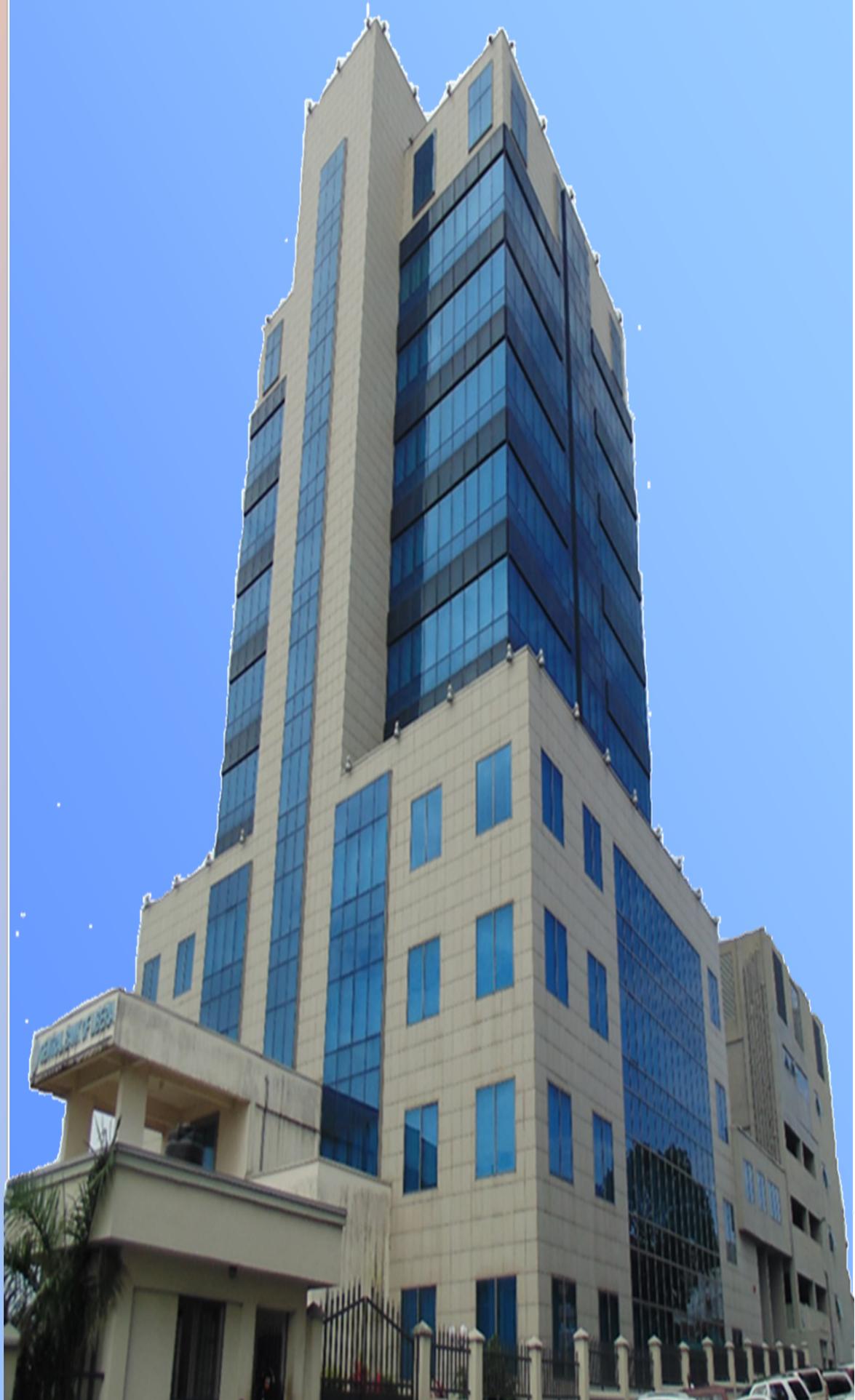




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**The Director
Research, Policy and Planning Department
Central Bank of Liberia
P. O. Box 2048/ Cell #: (231) 880-649 103/ 886-246 587
Monrovia, Liberia**

Fax #: 00(231) 77059642

Cell #: 0881 551953

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OVERVIEW

The likelihood of sustained global economic recovery remains bleak due to the persistent high inflation, hiking interest rates, and increased uncertainty. Due to the persistent pressure occasioned by the ongoing geopolitical tensions coupled with tightening monetary policy, the volume of global trade remains below its pre-COVID-19 trend. Consequently, the provisional signals that the global economy would have a soft landing have faded away. Hence, global growth is forecast to moderate by 0.6 percentage point to 2.8 percent in 2023, according to the WEO¹ April 2023 quarterly update. In advanced economies, growth is projected to decline by half to 1.3 percent in 2023, compared to the 2.7 percent reported in 2022. In emerging markets and developing economies, growth is projected to moderately recede by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent in 2023 relative to the 3.8 percent recorded in 2022.

Although receding, global headline inflation remained high, and is projected to decrease by 1.7 percentage points to 7.0 percent, on account of the projected moderation in fuel and nonfuel commodity prices as well as the cooling effects of monetary tightening.

On the domestic front, Liberia's Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) is projected to moderate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.3 percent relative to the 4.8 percent recorded in 2022. The projected moderation in the country's RGDP is expected to be driven by development in the primary sector, especially the mining & panning subsector. Growth for the primary sector (agriculture & fisheries, forestry, and mining & panning subsectors) is forecast to moderate by 1.7 percentage points to 3.4 percent in 2023.

In the agriculture & fishery subsector, rubber, round logs, and crude palm oil production increased during the quarter while cocoa beans and sawn timber production reduced significantly. In the mining & panning subsector, there was an improvement in gold and iron ore production during the quarter, but diamond production decreased. Growth is projected to expand in both the secondary and tertiary sectors to 6.0 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively.

In terms of domestic price development, the average headline inflation modestly reduced by 1.7 percentage points to 7.5 percent. Food inflation moderated to negative 1.1 percent, reflecting a decrease in domestic food prices. Similarly, non-food inflation declined by 0.5

¹ World Economic Outlook

percentage point to 8.6 percent. Official core inflation² marginally increased by 0.1 percentage point to 9.2 percent.

The financial sector showed improvement in key balance sheet indicators, characterized by growths in loans & advances, deposits, assets, liquidity, and profitability. Additionally, non-performing loans (NPLs) also decrease relative to the previous quarter while the average lending rate remained plateau at 13.4 percent.

The CBL's monetary policy stance continued to focus on achieving price stability through exchange rate stability anchored on prudent liquidity management. At end-March 2023 the total L\$ in circulation declined by 1.2 percent to L\$25.65 billion. Both narrow money (M1) and broad money (M2) supply expanded by 7.8 percent and 7.4 percent to L\$115.50 billion and L\$165.03 billion, respectively.

Development, regarding government securities, showed that the CBL issued US\$8.0 million in treasury bills with no issuance or redemption of treasury bonds. Furthermore, the GOL's fiscal operations recorded amelioration in the deficit in the overall balance (OB), causing it to narrow to 0.3 percent of GDP. Total government revenue and expenditure amounted to US\$136.8 million (3.2 percent of GDP) and US\$147.7 million (3.4 percent of GDP), respectively. At end-March 2023, the country's stock of public debt decreased to 46.5 percent of GDP compared to the 50.6 percent of GDP reported in the previous quarter.

In terms of external sector development, the Liberian economy was largely challenged despite a narrowing current account deficit. The current account deficit totaled 1.5 percent of GDP relative to the 60.9 percent of GDP reported in the previous quarter. Nonetheless, the overall balance of the balance of payment (BOP) recorded a deficit, amounting to 0.3 percent of GDP compared to a surplus of 0.4 percent of GDP reported in the previous quarter. Liberia's gross international reserves (GIR) decreased by 3.1 percent to US\$581.7 million (13.4 percent of GDP). The months of import cover improved to 3.3 months, remaining above the ECOWAS' regional threshold of 3.0 months.

Total exports expanded by 19.8 percent to US\$288.7 million (6.6 percent of GDP) while total import payments decreased by 11.2 percent to US\$457.7 million (10.5 percent of GDP). The net inflow of personal/worker remittances (including remittances transferred via mobile wallet) expanded by 5.6 percent to US\$169.0 million (3.9 percent of GDP).

² Headline inflation less food and transport

Although under pressure, the variability in the exchange rate remained within the tolerable threshold of the regional convergence target (± 10.0 percent). Compared to the previous quarter, both the average exchange rate and the end-of-period exchange rate depreciated against the US dollar, by 2.7 percent and 5.0 percent, to L\$158.10/US\$1.00 and L\$162.28/US\$1.00, respectively.

In terms of outlook, Liberia's real GDP is projected to moderate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.3 percent, and it's largely expected to be influenced by developments in the primary sector (particularly, forestry and mining & panning subsectors). Nevertheless, the key risks to growth include persistent high global inflation, hiking interest rates, and increased uncertainty as well as the adverse impact of the Russian-Ukraine crisis. The average headline inflation is forecast to moderate to 8.7 percent with a symmetric bandwidth of ± 2.0 percent.

I. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

1.1 Introduction

Global uncertainty remains unabated with increasing inflation, financial sector upheaval and faded interim signals in early 2023 about soft landing of the global economy. Global economic growth slowed in the first quarter of 2023, following improvement in the fourth quarter of 2022 on account of adversity of the macroeconomic shocks emanating from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Although the moderation in global growth affected both advanced economies and emerging markets & developing economies, but it was pronounced in advanced economies. According to the WEO¹ April 2023 quarterly update, global growth modestly declined by 0.1 percentage point relative to the previous update, projected at 2.8 percent in 2023. In advanced economies, growth is forecast to decrease by half to 1.3 percent relative to the 2.7 percent recorded in 2022, while in emerging markets & developing economies, growth is forecast to modestly recede by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent in 2023.

The average global headline inflation remained elevated across most economies and is forecast to recede by 1.7 percentage point to 7.0 percent relative to the 8.7 percent recorded in 2022. The projected moderation in global headline inflation reflects decreasing fuel and nonfuel commodity prices coupled with the anticipated cooling effects of monetary tightening on economic activity.

1.2 The United States (US) Economy

In the US, growth is projected at 1.6 percent in the first quarter of 2023, slightly higher than the 1.4 percent in the previous quarter. The return to growth in the United States reflects 0.2 percentage point increase in consumer spending, exports, fiscal stimulus, and investment. In terms of the outlook, growth is projected to moderate to 1.1 percent in 2024 with persistent high inflation coupled with uncertainty hovering over consumer spending and business investment.

¹ World Economic Outlook

1.3 The Euro Area & Other Advanced Economies

In the Euro Area, growth is projected to significantly decrease by 2.7 percentage points to 0.8 percent in 2022, from the 3.5 percent recorded in 2023 on account of expected weakening of economic activity in Germany, France, Italy, and Spain, which are forecast to contract by 0.1 percent, 0.7 percent, 0.7 percent, and 1.5 percent, respectively. In the UK, growth is projected at negative 0.3 percent relative to the 4.0 percent recorded in 2022, attributed to weak household consumption and high borrowing costs following interest rate hikes. Notwithstanding, in Japan, growth is forecast to modestly expand by 0.2 percentage point to 1.3 percent in 2023 from 1.1 percent in 2022, mainly reflecting a slowdown in domestic consumption and progressive COVID-19 containment measures.

1.4 Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

Growth in the emerging markets & developing economies (EMDEs) was downgraded by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent in the first quarter of 2023 relative to 2022. The growth adjustment in EMDEs was mainly underpinned by tightening global financial conditions, elevated inflationary pressures, and rising capital outflows amidst the increasing risk of debt crises. In China, growth is forecast to increase to 5.2 percent in 2023 relative to the 3.0 percent recorded in 2022, reflecting the country's reopening and abandonment of the zero COVID-19 policy. In contrast, India's growth is forecast to moderate by 0.9 percentage point to 5.9 percent compared to the 6.8 percent growth recorded in 2022, mainly due to weak external demand and high borrowing costs coupled with inflationary pressures.

1.5 Sub-Saharan Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, growth was downgraded marginally by 0.2 percentage point to 3.6 percent in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the previous WEO's forecast. The slight downward adjustment was largely attributed to global financial squeeze, inducing the rise in the costs for borrowing on both domestic and international markets as well as the downgrading of South Africa's growth by 1.1 percentage point. In contrast, Nigeria's growth remains unchanged at 3.2 percent. Notwithstanding, the region's growth outlook is projected to modestly improve, expected to expand by 0.3 percentage point to 4.2 percent in 2024.

1.6 Global Inflation

Global headline inflation is forecast to moderate by 1.7 percentage point to 7.0 percent relative to the 8.7 percent rate of inflation recorded in 2022. The decrease in global headline inflation reflects a reduction in prices of fuel and energy commodities in addition to the tightening monetary policy being pursued by many central banks. In emerging markets & developing economies, headline inflation is projected at 8.6 percent, while advanced economies stood at 4.7 percent. Additionally, inflation, excluding volatile food and energy prices, has been declining, although at a slower pace compared to headline inflation in most major economies since mid-2022.

In terms of outlook, global headline inflation is projected to moderate to 4.9 percent in 2024, largely reflective of the long-run mechanism of monetary policy accommodation, noticeably in advanced economies.

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

	Estimates	Projections		Difference from January 2023 Update	
		2022	2023	2024	2023
World Output	3.4	2.8	3	-0.1	-0.1
Advanced Economies	2.7	1.3	1.4	0.1	0
United States	2.1	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.1
Euro Area	3.5	0.8	1.4	0.1	-0.2
Germany	1.8	-0.1	1.1	-0.2	-0.3
France	2.6	0.7	1.3	0	-0.3
Italy	3.7	0.7	0.8	0.1	-0.1
Spain	5.5	1.5	2	0.4	-0.4
Japan	1.1	1.3	1	-0.5	0.1
United Kingdom	4	-0.3	1	0.3	0.1
Canada	3.4	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Advanced Economies	2.6	1.8	2.2	-0.2	-0.2
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4	3.9	4.2	-0.1	0
Emerging and Developing Asia	4.4	5.3	5.1	0	0
China	3	5.2	4.5	0	0
India	6.8	5.9	6.3	-0.2	-0.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	4	1.6	2.2	-0.2	0.1
Brazil	2.9	0.9	1.5	-0.3	0
Middle East and Central Asia	5.3	2.9	3.5	-0.3	-0.2
Saudi Arabia	8.7	3.1	3.1	0.5	-0.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.9	3.6	4.2	-0.2	0.1
Nigeria	3.3	3.2	3	0	0.1
South Africa	2	0.1	1.8	-1.1	0.5
World Consumer Prices	8.7	7	4.9	0.4	0.6
Advanced Economies	7.3	4.7	2.6	0.1	0
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	9.8	8.6	6.5	0.5	1

Source: "International Monetary Fund. April 2023. World Economic Outlook: A Rocky Recovery. Washington, DC,"

II. DOMESTIC ECONOMY

2.1 Introduction

Liberia's Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) growth is expected to moderate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.3 percent in 2023, compared to the 4.8 percent reported in 2022, expected to be reflective of development in the primary sector, particularly the mining & panning subsector.

In the primary sector (agriculture & fisheries, forestry, and mining & panning), growth is projected at 3.4 percent in 2023, from 5.1 percent in 2022, on account of projected declines in the forestry and mining & panning subsectors. When disaggregated, forestry and mining & panning subsectors are anticipated to moderate by 0.4 percentage point and 9.4 percentage points to 1.2 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively, while the agriculture & fisheries subsector is projected to grow by 2.2 percentage points to 3.3 percent in 2023.

In terms of performance, there were mixed results in the production of the country's key commodities. In the agriculture & fisheries subsector, cocoa beans, and sawn timber production dropped significantly by 59.0 percent and 10.0 percent, to 500 metric tons and 45,477 metric tons, respectively. However, rubber, round logs, and crude palm oil (CPO) grew by 5.0 percent, 2.0 percent, and 46.0 percent, to 12,791 cubic meters, 161,701 metric tons, and 5,288 metric tons, respectively, due to seasonal harvest in the first quarter of 2023.

In the mining & panning subsector, both gold and iron ore outputs grew by 4 percent each, to 103,325 ounces and 1,350,000 metric tons respectively, while diamond output more than doubled, to 29,582 carats in the first quarter of 2023, on account of inventory built-up as demand remains sluggish. The sector is projected to further improve by 6.1 percent in 2024, partly explained by the prospective full-scale production of some new companies in the sector.

