



# Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands

2019



**Trends in  
the Caribbean  
Netherlands  
2019**

## 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
2018-2019	2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/2019	Average for 2018 to 2019 inclusive
2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, school year, etc., beginning in 2018 and ending in 2019
2017/'18-	
2018/'19	Crop year, financial year, etc., 2017/'18 to 2018/'19 inclusive

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

## Colofon

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# Foreword

Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2019 provides updated as well as new information, covering many aspects of life in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The edition before you thus includes data on all three islands with topics including consumer prices, energy, income, nature and environment and health of people of the Caribbean Netherlands.

This edition, unlike previous editions, gives a more concise compilation of statistics covering key aspects of life in the Caribbean Netherlands. This year we have chosen for a less elaborate version however with more explanatory notes.

The information can also easily be accessed through our press releases, available on our website, [www.cbs.nl/caribisch-nederland](http://www.cbs.nl/caribisch-nederland). In addition, all our key figures can be found in our online database StatLine (<https://>

[opendata.cbs.nl/](http://opendata.cbs.nl/)), on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/statistiekpbs.cn](http://www.facebook.com/statistiekpbs.cn)) and on our Twitter account (@statisticspbs).

I hope you find Trends in the Caribbean Netherlands 2019 a useful, enjoyable source of information.

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

The Hague/Heerlen/Bonaire, December 2019



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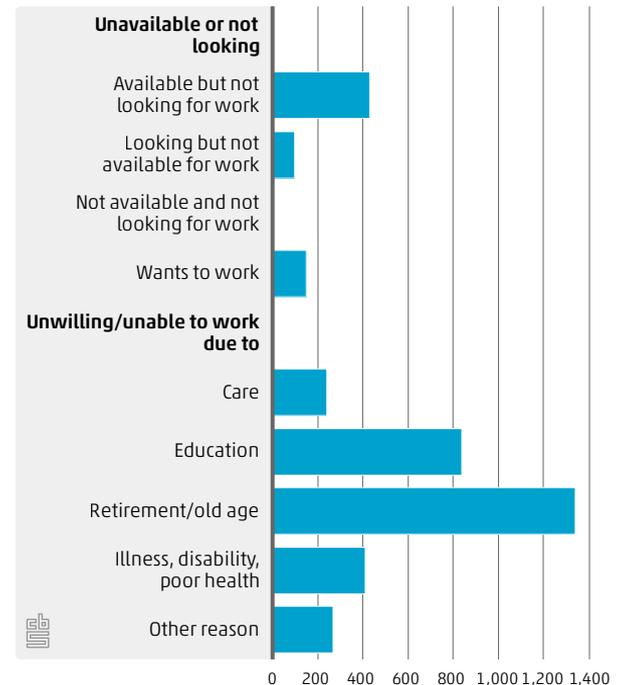
# 1. Bonaire

## Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Bonaire is 15.4 thousand, with 73.1 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate is higher among men: 74.9 percent of the men are employed versus 71.1 percent of the women. Participation is relatively low among young people. Almost 70 percent of lower educated people are in employment, versus almost 80 percent of those with an intermediate education level and just over three quarters of the highly educated. Bonaire's unemployment rate is just over 3 percent. This is equivalent to almost 370 unemployed who are actively looking and available for work.

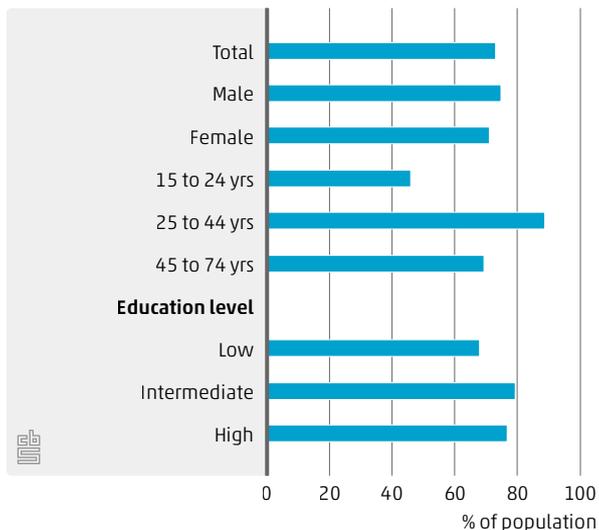
Almost 3.8 thousand Bonaire residents do not form part of the local labour force. They are not looking, nor are they available for work; in most cases, a combination of both. A large group (35 percent) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old

**Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2018**

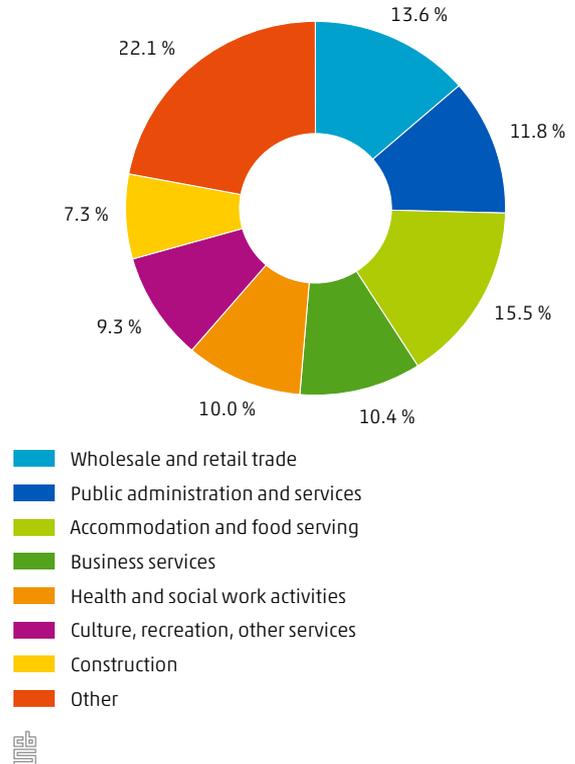


age or retirement. For 22 percent of those not in the labour force – young residents in particular – education is the predominant reason why they are unwilling or unavailable for work. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to illness or disability (11 percent) or because they have to take care of family (6 percent).

### Net labour participation, 2018



### Employee jobs by economic activity, 2018\*



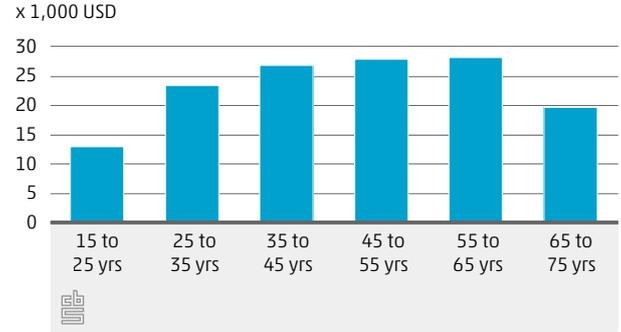
## Jobs of employees

There were 9.8 thousand employee jobs on Bonaire in 2018. The sector with the largest number of jobs is accommodation and food services followed by wholesale and retail trade and the public sector.

## Wages of employees

The average annual wage on Bonaire was 24.6 thousand US dollars in 2018, an increase of 1 percent relative to 2017. The median wage was 20.0 thousand US dollars. This means that half of all employed people earned wages lower than this level and for the other half wages were higher.

## Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2018\*



Wages vary widely depending on characteristics and type of work. In 2018, women's wages were 8 percent lower than men's. This gap is narrowing. In 2011, the difference was 18 percent.



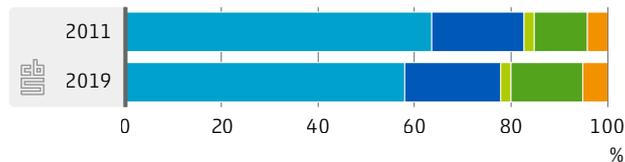
**24.6** thousand US dollars  
was the average annual wage in  
2018\*

## Population

Between the beginning of 2014 and the end of 2018, Bonaire's population grew by 1.6 thousand to reach 20 thousand. This was mainly due to more immigration than emigration, while natural population growth contributed as well.

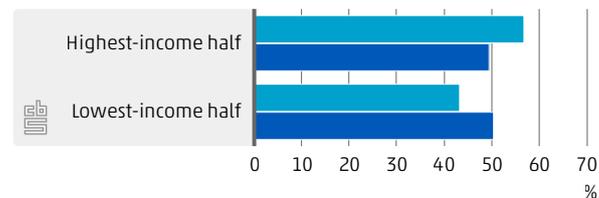
Since 2011, the share of residents born in the European Netherlands has risen from 11 percent to 15 percent. The population share born in South and Central America has seen a rise. At the beginning of 2019, Bonaire had relatively fewer residents born in the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba than in 2011.

