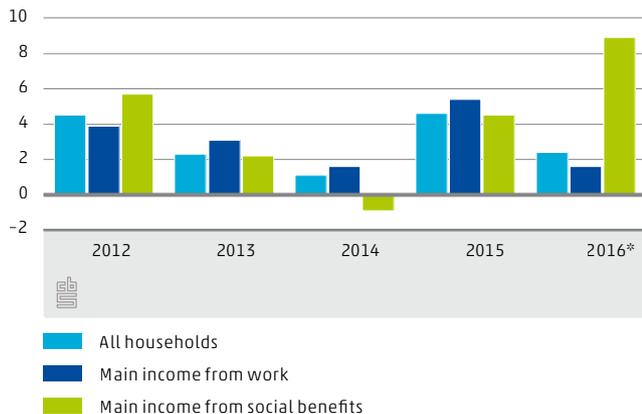
Median disposable household income, 2011-2016*

x 1,000 USD (in prices of 2016)



Purchasing power development

year-on-year % change



Income

In 2016, households on St Eustatius had a median disposable income of 25.7 thousand US dollars. Households with their main income from work had 30.5 thousand US dollars to spend; the highest level in the Caribbean Netherlands. The median income of households receiving social benefits was 7.6 thousand US dollars in 2016. This was four times less than households with income from work.

In the period 2011 to 2015, households on St Eustatius had the highest disposable income among the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. The peak was reached in 2015, when they had in median 28.5 thousand US dollars to spend. This was almost 7 percent higher than in 2013, when income was at its lowest. In 2016, median disposable income dropped by almost 11 percent to even below the level of 2013.

Purchasing power development

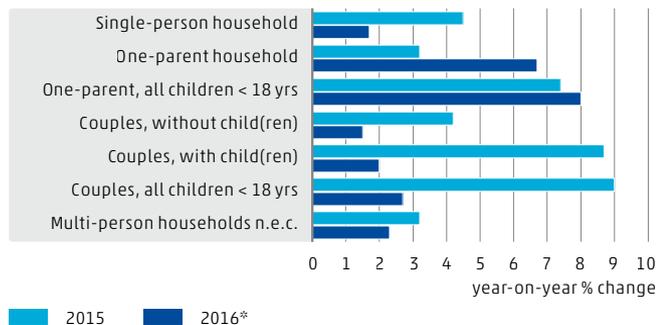
The purchasing power rose by 2.4 percent for the people on St Eustatius. The increase for people in work was 1.6 percent. Among social benefit recipients, purchasing power improved by a

substantial 8.9 percent, mainly as a result of the extra indexation of social benefits and an marginal increase in AOV compensation.

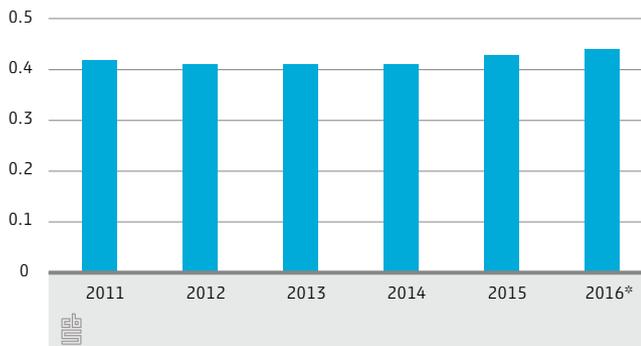
The population of St Eustatius have seen their purchasing power improve since 2012. The highest increase so far was in 2015 at 4.6 percent. The purchasing power of people in employment has shown a similar pattern. After years of lower growth, purchasing power improved by 5.4 percent in 2015. For social benefit recipients, purchasing power has been positive each year except in 2014, when it declined by 0.9 percent.

In each consecutive year since 2012, purchasing power has improved for households with children, most substantially for those with minor children (under the age of 18). In 2015, the purchasing power of families with minors rose by 9 percent; for single-parent families with minors, by 7.4 percent. Due to the introduction of the child benefit in 2016, single-parent households with minor children even saw their purchasing power improve by 8 percent.

Purchasing power development



Gini coefficient



Introduction of child benefit

In 2016, the child benefit was introduced in the Caribbean Netherlands. Households on St Eustatius with children under the age of 18 began receiving a monthly payment of 42 US dollars per child. In previous years, households with children were able to use the tax benefit for (up to two) children. Low income households (which pay little or no income tax) were unable or only partly able to avail of this scheme. As child benefit is not dependent on income, it contributes to all households with young children.

