

A man with dreadlocks, wearing a teal t-shirt and orange and black shorts, is smiling and celebrating with his arms raised. He is standing on a sandy beach. In the background, there is a large red kite with a black and white patterned sail. Other people in teal shirts are visible in the background, some standing and some walking. The scene is outdoors, likely at a beach or a festival.

# The Caribbean Netherlands in Numbers

2025



Previous & precious editions, full of valuable statistical information



# The Caribbean Netherlands in Numbers

## 2025

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# 15 years of change

	Bonaire	St Eustatius	Saba
 <b>Population 1-1-2025</b> <small>since 2011</small>	26.552 +69%	3.270 -9%	2.158 +20%
 <b>GDP 2022</b> <small>since 2012</small>	\$662M +59%	\$89M -33%	\$49M +14%
 <b>Inflation 2024</b> <small>since 2011</small>	89,23 +36%	81,62 +39%	87,52 +44%
 <b>Purchasing power</b> <small>cumulative over 2012-2022</small>	+24%	+34%	+37%
 <b>Incoming tourists by air 2023</b> <small>since 2012</small>	171 000 +34%	5,800 -55%	5,700 -38%
 <b>Jobs of employees 2022</b> <small>since 2011</small>	12,170 +70%	1,500 +43%	880 +35%
 <b>Renewable Energy production kwh 2024</b> <small>since 2011</small>	35M +33%	5.1M +121%	3.1M +3000%

# The Caribbean Netherlands in Numbers

The year 2025 marks 15 years since Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius became special municipalities of the Netherlands, together forming the Caribbean Netherlands. Over the past fifteen years, the islands have seen population growth, changing migration patterns, economic expansion, new opportunities in education and employment, and an increasing focus on sustainability and well-being.

This 15-year milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on these changes and it also marks fifteen years of statistical reporting by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) in the Caribbean Netherlands.

This special edition of The Caribbean Netherlands in numbers looks back at significant changes between 2010 and 2025. Each topic in this publication is introduced by a question, the answers to which highlight the changes on all three islands.

QR codes in this publication provide direct access to our online resources: our website, our StatLine database, and our Facebook and Instagram pages, where you can find lots of information.

Do you have a question that wasn't answered here? Feel free to contact us. This publication is available both digitally and in print.

May this edition offer perspective, inspiration, and a clear picture of how Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius have changed over the past fifteen years.

Statistics Netherlands, December 2025



# Population & demography

# Population dynamics

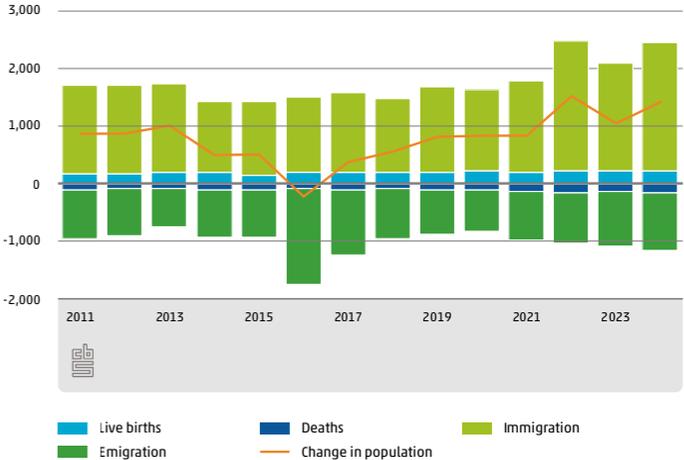


# How has the number of inhabitants changed since 2011?

Between the beginning of 2011 and the end of 2024, the population of the Caribbean Netherlands grew by 52 percent to 32 thousand inhabitants. This growth was mainly due to more people settling on the islands than leaving. The population of Bonaire grew, in particular. The population of Saba also increased, whilst on St Eustatius the number of inhabitants actually fell slightly.

The population of Bonaire grew from 15.7 thousand people in 2011 to 26.6 thousand in 2024, an increase of 69 percent. This was because more people settled on the island (21.8 thousand) than left (12.7 thousand).

Population dynamics, Bonaire



Natural population increase also played a role, but was less significant: 2.9 thousand children were born, whilst 1.5 thousand persons passed away.

The number of births and deaths per year has increased slightly on Bonaire. Immigration has increased significantly, particularly over the last three years.

### Population decline St Eustatius

On St Eustatius, the population declined by more than 300 people (9 percent), to 3.3 thousand at the end of 2024. This was because more people left the island (3.4 thousand) than settled there (2.8 thousand) in the period 2011–2024.

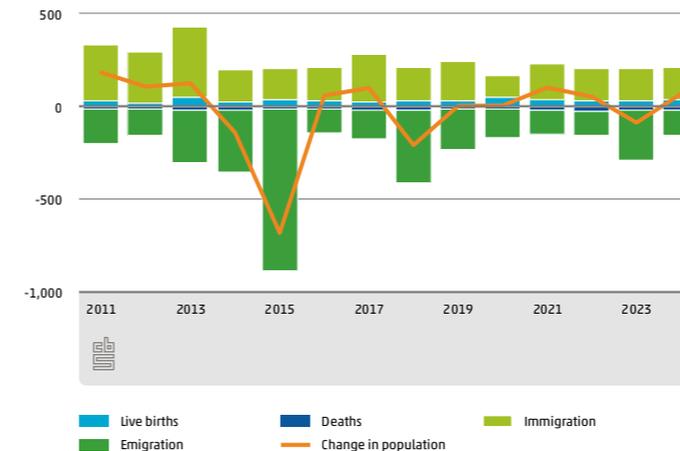
At the same time, more children were born than persons passed away. The natural change in population was therefore positive on St Eustatius. This partially offset the population decline caused by the high emigration rate.

### Population growth Saba

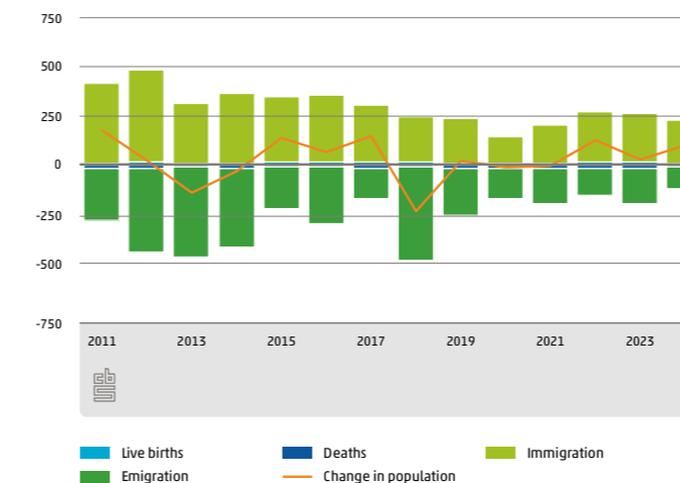
The population of Saba has grown by almost 400 people since 2011, or by 20 percent. At the end of 2024, approximately 2.2 thousand people resided there. On Saba, too, migration was the main factor driving growth: more people moved to Saba (4 thousand) than left (3.6 thousand).

On Saba, the natural rate of change during this period was neutral. In some years, there were more births than deaths, and in other years it was the other way around.

Population dynamics, St Eustatius



Population dynamics, Saba



### Explanation

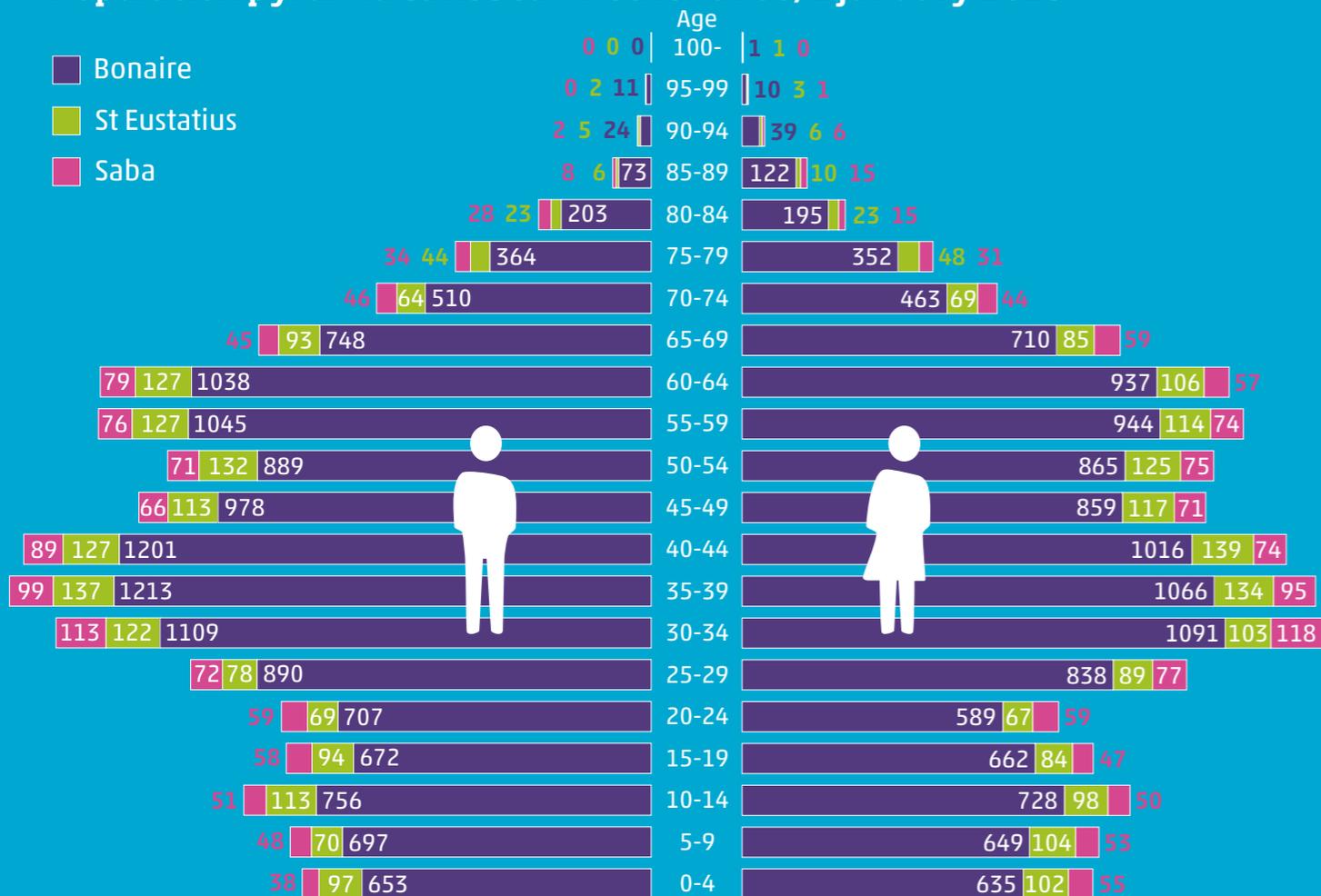
The decline in the population of St Eustatius between 1 January 2015 and 1 January 2016 is related to a clean-up of the population register. Approximately 600 people were then classified as emigrants. They were still registered in 2015, but upon verification, they turned out no longer to reside on the island.

The population register on Saba was also cleaned up between 1 January 2018 and 1 January 2019. This resulted in more than 200 people being deregistered and classified as emigrants.

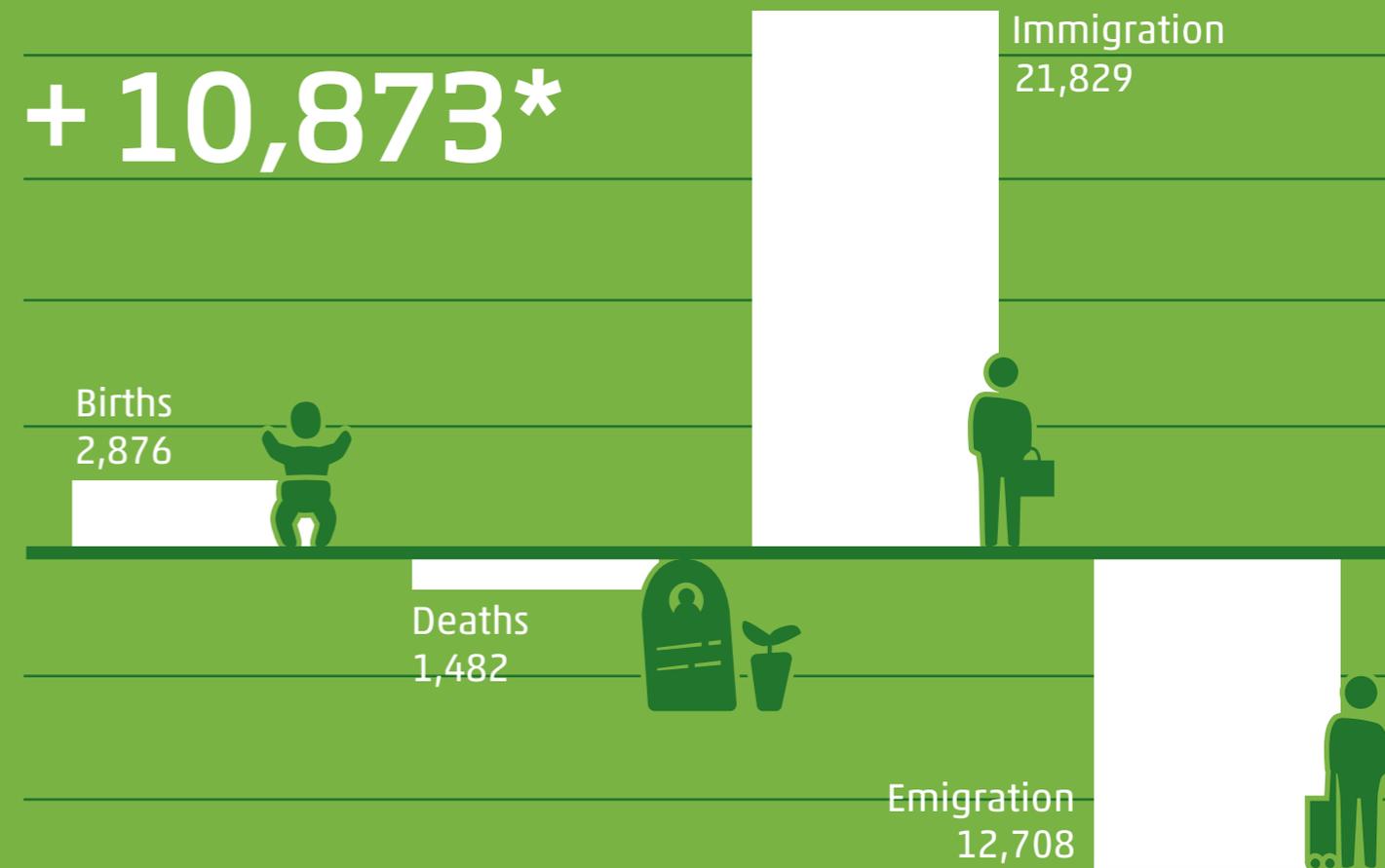
**69%**  
more inhabitants on  
Bonaire than in 2011

More data on demographics available here.