During the quarter under review, outputs of cement and beverages in the secondary sector increased by 99 percent, and 8.5 percent, to 169,947 metric tons and 4,441,330 litres due to inventory build-up. Growth in the secondary sector (manufacturing) is projected to rise by 2.7 percentage points to 4.9 percent in 2023, from 2.2 percent estimated for 2022, due to the expected increases in cement and beverages outputs, on account of sectoral expansion which was driven by new entry of additional companies. In addition, the sector is projected to grow by 6.0 percent in 2024, supported by both cement and beverage productions. Growth in the tertiary (services) sector is projected to expand by 5.7 percent in 2023, from 4.8 percent in 2022, is largely attributed to projected improvement in of the construction, trade & hotel, transportation & communication, and financial institutions, related services.

In terms of the outlook, RGDP growth for 2024 is projected to increase to 5.4 percent, on account of expected increases in the primary and secondary sectors. However, concerns about national and global uncertainties, including inflation, commodity prices and geo-political tension in Europe may dampen growth prospects.

**Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook
(2020 - 2024)**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real GDP	-3.00	5.00	4.80	4.30	5.40
Agriculture & fisheries	6.40	4.00	1.20	3.30	6.00
Forestry	4.60	1.00	1.60	1.20	1.20
Mining & panning	2.00	17.60	14.00	4.60	6.10
Manufacturing	0.00	4.70	2.20	4.90	6.00
Services	-12.70	1.90	4.80	5.70	5.30

Sources: IMF & Liberian Authorities

2.2 Sectorial Review

2.2.1 Agriculture and Forestry

**Table 2.2: Key Agricultural Product
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022 & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q1-2022	Q4-2022	Q1-2023
Rubber	Mt	16,309	12,210	12,791
Cocoa	Mt	1,538	1,214	500
Round Logs	M3	153,673	158,946.00	161,701
Sawn Timber	Pcs	49,720	50,483	45,477
Crude Palm Oil (CPO)	Mt	7,885	3,629	5,288

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

**Chart 2.1: Key Agricultural Production
(1st & 4th Quarter, 2022; 1st Quarters, 2023)**



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

a. Rubber

Analysis of rubber production in the first quarter of 2023 reveals that output increased by 4.8 percent to 12,791 metric tons, from 12,210 metric tons recorded during the previous quarter, largely induced by improved production from small farm holders. However, when matched with the corresponding period in 2021, rubber production dropped by 21.6 percent.

b. Cocoa

Total amount of cocoa produced during the quarter declined by 58 percent to 500 metric tons, from a revised 1,214 metric tons reported in the preceding quarter. The fall in production was mainly explained by inventory spillover and a decline in seasonal harvest. Relative to the corresponding quarter a year ago, output fell by 67.5 percent.

c. Sawn Timber

Sawn timber production decreased by 9.9 percent to an estimated 45,477 pieces, down from 50,483 pieces reported for the previous quarter. The fall in output was mainly due to low demand for the commodity. Additionally, a year-on-year comparison reveals that output dropped by 8.5 percent.

d. Round Logs

Total production of round logs during the quarter rose further by an estimated 1.7 percent, to 161,701 cubic meters, from 158,946 cubic meters recorded in the previous quarter. The increase in output was mainly attributed to a rise in the global price of the commodity. On an annualized basis, output also increased by 4.0 percent.

e. Crude Palm Oil (CPO)

Crude palm oil (CPO) output for the quarter increased by 45.7 percent to 5,288 metric tons, from 3,629 metric tons produced a quarter ago on account of a reduction in output from the largest producer of the commodity. However, compared with the production recorded in the same quarter a year ago, CPO production declined by 32.9 percent due to some external factors.

2.2.2 Industrial Production

2.2.2.1 Mining (Gold, Diamond, and Iron Ore)

i. Gold

Gold production during the quarter under review increased by 4.2 percent to 103,325 ounces, from 99,194 ounces reported in the previous quarter due to increased mining activity induced by prospects of price increase. Similarly, compared with the corresponding quarter of 2022, output increased by 3.5 percent.

ii. Diamond

The volume of diamonds produced during the first quarter of 2023 expanded by more than one-fold to 29,582 carats, from 8,502 carats reported in the previous quarter. The growth in output was supported by increase mining activities in response to stronger demand on the international market. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2021, output also rose by 16.2 percent.

iii. Iron Ore

Iron ore production during the reporting quarter stood at 1,350,000 metric tons, up from 1,300,000 metric tons produced during the previous quarter. The increase in production was mainly influenced by rise in steel prices and increasing demand for iron ore on the global market. However, output remained unchanged in comparison with the

corresponding period in 2022.

2.2.2.2 Manufacturing

i. Cement

Cement production significantly increased by 98.5 percent during the quarter to 169,947 metric tons, up from 85,600 metric tons reported during the previous quarter. The rise in cement output was on account of the operationalization of additional cement-producing companies in the country. When annualized, output rose by 11.1 percent.

ii. Beverages

Output of beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) surged by 8.5 percent to 4.44 million liters, up from 4.09 million liters produced during the previous quarter largely due to increased number of beverages producing companies induced by stronger demand. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, beverage output in the current quarter rose by 1.1 percent, when compared with the same period a year ago. Disaggregation of beverages produced during the quarter shows that alcoholic beverages accounted for 87.9 percent, while non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 12.1 percent.

iii. Soap

Soap production for the review quarter increased by 52.6 percent to 127,285 kilograms, from 83,407 kilograms recorded in the previous quarter on account of increased demand. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, soap production further increased by 70.0 percent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2022.

iv. Paint (Oil and Water)

Paint production, including oil and water paints, during the first quarter of 2023, dropped by 30.0 percent, to 56,261 gallons, from 80,422 gallons produced during the previous quarter due mainly to relaxed demand occasioned by the inception of the raining season. The disaggregation of the output shows that oil paint accounted for 58.5 percent, while water paint constituted 41.5 percent of the total paint produced. Compared with the same period a year ago, paint output declined by 2.9 percent.

v. Varnish

The volume of varnish produced during the quarter was 5,437 gallons, reflecting 7.5 percent reduction compared with output a quarter ago, on account of industrious demand adjustment for the commodity. However, an annualized comparison shows that output increased by 22.1 percent at end-March 2023.

vi. Manoline Hair Grease

Production of manoline hair grease decreased in the reviewed quarter by 32.8 percent to 3,302 kilograms, from 4,910 kilograms produced during the preceding quarter. The fall in output during the quarter was mainly due to demand switch for the alternative product. Similarly, on an annualized analysis, output during the quarter dropped by 26.1 percent compared with the first quarter of 2022.

vii. Thinner

Total production of thinner at the end of the first quarter fell by 5.4 percent, to 4,181 gallons, from 4,421 gallons produced in the previous quarter, due to high costs of production. When annualized, output slightly dipped by 0.5 percent in the review quarter, compared with the corresponding quarter of 2022.

viii. Rubbing Alcohol

The quantity of rubbing alcohol produced at end-March 2023 stood at 90,883 liters, 48,633 liters more than the output of the previous quarter. The increase in output was induced by an increase in the demand for the commodity. Comparatively, output in the quarter also increased further by more than 100 percent relative to the first quarter in 2022, due to increased demand for the product.

ix. Chlorox

Chlorox output surged by 18.2 percent, to 321,040 litres for the review quarter, from 271,680 litres produced in the preceding quarter, driven by greater demand. A year-on-year analysis reveals that output grew further in the reviewed quarter by 46.9 percent compared with the same quarter a year ago.

x. Candle

Total candle output during the quarter grew by 10.2 percent, to 12,033 kilograms, from 10,920 kilograms produced in the preceding quarter, reflecting an increase in industrious demand. In contrast, production declined by 8.8 percent on a year-on-year basis compared with the output recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

xi. Mattress

Mattress output in the first quarter of 2023 moderated marginally by 0.3 percent to 34,570 pieces, from 34,685 pieces produced for the quarter ended December 2022 on account of strong demand. However, compared with the same period a year ago, production grew by 6.1 percent.

xii. Finished Water

The total volume of finished water produced during the review quarter fell by 37.2 percent to an estimated 51.64 million gallons, compared to the output recorded in the preceding quarter. The estimated decline in output was largely due to a reduction in supply fueled by a decrease in the water table in the dry season. Nevertheless, when compared to the same period in 2022, output increased by 5.3 percent due to coverage and product effect.

xiii. Mineral Water

The total volume of mineral water produced during the quarter stood at 80,912 liters, from 70,476 liters supplied during the previous quarter, reflecting 14.8 percent increase in output. The surge in water output was mainly attributed to an increase in the number of mineral water-producing companies to meet the rising demand for safe drinking water.

Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022 & 1st Quarter, 2023)

Commodity	Unit	Q1-2022	Q4-2022	Q1-2023
Gold	Ounces	99,880	99,194	103,325
Diamond	Carat	25,450	8,502	29,582
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,350,000	1,300,000	1,350,000
Cement	Mt.	152,906	85,600	169,947
Spirits	Litre	50,546	40,675	53,943
Beer	Litre	1,944,751	1,802,001	1,903,833
Stout	Litre	1,923,269	1,817,149	1,946,253
Malta	Litre	208,209	189,256	250,993
Soft Drink	Litre	265,946	244,039	286,308
Oil Paint	Gal.	33,263	46,353	32,917
Water Paint	Gal.	24,678	34,069	23,344
Varnish	Gal.	4,454	5,879	5,437
Wall Putty	Gal.	4,465	4,910	3,302
Manoline Hair Grease	Kg.	3,259	3,688	5,729
Thinner	Gal.	4,202	4,421	4,181
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	37,081	48,633	90,883
Soap	Kg.	74,879	83,407	127,285
Chlorox	Litre	218,584	271,680	321,040
Candle	Kg.	13,188	10,920	12,033
Mattresses	Pcs.	32,598	34,685	34,570
Finished Water	Gal.	238,968,182	400,468,512	251,640,417
Mineral Water	Gal.	136,785	70,476	80,912
Electricity	kW	44,896,141	96,609,349	101,307,600

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

2.3 Consumption of Petroleum Products

Total consumption of petroleum products Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and Diesel or Automotive Gas Oil (AGO)) during the first quarter of 2023 increased by 34.3 percent, to 15.7 million gallons, from 11.7 million gallons in the fourth quarter of 2022. The increase in petroleum consumption was mainly attributed to an increase in industrial demand, rural transport, and government road projects. However, when compared with the corresponding quarter in 2022, total petroleum consumption contracted by 24.1 percent. Disaggregation of total consumption of petroleum products shows that PMS constituted 57.0 percent, while AGO accounted for the remaining 43.0 percent. This also implies that consumption of PMS increased by 37.0 percent, while AGO

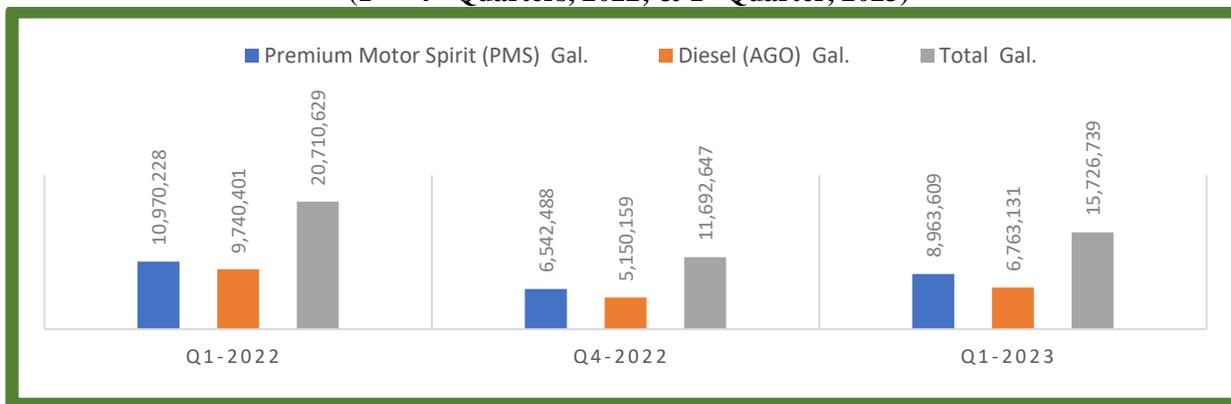
increased by 31.3 percent to about 9.0 million gallons, and about 6.8 million gallons, respectively, during the first quarter of 2023.

**Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	10,970,228	6,542,488	8,963,609
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	9,740,401	5,150,159	6,763,131
Total	Gal.	20,710,629	11,692,647	15,726,739

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

**Chart 2.2: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Liberian Petroleum Refining Company

2.4 Seaport Developments

Statistics on vessel traffic for the first quarter of 2023 shows that 87 vessels with combined Summer Dead Weight Tons (SDWT) of 2.95 million docked at various ports along the Liberian coast, reflecting a 13.9 percent fall in the number of vessels anchored compared to the 101 vessels in the previous quarter. Similarly, the combined SDWT moderated by 0.8 percent, from 2.97 million recorded at end-December 2022. The slight decline in vessel turnout during the review quarter was mainly on account of a slowdown in activity at the ports of Monrovia and Buchanan due to a slump in exports. In terms of percentage distribution, vessels anchored in Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville, and Harper, accounted for 56.5 percent, 31.5 percent, 8.3 percent, and 3.7 percent, respectively. Similarly, compared with the corresponding period a year ago, the number of vessels that docked on the shore of Liberia decreased by 19.4 percent. Disaggregation of total tonnage shows that imports accounted for 33.1 percent, while exports constituted 66.9 percent (Table 2.5).

**Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT)	Imports	Exports
Q1-2023	87	2,953,724	556,614	1,124,300
Q4-2022	101	2,978,455	4,428,365	1,330,736
Q1-2022	108	3,449,697	502,619	1,505,095

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

**Chart 2.3: Vessel Traffic
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**



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

2.5 Electric Power Developments

Electric power produced by the national power generating facilities² during the quarter under review decreased by 7.1 percent to 78.16 million kilowatts, from 84.12 million kilowatts produced in the fourth quarter of 2022. The drop in electric power generation was mainly on account of the inability of the local power plan to deliver, due to ongoing repair of the facilities. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, electric power generation fell by 19.1 percent.

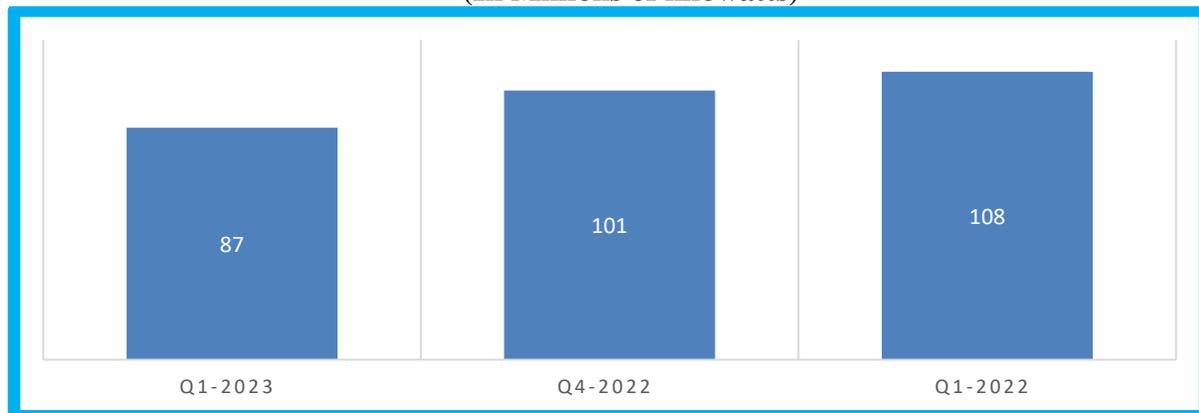
**Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Kilowatts)**

Quarter	Unit	Service	Generation
Q1-2023	KW	Electricity	78,164,322
Q4-2022	KW	Electricity	84,116,470
Q1-2022	KW	Electricity	96,609,349

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

² Mount Coffee Hydro, the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Generators, and the High-Speed Diesel (HSD) generators.

