

# **Business Perception Survey**

# Por the first time since the second quarter of 2010, responses to the first quarter's survey suggest that the sentiment on business conditions turned negative, as both the current and short term economic condition indices became pessimistic. Although firms surveyed reported an upturn in sales, profitability and employment activities noted contractions. Firms reported some slowing in investment activities in the quarter under review, and intentions to invest in the short-term are moving in a downward trend. Companies anticipate a slight rise in the financing rates offered by the commercial banks. Pricing conditions are expected to remain constant, as inflation is expected to stay low.

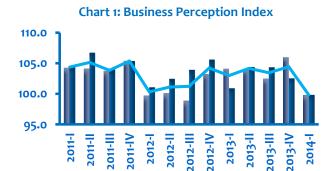
### **Economic Activity**

During the first quarter of 2014, the current economic condition index contracted to 99.8, down from 106.0 in the fourth quarter 2013, reflecting a marked drop in confidence among survey participants. The main contributory sectors to this contraction were manufacturing, hotels and restaurants, and financial intermediation.

Parallel to the current economic condition, the short-term future economic condition observed a decline of 2.7 percentage points, as the corresponding index moved to 99.8, down from 102.5 in the fourth quarter

# Results of the Quarter 1 - 2014 Survey | Vol. 12.1 | 14 July 2014

of 2013 (Chart 1). The drops were noted in the wholesale and retail, the financial intermediation, and health, other community and personal service activities.



BPIc<sup>1</sup> BPIst<sup>2</sup>

As a result of the drops registered in both the current and the short-term future economic condition indices, the Business Perception Index (BPI) fell to 99.8, down from 104.4 in the fourth quarter of 2013 (Annex 2: Chart 3). The overall index mirrored the negative sentiment on business conditions for the first time since the second quarter of 2010.

As for the medium-term economic expectations, the percentage of respondents perceiving that there will be a positive economic growth of more than one percent over the next twelve months grew to 81.2 percent during the first quarter of 2014, up from 80.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013. The majority of the respondents expect that the economic growth will hover be between 1 and 5 percent over the next twelve months.

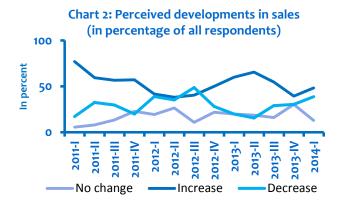
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>BPIc: current Business Perception Index

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>BPIst: short-term Business Perception Index

# **Sales and Profitability**

During the first quarter of 2014, about 48.4 percent of the respondents reported an "increase" in sales, compared to 39.4 percent during the fourth quarter of 2013.

Of the remaining respondents, 38.7 percent reported a "decrease" in sales, while 12.9 percent reported "no change" in sales. Most sectors noted upturns in sales, with the exception of the utilities and construction sectors (Chart 2, Annex 6).



In line with the negative sentiment regarding the current economic conditions, respondents indicated that profitability showed a drop during the first quarter of 2014, as 75.0 percent of the respondents reported to be profitable, compared to 81.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 (Annex 8).

### **Investment and Financing Activity**

In the first quarter of 2014, current investment activities showed some stagnation, as the number of respondents reporting "no change" moved upward by 14.2 percentage points to 53.1 percent, while those reporting an "improvement" dropped by 28.1 percentage points to 21.9 percent, compared to the previous quarter (Annex 8). Similarly, in the short-term future, the percentage of respondents perceiving a fall in investment during the six months following the first quarter of 2014 rose by 6.7 percentage points.

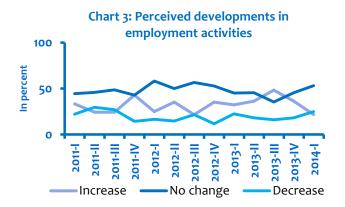
For the next 12 months following the first quarter of 2014, 78.1 percent of the respondents indicated that they have investment plans, of which 37.5 percent

indicated investments below Afl. 1 million, 25.0 percent between Afl. 1 and Afl. 5 million, and 15.6 percent above Afl. 5 million. As a consequence, the level of intended investments over the next 12 months fell by 9.1 percentage points in the first quarter of 2014, compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 (Annex 7).

