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Population of Curaçao January 1st , 2026: an Overview of Demographic Developments

This report presents the population data per January 1st, 2026. It analyses the total population, fertility, mortality, immigration and emigration and gives an in-depth view into these topics by analyzing gender and age distributions, historical development and other trends.

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the Population and Vital Statistics Report 2025 of Curaçao. This publication provides important insights into the demographic developments that continue to shape our island and offers a valuable basis for policy development, planning, research, and informed decision-making.

The figures presented in this report highlight several important demographic trends. Curaçao is experiencing a continued decline in fertility, an aging population, and increasing life expectancy. The population structure reflects a growing proportion of older people, while the number of births remains well below replacement level. These developments have significant implications for the labor market, healthcare services, social protection systems, and long-term economic planning.

Migration continues to play a critical role in the demographic development of Curaçao. In recent years, immigration has become the primary driver of population growth, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Understanding these migration patterns is essential for developing effective policies that support sustainable population growth and social and economic development.

Reliable and timely statistics are indispensable for understanding these changes. Through its continuous efforts in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating statistical information, the Central Bureau of Statistics remains committed to providing high-quality data that support evidence-based decision-making and contribute to the development of Curaçao.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Statistical Researchers Mrs. Joanne Lourens and Mr. Michael Matthews who work hard to process the data and write this publication.

Sean de Boer
Director
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SUMMARY

As of January 1, 2026, Curaçao had 158,006 inhabitants, an increase of 1,891 people compared to January 1, 2025. This growth was entirely driven by a positive migration balance. In 2025, 5,902 immigrants were registered against 3,487 emigrants, resulting in net migration of 2,415 people. At the same time, natural population growth remained negative, as the number of deaths (1,553) exceeded the number of births (1,029).

The population structure shows an aging population. Women make up 55 percent of the population and men 45 percent. The largest population groups are found in the 40 to 69 age categories. The dependency ratio is 65 percent, meaning there are relatively many young people and elderly people compared to the working population.

Fertility continues to decline. The number of births has decreased sharply over the past fifteen years, and the birth rate fell to 6.6 births per 1,000 inhabitants in 2025. The total fertility rate is also below replacement level, at less than 1.5 children per woman. The average age of mothers at childbirth was 29.4 years.

In 2025, 1,553 people died, almost evenly split between men and women. The average age at death was 75.1 years, with women on average living longer than men. Life expectancy at birth was estimated at 83.4 years for women and 77.7 years for men.

Migration remains the main driver of population growth. Immigration has increased sharply since 2021 and in 2025 was more than twice as high as in 2020. Most immigrants were young adults of working age. At the same time, emigration declined further compared to previous years, although young people and young adults (15–34 years) still emigrate relatively often.

In summary, Curaçao is in a demographic transition characterized by declining fertility, an aging population, and an increasing reliance on migration for population growth.

1. INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) publishes population data for Curaçao. This report presents the population data as of January 1, 2026. The data are obtained from the civil registry office (Kranshi), which maintains official records of vital events (births, marriages, divorces, migration, and deaths) occurring in Curaçao. CBS receives this data annually.

This report is divided into six main topics: population development, population characteristics, fertility, mortality, immigration, and emigration.

The section "Population development" presents the total population and the contributions of live births, deaths, immigration, and emigration between January 1st, 2025, and December 31st, 2025.

The section "Population: in-depth analysis" provides a detailed analysis of population structure, including distribution by gender and age, as well as trends over time.

The section "Fertility: in-depth analysis" examines key aspects of fertility, including the gender distribution of newborns, maternal age distribution, average age of mothers, long-term birth trends, and the prevalence of advanced maternal age.

The section "Mortality: in-depth analysis" analyzes deaths by age and gender, along with mortality trends over time.

Finally, the sections "Immigration: in-depth analysis" and "Emigration: in-depth analysis" present patterns by gender, age, and period of time, as well as developments over recent years.

2. METHOD

CBS receives its data from "Kranshi". This dataset includes all events that contribute to the growth or decline of the population (birth, death, immigration and emigration) that took place between January 1st, 2025, and December 31st, 2025.

Before analysis, this data is cleaned to remove inconsistencies, such as duplicate entries for the same person or event and records of events from previous years that may have been registered in the current year. The cleaned dataset is then analyzed.

The CBS uses the Census as the baseline for calculating population growth. The last Census on Curaçao was in 2023 which totaled 155,826 inhabitants. The following years the standard demographic balancing equation which accounts for births, deaths, immigration and emigration are applied based on data from "Kranshi". This will remain the case until the next Census when a new baseline population will be established once again.

In the section 'population development' we calculate the total population.

The 'total population 2026' is calculated by taking the total population as calculated on the first of January 2025, adding the total number of, subtracting the total number of deaths, adding the total number of immigrations and subtracting the number of people who had emigrated in 2025.

Total Population 2026 = Total population 2025 + Total number of births 2025 -Total number of deaths 2025+ Total number of immigrants 2025– Total number of emigrants 2025.

We also calculate 'natural growth' and 'net migration'. Natural growth is the increase or decrease in the population which is determined solely by the difference between the number of live births and deaths over a specific period. Net migration is the difference between the number of immigrants (people entering) and emigrants (people leaving). Together these two variables add up to population growth, which illustrates

the number of people that a population has increased or decreased with. Furthermore, we present the dependency ratio which is the ratio of the dependent population (aged 0-14 and 65+) to the working-age population (15-64) (World Bank Group, n.d.).

Natural growth 2026 = Total number of births 2025 (January 1st-31st of December 2025) – Total number of deaths 2025 (January 1st-31st of December 2025)

Net migration 2026= Total number of immigrants *(January 1st-31st of December 2025)*- Total number of emigrants *(January 1st-31st of December 2025)*

Population growth= *Natural growth + Net migration*

$$\textbf{\textit{Total Dependency Ratio}} = \frac{\textit{Number aged 0 to 14} + \textit{Number aged at least 65}}{\textit{Number aged 15 to 64}} \times 100$$

The section *'Fertility: in-depth analysis'* addresses the birth rate, which is the number of births per 1000 inhabitants and the total fertility rate which is the average number of children that a woman would have throughout her lifetime.

The section *'Mortality: in-depth analysis'* presents the 'infant mortality rate' which is the number of deaths of ages under one year old per every one thousand live births within a year* and the 'life expectancy at birth' which is the average number of years that a newborn is expected to live based on the mortality patterns at the time of their birth (WHO).

$$\textbf{\textit{Birth rate}} = \frac{1{,}000}{\text{Mid} - \text{year population}} \times \text{Total number of births}$$

$$\textbf{\textit{Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR)}} = \frac{\text{Births in age group}}{\text{Total female population in age group}} X\ 1{,}000$$

$$\textbf{\textit{Total Fertility Rate (TFR)}} = \frac{5 * \sum \text{ASFR (per 1,000 women)}}{1{,}000}$$

$$\textbf{\textit{Infant mortality rate}} = \frac{\text{Number of Infant Deaths (<1 year old)}}{\text{Number of Live births}} \times 1000$$

$$\textbf{\textit{Life expectancy at birth}} = \frac{\text{Total Person} - \text{Years Lived}}{\text{Total Number of Newborns}}$$

The formulas used in this report are used worldwide by organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

3. GLOSSARY

Advanced maternal age (AMA): a pregnancy in which the mother is aged 35 years or older at the time of delivery (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2022).

