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THE IMPACT OF THE 2019 BORDER CLOSURE ON NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract
There are many benefits and drawbacks to Nigeria's government's decision to close its international land borders with its closest neighbors, the Benin Republic, Cameroon, and Niger Republic, as announced in a circular sent to all border security agents on August 20, 2019. Since then, trade has resumed across Nigeria's land borders; but the fundamental economic problems that led to the country's shutdown in 2019 have not been resolved, and this is the study's main area of concern. Our research must thus give a clear picture of the economic circumstances before, during, and after the closure of the Nigerian border. In the realm of social science, a combination of primary and secondary research methods were used to perform the study. In order to collect first-hand information that will guarantee the findings endure throughout time, a well-structured questionnaire was equally disseminated inside the study's boundaries as part of the primary approach. The secondary technique collected data from already published works such as these, journals, textbooks, newspapers, and so forth. to compile rAeviews and identify the gaps in the literature that need to be addressed. The elite theory and the trade theory were the only two theories that guided the investigation. The study found, among other things, that the economy declined during the border closure era, with the nation only experiencing modest growth in the agriculture sector in the early stages of the policy's execution. Long-term effects on the economy, however, have included a high rate of inflation, a possible change in cross-border trade connections, a rise in the rate of poverty due to the policy's creation of unemployment, and more security risks. This paper suggests that every policy has its negative and positive kickbacks. The only way through which the government of any state can avoid huge economic underperformance as a result of their choice of policies is to continuously monitor and evaluate the impacts of the policy throughout its implementation. Regular reviews help in making necessary adjustments, identifying unintended consequences, and ensuring the policy's effectiveness.

Keywords: Border Closure; Economic Kick-backs; Elite theory, Trade theory. G.D.P and Inflation.

Background

Nigeria, as the most populous country in Africa and a key player in the West African region, has been grappling with a range of economic and security challenges. One of the strategies adopted to address these issues was the closure of its land borders. The impact of border closure on the Nigerian economy is a multifaceted and complex issue that has garnered significant attention from economists, policymakers, and scholars. Border closure, in the context of Nigeria, typically refers to the government's decision to shut down its land borders with neighboring countries, such as Benin, Niger, and Cameroon. This action, which was taken in reaction to several trade, security, and economic issues, has had a significant impact on Nigeria's economy. The Nigerian government announced the intention to close borders in August 2019 and formally lifted it in December 2020, (ThisDay,2020). This action of the government sparked a lot of discussion and controversy during this time, with supporters claiming that it was crucial to defend Nigeria's native industries, stop smuggling, and maintain national security, and detractors claiming that it had a negative impact on trade, food prices, and regional relations. It is important to acknowledge, nevertheless, that the intention to maintain tight commercial relations with Nigeria's bordering countries predates 2019 when it was formally announced. The majority of African boundaries were also established by European colonial powers, even though Nigeria's borders are a reflection of agreements made by the British, French, and Germans in the late 1800s. Border closure which was an outright decision taken by the Buhari administration played an important role on the country's economy.

The Nigerian government introduced a 70% import tax and started to progressively limit rice imports in 2013.Cameroon and the Republic of Benin soon exploited this. While Benin lowered its rice tax in 2014 from 35% to merely 7%, Cameroon scrapped the prior 10% levy entirely. However, Niger, a landlocked nation, put a ban on travel exports through Nigeria in an effort to satisfy Nigeria. This move was simply seen as a tactful diplomatic gesture (Okorie & Enwere, 2020, p. 213 cited in Abdullahi and Abdulrazak 2021). This was carried out in an effort to strengthen domestic industry and lessen the dominance of the global economy over Nigeria's economy. Regarding trade and the expansion and development of regional industries, many policies are being put into place. The government's revenue increased as a result of the Nigerian border closure since more tariffs were imposed on the increased quantity of goods that entered the country lawfully through ports, but at the expense of lower rice output. This has led to an increase in food prices, which has negatively impacted Nigerian consumers. There was concern about the closure's effects on economic liberalization in Africa because it also made it harder for Nigeria to ship commodities to its neighbors. The closing of the border went against the Protocol on the Free Movement of Goods, Services, and Persons created by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a group in which Nigeria is a member and heavily involved politically and economically. The Nigerian government has often denounced the neighboring nations' complacency in the face of a surge in border crossings (Equere 2018). Nigeria forbade the importing of rice over its land borders from the Benin Republic in 2004 in an effort to reduce imports and boost domestic production. By 2016, the prohibition had been expanded to include all of the neighboring nations (The Guardian 2020). While maintaining the restriction on importing rice across land borders, Nigeria set a 70% tariff on imports of rice through ports in 2013 due to a shortage of local rice to feed the country's rapidly growing population. The charge is divided into a 10% tariff and a 60% levy. Nelson

2020 cites Nzeka, Beillard, and Akhidenor's 2018 work. This study aims to clarify the consequences of the border closure.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria's land borders have been reopened to trade since then, but the underlying economic issues that caused the closure in 2019 have not been addressed. The Nigerian government must take the necessary action to address the underlying issues that affect the country's population and economy. Therefore, it is imperative that our research provide a precise picture of the economic conditions prior to, during, and following the closing of the Nigerian border.

Research Questions

1. What are the immediate and long-term economic consequences of Nigeria's border closure?
2. How did the border closure affect various sectors of the Nigerian economy, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services?
3. What were the security implications of the border closure, and to what extent did it achieve its intended security objectives?
4. How did the border closure affect Nigeria's position in regional trade dynamics and its relations with neighboring countries within the ECOWAS region?

Research Objective

1. To assess the short-term and long-term impacts of the border closure on key economic indicators such as trade volume, GDP growth, inflation, and employment rates, providing a comprehensive understanding of the economic consequences.
2. To analyze the sector-specific impacts of the border closure, identifying how it influenced production, supply chains, and market dynamics in different economic sectors and evaluating the overall effect on economic diversification.
3. To investigate the impact of the border closure on curbing smuggling, illegal trade, and enhancing national security, examining whether the policy was effective in achieving its security goals and any unintended consequences.
4. To assess the impact of the border closure on Nigeria's regional trade relationships, its standing within ECOWAS, and the broader implications for regional economic integration, identifying any diplomatic and trade policy implications.

Literature Review

Borders delineate the physical limits of political bodies and legal jurisdictions, including governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other sub-national entities. Agreements between the political or social institutions in charge of a particular territory are what define borders (Leidong, 2019). External borders are either fully or partially controlled, and only authorized border checkpoints and border zones are permitted for crossing. Building buffer zones may also be encouraged by borders. Scholarly investigations have delineated a differentiation between border and frontier, whereby the latter pertains to an attitude instead of demarcating state boundaries (Aluko, 2012).

It is now well acknowledged that borders are a multifaceted, multileveled social phenomenon that impacts both human psychology and the underlying framework of society. While approaches to and interpretations of boundaries have evolved in tandem with wider discursive shifts in border knowledge and framing, this has not always been the case. The context in which boundaries were created and maintained has changed, challenging traditional definitions and views of boundaries. With contributions from political scientists, sociologists,

anthropologists, psychologists, linguists, economists, physical geographers, and even specialists in more technology domains, border studies has grown into an interdisciplinary field of study (Adeola and Fayemi, 2020).

A closed border is one that, with few or no exceptions, forbids people from traveling freely between different jurisdictions. Usually, these borders consist of walls or fences with locked gates and border crossings; in the event that the gates are opened, people are usually only permitted to cross in dire situations. The Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea is arguably the most well-known example of a closed border. It's possible that the term "closed border" also applied to the Berlin Wall (Okorie, 2019).

