



Press Release

Philipsburg, May 15th 2026

Sint Maarten Consumer Prices Stay Stable in Q1 2026

PHILIPSBURG, Sint Maarten – The Department of Statistics (STAT) reports stable consumer prices in Sint Maarten for Q1 2026. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), key measure of everyday costs, reached 115.78, a modest 0.43% increase from Q4 2025 (115.28) and 0.66% year-on-year from Q1 2025 (115.02).

****Key Note on Data Collection:**** CPI prices are collected during the first two weeks of each month, followed by validation (a detailed review) in the third or fourth week.

A fuel price surge began after the second week of March, coinciding with the war in Iran. As a result, Q1 2026 CPI was not affected as severely as expected. Offsetting factors included a decline in housing costs, as more affordable apartments entered the market.

Major CPI Categories – Weight, Quarterly, and Year-on-Year Changes

Table 1.

Category	Weight (%)	Q1 2026 vs Q4 2025 (% Change)	Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025 (% Change)
Housing, Water and Energy	36.1%	+0.57%	-1.57%
Transport	14.6%	+0.68%	+2.45%
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	13.4%	-0.65%	-1.00%
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	7.2%	+0.78%	+1.29%

*The above-mentioned categories are the variables that have the largest influence on price



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Quarter 1 Overview (Q1 2026)

The CPI rose **0.43%** compared to Q4 2025, signaling a slight upward trend to start of the year.

Key category movements:

- **Housing, Water and Energy (+0.57%)**: Driven by higher actual rentals, maintenance, and dwelling repairs.
- **Transport (+0.68%)**: Fueled by transport services and personal transport operations (including fuel).
- **Miscellaneous Goods and Services (-0.65%)**: Declines in personal care and personal effects (n.e.c.).
- **Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+0.78%)**: Led by food products, vegetables, and meat; offset by **-5.75%** in milk, cheese, and eggs.

These shifts reflect balanced pressures across essentials, maintaining overall stability.

Inflation Annual Trends: Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025

Overall CPI rose moderately (+0.66%), but key categories showed notable year-on-year shifts:

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- **Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+1.29%)**: Driven by food products (n.e.c., +16.07%) and coffee, tea, and cocoa (+8.83%).
- **Transport (+2.45%)**: Led by transport services (+3.58%), which in turn was primarily driven by sub-component transport by air (+13.88%).
- **Miscellaneous Goods and Services (-1.00%)**: Declines in financial services (n.e.c., -4.69%) and personal care (-2.54%).
- **Housing, Water and Energy (-1.57%)**: Pulled down by electricity, gas, and other fuels (-7.64%), mainly electricity (-9.78%).

**Please see supporting documentation.



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Fuel & Fuel Clause: Key Drivers Amid Island-Wide Discussions

Fuel prices (for vehicles), a topic of significant concern for every resident of Sint Maarten, experienced notable increases during the first quarter of 2026. As shown in Table 2, gasoline prices increased by 6.8% and diesel prices by 9.8% compared to the fourth quarter of 2025. On a year-on-year basis (Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025), gasoline prices rose by 5.0%, while diesel prices increased by 10.8%. Meanwhile, the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained relatively stable.

The Fuel Clause (Table 3) recorded a modest 0.53% quarter-on-quarter increase (Q1 2026 vs. Q4 2025), but declined 16% compared to Q1 2026, helping to ease inflationary pressures.

In summary, the most heavily weighted Housing, Water & Energy category (36.1%) recorded a year-on-year decline of 1.57% with a fuel decline of 0.33% in Q1 2026 compared to 0.39% in Q1 2025. However, the offset movements in other sub-categories contributed to keeping overall CPI growth modest at only 0.66% in Q1 2026. (See table 4.)



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Table 2. (Fuel Prices (Gasoline & Diesel) – QoQ and YoY)

Table 3. Fuel Clause Trends - QoQ and YoY)

		Gas	Diesel
Q1	date	rate	rate
2025	12/13/2024	2.189	1.816
	1/4/2025	2.231	1.835
	1/23/2025	2.294	1.950
	Average	2.238	1.867
Q4	date	rate	rate
2025	9/25/2025	2.315	1.866
	11/7/2025	2.195	1.887
	12/6/2025	2.226	1.939
	12/17/2025	2.200	1.955
	12/23/2025	2.074	1.766
	Average	2.202	1.883
Q1	date	rate	rate
2026	12/23/2025	2.074	1.766
	2/17/2026	2.195	1.908
	2/25/2026	2.284	1.918
	3/22/2026	2.850	2.679
	Average	2.351	2.068
	Q2Q Growth	6.8%	9.8%
	Y2Y Growth	5.0%	10.8%

Fuel Clause Quarter Average		
Q1	Month	
2025	Jan	0.37710168
	Feb	0.40879147
	Mar	0.39447751
	Average	0.39345689
Q4	Month	
2025	Oct	0.32798058
	Nov	0.32408667
	Dec	0.33377708
	Average	0.32861478
Q1	Month	
2026	Jan	0.32360505
	Feb	0.31668157
	Mar	0.35077956
	Average	0.33035539
	Q2Q Growth	0.53%
	Y2Y Growth	-16.0%



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Table 4.

Code	Expenditure category	2025Q1 Inflation	2025Q2 Inflation	2025Q3 Inflation	2025Q4 Inflation	2026Q1 Inflation
	Total Inflation	↑ 1.51%	↑ 0.65%	↑ 1.12%	↑ 0.42%	↑ 0.66%
040000	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	↓ -2.02%	↔ 0.00%	↓ -0.29%	↓ -2.07%	↓ -1.57%
041000	Actual rentals for housing	↓ -9.28%	↓ -0.71%	↑ 4.29%	↓ -2.69%	↑ 2.97%
041100	Actual rentals paid by tenants	↓ -5.36%	↓ -0.71%	↑ 4.29%	↓ -2.69%	↓ -1.30%
041200	Other actual rentals	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
042000	Imputed rentals for housing	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%
042100	Imputed rentals of owner-occupiers	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%
042200	Other imputed rentals	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
043000	Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	↓ -4.31%	↓ -4.25%	↓ -3.95%	↑ 1.85%	↑ 2.39%
043100	Materials for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling	↓ -5.81%	↓ -3.89%	↓ -3.47%	↑ 2.54%	↑ 3.27%
043200	Services for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling	↔ 0.00%	↓ -5.26%	↓ -5.26%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%
044000	Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	↔ 0.00%	↓ -2.42%	↓ -2.42%	↑ 0.82%	↑ 0.81%
044100	Water supply	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↑ 0.02%	↔ 0.00%
044200	Refuse collection	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
044300	Sewage collection	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%	↔ 0.00%
044400	Other services relating to the dwelling n.e.c.	↔ 0.00%	↓ -16.67%	↓ -16.67%	↑ 5.56%	↑ 5.56%
045000	Electricity, gas and other fuels	↑ 1.38%	↓ -7.63%	↓ -8.81%	↓ -7.50%	↓ -7.64%
045100	Electricity	↑ 1.57%	↓ -9.71%	↓ -11.04%	↓ -9.62%	↓ -9.78%
045200	Cooking gas	↔ 0.00%	↑ 8.47%	↑ 8.47%	↑ 8.47%	↑ 8.47%
045300	Liquid fuels	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
045400	Solid fuels	↑ 0.62%	↑ 0.45%	↓ -0.87%	↓ -1.18%	↑ 0.56%
045500	Heat energy	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available

Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at statinfo@sintmaartengov.org. A copy of this report will also be published on the STAT website at stats.sintmaartengov.org