

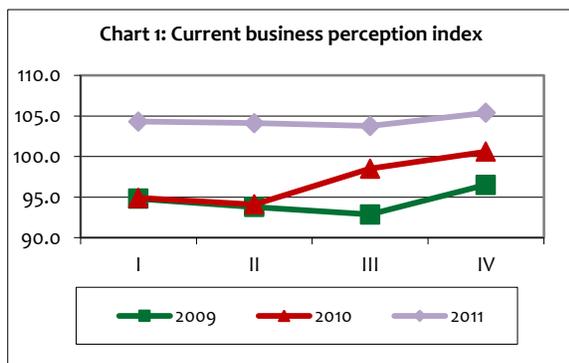


CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

THE BUSINESS PERCEPTION SURVEY IN ARUBA BUSINESS CONFIDENCE CONTINUES TO GROW

Survey results for the fourth quarter of 2011

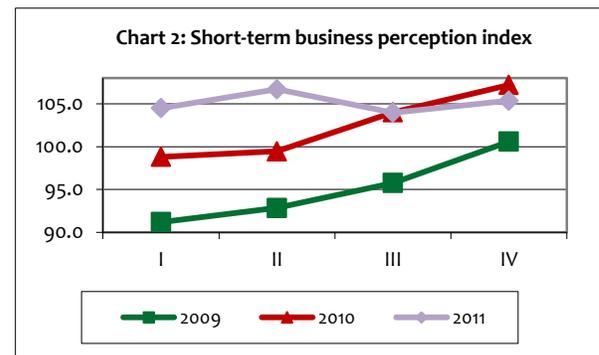
Responses to the Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the fourth quarter of 2011 suggest that businesses remain positive about the current and future economic conditions in Aruba, with some significant differences within the different industries. After a slight drop in the third quarter, the index on the current economic conditions jumped back up by 1.6 percentage points to 105.4 in the fourth quarter of 2011 (Chart 1).



While 30.7 percent of respondents expect an improved performance of the economic conditions for the next six months, 60 percent anticipate that current economic conditions to persist (Annex 5). When compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year, the results reveal that 17.2 percent of the companies surveyed had a less optimistic outlook on the short term future (Annex 6).

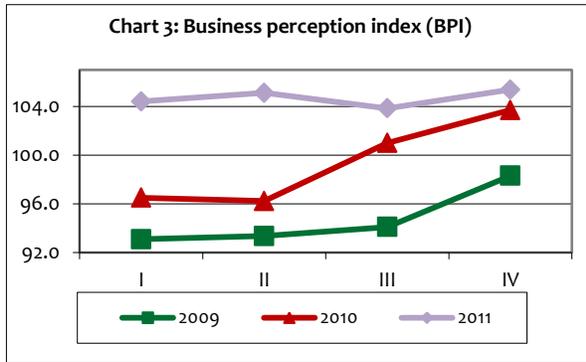
Business confidence rose significantly in 2011 when compared to 2010, as the current economic index, the short term future index,

and the business perception index, all increased by, respectively, 7.9 percentage points to 106.1, 0.7 percentage point to 107.0, and 4.8 percentage points to 106.5 (Annex 1). However, it should be noted that the fourth quarter of 2011 survey results of the BPS revealed that the business' sentiment about the economic conditions for the following six months fell by 1.8 percentage points to 105.4, in comparison to the corresponding period in 2010 (Chart 2 and Annex 1).



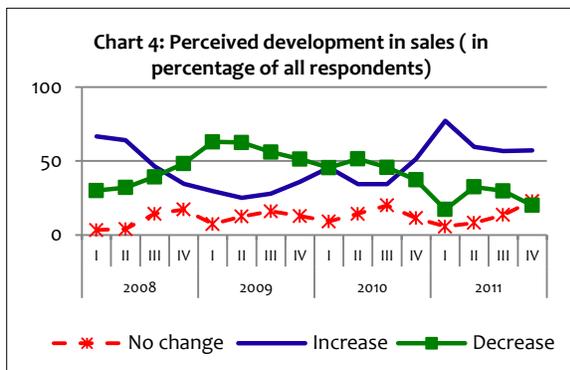
During the fourth quarter, whereas the real estate sector outsoared its peers in optimism, the utility industry became increasingly pessimistic about both current and future economic conditions, when compared to the third quarter of 2011. Another sector with a positive outlook for the following 6 months is the construction industry, reporting a 15 percentage points gain in optimism (Annex 3).

