

Curaçao foreign trade statistics in 2010

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Introduction

In this article an overview of the trade development of Curaçao will be given for the year 2010. The foreign trade statistics of Curacao registers the flow of merchandise to and from the island. International merchandise trade statistics are economic statistics which serve a variety of needs, such as development of trade policy and establishing general economic policy. The merchandise trade statistics, together with other basic statistics, such as financial statistics, provide input to national accounts and balance of payments statistics.

The main source for the compilation of the international merchandise trade statistics are the customs records. The Central Bureau of Statistics uses the "Special Trade System" for processing and publishing of all import and export data by commodity and by country for Curaçao. Under this system the import statistics cover all goods cleared through customs for home use from abroad or from the national free zone. Export statistics cover all goods of national origin to be dispatched to another country. The value of the goods equals the value of the commodity at the place and time it crosses the border. The basis for valuation is cost of insurance and freight (cif)⁴ for imports and free on board (fob)⁵ for exports. The trade analysis indicates the trade flow excluding the value of petroleum products. In the following paragraphs the total import and export, type of merchandise flow, and partner country are presented for the year 2010.

Total imports and exports of goods

Total import of goods

The total import of Curaçao has decreased with more than 13 million guilders to an estimated total of 2,275 million guilders in 2010 (table 1). This is a drop of about 1 percent compared to 2009. The imports of goods have decreased in the last two years. The drop in 2009 has been 6 percent compared to 2008. As can be seen in table 1 the import in Curaçao has the highest registered amount of 2,424 million guilders in 2008.

⁴ The CIF-type values include the transaction value of the goods, the value of services performed to deliver goods to the border of the exporting country and the value of the services performed to deliver the goods from the border of the exporting country to the border of the importing country

⁵ The FOB-type values include the transaction value of the goods and the value of the services performed to deliver goods to the border of the exporting country.

Table 1 Curaçao, total import and export					
(Excluding oil products)					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Curaçao					
Import	1,713,450	1,908,529	2,423,788	2,288,119	2,274,811
Export	212,232	188,576	245,155	207,521	258,936
* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.					

Total export of goods

Curaçao has exported merchandise with a value of approximately 259 million guilders in 2010. In comparison with the previous year the total export value of Curaçao has augmented with more than 51 million guilders, which is an increase of 25 percent in 2010. In the last five years the export of merchandise in 2010 has shown the highest value according to table 1. The overall exports from Curaçao include goods, which have been previously imported. This may cause significant fluctuations if the export figures are compared to previous years.

Imports and exports of goods (excluding oil products)

Curaçao, import of goods

The import of general merchandise in 2010 has increased in six of the SITC⁶ sections (table 2). The most increased import products are related to “crude materials”. These product imports have gone up from 21 to 25 million guilders compared to 2009 (21%). The products with a high value within the “crude materials” section in 2010 are: “wood” with an estimated value of 12 million guilders, and “crude vegetable materials” with 3 million guilders.

The import of “beverage and tobacco” has increased with 9 million guilders, which is an increment of about 11 percent in 2010. The products with a high value within this section are: “alcoholic beverages” with a value of 63 million guilders, and “non-alcoholic beverages” with 32 million guilders.

In 2010 the import of “machinery and transport equipment” has increased from 735 to 789 million guilders. This is an augmentation of 7 percent. The products with a high value within the “machinery and transport equipment” section are: “motor cars” with 123 million guilders, “aircraft and parts” with 77 million guilders, and “telecommunication equipment” with 63 million guilders.

The import of “manufactured goods” has decreased the most with 14 percent in 2010. The import has dropped with the 51 million guilders. Another drop has been registered in the import of “chemical products” and “miscellaneous manufactured articles”. Both import of products have decreased with approximately 7 percent.

⁶ United Nations commodity classification system: SITC, Standard International Trade Classification, Revised 3

Curaçao, export of goods

The export from Curaçao shows a rise of commodities in most of the SITC sections in 2010. The export of “beverages and tobacco” products has increased with 44 percent compared to 2009. This augmentation is 4 million guilders in 2010. The product category “tobacco manufactured products” within this section indicates a high export value of 8 million guilders.

Another export product that has increased is the export of “chemical” products. This section shows an increment of almost 40 percent in 2010. The main export product categories within the “chemical” section are: “perfumery and cosmetics” products with a value of 8 million guilders, and “soap and cleansing preparations” products with 5 million guilders.

