CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

Annual Report 2024

Central Bank of Liberia
Annual Report
January 1 to December 31, 2024

The production of this Annual Report is in fulfillment of part XIII Section 63(1) of the Amendment and Restatement Act of the Central Bank of Liberia (2020). The contents include: (a) report on the Bank's operations and affairs; and (b) report on the state of the economy, including developments in the financial sector, monetary sector, financial markets operations, fiscal sector, external sector, amongst others, during the year.

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

Office of the Executive Governor

March 31, 2025

His Excellency
Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.
PRESIDENT
Republic of Liberia

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Part XIII Section 63(1) of the Amendment and Restatement of the Act establishing the Central Bank of Liberia (2020), I have the honor, on behalf of the Board of Governors and Management, to respectfully submit to you the Annual Report of the Central Bank of Liberia for the period January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Henry F. Saamoi
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

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ACRONYMS

AACB		*Association of African Central Banks*
AAID		*ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development*
ACH	-	*Automatic Clearing House*
AE		*Advance Economies*
AfCFTA	-	*African Continental Free Trade Area*
AfDB	-	*African Development Bank*
AFI	-	*Alliance for Financial Inclusion*
AMCP	-	*African Monetary Cooperation Program*
AMI	-	*African Monetary Institute*
AML	-	*Anti – Money Laundering*
ARREST	-	*Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law, Education, Sanitation and Tourism*
ATM	-	*Automatic Teller Machines*
AUC	-	*African Union Commission*
BIL	-	*Banking Institute of Liberia*
BFIA	-	*Bank Financial Holding Companies Act*
BOP	-	*Balance of Payments*
CAB	-	*Community of African Banks*
CAR	-	*Capital Adequacy Ratio*
CBL	-	*Central Bank of Liberia*
CBN	-	*Central Bank of Nigeria*
CD	-	*Certificate of Deposits*
CFT	-	*Combating the Financing of Terrorism*
CIC	-	*Currency in Circulation*
CIF	-	*Cost Insurance & Freight*
CCS	-	*Corporate Communications Section*
CMA		*CMA Small System AB*
COMESA	-	*Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa*
COP 29	-	*29th Conference of the Parties*
CPI	-	*Consumer Price Index*
CPO	-	*Crude Palm Oil*
CRS	-	*Credit Reference System*
EAPD	-	*Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development*
ECF	-	*Extended Credit Facility*
ECOWAS	-	*Economic Community of West African States*
EMCP	-	*ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Program*
EMDES		*Emerging Market and Developing Economies*
EOI	-	*Expressions of Interest*

EPSS	-	*ECOWAS Payment and Settlement System*
EU	-	*European Union*
FEJAL	-	*Female Journalist Association of Liberia*
FERIP	-	*Foreign Exchange Reserve Investment Policy*
FERRRP	-	*Foreign Exchange Reserves Risk Rules and Parameters*
FMD	-	*Financial Markets Department*
FoB	-	*Freight on Board*
FS	-	*Financing Statements*
FX	-	*Foreign Exchange*
GAC		*General Auditing Commission*
GDP	-	*Gross Domestic Product*
GIABA	-	*The Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa*
GOL	-	*Government of Liberia*
GSSD	-	*General Support Services Department*
GTBLL		*Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia Limited*
GPF	-	*Global Policy Forum*
HRMD	-	*Human Resources Management Department*
IAD	-	*Internal Audit Department*
IBRD	-	*International Bank for Reconstruction and Development*
ICS	-	*Integrated Correspondence Systems*
ID	-	*Digital Identification*
IDA	-	*International Development Association*
IMF	-	*International Monetary Fund*
ISC	-	*International Securities Consultant*
IT	-	*Information Technology*
IPS	-	*Instant Payment System*
ITRS	-	*International Transactions Reporting Systems*
KRI	-	*Key Risk Indicators*
LIBA	-	*Liberia Business Association*
LBDI		*Liberian Bank for Development and Investment*
LEDFC	-	*Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company*
LIFT	-	*Liberia Investment Finance and Trade*
LIPA	-	*Liberia Institute of Public Administration*
LISGIS	-	*Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services*
LOC	-	*Line of Credit*
LRA	-	*Liberia Revenue Authority*
LRD		*Liberian Dollar*

LS1		*Liberian Banknotes Series 1*
LS2		*Liberian Banknotes Series 2*
LTA	-	*Liberia Telecommunications Authority*
LWG	-	*Liquidity Working Group*
M1	-	*Narrowed Money Supply*
M2	-	*Broad Money Supply*
MDI	-	*Deposit-taking Microfinance Institutions*
MFDP	-	*Ministry of Finance and Development Planning*
MISTD	-	*Management Information Systems & Technology Department*
MMO	-	*Mobile Money Operators*
MMOU	-	*Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding*
MOCI	-	*Ministry of Commerce and Industry*
MOU	-	*Memorandum of Understanding*
MPC	-	*Monetary Policy Committee*
MTO	-	*Money Transfer Operators*
MSMEs	-	*Micro-Small Medium Enterprises*
NASSCORP	-	*National Social Security and Welfare Corporation*
NBCOS	-	*Non-Bank Credit Only Microfinance Institutions*
NCHE	-	*National Commission on Higher Education*
NDA	-	*Net Domestic Assets*
NEPS	-	*National Electronic Payment Switch*
NFA	-	*Net Foreign Assets*
NHSB	-	*National Housing and Savings Bank*
NIR		Net International Reserves
NPA	-	*National Port Authority*
NPLs	-	*Non-Performing Loans*
NPSC	-	*National Project Steering Committee*
OB		*Overall Balance*
OPEC		*Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries*
OTA	-	*Office of Technical Assistance*
PAPSS	-	*Pan African Payments and Settlements System*
PFI	-	*Participating Financial Institutions*
PIU	-	*Project Implementation Unit*
POS	-	*Point of Sales*
PSD	-	*Payments System Department*
RCFI	-	*Rural Community Finance Institutions*
RGDP	-	*Real Gross Domestic Product*
RMCD	-	*Risk Management and Compliance Department*
ROA	-	*Return on Asset*
ROE		*Return on Equity*

RPPD	-	*Research, Policy and Planning Department*
RSD	-	*Regulations and Supervision Department*
RTGS	-	*Real Time Gross Settlement Systems*
SDRs	-	*Special Drawing Rights*
SDOC	-	*Significantly Domestic Owned Companies*
SIPS	-	*Systematically Important Payment Systems*
SMEs		*Small and Medium Enterprises*
SP		*Strategic Plan*
SSA	-	*Sub-Saharan Africa*
UBI	-	*Unique Bank Identification*
USAID	-	*United States Agency for International Development*
US	-	*United States*
USD	-	*United States Dollar*
VSLA	-	*Village Savings and Loan Association*
WACMIC	-	*West African Capital Markets Integration Council*
WAIFEM	-	*West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management*
WAII	-	*West African Insurance Institute*
WAMA	-	*West African Monetary Agency*
WAMI	-	*West African Monetary Institute*
WAMZ	-	*West African Monetary Zone*
WASRA	-	*West African Securities Regulators Association*
WB	-	*World Bank*
WBG	-	*World Bank Group*

Foreword

It is my distinct honor to present the Central Bank of Liberia's (CBL) Annual Report for 2024, which offers comprehensive assessments of the domestic and global economic, monetary, and financial developments. The report underscores the resilience of the Liberian economy, despite global uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and extreme climate risks. It also highlights the internal reforms implemented by the Bank in line with its commitment to advancing Liberia's macroeconomic stability.

In early 2024, Liberia ushered in a new Administration led by His Excellency, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. This smooth transition demonstrated Liberia's unwavering commitment to economic advancement underpinned by sustained political stability. The CBL intends to leverage this stability for the formulation of a new strategic plan, which will set the policy direction of the Bank over the next five years.

The CBL remained proactive in the implementation of monetary policy with its mandate to maintain domestic price stability, promote financial stability and support the government's economic policies. The Bank was also dedicated to advancing projects and programs aimed at fostering financial inclusion and contributing to inclusive economic growth.

During the period under review, the global economy recorded a slight slowdown, with world output growth moderating slightly to 3.2 percent in 2024, down from 3.3 percent in 2023. This was largely due to weak demand in major emerging markets, particularly India and China. However, global inflationary pressure eased, and commodity prices trended downward, contributing to relative market stability.

On the domestic front, Liberia's economy displayed resilience, recording a growth rate of 4.8 percent in 2024, up from 4.6 percent in 2023. This growth was primarily driven by the agriculture and fisheries subsector, with further expansion projected in 2025. While inflation remained a critical concern, the average headline inflation declined by 1.8 percentage points to 8.3 percent. However, end-period inflation increased slightly reflecting developments in the health subsector of the consumer price index basket.

Monetary sector developments throughout the year were focused on the Bank's ongoing efforts in liquidity management and ensuring financial stability. Liberian dollars in circulation grew at a slower pace triggering the need to strengthen de-dollarization, while broad money supply moderated largely arising from a slowdown in net domestic assets. Credit to the private sector also remained below 15 percent of GDP, underscoring the need to enhance financial intermediation.

On the external front, Liberia's current account balance recorded a surplus of 14.2 percent of GDP in 2024, a marked improvement from the deficit of 5.5 percent in 2023. This positive shift was driven by a notable reduction in the trade deficit and an increase in secondary income transfers. Although gross international reserves contracted slightly, net international reserves expanded by 6.5 percent in 2024 and months of import cover improved, ensuring greater external stability.

The financial sector remained robust, with growth recorded in key balance sheet indicators of the banking industry, including total assets, loans, deposits, and capital. While the industry maintained strong capital adequacy and liquidity ratios far exceeding the regulatory threshold, the high level of non-performing loans (NPLs) remained a risk to financial stability. In response, the Bank continued to implement regulatory measures through enhanced risk management frameworks to strengthen financial institutions.

In 2024, CBL exceeded the earmarked financial inclusion target by 2 percentage points reaching 52 percent underpinned by dedicated focus in the transformation of the country's digital economy through payments system advancement and increased financial literacy. Mobile money transactions, in both Liberian and U.S. dollars, continued to grow, along with expansion in digital financial services, reflecting the increasing adoption of financial technology solutions.

The Bank was also supportive of regional integration effort for the promotion of cross border payments, participating in the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) initiative, as well as the Unique Bank Identification (UBI) project through the African Development Bank (AfDB). I am pleased to indicate that the modernization of the National Electronic Payments Switch (NEPS) has also seen notable progress.

Internally, following the General Auditing Commission's (GAC) compliance audit and other external audit reports, the Bank undertook several measures to address identified internal controls, risk management, procurement and governance weaknesses. We are committed to ensuring transparency, accountability, and high professional standards in all aspects of our operations in the management of the Bank.

As we look ahead, the Central Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining macroeconomic stability, fostering financial sector growth, supporting inclusive economic growth and ensuring financial prudence, transparency and accountability. Our ongoing collaboration with regional and international partners will be crucial in achieving these goals and ensuring a resilient financial system for Liberia.

On behalf of the CBL family, I extend my profound gratitude to H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, the Judiciary, and the National Legislature, for their collective leadership and unwavering support to the work of the Bank. I also wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Board of Governors, Management, and staff of the CBL for their continued dedication and contributions. Additionally, I acknowledge the support of the financial sector stakeholders and development partners in strengthening Liberia's economic and financial systems. Special recognition goes to our regional, continental and other multilateral institutions: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank (AfDB), The European Union (EU), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for their ongoing support to Liberia's development efforts.

The CBL reaffirms commitment to its mandate of promoting domestic price stability, contributing to financial stability and supporting the government's economic policy through effective monetary policy implementation with the aim of advancing the development plan of the country as articulated in the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).

Henry F. Saamoi
Acting Executive Governor

Vison, Mission, Objectives, Functions, and Autonomy of CBL

Vision

"To achieve and maintain price stability by ensuring a sound financial system, thereby contributing to the nation's sustainable economic development."

Mission

"To maintain efficient and affective financial, payments, and information systems, and to formulate and implement a prudent monetary policy."

Objectives

Pursuant to Part II, Articles 3, Section 5 of the Amended and Restated 2020 Act of the CBL, the objectives of the CBL are inter-alia:

i. *Primarily, to achieve and maintain domestic price stability in the Liberian economy;*

ii. *Without prejudice to the above objective, to contribute to fostering and maintaining a stable financial system; and*

iii. *Without prejudice to the objectives stated in subsection (I) and (II) under this section, to support the general economic policy of the Government, in keeping with its monetary policy mandate.*

Functions

Pursuant to the Amended and Restated CBL Act 2020, the CBL has functional independence, operational autonomy, power, and exclusive authority to:

1) *Formulate and implement monetary policy;*
2) *Issue domestic banknotes and coins;*
3) *Administer the currency laws and regulate the supply of money;*
4) *Determine the appropriate foreign exchange regime;*
5) *Formulate and implement the exchange rate policy;*
6) *Act as fiscal agent for the Government;*
7) *Administer and enforce the New Financial Institutions Act of 1999 or its successor legislation;*
8) *License, regulate, monitor and supervise and resolve bank and non-bank financial institutions, as well as other specialized-deposit taking institutions;*
9) *Collect and produce statistics relative to its functions;*

10) *Hold and manage the foreign exchange reserves of Liberia, including gold;*

11) *Advise the Government on financial and economic matters;*

12) *Conduct foreign exchange operations;*

13) *Promote a safe, sound, and efficient payments system and provide supervision over payment service providers as further specified in relevant laws and regulations;*

14) *Administer the Securities Exchange Act 2016 to facilitate the establishment of the Securities Exchange Commission in keeping with the provisions of the said Act;*

15) *Adopt and implement the regulatory framework for insurance companies as further specified in relevant laws and regulations;*

16) *Formulate and coordinate macro-prudential policy and supervision; and*

17) *Collaborate with the relevant agencies of Government responsible for enforcing anti-money laundering, counter financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction laws with regard to bank and non-bank financial institutions as well non-bank financial services institutions.*

Autonomy

1. *In pursuit of its objectives and functions, the CBL shall be autonomous and accountable as provided for in the Amended and Restated Act of the CBL; and*

2. *Subject to constitutional requirement, the CBL and its Governors, Officers and Staff shall not take or seek to take instruction from any person or entity, including entities in the exercise of their functions.*

Executive Summary

In 2024, the challenges in the global economy heightened. Global growth slowed to 3.2 percent in 2024 from 3.3 percent in 2023, mainly due to weaker performance in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs), particularly in India and China. Advanced Economies (AEs) recorded stable growth of 1.7 percent, with the United States expanding by 2.8 percent, the Euro Area improving slightly, and Japan contracting. In EMDEs, growth is projected to stabilize at 4.2 percent in 2025. Emerging Asia is expected to moderate to 5.1 percent, reflecting sustained slowdown in China and India, while Sub-Saharan Africa grew by 3.8 percent in 2024 and is projected to reach 4.2 percent in 2025, supported by improved weather conditions and easing supply constraints.

Global inflation moderated from 6.7 percent in 2023 to 5.7 percent in 2024 and is projected at 4.2 percent in 2025, though upside risks remain. Inflation varied across regions in 2024: Advanced Economies experienced faster disinflation, while Emerging Market and Developing Economies are expected to see inflation moderating from 7.8 percent to 5.6 percent in 2025. Emerging Asia recorded low inflation due to proactive monetary tightening, while sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East recorded double-digit inflation. Generally, inflation is expected to return to target levels by 2025. Commodity markets exhibited mixed price movements in 2024. Oil prices remained steady before weakening in September, natural gas prices rose due to supply concerns, and metals showed varied movements, with a surge in gold price, while iron ore price declined.

The outlook for 2025 shows signs of relative stabilization. Global growth is projected to remain at 3.2 percent, with advanced economies projected to experience slight improvements and EMDEs stabilizing at 4.2 percent. The United States is projected to maintain strong growth, while India and China are expected to further slowdown. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to expand by 4.2 percent, supported by recovery from previous challenges.

On the domestic front, the economy showed resilience with a slight rise in growth by 0.2 percentage points to 4.8 percent in 2024, mainly driven by developments in the agriculture & fisheries subsector. Growth is projected to accelerate to 5.6 percent in 2025, underpinned by continued expansion in agriculture & fisheries and mining & panning subsectors. Inflation moderated to an average of 8.3 percent in 2024, down from 10.1 percent in 2023, primarily due to relative stability in the foreign exchange market for much of the year. However, risks to the growth and the disinflation trend remain, including global uncertainties and structural challenges. Strengthened fiscal and monetary policy coordination will be key to sustaining economic stability.

Regarding monetary sector developments, Liberian dollar currency in circulation increased by 11.7 percent, driven mainly by increased domestic spending. Narrow money supply (M1) grew due partly to an increase in demand deposits, while broad money (M2) grew primarily due to a rise in net domestic asset. The US dollar remained dominant in the money supply, reflecting the slow pace of de-dollarization in the economy.

Commercial banks credit to the private sector increased, with trade accounting for the largest share. The CBL actively managed liquidity through its short-term bills (2-week, 1-month, and 3-month maturities) to stabilize the Liberian dollar and develop the domestic debt market. Although the CBL bill issuance declined, financial market participation remained strong, with increased retail investments and interbank transactions.

The banking sector remained stable, with increases in assets, loans, deposits, and capital, driven by increased economic activity. The sector maintained capital adequacy (33.8 percent) and liquidity (49.3 percent) ratios above regulatory benchmarks, despite the challenges of high non-performing loans (19.7 percent). In response to global financial stability risks, central banks, including the CBL, implemented proactive policy measures, including credit recovery strategies, lower policy rates and promotion of digital financial services.

The non-bank financial sector experienced mixed developments. The number of Non-Bank Credit-Only Microfinance Institutions (NBCOs) declined from 21 to 14 in 2024, while Deposit-Taking Microfinance Institutions (MDIs) increased to three. Foreign exchange bureaus and money remittance entities expanded, reflecting growing demand for financial services.

In 2024, Liberia's insurance sector comprised fifteen (15) licensed companies, one provisionally licensed, and eight (8) licensed brokerage firms. The sector remained dominated by domestically owned companies, which accounted for 45.41 percent of assets and capital, and held a 52.24 percent market share.

Liberia’s external sector improved in 2024, with the current account shifting to surplus of 14.2 percent of GDP from a deficit of 5.5 percent in 2023. This improvement was driven by a lower trade deficit and higher secondary income transfers. Capital account and financial account inflows also increased, narrowing the Balance of Payments deficit to 0.7 percent of GDP. Net international reserves grew by 6.6 percent to US$$234.53 million, while months of import cover improved to 2.9 months, despite a 2.1 percent decline in gross international reserves to US$476.3 million.

The Government of Liberia’s fiscal operations improved significantly in 2024 resulting to a surplus of US$12.5 million (approximately 0.3 percent of GDP) in the overall balance, compared to surplus of US$4.0 million (approximately 0.0 percent of GDP) in 2023. The primary balance also showed a surplus of US$291.0 million (6.1 percent of GDP).

The CBL Collateral Registry System continued to support non-traditional lending, allowing movable assets as collateral. By December 2024, it had recorded 57 registered clients, facilitating loans worth US$32.9 million, primarily processed by agents of foreign banks. However, local financial institutions' engagement remained low, signaling underutilization of the system in Liberia.

CBL advanced financial inclusion, literacy, and MSME financing, securing funding to develop digital financial solutions and launch a national financial literacy campaign. The Payments System Department also worked on regional initiatives such as the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and the National Electronic Payment Switch (NEPS) to further modernize Liberia’s financial ecosystem.

Liberia's payments system evolved significantly, driven by National Payment Systems reform and increased adoption of digital and mobile financial services. Mobile Money usage grew, with more active subscribers and higher transaction values, while cross-border remittances expanded. Systemically Important Payment Systems (SIPS) recorded a 75 percent increase in USD transactions. Retail payments trends were mixed, with declines in LRD ATM and mobile banking usage and growth in USD POS and internet banking transactions. Overall, the digital and mobile-based payments continued to strengthen.

Various departments of the CBL supported the Bank's strategic goals in 2024. The Research, Policy, and Planning Department focused on macroeconomic research and policy recommendations, managing the Monetary Policy Committee Secretariat and supporting exchange rate stability and inflation control. The Department also disseminated macroeconomic data to stakeholders, and prepared reports for multilateral surveillance in support of ECOWAS single currency convergence analysis.

The Human Resource Management Department focused on capacity-building and skill development, with 179 employees undergoing training programs, while the Management Information System and Technology Department implemented key initiatives to ensure connectivity and operational efficiency across the CBL. The Banking Department completed the currency exchange and replacement exercise, transforming payment centers into cash hubs to expand banking services outside Monrovia. The Risk Management and Compliance Department conducted risks assessments to ensure regulatory compliance. The Payments System Department worked on initiatives, including the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and the National Electronic Payment Switch (NEPS) to improve payment systems. Additionally, the Bank continued to promote financial inclusion, literacy, and access to financing for MSMEs, while securing funds to develop a digital solution and implement a national financial literacy campaign.

To improve financial market operations, the CBL upgraded the Depo/x system, automating treasury transactions and supporting the domestic debt market development. The Corporate Communications Section led stakeholder engagements on currency reform and the launch of PAPSS, while the General Support Services Department provided logistical support, ensuring smooth institutional operations. These efforts reflected CBL's commitment to enhancing efficiency in pursuit of its objectives.

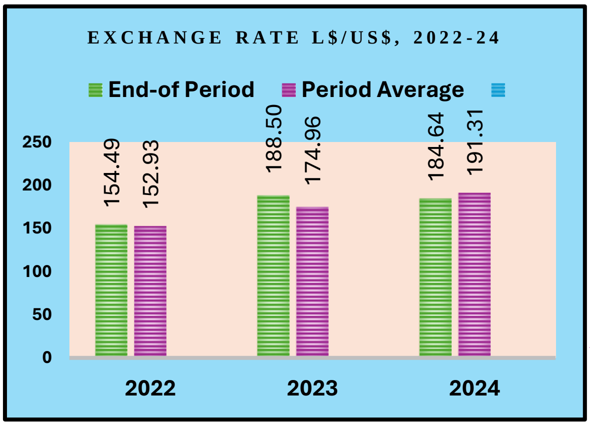
The unaudited financial statements of the Bank for 2024 showed an increase in gross revenue, although higher expenditures accompanied this growth. To strengthen financial integrity and accountability, the Internal Audit Department (IAD) reinforced internal controls and risk management by conducting key audits across management information systems, enterprise risk, payment systems, and human resources, with the support from PricewaterhouseCoppers (PwC) Ghana. The Department also performed regular cash counts and legal audits. In December, the compliance functions were transitioned to the newly established Risk Management and Compliance Department. Additionally, the IAD began adopting automated software and Auto-Audit, to enhance efficiency.

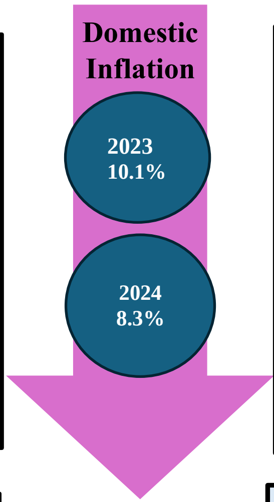
During the period under review, the Bank deepened its external relations, actively engaging with multilateral organizations to enhance financial sector development, capacity building, and monetary cooperation. Key engagement included: Association of African Central Banks (AACB) where CBL was designated as Alternate Chair for the West African region; African Development Bank through collaboration on pension sector reform and debt market development; West African Monetary Institute on submission of relevant information to inform macroeconomic assessment and financial regulation digitization, and other capacity building initiatives, including WAIFEM through training programs to strengthen monetary policy implementation.

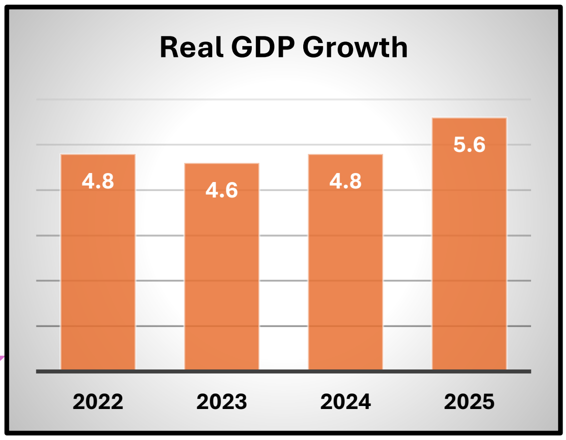
Overall, CBL made progress across monetary policy, banking operations, payment systems, financial sector modernization, and institutional capacity building. These efforts have relatively positioned Liberia’s financial system for greater stability, efficiency, and resilience, supporting the country’s medium to long term economic growth and development through price and financial stability.

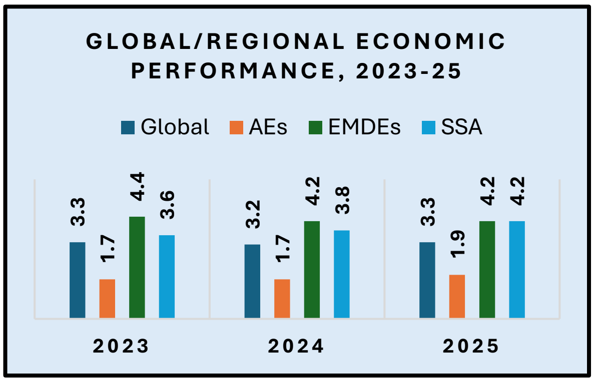
MACROECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

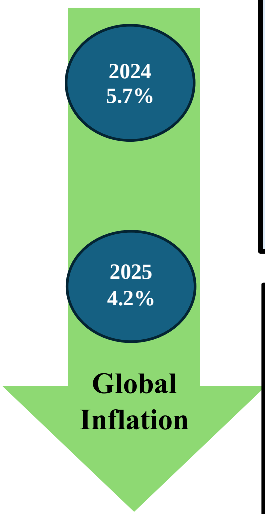
The Year 2024 In Data

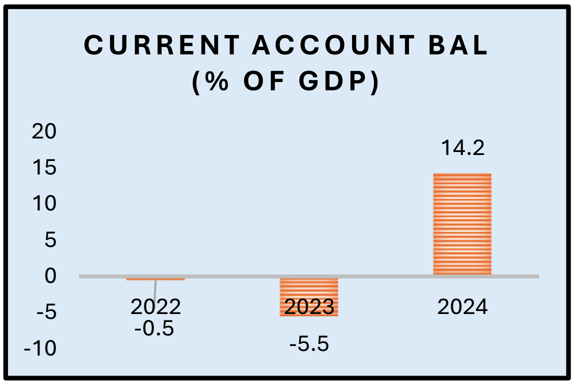


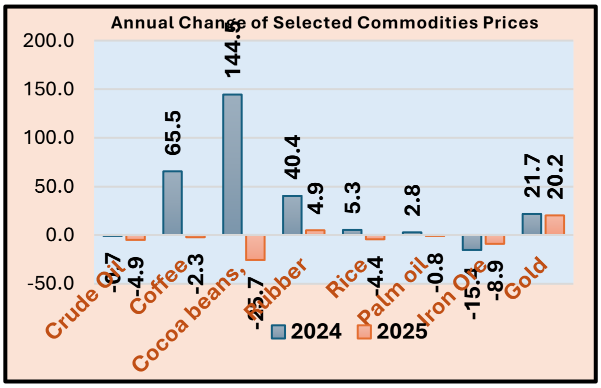


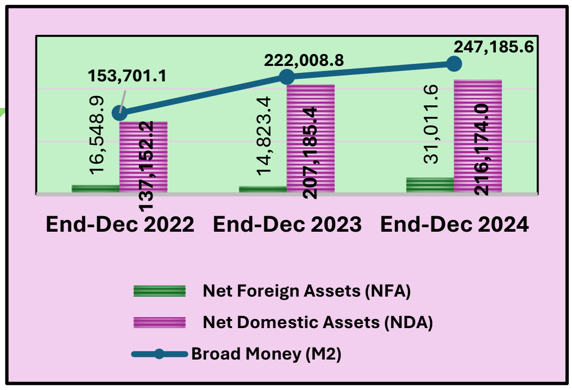


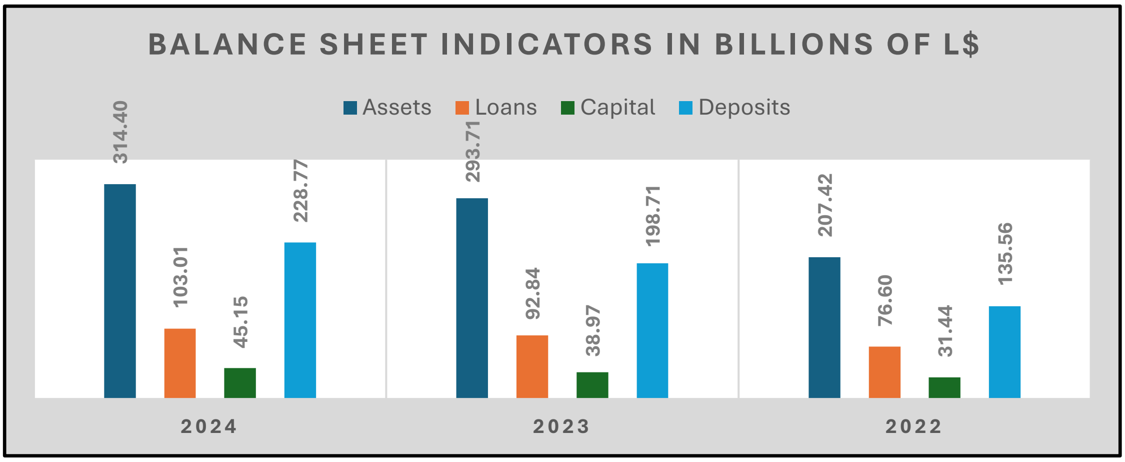












The Board of Governors

As at end-December 2024

Hon. Henry F. Saamoi
Acting Executive Governor/ Chairman
Board of Governors

Hon. D. Sheba Brown
Member
Board of Governors

Hon. George H. Gooding
Acting Member
Board of Governors

Hon. Joseph F. Robertson, Jr.
Acting Member
Board of Governors

Hon. Ebenizar Z. Gibson
Acting Member
Board of Governors

The Management

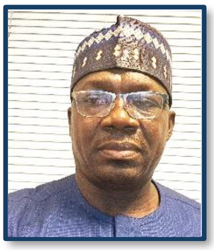
As at end-December 2024

Hon. Henry F. Saamoi
Acting Executive Governor

Hon. James B. Wilfred
Acting Deputy Governor
OPERATIONS

Musa Dukuly (PhD)
Deputy Governor
ECONOMIC POLICY

Adolphus D. Tweah
Senior Director
OPERATIONS



Christopher S. Wallace
Senior Director
ECONOMIC POLICY

Bushanda C. George
Chief of Staff
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

Mussah A. Kamara
Senior Technical Advisor
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

Michael B. Ogun
Senior Advisor
Multilateral Relations
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

Heads of Departments / Sections

Jefferson S.N. Kambo
DIRECTOR
Research, Policy & Planning Department

Fonsia M. Donzo
DIRECTOR
Regulation & Supervision Department

Euphemia Swen Monmia
DIRECTOR
Financial Markets Department

Maway T. Cooper-Harding
DIRECTOR
Human Resource Management Department

Mustapha E. Sherman
DIRECTOR
Finance Department

Cllr. Francis L. Yancy
DIRECTOR
General Support Services Department

William G. Jlopleh
DIRECTOR
Banking Department

Miatta Oberly Kuteh
DIRECTOR
Payment Systems Department

Edward B. Fahnbulleh
DIRECTOR
Risk Management & Compliance Department

Charles D. Dennis
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
Management Information Systems Technology Department

Nathaniel C. Gbaba
DIRECTOR
Insurance Department

Andrew S. Jallah, Jr.
DIRECTOR
Internal Audit Department

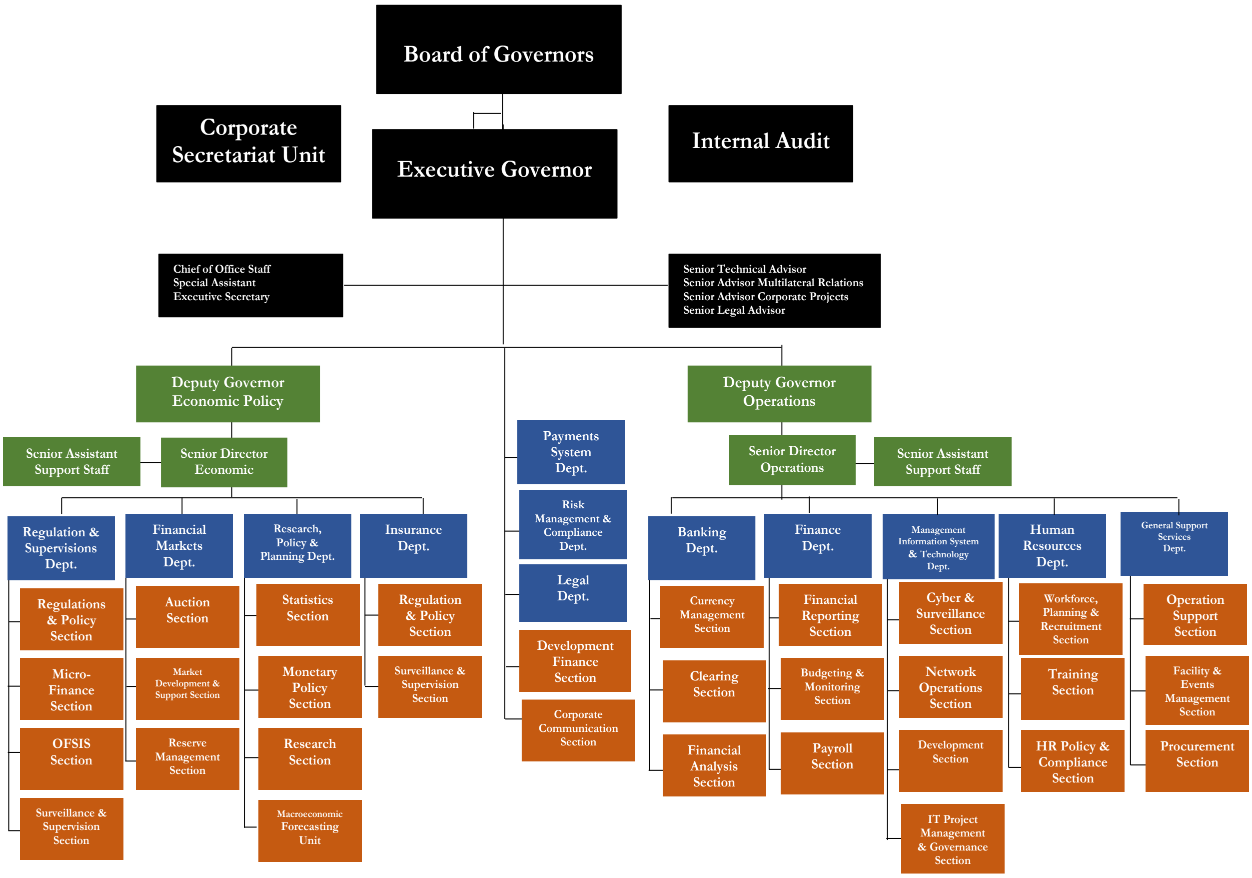
Cllr. Esther H. Barclay
CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL
Legal Department

Jay G. Brown
HEAD
Development Finance Section

P. Alphonsus Zeon
HEAD
Communications Section

Chart 1: Organizational Structure

(As at end-December 31, 2024)



CHAPTER 1.0: Governance and Organizational Structure

1.1 The Board of Governors

As required in Part IV Section 10 of the Amended and Restated CBL Act of 2020, the governing body of the CBL is the Board of Governors. The Board has oversight in the implementations of monetary policy and the strategic plan of the Bank for the realization of its core mandate.

