

Migration in Aruba



Aruba in brief



Aruba has a land area of **179 km²**

The total population in 2018: **111.849** a **10.2%** increase compared to 2010

Aruba has a population density of **575** persons per km² (ranks 22nd in the world)

Immigration in Aruba

Historically there have been two major immigration waves to Aruba

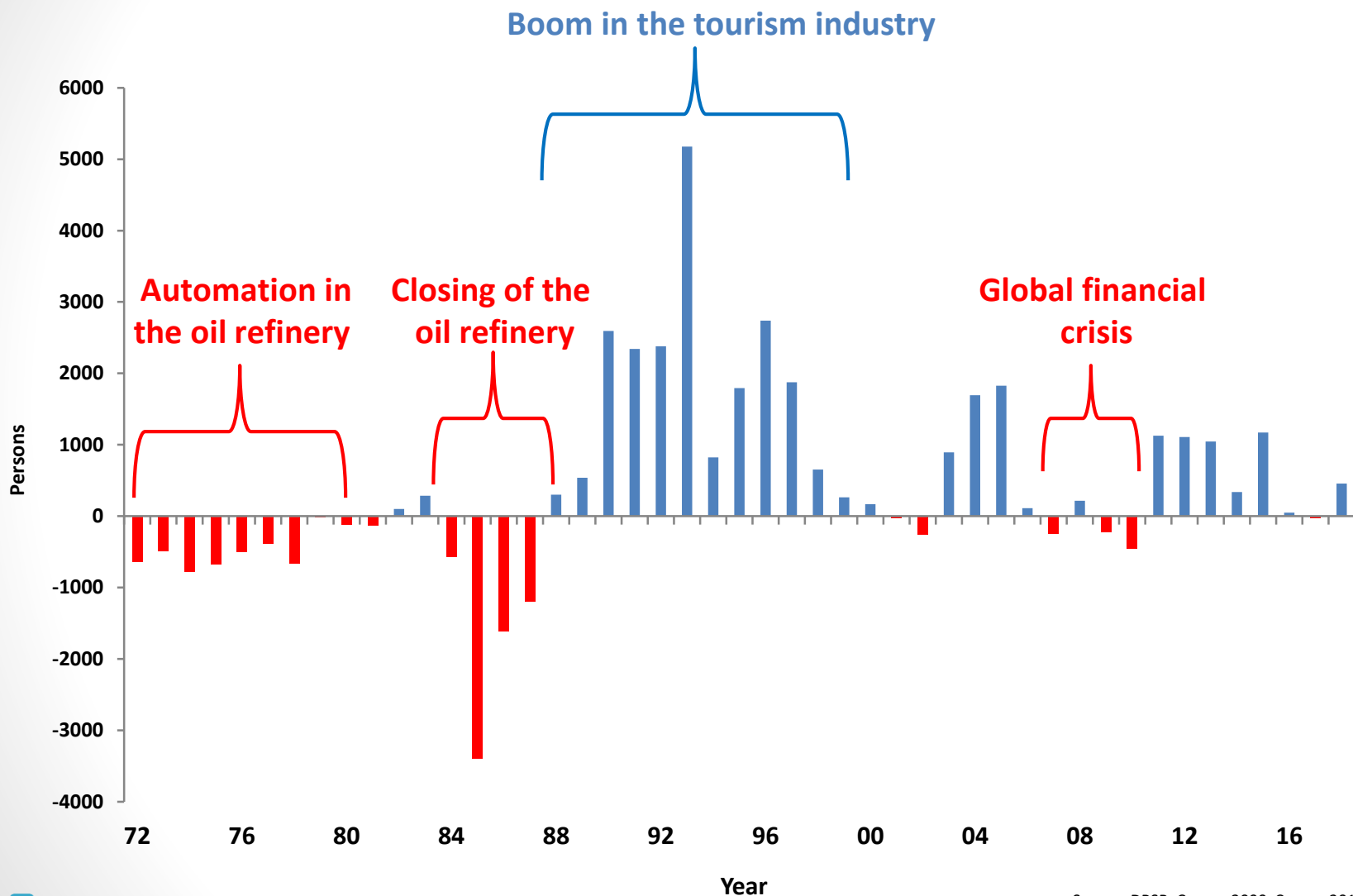


During the opening of the oil industry in the late 1920s all the way to the 1960s.



