

ECONOMIC REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2003

1.0 SUMMARY

Available data indicated increases in monetary aggregates in October, 2003. Broad money stock (M_2) and narrow money supply (M_1) rose by 4.6 and 2.1 per cent during the month and expanded by 29.5 and 36.3 per cent, respectively, in the first ten months of the year, compared with the targets of 15.0 and 13.8 per cent for the whole year. The rise during the month was attributable largely to the increase in credit to the domestic economy reinforced by the rise in foreign assets (net) of the banking system. Aggregate banking system's credit to the domestic economy rose by 11.0 per cent during the month, and increased by 41.1 per cent during the first ten months of the year, compared with the target of 25.7 per cent for fiscal 2003.

Banks' interest rates trended downward during the month. The spread between the banks' weighted average deposit and maximum lending rates, however, widened to 10.0 percentage points from the preceding month's level of 9.0 per cent, while the margin between the average savings deposit and maximum lending rates stood at 18.6 percentage points. The average inter-bank call rate fell from 14.6 per cent in September to 14.4 per cent in October, 2003.

The value of money market assets outstanding rose by 2.8 per cent in October 2003, reflecting the increases in Commercial Papers (CPs) and Bankers' Acceptances (BAs) as well as the subscription to the 3-year FGN bonds worth ₦19.5 billion by banks. Treasury bills worth ₦299.0 billion were issued in October 2003 to replace matured bills of the same value, compared with ₦290.6 billion in the preceding month.

Activities on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) indicated improved performance, as all the major indicators rose during the month.

Major activities in the agricultural sector during the month included the harvesting of various root crops as well as planting of late crops in most parts of the country due to favourable rainfall nationwide. The price index of Nigeria's major agricultural commodities at the London Commodity Market rose by 2.0 per cent over the level in the preceding month but declined by 7.1 per cent from the level in the corresponding period of 2002, in dollar terms. The trend was the same in naira terms. The inflation rate at end- October 2003 was estimated at 10.8 per cent, up from 10.7 per cent in the preceding month.

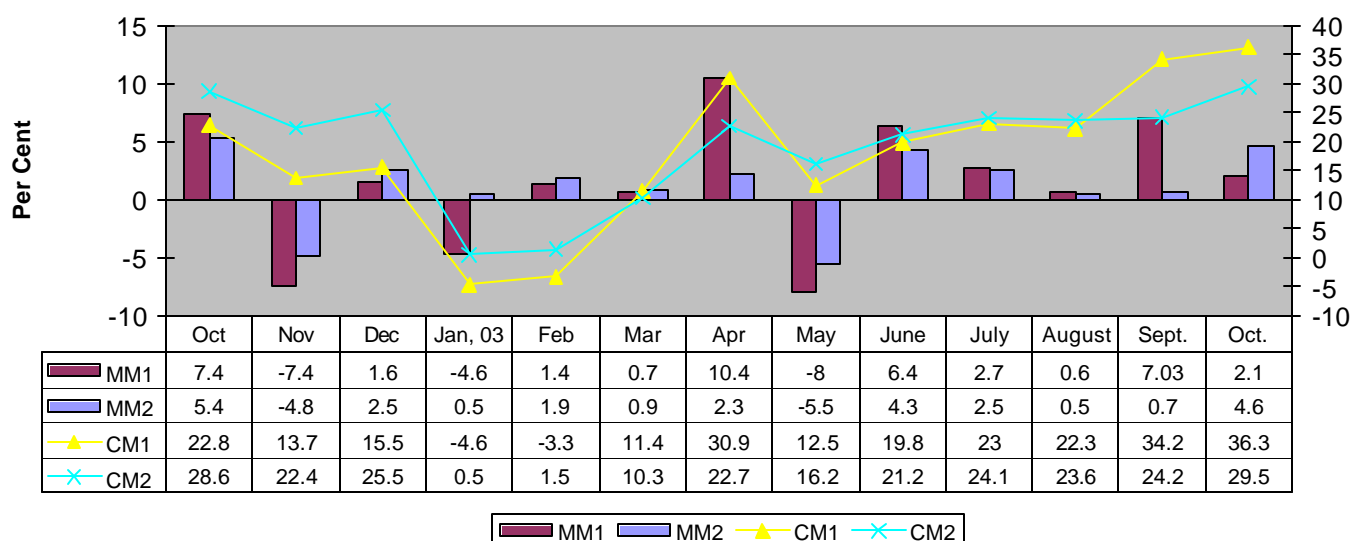
Estimated crude oil output, including condensates and natural gas, was 2.25 million barrels per day (mbd) or 69.75 million barrels for the month. Crude oil exports were estimated at 1.80 mbd or 55.8 million barrels for the month, indicating an increase of 0.6 per cent over the level recorded in the preceding month. Deliveries of crude oil to refineries for domestic consumption, however, remained at 0.45 million barrels per day or 13.95 barrels for the month. The average price of Nigeria's reference crude, Bonny Light (37°API), was \$30.1 a barrel, reflecting an increase of 9.2 per cent over the preceding month's level.