The Board is composed of the Executive Governor (then Acting Executive Governor), who is the Chairman and four non-Executive Governors (then acting non-Executives Governors). They are all appointed by the President of the Republic of Liberia and confirmed by the Liberian Senate. The Board approves the annual budget, monitors the financial and operational performance, assesses reports from external auditors, and provides policy guidance to the Management of the CBL. As Chairman of the Board, the Executive Governor steers the day-to-day affairs of the Bank.

As at end-December 2024, the Board of Governors comprises of the following members:

1. Hon. Henry F. Saamoi - - - Acting Executive Governor
2. Hon. D. Sheba Brown - - - Governor
3. Hon. George H. Gooding - - - Acting Governor
4. Hon. Joseph F. Robertson, Jr. - - - Acting Governor
5. Hon. Ebenizar Z. Gibson - - - Acting Governor

1.2 Committees of the Board

The Board of the CBL comprises of two committees (1. Audit and 2. Investment Committees). During the year, the Committees, Audit and Investment, were chaired by Governor D. Sheba Brown and Governor Joseph F. Robertson Jr., respectively.

1.3 Policy Decisions by the CBL Board of Governors

In keeping with its mandate of oversight and approval of policies as well as procedures in support of the objectives of the CBL, as enshrined in Section 2.1 of the Board of Governors Charter, the Board of Governors approved the following policy instruments and key decisions in 2024:

1.3.1 Policy Instruments and Decisions

- **Amended Regulation on Agent Banking: -** The Amended Regulation approved by the Board promotes branchless banking aimed at promoting access to financial services, particularly to rural and underserved populations, in a cost-effective manner.

- **Collateral Eligibility Framework:** – The approval of this Policy Framework is expected to safeguard the CBL's financial resources when it extends credit to the financial sector. Additionally, it sets the eligibility of collateral presented by commercial banks.

- **Foreign Exchange Reserves Investment Policy**: - This was explicitly approved by the Board to define the activities that must be exercised to ensure effective management of the CBL's foreign exchange reserves.
- **Foreign Exchange Reserves Risk Management Framework**: defines the limit of exposure of the CBL's financial risks, credit and liquidity risks, and other risks, including settlement operation, custodian, and legal risks.
- **National Payment Systems Policy:** This policy document ensures the soundness and effectiveness of the National Payment Systems Landscape and takes precedence if there is a conflict with current practices and procedures.
- In addition to approving policies, the Board also approved several Standard Operating Procedures of departments within the enterprise for the smooth and effective operation of the Bank,

Policy Decisions

- The Board on August 15, 2024, approved the "End of Contract Separation" of contractors and consultants to mitigate CBL's high operational costs. The intent was for cost efficiency in the management of the Bank;
- Approved the cessation of the collection of Legacy Banknotes at the commercial banks and CBL Regional Hubs by December 31, 2024, to conform with the Official Gazette issued on June 27, 2023, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Notice of Termination of Legal Tender Status of Liberia Banknotes Series 1 (Liberian Banknotes Series 1 (LS1) and Liberia Banknote Series 2 (LS2)" to allow for the existence of a single, homogenous Liberian dollar banknotes and coins in circulation.
- Adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of GAC's Compliance Audit Recommendations.
- Adopted Kroll's Forensic Audit Recommendations Implementation Action Plan (CBL's Suspense Account).

CHAPTER 2.0: Global Developments

2.1 Global Output

Global economy remained challenged with moderation in economic activity. World output growth stood at 3.2 percent in 2024, slightly lower than the 3.3 percent recorded in 2023 largely due to the downward revision in the growth of Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs). The development in EMDEs was occasioned by reduced accumulated demand in India and real estate challenges in China. Despite cross-country differences in inflation rates, global headline inflation was estimated to moderate, from an average of 6.7 percent in 2023 to 5.7 percent in 2024 and is projected to decline further to 4.2 percent in 2025.

Advanced Economies (AEs): in advanced economies, growth was estimated to remain stable at 1.7 percent in 2024 compared to 2023 but is projected to edge upwards to 1.9 percent in 2025, reflecting various cyclical economic activities. In the United States, growth was recorded at 2.8 percent in 2024 and is expected to remain robust at 2.7 percent in 2025. Stronger outturns in consumption and nonresidential investment are anticipated to underpin the growth in the United States. In the Euro Area, growth picked up marginally to 0.8 percent in 2024 from 0.4 percent in 2023, reflecting better export performance of goods. In 2025, growth is projected to rise further to 1.0 percent, due to stronger domestic demand. Japan's economy contracted by 0.2 percent in 2024, reversing its 1.5 percent growth in 2023, on account of weak domestic demand and external headwinds. However, policy measures aimed at stimulating domestic demand would increase growth in 2025. In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, growth accelerated to 0.9 percent in 2024 and is projected at 1.6 percent in 2025, on account of stimulated domestic demand arising from falling inflation and interest rates

Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs): the growth projection for EMDEs in 2025 shows stability at 4.2 percent compared to 2024 due to offsetting dynamics in the region. On one hand, slow growths in the region's two largest economies (India and China) are projected to be sustained in 2025. In India, real GDP growth is expected to moderate by 1.7 percentage points to 6.5 percent in 2025, due to exhausted demand accumulated from the pandemic and movement of the economy to its potential. In China, the projected growth slowdown is expected to be gradual at 4.8 percent. This performance will mainly be attributed to better-than-expected net exports, despite persistent weakness in the real estate sector and low consumer confidence.

Sub-Saharan Africa, SSA: on the other hand, real GDP growth in SSA increased in 2024 to 3.8 percent, exceeding the 2023 growth by 0.2 percentage point. The regional growth was revised upward in 2024 to reflect higher than expected growth outturn in Nigeria, amid weaker-than-expected activity in the first half of the year. Growth is projected to rise to 4.2 percent in 2025, as adverse impacts of prior weather shocks and supply constraints ease.

Table 1: Global Growth and Outlook (2021-2025)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
World	**6.6**	**3.6**	**3.3**	**3.2**	**3.3**
AEs	***6.0***	***2.9***	***1.7***	***1.7***	***1.9***
United States	6.1	2.5	2.9	2.8	2.7
EURO Area	6.2	3.3	0.4	0.8	1.0
Germany	3.7	1.4	-0.3	-0.2	0.3
France	6.8	2.6	1.1	1.1	0.8
UK	8.6	4.8	0.3	0.9	1.6
Japan	2.7	1.2	1.5	-0.2	1.1
Canada	5.3	3.8	1.5	1.3	2.0
EMDEs	***7.0***	***4.0***	**4.4**	**4.2**	**4.2**
China	8.4	3.0	5.2	4.8	4.6
India	9.7	7.0	8.2	6.5	6.5
Russia	5.9	-1.2	3.6	3.8	1.4
Turkey	11.4	5.5	5.1	3.0	2.7
Brazil	4.8	3.0	3.2	3.7	2.2
Mexico	6.0	3.7	3.3	1.8	1.4
Saudi Arabia	5.1	7.5	-0.8	1.4	3.3
SSA	***4.8***	***4.1***	**3.6**	**3.8**	**4.2**
Nigeria	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.2
South Africa	5.0	1.9	0.7	0.8	1.5

Source: International Monetary Fund. 2025. World Economic Outlook Update, 2025: Global Growth: Divergent and Uncertain. Washington, DC. January

2.2 Global Inflation

Global headline inflation moderated further, from an average of 6.7 percent in 2023 to 5.7 percent in 2024 and is projected at 4.2 percent in 2025, with expectations of some upside risks. Disinflation was faster in AEs with inflation declining by 2.0 percentage points from 4.6 percent in 2023 to 2.6 percent in 2024 and projected at about 2.1 percent in 2025. In EMDEs, inflation is projected to decline from 7.8 percent in 2024 to 5.6 percent in 2025.

Projected inflation in 2025 shows variations in EMDEs. In emerging Asia, particularly China and India, inflation is expected at lower single digits. China's inflation is projected at 1.7 percent from 0.4 percent in 2024, while in India, inflation is projected to moderate to 4.1 percent from 4.4 percent in 2024. In contrast, inflation rates in most economies of emerging Europe, the Middle East & Central Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa are projected to remain in double-digit on account of pass-through effect of currency depreciation and administrative price adjustment as well as underperformance in agricultural production. For most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, inflation rates have moderated significantly and are expected to remain on a downward trend. Generally, inflation is expected to return to its target in 2025 on account of increasing monetary policy responses.

Table 2: Global Average Consumers Price Inflation

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
World	**4.7**	**8.6**	**6.7**	**5.7**	**4.2**
AEs	***3.1***	***7.3***	***4.6***	***2.6***	***2.1***
United States	4.7	8.0	4.1	3.0	2.0
EURO Area	2.6	8.4	5.4	2.4	2.1
UK	2.6	9.1	7.3	2.6	2.1
Japan	(0.2)	2.5	3.3	2.2	2.0
Canada	3.4	6.8	3.9	2.4	1.9
EMDEs	***5.8***	***9.6***	8.1	7.8	5.6
China	0.9	2.0	0.2	0.4	1.7
India	5.5	6.7	5.4	4.4	4.1
Russia	6.7	13.8	5.9	7.9	5.9
Turkiye	19.6	72.3	53.9	60.9	33.0
Brazil	8.3	9.3	4.6	4.3	3.6
Mexico	5.7	7.9	5.5	4.7	3.8
Saudi Arabia	3.1	2.5	2.3	1.7	1.9
SSA	***11.6***	***15.2***	***17.6***	***18.1***	***12.3***
Nigeria	17.0	18.8	24.7	32.5	25.0
South Africa	4.6	6.9	5.9	4.7	4.5

Source: International Monetary Fund. 2025. World Economic Outlook Update, 2025: Global Growth: Divergent and Uncertain. Washington, DC. January

2.3 Commodity Prices

Global primary commodity prices increased from February to August 2024, driven by developments in the prices of natural gas, precious metals, and beverages. However, the annual price change in 2024 of fuel and non-fuel index contracted slightly by 0.3 percent due to the declines in the natural gas and food indices (Table 3).

Oil price: Prior to its weakening in September 2024, oil prices were held steady in most parts of the year, averaging about US$83.00 a barrel on the back of production cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Plus (OPEC+), totaling US$5.86 million barrels per day (mb/d). Broader regional escalation of tensions in the Middle East added risk premium to oil prices. Hence, in 2024 crude oil price rose by 0.9 percent but is expected to decline in 2025 by 10.4 percent.

Natural gas: Prices of natural gas in the first half of the year rose on account of weather and supply concerns. Title Transfer Facility (TTF) trading hub price in Europe rose by 26.4 percent to US$10.2 million British thermal units (MMBtu). However, high storage levels capped the prices of natural gas, thus reducing the price change of the commodity in 2024 by 16.4 percent. Nevertheless, the commodity is expected to record a price rise in 2025 by 27.0 percent.

Iron ore price: Iron ore price fell by 7.8 percent in 2024, affected by weak demand from the steel and construction sectors in China. The price of the commodity is projected to further decline by 13.9 percent in 2025, on the back of anticipated weakening demand.

Agricultural commodity prices: Cocoa price increased by 144.5 percent in 2024, reflecting a decline in global supply of the commodity, mainly arising from unfavorable climate and crop diseases in West Africa. The price of cocoa is projected to fall in 2025 by 25.7 percent with expected mitigation of the effects of crop diseases. Coffee price also grew by 65.5 percent in 2024, following weather-related supply concerns by key producers (Brazil and Vietnam). Similarly, rubber price rose significantly in 2024 by 40.4 percent on account of supply constraints due to aging trees in Thailand, the largest exporter. The price of rubber is projected to further rise by 4.9 percent in 2025. On the other hand, Rice price declined by 15.4 percent as crop conditions improved in India and other parts of Asia. The commodity is expected to record a further price decline of 0.9 percent in 202.

Table 3: Global Commodities Price Trends (Annual % Change)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fuel and Non-Fuel Price Indices	52.5	33.7	-23.3	-0.3	-0.9
Non-Fuel Price Index	26.7	7.9	-5.7	2.9	-0.2
Crude Oil (petroleum), (simple average, 3 spot prices) US$ per barrel	65.8	39.2	-16.4	0.9	-10.4
Natural Gas Price Index	253.7	105.6	-62.8	-16.4	27.0
Food Price Index	27.0	14.8	-6.8	-5.3	-4.5
Coffee Price (Robusta) US Cent per Pound	30.6	15.4	15.0	65.5	-2.3
Cocoa beans, US$ per metric tonne	2.3	-2.3	37.5	144.5	-25.7
Agricultural Raw Materials Index	15.5	5.7	-15.6	3.8	1.6
Rubber, No.1 Rubber Smoked Sheet, US cents per pound	18.3	-11.9	-13.8	40.4	4.9
Rice, 5 percent broken, US$ per metric tonne	70.2	26.5	-25.9	-15.4	-0.9
Palm oil, Malaysia Palm Oil, US$ per metric tonne	61.2	9.6	-28.8	2.8	-0.8
Iron Ore, China import Fines 62% FE spot (US$ per metric ton)	46.4	-23.7	-0.3	-7.8	-13.9

Source: IMF October 2024 WEO Database

CHAPTER 3.0: Domestic Economy

3.1 Overview

The domestic economy exhibited resilience, growing by 4.8 percent in 2024 above the 4.6 percent growth recorded in 2023, on account of improved performance of the agriculture & fisheries subsector. Growth for 2025 is projected at 5.6 percent and is expected to be mainly driven by developments in the primary sector (particularly, agriculture & fisheries and mining & panning sub-sectors). Average headline inflation fell to 8.3 percent in 2024, from 10.1 percent in 2023. On the other hand, end-period inflation rose marginally to 10.7 percent at end-December 2024, from 10.0 percent in the same period a year ago. The performance of end-period inflation was largely explained by developments in the price of health and tourism services.

Monetary aggregates and credits to the private sector recorded slow growth during the year under review. Growth of Liberian dollar in circulation slowed by 11.7 percent at end-December 2024, from 19.9 percent a year ago, due to moderation in the Liberian dollar outside the banking system. Similarly, broad and narrow money supplies (M2 and M1) recorded moderations to 11.3 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively from 44.4 percent and 50.3 percent at the end of 2023. The moderation in M2 was triggered by a slowdown in net domestic assets, while M1 was mainly induced by slow growth in demand deposits. Despite moderating, the share in US dollar as a ratio of M2, however, remained high at 74.6 percent as at end-December 2024 compared to 75.4 percent as at end-December 2023, reflecting the high level of dollarization of the Liberian economy.

Commercial bank loans and advances grew at the end of 2024 but at a declining rate, with notable contributions from personal loans, loans and advances to the services and 'other' sub sectors. However, loans to agriculture, extractive, manufacturing and trade subsectors contracted. In terms of sectoral share of total credit at the end of 2024, trade and personal loans accounted for 25.4 percent and 24.8 percent of total credit to the economy, respectively.

Average interest rates of commercial banks in 2024 were mixed, compared to 2023. The average interest rates on lending, mortgage, and savings rates declined, while the interest rates on personal loans, time deposits and certificate of deposits (CD) rose.

The CBL remained dedicated to managing liquidity in the banking system, preserving the value of Liberian dollar through the issuance of the CBL bills. The Bank also collaborated with regional institutions to reform and develop the domestic debt market. The Bank implemented key reserves management strategies to improve its foreign exchange reserves in 2024.

Preliminary statistics collected on the external sector revealed broad improvements in 2024. The current account balance improved with a surplus of 14.2 percent of GDP in 2024 compared to the deficit of 5.5 percent of GDP recorded in 2023. This development largely reflected a substantial decline in the trade deficit coupled with growth in secondary income transfers (net). Capital account inflows (net) rose by 6.8 percent relative to the inflows recorded in the preceding year, driven mainly by an increase in capital transfers. Similarly, net financial account inflows grew by 3.1 percent against the inflows reported in 2023, on account of an increase in direct investment inflows. Accordingly, the overall Balance of Payments (BoP) deficit narrowed to 0.7 percent of GDP, from 0.9 percent of GDP in 2023.

In 2024, the fiscal operations of the government resulted to a surplus of 0.3 percent of GDP on account of improved revenue mobilization and expenditure rationalization. Total revenue declined by 11.2 percent to US$735.9 million (15.4 percent of GDP) from US$828.5 million (18.9 percent of GDP) in 2023. Total government expenditure estimated for the review period fell by 12.3 percent to US$723.4 million (15.1 percent of GDP) from US$824.5 million (18.8 percent of GDP) in 2023. The public debt stock increased by 9.6 percent to US$2,627.1 million (54.9 percent of GDP) in 2024.

3.2 Real Sector

Liberia's real gross domestic product (RGDP) growth rose by 0.2 percentage point to 4.8 percent in 2024, compared to 4.6 percent recorded in 2023. This growth was mainly on account of the improvement in the agriculture & fisheries subsector of the economy.

Table 4: Sectoral Origin of Growth (GDP at 2018 Constant Prices) (2022-2025)

	2022 In Percent	2022	2023 In Percent	2023	2024 growth estimate In Percent	2024*	2025 growth In Percent	2025**
Agriculture & Fisheries	1.2	1,009.3	0.8	1,017.8	4.2	1,060.5	5.2	1,115.8
Forestry	1.6	292.9	1.2	296.5	1.2	300.1	1.2	303.7
Mining & Panning	14.0	621.8	5.7	657.2	5.0	690.0	8.6	749.0
Manufacturing	2.2	199.1	8.9	216.9	7.3	232.8	6.2	247.2
Services	4.8	1,275.3	7.1	1,365.8	5.6	1,442.2	5.2	1,518.4
Real GDP	4.8	3,398.4	4.6	3,554.2	4.8	3,725.6	5.6	3,934.1

Source: Central Bank of Liberia; *Estimate ** Projection

In the primary sector (agriculture & fisheries, forestry, and mining & panning), growth was estimated at 4.0 percent in 2024, up from 2.8 percent in 2023, mainly attributable to growth in the agriculture & fisheries sub-sector. The agriculture & fisheries sub-sector grew by an estimated 4.2 percent in 2024, from 0.8 percent reported in 2023 mainly on account of an increase in the production of rubber, while the mining and panning sub-sector moderated to an estimated 5.0 percent, from 5.7 percent growth in the preceding year.

Rubber output surged by 19.4 percent to 75,471 metric tons in 2024, up from 63,211 metric tons produced in 2023, on account of the lifting of moratorium on rubber exports. Additionally, growth in the forestry subsector (round logs & sawn timber) grew by 2.0 percent in 2024, compared to 2023. However, crude palm oil (CPO) production decreased by 26.0 percent to

15,890 metric tons, from 21,461 metric tons in 2023 in the previous year mainly due to low harvest from small farm holders.

Table 5: Agriculture and Forestry Output (2022-2023)

Commodity	Unit	2022	2023	2024
Rubber	Mt	64,516	63,211	75,471
Cocoa Beans	Mt	4,046	3,973	3,661*
CPO	Mt	24,019	21,461	15,890
Round Logs	M3	668,512*	661,958*	675,211*
Sawn Timber	PCs	191,790*	185,517*	189,113*

Sources: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA); Forestry Development Authority (FDA); Mano Palm Oil (Note: + Revised/Actual, *Estimate)

The mining & panning subsector moderated slightly to an estimated 5.0 percent in 2024, from 5.7 percent reported in 2023 due to base effect in the production of gold in 2023 and the decline of diamond production in 2024. Gold production rose by 0.8 percent in 2024 to 442,164 ounces, from 438,491 ounces produced a year ago due to the increase in mining activities. Iron ore output increased by 3.1 percent to 5.21 million metric tons in 2024, compared to the 5.10 million metric tons produced in the previous year. The growth in iron ore production was attributed to improved activities in the mining & panning subsector. Conversely, diamond output decreased by 15.4 percent to 48,074 carats, from 56,844 carats produced in the previous year mainly attributed to contraction in the price of synthetic diamond.

Table 6: Mining Output (2022-2023)

Commodity	Unit	2022	2023	2024
Gold	Ounce	376,754	438,491	442,164
Dimond	Carat	55,391	56,844	48,074
Iron Ore	Mt.	5,000.000	5,050.000	5,205,000

Source: Ministry of Mines & Energy; (Note: + Revised/Actual)

The secondary sector (manufacturing) moderated by 7.3 percent in 2024, from 8.9 percent in 2023, mainly on account of the base effect in the production of cement. The manufacturing sub-sector showed mixed performance in production. Cement production increased by 6.1 percent to 706,629 metric tons during the year, up from the revised 665,838 metric tons reported in the previous year. The increase in cement production was mainly attributed to the inclusion of output by an additional cement producing company. Beverage production (both alcoholic & non-alcoholic) increased by 58.7 percent to 42.6 million liters in 2024, up from 26.8 million produced in 2023. Total paint production (both oil & water paint) during the year rose significantly by 2.1 million gallons to 3.0 million gallons during 2024, from the revised 858,511 gallons produced in the preceding year on account of additional output from new production companies of paint. Candle production dipped during the year by 11.8 percent to 65,079 kilograms, compared to the revised 75,763 kilograms produced in the previous year as a result of the ongoing expansion in electricity coverage around the country.

Chlorox production sharply grew by 66.8 percent to 1.8 million liters in 2024, from the revised 1.1 million liters produced in 2023, mainly underpinned by the replenishment of stock. Total volume in the production of rubbing alcohol increased by 37.6 percent to 500,578 liters, from 374,632 liters in 2023 due to depleted stock of the commodity. Mattresses production declined slightly during the year to 127,293 pieces, from 128,271 pieces in 2023, on account of weak demand of the commodity in sub-urban communities. Finished water production expanded by an estimated 67.5 percent to 1.48 billion gallons of water, from 875.4 million gallons produced in 2023 due to the expansion of pipe-borne water service to other parts of Monrovia and its environs.

Table 7: Key Manufacturing Output (2022-2024)

	Unit	2022+	2023	2024
Cement	Mt.	474,187	665,838+	706,629
Beverages	Liter	16,366,299	26,848,331	42,574,270
Paints	Gal.	233,862	858,511+	2,975,721
Candle	Kg.	44,121	73,763	65,079
Chlorox	Liter	909,282	1,093,343+	1,823,651
Rubbing Alcohol	Liter	198,485	374,632	515,675
Mattresses	Pcs.	130,047	128,271	127,293
Finished Water	Gal.	1,094,928,382	874,446,476+	1,481,922,009*
Services				
o/w Electricity	Kw	275,131,939	469,743,200	515,278,000

Sources: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Liberia Water and sewer Corporation. (Note: + Revised/Actual, *Estimate)

The tertiary sector was estimated to moderate by 5.6 percent in 2024, down from 7.1 percent in 2023, largely reflecting structural constraints affecting the supply of electricity & water to other parts of the country, trade & hotels, government services, and other services. However, electricity production grew by 9.7 percent to 515.3 million kilowatts for the year ended 2024, from 496.8 million kilowatts produced in the previous year underpinned by policy reforms aimed at expanding access to electricity.

3.2.1 Sectoral Share and Contribution to Real GDP

Sectoral shares of real GDP revealed that the services subsector accounted for the largest share of real GDP at 38.7 percent, followed by agriculture & fisheries at 28.5 percent in 2024. In terms of sectoral contribution, the services sub-sector represented largest contributor to real GDP growth at 2.1 percentage points, followed by the agriculture & fisheries subsector, which contributed 1.2 percentage points (Table 7).

Table 8: Sectoral Share and Contribution to Real GDP (In Percent)

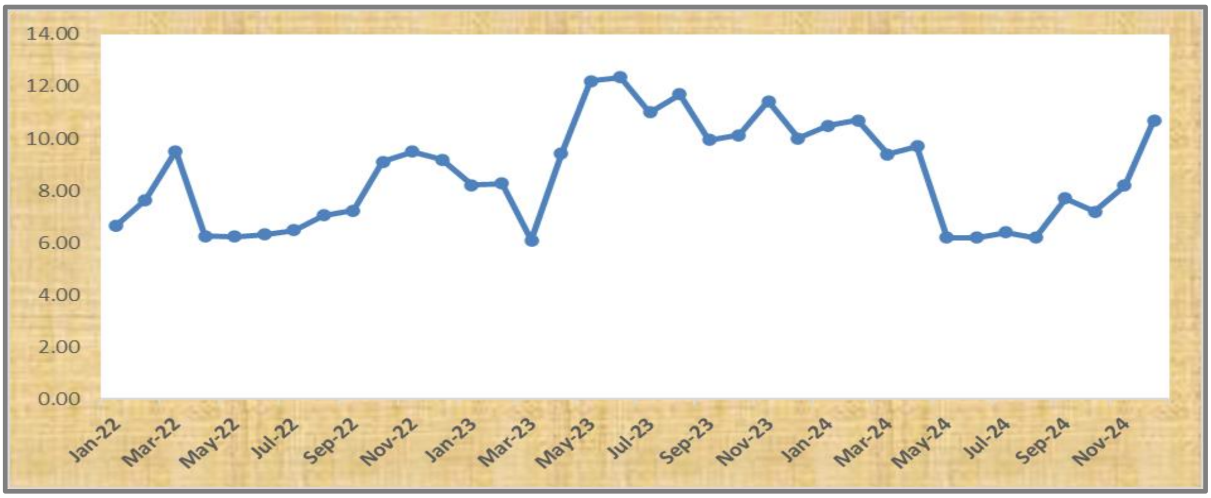
REAL RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH	Sectoral Share of Real GDP (2018=100)			Percentage Contribution to Real GPD Growth (2018=100)		
	2022	**2023**	**2024**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Agriculture & Fisheries	29.7	28.6	28.5	0.4	0.3	1.2
Forestry	8.6	8.3	8.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mining & panning	18.3	18.5	18.5	2.4	1.0	0.9
Manufacturing	5.9	6.1	6.2	0.1	0.5	0.5
Services	37.5	38.4	38.7	1.8	2.7	2.1
Real GDP	**100**	**100**	**100**	**4.8**	**4.6**	**4.8**

Source: IMF and Liberian Authorities

3.2.2 Price Developments

The average headline and end period inflations of Liberia in 2024 stood at 8.3 percent and 10.7 percent, compared to 10.1 percent and 10.0 percent, respectively in 2023. The moderation in average headline inflation was largely driven by relative stability in the foreign exchange market for most of 2024. Additionally, other factors that contributed to the single digit in 2024 included furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of house; transport services; clothing and footwear, and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels major groups . The increase in the end-period inflation rate was mainly triggered by a rise in the prices of health and restaurants and hotels prices. The decline in average headline inflation reflects sustained efforts to stabilize consumer prices through improved and coordinated monetary and fiscal policies.

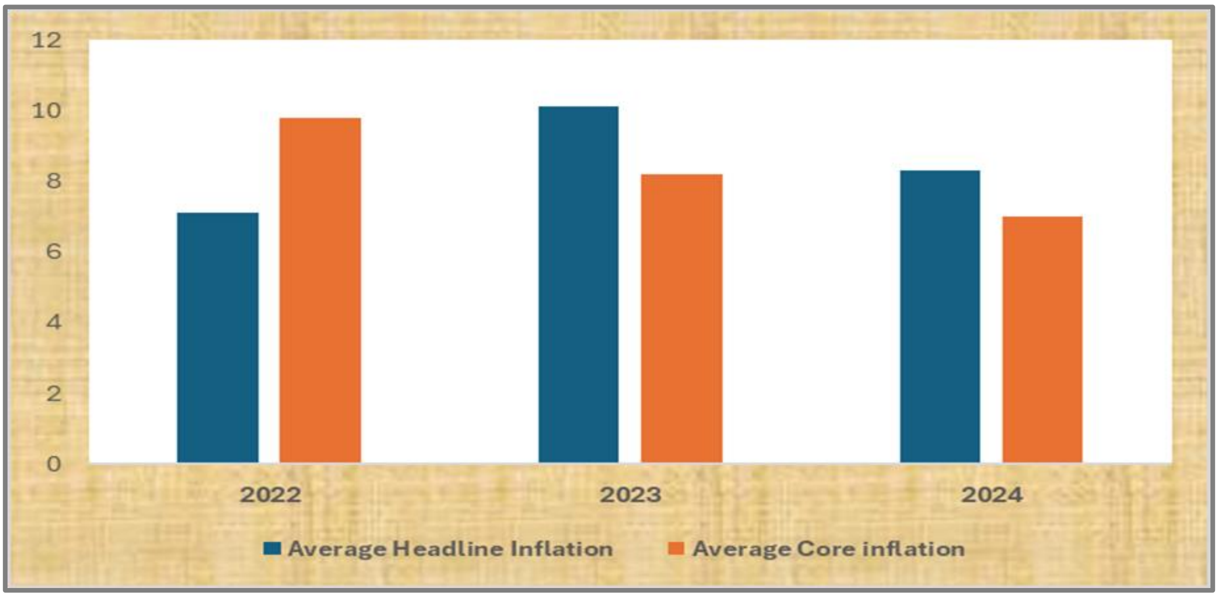
Chart 2: Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation 2022-2024 (December, 2005=100)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia & LISGIS

Core inflation (All items, excluding food and transport major groups), fell by 1.2 percentage points to 7.0 percent in 2024 from 8.2 percent in 2023. This development was largely driven by moderation in the prices of furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of housing; clothing and footwear; and water, electricity, gas and other fuels.

