

The shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles

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Abstract

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen.

In the last decade, there are strong indications of an expansion in shadow economic activities in the Netherlands Antilles, which is caused by the high tax burden and high unemployment. This paper attempts to measure the size of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles using two distinct estimation methods: the direct and indirect approach. Both methods produced similar results, showing the size of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles to be approximately 11% of GDP.

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Introduction

The existence of a shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles is unquestionable. The familiar view of street vendors, car washers, among others, earning their day-to-day living, by offering goods and services are simple illustrations of this worldwide phenomenon. Our first attempt to measure the size of the shadow economy² of the Netherlands Antilles was in 2002. This working paper is an updated version of our first publication, “175 years of Central Banking in the Netherlands Antilles, the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles,” October 2002. There are strong indications that the shadow economy is growing. Especially, the growing unemployment related to the recessions in the late nineties, induced the labor force to be creative by starting up small scale, low overhead cost enterprises in the shadow economy. In the early 2000, the foreign demand for drugs and the high value added created by this sector, made the flourishing illegal shadow economy³ more visible.

The objective of this paper is to calculate the size of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles using applicable estimation methods. The results must be considered as preliminary. It is important to have an estimate of the size of the shadow economy, due to the following reasons:

- (1) Forecasting without the shadow economy data underestimates the macro economic key variables.
- (2) Simulation of shocks will create distorted information leading to incorrect policy implementation.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 1 provides an overview about the economy of the Netherlands Antilles. Section 2 defines the shadow economy, describes the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles, and presents the different estimation methods. In section 3, the size and the economic structure of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles is estimated using the indirect and direct approach. In section 4, the paper concludes with a summary and some recommendations.

1. The Netherlands Antilles: An overview

Monetary policy

The official tender in the Netherlands Antilles is the Netherlands Antillean guilder (NAf.). The primary objective of the Central Bank is to maintain the external value of the Antillean guilder. To achieve this goal, the monetary policy of the Central Bank is aimed towards maintaining a fixed peg with the US\$. As of December 23, 1971 the parity between the two currencies has been 1 US\$ = 1.79 NAf. The peg is fixed towards the US\$ given the fact that one of our main trading partners is the United States. To guarantee the fixed peg between the NAf. and the US\$, the Central Bank has to maintain a level of official reserves (excluding gold) that cover at least three months of merchandise imports. Monetary policy instruments

² The shadow economy represents economic activities that take place outside the formal norms of economic transactions. In this paper, informal sector and the shadow economy are the same concept.

³ See for additional definitions in section 2.

in use by the Central Bank are mainly aimed at influencing the liquidity position of the commercial banks. The instruments used in the implementation of the Bank's monetary policy are the reserve requirement, the policy on foreign positions, and the use of money market instruments.

Fiscal policy

During the seventies, the government budget expanded, owing to the tax revenues collected from the international financial companies, mainly from the United States. In the period of 1980 -1990, the government budget was severely affected by two main events: (1) the repeal of the withholding tax in the United States, which affected the international financial sector; and (2) the departure of the multinational company 'Shell.' Since 1986, the Venezuelan company, 'PDVSA,' has been leasing the refinery. The refinery is exempted from profit tax and import duties. These events forced the government in 1986 to initiate a restructuring program in order to reduce the fiscal deficit. This was followed by consecutive programs related to budget reduction. Fiscal policy shifted from an expansionary policy to a budget reduction policy. During this period, arrears accrued in nearly all sectors related to the government. The pension fund and the health sector, among others, were severely affected by the huge arrears. Government investment was postponed, which hampered government services. Merging, privatization, reduction of subsidies, termination of government services, and raising the taxes and social security premiums were the main points of policy action.

The economic structure

The economy of the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles is largely dependent on service related activities. Trade, international financial, transportation, and tourism sectors are well developed foreign exchange and employment generating sectors. Moreover, the oil refining industry and ship repair sector have contributed substantially to the economic diversification.

The structure of the economy has changed over the last decades. The decline in government revenues, due to the elimination of the withholding tax in the United States in 1983 has forced the government to restructure. The government lowered its share in production from 18.5% in 1979 to 13.6% in 2004 (Table 1). In the private sector, the share of GDP of the transportation, storage & communication sector shrank considerably from 20.8% in 1979 to 9.5% in 2004. Contrary, the financial and business services sectors expanded substantially from 15.5% of GDP in 1979 to 29.2% of GDP in 2004. The economy of the Netherlands Antilles is open and relatively small in scale, thus largely affected by global developments and external shocks. The imports to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio averaged 81% in the period of 1996 – 2004. The exports to GDP ratio averaged 75% in the period 1996 – 2004.

Table 1: Gross Domestic Product by sector: 1979 -2004

Gross Domestic Product by sector (%)	1979	1987	1997	2004
Agriculture, fishing, and mining	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Manufacturing	7.9	5.8	6.2	5.5
Public utilities	2.0	4.0	4.2	4.7
Construction	9.1	7.1	5.9	5.1
Wholesale and retail sale	17.2	21.1	13.2	12.0
Restaurants and hotels	4.3	6.4	3.8	3.9
Transportation, storage, and communication	20.8	10.8	9.8	9.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, and business services	15.5	19.9	26.5	29.2
Community, social, and personal services	6.9	10.6	7.5	8.4
Value added private sector	84.3	86.4	77.7	78.9
- Imputed service charge	2.8	3.6	2.4	2.2
Taxes less subsidies	N/A	N/A	7.7	9.7
Value added government	18.5	17.2	17.0	13.6
Gross Domestic Product	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: National Accounts, Central Bureau of Statistics

2. Shadow economy: definitions and comparisons

In the literature, there exist a large range of different terminologies that are commonly used for the unmeasured economy: informal sector, underground economy, shadow economy, hidden economy, parallel economy, subterranean economy, cash economy, and black market. There is no common understanding about the definitions of these terms, resulting in wide interpretation as each author has its own. The shadow economy is defined as economic activities taken place outside the formal norms of economic transactions, which are established by the state and formal business practices. These are generally small scale or micro-business that is individual or family self-employment. Activities in the shadow economy can be both legal and illegal:

- Illegal activities involving the production of goods and services that are prohibited by law or that are unlawful when carried out by unauthorized producers (e.g. drug trafficking, money laundering, briberies, and illegal prostitution practices).
- Legal activities that are intentionally hidden from public authorities to avoid paying taxes or complying with regulations (e.g. lack of proper business permits, violation of zoning codes, labor regulations governing contracts and work conditions, and/or the lack of legal guarantees in relations with suppliers and clients).

Table 2 gives an overview of the shadow economy from the production of legal or illegal goods and services, either from monetary or barter transactions.

Table 2: Types of underground economic activities

Type of activity	Monetary transactions		Non-monetary transactions	
Illegal Activities	Trade with stolen goods; drug dealing and manufacturing; prostitution; gambling; smuggling; fraud; etc.		Barter of drugs, stolen goods, smuggling etc. Produce or growing drugs for own use. Theft for own use.	
	Tax evasion	Tax avoidance	Tax evasion	Tax avoidance
Legal Activities	Unreported income from self-employment; wages, salaries and assets from unreported work related to legal services and goods.	Employee discounts, fringe benefits	Barter of legal services and goods.	All do-it- yourself work and neighbor help.