During the boom of the tourism industry in the late 1980s all the way to the early 2000s.

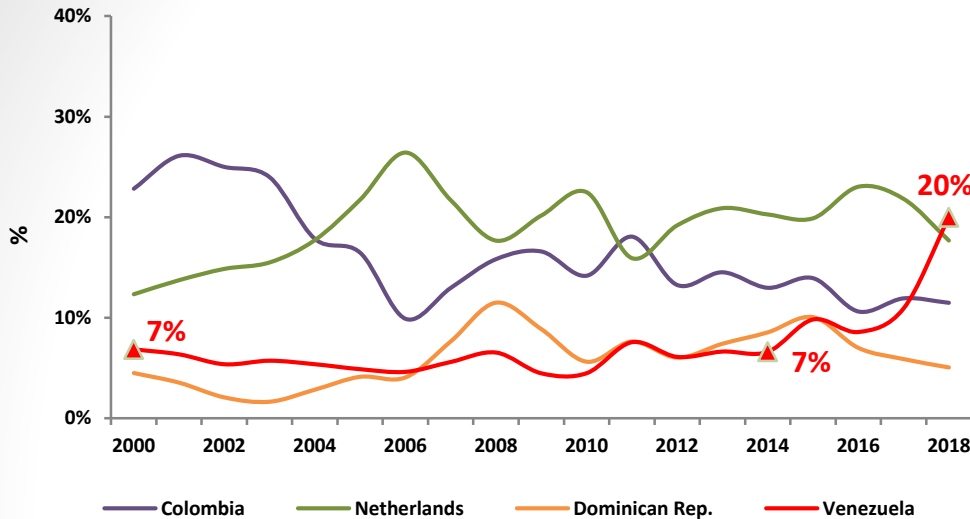
Net migration 1972-2018



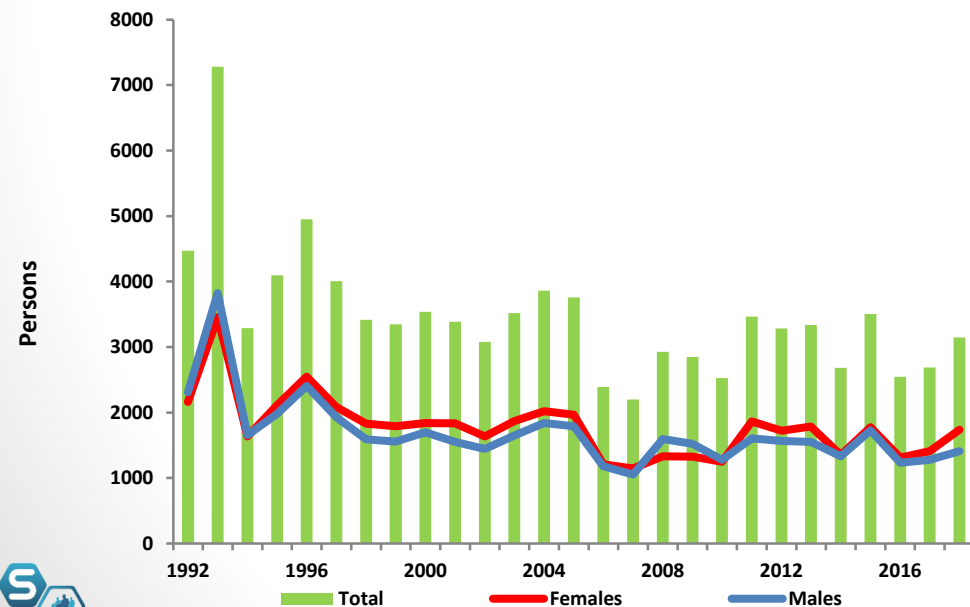
Source: DBSB, Census 2000, Census 2010



Immigration to Aruba



- Immigrants come primarily from Colombia, Dominican Republic, the Netherlands and Venezuela
- Since 2014, immigration from Venezuela as a percentage of all immigration has almost **tripled**.
- Data shows that immigration spikes occur between the months of July and September.

