



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

Philipsburg, July 20th 2011

Consumer prices Sint Maarten June 2011 ***Prices have increased compared to April 2011***

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has increased in the month of June 2011 by 1.5 percent compared to that of April 2011.

When comparing average consumer prices over a twelve month period (Jun. 2010 to Jun. 2011), it can be noted that an increase of 2.7 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 April & June 2011

The consumer price index on Sint Maarten for the month of June 2011 has increased by 1.5 percent compared to that of April 2011. The price index recorded in April 2011 is 117.4

Expenditure Categories

In June 2011, eight of the nine expenditure categories have become more expensive, whilst one expenditure category has become cheaper. Namely the categories; Food (+2.9%), Beverages and Tobacco (+1.9%), Clothing and Footwear (+1.1%), Housing (+1.7%), Medical Care (+0.6%), Transport & Communication (+0.6%), Recreation & Education (2.1%) and Miscellaneous (+0.5%) are amongst the more expensive whilst prices of Household Furnishing & Appliances (-0.1%) are slightly cheaper.

Expenditure Category	WEIGHT	INDEX APRIL 2011	INDEX JUNE 2011	% CHANGE
Food	10%	136.8	140.8	2.9
Beverages and tobacco	1%	124.2	126.5	1.9
Clothing & footwear	7%	103.7	104.8	1.1
Housing	39%	120.3	122.4	1.7
Household furnishing & appliances	6%	112.7	112.6	-0.1
Medical care	3%	102.9	103.5	0.6
Transport & communication	20%	108.6	109.3	0.6
Recreation & education	6%	101.2	103.3	2.1
Misc.	8%	110.7	111.2	0.5
TOTAL	100%	115.7	117.4	1.5

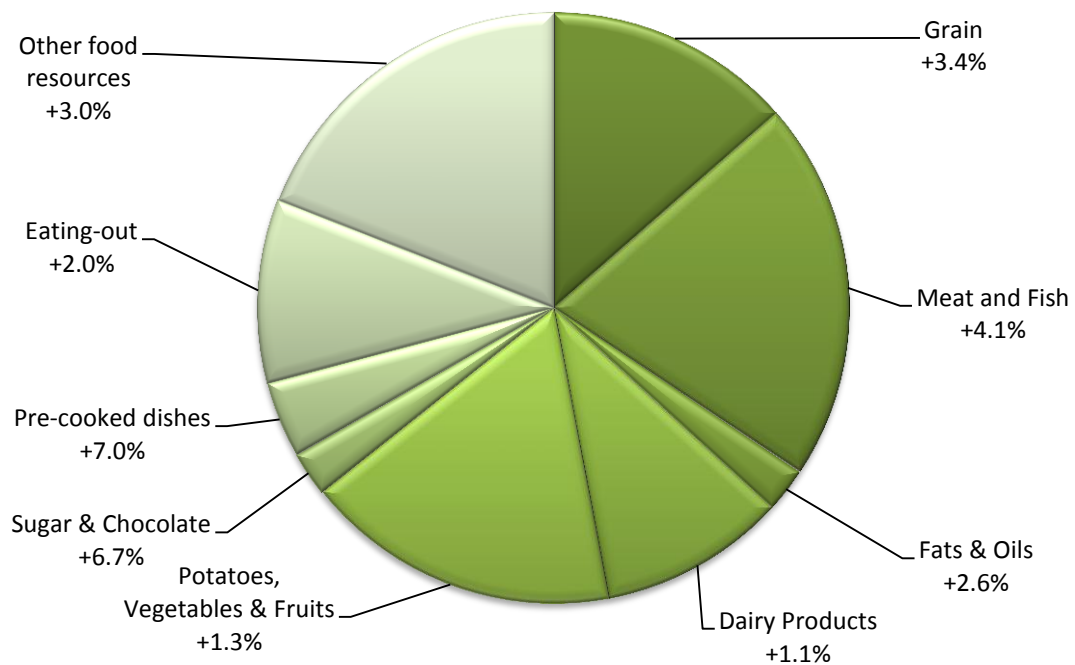
A Closer Look

The categories with the largest influence in the basket are Food (10%), Housing (39%) and Transport & Communication (20%). Though the expenditure category Food is the third largest it has recorded the largest price increase (+2.9%) in June relative to April 2011.

Food

Within the expenditure category Food it can be noted that all nine food groups became more expensive. The following increases were recorded in each food group; Grain (+3.4%), Meat and Fish (+4.1%), Fats & Oils (+2.6%), Dairy Products (+1.1%), Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit (+1.3%), Sugar & Chocolate (+6.7%), Pre-cooked dishes (+7.0%), Eating-out (+2.0%) and Other food resources (+3.0%).

