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A note to the reader

The following report presents the price statistics for March 2023.

- 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 October 2020 were revised and corrected.
- At the end of March 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows a decrease of 0.1% compared to the end of February 2023. The sector which affected the CPI the most was “Household operation” (-4.8%), which led to an effect of -0.44 percentage points (ppts) on the Δ CPI of March 2023 (-0.1%).
- Compared to March 2022 the CPI increased by 5.9%. The sector which affected the CPI the most was “Housing” (12.0%), which led to an effect of 2.93 ppts.
- The period average inflation for the periods March 2021 to March 2022 and March 2022 to March 2023 is 6.2%, which is 4.1 ppts higher compared to the period average inflation for the periods February 2020 to March 2021 and March 2021 to March 2022 (2.1%).
- Utilities (Water and Electricity) did not register price changes in March 2023. The price of gasoline registered a decrease of 1.9% in March 2023 and had an effect of -0.09 ppts. The price of diesel registered a decrease of 9.8% in March 2023 and contributed with an effect -0.04 ppts on the Δ CPI of March 2023.

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 2023 is 107.47; a decrease of 0.1% compared to the CPI of February 2023 (107.59). An overview of the percentage change in the CPI (Δ CPI) for different periods during 2022 and 2023 is shown in Table 1. The terms percentage change in the CPI and “inflation” (deflation) are considered similar and are used interchangeably. The inflation over the last 12 months (end of period inflation) is 5.9%, while the inflation over a period of 24 months (period average inflation) is 6.2%.

Table 1: Overview of Δ CPI

Period		% Changes		Index	
		2022	2023	Last	Current
Monthly	Feb - Mar	1.0	-0.1	107.59	107.47
Year-to-date	Dec - Mar	0.9	1.0	106.37	107.47
Last 12 months ¹	Mar - Mar	4.0	5.9	101.47	107.47
Last 24 months ²	Mar - Mar	2.1	6.2	99.29	105.49

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

¹ End of period inflation

² Period average inflation

Figure 1 depicts the monthly Δ CPI over a period of one year starting from March 2022, whereas the Δ CPI for the month March for the years 2014 to 2023 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 2023. The percentage change in index is further denoted as Δ I. The largest Δ I is observed for the “Household operation” sector with a decrease of 4.8%.

1.3 Changes in categories and subcategories

The largest positive and negative Δ I is seen in the categories “Glassware, tableware and household utensils” (15.4%) and “Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings” (-16.4%). In the “Food and non-alcoholic beverages” sector decreases of respectively, 0.1% and 2.4% were observed for the categories “Food” and “Non-alcoholic beverages”. In the “Housing” sector the major Δ I is observed for the category “Maintenance and repair of the dwelling” (-1.4%). In the “Transport” sector the major Δ I is observed for the category “Purchase of vehicles” (7.8%). In the “Recreation and culture” sector the major Δ I is observed for the category “Newspapers, books and stationery” (-8.9%)¹.

The categories which influenced the CPI calculation the most are “Purchase of vehicles”, “Household appliances” and “Furniture,

furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings” which had an effect of respectively, 0.39, -0.24 and -0.18 ppts on the Δ 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 2022, December 2022, February 2023 and March 2023 together with corresponding weights per sector and the monthly, year-to-date (ytd), end of period and period average percentage changes for March 2023. 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 2023 is presented. The course of indices for 2011 – up to March 2023 is illustrated in Appendix 5.

Figure 1: Monthly Δ CPI, 2022 - 2023

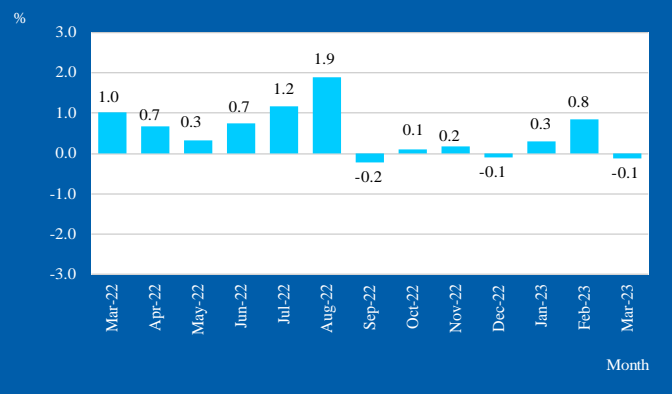


Figure 2: Monthly Δ CPI for March, 2014 - 2023

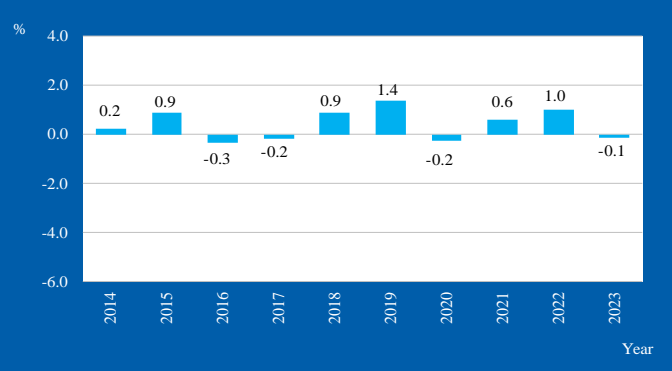
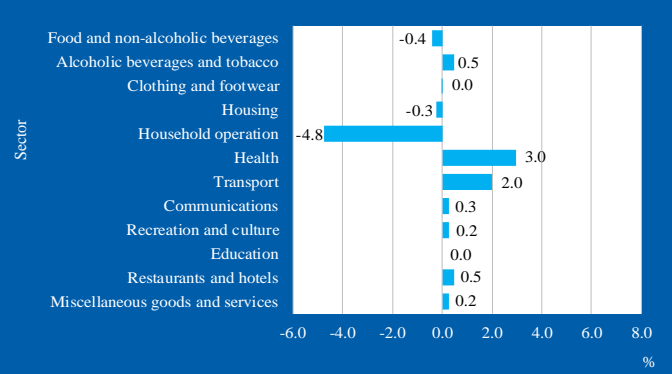


Figure 3: Δ I per sector, March 2023



¹ The focus is on the four major sectors which are: Housing, Transport, Food and non-alcoholic beverages and Recreation and culture. Together these sectors form 59% of the total weight of the basket of goods and services.

