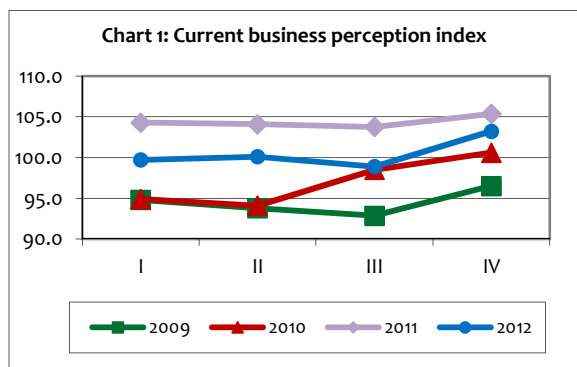




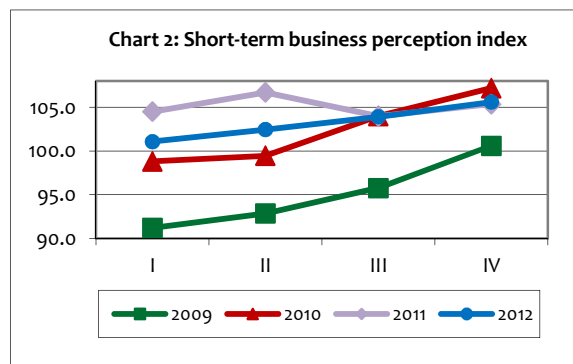
CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

RESULTS BUSINESS PERCEPTION SURVEY - FOURTH QUARTER 2012 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE REBOUNDED

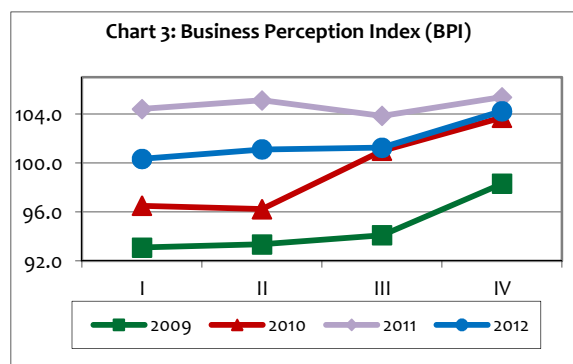
The results of the Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the fourth quarter of 2012 indicate that businesses became positive about the current economic conditions, as the corresponding index moved to 103.2, up from 98.9 during the third quarter of 2012 (Chart 1). Along with the rebound in positivity about the current economic conditions, respondents indicated that the short-term future economic conditions would continue to improve as well, as the corresponding index moved to 105.6 from 103.9 in the previous quarter of 2012 (Chart 2).



The responses to the questions on the short-term future economic conditions showed that 63.2 percent of the respondents perceived that the economic conditions will not change, while 28.7 percent expected an improvement during the 6 months following the fourth quarter of 2012 (Annex 5). During the third quarter's survey 37.2 percent of the respondents, 8.5 percentage points higher than in the quarter under review, indicated that the short-term economic conditions will improve (Annex 6).

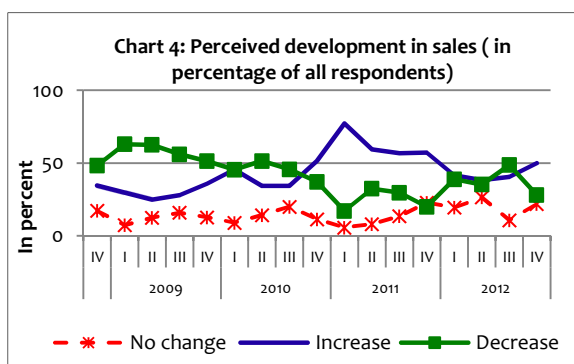


The overall Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising the current and short-term perceptions, rose from 101.2 in the third quarter of 2012 to 104.2 in the quarter under review (Chart 3). However, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2011, 2012 fourth quarter's BPI is still 1.2 percentage points lower. The largest drops were observed in the financial intermediation and the wholesale and retail sectors, which declined by, respectively, 4.7 and 3.4 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2012, compared to the same quarter of 2011.

