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# A note to the reader

The following report presents the price statistics for March 2021.

- The Central Bureau of Statistics made a series of improvements in October 2020 to keep the measures on changes in consumer prices as accurate and up to date as possible.
   Due to the implementation of these important changes in the calculation of the CPI, the CPI from June 2019 up to September 2020 were revised and corrected.
- At the end of March 2021 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows an increase of 0.6% compared to the end of February 2021. The sector which affected the CPI the most was "Household operation" (4.4%), which led to an effect of 0.40 percentage points (ppts) on the Δ CPI of March 2021 (0.6%).
- Compared to March 2020 the CPI decreased by 1.1%. The sector which affected the CPI the most was "Recreation and culture" (-4.5%), which led to an effect of -0.46 ppts.
- The period average inflation for the period March 2020 March 2021 is -2.3%, which is 5.9 ppts lower compared to the period average inflation for the period March 2019 March 2020 (3.6%).
- Utilities (Water and Electricity) did not register price changes in March 2021. The price of gasoline registered an increase of 6.4% in March 2021 and had an effect of 0.26 ppts on the Δ CPI of March 2021. The price of diesel registered an increase of 7.8% in March 2021 and had an effect of 0.02 ppts on the Δ CPI of March 2021.

This report is divided in 7 sections. An overview of the monthly percentage changes in the CPI and index per sector is presented in section 1. Section 2 provides the yearly percentage changes in the CPI and index per sector. The development of indices of main sectors and utilities is outlined in section 3. Section 4 presents the percentage change in the CPI of Aruba's major trading partners and compares the CPI of Aruba and the USA. Section 5 presents an overview of the monthly and yearly percentage changes of the core inflation. Section 6 presents the price movements in food & catering services. The development of the subsistence level is presented in section 7 and is followed by the appendices.

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# 1 Monthly change of the CPI

#### 1.1 CPI and Inflation

The CPI of the total population of Aruba for the month of March 2021 is 97.59; an increase of 0.6% compared to the CPI of February 2021 (97.00). An overview of the percentage change in the CPI ( $\Delta$  CPI) for different periods during 2020 and 2021 is shown in Table 1. The terms percentage change in the CPI and "inflation" (deflation) are considered similar and are used interchangeably. The deflation over the last 12 months (end of period inflation) is -1.1%, while the deflation over a period of 24 months (period average inflation) is -2.3%.

Table 1: Overview of △ CPI

		% Changes		Ind	ex
Period	iod		2021 2020		Last
Monthly	Feb - Mar	0.6	-0.2	97.59	97.00
Year-to-date	Dec - Mar	0.5	-1.5	97.59	97.06
Last 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Mar - Mar	-1.1	0.7	97.59	98.67
Last 24 months <sup>2</sup>	Mar - Mar	-2.3	3.6	97.18	99.51

#### Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Figure 1 depicts the monthly  $\Delta$  CPI over a period of one year starting from March 2020, whereas the  $\Delta$  CPI for the month March for the years 2012 to 2021 is illustrated in Figure 2.

# 1.2 Changes in sector

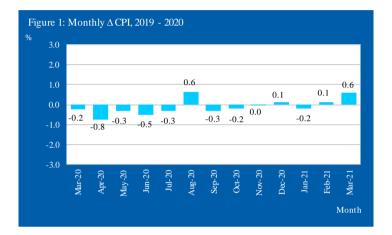
Figure 3 provides an overview of the percentage changes for the indices per sector for March 2021. The percentage change in index is further denoted as  $\Delta$  I. The largest  $\Delta$  I are observed for the "Household operation" sector with an increase of 4.4%.

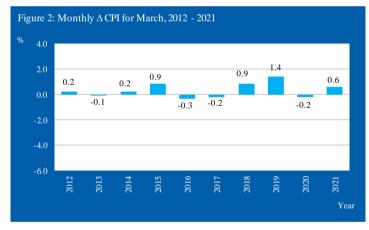
#### 1.3 Changes in categories and subcategories

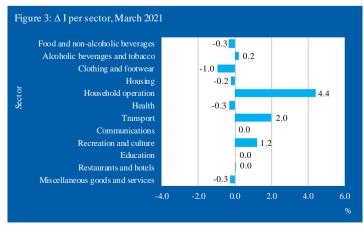
The largest positive and negative  $\Delta$  I is seen in the categories Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment" (30.6%) and "Accommodation services" (-7.1%). In the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sector a decrease of 0.5% is observed for the category "Food", while the "Non-alcoholic beverages" shows an increase of 0.7%. In the "Transport" sector the major  $\Delta$  I is observed for the category "Operation of personal transport equipment" (3.5%). In the "Recreation and culture" sector the major  $\Delta$  I is observed for the category "Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment" (30.6%)1.

The categories which influenced the CPI calculation the most are "Household appliances", "Operation of personal transport equipment" and "Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment" which had an effect of respectively, 0.33, 0.26 and 0.15 ppts on the  $\Delta$  CPI. Reference is made to tables 16

and 17 in Appendices 1 and 2. Table 16 provides an overview of the indices for the months March 2020, December 2020, February 2021 and March 2021 together with corresponding weights per sector and the monthly, year-to-date (ytd), end of period and period average percentage changes for March 2021. In table 17 an overview of the effect on the monthly, year-to-date (ytd), end of period and period average CPI per sector and category for March 2021 is presented. The course of indices for 2010 - up to March 2021 is illustrated in Appendix 5.







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The focus is on the four major sectors which are: Housing, Transport, Food and nonalcoholic beverages and Recreation and culture. Together these sectors form 59% of the total weight of the basket of goods and services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> End of period inflation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Period average inflation

# 2 End of period change of the CPI

# 2.1 End of period change CPI for March 2021

The CPI decreased from 98.67 in March 2020 to 97.59 in March 2021, a decrease of 1.1%. This  $\Delta$  CPI is the second lowest registered over a period of 5 years for the month March, and is 1.8 ppts lower than the  $\triangle$  CPI registered in 2020 (0.7%) (see table 2).

