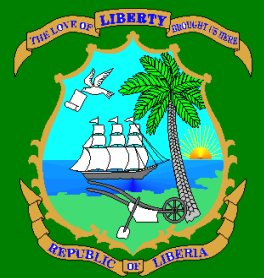


Essential Commodities Report

30 July 2013

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Essential Commodities Report

July 2013

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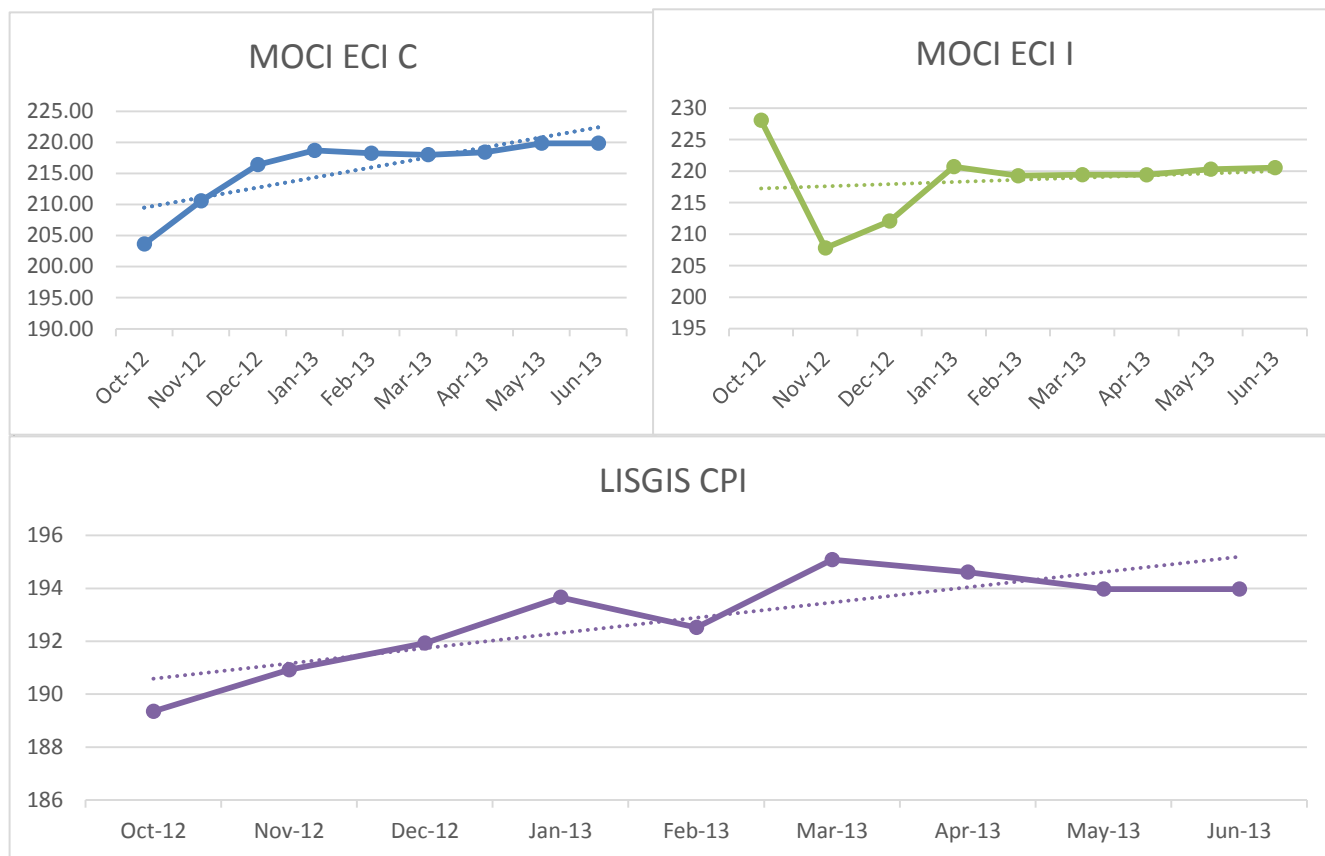
The Essential Commodities Report is a product of the Price Analysis and Marketing Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry using price data collected by the Liberian Institute for Statistics and Geo-Informational Services (LISGIS), stock information collected from key distributors, and international price data from International Institutions. The report is intended to inform policy makers, businesses and consumers and is NOT designed as a guide to set prices. Price data from LISGIS is only available for the Monrovia region, consequently this report does not accurately reflect conditions outside of Monrovia. The ECI index is made up of fifty items that makes up fifty percent of the economic activity in Liberia. It is not a replacement for the LISGIS CPI index, but was established by MoCI in order to track the essential commodities. ECI Industry is targeted to industrial users and reflects manufacturing inputs. The ECI C is targeted to commercial producers and covers the cost of doing business. For questions on methodological issues please visit www.moci.gov.lr

