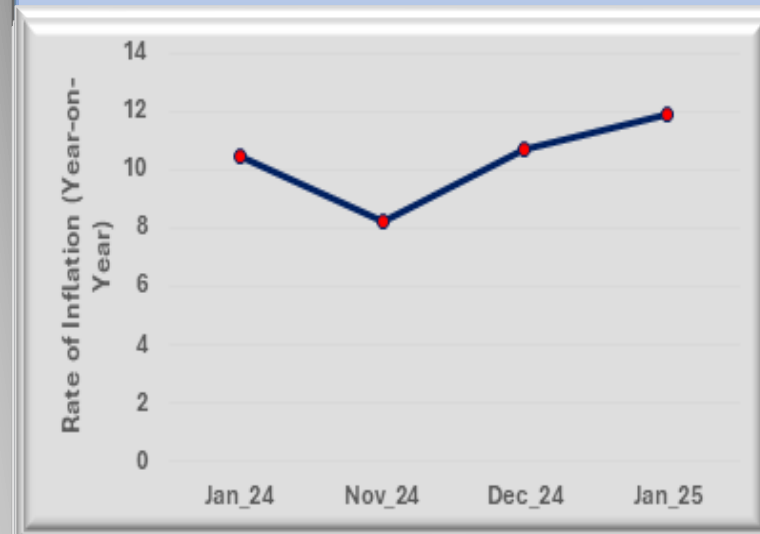


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GLOBAL PRICE	Jan- 24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25		
	(Commodity price per Unit of Measure)				MoM	YoY
Iron ore (US\$/MT)	135.82	100.50	102.21	99.58	(2.6)	(26.68)
Gold (US\$/Oz)	2,034.04	2,651.13	2,648.01	2,709.69	2.3	33.22
Rubber (US\$/MT)	1,800.00	2,290.70	2,384.90	2,371.40	(0.6)	31.74
Cocoa Beans (US\$/MT)	4,400.00	7,894.81	10,320.51	10,745.11	4.1	144.21
Palm oil (US\$/MT)	844.9	1,168.59	1,189.73	1,070.31	(10.0)	26.68
Crude oil (US\$/BBL)	77.67	72.29	72.31	78.16	8.1	0.63
Food Price Index (FAO) ¹	118.20	127.50	127.00	124.90	(1.7)	5.67
Rice_5% broken (US\$/MT)	620.00	487.00	500.00	459.00	(8.2)	(25.97)
Sugar (US\$/MT)	480.00	450.40	436.29	396.17	(9.2)	(17.46)
Commodity Price Index No ²	159.24	166.24	166.48	172.34	3.5	8.23

1/Commodity Food Price Index includes Cereal, Vegetable Oils, Meat, Seafood, Sugar, Bananas, and Oranges Price Indices²/ Commodity Price Index includes both Fuel and Non-Fuel Price Indices

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Monthly Economic Review (MER) is a publication by the Research, Policy, and Planning Department (RPPD) of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) that provides a snapshot of economic developments in the Real, Monetary, Fiscal, and External sectors of the Liberian economy. It highlights the Monetary Policy Stance of the CBL and provides a synopsis of exchange rate developments in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ).

This Edition represents Volume 11, Number 01.

2.0 OVERVIEW

Real sector statistics largely showed declines in key production commodities in January 2025 compared to December 2024. Except for iron ore output that remained unchanged, productions of gold, diamond, cement, and beverages declined during the review month.

Headline inflation in January 2025 increased to 11.9 percent, from the 10.7 percent reported in December 2024, mainly as a result of increase in prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, & narcotics; clothing & footwear; furnishings, household equipment, & routine household maintenance; transport; recreation & culture; restaurants, hotels & miscellaneous goods, and services.

The Central Bank of Liberia's (CBL) monetary policy stance continues to be anchored on price stability, with emphasis on the management of Liberian dollar liquidity. As part of its monetary policy operations, the Bank issued bills at tenors of two weeks, one month, and three months at the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) of 17.0 percent per annum during the month under review.

Broad money supply (M2) grew by 4.5 percent to L\$258.30 billion, from the L\$247.19 billion recorded at the end of the previous month, driven by a 2.6 percent increase in net domestic assets (NDA) and a 17.7 percent increase in the net foreign assets (NFA) of the banking system. Liberian dollars in circulation contracted by 2.5 percent to L\$34.17 billion at end-January 2025, from L\$35.05 billion at the end of the preceding month, due to a 4.0 percent decrease in currency outside banks.

The US dollar-denominated component of private sector credit decreased to 9.6 percent of GDP in January 2025, from 10.8 percent of GDP in the previous month. Conversely, the Liberian dollar component of private sector credit moderated to 22.5 percent of GDP, from 24.3 percent of GDP at end December 2024.

7.6 Sugar

The price of sugar deteriorated by 9.2 percent to US\$396.17 per metric ton in January 2025, from US\$436.29 recorded in the previous month. Annual comparison showed that the price of sugar declined by 17.5 percent from US\$ 480.00 per metric ton a year ago.

