



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) NOVEMBER 2007: PRESS RELEASE

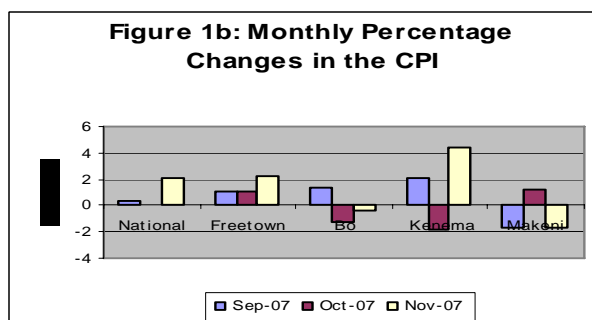
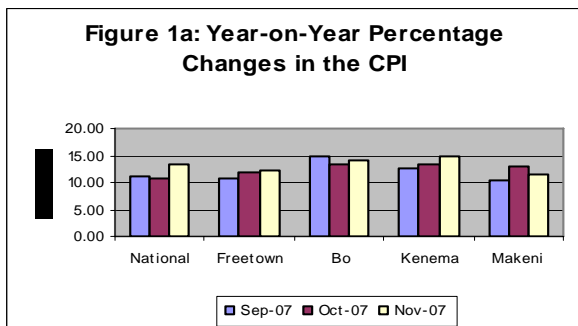
Released on Wednesday, December 12, 2007: at 1:00 pm

THE COMPOSITE NATIONAL RATE OF INFLATION INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The composite annual rate of inflation increased by 1.50 percentage points from 10.69 percent in October 2007 to 12.19 percent in November 2007. The monthly rate of inflation for November 2007 was 0.89 per cent when the combine CPI for November 2007 is compared with the CPI for October 2007. The November 2007 monthly inflation rate was therefore up by 0.80 percentage points when compared with the October 2007 inflation figure which was 0.09 percent.

In the month of November 2007, the year-on-year inflation rates increased in varying magnitudes in Freetown from (11.96 percent to 12.19 percent), in Bo from (13.29 percent to 14.15 percent) and in Kenema from (13.8 percent to 14.8 percent) while the Makeni year-on-year rate of inflation decreased from (13.6 percent to 11.9 percent). The monthly indices for Freetown and Kenema increased by 2.16 percent and 0.9 percent respectively while the Bo and Makeni monthly rate of inflation decreased by -0.33 percent and -1.71 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 September 2007 through November 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) increased in Freetown from 13.34 percent in October 2007 to 15.16 percent in November 2007, in Bo from 15.90 percent to 16.47 percent, in Kenema from 14.80 percent to 14.32 percent and in Makeni from 10.80 percent to 13.49 percent during the same period.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The combined monthly CPI (2003=100) for November 2007 increased marginally from 164.67 in October 2007 to 166.13 in November 2007 as a result of the increase in the price of petroleum products. The price of petrol, diesel and kerosene increased from Le 12,950.00 per gallon to Le 14,500.00). This increase was induced by the increase in the International price of crude oil. The immediate impact was an overall increase in the cost of transportation (5.62 percent) and Housing (7.97 percent), which were reinforced by increases in the indices for Furnishing and Household Maintenance and Health. These increases outweighed the decline in the indices for Food (0.37 percent), Communication (0.76 percent), Recreation and Culture (3.61 percent) and Education (8.05 percent). There were varying increases in the indices for Alcoholic Beverages (0.19 percent), Tobacco (0.15 per cent) and Narcotics (3.25 percent). The Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics subgroup index therefore increased by 0.58 percent. Moreover, the indices for bread and cereals increased by 1.57 percent, Actual rentals for housing by 14.33 percent, Outpatient services by 1.04 and Transport services by 5.71 percent. The decreases recorded in the cost of meat (-0.30 percent), fish and seafood (-5.77 percent), fruit (-1.76 percent), vegetables (-10.84 percent), wine (-0.59 percent), clothing materials (-2.95 percent), Non-durable households goods (-1.28 per cent) were not sufficient to offset the increase in the composite CPI, during the month of November 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)									
		Nov-06	Aug-07	Sept-07	Oct-07	Nov-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	142.35	164.32	165.70	165.04	164.44	-0.37	0.07	15.51
Alcoholic Bev. Tob.& Narcotics	2.50	116.56	129.44	127.61	126.06	126.78	0.58	-2.05	8.77
Clothing And Footwear	8.11	118.14	123.61	125.55	125.16	125.24	0.06	1.31	6.00
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	9.63	167.71	174.75	170.85	171.36	185.02	7.97	5.87	10.32
Furnishing, H/Hold Equipmt & H/Hold Maint.	4.01	142.89	150.33	152.92	151.40	153.46	1.36	2.08	7.40
Health	3.55	373.62	433.30	433.79	433.76	440.51	1.56	1.67	17.91
Transport	6.40	138.77	144.64	145.19	145.22	153.39	5.62	6.05	10.54
Communication	0.72	134.72	134.41	134.41	134.41	124.19	-7.60	-7.60	-7.82
Recreation And Culture	5.24	131.94	141.35	143.16	144.10	138.89	-3.61	-1.74	5.27
Education	1.62	106.51	107.96	107.66	109.73	100.90	-8.05	-6.54	-5.27
Restaurant And Hotels	4.26	126.98	130.71	126.56	137.23	136.02	-0.88	4.07	7.12
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	134.07	126.78	129.62	130.74	134.60	2.95	6.16	0.40
All Items	100.00	148.08	163.91	164.51	164.67	166.13	0.89	1.35	12.19

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.