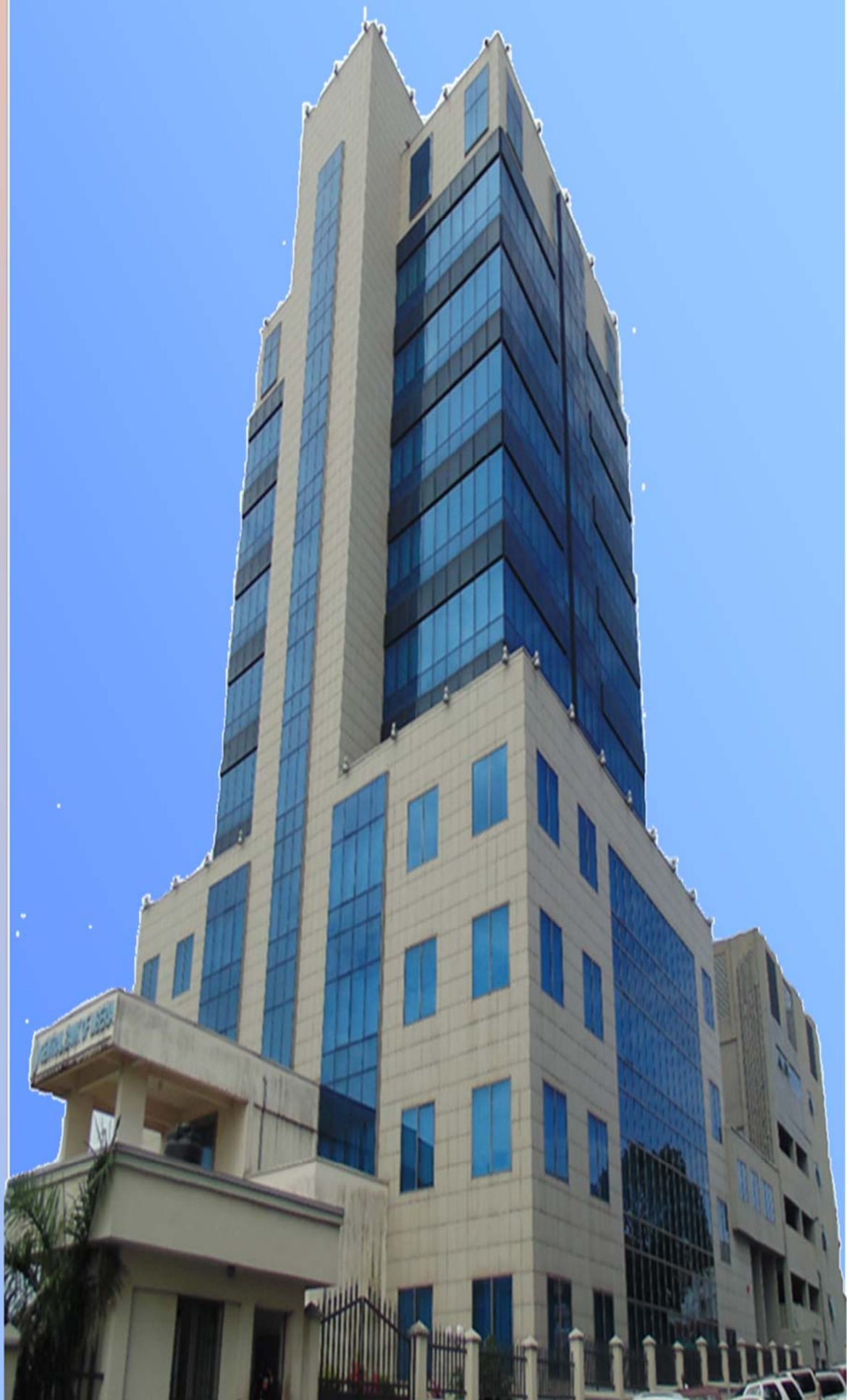




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OVERVIEW

The uncertainty in global economy continued in 2023, marked by a slowdown to 3.1 percent growth on account of the geo-political tension and supply chain effect on prices of food and crude oil. The IMF predicts a further slowdown to 2.9 percent in 2024, with advanced economies expected to record a more pronounced downturn relative to the emerging markets.

U.S. growth of 2.1 percent in 2023 exceeded expectations, driven by resilient consumption and investment. Euro area saw a decline to 0.7 percent growth in 2023, but recovery is expected in 2024, especially in Germany and France. The United Kingdom's growth contracted to 0.5 percent in 2023 mainly due to high inflation and energy prices, with a modest growth forecast for 2024. Japan's growth strengthened to 2.0 percent in 2023, but a slight dip is expected in 2024 on account of the effect of the earthquake.

In terms of the emerging market, China's growth was revised downward to 5.0 percent in 2023 due to the real estate crisis, with a further moderation to 4.2 percent in 2024. India remained strong at 6.3 percent in 2023 and is expected to maintain robust growth in 2024. Russia's growth rebounded to 2.2 percent in 2023, while Brazil's growth rose to 3.1 percent.

Sub-Saharan Africa region faced a slowdown to 3.3 percent growth in 2023, with growth in Nigeria and South Africa moderating. West African countries, especially Ghana and Liberia, showed variation in growth rates, largely influenced by sector-specific factors.

Global headline inflation moderated globally in 2023 but remained above historical levels. Inflation in Advanced economies saw a decrease to 4.6 percent in 2023, while emerging markets recorded a slight moderation. Sub-Saharan Africa's inflation rose to 15.8 percent in 2023, with a forecast moderation to 13.1 percent in 2024.

On the domestic front, growth in Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) was estimated to slightly moderate by 0.2 percentage point to 4.6 percent in 2023, mainly influenced by slowdowns in mining, agriculture & fisheries. Growth for 2024 is projected to increase by 5.3 percent, reflecting activity mainly in the agriculture & fisheries sub-sectors.

Production data in the third quarter of 2023 showed contractions in the outputs of rubber, cocoa, and CPO. However, industrial production showed mixed performances, especially in mining (gold,

diamond, and iron ore) and manufacturing (cement, beverages, soap, paint). Consumption of petroleum products revealed 27.8 percent decrease in the third quarter of 2023 due to supply disruptions.

Headline inflation fell moderately to 10.9 percent during the review quarter of 2023, reflecting liquidity management inclusive of tight monetary policy. Major drivers of inflation were alcoholic beverages & tobacco, clothing, and housing, while food and non-alcoholic beverages showed mixed trends. Inflation dynamics was also influenced by administered and market prices, with an estimated increase to 10.4 percent in quarter four, 2023.

The Monetary Policy Stance (MPS) of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) leveraged policy instruments such as CBL bills and the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR) for liquidity management and exchange rate stability in the third quarter. The banking sector exhibited overall soundness and stability, with key indicators such as capital, assets, deposits, loans, and profitability showing growth trends.

The banking industry's capital expanded by 6.0 percent, reaching L\$37.55 billion, with an industry-wide Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 18.2 percent. Total assets increased by 3.5 percent, while liquidity ratio remained in regulatory compliance, despite the decline by 2.0 percentage points to 41.0 percent. Gross operational income rose by 30.0 percent, driven by growth in interest and non-interest income. Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) both expanded during the quarter.

During the quarter, Loans and advances grew by 5.6 percent, totaling L\$94.76 billion. The sectoral credit growth was concentrated in personal loans, followed by trade, and extractive industries. Stability was observed in various interest rates during the quarter, with the average lending rate maintained at 13.4 percent. However, compared to the same period in 2022, lending rates rose by 99.6 basis points.

The Liberian dollar in circulation expanded by 12.0 percent, mainly driven by growth in currency outside banks. Narrow money supply (M1) grew by 12.8 percent, reaching L\$141,632.13 million, while broad money supply (M2) rose by 9.2 percent, amounting to L\$203,248.93 million.

Government of Liberia (GOL) Fiscal Operations during the quarter showed deficit in the overall balance, amounting to 0.6 percent of GDP largely on account of increased government spending.

Total government revenue increased by 13.3 percent to US\$218.0 million, driven by a substantial rise in other revenue sources, particularly grants. Similarly, GOL expenditure rose to US\$242.0 million, with increases in current expenditure and payments on loans, interest, & other charges. Public debt rose by 3.8 percent to 50.9 percent of GDP. Domestic debt accounted for 22.0 percent of GDP, while external debt constituted 28.9 percent of GDP in the total debt portfolio.

Regarding external sector developments, the current account balance shifted from surplus of US\$12.6 million to deficit of US\$83.2 million, influenced by a significant expansion in trade deficit and a decline in secondary income. The merchandise trade balance deficit increased by over 100 percent, driven by a rise in import payments and a decrease in export receipts. Net financial liabilities grew by 21.6 percent to US\$156.5 million, primarily due to rise in other investment inflows.

The Gross International Reserves (GIR) reduced by 7.1 percent to US\$482.2 million, representing 11.1 percent of GDP, influenced mainly by depreciation in special drawing rights (SDRs). The months of import cover stood at 2.8 in the third quarter, signifying a decrease from 3.1 in the second quarter as a result of rise in import payments.

In view of the external sector pressure, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 10.1 percent and 3.6 percent on an average exchange and end-of-period exchange rate basis respectively against the US dollar during the quarter.

I. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

1.1 Introduction

The global economy remained characterized by uncertainty and rising divergences. The growth in global economy moderated to 3.0 percent from the 3.5 percent growth recorded in 2022. This development was mainly on account of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and rising disruption in the energy and food market. Although global activity bottomed out as per the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) predictions, it remains challenged with 2024 forecast expected to also see slower Real GDP growth of 2.9 percent mainly on account of the unabated geo-political tension.

In advanced economies, the slowdown in growth was more pronounced compared to the emerging markets and developing economies. While growth in the United States (US) was on the upside with resilient consumption and investment, activity in the euro area trended downward. Many emerging market economies were resiliently on the upside, except for China that was constrained by real estate crisis and weakening confidence.

1.2 Advanced Economies

Growth in advanced economies moderated from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and is projected to further slowdown to 1.4 percent in 2024. Growth in the US was 2.1 percent in 2023 mainly underpinned by stronger business investment in the last half of 2023 and resilient consumption, despite the tight labor market.

In the euro area, growth moderated sharply from 3.3 percent in 2022 to 0.7 percent in 2023 with forecast of a rise to 1.2 percent in 2024. In the face of weakness in interest-rate-sensitive sectors and slower trade demand, growth contracted in Germany to 0.5 percent in 2023. However, it is projected to recover with a rise to 1.7 percent in 2024. In France, a catch-up in industrial production and strong performance of external demand in the first half of 2023 contributed to a growth of 1.0 percent in 2023 with a forecast of 1.5 percent in 2024. Among other advanced economies, the growth in United Kingdom declined to 0.5 percent in 2023 from the 4.1 percent growth recorded in 2022, reflecting effect of tight monetary policies and terms-of-trade shock from high energy prices. Growth forecast for 2024 remains low at 0.6 percent. In Japan, growth strengthened to 2.0 percent in 2023 from the 1.0 percent recorded for 2022 largely on account of surge in inbound tourism and rebound in auto exports. However, the 2024

growth forecast is projected to be revised downward evidence by the recent earthquake in Japan.

1.3 Emerging Market and Developing Economies

Growth in emerging markets and developing economies remained unchanged at 4.0 percent in 2023 in reference to 2022, despite the growth divergences in the region. China growth was revised downward by 0.2 percentage point to 5.0 percent in 2023 due to the property market crisis, and lower industrial investment. In 2024, growth for China is forecast to moderate at 4.2 percent due to the real estate crisis and market confidence. The Indian economy growth remained strong at 6.3 percent in 2023, reflecting the stronger-than-expected consumption in the first half of the year. Growth is also expected to remain robust at 6.3 percent. Russia's growth was also robust in 2023 recovering from a contraction of 2.1 percent in 2022 to growth of 2.2 percent in 2023, reflecting substantial fiscal stimulus, strong investment, and resilient consumption.

In a similar vein, Brazil's growth was revised upward to 3.1 percent in 2023 driven by buoyant agriculture and resilient services in the first half of 2023. However, growth is projected to moderate in 2024 to 1.5 percent.

1.4 Sub-Saharan Africa

Real GDP growth in Sub-Saharan Africa moderated to 3.3 percent in 2023 from the 3.9 percent growth recorded in 2022, reflecting weather shocks, global slowdown, and domestic supply constraint in the electricity sector. Nigeria's growth moderated to 2.9 percent in 2023 from 3.3 percent in 2022 on account weak consumption arising from high inflation. Growth forecast for 2024 is projected to remain below potential at 3.1 percent, reflecting expected weaker oil and gas projection. Similarly, growth in South Africa, moderated from 1.9 percent in 2022 to 0.9 percent in 2023, mainly due to perennial power shortages. However, recovery is expected in 2024 with a projected rise to 1.8 percent premised on expected electricity restoration.

In the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), growth varied in 2023. Growth in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Gambia, and Liberia moderated.

The Gambia recorded slight moderation in growth rate to 4.8 percent in 2023 from 4.9 percent in 2023 on account of slight slowdown in the services sector. Ghana's growth also moderated from 3.1 percent in 2022 to 1.2 percent in 2023 due to slowdown in all sectors of the economy, but it is projected to rise to 2.7 percent in 2024. Growth moderated in Sierra Leone to 2.7

percent from 4.0 percent due to slowdown in the mining sector, while high inflation in Nigeria resulted to moderation of growth to 2.9 percent. Liberia's growth rate slightly moderated to 4.6 percent in 2023 from 4.8 percent in 2022 and is projected to rise to 5.3 percent in 2024. Additionally, Guinea, a neighboring country to Liberia and Sierra Leone, saw robust growth in 2023 to 5.9 percent from the 4.3 percent growth rate recorded in 2022 mainly due to activity in manufacturing and strong consumption. However, growth in Guinea is expected to moderate slightly to 5.6 percent in 2024.

1.5 Global Inflation

Headline inflation moderated in 2023 to 6.9 percent from 8.7 percent in 2022, above historical levels, mainly on account of decline in energy and food prices. The decline in crude oil prices was mainly on the back of lower global demand partly induced by tighter monetary policy and supply cuts in oil output.

Food prices also declined modestly in 2023, on account of lower demand. The relative easing of supply chain constraints further contributed to the decline of headline inflation in most countries. In advanced economies, headline inflation moderated to 4.6 percent from 7.3 percent in 2022 and it is forecast to further moderate to 3.0 percent in 2024. Emerging markets and developing economies will also see a slight moderation in 2024 from the 8.5 percent recorded in 2023 and 9.8 percent in 2022, respectively. However, Sub-Saharan Africa inflation rose to 15.8 percent in 2023 from 14.5 percent in 2022. However, it is forecast to moderate to 13.1 percent in 2024.

Table 1.1: Selected Global Output and Inflation, 2022-2024

	Projections			Diff. from July 2023 WEO Update	
	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024
World Output	3.5	3.0	2.9	0.0	-0.1
Advanced Economies	2.6	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0
United States	2.1	2.1	1.5	0.3	0.5
Euro Area	3.3	0.7	1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Germany	1.8	-0.5	0.9	-0.2	-0.4
France	2.5	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.0
Italy ²	3.7	0.7	0.7	-0.4	-0.2
Spain	5.8	2.5	1.7	0.0	-0.3
Japan	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.6	0.0
United Kingdom ²	4.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	-0.4
Canada	3.4	1.3	1.6	-0.4	0.2
Other Advanced Economies ³	2.6	1.8	2.2	-0.2	-0.1
Emerging Market & Developing Economies	4.1	4.0	4.0	0.0	-0.1
Emerging and Developing Asia	4.5	5.2	4.8	-0.1	-0.2
China	3.0	5.0	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
India	7.2	6.3	6.3	0.2	0.0
Latin America & the Caribbean	4.1	2.3	2.3	0.4	0.1
Brazil	2.9	3.1	1.5	1.0	0.3
Mexico	3.9	3.2	2.1	0.6	0.6
Middle East & Central Asia	5.6	2.0	3.4	-0.5	0.2
Saudi Arabia	8.7	0.8	4.0	-1.1	1.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.0	3.3	4.0	-0.2	-0.1
Nigeria	3.3	2.9	3.1	-0.3	0.1
South Africa	1.9	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.1
World Consumer Prices	8.7	6.9	5.8	0.1	0.6
Advanced Economies	7.3	4.6	3.0	-0.1	0.2
Emerging Markets & Developing Economies	9.8	8.5	7.8	0.2	1.0

Source: "International Monetary Fund. Oct. 2023. World Economic Outlook: Navigating Global Divergence. Washington, DC,"

II. DOMESTIC ECONOMY

2.1 Introduction

Liberia's real gross domestic product (RGDP) growth was projected to moderate at 4.6 percent in 2023, from 4.8 percent in 2022. The projected moderation was expected to be driven by a slowdown in the growth of the mining & panning, and agriculture & fisheries subsectors.

