



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX APRIL 2019

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Contact Persons:

Isata M. Allieu-Keikura

Principal Statistician and Head, Price & Labour Statistics Section
National Accounts and Economic Statistics Division
Statistics Sierra Leone
Mobile: +23276580842
Email: isata.allieu-keikura@statistics.sl

Mwaluma Andrew Bryma Gegbe

Director, National Accounts and Economic Statistics Division
Statistics Sierra Leone
Mobile: +23279442430/ +3288000898
Email: mwaluma.gegbe@statistics.sl
Skype: mwaluma.gegbe

Review:

Andrew B Johnny
Deputy Statistician General
Statistics Sierra Leone
Email: andrew.johnny@statistics.sl



Approval:

Prof. Osman Sankoh, DSc
Statistician General
Statistics Sierra Leone
Email: osman.sankoh@statistics.sl
Skype: oasankoh

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KEY FINDINGS

Headline National Inflation Rate

Annual consumer price inflation (year-on-year) went up by 1.79 percentage points from 14.77 in March 2019 to 16.56 percent in April 2019.

The monthly consumer price inflation for April, 2019 went up by 0.7 percentage point to 2.54 from 1.84 percent in March 2019.

Contributions to headline annual (year-on-year) consumer price inflation

- ✓ Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased from 12.28 percent in March to 15.92 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 3.64 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased from 17.90 percent in March to 22.16 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 4.26 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Clothing and footwear increased from 23.00 percent in March to 24.13 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 1.13 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Housing, water, electricity Gas and other fuels increased from 17.76 percent in March to 19.72 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 1.96 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Furniture, household equipment and household maintenance increased from 20.90 percent in March to 23.14 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 2.24 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Health declined by 4.45 percentage point from 20.52 percent in March to 16.07 percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Transport increased from 17.29 percent in March to 18.79 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 1.50 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Communication declined by 0.46 percentage point from (-7.05 percent) in March to (-7.51 percent) in April, 2019.
- ✓ Recreation and Culture increased from 12.69 percent in March to 13.79 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 1.10 percentage points year-on-year.
- ✓ Education declined by 0.17 percentage point from (-18.94 percent) in March to (-19.11percent) in April, 2019.
- ✓ Restaurant and Hotels declined by 3.35 percentage point from 26.95 percent in March to 23.60 percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Miscellaneous goods and services increased from 11.71 percent in March to 13.50 percent in April, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 1.79 percentage point year-on-year.

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Contributions to monthly consumer price inflation

- ✓ Food and non-alcoholic increased from 2.64 percent in March to 4.12 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 1.48 percentage point.
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics increased from 0.99 percent in March to 4.82 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 3.83 percentage point.
- ✓ Clothing and footwear declined by 0.73 percentage point from 2.14 percent in March to 1.41 percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Housing, water, electricity. Gas and other fuels increased from 1.27 percent in March to 2.29 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 1.02 percentage point.
- ✓ Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance fuels increased from 1.52 percent in March to 2.57 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 1.05 percentage point
- ✓ Health declined by 3.22 percentage points from 1.38 percent in March to (-1.84) percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Transport increased from 0.21 percent in March to 1.75 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 1.54 percentage points.
- ✓ Communication increased by 0.98 percentage point from (-0.9) percent in March to 0.08 percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Recreation and Culture increased by 6.03 percentage point from (-3.92) percent in March to 2.11 percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Education increased from 0.5 percent in March to 0.97 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 0.47 percentage point.
- ✓ Restaurant and Hotels declined by 2.91 percentage point from 2.24 percent in March to (-0.67) percent in April, 2019.
- ✓ Miscellaneous Goods and Services increased from 0.76 percent in March to 3.52 percent in April, 2019. The rate increased by 2.76 percentage point.

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DETAILED EXPLANATION ON THE APRIL, 2019 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

The national monthly CPI (2008=100) increased from 258.69 percent in March, 2019 to 265.27 percent in April, 2019 resulting in 2.54 percent inflation this month. Similarly, the monthly rates of inflation by region increased except for Eastern region: Eastern region 2.57 percent comprising Kenema 1.87 percent and Kono 3.24 percent, Northern region 2.68 percent, Southern region 3.50 percent and Western Area 2.08 percent.

