

CONSUMERS WERE MORE PESSIMISTIC IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024: PRICE HIKES REMAIN A MAJOR CONCERN

Press release

Results for the first quarter of 2024

Consumers were more pessimistic, as consumer confidence index fell by 0.7 index point to 94.3 in the first quarter of 2024. (Chart 1)¹.

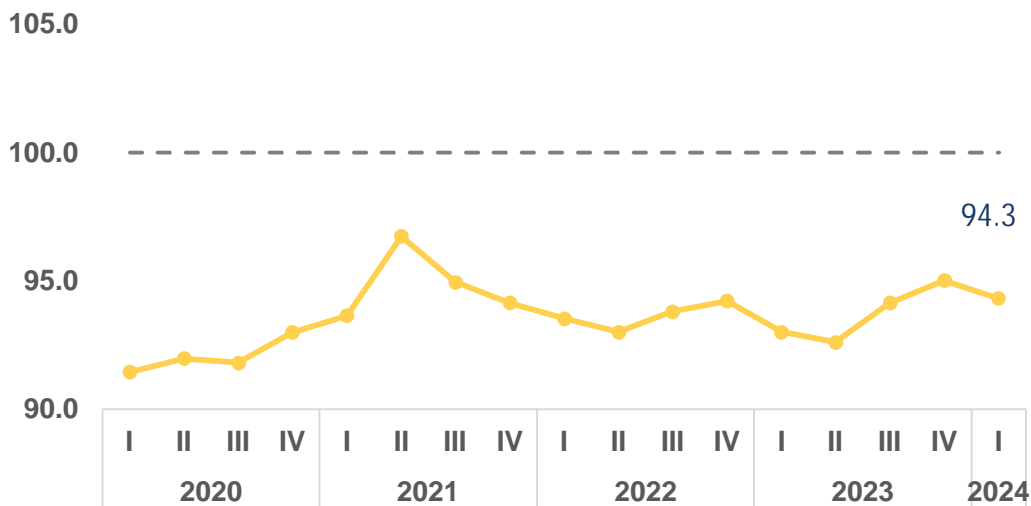
In the first quarter of 2024, notwithstanding a buoyant tourism economy, almost all respondents (98 percent) indicated that they expect prices to be higher in the next 6 months (Q4-2023: 90 percent).

Consumers were mainly concerned about weakening business and economic conditions (Q1-2024: 47 percent, Q4-2023: 41 percent) and finding a new job becoming more difficult (Q1-2024: 39 percent, Q4-2023: 34 percent).

Both the present situation index and the future expectation index declined, i.e., by 0.9 index point to 94.6 and 0.8 index point to 94.8, respectively, in the first quarter of 2024.

The consumption and borrowing habits index fell by 0.4 index point, i.e., from 94.9 to 94.5 in the first quarter of 2024.

Chart 1: Consumer Confidence Index



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.



More information on the Consumer Confidence survey is available on CBA's website (<https://www.cbaruba.org/>).

Centrale Bank van Aruba
June 5, 2024



About the Centrale Bank van Aruba

The main purpose of the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) is to contribute to financial stability and the economic well-being of the Aruban community. The CBA accomplishes this by implementing an effective monetary policy aimed towards maintaining the fixed value of the florin vis à vis the U.S. dollar, 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 oversees the spending thereof.

For more information on the Centrale Bank van Aruba, please visit our website www.cbaruba.org
