



Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

Newsletter

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

May 2024



THE INFLATION RATE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2024 WAS 6.2 PERCENT



“The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) is pleased to present to you the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Report for the month of May, 2024. The report looks at the Inflation Rate (monthly and year-on-year) for the period under review. It is our hope that this report will aid the work of public policy makers and other interested data users in the private sector and those in the field of research”.

- Hon. Richard Fartoma Nganfuan
Director General

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Year-on-year (y-o-y) headline inflation for **May** 2024 was 6.2%.
- 2 Food inflation was 12.8% while Non-food inflation was 3.4%
- 3 Month-on-month (m-o-m) inflation for **May** 2024 was 0.1%.

2 Food inflation was 12.8% while Non-food inflation was 3.4%

3 Inflation on imported items was 10.6% and the inflation on domestic items was 2.1%.

Table 1: Consumer Price Indices and rates (May 2023 – May 2024)

Month	CPI (Dec 2005= 100)	Change (inflation %)	
		Monthly (m/m)	Yearly (y/y)
May. 2023	657.5	3.4	12.2
Jun. 2023	671.7	2.2	12.4
Jul. 2023	705.3	5	11
Aug. 2023	721.9	2.4	11.7
Sep. 2023	712.3	-1.3	10
Oct. 2023	712.7	0.1	10.1
Nov. 2023	700.5	-1.7	11.4
Dec. 2023	687.4	-1.9	10
Jan. - 2024	696.8	1.4	10.5
Feb. 2024	699.4	0.4	10.7
Mar. 2024	698.7	-0.1	9.5
Apr. 2024	697.6	-0.1	9.7
May 2024	698.5	0.1	6.2



May 2024 Inflation

May 2024 recorded inflation rate of 6.2 percent. This rate is the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of May 2024 and May 2023. The rate decreased by six percentage points from the 12.2 percent recorded in May 2023.

The month-on-month inflation was 0.1%, recording positive m-o-m inflation for the first time since February 2024.