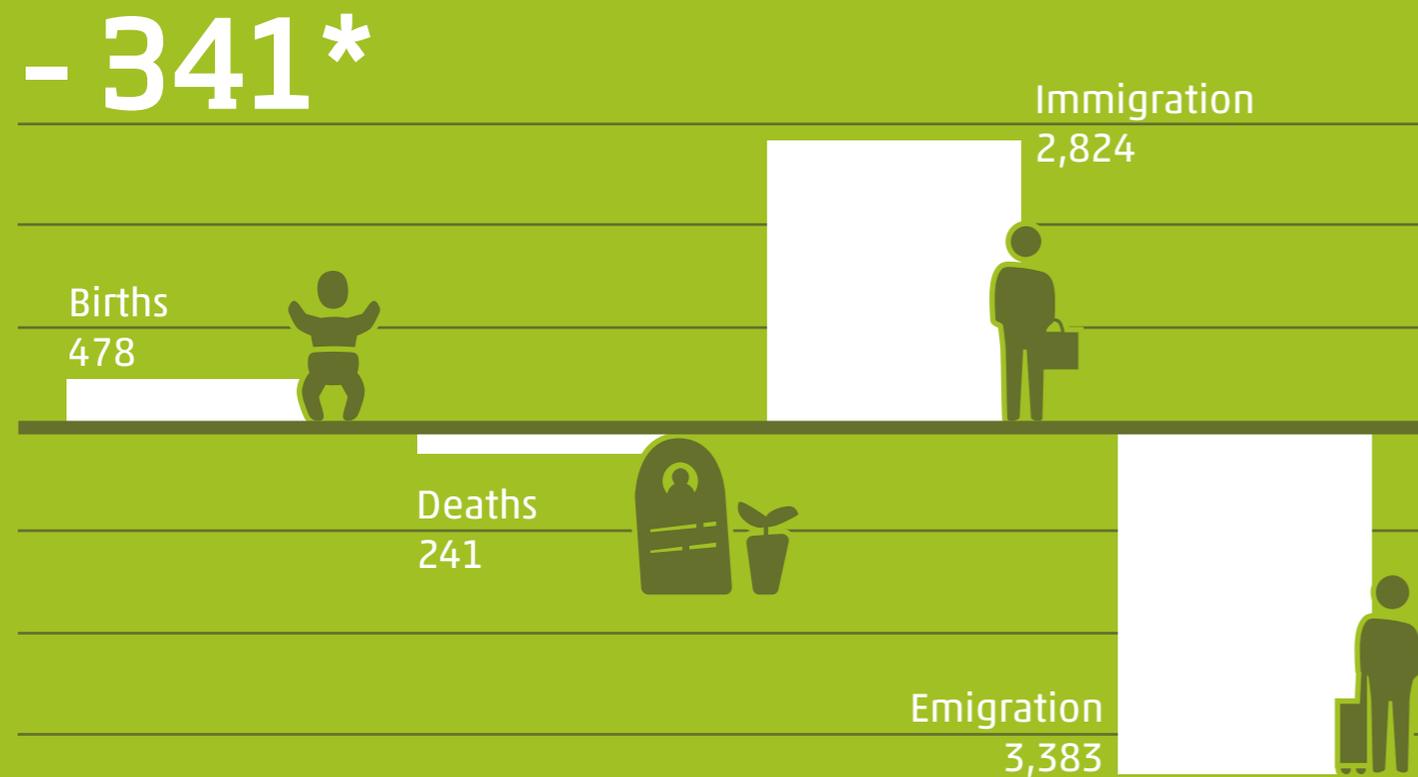
## Population pyramid Caribbean Netherlands, 1 January 2025



## Population dynamics, Bonaire, 2011-2024

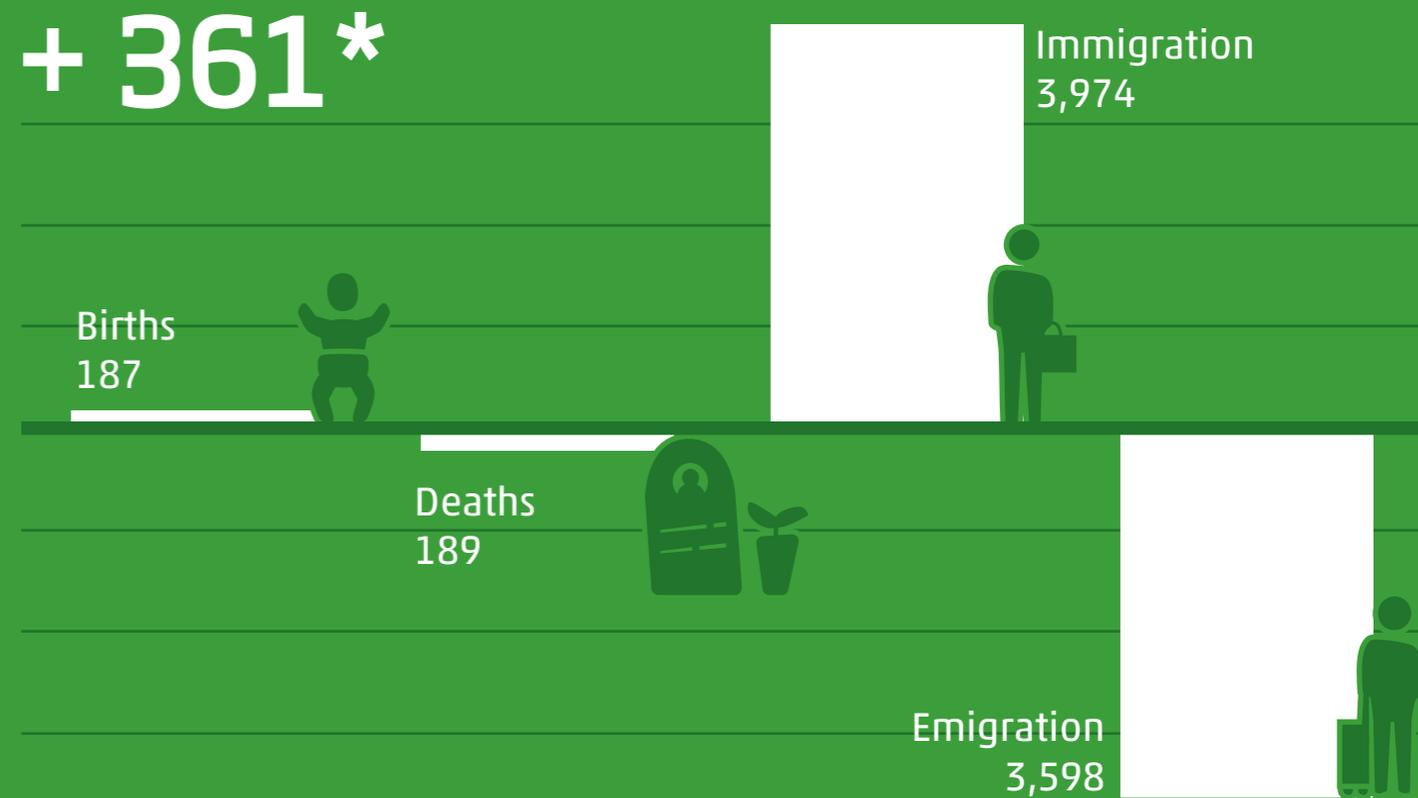


## Population dynamics, St Eustatius, 2011-2024



\*incl. other adjustments

## Population dynamics, Saba, 2011-2024



\*incl. other adjustments

## Population by country of birth



## How has the population changed in terms of country of birth?

**At the beginning of 2025, residents of Bonaire who were born on the island formed the largest group. This was also the case for St Eustatius and Saba. In relative terms, the share of residents born on the island itself decreased significantly on Bonaire and Saba, while on St Eustatius it increased slightly.**

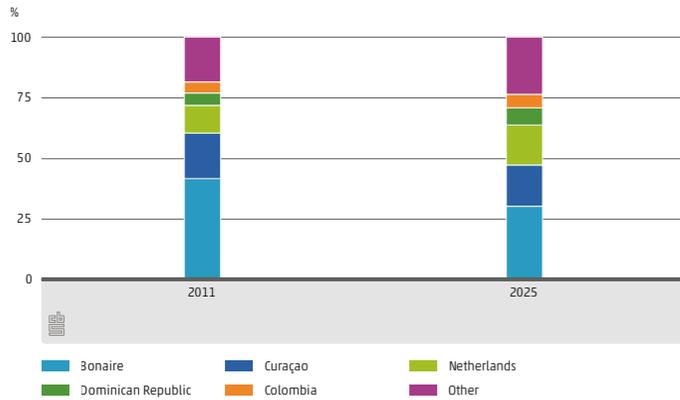
At the beginning of 2025, 8.1 thousand residents of Bonaire were born on this island. This is followed by Curaçao (4.5 thousand), the European Netherlands (4.4 thousand), the Dominican Republic (1.9 thousand), Colombia (1.4 thousand) and Venezuela (1.3 thousand).

### **Decrease in number of residents born on Bonaire**

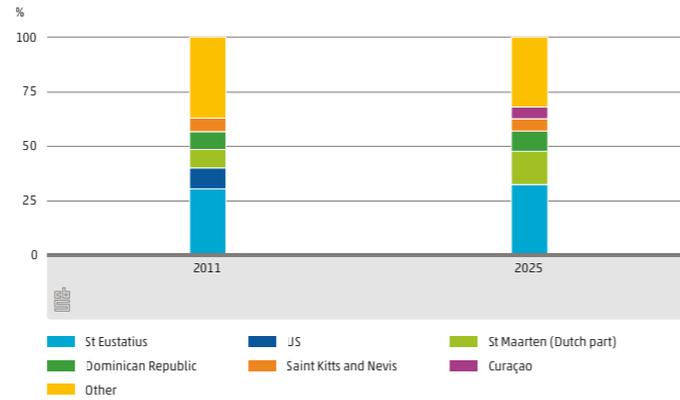
Between early 2011 and early 2025, the share of residents on Bonaire who were born in the Dominican Republic and the European Netherlands increased in particular, from 5 to 7 percent and from 11 to 17 percent, respectively.

The share of residents born on Bonaire decreased from 42 to 30 percent. In absolute numbers, however, this group actually increased: from 6.5 thousand residents to 8.1 thousand.

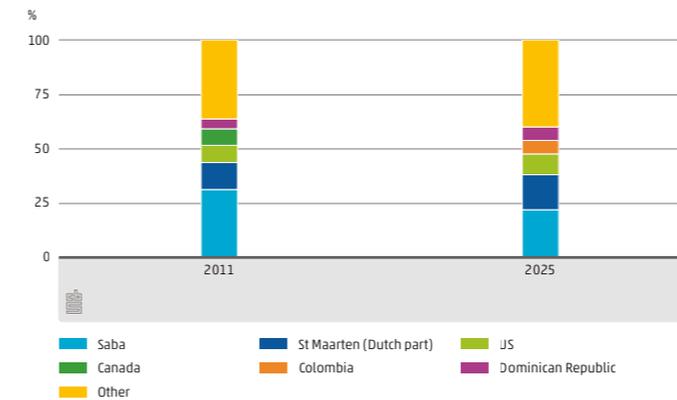
Population of Bonaire, top five countries of birth



Population of St Eustatius, top five countries of birth



Population of Saba, top five countries of birth



**Strongest increase in residents on St Eustatius who were born on St Maarten**

At the beginning of 2025, 1.1 thousand residents of St Eustatius were born on the island, forming the largest group. Almost half as many, 500 residents, were born on St Maarten and 300 were born in the Dominican Republic.

On St Eustatius, the share of residents born on St Maarten increased most sharply, from 9 percent in 2011 to 15 percent in 2025. The share of residents born on St Eustatius increased

slightly, from 30 to 32 percent. In absolute numbers, however, it actually decreased slightly because the total population also declined. It is worth noting that there was a decrease in the share of residents born in the United States: from 10 to 2 percent.

**More inhabitants of Saba born on St Maarten**

At the beginning of 2025, the largest group of residents on Saba was made up of people born on the island (almost 500). This was followed by St Maarten (over 300) and the United States (over 200). The Dominican Republic was the

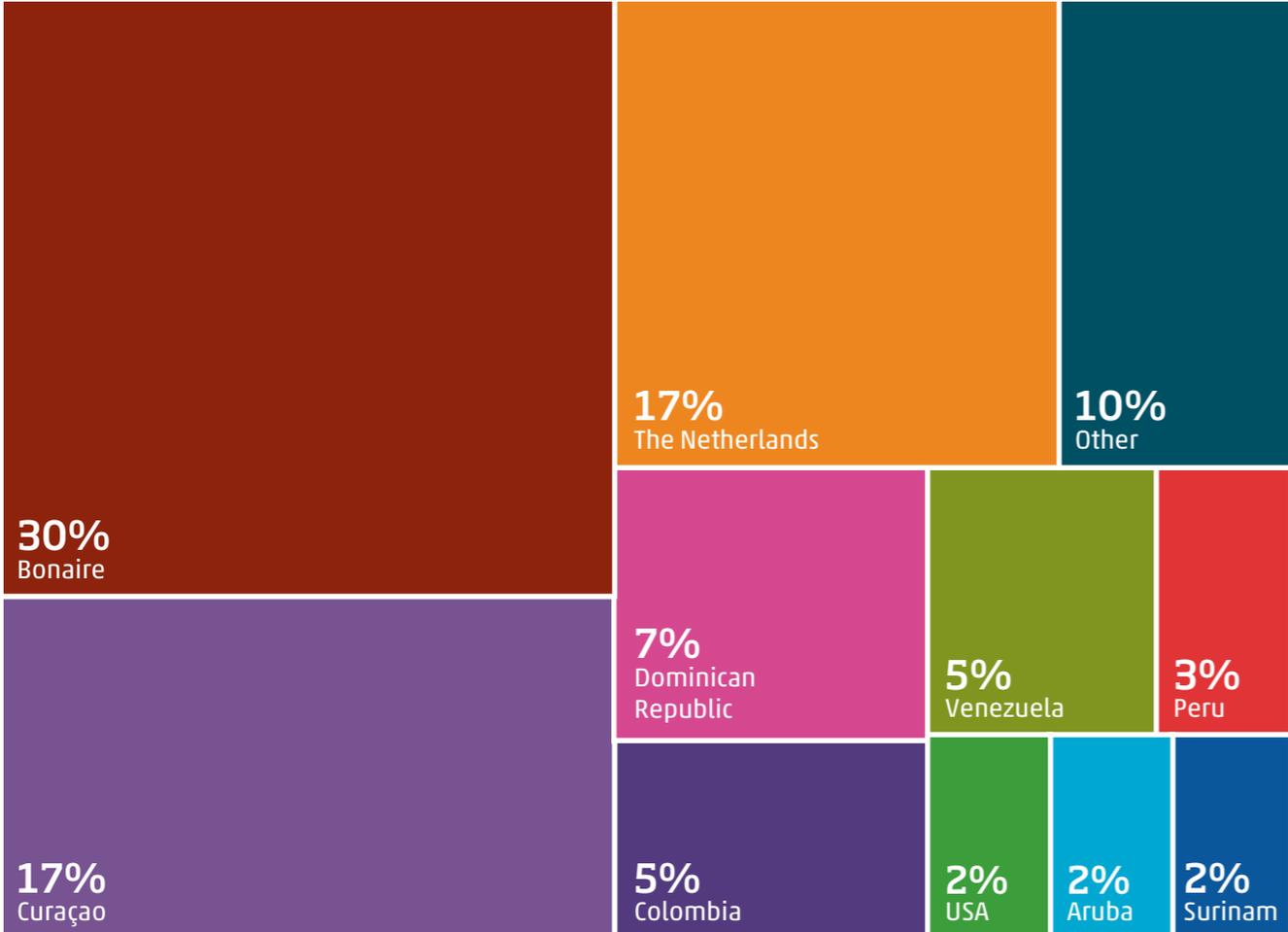
country of birth for more than 130 residents, and for another 130 it was Colombia.

Between early 2011 and early 2025, the share of Saba residents born on the island decreased significantly, from 31 to 22 percent. This was mainly because more people who were born elsewhere (for example St Maarten, Colombia and the Dominican Republic) came to live there. The share of residents who were born in the United States increased from 8 to 10 percent, while that from Canada decreased from 8 to 2 percent.

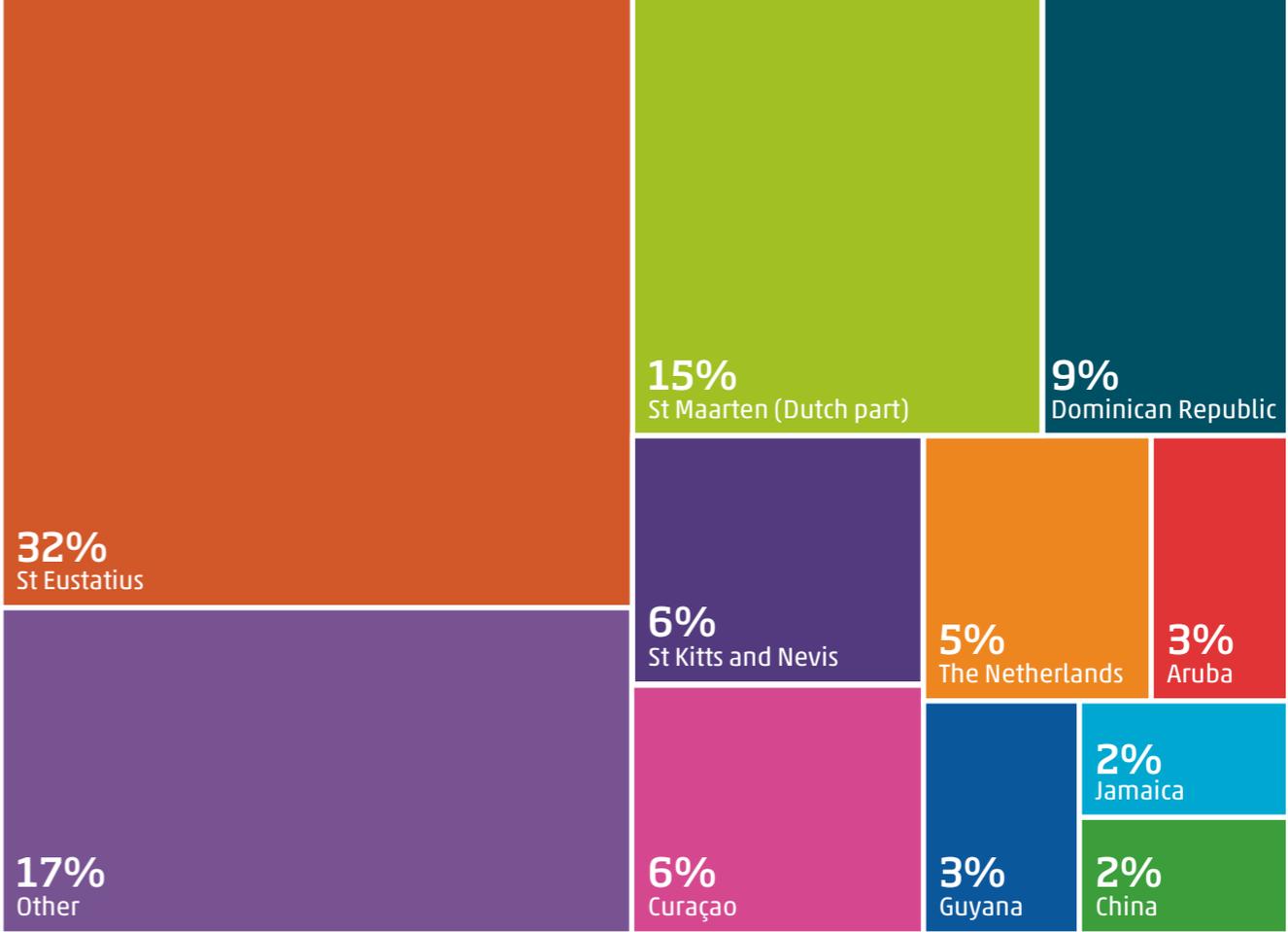
More data about the population's countries of birth and the latest figures are available here.

