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# ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL STATISTICS FOR 1982

## Introduction:

This paper analyses statistics on international travels for 1982 based on information derived from the Nigerian Exchange Control TM (arrival) forms. The forms are designed to enable travellers coming into the country from abroad to declare their holdings of foreign currency, precious stones, jewellery and works of art. Other pieces of information obtainable through these forms include the number of visitors coming into the country, their nationality and purpose of visit. The forms are collected on daily basis by the Customs Officials at the country's border posts and international airports and are brought monthly to the Central Bank where they are processed and analysed.

The aim of the travels survey is to consolidate the above information for each year and gain some insights into the impact of current economic developments on the tourist industry.

The paper is divided into four sections. Section I analyses the list of visitors to Nigeria by country or region of origin and visitors by purpose of travel. Section II presents a two-way classification of foreign visitors by region of origin and by purpose of travel. Section III deals with the currency declared by the visitors classified by nationality and purpose of travel while Section IV contains the summary and conclusion.

## SECTION I

### Visitors to Nigeria by Country or Region of Origin

Data extracted from the Nigerian Exchange Control TM (arrival) forms in 1982 reflect the effects of the continuing economic recession which began in the country since 1981. At 148,537 the total number of visitors to Nigeria in 1982 shows a fall of 20.1 per cent compared with a decline of 9.7 per cent in 1981. A breakdown of the figure into foreigners and Nigerians shows that the former dropped by 16.7 per cent to 94,033 in 1982 as against an increase of 31.7 per cent in 1981 while the latter fell by 25.3 per cent to 54,504 compared with a drop of 39.3 per cent in 1981. The decline in the number of foreign visitors in 1982 was as a result of declines of 10.4, 30.1, 15.2, 19.5 and 24.8 per cent in the number of visitors from U.K., U.S.A., Western Europe, ECOWAS and "other countries" respectively. However, visitors from other African Countries recorded an increase of 43.1 per cent as against a decline of 56.3 per cent in 1981 (see Table 1). On the other hand, the decline in the number of Nigerian travellers from 72,958 in 1981 to 54,504 in 1982, was attributed mainly to two factors, i.e. the foreign exchange control measures introduced in the year, and the fall by 31.5 per cent in the number of people who performed the Hajj from 73,000 in 1981 to 50,000 in 1982. One of the foreign exchange control measures was the reduction in basic travel allowance from ₦1,000.00 to ₦500.00 in April, 1982. This had the effect of reducing the travellers' purchasing power abroad and so discouraged some Nigerians from going abroad, with consequent effect on the number of Nigerians returning home during the period under review.

The breakdown also shows that foreigners accounted from

63.3 per cent of total visitors in 1982 as against 36.7 per cent for Nigerian visitors while in 1981 the respective shares were 60.7 and 39.3 per cent (see Table 1). Foreign visitors to Nigeria in 1982 as in the preceding years came mainly from Western Europe, U.K. and "other countries" and accounted for 76.8 per cent of total number of foreign visitors compared with their shares of 76.7 and 64.4 per cent in 1981 and 1980 respectively (see Table 2).

### Visitors by Purpose of Travel

Analysis of foreign visitors by purpose of travel is shown in Table 3. The number of foreign visitors to Nigeria declined in 1982 compared with the preceding year. The decline resulted from declines in the number of visitors for business, official/international conferences and "other purposes". Business travels declined by 15.2 per cent from 53,981 in 1981 to 45,767 in 1982. Visits for official/international conferences and "other purposes" also fell by 23.3 and 28.8 per cent respectively in 1982 compared with a decline of 17.0 and an increase of 33.2 per cent respectively in 1981. However, increases of 1.5 and 11.2 per cent were recorded in the number of visitors for recreational purpose and formal studies, respectively.

