



## Central Bureau of Statistics

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Unemployment rate increased to 12.2 percent

In the months May/June 2009 the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) conducted a Labor Force Survey (LFS) in Sint Maarten. The LFS is a sample survey among households that the CBS conducts periodically with the aim to measure the latest developments on the labor market. The developments concern the unemployment rate, the participation rate, the number of employed and the number of unemployed. The results are measured over two points in time, namely March/April 2007 and May/June 2009 and reflect the developments that have taken place between these two points.

The CBS would like to thank all the households that have participated in the survey, thereby making it a success.

Here are the main results:

1. The *employed population* went up with more than 650 persons, a rise of 3 percent. The number of employed is now more than **21000** persons.
2. The number of *unemployed persons* increased with more than 520 persons, an increase of more than 21 percent. This number is now approximately **2900** persons.
3. The *unemployment rate* went up from 10.6 percent in 2007 to **12.2** percent in 2009.
4. The labor force increased with more than 1100 persons, an increase more than 5 percent. This is due to the rise in the number of employed and in the number of unemployed. The labor force presently consists of more than **24,000** persons.
5. Because the increase of the labor force (5.1%) remained just as high as the

increase of the total population (4.8%), the participation rate remained practically unchanged. It went from 59.4 percent in 2007 to **59.5** percent in 2009.

6. The youth unemployment rate increased from 26.0 percent in 2007 to **29.4** percent in 2009.

The full report is available at the:

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