The primary sector (agriculture & fisheries, forestry, and mining & panning) was projected to grow at 2.8 percent in 2023, down from 5.1 percent in 2022 mainly on account of a declining but positive rate of growth in the various subsectors of the primary sector. The mining & panning subsector recorded a projected growth of 7.0 percent from 14.0 percent in 2022, largely on account of moderation in iron ore and diamond production. In the agriculture & fisheries subsector, growth was projected to moderate to 0.7 percent in 2023 compared to 1.2 percent in 2022, reflecting expected moderation in crude palm oil (CPO) production. Similarly, the forestry subsector was projected to recede by 1.2 percent in 2023, from 1.6 percent in 2022 due to decreases in round logs and timber production.

The secondary sector (manufacturing) was projected to grow by 6.4 percent in 2023, up from 2.2 percent in 2022, driven by increased production in cement and beverages. Similarly, the tertiary sector was projected to expand by 6.9 percent in 2023, from 4.8 percent in 2022 on account of increased activity in services emanating from government services, trade & hotels, and construction subsectors.

2.1.1 Outlook

Real GDP growth for 2024 is projected at 5.3 percent, reflecting expected expansion in the agriculture & fisheries sub-sectors. The government's commitment to increase investment in agriculture and other social protection programs is expected to further improve growth in 2024. However, key risks to the outlook, include supply chain constraints and disruption evolving from the geo-political tension and rise in energy prices.

2.2 Sectorial Review

2.2.1 Agriculture and Forestry

Table 2.1: Key Agricultural Production
(2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023; 3rd Quarter, 2022)

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2023	Q2-2023	Q3-2022
Rubber	Mt	17,197	18,060	14,741
Cocoa	Mt	425	580	425
Round Logs	M ³	153,673*	166,409*	160,041*
Sawn Timber	Pcs	49,720*	50,217*	49,969*
Crude Palm Oil (CPO)	Mt	4,816	9,087	4,646

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

Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production
(2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023; 3rd Quarter, 2022)



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

a. Rubber

Rubber output in the third quarter took a nosedive, decreasing by 18.4 percent to 14,741 metric tons, from 18,060 metric tons produced in the previous quarter. The reduction in rubber output was largely on account of decreased production by smallholder farmers coupled with the impact of the decline in the global price of the commodity. Similarly, production in the reporting quarter decreased by 14.3 percent compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

b. Cocoa

Cocoa production declined by 26.7 percent to 425 metric tons, from 580 metric tons produced at end-June 2023, attributed to unfavorable yields during the quarter. Compared to the corresponding period a year ago, output remained flat at 425 metric tons.

c. Sawn Timber

Sawn timber production during the quarter fell slightly by 0.5 percent to an estimated 49,969 pieces, from 50,217 pieces reported for the previous quarter. The fall in output was mainly due to the bad road conditions arising from the rainy season. When annualized, sawn timber output also decreased slightly by 0.5 percent.

d. Round Logs

Round logs production fell by an estimated 3.8 percent to 160,041 cubic meters, from 166,409 cubic meters during the previous quarter. The decline in output was attributed to the rainy season in addition to the declining global price of the commodity during the quarter. However, on an annual basis, output rose by 4.1 percent.

e. Crude Palm Oil (CPO)

Crude palm oil (CPO) production slumped by 48.9 percent to 4,646 metric tons, from 9,087 metric tons produced in the previous quarter due to the decline in the global price of the commodity. Similarly, in comparison with production in the corresponding quarter a year ago, CPO production fell by 3.5 percent.

2.2.2 Industrial Production

2.2.2.1 Mining (Gold, Diamond, and Iron Ore)

i. Gold

Gold output declined marginally by 0.6 percent to 114,547 ounces at end-September 2023, down from 115,235 ounces produced a quarter ago, on account of declining average global prices of the commodity and uncertainty by producers. However, when annualized, gold output increased by 34.4 percent.

ii. Diamond

Diamond output dipped by 13.8 percent to 9,347 carats during the quarter, down from 10,841 carats produced in the previous quarter due to government policy in adherence with the Kimberly Process. Compared to the corresponding period of 2022, output rose by 3.3 percent.

iii. Iron Ore

Iron ore production also fell by 6.8 percent to 1,100,000 metric tons in the review quarter, from 1,180,000 metric tons produced in the previous quarter on account of a decrease in external demand for the commodity. When annualized, output also declined by 4.8 percent.

2.2.2.2 Manufacturing

i. Cement

Cement output decreased during the quarter by 20.1 percent to 95,032 metric tons, down from 118,897 metric tons reported during the previous quarter, reflecting a decline in construction activity due to the rainy season. When annualized, production, however, rose by 10.2 percent.

ii. Beverages

Beverages' output (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) fell by 14.1 percent to about 6.5 million liters, from 7.6 million liters produced a quarter ago due to a decrease in demand for the commodity. On an annualized basis, beverage output increased significantly by 85.3 percent. A disaggregation of total beverages produced for the quarter showed that alcoholic beverages constituted 47.9 percent, while non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 52.1 percent during the review quarter.

iii. Soap

Soap production for the quarter under review plunged by 55.8 percent to 54,920 kilograms, down from 124,232.4 kilograms reported in the preceding quarter on account of increased importation of competing brands. On a year-on-year basis, soap production also declined by 3.9 percent.

iv. Paint (Oil and Water)

Total paint production, including oil and water paints, rose by 36.6 percent to 49,611 gallons in the reporting quarter, from 36,320 gallons produced during the second quarter of 2023. The rise in paint output was due to increased renovation of structures in preparation for the July 26 Celebration. Conversely, compared with the same period a year ago, output fell by 20.6 percent. When disaggregated, oil paint constituted 58.0 percent, while water paint accounted for 42.0 percent of the total paint produced.

v. Varnish

Total varnish produced during the third quarter plummeted by 37.4 percent to 2,983 gallons, from 4,768 gallons produced a quarter ago. The decrease in output was largely due to low demand for the commodity on account of a hike in the price as a result of an increase in the prices of raw materials. The volume of varnish produced also decreased by 11.2 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

vi. Manoline Hair Grease

Production of manoline hair grease increased in the reporting quarter by 33.5 percent to 5,393 kilograms, from 4,040 kilograms produced during the previous quarter. The increase in output during the quarter was on account of higher demand for the commodity. On an annualized basis, output also reduced by 5.4 percent.

vii. Thinner

Production of thinner at the end of the third quarter stood at 3,895 gallons, reflecting a decrease of 4.2 percent relative to the 4,065 gallons produced in the previous quarter. The reduction in thinner production was attributed to a fall in demand for the commodity. Output, however, on an annualized basis significantly increased by 84.2 percent compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022.

viii. Rubbing Alcohol

The volume of rubbing alcohol produced fell significantly to 79,286 liters, 49.0 percent less than the output produced in the preceding quarter. The decrease in output was occasioned by the unavailability of raw materials for the production process. However, on a year-to-year basis, output in the quarter under review surged by 65.6 percent.

ix. Chlorox

Chlorox output plunged to 237,634 liters at the end of the third quarter, from 286,358 liters for the quarter ended June 2023, driven by lower demand for the produce. Conversely, on a year-on-year basis, output rose by 16.5 percent.

x. Candle

Candle output dipped by 59.9 percent to 12,348 kilograms at end September 2023, from 30,796.5 kilograms produced in the previous quarter, due to the declining demand emanating from the connections of more homes to the electricity grid. Year-on-year comparison also reflected an increase in production by 33.9 percent.

xi. Mattresses

Mattresses production decreased by 10.3 percent to 29,894 pieces in the reporting quarter, from 33,338 pieces produced at the end of the second quarter of 2023 on account of the ensuing raining season which has disallowed the transportation of the commodity to other parts of the country. Relative to the same period a year ago, production grew by 7.8 percent.

xii. Finished Water

Total output of finished water rose to 244.7 million gallons during the quarter, from 151.02 million gallons reported a quarter ago, indicating 62.1 percent increase compared to the preceding quarter due to the resumption of service provision to some communities. Compared to the same period in 2022, output declined by 6.7 percent.

xiii. Mineral Water

The total volume of mineral water produced during the review quarter was 189,456 liters, from 170,589 liters produced during the previous quarter, constituting an increase of 11.1 percent. The rise in mineral water production was mainly attributed to the depletion of inventory during the previous quarter. Compared to the corresponding period in 2022, production of mineral water surged by 47.1 percent.

Table 2.2: Key Industrial Output
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2022	Q2-2023	Q3-2023
Gold	Ounce	85,204	115,235	114,547
Diamond	Carat	9,049	10841	9,347
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,050,000	1,180,000	1,100,000
Cement	Mt.	86,218	118,897	95,032
Spirits	Liter	24,840	161,525	294,906
Beer	Liter	1,389,884	1,880,052	1,320,934
Stout	Liter	1,740,998	1,613,359	1,502,305
Malta	Liter	133,332	140,889	223,336
Soft Drinks	Liter	231,898	3,801,386	3,162,432
Oil Paint	Gal.	30,750	21,063	28,750
Water Paint	Gal.	21,909	15,257	20,861
Varnish	Gal.	3,358	4,768	2,983
Manoline H. Grease	Kg	5,116	4,040	5,393
Thinner	Gal	2,114	4,065	3,895
Rubbing Alcohol	Liter	47,868	155,381	79,286
Soap	Kg	57,167	124,232	54920
Chlorox	Liter	204,038	286,358	237,634
Candle	Kg	9,219	30,797	12,348
Mattresses	Pcs.	27,733	33,338	29,894
Finished water	Gal.	262,417,760	151,025,989	244,738,043
Mineral Water	Liter	44,415	170,589	189,456
Electricity	kW	84,116,470	114,473,600	123,741,000

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

2.3 Consumption of Petroleum Products

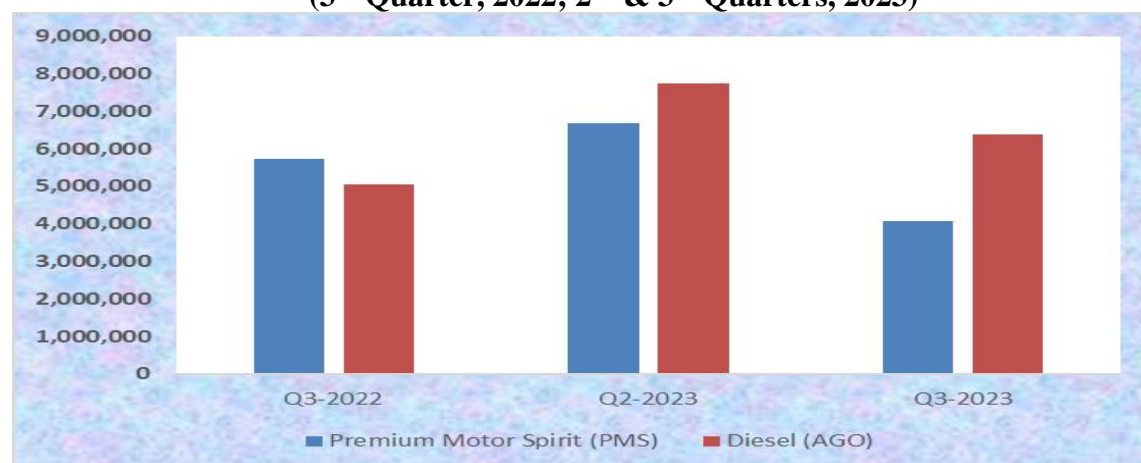
Consumption of petroleum products, Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and Diesel or Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), plummeted by 27.8 percent to 10.5 million gallons, down from 14.4 million gallons consumed during the previous quarter. Supply disruptions and constraints from the international market largely contributed to the decline in petroleum products consumption during the quarter. Petroleum product consumption decreased by 2.7 percent compared to the same period a year ago. Disaggregation of total consumption of petroleum products showed that PMS constituted 39.0 percent, while AGO accounted for the remaining 61.0 percent.

**Table 2.3: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2022	Q2-2023	Q3-2023
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	5,719,455	6,674,869.1	4,083,242.17
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	5,045,435	7,735,365.58	6,390,725.34
Total	Gal.	10,764,890	14,498,496.1	10,473,967.51

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

**Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)**



Source: Liberian Petroleum Refining Company

2.4 Seaport Developments

Vessels anchored at the various ports along the Liberian coast during the third quarter of 2023 was estimated at 108 with combined Summer Dead Weight Tons (SDWT) of 3.2 million, indicating a 7.1 percent decrease in the number of vessels docked compared with the previous quarter. This decrease was largely explained by the fall in activities at the Port of Monrovia and Buchanan. In terms of percentage distribution, vessels anchored in Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville, and

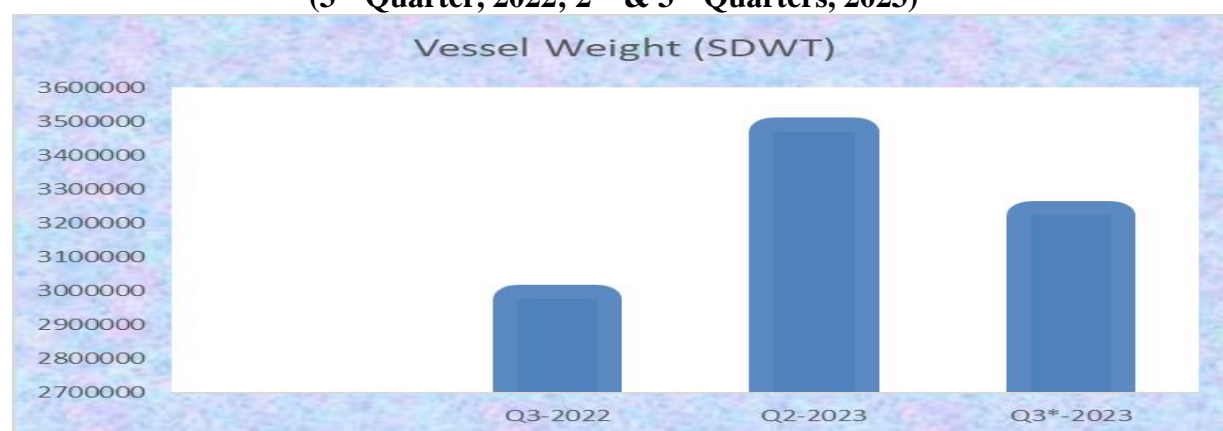
Harper accounted for 64.4 percent, 27.9 percent, 4.8 and 2.9 percent, respectively. Compared with the corresponding period a year ago, the number of vessels declined by 8.9 percent. Disaggregation of total cargo tonnage showed that imports accounted for 69.1 percent, while exports constituted 30.9 percent (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT)	Cargo Tonnage (In Metric Tons)		
			Imports	Exports	Total
Q3-2022	101	2,978,455	4,428,365	1,330,736	5,759,101
Q2-2023	114	3,471,742	891,293	1,249,260	2,140,553
Q3*-2023	108	3,225,099	2,659,829	1,289,998	3,949,827

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

Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)



Source: National Port Authority (NPA) SDWL= Summer Dead Weight Tons & Number of Vessels



Source: National Port Authority (NPA) SDWL= Summer Dead Weight Tons & Number of Vessels

2.5 Electric Power Developments

Electric power produced by the national power generating facilities¹ during the third quarter increased to 123.7 million kilowatts, up from 114.5 million kilowatts produced in the previous quarter, representing an increase of 8.1 percent. The rise in electric power generation was on account of higher power generation and the continuous expansion in connecting more homes and business to the electric grid. On a year-on-year basis, electric power generation also rose by 47.1 percent.

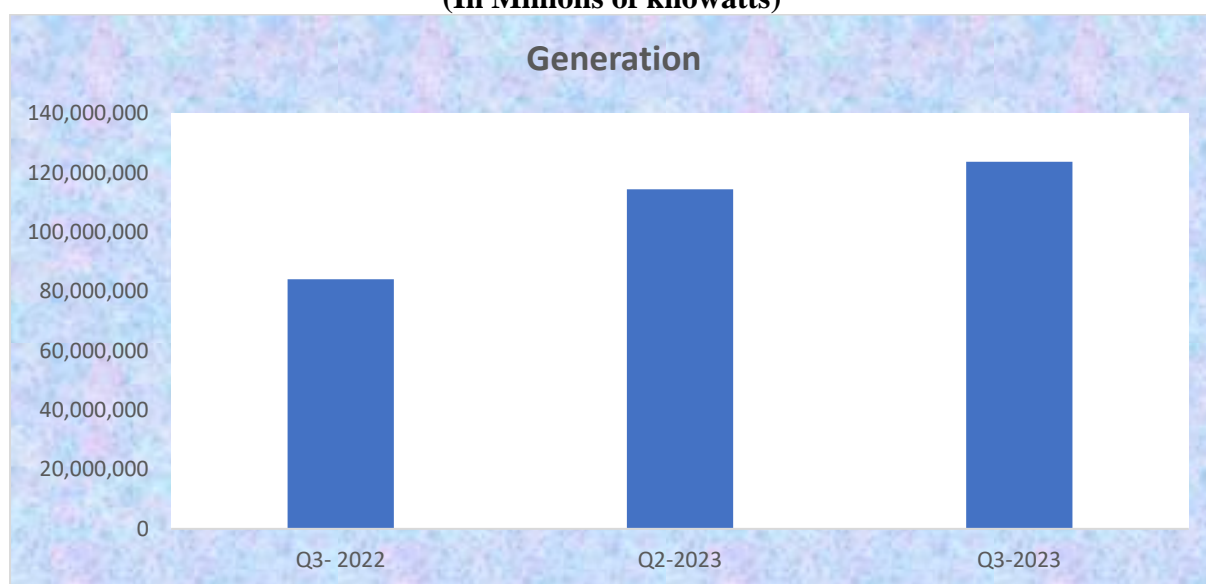
Table 2.5: Electric Power Developments
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(in Kilowatts)

	Unit	Service	Generation
Q3- 2022	kW	Electricity	84,116,470
Q2-2023	kW	Electricity	114,473,600
Q3-2023	kW	Electricity	123,741,000

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

¹ Mount Coffee Hydro, the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Generators, and the High-Speed Diesel (HSD) generators.

Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of kilowatts)



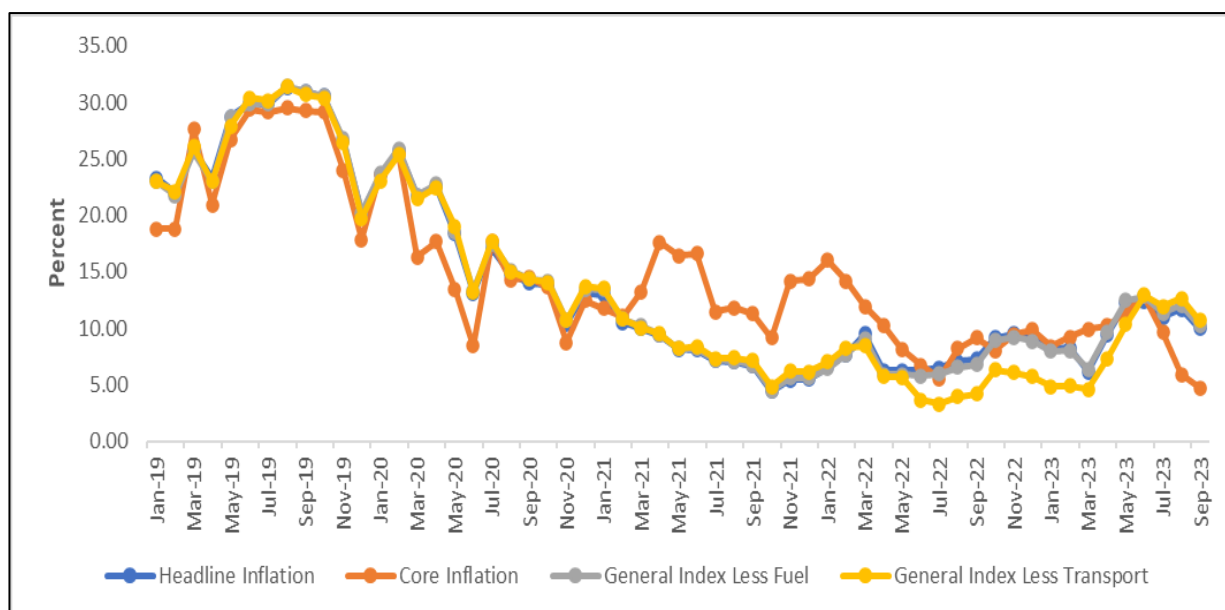
Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

2.6 Price Developments

2.6.1 Domestic Price Developments

In the third quarter of 2023, headline inflation moderated slightly to 10.9 percent, 0.4 percentage point in comparison to the 11.3 percent reported in the previous quarter. The moderation was mainly due to the tight monetary policy stance of the Bank that helped to stabilize the exchange rate in the quarter. In the major components of the consumer basket, transport; housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels; restaurants & hotel; clothing and footwear; miscellaneous: furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance; and alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics moderated. Components that rose during the quarter included communication, recreation, & culture; education and food & non-alcoholic beverages. Official core inflation receded by 4.7 percentage points, to 6.8 percent in the reporting quarter, down from 11.5 percent during the second quarter of 2023 on account of decline in non-food and non-transport related subgroups of the consumer basket. Similarly, a year-on-year comparative analysis reveals that official core inflation during the quarter fell to 6.8 percent, from the 7.6 percent recorded during the corresponding quarter in 2022 (chart 2.5).

Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflation



2.6.2 Inflation by Group

Developments in the major groups of the consumer basket during the third quarter of 2023 showed mixed trends in the movements of prices. Major drivers that accounted for the slight downward movement were alcoholic beverages; tobacco & narcotics; clothing & footwear; housing; water; electricity; gas & other fuels; furnishings; household equipment & routine household maintenance; transport; health; restaurant & hotels; and miscellaneous goods & services. Food and non-alcoholic beverages, education, communication, and recreation & culture were the components that rose compared with the previous quarter (Table 2.7 & 2.9).

2.6.2.1 Contributions to Changes in CPI (%)

Chart 2.6 Contribution to Changes in CPI

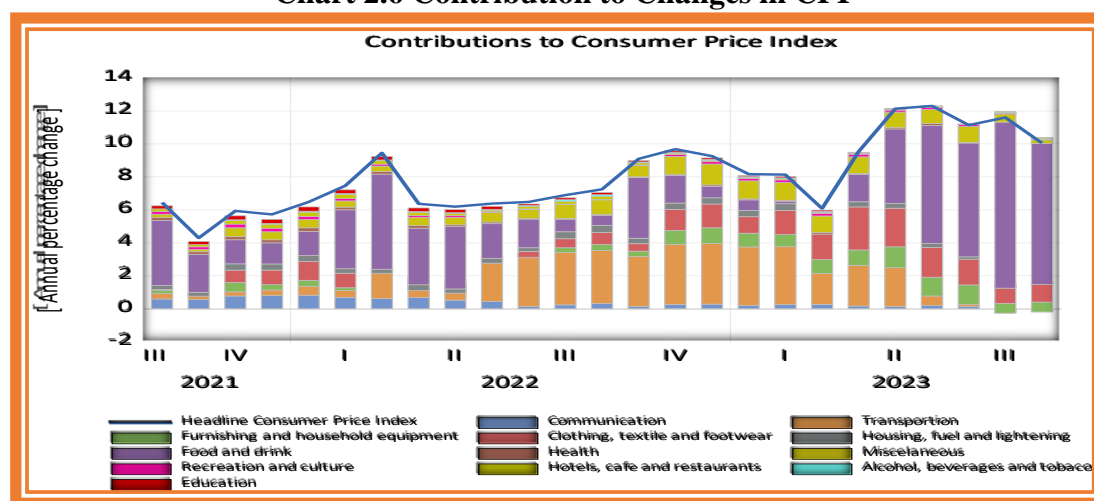
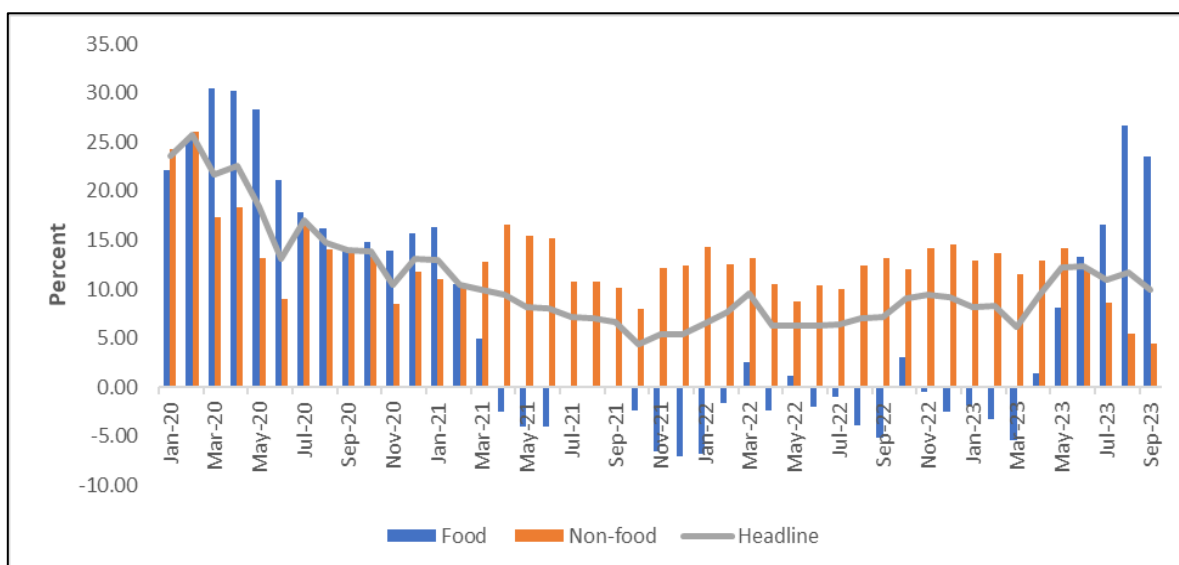


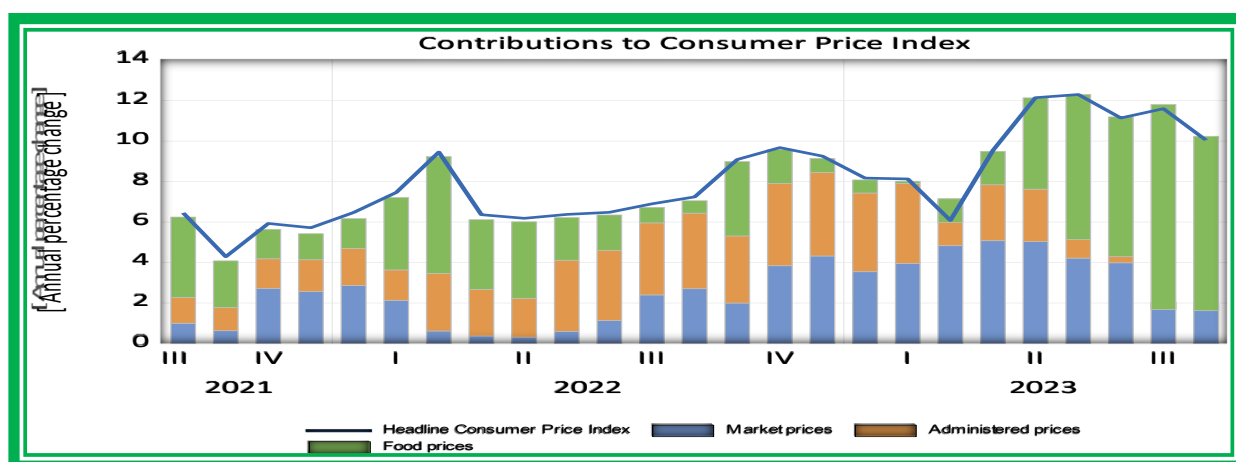
Chart 2.7: Food, Non-food, and Headline Inflation



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

Headline inflation decomposed into its analytical components revealed that administered (less food) and market prices induced the slight moderation during the quarter, while food prices on the other hand rose. The contraction in administered price to 0.11 percent in quarter three from 2.1 percent in quarter two 2023 was mainly triggered by decline in fuel price. Market price also moderated on average to 2.6 percent from 4.8 percent in quarter two 2023, while food price rose to 8.5 percent in quarter three from 4.4 percent in quarter two 2023 mainly on account of the pass-through-effect of depreciation of the Liberian Dollar during the quarter.

Chart 2.8 Administered versus Market Price



2.6.2.3 Inflation Outlook

Headline inflation for the fourth quarter of 2023 was projected to increase to 10.4 percent with a symmetric bandwidth of +/- 2.0 percent. However, sustaining single-digit inflation in the short-to-medium term will depend mainly on the exchange rate movements, level of policy coordination between the monetary and fiscal authorities, the effectiveness of the monetary policy instruments as well as the dynamics of international and domestic prices of commodities, especially food and fuel.

Table 2.6: Headline and Quarterly Changes in CPI (%)

		Headline Inflation (Y-on-Y Changes)			Monthly Changes in HCPI (%)		
		Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combine	Food	Non-Food
2021	January	12.92	16.31	11.06	0.8	3.2	-0.6
	February	10.5	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	1.1
	May	8.16	-4.04	15.43	0.86	0.47	1.05
	June	8.1	-3.95	15.15	1.94	0.84	2.49
	July	7.12	0.21	10.73	6.13	3.94	7.2
	August	7	0.1	10.71	1.16	3.04	0.28
	September	6.69	0.18	10.14	0.1	-0.37	0.33
	October	4.42	-2.39	8	-1.85	-2.87	-1.35
	November	5.44	-6.58	12.12	-3.17	-4.71	-2.44
	December	5.46	-7.05	12.4	-0.33	-1.1	0.0
2022	January	6.55	-6.79	14.24	1.8	3.51	1.01
	February	7.64	-1.57	12.6	0.13	0.15	0.12
	March	9.51	2.58	13.13	3.14	3.59	2.92
	April	6.26	-2.39	10.57	-3.41	-8.1	-1.19
	May	6.23	1.17	8.74	0.83	4.14	-0.62
	June	6.32	-1.99	10.37	2.02	-2.31	4.02
	July	6.48	-0.98	10.01	6.28	5	6.84
	August	7.06	-3.85	12.36	1.71	1.06	2.42
	September	7.23	-5.12	13.19	0.25	-1.74	1.07
	October	9.12	3.08	11.99	-0.12	5.53	-2.4
	November	9.49	-0.52	14.13	-2.85	-8.03	-0.58
	December	9.19	-2.47	14.53	-0.61	-3.04	0.38
2023	January	8.22	-1.88	12.97	0.09	4.14	-0.36
	February	8.27	-3.27	13.7	0.18	-1.26	0.77
	March	6.1	-5.38	11.54	1.07	1.33	0.96
	April	9.43	1.38	12.97	-0.39	-1.53	0.07
	May	12.22	8.08	14.12	3.40	11.01	0.40
	June	12.36	13.30	11.95	2.16	2.41	2.04
	July	11.01	16.51	8.66	5.01	7.97	3.70
	August	11.70	26.66	5.48	2.23	8.78	-0.59
	September	9.96	23.49	4.49	-1.32	-4.21	0.12
	October	10.14	16.86	7.20	0.05	-0.13	0.14
	November	11.43	25.13	5.89	-1.70	-1.53	-1.79
	December	10.01	26.94	3.40	-1.87	-1.64	-1.98

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

III. MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Monetary Policy Stance (MPS)

The Monetary Policy Stance of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) during the third quarter of 2023 was mainly focused on liquidity management with the objective of smoothing out domestic price volatility through broad exchange rate stability. In this regard, the CBL Monetary Policy Stance was directed mainly at the utilization of the Bank's policy instruments, including the CBL bills and the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR) of the commercial banks.

3.2 Banking Sector Development

The banking industry remained relatively sound and stable, evidenced by expansions in key primary balance sheet items for the third quarter of 2023. The key balance sheet indicators, including total loans & advances, total deposits, total assets, capital, and profitability grew, while liquidity slowed compared to the previous quarter. When matched with the corresponding quarter a year ago, all the balance sheet indicators (except liquidity), including total capital, total assets, deposits, and loans & advances grew. Profitability in the banking industry also recorded growth compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022.

3.2.1 Capital

At end-September 2023, the stock of capital in the banking industry stood at L\$37.55 billion, expanding by 6.0 percent (7.5 percentage points below the growth recorded for the second quarter of 2023), from L\$35.41 billion recorded during the previous quarter. When compared against the corresponding quarter of 2022, total capital increased by 23.0 percent from L\$30.54 billion. At end-September 2023, eight of the nine commercial banks in the industry reported Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) above the 10.0 percent minimum regulatory requirement. The CAR for the industry during the quarter was 18.2 percent, 3.3 percentage points lower than the CAR reported in the preceding quarter. When matched against the amount reported in the corresponding period of 2022, the CAR of the industry for the reporting quarter was 7.1 percentage points lower.

3.2.2 Asset and Liquidity

Commercial banks' assets reported at end-September 2023 amounted to L\$271.63 billion. This amount represented 3.5 percent rise from the L\$262.49 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2023. The expansion was largely on account of increases reported in bonds & long-term

securities, balances at commercial banks, and checks for clearing. On the annual front, total asset rose by 30.8 percent from L\$207.59 billion. The growth was primarily induced by increases in shares and short-term securities. On the other hand, total liquid assets of the industry increased by 18.1 percent to L\$103.50 billion, from L\$87.67 billion recorded at end-June 2023 on account of increases reported in placement with foreign banks and current account balances with foreign banks. From an annual perspective, liquid asset at end-September 2023 rose by 31.0 percent, from L\$79.02 billion reported in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The expansion was primarily on account of increases in current account balances foreign banks as well as placement with foreign banks.

The industry liquidity ratio declined by 2.0 percentage points to 41.0 percent at end-September 2023 compared with the quarter ended June 2023. When matched against the figure recorded the same quarter a year ago, liquidity ratio also moderated by 0.6 percentage point, from 41.6 percent. At end-September 2023, the banking industry recorded expansion in loans & advances by 5.4 percent to L\$93.78 billion, from L\$89.10 billion recorded for the quarter ended June 2023. Compared to the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022, total loans advanced to the economy for the review quarter grew by 17.7 percent, from L\$79.74 billion.

