



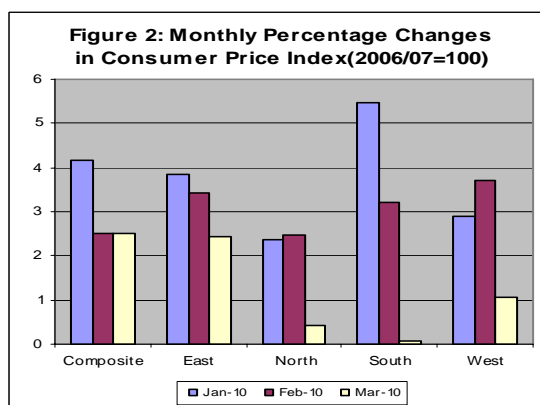
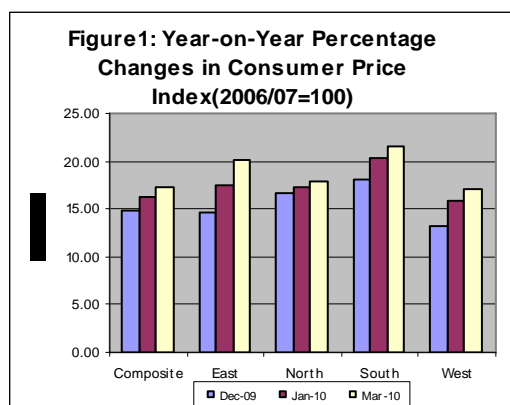
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) MARCH 2010: PRESS RELEASE

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MARCH 2010 MONTHLY INFLATION RATE INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The monthly rate of inflation for the Sierra Leone composite index (2006/2007=100) increased slightly by 1.00 percent from 142.40 in February 2010 to 143.82 in March 2010. Similarly there was a general rise in the price level in all regions; Eastern Region (2.43 percent, i.e Kenema (0.73 percent) and Koidu (4.03 percent); Northern Region (0.41 percent, Southern Region (0.08 percent) and Western Area (1.07 percent) during the same period. The composite year-on-year inflation rate (2007=100) increased by 1.26 percentage points from 16.11 per cent in February 2010 to 17.37 percent in March 2010. Similarly, the year-on-year rate of inflation increased in the Western Area from 15.83 percent in February 2010 to 17.07 percent in March 2010, in the Southern Region from 20.3 per cent to 21.58 percent, in the Eastern Region from 17.46 percent to 20.18 percent and in the Northern Region from 17.3 per cent to 17.80 percent during the same period.

Considering the old CPI series (1992=100), there were also upward movements in the CPI in all the four centers. In Freetown the year-on-year rate of inflation increased from 17.22 percent in February 2010 to 17.85 percent in March 2010, in Bo from 21.13 percent to 22.22 percent, in Kenema from 21.10 percent to 22.73 percent and in Makeni from 16.84 percent to 18.53 percent during the same period.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The combined monthly CPI (2007=100) increased from 142.40 February 2010 to 143.82 in March 2010 resulting in the 1.00 percent increase in the consumer price index this month. There was a general increase in the price level in all the four regions affecting most components of the index. The general rise in the price level for March 2010 reinforces the increase in the index over the last two months indicating a continuous build up of inflationary pressure in the economy, following the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in January 2010.

On a composite basis, there were increases in the indices for the following groups; bread and cereals(1.96 percent) meat,(6.38 percent), milk, cheese and eggs(0.69 percent), vegetables(1.06 per cent) furniture and household equipment(4.67 percent), health(2.00 percent), communication(0.27 percent) and recreation and culture(1.96 percent) and miscellaneous goods and services(5.50 percent). At the center level, prices increased more in Koidu (4.03 percent) than in Freetown (1.07 percent, Kenema (0.73 per cent), Makeni(0.41 per cent) and Bo(0.08 percent) respectively during the month of March 2010.

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 OR info@statistics.sl

ALL URBAN NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDICES (2007=100) BY MAIN COICOP GROUPS

National CPI(all urban) and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2007=100)									
		Mar-09	Dec-09	Jan-08	Feb-10	Mar-10			
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 and Non-Alcoholic Beverage	41.86	135.14	141.41	145.46	149.22	148.77	-0.30	5.21	10.08
Alcoholic Beverage, Tobacco and Narcotics	1.71	115.64	133.05	139.98	145.65	150.44	3.28	13.07	30.09
Clothing and Footwear	7.34	115.27	124.87	128.16	126.05	130.33	3.39	4.37	13.06
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	13.70	123.79	137.54	143.46	146.01	147.75	1.19	7.42	19.35
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	5.86	112.58	125.65	137.49	144.35	151.09	4.67	20.25	34.21
Health	11.36	114.27	133.60	144.77	150.73	153.74	2.00	15.08	34.54
Transport	7.75	102.89	121.79	124.05	130.61	130.31	-0.23	6.99	26.65
Communication	2.04	99.72	102.28	107.23	105.11	105.39	0.27	3.04	5.68
Recreation and Culture	1.47	104.86	124.60	127.04	130.46	133.02	1.96	6.75	26.85
Education	2.88	102.21	112.23	113.10	113.10	113.10	0.00	0.77	10.65
Restaurant and hotels	0.92	108.24	113.55	113.66	112.40	111.91	-0.44	-1.45	3.39
Miscellaneous G&S	3.13	112.67	119.42	131.34	132.79	140.10	5.50	17.32	24.35
All items	100.00	122.54	133.36	138.90	142.40	143.82	1.00	7.84	17.37
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)									

