

Financial and Economic Bulletin
October - December, 2008
Central Bank of Liberia

THE FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC BULLETIN is produced by the Bank's Research, Policy and Planning Department. Inquiries concerning this publication should be addressed to:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW.....	i	—	ii
I. Domestic Production and Consumer Prices.....	1	—	10
II. Monetary and Financial Developments.....	11	—	20
III. Fiscal Developments.....	21	—	27
IV. Foreign Trade.....	28	—	32
STATISTICAL APPENDIX.....	33	—	49

Overview

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was initially projected at 9.5 percent but was later readjusted to 8.8 percent and further scaled down to 7.1 percent at end December, 2008, on account of delays in the resumption of logging and other mining activities. Inflation, as measured by the Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI), stood at 9.4 percent at end-December, 2008. On average, it declined by 8.1 percentage points to 14.5 percent at end of the fourth quarter, from 22.6 percent in the previous quarter. The decline was primarily influenced by fall in the prices of oil and food on the international market.

The banking sector continued to improve during the quarter owing largely to reform measures being instituted by the CBL. The industry's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stood at 22.0 percent at the end of the review quarter, far in excess of the required ratio of 8.0 percent. The industry recorded a total revenue of L\$2,094.0 million and an operating profit of L\$739.0 million, both of which were 29.3 percent and 16.7 percent above the levels recorded for the fourth quarter of 2007. The industry's liquidity position continued to be well in excess of the 15.0 percent minimum liquidity requirement. During the quarter, it stood at 50.1 percent. However, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans increased to 17.4 percent, rising by 3.4 percentage points over the preceding quarter.

The CBL issued a provisional license to one bank, while one of the existing operating commercial banks was acquired by an internationally reputable banking institution. Additionally, new branches of banks were established in Margibi, Cape Mount and Grand Gedeh Counties, bringing to a total of 30 branches and 12 windows of commercial banks in 7 counties across the country.

During the quarter, total credit by commercial banks to the economy increased by 4.3 percent to L\$6,227.8 million, from L\$5,969.1 million in the third quarter. Liberian dollars in circulation increased by 21.8 percent to L\$4,090.0 million, from L\$3,358.7

million at end-September, 2008. The increase was mainly driven by a 25.7 percent increase in currency outside banks, from L\$2,894.0 million at end-September, 2008.

During the period, the average exchange rate remained broadly stable around L\$63.00/US\$1.00, supported largely by the weekly sales of US dollars by the CBL through its foreign exchange auction program. However, the end of period rate depreciated slightly by 0.8 percent to L\$64.00/US\$1.00 at end-December, 2008, from L\$63.50 per US dollar at end-September, 2008.

Total Government revenue declined by L\$37.1 million to L\$2,966.5 million in the fourth quarter, from L\$3,003.6 million in the third quarter. The decline in total revenue was due to declines in Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes, and FDA levy. In contrast to revenue, total Government expenditure increased by L\$659.7 million, from L\$3,614.9 million in the third quarter to L\$4,274.6 million at end of the fourth quarter.

The country's total stock of debt was recorded at US\$4,274.6 million of which external debt amounted to US\$3,359.0 million (78.6 percent) and domestic debt, US\$915.6 million (21.4 percent) at the end of the review quarter.

There was an improvement in the country's trade deficit during the quarter. It narrowed to US\$140.0 million compared with US\$198.2 million recorded during the quarter ending September, 2008. The improvement in the trade deficit was mainly on account of simultaneous reductions in exports and imports. However, the reduction in imports was slightly higher than that of exports.

I. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER PRICES

1.0 Introduction

Production of various commodities in the real sector exhibited moderate increases over the previous quarter. As a result of declines in international commodity prices (eg. Food and oil), the rate of inflation fell by 8.1 percentage points to a quarterly average of 14.5 percent for the review quarter, from 22.6 percent at end of the third quarter.

1.1 Sectoral Performance

The agricultural sector registered a mixed performance during the quarter. Rubber production declined, while cocoa and coffee production rose. Timber output also increased during the review quarter (Table 1 & Chart 1). Full logging operations in the country have not begun yet but logging concession agreements are being finalized.

a. Rubber

Rubber production declined by 9.7 percent to 16,461 metric tons produced in the quarter, from 18,229 metric tons produced in the previous quarter. The fall in production was generally attributed to the ageing of rubber trees. Production during the quarter reduced by 20.2 percent compared with the production level a year ago.

b. Coffee & Cocoa

Estimated production of coffee during the quarter totaled 121.0 metric tons. This production level was 46.0 metric tons more than the production level of the preceding quarter. The return of farmers to their original villages from displaced centers and rehabilitation of their farms are some of the factors responsible for the increase in production. Cocoa production rose to an estimated 975.0 metric tons at end of the fourth quarter, from 915.0 metric tons produced in the third quarter. The 6.6 percent rise in production was also on account of the return of farmers to their villages. The analysis shows that production of the fourth quarter is 14.4 percent lower than the production level recorded for the corresponding quarter of 2007.

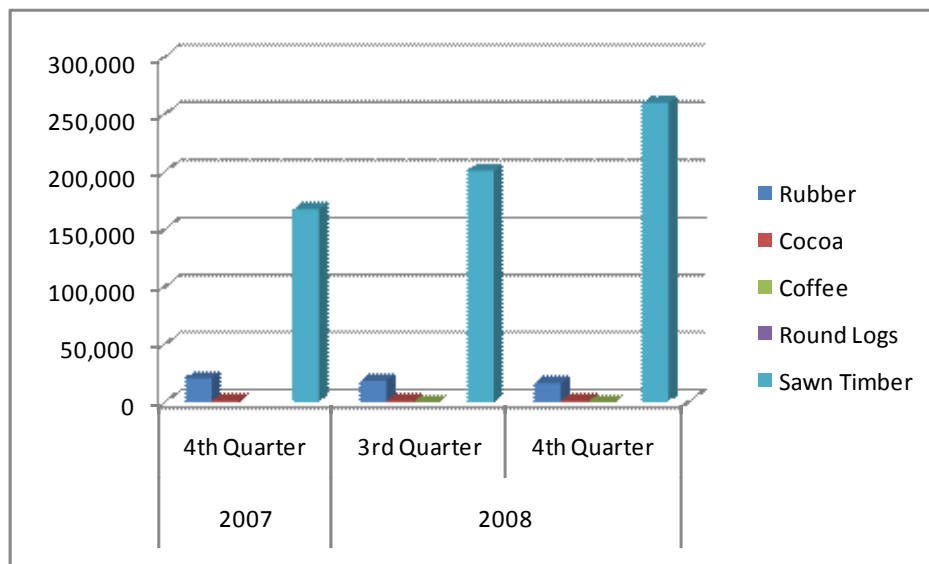
**Table 1: Key Agricultural and Forestry Production
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Commodity	Unit	4 th Quarter 2007	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008
Rubber	Mt	20,615	18,229	16,461
Cocoa	Mt	1,139*	915	975
Coffee	Mt	N/A	75	121
Round Logs	M ³	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sawn Timber	Pcs	167,304	200,720	259,761

*Estimates

Sources: Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC), and National Port Authority (NPA), Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 1: Key Agricultural Production
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**



c. Sawn Timber

During the review quarter, output of sawn timber increased by 29.4 percent to 259,761 pieces, from 200,720 pieces produced in the previous quarter. The marked rise in output was partly a result of the growing demand for the product during this period of economic recovery. Production level for the quarter grew by 55.3 percent when compared with output of the corresponding quarter of 2007.

1.2 Industrial Production

The industrial sector of the economy consists of mining and manufacturing. Performance of the sector has been impaired by a number of constraints, including the insufficiency of

supply of public electricity, shortage of skilled manpower, high cost of raw materials and poor state of infrastructure.

a. Gold

Gold mined during the quarter totaled 4,855.0 ounces. The production of the quarter exceeded that of the previous quarter by 11.9 percent. Comparatively, production of the quarter was about 27.0 percent more than the production of the corresponding quarter of 2007.

b. Diamond

During the review quarter, a total of 4,497 carats of diamond was mined compared to 17,329 carats mined in the previous quarter. The 74.0 percent decline in diamond production is partly attributed to the fall in demand for the commodity mainly due to the global economic meltdown. Comparative analysis indicates that diamond mined during this quarter was 76.1 percent less than the production level a year earlier.

**Table 2: Key Industrial Output
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Commodity	Unit	4th Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008
Diamond	Carat	18,814	17,329	4,497
Gold	Ounce	3,824	4,340	4,855
Cement	Mt	21,876	23,561	15,747
Spirit	Litre	328,030	341,368	313,538
Beer	Litre	1,645,889	1,698,069	1,871,110
Stout	Litre	976,140	980,757	883,745
Malta	Litre	233,466	222,449	189,312
Soft Drinks	Litre	1,882,750	1,242,792	1,847,398
Oil Paint	Gal.	11,615	4,360	5,069
Water Paint	Gal.	19,824	21,500	34,895
Varnish	Gal.	2,904	1,090	1,267
Manoline Hair Grease	Kg.	14,179	4,830	10,987
Powder Soap	Kg.	29,657	45,466	32,193
Candle	Kg.	119,469	56,407	56,196
Chlorox	Litre	140,874	103,702	91,037
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	87,557	23,702	40,407
Thinner	Gal.	1,306	375	685
Mattresses	Pcs	25,879	25,603	15,381
Finished Water ¹	Gal.	204,135,150*	417,782,506*	522,030,920*

**Estimates*

¹*Finished Water: Water obtained from the White Plains Water Treatment Plant in White Plains in Montserrat County*

Sources: Ministry of Commerce; Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); and the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation, Monrovia, Liberia

Chart 2: Key Industrial Output
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)

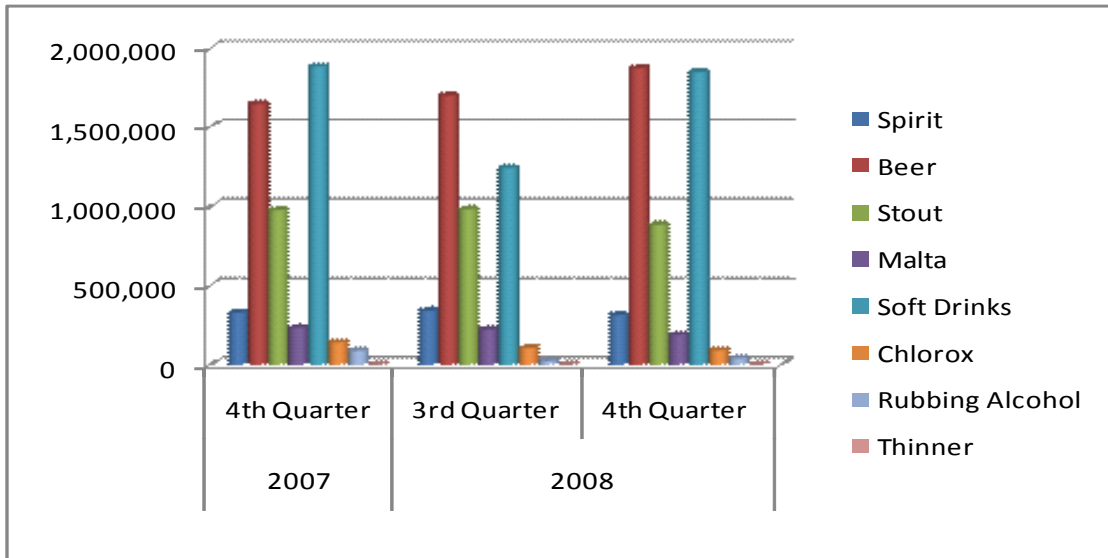
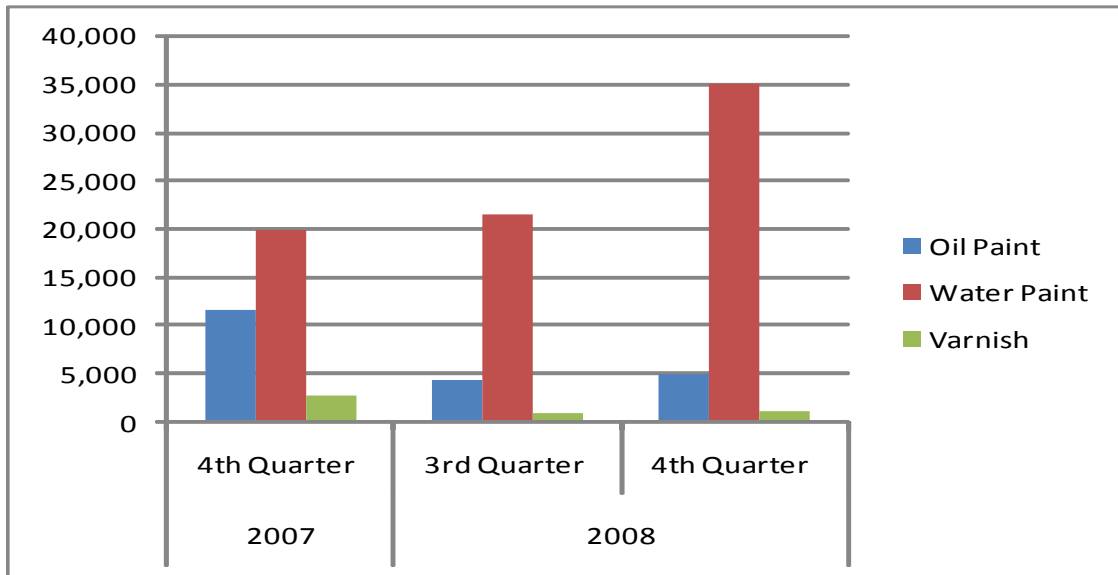


Chart 3: Key Industrial Output
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)



c. Manufacturing

The manufacturing sub-sector is mainly engaged in the production of basic wood-based materials, cement, chemical products, etc., which are made purposely for domestic

consumption. Performance of the sub-sector is hampered by inadequate supply of public electricity; high cost of raw materials, and shortage of skilled manpower.

i. Cement

Output of cement declined by 33.2 percent to 15,747 metric tons produced in the review quarter compared to 23,561 metric tons produced in the third quarter. Although there was huge domestic demand for the product, the inadequacy of storage facilities and the smallness of its plant-size limit the production required to meet current demand. When matched against output of the corresponding quarter of 2007, output of the quarter declined by 28.0 percent.

ii. Beverages

During the quarter, output of beverages totaled 5.1 million liters compared to 4.5 million liters produced during the previous quarter – a rise of 13.3 percent. This increase was generally influenced by the festive season when consumption of beverages is normally high. A disaggregation of the output shows that alcoholic beverages accounted for 60.1 percent, while non-alcoholic beverages represented 39.9 percent. Output of the quarter was about the same level of that of the corresponding quarter of 2007.

iii. Paints (Water and Oil)

A total of 39,964 gallons of paints was produced during the review quarter. The production level was 54.5 percent higher than the review quarter. Heightened domestic demand for the commodity, prompted by construction activities was largely responsible for the increased production. Of the total production, water paint constituted 87.3 percent, while oil paint accounted for 12.7 percent. Annual comparison shows that production of the quarter exceeded that of the corresponding quarter of 2007 by 27.1 percent.

iv. Candle

Candle output marginally declined during the quarter to 56,196 kilograms, from 56,406 kilograms produced in the preceding quarter. The 0.37 decline in production was largely

a result of a shortage of raw material used to manufacture the product. Output of the review quarter is 53.0 percent lower than the output a year ago.

v. Mattresses

Production of mattresses reduced by almost 40.0 percent to 15,381 pieces, from 25,603 pieces manufactured in the previous quarter. The destruction of one of the factories producing mattresses was largely responsible for the decline in production. Output of the quarter under review plummeted by 40.6 percent when matched against output of the fourth quarter of 2007.