### Bonaire residents by native region



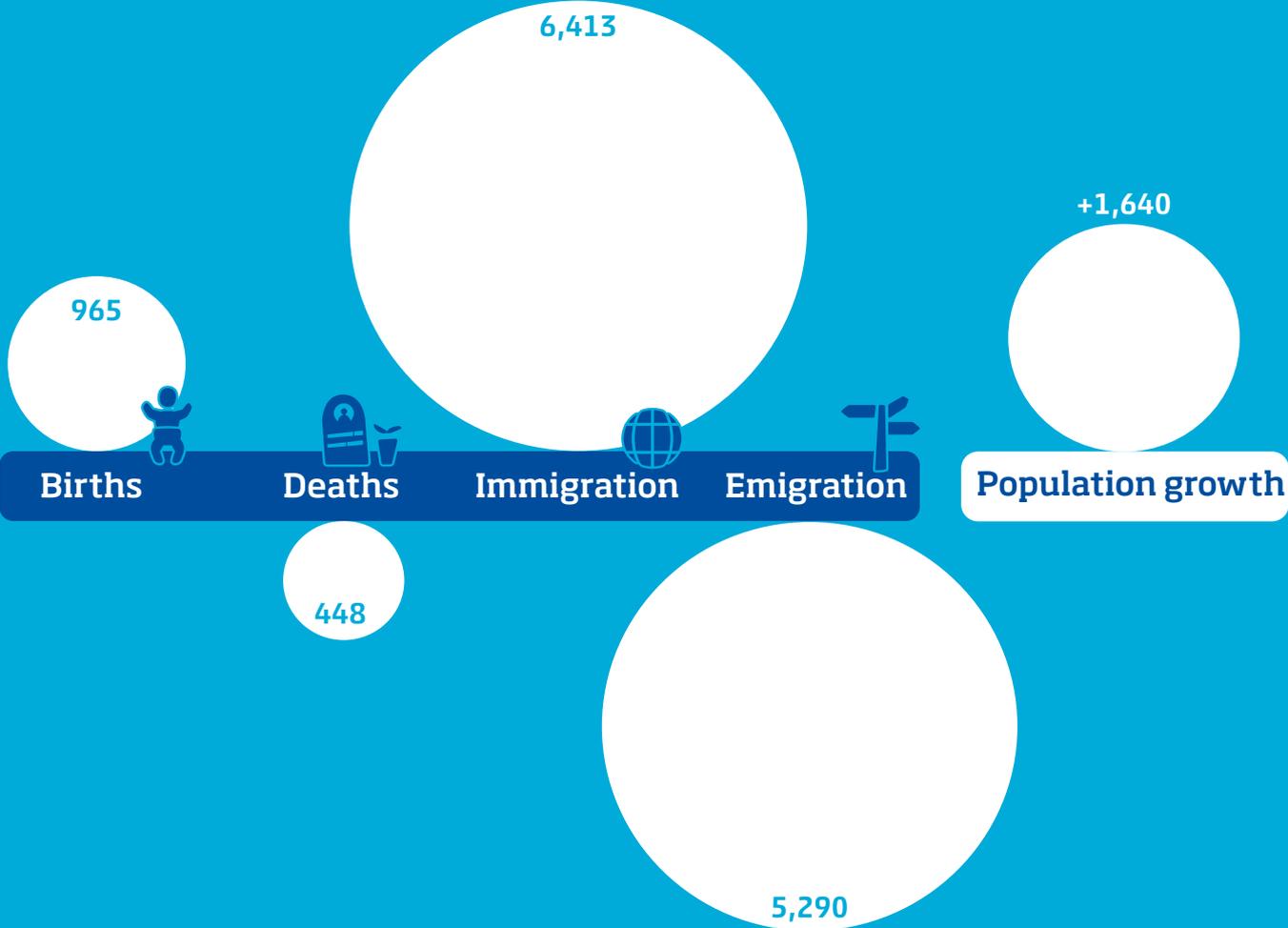
Young adults (17 to 26 years) from high-income households, i.e. in the highest income half, are more likely to migrate to the European Netherlands than those from families in the lowest income half. Many of them settle in the European Netherlands for their education.

### Young adults, income, emigration, 2013-2017



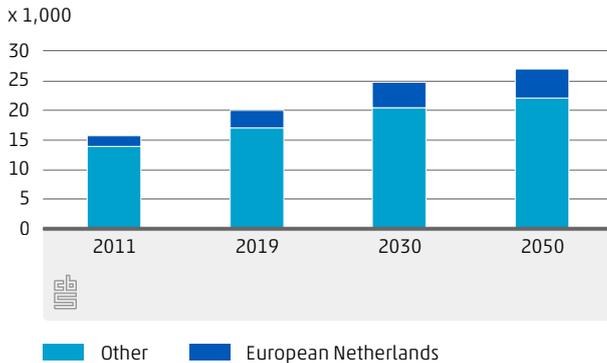
At the beginning of this year, Bonaire had 3 thousand inhabitants who were born in the European Netherlands, up from 1.7 thousand in 2011. According to the most recent demographic forecast, this will have risen to 4.9 thousand by the year 2050. In relative

# Population dynamics Bonaire, 2014-2018



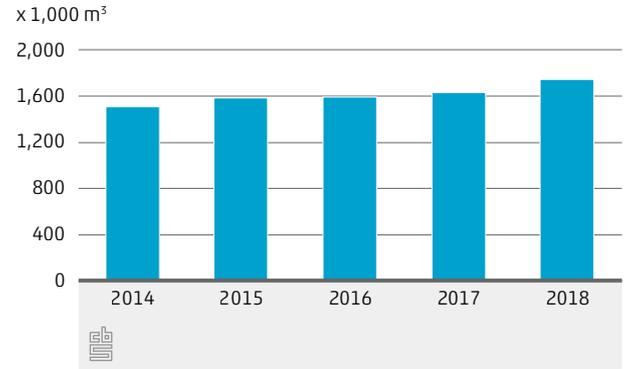
terms as well, the share of Dutch-born residents is increasing: from 11 percent in 2011 to 15 percent in 2019, with a projected 22 percent in 2050.

### Bonaire residents by native region

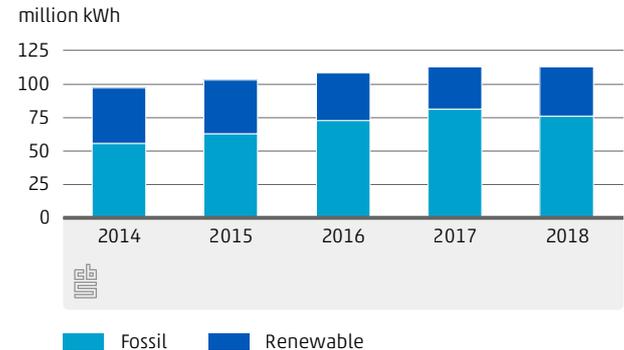


## Energy

### Water production



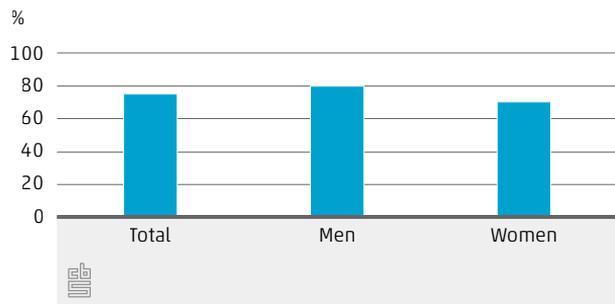
### Electricity production



## Health

On Bonaire, approximately three-quarters of the population aged 15 years and over say they are in good or very good health (2017/2018). Overall, men feel healthier than women. Around 80 percent of men and 70 percent of women report that they are in good health.

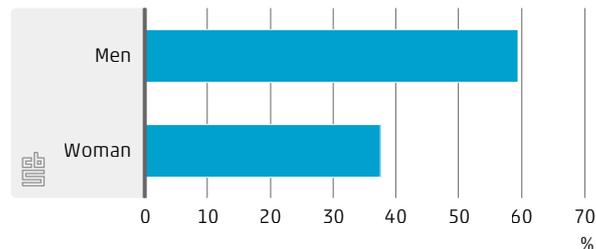
### In (very) good health, 15 years and over, 2017/2018



Source: CBS, Omnibus survey.

Half of the population of Bonaire aged 4 years and over meet the Dutch Physical Activity Guidelines. The share meeting this standard is higher among men (60 percent) than among women (38 percent).