Income inequality

Income inequality is most obvious on St Eustatius among the three islands. In 2016 the Gini coefficient had a value of 0.44, the highest since 2011. In terms of the Gini coefficient, 0 means total equality: everyone has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one person has all the income, the rest has none. In the period 2011 to 2014, inequality on St Eustatius was rather stable. It started increasing from 2014 onwards. The Gini coefficient showed the highest increase between 2014 and 2015, when its value grew from 0.41 to 0.43.

25.7 thousand USD was the
median household income in 2016*

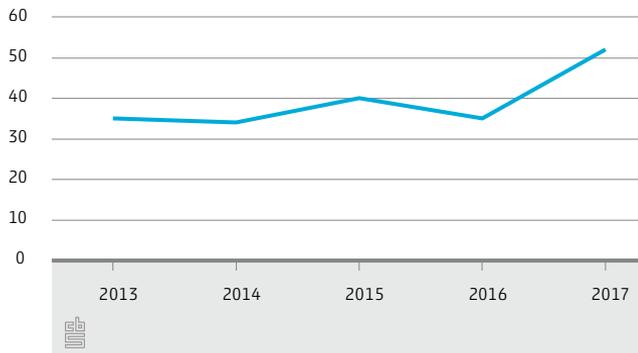


International trade

On St Eustatius, there is very little manufacturing and many goods need to be imported. In 2017, St Eustatius had a trade deficit of 52 million US dollars, almost 1.5 times the deficit of 2016; imports of goods stood at 55 million US dollars and exports at 2,5 million US dollars. The deficit has grown significantly, as it used to fluctuate around 35 million US dollars in previous years.

Trade deficit

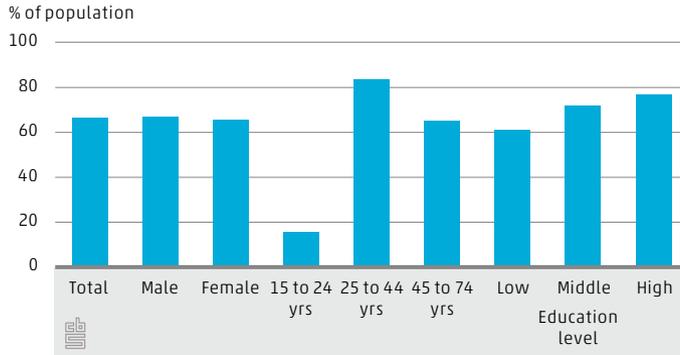
million USD



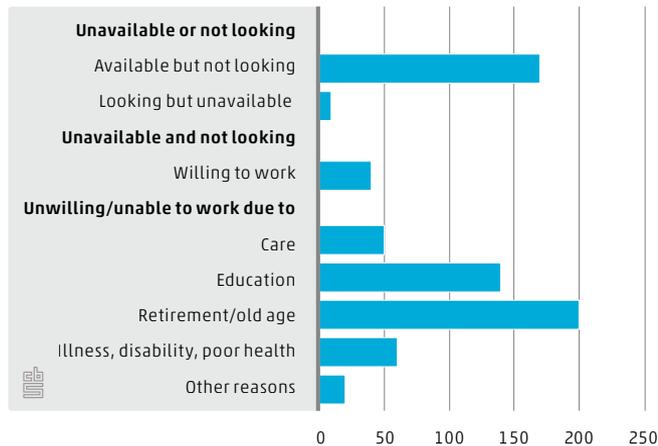
57.8% increase in value
of goods exports in 2017



Net labour participation, 2016



Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2016



Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on St Eustatius is 2.4 thousand, with 66 percent in employment. The ratio of male to female labour force participation is virtually equal: 67 percent of the men are employed as against 66 percent of the women. Participation is relatively low among young people. Labour force participation also increases with the level of educational attainment. Around 60 percent of the lower educated people are in employment versus over 70 percent of those with an intermediate education level and nearly 80 percent of the highly educated.

In 2016, St. Eustatius's unemployment rate is 7 percent, equivalent to over 100 unemployed.

Approximately 700 of the residents do not form part of the local labour force. They are not looking, nor are they available for work; in most cases, a combination of both. A large group (30 percent) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. At 20 percent, education is a major reason why local – in particular young –

residents are unwilling or unavailable for work. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to a disability (8 percent) or because they have to take care of family (7 percent).

