



**Overview tourism receipts in the Balance of
Payments of Aruba**

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Tourism in BOP

- Tourism is the main pillar of the Aruban economy
- Travel cover in the BOP of Aruba registered tourism receipts from transactions in foreign currency, traveller's cheques/ wire transfers and credit card as recorded by the foreign exchange banks, as well as resident enterprises holding accounts with foreign banks/ foreign affiliates
- Tourism has not only brought foreign currency to Aruba, but also large hotel chains and many immigrant workers from neighboring countries who work there

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- Share of tourism receipts accounted for the year 2008 84 percent in the total service credits (2007: 84 percent, 2006: 81 percent, 2005: 83 percent)
 - Tourism receipts cover goods and services acquired for own use or to give away from an economy by nonresidents during visits to that economy
 - The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) registered tourism receipts in their balance of payments statistics
 - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) also compiled tourist data – tourism expenditure.
 - The tourism expenditure (demand) measures the total amount of money tourist visiting Aruba spent

Method of compilation tourism receipts versus tourism expenditure

Tourism receipts (CBA)

- Source: - ITRS (data reported by the foreign exchange banks)
 - Reported foreign accounts held by resident enterprises
- Registered all payment for tourism related product (including purchases by cruise visitors)
- Cash based (moments of payment)
- Payment method: - travellers's cheques/ wire transfers
 - credit card
 - foreign currency

Tourism expenditure

- Source: Tourist survey
- Measures the total amount of money tourists visiting Aruba spent in that quarter on tourism related goods and services (cruise visitors are excluding)
- Accrual bases – record flows at the time economic value is created
- The total tourism expenditure is calculated by taking the daily average expenditure multiplied by the average length of stay of the visitors and by the number of stay over visitors

Table 1
Tourism receipts - tourism expenditure
(In Afl. million)

	Tourism receipts CBA	Tourism expenditure CBS	CBA -CBS
2000	1,444.6	1,319.3	125.3
2001	1,460.1	1,323.3	136.8
2002	1,480.6	1,170.8	309.8
2003	1,520.7	1,159.0	361.7
2004	1,882.8	1,454.2	428.6
2005	1,952.6	1,467.7	484.9
2006	1,924.1	1,283.7	640.4
2007	2,248.3	1,317.2	931.1
2008	2,523.6	1,536.0	987.6

Table 2
Trends tourism receipts - tourism expenditure
(In Afl. million)

	Tourism receipts		Tourism expenditure	
	CBA	(t1 - t0) in %	CBS	(t1 - t0) in %
2000	1,444.6	12%	1,319.3	11%
2001	1,460.1	1%	1,323.3	0%
2002	1,480.6	1%	1,170.8	-12%
2003	1,520.7	3%	1,159.0	-1%
2004	1,882.8	24%	1,454.2	25%
2005	1,952.6	4%	1,467.7	1%
2006	1,924.1	-1%	1,283.7	-13%
2007	2,248.3	17%	1,317.2	3%
2008	2,523.6	12%	1,536.0	17%

Table 3
Components of tourism receipts
(In Afl. million)

	Cheques/ Transfers	Credit card	Cash	Total
1999	513.9	505.8	270.4	1,290.1
2000	544.3	603.5	296.8	1,444.6
2001	503.9	651.6	304.6	1,460.1
2002	434.2	737.2	309.2	1,480.6
2003	463.5	738.9	318.3	1,520.7
2004	566.2	969.7	346.9	1,882.8
2005	480.9	1,109.5	362.2	1,952.6
2006	496.8	1,091.0	336.3	1,924.1
2007	579.1	1,361.2	308.0	2,248.3
2008	559.9	1,544.5	419.2	2,523.6

Table 4

Components of tourism receipts
(In percentages)

	Cheques/ Transfers	Credit card	Cash	Total
1999	40%	39%	21%	100%
2000	38%	42%	21%	100%
2001	35%	45%	21%	100%
2002	29%	50%	21%	100%
2003	30%	49%	21%	100%
2004	30%	52%	18%	100%
2005	25%	57%	19%	100%
2006	26%	57%	17%	100%
2007	26%	61%	14%	100%
2008	22%	61%	17%	100%

Concluding remarks

- The difference in registration in these two methods makes a straight comparison of the two figures difficult
- On the basis of the CBA figures on tourism receipts can only deduce the amount of money Aruba received from tourism related goods and services within that period. Nothing can be concluded about the number of person(s) that paid for these goods and services and were they were consumed
- The tourism demand figures from the CBS, on the other hand, are directly related to the period the goods and services were consumed, but no conclusions can be drawn from the CBS figures as to when the payments for these products were really received
- As shown in the table 1, the discrepancy in the past two years between these sources has grown to the extend that is start raising question on the quality of these statistics

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- A workgroup consisting of staff members of CBA and CBS has been installed to discuss this issue
 - The CBA has recently started with an in depth research on credit card book entries in the foreign exchange report. For this purpose an framework has been designed that will be used as a tool for discussion during the meetings on this issue with the foreign exchange banks.



Thank you!