1.3 Consumption of Petroleum Products

The volume of petroleum products consumed during the quarter totaled 8,569,330 gallons, from 3,862,360 gallons in the previous quarter. The marked increase of 121.9 percent in consumption of the product was mainly influenced by the growing economic activities occasioned by the several reconstruction activities going on in the economy.

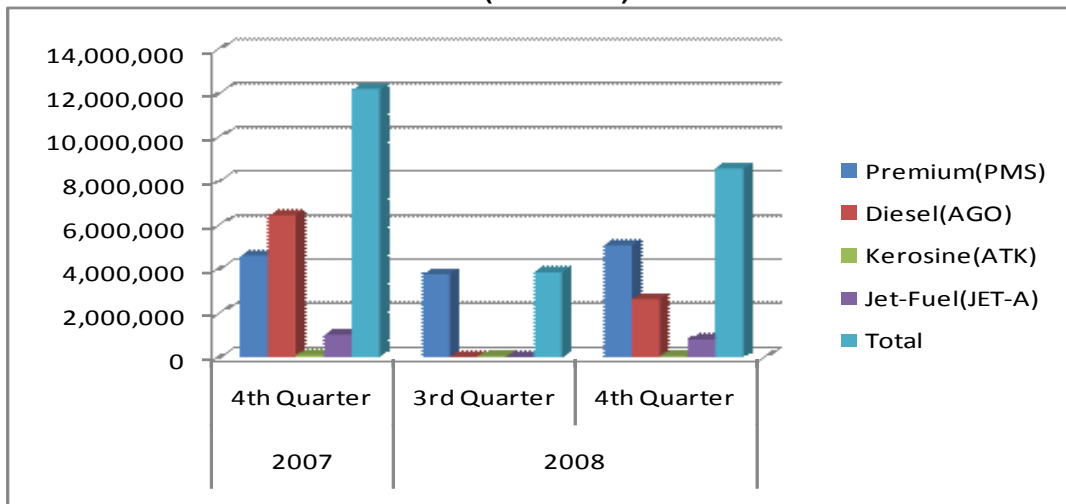
Of total volume of petroleum products consumed, Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) accounted for 59.3 percent; Diesel (AGO), 30.8 percent; Kerosene (ATK), 0.6 percent, and Jet-Fuel (Jet-A), 9.3 percent. Consumption of petroleum products during the review quarter declined by almost 30.0 percent when matched against consumption in the fourth quarter of 2007.

**Table 3: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Gallons)**

Commodity	Unit	4th Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008
Premium(PMS)	Gallon	4,610,200	3,773,150.00	5,078,250
Diesel(AGO)	Gallon	6,447,000	33,010.00	2,640,200
Kerosine(ATK)	Gallon	96,000	50,000	50,880
Jet-Fuel(JET-A)	Gallon	1,024,000	6,200	800,000
Total		12,177,200	3,862,360	8,569,330

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 4: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Gallons)**



1.4 Seaport Developments

A total of 120 vessels with Summer Dead Weight Tons (SDWT) of 1,081,952 called at the Freeport of Monrovia. The number of vessels was 20.0 percent more than vessels that berthed at the port in the previous quarter. Although the condition of the wharf has not improved, the number of cargo tonnage serviced there increased from 318,815 metric tons in the preceding quarter to 362,069 metric tons during the review quarter, an increase of 13.6 percent. The growing number of vessels that berthed at the port indicates the rising trading activities taking place between Liberia and the rest of the world during this period of reconstruction of the war-affected economy. Of total cargo volume, exports accounted for 14.0 percent, while imports represented 86.0 percent. Annual analysis shows that shipping services in the fourth quarter of 2008 are 44.6 percent more than those of the fourth quarter of 2007.

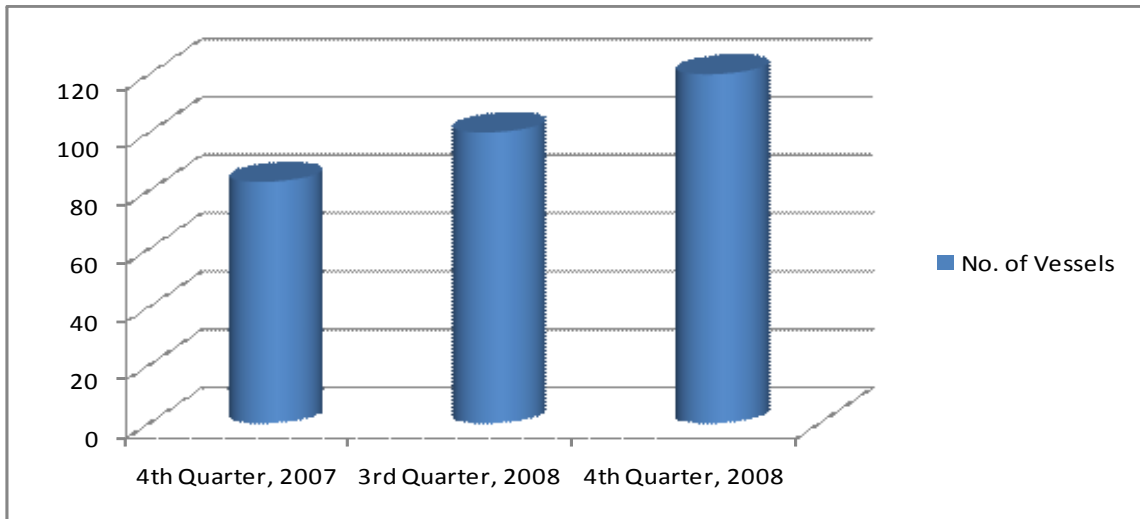
**Table 4: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight(SDWT*)	Cargo Tonnage(in metric tons)		
			Imports	Exports	Total
4 th Quarter, 2007	83	1,132,800	254,035	64,772	318,807
3 rd Quarter, 2008	100	904,521	252,457	66,358	318,815
4 th Quarter, 2008	120	1,081,952	311,265	50,804	362,069

*SDWT = SUMMER Dead Weight Tons

Source: National Port Authority, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 5: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**



1.5 Consumer Price Developments

After reaching its highest level of 26.5 percent at end-August, 2008, the general rate of inflation took a downward trend since September, registering its lowest at 9.4 percent at end-December of the year.

Consumer price pressure continued to decelerate during the last quarter of 2008 with the average rate of inflation falling from 22.6 percent in the third quarter to 14.5 percent in the fourth quarter a decline of 8.1 percentage points. Generally, the fall in inflation during the latter part of the year was largely on account of the fall in the world prices of oil and food and the dry season during which time most of the inter-county farm-to-market roads become passable to enable farmers to bring their produce to the market.

Table 5: Harmonized Consumer Price Index(HCPI) By Major Groups
Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation
4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008
(Dec. 2005=100)

FUNCTION	WEIGHT	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	4th Quarter, 2007 AVE	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	3rd Quarter, 2008 Ave	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	4th Quarter, 2008 AVE
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	45.20	11.17	15.28	18.40	14.95	28.82	39.24	27.86	31.97	25.09	19.17	11.10	18.45
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS	3.03	6.87	1.36	0.89	3.04	3.35	0.52	2.36	2.08	3.34	2.91	4.43	3.56
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	7.75	4.64	4.20	5.41	4.75	5.44	2.35	4.96	4.25	10.76	11.97	8.83	10.52
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	12.00	9.20	2.50	2.56	4.75	10.63	12.27	11.80	11.57	9.03	5.66	3.37	6.02
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.25	9.70	5.79	6.07	7.19	11.93	21.54	23.69	19.05	21.10	24.38	8.30	17.93
HEALTH	3.91	-1.33	-1.33	-1.33	-1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT	6.11	21.61	23.29	25.27	23.39	67.93	67.92	39.53	58.46	39.09	36.87	28.93	34.96
COMMUNICATION	1.53	-10.24	-10.44	-10.00	-10.23	-1.68	-1.86	-1.75	-1.76	2.62	2.81	2.31	2.58
RECREATION AND CULTURE	3.85	1.64	0.60	4.87	2.37	11.34	10.72	10.51	10.86	9.98	11.21	7.57	9.59
EDUCATION	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	4.64	3.22	3.91	5.58	4.24	7.99	3.76	3.29	5.01	3.33	3.58	3.42	3.44
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.53	-2.05	-1.17	7.72	1.50	9.58	10.33	10.55	10.15	9.68	10.41	2.13	7.41
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100.00	8.59	9.46	11.66	9.90	21.26	26.54	19.97	22.59	18.57	15.52	9.39	14.49

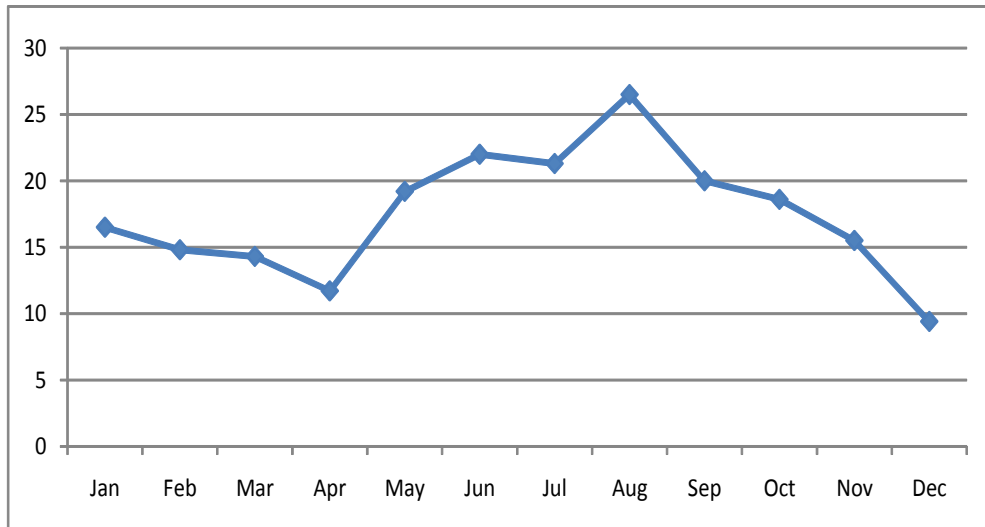
Sources: Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and the Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table 6: Year-On-Year Rate of Inflation
(January—December, 2008)
(Dec. 2005=100)**

Month	2008
January	16.5
February	14.8
March	14.3
April	11.7
May	19.2
June	22.0
July	21.3
August	26.5
September	20.0
October	18.6
November	15.5
December	9.4
Average Rate of Inflation	17.5

Source: The Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 6: Year-on-Year Rate of Inflation
(January - December 2008)
(December 2005=100)**



II. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Money and Banking

Banking Developments

The banking sector is now composed of seven (7) commercial banks, following the issuance of a final license to a bank to commence banking activities in Liberia. One of these banks is also involved in full micro-finance lending. The balance sheet of the banks as an industry continued to improve during the quarter. Total assets in the industry grew by 8.7 percent over the level recorded for the third quarter. Deposits rose by 9.9 percent and gross loan portfolio, by 3.5 percent for the same period. Other prudential indicators also showed stability and improvement during the quarter.

The industry's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) continued to be in excess of the minimum required ratio of 8.0 percent at end of the fourth quarter, 2008. The CAR recorded for the industry during the quarter was 22.0 percent, 1.3 percentage points below the level recorded for the third quarter of the year. All of the banks, except one, were in excess of the minimum requirement for the CAR. The required minimum net worth for each bank has been increased to US\$6.0 million. The ratio of non-performing loans to total loans increased to 17.4 percent, 3.4 percentage-points over the previous quarter.

At end of the review quarter, the industry recorded a total revenue of L\$2,094.0 million and an operating profit of L\$739.0 million, both of which are above the level recorded for the fourth quarter a year ago by 29.3 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively. The industry's liquidity position continued to be well in excess of the 15.0 percent minimum requirement at 52.1 percent.

