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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten April 2013 ***Prices have increased compared to February 2013***

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has increased in the month of April 2013 by 0.5 percent compared to that of February 2013.

When comparing average consumer prices over a twelve month period (Apr. 2012 to Apr. 2013), an increase of 2.9 percent was recorded compared to the same period one year earlier. The rate of inflation has eased significantly; following an all-time high of 5.5 percent in April 2012. Inflation in Food continue to ease (8.4 percent), declining 5.6 percentage points in 8 months.

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

Price changes between February & April 2013

The consumer price index for Sint Maarten has increased in the month of April 2013 by 0.5 percent compared to that of February 2013. The price index recorded in April 2013 is 123.8.

Expenditure Category	WEIGHT	INDEX FEBRUARY 2013	INDEX APRIL 2013	% CHANGE
Food	10%	164	165	0.6
Beverages and tobacco	1%	141.6	142.4	0.6
Clothing & footwear	7%	113.7	113.6	-0.1
Housing	39%	122.2	123.7	1.2
Household furnishing & appliances	6%	136.8	115.8	1.3
Medical care	3%	104.8	165.9	0.0
Transport & communication	20%	112.3	110.5	-1.6
Recreation & education	6%	107.2	108.3	1.0
Misc.	8%	116.1	117.2	0.9
TOTAL	100%	123.2	123.8	0.5

Expenditure Categories

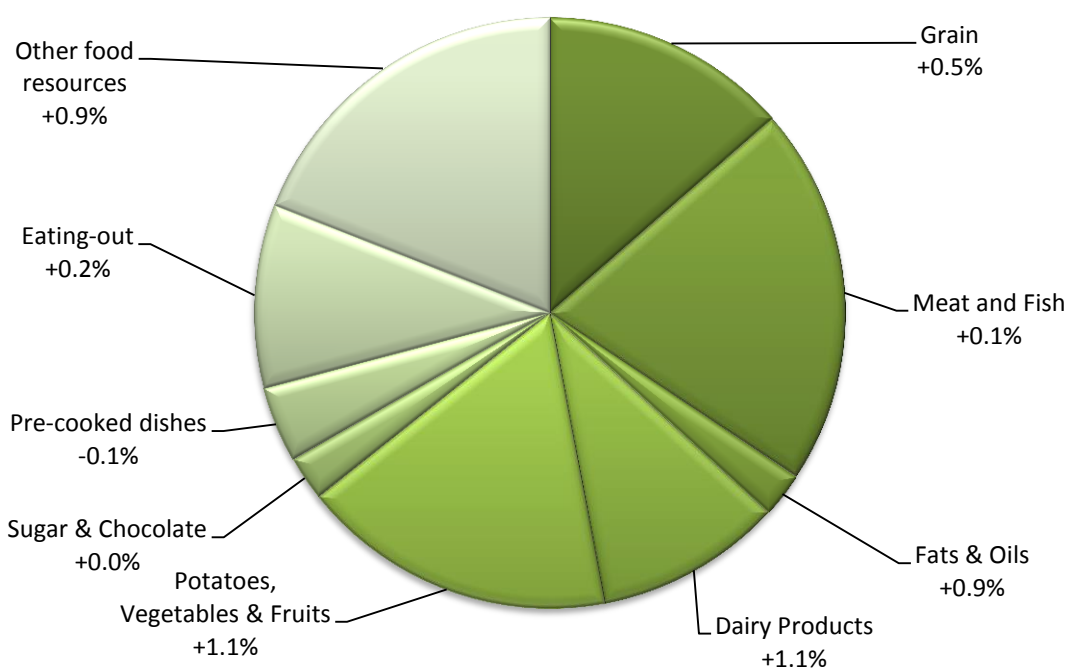
In April 2013, six of the nine expenditure categories have become more expensive, whilst two became cheaper and one remained unchanged. Amongst the more expensive were the categories; Food (+0.6%), Beverages and Tobacco (+0.6%), Housing (+1.2%), Household Furnishing & Appliances (+1.3%), Recreation & Education (+1.0%) and Miscellaneous (+0.9%). Whereas, Clothing and Footwear (-0.1%) and Transport & Communication (-1.6%) became cheaper; and Medical Care remained stable.

A Closer Look

In April 2013 the expenditure category Housing impacted the overall index the most with a 1.2 percent increase in the consumer prices of this category. However the drop in consumer prices recorded for the expenditure category Transport & Communication (-1.6%) counteracted its overall increase of the total index.

Food

FOOD EXPENDITURE CATEGORY 10% of CPI



1

Within the expenditure category Food it can be noted that seven of the nine food groups became more expensive whilst one became cheaper and one remained stable. The following increases were recorded in each food group; Grain (+0.5%), Meat and Fish (+0.1%), Fats & Oils (+0.9%), Dairy Products (+1.1%), Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit (+1.1%), Eating-out (+0.2%) and other food resources (+0.9%). Whilst the food group Pre-cooked dishes (-0.1%) became slightly cheaper the prices for Sugar & Chocolate remained stable.