The export of “machinery and transport equipment” products has augmented from 108 to 146 million guilders in 2010. This increase is about 35 percent. The product category that indicate a high export value within the “machinery and transport equipment” section are: “aircraft and parts” with a value of 74 million guilders, and “telecommunication equipment” with 23 million guilders.

Table 2 Curaçao, General merchandise (excluding oil products)

SITC	Descriptions	Import		Export	
		2009	2010	2009	2010
0	Food and live animals	390,113	401,473	27,079	25,088
1	Beverages and tobacco	84,787	93,763	8,600	12,387
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	20,960	25,286	3,442	1,208
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	10,838	10,884	179	129
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	267,813	250,223	15,498	21,625
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	360,017	309,230	22,928	24,229
7	Machinery and transport equipment	735,162	789,477	108,155	145,554
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	397,340	371,353	14,903	19,973
9	Commodities and transactions not classified	21,089	23,122	6,737	8,770
	Total	2,288,119	2,274,811	207,521	258,963

* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.

In 2010 the export of “crude materials” has dropped from 3 to 1 million guilders. In 2009 almost 3 million guilders in “sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites” products have been exported, while in 2010 no export of this product has been registered. The product category with the highest value within the “crude material” section is “stone, sand and gravel” with almost 500 thousand guilders in 2010.

Another drop is shown in the export of “animal and vegetable oils” with 28 percent. This is a decrease from 179 to 129 thousand guilders in 2010.

The export of “food and live animal” products has decreased with almost 2 million guilders. The most dropped product category within this section, is the product category “edible products and preparations” which has dropped from 8 million to 3 million guilders in 2010.

Imports and exports by main country and general merchandise (excluding oil products)

Curaçao, imports by origin

In 2010 the import of goods from the United States of America is 37 percent of the total island imports excluding oil products (table 3). The total import from this country amounts to more than 834 million guilders. The main products of import from the United States of America are the “machinery and transport equipment” products. This is estimated to be 351 million guilders in 2010. Other main imports from the USA are: “food and live animal” products with a value of 153 million guilders, and “miscellaneous manufactured articles” with a value of 124 million guilders (table 4).

Curaçao has imported 444 million guilders in products from the Netherlands in 2010. The import from the Netherlands is about 20 percent of the total imports. The main import products from the Netherlands are: “machinery and transport equipment” with a value of about 98 million guilders, and “food and live animal” with 90 million guilders. Another important import commodity from the Netherlands is “manufactured goods”, which amounts to 86 million guilders in 2010.

Table 3 Curaçao, Import by main country in 2010 (excluding oil products)

Country	Value	%
USA	834,259	36.7
Netherlands	443,750	19.5
Puerto Rico	122,320	5.4
Venezuela	108,577	4.8
Panama	90,810	4.0
Colombia	63,143	2.8
Japan	56,825	2.5
China	50,689	2.2
Aruba	48,220	2.1
Rest of the world	456,218	20.1
Total	2,274,811	100.0

* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.

A total value of 122 million guilders has been imported from Puerto Rico, which represents 5 percent of the total import of Curaçao in 2010. The most imported products from afore mentioned island are related to “machinery and transport equipment” products with a value of 42 million guilders.

Other countries from which Curaçao has imported merchandise are: Venezuela with 109 million guilders (5%), Panama with 91 million guilders (4%), and Colombia with 63 million guilders (3%).

Table 4 Curaçao, Import by main country and SITC section in 2010 (excluding oil products)

SITC	Descriptions	USA	Netherlands	Puerto Rico
0	Food and live animals	153,498	90,167	5,271
1	Beverages and tobacco	10,912	24,007	2,461
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	14,765	3,462	86
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	5,778	819	16
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	79,215	54,176	22,128
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	93,833	86,258	10,811
7	Machinery and transport equipment	351,174	97,848	42,263
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	124,442	72,767	39,279
9	Commodities and transactions not classified	642	14,245	5
	Total	834,259	443,750	122,320

* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.

Curaçao, exports by destination

In 2010 most exports of goods from Curaçao are to the United States of America, which consists of 40 percent of the total exports (table 5). The main export products to the USA are related to “machinery and transport equipment” products which amount to about 95 million guilders (table 6). Other export products from Curaçao to the USA are: “chemical” products with a value of about 4 million guilders, and “miscellaneous articles” products with 3 million guilders.