Expansion of the industry continued during the period under review. The CBL issued a provisional license to one bank. One of the existing operating commercial banks has been acquired by an internationally reputable banking institution. In addition to this, banks continued to establish new branches in Margibi, Cape Mount and Grand Gedeh Counties. Presently, there is a total of 30 branches and 12 windows of commercial banks in 7

counties across the country. The rise in banking activities is consistent with CBL's broader policy objectives of promoting access to banking services by a large segment of the population.

2.2 Commercial Bank Credit

For the review quarter, total credit (inclusive of both US and Liberian dollars loans) by banks to various sectors of the economy increased by 4.3 percent to L\$6,227.8 million, from L\$5,969.1 million at end of the third quarter of 2008. Compared with L\$4,199.0 million for the corresponding quarter of 2007, total loan for the review quarter rose by 48.3 percent, showing improvement in financial intermediation of the banking sector in boosting economic growth (Table 7).

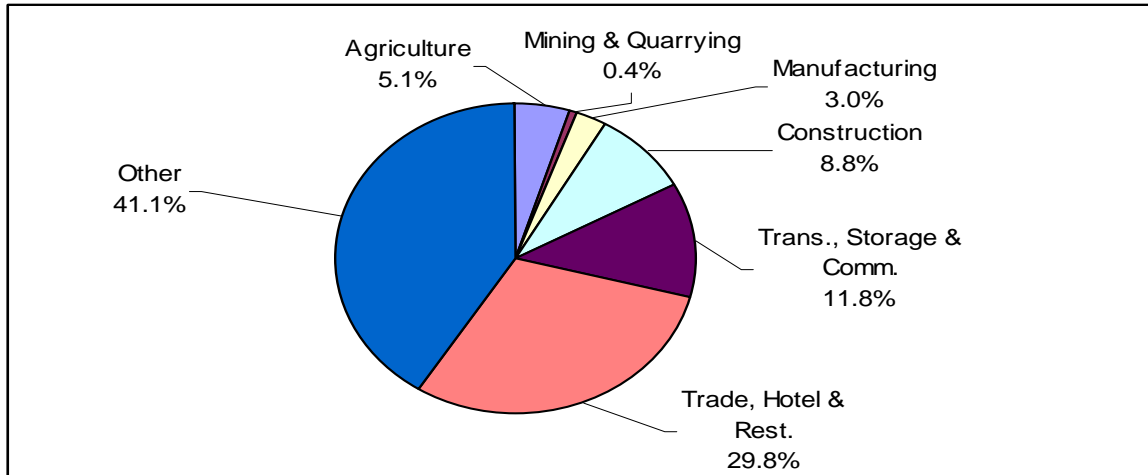
Table 7: Commercial Banks' Loans by Economic Sectors
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd and 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' L\$)

SECTORS	4 th Quarter 2007	% Share	3 rd Quarter 2008	% Share	4 th Quarter 2008	% Share
Agriculture	207,324	4.9	283,911	4.8	316,972	5.1
Mining & Quarrying	0.0	0.0	34.0	0.0	23,083	0.4
Manufacturing	108,924	2.6	168,329	2.8	183,762	3.0
Construction	279,002	6.7	607,650	10.2	551,124	8.8
Trans., Storage & Comm.	218,403	5.2	710,760	11.9	735,564	11.8
Trade, Hotel & Rest.	916,321	21.8	2,025,629	33.9	1,856,078	29.8
Other	2,469,000	58.8	2,172,769	36.4	2,561,250	41.1
Total	4,198,974	100.0	5,969,082	100.0	6,227,833	100.0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Of the total credit extended to various economic sectors during the quarter, Trade, Hotel & Restaurant received 29.8 percent; Transportation, Storage & Communication, 11.8 percent; Construction, 8.8 percent; Agriculture, 5.1 percent; Manufacturing, 3.0 percent; and Mining & Quarrying, 0.4 percent. The "Other" category which consists of lending to individuals and services related entities, accounted for 41.1 percent. Generally, all of the sectors mentioned above benefited from commercial banks loans and advances, although, for some of them, at lower levels when compared with the levels recorded for the third quarter of the year.

**Chart 7: Percentage Share of Commercial Banks' Loans by Economic Sectors
(4th Quarter, 2008)**



2.3 Interest Rates

The average lending rate at end of the quarter declined by 1.5 percentage points to 14.30 percent, from 15.80 percent at end of the preceding quarter. Growing competition in the banking sector is partly responsible for the decrease in the lending rate. Average personal loan rate also decreased to 14.31 percent, from 14.80 percent for the same period. However, the average time deposit rate increased slightly by 0.4 percentage points to 4.10 percent, from 3.70 percent while the rates for average mortgage, savings and certificate of deposits (CDs) remained unchanged (Table 8).

**Table 8: Interest Rates
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Rates	4 th Quarter, 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008	4 th Quarter, 2008
Avg. Lending Rate	14.30	15.80	14.30
Avg. Personal Loan Rate	14.90	14.80	14.31
Avg. Mortgage Rate	12.00	14.00	14.00
Avg. Time Deposit Rate	4.30	3.70	4.10
Avg. Savings Rate	2.10	2.11	2.11
Avg. Rate on CDs	3.00	3.00	3.00

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

2.4 Monetary Policy Stance

The conduct of monetary policy during the quarter was largely geared towards ensuring broad exchange rate stability of the Liberian dollar to the US dollar. The CBL foreign exchange auction generally continued to be the readily available tool for affecting domestic monetary condition.

2.5 Liberian Dollars in Circulation¹

During the review quarter, Liberian dollars in circulation increased by 21.8 percent to L\$4,090.0 million, from L\$3,358.7 million at end-September, 2008. The rise was driven mainly by the 25.7 percent increase in currency outside banks to L\$3,637.1 million, from L\$2,894.0 million at end of the third quarter of the year (Table 9 & Chart 8). Liberian dollars in circulation, when compared with the quarter a year ago, rose by 13.8 percent, from L\$3,594.4 million. This development is reflective of growing economic activities and regular payments of civil servants' salaries and arrears in all parts of the country during the quarter.

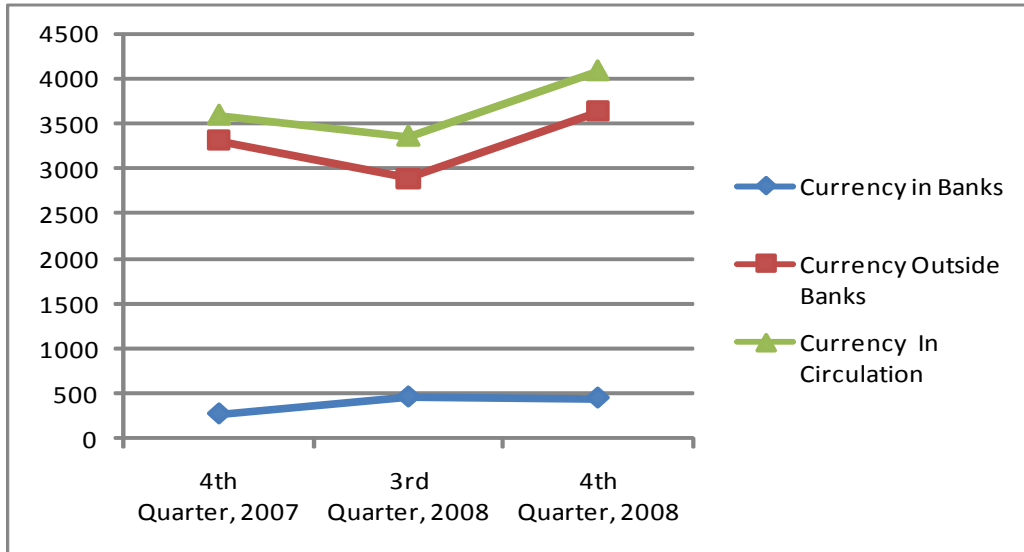
Table 9: Liberian Dollars in Circulation
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

End of Period	Currency in Banks	Currency outside Banks	Currency In circulation
Quarter, 2007	(1)	(2)	(1+2=3)
4 th Quarter	276.9	3,317.4	3,594.4
Quarters, 2008			
3 rd Quarter	464.7	2,894.0	3,358.7
4 th Quarter	452.9	3,637.1	4,090.0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

¹ Currency in circulation includes currency in banks plus currency outside banks in the hands of the non-bank public.

Chart 8: Liberian Dollars in Circulation
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)



2.6 Money Supply (M1)²

Money supply (M1) at end of the review quarter stood at L\$12,747.8 million, rising by about 11.0 percent from L\$11,485.2 million at end-September, 2008. The expansion of money during the quarter reflects the gradual increase in economic activities taking place in the country. The increase was largely on account of the 25.7 percent rise in currency outside banks to L\$3,637.1 million. Demand deposits rose by 6.0 percent to L\$9,110.8 million at end of the quarter. The ongoing reform measures being undertaken by the CBL aimed at ensuring a sound and functioning financial system is largely responsible for growing public confidence in the banking sector as reflected by the growth in savings and other deposits.

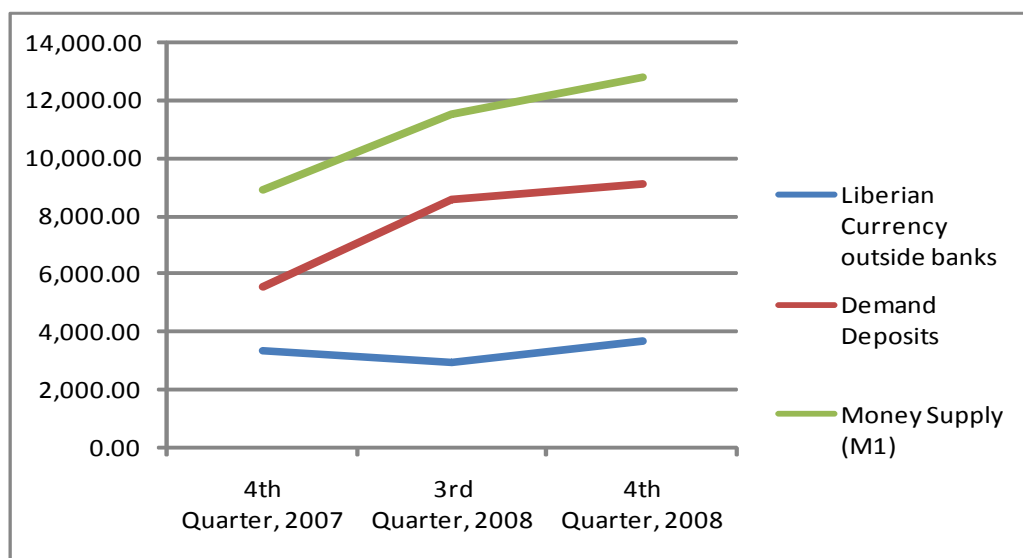
² Money supply (M1) is narrowly defined as currency outside banks plus demand deposits or checking deposits.

Table 10: Money Supply (M1) & Broad Money (M2)
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

End of Period	Liberian Currency outside banks (1)	Demand Deposits (2)	Money Supply (M1) (1+2) (3)	Savings Deposits (4)	Time Deposits (5)	Quasi-money (4+5) (6)	Broad Money-(M2) (3+6)
Quarter, 2007							
4 th Quarter	3,317.4	5,541.7	8,859.2	2,664.3	453.6	3,118.0	11,977.1
Quarter, 2008							
3 rd Quarter	2,894.0	8,591.2	11,485.2	3,631.7	272.3	3,904.0	15,389.2
4 th Quarter	3,637.1	9,110.8	12,747.8	3,739.8	443.4	4,183.2	16,931.0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Chart 9: Money Supply (M1)
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)



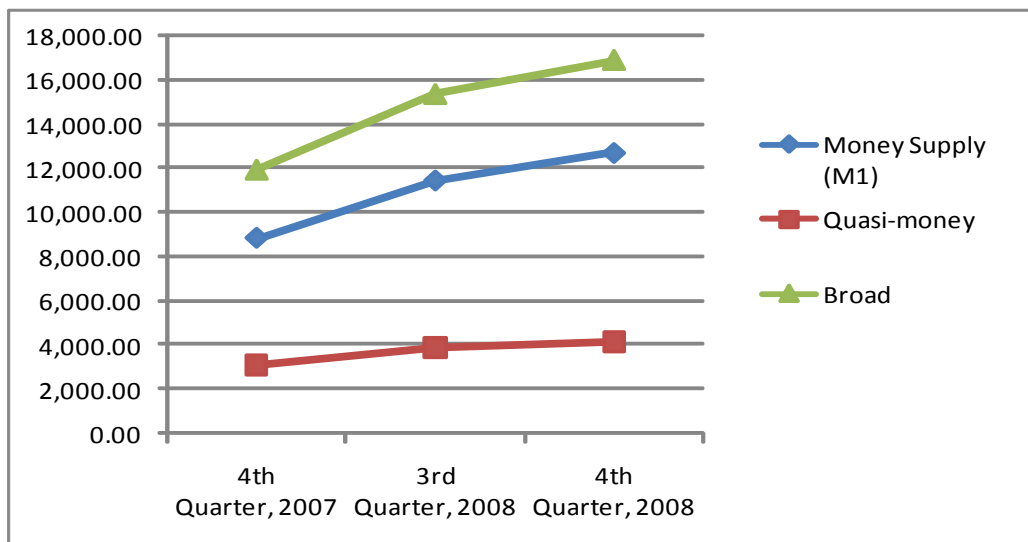
2.7 Broad Money (M2)³

At end-December, 2008, broad money (M2) totaled L\$16,931.0 million — rising by 10.0 percent, from a level of L\$15,389.2 million recorded at end of the third quarter. It rose by

³ M2 is defined as M1 plus quasi money (savings and time deposits) with commercial banks

41.4 percent when compared with the fourth quarter of 2007. The growth in broad money was driven mainly by increases in both money supply and time deposits. Savings deposits grew by about 3.0 percent to L\$3,739.8 million over L\$3,631.7 million recorded at end of the preceding quarter; while Time deposits rose markedly by 62.8 percent to L\$443.4 million compared with L\$272.3 million at end of the preceding.

