



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

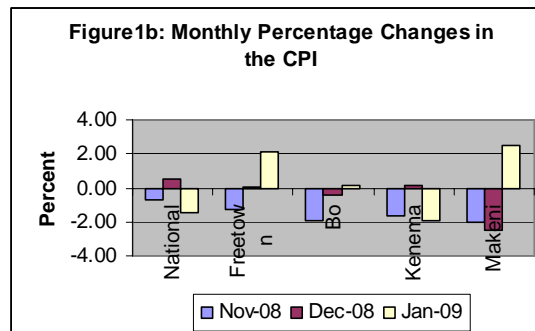
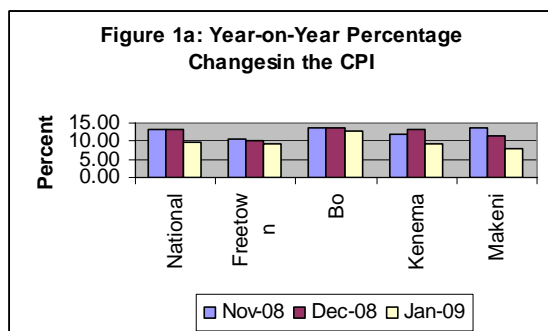
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JANUARY 2008 ANNUAL INFLATION RATE DECREASES SIGNIFICANTLY

The Composite year-on-year Inflation rate (2003=100) decreased by 3.57 percentage points from 13.21 per cent in December 2008 to 9.64 percent in January 2009. The monthly rate of inflation for January 2009 also decreased by 1.45 per cent, when the CPI for this month is compared with the CPI figure for December 2008.

There were decreases in the year-on-year rates of inflation in all centers during the month of January 2009. The year-on year inflation rates decreased in varying magnitudes in Freetown from 10.1 per cent in December 2008 to 9.1 per cent in January 2009, in Bo from 13.81 per cent in December 2008 to 12.62 per cent in January 2009, in Kenema from 13.4 percent in December 2008 to 9.3 in January 2009 and in Makeni from 11.42 per cent in December 2008 to 7.9 per cent in January 2009.

Similarly, there were decreases in the year-on-year rates of inflation in all centers in the old CPI series (1992=100) during the month of January 2009. The annual rates of inflation decreased in vary levels, in Freetown from 12.25 per cent in December 2008 to 11.18 percent in January 2009, in Bo from 11.51 per cent in December 2008 to 10.03 per cent in January 2009, in Kenema from 14.85 percent in December 2008 to 11.28 per cent in January 2009 and in Makeni from 10.90 per cent in December 2008 to 6.72 per cent in January 2009.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The combined monthly CPI for January 2009 decreased from 188.88 per cent in December 2008 to 186.15 per cent in January 2009. Decreases were recorded for all main CPI groups except furnishing, h/hold equipment and household maintenance(1.48 per cent), alcoholic, beverage, tobacco and narcotic(5.58 per cent), clothing and footwear(1.04 per cent), communication(1.01per cent), recreation and culture(0.68 per cent) and education(6.21 per cent) for which increases were recorded. The decrease in the monthly rate of inflation this month was caused by decrease in the cost of food (3.59 per cent) reinforced by decreases in health (0.19 per cent) and transport cost (0.59 per cent). The housing index also decreased by 1.17 per cent despite the increase recorded in electricity tariffs (2.15 per cent). The food products for which price decreases were recorded in most centers include bread and cereals (-10.61 per cent), fish and seafood (-18.25 per cent), oils and fats(-13.71 per cent) and gas(-12.38 per cent).

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
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		Jan-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09			
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	168.25	198.12	197.00	200.44	193.65	-3.39	-2.26	15.10
Alcoholic Bev. Tob.& Narcotics	2.50	138.32	135.66	136.14	137.57	145.24	5.58	7.06	5.00
Clothing And Footwear	8.11	125.94	135.49	135.33	135.84	137.25	1.04	1.30	8.99
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	9.63	184.01	200.28	197.16	189.24	187.02	-1.17	-6.62	1.63
Furnishing, H/Hold Equipt & H/Hold Maint.	4.01	156.63	162.94	163.68	163.36	165.78	1.48	1.74	5.84
Health	3.55	444.20	491.39	500.81	508.38	507.44	-0.19	3.27	14.24
Transport	6.40	156.33	157.07	155.75	149.63	148.74	-0.59	-5.30	-4.85
Communication	0.72	124.19	134.41	134.41	126.88	128.16	1.01	-4.65	3.19
Recreation And Culture	5.24	136.71	132.58	131.47	130.89	131.78	0.68	-0.60	-3.60
Education	1.62	100.99	109.29	108.86	108.16	114.88	6.21	5.12	13.75
Restaurant And Hotels	4.26	149.63	159.48	143.85	145.14	154.33	6.33	-3.23	3.14
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	152.01	142.74	141.97	142.63	144.58	1.37	1.29	-4.89
All Items	100.00	169.78	189.32	187.97	188.88	186.15	-1.45	-1.68	9.64
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.

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

	Food	Beverage. & Tobacco	Rent Rates & Repairs	Fuel & Power	Cloth & Footwear	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		
Ann Av	395.35	15.58	39.21	47.73	31.83	7.79	25.70	12.32	40.20	22.85	17.17	23.22	13.12	693.78	1.04	11.99
06 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
Ann Av	424.0883	16.16	40.85	62.54	33.51	9.03	24.85	14.80	49.78	24.67	18.28	25.54	15.82	760.00	0.67	9.70
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
Aug	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
Oct	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
Dec	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
Ann Av	470.78	17.99	46.53	72.77	34.46	11.44	27.34	16.28	53.06	26.10	21.06	33.74	17.09	848.54	0.98	11.62
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
Jun-08	550.56	19.46	49.01	83.59	34.65	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
Aug-08	570.42	20.08	49.01	83.78	35.49	12.89	32.53	20.07	60.78	25.93	23.99	36.47	20.65	992.10	1.47	15.43
Sept-08	603.05	20.24	49.02	79.40	35.42	13.07	30.10	20.25	60.78	25.93	24.54	36.39	20.64	1018.84	2.70	17.04
Oct-08	621.73	20.28	49.04	71.00	34.99	13.00	30.05	17.69	51.52	27.24	24.32	36.30	20.84	1018.03	-0.08	14.26
Nov-08	623.00	20.92	49.04	66.70	34.53	13.02	28.45	17.49	51.61	27.00	23.02	36.99	21.39	1013.14	-0.48	11.85
Dec-08	629.85	21.15	54.94	56.87	36.06	13.06	30.14	16.15	45.89	27.32	24.05	36.15	23.74	1014.39	0.12	12.25
Ann Av	567.82	19.83	49.53	77.52	34.57	12.66	30.81	18.63	57.04	26.05	23.50	36.14	20.40	974.42	0.97	14.87
2009 Jan	628.46	20.70	57.32	59.76	35.07	13.03	30.20	16.06	45.60	27.46	23.80	35.96	23.38	1016.80	0.24	11.18