Chart 2.4: Electricity Generation
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of kilowatts)



Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

2.6 Price Developments

2.6.1 Domestic Price Developments

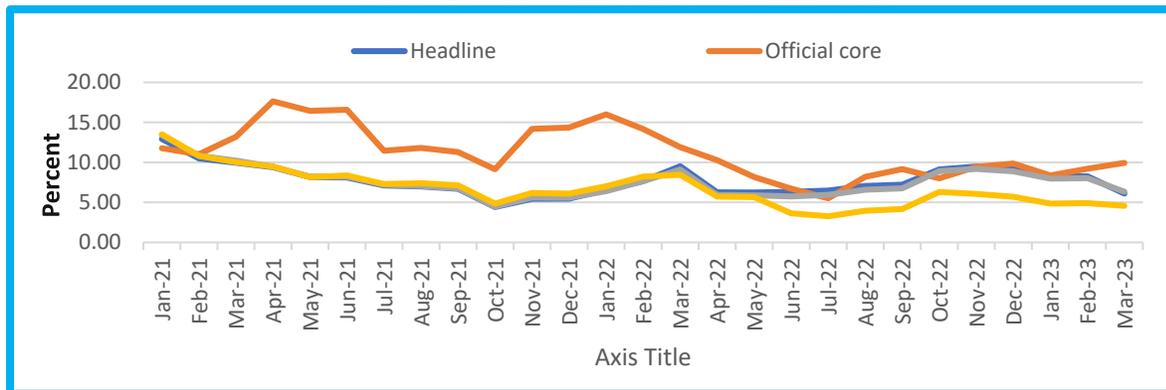
Average headline inflation³, during the first quarter of 2023, moderated by 1.7 percentage point to 7.5 percent from 9.3 percent recorded in the last quarter of 2022. The moderation in headline inflation during the quarter was largely attributed to the moderation in the prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics, transport, and restaurants and hotels compared with the previous quarter. Likewise, when compared with the corresponding quarter in 2022, inflation during the reporting quarter moderated by 0.4 percentage point from 7.9 percent in the first quarter of 2022 (Chart 2.5 & 2.6).

Food inflation during the quarter moderated by 1.2 percentage point to negative 1.1 percent, from 0.1 percent in the previous quarter. The reduction in food inflation was mainly reflective of the decline in the prices of domestic food items (Chart 2.7, Table 2.7). Similarly, compared with the same quarter in 2022, food inflation modestly slowdown by 0.02 percentage point. Also, non-food inflation stood at 8.6 percent during the review quarter, from 9.1 percent at end-fourth quarter of 2022. The reduction in non-food inflation was largely due to the decline in prices relating to the transport and restaurant & hotels subgroups.

³ The results from the 2016 Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) were used to update the weights in the CPI basket in December 2018 which reflect the current consumption pattern of the average Liberians.

Official core inflation⁴ slightly rose by 0.1 percentage point, to 9.2 percent during the quarter, from 9.1 percent in the preceding quarter. However, a year-on-year comparative analysis showed that official core inflation during the quarter moderated by 4.9 percentage points to 9.1 percent, from the 14.0 percent recorded during the corresponding quarter in 2022 (chart 2.6).

Chart 2.5: Headline and Core Inflation



Source: CBL & LISGIS

2.6.2 Inflation by Group

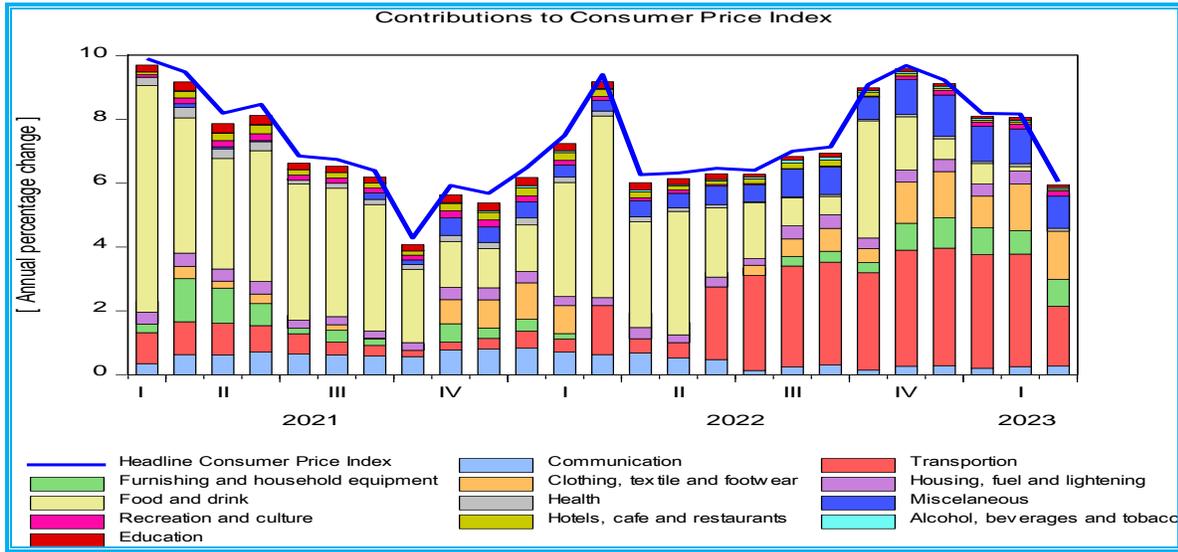
Developments in the sub-groups of the consumer basket during the first quarter of 2023 remained unchanged for several items, including food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and narcotics, transport, and restaurants & hotels. Components that showed increases, were clothing & footwear, housing, water, electricity, gas, & other fuels, furnishings, household, equipment, & routine, health, communication, recreation & culture, and miscellaneous goods and services, while education remained the same compared to the previous quarter (Table 2.7 & 2.9).

2.6.2.1 Contributions to Changes in CPI (%)

The disaggregated components of the consumer price index (CPI) basket in the first quarter of 2023 indicates that the following major groups substantially contributed to the decrease in inflation: alcoholic beverages, tobacco, & narcotics, transport, and restaurant & hotels. A review of the disaggregated CPI basket in terms of food and non-food items shows that food inflation declined by 1.2 percentage points to negative 1.1 percent, while non-food inflation moderated by 0.5 percentage point to 8.6 percent (Charts 2.7 & 2.8).

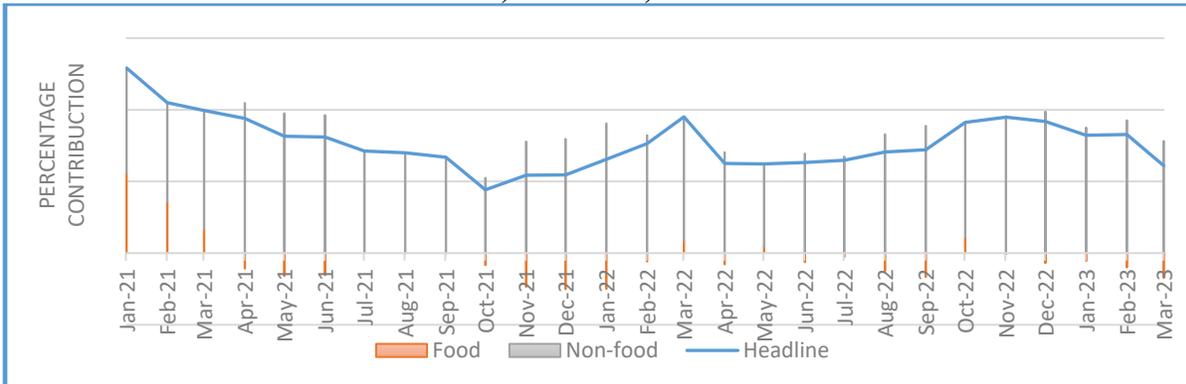
⁴ Headline inflation less food and transport

Chart 2.6: Contributions to CPI



Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

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



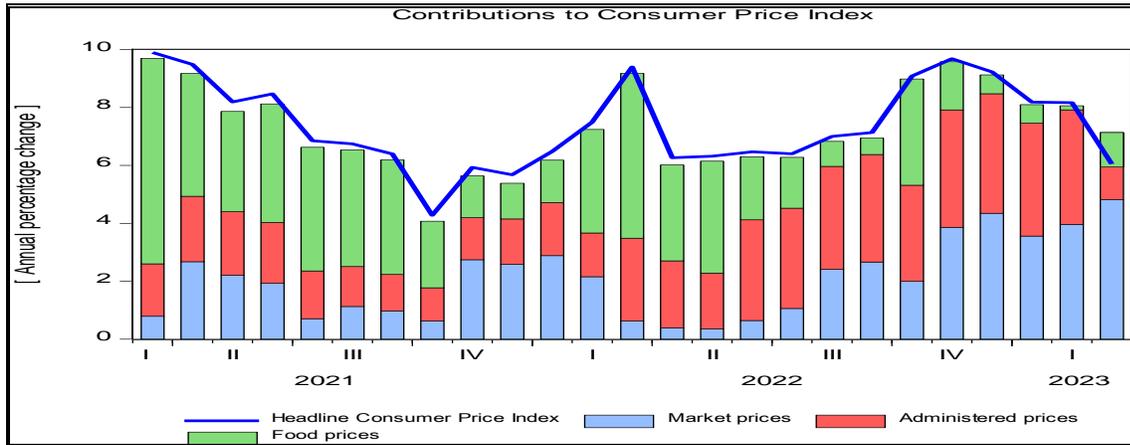
Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

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

A systematic review of the CPI basket reveals that market prices moderated by 1.6 percentage point, to 6.3 percent, while administered⁵ prices slightly declined by 0.1 percentage point to 1.2 percent, of the general rate of inflation.

⁵ Administered prices refer to the prices that do not vary in response to short-run fluctuations in demand and supply conditions. Rather, they are set either directly or indirectly by government.

Chart 2.8: Administered versus Market Prices



Source: CBL, Monrovia-Liberia

2.6.2.3 Inflation Outlook

Headline inflation for the second quarter of 2023 is projected at 8.7 percent with a symmetric bandwidth of +/- 2.0 percent. The outlook is based on the following assumptions: the 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, coupled with the domestic economic uncertainty.

Table 2.7: Inflation by Sub-group Year-on-Year Changes in CPI (2021-2023)

Food	Weights	Inflation Rates			
		2021Q ⁴	2022Q ¹	2022Q ⁴	2023Q ¹
Bread and cereals	10.06	-15.8	-4.78	3.44	16.62
Milk, cheese, and eggs	0.68	-6.29	-4.17	3.57	14.26
Meat	4.82	-5.96	-9.22	-0.4	0.54
Non-Food					
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics	0.65	-7.19	-1.61	6.86	6.03
Clothing and footwear	5.21	-5.18	-3.99	6.65	13.23
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other fuels	7.22	1.52	-0.46	16.62	20.02
Furnishing, H/Hold Equip., Routine Maintenance of House	5.21	-2.38	-4.95	10.11	12.65
Health	9.28	12.95	14.55	4.53	7.69
Transport	7.53	-2.38	7.84	53.1	43.77
Communication	3.86	3.45	5.2	-1.43	-0.23
Recreation and Culture	1.03	4.92	1.34	2.93	9.17
Education	4.83	23.19	23.19	6.08	6.08
Restaurant and Hotels	17.12	26.64	31.2	10.52	5.63
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.98	-3.75	-2.66	22.55	24.29

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 2.8: Headline and Quarterly changes in CPI (%)

Periods	Headline Inflation (Y-on-Y changes)			Monthly Changes in HCPI (%)		
	Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combined	Food	Non-Food
2020						
January	23.56	22.18	24.33	0.9	2.7	0
February	25.76	25.26	26.02	-1.1	0.3	-1.9
March	21.72	30.48	17.31	1.9	4.6	0.4
April	22.51	30.24	18.33	0.9	2.7	0
May	18.36	28.24	13.17	2	2	2
June	13.14	21.08	8.96	2	0.7	2.74
July	17.06	17.83	16.66	0	4.1	-2.2
August	14.77	16.25	13.99	1.3	3.2	0.3
September	14.03	14.09	14	0.4	-0.5	0.85
October	13.85	14.85	13.33	0.3	-0.4	0.61
November	10.39	13.96	8.5	-4.1	-0.44	-6.03
December	13.12	15.74	11.72	-0.4	-0.6	-0.22
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	0.02
	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
2022	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	0.06	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
	January	8.22	-1.88	12.97	0.9	4.14	-0.36
2023	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

Table 2.9: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation (1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023) (December, 2005=100)

FUNCTIONS	WEIGHTS	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	Q1-2022	22-Oct	22-Nov	22-Dec	Q4-2022	23-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	Q1-2023
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	34.08	-6.79	-1.57	2.58	-1.93	3.08	-0.52	-2.47	0.03	-1.88	-3.27	-5.38	-3.51
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, AND NARCOTICS	0.65	-1.29	-0.47	-3.06	-1.61	5.48	7.01	8.1	6.86	5.97	5.16	6.96	6.03
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.21	-0.48	-0.71	10.79	-3.99	0.37	8.99	10.58	6.65	6.81	10.89	21.98	13.23
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND OTHER FUELS	7.22	0.06	-0.53	-0.91	-0.46	14.72	17.69	17.44	16.62	19.26	19.79	21.01	20.02
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD, EQUIPMENT, AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.21	-3.47	-4.8	-6.58	-4.95	2.68	12.83	14.83	10.11	13.32	10.75	13.88	12.65
HEALTH	9.28	18.73	12.44	12.49	14.55	0.56	5.98	7.06	4.53	5.07	8.04	9.97	7.69
TRANSPORT	7.53	0.53	0.2	22.77	7.83	46.28	56.45	56.56	53.1	54.39	54.04	22.89	43.77
COMMUNICATION	3.86	5.02	5.45	5.14	5.2	-6.7	0.76	1.64	-1.43	-1.05	-1.15	1.52	-0.23
RECREATION AND CULTURE	1.03	2.11	1.28	0.62	1.34	-2.77	4.49	7.07	2.93	8.28	8.58	10.66	9.17
EDUCATION	4.83	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	17.12	33.68	32.52	27.4	31.2	15.15	8.6	7.81	10.52	5.86	6.41	4.61	5.63
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.89	-2.51	-3.06	-2.42	-2.66	13.7	24.37	29.58	22.55	25.58	24.28	23.02	24.29
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100	6.55	7.64	9.51	7.9	9.12	9.49	9.19	9.27	8.22	8.27	6.1	7.53

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 first quarter of 2023 was largely concentrated on liquidity management to smooth out the domestic price level via broad exchange rate stability. As such, the CBL maintained a relatively tight monetary policy stance using the Bank's policy instruments, including the CBL bills and the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR).

3.2 Banking Sector Development

The banking industry continued to be relatively sound and stable evidenced by expansions in key primary balance sheet items for the review quarter. Key balance sheet indicators, including loans & advances, deposits, assets, liquidity, and profitability grew, while capital slightly moderated compared with the previous quarter. When matched against the corresponding quarter a year ago, all balance sheet indicators, including capital grew.

3.2.1 Capital

At end-March 2023, the total capital stock of the banking industry stood at L\$31.19 billion, contracting marginally by 0.8 percent (3.8 percentage points below the growth recorded for the fourth quarter of 2022), from L\$31.45 billion recorded for the previous quarter. When matched with the corresponding quarter of 2022, total capital increased by 1.0 percent, from L\$30.89 billion. At end-March 2023, eight of the nine commercial banks in the industry reported Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) above the 10.0 percent minimum regulatory requirement. The industry's CAR during the reporting quarter stood at 22.3 percent, 3.6 percentage points lower than the amount recorded in the preceding quarter. When matched against the amount reported at end-March 2022, the CAR of the industry for the reporting quarter was 0.5 percentage point lower.

3.2.2 Asset and Liquidity

Commercial banks' assets reported at end-March 2023 amounted to L\$232.49 billion, representing 12.7 percent rise from the L\$209.14 billion reported in the fourth quarter of 2022, largely due to increases recorded in checks for clearing and short-term securities. On an annual basis, total assets

rose by 27.0 percent from L\$207.61 billion. The growth was primarily on account of increases in checks for clearing and accounts receivable. Similarly, total liquid assets of the industry increased by 16.8 percent to L\$88.05 billion, from L\$75.35 billion recorded at end-December 2022 on account of the more than 100 percent growths reported in placement with foreign banks and checks for clearing. From the annual perspective, liquid assets at end-March 2023 rose by 8.4 percent from L\$81.21 billion reported in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The expansion was induced by increases in the balances with foreign banks and checks for clearing.

On the other hand, the industry liquidity ratio rose by 2.1 percentage points to 45.6 percent at end-March 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. When matched with the figure recorded the same quarter a year ago, the liquidity ratio grew by 3.3 percentage points, from 42.3 percent.

At end-March 2023, the banking industry reported growth in loans & advances by 3.6 percent to L\$79.34 billion, from L\$76.60 billion recorded for the quarter ended December 2022. When compared with the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022, total loans advanced to the economy for the review quarter declined by 7.9 percent, from L\$73.5 billion.

Non-performing loans (NPLs), as a share of the total stock of loans & advances in the reporting quarter remained above the 10 percent tolerable limit, despite declining marginally by 0.4 percentage point to 16.2 percent (L\$12.84 billion) from 16.6 percent (L\$12.69 billion) at end-December 2022. It is important to note that the reduction in the volume of NPL was mainly attributed to actions by the CBL for commercial banks sanitize their loan portfolio, via the enforcement of the regulation on the Amended Regulation Concerning Prudential Regulation for Assets Classification, Provisions for Loan Losses and Suspension of Interest on Non-performing loans as well as the CBL Press Release of December 2022 cautioning delinquent borrowers to risk being barred from accessing banking services.

