

## First Results Census 2011 Curaçao

Willemstad, July 2012

## CONTENTS

Population Size ..... 2
Sex Ratio ..... 2
Age Structure ..... 2
Place of Birth and Nationality ..... 4
Fertility Rate ..... 5
Marital Status ..... 6
Religion ..... 7
Health ..... 8
Education ..... 10
Employment ..... 11
Main Spoken Language ..... 14
Some Characteristics of Dwellings ..... 17

## Population Size

As of March 26, 2011, the census date, there were 150,563 people living in Curaçao: 68,848 male and 81,715 female. Unlike the period from the 1992 Census to the one held in 2001, which saw the population decrease by more than 13.000 people, the years from 2001 to 2011 saw an increase of 19,936 persons ( 8,339 male and 11,597 female).
This 15.3 percent population increase can be attributed to natural increase (births minus deaths), but even more so to immigration, which significantly exceeded emigration during the past ten years.

| Table 1 Curaçao Population by Sex in Different Census Years |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Census | Male | Female | Total | Sex Ratio* |
| 1930 | 24,793 | 25,372 | 50,165 | 96.1 |
| 1960 | 61,955 | 63,226 | 125,181 | 98.0 |
| 1972 | 71,628 | 75,256 | 146,884 | 95.2 |
| 1981 | 70,930 | 76,458 | 147,388 | 92.8 |
| 1992 | 68,176 | 75,921 | 144,097 | 89.8 |
| 2001 | 60,509 | 70,118 | 130,627 | 86.3 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | 68,848 | 81,715 | 150,563 | 84.3 |

* Number of males per 100 females


## Sex Ratio

Through the years, Curaçao's sex ratio (the number of males as compared to females) has become more and more lopsided. The female part of the population has been growing constantly, and the 2001-2011 period is no exception. Two separate phenomena have contributed to this development: the larger female net migration gain as compared to that of men, and the population's aging (i.e. the fact that the overall population is getting older). Because females have a higher life expectancy than males, the female share of the population over 65 keeps growing.
As of the 2011 Census date, Curaçao had 84.3 male residents for every 100 females, compared to 86.3 males per 100 females ten years earlier. The male share of the population is especially low in the 15-64 and 65+ age categories, with sex ratios of 81.4 and 71.6 respectively. In the $0-14$ age group, on the other hand, there are more males than females (106.1).

| Table 2 Curaçao Sex Ratio by |  |  |  |  |  |  | Age group in Different Census Years |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 1960 | 1972 | 1981 | 1992 | 2001 | 2011 |  |
| $0-14$ | 103.4 | 103.7 | 102.5 | 101.5 | 103.6 | 106.1 |  |
| $15-64$ | 99.2 | 93 | 91.1 | 87.8 | 83.2 | 81.4 |  |
| $\mathbf{6 5 +}$ | 49.3 | 64 | 69.8 | 67.6 | 71.9 | 71.6 |  |

## Age Structure

The population pyramid in figure 1 clearly shows Curaçao’s aging population. Between 2001 and 2011, there was a sharp increase especially in the age categories over 45 (See figure 1). As can be seen in Table 3, in 2011 the 65+ age group had a 13.8 percent share, a three percentage-point increase as compared to 2001 (10.8 \%). When previous census
years from 1960 onward are compared, the 65+ group's share shows a steady growth with each passing decade. By 2011, the share of the 65+ group had tripled by comparison to 1960.

Figure 1 Curaçao Population Age Structure, 2001 and 2011 Census


There has also been development in the 15-64 age group, which is the economically active (potentially) age group. While it has grown by 14,733 persons, the group's overall population share has remained virtually unchanged ( $65.6 \%$ in 2001 and $66.7 \%$ in 2011). The population pyramid shows that the largest gain within this group happened in the 4564 age group. The 15-64 category's average age has therefore also increased, from 39.4 in 2001 to 40.3 in 2011.
The pyramid's base has shrunk somewhat due to a decrease in the number of young people up to 15 years of age between 2001 and 2011. In 2011, youths have only a 19.5 percent share of the population, down from 23.6 in 2001. Compared to 1960, the share of 0-14 year-olds has been reduced by half. This process is sometimes also referred to as the population's "dejuvenation."