Table 2: End of period Δ CPI for March, 2017 - 2021

Period	Δ CPI	Index
2016-2017	-0.6	91.77
2017-2018	3.2	94.71
2040 2040	2.5	00.00
2018-2019	3.5	98.00
2019-2020	0.7	98.67
2020-2021	-1.1	97.59

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

# 2.2 Changes in sector

An overview of the percentage change per sector over the period March 2020 - March 2021 is presented in table 3. The largest  $\Delta$  I is observed for the sector "Clothing and footwear" with a decrease of 13.9%. Furthermore, decreases of 4.5%, 4.1% and 2.4% are observed for the "Recreation and culture", "Health" and "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sectors, respectively. A comparison of the  $\Delta$  I's for the years 2020 and 2021 is provided in figure 4.

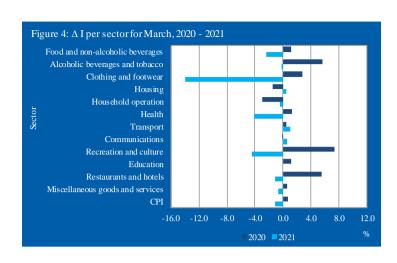
Table 3: Percentage change for March, 2020 - 2021

Sector	% Change
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	-2.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	-0.2
Clothing and footwear	-13.9
Housing	0.5
Household operation	-0.5
Health	-4.1
Transport	1.1
Communications	0.5
Recreation and culture	-4.5
Education	0.0
Restaurants and hotels	-1.1
Miscellaneous goods and services	-0.7
СРІ	-1.1

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

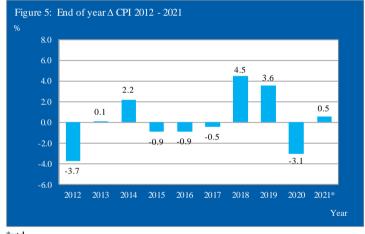
#### 2.3 Changes in categories

The largest positive and negative  $\Delta$  I in categories observed over a period of one year are respectively, "Audio-visual, photographic information processing equipment" (28.9%)"Accommodation services" (-61.4%). For an overview of the end of period percentage changes per category refer to table 16 in Appendix 1.



# 2.4 End of year change CPI 2012 - 2020

The end of year  $\Delta$  CPI for the period 2012 - 2021 is shown in figure 5. The  $\triangle$  CPI for 2021 is calculated by comparing the CPI of March 2021 with the CPI of December 2020. The ytd  $\Delta$  CPI for March 2021 is 0.5%.



\*vtd

# 2.5 Period average change CPI for March 2021

The period average change CPI (Δ ACPI) for March 2021 is -2.3%. Table 4 provides an overview of the  $\triangle$  ACPI for the month March for the years 2017 to 2021. The  $\Delta$  ACPI for 2021 decreased by 5.9 ppts compared to 2020 (3.6%).

Table 4: Overview of Δ ACPI for March, 2017 - 2021

Δ ΑСΡΙ	Index
-0.9	92.68
-0.3	92.39
3.9	96.02
3.6	99.51
-2.3	97.21
	-0.9 -0.3 3.9 3.6

# 3 Development of indices of main sectors and utilities

#### 3.1 Indices main sectors

The four major sectors, "Housing", "Transport", "Food and nonalcoholic beverages" and "Recreation and culture", constitute 58% of the total weight of the basket of goods and services, which are observed on a monthly basis. An overview of the course of indices for 2010 - up to March 2021 per sector and for the CPI is provided in figures 9-1 to 9-12 in Appendix 5.

Changes in the indices of the sectors "Housing" and "Transport" are mainly the result of changes in the international oil prices and prices of utilities during the respective months. The development of crude oil, fuel surcharge, electricity, water, gasoline and diesel prices is provided in table 5 and in the adjoining figures 6-1 and

Table 5: Prices of utilities, gasoline and diesel, 2020 - 2021

		Total	Total				
	Crude oil	energy charge <sup>2</sup>	energy charge <sup>2</sup>				
Month	per barrel <sup>1</sup>	≤ 500 kWh	501-1000 kWh	Electricity <sup>3</sup>	Water <sup>4</sup>	Gasoline <sup>5</sup>	Diesel <sup>5</sup>
Mar-20	30.40	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	197.20	160.60
Apr-20	17.39	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	160.60	136.70
May-20	26.57	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	144.70	119.00
Jun-20	38.19	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	160.50	121.60
Jul-20	40.58	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	174.90	135.00
Aug-20	42.33	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	178.10	140.70
Sep-20	39.64	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	180.20	140.50
Oct-20	39.45	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	178.90	135.00
Nov-20	41.07	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	176.80	136.10
Dec-20	46.78	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	176.70	142.30
Jan-21	51.23	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	185.90	152.40
Feb-21	59.10	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	196.30	158.60
Mar-21	62.62	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	208.78	170.90

## Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

# 3.2 Electricity

The price of electricity is determined in Aruban florins (Afl.) for an average usage by households. The average usage is 725.5 kWh per month. The electricity price for an average consumption of 725.5 kWh did not change in March 2021, it remained at Afl. 240.09. Figure 6-1 provides an overview of the course of changes in the electricity price for the period 2013 to 2020.

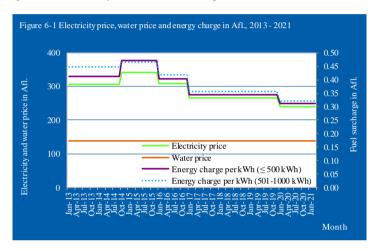
The total energy charge per kWh for a usage of electricity up to 500 kWh did not change in March 2021, it stayed at Afl. 31.09 cents per kWh. The total energy charge per kWh for a usage of electricity between 501 - 1000 kWh did not change in March 2021, it stayed at Afl. 31.99 cents per kWh.

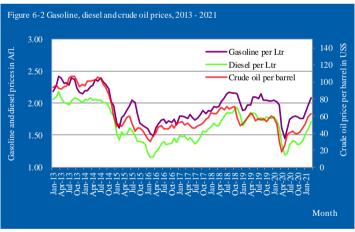
#### 3.3 Water

The price of water is determined in Afl. for an average usage (water consumption) by households. Figure 6-1 provides an overview of the course of changes in the water price for the period 2013 to 2020. The water price for an average usage by households did not change in March 2021, it remained at Afl. 137.05.