2 End of period change of the CPI

2.1 End of period change CPI for March 2023

The CPI increased from 101.47 in March 2022 to 107.47 in March 2023, an increase of 5.9%. This Δ CPI is the highest registered over a period of 6 years for the month March, and is 1.9 ppts higher than the Δ CPI registered in 2022 (4.0%) (see table 2).

Table 2: End of period Δ CPI for March, 2018 - 2023

Period	Δ CPI	Index
2017-2018	3.2	94.71
2018-2019	3.5	98.00
2019-2020	0.7	98.68
2020-2021	-1.1	97.60
2021-2022	4.0	101.47
2022-2023	5.9	107.47

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

2.2 Changes in sector

An overview of the percentage change per sector over the period March 2022 - March 2023 is presented in table 3. The largest Δ I is observed for the sector "Housing" with an increase of 12.0%. Furthermore, (remarkable) increases of 10.6%, 9.1% and 8.4% are observed for the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", "Transport" and "Health" sectors, respectively. A comparison of the Δ I's for the years 2022 and 2023 is provided in figure 4.

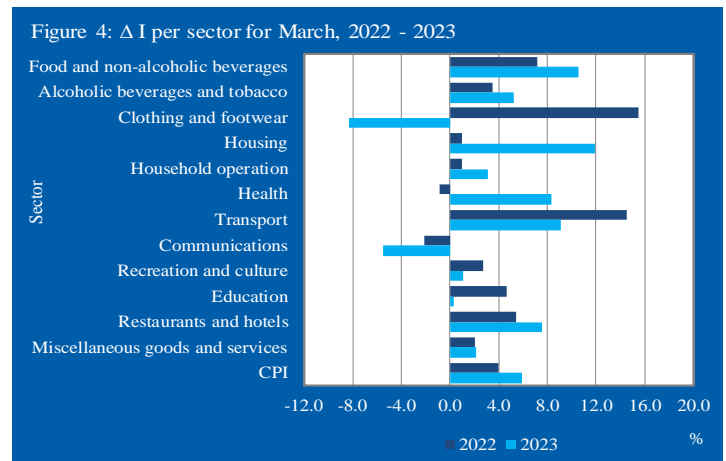
Table 3: Percentage change for March, 2022 - 2023

Sector	% Change
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	10.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	5.3
Clothing and footwear	-8.3
Housing	12.0
Household operation	3.1
Health	8.4
Transport	9.1
Communications	-5.5
Recreation and culture	1.0
Education	0.3
Restaurants and hotels	7.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	2.1
CPI	5.9

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

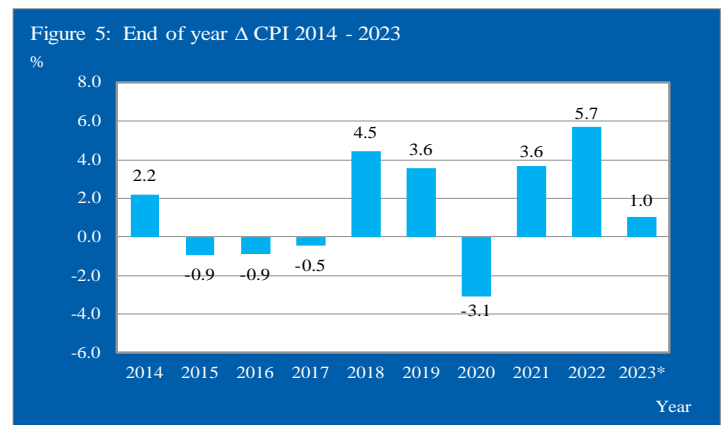
2.3 Changes in categories

The largest positive and negative Δ I in categories observed over a period of one year are respectively, "Electricity, gas and other fuels" (23.0%) and "Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment" (-17.8%). 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 2014 - 2023

The end of year Δ CPI for the period 2014 - 2023 is shown in figure 5. The Δ CPI for 2023 is calculated by comparing the CPI of March 2023 with the CPI of December 2022. The ytd Δ CPI for March 2023 is 1.0%.



*ytd

2.5 Period average change CPI for March 2023

The period average change CPI (Δ ACPI) for March 2023 is 6.2%. Table 4 provides an overview of the Δ ACPI for the month March for the years 2019 to 2023. The Δ ACPI for 2023 increased by 4.1 ppts compared to 2022 (2.1%).

Table 4: Overview of Δ ACPI for March, 2019 - 2023

Period	Δ ACPI	Index
2018-2019	3.9	96.02
2019-2020	3.6	99.51
2020-2021	-2.3	97.21
2021-2022	2.1	99.29
2022-2023	6.2	105.49

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

3 Development of indices of main sectors and utilities

3.1 Indices main sectors

The four major sectors, “Housing”, “Transport”, “Food and non-alcoholic 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 2023 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 6-2.

Table 5: Prices of utilities, gasoline and diesel, 2022 - 2023

Month	Crude oil per barrel ¹	Total energy charge ²		Electricity ³	Water ⁴	Gasoline ⁵	Diesel ⁵
		≤ 500 kWh	501-1000 kWh				
Mar-22	108.58	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	261.00	228.80
Apr-22	102.29	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	291.00	274.50
May-22	109.31	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	289.00	289.00
Jun-22	115.29	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	321.20	290.30
Jul-22	103.21	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	335.70	312.70
Aug-22	93.74	38.53	39.65	294.56	167.75	293.20	278.50
Sep-22	85.37	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	268.00	269.90
Oct-22	87.61	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	254.90	259.40
Nov-22	85.08	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	269.10	284.80
Dec-22	76.80	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	251.40	261.00
Jan-23	78.01	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	243.80	246.60
Feb-23	76.99	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	262.50	260.30
Mar-23	73.51	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	257.60	234.80

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

¹ Average West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil price per barrel in US\$ (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

² Total energy charge in Afl. cents per kWh

³ Electricity price in Afl.

⁴ Water price in Afl.

⁵ Gasoline and diesel prices in Afl. cents per liter

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 2023, it remained at Afl. 294.56. Figure 6-1 provides an overview of the course of changes in the electricity price for the period 2015 to 2023.

