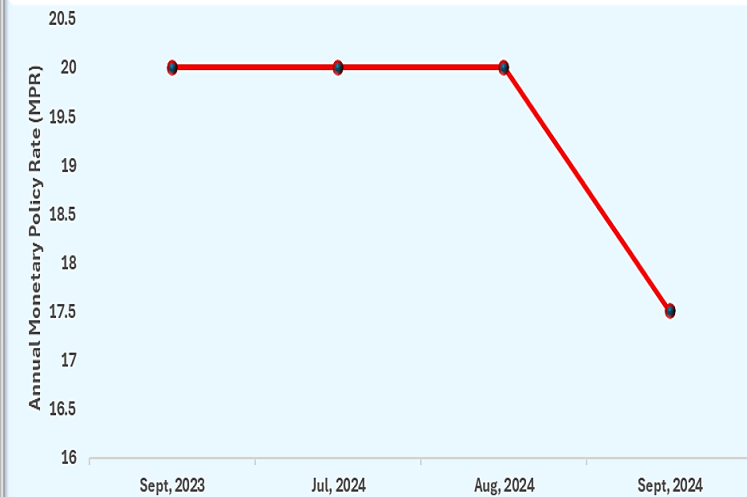


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GLOBAL PRICE	Sept. - 2023	Jul. - 2024	Aug. - 2024	Sept. - 2024		
	(Commodity price per Unit of Measure)				MoM	YoY
Iron ore (US\$/MT)	120.98	106.85	99.91	92.83	(7.1)	(23.27)
Gold (US\$/Oz)	1,915.95	2,398.20	2,470.15	2,570.55	4.1	34.17
Rubber (US\$/MT)	1,554.40	1,650.30	1,737.40	1,906.80	9.8	22.67
Cocoa Beans (US\$/MT)	3,611.14	7,089.17	6,878.10	6,523.76	(5.2)	80.66
Palm oil (US\$/MT)	829.6	896.09	932.63	982.83	5.4	18.47
Crude oil (US\$/BBL)	92.22	83.26	78.12	72.42	(7.3)	(21.47)
Food Price Index (FAO) ¹	121.90	120.80	120.70	124.90	3.5	2.46
Rice_5% broken (US\$/MT)	620.00	557.00	560.00	556.00	(0.7)	(10.32)
Sugar (US\$/MT)	579.59	425.93	405.65	447.98	10.4	(22.71)
Commodity Price Index No ²	168.66	166.39	162.64	161.57	(0.7)	(4.20)

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 published by the Research, Policy, and Planning Department (RPPD) of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL). It is a regular publication that provides a snapshot of economic developments in key sectors (Real, Monetary, Fiscal and External) of the Liberian economy. The MER also 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 10 Number 09.

2.0 OVERVIEW

The production statistics for key commodities in September 2024 showed mixed trends compared to the preceding month. Notably, there were increases in the production of gold, diamonds, rubber, and beverages, while cement and iron ore production declined during the same period.

Headline inflation increased to 7.7 percent during the month under review, from 6.2 percent in August 2024. This rise was attributed to higher prices in major groups of the inflation basket, including food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, furnishings, household equipment, communication, recreation, and miscellaneous goods.

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 the CBL's monetary policy operations, the Bank issued bills at tenors of two-week, one-month, and three-month at the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) of 17.0 percent per annum.

Broad money (M2) supply at end-September 2024 declined by 3.7 percent to L\$230.92 billion, from L\$239.79 billion at end-August 2024, driven by a 22.6 percent reduction in Net Foreign Assets (NFA) and a 1.7 percent fall in Net Domestic Assets (NDA). Currency in circulation rose by 0.9 percent on account of a 2.0 percent increase in currency outside banks, while currency in banks decreased by 12.1 percent.

The banking sector remained compliant with regulatory requirements as of September 30, 2024. The industry liquidity ratio decreased to 48.38 percent, well above the minimum requirement of 15.00 percent. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) also fell to 27.60 percent, above the regulatory minimum of 10 percent. Additionally, both the Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) saw increases, with ROA rising to 2.65 percent and ROE increasing to 16.42 percent.

7.6 Sugar

The price of sugar surged by 10.4 percent to US\$447.98 per metric ton in September 2024, from US\$405.65 recorded in the previous month. Annual comparison indicated that the price of sugar declined by 22.7 percent from US\$579.59 per metric ton in September 2023.

7.7 Palm Oil

The price of palm oil grew strongly by 5.4 percent in September 2024 to US\$982.83 per metric ton, from US\$932.63 per metric ton in the previous month, on account of declining production in Malaysia. Compared to September in the previous year, the price of palm oil rose by 18.5 percent, from US\$829.60 per metric ton.