In the quarter under review, the overall Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising



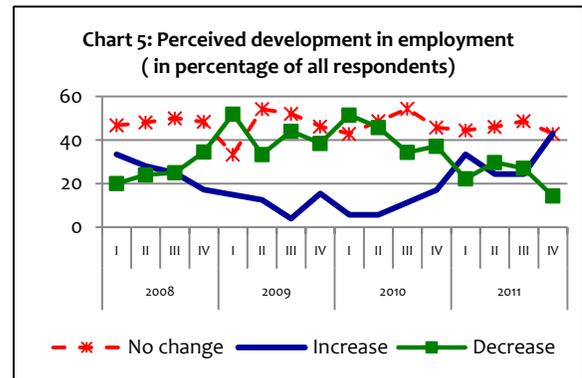
the current and short-term perceptions, rose to 105.4, up from 103.8 during the previous quarter (Chart 3). On an annual basis, the BPI strengthened as well by 4.8 percentage points to 106.5.

57.2 percent of respondents indicated an increase in sales, compared to 51.4 percent in the same quarter of 2010 (Chart 4). 42.8 percent of the firms surveyed noted increases in staffing, as employment grew up to 10.1 percent. Expansion of employment occurred mostly in the wholesale and retail trade sectors (Annex 7).



The survey's questions on profitability provides findings that reflect the positive sentiment felt by businesses about the current economic conditions, as 77.8 percent of the respondents reported that profits were observed (annex 7). The greatest profit surges

were noted in the wholesale and retail trade sectors.



All in all, despite the slight fall in optimism within several industries, companies continue to maintain a positive outlook on the economy. 2011 witnessed the highest level of confidence since 2004, and excelled above the dips in 2008 and 2009 (Annex 8).

Centrale Bank van Aruba
May 4, 2012

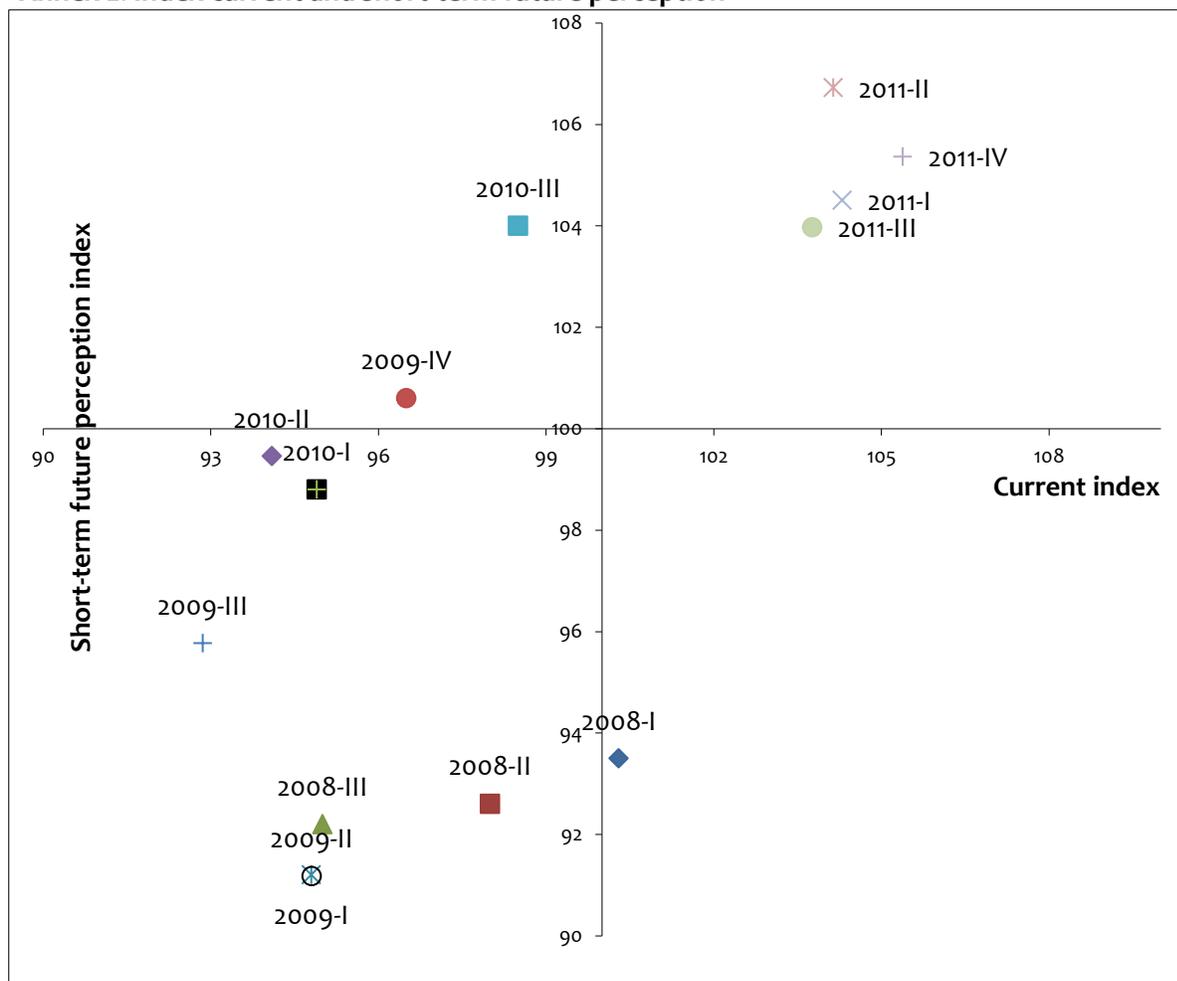
Annex 1: Response rate and indices 1]