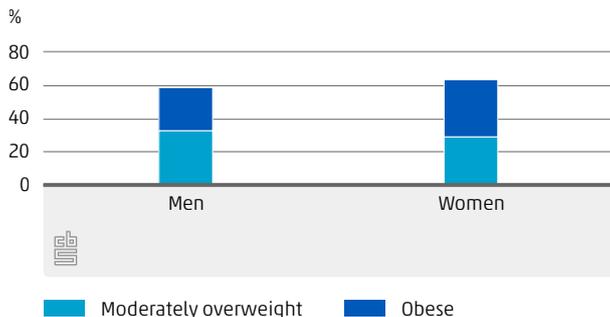
### Meets the physical activity standard, 4 years and over, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

Six in ten residents of Bonaire are overweight, of whom half are obese. Women and men are equally likely to be overweight, but obesity is relatively more common among women: 35 percent, as against 26 percent of men.

## Overweight, 2 years and over, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

## Income

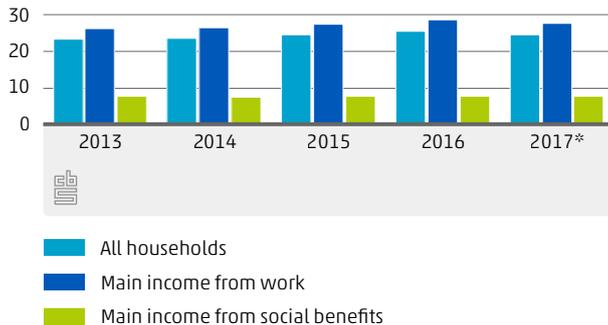
In 2017, the median disposable income of households on Bonaire stood at 24.6 thousand US dollars. A gradual increase in the median income from 2012 up to and including 2016 was followed by a decline of nearly 4 percent in 2017. Households with income primarily from work had 27.9 thousand US dollars to spend in 2017. The median income of social benefit recipients stood at 7.7 thousand US dollars in 2017. This amount has not changed since 2015.

### Purchasing power development

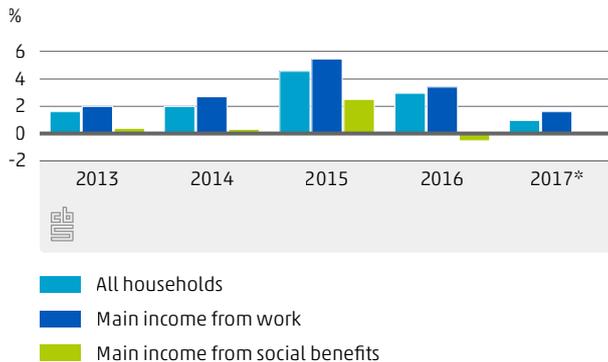
On Bonaire, purchasing power has improved each year since 2012. The lowest median growth so far was recorded in 2017 at 1 percent. Nevertheless, 45 percent of Bonaire residents were negatively affected. Among the working population, buying power improved by 1.6 percent. Social benefit recipients received a minor 0.1 percent increase, as the growth in social benefits incomes in 2017 was nearly equal to the increase in consumer prices between 2016 and 2017.

## Median disposable household income

1,000 USD (in prices of 2017)



## Purchasing power development

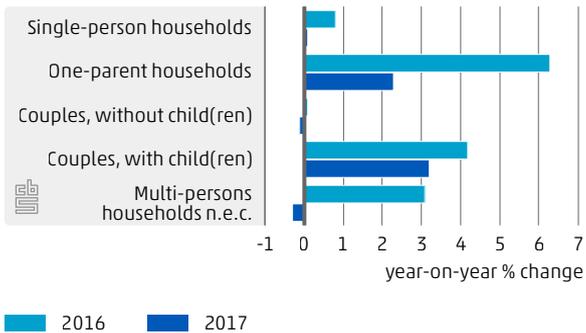


In 2017, especially households with children saw their purchasing power rise. For couples with children and one-parent households on Bonaire, the median improvement was 3.2 percent and 2.3 percent respectively. Likewise, in 2016 buying power increased the most among households with children due to the introduction of the child benefit. For one-parent households, the median increase was 6.3 percent.

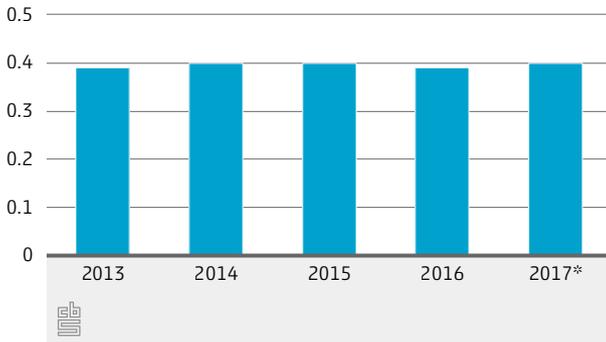
## Income inequality

Bonaire has the most stable income inequality among the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. The Gini coefficient had a value of 0.40 in 2017. Expressed 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.

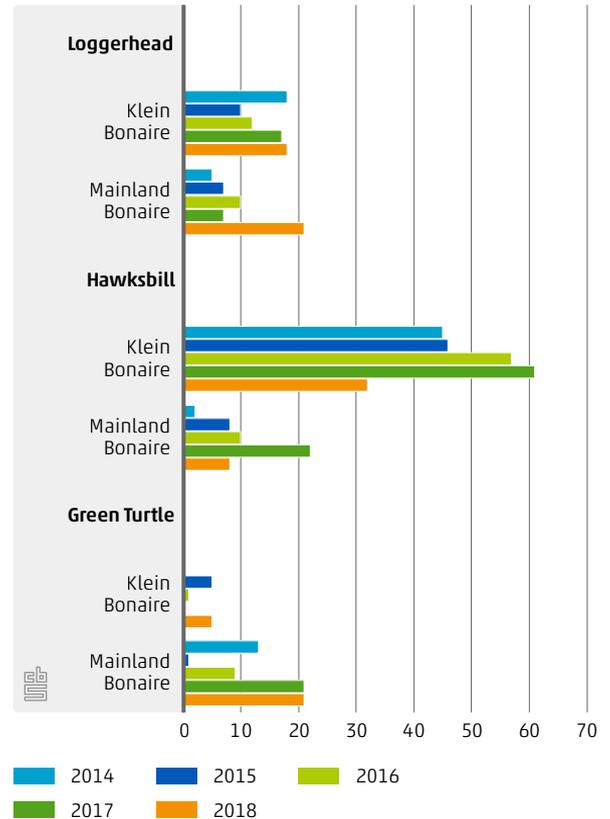
## Purchasing power development by household composition



## Gini coefficient



## Total number of turtle nests

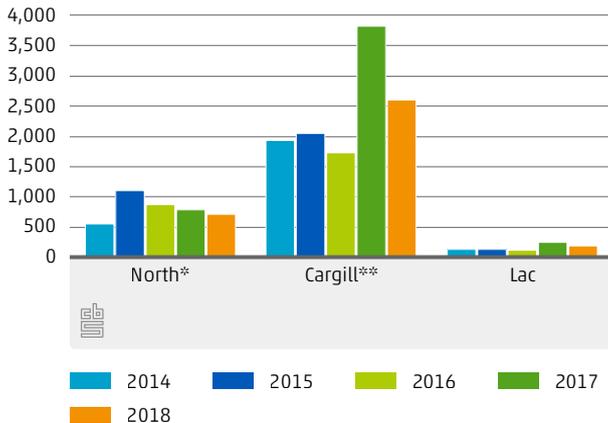


Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire.

## Nature

Sea turtles have existed for around 150 million years and are vitally important for healthy beaches, seagrass beds and coral reefs. While threatened with extinction, sea turtles have been successfully protected on Bonaire.

### Annual average number of flamingoes per counting area



Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire.

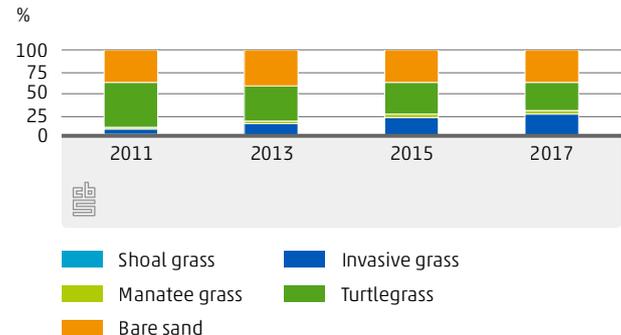
\*Includes areas Slagbaai and Gotomeer.

\*\*Includes area Pekelmeer.

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

Seagrass beds capture CO<sub>2</sub>, trap sediments and protect beaches. They are a nursery ground for numerous fish species, foraging grounds for turtles and conch, and are capable of filtering human pathogens from the water. In recent years, invasive seagrasses have taken over living space from endemic seagrasses (shoal grass, manatee grass and turtle grass).