#### 3.4 Gasoline and Diesel

The retail price of gasoline increased by 6.4% from 196.3 cents per liter in February 2021 to 208.8 cents per liter in March 2021. In March 2021, the retail price of diesel registered an increase of 7.8% from 158.6 cents per liter in February 2021 to 170.9 cents per liter in March 2021.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Average West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil price per barrel in USS (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total energy charge in Afl. cents per kWh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Electricty price in Afl.

<sup>4</sup> Water price in Afl.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Gasoline and diesel prices in Afl. cents per liter

# 4 Percentage change CPI of Aruba's major trading partners

# 4.1 Comparison of the CPI of Aruba and the USA

Table 6 provides an overview of the  $\Delta$  CPI of Aruba's major trading partners starting from March 2020. In March 2021 the  $\Delta$ CPI of the USA, Curação and the Netherlands were 0.7%, 0.3% and 0.3%.

Table 6: Monthly Δ CPI 2020 - 2021 per Country

Period	Aruba	USA	Curaçao	Netherlands
Mar-20	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.2
Apr-20	-0.8	-0.7	0.2	0.5
May-20	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	-0.1
Jun-20	-0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3
Jul-20	-0.3	0.5	0.4	1.1
Aug-20	0.6	0.3	0.7	-0.5
Sep-20	-0.3	0.1	0.5	-0.2
Oct-20	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.5
Nov-20	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.8
Dec-20	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Jan-21	-0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.2
Feb-21	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.9
Mar-21	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3

Source: CBS Aruba, Bureau of Labor Statistics (USA),

The USA is considered Aruba's largest trading partner<sup>2</sup>. Table 7 provides an overview of the  $\Delta$  CPI for Aruba and the USA in March 2021. Aruba's monthly Δ CPI for March 2021 is 0.1 ppt lower than the  $\Delta$  CPI of the USA.

Table 7: Overview of Δ CPI, 2021

CBS Curação and CBS Netherlands

Period		Aruba	USA
Monthly	Feb - Mar	0.6	0.7
Year-to-date	Dec - Mar	0.5	1.7
Last 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Mar - Mar	-1.1	2.6
Last 24 months <sup>2</sup>	Mar - Mar	-2.3	1.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

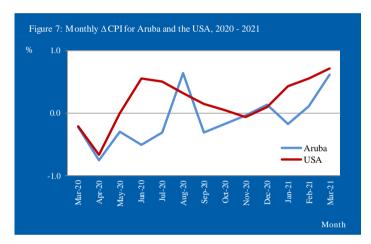
The  $\Delta$  CPI of Aruba over the last 12 months is 3.7 ppts lower compared to the USA's 12-month  $\Delta$  CPI. The  $\Delta$  CPI over the last 24 months for Aruba is 3.5 ppts lower than the  $\Delta$  CPI of the USA. The monthly inflation for both Aruba and the USA is depicted in figure 7 over a period of one year. Furthermore, an overview of the end of year Δ CPI over the period 2011 - 2021 for Aruba and the USA is provided in table 8 and figure 8.

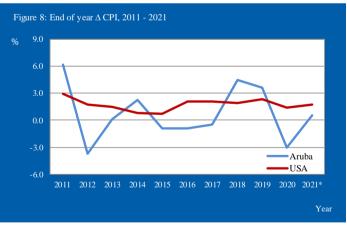
 $^2\,$  "61% of Aruba's import by sea and air originates from the USA" (Source: Foreign Trade Statistics Report, 4th Quarter 2020).

Table 8: End of year Δ CPI, 2011 - 2021

Period	Aruba	USA
2011	6.1	3.0
2012	-3.7	1.7
2013	0.1	1.5
2014	2.2	0.8
2015	-0.9	0.7
2016	-0.9	2.1
2017	-0.5	2.1
2018	4.5	1.9
2019	3.6	2.3
2020	-3.1	1.4
2021*	0.5	1.7

<sup>\*</sup> ytd





<sup>\*</sup>ytd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> End of period inflation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Period average inflation

# **5** Core inflation

#### 5.1 Core inflation

Core inflation is a measure of inflation which excludes certain items that face volatile price movements e.g. food products and energy. By calculating the core inflation these more volatile components are eliminated from the inflation. Core inflation indices serve to assess the mid- and long-term trend of the overall price level. For the purpose of adjusting monetary policy, many economists focus more intently on the core rate of inflation, as this allows for an in-depth assessment of inflationary processes ongoing in the economy.

# 5.2 Monthly change of the core inflation

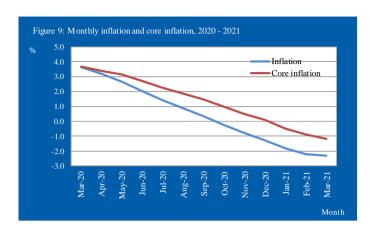
In March 2021 the core inflation (measured over the period March 2020 - 2021) was -1.2%. In March 2021 the food index was -2.3%, while the energy index shows a decrease of 7.5%.

Table 9: Monthly inflation and core inflation, 2020 - 2021

				Core
Period	Inflation	Food	Energy <sup>2</sup>	Inflation
Mar-20	3.6	8.3	0.7	3.7
Apr-20	3.2	7.4	-0.2	3.4
May-20	2.7	6.2	-1.5	3.1
Jun-20	2.0	4.9	-2.7	2.7
Jul-20	1.4	3.7	-3.6	2.3
Aug-20	0.9	2.6	-4.6	1.9
Sep-20	0.4	1.6	-5.4	1.5
Oct-20	-0.2	0.7	-6.2	1.0
Nov-20	-0.8	-0.1	-6.9	0.5
Dec-20	-1.3	-0.8	-7.9	0.1
Jan-21	-1.8	-1.5	-8.0	-0.5
Feb-21	-2.2	-2.0	-7.9	-0.9
Mar-21	-2.3	-2.3	-7.5	-1.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

The monthly inflation and core inflation for Aruba is shown in figure 9 over a period of one year starting from March 2020.



# **5.3** End of year change of the core inflation, 2016 - 2021

The end of year core inflation of the total population of Aruba for the year 2021 (up to March) is -1.2%, a decrease of 1.3 ppts compared to the core inflation of 2020. Table 10 provides an overview of the end of year inflation and core inflation over the period 2016 - 2021.

