



## **Central Bureau of Statistics**

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# Press release

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## **Consumer prices Sint Maarten April 2009**

### **Prices up by 2.1 percent compared to February**

The Central Bureau of Statistics announces that, in April 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 2.1 percent higher than in February.

Over the twelve month period ending with April 2009, average consumer prices have risen by 2.9 percent compared to the same period one year earlier.

## **Price changes between February and April 2009**

In April 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 2.1 percent higher than in February.

All expenditure categories became more expensive. The strongest price increase occurred for housing (+4.0%). The strong rise of tariffs for electricity (+33%) due to the adaptation of the fuel clause contributed most to this increase, but with a 4.5 percent price increase, dwelling maintenance was also considerably more expensive. For instance, paint was 9 percent more expensive.

In April, household furnishing and appliances became 1.5 percent more expensive, with conspicuous price rises for the groups household appliances and tools (+4.9%) and household furnishing n.e.s. (+3.6%). In contrast, upholstery and dwelling textile prices went down by 1.0 percent.

Food was 1.1 percent more expensive than in February. Prices rose most for cereal products (+3.4%), fats and cooking oils (+1.7%) and dairy products (+1.7%), such as white (+6%) and brown rice (+15%) and canned milk (+10%). Prices for other food groups rose by 0.4 to 1.1 percent, but outdoor consumption (-0.9%) and potatoes, vegetables and fruits (-0.3%) were cheaper.

Prices for all other consumption categories also rose: beverages and tobacco by 1.0 percent, recreation and education by 0.9 percent, both transport and communication and the category miscellaneous by 0.7 percent, clothing and footwear by 0.5 percent and medical care by 0.1 percent.

## **Long-term inflation**

In April 2009, the twelve-month average of prices for Sint Maarten was 2.9 percent higher than in April 2008. According to the CBS, this is a good indicator for long-term inflation. Thus, again, inflation in Sint Maarten has considerably decreased.

### Inflation Sint Maarten in the past 2 years