### Seagrass Density Species in Lac bay



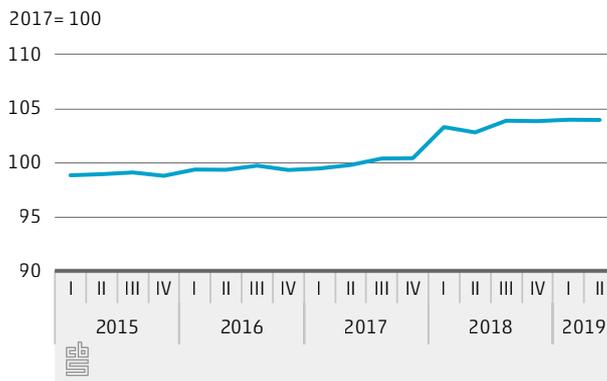
Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and STINAPA.

## Prices

In 2018, prices of consumer goods and services on Bonaire rose by 3.4 percent compared to 2017. In 2017, prices rose by 0.5 percent relative to 2016.

The rise in 2018 was mainly seen in housing, water and energy, where prices rose by 7.7 percent. Water and electricity became more expensive in particular. Other products that were more expensive in 2018 were clothing and footwear, telephony and internet and petrol. Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 2 percent, which had a dampening effect on the overall price increase for goods and services on Bonaire. Prices of furnishing and household equipment fell by 2.8 percent.

## Consumer price index



**3.4%** increase in prices of  
consumer goods and services in  
2018\*



## Consumer price index

year-on-year % change





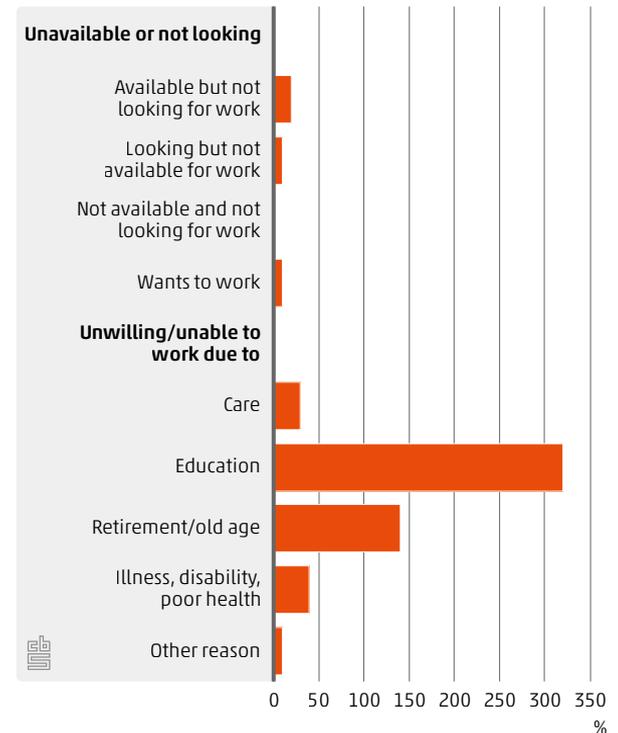
## 2. Saba

### Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on Saba is slightly under 1.8 thousand, with 65.8 percent in employment. The labour force participation rate is slightly higher among men than among women 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, 69.7 percent are in work, versus 82.5 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 49.0 percent of the highly educated. Saba's unemployment rate has been low at just over 2 percent.

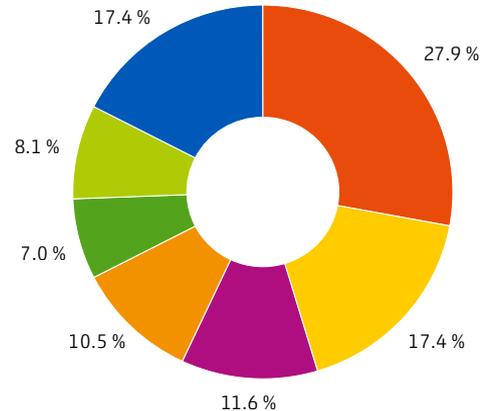
On Saba 580 residents do not form part of the local labour force. They are not looking, nor are they available for work; in most cases, it is a combination of both. A large group

### Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2018

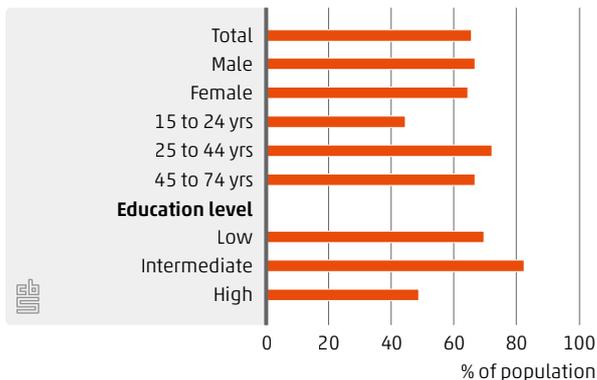


(24 percent) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. However, education is still the main reason (55 percent) why people on the island are unwilling or unable to work. This is primarily the effect of a relatively large group of young people who are enrolled in the medical university. Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to illness or disability (7 percent) or because they have to take care of family (5 percent).

### Employee jobs by economic activity, 2018\*



### Net labour participation, 2018



- Public administration and services
- Education
- Health and social work activities
- Wholesale and retail trade
- Accommodation and food serving
- Culture, recreation, other services
- Other



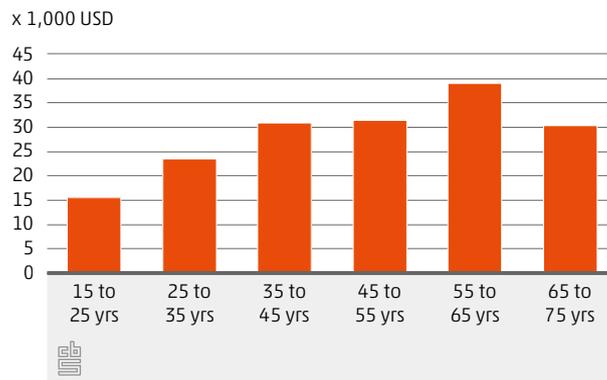
## Jobs of employees

There were 860 employee jobs on Saba in 2018. Apart from the public sector, the sector education is the sector with the largest number of jobs, followed by the health sector.

## Wages of employees

The average annual wage on Saba was 29.3 thousand US dollars in 2018, an increase of 3 percent relative to 2017. The median wage was 22.3 thousand US dollars. This means that in half of the jobs people earned wages lower than this amount, for the other half wages were higher. Wages vary widely depending on different characteristics and types of work. In 2018, wages for women were 17 percent lower than for men. This gap is becoming smaller. In 2011, the difference was 23 percent.

## Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2018\*



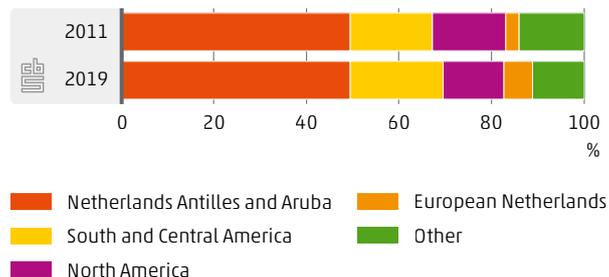
**22.3** thousand US dollars  
was the median wage in 2018\*

## Population

Between the start of 2014 and the end of 2018, Saba's population increased with 73, reaching a total of 1.9 thousand. On Saba as well, the population has been adjusted downwards because the register still included people who did not live on the island anymore. Presumably, these were students from North America who had completed a part of their studies on Saba and had never deregistered.

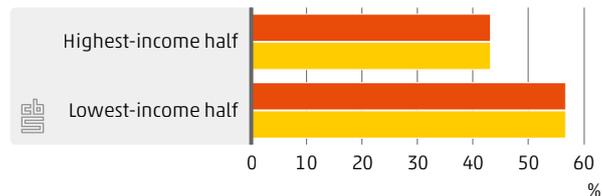
The share of residents on Saba who were born in the European Netherlands or in South and Central America has increased since