Non-performing loans (NPLs), as a share of the total stock of loans & advances in the quarter ended September 2023, declined by 0.2 percentage point to 15.9 percent (L\$14.94 billion) from 16.1 percent recorded at end-June 2023 but remained above the 10.0 percent tolerable limit. Compared with the quarter ended September 2022, the volume of NPL fell during the review quarter. The volume of NPL above regulatory threshold reflects the level of defaults across various subsectors of the economy.

With respect to the corresponding period a year ago, the NPLs ratio recorded a decline of 7.3 percentage points, from 23.2 percent but remained a major challenge to the banking sector. Except for two (2) of the commercial banks, the rest of the seven (7) banks reported NPL ratio above the regulatory requirement of 10.0 percent.

3.2.3 Profitability

The gross operational income in the banking industry, at end-September 2023 stood at L\$17.46 billion, with interest income constituting 49.7 percent and non-interest income representing 50.3 percent. The gross operational income rose by 30.0 percent compared with the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022, largely induced by increases recorded in interest income and other income.

The total operating expense for the quarter ended September 2023 stood at L\$10.56 billion, reflecting a significant increase (55.1 percent) when compared with the amount recorded at end-June 2023. Compared with the same period a year ago, total operating expenses grew by 21.6 percent. The annual expansion in operating expenses was mainly on account of increases recorded in Directors' allowance, bonuses, and other expenses.

Both Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) expanded during the reporting quarter. ROA stood at 1.9 percent, from 1.1 percent recorded in the previous quarter, while ROE amounted to 13.4 percent, rising by 5.6 percentage points, compared to the amount reported a quarter ago. Annually, both ROA and ROE rose by 0.2 percentage point and 2.0 percentage points, from 1.7 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively. The industry net operating profit after tax for the quarter ended September 2023 grew by 44.5 percent to L\$4.98 billion, from L\$3.42 billion compared to the corresponding quarter of 2022, partly on account of the expansions in profit generated from interest and noninterest income.

3.2.4 Commercial Bank Credit

At end-September 2023, the stock of commercial banks' loans & advances to the various subsectors of the economy stood at L\$94.76 billion, expanding by 5.6 percent, from L\$89.77 billion recorded at end-June 2023. The growth in loans & advances was primarily on account of growths reported in credits extended to individuals, trade, extractive, and oil & gas subsectors.

A sectoral disaggregation of the 5.6 percent credit growth were as follows: personal loans (households), 3.37 percentage points; trade, 1.99 percentage points; extractive, 1.77 percentage points; oil & gas, 1.22 percentage points; agriculture, 0.34 percentage point; construction, 0.14 percentage point; government, 0.02 percentage point; loans to public corporations, negative 0.09 percentage point; services, negative 0.87 percentage point; manufacturing, negative 3.40 percentage points; and loans to other subsectors, 1.07 percentage points.

Compared with the stock of loans extended in the third quarter of 2022, total commercial banks' loan to the economy grew by 19.5 percent, largely induced by growths in loans extended to the trade sector, oil & gas, extractive, and agriculture subsectors (Table 3.1).

At end-September 2023, both the United States dollar (US\$) denominated loans and the Liberian dollar (L\$) component of the total loan portfolio rose. The US dollar credits to the

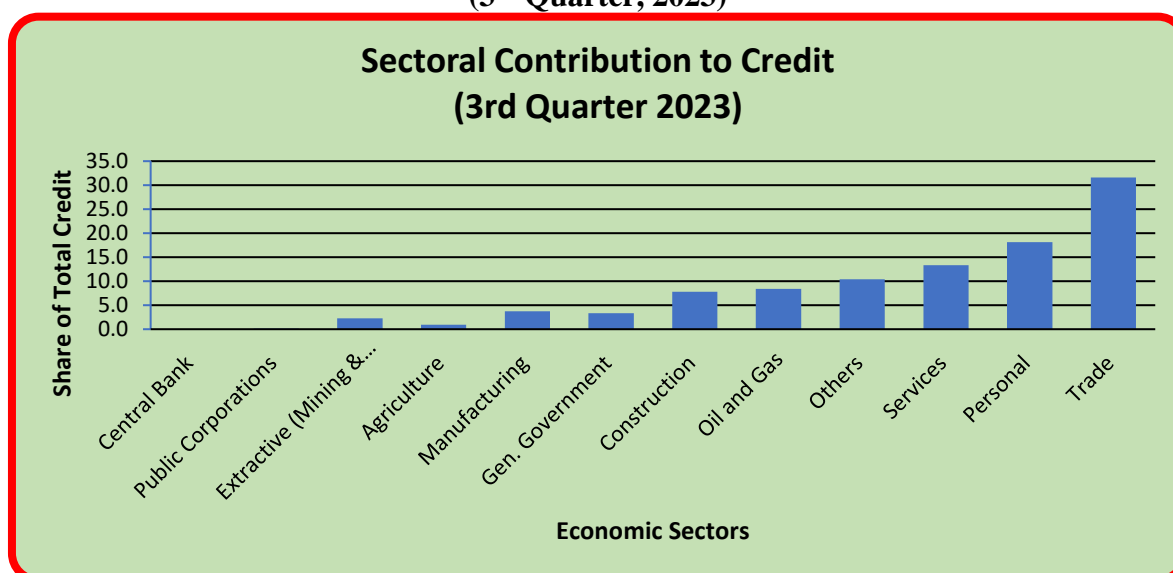
economy, which accounted for 94.2 percent of total credits, expanded by 2.1 percent to US\$478.15 million compared with US\$468.51 million recorded in the previous quarter. On an annual comparison, the US dollar credits slightly decline by 0.5 percent, from US\$480.68 million reported in the corresponding quarter of 2022. The total stock of credit at the end of the reporting quarter, which stood at L\$94.76 billion, converted to US dollar, expanded by 1.9 percent (0.8 percentage point above the expansion recorded at end-June 2023). During the reporting quarter, total credit advanced to the private sector through the banking system accounted for 98.9 percent (0.1 percentage point above the share recorded for June 2023) of the total credit portfolio in the economy.

Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

	2022		2023				Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q3	Share	Q2	Share	Q3	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	2,605.97	3.29	3,224.86	3.59	3,532.36	3.73	0.34	1.17
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	181.54	0.23	549.38	0.61	2,135.00	2.25	1.77	2.46
Manufacturing	2,508.74	3.16	6,219.95	6.93	3,169.68	3.34	(3.40)	0.83
Construction	6,417.43	8.09	7,824.45	8.72	7,951.72	8.39	0.14	1.93
Services	15,826.35	19.96	13,435.71	14.97	12,658.84	13.36	(0.87)	(3.99)
Trade	21,204.42	26.74	28,146.25	31.36	29,931.98	31.59	1.99	11.01
Personal	16,341.41	20.61	14,143.47	15.76	17,169.37	18.12	3.37	1.04
Gen. Government	112.28	0.14	134.88	0.15	148.39	0.16	0.02	0.05
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	936.16	1.18	933.79	1.04	852.78	0.90	(0.09)	(0.11)
Oil and Gas	2,336.61	2.95	6,266.57	6.98	7,364.50	7.77	1.22	6.34
Others	10,823.21	13.65	8,886.46	9.90	9,844.30	10.39	1.07	(1.23)
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	79,294.13	100.00	89,765.76	100.00	94,758.91	100.00	5.56	19.50
<i>O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)</i>	<i>78,245.69</i>	<i>98.68</i>	<i>88,697.09</i>	<i>98.81</i>	<i>93,757.75</i>	<i>98.94</i>	<i>5.64</i>	<i>19.56</i>

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

**Chart 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(3rd Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.2.5 Interest Rate

Interest rates during the quarter ended September 2023 were the same when compare with the second quarter of 2023. However, a year-on-year comparison showed that except for lending and saving rates which recorded increases, all other rates remained stable during the quarter compare with the same quarter a year ago. The average interest rate on lending was maintained at 13.4 percent, personal loan rate at 12.8 percent, mortgage rate at 13.4 percent, time deposit rate at 3.5 percent, saving rate at 3.1 percent, and the rate on certificate of deposits at 3.3 percent (Table 3.2). The spread between the average lending and saving rates during the quarter stood at 10.3 percentage points. In contrast, annual comparison reveals that interest rates on mortgage and certificate of deposit were stable compared with the rates reported in the corresponding period of 2022, while the rates on lending, personal loan, time deposit, and saving expanded by 99.6 basis points, 0.2 basis point, 0.2 basis point, and 100.0 basis points, respectively.

**Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)**

	2022	2023	
	Q ³	Q ²	Q ³
Avg. Lending Rate	12.44	13.44	13.44
Avg. Personal Loan Rate	12.78	12.78	12.78
Avg. Mortgage Rate	13.38	13.38	13.38
Avg. Time Deposit Rate	3.53	3.53	3.53
Avg. Savings Rate	2.10	3.10	3.10
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-September 2023 expanded by 12.0 percent to L\$29,176.28 million, from L\$26,059.37 million reported at end-June 2023. The growth was mainly driven by 13.9 percent growth in currency outside banks.

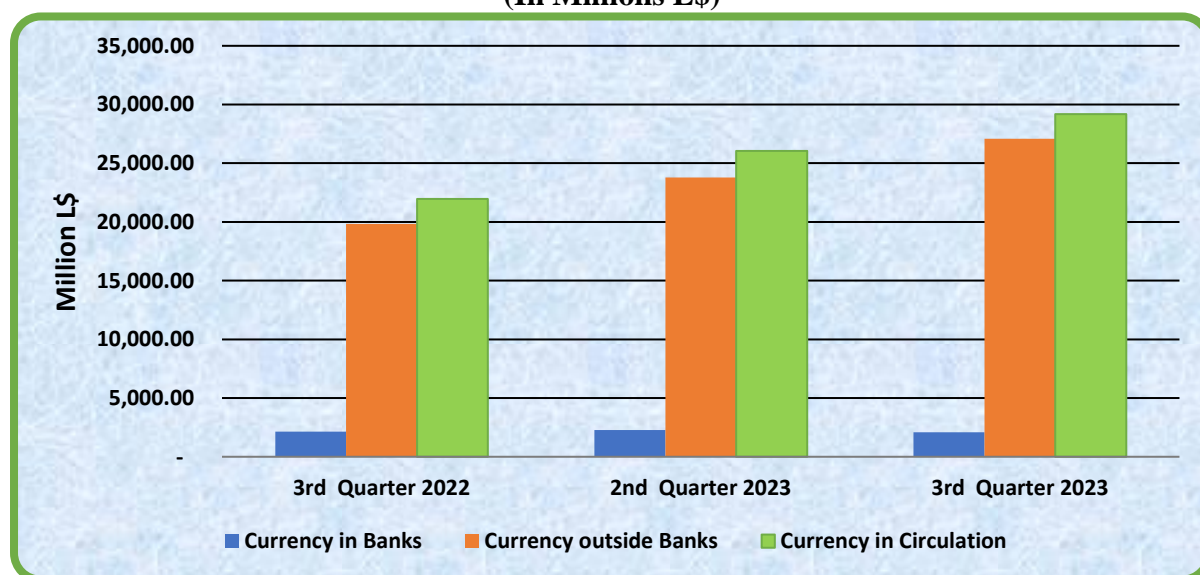
Table 3.3: Currency in Circulation & Its Compositions
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)

	2022	2023	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter
Currency in Banks	2,138.89	2,278.12	2,081.45
Currency outside Banks	19,828.79	23,781.26	27,094.83
Currency in Circulation	21,967.69	26,059.37	29,176.28

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

When matched with the stock of currency in circulation reported for the corresponding quarter of 2022, the Liberian dollar in circulation rose by 32.8 percent (Chart 3.2). At end-September 2023, currency in banks constituted only 7.1 percent of total currency in circulation, which suggests a highly cash-driven economy. Currency in circulation as a percent of broad money for the reporting quarter rose by 0.4 percentage point to 14.4 percent, from 14.0 percent recorded at end-June 2023, and remain stable when matched with the same quarter a year ago.

Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

3.2.7 Money Supply

At end-September 2023, the stock of narrow money supply (M1) expanded by 12.8 percent to L\$141,632.13 million, compared to the L\$130,290.17 million reported at end-June 2023. The expansion in M1 was triggered by 13.9 percent and 7.5 percent growths in currency outside

banks and demand deposits, respectively. Regarding the corresponding period of 2022, M1 rose by 33.5 percent (Table 3.4 and Chart 3.3).

Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

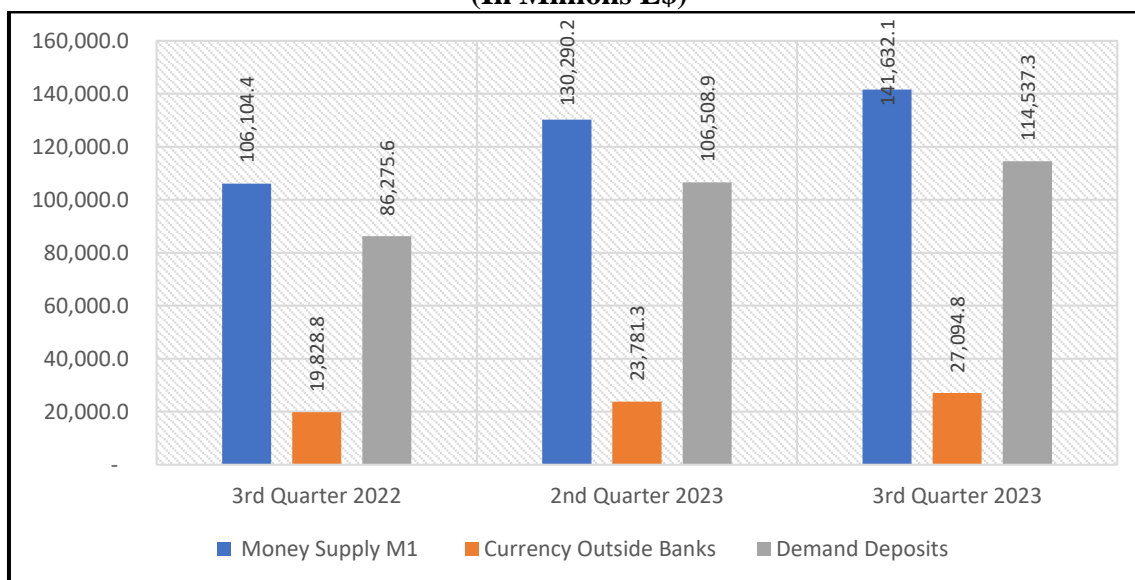
Monetary Aggregates	2022		2023	% Change	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	152,280.23	186,180.84	203,248.93	9.17	33.47
1.1 Money Supply M1	106,104.40	130,290.17	141,632.13	8.71	33.48
1.1.1 Currency outside banks	19,828.79	23,781.26	27,094.83	13.93	36.64
1.1.2 Demand deposit ^{1/}	86,275.61	106,508.92	114,537.30	7.54	32.76
1.2 Quasi Money	46,175.83	55,890.67	61,616.80	10.25	33.44
1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits	45,874.05	55,433.75	61,545.37	11.03	34.16
1.2.2 Other deposits ^{2/}	301.77	456.92	71.43	-84.37	-76.33
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	16,263.89	16,489.27	18,674.23	13.25	14.82
2.1 Central Bank	2,858.47	(7,089.24)	(11,361.38)	60.26	-497.46
2.2 Banking Institutions	13,405.42	23,578.51	30,035.60	27.39	124.06
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	136,016.34	169,691.57	184,574.70	8.77	35.70
3.1 Domestic Credit	189,371.62	248,160.70	253,597.61	2.19	33.92
3.1.1 Government (net)	98,203.89	132,517.55	142,028.30	7.18	44.63
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.	91,167.74	115,643.16	111,569.31	-3.52	22.38
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	(53,355.29)	(78,469.13)	(69,022.90)	-12.04	29.36
Memorandum Items					
1. Overall Liquidity	152,280.23	186,180.84	203,248.93	9.17	33.47
2. Reserve Money	55,740.12	56,695.90	60,760.32	7.17	9.01
Currency in Circulation	21,967.69	26,059.37	29,176.28	11.96	32.81
Banks Reserves	33,470.66	30,179.61	31,512.60	4.42	-5.85
Other Deposits at CBL	301.77	456.92	71.43	-84.37	-76.33

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

^{1/}Excludes managers cheques from commercial banks

^{2/} Includes official and managers checks issued by the Central Bank

Chart 3.3: Narrow Money Supply (M1)
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)

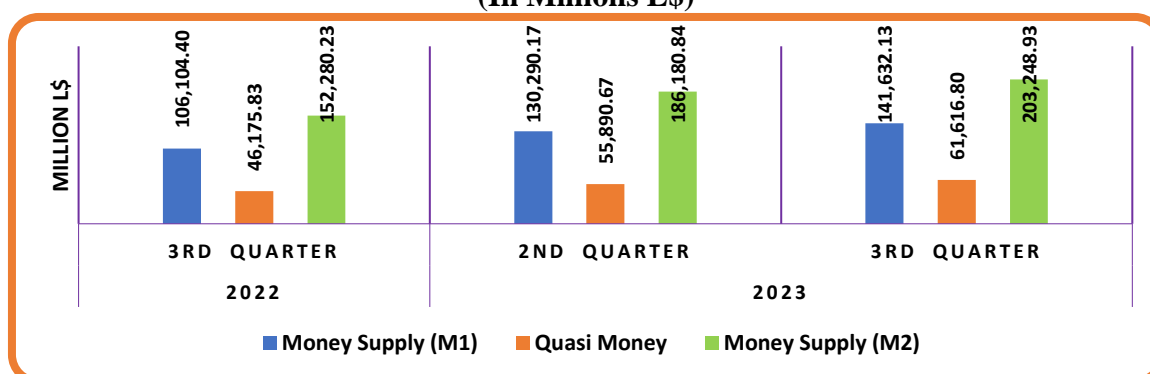


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.2.8 Broad Money Supply

Development in monetary aggregates reveals that the stock of broad money supply (M2) at end-September 2023 rose by 9.2 percent to L\$203,248.93 million, from L\$186,180.84 million recorded at end-June 2023. From the liability side, the growth in M2 was largely driven by increases reported in demand deposits, time & saving deposits, and currency outside banks. In terms of the assets side, M2 rose on account of 13.3 percent and 8.9 percent expansion in Net Foreign Assets (NFA) and Net Domestic Assets (NDA), respectively. Relative to the amount recorded a year ago, broad money rose by 33.5 percent, primarily influenced by the expansion in NFA and NDA (see Table 3.4). The rise in NDA at end-September 2023 was primarily triggered by increases in net credit to government.