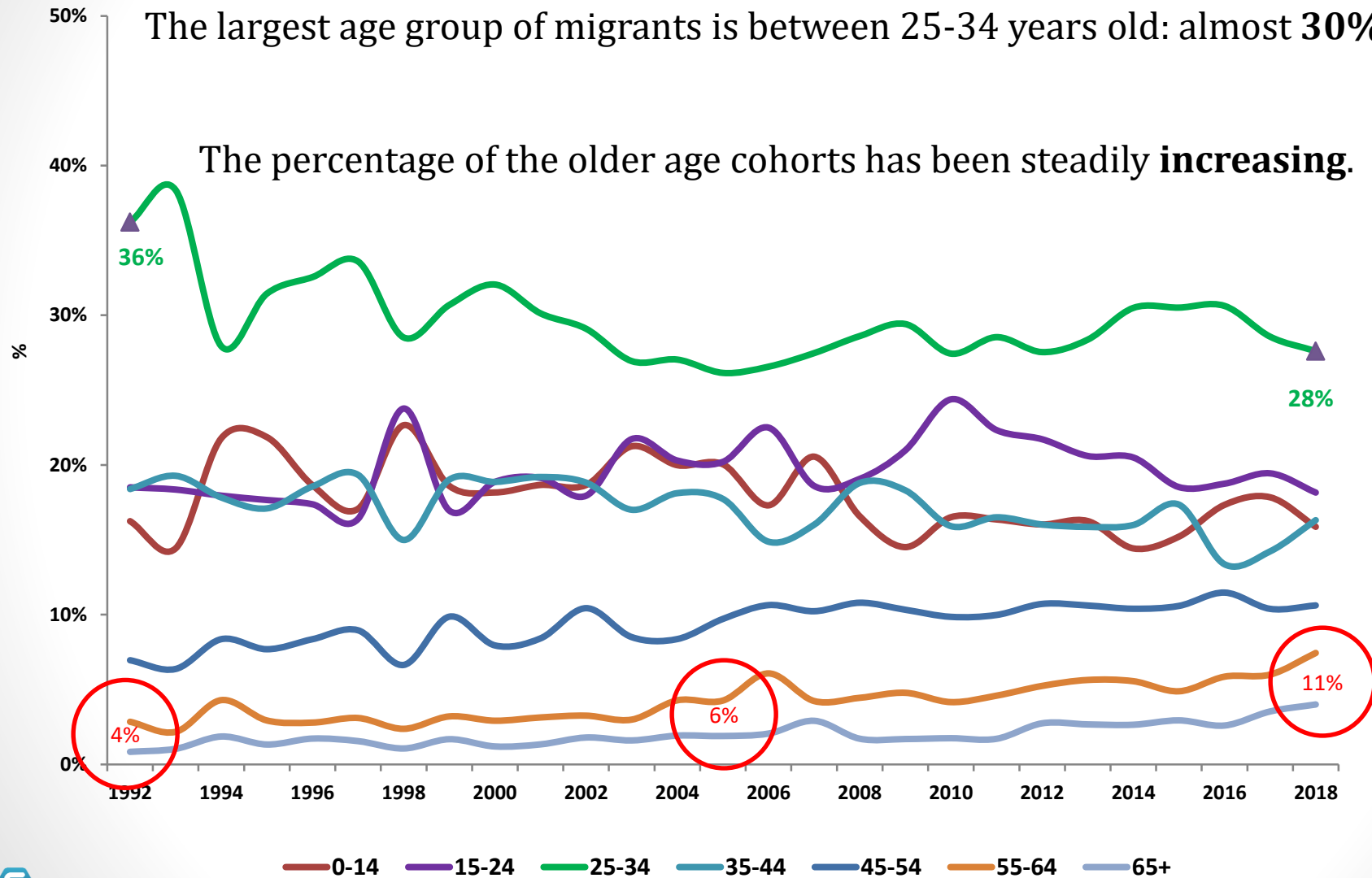


- Since the mid '90s, females have been the **majority** of the immigration flow to Aruba (with the exception of the period 2007-2010).
- The largest disparity can be seen in 2018, where **55%** of immigrants were female.

