



**Monday October 9, 2006: released at 1:00 pm**  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) SEPTEMBER 2006: PRESS RELEASE**

**The monthly rate of inflation increases slightly**

The consumer price index increased moderately in all centers during the month of September 2006. Consequently, the monthly rate of inflation as measured by the change in the CPI increased moderately in Freetown (1.82 percent), in Bo (1.06 percent) in Kenema (1.41 percent) and in Makeni (1.84 percent).

However, the movements in the year on year rates of inflation were mixed though maintaining the single digit rates in all centers. On the one hand, the year-on-year rate of inflation (i.e. the CPI for the current month this year compared with the CPI for the same month last year) increased in Freetown from 6.21 percent in August 2006 to 6.63 percent in September 2006 and in Makeni from 3.56 percent to 3.62 percent during the same period. On the other hand, the year-on-year rate of inflation decreased in Bo from 6.68 in August 2006 to 6.62 percent in September 2006 and in Kenema from 4.19 percent to 3.48 percent during the same period. The decrease in the year-on-year rate of inflation in Bo and Kenema is an indication that the supply of commodities in the CPI basket this month was an improvement over the supply situation in the same period last year.

Figure 1a

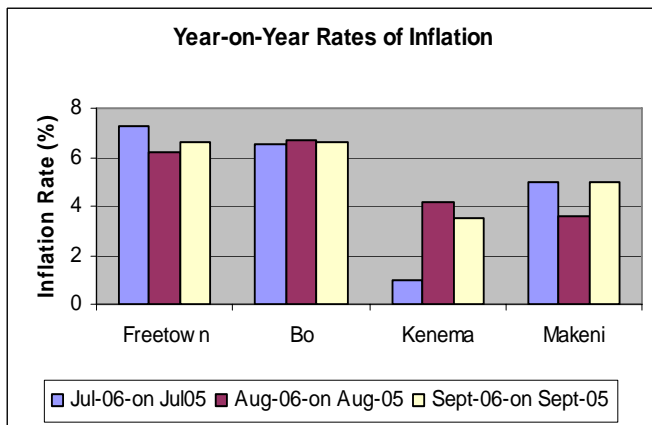
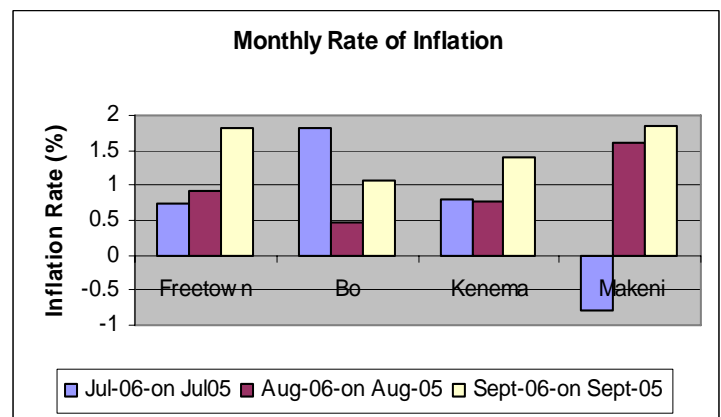


Figure 1b



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

Moderate increases were recorded in the monthly rate of inflation in all centers during the month of September 2006 due mainly to increases in the prices of food products, especially fish and vegetables, coffee and tea, sugar, other condiments, milk and cereals(excluding rice) in all centers. The increase in the price of food was reinforced in all centers by noticeable increases in the prices of non-food products such as men's clothing, footwear, house rent, charcoal, firewood and furniture.

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.**

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