The population’s aging and dejuvenation is also manifested in the average age. In 2011, the average age is 38.5 . From 1992 to 2011, the average age rose by 6.8 years, close to the 6.6-year increase seen over the much longer 1960-1992 period. The population's average age has been rising steadily over the past five decades.

| Table 3 Curaçao Population Age Structure and Average Age in Different Census Years in \% |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| (2011 Census) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1960 | 1972 | 1981 | 1992 | 2001 | 2011 |  |
| $0-14$ | 41.5 | 38.6 | 29.6 | 25.9 | 23.6 | 19.5 |  |
| $15-64$ | 54.2 | 56.0 | 63.9 | 66.0 | 65.6 | 66.7 |  |
| $65+$ | 4.3 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 10.8 | 13.8 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average Age | 25.1 | 26.0 | 28.6 | 31.7 | 35.7 | 38.5 |  |

## Place of Birth and Nationality

The net migration gain between 2001 and 2011 led to an increase in the number of persons not born in Curaçao. While in 2001, 80.5 percent of the population was born in Curaçao, by 2011 this figure had dropped to 75.8 percent. The share of persons born on any of the other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba also dropped from 3.5 percent in 2001 to 2.9 percent in 2011. The share of people born outside Curaçao and the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba has therefore grown. In 2011, people born in the Netherlands comprise six percent of the population (compared to $4.2 \%$ in 2001). After the Netherlands, the countries with the greatest number of people born there are the Dominican Republic and Colombia, with 3.6 and 3.0 percent shares respectively. Overall, the share of persons born outside Curaçao grew from 19.5 percent in 2001 to $24.2 \%$ in 2011.

## Table 4 Curaçao Population by Place of Birth - in \% (2011 Census)

| Place of Birth | 2001 | 2011 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Curaçao | 80.5 | 75.8 |
| Bonaire, Saba, St.-Eustatius, St.-Maarten and Aruba | 3.5 | 2.9 |
| The Netherlands | 4.2 | 6.0 |
| Dominican Republic | 3.2 | 3.6 |
| Colombia | 1.6 | 3.0 |
| Other | 7.0 | 8.7 |
|  |  |  |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Almost 89 percent ( $88.7 \%$ ) of the population had Dutch nationality in 2011, a 4.6 percentage-point decrease as compared to 2001 (93.3\%). Next to the Dutch nationality, the nationality most represented in Curaçao's population is Colombian, with 2.2 percent. The other most common nationalities among non-Dutch nationals are Dominican (1.9\%), Haitian (1.2\%), Venezuelan (0.8\%) and Jamaican (0.7\%).

Table 5 Curaçao Population by Nationality - in \% (2011 Census)

| Nationality | 2001 | 2011 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Dutch | 93.3 | 88.7 |
| Colombian | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| Dominican | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| Haitian | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Venezuelan | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Jamaican | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Other | 2.7 | 4.5 |
|  |  |  |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

## Fertility Rate

The 2011 Census included some questions on fertility which were asked to the female section of the population ages 14 and older. Based on the question of how many live-born children they have given birth to, an estimate of the fertility rate can be made for the population of Curaçao.
Table 6 shows the average number of live births per female in five-year age groups. Considering that, for all females, the reproductive age ${ }^{1}$ ends around the age of 45 , the age groups above 45 may be said to have reached reproductive 'cessation,' meaning that they will not be having any more children in the future. Women in younger age groups could, of course, have additional children.
In 2011, the average number of children for all age groups was either equal to or below the 2001 figure. A slight decline can be seen in the younger age groups, up to 39 years of age, but in the higher age groups the average decrease in the number of children is more pronounced. A steady decline in the number of children was seen in the past decades, especially in the generations of women who are now between 40 and 80 years of age. The fact that this rate has remained practically or totally unchanged for the 15-39 age group seems to indicate a stable fertility rate for this group.
The total fertility rate represents the average number of children that would be born to each female if the present fertility rates are maintained for the rest of their reproductive lifespan. In 2011, the total fertility rate was 1.94 children per female, down from 2.13 in 2001.