3.2.3 Profitability

The banking industry's gross operational income⁶, at end-March 2023 stood at L\$5.07 billion, with interest income constituting 48.2 percent and non-interest income representing 51.8 percent. The gross operational income fell by 11.0 percent compared with the amount recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022, largely triggered by declines recorded in income generated from investment securities and a reduction in profit on foreign exchange.

The total operating expense for the quarter ended March 2023 stood at L\$3.41 billion, reflecting an increase of 20.7 percent when matched with the amount recorded at end-December 2022. In comparison with the same period a year ago, total operating expenses grew by 20.5 percent. The annual expansion in operating expenses was mainly induced by the increases recorded in bonuses, directors' allowances, and other expenses.

Both Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) contracted during the reporting quarter. ROA stood at 0.5 percent, from 2.1 percent recorded for the previous quarter, while ROE amounted to 3.6 percent, declining by 7.9 percentage points, compared with the amount reported a quarter ago. Annually, ROA fell by 0.2 percentage point, from 0.7 percent, while ROE declined by 0.6 percentage point from 4.2 percent. The industry's net operating profit for the quarter ended March 2023 declined by 14.7 percent to L\$1.10 billion, from L\$1.29 billion compared with the corresponding quarter of 2022, partly on account of the expansion in NPL during the reporting quarter.

3.2.4 Commercial Bank Credit

At end-March 2023, the stock of commercial banks' loans & advances to the various subsectors of the economy stood at L\$79.96 billion, expanding by 3.5 percent, from L\$77.23 billion reported at end-December 2022. The growth in loans & advances was primarily driven by increases recorded in loans extended to trade, individuals, construction, extractive, manufacturing, agriculture, and "the others" subsectors. The rise in loans & advances to these subsectors was

⁶ The main revenue sources are classified as interest and non-interest income, which include income from loans & advances, service charges on deposits, commissions, and fees on money transfer as well as foreign exchange transactions.

largely induced by growths in loans & advances extended to individuals, rubber & other agricultural activities, road construction, mining activities, trade, and “the others” subsector.

The quarterly sectoral contributions of loans to total credit were as follows: trade, 2.45 percentage points; personal loans (households), 1.26 percentage points; construction, 0.85 percentage point; extractive, 0.23 percentage point; manufacturing, 0.13 percentage point; agriculture, 0.12 percentage point; government, 0.00 percentage point; services, negative 0.27 percentage point; loans to public corporations, negative 0.40 percentage point; oil & gas, negative 1.05 percentage points and loans to other subsectors, 0.22 percentage point.

Compared with the stock of loans extended in the corresponding quarter of 2022, total commercial banks’ credit to the economy grew by 9.3 percent, largely occasioned by growths in loans to trade, individuals, manufacturing, and “the other” subsectors (Table 3.1).

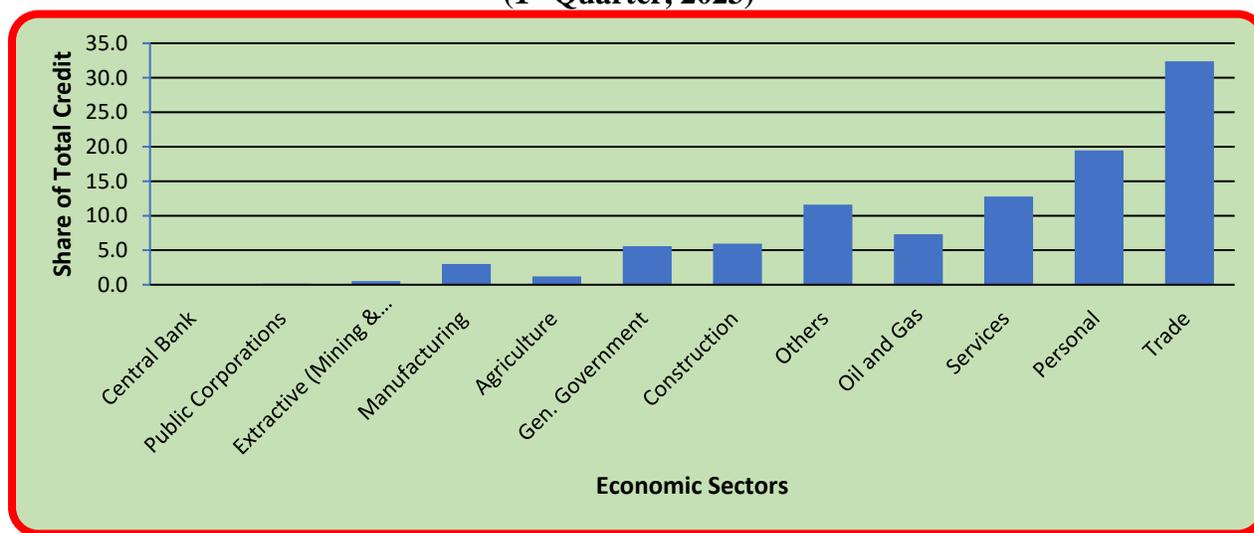
At end-March 2023, both the United States dollar (USD) denominated loans and the Liberian dollar (L\$) component of the total loan portfolio fell. The USD credits to the economy accounted for 93.8 percent of total credits and fell by 1.0 percent to US\$461.96 million compared with US\$466.49 million recorded a quarter ago. On an annual comparison, USD credits grew by 3.7 percent, from US\$445.61 million reported in the corresponding quarter of 2022. The total stock of credit at the end of the reporting quarter (L\$79.96 billion), converted to USD contracted by 1.4 percent (8.5 percentage points below the contraction recorded at end-December 2022) compared with end-December 2022. The contraction was occasioned by the slow pace of economic activity partly induced by the Russia-Ukraine crisis and current depreciation of the domestic currency. During the reporting quarter, total credit advanced to the private sector, through the banking system, accounted for 93.7 percent (4.5 percentage points below the share recorded for December 2022) of the total credit portfolio in the economy.

Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

	2022				2023		Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q1	Share	Q4	Share	Q1	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	2,011.33	2.75	2,311.00	2.99	2,405.83	3.01	0.12	0.54
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	93.35	0.13	236.64	0.31	414.42	0.52	0.23	0.44
Manufacturing	3,432.54	4.69	4,369.52	5.66	4,467.36	5.59	0.13	1.41
Construction	6,650.85	9.09	5,201.09	6.73	5,853.92	7.32	0.85	(1.09)
Services	11,567.68	15.82	10,434.29	13.51	10,223.66	12.79	(0.27)	(1.84)
Trade	23,611.77	32.29	24,005.97	31.08	25,896.34	32.39	2.45	3.12
Personal	13,551.22	18.53	14,589.59	18.89	15,563.19	19.46	1.26	2.75
Gen. Government	83.67	0.11	120.82	0.16	124.44	0.16	0.00	0.06
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	2,696.65	3.69	1,272.15	1.65	961.66	1.20	(0.40)	(2.37)
Oil and Gas	3,472.91	4.75	5,576.61	7.22	4,763.72	5.96	(1.05)	1.76
Others	5,962.02	8.15	9,109.77	11.80	9,280.78	11.61	0.22	4.54
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	73,133.99	100.00	77,227.45	100.00	79,955.33	100.00	3.53	9.33
O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)	70,353.66	96.20	75,834.48	98.20	78,869.23	98.64	3.93	11.64

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

**Chart 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(1st Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.2.5 Interest Rate

Developments in interest rates revealed broad stability for the quarter ended-March 2023 when matched with the rates recorded at end-December 2022 and at end-March 2022. The average interest rate on lending was maintained at 12.4 percent, personal loan rate at 12.8 percent, mortgage rate at 13.4 percent, time deposit rate at 3.5 percent, saving rate at 2.1 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 remained the same at 10.3 percent. Similarly, annual comparison showed that all interest rates were stable compared with the rates reported in the corresponding period of 2022.

**Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)**

	2022		2023
	Q ¹	Q ⁴	Q ¹
Avg. Lending Rate	12.44	12.44	12.44
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	2.10	2.10
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 the Liberian dollar in circulation at end-March 2023 marginally contracted by 1.2 percent to L\$25,648.14 million, from L\$26,198.43 million reported at end-December 2022. The decline was mainly induced by 3.7 percent decrease in currency outside banks.

Table 3.3: Currency in Circulation & Its Compositions
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)

	2022		2023
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Currency in Banks	3,418.66	2,543.98	2,878.05
Currency outside Banks	19,691.77	23,654.45	22,770.10
Currency in Circulation	23,110.43	26,198.43	25,648.14

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

In reference to the stock of currency in circulation reported for the corresponding quarter of 2022, the Liberian dollar in circulation rose by 11.0 percent (Chart 3.2). At end-March 2023, currency in banks constituted only 11.2 percent of total currency in circulation, which suggests a highly cash-driven economy and the challenging implications for monetary policy implementation. As a share of broad money, currency in circulation fell to 15.5 percent, from the 17.0 percent reported for the quarter ended December 2022.

Chart 3.2: Liberian Dollars in Circulation
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

3.2.7 Money Supply

At end-March 2023, the stock of narrow money supply (M1) expanded by 7.8 percent to L\$115,495.80 million, compared with the L\$106,234.68 million reported at end-December 2022. The expansion in M1 was triggered by 12.3 percent rise in demand deposits. Compared with the corresponding period of 2022, M1 rose by 22.4 percent (Table 3.4 and Chart 3.3).

Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

Monetary Aggregates	2022		2023	Percentage Change	
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	142,274.24	153,724.03	165,033.42	7.36	16.00
<i>1.1 Money Supply M1</i>	94,379.01	106,234.68	115,495.80	8.72	22.37
<i>1.1.1 Currency outside banks</i>	19,691.77	23,654.45	22,770.10	-3.74	15.63
<i>1.1.2 Demand deposit 1/</i>	74,687.24	82,580.22	92,725.71	12.29	24.15
1.2 Quasi Money	47,895.23	47,489.35	49,537.62	4.31	3.43
<i>1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits</i>	42,483.82	46,878.66	49,016.78	4.56	15.38
<i>1.2.2 Other deposits 2/</i>	5,411.42	610.69	520.84	-14.71	-90.38
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	33,458.89	16,440.34	18,291.73	11.26	-45.33
2.1 Central Bank	4,030.42	(3,046.20)	(3,824.07)	25.54	-
2.2 Banking Institutions	29,428.47	19,486.54	22,115.80	13.49	-24.85
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	108,815.35	137,283.69	146,741.69	6.89	34.85
3.1 Domestic Credit	176,481.68	195,591.81	212,386.84	8.59	20.34
<i>3.1.1 Government (net)</i>	93,022.21	102,981.33	112,679.41	9.42	21.13
<i>3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.</i>	83,459.47	92,610.48	99,707.43	7.66	19.47
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	67,666.34	58,308.12	65,645.15	12.58	-2.99
Memorandum Items					
1. Overall Liquidity	142,274.24	153,724.03	165,033.42	7.36	16.00
2. Reserve Money	49,608.16	49,476.73	52,583.23	6.28	6.00
Currency in Circulation	23,110.43	26,198.43	25,648.14	-2.10	10.98

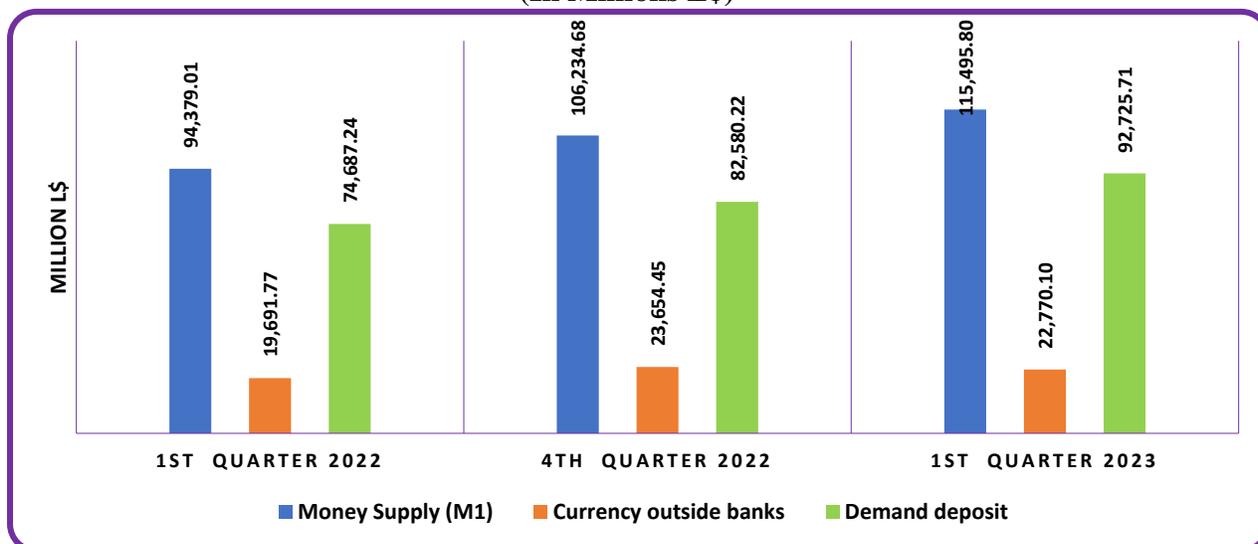
Banks Reserves	21,086.31	22,667.61	26,414.24	16.53	25.27
Other Deposits at CBL	5,411.42	610.69	520.84	-14.71	-90.38

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

1/Excludes manager's cheques from commercial banks

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

Chart 3.3: Narrow Money Supply (M1)
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)



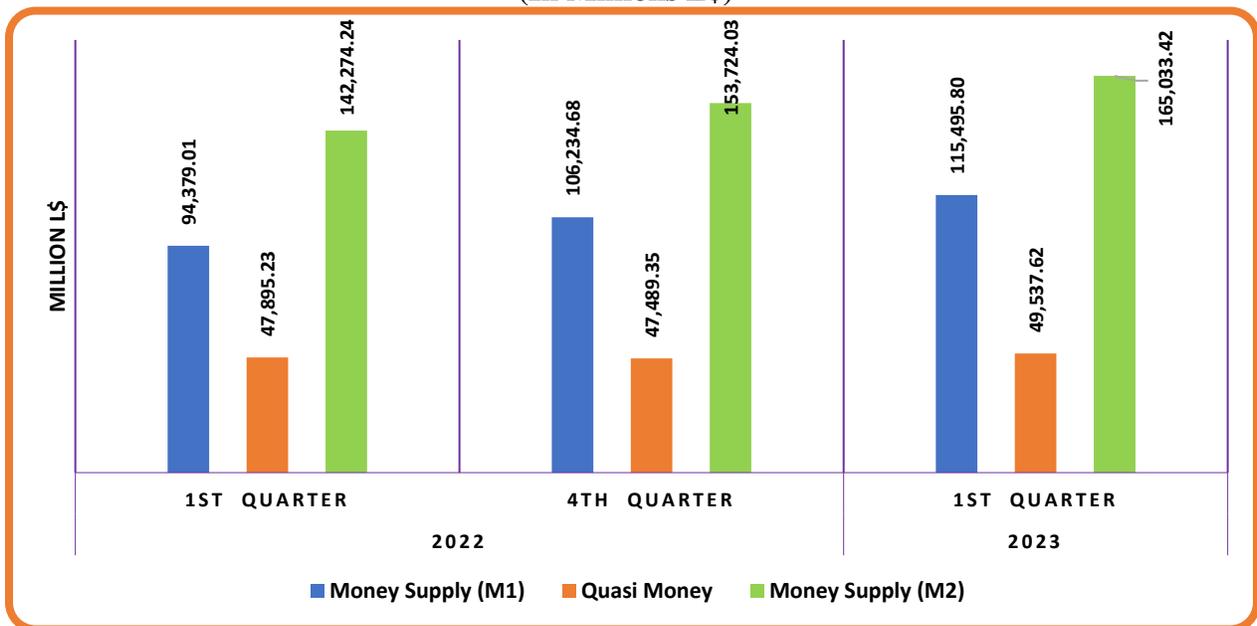
Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.2.8 Broad Money Supply

Development in monetary aggregates reveals that the stock of broad money supply (M2) at end-March 2023 rose by 7.4 percent to L\$165,033.42 million, from L\$153,724.03 million recorded at end-December 2022. From the liability side, the growth in M2 was largely prompted by the increases reported in demand deposits and time & saving deposits. When viewed from the assets side, M2 rose on account of 11.3 percent and 6.9 percent expansions in Net Foreign Assets (NFA) and Net Domestic Assets (NDA), respectively. In comparison with the amount recorded a year ago, broad money rose by 16.0 percent, primarily influenced by the expansion in NDA (see Table 3.4). The rise in NDA at end-March 2023 was mainly prompted by increases in credit to the economy, and other assets Net, while the growth in NFA came on the back of expansions in both the net foreign assets of the Central Bank and those of the commercial banks.