Age-Specific Maternity Rate (ASMR) / Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR): The number of live births per 1,000 women in specific five-year age groups (typically ages 15–49) within a given year (WHO, n.d.).

Census: An official and periodic count of a population, usually including the collection of demographics, social, and economic information.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR): The number of live births per 1,000 inhabitants in a given year based on the mid-year population (WHO, n.d.).

Crude Death Rate (CDR): The number of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in a given year (The World Bank, n.d.).

Demography: The scientific study of human populations, including their size, structure, distribution, and changes over time.

Dependency Ratio: ratio of the dependent population (aged 0–14 and 65+) to the working-age population (aged 15–64) (The World Bank, n.d.).

Life Expectancy at Birth: The average number of years a newborn is expected to live, assuming current mortality rates remain constant (The World Bank, n.d.).

Median Age: The age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups, with half the population younger and half older.

Mid-year population: an estimate of a population's size on July 1st of any given year

Net Migration Rate: The difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants per 1,000 inhabitants in a given year (The World Bank, n.d.).

Growth: The change in population size over a specific period, calculated as the sum of natural growth (births minus deaths) and net migration.

Pyramid: A graphical representation of the age and sex distribution of a population.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR): The average number of children a woman is expected to have over her lifetime, based on current age-specific fertility rates (The World Bank, n.d.).

Total Population: The total number of people residing in a defined geographic area at a given time.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Population development

There were a total of 158,006 people living in Curaçao on January 1st, 2026. The population at the start of 2025 was 156,115. By July 1st, 2025, the population totaled 157,060 inhabitants. During 2025, a total of 1,029 babies were born and 1,553 people died. In the same period, 5,902 people immigrated to Curaçao, and 3,487 people emigrated to another country (Table 1).

Table 1. Population development January 1st, 2025, to December 31st, 2025

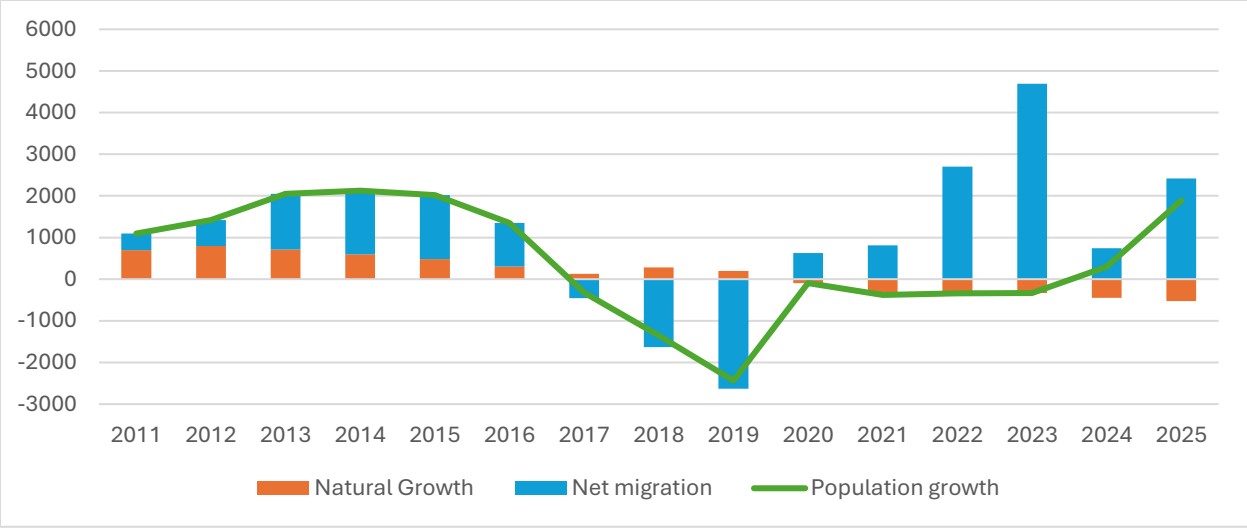
	1st of January 2025 to 31st of December 2025					
Population January 1st 2025	Births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration	Population growth 2025	Population January 1st 2026
156,115	+1,029	-1,553	+5,902	-3,487	+1,891	158,006

Source: Civil Registry Office of Curaçao (Kranshi) and CBS

4.1.1. Population development 2011-2025

Figure 1 shows the development of the population between 2011 and 2025.

Figure 1. Population development 2011-2025



The population developed in this period. From 2011 to 2015, the population grew steadily each year. This can be attributed to positive population growth, with births and immigration exceeding deaths and emigration. From 2016 to 2019, this pattern changed. During this period, there were fewer births and more people emigrated to other countries. As a result, population growth slowed down and turned into a decline between 2017 and 2019.

From 2020 to 2023, population developments became more volatile. In several years, natural change remained negative, with deaths exceeding births, while migration levels fluctuated considerably (sometimes high and sometimes low). As a result, total population figures showed alternating increases and decreases. In 2024 and 2025, the population resumed growth. Although natural change remained negative, net migration was sufficient to offset these losses and resulted in an overall increase in the population.

4.2. Population: in-depth analysis

This section provides an in-depth analysis of the total population as of the first of January 2026. This section encompasses aspects such as population by gender, age and population growth from January 1st, 2011, to January 1st, 2026.

4.2.1. Population by gender

As of January 1st, 2026, the population consisted of 55% women (86,743) and 45% men (71,263) (Table 2).

Table 2. Total population by gender

	N	%
Male	71,263	45%
Female	86,743	55%
Total	**158,006**	**100%**

4.2.2. Population by age group

Table 3 presents the distribution of the population on January 1st, 2026, by age group. As shown here, there is a relatively small young (0-19) and young adult (20-39) population, a large middle-aged group (40-64) and a small older population (65+).