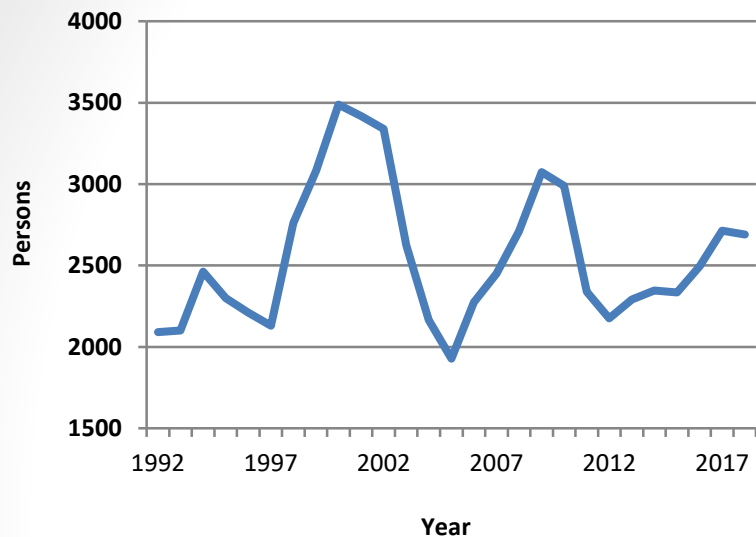
Immigration Flow by Age group 1992-2018

The largest age group of migrants is between 25-34 years old: almost **30%**.

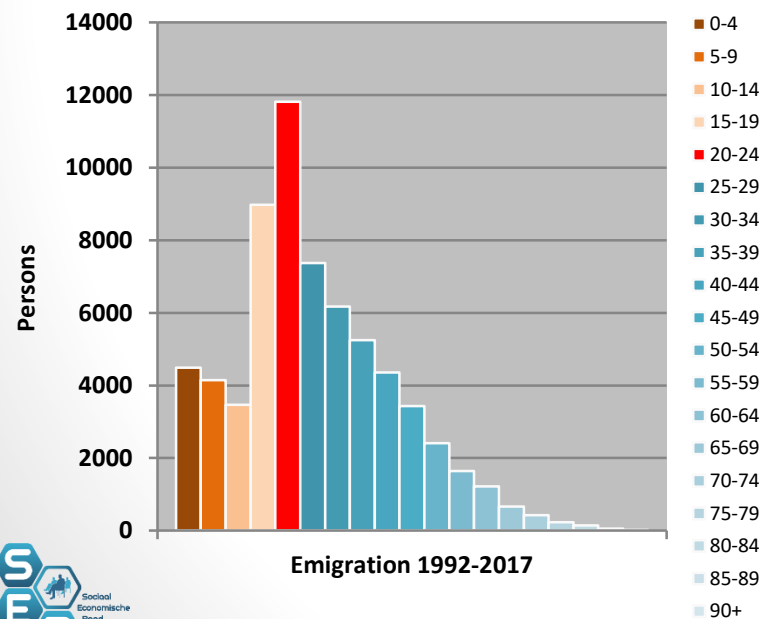
The percentage of the older age cohorts has been steadily **increasing**.



Emigration in Aruba 1992-2017



- Fluctuates between 1900 and 3500 persons a year
- Slightly more males emigrate than females (106 males for every 100 females)



- Young persons are most likely to emigrate (partly due to emigration of students)
- About 74% are persons born in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Irregular migration

There is no universally accepted definition of irregular migration. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines it as “movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving country”.

Globally, reliable statistics on stocks or flows of irregular migrants are generally not available.

For Aruba, this is also the case. Nevertheless, professionals in the area of migration believe that irregular migration is on the rise in Aruba.