Chart 10: Broad Money
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)



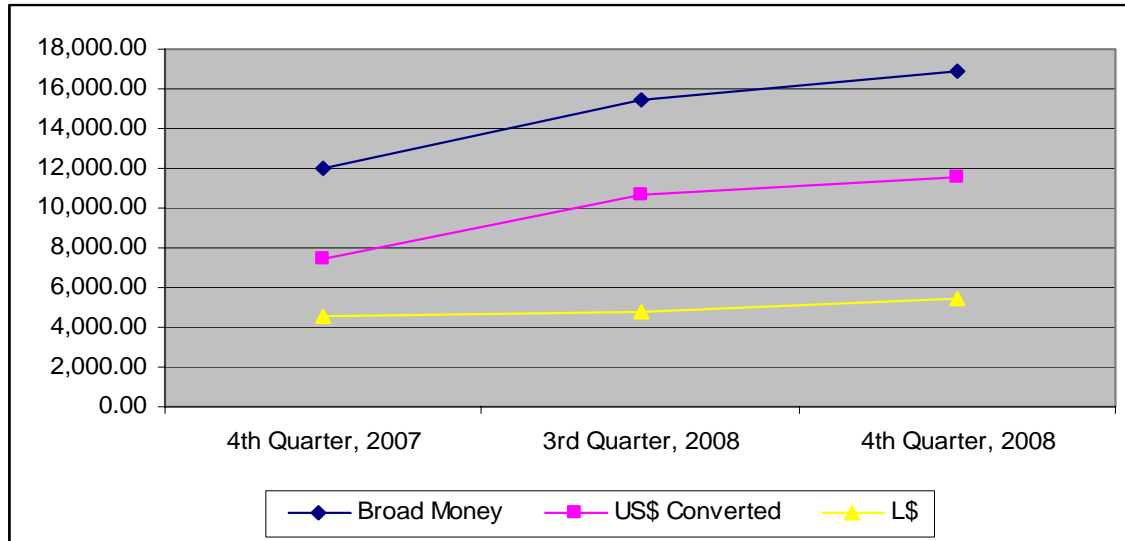
Decomposing broad money in terms of percentage share of US and Liberian dollars, shows that the US dollar component accounted for 68.1 percent while the Liberian dollar accounted for 31.9 percent, reflecting the heavily dollarized nature of the Liberian economy (Table 11 & Chart 11).

Table 11: Broad Money (M2): Share of US and Liberian Dollars
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

	4 th Quarter, 2007	% Share	3rd Quarter, 2008	% Share	4 th Quarter, 2008	% Share
Broad Money	11,977.1		15,389.2		16,931.0	
US\$ Converted	7,411.5	61.9	10,647.9	69.2	11,526.1	68.1
L\$	4,565.6	38.1	4,741.3	30.8	5,404.9	31.9
Exchange Rate (end of period)	62.50		63.50		64.00	

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 11: Broad Money (M2): Share of US and Liberian Dollars
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)**



2.8 Exchange Rate

During the quarter under review, the average Liberian dollar exchange rate relative to the US dollar remained broadly stable around L\$63.00/US\$1.00 compared with the previous quarter. For most part of 2008, the rate remained generally stable and the CBL weekly foreign exchange auction has been a critical tool in helping to ensure such stability. However, the end-of-period rate depreciated slightly by 0.8 percent to L\$64.00/US\$1.00 at end-December, 2008, from L\$63.50 per US dollar at end of the third quarter (Table 12). The US-Liberian dollar exchange rate during the quarter fluctuated between L\$63.00 and L\$64.00 per US\$1.00.

**Table 12: Exchange Rates: L\$/US\$
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

MARKET RATE	4 th Quarter, 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008	4 th Quarter, 2008
END-OF-PERIOD	62.50	63.50	64.00
PERIOD AVERAGE	60.77	63.47	63.29

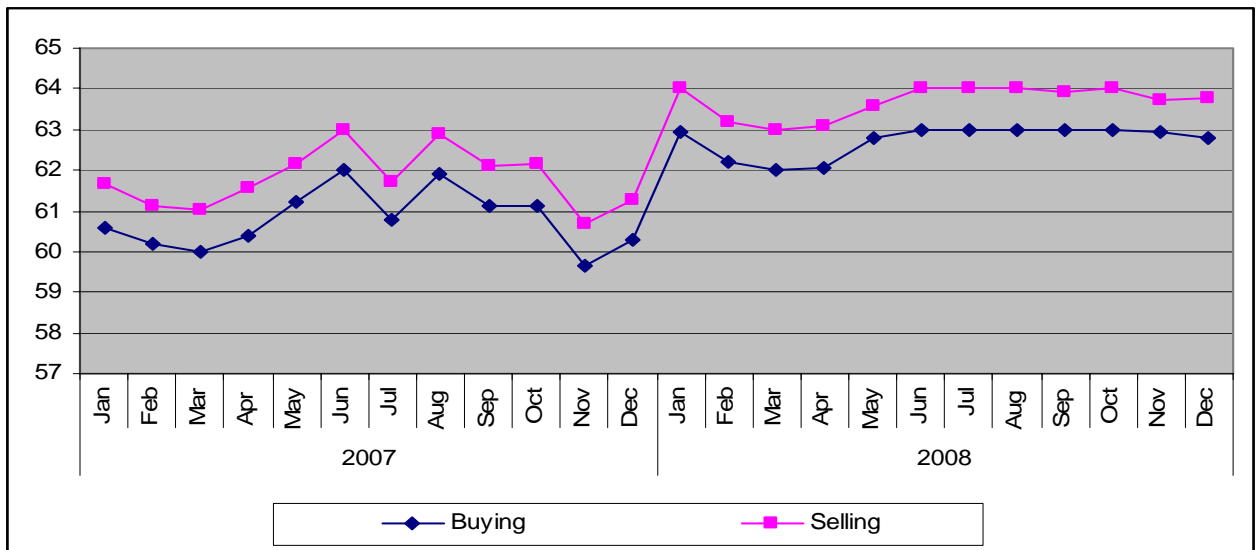
Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table 13: Exchange Rate Developments: Liberian Dollars per US dollar
(Monthly Averages)
(January 2007 – December, 2008)**

Period Average	2007		2008	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	60.57	61.65	62.96	64.00
February	60.21	61.13	62.20	63.20
March	60.00	61.01	62.00	63.01
April	60.40	61.54	62.06	63.08
May	61.22	62.17	62.78	63.56
June	62.02	63.00	63.00	64.00
July	60.77	61.71	63.00	64.00
August	61.91	62.91	63.00	64.00
September	61.12	62.12	63.00	63.94
October	61.13	62.15	63.00	64.00
November	59.65	60.67	62.92	63.70
December	60.27	61.27	62.81	63.76
Q1	60.26	61.26	62.39	63.40
Q2	61.21	62.24	62.61	63.54
Q3	61.27	62.25	63.00	63.98
Q4	60.35	61.36	62.91	63.82
Year	60.77	61.78	62.73	63.69

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 12: Exchange Rate Developments: Liberian dollars per US dollar
(Monthly Averages)
(January 2007 – December, 2008)**



2.9 Foreign Exchange Auction

At end of the fourth quarter, a total of US\$6.5 million was offered and sold through the Bank's foreign exchange auction program, the same level recorded for the third quarter of the year. However, the amount of US dollars sold through the auction during the quarter increased by 4.0 million compared with the US\$2.5 million sold during the corresponding quarter of 2007.

2.10 Remittances

Total inflows of US\$210.7 million was recorded at end of the review quarter while outflows totaled US\$247.7 million — resulting into a net outflow of US\$37.0 million. Compared with the preceding quarter, inflows for the quarter reduced by US\$44.6 million, from US\$255.3 million at end-September, 2008; while outflows increased by US\$8.0 million, from US\$239.7 million at end of the same period.

**Table 14: Remittances: Inflows and Outflows
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions US\$)**

	4 th Quarter, 2007			3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008		
	Inflows	Outflows	Net Flow	Inflows	Outflows	Net Flow	Inflows	Outflows	Net Flow
Banks ¹	212.9	224.6	-11.7	254.5	239.0	15.5	210.2	247.3	-37.1
Private Firms ²	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1
Total	213.8	225.4	-11.6	255.3	239.7	15.6	210.7	247.7	-37.0
O/w WR*	83.6	48.2	35.4	47.5	44.6	2.9	55.4	32.6	22.8

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Inward workers' remittances accounted for US\$55.4 million (26.3 percent) of total inflows while outward remittances represented US\$32.6 million (13.2 percent) of total outflows for the quarter. Inward workers' transfers rose by US\$7.9 million to US\$55.4 million at end of the review quarter, from US\$47.5 million at end of the third quarter of the year, while outward workers' transfers declined by US\$12.0 million, from US\$44.6 million for the same period. During 2008, inward workers' remittances showed consistent declines largely on account of the ongoing global financial and economic meltdown in the USA, UK and other developed and emerging market economies.

III. Fiscal Developments

The amounts of L\$2,966.5 million and L\$ 4,274.6 million were reported for revenue and expenditure, respectively, for the fourth quarter of 2008, indicating that expenditure exceeded revenue by L\$1,308.1 million.

3.1 Revenue

Aggregate Government revenue for the review quarter was recorded at L\$2,966.5 million, 5.4 percent of projected nominal GDP of US\$872.8 million and 15.7 percent of the national budget of US\$298.1 million for 2008/2009. Compared with the previous quarter, total revenue declined by L\$37.1 million or 1.2 percent. The decrease was due to declines in Direct Taxes, Indirect Taxes, and FDA Levy.

A disaggregation of total revenue shows that Customs & Excise Taxes amounted to L\$1,459.1 million (49.2 percent of total revenue); Direct Taxes, L\$856.2 million (28.9 percent); Indirect Taxes, L\$273.7 million (9.2 percent); Maritime Revenue, L\$229.4 million (7.7 percent); Petroleum Sales Levy, L\$130.0 million (4.4 percent); FDA, L\$ 10.1 million (0.3 percent), and Grants, L\$7.9 million (0.3 percent) (Table 15).

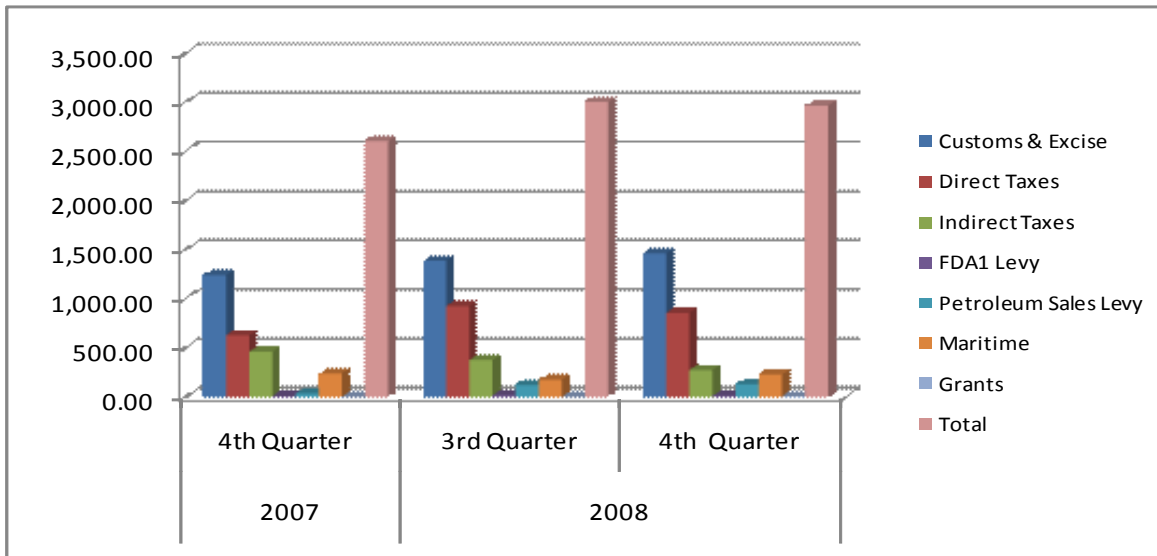
**Table 15: Government of Liberia Revenue by Sources
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)**

Revenue Sources	2007	2008	
	4 th Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
Customs & Excise Taxes	1,237.7	1,388.9	1,459.1
Direct Taxes	628.2	923.8	856.2
Indirect Taxes	459.1	374.7	273.7
FDA ¹ Levy	9.3	17.1	10.1
Petroleum Sales Levy	34.7	123.0	130.0
Maritime	240.9	176.1	229.4
Grants	0	0.0	7.9
Total	2,604.9	3,003.6	2,966.5

¹ Forestry Development Authority

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 13: Government of Liberia Revenue by Sources
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)**



3.2 Expenditure

Total Government spending for the quarter stood at L\$4,274.6 million, accounting for 22.6 percent of the 2008/2009 national budget and 7.7 percent of projected nominal GDP for 2008. Aggregate expenditure increased by L\$659.7 million or 18.2 percent to L\$4,274.6 million for the fourth quarter, from 3,614.9 million recorded for the third quarter. Matched against the corresponding quarter of 2007, total expenditure increased by L\$1,441.1 million or 50.9 percent. The expansion in total expenditure during the quarter can be primarily attributed to increased reconstruction activities in the country, payments of arrears to vendors as well as the implementation of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (PRSP).

