

# Census 2011: The migratory population of Curaçao

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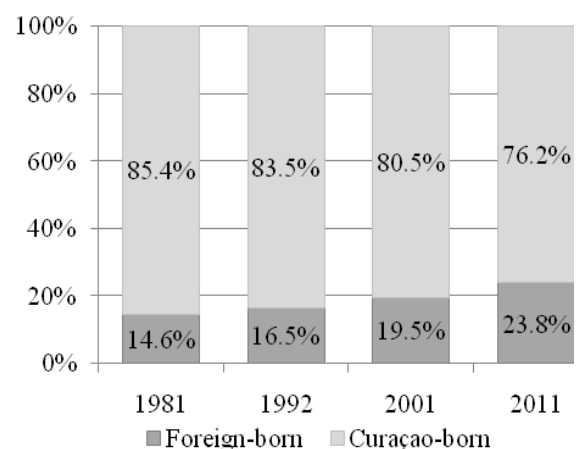
## Introduction

*Migration is a major factor contributing to changes in population size and composition in Curaçao. An increased demand in laborers due to the establishment of the oil refinery in 1915 led to a huge influx of migrants. Especially in the 1930s and 1940s as the demand for oil products from the refinery reached high levels the in-migration of laborers and their families caused rapid population growth. More recently periods of economic progress as well as economic recession have contributed to changes in migration flows to and from the island. By means of various questions in the Census 2011 the migrational background of the population has been explored. In this article the resulting set of census variables regarding population and migration will be analyzed with the objective of providing an ample detailed overview of the origins of the enumerated population of Curaçao. Furthermore, where possible, the analysis will focus on developments over time by making use of previous census datasets ranging from 1981 to 2011. The following characteristics of the migratory population of Curaçao will be discussed in this article: country of birth, country of nationality, country of previous residence, duration of settlement and age at migration, generations of migrants and emigration intentions. This article is based on the chapter on migration in the forthcoming Census 2011 publication on the demography of Curaçao.*

## Population by country of birth

The population growth of nearly twenty thousand persons between the census of 2001 and the census of 2011 (from 130.627 to 150.563 persons) can be attributed for a large part to migration<sup>1</sup>. The foreign-born population increased by a little over 10.000 persons to 35.647 persons while the Curaçao-born population increased by a little over 9.000 persons to a total of 114.200 persons<sup>2</sup>. Percentage-wise the foreign-born population has grown to almost 24 percent of the total population from 2001 (19,5%) to 2011 (figure 1). In 1981 the share of foreign-born population stood at 14,6 percent. Net in-migration has increased over the last three decades contributing to a more diverse migrant population in Curaçao. Compared to Aruba the share of foreign-born population in Curaçao is smaller. Aruba's foreign-born population covered 34 percent of the total population in 2010 after shooting up from 18,5 percent in 1981 to 33,5 percent in 2000 (Central Bureau of Statistics of Aruba, 2012). Government plans in the late 1980's to make Aruba a prime tourist destination caused an enormous boom in the construction sector (e.g. the building of hotels) attracting a great number of foreign-born migrants. In Curaçao migration evolved more gradually as is shown in figure 1.

**Figure 1. Percentage Curaçao-born and foreign-born population, 1981-2011**

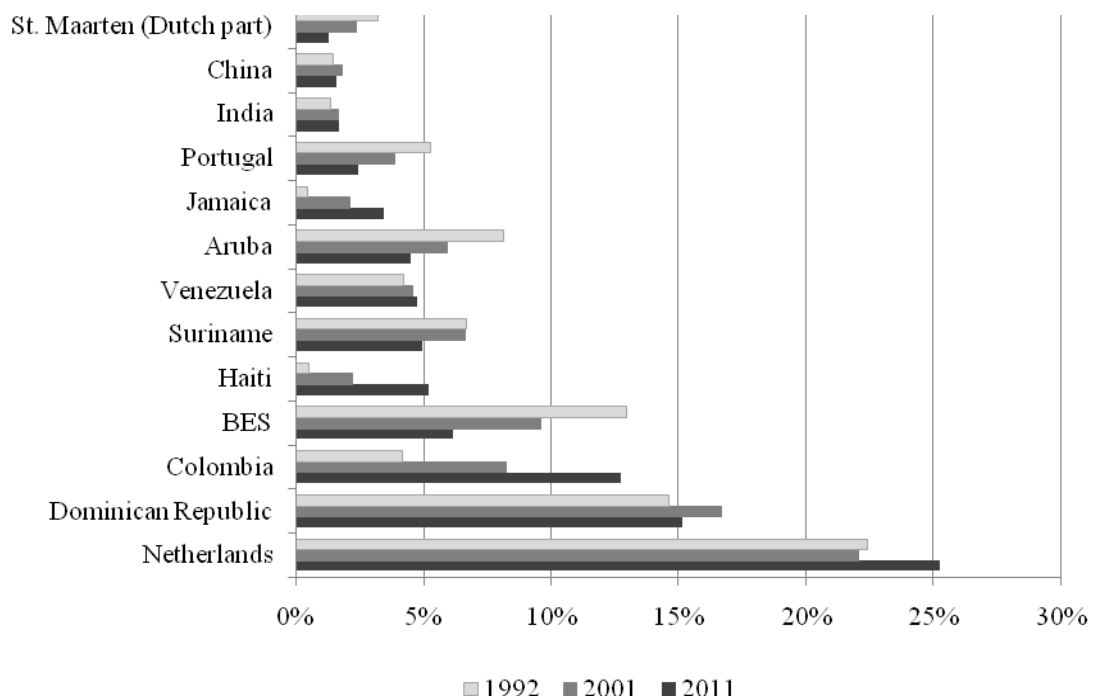


<sup>1</sup> Migrants are defined as persons who are foreign-born, that is those who at some stage migrated to Curaçao, regardless of their citizenship.

<sup>2</sup> 716 persons did not report their country of birth

In 2011 a quarter of Curaçao's foreign-born population was born in the Netherlands (figure 2). For the past two decades the Netherlands has had the largest share in countries of birth of the foreign-born population. Similarly, the second largest share belongs to the Dominican Republic (15,2% in 2011) during this same period. Colombia however has taken over the third place in 2011 with a steady increase in the number (for absolute numbers see appendix A) of Colombian-born migrants coming to Curaçao between 1992 and 2011. The share of Colombian-born persons went up from 4,1 percent in 1992 to 12,7 percent in 2011. At the same time the number and share of foreign-born persons born in Haiti and Jamaica also increased significantly to respectively 5,2 percent and 3,5 percent in 2011. On the other hand the proportion of foreign-born persons born on one of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba has decreased during this period. Altogether there has been a shift in migration trends tending towards more Dominican Republic-, Colombia-, Haiti- and Jamaican-born persons in the place of former Netherlands Antillean-born and Aruban-born persons.

