

September 4, 2008

Consumer Price Index, base September 2000 August 2008

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

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for August 2008 is **143.01**, this is **1.60%** higher compared with the index of July 2008 (**140.76**).
- The percentage change for the first 8 months (January to August 2008) of the CPI is 7.75, compared to 6.79 for the same period of last year.
- The percentage change of the CPI over the last 12 months (August 2007 and August 2008) is 11.21, an increase of 5.53 percentage points compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (5.68).
- The period average percentage change of the CPI for the period August 2007 - August 2008 is 8.71, an increase of 4.49 percentage points compared to the period average percentage change over the period August 2006 - August 2007 (4.22).

Table 1 Overview percentage change CPI

Period		2008	2007
Current month	Jul-Aug	1.60	0.68
Year-to-date	Jan-Aug	7.75	6.79
Last 12 months 1	Aug-Aug	11.21	5.68
Last 24 months 2	Aug-Aug	8.71	4.22

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

1 End of period inflation

2 Period average inflation

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

CPI	1.60
• Housing	4.56
• Food	3.32
• Leisure and recreational goods	0.94
• Goods and services n.e.c.	0.81
• Beverages and tobacco products	0.70

Table 2 Percentage change by sector

Sector	Percentage changes			
	Monthly Aug	Year to date Jan - Aug	End of period Aug 07 - Aug 08	Period average Aug 07 - Aug 08
Consumer Price Index	1.60	7.75	11.21	8.71
Food	3.32	9.61	12.44	8.65
Beverages and tobacco products	0.70	2.73	2.74	6.71
Clothing and footwear	(2.24)	(1.00)	6.48	5.48
Housing	4.56	14.26	18.96	14.88
Household operation	0.51	3.34	4.56	3.65
Health	(0.09)	0.39	0.23	0.10
Transport and communication	(0.53)	8.39	11.16	8.04
Leisure and recreational goods	0.94	4.97	7.40	6.73
Goods and services n.e.c.	0.81	4.56	6.54	6.02

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 **1.60%** for the month of August 2008 compared to the prices observed in July 2008.

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 374 goods and services. Compared to July, 54.3% of these products had an increase in price, while 23.0% showed a decrease and the remaining 22.7% had no change in price.

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

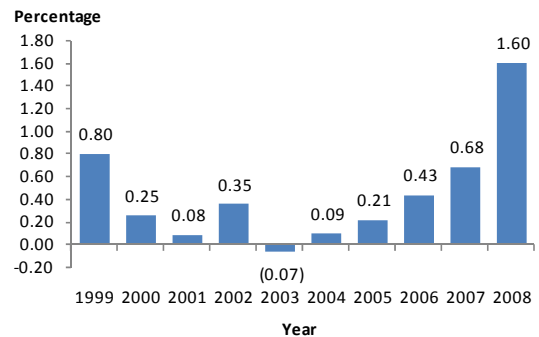
- Housing, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the categories "Domestic fuel and power" and "Water supply".
- Food, where increases in prices were mainly registered in the categories "Take away beverages and meals", "Grain and grain products" and "Meat, poultry, game, fish and shellfish".
- Clothing and footwear, where decreases in prices were mainly registered in the category "Clothing and accessories".
- Transport and communication, where decreases in prices were mainly registered in the category "Vehicle supplies".

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

Category	Monthly change	Effect change
Domestic Fuel and power	8.80	0.68
Water Supply	7.63	0.34
Take away beverages and meals	4.55	0.23
Grain and grain products	7.09	0.19
Meat, poultry, game, fish and shellfish	1.46	0.06
Vehicle supplies	(1.22)	(0.07)
Clothing and accessories	(2.62)	(0.29)

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

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

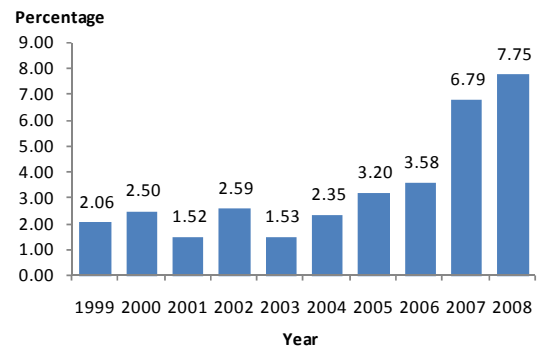


Graph 1 shows that the monthly percentage change of the CPI increased by 0.92 percentage points to 1.60 in August of 2008 from (0.68) in August of 2007.

Year-to-date Percentage Change

The year-to-date percentage change from January to August 2008 is 7.75 (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 (3.30), Transport and communication (1.60), Food (1.55) and Goods and services n.e.c. (0.52).

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



The year-to-date percentage change of the CPI for August 2008 amounts to 7.75, an increase of 0.96 percentage points compared to the figure recorded in August 2007 (graph 2).

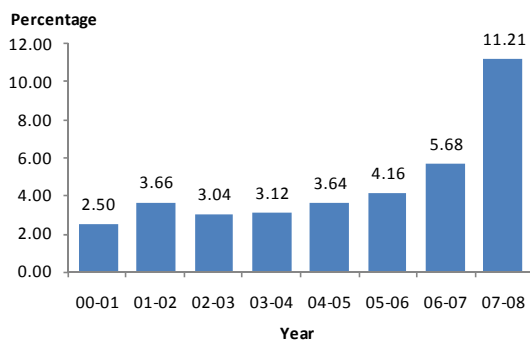
Percentage Changes last 12 and 24 Months

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	1.60	7.75	11.21	8.71
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				

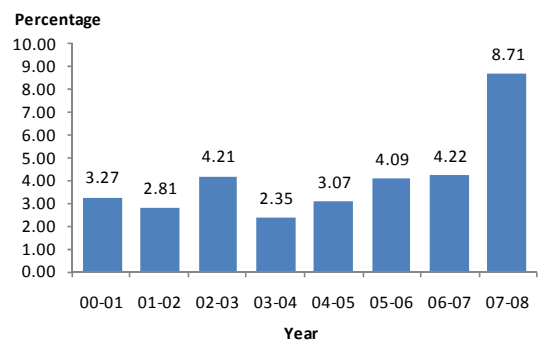
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

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



The percentage change of the CPI (last 12 months/end of period) of 11.21, is the highest change registered in the last 8 years for the month August.

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



The average percentage change of the CPI for the month August (last 24 months/ period average) has been increasing since 2003 and reached 8.71 in August 2008, which is 4.49 percentage points higher than the year before.