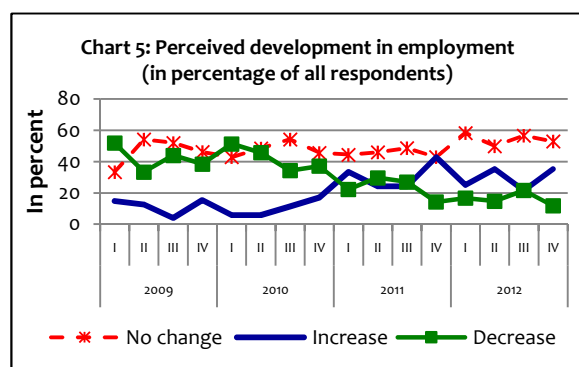


About 50 percent of the respondents indicated an increase in sales, compared to 57.1 percent in the same quarter of 2011 (Chart 4). More than one-third of the firms surveyed

noted an increase in their staff. Expansion of employment occurred mostly in the wholesale and retail sector and in the health, other community & personal activities sector (Chart 5, Annex 7).

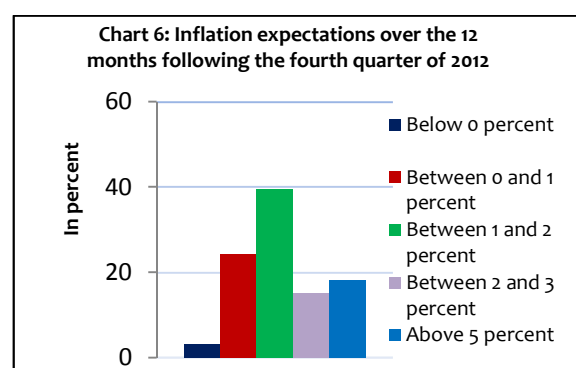


The responses to the survey's questions on profitability indicate the positive sentiment of businesses about the current economic conditions, as 79.4 percent of the respondents reported that profits were observed (Annex 7). The highest profit surges were noted in the wholesale and retail trade sector, and in sector health, other community & personal activities. On the other hand, the biggest decreases in profitability occurred in the hotel and restaurant and the financial intermediation sectors.

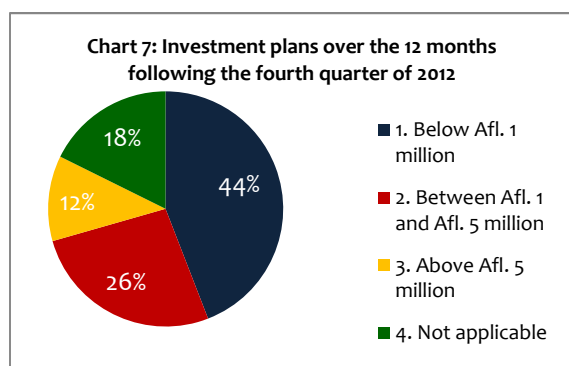


Notable is that almost all businesses expected consumer pricing levels to rise over the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012.

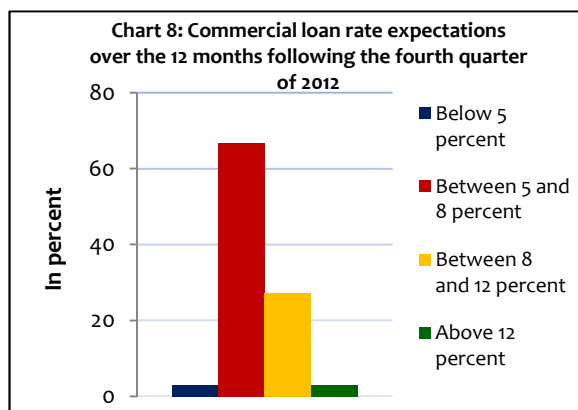
The majority of the companies surveyed (39.4 percent) perceive the inflation to move between 1 and 2 percent, while 15.2 percent and 18.2 percent of the respondents believe inflation would lie, respectively, between 2 and 3 percent and above 3 percent. The latter noted an increase of 4.3 percentage points, as more respondents perceived that inflation would be above 3 percent, compared to the third quarter's survey. Additionally, only a fraction (3.0 percent of the companies surveyed) expected a deflation (Chart 6, Annex 8).



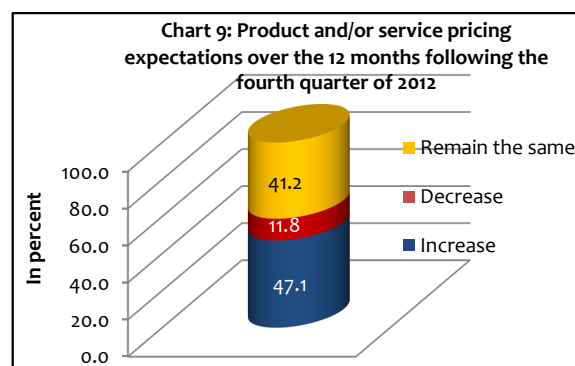
Approximately 82 percent of the companies surveyed reported to have plans for investment during the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012, of which 44.1 percent would be investing less than Afl. 1 million, 26.5 percent between Afl. 1 and 5 million, and 11.8 percent more than Afl. 5 million. On the other hand, 17.6 percent of the respondents has no plans for investment during the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012 (Chart 7, Annex 8).