7.7 Palm Oil

The price of palm oil dropped sharply by 10.0 percent in January 2025 to US\$1,070.31 per metric ton, from US\$1,189.73 per metric ton in the previous month, caused by improved supply by Malaysia and Indonesia, coupled with good weather. Weighed against January in the previous year, the price of palm oil rose by 26.7 percent, from US\$844.90 per metric ton.

7.8 Rice

The price of rice fell by 8.2 percent to US\$459.00 per metric ton in January 2025, from US\$500.00 per metric ton in December. Annual comparison showed that rice price fell by 26.0 percent, from US\$620.00 per metric ton in January 2024.

7.9 Cocoa Beans

The price of cocoa beans surged by 4.1 percent in January 2025, to USD\$10,745.11 per metric tons. Annual comparison showed that the price of cocoa beans increased by 144.2 percent a year ago from US\$4,400.00 per metric ton.

Commodity Price Outlook

The global commodity market outlook of the World Bank Pink Sheet indicates that global commodity prices are generally expected to fluctuate in February 2025. Lingering hostilities in the Middle East mixed with trade disturbances account for the anticipated price developments. The global commodity price indices measured in US dollars of energy, non-energy, agriculture, fertilizers, metal & minerals, and precious metals, are expected to rise in February 2025 relative to the prices in the review month.

7.1 Iron Ore

Price of iron ore declined by 2.6 percent to US\$99.58 per metric ton in January 2025, from US\$ 102.21 per metric ton in the previous month, caused by continuing weak steel demand globally. The year-on-year comparison showed the price fell by 26.7 percent, from US\$135.82 per metric ton recorded in January 2024.

7.2 Gold

The price of gold grew by 2.3 percent to US\$2,709.69 in January 2025, from US\$2,648.01 in December 2024, induced by fears of tariff and bond yield. Year-on-year comparison showed that the price of gold increased by 33.2 percent, from US\$2,034.04 recorded in January 2024.

7.3 Crude Oil (Petroleum) Price

The price of petroleum increased in January 2025, on account of US sanctions on Iran and Russia intensified, and freezing temperatures across the Northern Hemisphere. Compared to January 2024, the price of petroleum grew marginally by 0.6 percent from US\$77.67 per barrel.

7.4 Rubber

Rubber price slowdown by 0.6 percent in January 2025, to US\$2,371.40 per metric ton, from US\$2,384.90 per metric ton recorded in December 2024, occasioned by declining demand from China on the back of favorable weather conditions in producing regions. Year-on-year comparison showed rubber price increased by 31.7 percent from US\$1,800.00 in January 2024.

7.5 Food Price (FAO)

FAO food price index (FFPI) decreased by 1.7 percent to US\$124.90 in January 2025, from US\$127.00 in December 2024. The decline was driven by a slowdown in the price index for sugar, vegetable oils, and meat.

The banking sector remained in compliant with regulatory requirements during the month under review. Though the liquidity ratio declined by 1.73 percent to 50.53 percent, it remained well above the 15.00 percent minimum requirement. Similarly, the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) moderated to 31.31 percent, from 33.80 percent in December 2024, but remained above the minimum regulatory requirement of 10.00 percent. However, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans rose by 2.98 percentage points to 21.99 percent, more than the regulatory threshold of 10.00 percent. Additionally, the Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) were reported at 0.29 percent and 2.05 percent, respectively at end-January 2025.

Preliminary statistics on the fiscal operations in January 2025 recorded a surplus in the Overall Balance (OB), attributed to a decrease in government spending, surpassing the reduction in total revenue. Liberia's public debt portfolio at end-January 2025 showed a modest increase in public debt, driven mainly by external debt stock.

Liberia's merchandise trade deficit worsened by 229.3 percent in January 2025, from the surplus recorded in December 2024, led by fall in export receipts by 9.2 percent coupled with growth in import Payments by over one hundred percent. Gross international reserves (GIR) rose by 2.1 percent to US\$486.5 million, covering 2.5 months of imports, falling below the ECOWAS benchmark of 3.0 months. The Liberian dollar on average appreciated by 5.5 percent against the US dollar, due to high demand for US dollar to replenish the depleted stock of imported goods during the December 2024 festive season. Net remittance inflows fell by 14.3 percent to 1.4 percent of GDP, largely due to a 14.5 percent decline in inward remittances.

3.0 REAL SECTOR & PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Production Analyses of Key Commodities

Production statistics of key commodities largely declined in January 2025 compared to December 2024.

In the mining subsector, iron ore production remained the same at 515,000 metric tons in January 2025, relative to December 2025. Compared to the same period a year ago, production remained flat at 515,000 metric tons. Gold production decreased by 12.4 percent in the reporting period to 32,543 ounces, from 37,147 ounces reported in December 2024 on account of decrease in artisanal mining activities. Compared to the corresponding period in 2024, gold production decreased by 18.9 percent. The production of diamond decreased slightly by 1.0 percent in the reporting period to 2,338 carats, from 2,362 carats reported in December 2024. This slight decrease was mainly on account of a decrease in mining activities and a decrease in the price of synthetic diamonds. Compared to the same period a year ago, diamond production decreased significantly by 45.7 percent.