[^0]| Table 6 Average Live Births per Female, Curaçao <br> (2011 Census) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |
| $15-19$ | 2001 | 2011 |
| $20-24$ | 0.09 | 0.05 |
| $25-29$ | 0.54 | 0.50 |
| $30-34$ | 1.04 | 1.00 |
| $35-39$ | 1.52 | 1.52 |
| $40-44$ | 1.87 | 1.86 |
| $45-49$ | 2.06 | 2.00 |
| $50-54$ | 2.14 | 2.07 |
| $55-59$ | 2.29 | 2.11 |
| $60-64$ | 2.59 | 2.18 |
| $65+$ | 3.33 | 2.32 |
|  | 4.36 | 3.57 |
| Total Fertility Rate |  |  |

## Marital Status

In 2011, 60.0 percent of the population was not married and had never been married, and 29.2 percent was married. In 2001, these percentages were 58.8 and 30.9 respectively. The percentages of single and married persons have hardly changed since 2001.

| Table 7 Curaçao Population by Marital Status - in \% (2011 Census) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 2001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |  |
| Single/Never Been Married | 27.9 | 31.0 | 58.8 | 27.9 | 32.1 | 60.0 |  |
| Married | 15.4 | 15.5 | 30.9 | 14.7 | 14.5 | 29.2 |  |
| Widow(er) | 1.0 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 3.7 | 4.7 |  |
| Divorced | 2.1 | 3.7 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 4.0 | 6.1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 45.3 | 54.7 | 100.0 | 45.7 | 54.3 | 100.0 |  |

The share of the population with widow(er) as their marital status is 4.7 percent, which is virtually equal to the 4.5 percent of 2001. Likewise, the group of divorced persons hardly changed as compared to 2001; 6.1 percent in 2011 versus 5.8 percent in 2001.
The percentage of widows and divorced females was higher than that of widowers and divorced males in both 2011 and 2001. This may be attributed to women’s higher life expectancy. Women live longer than men and therefore have a higher probability of outliving their spouse. Another cause may be that widowers and divorced males are more likely to remarry as compared to widows and divorcées ${ }^{2}$.

## Religion

The vast majority of the population of Curaçao, 94.0 percent, reported that they belong to a religion, which is slightly less than 95.4 percent in the 2001 Census.

Roman Catholicism is so far still the largest religious denomination, with 72.8 percent. This is, however, a substantial decline compared to 2001 (80.1\%). On the other hand, the Census shows an increase, from 3.5 to 6.6 percent for Pentecostals, a 3.9 to 7.1 increase for the category Other-Religions, as well as an increase for the group which considers itself non-religious ( 4.6 to $6.0 \%$ ). The Adventists category shows a modest growth of 0.8 percentage points.

As for the Jehovah's Witnesses, there was a decrease (from 1.7 to $0.8 \%$ ). The category Protestant Church also shows a decrease ( 3.8 to 3.3\%).

| Table 8 Curaçao Population by Religion - in \% (2011 Census) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2001 | 2011 |
| Roman Catholics | 80.1 | 72.8 |
| Protestants | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| Pentecostals ${ }^{3}$ | 3.5 | 6.6 |
| Adventists | 2.2 | 3.0 |
| Jehovah's Witnesses | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| Other Religions | 3.9 | 7.1 |
| No Religion | 4.6 | 6.0 |
| Unknown | 0.2 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100,0 | 100,0 |

[^1]
## Health

Just as in 2001, the 2011 Census includes a number of questions regarding the respondents' health.

## Self-Perceived Health

In one of the questions, the respondents were asked to rate their own health ("What do you think of your health compared to others of your age?"). Someone’s self-perceived health status is a subjective indicator; someone might answer that his or her health is poor, while others under exactly the same circumstances may rate theirs as good.

Table 9 Self-Perceived Health of the Population of Curaçao -in \% (2011 Census)

| rating: | male | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ <br> female | total | male | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ <br> female | total |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Very Good |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Good | 34.4 | 30.4 | 32.3 | 39.8 | 36.3 | 37.9 |  |
| Fair | 51.8 | 51.8 | 51.8 | 48.5 | 49.5 | 49.1 |  |
| Poor | 11.1 | 15.0 | 13.2 | 7.9 | 10.8 | 9.5 |  |
| Very Poor | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 |  |
| Unknown | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |  |
|  | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.5 |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The combinations of the categories "good" and "very good" categories produces an increase, from 84.1 to 87.0 percent. There was, however, a shift within this positive rating, from "good" towards "very good."
The "very good" category saw an increase, from 32.3 to 37.9 percent. Men have a more positive perception of their own health as compared to women. In both 2001 and 2011, males were more likely than females to rate their own health as "very good."

