



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS (STAT)

For more information: 542-2151 or 9905 – fax 542-9907

Address: Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard 6 (units 7/8)

Email: statinfo@sintmaartengov.org

Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten August 2011

Prices have increased compared to June 2011

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has remained stable in the month of August 2011 compared to that of June 2011.

When comparing average consumer prices over a twelve month period (Aug. 2010 to Aug. 2011), it can be noted that an increase of 3.2 percent was recorded compared to the same period one year earlier.

This is evident from the data that has been released by the Department of Statistics (STAT) today.

Price changes between June & August 2011

The consumer price index on Sint Maarten for the month of August 2011 has remained stable compared to that of June 2011. The price index recorded in August 2011 is 117.4

Expenditure Categories

In August 2011, six of the nine expenditure categories have become more expensive, whilst two expenditure categories have become cheaper and one category remained stable. Namely the categories; Food (+1.4%), Beverages and Tobacco (+3.4%), Clothing and Footwear (+2.4%), Household Furnishing & Appliances (+3.8%), Medical Care (+1.0%) and Miscellaneous (+0.3%) are amongst the more expensive whilst prices of Housing (-1.6%) and Recreation & Education (-0.1%) are slightly cheaper. The prices of Transport & Communication remained stable.

Expenditure Category	WEIGHT	INDEX JUNE 2011	INDEX AUGUST 2011	% CHANGE
Food	10%	140.8	142.8	1.4
Beverages and tobacco	1%	126.5	130.8	3.4
Clothing & footwear	7%	104.8	107.3	2.4
Housing	39%	122.4	120.5	-1.6
Household furnishing & appliances	6%	112.6	116.9	3.8
Medical care	3%	103.5	104.5	1.0
Transport & communication	20%	109.3	109.3	0.0
Recreation & education	6%	103.3	103.2	-0.1
Misc.	8%	111.2	111.5	0.3
TOTAL	100%	117.4	117.4	0.0

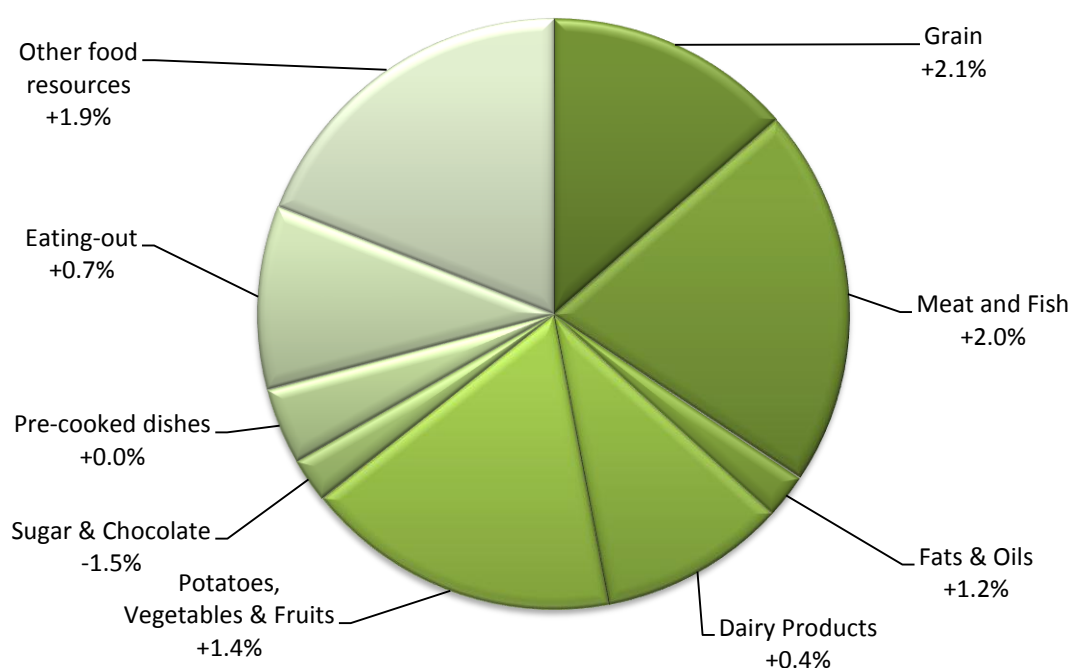
A Closer Look

The categories with the largest influence in the basket are Food (10%), Housing (39%) and Transport & Communication (20%). The Housing category impacts the total consumer basket the greatest and with a recorded decrease in prices of 1.6 percent; this balanced-out the increases in other categories such that the total index remained stable. Even though the expenditure category Household Furnishing & Appliances has an overall low (6%) impact on the total index, it recorded the largest price increase (+3.8%) in August relative to June 2011.

Food

Within the expenditure category Food it can be noted that seven of the nine food groups became more expensive. The following increases were recorded in each food group; Grain (+2.1%), Meat and Fish (+2.0%), Fats & Oils (+1.2%), Dairy Products (+0.4%), Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit (+1.4%), Eating-out (+0.7%) and other food resources (+1.9%). The prices within the food group Pre-cooked dishes remained stable, while the food group Sugar & Chocolate (+6.7%) became less expensive.

