

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

Faculty of Economics and Management

Department of Statistics



Bachelor Thesis

Crime Rate and Tourism in Nigeria

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CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

Faculty of Economics and Management

BACHELOR THESIS ASSIGNMENT

Blessing Odunayo Omole

Business Administration

Thesis title

Crime Rate and Tourism in Nigeria

Objectives of thesis

The main objective of the bachelor thesis is to assess the impact of crime rate on tourism in Nigeria.

Together with the main objective, the thesis will also focus on three specific objectives:

- To identify the types of crimes that are prevalent in Nigeria
- To analyze the correlation between crime rates and tourism fluctuations in Nigeria
- To assess the perceptions and attitudes of tourists towards safety and security issues in Nigeria

Methodology

The research will employ a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively investigate the relationship between crime rates and tourism in Nigeria. Quantitative analysis will utilize official crime statistics to identify trends and patterns across regions and time periods, alongside surveys targeting tourists to assess their perceptions and decision-making regarding safety and security in Nigeria. Qualitative analysis of media reports, academic literature, and policy documents will further contextualize findings within socio-economic and political contexts. By integrating quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the study aims to provide a holistic understanding of crime-tourism dynamics in Nigeria, informing evidence-based recommendations for enhancing safety measures and promoting sustainable tourism development.

The proposed extent of the thesis

30 – 40 pages

Keywords

Crime rate, Nigeria, Safety, Security, Sustainable tourism, Tourism

Recommended information sources

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I declare that I have worked on my bachelor thesis titled "Crime Rate and Tourism in Nigeria" by myself and I have used only the sources mentioned at the end of the thesis. As the author of the bachelor thesis, I declare that the thesis does not break any copyrights.

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Crime Rate and Tourism in Nigeria

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of crime rates on tourism in Nigeria, focusing on the period from 2003 to 2022. Utilizing time series data from the Nigerian Police Force and the National Bureau of Statistics, the research examines the correlation between various crime categories and tourism trends. The analysis reveals significant fluctuations in crime rates, including murder, armed robbery, assault, abduction/kidnapping, bribery and corruption, and burglary. These crimes have shown distinct trends, reflecting the dynamic nature of criminal activities in Nigeria. The study highlights that high crime rates, particularly armed robbery and kidnapping, have a substantial negative impact on tourism arrivals. The regression analysis indicates that crime rates, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly influence tourism trends, with armed robbery contributing an additional 11.5% to the variation in tourism arrivals beyond the effects of COVID-19. The findings underscore the critical role of security in shaping the tourism sector's performance. The study also identifies key tourism indicators such as tourism arrivals, the number of establishments, bed spaces, and total expenditures, which have experienced significant fluctuations due to both internal and external factors. The research concludes that addressing security challenges is crucial for revitalizing tourism and achieving long-term growth. By addressing these challenges, Nigeria can unlock the full potential of its tourism industry and contribute to economic growth and development.

Keywords: Crime rates, Tourism, Nigeria, Armed robbery, Kidnapping. Regression analysis

Crime Rate and Tourism in Nigeria

Abstrakt

Tato studie zkoumá dopad míry kriminality na cestovní ruch v Nigérii se zaměřením na období 2003 až 2022. S využitím časových řad údajů nigerijské policie a Národního statistického úřadu zkoumá korelaci mezi různými kategoriemi kriminality a trendy v cestovním ruchu. Analýza odhaluje výrazné výkyvy v míře kriminality, včetně vražd, ozbrojených loupeží, přepadení, únosů, úplatkářství a korupce a vloupání. Tyto trestné činy vykazují odlišné trendy, které odrážejí dynamickou povahu trestné činnosti v Nigérii. Studie zdůrazňuje, že vysoká míra kriminality, zejména ozbrojených loupeží a únosů, má značný negativní dopad na příjezdy turistů. Z regresní analýzy vyplývá, že míra kriminality spolu s pandemií COVID-19 významně ovlivňuje trendy v cestovním ruchu, přičemž ozbrojené loupeže přispívají k variabilitě příjezdů do cestovního ruchu o dalších 11,5 % nad rámec vlivu COVID-19. Tato zjištění zdůrazňují zásadní roli bezpečnosti při utváření výkonnosti odvětví cestovního ruchu. Studie rovněž identifikuje klíčové ukazatele cestovního ruchu, jako jsou příjezdy turistů, počet ubytovacích zařízení, lůžek a celkové výdaje, které zaznamenaly značné výkyvy v důsledku vnitřních i vnějších faktorů. Výzkum dochází k závěru, že řešení bezpečnostních problémů je zásadní pro oživení cestovního ruchu a dosažení dlouhodobého růstu. Řešením těchto problémů může Nigérie plně využít potenciál svého cestovního ruchu a přispět k hospodářskému růstu a rozvoji.