Table 3. Population by gender and age-group

	Male	Female	Total	%
0-4	2,951	2,963	5,914	4%
5-9	3,578	3,560	7,138	5%
10-14	4,165	4,131	8,296	5%
15-19	4,335	4,148	8,483	5%
20-24	3,776	3,405	7,181	5%
25-29	3,432	3,652	7,084	4%
30-34	3,979	4,600	8,579	5%
35-39	4,051	5,104	9,155	6%
40-44	4,235	5,471	9,706	6%
45-49	4,016	5,435	9,451	6%
50-54	4,843	6,272	11,115	7%
55-59	5,165	6,662	11,827	7%
60-64	5,783	7,379	13,162	8%
65-69	5,263	7,078	12,341	8%
70-74	4,643	6,162	10,805	7%
75-79	3,473	4,810	8,283	5%
80-84	2,039	3,108	5,147	3%
85+	1,536	2,803	4,339	3%

This is also depicted in figure 2 which displays a bulb-shaped population pyramid indicating a relatively large adult population, higher life expectancy, and lower birth rates. The total dependency ratio (The ratio of the dependent population (aged 0-14 and 65+) to the working-age population (15-64) is 65%.

Figure 2. Population January 1st, 2026, by gender and age

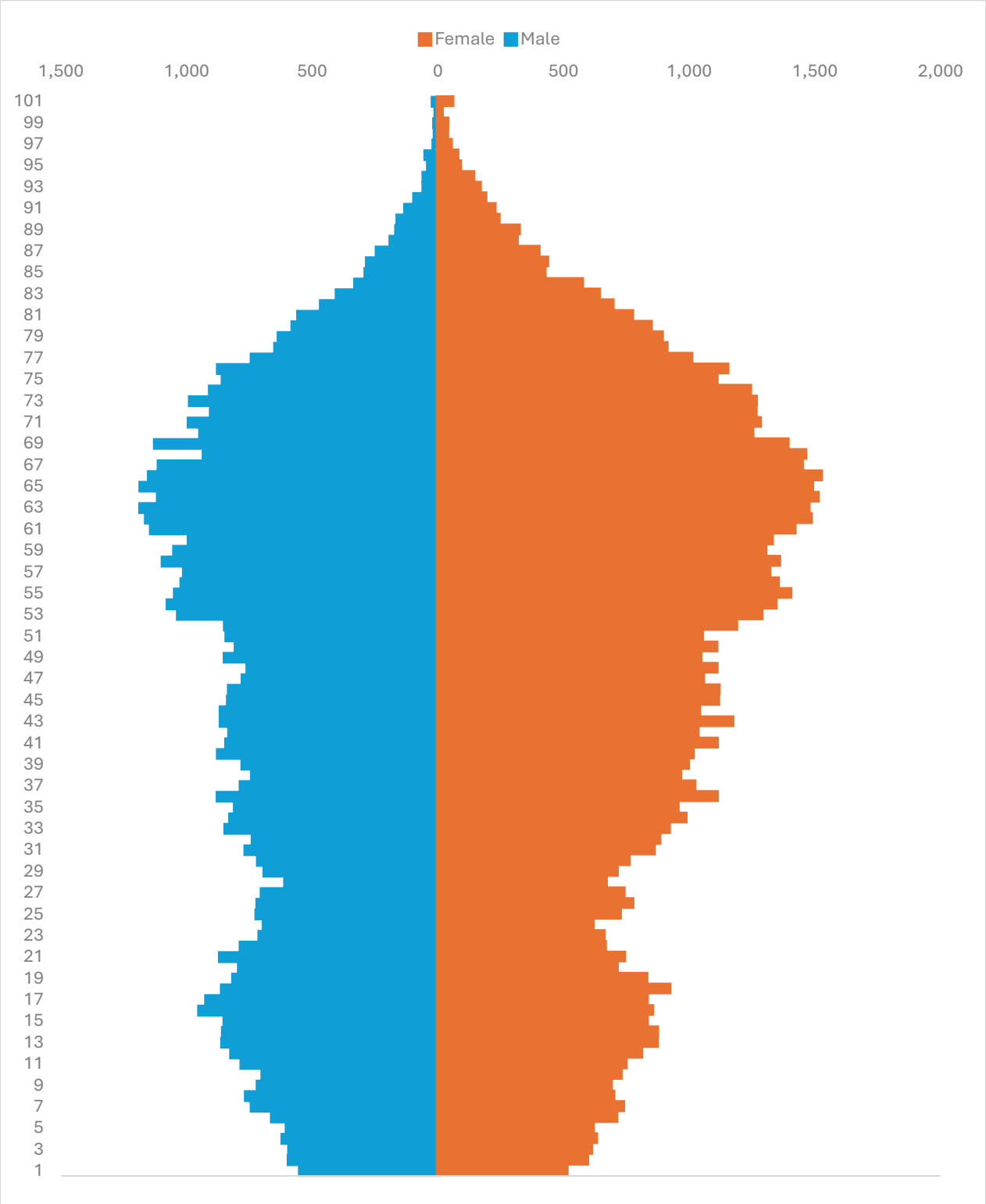
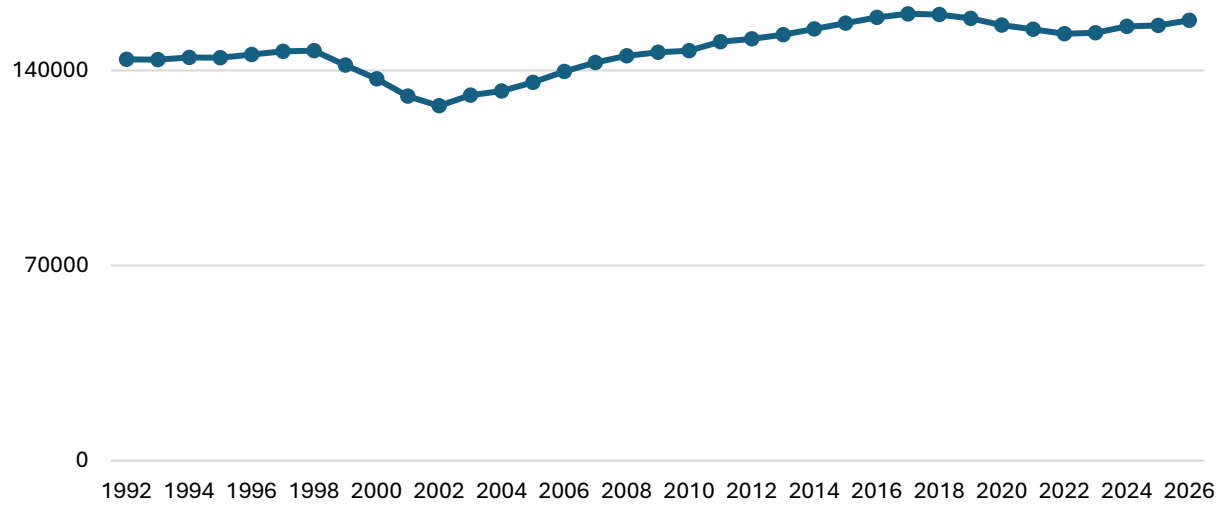


Figure 3 displays population growth from the first of January 1992 to the first of January 2026. The population decreased by 3% from 1998 to 1999 and kept this steady decline until 2002. Between 2003 and 2017, there is steady growth (with some slight dips), with the population growing by 22% between those years. From 2019 to 2022, the population decreases once again by 3% and then increased by 3% between 2023 and 2026.

