

DOING BUSINESS IN CURAÇAO

Curaçao, June 2003
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Preface

With the recent advances in technology our world has become but one interlinked group of nations. Curaçao, being a small part of our globe offers many opportunities for multinational investors. This guide was prepared to better acquaint potential investors with the business climate in Curaçao.

The information contained in the following pages was comprised through the mutual efforts of many people in vital sectors of the economy. Their effort in making this guide as concise as possible is appreciated.

The guide is not intended to be all encompassing, yet it serves as a good reference to the Curaçao business environment.

If further information should be required, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to the establishment of mutually beneficial communication channels, and in making Curaçao *your* island of business in the Caribbean.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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- Procedures for Incorporation
- Taxation of Companies

Economic Indicators

Curaçao is located in the Caribbean Sea near the northern coast of Venezuela. Due to its geographical location, Curaçao has been traditionally used as the commercial base between Latin America, Europe and the United States. Curaçao is the largest of the five islands that form the Netherlands Antilles. Through its ties with the Netherlands, Curaçao enjoys preferential treatment with the European Community. The island is known for its excellent natural harbor and its political stability.

<i>CURAÇAO</i>	2000	2001	2002
GDP (US\$m)	1,902	1,917	2,001
GDP per capita (US\$)	14,185	14,856	15,959
Real GDP growth	-3.1	1.4	0.7
Inflation	5.8	1.8	0.4
Government Finances (US\$m)			
Revenues	167	141	
Expenditures	178	160	
Deficit	-10.4	-19.8	
Foreign Trade (US\$m)			
Merchandise Imports (US\$m)			
Exports (US\$m)	374	445	355
<i>NETHERLANDS ANTILLES</i>			
Foreign Exchange Reserves (US\$m)	273	501	568

* these figures are chamber's estimates.

Labor¹

- Population* As per January 2002 the total population was 125,599.
- Labor Force* Of this population, a total of 57,711 comprised the labor force.
- Languages* The official language is Dutch, while English, Spanish and Papiamentu are widely spoken.
- Education* The level of the education system is high, with a university where students can major in law, business administration and engineering.
- Unemployment Rate* For 2002 the unemployment rate was 15.6 %.

Employment

Sector	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%
Agriculture, fishing & mining	518	0.9%	643	1.1%	612	1.1%	n.a.	n.a.	699	1.3%
Industry	5831	10.2%	5402	9.6%	4681	8.8%	n.a.	n.a.	4677	9.0%
Utilities	920	1.6%	907	1.6%	886	1.7%	n.a.	n.a.	906	1.7%
Construction	4977	8.7%	4685	8.3%	4179	7.9%	n.a.	n.a.	3690	7.1%
Trade	10760	19.0%	10687	19.0%	10122	19.1%	n.a.	n.a.	9861	18.9%
Hotel / restaurant	3984	7.0%	3923	7.0%	3590	6.8%	n.a.	n.a.	3668	7.0%
Transportation	4163	7.3%	4199	7.5%	3995	7.5%	n.a.	n.a.	4029	7.7%
Financial / business services	7203	12.6%	7562	13.4%	7494	14.1%	n.a.	n.a.	7512	14.4%
Government & education	8715	15.3%	8530	15.2%	8299	15.7%	n.a.	n.a.	7907	15.1%
Other	9893	17.4%	9705	17.3%	9104	17.2%	n.a.	n.a.	9287	17.8%
<i>Total</i>	56964	100%	56243	100%	52962	100%	n.a.	n.a.	52236	100%

Note: There are no figures available for 1999 as no sector survey was held by CBS.

Minimum Salaries² The following figures hold for entry-level salaries are arranged by category. They are based on a 40 hour work week. All the below mentioned figures exclude benefits.

¹Source : Curaçao Central Bureau of Statistics.

²Source : Department of Labor figures as of 1st of august 2001.

Labor

(continued)

These salaries are based on an age group of 21 years or above.

Category	Monthly US\$	Hourly US\$	Sector
IV	400	2.31	Domestic help.
II / III	500	2.89	Trade, retail, agriculture, tourism, transportation.
I	555	3.21	Other manufacturing, banking, business services.

The following salaries are based on an age group below 21 years.

Category	age group	Monthly US\$	Hourly US\$	Sector
IV	16 & 17 years	260	1.50	Domestic help
	18 years	300	1.73	
	19 years	340	1.97	
	20 years	360	2.08	
II/III	16 & 17 years	327	1.88	Trade, retail, agriculture, tourism, transportation.
	18 years	377	2.17	
	19 years	427	2.46	
	20 years	453	2.60	
I	16 & 17 years	363	2.08	Other manufacturing, banking, business service
	18 years	419	2.41	
	19 years	475	2.72	
	20 years	503	2.88	

Skilled Labor Costs

Average salaries per month (excluding benefits):

Secretary, administrative assistant	US\$ 1,000.00
Typist	740.00
Electrician, carpenter, mechanic	975.00
Unskilled worker	630.00
First line supervisor	930.00
Business/engineering graduate	1300.00
Sales clerk	1,000.00

Labor

(continued)

Social Security Costs

- Sickness Insurance* Each worker earning (Naf. 45.099,60) US\$ 25.055,33 (for year 2002), or less, must be insured through the Social Security Bank by his / her employer against sickness. The premium is 10.4% of the workers salary of which the employer pays 8.3% and the employee 2.1 %.
- Accident Insurance* Each worker, regardless of his income, must be insured through the Social Security Bank against on-the-job accidents. The premium depends on the risks related to the job and is to be paid by the employer on a basis of 0.5% to 5% calculated on a fixed amount, which for the year 2002 is (Naf. 45.099,60) US\$ 25.055,33
- Old Age, Widow & Orphans Pension* Each worker must be insured for old age, widow and orphans pension. The total premium is 11 % based on the workers annual salary. The employer pays 6% and the employee 5%.
- Vacation / Holidays* Standard legal working hours are 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week. A worker has the right to a minimum of 15 days of paid vacation. Ten paid public holidays are also granted.
- Dismissals* The labor legislation requires that adequate notice be given to employees before dismissal. In certain cases the employer has to request approval from the Labor Department prior to the dismissal.
- Labor Unions* Labor Unions are well established and are organized by company or sector. Most workers belong to a union, but closed shops or enforced membership is illegal.

Utility Rates

*Electricity Rates*³

- Household purposes:
 - 001 - 150 KWh US\$ 0.219 per KWh
 - 150 - 350 KWh US\$ 0.234 per KWh
 - above 350 KWh US\$ 0.250 per Kwh
- Commercial: US\$ 0.242 per KWh
- Industries, hotels:
Two rates are used for this category, the consumption charge and the capacity charge.

Consumption charge per Kwh:

	<i>standard industry</i>	<i>import industry</i>	<i>export industry & hotels</i>
06:00 - 22:00 Hrs.	US\$ 0.199	US\$ 0.171	US\$ 0.143
22:00 - 06:00 Hrs.	US\$ 0.196	US\$ 0.168	US\$ 0.140

In addition, the number of KVA will also be measured and a separate charge will be applied. The capacity charge per month is:

0 - 50 KVA	US\$ 367.50 minimum;
51 - 100 KVA	US\$ 6.14 per KVA
101 - 250 KVA	US\$ 5.83 per KVA
251 - 500 KVA	US\$ 5.50 per KVA
501 - 1000 KVA	US\$ 5.36 per KVA
1001 - 2000 KVA	US\$ 5.19 per KVA
over 2000 KVA	US\$ 4.89 per KVA

For example, assume a monthly use of 200 KVA. The charges applied would be:

- For the first 50 KVA	US\$ 367.50
- For the next 50 KVA: 50 x 6.14 =	US\$ 307.00
- Remaining 100 KVA: 100 x 5.83 =	US\$ <u>583.00</u>
- Total Charge:	US\$ 1257.50

- Electrical frequency: 50 Hz
- Reliable distribution system.

³Source : KODELA N.V.- starting from April 12, 2002

Utility Rates

(continued)

Water Rates

- Household purposes:
 - <= 7 m³ US\$ 5.23 per m³
 - 7 m³ - 12 m³ US\$ 6.71 per m³
 - 12 m³ - 20 m³ US\$ 7.44 per m³
 - > 20 m³ US\$ 8.18 per m³
- Commercial: US\$ 7.44 per m³
- Industry: US\$ 6.83 per m³
- Export industry: US\$ 6.96 per m³
- Import industry: US\$ 7.44 per m³
- Reliable distribution system.
- High quality, desalinated potable water.

Gas

The cost of propane gas per 100 lips. is US\$ 21.22 (commercial use).
 The cost of propane gas per 100 lips. is US\$ 42.00 (private use)

1st time purchase of bottle:

The cost of propane gas per 20 lips. is US\$ 8.89 (commercial use)
 The cost of propane gas per 20 lips. is US\$ 5.11 (private use)

Refill of bottle:

The cost of propane gas per 20 lips. is US\$ 10.67
 Other industrial gases are available.

Fuel

The cost of fuel (gas oil) is US\$ 0.2283 per 100 liter.

