

# CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

OVER	VIEW	1-111
I.	DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD ECONOMY	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	The United States Economy	1
1.3	The Euro Area	1
1.4	Emerging Markets and Developing Economies	1
1.5	Sub-Sahara Africa	2
1.6	Global Inflation	2
II.	DOMESTIC ECONOMY	4
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Sectorial Review	5
2.2.1	Agriculture and Forestry	5
2.2.2	Industrial Production	6
2.2	.2.1 Minining	6
2.2	.2.2 Manafacturing	7
2.3	Consumption of Petroleum Products	10
2.4	Sea Port Developments	11
2.5	Electric Power Developments	12
2.6	Price Developments	13
	Domestic Price Developments	
2.6.2	Inflation by Group	14
2.6	.2.1 Contribution to Changes in CPI (%)	14
2.6	.2.2 Administered, Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Market Prices	15
2.6	.2.3 Inflation Outlook	15
III.	MONETARY AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT	20
3.1	Monetary Policy Stance	20
3.2	Banking Sector Developments	20
3.2.1	Capital	20
3.2.2	2 Asset and Liquidity	20
3.2.3	Profitability	21
3.2.4	Commercial Bank Credit	22

3.2.6 Liberian Dollars in Circulation
3.2.8 Broad Money Supply
3.3 Government Securities
3.4 Central Bank of Liberia Bill and SDF29
IV. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS
4.1 Overview of GOL's Fiscal Operations
4.2 Government Revenue
4.3 Government Expenditure
4.4 Public Debt
V. EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS
5.1 Overview
5.2 Current Account (CA)
5.2.1 Goods Account (Net)
5.2.2 Exports
5.2.3 Imports (FOB & CIF)
5.2.4 Direction of Trade (DOT)
5.2.5 Service Account (net)
5.2.5.1 Primary Income (net)
5.2.5.2 Secondary Income (Net)
5.2.5.3 Personal Remittances
5.3 Capital Account (KA)
5.4 Financial Account (FA)
5.4.1 Direct Investment (Net)
5.4.2 Direct Investment (Net)
5.5 Gross International Reserve Position
5.6 Exchange Rate Developments

Table 1.1: Selected Global Output	د
Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook	5
Table 2.2: Key Key Agriculture Production	5
Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output	9
Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products	10
Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements	11
Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments	
Table 2.7: Headline and Quarterly Changes in CPI (%)	16
Table 2.8: Inflation by Sub-group	
Table 2.9: Hamonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups	19
Table 3.1: Commercial Bank's Loans by Economic Sectors	
Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates	25
Table 3.3: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates	25
Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and Its Sources	26
Table 3.5: CBL Bills	
Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2022	31
Table 4.1: Government Revenue	34
Table 4.2: Government Expenditure	35
Table 4.3:Liberia's Public Debt Statistics	
Table 5.1:Directions of Trade	39
Table 5.2: Balance of Payment Statistics	
Table 5.3: Maket Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar	
Table 5.4: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar (2	017-2020) 40
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	5
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	5 11
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	5 11
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production  Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products  Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic  Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation	5 11 12
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production  Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products  Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic  Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation  Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations	5 11 12 12
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production  Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products  Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic  Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation  Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations  Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI	5 12 12 13
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation	5 12 12 13 14
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices Chart 3.1:Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors	5 12 13 14 15 15
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices Chart 3.1:Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices Chart 3.1:Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation Chart 3.3: Narrow Money Supply (M1)	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices Chart 3.1:Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation Chart 3.3: Narrow Money Supply (M1) Chart 3.4: Broad Money Supply (M2) Chart 3.5:Broad Money: Share of US and Liberan Dollars	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products	
Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production	

## **OVERVIEW**

Following initial improvement in the first quarter of 2022, global outturn moderated in the second quarter of 2022, predominantly induced by downturns in China and Russia. Consequently, global output was revised downward by 0.4 percentage points to 3.6 percent in the April 2022 WEO<sup>1</sup>'s publication. Global growth has been impacted by several shocks in 2022, notably the rapid increase in global inflation, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict – prompting an unprecedented hike in interest rates as well as a rise in food and energy prices.

Growth for major economies, including the US and the Euro Area, was downgraded in the second quarter of the year. For the US, growth was revised downward by 1.4 percentage points to 2.3 percent in 2022, from the 3.7 percent previously projected. This development was induced by monetary policy adjustments and fall in private consumption. Growth for the Euro Area was slightly downgraded by 0.2 percentage points to 2.6 percent relative to the 2.8 percent projected in the first quarter. The slight downgrade reflects the negative effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the pursuit of tighter financial policies by the ECB<sup>2</sup>.

Similarly, growth in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) was revised downward by 0.2 percentage points to 3.6 percent. This was largely attributed to developments in China and India. China's growth was revised downward to 3.3 percent – predominantly due to the negative effects of the country's zero COVID-19 policy. Similarly, India's growth was revised downward by 0.8 percentage points to 7.4 percent. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) growth was downgraded by 0.8 percentage points to 3.8 percent, from the 4.6 percent projected in the first quarter, mainly reflecting moderation in Nigeria's growth, and decline in South Africa's outturn.

Global inflation surged in quarter two of 2022 particularly in advanced economies and some emerging markets and developing economies. The rise in global inflation was largely on account of the rising energy prices fueled by the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Global inflation is projected at 6.6 percent and 9.5 percent in advanced economies and emerging markets & developing economies, respectively. Global growth is further projected to moderate to 2.9 percent in 2022, primarily due to projected moderation in advanced economies to 1.4 percent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> World Economic Outlook

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> European Central Bank

However, emerging markets and developing economies are expected to grow by 3.9 percent in 2022.

On the domestic front, Real GDP<sup>3</sup> is projected to moderate to 3.7 percent relative to the 5.0 percent recorded in 2021. The expected moderation reflects slowdowns in major sectors of the economy – particularly, the primary and secondary sectors. Growths for the primary and secondary sectors are projected to decline to 4.4 percent and 3.6 percent in 2022, respectively. The mining & panning subsector as well as the agriculture & fisheries, and forestry subsectors are expected to drive the moderation in the primary sector, while cement production is projected to induce the moderation in the secondary sector.

Headline inflation remained in single-digit, but moderated to 6.3 percent in quarter two of 2022, from the 7.9 percent recorded in the first quarter, largely on account of broad stability in the exchange rate. However, food inflation marginally increased to 1.1 percent, while non-food inflation moderated to 9.9 percent. Core inflation also moderated by 5.7 percentage points, largely attributed to restaurants & hotels and recreation & culture subgroups.

Developments in the financial sector showed improvements in key balance sheet indicators. Except for capital and liquidity, all balance sheet indicators saw improvements. The industry's gross operating income amounted to L\$4.60 billion of which interest income constituted 47.3 percent while non-interest income constituted 52.7 percent. Gross operating expenses totaled L\$5.63 billion. Both return on asset (ROA) and return on equity (ROE) expanded during the quarter, while the NPLs marginal decrease.

Loans and advances rose by 2.5 percent to L\$74.93 billion during the quarter under review. In terms of sectoral distribution, manufacturing and services received the highest contributions, 1.4 percentage points, and 1.2 percentage points, respectively. In terms of currency composition, L\$ constituted 7.1 percent, while US\$ accounted for 92.9 percent of total loans and advances. Developments in interest rates revealed broad stability in the lending rates. The average lending rate was 12.4 percent, while the spread between the average lending and saving rates was 10.3 percent.

Broad money (M2) supply grew by 10.0 percent to L\$145.08 billion at end-June 2022, from the L\$142.27 billion reported at end-March 2022. The stock of L\$ in circulation narrowed by 1.3 percent to L\$22.82 billion at end-June 2022, from the L\$23.11 billion reported in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Real Gross Domestic Product

previous quarter, mainly occasioned by 8.3 percent decline in currency in banks. In terms of currency composition, the L\$ constituted 28.6 percent while US\$ constituted 71.4 percent of M2 – thus, signaling the high level of dollarization of the Liberia economy. There was neither issuance nor redemption of the government's T-bill and T-bond as subscriptions for the CBL bills expanded during the quarter under review due to increase in awareness.

Government fiscal operations for the quarter under review resulted to a surplus of 0.4 percent of GDP in the overall balance, this development was on account of growth in government revenue which outweighed the increase in public expenditure.

From provisional statistics, developments in the external sector were mixed during the quarter under review. The current account deficit improved to 1.6 percent of GDP, mainly driven by trade and services deficits, while the capital account surplus narrowed due to reduction in capital transfers. Net inflows in the financial account grew to 1.7 percent of GDP, reflecting increase in other investment inflows. Consequently, the overall balance of payments (BOP) recorded a slight deficit amounting to 0.2 percent of GDP, from the surplus of 0.8 percent of GDP recorded in the first quarter. Total merchandise exports rose by 15.0 percent to 7.8 percent of GDP, largely on account of growth in major export receipts excluding gold and diamond.

Exchange rate developments remained positive as the Liberia dollar broadly remained stable against the US dollar and fell in the tolerable bound (+/- 10.0 percent) of the region's convergence criteria. The period average exchange rate marginal appreciated by 0.4 percent to L\$151.84 per US dollar for quarter two of 2022 relative to L\$152.72 per dollar reported in the preceding quarter.

# I. DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

#### 1.1 Introduction

Global outturn moderated in the second quarter following the initial recovery in the first quarter of 2022 according to the July WEO 2022 report. The moderation in global outturn was predominantly due to downturns in China and Russia. Consequently, global outturn was downgraded by 0.4 percentage point to 3.2 percent relative to the April 2022 projection. Already constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy has been hit by several shocks in 2022, notably the higher-than-expected inflation in advanced economies (particularly the US and major European economies), including some emerging markets as well the adverse spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Notably, the shocks have induced an unprecedented rise in interest rates as well as global food and energy prices. The global situation has resulted to temporary abandonment of the widespread monetary accommodation during the pandemic, in response to price pressures, persistent supply shortages and fiscal fatigues. Also, global outturn is projected to further moderate to 2.9 percent in 2023, thereby constraining the post pandemic recovery in global economic activity.

## 1.2 The United States (US) Economy

Growth for the United States was revised down by 1.4 percentage point to 2.3 percent in the second quarter of 2022 from the 3.7 percent previously forecast in the first quarter. The downgrade was largely induced by the decline in private consumption and adjustment in monetary policy. In terms of outlook, growth in the US economy is projected to further decline to 1.0 percent in 2023.

#### 1.3 The Euro Area

The growth projection for the Euro Area during the second quarter was slightly revised downward. Growth moderated by 0.2 percentage point to 2.6 percent relative to 2.8 percent estimated. The downgrade in growth reflects the negative spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on the region and adoption of tighter financial policies by the ECB<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> European Central Bank

Furthermore, the growth in Euro Area is projected to decrease by 1.1 percentage point in 2023 on account of the anticipated slowdown in global trade and expected weaker foreign demand.

## 1.4 Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

Growth in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) further slowdown slightly by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6 percent compared to the April 2022 projection. The negative revision of growth in EMDEs was largely due to the contraction of China's economy and the moderation in India's growth. The downgrade to China's growth was partly on account of the negative effects of the zero covid-19 policy – consequently resulting to lockdowns and restrictions. Likewise, economic activities in India declined by 0.8 percentage point to 7.4 percent in the second quarter of 2022, strongly explained by decline in external injection and rapid policy restrictions.

#### 1.5 Sub-Sahara Africa

The growth prospects in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) for the second quarter of 2022 stood at 3.8 percent, driven largely by persistent structural constraints faced by the region's three largest economies: Nigeria, South Africa and Angola. The momentum of economic activities in Nigeria for the quarter under review was exhausted with no change when compared to the estimate in the first quarter of 2022. This was largely due to an increased global prices of fossil fuel and metal. Notwithstanding, South Africa's growth was sustained with a marginal upward difference of 0.4 percentage point to 2.3 percent (WEO January 2022). However, the growth outlook for sub-Saharan Africa remains virtually gloomy and uncertain due to elevated commodity prices with adversity on real incomes, demand, and economic activity. In 2023, the outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa is projected at 4.0 percent.

#### 1.6 Global Inflation

Global inflation increased markedly in advanced economies and some emerging market and developing economies, remaining above target largely driven by war-induced commodity prices in the second quarter of 2022. Globally, headline inflation is projected to increase by 0.9 and 0.8 percentage point to 6.6 and 9.5 percent in advanced economies, and emerging markets, and developing economies, respectively. The rise in inflation is anticipation of inflation declining as central banks tighten policies and when energy price base effects turn negative. However, from the outlook, inflation in 2023 is projected to moderate to 5.7 percent globally, with advanced economy group expected to record 3.3 percent, while emerging markets and

developing economies is projected at 7.3 percent. Russia-Ukraine crisis is also expected to negatively affect global food and energy prices, thereby inducing inflationary pressure.

Table 1.1: Selected Global Output, 2021-2023

				Difference July 2022	
	Estimate	Projec	tions	Update	
	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023
World Output	6.1	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.7
Advanced Economies	5.2	2.5	1.4	-0.8	<b>-1.0</b>
United States	5.7	2.3	1.0	-1.4	-1.3
Euro Area	5.4	2.6	1.2	-0.2	-1.1
Japan	1.7	1.7	1.7	-0.7	-0.6
United Kingdom	7.4	3.2	0.5	-0.5	-0.7
Canada	4.5	3.4	1.8	-0.5	-1.0
<b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b>	6.8	3.6	3.9	-0.2	-0.5
Emerging and Developing Asia	7.3	4.6	5.0	-0.8	-0.6
China	8.1	3.3	4.6	-1.1	-0.5
India	8.7	7.4	6.1	-0.8	-0.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.9	3.0	2.0	0.5	-0.5
Brazil	4.6	1.7	1.1	0.9	-0.3
Middle East and Central Asia	5.8	4.8	3.5	0.2	-0.2
Sub-Sahara Africa	4.6	3.8	4.0	0.0	0.0
Nigeria	3.6	3.4	3.2	0.0	0.1
South Africa	4.9	2.3	1.4	0.4	0.0
<b>World Consumer Prices</b>	4.7	8.3	5.7	0.9	0.9
Advanced Economies	3.1	6.6	3.3	0.9	0.8
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	5.9	9.5	7.3	0.8	0.8

Source: "International Monetary Fund. July 2022. World Economic Outlook Update: Gloomy and More Uncertain. Washington, DC,".

# II. DOMESTIC ECONOMY

#### 2.1 Introduction

Real GDP growth is projected to moderate to 3.7 percent in 2022 from the 5.0 percent recorded in 2021. The slowdown in economic activity across major sectors of the economy, particularly, the primary and secondary sectors is expected to induce the moderation.

In the primary sector (agriculture & fisheries, forestry, and mining & panning), growth was projected at 4.4 percent in 2022, down from the 7.2 percent in 2021 mainly attributed to the expected decline in the mining & panning as well as agriculture & fisheries subsectors. The mining & panning subsector is expected to record lower growth mainly on account of decrease in iron ore production. Iron ore volume decreased by 3.7 percent to 1,300,000 metric tons, from 1,350,000 metric tons in the first quarter of 2022.

Also, growth in the agriculture & fisheries subsector is expected to slow to an estimated 3.6 percent in 2022 compared to the 4.0 percent in 2021, reflecting estimated decrease in rubber and palm oil production, partly on account of unfavorable prices. However, the forestry subsector is expected to expand by 2.1 percent in 2022, from 1.0 percent in 2021 on account of increases in production of log & timber and charcoal & wood.

The secondary sector (manufacturing) is projected to moderate at 3.6 percent in 2022, from the 4.7 percent recorded in 2021, expected to be driven mainly by declines in cement output. The tertiary sector is expected to expand by 2.7 percent from 1.9 percent in 2021 on account of increased activity in services emanating from government services, trade, hospitality, and construction subsectors.

