

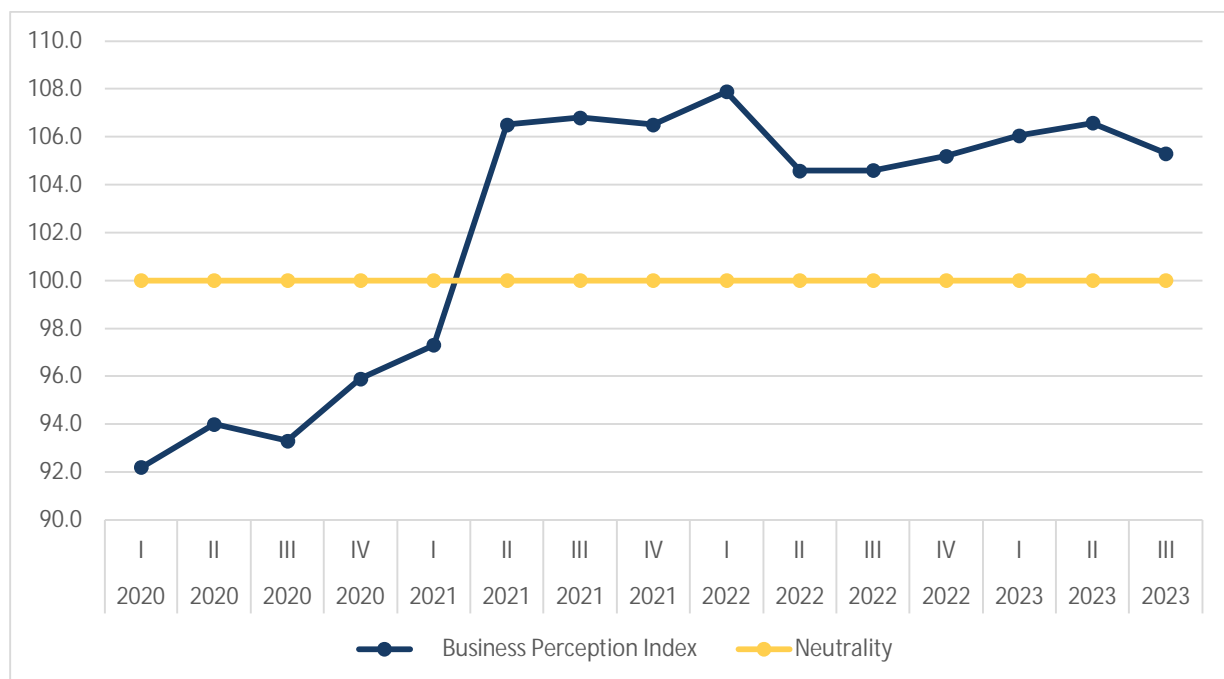
## BUSINESS SENTIMENTS LESS OPTIMISTIC IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2023

Press release  
Results for the third quarter of 2023

**The Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) concluded its Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the third quarter of 2023. The BPS assesses the economic sentiments of local businesses.**

In the third quarter of 2023, the Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising the current and expected short-term economic conditions, fell from 106.6 to 105.3. This outcome resulted from decreases in both the expected short-term economic conditions and the current economic conditions indices (See Chart 1)<sup>1</sup>.

