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FEDERATION OF NIGERIA  
PROGRESS IN STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA

(Submitted by the Federal Office of Statistics,  
Lagos, Nigeria)

(a) Population

1. For various reasons, largely political, a population census of Nigeria will next be taken in May, 1962, and not in 1961 as had been originally intended.

2. The main features of this Census, as compared with the previous one in 1952/53, are as follows :

- (i) The main enumeration will be undertaken throughout the Federation at the same time.
- (ii) An individual count will be made, with each person separately listed instead of the previous "group" count.
- (iii) The complete enumeration will be followed on a sample basis by a post-enumeration which will both check the reliability of the main enumeration and provide the detailed demographic data that would have been too expensive to collect as part of the general enumeration.
- (iv) The general enumeration will be used to produce a list of persons eligible to be electors at Elections; the additional cost of this work, when combined with a population census, will be far less than if it had been treated as an independent operation.
- (v) Except for the production of the crude basic totals of population, all analyses will be undertaken with punched cards; a special IBM installation being hired for the purpose.

3. In the general enumeration the following five items of information will be recorded for each person.

- (i) Sex.
- (ii) Age group - Under 6, 6-12, 13-19, 20-49 and 50 and over
- (iii) Tribe or Nationality.
- (iv) Birth place = Same Town, Same Province, Same Region, Other Region, Not Nigeria.
- (v) Education = Literate/Not literate. Number of years of full time Education.

4. The final schedule of questions to be asked in the Sample Enumeration has not yet been decided but, in general, it is proposed that the sample enumeration should include all the questions asked in the General Enumeration, but with age in years rather than in age groups, plus questions on some or all of the following topics: occupation, industry and status; religion; housing conditions generally and for women in a sub-sample, questions on fertility.

5. For this work a separate Census Office has been set-up under the direction of a Federal Census Officer, who will administer the Census through 3 regional Census Officers and an Assistant Federal Census Officer, who will be responsible for Lagos. Under the United Nations Technical Assistance programme we have obtained the services of a Demographer, who will be responsible for planning the analysis and for deciding on the final scope of the sample enumeration.

(b) Labour Statistics

6. The Federal Office of Statistics has, in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, conducted an enquiry into employment and earnings in principal industries at the end of September in each year since 1956. The enquiry covers all known establishments employing not less than ten workers. The number of employees so covered and their earnings are analyzed by occupational groups, industry and by main economic sectors. About half a million persons are included.

7. The lower limit of establishment size, of ten employees, definitely excludes the subsistence sector and small scale establishments which together possibly account for more than 90 per cent of the working population in Nigeria.

8. Unemployment has not been systematically studied in Nigeria. Although the Federal Ministry of Labour has established Employment Exchanges in the important urban centres, these keep records of only those who seek employment through them - and there is no compulsion on either employees or employers to use the Labour exchanges when seeking work. Any data on employment from these sources cannot be considered as a reliable indicator of unemployment as there is no means, at present, of knowing the size of unemployment not reported.

9. The Federal Ministry of Labour is now in the process of establishing a statistical unit within the Ministry. It has been agreed that the unit should take over the employment and earnings enquiry which has hitherto been controlled by the Federal Office of Statistics. It is expected that the unit will eventually make good some of the other deficiencies in labour statistics.

(c) Agriculture

10. During 1952/53, following the 1950/51 world Census of Agriculture it was decided that, in order to be able to supply information for the 1960/61 Census, a scheme for the collection of agricultural statistics on a regular basis should be initiated. This sample survey was designed to cover the whole country in five years. It started in 1955. The first three years were devoted to the Northern Region, 1958/59 to the West and 1959/60 to the East. In years succeeding those in which surveys were done, the Northern Region Ministry of Agriculture arranged to collect yield data so that since 1957/58 (the year during which the North was completed) production data based on acreages determined in the years of survey on current yields is available. For the West collection of data has been continuous since 1960/61 and for the East since 1959/60.