Source: Lippert and Walker (1997)

The size of the shadow economy in the region

Estimates obtained for the shadow economy in the region, using the Tanzi currency demand approach shows that the range between the countries varies significantly. For example, the estimated size of the shadow economy in Guyana was about 40% of GDP⁴ (2000), Trinidad & Tobago was 10% of GDP⁵ (1999), whereas Barbados was 0.03% of GDP⁶ (2000).

2. 1. The shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles

The informal or shadow economy has also undergone structural changes in the Netherlands Antilles, as various regulations regarding this sector have been introduced and enforced over the last decades. However, a government policy towards legalizing the informal sector has not been explicitly stated. In short, a summary of some government policies implemented to regulate the informal sector. In 1986, the government legalized the sale of the lotteries, which was a rapidly expanding shadow economic activity. Since 1993, several laws on money laundering have been implemented. In 1997, suppliers for small credit of consumer goods purchases came under supervision of the Central Bank. In 2000, the government reinforced the regulation of `snack bars,' as they were expanding and operating without a business license. With these regulations in place, abovementioned sectors that were active in the shadow economy switched to the official economy. In the early 2000s, the illegal activities related to drug trafficking became transparent. Drugs were transported from South America via Curaçao to Europe. In 2001, the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and the airlines agreed to take measures to interdict drug smugglers on the transatlantic flights.

The increasing number of illegal immigrants that were active on the labor market was officially registered in 2001. The Island Government of Curaçao granted a grace period in 2001 to illegal immigrants that have entered the country before August 2001 to apply for a

⁴ Faal, E. (2003)

⁵ Maurin, Alain, Sookram, S, Watson, P.K. (2003)

⁶ Mayers, Stuart, Darrin Downes, and Kevin Greenidge (2002)

residence permit and or work permit. The number of illegal immigrants in Curaçao was approximately 6,000 during that period.⁷ In Appendix A the most common activities by sector in the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles are presented.

2.2. Causes and consequences of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles

In this section, we go more in-depth into the causes and consequences of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles. In many other countries, the shadow economy has the same roots and to a great extent similar disadvantages as in the case of the Netherlands Antilles. The following factors may increase the size of the shadow economy:

Recession, poverty, and a structural mismatch in the labor market

Recessions, poverty, and the mismatch in the labor market can lead to a growth in activities of the shadow economy. For years, the Netherlands Antilles has been suffering from structural unemployment, as the skills of the jobseekers do not match with the characteristics of the job vacancies. Employers and investors complain that there is a lack of qualified people to employ. There is a paradoxical situation on the labor market, as the high unemployment often coexists with vacancies in the low skilled labor-intensive occupations. Additionally, the demand for jobs is reduced by the economic slowdown. Some of the unemployed migrate to the Netherlands and others become discouraged and give up looking for work. A number of these unemployed are forced by survival strategies to perform legal informal activities, frequently in the trade and community & social services sectors, while others get involved in illegal activities. It has become quite common for many disadvantaged individuals to serve as “drug mules” to smuggle drugs to Europe.

Besides the economic slowdown, the high unemployment rate in the Netherlands Antilles has been partly blamed on the social benefits; the poverty trap. The unemployed, with no source of income, can apply for welfare payments the so called ‘onderstand’, obtain free healthcare and medication, subsidies for housing, electricity, and clothing for their children. Although most of these benefits are not received as an income, their aggregated value can outweigh the income of being employed and earning a minimum wage without the mentioned social benefits. For more details, see the study “Introductie plaatsing bevoorderingsinstrument ‘Rumbi pa trabou.’” A large number of people that are collecting social benefits are also employed in the informal sector.

High tax and social security burden

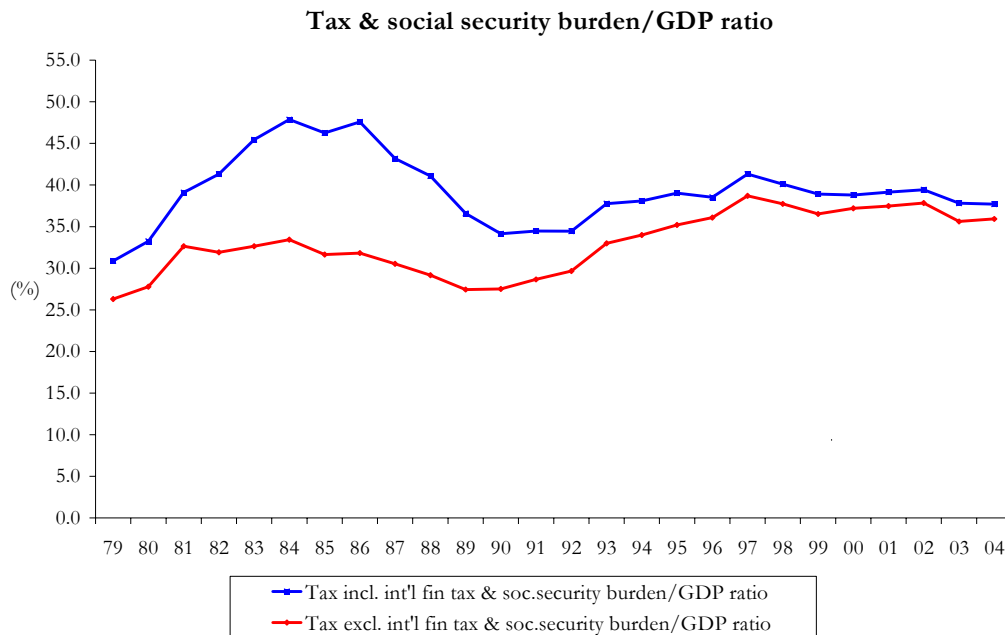
The high tax and social security burden induces people to evade the current system and avoid paying taxes and social security premiums. The shadow economy is providing both the employees as well as employers the appropriate environment for joining demand and supply of services, resulting in a lower than the “official” market price. In the Netherlands Antilles,

⁷ NAVAS system of the Office of Immigration of Curaçao

this burden has enticed the people to shift from the official economy to the shadow economy. In addition, the tax system in the Netherlands Antilles is rather complex, which induces people to find ways to avoid paying taxes.

Over the years, the tax and social security system has changed in the Netherlands Antilles. Figure 1 presents the development of the tax and social security burden including or excluding the international financial tax. The tax and social security burden including the international financial tax was on average 39% during the period 1979-2004. The loss of the profit tax from the international financial sector led to a drop in the tax & social security burden after 1990. Whereas the tax & social security burden excluding the international financial tax was on average 33% during the same period. To analyze the domestic tax burden, we make use of the tax & social security burden excluding the international financial tax. Since 1991, the tax and social security burden has been showing an increasing trend.

Figure 1



The rising trend in the tax and social security burden was the result of various changes in the system. The changes occurred in both the direct and the indirect taxes, as well as in the social premium systems. See Box 1 for detailed information on these changes.