Figure 3. Population January 1st 1992-2026



4.3. Fertility: in-depth analysis

This section provides an in-depth look into fertility in 2025. It covers topics such as the distribution of newborns by gender, how fertility has developed in the last fifteen years, the age of the mothers and fertility rates.

4.3.1. Newborns 2025 by gender

Of the babies born between January 1st, 2025 and December 31st 2025, 48% (n=496) were girls and 52%(n=533) were boys (table 4).

Table 4. Live births 2025

	N	%
Male	533	52%
Female	496	48%
Total	**1,029**	**100%**

4.3.2. Newborns 2025 by day and month

September was the month in which the most babies were born (n=100), followed by August (n=97), October (n=95) and April (n=92). The day of the week on which the most babies were born was Monday (n=185), followed by Thursday (n=172) (table 5).

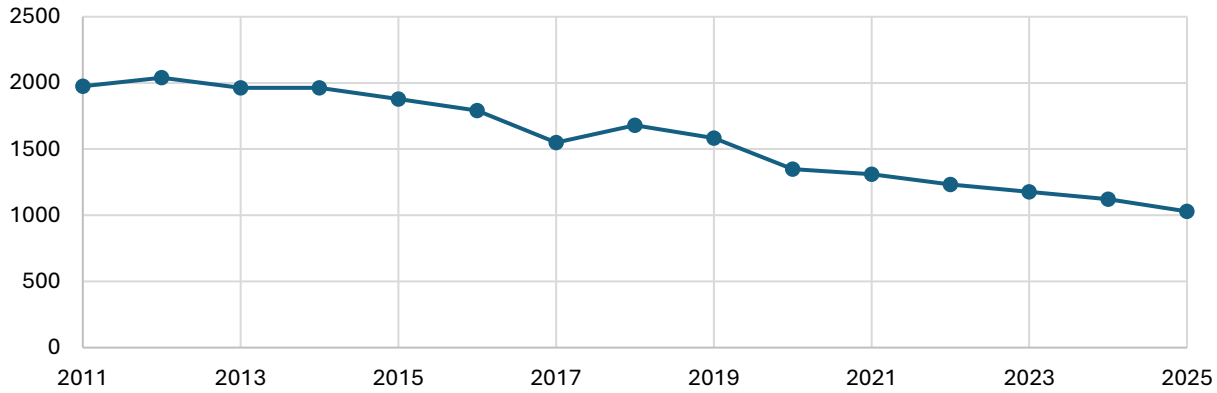
Table 5. Day and month of birth

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
January	15	13	12	15	17	9	4	85
February	11	7	10	18	13	8	8	75
March	18	17	10	13	10	11	6	85
April	19	14	18	17	8	10	6	92
May	17	13	8	13	19	5	6	81
June	21	8	11	11	12	3	8	74
July	11	15	14	15	7	9	9	80
August	15	15	15	10	18	11	13	97
September	20	16	18	20	8	14	4	100
October	17	9	20	18	13	9	9	95
November	11	13	10	11	18	12	10	85
December	10	20	14	11	11	8	6	80
Total	**185**	**160**	**160**	**172**	**154**	**109**	**89**	**1,029**

4.3.3. Fertility 2011-2025

The overall trend over the past 15 years has shown a steady decline in the number of births each year with the exception of some minor peaks in 2012 and 2018 (figure 4). Compared to 2015, there has been a 45% decrease in the number of births in 2025, while there has been a 24% decrease between the number of babies born in 2020 and those born in 2025.

Figure 4. Live births 2011-2025



4.3.4. Crude birth rate 2025

The decline in the number of live births is also reflected in the crude birth rate, which has decreased steadily over the past fifteen years. In 2025, the birth rate was 6.6 births per 1,000 inhabitants (based on the mid-year population), compared to 8.6 in 2020 and 12.0 in 2015 (Table 6).

Table 6. Birth rate 2011-2025

Year	Birth rate
2011	13.1
2012	13.5
2013	12.8
2014	12.7
2015	12.0
2016	11.3
2017	9.7
2018	10.5
2019	10.0
2020	8.6
2021	8.5
2022	8.0
2023	7.7
2024	7.2
2025	6.6

4.3.5. Age mother of newborns 2025

Table 7 provides an overview of the number of mothers of the newborn babies in 2025. The table illustrates that a significant percentage of mothers of the babies born in 2025(30%) were between the ages of 30 and 34 years old, followed by those aged 25–29 (23%) and 20–24 (20%). The average age of the mothers of newborns in 2025 was 29.4 years.

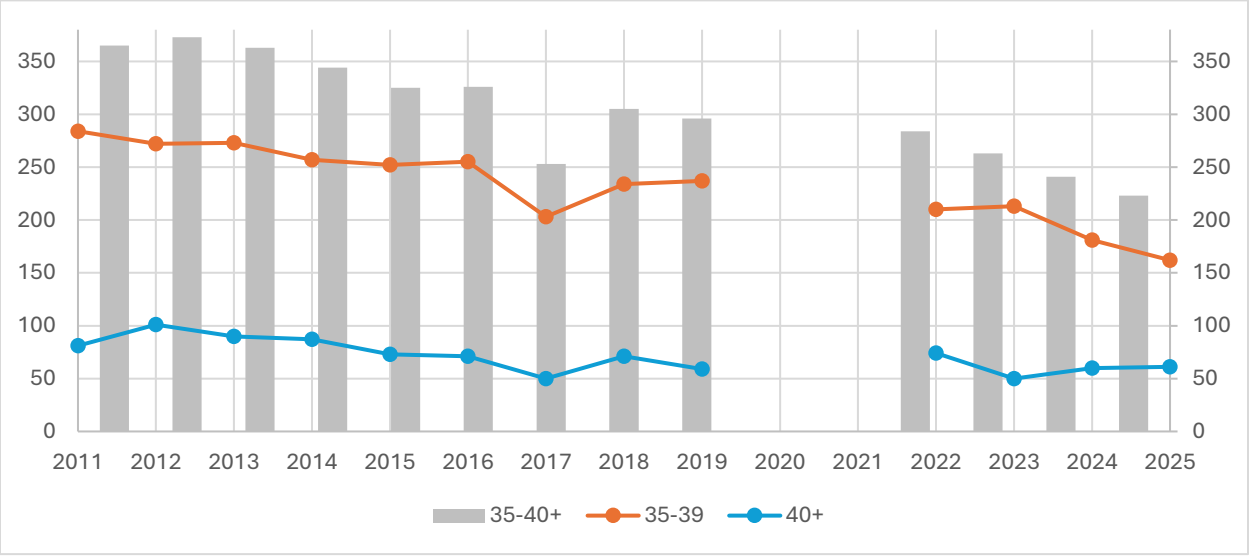
Table 7. Number of mothers of newborns in 2025 by age-groups

Age-group mother	N	%
<=19	57	6%
20-24	207	20%
25-29	238	23%
30-34	304	30%
35-39	162	16%
40+	61	6%
Total	**1,029**	**100%**

4.3.6. Advanced maternal age 2025

The Advanced maternal age defines a pregnancy in which the mother is aged 35 years or older at the time of delivery. Between 2023 and 2025, there has been a slight increase in the number of mothers aged 40 and older, while there has been a slight decrease in the number of mothers aged 35 to 39 (figure 5).