11. It became clear before the first five-year plan came to a close that if the regular collection of agricultural statistics was to become permanent it would be necessary to put up new proposals with a twofold objective namely :

- (i) To increase the sample size, and hence reduce the sampling error which even for a major item for a Region is of the order of  $\pm$  15 per cent.
- (ii) To cover the whole country each year.

12. The new proposals prepared by the Office of Statistics were approved by the Governments of the Federation. The main stumbling block in putting the new scheme into operation has, however, been the acute shortage of Statisticians. It was hoped that the United States ICA could help by sending 4 Statisticians who would initiate (with the help of Nigerian understudies) the expanded scheme which, after two or three

years, could be carried on by the Nigerian counterparts. There have however been delays in recruiting the ICA Statisticians although 4 Nigerians were sent in 1960 under the auspices of the ICA for 6 months training in the U.S.A. in preparation for the implementation of the scheme. We are now expecting a three month visit by an ICA expert who will examine our proposals, mainly with a view to assessing the cost and advising Federal and Regional Government accordingly. Nevertheless, in order to have available some of the field staff to operate the expanded scheme for 1962/63, a training programme for additional staff, particularly in the North is being implemented this year. In the East and West survey work continued and the yield data obtained in the two areas together with yield data obtained by the Ministry of Agriculture for the North will enable us to construct 1961/62 production figures for the whole Federation.

13. Data presently collected provides estimates, amongst others, of:

- (i) Area of land farmed by crop and crop mixture.
- (ii) Production by crop.
- (iii) Number of farmers, acreage farmed by farmer, etc..
- (iv) Number of farmers by size of farm.
- (v) Consumption of local foodstuff and other items.
- (vi) Rural Prices.

14. It is hoped that as the expanded scheme develops the type of information collected can be extended to cover many other aspects of the rural economy; tentative moves in this direction are being made but a main bar to the collection of more data is the congestion in the analysis section (there is still a great deal of work being done on data collected over a year ago) and the frequent changes of the executive officer in charge of this section.

(d) Industry

15. The collection of industrial production statistics on a wide and regular basis was started in 1958 by the team of Economists working on the national income survey of Nigeria and attempted to cover the years 1950/51 to 1957/58. Before then the only sector of industry in respect of which regular and comprehensive statistical data had been collected

was Mining; which collection was made possible only because the industry was required by statute to furnish the Ministry of Mines with certain statistical information on a regular basis.

16. With the coming into force of the Statistical Ordinance in 1957, however, this Office acquired full powers to collect statistical data on industrial production and these powers have been used to collect a certain amount of information in respect of 1958/59 and 1959/60. Collection of data is organised on a quarterly and an annual basis. Quarterly information is collected from enterprises; the aim being to obtain simple data on output, sales and employment only; the annual data, on the other hand, are collected on an establishment basis and relate to the following questions:

- (a) Type of legal organisation (i.e. ownerships of the establishment).
- (b) Nature of business or industrial activity engaged on (establishments are classified under the major groups 11 to 51 of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)).
- (c) Employment wages and salaries (employees distinguished into operatives and other workers; earnings by operatives, home workers and others distinguished, and number of man-hours worked, asked for).
- (d) Details of materials and fuels consumed in production.
- (e) Output and sales of products, and value of work done for others.
- (f) Gross capital formation by establishment including planned or anticipated Capital expenditure.
- (g) Stock-change during the enquiry year.

Note: For both the quarterly and annual exercise, coverage is limited, at present, to enterprises and establishments employing not less than ten persons.

17. If professional staff can be retained on this work it is hoped that the work that has been done will be written-up in report form and not just used to provide certain series for National Accounts purposes.

It is also intended that physical production data will be included in the regular statistical publications. The timetable of the United Nations programme of Basic Industrial Statistics, scheduled for 1962/63, should be met without difficulty.

(e) External Trade

18. There has been no change since the 1st Conference in the type of data available on Nigerian external trade. Plans are now in hand for some desirable improvements.

19. It is proposed to revise the import and export lists and adopt the revised SITC, a common list being used for both types of trade. In this connexion consultation between the Federal Office of Statistics and the Board of Customs and Excise is in progress. It may be possible to introduce the revised SITC in January, 1962.