The survey's responses on financing rate expectations over the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012, reported that the majority of the companies surveyed expected that commercial loans would be available at rates between 5 and 12 percent at the local commercial banks, as the percentage of respondents believing the rate would lie between 5 and 8 percent increased to 66.7 percent, up from 61.1 percent in the third quarter of 2012 (Chart 8, Annex 8).



In terms of product and/or service pricing expectations over the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012, 41.2 percent of the companies surveyed indicated that their prices would remain the same, while 47.1 percent expected an increase, and 11.8 percent expected a decrease (Chart 9, Annex 8).

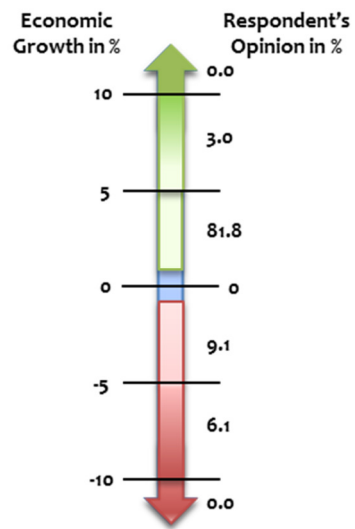


When asked about economic growth expectations for the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012, 84.8 percent of the companies surveyed indicated that the economy would grow above 1 percent, of which 81.8 percent of the respondents anticipated a growth between 1 and 5 percent, and 3.0 percent between 5 and 10 percent.

On the other hand, 15.2 percent of the companies surveyed reported that the economic growth would be below 1 percent (including negative growth). While 9.1 percent of the companies noted that the growth would move between -5 and 1 percent, 6.1 percent indicated it would be between -10 and -5 (Chart 10, Annex 8).

The latter, when compared to the results of the third quarter's survey, reveals that the respondents became more optimistic about the rate of economic growth, as the percentage of companies anticipating a GDP growth of between 1 and 5 percent jumped by 28.7 percentage points to 81.8 percent.

Chart 10: Economic growth expectations over the 12 months following the fourth quarter of 2012



On balance, respondents reported that the positive sentiments on current economic conditions are a foretaste of the anticipated improvements in the near future.

Centrale Bank van Aruba
June 7, 2013

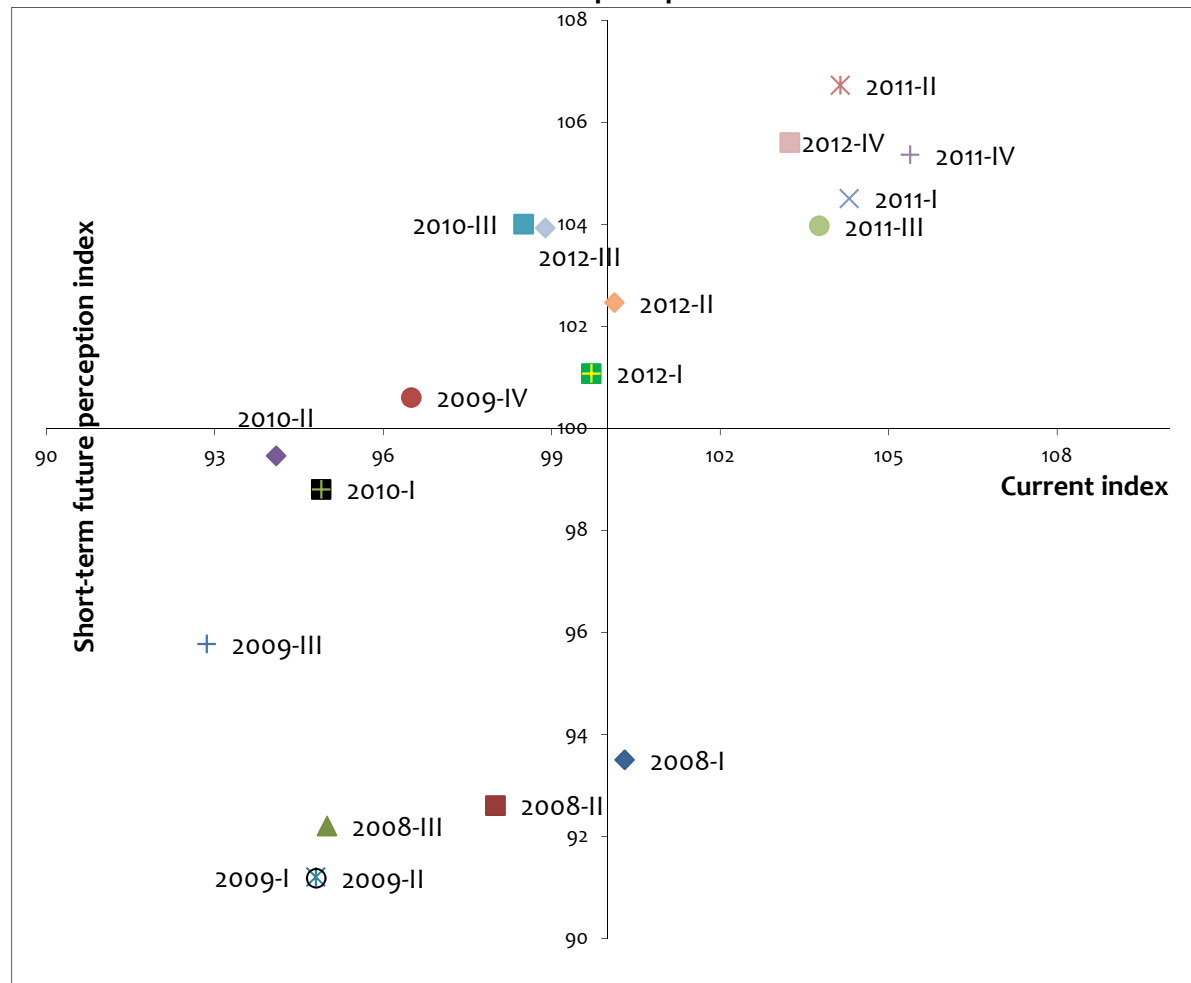
Annex 1: Response rate and indices 1]