Gasoline

Cost of:

Unleaded (regular) Gasoline: US\$ 0.0743 per 100 liter
 Unleaded (super) Gasoline: US\$ 0.0761 per 100 liter

Telephone

As of august 1st, 1998, expenses for a telephone conversations consists of 2 items:

- *Call completion*

This is a fixed amount (per conversation) for which you are billed in order to get connected. Only the caller is billed for this. Charges for call completion are US\$ 0.09 per conversation when calling to a local number. International and inter-island calls, are charged at a rate of US\$ 0,11 per conversation

Utility Rates

(continued)

- *Conversation costs*

Besides call completion, conversation costs are also charged. The costs are dependent on the length of the conversation and the destination called. Charges for local calls differ from the international- and/or inter island calls.

Local calls:

Calls made via *standard* phone system.

Connection:	US\$ 96.15
Deposit fee:	US\$ 82.42
Monthly fee:	US\$ 9.89 per line
Mo-Fri., 06:00 - 18:00 Hrs	US\$ 0.0366 per second
Mo-Fri., 18:00 - 06:00 Hrs	US\$ 0.0121 per second
Sat-Sun, Holidays	US\$ 0.0121 per second

Cellular phone system.

Connection:	US\$ 54,95
Deposit fee:	US\$ 82.42
Monthly fee:	US\$ 24,73
Caller ID monthly fee:	US\$ 2,75

Calls made via *cellular phone* (with monthly subscription fee) *system* to another cellular phone (subscription fee, standard pre-paid system, plus pre-paid system) or standard phone system US\$ 0.27

Calls made via *Pre-paid cellular phone plus system* to another cellular phone (subscription fee, standard pre-paid system, plus pre-paid system) or standard phone system US\$ 0.27

Calls made via *Pre-paid cellular phone standard system* to another cellular phone (subscription fee, standard pre-paid system, plus pre-paid system) or standard phone system US\$ 0.47

Calls made via *standard phone system* to:

A standard phone system	US\$ 0.09
A cellular phone (subscription fee, standard pre-paid system or plus pre-paid system)	US\$ 0,27

(continued)

As of September 1, 2001 you will have to choose a provider, UTS/ Antelecom, Curacao Telecom or Genespider Net to place your international calls. Difference between the above mentioned providers is that calls via Curacao Telecom and Genespider Net are voice over IP.

International calls rates are based per second:

<u>Country</u>	<u>UTS/ Antelecom</u>	<u>Curacao Telecom</u>	<u>GeneSpider Net</u>
Netherlands	US\$ 0.52	US\$ 0.47	US\$ 0.55
USA	US\$ 0.34	US\$ 0.31	US\$ 0.36
Venezuela	US\$ 0.61	US\$ 0.55	US\$ 0.61
Neth. Antilles	US\$ 0.29	US\$ 0.31	US\$ 0.29

Procedures for Incorporation

The most commonly used legal business entity is the Limited Liability Company ('Naamloze Vennootschap' abbreviated N.V.), which means that the liability of its shareholders for the liabilities of the N.V. is limited up to a maximum of their respective obligatory capital contribution in the N.V. The capital of an N.V. is divided into shares.

Formation

The N.V. may be formed by one or more parties, who can be either individuals or legal entities. A draft of the articles of incorporation should be presented for approval to the Justice Department, and after approval, formalized through a notarial deed. Within one week after the date of incorporation, the N.V. must be registered in the commercial register of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry where the N.V. has its corporate seat. Furthermore, an announcement of the incorporation of the N.V. must be published in the Official Gazette of the Netherlands Antilles.

The company has a minimum of two organs, the Board of Directors, and the shareholders' meetings. A supervisory board may also be appointed, but this is not a legal requirement. Until the official announcement and registration of the company in the Trade Register and until at least 10% of the par value of each share issued and subscribed for at the time of the incorporation of the N.V. has been paid up, such without prejudice to the liability of the N.V. itself, the members of the Board are held personally liable for any actions undertaken on behalf of the company.

For purposes of exchange control and to satisfy other legal requirements, it is required that at all times the company have at least one managing director, or a legal representative in the Netherlands Antilles.

Share Capital

The statutory minimally authorized share capital must amount to US\$ 30,000. Upon incorporation, at least 20% of the authorized share capital should be issued. Under no circumstances may less than 20% of the authorized capital be outstanding. In case of bearer shares, the shares issued have to be paid in full.

Licenses / Permits

- Business license.
- Directors license for each non-Antillean managing director.
- Residence and working permits.
- Foreign exchange license.

In relevant cases:

- Building permit.
- Public nuisance permit.
- Permits for pharmaceutical companies, banks, restaurants, etc.

Procedures for Incorporation

(continued)

<i>Time Required</i>	Obtaining the required declaration of non-objection from the Ministry of Justice on the draft deed of incorporation usually requires three to four days if the articles of incorporation are formulated in a straight forward form.
<i>Costs</i>	The initial registration fee and the annual contribution to the Commercial Register, vary between US\$ 34.-- and US\$ 550.--, depending on the amount of paid-up capital. Notary fees depend on the work required, and the time spent in organizing the incorporation, as well as the actual authorized capital (minimum notary fee US\$ 1,160).
<i>Other Forms of Companies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branches of foreign companies; a branch has no separate legal assistance.• Partnerships; general or limited.• Joint Ventures; long and short-term.• Trust companies.• Proprietorship.
<i>Short-Term Visits</i>	No visa is required for a period not exceeding 14 days for visitors of most countries. Ninety-day visas are available immediately for citizens of most countries. A valid passport and a return air ticket are required.

Taxation of Companies

The 1940 Profit Tax Ordinance levies a profit tax on the worldwide income of companies and other taxable entities which are (or are deemed to be) established in the Netherlands Antilles.

<i>Offshore Corporations</i>	Companies formed under the laws of the Netherlands Antilles with the main purpose of deriving income from investment, or trading activities outside the Netherlands Antilles, and of which the shares are solely owned by non-residents, qualify for a special tax incentive.
<i>Onshore</i>	Regular or ‘onshore’ corporations are taxed on their net income, which is determined according to the generally accepted accounting principles and by the rules laid down in the Ordinance.
<i>Depreciation</i>	Generally it is not acceptable to depreciate items based on a yearly profit, nor the replacement cost of the asset. There is a special provision allowing accelerated depreciation of one third of the cost of the assets.
<i>Investment Allowance</i>	If a company invests more than US\$ 2,793.-- in qualifying fixed assets in a year it may take as a ‘deductible expense’, an investment allowance of 8% of the amount of the investment, during the first and second year of the investment (12% for new buildings).
<i>Reserves</i>	Transfers to reserves are not deductible when calculating the taxable profit, unless the company has the intention of replacing a sold fixed asset by another fixed asset within four years.
<i>Losses</i>	Losses may be carried forward for five years, (for shipping and aircraft companies six years) but no loss carry back is allowed.
<i>Corporate Tax Rates</i>	<p>The rate schedule for onshore companies is 34.5%.</p> <p>New industrial enterprises and companies engaged in the hotel business, which meet the requirements, are taxed at (at least) 2% for a minimum of five years and a maximum of eleven years. Companies in the Free Trade Zone are taxed at 2%. Offshore companies are taxed at a 2.4 - 3% rate, unless a special tax ruling has been obtained from the local Tax Authorities.</p> <p>In the Netherlands Antilles there are no withholding taxes on dividends, royalties, interest, management fees, or branches profit from payments made to or received by either residents or non-residents.</p>
<i>Profit Repatriation</i>	For investors that have been granted foreign exchange licenses, a license will also be awarded by the Central Bank allowing for the repatriation of profits dividends, loan interests, amortization payments and ultimately invested capital.

Taxation of Companies

(continued)

Convertibility

There is no charge for current account transactions. Some large capital transactions require approval from the Central Bank, but this is usually easily obtained.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INDUSTRY

- Curaçao as a Market
- Special Trade Programs
- Investment Incentives
- Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Curaçao Free Zone
- The Industrial Park
- The World Trade Center Curaçao

Curaçao as a Market

Curaçao's trade has traditionally been dominated by oil and oil products. Main imports include food, machinery, transportation equipment and consumer goods.

Currency The monetary unit is the Netherlands Antilles Guilder (ANG).
The guilder is pegged to the US dollar, at the official exchange rate of US\$ 1.00 = ANG 1.79.

GDP per Capita The (estimated) Gross Domestic Product per capita in the Netherlands Antilles in 2001 was US\$ 13,383 based on a population estimate of 136,888.

Imports by Commodity⁴:

Commodity	1995 US\$m	1996 US\$m	1997 US\$m	1998 US\$m	2000 US\$m
Food	167	194	177	152	151
Beverages and Tobacco	18	19	15	15	15
Raw materials, fuels	1,016	1,449	1,339	1,204	866
Edible fats	3	7	6	6	5
Chemicals	75	115	74	87	77
Manufactured goods	120	153	108	219	215
Machinery & transport equipment	216	352	186	197	254
Miscellaneous & other articles	110	146	122	130	142
<i>Total imports</i>	1,725	2,435	2,027	2,010	1,725

Import Regulations Import registration is required for certain essential products such as rice, tea, coffee, sugar etc.