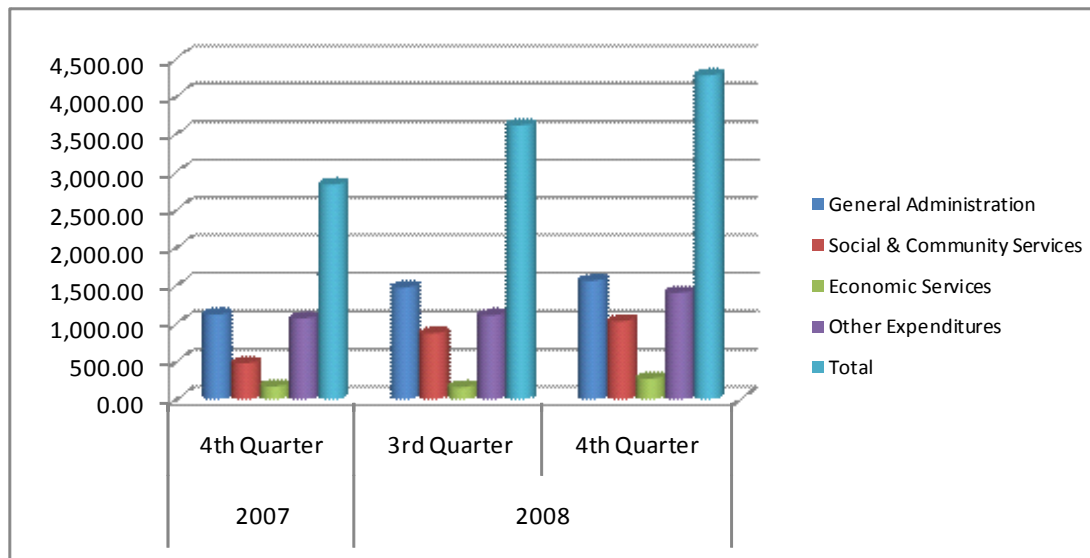
A breakdown of total expenditure for the quarter shows that spending on General Administration amounted to L\$1,565.1 million (36.6 percent of total expenditure); Other Expenditures, 1,405.5 million (32.9 percent); Social and Community Services, L\$1,030.7 million (24.1 percent), and Economic Services, L\$273.3 million (6.4 percent)(Table 16).

Table 16: Government of Liberia Expenditure by Category
(4th quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

Expenditure Category	2007	2008	
	4 th Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
General Administration	1,118.6	1,474.9	1,565.1
Social & Community Services	476.7	871.5	1,030.7
Economic Services	170.9	161.1	273.3
Other Expenditures	1,067.3	1,107.5	1,405.5
Total	2,833.5	3,614.9	4,274.6

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

Chart 14: Government of Liberia Expenditure by Category
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)



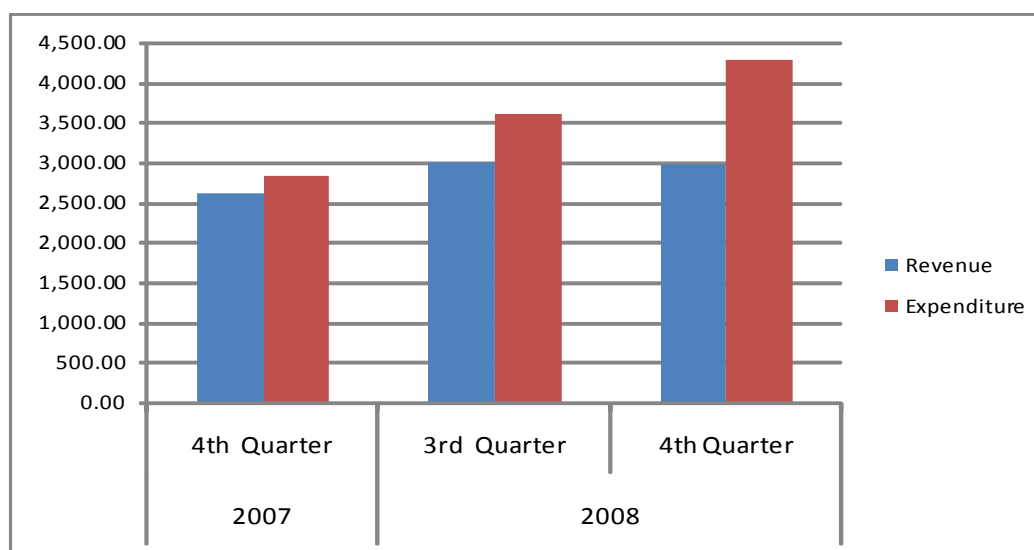
Revenue and expenditure for the fourth quarter of 2007, and those of the third and fourth quarters of 2008 are presented in Table 17 and Chart 15 below:

Table 17: Government of Liberia Revenue & Expenditure by Quarter
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

	2007	2008	
	4 th Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
Revenue	2,604.9	3,003.6	2,966.5
Expenditure	2,833.5	3,614.9	4,274.6

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 15: Government of Liberia Revenue & Expenditure by Quarter
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)**



3.3 Public Debt

The National Stock of Debt⁴

The total stock of Liberia's public debt at end-October, 2008, was recorded at US\$4,274.6 million, of which external debt accounted for US\$3,359.0 million (78.6 percent) and domestic debt, US\$915.6 million (21.4 percent).

External Debt

The country's external debt is currently not sustainable, but is projected to improve. The latest low-income country debt sustainability analysis for Liberia reveals that the country is in debt distress. However, debt dynamics are projected to be manageable following the full delivery of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives (MDRI), and other debt relief initiatives. Total external debt as at end-October, 2008 stood at US\$3,359.0 million, indicating a decrease of US\$464.0 million over the level recorded at end-June, 2008.

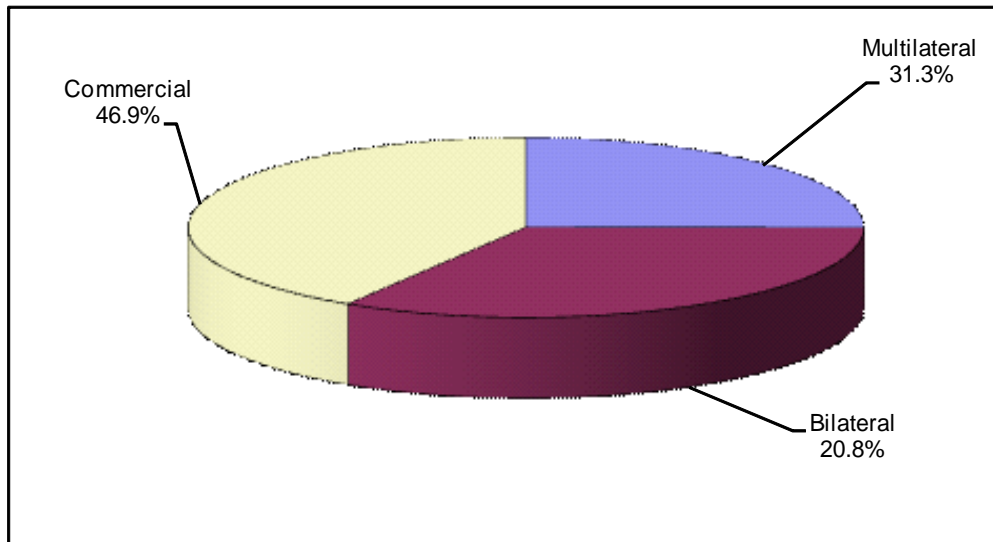
⁴ Debt numbers are provisional

**Table 18: Summary Estimates of External Debt Stock & Status
As at End-June and End-October, 2008
(In Millions US\$)**

	June, 2008		October, 2008	
	Estimates Debt Relief	Stock at End-June	Estimates Debt Relief	Stock as at End-October
Multilateral	655.0	960.0	655.0	1,051.0
Bilateral	254.0	1,289.0	843.0	700.0
Commercial creditors	-	1,574.0	-	1,574.0
International organizations	-	-	-	34.0
Total	909.0	3,823.0	1,498.0	3,359.0

Source: Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Chart 16: Summary Estimate of External Debt Stock & Status
as at October 31, 2008**



Debt Relief

As at end-October 2008, the country received a total of US\$1,498.0 million in debt relief, indicating an increase of US\$589.0 million over the level of debt relief reported at end-June 2008 (Table 18). A disaggregation of debt relief by creditors shows that a total of US\$655.0 million has been given in relief by multilateral creditors, and US\$843.0 million by bilateral creditors. Of the US\$655.0 million realized in multilateral debt relief, US\$400.0 million was cleared through the World Bank bridge loan, while the African Development Bank (AfDB) gave a total of US\$255.0 million through its Post-Conflict Countries Facility (PCCF).

In March 2008, following the clearance of Liberia's arrears totaling over US\$841.0 million to the IMF, the IMF Board approved Fund financing of around US\$900.0 million under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and Extended Fund Facility (PRGF/EFF). During the year, Liberia also formally entered the HIPC process which allows the Fund and other creditors to forgive Liberia's debts of over US\$4.7 billion in the context of the HIPC Initiative framework. Since its achievement of the HIPC Decision Point in March, 2008, Liberia has started to benefit from IMF interim debt relief, which is expected to continue with the full application of the IMF's share of debt relief to be delivered when Liberia reaches the HIPC Completion Point.

During the year, Paris Club creditors offered US\$254.0 million in immediate reduction, with no debt service payment for the next 3 years. Most Paris Club creditors have committed themselves to give the country more favorable terms which will lead to an eventual debt cancellation. China announced its intention to forgive 100.0 percent of its debt outstanding.

With regard to commercial creditors, the government met 3 of its creditors and there is likelihood that there will be a debt buyback with support from the International Development Association (IDA) Debt Reduction Facility.

As a result of the current debt relief initiative, the Fund will be providing Liberia with new financial resources on concessional terms under the PRGF, equivalent to about \$63.0 million over three years. On December 22, 2008, the Executive Board of the IMF completed the first review of Liberia's economic performance under a 3-year Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) arrangement. The completion of the review made SDRs 7.0 million (about US\$10.8 million) available to Liberia, bringing the total disbursements under the arrangement to SDRs 214.26 million (about US\$331.0 million).

Domestic Debt

Total domestic debt at end-October 2008 was recorded at US\$915.6 million. A breakdown of this by category shows the following: suppliers credit, US\$8.1 million (0.9 percent of the total); Salary and Allowances, US\$3.8 million (0.4 percent); Financial

Institutions-Agreements, US\$276.9 million (30.2 percent); Pre-NTGL Salary, US\$11.7 million (1.3 percent), and Contingent Liabilities, US\$615.1 million (67.2 percent) (Table 19).

During the year, the GoL finalized the validation of outstanding domestic debt and accepted claims totaling US\$300.5 million. Of the valid claims, about US\$268.0 million is held by the CBL, while valid claims amounting to approximately US\$51.0 million to private suppliers have been discounted in accordance with the government's domestic debt strategy to US\$8.1 million. The remaining claims consist of restructured bank loans and wage arrears. The 2006 domestic debt resolution strategy envisioned the setting up of a trust fund to help service this debt, but the authorities are now reconsidering this approach because a large number of claims were rejected, which reduced the funding need, and in light of a low probabilities of donor support for such a trust fund.

Table 19: Domestic Debt as verified in 2006-2008 (In Millions US\$)									
	Debt				Paid				Total Stock
	2006	2007	2008	Total	2006	2007	2008	Total	Total
Suppliers Credit	4.6		6.7	11.3		2.3	0.9	3.2	8.1
Salary & Allowances	3.8			3.8				0.0	3.8
Financial Institutions-Agreements	276.9			276.9				0.0	276.9
of which:									
Central Bank	267.5			267.5				0.0	267.5
CBL- Overdraft/ Loan	260.5			260.5				0.0	260.5
CBL-Recapitalization Bond	7.0			7.0				0.0	7.0
Commercial Banks	9.4			9.4				0.0	9.4
LBDI	8.2			8.2				0.0	8.2
ECOBANK	0.3			0.3				0.0	0.3
ECOBANK	1.0			1.0				0.0	1.0
Loans to Corporations	0.0			0.0				0.0	0.0
Pre-NTGL Salary	32.2			32.2		20.5		20.5	11.7
Total Verified Liabilities	317.5	0.0	6.7	324.2	0.0	22.8	0.9	23.7	300.5
Contingent Liabilities									
Rejected	615.1			615.1				0.0	615.1
Total Liabilities-Valid and Contingent	932.6	0.0	6.7	939.3	0.0	22.8	0.9	23.7	915.6

Note – No new domestic debts were accrued, but the series for 2006 – 2008 are based on the validation results by external financial Advisors.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

IV. FOREIGN TRADE

4.1 Merchandise Exports

The global financial turmoil also had its toll on the country's export sector during the quarter. Major importers of the country's primary exports reduced their importation. Accordingly, the value of total exports fell by 28.8 percent, from US\$64.3 million at end-September, 2008 to US\$45.8 million at the end of the fourth quarter (Table 20 & Chart 17).

Proceeds from rubber, the nation's principal export earner, declined by 26.7 percent on account of a slump in both price and volume of the commodity. Notwithstanding, the commodity accounted for 85.6 percent of total export earnings, the largest share of export receipts during the quarter.

Receipts from the mineral exports (i.e., diamond and gold) also plummeted during the quarter. Proceeds from diamond exports contracted significantly from US\$4.3 million in the third quarter to US\$0.7 million recorded in the fourth quarter, largely due to fall in volume, from 17.33 carats to 4.50 carats for the period under consideration. The price of the commodity also fell by 32.5 percent. The contraction in earnings was also largely due to the fall in demand for the mineral owing to the global financial crisis. Earnings from gold remained relatively stable, as there were no major movements in price and volume.