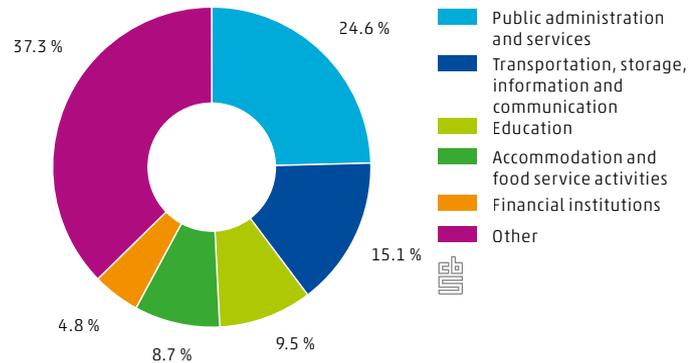
Employee jobs

There are 1.3 thousand employee jobs on St Eustatius. The NuStar storage terminal has a significant impact on the local labour market. Apart from the public sector, the sectors transportation, storage, information and communication, but also education, provide the largest number of jobs.

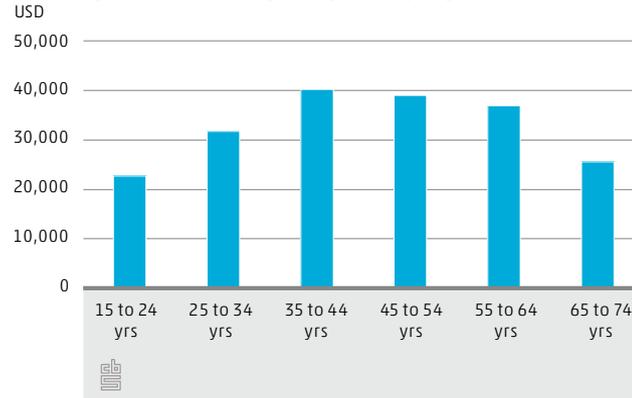
Employee wages

The average annual wage on St Eustatius stood at 36.1 thousand US dollars in 2016, almost the same as in 2015. The median wage amounted to 31.2 thousand US dollars; this means that half of all employed earned wages below this level while the other half earned higher wages. Wages vary widely, depending on the characteristics and type of work. In 2016, women's wages were 29 percent lower than men's.