Applicable import duties are calculated over the CIF value on non-luxury goods and can range from 0-18%. Extra import duties are applied to certain luxury goods as well as to a number of products which are locally manufactured.

Excise duties are levied on beer, cigarettes, spirits and gasoline.

For pharmaceuticals, pesticides, narcotics and psychotropic drugs, there are different import regulations.

Live animals, meat and meat products are officially inspected and admitted to the market only after approval.

Documentation Procedures The documents required for import into the Netherlands Antilles are: three copies of the priced invoice, and four copies of the bill of lading.

⁴Source : Curaçao Central Bureau of Statistics.

Certificates of origin are not required. Prior to exporting an item to the Netherlands Antilles, a local agent should be contacted to ascertain if there are any special requirements.

<i>Turnover tax</i>	Turnover tax is considered to be a general rate which is calculated over the amount received for delivery of goods or for services rendered by the producer and for which the consumer is charged. As of January 1999, the turnover tax rate of 5% was introduced.
<i>Marketing</i>	The common way of entering the market is by appointing an importer as a commercial agent. This will greatly facilitate matters, as the agent because of his local know-how, is in a position to offer the right technical and marketing assistance.
<i>Trademarks</i>	Generally speaking and according to current laws, the oldest user of a trade mark has the exclusive right to use that trade mark.
<i>Labeling & Packaging</i>	Labeling and packaging regulations apply for food and beverage products. Labels on pharmaceutical items and on pesticides must contain certain information.
<i>Customs and storage</i>	All goods entering the local market have to go through Curaçao's airport or seaport. Customs and storage facilities are adequate and secure.
<i>Methods of Payment</i>	The Curaçao business sector is fully acquainted with all international methods of payment.

Special Trade Programs

The European Union Market

Curaçao is an “Overseas Country or Territory”(OCT) of the European Union (EU). A decision of the Council of the European Union on July 31, 1991 allows products from OCT countries ‘greater flexibility regarding country of origin’. Products ‘originating’ in Curaçao can therefore enter the EU market free of import duties, agricultural levies and quantitative restrictions if they satisfy certain criteria. This is particularly beneficial to products which are subject to the EU Common Agricultural Policy, they are no longer faced with agricultural levies or quotas.

The criteria used for products from Curaçao that can enter the EU market free of import duties, agricultural levies and quantitative restrictions (except rum) are:

- wholly obtained products
- sufficiently processed products
- products in free circulation.

Wholly obtained products include (a) fish from Curaçao waters, (b) products grown in Curaçao, and (c) goods manufactured in Curaçao from local raw materials.

Sufficiently processed products, Curaçao becomes the ‘country of origin’ of imported products if they are sufficiently processed locally. There are three means of meeting this requirement.

- (1) Where the processing in Curaçao adds sufficient value added or results in sufficient transformation of the product to satisfy the complex schedule of specific rules, which vary by product, specified by the European Commission. In essence these rules are the same as those that apply to ACP countries/countries benefiting from the Lomé Convention. Details of these regulations are given in the Official Journal of the European Communities - L 263, vol. 34, September 1991, Article II (page 68). This information can be provided on request.
- (2) Materials from third countries, that is non OCT or EU
- (3) countries, that are worked on or processed in Curaçao but still do not satisfy the ‘country of origin’ criteria may obtain a derogation to enter the EU market from the European Commission in the following circumstances:
 - (a) Where the value added is at least 45% of the value of the finished product and provided that it does not cause serious injury to an economic sector in the EU.
 - (b) Derogation will be granted automatically when it concerns non-sensitive materials or products covered by the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).
 - (c) Requests will be given sympathetic consideration where they concern imports of less than 1% of average EU imports of the material or products in question.

- (3) Materials or products can obtain Curaçao ‘country of origin’ under the ‘cumulating principle’. The ‘cumulating principle’ is based on the accumulation of the ‘country of origin’ from ACP, OCT, or EU countries with simple processing in Curaçao to gain Curaçao ‘country of origin’ and thus enter the EU free of any import duties, agricultural levies, or quantitative restrictions. To ensure that there is an economic benefit to Curaçao and that this procedure is not abused, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles insists that there must be a minimum of 20% value added in Curaçao. The ‘cumulating principle’ is used extensively for rice imported from Surinam and other ACP countries in the region that undergoes simple processing in Curaçao and is exported to the EU.

Products in free circulation, products imported from third countries to Curaçao and re-exported without any working or processing can enter the EU free of import duties and quantitative restrictions provided that the customs duties paid in Curaçao is at least equal to the EU customs duties for such products. To protect the EU trade policy the following products are excluded, (1) covered by the Common Agricultural Policy, (2) that are subject to EU import quotas, and (3) that are subject to EU anti-dumping levies.

The United States Market

Curaçao is included under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Products manufactured in Curaçao can be imported duty free into the U.S., provided that there is 35% value added in and that the final product is a new product formed from the foreign material used in its manufacture. In case U.S.-origin materials are used, only 20 percent value needs to be added in Curaçao.

A number of product categories are excluded from tariff privileges under the CBI, including: textiles and apparel, canned tuna, petrol-products, footwear, gloves, luggage, handbags and flat goods.

Some products eligible under the CBI include: pineapple and orange concentrate, rum, ceramic tiles, watch bracelets, earthenware, and selected china and porcelain ware.

Curaçao is also eligible to participate in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which extends tariff benefits to developing countries.

The percentage of value-added is obtained by the formula:

$$\% \text{ Value - added} = \frac{\text{Direct Costs of Processing}}{\text{Appraised article Value when imported}} * 100\%$$

Investment Incentives⁵

The Government welcomes foreign-based enterprises, and provides a range of industrial facilities and incentives aimed at developing the island and promoting it as a tourism and distribution center. The Government is at present reviewing the incentives to industry with a view to making them more attractive.

*Industrial Enterprises*⁶

- a) Industries may qualify for the following incentives:
- Exemption from import duties and economic levies on materials, on goods required for construction, on initial equipment- including expansion- of the enterprise' premises, and on packaging materials, on machinery, raw materials, semi-manufactured articles and accessory means, necessary for the industrial process.
 - Exemption from land and occupancy tax. for a period of 10 years.
 - 2% corporate income tax - including all charges- on all profits induced by export.
 - Exemption of personal income tax on income earned from dividends and other distributions of export profits, provided that the profit is distributed within two years after termination of the financial year in which the profit is realized.
 - Acceleration depreciation of 1/3 of the purchase value of the business assets in the first fiscal year.
 - Deduction of 8% of the total investment (new building: 12%) annually for the first two fiscal years.
 - Indefinite carry-forward of losses incurred during the first four years of the business.
 - Counseling, marketing and financial assistance in the development of export markets.
 - Companies that establish in the Industrial Park can receive a rent reduction of 40% during the first year of the tenancy.
- b) In addition to the tax exemptions under point a), industries can qualify for the following incentives upon request:
- 2% corporate income tax - including all charges- on all profits induced by export.
 - Exemption from import duties and economic levies on materials, on goods required for construction, on initial equipment- including expansion- of the enterprise' premises, and on packaging materials, on machinery, raw materials, semi-manufactured articles and accessory means, necessary for the industrial process.
 - Exemption from land and occupancy tax. for a period of 10 years.

⁵Source : Department of Economic Affairs.

⁶Source : Official Gazette 1985, No. 146.

Investment Incentives

(continued)

<i>Export Oriented Industries</i>	Antillean limited liability companies that export at least 90% of their total finished products can obtain the tax exemptions mentioned under point b).
<i>Financing</i>	The Development Bank of the Netherlands Antilles and the Curaçao Development Corporation can provide loans with terms ranging from 5 to 15 years at rates of 9 to 11%. A grace period of 6 to 12 months can be negotiated.

Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the voice of private enterprises in Curaçao. It represents the general interests of the Curaçao business community, keeps a complete registry of Curaçao businesses and provides information services to local and international companies with an interest in doing business in, trading and exporting through or from Curaçao.

The Chamber offers the following products/ services:

Advocating private sector interests

The chamber gives solicited and unsolicited advice to governments concerning matters that affect the economy in general and the business community in particular.

Services

Chamber's *Business Information Center* provides orientation, initial mediation, and assistance for small business and other entrepreneurs interested in doing business in or trading and exporting from or through Curaçao. It also provides orientation about trade with the United States, the European Community and other major markets.

However, its library stocks a wide variety of international directories, reference books, periodicals, background reports, commercial profiles, economic research and statistics relevant to the Curaçao business community.

The Business Information Center is the home to the Netherlands Trade Commission for Curaçao and Bonaire and can be visited in the Chamber's building at Pietermaai or at its full-service branch in the World Trade Center.

The Chamber issues various publications, one of them being the bi-monthly newsletter *Chamber Business*, which contains relevant and interesting articles for commercial and non-commercial entities. In addition, the *Business Information Guide*, the 'yellow pages' of internationally oriented companies is published annually.