Chart 3: Headline and Core Inflations

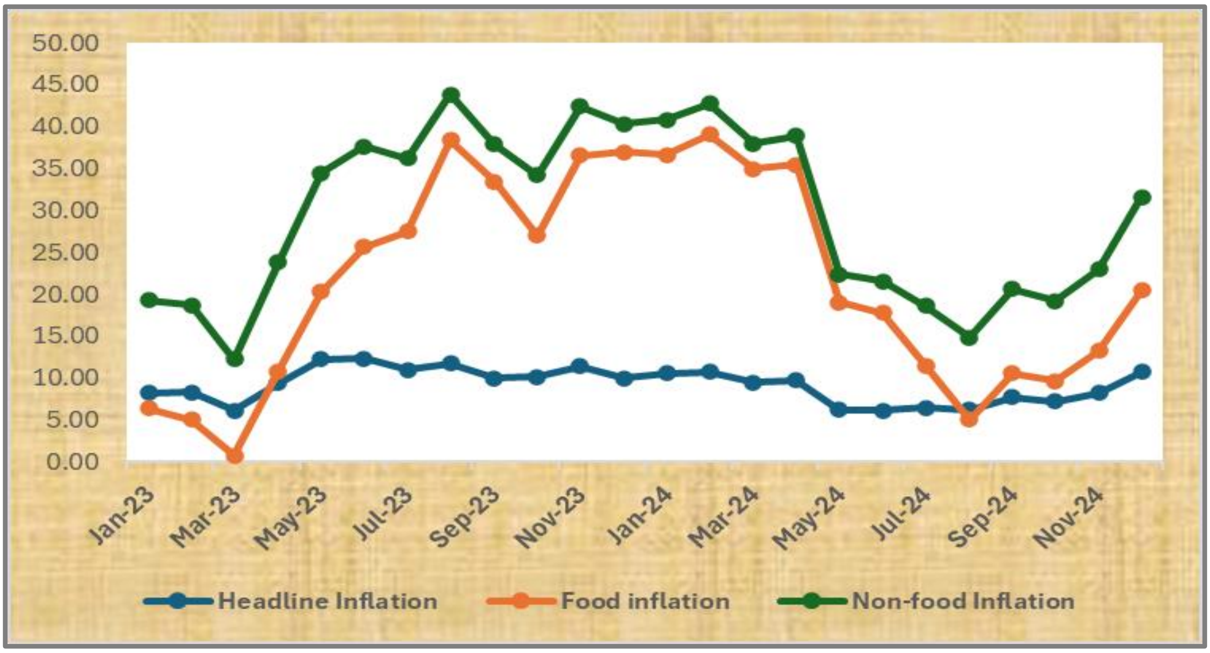


Source: CBL & LISGIS

3.2.3 Food and Non-Food Inflation

Developments in the major groups of the consumer basket in 2024 relative to 2023 showed mixed movements. Food inflation rose by 0.5 percentage point to 12.8 percent in 2024, from 12.3 percent recorded in 2023. The slight rise in inflation was mainly driven by domestic food prices. However, at end-2024, food inflation moderated significantly to 9.7 percent, compared to 26.9 percent reported at-end 2023. The year-on-year appreciation of the Liberian dollar, especially towards the end of 2024 partly explained the significant reduction in imported food prices and overall moderation in food inflation at the end of 2024. Similarly, non-food inflation on average declined by 2.8 percentage points to 6.6 percent, compared to 9.4 percent in 2023. This development was precipitated by broad stability in the domestic currency, which resulted to declines in all other major groups in the consumer basket, except education and health. Additionally, favorable global energy prices in 2024 contributed to reduction in transportation and production costs, thereby moderating non-food inflation.

Chart 4: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation



Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

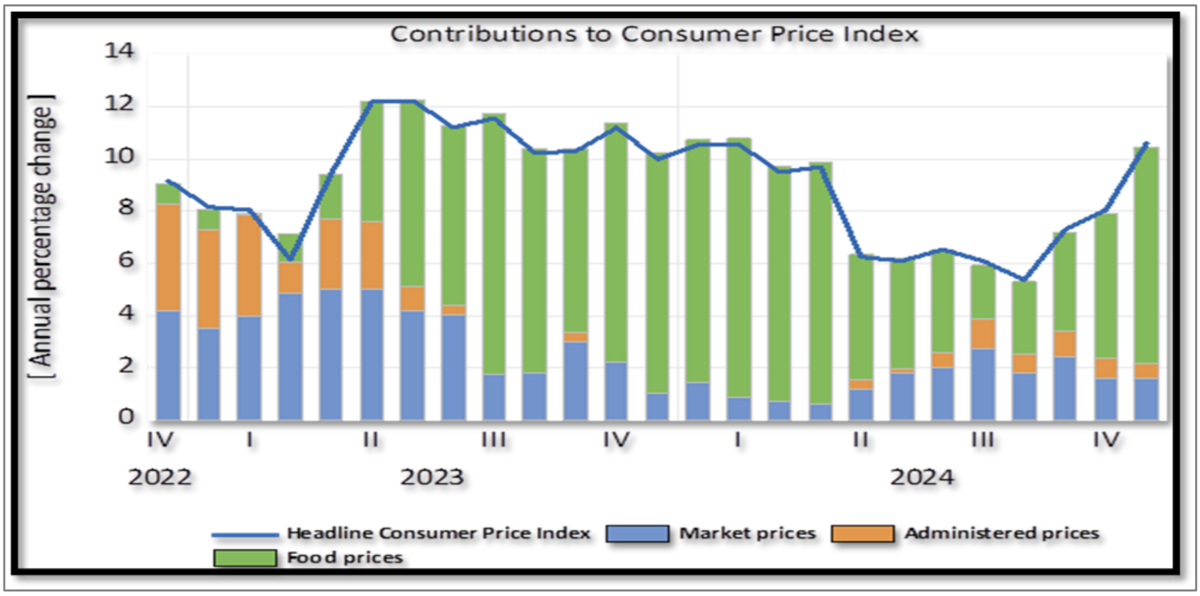
Administered Versus Market Prices

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket shows that headline inflation for 2024 moderated, compared to 2023. This performance was driven by reductions in both administered and market-driven prices for goods and services, reflecting a combination of government policy interventions and improved market dynamics. Administered prices, which are typically regulated by the government, exhibited, on average, a downward trend during the review period to 0.4 percent in 2024, from 1.4 percent in 2023. The decline in administered price was largely attributed to government actions aimed at stabilizing the cost of electricity, water, fuel, and transportation.

Market prices, driven by supply-demand dynamics, declined during the review period. Inflation for market-driven goods and services moderated to an average of 1.7 percent in 2024, from 3.4 percent in 2023, marking a reduction of 1.7 percentage points mainly due to developments in the exchange rate.

On the other hand, food inflation rose slightly by 0.9 percentage points to 6.2 percent, from 5.3 percent reported in 2023. The rise in food inflation was notably influenced by the price of domestic food arising from structural factors relating to domestic food production, especially vegetables.

Chart 5. Administered versus Market Price



Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Real Sector Outlook

The Outlook for Liberia remains favorable for 2025, accompanied by some uncertainties. RGDP growth is projected to remain resilient at 5.6 percent, driven primarily by expansion in the Agriculture & Fisheries subsector (4.3 percent) and the Mining & Panning subsector (8.6 percent). This growth outlook is underpinned by increased investment in the mining & panning and manufacturing subsectors, duty exemptions for critical growth-enhancing sectors, and anticipated investment in road connectivity and electricity.

Inflation in Liberia is projected to average 9.4 percent, with an expected 8.9 percent rate by the end of December 2025. This forecast is anchored on expectations of sustained macroeconomic stability.

Monetary policy will continue to focus on liquidity management, ensuring the effective use of policy instruments to maintain currency in circulation within a manageable threshold, in line with money growth projections for 2025. While the external sector showed some improvement in 2024, particularly in the current account, uncertainties remain due to the planned protectionist trade policies of the United States.

Despite these prospects, several risks could impact the real GDP growth outlook, including:

- Supply chain constraints resulting from ongoing geopolitical conflicts and tensions;
- Rising energy prices;
- Declining financial market transactions; and
- Unanticipated adjustments in USAID support, which may dampen overall growth prospects

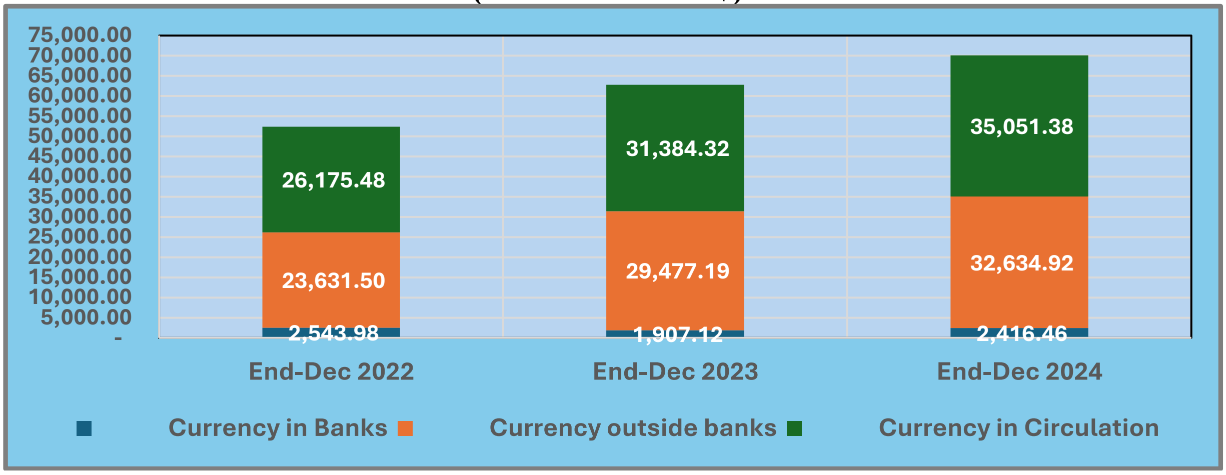
Given these risks, stronger policy coordination between fiscal and monetary authorities will be critical in mitigating inflationary pressures and ensuring macroeconomic stability.

3.3 Monetary Developments

3.3.1 Monetary Aggregates

The stock of Liberian dollar (currency) in circulation (CIC) stood at L$35,051.38 million as at end-December 2024, reflecting an annual growth of 11.7 percent against the stock of L$31,384.3 million recorded at end-December 2023. This development was attributed to growths of currency outside and within the banking system. Currency in banks expanded by 27.6 percent to L$2,416.46 million in 2024 from a contraction of 25.0 percent in 2023, while currency outside banks for the reported year reduced by 10.7 percent, from an increase of 24.7 percent in 2023, a development reflecting prudent liquidity management of the availability of Liberian dollar within the system, especially during the December 2024 festive season.

Chart 6: Currency in Circulation, CIC
(In Millions of L$)

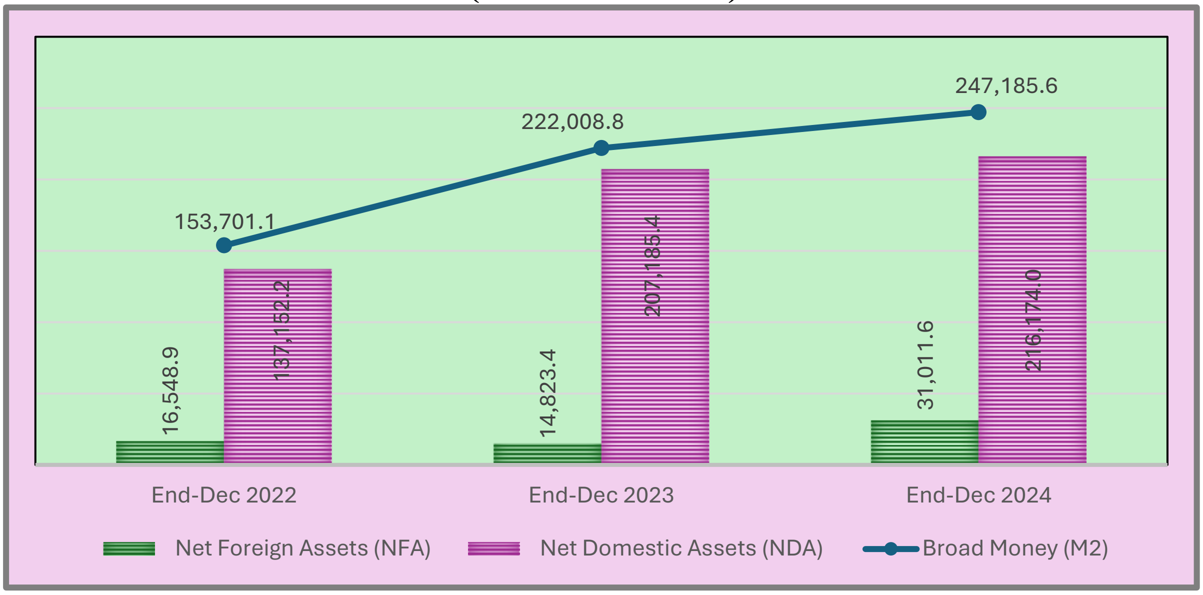


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Narrow money supply (M1) stood at L$177,068.8 million as at end-December 2024 compared to L$159,688.6 million as at end-December 2023, indicating a moderate growth of 10.9 percent from an expansion of 50.3 percent reported as at end-December 2023. The modest increase in M1 was induced by slow growths of Liberian dollar outside banks and demand deposits to 10.7 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively, from 24.7 percent and 57.7 percent at end December 2023. Quasi money also expanded at a slow pace by 12.5 percent to L$70,116.8 million from L$62,320.2 million at the end of 2023, induced by 12.7 percent growth in time and savings deposits. Consequently, broad money supply (M2) increased by 11.3 percent to L$247,185.6 million at end-December 2024 from L$222,008.8 million at end-December 2023. The growth in broad money supply was mainly traced to net domestic assets (NDA), which also increased by 4.3 percent at the end of the review year. The development in NDA emanated largely from a contraction of 4.9 percent in net claims on government. Claims (net) on private sector slowed to 6.3 percent in 2024 from 63.7 percent in 2023. However, Net foreign assets (NFA) of the banking system posted a huge growth of 109.2 percent at end-December 2024, underpinned by

25.3 percent increase in NFA of commercial banks and 38.5 percent improvement in the NFA position of the CBL, indicating growth in assets of the CBL held abroad.

Chart 7: Broad Money Supply and Sources
(In Millions of L$)

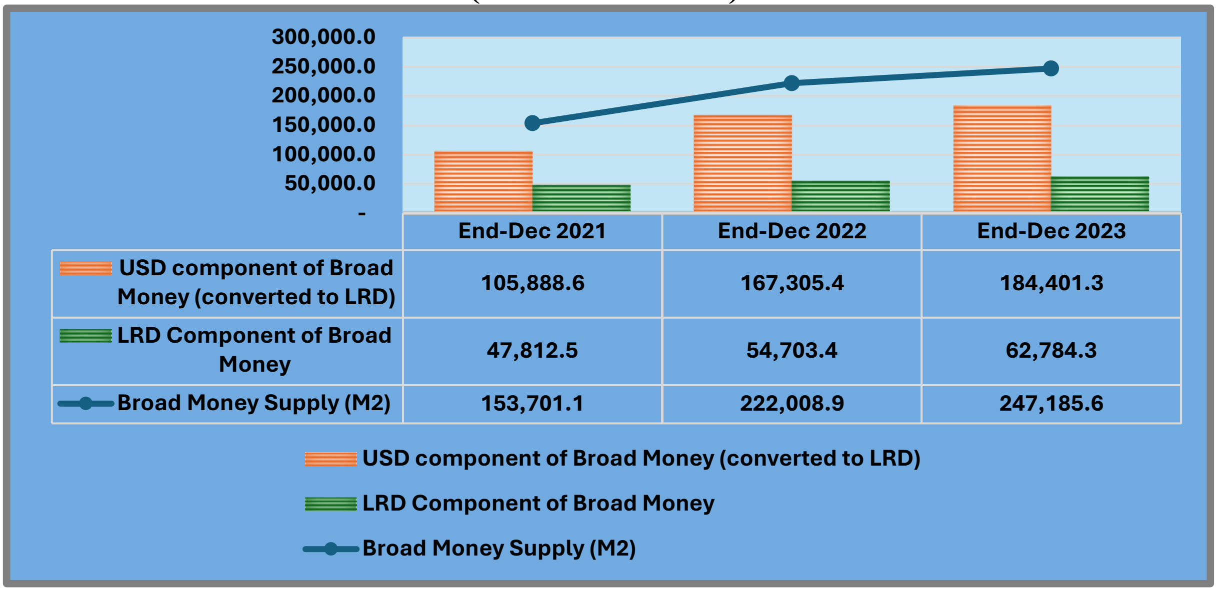


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Reserves money growth at end-December 2024 rose moderately by 4.0 percent to L$70,223.6 million from L$67,546.1 million in the previous year. The development in reserves money was mainly driven by the CBL tight monetary policy stance.

The US-dollar component of broad money supply at end-December 2024 stood at US$998.7 million equivalent to L$184,401.3 million, accounting for 74.6 percent of the total money supply (M2), compared to US$887.6 million (L$167,305.3 million), representing 75.4 percent as at end December 2023. The Liberian dollar share of broad money in 2024 slightly rose, accounting for 25.4 percent, up from 24.6 percent at end-December 2023. Despite the slight increase in Liberian-dollar share, US-dollar component of broad money remained high, signifying a highly dollarized economy.

Chart 8: US-dollar and Liberian-dollar Shares of Broad Money Supply (In Millions of L$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 9: Broad Money Supply and Sources (In Millions L$) 2022-2024

	End-Dec 2022	End-Dec 2023	End-Dec 2024	*Percent Change (Y-o-Y)*	
	Millions of LRD			2023	2024
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1+1.2)	**153,701.1**	**222,008.8**	**247,185.6**	**44.4**	**11.3**
1.1 Money Supply M1	***106,211.7***	***159,688.6***	***177,068.8***	***50.3***	***10.9***
1.1.1 Currency outside banks	23,631.5	29,477.2	32,634.9	24.7	10.7
1.1.2 Demand deposit 1/	82,580.2	130,211.4	144,433.8	57.7	10.9
1.2 Quasi Money	***47,489.4***	***62,320.2***	***70,116.8***	***31.2***	***12.5***
1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits	46,878.7	61,790.7	69,658.3	31.8	12.7
1.2.2 Other deposits2/	610.7	529.5	458.5	-13.3	-13.4
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	**16,548.9**	**14,823.4**	**31,011.6**	**-10.4**	**109.2**
2.1 Central Bank	-2937.7	-19514.4	-11999.4	564.3	-38.5
2.2 Banking Institutions	19,486.5	34,337.8	43,011.0	76.2	25.3
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1.0-2.0)	**137,152.2**	**207,185.4**	**216,174.0**	**51.1**	**4.3**
3.1 Domestic Credit	195,191.6	303,341.2	305,342.2	55.4	0.7
3.1.1 Government (net)	102,981.8	152,365.5	144,835.7	48.0	-4.9
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt. Sector	92,209.8	150,975.7	160,506.5	63.7	6.3
3.2 Other assets Net (3.0-3.1)	-58,039.43	-96,155.83	-89,168.18	65.7	-7.3
Memorandum Items					
1. Overall Liquidity	*153,701.1*	*222,008.8*	*247,185.6*	44.4	*11.3*
2. Reserve Money	*49,453.8*	*67,546.1*	*70,223.6*	36.6	*4.0*
Banks Reserves	*22,667.6*	*35,632.3*	*34,713.7*	57.2	*-2.6*
Other Deposits at CBL	*610.7*	*529.5*	*458.5*	-13.3	*-13.4*
Currency in Circulation	*26,175.5*	*31,384.3*	*35,051.4*	19.9	*11.7*
Currency in Banks	*2,544.0*	*1,907.1*	*2,416.5*	-25.0	*26.7*
Currency outside banks	*23,631.5*	*29,477.2*	*32,634.9*	24.7	*10.7*
3. Money Multiplier (M2/RM)	*3.1*	*3.3*	*3.5*		

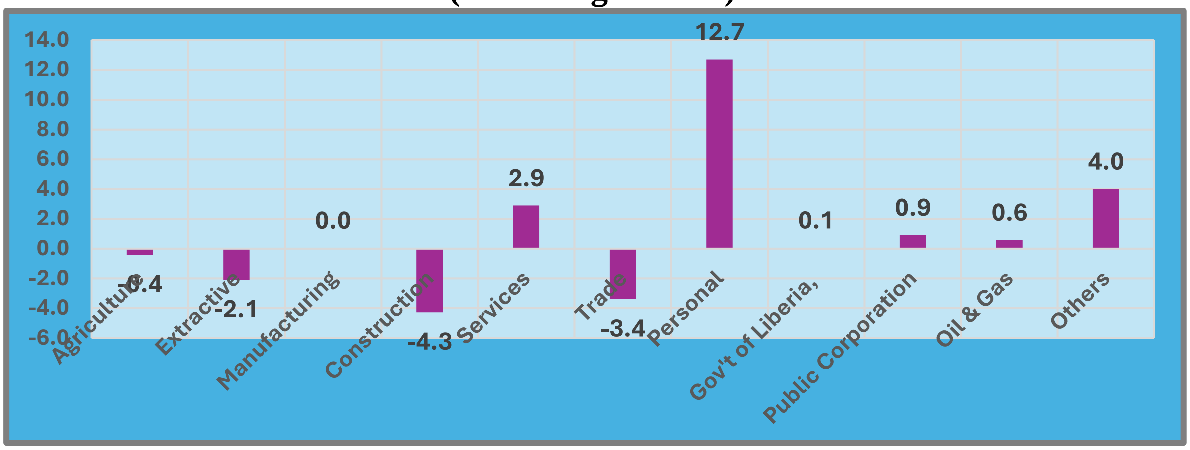
4. Velocity of Money (NGDP/M2)	*4.0*	*3.5*	*3.7*	
5. Credit to Private Sector/GDP (%)	*12.5*	*12.0*	*11.1*	
6. Credit to the economy/GDP (%)	*12.8*	*12.1*	*11.2*	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia
1/excludes manager's checks from banks; 2/includes official and manager's checks issued by CBL

3.3.2 Commercial Bank Loans & Advances to the Economy

Loans and advances to all sectors of the economy at end-December 2024 stood at L$103,010.3 million (11.2 percent of GDP) from L$92,840.6 million (12.1 percent of GDP) at end December 2023, reflecting an annual nominal credit growth of 11.0 percent. In terms of sectoral contributions to the total credit growth in 2024, personal loans and advances contributed the highest, accounting for 12.7 percentage points, followed by loans to the 'other sector', 4.0 percentage points; services, 2.9 percentage points, public corporation, 0.9 percentage point; oil & gas, 0.6 percentage point, amongst others. However, agriculture, extractive, construction, and trade contributed negatively, while the contribution of loans to the manufacturing sector was negligible.

Chart 9: Sectoral Contribution to Total Credit Growth (Percentage Points)



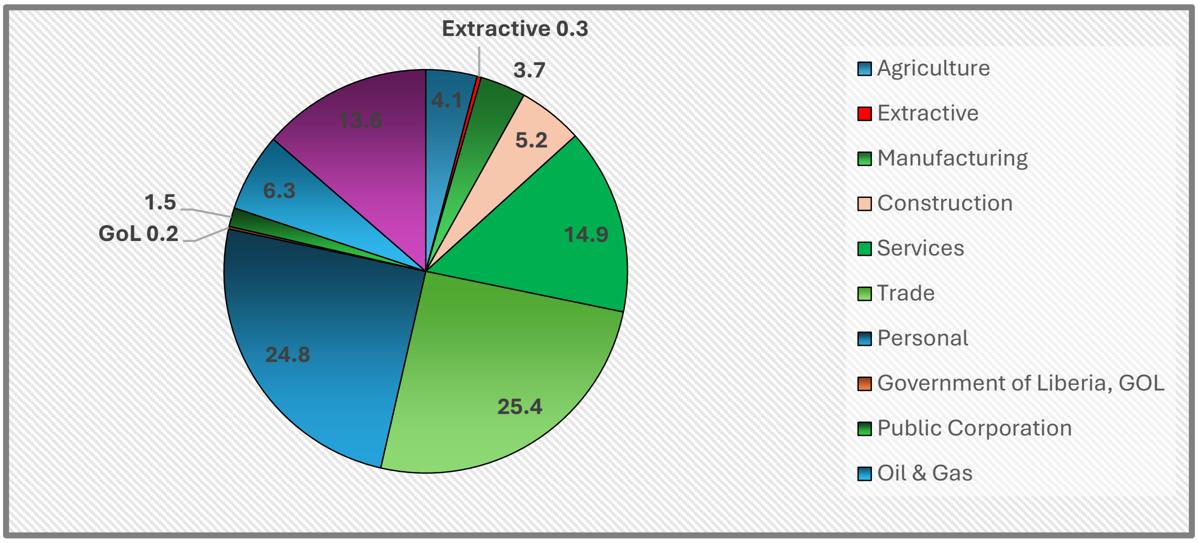
Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Credits to private sector[1] in the review period stood at L$101,240.3 million (11.1% of GDP) compared to L$91,959.7 million (12.0% of GDP)[2], indicating a year-on-year growth rate of 10.1 percent. This development was largely attributed to credit to individuals (personal loans), services, oil & gas and credit to 'other sector'.

Disaggregation of sectoral share of total credit in the review period showed that trade accounted for the largest share of 25.4 percent compared to 31.5 percent in 2023. Personal loans (or loans extended to individuals) and Service ranked the second and third largest shares of 24.8 percent and 14.9 percent in 2024 compared to 14.8 percent and 13.7 percent in 2023, respectively.

[1] Credit private sector exclude credit to government and public corporation.
[2] In GDP term, credits to private sector appeared smaller for 2024 due to GDP effect. However, in terms of level, credits to the private sector increased in 2024, compared to 2023.

Chart 10: Sectoral Share of Total Credit to the Economy (Percent of Total Credit)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Relative to loans and advances by currency compositions, the USD and LRD components of loan compositions in the economy grew by 13.0 and 1.3 percent in 2024. The US-Dollar denominated credit to the economy stood at US$524.3 million (L$96,804.4 million) (10.6 percent of GDP) at end-December 2024 compared to US$493.7 million (L$93,070.6 million) (11.5 percent of GDP) at the end of 2023. The Liberian dollar (LRD) component of credits to economy amounted to L$5.70 billion (0.6 percent of GDP) at end-December 2024 from L$5.63 billion (0.6 percent of GDP) at end-December 2023.

Table 10: Loans of Commercial Banks by Economic Sectors (In Millions L$ Unless otherwise indicated)

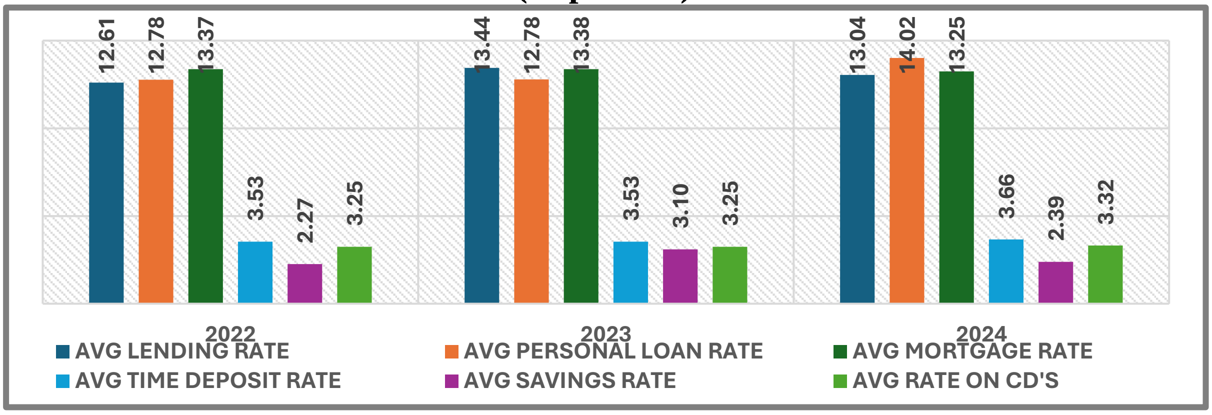
Sector	Dec-22			Dec-23			Dec-24			Y-o-Y Percent Change	
	Amt in LRD	*Share of total Loans*	*% of GDP*	*Amt in LRD*	*Share of total Loans*	*% of GDP*	*Amt in LRD*	*Share of total Loans*	*% of GDP*	*2023*	*2024*
Agriculture	2,322.7	3.0	0.4	4,619.1	5.0	0.6	4,224.7	4.1	0.5	98.9	-8.5
Extractive	237.9	0.3	0.0	2,301.2	2.5	0.3	341.4	0.3	0.0	867.2	-85.2
Manufacturing	4,395.7	5.7	0.7	3,733.1	4.0	0.5	3,771.7	3.7	0.4	-15.1	1.0
Construction	5,228.8	6.7	0.9	9,325.7	10.0	1.2	5,349.1	5.2	0.6	78.4	-42.6
Services	10,488.6	13.5	1.7	12,710.2	13.7	1.7	15,393.3	14.9	1.7	21.2	21.1
Trade	24,121.0	31.1	4.0	29,282.0	31.5	3.8	26,121.4	25.4	2.9	21.4	-10.8
Personal	14,666.9	18.9	2.4	13,736.4	14.8	1.8	25,530.5	24.8	2.8	-6.3	85.9
Government of Liberia, GOL	121.5	0.2	0.0	167.2	0.2	0.0	216.3	0.2	0.0	37.7	29.3
Public Corporation	1,279.1	1.6	0.2	713.6	0.8	0.1	1,553.7	1.5	0.2	-44.2	117.7
Oil & Gas	5,604.3	7.2	0.9	5,924.6	6.4	0.8	6,461.7	6.3	0.7	5.7	9.1
Others	9,153.7	11.8	1.5	10,327.5	11.1	1.3	14,046.4	13.6	1.5	12.8	36.0
Total Credit to the Economy	77,620.1	100.0	12.8	92,840.6	100.0	12.1	103,010.3	100.0	11.2	19.6	11.0
o/w Credit to Private Sector	76,219.6	98.2	12.5	91,959.7	99.1	12.0	101,240.3	98.3	11.1	20.7	10.1

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.3.3 Average Interest Rates of Commercial Banks

Interest rates in the banking industry during the review period, on average, were mixed compared to 2023. Lending, mortgage and savings rates declined by 40.0 basis points, 13.2 basis points, and 70.9 basis points to 13.04 percent, 13.25 and 2.39 percent in 2024 from 13.44 percent 13.38 percent and 3.10 percent in 2023, respectively. The decline was mainly reflective of increased competitiveness in the banking industry. On the other hand, personal loan, time deposits and Certificate of Deposits (CD) rates rose by 123.8 basis points, 12.9 basis points and 7.1 basis points to 14.02 percent, 3.66 percent and 3.32 percent, from 12.78 percent, 3.53 percent and 3.25 percent in 2023, respectively.

Chart 11: Average Interest Rates of Commercial Banks 2022-2024 (In percent)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

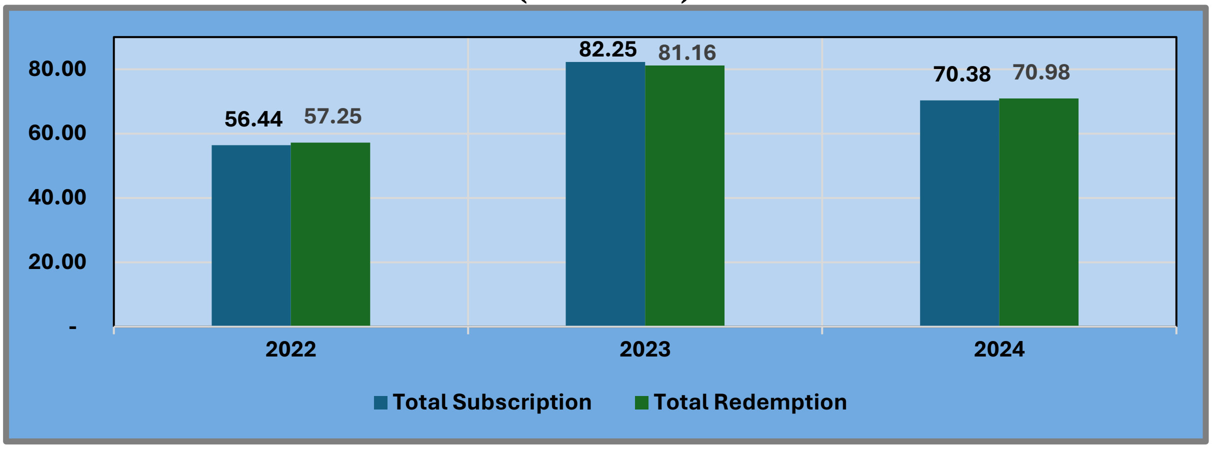
3.4 Financial Market Operations

3.4.1 Central Bank Bills

The CBL continued to manage liquidity in the banking system through its bills based on tenors of 2 weeks, 1 month, and 3 months with the aim of preserving the value of the Liberian dollar and developing the domestic debt market. The bills, which remained accessible through the commercial banks, were used largely for short-term liquidity management of the domestic currency. Retail and other institutional investors invested in the CBL bills through their respective commercial banks.