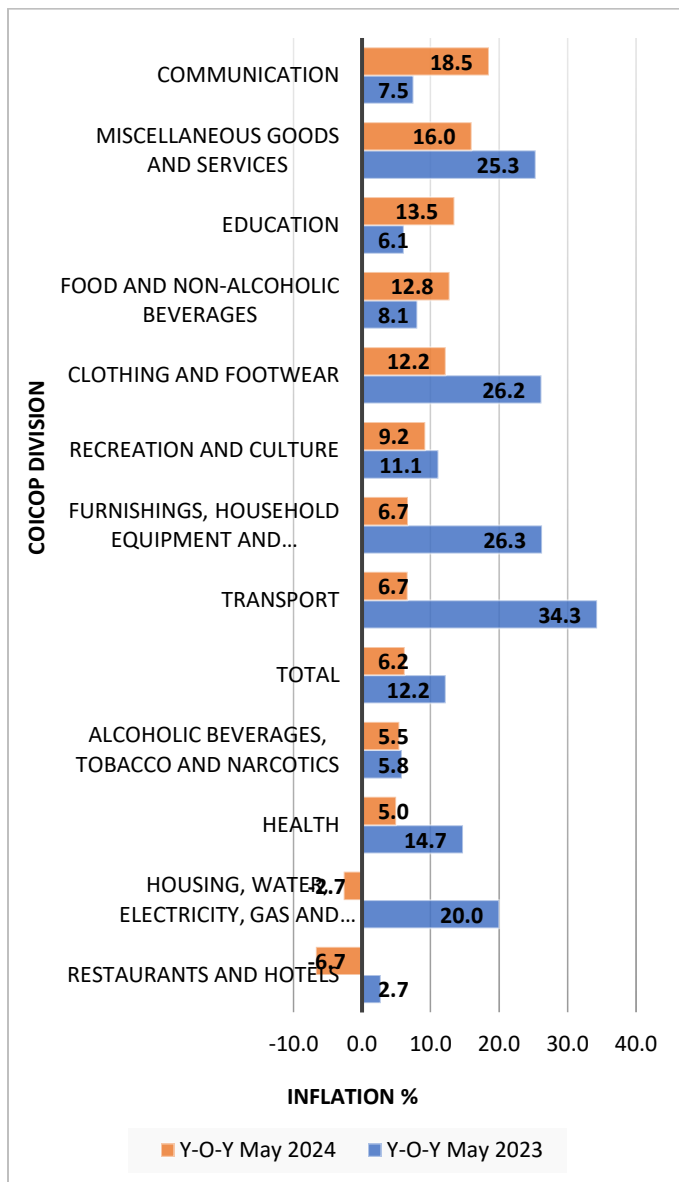


Figure 1: Year-on-year inflation – May 2023 and May 2024, by Division

Food Inflation

The y-o-y Food inflation for May 2024 was 12.8%. This is an increase of 4.7 percentage points from the 8.1 percent recorded in May 2023, the first time in twelve months that the inflation changes by single digit. The month's inflation rate is lower, also for the first time in twelve months, than the average (21.9%) of the previous twelve months. The m-o-m Food inflation was negative 0.5%, an increase of 0.9 percentage point from the rate recorded in April 2024. The average month-on-month food inflation rate of the previous twelve months is 2.0%.

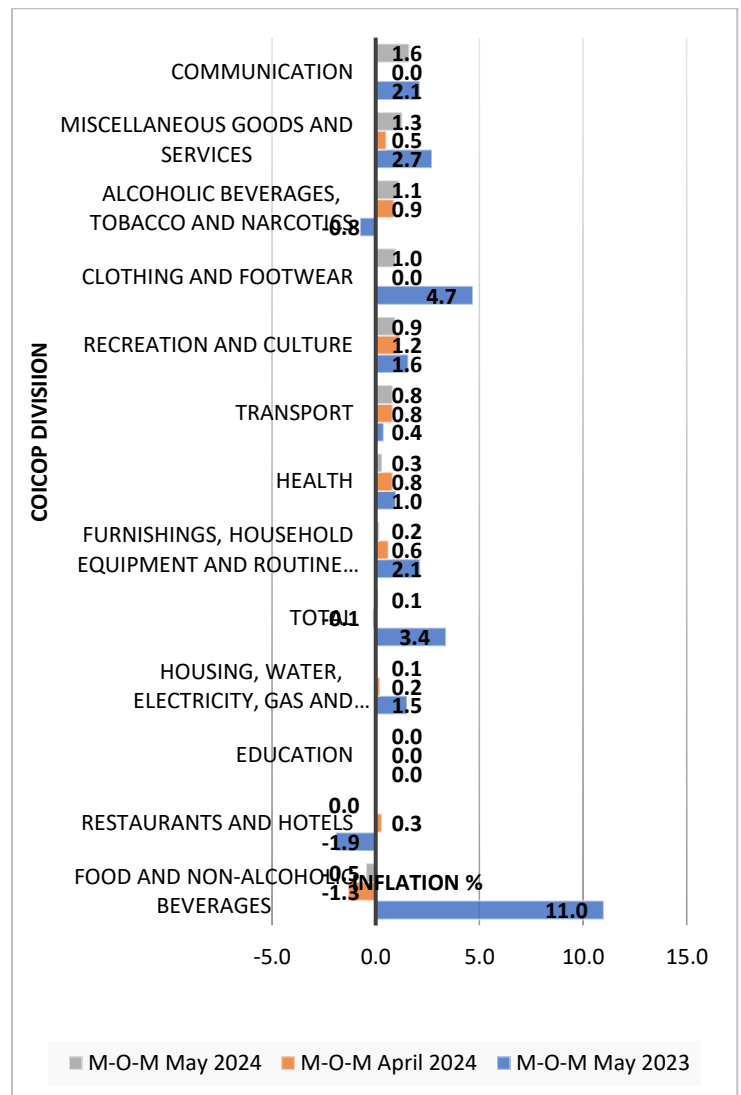


Figure 2: Month-on-month inflation - May 2023, May 2024 and April 2024, by Division



Ten out of the eleven Classes within the Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Division recorded positive year-on-year inflation. Oil and fats, again, recorded zero inflation. Also, five classes (Fish, Vegetable, Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate & confectionery, Food products and Coffee, tea & cocoa) recorded y-o-y inflation rates higher than the Division average. Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate & confectionery recorded the highest (26.6%) while Oil & fats recorded the lowest (0%).

On the month- on-month basis, the Division recorded a monthly change of negative 0.5%. This means that the general price level for food decreased by 0.5% between April 2024 and May 2024. The classes that recorded decreases (negative m-o-m inflation rates) include: Meat, Milk, cheese & eggs, Fruits, Vegetables, Food products and Mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices. Vegetables recorded the highest decrease (7.3%). Fresh pepper and Cassava leaves were the drivers in the Vegetable Class. On a month-on-month basis, the price levels of **Fresh peppers** and **Cassava leaves** decrease by 33% and 19% respective.

