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Press release

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Consumer prices Sint Maarten October 2009

Prices up by 0.6 percent compared to August

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) announces that in October 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 0.6 percent higher than in August 2009. Inflation decreased from 0.8 percent in August to 0.1 percent in October.

Price development between August and October 2009

In October 2009, consumer prices in Sint Maarten were 0.6 percent higher than in August 2009. The Consumer Price Index increased from 108.9 to 109.6.

Of the nine expenditure categories, six became more expensive, two became cheaper and one stabilized.

The strongest price increase occurred for housing (+1.1%), mainly caused by a rise of electricity tariffs with 5 percent.

In October food was 0.6 percent more expensive than in August. Of remarkable influence on the price development of food in October were specifically chicken (+3%) and sweet peppers (-22%).

There were price increases for several food groups: meat and fish (+1.5%), sugar and chocolate (+1.2%), dairy products (+1.0%), potatoes, vegetables and fruits (+0.5%), food n.e.s.¹ (+0.5%) and outdoor consumption (+0.1%).

In October the expenditure categories miscellaneous (+1.0%), clothing and footwear (+0.2%), medical care (+0.1%) and household furnishing and appliances (+0.1%) became more expensive too. Especially remarkable is the enormous price increase of pet-food (category miscellaneous) with 20 percent.

Recreation and education in October was just as expensive as in August. This stability is the result of a price increase of entertainment and culture (+0.6%) on the one hand and price reduction of books (-0.2%) and education (-0.1%) on the other hand.

The two expenditure categories that became cheaper in October are transportation and communication (-0.3%) and beverages and tobacco (-0.3%) The former is due to a combination of cheaper gasoline (-5%) and more expensive car-batteries (+6%).

Long-term inflation

¹ Food n.e.s. = food not earlier specified.

Between October 2008 and October 2009, the Consumer Price Index for Sint Maarten increased from 108.3 to 109.6, a 1.2 percent increase.

In October 2009, the twelve-month average of prices for Sint Maarten was 0.1 percent higher than in October 2008. According to the CBS, this is a good indicator of the long-term inflation. Thus, the inflation in Sint Maarten has been rapidly decreasing over the past year: October 2008 (5.1%), December 2008 (4.6%), February 2009 (3.7%), April 2009 (2.9%), June 2009 (2.0%), August 2009 (0.8%), October 2009 (0.1%).

The CBS prognoses for the short term, given the known circumstances, is stabilisation and /or a more moderate development of the inflation on the island.

Inflation Sint Maarten in the past 2 years

