



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) MARCH, 2008: PRESS RELEASE

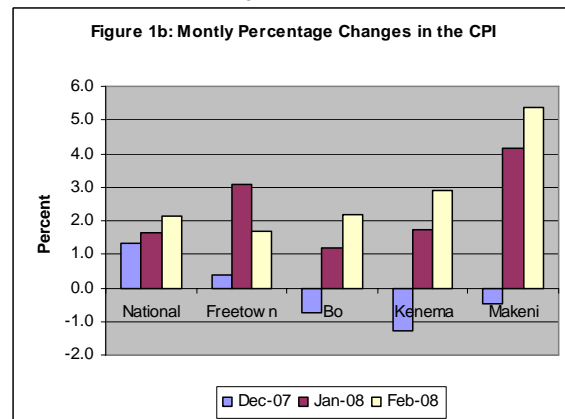
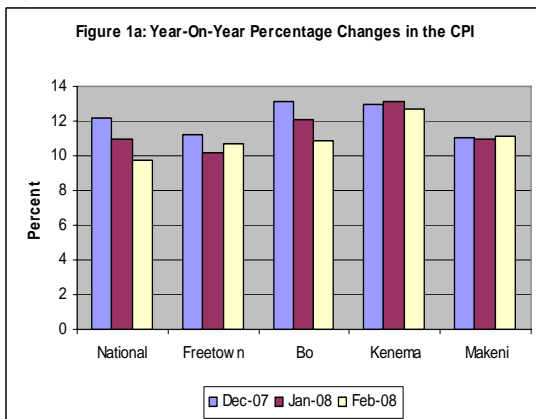
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MARCH 2008 ANNUAL INFLATION RATE INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The annual Inflation rate for March 2008 increased slightly. According to the composite Consumer Price Index (NCPI), inflation rate for March 2008 is 10.52 percent when compared with the CPI figures for March 2007. The March 2008 inflation rate has increased by 0.79 percentage point when compared with February 2007 inflation figure which was 9.73 percent as measured on a year-on-year basis.

Alternatively, the monthly inflation rate increased by 0.28 percent when the combined CPI for March 2008 is compared with that for February 2008. Figures 1a & 1b below illustrate the movement in year-on year rates of inflation and monthly rates of inflation respectively for National CPI and other CPI centers while table 1 below shows National CPI for the months of December 2007 to February 2008 and the 12 month change in the CPI for main index groups.

In the old CPI series (1992=100), the year-on-year rate of inflation increased in Freetown from 13.72 percent in February 2008 to 14.77 percent in March 2008. Alternatively, the year –on-on-year rate of inflation increased in Freetown from 13.72 percent to 14.77 percent, in Kenema from 14.15 percent to 14.83 percent and in Makeni from 11.17 percent to 11.75 percent while the year –on-on-year rate of inflation decreased in Bo from 12.64 percent to 12.47 percent during the same period



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The overall monthly CPI (2003=100) for March 2008 increased from 172.5 in February 2008 to 172.94 in March 2008 as a result of the increase in the indices for food products like vegetable (2.0 percent), fruit (1.77 percent), milk, cheese and eggs (1.20 percent) and bread and cereals (14.47 percent) which has influenced the increase in the CPI. Hence, these increases were reinforced by increases in the indices for Housing (0.35 percent), Furnishing and Household Maintenance (1.95 percent), Restaurants and Hotels (0.94 percent) and Health (0.77 percent). Decreases in the cost of oils such as palm oil, vegetable oils (15.7 percent), Solid Fuels such as charcoal, firewood (2.95 percent), books (8.6 percent), hairdressing (2.13 percent) etc. were not sufficient to offset the increase in the CPI. The overall effect was an increase in the monthly rate of inflation by 0.28 percent

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: info@statistics.sl/statistics@statistics.sl

National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2003=100)									
		Mar-07	Dec-07	Jan-07		Mar-08			
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.	50.81	154.46	163.26	167.98	173.70	172.24	-0.85	5.50	11.50
Alcoholic bev. tob.& narcotics	2.50	118.29	127.82	136.66	137.72	136.58	-0.83	6.85	15.46
Clothing and footwear	8.11	114.39	124.65	125.94	126.13	128.22	1.65	2.86	12.09
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	9.63	174.54	191.62	184.01	186.56	187.20	0.35	-2.30	7.25
Furnishing, h/hold equipt & h/hold maint.	4.01	143.15	153.33	156.63	157.18	160.25	1.95	4.51	11.95
Health	3.55	415.43	443.68	444.20	448.84	452.32	0.77	1.95	8.88
Transport	6.40	141.79	156.39	156.33	157.66	158.92	0.80	1.62	12.09
Communication	0.72	134.77	124.19	124.19	124.19	134.51	8.31	8.31	-0.19
Recreation and culture	5.24	136.44	137.85	136.71	136.66	133.13	-2.58	-3.42	-2.42
Education	1.62	105.77	101.06	100.99	100.91	102.09	1.17	1.02	-3.48
Restaurant and hotels	4.26	135.11	131.91	149.63	151.99	153.41	0.94	16.30	13.54
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	121.20	154.21	152.01	153.03	152.72	-0.20	-0.97	26.00
All items	100.00	156.48	166.84	169.60	173.20	172.94	-0.15	3.66	10.52
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.