Box 1: Background information on the developments on the direct and indirect taxes, and social premium systems

In the direct tax system the following occurred:

- In 1994, the income tax law was modified, allowing married couples to file their income tax separately. Interest, dividend, and other capital gains are added to the highest income earner.
- In 1997, the pay-as-you-file self-assessment system for the profit tax was introduced.
- In December 1999, the Parliament approved a new fiscal regime (NFR) legislation eliminating the distinction between onshore and international financial sector profit taxes. The profit tax rate was changed from a tax bracket system (39%-45%) to a flat rate system (34.5% including the island surcharge). The NFR law became effective in January 2001.
- In 2001, deductions to income and profit taxes were eliminated or restricted, raising the tax burden.

Amendments in the indirect tax and social premiums were as follows:

- Prior to the implementation of the structural adjustment program (SAP), a 6% sales tax (ABB) was introduced on the Leeward Islands on July 1, 1996.
- A 3% turnover tax (BBO) was introduced on the Windward Islands on January 1, 1997.
- On January 1, 1999, the 6% sales tax (ABB) was eliminated on the Leeward Islands. Simultaneously, the turnover tax (BBO) on the Windward Islands was reduced from 3% to 2%.
- The sales tax was replaced by a 2% turnover tax (NAOB) on the Leeward Islands during March-May 1999, which was subsequently raised to 5% in October 1999.
- On May 1, 2000, the turnover tax (BBO) on the Windward Islands was raised from 2% to 3%.
- In 2001-2005, the economic levies on imported goods were phased out.
- In 1997, a health insurance scheme was introduced for the chronically ill patients (AVBZ).

Intensity of government regulations, e.g. labor market regulations

The rise of intensity of regulations, usually determined by the number of laws and regulations, like licenses requirements can lead to higher labor costs in the official economy. Labor market regulations and labor restrictions can lead to an increase of the shadow economy. To avoid the complex labor law regulations and to lower the labor costs, employers have the tendency to hire workers informally. According to Johnson, Kaufmann, and Zoido-Lobatón (1998a, b), countries that have relatively low tax and regulatory burden, sizeable revenue collection, and good rule of law also have a lower occurrence of corruption and a relatively smaller shadow economy.

In 2000, the government of Curaçao initiated a process to make the labor market more flexible. However, some of the measures that were introduced to flexibilize the labor market in 2000 have been retracted in 2003. According to a survey by the Caribbean Rim Investment Initiative performed in 2003, many investors claimed that the Netherlands Antillean labor market regulations and labor restrictions are too rigid.

To avoid the complex labor law regulations (red tape) and to lower the labor costs (e.g. minimum wage and severance pay); employers are more inclined to use workers that are willing to work underground. Being unemployed and the need to survive, encourages the individual to work in the shadow economy.

Many immigrants from South America and the Caribbean, e.g. Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Haiti, seek refuge and employment in the Netherlands Antilles. Most of these immigrants lack the proper paper work, because they enter the country with a tourist visa and overstay the stated period. Some employers prefer to hire illegal migrants, because they can evade the payment of social security and other taxes. These workers often are paid less for similar tasks or are concentrated in low-paid or unskilled and semi-skilled labor-intensive activities and are usually employed on a temporary basis. Thus, both the employer and employee have a shadow economy position.

On the long run, a growing shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles has its repercussions, because:

- The official statistics becomes unreliable. Policies and programs that are based on unreliable data are often flawed. For example, programs with the objective to reduce unemployment will not be effective, because a large number of these lower-skilled or semi-skilled people are already employed in the informal sector. Moreover, some of these people are not willing to work in the official economy, as they do not want to lose their social benefits.
- Lower tax revenue and social security income, due to a lack of compliance. The people working informally do not comply with the tax payments and social security premiums, but they do benefit from the public services, e.g. healthcare and education.
- Distorted competition, owing to tax evasion. Informal firms offering cheaper prices can force honest businesses into underground or out of the market. For example, businesses offering cheaper prices for goods and services when paid in cash instead of checks or credit cards.

2.3. Different approaches for estimating the size of the shadow economy

There are two approaches that can be used to measure the size of the shadow economy, which are: (1) direct approaches (based on surveys and tax auditing); and (2) indirect approaches (model approach based on macro economic indicators)

Direct approaches frequently use both surveys and samples based on voluntary responses, or tax auditing and other compliance schemes. However, these survey methods have its

weaknesses, because both accuracy and results rely heavily upon the interviewers' willingness to collaborate and their incentive to provide correct responses.

The indirect approaches are mainly based on macro economic indicators, which "leave a trail" of an existence of a shadow economy. Presently, there are five indicators that leave some "traces" of the shadow economy, which are the following:

1. The discrepancy between national expenditure and income statistics
2. The discrepancy between the official and the actual labor force
3. Monetary methods (transaction approach and currency demand approach)
4. The physical input (electricity consumption) method
5. The model approach

In our paper, we use both the direct and the indirect methods to estimate the size of the shadow economy. Our direct approach is based on the sample data from the Labor Force Sample Surveys (LFSS) gathered by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Two indirect methods have been used, which are the currency demand approach and the electricity method.

3. The size of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles

According to international literature, there is a close relationship between people who are employed in official labor market and those in the shadow economy, e.g. people employed in the official economy can also be employed in the shadow economy. The shadow labor market in the Netherlands Antilles takes the following forms: (1) people, who prefer to work underground for numerous reasons. These people are classified as unemployed in the official labor force; (2) a second job after (or even during) regular working hours; (3) work of individuals, e.g. retirees, receiving pensions, who are not part of the official labor market; and (4) employment of illegal immigrants, who do not have a permit to work in the official economy.

3.1. Direct approach: labor market

The direct approach we have used to estimate the size of the shadow economy is based on the information from CBS's Labor Force Sample Surveys (LFSS) of 2004 and 2005. This survey measures the number of persons that are informally employed in the formal and informal sector. Informal workers are usually not subject to standard labor legislation, i.e. taxation and social protection.

In short, the results of the LFSS show that the share of informally employed in relation to the total employed is about 24% in the Netherlands Antilles. It also reveals that more women than men are employed in the informal sector. Approximately 68% of these individuals have a secondary education.⁸ For further details on the LFSS study see Appendix B.

⁸ MAVO/LBO/VSBO

The LFSS has its limitations, as it may underestimate the actual total informally working persons in the Netherlands Antilles, because of the following reasons:

- It does not take into account people involved in illegal shadow economic activities, such as drug trafficking and prostitution.
- Individuals working less than 4 hours per week are regarded as unemployed. Therefore, they are excluded from the employed working population. Whereas the possibility that individuals working less than 4 hours per week are more likely to be working underground.
- It does not measure individuals that have more than one job. According to international literature, most people employed in the shadow economy usually have a second job after (or even during) regular working hours.

Next, we present the methodology used to estimate the size of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles based on the LFSS data.

Methodology

As aforementioned, the dataset we have used to estimate the size of the shadow economy is drawn from the LFSS. The concept of value added is used. Value added by definition is the sum of the total wages, profits, and rent.

