



Central Bureau of Statistics

For more information:

CBS St.Maarten tel. 5422355 – fax 5423022

CBS Curacao tel. 5999 4611031 – fax 4611696

E-mail: info@cbs.an

Website: www.cbs.an

Press release

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St.Maarten Import and Export Survey Results

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has conducted an import and export survey among established companies in St.Maarten with the main purpose to compile international merchandise trade data of the island. After processing and evaluation of the compiled trade data for the years 2005 and 2006, CBS has summarized the main trade developments in the import and export of St.Maarten. This press release contains the main results.

Import of merchandise

The total import of merchandise in St.Maarten has increased from 698 million guilders in 2005 to 719 million guilders in 2006. This is an increment of 3 percent.

The import of “Chemical and related products” has increased the most. The import of these commodities has increased with more than 28 million guilders.

Some of the major declines in commodities imports in 2006 are the “Crude materials” with 39 percent, “Food and live animal” with 18 percent, and “Animal and vegetable oils” with 16 percent.

Import by Industry

Analysis by industry shows that the “Wholesale and retail trade” has the highest share of almost 82 percent of the total import of merchandise in 2006. The total import of this industry has amounted to 589 million guilders. An increment of only 1 percent is noted in the “Wholesale and retail trade” industry compared to the year 2005.

The types of commodities with the highest values within the “Wholesale and retail trade” industry in 2006 are: “Mineral fuels” with 120 million guilders, “Manufactured articles” with 185 million guilders, and “Machinery and transport equipment” with a value of 78 million guilders.

The “Real estate, renting and business activities” industry has the second highest share of

4 percent of the total import of merchandise in 2006. The import of this industry is 26 million guilders in 2006, and also has the highest increase of almost 15 million guilders compared to 2005.

Export of merchandise

The total export of merchandise in St.Maarten has increased from about 75 million guilders in 2005 to 81 million guilders in 2006, which is an increment of more than 8 percent compared to the previous year. The export of “Machinery and transport equipment” has increased with almost 9 million guilders to an export value of 14 million guilders in 2006. It should be noted that the overall exports from St.Maarten include goods, which have been previously imported.

The highest percentage decline is registered in the export of “Crude materials” with almost 92 percent in 2006. Other export declines are noted in the product categories of “Commodities not classified” with 30 percent, and “beverages and tobacco” with 16 percent.

Export by industry

In 2006 the industry which has the highest share of merchandise export is the “Wholesale and retail trade” with a value of almost 68 million guilders. This industry has a share of approximately 84 percent of the total export from St.Maarten. Compared to 2005 the export of this industry has augmented with 6 percent. The commodity group with a high value in this industry is the “Manufactured articles” with a value of almost 20 million guilders.

The “Transport, storage and communications” industry has a share of 6 percent of the total export in merchandise from St.Maarten. The export of this industry has increased from almost 3 million guilders to 5 million guilders in 2006.

Currently, CBS is conducting an import and export survey among companies in St.Maarten in order to collect the trade data for the year 2007.

Table1 St.Maarten Import & Export of Merchandise by Industry in 2005 and 2006

Industry	Import*		Export*	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
A Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	711	729	32	36
D Manufacturing	11019	25403	198	178
E Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	29485	1008	0	0
F Construction	20980	19506	1280	1304
G Wholesale and Retail Trade	581680	588797	63842	67908
H Hotels and Restaurants	17396	18647	4629	4312
I Transport, Storage and Communications	13966	23971	2759	5198
J Financing intermediation	2854	3233	0	52
K Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	11276	26143	679	703
N Health and Social Work	325	255	7	0
O Other Social and Related Community Services	8218	11227	1568	1552
TOTAL	697910	718919	74994	81243

*) All values in 1000 Ang.