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2010				2011				2012			
					I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Response and non-response rates																
a. Average response rate	76.0	70.0	76.1	71.5	69.6	69.8	74.47	76.1	77.9	78.7	78.7	76.1	78.3	72.3	78.7	72.0
b. Average non-response rate	24.0	30.0	23.9	28.5	30.4	30.2	31.91	23.9	22.1	21.3	21.3	23.9	21.7	27.7	21.3	28.0
2. Indices																
a. Index current economic condition	94.6	98.2	106.1	104.0	94.8	94.1	98.5	100.6	104.3	104.1	103.8	105.4	99.7	100.1	98.9	103.2
b. Index short-term future economic condition	98.2	106.3	107.0	107.5	99.0	99.5	104.0	107.2	104.5	106.7	104.0	105.4	101.1	102.5	103.9	105.6
c. Business Perception Index	96.0	101.7	106.5	105.5	96.5	96.2	101.0	103.7	104.4	105.1	103.8	105.4	100.3	101.1	101.2	104.2

Source: CBA.

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

Annex 2: Index current and short-term future perception



Annex 3: Trends in perception

CHART 1: INDEX CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITION

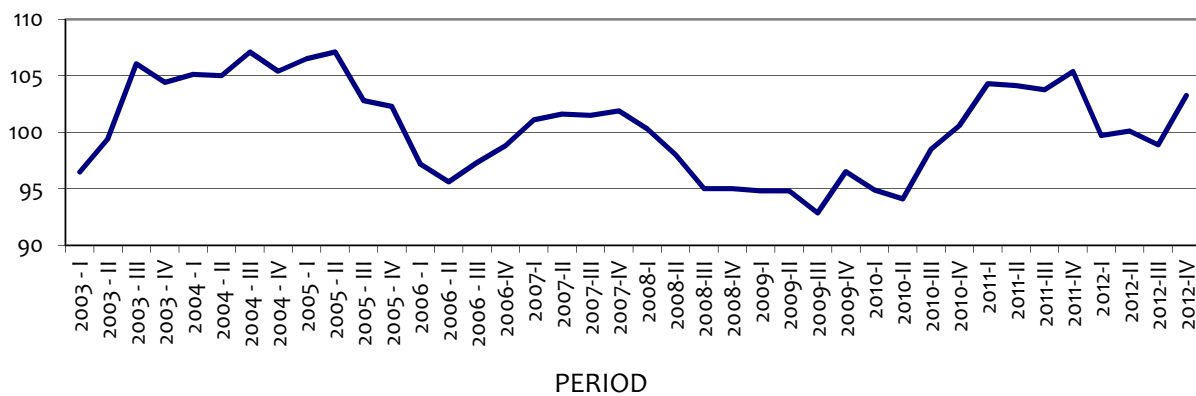


CHART 2: INDEX SHORT-TERM FUTURE ECONOMIC CONDITION

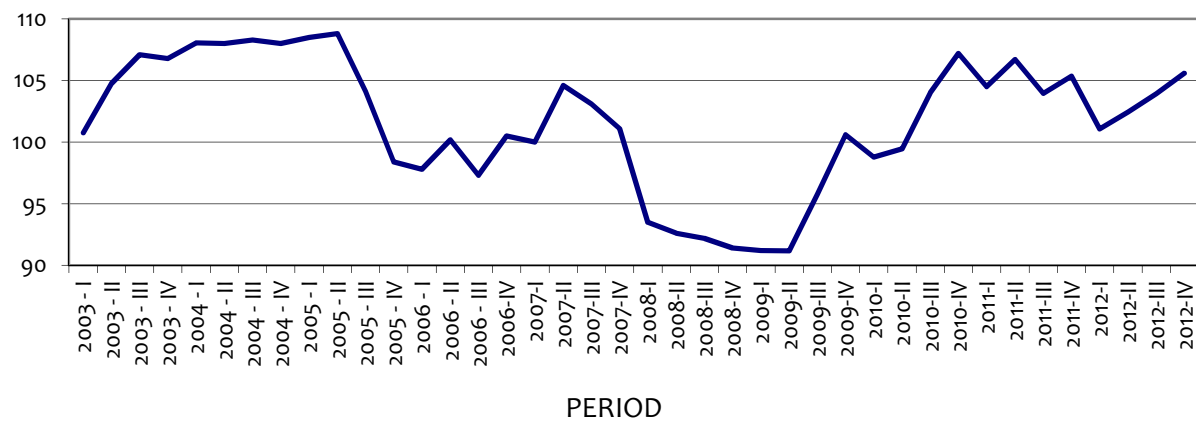
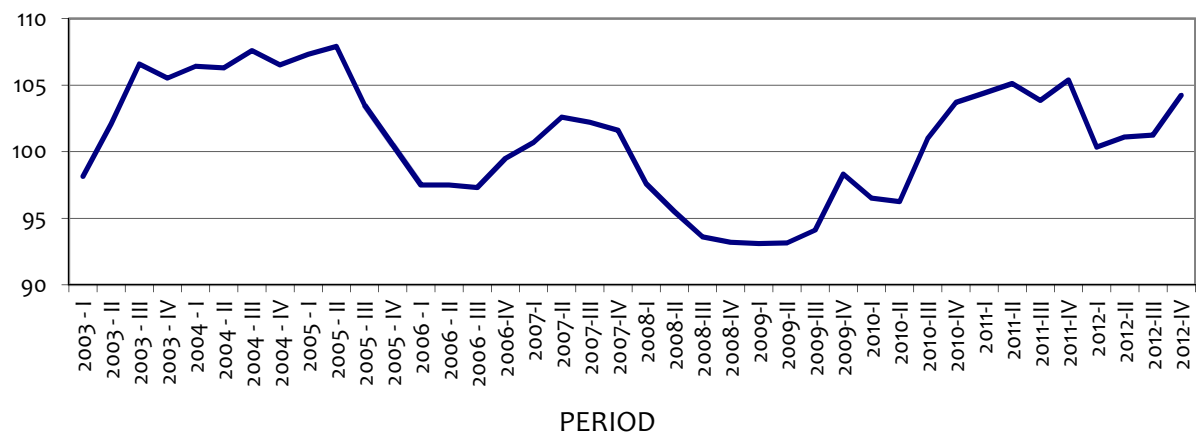


