



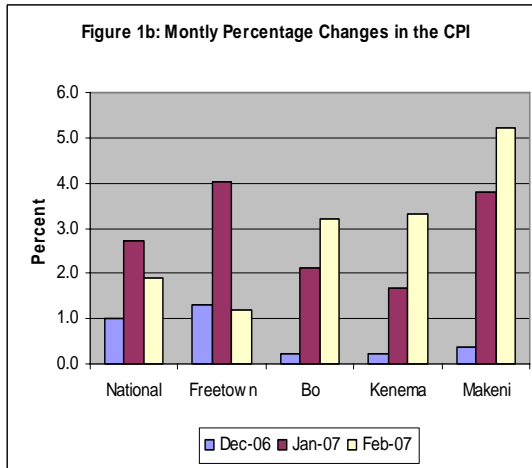
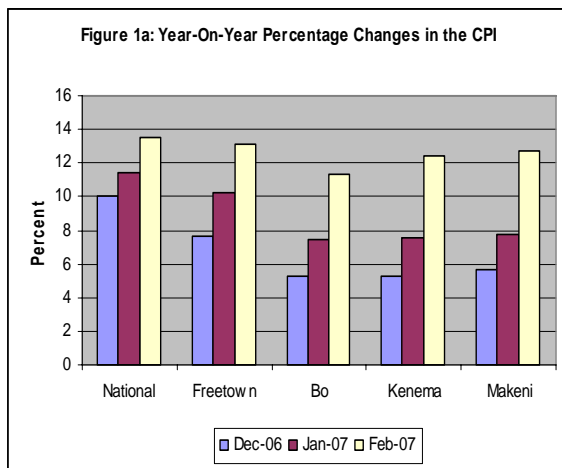
PRESS RELEASE

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**FEBRUARY 2007 INFLATION RATE SIGNIFICANTLY GOES UP**

Inflation rate for February 2007 has significantly increased. According to the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), inflation rate for February 2007 is 13.53 per cent when compared with the CPI figures for February 2006. The February 2007 inflation rate has gone up by 2.16 percentage points when compared with January 2007 inflation figure which was 11.37 per cent as measured on a year-on-year basis.

As measured on a monthly basis, inflation rate also increased by 1.91 per cent when the National CPI for February 2007 is compared with that for January 2007. Figures 1a & 1b below illustrate the movement in year-on year rates of inflation and monthly rates of inflation respectively for National CPI and other CPI centers while table 1 below shows National CPI for the months of November 2006 to February 2007 and the 12 month change in the CPI for main index groups.



**FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION**

The overall monthly CPI for February 2007 increased from 170.83 in January 2007 to 174.09 in February 2007 as a result of the increase in the Food Group index by 5.72 per cent and the indices for Hospital Services (6.46 per cent), Recreation and Cultural Services (4.17 per cent), Catering Services (2.82 per cent) and Operation of Personal Transport (2.13 per cent). There was a shortfall in the supply of food products such as onions, palm oil, groundnuts, potatoes, fish and vegetables in the markets in all centers during the month of February 2007 likely due to the political crisis in neighboring Guinea, which is an important trading partner and also the seasonal decline in the production of some of these food products.

More information can also be obtained from our website: [www.statistics.sl](http://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: [info@statistics.sl](mailto:info@statistics.sl) / [statistics@statistics.sl](mailto:statistics@statistics.sl)

Table 1.0: National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2003=100)									
		Feb-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-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.	40.4	135.8	142.7	142.5	149.0	157.4	5.6	10.3	15.9
Alcoholic Bev. Tob. & Narcotics	2.3	109.3	113.6	115.8	121.5	116.6	-4.0	2.7	6.7
Clothing And Footwear	7.7	111.8	118.0	115.9	116.2	117.0	0.8	-0.8	4.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	14.5	147.3	175.2	181.0	179.3	180.1	0.4	2.8	22.3
Furnishing, H/hold Equipmt & H/hold Maint.	4.4	120.7	147.6	146.3	146.5	146.7	0.1	-0.6	21.5
Health	12.4	313.3	328.0	336.1	341.7	340.6	-0.3	3.8	8.7
Transport	4.0	152.0	168.7	170.3	171.0	172.4	0.8	2.2	13.4
Communication	2.4	95.3	77.2	77.2	83.3	83.3	0.0	7.9	-12.6
Recreation And Culture	1.2	119.0	130.4	132.2	135.0	128.6	-4.7	-1.3	8.1
Education	3.1	99.3	101.3	100.4	100.5	100.9	0.4	-0.4	1.7
Restaurant And Hotels	0.7	122.1	109.6	110.3	139.8	143.8	2.8	31.1	17.7
Miscellaneous G&S	6.9	116.8	124.3	124.4	136.6	135.5	-0.8	9.0	16.1
All Items	100.0	153.3	164.7	166.3	170.8	174.1	1.9	5.7	13.5
<b>Column Description</b>									
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) X 100 /E)									
Column H : CPI 3 Months Change In % ((F-C) X 100 /C)									
Column I: CPI 12 Months Change In % ((F-B) X 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 at which level new weights were also introduced to obtain the Interim National Index.