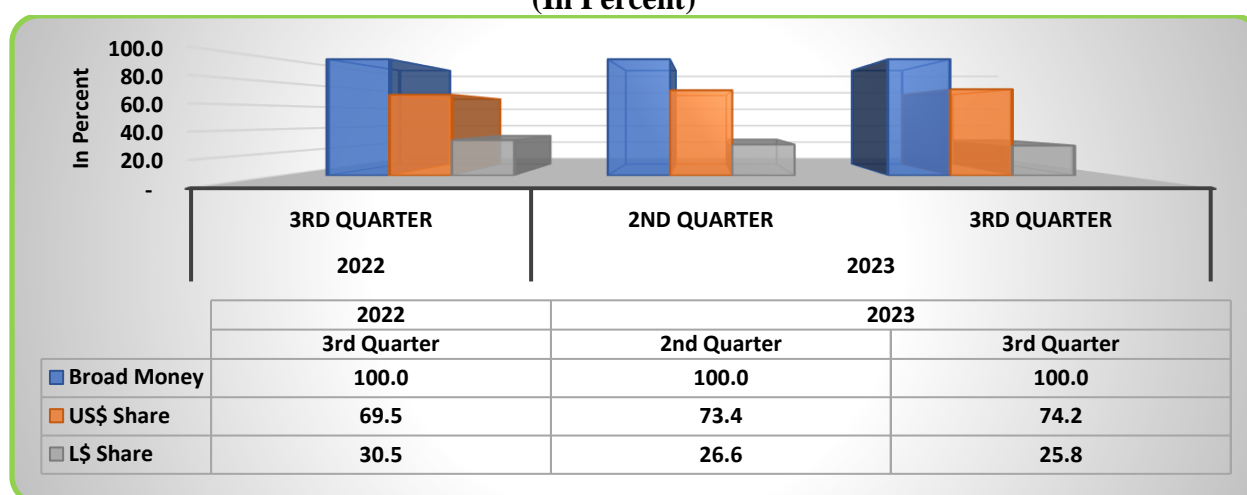
Chart 3.4: Broad Money Supply (M2)
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

At end-September 2023, the Liberian dollar component of broad money (M2) was 25.8 percent, 0.8 percentage point lower, compared with the share recorded in the previous quarter. The US dollar component of M2 for the review quarter stood at 74.2 percent (8.0 percentage points above the figure recorded a quarter ago and 4.7 percentage points higher when matched with the share reported in the corresponding quarter of 2022), confirming the constraint of de-dollarization in the domestic economy (Chart 3.5).

Chart 3.5: Broad Money: Share of US and Liberian Dollars
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Percent)

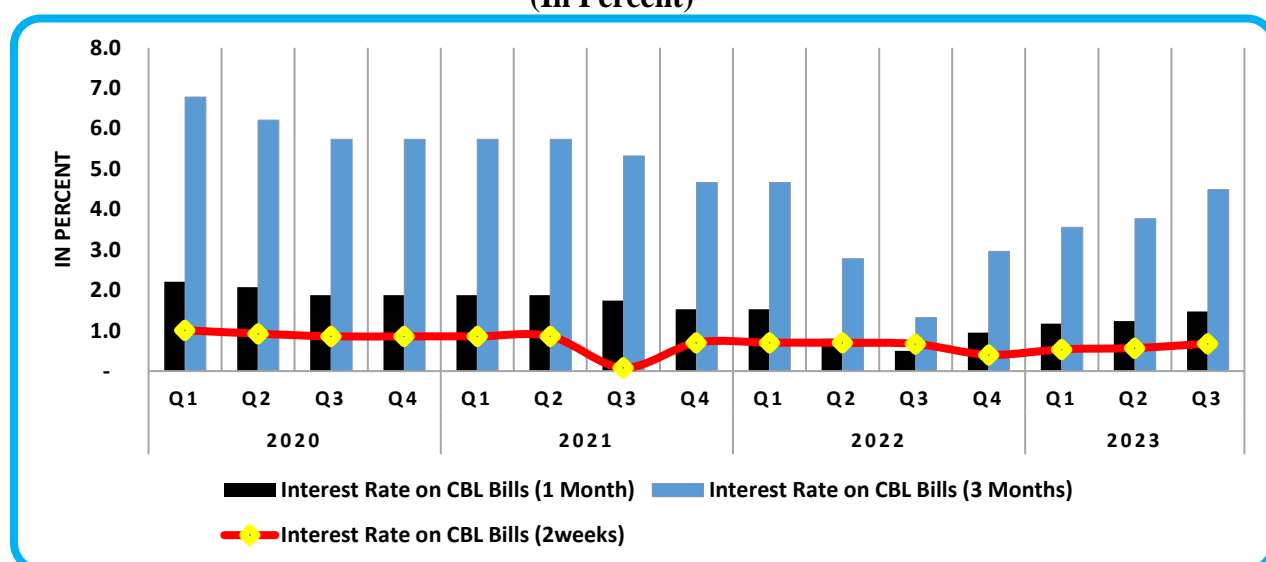


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.3. Government Securities

During the third quarter of 2023, the CBL, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, issued L\$4.0 billion and US\$0.611 million Treasury Bills (T-bills), but no T Bill or Treasury Bonds (T-Bonds) was issued or redeemed. The outstanding T-bills, at end-September 2023, stood at US\$94.63 million and L\$10.52 billion. For the previous quarter ended June 2023, no T-bill or T bond was issued. Also, for the reporting quarter ended September 2023, the outstanding Treasury Bond was US\$57.56 million. For the corresponding quarter of 2022, the CBL, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, issued US\$24.0 million and L\$6.0 billion Treasury Bills (T-bill). There was no issuance of Treasury Bonds (T-bond) neither a redemption of T-Bill or T-Bond.

Chart 3.6: Average Quarterly Yields
Government of Liberia 91-Day Treasury-bill Auctions (2020-2023 Q3)
(In Percent)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.4 Central Bank of Liberia Bills and SDF

The CBL bills offered during the quarter ended September 2023 stood at L\$37.45 billion, with over 50.0 percent subscription. The offered amount represented 88.3 percent growth when matched against the amount offered during the previous quarter and reflected over hundred percent increase compared with the amount offered during the corresponding quarter of 2022. Subscriptions for CBL bills continued to be relatively high, primarily on account of increased awareness and growing public confidence in the financial sector for the readily availability of CBL bills.

Table 3.5: CBL Bills
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jul-23	13-Oct-23	13,318.27	0.68
1 MONTH			
7-Jul-23	27-Oct-23	5,207.15	1.48
3 MONTHS			
7-Jul-23	29-Dec-23	6,565.21	4.49
Total Amount Issued		25,090.63	
2nd Quarter 2023			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Apr-23	14-Jul-23	13,318.27	0.68

1 MONTH			
7-Apr-23	28-Jul-23	5,207.15	1.48
3 MONTHS			
7-Apr-23	29-Sep-23	6,565.21	4.49
Total Amount Issued		25,090.63	
3rd Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
1-Jul-22	14-Oct-22	293.30	0.67
1 MONTH			
1-Jul-22	28-Oct-22	7,573.50	0.50
3 MONTHS			
1-Jul-22	30-Dec-22	5,610.75	1.33
Total Amount Issued		13,477.54	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q3-2023
(In Millions of L\$)

Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	Commercial Banks Issued	Retail Via Commercial Banks Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)
THREE MONTHS						
7-Jul-23	6-Oct-23	-	223.22	76.78	300.00	4.11
14-Jul-23	13-Oct-23	-	385.40	9.15	394.55	4.11
21-Jul-23	20-Oct-23	-	450.00	8.41	458.41	4.11
28-Jul-23	27-Oct-23	-	293.53	6.47	300.00	4.11
4-Aug-23	3-Nov-23	-	390.00	17.27	407.27	4.66
11-Aug-23	10-Nov-23	-	418.00	22.86	440.86	4.66
18-Aug-23	17-Nov-23	-	750.00	13.62	763.62	4.66
25-Aug-23	24-Nov-23	-	350.00	15.80	365.80	4.66
1-Sep-23	1-Dec-23	-	650.00	46.83	696.83	4.66
8-Sep-23	8-Dec-23	-	750.00	7.36	757.36	4.66
15-Sep-23	15-Dec-23	-	350.00	72.42	422.42	4.66
22-Sep-23	22-Dec-23	-	375.00	13.52	388.52	4.66
29-Sep-23	29-Dec-23	-	857.60	11.96	869.56	4.66
TOTAL		-	6,242.76	322.45	6,565.21	4.49
ONE MONTHS						
7-Jul-23	4-Aug-23	-	299.26	0.74	300.00	1.35
14-Jul-23	11-Aug-23	-	512.00	15.86	527.86	1.35
21-Jul-23	18-Aug-23	-	220.51	6.70	227.21	1.35
28-Jul-23	25-Aug-23	-	287.48	12.53	300.00	1.35

4-Aug-23	1-Sep-23	-	325.00	12.54	337.54	1.53
11-Aug-23	8-Sep-23	-	465.00	10.14	475.14	1.53
18-Aug-23	15-Sep-23	-	550.00	12.86	562.86	1.53
25-Aug-23	22-Sep-23	-	400.00	10.48	410.48	1.53
1-Sep-23	29-Sep-23	-	550.00	5.48	555.48	1.53
8-Sep-23	6-Oct-23	-	390.50	9.55	400.05	1.53
15-Sep-23	13-Oct-23	-	525.00	7.29	532.29	1.53
22-Sep-23	20-Oct-23	29.54	250.00	20.46	270.46	1.53
29-Sep-23	27-Oct-23	-	300.00	7.78	307.78	1.53
TOTAL		29.54	5,074.75	132.41	5,207.15	1.48
TWO WEEKS						
7-Jul-23	21-Jul-23	-	907.76	-	907.76	0.62
14-Jul-23	28-Jul-23	322.41	1,146.00	-	1,146.00	0.62
21-Jul-23	4-Aug-23	85.62	840.00	-	840.00	0.62
28-Jul-23	11-Aug-23	-	1,023.51	-	1,023.51	0.62
4-Aug-23	18-Aug-23	580.15	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	0.70
11-Aug-23	25-Aug-23	1,097.10	1,230.00	-	1,230.00	0.70
18-Aug-23	1-Sep-23	1,000.46	1,460.00	-	1,460.00	0.70
25-Aug-23	8-Sep-23	2,301.87	330.00	-	330.00	0.70
1-Sep-23	15-Sep-23	1,069.84	1,700.00	-	1,700.00	0.70
8-Sep-23	22-Sep-23	1,388.51	585.00	-	585.00	0.70
15-Sep-23	29-Sep-23	1,452.38	1,300.00	-	1,300.00	0.70
22-Sep-23	6-Oct-23	1,471.57	584.00	-	584.00	0.70
29-Sep-23	13-Oct-23	1,563.55	1,012.00	-	1,012.00	0.70
TOTAL		12,333.46	13,318.27	-	13,318.27	0.68
TOTAL AMOUNT ISSUED		12,363.00			25,090.63	

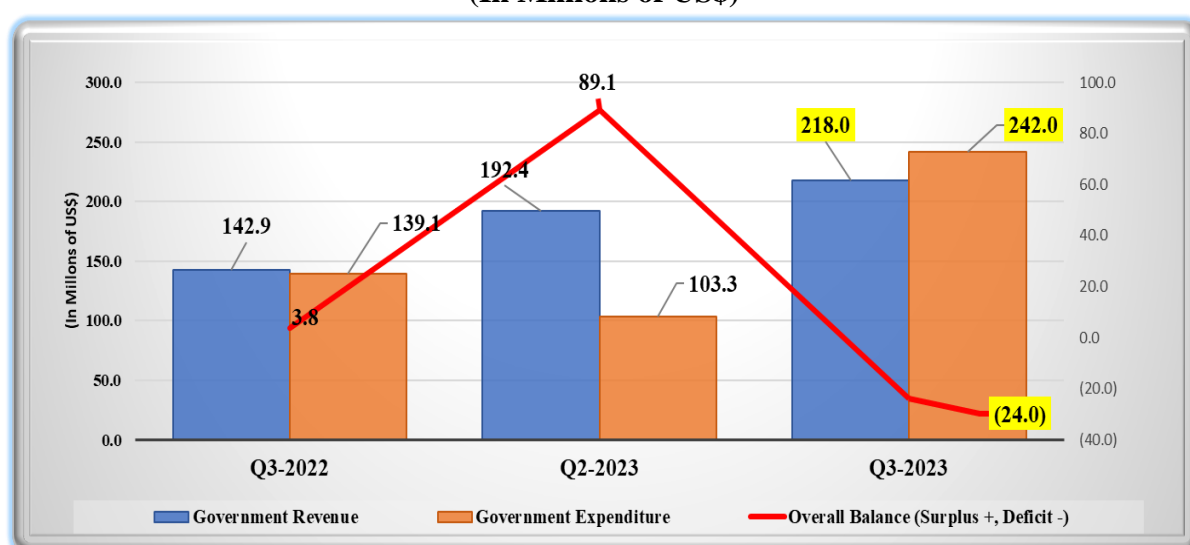
Source: Central Bank of Liberia

IV. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 GOL Fiscal Operations

From provisional statistics, fiscal operations of the Government of Liberia (GOL) during the third quarter of 2023 revealed a deficit in the overall balance (OB) amounting to 0.6 percent of GDP compared to the previous quarter. This development was ascribed to a significant rise in GOL spending which outweighed the growth in government revenue. Total revenue and expenditure amounted to US\$218.0 million (5.05 of GDP) and US\$242.0 million (5.6% of GDP) during the review quarter, respectively.

Chart 4.1: Graphical Outlook of GOL's Fiscal Operations
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)



Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

4.2 Government Revenue

The third quarter of 2023 saw improvement in revenue mobilization for GOL's fiscal operations. Compared to the preceding quarter, total government revenue grew by 13.3 percent to US\$218.0 million (5.0% of GDP). The increase in total revenue was driven by growth in other revenue (including grants) as both tax and non-tax revenue declined. Other revenue (including grants) rose by more than twofold during the review quarter to US\$79.0 million (4.4% of GDP), from the US\$25.0 million mobilized during the previous quarter. Conversely, tax and non-tax revenue fell by 12.8 percent and 41.1 percent, respectively, largely due to declines in international trade (customs), and property income. Tax revenue amounted to

\$124.8 million (2.9% of GDP) while non-tax revenue totaled US\$14.3 million (0.3% of GDP) in quarter three of 2023.

Furthermore, on an annual basis, the government's total revenue expanded significantly by more than half, principally due to a substantial rise in other revenue (including grants).

Table 4.1: Government Revenue
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -22	Q ² -23	Q ³ -23	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Government Revenue	142.92	192.39	218.02	13.32	52.54
o/w Tax Revenue	122.88	143.17	124.79	(12.84)	1.55
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	52.99	70.97	39.75	(44.00)	(24.99)
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade	53.31	48.58	48.97	0.79	(8.15)
o/w Non-tax Revenue	18.82	24.23	14.27	(41.11)	(24.19)
o/w Property Income	14.19	16.06	5.09	(68.29)	(64.12)
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	4.62	8.17	9.17	12.35	98.37
o/w Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings & etc.)	1.22	25.00	78.96	215.86	6352.33
Memorandum Items					
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	3.60	4.44	5.03	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.09	3.31	2.88	-	-
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	0.47	0.56	0.33	-	-
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	0.03	0.58	1.82	-	-
<i>GDP (In Millions of USD)</i>	3974.44	4331.56	4331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

4.3 Government Expenditure

Total expenditure grew to US\$242.0 million (5.6% of GDP) during the review quarter, from US\$195.4 recorded in quarter two of 2023, driven by rise in current expenditure, and payments on loans, interest & other charges. Current expenditure rose by 14.0 percent to US\$190.7 million (4.4% of GDP), while payments on loans, interest & other charges increased significantly to US\$43.5 million (1.0% of GDP) from US\$15.4 million (0.4% of GDP). Additionally, the growths in spending on goods & services, and employee remuneration were the main causes of the increase in current expenditure. However, capital expenditure fell by 37.6 percent to US\$7.9 million (0.2% of GDP) during the quarter under review.