**Figure 2. Foreign-born population by top 13 countries of birth as a percentage of the total foreign-born population, 1992-2011**

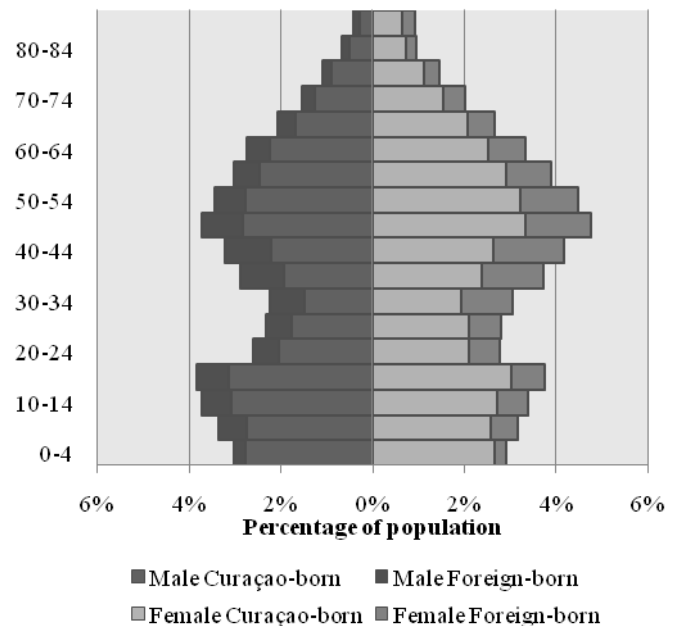


### Distribution by age and sex

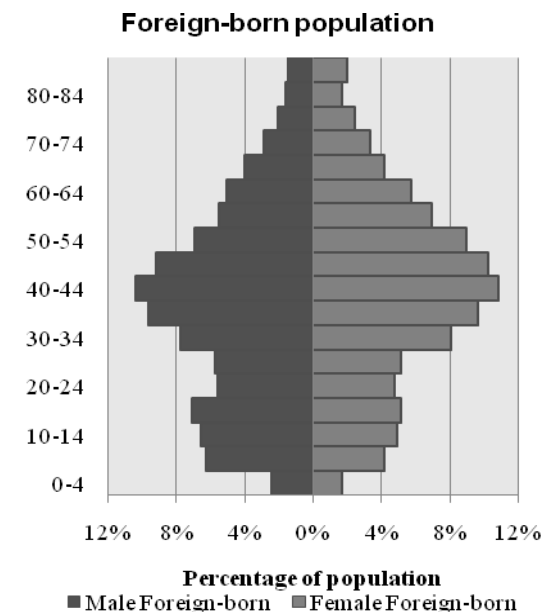
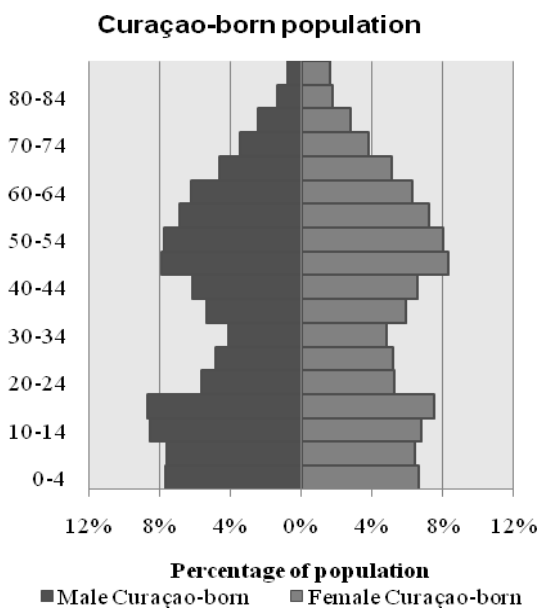
The Curaçao-born population and the foreign-born population have a quite differing age-sex composition. Figure 3 shows the Curaçao-born and the foreign-born population in one population pyramid. From this pyramid it is clear that the foreign-born population is not represented equally for each age-group for the different sexes. Especially in the age-groups 30-34 up to 40-44 the foreign-born population is well represented. More than one third of the population in each of these age-groups, male as well as female, is foreign-born. In particular for the ages 30 to 44 a larger proportion of foreign-born women than foreign-born men is apparent which can be attributed to a higher net in-migration of women than of men.

For a clearer vision on the difference in age-sex distribution between the Curaçao-born population and the foreign-born population the population pyramid in figure 3 has been separated into two pyramids, one for each of the populations, in figure 4. Most notable is the narrow base of the foreign-born population pyramid, i.e. the foreign-born population has relatively few individuals in the younger ages as opposed to the Curaçao-born population. Also, the age categories 30-34 up to 50-54 are better represented in the foreign-born population, especially on the women's side. This reflects a commonly observed pattern in migration, which is that more migration takes place among younger working age persons or families.