7.8 Rice

The price of rice dropped by 0.7 percent to US\$556.00 per metric ton in September 2024, from US\$560.00 per metric ton in August. Annual comparison indicated rice prices fell by 10.3 percent, from US\$620.00 per metric ton in September 2023.

7.9 Cocoa Beans

The price for cocoa beans fell by 5.2 percent in September, to USD\$6,523.76 per metric ton, from US\$6,878.10 per metric ton in August. The price of cocoa beans increased by 80.7 percent a year ago from US\$ 3,611.14 per metric ton.

Commodity Price Outlook

The global commodity market outlook of the World Bank Pink Sheet indicates global commodity prices will continue to follow a mixed trend for October 2024. Ongoing tensions in the Middle East and trade disruptions account for the price developments. Overall commodity price indices measured in US dollars of energy, non-energy, agriculture, fertilizers, metal & minerals, and precious metals, are expected to fall by 3.8 percent to US\$100.74, from US\$104.75 projected for September.

7.1 Iron Ore

The price of iron ore decreased by 7.1 percent to US\$92.83 per metric ton in September 2024, from US\$99.91 per metric ton in the previous month. The persistent decline in the iron ore price is caused by deteriorating demand resulting from no signs of a recovery in steel demand. The year-on-year comparison showed the price dropped by 23.4 percent, from US \$120.98 recorded in September 2023.

7.2 Gold

The price of gold surged by 4.1 percent to US\$2,570.55 in September 2024, from US\$2,470.15 in August 2024, induced by escalating geopolitical tensions and interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. Year-on-year comparison showed the price increased by 34.2 percent, from US\$1,915.95 recorded in September 2023.

7.3 Crude Oil (Petroleum) Price

The price of petroleum declined by 7.3 percent to US\$72.14 per barrel in September 2024. The drop in the price was driven by rising supplies from OPEC+ and weak global demand. Compared to September 2023, the price of petroleum fell by 21.5 percent from US\$92.22 per barrel.

7.4 Rubber

Rubber price grew by 9.8 percent in September 2024, to US\$1,906.80 per metric ton, from US\$1,737.40 per metric ton recorded in August 2024, due to increasing demand coupled with low supply. Year-on-year comparison showed rubber prices increased by 22.7 percent from US\$1,554.40 in August 2023.

7.5 Food Price (FAO)

FAO food price index (FFPI) marginally increased by 3.5 percent to US\$124.90 in September 2024, from US\$120.7 in August 2024. The increase was driven by a rise in the price index for meat, sugar, and dairy products.

Total expenditure increased by 1.2 percent to US\$52.0 million (1.1 percent of GDP), from US\$51.3 million last month. However, recurrent expenditure fell by 6.2 percent to US\$47.7 million (1.0 percent of GDP), driven by cuts in employee compensation and loan-related payments. As of August 2024, Liberia's public debt decreased by 0.2 percent to US\$2,573.4 million (53.9 percent of GDP).

In the external sector, the merchandise trade deficit improved by 94.4 percent in September 2024 compared to August, while total trade dropped by 2.5 percent. This development was mainly due to growth in export receipts coupled with decline in import payments during the month.

Gross International Reserves (GIR) increased by 9.1 percent to US\$473.50 million at the end of September 2024, up from US\$433.90 million recorded at the end of the previous month. This growth was attributed to a rise in foreign liquid assets, excluding Special Drawing Rights (SDR). Furthermore, the months of import coverage rose to 3.2 months—above the ECOWAS minimum regional threshold of 3.0 months, primarily due to growth in the GIR coupled with decline in payments for imports.

In September 2024, net personal remittances, including mobile wallet transactions, fell by 0.6 percent to US\$54.83 million, down from \$55.15 million in August. Inward remittances decreased by 2.5 percent to US\$59.76 million, while outward remittances dropped by 19.4 percent to US\$4.9 million compared to the previous month.

3.0 REAL SECTOR & PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Production Analyses of Key Commodities

Production statistics of key commodities revealed mix trends in September 2024 relative to August 2024. Gold, diamond, rubber, and beverages recorded an increase, while cement production and iron ore showed a decrease during the review period against the previous month.

In the mining subsector, iron ore production declined marginally by 1.4 percent to 365,000 metric tons in September 2024, from 370,000 metric tons in August 2024. Compared to the same period a year ago, iron ore production remained flat. Gold production increased by 16.7 percent in the reporting period to 43,608 ounces, from 37,366 ounces reported in August 2024 on account of an increase in the price of the commodity and an increase in artisanal mining activity. Compared to the corresponding period in 2023, gold production rose by 28.3 percent. The production of diamonds increased sharply by 4,977 carats in September 2024 to 6,462 carats, up from 1,287 carats reported in August 2024. This sharp increase was a result of an increase in local investment. Compared to the same period a year ago, diamond production increased by 170.0 percent.