Data on foreign exchange flows through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed an inflow of US\$1,393.0 million and an outflow of US\$1,111.7 million, resulting in a net inflow of US\$281.3 million during the month. Foreign exchange sales to authorized dealers by CBN

amounted to US\$735.4 million, compared with US\$876.1 million in September. The weighted average exchange rate of the naira vis-à-vis the US dollar depreciated marginally from its September, 2003 level of ₦128.95 per dollar to ₦130.07 per dollar. In both the parallel market and bureaux de change, the rates also depreciated by 0.2 per

the operationalisation of the AACB website; and Bilateral Agreement for rescheduling Nigeria's \$1.4 billion indebtedness to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (a member of the Paris Club of Creditors) signed during the month by the Honourable Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Netherlands'

Figure 1 : Aggregate Money Supply in Nigeria (Monthly & Cumulative Growth Rate in Per cent)



cent during the month. Nigeria's gross external reserves increased by 3.3 per cent to US\$7,359.6 million as at end-October, 2003.

On the international scene, World crude oil output increased by 0.9 per cent in October 2003, while demand rose by 0.10 mbd. Overall, total world oil demand exceeded supply by 0.14 mbd, compared with an excess demand of 0.6 mbd in the preceding month.

Other major international economic developments during the month with implications for the domestic economy were: the meeting of the Information Technology Experts from member countries of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) in Dakar, Senegal, from 13- 14 October, 2003 to work out the modalities for

Ambassador to Nigeria for his country.

2.0 FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Monetary aggregates rose in October 2003, while interest rates generally trended downward. Activities on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) recorded improved performance during the month. Treasury bonds were restructured into short-term securities and issued in the money market due to dearth of treasury bills during the review month.

2.1 Monetary and Credit Developments

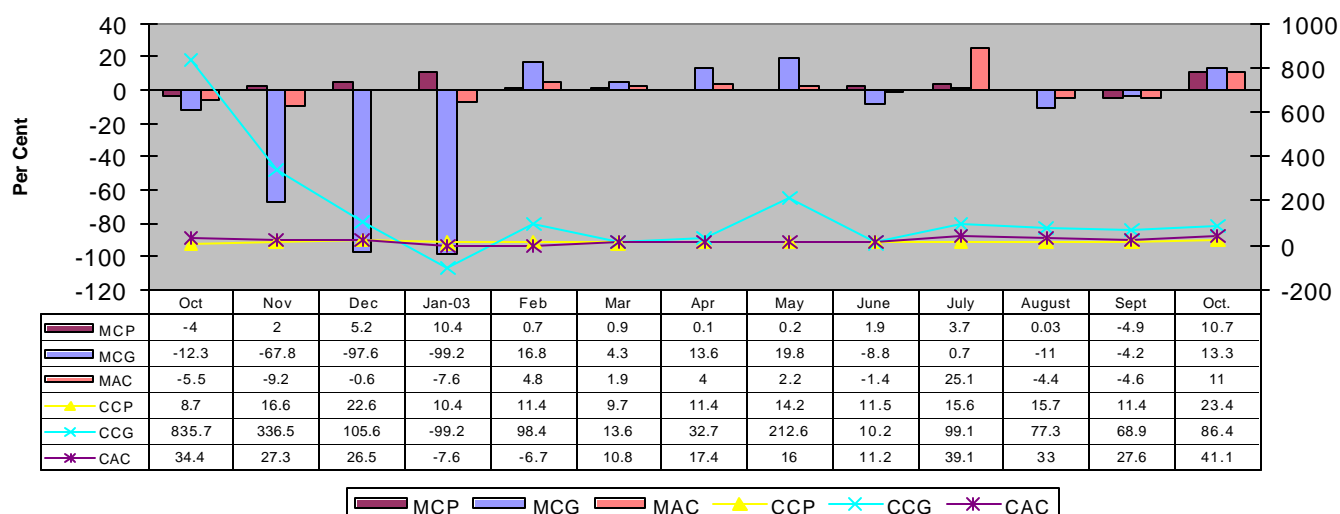
Broad money stock (M_2) rose in October by ₦90.9 billion or 4.6 per cent to

₦2,072.0 billion, compared with an increase of ₦8.5 billion or 0.4 per cent in the preceding month, and ₦86.2 billion or 5.4 per cent in the corresponding month of

cent, compared with the growth target of 25.7 per cent for the whole year.

Banking system's credit to the

Figure 2: Aggregate Domestic Credit To The Economy (Monthly & Cumulative Growth Rate)



2002, respectively. Narrow money supply (M_1) also rose by 2.1 per cent to ₦1,290.2 billion, compared with the 6.6 per cent increase recorded in September 2003. The rise in the review month was attributable largely to the increase in credit to the domestic economy reinforced by the rise in foreign assets (net) of the banking system. In the first ten months of the year, M_2 and M_1 grew by 29.5 and 36.3 per cent, respectively, compared with the programme targets of 15.0 and 13.8 per cent for fiscal 2003.

Aggregate bank credit to the domestic economy rose by ₦185.2 billion or 11.0 per cent to ₦1, 876.0 billion during the month, in contrast to the decline of ₦87.7 billion or 4.9 per cent in the preceding month. The rise was attributable to the increase in banking system's credit to both the Federal Government and private sector by 11.3 and 10.7 per cent, respectively. In the first ten months of the year, aggregate bank credit to the economy grew by 41.1 per

Federal Government rose by ₦70.8 billion or 11.3 per cent, in contrast to the decline of ₦32.8 billion or 5.0 per cent in the preceding month. The rise reflected the increase in net claims by both the CBN and deposit money banks. Federal Government deposits with the Bank declined by 16.2 per cent, while the CBN's holding of outstanding treasury bills increased substantially by 92.2 per cent following the reduction in the holdings by banks and discount houses. In the first ten months of the year, net claims on government rose by ₦322.9 billion or 86.4 per cent owing to the substantial draw-down of Federal Government deposits with the CBN during the month.

