



CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

Statistical News Release

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The official reserves of the Centrale Bank van Aruba increased by Afl. 113.7 million during the first quarter of 2016

In the first quarter of 2016, foreign exchange transactions settled through the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) resulted in a net purchase of Afl. 71.2 million in foreign exchange, which was Afl. 53.1 million higher than in the first quarter of 2015. This increase was attributed mainly to a growth of Afl. 126.6 million in net purchases of the foreign exchange from commercial banks. On the other hand, the net sales of foreign exchange to the government amounted to Afl. 57.4 million, compared to the net purchases of foreign exchange of Afl. 12.7 million in corresponding quarter of 2015. Net purchases of foreign exchange from other clients fell by Afl. 3.4 million. As a consequence, the official reserves of the CBA, including other changes not related to foreign exchange transactions, increased by Afl. 113.7 million to Afl. 1,593.6 million at the end of March 2016 (see Table 1).

Tabel 1: Factors affecting CBA's official reserves¹

(in Afl. million)

	2014-Q1	2015-Q1	2016-Q1
I. Reserves at beginning of period	1,192.9	1,239.8	1,479.9
II. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	21.9	18.1	71.2
<i>Of which from/to:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	15.6	0.7	127.3
2. Government	-0.2	12.7	-57.4
3. Other clients	6.5	4.7	1.3
III. Other changes ²	29.2	2.9	42.5
IV. Reserves at ending of period (I+II+III)	1,244.0	1,260.8	1,593.6
V. Change in official reserves during period (IV-I)	51.1	21.0	113.7

Source: CBA.

¹ Including valuation changes.

² Include valuation changes refer to revaluation of gold, foreign exchange and security holdings and statistical differences.

The CBA's total foreign exchange purchases grew by Afl. 56.4 million to Afl. 236.6 million in the first quarter of 2016, compared to the same period of 2015 (see Table 2). This increase was attributed mainly to an Afl. 112.3 million growth in foreign exchange purchases from the commercial banks. On the other hand, foreign exchange purchases from other clients declined by Afl. 1.6 million to Afl. 4.8 million. In the quarter under review, there were no purchases of foreign exchange from the government, as the government did not issue bonds on the international capital market during this quarter, compared to the same quarter of 2015.

Total foreign exchange sales of the CBA grew by Afl. 3.3 million to Afl. 165.4 million. This rise was mainly caused by the foreign exchange sales to the government of Afl. 15.8 million, of which Afl 7.8 million was associated with the funding of its notified foreign account. In addition, foreign sales of foreign exchange to other clients increased by Afl. 1.8 million. On the other hand, foreign exchange sales to the commercial banks declined by Afl. 14.3 million to Afl. 104.5 million.

Table 2: Foreign exchange transactions

(in Afl. million)

	2014-Q1	2015-Q1	2016-Q1
I. Total purchases of foreign exchange	353.0	180.2	236.6
<i>Of which from:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	170.3	119.5	231.8
2. Government	174.0	54.3	0.0
3. Other clients	8.7	6.4	4.8
II. Total sales of foreign exchange	331.1	162.1	165.4
<i>Of which to:</i>			
1. Commercial banks	154.7	118.8	104.5
2. Government	174.2	41.6	57.4
3. Other clients	2.2	1.7	3.5
III. Net purchases/sales (-) of foreign exchange	21.9	18.1	71.2
IV. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to commercial banks	15.6	0.7	127.3
V. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to government	-0.2	12.7	-57.4
VI. Net purchases/sales (-) from/to other clients	6.5	4.7	1.3
	21.9	18.1	71.2

Source: CBA.