

August 7, 2008

Consumer Price Index, base September 2000 July 2008

The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index for the month of July 2008.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for July 2008 is **140.76**, this is **1.35%** higher compared with the index of June 2008 (**138.88**).
- The percentage change for the first 7 months (January to July 2008) of the CPI is 6.06, which is equal to the same period of last year.
- The percentage change of the CPI over the last 12 months (July 2007 and July 2008) is 10.20, an increase of 4.78 percentage points compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (5.42).
- The period average percentage change of the CPI for the period July 2007 - July 2008 is 8.25, an increase of 4.17 percentage points compared to the period average percentage change over the period July 2006 - July 2007 (4.08).

Table 1 Overview percentage change CPI

Period		2008	2007
Current month	Jun - Jul	1.35	(0.32)
Year-to-date	Jan - Jul	6.06	6.06
Last 12 months ¹	Jul - Jul	10.20	5.42
Last 24 months ²	Jul - Jul	8.25	4.08

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

¹ End of period inflation

² Period average inflation

In July the sectors that show the highest positive percentage changes in the CPI are:

CPI	1.35
• Housing	3.13
• Food	1.53
• Transport and communication	0.98
• Leisure and recreational goods	0.80
• Goods and services n.e.c.	0.75

Table 2 Percentage change by sector

Sector	Percentage changes			
	Monthly July	Year to date January - July	End of period July 07 - July 08	Period average July 07 - July 08
Consumer Price Index	1.35	6.06	10.20	8.25
Food	1.53	6.09	8.50	8.49
Beverages and tobacco products	0.24	2.01	2.64	8.00
Clothing and footwear	(0.58)	1.27	9.92	4.93
Housing	3.13	9.28	15.78	13.82
Household operation	0.48	2.82	4.19	3.65
Health	0.18	0.48	0.51	0.08
Transport and communication	0.98	8.97	12.08	7.40
Leisure and recreational goods	0.80	3.99	7.12	6.57
Goods and services n.e.c.	0.75	3.72	6.22	5.90

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Monthly Percentage Change

The prices of goods and services in the consumption basket of the CPI show an increase of **1.35%** for the month of July 2008 compared to the prices observed in June 2008.

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 374 goods and services. Compared to June, 51.1% of these products had an increase in price, while 26.5% showed a decrease and the remaining 22.5% had no change in price.

In July 2008, the sectors that had the greatest influence in the percentage change of the CPI are:

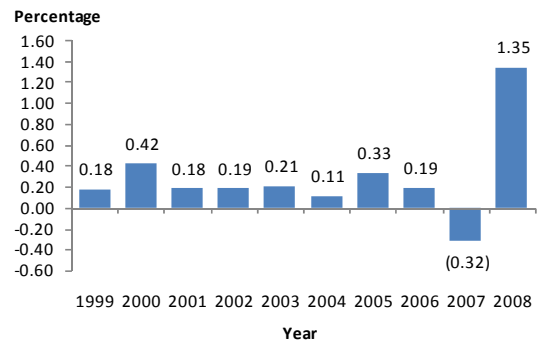
- Housing, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the categories “Domestic fuel and power” and “Water supply”.
- Food, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the categories “Potatoes, vegetables and fruit”, “Meat, poultry, game, fish and shellfish” and “Grain and grain products”.
- Transport and communication, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the category “Vehicle supplies”.

Table 3 Categories with the greatest effect on the CPI of July 2008

Category	Monthly change	Effect
Domestic Fuel and power	5.66	0.44
Water Supply	5.99	0.27
Vehicle supplies	2.13	0.15
Potatoes, vegetables and fruit	3.98	0.10
Dairy products	(0.99)	(0.02)
Clothing and accessories	(0.64)	(0.08)

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Graph 1 Monthly percentage change of the CPI for July, 1999 – 2008