**Figure 3. Curaçao-born and foreign-born population by age and sex, Census 2011**



**Figure 4. Curaçao-born population by age and sex and foreign-born population by age and sex, Census 2011**

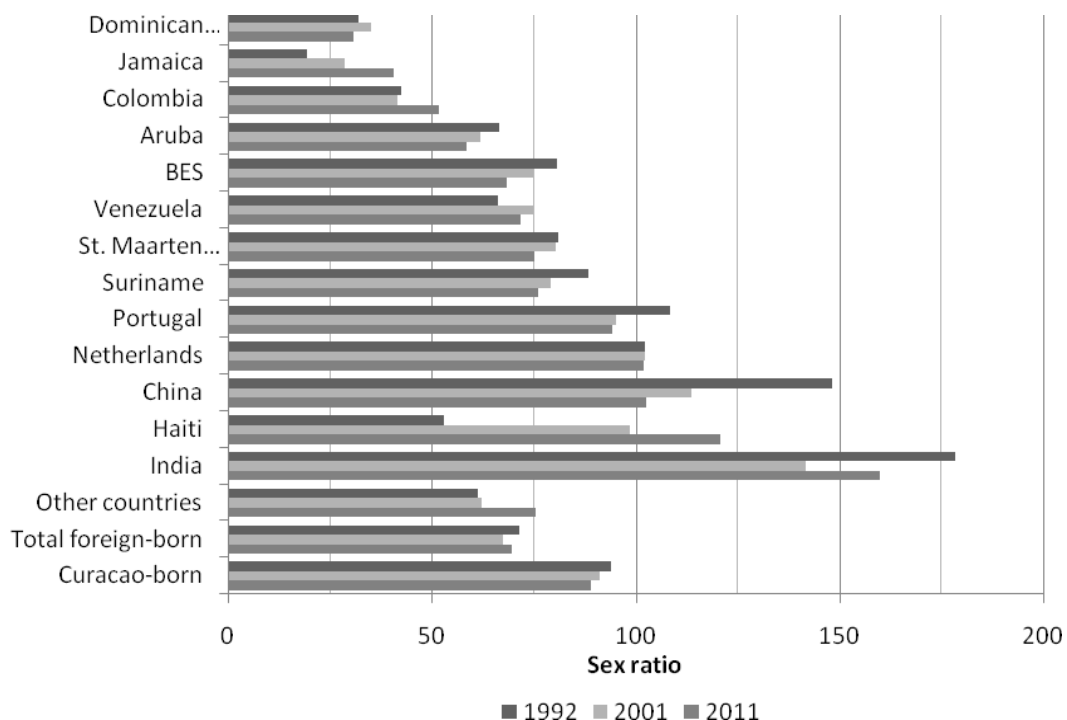


Another observation which can be made from both pyramids is the larger share of men than women in all age groups from 0 up to 20 years, and at the same time a bigger proportion of women aged 50 years or older compared to their male counterparts.

## Sex ratio

To illustrate how migration influences change in sex composition of the population of Curaçao figure 5 shows the sex ratio<sup>3</sup> of the native-born and the foreign-born population by country of birth for the last three censuses. Especially the immigrant groups from the Caribbean region show low sex ratios implying relative large numbers of women migrating from these countries to Curaçao. For example the largest immigrant groups from the region, Dominican Republic-born (5.405 persons in 2011) and Colombia-born (4.537 persons in 2011), have sex ratios of respectively 31 and 52 men per 100 women in 2011. On the other hand the largest migrant group in Curaçao, the Netherlands-born persons (8.988 in 2011), and the smaller groups of India-born (603 persons) and China-born (569 persons) are better represented by men than by women with sex ratios of 102 men per 100 women (Netherlands, 2011) or even higher. Remarkably Haiti is the only regional country represented in this selection of 13 most common foreign countries of birth with a sex ratio of over 100, going up from 53 in 1992 to 121 in 2011. The bottom two entries in figure 5 show the sex ratios for the total foreign-born population and the Curaçao-born population. While the share of men within the Curaçao-born population has decreased slightly during the last two decades, from 94 men per 100 women in 1992 to 89 in 2011, the share of men in the foreign-born population has stood at around 70 men per 100 women at the same time.

**Figure 5. Curaçao-born and foreign-born population by country of birth and sex ratio, 1992-2011**



It is evident that the already low sex ratio of the Curaçao-born population is being pulled down by the sex ratio of the foreign-born population into a combined sex ratio of 84 men per 100 women for the total population of Curaçao in 2011. According to the 2012 United Nations World Population Prospects (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2013) Curaçao (84,8 men per 100 women, 2010) has the second lowest sex ratio in the world only behind Latvia (84,1, 2010). When it comes to sex ratio Curaçao is on par with many Eastern European countries like Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia. The sex ratio for the entire Caribbean region was 98 in 2010.

<sup>3</sup> The proportion of males to females in a given population, expressed as the number of males per 100 females.

## Population by nationality

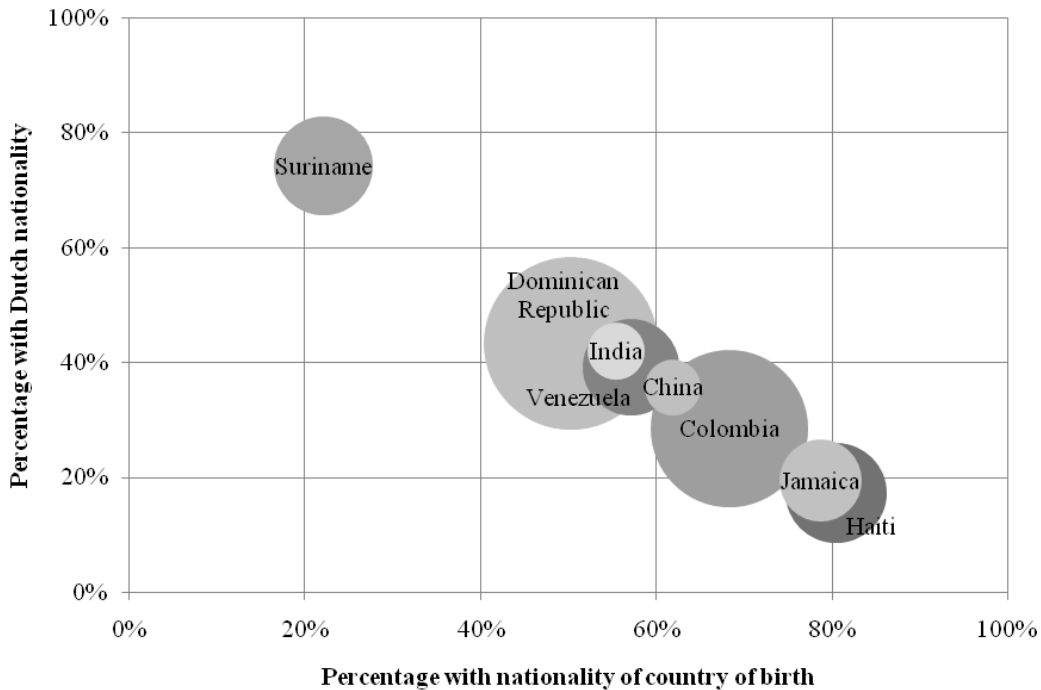
The most common nationality in Curaçao is the Dutch nationality. Because of the increase in immigrant population in the past decades there has been a slight shift towards more foreign nationalities, but the majority of the population, i.e. 90 percent (or 133.556 persons) in 2011, still bears the Dutch nationality (table 1).