For the next 12 months following the first quarter of 2014, fewer respondents (-6.5 percent) expect financing rates of below 8 percent (Annex 7).

### **Employment**

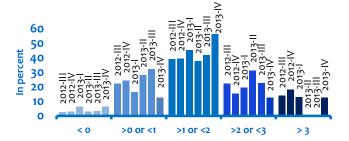
About 25 percent of the firms surveyed reported decreases in their staff. Contractions in employment were observed in most sectors, with the exception of the utilities, transport, and real estate sectors, where "no change" nor "increase" in staffing were registered (Chart 3, Annexes 6 and 8).



### **Inflation and Pricing**

During the 12 months following the first quarter of 2014, all respondents expect an inflation of lower or equal to 3 percent. Many respondents (53.1 percent) anticipate an inflation rate between 1 and 2 percent (Chart 4). Consistent with this expectation, more than half of the respondents (53.1 percent) perceive that the price level of products and/or services will remain unchanged, while fewer respondents expect an increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2013 (Annex 7).

Chart 4: Inflation expectations during the next 12 months

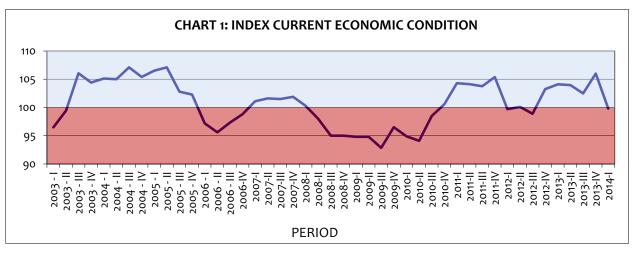


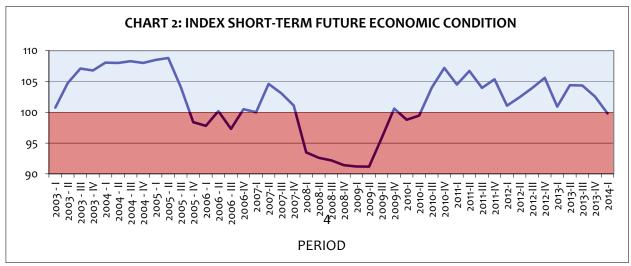
### Annex 1: Response rate and indices 1]

|   | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2012 2013 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 2014 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
|   |       |       |       |       | 1         | II    | III   | IV    | I     | II    | III   | IV    | 1    |
| Response and non-response rates               |       |       |       |       |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |      |
| a. Average response rate                      | 70.0  | 76.1  | 71.5  | 73.9  | 78.3      | 72.3  | 78.7  | 72.0  | 65.6  | 70.0  | 66.0  | 71.2  | 67.9 |
| b. Average non-response rate                  | 30.0  | 23.9  | 28.5  | 26.1  | 21.7      | 27.7  | 21.3  | 28.0  | 34.4  | 30.0  | 34.0  | 28.8  | 32.1 |
| 2. Indices                                    |       |       |       |       |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |      |
| a. Index current economic condition           | 98.2  | 106.1 | 104.0 | 105.2 | 99.7      | 100.1 | 98.9  | 103.2 | 104.1 | 104.0 | 102.5 | 106.0 | 99.8 |
| b. Index short-term future economic condition | 106.3 | 107.0 | 107.5 | 104.3 | 101.1     | 102.5 | 103.9 | 105.6 | 100.9 | 104.4 | 104.3 | 102.5 | 99.8 |
| c. Business Perception Index                  | 101.7 | 106.5 | 105.5 | 104.8 | 100.3     | 101.1 | 101.2 | 104.2 | 103.0 | 104.2 | 103.4 | 104.4 | 99.8 |

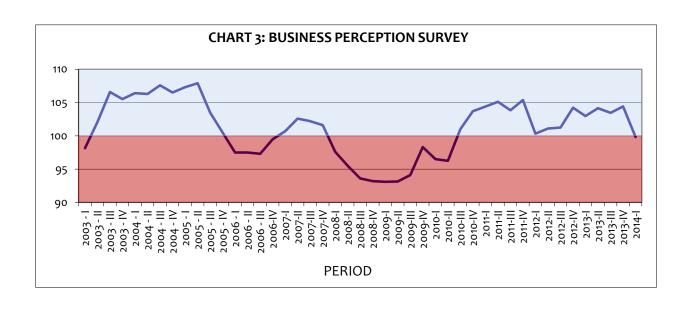
Source: CBA.

