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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten June 2009

Prices up by 1.0 percent compared to April

The Central Bureau of Statistics announces that in June 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 1.0 percent higher than in April. Inflation decreased from 2.9 percent in April to 2.0 percent in June.

Price changes between April and June 2009

In June 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 1.0 percent higher than in April.

Out of nine expenditure categories, seven became more expensive. The strongest price increase occurred for housing (+2.2%) and was mainly caused by a strong rise of tariffs for electricity (+14%) due to adaptation of the fuel clause.

Food was 1.0 percent more expensive than in April. Prices rose most for outdoor consumption (+3.1%), meat and fish (+2.5%) and potatoes, vegetables and fruits (+2.4%), due to for example more expensive potatoes (+17%), grapes and prunes (+17%) and poultry (+4%). On the contrary, prices for fats and cooking oils (-2.0%), dairy products (-1.7%) and cereal products (-1.0%) went down, due to for example cheaper milk powder (-5%) and white rice (-5%).

In June, beverages and tobacco became 0.7 percent more expensive, medical care, transport and communication, and the category miscellaneous each 0.3 percent, and household furnishing and appliances 0.2 percent. Within these categories, the prices for, amongst others, transport vehicles (+0.8%), tobacco (+0.7%), beverages (+0.6%), household articles (+0.5%) and personal body care (+0.5%) went up, while communication prices (-0.2%) went down slightly. A conspicuous 15 percent price rise occurred for cosmetics and toiletries.

Clothing and footwear was just as expensive as in April. Finally, recreation and education prices (-0.2%) went down slightly due to price decreases for education (-0.8%) and books (-0.4%). For example, computers became 6 percent cheaper.

Long-term inflation

In June 2009, the twelve-month average of prices for Sint Maarten was 2.0 percent higher than in June 2008. According to the CBS, this is a good indicator for long-term inflation. Thus, again, inflation in Sint Maarten has considerably decreased: in April inflation was still 2.9 percent and in February 3.7 percent.

Inflation Sint Maarten in the past 2 years