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of foreign visitors to Nigeria by purpose of travel. The shares of visits for business, recreation and formal studies increased from 47.8, 17.1 and 0.7 per cent respectively in 1981 to 48.7, 20.8 and 0.9 per cent in 1982 while the shares of visits for the remaining categories of purposes fell in 1982 compared with the figure for 1981.

## SECTION II

### Foreign Visitors to Nigeria by Country of Origin and Purpose

The number of U.K. visitors to Nigeria for business purpose fell by 3.8 per cent to 15,353 in 1982 compared with an increase of 66.2 per cent in 1981. Similarly the number of visitors from that country who came to Nigeria for recreation, official/international conferences and "other purposes" dropped by 13.6, 39.6 and 26.0 per cent to 3109, 239, and

4184 in 1982 in contrast with an increase of 119.4, a decline of 13.2 and an increase of 79.0 per cent respectively in 1981. However, the number of visitors from that region for formal studies rose by 147.1 per cent to 84 in 1982 as against a decline of 55.3 per cent in 1981 (see Table 5).

For visitors of U.S.A. origin, there were declines of 25.7, 29.6, 27.7 and 46.2 per cent for business, recreation, official/international conferences and "other" purposes respectively

in 1982, compared with their respective levels in 1981. However, visitors from that region who came for formal studies recorded an increase of 136.5 per cent from 52 in 1981 to 132 in 1982.

Visitors from Western Europe recorded increases of 235.5 and 19.7 per cent for formal studies and recreational purposes in 1982 while declines were registered on account of business, official/international conferences and "other" trips. The number of visitors from Ecowas countries who came into Nigeria in 1982 for business, official/international conferences, formal studies and "other" purposes fell by 14.3, 32.6, 42.0 and 51.2 per cent to 1632, 447, 178 and 3506 respectively in 1982. However, the region recorded an increase of 22.4 per cent to 6,830 visitors in 1982 for recreational purposes compared with 20.4 per cent in 1981.

With respect to visitors from other African countries, there were increases in the trips undertaken for all purposes in 1982 except for official/international conferences which declined by 32.6 per cent to 120 visitors in 1982.

The number of visitors from other countries, who came to Nigeria for business purpose fell by 21.3 per cent to 9,240 in 1982 in contrast to an increase of 119.8 per cent in 1981. Similarly, the number of visitors for this region who came for recreation, official/international conferences, formal study and other purposes declined by 23.1, 26.0, 71.8 and 28.9 per cent to 2878, 584, 78 and 5847, respectively in 1982.

Analysis of the percentage distribution of foreign visitors to Nigeria by country/region of origin and purpose is shown in Table 6. Three regions namely, U.K., Western Europe and 'other countries' accounted for 87.0 per cent of total number of visitors for business purpose in 1982 as against 86.6 and 78.4 per cent in 1981 and 1980, respectively. Relative to the total, the shares of visitors from U.K., Ecowas and other African countries increased from 29.6, 3.5 and 1.6 per cent in 1981 to 33.5, 3.6 and 2.1 per cent, respectively in 1982. On the other hand, the proportions of visitors from U.S.A., Western Europe and "other countries" dropped from 8.3, 35.3 and 21.7 per cent in 1981 to 7.3, 33.3 and 20.2 per cent, respectively in 1982.

Visitors for recreational purpose came mainly from Ecowas, Western Europe, U.K. and "other countries". The four regions accounted for 92.0 per cent of total visitors for this purpose in 1982 as against 89.5 per cent in 1981. The shares of visitors from Western Europe, Ecowas and other African countries increased from 22.5, 28.9 and 1.9 per cent in 1981 to 26.5, 34.9 and 2.1 per cent, respectively in 1982. However, the shares of visitors from U.K., "other countries" and U.S.A. declined from 18.7, 19.4 and 8.6 per cent to 15.9, 14.7 and 5.9 per cent, respectively in 1982.