In the agriculture subsector, rubber production decreased by 24.3 percent to 6,233 metric tons in January 2025, down from 8,229 metric tons in December 2024 as a result of decrease in production by small farm holders. When compared to the same period a year ago, rubber production decreased by 3.5 percent.

In the manufacturing subsector, cement output decreased slightly by 1.5 percent in the reporting month to 52,283 metric tons, from 53,094 metric tons reported in December 2024, on account of accumulated stock. When compared to December 2024, cement production decreased by 18.6 percent. Total beverage production (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) decreased by 25.4 percent in January 2025 to 2.7 million liters, down from 3.6 million liters in December 2024 due to remanent of stock accumulated for the holiday season. Compared to the corresponding period a year ago, beverage production decreased by 7.5 percent. When disaggregated, alcoholic beverages constituted 25.0 percent while non-alcoholic beverages constituted 75.0 percent.

3.2 Consumer Prices

In January 2025, headline inflation increased to 11.9 percent, from the 10.7 percent reported in December 2024, largely as a result of an increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and narcotics; clothing and footwear; furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance; transport; recreation and culture; restaurants & hotels & miscellaneous goods, and services.

A year-on-year comparison indicated that almost all currencies in the Zone depreciated against the United States dollar except the Leone as shown in table 7.

The depreciation across WAMZ currencies continues to primarily be attributed to the high demand for imports payments.

Table 7: Exchange Rate Developments in Liberia and the WAMZ Countries

Rate & Currency	Jan. - 2024	Nov. - 2024	Dec. - 2024	Jan. - 2025	Appr (+)/Depr (-)	
					MoM	YoY
Exchange Rate	LD/USD				Percent Change	
	Currency per USD					
GHC	11.92	16.03	14.80	14.92	(0.8)	-20.1
GMD	64.75	70.63	70.89	73.09	(3.0)	-11.4
GNF	8,507.35	8,555.82	8,579.84	8,606.13	(0.3)	-1.1
LRD	189.45	183.88	181.43	191.36	(5.2)	-1.0
NGN	892.28	1,669.78	1,558.44	1,538.34	1.3	-42.0
SLL	22.71	22.58	22.66	22.62	0.2	0.4
End of Period						
LRD	190.01	179.19	184.64	196.86	(6.2)	-3.5

Source: CBL, WAMA: www.amao-wama.org/
 GHC - Ghanaian cedi; LD - Liberian dollar; GMD - Gambian dalasi; GNF - Guinean franc; NGN - Nigerian naira; SLL—Sierra Leonean leone; USD – United States dollar

7.0 GLOBAL COMMODITY PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index (FFPI) reduced in January 2025, down 1.7 percent from the revised number for December 2024. The Commodity Price Index of fuel increased, and the index of non-fuel commodities increased in January 2025. A drop in the price indices for sugar, vegetable oils, and meat, offset the rise in the indices for cereals and dairy products, led to the FFPI index's development.

6.2 Direction of Trade (DOT)

The primary destination of Liberia's exports in January 2025 was Europe, which accounted for US\$103.9 million worth of the export proceeds, of which Switzerland accounted for US\$74.2 million. Asia was the major region for the sources of imports to Liberia, accounting for US\$118.60 million. During the review month, imports from China amounted to US\$62.50 million.

6.3 Personal Remittances

Remittances net inflows in January 2025 dropped by 14.3 percent to US\$70.47 million (1.4 percent of GDP), compared to US\$82.20 million (1.6 percent of GDP) recorded in December 2024. Inward remittances also decreased by 14.5 percent to US\$72.42 million, while outward remittances increased by 23.0 percent to US\$1.95 million in the same month, compared to the amount in the previous month.

6.4 Gross International Reserves

Gross International Reserves (GIR) grew by 2.1 percent to US\$486.5 million (9.6 percent of GDP) at end-January 2025, from the US\$476.3 million (9.4 percent of GDP) recorded at the end of the previous month. This development was largely on account of growth in foreign liquid assets excluding SDRs. Similarly, the month of import cover increased to 2.5 months (below the ECOWAS minimum regional threshold of 3.0 months), from 5.6 months in December 2024, driven by an increase in GIR (Table 6).

6.5 Exchange Rate Developments

In January 2025, the Liberian dollar's end-of-period (EOP) exchange rate depreciated against the United States dollar by 6.2 percent to L\$196.86/US\$1.00, from L\$184.64/US\$1.00 reported for December 2024. Similarly, the average exchange rate also depreciated by 3.5 percent to L\$196.86/US\$1.00 relative to the rate reported for the preceding month. The appreciation in the month under review continues to mainly center around import payments.