Summary

- *The general level of prices on the market has stayed constant over the period with a slight increase in May and June 2013.*
- *Rice stocks take us to October 2013, and the price of rice is constant. For a 25Kg bag prices range from \$11.50 to \$16.00 while 50Kg prices range from \$28.00 to \$32.00 respectively.*
- *Cement stocks take us to October 2013 and price of cement decreased by 1.4%.*
- *Fuel prices denominated in LD rose from LD325 to LD330 and LD323 to LD350 in June for gasoline and diesel, respectively. Partly due to LD exchange rate depreciation.*
- *Import volumes of wheat flour has increased from a low of 16,000 (50Kg bags) in April to 31,000 (50Kg bags) in June 2013.*
- *The Liberian Dollar has depreciated against the USD. The current buying rate is LD\$77:1USD*

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ESSENTIAL COMMODITY INDEXⁱ



	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13
MOCI ECI C	203.64	210.58	216.42	218.70	218.25	218.02	218.43	219.87	219.87
MOCI ECI I	228.09	207.81	212.09	220.72	219.27	219.44	219.42	220.32	220.56
LISGIS CPI	189.35	190.92	191.93	193.66	192.52	195.08	194.61	193.97	193.97

Source: LISGIS; MoCI Price Analysis and Marketing

ECI Overview

- LISGIS CPI deflation in April and May 2013 due to downward pressure on the world market for fuel and food.
- MOCI Indices stayed constant with a slight increase in May and June 2013.
- The disparity in figures between MOCI and LISGIS is due to the change in exchange rate. While LISGIS read prices in USD, MOCI ECI covert prices in LD.
- Liberian Dollars exchange rate depreciation will harm consumers most for imported items including food and fuel.

RICE

Table 2: Rice Stock July 25, 2013		
Type	50Kg	25Kg
Indian Parboiled	14,830	1,822,436
Harbel Swat	n/a	235,823
Lady Noora	5,147	72,299
Island Broken	n/a	90,514
Uncle Sam	43,318	436,412
USA Parboiled	16,421	167,567
Village rice	n/a	7,566
Sun Rice	14,972	63,528
Elephant Parboiled	n/a	80,110
Crown Broken Parboiled	n/a	26,767
Parboiled Pussawa	542	n/a
Parboiled Pink 5% Pussawa	n/a	65,189
Parboiled Yellow Pussawa	n/a	127
Indian Bellaluna 1001	n/a	320,465
Butterfly	540	n/a
Current Grand Total Stock of Rice in Bags (50Kg & 25Kg)	95,770	3,388,803
Total (50kg bags)	1,790,171.5	

Note: Stock Data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Price

The price of pussawa rice is LD\$25.00 per cup. This has stayed constant from January to July 2013. We may expect future upward pressure on rice prices due to the LD depreciation against the USD. So far high stocks have shielded consumers from this likely price rise.

Stocks

The existing stock of 1,790,171.5 (50Kg bags) will take us to October 2013.

International outlook

The FAO All Rice Price Index averaged 241 points in June, unchanged from May, as stronger quotations of Japonica rice largely compensated for a weakening of both, lower and higher quality Indica rice. The benchmark Thai export price (Thai white rice 100% B) fell, as did virtually all Thai rice quotations, partly a reflection of the Baht depreciation against the US dollar.

CEMENT

No.	Firm type	No. of Bags (50Kg)	Metric Tons
1.	Local Production Daily	20,000 (50Kg bags)	1,000MT
2.	Imported stock	700,020 (50Kg bags)	35,001MT
Total Stock		720,020(50Kg bags)	36,0001MT

Note: Stock Data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Cement: 42.5R (50Kg Bags)	US\$8.50	US\$8.50	US\$8.50	US\$8.38	US\$8.62	US\$8.50	US\$8.50

Note: Price Data from Ministry of Commerce.