Travellers from Western Europe, "other countries" and Ecowas who came for official/international conferences accounted for 33.0, 24.1 and 18.4 per cent respectively of total foreign visitors for this purpose in 1982. In 1981, their respective shares were 25.2, 24.9 and 21.0 per cent. Apart from visitors from Western Europe whose shares increased from 25.2 to 33.0 per cent, visitors from the remaining regions who came to Nigeria for international conferences recorded declines in their shares in 1982.

Foreign visitors who came to Nigeria to study in different institutions in 1982 were mainly from other African countries, Western Europe and Ecowas. These three regions accounted for 68.4 per cent of total visitors for this purpose in 1982 as against 55.2 per cent in 1981. Apart from visitors from Ecowas and "other countries" whose shares dropped from 37.9 and 34.2 per cent in 1981 to 19.7 and 8.7 per cent, respectively in 1982, all other regions namely U.K., U.S.A., Western Europe and other African countries recorded increases from 4.2, 6.4, 7.6 and 9.7 per cent in 1981 to 9.3, 13.6, 23.1 and 25.6 per cent, respectively in 1982.

The proportions of visitors for "other purposes" from U.K., Western Europe and other African countries increased from 15.9, 33.1, 2.5 per cent in 1981 to 16.5, 36.1 and 6.6 per cent respectively in 1982. However, the shares of visitors from U.S.A. and Ecowas declined from 5.2 and 20.2 in 1981 to 3.9 and 13.8 per cent, respectively in 1982 while visitors from "other countries" retained their share of 23.1 per cent in 1982 (see Table 6).

## SECTION III

### **Amount of Currency Declared Classified by Country/Region of Origin**

A breakdown of the amount of currency declared by visitors to Nigeria by country/region of origin is shown in Table 7. A total amount of ₦130.5 million indicating a decline of 41.3 per cent below the figure of ₦222.3 million in 1981 was declared by travellers in 1982. Amounts of currency declared by foreigners and Nigerians fell by 43.2 and 36.2 per cent, respectively below the respective amounts declared in 1981. These declines reflected the declines in the amounts declared by visitors from all the regions. Visitors from U.K. declared ₦8.6 million in 1982, representing a fall of 6.4 per cent below the figure of ₦9.2 million in 1981, while the amounts declared by visitors from U.S.A. declined by 33.0 per cent from ₦4.8 million in 1981 to ₦3.2 million in 1982. Currency declared by visitors from Western Europe dropped substantially by 60.3 per cent or ₦38.9 million to ₦25.6 million in 1982.

Visitors from Ecowas, other African countries and "other

countries" declared 30.3, 5.1 and ₦19.3 million, respectively in 1982 representing declines of 37.5, 59.8 and 14.7 per cent from the respective amounts declared in 1981. The amount of currency declared by foreigners in 1982 accounted for 70.7 per cent of the total as against 73.0 per cent in 1981. These amounts came mainly from visitors from Ecowas, Western Europe and "other countries" which were responsible for 57.7 per cent of total amount declared by foreigners in 1982 as against 61.0 per cent in 1981. In the case of Nigerians, the amount declared in 1982 accounted for 29.3 per cent of the total compared with 27.0 per cent in 1981 (see Table 8). The shares of the amounts declared by visitors from U.K., U.S.A., Ecowas and "other countries" increased from 4.1, 2.2, 21.8 and 10.2 per cent in 1981 to 6.6, 2.5, 23.2 and 14.8 per cent, respectively in 1982. However, the proportion of currency declared by visitors from Western Europe and other African countries declined from 29.0 and 5.7 per cent in 1981 to 19.7 and 3.9 per cent, respectively in 1982.

### **Amounts of Currency Declared by Purpose of Travel**

Amounts of currency declared by visitors who came to Nigeria for recreation, business and "other" purposes fell by 54.2, 42.3 and 31.1 per cent to 22.2, 50.4 and ₦55.9 million respectively in 1982 as against increases of 167.5, 77.5 and 96.8 per cent in 1981. Visitors who came for formal studies declared ₦0.2 million in 1982 compared with ₦0.4 million in 1981 while the amount declared by visitors for official/international conferences fell further by 49.7 per cent to ₦1.7 million in 1982 (see Table 9).