20. Secondly it is proposed to introduce an analysis of import trade by broad end-use categories. Preliminary work on this is well under way.

21. Thirdly it is planned to institute, though for internal use only, the separate recording, on the bills of entry for Imports, of the elements of freight and insurance contained in the c.i.f. value of each import. It is not intended to publish this data on the elements of freight and insurance in the regular Trade publications.

22. The Powers punched-card machinery, much of which had been installed over 12 years ago, is now being replaced by IBM machinery. When the change-over is completed, later this year, it will be possible to produce the monthly trade summary direct in the form required for publication, on the IBM machines. The summary will only need to be photographed for printing. It is hoped that this will considerably reduce the delays in publication.

23. Finally it is proposed to publish more of the information that can be obtained from the available data, particularly in respect of commodities within country and within port. This will depend, to a large extent, on a continued improvement in executive capacity.

(f) Urban Consumer Surveys

24. Household budgetary enquiries were conducted by a team of field staff in a number of important towns throughout the country between 1953

and 1957. These enquiries were confined to the low-income group workers. From them were obtained appropriate weights for the construction of consumer price indices. The number of towns covered was however too small in relation to the size of the country to permit the construction of a national index. Within the limits of the budget of the Office of Statistics it was not practicable to maintain more than one field team.

25. The need for more indices, not only geographically but also in scope was well appreciated by the Commission appointed by the Government in 1959 to review salaries and wages throughout the country. It was not surprising therefore that the Commission specially recommended in its report that the Government should take immediate steps to effect a revision of the existing indices, construct indices for other important towns and also extend the coverage to include the higher income groups of workers. As a result the Federal Government approved an increased establishment specifically for implementing the recommendation of the Commission. A 12 month budget enquiry was already being conducted in Lagos, starting from October, 1959, for the low-income group. In addition in each of the months of February, May and August 1960 a budget survey was carried out over 50 informants whose basic income was between £400 and £800 per annum. An enquiry started at Enugu (Eastern Nigeria) in March this year and arrangements for an enquiry at Ibadan (Western Nigeria) are in hand. It is planned to start work in Northern Nigeria, later this year, at Kaduna.

26. In scope the new series of enquiries are designed not only to cover the lowest income groups as formerly but also to cover the middle income group of wage earners, with £1,200 per annum for the time being as upper limit. Traders and other self-employed persons are also being included, experimentally, in the hope that sufficiently reliable data may be collected to construct a true consumer Price Index applicable to the urban population as a whole.

27. The present plan is to establish a team in each region. These three teams will then work continuously in their respective regions. Each team will carry out surveys in selected towns from year to year and it is expected that each town will be revisited once every four or five years.



(g) National Accounts

28. The results of the national income survey of Nigeria which was started towards the end of 1958 and concluded early in 1960 are, at last, becoming available in final (though not yet in printed) form. This Survey was carried out by Mr. E.F. Jackson, of Oxford University Institute of Statistics and Dr. P.N.C. Okigbo, a Nigerian economist assisted by two recently graduated Nigerian research economists. As the survey covers the whole period 1950/51 to 1957/58 the earlier calculations in respect of 1950/51, 1952/53 and 1956/57 must be regarded as superseded by the results of the Jackson and Okigbo survey.

29. The need to continue, within the Office, the series started by Jackson and Okigbo was recognized from the beginning and the intention had been to attach a member of the professional staff of the Office to the team. Owing to staff shortages, however, it was not feasible to release an Officer of sufficient seniority, with the consequence that - firstly the continuation of the series has been seriously delayed due to lack of familiarity with the basic documents and precise knowledge of the methods used and secondly it has become necessary to secure the services of an Economist from University College, Ibadan (a member of the Jackson/Okigbo team) on a consultant basis in order to hasten the work and particularly to bring the calculations up to 1959/60 as soon as possible. It is planned that the unit will be strong enough to operate without outside help within the next three years; though we hope that permanent liaison will be maintained with the academic and research economists so that newly devised techniques can be incorporated into the calculations, irrespective of the originators' status.