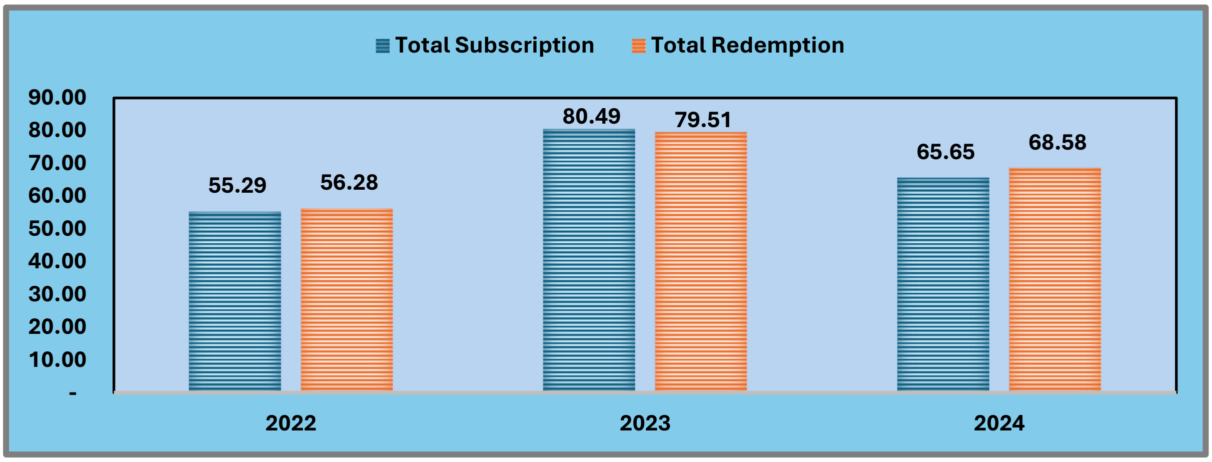
During the reporting year, the total issuance of CBL bills amounted to L$70.38 billion, representing a decline of 14.44 percent, from L$82.25 billion in 2023. The average outstanding stock of CBL bills also declined by 5.90 percent from L$8.49 billion in 2023 to L$7.99 billion in 2024. Similar to the subscription, total redemptions for the year decreased by 12.54 percent to L$70.98 billion from L$81.16 billion in the previous year. Accordingly, commercial banks investment in the CBL bills, which constituted L$65.65 billion (93.29 percent of the total subscription of the bills), reduced by 18.43 percent relative to the preceding year of L$68.56 billion.

Chart 12: Total CBL Bills Subscription and Redemption 2022 – 2024 (In Billions)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

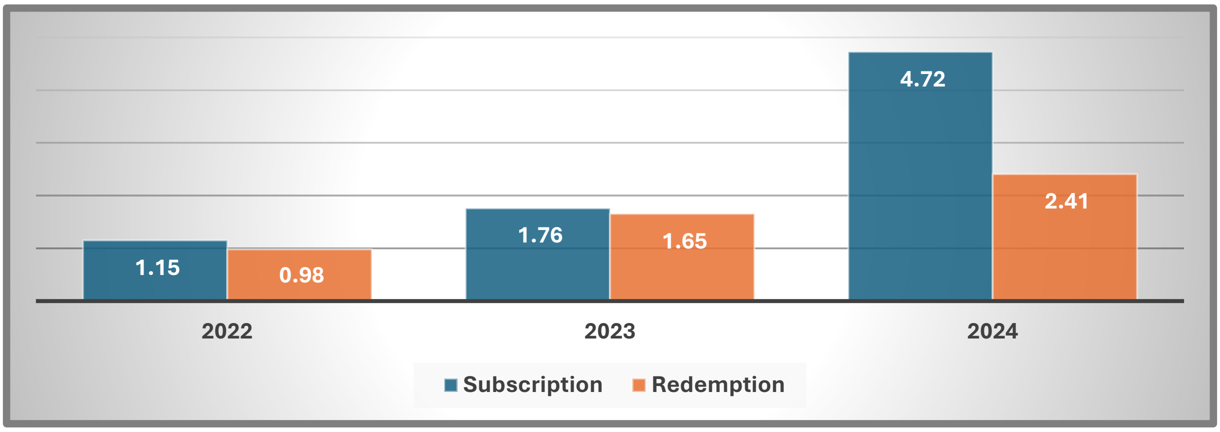
Chart 13: Subscription and Redemption of Commercial Banks (2022 – 2024) (In Billions)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

The CBL bill also remained supportive of domestic market development through its regular issuance and timely redemption. The total number of retail investors' bids and their subscription in the CBL bills grew by 40.50 percent and 168.39 percent to 1,280 bids and L$4.72 billion subscription in 2024, respectively. Additionally, redemption increased by 45.59 percent to L$2.41 billion in comparison to 2023. The dynamics in retail investors' subscription in relation to redemption contributed to a net contraction of L$2.32 million from circulation.

Chart 14: Subscription and Redemption of Institutional and Retail Investors (2022- 2024) (In Billions)

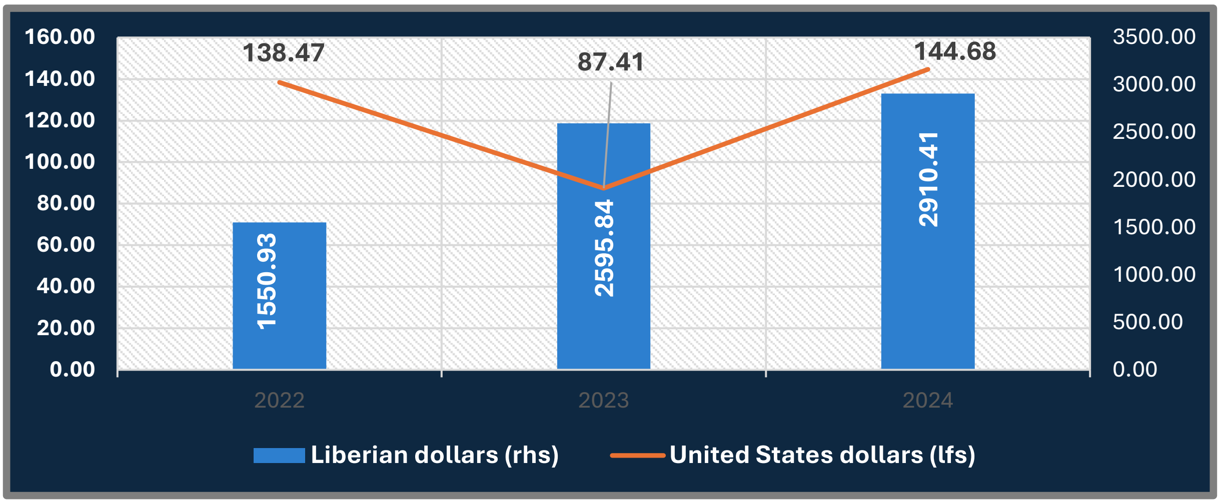


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.4.2 Inter-bank Market Transactions

The development in the interbank LRD rate in 2024 reflected increasing public transactions in the LRD. Transactions in the interbank market were relatively positive in 2024 with increase total USD and LRD interbank transactions in 2024. Interbank transactions in USD increased by 65.52 percent to US$144.28 million from US$87.41 million in 2023, and LRD transactions increased by 12.12 percent to L$2,910.41 million from L$2,595.84 million in 2023. The 2024 interbank transactions consisted of 107 SWAP transactions valued at US$127.48 million, 6 borrowing transactions valued at US$4.48 million, and 1 repo transaction valued at US$3.50 million. In terms of placements, the transactions conducted in both currencies constituted 14 USD transactions valued at US$9.23 million and 22 LRD transactions valued at L$2,910.41 million. SWAP transactions denominated in USD activity represented 88.35 percent of the total USD interbank value, while placements induced more LRD activities in the interbank market.

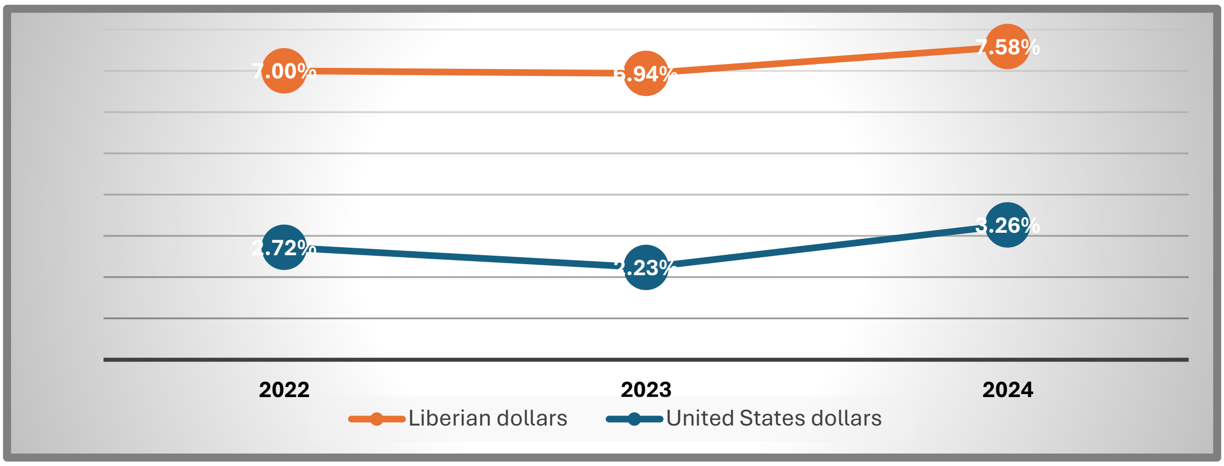
Chart 15: Total Value of Interbank Transactions 2022 – 24 (In Millions)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

The weighted average interbank interest rates in both currencies increased in 2024. During the review period, the LRD interbank rate increased by 0.64 percentage point to 7.58 percent from 6.94 percent in 2023, while the USD interbank rate increased by 1.03 percentage points to 3.26 percent from 2.23 percent in 2023.

Chart 16: Trend of Interbank Rates 2022 – 24



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.4.3 Government Securities

The CBL, on behalf of the GOL, issued Treasury bills valued at US$8.1 million and L$2,695.41 million, representing 65.53 percent and 44.92 percent reductions from US$23.5 million and L$6,000.00 million issued in 2023. Additionally, a 3-year T-bond valued at L$3,304.59 million was issued to the market. At the end of December 2024, the total stocks of Treasury securities and Promissory Notes constituting principal and interest, in both currencies, amounted to US$254.14 million and L$8,344.03 million, indicating a decline by 9.08 percent and a slight increase by 0.23 percent, respectfully compared to the previous year. The commercial banks and National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) remained the main holders of the Treasury securities and Promissory notes.

Table 11: Treasury Securities and Promissory Notes 2022 – 24 (in Million)

Year	2022		2023		2024	
Currency	**LRD**	**USD**	**LRD**	**USD**	**LRD**	**USD**
Total Amount Issued	6,000.00	118.0	6,000.00	23.5	6,000.00	8.1
GOL Debt Stock	8,242.67	235.82	8,324.80	279.27	8,344.03	254.14

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.4.4 Reserves Management

In 2024, CBL improved its foreign reserve management framework aimed to optimize the safety, liquidity, reasonable returns and risk management of its foreign reserve portfolio. Key policies approved included the Foreign Exchange Reserve Investment Policy (FERIP), which replaced the Revised Foreign Exchange Management Guidelines of 2015, the Foreign

Exchange Reserve Risk Management Framework (FERRMF), Foreign Exchange Reserves Risk Rules and Parameters (FERRRP).

3.4.5 Foreign Exchange Transactions

In 2024, the Government of Liberia (GOL) sold US$20 million to the CBL in two tranches at the prevailing market rates for foreign exchange accretion. In support of the FX sales to the CBL, the GOL also bought US$5.00 million from the commercial banks through FX purchase auction. Additionally, the GOL through MFDP entered into Swap agreements with two (2) commercial banks to secure US$6.0 million at a weighted average interest rate of 1.46 percent for 30 days. The GOL redeemed these transactions on the maturity date.

3.5 External Sector Developments

3.5.1 Overview

Provisional statistics of the external sector revealed broad improvements in 2024. The current account balance recorded a surplus of 14.2 percent of GDP in 2024 compared to the deficit of 5.5 percent of GDP recorded in 2023. This development largely reflected a substantial decline in the trade deficit coupled with growth in secondary income transfers (net). Capital account inflows (net) rose by 6.8 percent relative to the inflows recorded in the preceding year, driven mainly by an increase in capital transfers. Similarly, net financial account inflows grew by 3.1 percent against the inflows reported in 2023, on account of an increase in direct investment inflows. Accordingly, the overall Balance of Payments (BoP) deficit narrowed to 0.7 percent of GDP, from the 0.9 percent of GDP reported in 2023.

Gross international reserves at end-2024 marginally fell by 2.1 percent to US$476.3 million compared to US$486.6 million at end-December 2023. However, the months of import cover at end-2024 rose to 2.9 months, from 2.3 months reported in 2023, primarily reflecting reduction in payments for imports. Also, Liberia’s net international reserves (NIR) rose by 6.6 percent to US$234.53 million at end-December 2024 from US$220.1 million recorded at end-December 2023.

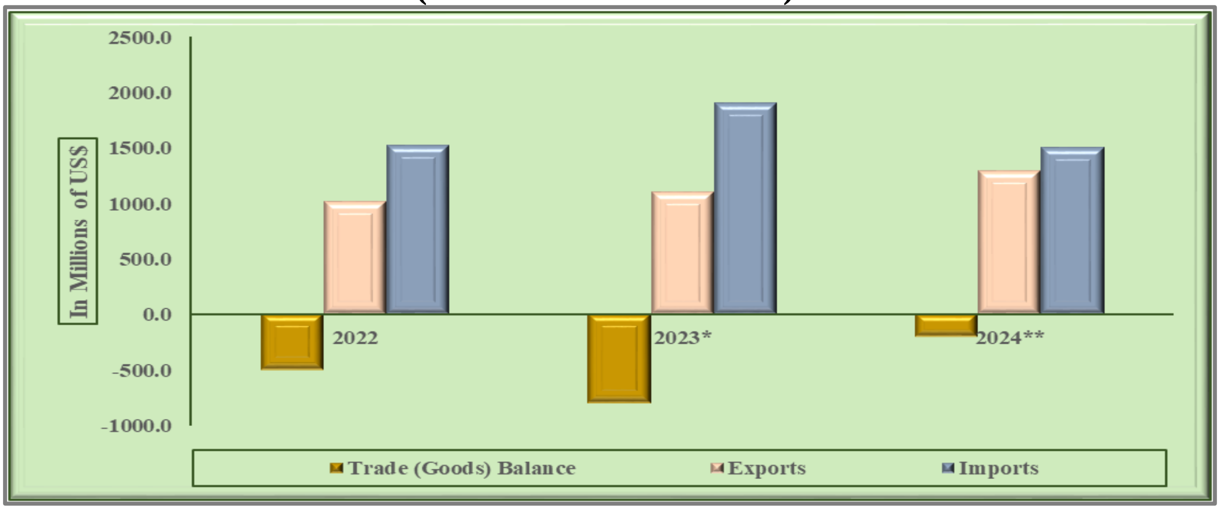
3.5.2 Current Account (CA)

The current account balance recorded a surplus of US$680.7 million (14.2 percent of GDP) in 2024, compared to the deficit of US$239.9 million (5.5 percent of GDP) in the preceding year. The surplus was driven by a sizable reduction in the trade deficit supported by a significant increase in current & official transfers.

3.5.3 Goods Account (net)

The merchandise trade deficit significantly improved by 74.1 percent to US$207.6 million (4.3 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$800.4 million (18.2 percent of GDP) in the previous year. This development was largely occasioned by an increase in export receipts supported by a decrease in import payments during the review period. Total merchandise trade with imports on Freight on Board (FoB) basis plummeted by 6.9 percent to US$2,816.2 million in 2024, from the US$3,025.5 million in the previous year. Similarly, on Cost Insurance & Freight (CIF) basis, it fell by 6.8 percent to US$2,971.6 million against the US$3,188.2 million in the previous year.

Chart 17: Merchandise Trade Balance 2022 – 2024 (In Millions of US Dollar)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.5.4 Exports

Export receipts grew by 17.2 percent to US$1,304.3 million (27.2 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$1,112.5 million (25.3 percent of GDP) in the preceding year. This development was mostly driven by increases in export proceeds from key export commodities, including gold (by 31.4 percent), and rubber (by 33.5 percent). There were also notable growths in commodities such as cocoa beans, diamonds, and round logs during the period under review. Conversely, export commodities, including iron ore, palm oil, and the "other export" category recorded declines in proceeds by 21.5 percent, by 9.3 percent, and 26.7 percent, respectively, during the review year.

3.5.5 Imports (FOB & CIF)

Payments for imports (on fob basis) fell by 21.0 percent to US$1,511.9 million (31.6 percent of GDP) in 2024, from the US$1,912.9 million (43.6 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding year. The decrease was primarily due to declines in payments for minerals, fuel & lubricants (mostly petroleum products) by 41.8 percent; machinery & transport equipment by 17.0 percent; and manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials by 14.0 percent. Payments for food & live animals (including vegetable oil), and the "other import" category also reduced marginally by 0.01 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, while chemicals & related products increased by 3.2 percent during the period under review.

On insurance & freight (cif) basis, payments for imports also declined by 19.7 percent to US$1,667.4 million (34.8 percent of GDP), from the US$2,075.7 million (47.3 percent of GDP) in 2023.

3.5.6 Directions of Trade

Based on merchandise trade statistics, Europe remained the main destination of Liberia's exports in 2024, while Asia, Africa, and Europe were the major sources of the country's imports.

Merchandise exports to Europe and Asia increased by 76.6 percent in 2024 compared to the levels reported in 2023, accounting for 88.46 percent of total merchandise exports. Additionally, exports to North America & the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa constituted 4.5 percent, 4.1 percent, and 1.9 percent of the country's total export by destinations, respectively (Table 9).

Imports from Asia, Africa, and Europe grew by 65.7 percent, 53.1 percent, and 36.1 percent in 2024 relative to the imports recorded in 2023, accounting for 47.7 percent, 28.4 percent, and 16.1 percent of total merchandise imports, respectively. Similarly, imports from North America & the Caribbean and South & Central America accounted for 4.0 percent and 3.6 percent of total imports (Table 10).

Table 12: Directions of Trade
(2022-2024)
(In Millions of US$, except otherwise indicated)

Direction of External Trade (DOT)	**2022**		**2023**		**2024**	
Destination of Export	***Export***	***Import***	***Export***	***Import***	***Export***	***Import***
Africa	***21.1***	***540.83***	***29.0***	***608.28***	***25.3***	***473.24***
o/w ECOWAS	*8.5*	*470.50*	*11.3*	*529.02*	*11.0*	*401.50*
o/w NC/1	*5.4*	*449.03*	*3.0*	*502.81*	*10.5*	*380.31*
o/w Cote D'Ivoire		*442.94*		*501.85*		*379.09*
Asia	***48.0***	***803.71***	***33.8***	***946.08***	***53.4***	***853.27***
O/w Middle East	*16.5*	*77.74*	*18.7*	*75.39*	*19.4*	*66.95*
O/w UAE	*10.5*	*32.23*	*12.0*	*35.62*	*11.9*	*20.88*
O/w China	*2.6*	*258.24*	*0.2*	*351.79*	*0.6*	*301.40*
o/w India		*279.38*		*328.64*		*317.17*
Europe	***497.0***	***215.24***	***972.9***	***387.63***	***1,153.8***	***186.23***
o/w Euro Zone	*41.9*	*57.49*	*32.3*	*44.60*	*52.6*	*36.94*
o/w United Kingdom	*41.9*	*29.65*	*32.1*	*27.02*	*52.6*	*19.69*
o/w Switzerland	*246.4*	*0.9*	*676.2*	*0.6*	*885.1*	*5.21*
o/w Spain	*18.9*	*14.56*	*40.6*	*14.55*	*35.0*	*15.39*
North America & The Caribbean	***65.4***	***67.76***	***65.1***	***71.41***	***58.7***	***76.95***
o/w USA	*65.4*	*60.50*	*64.1*	*63.43*	*57.1*	*63.65*
South & Central America	***1.1***	***40.31***	***0.9***	***58.77***	***1.3***	***71.93***
o/w Brazil		*40.31*		*58.77*		*56.19*
O/w Argentina		*3.29*	-	*5.80*	-	*6.59*
Oceania	***0.0***	***2.60***	**-**	***3.49***	***0.9***	***5.73***
o/w Australia	*0.0*	*1.73*	-	*2.13*	*0.9*	*4.52*
Other Countries (n.i.e)	*394.0*	-	*10.8*	*0.01*	*10.8*	*71.93*
Total of DOT	***1,026.6***	***1,670.4***	***1,112.5***	***2,075.7***	***1,304.3***	***1,667.4***

Source: Central Bank of Liberia
****Revised; **Provisional***

3.5.7 Services Account (net)

The deficit in the services account (net) narrowed by 47.1 percent to US$84.8 million (1.8 percent of GDP) in 2024 compared to the US$160.3 million (3.7 percent of GDP) reported in 2023. The improvement was mainly on account of a decrease in net payments for maintenance & repairs, transport, and travel-related services as other business services (net) recorded growth during the period under review.

3.5.8 Primary Income (net)

Regarding the primary income balance, the deficit narrowed by 8.4 percent to US$105.0 million (2.2 percent of GDP) in 2024, from the US$114.6 million (2.6 percent of GDP) reported in the preceding year, due mainly to reduced investment income.

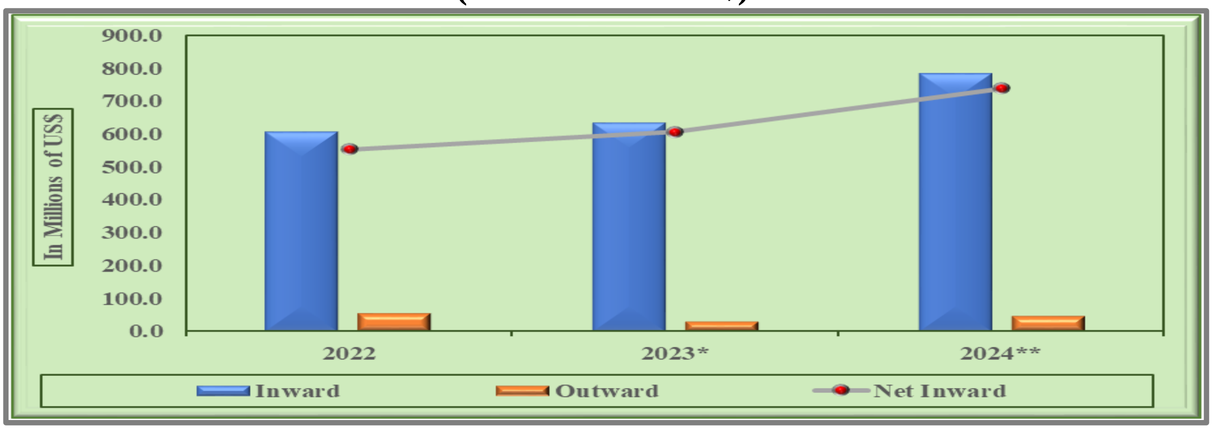
3.5.9 Secondary Income (net)

Net inflows from the secondary income account grew by 29.1 percent to US$1,078.1 million (22.5 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$835.4 million (19.0 percent of GDP) in 2023, triggered mainly by growths in current and official transfers by 21.9 percent and 30.8 percent, respectively.

3.5.10 Personal Remittances

Net personal/worker remittance inflows (including remittances terminated to mobile wallet) rose by 21.9 percent to US$738.6 million (15.4 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$605.7 million (13.8 percent of GDP) in 2023. This development was led mainly by 23.3 percent increase in inward remittances as outward personal/worker remittances also rose by 49.4 percent. Inward and outward remittances amounted to US$784.5 million and US$45.9 million in 2024 compared to US$636.5 million and US$30.7 million in 2023, respectively.

Chart 18: Personal Remittances (2022 – 2024) (In Millions of US$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.5.11 Capital Account (KA)

Provisional statistics show that the surplus in the capital account balance rose by 6.8 percent to US$495.5 million (10.4 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$464.2 million (10.6 percent of GDP) in 2023, largely reflecting an increase in capital investment grants/transfers from development partners.

3.5.12 Financial Account (FA)

Provisional financial account statistics show that net inflows of financial transactions grew by 3.1 percent to US$707.0 million (14.8 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$685.7 million (15.6 percent of GDP) in the preceding year. This development was explained mainly by the rise in direct investment inflows during the period.

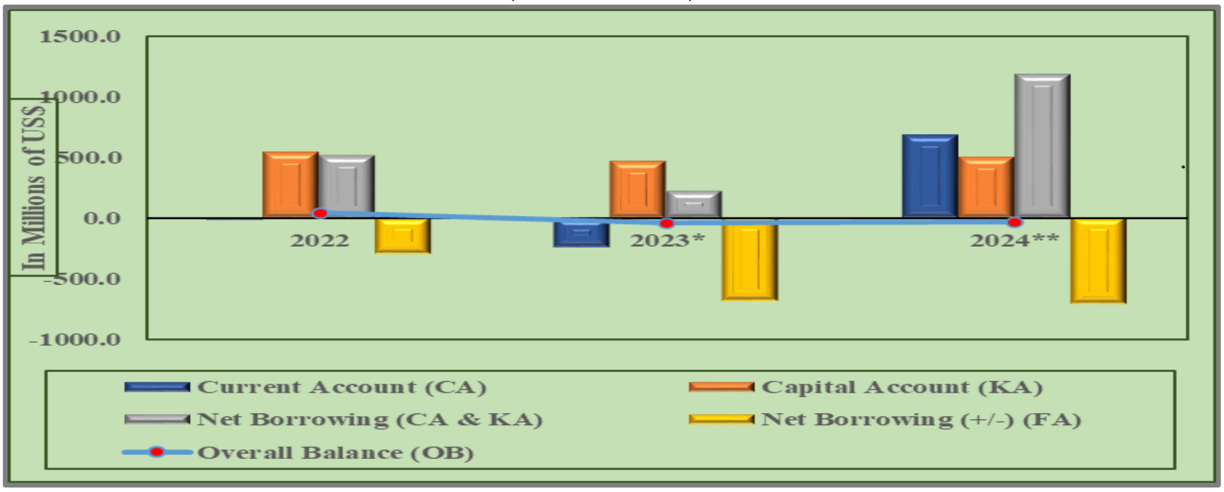
Table 13: Balance of Payments Statistics (2022 - 2024)
(In millions of US$, except otherwise indicated)

Balance of Payments (BoP) Statement	**2022**	**2023***	**2024****	***2022***	***2023***	***2024*****
				In Percent of GDP		
Current Account Balance	**(19.2)**	**(239.9)**	**680.7**	***(0.5)***	[illegible]	***14.2***
Credit	2,169.2	2,207.6	2,719.0	54.6	50.3	56.8
Debit	2,188.4	2,447.5	2,038.4	55.1	55.7	42.6
Goods and Services (net)	(753.6)	(960.7)	(292.4)	(19.0)	(21.9)	(6.1)
Credit	1,207.9	1,265.0	1,495.9	30.4	28.8	31.2
Debit	1,961.5	2,225.7	1,788.3	49.4	50.7	37.4
Trade Balance (Goods)	(501.2)	(800.4)	(207.6)	(12.6)	(18.2)	(4.3)
Credit (Exports)	1,026.6	1,112.5	1,304.3	25.8	25.3	27.2
Iron Ore	*285.7*	*243.0*	*190.9*	*7.2*	*5.5*	*4.0*
Rubber	*101.1*	*104.7*	*139.8*	*2.5*	*2.4*	*2.9*
Minerals	*565.5*	*696.9*	*912.3*	*14.2*	*15.9*	*19.1*
Gold	*542.9*	*681.5*	*895.6*	*13.7*	*15.5*	*18.7*
Diamond	*22.5*	*15.5*	*16.7*	*0.6*	*0.4*	*0.3*
Cocoa Beans	*3.6*	*4.5*	*8.9*	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.2*
Raw Palm Oil	*31.6*	*24.1*	*21.8*	*0.8*	*0.5*	*0.5*
Round Logs	*3.4*	*0.6*	*2.2*	*0.1*	*0.0*	*0.0*
Other Exports	*35.8*	*38.8*	*28.4*	*0.9*	*0.9*	*0.6*
Debit (Imports)	1,527.8	1,912.9	1,511.9	*38.4*	*43.6*	*31.6*
Food & Live Animals (Inc. Animals &	*391.0*	*396.6*	*396.4*	*9.8*	*10.0*	*10.0*
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	*494.6*	*737.9*	*429.7*	*12.4*	*18.6*	*10.8*
Chemicals & Related Products	*122.2*	*114.4*	*118.2*	*3.1*	*2.9*	*3.0*
Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by Materials	*141.0*	*172.1*	*148.1*	*3.5*	*4.3*	*3.7*
Machinery & Transport Equipment	*309.0*	*419.1*	*348.0*	*7.8*	*10.5*	*8.8*
Other Imports	*69.9*	*72.8*	*71.6*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.8*
General merchandise on a balance of	(1,044.2)	(1,481.8)	(1,103.2)	*(26.3)*	*(33.8)*	*(23.0)*
Credit	483.7	431.1	408.7	*12.2*	*9.8*	*8.5*
Debit	1,527.8	1,912.9	1,511.9	*38.4*	*43.6*	*31.6*
Nonmonetary gold	542.9	681.5	895.6	*13.7*	*15.5*	*18.7*
Credit	542.9	681.5	895.6	*13.7*	*15.5*	*18.7*

Debit	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services (net)	(252.3)	(160.3)	(84.8)	(6.3)	(3.7)	(1.8)
Credit	181.3	152.5	191.6	4.6	3.5	4.0
Debit	433.7	312.8	276.4	10.9	7.1	5.8
Primary Income (net)	(111.7)	(114.6)	(105.0)	(2.8)	(2.6)	(2.2)
Credit	20.6	20.5	20.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
Debit	132.3	135.2	125.6	3.3	3.1	2.6
Secondary Income (net)	846.1	835.4	1,078.1	21.3	19.0	22.5
Credit	940.7	922.0	1,202.6	23.7	21.0	25.1
Debit	94.6	86.6	124.5	2.4	2.0	2.6
Workers' remittances (net)	*552.9*	*605.7*	*738.6*	13.9	13.8	15.4
Credit (Inward)	*608.4*	*636.5*	*784.5*	15.3	14.5	16.4
Debit (Outward)	*55.4*	*30.7*	*45.9*	1.4	0.7	1.0
Capital Account (net)	535.9	464.2	495.5	13.5	10.6	10.4
Credit	543.3	468.3	499.4	13.7	10.7	10.4
Debit	7.4	4.1	3.8	0.2	0.1	0.1
Net Borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	**516.7**	**224.3**	**1,176.2**	**13.0**	**5.1**	**24.6**
Net Borrowing (-): Financial Account (FA)	**(303.5)**	**(685.7)**	**(707.0)**	**(7.6)**	**(15.6)**	**(14.8)**
Direct Investment (net)	(639.7)	(545.3)	(706.0)	(16.1)	(12.4)	(14.7)
Net acquisition of financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net incurrence of liabilities	639.7	545.3	706.0	16.1	12.4	14.7
Other Investment (net)	296.1	(99.6)	31.9	7.5	(2.3)	0.7
Net acquisition of financial assets	387.1	134.0	138.1	9.7	3.1	2.9
Net incurrence of liabilities	91.0	233.5	106.1	2.3	5.3	2.2
Special drawing rights (Net incurrence of	(18.0)	4.0	(14.0)	(0.5)	0.1	(0.3)
Reserve Assets	40.1	(40.9)	(32.9)	1.0	(0.9)	(0.7)
Net Errors & Omissions (NEO)	*(820.2)*	*(910.0)*	*(1,883.2)*	(20.6)	(20.7)	(39.3)
Overall Balance (OB)	**40.1**	**(40.9)**	**(32.9)**	**1.0**	**(0.9)**	**(0.7)**
Financing	*(40.1)*	*40.9*	*32.9*	-1.0	0.9	0.7
Changes in Reserve Assets (-increase;	-40.1	40.9	32.9	-1.0	0.9	0.7
Memorandum Items						
Gross International Reserves	638.4	486.8	476.3	16.1	11.1	10.0
Import cover (In Months)	3.6	2.4	2.9	-	-	-
Imports (cif)	*1,719.8*	*2,075.7*	*1,667.4*	43.3	47.3	34.8
Service Payments	433.7	312.8	276.4	10.9	7.1	5.8
Total Imports of Goods/Services	*2,153.4*	*2,388.4*	*1,943.7*	54.2	54.4	40.6
Total Trade (FoB)	*2,554.4*	*3,025.4*	*2,816.2*	64.3	68.9	58.8
Total Trade (CiF)	*2,746.4*	*3,188.2*	*2,971.6*	69.1	72.6	62.1
Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants	*(22.5)*	*(248.1)*	603.8	(0.6)	(5.6)	12.6
End-of-Period Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	*154.5*	*188.5*	*184.6*			
Period Average Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	*152.9*	*175.0*	*191.3*			
Annual Nominal GDP market prices	*3,974.4*	*4,390.5*	*4,787.3*			

Source: Central Bank of Liberia staff
**** - revised; ** - provisional***

Chart 19: Main Balances of the BoP (2022 – 2024)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.5.13 Direct Investment

Based on provisional statistics, direct investment (net) inflows increased by 29 percent to US$706.0 million (14.7 percent of GDP) in 2024, from US$545.3 million (12.4 percent of GDP) net inflows in the preceding year. This development was largely attributed to activities of the direct investment enterprises.

