

The Aruba Migration and Integration Study 2003, conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, shows

**68.7 PERCENT OF ALL RECENT MIGRANTS WANT TO SETTLE ON ARUBA INDEFINITELY.**

During the months of May through July 2003, the Central Bureau of Statistics conducted the Aruba Migration and Integration Study (AMIS). A total of 679 recent migrants who came to Aruba after April 30 1993 (MMA) together with their family members, were interviewed by 20 interviewers of the CBS. The main objective of the migration study was to obtain information about the characteristics and way of life of migrants on Aruba. Among other things general demographic and social data was gathered, with special attention for migrant household and family composition. Information on the migration history of recent migrants and their current and past economic activities was also collected, to gain better understanding of their economic characteristics.

**Migrants' intentions**

According to the migration study, 68.7 percent of all MMAs indicated they want to settle on Aruba indefinitely. Only 22.3 percent of them plan to go back to their country of birth, while 9 percent want to leave Aruba to go and live in another country. This widespread intention among migrants to settle on Aruba is reflected in the large group of migrants who have taken steps to obtain the Dutch nationality. The data show that currently one in four migrants has already applied for a Dutch passport. At the time of the survey, 12.3 percent of male migrants and 11.0 percent of female migrants had already obtained their citizenship.

Every migrant has his/her own specific reasons to come to Aruba. The motives are mainly economically based for migrants from developing countries, while people from developed countries attach more importance to good living conditions and family bonds.

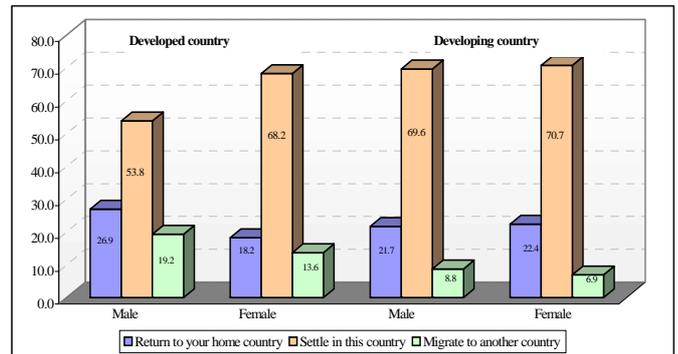
**'Brain Drain'**

Quite a lot of foreign workers are much better educated than their employment level would suggest. Table 2 shows that about 54 percent of all working migrants interviewed in the migration study and who have a high educational level are working in low occupational skill level. This over-qualification means a loss for both the sending and the receiving country. The sending country loses a citizen who is well trained - sometimes at a high cost - and, by using over-qualified personnel for low level jobs, the receiving country does not make optimal use of its foreign labor potential. 'Brain drain' is a serious problem for many countries in Latin America, as large numbers of well-educated citizens leave their country of birth to find employment abroad. Many migrants from developing countries find work as unskilled workers. As presented in table 2, 16.5 percent of migrants with a higher educational level are working in elementary occupations.

**Migrant children in the education system**

Children of recent migrants face specific problems in education. Spanish speaking children, in particular, experience a number of difficulties. Seventeen percent of Spanish speaking children and some 14 percent of English speaking children aged 12-17 years do not attend school. For children who speak Dutch or Papiamentu (including Arubans) fewer than 5 percent do not go to school. Many children from Spanish speaking countries face an uphill battle to get along in the Aruban educational system.

Graph A Intention to stay on Aruba by type of country of birth and sex



Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Table 1. Migrants (20+ yrs) by educational attainment, sex and type of country of birth

ISCED-level	Developed country		Developing country		%	N of cases
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
ISCED-1	6.2	3.4	14.2	15.2	13.1	95
ISCED-2	16.9	17.2	50.6	50.1	44.7	324
ISCED-3	6.2	15.5	4.3	4.6	5.5	40
ISCED-5	26.2	24.1	16.2	17.5	18.3	133
ISCED-6	27.7	36.2	10.7	9.5	13.7	99
ISCED-7	16.9	3.4	4.0	3.2	4.7	34
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	725

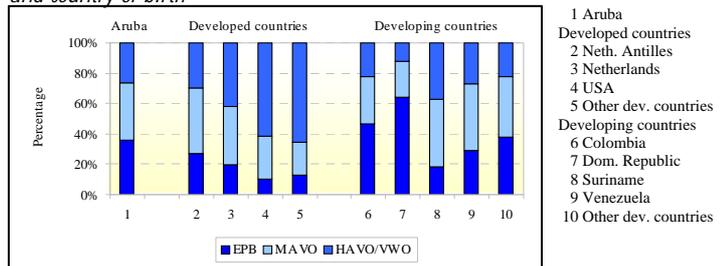
Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Table 2. Proportion of persons with ISCED-level 5, 6 or 7 by main ISCO-category, type of country of birth and sex

ISCO-category	Developed country		Developing country		%	N of cases
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Legislators, senior officials, and managers	22.0	16.0	15.8	8.6	14.6	31
Professionals	36.6	36.0	7.9	10.0	17.5	37
Technicians and associate professionals	22.0	36.0	6.6	10.0	14.2	30
Clerks	2.4	8.0	2.6	7.1	4.7	10
Service workers, shop & market sales workers	9.8	4.0	25.0	32.9	22.2	47
Craft and related trades workers	4.9	0.0	19.7	4.3	9.4	20
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.9	2
Elementary occupations	2.4	0.0	19.7	27.1	16.5	35
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	212

Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Graph B School-attending youngsters <= 21 yrs. by type of secondary school and country of birth



Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Despite the initial difficulties of foreign-born children, a number of them are able to overcome their problems. At the end a higher percentage of foreign-born children result in the higher secondary education (HAVO and VWO) in comparison to local born children.