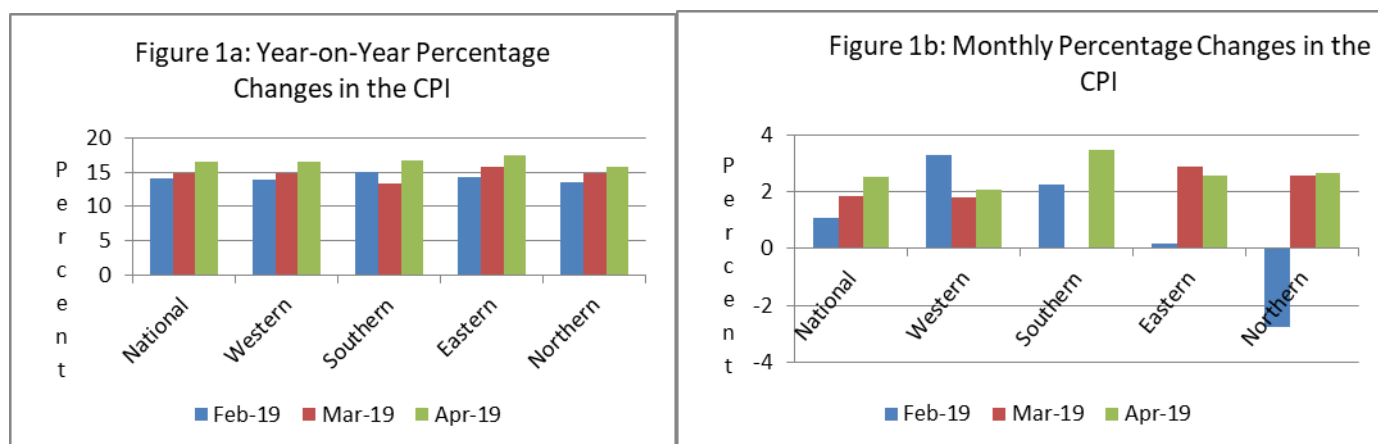
The national year-on-year inflation for April, 2019 is 16.56 percent, which indicates an upward trend compared to the 14.77 in March, 2019. Similarly, the Eastern region rate shows an upwards movement from 15.76 (corrected) percent in March, 2019 to 17.57 percent in April, 2019 and the Southern region from 13.39 (corrected) percent in March, 2019 to 16.79 percent in April, 2019, followed by the Western area from 14.95 (corrected) percent in March, 2019 to 16.62 percent in April, 2019 and in the Northern from 14.88 percent in March, 2019 to 15.75 percent in April, 2019.

Table 1.0 Regional Year-on-Year and Monthly Inflation rates

2008=100										
Month	National		Western Area		Eastern Region		Southern Region		Northern Region	
	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly
Mar-19	14.77	1.84	14.95	1.81	15.76	2.90	13.39	0.03	14.88	2.59
Apr-19	16.56	2.54	16.62	2.08	17.57	2.57	16.79	3.50	15.75	2.68

It has been observed from the table above that, the Eastern region and Southern region year-on-year inflation rates are above the other regions and national year-on-year inflation rates for the month of April, 2019. This shows that prices in the Eastern and Southern regions increased faster compared to the other regions for the month of April, 2019.

Figures 1a & 1b below illustrate the movement in the year-on-year inflation and monthly inflation respectively for the National CPI and Regional CPI centers, while table 1.1 below shows the National CPI of the month of April, 2018 and April, 2019; as well as the 12 months change in the CPI for the main COICOP functions.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The monthly price inflation of 2.54 percent reflects a general increase in the price level in all the four regions which affected most of the components in the CPI basket. Recreation and Culture (6.03) is the most increase in April, followed by Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics (3.83 percent). Other slight increases were noticed in Food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.48 percent); Miscellaneous goods and services (2.76 percent); Transport (1.54 percent); Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.02 percent) and Furniture, household equipment and household maintenance (1.05 percent). However, Health (3.22) and Restaurants and hotels (2.91) realized declines in the April inflation rates.