Figure 5. Advanced maternal age (35+)



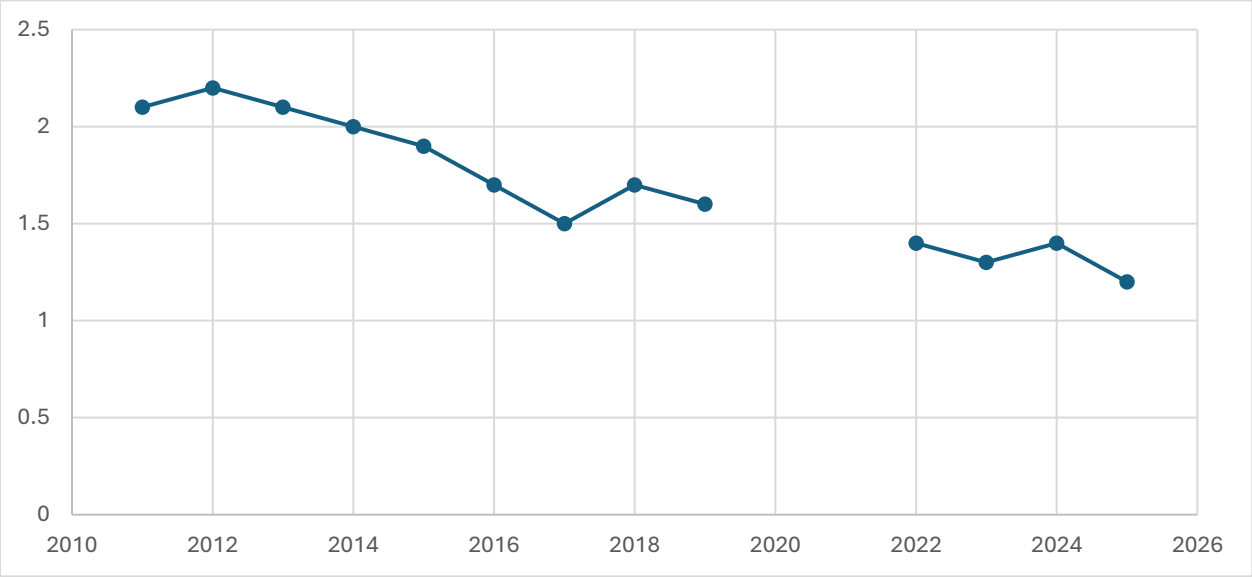
Note. No data is available for 2020 and 2021.

Note. Mothers with missing age information were excluded from the analysis.

4.3.7. Total Fertility Rate

The total fertility rate (the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime) has also been declining in the last fifteen years. Between 2011 and 2014 this was still two children per woman, dropping to 1.5 between 2014 and 2017 and dropping to under 1.5 between 2020 and 2025 (figure 6).

Figure 6. Total fertility rate 2011-2025

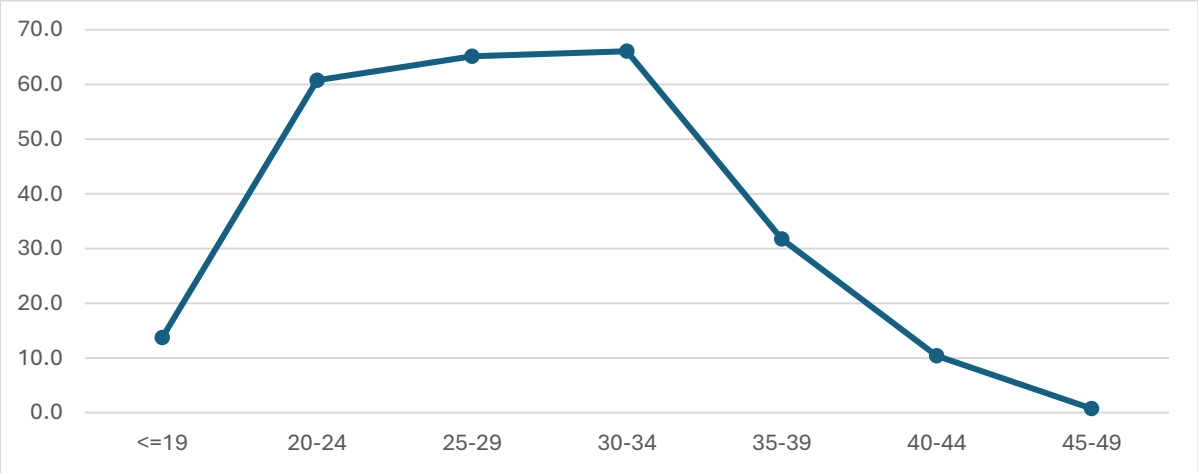


Note. No data is available for 2020 and 2021.

4.3.8. Age specific fertility rate 2025

Figure 7 illustrates the age specific fertility rate (ASFR) per age group. The figure showcases lower maternity rates at the younger ages, peaks between the ages of 30-34 and decreases once again around the ages of 35-39.

Figure 7. Age specific Maternity Age 2025



4.4. Mortality: in-depth analysis

In this section the mortality data is presented by gender and age and its development throughout 2011-2025.

4.4.1. Mortality 2025 by gender

There were a total of 1553 deaths in 2025. These were evenly distributed between men and women (table 8).

Table 8. Mortality by gender

	N	%
Male	776	50%
Female	777	50%
Total	**1,553**	**100%**

4.4.2. Mortality 2025 by age

Table 9 provides an overview of the distribution per age group regarding the number of deaths. The number of deaths hit triple digits between the ages of 60-94. Thus, the average age at death is 75.1 years. This is higher for women (77.4 years) than for men (72.8 years).

