



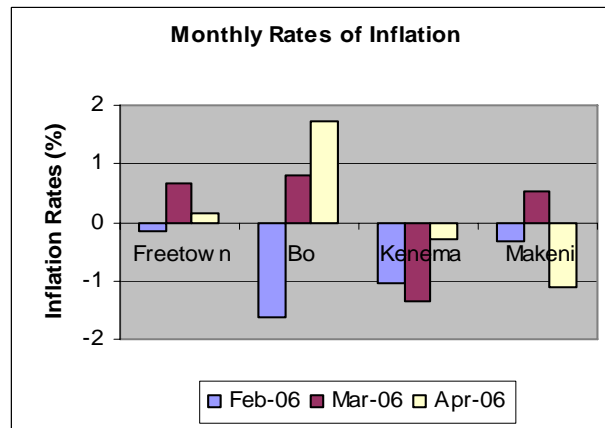
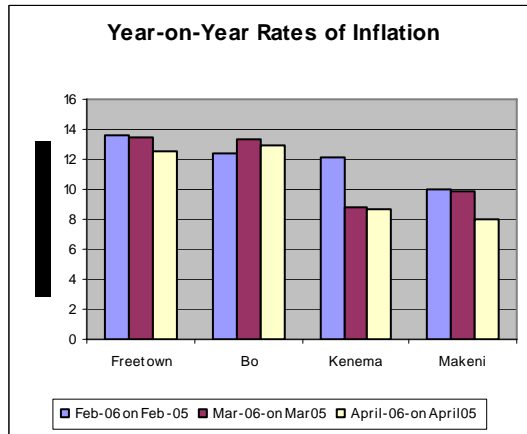
Monday, May 22, 2006: released at 1:00 pm
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) APRIL 2006: PRESS RELEASE
THE RATE OF INFLATION SHOWED MIXED TRENDS

In April 2006, the monthly rate of inflation increased slightly in Freetown (0.16 per cent), in Bo (1.71 per cent) but decreased in Kenema (0.29 per cent) and Makeni (1.12 per cent) when compared with the respective indices in March 2006.

The year-on-year rate of inflation was in the double digits in Freetown (12.48 per cent) and in Bo (12.87 per cent) but single digit annual rates of inflation were recorded in Kenema (8.61 per cent) and Makeni (7.94 per cent). The year-on-year rate of inflation decreased in Freetown from 13.52 per cent in March 2006 to 12.48 per cent in April 2006, in Bo from 13.30 per cent to 12.87 per cent, in Kenema from 8.86 per cent to 8.61 per cent and in Makeni from 9.84 per cent to 7.94 per cent during the same period.

Figure 1a

Figure 1b



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The increases in the monthly CPI for Freetown and Bo during April 2006 were due to increases in the prices of Food products in both townships by 0.63 per cent in Freetown and 3.13 per cent in Bo. In Freetown, the increase in the price of Food products outweighed the decreases in the prices of Beverages and Tobacco (1.26 per cent) and Non-Food products (0.38 per cent) and in Bo there were increases in the indices of all main expenditure groups. Price increases were recorded for Fruits, Vegetables and Fish products. In Kenema and Makeni, the decrease in the monthly rate of inflation was influenced by decreases in the prices of food products in the CPI basket .Food products decreased more in Makeni (1.12 per cent) than in Kenema (0.99 per cent).

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 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