Compared to quarter three of 2022, government spending grew by 74.0 percent during the review quarter, owing to increases in current and capital expenditures, and payments on loans, interest & other charges.

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -2022	Q ² -2023	Q ³ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Expenditure	139.10	195.41	242.02	23.86	73.99
o/w Current Expenditure	119.53	167.32	190.67	13.96	59.52
o/w Employee Compensation	52.74	65.11	79.84	22.63	51.40
o/w Goods & Services	55.40	82.17	84.14	2.39	51.89
o/w Capital Expenditure	2.49	12.64	7.89	(37.62)	216.47
o/w Payments Loan & Interest & other Charges	17.08	15.44	43.46	181.47	154.50
Memorandum Items					
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.50	4.51	5.59	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.01	3.86	4.40	-	-
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.06	0.29	0.18	-	-
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.43	0.36	1.00	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,331.56	4,331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

NB: the expenditure data is cash expenditure.

4.4 Public Debt

At end-September 2023, Liberia's public debt stock increased by 3.8 percent to US\$2,203.9 million (50.9% of GDP) relative to US\$2,123.2 million debt stock reported at end-June 2023. This development was attributed to increases in both domestic and external debts. Domestic debt slightly increased by 0.2 percent to US\$951.8 million (22.0% of GDP), while external debt grew by 3.8 percent to US\$1,252.3 million (28.9% of GDP) at end-September 2023

Similarly, year-on-year comparison showed that public debt stock grew by 12.5 percent relative to the corresponding quarter in 2022.

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -2023	Q ² -2023	Q ³ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Debt Stock	1958.61	2123.24	2203.90	3.80	12.52
o/w External	1121.57	1172.92	1252.15	6.76	11.64
o/w Multilateral	1009.85	1060.77	1140.35	7.50	12.92
o/w Bilateral	111.72	112.14	111.80	(0.31)	0.07
o/w Domestic	837.04	950.33	951.75	0.15	13.70
o/w Financial Institutions	771.32	822.64	824.06	0.17	6.84
o/w CBL	575.48	630.48	630.48	0.00	9.56
o/w Commercial Banks	195.83	192.16	193.58	0.74	(1.15)
o/w Other Debts	65.73	127.69	127.69	0.00	94.27
Memorandum Items					
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	49.28	49.02	50.88	-	-
External (% of GDP)	28.22	27.08	28.91	-	-
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	21.06	21.94	21.97	-	-
Debt Service (% of GDP)	0.10	0.26	0.11	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,331.56	4,331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

V. EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 Overview

Provisional statistics showed that performance in the external sector in quarter three of 2023 was mixed compared to the preceding quarter.

The current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.9 percent of GDP in quarter three of 2023 compared to the surplus of 0.3 percent of GDP reported in the previous quarter, mainly driven by an increase in trade deficit coupled with a reduction in inflows of the secondary income (net), despite the narrowing of the deficit in services (net). Similarly, the estimated surplus in the capital account (net) decreased to 1.2 percent of GDP against the 1.3 percent of GDP recorded in the second quarter of 2023, largely due to a reduction in capital transfers. Conversely, net inflows in the financial account (net borrowing) increased by 21.6 percent to 3.6 percent of GDP against the 3.0 percent of GDP net inflows reported in the second quarter of 2023, largely on account of the rise in currency & deposits, and loans. Consequently, the deficit in the balance of payments (BoP) reduced to about 0.1 percent of GDP, from 0.7 percent of GDP in quarter two of 2023.

Liberia's Gross International Reserves (GIR) at end-September 2023 declined by 7.1 percent to US\$482.2 million, from US\$518.9 million at end-June 2023. This development mainly reflected reduction in foreign liquid assets including Special Drawing Right (SDRs) holdings & reserves. Similarly, the months of import cover fell to 2.8 months largely due to a decline in the GIR.

5.2 Current Account (CA)

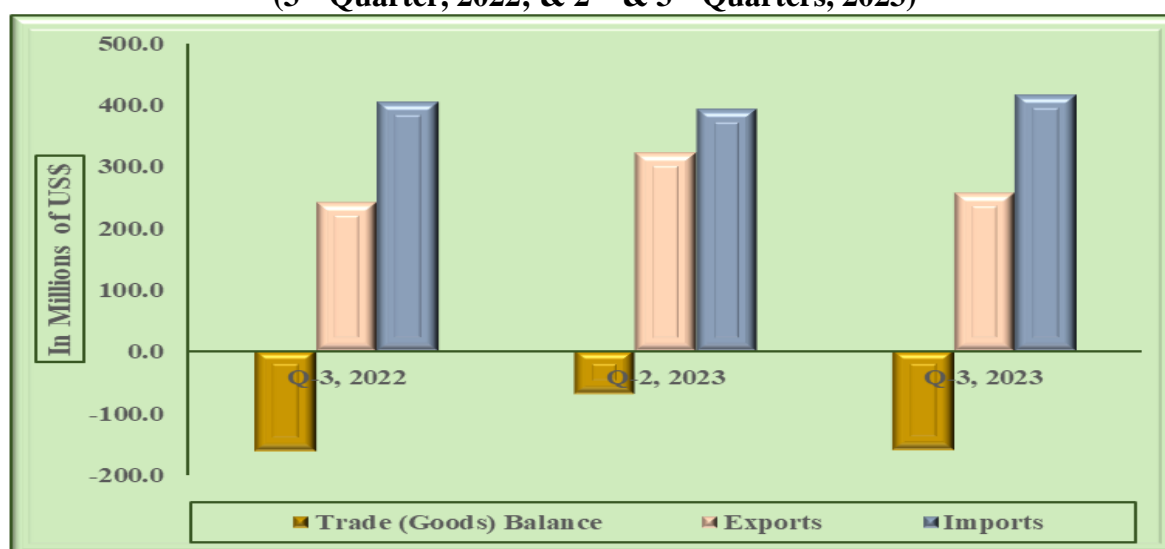
The current account balance recorded a deficit of US\$83.2 million (1.9 percent of GDP) in the third quarter of 2023, from the US\$12.6 million (0.3 percent of GDP) surplus recorded in the preceding quarter. This development was largely driven by a significant growth in the trade deficit coupled with a decline in secondary income (net) inflows.

5.2.1 Goods Account (net)

The deficit in the merchandise trade balance rose significantly by over one hundred percent to US\$160.4 million (3.7 percent of GDP) during the review quarter, from US\$70.2 million (1.6 percent of GDP) in the preceding quarter. The increase was mainly explained by a 6.2 percent rise in import payments coupled with the 20.5 percent decrease in export receipts.

Total merchandise trade (with imports on fob basis) decreased by 5.9 percent to US\$671.6 million (15.5 percent of GDP), from the US\$713.3 million (16.5 percent of GDP) reported in the previous quarter, on account of a fall in export receipts. Similarly, total merchandise trade (with imports on cif basis) declined by 5.7 percent to US\$707.0 million (16.4 percent of GDP) against the US\$750.1 million (17.1 percent of GDP) reported in the preceding quarter due to decline in exports.

Chart 5.1: Merchandise Trade Balance
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.2.2 Exports

Merchandise export earnings plummeted by 20.5 percent to US\$255.6 million (5.9 percent of GDP), from the US\$321.6 million (7.4 percent of GDP) reported in the second quarter of 2023. This development was attributed mainly to a decline in receipts from iron ore and mineral (gold & diamond) exports. Iron ore exports receipts plummeted by 73.3 percent to US\$23.2 million; gold by 2.2 percent to US\$184.1 million; diamond by 0.1 percent to US\$4.5 million; raw palm oil by 8.9 percent; and the “other exports” category declined by 19.7 percent to US\$7.5 million. However, rubber exports grew by 14.8 percent to US\$29.3 million during the review quarter.

5.2.3 Imports

Payments for imports (on fob basis) rose by 6.2 percent to US\$416.0 million (9.6 percent of GDP) in quarter three of 2023, from the US\$391.8 million (9.0 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. This development reflected an increase in import payments in all its major categories (including food & live animals, chemicals & related products, manufactured

goods chiefly classified by materials, machinery & transport equipment, and other imports) except minerals, fuels & lubricants (largely petroleum products).

5.2.4 Services Account (net)

The deficit in the services account (net) narrowed by 10.4 percent to US\$55.5 million (1.3 percent of GDP) in the third quarter of 2023, compared to the US\$62.0 million (1.4 percent of GDP) recorded in the previous quarter. This improvement was occasioned by a decrease in payments toward maintenance & repair, travel, other business services, and government goods & services, while payments for transport, insurance & pension-related services increased.

5.2.4.1 Primary Income (net)

The balance in the primary income remained unchanged at US\$28.9 million (0.7 percent of GDP) in quarter three of 2023, the same as in the preceding quarter. However, income receipts grew by 3.1 percent as income payments similarly rose by 0.3 percent during the review quarter.

5.2.4.2 Secondary Income (net)

Net inflows from the secondary income account declined by 6.9 percent to US\$161.6 million (3.7 percent of GDP) during the review period, from US\$173.6 million (4.0 percent of GDP) in the preceding quarter, mainly on account of a decrease in current transfers.

5.2.4.3 Personal Remittances

Net personal remittances reduced by 6.8 percent to US\$169.6 million (3.9 percent of GDP) recorded at end-September 2023, from US\$182.0 million (4.2 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. This development was explained by a 9.7 percent decline in inward personal remittances which outweighed the 34.0 percent decline in outward personal remittances during the period. The reduction in inward remittances reflected a decrease in personal assistance to Liberians from relatives and friends residing abroad. Inward and outward personal remittances amounted to US\$183.9 million and US\$14.3 million, from the US\$203.7 million and US\$21.7 million reported in quarter two of 2023, respectively.

Chart 5.2: Net Personal Inward Remittances
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.3 Capital Account (KA)

The estimated capital account balance declined by 6.9 percent to US\$53.5 million (1.2 percent of GDP) in the third quarter of 2023, from US\$57.5 million (1.3 percent of GDP) in the previous quarter, mainly reflecting an estimated reduction in investment grants from development partners.

5.4 Financial Account (FA)

From provisional statistics, the net incurrence of financial liabilities in the financial account grew by 21.6 percent to US\$156.5 million (3.6 percent of GDP), from US\$128.7 million (3.0 percent of GDP). This development was mainly attributed to rise in other investment inflows mainly from loans.

Table 5.1: Balance of Payments (BoP) Statistics
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$; except otherwise indicated)

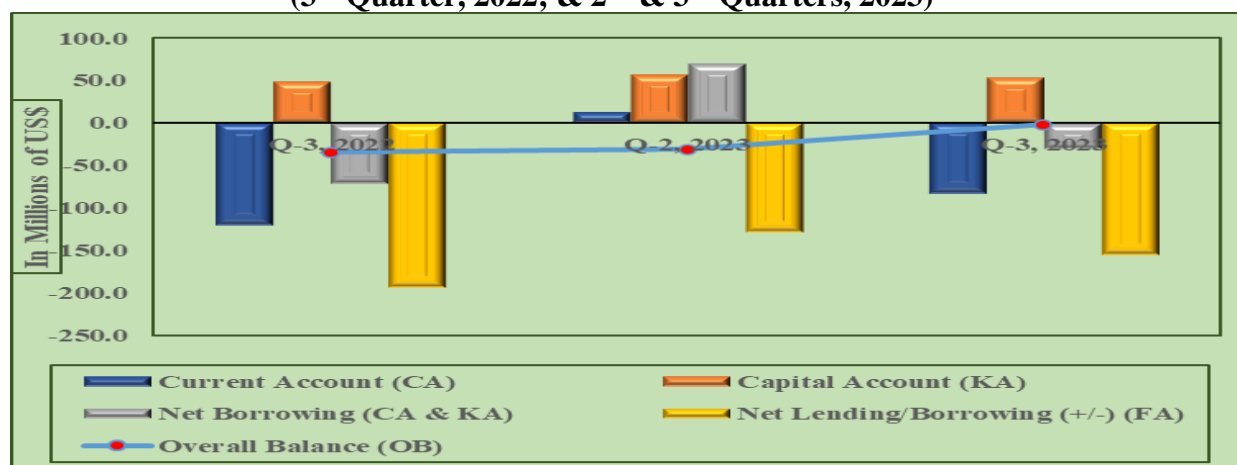
Balance of Payments (BoP) Statement	2022	2023		2022	2023	
	Q-3	Q-2	Q-3	Q-3, % of GDP	Q-2, % of GDP	Q-3, % of GDP
Current Account Balance	-120.4	12.6	-83.2	-3.0	0.3	-1.9
<i>Credit</i>	420.4	538.2	454.1	10.5	12.4	10.5
<i>Debit</i>	540.8	525.6	537.3	13.5	12.1	12.4
Goods and services	-229.3	-132.2	-215.9	-5.7	-3.1	-5.0
<i>Credit</i>	245.8	325.5	259.8	6.2	7.5	6.0
<i>Debit</i>	475.1	457.7	475.7	11.9	10.6	11.0
Trade Balance (Goods)	-162.1	-70.2	-160.4	-4.1	-1.6	-3.7
Credit (Exports)	242.0	321.6	255.6	6.1	7.4	5.9
<i>Iron Ore</i>	67.5	86.8	23.2	1.7	2.0	0.5
<i>Rubber</i>	31.1	25.5	29.3	0.8	0.6	0.7
<i>Minerals</i>	117.0	193.7	188.5	2.9	4.5	4.4
<i>Diamond</i>	4.7	5.4	4.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Gold</i>	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Cocoa Beans</i>	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Raw Palm Oil</i>	10.8	6.1	5.6	0.3	0.1	0.1
<i>Round Logs</i>	1.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Other Exports</i>	13.9	9.4	7.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Debit (Imports)	404.1	391.8	416.0	10.1	9.0	9.6
<i>Food & Live Animals (Inc. Animals & Vegetable Oil)</i>	79.8	74.4	83.3	2.0	1.7	1.9
<i>Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants</i>	138.1	129.6	104.4	3.5	3.0	2.4
<i>Chemicals & Related Products</i>	36.4	30.2	33.4	0.9	0.7	0.8
<i>Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by Materials</i>	48.1	45.0	51.9	1.2	1.0	1.2
<i>Machinery & Transport Equipment</i>	81.7	93.9	117.6	2.0	2.2	2.7
<i>Other Imports</i>	20.1	18.8	25.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-274.3	-258.4	-344.5	-6.9	-6.0	-8.0
<i>Credit</i>	129.8	133.4	71.5	3.3	3.1	1.7
<i>Debit</i>	404.1	391.8	416.0	10.1	9.0	9.6
Nonmonetary gold	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Credit</i>	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Debit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	-67.3	-62.0	-55.5	-1.7	-1.4	-1.3
<i>Credit</i>	3.8	3.9	4.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Debit</i>	71.1	65.9	59.7	1.8	1.5	1.4
Primary Income (net)	-30.8	-28.9	-28.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7
<i>Credit</i>	5.3	5.0	5.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Debit</i>	36.1	33.9	34.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Secondary Income (net)	139.7	173.6	161.6	3.5	4.0	3.7
<i>Credit</i>	169.3	207.7	189.2	4.2	4.8	4.4
<i>Debit</i>	29.6	34.1	27.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
<i>Workers' remittances (net)</i>	146.6	182.0	169.6	3.7	4.2	3.9
<i>Credit (Inward)</i>	167.3	203.7	183.9	4.2	4.7	4.2
<i>Debit (Outward)</i>	20.7	21.7	14.3	0.5	0.5	0.3
Capital Account (net)	49.5	57.5	53.5	1.2	1.3	1.2
<i>Credit</i>	49.5	57.5	53.5	1.2	1.3	1.2
<i>Debit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	-70.9	70.1	-29.7	-1.8	1.6	-0.7
Financial Account (FA)						

Net lending (+) / net borrowing						
(FA) (-) (FA)	-194.2	-128.7	-156.5	-4.9	-3.0	-3.6
Direct Investment (net)	-153.8	-134.5	-83.0	-3.9	-3.1	-1.9
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	153.8	134.5	83.0	3.9	3.1	1.9
Other Investment (net)	-6.0	36.6	-71.5	-0.2	0.8	-1.7
Net acquisition of financial assets	18.2	13.4	53.5	0.5	0.3	1.2
Net incurrence of liabilities	24.2	-23.2	125.0	0.6	-0.5	2.9
Special drawing rights (Net incurrence of liabilities)	-17.8	-5.6	-5.6	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1
Reserve Assets	-34.4	-30.8	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.0
Net Errors & Omissions (NEO)	-123.3	-198.8	-126.8	-3.1	-4.6	-2.9
Overall Balance (OB)	-34.4	-30.8	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.0
Financing	34.4	30.8	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.0
Changes in Reserve Assets (- increase; +decrease)	34.4	30.8	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.0
Memorandum Items						
Gross International Reserves	574.7	518.9	482.2	14.4	12.0	11.1
Import cover (In Months)	3.3	3.1	2.8			
Imports ()	453.8	428.5	453.4	11.4	9.9	10.5
Service Payments	71.8	67.4	67.4	1.8	1.6	1.6
Total Imports of Goods/Services	525.5	495.9	520.7	13.2	11.4	12.0
Total Trade (FoB)	646.1	713.3	671.6	16.2	16.5	15.5
Total Trade (cif)	695.8	750.1	709.0	17.4	17.3	16.4
Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants	-87.5	-23.1	-18.9	-2.2	-0.5	-0.4
End-of-Period Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	153.77	180.28	186.76			
Period Average Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	153.56	168.51	185.53			
Annual Nominal GDP market prices	3992.1	4,331.6	4,331.6			

Sources: CBL

*Provisional

Chart 5.3: Main Balances of the BoP
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.4.1 Direct Investment

Direct investment (net) inflows, during the review period, recorded a decline by 38.3 percent to US\$83.0 million (1.9 percent of GDP), from US\$134.5 million (3.1 percent of GDP) reported in the preceding quarter, indicating a reduction in investment liabilities during the quarter.

