



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) MARCH 2007: PRESS RELEASE

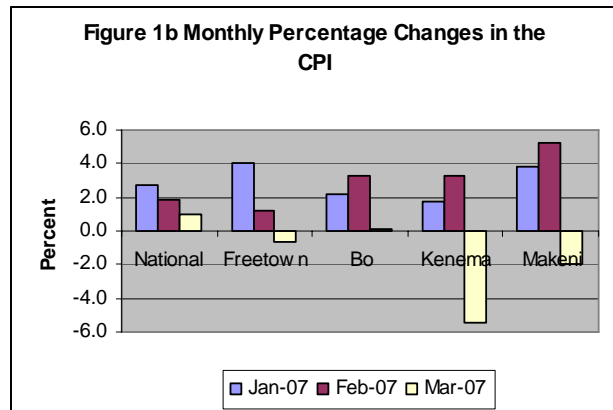
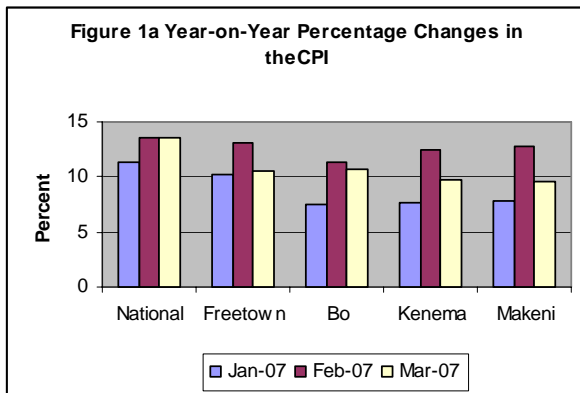
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THE INTERIM NATIONAL RATE OF INFLATION INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The composite annual rate of inflation increased by 0.1 percentage point from 13.53 percent in February 2007 to 13.63 percent in March 2007.

Also, there was a marginal increase of 0.98 per cent in the monthly rate of inflation when the National CPI for March 2007 is compared with that of February 2007. Figures 1a and 1b below illustrate the movement in year-on-year rates of inflation and monthly rates of inflation respectively for National CPI and other CPI centres while table 1 below shows National CPI for the months of December 2006 to March 2007 and 12 month change in the CPI for main index groups.

However, in the old CPI (1992=100), 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 12.80 per cent in February 2007 to 10.10 per cent in March 2007. Table 2 below gives the monthly and year-on-year percentage changes in the Freetown CPI (1992 = 100).



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The overall composite CPI (2003=100) monthly CPI for March increased from 174.09 in February 2007 to 175.80 in March 2007 as a result of the increase in the index for Non-Alcoholic beverages by 2.51 per cent and the indices for Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (4.62 per cent), Furniture and Furnishing, Carpets and Other floor Coverings (1.65 per cent), Alcoholic Beverages (0.25 per cent) Outpatient Services (11.68 per cent) and Hospital Services (24.33 per cent).

The general decrease in the cost of Food (2.39 per cent), Communication (3.67 per cent) and Catering Services (13.27 per cent) was not sufficient to offset the increase in the composite CPI, during the month of March 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@statistics.sl or info@statistics.sl

Composite CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2003=100)									
		Mar-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-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.	40.37	137.31	142.46	149.04	157.45	153.78	-2.33	7.95	12.00
Alcoholic Bev. Tob.& Narcotics	2.33	115.14	115.84	121.49	116.62	116.29	-0.28	0.39	0.99
Clothing and Footwear	7.69	113.81	115.89	116.16	117.05	116.42	-0.54	0.46	2.29
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	14.50	146.17	180.97	179.31	180.06	182.42	1.31	0.80	24.80
Furnishing, H/Hold Equipt & H/Hold Maint.	4.44	120.21	146.29	146.51	146.70	147.34	0.44	0.72	22.57
Health	12.42	313.29	336.15	341.71	340.59	365.34	7.27	8.68	16.61
Transport	4.01	152.43	170.28	170.98	172.39	172.55	0.09	1.33	13.20
Communication	2.37	95.34	77.21	83.31	83.32	80.26	-3.67	3.96	-15.81
Recreation and Culture	1.23	120.73	132.21	134.98	128.64	132.48	2.98	0.20	9.74
Education	3.06	107.76	100.37	100.47	100.91	98.09	-2.79	-2.27	-8.98
Restaurant and Hotels	0.66	121.14	110.27	139.81	143.76	124.67	-13.27	13.07	2.92
Miscellaneous G&S	6.93	122.12	124.36	136.63	135.52	135.94	0.30	9.31	11.32
All Items	100.0	154.72	166.30	170.83	174.09	175.80	0.98	5.71	13.63
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) 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.