Klíčová slova: Míra kriminality, cestovní ruch, Nigérie, ozbrojené loupeže, únosy. Regresní analýza.

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1 Introduction

Tourism, a dynamic and multifaceted industry, has emerged as a potent force in driving economic growth, fostering cultural exchange, and promoting sustainable development globally (Ajani & Kalu, 2017). As a labour-intensive sector, tourism generates employment opportunities, stimulates infrastructure development, and contributes significantly to foreign exchange earnings, particularly in developing countries (Boakye et al., 2017). Nigeria, a nation endowed with abundant natural resources, diverse cultural heritage, and a vibrant arts and entertainment scene, possesses immense tourism potential. However, despite these inherent advantages, the growth of the Nigerian tourism industry has been hampered by a myriad of challenges, with crime being a particularly pressing concern.

Crime, in its various forms, poses a significant threat to the tourism industry worldwide, and Nigeria is no exception. The fear of crime can deter potential tourists, leading to a decline in tourist arrivals, reduced tourism revenue, and a negative impact on the overall economy (Santana-Gallego & Fourie, 2020). Tourists, often perceived as affluent and vulnerable, can become easy targets for criminals, particularly in destinations with high crime rates (Chaturuka et al., 2020). Crimes against tourists, including theft, robbery, assault, kidnapping, and terrorism, not only result in financial losses and physical harm but also tarnish the image and reputation of tourist destinations, making it challenging to attract future visitors (Suksonghong & Goh, 2023).

The nexus between crime and tourism is complex and multifaceted, influenced by a range of factors, including socioeconomic conditions, political instability, inadequate security measures, and a lack of law enforcement capacity (Mawby et al., 2016). In Nigeria, the pervasive nature of crime, particularly violent crime, has cast a long shadow over the tourism industry, hindering its growth and development (Alola et al., 2019). The country has witnessed a surge in criminal activities, including armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, banditry, and terrorism, which have created a climate of fear and insecurity, discouraging both domestic and international tourists from visiting (Alola et al., 2019).

The negative impact of crime on tourism is well-documented in the literature. Studies have shown that crime can lead to a decline in tourist arrivals, reduce tourist spending, shorten the length of stay, and damage the reputation of tourist destinations (Hua et al., 2020). For instance, a study by Alola et al. (2019) found that corruption and insurgency have

a significant negative impact on tourism performance in developing countries, including Nigeria. The study revealed that these factors deter tourists from visiting affected areas, leading to a decline in tourism revenue and employment opportunities.

In the Nigerian context, the impact of crime on tourism is particularly pronounced. The country's tourism industry has been plagued by a series of high-profile crimes against tourists, including kidnappings, robberies, and assaults, which have received widespread media coverage, both locally and internationally. These incidents have created a perception of Nigeria as an unsafe destination, deterring potential tourists and investors. The negative publicity surrounding crime in Nigeria has also led to travel advisories being issued by foreign governments, warning their citizens against traveling to the country, further exacerbating the situation (Nigeria Travel Advisory, 2023).

The Nigerian government has recognized the detrimental impact of crime on tourism and has taken steps to address the issue. These measures include increasing police presence in tourist areas, establishing specialized tourism police units, and collaborating with local communities to improve security (Osinubi et al., 2021). However, despite these efforts, crime remains a major challenge for the Nigerian tourism industry. The pervasive nature of crime, coupled with factors such as corruption, inadequate resources, and a lack of coordination among security agencies, has hampered the effectiveness of government initiatives.

2 Objectives and Methodology

2.1 Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess the impact of crime rate on tourism in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to

1. Identify the types of crimes that are prevalent in Nigeria
2. Analyse the correlation between crime rates and tourism fluctuations in Nigeria
3. Assess the perceptions and attitudes of tourists towards safety and security issues in Nigeria

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Study Location

The study focused on Nigeria as a whole, examining regions with significant tourism activity such as Lagos, Abuja, Calabar, and Jos. These locations were identified as vital to the country's tourism sector, and the analysis considered crime rates and tourism data from these regions over a specific time period. This approach allowed for a detailed examination of how crime dynamics and tourism trends evolved over time within different socio-economic and cultural contexts.

2.2.2 Research Design

The study employed a time series research design, relying on secondary data collected over an extended period. Historical data on crime rates and tourism trends in Nigeria were analysed to identify correlations and trends over time. Primary data collection was not conducted; instead, the study focused on existing time series data from various governmental and statistical sources.

2.2.3 Data Sources

The study utilized time series data from official sources, including crime statistics from the Nigerian Police Force and tourism data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and other relevant government bodies. The data spanned multiple years, enabling an analysis of trends in crime and tourism across different periods. This secondary data

provided insights into fluctuations in crime rates and their potential relationship with tourism patterns.