CHART 3: BUSINESS PERCEPTION SURVEY



Annex 3: Business perception Survey (by sectors)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2010				2011				2012			
					I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Index current economic condition	94.6	98.2	106.1	104.0	94.8	94.1	98.5	100.6	104.3	104.1	103.8	105.4	99.7	100.1	98.9	103.2
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	95.0	105.0	110.0	110.0	96.7	90.0	103.3	100.0	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	90.0	96.7	90.0	110.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	90.0	110.0	100.0	110.0	100.0	90.0	110.0	110.0	90.0	90.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	103.3	110.0
c. Construction	101.7	92.0	105.6	102.7	96.0	96.7	94.6	96.0	98.6	104.5	105.0	103.3	100.0	97.5	101.1	105.6
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	95.3	97.3	108.1	108.7	91.3	92.0	96.2	100.7	105.0	107.3	106.8	108.7	103.8	102.9	102.9	106.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	92.2	110.0	108.5	104.5	105.0	95.0	102.0	110.0	108.2	110.0	103.8	105.7	94.3	96.7	94.3	106.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	91.3	91.4	110.0	102.7	92.9	96.2	96.0	94.0	108.2	105.6	110.0	105.0	98.0	97.3	95.0	103.3
g. Financial intermediation	98.6	97.5	110.0	90.0	93.6	95.0	96.7	95.7	104.5	105.0	108.0	102.5	103.3	110.0	96.7	93.3
h. Real estate and other business activities	94.0	97.3	97.5	110.0	93.3	93.1	106.0	103.3	98.6	96.0	90.0	102.0	100.0	107.8	110.0	104.3
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	91.3	98.8	102.2	100.0	92.7	91.7	95.3	100.7	105.0	102.6	99.6	103.7	101.3	99.5	97.8	100.0
2. Index short-term future economic condition	98.2	106.3	107.0	107.5	99.0	99.5	104.0	107.2	104.5	106.7	104.0	105.4	101.1	102.5	103.9	105.6
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	100.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	110.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	100.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	110.0	110.0	100.0	110.0	103.3	110.0	110.0
c. Construction	94.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	101.4	96.7	103.3	110.0	106.7	110.0	95.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	100.0	105.3	107.6	108.0	99.4	97.3	96.0	106.0	110.0	110.0	108.8	108.6	105.0	101.7	102.5	104.5
e. Hotels and restaurants	103.3	106.7	102.5	105.6	110.0	106.0	107.5	108.0	95.0	110.0	96.7	107.1	92.9	96.7	105.4	107.1
f. Transport, storage and communication	94.6	108.0	105.6	110.0	90.0	100.0	100.0	108.0	110.0	106.7	110.0	102.5	98.6	99.1	99.2	110.0
g. Financial intermediation	102.0	105.6	110.0	110.0	100.0	106.0	110.0	106.0	110.0	110.0	107.8	105.0	110.0	110.0	106.0	106.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	102.5	110.0	110.0	110.0	93.3	93.1	106.0	103.3	98.6	100.0	94.0	110.0	106.0	110.0	110.0	105.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	94.0	99.1	102.2	100.0	92.7	91.7	95.3	100.7	105.0	102.6	99.6	103.7	101.3	99.5	97.8	100.0
3. Business Perception Index	96.0	101.7	106.5	105.5	96.5	96.2	101.0	103.7	104.4	105.1	103.8	105.4	100.3	101.1	101.2	104.2
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	95.0	106.7	110.0	110.0	96.7	90.0	106.7	103.3	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	90.0	94.0	90.0	110.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	100.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	102.5	100.0	110.0	110.0	90.0	95.0	110.0	100.0	110.0	102.0	106.0	110.0
c. Construction	97.4	99.4	106.7	105.0	98.2	96.7	98.2	102.2	102.3	105.4	100.0	106.0	110.0	100.9	104.7	106.4
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	97.3	100.8	107.9	108.4	95.6	94.8	96.1	103.3	107.4	108.5	107.8	108.6	104.3	102.3	102.8	105.2
e. Hotels and restaurants	93.8	108.8	106.2	105.0	107.1	99.2	104.4	109.1	102.6	110.0	101.6	106.2	93.8	96.7	99.6	106.5
f. Transport, storage and communication	92.9	98.3	108.1	105.8	91.7	97.6	97.8	101.0	108.9	106.0	110.0	103.8	98.2	98.2	97.2	105.3
g. Financial intermediation	100.0	101.8	110.0	105.0	94.6	99.2	104.3	101.8	107.0	107.5	107.9	104.7	104.0	107.1	104.0	100.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	97.8	103.3	103.3	110.0	95.3	95.3	105.8	107.3	99.6	97.8	92.0	105.0	103.3	108.8	110.0	104.7
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	92.4	98.9	104.0	102.1	93.0	92.1	97.5	101.9	103.3	103.1	100.5	103.3	101.5	101.8	101.1	101.9

Source: CBA.