From the regional front, the average exchange rates (monthly) of currencies of the West Africa Monetary Zone (WAMZ) predominantly depreciated against the United States dollar except for the Nigerian naira and the Leone. The Guinea franc by 0.3 percent; The Ghana cedi by 0.8 percent; the Gambia dalasi by 3.0 percent and the Liberian dollar by 5.2 percent. The Nigerian naira and the Leone were the two currencies that appreciated against the United States dollars in the zone, by 1.3 percent and 0.2 percent respectively, for the month of January 2025.

Core inflation¹ (headline inflation less food and transport) increased to 13.6 percent in January 2025, from 13.2 percent in December 2024 mainly driven by increases in the prices of clothing and footwear, transport, recreation and culture, restaurants and hotels and miscellaneous goods and services.

Table 1: Production and Price Statistics

Production	Jan. - 2024	Nov. - 2024	Dec. - 2024	Jan. - 2025
	<i>(In Metric ton, Ounce, Carat and Liter)</i>			
Iron Ore (Metric ton)	515,000	495,000	515,000	515,000
Gold (Ounces)	40,107	35,663	37,143	32,543
Diamond (Carat)	4,306	1,090	2,362	2,338
Rubber (Metric ton)	6,456	7,557	8,229	6,233
Cement (Metric ton)	64,210	48,491	53,094	52,283
Total Beverages (liter)	2,948,559	3,305,151	3,657,927	2,728,202
Alcoholic	1,470,608	1,032,642	1,287,651	679,913
Non-Alcoholic	1,477,951	2,272,509	2,370,276	2,048,270
Inflation	<i>(In percent)</i>			
Overall (Y-o-Y) Rate of Inflation	10.5	8.2	10.7	11.9
a. Food and Non-alcoholic Beverage Inflation	26.1	5.1	9.7	12.7
- Domestic Food Inflation	19.5	12.9	27.4	29.5
- Imported Food Inflation	31.9	-1.0	-3.0	-0.5
b. Transport Inflation	6.5	0.0	-1.3	-0.6
c. Imported Fuels Inflation	16.2	-4.5	-10.4	-8.2
Overall (M-o-M) Rate of Inflation	1.4	-0.8	0.4	2.5
Core Inflation				
Inflation excluding Food & NAB ¹	4.2	9.7	11.2	11.6
Inflation excluding Imported Food	6.6	10.3	13.9	14.8
Inflation excluding Domestic Food	8.7	7.8	8.5	9.2
Inflation excluding Food and Transport	3.8	11.2	13.2	13.6
Nominal (NGDP) (in millions US\$)	4,787	4,787	4,787	5,039
RGDP growth (in percent)	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.6

Sources: AML, MLME, FSL, CEMENCO, LCCBC, RITCO, NICOM, MB, CEMENCO, CBL & LISGIS.

¹ Non-alcoholic beverages

² GDP was revised following the IMF- ECF review mission in April 2021

4.0 MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Monetary Policy Stance

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), aimed at containing the inflationary pressures in January 2025, used its policy instruments (including CBL bills) to reduce excess liquidity in the banking system.

4.2 Monetary Aggregates

At end-January 2025 Monetary Aggregates showed that broad money supply (M2) increased by 4.5 percent to L\$ 258.30 billion, from L\$247.19 billion recorded at the end of the previous month. The growth was ascribed to a 2.6 percent expansion in net domestic assets (NDA) and a 17.7 percent increase in the net foreign assets (NFA) of the banking system.

Narrowed Money Supply (M1) also expanded by 4.3 percent for the reporting period. This rise was attributed to a 6.2 percent rise in demand deposits. Quasi money also grew in the reporting month by 4.9 percent, due to a 5.4 percent increase in time & savings deposits while other deposits recorded a decrease of 72.4 percent.

Meanwhile, the supply of Liberian dollars in circulation contracted by a 2.5 percent to L\$ 34.17 billion at end-January 2025, from L\$35.05 billion documented at the end of the preceding month. The decline was caused by a 4.0 percent decrease in currency outside banks.

The stock of Commercial Banks Loans to private sector denominated in Liberian dollars decreased marginally by 1.2 percent to L\$5.63 billion (0.6% of GDP) from 5.70 billion (0.6% of GDP) in the previous month, this decline is credited to reduction in loans and advances by 96.9 percent, 32.7 percent, 13.9 percent and 11.5 percent to the manufacturing, oil & gas, trade and construction subsectors respectively.

Additionally, the US dollars component declined by 4.3 percent to US\$492.4 million (9.6% of GDP) from US\$514.8 million (10.8% of GDP) in the previous month, reflecting a decrease in loans extended to the personal subsector (by 33.2%), services subsector (by 8.7%), and trade subsector (by 7.8%).