# Annex 2: Trends in perception





Index value = between 100 and 110: Optimistic perception
 Index value = 100: Neutral
 Index value = between 90 and 100: Pessimistic perception

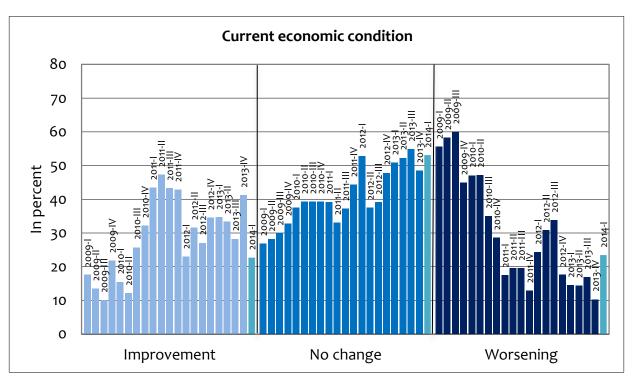


| Annex 3: Business perception Survey (by sectors)   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  |       | 20    |       |       |       | 20    |       |       | 2014  |
|  |       |       |       |       | I     | II    | III   | IV    | I     | II    | III   | IV    |       |
| 1. Index current economic condition  | 98.2  | 106.1 | 104.0 | 105.2 | 99.7  | 100.1 | 98.9  | 103.2 | 104.1 | 104.0 | 102.5 | 106.0 | 99.8  |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                       | 105.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 90.0  | 96.7  | 90.0  | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 90.0  |
| b. Electricity, gas and water supply,<br>manufacture of refined petroleum products                           | 110.0 | 100.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 103.3 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| c. Construction  | 92.0  | 105.6 | 102.7 | 100.9 | 100.0 | 97.5  | 101.1 | 105.6 | 99.1  | 100.0 | 98.9  | 106.4 | 101.4 |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods</li> </ul>              | 97-3  | 108.1 | 108.7 | 110.0 | 103.8 | 102.9 | 102.9 | 106.0 | 106.0 | 102.0 | 97.5  | 107.8 | 103.3 |
| e. Hotels and restaurants  | 110.0 | 108.5 | 104.5 | 106.0 | 94.3  | 96.7  | 94.3  | 106.0 | 107.1 | 107.1 | 102.7 | 107.8 | 98.6  |
| f. Transport, storage and communication  | 91.4  | 110.0 | 102.7 | 110.0 | 98.0  | 97.3  | 95.0  | 103.3 | 108.0 | 108.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| g. Financial intermediation  | 97.5  | 110.0 | 90.0  | 100.0 | 103.3 | 110.0 | 96.7  | 93.3  | 93.3  | 94.0  | 90.0  | 100.0 | 90.0  |
| h. Real estate and other business activities   | 97.3  | 97.5  | 110.0 | 110.0 | 100.0 | 107.8 | 110.0 | 104.3 | 110.0 | 107.1 | 105.0 | 107.5 | 102.0 |
| <ul> <li>i. Health, other community and personal service activities</li> </ul>                               | 98.8  | 102.2 | 100.0 | 102.9 | 101.3 | 99.5  | 97.8  | 100.0 | 103.3 | 104.5 | 108.0 | 103.3 | 97.4  |
| 2. Index short-term future economic condition  | 106.3 | 107.0 | 107.5 | 104.3 | 101.1 | 102.5 | 103.9 | 105.6 | 100.9 | 104.4 | 104.3 | 102.5 | 99.8  |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                       | 110.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 90.0  | 90.0  | 90.0  | 90.0  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 96.7  | 90.0  | 90.0  |
| b. Electricity, gas and water supply   | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 103.3 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| c. Construction  | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 100.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 105.0 |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor<br/>vehicles and household goods</li> </ul>          | 105.3 | 107.6 | 108.0 | 104.3 | 105.0 | 101.7 | 102.5 | 104.5 | 98.0  | 98.0  | 95.7  | 106.0 | 98.0  |