Other publications issued by the Chamber, discuss the developments of the local economy, such as the *Questionnaire on Business Developments*- an annually recurring survey on developments- and the *Economic review*, a periodic publication on the state of the Curaçao economy.

Execution of economic legislation

The Commercial and Foundations Register keeps records of and provides information on registered companies and foundations and their activities. The commercial registry also issues extracts of company registrations, certificates of origin for re-export, and legalization of authorized signatures and other business related documents. Furthermore, it can also supply addresses of local business by category, on lists or on labels.

Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(continued)

For additional information, the Chamber can be contacted at:

Headoffice

Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Kaya Junior Salas 1
P.O. Box 10
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles

Tel: (599-9) 461-1451 (Management)
(599-9) 461-1455 (Registry)
(599-9) 461-3918 (Business information)
Fax: (599-9) 461-5652

Email: management@curacao-chamber.an (Management)
registry@curacao-chamber.an (Registry)
businessinfo@curacao-chamber.an (Business information)

Website: <http://www.curacao-chamber.an>

The Curaçao Economic Zones

Economic Zone (E-Zone)

Considering the importance of e-business for our economy, on February 1st 2001, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles approved the proposed amendments to the free zone law allowing e-commerce activities into these areas. (National Ordinance Economic Zone no. 18, 2001)

In other words, as of this date is not necessary anymore for goods to be physically present within the zone as was required under the former free zone law.

Furthermore, the name “Free Zone” was changed into “Economic Zone” (E-Zone).

At the end of 2000, a law regulating e-commerce activities was passed by the Netherlands Antilles.

Curaçao Harbor Free Zone

The Harbor Free Zone with a total area of 214,760 m² (53 acres) is an enclosed area where export oriented companies can be established. The zone is located in the harbor and is only 13 km away from the international airport of Curaçao.

Favorable regulations apply to this area. Some of these regulations are:

- 0% import, transshipment and / or export duties.
- 2% profit tax on export sales.
- 25 % of total sales is allowed to be sold to the local market. On these sales normal import duties and profit tax rates are applicable.

The characteristics of the Harbor Free Zone are:

- Multi purpose buildings with showrooms.
- Permanent maintenance crews.
- Telecommunication connections.
- Fully serviced area.
- Customs clearance at the main gate.
- 24 hours, 7 days a week security.

The types of businesses, which are currently operating in this area, are:

- Wholesalers of consumer products targeting the Caribbean. The product types include garments, apparel, textiles, cosmetics, perfumes, and shoes.
- Foreign manufacturers and trading companies that target regional distribution and service centers for the southern Caribbean Basin and South and Central America.

The costs involved for renting a space in the Harbor Free Zone area are:

Lease	US\$	56.-- / m ² / year
Security	US\$	3.-- / m ² / year
Garbage collection	US\$	890.-- / year

The Curaçao Economic Zones

(continued)

To rent a space in one of Curaçao's Free Trade Zones an application must be submitted to the Curaçao Industrial and International Trade Development Company (CURINDE N.V.). The requirements for a successful application are:

- A limited liability company must be formed under local law, and dedicated exclusively to the free zone business.
- A minimum of one job created per 170 square meters of space.
- Two bank and commercial references must be provided.
- The necessary business/directors licenses must be obtained from the Government of Curacao.

Airport Economic Zone

With the development of an economic zone Curaçao further develops its role as a logistic center within the region. The overall development covers an area of 42 hectares. The initial phase covers an area of 12 hectares with the construction of 40,000 square meter of buildings. Spaces of different sizes are available to potential investors, which can be used as showrooms, warehouses and offices. Furthermore, sites are also available for companies that wish to build their own facility.

The Airport Economic Zone distinguishes itself from other free zones by its unique location and outstanding telecommunication facilities. The economic zone borders onto the International Airport Hato, lies within the customs area and has a connecting roadway that leads directly to the airport runway. High quality voice and data communication is guaranteed as the entire zone is provided with fiber-optic cables.

The three main types of activities that are expected to be attracted to the Airport Economic Zone are:

1. Logistics Service Providers: Service firms that provide logistical services, such as order taking, invoicing, inventory management, storage, repackaging and shipping.
2. Vendor Trade Mart: Wholesalers/distributors of brand name goods to retailers and wholesalers in the region.
3. Regional Distribution Centers: Curacao's strategic location in the southern Caribbean, its excellent infrastructure, its secure and stable political and economic environment, and its well developed international financial services make it a profitable location for companies to locate a regional distribution center where they can deliver goods quickly and safely to their customers in the region, provide sales, marketing and technical support to their customers, customize their products for the Latin American market, and train regional staff and sales agents.
4. Electronic-commerce: other forms of service aimed at countries abroad, including new trade activities that can be performed with or on behalf of electronic communication and information opportunities.

The same incentives and conditions that apply to the existing Harbor Free Zone apply to the new Hato Free Trade Zone. The charges are:

<i>Rental of Showroom</i>	:	US\$ 95.-- / m ² / year
<i>Rental of Office Space</i> :		US\$ 113.-- / m ² / year
<i>Service Charges</i>	:	US\$ 8.30/ m ² / year
<i>Land lease</i>	:	US\$ 4.40/ m ² / year

For additional information regarding the Free Zones, please contact;

Curinde N.V.
Emancipatie Blvd. #7
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Phone: (599-9) - 737 60 00
Fax : (599-9) - 737 13 36
E-mail: curinde@attglobal.net
Homepage: www.curinde.com

The Industrial Zone

The 28 hectares industrial park located at Brievengat is an area especially developed for industry type of businesses. The characteristics of the park are:

- Multi-purpose buildings that are available for rental on a yearly basis with water-, electricity-, and telephone connections.
- 24 hour security, 7 days a week.
- Permanent maintenance.

Rental of Buildings US\$ 41,67 to \$ 70.-- / m² / year.

Service Charges US\$ 3.80 / m² / year, this includes 24 hours per day 7 days per week security, garbage collection, and site maintenance.

To rent a space in the Industrial Park Brievengat area an application must be submitted to the Curaçao Industrial and International Trade Development Company (CURINDE N.V.).

Requirements Requirements for an application:

- A limited liability company must be formed under local law.
- Two bank and two commercial references must be provided.
- The necessary business / directors license.

Own Buildings Companies have the option of constructing their own buildings on leased sites.

For additional information regarding the Industrial Park, please contact;

Curinde N.V.
Emancipatie Blvd. #7
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Phone: (599-9) - 737 60 00
Fax : (599-9) - 737 13 36
E-mail: curinde@attglobal.net
Homepage: www.curinde.com

The World Trade Center Curaçao

The prestigious World Trade Center (WTC) is Curaçao's multifaceted international business center. The WTC is the most complete combined conference and office complex in the Caribbean. It has a full range of first class conference facilities and an enthusiastic, professional team ready to assist in making the most of this five star setting.

- Auditorium* The ergonomically designed, fully equipped auditorium can accommodate the most diverse presentations. This theater comfortably seats 325 people. Chairs are outfitted with state-of-the art telecommunication equipment. The spacious hallway is ideal for coffee and tea breaks. The WTC provides full technical backup and professional assistance with audio-visual equipment.
- Meeting Rooms* The congress center offers 9 meeting rooms designed to accommodate small to medium sized groups. These rooms can be subdivided or rearranged to meet specific setup requirements. The WTC can furnish complete meeting and conference support facilities, including the latest in audio-visual equipment, mobile translation booths and telecommunication infrastructure.
- Exhibition Hall* The large, multipurpose exhibition hall can accommodate exhibitions and expositions with up to 110 stands (3x3m each), or banquets for up to 900 people. The hall can easily be subdivided for smaller events. Support services include state-of-the-art telecommunication and technical backup.
- Business Center and Trade Mart* A four story business center and the two story Trade Mart provide prestigious office suites for even the most selective business people. All are ready to be outfitted with telecommunication equipment. Additional support services include kitchenettes on every floor, together with banking and postal facilities. Full time secretarial service is available at request.

For additional information, please contact:

World Trade Center Curaçao
Piscaderabay, P.O. Box 6005
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Phone: (599-9) – 463-6100
Fax : (599-9) - 462 44 08
E-mail: wtccur@attglobal.net

CONFERENCE CENTER KURA HULANDA

Conference Center Kura Hulanda is located at the entrance of the harbor (“Otrabanda”) with a view on the Annabay. This conference center is equipped with the most modern equipment such as an interpreting translation system and audio-visual equipment.

Furthermore, it disposes of 3 modern designed meeting rooms, which can accommodate small to medium sized groups.

These rooms can be used for meetings, workshops, theater performances and or parties. Seating arrangements can be rearranged to meet specific setup requirements.