In the agriculture subsector, rubber production increased by 99.0 percent to 9,178 metric tons in September 2024, up from 4,617 metric tons in August 2024 as a result of an increase in production by small holder-farmers. When compared to the same period a year ago, rubber production increased by 317.2 percent.

In the manufacturing subsector, cement output declined by 29.0 percent in the reporting month to 46,283 metric tons, from 65,080 metric tons reported in August 2024. This decrease indicates a slowdown in construction activities as a result of the rainy season. When compared to September 2023, cement production increased significantly by 33.9 percent. Total beverage production (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) significantly increased by 2.3 percent in September 2024 to 2.50 million liters, from 2.45 million liters in August 2024 due to depletion of stock. Compared to the corresponding period a year ago, beverage production also increased by 24.8 percent. When disaggregated, alcoholic beverages constituted 42.0 percent while non-alcoholic beverages constituted 58.0 percent.

3.2 Consumer Prices

Headline inflation for September increased to 7.7 percent, from 6.2 percent reported in August 2024. The increase in inflation for the month was a result of an increase in prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics, Furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance, communication, recreation & culture, and miscellaneous goods & services. When compared to September 2023, inflation decreased by 2.3 percentage points, from 10.0 percent.

The Leone depreciated by 0.3 percent, the Guinea franc by 0.4 percent; the Nigerian naira by 1.7 percent, and Ghana cedi by 2.9 percent. The Liberian dollar was the only currency that appreciated against the United States dollars in the zone during the month, while the Gambia dalasi remained flat relative to the exchange rates reported for August.

A yearly comparison indicates that all currencies in the Zone depreciated against the United States dollar as indicated in the table below.

The depreciation across WAMZ currencies is primarily attributed to the high demand for import payments.

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

Rate & Currency	Sep-23	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Appr (+)/Depr (-)	
					MoM	YoY
Exchange Rate	LD/USD				Percent Change	
	Currency per USD					
DALASI-GMD	61.28	66.54	66.73	66.75	0.0	-8.2
CEDI-GHS	11.06	14.73	15.08	15.54	-2.9	-28.8
FRANC GUINEEN-GNF	8,486.07	8542.01	8,558.12	8,594.12	-0.4	-1.3
LIBERIA DOLLAR-LRD	186.39	195.06	195.18	194.45	0.4	-4.1
NAIRA-NGN	768.03	1548.42	1,590.24	1,617.63	-1.7	-52.5
LEONE-SLL	22.22	22.52	22.49	22.56	-0.3	-1.5

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

The Commodity Price Index of fuel increased, and the index of non-fuel commodities increased also in September 2024. Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index (FFPI) rose in September 2024 relative to the preceding month, driven by a rise in the price index for meat, sugar, and dairy products.

6.2 Direction of Trade (DOT)

The main destination of Liberia's exports in September 2024 was Europe, which accounted for US\$109.7 million worth of the export proceeds, of which Switzerland accounted for US\$93.7 million. For the sources of imports to Liberia, Asia and Africa were the major regions accounting for US\$49.66 million and US\$ 41.40 million, respectively. During the review month, imports from India and Cote Ivoire amounted to US\$15.36 million and US\$34.10 million.

6.3 Personal Remittances

Development in personal remittance flows shows a decrease in both inward and outward remittances. Inward remittances moderated by 2.4 percent to US\$59.76 million during the review period and outward decreased by 19.3 percent to US\$ 4.9 million in the same month, compared to the amount in August 2024. Consequently, net inflow in September 2024 dropped by 0.6 percent to US\$ 54.83 million (1.1 percent of GDP), compared to US\$ 55.15 million (1.2 percent of GDP) recorded in August 2024.

6.4 Gross International Reserves

Gross International Reserves (GIR) grew by 9.1 percent to US\$473.50 million (9.9 percent of GDP) at end-September 2024, from US\$433.90 million (9.1 percent of GDP) recorded at the end of the previous month. This development was explained by increased foreign liquid assets, excluding Special Drawing Right (SDR) Holdings. Similarly, the months of import cover increased to 3.2 months (above the ECOWAS minimum regional threshold of 3.0 months), from 2.6 months in August 2024, mainly on account of increase in the GIR and reduction in payments for imports (Table 6).

