



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) September, 2011: PRESS RELEASE

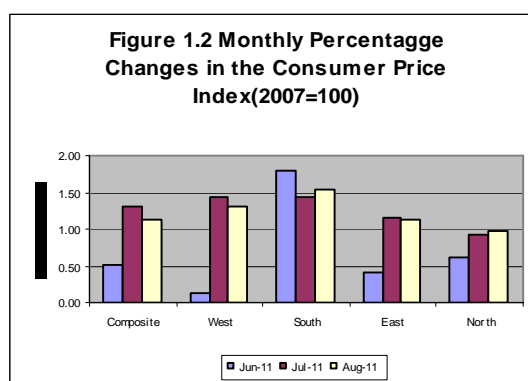
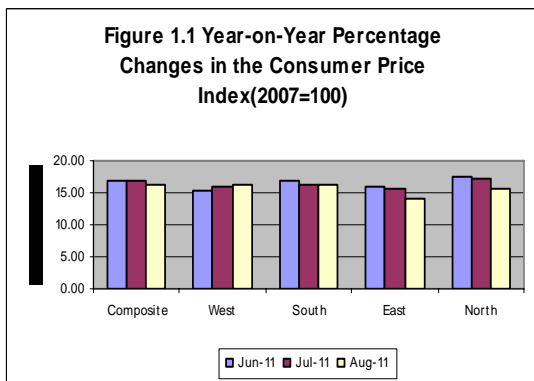
Released on Tuesday October 18, 2011 at 1:00 pm

### SEPTEMBER 2011 MONTHLY INFLATION RATE INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The National monthly CPI (2007=100) increased from 176.35 per cent in August 2011 to 177.93 per cent in September 2011. Consequently, the monthly rate of inflation increased slightly by 0.90 percent. The September, 2011 monthly inflation rate was therefore down by 0.23 percentage point when compared with the August, 2011 inflation figure.

The annual Inflation rate for September 2011 decreased slightly from 16.40 per cent in August 2011 to 15.70 per cent in September 2011. This reflects a 0.70 percentage point decrease over August 2011. The overall price level improved slightly this month compared to the last month.

Similarly, the monthly rates of inflation increased slightly in all the regions. Western Area (0.66 per cent), Northern Region (0.43 per cent), Southern region(1.34 per cent) and the Eastern Region(1.41 per cent) comprising of two centers, Kenema (1.23 per cent) and Kono (1.60 per cent) during the same period. In the old CPI series (1992=100), the year-on-year rates of inflation increased in Makeni from 19.37 per cent to 19.48 per cent and in Kenema from 19.74 per cent to 20.03 per cent, while it decrease in Freetown from 19.53 per cent to 16.98 per cent and in Bo from 19.58 per cent to 17.26 per cent during the same period.



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

The combined monthly CPI for September 2011 increased from 176.35 per cent in August 2011 to 177.93 per cent in September 2011 resulting in a 0.90 per cent increase in inflation rate this month. Nevertheless, this reflects a monthly increase that is lower than the previous month, meaning that prices are increasing but at a decreasing rate.

Increases were recorded for all main CPI groups except housing, electricity, water, gas and other fuels(-1.43 per cent) and communication(-0.52 per cent) for which decreases were recorded. The increase in the monthly rate of inflation this month was caused by the increase in the cost of food(0.92 per cent) reinforced by increases in the cost of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotic(0.52 per cent), clothing and footwear(3.38 per cent), furnishing, household equipment and household maintenance( 1.38 per cent), health(1.19 per cent), transport(2.11 per cent), recreation and culture(0.15 per cent) and restaurants and hotels(0.48 per cent). The food products for which price increases were recorded in most centers include bread and cereals(1.07 per cent), meat(1.48 per cent), fish and seafood(0.85 per cent), milk, cheese and eggs(0.39 per cent), vegetables(2.48 per cent) and sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery(1.61 per cent).

More information can also be obtained from our website: [www.statistics.sl](http://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](mailto:statistics@statistics.sl) OR [info@statistics.sl](mailto:info@statistics.sl)

## NATIONAL CPI AND YEAR-ON- YEAR RATES OF INFLATION BY MAIN COICOP GROUPS (2003=100)

COICOP	WEIGHT	Sept-10 Month Previous Year -	Jun-10 Month m-3 for Current Year,	Jul-11 Month m-2 for Current Year	Aug-11 Month m-1 for Current Year	Sept-11 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	157.90	182.97	189.25	192.68	194.44	0.91	6.27	23.14
Alcoholic Beverage, Tobacco and Narcotics	1.71	179.76	196.94	197.49	200.06	201.11	0.52	2.12	11.88
Clothing and Footwear	7.34	142.43	152.41	157.18	160.48	165.89	3.38	8.84	16.47
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	13.70	156.75	169.88	169.46	170.01	167.58	-1.43	-1.35	6.91
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	5.86	158.13	184.55	191.01	191.67	194.32	1.38	5.29	22.89
Health	11.36	170.04	177.11	177.33	178.61	180.74	1.19	2.05	6.30
Transport	7.75	135.77	157.29	151.07	149.57	152.73	2.11	-2.90	12.49
Communication	2.04	107.32	107.78	108.73	108.72	108.16	-0.52	0.35	0.78
Recreation and Culture	1.47	141.00	153.34	158.04	158.63	158.86	0.15	3.60	12.66
Education	2.88	121.39	124.44	124.45	124.45	124.45	0.00	0.01	2.52
Restaurant and hotels	0.92	111.71	113.96	114.40	115.63	116.19	0.48	1.95	4.00
Miscellaneous G&S	3.13	154.19	149.26	154.64	157.21	161.10	2.47	7.93	4.48
All items	100.00	153.79	171.27	174.39	176.35	177.93	0.90	3.89	15.70

### 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 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 at which level new weights were also introduced to obtain the Interim National Index.