At end-March 2023, the Liberian dollar component of broad money (M2) was 29.2 percent (1.9 percentage points below) compared with the 27.3 percent recorded in the previous quarter. The US dollar component of M2 for the review quarter stood at 70.8 percent (1.9 percentage point above the figure recorded a quarter ago and 1.0 percentage point lower compared with the share reported in the corresponding quarter of 2022), confirming the constraint of USD liquidity management (Chart 3.5).

Chart 3.4: Broad Money Supply (M2)
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Chart 3.5: Broad Money: Share of US and Liberian Dollars
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Percent)

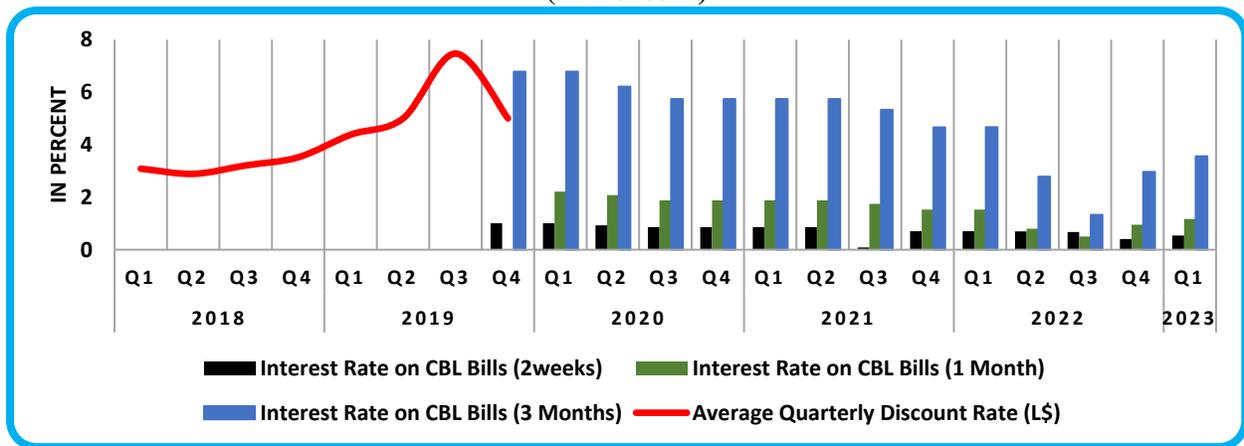


Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.3. Government Securities

During the quarter ended March 2023, the Government of Liberia via the CBL issued US\$8.0 million Treasury Bills (T-bill). There was no issuance of Treasury Bonds (T-bond) neither a redemption of T-Bill or T-Bond during the reporting quarter. As a result, the outstanding T-bills stood at US\$94.02 million and L\$6.52 billion. For the previous quarter ended December 2022, there was no issuance of Treasury Bonds (T-bond). However, L\$0.52 billion and US\$14.36 million in Treasury Bills (T-bill) were issued with no redemption recorded in both categories for said quarter. Also, for the reporting quarter ended March 2023, there was no issuance of Treasury Bonds, thus suggesting an outstanding balance of US\$57.56 million, as at end-March 2023. For the corresponding quarter of 2022, there were issuances of T-bills and T-bonds in the amount of US\$40.0 million and US\$2.50 million, respectively.

**Chart 3.6: Average Quarterly Yields
Government of Liberia 91-Day Treasury-bill Auctions (2018-2023Q1)
(In Percent)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

3.4 Central Bank of Liberia Bills and SDF

The CBL bills offered during the quarter ended March 2023 stood at L\$18.89 billion and was overly subscribed by over 40.0 percent subscriptions. The offered amount represented 25.3 percent growth in comparison with the amount offered during the previous quarter and reflected over a hundred percent increase when matched with the amount offered during the corresponding quarter of 2022. Subscriptions for CBL bills continued to be relatively high, largely induced by the attractive yields.

Table3.5: CBL Bills
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
6-Jan-23	14-Apr-23	8,349.20	0.54
1 MONTH			
6-Jan-23	28-Apr-23	5,803.69	1.17
3 MONTHS			
6-Jan-23	30-Jun-23	4,828.90	3.56
Total Amount Issued		18,981.79	
4th Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Oct-22	13-Jan-23	11,194.46	0.40
1 MONTH			
7-Oct-22	27-Jan-23	3,637.04	0.95
3 MONTHS			
7-Oct-22	31-Mar-23	4,538.18	2.96
Total Amount Issued		19,369.68	
1st Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jan-22	25-Mar-22	0.60	0.70
1 MONTH			
7-Jan-22	22-Apr-22	7,231.86	1.53
3 MONTHS			
7-Jan-22	24-Jun-22	4,186.50	4.67
Total Amount Issued		11,418.96	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2023
(In Millions of L\$)

Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	Commercial Banks Issued	Retail Via Commercial Banks Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)
THREE MONTHS						
6-Jan-23	7-Apr-23	-	400.00	6.83	406.83	3.56
13-Jan-23	14-Apr-23	-	682.50	5.93	688.43	3.56
20-Jan-23	21-Apr-23	-	450.00	29.62	479.62	3.56
27-Jan-23	28-Apr-23	-	200.00	20.36	220.36	3.56
3-Feb-23	5-May-23	-	325.00	5.83	330.83	3.56
10-Feb-23	12-May-23	-	199.00	7.60	206.60	3.56
17-Feb-23	19-May-23	-	450.00	60.99	510.99	3.56
24-Feb-23	26-May-23	-	200.00	51.57	251.57	3.56
3-Mar-23	2-Jun-23	-	425.00	13.72	438.72	3.56
10-Mar-23	9-Jun-23	-	300.00	3.83	303.83	3.56
17-Mar-23	16-Jun-23	-	530.00	17.17	547.17	3.56
24-Mar-23	23-Jun-23	-	100.00	71.75	171.75	3.56
31-Mar-23	30-Jun-23	-	270.00	2.20	272.20	3.56
TOTAL		-	4,531.50	297.40	4,828.90	3.56
ONE MONTHS						
6-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	-	406.00	5.83	411.83	1.17
13-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	-	505.00	7.64	512.64	1.17
20-Jan-23	17-Feb-23	-	575.00	9.89	584.89	1.17
27-Jan-23	24-Feb-23	-	300.00	9.69	309.69	1.17
3-Feb-23	3-Mar-23	-	320.00	11.78	331.78	1.17
10-Feb-23	10-Mar-23	-	505.50	1.75	507.25	1.17
17-Feb-23	17-Mar-23	-	738.60	8.78	747.38	1.17
24-Feb-23	24-Mar-23	-	200.00	1.32	201.32	1.17

3-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	-	416.00	9.01	425.01	1.17
10-Mar-23	7-Apr-23	-	400.00	12.13	412.13	1.17
17-Mar-23	14-Apr-23	-	615.00	2.60	617.60	1.17
24-Mar-23	21-Apr-23	-	400.00	14.37	414.37	1.17
31-Mar-23	28-Apr-23	-	313.34	14.46	327.80	1.17
TOTAL		-	5,694.44	109.25	5,803.69	1.17
TWO WEEKS						
6-Jan-23	20-Jan-23	1,621.70	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	0.54
13-Jan-23	27-Jan-23	666.97	900.00	-	900.00	0.54
20-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	511.80	600.00	-	600.00	0.54
27-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	102.58	575.00	-	575.00	0.54
3-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	454.35	500.00	-	500.00	0.54
10-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	909.38	200.00	-	200.00	0.54
17-Feb-23	3-Mar-23	1,280.42	300.00	-	300.00	0.54
24-Feb-23	10-Mar-23	531.75	300.00	-	300.00	0.54
3-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	515.99	575.00	-	575.00	0.54
10-Mar-23	24-Mar-23	334.20	800.00	-	800.00	0.54
17-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	778.99	700.00	-	700.00	0.54
24-Mar-23	7-Apr-23	106.52	850.00	-	850.00	0.54
31-Mar-23	14-Apr-23	-	849.20	-	849.20	0.54
TOTAL		7,814.66	8,349.20	-	8,349.20	0.54
TOTAL AMOUNT ISSUED					18,981.79	

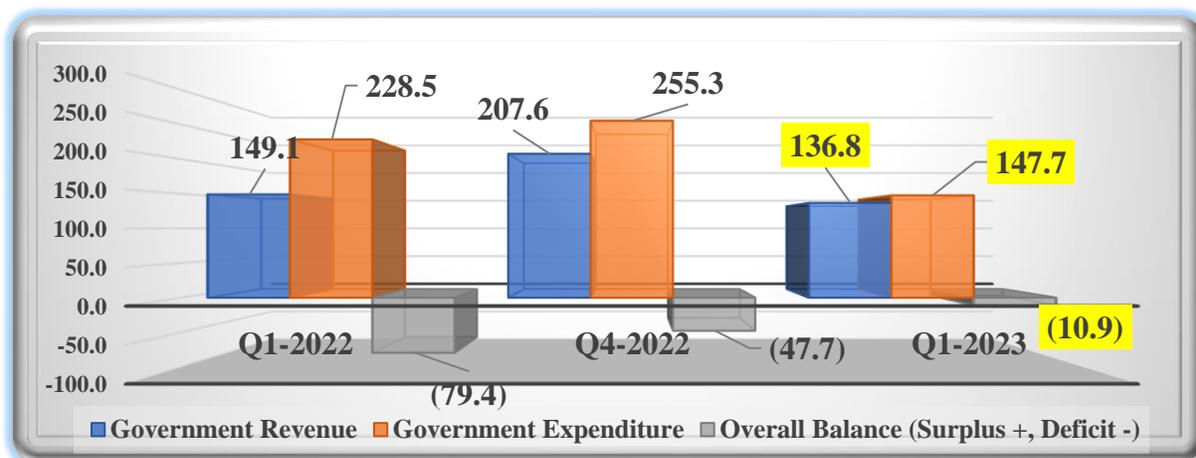
Source: Central Bank of Liberia

IV. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 GOL Fiscal Operations

From preliminary statistics, the Government of Liberia (GOL) fiscal operations recorded an improvement in the deficit in the Overall Balance (OB) compared to the fourth quarter of 2022 to 0.3 percent of GDP from 1.2 percent of GDP in the fourth quarter. This performance was mainly attributed to a reduction in total government expenditure, offsetting the decrease in total government revenue. Total government revenue and expenditure amounted to US\$136.8 million (3.2 percent of GDP) and US\$147.7 million (3.4 percent of GDP), respectively.

Chart 4.1: Graphical Outlook of GOL's Fiscal Operations
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)



Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

4.2 Government Revenue

During the first quarter of 2023, the fiscal operation was constrained by reduced revenue mobilization compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Consequently, total revenue decreased by 34.1 percent, to US\$136.8 million (3.2 percent of GDP) compared to the previous quarter. The reduction in total revenue was mainly attributed to a significant contraction in other revenues (including grants). Despite the reduction in total revenue, both tax and non-tax revenues increased during the quarter. Tax revenue expanded by 4.7 percent to US\$111.6 million (2.6 percent of GDP) from US\$106.5 million (2.7 percent of GDP). In addition, non-tax revenue significantly expanded by 49.4 percent to US\$25.2 million (0.6 percent of GDP) relative to the US\$16.9 million (0.4

percent of GDP) that was generated in the previous quarter. The increase in non-tax revenue was due to a substantial rise in property income.

Total revenue also contracted, by 8.3 percent relative to the corresponding period a year ago. The year-on-year contraction was on account of declines in tax revenue and other revenues (inclusive of grants).

Table 4.1: Government Revenue
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -23	Q ⁴ -22	Q ¹ -23	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Government Revenue	149.09	207.60	136.77	(34.12)	(8.26)
Tax Revenue	124.11	106.53	111.56	4.72	(10.11)
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	58.73	46.75	47.22	1.01	(19.60)
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade(customs)	50.55	46.17	42.85	(7.18)	(15.23)
Non-tax Revenue	23.84	16.87	25.20	49.42	5.73
o/w Property Income	18.99	12.30	19.83	61.28	4.44
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	4.85	4.57	5.37	17.51	10.78
Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings, etc.)	1.14	84.20	0.00	(100.00)	(100.00)
Memorandum Items					
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	3.73	5.20	3.15	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.11	2.67	2.57	-	-
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	0.60	0.42	0.58	-	-
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	0.03	2.11	0.00	-	-
<i>GDP (In Millions of USD)</i>	3,992.07	3,992.07	4345.40	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

4.3 Government Expenditure

According to provisional statistics, the GOL fiscal operations in the first quarter of 2023 also recorded a reduction in total government expenditure relative to the preceding quarter. Consequently, total expenditure contracted by 42.2 percent to US\$147.7 million (2.7 percent of GDP), compared to the preceding quarter. The contraction in total expenditure was occasioned by a reduction in current expenditure and payments on loans, interest & other charges. Current expenditure contracted by 45.6 percent, amounting to US\$118.4 million (2.7 percent of GDP),

largely on account of decreases in both goods and services spending and employees' compensation. Payments on loans, interest & other charges also contracted, by 46.7 percent to US\$15.6 million (0.4 percent of GDP). However, capital expenditure significantly expanded by 64.1 percent to US\$13.7 million (0.3 percent of GDP).

Further analysis reveals that government expenditure also contracted, by 35.4 percent, on account of decreases in current expenditure and payments on loans, interest, and other charges.

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Expenditure	228.50	255.33	147.66	(42.17)	(35.38)
Current Expenditure	189.82	217.75	118.41	(45.62)	(37.62)
o/w Employee Compensation	66.92	76.67	40.36	(47.36)	(39.69)
o/w Goods & Services	93.99	96.86	52.24	(46.07)	(44.42)
Capital Expenditure	8.24	8.33	13.67	64.14	65.83
Payments Loan, Interest & Other Charges	30.44	29.26	15.58	(46.74)	(48.80)
Memorandum Items					
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	5.72	6.40	3.40	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	4.75	5.45	2.73	-	-
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.21	0.21	0.31	-	-
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.76	0.73	0.36	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,992.07	3,992.07	4,345.40	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

NB: the expenditure data is cash expenditure.

4.4 Public Debt

At end-March 2023, a review of Liberia's debt portfolio revealed that the public debt modestly increased by 0.2 percent, amounting to 46.5 percent of GDP, far below the ECOWAS debt convergence threshold of 70.0 percent of GDP. The stock of public debt for the quarter totaled US\$2,022.0 million relative to the US\$2,018.7 million reported for the fourth quarter of 2022. The modest increase in the public debt stock was due to slight increases in both external and domestic debts. Domestic debt totaled US\$885.5 million, constituting 20.4 percent of GDP, while external

debt amounted to US\$1,136.5 million, constituting 26.2 percent of GDP. Both domestic and external debts expanded by 0.2 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively.

In terms of year-on-year comparison, the public debt stock increased by 11.8 percent, on account of 7.0 percent growth in external debt and 18.7 percent increase in domestic debt.

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Debt Stock	1,808.04	2,018.69	2,021.96	0.16	11.83
External	1,061.91	1,134.27	1,136.47	0.19	7.02
o/w Multilateral	948.67	1022.56	1024.33	0.17	7.98
o/w Bilateral	113.24	111.72	112.14	0.38	(0.97)
Domestic	746.13	884.41	885.49	0.12	18.68
o/w Financial Institutions	670.13	829.96	827.93	(0.24)	23.55
o/w CBL	525.48	605.48	605.48	0.00	15.22
o/w Commercial Banks	144.65	224.48	222.45	(0.91)	53.78
o/w Other Debts	76.00	54.45	57.55	5.70	(24.27)
Memorandum Items					
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	45.29	50.57	46.53	-	-
External (% of GDP)	26.60	28.15	26.15	-	-
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	18.69	20.38	20.38	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,992.07	3,992.07	4,345.40	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

V. EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 Overview

External sector developments in quarter one of 2023 were largely challenged, despite the current account deficit narrowing by 60.9 percent to 1.5 percent of GDP compared to a higher deficit recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022. The improvement in the deficit was primarily due to decreased trade deficit coupled with growth in secondary income inflows. Net inflows from the financial account grew to 3.1 percent of GDP in quarter one of 2023 against the net inflows recorded in the preceding quarter on account of increases in direct and other investment inflows. However, the capital account balance declined by 18.0 percent to 1.5 percent of GDP during the quarter under review relative to the previous quarter, mainly driven by a reduction in capital transfers. Accordingly, the overall Balance of Payments (BoP) recorded a deficit of US\$0.3 percent of GDP compared to the surplus reported in quarter four of 2022.

Gross International Reserves (GIR) at end-March 2023 declined by 3.1 percent to US\$581.7 million against the GIR reported at end-December 2022, mainly reflecting a decrease in foreign liquid assets including Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) holdings & reserves. However, the months of import cover rose to 3.3 months due to a decline in payments for imports and it remained above the ECOWAS regional convergence benchmark by 0.3 month.