6.5 Exchange Rate Developments

Development in the foreign exchange market in September 2024, revealed that the Liberian dollar's end-of-period (EOP) exchange rate appreciated against the United States dollar compared to the rate recorded a month ago. The Liberian dollar EOP appreciated by 0.6 percent to L\$193.76/US\$1.00, from L\$195.01/US\$1.00 reported at end-August 2024. Similarly, the average exchange rate appreciated by 0.4 percent to L\$194.45/US\$1.00 relative to the rate reported for the preceding month. The appreciation in the month under review was largely related to issuing of the CBL's bills to manage excess Liberia dollar liquidity in the banking system.

On a 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 Dalasi and Liberian dollar.

Conversely, the month-on-month inflation rate declined by 2.0 percentage points to 0.1 percent in the month under review. Except for food & non-alcoholic beverages, and furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance, all major items of the consumer basket contributed to the decrease.

However, core inflation¹ increased to 11.3 percent in September 2024, from 11.0 percent in August 2024 mainly driven by increases in the prices of clothing and footwear, Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels, health, transport, communication, recreation & culture, and education.

Table 1: Production and Price Statistics

Production	Sept. - 2023	Jul. - 2024	Aug. - 2024	Sept. - 2024
	<i>(In Metric ton, Ounce, Carat and Liter)</i>			
Iron Ore (Metric ton)	365,000	370,000	370,000	365,000
Gold (Ounces)	34,013	35,639	37,366	43,608
Diamond (Carat)	2,386	3,725	1,287	6,462
Rubber (Metric ton)	2,200	6,847	4,617	9,178
Cement (Metric ton)	34,579	57,890	65,080	46,283
Total Beverages (liter)	2,005,651	3,885,400	2,446,414	2,502,372
Alcoholic	998,354	1,467,195	1,321,033	1,068,086
Non-Alcoholic	1,007,297	2,418,205	1,125,381	1,434,286
Inflation	<i>(In percent)</i>			
Overall (Y-o-Y) Rate of Inflation	10.1	6.4	6.2	7.7
a. Food and Non-alcoholic Beverage Inflation	23.5	5.1	-1.2	2.9
- Domestic Food Inflation	17.7	10.6	0.9	11.0
- Imported Food Inflation	28.5	0.5	-3.1	-3.4
b. Transport Inflation	3.0	2.7	2.0	2.1
c. Imported Fuels Inflation	-7.9	2.7	4.2	4.8
Overall (M-o-M) Rate of Inflation	-1.3	5.3	2.1	0.1
Core Inflation				
Inflation excluding Food & NAB ¹	4.5	7.1	9.8	10.0
Inflation excluding Imported Food	6.5	7.7	8.2	10.2
Inflation excluding Domestic Food	8.3	5.6	7.1	7.3
Inflation excluding Food and Transport	4.7	7.8	11.0	11.3
Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)²	3,553.2	3,741.4	3,741.4	3,741.4
Nominal (NGDP) (in millions US\$)	4,345.4	4,557.6	4,557.6	4,557.6
RGDP growth (in percent)	4.6	5.1	5.1	5.1

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

± - Not Available (na) * - estimate

4.0 MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Monetary Policy Stance

The Monetary Policy Stance of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) in the month under review was tight despite the slight reduction in the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR). In this regard, the Bank's policy effort was directed at mopping up excess liquidity in the banking system, utilizing its policy instruments, including the CBL bills. During the month under review, the Bank continued the issuance of CBL bills with short tenors of 2-weeks, 1-month, and 3-months at an effective annual rate of 17.0 percent.

4.2 Monetary Aggregates

Monetary aggregates at end-September 2024 showed a month-on-month decline of 3.7 percent in broad money supply (M2) to L\$230.92 billion, from L\$239.79 billion recorded at the end of the preceding month. The decrease was attributed to a 22.6 percent reduction in net foreign assets (NFA) and a 1.7 percent fall in net domestic assets (NDA) of the banking system.

Narrowed money supply (M1) contracted in September 2024 by 4.9 percent, solely due to a 6.1 percent decrease in demand deposits. Furthermore, quasi-money was reduced in the reporting period by 0.7 percent, following a 0.0 percent and an 80.2 percent decrease in time & savings deposits and other deposits, respectively.

Additionally, Liberian dollars in circulation inched upward by 0.9 percent to L\$27.86 billion at end-September 2024, from L\$27.61 billion recorded at the end of the previous month, triggered by a 2.0 percent increase in currency outside banks, while currency in banks decreased by 12.1 percent.

The Liberian dollar component of commercial banks loans to the private sector in the reporting month rose by 1.2 percent to L\$5.86 billion from 5.79 billion in the prior month owing to increase in loans and advances to the manufacturing subsector (by 18.8%), oil & gas subsector (by 16.4%), extractive subsector (by 3.7%), construction subsector (by 0.9%) and others subsector (by 25.0%).