Amount of currency declared in 1982 came mainly from visitors on account of business, recreation and "other" purposes. These contributed 98.5 per cent of the total currency declared in 1982 as against 98.2 per cent in 1981. While currency declared for business purpose increased its share from 32.9 to 38.6 per cent in 1982 and that for formal studies retained its 1981 share of 0.2 per cent, those for recreation, official/international conferences and "other" purposes recorded decreases in their shares from 21.7, 1.6 and 43.6 per cent to 17.0, 1.3, 42.9 per cent, respectively in 1982.

### **Summary**

This paper has analysed statistics of international travels extracted from Nigeria's exchange control TM (arrival) forms for 1982. The available statistics show that 148,537 visitors came into Nigeria in 1982 as against 185,815 in 1981. While the drop in the number of foreign visitors to the country for business purposes reflected the economic recession, the decrease in the number of Nigerians who either visited or returned to the country was due mainly to the foreign exchange control measures introduced in April 1982 such as

the reduction of the basic travel allowance from ₦1,000 to ₦500.

Foreign visitors to Nigeria in 1982 were from Western Europe, U.K. and "other countries". The countries accounted for 76.8 per cent of total foreign nationals that visited the country in 1982 as against 76.7 in 1981. Visitors for recreation and formal studies recorded increases, while those for business, government official/international conferences and "other purposes" declined.

Visitors for business purposes came from U.K., Western Europe and "other countries" while those for recreational purposes were from Ecowas, Western Europe, U.K. and "other countries". Travellers on account of international conferences arrived from Western Europe, Ecowas and "other countries" while those for formal studies were from other African countries, Western Europe and Ecowas countries. Visitors for "other purposes", however, came mainly for recreation.

Amount of currency declared by visitors in 1982 fell by 41.3 per cent from ₦222.3 million in 1981 to ₦130.5 million in 1982. Though the amounts declared by both foreign and Nigerian visitors fell below their respective levels in 1981, the share of the amount declared by Nigerians increased from 27.0 in 1981 to 29.3 per cent in 1982 while that of foreigners fell from 73.0 to 70.7 per cent. The regional sources of the currencies declared in 1982 included Ecowas, Western Europe and "other countries" and their holders were for business, recreational and other purposes.

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Table 1

**VISITORS BY COUNTRY OR REGION OF ORIGIN**

Visitors	1980	1981	1982	Percentage change between	
Region	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) & (2)	(2) & (3)
U.K. ....	14,932	25,642	22,969	71.7	-10.4
U.S.A. ....	9,616	8,366	5,849	-13.0	-30.1
Western Europe ....	26,697	36,055	30,585	-35.1	-15.2
Ecowas (excluding Nigeria) ....	15,480	15,637	12,593	1.0	-19.5
Other Africans ....	5,452	2,383	3,410	-56.3	43.1
Other Countries ....	13,527	24,774	18,627	83.1	-24.8
Sub-Total ....	85,704	112,857	94,033	31.7	-16.7
Nigeria ....	120,126	72,958	54,504	-39.3	-25.3
Grand Total ....	205,830	185,815	148,537	-9.7	-20.1

Table 2

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN VISITORS  
TO NIGERIA BY COUNTRY OR REGION OF ORIGIN**

Country/Region of Origin	1980	1981	1982
U.K. ....	17.4	22.7	24.5
U.S.A. ....	11.2	7.3	6.2
Western Europe ....	31.2	32.0	32.5
Ecowas (excluding Nigeria) ....	18.1	13.9	13.4
Other Africans ....	6.3	2.1	3.6
Other Countries ....	15.8	22.0	19.8
Total ....	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3