At end January 2025, total deposits converted to Liberian dollars grew by 5.8 percent to L\$226.93 billion (22.5% of GDP), from 214.55 billion (24.3% of GDP) at end December 2024, prompted by a 6.6 percent depreciation in the end of period Liberian to US dollar exchange rate which led to an exchange rate pass through effect. Furthermore, year-on-year comparison showed total deposits rose by 17.7 percent., triggered by growth in both US and Liberian dollars deposits.

Personal Remittances				
Inflows	67.28	58.63	88.24	119.52
Outflows	2.91	6.10	11.44	3.30
Net flows	64.37	52.54	76.79	116.22
Direction of Trade (DOT)				
Destination of Export	91.4	118.2	137.0	124.4
Africa	0.2	1.8	1.6	5.7
o/w ECOWAS	0.2	1.6	1.0	4.9
o/w Neighboring Countries	0.2	1.6	1.0	1.6
Asia	3.8	1.2	3.4	6.9
o/w The Middle East	2.9	0.7	0.3	1.0
o/w United Arab Emirate	2.4	0.4	0.3	0.7
then China	0.2	0.1	-	3.9
Europe	82.2	111.1	129.3	103.9
o/w Euro Zone	7.1	5.7	5.0	3.0
o/w The United Kingdom	7.1	5.7	5.0	3.0
Switzerland	67.6	80.7	84.0	74.2
North America & The Caribbean	5.2	3.2	0.0	7.7
o/w USA	5.2	4.1	0.0	7.9
Sources of Import (cif)	197.45	137.86	85.32	191.23
Africa	86.27	25.75	11.55	30.99
o/w ECOWAS	78.80	21.29	8.38	24.24
o/w Neighboring Countries	79.31	21.32	8.99	24.89
o/w Cote D Ivoire	77.78	20.28	6.63	22.36
Asia	82.66	87.60	47.75	118.60
o/w The Middle East	7.97	4.54	3.95	4.76
o/w United Arab Emirate	1.85	2.46	1.17	3.41
o/w China	20.92	29.07	25.79	62.50
o/w India	39.19	43.05	9.14	20.76
Europe	15.89	13.40	11.27	26.99
o/w Europe Zone	12.82	11.54	9.39	24.51
o/w The United Kingdom	1.44	1.66	2.06	2.96
o/w Spain	1.00	1.12	0.78	1.68
North America & The Caribbean	7.43	4.40	8.95	8.73
o/w USA	5.92	3.30	8.03	5.88
South & Central America	4.95	6.32	5.34	4.77
o/w Brazil	3.35	5.10	4.79	2.20
o/w Argentina	0.87	0.19	0.19	1.50
Oceania	0.25	0.38	0.46	1.15
o/w Australia	0.18	0.18	0.21	1.15
GDP	4,331.56	4,787.29	4,787.29	4,787.29

Source: CBL

Table 6: External Sector Statistics

External Trade (Value)	Jan_24	Nov_24	Dec_24	Jan_25
	(Millions of US\$; Except Otherwise Indicated)			
Exports/ ¹	91.42	118.22	137.03	124.37
Iron Ore	8.04	23.17	36.02	32.45
Rubber	11.06	8.88	9.86	12.87
Gold	70.01	81.14	84.28	74.73
Diamond	1.23	0.55	0.43	0.69
Cocoa Bean	0.10	1.91	0.90	0.28
Palm Oil	0.04	0.18	0.61	0.59
Other Commodities	0.95	2.39	4.92	2.75
Imports (CIF)/ ^{1†}	197.45	137.86	85.32	191.23
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	82.52	22.59	11.11	30.48
o/w Petroleum Products	79.20	20.20	15.38	22.30
Food and Live Animals (incl. Animal and veg. oil)	50.28	57.93	18.47	26.02
o/w Rice	35.63	32.18	1.27	7.51
Machinery & Transport Equipment	35.14	29.49	22.13	93.07
Manufactured goods classified by materials	14.16	12.26	16.44	15.88
Other categories of imports	15.34	15.60	17.17	25.78
Trade Balance	(106.03)	(19.64)	51.71	(66.86)
Total Trade	288.87	256.08	222.35	315.60
External Trade (Volume)				
Rubber (MT)	6,456.17	3,421.76	4,283.56	5,343.85
Iron Ore (MT)	90,002.21	516,833.60	762,639.08	553,242.00
Cocoa Beans (MT)	21,690.77	-	10,320.00	10,745.11
Palm Oil (MT)	44.68	-	516.34	547.17
Gold (Oz)	40,107.53	35,663.35	37,152.99	32,542.67
Diamond (Crt)	4,305.53	1,090.44	2,361.88	2,338.27
Petroleum Products (MT)	26,966	7,461.04	5,527.33	7,778.61
Rice (MT)	53,984.85	62,974.56	2,485.32	18,317.07
Other Indicators				
Net Foreign Reserves Position	223.09	207.56	234.53	247.95
Import (FOB)	183.59	123.01	75.14	178.63
Gross International Reserves (GIR) ¹	486.2	468.3	481.3	493.2
Import covers (In Month) [†]	1.1	1.5	2.7	1.3