<b>Table 1. Population by country of nationality, 1992-2011</b>			
Country of nationality	Census		
	1992	2001	2011
Netherlands	137401	121887	133556
Colombia	513	1458	3386
Dominican Republic	1711	2139	2906
Haiti	79	458	1772
Venezuela	667	749	1152
Jamaica	79	418	1087
Suriname	420	421	450
China	251	307	398
India	356	322	394
Guyana	35	177	368
Portugal	1054	493	349
Other	1459	1131	1795
Not reported	72	667	2950
<b>Total</b>	<b>144097</b>	<b>130627</b>	<b>150563</b>

Notable changes are the increase in persons with the Colombian, Dominican, Jamaican and Venezuelan nationality between 1992 and 2011 and the decrease in persons with the Portuguese nationality. There are however differences between the absolute numbers of population by country of birth and population by nationality. This suggests that an immigrant's country of birth doesn't necessarily has to be the same country as his country of nationality.

Figure 6 shows a selection of the foreign-born population by the share of persons that hold the nationality of the country they were born in (X-axis) and the share of persons that hold the Dutch nationality (Y-axis). Each bubble represents a group of persons with the same country of birth. The size of the bubble indicates the size of the particular immigrant group. Interestingly there is some diversity between the different immigrant groups when it comes to nationality compared to country of birth. For example, almost 75 percent of the Surinamese-born population in Curaçao in 2011 has the Dutch nationality, and only 22 percent has the Surinamese nationality. One reason for this is that Suriname used to be a Dutch colony in which the Dutch nationality was the default nationality.

Figure 6. Foreign-born population (selected countries) by population size, percentage with nationality of country of birth and percentage with Dutch nationality, 2011



(The proportion with Dutch nationality and the proportion with nationality of country of birth do not add up to 100 percent, because of the possibility of other nationalities.)

On the other side of the graph the populations born in Haiti and Jamaica show an almost opposite distribution of nationalities. Both immigrant groups have a share of about 80 percent of persons that hold the nationality of their country of birth and a little under 20 percent of the persons in each group hold the Dutch nationality. The immigrant groups in between have shares of persons with the nationality of their country of birth between 68 percent (Colombia) and 50 percent (Dominican Republic), and shares of persons with the Dutch nationality between 28 percent (Colombia) and 43 percent (Dominican Republic). In the case of the population born in the Dominican Republic (5.405 persons) the share of persons with the Dutch nationality accounts for 2.342 persons.

### Population by country of previous residence

Persons who have resided outside of Curaçao and at any given moment moved to Curaçao are considered as immigrants in this study. This is regardless of their place of birth. It is however important to notice that the pool of immigrants can be differentiated by place of birth, i.e. the foreign-born immigrants and the Curaçao-born immigrants. The latter ones can be considered as *return immigrants*.

The share of the population of Curaçao that has lived abroad has increased by more than 13 percentagepoints from 30,4 percent in 2001 to 43,8 percent in 2011 (65.969 persons, table 2).. That means 56 percent of the enumerated population in the last census has never lived outside the island. Of the Curaçao-born population approximately one in every four persons has lived abroad (either on one of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba or some other country) and at some stage returned to Curaçao. In 2001 this was one in every six persons. Most of these persons moved to Curaçao from the Netherlands (15,7% of the Curaçao-born population in 2011). The second biggest share of this group moved to Curaçao from one of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles or Aruba (3,4% in 2011).

The majority of the foreign-born population has moved to Curaçao from outside the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (88,1%). The Netherlands, Colombia and the Dominican Republic are the most common countries of departure of the foreign-born population of Curaçao.

**Table 2. Share of population by place of birth and country of previous residence, 2001-2011**

Country of previous residence	2001			2011		
	Curaçao-born	Foreign-born	Total	Curaçao-born	Foreign-born	Total
Former Neth. Ant. and Aruba	2.2	15.7	4.8	3.4	11.7	5.3
<i>BES</i>	0.8	8.0	2.2	1.2	5.6	2.2
<i>St. Maarten</i>	0.7	2.5	1.0	1.3	2.1	1.5
<i>Aruba</i>	0.8	5.2	1.6	0.9	3.9	1.6
Other countries	11.0	79.0	24.1	19.7	88.1	35.8
<i>Netherlands</i>	9.1	24.9	12.1	15.7	28.7	18.7
<i>Colombia</i>	0.1	7.5	1.5	1.5	12.0	4.0
<i>Dominican Rep.</i>	0.2	15.5	3.1	0.3	14.5	3.7
<i>Venezuela</i>	0.3	5.0	1.3	0.3	5.1	1.5
<i>Haiti</i>	0.0	2.1	0.4	0.0	5.0	1.2
<i>USA</i>	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.1
<i>Suriname</i>	0.1	5.3	1.1	0.1	4.1	1.1
<i>Other</i>	0.5	17.4	3.8	0.7	17.1	4.6
Not reported	0.3	5.3	1.4	2.9	0.3	2.7
Never lived abroad	86.5	0.0	69.6	74.1	0.0	56.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Duration of settlement and age at immigration

Duration of residence provides an indication for the timing of immigration. From the census 2011 two different indicators concerning timing of immigration were measured, (1) *the duration of the current settlement* and (2) *the total duration of all settlements*. The *duration of current settlement* gives the number of years the respondent has lived in Curaçao since the last time the respondent migrated to the island. Because multiple migrations to and from the island by a person are not uncommon the *total duration of all settlements* includes all previous periods a person has lived in Curaçao on top of the duration of current settlement for a total duration of settlement on the island. The data is somewhat biased, because the persons who immigrated and then emigrated again before the census date are logically not covered although they may have had a significant impact on the indicators in table 3.

Of the population that has lived abroad there is not much difference in the dispersion of the duration of current settlement between Curaçao-born and foreign-born immigrants.

For both groups about half of the group has settled in Curaçao ten or more years ago and the other half of the group less than ten years ago.