In terms of outlook, RGDP growth for 2023 is projected to increase by 4.7 percent, reflecting developments in the forestry, agriculture & fisheries sub-sectors, manufacturing and services related activities. In anticipation of increased economic activity, growths in all sectors are expected to rise, except for mining & panning that is expected to moderate on account of the projected moderation in gold output. The key risks to growth, however, include supply chain disruption evolving from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and unanticipated resurgence in the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook (2019-2023)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Real GDP	(2.5)	(3.0)	5.0	3.7	4.7
Agriculture & fisheries	2.2	6.4	4.0	3.6	4.0
Forestry	(7.5)	4.6	1.0	2.1	3.9
Mining & panning	13.2	2.0	17.6	7.1	4.3
Manufacturing	(10.5)	0.0	4.7	3.6	5.5
Services	(7.5)	(12.7)	1.9	2.7	5.5

Sources: IMF & Liberian Authorities

#### 2.2 Sectorial Review

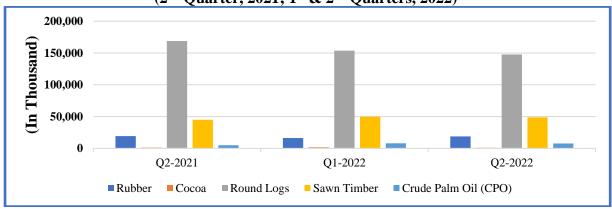
## 2.2.1 Agriculture and Forestry

Table 2.2: Key Agricultural Production (2<sup>nd</sup> Ouarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ouarters, 2022)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Real GDP	-2.5	-3.0	5.0	3.7	4.7
Agriculture & fisheries	2.2	6.4	4.0	3.6	4.0
Forestry	-7.5	4.6	1.0	2.1	3.9
Mining & panning	13.2	2.0	17.6	7.1	4.3
Manufacturing	-10.5	0.0	4.7	3.6	5.5
Services	-7.5	-12.7	1.9	2.7	5.5

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Liberia Produce & Marketing Corporation (LPMC); Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA); Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

#### a. Rubber

Output of rubber in the second quarter of 2022 rose by 15.3 percent to 18,800 metric tons, from 16,309 metric tons produced during the previous quarter largely induced by higher production from the largest producing entity. However, production in the reported quarter fell by 2.8 percent compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

<sup>\*</sup> Projections

#### b. Cocoa

Cocoa output for the quarter decreased by 43.5 percent to 869 metric tons, from 1,538 metric tons produced in the preceding quarter mainly on account of unfavorable harvest. Compared with the corresponding period a year ago, output fell by 15.4 percent.

#### c. Sawn Timber

Sawn timber production during the quarter decreased by 2.2 percent to an estimated 48,626 pieces, down from 49,720 pieces reported for the previous quarter. The decline in output was mainly due to low demand for the commodity resulting from the rainy season. Relative to June 2021, output increased by 8.1 percent.

## d. Round Logs

Total production of round logs during the quarter fell by an estimated 3.9 percent, from 153,673 cubic meters recorded during the previous quarter. The decline in output was mainly attributed to slowdown in the global price of the commodity. On an annualized basis, output fell by 12.6 percent.

## e. Crude Palm Oil (CPO)

Output of crude palm oil (CPO) for the quarter decreased by 2.5 percent to 7,689 metric tons, from 7,885 metric tons produced a quarter ago on account of slight reduction in output from the largest producer of the commodity. Compared with the production recorded in the same quarter a year ago, CPO production rose by 54.1 percent.

#### 2.2.2 Industrial Production

## 2.2.2.1 Mining (Gold, Diamond, and Iron Ore)

## i. Gold

Gold production during the quarter decreased by 7.4 percent to 92,476 ounces, from 99,880 ounces recorded in the previous quarter on account of decreased mining activity. Compared with the corresponding period of 2021, output increased by 114.8 percent.

#### ii. Diamond

The output of diamond during the quarter fell significantly by 51.3 percent to 12,391 carats, from 25,450 carats reported in the previous quarter on account of decreased mining activity, especially in the month of April. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, output fell by 7.5 percent.

#### iii. Iron Ore

During the quarter, the output of iron ore fell slightly by 3.7 percent to 1,300,000 metric tons, from 1,350,000 metric tons produced in the previous quarter. However, compared with the corresponding period in 2021, output increased by 5.3 percent.

The declines recorded in the outputs of diamond, gold and iron ore were largely on account of unfavorable weather condition.

## 2.2.2.2 Manufacturing

#### i. Cement

Cement produced during the quarter was 149,463 metric tons, down from 152,906 metric tons reported during the previous quarter, reflecting a slight decline of 2.3 percent on account of decreased construction activity due to the rainy season. When annualized, production rose by 11.9 percent.

#### ii. Beverages

Output of beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) fell slightly by 0.5 percent to 4.37 million liters, down from 4.39 million liters produced during the previous quarter largely due to a decrease in demand. On an annualized basis, beverage output declined by 3.7 percent. A disaggregation of total beverage produced for the quarter ended June 2022 showed that the contribution of alcoholic beverages was 89.2 percent, while non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 10.8 percent.

## iii. Soap

Soap production for the quarter declined by 6.0 percent to 70,356 kilograms, from 74,879 kilograms reported in the preceding quarter on account of decreased demand for the commodity. However, on a year-on-year basis, soap production rose by 43.7 percent at end-June, 2022 compared with the corresponding quarter in 2021.

#### iv. Paint (Oil and Water)

Total paint production (oil and water paints) during quarter one of 2022, decreased to 42,841 gallons, from 57,941 gallons produced during the previous quarter due mainly to low demand. On a disaggregated basis, oil paint accounted for 61.9 percent, while water paint contributed 38.1 percent of the total paint produced. Similarly, compared with the same period a year ago, output fell by 2.4 percent.

#### v. Varnish

The volume of varnish produced during the quarter was 2,709 gallons, down by 39.2 percent a quarter ago on account of lower demand of the commodity. Compared to the same period in 2021, output decreased by 67.7 percent.

#### vi. Manoline Hair Grease

Production of manoline hair grease rose in the quarter by 34.6 percent to 4,385 kilograms, from 3,259 kilograms produced during the preceding quarter mainly due to high demand for the commodity. However, on an annualized basis, output during the quarter reduced by 7.2 percent when compare with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021.

#### vii. Thinner

Total production of thinner at end-June 2022 stood at 2,708 gallons, reflecting a decrease of 35.6 percent relative to the previous quarter on account of lower demand of the commodity. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, output decreased by 60.2 percent in the current quarter, compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021.

#### viii. Rubbing Alcohol

The quantity of rubbing alcohol produced in the reporting quarter stood at 64,903 liters, 27,822 liters higher than the output of the previous quarter. The rise in output was occasioned by increased demand for the commodity. On an annual basis, output in the quarter declined by 50.7 percent compared with the second quarter of 2021.

#### ix. Chlorox

Chlorox output declined to 214,980 litres for the quarter ended June 2022, from 218,584 litres produced a quarter ago, reflecting 1.6 percent reduction in output driven by lower demand. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, output in the quarter under review fell by 2.6 percent compared with the same quarter a year ago.

#### x. Candle

Total candle output during the quarter stood at 10,794 kilograms, from 13,188 kilograms produced in the preceding quarter, reflecting 18.15 percent decline due largely to contraction in demand. Similarly, year-on-year comparisons showed that production declined by 17.0 percent compare with the corresponding quarter of 2021.

#### xi. Mattresses

Mattresses produced during the second quarter of 2022 rose by 7.5 percent to 35,031 pieces, from 32,598 pieces produced at the end of the first quarter of 2022 on account of higher demand. Compared with the same period a year ago, production declined by 5.4 percent.

#### xii. Finished Water

Total output of finished water during the review quarter declined by 19.2 percent to 193.07 million gallons, compared to the output recorded in the preceding quarter. The decline in output was largely due to a decrease in the running hours of pumps. Compared to the same period in 2021, output declined by 2.7 percent.

## xiii. Mineral Water

The total volume of mineral water produced during the quarter stood at 62,985 litres, down from 136,785 litres recorded during the previous quarter, representing 54.0 percent reduction in output. The decline in water production was mainly attributed to fall in demand. Compared to the corresponding period in 2021, production declined by 42.0 percent.

Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Commodity	Unit Q2-2021 Q1-202		Q1-2022	Q2-2022
Gold	Ounce	43,059	99,880	92,476
Diamond	Carat	13,389	25,450	12,391
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,235,000	1,350,000	1,300,000
Cement	Mt.	133,576	152,906	149,463
Spirits	Litre	39,593	50,546	35,183
Beer	Litre	2,178,606	1,944,751	1,901,253
Stout	Litre	1,886,877	1,923,269	1,960,762
Malta	Litre	221,760	208,209	219,447
<b>Soft Drinks</b>	Litre	210,981	265,946	253,860

Oil Paint	Gal.	25,588	33,263	26,513
Water Paint	Gal.	18,305	24,678	16,328
Varnish	Gal.	8,388	4,454	2,709
Manoline H. Grease	Kg	4,091	3,259	4,385
Thinner	Gal	6,799	4,202	2,708
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	130,571	37,081	64,903
Soap	Kg	48,961	74,879	70,356
Chlorox	Litre	221,472	218,584	214,980
Candle	Kg	12,999	13,188	10,794
Mattresses	Pcs.	33,235	32,598	35,031
Finished water	Gal.	198,424,691	285,646,889*	207,740,954*
Mineral Water	Litre	108,560	136,785	62,985
Electricity	kW	64,360,140	44,896,141	49,509,979

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy; Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation
\*Projections

## 2.3 Consumption of Petroleum Product

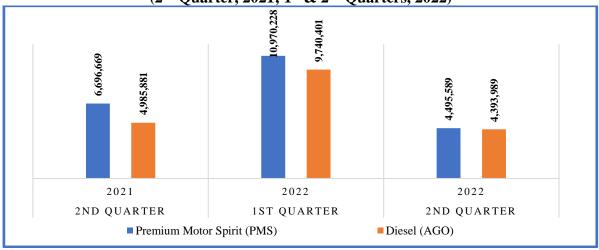
Total consumption of petroleum products, Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and Diesel or Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), decreased to 8.89 million gallons, from 20.71 million gallons consumed during the previous quarter. The decline in the consumption of petroleum products was largely attributed to inventory buildup in the preceding quarter as well as lower demand in Liberia due to hike in the prices during the quarter. Compared to the corresponding period in 2021, total petroleum consumption decreased by 23.9 percent. Disaggregation of total consumption of petroleum products showed that PMS constituted 50.6 percent, while AGO accounted for the remaining 49.4 percent.

Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Commodity	Unit	$Q^2$ -2021	Q <sup>1</sup> -2022	$Q^2$ -2022
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	6,696,669.33	10,970,228.44	4,495,589.11
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	4,985,880.55	9,740,400.81	4,393,989.33
Total	Gal.	11,682,549.88	20,710,629.25	8,889,578.44

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)



Source: Liberian Petroleum Refining Company

## 2.4 Seaport Developments

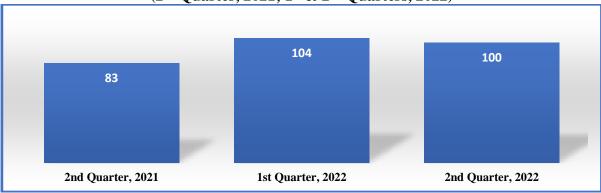
Statistics on vessels traffic for the second quarter of 2022 showed that 100 vessels with combined Summer Dead Weight Tons (SDWT) of 2.3 million docked at various ports along the Liberian coast, representing 3.8 percent decrease in the number of vessels anchored compared with the previous quarter. The reduction in turnout of vessels during the review quarter was largely explained by the decline in activity at the Port of Monrovia. In terms of percentage distribution, vessels anchored in Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville, and Harper accounted for 62.0 percent, 27.0 percent, 8.0 and 3.0 percent, respectively. Compared with the corresponding period a year ago, the number of vessels docked on the shore of Liberia increased by 17. Disaggregation of total cargo tonnage showed that imports accounted for 38.3 percent, while exports constituted 61.7 percent (Table 2.4).

Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT)	Cargo Ton	nage (In Met	ric Tons)
Quarter	110. 01 V CSSCIS	vessels vessel weight (SDW1)		Exports	Total
Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	83	3,059,981	578,275	980,258	1,558,533
$Q^{1}$ -2022	104	3,602,177	614,679	1,301,740	1,916,419
$Q^2$ -2022	100	2,258,516	654,400	1,056,019	1,710,419

Source: National Port Authority (NPA) SDWT=Summer Dead Weight Tons

Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)



Source: National Port Authority (NPA) SDWL= Summer Dead Weight Tons

# **2.5 Electric Power Developments**

Electric power produced by the national power generating facilities<sup>2</sup> during the review quarter increased to 49.51 million kilowatts, up from 44.90 million kilowatts produced in the previous quarter, representing an increase of 10.3 percent. The rise in electric power generation was mainly on account of higher generation from one of the power generation centers. However, on a year- on-year basis, electric power generation declined by 23.1 percent.

Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Kilowatts)

	(11110 (14100))						
	Unit	Service	Generation				
Q²- 2021	kW	Electricity	64,360,140				
$Q^1$ -2022	kW	Electricity	44,896,141				
$Q^2$ -2022	kW	Electricity	49,509,979				

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of kilowatts)



Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Mount Coffee Hydro, the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Generators, and the High-Speed Diesel (HSD) generators.

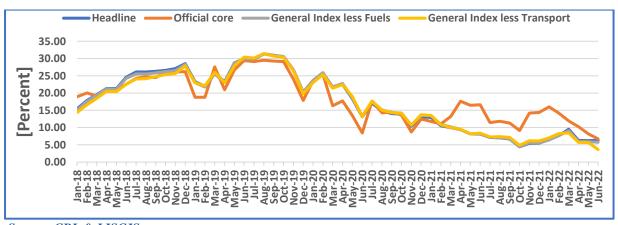
### 2.6 Price Developments

## 2.6.1 Domestic Price Developments

Average headline inflation<sup>3</sup>, during the quarter, moderated to 6.3 percent from 7.9 percent reported in the previous quarter. The decline in headline inflation during the quarter was largely on account of reduction in food prices due to exchange rate appreciation and increased domestic food production. Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2021, inflation during the quarter moderated by 2.3 percent, from 8.6 percent in the second quarter of 2021 (Chart 2.6).

Food inflation during the quarter moderated to 1.1 percent, from negative 1.9 percent in the previous quarter. The slight increase in food inflation for the quarter was mainly reflective of the increase in the prices of imported food items (Chart 2.7, Table 2.7). Non-food inflation moderated by 9.9 percent, from 13.3 percent recorded during the quarter ended March 2022. The moderation in non-food inflation was largely due to the appreciation of the domestic currency against the US dollar.

Official core inflation<sup>4</sup> moderated by 5.7 percentage points from the preceding quarter and 8.5 percentage points from the corresponding quarter a year ago. The decrease in official core inflation was mainly explained by the moderation in prices relating to restaurants & hotels and recreation & culture subgroups (chart 2.6).



**Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflations** 

Source: CBL & LISGIS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The results from the 2016 Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) were used to update the weights in the CPI basket in December 2018 which reflect the current consumption pattern of the average Liberians.

