



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) JANUARY 2007: PRESS RELEASE

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THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION INCREASES IN ALL CENTERS

In January 2007, the monthly rate of inflation increased slightly in Freetown (1.53 per cent), in Bo (2.7 per cent), in Kenema (1.63 per cent) and in Makeni (3.97 per cent) when compared with the respective indices in December 2006. 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 8.26 per cent in December 2006 to 9.81 per cent in January 2007, in Bo from 6.44 per cent to 8.68 per cent, in Kenema from 3.59 per cent to 5.65 per cent and in Makeni from 7.26 per cent to 7.78 per cent during the same period.

The corresponding year-on-year rate of inflation in January 2006 for Freetown was 13.85 per cent, Bo 12.13 per cent, Kenema 14.11 per cent and Makeni 9.29 per cent.

Figure a

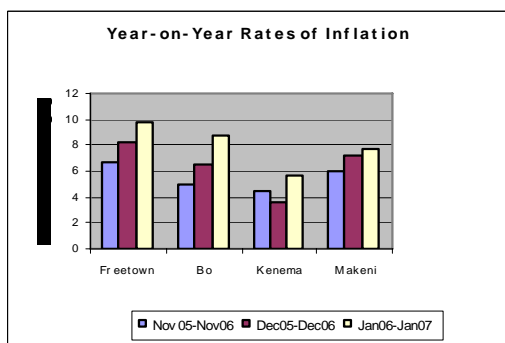
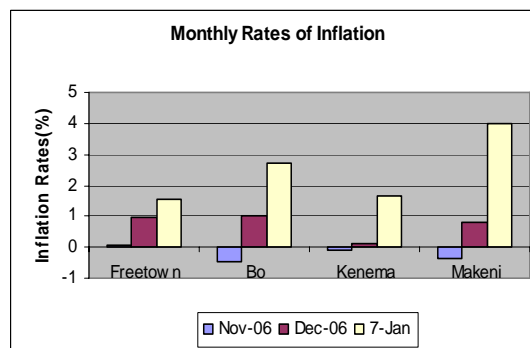


Figure b



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The increases in the monthly CPI for Freetown, Bo, Kenema and Makeni in January were due to increases in the prices of Food products especially coffee, tea, sugar, salt, vegetables, fruits and nuts, oil, margarine, butter, milk, milk products and eggs. In Freetown and Kenema there were increases in the prices of all main expenditure groups namely Food, Beverages and Tobacco and Non-Food products, which consequently led to the general increase in the monthly inflation rate. In Bo there were also increases in the prices of Non-Food products (0.73 per cent) and Food products (4.75 per cent) which outweighed the decreases in the prices of Beverages and Tobacco (0.63 per cent). In Makeni, the increases in the monthly rate of inflation were influenced by increases in the prices of Food products and Beverages and Tobacco in the CPI basket.

The all-items consumer price index (CPI) is the main measure of what is commonly called inflation. It 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.

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

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