Non-Food Inflation

Non-food y-o-y inflation for the month stood at 3.4%, decreasing by 10.7 percentage points from the 14.1% recorded in May 2023. The month-on-month inflation for the Non-food category was 0.4%.

All the divisions in the Non-food category recorded increases (positive y-o-y inflation rates) in general price levels year on year, except for Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels, and Restaurants & hotels. Communication, for the sixth consecutive month recorded the highest (18.5%) y-o-y inflation while Restaurants and hotels recorded the lowest (-6.7%). The divisions with the most notable month-on-month changes are Alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics, Communication and Miscellaneous goods & services. These divisions recorded m-o-m inflation rates of 1.2%, 1.6% and 1.3% respectively. All the other divisions recorded m-o-m rates but less than 1%.

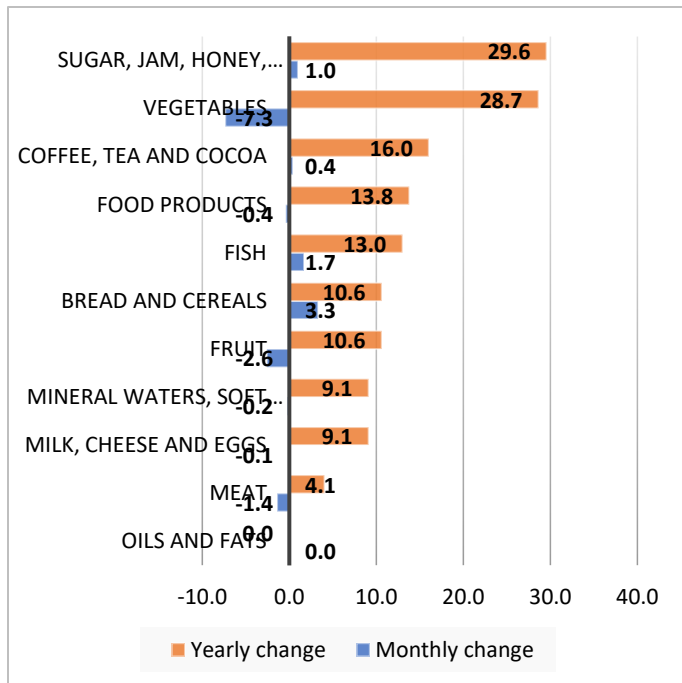


Figure 3: Y-O-Y and M-O-M inflations for Classes within the Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages

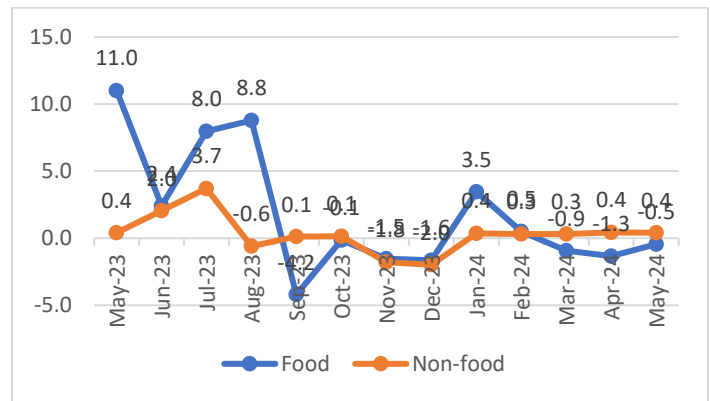


Figure 4: Month-on-month inflation (%) for Food and Non-food

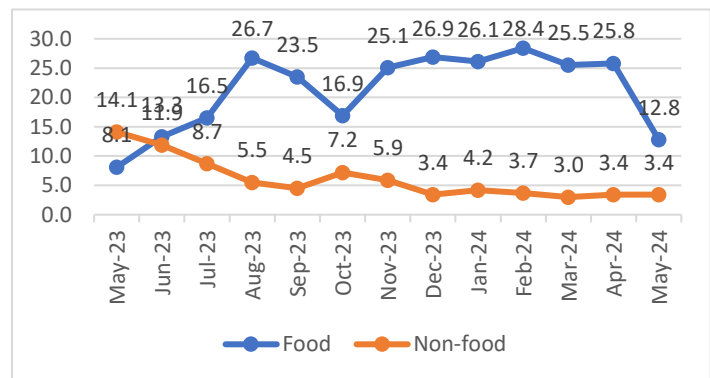


Figure 5: Year-on-year inflation (%) for Food and Non-food



Inflation for Imported and Domestic items

The inflation for imported items was 10.5%, a decrease of 1.9 percentage points from the 12.4% recorded in May 2023. On the month-on-month basis, imported items recorded 1.4%, increasing for the third consecutive month. The previous month's rate was negative 0.4%. Imported Food Items recorded a y-o-y inflation rate of 7.44% and m-o-m inflation rate of 1.59%.