The total energy charge per kWh for a usage of electricity up to 500 kWh did not change in March 2023, it stayed at Afl. 38.53 cents per kWh. The total energy charge per kWh for a usage of electricity between 501 - 1000 kWh did not change in March 2023, it stayed at Afl. 39.65 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 2015 to 2023. The water price for an average usage by households did not change in March 2023, it remained at Afl. 168.73.

3.4 Gasoline and Diesel

The retail price of gasoline decreased by 1.9% from 262.5 cents per liter in February 2023 to 257.6 cents per liter in March 2023. In March 2023, the retail price of diesel registered a decrease of 9.8% from 260.3 cents per liter in February 2023 to 234.8 cents per liter in March 2023.

Figure 6-1 Electricity price, water price and energy charge in Afl., 2015 - 2023

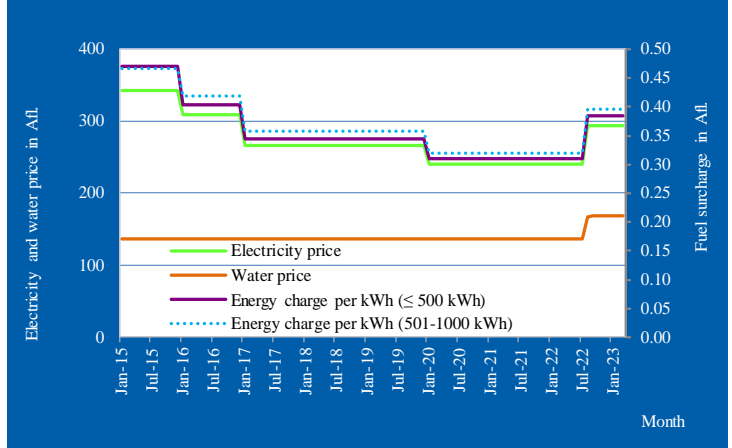
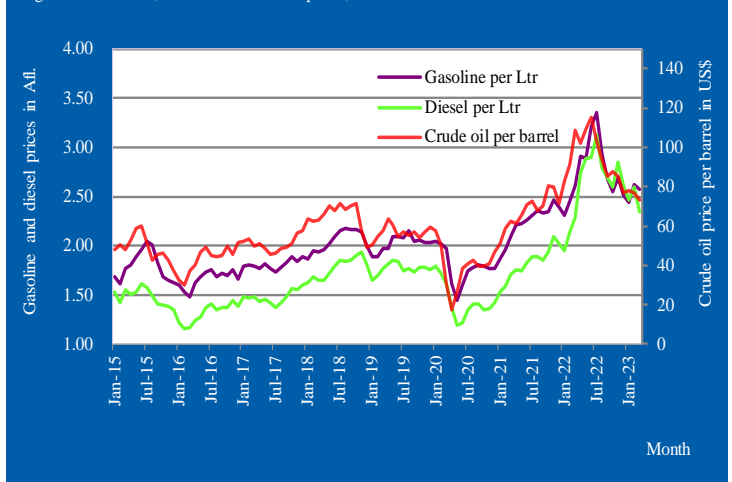


Figure 6-2 Gasoline, diesel and crude oil prices, 2015 - 2023



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 Δ CPI of Aruba's major trading partners starting from March 2022. In March 2023 the Δ CPI of the USA and the Netherlands were 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. The Δ CPI of Curaçao for March 2023 is not yet available.

Table 6: Monthly Δ CPI 2022 - 2023 per Country

Period	Aruba	USA	Curaçao	Netherlands
Mar-22	1.0	1.3	1.0	3.6
Apr-22	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.3
May-22	0.3	1.1	0.7	-0.6
Jun-22	0.7	1.4	1.1	0.0
Jul-22	1.2	0.0	1.0	2.1
Aug-22	1.9	0.0	1.0	2.0
Sep-22	-0.2	0.2	0.4	2.4
Oct-22	0.1	0.4	-0.1	1.1
Nov-22	0.2	-0.1	0.3	-3.0
Dec-22	-0.1	-0.3	0.6	0.5
Jan-23	0.3	0.8	n.a.	-1.4
Feb-23	0.8	0.6	n.a.	1.0
Mar-23	-0.1	0.3	n.a.	0.2

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

The USA is considered Aruba's largest trading partner². Table 7 provides an overview of the Δ CPI for Aruba and the USA in March 2023. Aruba's monthly Δ CPI for March 2023 is 0.4 ppts lower than the Δ CPI of the USA.

Table 7: Overview of Δ CPI, 2023

Period	Aruba	USA
Monthly Feb - Mar	-0.1	0.3
Year-to-date Feb - Mar	1.0	1.7
Last 12 months ¹ Feb - Mar	5.9	5.0
Last 24 months ² Feb - Mar	6.2	7.4

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

¹ End of period inflation

² Period average inflation

The Δ CPI of Aruba over the last 12 months is 0.9 ppts higher compared to the USA's 12-month Δ CPI. The Δ CPI over the last 24 months for Aruba is 1.2 ppts lower than the Δ 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

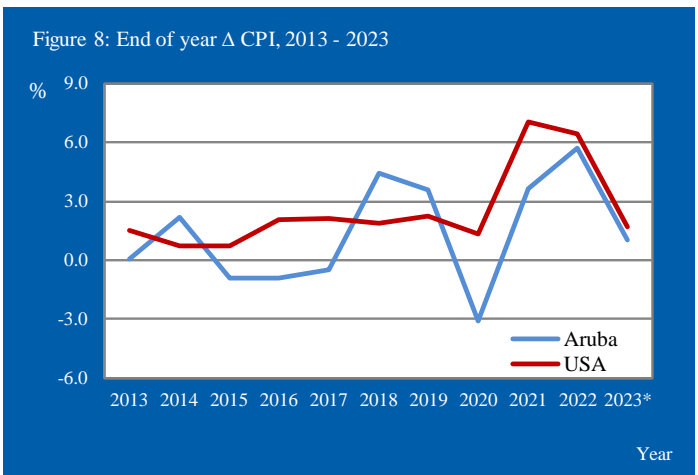
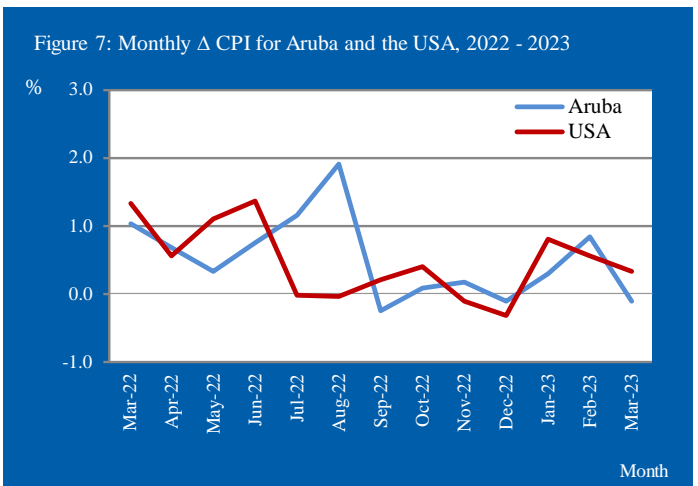
end of year Δ CPI over the period 2013 - 2023 for Aruba and the USA is provided in table 8 and figure 8.