Employee jobs by economic activity, 2016*

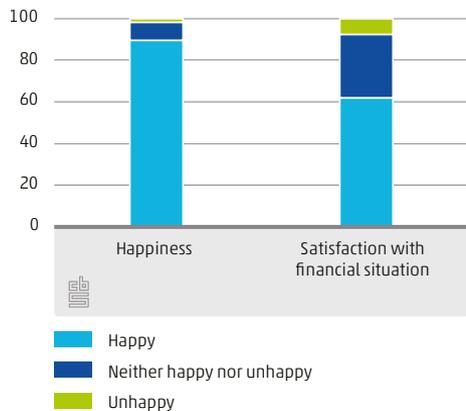


Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2016*

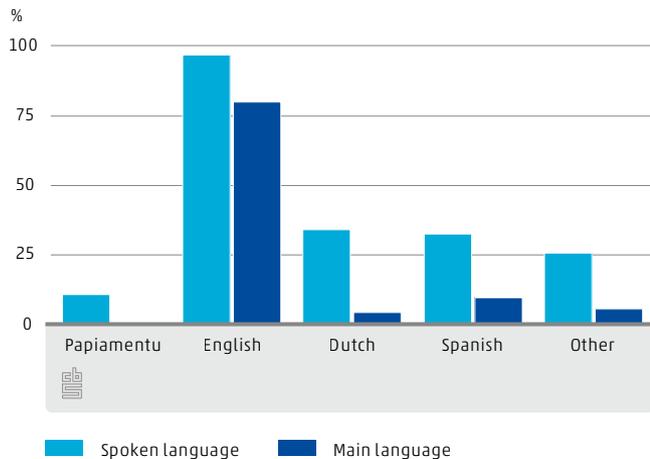


Happiness and satisfaction, 2018

% of the population



Main and spoken languages



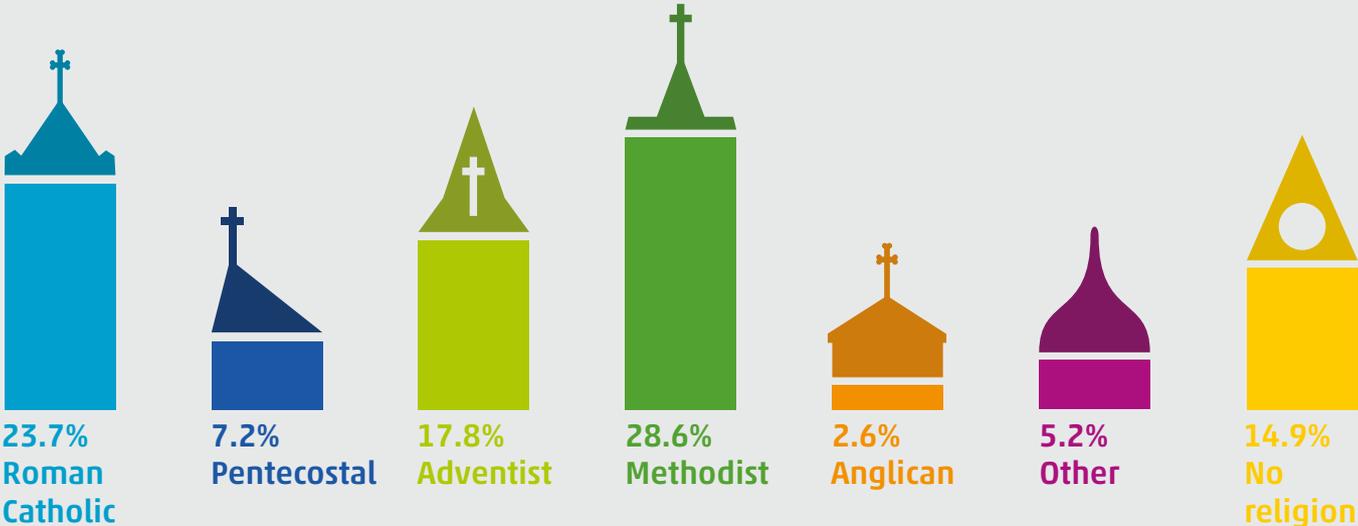
Lifestyle

In 2018, 85 percent of St Eustatius residents (aged 15 and over) said they belonged to a religious denomination or ideological organisation. This is the same as in 2013. Roman Catholics occupy a share of 24 percent. The share of Methodists is larger, namely 29 percent. Adventists occupy a share of 18 percent in the population. Seven percent say they are Pentecostals. The number of Protestants and Evangelists is too small for this statistic.

Of the population aged 15 and over, 9 out of 10 say they are happy. When asked to give a score, they would rate themselves an 8.0, just as in 2013. Life satisfaction in general would be rated 7.9. They are also satisfied with their education opportunities (score 7.3), daily activities (7.5) and financial situation (6.9).

Slightly more than half of the population on St Eustatius are multilingual. English is the first language for 80 percent of the population. For 3 percent, Dutch is the main spoken language; another 13 percent speak Spanish as their first language and 1 percent prefer Papiamentu.

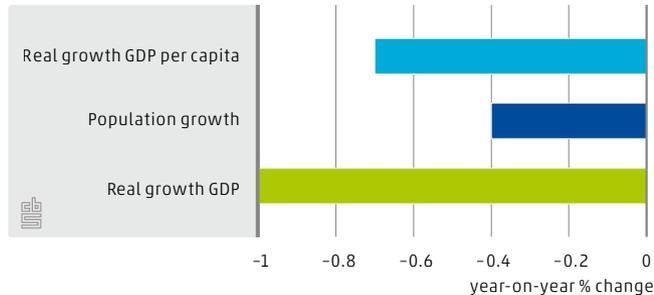
Religious denominations on St Eustatius, 2018



Gross domestic product

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	USD				
Gross domestic product (market prices)	101 mln	104 mln	100 mln	102 mln	100 mln
GDP, per capita	26,300	26,400	25,300	26,600	26,100

Real economy and population, 2016



Macroeconomics

The gross domestic product (GDP) of St Eustatius decreased by 2.1 percent to 100 million US dollars in 2016. The volume of GDP decreased by 1.0 percent. GDP volume growth is calculated by adjusting the value growth for inflation on the basis of the consumer price index. GDP per capita decreased by 1.9 percent from 26,600 US dollars in 2015 to 26,100 US dollars in 2016. In volume terms, GDP per capita decreased by 0.7 percent in 2016.