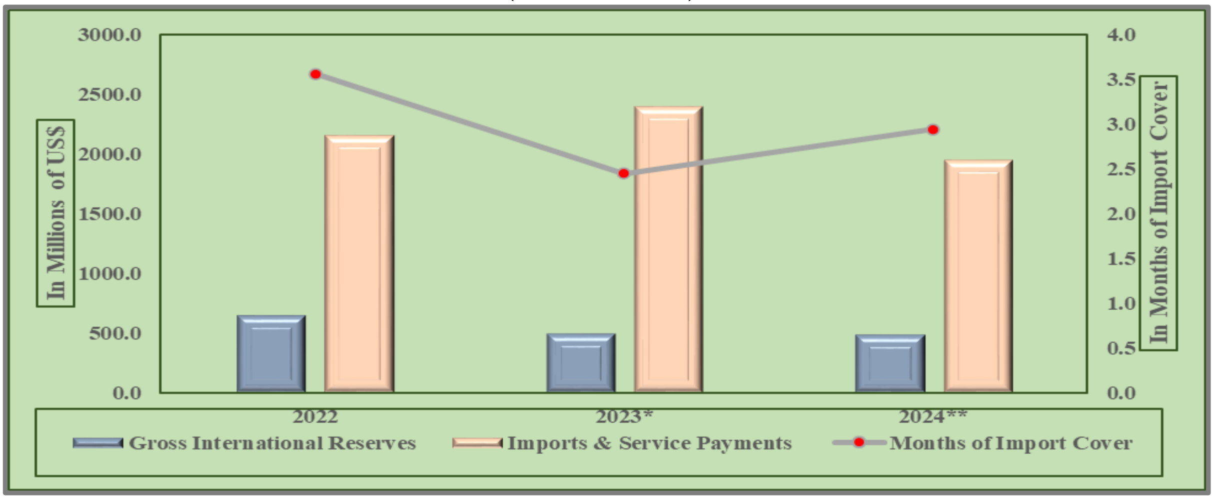
3.5.14 Other Investment (net)

Provisional statistics reveal that other investments recorded net assets (outflows) of US$31.9 million (0.7 percent of GDP) in 2024, compared to US$99.6 million (2.3 percent of GDP) net inflows in the previous year. Other investment categories, including currency & deposits and trade credit, were the main drivers of the reported increase in assets during the year under review.

3.5.15 Gross International Reserves (GIR)

Liberia's gross international reserves (GIR) fell by 2.1 percent to US$476.3 million at end-December 2024, from US$486.8 million at end-December 2023 driven mainly by a reduction in SDRs holdings & reserves. However, the months of import cover relative to the GIR increased to 2.9 months, from 2.3 months in 2023, largely explained by the decrease in payments for imports. Consequently, the months of import cover slightly fell short of the 3.0 months ECOWAS macroeconomic convergence benchmark. However, the net international reserve (NIR) for 2024 rose by 6.6 percent to US$234.53 million, from US$220.1 million recorded at end-2023.

Chart 20: Gross International Reserves, Imports & Months of Import Cover (2022 – 2024)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.5.16 Exchange Rate Developments

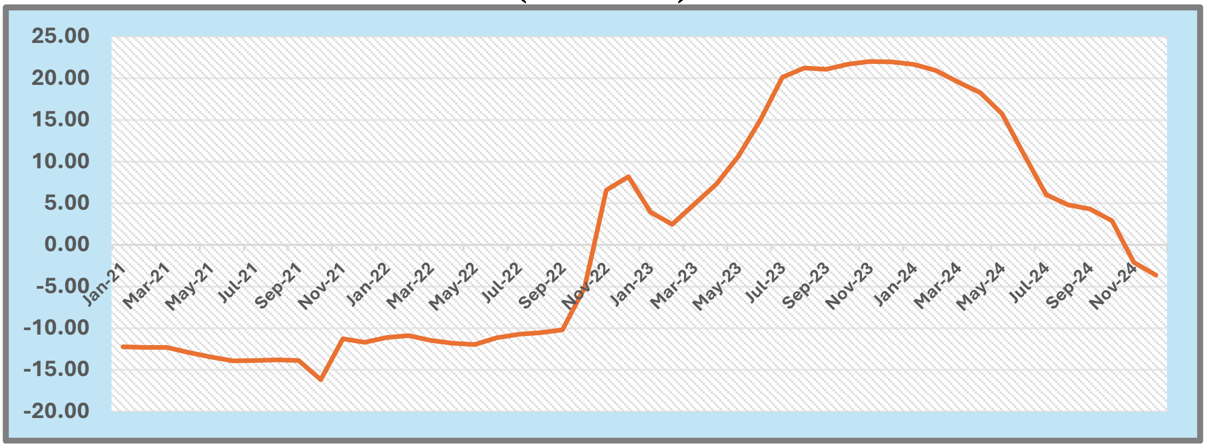
In 2024, the exchange rate of the Liberia dollar to the US-dollar remained within the Bank's variation threshold of plus/minus 10 percent, despite the depreciation. On average, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 9.3 percent to L$191.31 per US$1.00 compared to L$174.96 per US$1.00, in 2023. However, on end-period basis, the Liberian dollar appreciated by 2.0 percent to L$184.64 per US$1.00 from L$188.50 per US$1.00. This relative stability in the exchange rate was largely attributed to tight monetary policy and rising net remittance inflows.

Table 14: Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollar per US Dollar (2021 - 2024)

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
Period Average	**Buying**	**Selling**	**Buying**	**Selling**	**Buying**	**Selling**	**Buying**	**Selling**
January	167.79	169.32	148.88	150.75	154.70	156.69	188.77	190.14
February	171.82	173.29	152.87	154.64	156.49	158.59	189.63	191.42
March	172.76	174.18	152.75	154.38	160.04	162.10	191.61	193.50
April	171.79	173.22	151.23	152.97	162.13	164.29	192.17	193.95
May	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98	166.17	168.20	192.69	194.38
June	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09	173.96	176.31	193.36	194.92
July	170.83	172.24	152.28	154.01	182.97	184.99	194.37	195.75
August	170.98	172.43	152.77	154.46	185.25	187.19	194.42	195.93
September	170.63	172.14	153.07	154.78	185.48	187.31	193.69	195.22
October	161.15	162.75	152.71	154.53	186.06	187.91	191.73	193.10
November	143.63	145.23	153.03	154.79	186.92	188.70	183.08	184.68
December	141.81	143.46	153.50	155.17	187.40	189.11	180.52	182.33
Memo Items:	**2021**		**2022**		**2023**		**2024**	
End-of Period	*145.36*		*154.49*		*188.50*		*184.64*	
Period Average	*166.15*		*152.93*		*174.96*		*191.31*	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Chart 21: Year-on-Year L$/US$ Exchange Rate Variation (2021-2024)



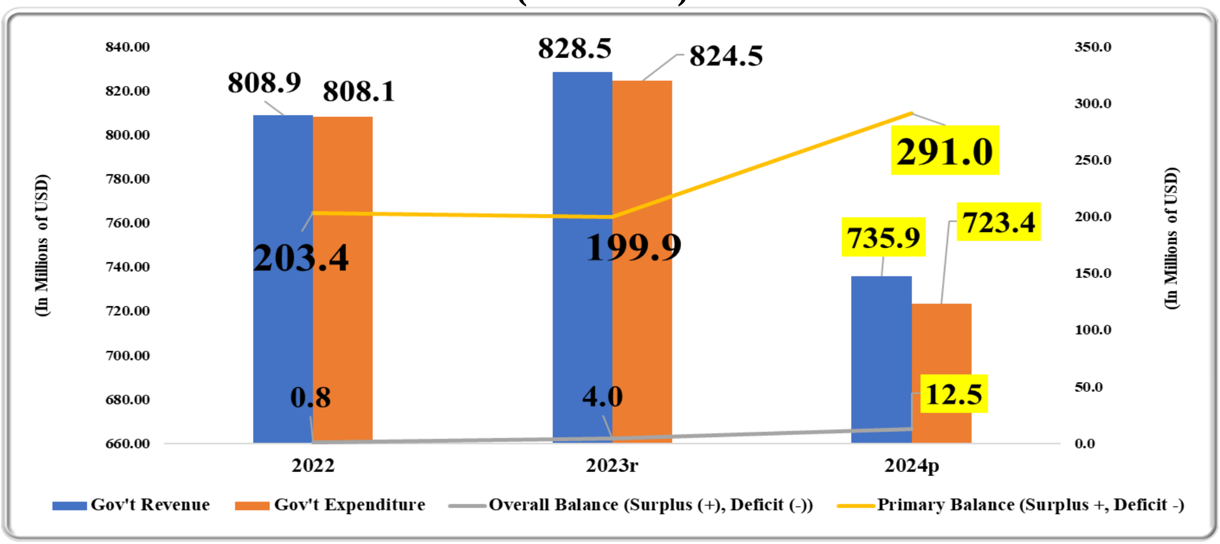
Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.6 Fiscal Developments

3.6.1 Overview

Provisional statistics provided by the Fiscal Authority indicates that the Government of Liberia (GOL) fiscal operations in 2024 recorded a surplus in its Overall Balance (OB), totaling US$12.5 million (0.3 percent of GDP). This marks an increase from US$4.0 million (approximately 0.0 percent of GDP) in the preceding year. Similarly, the primary balance also reflected a surplus, amounting to US$291.0 million (6.1 percent of GDP).

Chart 22: GOL Fiscal Operations (2022-2024)



Source: CBL's Calculation Using MFDP's data

3.6.2 Government Revenue

The fiscal operations in 2024 were characterized by a decline in revenue mobilization compared to the preceding year. Total revenue decreased by 11.2 percent to US$735.9 million (15.4 percent of GDP) from US$828.5 million (18.9 percent of GDP) in 2023. This decline was driven by reduction in other revenue sources, particularly external inflows, despite improvements in domestic revenue mobilization.

Tax revenue increased by 16.2 percent to US$559.1 million (11.7 percent of GDP), primarily attributed to a rise in international trade tax and income & profit taxes. Taxes on income & profit amounted to US$255.9 million (5.3 percent of GDP), increasing by 16.1 percent. Also, international trade taxes expanded by 16.7 percent to US$219.3 million (4.6 percent of GDP) from US$188.0 million (4.3 percent of GDP).

Non-tax revenue also grew by 60.1 percent to US$136.8 million (2.9 percent of GDP) from US$85.5 million (2.0 percent of GDP). This increase was due higher property income and administrative fees & penalties. Property income expanded by 45.5 percent to US$94.7 million (2.0 percent of GDP) from US$65.1 million (1.5 percent of GDP), while administrative fees & penalties more than doubled, reaching US$42.1 million (0.9 percent of GDP) from US$20.4 million (0.5 percent of GDP).

Table 15: Government Revenue (2022-2024)

Fiscal Operations	2022	2023ʳ	2024ᵖ	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			% Change
Total Government Revenue	**808.85**	**828.52**	**735.91**	**(11.18)**
Tax Revenue	**486.60**	**526.42**	**559.13**	**6.21**
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	211.95	220.35	255.86	16.12
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade (Customs)	202.74	187.97	219.31	16.67
Non-tax Revenue	**127.60**	**85.46**	**136.78**	**60.05**
o/w Property Income	108.60	65.06	94.68	45.53
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	19.00	20.40	42.10	106.37
Other Revenue (Grants & Borrowings)	**194.65**	**216.64**	**40.00**	**(81.54)**
Memo Items				
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	20.35	18.87	15.37	
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	12.24	11.99	11.68	
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.21	1.95	2.86	
Other Revenue (Grants & Borrowings)	4.90	4.93	0.84	
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,390.46	4,787.29	

Source: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Liberian Authorities; r: revised; p: provisional

3.6.3 Government Expenditure

Government spending in 2024 followed a similar trend as revenue, with total government expenditure contracting due to reductions in recurrent and capital expenditures. Total government spending in the review period fell by 12.3 percent, to US$723.4 million (15.1 percent of GDP) from US$824.5 million (18.8 percent of GDP) in 2023.

Recurrent expenditure declined due to lower spending on goods & services and wages & salaries, despite an increase in payments on loans, interest & other charges. Recurrent expenditure fell by 11.7 percent to US$697.7 million (14.6 percent of GDP), from US$790.4 million (18.0 percent of GDP) in the previous year. Wages & salary payments reduced, totaling US$271.4 million (5.7 percent of GDP), while spending on goods & services dropped significantly by 49.6 percent, to US$147.77 million (3.1 percent of GDP).

Similarly, capital expenditure fell by 24.6 percent to US$25.8 million (0.5 percent of GDP) from US$34.1 million (0.8 percent of GDP) in 2023. However, the fiscal operations reported a substantial rise in the settlement of liabilities. Similarly, there was substantial increase in debt servicing. Payments on loan, interest & other charges rose by 42.2 percent to US$278.5 million (5.8 percent of GDP) compared to US$195.9 million (4.5 percent of GDP) in 2023.

Table 16: Government Expenditure (2022-2024)

Fiscal Operations	2022	2023r	2024p	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% change)
Total Expenditure	**808.09**	**824.50**	**723.42**	**(12.26)**
Recurrent Expenditure	782.75	790.37	697.67	**(11.73)**
o/w Employees' Compensation	*298.26*	*301.16*	*271.40*	*(9.88)*
o/w Goods & Services	*281.89*	*293.30*	*147.77*	*(49.62)*
o/w Payments on Loans, Interest & Other Charges	202.60	195.90	278.50	**42.16**
Capital Expenditure	25.34	34.13	25.75	**(24.56)**
Memo Items				
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	20.33	18.78	15.11	
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	19.69	18.00	14.57	
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.64	0.78	0.54	
Payments Loan, Interest & Other Charges (% of GDP)	5.10	4.46	5.82	
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,390.46	4,787.29	

Source: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Liberian Authorities; p: provisional; r: revised

3.6.4 Public Debt

Provisional estimates indicate an increase in Liberia's public debt in 2024.The stock of public debt increased by 9.6 percent in 2024 to US$2,627.1 million (54.9 percent of GDP), from US$2,397.3 million (54.6 percent of GDP) in 2023. Despite expansions in domestic and external obligations, the debt stock remained within the regional macroeconomic convergence threshold during the year under review.

3.6.4.1 Domestic Debt Development

Liberia's domestic debt increased by 5.2 percent growth, totaling US$1,074.9 million (22.5 percent of GDP). The growth was mainly driven by increased borrowing from financial institutions, despite a contraction in GOL's liabilities to commercial banks. Commercial bank debt fell by 1.9 percent to US$204.9 million (4.3 percent of GDP) in 2024. Other domestic debts, including obligations to various institutions and claims, contracted by 5.0 percent to US$129.9 million (2.7 percent of GDP).

3.6.4.2 External Debt Development

Similarly, external debt expanded by 12.8 percent, rising to US$1,552.2 million (32.4 percent of GDP) in 2024 from US$1,375.6 million (31.3 percent of GDP) in 2023. The increase was mainly driven by higher multilateral debt, despite a reduction in bilateral debt. Multilateral debt amounted to US$1,419.2 million (29.6 percent of GDP), constituting 91.4 percent of external debt, while bilateral debt stood at US$105.2 million (2.2 percent of GDP), representing 6.8 percent of external borrowing.

Table 17: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics (2022-2024)

Fiscal Operations	2022	2023r	2024p	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			
Total Debt Stock	**2,018.69**	**2,397.31**	**2,627.06**	**9.58**
Domestic	**884.41**	**1021.73**	**1074.91**	**5.20**
o/w Financial Institutions	**829.96**	**884.92**	**945.00**	**6.79**
o/w CBL	605.48	676.11	740.11	9.47
o/w Commercial Banks	224.48	208.81	204.89	(1.88)
o/w Other Debts	**54.45**	**136.81**	**129.91**	**(5.04)**
o/w Other Institutions	51.11	121.50	111.33	(8.37)
o/w Claims	3.34	15.30	18.58	21.44
External	**1134.27**	**1375.58**	**1552.15**	**12.84**
o/w Multilateral	1022.56	1253.29	1419.17	13.24
o/w Bilateral	111.72	115.42	105.15	(8.90)
Memo Items (% of GDP)				
Total Debt Stock	50.79	54.60	54.88	
External	28.54	31.33	32.42	
Domestic	22.25	23.27	22.45	
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,390.46	4,787.29	

Source: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Liberian Authorities, p: provisional; r: revised

CHAPTER 4.0: Financial Sector Developments

4.1 Overview

The banking industry remained generally stable in 2024, recording increases in key balance sheet indicators mainly underpinned by increased economic activity. Key balance sheet indicators that showed growth, included total assets (6.97 percent); total loans (10.95 percent); total deposits (15.12 percent); and total capital (15.84 percent).

As at end-December 2024, the banking industry accounted for 96.2 percent of the total assets of the financial sector, both banks and non-bank financial institutions. In comparison with the corresponding period of 2023, the share of the banking industry increased by 1.1 percentage point. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the industry stood at 33.8 percent, 23.8 percentage points above the minimum requirement of 10 percent. The industry recorded a liquidity ratio of 49.3 percent, 34.3 percentage points above the minimum regulatory benchmark of 15.0 percent but remained challenged by high NPLs ratios of 19.7 percent, 9.7 percentage points about acceptable regulatory limit of 10.0 percent. Compared with end-December 2023, the NPLs ratio slightly increased by 1.6 percentage points from 18.1 percent.

4.2 Financial Stability

The financial sector remained generally stable. Considering the potential global threats affecting financial stability, a combination of conventional measures (utilizing policy instruments) and non-conventional policies were used by central banks, globally. These interventions involved the relaxation of certain regulatory requirements and easing of policy rates. In addition, relaxing prudential requirements, capital buffers, and restrictions on dividend payments were considered, aimed at maintaining stability in the financial sector.

In Liberia, the CBL took proactive measures to strengthen the banking sector by encouraging banks to enhance their internal credit recovery strategies and improve asset quality. In addition, the Bank lowered its policy rate in support of liquidity conditions and stimulating economic activity.

Furthermore, the CBL facilitated an enabling environment for banks to increase investments in digital financial products, including mobile money operations to enhance financial inclusion. These measures contributed to the easing of liquidity pressures on commercial banks and an expansion in the utilization of digital payment methods. To further improve the liquidity stability, the CBL extended Emergency Liquidity Assistance (ELA) to one bank in 2024 for maintaining financial sector stability.

4.3 Commercial Banks Branches and Networks

The banking network expanded in Liberia, with two (2) new bank branches opened in 2024, bringing the total number of bank branches, including annexes and windows to ninety-two (92) compared with ninety (90) in the previous year. Despite this growth, bank branches remain concentrated in Montserrado County, with limited coverage in other regions. The banking sector's physical presence extended across nine (9) of the fifteen (15) counties in Liberia.

Among individual banks, Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) and Ecobank Liberia Limited (EBLL) maintained the largest share of bank branches, accounting for 18 percent and 14 percent, respectively. They were followed by Sapelle International Bank Liberia Limited (SIBLL) and GT Bank Liberia Limited (GTBLL).

Table 18: Commercial Banks Network

County	No. of Branches		No. of Windows		No. of Annexes		Total	
	2023	**2024**	2023	**2024**	2023	**2024**	2023	**2024**
Bomi	3	2					3	2
Bong	3	2		1			3	3
Grand Bassa	6	6					6	6
Grand Gedeh	1	1					1	1
Margibi	7	6		2	1	1	8	9
Maryland	2	2					2	2
Montserrado	52	52	6	2	1	5	59	59
Nimba	7	7				2	7	9
Sinoe	1	1					1	1
Total	82	79	6	5	2	8	90	92

Source: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

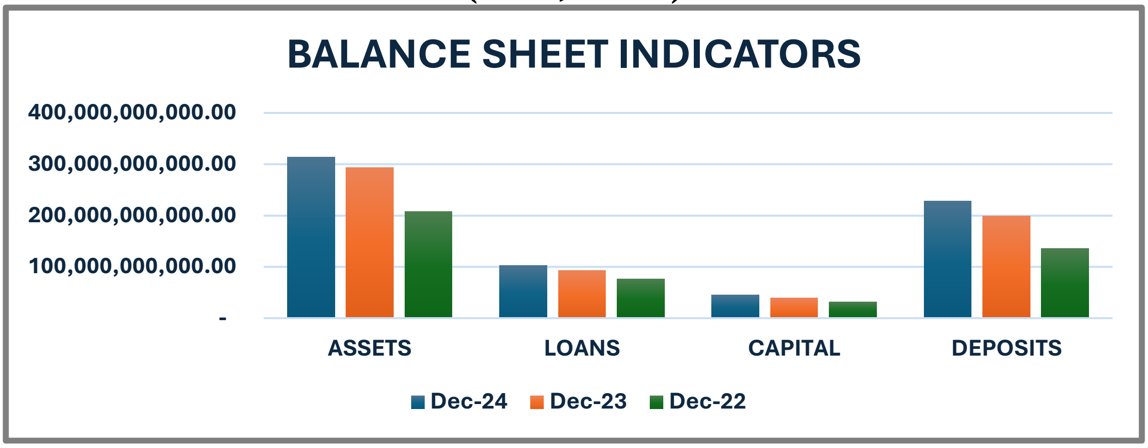
4.4 Banking Industry

The overall performance of the banking industry improved in 2024 with major balance sheet indicators showing growth due to increased intermediation. Despite the persistent high NPLs, the industry remained profitable during the review period.

4.4.1 Balance Sheet Structure

As at end December 2024, key balance sheet indicators of the industry showed growth compared to end-December 2023, demonstrating continued resilience. Total assets increased by 6.97 percent to L$314.39 billion, from L$293.71 billion; total loans and advances increased by 10.95 percent to L$103.01 billion, from L$92.84 billion; total capital increased by 15.73 percent in 2024 to L$45.15 billion, from L$39.01 billion; and deposits rose by 15.12 percent to L$228.77 billion, from L$198.71 billion in 2023.

Chart 23: Selected Balance Sheet Indicators of the Banking Industry 2022 – 2024 (In L$, Levels)



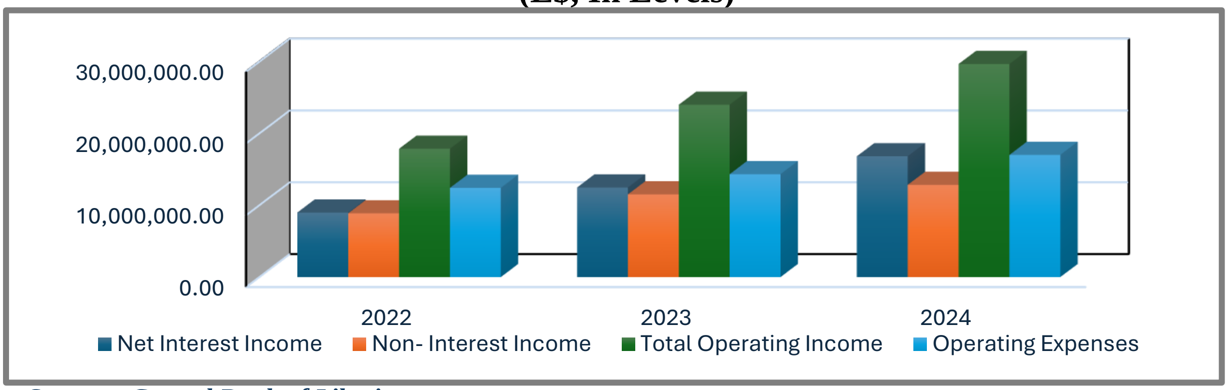
Sources: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

4.4.2 Income Statement Structure (Profit and Loss Statement)

The consolidated comprehensive income statement of the banking industry recorded a net income of L$10.60 billion, reflecting 56.57 percent at end-December 2024 compared with the previous year. This increase in net income was primarily driven by 151.0 percent increase in income from treasury bills and 34 percent growth in interest income from loans and advances. At end-December 2024, the industry's total operating income stood at L$29.67 billion, with interest income contributing L$16.83 billion (56.73 percent), while non-interest income accounting for L$12.84 billion (43.27 percent).

Interest expense of the industry rose by 36.33 percent to L$3.91 billion, from L$2.86 billion at end December 2024. Additionally, operating expenses stood at L$17.02 billion, reflecting 18.77 percent increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Chart 24: Sources of Income and Expenses 2022-2024 (L$, In Levels)



Sources: Central Bank of Liberia

4.4.3 Financial Soundness Indicators

Throughout the year, the industry demonstrated resilience and stability, as reflected in the financial soundness indicators (FSI). Despite internal and external challenges, the industry remained stable. The growth in key FSIs highlights the industry's prospects for sustaining the soundness in the banking industry.

Table 19: Financial Soundness Indicators (In L$; otherwise elsewhere mentioned)

Description	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-24
Gross Assets	319,262,526.52	344,985,463.16
Total Assets	293,710,522 .38	314,391,024.25
Total Loans and Overdraft	92,841,009.26	103,014,285.22
Total Net Loans and Overdrafts	80,532,628.33	86,695,597.15
Gross Loans	59,724,895.54	67,993,694.85
Accrued Interest on Loans	1,029,840.21	1,099,244.92
Provisions on Gross Loans	9,634,058.72	13,020,172.50
Interest in Suspense on Gross Loans	428,063.53	411,390.25
Net Loans	50,604,790.38	55,661,377.02
Gross Overdrafts	33,116,113.72	35,016,602.37
Accrued Interest on Overdraft	1,029,840.21	947,366.53
Provisions on Overdrafts	3,315,566.00	4,148,074.95
Interest in Suspense on Overdrafts	902,549.98	781,673.41
Net Overdraft	29,927,837.95	31,034,220.54
Deposits	198,712,270.54	228,773,544.57
Reported Capital Net of Provisions	40,891,169.12	41,685,733.76
Reported Net Capitalization (Billions)	13.92	15.45
Capital Adequacy Ratio (Percent)	27.31	33.8
Classified Loans to Total Loans (Percent)	21.71	24.57
Non-performing Loans to Total Loans	18.06	19.7
Provisions to Classified Loans Net of Interest in Suspense (Percent)	60.54	49.17
Provisions to Non-performing Loans Net of Interest in Suspense (Percent)	70.79	53.15
Return on Assets (Billions)	2.35	3.42
Return on Equity (Billions)	17.69	23.4
Non-interest Income to Total Revenue (Percent)	42.66	35.31
Net Interest Margin over Average Assets (Percent)	4.83	6.06
Net Loans to Deposits (Percent)	30.67	38.93
Liquidity Ratio (Percent)	44.15	49.29

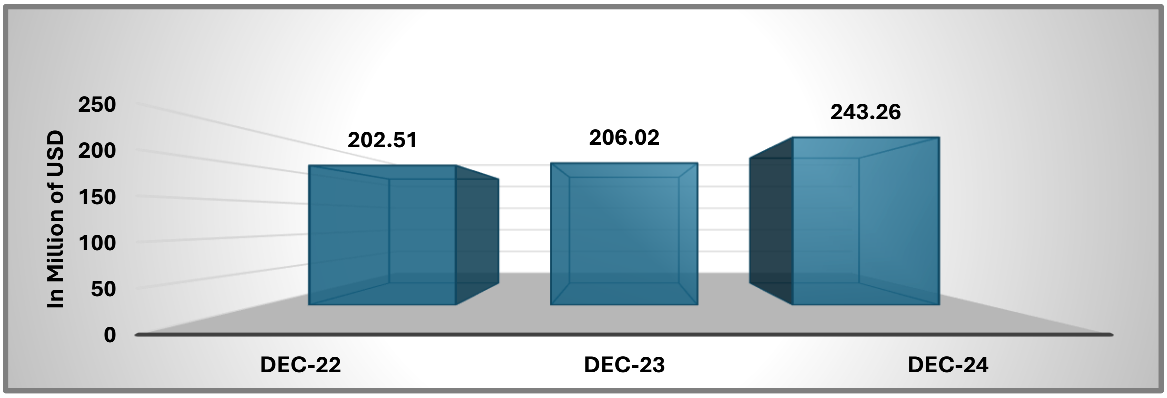
Source: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

4.4.4 Capital Adequacy

The average capital of the banking industry grew by 5.13 percent to US$27.02 million at end-December 2024, from US$25.70 million in 2023, exceeding the minimum regulatory capital requirement of US$10.0 million. The CAR stood at 33.8 percent, which was 23.8 percentage points above the minimum ratio of 10.0 percent. Compared to 2023, CAR grew by 6.49

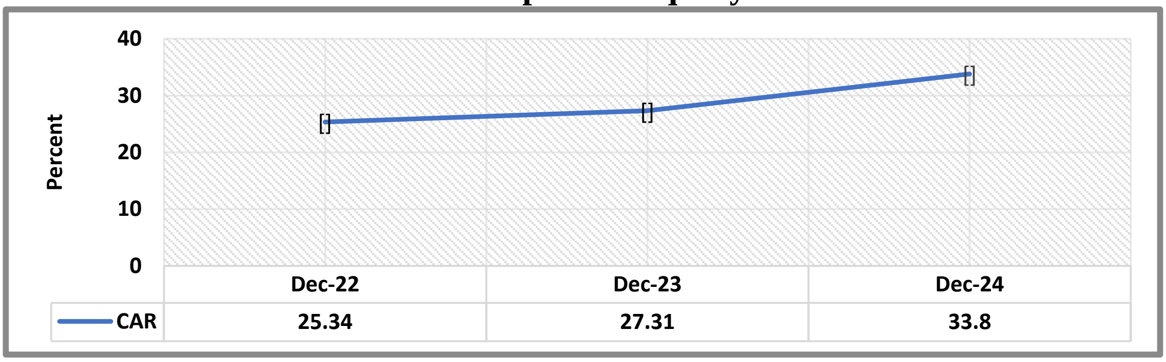
percentage points, manifesting the industry's ability to absorb risks, while maintaining financial stability.

Chart 25: Capital Movement



Sources: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

Chart 26: Capital Adequacy Ratio

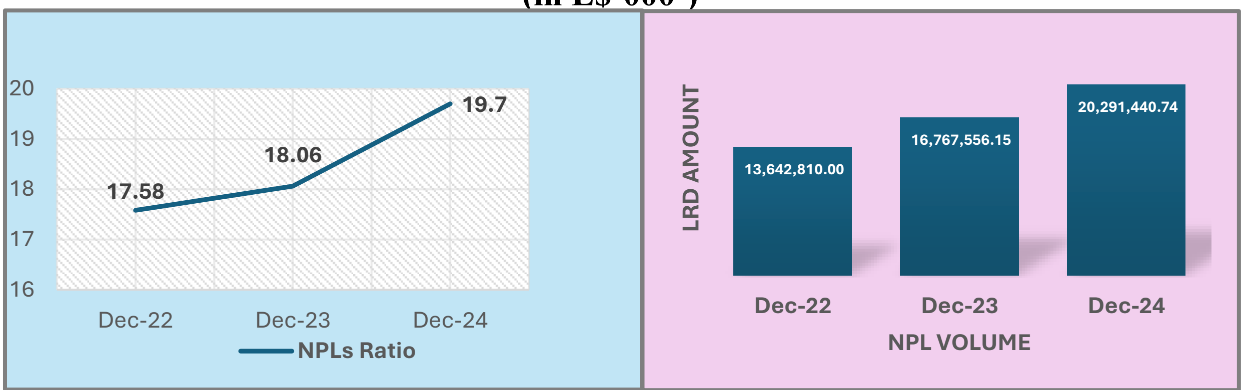


Sources: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

4.4.5 Assets Quality

Gross loans and overdrafts of the banking industry increased by 10.95 percent to L$103.01 billion, from L$92.84 billion in 2023. The volume of NPLs (L20.29 billion) to total loans (L$103.01 billion) increased by 1.64 percentage points to 19.70 percent, from 18.06 percent recorded in 2023, a reflection of constraint in the industry, despite CBL's policy focus on strengthening asset quality. In addition, total loan loss provisions grew by 32.61 percent to L$17.16 billion, from L$12.94 billion recorded in 2023, indicating adequate provisions of the industry.

Chart 27: NPLs Ratio and Volume, 2022 – 2024
(in L$'000')

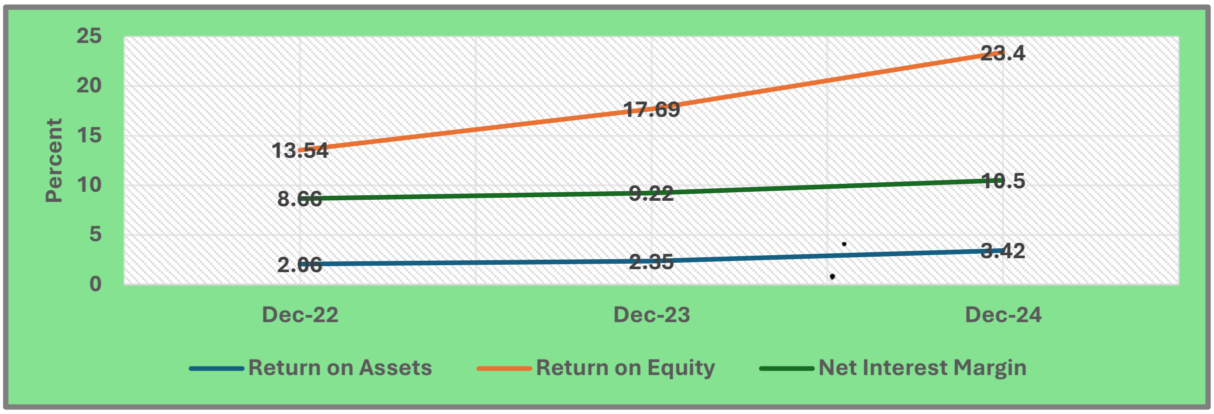


Sources: Central Bank of Liberia and Commercial Banks

4.4.6 Earnings and Profitability

Operating income of the banking industry for the period ending December 2024 stood at L$29.67 billion, with a net profit of L$10.60 billion. The industry showed the following key profitability indicators: Return on Equity (ROE) at 23.4 percent; Return on Asset (ROA) at 3.42 percent; and Net Interest Margin at10.5 percent, indicating growth across all indicators.