The price increase on were food and alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics; housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels furniture, household equipment and household maintenance, transport and miscellaneous goods and services indices in all of the centers in the month of April, 2019 was as a result of the depreciation of the local currency as against the forex especially the US Dollar.

Table 1.1: National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2008=100)

COICOP	WEIGHT	Apr-18 Month Previous Year -	Jan-19 Month m-3 for Current Year,	Feb-19 Month m-2 for Current Year	Mar-19 Month m-1 for Current Year	Apr-19 Month m for Current Year	Monthly Change	3 Months Change	12 months Change
Food & Non-Alcoholic Bev.	43.18	248.17	266.00	269.18	276.29	287.67	4.12	8.15	15.92
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	2.33	229.31	260.05	264.64	267.26	280.13	4.82	7.72	22.16
Clothing and Footwear	7.73	258.64	311.87	309.94	316.58	321.05	1.41	2.94	24.13
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	13.6	181.16	209.80	209.37	212.03	216.88	2.29	3.37	19.72
Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	4.19	262.12	294.04	309.97	314.69	322.77	2.57	9.77	23.14
Health	12.63	217.72	253.14	253.94	257.44	252.71	-1.84	-0.17	16.07
Transport	4.72	193.83	227.03	225.81	226.29	230.26	1.75	1.42	18.79
Communication	2.05	172.23	145.37	160.61	159.17	159.29	0.08	9.58	-7.51
Recreation and Culture	1.34	207.54	224.03	240.73	231.29	236.17	2.11	5.42	13.79
Education	3.06	152.61	120.97	121.66	122.27	123.45	0.97	2.05	-19.11
Restaurant and Hotels	1.12	230.49	279.86	280.52	286.81	284.89	-0.67	1.8	23.6
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.05	228.49	244.01	248.62	250.51	259.34	3.52	6.28	13.5
All Items	100	227.58	251.27	254.01	258.69	265.27	2.54	5.57	16.56

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The National CPI measures the change in prices, on average, from month to month, of the goods and services bought by households, in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kono and Makeni and include all expenditure groups. Prices are collected for 400 items. All prices collected are the prevailing retail market prices from six (6) markets in Freetown and, three (3) Markets each in Bo, Kenema Makeni, Kono for weekly prices and other outlets for monthly items whose prices are less likely to fluctuate rapidly. We are using the Modified Laspeyres formula to compute indices according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICO) with 12 functions.

DETAILED RESULTS

Table 2.1 CPI Headline index numbers (2008=100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2017	191.59	194.63	196.15	197.66	198.72	200.85	202.87	204.75	206.35	207.88	212.46	216.11
2018	219.73	222.65	225.4	227.58	230.55	234.13	238.79	241.99	243.02	241.26	247.62	246.9
2019	251.27	254.01	258.69	265.27								

Table 2.2 CPI Headline year-on-year Rates

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2017	18.66	19.82	20.22	19.8	18.91	19.14	18.56	18.01	17.83	16.86	16.26	15.33
2018	14.69	14.40	14.91	15.14	16.02	16.57	17.71	18.19	17.77	16.06	16.55	14.25
2019	14.35	14.08	14.77	16.56								

Table 3.0: Year-on-Year and Monthly Inflation Rates

	National CPI (2008=100)			Western Area/Freetown CPI (2008=100)		
	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change
2016						
January	161.46	8.41	1.17	166.52	7.42	1.08
February	162.44	8.68	0.61	167.65	7.73	0.68
March	163.16	7.85	0.44	168.41	7.14	0.45
April	164.99	8.68	1.12	170.35	8.12	1.15
May	167.12	8.94	1.29	173.17	9.75	1.66
June	168.58	9.46	0.87	174.81	10.54	0.95
July	171.11	10.87	1.50	175.72	11.00	0.52
August	173.5	10.52	1.40	178.84	10.74	1.78
September	175.13	11.31	0.94	179.90	11.15	0.59
October	177.89	12.56	1.58	183.08	12.30	1.76
November	182.74	15.26	2.73	186.64	14.20	1.95
December	187.39	17.41	2.54	192.60	16.91	3.19
Average	171.29	10.83	1.35	176.47	10.58	1.31

