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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten June 2013

Prices have decreased compared to April 2013

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has decreased in the month of June 2013 by 0.1 percent compared to that of April 2013.

The rate of inflation continues to ease; when comparing average consumer prices over a twelve month period (Jun. 2012 to Jun. 2013), 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 2013

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has decreased in the month of June 2013 by 0.1 percent compared to that of April 2013. The price index recorded in June 2013 is 123.7.

Expenditure Category	WEIGHT	INDEX APRIL 2013	INDEX JUNE 2013	% CHANGE
Food	10%	165	168.4	2.1
Beverages and tobacco	1%	142.4	142.1	-0.2
Clothing & footwear	7%	113.6	113.8	0.2
Housing	39%	123.7	122.4	-1.1
Household furnishing & appliances	6%	138.6	138.3	-0.2
Medical care	3%	104.8	104.9	0.1
Transport & communication	20%	110.5	110.7	0.2
Recreation & education	6%	108.3	108.2	-0.1
Misc.	8%	117.2	117.2	0
TOTAL	100%	123.8	123.7	-0.1

Expenditure Categories

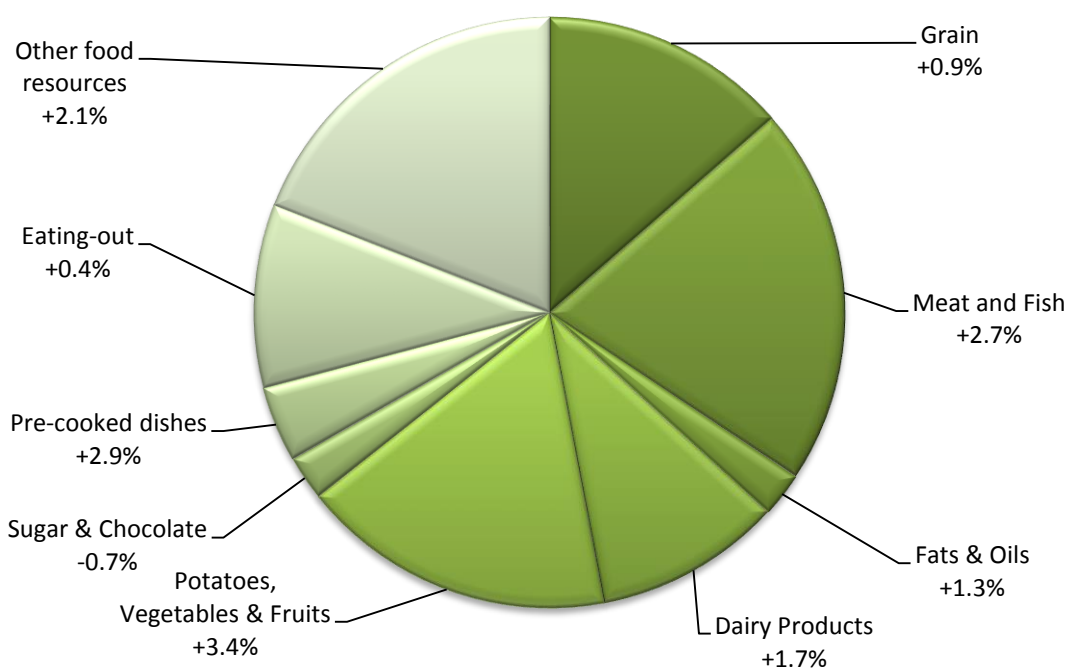
In June 2013, four of the nine expenditure categories have become more expensive, whilst four became cheaper and one remained unchanged. Amongst the more expensive were the categories; Food (+2.1%), Clothing and Footwear (+0.2%), Medical Care (+0.1%) and Transport & Communication (+0.2%). Whereas, Beverages and Tobacco (-0.2%), Housing (-1.1%), Household Furnishing & Appliances (-0.2%), and Recreation & Education (-0.1%) became cheaper; whilst Miscellaneous remained stable.

A Closer Look

In June 2013 the expenditure category Housing impacted the overall index the most with a 1.1 percent decrease in the consumer prices of this category. However the increase in consumer prices recorded for the expenditure category Food (+2.1%) counteracted the overall drop of the total index.

Food

FOOD EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 10% of CPI



1

Within the expenditure category Food it can be noted that eight of the nine food groups became more expensive whilst one became cheaper. The following increases were recorded in each food group; Grain (+0.9%), Meat and Fish (+2.7%), Fats & Oils (+1.3%), Dairy Products (+1.7%), Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit (+3.4%), Pre-cooked dishes (+2.9%), Eating-out (+0.4%) and other food resources (+2.1%). Whilst the food group Sugar & Chocolate (-0.7%) became slightly cheaper.