Also, the US dollar component increased by 2.6 percent to US\$478.60 million from US\$466.60 million in the previous month due to an increase in loans and advances to the oil & gas subsector (by 17.5%), personal subsector (by 8.9%), construction subsector (by 7.8%), trade subsector (by 1.2%) and others subsector (by 0.2%).

Personal Remittances				
Inflows	52.73	73.90	61.26	59.81
Outflows	1.53	2.75	6.11	4.93
Net flows	51.20	71.16	55.15	54.89
Direction of Trade (DOT)				
Destination of Export	85.4	113.6	114.1	125.1
Africa	1.2	2.3	1.8	0.1
o/w ECOWAS	0.0	1.1	-	0.1
o/w Neighboring Countries	-	1.1	-	-
Asia	3.6	13.3	1.3	4.2
o/w The Middle East	2.4	1.4	0.3	1.5
o/w United Arab Emirate	1.4	0.8	0.3	0.5
then China	0.1	-	-	-
Europe	71.0	92.0	96.6	109.7
o/w Euro Zone	2.7	2.3	-	3.2
o/w The United Kingdom	2.7	2.3	-	3.2
Switzerland	55.3	70.8	78.7	93.7
North America & The Caribbean	9.7	5.8	14.0	8.2
o/w USA	9.7	5.8	14.0	6.6
Sources of Import (cif)	197.28	116.83	144.38	126.75
Africa	78.82	34.68	48.70	41.40
o/w ECOWAS	65.57	29.34	43.38	36.72
o/w Neighboring Countries	66.21	29.92	44.21	37.15
o/w Cote D Ivoire	60.60	27.13	41.58	34.10
Asia	79.97	53.40	66.94	49.66
o/w The Middle East	8.15	3.39	8.48	5.93
o/w United Arab Emirate	4.08	0.92	1.52	3.23
o/w China	37.67	14.74	24.29	14.91
o/w India	22.09	25.25	11.39	15.36
Europe	26.27	17.85	15.56	26.12
o/w Europe Zone	23.08	16.30	13.93	19.10
o/w The United Kingdom	1.32	3.18	0.89	3.47
o/w Spain	1.00	1.87	1.07	1.77
North America & The Caribbean	4.77	5.72	6.17	3.04
o/w USA	4.09	4.22	4.97	2.49
South & Central America	7.32	4.11	6.67	6.38
o/w Brazil	5.66	3.21	5.40	5.42
o/w Argentina	0.32	0.19	0.37	0.18
Oceania	0.13	1.07	0.33	0.14
o/w Australia	0.13	1.00	0.12	0.14
GDP	4,331.56	4,331.56	4,331.56	4,331.56

Source: CBL

Table 6: External Sector Statistics

External Trade (Value)	Sept. - 2023	Jul. - 2024	Aug. - 2024	Sept. - 2024
	(Millions of US\$; Except Otherwise Indicated)			
Exports ¹	72.33	113.62	114.12	125.07
Iron Ore	7.58	15.81	13.17	10.39
Rubber	3.94	18.90	18.50	11.84
Gold	55.11	71.48	78.98	94.15
Diamond	0.63	1.27	0.22	1.86
Cocoa Bean	-	0.03	0.56	1.26
Palm Oil	1.24	4.78	1.89	1.46
Other Commodities	3.83	1.34	0.80	4.10
Imports (CIF) ^{1†}	197.28	116.83	144.38	126.75
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	68.84	29.92	48.94	35.16
o/w Petroleum Products	60.48	27.13	41.33	34.10
Food and Live Animals (incl. Animal and veg. oil)	33.86	39.47	33.37	26.15
o/w Rice	11.43	17.59	3.90	3.30
Machinery & Transport Equipment	50.96	21.73	25.28	32.18
Manufactured goods classified by materials	20.54	12.15	11.96	13.83
Other categories of imports	23.09	13.56	24.84	19.43
Trade Balance	(60.38)	(3.21)	(29.99)	(1.68)
Total Trade	269.61	230.45	258.5	251.8
External Trade (Volume)				
Rubber (MT)	2,200.00	6,847.37	4,390.77	6,818.93
Iron Ore (MT)	147,378.63	309,513.37	256,758.82	202,260.96
Cocoa Beans (MT)	-	-	-	0.01
Palm Oil (MT)	1,492.08	-	-	1,489.17
Gold (Oz)	34,013.19	35,638.61	37,365.64	43,155.56
Diamond (Crt)	2,386.02	3,724.89	1,287.30	6,462.17
Petroleum Products (MT)	21,406	5,615	13,723	11,931
Rice (MT)	33,171.71	58,350.73	66,114.83	64,081.30
Other Indicators				
Net Foreign Reserves Position	246.6	199.0	186.6	220.9
Import (FOB)	182.35	106.07	131.56	116.47
Gross International Reserves (GIR) ¹	531.2	448.7	433.9	473.5
Import covers (In Month) [†]	2.4	3.2	2.6	3.2

The stock of total deposits (in Liberian dollars) declined by 4.4 percent to L\$205.02 billion (22.2% of GDP) at end-September 2024, from 214.39 billion (23.0% of GDP) at end-August 2024, only induced by a 4.6 percent fall in USD deposits. Conversely, a year-on-year comparison revealed total deposits increased by 16.4 percent, caused by a rise in both US and Liberian dollar deposits.