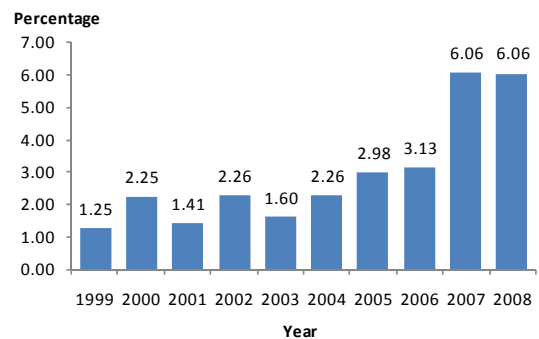


Graph 1 shows that the monthly percentage change of the CPI increased by 1.67 percentage points to 1.35 in July of 2008 from (0.32) in July of 2007.

Year-to-date Percentage Change

The year-to-date percentage change from January to July 2008 is 6.06 (Table 1). The sectors which had the greatest effect on the percentage change of this period due to changes registered in the prices of goods and services are Housing (2.35), Transport and communication (1.66), Food (0.97) and Goods and services n.e.c. (0.42).

Graph 2 Year-to-date percentage change of the CPI for January to July, 1999 – 2008



The year-to-date percentage change of the CPI for July 2008 amounts to 6.06, this figure is equal to the figure recorded in July 2007 (graph 2).

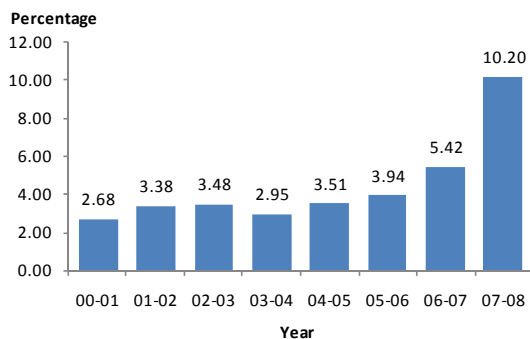
Percentage Changes last 12 and 24 Months

Table 4 Percentage changes by month, 2007 – 2008

Sector	Percentage changes							
	2007				2008			
	Monthly	Year-to-date	End of period	Period average	Monthly	Year-to-date	End of period	Period average
January	2.62	2.62	4.82	3.66	0.63	0.63	8.06	6.27
February	0.04	2.67	4.14	3.63	0.64	1.27	8.71	6.66
March	0.69	3.38	5.03	3.68	0.47	1.75	8.47	6.94
April	0.19	3.58	4.71	3.76	0.50	2.26	8.80	7.28
May	0.91	4.52	4.41	3.80	0.83	3.11	8.72	7.64
June	1.80	6.40	5.97	3.96	1.49	4.64	8.38	7.84
July	(0.32)	6.06	5.42	4.08	1.35	6.06	10.20	8.25
August	0.68	6.79	5.68	4.21				
September	0.10	6.89	5.77	4.36				
October	0.31	7.22	7.27	4.82				
November	1.15	8.45	8.54	5.37				
December	1.62	10.21	10.21	6.00				

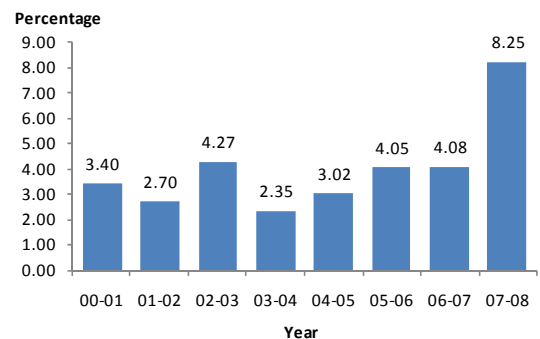
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Graph 3 Percentage change of the CPI (last 12 months) July to July, 2000 – 2008



The percentage change of the CPI (last 12 months/end of period) of 10.20, is the highest change registered in the last 8 years for the month July.

Graph 4 Average Percentage change of the CPI (last 24 months) July to July, 2000 - 2008



The average percentage change of the CPI for the month July (last 24 months/ period average) has been increasing since 2003 and reached 8.25 in July 2008, which is 4.17 percentage points higher than the year before.