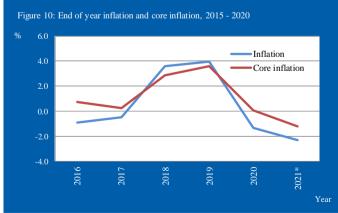
The end of year inflation and core inflation is presented in figure 10 over the period 2016 - 2021.

Table 10: End of year core inflation, 2016 - 2021

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Inflation	-0.9	-0.5	3.6	3.9	-1.3	-2.3
Food	-0.1	0.8	7.3	10.5	-0.8	-2.3
Electricity	-9.9	-14.0	1.7	2.1	-9.2	-7.3
Water	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.1	0.5	0.1
Gasoline and diesel	-7.9	9.2	15.8	1.0	-12.3	-14.1
Core inflation	0.7	0.3	2.8	3.6	0.1	-1.2
Course Control Dunger of Statistics Andre						

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Note: the figures for the years 2016-2017 are based on the weights of Dec 2006=100 \*current month



Note: the figures for the years 2016-2017 are based on the weights of Dec 2006=100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Period average inflation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Energy: Electricity, water, gasoline and diesel

# 6 Development of Food & catering services

# 6.1 Monthly change of Food & catering services for **March 2021**

The "Food & catering services" index showed a decrease of 0.2% in March 2021, the fifth consecutive decrease. The index for "Food at home" showed a decrease of 0.3% in March, as five (5) of the eleven (11) "Food at home" indices decreased in March 2021. The "Vegetables" index registered the largest decrease (-4.4%) in March 2021. Furthermore, decreases were posted in the indices for "Fruit" (-0.8%), "Bread and cereals" (-0.6%), "Food products n.e.c." (-0.3%) and "Milk, cheese and eggs" (-0.3%). The "Potatoes and other tubers" (1.1%) index registered the largest increase in March 2021. Furthermore, increases were posted in the

indices for "Oils and fats" (0.9%) and "Non-alcoholic beverages"

Table 11 provides an overview of the corresponding weights per food group together with the percentage changes and effect for March 2021.

Table 11: Percentage change of Food for March 2021

Food	Weight	% Change	Effect
Food & catering services	1,492.8	-0.2	-0.029
Food at home	1,125.3	-0.3	-0.036
Bread and cereals	205.2	-0.6	-0.010
Meat	229.8	0.2	0.006
Fish and other seafood	56.4	0.3	0.002
Milk, cheese and eggs	140.0	-0.3	-0.004
Oils and fats	31.6	0.9	0.003
Fruit	72.0	-0.8	-0.007
Potatoes and other tubers	18.5	1.1	0.001
Vegetables	75.7	-4.4	-0.034
Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery	49.6	0.3	0.001
Food products n.e.c.	82.7	-0.3	-0.003
Non-alcoholic beverages	163.9	0.7	0.009
Food away from home	367.5	0.2	0.007
Other goods and services	8,507.2	0.8	0.647
Other goods	5,147.2	1.5	0.707
Other services	3,360.0	-0.2	-0.061
СРІ	10,000.0	0.6	0.618

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

In March 2021, "Food at home" and "Food away from home" as a group showed a decrease in price of 0.2% compared to February 2021, and had an influence of -0.03 ppt on the CPI, while the remaining goods and services, as a group, experienced an increase in price of 0.8%, causing an effect of 0.65 ppts on the CPI.

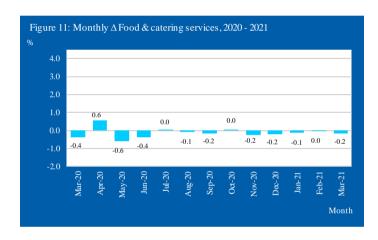
An overview of the percentage change and effect for "Food at home" and "Food away from home" for March 2021 is presented in table 12.

Table 12: Effect on the CPI of March 2021 of "Food at home" and "Food away from home"

-0.3	-0.04
0.2	0.01
-0.2	-0.03
0.8	0.65
0.6	0.62
	0.2 -0.2 0.8

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Figure 11 depicts the monthly  $\Delta$  Food and catering services over a period of one year starting from March 2020.



# 6.2 End of Period change of Food & catering services for March 2021

Over the last twelve (12) months, the "Food & catering services" has decreased by 1.4%. The "Food at home" index showed a decrease of 2.4%. The "Potatoes and other tubers" index decreased by 16.3%, the largest decrease among the "Food at home" food groups, while the "Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery" index increased by 2.4%, the largest increase among the "Food at home" food groups.

The index for "Food away from home" increased by 0.2% in March 2021 and has increased by 1.1% over the last twelve (12) months.

Table 18 provides an overview of the monthly and end of period percentage changes and effect for March 2021 for the food groups.

# 7 Subsistence level

#### 7.1 Subsistence level

The subsistence level is the minimum level of income which is perceived necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living in a given country. The subsistence level is usually determined by estimating the cost of all the essential resources that an average adult consumes in one month or year. This is commonly called a basic needs index, and varies according to the price of food, clothing, housing, transport and other items in the "basket". Equivalence scales are used to adjust for the assumed standard of living, of households of different sizes and composition. The scale assigns a weight of 1.0 for the first adult and 0.5 for each additional adult in the household (aged 15+) and a weight of 0.3 for each child (aged 0-14 years). The subsistence level is based on figures of the report "Bestaansminimum 2010" published by the CBS in December 2010 and is monthly updated for inflation using the monthly CPI. The reference unit used in this report is one of a household consisting of two adults and two children (aged 0-14

7.2 Monthly change of the subsistence level for March 2021

Table 13 provides an overview of the subsistence level for a family of two adults and two children (aged 0-14 years) by sector registered over a period of 5 years for the month March. Over a period of one year the subsistence level decreased by Afl. 88, from Afl. 4,829 in March 2020 to Afl. 4,741 in March 2021. The "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sector shows the largest decrease (Afl. 47), over this period.

Table 13: Monthly subsistence level in Aruba (in Afl.) by sector for a family of 2 adults and 2 childr (aged 0-14 years) for March, 2017 - 2021

						Change in Afl.
Sector	Mar-17	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-20 - Mar-21
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,617	1,689	1,901	1,923	1,876	-47
Clothing and footwear	257	259	268	276	237	-39
Housing	1,419	1,418	1,457	1,435	1,443	8
Household operation	110	111	114	110	110	0
Health	72	76	82	83	79	-4
Transport	253	270	281	282	285	3
Communications	134	139	151	151	152	1
Recreation and culture	155	174	156	168	160	-8
Education	68	72	73	74	74	0
Miscellaneous goods and services	312	312	325	327	324	-3
Total	4,397	4,519	4,809	4,829	4,741	-88

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

An overview of the subsistence level, for the most common family types, over the period March 2020 - March 2021 is presented in table 14.