Table 8: End of year Δ CPI, 2013 - 2023

Period	Aruba	USA
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	3.6	7.0
2022	5.7	6.5
2023*	1.0	1.7

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

* ytd



² In 2022, 50% of Aruba's import by sea and air originated from the USA" (Source: Foreign Trade Statistics Report, 2018-2022).

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 2023 the core inflation (measured over the period March 2022 - 2023) was 3.3%. In March 2023 the food index was 11.9%, while the energy index shows an increase of 16.5%.

Table 9: Monthly inflation¹ and core inflation, 2022 - 2023

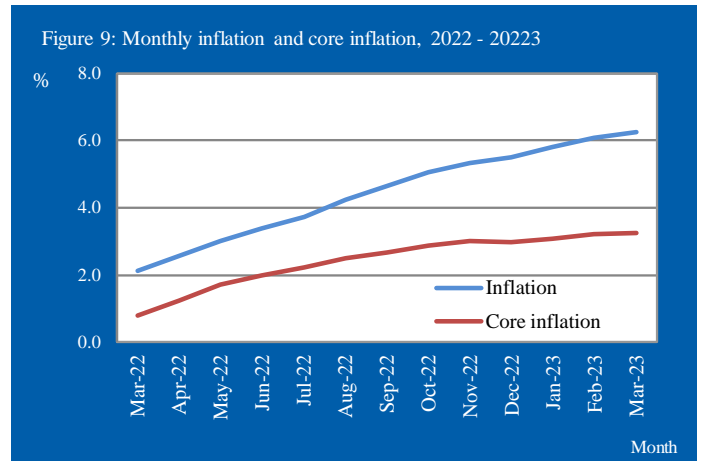
Period	Inflation	Food	Energy ²	Core Inflation
Mar-22	2.1	2.0	8.7	0.8
Apr-22	2.6	3.0	8.8	1.2
May-22	3.0	4.0	8.7	1.7
Jun-22	3.4	5.1	9.0	2.0
Jul-22	3.7	6.1	9.5	2.2
Aug-22	4.3	7.1	10.8	2.5
Sep-22	4.7	8.0	11.9	2.7
Oct-22	5.1	9.0	12.8	2.9
Nov-22	5.3	9.7	13.5	3.0
Dec-22	5.5	10.5	14.2	3.0
Jan-23	5.8	11.1	15.1	3.1
Feb-23	6.1	11.6	16.0	3.2
Mar-23	6.2	11.9	16.5	3.3

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

¹ Period average inflation

² Energy : Electricity, water, gasoline and diesel

The monthly inflation and core inflation for Aruba is shown in figure 9 over a period of one year starting from March 2022.



5.3 End of year change of the core inflation, 2018 - 2023

The end of year core inflation of the total population of Aruba for the year 2023 (up to March) is 3.3%, an increase of 0.3 ppts compared to the core inflation of 2022. Table 10 provides an overview of the end of year inflation and core inflation over the period 2018 - 2023.

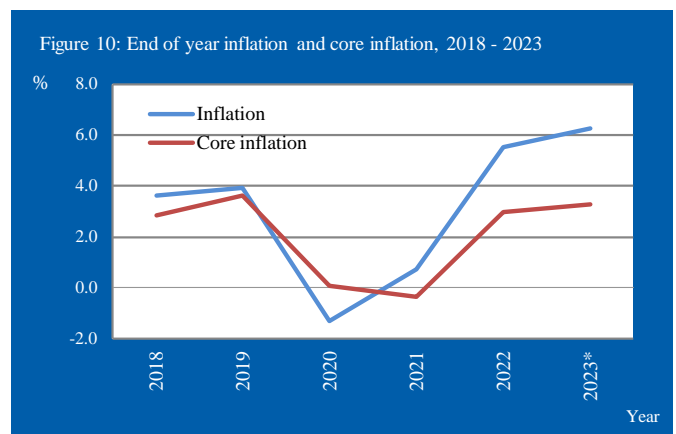
The end of year inflation and core inflation is presented in figure 10 over the period 2018 - 2023.

Table 10: End of year core inflation, 2018 - 2023

Period	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Inflation	3.6	3.9	-1.3	0.7	5.5	6.2
Food	7.3	10.5	-0.8	-0.3	10.5	11.9
Electricity	1.7	2.1	-9.2	0.0	9.5	15.1
Water	1.7	2.1	0.5	0.0	9.6	15.3
Gasoline and diesel	15.8	1.0	-12.3	25.6	24.8	19.4
Core inflation	2.8	3.6	0.1	-0.3	3.0	3.3

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

*current month



6 Development of Food & catering services

6.1 Monthly change of Food & catering services for March 2023

The “Food & catering services” index showed a decrease of 0.2% in March 2023, after an increase of 0.2% in February 2023. The index for “Food at home” showed a decrease of 0.4% in March, as six (6) of the eleven (11) “Food at home” indices decreased in March 2023. The “Fruit” index registered the largest decrease (-3.0%) in March 2023. Furthermore, other significant decreases were posted in the indices for “Non-alcoholic beverages” (-2.4%), “Vegetables” (-2.2%) and “Potatoes and other tubers” (-1.4%). The largest increase was registered in the index for “Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery” (1.7%) in March 2023.

Table 11 provides an overview of the corresponding weights per food group together with the percentage changes and effect for March 2023.

