

The Consumer Confidence Index rose in the first quarter of 2025, while 94% of consumers expect prices to be higher in the next 6 months.

Press release

The Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) concluded its Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) for the first quarter of 2025. The CCS assesses the economic sentiments of local consumers.

Top of mind consumer concerns in the first quarter of 2025:

- Deteriorating business and economic conditions contracted to 67% (2024-IV: 39%).
- Almost 49% of respondents foresaw the government's financial position to worsen (2024-IV: 27%).
- Roughly 44% of respondents expected their household to be financially worse off (2024-IV: 26%).
- About 36% of respondents expected it to be more difficult to find a new job (2024-IV: 36%).

Consumers were less pessimistic, as the Consumer Confidence Index rose by 0.8 index point to 95.0 in the first quarter of 2025 (see chart 1)¹.



Chart 1: Consumer Confidence Index fell during the first quarter of 2025.

Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

¹ The index can vary between 90 and 110. Between 90 and 100 indicates a situation of pessimism. An index of exactly 100 indicates that consumers 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 consumer sentiments.



The Present Situation Index increased by 0.8 index point to 94.8 in the first quarter of 2025. Meanwhile, the Consumption Habits Index expanded by 3.0 index points to 97.6. In contrast, the Future Expectation Index dropped by 1.9 index points to 93.0 during the first quarter of 2025. This suggests that consumers remained cautious about their consumption and borrowing habits in the first quarter of 2025. As for the Price Expectation Index, this fell by 0.1 index point to 90.6 in the first quarter of 2025 (see chart 2).



Chart 2: Consumer Confidence Index results during first quarter of 2025.

Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

Higher price expectation in the next 6 months was still a major concern for respondents, as it expanded by 12.0 percentage points to 94% during the first quarter of 2025. Respondents stating that they can "purchase less with their income compared to 6 months ago" dropped to 83% in the first quarter of 2025. As for the percentage of respondents expressing that they saved less, this contracted to 36% in the first quarter of 2025.

The complete report of the Consumer Confidence Survey is available on the website of the CBA www.cbaruba.org

Centrale Bank van Aruba

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About the Centrale Bank van Aruba

The main purpose of the 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 CBA, please visit the website <u>www.cbaruba.org</u>