Depending on an immigrant's qualifying conditions, length of stay, rights and obligations, and quotas, borders may be opened or closed. An individual's occupation is referred to as their entrance status when and if they are allowed to cross a border, be they laborers, students, soldiers, or immigrants. One's position determines whether or not they can cross a boundary. Most states control border crossing by imposing time limits on visits. Admissions standards are influenced by a number of factors, including ethnicity, wealth, age, health, and religion. Rich immigrants who show competence and a desire to contribute to the nation can be accepted by many nations, such as Singapore and Canada (Leidong, 2019).

The restrictions placed on people who have already been given permission to cross a border are known as entrants' rights and obligations; in order to stay in that nation, you have to abide by certain laws and regulations that have been created by the government. You might be allowed to live in a country but not work, and those who are allowed to work might have trouble obtaining employment because of limitations on the kinds of jobs that are allowed. Entry quotas are limitations on the quantity of immigrants allowed through a border in a given amount of time. An individual may still be refused entry even if they fulfill all requirements for crossing borders and the nation they want to visit has reached its immigration cap, (Akindele and Bola, 2019).

Empirical Review

J. Smith, "Border Closures and Economic Consequences: A Global Perspective" (2020) Main Argument: This study looks at how border closures affect the global economy, with a focus on how they harm commerce and economic expansion. This study's primary contribution to the body of literature is that it gives a worldwide perspective on border closures and sheds light on the common economic difficulties that these policies entail. The study, however, did not attempt to determine the long-term consequences of border closures on the economy, particularly in particular regional contexts.

A. Johnson, "The Impact of Nigeria's Border Closure on Regional Trade in West Africa" (2019) This study examines the disruptions and unfavorable effects on surrounding nations of Nigeria's border closure on regional trade in West Africa. This study, in contrast to many others, illuminates the interdependence of West African economies by concentrating on the regional dynamics and effects of Nigeria's border closure. The report made no attempt to offer viable countermeasures for the detrimental effects on local trade.

"Border Closures and Smuggling: A Case Study of Nigeria" by L. Brown (2021). With a particular focus on Nigeria, this study explores the connection between the frequency of smuggling activities and border closures. The report offers a thorough analysis of how border closures affect smuggling and what that means for government revenue and security. The need for more thorough data on the scope of smuggling operations and possible legislative solutions to effectively address them was not addressed in the study.

The role of informal trade in the context of border closures is discussed in Green, M. (2018). In light of border closures, this study examines the significance of informal trade and highlights the potential drawbacks. The statement underscores the significance of informal trade and its ability to withstand border barriers. The report recommends more research be done on the socioeconomic effects of interrupted informal trading networks, which it did not do.

P. White, "Economic Protectionism and Border Closures: Lessons from Historical Cases" (2017). This study looks at past instances of border closures brought about by economic protectionism and learns from how they affected local businesses and commerce. It provides historical case studies to enlighten current debates on the benefits and drawbacks of border closures. In order to evaluate changing trends, the study recommends comparing border closure policies from the past and the present.

R. Turner, "Border Closures and Food Security: Evidence from Developing Countries" (2019. In order to better understand how border closures affect food security in developing nations, this study highlights the possibility of rising food costs and shortages. It advances knowledge of how border closures may impact the availability of necessities, particularly in low-income countries. The report recommends more research be done on legislative measures to protect food security when borders are closed.

S. Davis, "Border Closures and Regional Integration in Africa: A Comparative Analysis" (2021) This paper provides a comparative analysis of border closures' effects—both positive and negative—on African nations' attempts at regional integration. It offers a nuanced viewpoint on the ways in which border closures can either bolster or undermine attempts at regional integration. According to the study, one way to mitigate the consequences of border closures on integration is to look into how regional organizations function.

Patel, K. "Border Closures and Foreign Investment: The Case of Nigeria" (2020). This research investigates the influence of Nigeria's border closure on foreign direct investment (FDI) and investor confidence, highlighting potential negative consequences, It emphasizes the importance of assessing the impact of border closures on FDI and its implications for economic development. The study points to the need for further research on strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of border closures on investor confidence and FDI.

Theoretical Framework

In order to understand the relationship between border closure and economic progress in Nigeria, the Elite theory is used in this study. The reality that a small number of people control the majority in every company, organization, and nation is explained by elitism, often known as the elite theory.Even so, only a small number of these individuals possess the capacity and power to decide on matters that impact the public at large.These decisions made by the affluent class affect not only the populace directly but also the nation's institutions and industries, including the agricultural, economic, and educational sectors, among others. The theory states that there are two categories of people in society: those who rule and those who are ruled. This theory's roots can be seen in Plato's dialectics, "Who rules?" from that era. He did not use the term "elite," but he did describe a select group of individuals as rulers. Marxists have, however, emphasized this theory in more recent times. Vilfredo Pareto, Gactona Mosca, and Robert Mitchell are among the researchers who believe that society is split into two groups: the Proletariat and the Bourgeois. The majority of proletariats are ruled by the few, the Bourgeois. It is evident that the few bourgeois elites in Nigeria made the decision to close the borders. This indicates that the Nigerian people were affected, whether positively or negatively, by its effects on economic progress. Upon closely examining all the detrimental effects of the

border closure, it becomes evident that the Nigerian populace, or proletariat, was disproportionately affected (Deniz 2008).

The Heckscher-Ohlin Trade Theory:

The Heckscher-Ohlin theory of economics is a theory of comparative advantage in international trade that states that countries with relatively abundant capital and relatively scarce labor will tend to import and export labor-intensive goods, while countries with relatively abundant capital and scarce labor will tend to import and export labor-intensive goods. Based on the work of his master, Swedish economist Eli Filip Heckscher (1879–1952), the idea was developed by Swedish economist Bertil Ohlin (1899–1979). The foundation of the HOS model is the idea that different nations have different factor endowments. Labor and capital are the two general categories into which factors of production are divided. While some nations have an abundance of capital, others have an abundance of labor. The hypothesis states that nations will focus on manufacturing and exporting commodities that heavily utilize their plentiful resources. Nigeria, which is frequently regarded as having an abundance of manpower, may have a competitive advantage in labor-intensive sectors like agriculture. According to the HOS model, nations will import goods utilizing their limited resources and export goods utilizing their abundant factors. This trade pattern is predicated on the notion that nations can optimize their total economic prosperity by specializing in the manufacture of items that utilize their resources as efficiently as possible.

We can draw numerous conclusions from the Heckscher-Ohlin trade theory when examining how border closures affect the Nigerian economy: Trade flows are disrupted by border closures, which impacts the competitive advantage that drives global trade. The border closure in Nigeria resulted in a decrease in the importation of capital-intensive commodities or raw materials, hence impeding the efficiency of some sectors. The border restriction has had a significant impact on Nigeria's economy's patterns of production and specialization as well. The HOS model also suggests that trade barriers, such border closures, may reduce overall welfare since they deprive nations of the benefits of trade, including as resource allocation based on comparative advantage and specialization.

Research Methodology

The procedures and methods used to conduct the study are covered in this chapter. Additionally, it includes the research area of study, data source, and sampling strategy. Technique for Gathering and Analyzing Data.

Area of Study

The research area includes Kwara, Okuta, Yaahikra, Chikanda, Gwamara, and Sokoto. They comprised the study's population, which was collected from residents and business owners in border regions as well as border management organizations.

Sources of Data

In order to conduct the study, the researcher used a descriptive survey approach and drew information from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data sources are firsthand accounts of information. The primary data collected for this study are questionnaires given to informal traders, retail and wholesale marketers, civil servants including officials from border management agencies, and some other economic experts under study. The researcher generates the data for the study. These responses will be crucial to the research. On the other hand, the secondary data consists of information that the researcher gathered from pre-existing sources.

Publicly available research projects, journals, periodicals, newspapers, and memo-graphs are examples of secondary sources from which data were gathered.

Sampling Techniques

For this study, the random sampling technique was used. Using this sample strategy, the researcher selected ten individuals from each of the following study populations: Yaahika, Chikanda, Okuta, Bukuro, Gwamara, Kwara, and Sokoto. resulting in 70 participants overall. Basic percentages were used to analyze the data.