The inflation of domestically produced items was 2.2% for May 2024, down by 12.0 percentage points from the 14.2% recorded in May 2023. Month-on-month inflation for domestically produced items was negative 0.4%. The previous month's rate was zero. Domestically produced food items recorded a y-o-y inflation rate of 19.7%. The m-o-m inflation rate was negative 2.7%.

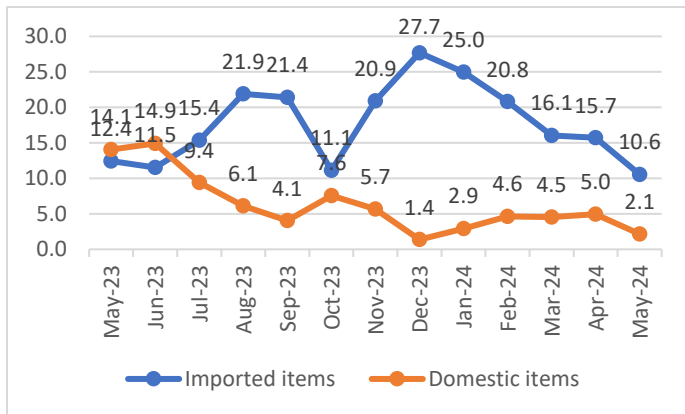


Figure 3: Year-on-year inflation on Imported and Domestic items

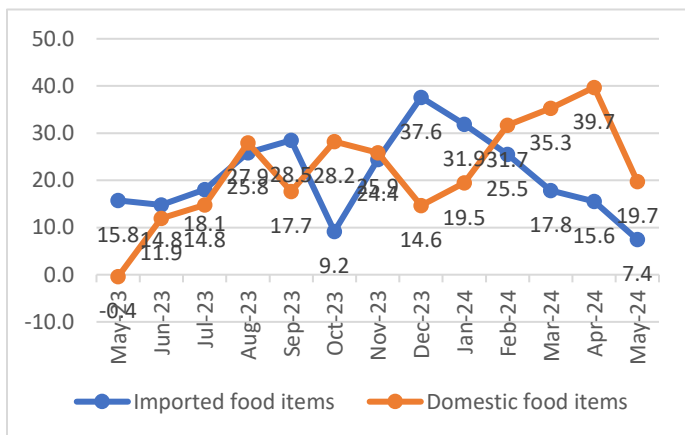


Figure 4: Year-on-year inflation on Imported food items and Domestic food items

Method of Calculating Indices

For the computation of indices, two methods are used: For Elementary Indexes, Modified Jevons (Geometric Average) Index Formula is used while the Modified Young Index Formula is used to compute higher-level Indexes.

All items within the Basket are grouped according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), an international hierarchical

classificatory scheme developed by the United Nations Statistics Division to classify and analyze individual consumption expenditures incurred by households. The 12 functions are being used for Liberia's CPI Compilation.

Limitations of the CPI

Liberia's CPI Data for market items are only collected in the four major markets of Monrovia and its immediate environs of Paynesville and Bushrod Island. For service items, data are collected in all major supermarkets, shops, stores, restaurants and hotels in Monrovia and its immediate environs.

Dissemination

A bulletin on the May 2024 CPI and a more detailed data in Excel format have been posted on the LISGIS website www.lisgis.gov.lr. The target publication date of the monthly CPI Report is the 15th of each month for the previous month's report.

For comments/inquiries, please contact the followings:

Hon. Richard Fatorma Ngafuan. – Director-General (cell: +231 776 210 164; email: richardngafuan@live.com)

Mr. Boima H.M. Sonii – Director/Economic Statistics (email: bhmsonii1975@gmail.com ; b.sonii@yahoo.com ; Cell: +231-886524773

Andrew A. Tellewoyan – Asst. Director/Industrial Statistics (Email: tellewoyanandrew@yahoo.com ; Cell: +231-886633149/+231-776212810



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