Export earnings from the "other commodities" also declined, contracting by 38.1 percent, from US\$2.1 million in the third quarter, to US\$1.3 million as at the end of the review quarter. The fall in proceeds from these non-traditional exports can be ascribed to reduction in demand on the international market.

Export proceeds from cocoa beans recorded the only increase during the period. They rose four-folds, from US\$0.4 million at the end of the third quarter to US\$1.6 million for the fourth quarter. The return of farmers to their original localities to carry out intensive cocoa activities contributed to this expansion. Additionally, there was a significant increase in the volume of the commodity exported during the fourth quarter of the year.

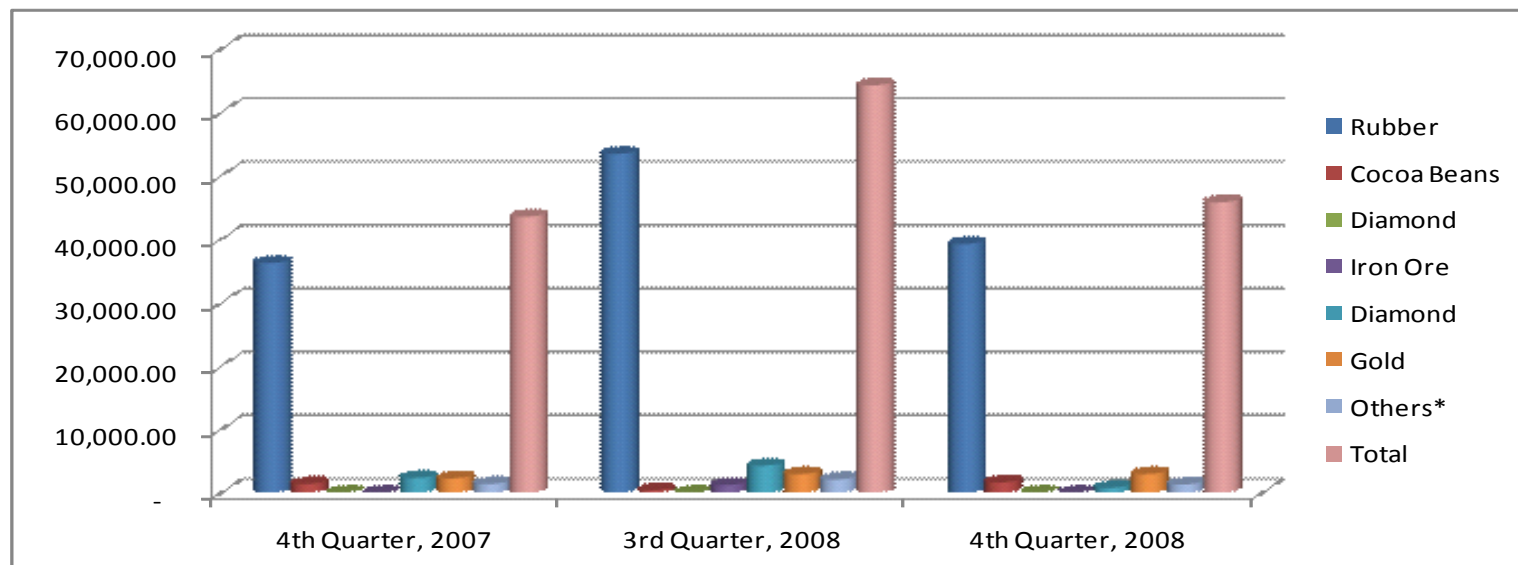
**Table 20: Commodity Composition of Exports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Commodity	Volume Measurement Units	4 th Quarter, 2007			3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008		
		Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)	price	Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)	Price	Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)	price
Rubber	Mt.	20.61	36,237.80	1,758.3	20.47	53,452.6	2,611.1	16.24	39,232.96	2,416.36
Cocoa Beans	Mt.	1.91	1,368.57	716.5	0.49	366.0	750.0	2.02	1,609.15	795.03
Iron Ore	Mt.	0.0	-	-	20.00	1,200.0	60.0	-	-	-
Diamond	Carat	18.81	2,329.58	123.9	17.33	4,256.8	245.7	4.50	746.24	165.92
Gold	Onunce	3.74	2,245.68	600.5	4.79	2,916.4	608.5	4.85	2,941.79	605.98
Others*	-	0.0	1,356.40	-	-	2,068.7	-	-	1,281.19	-
Total	-	-	43,538.03	-	-	64,260.6	-	-	45,811.32	-

*Commodities of minimum values

Sources: Ministries of Commerce & Industries, Lands, Mines & Energy and the Central Bank of Liberia

**Chart 17: Commodity Composition of Exports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**



Merchandise Imports

Import activities during the quarter contrasted with those recorded in the previous quarter. While total import expenditures rose in the third quarter, they fell in the fourth quarter. Total import payments for the quarter were recorded at US\$185.9 million, as against US\$262.5 million recorded in the last quarter. This was on account of subdued import activities during the fourth quarter in the face of unstable international commodity prices.

Major import categories include Food & Live Animals Food Animals, Chemical & Related Products, Manufactured Goods classified chiefly as Materials and products. Fall in payments to the Food & Live Animals category can be ascribed mainly to reduction in expenditures on the nation's staple, rice. For the review period, rice imports totaled US\$23.4 million compared with US\$47.8 million recorded for the previous quarter. This was due to the build-up of inventory in the third quarter, which resulted into less importation of rice during the fourth quarter. The commodity accounted for 43.1 percent of total payments to the Food & Live Animals category and 13.0 percent of total import expenditures. Payments to the Chemicals & Related Products and Manufactured Goods categories also fell by 18.3 and 32.3 percent, respectively.

Petroleum import expenditures also fell during the quarter under consideration. They were down by 59.0 percent, from US\$58.0 million to US\$23.8 million. The reduction was largely due to the fact that there was no importation of petroleum products in the month of December. Payments to the Miscellaneous Articles category also declined, falling from US\$27.9 million in the third quarter to US\$11.4 million during the review quarter. This category comprises basically personal effects and relief items.

The cost of imports of Machinery and Transport Equipment totaled US\$54.3 million at end of the quarter, compared with US\$44.0 million in the previous quarter. This represents an increase of 23.4 percent. The growing investment activities evidenced by the importation of earth moving equipment by major concessions gave rise to the increase in payments to this category of imports during the quarter under review (Table 21).

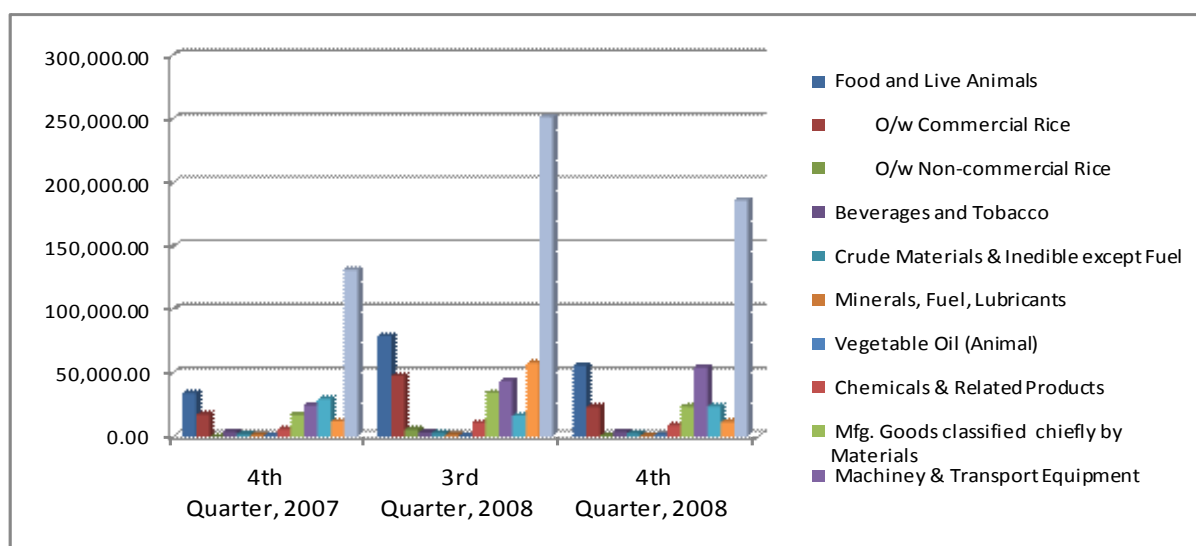
**Table 21: Commodity Composition of Imports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Commodity Imports	4th Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008
Food and Live Animals	34,309.80	79,369.51	55,945.52
O/w Commercial Rice	17,368.30	47,791.87	23,400.00
O/w Non-commercial Rice	-	5,598.78	699.25
Beverages and Tobacco	3,983.10	3,133.14	3,807.22
Crude Materials & Inedible except Fuel	2,171.50	2,784.72	2,625.28
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	1,148.50	1,429.56	690.56
Vegetable Oil (Animal)	686.70	357.10	905.03
Chemicals & Related Products	5,725.70	10,877.71	8,913.23
Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by Materials	17,096.10	34,678.99	23,504.41
Machinery & Transport Equipment	24,356.20	44,004.15	54,293.47
Petroleum Products	29,733.20	57,985.26	23,820.77
Miscellaneous Articles ¹	11,974.20	27,864.26	11,390.19
GRAND TOTAL	131,185.00	262,484.56	185,895.69

¹Includes Comm. & Transaction not elsewhere classified

Sources: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Chart 18: Commodity Composition of Imports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters 2008)**



4.3 Balance of Trade

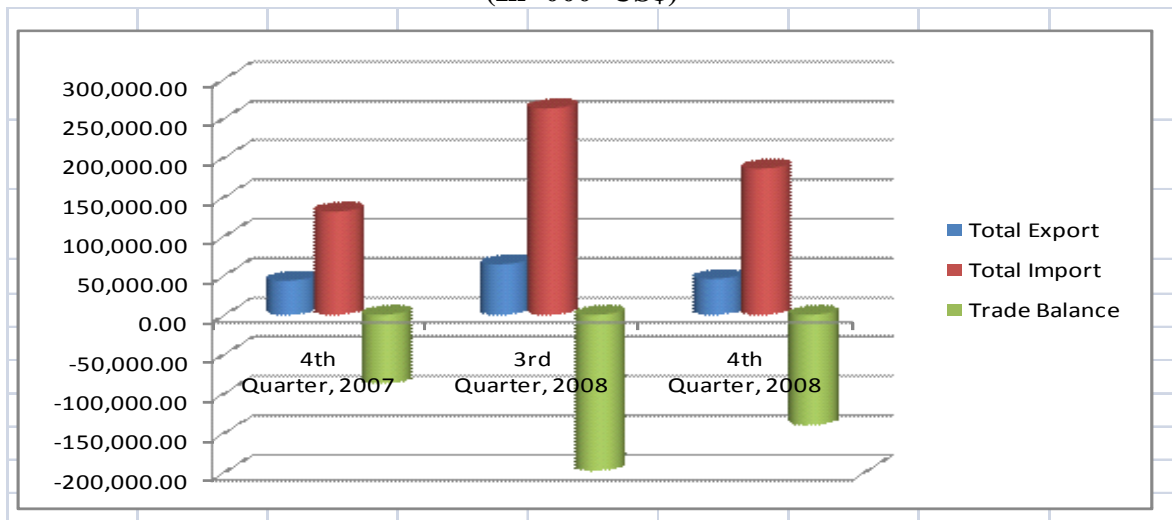
The country's trade balance has continued to be in a deficit for several quarters, even though it narrowed at the end of the fourth quarter relative to the level recorded for the third quarter. For the review quarter, the deficit was recorded at US\$140.1 million compared with US\$198.2 million for the previous quarter (Table 22 & Chart 19).