Method of Data Analysis

The questionnaire was structured in line with the research objectives, questions of the research as represented above. The response gotten from the questionnaires were presented in tabular forms and responses were analyzed using percentage.

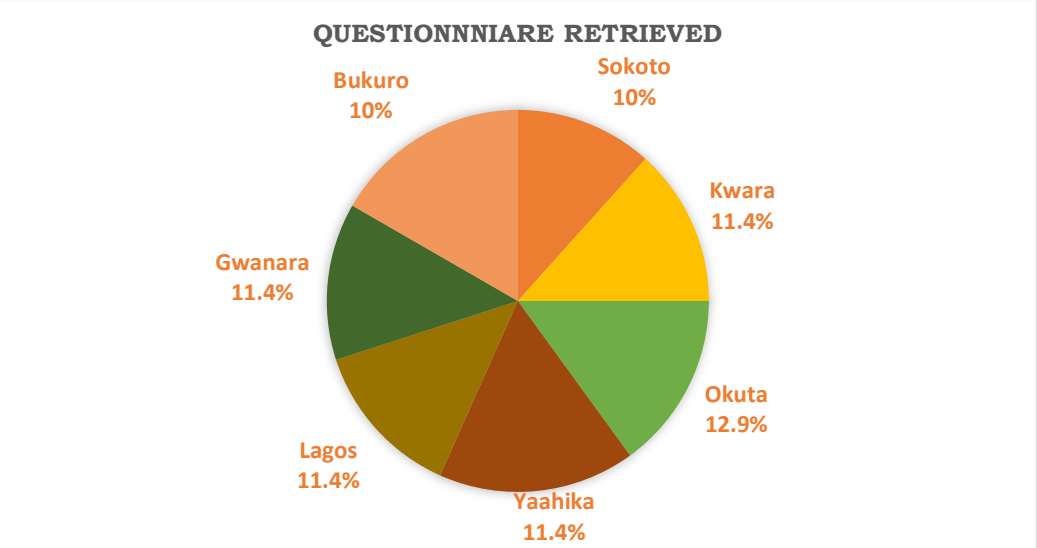
Presentation of Data.

Out of a total of 70 questionnaire that was distributed to gather data for the conduct of this research, it is important to note that only 60 was retrieved back from the respondents

Table 1 Analysis of Questionnaire Administered

Border settlements	Questionnaire Issued	Questionnaire Retrieved	Questionnaire Un-Retrieved	Percentage (%)
Sokoto	**10**	**7(10)**	**3(4.3%)**	**14.3%**
Kwara	**10**	**8(11.4)**	**2(2.9%)**	**14.3%**
Okuta	**10**	**9(12.9)**	**1(1.4%)**	**14.3%**
Yaahika	**10**	**10(14.3%)**	**0(0%)**	**14.3%**
Gwanara	**10**	**8(11.4)**	**2 (2.9%)**	**14.3%**
Bukuro	**10**	**10(14.3%)**	**0 (0%)**	**14.3%**
Lagos	**10**	**8((11.4)**	**2((2.9)**	**14.3%**
Grand total	**70**	**60 (85.7%)**	**10 (14.3%)**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

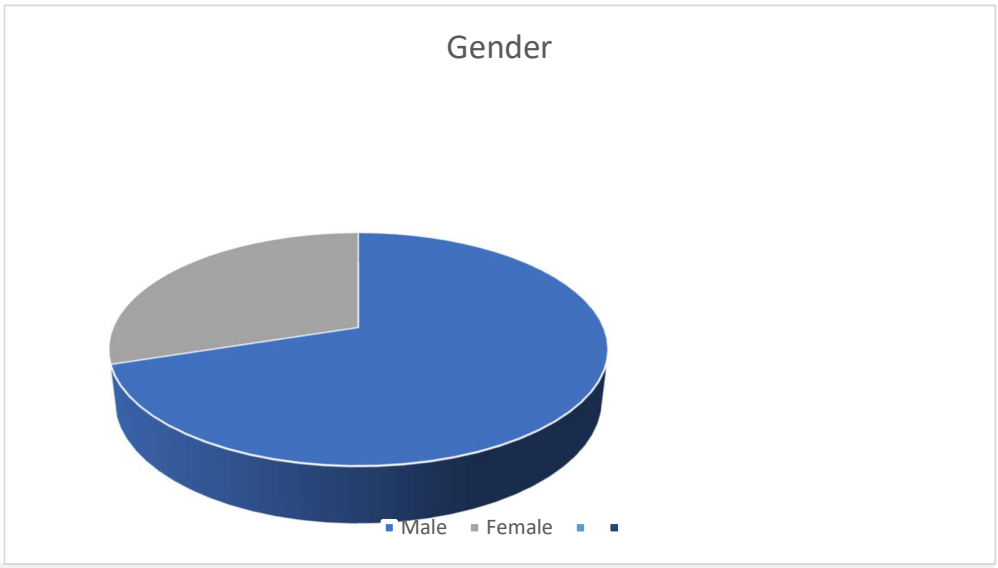


The table above indicated the total numbers of questionnaire distributed to different border areas and the numbers retrieved from respondents; Sokoto issued 10, retrieved 7 (10%), unretrieved 3

(4.3%), Kwara issued 10, retrieved 8 (11.4%), unretrieved 2 (2.9%), Lagos issued 10, retrieved8 (11.4%), unretrieved 2(2.9%) Okuta issued 10, retrieved 9 (12.9%), unretrieved 1 (1.4%), Yaahika issued 10, retrieved 10 (14.3%), unretrieved 2 (2.9%), Gwanara issued 10, retrieved 8 (11.4%), unretrieved 2 (2.9%), Bukoro issued 10, retrieved 10 (14.3%), unretrieved 0 (0.0%), . The grand total of questionnaires issued is 70, and the grand total retrieved is 60. From the data, it's clear that most locations had a high retrieval rate, with Bukoro having a 100% retrieval rate. Sokoto had the lowest retrieval rate at 70%. Overall, the data shows that a majority of questionnaires were retrieved across these locations.

Table 2: Bio Data of the Respondents

variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Gender	Male	35	58.3
	Female	15	25
	Total	**60**	**100**
Age bracket	20-30	20	33.3
	30-40	15	15
	40-50	10	16
	50-Above	5	8.3
	Total	**60**	**100**
Marital Status	Single	30	50
	Married	20	33.3
	Divorced	10	16.6
	Total	**60**	**100**
Qualification	SSCE	5	8.3
	ND	10	16.6
	NCE	10	16.6
	HND/ BSc	25	41.6
	MSC	10	16.6
	Total	**60**	**100**

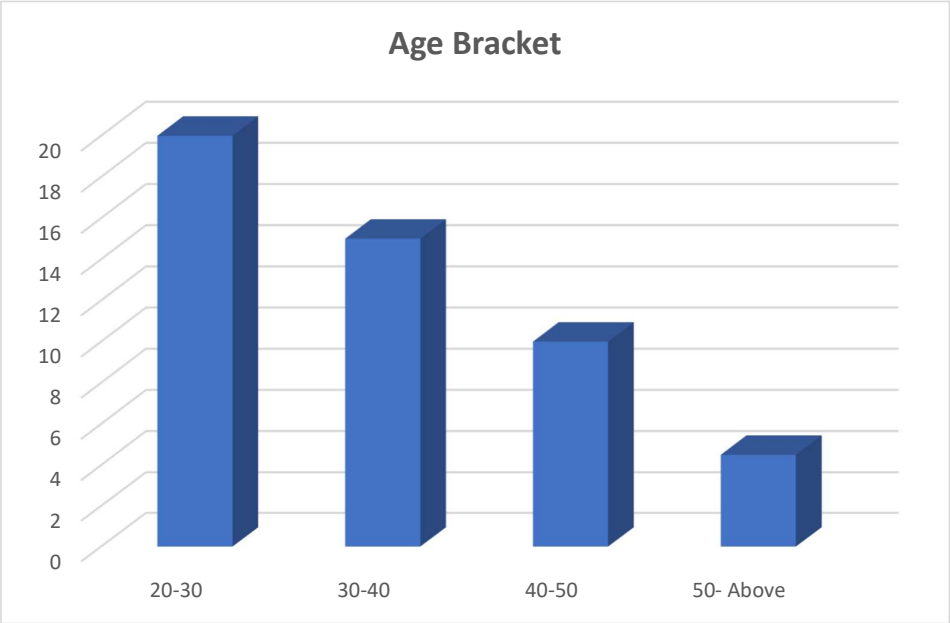


Occupation	Wholesaler/Retailers	20	33.3
	Informal traders	25	41.6
	Border Agencies	5	8.3
	Border occupants	10	16.6
	Total	**60**	**100**