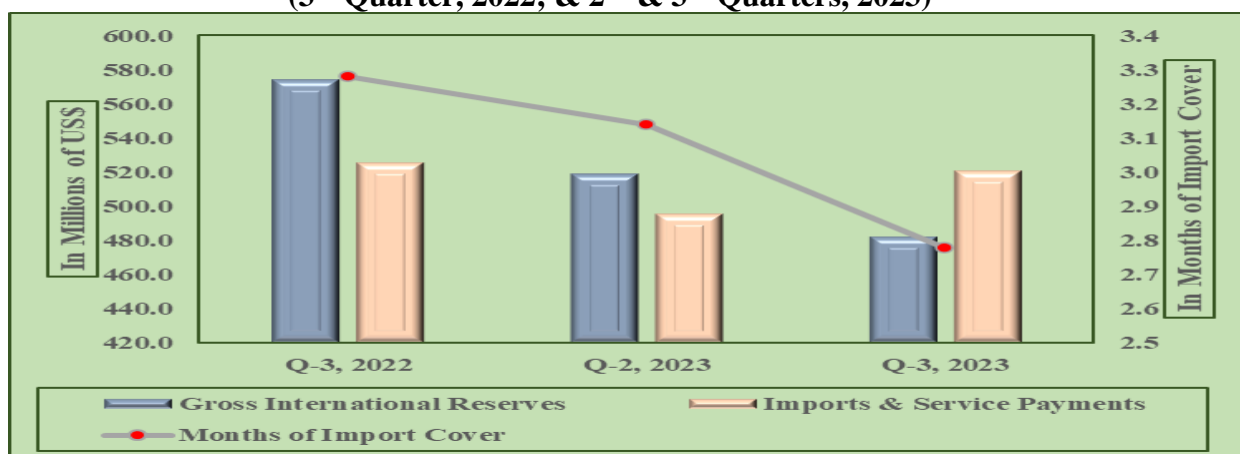
5.4.2 Other Investment (net)

Other investment inflows (net incurrence of financial liabilities) rose by over one hundred percent to US\$71.5 million (1.6 percent of GDP) in quarter three of 2023, from the US\$36.6 million (0.8 percent of GDP) net acquisition of financial assets reported in the previous quarter, driven by an increase in loans.

5.5 Gross International Reserves (GIR)

Liberia's GIR reduced by 7.1 percent to US\$482.2 million (11.1 percent of GDP) at end-September 2023, from US\$518.9 million (12.0 percent of GDP) at end-June 2023. This development was mainly driven by reduction in foreign liquid assets including SDRs holdings & reserves. Similarly, the months of import cover declined to 2.8 months from 3.1 months recorded at end-June 2023 due to increased import payments coupled with declined in GIR. The recorded months of import cover was below the ECOWAS macroeconomic convergence benchmark by 0.2 month.

Chart 5.4: Gross International Reserves, Imports & Months of Import Cover
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)

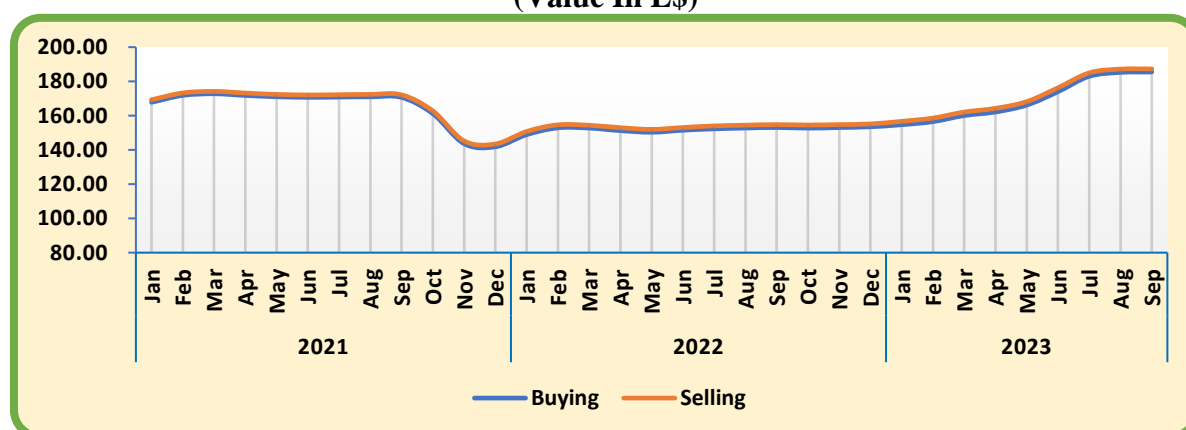


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.6 Exchange Rate Developments

The rise in the period average exchange rate for the quarter remained within the tolerable band of the ECOWAS convergence target (± 10.0 percent) relative to the second quarter of 2023. Thus, the period average exchange rate depreciated against the United States dollar by 10.1 percent to L\$186.51/US\$1.00 at end-September 2023, from L\$153.56/US\$1.00 recorded in the preceding quarter, while the end-of-period exchange rate also showed depreciation of the Liberian dollar by 3.6 percent to L\$186.76/US\$1.00, from L\$180.28/US\$1.00 reported a quarter ago. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2022, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 20.8 percent on average, from L\$153.56/US\$1.00, and by 21.5 percent, from L\$153.77/US\$1.00 on end-of-period exchange rate basis. The quarterly and yearly depreciations of the average exchange rate were mainly triggered by the high demand for foreign exchange to service imports.

Table 5.5: Buying & Selling Exchange Rates: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar
(2021, 2022, & 2023)
(Value In L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 5.2: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(Value In L\$)

	2022		2023	% Change: Depreciation (-) & Appreciation (+)	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Market Rate End of Period	153.77	180.28	186.76	3.60	21.45
Market Rate Period Average	153.56	168.51	185.53	10.10	20.82
<i>Buying</i>	152.70	167.42	184.57	10.24	20.87
<i>Selling</i>	154.42	169.60	186.50	9.96	20.78

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 5.3: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar
(2021-2023)

Period Average	2021		2022		2023	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	167.79	169.32	148.88	150.75	154.70	156.69
February	171.82	173.29	152.87	154.64	156.49	158.59
March	172.76	174.18	152.75	154.38	160.04	162.10
April	171.79	173.22	151.23	152.97	162.13	164.29
May	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98	166.17	168.20
June	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09	173.96	176.31
July	170.83	172.24	152.28	154.01	182.97	184.99
August	170.98	172.43	152.77	154.46	185.25	187.19
September	170.63	172.14	153.07	154.78	185.48	187.31
October	161.15	162.75	152.71	154.53		
November	143.63	145.23	153.03	154.79		
December	141.81	143.46	153.50	155.17		
Q1	170.79	172.26	151.50	153.26	157.08	159.12
Q2	171.17	172.58	151.00	152.68	167.42	169.60
Q3	170.81	172.27	152.70	154.42	184.57	186.50
Q4	148.86	150.48	153.08	154.83		
Yearly Ave	165.41	166.90	152.07	153.80		

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

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Table 1.1: Selected Global Output and Inflation, 2022-2024

	Projections			Diff. from July 2023 WEO Update	
	2022	2023	2024	2023	2024
World Output	3.5	3.0	2.9	0.0	-0.1
Advanced Economies	2.6	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0
United States	2.1	2.1	1.5	0.3	0.5
Euro Area	3.3	0.7	1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Germany	1.8	-0.5	0.9	-0.2	-0.4
France	2.5	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.0
Italy ²	3.7	0.7	0.7	-0.4	-0.2
Spain	5.8	2.5	1.7	0.0	-0.3
Japan	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.6	0.0
United Kingdom ²	4.1	0.5	0.6	0.1	-0.4
Canada	3.4	1.3	1.6	-0.4	0.2
Other Advanced Economies ³	2.6	1.8	2.2	-0.2	-0.1
Emerging Market & Developing Economies	4.1	4.0	4.0	0.0	-0.1
Emerging and Developing Asia	4.5	5.2	4.8	-0.1	-0.2
China	3.0	5.0	4.2	-0.2	-0.3
India	7.2	6.3	6.3	0.2	0.0
Latin America & the Caribbean	4.1	2.3	2.3	0.4	0.1
Brazil	2.9	3.1	1.5	1.0	0.3
Mexico	3.9	3.2	2.1	0.6	0.6
Middle East & Central Asia	5.6	2.0	3.4	-0.5	0.2
Saudi Arabia	8.7	0.8	4.0	-1.1	1.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.0	3.3	4.0	-0.2	-0.1
Nigeria	3.3	2.9	3.1	-0.3	0.1
South Africa	1.9	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.1
World Consumer Prices	8.7	6.9	5.8	0.1	0.6
Advanced Economies	7.3	4.6	3.0	-0.1	0.2
Emerging Markets & Developing Economies	9.8	8.5	7.8	0.2	1.0

Source: "International Monetary Fund. Oct. 2023. World Economic Outlook: Navigating Global Divergence. Washington, DC,"

Table 2.1: Key Agricultural Production
(2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023; 3rd Quarter, 2022)

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2023	Q2-2023	Q3-2022
Rubber	Mt	17,197	18,060	14,741
Cocoa	Mt	425	580	425
Round Logs	M ³	153,673*	166,409*	160,041*
Sawn Timber	Pcs	49,720*	50,217*	49,969*
Crude Palm Oil (CPO)	Mt	4,816	9,087	4,646

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

Table 2.2: Key Industrial Output
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2022	Q2-2023	Q3-2023
Gold	Ounce	85,204	115,235	114,547
Diamond	Carat	9,049	10841	9,347
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,050,000	1,180,000	1,100,000
Cement	Mt.	86,218	118,897	95,032
Spirits	Liter	24,840	161,525	294,906
Beer	Liter	1,389,884	1,880,052	1,320,934
Stout	Liter	1,740,998	1,613,359	1,502,305
Malta	Liter	133,332	140,889	223,336
Soft Drinks	Liter	231,898	3,801,386	3,162,432
Oil Paint	Gal.	30,750	21,063	28,750
Water Paint	Gal.	21,909	15,257	20,861
Varnish	Gal.	3,358	4,768	2,983
Manoline H. Grease	Kg	5,116	4,040	5,393
Thinner	Gal	2,114	4,065	3,895
Rubbing Alcohol	Liter	47,868	155,381	79,286
Soap	Kg	57,167	124,232	54920
Chlorox	Liter	204,038	286,358	237,634
Candle	Kg	9,219	30,797	12,348
Mattresses	Pcs.	27,733	33,338	29,894

Finished water	Gal.	262,417,760	151,025,989	244,738,043
Mineral Water	Liter	44,415	170,589	189,456
Electricity	kW	84,116,470	114,473,600	123,741,000

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

**Table 2.3: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q3-2022	Q2-2023	Q3-2023
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	5,719,455	6,674,869.1	4,083,242.17
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	5,045,435	7,735,365.58	6,390,725.34
Total	Gal.	10,764,890	14,498,496.1	10,473,967.51

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

**Table 2.4: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)**

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT)	Cargo Tonnage (In Metric Tons)		
			Imports	Exports	Total
Q3-2022	101	2,978,455	4,428,365	1,330,736	5,759,101
Q2-2023	114	3,471,742	891,293	1,249,260	2,140,553
Q3*- 2023	108	3,225,099	2,659,829	1,289,998	3,949,827

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

**Table 2.5: Electric Power Developments
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(in Kilowatts)**

	Unit	Service	Generation
Q3- 2022	kW	Electricity	84,116,470
Q2-2023	kW	Electricity	114,473,600
Q3-2023	kW	Electricity	123,741,000

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

Table 2.6: Headline and Quarterly Changes in CPI (%)

		Headline Inflation (Y-on-Y Changes)			Monthly Changes in HCPI (%)		
		Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combine	Food	Non-Food
2021	January	12.92	16.31	11.06	0.8	3.2	-0.6
	February	10.5	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	1.1
	May	8.16	-4.04	15.43	0.86	0.47	1.05
	June	8.1	-3.95	15.15	1.94	0.84	2.49
	July	7.12	0.21	10.73	6.13	3.94	7.2
	August	7	0.1	10.71	1.16	3.04	0.28
	September	6.69	0.18	10.14	0.1	-0.37	0.33
	October	4.42	-2.39	8	-1.85	-2.87	-1.35
	November	5.44	-6.58	12.12	-3.17	-4.71	-2.44
	December	5.46	-7.05	12.4	-0.33	-1.1	0.0
2022	January	6.55	-6.79	14.24	1.8	3.51	1.01
	February	7.64	-1.57	12.6	0.13	0.15	0.12
	March	9.51	2.58	13.13	3.14	3.59	2.92
	April	6.26	-2.39	10.57	-3.41	-8.1	-1.19
	May	6.23	1.17	8.74	0.83	4.14	-0.62
	June	6.32	-1.99	10.37	2.02	-2.31	4.02
	July	6.48	-0.98	10.01	6.28	5	6.84
	August	7.06	-3.85	12.36	1.71	1.06	2.42
	September	7.23	-5.12	13.19	0.25	-1.74	1.07
	October	9.12	3.08	11.99	-0.12	5.53	-2.4
	November	9.49	-0.52	14.13	-2.85	-8.03	-0.58
	December	9.19	-2.47	14.53	-0.61	-3.04	0.38
2023	January	8.22	-1.88	12.97	0.09	4.14	-0.36
	February	8.27	-3.27	13.7	0.18	-1.26	0.77
	March	6.1	-5.38	11.54	1.07	1.33	0.96
	April	9.43	1.38	12.97	-0.39	-1.53	0.07
	May	12.22	8.08	14.12	3.40	11.01	0.40
	June	12.36	13.30	11.95	2.16	2.41	2.04
	July	11.01	16.51	8.66	5.01	7.97	3.70
	August	11.70	26.66	5.48	2.23	8.78	-0.59
	September	9.96	23.49	4.49	-1.32	-4.21	0.12
	October	10.14	16.86	7.20	0.05	-0.13	0.14
	November	11.43	25.13	5.89	-1.70	-1.53	-1.79
	December	10.01	26.94	3.40	-1.87	-1.64	-1.98

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

	2022		2023				Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q3	Share	Q2	Share	Q3	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	2,605.97	3.29	3,224.86	3.59	3,532.36	3.73	0.34	1.17
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	181.54	0.23	549.38	0.61	2,135.00	2.25	1.77	2.46
Manufacturing	2,508.74	3.16	6,219.95	6.93	3,169.68	3.34	(3.40)	0.83
Construction	6,417.43	8.09	7,824.45	8.72	7,951.72	8.39	0.14	1.93
Services	15,826.35	19.96	13,435.71	14.97	12,658.84	13.36	(0.87)	(3.99)
Trade	21,204.42	26.74	28,146.25	31.36	29,931.98	31.59	1.99	11.01
Personal	16,341.41	20.61	14,143.47	15.76	17,169.37	18.12	3.37	1.04
Gen. Government	112.28	0.14	134.88	0.15	148.39	0.16	0.02	0.05
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	936.16	1.18	933.79	1.04	852.78	0.90	(0.09)	(0.11)
Oil and Gas	2,336.61	2.95	6,266.57	6.98	7,364.50	7.77	1.22	6.34
Others	10,823.21	13.65	8,886.46	9.90	9,844.30	10.39	1.07	(1.23)
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	79,294.13	100.00	89,765.76	100.00	94,758.91	100.00	5.56	19.50
<i>O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)</i>	<i>78,245.69</i>	<i>98.68</i>	<i>88,697.09</i>	<i>98.81</i>	<i>93,757.75</i>	<i>98.94</i>	<i>5.64</i>	<i>19.56</i>

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)