Pull and Push factors of the current immigration



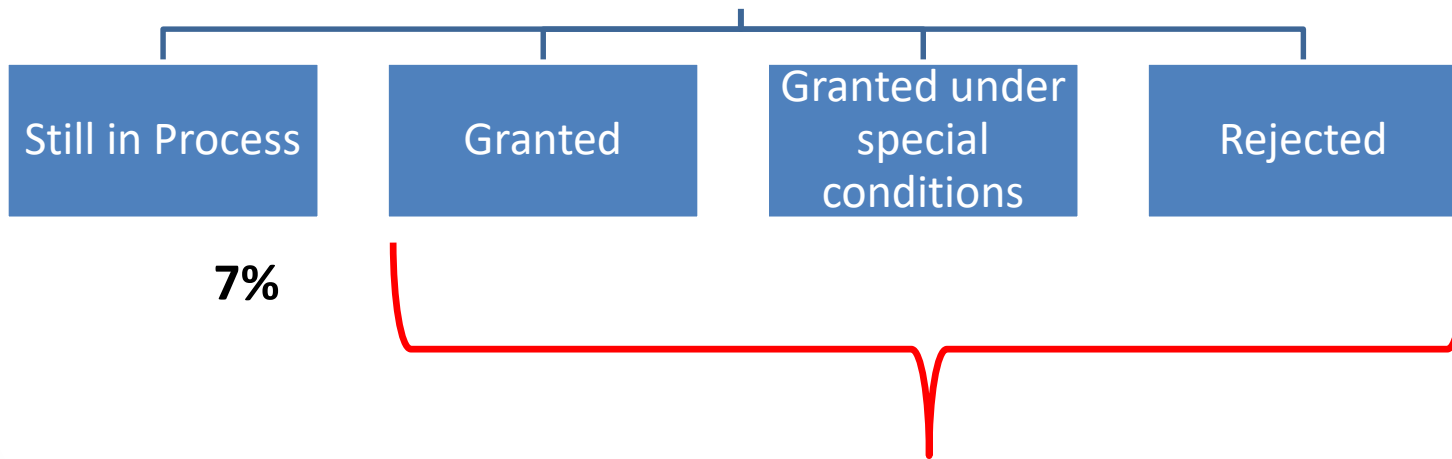
- Lower standards of living (poverty) in neighboring countries
- Economic/political crisis in Venezuela
- Political persecution
- Lack of safety and healthcare
- Lack of basic services

- The labor market is in need of workers to:
 1. To substitute aging workforce
 2. To fill new positions in the growing tourism industry
- Aruba has one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean region
- Lower unemployment
- Well paying jobs
- Used as a springboard to enter Europe
- Close proximity and easy to access
- Safety
- Climate (attracts snowbirds, retirees)