	2009	2010	2011	2009				2010				2011			
				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	54.0	48.0	50.00	78.0	69.6	69.8	74.47	76.1	77.9	78.7	78.7	76.1
b. Average non-response rate	24.0	30.0	23.9	46.0	52.0	50.00	22.0	30.4	30.2	31.91	23.9	22.1	21.3	21.3	23.9
2. Indices															
a. Index current economic condition	94.6	98.2	106.1	94.8	93.8	92.9	96.5	94.8	94.1	98.5	100.6	104.3	104.1	103.8	105.4
b. Index short-term future economic condition	98.2	106.3	107.0	91.2	92.9	95.8	100.6	99.0	99.5	104.0	107.2	104.5	106.7	104.0	105.4
c. Business Perception Index	96.0	101.7	106.5	93.1	93.4	94.1	98.3	96.5	96.2	101.0	103.7	104.4	105.1	103.8	105.4

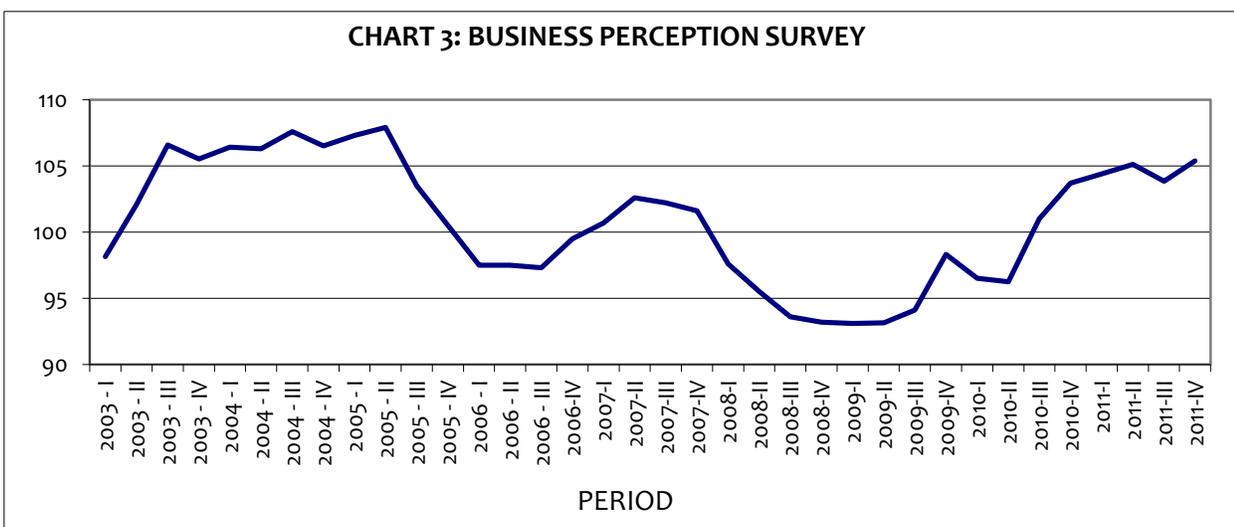
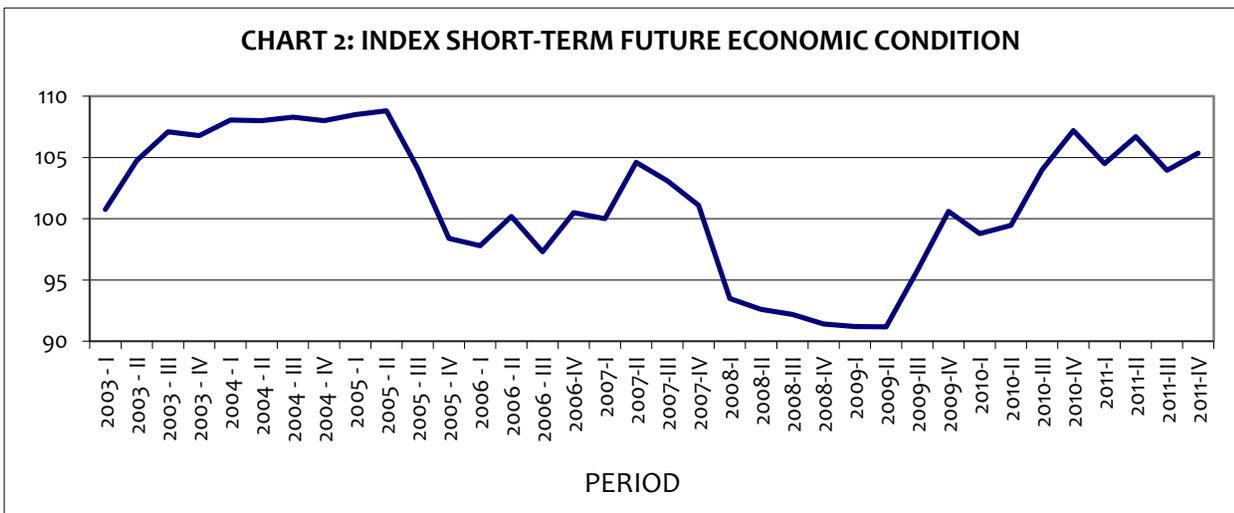
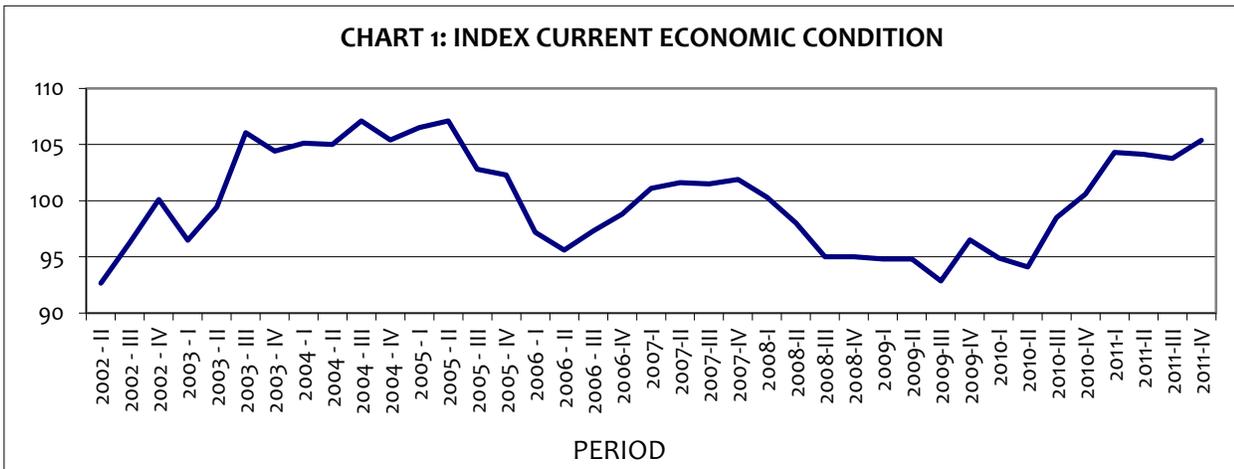
Source: CBA.