Table 11: Percentage change of Food for March 2023

Food	Weight	Monthly		Yearly	
		% Change	Effect	% Change	Effect
Food & catering services	1,492.8	-0.2	-0.028	9.7	1.509
Food at home	1,125.3	-0.4	-0.045	10.6	1.170
Bread and cereals	205.2	0.9	0.017	15.1	0.268
Meat	229.8	-0.2	-0.005	9.8	0.252
Fish and other seafood	56.4	-1.0	-0.005	7.5	0.038
Milk, cheese and eggs	140.0	0.6	0.009	18.0	0.253
Oils and fats	31.6	0.3	0.001	9.1	0.033
Fruit	72.0	-3.0	-0.029	0.8	0.008
Potatoes and other tubers	18.5	-1.4	-0.002	4.7	0.007
Vegetables	75.7	-2.2	-0.018	10.0	0.074
Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery	49.6	1.7	0.008	12.3	0.053
Food products n.e.c.	82.7	1.3	0.011	9.9	0.081
Non-alcoholic beverages	163.9	-2.4	-0.032	7.9	0.040
Food away from home	367.5	0.4	0.017	7.4	0.339
Other goods and services	8,507.2	-0.1	-0.085	5.2	4.403
Other goods	5,147.2	-0.3	-0.143	8.8	4.120
Other services	3,360.0	0.2	0.059	0.8	0.283
CPI	10,000.0	-0.1	-0.113	5.9	5.912

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

In March 2023, “Food at home” and “Food away from home” as a group showed a decrease in price of 0.2% compared to February 2023, and had an effect of -0.03 ppts on the CPI, while the remaining goods and services, as a group, experienced a decrease in price of 0.1%, causing an effect of -0.08 ppts on the CPI.

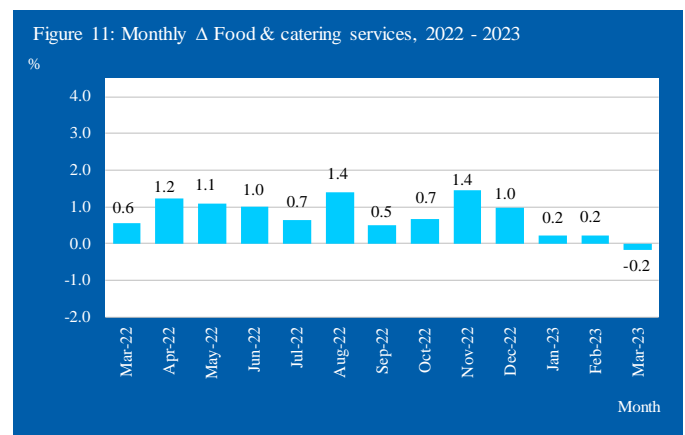
An overview of the percentage change and effect for “Food at home” and “Food away from home” for March 2023 is presented in table 12.

Table 12: Effect on the CPI of March 2023 of “Food at home” and “Food away from home”

Category	Weight	% Change	Effect
Food at home	1,087.7	-0.4	-0.05
Food away from home	429.8	0.4	0.02
Total group	1,517.5	-0.2	-0.03
Remaining goods and services	8,482.5	-0.1	-0.08
CPI	10,000.0	-0.1	-0.11

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Figure 11 depicts the monthly Δ Food and catering services over a period of one year starting from March 2022.



6.2 End of Period change of Food & catering services for March 2023

Over the last 12 months, the “Food & catering services” increased by 9.7%. The “Food at home” index showed an increase of 10.6%, where all of the “Food at home” food groups increased over the period.

The “Milk, cheese and eggs” index increased by 18.0%, the largest increase among the “Food at home” food groups. Furthermore, other significant increases were posted in the indices for “Bread and cereals” (15.1%), “Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery” (12.3%), “Vegetables” (10.0%), “Food products n.e.c.” (9.9%), “Meat” (9.8%), “Oils and fats” (9.1%), “Non-alcoholic beverages” (7.9%) and “Fish and other seafood” (7.5%).

The index for “Food away from home” increased by 7.4% over the last 12 months.

Table 18 provides an overview of the monthly and end of period percentage changes and effect for March 2023 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 March 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 years).

7.2 Monthly change of the subsistence level for March 2023

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 increased by Afl. 406, from Afl. 4,980 in March 2022 to Afl. 5,386 in March 2023. The "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (Afl. 213) and "Housing" (Afl. 175) sectors show the largest increases, over this period.

Table 13: Monthly subsistence level in Aruba (in Afl.) by sector for a family of 2 adults and 2 children (aged 0-14 years) for March, 2019 - 2023

Sector	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Change in Afl.
						Mar-22 - Mar-23
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,901	1,923	1,876	2,011	2,224	213
Clothing and footwear	268	276	237	274	251	-23
Housing	1,457	1,435	1,443	1,457	1,632	175
Household operation	114	110	110	111	114	3
Health	82	83	79	79	85	6
Transport	281	282	285	327	357	30
Communications	151	151	152	149	141	-8
Recreation and culture	156	168	160	165	166	1
Education	73	74	74	78	78	0
Miscellaneous goods and services	325	327	324	331	338	7
Total	4,809	4,829	4,741	4,980	5,386	406

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

An overview of the subsistence level, for the most common family types, over the period March 2022 - March 2023 is presented in table 14.

Table 14: Subsistence level in Aruba (in Afl.) by family size and composition, March 2023 (Base period December 2010)

Period	Equivalence scales				
	1	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1
	1 adult	1 adult + 1 child	2 adults	2 adults + 1 child	2 adults + 2 children
Mar-22	2,372	3,083	3,557	4,269	4,980
Apr-22	2,382	3,097	3,574	4,288	5,003
May-22	2,403	3,124	3,604	4,325	5,046
Jun-22	2,414	3,139	3,622	4,346	5,070
Jul-22	2,440	3,172	3,660	4,392	5,124
Aug-22	2,513	3,267	3,770	4,524	5,278
Sep-22	2,528	3,287	3,792	4,551	5,309
Oct-22	2,529	3,288	3,793	4,552	5,311
Nov-22	2,553	3,319	3,830	4,596	5,362
Dec-22	2,560	3,328	3,840	4,608	5,376
Jan-23	2,554	3,320	3,831	4,597	5,363
Feb-23	2,568	3,339	3,852	4,623	5,393
Mar-23	2,565	3,334	3,847	4,616	5,386

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

7.3 Comparison of the subsistence level and minimum wage

In March 2023 the subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2,565, which represents an income deficit of Afl. 672, an increase of Afl. 115 compared to the deficit observed one year ago (Afl. 557). This deficit is the highest registered over a period of six years for the month March.

