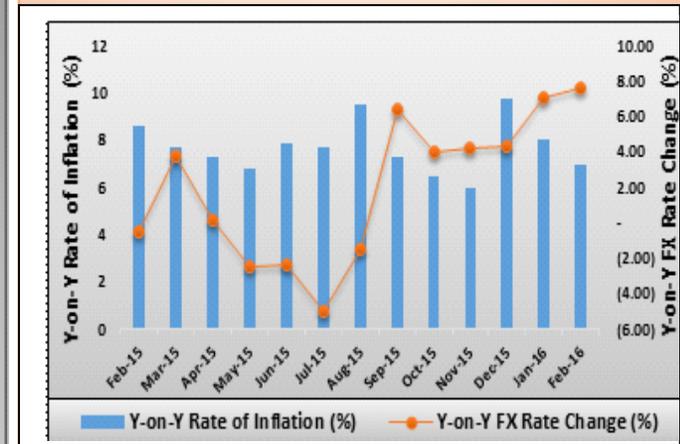




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Table 2: Performances of End-of-Period WAMZ Exchange Rates against the US Dollar

Currency	Jan-16	Feb-16	
	Curr. Unit./US\$1	Curr Unit./US\$1	M-on-M Rate of Appr (-)/Depr(+)
LRD	89.50	90.5	1.12
FCFA	596.00	596.00	0.00
CVE	101.14	100.19	(0.94)
GHC	3.83	3.88	1.31
GMD	42.23	43.4	2.77
GNF	7547.65	8880.0	17.65
NGN	196.50	196.5	0.00
SLL	5702.61	5791.8	1.56

Sources: Central Banks of Liberia and WAMA: www.amao-wama.org/en/exchange.aspx and www.amao-wama.org/

LRD—Liberian Dollar

FCFA—Franc CFA

CVE—Cape Verdean Escudo

GHC—Ghanaian Cedi

GMD—Gambian Dalasi

GNF—Guinean Franc

NGN—Nigerian Naira

SLL—Sierra Leonean Leone

USD—US Dollar

GBP—British Pound

	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	
11	INFLATION				
	<i>(In percent)</i>				
	Overall (Year-on-year) Rate of Inflation	9.8	8.0	7.0	7.1
	a. Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Inflation	9.0	5.9	7.4	5.5
	- Domestic Food Inflation	11.7	12.0	11.7	9.9
	- Imported Food Inflation	6.5	0.3	3.2	1.2
	b. Transport Inflation	8.9	14.4	9.1	15.6
	c. Imported Fuels Inflation	-18.9	-17.5	-5.4	-5.1
	Overall (Month-on-Month) Rate of Inflation	-1.4	0.1	0.1	-1.2
	CORE INFLATION				
	Inflation excluding Food & Non-alcoholic Beverages	9.9	10.6	8.0	9.0
	Inflation excluding Imported Food	11.0	11.1	8.4	9.4
	Inflation excluding Domestic Food	9.1	6.7	5.2	6.1
	Inflation excluding Food and Transport	10.9	9.9	5.9	7.9

* US\$ converted to L\$

** Other Deposits Include Official and Manager Checks

***The Minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio is 10%

****The Required Minimum Liquidity Ratio is 15%

†Reserves exclude ECF borrowing from the IMF

± Provisional

‡Revised

‡Not Available (NA)

/1 Average Monthly prices of Dated Brent, West Texas Intermediate & Dubai Fateh

^With liquidity Effect

REAL SECTOR & PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

Production

Production during the month of February, 2016 was mirrored with mixed results. Rubber output slumped by 57.1 percent, to 3,204 metric tons, down from a revised 7,056 metric tons produced in January. Beverages produced increased by an estimated 14.0 percent, to 2.1 million liters, up from an estimated 1.8 million liters produced in the previous month. Cement output dipped by 14.4 percent, to 23,812 metric tons, down from 27,824 metric tons produced in January, 2016, mainly as a result of liberalization in the cement market. Total output of Iron ore in February surged to 0.36 million metric tons, up from 0.24 million metric tons produced in the previous month. The 52.1 percent growth in output was due to the slight increase in the global prices of metal.

Consumer Prices

Year-on-year, the rate of inflation dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 7.1 percent, from 7.7 percent reported a year ago, driven by declining prices of imported fuels.

MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

Monetary Policy Stance

The CBL monetary policy stance during the month of February 2016, remained anchored on price stability through broad exchange rate stability. During the month, the foreign exchange auction was the available tool used by the Bank to stabilize the exchange rate for the period.