FOOD EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 10% of CPI

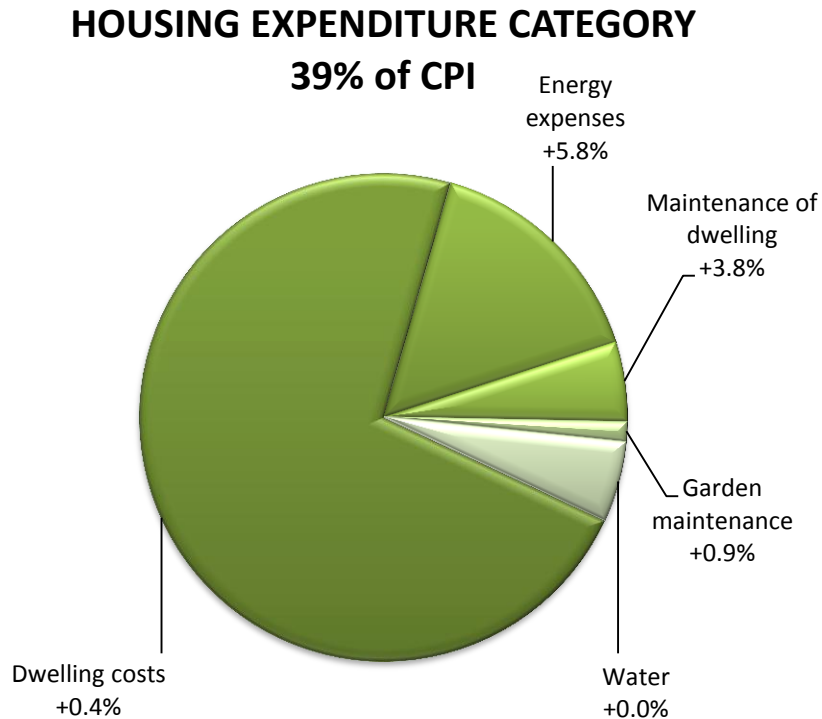


More specifically the following products largely influenced the total price change within the food group: Grains largely influenced by; Small Breads (+27.1%), Brown Rice (+8.8%) and Cereal (+7.4%). The food group Meat & Fish was largely influenced by; Beef (+11.6%), Oxtail (+9.3%) and Boneless Pork Meat (+8.1%). The food group Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit was largely influenced by; Carrots (-5.2%), Leafy Vegetables (+18.8%), Tomatoes (-7.3%), other Fresh Vegetables (+60.4%) and Grapes & Plums (+22.2%). The food group Sugar & Chocolate was largely influenced by; Sugar (+9.8%). The food group Other Food Resources was largely influenced by; Beverage Mix (+28.8%)

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 four of the five product groups became more expensive whilst one remain unchanged. Amongst the more expensive were the product groups Dwelling costs (+0.4%), Energy expenses (+5.8%), House maintenance (+3.8%) and Garden maintenance (+0.9%).



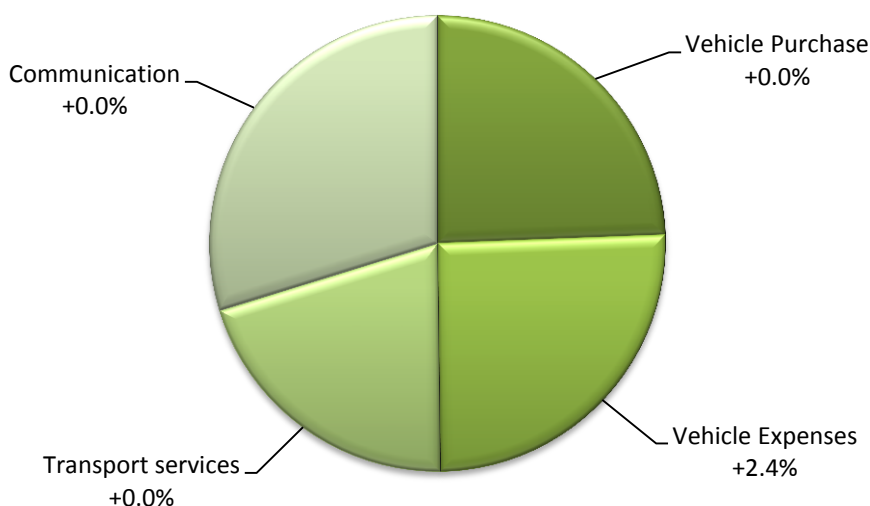
More specifically it must be noted that the products Electricity (+6.8%) largely influenced the total price percentage change recorded in the product group Energy Usage. The product group Maintenance of dwelling was largely influenced by; Paint (+14.6%), Roof Material (+7.0%), Metals (+10.2%) and other Materials (-5.8%).