Set up meeting rooms maximum capacities:

<i>Room</i>	<i>M2</i>	<i>Theater</i>	<i>U-shape</i>	<i>O-Shape</i>	<i>Class room</i>
“Tula”	214	175	28/32	36/40	82
“Porto Paseo”	63	63	20	24	16
“E Gai”	63	63	20	24	16

For additional information, please contact:

Conference Center Kura Hulanda
De Rouvilleweg 47
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles

Phone : (599-9) - 462 7878
Fax : (599-9) – 462 7969
Email : Conf.Kura-Hulanda@cura.net
sales@kurahulanda.com
Website: www.kurahulanda.com

SEA -AIR TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED SERVICES

- Air Transportation and Facilities
- Maritime Transportation and Related Services
- Shipping Connections

Air Transportation and Facilities

The Curaçao International Airport Company N.V., which manages the Curaçao International Airport was established in 1977 by the Curaçao Island Government and is presently assisted by the management of Schiphol N.V. in the execution of an ambitious expansion plan, which will gradually increase its present capacity.

The Airport 3,410m long and 60m wide makes it the longest runway in the Caribbean.

No airport congestion.

Transit time for cargo is two hours, while for airline passengers en route the transit time can be less than 20 minutes.

Curaçao enjoys 100% visibility almost 365 days a year and lies outside the main hurricane belt.

A total of 400,000 square meters (99 acres) is reserved for the Airport Free Zone.

*Connections*⁷ Curaçao offers the following connections:

All scheduled airlines flying into Curaçao, also fly cargo and use freighters on demand.

Carriers International carriers include:

- DCE -Dutch Caribbean Express (Netherlands Antilles)
- Air Holland (Netherlands)
- Air Jamiaca (Jamaica)
- Aires (Colombia)
- Aereo Caribe (Venezuela)
- Aerpostal (Venezuela)
- American Airlines (USA)
- American Eagle (USA)
- Avianca (Colombia)
- KLM (Netherlands)
- Surinam Airways/ SLM (Surinam)

Freight only:

- Aerosucre (Colombia)
- Aero Express (Colombia)
- Ameri Jet (USA)
- Federal Express (USA)
- DHL (USA)
- SLM Cargo (Surinam)
- KLM Cargo (Netherlands)

⁷Source: CURINTA N.V.

Air Transportation and Facilities

Airfreight Facilities The Curaçao International Airport's cargo facility is computerized and highly efficient. With modern cargo buildings on the premises, there is more than enough capacity to handle all business.

For perishable products cool and deep-frozen storage is available and sensitive products can be handled safely. Air containers can be stripped and the contents distributed throughout the region.

Air Cargo
(in 1,000 kg)⁸

Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Inbound	8,6210.66	8,576.06	8,864.53	7,777.50	5,345,752*
Outbound	2,3667.80	2,477.52	2,788.78	3,566.02	2,363,380*
<i>Total</i>	10,9878.46	11,053.58	11,653.31	11,343.52	7,709,132*

* figures for year 2001 are until September 2001

⁸Source : CURINTA N.V.

Maritime Transportation and Facilities

(continued)

Overview

The original prosperity of Curaçao was due to its strategic location and great natural harbor at Schottegat Bay. The harbor has no tides, hurricanes or congestion problems, it has been continually modernized and can handle ships of up to 120,000 dead weight tonnes.

At the beginning of the 20th century when Shell established an oil refinery on the island the quays at the main harbor in Schottegat Bay were extended. These quays were modernized in the 1960s and used as multi-functional quays for handling break-bulk and neo-bulk cargo (lumber, steel, cars, etc.). In 1974 the main oil terminal was transferred to Bullen Bay on the south coast where the new Curaçao Oil Terminal was built.

In June of 1984 a modern Container Terminal was built with Dutch know-how at Nieuwe Haven in Schottegat Bay. Transshipment cargo is an important element of its activity.

New maritime connection possibilities are continuously being realized. A list of these connections is on page 35 to 42, but individual details should be checked with the shipping agents. At the moment seven different lines use Curaçao as their transshipment port for the Caribbean Basin and Latin America (east coast). Handling Sea-Air and Air-Sea transshipment cargo is also a fast growing service carried in Curaçao.

The Curaçao port is managed by a unique combination of the local port authority and a private enterprise. The Curaçao Ports Authority N.V. (CPA N.V.), which is a Government owned company, is the owner of the basins, docks, sheds (Container Freight Station), quays and container handling cranes. Handling equipment, trucks and stevedoring equipment are owned and managed by a private company, -the Curaçao Port Services Inc. N.V. (CPS N.V.)-, on a commercial basis. This is a unique situation for the Caribbean basin and the Latin American continent, where the ports are usually owned and managed by the Government.

The employees of Curaçao Port Services Inc. are trained at the local naval training school.

At present a computerized system is being introduced to handle all the documents required by shipping using the port, all the leading shipping agents will be connected electronically to this system. This will greatly speed up the process and reduce the time a ship needs to be in port.

Conventional Freight-Traffic

Curaçao has one of the best equipped multi-use terminals in the region for fast, efficient and safe cargo handling, with sufficient storage space and no pilferage or theft.

Maritime Transportation and Related Services

(continued)

- Container Traffic* Efficient, fast and safe transportation and handling are ensured by:
- The port's accessibility to large RO / RO and LO / LO container vessels.
 - The most modern and efficient container terminal of the Caribbean basin and Latin America equipped with two 40 tonnes capacity Nelcon container gantry cranes and one 35 tonnes capacity mobile Nelcon container-handling crane.
 - The lowest transshipment tariffs of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Sea Cargo Handled

Tonnes	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Inbound	n.a.	306,378	102,173	106,414	89,859
Outbound	n.a.	125,756	289,904	298,637	301,477
<i>Total</i>	401,881	432,134	424,948	442,952	436,965
<i>of which transshipment</i>	31,414	44,116	32,870	37,901	45,629

TEU's	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Inbound	n.a.	19,739	18,709	18,465	19,673
Outbound	n.a.	19,544	18,583	18,287	18,933
<i>Total</i>	36,565	39,283	41,467	40,813	43,577
<i>of which transshipment</i>	3,783	5,410	4,174	4,062	4,971

Oil Transshipment The Curaçao Oil Terminal located at Bullen Bay, with a transshipment capacity of 1,200,000 barrels per day can accommodate U.L.C.C.'s of up to 530,000 DWT on full draft.

The terminal has six T-head jetties at its disposal and has a total tank capacity of 1,775,000 barrels.

Traffic Connections Because of its historically good connections with Europe, the U.S.A., Latin America and the Caribbean islands, the port of Curaçao has:

- More than 1,300 sailing per year.
- More than 20 regularly calling shipping lines.
- An efficient and reliable shipping agent network.

Maritime Transportation and Related Services

(continued)

Customs

Organization

The Customs Authority has four offices, which are located at:

- Downtown Willemstad (Punda),
- The office building of the Curaçao Port Services Inc. N.V.
- The Curaçao Economic Zones
- The airport.

In the office at the seaport the clearance of incoming vessels, import and export transactions, transit traffic, free zone traffic and bonded storage of goods is taken care of by a senior customs officer on a strict, incorruptible, yet reasonable basis.

Maritime Coverage

Insurance Brokers can provide "tailor -made" coverage according to client requirements.

Clients may opt for the following basic types of coverage:

- Institute Cargo Clauses (All Risks, Third Party insurance or F.P.A.)
- Extended Cargo Clauses
- Special Cargo Clauses- including full inherent vice, even when caused by delay or as a result of strikes.

Rates for the absolutely outstanding cover under the special cargo clauses are competitive.

Through creative brokerage and by virtue of their contacts in the insurance markets, brokers often place coverage for their clients which could not be obtained in the home market.

For further information, please contact:

Curaçao Port Services N.V.
 Container Terminal Nieuwe Haven
 Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
 Phone: (599-9) - 461 50 79
 Fax : (599-9) - 461 37 32
 Website: www.curports.com

or Curaçao Ports Authority N.V.
 Werf de Wilde z/n
 Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
 Phone: (599-9) – 434 59 00
 Fax : (599-9) - 461 39 07
 Website: www.curports.com

Shipping Connections⁹

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
A			
Angola	Luanda	EWL	10 days
Anguilla	Roadbay	Crowley	weekly
Antigua	Sint John's	CGM, Hapag, King Ocean, Crowley	weekly
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Crowley; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Aruba	Oranjestad	Harisson Line, Crowley, Caboven, Super S.G., Nedlloyd, Sealand	weekly
Australia	Adelaide	EWL	10 days
Australia	Brisbane	EWL	10 days
Australia	Freemantle	Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Australia	Melbourne	EWL	10 days
Australia	Sydney	Nedlloyd, EWL	weekly; 10 days
B			
Bahamas	Freeport	Crowley, Sealand	weekly
Bahamas	Nassau	Crowley, King Ocean, Sealand	weekly
Bahrein	Bahrein	EWL	10 days
Bangladesh	Mongla	Sealand	weekly
Barbados	Bridgetown	Crowley, CGM, Hapag; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Beirut	Lebanon	EWL	10 days
Belgium	Antwerp	Laserline, CGM, Hapag, Evergreen, FMG; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Belgium	Zeebrugge	Harisson Line, Nedlloyd	weekly
Belize		Harisson Line, CGM, Hapag, Nedlloyd	weekly
Benin	Cotonou	EWL	10 days
Bonaire	Kralendijk	Super S.C.	weekly
Brazil	Fortaleza	Nedlloyd	weekly
Brazil	Recife	Crowley	weekly
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	Crowley, Nedlloyd	weekly
Brazil	Rio Grande	Crowley, Nedlloyd	weekly
Brazil	Salvador	Nedlloyd	weekly
Brazil	Santos	Crowley, Nedlloyd	weekly
Brazil	Sao Fransisco do Sol	Crowley, Nedlloyd	weekly
C			
Cameroon	Douala	EWL	10 days
Canada	Montreal, Quebec	Sealand	weekly
Canada	New Brunswick	Sealand	weekly
Canada	Toronto	Sealand	weekly; 10 days
Canada	Vancouver	Evergreen, Sealand	weekly
Canary Islands	Las Palmas	EWL	10 days
Canary Islands	Tenerife	EWL	10 days
Chile	Antofagasta	Nedlloyd	14 days
Chile	Arica	Sealand	weekly
Chile	Iquique	Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Chile	San Antonio	Sealand	weekly
Chile	Valparaiso	Nedlloyd	14 days

⁹Source : Shipping Agents.