**FOREIGN VISITORS TO NIGERIA BY PURPOSE OF TRAVEL**

Visitors	1980	1981	1982	Percentage change between	
Purpose	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) & (2)	(2) & (3)
Business ....	38,492	53,981	45,767	40.2	-15.2
Recreation ....	15,376	19,281	19,579	25.4	1.5
Govt. Official/ International Conferences ....	3,845	3,163	2,425	-17.0	-23.3
Formal Studies ....	1,251	811	902	-35.3	11.2
Other Purposes ....	26,740	35,622	25,360	33.2	-28.8
Total ....	85,704	112,857	94,033	31.7	-16.7

Table 4

**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN VISITORS  
TO NIGERIA BY PURPOSE OF TRAVEL**

Purpose	1980	1981	1982
Business ....	44.9	47.8	48.7
Recreation ....	17.9	17.1	20.8
Govt. Official/International Conferences ....	4.5	2.8	2.6
Formal Studies ....	1.5	0.7	0.9
Other Purposes ....	31.2	31.6	27.0
Total ....	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table (5)  
**NUMBER OF FOREIGN VISITORS TO NIGERIA BY COUNTRY/  
 REGION OF ORIGIN & PURPOSE**

Country or Region/Purpose	Business					Recreation					Govt. Official/International Conferences					Formal Study					Other Purposes				
	1980	1981	1982	%	%	1980	1981	1982	%	%	1980	1981	1982	%	%	1980	1981	1982	%	%	1980	1981	1982	%	%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	Change Between (1) & (2)	Change Between (2) & (3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	Change Between (1) & (2)	Change Between (2) & (3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	Change Between (1) & (2)	Change Between (2) & (3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	Change Between (1) & (2)	Change Between (2) & (3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	Change Between (1) & (2)	Change Between (2) & (3)
U.K.	9,600	15,958	15,353	66.2	-3.8	1,640	3,598	3,109	119.4	-13.6	456	396	239	-13.2	-39.6	76	34	84	-55.3	147.1	3,160	5,656	4,184	79.0	-26.0
U.S.A.	4,226	4,486	3,332	6.2	-25.7	2,064	1,650	1,162	-20.1	-29.6	414	325	235	-21.5	-27.7	536	52	123	-90.3	136.5	2,376	1,853	997	-22.0	-46.2
Western Europe	15,242	19,033	15,234	24.9	-20.0	3,512	4,338	5,191	23.5	19.7	992	812	800	-18.1	-1.5	83	62	208	-25.3	235.8	6,868	11,810	9,152	72.0	-22.5
Ecowas	2,640	1,904	1,632	-27.9	-14.3	4,636	5,582	6,830	20.4	22.4	604	6563	447	9.8	-32.6	192	307	178	59.9	-42.0	7,408	7,181	3,506	-3.1	-51.2
Other Africans	1,440	856	976	-40.6	14.0	1,284	370	409	-71.2	10.5	524	178	120	-66.0	-32.6	180	79	231	-56.1	192.4	2,024	900	1,674	-55.5	86.0
Other Countries	5,344	11,744	9,240	119.8	-21.3	2,240	3,743	2,878	67.1	-23.1	855	789	584	-7.7	-26.0	184	277	78	50.5	-71.8	4,904	8,221	5,847	67.6	-28.9
Total	38,492	53,981	45,767	40.2	-15.2	15,376	19,281	19,579	25.4	1.5	3,845	3,163	2,425	-17.7	-23.3	1,251	811	902	-35.2	11,226	74,035	62,125	33.2	-28.8	

Table (6)  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN VISITORS TO NIGERIA BY  
 COUNTRY/REGION OF ORIGIN AND PURPOSE**