Price

According to MoCI price figures, the price of cement decreased by 1.4 percent in June and subsequently remained the same for July 2013. The reason of this decrease has been as a result of competition in the cement market from foreign imports. FOB price of cement per 50Kg bag is currently US\$3.28. Retailers buying from trucks loading from vessels are paying US\$7.50 while retailers buying from warehouses are paying US\$7.65 per bag.

Stocks

Cement stocks is expected to last until October 2013. Presently only one firm is discharging imported cement at the Freeport of Monrovia. Their current warehouse stock is 700,020 (50Kg bags).

Production and sales

Domestic production of cement is 120,000 bags per week. This makes up 93% of the total weekly sales of cement of 129,000 bags.

FUELS

Date	Description of Products	Beginning Stocks in Gals.	Quantity Sold in Gals.	Ending Stock in Gals.
July 20, 2013	AGO	3,534,973	51,500	3,483,473
July 20, 2013	PMS	3,137,754	114,500	3,023,254

Note: Stock Data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Commodities: USD&LD	January 2013	February 2013	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013	June 2013	July 2013
Gasoline (PMS)	US\$4.33/ LD\$330.00	US\$4.53/ LD\$345.00	US\$4.33/ LD\$330.00	US\$4.18/ LD\$315.00	US\$4.18/ LD\$325.00	US\$4.18 LD\$325	US\$4.28 LD\$330
Diesel (AGO)	US\$4.51/ LD\$340.00	US\$4.61/ LD\$350.00	US\$4.41/ LD\$335.00	US\$4.21/ LD\$315.00	US\$4.21/ LD\$325.00	US\$4.21 LD\$325	US\$4.31 LD\$350

Note: Price Data from Ministry of Commerce due to LISGIS not collecting any data.

Price

For petroleum the price has increased from US\$4.18 to US\$4.28 while the price of AGO has increased from US\$4.21 to US\$4.31 per gallon. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry converts LISGIS prices to LD\$ as most consumers buy in Liberian dollars. Due to the depreciation of the LD\$ the price of imported items such as fuel has gone up by a greater amount.

Stocks

Fuel stock is expected to last for over three months according to latest LPRC figures.

International outlook¹

Crude oil prices rose 0.4 percent in June and averaged \$99.7/bbl, and reached \$106/bbl in early July on OPEC supply outages, geopolitical tensions, and falling U.S. stocks. Libya's oil production slumped below 1 mb/d in late June due to disruptions from protesting workers, militia attacks, and electricity shortages. Nigerian output fell for a third month due to oil theft and damage to pipelines and other infrastructure. Iraqi exports fell to the lowest level in three months due to leakages and attacks on pipelines in the north, and weather related suspensions in the south.

WHEAT FLOUR

Description of Items	Weight/Size	FOB Unit Price	Average Wholesale Price Monrovia	Average Retail Price Monrovia	Average Retail Price Rural
Wheat Flour	100LBS	US\$21.00	US\$38.00	US\$40.50	US\$48.14
Wheat Flour	50LBS	US\$10.00	US\$19.00	US\$20.25	US\$24.30

Note: Import Data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Price

The price of flour is kept high above the FOB value because of the imposition of 7% surtax, 1.2% BIVAC Fees, APM Terminal Charges of US\$137.67 (20ft) and US\$185.33 (40ft), 1% ETL, 7% GST and import restrictions.

Stocks

Import volumes of wheat flour has increased from a low of 16,000 (50Kg bags) in April to 31,000 (50Kg bags) in June 2013. This still remains below average import of flour for 2012 at 32,000 (50Kg bags).

International outlook¹

Export prices of wheat from the United States declined slightly in June, with the benchmark US wheat price (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) averaging USD 321 per tonne, 2 percent lower than in the previous month but still 12 percent higher than in June 2012. The decline follows the onset of the 2013 winter wheat crop harvests in the Northern Hemisphere and expectations of large supplies in 2013/14. However, the downward pressure on prices was partially offset by harvest delays and concerns about a reduction in the 2013 spring crop plantings in the United States. Export prices from the Black Sea region and Argentina remained virtually unchanged or declined slightly in June.

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International Rice Outlook from the FAO global food price monitor, October 2012.
http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM_10_2012.pdf

ⁱ The International Fuel Outlook is obtained from the IMF monthly committee market monitor

ⁱ The International Flour Outlook is obtained from the FAO global food price monitor, October 2012. http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM_10_2012.pdf