FOOD EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 10% of CPI

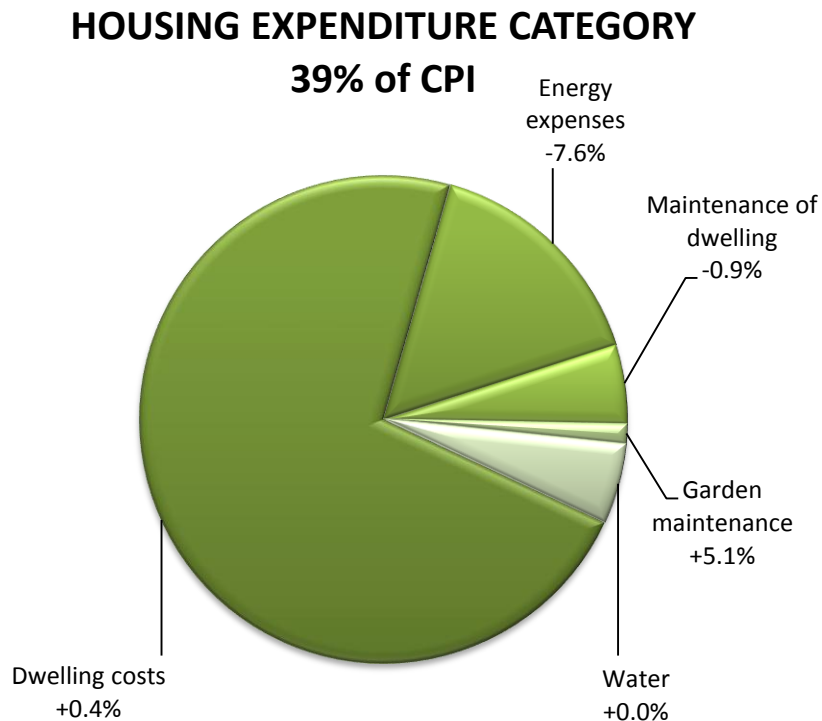


More specifically the following products largely influenced the total price change within the food group: Grains largely influenced by; White Bread (+4.1%), Raisin Bread (+18.6%), Flour (+5.0%). and Cereal (+2.9%). The food group Meat & Fish was largely influenced by; Beef (-4.2%) and Boneless Pork Meat (+7.9%). The food group Fats & Oils was largely influenced by; Cooking oil (+2.2%). The food group Dairy Products was largely influenced by; Canned Milk (+3.4%) and Cheese (+4.3%). The food group Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit was largely influenced by; Cabbage (+22.3%), Leafy Vegetables (+6.9%), Carrots (-8.7%), Onions and Garlic (+8.4%), Tomatoes (-6.4%), Apples and pears (+8.3%) and Grapes & Plums (-13.0%). The food group Sugar & Chocolate was largely influenced by; Sugar (-5.0%). The food group Other Food Resources was largely influenced by; Spices (+10.1%)

Please note that the pie chart above depicts the share (*weight*) each food group carries toward the entire Food expenditure category, whilst the percentages indicate the price change within that food group.

Housing

Within the expenditure category Housing it can be noted that two of the five product groups became more expensive whilst one remain unchanged and two groups became cheaper. Amongst the more expensive were the product groups Dwelling costs (+0.4%), and Garden maintenance (+5.1%) whilst, Energy expenses (-7.6%), House maintenance (-0.9%) became cheaper.



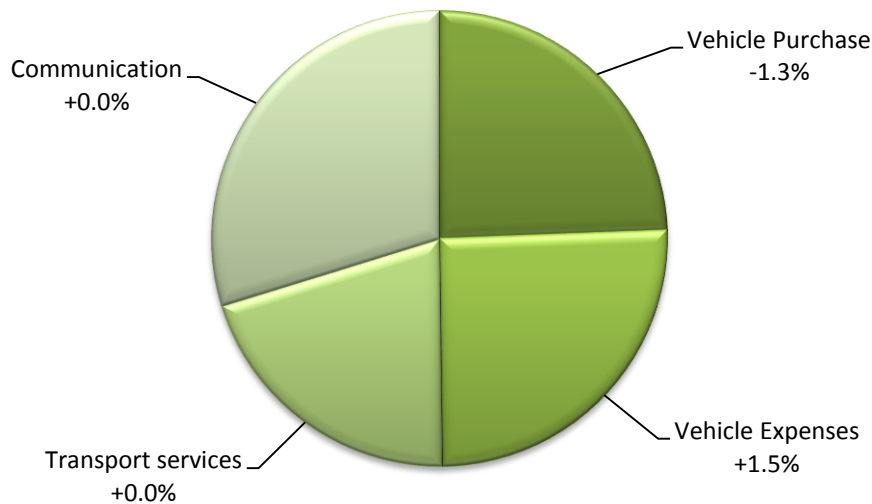
More specifically it must be noted that the products Electricity (-8.8%) largely influenced the total price percentage change recorded in the product group Energy Usage. The product group Maintenance of dwelling was largely influenced by; Paint (-6.0%), Wood (+4.8%) and Metals (+6.8%). The product group Garden Maintenance was largely influenced by; fertilizer and soil (+36.3%),

Please note that the pie chart above depicts the share (*weight*) each food group carries toward the entire Housing expenditure category, whilst the percentages indicate the price change within that food group.