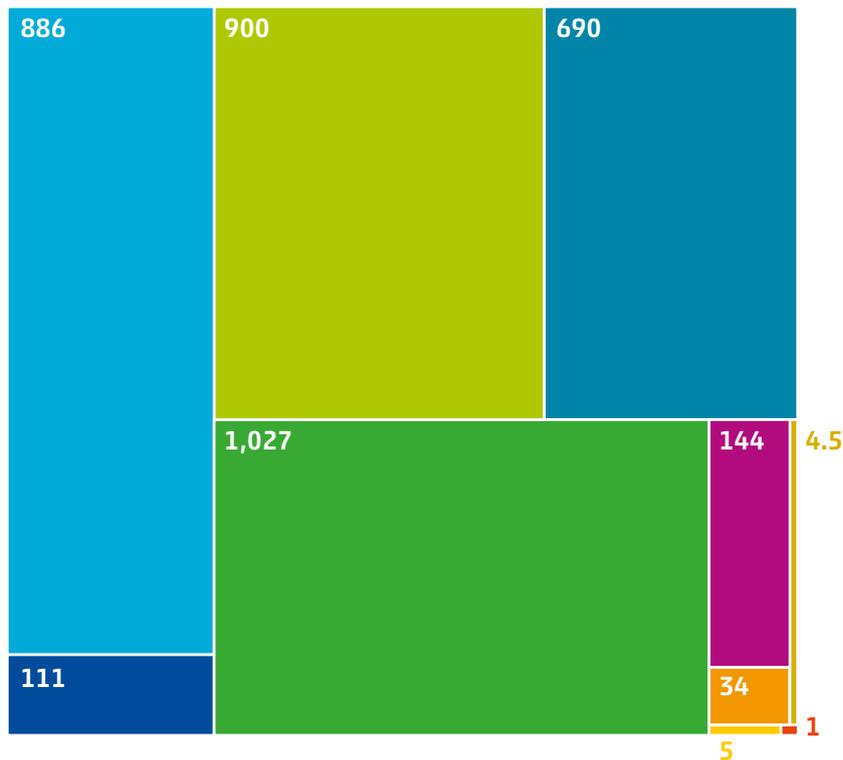
26,100 USD was
GDP per capita in 2016



Nature

Relative habitat area St Eustatius

(Excluding open and deep sea, hectares)



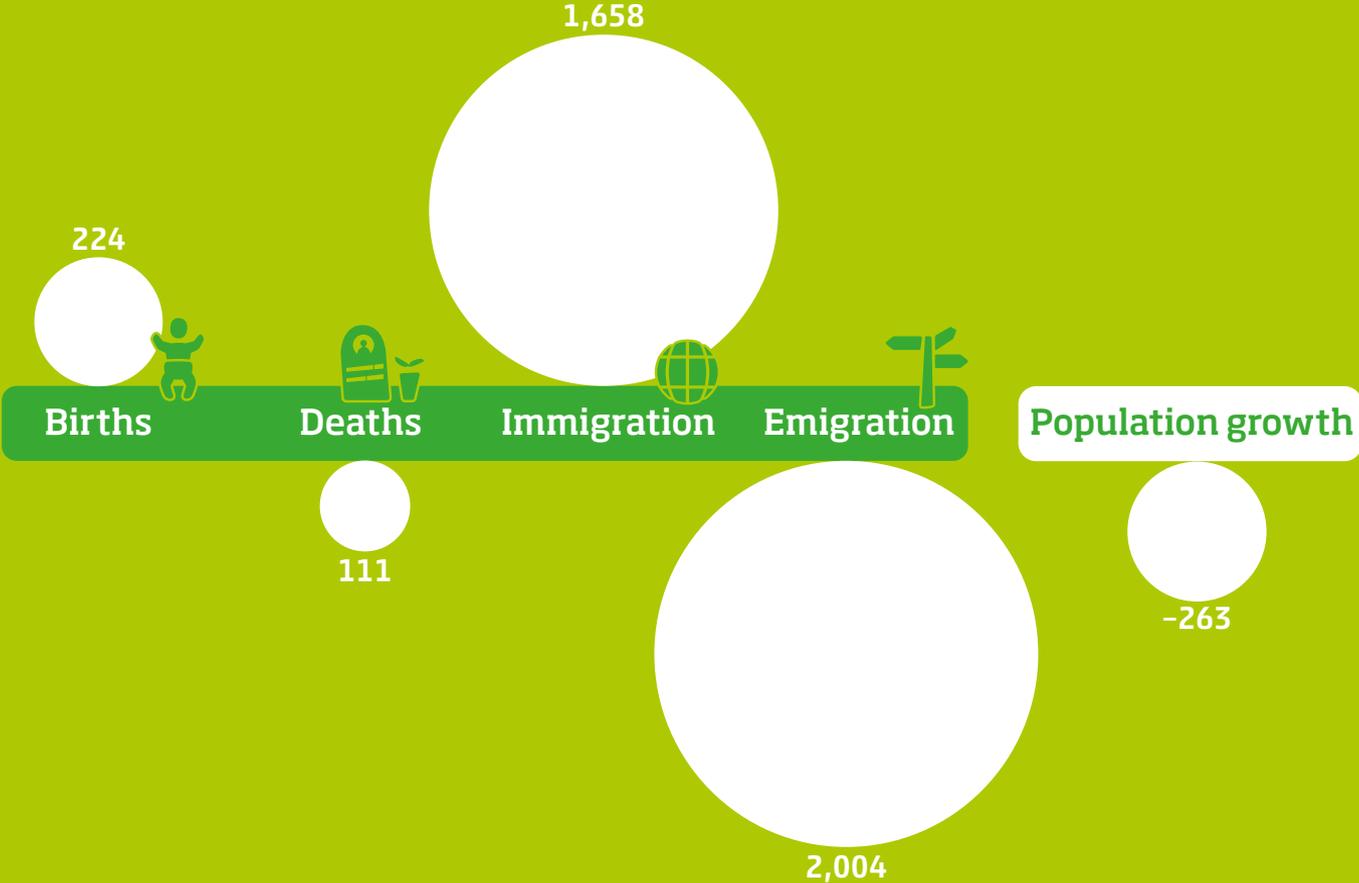
- Dry tropical forest
- Built-up area, agriculture
- Degraded dry tropical forests
- Coral reefs
- Seagrass beds and seaweed beds
- Bare rocks
- Rain forest
- Beaches
- Caves
- Cloud forest