| e. Hotels and restaurants  | 106.7 | 102.5 | 105.6 | 106.0 | 92.9  | 96.7  | 105.4 | 107.1 | 103.3 | 110.0 | 105.6 | 103.3 | 96.7  |
| f. Transport, storage and communication  | 108.0 | 105.6 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 98.6  | 99.1  | 99.2  | 110.0 | 106.0 | 106.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| g. Financial intermediation  | 105.6 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 107.5 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 106.0 | 106.0 | 103.3 | 103.3 | 105.0 | 107.5 | 105.0 |
| h. Real estate and other business activities   | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 106.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 105.0 | 110.0 | 106.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 106.0 |
| <ul> <li>i. Health, other community and personal service activities</li> </ul>                               | 99.1  | 102.2 | 100.0 | 102.9 | 101.3 | 99.5  | 97.8  | 100.0 | 103.3 | 104.5 | 108.0 | 103.3 | 97.4  |
| 3. Business Perception Index   | 101.7 | 106.5 | 105.5 | 104.8 | 100.3 | 101.1 | 101.2 | 104.2 | 103.0 | 104.2 | 103.4 | 104.4 | 99.8  |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                       | 106.7 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 98.0  | 90.0  | 94.0  | 90.0  | 110.0 | 110.0 | 103.3 | 100.0 | 98.0  | 90.0  |
| <ul> <li>b. Electricity, gas and water supply,</li> <li>manufacture of refined petroleum products</li> </ul> | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 102.0 | 106.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| c. Construction  | 99.4  | 106.7 | 105.0 | 104.1 | 110.0 | 100.9 | 104.7 | 106.4 | 99.1  | 101.7 | 104.7 | 108.0 | 103.  |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods</li> </ul>              | 100.8 | 107.9 | 108.4 | 106.4 | 104.3 | 102.3 | 102.8 | 105.2 | 102.0 | 100.0 | 96.7  | 107.1 | 100.9 |
| e. Hotels and restaurants  | 108.8 | 106.2 | 105.0 | 106.0 | 93.8  | 96.7  | 99.6  | 106.5 | 106.0 | 108.3 | 104.0 | 106.0 | 100.0 |
| f. Transport, storage and communication  | 98.3  | 108.1 | 105.8 | 110.0 | 98.2  | 98.2  | 97.2  | 105.3 | 107.3 | 107.3 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 110.0 |
| g. Financial intermediation  | 101.8 | 110.0 | 105.0 | 104.1 | 104.0 | 107.1 | 104.0 | 100.0 | 96.7  | 99.1  | 96.7  | 103.3 | 100.0 |
| h. Real estate and other business activities   | 103.3 | 103.3 | 110.0 | 110.0 | 103.3 | 108.8 | 110.0 | 104.7 | 110.0 | 106.7 | 108.2 | 108.8 | 104.0 |
| <ul> <li>i. Health, other community and personal service activities</li> </ul>                               | 98.9  | 104.0 | 102.1 | 100.3 | 101.5 | 101.8 | 101.1 | 101.9 | 98.8  | 105.2 | 104.3 | 99.0  | 96.3  |

Annex 4: Survey questionnaire for the first quarter of 2014 (as a perceptage of the total)