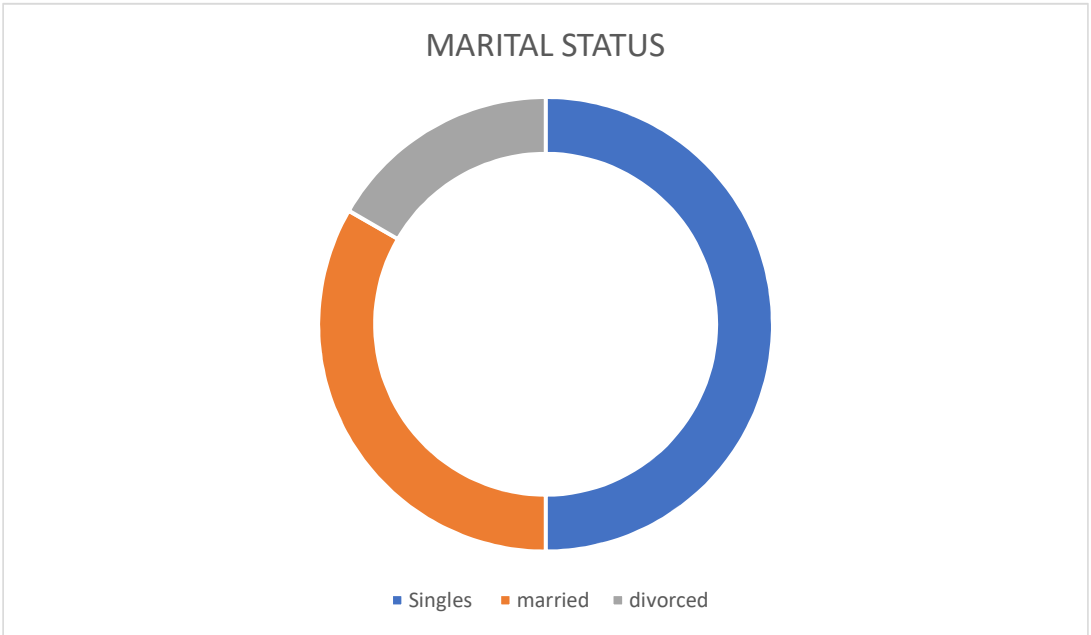
Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table give analysis on the numbers of gender represented and engaged in the course of the research; Male respondents: 35 (58.3%), Female respondents: 15 (25%). Total respondents: 60 (100%)

The data suggests that amongst the respondents, there were more males (58.3%) than females (25%). This data gives an overview of the gender distribution within the respondent pool, indicating a higher participation of males compared to females.



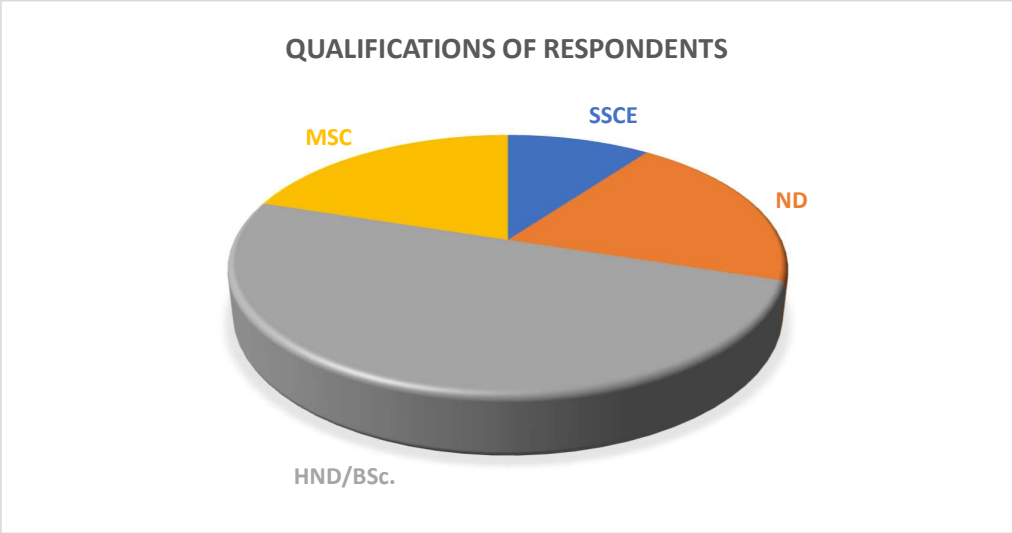
The table above indicated the age intervals of respondents; 20-30 age bracket: 20 respondents (33.3%), 30-40 age bracket: 15 respondents (16.6%), 40-50 age bracket: 10 respondents (14.3%), 50 and above age bracket: 5 respondents (8.3%). Total respondents: 60 (100%)
Analyzing this data, it appears that the majority of respondents fall within the 20-30 age bracket, comprising 33.3% of the total respondents. The 30-40 and 40-50 age brackets follow in descending order, with 16.6% and 14.3% respectively. The age group of 50 and above constitutes the smallest portion of respondents at 8.3%.
This distribution shows a higher participation of younger individuals (20-30 age group) compared to older age brackets, indicating a possible skew towards younger respondents in the survey or study.



The table above shows the status of the respondents engaged in the course of the research; Single: 30 respondents (50%), Married: 20 respondents (33.3%), Divorced: 10 respondents (16.6%)

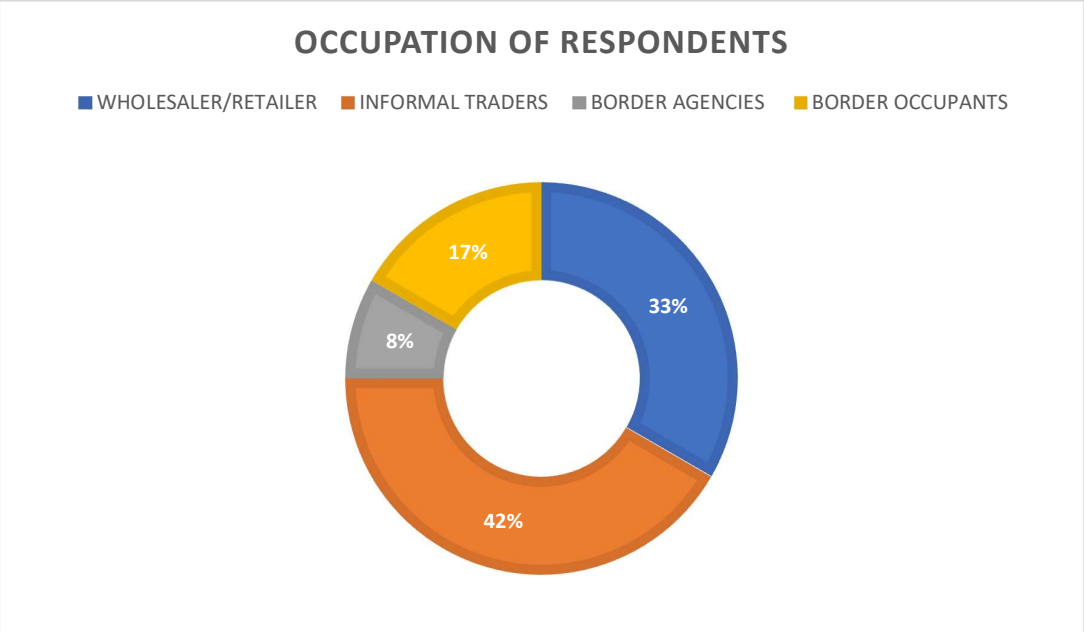
Analyzing this data, it shows that among the respondents, the highest percentage (50%) comprises individuals who are single, followed by 33.3% who are married, and 16.6% who are divorced.