2.2.4 Data Analysis

The collected time series data were analysed using statistical techniques such as regression analysis and trend analysis. These methods identified significant relationships between crime rates and tourism over time. A key focus was placed on identifying long-term patterns and short-term fluctuations in crime as they correlated with tourist arrivals and activities.

2.3 Regression Model Specification

The regression model used in this study outlines the relationship between crime rates and tourism activities in Nigeria. This empirical model serves as the basis for analysing the impact of crime on tourism in the country. In this model, the dependent variable is tourism expenditure, which reflects the economic contribution of tourism to the national economy. The independent variables include various crime rate categories such as murder, armed robbery, assault, felonious wounding, manslaughter, bribery and corruption, and burglary, which are believed to influence the overall attractiveness of Nigeria as a tourist destination.

The regression analysis is structured in multiple phases, incorporating different predictor variables to assess their relative impact. The study first estimates a baseline model that considers only the effect of COVID-19 on tourism arrivals. This is then extended to a multivariate model, which introduces additional crime-related variables, allowing for a more comprehensive analysis of crime's influence on tourism.

To ensure the robustness of the findings, the study employs a stepwise regression approach. The first model (Model 1) includes only COVID-19 as a predictor variable, while the second model (Model 2) incorporates armed robbery to evaluate its additional impact on tourism arrivals. The approach helps to assess whether incorporating crime variables improves the explanatory power of the model.

The model is specified as follows:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 + \epsilon \dots \quad (1)$$

Where:

- Y_t represents the tourism expenditure at year t , indicating the level of tourism activity in Nigeria for that particular year.
- X_1 through X_7 represent the various crime rate categories at year t , including:
 - X_1 is the murder rate.
 - X_2 is the armed robbery rate.
 - X_3 is the assault rate.
 - X_4 is the felonious wounding rate.
 - X_5 is the manslaughter rate.
 - X_6 is the bribery and corruption rate.
 - X_7 is the burglary rate.
- β_0 is the constant term, representing the baseline tourism expenditure when all crime rates are zero.
- β_1, \dots, β_7 are the regression coefficients, which measure the impact of each crime rate on tourism expenditure.
- ϵ is the error term, capturing unobserved factors that may influence tourism expenditure.

t , indicating the level of tourism activity in Nigeria for that particular year.

ϵ is the error term, capturing unobserved factors that may influence tourism expenditure.

The period t spans from 2003 to 2022 for the tourism data and crime rate data. This model enables the analysis of how fluctuations in crime rates over time may affect tourism expenditure, helping to identify the extent to which different types of crime influence the tourism sector's performance in Nigeria.

3 Literature Review

3.1 History of Tourism

Tourism made a significant impact on global discourse with its emergence as a vital component of national economies, particularly in developed nations that recognized its potential for advancement. Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Canada were early adopters, while others like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya began to promote tourism in response to their natural attractions. Despite this growth, some nations in sub-Saharan Africa still lack a coherent tourism framework.

As the world evolves into a global village, nations increasingly interact for business, with the tourism industry playing a crucial role in stimulating economic activity. It fosters a conducive environment for commerce and hospitality, manifesting in various forms such as cultural festivals, river tourism, beach resorts, wildlife parks, and historical sites.

Kevin Watson, in his exploration of tourism's history, noted that its roots extend back approximately 2,000 years, when affluent Romans sought leisure away from home. During the medieval period, pilgrimage-related travel surged, with organizers catering to the needs of travellers.

Today, tourism has emerged as a pivotal industry worldwide, often managed by dedicated ministries in various countries. It serves to attract both new and returning visitors, contributing to economic stimulation, job creation, and foreign exchange. The mass media plays a significant role in promoting destinations, and tourists, seeking entertainment and adventure, frequently patronize high-end hotels, ready to invest in comfort and experiences.

According to the UNWTO (2016), tourism is a rapidly expanding economic sector, crucial for development and the emergence of new destinations, driving socio-economic growth. The sector's influence extends to various related industries, such as agriculture and construction. UNWTO data highlights that tourism generates approximately 10% of global GDP, contributes \$1.5 trillion in exports, accounts for 7% of worldwide exports, and supports 30% of service exports. Notably, one in eleven workers is employed in the tourism sector.