### Saba residents by native region



2011. At the same time, the share born in North America has dropped.

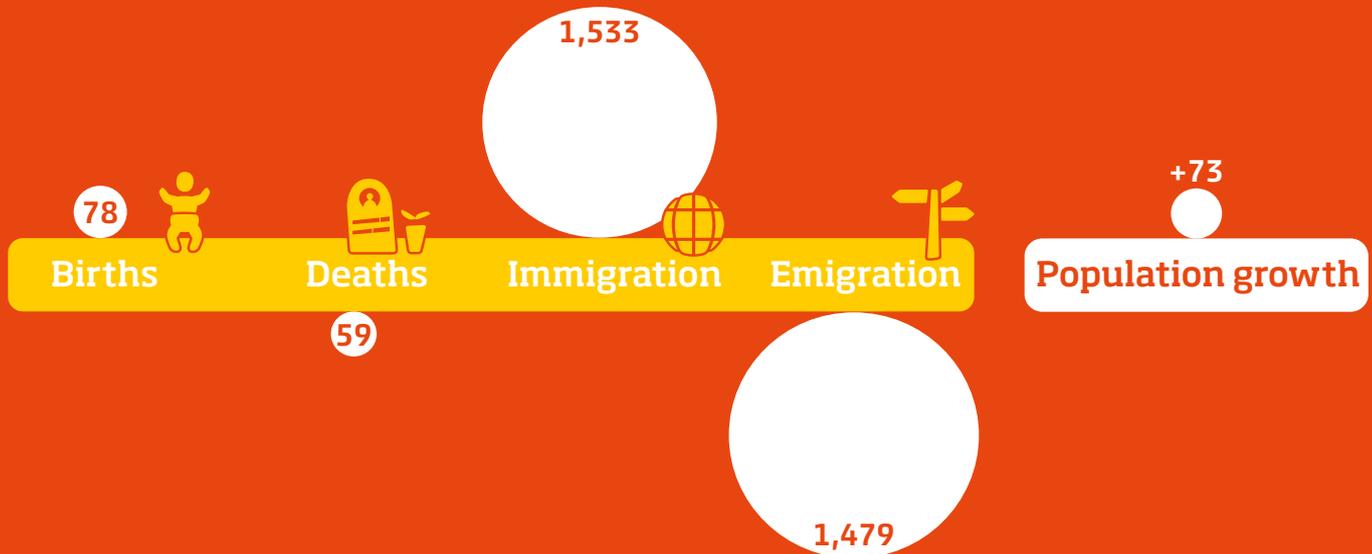
### Young adults, income, emigration, 2013-2017



Emigrated to the European Netherlands  
Non-emigrated

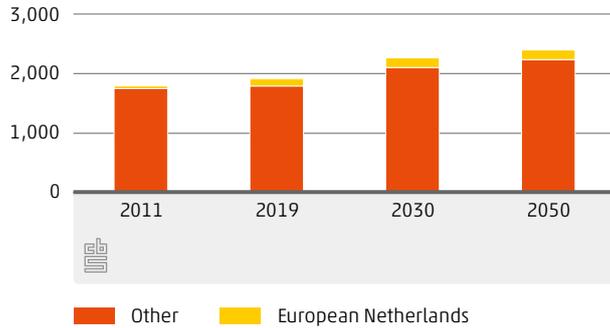
Unlike on St Eustatius and Bonaire, young adults (aged 17 to 26 years) from less wealthy families (lowest income half) on Saba are more likely to move to the European Netherlands. However, numbers are small and the incomes of more than half of the island's young adults are unknown. The latter is related to the many, predominantly American, students residing on the island. It is likely that these students are looked after by their parents, whose incomes are not known.

# Population dynamics Saba, 2014-2018



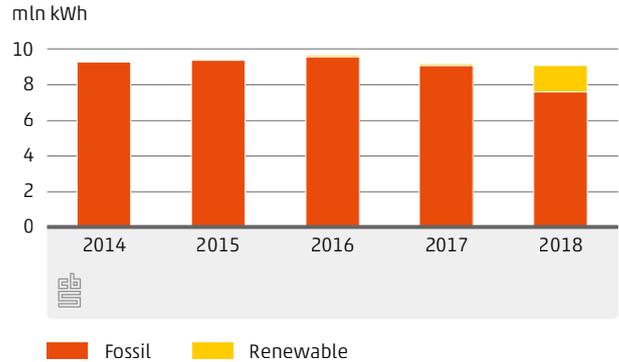
Saba's population is expected to grow to 2.4 thousand inhabitants in the coming decades. The share of Dutch-born inhabitants will increase slightly, from 6 percent in 2019 to over 7 percent in 2030.

### Saba residents by native region



## Energy

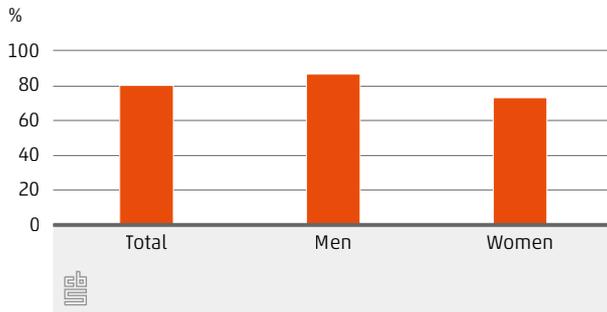
### Electricity production



## Health

On Saba, eight out of ten residents aged 15 years and over say they are in good or very good health (2017/2018). Overall, men feel healthier than women. Around 87 percent of men and 73 percent of women report that they are in good health.

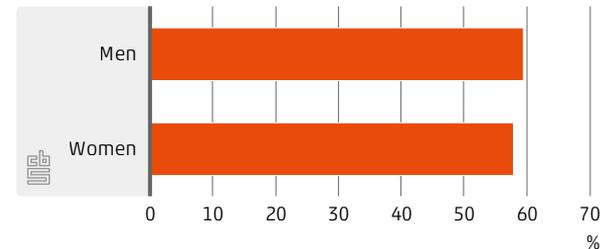
### In (very) good health, 15 years and over, 2017/2018



Source: CBS, Omnibus survey.

Almost six in ten residents on Saba aged 4 years and over meet the Dutch Physical Activity Guidelines. Men and women meet these guideline equally often.

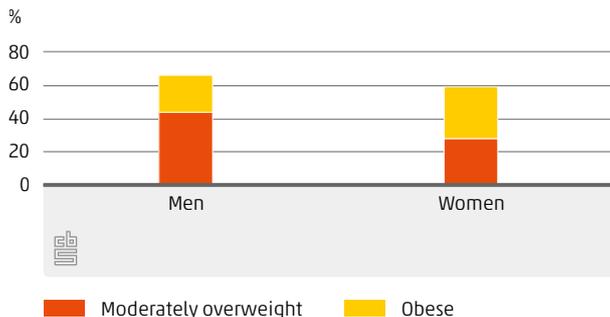
### Meets the physical activity standard, 4 years and over, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

More than 60 percent of residents of Saba are overweight. Among men, more than 40 percent have moderate overweight and more than 20 percent have obesity. Compared to men, obesity is relatively more common among women: more than 30 percent of women are obese, and nearly 30 percent are moderately overweight.

## Overweight, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

## Income

In 2017 the median disposable income for the Saban households was 26.4 thousand dollar. This is nearly 9 percent more than the median household income in 2013. Households with primarily income from work had 29.5 thousand dollar to spend in 2017. This was 2.4 thousand dollar more than the median household income in 2013.

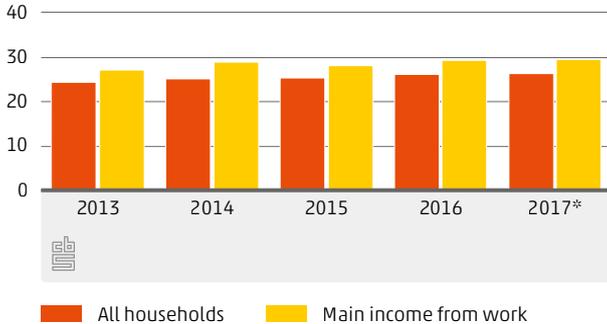
## Purchasing power development

Each year since 2012 the purchasing power of households on Saba improved. In 2017 the growth was 0.6 percent, lowest so far. Among the working people the median buying power increase in 2017 was equally lowest at 0.2 percent. In contrast, in 2016 the median purchasing power increase peaked at 6.1 percent and 5.4 percent respectively for both groups.

In 2017 the purchasing power for most household types on Saba was positive. Single-person households faced the largest median increase, namely 1.9 percent. Other multi-persons households were negatively affected with a 1.7 percent decline. For one-parent households the buying power change was most prosperous in 2016 when their growth was, mostly due to the introduction of the child benefit, 8.9 percent.

## Median disposable household income

1,000 USD (in prices of 2017)



## Income inequality

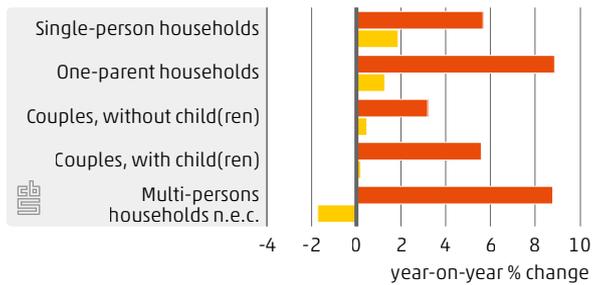
Since 2012, Saba has the lowest income inequality on the Caribbean Netherlands. The value of the Gini coefficient was 0.37 in 2017. In terms of the Gini coefficient 0 means total equality: everyone has the same income, and 1 means total inequality: one person has all the income, the rest has none. In the period from 2012 to 2017 the Gini value balanced between 0.35 and 0.38.