Population

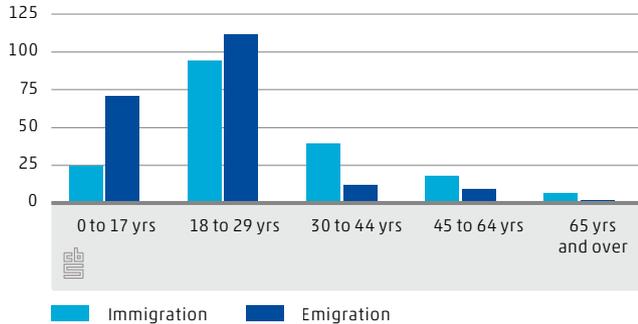
At the beginning of 2018, St Eustatius had 3.3 thousand inhabitants. The population on this island has declined by over 250 thousand since the beginning of 2011. At the time of checking the population registry, several hundreds of people proved to be registered although they had already left the island. They were subsequently removed from the registry. This resulted in a lower population size in 2014 and 2015.

In the period 2011–2017, over 200 Antillean-born persons (persons born on one of the Islands of the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba) migrated from St Eustatius to the Netherlands. In the same period, nearly 200 Antillean-born persons from the Netherlands resettled on St Eustatius. The net migration rate is more or less balanced for this group. Many young people migrate to the Netherlands to study there, and most of them return to St Eustatius after several years. The average length of stay in the Netherlands is 5 years.

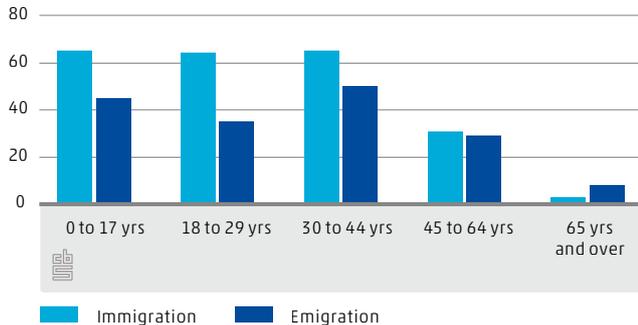
Population dynamics St Eustatius, 2011-2017



Migration of Antillean-born person between St Eustatius and the Netherlands, 2011/2017



Migration of Dutch-born persons between St Eustatius and the Netherlands, 2011/2017



There is more migratory movement of Antillean-born persons between St Eustatius and other parts of the Caribbean Netherlands than between St Eustatius and the European part of the Netherlands.

On balance, around 60 persons settled on St Eustatius who were born in the European Netherlands. The majority were people in their twenties. There are hardly any people aged 50 or older who migrate between St Eustatius and the European part of the Netherlands. Among the over-65s, a majority leave St Eustatius for the European part of the Netherlands rather than the other way round.