### Family reunion

The migration study shows that about two-thirds of MMAs from developed countries and an equal proportion of female MMAs from developing countries came to Aruba together with their spouse. On the other hand, less than a third of married men from developing countries take their wife with them. However, many of them (35.8 percent) send for their spouse at a later moment in time. Family reunion is an important form of child migration to Aruba. Figures from the migration study show that 53 out of 100 male migrants from developed countries have their children come to live on Aruba. For women from developed countries this number is slightly higher: 61 out of 100. For men and women from developing countries, 34 and 43 children per 100 MMA respectively arrived on the island. Family reunion also takes place when adult migrants join their parents on the island. Often parents look for employment for their children and send for them as soon as they have secured a position. For about 16 percent of all MMAs with a relative on the island, one or more parents or parents-in-law were already living on the island.

### Looking for a job in Aruba

Arriving in a new country can be quite stressful for migrants. Many migrants (42.1 percent) arrive on Aruba without a job offer. More than half of those who did have a job offer at the time of arrival got this job through relatives or friends. Most migrants who do not have a job at the time of arrival find employment relatively quickly; after six months on the island 16.7 percent of men and 32.8 percent of women who did not have a job on arrival were still looking for work. Only 4.2 percent of men and 13.2 percent of women who came to Aruba without a job offer, had not found a steady job after one year.

### Social integration

In the migration study, we checked migrants' knowledge of some important Aruban facts; the data showed that more than 50 percent of migrants watched Aruban television on a daily basis, another 15 percent three to five times a week and 22 percent once a week. Interestingly also, more than 80 percent of all migrants think that it is not that difficult to integrate in Aruban society. On the other hand, quite a few migrants complain about the discrimination they have to endure. About 55 percent of migrants from developing countries complain that they are sometimes or often discriminated.

76.7 Percent of Spanish-speaking migrants indicated they can speak Papiamentu against 65.9 percent of the Dutch and 62.3 percent of the English speaking migrants. Interestingly the majority of interviewed persons indicated they can speak Papiamentu and didn't follow any courses in Papiamentu.

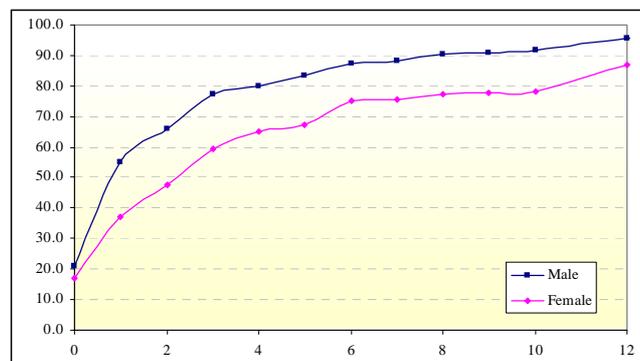
The above-mentioned gives only a brief summary of the information available in 'Double or Quits; a study on recent migration to Aruba 1993 - 2003'. The publication is available at the CBS, Sun Plaza Building, L.G. Smith Boulevard 160. For further information or suggestions please feel free to contact the CBS, telephone (297) 5837433, fax (297) 5838057 or e-mail [cbss@setarnet.aw](mailto:cbss@setarnet.aw).

Table 3. Children per MMA coming to Aruba as dependants

	Developed country		Developing country		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
No. of children migrant has	1.11	1.18	1.48	1.75	1.57
No. of children born abroad	0.87	0.89	1.23	1.41	1.27
No. of children come to live in Aruba	0.53	0.61	0.34	0.43	0.42
No. children live with you here	0.72	0.73	0.48	0.65	0.60
% of children born on Aruba	22.03	25.00	17.27	19.55	19.18
% of children born abroad who come to live on Aruba	60.87	69.23	27.61	30.70	33.02
% of children who live with MMA	64.41	61.54	32.03	37.39	38.27

Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Graph C. Percentage of MMAs by sex, who found a job during the first year of residence on Aruba



Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Table 4. MMAs opinions about discrimination and integration by type of country of birth and sex

Relative numbers		Nat. of developed country		Nat. of developing country	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
People from home country treated with respect	True	45.3	50.0	55.8	53.8
	Not true	37.7	31.8	27.5	28.8
	No opinion	17.0	18.2	16.7	17.4
People deserve to be treated better	True	26.4	20.5	41.3	42.2
	Not true	18.9	31.8	6.3	8.2
	Satisfied with respect	54.7	47.7	52.5	49.5
Discriminated as a foreigner	Never	58.5	72.7	50.2	40.4
	Sometimes	35.8	25.0	38.2	47.3
	Often	5.7	2.3	11.6	12.3
Foreigners treated fairly by government	Treated fairly	34.0	34.1	58.8	44.3
	Not treated fairly	45.3	36.4	25.0	32.8
	No opinion	20.8	29.5	16.3	22.9

Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

Table 5. Foreign-born persons by vernacular language, who speak Papiamentu and whether they followed a course in Papiamentu or not

Vernacular language	Number of respondents	% of respondents who speak Papiamentu	% of respondents who took courses in Papiamentu	% of respondents who speak Papiamentu and took courses in Papiamentu	
				Papiamentu	Papiamentu and didn't take courses in Papiamentu
Spanish	696	76.7	13.9	16.5	81.8
Dutch	170	65.9	25.9	27.7	60.7
English	162	62.3	8.6	9.9	86.1
Other	98	86.7	13.3	15.3	84.7
Total	1,126	67.4	10.8	13.6	84.0

Source: AMIS 2003, CBS