- (1) To assess the annual wages, the number of employed in the shadow economy in each sector is being multiplied by an estimated average wage rates. The assumption is that the average wage rates of the informal workers is about 20% less than those paid to the formal worker; It is obvious that persons working informally, earn comparatively less income per month than those in the formal economy. Therefore, the minimum wage of NAf.1,000 per month is used as the benchmark for the informal wage rate. However, in some sectors, such as the financial & business, public administration & education, and health & social work, we assume that informal workers earn on average more than the minimum wage. The people in these sectors are usually skilled workers. We have taken into account that most of the informal workers are employed 40 hours per week. According to the LFSS, about 50% of the individuals employed in the informal sector work 40 hours per week. Furthermore, about 34% of these informally employed work 33 hours per week.
- (2) To reach to the total value added in the shadow economy, we have raised the total annual wages by multiplying each sector by a factor. This factor represents the missing information about individuals that are working less than 4 hours, 'moonlighting,' and involved in illegal shadow economic activities. This factor also includes the value of the profits & rents.

The size of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles is estimated to be approximately 11% of GDP in 2005. The results show that wholesale & retail (3.4% of GDP) make up the largest share of the shadow economy. This is followed by, financial & business services (1.8% of GDP), public administration/education (1.3% of GDP), and construction (0.9% of GDP). Table 3 illustrates the size of the shadow economy by sector.

Table 3: Shadow economy by sector in the Netherlands Antilles (2005)

Sector	% by sector of GDP
Manufacturing/Electricity	0.5
Construction	0.9
Wholesale & retail trade	3.4
Hotels & restaurants	0.7
Transport, storage & communication	0.7
Financial/business services	1.8
Public administration/education	1.3
Health & social work	0.5
Community & social services	0.6
Private households	0.5
Other/unknown	0.1
Total	11

Source: Estimate by the BNA

3.2. Indirect approaches

Monetary methods

In general, shadow economic activities are dealt in cash, so to avoid leaving too many traces behind. It is assumed that shadow economic activities are expanding when demand for cash increases above the 'normal' relative or absolute value. There are two different approaches to determine the size of the shadow economy and its progress over time using monetary statistics. There is the transactions and currency demand approach, but in the case of the Netherlands Antilles, we use the currency demand approach.

The currency demand approach

This method was developed by Cagan (1958), based on a correlation of the currency demand and the tax pressure (as one of the causes of the shadow economy) for the United States during the period 1919-1955. Gutmann (1977) used the same approach and basically studied the ratio between currency and demand deposits. The work of Cagan was further developed by Tanzi (1980, 1983), who econometrically estimated the currency demand function for the United States for the period 1929-1980. He assumed that shadow transactions are done in cash payments, so as to leave no observable traces for the authorities. An increase in the size of the shadow economy will increase the demand for currency.

The regression equation for the currency demand, proposed by Tanzi (1983) is:

$$\ln (C/M2)_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln (1 + TW)_t + \beta_2 \ln (WS/NI)_t + \beta_3 \ln R_t + \beta_4 \ln (Y/N)_t + u_t \quad (1)$$

- C/M2 : the ratio of cash holding to current and deposit accounts,
 TW : a weighted average tax rate (to proxy changes in the size of the shadow economy),
 WS/NY : the proportion of wages and salaries in national income (to capture changing payments and money holding patterns),
 R : the interest paid on savings deposits (to capture the opportunity cost of holding cash),
 Y/N : the per capita real income.

As the level of taxation rises, individuals are encouraged to engage in tax-evading activities that are facilitated by the use of currency, as this practice leaves no traces, raising the use of currency ($\beta_1 > 0$). Because wages are mostly paid in currency, especially daily workers, compared to other types of income (interest, dividends) that are mostly paid in checks, an increase of wages in total income will require more currency ($\beta_2 > 0$). Meanwhile, increase of real income per capita, as proxy of economic growth, is assumed to lead to the replacement of currency by checks, thus leading to a fall in the ratio C/ M2 ($\beta_4 < 0$). Similarly, an increase in the interest rate increases the opportunity cost of holding currency, the ratio C/ M2 is expected to decline ($\beta_3 < 0$).

In this approach, the shadow economy is non-existent when the taxes are zero. The difference between the estimated currency (with taxes) and the estimated currency (under the assumption of zero taxes) produces an estimation of currency in the shadow economy. Tanzi assumes that the velocity of money in shadow economy is the same as in the official economy. The estimate of the size of the shadow economy is obtained by multiplying the currency in the shadow economy with the velocity of money.

This approach has been criticized on its method and assumptions:

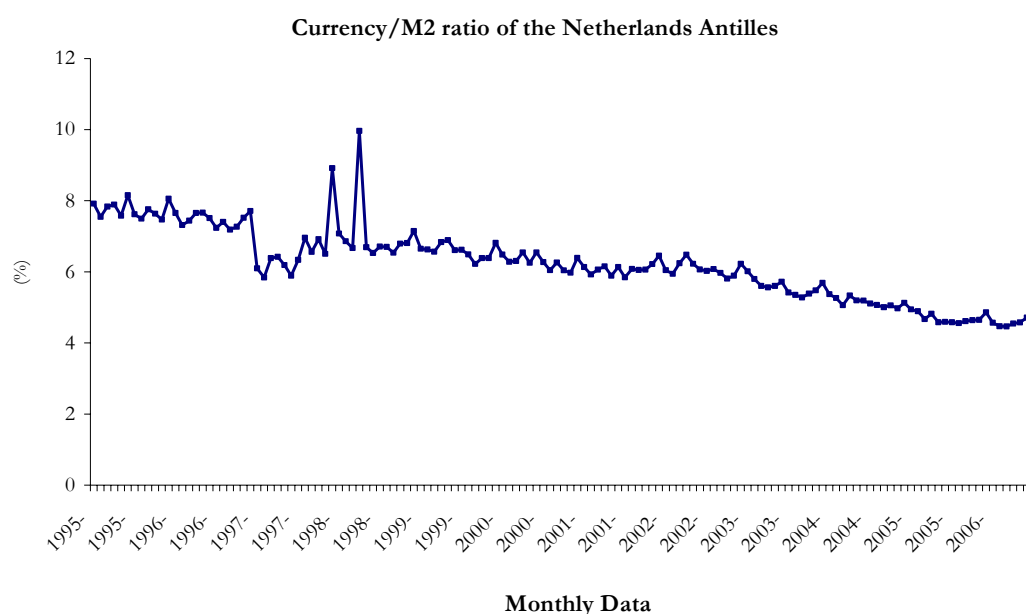
- Not all transactions in the shadow economy use cash as a means of exchange; therefore, the size of the shadow economy (including barter) may be underestimated.
- Besides tax burden, other factors, such as regulation, tax morality, and others that are unattainable and unreliable to all probability have an impact on the shadow economy.
- In the case of the United States, the rise in the currency/demand deposits is led mainly by a slowdown in demand deposits rather than to a rise in currency caused by activities in the shadow economy.
- The United States dollar is used as an international currency. As argued by Blades (1982) and Feige (1986, 1997), Tanzi should have considered (and controlled for) the United States dollars, which are used as international currency and held as cash reserves abroad.
- Similar velocity of money in the shadow and the official economy is debatable.
- A base year in the official economy with non-existent shadow economy. Relaxing this assumption would lead to an upward adjustment of the size of the shadow economy.

- Some activities are not the result of a high tax burden. Illegal activities for example are not the result of high taxation.

3.2.1. Currency demand approach for the Netherlands Antilles

The currency ratio relates the magnitude of the currency to M2. Transactions in currency are anonymous, while those involving checks leave an identifiable trace. In order to hide the source of income from tax or other authorities, participants in the shadow economy are more likely to use cash. In this sense, a rise in the currency ratio, *ceteris paribus*, could signify an increase of the shadow economy.