Bank credit to the private sector rose by ₦114.4 billion or 10.7 per cent to ₦1, 179.5 billion, in contrast to the decline of ₦54.9 or 4.9 per cent in the preceding month. The rise reflected largely the increase in claims by deposit money banks on the sector during the month. In the first

ten months of the year, private sector credit grew by 23.4 per cent, compared with the 32.3 per cent target for fiscal 2003.

At ₦1,297.5 billion, foreign assets (net) of the banking system rose by ₦14.2 billion or 1.1 per cent, in contrast to a decline of ₦116.0 billion or 8.3 per cent in the preceding month. The rise was attributable to the increase in deposit money banks' holdings. In the first ten months of the year, however, foreign assets (net) of the banking system declined by ₦89.7 billion or 6.5 per cent, in contrast to the increase of ₦66.8 billion or 4.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 2002.

Quasi-money rose by ₦64.8 billion or 9.0 per cent to ₦781.8 billion, in contrast to the decline of ₦69.6 billion or 8.8 per cent recorded in the preceding month. In the first ten months of the year, quasi-money grew by ₦128.6 billion or 19.6 per cent.

Other Assets (net) of the banking system fell by ₦108.6 billion or 10.9 per cent in the review month, in contrast to the increase of ₦212.2 billion or 17.6 per cent recorded in the preceding month. The fall was as a result of the rise in unclassified liabilities of both the Central Bank and deposit money banks.

2.2 Currency-in-circulation and Deposits at CBN

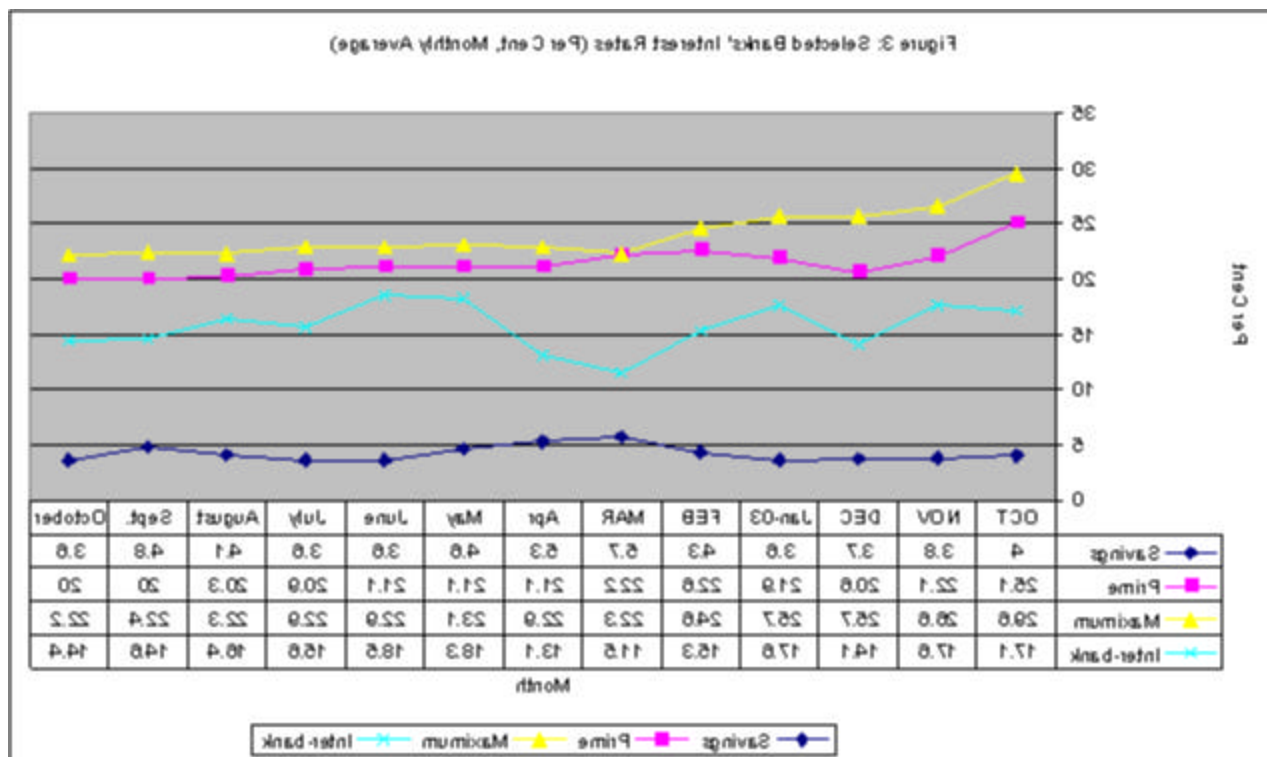
At ₦440.7 billion, currency in circulation in October 2003 rose by ₦6.1 billion or 1.4 per cent over the preceding month's level but a decline of ₦22.5 billion or 4.9 per cent from the level at end-December 2002. The rise during the review month was traceable to the increase in both currency outside the banking system and vault cash by 1.5 and 1.1 per cent to ₦367.7 billion and ₦73.0 billion, respectively.

Total deposits at the CBN amounted to ₦731.2 billion, indicating declines of ₦10.0 billion or 1.3 per cent and ₦26.2 billion or 3.5 per cent from the levels in the preceding month and end-December 2002, respectively. The development during the month was traceable wholly to the decline in Federal Government's deposits, which fell by ₦37.1 billion or 16.2 per cent during the month. The shares of the three components in total deposits at the CBN, namely, Federal Government, bankers and 'others' were 26.2, 31.5 and 42.3 per cent, respectively, compared with 30.1, 28.0 and 41.9 per cent in September, 2003.