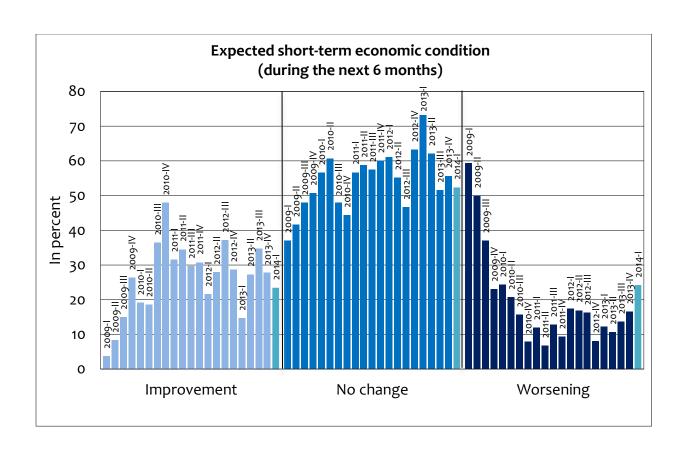
|   | Improvement | No change | Worsening |
|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|   |             |           |           |
| A. Current economic condition 1]                      | 22.7        | 53.1      | 23.4      |
| 1. The economic conditions in Aruba                   | 21.9        | 53.1      | 25.0      |
| 2. The activities of your business                    | 25.0        | 50.0      | 25.0      |
| 3. The investments of your business                   | 21.9        | 53.1      | 21.9      |
| 4. The number of employees that work for your company | 21.9        | 56.3      | 21.9      |
| B. Expected short-term economic conditions 2]         | 23.4        | 52.3      | 24.2      |
| 1. The economic conditions in Aruba                   | 12.5        | 43.8      | 43.8      |
| 2. The activities of your business                    | 28.1        | 62.5      | 9.4       |
| 3. The investments of your business                   | 34.4        | 43.8      | 21.9      |
| 4. The number of employees that work for your company | 18.8        | 59-4      | 21.9      |

Annex 5: Trends in the current and the expected short-term economic condition



<sup>1]</sup> Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2012.

<sup>2]</sup> During the next 6 months.



| Annex 6: Economic indicators by sector (2014-I)   |        |           |            |           |           |            |           |
|---|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|   |        |           | Decrease   |           |           | Increase   |           |
|   |        | Less than | Between    | More      | Less than | Between    | More      |
|   | No     | 5.1       | 5.1 - 10.1 | than 10.1 | 5.1       | 5.1 - 10.1 | than 10.1 |
|   | Change | percent   | percent    | percent   | percent   | percent    | percent   |
| Employment, in percentages of all responding sectors  | 53.1   | 21.9      | 0.0        | 3.1       | 18.8      | 3.1        | 0.0       |
| a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum  | 0.0    | 6.3       |            | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| products)   |        |           |            |           |           |            |           |
| <ul> <li>b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined<br/>petroleum products</li> </ul> | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| c. Construction   | 3.1    | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and<br/>household goods</li> </ul>     | 3.1    | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| e. Hotels and restaurants   | 6.3    | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| f. Transport, storage and communication   | 9.4    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| g. Financial intermediation   | 0.0    | 3.1       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| h. Real estate and other business activities  | 12.5   | 0.0       |            | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| i. Health, other community and personal service activities  | 18.8   | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 3.1        | 0.0       |
| 2. A. Profitability (profits), in percentages of all responding sectors                                 | 12.5   | 0.0       | 0.0        | 18.8      | 34.4      | 6.3        | 3.1       |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                  | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined<br/>petroleum products</li> </ul> | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| c. Construction   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and<br/>household goods</li> </ul>     | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 9.4       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| e. Hotels and restaurants   | 3.1    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 0.0       | 3.1        | 0.0       |
| f. Transport, storage and communication   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 12.5      | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| g. Financial intermediation   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 3.1        | 3.1       |
| h. Real estate and other business activities  | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| i. Health, other community and personal service activities  | 9.4    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 6.3       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| 2. B. Profitability (losses), in percentages of all responding sectors                                  | 9.4    | 6.3       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                  | 6.3    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined<br/>petroleum products</li> </ul>    | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| c. Construction   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and<br/>household goods</li> </ul>     | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| e. Hotels and restaurants   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.1       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| f. Transport, storage and communication   | 0.0    | 0.0       |            | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| g. Financial intermediation   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| h. Real estate and other business activities  | 0.0    | 3.1       |            | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| i. Health, other community and personal service activities  | 3.1    | 3.1       |            | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |

