



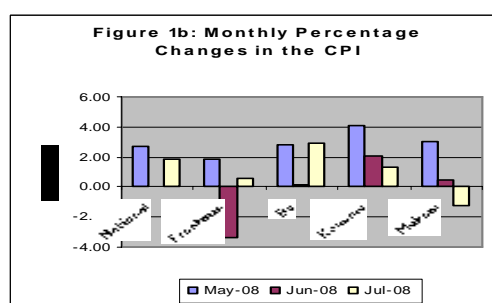
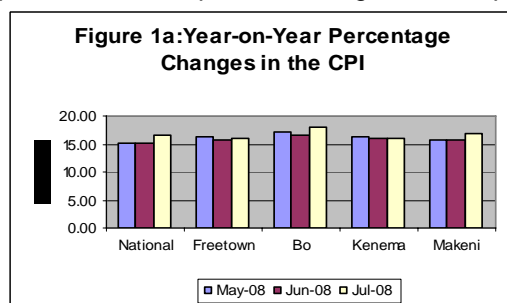
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) JULY, 2008: PRESS RELEASE

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JULY 2008 ANNUAL INFLATION RATE DECREASES SIGNIFICANTLY

The Composite annual Inflation rate for July 2008(2003=100) increased from 15.04 percent in June 2008 to 16.05 percent in July 2008. This reflects a 1.01 percentage point increase over June 2008. Thus, inflation is significantly higher by 4.44 percentage points in July 2008 than it was in July 2007(11.61 percent). The overall price level increased significantly this month by 1.47 percent compared to the 0.07 percent increase recorded last month.

In the old CPI series (1992=100) the annual rates of inflation increased in all the centers; in Freetown from 16.59 in June to 17.97 percent in July 2008, in Bo from 15.81 percent in June 2008 to 17.96 percent in July 2008, in Kenema from 17.72 percent in June 2008 to 18.74 percent in July 2008, and in Makeni from 15.80 percent to 17.30 percent during the same period.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

Following the increase in fuel prices in May, 2008 reinforced by food price increases and transportation cost increases, pressure continues to mount on the market.

Consequently, increases were recorded for most products above their June 2008 levels. The increase cost of food particularly cereals such as bread and rice and other food products such as meat, fish, milk, palm oil, fruit vegetables, sugar etc continue to fuel inflation. Hence, the overall Composite price level increased from 183.33 percent to 186.06 percent during the month of July 2008. The increase was mainly due to slight increases in the prices for food (2.73 percent), non-alcoholic beverages (1.84 percent), tobacco (0.15 percent), clothing (0.97 percent), footwear (1.00 percent), housing maintenance (1.99 percent), household appliances (0.73 percent), catering services (1.38 percent) and outpatient services (0.13 percent). These increases outweighed the slight decreases in the cost of alcoholic beverages (-0.37 percent), narcotics (-2.45 percent), hospital services (-0.16 percent) and household textiles (-0.41 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: statistics@statistics.sl/info@statistics.sl

Composite Consumer Price Indices by COICOP Groups(2003=100)									
		July-07	April-08	May-08	June-08	July-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 Beverage	50.81	158.36	180.43	185.30	184.23	189.23	2.72	4.88	19.49
Alcoholic Beverage. Tob. & Narcotics	2.50	121.62	144.24	144.35	140.97	140.27	-0.50	-2.75	15.34
Clothing And Footwear	8.11	121.09	128.18	130.22	131.62	132.91	0.98	3.68	9.76
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	9.63	174.55	206.18	212.32	211.88	211.09	-0.37	2.38	20.93
Furnishing, H/hold Equipt & H/hold Maint.	4.01	147.96	159.43	160.31	161.85	162.15	0.19	1.71	9.59
Health	3.55	429.59	464.76	479.88	492.71	493.18	0.10	6.11	14.80
Transport	6.40	144.82	155.24	162.97	163.87	163.79	-0.05	5.51	13.10
Communication	0.72	134.41	134.51	134.41	134.41	134.41	0.00	-0.08	0.00
Recreation And Culture	5.24	139.43	134.05	133.63	133.42	133.19	-0.17	-0.64	-4.47
Education	1.62	107.23	101.99	106.61	108.91	109.45	0.49	7.31	2.07
Restaurant And Hotels	4.26	135.28	143.08	150.59	153.10	155.22	1.38	8.49	14.74
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	125.31	136.62	141.34	140.43	141.25	0.58	3.39	12.72
All Items	100.00	160.29	178.39	183.21	183.33	186.02	1.47	4.28	16.05
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 % $((F-E) \times 100 / E)$									
Column H : CPI 3 Months Change In % $((F-C) \times 100 / C)$									
Column I : CPI 12 Months Change In % $((F-B) \times 100 / B)$.									

