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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten August 2009

Prices up by 0.9 percent compared to June

The Central Bureau of Statistics announces that in August 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 0.9 percent higher than in June. Inflation decreased from 2.0 percent in June to 0.8 percent in August.

Price changes between June and August 2009

In August 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 0.9 percent higher than in June. The Consumer Price Index increased from 107.9 to 108.9.

Out of nine expenditure categories, seven became more expensive. The strongest price increases occurred for housing (+1.5%) and transport and communication (+1.5%). For housing, this was mainly caused by a rise of electricity tariffs (+8%). For transport and communication, the main cause was considerably more expensive gasoline (+19%); on the other hand, motor parts became 3 percent less expensive.

Food was 0.6 percent more expensive than in June. Prices rose for prepared food (+2.2%), dairy products (+2.0%), sugar and chocolate (+1.9%), potatoes, vegetables and fruits (+1.7%), meat and fish (+0.6%) and the group food n.e.s. (+0.6%). Notable price rises occurred for instance for peppers (+23%), roots and tuberous crops (+15%), bulbous crops (+14%) and powdered milk (+5%). Prices fell for cereal products (-1.7%), fats and cooking oils (-1.0%) and outdoor consumption (-0.6%); especially notable was the price decrease for white rice (-7%).

In August, medical care (+0.7%), beverages and tobacco (+0.6%), the category miscellaneous (+0.4%) and household furnishing and appliances (+0.3%) became more expensive too. Within these categories, prices rose for instance for household articles (+2.0%) and tobacco (+0.9%), whilst the price for upholstery and dwelling textile (-0.4%) went down. Medication showed a notable 3 percent price rise.

Clothing and footwear was just as expensive as in June. Finally, recreation and education prices (-0.1%) went down slightly due to price decreases for education (-0.5%), whilst entertainment and culture (+0.8%) and books (+0.7%) rose in price.

Long-term inflation

Between August 2008 and August 2009, the Consumer Price Index for Sint Maarten went down from 110.1 to 108.9, a 1.1 percent decrease.

In August 2009, the twelve-month average of prices for Sint Maarten was 0.8 percent higher than in August 2008. According to the CBS, this is a good indicator for long-term inflation. Thus, again, inflation in Sint Maarten has considerably decreased: in June inflation was still 2.0 percent and in April 2.9 percent.

Inflation Sint Maarten in the past 2 years