| Annex 6: Economic indicators by sector (2014-I) (continued)   |        |           |            |           |           |            |           |
|---|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|   |        |           | Decrease   |           |           | Increase   |           |
|   |        | Less than | Between    | More      | Less than | Between    | More      |
|   | No     | 5.1       | 5.1 - 10.1 | than 10.1 | 5.1       | 5.1 - 10.1 | than 10.1 |
|   | Change | percent   | percent    | percent   | percent   | percent    | percent   |
|   |        |           |            |           |           |            |           |
| 3. Sales, in percentages of all responding sectors  | 12.9   | 19.4      | 3.2        | 16.1      | 32.3      | 12.9       | 3.2       |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                  | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.5       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined<br/>petroleum products</li> </ul> | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| c. Construction   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 6.5       | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods                             | 0.0    | 3.2       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.2       | 3.2        | 3.2       |
| e. Hotels and restaurants   | 0.0    | 6.5       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.2       | 3.2        | 0.0       |
| f. Transport, storage and communication   | 3.2    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 9.7       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| g. Financial intermediation   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 3.2       | 3.2       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| h. Real estate and other business activities  | 0.0    | 6.5       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.2       | 3.2        | 0.0       |
| i. Health, other community and personal service activities  | 9.7    | 3.2       | 3.2        | 6.5       | 3.2       | 3.2        | 0.0       |
| 4. Average wage costs, in percentages of all responding sectors   | 28.1   | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 65.6      | 6.3        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)</li> </ul>                  | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| <ul> <li>b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined<br/>petroleum products</li> </ul> | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| c. Construction   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods                             | 3.1    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.3       | 3.1        | 0.0       |
| e. Hotels and restaurants   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 9.4       | 3.1        | 0.0       |
| f. Transport, storage and communication   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 12.5      | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| g. Financial intermediation   | 0.0    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 6.3       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| h. Real estate and other business activities  | 9.4    | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 3.1       | 0.0        | 0.0       |
| i. Health, other community and personal service activities  | 15.6   | 0.0       | 0.0        | 0.0       | 12.5      | 0.0        | 0.0       |

Annex 7: Future expectations and activities

|  | 2012  |       | 2013  |       |       |       | 2014  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | III   | IV    | I     | II    | III   | IV    | I     |
| A. Inflation over the next 12 months                       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1. Below o percent   | 2.8   | 3.0   | 6.5   | 3.1   | 3.2   | 6.3   | 6.    |
| 2. Between o and 1 percent                                 | 22.2  | 24.2  | 16.1  | 28.1  | 32.3  | 12.5  | 15.6  |
| 3. Between 1 and 2 percent                                 | 38.9  | 39.4  | 45.2  | 37.5  | 41.9  | 56.3  | 53.   |
| 4. Between 2 and 3 percent                                 | 22.2  | 15.2  | 19.4  | 31.3  | 22.6  | 12.5  | 25.0  |
| 5. Above 3 percent   | 13.9  | 18.2  | 12.9  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 12.5  | 0.0   |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| B. Investment plans over the next 12 months                |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1. Below Afl. 1 million                                    | 48.6  | 44.1  | 50.0  | 40.6  | 48.4  | 45.2  | 37.5  |
| 2. Between Afl. 1 and Afl. 5 million                       | 5.4   | 26.5  | 10.0  | 18.8  | 12.9  | 32.3  | 25.0  |
| 3. Above Afl. 5 million                                    | 21.3  | 11.8  | 23.3  | 21.9  | 19.4  | 9.7   | 15.6  |
| 4. Not applicable  | 24.3  | 17.6  | 16.7  | 18.8  | 19.4  | 12.9  | 21.9  |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| C. Annual effective financing rate over the next 12 months |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1. Below 5 percent   | 5.6   | 3.0   | 3.4   | 6.5   | 6.5   | 9.7   | 3.2   |
| 2. Between 5 and 8 percent                                 | 61.1  | 66.7  | 79.3  | 77.4  | 80.6  | 71.0  | 71.0  |
| 3. Between 8 and 12 percent                                | 30.6  | 27.3  | 17.2  | 16.1  | 12.9  | 19.4  | 25.8  |
| 4. Above 12 percent  | 2.8   | 3.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| D. Product and/or service pricing over the next 12 months  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1. Increase  | 32.4  | 47.1  | 45.2  | 33.3  | 48.4  | 53.1  | 43.8  |
| 2. Decrease  | 18.9  | 11.8  | 9.7   | 18.2  | 16.1  | 3.1   | 3.    |
| 3. Remain the same   | 48.6  | 41.2  | 45.2  | 48.5  | 35.5  | 43.8  | 53.   |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| E. Economic growth (GDP growth) over the next 12 month     | s     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1. Below negative 10 percent                               | 0.0   | 0.0   | 3.3   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| 2. Between negative 10 percent and negative 5 percent      | 18.8  | 6.1   | 3.3   | 9.4   | 3.2   | 6.5   | 0.0   |
| 3. Between negative 5 percent and 1 percent                | 25.0  | 9.1   | 26.7  | 21.9  | 25.8  | 12.9  | 18.8  |
| 4. Between 1 and 5 percent                                 | 53.1  | 81.8  | 66.7  | 68.8  | 64.5  | 80.6  | 78.   |
| 5. Between 5 and 10 percent                                | 3.1   | 3.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 6.5   | 0.0   | 3.    |
| 6. Above 10 percent  | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