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.

FREETOWN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1992=100)-OLD SERIES

	Food	Beverage. & Tobacco	Rent Rates & Repairs	Fuel & Power	Cloth & Foot wear	Furniture Goods	Expan. Goods & services	Personal Transport	Tran sport & Comm	Med. & Medicare	Education & Stationery	Enter & Recreation	Personal Goods & Services	All Items	Monthly % Change	Annual % Change
Wgts	54.13	3.63	3.92	6.51	7.35	1.86	2.46	1.16	4.77	3.45	4.11	3.72	2.93	100		
2005 Jan	375.85	14.80	39.18	33.47	20.90	7.28	25.08	10.64	34.09	22.15	16.60	22.78	12.34	645.16	-0.56	8.89
Feb	375.53	15.12	39.19	33.12	31.24	7.44	24.93	10.64	34.09	22.15	16.60	22.78	12.45	645.28	0.02	7.52
Mar	376.64	15.14	39.19	33.93	31.74	7.73	27.42	10.64	34.09	21.89	16.61	22.78	12.54	650.34	0.78	10.43
April	377.49	15.16	39.19	34.71	32.28	7.80	26.23	12.04	38.49	21.66	16.89	22.78	12.64	657.36	1.08	10.67
May	386.41	15.16	39.19	38.32	31.82	7.89	24.59	12.06	38.49	21.68	16.89	22.87	12.69	669.16	1.80	10.40
June	397.86	15.20	39.19	47.14	32.96	7.89	24.42	12.08	38.49	21.71	16.89	22.87	12.08	690.07	3.12	11.14
July	409.02	15.30	39.19	50.04	33.27	7.80	24.71	12.08	41.43	21.88	16.85	22.89	12.08	708.19	2.63	13.86
Aug	414.69	16.10	39.19	51.12	33.20	7.78	26.76	12.53	41.43	23.96	17.65	23.02	12.53	721.70	1.91	15.23
Sept	412.21	16.19	39.23	58.52	33.56	7.63	26.45	13.75	44.98	24.27	17.69	23.10	13.75	731.97	1.42	15.90
Oct	405.74	16.20	39.23	65.43	34.22	8.28	25.69	13.76	45.23	24.27	17.69	24.27	13.76	735.33	0.46	14.45
Nov	404.51	16.03	39.27	68.06	32.04	7.99	26.05	13.76	45.82	24.27	17.73	24.27	13.76	736.99	0.23	12.29
Dec	408.29	16.52	39.27	58.92	34.74	7.97	26.01	13.83	45.82	24.29	17.98	24.28	16.85	733.76	-0.44	13.10
2006 Jan	408.73	16.18	39.20	64.97	32.81	7.93	24.11	13.73	46.04	24.02	16.71	24.24	15.83	734.50	0.10	13.85
Feb	410.66	15.87	39.27	59.78	33.33	8.01	25.25	13.72	46.48	24.00	16.68	24.25	15.90	733.50	-0.17	13.63
Mar	411.66	16.28	39.27	59.12	33.93	7.92	26.53	13.73	46.67	24.00	17.59	24.25	17.27	738.23	0.68	13.52
April	414.25	16.08	39.27	60.40	33.50	8.43	25.88	13.73	46.48	24.88	16.54	24.34	15.65	739.42	0.16	12.48
May	415.84	16.17	39.27	62.67	33.91	8.44	24.47	13.73	49.97	25.16	16.16	24.71	15.68	746.99	1.02	11.75
June	424.41	15.97	39.25	57.14	33.32	8.12	25.34	14.76	50.69	24.00	18.90	25.76	16.16	753.84	0.92	9.24
July	421.09	15.89	39.25	64.86	33.40	9.28	25.00	15.45	50.43	24.68	18.80	26.00	15.36	759.42	0.74	7.24
