

Pressrelease: CBS presents Foreign Trade Statistics for the fourth quarter of 2011

Oranjestad, 2 April 2012

Merchandise trade values fall in most major economies in fourth quarter of 2011 for the world. (WTO)

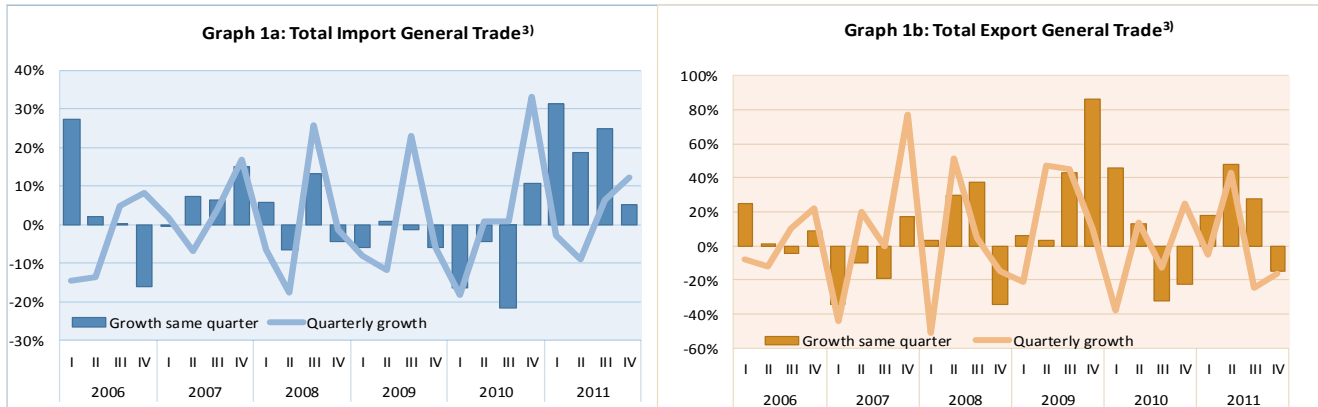
Merchandise trade contracted in most major economies in the fourth quarter of 2011. Total imports of G7¹⁾ and BRICS²⁾ countries shrank by 0.2%, following the 0.7% fall recorded in the previous quarter. Total exports fell 1.2% compared to a 0.9% increase in the previous quarter.

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR ARUBA: FOURTH QUARTER 2011

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the following developments have been registered in the international merchandise flows of Aruba.

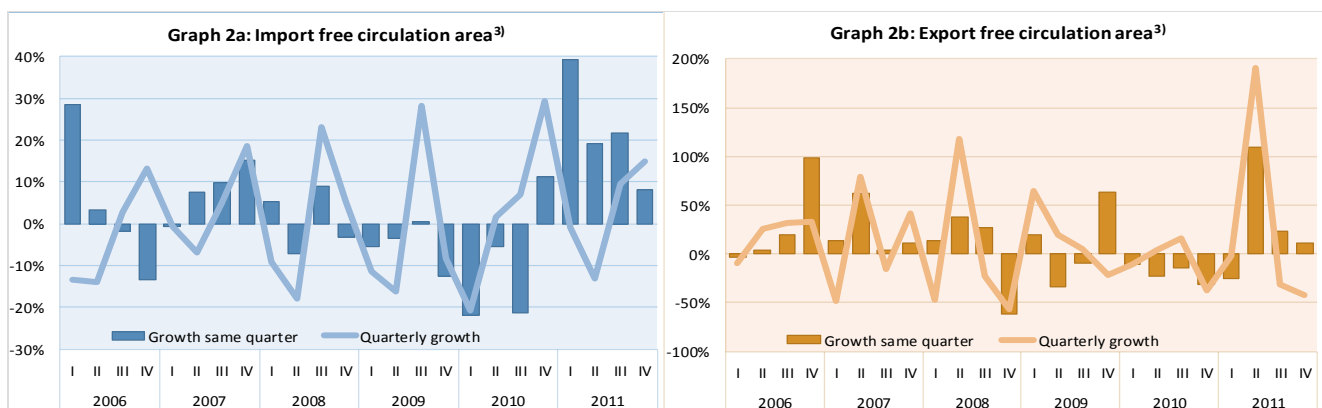
Trends in total Import and Export³⁾

During the fourth quarter of 2011 Aruba imported a total value of Afl. 586 million from the rest of the world. This represent an increase of 5.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Total exports from Aruba decreased by 14% during the fourth quarter of 2011 compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The total value of export during this quarter was Afl.54 million. (Graph 1a-b)