Table 5 Curaçao, Export by main country in 2010 (excluding oil products)

Country	Value	%
USA	102,780	39.7
Netherlands	36,699	14.2
Aruba	26,285	10.2
St.Maarten	7,662	3.0
Taiwan	6,017	2.3
Trinidad	4,357	1.7
Venezuela	3,586	1.4
Canada	2,883	1.1
Dominican Republic	1,466	0.6
Rest of the world	67,228	26.0
Total	258,963	100.0

* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.

The Netherlands is the second important export destination for Curaçao in 2010. The export of goods to the Netherlands is estimated at 37 million guilders. Most of the export products to the USA pertain to the section “food and live animal” with a total value of 12 million guilders.

As shown in table 5, Aruba also forms an important export market for Curaçao. In 2010 Aruba has an export market share of 10 percent. The main export products to Aruba are: “machinery and transport equipment” and “beverage and tobacco” with a value of about 6 million guilders each.

Other export market partners in 2010 are St.Maarten with a value of 8 million guilders (3%), Taiwan with 6 million guilders (2%), and Trinidad with 4 million guilders (2%).

Table 6 Curaçao, Export by main country and SITC section in 2010 (excluding oil products)

SITC	Descriptions	USA	Netherlands	Aruba
0	Food and live animals	106	11,961	2,325
1	Beverages and tobacco	114	881	5,537
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	31	93	221
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	58
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	3,559	2,235	4,107
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	761	3,447	3,170
7	Machinery and transport equipment	94,657	9,634	6,237
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2,547	3,783	4,402
9	Commodities and transactions not classified	1,004	4,665	227
	Total	102,780	36,699	26,285
* All values in estimated 1000 of Ang.				
** A zero value may indicate a rounding effect or no transactions registered for a particular section				

Summary

Although the total import of products has decreased with 1 percent in 2010, most product sections have shown an increase. The main import of products which have increased are related to: “crude materials” with 21 percent, “beverage and tobacco” with 11 percent, and other “not classified products” with 10 percent. In contrast the import of “manufactured goods” has dropped the highest with 14 percent in 2010. Most imported products in Curacao have come from the USA with an estimated value of 834 million guilders, followed by the Netherlands with an import value of 444 million guilders.

The export from Curacao has increased about 25 percent in 2010. The major export increase is “beverage and tobacco” with 44 percent. Another important increase is registered in the export of “chemical” products with 40 percent. On the other hand the export of “crude materials” products has decreased with more than 60 percent. From Curacao a value of about 103 million guilders has been exported to the USA, which is the main export partner in 2010. The export of goods to the Netherlands amounts to 37 million guilders. This is about 20 percent of the total export market of Curacao.

The economy of Curaçao in 2010

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Introduction

This article gives an overview of the growth, development and an international comparison of the Curaçao economy for 2009 to 2010. The first results concerning the developments in the economy of Curaçao for 2010 show a light increase in the economic activities. The increase result is 0.1 percent in comparison to -0.5 percent in 2009 (see table 3). The percentages are related to the real developments, which mean that, they are corrected for price developments.

Real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) or real economic development (growth) is equal to the change in the production of goods and services excluding price developments. The change in the production of several industries, which is used as an indicator for the change in value added, is then grouped together to arrive at an estimate of the weighted average of real GDP. The data is extracted from the conjuncture survey and the production indicator research. All data are still provisional, due to the pending final compilation of the complete data of all industries in the National Accounts.

General performance of the economy

The Curaçao economy has a fluctuating economic history, influenced by internal and external factors. In 2008 the real GDP that has been estimated at 2.2, spiraled down to 0.5 in 2009 and in 2010 slightly increased with 0.1 percent. Unemployment rates averaged almost 10 per cent for the period 2009 (AKO-onderzoek), which is above the rate under the countries in our region. The inflation as of 2010 has gone up with 2.8 percent.

The late 2000 recession in the US, the debt crisis in Europe 2010, the rise in world oil prices, an economic recovery in Latin America all have their influences directly or indirectly to our economy due to our open market economic policy.