Table 22: Balance of Trade
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' US\$)

	4 th Quarter, 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008	4 th Quarter, 2008
Total Export	43,537.90	64,260.62	45,811.32
Total Import	131,185.00	262,484.56	185,895.69
Trade Balance	-87,647.10	-198,223.94	-140,084.37

Sources: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI), Ministry of Land, Mines and Energy, and Firestone-Liberia

Chart 19: Balance of Trade
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' US\$)



STATISTICAL APPENDIX

PART A: REAL SECTOR

- Table A-1: Key Agricultural and Forestry Production (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table A-2: Key Industrial Output (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table A-3: Consumption of Petroleum Products (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table A-4: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table A-5: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups (July – December, 2008)
- Table A-6: Year-on-Year Rate of Inflation (January – December, 2008)

PART B: FINANCIAL SECTOR

- Table B-1: Monetary Survey (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-2: Liberian Currency in Circulation (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-3: Money Supply and Broad Money (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-4: Other Depository Corporations' Balance Sheet (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-5: Sectoral Balance Sheet of Central Bank of Liberia (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-6: Commercial Banks' Loans by Economic Sectors (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-7: Central Bank of Liberia Foreign Exchange Auction Program (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table B-8: Exchange Rate Developments: Liberian Dollars per US Dollar (Monthly Averages) (2007-December 31, 2008)

PART C: FISCAL SECTOR

- Table C-1: Government of Liberia Revenue by Sources (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table C-2: Government of Liberia Expenditure by Category (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table C-3: Summary Estimates of External Debt Stock & Status (As at End-June and End-October, 2008)
- Table C-4: Functional Classification of Government Expenditure 4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)

PART D: EXTERNAL SECTOR

- Table D-1: Commodity Composition of Exports (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table D-2: Commodity Composition of Imports (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
- Table D-3: Balance of Trade (4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)

**Table A-1: Key Agricultural and Forestry Production
4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008**

Commodity	Unit	4 th Quarter 2007	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008
Rubber	Mt	20,615	18,229	16,461
Cocoa	Mt	1139*	915	975
Coffee	Mt	N/A	75	121
Round Logs	M ³	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sawn Timber	Pcs	167,304	200,720	259,761

**Estimates*

Sources: Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC), and National Port Authority (NPA), Monrovia, Liberia

Table A-2: Key Industrial Output
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)

Commodity	Unit	4 th Quarter 2007	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008
Diamond	Carat	18,814	17,329	4,497
Gold	Ounce	3,824	4,340	4,855
Cement	Mt	21,876	23,561	15,747
Spirit	Litre	328,030	341,368	313,538
Beer	Litre	1,645,889	1,698,069	1,871,110
Stout	Litre	976,140	980,757	883,745
Malta	Litre	233,466	222,449	189,312
Soft Drinks	Litre	1,882,750	1,242,792	1,847,398
Oil Paint	Gal.	11,615	4,360	5,069
Water Paint	Gal.	19,824	21,500	34,895
Varnish	Gal.	2,904	1,090	1,267
Manoline Hair Grease	Kg.	14,179	4,830	10,987
Powder Soap	Kg.	29,657	45,466	32,193
Candle	Kg.	119,469	56,407	56,196
Chlorox	Litre	140,874	103,702	91,037
Rubbing Alcohol	Litre	87,557	23,702	40,407
Thinner	Gal.	1,306	375	685
Mattresses	Pcs	25,879	25,603	15,381
Finished Water ¹	Gal.	204,135,150*	417,782,506*	

¹Finished Water: Water obtained from the White Plains Water Treatment Plant in White Plains in Montserrado County

Sources: Ministry of Commerce; Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS); AND Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation

Table A-3: Consumption of Petroleum Products
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Gallons)

Commodity	Unit	4 th Quarter 2007	3 rd Quarter 2008	4 th Quarter 2008
Premium(PMS)	Gallon	4,610,200	3,773,150.00	5,078,250
Diesel(AGO)	Gallon	6,447,000	33,010.00	2,640,200
Kerosine(ATK)	Gallon	96,000	50,000	50,880
Jet-Fuel(JET-A)	Gallon	1,024,000	6,200	800,000
Total		12,177,200	3,862,360	8,569,330

Source: Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation, Monrovia, Liberia

Table A-4: Vessel Traffic and Cargo Movements
4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008

Quarter	No. of Vessels	Vessel Weight(SDWT*)	Cargo Tonnage(in metric tons)		
			Imports	Exports	Total
4 th Quarter, 2007	83	1,132,800	254,035	64,772	318,807
3 rd Quarter, 2008	100	904,521	252,457	66,358	318,815
4 th Quarter, 2008	120	1,081,952	311,265	50,804	362,069

*SDWT = SUMMER Dead Weight Tons

Source: National Port Authority, Monrovia, Liberia

Table A-5: Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI) By Major Groups
Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(Dec. 2005=100)

FUNCTION	WEIGHT	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	4th Quarter, 2007 AVE	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	3rd Quarter, 2008 Ave	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	4th Quarter, 2008 AVE
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	45.20	11.17	15.28	18.40	14.95	28.82	39.24	27.86	31.97	25.09	19.17	11.10	18.45
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS	3.03	6.87	1.36	0.89	3.04	3.35	0.52	2.36	2.08	3.34	2.91	4.43	3.56
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	7.75	4.64	4.20	5.41	4.75	5.44	2.35	4.96	4.25	10.76	11.97	8.83	10.52
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	12.00	9.20	2.50	2.56	4.75	10.63	12.27	11.80	11.57	9.03	5.66	3.37	6.02
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE	5.25	9.70	5.79	6.07	7.19	11.93	21.54	23.69	19.05	21.10	24.38	8.30	17.93
HEALTH	3.91	-1.33	-1.33	-1.33	-1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT	6.11	21.61	23.29	25.27	23.39	67.93	67.92	39.53	58.46	39.09	36.87	28.93	34.96
COMMUNICATION	1.53	-10.24	-10.44	-10.00	-10.23	-1.68	-1.86	-1.75	-1.76	2.62	2.81	2.31	2.58
RECREATION AND CULTURE	3.85	1.64	0.60	4.87	2.37	11.34	10.72	10.51	10.86	9.98	11.21	7.57	9.59
EDUCATION	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	4.64	3.22	3.91	5.58	4.24	7.99	3.76	3.29	5.01	3.33	3.58	3.42	3.44
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	3.53	-2.05	-1.17	7.72	1.50	9.58	10.33	10.55	10.15	9.68	10.41	2.13	7.41
GENERAL RATE OF INFLATION	100.00	8.59	9.46	11.66	9.90	21.26	26.54	19.97	22.59	18.57	15.52	9.39	14.49

Sources: Liberia Institute for Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), and the Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table A-6: Year-On-Year Rate of Inflation
(January—December, 2008)
(Dec. 2005=100)**

Month	2008
January	16.5
February	14.8
March	14.3
April	11.7
May	19.2
June	22.0
July	21.3
August	26.5
September	20.0
October	18.6
November	15.5
December	9.4
Average Rate of Inflation	17.5

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-1: Monetary Survey
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

	Dec-07	2008			2008		
	Dec-07	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08
FOREIGN ASSETS (NET)	(47,319.5)	(44,544.5)	(44,005.9)	(44,452.8)	(41,622.1)	(41,499.5)	(40,773.2)
FOREIGN ASSETS (MA)	7,456.9	9,617.5	9,783.2	9,324.7	10,118.4	9,779.7	9,561.7
(-) FOREIGN LIABILITIES (MA)	57,967.5	57,813.4	57,810.8	58,676.8	56,094.8	56,095.8	56,109.1
FOREIGN ASSETS (CoB)	4,019.7	4,387.9	4,852.4	5,704.5	5,246.3	5,670.5	6,385.6
(-) FOREIGN LIABILITIES (CoB)	828.6	736.4	830.7	805.3	892.0	853.9	611.4
DOMESTIC CREDIT	76,462.3	76,783.5	76,656.7	75,044.0	72,867.9	73,451.9	74,013.8
CLAIMS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT (NET)	71,746.2	70,956.4	70,618.9	68,666.5	66,371.9	66,831.5	67,302.8
CLAIMS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MA)	74,201.7	74,030.6	74,027.5	71,338.6	68,928.7	68,865.5	69,054.9
(-) GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS (MA)	2,975.1	3,737.5	3,927.3	3,176.4	3,049.8	2,536.9	2,243.9
CLAIMS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT (CoB)	735.4	746.4	605.9	605.5	605.5	603.2	593.3
(-) GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS (CoB)	215.9	83.1	87.2	101.2	112.6	100.3	101.6
CLAIMS ON PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (MA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CLAIMS ON PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (CoB)	131.8	66.5	55.7	62.1	62.7	59.9	64.4
CLAIMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR (MA)	133.0	30.7	31.8	31.6	31.5	31.5	113.0
CLAIMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR (CoB)	4,370.0	5,728.8	5,948.7	6,282.8	6,400.4	6,526.3	6,533.1
CLAIMS ON NBFIS (MA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CLAIMS ON NBFIS (CoB)	81.3	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.3	2.7	0.5
MONEY	12,467.3	14,530.0	15,248.1	16,057.9	16,584.0	17,051.9	17,931.6
CURRENCY OUTSIDE BANKS (MA)	3,317.4	2,893.2	2,812.3	2,894.0	3,063.3	3,356.9	3,637.1
LIBERIAN CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION (MA)	3,594.4	3,409.7	3,335.9	3,358.7	3,433.7	3,767.6	4,090.0
(-) CURRENCY HOLDINGS (CoB)	276.9	516.5	523.6	464.7	370.3	410.7	452.9
DEMAND DEPOSITS	6,031.9	7,614.9	8,260.3	9,259.9	9,455.1	9,432.1	10,111.3
DEMAND DEPOSITS (MA)	490.2	607.9	592.9	668.6	639.6	909.5	1,000.6
DEMAND DEPOSITS (CoB)	5,541.7	7,006.9	7,667.4	8,591.2	8,815.5	8,522.6	9,110.8
OTHER DEPOSITS	3,118.0	4,021.9	4,175.5	3,904.0	4,065.5	4,262.9	4,183.2
OTHER DEPOSITS (MA)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS (CoB)	3,118.0	4,021.9	4,175.5	3,904.0	4,065.5	4,262.9	4,183.2
BONDS AND SECURITIES (CoB)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RESTRICTED DEPOSIT	48.0	47.2	47.2	46.7	46.7	47.3	47.3
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	19,027.7	20,268.6	20,147.3	20,070.5	20,046.5	20,042.6	20,210.5
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS (MA)	15,619.8	16,241.8	16,247.1	16,156.4	16,059.7	15,921.5	16,127.6
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS (CoB)	3,407.9	4,026.8	3,900.3	3,914.1	3,986.8	4,121.1	4,082.8
OTHER ITEMS (NET)	(2,400.2)	(2,606.7)	(2,791.9)	(5,583.9)	(5,431.4)	(5,189.5)	(4,948.8)
UNCLASSIFIED LIABILITIES (MA)	7,725.7	12,779.5	12,777.1	8,680.6	8,334.6	8,313.5	8,287.3
(-) UNCLASSIFIED ASSETS (MA)	9,027.4	13,974.3	13,978.9	13,343.7	12,768.2	12,704.6	12,660.4
(-) UNCLASSIFIED ASSETS (CoB)	1,473.9	1,945.1	1,675.6	1,634.2	1,886.3	1,925.7	2,038.5
UNCLASSIFIED LIABILITIES (CoB)	1,307.7	1,968.1	1,476.8	1,936.6	1,519.7	1,973.8	2,222.5
COMMERCIAL BANKS DEPOSITS (MA)	2,684.5	3,369.6	3,426.6	3,662.2	4,553.3	4,361.5	3,999.1
(-) RESERVES (CoB)	2,852.9	4,197.6	4,228.1	4,193.1	4,420.2	4,280.8	3,922.0
CURRENCY HOLDINGS (CoB)	276.9	516.5	523.6	464.7	370.3	410.7	452.9
LIABILITIES TO CENTRAL BANK (CoB)	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(-) CLAIMS ON DOMESTIC BANKS (MA)	56.6	37.8	38.8	42.9	28.7	100.7	78.5
(-) CLAIMS ON CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA (CoB)	787.1	798.3	798.3	797.2	797.2	794.1	803.3
(-) UNBALANCED ITEMS	(200.3)	(287.5)	(276.1)	(316.9)	(308.7)	(443.1)	(407.7)
VERTICAL CHECK	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	(0.0)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-2: Liberian Currency in Circulation
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

End of Period	Currency in Banks	Currency outside Banks	Currency In circulation
Quarter, 2007	(1)	(2)	(1+2=3)
4 th Quarter	276.9	3,317.4	3,594.4
Quarters, 2008			
3 rd Quarter	464.7	2,894.0	3,358.7
4 th Quarter	452.9	3,637.1	4,090.0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-3: Money Supply and Broad Money
Liberian & United States Dollars
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

	4 th Quarter, 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008		
	Dec	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BROAD MONEY	11,977.1	13,922.0	14,655.2	15,389.2	15,944.4	16,142.4	16,931.0
M1	8,859.2	9,900.1	10,479.7	11,485.2	11,878.8	11,879.5	12,747.8
CURRENCY OUTSIDE BANKS L\$	3,317.4	2,893.2	2,812.3	2,894.0	3,063.3	3,356.9	3,637.1
DEMAND DEPOSITS (CoB)	5,541.7	7,006.9	7,667.4	8,591.2	8,815.5	8,522.6	9,110.8
US\$ component of Broad Money denominated to L\$	5,017.8	6,400.2	6,944.2	7,823.4	8,101.9	7,785.5	8,334.8
Liberian Dollars	524.0	606.7	723.2	767.8	713.6	737.0	775.9
TIME AND SAVINGS (CoB)	3,118.0	4,021.9	4,175.5	3,904.0	4,065.5	4,262.9	4,183.2
US\$ component of Broad Money denominated to L\$	2,393.7	3,064.5	3,187.5	2,824.5	2,908.0	3,067.3	3,191.2
Liberian Dollars	724.3	957.4	988.0	1,079.5	1,157.5	1,195.6	991.9
US\$ component of Broad Money denominated to L\$	7,411.5	9,464.7	10,131.7	10,647.9	11,009.9	10,852.9	11,526.1
Percentage share of US dollars in Broad Money	61.9%	68.0%	69.1%	69.2%	69.1%	67.2%	68.1%
Exchange Rate	62.50	63.50	63.50	63.50	63.50	63.25	64.00

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-4: Other Depository Corporations' Balance Sheet
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' L\$)