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
China		APL	weekly
China	Chang An	Sealand	weekly
China	Gaungzhou	Sealand	weekly
China	Nanchin	Sealand	weekly
China	Nanjin	Sealand	weekly
China	Shanghai	Sealand	weekly
Colombia	Baranquilla	Crowley, Caboven, King Ocean	weekly
Colombia	Buena Ventura	Crowley, Sealand	weekly
Colombia	Cartagena	Harisson Line, Crowley, Caboven, Laserline, King Ocean, Evergreen, Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Colombia	Santa Martha	Harisson Line, Crowley, EWL	weekly; 10 days
Congo	Pointe Noire	EWL	10 days
Costa Rica	Puerto Limon	Crowley, Harisson Line, CGM, Hapag, Sealand, Nedlloyd	weekly
Cuba	Havana	Laserline	weekly
Cyprus	Larnaca	Evergreen	weekly
Cyprus	Limassol	EWL	10 days
D			
Denmark	Aarhus	EWL	10 days
Denmark	Copenhagen	Laserline, CGM, Hapag, Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Djibouthi	Dhibouthi	EWL	10 days
Dominican Republic	Rio Haina	Crowley, CGM, Hapag, Evergreen, Sealand, Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
E			
Ecuador	Guayaquil	Crowley, King Ocen	weekly
Ecuador	Manta	Crowley	weekly
Egypt	Alexandria	EWL	10 days
El Salvador	Acajutla	Nedlloyd	weekly
El Salvador	San Salvador	Crowley	weekly
England	Felixtowe	Harisson Line, CGM, Hapag, Laserline; EWL	weekly; 10 days
England	Liverpool	Nedlloyd	weekly
England	Thamesport	Evergreen	weekly
Estonia	Tallin	EWL	10 days
F			
Far East		MAESK	weekly
Finland	Helsinki	CGM, Hapag, Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
French Guyana	Cayene	Nedlloyd	14 days
France	Le Havre	Harisson Line, CGM, Hapag, Evergreen, Nedlloyd	weekly
G			
Gabon	Libreville	EWL	10 days
Gambia	Banjul	EWL	10 days
Germany	Bremen	Hapag, CGM, Harisson Line; EWL	weekly; 10 days

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
Germany	Hamburg	LaserLine, CGM, Hapag, Evergreen, Sealand, Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Ghana	Takoradi	EWL	10 days
Ghana	Tema	EWL	10 days
Greece	Piraeus	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Grenada	Sint George's	CGM, Hapag, King Ocean; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Guadeloupe	Point-a-Pitre	Crowley, CGM, Hapag, Nedlloyd	weekly
Guatemala	Puerto Quetzal	Nedlloyd	weekly
Guatemala	Santo Tomas de Castillo	Sealand, Crowley; Nedlloyd	weekly; 12 days
Guinea	Conakry	EWL	10 days
Guyana	Georgetown	King Ocean, Seafreight Inc.; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
H			
Haiti	Port au Prince	CGM, Hapag	weekly
Honduras	Puerto Cortes	Crowley, CGM, Hapag, Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 12 days
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	APL, Evergreen, Sealand; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
I			
India	Bombay	APL, Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
India	Calcutta	EWL	10 days
India	Cochin	EWL	10 days
India	Madras	Sealand, EWL	weekly; 10 days
Indonesia	Jakarta	APL, Sealand	weekly
Iran	Bandar Abbas	EWL	10 days
Iran	Kish Island	EWL	10 days
Ireland	Dublin	EWL	10 days
Israel	Ashdod	EWL	10 days
Israel	Haifa	EWL	10 days
Italy	Genoa	P&O, Laserline; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Italy	La Spezia	P&O, Evergreen	weekly
Italy	Leghorn	P&O, Laserline, Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Italy	Milan	P&O; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Italy	Trieste	P&O, Evergreen	weekly
Ivory Coast	Abidjan	EWL	10 days
Ivory Coast	San Pedro	EWL	10 days
J			
Jamaica	Kingston	Harrison Line, Crowley, Sealand, Nedlloyd	weekly
Japan	Kobe	APL, Evergreen; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
Japan	Nagoya	APL, Evergreen; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
Japan	Osaka	APL, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Japan	Shimizu	APL, Evergreen; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Japan	Tokyo	APL, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Japan	Yokohama	APL; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
Jordan	Aqaba	EWL	10 days
K			
Kenya	Mombasa	EWL	10 days
Korea		APL	weekly
Kuwait	Kuwait	EWL	10 days
L			
Lebanon	Beirut	EWL	10 days
Lethonia	Riga	EWL	10 days
Liberia	Monrovia	EWL	10 days
Libya	Tripoli	EWL	10 days
M			
Madagascar	Tamatave	EWL	10 days
Malaysia	Kelang	APL, Sealand	weekly
Malaysia	Penan	APL; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Malaysia	Pinang	APL, Sealand	weekly
Malaysia	Port Kelang	APL, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Malaysia	Singapore	APL, Evergreen	weekly
Martinique	Fort de France	Crowley, CGM, Hapag; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Mauretania	Nouakchott	EWL	10 days
Mauritius	Port Louis	EWL	10 days
Mexico	Acapulco	Nedlloyd	14 days
Mexico	Alta Mira	Nedlloyd	14 days
Mexico	Manzanillo	Nedlloyd	14 days
Mexico	Nuevo Laredo	Sealand	weekly
Mexico	Progreso	Crowley	weekly
Mexico	Tampico	Crowley	weekly
Mexico	Veracruz	Crowley	weekly
Middle East		APL	weekly
Montserrat	Plymouth	Crowley	weekly
N			
Negeria	Port Harcourt	EWL	10 days
Netherlands, the	Amsterdam	Harisson Line, GGM, Nedlloyd, Hapag, Laserline	weekly
Netherlands, the	Rotterdam	CGM, Hapag, Sealand, Nedlloyd, Laserline, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Nevis	Nevis	Crowley	weekly
Nicaragua (via Costa Rica)		Crowley	weekly
Nicaragua	Managua	Sealand	weekly
Nigeria	Lagos	EWL	10 days
Norway	Aalesund	Laserline, CGM, Hapag	weekly

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
Norway	Bergen	EWL	10 days
Norway	Oslo	EWL	10 days
O			
Oman	Mina Qadoos	EWL	10 days
P			
P.R. of China	Chiwan	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Dalian	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Guangzhou	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Huangpu	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Jaingyin	EWL	10 days
P.R. of China	Nanhai	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of Chiina	Nanjing	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Nantong	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Qingdao	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Rongqi	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Shanghai	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Shekou	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Shenzhen	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Shunde	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Tianjin Xingang	Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
P.R. of China	Xiamen	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Zhagilagan	EWL	10 days
P.R. of China	Zhongshan	Evergreen	weekly
P.R. of China	Zhuhai	Evergreen	weekly
Pakistan	Karachi	APL; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Panama	Coco Solo	Sealand	weekly
Panama	Cristobal	Evergreen; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Panama	Las Minas	Crowley	weekly
Paraguay (via Argentina)		Crowley	weekly
Peru	Callao	Crowley, Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Peru	Paita	Crowley	weekly
Philippines		APL	weekly
Portugal	Leixous	P&O, CGM, Hapag; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Portugal	Lisbon	P&O, CGM, Hapag; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Portugal	Oporto	P&O, Sealand	weekly
Puerto Rico	Ponce	Harisson Line, CGM, Hapag	weekly
Puerto Rico	San Juan	Crowley, CGM, Hapag, Evergreen, Sealand, Nedlloyd	weekly
R			
Reunion	Point D. Galets	EWL	10 days
Russia	Kiev	EWL	10 days
Russia	Moscow	EWL	10 days
Russia	St. Petersburg	EWL	10 days