Country/Region of Origin/Purpose	Business			Recreation			Govt. Official/International Conferences			Formal Study			Other Purposes		
	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982
U.K.	24.9	29.6	33.5	10.7	18.7	15.9	11.9	12.5	9.9	6.1	4.2	9.3	11.8	15.9	16.5
U.S.A.	11.0	8.3	7.3	13.4	8.6	5.9	10.8	10.3	9.7	42.8	6.4	13.6	8.9	5.2	3.9
Western Europe	39.6	35.3	33.3	22.8	22.5	26.5	25.8	25.2	33.0	6.6	7.6	23.1	25.7	33.1	36.1
Ecowas	6.9	3.5	3.6	30.2	28.9	34.9	15.7	21.0	18.4	15.4	37.9	19.7	27.7	20.2	13.8
Other Africans	3.7	1.6	2.1	8.3	1.9	2.1	13.6	5.6	4.9	14.4	9.7	25.6	7.6	2.5	6.6
Other Countries	13.9	21.7	20.2	14.6	19.4	14.7	22.2	24.9	24.1	14.9	34.2	8.7	18.3	23.1	23.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table (7)  
**AMOUNT OF CURRENCY DECLARED BY TRAVELLERS ARRIVING NIGERIA  
 BY COUNTRY/REGION OF ORIGIN**  
 (N'000)

	1980	1981	1982	Percentage change between	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) & (2)	(2) & (3)
U.K. ....	6,812	9,183.7	8,592.2	34.8	-6.4
U.S.A. ....	4,823	4,809.8	3,221.2	-0.3	-33.0
Western Europe	23,467	64,488.6	25,627.0	174.8	-60.3
Ecowas (excluding Nigeria) .....	21,033	48,466.9	30,279.4	130.4	-37.5
Other Africans .....	6,557	12,784.3	5,139.5	95.0	-59.8
Other Countries .....	19,903	22,658.6	19,336.0	13.8	-14.7
Sub-Total .....	82,595.0	162,391.9	92,195.3	96.6	-43.2
Nigeria .....	31,473	59,942.6	38,265.6	90.5	-36.2
Grand Total .....	144,068	222,334.5	130,460.9	94.9	-41.3

Table (8)  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENCY DECLARED BY TRAVELLERS  
 BY COUNTRY/REGION OF ORIGIN**

	1980	1981	1982
U.K. ....	6.0	4.1	6.6
U.S.A. ....	4.2	2.2	2.5
Western Europe	20.6	29.0	19.7
Ecowas (excluding Nigeria) .....	18.4	21.8	23.2
Other Africans .....	5.7	5.7	3.9
Other Countries .....	17.5	10.2	14.8
Sub-Total .....	72.4	73.0	70.7
Nigeria .....	27.6	27.0	29.3
Grand Total .....	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table (9)  
**AMOUNT OF CURRENCY DECLARED BY ARRIVING  
 PASSENGERS, BY PURPOSE OF TRAVELS**  
 (₦ Thousand)

	1980	1981	1982	Percentage change between	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) & (2)	(2) & (3)
Business .....	41,262.0	73,224.3	50,426.9	77.5	-31.1
Recreation .....	18,070.0	48,339.8	22,151.8	167.5	-54.2
Govt. Official/ International Conferences .....	4,637.0	3,433.1	1,727.5	-26.0	-49.7
Formal Study .....	807.0	351.3	241.2	-56.6	-31.3
Other Purposes .....	49,292.0	96,985.7	55,913.5	96.8	-42.3
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>114,068.0</b>	<b>222,334.2</b>	<b>130,460.9</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>-41.3</b>

Table (10)  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNT OF  
 CURRENCY DECLARED BY ARRIVING PASSENGERS BY PURPOSE OF TRAVEL**

	1980	1981	1982
Business .....	36.2	32.9	38.6
Recreation .....	15.8	21.7	17.0
Government Official/International Conferences .....	4.1	1.6	1.3
Formal Study .....	0.7	0.2	0.2
Other Purposes .....	43.2	43.6	42.9
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>