Annex 5: Survey questionnaire for the fourth quarter of 2012
(as a percentage of the total)

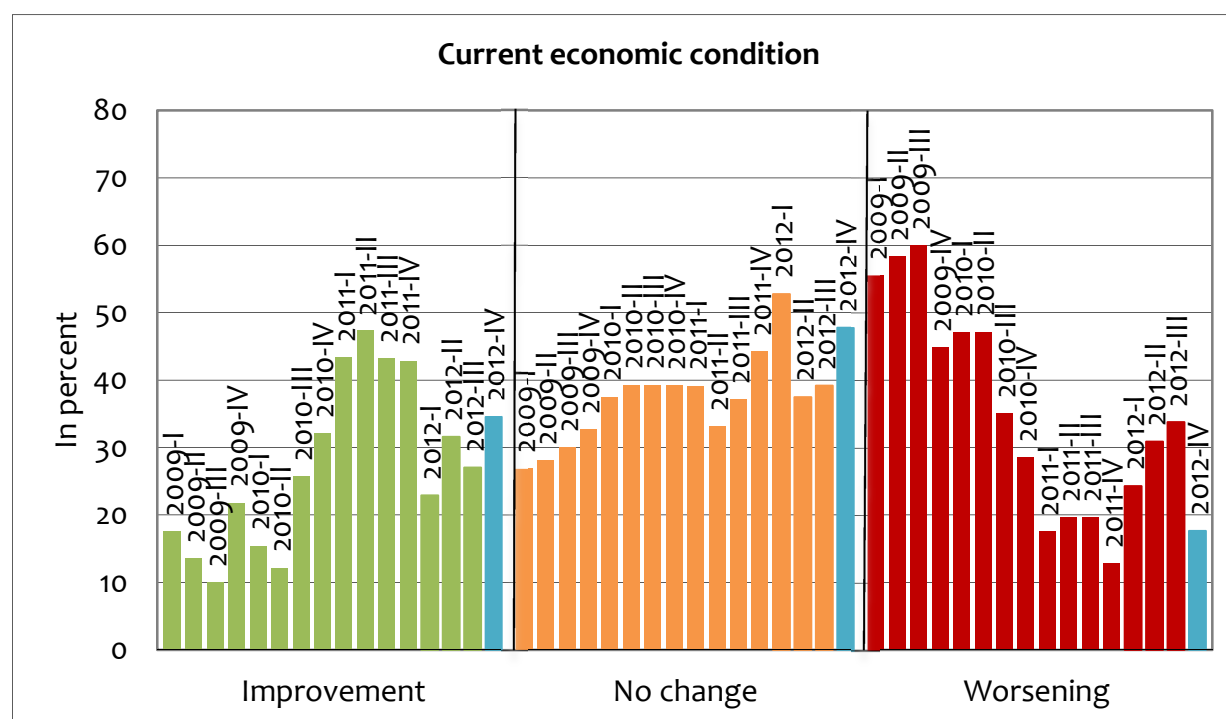
	Improvement	No change	Worsening
A. Current economic condition 1]	34.6	47.8	17.6
1. The economic conditions in Aruba	35.3	44.1	20.6
2. The activities of your business	44.1	35.3	20.6
3. The investments of your business	26.5	55.9	17.6
4. The number of employees that work for your company	32.4	55.9	11.8
B. Expected short-term economic conditions 2]	28.7	63.2	8.1
1. The economic conditions in Aruba	29.4	58.8	11.8
2. The activities of your business	32.4	64.7	2.9
3. The investments of your business	38.2	47.1	14.7
4. The number of employees that work for your company	14.7	82.4	2.9

Source: CBA.

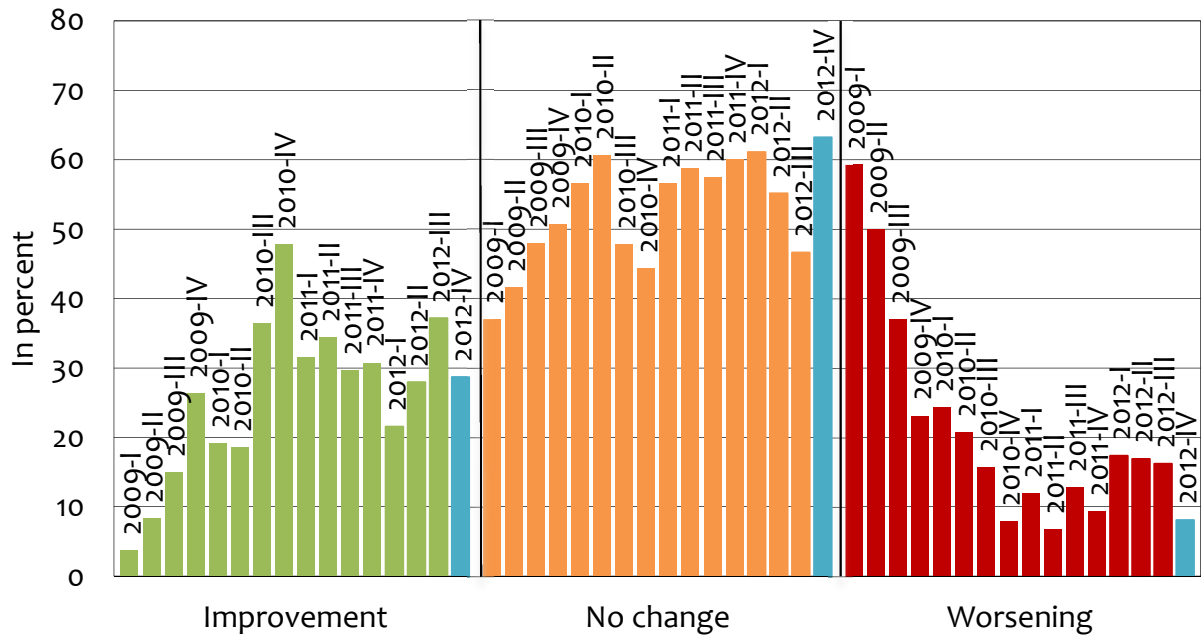
1] Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2011.