By age groups, the results are as follows: of those in the age bracket 0-14,, 92.6 percent rate their health positively, with 50.7 percent as 'very good' and 41.9 as 'good.' For the age bracket15-64, the corresponding overall positive rating is 89.2 percent, with 37.3 percent rating it' health as "very good" and 51.9 percent as "good," while in the age group 65+, 68.6 percent rate it's health as overall positive, 23.0 percent as "very good" and 45.6 percent as "good."

## Physical or Mental Disabilities

Another question dealt with any physical and mental impairment the respondents may have. Please keep in mind that each of the percentages in table 6 was taken with respect to the whole population, which means that they do not add up to one hundred percent. Moreover, one person may have more than one disability.

Of the total population, 12.3 percent is either blind or visually impaired and 2.6 percent is deaf or hearing impaired. Furthermore, 1.1 percent has some other physical disability and 1.6 percent suffers from some intellectual or mental disability.

| Table 10 Persons With Physical or Mental Disabilities, Curaçao - in \% |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| (2011 Census) |  |
| Type of Disability: | 12.3 |
| Blind or Visually Impaired | 2.6 |
| Deaf or Hearing Impaired | 10.5 |
| Other Physical |  |
| of which: | 0.2 |
| $\quad$ Cannot talk | 5.3 |
| Cannot use one or both legs properly | 3.9 |
| Cannot use one or both arms properly | 1.1 |
| $\quad$ Has another physical disability | 1.6 |

## Health Insurance

The Census also asked respondents how they were insured for medical expenses. In 2001, respondents could mention more than one insurer, but in 2011 only one answer was allowed.

In 2011, 45.6 percent of the total population was insured with the SVB (Social Insurance Bank). Compared to 2001, this figure has grown by almost 10 percentage points. A total of 15.8 percent of the total population has a 'PP (Pro Pauperi) Card'. This represents a decrease of almost 4 percentage points as compared to 2001. Furthermore, 11.7 percent is insured with the BZV (medical-cost provision for public servants and their households), and 11.0 percent is privately insured. Also, 7.1 percent of the total population is insured through their employer and 5.2 percent has a FZOG insurance (for retired public servants). In 2001, 7.7 percent of the total population was uninsured (had no insurance at all), whereas in 2011 only 2.6 percent was not insured..

| Table 11 Type of Health Insurance, Curaçao - in \% (2011 Census) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| PP Card | 19.7 | 15.8 |
| Social Insurance Bank (SVB) | 35.0 | 45.6 |
| Medical Costs Provisions Bureau (BZV) | 12.9 | 11.7 |
| Health Insurance for Retired Public Servants (FZOG) | 3.3 | 5.2 |
| Insured by Employer | 7.8 | 7.1 |
| Private Insurance | 10.5 | 11.0 |
| Other Type of Insurance | 3.0 |  |
| Uninsured | 7.7 | 2.6 |
| Multiple Insurances | 0.1 |  |
| Does Not Know |  | 0.3 |
| Unknown | 100.0 | 100.0 |

## Education

The total number of persons attending a daytime school grew from 36,122 in 2001 to 39,483 in 2011. This is a 9.3 percent increase over a period of 10 years.

The school participation rate is the percentage of people in a certain age group attending a daytime school. In 2011, 96.1 percent of young people in the $4-18$ age group (compulsory education age) was attending a daytime school, which is almost identical to the 2001 figure of 95.7 percent.

The school participation rate for the 4-13 age group which corresponds to the age group of Foundation Based Education remained virtually unchanged: in 2011 it was 98.9 percent, compared to 99.3 percent in 2001. The average school participation rate for elementary education in the (Caribbean and Latin-American) region is 94 percent (Source: UNESCO). Compared to the region, Curaçao's school participation rate (for 413 year-olds) may be described as good.

The school participation rate for youths in the ages of 16 to 24 in 2011 is higher as compared to 2001. See table 12.


| Table 12 School Participation Rate 16-24 year- <br> olds in percentages, Curaçao (2011 Census) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |
| Age | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| 16 | 92.2 | 93.7 |
| $\mathbf{1 7}$ | 83.8 | 88.4 |
| $\mathbf{1 8}$ | 67.9 | 77.5 |
| $\mathbf{1 9}$ | 50.0 | 62.7 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 - 2 4}$ | 21.8 | 37.2 |

In other words, youngsters 16 years and older stay in education longer; this is also shown by the larger share of the Curaçao population in post-elementary education (Secondary Vocational Education and Colleges/Universities).