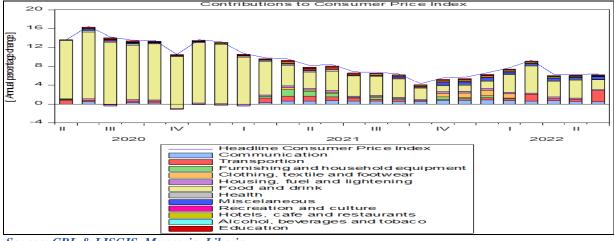
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Headline inflation less food and transport

## 2.6.2 Inflation by Group

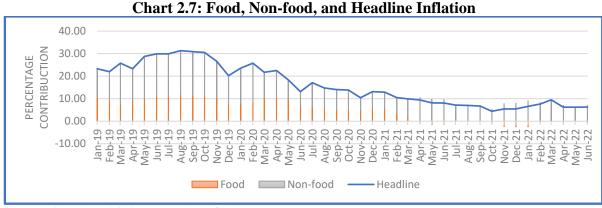
Developments in the sub-groups of the consumer basket during the second quarter of 2022 were mixed. The sub-groups that recorded increases were food & non-alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics; housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels; miscellaneous goods & services; and transport. Components, which showed decreases, were clothing & footwear; furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance; communication; health; restaurants & hotels and recreation & culture while education remained unchanged. (Table 2.7 & 2.9).

## 2.6.2.1 Contributions to Changes in CPI (%)

The disaggregated consumer price index (CPI) basket at the end of June 2022 indicated that the following major groups substantially contributed to the moderation in inflation: recreation & culture; restaurants & hotels and food & clothing & footwear. Similarly, the disaggregated CPI basket in terms of food and non-food items showed that food inflation contributed negative 0.3 percentage point, while non-food inflation contributed 6.6 percentage points to the 6.3 percent general rate of inflation recorded at the end of the second quarter of 2022 (Charts 2.7 & 2.8).



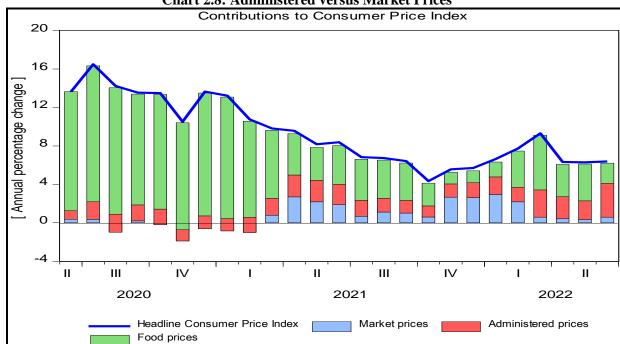
**Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI** 



Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

## 2.6.2.2 Administered, Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Market Prices

An analytical review of the CPI basket showed that market prices contributed 6.0 percentage points to the general rate of inflation, while administered<sup>5</sup> prices accounted for the remaining 0.3 percentage point.



**Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices** 

Source: CBL, Monrovia-Liberia

#### 2.6.2.3 Inflation Outlook

Headline inflation for the third quarter of 2022 is projected to increase slightly to 6.75 percent with a symmetric bandwidth of  $\pm$ 0 percent. However, sustaining this single-digit inflation in the upcoming quarter and medium term will depend mainly on the level of policy coordination between the monetary and fiscal authorities, the effectiveness of the monetary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Administered prices refer to the prices that do not vary in response to short-run fluctuations in demand and supply conditions. Rather, they are set either directly or indirectly by government.

policy instruments as well as the dynamics of international and domestic prices of commodities, especially food and fuel. Critical to the direction of inflation in the short to medium terms is Government tax policies on key commodities (especially food inputs and petroleum products) and the exchange rate movements.

Table 2.7: Headline and Quarterly changes in CPI (%)

		Headline Infla			Monthly Ch	Changes in HCPI (%)		
		Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combined	Food	Non-Food	
	January	15.50	8.00	20.00	2.40	3.70	1.70	
	February	17.80	11.60	21.50	0.60	-0.70	1.20	
	March	19.40	17.40	20.70	2.10	3.80	1.10	
	April	21.40	20.10	22.10	1.40	1.70	1.30	
	May	21.30	19.60	22.20	1.10	0.90	1.20	
2018	June	24.50	22.40	25.80	5.80	4.90	6.30	
70	July	26.10	23.70	27.50	3.50	2.70	4.00	
	August	26.10	23.30	27.70	2.20	2.40	2.00	
	September	26.30	25.20	26.90	1.40	2.50	0.70	
	October	26.60	24.20	27.90	0.70	-0.40	1.30	
	November	27.10	24.90	28.30	2.00	1.80	2.10	
	December	28.50	30.50	27.50	2.40	3.80	1.60	
	January	23.30	30.20	19.72	-1.80	3.40	-4.50	
	February	22.00	27.60	19.09	-0.50	-2.60	0.90	
	March	25.80	23.40	27.03	5.30	0.40	7.90	
	April	23.29	26.50	21.63	-0.59	4.25	-3.03	
	May	28.74	29.86	28.17	5.58	3.60	6.66	
2019	June	29.91	32.20	28.71	6.72	6.74	6.71	
20	July	29.87	31.76	28.85	3.51	2.36	4.11	
	August	31.32	34.59	29.60	3.30	4.57	2.64	
	September	30.90	33.18	29.72	1.05	1.43	0.84	
	October	30.55	32.38	29.56	0.43	-1.02	1.20	
	November	26.62	30.51	24.59	-1.10	0.34	-1.85	
	December	20.25	23.04	18.81	-2.76	-2.13	-3.09	
	January	23.56	22.18	24.33	0.93	2.73	-0.03	
	February	25.76	25.26	26.02	1.28	-0.17	2.08	
	March	21.72	30.48	17.31	1.88	4.59	0.42	
	April	22.51	30.24	18.33	0.05	4.05	-2.19	
	May	18.36	28.24	13.17	2.01	2.01	2.00	
20	June	13.14	21.08	8.96	2.00	0.75	2.74	
2020	July	17.06	17.84	16.66	7.10	-0.38	11.47	
	August	14.77	16.25	13.99	1.27	3.16	0.29	
	September	14.03	14.09	14.00	0.39	-0.46	0.85	
	October	13.85	14.85	13.33	0.27	-0.36	0.61	
	November	10.39	13.96	8.50	-4.10	-0.44	-6.03	
	December	13.12	15.74	11.72	-0.36	-0.60	-0.22	

	January	12.92	16.31	11.06	0.75	3.23	-0.62
	February	10.50	10.48	10.51	-0.88	-5.16	1.58
	March	9.96	5.01	12.73	1.38	-0.59	2.43
	April	9.41	-2.53	16.52	-0.45	-3.42	1.10
	May	8.16	-4.04	15.43	0.86	0.47	1.05
21	June	8.10	-3.95	15.15	1.94	0.84	2.49
2021	July	7.12	0.21	10.73	6.13	3.94	7.20
	August	7.00	0.10	10.71	1.16	3.04	0.28
	September	6.69	0.18	10.14	0.10	-0.37	0.33
	October	4.42	-2.39	8.00	-1.85	-2.87	-1.35
	November	5.44	-6.58	12.12	-3.17	-4.71	-2.44
	December	5.46	-7.05	12.40	-0.33	-1.10	0.02
	January	6.55	-6.79	14.24	1.80	3.51	1.01
	February	7.64	-1.57	12.60	0.13	0.15	0.12
22	March	9.51	2.58	13.13	3.14	3.59	2.92
2022	April	6.26	-2.39	10.57	-3.41	-8.10	-1.19
	May	6.23	1.17	8.74	0.83	4.14	-0.62
	June	6.32	-1.98	10.37	2.03	-2.31	4.02

Table 2.8: Inflation by Sub-group Year-on-Year Changes in CPI (2020-2022)

	(2020 2022)	Inflation Rates					
Food	Weights	2021Q <sup>1</sup>	2021Q <sup>2</sup>	2022Q <sup>1</sup>	$2022Q^2$		
Vegetables	4.48	12.03	3.08	25.72	-19.82		
Food products	2.38	3.88	-11.96	-8.50	-10.32		
Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruits & vegetable juices	0.71	-21.46	-16.52	-8.37	-20.58		
Non-Food							
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.65	-7.35	-8.99	-1.61	0.10		
Clothing and footwear	5.21	-10.50	-7.61	-3.99	-10.37		
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels	7.22	9.69	0.44	-0.46	4.53		
Furnishing, H/Hold Equip., Routine Maintenance of House	5.21	-2.59	7.92	-4.95	-10.94		
Health	9.28	50.19	40.59	14.55	7.85		
Transport	7.53	7.23	7.07	7.84	21.95		
Communication	3.86	-6.70	-8.00	5.20	4.66		
Recreation and Culture	1.03	-1.41	2.43	1.34	-1.17		
Education	4.83	33.84	33.06	23.19	23.19		
Restaurant and Hotels	17.12	11.25	32.03	31.20	16.41		
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.98	-9.03	-12.60	-2.66	2.96		

Table 2.9: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(December, 2005=100)

FUNCTIONS	WEIGHTS	21-Apr	21-May	21-jun	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	Q <sup>1</sup> -2022	22-Apr	22-May	22-Jun	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	34.08	-2.53	-4.04	-3.95	-3.51	-6.79	-1.57	2.58	-1.93	-2.39	1.17	-1.98	-1.07
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, AND NARCOTICS	0.65	-6.89	-9.85	-10.24	-8.99	-1.29	-0.47	-3.06	-1.61	-0.04	-0.55	0.89	0.10
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.21	-6.53	-8.13	-8.17	-7.61	-0.48	-0.71	-10.79	-3.99	-15.70	-8.36	-7.05	-10.37
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	7.22	2.83	-0.36	-1.13	0.44	0.06	-0.53	-0.91	-0.46	3.57	3.08	6.93	4.53
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD, EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.21	14.39	8.26	1.10	7.92	-3.47	-4.8	-6.58	-4.95	-8.30	12.54	-11.99	-10.94
HEALTH	9.28	51.54	39.75	30.48	40.59	18.73	12.44	12.49	14.55	11.68	7.13	4.73	7.85
TRANSPORT	7.53	8.40	7.97	4.85	7.07	0.53	0.2	22.77	7.84	12.95	13.38	39.52	21.95
COMMUNICATION	3.86	-6.57	-9.81	-7.63	-8.00	5.02	5.45	5.14	5.52	4.84	6.19	2.95	4.66
RECREATION AND CULTURE	1.03	1.85	2.09	3.35	2.43	2.11	1.28	0.62	1.34	-1.82	1.03	-2.71	-1.17
EDUCATION	4.83	33.17	33.08	32.92	33.06	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	17.12	25.67	31.60	38.82	32.03	33.68	32.52	27.4	31.2	21.66	16.18	11.39	16.41
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.89	-10.94	12.86	-14.02	-12.60	-2.51	-3.06	-2.42	-2.66	-0.28	2.93	6.22	2.96
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100	9.41	8.16	8.10	8.55	6.55	7.64	9.51	7.9	6.26	6.23	6.32	6.27

# **III. MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS**

## 3.1 Monetary Policy Stance (MPS)

The Monetary Policy stance of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) during the second quarter of 2022 was primarily focused on liquidity management with the aim of stabilizing the domestic price level via broad exchange rate stability. As such, the CBL's monetary policy stance focused mainly on the use of CBL's policy instruments, including the CBL bills and Required Reserve Ratio (RRR) of the commercial banks.

## 3.2 Banking Sector Development

The banking sector remained relatively sound evidenced by expansions in most of its primary balance sheet indicators for the review quarter. Except for total capital and liquidity, which recorded declines, total assets, total deposits, profitability, and total loans & advances grew compared with the previous quarter. Compared with the corresponding quarter a year ago, total assets, liquidity, and capital declined, while deposits and loans & advances grew. Profitability in the banking industry recorded a slight decline compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021.

## **3.2.1** Capital

At end-June 2022, the banking industry recorded a total capital stock of L\$27.95 billion, thereby contracting by 11.3 percent (13.6 percentage points below the growth recorded for the first quarter of 2022), from L\$31.50 billion. The quarterly contraction was primarily induced by the over hundred percent decline in revaluation reserves in the banking industry. Eight of the nine (9) banks in the industry reported Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) above the 10.0 percent minimum regulatory requirement. The industry's CAR during the quarter was 29.6 percent, representing 110 basis points below the CAR reported in the preceding quarter. When matched against the amount recorded at end-June 2021, the CAR of the reporting quarter in the industry was 1.2 percentage point lower.

#### 3.2.2 Asset and Liquidity

Commercial banks assets reported at end-June 2022 stood at L\$194.18 billion, representing 6.1 percent rise from the L\$183.07 billion reported in the first quarter of 2022 due mainly to increased loans and advances. Similarly, total liquid assets of the industry increased by 1.4 percent to

L\$69.80 billion, from L\$68.85 billion recorded at end-March 2022 on account of increased deposits in the banking industry, reflecting growth in public confidence. However, the industry liquidity ratio moderated by 0.3 percentage point to 39.9 percent at end-June 2022 compared with the quarter ended March 2022.

At end-June 2022, the banking industry reported growth in loans & advances by 2.5 percent to L\$75.33 billion, from L\$73.51 billion recorded for the quarter ended March 2022. When matched against the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2021, total loans & advances for the review quarter grew slightly by 1.0 percent, from L\$74.57 billion.

Non-performing loans (NPLs), as a share of the total stock of loans & advances in the reporting quarter, fell by 1.3 percentage point to 22.7 percent (L\$17.10 billion) from 24.0 percent recorded at end-March 2022 but remained above the 10.0 percent tolerable limit for the reporting quarter. Compared with the quarter ended March 2022, the volume of NPL contracted during the review quarter. The decline in the volume of NPL was reflective of gradual improvement in economic activity amidst the lingering effects of the global health crisis and the advent of the Russia-Ukraine crisis. With respect to the corresponding period a year ago, the NPLs ratio was slightly stable at 22.80 percent.

#### 3.2.3 Profitability

The banking industry's gross operational income<sup>6</sup>, at end-June 2022, stood at L\$9.18 billion, with interest income constituting 47.3 percent and non-interest income representing 52.7 percent. The cumulative gross operating income as at end-March 2021 was L\$4.60 billion. The gross operational income fell by 7.2 percent compared with the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2021, largely triggered by the declines recorded in income generated from fees & commission on off-balance sheet items, CBL notes, income on Treasury bills, and income on other security by 41.0 percent, 26.0 percent, 24.0 percent, and 18.0 percent, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The main revenue sources are classified as interest and non-interest income, which include income from loans & advances, service charges on deposits, commissions, and fees on money transfer as well as foreign exchange transactions.

Gross cumulative operating expense for the quarter ended June 2022 amounted to L\$5.63 billion, reflecting an increase of 98.6 percent when matched with the amount recorded at end-March 2022, but declined by 4.4 percent compared with the same period a year ago. The cumulative operating expenses as at end-June 2021 was L\$5.89 billion. The annual decrease in operating expenses was mainly induced by the declines recorded in compensation benefits, other employees' salaries & benefits by 6.0 percent, senior staff allowances & other remunerations by 13.0 percent, and other expenses by 14.0 percent.

Both the Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) expanded during the reporting quarter. ROA stood at 1.4 percent, from 0.2 percent recorded for the previous quarter, while ROE amounted to 9.5 percent, rising by 8.1 percentage points, compared with the amount reported a quarter ago. When viewed annually, both ROA and ROE fell by 0.2 percentage point each. The industry's net operating profit for the quarter ended June 2022 expanded by L\$1.32 billion to L\$2.61 billion, from L\$1.29 billion reported a quarter ago partly on account of the marginal decline in NPLs. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, net operating profit rose by 12.7 percent compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, largely on account of the decline in non-performing loan in the reporting quarter.