3.2 Overview of tourism development in Nigeria

Nigeria holds immense potential for tourism, with its diverse nature, culture, and heritage making it a prime candidate to become a leading tourist destination, as noted by Yusuff and Akinde (2015). The country boasts over 7,000 tourist sites, including five UNESCO heritage cities. Furthermore, Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, comprising more than 200 languages and 371 ethnic groups, when properly harnessed, could foster economic development. The initial steps towards realizing this potential began in 1962 with the formation of the Nigerian Tourism Association, which gained World Trade Organization (WTO) membership in 1964 (Aaron, 2017). However, significant strides in tourism development did not materialize until 1976, when a decree established the Nigerian Tourism Board and state-level tourism committees to oversee tourism growth. Despite these efforts, the anticipated development did not fully materialize, prompting a restructuring in 1992 with the creation of the Nigeria Tourism Development Commission (NTDC) as the central agency responsible for promoting and coordinating tourism initiatives (Aaron, 2017).

In 2005, the Nigerian government, in collaboration with the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), launched a master plan aimed at developing a sustainable tourism industry by leveraging Nigeria's cultural diversity to boost both domestic and international tourism. However, tourism's impact on Nigeria's economy has been modest. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) (2014) reported that in 2013, tourism contributed only 3.2% to GDP and accounted for 2.7% of total employment, rising to 4.1% in 2014. The WTTC further noted that the tourism sector generated ₦889.3 billion in capital investment in 2014. Despite this, the sector remains underdeveloped relative to its potential, as reflected by Nigeria's ranking of 116th globally in 2013, with a revenue of only \$601 million. Comparatively, other African nations such as Ghana, Cameroon, and South Africa have surpassed Nigeria in tourism growth (Aaron, 2017).

Tunde (2012) highlighted that tourism contributes significantly to national economic growth. In Nigeria, revenue from hospitality and tourism increased substantially, with fees and registrations rising from \$3,950 in 2004 to \$262,450 in 2009, a growth of 1,000 percent. Tax revenues from businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors also surged to \$821,091 in 2009 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2015). In 2011, the tourism sector added ₦12.32 billion to Nigeria's GDP, and it was projected to grow by 6.5% annually over the next

decade, reaching ₦483 billion by 2022 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012). The WTTC (2014) predicted that the tourism industry would create 897,500 jobs by 2017, representing 2.85% of the total workforce. For tourism to realize its full potential, the Nigerian government must invest in the revitalization of abandoned tourist sites, which would boost GDP, create jobs, and enhance the socio-economic development of both Nigeria and Africa (Tunde, 2012). Tourism's potential remains largely untapped, making it a viable non-oil sector that could drive future economic growth (Ghose, 2000; Akpan & Obang, 2012).

According to Matthew et al. (2018), tourism also facilitates Nigeria's economic growth through foreign exchange earnings. However, the WTTC (2014) report showed fluctuating contributions of tourism to GDP and employment, with tourism contributing 5.6% to GDP in both 2005 and 2006, but declining to 3.7% in 2016. Similarly, tourism's contribution to employment was 4% in 2014 but dropped to 2.83% in 2016. These figures suggest a stagnant or declining trend in the tourism sector's contribution to the economy, underscoring the need for more focused development efforts (Matthew et al., 2018).

3.3 Impact of Tourism

Numerous studies have examined the impacts of tourism (Zaei & Zaei, 2013; Tichaawa & Mhlanga, 2015; Wasudawan & Ab-Rahim, 2017; Moyo & Tichaawa, 2017; Zhuang, Yao, & Li, 2019; Tichaawa & Moyo, 2019). The effects of tourism are often evident in the regions where tourist activities occur, as visitors engage with local ecosystems, economies, and cultures (Mason, 2020). Globally, tourism is one of the most critical drivers of economic growth. When considering the impacts of tourism, they are generally categorized into benefits and consequences (Hanafiah & Hemdi, 2014). While the industry brings significant advantages, particularly in terms of socio-economic development, these benefits are often accompanied by costs (Garau-Vadell, Gutiérrez-Taño, & Díaz-Armas, 2018). According to Marzuki (2012), tourism development yields both positive and negative outcomes, impacting local communities in various ways.

Garau-Vadell et al. (2018) highlighted that tourism has a broad spectrum of both beneficial and detrimental effects, which can be classified into four key areas: cultural, social, economic, and environmental. These impacts can be mitigated if they are identified, analyzed, and properly managed. Mason (2020) emphasized that understanding tourism's effects is crucial for effective planning and management at a destination. In many tourist

hotspots, the influx of visitors disrupts the daily lives of residents, affecting their quality of life (Kim et al., 2013). Meimand et al. (2017) found that residents who have lived in tourist areas for over a decade tend to have the most negative perceptions of tourism development.