Aug	430.53	15.88	40.29	60.30	32.57	9.34	24.88	15.62	50.43	24.67	18.80	26.49	15.70	766.49	0.93	6.21
Sept	441.38	16.01	43.43	62.39	33.82	9.92	22.95	16.63	51.29	24.70	17.54	26.50	14.92	780.48	1.82	6.63
Oct	439.29	16.07	43.43	64.42	33.89	10.03	25.16	15.25	52.96	25.13	19.06	26.53	14.96	786.15	0.73	6.91
Nov	436.56	16.14	43.43	64.87	33.96	10.53	24.71	15.44	52.98	25.13	20.41	26.62	15.84	786.61	0.06	6.73
Dec	434.66	17.36	44.89	69.54	33.69	10.37	23.96	15.84	52.98	25.68	22.13	26.75	16.55	794.39	0.99	8.26
2007 Jan	445.68	17.52	44.91	70.70	33.85	10.39	23.87	15.96	53.00	25.98	20.42	29.35	14.92	806.55	1.53	9.81
Feb	464.13	17.13	44.91	71.01	34.33	10.29	25.03	16.07	53.00	26.22	20.46	29.61	15.03	827.10	2.55	12.80
Mar	450.50	17.21	44.84	68.29	34.43	10.57	23.86	15.76	52.95	26.21	20.49	32.60	15.05	812.77	-1.73	10.10
Apr.	453.04	17.63	44.84	70.69	34.57	11.39	25.23	15.80	52.87	26.51	20.64	34.82	15.97	824.00	1.38	11.44
May	451.1	17.74	44.84	67.6	34.62	11.28	27.65	15.88	53.00	26.51	20.99	34.52	16.1	821.84	-0.26	10.02
June	455.65	17.55	46.53	69.24	34.38	11.24	27.62	15.96	53.00	26.51	21.36	34.85	17.00	830.90	1.10	10.22
July	451.32	17.78	46.49	72.21	34.58	11.26	28.33	16.09	51.36	26.54	20.77	34.99	17.07	828.79	-0.25	9.13
August	477.51	19.46	46.41	72.67	34.76	11.67	28.76	16.08	51.36	26.56	20.78	34.99	18.48	859.50	3.71	12.13
Sept	483.44	19.53	47.69	73.58	34.80	11.84	31.95	16.26	51.36	25.56	20.75	34.99	18.75	870.49	1.28	11.53
October	505.70	18.12	48.95	74.82	34.45	12.54	28.25	16.13	51.57	25.55	21.31	34.80	18.81	891.01	2.36	13.34
Nov	508.69	18.11	48.96	79.41	35.01	12.55	28.63	17.54	56.47	25.55	22.16	34.80	18.96	905.83	1.66	15.16
December	502.57	18.12	48.97	83.04	33.75	12.23	28.87	17.79	56.78	25.52	22.62	34.58	18.90	903.72	-0.23	13.76
2008 Jan	516.87	19.28	49.01	75.69	33.77	12.22	31.14	17.99	56.78	25.45	22.56	34.61	19.18	914.53	1.20	13.39
Feb-08	533.38	19.31	49.01	83.43	33.51	12.19	30.78	18.00	57.40	25.45	22.74	36.07	19.34	940.60	2.85	13.72
Mar-08	523.37	19.12	49.14	82.73	33.91	12.50	32.96	18.06	57.55	25.49	22.67	35.82	19.45	932.77	-0.83	14.77
April	538.90	19.41	49.14	79.81	33.79	12.09	29.86	17.99	57.53	25.45	22.66	36.36	19.22	942.20	1.01	14.35
May-08	543.55	19.26	49.01	83.62	34.31	12.56	30.56	19.92	62.44	25.50	23.41	36.11	19.71	959.97	1.89	16.81
June-08	550.56	19.46	49.01	83.59	34.64	12.69	31.06	19.94	61.42	25.93	23.99	36.12	20.30	968.74	0.91	16.59
Jul-08	559.21	19.43	49.01	83.59	34.38	12.65	32.13	19.96	60.78	25.91	23.99	36.32	20.34	977.70	0.93	17.97