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 three remained stable. The product group Vehicle Expenses increased by 2.4%.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 20% of CPI



Note the price change in Gasoline (+4.5%), Diesel (-10.0%), Motor Oil (+4.2%) and Tires (+3.0%) 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.

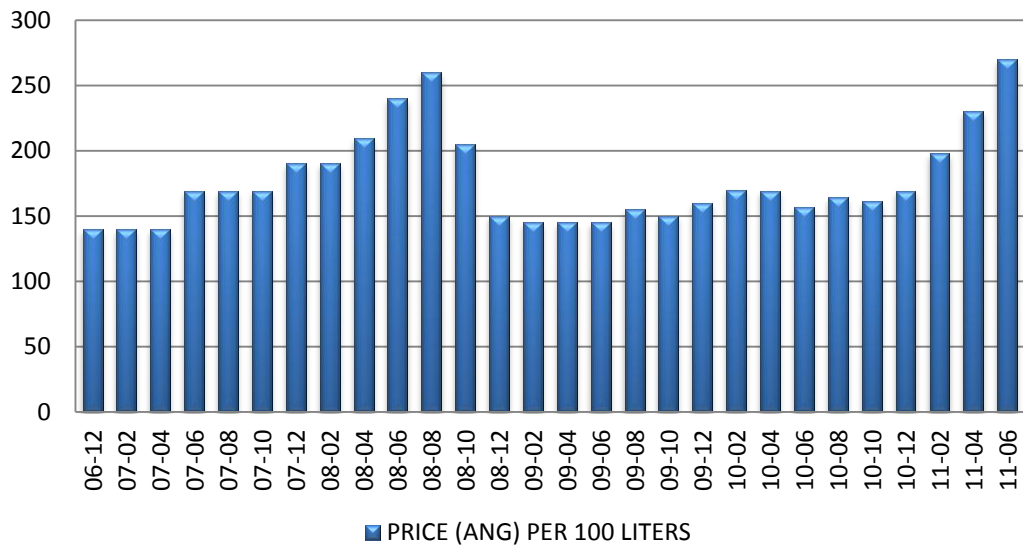
Oil Markets in the spotlight:

There have been frequent price changes recorded for the products Gasoline and Diesel on Sint Maarten. In light of these developments a closer look at the World Crude Oil prices will help to explain the volatile trend. Note that the average price per barrel of crude oil has increased by approximately \$43.57 between June 2010 and 2011. This upward trend in the price per barrel is also noticeable in the prices depicted by the bar graph of both Gasoline and Diesel on Sint Maarten.

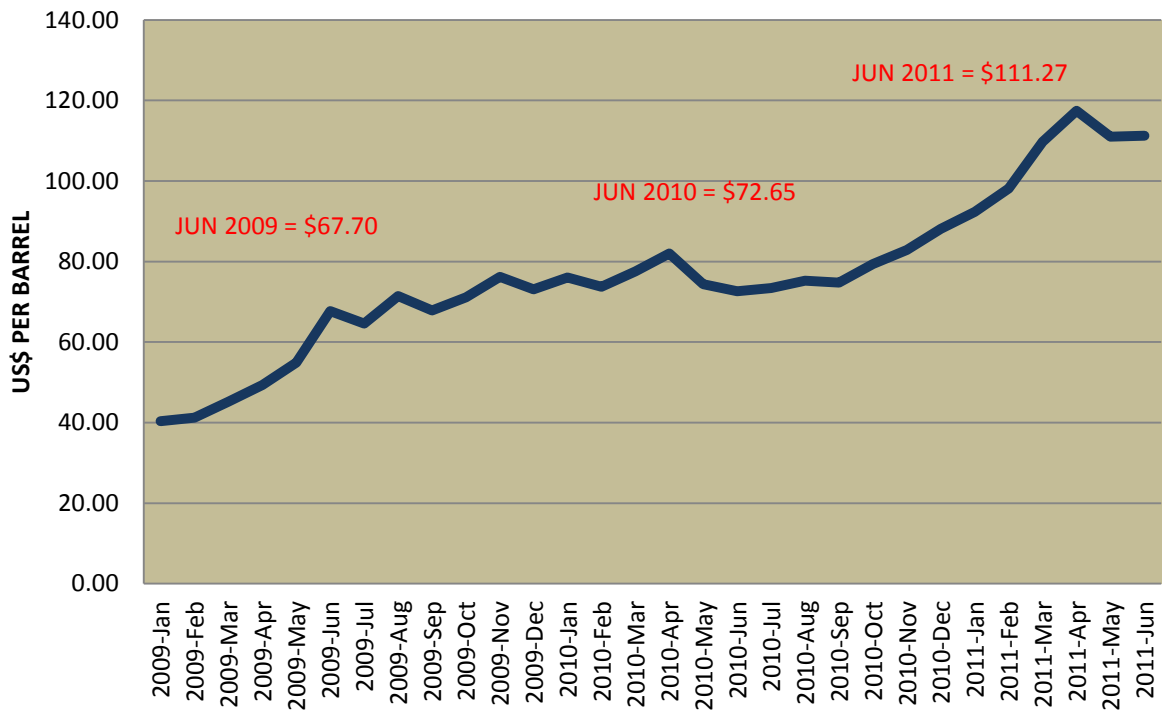
SINT MAARTEN GASOLINE INDEX OCT 2006 =100