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
S			
Saba	Fortbay	Crowley	weekly
Saudi Arabia	Damman	EWL	10 days
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Sealand	weekly
Scotland	Greenock	CGM, Hapag	weekly
Senegal	Dakar	EWL	10 days
Sierra Leone	Freetown	EWL	10 days
Singapore	Singapore	Evergreen, APL; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
South Africa	Capetown	EWL	10 days
South Africa	Durban	Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
South Africa	Port Elizabeth	EWL	10 days
South Korea	Pusan	Evergreen, Sealand; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
South Korea	Seoul	Sealand	weekly
Spain	Algeciras	P&O, Evergreen, Sealand	weekly
Spain	Barcelona	P&O, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Spain	Bilbao	P&O, EWL	10 days
Spain	Valencia	P&O, Evergreen; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Sri Lanka	Colombo	APL; Sealand	weekly
St. Barhts	Gustavia	Crowley, CGM, Hapag	weekly
St. Croix	Cristiansted	Crowley	weekly
St. Eustatius	Oranjestad	Crowley	weekly
St. John's	St. John's	Crowley	weekly
St. Kitts	Basseterre	Crowley, King Ocean	weekly
St. Lucia	Carries	CGM, Hapag, Nedlloyd, Crowley	weekly
St. Martin	Philipsburg	CGM, Hapag, Sealand, Crowley	weekly
St. Thomas	Charlotte Amalie	Hapag, Harisson Line, Crowley, CGM, King Ocean, CGM, Hapag; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
Sudan	Port Sudan	EWL	10 days
Surinam	Paramaribo	Seafreight Inc.; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Sweden	Gothenburg	EWL	10 days
Sweden	Stockholm	Laserline; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Syria	Lattakia	EWL	10 days
T			
Taiwan		APL	weekly
Taiwan	Kaohsiung	Sealand; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
Taiwan	Keelung	Evergreen, Sealand; EWL; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
Taiwan	Taipei	Sealand	weekly
Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	EWL	10 days
Tanzania	Tanga	EWL	10 days
Thailand	Bangkok	Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Togo	Lome	EWL	10 days
Tortola	Road Town	Crowley	weekly
Trinidad	Point Lisas	Seafreight Inc., Crowley	weekly
Trinidad	Port of Spain	Seafreight Inc., Harisson Line, King Ocean, CGM, Hapag, Sealand, Nedlloyd; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Tunisia	Tunis	EWL	10 days
Turkey	Istanbul	EWL	10 days
Turkey	Izmir	EWL	10 days
Turkey	Mersin	EWL	10 days
Taiwan	Kaoshiung	Evergreen	weekly
U			
Und. Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	EWL	10 days
Und. Arab Emirates	Dubai	EWL	10 days
Und. Arab Emirates	Fujairah	EWL	10 days
United Kingdom	Felixtowe	FMG	weekly
United States	Baltimore	Crowley, Evergreen, Sealand	weekly; 10 days
United States	Charleston	Crowley, Evergreen, Sealand	weekly; 10 days
United States	Elisabeth, New Jersey	Sealand	weekly
United States	Houston	Crowley, Sealand	weekly; 10 days
United States	Jacksonville	Crowley, Sealand	10 days
United States	Long Beach	Sealand	weekly
United States	Los Angeles	Evergreen; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
United States	Miami	King Ocean, Evergreen, Caribbean K Line, Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
United States	New Orleans	Crowley, Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
United States	New York	Crowley, Evergreen, Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 10 days; 14 days
United States	Newark	Sealand	weekly
United States	Norfolk	Crowley, Evergreen	weekly; 10 days
United States	Oakland	Evergreen, Sealand	weekly
United States	Philadelphia	Crowley	weekly
United States	Port Everglades	Crowley, Sealand	weekly
United States	Portland	Evergreen, Sealand	weekly
United States	San Francisco	Sealand; Nedlloyd	weekly; 14 days
United States	Savannah	Crowley	weekly; 10 days
United States	Seattle	Sealand	weekly
United States	Tacoma	Evergreen	weekly
Uruguay	Montevideo	Nedlloyd	14 days

Shipping Connections

(continued)

Country	Destination	Shipping Line	Frequency
V			
Venezuela	Guanta	Seafreight Inc., Crowley	weekly
Venezuela	La Guaira	Seafreight Inc., Harisson Line, Crowley, Caboven, Evergreen, Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Venezuela	Maracaibo	Seafreight Inc., Crowley, Caboven	weekly
Venezuela	Margarita	Seafreight Inc., Caboven	weekly
Venezuela	Puerto Cabello	Seafreight Incl., Crowley, Harisson Line, Caboven, Evergreen, Sealand; EWL	weekly; 10 days
Virgin Gorda	Spanish Town	Crowley	weekly
Y			
Yemeni Republic	Hodeidah	EWL	10 days
Z			
Zaire	Matadi	EWL	10 days

Shipping agents

Agent	Shipping Line	Telephone	Fax
Anthony Veder & Co.	Cie. Generale Maritime (CGM), Hapag Lloyd, Caribbean K Line, MAESK, Super Ship Care, Seafreight Inc.	(599.9)-4614700	(599.9) 4612576
Dammers & Van Der Heide	Europe West Indies Line (EWL), Evergreen	(599.9)-7370600	(599.9)-7373875
Gomez Shipping	CABOVEN, King Ocean, Laser Line, P & O, American President Line (APL)	(599.9)-4615260	(599.9)-4613358
Intermodal Container Services	Sealand.	(599.9)-4613330	(599.9)-4613432
Kroonvlag Curaçao	Nedlloyd.	(599.9)-7373554	(599.9)-7375367
S.E.L. Maduro & Sons	Harisson, Crowley American Transport, Flota Mercante	(599.9)-7331500	(599.9)-7331538

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

A Leading International Financial Center

Principal Features Dating back to 1916, Curaçao has been recognized for decades as a leading international financial center for international transactions and international offshore financial corporations. As a result of focused and large scale investments, the island built the highly efficient infrastructure required to support the needs of legal-, accounting and financial services practitioners. State-of-the-art telecommunication facilities, the availability of multi-lingual staffs and regular airline connections to Europe, Latin America and the United States all combine to make Curaçao the most desirable and suitable business location in the Caribbean. The very low levels of corporate income taxes, which are applicable to various types of financial “offshore” corporations.

From a safe haven to a quality haven

The year of 2001 went into history of the Netherlands Antilles as the year that new legislation was introduced that did away with the tax haven image it had for over 50 years. The decision was taken to completely upgrade and modernize tax regime of the Netherlands Antilles in order to meet the ever changing and increasing quality demands of the international financial services industry. This effort is aimed at creating a platform for transparency rules, a clearly defined exchange of information policy, the abolishment of the distinction between onshore and offshore companies, no fiscal ring-fencing, no unfair tax practices and a regulatory framework to protect the local financial systems against abuse for criminal purposes. All in line with the recommendations of the OECD and the FATF.

Constituting a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands implies that in Curaçao based international corporations can make use of the “Tax Agreement for the Kingdom”(TAK). Under certain circumstances this can lead to interesting international tax savings opportunities. There is a tax treaty with Norway. Negotiations with other countries focusing on double taxation agreements are being held.

Curaçao’s banks, trust offices and other financial institutions have the resources and technical capabilities to accommodate almost all requirements of its international clientele.

The financial system is supervised by the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles in an environment of confidentiality, while ensuring security and stability.

Legislation is based on the Civil-law system and is rooted in the Netherlands and other EC countries. Legal disputes may be ultimately appealed to the Supreme Court in The Hague.

The financial sector fully endorses the efforts that are undertaken internationally to prevent the financial systems from being abused for criminal purposes. The sector has adopted the Statement of Principles recommended in 1988 by the International Committee of Banking

Regulations and Supervisory Practices (The Basle Committee). In the footsteps of other industrialized countries the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles enacted legislation requiring banks and financial institutions to report “unusual” transactions by their customers to an independent reporting office that forms part of the Ministry of Finance. By the law the banks and other financial services providers are obligated to determine the full identity of a client prior to entering into a client relationship.

In 2000 the US-Internal Revenue Service gave the Netherlands Antilles the so-called Qualified Intermediary (OI) status. An indication that Netherlands Antilles’ legislation can be considered adequate when compared with internationally applied Know Your Customer Regulations.

Offshore Companies In circles of international entrepreneurs and multinational investors, Curaçao has popular for setting up, and maintaining, offshore corporations to hold assets and investments, for finance and trading transactions, or to be interposed in international corporate structures. In 1954 tax legislation was enacted to provide specific incentives for international investment companies. On the strength of its legislation, its social and political stability, the Dutch conservative atmosphere, its geographical location and its sophisticated financial and telecommunication infrastructure, Curaçao has established an enviable record in managing and administering tens of thousands of international investment companies.

Taxation In a determined effort to revitalize its financial services industry, the Netherlands Antilles passed three tax bills in December 1999, together forming the New Fiscal Regime of the Netherlands Antilles (“NFR”). The NFR introduces a general corporate tax regime that is broadly comparable to the Netherlands corporate tax regime and that may be regarded as a middle-of-the-road, European style, OECD corporate tax system. With the introduction of the NFR regime, the Netherlands Antilles became an acceptable partner for modern income tax treaties. The new law became effective as from January 1, 2001. To be able to compete with tax exempt jurisdiction, the NFR also introduces a tax-exempt company.