2.3 Interest Rate Developments

Data on banks' interest rates movement in October 2003 indicated a downward trend. The average savings deposit rate fell by 1.2 percentage points to 3.6 per cent, while the rates on all other deposits of various maturities, which ranged from 9.36 – 15.49 per cent in September 2003, declined to 8.44 – 14.21 per cent in October 2003. Banks' average prime and maximum lending rates declined by 0.04 and 0.21 percentage point to 20.0 and 22.2 percentage points, respectively, in the review month. The spread between the weighted average deposit and maximum lending rates, however, widened to 10.0 percentage points from 9.0 percentage points in the preceding month, while the spread between the weighted average savings deposit and maximum lending rates stood at 18.6 percentage points.

The average inter-bank call rate fell from 14.6 per cent in September, to 14.4 per cent in the review month, reflecting the liquidity condition in the banking system (Fig. 3).



2.4 Money Market Developments

Available data indicated that the level of money market assets outstanding as at end-October 2003 rose by ₦22.7 billion or 2.8 per cent to ₦839.0 billion, in contrast to the decline of ₦23.3 billion in the preceding month. The rise was attributable to the increases in Commercial Papers (CPs) and Bankers' Acceptances (Bas) as well as the subscription to the 3-year FGN bonds worth ₦19.5 billion by banks in October 2003. Treasury Bills outstanding, however, remained unchanged at the preceding month's level of ₦733.8 billion.

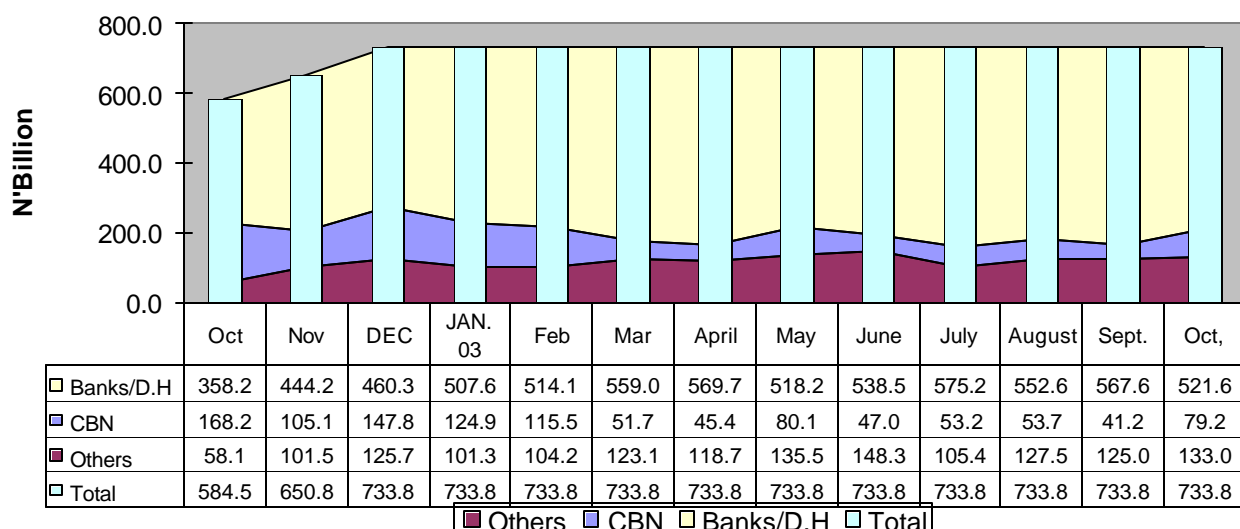
Treasury bills worth ₦299.0 billion were issued in October 2003 to replace matured bills of the same value, compared with ₦290.6 billion in the preceding month.

Of the total amount issued, deposit money banks (DMBs) and discount houses jointly subscribed ₦190.7 billion or 63.8 per cent, while other investors accounted for ₦54.4 billion or 18.2 per cent. The balance of ₦53.9 billion or 18.0 per cent was absorbed by the CBN.

A breakdown of outstanding treasury bills holding showed that deposit money banks and discount houses together accounted for ₦521.6 billion or 71.1 per cent, while holdings by "other" investors amounted to ₦133.0 billion or 18.1 per cent, compared with ₦125.0 billion in the preceding month. The Central Bank's holding rose from ₦41.2 billion in September 2003 to ₦79.2 billion, constituting 10.8 per cent of the total.

developments reflected price gains recorded

Figure 4: Treasury Bills Holdings (N'Billion)



2.5 Capital Market Developments

Transactions on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in October 2003 showed improved performance as all the major market indicators increased. The volume and value of transactions increased from 1.4 billion shares and ₦10.3 billion in September 2003 to 1.5 billion shares and ₦17.4 billion, respectively, in the review month.

Further analysis showed that trading in equities dominated the market, while the banking sub-sector remained the most active with a total of 1.2 billion shares, valued at ₦5.0 billion. Dealings in industrial stocks remained dormant, while a total of 3.6 million units of the 2nd Lagos State Floating Rate Redeemable Bond worth ₦361.3 million were traded during the month.