## Purchasing power development

year-on-year % change

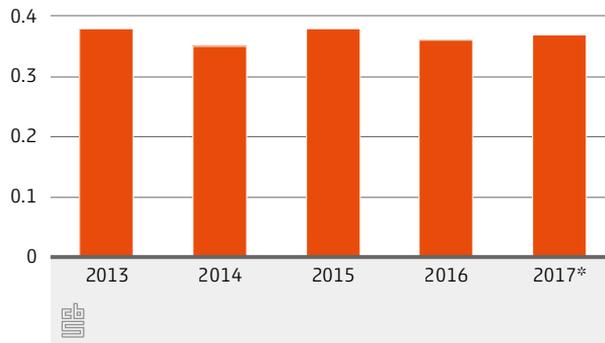


## Purchasing power development by household composition



2016 2017\*

## Gini coefficient



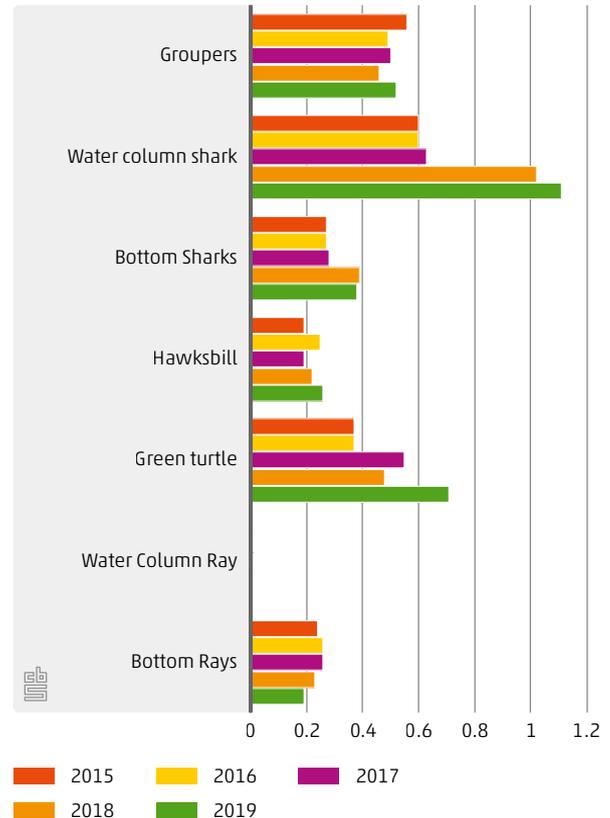
## Nature

The Saba Bank is a submerged bank fringed by coral reefs on its eastern and southern flanks. It is the largest marine protected area of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and harbours the highest biodiversity, including multiple species of sharks and some key ecological fish families.

Between 2012 and 2019, the grouper showed a moderate increase, the hawksbill turtle showed a stable development while the green turtle experienced a strong increase. Watercolumn dwelling rays and bottom dwelling rays remained stable. Watercolumn dwelling sharks experienced a strong increase. The development of the bottom shark is uncertain.

The graph shows the average number of sightings per dive. A value of for example 0.2 for groupers means that on average, one would observe 0.2 groupers per dive. In other words, if one made five dives, one would see one grouper during one of these dives, and zero groupers during the other four dives.

## Average sightings per dive



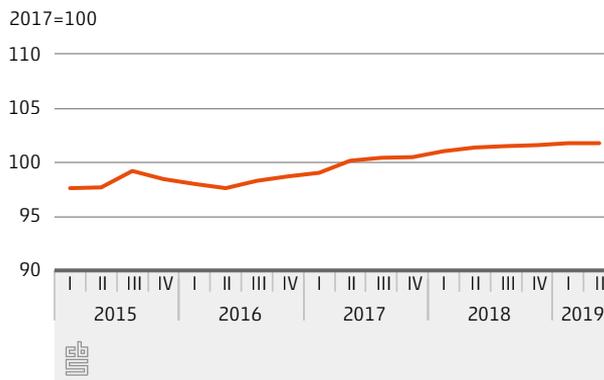
Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and SeaSaba.

## Prices

In 2018, prices of consumer goods and services on Saba rose by 2.6 percent year-on-year. In 2017, prices were down by 0.2 percent relative to 2016.

The price increase in 2018 was mainly seen in housing, water and energy, where prices rose by 7.7 percent. Electricity became more expensive in particular. Prices of clothing and footwear rose by 4.1 percent while furniture and household equipment rose in price by 3.3 percent. Prices of telephony and internet and education declined.

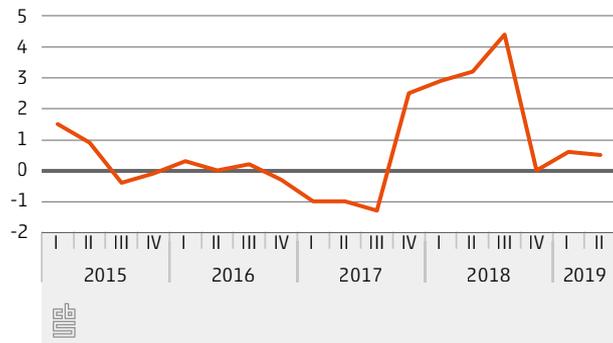
## Consumer price index



**2.6%** rise in consumer prices in 2018\*

# Consumer price index

year-on-year % change





# 3. St Eustatius

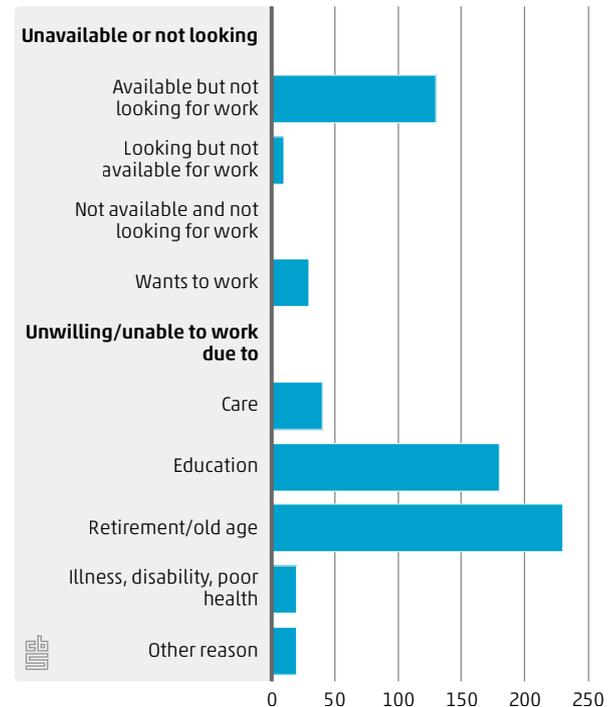
## Labour

The size of the working age population (15 to 74 years) on St Eustatius is 2.6 thousand, with 71.5 percent in employment. The male labour force participation is higher: 74.1 percent of the men are employed as against 68.6 percent of the women. Participation is relatively low among young people. Labour force participation also increases with the level of educational attainment. Of the lower educated people 68.3 percent are in employment versus 70.4 percent of those with an intermediate education level and 85.8 percent of the highly educated.

In 2018, St Eustatius's unemployment rate is 4.3 percent, equivalent to 80 unemployed persons.

Of the residents of St Eustatius 660 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.

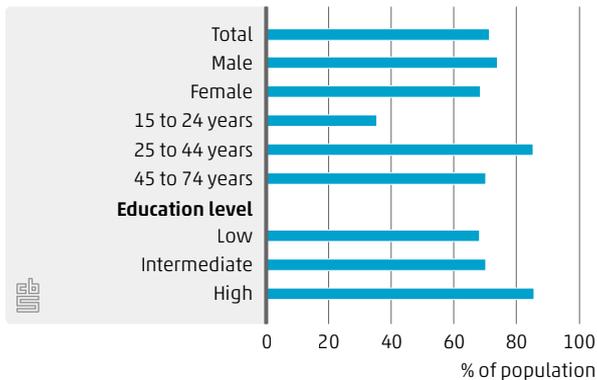
### Population not in the labour force (15 to 74 years), 2018



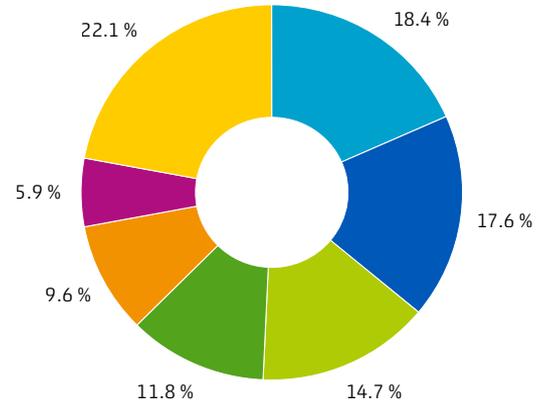
A large group (35 percent) are people who are unwilling or unable to work due to old age or retirement. At 27 percent, education is also an important reason why local – in particular young – residents are unwilling or unavailable for work.