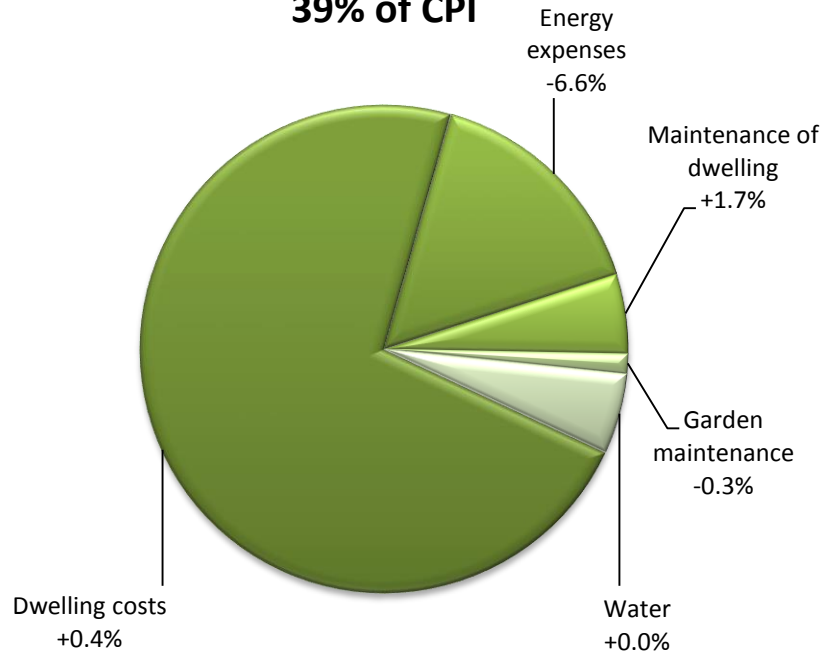
More specifically the following products largely influenced the total price change within the food groups: 'Meat & Fish', this was largely influenced by; steak (+30.7%), spareribs (+25.0%), boneless pork chop (+3.8%), goat meat (-12.3%) and salted and dried fish (+4.7%). The food group 'Dairy Products' was largely influenced by; powdered milk (+1.2%) and canned milk (+2.5%). The food group 'Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit' was largely influenced by; Leafy vegetables (-7.5%), Cabbage (+9.1%), legumes (-12.9%), Carrots (+5.9%), Tomatoes (+18.2%), other fresh vegetables (+28.9%), other vegetables (+13.1%), spices and herbs (+13.4%) and grapes (+8.6%). The food group 'Pre-cooked dishes' was largely influenced by; fresh take-out meals (+3.8%).

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

HOUSING EXPENDITURE CATEGORY

39% of CPI



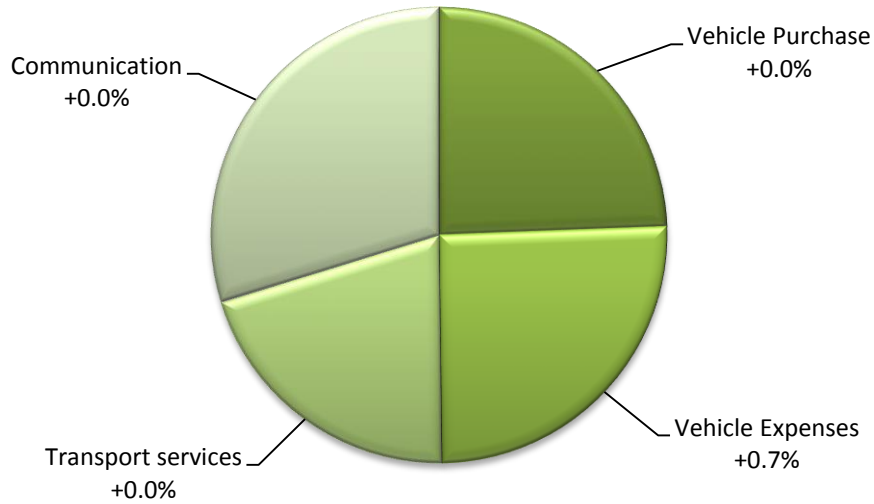
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Within the expenditure category Housing it is noted that two of the five product groups became more expensive whilst two became cheaper and one remain stable. The product groups; 'Dwelling costs' and 'Maintenance of dwelling' both increased by 0.4% and 1.7% respectively, whilst 'Energy expenses' and 'Garden maintenance' decreased by 6.6% and 0.3% respectively. A decrease in the consumer price of electricity by 8% largely influenced the total price change within the product group 'Energy expenses'. Whilst an increase of 5.4 percent recorded in the consumer prices of paint largely influenced the total price change within the product group 'Maintenance of dwelling'.

2 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 product group.