**22%** of Saba's residents in 2025 were born on the island, compared to 31 percent in 2011

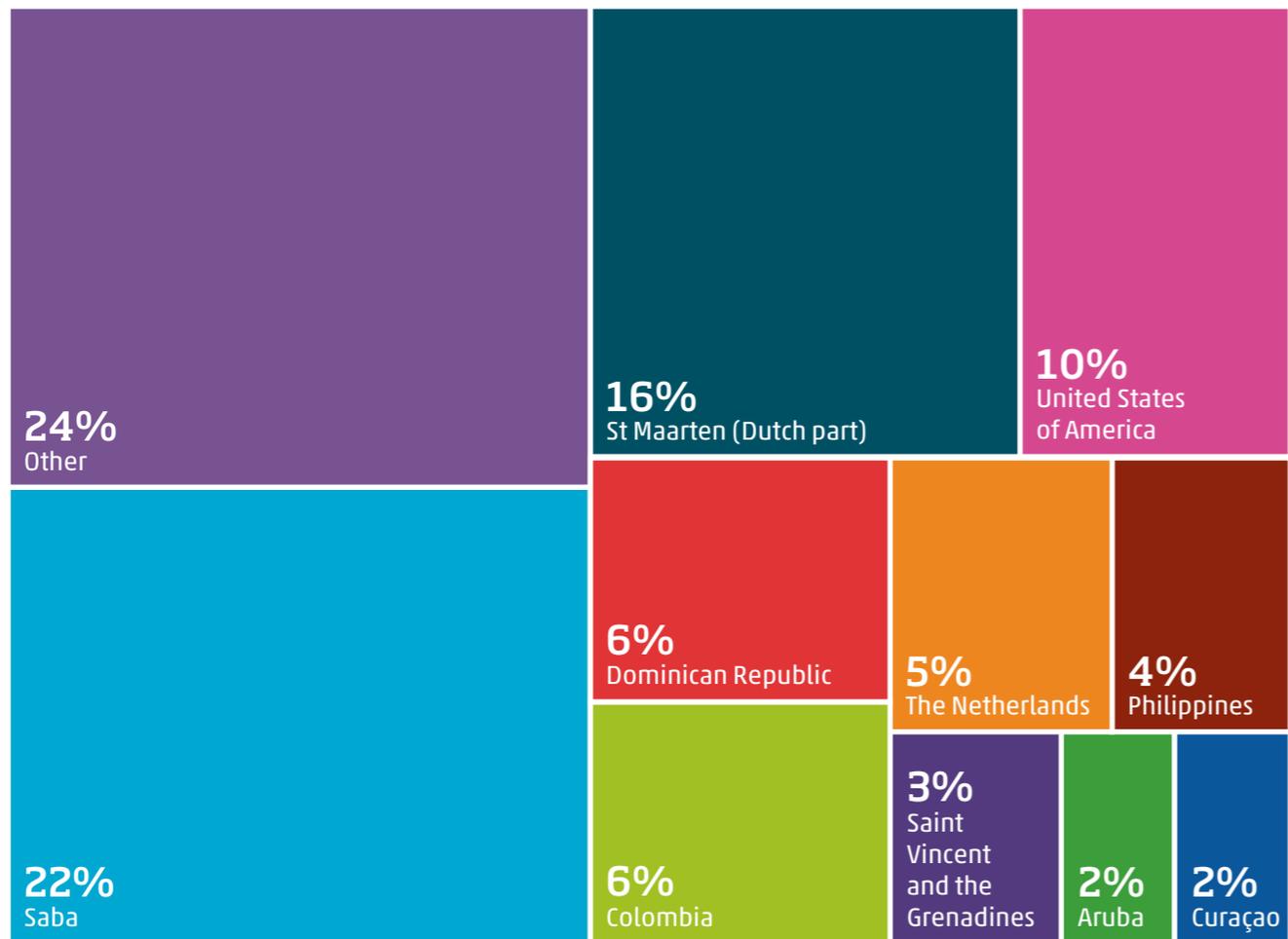
Population of Bonaire by country of birth, 1 January 2025



Population of St Eustatius by country of birth, 1 January 2025



## Population of Saba by country of birth, 1 January 2025



## Population forecast

Residents in 2035

**34,200**

Bonaire

**3,300**

St Eustatius

**2,200**

Saba

## How many residents will the islands have by 2035?

According to the most recent population forecast, the population of Bonaire is expected to reach 34.2 thousand in 2035, up by 29 percent from 2025. On St Eustatius a population of 3.3 thousand is expected in 2035 and on Saba 2.2 thousand, unchanged from 2025. The share of residents of the Caribbean Netherlands who were born on the islands, or on Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten, is expected to decrease on Bonaire, to slightly decrease on Saba and to increase on St Eustatius.

On 1 January 2025, there were 32 thousand people living in the Caribbean Netherlands, most of whom were living on Bonaire. The majority of population growth is also expected on Bonaire, as has been the case since 2011. According to the forecast, the island will have 29 percent more residents in 2035 than it has in 2025. An increase of 1 percent is expected on St Eustatius and Saba.

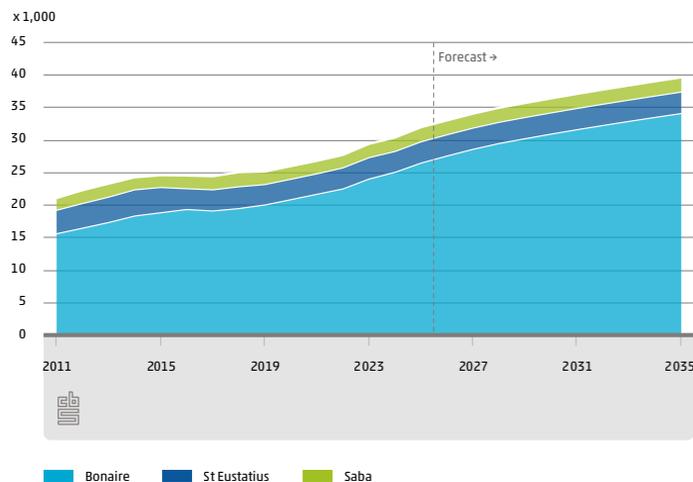
### The population of the Caribbean Netherlands is ageing

Since 2011, an increasing share of the population consists of people aged 65 years or older, and the share is expected to increase further by 2035. According to the forecast, the percentage of residents aged 65 or older will increase from 14 to 19 percent on Bonaire, and from 15 to 20 percent on both St Eustatius and Saba between 2025 and 2035.

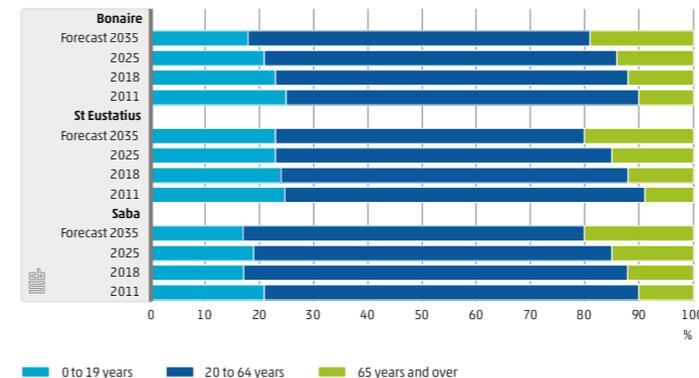
### Country of birth of residents of the Caribbean Netherlands

The share of residents born in the Caribbean Netherlands or on Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten, is expected to decrease on Bonaire from an average of 55 percent in the period 2018–2025 to 44 percent in 2035, while on St Eustatius it is expected to increase from 57 to 63 percent. On Saba it is expected to decrease slightly from 46 to 44 percent. According to the forecast, in 2035 half of the population of Saba will be born outside the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On Bonaire and St Eustatius, this share is expected to be smaller: 39 and 34 percent, respectively.

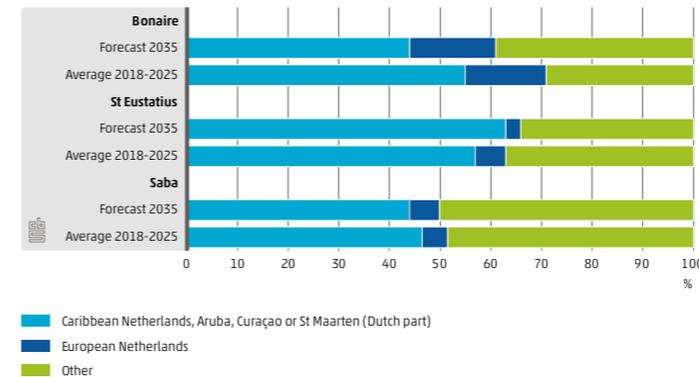
Population of the Caribbean Netherlands



Population of the Caribbean Netherlands, by age group



Population of the Caribbean Netherlands, by place of birth



### Most likely trajectory and uncertainties

In order to calculate the future trajectory of the population of the Caribbean Netherlands, Statistics Netherlands uses a simulation model that incorporates assumptions regarding births, deaths, immigration and emigration in the future. Migration to and from other countries is the most important component of population change on the three islands, and is particularly subject to fluctuations. In all probability, the actual population will therefore deviate from the forecast, which therefore remains uncertain.

More information on the population forecast is available here.

# St Eustatius



**3,270**  
residents\*

**32%**  
born on St Eustatius\*

**46**  
different  
nationalities\*

\* 1 January 2025



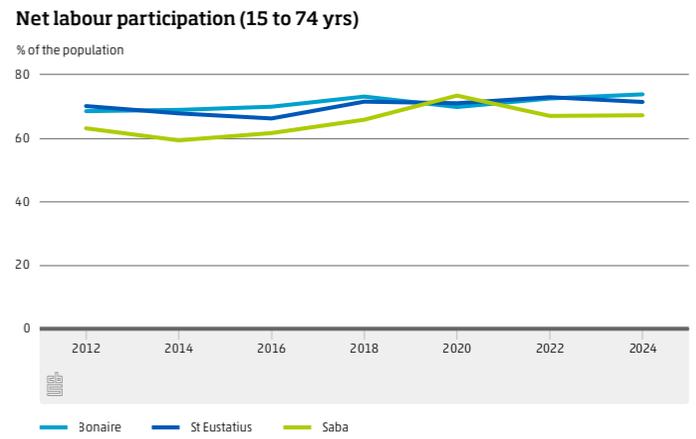
## Economy & labour



## Working class

# How many people work in the Caribbean Netherlands?

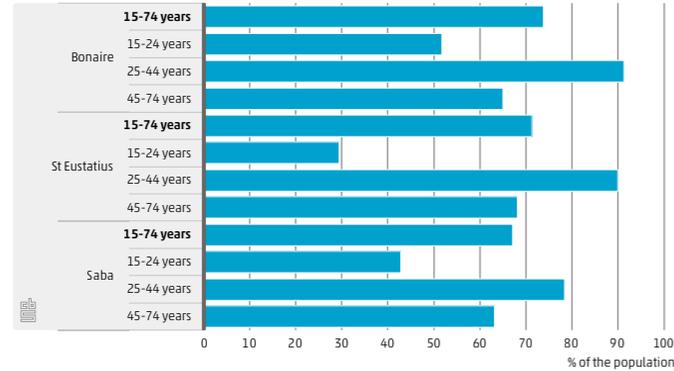
The net labour participation on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands has increased during the period 2012–2024, most strongly on Bonaire. In 2024 there were 19,9 thousand persons aged 15 to 74 years in Bonaire, of whom 73.8 percent were in employment. On St Eustatius, 71.4 percent of 2.5 thousand persons were in employment and on Saba this was 67.2 percent of the total (1.6 thousand)



On all three islands, labour force participation was relatively low among young people (15 to 24 years). On Bonaire 51.8 percent of the young population was in employment, on St Eustatius this was 29.4 percent and on Saba 42.9 percent. Participation was highest among people aged 25 to 44 years. In the group of persons aged 45 to 74 years, over 60 percent were in employment.

More information about jobs on the Caribbean Netherlands is available here.

**Net labour participation, 2024**



**Caribbean Netherlands: 1 out of 7 work in public administration and services**

An approximately equal proportion of the workforce in Bonaire works in the following sectors: accommodation and food services, construction, health and social work activities and public administration and services.

On St Eustatius and Saba, a relatively large number of people work in the public administration and services sector. On Saba, education has the second largest share of the working population. On St Eustatius it is manufacturing.

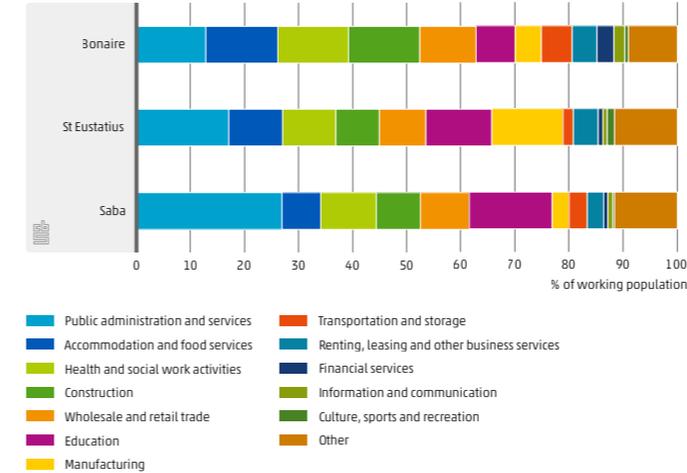
Unemployment on the islands was relatively low in 2024, with rates ranging from 4.4 percent on St Eustatius to 1.4 percent on Saba. Bonaire had a 2.1 percent unemployment rate, equivalent to 320 unemployed persons.

**Bonaire: large group does not work because of old age or retirement**

Bonaire has by far the largest number of persons aged 15 to 74 years: 19.9 thousand. Just under 4.9 thousand of them were not in the labour force: they were either not seeking work or not available for it. In most cases, they were neither of the two.

**73.1%**  
of persons aged 15 to 74 years  
in the Caribbean Netherlands  
were employed in 2024

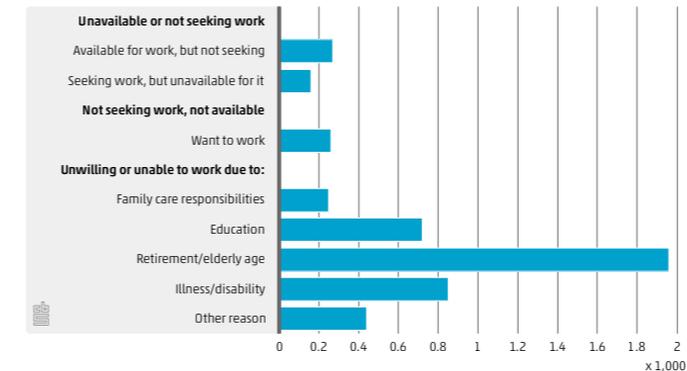
**Working age population (15 to 74 yrs) by economic activity, 2024**



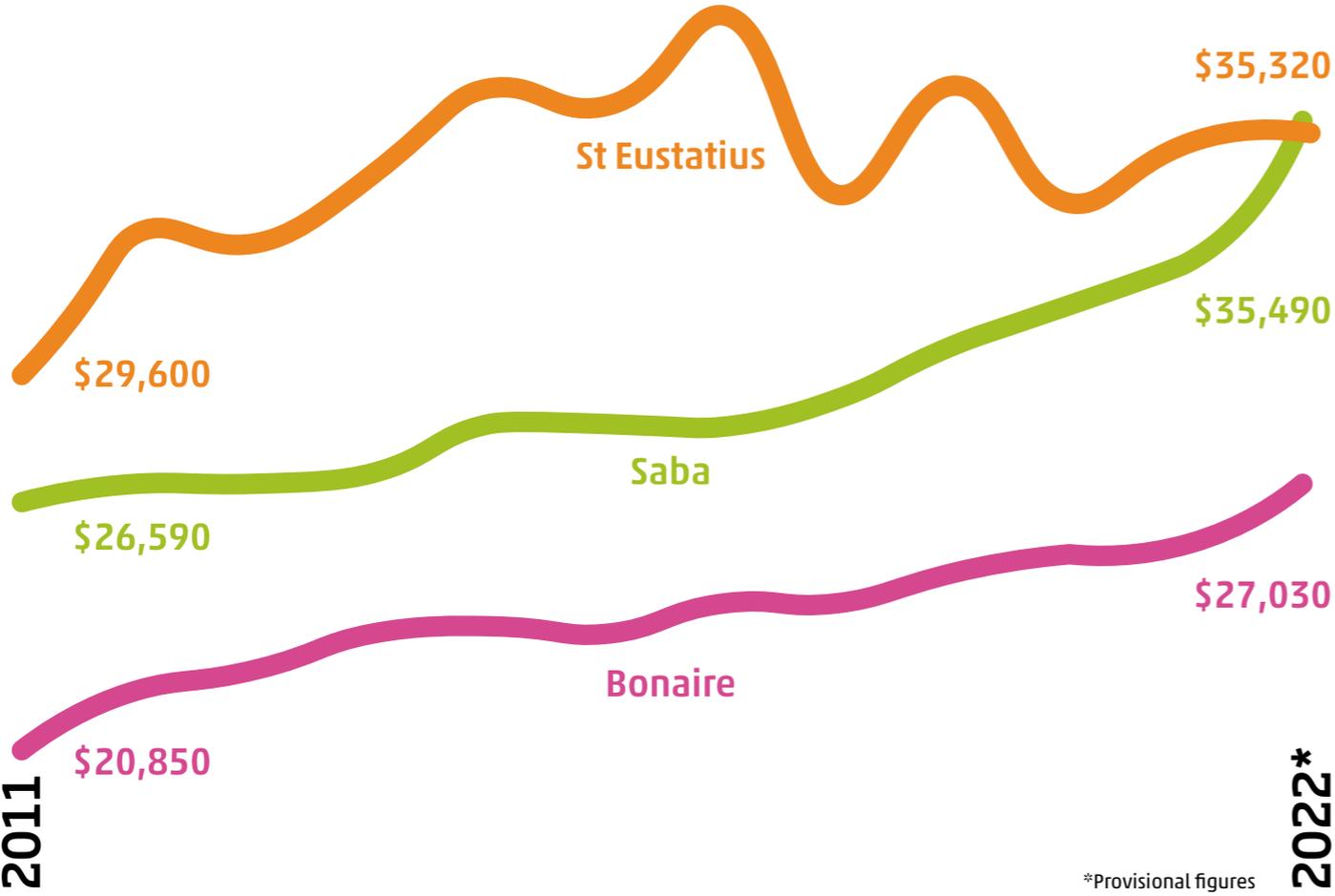
A large group (40 percent) were unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. 17 percent were not seeking work or unavailable for it because of disability or poor health. For 15 percent of those outside the labour force – young residents in particular – education was the predominant reason why they were not seeking work or unavailable for it. A smaller group were people unable to work because they had to take care of their families (5 percent).