The Latin American influence is most seen in the growth of Latin American (excluding Venezuela) tourism which has increased with 20.4 percent. Venezuelan tourism has experience a decline in arrivals to the island of about 58 percent.

In the subsequent analysis a short review will be given of the non-financial corporations, the financial corporations, the government, and the household and non-profit institutions serving households.

Table 1: Region comparisons

Countries	Real GDP growth (Annual %)			Unemployment rate, (% of total labor force)			Inflation, Consumer prices (Annual %)		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
United States	-0.3	-3.5	2.8	5.8	9.3	9.6	3.85	-0.3	1.64
Netherlands	1.8	-3.8	1.7	2.7	3.3	5.4	2.5	1.2	1.3
Venezuela, RB	4.8	-3.3	-1.9	6.9	7.6	8.6	31.4	28.6	29.1
Latin America & Caribbean	4.3	-1.8	6.2	6.8	8.0	7.5	-	-	-
Curaçao	2.2	-0.5	0.1	10.3	9.7	-	6.9	1.8	2.8

Non-financial corporations

Mining

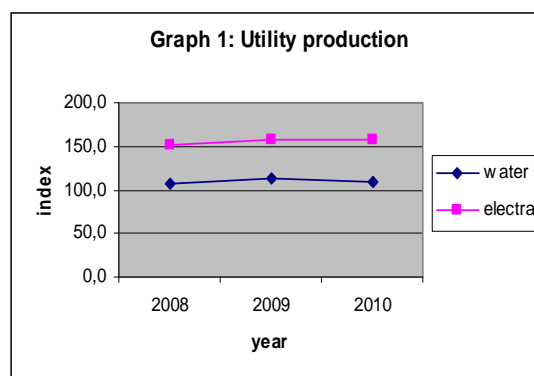
The contribution of mining to GDP, which has been -2.7 percent in 2009 has further declined in 2010 with 1.2 percent. The negative development in this industry has been influenced by climatologically circumstances which reduced the production capacity in 2010. The rain fall in 2010 is 963 mm with respect to the 367 mm of the year before. The developments of this industry are measured on the basis of the production of sand and blocks. The development of sand and blocks indicator mostly runs parallel with the growth of the construction industry, although the production of sand and blocks is not totally dependent on the local market. The weight of this industry may seem very marginal (0.4%) in the overall economy, nevertheless the value added that the mining section delivers is of substantial value and impact.

Manufacturing

Compared to 2009, this industry has shown a fall in value added of 6.6 percent in 2010. The fall has been mainly attributed to the decline in refining production, which is a consequence of among other things the falling out of the BOO (Build, Own & Operate) facilities. The BOO is the main producer of utilities for the local refinery. Other indicators in this industry such as ship repair and other small manufacturers indicate an increase, but the drop in the refining capacity of production had a comparatively large impact on the rest of the industry.

Utility

The overall utility production has showed a positive growth rate of 2.7 percent in 2010. In the utility industry, cubic meters water and the kWh for electricity are taken into account. The volume of electricity generation in 2010 has decreased with about 0.7 percent over the 2009 levels. Water production has shown a decrease of about 3.6 percent. In graph 1 there's an index development for utility. In other developments in this industry it is viewed that the prices for electricity have increased with 11.4 percent and water with 0.8 percent.



Construction

In the construction industry a substantial amount of activities has been observed on the island. Regardless of this observance there has been no increases in the investment of finished works, there has been still construction in ongoing projects of 2009. The activities however in the industry of construction have decreased with almost 6 percent. This is due to a decrease in large invitations to tender for construction projects in 2010. This led to less need of material.

Trade

The main indicator for trade is the development in the import of merchandise; this has caused a rise in the trade industry of 5.8 percent in 2010. Due to the different economic developments on the island, the imports have been growing progressively.

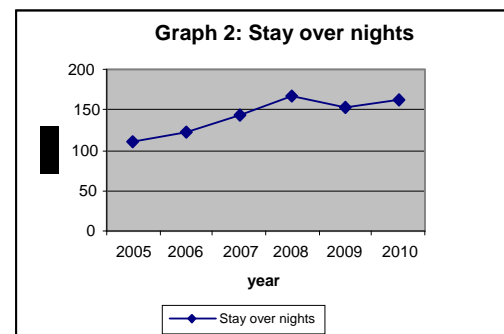
Horeca

In the hotel and restaurants (horeca) industry the value added has increased with 4 percent. The main indicator is the stay over nights, which is used to measure the developments in this industry. The Curaçao tourism industry has experienced a steady growth in stay over nights (table 2). The stay over nights have increased with about 5.4 percent (2,904,485 nights) in 2010, compared to the -7.8 percent (2,755,936 nights) in 2009. This growth has been credited to an increase in the North American, Caribbean and European tourist market which has increased with respectively about 23, 16 and 8 percent. The South American tourist market decreased with about 15 percent.