Market capitalization and value index increased by 3.3 and 13.4 per cent over the preceding month's levels to ₦1,168.3 billion and 18,713.6 (1984=100), respectively. The

by some of the highly capitalized companies listed on the exchange.

2.6 Deposit Money Banks' Activities

Total assets/liabilities of deposit money banks amounted to ₦2,942.5 billion in October 2003, representing increases of ₦186.3 billion or 6.8 per cent and ₦236.7 or 8.7 per cent over the levels in the preceding month and at end-December 2002, respectively. Funds were sourced mainly from the reductions in unclassified assets and claims on state and local governments, while the major use of funds included settlement of over draft facilities obtained from the Central Bank and money market obligations.

Available data indicated that aggregate credit to the domestic economy by deposit money banks amounted to ₦1,547.6 billion, representing increases of ₦86.9 billion or 9.8 per cent and ₦245.4 billion or 18.8 per cent over the levels in the preceding month and at end-December 2002, respectively. The breakdown showed that

credit to both the central government and the private sector increased by ₦384.6 billion or 6.6 per cent and ₦119.4 billion or 11.5 per cent, respectively, over the preceding month's levels.

Central Bank's credit to deposit money banks amounted to ₦9.9 billion, representing declines of 73.7 and 55.5 per cent from the levels in the preceding month and at end-December, 2002, respectively. The decline in the review month reflected largely the fall in CBN's overdraft facilities to the banks.

Total specified liquid assets of deposit money banks stood at ₦751.0 billion or 46.5 per cent of their total deposit liabilities. This level of assets was 4.0 percentage points below the preceding month's level but 6.5 percentage points above the stipulated minimum ratio of 40.0 per cent for fiscal 2003.

2.7 Discount Houses

Total assets/liabilities of the discount houses amounted to ₦52.4 billion in October, 2003, indicating declines of ₦3.0 billion or 5.5 per cent and ₦9.9 billion or 15.9 per cent from the levels in the preceding month and corresponding period of 2002, respectively. Discount houses' investments in Federal Government securities of less than 91 days maturity stood at ₦23.1 billion, representing 60.5 per cent of their total deposit liabilities. This was 13.0 percentage points lower than the preceding month's level, but 0.5 percentage point above the prescribed minimum of 60.0 per cent for fiscal 2003. Total borrowings by discount houses was ₦23.1 billion, while their capital and reserves amounted to ₦7.6 billion, resulting in a gearing ratio of 3:1, compared with the stipulated maximum target of 50:1 for fiscal 2003.

3.0 DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In October 2003, agricultural activities included the harvesting of various root crops as well as planting of late crops in most parts of the country due to the favourable rainfall nationwide. Crude oil output increased by 10.6 per cent over the preceding month's level, while the estimated inflation rate at 10.8 per cent indicated a marginal increase of 0.1 percentage point over the preceding month's level of 10.7 per cent.

3.1 Agricultural Sector

The major agricultural activities during the month consisted of harvesting of various root crops such as yams, irish and sweet potatoes and groundnuts as well as planting of late crops in most parts of the country following the favourable rainfall nationwide. In the livestock sub-sector, most poultry farmers intensified production of poultry products for sales during the festive seasons.

The prices of Nigeria's major agricultural commodities at the London Commodity Market rose during the month. The all-commodity price index, at 98.4 (1985=100), in dollar terms, increased by 2.0 per cent over the level in the preceding month but declined by 7.1 per cent from the level in the corresponding month of 2002. In naira terms, the index rose by 1.4 per cent over the level in the preceding month but declined by 26.5 per cent from the level in the corresponding period of 2002.

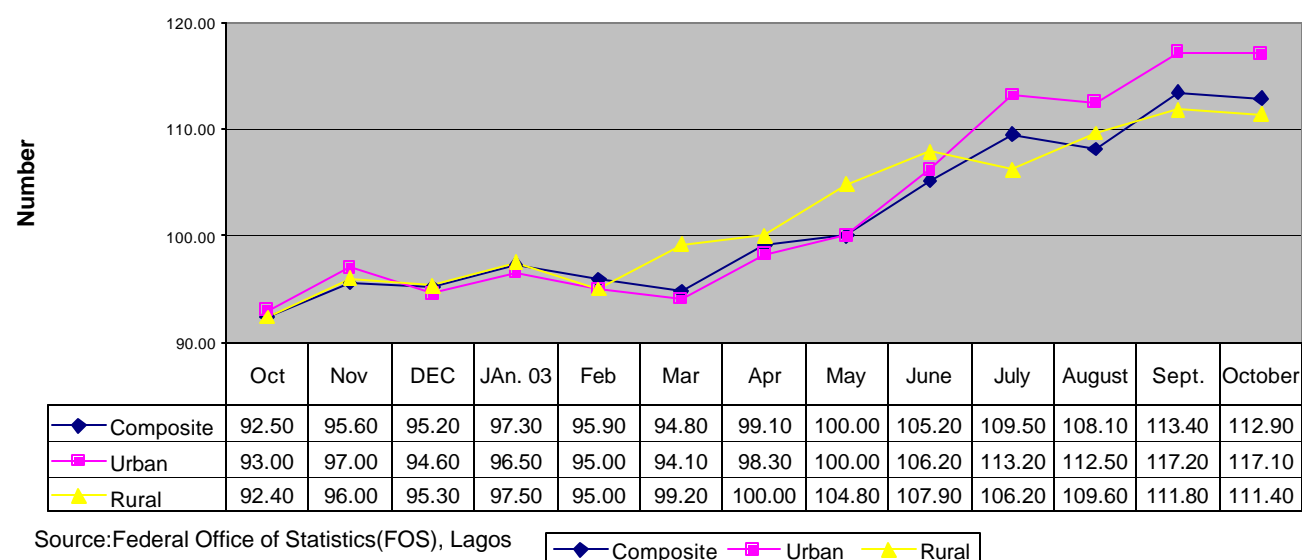
Of the six commodities monitored during the month, all recorded price increases, in dollar terms, ranging from 0.5 to 10.1 per cent over their levels in the preceding month. When compared with their

levels in the corresponding month of 2002, all the commodities, except cocoa and coffee, recorded price increases.