Table 2: Monetary Aggregates Statistics

Monetary Aggregates	Sept-23	July-24	Aug-24	Sept-24
	<i>In Millions of LD; Except Otherwise Indicated</i>			
ASSETS				
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	18,674.23	30,924.62	22,902.09	17,720.32
Net Domestic Assets (NDA)	184,574.70	210,230.98	216,876.55	213,200.75
Domestic Credits	253,597.61	296,969.79	310,103.97	307,036.76
Net Claims on Government	142,028.30	149,784.18	151,804.46	151,843.66
Claims on Private Sector	111,569.31	147,185.61	158,299.51	155,193.09
Other Items Net	(69,022.90)	(86,738.81)	(93,227.41)	(93,836.01)
LIABILITIES				
Broad money (M2)	203,248.93	241,155.60	239,778.65	230,921.07
Narrow Money (M1)	141,632.13	172,265.67	171,398.11	163,047.35
Liberian Dollars in Circulation	27,094.83	25,430.54	25,391.10	25,904.45
Currency in banks	114,537.30	146,835.13	146,007.01	137,142.90
Currency outside banks	61,616.80	68,889.93	68,380.54	67,873.72
Demand deposits	61,545.37	68,778.49	67,785.20	67,755.62
Quasi Money	71.43	111.45	595.34	118.10
Time & Savings deposits	203,248.93	241,155.60	239,778.65	230,921.07
Other deposits	141,632.13	172,265.67	171,398.11	163,047.35
MEMORANDUM				
Broad money (M2) in LRD only	52,430.70	50,418.67	50,698.75	51,671.47
Money Supply (M1) in LRD only	42,654.69	40,967.64	41,297.58	41,879.62
Loans to Private Sector				
Commercial banks loans to private sector- USD	472.82	451.11	466.60	478.60
Commercial banks loans to private sector - LRD	5,455.55	5,712.44	5,788.97	5,856.19
Demand Deposits of commercial banks				
Demand deposits – USD	529.98	672.04	667.14	625.36
Demand deposits – LRD	15,559.86	15,537.10	15,906.48	15,975.17
Time & savings deposits – USD	277.52	304.12	300.05	299.56
Time & savings deposits – LRD	9,716.84	9,362.46	9,272.04	9,713.17
Other Deposits**				
Actual US\$ component of other deposits	0.07	0.12	2.39	0.20
Liberian \$ component of other deposits	59.17	88.57	129.12	78.67
Total Deposits (both USD & LRD) converted to LRD ¹	176,154.10	215,725.06	214,387.54	205,016.62
Liberian Dollar share of Broad Money (% of total Money Supply)	25.8%	20.9%	21.1%	22.4%

‡ - Reserves excluding ECF borrowing from the IMF;

* - estimate/projection

** - Other Deposits Including Official and Manager Checks;

4.3 FINANCIAL MARKET (FM) DEVELOPMENTS

In September 2024, the MPC employed a somewhat easing approach to monetary policy by reducing the monetary policy rate to 17.50 percent from 20.00 percent. However, CBL continued issuing its bills with short tenors of 2 weeks, 1 month, and 3 months respectively.

During the period under review, CBL issued a total of L\$5,447.92 million of its bills, averaging a weekly issuance of about L\$1,361.98 million. Commercial banks' investments totalled L\$5,192.88 million, while the total value of retail investments stood at L\$255.04 million. With redemption totalling L\$5,543.40 million, the CBL recorded a total injection of L\$95.48 million. Consequently, the total CBL bills outstanding stands at L\$8,485.88 million from L\$8,581.36 million in the previous month. The Bank maintained its commitment to timely redemptions and provided regular updates on its website.

There was no new issuance of USD and LRD Treasury securities by CBL on behalf of the government. The Liberian Dollars Treasury security stock remains at L\$8,277.30 million with a total outstanding of L\$483.7 million, while USD Treasury securities stock remained at US\$149.54 million. However, outstanding obligations on USD Treasury securities increased to US\$11.75 million from US\$11.23 million in the previous month.