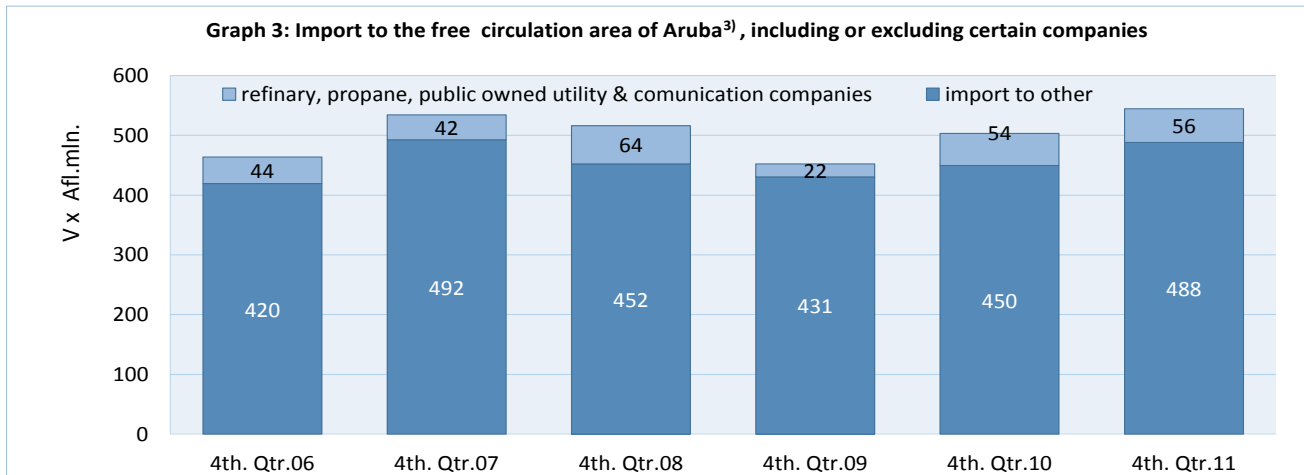


Merchandise trade in the free circulation area of Aruba³⁾

In the fourth quarter of 2011 import to the free circulation area of Aruba increased with 8.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The value of import to this area was Afl. 544 million in the fourth quarter of 2011. The value of export from that same area increased with 11% compared to the same quarter of 2010, reaching a level of Afl. 8.8 million. (Graph 2a-b)

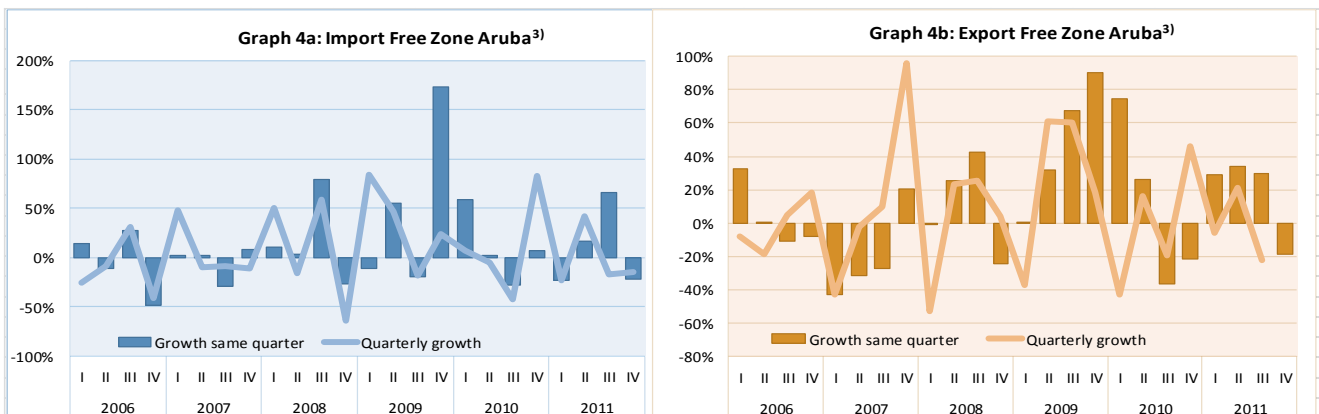


In the following graph (graph 3), the import to the free circulation area of Aruba during the fourth quarters from 2006 till 2011 is illustrated. The import to some big companies⁴⁾ in Aruba fluctuates a lot. Therefore the import to those companies is combined and separated from the "import to other" to illustrate this fluctuation.