Table 2: Monetary Aggregates Statistics

Monetary Aggregates	Jan-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
	<i>In Millions of LD; Except Otherwise Indicated</i>			
ASSETS				
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	12,418.69	22,165.07	31,011.59	36,509.13
Net Domestic Assets (NDA)	208,364.01	207,536.60	216,174.00	221,760.70
Domestic Credits	292,956.11	288,745.83	305,342.18	317,869.90
Net Claims on Government	149,504.84	138,944.43	144,835.70	156,876.78
Claims on Private Sector	143,451.27	149,801.40	160,506.48	160,993.12
Other Items Net	-84,592.10	-81,209.23	-89,168.18	-96,109.20
LIABILITIES				
Broad money (M2)	220,782.70	229,701.68	247,185.59	258,269.84
Narrow Money (M1)	158,106.18	163,681.74	177,068.76	184,696.92
Liberian Dollars in Circulation	27,986.79	30,738.72	32,634.92	31,338.36
Currency in banks	130,119.39	132,943.02	144,433.84	153,358.56
Currency outside banks	62,676.52	66,019.93	70,116.83	73,572.92
Demand deposits	62,451.00	65,888.26	69,658.29	73,446.18
Quasi Money	225.51	131.67	458.55	126.74
Time & Savings deposits	220,782.70	229,701.68	247,185.59	258,269.84
Other deposits	158,106.18	163,681.74	177,068.76	184,696.92
MEMORANDUM				
Broad money (M2) in LRD only	54,123.08	58,165.54	62,784.29	61,515.08
Money Supply (M1) in LRD only	44,622.41	47,921.86	52,566.86	50,690.87
Loans to Private Sector				
Commercial banks loans to private sector- USD	454.46	496.34	514.77	492.43
Commercial banks loans to private sector - LRD	5,520.05	5,998.60	5,698.14	5,628.30
Demand Deposits of commercial banks				
Demand deposits – USD	597.25	646.02	674.29	680.73
Demand deposits – LRD	16,635.61	17,183.14	19,931.94	19,352.51
Time & savings deposits – USD	279.72	311.01	322.45	318.61
Time & savings deposits – LRD	9,301.73	10,158.55	10,121.07	10,725.12
Other Deposits**				
Actual US\$ component of other deposits	0.140	0.260	1.962	0.140
Liberian \$ component of other deposits	198.94	85.13	96.36	99.09
Total Deposits (both USD & LRD) converted to LRD ¹	192,795.91	198,962.95	214,550.67	226,931.48
Liberian Dollar share of Broad Money (% of total Money Supply)	24.51%	25.32%	25.40%	23.82%

[†] - Reserves excluding ECF borrowing from the IMF;

* - estimate/projection

** - Other Deposits Including Official and Manager Checks;

4.3 FINANCIAL MARKET (FM) DEVELOPMENTS

The CBL continued the issuance of the CBL bills with tenors of 2-week, 1-month, and 3-months on an effective annual rate of 17.00 percent. Confidence continues to grow based on the regular and timely redemption of the bills and the dissemination of periodic issuance and redemption reports on the CBL website.

In January of 2025, the total CBL bills issued amounted to L\$16,186.65 million, a 222.85 percent increase in subscription from the preceding month of L\$5,013.63 million. The huge rise in subscription was due to commercial banks sufficient understanding and adaptation of the updated auction platform, allowing for efficient utilization and execution of transactions. Of the total amount issued, commercial banks purchased L\$15,869.90 million, whilst retail investors issuance surge to L\$316.75 million, a 21.39% percent rise from the previous month of L\$260.93 million. The increase in retail subscription could be attributed to boasting of investor's confidence by timely issuance and redemption of securities. The total redemption amounted to L\$12,488.05. Hence, the CBL recorded a net contraction of about L\$3,698.60 million whilst the total outstanding stood at L\$11,443.64.

There was no new issuance of USD and LRD Treasury securities by CBL on behalf of the government. The Liberian Dollars Treasury security stock remained at L\$8,168.95 million. Similarly, USD Treasury securities stock reduced to US\$145.42 million due to the partial interest payment of US\$3.70 million.

In reference to the previous month, the lending, average savings, and time deposit rates were unchanged at 12.4 percent, 2.1 percent, and 3.5 percent. In the interbank operations, commercial banks continued to trade with non-interest-bearing swaps to ease the liquidity disparity among banks for their international and intra-country transactions (Table 3).