Table 14: Subsistence level in Aruba (in Afl.) by family size and composition, March 2021 (Base period December 2010)

	Equivalence scales									
	1	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1					
	1 adult	1 adult	2 adults	2 adults	2 adults					
Period		+ 1 child		+ 1 child	+ 2 children					
Mar-20	2,300	2,989	3,449	4,139	4,829					
Apr-20	2,296	2,984	3,444	4,132	4,821					
May-20	2,283	2,968	3,425	4,110	4,794					
Jun-20	2,277	2,960	3,416	4,099	4,782					
Jul-20	2,267	2,947	3,400	4,080	4,760					
Aug-20	2,276	2,959	3,415	4,098	4,781					
Sep-20	2,277	2,960	3,416	4,099	4,782					
Oct-20	2,273	2,955	3,410	4,092	4,773					
Nov-20	2,266	2,946	3,399	4,079	4,759					
Dec-20	2,265	2,945	3,398	4,077	4,757					
Jan-21	2,257	2,934	3,385	4,062	4,739					
Feb-21	2,258	2,936	3,387	4,065	4,742					
Mar-21	2,258	2,935	3,387	4,064	4,741					

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

# 7.3 Comparison of the subsistence level and minimum wage

In March 2021 the subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2.258, which represents an income deficit of Afl. 443, a decrease of Afl. 42 compared to the deficit observed one year ago (Afl. 485). This deficit is the third highest registered over a period of five years for the month March.

Tabel 15: Monthly income surplus/deficit (in Afl.) for a single adult household for March, 2017 - 2021

		Minimum	
Period	1 adult	wage	Surplus/deficit
2017	2,094	1,678	-416
2018	2,152	1,711	-441
2019	2,290	1,711	-579
2020	2,300	1,815	-485
2021	2,258	1,815	-443



Table 16: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) in the Consumer Price Index for March 2021, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

Food and non-alcoholic beverages Food Non-alcoholic beverages  Alcoholic beverages and tobacco Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco  Clothing and footwear Clothing Footwear	<b>78.2</b> 62.2	98.47 98.17 100.81 100.55 99.30	96.70 96.26 100.16	<b>96.41</b> 95.96	96.09 95.51	-0.3 -0.5	-0.6	Mar 20 - Mar 21	Mar 20 - Mar 3
Food Non-alcoholic beverages  Alcoholic beverages and tobacco Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco  Clothing and footwear Clothing	964.1 123.6 <b>78.2</b> 62.2 16.0	98.17 100.81 <b>100.55</b>	96.26	95.96				-2.4	-2.0
Food Non-alcoholic beverages  Alcoholic beverages and tobacco Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco  Clothing and footwear Clothing	964.1 123.6 <b>78.2</b> 62.2 16.0	98.17 100.81 <b>100.55</b>	96.26	95.96				-2.4	-2.0
Non-alcoholic beverages  Alcoholic beverages and tobacco  Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home  Tobacco  Clothing and footwear  Clothing	<b>78.2</b> 62.2 16.0	100.81 100.55			95.51	-0.5	0.0		
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco  Clothing and footwear Clothing	<b>78.2</b> 62.2 16.0	100.55	100.16	~~ ~~		-0.5	-0.8	-2.7	-2.3
Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco Clothing and footwear Clothing	62.2 16.0			99.89	100.62	0.7	0.5	-0.2	0.3
Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home Tobacco Clothing and footwear Clothing	62.2 16.0								
Tobacco  Clothing and footwear  Clothing	16.0	99.30				0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.8
Clothing and footwear Clothing			98.46		98.85	0.3	0.4	-0.5	-0.1
Clothing	276.8	105.40	105.36	106.37	106.33	0.0	0.9	0.9	4.1
Clothing	2/6.8	400.00	02.45	07.75	00.00	4.0		42.0	
_	212.0			87.75	86.92	-1.0	-7.0	-13.9	-6.1
rootwear		100.70 101.90		88.43 85.50	87.93 83.56	-0.6 -2.3	-6.7 -8.0	-12.7 -18.0	-5.1 -9.3
	04.0	101.50	30.63	65.50	65.50	-2.5	-8.0	-16.0	-9.5
Housing	2,522.2	97.19	97.98	97.89	97.68	-0.2	-0.3	0.5	-1.5
Actual rentals for housing				102.51		0.1	0.4	1.5	1.6
Imputed rentals for housing		97.70		97.21		-1.5	-2.8	-2.0	-2.0
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling				100.54		-1.1	-1.7	0.6	1.0
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	463.6	101.35	101.35	101.35	101.35	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Electricity, gas and other fuels	840.4	90.72	90.72	90.72	90.72	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7.0
Household operation	929.2	99.01	96.66	94.40	98.56	4.4	2.0	-0.5	-4.1
Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	128.8	92.67	78.66	75.64	81.17	7.3	3.2	-12.4	-16.4
Household textiles	58.6	90.43	83.92	80.19	79.25	-1.2	-5.6	-12.4	-12.4
Household appliances	246.0	99.03	97.52	92.63	105.70	14.1	8.4	6.7	-7.1
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	17.2	99.49	86.32	83.14	82.90	-0.3	-4.0	-16.7	-6.2
Tools and equipment for house and garden				110.26		-0.4	-4.1	5.7	6.4
Goods and services for routine household maintenance and cleaning	420.5	101.43	101.40	101.42	101.47	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.3
Health		100.32		96.51	96.21	-0.3	-1.6	-4.1	-1.9
Medical products, appliances and equipment		100.08		95.35	95.42	0.1	-1.0	-4.7	-2.8
Out-patient services			98.12		96.52	0.1	-1.6	-3.5	-1.1
Other treatments		98.61	96.49	94.94	94.13	-0.9	-2.4	-4.5	-2.6
Health products and services n.e.c.	10.5	106.72	116.56	114.93	107.62	-6.4	-7.7	0.8	6.4
Transport	1,257.4	06.03	90.90	96.04	97.95	2.0	7.8	1.1	-7.3
Purchase of vehicles		99.89	94.83	98.69	98.69	0.0	4.1	-1.2	-4.9
Operation of personal transport equipment		95.95	89.67	95.74	99.05	3.5	10.5	3.2	-8.4
Transport services		85.84	75.35	77.62	75.28	-3.0	-0.1	-12.3	-13.2
Communications	849.6	99.24	99.80	99.79	99.79	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
Telephone and telefax equipment		85.30	93.97	93.63	93.63	0.0	-0.4	9.8	-1.4
Telephone and telefax services				100.12		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
· ·									
Recreation and culture	1,013.3	100.51	97.20	94.83	95.98	1.2	-1.3	-4.5	-1.9
Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	58.5	84.06	87.99	82.99	108.35	30.6	23.1	28.9	-9.2
Other major durables for recreation and culture	20.0	99.33	94.07	101.58	102.14	0.5	8.6	2.8	3.0
Other recreational items and equipment; gardens and pets	266.6	101.52	99.29	96.13	97.61	1.5	-1.7	-3.8	-0.1
Recreational and cultural services	309.1	99.78	99.65	99.79	99.81	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Newspapers, books and stationery	43.7	93.56	83.52	84.98	80.20	-5.6	-4.0	-14.3	-10.1
Holidays	315.4	104.46	96.84	92.01	90.36	-1.8	-6.7	-13.5	-3.4
Education				100.17		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Pre primary and primary education				100.00		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Secondary education				100.00		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Post-secondary non-tertiary education				100.00		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Tertiary education				100.00		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Education not definable by level	2.5	106.67	106.67	106.67	106.67	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
		405	405 -	40	400 -		• -		
Restaurants and hotels				101.47		0.0	-0.9	-1.1	1.3
Catering services				102.79		0.2	0.3	1.1	2.1
Accommodation services	12.2	131.71	93.96	54.76	50.87	-7.1	-45.9	-61.4	-21.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	1 222 6	00.04	00 42	00 50	00 24	0.3	2.1	0.7	0.7
Miscellaneous goods and services  Personal care	<b>1,222.6</b>	9 <b>9.04</b> 98.34	<b>98.43</b> 96.65	<b>98.59</b> 97.02	<b>98.34</b> 96.78	- <b>0.3</b> -0.2	- <b>0.1</b> 0.1	- <b>0.7</b> -1.6	- <b>0.7</b> -1.7
Personal care Personal effects n.e.c.			96.65	95.01	96.78	-0.2 -2.0	-1.6	-1.6 -1.9	-1.7 -2.7
Social protection				100.00		-2.0 0.0	-1.6	-1.9 0.0	-2.7
Social protection  Insurance				100.00		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
insurance	010.7	100.14	100.14	100.14	100.14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
CPI	10,000.0	09 67	97.06	97.00	97.59	0.6	0.5	-1.1	-2.3