#### 3.2.4 Commercial Bank Credit

At end-June 2022, the stock of commercial banks' loans & advances to various subsectors of the economy amounted to L\$74.93 billion, expanding by 2.5 percent, from L\$73.13 billion recorded at end-March 2022. The expansion in loans & advances was largely triggered by growths recorded in loans extended to agriculture, Manufacturing, extractive, general government, services, trade, construction, and "the others" subsectors. The increases in these subsectors were largely explained by growths in loan & advances extended to forestry, trade in diamond, extractive, manufacturing, construction, government, storage services, bar & restaurant services, and communication services.

The quarterly sectoral contributions of loans to total credit were as follows: manufacturing, 1.9 percentage point; agriculture, 1.4 percentage point; services, 1.2 percentage point; trade, 0.4 percentage point; construction, 0.1 percentage point; extractive, 0.0 percentage point; loans to general government, 0.0 percentage point; oil & gas, negative 0.2 percentage point; public

corporation, negative 1.4 percentage point; personal loans (households), negative 3.9 percentage points; and loans to other subsectors, 2.9 percentage points.

Compared with the stock of loans & advances extended in the corresponding quarter of 2021, total commercial banks' credit to the economy slightly grew by 0.5 percent, largely on account of growths in loans to manufacturing, services, and "the other" subsectors (Table 3.1).

At end-June 2022, both the United States dollar (USD) denominated loans and the Liberian dollar (L\$) component of the total loan portfolio rose. The USD credits to the economy accounted for 92.9 percent of total credits and rose by 2.1 percent to US\$455.14 million compared with US\$445.61 million recorded a quarter ago. When viewed annually, USD credits grew by 13.7 percent, from US\$400.28 million reported in the corresponding quarter of 2021. The total stock of credit at the end of the reporting quarter (L\$74.93 billion), converted to USD rose by 12.7 percent at end-June 2022 compared with end-June 2021, demonstrating the gradual resumption of economic activity following the slowdown induced by the global health crisis. During the reporting quarter, total credit advanced to the private sector through the banking system accounted for 97.6 percent (1.1 percentage point below the share recorded for March 2022) of the total credit portfolio in the economy.

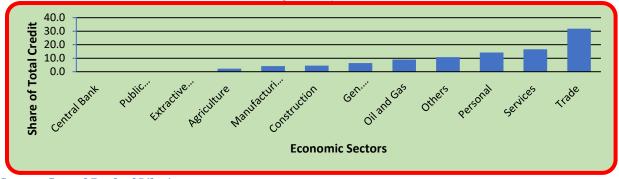
Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of L\$)

	(1)	II IVIIIIO	iis or Lφ)					
	202	21	2022				Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q2	Share	Q1	Share	Q2	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	3,439.64	4.61	2,011.33	2.75	3,067.76	4.09	1.44	(0.50)
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	47.36	0.06	93.35	0.13	123.66	0.17	0.04	0.10
Manufacturing	2,302.49	3.09	3,432.54	4.69	4,801.07	6.41	1.87	3.35
Construction	6,937.56	9.30	6,650.85	9.09	6,733.19	8.99	0.11	(0.27)
Services	10,001.05	13.41	11,567.68	15.82	12,463.82	16.63	1.23	3.30
Trade	25,196.57	33.79	23,611.77	32.29	23,883.99	31.88	0.37	(1.76)
Personal	13,046.51	17.50	13,551.22	18.53	10,663.05	14.23	(3.95)	(3.20)
Gen. Government	16.63	0.02	83.67	0.11	107.08	0.14	0.03	0.12
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Corporations	3,641.39	4.88	2,696.65	3.69	1,680.85	2.24	(1.39)	(2.63)
Oil and Gas	3,862.69	5.18	3,472.91	4.75	3,357.39	4.48	(0.16)	(0.68)
Others	6,078.48	8.15	5,962.02	8.15	8,043.53	10.74	2.85	2.64
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	74,570.37	100.00	73,133.99	100.00	74,925.39	100.00	2.45	0.48
O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)	70,912.35	95.09	70,353.66	96.20	73,137.46	97.61	3.81	2.98

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Chart 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2022)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

#### 3.2.5 Interest Rate

Development in interest rates showed broad stability for the quarter ended-June 2022 compared with the rates recorded at end-March 2022 and at end-June 2021. The average interest rate on lending was maintained at 12.4 percent, personal loan rate at 12.8 percent, time deposit rate at 3.5 percent, saving rate at 2.1 percent, and the rate on certificate of deposits at 3.3 percent, while mortgage rate rose by 0.5 percentage point to 13.4 percent (Table 3.2). The spread between the average lending and saving rates during the quarter stood at 10.3 percent. Similarly, annual comparison showed that all interest rates were stable compared with the corresponding period of 2021, except for mortgage rate which grew by 16.0 basis points.

Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(=   \tau \)	2021	2021 2022	
	$Q^2$	$Q^1$	$Q^2$
Avg. Lending Rate	12.44	12.44	12.44
Avg. Personal Loan Rate	12.78	12.78	12.78
Avg. Mortgage Rate	13.22	13.33	13.38
Avg. Time Deposit Rate	3.53	3.53	3.53
Avg. Savings Rate	2.10	2.10	2.10
Avg. Rate on CDs	3.25	3.25	3.25

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

#### 3.2.6 Liberian Dollar in Circulation

The stock of Liberian dollar in circulation at end-June 2022 fell by 1.3 percent to L\$22,819.18 million, from L\$23,110.43 million reported at end-March 2022. The contraction was mainly influenced by 8.3 percent decrease in currency in banks as a result of increased investment in the CBL bills.

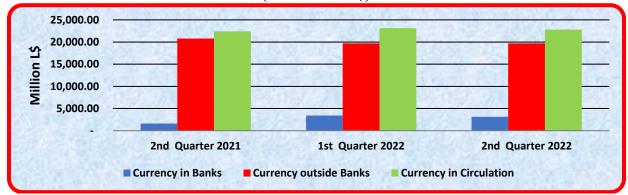
Table 3.3: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
(In Millions I.\$)

	(III MIIIIOIIS Lφ)		
	2021	20	)22
	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
Currency in Banks	1,624.91	3,418.66	3,135.70
Currency outside Banks	20,789.45	19,691.77	19,683.47
Currency in Circulation	22,414.36	23,110.43	22,819.18

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

When matched against the stock of currency reported for the corresponding quarter of 2021, the Liberian dollar in circulation grew by 1.8 percent (Chart 3.2). At end-June 2022, currency in banks constituted only 13.7 percent of total currency in circulation, which suggests a highly cash-driven economy and the challenging implications for effective monetary policy implementation. Currency in circulation as a percent of broad money slowed to 15.7 percent, from 16.2 percent recorded at end-March 2022, and marginally rose from 15.6 percent reported for the same period a year ago.

Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation ( $2^{nd}$  Quarter, 2021;  $1^{st}$  &  $2^{nd}$  Quarters, 2022) (In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

## 3.2.7 Money Supply

At end-June 2022, the stock of narrow money supply (M1) expanded by 5.9 percent to L\$99,974.93 million, compared with the L\$94,379.01 million reported at end-March 2022. The expansion in M1 was backed by 7.5 percent rise in demand deposits. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, M1 rose by 4.2 percent (Table 3.4 and Chart 3.3).

Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of L\$)

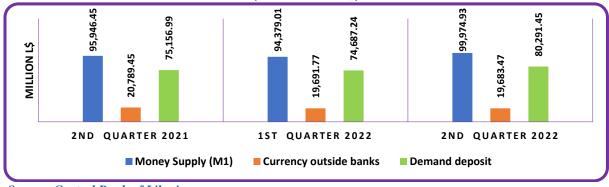
Monetary Aggregates	2021 2022			Percentage Change		
	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y	
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	143,516.16	142,273.85	145,079.77	1.97	1.09	
1.1 Money Supply M1	95,946.45	94,379.01	99,974.93	5.93	4.20	
1.1.1 Currency outside banks	20,789.45	19,691.77	19,683.47	-0.04	-5.32	
1.1.2 Demand deposit 1/	75,156.99	74,687.24	80,291.45	7.50	6.83	
1.2 Quasi Money	47,569.71	47,894.84	45,104.84	-5.83	-5.18	
1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits	45,629.89	42,483.82	44,774.73	5.39	-1.87	
1.2.2 Other deposits 2/	1,939.82	5,411.02	330.12	-93.90	-82.98	
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	28,737.52	33,440.65	23,612.88	-29.39	-17.83	
2.1 Central Bank	(1,440.02)	4,012.18	6,843.48	70.57	-575.23	
2.2 Banking Institutions	30,177.55	29,428.47	16,769.39	-43.02	-44.43	
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	114,778.63	108,833.19	121,466.90	11.61	5.83	

3.1 Domestic Credit	179,614.18	173,962.83	175,489.00	0.88	-2.30				
3.1.1 Government (net)	90,493.61	90,574.45	85,598.36	-5.49	-5.41				
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.	89,120.57	83,388.38	89,890.64	7.80	0.86				
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	64,835.55	65,129.63	54,022.11	-17.05	-16.68				
Memorandum Items									
1. Overall Liquidity	143,516.16	142,273.85	145,079.77	1.97	1.09				
2. Reserve Money	44,748.42	49,607.77	47,078.66	-5.10	5.21				
Currency in Circulation	22,414.36	23,110.43	22,819.18	-1.26	1.81				
Banks Reserves	20,394.24	21,086.31	23,929.37	13.48	17.33				
Other Deposits at CBL	1,939.82	5,411.02	330.12	-93.90	-82.98				

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

1/Excludes managers cheques from commercial banks

Chart 3.3: Narrow Money Supply (M1) (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

## 3.2.8 Broad Money Supply

Development in monetary aggregates revealed that the stock of broad money supply (M2) at end-June 2022 rose by 10.0 percent to L\$145,079.77 million, from L\$142,273.85 million recorded at end-March 2022. From the liability side, the growth in M2 was largely induced by the increases reported in demand deposits and time & saving deposits, despite the decline in currency outside banks and other deposits. When viewed from the assets side, M2 rose on account of 11.6 percent expansions in Net Domestic Assets (NDA), despite the reduction in Net Foreign Assets (NFA). When matched against the amount reported a year ago, broad money rose by 1.1 percent, primarily

<sup>2/</sup> Includes official and managers checks issued by the Central Bank

induced by the expansion in NDA (see Table 3.4). The rise in NDA at end-June 2022 was mainly prompted by a rise in credit to the private sector.

At end-June 2022, the Liberian dollar component of broad money (M2) was 28.6 percent (a rise of 0.4 percentage point) compared with the share recorded in the previous quarter. The US dollar component of M2 for the review quarter stood at 71.4 percent, 0.4 percentage point lower compared with the figure recorded a quarter ago and 0.5 percentage point lower when matched with the share reported in the corresponding quarter of 2021, confirming the highly dollarized nature of the economy (Chart 3.5).

(In Millions L\$) 143,516.16 142,273.85 145,079.77 99,974.93 94,379.01 MILLION L\$ 47,569.71 47,894.84 45,104.84 2ND QUARTER 2ND QUARTER 1ST QUARTER 2021 2020 Money Supply (M1) ■ Money Supply (M2) Quasi Money

Chart 3.4: Broad Money Supply (M2) (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

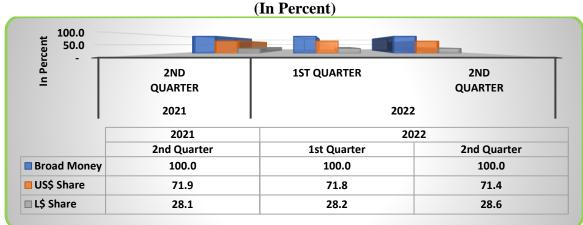


Chart 3.5: Broad Money: Share of US and Liberian Dollars (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

#### 3.3. Government Securities

During the quarter ended June 2022, the CBL, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, issued US\$40.00 million Treasury Bills (T-bill). There was no issuance of Treasury Bonds (T-bond) neither a redemption of T-Bill or T-Bond. As a result, the outstanding T-bills stood at US\$87.66 million. For the previous quarter ended March 2022, there was an issuance of US\$2.50 million Treasury Bonds (T-bond) and US\$40.00 million Treasury Bills (T-bill). There was a T-bill redemption of US\$12.00 million and an interest of US\$0.21 million on T-Bill, thereby reducing the outstanding T-bills to US\$47.66 million. Also, no issuance of Treasury Bond was reported, thus recording an outstanding balance of US\$57.56 million, as at end-March 31, 2022, stood at US\$57.56 million. For the corresponding quarter of 2021, there was neither issuance nor redemption of both T-bills and T-bonds.

(In Percent) 4 2 Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 2017 2018 2019 2022 2016 2020 Interest Rate on CBL Bills (2weeks) Interest Rate on CBL Bills (1 Month) Interest Rate on CBL Bills (3 Months) — Average Quarterly Discount Rate (L\$)

Chart 3.6: Average Quarterly Yields Government of Liberia 91-Day Treasury-bill Auctions (2016-2022Q1)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

#### 3.4 Central Bank of Liberia Bills and SDF

At end-June 2022, the CBL bills offered during the quarter stood at L\$11.91 billion, with 100.0 percent subscription. The offered amount represented 4.3 percent growth in comparison with the amount offered during the previous quarter but reflected 47.5 percent decrease compared with the amount offered during the corresponding quarter of 2021. Subscriptions for CBL bills also grew by 4.3 percent and 4.9 percent relative to the previous and the corresponding quarters of 2021, respectively. The expansion in subscriptions was largely driven by increased awareness for the readily availability of CBL bills induced partly by the CBL monetary policy target for the quarter.