Monetary Aggregates and Credit

Projected monetary aggregates shows that broad money supply (M2) at end-February 2016, increased by a projected 4.8 percent to LD\$62,228.0 million, from LD\$59,389.9 million at end-January 2016. The rise in M2 was occasioned by 2.8 percent projected rise in Narrow money (M1), which grew on account of a projected 3.5 percent and 2.3 percent increase in currency outside bank and demand deposits, respectively. Net Foreign Assets (NFA) during the month increased by a projected 4.0 percent while Net Domestic Assets (NDA) slightly grew by a projected 0.6 percent. Commercial banks loan to private sector denominated in US dollar slightly increased by 20.0 basis points to US\$354.7 million, from US\$354.5 million compared with the previous month while the Liberian dollar component increased by 2.5 percent to L\$1,882.4 million, from L\$1,930.0 million for the same period.

Exchange Rate

The Liberian dollar average exchange rate vis-à-vis the US dollar at end-February, 2016, depreciated by 1.1 percent to L\$90.5/US\$1.00 compared with L\$89.5/US\$1.00 at end-January, 2016. On the end-of-period basis, the Liberian dollar remained stable at the previous month value of L\$90.5/US\$1.00. Compared to the corresponding month a year ago, the monthly average exchange rate depreciated by 7.1 percent against the US dollar, mainly on account of the fall in the country's major commodity export prices, rising import demand and the deterioration in the country's terms of trade.

In the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), there were stability in the Nigerian Naira and Franc CFA, remaining at their January rates. The Cape Verdean Escudo appreciated by 0.94 percent while the Guinea Franc, Gambian Dalasi, Sierra Leonean Leone and Ghana Cedi depreciated by 17.7 percent, 2.8 percent, 1.6 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, at end-February, 2016 (Table 2).

Money Market Developments

During the month of February, 2016, T-bill issuance slightly inched up by L\$1.5 million to L\$44.8 million, from L\$43.3 million in the previous month. Total GoL T-bill redeemed for the month amounted to L\$88.5 million, resulting into a net T-Bill operations of negative 43.7 million. The weighted average discount rate for the month was 3.73 percent, 4.0 basis points higher than the previous month weighted average discount rate. There has been no issuance of CBL bill for the 2-months ending February 2016, but there was a redemption of L\$1,592.0 million during the month.

		Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
6	FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS INDICATORS (FSI)	<i>(In percent)</i>			
	Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)***	19.4	15.5	19.7	17.7
	Non-performing Loans to Total Loans	16.9	15.7	15.7	15.3
	Non-performing Loans (% change)	1.9	-5.2	4.8	-2.3
	Returns on Assets	-0.6	-1.0	-2.1	-2.1
	Returns on Equity (ROE)	-5.0	-26.0	-18.0	-18.3
	Liquidity Ratio****	37.8	36.8	28.1	29.3
7	FISCAL OPERATIONS				
7a	REVENUE, EXPENDITURE & DEBT	<i>(Millions of US\$)</i>			
	Actual Revenue & Grants	28.6	33.8	67.7	30.5
	Projected Revenue & Grants	28.4	37.0	65.0	29.5
	Expenditure	34.1	55.8	36.5	37.5
	Public Debt Stock	652.9	654.9	704.8*	718.2
	Domestic	269.2	269.2	269.5	269.5
	External	383.8	385.4	435.3	448.7
7b	TREASURY SECURITIES	<i>(Millions of L\$)</i>			
	T- Bills Issued	-88.5	-43.8	-43.3	-44.8
	T- Bills Redeemed	87.5	88.5	73.1	88.5
	Net GoL Treasury Operation^	-1.0	44.7	29.8	43.7
	Average Weighted Discount Rate	4.10	4.15	3.69	3.73
8	EXTERNAL TRADE (VALUE)	<i>(Millions of US\$)</i>			
8a	EXPORTS/ 1	19.4	21.4	34.7+	19.4
	- O/w Iron Ore	11.6	11.2	5.6	5.9
	- O/w Rubber	2.3	5.3	7.4	3.3
	- O/w Mineral	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.6
8b	IMPORTS (F.O.B)/ 1	98.3	148.1	106.4	97.6
	-O/w Petroleum Products	22.4	35.7	32.4	35.5
	-O/w Commercial Rice	8.2	0.4	0.7	0.6
	-O/w Non-commercial Rice	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.4
	Trade Balance	-96.7	-143.3	-71.7	-78.2
9	EXTERNAL TRADE (VOLUME)	<i>(Metric Tons)</i>			
	- Rubber	1,814.3	4,170.6	7,056+	3,024
	-Iron Ore	310,761	378,620	154,875+	146,419
	-Commercial Rice	8,739	8,913.8	15,326.3	
	-Non-commercial Rice	1,089	1,121	3,488.6	
	- Petroleum Products	8,149	10,386	11,053	9,946
10	INT'L COMMODITY PRICES & LIBERIA'S TERMS OF TRADE	US\$/Unit			
	Iron Ore (US\$/MT)	46.2	39.6	41.3	46.2
	Rubber (US\$/MT)	1,222.2	1,247.6	1,219.8	1,257.5
	Crude Oil (US\$/Barrel)/1	43.1	36.6	29.9	31.1
	Rice (US\$/MT)	358.4	354.4	359.5	373.2