Table 17: Monthly & Yearly Effect on the Consumer Price Index per sector and category for March 2021 (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	Monthly Feb - Mar	Ytd Dec - Mar	End of period Mar 20 - Mar 21	Period aver Mar 20 - Ma
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,087.7	-0.04	-0.07	-0.26	-0.21
Food and non-alcoholic beverages Food	964.1	-0.04 -0.04	- <b>0.07</b> -0.07	-0.26 -0.26	-0.21 -0.22
Non-alcoholic beverages	123.6	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Alcoholic housespee and tohacco	78.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home	62.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tobacco	16.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Clothing and footwear	276.8	-0.02	-0.19	-0.39	-0.17
Clothing	212.8	-0.01	-0.14	-0.28	-0.11
Footwear	64.0	-0.01	-0.05	-0.12	-0.06
Housing	2,522.2	-0.06	-0.08	0.12	-0.38
Actual rentals for housing	666.7	0.01	0.03	0.10	0.11
Imputed rentals for housing	34.4	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	517.0	-0.06	-0.09	0.03	0.05
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	463.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Electricity, gas and other fuels	840.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.58
Household operation	929.2	0.40	0.18	-0.04	-0.38
Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	128.8	0.07	0.03	-0.15	-0.21
Household textiles	58.6	-0.01	-0.03	-0.07	-0.07
Household appliances	246.0	0.33	0.21	0.17	-0.18
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	17.2	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	-0.01
Tools and equipment for house and garden	58.2	0.00	-0.03	0.03	0.04
oods and services for routine household maintenance and cleaning	420.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Health	223.1	-0.01	-0.04	-0.09	-0.04
Medical products, appliances and equipment	152.3	0.00	-0.02	-0.07	-0.04
Out-patient services	52.4	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Other treatments	7.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health products and services n.e.c.	10.5	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	0.01
Transport	1,257.4	0.25	0.91	0.13	-0.92
Purchase of vehicles	442.6	0.00	0.18	-0.05	-0.22
Operation of personal transport equipment	763.3	0.26	0.74	0.24	-0.63
Transport services	51.5	-0.01	0.00	-0.06	-0.07
Communications	849.6	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01
Telephone and telefax equipment	43.8	0.00	0.00	0.04	-0.01
Telephone and telefax services	805.8	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Recreation and culture	1,013.3	0.12	-0.13	-0.46	-0.19
Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	58.5	0.15	0.12	0.14	-0.05
Other major durables for recreation and culture	20.0	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01
Other recreational items and equipment; gardens and pets	266.6	0.04	-0.05	-0.11	0.00
Recreational and cultural services	309.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Newspapers, books and stationery	43.7	-0.02	-0.01	-0.06	-0.04
Holidays	315.4	-0.05	-0.21	-0.45	-0.11
Education	98.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pre primary and primary education	24.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secondary education	43.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	4.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tertiary education	23.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education not definable by level	2.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restaurants and hotels	442.0	0.00	-0.04	-0.05	0.06
Catering services	429.8	0.00	0.01	0.05	0.09
Accommodation services	12.2	0.00	-0.05	-0.10	-0.03
	4 222 2	0.55	• • •		* 6 -
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,222.6	-0.03	-0.01	-0.09	-0.09
Personal care	427.1	-0.01	0.01	-0.07	-0.07
Personal effects n.e.c.	106.6	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03
Social protection Insurance	78.2 610.7	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.01
"/Sulance	510.7	5.50	3.00	5.00	0.01
	10,000.0	0.62	0.55	-1.09	-2.30