Table 3.5: CBL Bills (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
1-Apr-22	14-Apr-22	0.43	0.70
1 MONTH			
1-Apr-22	29-Apr-22	7,345.78	0.80
3 MONTHS			
1-Apr-22	1-Jul-22	4,568.27	2.78
Total Amoun	t Issued	11,914.48	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2	022	
First Issuance Date	<b>Last Maturity Date</b>	<b>Amount Issued</b>	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jan-22	25-Mar-22	0.60	0.70
1 MONTH			
7-Jan-22	22-Apr-22	7,231.86	1.53
3 MONTHS			
7-Jan-22	24-Jun-22	4,186.50	4.67
Total Amoun	t Issued	11,418.96	

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021

F	irst Issuance Date	st Issuance Date Last Maturity Date		Average Interest Rate (%)	
2 WEEKS					
	2-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	11,354.09	0.09	
1 MONTH					
	2-Apr-21	30-Apr-21	6,390.32	1.88	
3 MONTHS					
	2-Apr-21	2-Jul-21	4,962.66	5.74	
	Total Amo	ount Issued	22,707.07		

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2022 (In Millions of L\$)

Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	CoBs Issued	Retail Via CoBs Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)					
THREE MONTHS											
1-Apr-22	1-Jul-22	-	350.41	6.93	357.35	4.66					
7-Apr-22	8-Jul-22	-	416.90	15.29	432.19	4.47					
15-Apr-22	15-Jul-22	-	312.48	19.06	331.53	3.91					
22-Apr-22	22-Jul-22	-	281.14	15.41	296.55	3.66					
29-Apr-22	29-Jul-22	-	329.90	23.88	353.78	3.48					
6-May-22	5-Aug-22	-	403.14	12.82	415.96	3.36					
13-May-22	12-Aug-22	-	326.66	7.03	333.69	2.99					
20-May-22	19-Aug-22	-	293.37	10.38	303.76	2.52					
27-May-22	26-Aug-22	-	330.31	6.04	336.35	1.80					
3-Jun-22	2-Sep-22	-	382.86	17.66	400.52	1.67					
10-Jun-22	9-Sep-22	-	361.82	5.29	367.11	1.41					
17-Jun-22	16-Sep-22	-	310.71	10.95	321.65	1.30					
24-Jun-22	23-Sep-22	-	314.15	3.68	317.84	0.93					
TOTAL		-	4,413.86	154.41	4,568.27	2.78					
		O	NE MONTH	IS							
1-Apr-22	29-Apr-22	-	613.13	4.73	617.85	1.52					
7-Apr-22	6-May-22	-	746.77	-	746.77	1.48					
15-Apr-22	13-May-22	-	568.73	4.13	572.85	1.47					
22-Apr-22	20-May-22	-	485.85	26.56	512.40	1.42					
29-Apr-22	27-May-22	-	606.23	5.07	611.29	1.15					
6-May-22	3-Jun-22	-	717.73	1.70	719.42	1.02					
13-May-22	10-Jun-22	-	573.30	3.29	576.59	0.78					
20-May-22	17-Jun-22	-	488.33	36.54	524.87	0.54					
27-May-22	24-Jun-22	-	577.39	3.80	581.19	0.41					
3-Jun-22	1-Jul-22	-	684.09	7.98	692.07	0.34					

	TOTAL	AMOUNT	ISSUED		11,914.48	
TOTAL		-	-	0.43	0.43	0.70
10-Jun-22	24-Jun-22	-	-	0.20	0.20	0.70
1-Apr-22	14-Apr-22	-	-	0.23	0.23	0.70
			TWO WEEKS			
TOTAL		-	7,772.77	122,21	7,345.78	0.80
24-Jun-22	22-Jul-22	-	544.20	5.00	549.20	0.04
17-Jun-22	15-Jul-22	-	532.96	22.83	555.79	0.12
10-Jun-22	8-Jul-22	-	634.07	0.61	634.68	0.09

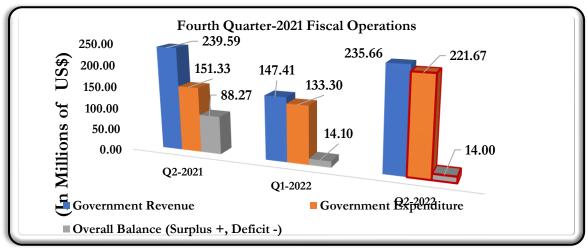
Source: Central Bank of Liberia CoBs – Commercial Banks

# IV. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

# 4.1 Overview of GOL's Fiscal Operations

During the second quarter of 2022, the Government of Liberia's (GOL) fiscal operations resulted to US\$14.0 million (0.4 percent of GDP) surplus in the overall balance (OB) relative to the preceding quarter. The realization of the surplus was on the back of an increased government revenue that outweighed the rise in government expenditure. Total revenue and expenditure amounted to US\$235.7 million (6.2 percent of GDP) and US\$221.7 million (5.6 percent of GDP), respectively.

Chart 4.1: Graphical Outlook of GOL's Fiscal Operations (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)



Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

#### **4.2 Government Revenue**

GOL's fiscal operations for the second quarter of 2022 revealed that the government's total revenue (inclusive of grants) increased by 59.9 percent to US\$235.7 million (6.2 percent of GDP) relative to the US\$147.4 million (3.9 percent of GDP) reported in the first quarter of 2022 on the back of large increases in non-tax revenue and other revenues (including grants). Non-tax revenue expanded significantly by more than twice to US\$57.7 million (1.5 percent of GDP), from the US\$23.8 million (0.6 percent of GDP) reported in the first quarter. The expansion in non-tax revenue was largely due to significant rise in property income tax by over one hundred percent to US\$52.8 million (1.4 percent of GDP). Similarly, other revenues (including grants & borrowing)

totaled US\$51.0 million (1.3 percent of GDP), also increasing by over one hundred percent. Tax revenue expanded by 3.7 percent to US\$127.0 million (3.4 percent of GDP) relative to the US\$122.5 million (3.2 percent of GDP) reported in the first quarter of 2022.

However, a year-on-year analysis showed that total revenue marginally decreased by 1.6 percent because of declines in both tax revenue and other revenues (inclusive of grants & borrowings) by 0.9 percent and 32.1 percent, respectively.

Table 4.1: Government Revenue (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

(III IVIII)	ions of US	φ) <u> </u>			
Figual Operations	$Q^2$ -21	$Q^{1}$ -22	$Q^2$ -22	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
Fiscal Operations	(Mi	llions of U	SD)	(% Cł	nange)
<b>Total Government Revenue</b>	239.59	147.41	235.66	59.87	(1.64)
Tax Revenue	128.20	122.50	127.00	3.68	(0.93)
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	52.68	58.58	53.00	(9.52)	0.62
o/w Taxes on International Trade	53.58	50.04	52.39	4.70	(2.21)
Non-tax Revenue	36.35	23.77	57.71	142.78	58.76
o/w Property Income	31.93	18.99	52.84	178.28	65.50
o/w Administrative Fees, Fines &					
Penalties	4.42	4.78	4.86	1.78	10.11
Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings & etc.)	75.05	1.14	50.96	4373.20	(32.10)
Memora	andum Ite	ms			
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	6.99	3.89	6.21	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.74	3.23	3.35	-	-
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	1.06	0.63	1.52	-	-
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	2.19	0.03	1.34	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,426.0 0	3,792.3 0	3,792.3	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

## 4.3 Government Expenditure

Total government's expenditure expanded by 66.3 percent to US\$221.7 million (5.9 percent of GDP) relative to the US\$133.3 million (3.5 percent of GDP) expended in the first quarter of 2022. The expansion in expenditure was on the back of substantial increases in current expenditure, payments on loans, interest & other charges, and capital expenditure during the quarter. Current

expenditure expanded by 66.1 percent to US\$189.1 million (5.0 percent of GDP), from the US\$113.8 million (3.0 percent of GDP) expended in the first quarter of 2022, reflecting increases in employees' compensation and goods & services. Payments on loans, interest & other charges also increased, by 61.8 percent to US\$27.5 million (0.7 percent of GDP) compared to the US\$17.0 million (0.5 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. Similarly, capital expenditure rose by more than doubled to US\$5.1 million (0.1 percent of GDP) relative to the previous quarter.

Further analysis also showed that total expenditure increased by 45.6 percent on annual basis, mainly influenced by increases in both current and capital expenditures.

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

(III	MILLIONS OF C	<b>3</b> \$)			
Fig. 1 Occuptions	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	Q¹-2022	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
Fiscal Operations	(M	illions of USD)		(% Cł	nange)
Total Expenditure	151.33	133.30	221.67	66.29	46.48
Current Expenditure	119.42	113.83	189.05	66.08	58.30
o/w Employee Compensation	53.70	41.08	59.24	44.19	10.31
o/w Goods & Services	50.38	62.05	96.31	55.20	91.18
Capital Expenditure	0.80	2.45	5.08	107.66	537.64
Payments Loan & Interest & other Charges	31.11	17.03	27.54	61.75	(11.48)
Me	morandum Ite	ms			
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	4.42	3.52	5.85	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.49	3.00	4.99	-	-
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.02	0.06	0.13	-	-
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.91	0.45	0.73	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,426.00	3,792.30	3,792.30	-	_

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

#### 4.4 Public Debt

The country's stock of public debt at end-June 2022 was US\$1,915.0 million (50.5 percent of GDP) compared to US\$1,806.8 million (47.6 percent of GDP) reported in the first quarter of 2022, increasing by 6.0 percent. The increase was due to 3.3 percent and 9.8 percent increases in both external and domestic debts, respectively. External debt amounted to US\$1,097.2 million (28.9 percent of GDP), while domestic debt totaled US\$817.7 million (21.6 percent of GDP).

Additionally, the stock of public debt also expanded by 14.4 percent relative to the corresponding period in 2021. Both domestic and external borrowings grew by 11.7 percent and 18.4 percent, respectively, over the same period a year ago.

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

F: 10	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	Q1-2022	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
Fiscal Operations	(M	illions of USI	<b>D</b> )	(% Change)	
Total Debt Stock	1673.51	1806.78	1914.97	5.99	14.43
External	982.75	1061.90	1097.23	3.33	11.65
o/w Multilateral	869.34	948.67	984.16	3.74	13.21
o/w Bilateral	113.41	113.24	113.07	(0.15)	(0.31)
Domestic	690.76	744.88	817.74	9.78	18.38
o/w Financial Institutions	620.22	668.88	747.56	11.76	20.53
o/w CBL	525.48	525.48	575.48	9.52	9.52
o/w Commercial Banks	94.73	143.40	172.08	20.00	81.65
o/w Other Debts	70.54	76.00	70.18	(7.65)	(0.51)
	Memorandu	ım Items			
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	48.85	52.74	50.50	-	-
External (% of GDP)	28.69	31.00	28.93	-	-
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	20.16	21.74	21.56	-	-
Debt Service (% of GDP)	0.58	0.61	0.12	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,426.00	3,792.30	3,792.30	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

# V. EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

#### 5.1 Overview

Provisional statistics for quarter two of 2022 showed that developments in the external sector were mixed. The current account deficit narrowed to 1.6 percent of GDP on account of improvements in trade and services deficits. The net inflows/liabilities of the financial account grew to 1.7 percent of GDP, driven largely by other investment inflows relative to increased currency and deposits. Conversely, the capital account surplus declined to 1.1 percent of GDP due to reduction in capital transfers, which consequently led to the overall Balance of Payments (BoP) recording a marginal deficit of 0.2 percent of GDP, from the 0.8 percent of GDP surplus reported in quarter one 2022.

At end-June 2022, the gross international reserves (GIR) stood at US\$607.1 million (15.4 percent of GDP), reflecting downward movement in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and reserves, coupled with increase in the CBL's net liquid US dollars liabilities. However, GIR was sufficient to finance 4.0 months of imports of goods and services, which is well above the ECOWAS regional benchmark of 3.0 months.

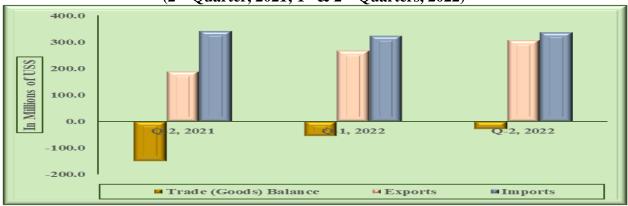
## 5.2 Current Account (CA)

The current account deficit narrowed significantly by 33.9 percent to US\$61.4 million (1.6 percent of GDP) in quarter two of 2022, from the US\$92.9 million (2.4 percent of GDP) recorded in quarter one, 2022. This development was due largely to improvements in the deficits of trade and service balances, while the primary and secondary income balances worsened.

#### **5.2.1 Goods Account (net)**

During the review quarter, the merchandise trade deficit narrowed significantly by 48.7 percent to US\$29.2 million (0.7 percent of GDP) in the second quarter of 2022, from the US\$56.9 million (1.4 percent of GDP) in the previous quarter, driven by 15.0 percent growth in exports, which outweighed the 3.8 percent rise in imports. On an aggregate basis, total merchandise trade (with imports on fob basis) increased by 8.8 percent to US\$644.4 million (16.4 percent of GDP), from the US\$592.1 million (15.0 percent of GDP) in quarter one 2022, led by growths in both export proceeds and import payments.

Chart 5.1: Merchandise Trade Balance (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)



# 5.2.2 Exports

Total merchandise exports increased by 15.0 percent to US\$307.6 million (7.8 percent of GDP) in quarter two of 2022, from the US\$267.6 million (6.8 percent of GDP) reported in the previous quarter on account of increases in export earnings from iron ore, rubber, palm oil, and the "other" category. Earnings from iron ore, rubber, palm oil, and the "other category rose to US\$77.4 million, US\$26.9 million, US\$10.8 million, and US\$40.9 million, from the US\$71.3 million, US\$22.1 million, US\$5.1 million, and US\$12.2 million in the previous quarter, respectively. However, mineral exports such as gold and diamond plummeted to US\$146.1 million and US\$5.5 million, from the US\$148.9 million and US\$8.0 million recorded in quarter one of 2022, respectively.

## 5.2.3 Imports (FOB & CIF)

Import payments (on fob basis) grew by 3.8 percent to US\$336.8 million (8.6 percent of GDP) during the quarter under review, from the US\$324.5 million (8.2 percent of GDP) reported in the quarter one of 2022. This development was due mainly to increases in payments for food & live animals (including animals & vegetable oil) by 5.6 percent to US\$71.5 million; minerals, fuel & lubricants (mainly petroleum products) by 12.9 percent to US\$123.7 million; manufacture goods classified chiefly by materials by 28.9 percent to US\$31.1 million; and the "other" category by 9.5 percent to US\$48.1 million. Conversely, payments for machinery & transport equipment declined by 21.1 percent to US\$62.4 million during the quarter under review.

Additionally, payments for imports (on cif basis) increased by 4.6 percent to US\$383.8 million (9.7 percent of GDP), from the US\$367.0 million (9.3 percent of GDP), driven by growth in payments for food & live animals (including animals & vegetable oil), minerals, fuel & lubricants (mainly petroleum products), manufacture goods classified chiefly by materials, and the "other" category.

## **5.2.4 Direction of Trade (DOT)**

Europe was the main destination of Liberia's exports in quarter two of 2022 as the region accounted for 75.3 percent of total export earnings, while North America and Asia accounted for 4.2 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively. In terms of countries, Switzerland, the United States of America (USA), Belgium and India were the top four destinations of the country's exports during the quarter. For Switzerland, gold was the main export commodity to the country in quarter two of 2022, while for the USA, Belgium, and India, the main commodities were rubber, iron ore, and palm oil, respectively.

Asia was the top source of imports to Liberia during the review quarter as it accounted for 41.1 percent of total import payments, followed by Africa (38.6 percent), and Europe (11.8 percent). From Asia, India was the major origin of imports (mainly Food and Live animals); in Africa, Cote d'Ivoire led as the main source of imports (primarily petroleum products); while in Europe, Belgium was the main origin of imports (particularly Food and Live animals) to the country.

Table 5.1: Directions of Trade (In Millions of US\$, except otherwise Indicated) (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

	Q-2,	2021	Q – 1, 2	2022 <sup>r</sup>	Q - 2, 2022 <sup>p</sup>	
Direction of Trade by Region	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Africa	4.62	34.0	2.92	121.58	9.87	130.07
o/w ECOWAS	3.08	27.6	0.25	108.12	3.71	112.99
o/w NC <sup>/1</sup>	2.67	22.1	0.25	103.63	2.78	107.16
o/w Sierra Leone	2.5	0.81	0.24	0.55	2.78	0.5
o/w Cote D'Ivoire	0.17	35.3	0	103.09	0	105.54
Asia	9.85	226.9	20.82	137.86	10.82	138.43
o/w China	0.01	49.2	1.49	46.96	0.17	39.3
o/w India	1.77	104.5	6.56	42.45	3.86	42.07
o/w ME <sup>/2</sup> Countries	3.14	20.9	8.15	17.55	3.0	23.18
o/w UAE	2.18	8.6	7.34	9.07	1.68	10.64

Europe	159.84	51.3	221.83	44.73	231.51	39.74
o/w Netherlands	1.4	10.59	4.17	4.98	1.36	5.95
o/w Switzerland	98.27	66.69	145.47	0.62	144.84	0.05
o/w Eurozone	16.92	35.3	19.01	10.66	15.46	29.45
o/w Belgium	11.3	4.06	10.08	9.97	9.86	2.09
N. America & The	12.18	15.8	19.01	12.63	13.02	18.11
Caribbean						
o/w USA	16.92	14.0	19.01	10.66	13.02	13.35
South & Central America	0.18	9.6	0.28	7.47	0.34	9.76
o/w Mexico	0.52	0.64	0.28	0.6	0.14	0.66
o/w Brazil	0	6.93	0	5.86	0.2	5.31
Oceania	0.01	3.5	0	0.21	0.02	0.72
o/w Australia	0	3.0	0	0.21	0.02	0.44
Other Countries (n.i.e)	2.9		2.73		42.04	
Total of DOT	189.58	341.1	267.59	324.48	307.62	336.83

Source: Liberia Revenue Authority (CUSTOM ASYCUDA), Firestone Liberia, Total Liberia, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy r-revised, p-provisional /1 - neighboring countries (these include Ivory Coast, Guinea, and Sierra Leone) /2 – Middle Eastern Countries

## **5.2.5 Services Account (net)**

The deficit in the services account (net) narrowed by 24.7 percent to US\$62.7 million (1.6 percent of GDP) in quarter two of 2022, relative to the US\$83.2 million (2.1 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. The decrease was occasioned by declines in payments for transport, maintenance & repair, and insurance & pension related services.