This distribution indicates that half of the respondents are single, suggesting a significant portion of unmarried individuals within the surveyed group. The percentages of married and divorced respondents follow in descending order, reflecting the diversity of marital statuses within the respondent pool.



The table above illustrates the qualifications of the respondent; SSCE (Secondary School Certificate Examination): 5 respondents (8.3%), ND (National Diploma): 10 respondents (16.6%), NCE (National Certificate in Education): 10 respondents (16.6%), HND/BSc (Higher National Diploma/Bachelor of Science): 25 respondents (41.6%), MSc (Master of Science): 10 respondents (16.6%).

Analyzing this data, it shows a diverse range of educational qualifications among the respondents. The largest percentage, 41.6%, holds HND/BSc degrees, indicating that this group forms the majority within the respondent pool. Following this, there are equal percentages (16.6%) for both ND and NCE qualifications, as well as for MSc degrees. The SSCE category, representing secondary school qualifications, holds the smallest percentage at 8.3% among the respondents. Overall, the data indicates a varied educational background among the respondents, with a higher representation of individuals holding HND/BSc qualifications.



The table above provided analyses the occupational distribution among respondents: Wholesaler/Retailer: 20 respondents (33.3%), Informal Traders: 25 respondents (41.6%), Border Agencies: 5 respondents (8.3%), Border Occupants: 10 respondents (16.6%)
Analyzing this data, it reveals a diverse range of occupations among the respondents. The highest percentage (41.6%) is represented by individuals involved in informal trading, followed closely by 33.3% involved in wholesaling/retailing. Additionally, border occupants and border agencies constitute 16.6% and 8.3% of the respondent pool, respectively. This distribution highlights a significant presence of individuals engaged in informal trading, indicating its prominence among the surveyed population, followed by those in wholesaling/retailing. The smaller percentages of border agencies and occupants signify a comparatively lesser representation within the respondent group

Table 3: **What are the immediate and long-term economic consequences of Nigeria's border closure?**

Options	SA	A	UD	SD	DA
Limited availability of goods due to border restriction contributed to inflationary pressure especially on food and consumer	30 (50%)	20(33.3%)	10(16.6%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (16.6%)
Restrictions can disrupt supply chains, impacting business leading to layoffs	40 (66.6%)	15 (25%)	0 (0.0%)	2(3.3%)	3 (5%)

or reduced working hours.					
When local industries do not develop to meet demand adequately or cannot compete with international standards, the G.D.P growth might stagnate or grow at slower pace than anticipated	35 (58.3%)	10 (16,.6)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.3%)
Inefficiencies in local industries could lead to a persistent rise in the price index impacting consumer purchasing power	40 (66.6%)	10 (16.6%)	5 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2023

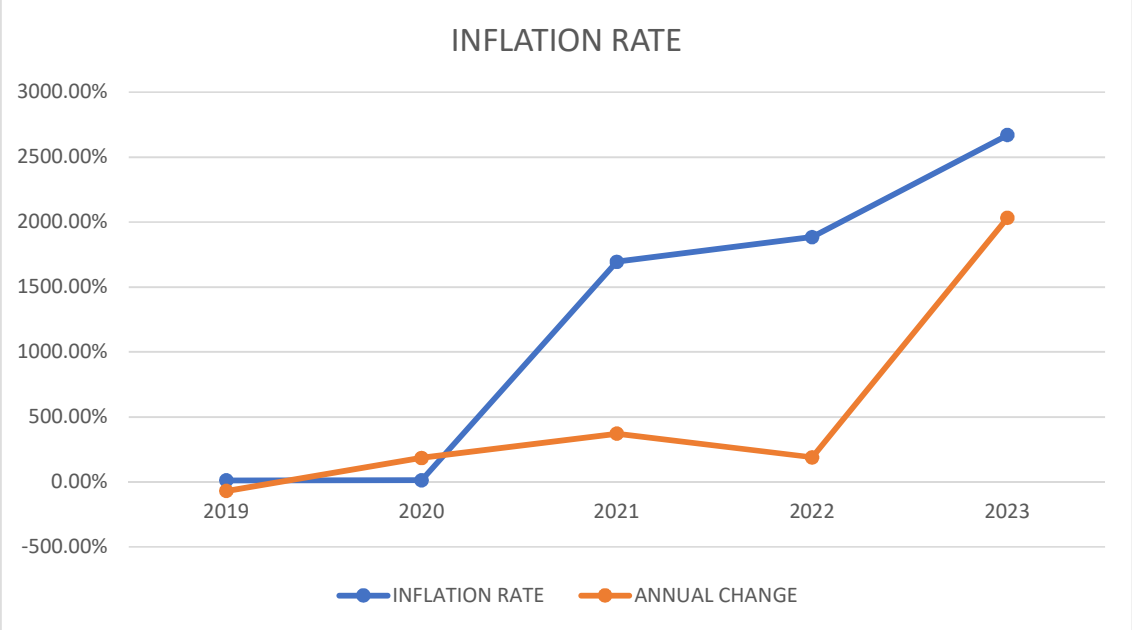
The table above depict responses from various respondents on the effects of border closure on the Nigeria economy which includes: Limited availability of goods due to border restriction contributed to inflationary pressure especially on food and consumer foods -Strongly Agree 30(50%), Agree20(33.3%), Undecided 10(16.6%), Strongly Disagree0(0.0%) and Disagree10(16.6%). Restriction disrupted supply chains, impacting business leading to lay off or reduced working hour - strongly agree40(66.6%), Agree15(25%), Undecided0(0.0%), Strongly disagree2(3.3%) and agree3(5%). When local industry do not develop to meet demand adequately or cannot compete with the international standards, the GDP growth might stagnate or grow at slower pace than anticipated- Strongly Agree35(58.3%), Agree10(16.6%), Undecided0(0.0%), Strongly Disagree0(0.0%) and Disagree5(8.3%). Inefficiency in local industries could lead to a persistent rise in the price index impacting consumer purchasing power-Strongly Agree40 (66.6%), Agree10 (16.6), Undecided5 (8.3%) Strongly Disagree0 (0.0%) and disagree (8.3%)

The responses from the field survey indicate a significant consensus among respondents regarding the economic consequences of Nigeria's border closure. Let's break down the key points:

Inflationary Pressure: Respondents overwhelmingly concur that border restrictions have restricted the availability of commodities, which has increased inflation, especially for necessities like food. This opinion is supported by academics such as Oxford economist Paul Collier and trade specialists Thomas A. O'toole. They contend that because limited trade reduces supply, prices rise. Emerging economies tend to have higher rates of inflation. There are a number of factors that could cause emerging countries to grow more quickly, which would raise demand for products and services. But when demand rises and supply remains constant, prices may rise, which can result in inflation, as was the case in 2019 when the border was closed and the nation saw a sharp increase in the price of some commodities, like palm oil, which typically sells for 8,000–9,000 per unit but went as high as $24,000–25,000 per unit in cities like Abuja and Lagos. (NBS, 2023). One other element contributing to increased inflation in a nation is the absence of a well-defined monetary policy. Currency manipulation could result from this, if short-term goals are desired, such lowering export costs. Furthermore, as too much money is in circulation, demand and cost drive inflation simultaneously, which is the real-world example of what Nigeria is going through right now, the excess money printing

pressures the currency down and raises inflation (NBS, 2023). The table below shows the time increase in Nigeria from the period of the border closure to the present.