7% population decrease
between 2011 and 2017

Prices

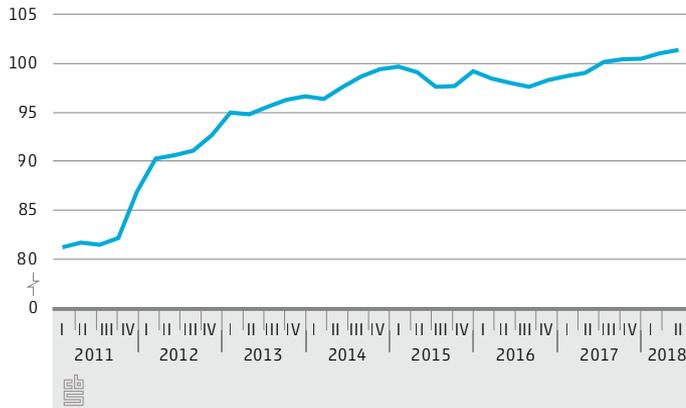
On St Eustatius in 2017, prices of consumer goods and services were 1.9 percent up year-on-year. Consumer prices in 2016 were 0.1 percent lower than in 2015. Petrol was 15 percent more expensive year-on-year in 2017, contributing the most to the higher average price level. In addition, food and non-alcoholic beverages were more expensive. On both St Eustatius and Saba, the Consumer and Market Authority capped electricity rates. Electricity was therefore on average 2.7 percent cheaper on St Eustatius than in 2016.

1.9% year-on-year increase
in consumer prices in 2017



Consumer price index

2017 = 100

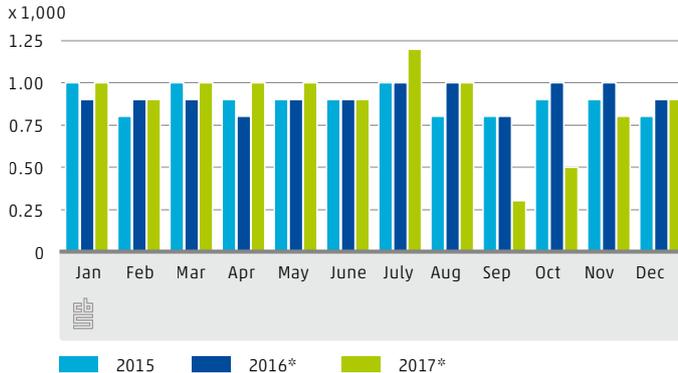


Consumer price index

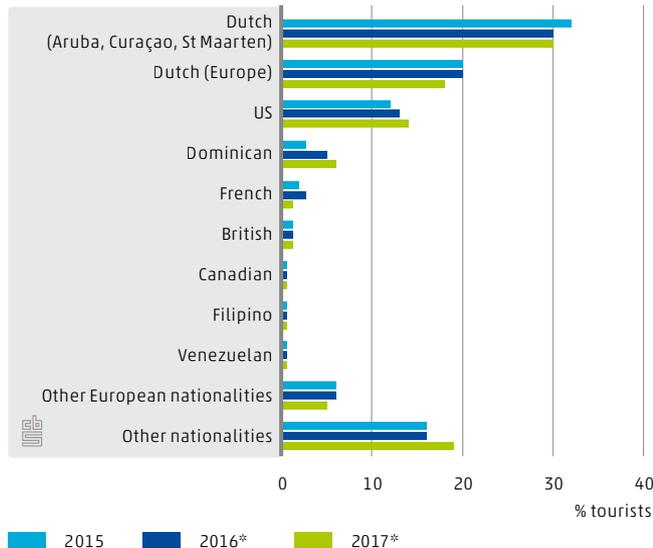
year-on-year % change



Inbound tourism by air



Inbound tourism by air, by nationality



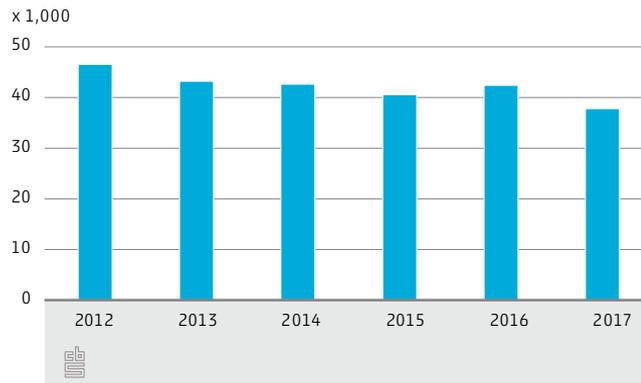
Tourism

The first eight months of 2017 were good for inbound tourism on St Eustatius: 10 percent growth compared to the same period in 2016. This growth was completely undone by the arrival of Hurricane Irma in September, which deterred many tourists. This led to a sharply decreasing number of air tourist arrivals on St Eustatius in September and October. November and December did bring some recovery.

The number of air tourist arrivals on St Eustatius in 2017 dropped by 5 percent on 2016 to a total of 10.5 thousand (including business travellers). With respect to the nationality of these inbound visitors, no major changes were observed in 2017. Most tourists were either Dutch or US nationals.