- 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



Annex 3: Business perception Survey (by sectors)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2010				2011			
					I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Index current economic condition	96.8	94.6	98.2	106.1	94.8	94.1	98.5	100.6	104.3	104.1	103.8	105.4
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	95.0	95.0	105.0	110.0	96.7	90.0	103.3	100.0	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	90.0	90.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	90.0	110.0	110.0	90.0	90.0	110.0	100.0
c. Construction	98.0	101.7	92.0	105.6	96.0	96.7	94.6	96.0	98.6	104.5	105.0	103.3
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	98.3	95.3	97.3	108.1	91.3	92.0	96.2	100.7	105.0	107.3	106.8	108.7
e. Hotels and restaurants	92.5	92.2	110.0	108.5	105.0	95.0	102.0	110.0	108.2	110.0	103.8	105.7
f. Transport, storage and communication	94.0	91.3	91.4	110.0	92.9	96.2	96.0	94.0	108.2	105.6	110.0	105.0
g. Financial intermediation	96.7	98.6	97.5	110.0	93.6	95.0	96.7	95.7	104.5	105.0	108.0	102.5
h. Real estate and other business activities	102.7	94.0	97.3	97.5	93.3	93.1	106.0	103.3	98.6	96.0	90.0	102.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	96.7	91.3	98.8	102.2	92.7	91.7	95.3	100.7	105.0	102.6	99.6	103.7
2. Index short-term future economic condition	91.6	98.2	106.3	107.0	99.0	99.5	104.0	107.2	104.5	106.7	104.0	105.4
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	90.0	100.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	110.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply	90.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	100.0	100.0	110.0	110.0	100.0
c. Construction	90.0	94.0	110.0	110.0	101.4	96.7	103.3	110.0	106.7	110.0	95.0	110.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	94.0	100.0	105.3	107.6	99.4	97.3	96.0	106.0	110.0	110.0	108.8	108.6
e. Hotels and restaurants	90.0	103.3	106.7	102.5	110.0	106.0	107.5	108.0	95.0	110.0	96.7	107.1
f. Transport, storage and communication	91.8	94.6	108.0	105.6	90.0	100.0	100.0	108.0	110.0	106.7	110.0	102.5
g. Financial intermediation	90.0	102.0	105.6	110.0	100.0	106.0	110.0	106.0	110.0	110.0	107.8	105.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	94.6	102.5	110.0	110.0	93.3	93.1	106.0	103.3	98.6	100.0	94.0	110.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	90.0	94.0	99.1	102.2	92.7	91.7	95.3	100.7	105.0	102.6	99.6	103.7
3. Business Perception Index	94.1	96.0	101.7	106.5	96.5	96.2	101.0	103.7	104.4	105.1	103.8	105.4
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	92.5	95.0	106.7	110.0	96.7	90.0	106.7	103.3	110.0	105.0	105.0	110.0
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	90.0	100.0	110.0	110.0	102.5	100.0	110.0	110.0	90.0	95.0	110.0	100.0
c. Construction	94.0	97.4	99.4	106.7	98.2	96.7	98.2	102.2	102.3	105.4	100.0	106.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	96.4	97.3	100.8	107.9	95.6	94.8	96.1	103.3	107.4	108.5	107.8	108.6
e. Hotels and restaurants	91.2	93.8	108.8	106.2	107.1	99.2	104.4	109.1	102.6	110.0	101.6	106.2
f. Transport, storage and communication	92.9	92.9	98.3	108.1	91.7	97.6	97.8	101.0	108.9	106.0	110.0	103.8
g. Financial intermediation	94.3	100.0	101.8	110.0	94.6	99.2	104.3	101.8	107.0	107.5	107.9	104.7
h. Real estate and other business activities	98.3	97.8	103.3	103.3	95.3	95.3	105.8	107.3	99.6	97.8	92.0	105.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	92.4	92.4	98.9	104.0	93.0	92.1	97.5	101.9	103.3	103.1	100.5	103.3

Source: CBA.