Notes: The all urban National Consumer Price Index (Composite Index) measures the change in prices, on average, from month to month, of the goods and services bought by households, in Sierra Leone including all expenditure groups and both families and single persons. The index includes sampled outlets from five urban towns representing the four geographic regions of the country; Kenema and Koidu were purposefully selected to represent the Eastern province, Bo represents the Southern Province, Makeni represents the Northern Province while Freetown represents the Western Area. The weights applied in the computation of the composite index were obtained from the 2003/2004 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) with the weights updated to May 2007 and prices referenced to the same period. The weights refer to the total urban household consumption in the entire country and the urban towns selected for price data collection represents about 80 percent of all urban household consumption. Hence the index is herein referred to as the all urban National Index. The basket consist of 400 goods and service popularly consumed by all inhabitants of Sierra Leone. These items are divided into the 12 functions of the classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). 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, three markets (3) in Koidu and two (2) markets in Makeni Town for weekly prices. Other outlets are used for monthly items whose prices are less likely to fluctuate rapidly. Geometric mean formula is used to compute the mean of prices observed for each product by elementary aggregate (group of similar products).

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		
Jan-07	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
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
Jan-08	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
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	623.0	20.92	49.04	66.70	34.52	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	35.07	13.06	30.14	16.15	45.89	27.32	24.05	36.15	23.74	1014.39	0.12	12.25
Jan-09	628.46	20.70	57.32	59.76	35.08	13.03	30.20	16.06	45.60	27.46	23.80	35.96	23.38	1016.80	0.24	11.18
Feb-09	632.06	20.30	62.22	64.14	35.43	12.98	29.32	15.70	47.26	27.46	25.24	36.86	23.30	1032.27	1.52	9.75
Mar-09	625.01	19.98	62.22	62.52	35.88	12.91	28.91	15.50	47.26	27.46	25.24	37.39	23.19	1023.47	-0.85	9.72
Apr-09	624.77	20.22	62.22	65.84	35.84	12.95	28.60	15.40	47.65	27.46	25.26	37.39	23.13	1026.73	0.32	8.97
May-09	623.85	19.85	62.22	65.22	36.35	12.94	28.05	15.40	47.65	27.46	25.62	37.35	23.19	1025.16	0.15	6.79
Jun-09	633.82	19.84	62.22	67.91	36.40	13.34	27.77	17.81	50.96	27.54	25.58	37.35	23.58	1044.11	1.85	7.78
Jul-09	640.20	19.90	62.22	65.86	36.68	13.56	29.35	17.81	52.25	27.54	25.54	37.64	23.55	1052.10	0.76	7.61
Aug-09	650.61	19.70	62.22	66.31	37.71	13.88	31.37	18.79	52.28	33.57	26.41	37.60	24.44	1074.88	2.17	8.34
Sept-09	680.43	19.97	62.27	67.18	39.41	14.25	33.98	19.97	52.28	35.95	28.28	37.81	25.00	1116.74	3.89	9.61
Oct-09	693.19	20.36	62.66	67.81	40.24	14.21	30.57	20.32	52.37	35.07	27.58	37.79	25.44	1127.62	0.97	10.77
Nov-09	670.86	20.39	62.66	68.72	41.58	14.40	31.81	20.27	52.90	35.50	27.68	38.60	25.88	1111.27	-1.45	9.69
Dec-09	677.64	20.98	64.91	69.08	41.47	14.32	32.54	20.14	53.17	35.79	28.05	38.98	26.67	1123.73	1.12	10.78
Jan-10	700.84	22.01	67.84	69.29	41.98	14.80	35.74	20.45	53.17	37.15	28.32	40.32	28.92	1160.82	3.30	14.16
Feb-10	734.77	22.59	67.85	73.66	43.0	14.95	35.52	21.27	57.50	38.55	28.32	42.09	30.01	1210.07	4.24	17.22
Mar-10	733.45	21.95	67.94	71.44	42.96	14.92	35.16	21.37	56.86	39.35	28.32	42.41	30.03	1206.13	-0.33	17.85