SINT MAARTEN DIESEL PRICE PER 100 LITERS



WORLD CRUDE OIL AVERAGE PRICE PER BARREL



Long-term inflation

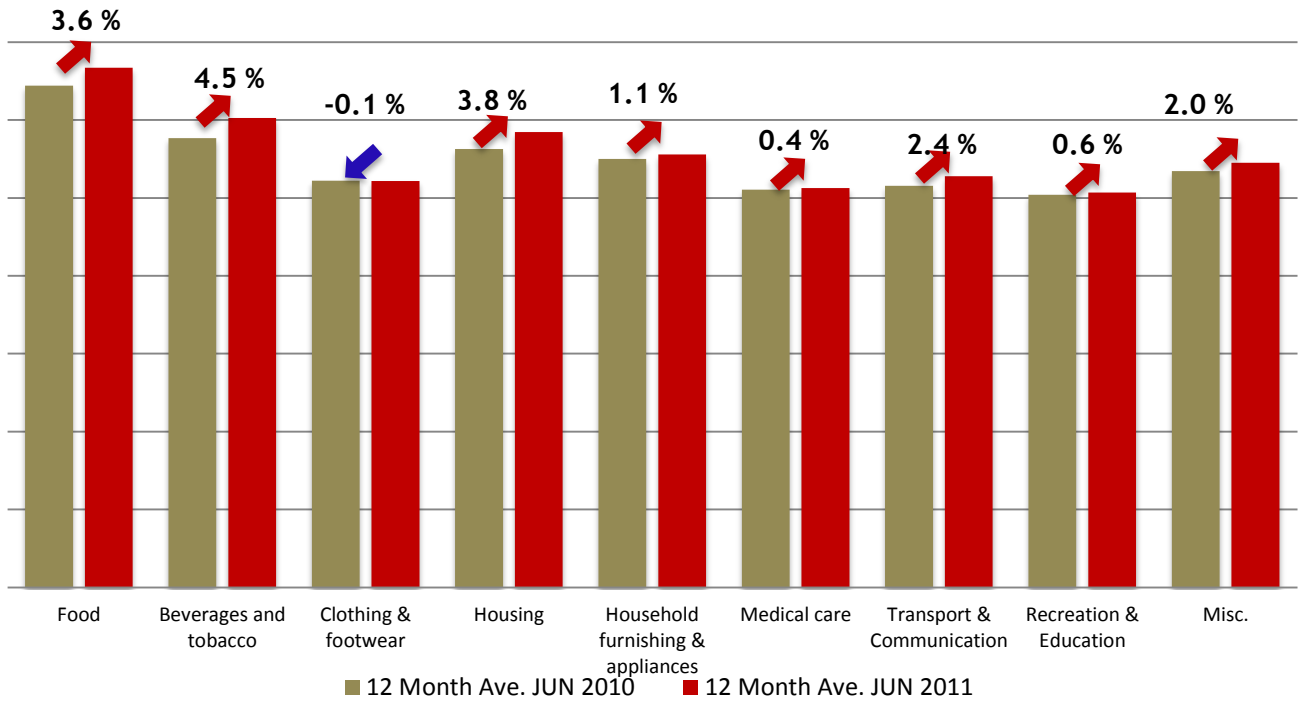
Inflation Sint Maarten June 2011

The 12-month average of consumer prices was 2.7 percent higher in June 2011 than in June 2010. The inflation rate of June 2011 (2.7%) has decreased by 10.89 percent compared to that of June 2010 (3.03%).

Inflation per Expenditure Category

Eight of the nine expenditure categories recorded inflation in June 2011, whilst one category recorded deflation. Housing at a rate of 3.8 percent, which is the category with the largest influence (39%), Transportation and Communication at a rate of 2.4 percent, which is the second largest category (20%) and Food prices inflated at a rate of 3.6 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. Noteworthy are the fluctuations in this rising trend, which shows a less sharp rise in 2011 than in 2010. It must be noted that the implementation of an increased TOT (Turn over Tax) has had an impact on the dip and subsequent rise recorded in 2011. The inflation rate recorded in June 2011(2.7%) is comparable to that recorded in June 2010 (3.03%).

Inflation Sint Maarten during the past 2 years