Figure 2



In the case of the Netherlands Antilles, the monthly data clearly shows a declining trend in the currency ratio. Using these data will imply a declining trend in the shadow economy in the period under review. However, we know that these data need to be adjusted based on certain well-known facts. Thus, the data are modified to include the information that is not accounted for in the currency data as published by the Central Bank.

- The stock of currency does not include foreign currency holdings. These holdings in the hands of the public are excluded from the currency stock by definition. However, in the Netherlands Antilles, the use of the dollar as means of exchange is quite substantial. In Curaçao and especially in St. Maarten, cash transactions in US\$ are common.
- In 2000, transatlantic drug trafficking to the Netherlands became more transparent. Especially, Curaçao served as a transit country for the drugs from South America to

the Netherlands. As indicator for these illegal transactions, we use the individual/family transfer data from our balance of payments (See Appendix C).

To modify the currency data, only the second factor has been taken into consideration.

Annual data have been used to estimate the equation, because the frequency of the explanatory variables, such as the tax rate and the real income, are only available on an annual basis. The empirical method used is the Error Correction Model (ECM) framework.⁹ We estimate two equations. The first equation is based on Tanzi's approach. As a proxy for the variable, proportion of wages and salaries in national income variable (WS/NI), we use the variable self employed (W_{self}). A general form of the first equation is the following:

$$\Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{tot})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \delta_0 * \Delta \ln (Y/P)_t + \lambda_0 * \Delta \ln (W_{self})_t + \alpha * (\ln (C/M2)_{t-1} - \beta_1 / \alpha * \ln (T_{tot})_{t-1} - \gamma_1 / \alpha * \ln R_{t-1} - \delta_1 / \alpha * \ln (Y/P)_{t-1} - \lambda_1 / \alpha * \ln (W_{self})_{t-1} - c/a) + u_t \quad (2)$$

Where

- C/M2 : the ratio of cash holdings to M2,
 T_{tot} : direct and indirect tax rate as (% GDP),
R : the interest paid on savings deposits (to capture the opportunity cost of holding cash),
Y/P : the real income,
 W_{self} : the number of self-employed persons.

The expected signs are $\beta_0, \beta_1 / \alpha > 0, \gamma_0, \gamma_1 / \alpha < 0, \delta_0, \delta_1 / \alpha < 0, \lambda_0, \lambda_1 / \alpha > 0$.

And a general form of the second equation:

$$\Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{ind})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \theta_0 * \Delta \ln (U_{no})_t + \lambda_0 * \Delta \ln (W_{self})_t + \alpha * (\ln (C/M2)_{t-1} - \beta_1 / \alpha * \ln (T_{ind})_{t-1} - \gamma_1 / \alpha * \ln R_{t-1} - \theta_1 / \alpha * \ln (U_{no})_{t-1} - \lambda_1 / \alpha * \ln (W_{self})_{t-1} - c/a) + u_t \quad (3)$$

Where

- T_{ind} : indirect tax rate (as % GDP),
 U_{no} : the number of unemployed persons,

The expected signs are $\beta_0, \beta_1 / \alpha > 0, \gamma_0, \gamma_1 / \alpha < 0, \theta_0, \theta_1 / \alpha > 0, \lambda_0, \lambda_1 / \alpha > 0$.

The second equation is an adjusted version of the Tanzi's approach. In this equation, the unemployed persons are included as an explanatory variable. The Netherlands Antillean economy has been growing, in nominal terms, in the last two decades. In contrast, the unemployment (rate) has remained high in the double-digits. Clearly, the economic growth has not been strong enough to curb the growing unemployment. The unemployment (rate) is a strong indicator of a growing shadow economy. The real income has not been included in the equations, as in our case, this variable is insignificant.

⁹ The ECM is described in more detail in Appendix D

Data

The annual data of the Netherlands Antilles we have used are from the period 1988-2004. The currency ratio and the interest rate on savings are from the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles. The number of unemployed and the number of self employed are from the data base of the Central Bank. Data on taxes, GDP, and the consumer price index of the Netherlands Antilles are from the Central Bureau of Statistics. Besides the currency, the GDP has been adjusted to obtain a consistent data set. More detailed information on the adjusted currency data can be found in Appendix C.

Results of estimation

To measure the size of the shadow economy, equations (2) and (3) are used. Equation (2) uses as the explanatory variables: total taxes, the interest rate, the self-employed, and the real income. Equation (3) uses the explanatory variables: the unemployed, the indirect tax, the interest rate, and the self-employed. The results have to be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size of the data. The asymptotic properties and model adequacy are summarized in Appendix D.

Tables 4 and 5 give an overview of the estimated results of each equation. Table 4 represents the results of the ECM using equation (2). According to Tanzi, an economy without shadow economic transactions is obtained under the assumption that total taxes are zero. To estimate the shadow currency (Table 4, first column), this estimated currency (without tax) is subtracted from the estimated currency (with tax). Lastly, the shadow economy (Table 4, third column) is measured by multiplying the shadow currency by the velocity of money of the official economy. The last column shows the shadow economy as percentage of GDP.

Table 5 represents the ECM with the unemployed, the indirect tax, the interest rate, and the self-employed as explanatory variables, as listed in equation (3). In this case, the indirect taxes are assumed to be zero. To obtain the shadow currency (Table 5, first column), the estimated currency (without tax), is subtracted from the estimated currency (with tax). The methodology to obtain the third and the last column of table 5 is similar to Table 4.

Both equations give approximately the same results. The tables show that in the period of 1988 – 2000, the shadow economy was about 6% of GDP. It rose to approximately 11% of GDP during the period 2001-2003.

**Table 4: Netherlands Antilles: estimates of shadow economy;
Currency approach (equation 2)**

	Shadow Money (in millions NAf)	Income velocity of money	Shadow economy (in millions NAf)	Shadow economy as % of GDP
1988	103.8	1.9	197.1	7
1989	96.5	2.1	201.1	6
1990	111.9	2.0	225.4	6
1991	120.9	2.0	241.6	6
1992	139.3	1.9	262.3	7
1993	143.6	1.9	266.5	6
1994	146.6	1.8	270.6	6
1995	170.4	1.8	306.2	7
1996	138.1	1.9	267.0	5
1997	176.4	1.9	335.3	7
1998	191.2	1.9	356.5	7
1999	178.8	1.7	309.5	6
2000	211.7	1.7	368.4	7
2001	341.2	1.6	531.7	10
2002	438.2	1.4	616.0	12
2003	450.8	1.3	606.0	11

**Table 5: Netherlands Antilles: estimates of shadow economy;
Currency approach (equation 3)**

	Shadow Money (in millions NAf)	Income velocity of money	Shadow economy (in millions NAf)	Shadow economy as % of GDP
1988	100.6	1.9	191.0	7
1989	96.4	2.1	200.8	6
1990	103.3	2.0	208.1	6
1991	117.4	2.0	234.7	6
1992	131.8	1.9	248.2	6
1993	146.7	1.9	272.2	6
1994	142.0	1.8	262.1	6
1995	152.3	1.8	273.5	6
1996	129.8	1.9	251.0	5
1997	172.6	1.9	328.1	7
1998	193.9	1.9	361.5	7
1999	183.1	1.7	317.0	6
2000	226.4	1.7	394.1	8
2001	355.7	1.6	554.2	11
2002	434.6	1.4	610.8	12
2003	450.4	1.3	605.4	11

3.2.2. Kaufman-Kaliberda Method

The physical input (electricity consumption) method

In general, the electricity/GDP elasticity has been observed to be close to one. According to the Kaufman-Kaliberda method, the shadow economy is the difference between the rate of the electricity consumption (indicator of the official and unofficial economy) and the rate of registered (official) GDP.

