

2nd Quarter 2015

Population figures CBS versus DBSB: why the discrepancy

Accurate, reliable and regular data on population size and basic population characteristics are essential for a country's well-functioning. Not only for general government purposes, but also to be used for well-planned decision making by governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as for the allocation of health services, utility services, and retail establishments and for the creation of time series statistics such as per capita income, births per capita and incidence rates of certain illnesses among other things.

Population change depends on three components: births, deaths and migration. In Aruba, population growth is highly dependent on migration. However an under-registration in migration events, mainly the number of emigrants, poses a disadvantage whether it is in estimating the intercensal population or keeping the population registry up-to-date.

As of the end of June 2015, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) estimated, in accordance with international standards, a total of 109,028 persons to be living on Aruba, while at the Population and Civil Registry Office (DBSB) a total of 117,657 persons were registered (table 1). The discrepancy of 8,629 persons between the estimated population by the CBS and the registered population is mainly attributed to poor compliance of individuals with regards to the registration of their arrival in Aruba and their departure to another country.

In addition, children born in Aruba to parents with a nationality other than the Dutch nationality, are registered in the Population Registry only after they are granted a residence permit¹. The birth certificates of these children are drawn up, but are kept merely as a civil registration. This explains the lower number of children of ages 0-4 years in the Population Registry compared to the CBS estimates (table 1).

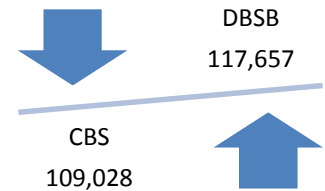


Table 1. Total estimated (CBS) and registered (DBSB) population by age and sex, 2nd Qtr 2015

	Estimate CBS, based on the 2010 Population and Housing Count (2010 Census)			Index (2010=100)	Registered at the Population and Civil Registry Office (DBSB)			Discrepancy CBS-DBSB
	Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
0-4 yrs.	3,366	3,204	6,570	58	3,197	3,035	6,232	-338
5-9 yrs.	3,551	3,348	6,899	-144	3,577	3,387	6,964	65
10-14 yrs.	3,651	3,525	7,175	-327	3,738	3,577	7,315	140
15-19 yrs.	3,809	3,733	7,542	239	3,833	3,821	7,654	112
20-24 yrs.	3,393	3,157	6,550	1,269	3,507	3,290	6,797	247
25-29 yrs.	3,008	3,114	6,121	641	3,399	3,490	6,889	768
30-34 yrs.	3,044	3,571	6,615	207	3,483	3,862	7,345	730
35-39 yrs.	3,287	3,945	7,233	-241	3,763	4,250	8,013	780
40-44 yrs.	3,738	4,323	8,061	-201	4,352	4,801	9,153	1,092
45-49 yrs.	3,963	4,674	8,637	-607	4,752	5,136	9,888	1,251
50-54 yrs.	4,370	5,022	9,392	983	5,135	5,547	10,682	1,290
55-59 yrs.	3,798	4,496	8,293	1,397	4,402	4,913	9,315	1,022
60-64 yrs.	3,063	3,607	6,670	1,534	3,444	3,837	7,281	611
65-69 yrs.	2,174	2,689	4,863	1,123	2,468	2,829	5,297	434
70-74 yrs.	1,482	1,901	3,382	448	1,636	1,933	3,569	187
75-79 yrs.	1,017	1,474	2,491	515	1,095	1,528	2,623	132
80-84 yrs.	570	929	1,498	403	587	950	1,537	39
85-89 yrs.	240	458	698	200	258	474	732	34
90-94 yrs.	75	170	245	28	74	161	235	-10
95+ yrs.	22	68	91	17	39	97	136	45
Total	51,621	57,407	109,028	7,544	56,739	60,918	117,657	8,629

Source: 2010 Population and Housing Count (CBS) and the Population and Civil Registry Office (DBSB)



The base for the population estimates by the CBS is the Population and Housing count (or popularly called 'Censo' or 'Census') and the registered population at the DBSB (also popularly called 'Censo') which is the actual officially registered number of persons in the official registry according to the National Decree on Population Registry. These are two different systems used for different purposes.