Annex 5: Survey questionnaire for the fourth quarter of 2011
(as a percentage of the total)

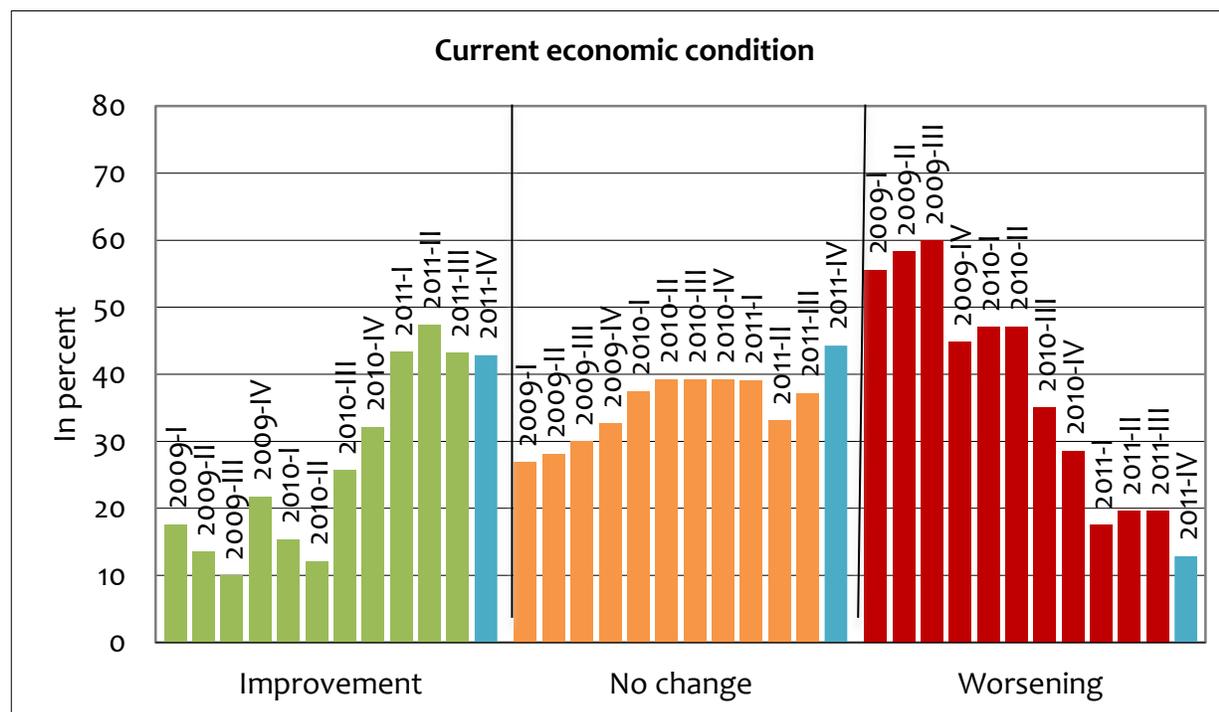
	Improvement	No change	Worsening
A. Current economic condition 1]	42.9	44.3	12.9
1. The economic conditions in Aruba	54.3	37.1	8.6
2. The activities of your business	54.3	31.4	14.3
3. The investments of your business	25.7	60.0	14.3
4. The number of employees that work for your company	37.1	48.6	14.3
B. Expected short-term economic conditions 2]	30.7	60.0	9.3
1. The economic conditions in Aruba	25.7	48.6	25.7
2. The activities of your business	42.9	48.6	8.6
3. The investments of your business	37.1	60.0	2.9
4. The number of employees that work for your company	17.1	82.9	0.0

Source: CBA.