The overall picture on the other two islands is similar to the situation on Bonaire, with the exception of Saba, where almost 1 out of 3 people were not seeking work or unavailable for it because they were in education.

**Population of Bonaire (15 to 74 yrs) not in the labour force, 2024**



# Average annual wage of employees



\*Provisional figures



## Macroeconomics

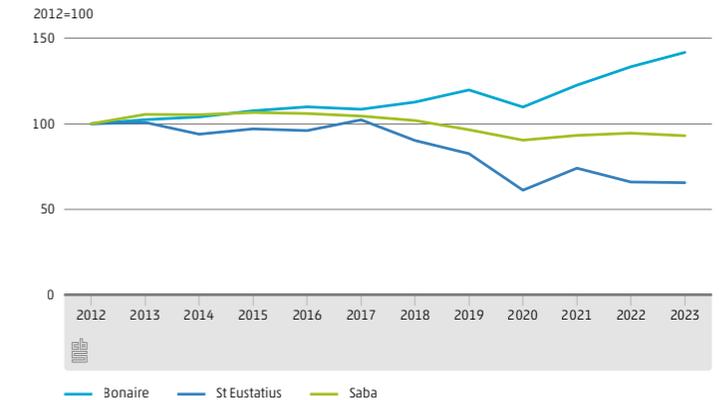


# How have the economies of the Caribbean Netherlands performed?

Of the three islands that made up the Caribbean Netherlands, only Bonaire experienced economic growth between 2012 and 2023 (41.8 percent). That growth was seen primarily between 2017 and 2023, and a number of sectors contributed to it. On St Eustatius, the economy contracted by 34.5 percent between 2012 and 2023, mainly due to the transport, information and communication sectors. On Saba the economy contracted by 7.0 percent in the same period, mainly due to the education sector.

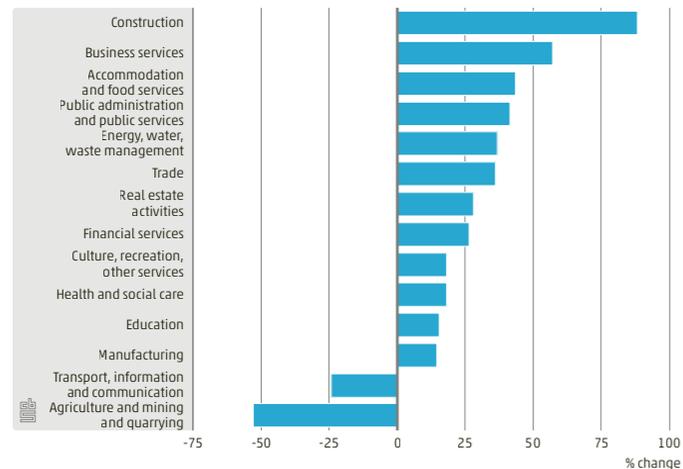
Several sectors contributed to economic growth on Bonaire between 2017 and 2023. In the construction sector, economic value added rose considerably. This is related to the expansion of tourism on the island, population growth and infrastructure investment.

GDP volume index



The number of tourists arriving on Bonaire by air increased from 128.5 thousand tourists in 2017 to 171 thousand in 2023. The rising number of tourists, combined with a 27.1 percent increase in the island's population, boosted activity in the accommodation and food services sector (hospitality) and the car

Value added volume of sectors on Bonaire, 2017-2023



rental and trade sector, during this period. Increased economic activity on the island also contributed to value added in the business services sector, which includes accounting and legal services. The value added by public administration on Bonaire rose due to an increase in the number of jobs in this sector, from 1,190 in 2012 to 1,580 in 2023.

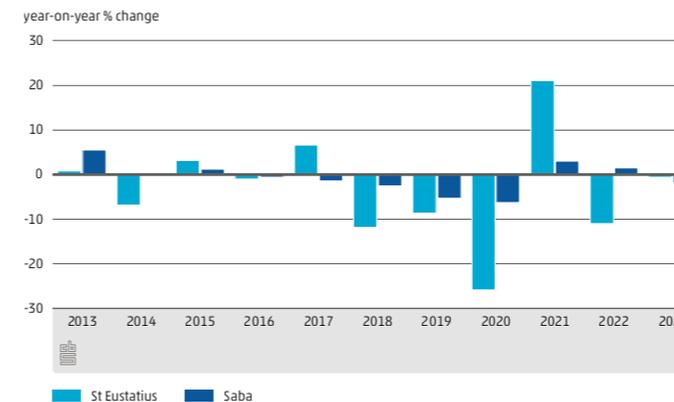
### Sharp decline in GDP on St Eustatius

The economic contraction on St Eustatius related mainly to the performance of a few large businesses on the island. Their output is mainly export-oriented and depends on the demand for oil in the region. The demand for these businesses' products and services fell.

Although these businesses make up a substantial share of the GDP of St Eustatius, their impact on national income is limited. The profits of these businesses are not included in the national income because they are wholly foreign-owned enterprises; they contribute to labour income on the island, in particular.

Relative to 2017, the volume of GDP on St Eustatius was down by almost 36 percent in 2023, from 142 million to 91 million US dollars (in 2017 prices). This was down to a number of factors. In 2018, hurricane Irma caused major damage on the island. In 2019, a number of large businesses were significantly hampered by regional developments in the oil sector, which suppressed the demand for oil storage. On top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 depressed the demand for oil storage even further.

### GDP volume



5.7 thousand in 2023. That was a decrease of 30.5 percent, which had a negative impact on economic activity in the accommodation and food services sector and in real estate.

In 2023, the demand for oil storage had yet to recover to its pre-2018 level.

### Contraction on Saba mainly due to education sector

The education sector made the largest contribution to the economic contraction on Saba. The number of students in 2023 was lower than the number in 2017. Inbound tourism by air on Saba also decreased from 8.2 thousand tourists in 2017 to

**6.3%**  
economic growth  
on Bonaire in 2023



More on gross domestic product is available here

## Consumer prices



# How have consumer prices changed since 2010?

**Prices have been rising continuously in the Caribbean Netherlands since 2010. In 2011 and the first half of 2012, prices increased rapidly on all three islands, but the increase was most pronounced on St Eustatius. After that, prices increased at a lower rate until the COVID pandemic began in 2020.**

The pandemic caused a clear dip in inflation: prices on Bonaire dropped by 6 percent, on St Eustatius by almost 4 percent and by 1 percent on Saba, due to subsidies for water and energy. After the pandemic, prices rose sharply again mainly due to increases in prices for food and energy. From mid-2023 onwards, the rate of increase slowed.

In 2024, prices on Bonaire were 36 percent higher than they were in 2010, on St Eustatius

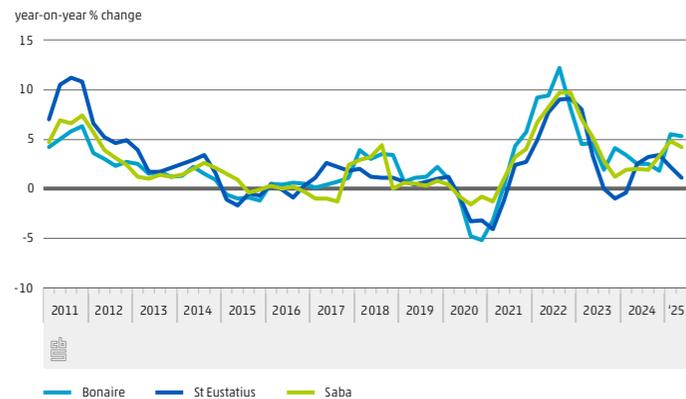
39 percent higher, and on Saba 38 percent higher. On all three islands, inflation has followed the same general trajectory. As of 2025, inflation remains higher on Bonaire and Saba than on St Eustatius.

### **Food and non-alcoholic beverages**

Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages on Bonaire were 51 percent higher on Bonaire in 2024 than in 2010. On St Eustatius, prices were 54 percent higher and on Saba they were 59 percent higher.

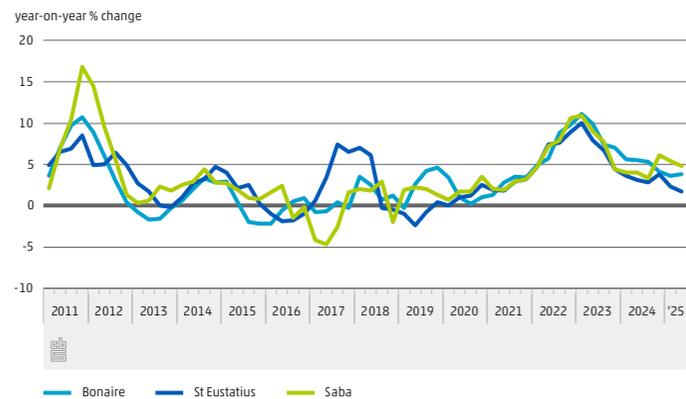
After a sharp increase in prices between the beginning of 2011 to mid-2012, food prices rose more gradually – an average of 1 percent annually until Q4 2020 in the case of Bonaire and Saba. During 2017 and 2018 prices for food increased more on St Eustatius than they did on Bonaire and Saba.

### CPI, annual rate of change



Between Q3 2021 and Q3 2023, food prices increased more rapidly on the three islands. In Q1 2023 the annual, year-on-year, increase in food prices was around 10 percent on all three islands. Since then, food prices have continued to increase, but less rapidly.

### Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages



**50%** higher prices food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2024 than in 2010



More information on prices is available here (Dutch only).



## Purchasing power

**24,2 %**

purchasing power growth from  
2012-2022 on Bonaire

## How did purchasing power change between 2012 and 2022?

Since the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands became special municipalities of the Netherlands (on 10 October 2010), the Dutch government has implemented policies to improve the socio-economic circumstances of the islands' residents. Between 2012 and 2021, this resulted in a steady increase in the median purchasing power. In 2022, however, purchasing power dropped, partly due to high inflation.

### Measures taken to improve purchasing power

Minimum wages and the benefits paid to pensioners (AOV), widows/widowers and orphans (AWW) and people on income support have increased every year, based on the inflation rate of the preceding year. In order to enable those on low incomes to keep pace with the rising cost of living, minimum wages and social benefits were systematically increased at a rate that exceeded indexation for inflation.

In 2016, child benefit was introduced and pensioners who receive only part of the full state pension entitlement are eligible for additional social security payments. Since 2019, more structural steps have been taken. Employer premiums and employee insurance were reduced, which enabled employers to raise wages, and child benefit was raised substantially to the same level as in the European Netherlands.

When incomes rise faster than average price levels, purchasing power increases. In 2016, the increase in purchasing power on Saba peaked at 6.3 percent. On St Eustatius, the increase in purchasing power peaked in 2019 (at 6.6 percent), and on Bonaire it peaked in 2020 (at 5.6 percent). In each year, purchasing power improved the most for persons in households with children, as they are more often in paid employment and more of them climb the career ladder. They have also benefited from higher child benefits.

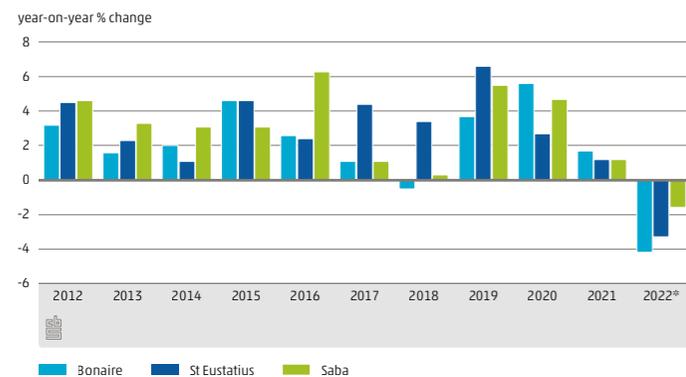
### Purchasing power during the COVID-19 pandemic

When COVID-19 reached the Caribbean Netherlands in 2020, it brought about a significant economic shock. Average prices dropped that year, leading to an increase in purchasing power. To compensate employees and self-employed for lost income, COVID-19 emergency support measures were put in place in 2020 and 2021, also contributing to improved purchasing power.

In the second half of 2021, the economy started to rebound, leading to a rise in average price levels on Bonaire and Saba and significant economic growth across all three islands in 2022. To help residents to cover high energy bills in 2022, an energy allowance was introduced for households receiving income support.

In 2022, purchasing power fell by 4.2 percent, 3.3 percent and 1.6 percent on Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, respectively. Even so, recipients of social benefit on Bonaire and St Eustatius still saw their purchasing power rise that year.

Median purchasing power in Caribbean Netherlands



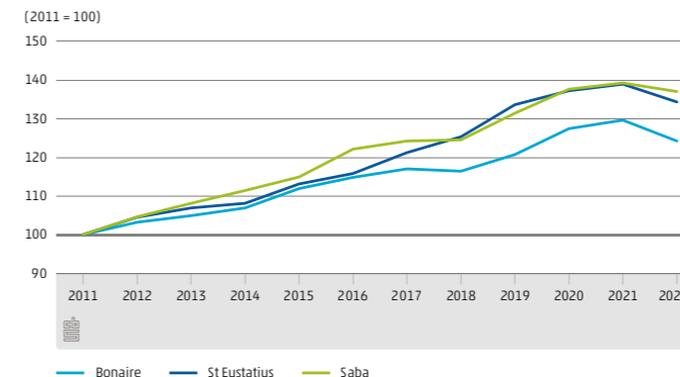
\* Provisional figures

### Purchasing power higher in 2022 than in 2012

The purchasing power index shows how purchasing power changed between 2012 and 2022. The increase in purchasing power seen on Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba was 24.2 percent, 34.3 percent and 37.0 percent, respectively.

Since the cost of living on St Eustatius and Saba is higher than on Bonaire, policy-driven increases in the minimum wage and benefits were more frequent on those islands. This contributed to a larger rise in purchasing power on St Eustatius and Saba.

Dynamic purchasing power, cumulative



\* Provisional figures

### Purchasing power index:

cumulative change in purchasing power

By multiplying year-to-year changes in median purchasing power from a certain starting year, it is possible to track the trajectory of median purchasing power from the starting point.

Note: since the purchasing power figures are calculated over a two-year period, this index does not include the income effect from population dynamics, such as immigration and emigration, during this two-year period.



More data on purchasing power development is available here.

# Bonaire



**26,552**  
residents\*

**30%**  
born on Bonaire\*

**73**  
different nationalities\*

\* 1 January 2025





## Housing & energy



House prices

## How did house prices change between 2011 and 2024?

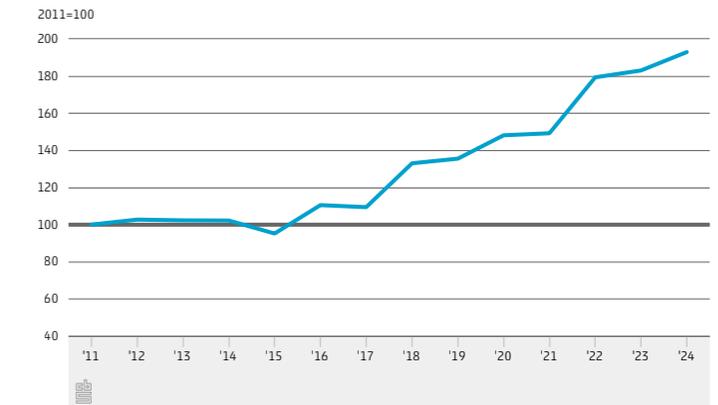
On Bonaire, average house prices almost doubled between 2011 and 2024. Between 2011 and 2014, prices on Bonaire remained relatively stable, and in 2015 they actually declined, but after that they started to rise in 2016. This upward trend continued until 2024, when the index stood at 192.9.