Provisionally, the lending, average savings, and time deposit rates were recorded at 12.88 percent, 2.00 percent, and 4.2 percent, respectively, in the month of September 2024. Relative to the money market, instruments such as Swaps and placements were traded during the month. 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).

Memo Items					
Government Revenue (% of GDP)	1.47	1.21	1.04	1.19	-
Government Expenditure (% of GDP)	1.82	1.46	1.08	1.09	-
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	50.40	54.06	54.05	53.94	-
NGDP (at Level)	4,390.00	4,771.00	4,771.00	4,771.00	-

Source: CBL calculation using MFD's data

*Projections

6.0 EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

6.1 Merchandise Trade

Developments in the external sector showed that the merchandise trade deficit improved by 94.4 percent in September 2024, from the deficit recorded in August, and total trade reduced by 2.5 percent. The trade deficit fell to US\$1.68 million (0.04 percent of GDP), from US\$ 29.99 million (0.7 percent of GDP). Total merchandise trade decreased to US\$ 251.82 million (5.8 percent of GDP) from US\$ 258.23 million (6.0 percent of GDP) occasioned by a drop in import payments.

Export earnings grew by 9.6 percent to US\$125.07 million (2.9 percent of GDP) in September 2024, from US\$114.12 million (2.6 percent of GDP) in August, occasioned by a surge in receipts from gold exports. Payments for merchandise imports fell by 12.1 percent to US\$126.75 million (2.9 percent of GDP), from US\$144.11 million (3.3 percent of GDP) recorded in August, caused by a sharp decline in payments for minerals, fuel, and lubricants, mainly petroleum.

5.2 Total Public Debt

At end-September 2024, Liberia's public debt stock moderated by 0.2 percent to US\$2,573.4 million (53.9 percent of GDP), from US\$2,578.9 million (54.1 percent of GDP) at the end of the preceding month. The moderation in the debt stock reflects a 0.4 percent decline in external debt. The stock of domestic and external debts totaled US\$1,077.3 million (22.6 percent of GDP) and US\$1,496.1 million (31.4 percent of GDP), respectively, at the end of the review period.

Table 5. GOL's Fiscal Operations Statistics

Fiscal Operations	Sept. - 23	Jul. - 24	Aug. - 24	Sept. - 24	M-O-M
	(Millions of USD)				(% Change)
Government Revenue	64.61	57.85	49.76	56.81	14.16
<i>Tax Revenue</i>	<i>47.56</i>	<i>48.76</i>	<i>38.80</i>	<i>46.87</i>	<i>20.79</i>
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	10.23	28.20	15.96	24.27	52.08
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade (Customs)	3.09	9.09	10.96	9.94	(9.31)
<i>Non-tax Revenue</i>	<i>1.59</i>	<i>6.80</i>	<i>8.86</i>	<i>7.82</i>	<i>(11.82)</i>
o/w Property Income	1.50	2.29	2.10	2.13	1.28
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	13.96	-	-	-	-
<i>Other Revenue (Including Grants)</i>	<i>80.10</i>	<i>69.46</i>	<i>51.34</i>	<i>51.97</i>	<i>1.24</i>
Government Expenditure	79.59	69.26	50.89	47.72	(6.22)
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	<i>15.95</i>	<i>33.75</i>	<i>18.17</i>	<i>16.51</i>	<i>(9.12)</i>
o/w Compensation	28.70	19.78	13.62	15.19	11.50
o/w Goods and Services	24.75	4.43	10.14	7.88	(22.25)
o/w Payments on Loans, interest & other charges	0.51	0.19	0.45	4.25	848.23
Capital Expenditure	(15.49)	(11.61)	(1.57)	4.84	
Overall Balance (Surplus+; Deficit -)	2,212.36	2,579.35	2,578.88	2,573.40	(0.21)
Total Debt Stock	951.75	1,077.81	1,077.32	1,077.32	(0.00)
Domestic Debt	824.06	945.51	945.51	948.88	0.36
o/w Financial Institutions	127.69	132.30	131.81	128.44	(2.56)
o/w Other Debts	1,260.61	1,501.54	1,501.56	1,496.08	(0.37)
External Debt	1,148.81	1,360.25	1,360.27	1,361.69	0.10
o/w Multilateral	111.80	113.47	113.47	106.57	(6.08)
o/w Bilateral	3.09	9.09	10.96	9.94	(9.31)