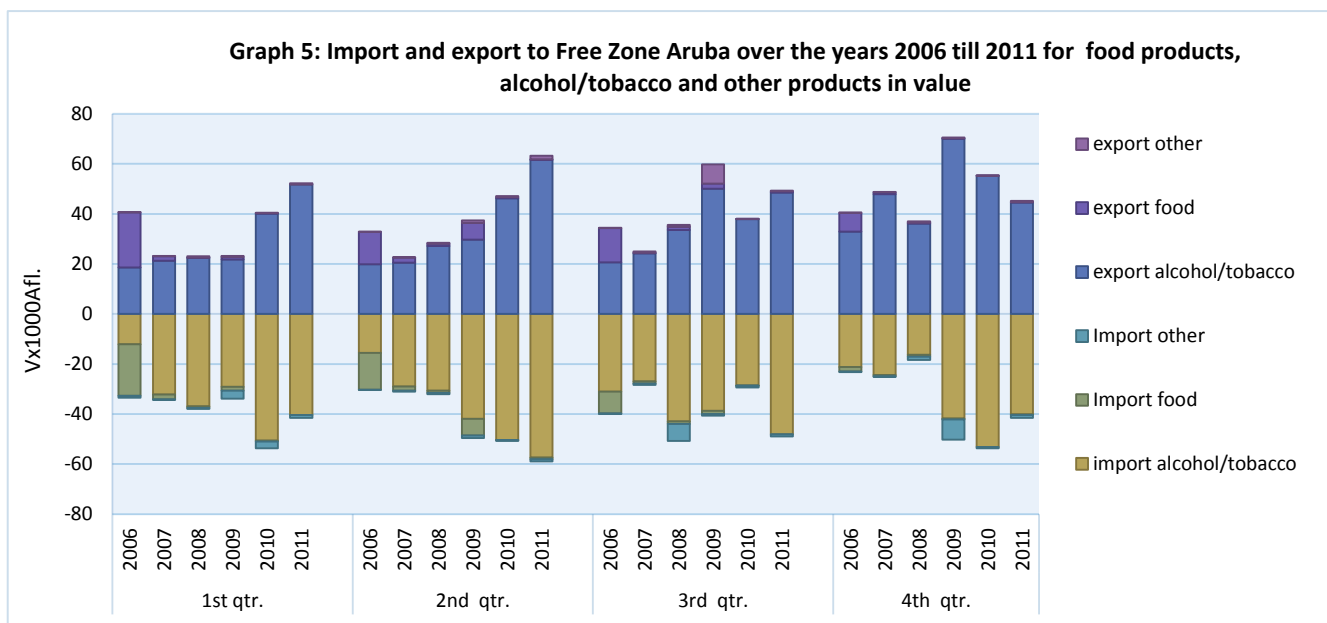


Import and export to the Free Zone of Aruba³⁾

The value of import to the Free Zone of Aruba for the fourth quarter of 2011 was Afl. 42 million. This represents a decrease of 22.6% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The value of export from that same area decreased with 18% compared to the same quarter of 2010, reaching a level of Afl. 45 million. (Graph 4a-b)



The following graph (graph 5) illustrates clearly the huge fluctuations in import and export for the free zone during the past 6 years. For illustrative purposes import values are noted in negative values. The sectors of "food and alcohol/tobacco" are the most important products to be imported and exported in the FreeZone.



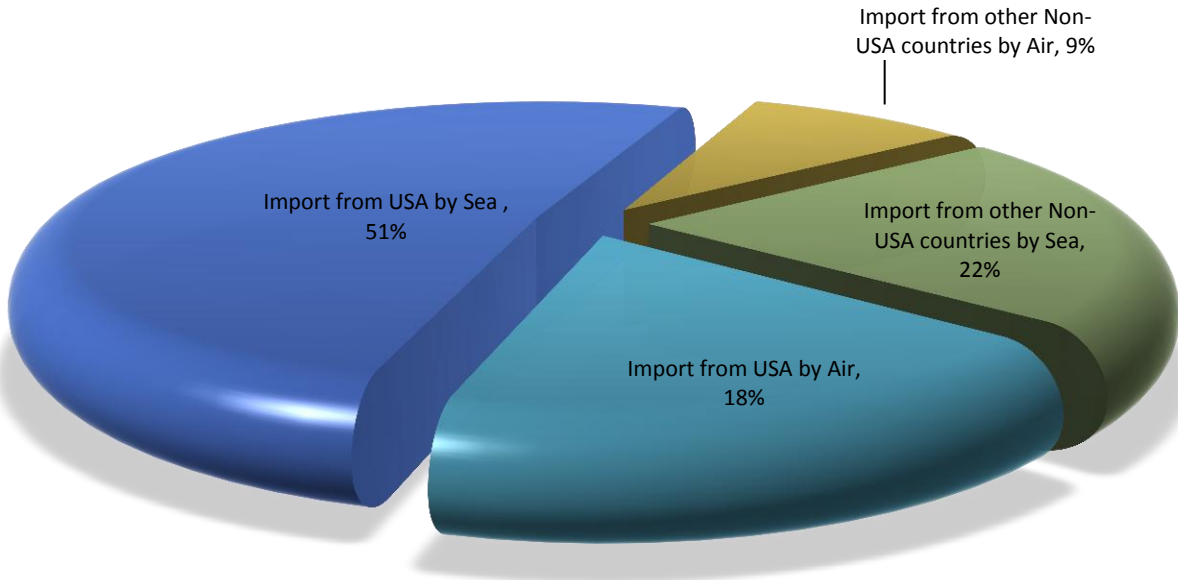
Import to the free circulation area of Aruba³⁾ from USA and Non-USA countries by type of transportation