## **5.2.5.1 Primary Income (net)**

The deficit in the primary income balance worsened to US\$27.2 million (0.7 percent of GDP) during the review period, from the US\$22.9 million (0.6 percent of GDP) recorded in quarter one 2022, largely on account of increase in payments for investment income.

# 5.2.5.2 Secondary Income (net)

Net inflows from the secondary income account declined to US\$57.7 million (1.5 percent of GDP) in quarter two 2022, compared to the US\$70.2 million (1.8 percent of GDP) reported in the previous quarter, mainly on account of reduction in current transfers related to workers' remittances.

#### **5.2.5.3 Personal Remittances**

The estimated net inflow of personal/worker remittances (excluding remittances in kind) at end-June 2022 contracted by 28.5 percent to US\$54.9 million (1.4 percent of GDP), compared to US\$76.7 million (2.0 percent of GDP) reported for the first quarter of 2022. The decline was estimated to have been induced by 21.0 percent fall in inward remittances coupled with the US\$2.1 million increase in outward remittances. During the quarter, inward remittances fell by US\$19.8 million to US\$74.5 million, while outward personal remittances rose to US\$19.6 million, from US\$17.5 million recorded in the first quarter of 2022. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, net inward personal/worker remittances fell by US\$19.9 million, from US\$74.8 million reported in June 2021. The estimated contraction in net flow of remittances was on account of the estimated 25.9 percent decrease in personal inward remittances, despite the expected 6.0 percent decline in personal outward remittances.

(In Millions of US\$) 120.0 100.0 100.0 80.0 Net Inward (Million US\$) 80.0 60.0 60.0 40.0 40.0 20.0 20.0 2nd Quarter 2nd Quarter 1st Quarter 2021 2022+ 100.4 94.2 74.5 Outward (LHS) 25.6 17.5 19.6 Net Inward (RHS) 74.8 76.7 54.9 ──Net Inward (RHS) Inward (LHS) Outward (LHS)

Chart 5.2: Net Personal Inward Remittances (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
(In Millions of US\$)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Note: LHS – Left hand side & RHS – Right hand side

#### **5.3 Capital Account (KA)**

Estimated capital account inflows (net) reduced by 55.5 percent to US\$44.2 million (1.1 percent of GDP) during the review quarter, from the US\$99.5 million (2.5 percent of GDP) in quarter one 2022, mainly reflecting decline in capital transfers related to investment grants from development partners.

Table 5.2: Balance of Payments Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(2 Quarter, 2021; & 1 * 6	2021	20	·	2021	20:	22
	Q-2	Q-1 <sup>r</sup>	Q-2 <sup>p</sup>	Q-2	Q-1 <sup>r</sup>	Q-2 <sup>p</sup>
Balance of Payments (BOP)		Millions, U			% of G	
Current Account (CA)	-184.8	-92.9	-61.4	-5.3	-2.4	-1.6
Credit	297.8	371.8	403.9	8.5	9.4	10.3
Debit	482.7	464.7	465.3	13.8	11.8	11.8
Goods and services	-227.2	-140.1	-91.9	-6.5	-3.6	-2.3
Credit	189.8	270.8	311.2	5.4	6.9	7.9
Debit	417.0	410.9	403.1	11.9	10.4	10.2
Goods Account (Trade Balance)	-151.7	-56.9	-29.2	-4.3	-1.4	-0.7
Credit (Exports)	189.5	267.6	307.6	5.4	6.8	7.8
Iron Ore	85.0	71.3	77.4	2.4	1.8	2.0
Rubber	22.2	22.1	26.9	0.6	0.6	0.7
Minerals	68.2	156.9	151.6	1.9	4.0	3.9
Gold	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Diamond	3.7	8.0	5.5	0.1	0.2	0.1
Palm oil	4.9	5.1	10.8	0.1	0.1	0.3
Others	9.2	12.2	40.9	0.3	0.3	1.0
Debit (Imports, fob)	341.2	324.5	336.8	9.7	8.2	8.6
Food and Live Animals (including Animals & Veg. Oil)	100.1	67.7	71.5	2.9	1.7	1.8
O/w Rice	44.7	20.5	16.3	1.3	0.5	0.4
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	32.0	109.6	123.7	0.9	2.8	3.1
O/w Petroleum Products	20.2	102.7	105.4	0.6	2.6	2.7
Machinery & Transport Equipment	101.9	79.1	62.4	2.9	2.0	1.6
Manufactured goods classified by materials	46.2	24.2	31.1	1.3	0.6	0.8
Other Imports	61.0	44.0	48.1	1.7	1.1	1.2
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-216.2	-205.8	-175.3	-6.2	-5.2	-4.5
Credit	125.0	118.7	161.5	3.6	3.0	4.1
Debit	341.2	324.5	336.8	9.7	8.2	8.6
Of which Re-exports (credit)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nonmonetary gold	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Credit	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Debit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	<b>-75.5</b>	-83.2	-62.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.6
Credit	0.3	3.2	3.6	0.0	0.1	0.1
Debit	75.8	86.4	66.2	2.2	2.2	1.7
Primary Income (net)	-27.9	-22.9	-27.2	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7
Credit	5.6	5.4	5.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Debit	33.5	28.3	32.3	1.0	0.7	0.8

Secondary Income (net)	70.2	70.2	57.7	2.0	1.8	1.5
Credit	102.4	95.7	87.6	2.9	2.4	2.2
Debit	32.2	25.5	30.0	0.9	0.6	0.8
Capital Account (KA)	97.9	99.5	44.2	2.8	2.5	1.1
Credit	97.9	99.5	44.2	2.8	2.5	1.1
Debit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	-86.9	6.6	-17.1	-2.5	0.2	-0.4
Financial Account (FA)						
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (balance from FA)	32.9	-20.0	-68.7	0.9	-0.5	-1.7
Direct Investment (DI)	-8.8	10.4	20.4	-0.3	0.3	0.5
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	8.8	-10.4	-20.4	0.3	-0.3	-0.5
Other Investment (OI)	41.7	-30.4	-89.1	1.2	-0.8	-2.3
Net acquisition of financial assets	51.4	13.3	-52.3	1.5	0.3	-1.3
Net incurrence of liabilities	9.7	43.7	36.8	0.3	1.1	0.9
Net Errors & Omissions (NEO)	95.4	-58.5	-44.4	2.7	-1.5	-1.1
Overall Balance (OB)	24.4	32.0	-7.1	0.7	0.8	-0.2
Financia	-24.4	-32.0	7.1	-0.7	0.0	0.2
Financing					-0.8	
Changes in Reserve Assets (-increase; +decrease)	-24.4	-32.0	7.1	-0.7	-0.8	0.2
Memorandum Items						
Gross International Reserves	312.0	686.0	607.1	8.9	17.4	15.4
Import cover	2.1	4.5	4.0	-	-	-
Imports (cif)	378.6	367.0	383.8	10.8	9.3	9.7
Service Payments	75.8	86.4	66.2	2.2	2.2	1.7
Total Imports of Goods/Services	454.4	453.4	450.1	13.0	11.5	11.4
Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants	-186.5	-94.0	-67.4	-5.3	-2.4	-1.7
End-of-Period	171.4	152.7	152.9	-	-	-
Period Average	171.9	152.4	151.8	-	-	-
Annual Nominal GDP market prices	3,508.9	3,937.6	3,937.6	_	-	-

Source: Central Bank of Liberia staff

# **5.4 Financial Account (FA)**

From provisional statistics, the net inflows in the financial account rose by US\$48.7 million to US\$68.7 million (1.7 percent of GDP) in quarter two of 2022, from the US\$20.0 million (0.5 percent of GDP) recorded in the previous quarter. This development was driven by increase in

r - revised; p - provisional

<sup>†</sup> NGDP is based on the 2022 ECF Review Mission

other investments' inflows mainly in the form of currency and deposits as direct investment recorded net outflows during the period under review.

150.0
100.0
50.0
0.0
-50.0
-150.0
-200.0

Current Account (CA)
-200.0

Current Account (CA)
Net Borrowing (CA & KA)
Net Lending/Borrowing (+/-) (FA)
Overall Balance (OB)

Chart 5.3: Main Balances of the BoP (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

#### **5.4.1 Direct Investment (net)**

Direct investment (DI) recorded a net outflow of US\$20.4 million (0.5 percent of GDP), compared to the US\$10.4 million (0.3 percent of GDP) net outflows reported in the first quarter of 2022, reflecting drawing on shares and other equities of direct investors in direct investment enterprises in Liberia.

#### **5.4.2 Other Investment (net)**

Other investment inflows (net) increased to US\$89.1 million (2.3 percent of GDP) in quarter two of 2022, from the US\$30.4 million (0.8 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. This development largely reflected decline in currency and deposits of deposit taking corporations (except the central bank) balances held aboard.

#### **5.5 Gross International Reserves (GIR)**

From provisional data, the country's gross international reserves at end-June 2022 stood at US\$607.1 million (15.4 percent of GDP), against the US\$686.0 million (17.4 percent of GDP) reported at end-March 2022. This development reflected reduction in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and reserves, coupled with increase in the CBL's net liquid US dollars liabilities. Consequently, the months of import cover relative to the GIR decreased to 4.0 months during the

review quarter, from the 4.5 months reported in the previous quarter. However, it remained well above the ECOWAS benchmark of 3.0 months.

800.0 5.0 4.5 700.0 4.0 600.0 3.5 500.0 3.0 400.0 2.5 2.0 300.0 1.5 200.0 1.0 100.0 0.5 0.00.0 Q-1, 2022 O-2, 2022 **■ Import & Service Payments** Gross International Reserves Months of Import Cover

Chart 5.4: Gross International Reserves, Imports & Months of Import Cover (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

# **5.6 Exchange Rate Developments**

The variation in the average exchange rate remained within favorable bound (± 10.0 percent) of the ECOWAS convergence target. Compared with the rates reported in the previous quarter, the period average exchange rate revealed that the Liberian dollar (L\$) appreciated against the United States dollar by 0.4 percent to L\$151.84/US\$1.00 at end-June 2022, from L\$152.38/US\$1.00 recorded at end-March 2022, while the end-of-period exchange rate showed slight depreciation of the Liberian dollar by 0.1 percent to L\$152.87/US\$1.00, from L\$152.72/US\$1.00 reported a quarter ago. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, the Liberian dollar appreciated by 13.2 percent on average, from L\$171.87/US\$1.00 and by 12.1 percent, from L\$171.42/US\$1.00 on end-of-period exchange rate basis. The quarterly and yearly appreciations of the average exchange rate were mainly triggered by the relative effectiveness of CBL's monetary policy instruments.

Table 5.3: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar ( $2^{nd}$  Quarter, 2021;  $1^{st}$  &  $2^{nd}$  Quarters, 2022) (Value In L\$)

	2021	20	)22	% Change: Depreciation (+)		
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1st Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Q-0-Q	Y-0-Y	
Market Rate End of Period	171.42	152.72	152.87	(0.09)	12.14	
Market Rate Period Average	171.87	152.38	151.84	0.35	13.19	
Buying	171.17	151.5	151.00	0.33	13.35	
Selling	172.58	153.26	152.68	0.38	13.03	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

/1 - Period Average Exchange Rate is the average of both the buying & selling rates of the Liberian Dollar relative to the US\$

Table 5.4: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar (2019-2022)

Period Average	2020		2021		2022	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	191.24	192.89	167.79	169.32	148.88	150.75
February	195.85	197.67	171.82	173.29	152.87	154.64
March	197.02	198.64	172.76	174.18	152.75	154.38
April	197.41	198.83	171.79	173.22	151.23	152.97
May	197.84	199.10	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98
June	198.52	199.67	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09
July	198.64	199.81	170.83	172.24		
August	198.65	199.84	170.98	172.43		
September	198.39	199.62	170.63	172.14		
October	192.59	193.85	161.15	162.75		
November	162.10	163.47	143.63	145.23		
December	160.76	162.34	141.81	143.46		
Q1	194.70	196.40	170.79	172.26	151.50	153.26
Q2	197.92	199.20	171.17	172.58	151.00	152.68
Q3	198.56	199.76	170.81	172.27		
Q4	171.82	173.22	148.86	150.48		
Yearly Ave	190.75	192.14	165.41	166.90	151.25	152.97

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

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### **CHAPTER I**

Table 1.1: Selected Global Output, 2021-2023

# **CHAPTER II**

- Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook (2019-2023)
- Table 2.2: Key Agricultural Production (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 2.7: Headline and Quarterly changes in CPI (%)
- Table 2.8: Inflation by Sub-Group Year-on-Year Changes in CPI (2020-2022)
- Table 2.9: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) by Major Groups Developments (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

## **CHAPTER III**

- Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 3.3: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 3.5: CBL Bills (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2022

## **CHAPTER IV**

- Table 4.1: Government Revenue (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 4.2: Government Expenditure (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

# **CHAPTER V**

- Table 5.1: Directions of Trade (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 5.2: Balance of Payments Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 5.3: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)
- Table 5.4: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar (2019-2022)

Table 1.1: Selected Global Output, 2021-2023

					ence from 022 WEO
	<b>Estimate</b>	Proje	ections	$\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{l}}$	pdate
	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023
World Output	6.1	3.2	2.9	-0.4	-0.7
Advanced Economies	5.2	2.5	1.4	-0.8	-1.0
United States	5.7	2.3	1.0	-1.4	-1.3
Euro Area	5.4	2.6	1.2	-0.2	-1.1
Japan	1.7	1.7	1.7	-0.7	-0.6
United Kingdom	7.4	3.2	0.5	-0.5	-0.7
Canada	4.5	3.4	1.8	-0.5	-1.0
<b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b>	6.8	3.6	3.9	-0.2	-0.5
Emerging and Developing Asia	7.3	4.6	5.0	-0.8	-0.6
China	8.1	3.3	4.6	-1.1	-0.5
India	8.7	7.4	6.1	-0.8	-0.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.9	3.0	2.0	0.5	-0.5
Brazil	4.6	1.7	1.1	0.9	-0.3
Middle East and Central Asia	5.8	4.8	3.5	0.2	-0.2
Sub-Sahara Africa	4.6	3.8	4.0	0.0	0.0
Nigeria	3.6	3.4	3.2	0.0	0.1
South Africa	4.9	2.3	1.4	0.4	0.0
<b>World Consumer Prices</b>	<b>4.7</b>	8.3	<b>5.7</b>	0.9	0.9
Advanced Economies	3.1	6.6	3.3	0.9	0.8
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	5.9	9.5	7.3	0.8	0.8

Source: "International Monetary Fund. July 2022. World Economic Outlook Update: Gloomy and More Uncertain. Washington, DC,".

Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook (2019-2023)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Real GDP	(2.5)	(3.0)	5.0	3.7	4.7
Agriculture & fisheries	2.2	6.4	4.0	3.6	4.0
Forestry	(7.5)	4.6	1.0	2.1	3.9
Mining & panning	13.2	2.0	17.6	7.1	4.3
Manufacturing	(10.5)	0.0	4.7	3.6	5.5
Services	(7.5)	(12.7)	1.9	2.7	5.5

Sources: IMF & Liberian Authorities

Table 2.2: Key Agricultural Production (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Real GDP	-2.5	-3.0	5.0	3.7	4.7
Agriculture & fisheries	2.2	6.4	4.0	3.6	4.0
Forestry	-7.5	4.6	1.0	2.1	3.9
Mining & panning	13.2	2.0	17.6	7.1	4.3
Manufacturing	-10.5	0.0	4.7	3.6	5.5
Services	-7.5	-12.7	1.9	2.7	5.5

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Liberia Produce & Marketing Corporation (LPMC); Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Commodity	Unit	Q2-2021	Q1-2022	Q2-2022
Gold	Ounce	43,059	99,880	92,476
Diamond	Carat	13,389	25,450	12,391
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,235,000	1,350,000	1,300,000
Cement	Mt.	133,576	152,906	149,463
Spirits	Litre	39,593	50,546	35,183
Beer	Litre	2,178,606	1,944,751	1,901,253
Stout	Litre	1,886,877	1,923,269	1,960,762
Malta	Litre	221,760	208,209	219,447
Soft Drinks	Litre	210,981	265,946	253,860
Oil Paint	Gal.	25,588	33,263	26,513
Water Paint	Gal.	18,305	24,678	16,328
Varnish	Gal.	8,388	4,454	2,709
Manoline H. Grease	Kg	4,091	3,259	4,385
Thinner	Gal	6,799	4,202	2,708
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	130,571	37,081	64,903
Soap	Kg	48,961	74,879	70,356

<sup>\*</sup> Projections

Chlorox	Litre	221,472	218,584	214,980
Candle	Kg	12,999	13,188	10,794
Mattresses	Pcs.	33,235	32,598	35,031
Finished water	Gal.	198,424,691	285,646,889*	207,740,954*
Mineral Water	Litre	108,560	136,785	62,985
Electricity	$\mathbf{k}\mathbf{W}$	64,360,140	44,896,141	49,509,979

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI); Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy; Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation
\*Projections

Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Commodity	Unit	$Q^2$ -2021	Q <sup>1</sup> -2022	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	6,696,669.33	10,970,228.44	4,495,589.11
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	4,985,880.55	9,740,400.81	4,393,989.33
Total	Gal.	11,682,549.88	20,710,629.25	8,889,578.44

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT) _	Cargo Tonnage (In Metric Tons)			
Quarter	TW. OF VESSEIS	vesser weight (DD W1)	Imports	Exports	Total	
Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	83	3,059,981	578,275	980,258	1,558,533	
Q <sup>1</sup> -2022	104	3,602,177	614,679	1,301,740	1,916,419	
$Q^2$ -2022	100	2,258,516	654,400	1,056,019	1,710,419	

Source: National Port Authority (NPA) SDWT=Summer Dead Weight Tons

Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Kilowatts)

	Unit	Service	Generation
Q <sup>2</sup> - 2021	kW	Electricity	64,360,140
$Q^{1}$ -2022	kW	Electricity	44,896,141
$Q^2$ -2022	kW	Electricity	49,509,979

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

Table 2.7: Headline and Quarterly Changes in CPI (%)

		Headline Inflat		-Y changes)	Monthly Cl		HCPI (%)
		Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combined	Food	Non-Food
	January	15.50	8.00	20.00	2.40	3.70	1.70
	February	17.80	11.60	21.50	0.60	-0.70	1.20
	March	19.40	17.40	20.70	2.10	3.80	1.10
	April	21.40	20.10	22.10	1.40	1.70	1.30
	May	21.30	19.60	22.20	1.10	0.90	1.20
2018	June	24.50	22.40	25.80	5.80	4.90	6.30
20	July	26.10	23.70	27.50	3.50	2.70	4.00
	August	26.10	23.30	27.70	2.20	2.40	2.00
	September	26.30	25.20	26.90	1.40	2.50	0.70
	October	26.60	24.20	27.90	0.70	-0.40	1.30
	November	27.10	24.90	28.30	2.00	1.80	2.10
	December	28.50	30.50	27.50	2.40	3.80	1.60
	January	23.30	30.20	19.72	-1.80	3.40	-4.50
	February	22.00	27.60	19.09	-0.50	-2.60	0.90
	March	25.80	23.40	27.03	5.30	0.40	7.90
	April	23.29	26.50	21.63	-0.59	4.25	-3.03
	May	28.74	29.86	28.17	5.58	3.60	6.66
2019	June	29.91	32.20	28.71	6.72	6.74	6.71
20	July	29.87	31.76	28.85	3.51	2.36	4.11
	August	31.32	34.59	29.60	3.30	4.57	2.64
	September	30.90	33.18	29.72	1.05	1.43	0.84
	October	30.55	32.38	29.56	0.43	-1.02	1.20
	November	26.62	30.51	24.59	-1.10	0.34	-1.85
	December	20.25	23.04	18.81	-2.76	-2.13	-3.09
	January	23.56	22.18	24.33	0.93	2.73	-0.03
2020	February	25.76	25.26	26.02	1.28	-0.17	2.08
20	March	21.72	30.48	17.31	1.88	4.59	0.42
	April	22.51	30.24	18.33	0.05	4.05	-2.19

	Mon	10.26	20.24	12.17	2.01	2.01	2.00
	May	18.36	28.24	13.17	2.01	2.01	2.00
	June	13.14	21.08	8.96	2.00	0.75	2.74
	July	17.06	17.84	16.66	7.10	-0.38	11.47
	August	14.77	16.25	13.99	1.27	3.16	0.29
	September	14.03	14.09	14.00	0.39	-0.46	0.85
	October	13.85	14.85	13.33	0.27	-0.36	0.61
	November	10.39	13.96	8.50	-4.10	-0.44	-6.03
	December	13.12	15.74	11.72	-0.36	-0.60	-0.22
	January	12.92	16.31	11.06	0.75	3.23	-0.62
	February	10.50	10.48	10.51	-0.88	-5.16	1.58
	March	9.96	5.01	12.73	1.38	-0.59	2.43
	April	9.41	-2.53	16.52	-0.45	-3.42	1.10
	May	8.16	-4.04	15.43	0.86	0.47	1.05
2021	June	8.10	-3.95	15.15	1.94	0.84	2.49
70	July	7.12	0.21	10.73	6.13	3.94	7.20
	August	7.00	0.10	10.71	1.16	3.04	0.28
	September	6.69	0.18	10.14	0.10	-0.37	0.33
	October	4.42	-2.39	8.00	-1.85	-2.87	-1.35
	November	5.44	-6.58	12.12	-3.17	-4.71	-2.44
	December	5.46	-7.05	12.40	-0.33	-1.10	0.02
	January	6.55	-6.79	14.24	1.80	3.51	1.01
	February	7.64	-1.57	12.60	0.13	0.15	0.12
22	March	9.51	2.58	13.13	3.14	3.59	2.92
2022	April	6.26	-2.39	10.57	-3.41	-8.10	-1.19
	May	6.23	1.17	8.74	0.83	4.14	-0.62
	June	6.32	-1.98	10.37	2.03	-2.31	4.02

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 2.8: Inflation by Sub-group Year-on-Year Changes in CPI (2020-2022)

	(2020 2022)	Inflation Rates			
Food	Weights	2021Q <sup>1</sup>	$2021\mathrm{Q}^2$	2022Q <sup>1</sup>	2022Q <sup>2</sup>
Vegetables	4.48	12.03	3.08	25.72	-19.82
Food products	2.38	3.88	-11.96	-8.50	-10.32
Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruits & vegetable juices	0.71	-21.46	-16.52	-8.37	-20.58
Non-Food					
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.65	-7.35	-8.99	-1.61	0.10
Clothing and footwear	5.21	-10.50	-7.61	-3.99	-10.37
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels	7.22	9.69	0.44	-0.46	4.53
Furnishing, H/Hold Equip., Routine Maintenance of House	5.21	-2.59	7.92	-4.95	-10.94
Health	9.28	50.19	40.59	14.55	7.85
Transport	7.53	7.23	7.07	7.84	21.95
Communication	3.86	-6.70	-8.00	5.20	4.66
Recreation and Culture	1.03	-1.41	2.43	1.34	-1.17
Education	4.83	33.84	33.06	23.19	23.19
Restaurant and Hotels	17.12	11.25	32.03	31.20	16.41
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.98	-9.03	-12.60	-2.66	2.96

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 2.9: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(December, 2005=100)

FUNCTIONS	WEIGHTS	21-Apr	21-May	21-jun	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	Q <sup>1</sup> -2022	22-Apr	22-May	22-Jun	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	34.08	-2.53	-4.04	-3.95	-3.51	-6.79	-1.57	2.58	-1.93	-2.39	1.17	-1.98	-1.07
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, AND NARCOTICS	0.65	-6.89	-9.85	-10.24	-8.99	-1.29	-0.47	-3.06	-1.61	-0.04	-0.55	0.89	0.10
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.21	-6.53	-8.13	-8.17	-7.61	-0.48	-0.71	-10.79	-3.99	-15.70	-8.36	-7.05	-10.37
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	7.22	2.83	-0.36	-1.13	0.44	0.06	-0.53	-0.91	-0.46	3.57	3.08	6.93	4.53
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD, EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.21	14.39	8.26	1.10	7.92	-3.47	-4.8	-6.58	-4.95	-8.30	12.54	-11.99	-10.94
HEALTH	9.28	51.54	39.75	30.48	40.59	18.73	12.44	12.49	14.55	11.68	7.13	4.73	7.85
TRANSPORT	7.53	8.40	7.97	4.85	7.07	0.53	0.2	22.77	7.84	12.95	13.38	39.52	21.95
COMMUNICATION	3.86	-6.57	-9.81	-7.63	-8.00	5.02	5.45	5.14	5.52	4.84	6.19	2.95	4.66
RECREATION AND CULTURE	1.03	1.85	2.09	3.35	2.43	2.11	1.28	0.62	1.34	-1.82	1.03	-2.71	-1.17
EDUCATION	4.83	33.17	33.08	32.92	33.06	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	17.12	25.67	31.60	38.82	32.03	33.68	32.52	27.4	31.2	21.66	16.18	11.39	16.41
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.89	-10.94	12.86	-14.02	-12.60	-2.51	-3.06	-2.42	-2.66	-0.28	2.93	6.22	2.96
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100	9.41	8.16	8.10	8.55	6.55	7.64	9.51	7.9	6.26	6.23	6.32	6.27

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors  $(2^{nd}$  Quarter, 2021;  $1^{st}$  &  $2^{nd}$  Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of L\$)

	202	21	2022				Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q2	Share	Q1	Share	Q2	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	3,439.64	4.61	2,011.33	2.75	3,067.76	4.09	1.44	(0.50)
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	47.36	0.06	93.35	0.13	123.66	0.17	0.04	0.10
Manufacturing	2,302.49	3.09	3,432.54	4.69	4,801.07	6.41	1.87	3.35
Construction	6,937.56	9.30	6,650.85	9.09	6,733.19	8.99	0.11	(0.27)
Services	10,001.05	13.41	11,567.68	15.82	12,463.82	16.63	1.23	3.30
Trade	25,196.57	33.79	23,611.77	32.29	23,883.99	31.88	0.37	(1.76)
Personal	13,046.51	17.50	13,551.22	18.53	10,663.05	14.23	(3.95)	(3.20)
Gen. Government	16.63	0.02	83.67	0.11	107.08	0.14	0.03	0.12
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	3,641.39	4.88	2,696.65	3.69	1,680.85	2.24	(1.39)	(2.63)
Oil and Gas	3,862.69	5.18	3,472.91	4.75	3,357.39	4.48	(0.16)	(0.68)
Others	6,078.48	8.15	5,962.02	8.15	8,043.53	10.74	2.85	2.64
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	74,570.37	100.00	73,133.99	100.00	74,925.39	100.00	2.45	0.48
O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)	70,912.35	95.09	70,353.66	96.20	73,137.46	97.61	3.81	2.98

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(= -	2021		022
	$Q^2$	$Q^1$	$Q^2$
Avg. Lending Rate	12.44	12.44	12.44
Avg. Personal Loan Rate	12.78	12.78	12.78
Avg. Mortgage Rate	13.22	13.33	13.38
Avg. Time Deposit Rate	3.53	3.53	3.53
Avg. Savings Rate	2.10	2.10	2.10
Avg. Rate on CDs	3.25	3.25	3.25

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.3: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions L\$)

	2021		2022
	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
Currency in Banks	1,624.91	3,418.66	3,135.70
Currency outside Banks	20,789.45	19,691.77	19,683.47
Currency in Circulation	22,414.36	23,110.43	22,819.18

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of L\$)

Monetary Aggregates	2021	20	22	Percentage Change	
	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	143,516.16	142,273.85	145,079.77	1.97	1.09
1.1 Money Supply M1	95,946.45	94,379.01	99,974.93	5.93	4.20
1.1.1 Currency outside banks	20,789.45	19,691.77	19,683.47	-0.04	-5.32
1.1.2 Demand deposit 1/	75,156.99	74,687.24	80,291.45	7.50	6.83
1.2 Quasi Money	47,569.71	47,894.84	45,104.84	-5.83	-5.18
1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits	45,629.89	42,483.82	44,774.73	5.39	-1.87
1.2.2 Other deposits 2/	1,939.82	5,411.02	330.12	-93.90	-82.98
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	28,737.52	33,440.65	23,612.88	-29.39	-17.83
2.1 Central Bank	(1,440.02)	4,012.18	6,843.48	70.57	-575.23
2.2 Banking Institutions	30,177.55	29,428.47	16,769.39	-43.02	-44.43
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	114,778.63	108,833.19	121,466.90	11.61	5.83
3.1 Domestic Credit	179,614.18	173,962.83	175,489.00	0.88	-2.30
3.1.1 Government (net)	90,493.61	90,574.45	85,598.36	-5.49	-5.41
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.	89,120.57	83,388.38	89,890.64	7.80	0.86
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	64,835.55	65,129.63	54,022.11	-17.05	-16.68
	Memorandum	Items			
1. Overall Liquidity	143,516.16	142,273.85	145,079.77	1.97	1.09
2. Reserve Money	44,748.42	49,607.77	47,078.66	-5.10	5.21

Currency in Circulation	22,414.36	23,110.43	22,819.18	-1.26	1.81
Banks Reserves	20,394.24	21,086.31	23,929.37	13.48	17.33
Other Deposits at CBL	1,939.82	5,411.02	330.12	-93.90	-82.98

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

1/Excludes managers cheques from commercial banks

Table 3.5: CBL Bills  $(2^{nd}\ Quarter,\ 2021;\ 1^{st}\ \&\ 2^{nd}\ Quarters,\ 2022)$  (In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
1-Apr-22	14-Apr-22	0.43	0.70
1 MONTH			
1-Apr-22	29-Apr-22	7,345.78	0.80
3 MONTHS			
1-Apr-22	1-Jul-22	4,568.27	2.78
Total Amoun	t Issued	11,914.48	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter, 20	022	
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	<b>Amount Issued</b>	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jan-22	25-Mar-22	0.60	0.70
1 MONTH			
7-Jan-22	22-Apr-22	7,231.86	1.53
3 MONTHS			
7-Jan-22	24-Jun-22	4,186.50	4.67
Total Amoun	t Issued	11,418.96	