External Debt	1,380.88	1,496.64	1,547.65	1,559.03	0.74
o/w Multilateral	1,258.60	1,363.37	1,414.67	1,426.32	0.82
o/w Bilateral	115.42	105.45	105.15	104.89	(0.25)

Memo Items					
Government Revenue (% of GDP)	1.23	1.06	2.35	1.36	-
Government Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.22	1.52	3.50	0.56	-
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	52.75	52.01	53.05	53.21	-
NGDP (at Level)	4,390.00	4,787.29	4,787.29	4,787.29	-

Source: CBL calculation using MFDP's data

*Projections

6.0 EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

6.1 Merchandise Trade

Developments in the external sector showed that the merchandise trade balance recorded a deficit of over one hundred percent, and total merchandise trade grew by 41.9 percent in January 2025 compared to December 2024. The merchandise trade deficit rose to US\$ 66.86 million (-1.3 percent of GDP), from a surplus of US\$ 51.71 million (1.1 percent of GDP). Total merchandise trade increased to US\$315.60 million (6.3 percent of GDP), from US\$251.82 million (5.3 percent of GDP), stimulated by a sharp rise in import payments.

Export earnings reduced by 9.2 percent to US\$124.37 million (2.5 percent of GDP) in January 2025, from US\$137.03 million (2.9 percent of GDP) in the previous month, led by declines in receipts from iron ore and gold exports. Payments for merchandise imports rose by 124.1 percent to US\$191.23 million (3.8 percent of GDP), from the US\$85.32 million (1.8 percent of GDP) recorded in December 2024, induced by rise in payments for machinery & transport equipment and minerals, fuel, & lubricants, chiefly petroleum.

5.2 Total Public Debt

A review of Liberia's public debt portfolio at end-January 2024 showed a modest increase in public debt. Hence, the stock of public debt expanded by 0.3 percent to US\$2,547.5 (53.2 percent of GDP). The increase was attributed to a rise in external debt, amidst a slight fall in domestic debt. The stock of external debt rose by 0.7 percent to US\$1,559.0 million (32.6 percent of GDP) while the stock of domestic debt fell by 0.3 percent to US\$988.5 million (20.7 percent of GDP).

Table 5. GOL's Fiscal Operations Statistics

Fiscal Operations	Jan-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	M-O-M
	(Millions of USD)				(% Change)
Government Revenue	54.15	50.87	112.67	64.90	(42.40)
<i>Tax Revenue</i>	<i>43.17</i>	<i>40.40</i>	<i>57.24</i>	<i>56.04</i>	(2.11)
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	18.41	15.25	27.33	28.84	5.53
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade (Customs)	17.87	20.01	20.32	18.36	(9.65)
<i>Non-tax Revenue</i>	<i>10.98</i>	<i>10.46</i>	<i>15.43</i>	<i>8.87</i>	(42.54)
o/w Property Income	8.07	7.01	11.61	5.21	(55.06)
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	2.91	3.45	3.76	3.65	(2.95)
<i>Other Revenue (Including Grants)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>40.00</i>	<i>-</i>	(100.00)
Government Expenditure	9.82	72.78	167.48	26.71	(84.05)
Recurrent Expenditure	9.82	68.63	149.99	26.71	(82.19)
o/w Compensation	2.59	27.42	39.45	9.72	(75.36)
o/w Goods and Services	2.09	15.30	41.18	14.98	(63.64)
o/w Payments on Loans, interest & other charges	3.30	16.22	37.77	0.36	(99.05)
Capital Expenditure	-	4.15	17.49	-	(100.00)
Overall Balance (Surplus+; Deficit -)	44.33	(21.92)	(54.81)	38.19	
Total Debt Stock	2,315.86	2,489.67	2,539.51	2,547.52	0.32
Domestic Debt	934.98	993.03	991.86	988.49	(0.34)
o/w Financial Institutions	801.87	861.96	861.96	861.96	-
o/w Other Debts	133.11	131.07	129.91	126.54	(2.59)

Table 3: Financial Market and Interest Rates Statistics

Market Instruments (CBL indexed Bills)	Jan-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
	<i>(In Millions of Liberian Dollar)</i>			
Bills Purchased per month on an EAR basis	6,575.89	6,678.91	5,013.63	16,186.65
Redemption during the month (EAR basis)	4,755.43	8,561.23	3,918.70	12,488.05
Bill Outstanding (EAR basis)	9,383.47	6,650.11	7,745.04	11,443.64
Effective Annual Rate (EAR)	20.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
Total Purchases (coupon rate & EAR)	6,575.89	6,678.91	5,013.63	16,186.65
Total Redemption (coupon rate & EAR)	4,755.43	8,561.23	3,918.70	12,488.05
Total Outstanding Bills (coupon rate & EAR)	9,383.47	8,561.23	7,745.04	11,443.64
Treasury Securities	<i>(In Millions of Liberian Dollars)</i>			
T- Bills Issued (in LD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
T- Bills Redeemed (in LD)	0.00	108.35	108.35	0.00
T-Bills Outstanding	3,642.67	373.35	373.35	373.35
T-Bills total Stock		8,168.95	8,168.95	8,168.95
Net Treasury Bills Operations^ withdrawal (+)/Injection (-)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ave. Weighted Discount Rate (T-Bills)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
T- Bills Issued (In USD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
T- Bills Redeemed (Principal or Interest) (In USD)	0.00	0.42	3.70	0.00
T-Bills Outstanding (Repayment principal)	124.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total debt stock	143.17	149.12	145.42	145.42
Ave. Weighted Discount Rate (T-Bills)	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Treasury Bond Issued (in LD for 2 years)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasury Bond Outstanding (In LD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coupon Payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total debt stock	8,246.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Early Redemption	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coupon Rate (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasury Bond Issued	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasury Bond Principal Payments (USD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasury Bond Outstanding (In USD)	36.33	0.47	0.47	0.47
Coupon Payments (USD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total debt stock	36.33	36.16	36.16	36.16
	<i>(As specified)</i>			
SDF rate (4.0%)	20.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
SDF Amount (In Millions LD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SDF overnight monthly rate (0.07%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SDF Amount (In Millions LD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<i>Interest Rates</i>	<i>(In Percent)</i>			
- Lending rate	12.44	12.44	12.44	12.44
<i>Average Deposit rates</i>				
-Savings	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10
-Time	3.53	3.53	3.53	3.53
<i>Money Markets Instrument (In percent)</i>				
Repo	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swap lending		0.00	0.00	0.00

