



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS (STAT)

Address: Government Administration Building

URL: <http://stats.sintmaartengov.org/>

Email: statinfo@sintmaartengov.org

Press Release

Philipsburg, January 18th, 2022

Third quarter 2021 prices up from second quarter (0.47%) and up from the year before (2.82%)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Sint Maarten in the third quarter of 2021 is 104.04. This represents an increase of 0.47 percent, when compared to that of second quarter 2021.

When comparing the consumer prices from the same period 12 months previously (third quarter 2020 to third quarter 2021), an increase of 2.82 percent was recorded.

Comparing 2021 Q2 with 2021 Q3 – Highest increase in Transport (+1.76%)

For the third quarter 2021, when compared to the second quarter of 2021, prices in nine of the twelve expenditure categories recorded increases and three decreased in price.

The increases were in the categories: 'Transport' (+1.76%), 'Restaurants and hotels' (+1.42%), 'Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics' (+1.00%), 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (+0.93%), 'Recreation and culture' (+0.75%), 'Furnishings, household equipment and maintenance' (+0.43%), 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (+0.37%), 'Communication' (+0.25%), and 'Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' (+0.21%). Decreases were seen in the following categories: 'Clothing and footwear' (-0.90%), 'Health' (-0.71%), and 'Education' (-0.68%).

Based on the latest Household Budget Survey, the following four categories have the largest percentage weight (influence) of the Total CPI: *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (36.1%), *Transport* (14.6%), *Miscellaneous goods and services* (13.4%) and *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (7.2%).

For *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, the cost of the subcategory 'Food' went up by 1.04 percent. This was mainly due to the increase in the prices of:

fruit (+4.61%); vegetables (+3.43%); fish and seafood (+1.39%); sugar, jam, honey, chocolate, and confectionery (+1.07); and milk, cheese and eggs (+0.41%). Prices in the subcategory 'Non-alcoholic beverages' also increased by 0.28 percent. This was driven by an increase in the prices of coffee, tea and cocoa (+2.21%).

The change in the price of *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* was influenced by an increase in the price level of the subgroups: 'Maintenance and repair of the dwelling' (+2.09%); and 'Electricity, gas and other fuels' (+1.96%), which was driven by an increase in the price of electricity (+1.96%) and cooking gas (+1.93%).

For this quarter, in the categories where there were increases, the price for *Transport* was largely impacted by the subgroups: 'Operation of personal transport equipment' (+3.12%) and 'Transport services' (+1.75%). The increase in the price level of 'Operation of personal transport equipment' was driven by fuels and lubricants (+4.90%), while Passenger transport by air (+5.30%) drove the increase in the subgroup 'Transport services'.

The prices in the category *Miscellaneous goods and services* increased largely because of price level increase in the subcategory: 'Personal effects n.e.c¹' (+2.01%), Insurance (+0.66%), and 'Personal care' (+0.24%).

Note, the increased prices in all four of the major expenditure categories identified above and in five of the other categories caused the overall increase in the CPI from second quarter to third quarter.

Inflation: Comparing 2020 Q3 with 2021 Q3 – Highest increase in Communication 6.72%

The prices of third quarter 2021 have increased when compared to those of third quarter 2020. The inflation rate recorded is 2.82 percent. This rise in prices for the 12-month period was largely due to increases in the household expenditure categories: 'Communication' (+6.72%), 'Furnishings, household equipment & maintenance' (+5.81%), 'Clothing and footwear' (+5.11%), 'Transport' (+3.88%), 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (+2.80%), 'Restaurants and hotels' (+2.29%), 'Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics' (+0.82%) and 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (+0.76%)

For the four expenditure categories with the highest weight on the Total CPI, the prices went up in all categories, when compared to the same period in 2020.

As mentioned previously 'Transport' increased 3.88 percent. This was mainly due to the rise in 'Operation of personal transport equipment' in the third quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarter of 2020. In addition, prices in '*Miscellaneous goods and services*'; '*Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*'; as well as '*Food and non-alcoholic beverages*' also increased. They were largely influenced by 'Personal care' (+4.08%); 'Electricity, gas and other fuels' (+15.12%); and 'Food' (+1.23%) respectively.

Note, the increased prices in all four of the major expenditure categories and in five of the other categories caused the overall increase in the inflation rate.

This press release and previous press releases are published on <http://stats.sintmaartengov.org/>

n.e.c¹ – Not elsewhere classified

Table 1. Consumer price index figures, Quarterly percentage change and Inflation rate for the 12 major expenditure categories for 2021 Quarter 3

Expenditure Category	2018 WEIGHTS	INDEX	INDEX	INDEX	Quarter-to-Quarter	Year-on-Year
		2020 Quarter 3	2021 Quarter 2	2021 Quarter 3	% Change Q2 2021 to Q3 2021	% Change (Inflation) Q3 2020 to Q3 2021
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	7.2%	101.55	101.38	102.32	0.93%	0.76%
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	0.4%	103.30	103.12	104.15	1.00%	0.82%
Clothing and footwear	4.8%	95.98	101.80	100.89	-0.90%	5.11%
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	36.1%	102.97	105.53	105.74	0.21%	2.69%
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	6.5%	101.69	107.14	107.60	0.43%	5.81%
Health	1.9%	106.35	106.33	105.57	-0.71%	-0.74%
Transport	14.6%	97.60	99.63	101.38	1.76%	3.88%
Communication	6.0%	97.53	103.82	104.08	0.25%	6.72%
Recreation and culture	4.6%	105.08	100.64	101.39	0.75%	-3.51%
Education	2.6%	101.50	101.83	101.14	-0.68%	-0.35%
Restaurants and hotels	2.0%	102.18	103.06	104.52	1.42%	2.29%
Miscellaneous goods and services	13.4%	101.03	103.47	103.85	0.37%	2.80%
TOTAL	100%	101.19	103.56	104.04	0.47%	2.82%

Base Year 2018 = 100

Chart 1. Consumer Price Index Figures - 2020 Quarter 3 and 2021 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3