Table 2: Stay over nights development

Year	Stay over nights	% change
2008	2989021	16.1
2009	2755936	-7.8
2010	2904485	5.4

Source data: CTB



Transport and communication, Health and social work

Transport and communication did not show significant change (-0.5%) in 2010 compared to 2009. This is observed in the diminished activities of both the port and airport. In health care there has been shrinkage of 3.4 percent in the industry, this decrease is mostly due to the negative business operations results.

Financial Corporations

Financial intermediation

In the industry of financial intermediation there has been a positive development over the last years. For 2010 there has been a growth of nearly 4 percent. As indicator for this industry a weighted financial index has been used. It consists of the balance of the offshore commerce operation remainder which is the inflow export services minus outflow import services and the supplied loans by the commercial banks.

Government

In October 2010 Curaçao became an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The island and the central government pertaining to Curaçao became one. For this industry the main focus is on employment. The value added for the government industry has experienced a growth of almost 5 percent.

Households & Non-profit institutions serving households

This industry has shown a positive growth of about 1.7 percent. The production units of the households are the sole proprietorship businesses if not quasi corporate, services of owner occupied dwellings, paid domestic services and taxis and small transportation buses. And the non-profit institutions serving households sector (NPISH); this includes legal or social entities created for the purpose of producing goods and services.

Table 3: Gross Domestic product (GDP) by sector and industry, Curaçao

		% REAL CHANGE	
		2009	2010
	<i>Non-financial corporations</i>		
A+B+C	Agriculture, fishing and mining	-2,7	-1,2
D	Manufacturing	-0,3	-6,6
E	Electricity, gas and water	5,4	2,7
F	Construction	-3,4	-5,7
G	Trade	-5,5	5,8
H	Hotels and restaurants	-6,1	4,0
I	Transport, storage and communications	4,4	-0,5
K	Real estate, renting and business activities	-2,2	-1,9
M	Education private	0,0	4,1
N	Health and social work	3,1	-3,4
O	Other community, social and personal service activities	1,4	4,8
	Value added, gross, market prices	-0,9	-0,1
	<i>Financial corporations</i>		
J	Financial intermediation	-1,2	1,1
	Value added, gross, market prices		
	<i>Government</i>	3,3	4,7
	<i>Households & Non-profit institutions serving households</i>	-1,9	1,7
	Real GDP growth	-0,5	0,1

Global developments in 2010

According to the World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the world economy increased with 5.1 percent compared to a shrink of 0.5 percent in 2009. The increase has been invoked by China and India, their economy has shown an increase of respectively 10.3 and 10.4 percent in 2010. In the Euro zone there is an increase of 1.8 percent. The countries in the western hemisphere like the United States its economy has progressed with about 3 percent in 2010; Venezuela had a drop of nearly 2 percent (see table 4). The economy of South America and the Caribbean has progressed with respectively 6.5 and 3.4 percent.

	Real GDP		
	2010	Projections	
		2011	2012
North America	3.1	2.9	3.0
United States	2.8	2.8	2.9
Canada	3.1	2.8	2.6
Mexico	5.5	4.6	4.0
South America	6.5	4.8	4.2
Brazil	7.5	4.5	4.1
Argentina	9.2	6.0	4.6
Colombia	4.3	4.6	4.5
Venezuela	-1.9	1.8	1.6
Peru	8.8	7.5	5.8
Chile	5.3	5.9	4.9
Ecuador	3.2	3.2	2.8
Uruguay	8.5	5.0	4.2
Bolivia	4.2	4.5	4.5
Paraguay	15.3	5.6	4.5
Central America	3.6	4.0	4.3
Caribbean	3.4	4.2	4.5
<i>Memorandum</i>			
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.1	4.7	4.2

Source: World Economic Outlook April 2011, International Monetary Fund