YEAR	INFLATION RATE%	ANNUAL CHANGE
2019	11.40%	-0.70%
2020	13.25%	1.85%
2021	16.95%	3.71%
2022	18.85%	1.89%
2023	26.7%	20.32%



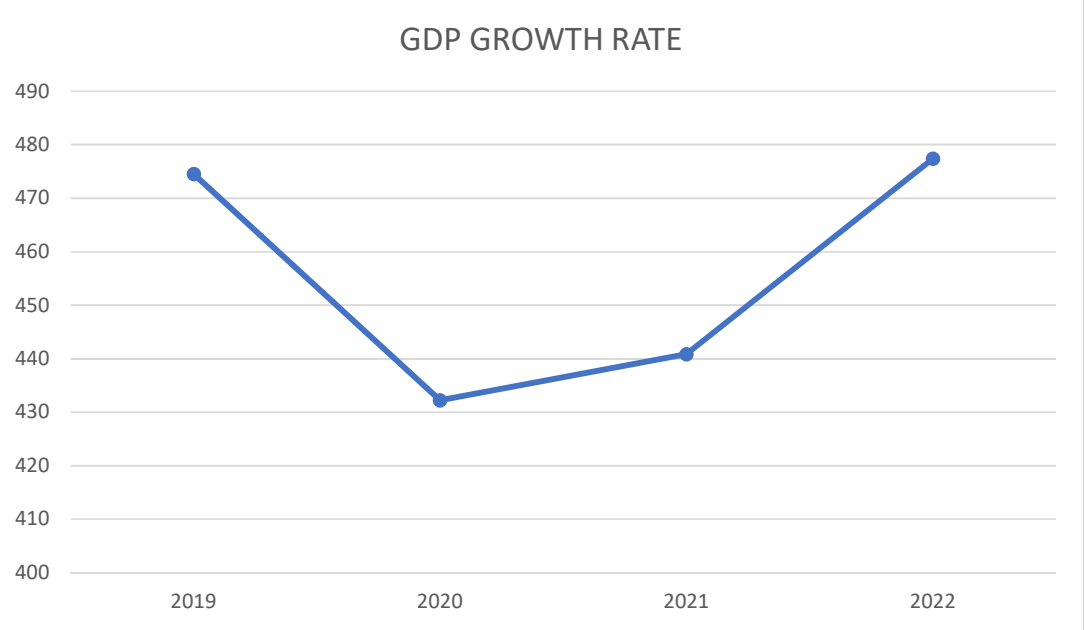
According to the table above, Nigeria had one of the highest rates of inflation in the world in 2021—roughly 17%. In 2022, the rate fell to 16.1% in the first quarter and then increased to 18.85%, showing an absurd increase over the 1.89% increase in 2021. At present, Nigeria's inflation rate stands at 26.7%, the highest level in roughly 20 years, which translates to the country's worsening cost of living crisis. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, millions of Nigerians are now impoverished as a result of inflation brought on by the effects of both the former and current administrations' economic policies. The majority of Nigeria's inflation basket, which is made up mostly of food inflation, continues to grow, rising to 30.64% in August from 29.34.

Supply Chain Disruption: The majority strongly agree that the closure disrupted supply chains, impacting businesses and resulting in layoffs or reduced working hours. Scholars such as Michael Ferrantino and Zhi Wang highlight how supply chain disruptions lead to economic slowdowns and job losses, affecting the overall economy negatively.

Impact on GDP Growth: Most respondents concur that GDP growth could slow down or stop if local industries are unable to keep up with global competition or meet demand. Competitive industries are crucial for sustained economic growth, according to academics like Dani Rodrik, and failing in this area can really slow GDP growth. Nigeria's real GDP, or gross domestic product, increased by 2.27 percent year over year (YoY) from N69.80 trillion in 2018 to N

71.39 trillion in 2019, with a YoY increase from 19.91% in 2018. This growth was achieved at basic constant pricing. The agricultural sector contributed N10.50 trillion, the trade sector N5.94 trillion, and the information and communication sector N4.66 trillion, or 25.2%, 16%, and 13% of the total GDP in 2019, respectively, which was a major factor in the rise (NBS, 2019). The GDP of the nation was 432.20 billion dollas in 2020 during the border closure, compared to 474.52 billion dollars in 2019, a drop of -43.220 billion dollars in just one year. The sectors that contribute to the GDP of the nation are as follows. Contrary to agriculture, which the border closure was intended to support, the service industry contributes significantly more to the county's GDP than the trade sector, which accounts for 26.21%, information and communication, which accounts for 21.36%, and agriculture, which accounts for 52.44%. Nigeria's GDP was estimated to be 440.83 billion dollars in 2021, up 8.63 billion dollars from that year. This increase was attributed to the lifting of the border closure policy and the continuation of both formal and informal trade activities. With each sector's contribution fixed at, the agriculture sector contributed 25.9% of Nigeria's total real GDP, down from 26.21% the year before. More broadly, the industrial sector's proportion to Nigeria's GDP decreased to 21.36% in 2020 from 20.56%, while the services sector's share increased to 53.56%, up from 52.44% the year before. Nigeria's GDP rebounded spectacularly in 2022, surpassing the record set in 2019 with a total value of 477.39 billion dollars. About 23.69% came from the agriculture sector, 30.78% from industry, and 44.04% from the service sector. The table below indicate the growth trends

YEAR	GDP (BILLION $)	PERFORMANCE	GROWTH RATE
2019	474.52	INCREASE	12.51%
2020	432.20	DECLINE	8.92%
2021	440.83	INCREASE	2%
2022	477.39	INCREASE	8.29%



Consumer Purchasing Power: A significant consensus agrees that inefficiency in local industries could lead to a persistent rise in price indices, impacting consumer purchasing power.

Economists like Joseph Stiglitz have highlighted how rising prices reduce consumers' purchasing power, affecting their ability to buy goods and services.

The survey responses align with established economic theories and analyses by scholars. They emphasize the negative impacts of border closures on inflation, supply chains, GDP growth, and consumer purchasing power. These responses reflect a widespread concern about the immediate and long-term effects of the border closure on Nigeria's economy.

Table 4: How did the closure of the economy affected various sector of the economy including Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services?

OPTIONS	SA	A	UD	SD	DA
Border closure created market for locally produced agricultural goods as import decreased due to restriction but, however, it create new challenges in meeting sudden increase in demand, leading to shortage and hike for certain agricultural products	45 (75%)	10 (16.6%)	5 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
The immediate closure disrupt supply chain leading to production delay or increased for manufacturer	35 (58.3%)	10 (16.6%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (16.6%)	5 (8.3%)
Closure of the border limited opportunities for services reliant on international connection, potentials hindrance to their growth and contribution to overall economy.	50 (83.3%)	10 (16.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
During the border closure, service sectors catering to domestic demand did not flourish as the policy did not support innovation and investment	25 (41.6%)	10 (16.6%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (8.3%)	15 (25%)

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 above indicated that border closure created market for locally produced agricultural goods as impacts decreased due to restrictions, but created new challenges in meeting sudden increase demand leading to shortage and hike in certain agricultural products- Strongly agree45(75%), Agree10(16.6%), Undecided5(8.3%), Disagree0(0.0%) and Disagree0(0.0%). The immediate closure disrupted supply chain leading to production delay-Strongly agree35 (58.3) Agree 10(16.6), Undecided0 (0.0%), Disagree10 (16.6%) and strongly disagree5 (8.3%). Closure of the border limits opportunities for service reliant in international connection, potential hinder their growth and contribution to overall economy-Strongly agree50 (83.3) Agree10 (16.6%), Undecided0 (0.0%), Disagree0 (0.0%) and Disagree0 (0.0%). During the border closure service sectors catering to domestic demand did not flourish as the policy did

not support innovation and investment -Strongly Agree25(41.6%), Agree10(16.6%), Undecided 0(0.0%), Disagree5(8.3%) and Strongly Disagree15(25%)