Chart 28: Trend in Earnings and Profit (2022 – 2024)

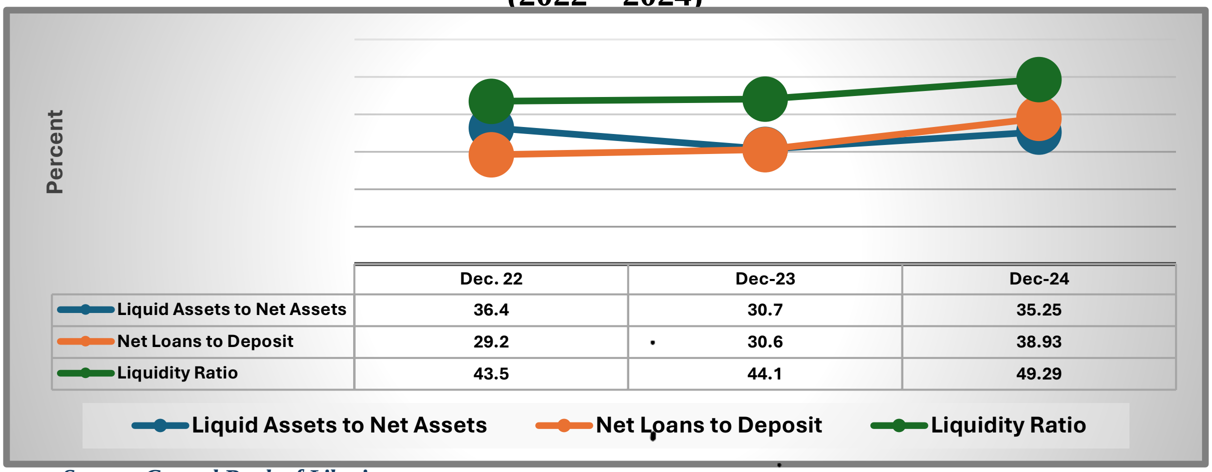


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.4.7 Liquidity

The banking industry maintained a relatively stable liquidity position, with the liquidity ratio at end-December 2024 reaching 49.29 percent, exceeding the minimum regulatory threshold by 34.29 percentage points. This represented an increase of 5.19 percentage points in 2024 compared to 44.10 percent in 2023.

Chart 29: Liquidity Trend (2022 – 2024)



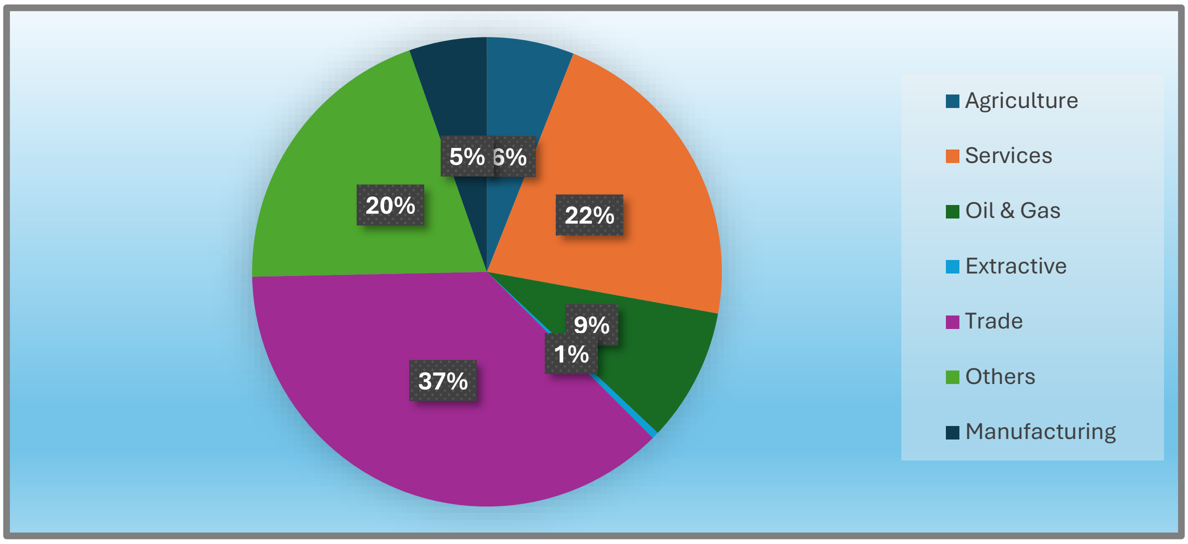
	Dec. 22	Dec-23	Dec-24
Liquid Assets to Net Assets	36.4	30.7	35.25
Net Loans to Deposit	29.2	30.6	38.93
Liquidity Ratio	43.5	44.1	49.29

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.4.8 Sectoral Loan Distribution

During the year 2024, loans and overdrafts increased by 10.95 percent to L$103.01 billion compared to 2023. The credit portfolio of the banking industry remained diversified, with no single sector accounting for more than 50.0 percent of the total loans. The trade sector remained the largest, representing 25.36 percent of the total industry loans.

Chart 30: Sectoral Distribution of Loans and Advances, 2024

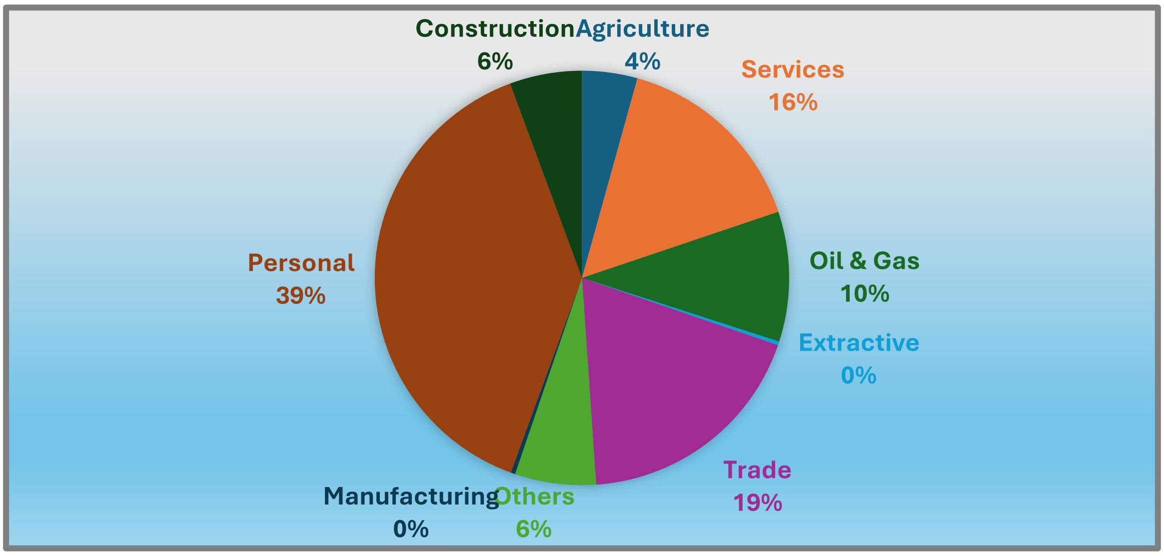


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.4.9 Sectoral Distribution of Non-performing Loans and Advances

At end-December 2024, the volume of NPLs and advances amounted to L$20.29 billion, representing 9.7 percent of gross loans, an increase of 21.01 percent compared to the corresponding period in 2023. In terms of concentration of NPLs, personal sector accounted for the highest share (38.72 percent). The trade and services subsectors accounted for 16.76 percent and 15.50 percent, respectively.

Chart 31: Sectoral Share of Non-performing Loans and Advances, 2024



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.5 Non-Bank Financial Institutions

As at end-December 2024, the total number of registered Non-Bank Credit Only Microfinance Institutions (NBCOs) reduced to fourteen (14), from twenty-one (21) in 2023. These institutions operated a total of sixty-four (64) branches across eleven (11) of Liberia's fifteen (15) counties. Within the sector, there were three (3) licensed Deposit-taking Microfinance Institutions (MDIs), compared to two (2) in 2023. Additionally, the sector included one (1) development finance company, two hundred and sixty-four (264) licensed foreign exchange bureaus, sixty-one (61) licensed Money Remittance Entities, and twelve (12) Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFIs).

At end-December 2024, the number of foreign exchange bureaus increased by 25 percent to 264, from 211 in 2023. Among these, one hundred forty-six (146) bureaus held Category "A" license, while one hundred eighteen (118) were licensed as Category "B". Likewise, the total number of licensed Money Remittance Entities also increased by 15.0 percent to 61 in December 2024, from fifty-three (53) in December 2023.

4.5.1 Key Developments in the Microfinance Sector

In 2024, the CBL licensed three (3) Non-Bank credit-only Microfinance Institutions (NBCOs). During the year, the total number of clients transacting with NBCOs grew by 33.71 percent to 131,644 from 98,455 in 2023. Similarly, the total number of active borrowers increased by 32.9 percent to 120,547 in 2024, compared to 90,731 in 2023.

During the year, the outstanding loans portfolio of microfinance institutions increased to L$5.38 billion, from L$3.48 billion at end December 2023. Similarly, total capital in 2024 increased to L$2.03 billion, from L$1.70 billion in 2023. However, net income in the industry decreased by 63.0 percent to L$12.30 million from L$33.48 million in the previous year, largely due to high operational costs and developments in the exchange rate of the Liberian dollar to USD.

Table 20: Microfinance Institutions Balance Sheet and Income Statement Performance Indicators (2023-2024)

Description	Dec. 2024	Dec. 2023	Variance	(Percent Change)
Total Assets	6,461,844,508.09	6,011,007,250	450,837,258.09	8%
Total Capital	2,027,307,800.31	1,698,802,760.76	328,505,039.55	19%
Net Income/Loss	12,300,701.74	33,475,476.00	24,573,438.66	-63%

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.5.2 Rural Community Finance Institutions

In 2024, the number of Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFIs) remained at twelve (12) with its presence in eight (8) of the fifteen (15) counties.

RCFIs deposits increased by 30.0 percent to L$887.62 million, from L$681.07 million recorded in 2023. Also, loans and advances of the institutions rose by 83.0 percent to L$632.08

million, from L$345.71 million largely attributed to branch expansions in Voinjama. Salayea, and Vahun Districts in Lofa County. The RCFIs were largely involved in the provision of salary-based credits and payments of civil servants' salaries across the country as well as money transfer services, including remittances and mobile money services.

Table 21: Financial Performance of RCFIs (2023 – 2024)

Indicator	2023 L$	2024L$	Percent Change
Deposit	681,065,981.64	887,618,618	30%
Loans & Advances	345,708,169.44	632,082,586	83%

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.5.3 Development Finance Institutions

During the review period, the Liberia Enterprise Development Finance Company (LEDFC) was the only development finance institution operating in Liberia and regulated by the CBL. Since its establishment in 2007, LEDFC has served as significant source of capital for Liberian owned SMEs in the leeward counties and Montserrado County. The entity has made over US$4.0 million investments to approximately over 700 SMEs in key economic sectors. It continued to provide technical support for owners of businesses to manage their finances, adopt the latest technology, and reduce adverse environmental impacts on their operations.

At end-December 2024, LEDFC total assets stood at L$6.46 billion from L$6.11 billion recorded in the previous year while total liabilities slightly increased to L$4.56 billion, up from L$4.25 billion in the previous year. Total loan portfolio and capital increased to L$3.50 billion in 2024 and L$1.90 billion, from L$2.93 billion and L$1.86 billion in 2023, respectively.

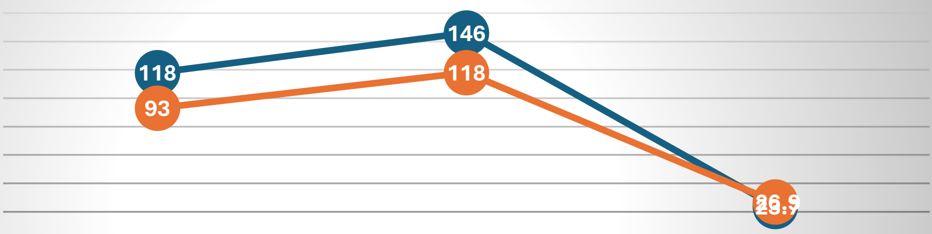
4.5.4 Deposit-Taking Microfinance Institutions

The total number of Deposit-Taking Microfinance Institutions (MDIs) increased to three (3) with the third approved by the CBL in February 2024. The three (3) existing MDIs maintained three (3) branches operating in two (2) of the fifteen counties in 2024. The total assets of the industry grew by 57.0 percent, to L$2.48 billion from L$1.58 billion in December 2023. At the same time, deposits grew by 77.0 percent, to L$1.65 billion at end-December 2024 from L$932.2 million in December 2023. Total loans and advances amounted to L$1.53 billion in the review period.

4.5.5 Foreign Exchange Bureaus

In 2024, the total number of foreign exchange bureaus increased by 25.0 percent to 264, from 211 in December 2023. Of these, one hundred and forty-six (146) were in Category "A" status, while one hundred and eighteen (118) were in Category "B". The total number of licensed money remittance entities increased by 15.0 percent to 61 in December 2024, from fifty-three (53) in December 2023.

Chart 32: Foreign Exchange Bureaus (2023-2024)



	2023	2024	Percentage change
Category A	118	146	23.7
Category B	93	118	26.9

Category A Category B

4.6 Insurance Sector Developments

4.6.1 Overview

During the year under review, the Liberian Insurance Sector consisted of 15 licensed insurance companies, one insurance company with a provisional license, and 8 licensed brokerage firms. One insurance company (Platinum Insurer Incorporated) was licensed in 2023 but has not commenced reporting its financials due to its ongoing setup. The sector remained dominated by domestically owned companies, including 9 companies with significant domestic ownership and 5 companies with significant foreign ownership. The assets and capital of these significant domestically owned companies (SDOC) accounted for 45.41 percent with a market share of 52.24 percent. However, the revenue generated by SDOCs accounted for only 20.82 percent of total premium income.

4.6.2 Financial Performance

At end-December 2024, key balance sheet indicators of the insurance industry showed growth compared to end-December 2023. In terms of capitalization, the sector recorded a 27.0 percent increase in capital based on the reported financial statements of companies in the industry. Total assets and investment increased by 34.6 percent and 40.1 percent, respectively, largely due to increases in cash, premium receivable, and investment.

Liability in the industry increased by 50.3 percent, while gross premium decreased by 6.5 percent during the year. However, the operational and administrative expenses of insurance companies marginally rose by 0.1 percent, while claims increased significantly by 58.7 percent compared to 2023. Net income was reduced by more than 50 percent, on account of reduced gross premium and increased claims as well as expenses during the year.

Table 22: Key Financial Indicators
(In Millions of US$)
(2022-2024)

	2022	2023	2024	Year-on-year change (2023-22)	Year-on-year change (2023-24)
Capital	25.5	29.9	38.0	17.5	27.0
Total Assets	37.8	44.5	59.9	17.7	34.6
Investment	12.7	13.3	18.7	5.3	40.1
Liabilities	12.	14.5	21.8	13.4	50.3
Outstanding Premium	4.8	4.9	9.5	2.0	94.5
Gross Premium	50.3	54.1	50.6	7.6	-6.5
Underwriting Result	14.5	18.9	11.3	30.3	-40.3
Net Premium	33.3	33.3	34.1	2.4	34.1
Net Income	1.2	239.9	4.1	-162.1	-2.5
Expenses	12.2	9.2	13.3	0.1	13.3
Claims	15.5	-17.6	12.8	58.7	20.3
Technical Provision	5.3	-1.2	5.2	42.7	7.4

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

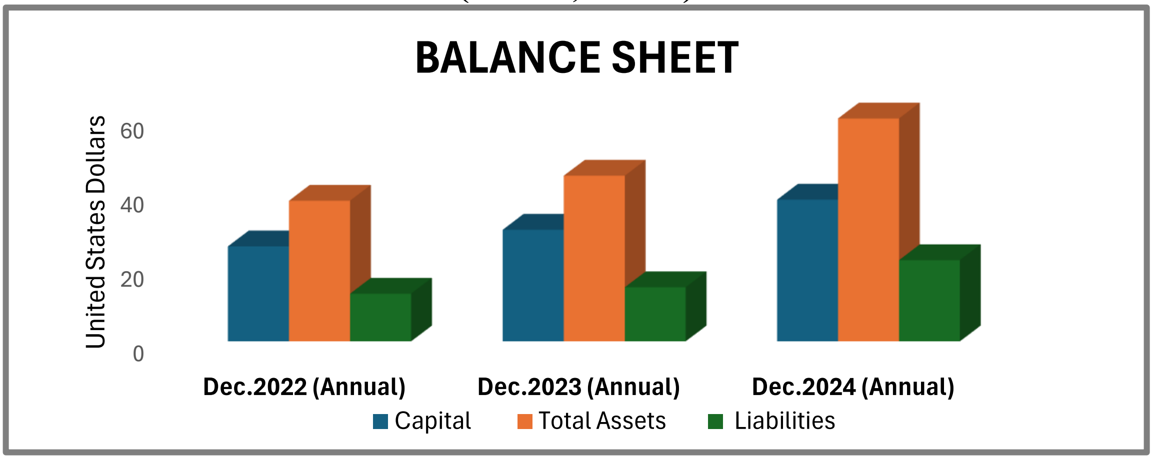
4.6.3 Comparative Analysis of Annual Financial Indicators

The industry balance sheet indicators reflected growth in 2024. Total assets of the industry increased by 34.6 percent to US$59.9 million in 2024, from US$44.5 million at end-2023. Similarly, capital and investment increased by 27.0 percent and 40.1 percent, respectively largely due to increases in cash, premium receivable, and investments.

Insurance revenue generally decreased in 2024, despite the enforcement of compulsory third-party vehicles insurance and increased policy-related expenses. The industry recorded a decrease in revenue due to the high increase in claims. Claims increased by 58.7 percent to 20.3 million in 2024 from 12.8 million in 2023. However, net premiums recorded a slight increase by 2.4 percent due to contraction in reinsurance.

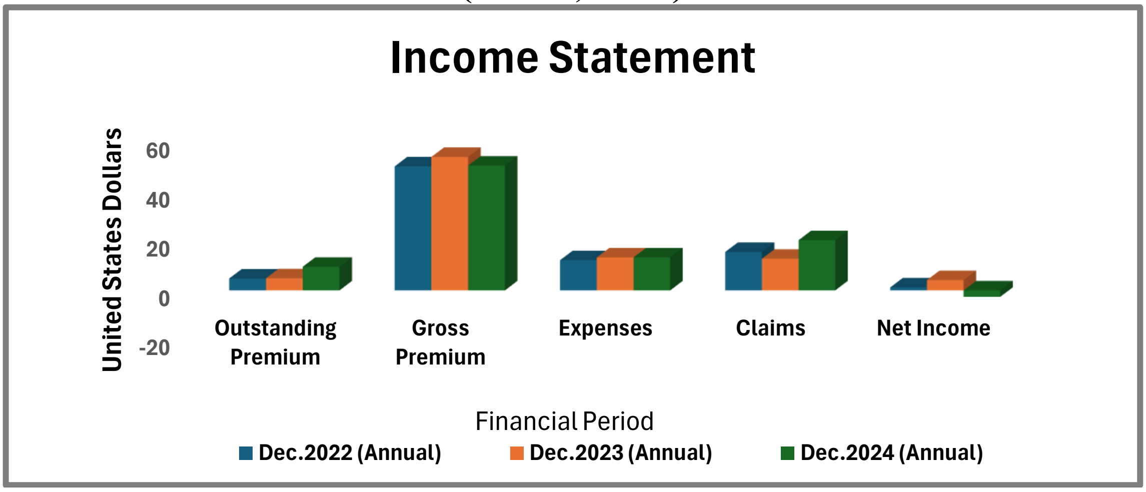
The underwriting result in the industry showed a marked decrease of 40.33 percent to US$11.3 million in 2024 from 18.9 percent in 2023, implying risk analysis in underwriting policies of the industry.

Chart 33: Shifts in Key Balance Sheet Indicators 2022-2024 (In US$, Levels)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia, 2024

Chart 34: Key Income Statement Indicators 2022-2024 (In US$, levels)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia, 2024

4.6.4 Industry Ratios and Minimum Capital Requirement

In 2024, the expense and claims ratios increased to 26.44 percent and 40.23 percent, from 24.70 percent and 23.70 percent respectively, in 2023. However, both Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) stood at negative 4.42 percent and negative 6.96 percent in 2024 from 9.38 percent and 13.92 percent, respectively in 2023. The contraction in the ROA was mainly due to loss in revenue and disallowed assets from investment during the reporting period.

The minimum capital requirement for each class of insurance businesses in Liberia remained as follow.

- General Insurance Business US$1,500,000.00;
- Life Insurance Business US$750,000.00; and
- Re-insurance Business US$5,000,000.00.

4.7 Collateral Registry and Credit Reference System

4.7.1 Operations of the Collateral Registry

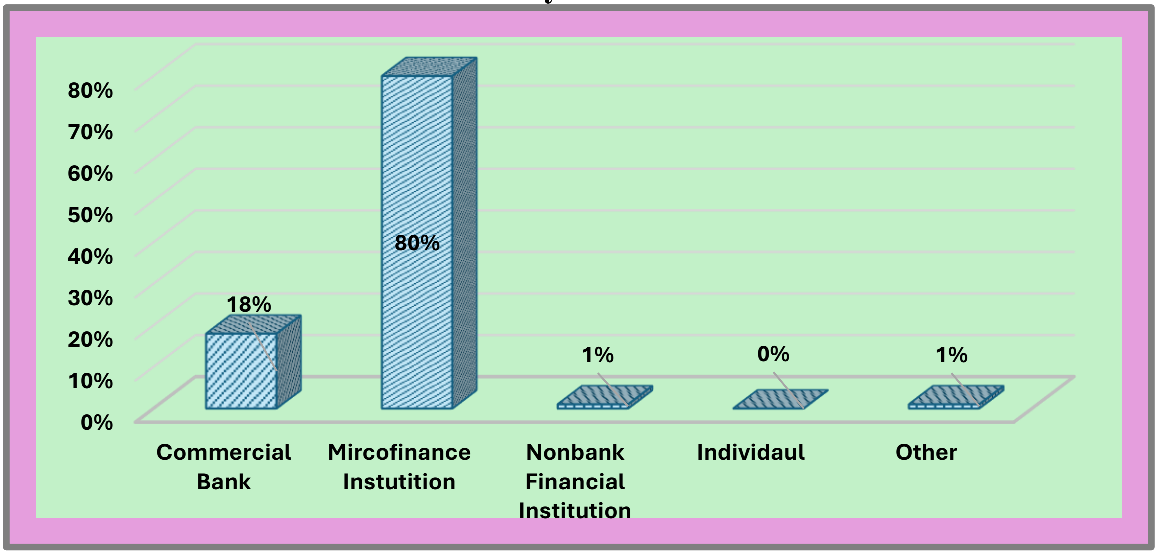
The CBL's Collateral Registry System (CRS) remained useful as a credit infrastructure for non-traditional lending activities in the financial sector. The system allows bank and nonbank financial institutions to extend credit to businesses using a range of movable assets as collaterals. Its standardized credit platform informed institutions' credit decisions regarding borrowers and encumbered collateral, which are essential for effective credit risk management.

As at end-December 2024, key activities in management of the registry focused on registration of security interests, amendments, searches and fees. Client registration in the system remained at fifty-seven (57), comprising of seventeen (17) legal entity clients (commercial banks, microfinance institutions and non-bank financial institutions); thirty-one (31) individual clients and nine (9) others. The system reported two (2) financing statements (FS) or loans registration during the period under review compared to seven (7) financing statements registered in 2023. The FS or loans value at US$32.9 million were registered by agents representing foreign banks in the Collateral Registry System. Movable assets collateralized against these loans were 104 consisting of assorted equipment, and 27 searches were conducted.

Financing statement (FS) or loans granted through foreign banks' agents to businesses remained consistent in the system and supported cross-border lending, indicating that the system was largely used by agents of foreign banks. Domestically, strategies were considered for commercial banks and other nonbanks to utilize the system to prevent vulnerability and credits information gaps.

As categorized in the system's debtor component, large firms attracted 50 percent of the total loans, while the remaining 50% were allocated to medium firms. Also, the overall performance of the Collateral Registry System showed that the total value of financing statements or loans amounted to L$112.25 million and US$5.071 billion (inclusive of domestic and agents of foreign banks) against 1,836 borrowers/debtors, while collateral used against these loans totaled 3,914. Searches conducted totaled 1,378. Since its inception, these indicators underscored the significance of the system and its impact on the financial sector.

Chart 35: System Clients/Users



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.7.2 Distribution of Loans to Sectors of Operations

The distribution of loans shows that various sectors accessed loans from bank and nonbank financial institutions (local and foreign) through the Collateral Registry System. The Wholesale/Retail Trade sector attracted the largest share in 2024 accounting for 83 percent of the value of loan booked, while the Manufacturing sector accounted for the remaining 17%.

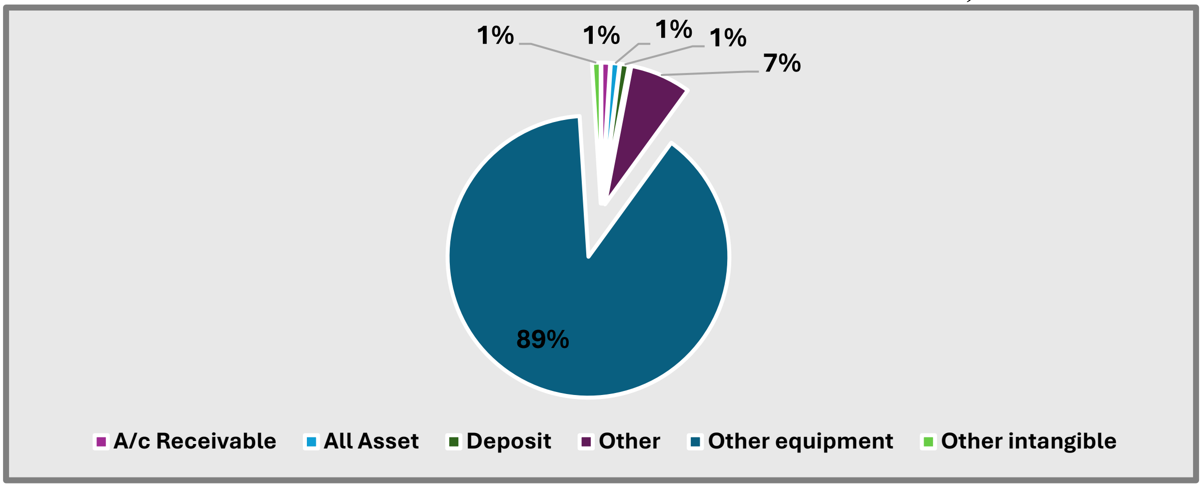
Chart 36: Sectoral Distribution of Loans

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.7.3 Assets Classifications on Movable Collateral

The Collateral Registry System continued to be used as a systematic approach for assessment and management potential risk on loans collateralized with movable assets, informing the credit decisions of bank and nonbank financial institutions on encumbered movable assets collateral. During the period under review, Other Equipment was the most widely used collateral by borrowers, accounting for 89 percent of the total movable assets' collateral. The remaining collaterals accounted for Other Assets, 7 percent, Other Intangible, 1 percent, A/c Receivable, 1 percent, All Assets 1 percent and All Deposits A/c, 1 percent as depicted in the Chart below.

Chart 37: Assets Classifications of Movable Collaterals, 2024



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.7.4 Loan Beneficiary - By Gender

Credit, in terms of gender for the reporting period showed that male dominated the entire credit transactions as it was in the preceding year. There was no female participation in credit transaction in 2024.

4.7.5 Credit Concentration by Counties

The credit concentration on the geographical location of debtors shows that the entire credits booked were advanced in Montserrado County as it was the same in the preceding year. There was no credit extension to debtors in the other 14 geographical locations embedded in the system.

4.7.6 System Expansion/Usage

Over the last three years, the utilization of the Collateral Registry System continued to decline. Despite engagements by the CBL with financial institutions regarding the system's relevance in the financial sector, both bank and non-bank financial institutions have reduced their usage of the Collateral Registry System. However, the CBL engagement with bank and non-bank financial institutions and the Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFIs) continued with the aim to increase the utilization of the Collateral Registry System.

4.8 Operations of the Credit Reference System

Bank and nonbank financial institutions relied on the Credit Reference System (CRS) for informed credit decisions, thereby facilitating comprehensive inquiry analysis of current and potential borrowers. The system remained robust, contributing to credit risk management in the financial sector, tracking and compiling credit records for borrowers and various businesses,. At end-December 2024, the system responded to 501 credit checks of current and potential borrowers, processing a total of 14,620 credit checks compared to 13,612, representing a 7.0 percent increase in credit checks compared to the preceding year.

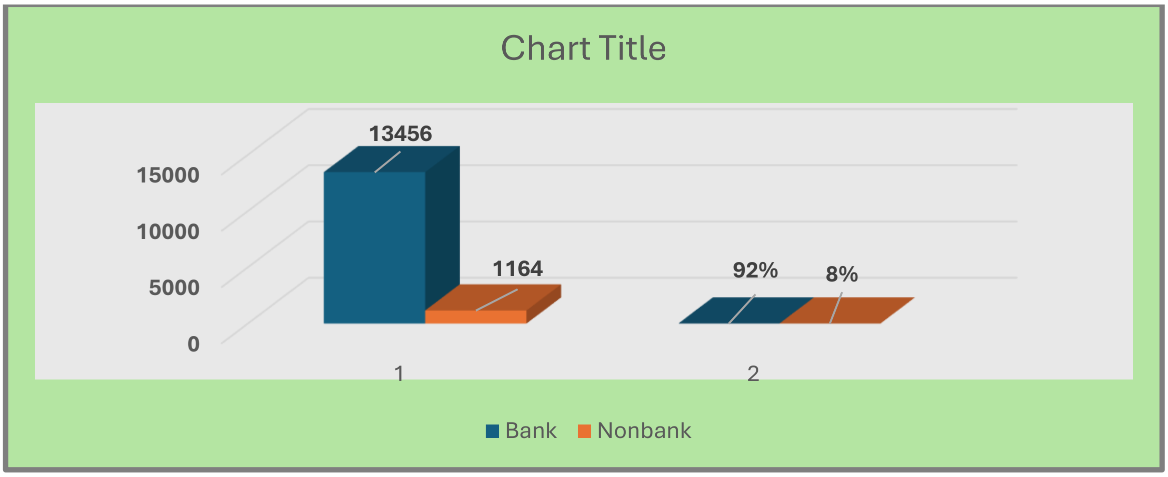
Inquiries from Commercial banks and non-bank financial institutions overall credit and relating percentages are provided in the Charts below.

Table 23: Number of Credit Checks, 2024

Bank	No. of Credit Check	Percent	Non-Bank	No. of Credit Check	Percentage
ABLL	4734	35	DMDTI	961	83
AFBLL	185	1	CITITRUST	118	10
EBLL	2975	22	LEDFC	85	7
BLOOM	58	0.4	Sub-Total	1164	100
GTBLL	568	4			
IBLL	2213	16			
LBDI	266	2			
SIBLL	642	5			
UBALL	1815	13			
Sub-Total	13,456	100			

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Chart 38: Credit Checks by Financial Institutions



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.8.1 Summary of Cases

The CBL received seven (7) complaints from the public in 2024. All the complaints were against commercial banks with three (3) resolved, while the remaining 4 were still ongoing.

Table 24: Complaints of Customers

No.	Description	2021	2022	2023	2024
1.	Number of Complaints	6	12	6	7
2.	Resolved Complaint	3	5	2	3
3.	Pending Complaint	3	7	4	4
4.	Referred for further investigation	0	0	0	0
5.	Nature of Complaint	Unauthorized withdrawal, Unapproved Interest Deductions, Failure for the bank to ensure transfer reaches account.	Unauthorized withdrawal, Unapproved Interest Deductions, Failure for the bank to ensure transfer reaches account;	Unauthorized withdrawal,	Unauthorized, Withdrawal, Unpaid customers Deposit and ATM fraud

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.8.2 Complaint Returns from Commercial Banks

In keeping with its mandate, the CBL, through the Consumer Protection Unit, received complaint returns from financial institutions, including those investigated and resolved. A total of two thousand and sixty-four (2,064) complaints were received by the nine (9) commercial banks, of which 87.7 percent of all the complaints were resolved, while 12.3 percent were unresolved.