2] During the next 6 months.

Annex 6: Trends in the current and the expected short-term economic condition



Expected short-term economic condition (during the next 6 months)



Annex 7: Economic indicators by sector (2012-IV)

	No Change	Decrease			Increase		
		Less than 5.1 percent	Between 5.1 - 10.1 percent	More than 10.1 percent	Less than 5.1 percent	Between 5.1 - 10.1 percent	More than 10.1 percent
1. Employment, in percentages of all responding sectors	52.9	8.8	0.0	2.9	29.4	2.9	2.9
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
c. Construction	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	5.9	2.9	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.9	2.9	0.0	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9
2. A. Profitability (profits), in percentages of all responding sectors	17.6	11.8	0.0	8.8	14.7	5.9	20.6
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
c. Construction	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	2.9	5.9	2.9
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
f. Transport, storage and communication	0.0	8.8	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
h. Real estate and other business activities	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	8.8	2.9	0.0	2.9	5.9	0.0	0.0
2. B. Profitability (losses), in percentages of all responding sectors	2.9	0.0	0.0	8.8	2.9	0.0	5.9
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Construction	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9
f. Transport, storage and communication	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9

Source: CBA.

Annex 7: Economic indicators by sector (2012-IV) (continued)

	No Change	Decrease			Increase		
		Less than 5.1 percent	Between 5.1 - 10.1 percent	More than 10.1 percent	Less than 5.1 percent	Between 5.1 - 10.1 percent	More than 10.1 percent
3. Sales, in percentages of all responding sectors	21.9	18.8	6.3	3.1	18.8	9.4	21.9
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
c. Construction	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	6.3
f. Transport, storage and communication	3.1	6.3	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
h. Real estate and other business activities	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	3.1
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	6.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	6.3	0.0	0.0
4. Average wage costs, in percentages of all responding sectors	29.4	2.9	2.9	0.0	55.9	5.9	2.9
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0
c. Construction	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	11.8	0.0	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
h. Real estate and other business activities	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	2.9	0.0

Source: CBA.

Annex 8: Future expectations and activities

	2012	
	III	IV
A. Inflation over the next 12 months		
1. Below 0 percent	2.8	3.0
2. Between 0 and 1 percent	22.2	24.2
3. Between 1 and 2 percent	38.9	39.4
4. Between 2 and 3 percent	22.2	15.2
5. Above 3 percent	13.9	18.2
Total	100.0	100.0
B. Investment plans over the next 12 months		
1. Below Afl. 1 million	48.6	44.1
2. Between Afl. 1 and Afl. 5 million	5.4	26.5
3. Above Afl. 5 million	21.3	11.8
4. Not applicable	24.3	17.6
Total	100.0	100.0
C. Annual effective financing rate over the next 12 months		
1. Below 5 percent	5.6	3.0
2. Between 5 and 8 percent	61.1	66.7
3. Between 8 and 12 percent	30.6	27.3
4. Above 12 percent	2.8	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0
D. Product and/or service pricing over the next 12 months		
1. Increase	32.4	47.1
2. Decrease	18.9	11.8
3. Remain the same	48.6	41.2
Total	100.0	100.0
E. Economic growth (GDP growth) over the next 12 months		
1. Below negative 10 percent	0.0	0.0
2. Between negative 10 percent and negative 5 percent	18.8	6.1
3. Between negative 5 percent and 1 percent	25.0	9.1
4. Between 1 and 5 percent	53.1	81.8
5. Between 5 and 10 percent	3.1	3.0
6. Above 10 percent	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: CBA.