The number of homes sold, the total transaction value and the number of mortgages issued also increased during this period.

### More home sales on Bonaire

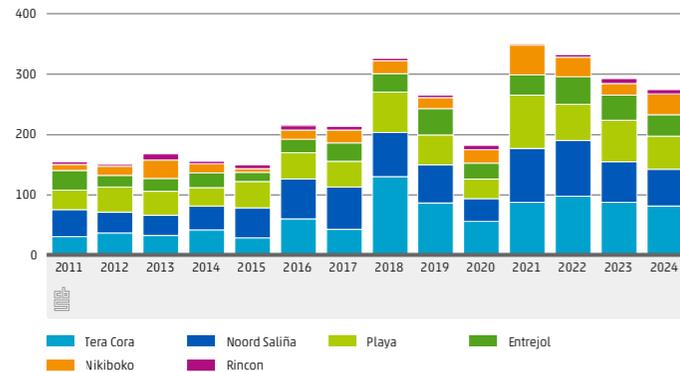
In addition to prices, the number of homes sold on Bonaire also increased. In the first four

Price index for existing owner-occupied homes, Bonaire

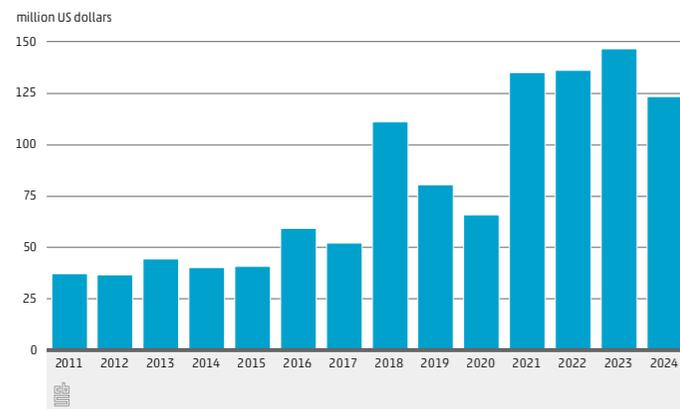


**77%** increase in number of housing transactions between 2011 and 2024

### Number of homes sold, Bonaire



### Total transaction value of homes sold, Bonaire



years following the start of registration in 2011, the number of housing transactions remained fairly stable at around 150 to 160 per year. In 2020, there was a dip, with 182 transactions recorded. In 2024, there were 275 transactions, an increase of 77 percent compared to 2011. This rise is partly attributable to the completion of new housing projects.

At the neighborhood level, the number of transactions has seen a particular increase in Noord Saliña, Playa and Tera Cora since 2015. In 2018, Tera Cora recorded a significant peak in transactions, the majority of which were in Belnem, where a number of new-build homes were completed around that period. Between 2021 and 2023, the number of transactions in Nikiboko declined somewhat. In Rincon, Nikiboko and Entrejol, the share of total transactions has remained relatively low but stable.

#### Rise in total transaction value

The increase in the number of sales is also reflected in the total transaction value, which stood at 37 million US dollars in 2011. For several years, it remained at around this level,

before rising sharply to 111 million dollars in 2018. In 2019 and 2020, the total transaction value fell again, to just under 66 million in 2020. There was then a substantial increase followed to around 135 million dollars in 2021. In 2024, the total transaction value amounted to over 123 million dollars, more than three times the level in 2011.

#### Number of mortgages issued

Between 2011 and 2017, the number of mortgages issued per year fluctuated between 250 and 350. In 2018, the number rose to 466, after which it was lower again in subsequent years, reaching 371 in 2024. The proportion of mortgages issued by banks as a share of the total was lowest in 2021 at 86.9 percent. The highest share was recorded in 2011 and 2016, at just under 95 percent. In 2024, more than 93 percent of all mortgages were issued by banks.



More on house prices is available here (Dutch Only).



## What type of housing do people in the Caribbean Netherlands live in?

**In 2024, the vast majority of the households in the Caribbean Netherlands lived in self-contained housing. Self-contained housing refers to a regular home occupied by a single household with its own facilities (including bathroom, kitchen and toilet). Housing is classed as non-self-contained if two or more households share a home, or if the house is not a regular house.**

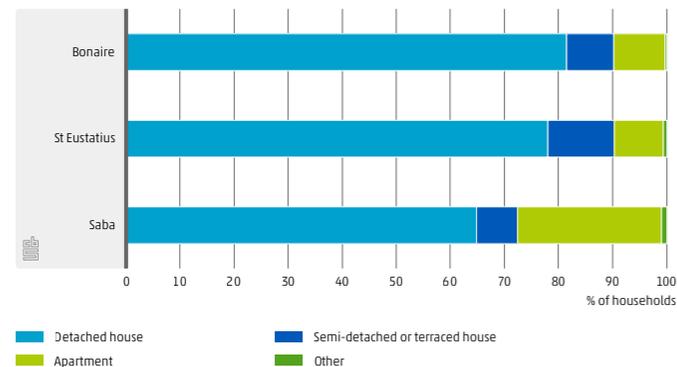
On Bonaire, 82 percent of households lived in self-contained housing in 2024 and the remaining 18 percent lived in non-self-contained housing. On St Eustatius, the majority of households also lived in self-contained housing: 73 percent, versus 27 percent in non-self-contained housing.

On Saba, the difference between the two groups was the smallest: 60 percent of the households here lived in self-contained housing, and 40 percent in non-self-contained housing.

### **Detached houses most common type of self-contained housing**

On Bonaire in 2024, 82 percent of the households in self-contained housing lived in detached houses, 9 percent in semi-detached or terraced houses, and 9 percent in an apartment.

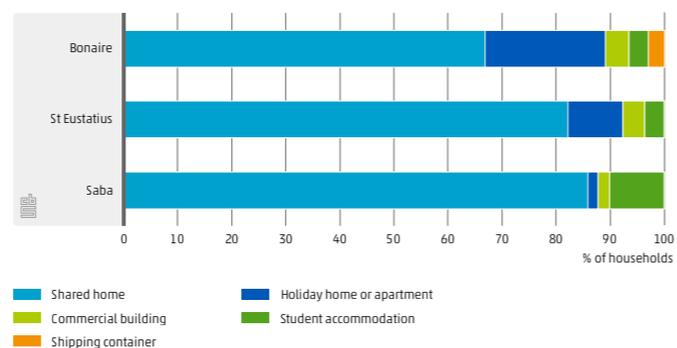
Households in self-contained housing by type of home, 2024



On St Eustatius these figures are similar, with 78 percent living in detached houses, 12 percent in semi-detached or terraced houses and 9 percent in an apartment.

On Saba, the share of households living in an apartment is substantially larger, at 27 percent, while 65 percent live in detached houses. 8 percent of households on Saba live in semi-detached or terraced houses.

Households in non-self-contained housing by type of building, 2024

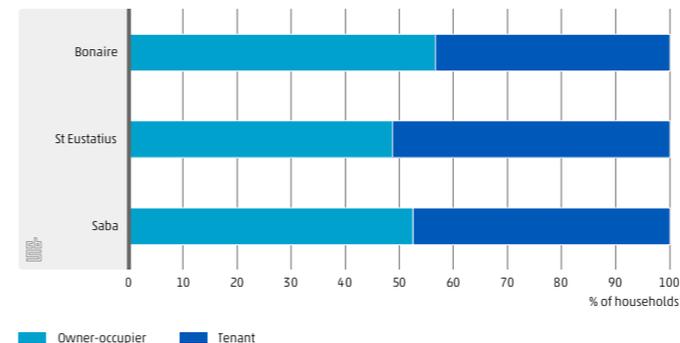


### Types of non-self-contained housing

In 2024, the largest share of households who lived in non-self-contained housing reported sharing a home with one or more other households. The percentages were the highest on Saba and St Eustatius (86 and 82 percent respectively), followed by Bonaire (67 percent).

Furthermore, living in a holiday home or apartment is more common on Bonaire (22 percent) than on St Eustatius (10 percent) or Saba (2 percent).

Owner-occupier or tenant, households in self-contained housing, 2024



Other less common examples of non-self-contained housing include living in a commercial building, student accommodation or shipping container. Especially on Saba, a significant share of households in non-self-contained housing reported living in student accommodation (10 percent).

### Most households on Bonaire and Saba are homeowners

The majority of households living in self-contained housing on Bonaire are homeowners. Homeowners represent 57 percent of households,

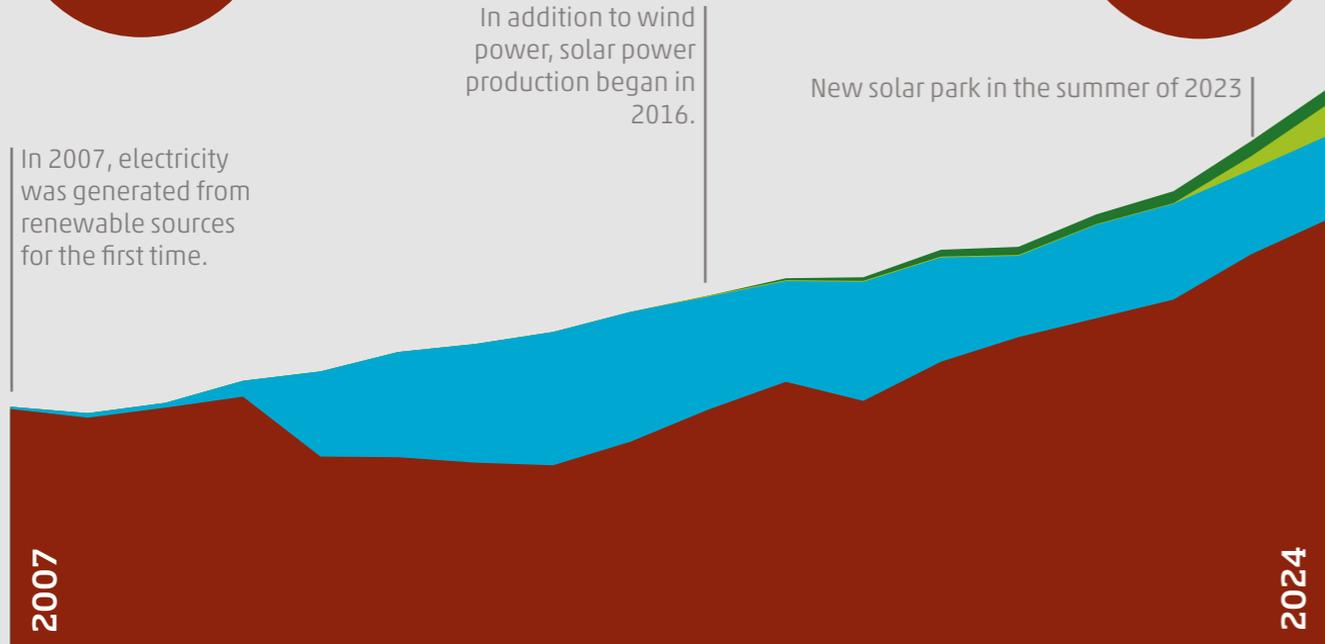
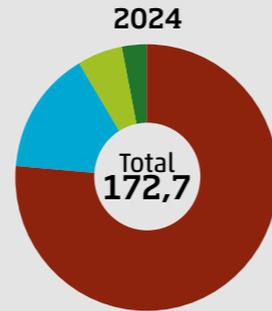
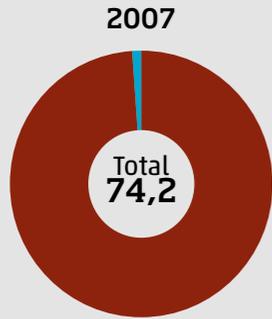
while tenants represent 43 percent. This is also the case on Saba, although the difference is slightly smaller: 53 percent of the households live in an owner-occupied home, versus 47 percent living in rented housing. On St Eustatius the two groups are more balanced: 49 percent of the households are homeowners, compared with 51 percent who rent.



**82%** of households on Bonaire in self-contained housing lived in detached houses in 2024

# Energy production on Bonaire

Totals in million kWh  
 ■ Fossil ■ Wind energy ■ Solar energy by solar parks ■ Solar energy on roofs houses & businesses

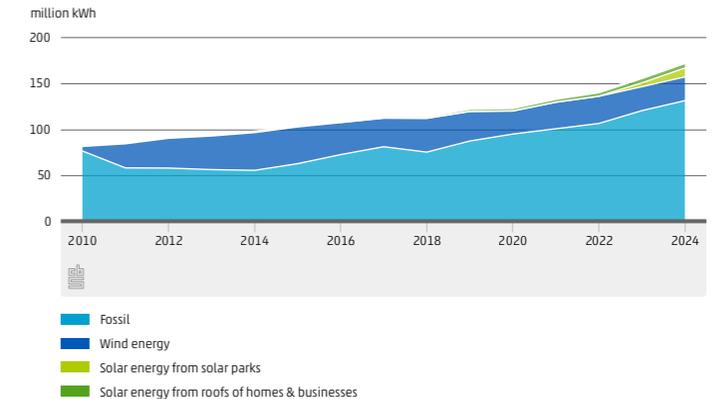


# How has the production of renewable electricity changed?

The production of electricity from renewable resources like wind and solar power on Bonaire increased from 4.9 million kWh in 2010 to 40.5 million kWh in 2024. On St Eustatius, production rose from 2.3 kWh in 2016 to 5.3 kWh last year. And on Saba, it rose from 0.1 million kWh to 3.0 million kWh during the same period.

In 2024, the total electricity production of Bonaire amounted to 172.7 million kWh, 11 percent more than in 2023. Almost a quarter of all electricity production was renewable, 16 per cent more than a year earlier.

Energy production on Bonaire



### Solar energy production on Bonaire doubles

In 2024, 64 percent of renewable electricity generated on Bonaire came from wind turbines. Furthermore, approximately a quarter was generated by solar parks and 12 percent came from solar panels on the roofs of homes and businesses.

The production of electricity from solar energy doubled in 2024 compared to the previous year, partly due to a new solar park commissioned in the summer of 2023. Electricity production from wind remained around the same over the past year.

### Renewable energy on Bonaire peaked in 2014

In 2010, 4.9 million kWh of renewable energy was generated, representing 6 percent of the total. In addition to electricity from wind, solar energy has also been used to produce electricity since 2016.

The share of renewable electricity on Bonaire was at its highest in 2014, at 42.3 percent. This was partly due to the number of wind hours, which was higher compared to other years. In recent years, the share of renewable energy has been

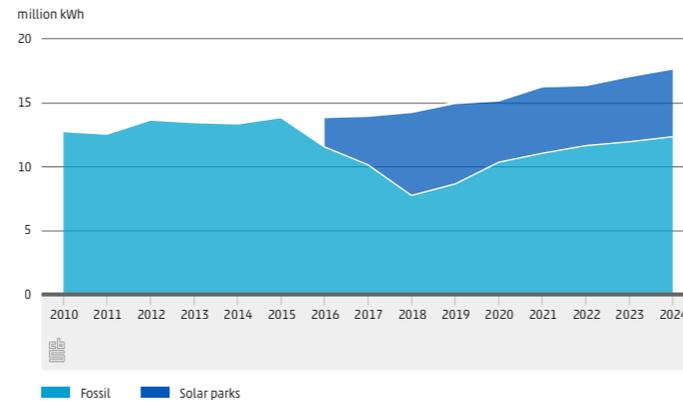
between 20 and 30 percent. Renewable electricity on Bonaire has been generated since 2007.

### Thirty percent of electricity production on St Eustatius is renewable

On St Eustatius, renewable electricity has been generated since 2016. Total electricity production rose to 17.7 million kWh in 2024, of which 5.3 million kWh (30 percent) was renewable.

The first phase of a solar park was launched in 2016. In that year, one-fifth of the total energy production was renewable solar energy. One year later, the second phase of the solar park was

Energy production on St Eustatius



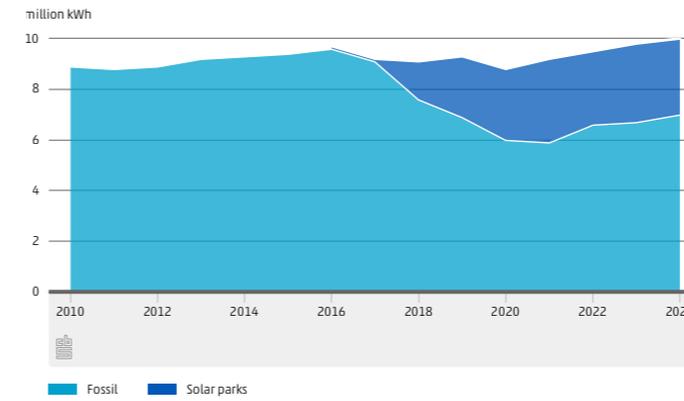
completed, resulting in an increase in electricity production. The highest point was reached in 2018, when more than 45 percent of total energy production was renewable. After that, there was a drop. Over the last two years, renewable electricity has fluctuated at around 30 percent.

### Electricity production from renewable resources on Saba hardly changed last year

Total electricity production on Saba was 10.0 million kWh in 2024, 1.7 percent more than a year earlier. In total, 30 percent of electricity production on Saba came from renewable resources, slightly less than a year earlier.