# Consumer Price Index Aruba Central bureau of statistics Consumer Price Index Aruba

Table 18: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) and effect in the Food & catering services for March 2021, Total Population (Jun 201

ble 18: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) and effec					fect
CRIPTION	WEIGHT	Monthly	End of period	Monthly	End of perio
	coefficient	Feb - Mar	Mar 20 - Mar 21	Feb - Mar	Mar 20 - Mai
d & catering services	1,517.5	-0.2	-1.4	-0.029	-1.401
Food at home	1,087.7	-0.3	-2.4	-0.036	-2.421
Bread and cereals	178.1	-0.6	-4.0	-0.010	-3.985
Rice	23.5	0.3	-0.5	0.001	-0.466
Bread	72.1	-0.8	-2.7	-0.006	-2.722
Pasta products Other cereals and cereal products	9.2	0.2 -0.8	-5.1	0.000 -0.006	-5.063 -6.297
Other Cereals and Cereal products	73.3	-0.6	-6.3	-0.006	-0.297
Meat	242.5	0.2	-1.7	0.006	-1.714
Bovine	67.3	0.1	-0.6	0.001	-0.617
Swine	25.5	0.3	3.6	0.001	3.561
Poultry Other meat and meat preparations	75.7 74.0	0.0 0.5	-7.9 1.6	0.000 0.004	-7.865 1.580
Fish and order days and assessment	49.0	0.3	-2.0	0.002	-2.023
Fish and seafood preparations	49.0	0.3	-2.0	0.002	-2.023
Milk, cheese and eggs	135.3	-0.3	1.0	-0.004	1.042
Cheese	55.4	-0.6	2.0	-0.004	2.041
Eggs	16.6	-0.6	9.7	-0.001	9.656
Milk	40.0	0.1	-2.1	0.000	-2.093
Other milk products	23.3	0.3	-1.9	0.001	-1.906
Oils and fats	32.2	0.9	-2.7	0.003	-2.711
Corn oil	2.8	0.5	8.8	0.000	8.790
Butter and margarine	9.2	1.9	1.4	0.002	1.403
Other oils and fats	20.1	0.4	-6.1	0.001	-6.096
Fruit	97.6	-0.8	-2.3	-0.007	-2.341
Oranges	9.4	-3.6	8.9	-0.004	8.883
Bananas and plantains	19.9	3.0	-11.1	0.004	-11.077
Apples	9.3	1.2	9.3	0.001	9.286
Avocado	5.0	-6.6	2.5	-0.003	2.472
Grapes Nuts	9.2	3.2 0.2	10.7	0.003	10.700
Lemons and mandarins	11.9 6.0	9.7	-5.0 -11.8	0.000 0.004	-4.993 -11.779
Cherries and strawberries	8.8	-10.4	-3.5	-0.012	-3.524
Melons and watermelons	7.7	-4.5	-10.4	-0.003	-10.394
Papayas and pineapples	6.9	-3.1	-10.3	-0.002	-10.333
Other fruits and fruit products	3.5	13.8	-0.9	0.004	-0.915
Potatoes and other tubers	18.2	1.1	-16.3	0.001	-16.255
Potatoes	12.2	1.3	-23.1	0.001	-23.114
Other tubers	2.0	0.4	2.2	0.000	2.181
Sweet potatoes and yucca	4.0	1.1	-6.3	0.000	-6.299
Vegetables	89.1	-4.4	-11.8	-0.034	-11.799
Lettuce	6.8	-10.9	-46.3	-0.004	-46.319
Tomatoes	9.7	-8.6	-25.1	-0.008	-25.069
Onions and garlic	18.7	-1.4	-7.4	-0.002	-7.353
Celery and broccoli	15.3	-16.0	-13.4	-0.020	-13.413
Other vegetables	15.3	1.0	-6.2	0.001	-6.182
Other preserved or processed vegetables	8.4	-1.1	3.3	-0.001	3.297
Frozen vegetable mixtures	14.8	-0.9	-7.4	-0.001	-7.400
Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery	42.0	0.3	2.4	0.001	2.414
Sugar	12.1	0.9	8.7	0.001	8.659
Jams and jellies	2.5	1.3	-2.3	0.000	-2.346
Other confectionery products	27.5	0.0	0.1	0.000	0.123
Food products n.e.c.	80.1	-0.3	-0.9	-0.003	-0.911
Other food products	80.1	-0.3	-0.9	-0.003	-0.911
Non-alcoholic beverages  Coffee and tea	<b>123.6</b> 20.9	<b>0.7</b> 0.7	- <b>0.2</b> -1.3	0.009 0.001	-0.189
Other non-alcoholic beverages	20.9 14.6	0.7	-1.3 1.8	0.001	-1.325 1.788
Soft and sports drinks	31.0	0.8	0.5	0.003	0.535
Fruit juices	57.1	0.9	-0.7	0.005	-0.684
Food and hoverage consumption away from home	429.8	0.2	1.1	0.007	1.096
Food and beverage consumption away from home	429.8	0.2	1.1	0.007	1.096
er goods and services	8,482.5	0.8	-1.0	0.647	-1.039
Other goods	4,735.8	1.5	-0.7	0.707	-0.688
Other services	3,746.7	-0.2	-1.5	-0.061	-1.466