Source : CBL

^ - with Liquidity Effect

/1 – CBL Foreign Exchange Auction includes use of the remittance split to ease the demand for foreign currency

/2 – Treasury Bill issued and redeemed during the month were in US Dollar

4.4 BANKING SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

The banking industry remained in compliance with the sector's regulatory requirements. For the month ended January 2025, the industry liquidity ratio decreased by 1.73 percentage points to 50.53 percent compared to the 52.26 percent reported in the previous month. The industry liquidity ratio remained above the minimum regulatory requirement of 15.00 percent by 35.53 percentage points. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) dropped to 31.31 percent from 33.80 percent. Moreover, the CAR remained above the minimum regulatory requirement of 10.00 percent by 21.31 percentage points. On the other hand, the Return on Assets (ROA) was reported as 0.29 percent while the Return on Equity (ROE) was 2.05 percent.

Total gross loans increased by 3.34 percent to L\$106.46 billion in January 2025, from the L\$103.01 billion reported in the previous month. The increase in aggregate credit was attributed to the additional new facilities granted in the industry. At the same time, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans increased by 2.98 percentage points from 19.01% to 21.99% during the month under review. This means that the end-of-month NPL ratio of 21.99 percent exceeded the maximum regulatory threshold of 10.00 percent tolerable limit. The increase in NPLs was largely due to increases in defaulted facilities recorded in the Government and Agriculture sectors respectively.

Table 4: Selected Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs)

Financial Soundness Indicators	Jan. 2024	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024	Jan. 2025
	<i>(In Billions of Liberian Dollar)</i>			
Total Gross Loans	95.33	98.62	103.01	106.46
Total Non-performing Loans	17.71	18.53	27.91	22.99
Non-performing Loans to Total Gross Loans (ratio)	18.58	18.78	19.01	21.99
Gross Loan (percent change)	2.69	(4.40)	4.26	3.34
Non-performing Loans (percent change)	5.66	(11.59)	50.62	17.62
Returns on Assets (ROA)	0.17	3.72	3.42	0.29
Returns on Equity (ROE)	1.22	24.03	23.80	2.05
Liquidity Ratio***	43.38	48.87	52.26	50.53
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)****	18.22	31.81	33.8	31.31

Source : CBL

**** - The Minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio is 10%

*** - The Required Minimum Liquidity Ratio is 15%

5.0 FISCAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 Total Revenue and Expenditure

Provisional statistics on the fiscal operations in January 2025 reported a surplus in the Overall Balance (OB), attributed to a decrease in government spending, surpassing the reduction in revenue intake. The surplus amounted to US\$38.2 million (0.8 percent of GDP) from a deficit of US\$54.8 million (1.1 percent of GDP).

During the review period, the fiscal operations recorded a reduction in government revenue, to US\$64.9 million (1.4 percent of GDP). The reduction reflects development in tax, non-tax, and other revenues (including grants). Tax revenue fell marginally by 2.1 percent, to US\$56.0 million (1.2 percent of GDP), mainly attributed to a decline in international trade tax. Taxes from international trade and income & profits amounted to US\$18.4 million (0.4 percent of GDP) and US\$28.8 million (0.6 percent of GDP), respectively. Also, non-tax revenue recorded a decrease, by 42.5 percent to US\$8.9 million (0.2 percent of GDP) on account of decreases in property income and administrative fees & penalties.

Fiscal operations reported a substantial decline in spending during the month under review. Total expenditure fell by more than half to US\$26.7 million (0.6 percent of GDP), from US\$167.5 million (3.5 percent of GDP) in the preceding month. The decrease was attributed to development in recurrent and capital expenditures. Recurrent expenditure decreased by more than half to US\$26.7 million (0.6 percent of GDP) due to decreases in goods & services spending, payments on loans, interest & other charges as well as employees' compensation. Similarly, capital expenditure fell by onefold.