/1 Trade data now sourced from Customs (LRA) with larger coverage than BIVAC.

Table 1: Fact Sheet

	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
1 MONETARY	<i>(Millions of US\$)</i>			
CBL Net Foreign Exchange Reserves Position (Including SDRs) [†]	168.6	164	166.3	168.3 [‡]
CBL Gross Foreign Reserves (excluding SDRs)	281.4	277.7	279.7	274.2 [‡]
Liberian Dollars in Circulation	9,505.9	10,357.3	10,235.5	10,869.3 [‡]
Money Supply (M1) in L\$ only	12,418.5	13,458.5	13,118.3	14,460.9 [‡]
Broad money (M2) in L\$ only	17,695.7	18,069.4	17,720.4	18,940.6 [‡]
Broad money (M2) in both L\$ and US\$*	59,190.5	60,627.3	59,389.9	62,228.0 [‡]
	<i>(In percent)</i>			
Liberian Dollar share of Broad Money	31.8	29.8	29.8	30.4 [‡]
Interest Rates				
- Lending rate	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.6
-Average Deposit rates				
-Savings	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
-Time	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.2
Commercial banks loans to private sector - US\$	355.8	349.7	354.5	354.7
Commercial banks loans to private sector - L\$	1,864.1	1,890.1	1,882.4	1,930.0
- Demand Deposits of commercial banks				
Demand deposits - US\$	304.2	311.6	292.5	325.9 [‡]
Demand deposits - L\$	3,798.3	3,802.3	4,093.7	3,888.7 [‡]
- Time & Savings Deposits of commercial banks				
Time & savings deposits - US\$	168.9	168.3	167.5	164.0 [‡]
Time & savings deposits - L\$	5,267.9	4,602.3	4,593.6	4,854.4 [‡]
- Other Deposits**				
Actual US\$ component of other deposits	1.08	0.96	0.45	0.83 [‡]
Liberian \$ component of savings deposits	9.3	9.2	8.5	10.8 [‡]
2 CBL'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE AUCTION	<i>(Millions of US\$)</i>			
US Dollar Amount Sold	1.5	5.1	1.5	2.0
Total Subscription	2.9	7.0	5.1	5.7
Over(+)/ Under(-) Subscription	1.4	1.9	3.6	3.7
3 CBL BILLS AUCTION	<i>(Millions of L\$)</i>			
Bill Issued	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bill Redeemed	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,592.0
4 PERSONAL REMITTANCES	<i>(Millions of US\$)</i>			
Inflows	29.8	33.9	44.8	42.8
Outflows	22.0	21.3	16.7	15.6
Net flows	7.7	12.7	28.1	27.2
5 EXCHANGE RATE				
End of Period	87.5	88.5	90.5	90.5
Period Average	87.5	88.5	89.5	90.5

Banking Sector Developments

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector continued to be resilient. However, during the month of February, 2016, the banking sector access to capital fell by 2.0 percentage points in its adequacy ratio to 17.7 percent, from 19.7 percent. Liquidity ratio in the sector inched up by a 1.2 percentage points to 29.3 percent, from 28.1 percent in the previous month. Even though non-performing loans to total loans remained relatively the same, the sector's position on non-performing loans slightly improved to -2.3 percent at end-February 2015, from 4.8 percent ending January, 2015. However, the high level of operating cost of banks remains a risk to its profitability (Table 1).