Simultaneously with the introduction of the NFR, the Netherlands Antilles offshore regime was abolished. Transitional provisions were enacted for international companies that have been established prior to January 1, 2002 and that meet certain requirements are grand fathered until and including the year 2019.

In this respect, the Kingdom Tax Arrangement (TAK) has been amended as well. The NFF and the TAK are complimentary to each other. The amendment of the TAK was introduced with effect January 1, 2002.

Banks The about seven onshore banks and over forty international banks offer a wide range of international banking services for individual, institutional- and corporate clients.

Trust Companies Rendering services as to the incorporation of corporations, rendering of a
International Financial

domicile, corporate management, taking care of corporate books and records, business correspondence and financial record keeping, furnishing nominees, etc. are tasks that in Curaçao are typically taken care of by Trust Companies.

For detailed information on the possibilities which Curaçao is offering within the scope of its corporate and tax legislation kindly contact either:

The Curaçao International Financial Services Association (CIFA)
Chumaceiro Boulevard 3
P.O.Box 3889
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Phone: (599-9) - 461 53 71
Fax: (599-9) – 461 53 78
Email: mellis@attglobal.net
info@CIFA.an

or

Association of Offshore Bankers in the Netherlands Antilles (IBNA)
Chumaceiro Boulevard 3
P.O.Box 220
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
Phone: (599-9) - 461 53 71
Fax: (599-9) – 461 53 69/ 461 53 78
Email: mellis@attglobal.net
info@ibna.an

TOURISM AND RESORT DEVELOPMENT

- Principal Features of the Tourism Product
- Trends in Visitor Arrivals
- Support for Tourism Investment Projects

Principal Features of the Tourism Product

Beaches and Marine Assets

The scenic southwest coast includes large sheltered bays, inland water areas and small coves with beaches.

World-class diving and snorkeling facilities, including a National Underwater Park.

Excellent deep-sea fishing and water sports.

Sites available for development.

Other Attractions

The city of Willemstad is one of the most picturesque and interesting capitals in the Caribbean. It combines a unique, Dutch-influenced architecture, multiple forts, an extensive waterfront, and a variety of shopping and recreational attractions. Extensive restoration has enhanced Willemstad's attractiveness.

Historic estates, known as land houses, are unique architectural gems, many of which have been restored as tourist attractions and facilities.

Historic sites relate to the island's unique colonial heritage.

The St. Christoffel Park, an 1,860-hectare national park, features a mountain for hiking and the island's semi-arid vegetation and wildlife.

Several casinos can be visited.

A wide range of excellent restaurants supported by tourists and local clientele can be found.

Key Market Segments

Vacationers from North America, Europe and Latin America with the most rapid growth in North America and Europe.

Business executives associated with the financial sector, International Trade Center, refinery and other businesses.

Caribbean and South American visitors interested in shopping and recreation.

Dive and watersports visitors.

Trends in Visitor Arrivals¹⁰

Item	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
North American visitors	33,463	32,848	32,020	34,464	40,903
European visitors	69,462	68,001	61,105	66,082	70,390
Caribbean visitors	40,460	39,279	34,081	33,246	45,319
South American visitors	51,497	41,200	45,441	46,587	54,784
Other	3,688	4,608	4483	6,794	6,567
	198,570	198,271	191,237	204,603	217,963
Percent change	-3.16%	-3.54%	9.19%	7.0%	6.53
<i>Total visitor nights</i>	1,449,394	1,595,298	1,556,664	1,709,533	1810.661
Avg. length of stay (nights)	7.8	8.5	8.16.	8.32	8.4
Occupancy rates	60.48%	71,02%	60.79%	63.75%	57%
Cruise ship passengers	230,986	220,706	308,281	300,738	319,067
Percent change	6.60%	-4,45%	40.17%	-2.45%	6.31
No. of rooms	2,528	2,723	2,841	3,095* ^o	
Percent change	0,00%	7,71%	n.a.	n.a.	

* These figures exclude small hotels and apartments. However, the figures for the following years include these two items.

*^o Total rooms as per February 2002, CTDB data includes private apartments and small hotels.

¹⁰Source : Curaçao Tourism Development Bureau.

Support for Tourism Investment Projects

<i>Identification and Follow-up of Opportunities</i>	The Curaçao Tourism Development Bureau will assist investors in identifying potential projects, obtaining the necessary permits and approvals, and providing information based on an ongoing research program.
<i>Investment Incentives</i>	<p>Incentives are being provided by the government on an investment of at least US\$ 560,000 in facilities for accommodation and recreation. The incentives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 5 to 11 year tax holiday on real estate and occupancy taxes. • A 5 to 11 year reduction of the corporate profit tax to only 2%. • Exemptions from import duties on materials and goods used in construction. • Exemption from personal income tax on income in excess of US\$ 5,600 derived from profits on which the reduced (2%) levy was applied.
<i>Financing</i>	<p>Some local equity and debt financing may be available for projects.</p> <p>For more information, please contact:</p> <p>Curaçao Tourism Development Bureau Pietermaai 19 Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles Phone: (599-9) – 434-8200 Fax : (599-9) – 461-2305 (599-9) – 461-5017 Email : ctdbcur@attglobal.net Website : http://www.ctb.an (corporate site) http://www.curacao-tourism.com (general tourist info.)</p>

TELECOMMUNICATION

- Telecommunications in general
- E-commerce

Telecommunications

The Netherlands Antilles and specifically Curaçao has an excellent telecommunications infrastructure. This telecommunications infrastructure is considered one of the best in the Caribbean region. It also is on par with US and European standards. The aforementioned telecommunications infrastructure includes very modern digital switches, direct telephone links worldwide, mobile networks, satellite link-ups, and fiber optic cabling.

The telecommunications industry in Curaçao is re-investing most of its profits into new infrastructure. The recent connection to and operation of the Americas II and Arcos-1 fiber optic cables are examples of the investments being made to enhance the telecommunications infrastructure is proof of Curaçao's intention to become *the* information hub of the Caribbean. These fiber optic connections connect Curaçao with almost every island and country in the Caribbean and also connect Curaçao to Miami (USA) and Fortaleza (Brasil).

Telecommunications is considered one of the key elements in the overall infrastructure and economic development of Curaçao. It is the policy of the Government to privatize its belongings in the telecommunications sector. The goal of the privatization process is to improve the services being offered, lower prices, and increase quality of service and to attract investors to upgrade the network infrastructure to world standards.

In 2000 the Government defacto liberalized the international telephone market. A year prior to this the mobile market was liberalized. The law, which went into vigor, is being revised and should come into effect somewhere in 2002. This law will enable liberalization, enforce fair competition and universal service obligation.

The telecommunications sector in Curaçao consists of a handful telecommunications companies. The oldest is the government owned incumbent: United Telecommunications Services Holding in which some six companies resort: Antelecom (international carrier), SETEL (local loop and cellular), ATM (television broadcast), TDS (cable), CurInfo (ISP), TeleLease (computer and PBX lease). Other companies are Curaçao Telecom (international carrier and cellular), GSN (international carrier), ANM (international carrier), All American Cables (telex and telegrams) and calling card and VoIP providers like GCN and Phalanx.

The current telecommunications infrastructure is equipped with telex, fax services, entrance to merconon, viditel and direct satellite connections. Communications with the rest of the world is of very good quality without disturbances. Additional services are the mobile communication (both TDMA and GSM), audiotext, voice mail and ISDN.

E-commerce

In 2000 Curaçao positioned itself as one of the world's leading e-commerce hubs. Special laws e.g. the National Ordinance Agreements by Electronic Means has been introduced, establishing the legal principles for the conduct of e-commerce and the processing of electronic transactions, the Ordinance regarding E-Zones has been amended and amplified to the extend that an e-zone status can be obtained outside the traditional physical free trade zones, the introduction of special tax legislation for international Internet-based companies that qualify for the establishment in the privileged E-Zone areas, paying only 2% profit tax, no import duties nor sales tax and entitling expatriate employees of a global Internet company established in the E-

Zones of Curaçao to a special income tax regime. Besides that Curaçao has a sound regulation and supervision of the Internet gaming and entertainment industry. These measures firmly put the Curaçao's e-commerce infrastructure in place.

A final touch is presently being added by the new multifunctional data center, which will be the central element in the ambitious and prestigious E-Commerce Park project that is being established in Curaçao. The initial bandwidth of tens to hundreds of megabytes, available to the park's residents, is provided via the Arcos fiber-optic cable that delivers an enormous capacity. The available bandwidth will be up to the highest international standards, competitive in price and can be expanded at any time. The location of the data center at the landing point of the Arcos cable ensures that there will be high-quality, continuous 24x7 service.

With a huge gaming sector, local banks offering e-services, financial offshore companies hosting international ecompanies, a balanced OECD compliant tax system and the aforementioned telecommunications infrastructure Curaçao is on its way to realize its goal to become one of the premier hubs of the region and world.