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Table 3.0: Cont'd

	National CPI (2008=100)			Western Area/Freetown CPI (2008=100)		
	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change
2017						
January	191.59	18.66	2.24	197.56	18.64	2.58
February	194.63	19.82	1.59	200.70	19.72	1.59
March	196.15	20.22	0.78	202.36	20.16	0.83
April	197.66	19.8	0.77	204.09	19.81	0.85
May	198.72	18.91	0.54	204.49	18.09	0.2
June	200.85	19.14	1.07	206.40	18.07	0.93
July	202.87	18.56	1.01	207.94	18.33	0.75
August	204.75	18.01	0.93	209.55	17.17	0.77
September	206.35	17.83	0.78	211.50	17.56	0.93
October	207.88	16.86	0.74	212.93	16.30	0.67
November	212.46	16.26	2.20	217.34	16.45	2.07
December	216.11	15.33	1.72	220.98	14.74	1.67
Average	202.50	18.28	1.20	207.98	17.92	1.15
2018						
January	219.73	14.69	1.68	223.74	13.25	1.25
February	222.65	14.4	1.33	226.02	12.62	1.02
March	225.40	14.91	1.24	228.17	12.76	0.95
April	227.58	15.14	0.97	229.58	12.49	0.62
May	230.55	16.02	1.31	232.64	13.77	1.34
June	234.13	16.57	1.55	235.92	14.31	1.41
July	238.79	17.71	1.99	241.88	16.32	2.52
August	241.99	18.19	1.34	246.79	17.77	2.03
September	243.02	17.77	0.43	245.62	16.13	-0.47
October	241.26	16.06	-0.72	242.86	14.06	-1.12
November	247.62	16.55	2.64	250.50	15.25	3.14
December	246.90	14.25	-0.29	247.61	12.05	-1.15
Average	234.97	16.02	1.12	237.61	14.23	0.96
2019						
January	251.27	14.35	1.77	249.40	11.47	0.72
February	254.01	14.08	1.09	257.62	13.98	3.30
March	258.69	14.77	1.84	262.29	14.95	1.81
April	265.27	16.56	2.54	267.74	16.62	2.08

Table 4.0: National Consumer Price Index by Main COICOP Groups (2008=100)