Other smaller groups include people who are unable to work due to illness or disability (3 percent) or because they have to take care of family (6 percent).

### Net labour participation, 2018



### Employee jobs by economic activity, 2018



- Public administration and services
- Construction
- Transport, ICT
- Health and social work activities
- Education
- Wholesale and retail trade
- Other



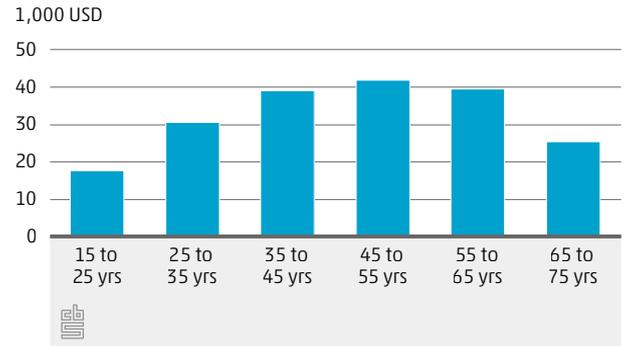
## Jobs of employees

There were 1.4 thousand employee jobs on St Eustatius in 2018. Apart from the public sector, the sectors construction and transportation, storage, as well as information and communication provide the largest number of jobs.

## Wages of employees

The average annual wage on St Eustatius was 36.3 thousand US dollars in 2018, a decrease of 5 percent relative to 2017. The median wage was 30 thousand US dollars. This means that in half of the jobs people earned wages lower than this amount, for the other half wages were higher. Wages vary widely depending on different characteristics and types of work. In 2018, women earned 30 percent less than men.

## Average annual wage of jobs by age, 2018\*



**1.4** thousand employee jobs  
in 2018\*

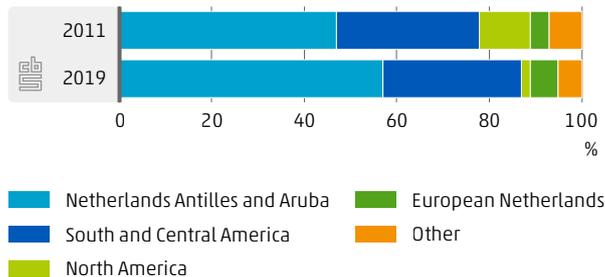


## Population

Between the beginning of 2014 and the end of 2018, Stavia's population declined by slightly over 800 to a total of 3.1 thousand. This was largely related to an administrative clean-up of the population register. During checks, it turned out that a substantial part of those registered had already left the island. This mainly concerned North, South and Central American men aged 40 years or older who temporarily resided on St Eustatius for work.

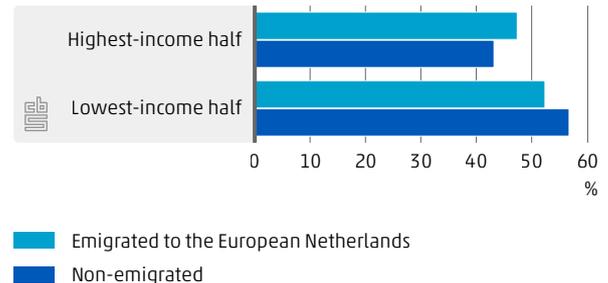
The share of people living on St Eustatius who were born in the former Netherlands

### St Eustatius residents by native region



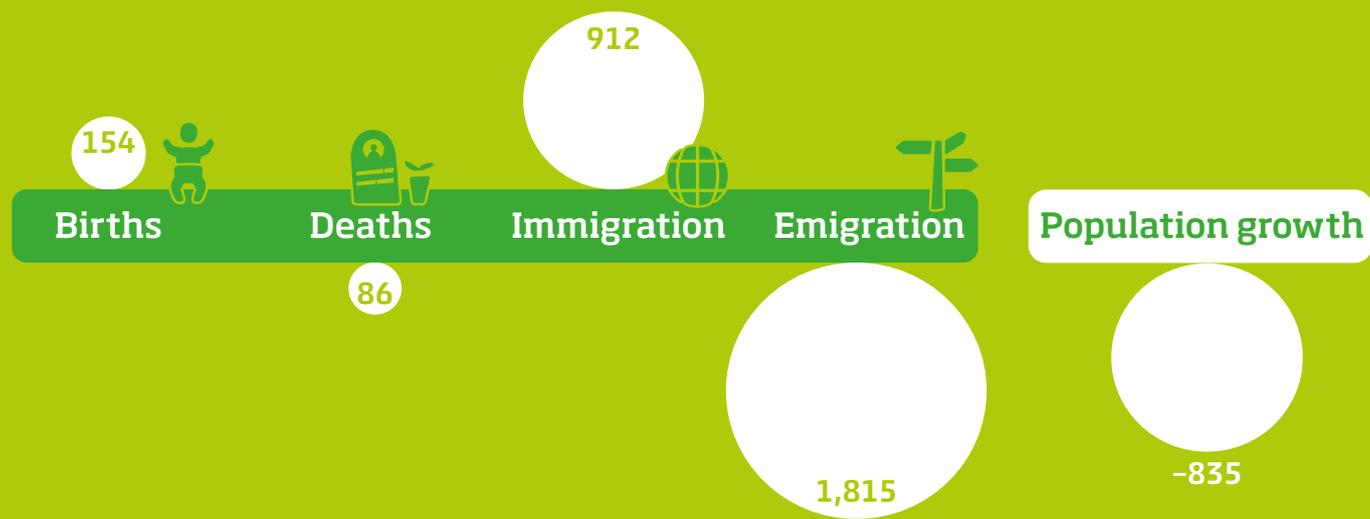
Antilles and Aruba has increased from 47 percent to 57 percent since 2011. The share born in the European Netherlands has risen as well. However, a decrease was seen in the share of native North Americans.

### Young adults, income, emigration, 2013-2017



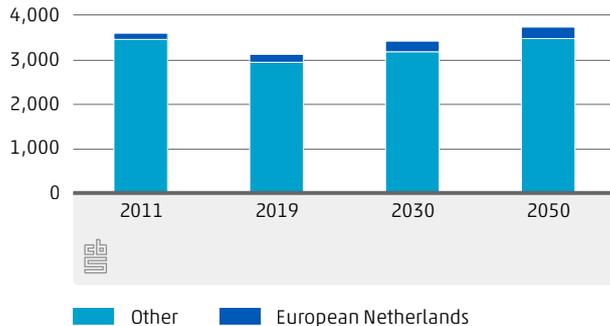
Young adults (aged 17 to 26 years) in high-income households, i.e. in the highest income half, are more likely to move to the European Netherlands than those growing up in families with low income (lowest income half). A part of these young people migrate to the European Netherlands for their education.

# Population dynamics St Eustatius, 2014-2018



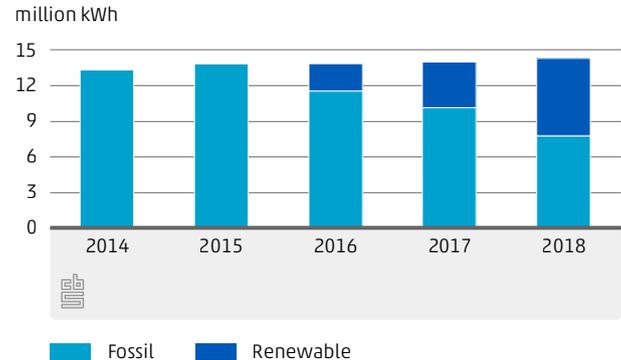
As mentioned, the population of St Eustatius has been adjusted downwards a number of times over the past few years as a result of administrative corrections. Around 2037, the population will have returned to the level of 2011 according to the most recent forecast. The share of inhabitants born in the European Netherlands will increase slowly until then.

### St Eustatius residents by native region



## Energy

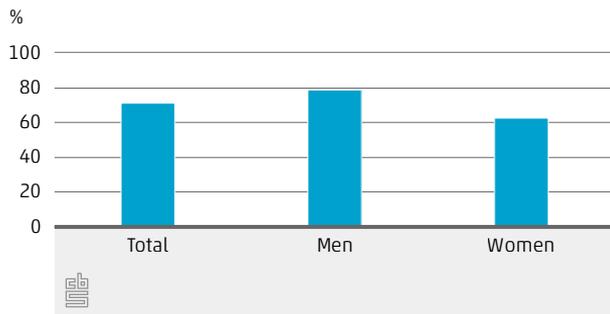
### Electricity production



## Health

Seven in ten residents of St Eustatius aged 15 years and over report they are in good or very good health (2017/2018). In general, men feel healthier than women. While eight in ten men say they are in good health, just over six in ten women report the same.