In naira terms, cocoa, coffee, copra and palm oil recorded price increases of 7.3, 6.0, 1.5 and 0.7 per cent, respectively, over their levels in the preceding month, while cotton and soya bean recorded price declines of 25.4 and 7.7 per cent, respectively. When

September. The increase in output was attributable largely to the oil production activities in the new oil wells. The share of the country's production in total OPEC output was 7.3 per cent, compared with 7.4 per cent in the preceding month. Following the rise in production, crude oil export was estimated at 1.80 million barrels per day (mbd) or 55.8 million barrels for the month, compared with an average export level of

Figure 5 : Monthly Consumer Price Indices in Nigeria (1985 = 100)



compared with their levels in the corresponding month of 2002, all the commodities, except copra and palm oil, recorded varying degrees of price declines.

1.79 mbd in September 2003. Deliveries of crude oil to refineries for domestic consumption remained at 0.45 mbd or 13.95 million barrels per month.

3.2 Petroleum Sector

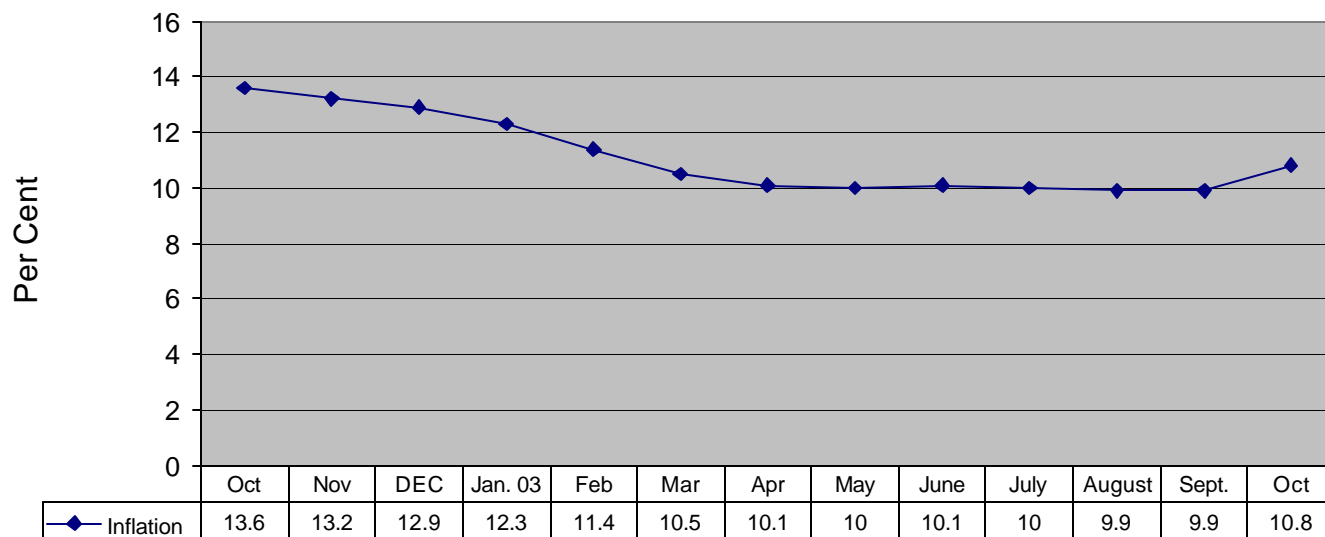
In October 2003, Nigeria's crude oil production, including condensates and natural gas liquids, was estimated at 2.25 million barrels per day (mbd) or 69.75 million barrels for the month, showing an increase of 0.4 per cent over the level in

There were general price increases in crude oil during the month under review in both the spot and net-back markets. In the spot market, the average price of Nigeria's reference crude, Bonny Light (37° API), at \$30.1 a barrel, increased by 9.2 per cent over its level in September, while the prices of other competing brands, namely, the UK Brent, the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and the Arab Light stood at \$29.42, \$30.40 and \$26.31 a barrel, respectively, compared with \$27.09, \$28.37 and \$23.89 a barrel in the preceding month. In

the European net-back market, the Bonny Light was sold for \$35.14 a barrel, representing a rise of 6.8 per cent over the level in September, while the UK Brent and the WTI were sold for \$34.73 and \$33.0 a barrel, respectively, compared with \$32.11

traceable to the fall in the indices of food; non- alcoholic beverages; housing, water, electric gas and other fuel; furnishings, household equipments and household maintenance; health; communication; recreation and culture; and restaurant and

Figure 6: Inflation Rate in Nigeria (Per Cent, Monthly)



Source: Federal Office of Statistics (FOS), Lagos

and \$32.69 a barrel in the preceding month. The development during the month was largely due to panic buying by marketers in anticipation of likely shortages following OPEC's decision to cut production by 0.9 mbd effective 1st November 2003 as well as the rising demand for heating oil.

