



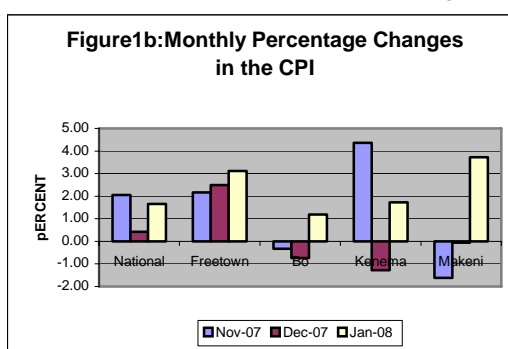
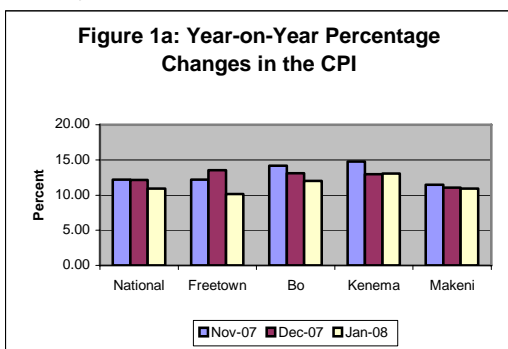
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) JANUARY, 2008: PRESS RELEASE**  
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**THE COMPOSITE NATIONAL RATE OF INFLATION DECREASES SLIGHTLY**

The composite annual rate of inflation decreased by 1.13 percentage point from 12.15 percent in December 2007 to 10.92 percent in January 2008. The monthly rate of inflation for January 2008 was 1.65 percent when the combine CPI for January 2008 is compared with the CPI for December 2007. The January 2008 monthly inflation rate was therefore up by 1.22 percentage points when compared with the December 2007 inflation figure which was 0.43 percent.

In the month of January 2008, the year-on-year inflation rates decreased in varying magnitudes in Freetown from (11.2 per cent to 10.18 percent) in Bo from(13.13 percent to 12.05 percent) and in Makeni from(11.1 percent to 11.0 per cent) while the year-on-year inflation rate in Kenema slightly increased from (13.0 percent to 13.1 percent). The monthly index for Freetown increased by 3.11 percent, Bo by 1.19 percent, Kenema by 1.7 percent and Makeni by 3.7 percent. Figures 1a and 1b below illustrate the movement in the year-on-year rates of inflation and monthly rates of inflation respectively for Composite CPI and other CPI centres while Table 1 below shows Composite CPI for the months of November 2007 through January 2008 and the 12 month change in the CPI for main index groups.

Moreover, in the old CPI series (1992=100), the year-on-year rate of inflation (i.e. comparing the rate of inflation in the current month with the rate of inflation in the same month last year) decreased in Freetown from 13.76 percent in December 2007 to 13.39 percent in January 2008, in Bo from 15.54 percent to 14.39 percent and in Makeni from 12.50 percent to 11.85 percent while the year-on-year rate of inflation in Kenema increased from 13.65 percent to 14.80 percent during the same period.



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

The combined monthly CPI (2003=100) for January 2008 increased marginally from 166.84 in December 2008 to 169.60 in January 2007 as a result of the increases in the indices for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages(2.89 percent). The increase in the cost of food (2.92 percent) and alcoholic beverages (12.59 percent), were reinforced by increases in the cost of furnishing and household maintenance (2.15 percent) and health (2.15 percent). These increases outweighed the decline in the indices for electricity, gas and other fuels (6.43 percent), other recreational items and equipment (2.22 percent), personal effects (2.44 percent), personal care (0.74 percent) and secondary education (0.06 percent). Moreover, the indices for footwear increased by 2.66 percent, maintenance and repair of dwelling by 1.35 percent, glassware, tableware and household utensils by 1.36 percent, hospital services by 3.47 percent, operation of personal transport equipment by 0.62 percent and catering services (13.43 percent). The decreases recorded in the cost milk, cheese and eggs (-1.17 percent), fruit (-0.67 percent), clothing materials (-1.03 percent) were not sufficient to offset the increase in the composite CPI, during the month of January 2008.

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: [info@statistics.sl](mailto:info@statistics.sl)/[statistics@statistics.sl](mailto:statistics@statistics.sl)

National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2003=100)									
		Jan-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08			
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	149.19	165.04	164.44	163.26	167.98	2.89	1.78	12.59
Alcoholic bev. tob.& narcotics	2.50	122.08	126.06	126.78	127.82	136.66	6.92	8.41	11.95
clothing and footwear	8.11	114.46	125.16	125.24	124.65	125.94	1.04	2	10.02
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	9.63	172.44	171.36	185.02	191.62	184.01	-3.97	7.38	6.71
Furnishing, h/hold equipt & h/hold maint.	4.01	142.45	151.40	153.46	153.33	156.63	2.15	3.46	9.96
Health	3.55	391.78	433.76	440.51	443.68	444.20	0.12	2.41	13.38
Transport	6.40	138.99	145.22	153.39	156.39	156.33	-0.04	7.65	12.48
Communication	0.72	124.60	134.41	124.19	124.19	124.19	0.00	-7.60	-0.33
Recreation and culture	5.24	133.54	144.10	138.89	137.85	136.71	-0.83	-5.13	2.37
Education	1.62	106.32	109.73	100.90	101.06	100.99	-0.06	-7.96	-5.01
Restaurant and hotels	4.26	137.07	137.23	136.02	131.91	149.63	13.43	9.03	9.16
Miscellaneous G&S	3.18	133.15	130.74	134.60	154.21	152.01	-1.43	16.27	14.17
All items	100.00	152.90	164.67	166.13	166.84	169.60	1.65	2.99	10.92
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.