Table 3: Financial Market and Interest Rates Statistics

Market Instruments (CBL indexed Bills)	Sept-23	July-24	Aug-24	Sept-24
	<i>(In Millions of Liberian Dollar)</i>			
Bills Purchased per month on an EAR basis	10,381.76	5,584.70	8,610.66	5,447.92
Redemption during the month (EAR basis)	9,686.50	4,257.76	7,939.38	5,543.40
Bill Outstanding (EAR basis)	9,671.79	7,909.94	8,581.36	8,485.88
Effective Annual Rate (EAR)	20.00	20.00	20.00	17.50
Total Purchases (coupon rate & EAR)	10,381.76	5,584.70	8,610.66	5,447.92
Total Redemption (coupon rate & EAR)	9,686.50	4,257.76	7,939.38	5,543.40
Total Outstanding Bills (coupon rate & EAR)	9,671.79	7,909.94	8,581.36	8,485.88
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	0.00	0.00	0.00
T-Bills Outstanding	6,900.40	510.60	510.10	510.10
T-Bills total Stock		8,246.47	8,246.47	8,246.47
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)	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
T-Bills Outstanding (Repayment principal)	108.54	1.28	0.90	0.90
Total debt stock	108.54	141.44	142.34	142.34
Ave. Weighted Discount Rate (T-Bills)	11.00	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	0.00	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)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
Coupon Payments (USD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total debt stock	0.00	35.69	35.69	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	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 September 30, 2024, the industry liquidity ratio decreased by 2.03 percentage points to 48.38 percent compared to the 50.41 percent reported in the previous month. The industry liquidity ratio remained above the minimum regulatory requirement of 15.00 percent by 33.38 percentage points. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) decreased to 27.60 percent, from 29.44 percent. It however remained above the minimum regulatory requirement of 10.00 percent by 17.60 percentage points. Additionally, the Return on Assets (ROA) increased by 0.36 percentage points from 2.29 percent to 2.65 percent, and the Return on Equity (ROE) increased by 2.24 percentage points, from 16.42 percent to 18.66 percent.

Total gross loans increased by 2.02 percent to L\$102.14 billion in September 2024, from the L\$100.11 billion reported in the previous month. The increase is mainly attributed to increases in new facilities that were granted to the Government of Liberia and the Oil & Gas sector. Similarly, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans slightly increased by 1.65 percentage points from 19.91 percent to 21.56 percent during the month under review. This means that the end-of-month NPL ratio of 21.56 percent violates 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 Extractive and Services sectors.

Table 4: Selected Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs)

Financial Soundness Indicators	Sep - 2023	Jul - 2024	Aug- 2024	Sep- 2024
	<i>(In Billions of Liberian Dollar)</i>			
Total Gross Loans	93.86	97.65	100.10	102.13
Total Non-performing Loans	14.94	18.14	19.91	22.01
Non-performing Loans to Total Gross Loans (ratio)	15.92	18.14	19.91	21.56
Gross Loan (percent change)	1.86	(1.30)	2.50	2.02
Non-performing Loans (percent change)	(2.98)	1.28	9.75	10.54
Returns on Assets (ROA)	1.85	2.04	2.29	2.65
Returns on Equity (ROE)	13.40	14.43	16.42	18.66
Liquidity Ratio***	41.01	53.98	50.41	48.38
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)****	19.18	29.44	29.44	27.60

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 indicate that the Government of Liberia's (GOL) fiscal operations recorded an improvement in the Overall Balance (OB) resulting in a surplus. The improvement reflects a rise in GOL revenue, eclipsing the increase in total expenditure. Resultantly, the surplus in the OB amounted to US\$4.8 million (0.1 percent of GDP).

During the review period, the total revenue mobilized by the GOL increased by 14.2 percent to US\$56.8 million (1.2 percent of GDP). The increased revenue mobilization was attributed to a rise in tax receipts, despite the reduction in non-tax receipts. Tax revenue expanded by 20.8 percent, amounting to US\$46.9 million (1.0 percent of GDP). The rise in tax receipts was triggered by a 52.1 percent increase in income & profit tax coupled with a 0.8 percent growth in international trade tax to US\$24.3 million (0.5 percent of GDP) and US\$17.5 million (0.4 percent of GDP), respectively. Non-tax receipts, however, fell by 9.3 percent to US\$9.9 million (0.2 percent of GDP), on account of a reduction in property income.

Similarly, the fiscal operations also recorded expansion in government expenditure. Total expenditure marginally expanded by 1.2 percent to US\$52.0 million (1.1 percent of GDP) from US\$51.3 million (1.1 percent of GDP) in the previous month. Despite the marginal increase in total expenditure, recurrent expenditure fell by 6.2 percent to US\$47.7 million (1.0 percent of GDP) due to reductions in spending on employees' compensation and payments on loans, interest & other charges. Also, the fiscal operations reported growth in capital expenditure, rising by more than onefold to US\$4.3 million (0.1 percent of GDP).