3.3 Consumer Prices

Data from the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) showed that the all-items composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) in October 2003 was estimated at 112.9 (2003 = 100). This represented a decline of 0.4 per cent from the level in the preceding month but an increase of 22.6 per cent over the level in the corresponding month of 2002. The development during the month was

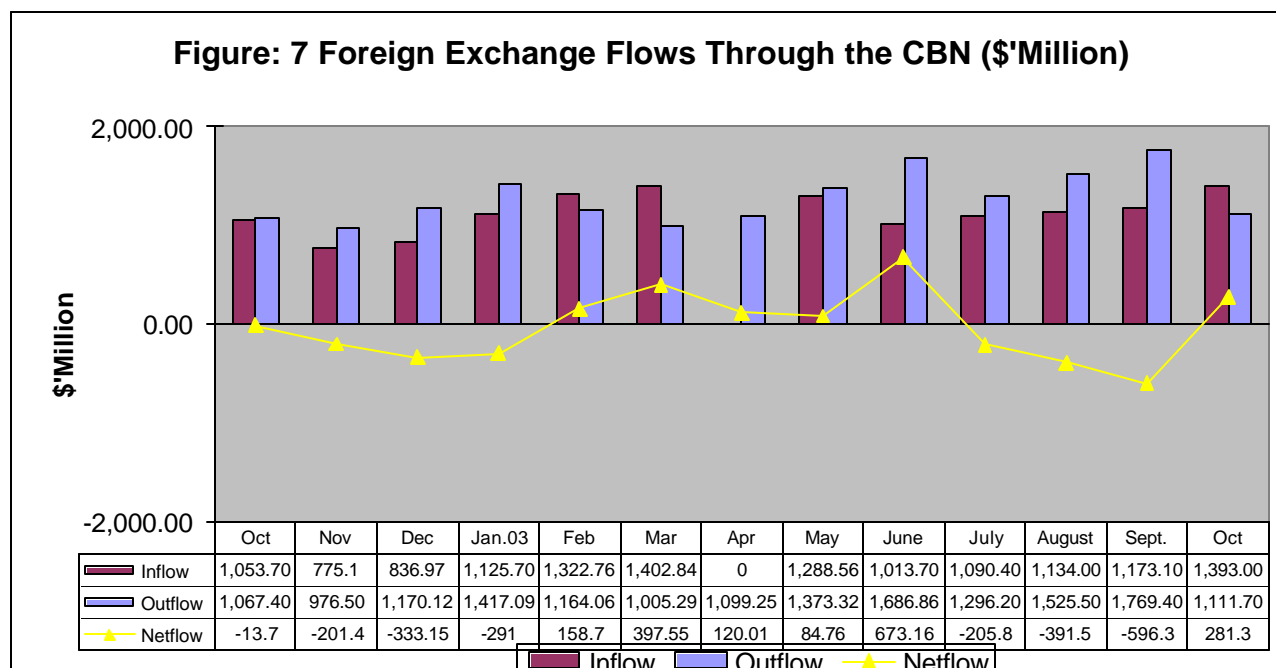
hotels by 0.3, 0.9, 1.1, 0.7, 5.0, 0.7, 0.4 and 2.9 per cent, respectively. This was, however, moderated by the indices of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and kola; clothing and footwear; transport; education; and miscellaneous goods and services which recorded price increases of 0.5, 2.4, 0.4, 8.2 and 1.8 per cent, respectively. When compared with their levels in the corresponding month a year earlier, all the components recorded price increases ranging from 3.2 per cent for communication to 60.2 per cent for miscellaneous goods and services. The urban all-items CPI was estimated at 117.1 (2003=100), indicating a decline of 0.1 per cent from the preceding month's level but an increase of 26.0 per cent over the level at end-October, 2002. Similarly, the rural all-

items CPI, which was estimated at 111.4 (2003=100), showed the same trend.

Available information based on the retail price surveys in some locations within Lagos area as well as Bauchi, Enugu, Ibadan and Kano zones indicated an increase in the

month's level, while Enugu zone recorded a price decline of 2.8 per cent.

The inflation rate for the twelve-month period ended October 2003 was estimated at 10.8 per cent, compared with 10.7 and 16.9 per cent in the preceding month and



all-items average price of consumer items in October, 2003 of 1.41 per cent, compared with 1.42 per cent increase recorded in the preceding month. The rise during the month was traceable to the increases in the indices of oil and fat; fuel and light as well as medical by 8.4, 1.8 and 1.8 per cent, respectively, while the indices of staples; meat, fish and eggs; vegetable, fruits and nuts; beverages and drinks; clothing and fabrics as well as building materials recorded declines of 3.0, 0.3, 0.3, 0.3, 1.8 and 0.5 per cent, respectively. Price increase of 2.0, 2.7, 1.0 and 3.5 per cent were reported in Bauchi zone, Ibadan zone, Kano zone and Lagos area, respectively, over the preceding

corresponding month of 2002, respectively. The upward trend in inflationary pressure reflected the effect of the recent increase in prices of petroleum products with its consequences on the cost of production and other prices.