### In (very) good health, 15 years and over, 2017/2018

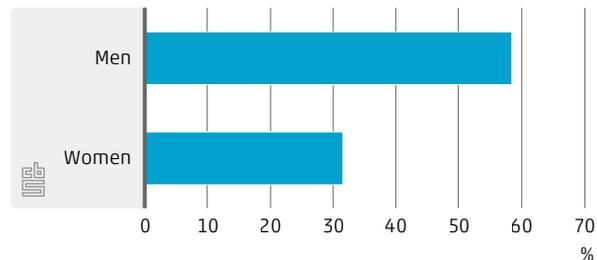


Source: CBS, Omnibus survey, 2017/2018.

Around 45 percent of the population of St Eustatius aged 4 years and over meet the Dutch Physical Activity Guidelines. Almost

twice as many men as women comply with the guidelines. Almost 60 percent of men have sufficient exercise, as against slightly over 30 percent of women.

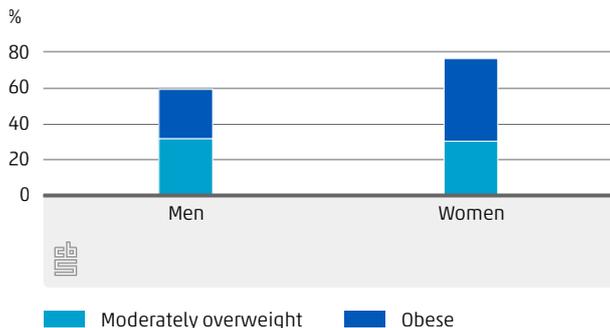
### Meets the physical activity standard, 4 years and over, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

Six in ten men on St Eustatius are overweight, of whom nearly half are obese. Women and men are equally likely to be moderately overweight: around 30 percent. Obesity is much more common in women than in men: 46 percent in women versus 27 percent in men. In total, three-quarters of women are overweight.

## Overweight, 2017



Source: CBS, RIVM, Health Survey CN.

## Income

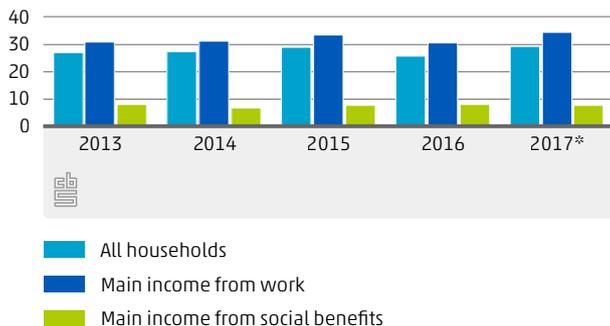
In 2017 households on St Eustatius had the highest disposable income of the Caribbean Netherlands. The median income was 29.4 thousand dollar, 3.5 thousand dollar more than the median income of the population in 2016. Households with income mainly from work had 34.5 thousand dollar to spend in 2017. The income for social benefit receiving households was nearly 4.5 times less. In 2017 the median income was 7.9 thousand dollar.

### Purchasing power development

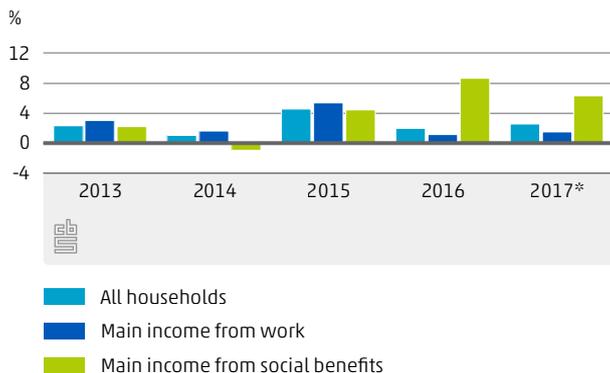
The purchasing power on St Eustatius has been growing each year since 2012. In 2017 the median buying power improved by 2.6 percent, the highest increase in the Caribbean Netherlands. For working people the purchasing power increased by 1 percent. Households on social benefits profited the most. In 2017 their median buying power rose by 5.9 percent, mainly as a result of the extra indexation of social benefits. For only 17 percent of this group the purchasing power decreased.

## Median disposable household income

1,000 USD (in prices of 2017)



## Purchasing power development

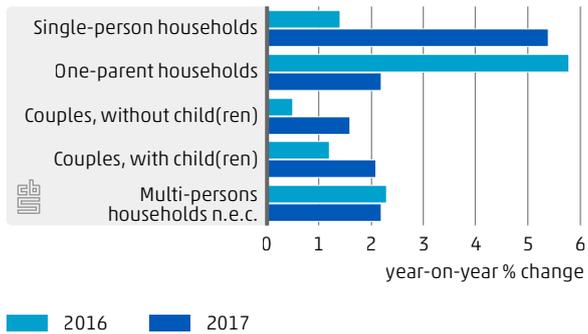


In both 2016 and 2017 all household types on St Eustatius experienced positive changes in purchasing power. In 2017, the median improvement for single-person households was 5.4 percent. The buying power for one-parent households, couples with children and other multi-persons households increased by more than 2 percent. In 2016, with the introduction of the child benefit, one-parent households profited the most as their median purchasing power grew by 5.8 percent.

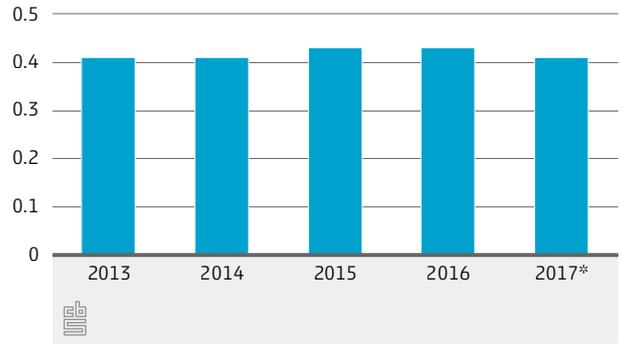
## Income inequality

St Eustatius has the largest income inequality of the three islands. In 2017 the Gini coefficient had a value of 0.41. 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 both 2015 and 2016 the Gini peaked by a value of 0.43, indicating more income inequality than in the preceding years and 2017.

## Purchasing power development by household composition



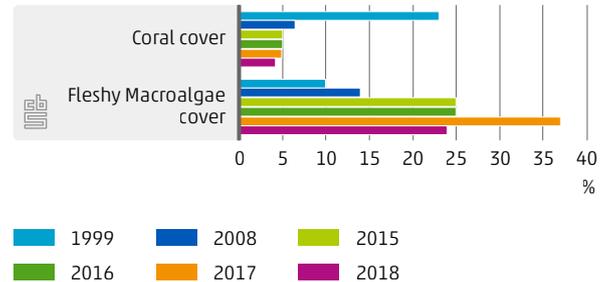
## Gini coefficient



## Nature

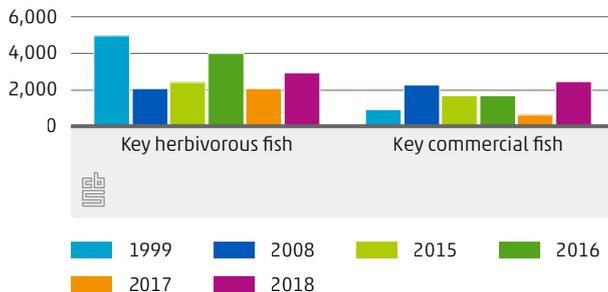
Statia's reefs protect the coast against storms, provide fish and attract tourists. While fish stocks increased (in 2018) as a result of the marine protected area (see Fish Stocks graph), their living environment, the reef, requires immediate attention.

## Coral and macroalgae cover



Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and Ministry of Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit and Stenapa.

## Fish stocks



Source: CBS, Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database and Ministry of LNV and Stenapa.

## Prices

In 2018, prices of consumer goods and services on St Eustatius rose by 1.3 percent year-on-year. Prices in 2017 were up 1.9 percent year-on-year.

Prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 3.0 percent. Prices of clothing and footwear and transportation all rose by 2.9 percent. On the other hand, a decline was seen in prices of telephony, internet and education.

A noteworthy difference with Bonaire and Saba is the relatively lower increase in prices of housing, water and energy on St Eustatius, namely 0.5 percent, versus 7.7 percent on Bonaire and Saba.

## Consumer price index



**1.3%** increase in prices of  
consumer goods and services in 2018\*

## Consumer price index

year-on-year % change