	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurant and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items
Weight	41.86	1.71	7.34	13.70	5.86	11.36	7.75	2.04	1.47	2.88	0.92	3.13	100
Jan-16	170.36	152.47	169.99	145.74	177.58	163.18	144.44	130.14	154.92	126.34	153.31	152.88	161.46
Feb-16	171.54	152.62	171.01	146.41	178.05	164.29	144.51	130.39	156.42	126.97	157.65	153.68	162.44
Mar-16	172.40	153.87	171.48	146.79	178.88	164.84	144.91	130.40	162.12	127.06	158.59	154.42	163.16
Apr-16	175.07	154.98	173.33	147.20	179.71	167.24	145.24	130.53	163.02	127.91	159.73	155.48	164.99
May-16	177.33	157.43	177.21	147.75	182.84	169.79	149.09	130.56	164.25	128.18	159.44	157.01	167.12
Jun-16	179.40	159.59	179.49	149.56	184.78	168.89	149.79	132.34	165.50	128.40	160.07	157.72	168.58
Jul-16	182.88	160.87	183.52	150.46	187.58	171.16	149.65	133.70	167.86	129.21	161.13	159.48	171.11
Aug-16	186.78	162.19	185.77	151.09	192.19	172.42	150.21	133.81	169.31	129.38	161.47	159.52	173.50
Sep-16	187.72	164.38	187.75	152.38	193.40	177.12	150.71	134.75	170.37	133.23	162.07	160.00	175.13
Oct-16	190.45	166.36	190.81	152.59	196.42	181.38	151.95	135.41	174.46	135.65	163.86	169.43	177.89
Nov-16	194.83	171.07	198.03	160.05	202.60	181.71	162.58	140.13	174.81	136.54	170.53	176.28	182.74
Dec-16	200.23	175.30	205.36	164.61	209.10	182.92	165.11	145.55	176.87	136.64	175.86	183.31	187.39
Jan-17	204.76	181.11	216.40	165.98	215.60	183.42	173.05	148.89	180.22	136.84	182.64	187.32	191.59
Feb-17	208.42	186.20	221.43	167.42	221.35	185.87	173.85	150.43	180.65	136.91	182.74	190.46	194.63
Mar-17	210.81	190.78	221.69	167.97	222.42	186.13	176.25	150.52	181.21	137.08	184.93	191.65	196.15
Apr-17	211.73	192.07	224.05	168.43	226.50	188.80	180.03	153.23	181.88	137.21	186.93	193.30	197.66
May-17	212.33	193.55	227.95	168.96	226.53	189.34	183.80	154.16	182.71	137.22	189.74	195.38	198.72
Jun-17	214.56	195.64	233.71	169.47	230.04	191.33	184.16	156.10	185.35	137.51	190.92	197.51	200.85
Jul-17	217.85	197.43	234.78	169.80	231.65	193.00	184.70	156.96	185.80	137.65	192.15	199.62	202.87
Aug-17	220.49	202.41	235.42	170.01	234.36	194.21	185.10	157.52	186.46	138.55	195.97	203.91	204.75
Sep-17	221.96	204.02	237.81	170.27	237.60	196.62	186.54	160.62	187.72	138.85	199.60	205.61	206.35
Oct-17	223.88	206.03	239.05	170.71	240.10	197.87	187.36	161.93	190.35	139.17	203.05	207.79	207.88
Nov-17	231.59	209.96	242.24	172.65	242.46	199.36	187.63	163.72	193.65	141.25	205.38	212.08	212.46
Dec-17	236.14	215.57	248.21	174.79	246.89	201.37	188.95	164.78	196.29	143.49	211.10	214.87	216.11
Jan-18	240.61	218.27	251.93	176.68	249.13	205.92	190.98	165.94	198.83	147.19	214.47	217.67	219.73
Feb-18	243.60	222.52	254.76	178.69	254.02	209.47	191.54	170.77	201.11	148.50	220.16	220.60	222.65
Mar-18	246.07	226.68	257.38	180.06	260.28	213.60	192.93	171.25	205.24	150.83	225.93	224.25	225.40
Apr-18	248.17	229.31	258.64	181.16	262.12	217.72	193.83	172.23	207.54	152.61	230.49	228.49	227.58
May-18	252.09	232.24	262.07	183.59	263.81	219.84	195.17	172.80	209.48	153.13	234.05	231.32	230.55
Jun-18	256.72	236.77	265.64	185.60	268.26	223.15	196.28	173.87	211.05	154.68	238.77	234.50	234.13
Jul-18	259.39	240.41	267.99	197.69	274.18	226.57	211.78	175.02	212.51	155.74	244.95	235.47	238.79
Aug-18	264.13	243.64	274.60	202.29	289.45	224.45	215.98	144.21	212.73	157.46	254.01	231.41	241.99
Sep-18	266.47	249.53	275.38	203.96	283.93	226.97	219.94	146.47	219.42	119.82	251.80	240.50	243.02
Oct-18	262.55	241.85	278.15	201.81	285.75	228.72	220.56	147.15	217.34	119.82	270.90	232.25	241.26
Nov-18	270.26	256.40	286.95	207.29	290.83	232.60	223.78	148.09	222.50	120.55	258.64	243.09	247.62
Dec-18	266.29	250.55	283.81	208.13	284.50	246.04	229.18	144.51	215.92	120.55	289.65	227.76	246.90
Jan-19	266.00	260.05	311.87	209.80	294.04	253.14	227.03	145.37	224.03	120.97	279.86	244.01	251.27
Feb-19	269.18	264.64	309.94	209.37	309.97	253.94	225.81	160.61	240.73	121.66	280.52	248.62	254.01
Mar-19	276.29	267.26	316.58	212.03	314.69	257.44	226.29	159.17	231.29	122.27	286.81	250.51	258.69
Apr-19	287.67	280.13	321.05	216.88	322.77	252.71	230.26	159.29	236.17	123.45	284.89	259.34	265.27

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