The census is held by the CBS and provides the demographic snapshot of a population at a given time and collects information on a wide range of issues. The Population Registry on the other hand is kept up-to-date by the DBSB and gives a picture of the population on specific information at any point in time.

The intercensal population estimates by the CBS are adjusted according to international guidelines by adjusting the number of emigrants based on the new population count during the intercensal years and the number of delayed birth recordings². Contrary to the census, the Population Registry is characterized by the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal nature of the registration of its records. Registration in the Population Registry is a major and critical element for establishing the essential rights and privileges of individuals in a population³. In spite of the compulsory nature of the registry, the cases of non-compliance affects the completeness of the registry and the mandate of the DBSB to keep the registry up-to-date.

The role of the census, other than providing a snapshot of the population at a given time, is to serve as a complementary source to the Population Registry⁴. Censuses need to be used to evaluate and enrich civil registration data³ and vice versa.

An up-to-date registry is key to reliable and timely information to other government agencies, such as the CBS, the AZV, the health department, electoral services and the general public.

Table 2. Live births by age of mother

	YTD		1 st Q 2015			2 nd Q 2015		
	2013	2014	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 15 yrs.	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19 yrs.	60	60	13	5	18	9	11	20
20-24 yrs.	152	164	40	29	69	34	27	61
25-29 yrs.	140	174	48	40	88	31	24	55
30-34 yrs.	129	174	34	27	61	27	38	65
35-39 yrs.	98	87	16	15	31	15	18	33
40-44 yrs.	24	25	4	4	8	1	5	6
45-49 yrs.	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
50+ yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	607	686	156	120	276	117	123	240

Source: Population Registry Office

Table 3. Deaths by age and sex

	YTD		1 st Q 2015			2 nd Q 2015		
	2013	2014	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 1 yrs.	3	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
1-49 yrs.	30	26	6	4	10	9	4	13
50-59 yrs.	40	30	10	8	18	12	5	17
60-69 yrs.	49	50	23	7	30	22	8	30
70-79 yrs.	80	74	16	11	27	26	14	40
80-89 yrs.	68	75	22	35	57	23	29	52
90+ yrs.	32	26	6	13	19	7	10	17
Total	302	284	84	78	162	99	70	169

Source: Population Registry Office

Table 4. Domiciliation by nationality and place of birth

	YTD		1 st Q 2015			2 nd Q 2015		
	2013	2014	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Dutch born in Aruba/N.A.	407	333	94	82	176	94	81	175
Dutch born in the Neth.	273	187	61	54	115	70	51	121
Dutch born elsewhere	116	101	29	32	61	31	30	61
Foreign-born	639	629	145	152	297	187	202	389
Unknown	33	18	3	4	7	1	4	5
Total	1,468	1,268	332	324	656	383	368	751

Source: Population Registry Office

Table 5. Departures by nationality and place of birth

	YTD		1 st Q 2015			2 nd Q 2015		
	2013	2014	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Dutch born in Aruba/N.A.	407	359	97	74	171	103	88	191
Dutch born in the Neth.	157	182	48	46	94	61	66	127
Dutch born elsewhere	118	123	22	38	60	23	40	63
Foreign-born	173	243	51	54	105	49	57	106
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	855	907	218	212	430	236	251	487

Source: Population Registry Office

1. art 22 lid 3 Landsbesluit Bevolkingsregister jo LTUV, National Decree on Population Registry in conjunction with National Decree on Admittance and Expulsion

2. United Nations (1952). *Manual I: Methods for estimating total population for current dates* (United Nations Publications, Sales No. 52.XIII.5).

3. United Nations (2014). *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System* (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, Statistical papers, Series M No. 19/Rev.3).

4. art. 5 Landsverordening Volkstellingen AB 1990 GT10, National Ordinance on Population and Housing Censuses