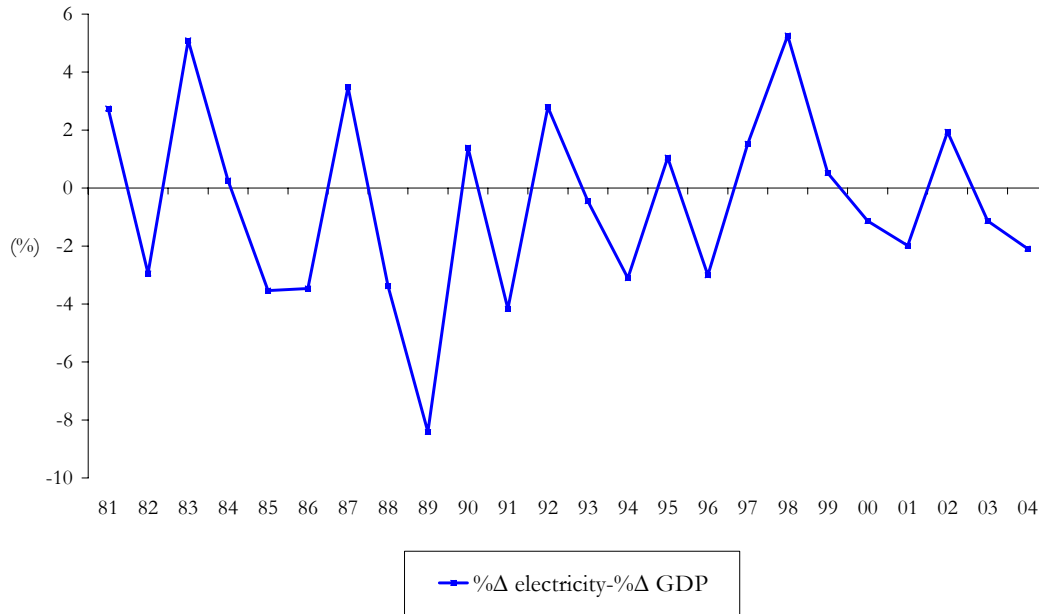
This is a simple method, because information is readily available and easily used. This method has been criticized:

- Not all shadow economy activities require electricity, because other energy sources can be used, so the shadow economy will be underestimated.
- Over time, technological changes have made the production and the use of electricity more efficient.
- The changes in the electricity/GDP elasticity may differ considerably over time and across countries.

We have tried to measure the growth of the shadow economy of the Netherlands Antilles with the Kaufman-Kaliberda method. Figure 3 shows that the shadow economy has been fluctuating over the last two decades. During the period 2000-2003, there were strong indications of a growing shadow economy, in contrast to the results obtained from this method. Therefore, in our view, this is an inappropriate method to measure the shadow economy.

Figure 3

Growth rate of shadow economy



4. Conclusion and recommendations

The literature on the shadow economy is expanding, as this subject has increased in importance worldwide. The causes and the consequences of the growing shadow economy are numerous. A growing shadow economy distorts the official data, providing policymakers with unreliable indicators, which can lead to wrong decisions. In this paper, we attempt to measure the size of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles. It is difficult to assess the size and the development of the shadow economy, because of a lack of information about the shadow economic activities, since the people involved in these activities prefer to stay unknown.

Three methods have been used for calculating the size of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles. These methods are the labor survey method, the currency demand approach, and the electricity consumption approach.

Our first approach is based on the dataset of the Labor Force Sample Survey (LFSS) by the Central Bureau of Statistics. These data involve individuals working informally in the informal and formal sectors in the Netherlands Antilles. This approach may underestimate the size of the shadow economy, as the LFSS has its limitations. The LFSS does not take into account the individuals that are involved in illegal activities, people working less than 4 hours a week, and the ones that are moonlighting. Therefore, the actual total informally working persons in the Netherlands Antilles could be underestimated. The result from this approach shows that the size of the shadow economy was about 11% of GDP in 2005.

The currency demand approach (Tanzi's approach) uses the stock of currency as a measure for the shadow economy. According to the theory, a higher stock of currency is an indication of an increasing shadow economy, as the players in this sector prefer to use cash in order to avoid any traces of their transactions. For this approach, we have modified the stock of currency of the Netherlands Antilles. As the foreign exchange cash is not part of the (cash) money, the cash money has been adjusted to include the euro for the period 2000-2003. This was due to substantial transatlantic drug trafficking transactions in euro during this period. The result from the currency approach shows that the shadow economy was on average 6% of GDP in 1988 – 2000. It rose to an average of 11% of GDP during the period 2001-2003.

Tanzi's approach is based on a zero tax rate to measure an economy without shadow economic transactions. Thus, when there are no taxes, there is no incentive to go underground. However, in our view, to reduce the shadow economy the level of taxation does not necessarily have to be equal to zero. Moreover, the level of taxation that minimizes the size of the shadow economy can differ per country. To reduce the shadow economy, an optimal tax rate should be considered.

Therefore, we propose a slight adjustment to Tanzi's assumption:

- (1) Estimate an optimal tax rate for each country, where the shadow economy is minimized. For example, in our case, a 50% reduction of the tax rates will reduce the informal economic activities considerably.
- (2) A 50% decline in the number of unemployed will reduce the shadow economy significantly.

Another method we have used is the electricity consumption method. This method uses electricity consumption as an indicator of the official and the shadow economy. Based on general information of the period under review, this is an inappropriate method to measure the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles.

Some recommendations with respect to the shadow economy are: (1) to reduce the tax rate, which will reduce the shadow economy activities; (2) to reduce the number of unemployed (with the elimination of poverty traps), resulting in a smaller shadow economy; and (3) to include shadow economy estimates in the National Accounts data.

This paper has provided some preliminary findings of the shadow economy in the Netherlands Antilles. Each method has produced relatively similar results. Some questions still need to be addressed: How is the shadow economy affecting the official economy and vice versa? How different is the business cycle of the shadow economy compared to the official economy? These questions may raise the attention on future research on this topic. The proposal to integrate the shadow economic activities (legal and illegal) in the National Accounts will provide researchers with the appropriate data that will further refine the assumptions, which will facilitate an in-depth analysis.

Appendix A

Activities by sector in the shadow economy in Curacao

On the micro level, the existence of the shadow economy is visible in almost all sectors. The shadow economic activities in Curacao, legal as well as illegal¹⁰, by sector are the following:

A. Agriculture and fishing

- Gardeners and horticulturists.
- Market vendors of fish and other agricultural products.

B. Construction

Building, repairing, and renovating, e.g. welding, carpentry, bricklaying, and painting.

