



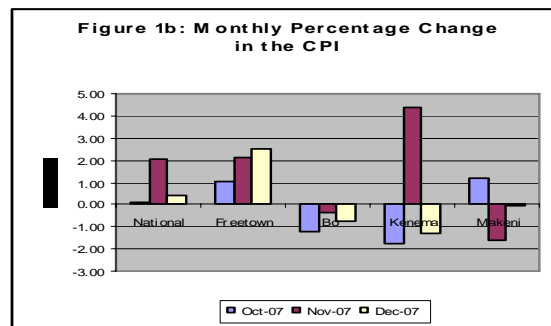
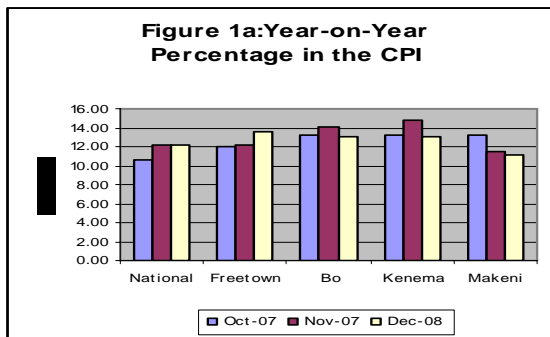
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) DECEMBER 2007: PRESS RELEASE
Released on Wednesday, January 16, 2008: at 1:00 pm

THE COMPOSITE NATIONAL RATE OF INFLATION DECREASES SLIGHTLY

The composite annual rate of inflation decreased by 0.04 percentage point from 12.19 percent in November 2007 to 12.15 per cent in December 2007. The monthly rate of inflation for December 2007 was 0.43 per cent when the combine CPI for December 2007 is compared with the CPI for November 2007. The December 2007 monthly inflation rate was therefore down by 0.46 percentage point when compared with the October 2007 inflation figure which was 0.89 percent.

In the month of December 2007, the year-on-year inflation rates decreased in varying magnitudes in Freetown from (12.19 percent to 11.2 percent) in Bo from (14.15 percent to 13.13 percent), in Kenema from(14.8 percent to 13.0 percent) and in Makeni from(11.9 percent to 11.1 percent). The monthly index for Freetown increased by 0.4 percent while the Bo, Kenema and Makeni monthly rate of inflation decreased by -0.75 percent, -1.3 percent and -0.1 percent respectively. Figures 1a and 1b below illustrate the movement in the year-on-year rates of inflation and monthly rates of inflation respectively for Composite CPI and other CPI centres while Table 1 below shows Composite CPI for the months of October 2007 through December 2007 and the 12 month change in the CPI for main index groups.

Moreover, in the old CPI series (1992=100), the year-on-year rate of inflation (i.e. comparing the rate of inflation in the current month with the rate of inflation in the same month last year) decreased in Freetown from 15.16 percent in November 2007 to 13.76 percent in December 2007, in Bo from 16.47 percent to 15.54 percent, in Kenema from 13.95 per cent to 13.65 per cent and in Makeni from 13.49 percent to 12.50 percent during the same period.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The combined monthly CPI (2003=100) for December 2007 increased marginally from 166.13 in November 2007 to 166.84 in December 2007 as a result of the increases in the indices for Housing (13.25 percent), Non-alcoholic beverages increased (0.50 percent), Glassware, tableware and household utensils (1.28 percent), personal care (4.53 percent) and transport services (7.63 percent). There were slight increases in the cost of spare parts, lubricants and transport fares. The overall effect was an increase in the transportation index by 7.69 percent. Similarly there were also increases in the indices for health by 2.29 per cent and tobacco by 0.15 percent which outweighed the decline in the indices for Food (1.11 percent), Communication (7.60 percent), Recreation and Culture (4.34 percent) and Education (7.90 percent), during the month of December 2007.

More information can also be obtained from our website: www.statistics.sl

For More Detailed Information: Subscribe to the Detailed CPI Report. Please Contact: The Statistician General, Statistics Sierra Leone P. O. Box 595, Tower Hill, Freetown, SIERRA LEONE Telephone: (232) 22- 223287 Call: (232) 76 – 609989 Facsimile: (232) 22- 223897 E-Mail: statistics@sierratel.sl/statistics@statistics.sl

National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2003=100)									
		Dec-06	Sept-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07			
COICOP	WEIGHT	Month Previous Year -	Month m-3 for Current Year	Month m-2 for Current Year	Month m-1 for Current Year	Month m for Current Year	Monthly Change	3 Months Change	12 months Change
O	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
Food & Non-Alcoholic Bev.	50.81	142.28	165.70	165.04	164.44	163.26	-0.72	-1.47	14.75
Alcoholic Bev. Tob. & Narcotics	2.50	118.22	127.61	126.06	126.78	127.82	0.82	0.16	8.12
Clothing And Footwear	8.11	115.70	125.55	125.16	125.24	124.65	-0.47	-0.72	7.73
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	9.63	172.62	170.85	171.36	185.02	191.62	3.57	12.16	11.01
Furnishing, H/hold Equipt & H/hold Maint.	4.01	142.30	152.92	151.40	153.46	153.33	-0.08	0.27	7.75
Health	3.55	386.89	433.79	433.76	440.51	443.68	0.72	2.28	14.68
Transport	6.40	138.00	145.19	145.22	153.39	156.39	1.96	7.72	13.33
Communication	0.72	134.72	134.41	134.41	124.19	124.19	0.00	-7.60	-7.82
Recreation And Culture	5.24	133.00	143.16	144.10	138.89	137.85	-0.75	-3.71	3.65
Education	1.62	106.23	107.66	109.73	100.90	101.06	0.16	-6.14	-4.87
Restaurant And Hotels	4.26	127.14	126.56	137.23	136.02	131.91	-3.02	4.23	3.76
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	132.76	129.62	130.74	134.60	154.21	14.57	18.97	16.16
All Items	100.00	148.77	164.51	164.67	166.13	166.84	0.43	1.41	12.15

Column Description
Column O : COICOP 12 Functions
Column A : CPI Weighting
Column B : CPI Of The Given Month (M) For Previous Year
Column C : CPI Of The Given Month (M -3) For Current Year
Column D : CPI Of The Given Month (M -2) For Current Year
Column E : CPI Of The Given Month (M -1) For Current Year
Column G : CPI Monthly Change In % $((F-E) \times 100 / E)$
Column H : CPI 3 Months Change In % $((F-C) \times 100 / C)$
Column I : CPI 12 Months Change In % $((F-B) \times 100 / B)$.

The Interim National CPI measures the change in prices, on average, from month to month, of the goods and services bought by most households, in Freetown, Bo, Kenema and Makeni including all expenditure groups and both families and single persons. Prices are collected for 251 items. All prices collected are the prevailing retail market prices from six (6) markets in the Greater Freetown area, three (3) Markets in Bo Town, three (3) markets in Kenema Town and two (2) markets in Makeni Town for weekly prices and other outlets for monthly items whose prices are less likely to fluctuate rapidly. The National Index was computed by aggregating the CPI for the four index towns previously published separately with different base periods. The old CPI series for Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Freetown were rebased to base year 2003. Computation methodology changed from the Modified to the Traditional Laspeyres, and transformed into the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) with 12 functions. The separate center CPIs were aggregated at the sub-class level.