3.3.1 Social-Cultural Impact

Tourism can significantly influence the cultural dynamics of a region, depending on its local customs and values (Zaei & Zaei, 2013). It has been argued that tourism impacts various sociocultural elements, including beliefs, values, customs, and rituals (García, Vázquez, & Macías, 2015). One key aspect of tourism's sociocultural influence is the interaction between visitors and local communities. Tourists, often unfamiliar with the local customs, may unintentionally affect the cultural practices of the host community (Zaei & Zaei, 2013). Tourism also introduces local populations to Western culture, which may conflict with their historical and social norms (Abdul Ghani et al., 2013). Karim (2017) points out that poor strategic planning and management of tourism could lead to the erosion of local identities and traditions. Additionally, the rise of criminal activities, drug use, alcohol abuse, and prostitution are often linked to increased tourism in some areas (Suntikul et al., 2016).

Overcrowding and traffic congestion are other negative social effects caused by the rapid development of tourism, as noted by Yu et al. (2017). However, Zaei and Zaei (2013) observe that interaction with tourists allows indigenous residents to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds, improving their tourism practices and behaviours. Furthermore, the growth of the tourism industry often enhances residents' well-being and living standards. According to Kala (2008), tourism also promotes the preservation and protection of traditional arts, crafts, and historical heritage.

Adam et al. (2019) found that local residents generally perceive tourism development as beneficial, particularly in meeting the needs of international visitors. Tourism fosters cultural exchange, which is valued by both residents and tourists alike. In some cases, locals may acquire new skills, such as foreign language proficiency, through interactions with tourists. Additionally, tourism enables residents to form new social connections and gain exposure to diverse lifestyles and perspectives. Over time, this interaction promotes cultural acceptance and tolerance. Andereck et al. (2005) found that residents who frequently engage

with both foreign and domestic visitors tend to have a more positive outlook on tourism and its social implications.

3.3.2 Economic Impact

Previous studies have highlighted that promoting tourism entrepreneurship can lead to increased income and an improved quality of life for local communities (Rylance & Spenceley, 2016; Wasudawan & Ab-Rahim, 2017). The economic well-being of residents can either improve or decline depending on the impact of tourism development in the area. One of the key benefits of tourism development is its ability to contribute to both national and regional economies (Rogerson, 2014). Tourism is recognized as one of the fastest-growing sources of foreign exchange, which plays a significant role in stimulating economic growth (Kala, 2008).

Adam et al. (2019) note that tourism provides employment opportunities, especially within the service sector, and contributes to job creation at the local level. The industry also offers avenues for community members to engage in non-agricultural ventures (Marzuki, 2012). For instance, individuals in rural areas participate as entrepreneurs by running guesthouses, holiday accommodations, and businesses such as boating services or retail shops. Because tourism often requires relatively small capital investment, residents can become shareholders or suppliers, selling products and services to both domestic and international tourists (Wasudawan & Ab-Rahim, 2017). As a result, involvement in tourism-related activities can enhance residents' living standards and increase household income (Moyo & Tichaawa, 2017).

However, the development of tourism also brings certain economic drawbacks. It can lead to higher costs of living and inflated property prices (Wasudawan & Ab-Rahim, 2017). The increase in tourism activity can drive up the prices of essential goods and services, further straining local communities (Adam et al., 2019). The financial costs of tourism include investment in infrastructure, job opportunities, and fluctuating currency values, along with rising costs due to the continuous development and utilization of tourism resources (Suntikul et al., 2016). Additionally, the growth of tourism can contribute to increased housing and land prices, which presents a significant financial burden for locals (Abdul Ghani et al., 2013).

3.3.3 Environmental Impacts

Karim (2017) highlights that while the economic benefits of the tourism industry are often evident, the environmental drawbacks are equally significant. Tourism development is associated with several environmental risks, particularly in regions where the industry's growth takes precedence over environmental preservation, leading to the depletion of physical resources (Mohamad et al., 2016). Environmental concerns, such as the protection of natural assets, are vital to creating distinctive tourism products (May-Chiun, Nair, & Songan, 2016). Sunlu (2003) points out that tourism activities and industry expansion can substantially affect the environment, contributing to ecological degradation and heightened pollution levels.

Jackson (2008) identifies noise pollution and overcrowding as some of the environmental impacts at popular tourist destinations. Hanafiah and Hemdi (2014) further argue that tourism integrates with the natural ecosystem of destinations, influencing land, air, and water. Additionally, unchecked tourism growth can result in significant environmental damage, such as the depletion of natural resources in certain tourist areas (Suntikul et al., 2016). Marzuki (2012) notes that an increasing number of tourists in a given location exacerbates the damage to ecological systems and local resources.

3.4 Types of Tourism

Tourism, essentially defined as travel for leisure, business, or other purposes, is one of the fastest-growing sectors globally, contributing significantly to wealth creation. People engage in tourism for various reasons, including relaxation, exploration, and experiencing different cultures. The motivations behind travel contribute to the different types of tourism, with travellers often pursuing distinct purposes such as leisure or business. While some people travel to explore and experience the world, others seek cultural enlightenment or adventures under the stars.

