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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten February 2009

Prices increased by 0.5 percent compared to December 2008

In February 2008, the consumer price index for Sint Maarten has increased by 0.5 percent compared to December 2008.

Over the period of twelve months ending with February 2009, average consumer prices have increased by 3.7 percent compared to the same period one year earlier.

This appears from data presented by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Price changes between December 2008 and February 2009

In February 2008, the consumer price index for Sint Maarten has increased by 0.5 percent compared to December 2008.

In February, all expenditure categories became more expensive, except for housing. The strongest price increase occurred for household furnishing and appliances (+1.4%) and was mainly caused by considerably more expensive household appliances and tools (+8.1%).

The category miscellaneous became 1.1 percent more expensive, mainly by price increases for insurances (+1.9%). Also conspicuous within this category was the price increase for animal medical care by 13 percent. Transport and communication became 0.9 percent more expensive, mostly due to the price increases for transport vehicles (+2.3%), but motor parts (+3%) and oil (+11%) also became more expensive.

Compared to December 2008, beverages and tobacco prices rose by 0.8 percent and food prices by 0.7 percent. Especially the food groups outdoor consumption (+2.5%), fats and cooking oils (+2.0%), meat and fish (+1.4%) and cereal products (+1.2%) were considerably more expensive. On the contrary, dairy products (-0.5%) became cheaper and prices for all other food groups rose by 0.1 to 0.5 percent.

Clothing and footwear became 0.6 percent more expensive, mainly due to the price increase for footwear (+2.7%). Prices for medical care increased by 0.5 percent and for recreation and education by 0.1 percent.

Finally, in February, housing prices remained unchanged. More expensive dwelling costs (+0.4%) and garden maintenance (+0.3%) were offset by cheaper energy (-2.1%) and dwelling maintenance (-0.4%). Amongst others, electricity (-3%) became cheaper.

Long-term inflation

In February 2009, the twelve-month average of prices for Sint Maarten was 3.7 percent higher than in February 2008. According to the CBS, this is a good indicator for long-term inflation. Thus, the inflation in Sint Maarten has considerably decreased compared to December 2008.

Inflation Sint Maarten in the past 2 years