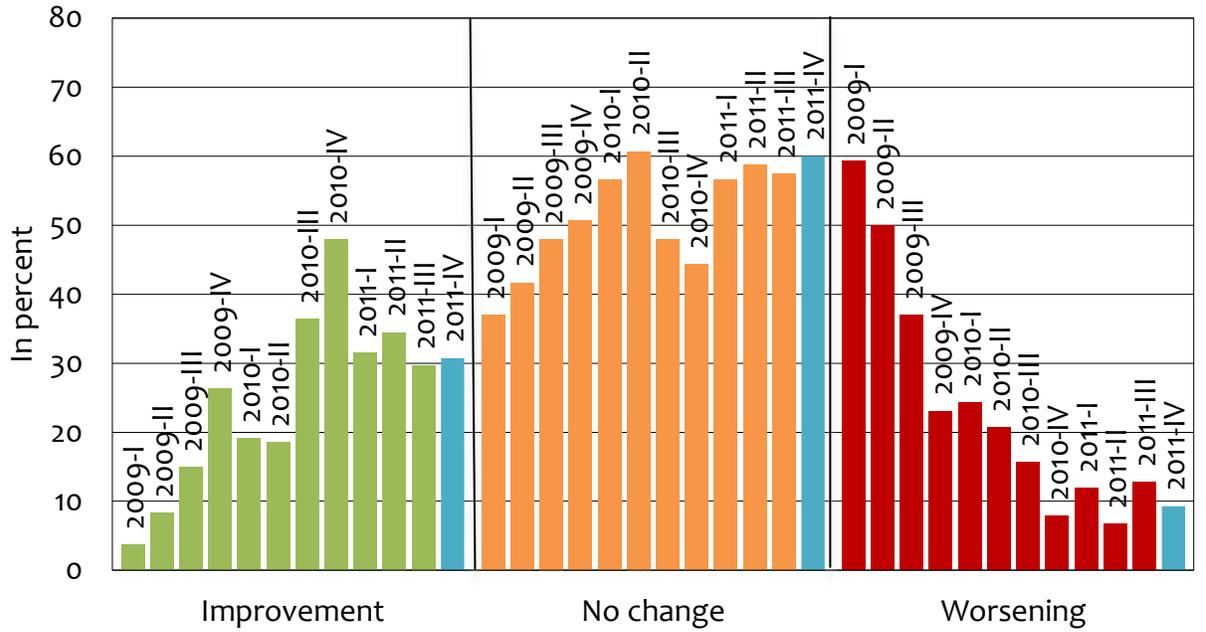
1] Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2010.

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)**



Anex 7: Economic indicators by sector (2011-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	42.9	5.7	0.0	8.6	37.1	5.7	0.0
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	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	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	2.9	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	8.6	0.0	0.0	2.9	5.7	0.0	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	8.6	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	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	11.4	0.0	0.0	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
2. A. Profitability (profits), in percentages of all responding sectors	25.0	5.6	0.0	13.9	19.4	8.3	5.6
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	5.6	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	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Construction	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	2.8	2.8
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	5.6	2.8	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	2.8	0.0	0.0
h. Real estate and other business activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	5.6	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
2. B. Profitability (losses), in percentages of all responding sectors	11.1	0.0	2.8	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
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	2.8	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	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.8	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	0.0	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	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: CBA.

Anex 7: Economic indicators by sector (2011-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	22.9	8.6	2.9	8.6	11.4	22.9	22.9
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7
b. Electricity, gas and water supply, manufacture of refined petroleum products	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Construction	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
d. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	5.7	5.7
e. Hotels and restaurants	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9	0.0	8.6	2.9
f. Transport, storage and communication	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	2.9	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9
h. Real estate and other business activities	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	8.6	2.9	0.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
4. Average wage costs, in percentages of all responding sectors	22.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	42.9	20.0	5.7
a. Manufacturing (excl. manufacture of refined petroleum products)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	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	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	5.7	5.7	2.9
e. Hotels and restaurants	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	5.7	0.0
f. Transport, storage and communication	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	2.9	0.0
g. Financial intermediation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	2.9
h. Real estate and other business activities	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0
i. Health, other community and personal service activities	11.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	5.7	2.9	0.0

Source: CBA.