An analysis of the transportation type used to import goods in Aruba indicated that for the fourth quarter of 2011, 73% of imports were by sea and 27% by air⁵⁾.

The USA had a share of 69% in imports to Aruba. From this share 51% was by sea, while 18% was by air⁵⁾. (Graph 6)

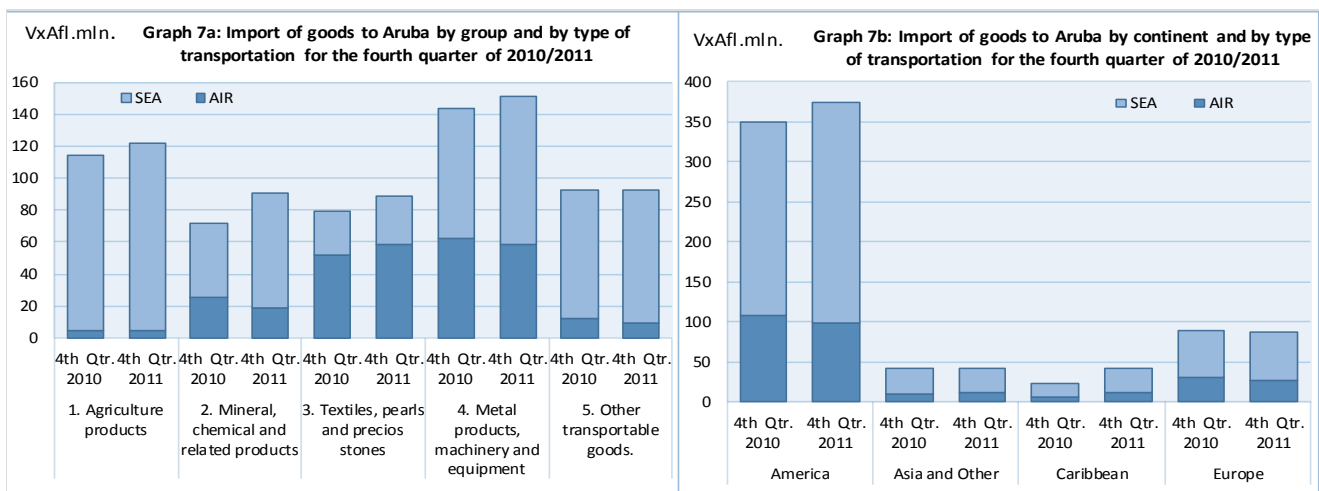
Other customs information for the fourth quarter of 2011 indicated that the total number of containers⁶⁾ entering the free circulation area increased with 10%, 4140 containers during the fourth quarter of 2011 compare to 4043 containers in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Graph 6: Import to Aruba³⁾ by type of transportation for the fourth quarter of 2011



