

28 April 2008

## Consumer Price Index, base September 2000 March 2008

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

- The consumer price index for March 2008 is **135.04**, this is **0.47%** higher compared with the index of February 2008 (**134.41**).
- The percentage change for the first 3 months (January to March 2008) of the consumer price index is 1.75%, compared to 3.38% for the same period of last year.
- The percentage change over the last 12 months (April 2007 to March 2008) is 8.47%, an increase of 3.40 percentage points compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (5.06%).
- The percentage change over the last 24 months (April 2006 to March 2008) is 6.94%, an increase of 3.24 percentage points compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (3.70%).

**Table 1 Overview percentage change CPI**

Period		2008	2007
Current month	Feb-Mar	0.47	0.70
Year to date	Jan-Mar	1.75	3.38
Last 12 months	Apr-Mar	8.47	5.06 <sup>1</sup>
Last 24 months	Apr-Mar	6.94	3.70 <sup>2</sup>

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

<sup>1</sup> End of period inflation

<sup>2</sup> Period average inflation

In March the sectors that show a higher positive percentage change compared to the change of the CPI (0.47%) are:

- Food
- Household operation
- Transport and communication
- Leisure and recreational goods
- Goods and services n.e.c.

**Table 2 Percentage change by sector**

Sector	Percentage change			
	Monthly (March)	Year to date (January-March)	End of period April 07 - March 08	Period average April 06 - March 08
<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>8.47</b>	<b>6.94</b>
Food	0.77	2.25	7.65	10.04
Beverages and tobacco products	0.19	1.09	4.60	13.07
Clothing and footwear	(0.32)	1.89	2.21	2.45
Housing	0.16	2.32	17.87	9.27
Household operation	0.32	1.22	3.31	4.89
Health	0.04	0.33	0.11	(0.09)
Transport and communication	1.12	1.08	6.74	5.90
Leisure and recreational goods	0.67	1.53	6.34	5.97
Goods and services n.e.c.	0.62	1.38	6.07	5.51

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

## Monthly Percentage Change

The prices of goods and services show an increase of **0.47%** for the month of March 2008 compared to the prices observed in February 2008.

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 374 goods and services. Compared to February, 57% of these products had an increase in price, while 22% showed a decrease and the remaining 21% had no change in price.

In March 2008, the sectors that had the most influence in the percentage change of the CPI are:

- Transport and communication, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the categories of vehicle supplies and own transport.
- Food, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the category dairy products.
- Clothing and footwear, where decreases in prices were mainly registered in the category footwear.

**Table 3 Positive Effect**

Category	Monthly change	Effect
Vehicle supplies	1.92	0.14
Own transport	1.00	0.06
Costs incurred for recreational purposes	0.98	0.05
Dairy products	2.91	0.04
Other goods and services n.e.c.	0.88	0.04

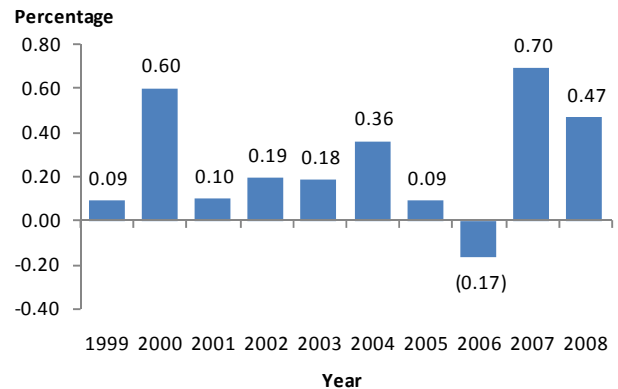
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

**Table 4 Negative Effect**

Category	Monthly change	Effect
Footwear	-2.97	-0.07
Household supplies	-1.67	-0.03
Beverages	0.03	-0.01
Home appliances and tools	-0.16	-0.01
Publications (no study material)	-1.03	-0.01

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

**Graph 1 Monthly percentage change of the CPI for**



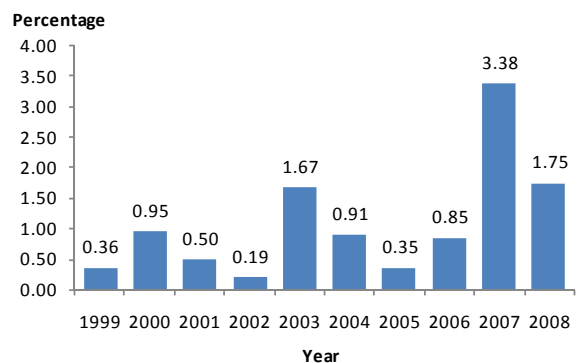
### March, 1999 – 2008

When analyzing the series of the Consumer Price Index for the month of March for the last 10 years, the one of 2008 had the eighth highest change.

## Year to date Percentage Change

The year to date percentage change from January to March 2008 is 1.75% (Table 1). The sectors which mainly had effect on the percentage change of this period due to changes registered in the prices of goods and services are Housing (0.50%), Food (0.33%) and Transport and communication (0.21%).

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



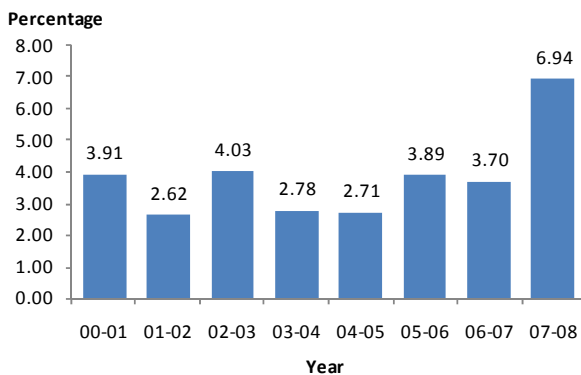
## Percentage Changes last 12 and 24 Months

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
March	Jan-Mar	Apr07-Mar08	Apr06-Mar08	March	Jan-Mar	Apr07-Mar08	Apr06-Mar08	
January	2.62	2.62	4.83	3.66	0.63	0.63	8.06	6.28
February	0.04	2.67	4.16	3.63	0.64	1.27	8.71	6.66
March	0.70	3.38	5.06	3.70	0.47	1.75	8.47	6.94
April	0.19	3.58	4.74	3.78				
May	0.91	4.52	4.37	3.81				
June	1.80	6.40	5.98	3.97				
July	(0.32)	6.06	5.39	4.10				
August	0.68	6.78	5.67	4.22				
September	0.09	6.88	5.77	4.36				
October	0.32	7.22	7.25	4.82				
November	1.15	8.45	8.57	5.37				
December	1.62	10.21	10.21	6.00				

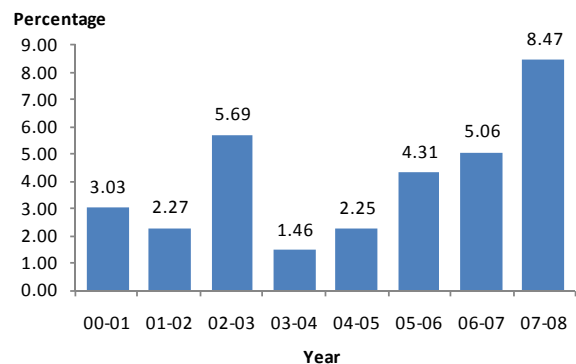
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

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



The percentage change of the CPI (last 12 months/end of period) 8.47% is the highest change registered in the last 8 years.

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



The average percentage change of the CPI (last 24 months/period average) 6.94% is also the highest change registered in the last 8 years.