	2022		2023	
	Q ³	Q ²	Q ³	
Avg. Lending Rate		12.44	13.44	13.44
Avg. Personal Loan Rate		12.78	12.78	12.78
Avg. Mortgage Rate		13.38	13.38	13.38
Avg. Time Deposit Rate		3.53	3.53	3.53
Avg. Savings Rate		2.10	3.10	3.10
Avg. Rate on CDs		3.25	3.25	3.25

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.3: Currency in Circulation & Its Compositions
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)

	2022	2023	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter
Currency in Banks	2,138.89	2,278.12	2,081.45
Currency outside Banks	19,828.79	23,781.26	27,094.83
Currency in Circulation	21,967.69	26,059.37	29,176.28

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

Monetary Aggregates	2022	2023	% Change	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	Q-O-Q Y-O-Y
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	152,280.23	186,180.84	203,248.93	9.17 33.47
1.1 Money Supply M1	106,104.40	130,290.17	141,632.13	8.71 33.48
1.1.1 Currency outside banks	19,828.79	23,781.26	27,094.83	13.93 36.64
1.1.2 Demand deposit <i>1/</i>	86,275.61	106,508.92	114,537.30	7.54 32.76
1.2 Quasi Money	46,175.83	55,890.67	61,616.80	10.25 33.44
1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits	45,874.05	55,433.75	61,545.37	11.03 34.16
1.2.2 Other deposits <i>2/</i>	301.77	456.92	71.43	-84.37 -76.33
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	16,263.89	16,489.27	18,674.23	13.25 14.82
2.1 Central Bank	2,858.47	(7,089.24)	(11,361.38)	60.26 -497.46
2.2 Banking Institutions	13,405.42	23,578.51	30,035.60	27.39 124.06
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	136,016.34	169,691.57	184,574.70	8.77 35.70
3.1 Domestic Credit	189,371.62	248,160.70	253,597.61	2.19 33.92
3.1.1 Government (net)	98,203.89	132,517.55	142,028.30	7.18 44.63
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.	91,167.74	115,643.16	111,569.31	-3.52 22.38
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	(53,355.29)	(78,469.13)	(69,022.90)	-12.04 29.36

Memorandum Items

1. Overall Liquidity	152,280.23	186,180.84	203,248.93	9.17 33.47
2. Reserve Money	55,740.12	56,695.90	60,760.32	7.17 9.01
Currency in Circulation	21,967.69	26,059.37	29,176.28	11.96 32.81
Banks Reserves	33,470.66	30,179.61	31,512.60	4.42 -5.85
Other Deposits at CBL	301.77	456.92	71.43	-84.37 -76.33

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

1/Excludes managers cheques from commercial banks

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

Table 3.5: CBL Bills
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jul-23	13-Oct-23	13,318.27	0.68
1 MONTH			
7-Jul-23	27-Oct-23	5,207.15	1.48
3 MONTHS			
7-Jul-23	29-Dec-23	6,565.21	4.49
Total Amount Issued		25,090.63	
2nd Quarter 2023			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Apr-23	14-Jul-23	13,318.27	0.68
1 MONTH			
7-Apr-23	28-Jul-23	5,207.15	1.48
3 MONTHS			
7-Apr-23	29-Sep-23	6,565.21	4.49
Total Amount Issued		25,090.63	
3rd Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
1-Jul-22	14-Oct-22	293.30	0.67
1 MONTH			
1-Jul-22	28-Oct-22	7,573.50	0.50
3 MONTHS			
1-Jul-22	30-Dec-22	5,610.75	1.33
Total Amount Issued		13,477.54	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q3-2023
(In Millions of L\$)

Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	Commercial Banks Issued	Retail Via Commercial Banks Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)
THREE MONTHS						
7-Jul-23	6-Oct-23	-	223.22	76.78	300.00	4.11
14-Jul-23	13-Oct-23	-	385.40	9.15	394.55	4.11
21-Jul-23	20-Oct-23	-	450.00	8.41	458.41	4.11

28-Jul-23	27-Oct-23	-	293.53	6.47	300.00	4.11
4-Aug-23	3-Nov-23	-	390.00	17.27	407.27	4.66
11-Aug-23	10-Nov-23	-	418.00	22.86	440.86	4.66
18-Aug-23	17-Nov-23	-	750.00	13.62	763.62	4.66
25-Aug-23	24-Nov-23	-	350.00	15.80	365.80	4.66
1-Sep-23	1-Dec-23	-	650.00	46.83	696.83	4.66
8-Sep-23	8-Dec-23	-	750.00	7.36	757.36	4.66
15-Sep-23	15-Dec-23	-	350.00	72.42	422.42	4.66
22-Sep-23	22-Dec-23	-	375.00	13.52	388.52	4.66
29-Sep-23	29-Dec-23	-	857.60	11.96	869.56	4.66
TOTAL		-	6,242.76	322.45	6,565.21	4.49

ONE MONTHS

7-Jul-23	4-Aug-23	-	299.26	0.74	300.00	1.35
14-Jul-23	11-Aug-23	-	512.00	15.86	527.86	1.35
21-Jul-23	18-Aug-23	-	220.51	6.70	227.21	1.35
28-Jul-23	25-Aug-23	-	287.48	12.53	300.00	1.35
4-Aug-23	1-Sep-23	-	325.00	12.54	337.54	1.53
11-Aug-23	8-Sep-23	-	465.00	10.14	475.14	1.53
18-Aug-23	15-Sep-23	-	550.00	12.86	562.86	1.53
25-Aug-23	22-Sep-23	-	400.00	10.48	410.48	1.53
1-Sep-23	29-Sep-23	-	550.00	5.48	555.48	1.53
8-Sep-23	6-Oct-23	-	390.50	9.55	400.05	1.53
15-Sep-23	13-Oct-23	-	525.00	7.29	532.29	1.53
22-Sep-23	20-Oct-23	29.54	250.00	20.46	270.46	1.53
29-Sep-23	27-Oct-23	-	300.00	7.78	307.78	1.53
TOTAL		29.54	5,074.75	132.41	5,207.15	1.48

TWO WEEKS

7-Jul-23	21-Jul-23	-	907.76	-	907.76	0.62
14-Jul-23	28-Jul-23	322.41	1,146.00	-	1,146.00	0.62
21-Jul-23	4-Aug-23	85.62	840.00	-	840.00	0.62
28-Jul-23	11-Aug-23	-	1,023.51	-	1,023.51	0.62
4-Aug-23	18-Aug-23	580.15	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	0.70
11-Aug-23	25-Aug-23	1,097.10	1,230.00	-	1,230.00	0.70
18-Aug-23	1-Sep-23	1,000.46	1,460.00	-	1,460.00	0.70
25-Aug-23	8-Sep-23	2,301.87	330.00	-	330.00	0.70
1-Sep-23	15-Sep-23	1,069.84	1,700.00	-	1,700.00	0.70
8-Sep-23	22-Sep-23	1,388.51	585.00	-	585.00	0.70

15-Sep-23	29-Sep-23	1,452.38	1,300.00	-	1,300.00	0.70
22-Sep-23	6-Oct-23	1,471.57	584.00	-	584.00	0.70
29-Sep-23	13-Oct-23	1,563.55	1,012.00	-	1,012.00	0.70
TOTAL		12,333.46	13,318.27	-	13,318.27	0.68
TOTAL AMOUNT ISSUED		12,363.00			25,090.63	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 4.1: Government Revenue
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -22	Q ² -23	Q ³ -23	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)		(% Change)		
Total Government Revenue	142.92	192.39	218.02	13.32	52.54
o/w Tax Revenue	122.88	143.17	124.79	(12.84)	1.55
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	52.99	70.97	39.75	(44.00)	(24.99)
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade	53.31	48.58	48.97	0.79	(8.15)
o/w Non-tax Revenue	18.82	24.23	14.27	(41.11)	(24.19)
o/w Property Income	14.19	16.06	5.09	(68.29)	(64.12)
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	4.62	8.17	9.17	12.35	98.37
o/w Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings & etc.)	1.22	25.00	78.96	215.86	6352.33
Memorandum Items					
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	3.60	4.44	5.03	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.09	3.31	2.88	-	-
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	0.47	0.56	0.33	-	-
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	0.03	0.58	1.82	-	-
<i>GDP (In Millions of USD)</i>	3974.44	4331.56	4331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -2022	Q ² -2023	Q ³ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Expenditure	139.10	195.41	242.02	23.86	73.99
o/w Current Expenditure	119.53	167.32	190.67	13.96	59.52
o/w Employee Compensation	52.74	65.11	79.84	22.63	51.40
o/w Goods & Services	55.40	82.17	84.14	2.39	51.89
o/w Capital Expenditure	2.49	12.64	7.89	(37.62)	216.47
o/w Payments Loan & Interest & other Charges	17.08	15.44	43.46	181.47	154.50
Memorandum Items					
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.50	4.51	5.59	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	3.01	3.86	4.40	-	-
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.06	0.29	0.18	-	-
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.43	0.36	1.00	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,331.56	4,331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

NB: the expenditure data is cash expenditure.

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ³ -2023	Q ² -2023	Q ³ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Debt Stock	1958.61	2123.24	2203.90	3.80	12.52
o/w External	1121.57	1172.92	1252.15	6.76	11.64
o/w Multilateral	1009.85	1060.77	1140.35	7.50	12.92
o/w Bilateral	111.72	112.14	111.80	(0.31)	0.07
o/w Domestic	837.04	950.33	951.75	0.15	13.70
o/w Financial Institutions	771.32	822.64	824.06	0.17	6.84
o/w CBL	575.48	630.48	630.48	0.00	9.56
o/w Commercial Banks	195.83	192.16	193.58	0.74	(1.15)
o/w Other Debts	65.73	127.69	127.69	0.00	94.27
Memorandum Items					
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	49.28	49.02	50.88	-	-
External (% of GDP)	28.22	27.08	28.91	-	-
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	21.06	21.94	21.97	-	-
Debt Service (% of GDP)	0.10	0.26	0.11	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,974.44	4,331.56	4,331.56	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 5.1: Balance of Payments (BoP) Statistics
(3rd Quarter, 2022; & 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$; except otherwise indicated)

Balance of Payments (BoP) Statement	2022	2023		2022	2023	
	Q-3	Q-2	Q-3	Q-3, % of GDP	Q-2, % of GDP	Q-3, % of GDP
Current Account Balance	-120.4	12.6	-83.2	-3.0	0.3	-1.9
<i>Credit</i>	420.4	538.2	454.1	10.5	12.4	10.5
<i>Debit</i>	540.8	525.6	537.3	13.5	12.1	12.4
Goods and services	-229.3	-132.2	-215.9	-5.7	-3.1	-5.0
<i>Credit</i>	245.8	325.5	259.8	6.2	7.5	6.0
<i>Debit</i>	475.1	457.7	475.7	11.9	10.6	11.0
Trade Balance (Goods)	-162.1	-70.2	-160.4	-4.1	-1.6	-3.7
Credit (Exports)	242.0	321.6	255.6	6.1	7.4	5.9
<i>Iron Ore</i>	67.5	86.8	23.2	1.7	2.0	0.5
<i>Rubber</i>	31.1	25.5	29.3	0.8	0.6	0.7
<i>Minerals</i>	117.0	193.7	188.5	2.9	4.5	4.4
<i>Diamond</i>	4.7	5.4	4.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Gold</i>	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Cocoa Beans</i>	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Raw Palm Oil</i>	10.8	6.1	5.6	0.3	0.1	0.1
<i>Round Logs</i>	1.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Other Exports</i>	13.9	9.4	7.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Debit (Imports)	404.1	391.8	416.0	10.1	9.0	9.6
<i>Food & Live Animals (Inc. Animals & Vegetable Oil)</i>	79.8	74.4	83.3	2.0	1.7	1.9
<i>Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants</i>	138.1	129.6	104.4	3.5	3.0	2.4
<i>Chemicals & Related Products</i>	36.4	30.2	33.4	0.9	0.7	0.8
<i>Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by Materials</i>	48.1	45.0	51.9	1.2	1.0	1.2
<i>Machinery & Transport Equipment</i>	81.7	93.9	117.6	2.0	2.2	2.7
<i>Other Imports</i>	20.1	18.8	25.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-274.3	-258.4	-344.5	-6.9	-6.0	-8.0
<i>Credit</i>	129.8	133.4	71.5	3.3	3.1	1.7
<i>Debit</i>	404.1	391.8	416.0	10.1	9.0	9.6
Nonmonetary gold	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Credit</i>	112.3	188.2	184.1	2.8	4.3	4.2
<i>Debit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	-67.3	-62.0	-55.5	-1.7	-1.4	-1.3
<i>Credit</i>	3.8	3.9	4.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Debit</i>	71.1	65.9	59.7	1.8	1.5	1.4
Primary Income (net)	-30.8	-28.9	-28.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7
<i>Credit</i>	5.3	5.0	5.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Debit</i>	36.1	33.9	34.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Secondary Income (net)	139.7	173.6	161.6	3.5	4.0	3.7
<i>Credit</i>	169.3	207.7	189.2	4.2	4.8	4.4
<i>Debit</i>	29.6	34.1	27.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
<i>Workers' remittances (net)</i>	146.6	182.0	169.6	3.7	4.2	3.9
<i>Credit (Inward)</i>	167.3	203.7	183.9	4.2	4.7	4.2
<i>Debit (Outward)</i>	20.7	21.7	14.3	0.5	0.5	0.3
Capital Account (net)	49.5	57.5	53.5	1.2	1.3	1.2
<i>Credit</i>	49.5	57.5	53.5	1.2	1.3	1.2
<i>Debit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	-70.9	70.1	-29.7	-1.8	1.6	-0.7
Financial Account (FA)						

Net lending (+) / net borrowing						
(FA) (-) (FA)	-194.2	-128.7	-156.5	-4.9	-3.0	-3.6
Direct Investment (net)	-153.8	-134.5	-83.0	-3.9	-3.1	-1.9
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	153.8	134.5	83.0	3.9	3.1	1.9
Other Investment (net)	-6.0	36.6	-71.5	-0.2	0.8	-1.7
Net acquisition of financial assets	18.2	13.4	53.5	0.5	0.3	1.2
Net incurrence of liabilities	24.2	-23.2	125.0	0.6	-0.5	2.9
Special drawing rights (Net incurrence of liabilities)	-17.8	-5.6	-5.6	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1
Reserve Assets	-34.4	-30.8	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.0
Net Errors & Omissions (NEO)	-123.3	-198.8	-126.8	-3.1	-4.6	-2.9
Overall Balance (OB)	-34.4	-30.8	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	0.0
Financing	34.4	30.8	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.0
Changes in Reserve Assets (- increase; +decrease)	34.4	30.8	2.0	0.9	0.7	0.0
Memorandum Items						
Gross International Reserves	574.7	518.9	482.2	14.4	12.0	11.1
Import cover (In Months)	3.3	3.1	2.8			
Imports ()	453.8	428.5	453.4	11.4	9.9	10.5
Service Payments	71.8	67.4	67.4	1.8	1.6	1.6
Total Imports of Goods/Services	525.5	495.9	520.7	13.2	11.4	12.0
Total Trade (FoB)	646.1	713.3	671.6	16.2	16.5	15.5
Total Trade (cif)	695.8	750.1	709.0	17.4	17.3	16.4
Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants	-87.5	-23.1	-18.9	-2.2	-0.5	-0.4
End-of-Period Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	153.77	180.28	186.76			
Period Average Exchange Rate (LRD/1USD)	153.56	168.51	185.53			
Annual Nominal GDP market prices	3992.1	4,331.6	4,331.6			

Sources: CBL

*Provisional

Table 5.2: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar
(3rd Quarter, 2022; 2nd & 3rd Quarters, 2023)
(Value In L\$)

	2022	2023		% Change: Depreciation (-) & Appreciation (+)	
	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Market Rate End of Period	153.77	180.28	186.76	3.60	21.45
Market Rate Period Average	153.56	168.51	185.53	10.10	20.82
<i>Buying</i>	152.70	167.42	184.57	10.24	20.87
<i>Selling</i>	154.42	169.60	186.50	9.96	20.78

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 5.3: Monthly Average Buying and Selling Rates of Liberian Dollars per US Dollar
(2021-2023)

Period Average	2021		2022		2023	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	167.79	169.32	148.88	150.75	154.70	156.69
February	171.82	173.29	152.87	154.64	156.49	158.59
March	172.76	174.18	152.75	154.38	160.04	162.10
April	171.79	173.22	151.23	152.97	162.13	164.29
May	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98	166.17	168.20
June	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09	173.96	176.31
July	170.83	172.24	152.28	154.01	182.97	184.99
August	170.98	172.43	152.77	154.46	185.25	187.19
September	170.63	172.14	153.07	154.78	185.48	187.31
October	161.15	162.75	152.71	154.53		
November	143.63	145.23	153.03	154.79		
December	141.81	143.46	153.50	155.17		
Q1	170.79	172.26	151.50	153.26	157.08	159.12
Q2	171.17	172.58	151.00	152.68	167.42	169.60
Q3	170.81	172.27	152.70	154.42	184.57	186.50
Q4	148.86	150.48	153.08	154.83		
Yearly Ave	165.41	166.90	152.07	153.80		

Source: Central Bank of Liberia