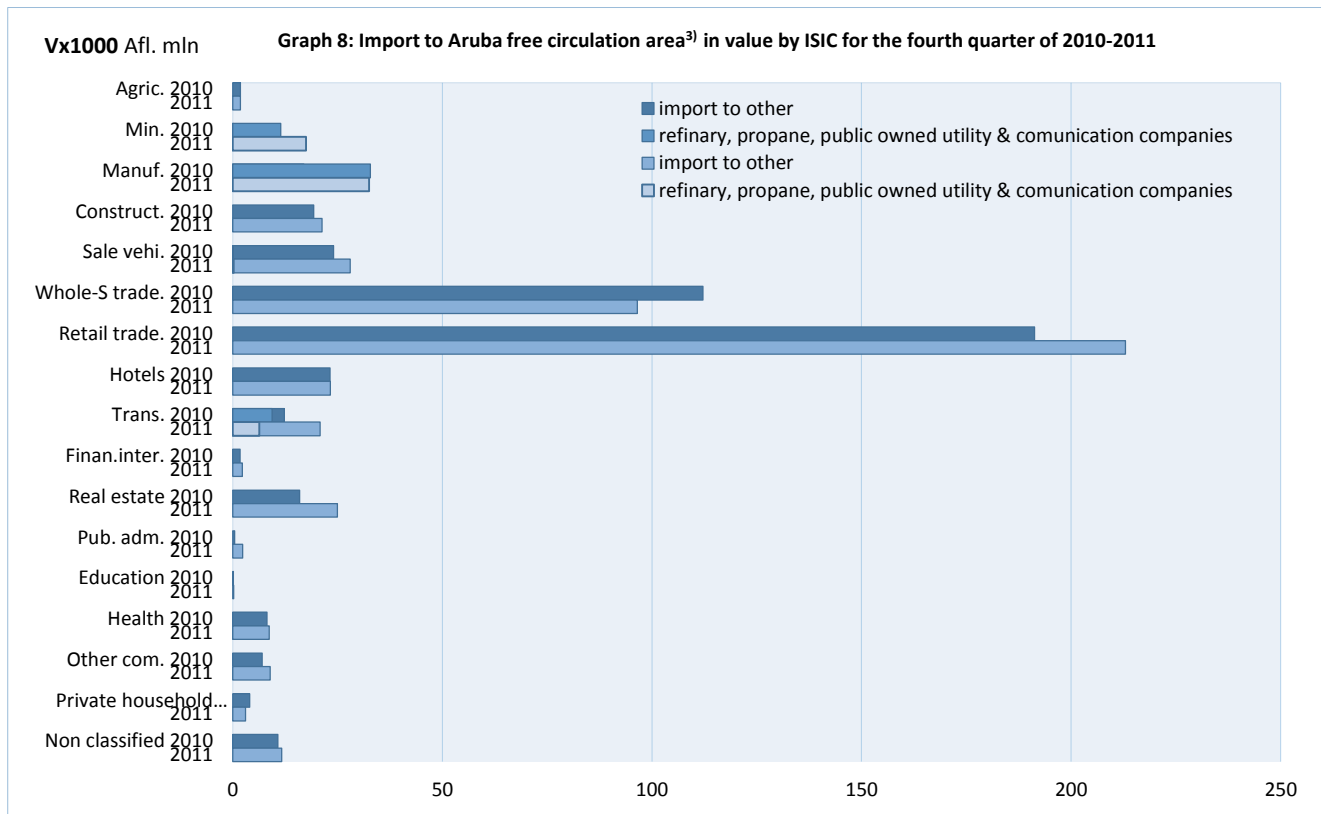
Import to the free circulation area of Aruba³⁾ by Group, Continent and type of transportation

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the value of import to the free circulation area of Aruba for air transport⁴⁾ was Afl.150 million which represent a decrease of 3.9%. For sea transportation the value of import to the free circulation area of Aruba was Afl.395 million and represent an increase of 13.6%. The increase/decrease in import, both by air and sea, is directly related to import belonging to the category " Mineral, chemical and related products". The continent of America remains the main import trade partner for transport of goods by air⁴⁾ as well as by sea. (Graph 7a-7b)



Import to the free circulation area of Aruba³⁾ by type of import according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)

The following graph represent import to the free circulation area of Aruba by Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC). The industrial branch of which the import increased the most for the fourth quarter of 2011 was "Retail trade and repair of goods", increased by 5% during the year of 2011 reaching a value of 213 million, compared to the same quarter of the previous a year. This was mainly caused by an increase in import of jewelry. (Graph 8).



¹⁾G7 countries comprise Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States

²⁾BRICS countries comprise Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa

³⁾Import and Export for years 2006 & 2008 excluding all mineral fuels, years 2009-2011 excluding **only** crude oil, kerosene, gasoline, gas, propane & butane

⁴⁾"refinery (VALERO), propane (ARUGAS), public owned utility (WEB & ELMAR) & communication companies (SETAR)" refers to the companies established on Aruba

⁵⁾All transactions taking place at the custom office at the airport are considered as air-transport.

⁶⁾Total containers reflect all container sizes including empty containers.