C. Wholesale & trade and hotels & restaurants

C1. Wholesale & trade

- Clothing stores: undocumented or non registered sales persons.
- Selling food working from home; catering services.
- Market and street vending (newspapers, food, manufactured, and counterfeit goods).
- Repairing electronic appliances.
- Contraband (*). Stolen property exchanged/ sold cross border or domestically in barter/money transactions.
- Drug trafficking/smuggling and (*).

C2. Hotels & restaurants

- Hotels, restaurants, and snack bars: undocumented or non registered workers.
- Dance bars (exotic dance clubs) (*).
- Illegal gambling (*).

D. Transportation

- Transportation of garbage and construction related activities.
- Automobile maintenance and car repairs (car washing & mechanical services).

E. Financial/ business activities, education, culture, and sports

- Private tuition and coaching.
- Private jobs in the professional services, e.g. bookkeeping, administration, computer programming, etc.

¹⁰ Illegal activities are denoted with a (*)

- Cultural events, e.g. carnival activities, selling, sewing, etc.

F. Community, social, and other services

- Domestic work, e.g. senior caretakers, servants, childcare takers, and day care providers.
- Subcontractors hired by security services.
- Hairdressers/beauticians.
- Nightclub dancers.
- Prostitution (*).

Appendix B

Table B shows some of the LFSS results, for more detailed information see the paper “National Employment Report Netherlands Antilles”. Wholesale & retail is the largest employer of informally employed workers, followed by financial/business services and construction. The people employed in private households are automatically incorporated in the total informal sector.

Table B: Informally employed by sector in the Netherlands Antilles (2005)

Sector	Informal	Total employed	Informal/total employed (%)
Manufacturing/Electricity	1,096	5,300	1.5
Construction	1,882	5,702	2.5
Wholesale and retail trade	3,463	14,391	4.7
Hotels & restaurants	1,413	7,496	1.9
Transport, storage & communication	1,343	4,750	1.8
Financial/business services	1,972	11,378	2.7
Public administration/education	1,742	8,108	2.4
Health & social work	1,293	5,413	1.7
Community & social services	1,781	7,810	2.4
Private households	1,554	2,834	2.1
Other/unknown	452	893	0.6
Total	17,991	74,075	24.3

Source: National Employment Report Netherlands Antilles; Ministry of Labor & Economic affairs, Central Bureau of Statistics, and Sociaal Kenniscentrum

Appendix C

Adjusted currency data for the currency demand approach

Foreign currency transactions are not part of the currency held by the public. Cash transaction in US\$ is common in Curaçao and especially St. Maarten. St. Maarten's economy is partially dollarized. Another currency circulating in the Netherlands Antilles is the euro. Since the introduction of the euro, a large amount of this currency has been circulating in the Netherlands Antilles. In Curaçao, euro money transaction related to drug trafficking became transparent during the period 2000-2005. Curaçao served as a transit country for the drugs from South America that was ultimately smuggled into Europe. As indicator for these illegal transactions, we have used the individual/family transfer data from our balance of payments. For our currency approach, we have modified the currency data by including the euro transactions. As a result, the adjusted currency data reveals a trend that is relatively similar to the inflows of the individual/family transfers during the period 2001-2003. Table C gives an overview of the inflows and outflows of these transfers from and to the Netherlands.

Table C: Family transfers from and to the Netherlands to the Netherlands Antilles

(%)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Share Netherlands/total family transfer (inflow)	32.1	45.1	55.1	58.8	47.1	33.1
Share Netherlands family transfer (inflow)/GDP	0.9	1.6	4.1	4.9	2.9	1.6
Share Netherlands/family transfer (outflow)	22.6	22.7	23.1	22.2	16.3	16.5
Share Netherlands family transfer (outflow)/GDP	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6

Source: Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen

Results on money (M2)

Any change in the currency stock should change the stock of money. Therefore, the adjusted currency should also be reflected in the stock of money. However, in our case, we do not have to modify the money stock, because it has already been taken into account through the increase of the demand deposits, after the cash is spent domestically.

Next, we have a comprehensive explanation of the results on money (M2). The euro currency is spent either domestically or externally. The external spending of the currency has no influence on M2. The euro currency spent in the Netherlands Antilles is not included in the money holdings (M2). As aforementioned, in the period under review, these euro currencies (not M2) were substituted by demand deposits (M2), resulting in a higher M2.

Appendix D

The currency demand approach

To estimate the equation, annual data have been used, because the frequency of the explanatory variables, such as the tax rate and the real income, are only available on an annual basis. The empirical methods used are the Error Correction Model (ECM, equations 2 & 3) framework and the autoregressive distributed lag model (equations 2a & 3a). The equations 2 & 2a are based on Tanzi's approach. The equations 3 & 3a are a modified version of Tanzi's approach.

The ECM representation equation (Tanzi approach) is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = & \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{\text{tot}})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \delta_0 * \Delta \ln (Y/P)_t + \\ & \lambda_0 * \Delta \ln (W_{\text{self}})_t + \alpha * (\ln (C/M2)_{t-1} - \beta_1 / \alpha * \ln (T_{\text{tot}})_{t-1} - \gamma_1 / \alpha * \ln R_{t-1} - \\ & \delta_1 / \alpha * \ln (Y/P)_{t-1} - \lambda_1 / \alpha * \ln (W_{\text{self}})_{t-1} - c/a) + u_t \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

And a general form of the first equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = & c + \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{\text{tot}})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \delta_0 * \Delta \ln (Y/P)_t + \\ & \lambda_0 * \Delta \ln (W_{\text{self}})_t + \alpha * \ln (C/M2)_{t-1} + \beta_1 * \ln (T_{\text{tot}})_{t-1} + \gamma_1 * \ln R_{t-1} + \delta_1 * \ln (Y/P)_{t-1} \\ & + \lambda_1 * \ln (W_{\text{self}})_{t-1} + u_t \end{aligned} \quad (2a)$$

Where

C/M2	: the ratio of cash holdings to M2,
T _{tot}	: direct and indirect tax rate as (% GDP),
R	: the interest paid on savings deposits (to capture the opportunity cost of holding cash),
Y/P	: the real income,
W _{self}	: the number of self-employed persons.

The expected signs are $\beta_0, \beta_1 > 0, \gamma_0, \gamma_1 < 0, \delta_0, \delta_1 < 0, \lambda_0, \lambda_1 > 0$.

The ECM representation of the second equation (adjusted Tanzi approach) is:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = & \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{\text{ind}})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \theta_0 * \Delta \ln (U_{\text{no}})_t + \\ & \lambda_0 * \Delta \ln (W_{\text{self}})_t + \alpha * (\ln (C/M2)_{t-1} - \beta_1 / \alpha * \ln (T_{\text{ind}})_{t-1} - \gamma_1 / \alpha * \ln R_{t-1} \\ & - \theta_1 / \alpha * \ln (U_{\text{no}})_{t-1} - \lambda_1 / \alpha * \ln (W_{\text{self}})_{t-1} - c/a) + u_t \end{aligned}$$

The expected signs are $\beta_i / \alpha > 0, \gamma_i / \alpha < 0, \theta_i / \alpha > 0, \lambda_i / \alpha > 0$, for $i = 0, 1$.