# **Annex 8: BUSINESS PERCEPTION RESULTS**

Survey questionnaire responses Business Perception Index

|   | Improvemer | nt   |           | No change Worsening |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |    | Current Short- term |       |       |
|---|------------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|---------------------|-------|-------|
|   | 2013       |      | 2014 2013 |                     |      | 2014 2013 |      |      |      |      | 2014 |      |      |    |                     | index |       |
|   | II         | Ш    | IV        | I                   | II   | Ш         | IV   | I    | II   | III  | IV   | 1    |      |    |                     |       |       |
|   |            |      |           |                     |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |    |                     |       |       |
| A. Current economic conditions                        | 33-3       | 28.2 | 41.2      | 22.7                | 52.3 | 54.8      | 48.5 | 53.1 | 14.4 | 16.9 | 10.3 | 23.4 | 2010 |    | 98.2                | 106.3 | 101.7 |
| 1. The economic conditions in Aruba                   | 30.3       | 22.6 | 44.1      | 21.9                | 63.6 | 71.0      | 55.9 | 53.1 | 6.1  | 6.5  | 0.0  | 25.0 | 2011 |    | 106.1               | 107.0 | 106.5 |
| 2. The activities of your business                    | 39.4       | 29.0 | 35.3      | 25.0                | 48.5 | 54.8      | 52.9 | 50.0 | 12.1 | 16.1 | 11.8 | 25.0 | 2012 |    | 104.0               | 107.5 | 105.5 |
| 3. The investments of your business                   | 30.3       | 16.1 | 50.0      | 21.9                | 51.5 | 54.8      | 38.2 | 53.1 | 18.2 | 29.0 | 11.8 | 21.9 | 2013 |    | 105.2               | 104.3 | 104.8 |
| 4. The number of employees that work for your company | 33-3       | 45.2 | 35.3      | 21.9                | 45.5 | 38.7      | 47.1 | 56.3 | 21.2 | 16.1 | 17.6 | 21.9 |      |    |                     |       |       |
|   |            |      |           |                     |      |           |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2013 | 1  | 104.1               | 100.9 | 103.0 |
| B. Expected short-term economic conditions 1)         | 27.3       | 34.7 | 27.8      | 23.4                | 62.1 | 51.6      | 55.6 | 52.3 | 10.6 | 13.7 | 16.5 | 24.2 |      | II | 104.0               | 104.4 | 104.2 |
| 1. The economic conditions in Aruba                   | 18.2       | 32.3 | 29.4      | 12.5                | 72.7 | 48.4      | 47.1 | 43.8 | 9.1  | 19.4 | 23.5 | 43.8 |      | Ш  | 102.5               | 104.3 | 103.4 |
| 2. The activities of your business                    | 30.3       | 38.7 | 30.3      | 28.1                | 63.6 | 51.6      | 60.6 | 62.5 | 6.1  | 9.7  | 9.1  | 9.4  |      | IV | 106.0               | 102.5 | 104.4 |
| 3. The investments of your business                   | 39.4       | 41.9 | 39.4      | 34.4                | 48.5 | 48.4      | 45.5 | 43.8 | 12.1 | 9.7  | 15.2 | 21.9 |      |    |                     |       |       |
| 4. The number of employees that work for your company | 21.2       | 25.8 | 12.1      | 18.8                | 63.6 | 58.1      | 69.7 | 59.4 | 15.2 | 16.1 | 18.2 | 21.9 | 2014 | 1  | 99.8                | 99.8  | 99.8  |