In 2016, renewable energy was generated on Saba for the first time, but this accounted for less than one percent of the total electricity production (0.1 million kWh). On Saba, renewable electricity is generated by solar parks. Saba now has two solar parks. The first has been operational since February 2018 and the second since February 2019.

Energy production on Saba



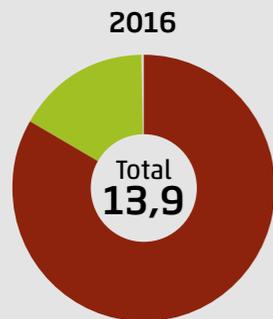
More information on energy and water connections and production is available here (Dutch only).

**36%**  
of renewable electricity  
production Bonaire was  
solar energy in 2024

## Energy production on St Eustatius

Fossil Solar parks

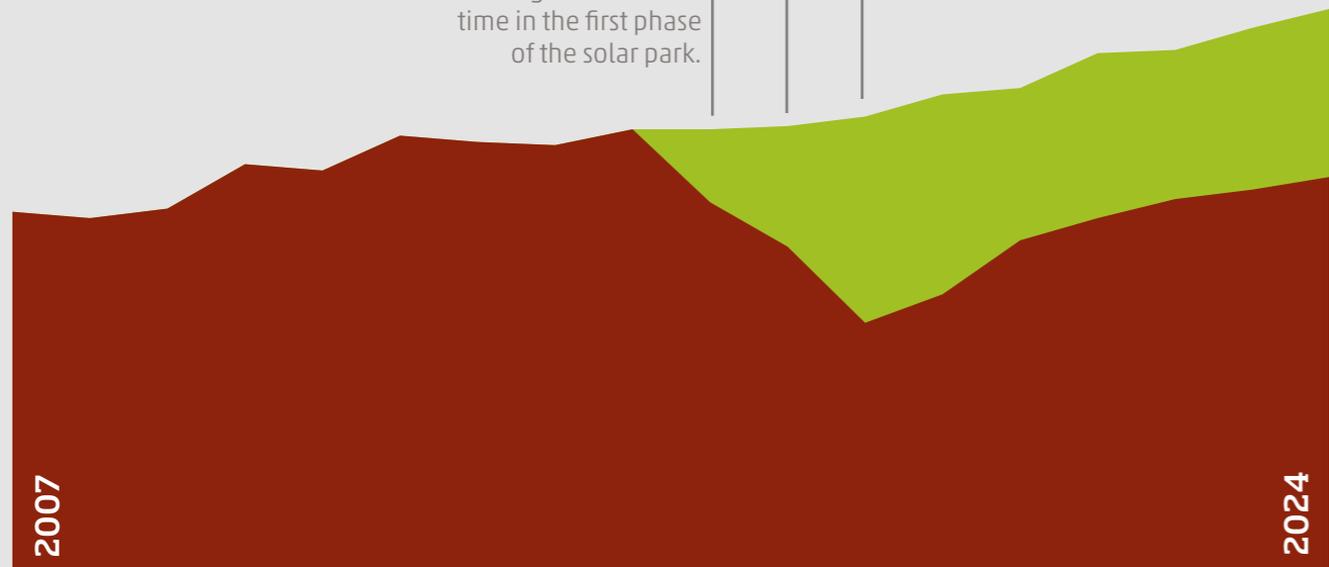
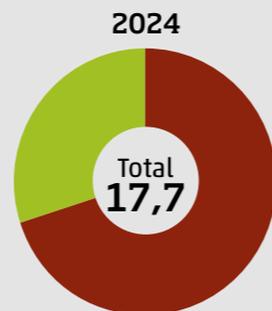
Totals in million kWh



In 2016, renewable energy production began for the first time in the first phase of the solar park.

In 2017, the second phase of the solar park.

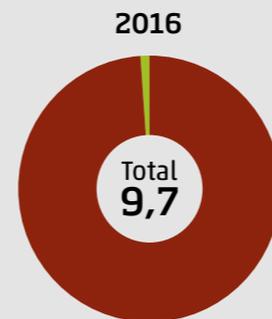
Peak renewable energy generation from solar energy in 2018.



## Energy production on Saba

Fossil Solar park

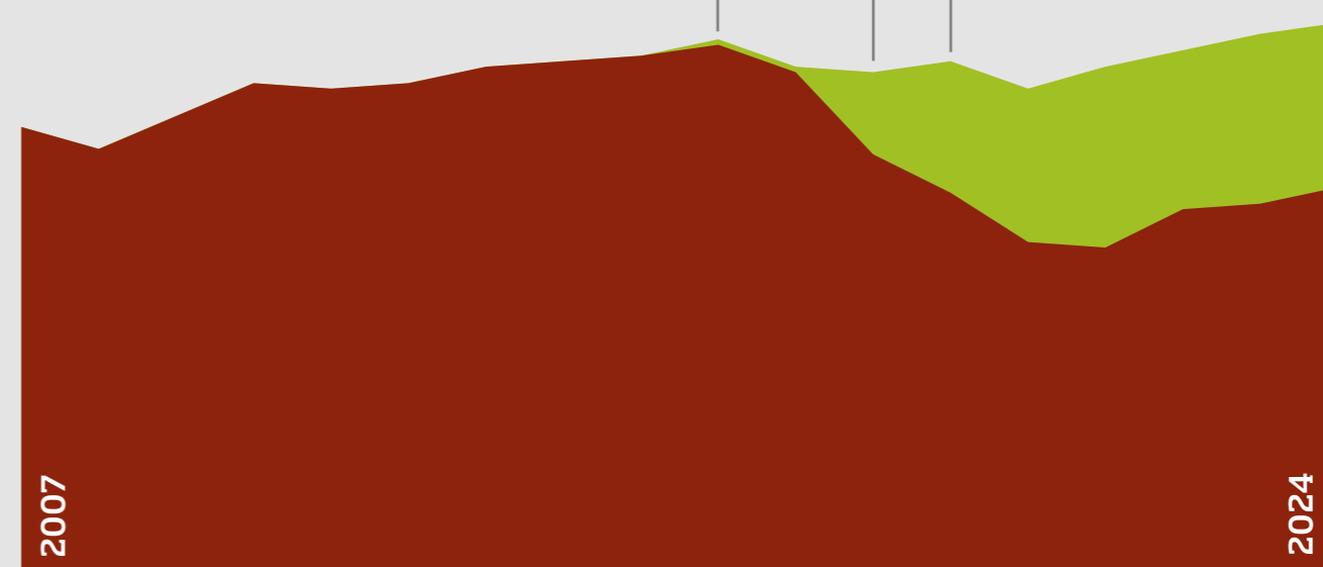
Totals in million kWh



First production from renewable sources in 2016

First solar park February 2018

Second solar park February 2019



# Saba



**2,158**  
residents\*

**22%**  
born on Saba\*

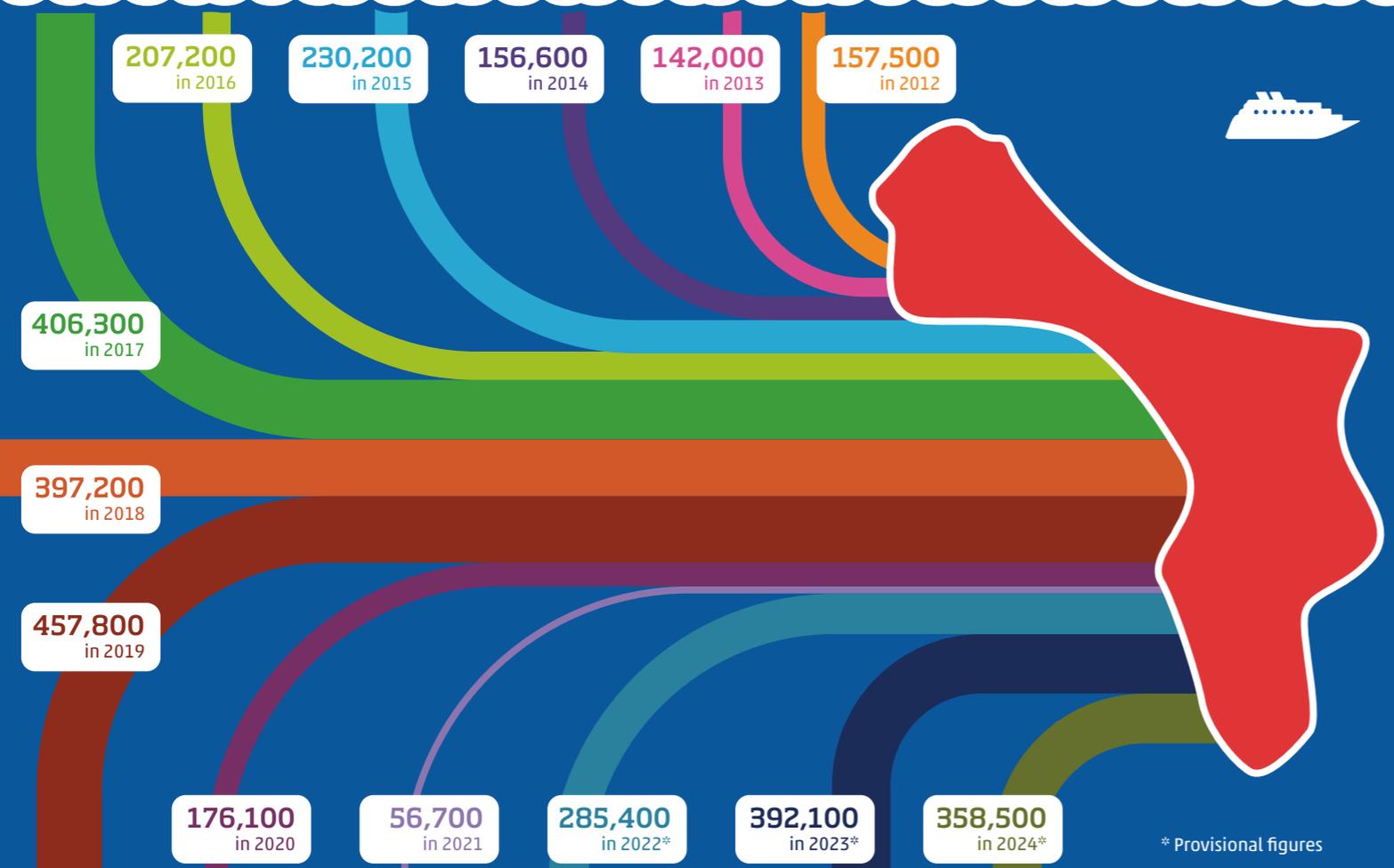
**48**  
different  
nationalities\*

\* 1 January 2025



## Tourism & environment

## Cruise passengers Bonaire



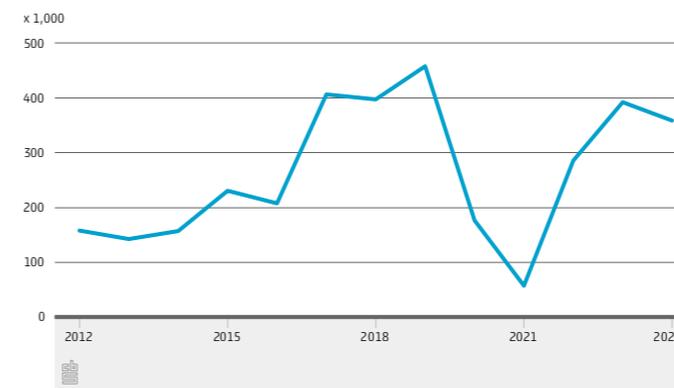
## Has the number of cruise passengers visiting Bonaire increased?

A total of 358,500 cruise passengers visited Bonaire in 2024. That was 128 percent more than in 2012. After the sharp decline during the coronavirus pandemic, the number of cruise passengers has risen sharply, but remained below the peak seen in 2019.

Following a fairly stable growth until 2015, the number of passengers rose significantly from 2016 onwards. In 2019, a record number of nearly 458,000 cruise tourists visited Bonaire. During the coronavirus pandemic, the number fell sharply, but cruise tourism recovered quickly after that. A total of 285,000 cruise passengers arrived on the island in 2022, and in 2023, that number rose to 392,000.

In 2022, a policy was introduced to allow a maximum of one large cruise ship per day, as part of the Tourism Recovery Plan. The almost complete implementation of this one ship policy followed in April 2023. In addition to one large ship, small ships carrying fewer than 700 passengers are still allowed to dock, as a second ship.

Cruise passengers, Bonaire



\* Provisional figures

### Decline in 2024

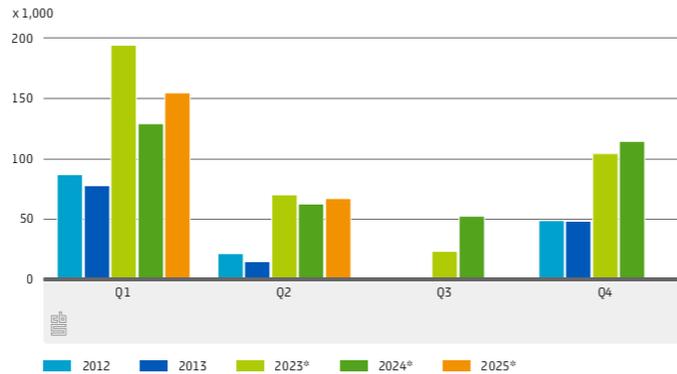
In line with the introduction of the one ship policy, the number of cruise passenger in 2024 was 9 percent lower than in the previous year. Although the post-pandemic trend is positive, a full recovery has not been achieved yet.

In the first half of 2025, approximately 222,000 cruise passengers arrived, up by 16 percent on the first half of 2024.

### Most cruise passengers in first quarter

The first quarter is always the busiest: a total of 129,000 cruise passengers arrived between January and March 2024. The fourth quarter is also popular, especially November and December. The summer and autumn months remain relatively quiet, with 52,000 passengers in the third quarter of 2024, for example. There has been a consistency in seasonal patterns since 2012.

Cruise passengers, Bonaire



\* Provisional figures



More information on cruise passengers is available here.

**128%** more cruise passengers arrived on Bonaire in 2024 than in 2012

### Explanation

#### Cruise passengers

Passengers (including crew) who arrived on Bonaire by cruise ship. The definitions of cruise passenger and cruise tourism are as follows:

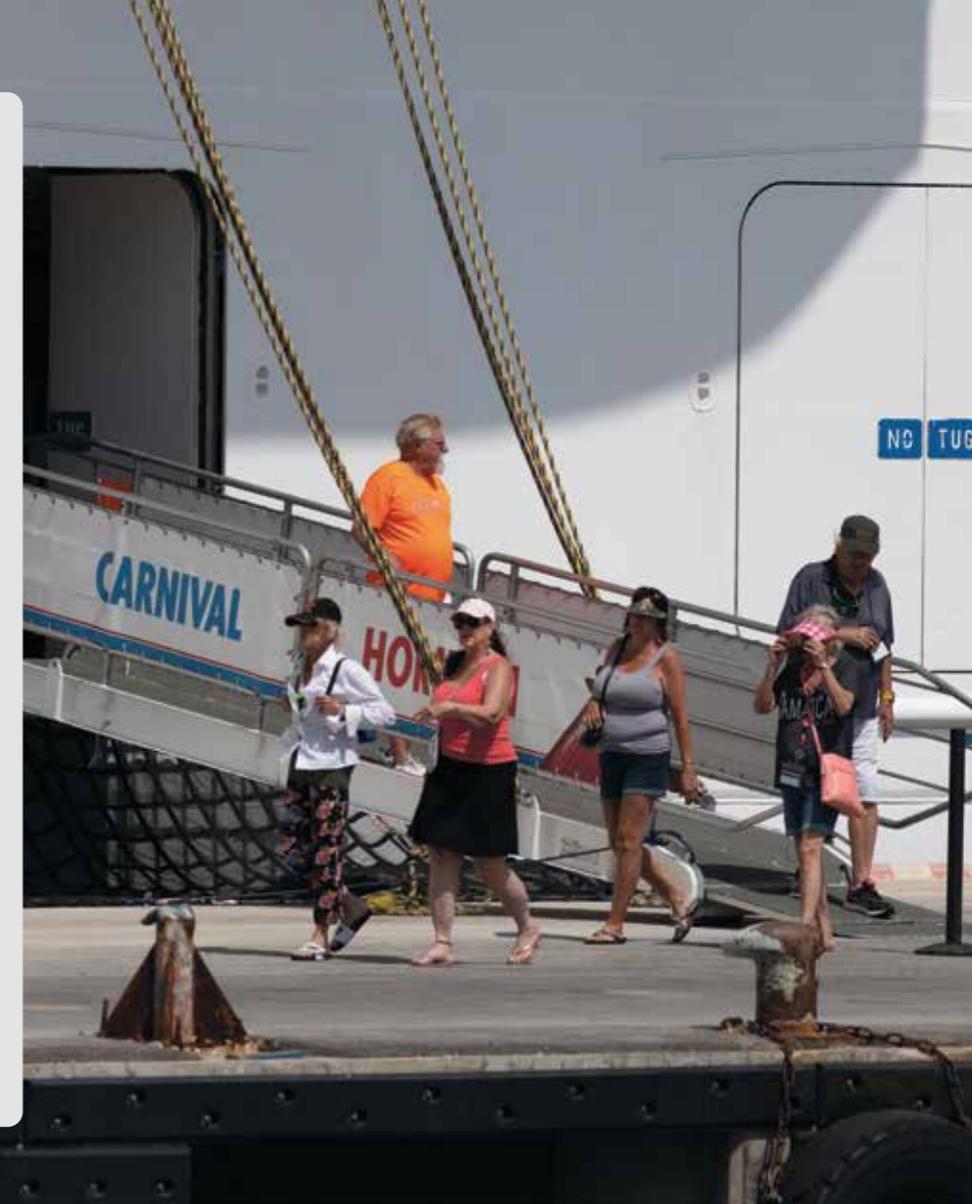
#### Cruise passenger

A cruise passenger is a visitor (tourist) who spends part or all of their trip on a cruise ship (see definition of cruise tourism).