**Table 3. Share of population by duration of current settlement, place of birth, mean duration of current settlement and mean age at migration, 2011**

Place of birth	Share of population (%) by duration of current settlement in years*					N**	Mean duration in years	Mean age at migration
	< 1 yr	1-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-19 yrs	20+ yrs			
Curaçao-born	7	21	24	24	26	29606	14.2	30.3
Foreign-born	6	19	22	28	25	35647	15.7	24.7
Netherlands	12	37	21	18	13	8988	9.7	22.9
Dom. Rep.	2	9	21	38	29	5405	16.3	25.1
Colombia	2	11	35	40	12	4537	12.4	26.6
BES	5	14	9	14	59	2208	32.3	22.6
Haiti	2	6	33	53	6	1861	11.9	28.2
Suriname	4	16	21	23	36	1770	20.3	26.7
Venezuela	5	21	23	31	19	1691	13.7	23.5
Aruba	5	15	10	12	58	1616	25.0	24.0
Jamaica	5	14	25	50	7	1230	11.5	25.8
Portugal	0	2	1	8	88	869	39.7	20.9
India	7	14	19	35	25	603	14.2	25.9
China	2	14	28	38	19	569	14.1	26.2
St. Maarten	10	22	10	16	42	473	26.1	16.9

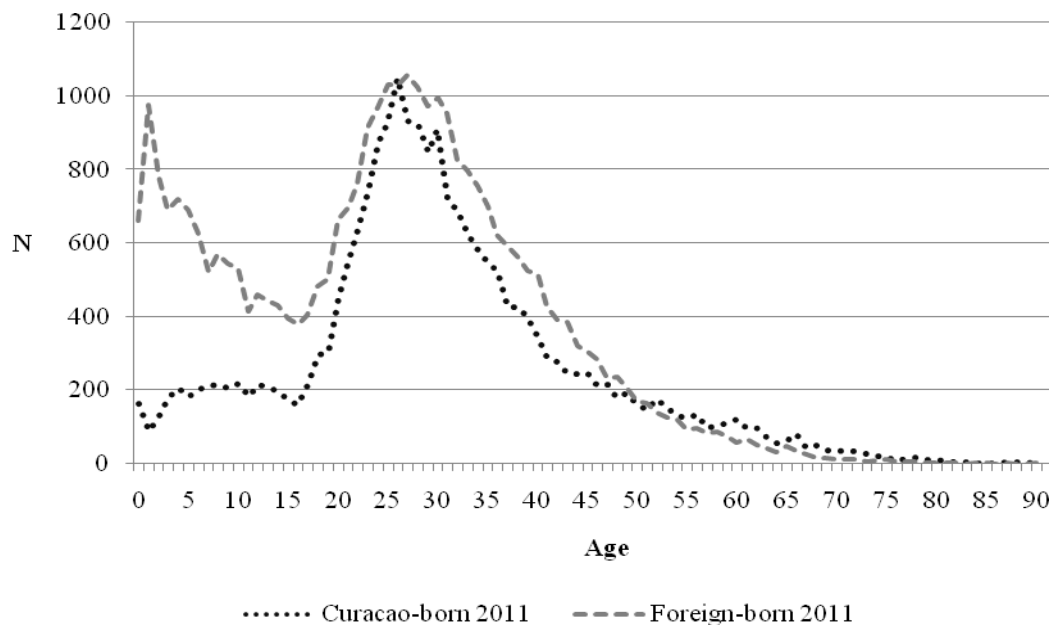
\* Individual figures may not add up to 100% necessarily because of rounding.

\*\* 29 Percent of the Curaçao-born and 14% of the foreign-born did not report on the duration of their current settlement. Relative shares are calculated for the reporting population.

The mean duration of their current settlement also does not differ much, approximating 14 and 16 years respectively. Six to seven percent of both groups has been living in Curaçao for less than one year at the time of the census (it should be kept in mind that the non-response rate was twice as high for Curaçao-born immigrants than for foreign-born immigrants, 29 percent versus 14 percent). The mean age at migration however shows a difference between both groups. It seems that the foreign-born migrants tend to immigrate at a younger age than the local-born migrants. However, the mean age does not reflect the age distribution that's underneath and can be rather dissimilar for both groups. Figure 7 shows the pattern of age at immigration for Curaçao-born and foreign-born immigrants. While the pattern is quite similar from age 20 upwards there are much more foreign-born immigrants than local-born immigrants under the age of 20, causing a lower mean age at immigration of the foreign-born group. Both groups show a peak age of 25/26, which is very normal, because especially young people between 20 and 35 are prone to migration. Changes in the life course like leaving the parental home, family formation or entry into the labour market make this group more likely to migrate. Often these are young families which causes the immigration of children to be high as well. The Curaçao-born immigrant group comprises return immigrants. The small hump around ages 60 to 65 of the Curaçao-born immigrants is likely explained by persons returning to their country of birth after their (early) retirement in their country of previous residence.



Figure 7. Curaçao-born and foreign-born immigrants by age at immigration, 2011



Returning to table 3, when the foreign-born immigrant group is broken down to individual countries of birth, some striking differentiation can be seen. The Netherlands-born immigrants are the most prone to have settled in Curaçao less than five years before the census (49% in total). On the other side of the spectrum are the Portugal-born immigrants of whom 88 percent has been living in Curaçao for the past twenty years or more. This is reflected in the mean duration of current settlement which ranges from almost ten years (Netherlands) to almost forty years (Portugal). A distinction can be seen between ‘older’ and ‘newer’ immigrant countries, even though immigration from every listed country is of all specified periods. The ‘newer’ countries (Colombia, Haiti, and Jamaica) distinguish themselves by a majority of the immigrants born in these countries having settled in Curaçao between 5 and 20 years ago. For the ‘older’ countries the majority tends to be more in the range of 10-19 and 20+ years (BES, Suriname, Aruba, Portugal and St. Maarten). Immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, India and China seem to have a more evenly distributed duration of current settlement.

## Generations of migrants

In the 2011 census two new questions were added, compared to previous censuses, which give more insight in the migrational background of the population. The questions ‘Where was your father born?’ and ‘Where was your mother born?’ allow for the analysis of generations of migrants. First-generation and second-generation migrants are defined differently by several statistical institutions. The Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics, for example, uses the term ‘allochtoon’<sup>4</sup> and distinguishes first-generation ‘allochtonen’ and second-generation ‘allochtonen’. The US Census Bureau includes a person’s citizenship<sup>5</sup> next to his or her place of birth as well as the person’s parents citizenship and place of birth. However, to avoid the term ‘allochtoon’ and to leave citizenship out of the equation the Eurostat method (Eurostat, 2011) seems more suitable in this situation and has been adopted for this article. Eurostat uses the following definitions:

<sup>4</sup> An allochtoon is a person with at least one foreign-born parent. The term ‘allochtoon’ is often criticised in the Netherlands as being stigmatizing.

<sup>5</sup> Citizenship is a legal status which should not be confused with nationality. Nationality is obtained by birth (inheritance from the parents) and citizenship can be obtained when one is accepted as a legal resident in a country. In the 2011 census only nationality has been recorded.