(3)

The more general form of the equation is as follows:

$$\Delta \ln (C/M2)_t = c + \beta_0 * \Delta \ln (T_{\text{ind}})_t + \gamma_0 * \Delta \ln R_t + \theta_0 * \Delta \ln (U_{\text{no}})_t +$$

$$\lambda_0 * \Delta \ln(W_{self})_t + \alpha * \ln(C/M2)_{t-1} + \beta_1 * \ln(T_{ind})_{t-1} + \gamma_1 * \ln R_{t-1} + \theta_1 * \ln(U_{no})_{t-1} + \lambda_1 * \ln(W_{self})_{t-1} + u_t \quad (3a)$$

Where

T_{ind} : indirect tax rate (as % GDP),
 U_{no} : the number of unemployed persons,

The expected signs are $\beta_0, \beta_1 > 0, \gamma_0, \gamma_1 < 0, \theta_0, \theta_1 > 0, \lambda_0, \lambda_1 > 0$.

Results

To use ECM, the order of the variables must be determined, using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test (Table D1). All variables are I (1), with the exception of the number of self employed, which is stationary. In Tables D2 and D3, four equations are presented. The equations are estimated firstly by an autoregressive distributed lag model (equations 2a & 3a) and secondly by an ECM (equations 2 & 3).

Table D1: Augmented Dickey-Fuller tests

	Levels		First differences	
	Constant	Constant and trend	Constant	Constant and trend
$\ln(C/M2)$	-1.516	-0.993	-4.696	-4.956
$\ln(T_{tot})$	-1.825	-2.172	-4.659	-4.535
$\ln(R)$	-1.238	-2.694	-5.139	-5.096
$\ln(Y/P)$	-0.330	-1.911	-3.660	-3.563
$\ln(T_{ind})$	-0.555	-3.457	-5.219	-3.992
$\ln(U_{no})$	-1.972	-2.470	-4.331	-4.257
$\ln(W_{self})$	-3.829	-3.699		

The critical values at 5% significance level are -2.98 (with constant) and constant and trend is -3.603. The critical values at 10% significance level are -2.63 (with constant) and constant and trend is -3.23.

The equations are estimated by Least Squares (LS). The asymptotic properties of the unconstrained LS estimator are stated in proposition 11.3 in Lütkepohl, 1993. The LS estimator and its covariance matrix are consistent estimators. The LS estimator has a normal distribution. As already mentioned, our small sample size poses problems for the parameter estimates and the (distribution) of t-values (Lütkepohl, 1993). In general, it can be stated that the asymptotic distributions can be used only as a rough approximation in the case of a small sample.

The autoregressive distributed lag equations (2a and 3a) can be used to estimate the shadow economy, as the diagnostic tests on serial correlation (Breusch-Godfrey), the normality tests of Jacque-Bera, stability tests (Ramsey), and Arch tests performed adequately. All variables have the correct signs. However, the Error Correction equations (2 & 3) are preferred, because of the long term relationship between the variables.

The total taxes have a co-integrated relationship with the currency ratio (See Table D2, equations (2)). The change in the number of self-employed has a positive effect on the currency money ratio, while the changes in the interest rate and the real income have a negative effect on the ratio, which is consistent with the theory. The long run elasticity on the total tax rate is 0.76.

The indirect tax rate and the number of unemployed have a co-integrated relation with the currency ratio (See Table D3, equations (3)). The changes in the number of self-employed and the indirect tax rate have a positive effect on the currency money ratio, which is consistent with the theory. In contrast, the change in the interest rate has negative effect on the ratio. The long run elasticities on the indirect tax rate and the number of unemployed are, respectively, 1.076 and 0.211. The interpretation of the long run elasticities are as follows: a 1% increase in the indirect tax rate will raise the currency ratio by 1.076% and a 1% growth in the number of unemployed raises the currency ratio by 0.21%.

Table D2: Estimation results (equations 2 and 2a)

Dependent Variable: $d(\ln(C/M2))$	Sample: 1988-2004		
Variable	Coefficient	t-ratio	P-value
Equation (2a)			
$\ln(I_{(t-1)})$	0.456	2.020	0.071
$\ln(C/M2_{(t-1)})$	-0.453	-3.690	0.004
$\Delta \ln(R)$	-0.372	-3.355	0.007
$\Delta \ln(W_{self})$	0.346	4.821	0.001
$\Delta \ln(Y/P)$	-1.138	-1.357	0.205
Constant	-0.320	-0.496	0.631
Misspecification and Diagnostic Testing			
R-squared	0.790		
Adjusted R-squared	0.685		
LM (Arch) test	0.001		0.979
Breusch-Godfrey LM test	1.570		0.455
Jacque-Bera normality test	1.120		0.571
Ramsey(Reset) LM test	0.100		0.748
Average long run tax rate	1.010		
ECM Representation			
Equation (2)			
$\ln(I_{(t-1)})$	-0.762	-57.63	
$\ln(C/M2_{(t-1)})$	1		
$\Delta \ln(R)$	-0.396	-4.15	
$\Delta \ln(W_{self})$	0.345	5.178	
$\Delta \ln(Y/P)$	-1.17	-2.09	
R-squared	0.781		
Adjusted R-squared	0.726		
S.E. equation	0.075		
AIC	-2.12		
SC	-1.93		

P-value indicates the probability of obtaining a test statistic, whose absolute value is greater than or equal to that of the sample statistics if the null hypothesis is true. Thus, a low p-value leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis.

Table D3: Estimation results (equation 3 and 3a)

Dependent Variable: d(Ln(C/M2))	Sample: 1988-2004		
Variable	Coefficient	t-ratio	P-value
Equation (3a)			
Ln(T_{ind} (t-1))	0.624	4.095	0.003
Ln(U_{no} (t-1))	0.157	1.420	0.190
Ln(C/M2(t-1))	-0.583	-4.298	0.002
Δ Ln(R)	-0.329	-3.158	0.012
Δ Ln(W_{self})	0.303	4.770	0.001
Δ Ln(T_{ind})	0.346	1.230	0.252
Constant	-1.513	-1.266	0.237
Misspecification and Diagnostic Testing			
R-squared	0.847		
Adjusted R-squared	0.744		
LM (Arch) test	0.463		0.49
Breusch-Godfrey LM test	0.962		0.68
Jacque-Bera normality test	0.972		0.615
Ramsey(Reset) LM test	0.066		0.797
Average long run tax rate	1.060		
ECM Representation			
Equation (3)			
Ln(T_{ind} (t-1))	-1.076	-5.495	
Ln(U_{no} (t-1))	-0.211	-1.3	
Ln(C/M2(t-1))	1		
Constant	-2.06	1.18	
Speed of adjustment	-0.585	-5.73	
Δ Ln(R)	-0.328	-4.11	
Δ Ln(W_{self})	0.3	5.54	
Δ Ln(T_{ind})	0.343	1.55	
R-squared	0.847		
Adjusted R-squared	0.806		
S.E. equation	0.06		
AIC	-2.468		
SC	-2.275		

P-value indicates the probability of obtaining a test statistic whose absolute value is greater than or equal to that of the sample statistics if the null hypothesis is true. Thus, a low p-value leads to the rejection of the null hypothesis.

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