Applications for permits – Sept. 2017 - March 2019

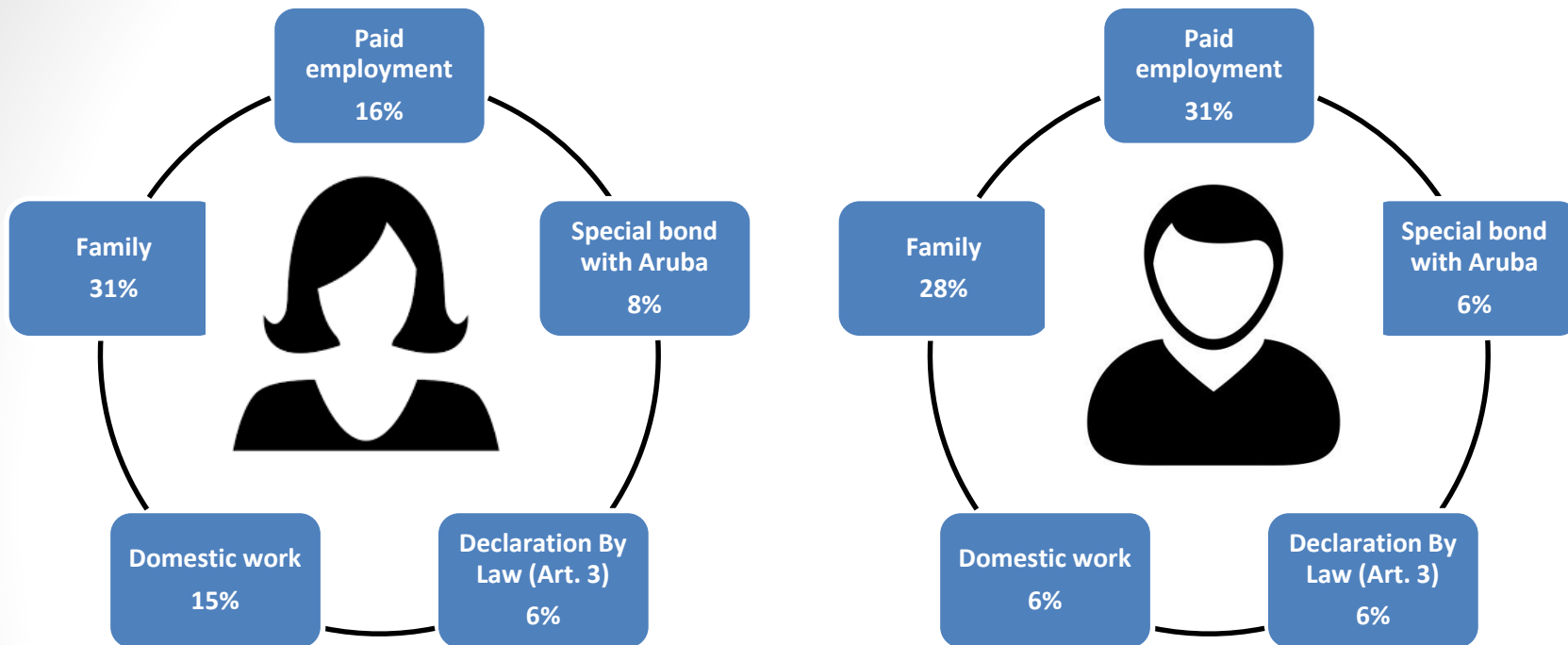


21.680



The approval rate of the processed applications is **88%**.

Top 5 reasons for application



Average age of applicants



34



33

~~Challenges~~ with the recent immigration to Aruba

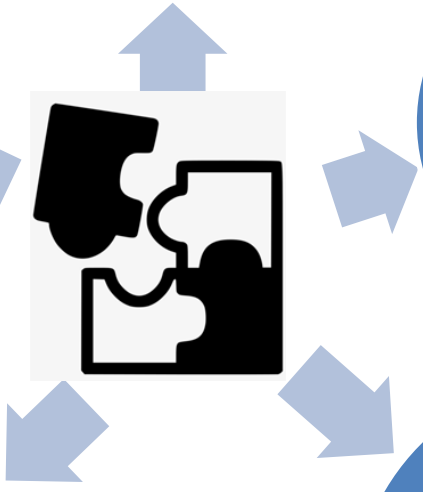
Opportunities for positive change

Covers the growing demand for labor, rejuvenation of the labor force, highly skilled/educated migrants can lead to an increase in productivity and innovation (knowledge economy), they take up crucial low-skilled jobs undesirable to natives, migration of highly skilled professionals serves as an incentive for natives to acquire more education

Good timing to revamp public infrastructure with the latest technologies in schools (modern education); education should be seen as an investment that may readily be recovered in greater future productivity

Opens the door for a new economic model such as circular economy, or a shift towards small-scale living that fits better with today's family structure

A richer and more diverse culture; historically immigration has assimilated well into Aruban society. Migration has and will inevitably change the identity of the Aruban population. The government should use an effective integration plan to guarantee the core values, norms and characteristics that define the residents of Aruba



Immigration will be a financial boost to government coffers if the correct integration plan is in place. Migrants are net positive contributors to welfare systems, will also improve the dependency rates



Food for thought

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes for the first time the contribution of migration to sustainable development. 11 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility. The Agenda's core principle is to "**leave no one behind**", including migrants.

The SDGs' central reference to migration is made in target 10.7: to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Immigration is not something new or unique to this region, it was, is and will always be present.

We need to ensure that the local and short-term social costs of immigration do not detract from their role "**as one of the primary sources of progress**".

Thank you for your attention