5.2 Current Account (CA)

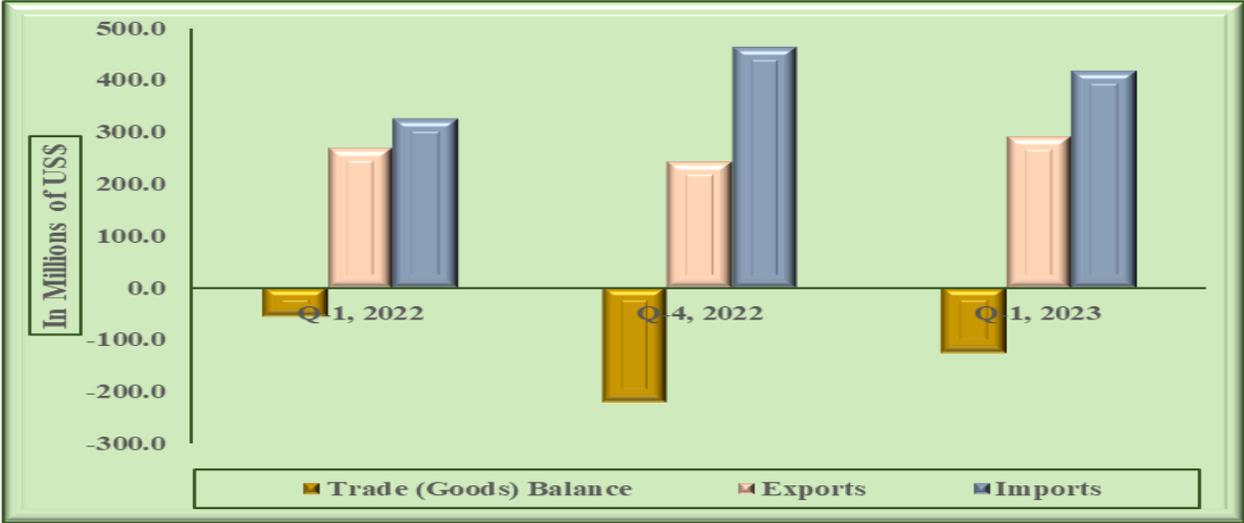
The current account deficit narrowed by 60.9 percent to US\$67.0 million (1.5 percent of GDP) in quarter one of 2023, from US\$171.5 million (4.3 percent of GDP) in the preceding quarter. This development was largely driven by a decline in the trade balance deficit and an increase in secondary income (net) inflows.

5.2.1 Goods Account (net)

The deficit in the merchandise trade balance was reduced by 42.5 percent to US\$127.4 million (2.9 percent of GDP) during the review quarter, from US\$221.5 million (5.5 percent of GDP) in quarter four of 2022. The decline in the trade deficit was mainly explained by growth in export receipts coupled with a reduction in payments for imports. Total merchandise trade (with imports on fob basis) increased by 0.2 percent to US\$704.7 million in quarter one of 2023, from the

US\$703.3 million reported in the previous quarter mainly on account of a rise in export receipts. Conversely, total merchandise trade (with imports on a cif basis) also fell by 1.3 percent to US\$746.6 million against the US\$756.4 million in the preceding quarter due to a decline in import payments.

**Chart 5.1: Merchandise Trade Balance
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.2.2 Exports

Export earnings grew by 19.8 percent to US\$288.7 million (6.6 percent of GDP) during the review quarter, from the US\$240.9 million (6.0 percent of GDP) reported in quarter four of 2022, led mainly by increases in receipts from key export commodities, including gold, iron ore, diamond, and the ‘other exports’ category. Receipts from gold, and iron ore increased by 14.3 percent and 26.1 percent to US\$155.1 million and US\$87.7 million in quarter one of 2023, from the US\$135.7 million and US\$69.5 million, respectively, reported in the preceding quarter. Similarly, receipts from diamond, the ‘other exports’ category, and cocoa bean grew to US\$6.1 million, US\$16.4 million, and US\$1.2 million, from US\$4.3 million, US\$5.5 million, and US\$0.1 million, respectively, recorded in the previous quarter. However, export proceeds from rubber, palm oil, and round logs declined to US\$18.7 million, US\$3.4 million, and US\$0.1 million during the quarter under review, from the US\$21.0 million, US\$4.8 million, and US\$0.1 million reported in quarter four of 2022.

5.2.3 Imports (FOB & CIF)

Payments for imports on Freight on Board (FOB) basis plummeted by 10.0 percent to US\$416.0 million (9.6 percent of GDP) in quarter one of 2023, from the US\$462.4 million (11.6 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. The decline was explained by contractions in payments for food & live animals, including vegetable oil (by 35.9 percent to US\$110.3 million), chemicals & related products (by 22.2 percent to US\$20.7 million), and the 'other imports' category (by 28.2 percent to US\$12.1 million). However, payments for minerals, fuel, & lubricants, and machinery & transport equipment increased by 15.7 percent and 16.2 percent to US\$142.6 million and US\$99.8 million, respectively, during the quarter under review.

On Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) basis, payments for imports also declined during the quarter by 11.2 percent to US\$457.7 million (10.5 percent of GDP), from the US\$515.5 million (12.9 percent of GDP) recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022.

5.2.4 Services Account (net)

The deficit in the services account (net) narrowed by 1.9 percent to US\$72.4 million (1.7 percent of GDP) in quarter one of 2023 relative to the US\$73.7 million (1.8 percent of GDP) recorded in the previous quarter. The improvement was occasioned by decreases in payments for transport (largely freight), travel, and insurance & pension-related services, while payments for maintenance & repair, government goods, and other business-related services increased.

5.2.4.1 Primary Income (net)

Similarly, the primary income balance improved to a deficit of US\$26.6 million (0.6 percent of GDP), from the US\$28.6 million (0.7 percent of GDP) deficit recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022. The improvement was largely due to a decline in investment payments attributed to investment income.

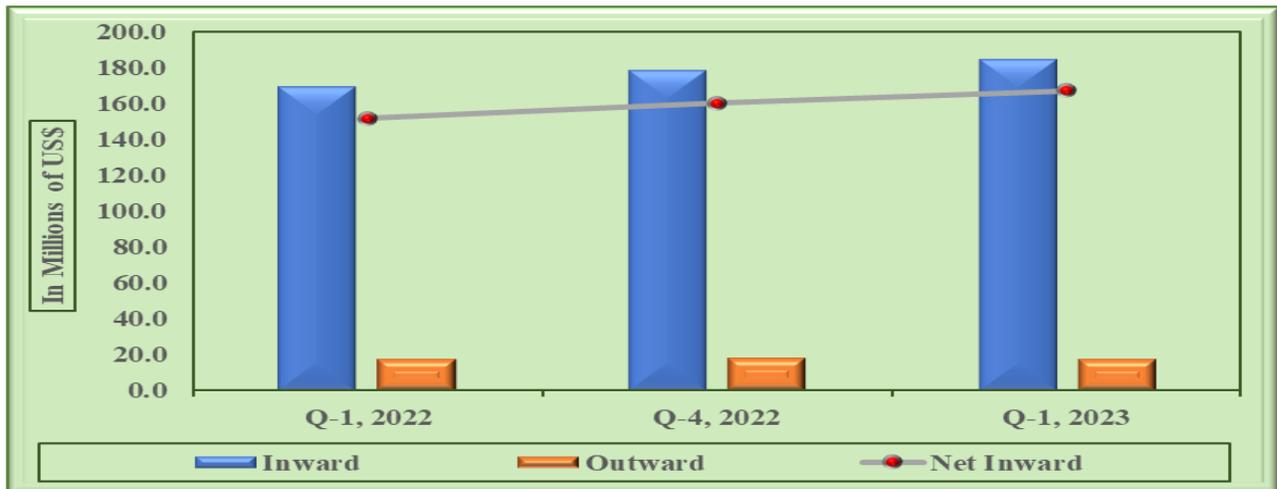
5.2.4.2 Secondary Income (net)

Net inflows from the secondary income account grew by 4.5 percent to US\$159.3 million (3.7 percent of GDP) during the review period, from US\$152.4 million (3.8 percent of GDP) in 2021, mainly on account of an increase in personal transfers.

5.2.4.3 Personal Remittances

Net personal remittances (including remittances terminated through mobile wallets) increased by 5.6 percent to US\$169.0 million (3.9 percent of GDP) in quarter one of 2023, from US\$160.1 million (4.0 percent of GDP) recorded in the preceding quarter. This development was primarily explained by 3.4 percent rise in inward personal remittances coupled with 15.5 percent decline in outward personal remittances during the period. The rise in net personal remittances during the review period was primarily occasioned by the increase in personal assistance to Liberian residents from relatives and friends living abroad.

**Chart 5.2: Net Personal Inward Remittances
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.3 Capital Account (KA)

The estimated surplus in the capital account balance decreased to US\$64.9 million (1.5 percent of GDP) in the first quarter of 2023, from US\$70.1 million (2.0 percent of GDP) in the previous quarter, mainly reflecting a reduction in investment grants from development partners.

5.4 Financial Account (FA)

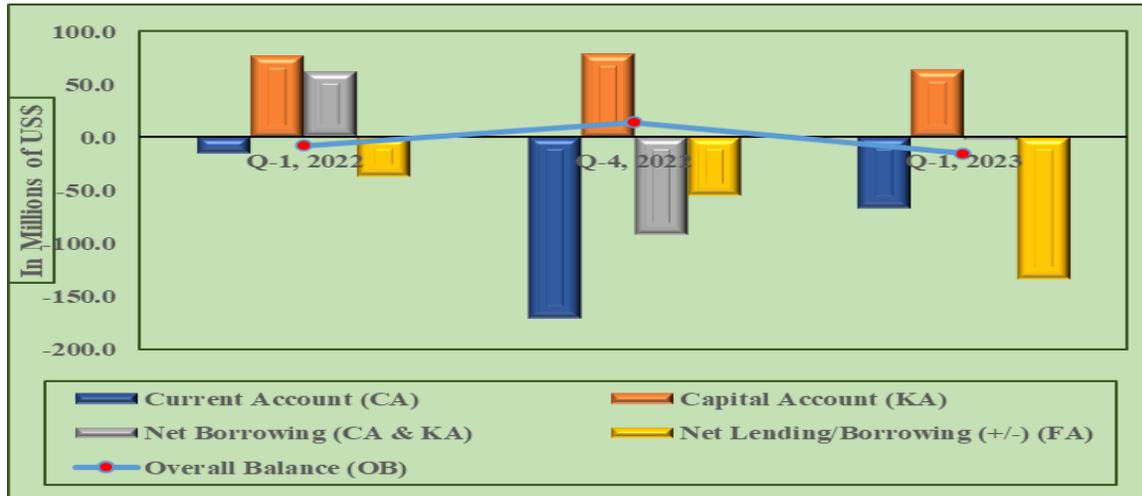
From provisional statistics, the net incurrence of liabilities in the financial account grew by over one hundred percent to US\$134.6 million (3.1 percent of GDP), from US\$55.6 million (1.4 percent of GDP) in quarter four of 2022. This development was driven by increases in inflows from both direct and other investment inflows.

Table 5.1: Balance of Payments Statistics
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$; except otherwise indicated)

Balance of Payments (BoP) Statement	2022		2023	2022		2023
	Q-1	Q-4	Q-1	Q-1, % of GDP	Q-4, % of GDP	Q-1, % of GDP
Current Account (CA)	-15.73	-171.52	-67.04	-0.4	-4.3	-1.5
Credit	446.75	429.73	484.82	11.2	10.8	11.2
Debit	462.48	601.25	551.85	11.6	15.1	12.7
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit	138.70	-295.27	199.71	-3.5	-7.4	-4.6
Debit	270.76	244.17	292.14	6.8	6.1	6.7
	409.46	539.44	491.86	10.3	13.5	11.3
Goods (Trade Balance)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit (Exports)	-56.90	-221.54	127.35	-1.4	-5.5	-2.9
<i>Iron Ore</i>	<i>71.27</i>	<i>69.54</i>	<i>87.72</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>2.0</i>
<i>Rubber</i>	<i>22.13</i>	<i>20.97</i>	<i>18.72</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.4</i>
<i>Minerals</i>	<i>156.92</i>	<i>139.93</i>	<i>161.18</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>3.7</i>
<i>Diamond</i>	<i>8.03</i>	<i>4.26</i>	<i>6.13</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>
<i>Gold</i>	<i>148.89</i>	<i>135.68</i>	<i>155.05</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>3.6</i>
<i>Cocoa Beans</i>	<i>2.03</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>1.18</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
<i>Raw Palm Oil</i>	<i>5.08</i>	<i>4.81</i>	<i>3.41</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>
<i>Round Logs</i>	<i>0.44</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>0.06</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
<i>Other Exports</i>	<i>9.72</i>	<i>5.49</i>	<i>16.42</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Debit (Imports)	324.49	462.43	416.02	8.1	11.6	9.6
<i>Food and Live Animals</i>	<i>67.69</i>	<i>172.12</i>	<i>110.25</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>2.5</i>
<i>Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants</i>	<i>109.56</i>	<i>123.29</i>	<i>142.62</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>3.3</i>
<i>Chemicals & Related Products</i>	<i>28.54</i>	<i>26.65</i>	<i>20.73</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<i>Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by</i>						
<i>Materials</i>	<i>24.17</i>	<i>37.60</i>	<i>30.46</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>
<i>Machinery & Transport Equipment</i>	<i>79.10</i>	<i>85.86</i>	<i>99.82</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>2.3</i>
<i>Other Imports</i>	<i>15.43</i>	<i>16.91</i>	<i>12.14</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.3</i>
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit	205.78	-357.21	282.39	-5.2	-8.9	-6.5
Debit	118.71	105.21	133.63	3.0	2.6	3.1
Of which Re-exports (credit)	324.49	462.43	416.02	8.1	11.6	9.6
Nonmonetary gold	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit	148.89	135.68	155.05	3.7	3.4	3.6
Debit	148.89	135.68	155.05	3.7	3.4	3.6
Debit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	-81.80	-73.73	-72.36	-2.0	-1.8	-1.7
Credit	3.17	3.28	3.47	0.1	0.1	0.1
Debit	84.97	77.01	75.83	2.1	1.9	1.7
Primary Income (net)	-24.24	-28.63	-26.60	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6

Credit	5.39	4.88	5.24	0.1	0.1	0.1
Debit	29.63	33.50	31.84	0.7	0.8	0.7
Secondary Income (net)	147.21	152.38	159.27	3.7	3.8	3.7
Credit	170.60	180.68	187.43	4.3	4.5	4.3
Debit	23.38	28.30	28.16	0.6	0.7	0.6
<i>O/W Workers' remittances</i>	151.50	160.10	169.02	3.8	4.0	3.9
<i>Credit</i>	169.01	178.27	184.39	4.2	4.5	4.2
<i>Debit</i>	17.51	18.18	15.36	0.4	0.5	0.4
Capital Account (KA)	77.91	79.09	64.88	2.0	2.0	1.5
Credit	77.91	79.09	64.88	2.0	2.0	1.5
Debit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	62.18	-92.43	-2.15	1.6	-2.3	0.0
Financial Account (FA)						
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (FA) (-) (FA)	-37.36	-55.60	134.60	-0.9	-1.4	-3.1
Direct Investment (net)	-2.11	20.42	-13.81	-0.1	0.5	-0.3
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	2.11	-20.42	13.81	0.1	-0.5	0.3
Other Investment (net)	-35.25	-76.01	120.79	-0.9	-1.9	-2.8
Net acquisition of financial assets	-16.60	-52.19	-37.31	-0.4	-1.3	-0.9
Net incurrence of liabilities	18.65	23.82	83.48	0.5	0.6	1.9
Net Errors & Omissions	-91.7	22.4	-117.4	-2.3	0.6	-2.7
Overall Balance (OB)	-7.8	14.4	-15.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.3
Financing	7.8	-14.4	15.1	0.2	-0.4	0.3
<i>Changes in Reserve Assets (-increase; +decrease)</i>	7.8	-14.4	15.1	0.2	-0.4	0.3
Memorandum Items						
<i>Gross International Reserves</i>	659.5	600.1	581.7	16.5	15.0	13.4
<i>Import cover</i>	4.4	3.0	3.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Imports (cif)</i>	366.9	515.5	457.7	9.2	12.9	10.5
<i>Service Payments</i>	85.0	77.0	75.8	2.1	1.9	1.7
<i>Total Imports of Goods/Services</i>	451.9	592.5	533.5	11.3	14.8	12.3
<i>Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants</i>	-16.9	-172.8	-68.4	-0.4	-4.3	-1.6
<i>End-of-Period</i>	152.72	154.49	162.28	-	-	-
<i>Period Average</i>	152.38	153.96	158.10	-	-	-
<i>Annual Nominal GDP market prices</i>	3992.1	4345.4	4345.4	100.0	108.8	100.0

**Chart 5.3: Main Balances of the BoP
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.4.1 Direct Investment

Direct investment (net) inflows amounted to US\$13.8 million (0.3 percent of GDP) in quarter one of 2023, compared to the US\$20.4 million (0.5 percent of GDP) net outflows reported in the preceding quarter, indicating an increase in investment liabilities (foreign direct investment inflows) during the review period.

