

ECONOMIC CENSUS 2014

Your response makes the difference

Exact and actual data is essential for companies, foundations and any other institution that carries out an economic activity. With this data, strategic plans can be implemented and responsible and sustainable policies can be formulated. In a changing economic environment like Aruba's, the availability of exact and updated data determines the success of any institution that carries out an economic activity.

Why an Economic Census?

To collect the necessary data, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) will organize an Economic Census from **September to November 2014** to be able to provide the private and the public sector with reliable and actual data. Institutions that carry out an economic activity will be asked to provide, among others, data on their economic activity, their number of employees and vacancies, and the total sum of wages and salaries paid to these employees. In addition, the institutions will be asked to report on their contribution to the tourism sector and data on several other specific topics will also be gathered.

The last Economic Census carried out by CBS was in 2003, so some of you may already be familiar with the approach. The purpose of the Economic Census is twofold. A snapshot is obtained of all physical entities that are active on the island and a comparison with past similar exercises enables the CBS to determine the (long term) dynamics of entities. Furthermore, the data gathered helps the CBS in updating its business register, which is constantly maintained with information becoming available from several so-called secondary sources, such as the Chamber of Commerce. The ultimate goals of carrying out an Economic Census are too many to mention in this article. However, some to be mentioned are that it helps the CBS in increasing the accuracy to measure the economic activities taking place on the island (the Gross Domestic Product), the factors that contribute to these activities, the impact of tourism broken down by region and other economic variables, etc.

Next to these goals, the Economic Census ultimately enables the CBS to be able to report on economic data to international organizations (such as the World Bank and the United Nations) in accordance with the standards that are required internationally.

Gathering the data

The data will be gathered in two stages. During the first week of September 2014 a pilot phase will be carried out among a select group of companies to test the questionnaire and the procedures within CBS associated with processing the data. During the months of October and November 2014 the integral Census will take place. Approximately 35 interviewers will be divided among all regions on the island with the instruction to approach all entities where an economic activity takes place. The interviewer will ask the representative of the entity for an appointment to carry out the interview. It would be appreciated if the representative is well informed about the entity. Ideally the representative is the person in charge of the financial matters of the company.

Privacy

Participation in the Economic Census will not pose a threat to the privacy of your institution. The law protects all institutions against any kind of misuse of the data collected. It is punishable by law to pass on information of individual institutions to any person or institution, whether private or public. In order to guarantee the privacy of all institutions, the law stipulates that the data collected may only be published in an aggregated manner so that information provided by individual institutions cannot be discerned.

Your participation in the Economic Census is essential. It will allow us to continue providing you with actual and reliable economic data. The quality of the data collected is highly dependent on your cooperation. Therefore we urge you to cooperate with the Economic Census.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with the Economic Census 2014. For further information please feel free to contact the Central Bureau of Statistics, tel: 583 7433 or send an e-mail to ECensus@cbs.aw