Table 15: Monthly income surplus/deficit (in Afl.) for a single adult household for March, 2018 - 2023

Period	Minimum		Surplus/deficit
	1 adult	wage	
2018	2,152	1,711	-441
2019	2,290	1,711	-579
2020	2,300	1,815	-485
2021	2,258	1,815	-443
2022	2,372	1,815	-557
2023	2,565	1,893	-672

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Table 16: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) in the Consumer Price Index for March 2023, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	2022	2022	2023	2023	Monthly Feb - Mar	Ytd Dec - Mar	End of period Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months	Period average Mar 21/22 - Mar 22/23 24 months
		Mar	Dec	Feb	Mar				
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,087.7	102.97	114.32	114.33	113.88	-0.4	-0.4	10.6	11.5
Food	964.1	102.65	114.32	114.03	113.89	-0.1	-0.4	11.0	11.9
Non-alcoholic beverages	123.6	105.45	114.36	116.65	113.83	-2.4	-0.5	7.9	9.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	78.2	103.87	106.28	108.81	109.34	0.5	2.9	5.3	4.7
Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home	62.2	102.65	105.75	106.90	107.60	0.7	1.7	4.8	5.1
Tobacco	16.0	108.59	108.32	116.25	116.12	-0.1	7.2	6.9	3.1
Clothing and footwear	276.8	100.41	95.40	92.11	92.09	0.0	-3.5	-8.3	1.2
Clothing	212.8	102.66	98.09	92.04	93.23	1.3	-5.0	-9.2	1.6
Footwear	64.0	92.93	86.46	92.35	88.29	-4.4	2.1	-5.0	-0.3
Housing	2,522.2	98.68	110.31	110.76	110.48	-0.3	0.2	12.0	7.8
Actual rentals for housing	666.7	104.18	105.34	105.61	105.74	0.1	0.4	1.5	1.5
Imputed rentals for housing	34.4	94.02	94.59	94.59	94.59	0.0	0.0	0.6	-4.4
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	517.0	101.63	106.52	108.40	106.84	-1.4	0.3	5.1	2.0
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	463.6	102.28	120.59	120.59	120.59	0.0	0.0	17.9	12.7
Electricity, gas and other fuels	840.4	90.72	111.55	111.55	111.55	0.0	0.0	23.0	15.0
Household operation	929.2	99.48	99.17	107.70	102.58	-4.8	3.4	3.1	5.0
Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	128.8	82.00	81.61	92.19	77.08	-16.4	-5.6	-6.0	9.5
Household textiles	58.6	77.89	75.62	77.16	74.55	-3.4	-1.4	-4.3	-2.1
Household appliances	246.0	105.50	99.86	118.46	107.89	-8.9	8.0	2.3	7.5
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	17.2	78.70	78.74	68.24	78.74	15.4	0.0	0.1	-1.5
Tools and equipment for house and garden	58.2	121.71	130.46	137.45	131.55	-4.3	0.8	8.1	10.6
Goods and services for routine household maintenance and cleaning	420.5	102.09	103.93	107.91	108.15	0.2	4.1	5.9	2.7
Health	223.1	95.37	99.92	100.37	103.34	3.0	3.4	8.4	2.8
Medical products, appliances and equipment	152.3	94.27	97.77	97.54	100.93	3.5	3.2	7.1	1.0
Out-patient services	52.4	97.63	105.35	106.09	108.58	2.3	3.1	11.2	9.2
Other treatments	7.8	94.44	99.18	99.61	102.20	2.6	3.0	8.2	7.2
Health products and services n.e.c.	10.5	100.73	104.45	113.45	112.85	-0.5	8.0	12.0	-5.3
Transport	1,257.4	112.18	117.02	120.01	122.42	2.0	4.6	9.1	15.6
Purchase of vehicles	442.6	105.93	119.92	120.76	130.14	7.8	8.5	22.9	18.0
Operation of personal transport equipment	763.3	117.44	116.38	121.95	120.26	-1.4	3.3	2.4	14.4
Transport services	51.5	87.89	101.58	84.67	88.11	4.1	-13.3	0.3	14.0
Communications	849.6	97.72	91.24	92.12	92.36	0.3	1.2	-5.5	-3.9
Telephone and telefax equipment	43.8	73.98	71.55	65.99	70.69	7.1	-1.2	-4.4	-13.7
Telephone and telefax services	805.8	99.01	92.31	93.54	93.54	0.0	1.3	-5.5	-3.4
Recreation and culture	1,013.3	98.57	101.62	99.36	99.60	0.2	-2.0	1.0	1.6
Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	58.5	102.13	90.91	78.51	83.95	6.9	-7.7	-17.8	-2.7
Other major durables for recreation and culture	20.0	99.29	85.51	89.47	90.14	0.7	5.4	-9.2	2.8
Other recreational items and equipment; gardens and pets	266.6	100.81	109.89	108.38	109.36	0.9	-0.5	8.5	5.7
Recreational and cultural services	309.1	101.84	102.19	103.05	103.12	0.1	0.9	1.3	0.9
Newspapers, books and stationery	43.7	71.65	85.10	93.44	85.14	-8.9	0.0	18.8	5.7
Holidays	315.4	96.48	99.36	93.43	93.42	0.0	-6.0	-3.2	-1.0
Education	98.0	104.79	104.79	105.12	105.12	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.6
Pre primary and primary education	24.0	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Secondary education	43.4	110.44	110.44	110.44	110.44	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	4.6	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tertiary education	23.6	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education not definable by level	2.5	106.67	106.67	120.00	120.00	0.0	12.5	12.5	3.1
Restaurants and hotels	442.0	107.00	113.51	114.55	115.12	0.5	1.4	7.6	6.8
Catering services	429.8	108.06	113.82	115.65	116.07	0.4	2.0	7.4	6.4
Accommodation services	12.2	69.52	102.82	75.93	81.56	7.4	-20.7	17.3	28.1
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,222.6	100.33	101.36	102.19	102.45	0.2	1.1	2.1	1.9
Personal care	427.1	97.35	99.67	100.28	101.07	0.8	1.4	3.8	2.3
Personal effects n.e.c.	106.6	94.07	96.61	97.48	97.26	-0.2	0.7	3.4	2.0
Social protection	78.2	126.67	126.67	133.33	133.33	0.0	5.3	5.3	12.1
Insurance	610.7	100.14	100.14	100.36	100.36	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
CPI	10,000.0	101.47	106.37	107.59	107.47	-0.1	1.0	5.9	6.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Table 17: Monthly & Yearly Effect on the Consumer Price Index per sector and category for March 2023 (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	Monthly	Ytd	End of period	Period average
		Feb - Mar	Dec - Mar	Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months	Mar 21/22 - Mar 22/23 24 months
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1,087.7	-0.05	-0.05	1.17	1.25
Food	964.1	-0.01	-0.04	1.07	1.14
Non-alcoholic beverages	123.6	-0.03	-0.01	0.10	0.12
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	78.2	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.04
Alcoholic beverages for consumption at home	62.2	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03
Tobacco	16.0	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Clothing and footwear	276.8	0.00	-0.09	-0.23	0.03
Clothing	212.8	0.02	-0.10	-0.20	0.03
Footwear	64.0	-0.02	0.01	-0.03	0.00
Housing	2,522.2	-0.07	0.04	2.93	1.95
Actual rentals for housing	666.7	0.01	0.02	0.10	0.10
Imputed rentals for housing	34.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	517.0	-0.07	0.02	0.27	0.11
Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	463.6	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.60
Electricity, gas and other fuels	840.4	0.00	0.00	1.72	1.15
Household operation	929.2	-0.44	0.30	0.28	0.46
Furniture, furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	128.8	-0.18	-0.05	-0.06	0.09
Household textiles	58.6	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01
Household appliances	246.0	-0.24	0.19	0.06	0.18
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	17.2	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tools and equipment for house and garden	58.2	-0.03	0.01	0.06	0.08
Goods and services for routine household maintenance and cleaning	420.5	0.01	0.17	0.25	0.12
Health	223.1	0.06	0.07	0.18	0.06
Medical products, appliances and equipment	152.3	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.01
Out-patient services	52.4	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.05
Other treatments	7.8	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Health products and services n.e.c.	10.5	0.00	0.01	0.01	-0.01
Transport	1,257.4	0.28	0.64	1.27	2.06
Purchase of vehicles	442.6	0.39	0.43	1.06	0.80
Operation of personal transport equipment	763.3	-0.12	0.28	0.21	1.20
Transport services	51.5	0.02	-0.07	0.00	0.06
Communications	849.6	0.02	0.09	-0.45	-0.33
Telephone and telefax equipment	43.8	0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.05
Telephone and telefax services	805.8	0.00	0.09	-0.43	-0.28
Recreation and culture	1,013.3	0.02	-0.19	0.10	0.16
Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	58.5	0.03	-0.04	-0.10	-0.02
Other major durables for recreation and culture	20.0	0.00	0.01	-0.02	0.01
Other recreational items and equipment; gardens and pets	266.6	0.02	-0.01	0.22	0.15
Recreational and cultural services	309.1	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03
Newspapers, books and stationery	43.7	-0.03	0.00	0.06	0.02
Holidays	315.4	0.00	-0.18	-0.10	-0.03
Education	98.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
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	0.02
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	0.02	0.07	0.35	0.31
Catering services	429.8	0.02	0.09	0.34	0.29
Accommodation services	12.2	0.01	-0.02	0.01	0.02
Miscellaneous goods and services	1,222.6	0.03	0.12	0.25	0.23
Personal care	427.1	0.03	0.06	0.16	0.09
Personal effects n.e.c.	106.6	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02
Social protection	78.2	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.11
Insurance	610.7	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
CPI	10,000.0	-0.11	1.03	5.91	6.25