Foreign-born persons (or *first-generation migrants*) are those whose place of birth (or usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth) is outside the country of his/her usual residence.

As there is no data available in the census 2011 on the place of usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth we assume that this is the place of birth of the respondent. Thus, the foreign-born persons, regardless the place of birth of the parents, are considered as first-generation migrants.

*Second-generation migrants* refer to two different groups of immediate descendants of migrants. The first group, with a *mixed background*, is defined as persons who are native born and who have one foreign-born parent and one native-born parent. The second group, with a *foreign background*, is defined as persons who are native born with both parents foreign born.

Second-generation migrants are therefore those persons who are born on Curaçao but have at least one immigrant parent.

Finally, Curaçao-born persons with parents who are both born in Curaçao can be considered as 'native' population, but also as third or higher generation migrants: their grandparents might have been immigrants, or even further down the line of ancestors there might have been immigrants. However, in this analysis they will be considered as '*persons with a native background*'.

It should be noted that second-generation migrants in Curaçao today are not necessarily the children of immigrants in Curaçao today. Today's second generation includes persons who are the children of today's immigrant population, but it also includes persons whose parents arrived in Curaçao more than a century ago and are no longer living. Furthermore there are also some situations in which the indication *first-generation* may be disputable. For example, a foreign-born person of whom both parents are Curaçao-born and who has lived the major part of his/her life in Curaçao is more likely to be indicated as a native person than as a first-generation migrant in everyday life, but for the sake of consistency an unambiguous definition has been used here.

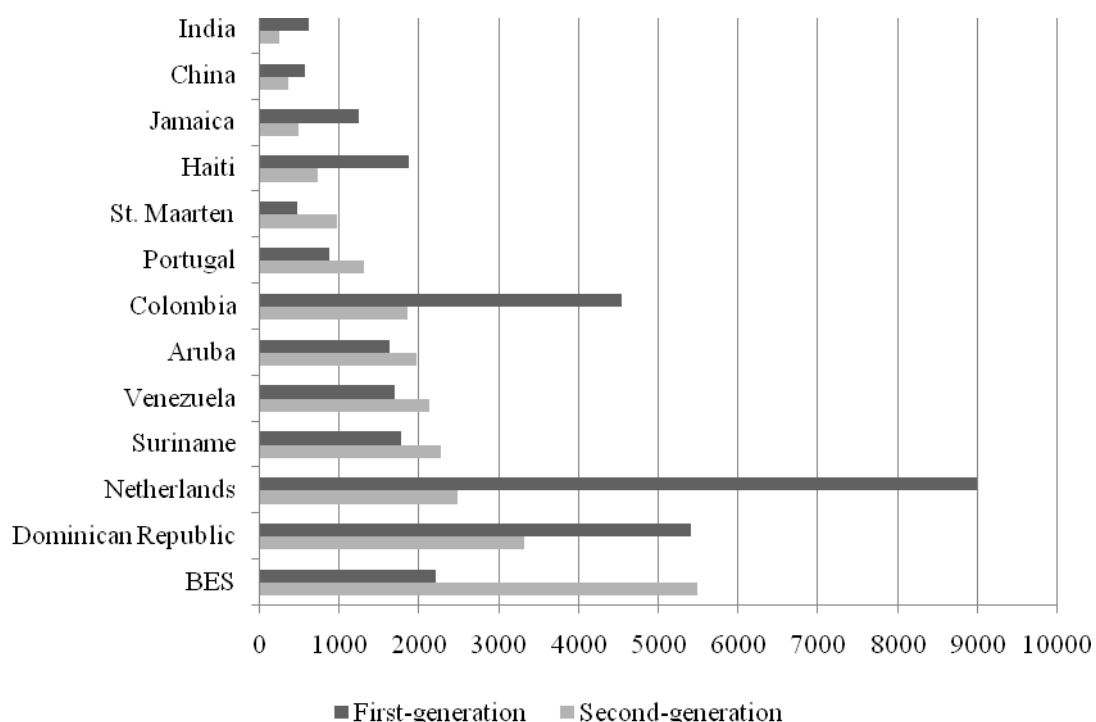
<b>Table 4. Population by type of background (absolute and percentage), 2011</b>		
	N	%
Persons with a native background	86466	57.4
First-generation migrants	35647	23.7
Second-generation migrants	27101	18.0
<i>Mixed background</i>	17791	11.8
<i>Foreign background</i>	9310	6.2
Unknown background	1349	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>150563</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A majority of the enumerated population in 2011 indicated that they were born on Curaçao and that both their parents were born on Curaçao, that is 57 percent or roughly 86.500 persons (table 4). The first-generation and second-generation migrants combined comprise nearly 42 percent of the population (about 63.000 persons). In other words, four in every ten persons in Curaçao is either an immigrant or is a native-born descendant of migrant(s). Two out of every three second-generation migrants have a mixed background, the other third is of foreign background.

## Country of origin

Figure 8 depicts the first- and second-generation migrants by a selection of countries of origin. By country of origin is meant the country of birth of first-generation migrants. For second-generation migrants the country of origin is the country of birth of the mother, unless that is Curaçao than it is the country of birth of the father. The table shows all second-generation migrants, with a mixed background as well as a foreign background. For each country the share of first-generation and the share of second-generation migrants is shown. The largest group of second-generation migrants finds its origins in one of the BES-islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba). Two and a half times as much second-generation migrants than first-generation migrants with their origins in the BES-islands have their home in Curaçao. As the BES-islands have more limited economic opportunities than Curaçao migration to Curaçao, the former 'mother island' of the Netherlands Antilles, has taken place for many decades.

Figure 8. First- and second-generation migrants by country of origin<sup>1</sup>, 2011



<sup>1</sup> Country of origin refers to country of birth of first-generation migrants and to country of birth of the mother for second-generation migrants, unless that is Curaçao than it refers to country of birth of the father.

This could be a reason for the relative large size of the second-generation group. On the contrary, the migrant group with Dutch origin consists of 3,6 times as much first-generation migrants than second-generation migrants. Constitutional and economic ties between the Netherlands and Curaçao cause much migration from the Netherlands to Curaçao and vice versa. The Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands estimates the number of Antillean (pertaining to one of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba) migrants, first-generation as well as second-generation, in the Netherlands to be nearly 146.000 in 2013 (Central Bureau of Statistics Netherlands, 2014). It is not surprising that some of these persons with a Curaçao background decide to move (back) to Curaçao. Nearly forty percent of the first-generation migrants in Curaçao who are born in the Netherlands have at least one parent who is born in Curaçao.