Transport & Communication

**TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION
EXPENDITURE CATEGORY
20% of CPI**



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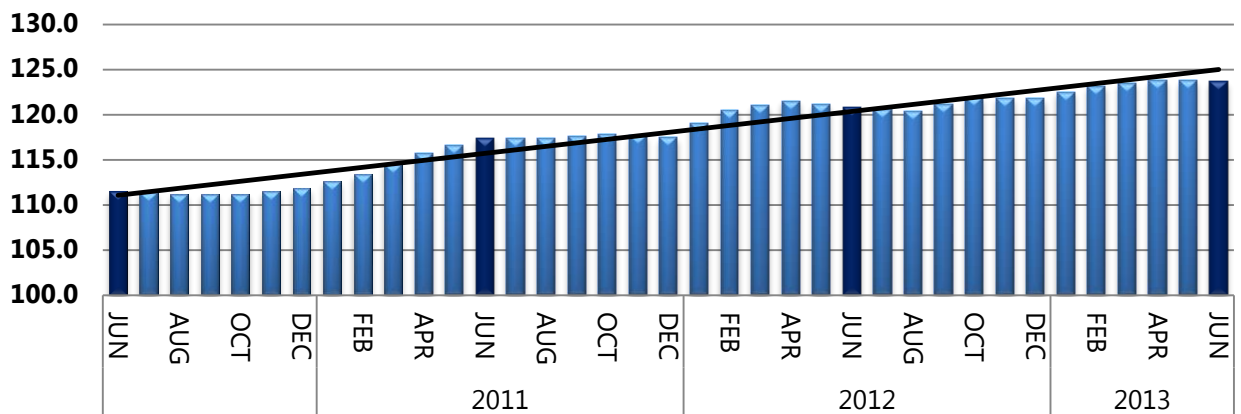
Within the expenditure category Transport & Communication one of the four product groups became more expensive, whilst three remained unchanged and one became cheaper. Noteworthy is that the product group 'Vehicle Expenses' was largely influenced by the following products; Gasoline (+1.2%), Diesel (-6.0%).

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

Sint Maarten Consumer Price Index a Broader Perspective

The consumer prices over the past three years have recorded steady increases depicted in the bar chart of Sint Maarten's index figures. The trend illustrates a steady upward movement in consumer prices by approx.12 index points over the 3-year period (Jun'10 to Jun'13). Noteworthy are slight contractions recorded during the months August, September and December; indicative of easing consumer prices during these months. Equally notable are the increases recorded during the first half of the year (Jan – Jun) over a three year comparison has shown to have eased; from recorded increases of 5 index points (2011), to 2 index points (2012) and now 1 index point (2013).

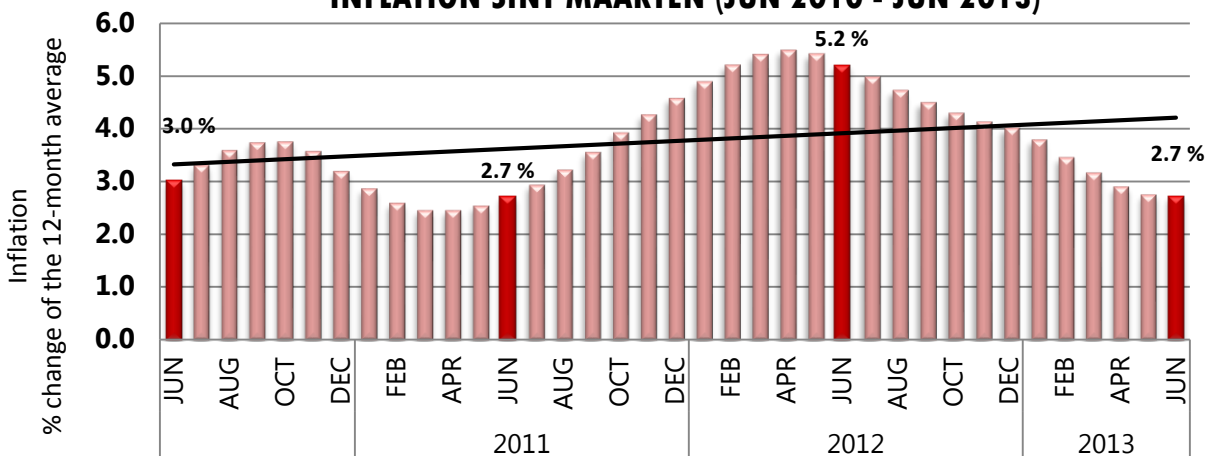
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SINT MAARTEN (JUN 2010 - JUN 2013)



3-year Overview

The trend line depicted on the bar chart below indicates that inflation on Sint Maarten over the prior 3-year period has been rising. The rate of inflation has shown steady growth from April 2011(2.5%) through to April 2012 (5.5%). However over the past 12 months inflation has eased to 2.7 percent in June 2013; this is comparable to that of June 2011 (2.7%).

INFLATION SINT MAARTEN (JUN 2010 - JUN 2013)



Inflation Sint Maarten June 2013

The 12-month average of consumer prices was 2.7 percent higher in June 2013 than a year earlier. This represents a decrease in the inflation rate of 48.08 percent within this period mentioned.

Inflation per Expenditure Category

All eight expenditure categories recorded inflation in June 2013. Housing at a rate of 0.9 percent, Transportation and Communication at a rate of 1.5 percent and Food prices inflated at a rate of 7.4 percent.

Inflation per Sector on Sint Maarten

