GBBC GSMI 7.0

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DIGITAL PAYMENTS AND THE EMERGING DIGITAL ECONOMY IN THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN

OVERVIEW OF LANDSCAPE

REGION	CENTRAL BANK	PAYMENT METHODS & INFRASTRUCTURE	CURRENCY USE
 ARUBA	Central Bank of Aruba (CBA)	I-Pago instant interbank transfers; cards, online banking, and mobile services such as Pay.aw	Aruban florin (AWG), pegged to the U.S. dollar; U.S. dollars also widely accepted
 CURAÇAO	Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten (CBCS)	Shared IP-CSM instant-payment infrastructure with Sint Maarten; cards, online banking, payment gateways, and mobile/QR services	Caribbean guilder (XCG), which replaced the Netherlands Antillean guilder in March 2025; U.S. dollars also used
 SINT MAARTEN	Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten (CBCS)	Shared IP-CSM instant-payment infrastructure with Curaçao; cards, electronic transfers, payment gateways, and mobile services	Caribbean guilder (XCG); U.S. dollars widely used in everyday commerce, with access to euros through the island's French side

Note on the Caribbean Netherlands: *Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba are public bodies of the Netherlands, subject to Dutch financial supervision, and use the U.S. dollar as legal tender. They fall outside the report's main analysis but remain connected to the wider Dutch Caribbean through trade and economic relationships*

KEY STATISTICS



23% of respondents use cash daily and 31% weekly

84% foresee decreased cash usage due to the convenience of electronic payments



8% of respondents operate entirely in cash without bank accounts



88% of residents report holding cash

80% withdraw cash specifically to make purchases

SHARED CHALLENGES

- **Banking access:** Bureaucratic processes and high administrative fees also increase barriers for both individuals and SMEs
- **Acceptance and reliability:** Consumers may revert to cash because of merchant acceptance limitations, network outages, or transaction costs
- **Regional fragmentation:** Individual platforms often operate in multiple territories, but the differences between currency and banking jurisdictions create structural frictions for region-wide electronic transfers
- **Continued role of cash:** Digital payments should be positioned as complementary to cash rather than as a replacement

Source: *GBBC, GSMI 7.0, Digital Payments and the Emerging Digital Economy in the Dutch Caribbean (2026)*

Produced October 2026