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS**Revenue (including Grants) & Expenditures**

Fiscal operations in February, 2016, resulted in a deficit of US\$6.96 million, down from US\$31.2 million surplus recorded in the previous month, explained by month-on-month 55.0 percent declined in total actual revenue & grants and 2.6 percent declined in total public expenditure for the review period. Tax and non-tax revenue & grants constituted 80.0 percent and 20.0 percent of total revenue and grants, respectively. Actual revenue and grants rose above budgetary target for the month by US\$1.0 million or 3.4 percent. Recurrent and capital expenditure accounted for 81.5 percent and 18.5 percent of total public expenditure for the review month, respectively.

Liberia's public debt stock at end-February, 2016, stood at US\$718.2 million, growing by 1.9 percent against the stock recorded in the preceding month, mainly explained by a 3.1 percent growth in external debt stock as domestic debt remained unchanged for the review period. Domestic and external debt stocks constituted 37.5 percent and 62.5 percent of Liberia's total public debt stock at end-February, 2016, respectively (Table 1).

EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS**Merchandise Trade**

Merchandise trade statistics showed that Liberia's trade balance remained in deficit and stood at US\$78.2 million at end-February 2016, from a revised amount of US\$71.7 million in January 2016. Compared to the previous month, the trade balance declined by 9.1 percent, largely explained by the 8.2 percent decline in export receipts that outweighed the gains (lower petroleum prices) from reduced import payments (Table 1).

Exports

In the face of slight increases in the global prices of our major export commodities (rubber and iron ore) during the second Month in 2016, export receipts dropped by 44.2 percent to US\$19.4 million at end-February 2016, from a revised amount of US\$34.7 million recorded in the previous month. The decline in export receipts was largely attributed to the 55.6 percent decline in rubber earnings which outweighed the slight improvement in iron ore earnings (Table 1).

Imports

Import payments (fob) in the reviewed month fell by 8.2 percent to US\$97.6 million, from US\$106.4 million recorded during the previous month. The contraction in import payments was associated with a 27.8 percent and 26.2 percent declines in payments on rice as well as machinery & equipment related products (Table 1).

International Commodity Price Review

Unlike in January, global commodity prices in February 2016, rose by 2.0 percent, from 8.1 percent in the first month of 2016. The rise in commodity prices was on account of gains in all commodity groups. Compared with the same period a year ago, global commodity price index fell by 29.9 percent, driven by substantial falls in the prices of crude oil and rubber.

Iron ore

Following a strong recovery in seaborne iron ore prices amid supply disruptions from Australia and Brazil, iron ore price at end-February, 2016 surge by 12.0 percent to US\$46.2 per metric ton, from US\$41.3 per metric ton in the previous month, largely reflective of an increase demand by Chinese steel mills ahead of the coming season. However, the continued weak demand from China for the commodity remains a risk to lower price of the commodity in the short – medium term (Table 1).

Rubber

Rubber price, at end-February 2016 slightly inched up by 3.1 percent to US\$1,257.5 per metric ton, from US\$1,219.8 per metric ton in January 2016. Year-on-year comparison showed that the price of the commodity declined by 30.5 percent at the end of the review month.

Petroleum (Crude Oil)¹

Average crude oil prices at end-February, 2016 rose slightly by 3.8 percent to US\$31.1 per barrel, from US\$29.9 per barrel in January, 2016. News of potential production freeze from major oil producing economies (Russia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Qatar) caused the minor rise in oil prices. In the wake of continued expected decline in global demand prospects, there is uncertainty above the sustenance of higher oil prices as supply from OPEC member states continue to increase. Year-on-year, crude oil price fell by 43.5 percent during the month under review.

Food (Rice)

Rice price for the second time in 2016 rose by 3.8 percent to US\$373.2 per metric ton, from US\$359.5 per metric ton (or 1.4 percent) in January, 2016 as global food price index for the Month remained relatively stable. The rise in the price of the commodity was underpinned by much lower expected output growth from Asia and marked by stronger Joponica rice quotations after the disposal of low quality supplies in China and Thailand.

Gross Foreign Reserves

Projected gross foreign reserves position (excluding SDR² holdings) of the Central Bank increased slightly by 0.4 percent to US\$281.0 million at end-February, 2016, from US\$ US\$279.7 million at end-January.

¹Crude oil price is the average of the three global oil price benchmarks: Dated Brent, West Texas Intermediate and Dubai Fateh.

²Special Drawing Rights