Agriculture: The majority of respondents concur that the closing of the border spawned a local market for agricultural products. It did, however, also present difficulties, notably in addressing unexpectedly high demand. This supports the theories of academics like Michael Lipton and Christopher Udry, who have highlighted the ways in which trade restrictions can present local farmers with challenges as well as market possibilities. The National Bureau of Statistics states that during the early stages of the border closure, agriculture made up the majority of the economy, accounting for around N10.50 trillion, or 25.2% of the nation's G.D.P. A rise in this sector was also observed in 2020, as it made a substantial contribution to the GDP of the nation, equal to approximately 26.21%. However, a number of market difficulties combined with the smuggling of agricultural products, such as rice, which is a practice that is carried out through unofficial ways along the border, distorted this progress. The industry had a reduction in its considerable GDP contributions from 25.9% in 2021 to 23.69 in 2022, bringing its illustrious history to an abrupt end due to this act alone. And this has had an impact on the consumer goods price index. In Nigeria, the price index for food items alone is at 30.64%. resulting in an economic scenario that has made Nigerian citizens' poverty more severe. And this is one of the long-term effects of the border closure because it significantly raises the price of both domestically and imported agricultural products.

Manufacturing: Most respondents firmly concur that supply chain disruptions brought upon by the shutdown resulted in production delays. This is consistent with theories put forth by professionals such as Tim Minshall and Willy Shih, who draw attention to the manufacturing sectors' susceptibility to supply chain disruptions brought on by trade barriers. The manufacturing sector made up the least amount of the nation's GDP at the height of the border shutdown, contributing only 16% (or N5.94 trillion). This demonstrates how dependent this industry is on relationships and connections on a global scale. With the relaxation of the import prohibition, the industry did, however, start to regain its position in the GDP, recording 21.36 in 2020. The same situation as in 2019 happened after the Covid-19 epidemic closed international trade; during this time, the sector's contribution to GDP was estimated to be 20.9%. Nonetheless, the industry started to regain its position in the G.D.P. of the nation in 2022 after making a sizable contribution of almost 30.78%. Border closure is to blame for the two events that caused a fall in the sector's GDP contribution. Prominent Nigerian corporations experienced significant losses in their exports during this time. The table below gives detailed analysis of the companies loss in export ranging between the two period of border closure.

Indigenous companies in Nigeria	Export loss in 2019(BILLION ~~₦~~)	Export loss 2020 (BILLION ~~₦~~)
CADBIRU PLC	34.5	36.3
DANGOTE PLC	262.7	342.8
EHI LIMITED	28.4	29.7
NESTLE NIGERIA	43.2	52.3
UNILEVER NIGERIA	57.4	63.6
FLOUR MILL OF NIG	41.7	52.2
DUFIL PRIMA FOOD	29.5	30.9
DANSA FOODS LIMITED	24.5	28.7
HONEY LAND FOOD L.T.D	26.3	27.1

HONEY WELL	33.6	35.8
LEVENTIS FOOD	30.5	31

Osunbiyi, (2020).

Services: There is broad agreement that the shutdown restricts prospects for service industries that depend on global connections, which may impede their expansion. This is consistent with the theories of economists such as Richard Baldwin, who contend that the service sector may be negatively impacted by trade barriers while also substantially benefiting from worldwide connection. Respondents who represent domestic service industries concur that a lack of policy support for innovation and investment prevented these sectors from flourishing. This is consistent with the theories of economists like Paul Romer, who emphasizes the need for favorable policies in order for domestic service sectors to grow and make a substantial economic contribution. With the service sector accounting for only 13% of the nation's GDP in 2019, the economy suffered greatly during the height of the border shutdown. Nonetheless, the sector had phenomenal growth at the conclusion of the 2020 economic year, providing more than half of the nation's G.D.P., or 52.44%, and even more so in 2021, when it grew to almost 53.5%. Nevertheless, the industry saw yet another drop in GDP, with its share of the economy estimated to be 44.4% at the conclusion of the 2022 fiscal year. It wouldn't be far from the truth to state that the lockdown event that occurred in 2020 and spread to some areas of the nation in 2021 was the reason for the sector's amazing economic growth. These indicators aid in understanding how specific government actions have the potential to either severely damage or stimulate the economy. A thorough examination of sectoral performances both before and after border closure is provided in the table below.

SECTOR	2019 (%)	2020 (%)	2021 (%)	2022 (%)
AGRICULTURE	25.2	26.21	25.21	23.69
MANUFACTURING	16	21.36	20.9	30.78
SERVICE	13	52.44	53.56	44.04

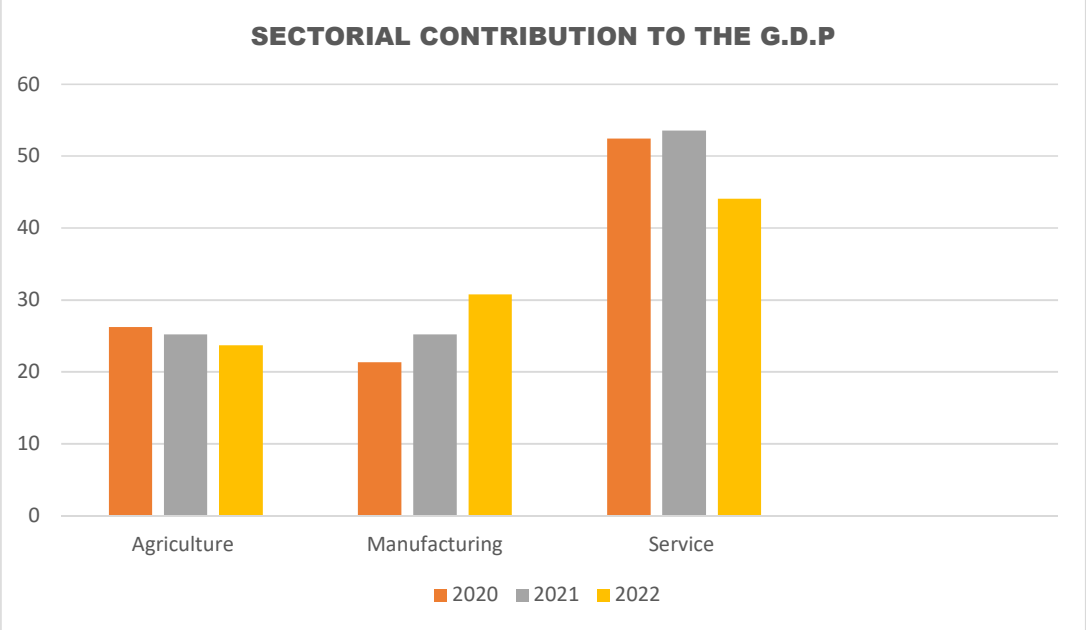


Table 5: Border closure was not able to tackle some of the security reasons behind the adoption of the policy

Options	Frequency	Percentage
SA	25	(41.6%)
A	15	(25%)
UD	10	(16.6%)
DA	5	(8.3%)
SDA	5	(8.3%
TOTAL	60	(100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 above indicates that Strongly Agree25(41.6%) with the fact that border closure did not succeed in meeting with the various security reasons upon which initiated , Agree15(25%) indicate that respondents were also in support of the option, Undecided10(16.6%), Disagree5(8.3%) and Strongly Disagree5(8.3%)

Supportive Views: Approximately 67% (combining strongly agree and agree responses) of respondents believed that the border closure helped curb the intended security challenges. These challenges encompassed issues like smuggling, illegal migration, and the influx of illicit goods, especially arms and contraband.

Dissenting Views: Roughly 17% (combining disagree and strongly disagree responses) of respondents disagreed with the closure's efficacy in addressing security challenges, possibly indicating skepticism about its effectiveness in mitigating the outlined issues.