5.4.2 Other Investment (net)

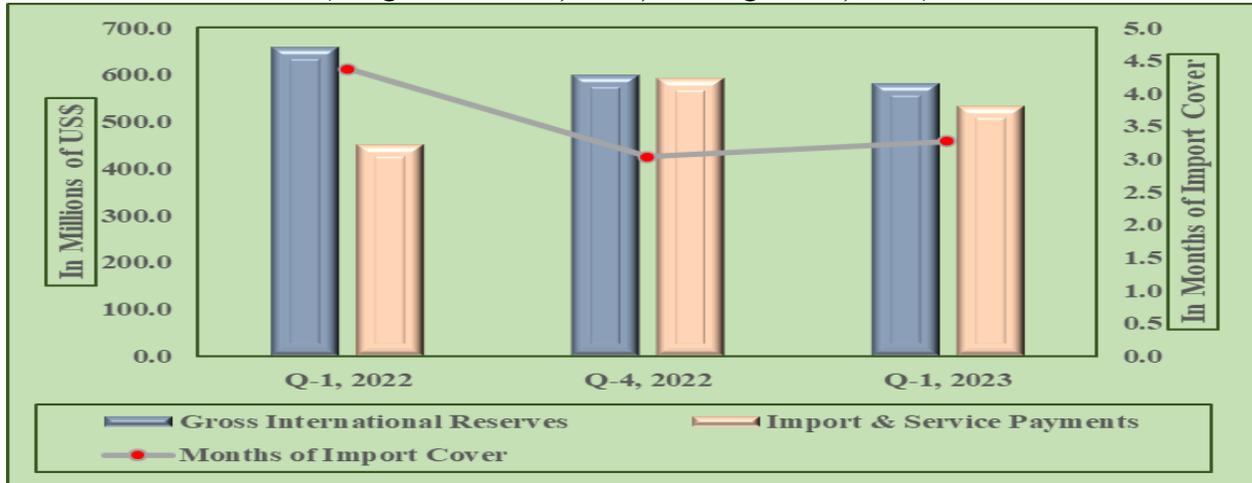
Other investment (net) inflows rose by 58.9 percent to US\$120.8 million (2.8 percent of GDP), from US\$76.0 million (1.9 percent of GDP) in the previous quarter, driven by an increase in inflows from loans, and trade credit & advances. Net inflows from loans, and trade credit & advances grew to US\$77.6 million and US\$8.1 million, respectively, while currency & deposits (net) declined to US\$35.1 million during the quarter under review.

5.5 Gross International Reserves (GIR)

Liberia's GIR fell by 3.1 percent to US\$581.7 million (13.4 percent of GDP) at end-March 2023, from US\$600.1 million (15.0 percent of GDP) at end-December 2022. This development was mainly driven by a reduction in foreign liquid assets including SDRs holdings & reserves. Conversely, the months of import cover relative to the GIR rose to 3.3 months, from the 3.1 months reported in quarter four of 2022, occasioned by a decline in import payments. Additionally, the

recorded months of import cover remained above the 3.0 months ECOWAS macroeconomic convergence benchmark by 0.3 month.

**Chart 5.4: Gross International Reserves, Imports & Months of Import Cover
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**



Source: Central Bank of Liberia

5.6 Exchange Rate Developments

The variation in the average exchange rate remained within the tolerable bound of the ECOWAS convergence target (± 10.0 percent). Compared with the rates recorded in the previous quarter, the period average exchange rate revealed that the Liberian dollar (L\$) depreciated against the United States dollar by 2.7 percent to L\$158.10/US\$1.00 at end-March 2023, from L\$153.96/US\$1.00 recorded in quarter four 2022, while the end-of-period exchange rate also showed depreciation of the Liberian dollar by negative 5.0 percent to L\$162.28/US\$1.00, from L\$154.49/US\$1.00 reported a quarter ago. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2022, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 3.8 percent on average, from L\$152.38/US\$1.00, and by 6.3 percent, from L\$152.72/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 increase in demand for forex to service import payments.

**Table 5.2: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(Value In L\$)**

	2022		2023	% Change: Depreciation (+) & Appreciation (-)	
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Market Rate End of Period	152.72	154.49	162.28	5.04	6.26
Market Rate Period Average	152.38	153.96	158.1	2.69	3.75
<i>Buying</i>	151.5	153.08	157.08	2.61	3.68
<i>Selling</i>	153.26	154.83	159.12	2.77	3.82

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		
May	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98		
June	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09		
July	170.83	172.24	152.28	154.01		
August	170.98	172.43	152.77	154.46		
September	170.63	172.14	153.07	154.78		
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		
Q3	170.81	172.27	152.70	154.42		
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

	Estimates	Projections		Difference from January 2023 Update	
		2022	2023	2024	2023
World Output	3.4	2.8	3	-0.1	-0.1
Advanced Economies	2.7	1.3	1.4	0.1	0
United States	2.1	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.1
Euro Area	3.5	0.8	1.4	0.1	-0.2
Germany	1.8	-0.1	1.1	-0.2	-0.3
France	2.6	0.7	1.3	0	-0.3
Italy	3.7	0.7	0.8	0.1	-0.1
Spain	5.5	1.5	2	0.4	-0.4
Japan	1.1	1.3	1	-0.5	0.1
United Kingdom	4	-0.3	1	0.3	0.1
Canada	3.4	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Advanced Economies	2.6	1.8	2.2	-0.2	-0.2
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4	3.9	4.2	-0.1	0
Emerging and Developing Asia	4.4	5.3	5.1	0	0
China	3	5.2	4.5	0	0
India	6.8	5.9	6.3	-0.2	-0.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	4	1.6	2.2	-0.2	0.1
Brazil	2.9	0.9	1.5	-0.3	0
Middle East and Central Asia	5.3	2.9	3.5	-0.3	-0.2
Saudi Arabia	8.7	3.1	3.1	0.5	-0.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.9	3.6	4.2	-0.2	0.1
Nigeria	3.3	3.2	3	0	0.1
South Africa	2	0.1	1.8	-1.1	0.5
World Consumer Prices	8.7	7	4.9	0.4	0.6
Advanced Economies	7.3	4.7	2.6	0.1	0
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	9.8	8.6	6.5	0.5	1

Source: "International Monetary Fund. April 2023. World Economic Outlook: A Rocky Recovery. Washington, DC,"

**Table 2.1: Real Sector Outlook
(2020 - 2024)**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real GDP	-3.00	5.00	4.80	4.30	5.40
Agriculture & fisheries	6.40	4.00	1.20	3.30	6.00
Forestry	4.60	1.00	1.60	1.20	1.20
Mining & panning	2.00	17.60	14.00	4.60	6.10
Manufacturing	0.00	4.70	2.20	4.90	6.00
Services	-12.70	1.90	4.80	5.70	5.30

Sources: IMF & Liberian Authorities

**Key Agricultural Product
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022 & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q1-2022	Q4-2022	Q1-2023
Rubber	Mt	16,309	12,210	12,791
Cocoa	Mt	1,538	1,214	500
Round Logs	M3	153,673	158,946.00	161,701
Sawn Timber	Pcs	49,720	50,483	45,477
Crude Palm Oil (CPO)	Mt	7,885	3,629	5,288

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

**Table 2.3: Key Industrial Output
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022 & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q1-2022	Q4-2022	Q1-2023
Gold	Ounces	99,880	99,194	103,325
Diamond	Carat	25,450	8,502	29,582
Iron Ore	Mt.	1,350,000	1,300,000	1,350,000
Cement	Mt.	152,906	85,600	169,947
Spirits	Litre	50,546	40,675	53,943
Beer	Litre	1,944,751	1,802,001	1,903,833
Stout	Litre	1,923,269	1,817,149	1,946,253
Malta	Litre	208,209	189,256	250,993
Soft Drink	Litre	265,946	244,039	286,308
Oil Paint	Gal.	33,263	46,353	32,917
Water Paint	Gal.	24,678	34,069	23,344
Varnish	Gal.	4,454	5,879	5,437
Wall Putty	Gal.	4,465	4,910	3,302
Manoline Hair Grease	Kg.	3,259	3,688	5,729

Thinner	Gal.	4,202	4,421	4,181
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	37,081	48,633	90,883
Soap	Kg.	74,879	83,407	127,285
Chlorox	Litre	218,584	271,680	321,040
Candle	Kg.	13,188	10,920	12,033
Mattresses	Pcs.	32,598	34,685	34,570
Finished Water	Gal.	238,968,182	400,468,512	251,640,417
Mineral Water	Gal.	136,785	70,476	80,912
Electricity	kW	44,896,141	96,609,349	101,307,600

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

**Table 2.4: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Commodity	Unit	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023
Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)	Gal.	10,970,228	6,542,488	8,963,609
Diesel (AGO)	Gal.	9,740,401	5,150,159	6,763,131
Total	Gal.	20,710,629	11,692,647	15,726,739

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

**Table 2.5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)**

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight (SDWT)	Imports	Exports
Q1-2023	87	2,953,724	556,614	1,124,300
Q4-2022	101	2,978,455	4,428,365	1,330,736
Q1-2022	108	3,449,697	502,619	1,505,095

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

**Table 2.6: Electric Power Developments
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Kilowatts)**

Quarter	Unit	Service	Generation
Q1-2023	KW	Electricity	78,164,322
Q4-2022	KW	Electricity	84,116,470
Q1-2022	KW	Electricity	96,609,349

Source: Liberia Electricity Corporation

Table 2.7: Inflation by Sub-group Year-on-Year Changes in CPI (2021-2023)

Food	Weights	Inflation Rates			
		2021Q ⁴	2022Q ¹	2022Q ⁴	2023Q ¹
Bread and cereals	10.06	-15.8	-4.78	3.44	16.62
Milk, cheese, and eggs	0.68	-6.29	-4.17	3.57	14.26
Meat	4.82	-5.96	-9.22	-0.4	0.54
Non-Food					
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics	0.65	-7.19	-1.61	6.86	6.03
Clothing and footwear	5.21	-5.18	-3.99	6.65	13.23
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other fuels	7.22	1.52	-0.46	16.62	20.02
Furnishing, H/Hold Equip., Routine Maintenance of House	5.21	-2.38	-4.95	10.11	12.65
Health	9.28	12.95	14.55	4.53	7.69
Transport	7.53	-2.38	7.84	53.1	43.77
Communication	3.86	3.45	5.2	-1.43	-0.23
Recreation and Culture	1.03	4.92	1.34	2.93	9.17
Education	4.83	23.19	23.19	6.08	6.08
Restaurant and Hotels	17.12	26.64	31.2	10.52	5.63
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.98	-3.75	-2.66	22.55	24.29

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 2.8: Headline and Quarterly changes in CPI (%)

Periods	Headline Inflation (Y-on-Y changes)			Monthly Changes in HCPI (%)		
	Combined	Food	Non-Food	Combined	Food	Non-Food
2020						
January	23.56	22.18	24.33	0.9	2.7	0
February	25.76	25.26	26.02	-1.1	0.3	-1.9
March	21.72	30.48	17.31	1.9	4.6	0.4
April	22.51	30.24	18.33	0.9	2.7	0
May	18.36	28.24	13.17	2	2	2
June	13.14	21.08	8.96	2	0.7	2.74
July	17.06	17.83	16.66	0	4.1	-2.2
August	14.77	16.25	13.99	1.3	3.2	0.3
September	14.03	14.09	14	0.4	-0.5	0.85
October	13.85	14.85	13.33	0.3	-0.4	0.61
November	10.39	13.96	8.5	-4.1	-0.44	-6.03
December	13.12	15.74	11.72	-0.4	-0.6	-0.22
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	0.02
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	0.06	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	0.9	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

Table 2.9: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation (1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023) (December, 2005=100)

FUNCTIONS	WEIGHTS	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	Q1-2022	22-Oct	22-Nov	22-Dec	Q4-2022	23-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	Q1-2023
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	34.08	-6.79	-1.57	2.58	-1.93	3.08	-0.52	-2.47	0.03	-1.88	-3.27	-5.38	-3.51
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, AND NARCOTICS	0.65	-1.29	-0.47	-3.06	-1.61	5.48	7.01	8.1	6.86	5.97	5.16	6.96	6.03
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.21	-0.48	-0.71	10.79	-3.99	0.37	8.99	10.58	6.65	6.81	10.89	21.98	13.23
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND OTHER FUELS	7.22	0.06	-0.53	-0.91	-0.46	14.72	17.69	17.44	16.62	19.26	19.79	21.01	20.02
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD, EQUIPMENT, AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.21	-3.47	-4.8	-6.58	-4.95	2.68	12.83	14.83	10.11	13.32	10.75	13.88	12.65
HEALTH	9.28	18.73	12.44	12.49	14.55	0.56	5.98	7.06	4.53	5.07	8.04	9.97	7.69
TRANSPORT	7.53	0.53	0.2	22.77	7.83	46.28	56.45	56.56	53.1	54.39	54.04	22.89	43.77
COMMUNICATION	3.86	5.02	5.45	5.14	5.2	-6.7	0.76	1.64	-1.43	-1.05	-1.15	1.52	-0.23
RECREATION AND CULTURE	1.03	2.11	1.28	0.62	1.34	-2.77	4.49	7.07	2.93	8.28	8.58	10.66	9.17
EDUCATION	4.83	23.19	23.19	23.19	23.19	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	17.12	33.68	32.52	27.4	31.2	15.15	8.6	7.81	10.52	5.86	6.41	4.61	5.63
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.89	-2.51	-3.06	-2.42	-2.66	13.7	24.37	29.58	22.55	25.58	24.28	23.02	24.29
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100	6.55	7.64	9.51	7.9	9.12	9.49	9.19	9.27	8.22	8.27	6.1	7.53

Source: CBL & LISGIS, Monrovia, Liberia

Table 3.1: Commercial Bank Loans by Economic Sectors
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

	2022				2023		Contribution to Credit Growth	
	Q1	Share	Q4	Share	Q1	Share	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Agriculture	2,011.33	2.75	2,311.00	2.99	2,405.83	3.01	0.12	0.54
Extractive (Mining & Quarrying)	93.35	0.13	236.64	0.31	414.42	0.52	0.23	0.44
Manufacturing	3,432.54	4.69	4,369.52	5.66	4,467.36	5.59	0.13	1.41
Construction	6,650.85	9.09	5,201.09	6.73	5,853.92	7.32	0.85	(1.09)
Services	11,567.68	15.82	10,434.29	13.51	10,223.66	12.79	(0.27)	(1.84)
Trade	23,611.77	32.29	24,005.97	31.08	25,896.34	32.39	2.45	3.12
Personal	13,551.22	18.53	14,589.59	18.89	15,563.19	19.46	1.26	2.75
Gen. Government	83.67	0.11	120.82	0.16	124.44	0.16	0.00	0.06
Central Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	2,696.65	3.69	1,272.15	1.65	961.66	1.20	(0.40)	(2.37)
Oil and Gas	3,472.91	4.75	5,576.61	7.22	4,763.72	5.96	(1.05)	1.76
Others	5,962.02	8.15	9,109.77	11.80	9,280.78	11.61	0.22	4.54
Total Loan All Sectors (LD & USD)	73,133.99	100.00	77,227.45	100.00	79,955.33	100.00	3.53	9.33
O/W TOTAL Private Sector (LD & USD)	70,353.66	96.20	75,834.48	98.20	78,869.23	98.64	3.93	11.64

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

**Table 3.2: Commercial Bank's Interest Rates
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)**

	2022		2023
	Q ¹	Q ⁴	Q ¹
Avg. Lending Rate	12.44	12.44	12.44
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	2.10	2.10
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
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions L\$)**

	2022		2023
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter
Currency in Banks	3,418.66	2,543.98	2,878.05
Currency outside Banks	19,691.77	23,654.45	22,770.10
Currency in Circulation	23,110.43	26,198.43	25,648.14

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table 3.4: Broad Money Supply and its Sources
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)**