| Table 13 Population Attending Daytime School by Education Type - in \% <br> (2011 Census) |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ |  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| Nursery School/Day Care | 9.2 | Nursery School/Day Care | 9.9 |
| Kindergarten and Elementary Ed. | 55.5 | Foundation Based Education | 45.8 |
| Lower Vocational Ed./Junior General | 23.8 | Lower Vocational Ed./Junior General | 23.6 |
| Secondary Ed. |  | Secondary Ed. |  |
| Senior General Secondary Ed. /College | 9.8 | Senior General Secondary Ed. /College <br> Preparatory High School/Secondary | 15.6 |
| Vocational Ed. |  | Preparatory High School/Secondary <br> Vocational Ed. <br> Colleges / Universities | 1.6 |
| Colleges / Universities |  |  |  |
| Total | 100 | Total | 5 |

Table 13 shows the relative distribution of the school-attending population by school type.
In 2011, the percentage of the population at day-care centers/nursery schools has grown, from 9.2 to 9.9 percent of the total school-attending population. The absolute figures available too show a substantial increase (17\%) in those attending nursery schools: 3919 in 2011 versus 3340 in 2001. Compared to 2001, parents in 2011 were more likely to place their babies and toddlers in a nursery school/day-care center.
The percentage of students in Foundation Based Education (including the two years of kindergarten) has dropped. The absolute figures too indicate a 10 percent (almost 2000) decline in elementary school students as compared to 2001. One factor that could explain this is Curaçao's demographic development; the number of youngsters up to age of 15 dropped between 2001 and 2012. This "dejuvenation" process was already mentioned in the analysis of the population trend.
The table also shows a significant increase in the share of school-attenders/students in secondary (Senior General Secondary, College Preparatory High School, Secondary Vocational Education) and higher education (Colleges/Universities). As described above, this may be attributed to the higher participation in education of youngsters in the 16-andolder age group.

## Employment

In the Census, all persons 15 years and older were asked questions with regard to their economic status. These questions are used to determine the number of people employed,
looking for work and neither employed nor looking for work. Those who are employed or looking for work together comprise the labor force.

Curaçao's labor force has grown by approximately 27 percent compared to 2001 and consists of 72,000 persons.

The total rate of participation represents the economically active share of the population. In 2011, this rate was 47.9 percent, thus ending 4.5 percentage points higher than in 2001. This figure has seen continuous growth since 1960 (31.5 \%).

The participation rate of the population 15 years and older too showed growth, ending at 59.5 in 2011, as compared to 56.8 in 2001. The results of the Labor Surveys show continuous growth, especially from 1992 onward, in the participation of women in the labor market, contributing to the total participation rate's rise.

The working population has grown from 47,686 persons in 2001 to 64,934 persons in 2011, a 36 percent increase.

| Table 14 Labor Force, Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Curaçao (2011 Census) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 1960 | $\mathbf{1 9 7 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 9 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| Employed (1) | 34429 | 41520 | 47290 | 51642 | 47686 | 64934 |
| Looking for Work (2) | 5046 | 6650 | 12006 | 10534 | 8973 | 7127 |
| Labor Force 3=(1+2) | 39475 | 48170 | 59296 | 62176 | 56659 | 72061 |
| Total Population (4) | 125181 | 145430 | 147388 | 144097 | 130627 | 150563 |
| Population 15 Years and Older (5) | 73231 | 90769 | 103886 | 106842 | 99834 | 121168 |
| Total Participation Rate 6=(3/4)\% | 31.5 | 33.1 | 40.2 | 43.1 | 43.4 | 47.9 |
| Participation Rate 15 Years and Older 7=(3/5)\% | 53.9 | 53.1 | 57.1 | 58.2 | 56.8 | 59.5 |
| Unemployment Rate 8=(2/3)\% | 12.8 | 13.8 | 20.2 | 16.9 | 15.8 | 9.9 |
| Employed/ Population 15 Years and Older 9=(1/5)\% | 47.0 | 45.7 | 45.5 | 48.3 | 47.8 | 53.6 |
| Youth Unemployment Rate | - | 57.3 | 55.5 | 32.7 | 33.8 | 22.8 |

One indicator to effectively measure the trend of the working population is the Employment to Population Ratio. This ratio shows which share of the population of 15 years and older is employed. For the 2011 Census, this ratio was 53.6 percent, which is 5.8 percentage points higher than in 2001 (47.8 \%).

## Employed Share of the Population 15 Years and Older



Graph 1 illustrates the ratio's trend since 1960. As seen, it has risen continually since 1981, except for the 1995-2001 period.