Table 9. Deaths by age

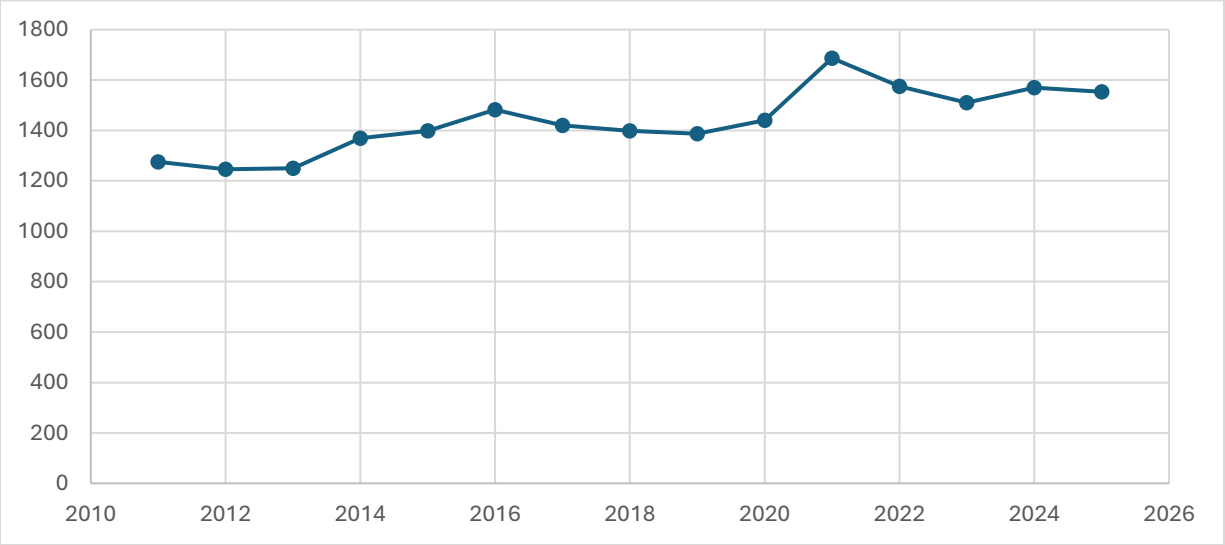
Age groups	N
0	12
1-19	8
20-24	7
25-29	5
30-34	9
35-39	12
40-44	11
45-49	24
50-54	33
55-59	54
60-64	114
65-69	156
70-74	199
75-79	216
80-84	242
85-89	219
90-94	158
95-99	63
100+	11

The infant mortality rate is 11.7 while life expectancy at birth is 77.7 for men and 83.4 for women

4.4.3. Mortality 2011-2025

Figure 8 presents the number of deaths between 2011 and 2025. The number of deaths has increased steadily throughout the last fifteen years. It peaked in 2021 (COVID) and then experienced a decline and remained between 1,500 and 1,553 deaths between 2022 and 2025.

Figure 8. Mortality 2011-2025



4.5. Immigration: in-depth analysis

This section presents a more in-depth view of the immigration patterns in 2025. From gender and age distributions to the month of immigration and how immigration has developed throughout the years.

4.5.1. Immigration 2025 by gender

Of the 5,902 people that immigrated to Curaçao, 48% (n = 2,822) were men and 52% (n = 3,080) were women (table 10).

Table 10. Immigration by gender

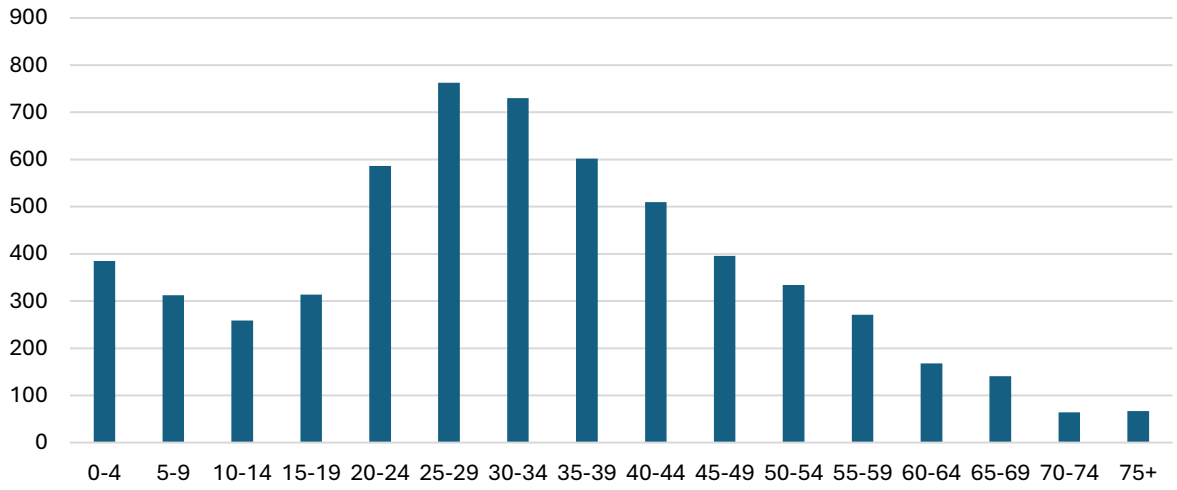
	N	%
Male	2,822	47.8%
Female	3,080	52.2%
Total	**5,902**	**100%**

4.5.2. Immigration 2025 by age

A great number of those who immigrated to Curaçao in 2025 were working-age adults, specifically those aged 25–34 years old (25%), and those between the ages of 20-24 and 35-39 (10%) each. Based on figure 9 we can also deduce that some of these adults were

accompanied by children. There was however minimal migration of elderly people (Figure 9).