3.4.1 Mass Tourism

Mass tourism refers to the organization of travel for large groups of people to a specific destination, often for a common purpose. Examples include religious pilgrimages, such as Muslims traveling to Mecca or Christians visiting Jerusalem. Another notable example is large-scale sports tourism, like the 2016 Olympics in Rio. Mass tourism tends to be profit-

driven, offering limited interaction and understanding between tourists and local hosts (Gursoy et al., 2009).

Typically, mass tourism involves all-inclusive holiday packages, which provide transportation, accommodation, and meals for travellers. According to Gursoy et al. (2009), tourists are often attracted to destinations for their natural or man-made resources, including the sun, sea, and sand. However, mass tourism is widely considered unsustainable due to its tendency to harm the local environment, particularly through pollution, thus negatively impacting the long-term development of tourism in these areas.

3.4.2 Alternative Tourism

Alternative tourism refers to a more personalized and smaller-scale travel experience, contrasting with mass tourism. It typically involves individuals or small groups who seek to immerse themselves in the local culture and environment of the destination. This type of tourism emphasizes social, natural, and community values and encourages tourists to plan their own itineraries, including booking flights and accommodations. Alternative tourism often fosters meaningful interactions between tourists and hosts, offering unique cultural exchanges and experiences (Wearing & Neil, 1999).

Moreover, alternative tourism is designed to cater to smaller groups and tends to have a lower environmental and social impact, as it collaborates with other sectors of the economy such as agriculture and local crafts (Newsome, Moore, & Dowling, 2018). While mainstream tourism generates significant revenue globally, alternative tourism highlights the importance of local control, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

Alternative tourism supports the development of niche market segments, such as eco-tourism, green tourism, farm tourism, agri-tourism, heritage tourism, and cultural tourism. As Williams (2002) suggested, several key factors should be considered when evaluating alternative tourism, including:

- The efficiency and effectiveness of the desired product output.
- The influence on regional economic growth.
- The impact on the quality of life of local residents.
- The utilization of locally available resources.

This approach aims to revitalize the essence of travel by focusing on sustainability, local engagement, and enriching experiences, making alternative tourism a guiding principle rather than a specific type of tourism.

Cultural tourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry, aimed at showcasing a nation's cultural heritage. It emphasizes the historical and cultural experiences of a region, often focusing on how cultural and environmental aspects impact tourism destinations (Kim et al., 2017). Africa, and particularly Nigeria, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, including diverse cultural identities. For instance, Nigeria's unique dance steps easily distinguish various ethnic groups. Many cultural tourists visit places like the Ogbunike Caves in Anambra State or attend festivals to learn about the beliefs, traditions, and history of a particular region.

Cruise tourism has become one of the most profitable sectors in global tourism. This luxurious form of tourism, typically popular among affluent individuals, has experienced rapid growth in the last few decades. In 2011, the cruise industry contributed €36.3 billion to the European economy, compared to €3.2 billion in 2010. The Mediterranean region holds a 12% share of the global cruise industry, with Italy being a key player. Cruise tourism in Italy is concentrated in five regions, including Campania, Latium, Veneto, Liguria, and Sicily, with over 9.3 million cruise passengers in 2010.

Nature tourism appeals to tourists who are interested in wildlife and natural environments. Popular destinations for nature tourists include Kenya and other East African countries, as well as Nigeria's Yankari Game Reserve. This form of tourism is closely related to ecotourism, where tourists visit destinations to observe and appreciate natural landscapes and wildlife, such as bird watching.

Ecotourism is a rapidly growing sector of the tourism industry, with an estimated annual growth rate of 10–15%. Often referred to as green or conservation tourism, ecotourism promotes sustainable practices and environmental preservation. It involves responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and supports the well-being of local communities. Ecotourism not only fosters environmental protection but also encourages socioeconomic benefits for local residents through activities that have minimal environmental impact.

Religious tourism involves individuals traveling to sacred destinations to seek spiritual experiences or divine blessings. Every year, millions of religious enthusiasts visit holy sites. For instance, Muslims travel to Mecca and Medina, Christians visit Jerusalem, and Hindus undertake pilgrimages to holy sites important to their faith.

Adventure tourism is targeted at travellers who seek thrilling, physically demanding activities such as mountain climbing, rock climbing, and white-water rafting. This type of tourism caters to individuals who enjoy challenging themselves in outdoor environments.

Recreational tourism is centred around leisure and relaxation. It involves traveling to destinations like theme parks, beaches, or campgrounds for the sole purpose of unwinding and having fun. Recreational tourists typically prioritize relaxation and entertainment over cultural or educational experiences.