#### Cruise tourism

Cruise tourism is a form of tourism (people who travel to and stay in places outside where they usually spend time) in which people spend at least one night on a ship for the purpose of leisure during (part of) their journey.

This ship calls at a minimum of three or more ports during the entire voyage according to a fixed schedule. If the ship only sails back and forth between two ports, it is referred to as a ferry. The cruise can take place both at sea and on inland waterways.



## Coral cover

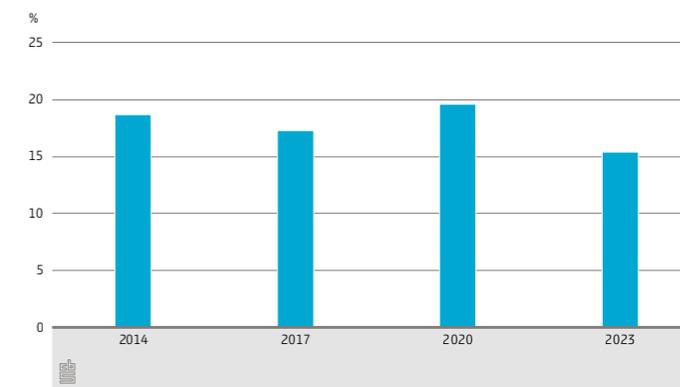


# What is the state of coral cover around Saba and St Eustatius?

**Coral cover is very low around Saba and St Eustatius and was at 2 and 3 percent in 2023. Around Bonaire, coral cover is higher at 15 percent. However, Bonaire's coral cover also showed clear signs of decline between 2020 and 2023.**

Coral cover is the percentage of the seabed that is covered by live coral on a reef. Coral cover has been monitored at the Karpata site on Bonaire since 1974. Monitoring around the whole of Bonaire began relatively recently, in 2014. Around Saba and St Eustatius coral cover monitoring began between 1990 and 2000.

**Coral cover, Bonaire**



Source: E. Meesters, Wageningen Marine Research, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

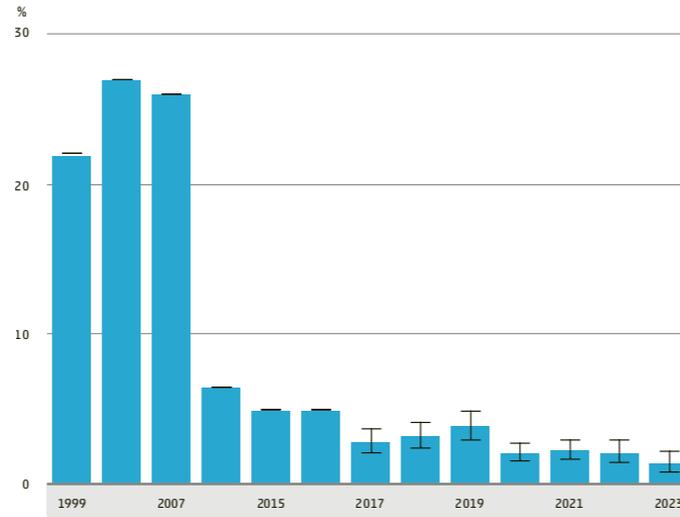
### Bonaire: decline between 2020 and 2023

In the waters around Bonaire, average coral cover has remained relatively stable since 2014 and it is currently regarded as fair (15 percent), although a noticeable decline was recorded between 2020 and 2023. Karpata's long-term monitoring at ten meters depth began with 67 percent coral cover in 1974 but this had dwindled to 26 percent by 2023, despite some temporary recoveries.

### Saba and St Eustatius: rapid decline

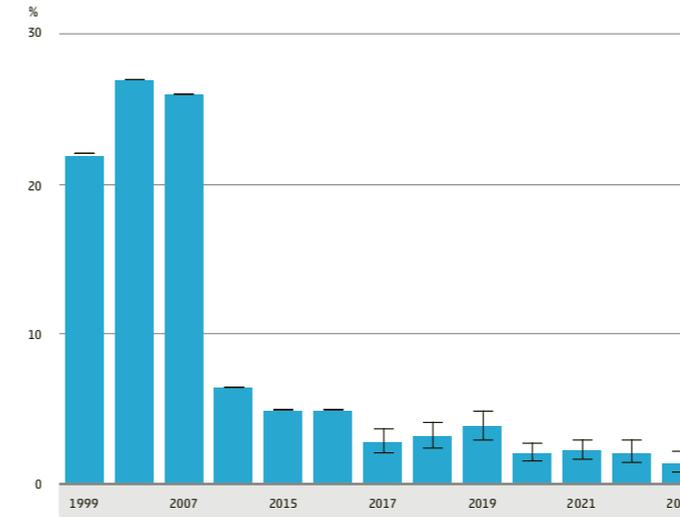
Saba's average coral cover has declined from around 24 percent in the early 1990s to 3 percent in 2023. This is most likely due to erosion-driven runoff, coral bleaching due to climate change, coral diseases, and coastal eutrophication. St Eustatius has also seen a decline in coral cover from an average of 22 percent in 1999 to just 2 percent in 2023.

Coral cover St Eustatius



Source: E. Meesters, Wageningen Marine Research, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

Coral cover St Eustatius



Source: E. Meesters, Wageningen Marine Research, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

### Explanation

#### Erosion-driven runoff

Caused when rainwater washes loose soil away and carries it into the sea, often polluting the water and harming ecosystems

#### Coastal eutrophication

When too many nutrients get into the sea, causing too much algae to grow, which overgrows and kills coral and reduces coral recruitment

**2%** of the reefs around Saba covered with coral, down from 22% 25 years ago



More information on coral cover is available here.

# Sea turtles

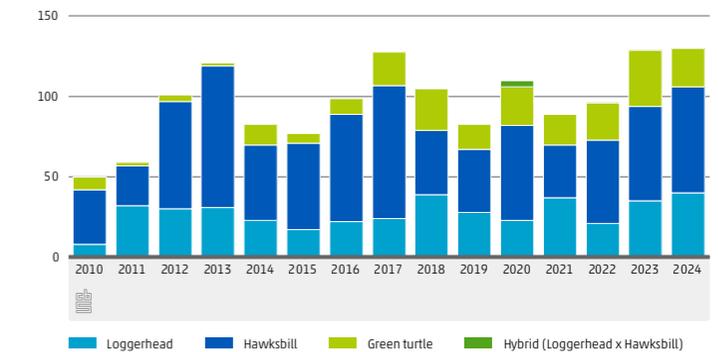


## How many sea turtles have nested in the last 15 years?

The number of sea turtle nests on Bonaire has been on an upward trend since 2010, while nesting populations on St Eustatius have fluctuated. Sea turtles are important indicators for the general health of oceans – from beaches and seagrass to coral reefs.

Since the early 2000s, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and St Eustatius National Parks Foundation have carried out annual nest counts on multiple beaches on both islands. No data on nests is collected on Saba because the island has few beaches and these are difficult to reach.

Number of sea turtle nests, Bonaire



Source: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

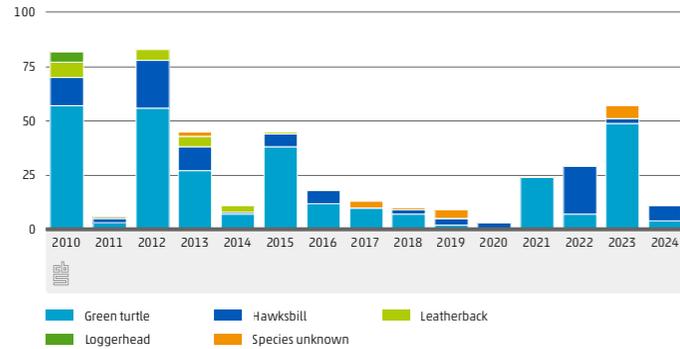
### More nesting sea turtles on Bonaire

On Bonaire, nesting turtle populations have shown a moderate but steady increase over the last 15 years, rising from a total of 50 turtle nests in 2010 up to 150 in 2024. This increase is particularly pronounced among loggerhead turtles, with numbers rising fivefold during this period (up to 40 nesting in 2024). Hawksbill turtles remain the most numerous species nesting on the island. The number of green turtle nests has also increased gradually, from around 10 in 2016 up to 24 turtle nests in 2024.

### Fluctuating numbers of sea turtles on St Eustatius

St Eustatius has seen more variation in sea turtle nests over the last 15 years, with annual counts fluctuating due to factors such as changing habitats and the impact of storms. Green turtles are the most common turtle species to nest on the island, followed by hawksbills. Leatherback and loggerhead turtle nests are less common.

Number of sea turtle nests, St Eustatius



Source: St Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA), Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database

**40** loggerhead turtles nesting on Bonaire in 2024, five times as many as in 2010



More information about turtle nests on Bonaire and St Eustatius is available here.





## Youth & well-being

## Inclusive and sustainable well-being



## How do we monitor inclusive and sustainable well-being in the Caribbean Netherlands?

**Material prosperity is not the only thing that matters in people's lives. A secure income is a good start, of course, but there are many other things that make life worthwhile, such as good health, relationships and a pleasant living environment. We refer to this concept as 'inclusive and sustainable well-being'. In order to measure and understand well-being in the Caribbean Netherlands, the Monitor of Well-Being and Sustainable Development Goals (MBWB & SDGs) for the Caribbean Netherlands has been published annually since 2022.**

While gross domestic product (GDP) measures the material wealth of a society, the Monitor of Well-being also takes account of all the other factors that are important for quality of life. The Monitor of Well-being for the Caribbean Netherlands examines well-being on each of the three islands – Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius – as well as the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These internationally agreed goals touch on all ecological, social and economic aspects of well-being.

The monitor tracks how well-being changes over time, with a focus on the medium term. Based on trends over the past eight years, it shows whether the well-being is rising or falling.

### **Well-being 'here and now' in eight themes**

The Monitor of Well-being for the Caribbean Netherlands focuses on the dimension of 'here and now'. A combination of eight themes provides a picture of the quality of life and the living environment of residents of the Caribbean Netherlands today. The theme of subjective well-being involves life satisfaction and fulfilment. Material well-being is about the resources that people have to meet their basic needs and shape their own lives. Health encompasses both objective and perceived physical and mental health.

A fourth aspect of well-being 'here and now' is work and leisure, which looks at paid work, how people spend their free time, and their skills. There are also themes focusing on housing and people's living environment. Well-being 'here and now' also considers society, social cohesion and the trust that people have in each other and in institutions.

The last two themes are safety (recorded crimes and victimisation) and the state of the environment.

### **High subjective well-being, low material well-being**

The monitor shows that in the Caribbean Netherlands there are differences between the results on the objective indicators and people's subjective perceptions. For example, the Caribbean Netherlands has relatively low material well-being, with relatively low disposable household income and a high level of poverty compared to the European Netherlands. However, this is accompanied by relatively high levels of subjective well-being. This aspect of well-being is closely intertwined with perceived quality of life. Life satisfaction is high on all three islands, and also significantly higher than in the European Netherlands. These differences underline the importance of considering all aspects of well-being.

### **The dimensions of 'later' and 'elsewhere' remain under development**

The monitor for the Caribbean Netherlands is still under development and will be expanded every year to provide an increasingly comprehensive picture of well-being on the islands.

In addition to the 'here and now' dimension, the concept of well-being also includes the dimensions of 'later' and 'elsewhere'. This raises the following questions: will future generations be able to achieve the same level of broad well-being as we have? And do our choices and lifestyle have a direct impact on the broad well-being of people elsewhere in the world?

Work is currently underway on the 'later' dimension. This will first involve examining which social, economic and natural resources are available to shape the broad well-being dimension of 'later'. The first step will be to decide on what needs to be monitored. This will result in a monitor that tracks all three dimensions of broad inclusive and sustainable well-being in the Caribbean Netherlands.



More on inclusive and sustainable well-being Caribbean Netherlands and the latest numbers are available here



A combination of **eight themes** provides a picture of inclusive and sustainable well-being among the residents of the Caribbean Netherlands 'here and now'.

## Victims of bullying

**31%**  
of girls on Saba  
are bullied

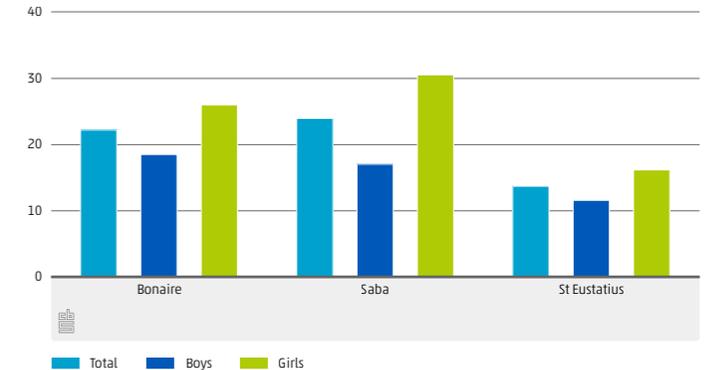
## How many young people are victims of bullying?

In 2024, 24 percent of students on Saba and 22 percent on Bonaire (aged younger than 18 years) in secondary education (VO) and secondary vocational education (MBO) had been bullied at some point in the past twelve months. On St Eustatius the corresponding figure was 14 percent. Most bullying occurs in an offline context, and it mainly takes the form of spreading gossip on Bonaire and Saba, and name-calling and verbal abuse on St Eustatius.

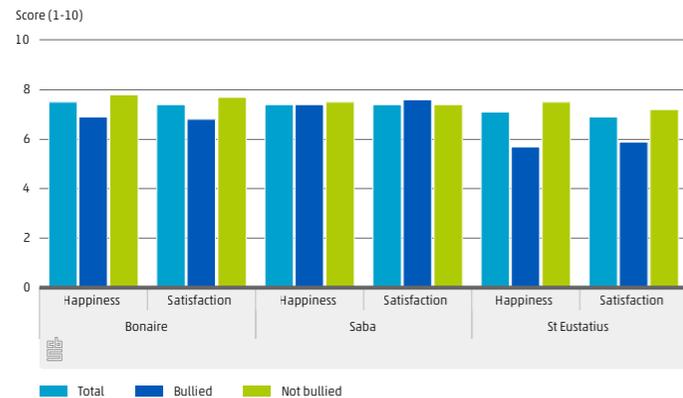
Girls are bullied more often than boys on average, across all the islands. This difference is largest on Saba and Bonaire. On Saba 31 percent of girls and 17 percent of boys were bullied. On Bonaire the corresponding figures were 26 and 18 percent and on St Eustatius 16 and 12 percent, respectively.

### Young people who said they had been bullied in the past year, 2024

% of young people in secondary education/MBO aged under 18 years



### Well-being, 2024



Four years earlier, in 2020, the percentage of students bullied on Saba and Bonaire was similar, namely 22 percent and 20 percent respectively. At the time, however, there was no difference between the figures for boys and girls on Saba. No comparison over time is possible in the figures for St Eustatius.

### Young people who are bullied are less happy and less satisfied with their lives

Young people were also asked to rate their happiness and life satisfaction on a scale between 1 and 10. On Saba, they gave an average score of 7.4 for both their happiness and satisfaction in 2024. Young people on Bonaire gave a score of 7.5 for happiness and a 7.4 for life satisfaction, and on St Eustatius the corresponding figures were 7.1 and 6.9.

On average, young people who had been bullied in the past twelve months gave lower scores for their well-being than young people who had not experienced bullying. This difference is particularly noticeable on Bonaire and St Eustatius.

On Saba there were hardly any differences in happiness and life satisfaction between young people who had been bullied and those who had not.

### Not all students are able to confide in someone regarding personal issues

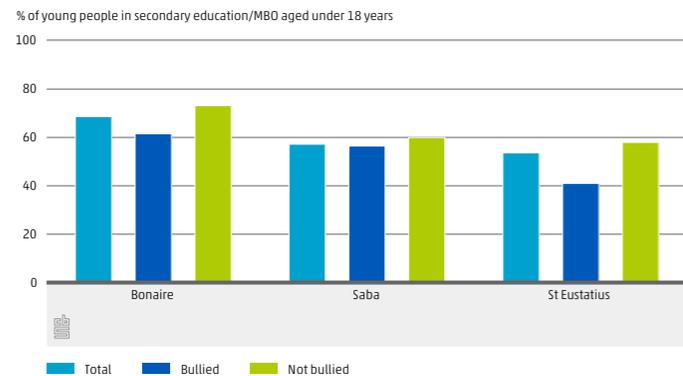
It is important for young people's well-being that they are able to talk to someone about their personal problems. In 2024, 69 percent of students on Bonaire said they were able to talk about personal problems with someone they trust.

On Saba the corresponding figure was 57 percent and on St Eustatius 54 percent. On average, across all the islands, young people

who are being bullied are less likely to confide in someone they trust than those who are not being bullied.