Besides this, 52 percent of the Netherlands-born first-generation migrants consists of native Dutch persons (both parents born in the Netherlands). The relatively small size of the group of second-generation migrants with Dutch origin can have several reasons. One of the reasons is that second-generation migrants from Dutch origin who finished their secondary education in Curaçao tend to move to the Netherlands to pursue tertiary education. Another factor contributing to the large difference between first- and second-generation migrants from Dutch origin may be the progressive type of migration between the Netherlands and Curaçao. Many (native) Dutch immigrants tend to stay for a couple of years in Curaçao before migrating back to their country of birth. If a large part of the group of immigrants born in the Netherlands is being replaced continuously, without reproducing, the group of second-generation migrants stays relatively small.

It is important to note that the large group of so-called *return-immigrants*, those born in Curaçao who lived abroad but returned to Curaçao, are not considered as first-generation migrants because they were born in Curaçao. They can be counted as second-generation migrants or native population depending on their parents place of birth.

Figure 8 furthermore points out that the groups of first-generation migrants with their origin in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Haiti and Jamaica as well as China and India are significantly bigger than the groups of second-generation migrants with their origin in these countries. Migration from these countries to Curaçao boomed at the beginning of this century vastly increasing the number of first generation migrants from these places.

Based on figure 8 a clearer distinction can be made between 'older' immigrant countries and 'newer' immigrant countries as introduced in the previous part on duration of current settlement. The 'older' countries, characterized by a long history of migration to Curaçao, show a larger share of second-generation migrants originating from them. These countries include the BES-islands, Suriname, Venezuela, Aruba, Portugal and St. Maarten. The 'newer' countries are characterized by a more recent tradition of migration to Curaçao and comprise the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, China and India. A larger share of first-generation migrants can be observed for these countries. The only exception is the Netherlands which is definitely an 'older' country, but has a much larger share of first-generation migrants.

## **Region of birth of the parents of second-generation migrants**

A closer look at the second-generation migrants' region of birth of both parents reveals the different parts of the world where they find their roots (table 5). In total 27.101 persons in the census of 2011 meet the specific criteria for second-generation migrants. A little more than half of the second-generation migrants have parents who are both born in the Caribbean region (14.233 persons). Other combinations of parents which are relatively often prevalent are Caribbean-born mothers and South America-born fathers (2604 persons or 10%), South-America-born mothers and Caribbean-born fathers (2456 persons or 9%) or both parents born in South America (1671 persons or 6%). Other notable combinations are between a Caribbean-born parent and Western Europe-born parent, both parents born in Western Europe and finally Southern Europe-born parents. The latter category consists almost exclusively of Portugal-born parents.

**Table 5. Second-generation migrants by region <sup>1</sup> of birth of the parents, 2011**

Region of birth mother	Region of birth father					Total
	Caribbean	South America	Western Europe	Southern Europe	Other regions/NR	
Caribbean	14233	2604	1056	515	630	19038
South America	2456	1671	189	56	110	4482
Western Europe	841	51	686	4	79	1661
Southern Europe	200	19	1	694	1	915
Other regions/NR	321	38	37	5	604	1005
<b>Total</b>	<b>18051</b>	<b>4383</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>27101</b>

<sup>1</sup>Regional classification is taken from the 'United Nations Composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings' revision 11 feb 2013 (United Nations Statistics Division, 2013).

## Emigration intentions

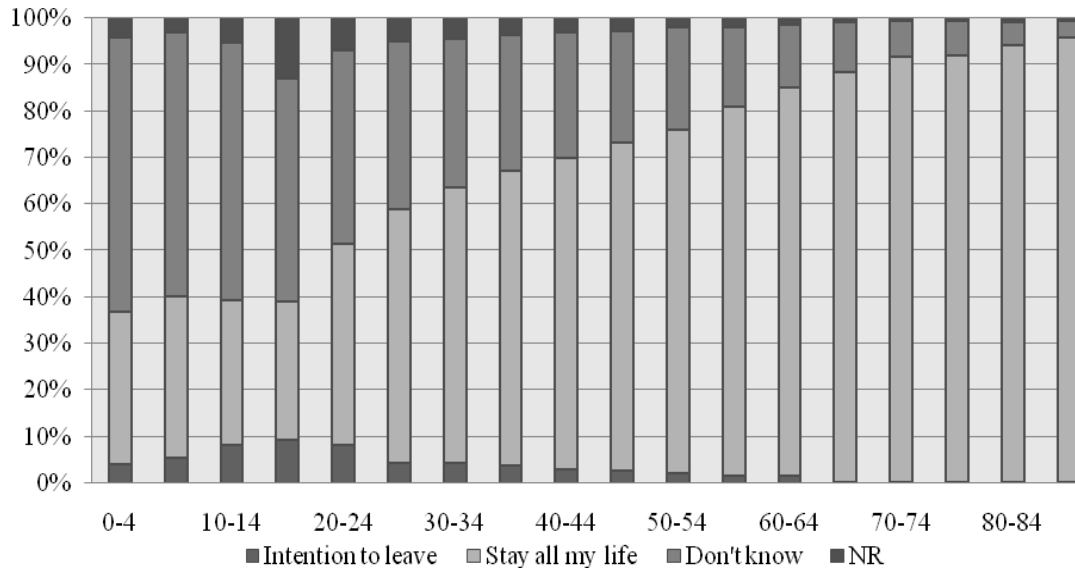
The respondents of the census were asked how long they intended to stay in Curaçao. Their intention to stay, and for what period, can be used as an indicator for their intention to emigrate. It must be kept in mind that it is merely an intention at the moment of the census and does not necessarily predict emigration very well. In fact twice as many persons emigrated in the year following the census of 2011 as there were respondents that indicated to have the intention to leave within one year after the census.

In total 1,6 percent of the population, or 2.339 persons, has indicated the intention to leave within one year after the census (table 6). Among the foreign-born population there seems to be a slightly higher intention to leave within one year as opposed to the native-born population. The Curaçao-born population has a greater share of inhabitants that indicate they want to stay in Curaçao for the rest of their lives, 63,7 percent against 53,3 percent of foreign-borns. A rather large share of the total population does not know whether to stay or to leave, i.e. 31,3 percent.