Pleasure tourism is driven by the need for relaxation and rejuvenation. In today's fast-paced world, people often face stress due to daily activities, prompting them to seek travel opportunities to refresh their mind, body, and spirit. Pleasure tourists often engage in activities such as yoga workshops, detox vacations, or sports, which help them de-stress. Sports tourism, a subset of pleasure tourism, involves traveling to participate in or watch sporting events. Examples include the Olympics, FIFA World Cup, and the African Cup of Nations. These events attract tourists who seek enjoyment and relaxation while engaging with sports.

Medical or health tourism is a relatively new and growing sector within the tourism industry. It involves individuals traveling to improve their health, physical appearance, or fitness. This type of tourism caters to people seeking medical treatments or wellness experiences, such as surgeries, dental procedures, cosmetic enhancements, or fitness and wellness retreats. Health tourism destinations often offer specialized care at lower costs compared to the tourists' home countries, or they may feature unique natural resources, such as thermal baths or wellness centres, that promote healing and relaxation.

3.4.3 International Tourism

International tourism involves the movement of tourists across national borders and is categorized into inbound and outbound tourism. Inbound tourism refers to tourists entering a country from other nations. For instance, international visitors arriving in Nigeria to

explore its attractions are considered inbound tourists. On the other hand, outbound tourism involves citizens of a country traveling to foreign destinations. An example is Nigerians visiting Dubai to see landmarks like the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

3.4.4 Domestic Tourism

Domestic tourism involves individuals traveling within their own country. When a person travels from Abuja to Calabar to visit the Obudu Cattle Ranch, they are considered a domestic tourist. Domestic tourism accounts for about 80% of tourism movement globally and plays a significant role in the tourism sector. In developed countries, domestic tourism is often a crucial part of the economy, driven by well-developed infrastructure and leisure cultures. However, its importance is growing in developing countries as well, where more attention is being given to improving tourism facilities and promoting local attractions.

3.5 Challenges of Tourism in Nigeria

Every business, including tourism, has its advantages, disadvantages, and challenges. The tourism sector is particularly known for its volatility, heavily relying on leisure travellers. Nevertheless, tourism encompasses various groups, including business travellers, who often exhibit spending behaviours similar to those of leisure tourists. Professionals in the tourism and travel sectors recognize that their industry is susceptible to fluctuations in political, health, and economic conditions. These external factors are often beyond their control, yet industry leaders strive to navigate unforeseen challenges. While tourism can generate income and create opportunities, it also presents certain drawbacks, particularly concerning environmental issues, climate change, and social challenges.

The tourism sector in Nigeria faces significant obstacles that hinder its growth and development. One major challenge is bureaucracy; the process of tourism development often requires navigation through various sub-sectors and government offices, resulting in delays and inefficiencies. Another critical issue is employee motivation. Many workers in the tourism industry receive low wages and are subjected to long working hours, often ranging from 12 to 15 hours a day. This leads to stress and difficulties in balancing work and family life, contributing to conflicts at home. Corruption is also a pervasive challenge. It has become so entrenched that many view it as a norm rather than a problem. Job opportunities in the tourism sector are often contingent upon personal connections, and when funds are allocated for tourism development, those in leadership positions may misappropriate these resources

for personal gain, rather than investing in the industry's growth. These challenges collectively impede the potential of tourism to significantly contribute to Nigeria's economy.

The environmental challenges posed by tourism frequently result in negative consequences for host countries. Curry and Moutinho (1991) assert that mass tourism, which involves large groups of travellers with shared objectives, often leads to significant environmental degradation. Tourists can inadvertently harm the environment through littering and pollution, particularly in natural areas. Additionally, the influx of tourists typically introduces various types of waste, such as plastic bottles, which can disrupt local ecosystems. Moreover, tourists sometimes model behaviours that are inconsistent with local customs, influencing younger generations to adopt foreign practices. The negative environmental impacts can have lasting effects on local communities that are difficult to quantify in financial terms.

Socially, tourism can exacerbate issues such as prostitution in certain destinations. The arrival of tourists often creates opportunities for local residents to engage in sex work, which can have serious repercussions for local cultures. Vulnerable groups, particularly teenage girls from impoverished backgrounds, may seek out financial gain through such activities, often leading to unintended pregnancies and other social problems. Clift and Carter (2000) highlight that Cuba is an example of a location where sex tourism has become prevalent.

Another significant challenge facing tourism is climate change. In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the relationship between climate variations and tourism dynamics. Many countries and businesses are affected by climate change (Higham & Cohen, 2011), with various environmental aspects—such as biodiversity, natural resources, snow levels, and freshwater availability—also being impacted (Higham & Cohen, 2011). Developing nations, which rely heavily on tourism for their income and economic development, are particularly vulnerable due to their limited adaptive capacity to climate change.