Monetary Aggregates	2022		2023	Percentage Change	
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
1.0 Money Supply M2 (1.1 + 1.2)	142,274.24	153,724.03	165,033.42	7.36	16.00
<i>1.1 Money Supply M1</i>	94,379.01	106,234.68	115,495.80	8.72	22.37
<i>1.1.1 Currency outside banks</i>	19,691.77	23,654.45	22,770.10	-3.74	15.63
<i>1.1.2 Demand deposit 1/</i>	74,687.24	82,580.22	92,725.71	12.29	24.15
1.2 Quasi Money	47,895.23	47,489.35	49,537.62	4.31	3.43
<i>1.2.1 Time & Savings deposits</i>	42,483.82	46,878.66	49,016.78	4.56	15.38
<i>1.2.2 Other deposits 2/</i>	5,411.42	610.69	520.84	-14.71	-90.38
2.0 Net Foreign Assets	33,458.89	16,440.34	18,291.73	11.26	-45.33

2.1 Central Bank	4,030.42	(3,046.20)	(3,824.07)	25.54	-	194.88
2.2 Banking Institutions	29,428.47	19,486.54	22,115.80	13.49	-24.85	
3.0 Net Domestic Assets (1 - 2)	108,815.35	137,283.69	146,741.69	6.89	34.85	
3.1 Domestic Credit	176,481.68	195,591.81	212,386.84	8.59	20.34	
3.1.1 Government (net)	93,022.21	102,981.33	112,679.41	9.42	21.13	
3.1.2 Pvt. Sector & Other Pvt.	83,459.47	92,610.48	99,707.43	7.66	19.47	
3.2 Other assets Net (3 - 3.1)	67,666.34	58,308.12	65,645.15	12.58	-2.99	
Memorandum Items						
1. Overall Liquidity	142,274.24	153,724.03	165,033.42	7.36	16.00	
2. Reserve Money	49,608.16	49,476.73	52,583.23	6.28	6.00	
Currency in Circulation	23,110.43	26,198.43	25,648.14	-2.10	10.98	
Banks Reserves	21,086.31	22,667.61	26,414.24	16.53	25.27	
Other Deposits at CBL	5,411.42	610.69	520.84	-14.71	-90.38	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

1/Excludes manager's cheques from commercial banks

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

Table3.5: CBL Bills
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of L\$)

First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
6-Jan-23	14-Apr-23	8,349.20	0.54
1 MONTH			
6-Jan-23	28-Apr-23	5,803.69	1.17
3 MONTHS			
6-Jan-23	30-Jun-23	4,828.90	3.56
Total Amount Issued		18,981.79	
4th Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Oct-22	13-Jan-23	11,194.46	0.40
1 MONTH			
7-Oct-22	27-Jan-23	3,637.04	0.95
3 MONTHS			
7-Oct-22	31-Mar-23	4,538.18	2.96
Total Amount Issued		19,369.68	
1st Quarter 2022			
First Issuance Date	Last Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Average Interest Rate (%)
2 WEEKS			
7-Jan-22	25-Mar-22	0.60	0.70
1 MONTH			
7-Jan-22	22-Apr-22	7,231.86	1.53
3 MONTHS			
7-Jan-22	24-Jun-22	4,186.50	4.67
Total Amount Issued		11,418.96	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 3.6: CBL Bills, Q1-2023
(In Millions of L\$)

Issuance Date	Maturity Date	Unsubscribed Amount	Commercial Banks Issued	Retail Via Commercial Banks Issued	Amount Issued	Interest Rate (%)
THREE MONTHS						
6-Jan-23	7-Apr-23	-	400.00	6.83	406.83	3.56
13-Jan-23	14-Apr-23	-	682.50	5.93	688.43	3.56
20-Jan-23	21-Apr-23	-	450.00	29.62	479.62	3.56
27-Jan-23	28-Apr-23	-	200.00	20.36	220.36	3.56
3-Feb-23	5-May-23	-	325.00	5.83	330.83	3.56
10-Feb-23	12-May-23	-	199.00	7.60	206.60	3.56
17-Feb-23	19-May-23	-	450.00	60.99	510.99	3.56
24-Feb-23	26-May-23	-	200.00	51.57	251.57	3.56
3-Mar-23	2-Jun-23	-	425.00	13.72	438.72	3.56
10-Mar-23	9-Jun-23	-	300.00	3.83	303.83	3.56
17-Mar-23	16-Jun-23	-	530.00	17.17	547.17	3.56
24-Mar-23	23-Jun-23	-	100.00	71.75	171.75	3.56
31-Mar-23	30-Jun-23	-	270.00	2.20	272.20	3.56
TOTAL		-	4,531.50	297.40	4,828.90	3.56
ONE MONTHS						
6-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	-	406.00	5.83	411.83	1.17
13-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	-	505.00	7.64	512.64	1.17
20-Jan-23	17-Feb-23	-	575.00	9.89	584.89	1.17
27-Jan-23	24-Feb-23	-	300.00	9.69	309.69	1.17
3-Feb-23	3-Mar-23	-	320.00	11.78	331.78	1.17
10-Feb-23	10-Mar-23	-	505.50	1.75	507.25	1.17
17-Feb-23	17-Mar-23	-	738.60	8.78	747.38	1.17
24-Feb-23	24-Mar-23	-	200.00	1.32	201.32	1.17

3-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	-	416.00	9.01	425.01	1.17
10-Mar-23	7-Apr-23	-	400.00	12.13	412.13	1.17
17-Mar-23	14-Apr-23	-	615.00	2.60	617.60	1.17
24-Mar-23	21-Apr-23	-	400.00	14.37	414.37	1.17
31-Mar-23	28-Apr-23	-	313.34	14.46	327.80	1.17
TOTAL		-	5,694.44	109.25	5,803.69	1.17

TWO WEEKS

6-Jan-23	20-Jan-23	1,621.70	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	0.54
13-Jan-23	27-Jan-23	666.97	900.00	-	900.00	0.54
20-Jan-23	3-Feb-23	511.80	600.00	-	600.00	0.54
27-Jan-23	10-Feb-23	102.58	575.00	-	575.00	0.54
3-Feb-23	17-Feb-23	454.35	500.00	-	500.00	0.54
10-Feb-23	24-Feb-23	909.38	200.00	-	200.00	0.54
17-Feb-23	3-Mar-23	1,280.42	300.00	-	300.00	0.54
24-Feb-23	10-Mar-23	531.75	300.00	-	300.00	0.54
3-Mar-23	17-Mar-23	515.99	575.00	-	575.00	0.54
10-Mar-23	24-Mar-23	334.20	800.00	-	800.00	0.54
17-Mar-23	31-Mar-23	778.99	700.00	-	700.00	0.54
24-Mar-23	7-Apr-23	106.52	850.00	-	850.00	0.54
31-Mar-23	14-Apr-23	-	849.20	-	849.20	0.54
TOTAL		7,814.66	8,349.20	-	8,349.20	0.54

TOTAL AMOUNT ISSUED

18,981.79

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

Table 4.1: Government Revenue
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -23	Q ⁴ -22	Q ¹ -23	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Government Revenue	149.09	207.60	136.77	(34.12)	(8.26)
Tax Revenue	124.11	106.53	111.56	4.72	(10.11)
o/w Taxes on Income & Profits	58.73	46.75	47.22	1.01	(19.60)
o/w Taxes on Int'l Trade(customs)	50.55	46.17	42.85	(7.18)	(15.23)
Non-tax Revenue	23.84	16.87	25.20	49.42	5.73
o/w Property Income	18.99	12.30	19.83	61.28	4.44
o/w Administrative Fees & Penalties	4.85	4.57	5.37	17.51	10.78
Other Revenue (Grants, Borrowings, etc.)	1.14	84.20	0.00	(100.00)	(100.00)
Memorandum Items					
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	3.73	5.20	3.15	-	-
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.11	2.67	2.57	-	-
Non-tax Revenue (% of GDP)	0.60	0.42	0.58	-	-
Other Revenues (% of GDP)	0.03	2.11	0.00	-	-
<i>GDP (In Millions of USD)</i>	3,992.07	3,992.07	4345.40	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFD P's Data

Table 4.2: Government Expenditure
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Expenditure	228.50	255.33	147.66	(42.17)	(35.38)
Current Expenditure	189.82	217.75	118.41	(45.62)	(37.62)
o/w Employee Compensation	66.92	76.67	40.36	(47.36)	(39.69)
o/w Goods & Services	93.99	96.86	52.24	(46.07)	(44.42)
Capital Expenditure	8.24	8.33	13.67	64.14	65.83
Payments Loan, Interest & Other Charges	30.44	29.26	15.58	(46.74)	(48.80)
Memorandum Items					
Total Expenditure (% of GDP)	5.72	6.40	3.40	-	-
Current Expenditure (% of GDP)	4.75	5.45	2.73	-	-
Capital Expenditure (% of GDP)	0.21	0.21	0.31	-	-
Payments Loan, Interest & other Charges (% of GDP)	0.76	0.73	0.36	-	-

GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,992.07	3,992.07	4,345.40	-	-
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Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

NB: the expenditure data is cash expenditure.

Table 4.3: Liberia's Public Debt Statistics
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$)

Fiscal Operations	Q ¹ -2022	Q ⁴ -2022	Q ¹ -2023	Q-O-Q	Y-O-Y
	(Millions of USD)			(% Change)	
Total Debt Stock	1,808.04	2,018.69	2,021.96	0.16	11.83
External	1,061.91	1,134.27	1,136.47	0.19	7.02
o/w Multilateral	948.67	1022.56	1024.33	0.17	7.98
o/w Bilateral	113.24	111.72	112.14	0.38	(0.97)
Domestic	746.13	884.41	885.49	0.12	18.68
o/w Financial Institutions	670.13	829.96	827.93	(0.24)	23.55
o/w CBL	525.48	605.48	605.48	0.00	15.22
o/w Commercial Banks	144.65	224.48	222.45	(0.91)	53.78
o/w Other Debts	76.00	54.45	57.55	5.70	(24.27)
Memorandum Items					
Total Debt Stock (% of GDP)	45.29	50.57	46.53	-	-
External (% of GDP)	26.60	28.15	26.15	-	-
Domestic Debt (% of GDP)	18.69	20.38	20.38	-	-
GDP (In Millions of USD)	3,992.07	3,992.07	4,345.40	-	-

Source: CBL's Computation Using MFDP's Data

Table 5.1: Balance of Payments Statistics
(1st Quarter & 4th, 2022; & 1st Quarter, 2023)
(In Millions of US\$; except otherwise indicated)

Balance of Payments (BoP) Statement	2022		2023	2022		2023
	Q-1	Q-4	Q-1	Q-1, % of GDP	Q-4, % of GDP	Q-1, % of GDP
Current Account (CA)	-15.73	-171.52	-67.04	-0.4	-4.3	-1.5
Credit	446.75	429.73	484.82	11.2	10.8	11.2
Debit	462.48	601.25	551.85	11.6	15.1	12.7
Goods and services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit	138.70	-295.27	199.71	-3.5	-7.4	-4.6
Debit	270.76	244.17	292.14	6.8	6.1	6.7
	409.46	539.44	491.86	10.3	13.5	11.3
Goods (Trade Balance)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit (Exports)	-56.90	-221.54	127.35	-1.4	-5.5	-2.9
<i>Iron Ore</i>	267.59	240.89	288.68	6.7	6.0	6.6
<i>Rubber</i>	71.27	69.54	87.72	1.8	1.7	2.0
<i>Minerals</i>	22.13	20.97	18.72	0.6	0.5	0.4
<i>Diamond</i>	156.92	139.93	161.18	3.9	3.5	3.7
<i>Gold</i>	8.03	4.26	6.13	0.2	0.1	0.1
<i>Cocoa Beans</i>	148.89	135.68	155.05	3.7	3.4	3.6
<i>Raw Palm Oil</i>	2.03	0.05	1.18	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Round Logs</i>	5.08	4.81	3.41	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Other Exports</i>	0.44	0.11	0.06	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debit (Imports)	9.72	5.49	16.42	0.2	0.1	0.4
<i>Food and Live Animals</i>	324.49	462.43	416.02	8.1	11.6	9.6
<i>Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants</i>	67.69	172.12	110.25	1.7	4.3	2.5
<i>Chemicals & Related Products</i>	109.56	123.29	142.62	2.7	3.1	3.3
<i>Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by</i>	28.54	26.65	20.73	0.7	0.7	0.5
<i>Materials</i>	24.17	37.60	30.46	0.6	0.9	0.7
<i>Machinery & Transport Equipment</i>	79.10	85.86	99.82	2.0	2.2	2.3
<i>Other Imports</i>	15.43	16.91	12.14	0.4	0.4	0.3
General merchandise on a balance of payments basis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Credit	205.78	-357.21	282.39	-5.2	-8.9	-6.5
Debit	118.71	105.21	133.63	3.0	2.6	3.1
<i>Of which Re-exports (credit)</i>	324.49	462.43	416.02	8.1	11.6	9.6
Nonmonetary gold	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit	148.89	135.68	155.05	3.7	3.4	3.6
Debit	148.89	135.68	155.05	3.7	3.4	3.6
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Services (net)	-81.80	-73.73	-72.36	-2.0	-1.8	-1.7
Credit	3.17	3.28	3.47	0.1	0.1	0.1
Debit	84.97	77.01	75.83	2.1	1.9	1.7
Primary Income (net)	-24.24	-28.63	-26.60	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6

Credit	5.39	4.88	5.24	0.1	0.1	0.1
Debit	29.63	33.50	31.84	0.7	0.8	0.7
Secondary Income (net)	147.21	152.38	159.27	3.7	3.8	3.7
Credit	170.60	180.68	187.43	4.3	4.5	4.3
Debit	23.38	28.30	28.16	0.6	0.7	0.6
<i>O/W Workers' remittances</i>	151.50	160.10	169.02	3.8	4.0	3.9
<i>Credit</i>	169.01	178.27	184.39	4.2	4.5	4.2
<i>Debit</i>	17.51	18.18	15.36	0.4	0.5	0.4
Capital Account (KA)	77.91	79.09	64.88	2.0	2.0	1.5
Credit	77.91	79.09	64.88	2.0	2.0	1.5
Debit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-) (CA & KA)	62.18	-92.43	-2.15	1.6	-2.3	0.0
Financial Account (FA)						
Net lending (+) / net borrowing (FA) (-) (FA)	-37.36	-55.60	134.60	-0.9	-1.4	-3.1
Direct Investment (net)	-2.11	20.42	-13.81	-0.1	0.5	-0.3
Net acquisition of financial assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net incurrence of liabilities	2.11	-20.42	13.81	0.1	-0.5	0.3
Other Investment (net)	-35.25	-76.01	120.79	-0.9	-1.9	-2.8
Net acquisition of financial assets	-16.60	-52.19	-37.31	-0.4	-1.3	-0.9
Net incurrence of liabilities	18.65	23.82	83.48	0.5	0.6	1.9
Net Errors & Omissions	-91.7	22.4	-117.4	-2.3	0.6	-2.7
Overall Balance (OB)	-7.8	14.4	-15.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.3
Financing	7.8	-14.4	15.1	0.2	-0.4	0.3
<i>Changes in Reserve Assets (-increase; +decrease)</i>	7.8	-14.4	15.1	0.2	-0.4	0.3
Memorandum Items						
<i>Gross International Reserves</i>	659.5	600.1	581.7	16.5	15.0	13.4
<i>Import cover</i>	4.4	3.0	3.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Imports (cif)</i>	366.9	515.5	457.7	9.2	12.9	10.5
<i>Service Payments</i>	85.0	77.0	75.8	2.1	1.9	1.7
<i>Total Imports of Goods/Services</i>	451.9	592.5	533.5	11.3	14.8	12.3
<i>Current Account Bal. Excl. Grants</i>	-16.9	-172.8	-68.4	-0.4	-4.3	-1.6
<i>End-of-Period</i>	152.72	154.49	162.28	-	-	-
<i>Period Average</i>	152.38	153.96	158.10	-	-	-
<i>Annual Nominal GDP market prices</i>	3992.1	4345.4	4345.4	100.0	108.8	100.0

**Table 5.2: Market Exchange Rate: Liberia Dollar (LD) per US Dollar
(1st & 4th Quarters, 2022; 1st Quarter, 2023)
(Value In L\$)**

	2022		2023	% Change: Depreciation (+) & Appreciation (-)	
	1 st Quarter	4 th Quarter	1 st Quarter	Q-o-Q	Y-o-Y
Market Rate End of Period	152.72	154.49	162.28	5.04	6.26
Market Rate Period Average	152.38	153.96	158.1	2.69	3.75
<i>Buying</i>	151.5	153.08	157.08	2.61	3.68
<i>Selling</i>	153.26	154.83	159.12	2.77	3.82

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		
May	171.03	172.42	150.31	151.98		
June	170.69	172.09	151.48	153.09		
July	170.83	172.24	152.28	154.01		
August	170.98	172.43	152.77	154.46		
September	170.63	172.14	153.07	154.78		
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		
Q3	170.81	172.27	152.70	154.42		
Q4	148.86	150.48	153.08	154.83		
Yearly Ave	165.41	166.90	152.07	153.80		

Source: Central Bank of Liberia