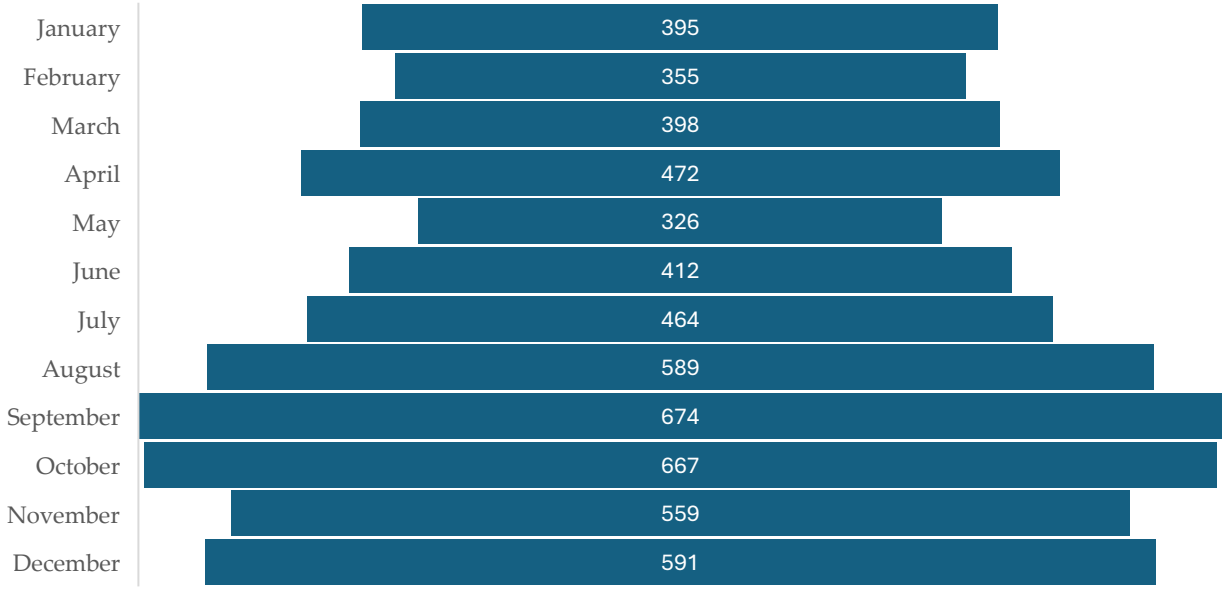
Figure 9. Immigration by age group



4.5.3. Immigration 2025 by month

The majority of the people who immigrated to Curaçao were registered at "Kranshi" in the months of September and October (11% each), followed by August and December (10% each) (figure 10).

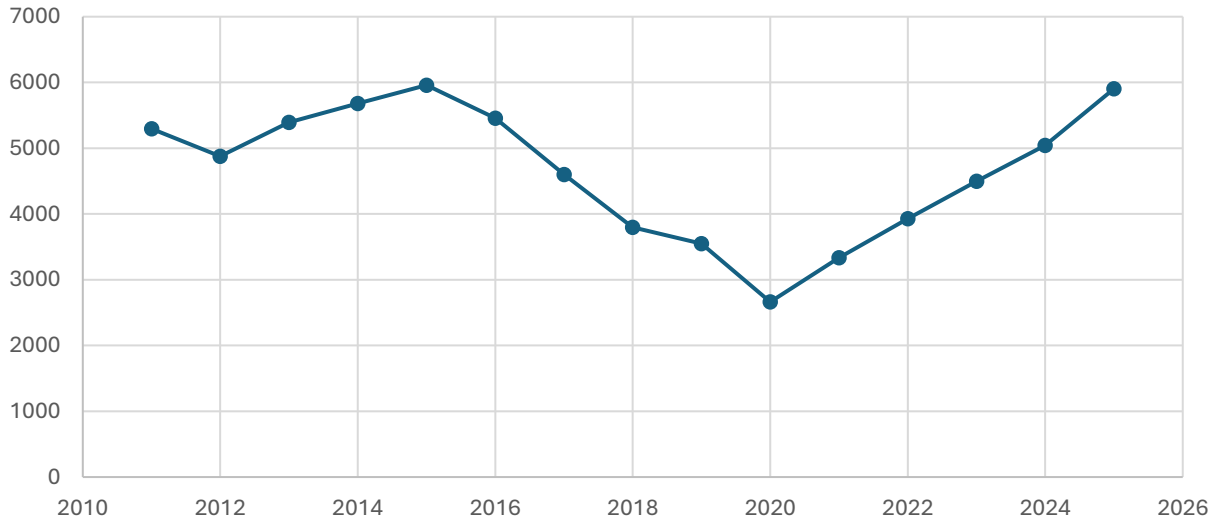
Figure 10. Total immigration 2025 per month



4.5.4. Immigration 2011-2025

The number of people immigrating to Curaçao has steadily increased since 2021. Compared to 2024, there were 17% more immigrants in Curaçao, and compared to 2020, there has been an increase of 122% (figure 11).

Figure 11. Total immigration 2011-2025



4.6. Emigration: in-depth analysis

In this section presents emigration patterns by gender, age and month and we show how emigration has developed throughout the years.

4.6.1. Emigration 2025 by gender

Table 8 provides an overview of the distribution in gender among the emigrants in 2025. Of the 3,487 people who emigrated from Curaçao to another country in 2025, 47% were men (n = 1,626) and 53% were women (n = 1,861) (table 11).

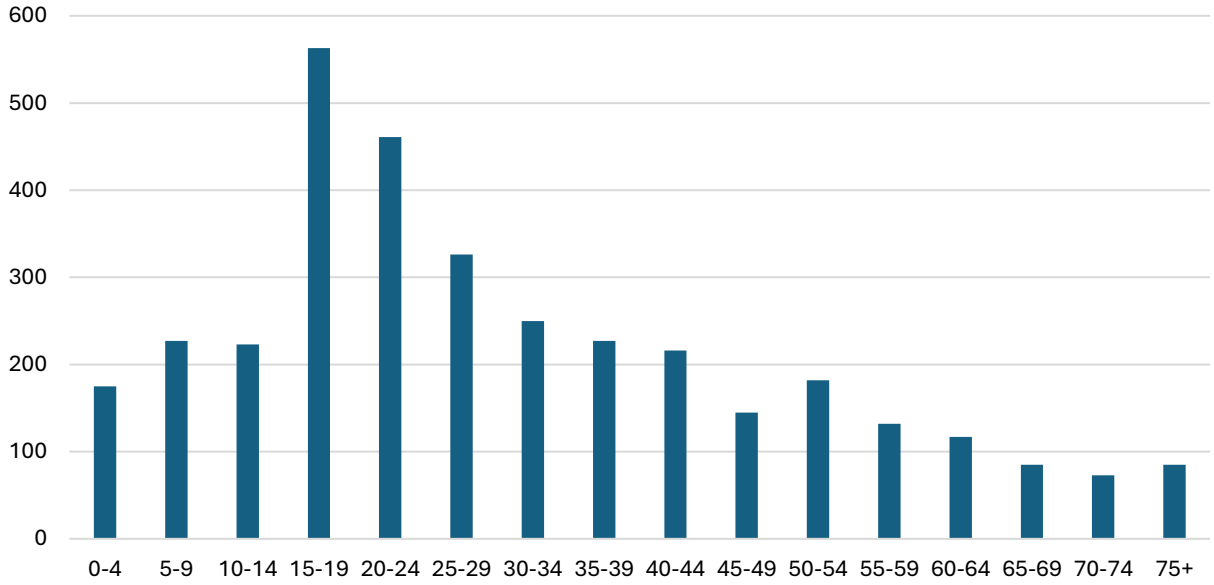
Table 11. Emigration per gender

	N	%
Male	1,626	47%
Female	1,861	53%
Total	**3,487**	**100%**

4.6.2. Emigration 2025 by age

Figure 12 presents the number of emigrants per age group. The figure showcases a classic "young adult drain" pattern, where the strongest out-migration occurs among people in their early working and post-school ages (15–34) with fewer elderly emigration (60-75+).