Perceived developments of employment, profitability, sales, and average wage costs 1)

|  | Employment | t     |       |                  | Operational results |      |      |      |        |      |      |      | Sales |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|------------|-------|-------|------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  |            |       |       | -                | Profits             |      |      | L    | .osses |      |      |      |       |           |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | 2013 2014  |       |       | 2013 2014 2013 2 |                     |      |      |      |        | 2014 | 2013 |      |       | 2014 2013 |       |       |       | 2014  |       |       |
|  | II         | III   | IV    | I                | II                  | III  | IV   | 1    | II     | III  | IV   | 1    | II    | III       | IV    | ı     | II    | III   | IV    | 1     |
| 1. no change                             | 45.5       | 35.5  | 45.5  | 53.1             | 15.2                | 12.9 | 18.8 | 12.5 | 0.0    | 3.2  | 6.3  | 9.4  | 18.8  | 16.1      | 30.3  | 12.9  | 24.2  | 16.1  | 30.3  | 28.1  |
| 2. increase of less than 5.1 percent     | 18.2       | 32.3  | 24.2  | 18.8             | 27.3                | 25.8 | 25.0 | 34.4 | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0.0  | 6.3  | 40.6  | 29.0      | 18.2  | 32.3  | 54.5  | 54.8  |       | 65.6  |
| 3. increase between 5.1 and 10.1 percent | 9.1        | 9.7   | 6.1   | 3.1              | 12.1                | 3.2  | 9.4  | 6.3  | 0.0    | 0.0  | 3.1  | 0.0  | 12.5  | 16.1      | 12.1  | 12.9  | 6.1   | 19.4  | 3.0   | 6.3   |
| 4. increase of more than 10.1 percent    | 9.1        | 6.5   | 6.1   | 0.0              | 15.2                | 12.9 | 12.5 | 3.1  | 0.0    | 3.2  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 12.5  | 9.7       | 9.1   | 3.2   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 3.0   | 0.0   |
| 5. decrease of less than 5 percent       | 9.1        | 9.7   | 15.2  | 21.9             | 3.0                 | 3.2  | 3.1  | 0.0  | 0.0    | 3.2  | 6.3  | 6.3  | 3.1   | 12.9      | 6.1   | 19.4  | 12.1  | 0.0   | 3.0   | 0.0   |
| 6. decrease between 5.1 and 10.1 percent | 9.1        | 6.5   | 3.0   | 0.0              | 6.1                 | 6.5  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 3.0    | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 9.4   | 9.7       | 6.1   | 3.2   | 3.0   | 3.2   | 3.0   | 0.0   |
| 7. decrease of more than 10.1 percent    | 0.0        | 0.0   | 0.0   | 3.1              | 15.2                | 22.6 | 12.5 | 18.8 | 3.0    | 3.2  | 3.1  | 3.1  | 3.1   | 6.5       | 18.2  | 16.1  | 0.0   | 6.5   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Total                                    | 100.0      | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0            | 93.9                | 87.1 | 81.3 | 75.0 | 6.1    | 12.9 | 18.8 | 25.0 | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

<sup>1)</sup> In percentages of all respondents.

<sup>1)</sup> During the next 6 months.