Table 19: CPI: Main indices for March 2021, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	2020	2020	2021	2021	Monthly	Ytd	End of period	Period average
	coefficient	Mar	Dec	Feb	Mar	Feb - Mar	Dec - Mar	Mar 20 - Mar 21	Mar 20 - Mar 21
CPI for "All items"	10,000.0	98.67	97.06	97.00	97.59	0.6	0.5	-1.1	-2.3
CPI for "Goods"	6,272.5	97.12	94.80	95.01	96.13	1.2	1.4	-1.0	-4.1
CPI for "Durable goods"	1,293.2	97.94	95.68	95.43	99.41	4.2	3.9	1.5	-4.7
CPI for "Semi-durable goods"	954.1	98.55	92.95	90.39	89.86	-0.6	-3.3	-8.8	-5.0
CPI for "Non-durable goods"	4,025.2	96.61	94.80	95.62	96.06	0.5	1.3	-0.6	-3.8
CPI for "Services"	3,727.5	100.85	100.22	99.76	99.64	-0.1	-0.6	-1.2	0.2
CPI for "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	552.3	93.69	83.89	93.22	99.22	6.4	18.3	5.9	-14.1
CPI for "Food at home"	961.4	98.17	96.26	95.96	95.51	-0.5	-0.8	-2.7	-2.3
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages"	8,874.7	98.70	97.11	97.07	97.78	0.7	0.7	-0.9	-2.3
CPI excluding "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	9,447.7	98.92	97.70	97.18	97.52	0.3	-0.2	-1.4	-1.7
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", "Gasoline" and "Diese	8,322.4	98.97	97.83	97.28	97.70	0.4	-0.1	-1.3	-1.7
CPI excluding "Rentals actually paid by tenants or subtenants"	9,145.8	98.50	96.69	96.60	97.23	0.7	0.6	-1.3	-2.6
CPI excluding "Housing"	7,446.7	99.17	96.75	96.69	97.57	0.9	0.8	-1.6	-2.6
CPI excluding "Gasoline", "Diesel", "Water" and "Electricity"	8,289.2	99.70	98.31	97.71	98.10	0.4	-0.2	-1.6	-1.3

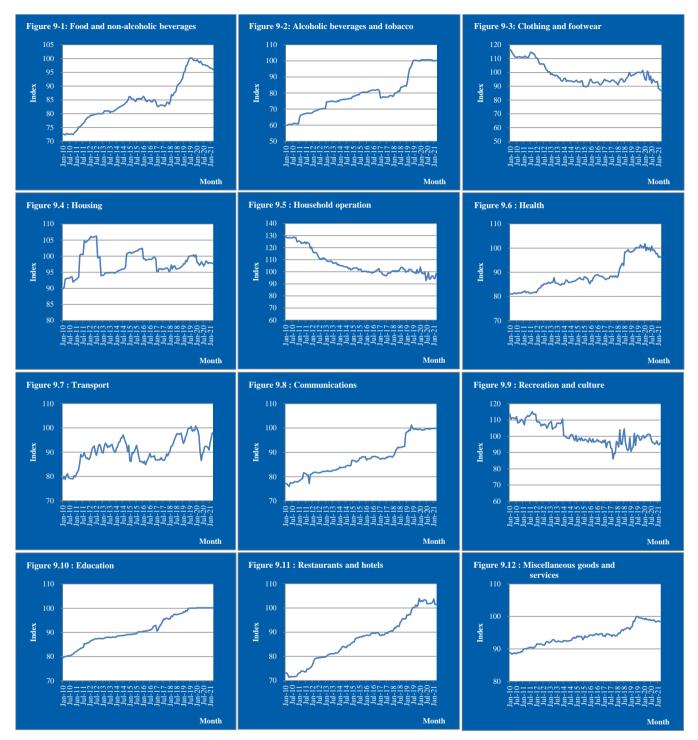
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

APPENDIX 5

Table 20: CPI: Effect on main indices for March 2021, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	Monthly Feb - Mar	Ytd Dec - Mar	End of period Mar 20 - Mar 21	Period average Mar 20 - Mar 21
CPI for "All items"	10,000.0	0.62	0.55	-1.09	-2.30
CPI for "Goods"	6,272.5	0.67	0.80	-0.58	-2.40
CPI for "Durable goods"	1,293.2	0.53	0.50	0.19	-0.61
CPI for "Semi-durable goods"	954.1	-0.03	-0.20	-0.56	-0.31
CPI for "Non-durable goods"	4,025.2	0.18	0.50	-0.22	-1.47
CPI for "Services"	3,727.5	-0.05	-0.25	-0.51	0.10
CPI for "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	552.3	0.29	0.73	0.26	-0.64
CPI for "Food at home"	961.4	-0.04	-0.07	-0.26	-0.22
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages"	8,874.7	0.65	0.62	-0.83	-2.09
CPI excluding "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	9,447.7	0.33	-0.18	-1.35	-1.67
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", "Gasoline" and "Diese	8,322.4	0.37	-0.11	-1.09	-1.46
CPI excluding "Rentals actually paid by tenants or subtenants"	9,145.8	0.61	0.52	-1.20	-2.41
CPI excluding "Housing"	7,446.7	0.67	0.63	-1.22	-1.93
CPI excluding "Gasoline", "Diesel", "Water" and "Electricity"	8,289.2	0.33	-0.18	-1.35	-1.09

# Course of Indices for 2010 up to March 2021



# **Glossary**

#### The Consumer Price Index and Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of consumer goods and services by households. Consumer price indices can be intended to measure either the rate of price inflation or deflation as perceived by households or changes in their cost of living. In case of inflation, the percentage change is positive and it indicates a decrease in the purchasing power of the consumers.

# Monthly percentage change

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of the previous month.

# Year-to-date (ytd)

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of December prior to the year under review.

# **End of period inflation (last 12 months)**

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of the same month of the previous year.

## Period average inflation (last 24 months)

The period average inflation is calculated by comparing the annual average CPI of the concerning period with the annual average CPI of the concerning period of the previous year.

#### **Effect**

Contribution of all percentage changes (of all respective aggregates) to the CPI.

# **Core inflation**

Core inflation is a measure of inflation that excludes certain items, which face volatile price movements. Core inflation eliminates the inflation of certain products that can have temporary price shocks because these shocks can diverge from the overall trend of inflation and give a false measure of inflation. The core rate of inflation is calculated by: total inflation excluding food and energy prices. In part, that is because the core is less volatile and reflects better the relationship of supply and demand in domestic product markets. The core usually is a better measure of the basic rate of inflation that will tend to emerge in the absence of supply shocks.

#### Food & catering services

The "Food & catering services" index is composed of the indices for the "Food & Non-alcoholic beverages" sector ("Food at home") and the "Catering services" ("Food away from home") category.

# Subsistence level

The subsistence level is the minimum level of income, which is perceived necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living in a given country. The subsistence level is usually determined by estimating the cost of all the essential resources that an average adult consumes in one month or year. This is commonly called a basic needs index, and varies according to the price of food, clothing, housing, transport and other items in the "basket". The subsistence level is monthly updated for inflation using the monthly CPI.