Pressing Security Challenges During Closure:

During the border closure, Nigeria faced several security challenges, notably smuggling of contraband goods, weapons, and illegal migration. For instance, the closure aimed to curb the influx of illegal arms, contraband goods like rice, and the movement of unauthorized individuals across borders. However, reports indicated that while the closure decreased the illegal flow of goods to some extent, smuggling continued through alternative means, such as illegal routes or increased corruption within border enforcement.

After Border Reopening:

Upon the reopening of the border, certain security challenges persisted, albeit in altered forms. While the closure might have reduced some illegal activities temporarily, reopening led to a resurgence in cross-border activities. Reports indicated a resurgence in smuggling, albeit through different channels or with altered methods. For instance, the reopening saw an uptick in the smuggling of various goods like rice, vehicles, and other contraband items.

Table 6: How did the border closure affect Nigeria's position in regional trade dynamics

OPTIONS	SA	A	UD	SD	DA
The border closure disrupted regional trade flow as economic power house of the region	20 (33.3%)	10 (16.6%)	20(33.3%)	10 (16.6%)	0 (0.0%)
The border closure resulted to a shift in informal cross-border trades	30 (50%)	10 (16.6%	10(16.6%)	5 (8.3%)	5(8.3%)
The border closure strained Nigeria's diplomatic relation with other regions	25(41.6%)	10 (16.6%)	15(25%)	10(16.6%)	0(0.0%)
The border closure prompted	30 (50%)	15(25%)	10(16.6%)	5 (8.3%)	0

discuss on regional self-sufficiency and industrialization.					(0.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 above indicates that the border closure disrupted regional trade flow as the economic power house of the region-Strongly Agree20(33.3%), Agree10(16.6%), Undecided20(33.3%) Disagree10(16.6%) and Strongly Disagree0(0.0%). The border closure resulted to a shift in informal cross-border trade- Strongly30(50%) , Agree10(16.6%), Undecided10(16.6%), Disagree5((8.3%) and Strongly Disagree5(8.3%). The border closure strained Nigeria's diplomatic relation with other regions-Strongly Agree25(41.6%), Agree10(16.6%), Undecided15(25%), Disagree10(16.6%) and Strongly Disagree0(0.0%). The border closure prompted discussion on regional self-sufficiency and industrialization-Strongly Agree30(50%), Agree15(25), Undecided10(16.6%), Disagree5(8.3%) and Strongly Disagree0(0.0%). The information above indicates that:

Disruption of Regional Trade Flow: According to a sizable percentage of respondents, Nigeria was portrayed as a regional economic powerhouse due to the border closure. This is in line with the opinions of academics like Chukwuma Agu and Abel Adekola, who highlight Nigeria's crucial position in regional trade and the effects of disruptions on the economies of surrounding nations. Various data sets indicate that Nigeria has experienced declining security in addition to financial losses from regional commerce. Nigeria's trade with the Economic Community of the West Africa States (ECOWAS) decreased from N2.24 trillion in 2019 to N 841 billion in 2020, N1.24 trillion in 2021, and N1.24 trillion in 2022. However, in 2022, trade increased significantly to 9.4 billion dollars, an increase of 38.8%, and was valued up to 8 trillion as of October 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Informal Cross-Border Trade Shift: According to the respondents, half of them strongly agreed that the closure brought about an informal cross-border trade shift. This is in line with the findings of trade specialists like Idayat Hassan and Mansur Mukhtar, who have pointed out that border restrictions frequently reroute unofficial trade routes and patterns. For example, Shifts in Informal Trade Routes: Following the closure, reports revealed changed trade routes, as unofficial trade routes moved to different routes, affecting the movement of products and upsetting long-standing trade patterns.

Most people thought that Nigeria's diplomatic relations with other regions were strained as a result of the closure. This is in line with the worries of academics studying international relations like Bolaji Akinterinwa, who highlights the negative diplomatic effects of unilateral trade moves on ties with other countries. Relationships within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were strained as a result of Nigeria's shutdown, for instance. The shutdown caused economic difficulties for nations like Benin and Niger, whose exports are heavily dependent on Nigeria's market.

Conversation on Regional Self-Sufficiency and Industrialization: A sizable portion of participants concurred that conversations regarding regional self-sufficiency and industrialization were sparked by the closure. In the framework of Nigeria's trade policy, academics such as Akin Iwayemi and Ibrahim Maigandi have pushed for such talks, stressing the need of domestic capacity building and industrial growth.

Conclusion

All nations aim to expand their economies since they are typically the best representation of their power and sovereignty. Countries typically seal their borders to safeguard domestic businesses and prevent the smuggling of commodities into their borders.

But in Nigeria, where the nation lacked the capacity to satisfy its local supply needs, the people grumbled about the food costs in their country soaring as a result of the border closure. Facts demonstrate that the border closure policy drove millions of Nigerians into poverty and a state of unemployment as numerous businesses failed and some individuals lost their jobs, despite the government's insistence that it was implemented to stop the smuggling of goods into the nation. It is nevertheless true that any economy that wants to expand eventually needs to import goods at a controlled rate and attract foreign investments. Every day economic activity is the foundation for economic growth, and it is precisely these kinds of activities that the land border closure policy adversely impacted, lowering the amount of economic activity that could support the expansion of the Nigerian economy. In any case, the strategy of closing the border encouraged Nigerians to start looking inside and developing the national economy.

Recommendations

(a) Every policy has its negative and positive kickbacks. The only way through which the government of any state can avoid huge economic underperformance as a result of their choice of policies is to continuously monitor and evaluate the impacts of the policy throughout its implementation. Regular reviews help in making necessary adjustments, identifying unintended consequences, and ensuring the policy's effectiveness.

(b) Government should also ensure that the key holds of the economy are crossly examined by conducting a thorough impact assessment across various sectors (e.g., agriculture, manufacturing, services) to understand potential repercussions on the economy, employment, and trade dynamics before implementing such policies.

(c) The government should also try as much as possible to involve all relevant stakeholders, including neighboring countries, businesses, trade organizations, and local communities, in decision-making processes. This ensures diverse perspectives are considered and potential concerns addressed.

(d) Other than total shutdown between neighboring countries, the government should always seek for an alternative measure to address security or economic concerns without resorting to complete border closures. Strategies like enhanced border security, trade agreements, or targeted interventions can address issues while minimizing economic disruptions.

(e) If unavoidable, the government should implement such policies gradually, allowing for a phased transition to mitigate abrupt shocks to the economy and trade relationships. This enables businesses to adapt and adjust to new trade dynamics.

(f) The government should always ensure a strong coherence between trade policies and broader economic objectives. Policies should support long-term economic growth, regional integration, and sustainable trade relationships.

(g) The government should also try as much as possible to provide transparent and timely information to the public, businesses, and neighboring countries about the rationale, duration, and potential impacts of the policy. Clarity helps in managing expectations and reducing uncertainty.

(h) In the case of future development, the government should develop contingency plans and mitigation strategies to address potential negative consequences. This might include support mechanisms for affected industries, diplomatic engagements to prevent strained relationships, and measures to boost domestic production. Prior to any border closure, sufficient preparations should be done, particularly for the agricultural and food production sectors. This is because blocking the borders to prevent the entry of goods that are either not produced in the nation or are produced in little amounts will only result in malnutrition and hunger.

(i) A reform of the customs and immigration services is also necessary, since a large number of their employees need to be reminded that accepting bribes is not a part of their work duties. To discourage others, the agency must take a strong stance against bribery and ensure that any officers found to have broken the rules face appropriate consequences. Establishing an anti-bribery and corruption section within the organization to address the challenges posed by bribery and corruption is one method this agency may truly eradicate that bribery mindset from its workers.

By considering these recommendations, policymakers can better navigate the complexities of such policies, mitigating adverse effects on the economy and international relations while addressing underlying concerns.

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