Table 25: Complaint Returns from Commercial Banks

Banks	Total Complaints	Complaint Unresolved	Complaint Resolved	Percent Shared of Unresolved Complaint	Percent Shared of Resolved Complaint
ABLL	0	0	0	0	0
AFBLL	123	48	75	39%	61%
EBLL	1448	86	1362	6%	94%
GBLL	1	0	1	0%	100%
SIBLL	122	8	114	7%	93%
GTBLL	169	29	140	17%	83%
IBLL	0	0	0	0	0
LBDI	111	75	36	68%	32%
UBALL	90	21	69	23%	77%
TOTAL	**2,064**	**267**	**1,797**	**N/A**	**N/A**

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.9 Payments System Developments

4.9.1 Overview

The Liberian payment system has evolved significantly with financial institutions and mobile technology providers since the National Payment Systems reform. This growth aligned with CBL's policy focus to promote digital payments as a viable alternative to cash, as outlined in its Strategic Plan (SP) and National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS). The NFIS (2020-2024) aimed to expand access to formal financial services, targeting an increase in financial coverage from 35.7 percent to at least 50.0 percent by 2024.

4.9.2 Mobile Money Operations

The Mobile Money Operators (MMOs) and FinTech sector recorded growth in 2024. Registered subscribers increased from 9.3 million to 11.5 million. The number of active subscribers (90 days) grew by 66.9 percent, from 2.6 million to 4.3 million, indicating higher customer engagements in mobile financial services. The total number of registered agents expanded from 156,242 in 2023 to 231,038 in 2024, reflecting an improved agent network to support mobile money transactions. However, the number of registered institutions declined slightly from 1,511 to 1,457 over the period.

Transactions volume and value showed consistent growth across both Liberian Dollar (LRD) and United States Dollar (USD). The volume of transactions in LRD surged from 549 million in 2023 to 14.8 billion in 2024, while USD transactions grew from 36.8 million to 46.9 million. The value of mobile money transactions in LRD increased from L$421 billion to L$471 billion, while USD transaction value rose from US$3.47 billion to US$4.68 billion, underscoring the increasing reliance on mobile money for payments and remittances.

This growth in mobile money transactions was attributed to CBL's policy reforms, including the licensing of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs), bilateral operability between banks and Mobile Money Operators (MMOs). These developments indicates that mobile money operation remained the dominant form of electronic payments in Liberia, driving financial inclusion and cross-border transaction efficiency.

Table 26: Mobile Money Operators & Fintech Performances (2023-2024)

Indicator	Dec.-2023	Dec.-2024
Registered Subscribers (Cumulative)	9,329,179	11,513,131
Active Subscribers (90 Days)	2,599,162	4,337,009
Register Institutions	1,511	1,457
Registered Subscribers (Female Cumulative)	3,688,157	4,748,368
Registered Subscribers (Male Cumulative)	5,639,511	6,763,424
Registered Agents (Cumulative)	156,242	231,038
Active Agents (30 Days)	31,665	42,266
Total volume of transactions (USD)	36,829,792	46,924,126

Total volume of transactions (LRD)	549,132,423	14,848,818,678
Total value of transactions (USD)	3,475,642,854.39	4,686,796,019.36
Total value of transactions (LRD)	421,969,091,218.90	471,777,095,920.03

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Mobile Money Terminated into Mobile Wallets: In 2024, the total volume of cross-border remittances terminating into mobile wallets increased by 2.74 percent to 4.34 million transactions, from 4.22 million transactions in 2023. The total transaction value grew by 17.71 percent, to US$494.46 million from US$420.05 million in 2023, indicating increased reliance on mobile wallets for international money transfers. While *Send Wave* led in transaction volume in 2023 with 2.15 million transfers valued at US$252.45 million, its volume significantly declined in 2024, with *Remit Terrepay* emerging as the top processor, handling 3.38 million transactions valued at US$378.58 million. Other providers, such as *MFS Africa* and *Thunes*, also recorded growth in both volume and value, while *BnB* saw marginal increase.

This growth was driven by diversified payment channels, a rising number of active mobile money subscribers, and increased public awareness of mobile-based cross-border transfers. The data underscored expansion mobile wallet for facilitating remittances, accessibility and financial inclusion across Liberia.

Table 27: Inbound Cross Border Remittances/Transfers Terminated into Mobile Wallets

Product	2023		2024	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Send Wave	2,150,234	252,452,331.51	343,398	38,539,083.14
MFS Africa	288,828	35,030,848.34	296,326	36,427,507.09
Remit Terrepay	1,688,659	119,578,171.40	3,378,574	378,579,732.75
BnB	18,085	1,916,239.49	49,048	5,926,964.58
Thunes	73,973	11,073,121.25	268,006	34,984,269.71
Hammerpay	-	-	-	-
Total	**4,219,779**	**420,050,711.99**	**4,335,352**	**494,457,557.27**

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

4.9.3 Systematically Important Payment Systems (SIPS)

Systematically Important Payment Systems (SIPS) data, focusing on USD-denominated payments, show that total USD payments increased to 220 thousand transactions valued at $6.3 billion in 2024, from 203 thousand transactions valued at $3.6 billion in 2023, reflecting a growth of 75.0 percent. Manual clearing cheques accounted for 60.90 percent (134,093 cheques) from 53.86 percent of transactions (109,431 cheques) in 2023. Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) payments followed, increasing to 64,645 transactions (29.36%) in 2024, from 49,225 transactions (24.23%) in 2023, reflecting a growth of 31.3 percent in high-value electronic payments.

In terms of Liberian Dollar transactions, RTGS recorded the highest in value but remained lower than manual clearing cheques in volume. Overall, total transaction volume increased to

58,408 in 2024 from 53,512 in 2023. On the other hand, total transaction value declined by 41.11 percent to L$315.30 billion in 2024 from L$535.48 billion in 2023.

Manual clearing cheques accounted for the highest transaction volume, increasing to 32,256 (55.23%) in 2024 from 28,608 (53.46%) in 2023, though its total value remained lower than the transaction relating to RTGS.

Despite leading in transaction value, RTGS payments in 2024 declined significantly to L$226 billion in 2024 from L$445 billion in 2023, representing 66.27 percent decline to 33.73 percent of total SIPS transactions. Meanwhile, the Automated Clearing House (ACH) recorded a sharp decline in both transaction volume and value, with volume dropping to 1,032 (1.77%) in 2024, from 8,141 (15.21%) in 2023. The corresponding transaction value also fell to L$2.5 billion (13.85%) by the end of 2024 from L$15.87 billion (86.15%) in 2023.

In contrast, ACH Direct Credit payments demonstrated modest growth in both volume and value, increasing to 10,032 (L$4.92 billion) in 2024 from volume (value) of 8,141 (L$1.33 billion) in 2023. These trends highlighted a shift in transaction preferences within Liberia's payment system, with RTGS maintaining dominance in high-value transactions, while manual cheque clearing continued to lead in transaction volume.

Table 28: Systematically Important Payments System Data (SIPS)

Platform	2023				2024			
	Liberian Dollar		United States Dollar		Liberian Dollar		United States Dollar	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
RTGS	7,225	445,701,126,430.97	49,225	1,570,200,795.05	14,791	226,874,699,359.34	64,645	4,462,917,995.70
ACH CHEQUES	8,141	15,875,080,336.34	33,490	317,415,787,.79	1,032	2,552,245,316.75	10,622	84,159,148.35
ACH DIRECT CREDIT	9,538	1,331,665,681.30	11,031	56,828,038.25	10,153	4,923,351,320.03	10,828	98,219,428.13
PAPSS	-	-	-	-	176	46,572,864.93	-	-
MANUAL CLEARING	28,608	72,569,233,024.92	109,431	1,729,673,173.28	32,256	80,904,447,189.87	134,093	1,708,487,130.72
NEPS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	53,512	535,477,105,473.53	203,177	3,674,117,794.37	58,408	315,301,316,050.92	220,188	6,353,783,702.90

Source: Central Bank of Liberia; Volume represents the number of transactions, while the value represents the amount in LRD/ USD

4.9.4 Retail Payment Systems

The volume of LRD ATM transactions significantly decreased by 26.8 percent to 486,000 in 2024, from 664,000 recorded in 2023. In contrast, the value of LRD ATM transactions reduced by 64.32 percent to L$1,754.57 million, from L$2,727.94 million in 2023.

In terms of USD ATM transactions, the total volume in 2024 increased by 20.48 percent to 1,453,000 transactions from 1,206,000 transactions in 2023. However, for the same period, the value of these transactions decreased by 6.94 percent to US$250.02 million in 2024 from US$268.67 million in the previous year.

The volume of USD POS transactions increased by 29.04 percent to 471,000 in 2024 from 365,000 in 2023. Similarly, the value of POS transactions in USD rose to US$54.88 million from US$40.15 million in 2023, representing approximately 36.7 percent increase. There were no LRD POS transactions recorded in 2023 and 2024.

Internet banking transactions in LRD recorded a 37.50 percent decline in volume to 10,000 in 2024 from 16,000 in 2023. However, the value of internet banking transactions in LRD more than doubled, increasing to L$4,896.08 from L$1,511.93 million in 2023. In terms of USD transactions, the volume of internet banking transactions decreased by 19.67 percent to 49,000 from 61,000 in 2023. However, the value of USD internet banking also more than doubled in 2024, increasing to 396.70 million, from US$123.89 million recorded in 2023.

Regarding mobile banking, the total volume of LRD transactions significantly decreased by 62.50 percent to 36,000 in 2024, from 96,000 reported in 2023. The LRD value also fell significantly by 80.47 percent to L$5,469.85 million in 2024, from L$28,002.17 in 2023. In USD, the volume (value) of mobile banking transactions decreased by 6.54 percent (25.78 percent) to 386,000 (US$241.31 million) in 2024 from 413,000 (US$325.11 million) in 2023.

Notably, E-money transactions reduced by 68.42 percent in volume to 306,000 in 2024 compared to 969,000 in 2023. Similarly, the value also decreased by 4.24 percent to L$22,474.09 million below the L$23,469.50 million in 2023. In terms of USD e-money transactions, the volume fell by 33.16 percent to 1,054,000 from 1,577,000 in 2023. However, the value of USD e-money transactions increased by 4.76 percent to US$959.32 million against the US$915.71 million in 2023.

The volume of debit card transactions in LD dropped by 23.71 percent, to 560,000 in 2024, down from 734,000 recorded in 2023, while the value also fell by 1.36 percent to L$10,642.09 million in 2024 from L$10,788.50 million in 2023. Regarding USD transactions, the volume of debit card transactions surged to 923,000 in 2024 from 33,000 in 2023. The value also rose to US$767.99 million from US$25.06 million in 2023.

Table 29: Digital Financial Services
(Value in Millions of LRD and USD & Volume in Thousands of Numbers of Transactions)

Product/Services	Year 2023				Year 2024			
	LRD		USD		LRD		USD	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
ATM	664	2,727.94	1,206	268.67	486	1,754.57	1,453	250.02
POSs	-	-	365	40.15	-	-	471	54.88
Internet Banking	16	1,511.93	61	123.89	10	4,896.08	49	396.70
Mobile Banking	96	28,002.17	413	325.11	36	5,469.85	386	241.31
E-Money	969	23,469.50	1,577	915.71	306	22,474.09	1,054	959.32
Debit Cards	734	10,788.50	33	25.06	560	10,642.09	923	767.99
Prepaid Cards	-	-	98	2.11	-	-	33	2.89
Total	**2,481**	**66,500.05**	**3,754**	**1,700.70**	**1,398**	**45,236.69**	**4,369**	**2,673.12**

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

CHAPTER 5.0: Internal Developments

5.1 Overview

CBL's departments continued their respective functions in support of achieving the key objectives of the Bank in 2024. Accordingly, the departments performed their statutory functions through engagements in inter-departmental projects and activities with external stakeholders and industry partners.

In this regard, the Research, Policy, and Planning Department (RPPD) was primarily focused on conducting evidence-based research and macroeconomic assessments to inform appropriate policy prescriptions for achieving low inflation and stable exchange rate. The Department oversaw the operations of the MPC Secretariat and provided briefings to the Monetary Policy Committee in support of monetary policy decisions of the CBL. Additionally, through RPPD, the CBL disseminated statistical information on monetary and macroeconomic developments to both domestic and international partners. The Department also prepared reports for multilateral surveillance discussions on macroeconomic convergence criteria under the ECOWAS single currency initiatives.

The Human Resource Management Department (HRMD) remained engaged in ensuring the operational efficiency of the Bank's workforce and fulfilling its strategic objectives. In this regard, HRMD initiated capacity building and talent development, aimed at aligning learning with organizational goals. A total of 179 employees participated in various professional training programs both locally and internationally to enhance their knowledge and skills for greater efficiency and productivity of the Bank.

The Management Information System and Technology Department (MISTD) successfully implemented several key initiatives to ensure connectivity and operational efficiency of the CBL technical infrastructure. These initiatives included expanding technological infrastructure across the country, particularly with the establishment of cash hubs in Bong and Lofa counties, as well as the soon-to-be-completed facility in RiverGee county.

On the operational front, in 2024, the Banking Department completed the currency exchange and replacement exercise of the new Liberian banknotes to address the liquidity needs of the economy. It also continued to transform selected payment centers, particularly, in counties outside Monrovia into cash hubs to enhance banking services.

In the payments system landscape, the Payments System Department (PSD) coordinated various payments system projects, including development of legal and regulatory frameworks, regional integration, implementation of Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), Unique Bank Identification (UBI) project, and National Electronic Payment Switch (NEPS). These efforts were geared toward advancing the automation of GOL payments and enhancing financial inclusion.

Regarding financial sector development in 2024, CBL continued its efforts to promote financial inclusion, financial literacy and access to affordable medium to longterm financing by micro-small and medium enterprises, MSMEs. Additionally, the CBL secured financing to develop a digital solution and designed a national financial literacy campaign program by securing fund for its implementation.

In relation to financial markets, the CBL completed an upgrade to the Depo/x (Script less Security Settlement System) in November 2024. This upgrade has contributed to the automation of certain money and interbank markets transactions, including the issuance of Government treasury instruments in LRD and USD. The upgrade was implemented by the Depo/X Solution Provider, CMA with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) to strengthen the financial markets infrastructure and support domestic debt market development.

The Risk Management and Compliance Department (RMCD), formerly the Enterprise Risk Management Department, led the Bank’s coordinated approach to risk management and compliance activities in 2024. RMCD undertook three key activities during the year, including (1) conducting two full-scope, enterprise-wide risk assessments, (2) The provision of key risk indicators (KRIs) updates as a means of monitoring risks identified by the full scope reviews and (3) conducted three follow-up compliance reviews to ensure that remedial measures identified in full-scope reviews were addressed.

In 2024, the Corporate Communications Section (CCS) led nationwide communications and stakeholder engagements initiatives, focusing on the Bank's strategic plan and the currency reform, particularly the replacement of LS1 and LS2 banknotes. CCS also provided promotional information for the launch of the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and continued regular Monetary Policy Communications.

During the year under review, the General Support Services Department (GSSD) provided logistical and operational support services to all departments of the Bank. GSSD facilitated many support services, including the provision of daily shuttle services to employees, supply of stationery, maintenance of the facilities and equipment, among others.

5.2 Research and Publications

The RPPD utilized macro-financial statistics to conduct macroeconomic assessment, policy analysis and evidence-based research to guide the formulation and implementation of policies, providing appropriate advisory support to the Executive Management, Board of Governors and MPC of the CBL. The key policy recommendations by the Department focused on ensuring that the Bank’s primary objective of domestic price stability (single-digit inflation) was achieved.

In 2024, despite the challenges related to data accessibility from the real economy, the CBL, through RPPD, disseminated statistical information on monetary, financial stability, and macroeconomic developments to both domestic and international partners. The Department consistently submitted weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports to the IMF under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) program, IMF Statistics Department through the integrated correspondence systems (ICS), and other information in support of multilateral discussions between Liberian Authorities and development partners. Additionally, monthly IMF (Article IV) submissions and semi-annual submissions to WAMI, WAMA, and the ECOWAS Commission were diligently carried out. The CBL through RPPD also ensured the dissemination of relevant information, to the public through various channels, including the Monthly Economic Review, bi-monthly Liberia Financial Statistics, and the quarterly Financial and Economic Bulletin.

In 2024, RPPD coordinated and supervised the activities of the Secretariat of the MPC, conducting quarterly assessments of global and domestic macroeconomic developments to inform monetary policy recommendations for the MPC. Additionally, several policy briefs and papers were prepared and submitted to the Board of Governors and Management.

Furthermore, RPPD maintained a productive collaboration and partnership with the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) primarily in relation to the monthly consumer price data validation and other data harmonization efforts. The Department led the conduct of the annual Weighted Average Exchange Rate survey, which aimed at establishing the weights of the contributions of various players in the foreign exchange market. Additionally, the Department conducted the annual Consumer and Business Confidence Survey to gauge business and consumer's sentiments about the economy. It also carried out an extended version of the balance of payments (BOP) enterprise survey for the period 2020- 2023 to enable the Department to facilitate and revise BOP data from 2020-2023 of the country for those years.

The Department actively represented the Bank at various stakeholders' meetings, including the Liquidity Working Group (LWG) meetings involving the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), regional data harmonization workshop for monetary and BOP statistics in ECOWAS.

5.3 Human Resource Management

The Human Resource Management Department (HRMD) remained dedicated to developing efficient workforce of the Bank, ensuring innovation, growth, and the achievement of strategic objectives. CBL continued to prioritize employee engagement, talent retention, and development to position the Bank for sustainable success.

In 2024, the CBL implemented several reforms aimed at improving operational efficiency, particularly personnel expenses as a prerequisite for the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Extended Credit Facility (ECF) Program. One key reform was the rationalization of staff levels, ensuring a more sustainable and operational cost structure, while maintaining productivity.

Given the sensitivity of this initiative, a proactive strategy was developed to mitigate internal and external risks, ensuring transparency, objectivity, and credibility throughout the process. This approach helped to preserve the integrity of the staff rationalization exercise.

As part of the rationalization efforts, CBL adopted a two-pronged strategy: (1) ending contracts for consultants and contractors and (2) recruiting new staff based on a needs assessment. As a result, three critical positions were filled, including one economist. Additionally, CBL successfully recruited top talent in collaboration with the African Development Bank for the Payment Systems Department and secured one of the external members for the Monetary Policy Committee.

A core component of HRMD's initiatives in 2024 was capacity building and talent development. Several policies were revised and implemented to align with the broader workforce reform initiatives that started in 2021. Multiple programs were also launched to create a more equitable work environment, enhance career advancement opportunities, and ensure a structured approach to talent retention.

As a result, 179 employees participated in professional training programs both locally and internationally. These training sessions were delivered through online, classroom, and virtual platforms in partnership with institutions such as: the International Monetary Fund (IMF), African Training Institute, West African Insurance Institute (WAII), AFRITAC West 2 and AFRITAC South, World Bank Group, African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, West African Institute for Financial & Economic Management (WAIFEM), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Bank of Ghana, Bank of Kenya, Capacity for Africa, Alliance for Financial Inclusion, Elite Space International, GIABA, Liberia Institute of Public Administration (LIPA), GONET Liberia, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), Institute for Capacity Development, Continental Reinsurance, FITC, International Management Training Consortium, Banking Institute of Liberia, Giesecke & Devrient Currency Tech, GmbH, Africa Institute of Management Science, US Treasury Department, and the Africa Institute of Management Science.

Among the participants, 23 employees attended virtual training, 97 attended local training, and remaining took part in various other specialized training programs.

As part of its talent retention strategy, CBL provided educational support to several employees. A staff from the Insurance Department of the Bank received a fully funded scholarship for a one-year graduate certificate program at the West African Insurance Institute (WAII) in The Gambia. Additionally, several employees received study leave from the Management to pursue graduate-level studies in financial-related fields, while others received local scholarships.

Furthermore, one employee from the RPPD was seconded as an Economist to the West African Monetary Agency in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for a two-year term effective January 15, 2024. This secondment was in alignment with CBL's efforts to develop expertise and strengthen regional financial collaboration.

In accordance with the CBL Retirement Policy, four employees opted for early retirement due to personal reasons, while two employees retired upon reaching the mandatory retirement age. HRMD ensured a smooth transition for these retired individuals, recognizing their valuable contributions to the Bank.

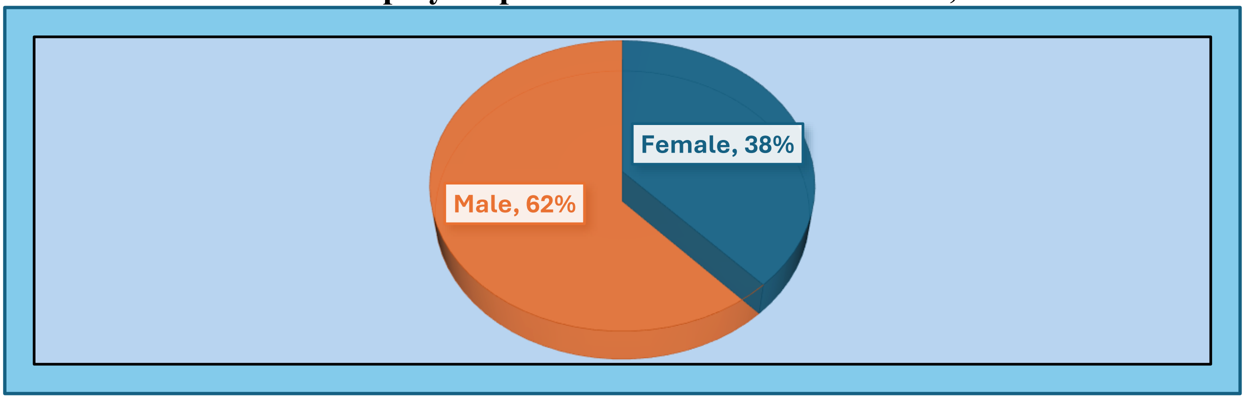
Through strategic workforce rationalization, policy reforms, capacity-building initiatives, and talent development programs, the HRMD continued to maintain operational efficiency, foster employee growth, and ensure the Bank's long-term success. By prioritizing employee engagements and embracing a forward-thinking approach, CBL remained focused on building a resilient and high-performing workforce.

Table 30: Staff Statistics per Department as at December 31, 2024

No.	Department	Permanent		
		Male	**Female**	**Total**
1	Banking	49	51	100
2	Communication Unit	2	1	3
3	DGEP Office	3	1	4
4	DGO Office	3	2	5
5	Development Finance Section	2	3	5
6	Executive Governor's Office	7	3	10
7	Finance	9	4	13
8	Financial Markets	6	3	9
9	General Support Services	41	14	55
10	Human Resource Management	2	8	10
11	Insurance	7	5	12
12	Internal Audit	5	5	10
13	Legal	2	4	6
14	Mgt. Information System & Technology	16	3	19
15	Payment Systems	8	7	15
16	Regulation & Supervision	24	13	37
17	Research Policy & Planning	23	3	26
18	Risk Management & Compliance	5	3	8
	Total Number of Staff	**214**	**133**	**347**
	Total Number of Staff in percentage terms	***62%***	***38%***	***100%***

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Chart 39: Employees per Gender as at December 31, 2024



5.4 Management Information System & Technology

The CBL, through its Management Information System and Technology Department (MISTD), successfully accomplished several key initiatives in 2024. These included expansion of technological infrastructure across the country, particularly with the establishment of cash hubs in Bong and Lofa counties and the soon-to-be-completed facility in River Gee County. The Department was focused on integrating these regional facilities with the central system at CBL headquarters in Monrovia. MISTD was working toward the creation of a unified and centralized information technology network within the CBL.

Additionally, MISTD has prioritized the operational resilience and continuity by minimizing disruptions to the Bank's IT infrastructure that supports the financial sector. Amongst achievements made by MISTD in 2024 were:

- Enhancement of power stability within the CBL data center;
- Upgrading of the financial reporting system (Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains (GP));
- Upgrading of the Scripless Security Settlement System or (Depo/x);
- Implementation of the Auto Audit;
- Deployment of T24 system at the National Port Authority (NPA); and
- Successfully implemented the SWIFT Customer Security Program (CSP) for 2024.

The MISTD has developed its strategic plan anchored on four key initiatives: Infrastructure Stability; optimization, Capacity building; and Security. These initiatives were intended to position the CBL for digital transformation and support digital transaction in commercial banks and licensed financial institutions.

5.5 Banking Operations

In 2024, the Banking Department remained operational, implementing the normal banking operations, facilitating the currency exchange exercise and managing the currency of the CBL. The banknotes and coins delivered into the country in 2024 totaled L$13,737,600,000.00, reflecting the remaining portion of the approved amount by the 54th National legislature, while destroyed legacy banknotes amounted to L$3.897 billion.

The Bank took a policy decision to limit the current threshold of withdrawal to US$25,000.00 or its equivalent in LRD by identified employee of Ministries and Agencies of Government and US$5,000.00 or equivalent in LRD to individuals per day. Meanwhile, in the implementation of the currency reforms, the deadline for the termination of the legal tender status of the LS1 and LS2 was extended to May 15, 2024 due to the inaccessibility of many areas outside Monrovia.

5.5.1 Currency Delivery

Considering the level of success of the currency changeover process, the deadline for the legal tender status of the Liberian dollar Series One (LS1) and Liberia Dollar Series Two (LS2) was set at May 31,2024. However, these series were only allowed to be exchanged at CBL's facilities (Main Office and Cash hubs). Based on this decision, only the newly printed family of Liberian dollar banknotes and minted coins referred to as LS3 are considered legal tender.

5.5.2 Status of the Currency Exchange Exercise

For the year 2024, the total Liberian dollar banknotes and coins delivered into the country totaled L$13,737,600,000.00 and broken down as follows:

- **Banknotes: L$12,531,000,000.00**, reflecting the remaining portion of the **L$47,064,500,000.00** approved banknotes for printing in keeping with the Joint Resolution of the 54th National Legislature of May 2021.

- **Coins: L$1,206,600,000.00** approved for minting as coins by the 54th National Legislature.

5.5.3 Currency Exchange and Replacement Exercise

As at end-December 2024, the total legacy banknotes, both LS1 and LS2 withdrawn from circulation and destroyed amounted to L$24.3 billion, representing 94.4 percent of the total estimated legacy banknotes in circulation at end-December 2022.

5.5.4 Decentralization of Banking Activities

In view of the limited banking infrastructures and networks in several rural parts of the country, the CBL used the Gbarnga Cash and the Voinjama Cash Hubs to redeem the legacy banknotes through the commercial banks and the public. During the festive season, the CBL Cash Hubs paid cash to the RCFIs through Afriland First Bank.

5.6 Payments System Activities

The Liberian payment system has evolved significantly since the National Payment Systems reform, driven by increased participation of financial institutions and mobile technology providers. This development aligned with CBL's commitment to promoting digital payments as a viable alternative to use of cash, as outlined in its Strategic Plan (SP) and National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS). The NFIS (2020-2024) aimed to expand access to formal financial services, targeting an increase in financial coverage from 35.7 percent to at least 50.0 percent by 2024.

5.6.1 Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

CBL amended its Regulations Concerning Agency Banking to enhance financial inclusion by expanding access to banking services for the unbanked and underserved populations in rural areas. The amendments focused on three key areas:

- *Tiers of Banking Agents* – Establishing distinct categories of agents to improve service accessibility;
- *Accounts Managed by Agents* – Defining the types of accounts that agents can handle to streamline operations; and
- *Interoperability* – Enhancing seamless transactions across financial service providers.

These amendments were designed to introduce a tiered approach that simplifies service delivery, increases accessibility, and maintains a well-defined scope of operations.

Additionally, CBL signed a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* with the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) for establishment of collaborative framework that will ensure financial services are safe and compliant with both financial and telecommunications regulations.

5.6.2 Implementation of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)

The PAPSS Project remained instrumental in harmonizing payment system infrastructure, creating a unified framework for transacting, clearing, and settling cross-border payments using domestic currencies. This initiative leveraged RTGS across several countries, including Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, and other parts of Africa.

A key milestone was the CBL successful integration with member central banks within the West WAMZ and other sub-regions. Additionally, CBL has overseen the onboarding of eight out of nine commercial banks onto the PAPSS platform, enabling them to offer payment and remittance services since the system went live on June 5, 2024.

These advancements highlighted significant progress in payment system alignment, enhancing financial integration and facilitating cross-border transactions in support of regional economic growth and financial stability.

5.6.3 Advancing the Implementation of a Unique Bank Identity Project

As part of the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) initiative to implement the Unique Bank Identification (UBI) Project in the WAMZ, the CBL actively collaborated with WAMI in finalizing the Project Appraisal Report.

A virtual appraisal mission was conducted with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, leading to the signing of the Aide Memoire by the CBL. The project was officially launched in Conakry, Guinea, followed by a virtual project opening meeting, where the implementation roadmap was discussed and adopted by participating WAMZ Central Banks.

Progress was made in recruiting a digital identification (ID) firm with expertise in policy and regulation to develop and disseminate a harmonized customer ID framework for the financial sector within WAMZ. Additionally, efforts were underway to recruit another firm with specialty in digital identity to assist WAMI in designing and implementing the UBI system.

5.6.4 Implementing New National Electronic Payment Switch

The Government of Liberia received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) (Credit and Grant) towards the cost of implementing the Liberia Investment, Trade and Finance Project: (LIFT-P) through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI). A portion of the proceeds of this financing was being used to facilitate the implementation and operationalization of a retail payment infrastructure (NEPS) and capacity building for the CBL. Additionally, the African Development Bank (AfDB) committed fund for the National Payment Systems and infrastructure upgrade.

5.6.5 Advancing the Automation of GoL's Payments

CBL partnered with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to expand the use of electronic payments for public services. This integration automates salary, pension, and vendor payments to civil servants, pensioners, and government agencies, directly into their accounts at commercial banks. It also promotes financial inclusion by converting previously unbanked individuals into account holders. The system reduced fraud, theft, reconciliation errors, and costs associated with manual payments, while improving efficiency. The solution included robust controls for verification and authorization prior to processing transfers through the ACH direct credit system.

5.7 Financial Sector Developments

During the year under review the CBL continued activities aimed at promoting financial inclusion, financial literacy and access to affordable medium to longterm financing by micro-small and medium enterprises, MSMEs.

5.7.1 Financial Inclusion Activities

Efforts towards improving the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) Sector: Under the Liberia Investment Finance and Trade (LIFT) Project, the CBL worked with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to accelerate the procurement processes for the hiring of a consultant that would conduct a comprehensive nation-wide assessment of the VLSAs and develop a database. The result of the consultancy was intended to inform future interventions in the VSLA sector, including reforming the governance and operations, as well as assisting the sector to digitize and connecte to the mainstream financial sector.

Further, during the year 2024, the CBL secured financing to develop a digital solution for VSLAs. Once the digital readiness assessment, which would be conducted in tanderm with the VSLA assessment and mapping exercise, was completed, the development of the solution and pilotting thereof will commence. As the rest of the financial sector was moving with the wave of digitization, the low tiered financial institutions such as VSLAs were prioritized as they cater to a huge share of the population that do not have access to the mainstream financial institutions.

***Financial Education and Literacy*: **The CBL developed a national financial literacy campaign program and secured funding for the implementation. The CBL contracted the services of the Female Journalist Association of Liberia (FEJAL) and PERT Consultancy to support efforts of rolling out the financial literacy campaign throughout the country. The financial literacy efforts received support from the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) of the United States Treasury Department.

During 2024, the CBL remained actively engaged with the Alliance for Financial Inclsuion (AFI). Staff of the CBL participated in AFI working group meetings, seminars, workshops and the AFI's flagship program- the Global Policy Forum (GPF), which was held in September in San Salvador, El Salvador under the theme: "Innovation for and Inclusive World."

5.7.2 Development Finance Initiatives

As the APEX for administering the Implementation of the Line of Credit (LOC) under the Liberia Investment Finance and Trade (LIFT) Project, the CBL ensured the total disbursments of US$1.875 million (75% of total allocation of US$2.5 million) to three (3) Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) for onlending to MSMEs, with priority for women-owned or operated businesses. Disbursement under the first phase of the LIFT/LOC was made as follows:

- **Afriland First Bank Liberia Limited (AFBLL):** 75 percent of total allocation of US$1.0 million, amounting to US$750,000.00;
- **Cititrust Microfinance Company:** 75 percent of total allocation of US$0.8 million, amounting to US$600,000.00; and
- **Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company (LEDFC):** 75 percent of total allocation of US$0.7 million, amounting to US$525,000.00.

As per the project design, the Apex was required to receive detailed information about the sub-borrowers that received financing under the previous disbursement, conduct assessment to ascertain that the PFIs met the general project conditions before disburing the remaing allocation. The APEX was to work with the the PIU and the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) to make a determination on the unallocated amount to ensure that more MSMEs benefit from the funding.