4.0 EXTERNAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

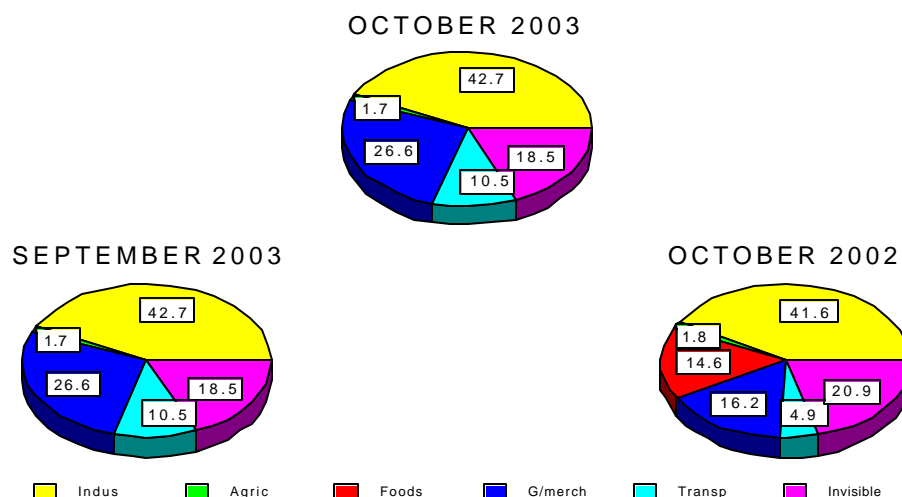
4.1 Foreign Exchange Flows

In October 2003, foreign exchange inflow and outflow through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) amounted to US\$1,393.0 million and US\$1,111.7 million, respectively, indicating a net inflow of US\$281.3 million. Compared with their levels of \$1,173.1 and \$1,769.4 in the preceding month, inflows rose by 18.7 per cent, while outflow declined by 37.2 per cent. The rise in inflow was traceable to the

stood at \$534.8 million or 27.7 per cent of the total.

At \$1,309.0 million, aggregate foreign exchange outflow from the economy declined by 35.1 per cent from the preceding month's level, reflecting the significant declines in the major components of outflows. Funding of the Foreign Exchange Market (FEM), drawings on L/Cs, external debt service, National Priority Projects and

Figure 8: Sectoral Utilization of Foreign Exchange (percentage of total)



38.9 per cent increase in oil receipts during the month. At \$12,526.4 million and \$13,461.0 million, cumulative inflows and outflows through the CBN in October 2003 were 59.2 and 22.8 per cent, respectively, above their levels in the corresponding month of 2002.

Available data on foreign exchange flows through the economy indicated that total inflow rose by 9.5 per cent over the level in September to \$1,927.802 million in October 2003. Analysis of the total inflow indicated that oil receipts rose by 38.9 per cent to \$1,018.4 million, representing 52.8 per cent of the total, while non-oil public sector receipts amounted to \$374.6 million, representing 19.5 per cent of the total. Inflow through the autonomous sources

“Other Official Payments” declined from \$876.1, \$6.6, \$458.2, \$14.3 and \$414.1 million in September 2003 to \$735.4, \$5.6, \$54.3, \$0.0 and \$316.4 million, respectively, in October 2003. The cumulative inflow and outflow through the economy during the ten-month period amounted to \$17,873.9 million and \$14,440.4 million, respectively, compared with \$12,151.0 and \$11,521.7 million in the corresponding period of 2002.

4.2 Sectoral Utilisation of Foreign Exchange

The industrial sector accounted for the bulk (38.5 per cent) of total foreign exchange disbursed in October 2003, followed by invisibles (28.6 per cent). Other beneficiary sectors, in a descending

order of importance, included: general merchandise, transportation, agricultural products and food (Fig.8).

4.3 Foreign Exchange Market Developments

The demand pressure in the Foreign Exchange Market (FEM) moderated in October 2003, as a total of \$735.4 million was sold to end-users through the authorized dealers, compared with \$876.1 million in the preceding month. The weighted average exchange rate of the Naira vis-a vis the US dollar depreciated by 0.9 per cent from ₦128.95 per dollar in September 2003 to ₦130.07 per dollar in October. Similarly, in the parallel and the bureaux de change segments of the market, the rates depreciated from ₦142.70 and ₦143.34 per dollar in September 2003 to ₦142.97 and ₦143.67 per dollar, respectively, in October. Overall, the premium between the official and parallel market rates stood at 10.2 percentage points in October, down from 10.9 per cent in September 2003.

4.4 External Reserves

Nigeria's gross external reserves at end-October, 2003 amounted to \$7,359.6 million, indicating an increase of 3.3 per cent over the preceding month's level. At current foreign exchange commitments, the reserves could finance about 5.5 months of imports.

while estimated demand at 79.10 mbd for the month, rose by 0.10 mbd. Overall, total world oil demand exceeded supply by 0.14 mbd, compared with an excess demand of 0.6 mbd recorded in the preceding month. The rise was attributable largely to the increased demand for heating oil in anticipation of winter season in the northern hemisphere.

Other major international economic developments of relevance to the domestic economy during the month included: the meeting of the Information Technology Experts from member countries of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) in Dakar, Senegal, from 13- 14 October, 2003 to workout the modalities for the operationalisation of the AACB website.

Finally, a Bilateral Agreement for rescheduling Nigeria's \$1.4 billion indebtedness to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (a member of the Paris Club of Creditors) was signed during the month by the Honourable Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, while the Netherlands' Ambassador to Nigeria signed for his country. The Agreement was a follow-up to an earlier one signed in December, 2000 between Nigeria and members of the Paris Club on rescheduling debt service.

5.0 OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

World crude oil output, estimated at 79.24 million barrels per day in September 2003 rose by 0.9 per cent over the preceding month's level of 78.56 mbd,