In 2017, there were 6.2 thousand aircraft movements to and from St Eustatius, a rise by more than 7 percent on the previous year. The number of passengers visiting St Eustatius in 2017 declined by almost 11 percent, however. Air traffic on St Eustatius was halted for some time due to Hurricane Irma. In the months after after Hurricane Irma, air traffic frequency returned to the level of one year previously. However, the number of passengers remained behind the 2016 level until the end of the year.

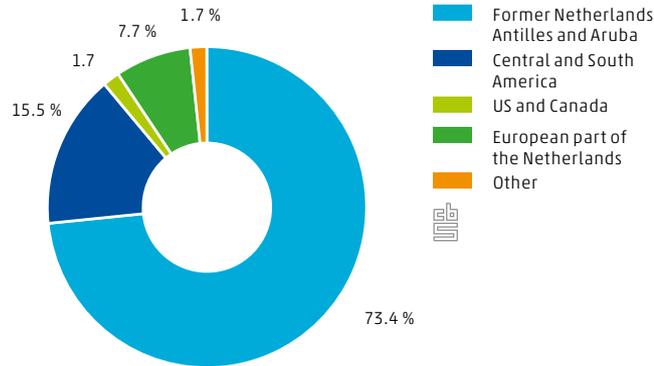
Passenger numbers at F.D. Roosevelt Airport



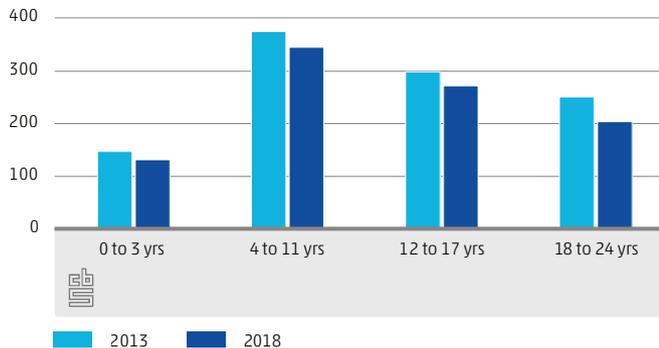
10.5 thousand tourists
arrived by air in 2017



Youth by country of birth, 1 January 2017



Youth by age group, 1 January



Youth

At the beginning of 2018, the population of St Eustatius included nearly 1 thousand people under the age of 25. The number of young people has decreased slightly over the past five years, and this applies to all age groups. The share of young people in the overall population, on the other hand, has increased slightly from over 27 percent in 2013 to over 28 percent in 2018. This is almost similar to the share of young people in the European part of the Netherlands.

Most of the young people on St Eustatius – 73 percent – were originally born on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius or St Maarten. The share who were born in the European part of the Netherlands amounts to 8 percent. Less than half (41 percent) of St Eustatius' children live with both parents in one family and 37 percent live in single-parent families. Nearly 15 percent of all 0 to 24-yrs-olds live with their parents, other relatives and non-relatives.

Youth in households on St Eustatius, 1 Jan. 2017

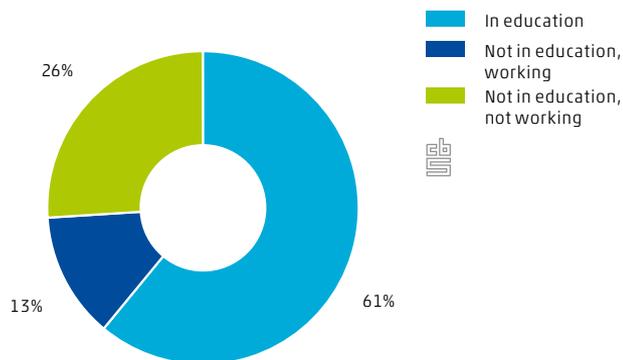


-  Child in two-parent household
-  Child in one-parent household
-  Single person
-  Partner in couple
-  Single parent
-  Other

In 2016, nearly 61 percent of the 0.3 thousand young people in the age group 15 to 24-years were enrolled in education. It is unusual for young St Eustatius residents to have paid work while they are still in education. Education is also one the main reasons they are unwilling to work or unavailable for work. Of the remaining group of young people, 13 percent were employed and 26 percent were neither in education nor in employment.

School-leavers with a basic qualification are more likely to find work than early school-leavers. A basic qualification refers to a diploma in senior general secondary education (HAVO, VWO) or the basic vocational track (MBO-2) and is considered to be the minimum level of education that allows people to succeed on the labour market in both the short and long term. In 2016, 23 percent of the young people on St Eustatius were not in education and did not have such a qualification.

Youth in education or employment, 2016



61% of the 15 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in education