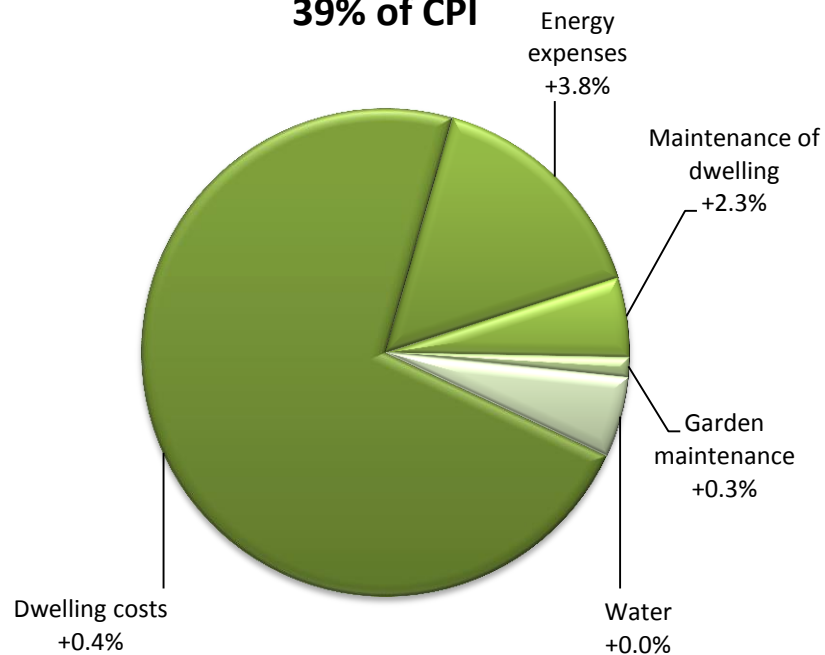
More specifically the following products largely influenced the total price change within the food groups: 'Grain', this was largely influenced by; Pasta (+3.2%). 'Meat & Fish', this was largely influenced by; Oxtail (+6.8%), spareribs (-7.0%), other fish (+6.4%) and salted and dried fish (-4.2%). The food group 'Dairy Products' was largely influenced by; Baby powdered milk (+7.4%). The food group 'Potatoes, Vegetables & Fruit' was largely influenced by; Leafy vegetables (+7.9%), legumes (38.4%), Onions (+9.1%), Tomatoes (+7.9%), other fresh vegetables (-4.3%), frozen vegetables (-4.8%), dried beans and peas (+8.5%), grapes (-10.8%) oranges (-8.5%), plantains and bananas (+5.1%) and other fresh fruit (-2.3%).

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

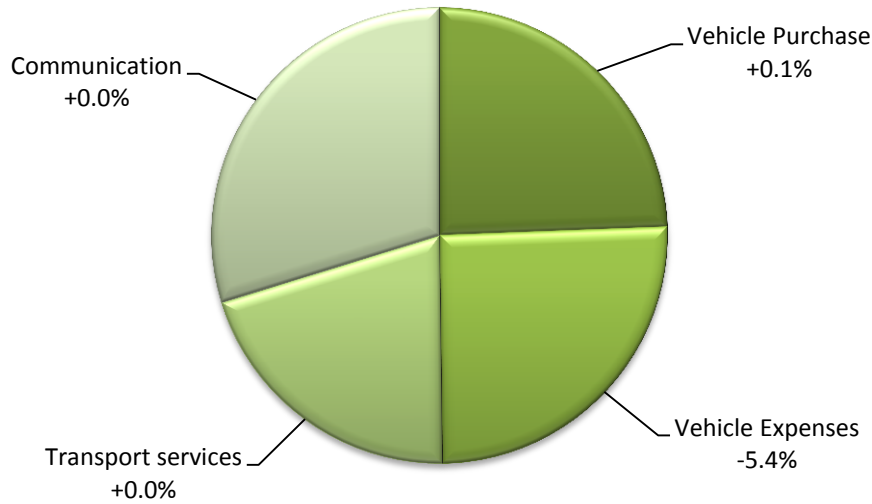


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Within the expenditure category Housing it is noted that four of the five product groups became more expensive and one remain stable. The product groups 'Energy expenses' and 'Maintenance of dwelling' both increased by 3.8% and 2.3% respectively, whilst 'Garden maintenance' (+0.3%) and 'Dwelling costs' (+0.4%) increased with less than a 1 percent. Increases in the consumer price of the following products; paint (+4.3%), roofing material (+5.2%), wood (+5.7%) largely influenced the total price change within the product group Maintenance of dwelling. The 4.5 percent increase in prices of electricity, largely influenced the total price change within the product group 'Energy Expenses'.

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.