ASSETS	Dec 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008		
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RESERVES	2,852,863	4,197,585	4,228,113	4,193,135	4,420,194	4,280,782	3,922,008
<i>o/w: CASH ON HAND</i>	276,933	516,466	523,563	464,688	370,337	410,746	452,871
FOREIGN ASSETS	4,019,679	4,387,918	4,852,380	5,704,500	5,246,343	5,670,480	6,385,613
CLAIMS ON GOVERNMENT	735,444	746,375	605,873	605,546	605,546	603,162	593,312
CLAIMS ON PUBLIC CORP.	131,815	66,475	55,743	62,136	62,742	59,876	64,420
CLAIMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR	4,370,004	5,728,829	5,948,664	6,282,797	6,400,393	6,526,298	6,533,079
CLAIMS ON CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA	787,074	798,296	798,296	797,168	797,168	794,079	803,347
CLAIMS ON NBFIS	81,332	1,159	1,511	894	1,316	2,714	482
UNCLASSIFIED ASSETS	1,473,894	1,945,064	1,675,630	1,634,151	1,886,265	1,925,739	2,038,542
TOTAL ASSETS	14,452,105	17,871,701	18,166,211	19,280,327	19,419,967	19,863,129	20,340,802
LIABILITIES	Dec-07	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08
DEMAND DEPOSITS	5,541,712	7,006,925	7,667,401	8,591,244	8,815,511	8,522,585	9,110,754
TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS	3,117,965	4,021,882	4,175,494	3,903,994	4,065,550	4,262,918	4,183,154
RESTRICTED DEPOSIT	29,190	28,397	28,387	27,882	27,882	28,567	28,567
BONDS AND SECURITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOREIGN LIABILITIES	828,562	736,400	830,720	805,272	892,018	853,898	611,401
GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS	215,934	83,147	87,164	101,215	112,553	100,282	101,622
LIABILITIES TO CENTRAL BANK	3,188	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	3,407,862	4,026,836	3,900,255	3,914,090	3,986,795	4,121,086	4,082,806
UNCLASSIFIED LIABILITIES	1,307,694	1,968,115	1,476,791	1,936,629	1,519,658	1,973,793	2,222,498
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,452,105	17,871,701	18,166,210	19,280,327	19,419,967	19,863,129	20,340,802
VERTICAL CHECK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-5: Sectoral Balance Sheet of Central Bank of Liberia
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' L\$)

ASSETS	Dec 2007	3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008		
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FOREIGN ASSETS	7,456,881	9,617,451	9,783,193	9,324,728	10,118,382	9,779,677	9,561,685
CLAIMS ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT	74,201,719	74,030,616	74,027,471	71,338,632	68,928,683	68,865,550	69,054,945
CLAIMS ON PUBLIC CORPORATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLAIMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR	132,996	30,656	31,849	31,597	31,522	31,506	112,998
CLAIMS ON DOMESTIC BANKS	56,643	37,754	38,841	42,915	28,728	100,659	78,508
CLAIMS ON NBFIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNCLASSIFIED ASSETS	9,027,441	13,974,265	13,978,919	13,343,718	12,768,247	12,704,623	12,660,383
TOTAL ASSETS	90,875,680	97,690,742	97,860,272	94,081,590	91,875,562	91,482,015	91,468,519
LIABILITIES	Dec-07	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08
RESERVE MONEY	6,568,769	7,099,764	7,079,299	7,372,546	8,317,865	8,595,530	8,681,920
OTHER DEPOSITS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RESTRICTED RESERVES L\$	18,781	18,781	18,781	18,781	18,781	18,781	18,781
RESTRICTED RESERVES US\$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOREIGN LIABILITIES	57,967,541	57,813,425	57,810,758	58,676,780	56,094,774	56,095,778	56,109,058
LIABILITIES TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,975,058	3,737,478	3,927,276	3,176,415	3,049,791	2,536,903	2,243,853
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	15,619,824	16,241,772	16,247,090	16,156,419	16,059,740	15,921,535	16,127,645
UNCLASSIFIED LIABILITIES	7,725,708	12,779,523	12,777,068	8,680,649	8,334,612	8,313,489	8,287,263
TOTAL LIABILITIES	90,875,680	97,690,742	97,860,272	94,081,590	91,875,562	91,482,015	91,468,519
VERTICAL CHECK (ASSETS-LIABILITIES)	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	(0)

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table B-6: Commercial Banks' Loans by Economic Sectors
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In '000' L\$)

SECTORS	Dec-07		Sept-08		Dec-08	
		%Share		%Share		%Share
1. Agriculture	207,324	4.9	283,911	4.8	316,972	5.1
1.1 Rubber	24,728	0.6	47,379	0.8	83,204	1.3
1.2 Forestry	34,063	0.8	45,695	0.8	62,208	1.0
1.3 Fishing	8,757	0.2	8,257	0.1	23,360	0.4
1.4 other	139,777	3.3	182,581	3.1	148,200	2.4
2. Mining & Quarrying	0	0.0	34	0.0	23,083	0.4
2.1 Iron Ore	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2.2 Quarrying	0	0.0	34	0.0	23,083	0.4
3. Manufacturing	108,924	2.6	168,329	2.8	183,762	3.0
						0.0
4. Construction	279,002	6.6	607,650	10.2	551,124	8.8
4.1 Mortgage Loans	8,640	0.2	13,400	0.2	10,506	0.2
4.2 Home Improvement	14,625	0.3	18,733	0.3	13,440	0.2
4.3 Other	255,737	6.1	575,518	9.6	527,178	8.5
5. Trans., Storage & Comm.	218,403	5.2	710,760	11.9	735,564	11.8
5.1 Transportation	172,589	4.1	625,624	10.5	606,206	9.7
5.2 Storage	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5.3 Communication	45,814	1.1	85,136	1.4	129,358	2.1
		0.0				
6. Trade, Hotel & Rest.	916,321	21.8	2,025,629	33.9	1,856,078	29.8
6.1 Diamond trade	7,500	0.2	7,938	0.1	8,832	0.1
6.2 Other trade	778,321	18.5	1,805,690	30.3	1,647,382	26.5
6.3 Hotels	120,625	2.9	180,942	3.0	172,591	2.8
6.4 Restaurants	9,875	0.2	31,060	0.5	27,273	0.4
		0.0				
7. Other	2,469,000	58.8	2,172,769	36.4	2,561,250	41.1
7.1 Services	1,292,412	30.8	1,335,388	22.4	1,758,115	28.2
7.2 Personal	669,657	15.9	492,458	8.3	582,301	9.3
7.3 GOL	70,750	1.7	68,276	1.1	68,880	1.1
7.4 Central Bank of Liberia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
7.5 Public Corporations	329,194	7.8	20,022	0.3	18,813	0.3
7.6 Other	106,988	2.5	256,627	4.3	133,141	2.1
TOTAL	4,198,972	100.0	5,969,080	100.0	6,227,833	100.0

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table B-7: Central Bank of Liberia Foreign Exchange Auction Program
(October – December, 2008)**

Auction No.	Date	FX Offered for sale by CBL(US\$)	Auction Rate L\$/US\$	Total Purchased US\$	No. of Accepted Bids	No. of Rejected Bids	Value of Rejected Bids (US\$)	Over/(Under) Subscription (US\$)	Total Value of Bids Submitted by Participating Banks/FX Bureaux (US\$)
125	1-Oct-08	500,000.00	61.8613	500,000.00	12	6	246,280.00	(295,721.74)	795,721.74
126	8-Oct-08	500,000.00	61.8601	500,000.00	14	6	229,740.00	(299,840.00)	799,840.00
127	15-Oct-08	500,000.00	61.861	500,000.00	15	8	238,603.87	(373,769.87)	873,769.87
128	22-Oct-08	500,000.00	61.8619	500,000.00	14	9	326,300.00	(417,182.52)	917,182.52
129	29-Oct-08	500,000.00	61.8624	500,000.00	12	7	307,700.00	(322,250.00)	822,250.00
130	5-Nov-08	500,000.00	61.9820	500,000.00	12	4	161,905.00	(235,566.00)	735,566.00
131	12-Nov-08	500,000.00	61.9849	500,000.00	11	9	423,861.00	(425,478.00)	925,478.00
132	19-Nov-08	500,000.00	61.9850	500,000.00	13	5	249,925.00	(296,716.00)	796,716.00
133	26-Nov-08	500,000.00	61.9685	500,000.00	11	7	276,000.00	(279,500.00)	779,500.00
134	3-Dec-08	500,000.00	61.9689	500,000.00	11	5	210,500.00	(236,300.00)	736,300.00
135	10-Dec-08	500,000.00	61.7850	500,000.00	12	3	150,000.00	(179,480.00)	679,480.00
136	17-Dec-08	500,000.00	61.8790	500,000.00	12	6	230,770.00	(235,455.00)	735,455.00
137	24-Dec-08	500,000.00	61.8940	500,000.00	14	5	250,000.00	(269,188.00)	769,188.00
Total		6,500,000.00		6,500,000.00	163.00	80.00	3,301,584.87	(3,866,447.13)	10,366,447.13

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table B-8: Exchange Rate Developments: Liberian Dollars per US dollar
(Monthly Averages)
(January 2007 – December, 2008)**

Period Average	2007		2008	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
January	60.57	61.65	62.96	64.00
February	60.21	61.13	62.20	63.20
March	60.00	61.01	62.00	63.01
April	60.40	61.54	62.06	63.08
May	61.22	62.17	62.78	63.56
June	62.02	63.00	63.00	64.00
July	60.77	61.71	63.00	64.00
August	61.91	62.91	63.00	64.00
September	61.12	62.12	63.00	63.94
October	61.13	62.15	63.00	64.00
November	59.65	60.67	62.92	63.70
December	60.27	61.27	62.81	63.76
Q1	60.26	61.26	62.39	63.40
Q2	61.21	62.24	62.61	63.54
Q3	61.27	62.25	63.00	63.98
Q4	60.35	61.36	62.91	63.82
Year	60.77	61.78	62.73	63.69

Source: Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table C-1: Government of Liberia Revenue by Sources
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

Revenue Sources	2007	2008	
	4 th Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
Customs & Excise Taxes	1,237.7	1,388.9	1,459.1
Direct Taxes	628.2	923.8	856.2
Indirect Taxes	459.1	374.7	273.7
FDA ¹ Levy	9.3	17.1	10.1
Petroleum Sales Levy	34.7	123.0	130.0
Maritime	240.9	176.1	229.4
Grants	0	0.0	7.9
Total	2,604.9	3,003.6	2,966.5

¹ Forestry Development Authority

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

Table C-2: Government of Liberia Expenditure by Category
(4th quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
(In Millions L\$)

Expenditure Category	2007	2008	
	4 th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
General Administration	1,118.6	1,474.9	1,565.1
Social & Community Services	476.7	871.5	1,030.7
Economic Services	170.9	161.1	273.3
Other Expenditures	1,067.3	1,107.5	1,405.5
Total	2,833.5	3,614.9	4,274.6

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

Table C-3: Summary Estimates of External Debt Stock & Status
As at End-June and End-October, 2008
(In Millions US\$)

	June, 2008		October, 2008	
	Estimates Debt Relief	Stock at End-June	Estimates Debt Relief	Stock as at End-October
Multilateral	655.0	960.0	655.0	1,051.0
Bilateral	254.0	1,289.0	843.0	700.0
Commercial creditors	-	1,574.0	-	1,574.0
International organizations	-	-	-	34.0
Total	909.0	3,823.0	1,498.0	3,359.0

Source: Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Table C – 4: Functional Classification of Government Expenditure
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)
In Millions L\$

Functional Classification	2007	2008	
	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
General Administration	1,118.6	1,474.87	1,565.08
National Legislature	202.3	226.76	256.73
Executive Policy	352.2	669.63	527.78
Internal Management Services	76.7	120.90	76.25
Protection of Person & Property	308.9	339.87	444.68
Foreign Affairs	59.6	59.09	133.12
Defense	118.9	58.62	126.51
Social & Community Services	476.7	871.46	1,030.71
Social Services	320.2	658.13	498.67
Community Services	156.5	213.33	532.03
Economic Services	170.9	161.08	273.30
Primary	44.6	33.72	110.31
Secondary	126.3	127.36	163.00
Other Expenditure	1,067.3	1,107.49	1,405.51
Total	2,833.5	3,614.90	4,274.59

Source: Ministry of Finance, Monrovia, Liberia

**Table D-1: Commodity Composition of Exports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)**

Commodity	Volume	4 th Quarter, 2007			3 rd Quarter, 2008			4 th Quarter, 2008			
		Exports	Measurement Units	Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)	price	Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)	Price	Volume (In '000' Units)	Value (In '000' US\$)
Rubber	Mt.		20.61	36,237.80	1,758.3	20.47	53,452.6	2,611.1	16.24	39,232.96	2,416.36
Cocoa Beans	Mt.		1.91	1,368.57	716.5	0.49	366.0	750.0	2.02	1,609.15	795.03
Diamond	Mt.		0.0	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	Mt.		0.0	-	-	20.00	1,200.0	60.0	-	-	-
Diamond	Carat		18.81	2,329.58	123.9	17.33	4,256.8	245.7	4.50	746.24	165.92
Gold	Onunce		3.74	2,245.68	600.5	4.79	2,916.4	608.5	4.85	2,941.79	605.98
Others*		-	0.0	1,356.40	-	-	2,068.7	-	-	1,281.19	-
Total		-		43,538.03	-		64,260.6		-	45,811.32	

*Commodities of minimum values

Sources: Ministries of Commerce & Industries, Lands, Mines & Energy and the Central Bank of Liberia

Table 21: Commodity Composition of Imports
(4th Quarter, 2007; 3rd & 4th Quarters, 2008)

Commodity Imports	4th Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008
Food and Live Animals	34,309.80	79,369.51	55,945.52
O/w Commercial Rice	17,368.30	47,791.87	23,400.00
O/w Non-commercial Rice	-	5,598.78	699.25
Beverages and Tobacco	3,983.10	3,133.14	3,807.22
Crude Materials & Inedible except Fuel	2,171.50	2,784.72	2,625.28
Minerals, Fuel, Lubricants	1,148.50	1,429.56	690.56
Vegetable Oil (Animal)	686.70	357.10	905.03
Chemicals & Related Products	5,725.70	10,877.71	8,913.23
Mfg. Goods classified chiefly by Materials	17,096.10	34,678.99	23,504.41
Machiney & Transport Equipment	24,356.20	44,004.15	54,293.47
Petroleum Products	29,733.20	57,985.26	23,820.77
Miscellaneous Articles ¹	11,974.20	27,864.26	11,390.19
GRAND TOTAL	131,185.00	262,484.56	185,895.69

¹*Includes Comm. & Transaction not elsewhere classified*

Sources: Ministry of Commerce & Industry