



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) January, 2012: PRESS RELEASE

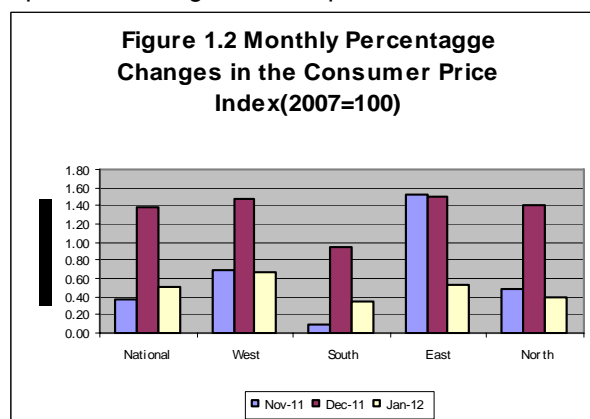
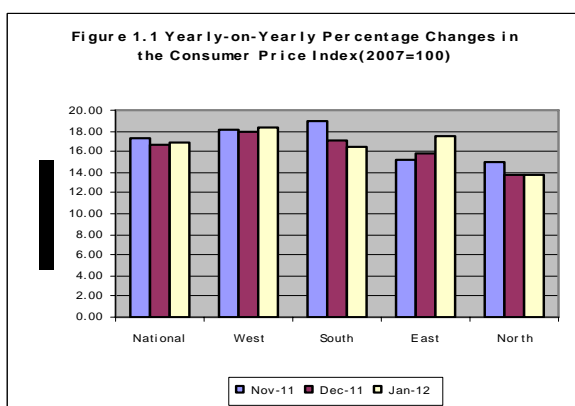
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JANUARY 2012 MONTHLY INFLATION RATE INCREASES SLIGHTLY

The National monthly CPI (2007=100) increased from 183.31 per cent in December 2011 to 184.22 per cent in January 2012 resulting in a 0.50 per cent increase in inflation rate this month. The January, 2012 monthly inflation rate was therefore down by 0.89 percentage point when compared with the December, 2011 inflation figure (1.39 per cent).

The annual Inflation rate for January increased slightly from 16.64 per cent in December 2011 to 16.83 per cent in January, 2012. This reflects a 0.19 percentage point increase over December 2011. Nevertheless, the overall price level increased marginally this month compared to that of last month. Similarly, the monthly rates of inflation increased slightly in all the regions. Western Area (0.66 per cent), Northern Region (0.40 per cent), Southern region (0.35 per cent) and the Eastern Region (0.52 per cent) during the same period.

Considering the old CPI series (1992=100), there were downward movements in the year-on-year rates of inflation in all the centers. In Freetown the year-on-year rate of inflation decreased from 16.91 percent in December 2011 to 16.24 percent in January, 2012, in Bo from 16.65 per cent to 15.91 per cent, in Makeni from 21.08 per cent to 21.01 per cent and in Kenema from 19.22 per cent to 18.74 per cent during the same period.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The National monthly CPI for January increased from 183.31 in December 2011 to 184.22 in January, 2012 resulting in a 0.50 per cent increase in inflation rate this month.

There was a general increase in the price level in all the four regions affecting all components of the index. On a composite basis, there were increases in the indices for the following groups; food and non-food alcoholic beverages(0.44 per cent), alcoholic beverage, tobacco and narcotics(0.60 per cent), clothing and footwear(1.41 per cent), housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels(0.02 per cent), furnishing, household equipment and household maintenance(0.83 per cent), health(0.61 per cent), transport(0.61 per cent), restaurant and hotels(0.65 per cent), and miscellaneous goods and services(1.4 per cent).

The food products which increased this month include bread and cereals (0.63 per cent), fish and seafood (2.08 per cent), fruits(1.58 per cent) and vegetables(2.98 per cent). The miscellaneous goods and services items that increased are clocks and watches (1.78 per cent) and hairdressing (0.48 per cent).

Again, the general rise in the Consumer Price Index may also be attributed to consumers speculating a further increase in the prices of the products in the CPI basket.

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

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

		Jan-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12			
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	162.55	195.79	196.90	200.51	201.39	0.44	2.86	23.89
Alcoholic Beverage, Tobacco and Narcotics	1.71	189.62	202.76	205.14	213.27	214.56	0.60	5.82	13.15
Clothing and Footwear	7.34	142.51	168.14	170.15	173.99	176.45	1.41	4.94	23.82
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	13.70	160.40	173.48	173.15	173.08	173.13	0.02	-0.21	7.93
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	5.86	168.83	196.23	199.91	204.00	205.69	0.83	4.82	21.83
Health	11.36	167.83	180.87	178.75	179.18	180.28	0.61	-0.33	7.42
Transport	7.75	144.81	156.11	154.46	156.77	157.72	0.61	1.03	8.91
Communication	2.04	107.30	108.66	108.25	108.25	108.25	0.00	-0.38	0.88
Recreation and Culture	1.47	148.21	159.20	158.82	159.74	158.31	-0.90	-0.56	6.81
Education	2.88	123.53	129.87	134.73	134.74	133.99	-0.56	3.17	8.46
Restaurant and hotels	0.92	109.42	116.23	117.86	120.10	120.88	0.65	4.00	10.47
Miscellaneous G&S	3.13	155.96	162.82	165.70	168.48	170.84	1.40	4.93	9.54
All items	100.00	157.69	180.11	180.80	183.31	184.22	0.50	2.28	16.83
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 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.