**Table 6. Native- and foreign-born population by intended length of stay, 2011**

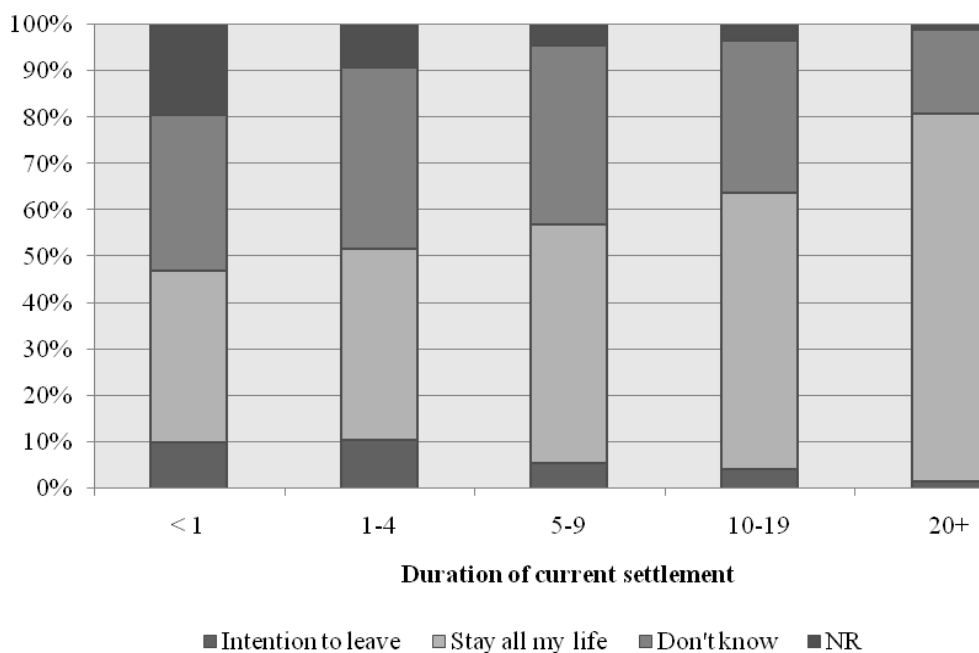
Intended length of stay	Native- or foreign born		Total
	Curaçao-born	Foreign-born	
< 1 Year	1.2	2.7	1.6
1 - 5 Years	0.0	0.2	0.1
5+ Years	1.8	3.2	2.2
All my life	63.7	53.3	61.0
Don't know	30.6	34.1	31.3
NR	2.6	6.4	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 9. Total population by emigration intention and age, 2011**



In figure 9 the intention to stay or leave is broken down by age groups for the total population of Curaçao. Generally the share of those with the intention to stay for the rest of their lives increases with age. Obviously data for the youngest respondents may not be of much use since they are very likely to develop and change their minds over time, but from around 15 years of age onwards it is very likely that persons have a clearer idea of their future emigration intentions. Especially young persons who are in the final stages of secondary education (in Curaçao that is VSBO, HAVO, VWO, SBO and MBO) and start making plans for further education or finding a job are prone to decide to leave the country for aforementioned reasons. Figure 9 shows that the biggest share of persons that intend to leave is among persons aged 10-24 years. However, in these age groups the largest shares of non response can be found as well.

**Figure 10. Immigrant population by duration of current settlement and emigration intention, 2011**



Within the immigrant population the intention to stay in Curaçao increases with duration of current settlement as is shown in figure 10. Of the immigrants that arrived more than 20 years before the census almost 80 percent indicates their intention to stay. Most prone to intending to emigrate are those immigrants that have lived in Curaçao for less than five years since their last settlement. The largest share of undecided immigrants are those that settled in Curaçao between one and ten years prior to the census.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

Curaçao has a very diverse population when it comes to migration. The migrational background of the population of Curaçao dates back many centuries and migrational ties stretch all over the globe. During the past decade(s) the migrational background of the population has increasingly become diversified. In 2011 almost a quarter of the population is born abroad and thus can be considered as first-generation migrants. Another 18 percent of the population can be considered as second-generation migrants, combining to about 42 percent of the population with a (mixed) foreign background. Censusdata reveals differences in the timing of immigration by immigrants from different backgrounds. A distinction between 'newer' (e.g. Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica) and 'older' (e.g. Suriname, Portugal, BES) immigrant countries can be seen, indicating differentiation between more recent and older immigration flows from these countries. Immigration has a significant impact on the age and sex distribution of the population of Curaçao. The sex ratio of the foreign-born population is 70 males per 100 females, nourishing an already low and decreasing sex ratio of the population of Curaçao (84 men per 100 women in 2011). Besides being female-predominated the 'working ages' (especially 30-54 years) prevail under the foreign-born population. When it comes to emigration intentions Curacao's population aged 10-24 years is most prone on intending to leave. For the immigrant population (Curaçao-born as well as foreign-born) the intention to leave decreases by prolonged duration of settlement.

Much more research can be done on the subject of migration, but the aim of this article was to provide some basic quantitative information on the migratory population of Curaçao, based on the Census of 2011. This article can be found as a chapter in the forthcoming publication on the demography of Curaçao. Comprehensive tables of the data used for this article can be found in the publication. Besides migration the publication focuses on population size and composition, fertility and marital status.

## Appendix A

### Foreign-born population by top 13 countries of birth, absolute, as percentage of total foreign-born and percentage growth, 1992-2011

Country of birth	absolute			% of foreign-born population			% growth	
	1992	2001	2011	1992	2001	2011	1992-2001	2001-2011
Netherlands	5324	5540	8988	22	22	25	4	62
Dominican Republic	3474	4191	5405	15	17	15	21	29
Colombia	984	2063	4537	4	8	13	110	120
BES	3071	2414	2208	13	10	6	-21	-9
Haiti	124	560	1861	1	2	5	352	232
Suriname	1588	1663	1770	7	7	5	5	6
Venezuela	1002	1150	1691	4	5	5	15	47
Aruba	1936	1485	1616	8	6	5	-23	9
Jamaica	111	535	1230	0	2	3	382	130
Portugal	1251	974	869	5	4	2	-22	-11
India	320	416	603	1	2	2	30	45
China	340	452	569	1	2	2	33	26
St. Maarten (Dutch part)	762	590	473	3	2	1	-23	-20
Other countries	3442	3068	3827	15	12	11	-11	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>23729</b>	<b>25101</b>	<b>35647</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>

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