



Monday February 20, 2006: released at 1:00 pm
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) JANUARY 2006: PRESS RELEASE

In January 2006, the monthly rate of inflation increased slightly in Freetown (0.10 per cent), in Bo (0.58 per cent) and in Makeni (3.46 per cent) but decreased in Kenema (0.35 per cent) when compared with the respective indices in December 2005. The annual rate of inflation was in the double digits in Freetown, Bo and Kenema but a single digit rate of inflation was recorded in Makeni.

The year-on-year rate of inflation increased in all the centers with the Freetown year-on-year rate of inflation increasing from 13.10 per cent in December 2005 to 13.85 per cent in January 2006, Bo from 9.67 per cent to 12.13 per cent, Kenema from 13.27 per cent to 14.11 per cent and Makeni from 8.44 per cent to 9.29 per cent during the same period.

Inflation Rates by Region

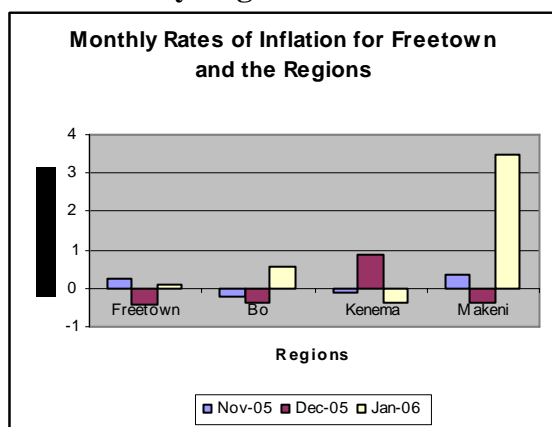


Figure 1a

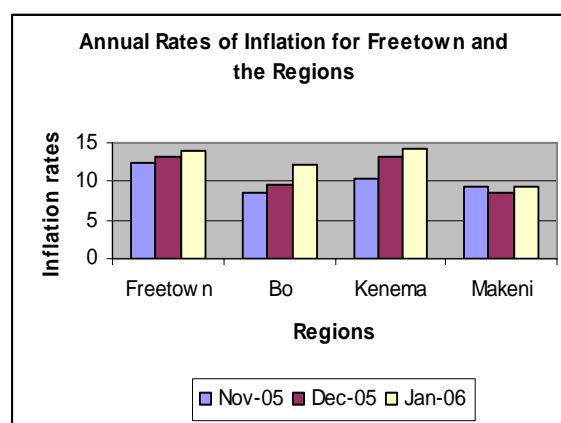


Figure 1b

FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The increases in the monthly rate of inflation in Freetown (0.1 percent) and in Makeni (3.46 percent) during the month of January 2006 were mainly due to the increases in the prices of food products. Food products for which price increases were recorded during the month of January 2006 include: fish, cereals, vegetables and fruits, sugar, salts and condiments, coffee, tea and cocoa. In Bo, the slight increase in the consumer price index was influenced by the increases in the prices of Non-Food products such as women’s clothing; footwear, firewood, charcoal and furniture. The prices of most Non-Food products decreased in Kenema Township this month except the cost of Entertainment and Transport. The decreases in the prices of Non-Food products (1.27 percent) outweighed the slight increases in the prices of Food products (0.26 percent) and Beverages and Tobacco (0.73 percent).

.....
 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@statistics.sl
statistics@sierratel.sl

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

Next press release expected 19th February 2006