In 2020, too, young people on Bonaire and Saba who were being bullied were less likely to be able to talk to someone they trust about their personal problems than young people who were not being bullied. Young people on both islands who were being bullied were also less happy and satisfied with their lives than those who were not being bullied.

### Young people who said they could confide in someone about personal problems, 2024



### Clarification Students:

All the young people surveyed were in secondary education or secondary vocational education and younger than 18 years.



More data on bullying among young people is available here



## Future plans

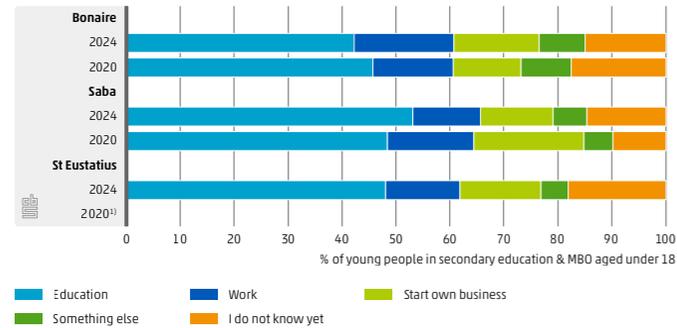
# What do young people plan to do in the future?

**In 2024, more than four in ten students on Bonaire indicate that they wanted to continue studying after obtaining their secondary diploma. On Saba and St Eustatius, approximately half of students had these plans. Most students plan to leave the island in the future and start living somewhere else. The most frequently cited reasons for this are to pursue an education or degree, or to see more of the world.**

In 2024, 42 percent of the students on Bonaire (aged under 18 years) in secondary education (VO) and senior secondary vocational education (MBO) said that they plan to continue their education after obtaining their secondary diploma. On Saba and St Eustatius, the figures are 53 percent and 48 percent respectively. Of the remaining students, the majority wanted to start working or start their own business. A minority said that they do not know yet.

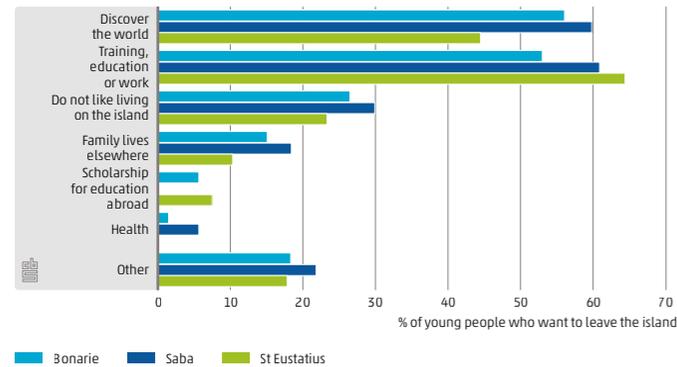
Compared to 2020, students on Bonaire are slightly more likely to indicate that they want to work or start their own business. On Saba, students were slightly less likely to indicate that they want to start their own business and were more likely to be unsure about their future plans.

### Future Plans



<sup>1)</sup>The response on St Eustatius was so low and selective in 2020 that the figures are not reliable enough for publication.

### Reasons for leaving the island, 2024



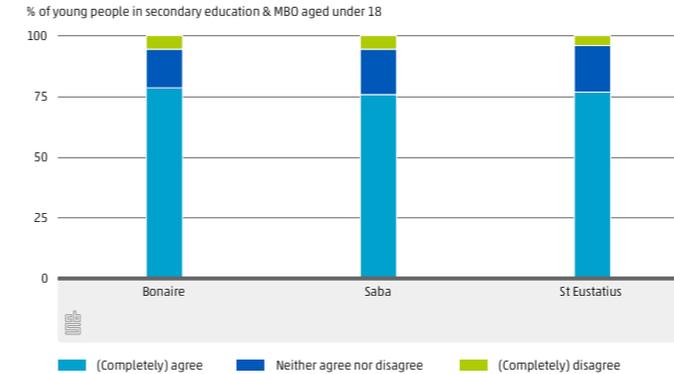
### Large majority of students want to leave the island

Among students on Saba and St Eustatius in 2024, 91 percent said they want to leave the island and live somewhere else. On Bonaire the share was 81 percent. The most frequently cited reasons for this are to pursue an education or degree, or to see more of the world. About a quarter of the students said they do not like living on the island.

### Most students receive good advice about the important things in life

Making plans for the future and moving away are important decisions, and it can be helpful to get good advice from other people about them. In 2024, 79 percent of students on Bonaire (completely) agreed with the statement 'I receive good advice about the important things in life'. On Saba and St Eustatius, the share was almost the same. On all three islands, 5 percent or fewer (completely) disagreed with this statement.

### Young people who say they get good advice on important things in life, 2024

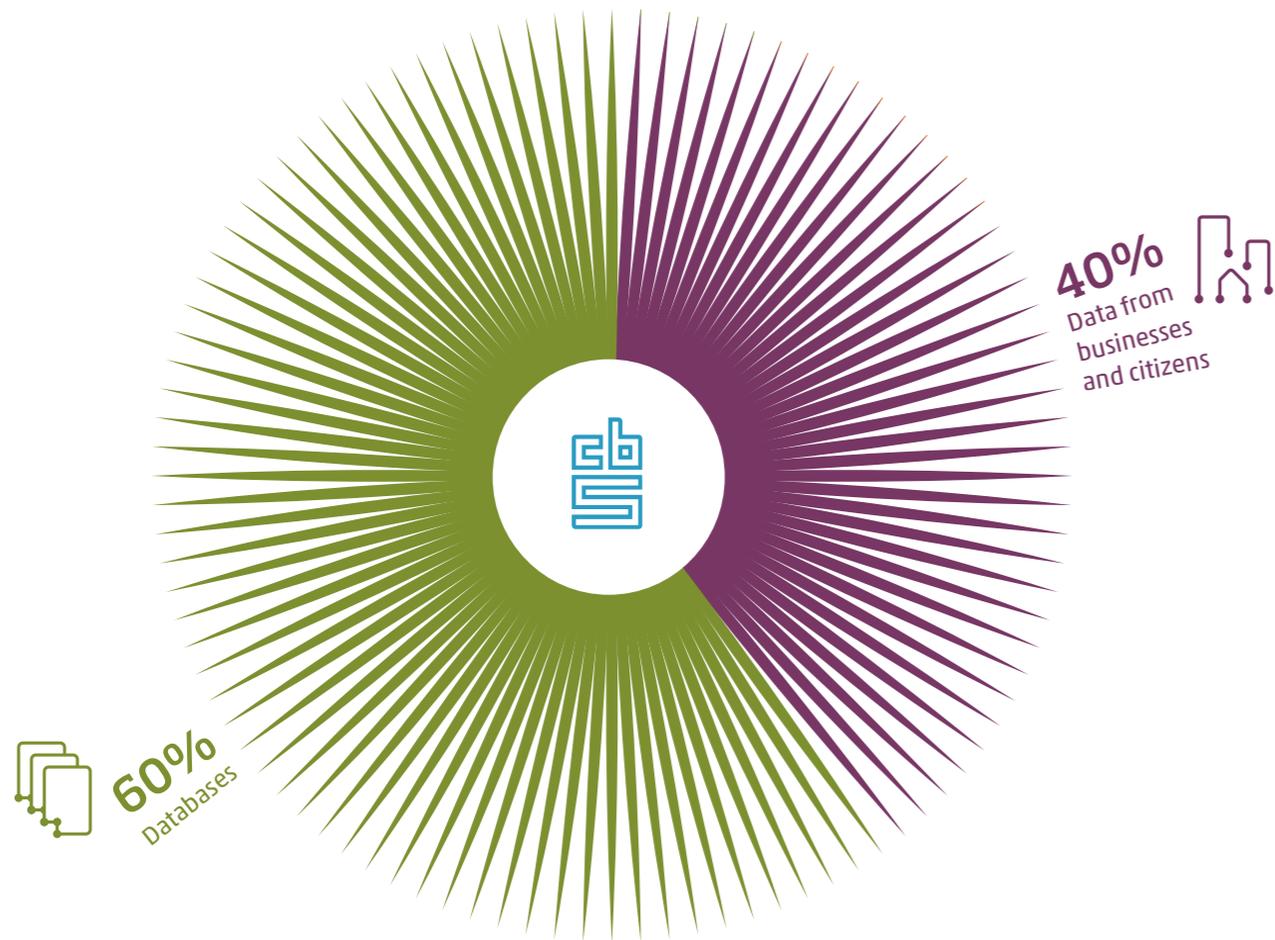


 More on students is available here (only Dutch).

**9 out of 10** students on Saba and St Eustatius want to leave the island in the future.



CBS



## How does CBS collect data?

**Statistics Netherlands (CBS) collects as much information as possible from existing government and business registries. The use of this data is regulated by law, with top priority given to privacy and reliability. Additionally, we collect data through our own surveys, while always seeking to minimize the administrative burden on citizens and businesses. Statistics Netherlands is legally required to compile and publish certain statistics: this is our statutory task.**

### **60 percent from existing registers**

60 percent of the figures collected and analyzed by Statistics Netherlands come from public or business registers, such as the PIVA (population register), the Tax and Customs Administration, companies' annual reports to calculate GDP, or data from energy companies on household and business energy consumption. The main advantage of using data from registers is that Statistics Netherlands no longer has to contact individuals and businesses as often, which makes

the survey process less burdensome and time-consuming for everyone.

### **40 percent from surveys**

40 percent of our data is collected directly from businesses and citizens. This is done by means of surveys conducted mostly face-to-face or on a smaller scale online.

Combining all these data sources in an innovative and reliable way enables us to produce more up-to-date and detailed statistics. We constantly aim to be responsive to society and we always keep privacy and reliability in mind.

### **Facts that matter**

Statistics Netherlands stands for a well-informed society, based on facts. We aim to help achieve this by publishing reliable, objective information and providing the insights that are required by government and society. In this way, Statistics Netherlands contributes to the societal debate, policy development, decision making and research.

# How does CBS handle your privacy?

## How does CBS handle your privacy?

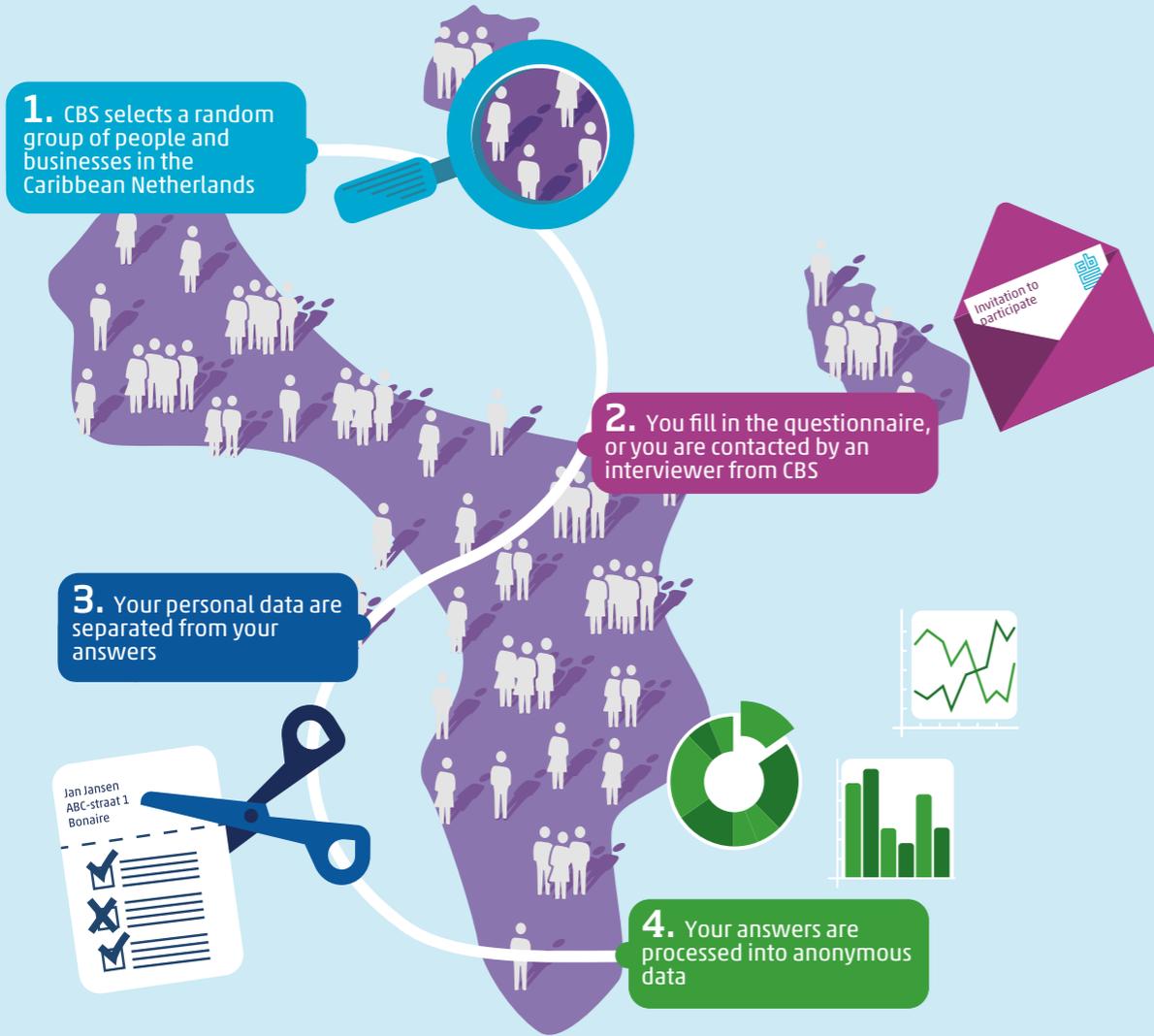
CBS treats your personal data with the utmost care. Individuals can never be identified or traced from our statistics or publications. We also have measures in place to prevent the theft, loss or misuse of personal data. CBS will never supply data to third parties, including other government institutions, if it could be used to identify individuals.

CBS protects your data using both technological and logistical measures, and we also have rules to ensure good data protection. Here are the most important measures:

- Whenever you complete a survey or submit data to CBS, the information is delivered to CBS in encoded form and held in a secured environment. Only authorized personnel who need the data for their work have access to that data.
- At the earliest possible stage in the process, all personal details that could be used to identify an individual are removed from the data. This

means datasets for research will never contain any data such as names, addresses or citizen identification numbers.

- Every CBS employee is required to observe the strictest standards of confidentiality and has signed a confidentiality agreement to this effect.
- CBS only uses data for statistical and scientific purposes. CBS is not legally permitted to use its data for fiscal, administrative, verification and legal purposes. Neither is our data used for marketing purposes, under any circumstances.
- All statistical processes at CBS are certified for personal data protection standards. This audit is carried out by an accredited external party.



More information on privacy protection at CBS



# About us

## **CBS in the Caribbean Netherlands**

Since 2010, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba have been special municipalities of the Netherlands, and Statistics Netherlands (CBS) therefore produces official statistics about the islands too. CBS opened its office on Bonaire in 2010. The Bonaire office is responsible for all statistics concerning the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands, which have now been special municipalities for 15 years. Areas on which statistics are produced include prices, population, labor, income, the economy, tourism and trade.

## **Statistics Netherlands**

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) is the leading authority on valuable statistical information about the Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands. We are the main source of professional expertise, high-quality data and statistics. CBS does not exist for its own sake, but on behalf of society – providing useful statistics on the Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands that can be trusted and relied upon by all.



CBS in the  
Caribbean  
Netherlands



More information  
about CBS



# This is us!

## Awareness campaign Caribbean Netherlands

**How are young people on Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius doing? How do they feel about their health and well-being? How many of them have been on the receiving end of bullying? Do they experience discrimination? And how do they see their future? These are some of the questions that CBS highlights in its ongoing public awareness campaign This is us!**

The statistics on young people are based on, among other sources, surveys conducted among students aged under 18 in secondary and vocational education. The results provide an up-to-date picture of how young people in the Caribbean Netherlands are doing.

Earlier, the This is us! campaign focused on population trends. On Bonaire and Saba the population is growing, while on St Eustatius it is declining. Reliable figures on population change are essential for planning facilities such as hospitals, homes for the elderly and childcare centers. Without accurate data, it is impossible to make sound estimates or engage in informed public debate.

The This is us! campaign is highly visible across the islands. With posters in the streets and banners online, we are showcasing the numbers that tell the story of our islands. CBS figures form the basis for the societal debate on important themes, providing reliable factual input for that debate.

This is us! Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius.



More about  
the campaign



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digital sources page.

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to the realization of The Caribbean Netherlands in numbers.

**If you have any questions, or cannot find what you are looking for, please contact us!**

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## Caribbean Netherlands webpage

The latest statistics, news releases and publications can all be found on a dedicated page on [cbs.nl](http://cbs.nl). You can easily access this page via [www.cbs.nl/cn](http://www.cbs.nl/cn). An English version is available.



## StatLine

StatLine is the CBS database. It provides a wealth of figures on the economy and society in the Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands. These are freely available as tables, charts or maps. On the Caribbean Netherlands webpage, go to Figures in the navigation menu on the right-hand side. On the left-hand side you can see a range of themes, including Caribbean Netherlands. Please note: Caribbean figures are only listed under this heading. All the other themes contain figures on the European Netherlands.



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