In 2011, there were almost 1850 fewer persons looking for work. A total of 7127 members of the population are looking for work, representing a drop of more than 20 percent compared to 2001.

In 2011, the total unemployment rate representing the share of the labor force actively looking for work is 9.9 percent, almost 6.0 percentage points lower than in 2001. It is worth mentioning that this percentage has been dropping continually since 1981 and has reached its lowest level in the last 50 years.

There is a higher proportion of women looking for work than men. The unemployment rate for women is approximately 12 percent and for men approximately 8 percent.

The youth unemployment rate, i.e. the share of youngsters in the economically active age groups between 15 and 24 years of age who are looking for work, came out at 22.8 percent in 2011, a full 11 percentage points lower than in 2001 ( $33.8 \%$ ).

Despite the substantial drop in the youth unemployment rate, youth unemployment on Curaçao remains relatively high, considering the 'youth unemployment/total unemployment’ ratio of 2.3. By the International Labor Organisation’s (ILO) standards, any ratio above 2.0 is considered high.

## Main Spoken Language

In the Census, respondents were also asked which language was mainly spoken in the household. ${ }^{4}$
Papiamento is spoken in the vast majority of households (78.4\%), followed by Dutch (9.3\%), Spanish (4.7\%) and English (3.5\%).

Compared to 2001 (80.3\%), the share of Papiamento-speaking households in 2011 shows a slight drop. The number of Dutch and Spanish-speaking households, on the other hand, has grown.

| Table 16 Main Spoken Language <br> in the Household, Curaçao - in \% <br> (2011 Census) |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ |
| Papiamento | 80.3 | 78.4 |
| Dutch | 9.3 | 9.5 |
| Spanish | 4.6 | 6.1 |
| English | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Other | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

It is also important to consider the absolute figures. At 8392 households, the number of Papiamento-speaking households those where Papiamento is the main spoken language was higher in 2011 as compared to 2001, a 24.2 percent increase. The number of Dutch-speaking households grew by 1242, a 31 percent increase, while the number of Spanish and English-speaking households grew by 67 and 28.7 percent respectively.

| Table 17 Household and Language Trends, 2001-2011 |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | ---: |
|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | Absolute Increase | Relative |
| Papiamento | 34677 | 43069 | 8392 | $24.2 \%$ |
| Dutch | 4002 | 5244 | 1242 | $31.0 \%$ |
| Spanish | 1999 | 3338 | 1339 | $67.0 \%$ |
| English | 1514 | 1948 | 434 | $28.7 \%$ |
| Other | 969 | 1341 | 372 | $38.4 \%$ |
|  | 43161 | 54940 | 11779 | $27.3 \%$ |

[^2]
## Some Household Characteristics

The number of households in the 2011 Census was 54,940, with an average household size of 2.7. This is a further drop compared to previous censuses. The average household size in 1992 was 3.5 and in 2001, 3.0. In 1981, the average household size was 4.3.

The number of households grew with 11,779 compared to 2001, an enormous increase of over twenty-five percent (27.3\%). The population in these households also grew with 15.5 percent. The reason behind the continuous drop in the average household size is the fact that households keep getting smaller. The share of small households has once again grown. The category of one and two-person households has increased from 45.9 to 54.4 percent. The percentage of one-person households went up from 20.7 to 25.5 percent, and two-person households, from 25.2 to 27.9 percent.

In 2011, 44.0 percent of all heads of the household was female, while in 2001, 39.6 percent of all heads of the household were female. The category of households headed by women has shown a continuous rise since 1992 (35.6\%).

Table 18 Some Household Characteristics (2011 Census)

|  | 2001 | 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Household Size (\%) |  |  |
| 1 person | 20.7 | 25.5 |
| 2 persons | 25.2 | 27.9 |
| 3 persons | 20.1 | 19.7 |
| 4 persons | 17.8 | 15.1 |
| 5 persons | 8.9 | 7.1 |
| 6 or more | 7.3 | 4.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Average Household Size (number of persons) | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Household Type (in \%) |  |  |
| Single | 20.7 | 25.5 |
| One nuclear family (without any others living in): | 60.0 | 57.7 |
| married couple with children | 24.0 | 18.9 |
| married couple without children | 10.8 | 10.8 |
| cohabiting couple with children | 6.1 | 6.3 |
| cohabiting couple without children | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| woman with children | 14.0 | 15.9 |
| man with children | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Extended, composite and other ${ }^{5}$ | 19.3 | 16.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Head of the Household (in \%) |  |  |
| Male | 60.4 | 56.0 |
| Female | 39.6 | 44.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(A total of 57.7 percent of all households consists of one nuclear family. The share of nuclear families consisting of a married couple with children has seen a considerable drop, from 24 percent in 2001 to 18.9 percent in 2011. The share of households consisting of one woman with children has grown from 14 to 15.9 percent. The category of "extended, composite and other" households has shrunk compared to the 2001 Census, from 19.3 to 16.8 percent.