Climate Financing: In 2024, the CBL participated in the Conference of the Parties (COP 29), which was held in September 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was intended to increase staff exposure and knowledge about the implications of climate change on the financial sector and the wider economy. The CBL remained engaged with the short-term consultant hired by the World Bank to assist the Bank in mainstreaming climate issues in Liberia’s financial system. The consultant completed a draft assessment report along with a roadmap, pending stakeholders validation.

5.8. Financial Markets Activities

5.8.1 Progress on Domestic Debt Market Development

CBL completed an upgrade to the Depo/x (Script less Security Settlement System) on November 23, 2024. The upgrade has led to the automation of money and interbank market transactions, including the Government treasury instruments issuances in LRD and USD. The upgrade was implemented by the Depo/X Solution Provider, CMA with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) through WAMI to strengthen the financial markets infrastructure for Liberia’s domestic debt market development.

5.8.2 Regional Capital Market Integration Activities

In 2024, the CBL actively participated in key regional initiatives to strengthen the West Africa's capital markets and develop the domestic capital market in preparation for regional integration.

CBL, in close collaboration with the West African Securities Regulators Association (WASRA) and WAMI, developed processes to facilitate broker approvals across jurisdictions at the West Africa Capital Market Integration Council (WACMIC) Technical Committee meeting held in Accra, Ghana in July 2024. The developed procedures outlined a pathway for qualified Liberian brokers to receive domestic approval according to WASRA's rules to participate in regional markets. The CBL also partnered with WAMI and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to host a two-day Capacity-Building and Sensitization program on Capital Market Integration in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) in November 2024. This program certified 36 public and private stakeholders, making them an integral part of the shared mission to develop the capital markets in Liberia.

As part of the WAMZ's Regional Capital Markets Integration project, International Securities Consultant (ISC) conducted a need assessment of the equity market leading to the development of Equity Capital Market Roadmap for Liberia in May 2024. This roadmap outlines steps to develop the Country's equity market. Additionally, in June 2024, CBL in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning hosted a two-day training provided by ISC to build the capacity of Institutional Investors Base in domestic debt market. The West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM) also provided training to staff of CBL and the Ministry of Finance's Debt Management Unit in Liquidity/Cash Forecasting and Debt Management. These capacity development initiatives were part of the WAMZ Domestic Debt and Equity Markets Projects managed by WAMI and funded by the AfDB.

Furthermore, the AfDB approved US$400,000.00 grant for Liberia's Pension Sector Intervention project in which the CBL remained the implementing agency. This project aims to expand pension coverage and establish a regulatory framework for private pensions. It is a significant step towards enhancing Liberia's social security system.

5.9 Regulatory and Supervisory Activities

5.9.1 Regulatory Activities

As part of the ongoing review of the CBL's regulatory and supervisory framework, guidelines and directives were aligned with contemporary supervisory good practices, the proposed "Bank-Financial Institutions & Bank Financial Holding Companies Act, 2022 (BFIA)" was submitted to the National Legislature for approval in the first quarter of 2025. The amended Act aims to enhance the resilience and safety of the financial system, protect depositors, and strengthen the CBL's authority over licensing, supervision, regulation, and resolution of financial institutions and holding companies.

The CBL reviewed and amended Regulation No. CBL/RSD/001/2024 Concerning Agent Banking in Liberia. This amended Regulation provides for a tier of service that is simplified, easily accessible, and strictly limited in scope. It also allows banks to use retail-level agents with lower eligibility requirements and operational standards.

5.9.2 Supervisory Activities

The Anti-Money Laundering Unit of the CBL has been committed to ensuring that Financial Institutions adhered to all AML regulations, directive and guidelines to adequately prevent, detect and mitigate money laundering and terrorist financing.

In 2024, the CBL conducted a comprehensive field survey of several foreign exchange bureaus and money remittance entities within the sector. The purpose of the survey was to collect data for examiners to conduct risk assessments of both sectors.

The first draft of the amendment of the CBL AML/CFT Regulation No. CBL/RSD/002/2017 was under review pending submission. The Regulation was being amended to align with the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Preventive Measures, and Proceeds of Crime Act, 2021. Furthermore, the Regulation was also being revised to correct major deficiencies captured in the second round Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) of The Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering and Terrorism in West Africa (GIABA).

GIABA commenced its off-site follow-up in April 2024 and administered questionnaires, which were duly filled out by the unit and submitted to GIABA.

5.9.3 External Support to the Collateral Registry System

The CBL continued its collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and key Government of Liberia (GOL) ministries, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), to enhance the Collateral Registry System. This initiative is part of the Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade Project (LIFT-P), which is financed by the International Development Association (IDA). LIFT-P is funded through: An IDA grant of US$40 million (US$ 20 million grant and IDA credit of US$20 million).

The project is designed to support Liberia's private and financial sectors, with a strong focus on expanding access to finance for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The primary implementing institutions are the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) and the CBL.

As part of the project's implementation, a dedicated team consisting of representatives from the CBL, IFC, and MOCI was established to oversee project deliverables and strategic engagements. Activities under this initiative included: assessing the existing collateral Registry System to identify areas for improvement, engaging with key stakeholders to enhance system adoption and usage and conducting study tours to explore and adopt international best practices.

The project remained ongoing, with structured action plans guiding the implementation process to ensure effective execution and sustainable impact.

5.10 Insurance Sector Activities

During the year in review, the Insurance Department completed the Bancassurance Complaints Handling Manual and Template for Comprehensive reporting. Furthermore, the Department completed the draft Insurance Commission Act to transition the Department to a full fledge commission. The United States Department of Treasury (OTA) provided technical assistance to the CBL through review of the draft act, which was to be submitted to the Law Reform Commission for review consistent with the law.

As part of the mandate of the Bank, the CBL carried out comprehensive full-scope examination of all the insurance companies to inform policy decisions. This examination included verification of corporate governance & ownership structure, examination of adequacy of IT infrastructure, financial data collation, verification of assets & liabilities, analysis (including Capital Adequacy, Liquidity, and Solvency position), and Compliance with National laws, policies and regulations, including AML/CFT laws. As at end 2024, there were 15 licensed insurance companies operating in Liberia and one entity with provisional license.

5.11 Risk Management and Compliance

The Risk Management and Compliance Department (RMCD), formerly the Enterprise Risk Management Department, was established in 2023 by merging the functions of risk management and compliance to bring a coordinated approach to risk management and compliance activities at the CBL. The new RMCD has two sections: Risk Management Section and Compliance Section and the Department now has a reporting line to the Board of Governors on both risk management and compliance issues.

Under the risk management function, the Department was charged with the responsibility to ensure that business units across the Bank adequately identify, measure, monitor, and control risks to which they are exposed. The Department focused on promoting a risk-smart and risk-aware workforce that serve as a basis for the development and implementation of risk-sensitive policies and procedures to guide the daily activities across the enterprise.

In this regard, the RMCD was engaged in several key activities during the year 2024. The activities included:

- The conduct of two full-scope, enterprise-wide risk assessments, the results of which were risk registers of the CBL's risk profile and measures required to address control gaps;
- The provision of Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) updates monthly, as a means of monitoring risks identified by the full scope reviews; and
- Conduct of three follow-up compliance reviews to ensure that remedial measures identified during full-scope reviews are addressed by concerned business units.

Under the Compliance Section, the RMCD has worked with the Internal Audit Department and obtained the Board of Governors' approval to transfer all operational activities to RMCD. During the year under review, RMCD continued with its operational and compliance related activities, including cash counts, mutilated banknotes destruction, and compliance review of all payments instructions before they are paid.

5.12 CBL Accounting and Finances

The CBL financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, was prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The statements were to be audited by Deliotte and Touche in collaboration with Bakertilly Liberia, consistent with the provisions of Section 50 of the Amended and Restated CBL Act 2020.

5.12.1 Income and Expenditure

CBL's preliminary un-audited Income Statement for the year ended December 31, 2024, revealed a gross revenue of the Bank in the tune of L$5.4 billion compared with L$5.0 billion in 2023. This represented a rise by L$ 0.46 billion in gross revenue mainly attributed to a rise in interest income. Total expenditure for the year 2024 amounted to L$7.9 billion compared with L$5.3 billion in 2023, excluding impairment release/loss on financial assets.

5.12.2 Financial Position

CBL's preliminary un-audited total liabilities, including IMF related liabilities on December 31, 2024, amounted to L$320.98 billion compared with L$293.19 billion in 2023, indicating a L$27.78 billion increases. The increase in liabilities was mainly attributed to rise in IMF related liabilities, deposits from banks, deposits of GOL and agencies, market instruments, as well as an increase in currency in circulation. The CBL's un-audited total owners' equity as at December 31, 2024, was L$29.1 billion compared with L$34.4 billion in 2023.

5.12.3 Budget

For the year 2024, the CBL recorded a year-to-date income of US$34,489,734 against a projection of US$28,751,857, exceeding the projection by 20 percent.

On the expenditure side, the CBL incurred a total expenditure of US$40,103,894 in 2024 against the approved allotment of US$40,344,157, thereby resulting in an overall saving in the amount of US$240,263.

5.14 Internal Audit Department (IAD)

The IAD over the past year has made strides in enhancing the Bank internal controls and risk management processes. The efforts of the Department have not only strengthened the CBL's financial integrity but also fostered a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

In 2024, the IAD successfully completed several key audits, providing valuable insights and recommendations that remained instrumental in driving operational efficiencies and mitigating risks. Collaboration with various departments has been exemplary, and the adoption of the "risk-based" Internal Audit approach since 2020 has proven to be effective in identifying and mitigating potential risks, whilst allocating resources appropriately.

The audits were completed alongside the Department co-sourced partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Ghana, which continued to be in line with the Board's decision to run the co-sourcing project for another year to fill the resource gap identified at the end of the previous three (3) year contract, predicated on recommendation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Safeguard Mission 2019.

These audits include Management Information Systems and Technology Audit, Enterprise Risk and Compliance Management Audit, Payment Systems Audit, Regulation and Supervision Audit, Research Policy and Planning Audit and Human Resources Management Audit.

Also, in October 2024, the Department initiated a system audit and a review of the Legal Department both of which were ongoing and completed.

In addition to these audits, the IAD has also undertaken various management assignments, contributing to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Bank's operations. Key of which includes the conduct of regular monthly, quarterly, and annual cash counts of the vaults (Operational and Reserve) of the Bank, ensuring the accuracy and security of the bank's assets.

Furthermore, in December 2024, the Department handed over all compliance-related functions to the newly established Risk Management and Compliance Department with a recommendation for Banking and all other operational departments to update their manual replacing the Internal Audit Department with Risk and Compliance Management Department in various sections of the Manual where these activities were mentioned. This transition has allowed for a more focused and specialized approach to managing compliance risks within the Bank and helped the Department to mitigate the risk of self-review.

The Internal Audit Department has embarked on the transition from paper based to automated software through the implementation of AutoAudit.

5.15 Legal Services Department

The Legal Department continued to provide legal advisory and representation services to the Bank, in collaboration with the Bank's External Legal Counsels, as needed. Core amongst its activities was offering legal opinions/advising on regulatory matters and representing the Bank in legal proceedings where it was either a complainant or defendant.

During the year under review, the Department engaged in several activities, which included, but were not limited to the followings:

- Represented the Bank in multiple litigation cases across various judicial forums, such as the Ministry of Labor Standards Division, National Labor Court, Civil Law Court, Commercial Court, and the Supreme Court of Liberia. The Department also addressed labor related disputes and other legal matters;

- Collaborated with the Payment Systems Department and provided legal expertise in finalizing the draft Amendments and Restatement of the Payment Systems Act 2024 with technical support from UNDP.
- Drafted, reviewed and finalized various contracts and agreements for departments, sections and units within the Bank. Such legal documents included employment and consultancy agreements (short-term contracts, professional service, secondment). Other included financial and operational agreements (insurance contracts, IT contracts, audit contracts, security contracts, retainership agreements) as well as lease agreements, vehicle rental agreements, cash ship contracts;
- Participated in in-house internal investigations involving allegations of breach of the Decent Work Act of Liberia, the CBL Policy and Employee Handbook and other administrative regulations; and
- Participated in the retrenchment Strategy along with the Human Resource Management Department (HRMD) to provide legal guidance in keeping with law, which was successfully implemented.

5.16 Corporate Communications and Public Relations Activities

5.16.1 Introduction

In 2024, the Corporate Communications Section (CCS) led nationwide communications and stakeholder engagements initiatives, aligned with the Bank's strategic plan and currency reform efforts, particularly the replacement of LS1 and LS2 banknotes. The CCS also continued its promotional efforts for the launch of the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and played a key role in Monetary Policy Communications. Throughout the year, CCS successfully finalized the currency reform awareness campaign, which involved extensive media outreach and public education initiatives, and strategic stakeholder engagements. CCS collaborated closely with other departments in the Bank’s overall communication objectives.

Additionally, CCS played a critical role public communication related to the GAC’s audit. This included clarifying key audit details, providing timely responses to auditor inquiries, and mitigating public relations fallouts.

CCS also developed and executed communication strategies to ensure a smooth transition for end-of-contract contractors and supported the rollout of the World Bank-backed Line of Credit program.

Key initiative led by CCS, included the drafting, publishing, and distributing press releases, and other materials, producing the flagship quarterly magazine, The Regulator, hosting a bi-monthly radio program on ELBC radio to engage the public, using the Bank's official Facebook page to disseminate information.

Additionally, routine communication activities such as press releases, radio programs, jingles, fliers, banners, and website updates remained essential components of CCS operations.

5.16.2 Currency Reform Communications

In March 2024, the CCS, guided by a Communications and Operational Strategy, CCS initiated a nationwide currency exchange awareness campaign to phase out the old Liberian dollar banknotes (LS1 and LS2). This campaign was a critical undertaking for the CCS and required extensive outreach efforts.

To effectively implement the currency exchange exercise, CCS divided Liberia into four regions and deployed dedicated staff members to conduct public awareness about the phasing out of LS1 and LS2 banknotes. The team engaged local county officials through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and partnered with the Liberia Marketing Association to facilitate outreach in key marketplaces. The campaign officially launched on March 18, 2024, and proved to be highly effective in educating the public about the new currency.

Additionally, CCS partnered with over 30 radio stations nationwide to broadcast: radio jingles and skits in simple Liberian English and traditional Liberian languages and live radio interviews to allow the public to ask questions and receive clarification on the currency exchange process.

5.16.3 Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) Communications

In 2024, CCS closely collaborated with the Payment System Department to develop a comprehensive communication plan for the rollout of Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a system designed to facilitate cross border payments in local currencies across West Africa.

Key achievements in 2024 included onboarding of Six commercial banks into the PAPSS system and launching live transactions via PAPSS in June 2024, following approval from Bank Management. To ensure widespread awareness, CCS conducted outreach session with key stakeholder groups, including: cross-Border Traders, the Liberia Marketing Association, and the Liberia Business Association (LIBA),

Regarding widespread awareness, CCS implemented a multi-channel communication strategy, including radio broadcasts on 10+ stations featuring jingles and skits in local languages, distribution of 500+ fact sheets and promotional flyers, production of 11 pull-up banners for public events

Additionally, CCS established a communications network between commercial banks and the CBL, facilitating smooth collaboration and successful pilot transactions through PAPSS.

5.16.4 Development and Collaboration

In 2024, CCS played a significant role in implementing the National Financial Education (FinEd) initiative enhance financial literacy among the Liberian public. Key contributions included developing strategic communication materials for the official launch of FinEd, collaborating with the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Technical Assistance to align Liberia’s FinEd strategy with best practices from other African countries, developing strategic communication materials for the official launch of FinEd and working with the Ministries of

Gender and Education to ensure alignment between the FinEd initiative and national development objectives.

5.16.5 Media/Public Relations Activities

During the reporting period, CCS proactively countered disinformation and propaganda campaigns against the Bank. The efforts, included issuing timely press releases clarifying misinformation, engaging with media houses to ensure factual reporting, and maintaining the Bank's public image through strategic media relations.

5.16.6 Routine Media Activities

CCS actively engaged in routine media activities to enhance public awareness of the Bank's initiatives and policies. Key activities included hosting the bi-monthly radio program *Money Matters*, covering topics such as monetary policies, currency reform updates, PAPSS; publishing and distributing the flagship quarterly magazine, *The Regulator*. Through these efforts, CCS strengthened public understanding of the Bank's policies, financial stability efforts, and ongoing economic initiatives.

5.16.7 Social Media

In 2024, CCS continued with the effective use of the Bank's official Facebook page to reach more audiences by creating and sharing digital content, pictorials of events, and press releases. The total number of followers of the page was 58,804 with a potential for further growth in 2025. Out of this total number of followers, 76.6 percent are male while 23.4 percent are females with over 50,000 of the followers based in Monrovia. Amongst several other contents published; the daily exchange rate is the most frequently shared content on the page.

Table 31: Summary of Major Activities by CCS

Activity	Deliverables in 2024
Currency Reform Campaign	Nationwide LS1 & LS2 awareness campaign culminating into 90% replacement of the old Liberian currency. Over 30 radio stations engaged in broadcasting currency exchange messages.
PAPSS Implementation	Onboarding of six commercial banks to implement PAPSS Outreach to key stakeholders, including cross-border traders and business associations.
Financial Education Strategy	Development of a comprehensive FinEd strategy in collaboration with international, local partners, and government ministries.
Media and Public Relations	Managed misinformation related to the GAC audit and external disinformation campaigns. Issued press releases, conducted radio appearances, and drafted a media mitigation strategy.
Routine Activities	Produced three editions of *The Regulator* magazine. Conducted bi-monthly *Money Matters* radio programs.
Social media	Facebook page achieved over 58,000 followers with content shared obtaining an average of 5,000 reached per post

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.17 General Support Services Department

Through 2024, the GSSD played a crucial role in providing logistical and operational support to all departments within the Bank. Key support services, included provision of daily employee shuttle services, provision of office supplies and stationery, facility and equipment maintenance, among others.

In addition, the Department achieved the following:

- Completed the construction of the second regional cash hub in Fish Town, River Gee County;
- Facilitated the successful delivery of all currency shipments; and
- Conducted successful tendering of procurement requirements.

These efforts contributed to the smooth operations of the Bank and enhanced service delivery across various departments.

5.18 Banking Institute of Liberia

1.18.1 Introduction

The Banking Institute of Liberia (BIL) carried out several key activities in 2024, including: (a) Short–Term Training (b) BIL – CIBN Professional Certification Examination Preparatory (c) BIL Roundtable Conference (d) Finalization of BIL Accreditation (e) Rural Banks Training Curriculum and (2) Proposed Training Activities for 2025.

5.18.2 Training Activities, 2024

5.18.2.1 Short – Training Programs

During the period under review, the Institute trained eighty six (86) participants, forty-one (41) males and forty –five (45) females in entry-level, bank-related training courses. These courses covered twelve (12) areas, including Systems & Controls, Customer Service, Internal Audit, Bank Tellering, Introduction to Banking Operations, Regulatory Framework and Compliance, Credit Analysis, Financial Reporting & Analysis, Bank Branch Management, Human Resource Management, Treasury Management, and Corporate Risk Management. The participants were drawn from the CBL and member institutions of the Liberia Bankers Association.

5.18.2.2 Banking Professional Certification Training

The BIL enrolled fifteen (15) staff members from CBL, LBDI, SIBLL, Bloom Bank Africa Liberia Limited (Bloom Bank), and AFBLL to sit for the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) Professional Banking Diploma Level I Certification Examination. Preparatory training for the examination took place in April 2024. Successful candidates are expected to progress to the Intermediate Banking Professional Level II Course and upon completion admitted into the Chartered Bankers course.

5.18.3 BIL Roundtable Conference

In 2024, the Banking Institute of Liberia, in collaboration with the Liberia Chambers of Commerce. hosted a One-Day Roundtable Conference aimed at addressing key challenges in banking, credit administration and legal framework related to lending.

The conference, held on October 3, 2024, at Monrovia City Hall, identified several barriers to investment in Liberia, including ambiguities in legal and regulatory frameworks, financial constraints and infrastructural challenges, property rights and land tenure issues, difficulties in contract enforcement, limited borrower education on loan processes, high interest rates and corruption, and low financial inclusion.

Additionally, the forum provided capacity-building sessions on: handling commercial cases and enforcing contracts related to credit and loan administration, basic commercial laws and financial literacy for small business operators, the Liberianization policy and capital access requirements for investment, tax compliance and regulatory simplifications.

5.18.4 Finalization of BIL Accreditation

The Institute fulfilled all necessary requirements for accreditation of its programs by the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) and is currently awaiting approval.

5.18.5 Public Engagement Program

During the period under review, a total of one hundred sixty-five (165) candidates were set to graduate. One hundred thirty-one (131) s successfully completed all requirements for the award of Certificates of Achievement and Professional Development in the following areas: Banking and Finance, internal Audit & Controls, Compliance & Corporate Risk Management, Procurement & Supply Chain Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Human Resource Management & Customer Service and Microfinance & Small Business Development. Furthermore, thirty –four (34) completed all requirements for the award of graduate diploma in Banking & Finance, Audit & Internal Controls, Compliance and Corporate Risk Management, Procurement and Supply Chain Management.

5.18.6 Proposed Training Programs, 2025

5.18.6.1 Rural Banks Training

In 2025, BIL plans to launch Rural Banks Training Program focusing on the following areas: Compliance and Corporate Risk Management, Audit & Internal Controls, Customer Relationship Management, Credit and Lending Administration and Banking Operations.

5.18.6.2 Chartered Banking Training of Trainers

As part of the preparations to introduce a Professional Banking Certification Examination in Liberia, the BIL has enrolled twelve (12) faculty members into the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) Chartered Bankers Program. Upon completion, these faculty will be equipped to facilitate BIL’s Banking Programs in banking Diploma, Intermediate Professional and Chartered Banking Certification.

5.18.6.3 Financial Literacy Program for SMEs

Following key discussions from the October 31, 2024, Roundtable Conference, the Banking Institute of Liberia (BIL) has developed a Financial Literacy Program aimed at small and medium enterprise (SME) operators across Liberia. This initiative seeks to address challenges in the SME sector, particularly by reducing the rising incidence of non-performing loans and addressing financial management inefficiencies.

5.18.7 Training Collaboration

5.18.7.1 BIL – Afriktech Computerize Financial Management Training

The Banking Institute of Liberia (BIL) has signed a training collaboration agreement with Afriktech Inc., a Liberian Information and Communication Technology (ICT) firm, to offer courses in computerized financial management. The program will cover essential financial software, including QuickBooks, Tally, and Excel, among others.

This initiative is designed to enhance the capacity of in-service financial management professionals while also providing training opportunities for individuals seeking to acquire computerized financial management skills. The program is set to launch in mid-2025.

5.18.7.2 BIL –ACCA Sierra Leone Financial Accounting Training

The BIL and ACCA Sierra Leone discussed arrangements for collaboration to run Financial Accounting Training for Liberian accountants to sit the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants Examination. Under this arrangement, the ACCA Testing Center was expected to be housed at the Banking Institute in Liberia.

5.18.8 Constraints

The CBL faced significant budgetary constraints under the IMF Program. These challenges were particularly evident in the implementation of new professional banking education programs, as the Banking Institute of Liberia (BIL) experienced serious operational constraints.

To address these challenges, and given the tight schedule of the Board Chair, the BIL engaged with Management to designate a focal person who would serve as a direct liaison between the Institute and the Chair. This measure aimed to ensure seamless communication, keep the Chair informed, and facilitate the expeditious execution of key action points.

CHAPTER 6.0: External Relations

6.1 Multilateral Relations

In 2024, the CBL, on its external rebranding mechanism, was committed to the Bank's multilateral relationship, not only with regional and continental institutions, but also with global and international institutions. The Bank's continued leverage training and staff capacity building opportunities, regional projects to enhance staff's capacity and facilitate financial inclusion.

6.2 Association of African Central Banks

The CBL was among more than forty central banks on the African continent invited by the Bank of Zambia (BOZ) in collaboration with the Association of African Central Banks (AACBs) to attend the 46th Ordinary in-person Meetings of the Assembly of Governors, in Port Louis, Mauritius, from August 30th – September 4th, 2024.

The six-day Annual Meetings comprised the following: a three-day technical committee meeting that discussed twenty-four key agenda items, out of which, among other things, the status of the Implementation of the African Monetary Cooperation Program (AMCP), the Study of the African Countries debts, Themes of the AACBs Continental Seminars, Themes of the Governors' Symposium, Activities of the Community of African Banks Supervisors (CABs), Status of contributions to AACBs 2024 budget, Cooperations with International Development partners.

The meetings were attended by a total of 34 Member Central Banks including representatives from regional and global institutions, development partner such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The meetings were also attended by visitors, and representatives from global institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group (WBG), and the European Commission (EU).

At the end of the Meeting of the Assembly of Governors, the following decisions were considered and noted:

- The AUC should ensure the full implementation of the decision to fast-track the operationalization of the African Monetary Institute (AMI).
- the implementation of the report of the African Monetary Cooperation Program (AMCP) in 2023;
- that the AACB's secretariat should continue the monitoring of all approved decisions in progress;
- that the updated version of the study on public debts in African countries should incorporate comments from the AACB's Member States, and the publication of the paper be placed on the AACB's website by the secretariat;

- the implementation of the proposed roadmap to develop a harmonized monetary policy framework and report the implementation status at the AACB's Bureau in March 2025;
- ensure that the secretariat reminds AACB member central banks to send their signed Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMOU) as soon as possible;
- the adoption of the parentship framework between AACB and external institutions or organizations to allow for effective assessment of partnership requests;
- the endorsement of the election of Mr. Harvesh Kumar Seegolam, G.C.S.K., Honorable Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, as chairman of the AACB from September 2024 - August 2025. Mr. Yvon Sana Bangui, honorable Governor of the Banque des États de L 'Afrique Centrale (BEAC) as AACB Vice Chairman for the same period.
- For the West African region, the Governor of the BCEAO was elected as the chairperson of the West African Sub-Region, with the Governor of the CBL serving as the Alternate (Vice-Chairperson) Bureau Member of West Africa.

In accordance with the principle of regional rotation and rotation of member states, the CBL was designated to serve as Alternate Chair to BCEAO by the outgoing chair of the West African sub-Region, the Central Bank of Nigeria, for the 2024-2025 term. This designation means that Liberia should work closely with BCEAO, other central banks in ECOWAS, and the AACB in overseeing activities related to the African Monetary Cooperation Program (AMCP).

6.3 African Development Bank (AfDB)

The 2024 AfDB Annual Meetings, comprising of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the AfDB and the 50th Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund, took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 31 May 2024, under the theme: "Africa's Transformation, the African Development Bank Group, and the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture" for the Bank Group's governors to share their experiences on the progress implementing key reforms.

The Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group's brought together approximately 3,000 delegates and participants from Africa and other continents. During the meetings, the institution and its shareholders, reviewed progress during the past year and discussed key questions regarding development in Africa.

The CBL, through its Financial Markets and Payment Systems Departments (FMD and PSD), continued to work with the AfDB in implementing the following projects.

- Liberia Pension Reform Project with FMD;
- Debt Market Development with FMD;
- West African Capital Market Integration with FMD
- Unique Identifications & Digital Interoperability with PSD, and
- Payments System Infrastructure upgrade with PSD.

Once these projects become operational, the Bank intends not only to mobilize additional resources for its budget, but will also be capacitated to monitor financial systems and track funds through the National Electronic Payments Switch (NEPS) and ensure that customers are easily identified through the digital interoperability system. This will make credit administration and processes seamless across the financial system of the country.

6.4 West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)

WAMI and the CBL remained collaborative in fostering the mandate of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), which was established in 2000. Its mission, amongst other things, is to monitor the quantitative convergence criteria and facilitate trade integration, financial sector integration, payments system development, and statistical harmonization in the six (6) WAMZ countries – The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

In 2024, WAMI, in collaboration with two software companies, EMTECH and THA, through a partnership agreement, successfully conducted the initiation workshops to digitize the regulatory sandbox of four member countries of the WAMZ (The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). Preliminary issues and the proposed roadmap for the development of the Project Appraisal Report (PAR) are currently being discussed between WAMI and AfDB. If all the preparatory works along with the modalities go well, the WAMZ Regional Digital Regulatory Sandbox will be funded with a grant amounting to US$1.5 million. The Project will cover all the Member States of WAMZ.

6.5 West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)

In 2024 WAMA's Mid-Year 2024 Statutory Meetings were held in Dakar, Senegal, hosted by the Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO). The Governor of BCEAO, Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi BROU, formally introduced the event and welcomed participants.

During the meetings, WAMA reported on the progress of implementing the Committee of Governors' decisions, including the finalization of the proposed Central Bank of West Africa (CBWA) statutes, the Monetary Union Agreement, and the implementation of the ECOWAS Payment and Settlement System (EPSS). Additionally, calls for expressions of interest were issued for hosting the EPSS infrastructure, along with several other proposals.

In the meetings, the replacement of the Director General of the Agency (WAMA), Mr. Momodou B. Saho (now former Director General) was discussed after serving two terms (each term for 4 years). He was replaced by Mr. Boima S. Kamara, the former Deputy Governor for Economic Policy at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and former Minister of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), Republic of Liberia.

1.6 ECOWAS Commission

The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with WAMA, West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) and Member States has continuously been monitoring economic activities in Member States' in the context of the implementation of the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Program (EMCP).

In 2024, ECOWAS Joint Multilateral Surveillance Mission (JMSM) Team conducted one multilateral Surveillance mission instead of the usual two missions, due to financial and other challenges. During its mission in Liberia, the team visited MFDP, CBL, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), and the Liberia Bankers Association (LBA). The meetings with the Liberian authorities and stakeholders focused on discussions regarding macroeconomic developments, status of convergence, and policy harmonization within the framework of ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Program (EMCP).

At the end of the surveillance mission visit, the ECOWAS team submitted an aide memoir to the CBL's management and recommended the following actions for consideration:

- that the monetary authority should maintain its tight monetary stance to anchor inflation expectations and support domestic production of Liberia's staple food;
- that the monetary authority should leverage market instruments such as repurchase agreements (repos) to deepen the money and capital market and promote vibrant secondary market activities for effective liquidity management and the enhancement of monetary policy transmission; and
- that the monetary authority undertakes a Unique Bank Identification and digital interoperability project to enhance borrowers' identification system and deter predatory borrowers to help address the rising non-performing loans (NPL) ratio, among others.

6.7 West African Institute for Financial & Economic Management (WAIFEM)

In 2024, WAIFEM continued with its capacity program in support of strengthening institutions in countries of the WAMZ. The institution successfully executed forty-one (41) regional training workshops and capacity building activities across its five (5) Member States. About seventy-five percent of the programs was held at its Headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria, while other courses were held in the capitals of the other Member States. The modes of training used by WAIFEM include virtual learning, E-blended learning (hybrid learning), and in-person training (face-to-face).

In the year under review, WAIFEM conducted four regional courses in Monrovia, Liberia. Courses offered were Joint World Bank/IMF/WAIFEM Regional Lower Income Countries Debt Sustainability Analysis (LIC DSA) (May 13 -17, 2024), Regional course on Exchange Rate Regimes and Polices (May 27-31, 2024), Insurance Supervision (August 5 - 9, 2024), and Regional course on Planning for Retirement & Personal Finance Management skills (September 16– 20, 2024).

6.8 ECOWAS Payment and Settlement System (EPSS)

The ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with WAMA, implemented a Regional Instant Payment System (IPS) to facilitate intra-regional cross-border instant payments. In keeping with the decision of the Committee of Governors of the ECOWAS Member States central banks, WAMA invited expressions of interest (EOI) from Member States central banks to host the regional Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and the Regional Instant Payment System (RIPS). The following were received:

- Three (3) expressions of interest from the BCEAO, the Bank of Ghana and the Central Bank of Nigeria to host the regional RTGS; and
- Three (3) expressions of interest from switching companies to host the RIPS: NIBSS, GIM-UEMOA and GhIPSS.

WAMA was expected to review the evaluation criteria and develop detailed guidelines along with the necessary datasets. The evaluation meeting to collate the scores awarded by the assessors and prepare the evaluation report for submission to the Committee of Governors is expected to be done in the first half of 2025.

6.9 Pan African Payment & Settlement System

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), designed to facilitate instant and secured cross-border payments in local currencies across Africa. It was publicly launched on January 13, 2022, by the African Union (AU) and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to support trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). As at end June 2024, 29 commercial banks have signed PAPSS membership agreement, increasing the network to 124 commercial banks. The PAPSS network now includes a total of 9 switches across Africa, with 5 national switches among them. The number of live banks has increased from 37 to 63, with all completing the integration process. Transaction volume continues to grow in the system, with both volume and value increasing at an accelerating rate.

6.10 Other Capacity Building Developments

During the year under review, CBL participated and benefitted from various capacity building trainings conducted by regional and global development partners, including the IMF Headquarters, AFRITAC West II, Africa Training Institute (ATI) and WAIFEM. The Bank will remain engaged with these institutions to enhance reforms and strengthen capacity.

During the year, the Bank seconded a total of Eight (8) staff to three regional institutions: WAIFEM (1 staff), WAMI (5 staff), and WAMA (3 staff). The secondment program provided an additional opportunity for professional development, complementing other training initiatives such as hands-on training, workshops, seminars, forums, symposia, and short-term placements, etc.