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021

F	irst Issuance Date	<b>Last Maturity Date</b>	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS				_
	2-Apr-21	16-Apr-21	11,354.09	0.09
1 MONTH				
	2-Apr-21	30-Apr-21	6,390.32	1.88
3 MONTHS	}			

<sup>2/</sup> Includes official and managers checks issued by the Central Bank

2-Apr-21	2-Jul-21	4,962.66	5.74
Total Amount I	ssued	22,707.07	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2022 (In Millions of L\$)

		(111)	VIIIIons of	<b>L</b> ф)					
Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	CoBs Issued	Retail Via CoBs Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)			
THREE MONTHS									
1-Apr-22	1-Jul-22	-	350.41	6.93	357.35	4.66			
7-Apr-22	8-Jul-22	-	416.90	15.29	432.19	4.47			
15-Apr-22	15-Jul-22	-	312.48	19.06	331.53	3.91			
22-Apr-22	22-Jul-22	-	281.14	15.41	296.55	3.66			
29-Apr-22	29-Jul-22	-	329.90	23.88	353.78	3.48			
6-May-22	5-Aug-22	-	403.14	12.82	415.96	3.36			
13-May-22	12-Aug-22	-	326.66	7.03	333.69	2.99			
20-May-22	19-Aug-22	-	293.37	10.38	303.76	2.52			
27-May-22	26-Aug-22	-	330.31	6.04	336.35	1.80			
3-Jun-22	2-Sep-22	-	382.86	17.66	400.52	1.67			
10-Jun-22	9-Sep-22	-	361.82	5.29	367.11	1.41			
17-Jun-22	16-Sep-22	-	310.71	10.95	321.65	1.30			
24-Jun-22	23-Sep-22	-	314.15	3.68	317.84	0.93			
TOTAL		-	4,413.86	154.41	4,568.27	2.78			
		0	NE MONTH	IS					
1-Apr-22	29-Apr-22	-	613.13	4.73	617.85	1.52			
7-Apr-22	6-May-22	-	746.77	-	746.77	1.48			
15-Apr-22	13-May-22	-	568.73	4.13	572.85	1.47			
22-Apr-22	20-May-22	-	485.85	26.56	512.40	1.42			
29-Apr-22	27-May-22	-	606.23	5.07	611.29	1.15			
6-May-22	3-Jun-22	-	717.73	1.70	719.42	1.02			
13-May-22	10-Jun-22	-	573.30	3.29	576.59	0.78			

	TOTAL	AMOUNT	ISSUED		11,914.48	
TOTAL		-	-	0.43	0.43	0.70
10-Jun-22	24-Jun-22	-	-	0.20	0.20	0.70
1-Apr-22	14-Apr-22	-	-	0.23	0.23	0.70
			TWO WEEKS			
TOTAL		-	7,772.77	122.21	7,345.78	0.80
24-Jun-22	22-Jul-22	-	544.20	5.00	549.20	0.04
17-Jun-22	15-Jul-22	-	532.96	22.83	555.79	0.12
10-Jun-22	8-Jul-22	-	634.07	0.61	634.68	0.09
3-Jun-22	1-Jul-22	-	684.09	7.98	692.07	0.34
27-May-22	24-Jun-22	-	577.39	3.80	581.19	0.41
20-May-22	17-Jun-22	-	488.33	36.54	524.87	0.54

Source: Central Bank of Liberia CoBs – Commercial Banks

Table 4.1: Government Revenue (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

(III IVII	mons of Co	Ψ)			
Figural Operations	$Q^2$ -21	Q <sup>1</sup> -22	$Q^2$ -22	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
Fiscal Operations	(Mi	llions of U	(% Cl	(% Change)	
Total Government Revenue	239.59	147.41	235.66	59.87	(1.64)
Tax Revenue	128.20	122.50	127.00	3.68	(0.93)
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	52.68	58.58	53.00	(9.52)	0.62
o/w Taxes on International Trade	53.58	50.04	52.39	4.70	(2.21)
Non-tax Revenue	36.35	23.77	57.71	142.78	58.76
o/w Property Income o/w Administrative Fees, Fines &	31.93	18.99	52.84	178.28	65.50
Penalties	4.42	4.78	4.86	1.78	10.11
Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings & etc.)	75.05	1.14	50.96	4373.20	(32.10)
Memor	randum Itei	ms			
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	6.99	3.89	6.21	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.74	3.23	3.35	-	_

Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	1.06	0.63	1.52	-	_
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	2.19	0.02	1.34	-	-
	3,426.0	3,792.3	3,792.3		
GDP (In Millions of USD)	0	0	0	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	Q¹-2022	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
Fiscal Operations =		illions of USD)	(% Change)		
Total Expenditure	151.33	133.30	221.67	66.29	46.48
Current Expenditure	119.42	113.83	189.05	66.08	58.30
o/w Employee Compensation	53.70	41.08	59.24	44.19	10.31
o/w Goods & Services	50.38	62.05	96.31	55.20	91.18
Capital Expenditure	0.80	2.45	5.08	107.66	537.64
Payments Loan & Interest & other Charges	31.11	17.03	27.54	61.75	(11.48)
Me	emorandum I	tems			
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	4.42	3.52	5.85	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.49	3.00	4.99	-	_
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.02	0.06	0.13	_	_
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.91	0.45	0.73	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,426.00	3,792.30	3,792.30	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022) (In Millions of US\$)

F: 10	Q <sup>2</sup> -2021	Q¹-2022	Q <sup>2</sup> -2022	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y	
Fiscal Operations	(Mi	llions of USD	(% Cha	(% Change)		
Total Debt Stock	1673.51	1806.78	1914.97	5.99	14.43	
External	982.75	1061.90	1097.23	3.33	11.65	
o/w Multilateral	869.34	948.67	984.16	3.74	13.21	
o/w Bilateral	113.41	113.24	113.07	(0.15)	(0.31)	
Domestic	690.76	744.88	817.74	9.78	18.38	
o/w Financial Institutions	620.22	668.88	747.56	11.76	20.53	
o/w CBL	525.48	525.48	575.48	9.52	9.52	
o/w Commercial Banks	94.73	143.40	172.08	20.00	81.65	
o/w Other Debts	70.54	76.00	70.18	(7.65)	(0.51)	
	Memorandu	m Items				
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	48.85	52.74	50.50	-	-	
External (% of GDP)	28.69	31.00	28.93	-	-	
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	20.16	21.74	21.56	-	-	
Debt Service (% of GDP)	0.58	0.61	0.12	-	-	
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,426.00	3,792.30	3,792.30	-	-	

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 5.1: Directions of Trade (In Millions of US\$, except otherwise Indicated) (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

Discording of Translates Design	Q – 2,	2021	Q – 1, 2	2022 <sup>r</sup>	Q – 2,	2022 <sup>p</sup>
Direction of Trade by Region	Export	Import	Export	<b>Export</b> Import		Import
Africa	4.62	34.0	2.92	121.58	9.87	130.07
o/w ECOWAS	3.08	27.6	0.25	108.12	3.71	112.99
o/w NC <sup>/1</sup>	2.67	22.1	0.25	103.63	2.78	107.16
o/w Sierra Leone	2.5	0.81	0.24	0.55	2.78	0.5
o/w Cote D'Ivoire	0.17	35.3	0	103.09	0	105.54
Asia	9.85	226.9	20.82	137.86	10.82	138.43
o/w China	0.01	49.2	1.49	46.96	0.17	39.3
o/w India	1.77	104.5	6.56	42.45	3.86	42.07
o/w ME/2 Countries	3.14	20.9	8.15	17.55	3.0	23.18
o/w UAE	2.18	8.6	7.34	9.07	1.68	10.64
Europe	159.84	51.3	221.83	44.73	231.51	39.74
o/w Netherlands	1.4	10.59	4.17	4.98	1.36	5.95
o/w Switzerland	98.27	66.69	145.47	0.62	144.84	0.05
o/w Eurozone	16.92	35.3	19.01	10.66	15.46	29.45
o/w Belgium	11.3	4.06	10.08	9.97	9.86	2.09
N. America & The	12.18	15.8	19.01	12.63	13.02	18.11
Caribbean	16.92	14.0	19.01	10.66	13.02	13.35
o/w USA	0.18	9.6	0.28	7.47	0.34	9.76
South & Central America	0.18	0.64	0.28	0.6	0.34	0.66
o/w Mexico						
o/w Brazil	0	6.93	0	5.86	0.2	5.31
Oceania	0.01	3.5	0	0.21	0.02	0.72
o/w Australia	0	3.0	0	0.21	0.02	0.44
Other Countries (n.i.e)	2.9		2.73		42.04	
Total of DOT	189.58	341.1	267.59	324.48	307.62	336.83

Source: Liberia Revenue Authority (CUSTOM ASYCUDA), Firestone Liberia, Total Liberia, Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy r-revised, p-provisional /1 - neighboring countries (these include Ivory Coast, Guinea, and Sierra Leone) /2 – Middle Eastern Countries

Table 5.2: Balance of Payments Statistics (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2021; & 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters, 2022)

(2 Quarter, 2021, et 1	2021 2022			2021	20:	22
	Q-2	Q-1 <sup>r</sup>	Q-2 <sup>p</sup>	Q-2	Q-1 <sup>r</sup>	Q-2 <sup>p</sup>
Balance of Payments (BOP)		Millions, U	J <b>S</b> \$	In % of GDP		DP
Current Account (CA)	-184.8	-92.9	-61.4	-5.3	-2.4	-1.6
Credit	297.8	371.8	403.9	8.5	9.4	10.3
Debit	482.7	464.7	465.3	13.8	11.8	11.8
Goods and services	-227.2	-140.1	-91.9	-6.5	-3.6	-2.3
Credit	189.8	270.8	311.2	5.4	6.9	7.9
Debit	417.0	410.9	403.1	11.9	10.4	10.2
Goods Account (Trade Balance)	-151.7	-56.9	-29.2	-4.3	-1.4	-0.7
Credit (Exports)	189.5	267.6	307.6	5.4	6.8	7.8
Iron Ore	85.0	71.3	77.4	2.4	1.8	2.0
Rubber	22.2	22.1	26.9	0.6	0.6	0.7
Minerals	68.2	156.9	151.6	1.9	4.0	3.9
Gold	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Diamond	3.7	8.0	5.5	0.1	0.2	0.1
Palm oil	4.9	5.1	10.8	0.1	0.1	0.3
Others	9.2	12.2	40.9	0.3	0.3	1.0
Debit (Imports, fob)	341.2	324.5	336.8	9.7	8.2	8.6
Food and Live Animals (including Animals & Veg. Oil)	100.1	67.7	71.5	2.9	1.7	1.8
O/w Rice	44.7	20.5	16.3	1.3	0.5	0.4
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	32.0	109.6	123.7	0.9	2.8	3.1
O/w Petroleum Products	20.2	102.7	105.4	0.6	2.6	2.7
Machinery & Transport Equipment	101.9	79.1	62.4	2.9	2.0	1.6
Manufactured goods classified by materials	46.2	24.2	31.1	1.3	0.6	0.8
Other Imports	61.0	44.0	48.1	1.7	1.1	1.2
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-216.2	-205.8	-175.3	-6.2	-5.2	-4.5
Credit	125.0	118.7	161.5	3.6	3.0	4.1
Debit	341.2	324.5	336.8	9.7	8.2	8.6
Of which Re-exports (credit)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nonmonetary gold	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Credit	64.5	148.9	146.1	1.8	3.8	3.7
Debit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	-75.5	-83.2	-62.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.6
Credit	0.3	3.2	3.6	0.0	0.1	0.1
Debit	75.8	86.4	66.2	2.2	2.2	1.7
Primary Income (net)	-27.9	-22.9	-27.2	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7
Credit	5.6	5.4	5.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Debit	33.5	28.3	32.3	1.0	0.7	0.8

Secondary Income (net)	70.2	70.2	57.7	2.0	1.8	1.5
Credit	102.4	95.7	87.6	2.9	2.4	2.2
Debit	32.2	25.5	30.0	0.9	0.6	0.8
Capital Account (KA)	97.9	99.5	44.2	2.8	2.5	1.1
Credit	97.9	99.5	44.2	2.8	2.5	1.1
Debit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	-86.9	6.6	-17.1	-2.5	0.2	-0.4
Financial Account (FA)						
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (balance from FA)	32.9	-20.0	-68.7	0.9	-0.5	-1.7
Direct Investment (DI)	-8.8	10.4	20.4	-0.3	0.3	0.5
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	8.8	-10.4	-20.4	0.3	-0.3	-0.5
Other Investment (OI)	41.7	-30.4	-89.1	1.2	-0.8	-2.3
Net acquisition of financial assets	51.4	13.3	-52.3	1.5	0.3	-1.3
Net incurrence of liabilities	9.7	43.7	36.8	0.3	1.1	0.9
Net Errors & Omissions (NEO)	95.4	-58.5	-44.4	2.7	-1.5	-1.1
Overall Balance (OB)	24.4	32.0	-7.1	0.7	0.8	-0.2
Financing	-24.4	-32.0	7.1	-0.7	-0.8	0.2
Changes in Reserve Assets (-increase; +decrease)	-24.4	-32.0	7.1	-0.7	-0.8	0.2
Memorandum Items						
Gross International Reserves	312.0	686.0	607.1	8.9	17.4	15.4
Import cover	2.1	4.5	4.0	-	-	-
Imports (cif)	378.6	367.0	383.8	10.8	9.3	9.7
Service Payments	75.8	86.4	66.2	2.2	2.2	1.7
Total Imports of Goods/Services	454.4	453.4	450.1	13.0	11.5	11.4
Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants	-186.5	-94.0	-67.4	-5.3	-2.4	-1.7
End-of-Period	171.4	152.7	152.9	-	-	-
Period Average	171.9	152.4	151.8	-	-	-
Annual Nominal GDP market prices	3,508.9	3,937.6	3,937.6			

Source: Central Bank of Liberia staff

r - revised; p - provisional † NGDP is based on the 2022 ECF Review Mission.

Table 5.3: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar ( $2^{nd}$  Quarter, 2021;  $1^{st}$  &  $2^{nd}$  Quarters, 2022) (Value In L\$)

	2021	2022		7071 7077		_	Depreciation reciation (+)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1st Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	Q-0-Q	Y-0-Y		
Market Rate End of Period	171.42	152.72	152.87	(0.09)	12.14		
Market Rate Period Average	171.87	152.38	151.84	0.35	13.19		
Buying	171.17	151.5	151.00	0.33	13.35		
Selling	172.58	153.26	152.68	0.38	13.03		

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

/1 - Period Average Exchange Rate is the average of both the buying & selling rates of the Liberian Dollar relative to the US\$

Table 5.4: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar (2019-2022)

Period Average	20	20	2021		20	22
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	191.24	192.89	167.79	169.32	148.88	150.75
February	195.85	197.67	171.82	173.29	152.87	154.64
March	197.02	198.64	172.76	174.18	152.75	154.38
April	197.41	198.83	171.79	173.22	151.23	152.97
May	197.84	199.10	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98
June	198.52	199.67	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09
July	198.64	199.81	170.83	172.24		
August	198.65	199.84	170.98	172.43		
September	198.39	199.62	170.63	172.14		
October	192.59	193.85	161.15	162.75		
November	162.10	163.47	143.63	145.23		
December	160.76	162.34	141.81	143.46		
Q1	194.70	196.40	170.79	172.26	151.50	153.26
Q2	197.92	199.20	171.17	172.58	151.00	152.68
Q3	198.56	199.76	170.81	172.27		
Q4	171.82	173.22	148.86	150.48		
Yearly Ave	190.75	192.14	165.41	166.90	151.25	152.97

Source: Central Bank of Liberia