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Table 18: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) and effect in the Food & catering services for March 2023, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	% Change		Effect	
		Monthly Feb - Mar	End of period Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months	Monthly Feb - Mar	End of period Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months
Food & catering services	1,517.5	-0.2	9.7	-0.028	1.509
Food at home	1,087.7	-0.4	10.6	-0.045	1.170
Bread and cereals	178.1	0.9	15.1	0.017	0.268
Rice	23.5	0.6	33.6	0.002	0.082
Bread	72.1	-0.4	9.1	-0.003	0.069
Pasta products	9.2	1.1	12.0	0.001	0.012
Other cereals and cereal products	73.3	2.3	15.5	0.017	0.105
Meat	242.5	-0.2	9.8	-0.005	0.252
Bovine	67.3	-0.3	6.8	-0.002	0.051
Swine	25.5	-0.1	6.5	0.000	0.018
Poultry	75.7	-0.8	14.9	-0.007	0.114
Other meat and meat preparations	74.0	0.6	8.8	0.005	0.068
Fish and other seafood	49.0	-1.0	7.5	-0.005	0.038
Fish and seafood preparations	49.0	-1.0	7.5	-0.005	0.038
Milk, cheese and eggs	135.3	0.6	18.0	0.009	0.253
Cheese	55.4	0.4	10.4	0.003	0.061
Eggs	16.6	-2.7	48.6	-0.008	0.094
Milk	40.0	2.8	15.4	0.012	0.062
Other milk products	23.3	0.9	15.9	0.002	0.036
Oils and fats	32.2	0.3	9.1	0.001	0.033
Corn oil	2.8	-0.2	11.9	0.000	0.005
Butter and margarine	9.2	0.8	11.2	0.001	0.011
Other oils and fats	20.1	0.2	7.8	0.000	0.018
Fruit	97.6	-3.0	0.8	-0.029	0.008
Oranges	9.4	-6.1	-10.2	-0.007	-0.013
Bananas and plantains	19.9	-2.3	13.7	-0.004	0.021
Apples	9.3	-3.8	-3.1	-0.004	-0.003
Avocado	5.0	4.6	5.3	0.002	0.002
Grapes	9.2	-4.9	-6.6	-0.005	-0.007
Nuts	11.9	1.5	5.0	0.002	0.006
Lemons and mandarins	6.0	1.2	-10.8	0.001	-0.006
Cherries and strawberries	8.8	-13.7	-9.6	-0.017	-0.012
Melons and watermelons	7.7	1.7	9.1	0.001	0.006
Papayas and pineapples	6.9	6.1	11.7	0.003	0.007
Other fruits and fruit products	3.5	0.1	28.1	0.000	0.009
Potatoes and other tubers	18.2	-1.4	4.7	-0.002	0.007
Potatoes	12.2	-3.4	-3.8	-0.003	-0.003
Other tubers	2.0	1.6	19.0	0.000	0.004
Sweet potatoes and yucca	4.0	0.9	17.0	0.000	0.006
Vegetables	89.1	-2.2	10.0	-0.018	0.074
Lettuce	6.8	1.6	6.1	0.000	0.002
Tomatoes	9.7	-2.2	13.6	-0.002	0.012
Onions and garlic	18.7	0.8	5.9	0.001	0.009
Celery and broccoli	15.3	-11.3	4.1	-0.015	0.005
Other vegetables	15.3	-4.9	9.2	-0.007	0.012
Other preserved or processed vegetables	8.4	1.6	12.5	0.001	0.010
Frozen vegetable mixtures	14.8	2.3	17.8	0.003	0.024
Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery	42.0	1.7	12.3	0.008	0.053
Sugar	12.1	0.6	9.1	0.001	0.012
Jams and jellies	2.5	-4.0	5.5	-0.001	0.001
Other confectionery products	27.5	2.7	14.5	0.008	0.040
Food products n.e.c.	80.1	1.3	9.9	0.011	0.081
Other food products	80.1	1.3	9.9	0.011	0.081
Non-alcoholic beverages	123.6	-2.4	7.9	-0.032	0.102
Coffee and tea	20.9	-0.4	14.3	-0.001	0.029
Other non-alcoholic beverages	14.6	0.6	4.1	0.001	0.006
Soft and sports drinks	31.0	0.3	12.5	0.001	0.041
Fruit juices	57.1	-5.3	4.2	-0.033	0.026
Food away from home	429.8	0.4	7.4	0.017	0.339
Food and beverage consumption away from home	429.8	0.4	7.4	0.017	0.339
Other goods and services	8,482.5	-0.1	5.2	-0.085	4.403
Other goods	4,735.8	-0.3	8.8	-0.143	4.120
Other services	3,746.7	0.2	0.8	0.059	0.283
CPI	10,000	-0.1	5.9	-0.113	5.912