[^3]
## Some Characteristics of Dwellings

During the Census, besides interviewing persons, data is also collected regarding the dwellings (or, housing units) and households themselves.

By definition, one dwelling is inhabited by one household.
In 2011, the quality of the dwelling was rated as 'adequate’ in 93.1 percent of the cases, in 4.9 percent as 'bad and in 1.1 percent as 'very bad.' This picture is not much different from that of 2001, with 93.5 as "adequate', 4.3 percent as 'bad' and 1.1 percent 'very bad.'

In 2011, the share of dwellings held as property was 67.8 percent and the share of rented dwellings, 30.1 percent. The situation is virtually identical to that of 2001, with 68.1 percent held as property and 29 percent rented. In other words, the proportion of owned versus rented dwellings has remained virtually unchanged over this period.

In 2011, almost half (48.4\%) of all dwellings had 3 bedrooms; in 2001, this figure was a little over half (50.6\%) of all dwellings. One striking fact is the slight increase in the share of one-bedroom dwellings ( 9.6 \% in 2011 versus $8.7 \%$ in 2001) and of dwellings with 4 bedrooms or more ( $16.8 \%$ in 2011 versus $15.3 \%$ in 2001)

The presence of one or more air-conditioning units in dwellings has grown from 38.1 percent in 2001 to 54.2 percent in 2011. More than half of the dwellings that did have airconditioning in 2011 had two units or more.

The following findings concern the utilities available in the dwellings:
The percentage of fixed telephone line connections has dropped from 76.4 percent in 2001 to 71.5 percent in 2011. On the other hand, the percentage of households with mobile phones grew from 61.4 percent in 2001 to 94.0 percent in 2011.

In 2011, there was a PC or laptop in 62.8 percent of households; in 2001 this was the case in only 33.4 percent of households.

More than half (53.2\%) of all households had internet connection in 2011; a considerable increase when compared to 20.9 percent in 2001. In 2011 there were also new types of internet connection being used: $27.7 \%$ of the households had internet connection through a mobile phone and 19.1 percent of the households had mobile internet (3G).

Remarkably, the percentage of television sets in households has gone down from 96.2 percent in 2001 to 92.9 percent in 2011. Washing machines went from 87.0 percent in 2001 to 91.3 percent in 2011. The share of households with a separate freezer has grown from 20.6 percent in 2001 to 24.8 percent in 2011.



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ In demographic studies, a woman's 15-44 age bracket is taken as her reproductive lifespan, the period in her life during which she is able to bear children.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ M. Cloet, C. Vandenbroeke (eds.), Tien bijdragen tot de lokale en regionale demografie in Vlaanderen (Ten Factors Contributing to the Local and Regional Demographics of Flounders), Brussels, 1989, pp. 6-19, esp. p. 11. Het laatste nieuws, July 24, 2012.
    Kreider, Rose M. (2006). Remarriage in the United States - U.S. Census Bureau.
    Madrigal, L., Ware, B., Melendez, M. Widow and Widower Remarriage: An Analysis in a Rural $19^{\text {th }}$ Century Costa Rican Population and a Cross-Cultural Discussion. In: American Journal of Physical Anthropology 122: 355-360 (2003).
    ${ }^{3}$ The Pentecostals group actually includes several churches. All these have been brought together for analytical purposes under the Pentecostals category. For comparison purposes, the same was done with the results of the 2001 Census.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ This is the language most often spoken in the household; in practice, more than one language may be spoken in a household. The use of multiple languages within households was also measured in the Census, but those results are not included in this analysis.

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ This category includes households consisting of more than one nuclear family, with or without other persons living in which may or may not be related to each other or to the nuclear family, or two or more persons who do not form a nuclear family and who may or may not be related to each other (e.g. two sisters, three students, etc.).

