



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 2019

In the first quarter of 2019, foreign exchange transactions settled through the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) resulted in a net purchase by the CBA of Afl. 135.6 million of foreign exchange, which was Afl. 49.8 million higher than in the corresponding quarter of 2018. This expansion was attributed largely to transactions with the government. These transactions led to a net foreign exchange sale of Afl. 3.3 million, which was Afl. 51.1 million lower than in the first quarter of 2018. Additionally, transactions with other clients led to an Afl. 5.2 million net purchase of foreign exchange, which was Afl. 1.1 million higher than in the same quarter of 2018. On the other hand, transactions with the commercial banks resulted in a net foreign exchange purchase of Afl. 133.7 million, compared to Afl. 135.9 million in the same quarter of 2018. As a consequence, the official reserves of the CBA, including other changes not related to foreign exchange transactions, increased by Afl. 127.9 million to Afl. 1,905.9 million at the end of March 2019 (see Table 1 and Chart 1).

Table 1: Factors affecting CBA's official reserves¹

(in Afl. million)

	Q1-2017	Q1-2018	Q1-2019
I. Reserves at beginning of period	1,673.2	1,649.2	1,778.0
II. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	-18.0	85.8	135.6
Of which from/to:			
1. Commercial banks	69.5	135.9	133.7
2. Government	-89.3	-54.4	-3.3
3. Other clients	1.8	4.2	5.2
III. Other changes ²	17.9	1.6	-7.7
IV. Reserves at ending of period (I+II+III)	1,673.1	1,736.5	1,905.9
V. Change in official reserves during period (IV-I)	-0.1	87.3	127.9

Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

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 decreased by Afl. 98.3 million to Afl. 198.9 million in the first quarter of 2019, compared to the same quarter of 2018 (Table 2 and Chart 1). This contraction was caused mainly by a decline of Afl. 98.8 million in purchases of foreign exchange from the commercial banks.

The total foreign exchange sales of the CBA dropped by Afl. 148.1 million to Afl. 63.3 million, mainly because of decreases in foreign exchange sales to the commercial banks, government and other clients of Afl. 96.6 million to Afl. 58.6 million, Afl. 51.1 million to Afl. 3.3 million, and Afl. 0.6 million to Afl. 1.3 million, respectively.

Table 2: Foreign exchange transactions

(in Afl. million)

	Q1-2017	Q1-2018	Q1-2019
I. Total purchases of foreign exchange	193.6	297.2	198.9
Of which from:			
1. Commercial banks	187.2	291.1	192.3
2. Government	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Other clients	6.4	6.1	6.5
II. Total sales of foreign exchange	211.7	211.4	63.3
Of which to:			
1. Commercial banks	117.7	155.2	58.6
2. Government	89.3	54.4	3.3
3. Other clients	4.7	1.9	1.3
III. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	-18.0	85.8	135.6
IV. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to commercial banks	69.5	135.9	133.7
V. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to government	-89.3	-54.4	-3.3
VI. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to other clients	1.8	4.2	5.2

Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

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.