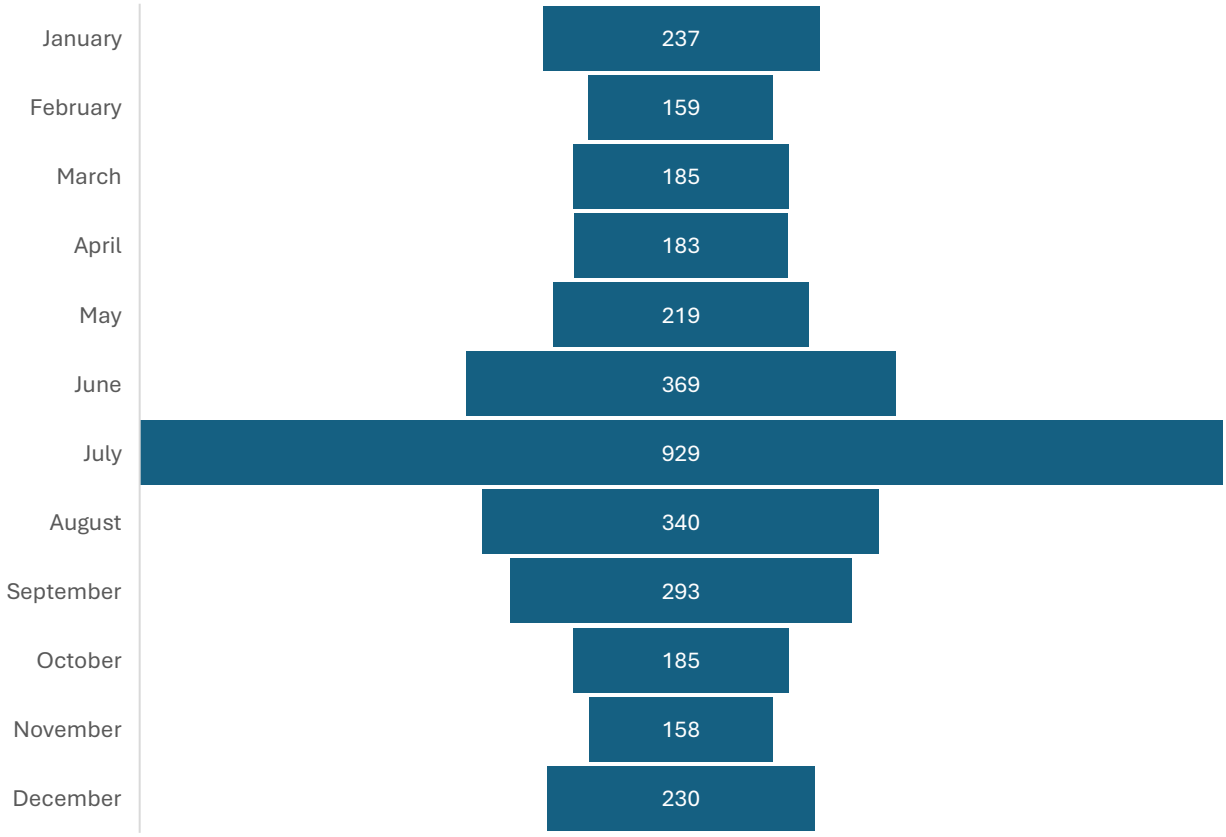
Figure 12. Emigration 2025 by age group



4.6.3. Emigration 2025 by month

Figure 13 illustrates the number of people who emigrated from Curaçao to another country in 2025. 27% (n=929) of the emigration took place in July, while another majority took place in June, August and September (Peak season, vacation months).

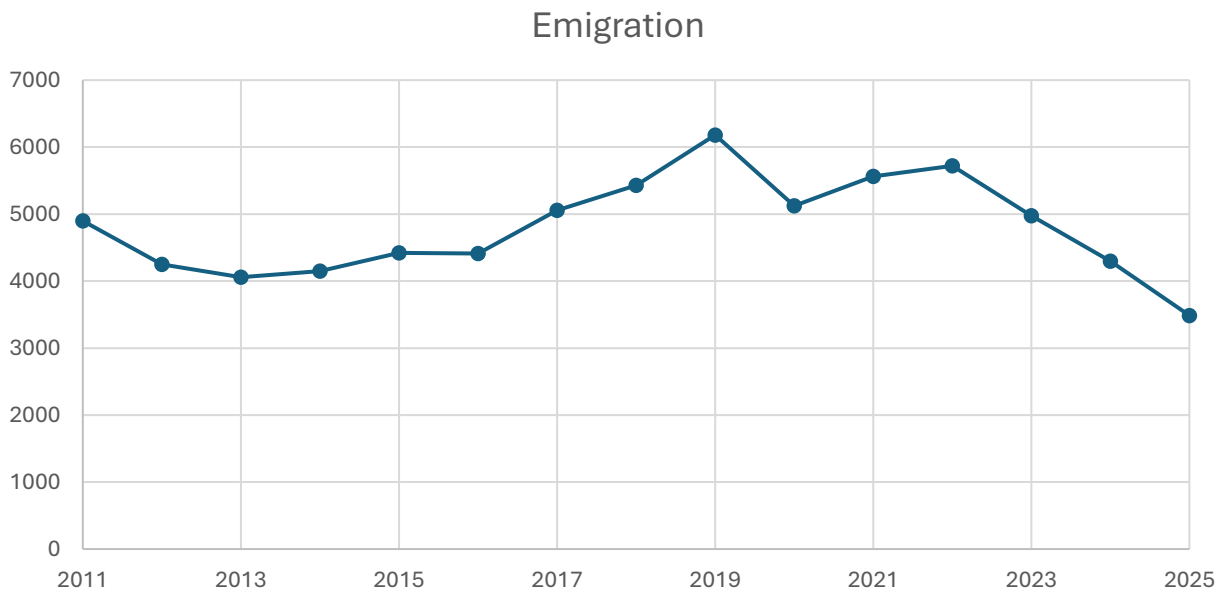
Figure 13. Total emigration 2025 per month



4.6.4. Emigration 2011-2025

When looking at the emigration patterns between 2011 and 2025 it is apparent that the number of emigrants decreased between 2022 and 2025. Compared to 2024, the number of emigrants decreased by 19%. Furthermore, emigration declined by 32% compared to five years ago (2020) (figure 14).

Figure 14. Emigration 2011-2025



5. CONCLUSION

In 2025, the population of Curaçao increased primarily due to net migration gains, despite continued negative natural growth. The number of deaths exceeded the number of births, reflecting an ongoing decline in fertility and natural population growth.

At the same time, immigration remained strong and significantly outweighed emigration, resulting in overall population growth. This highlights the increasing importance of migration as a driver of demographic change in Curaçao. The findings indicate a broader demographic transition characterized by declining fertility rates, an aging population, and increasing reliance on migration to sustain population levels. These developments have important implications for public policy, particularly in areas such as healthcare, labor markets, housing, and social support systems.

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