Chart 1: Business Perception Index

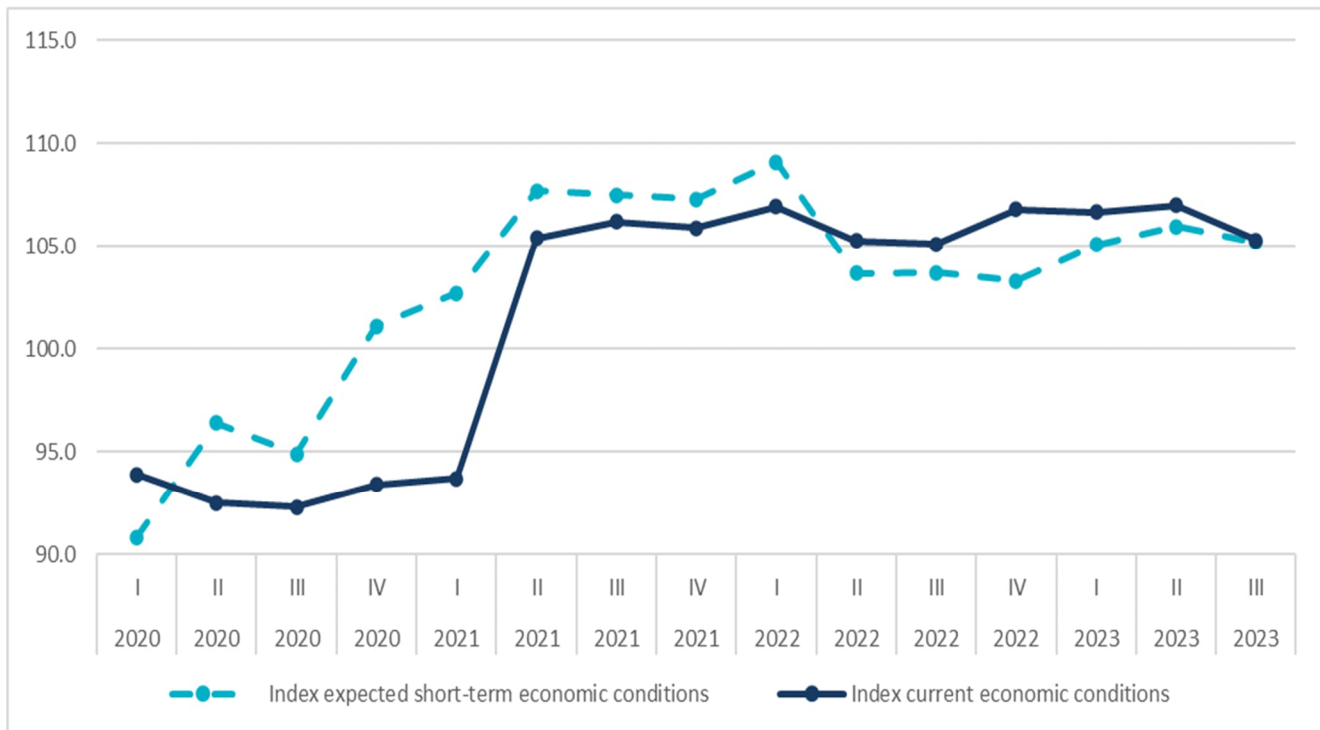


Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

The *expected short-term economic conditions* index weakened by 0.8 index point to 105.2, down from 106.0 in the second quarter of 2023. The *current economic conditions* index dropped to 105.3 in the third quarter of 2023 (See Chart 2).

<sup>1</sup> The index can vary between 90 and 110. Between 90 and 100 indicates a situation of pessimism. An index of exactly 100 indicates that businesses are neither pessimistic nor optimistic but are neutral with regard to their thoughts about economic developments in Aruba. Between 100 and 110 indicates a situation of optimism in business sentiments.

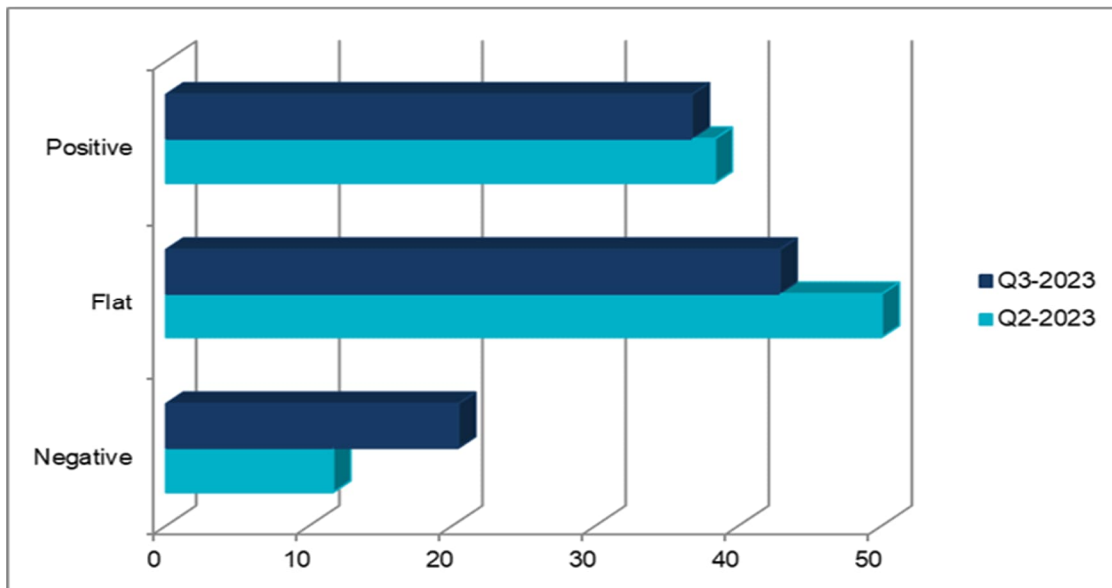
**Chart 2: Current economic and Expected short-term economic conditions Index**



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

In terms of economic growth expectations, about 42.9 percent of respondents expected a flat economic growth in the next 12 months. This is a decrease of 7.1 percentage points compared to the previous quarter. The percentage of respondents anticipating positive economic growth in the next 12 months decreased by 1.6 percentage points to 36.7 percent, while the percentage of respondents anticipating negative economic growth increased by 8.7 percentage points to 20.4 percent (See Chart 3).

**Chart 3: Economic growth expectations over the next 12 months**



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

The complete report of the Business Perception Survey is available on the website of the CBA [www.cbaruba.org](http://www.cbaruba.org).

Centrale Bank van Aruba

December 20, 2023

## **About the Centrale Bank van Aruba**

The main purpose of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) is to contribute to the financial stability and economic well-being of the Aruban community. The CBA accomplishes this mission by implementing an effective monetary policy aimed towards maintaining the value of the florin, by promoting the soundness and integrity of the financial system, and by enhancing an efficient and reliable payments system.

Besides these core tasks, the CBA is also the sole issuer of florin banknotes and florin coins, and acts as banker to the Government of Aruba. In addition, it regulates the flow of international payments, manages the available foreign exchange reserves of Aruba, and supervises the spending thereof.

For more information on the Centrale Bank van Aruba, please visit the website [www.cbaruba.org](http://www.cbaruba.org)

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