



CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

Statistical News Release

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The official reserves of the Centrale Bank van Aruba increased during the first quarter of 2018

Compared to a net sale of Afl. 18.0 million of foreign exchange in the first quarter of 2017, foreign exchange transactions settled through the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) resulted in a net purchase by the CBA of Afl. 85.7 million of foreign exchange in the first quarter of 2018. This turnaround was attributed to transactions with the commercial banks and other clients. These transactions led to a net foreign exchange purchase of Afl. 110.9 million and Afl. 29.1 million, respectively, which were Afl. 41.4 million and Afl. 27.3 million higher than in the corresponding quarter of 2017. Additionally, net sale of foreign exchange to the government fell by Afl. 34.9 million to Afl. 54.4 million. As a consequence, the official reserves of the CBA, including other changes not related to foreign exchange transactions, increased by Afl. 87.3 million to Afl. 1,736.5 million at the end of March 2018 (Table 1).

Table 1: Factors affecting CBA's official reserves¹

(in Afl. million)

	2016-Q1	2017-Q1	2018-Q1
I. Reserves at beginning of period	1,479.9	1,673.2	1,649.2
II. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	71.5	-18.0	85.7
<i>Of which from/to:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	127.4	69.5	110.9
2. Government	-57.4	-89.3	-54.4
3. Other clients	1.4	1.8	29.1
III. Other changes ²	42.2	17.9	1.6
IV. Reserves at ending of period (I+II+III)	1,593.6	1,673.1	1,736.5
V. Change in official reserves during period (IV-I)	113.7	-0.1	87.3

Source: CBA

¹ Including valuation changes.

² Include valuation changes refer to revaluation of gold, foreign exchange and security holdings and statistical differences.

On a gross basis, the CBA's total foreign exchange purchases grew by Afl. 103.5 million to Afl. 297.1 million in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the same quarter of 2017 (Table 2 and Chart 1). This growth was caused mainly by increases in purchases of foreign exchange from the commercial banks and other clients of Afl. 78.9 million to Afl. 266.1 million, and Afl. 24.6 million to Afl. 31.0 million, respectively.

The total foreign exchange sales of the CBA declined slightly by Afl. 0.3 million to Afl. 211.4 million, mainly because of decreases in foreign exchange sales to the government and other clients of Afl. 34.9 million to Afl. 54.4 million, and Afl. 2.8 million to Afl. 1.9 million, respectively. On the other hand, sales of foreign exchange to the commercial banks expanded by Afl. 37.5 million to Afl. 155.2 million.

Table 2: Foreign exchange transactions

(in Afl. million)

	2016-Q1	2017-Q1	2018-Q1
I. Total purchases of foreign exchange	236.8	193.6	297.1
<i>Of which from:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	231.8	187.2	266.1
2. Government	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Other clients	4.9	6.4	31.0
II. Total sales of foreign exchange	165.3	211.7	211.4
<i>Of which to:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	104.4	117.7	155.2
2. Government	57.4	89.3	54.4
3. Other clients	3.5	4.7	1.9
III. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	71.5	-18.0	85.7
IV. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to commercial banks	127.4	69.5	110.9
V. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to government	-57.4	-89.3	-54.4
VI. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to other clients	1.4	1.8	29.1

Source: CBA

General note to the tables:

Owing to rounding of figures, the sum of separate items may differ in the final digit from the total shown.