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



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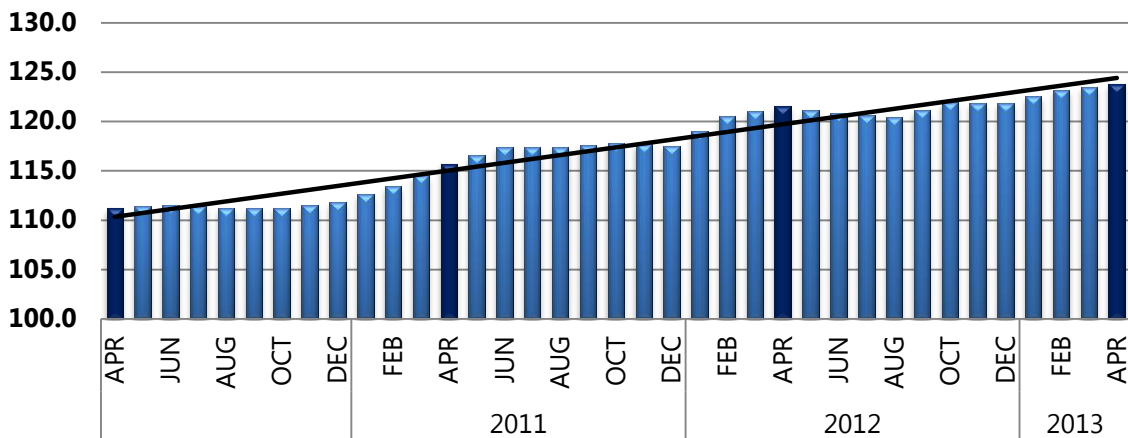
Within the expenditure category Transport & Communication one of the four product groups became more expensive, whilst two remained unchanged and one became cheaper. The consumer prices within the product group 'Vehicle Expenses' decreased by 5.4 percent. Noteworthy is that the product group 'Vehicle Expenses' was largely influenced by the following products; Gasoline (-12.6%), Diesel (-3.9%) and Motor oil (-2.2%).

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. Noteworthy are slight contractions recorded during the months August, September and December; indicative of easing consumer prices during these months. Yet the trend illustrates a steady upward movement in consumer prices by approx.13 index points over the 3-year period (Apr'10 to Apr'13).

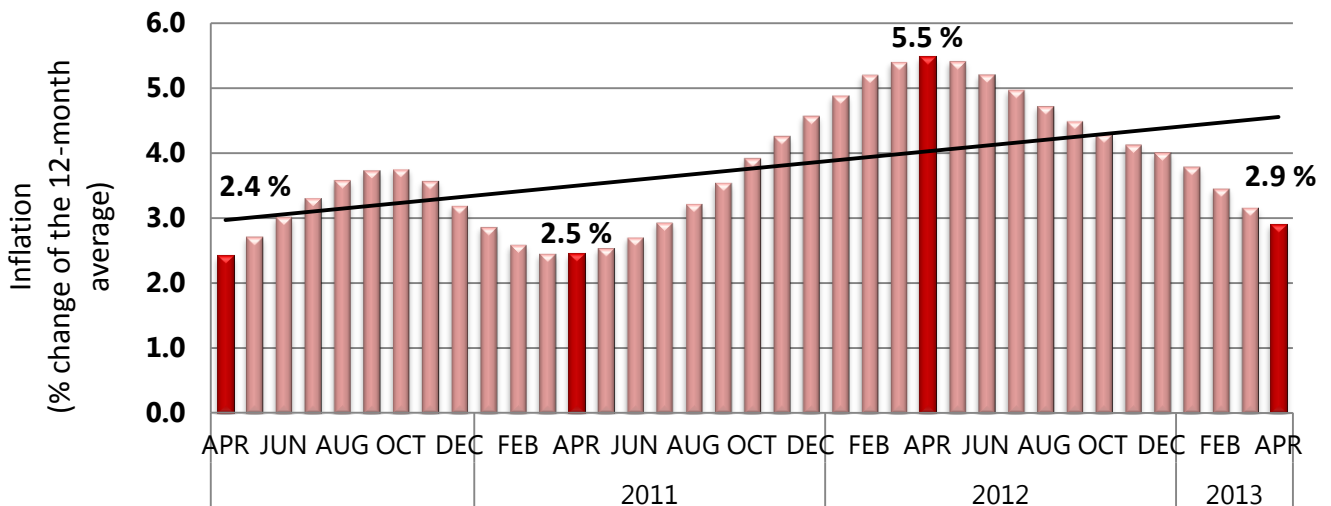
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SINT MAARTEN (APR 2010 - APR 2013)



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 climbing. The rate of inflation has shown steady growth since April 2011; reaching an all-time high of 5.5 percent in April of 2012. However over the past 8-months inflation has eased to 2.9 percent in April 2013; this is comparable to that of June 2011 (2.7%).

INFLATION SINT MAARTEN (APR 2010 - APR 2013)



Inflation Sint Maarten April 2013

The 12-month average of consumer prices was 2.9 percent higher in April 2013 than a year earlier. This represents a decrease in the inflation rate of 47.27 percent within this period mentioned.

Inflation per Expenditure Category

All nine expenditure categories recorded inflation in April 2013. Housing at a rate of 0.9 percent, Transportation and Communication at a rate of 1.6 percent and Food prices inflated at a rate of 8.4 percent.

Inflation per Sector on Sint Maarten