Transport & Communication

Within the expenditure category Transport & Communication one of the four product groups became more expensive whilst two remained stable and one became less expensive. The product group Vehicle Expenses increased by 1.5 percent, while Vehicle Purchase decreased by 1.3 percent.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 20% of CPI



The price change recorded for a new car (-1.4%) largely influenced the total price percentage change recorded in the product group Vehicle Purchase. Note the price change in Gasoline (+1.7%), Diesel (+7.2%), Motor Oil (+3.6%), Grease (-10.0%), Car Parts (+3.3%) and Tires (+2.9%) largely influenced the total price change within the product group Vehicle Expenses.

Note the pie chart above depicts the share (*weight*) each product group carries toward the entire Transportation and Communication expenditure category, whilst the percentages indicate the price change within that product group.

Long-term inflation

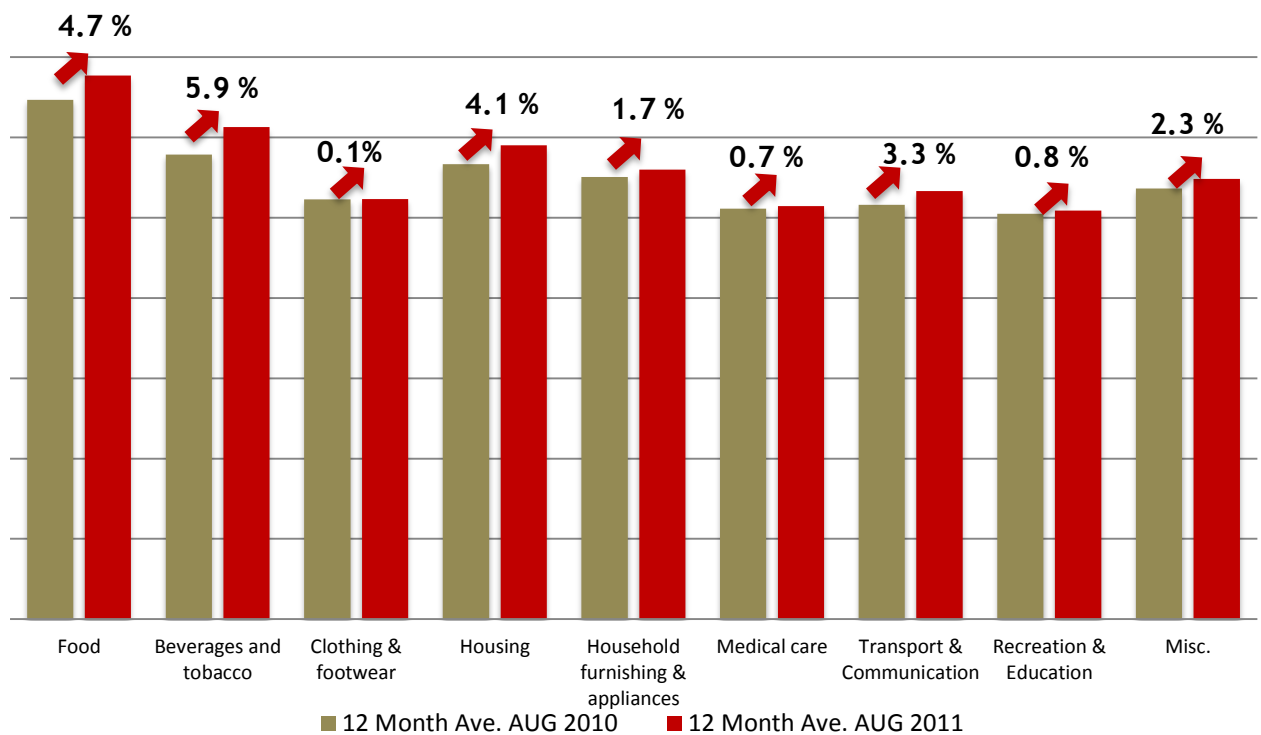
Inflation Sint Maarten August 2011

The 12-month average of consumer prices was 3.2 percent higher in August 2011 than in August 2010. The inflation rate of August 2011 (3.2%) has decreased by 11.11 percent compared to that of August 2010 (3.6%).

Inflation per Expenditure Category

All nine expenditure categories recorded inflation in August 2011. Housing at a rate of 4.1 percent, which is the category with the largest influence (39%), Transportation and Communication at a rate of 3.3 percent, which is the second largest category (20%) and Food prices inflated at a rate of 4.7 percent, which is the third largest category (10%).

Inflation per Sector on Sint Maarten



2-year Overview

The trend line depicted on the bar chart below indicates that inflation on Sint Maarten over the prior 2-year period has been climbing. Note the inflation recorded in August 2011 (3.2%) is comparable to that recorded in December 2010 (3.2%).

Inflation Sint Maarten during the past 2 years