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Table 19: CPI: Main indices for March 2023, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	2022	2022	2023	2023	Monthly	Ytd	End of period	Period average
		Mar	Dec	Feb	Mar	Feb - Mar	Dec - Mar	Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months	Mar 21/22 - Mar 22/23 24 months
CPI for "All items"	10,000.0	101.47	106.37	107.59	107.47	-0.1	1.0	5.9	6.2
CPI for "Goods"	5,823.4	100.74	108.82	110.31	104.00	-5.7	-4.4	3.2	9.0
CPI for "Durable goods"	1,294.8	101.20	104.96	108.83	107.23	-1.5	2.2	6.0	7.5
CPI for "Semi-durable goods"	635.9	94.13	92.31	92.05	108.56	17.9	17.6	15.3	2.2
CPI for "Non-durable goods"	3,892.8	101.67	112.80	113.78	103.76	-8.8	-8.0	2.1	10.7
CPI for "Services"	4,176.6	102.49	102.96	103.80	109.96	5.9	6.8	7.3	2.3
CPI for "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	460.6	124.58	121.45	126.37	106.71	-15.6	-12.1	-14.3	18.2
CPI for "Energy"	1,638.1	102.15	116.60	117.98	105.58	-10.5	-9.4	3.4	15.6
CPI for "Food at home"	1,087.7	102.97	114.32	114.33	106.69	-6.7	-6.7	3.6	10.9
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages"	8,912.3	101.29	105.40	106.77	113.88	6.7	8.0	12.4	6.2
CPI excluding "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	9,539.4	100.35	105.64	106.68	123.28	15.6	16.7	22.8	6.9
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	8,451.7	100.02	104.53	105.70	116.68	10.4	11.6	16.7	5.7
CPI excluding "Rentals actually paid by tenants or subtenants"	9,333.3	101.28	106.45	107.73	105.74	-1.9	-0.7	4.4	6.4
CPI excluding "Housing"	7,477.8	102.41	105.04	106.52	110.48	3.7	5.2	7.9	6.1
CPI excluding "Gasoline", "Diesel", "Water" and "Electricity"	8,361.9	101.34	104.37	105.55	117.11	10.9	12.2	15.6	5.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Table 20: CPI: Effect on main indices for March 2023, Total Population (Jun 2019 = 100)

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT coefficient	Monthly	Ytd	End of period	Period average
		Feb - Mar	Dec - Mar	Mar 22 - Mar 23 12 months	Mar 21/22 - Mar 22/23 24 months
CPI for "All items"	10,000.0	-0.11	1.03	5.91	6.25
CPI for "Goods"	5,823.4	0.08	0.41	0.62	0.78
CPI for "Durable goods"	1,294.8	-0.14	0.53	4.91	5.27
CPI for "Semi-durable goods"	635.9	-0.07	1.09	6.09	6.21
CPI for "Non-durable goods"	3,892.8	0.06	0.85	1.45	1.80
CPI for "Services"	4,176.6	-0.19	0.62	5.29	5.47
CPI for "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	460.6	0.02	0.95	5.97	5.24
CPI for "Energy"	1,638.1	0.02	0.95	3.50	3.56
CPI for "Food at home"	1,087.7	-0.07	1.07	4.84	5.11
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages"	8,912.3	-0.05	-0.05	1.17	1.25
CPI excluding "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	9,539.4	-0.13	0.08	-0.06	1.01
CPI excluding "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", "Gasoline" and "Diesel"	8,451.7	-0.18	0.03	1.11	2.26
CPI excluding "Rentals actually paid by tenants or subtenants"	9,333.3	0.01	0.03	0.10	0.10
CPI excluding "Housing"	7,477.8	-0.07	0.04	2.93	1.95
CPI excluding "Gasoline", "Diesel", "Water" and "Electricity"	8,361.9	-0.13	0.08	2.42	2.69

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Course of Indices for 2011 up to March 2023



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 March 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.