Political instability poses another critical issue for tourism. Factors such as climate change, terrorism, violence, and negative political relations can deter tourists from choosing certain destinations (Simpson, Gössling, Scott, Hall, & Gladin, 2008).

Tourists often encounter numerous difficulties during their travels, including challenges in obtaining visas and limitations on their permitted duration of stay in host countries. Security concerns are paramount, especially in Nigeria, where tourists face risks of kidnapping, particularly in the southern regions. Tourists are often targeted due to the substantial ransoms that kidnappers seek. Governments, such as those of the United States and Britain, frequently issue travel advisories warning against visiting areas that are particularly susceptible to attacks. Despite these dangers, tourism continues to thrive, with people undeterred by the risks involved in their travels.

3.6 Crime rate and tourism

3.6.1 Kidnapping and Tourism Sustainability

Tourism plays a vital role in the economies of many nations, contributing significantly to GDP, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings. However, the sustainability of this sector faces increasing challenges, particularly from the rise in kidnapping incidents. Kidnapping, defined as the unlawful abduction and confinement of individuals, presents serious threats to the tourism industry, which is essential for the economic development of numerous countries worldwide. Such incidents can deter tourists from visiting specific locations, leading to lasting repercussions for the affected regions' tourism sectors (Ibrahim et al., 2021; Eyisi et al., 2021; Kanu et al., 2023). The ramifications of kidnapping extend to various stakeholders, including tourists, tour operators, and local residents.

The economic impact of kidnapping is substantial, as these incidents can lead to significant decreases in tourism revenue. Tourists may cancel trips or choose safer destinations, resulting in reduced income for businesses in the tourism sector, such as hotels and restaurants. Kidnapping is a global issue that affects both economically advanced regions and developing countries in Africa and Asia. Governments worldwide are striving to combat this problem and bring the perpetrators to justice. In some African nations, such as Nigeria and Cameroon, criminals have exploited kidnapping as a means of financial gain and intimidation (Godwin et al., 2022; Oketa, 2018).

The implications of kidnapping also extend to a destination's reputation and image, tarnishing perceptions of safety and security. In the modern business landscape, the success of organizations relies heavily on stakeholder satisfaction, including customers, employees, creditors, suppliers, public authorities, and advocacy groups with diverse interests.

Businesses must balance these interests to maintain stakeholder satisfaction and make informed management decisions (Elda, 2023). The effects of kidnapping can lead to decreased investment, as potential investors may hesitate to finance tourism-related projects in areas with a history of such incidents. This decline also contributes to reduced employment opportunities, adversely affecting the livelihoods of communities that depend on tourism.

The global tourism sector is a multi-billion-dollar industry, providing significant economic contributions. However, alongside its advantages, tourism also introduces security challenges, manifesting in various forms, such as express kidnappings and prolonged abductions. Recent years have seen a notable increase in kidnappings in Nigeria, impacting individuals across all demographics, including tourists, students, and commuters. This trend has been exacerbated by youth gangs and armed bandits who find kidnapping for ransom lucrative (Egonu et al., 2023; Sedano, 2019).

Proactive governmental responses can help mitigate the trend of kidnapping in tourism-dependent regions. States like Cross River in Nigeria, which rely heavily on tourism, must invest in security measures to safeguard tourists. However, an increased security presence can sometimes create tension, as seen in Egypt, where military deployments in response to kidnappings in the Sinai Peninsula disrupted the tourist experience.

Awareness and precautions are crucial for tourists, who should prioritize secure accommodations and remain vigilant in unfamiliar areas. Understanding tourists' preconceived notions about destinations can enhance their overall experience and improve satisfaction (Caple & Williams, 2023; Jimber del Rio et al., 2020; Ede & Okafor, 2023). While global tourism provides economic benefits, it also exposes tourists to security risks, highlighting the necessity for vigilance and appropriate precautions in a connected world. Scholarly discussions around tourism in conflict-affected areas suggest that there is potential for these regions to transition towards development and healing, utilizing tourism as a tool for socio-economic advancement (Stephen et al., 2023).

3.6.2 Drug Abuse, Trafficking, and Tourism Sustainability

Global drug abuse and trafficking present significant challenges that have far-reaching social, economic, and environmental implications. In contrast, sustainable tourism aims to

promote responsible travel practices that minimize negative impacts while generating profits for both states and local communities. Drug abuse has emerged as a pressing social issue in tourist destinations, particularly in places like Thailand's popular beach resorts, where a party culture encourages recreational drug use among visitors (Kusuma et al., 2019). This situation complicates local law enforcement efforts and fosters a culture of tolerance toward drug use among tourists. For example, Koh Phangan, known for its Full Moon Party, has faced public health concerns and increased security measures due to drug-related activities.

Drug trafficking often flourishes in high-traffic tourist areas, where the chaos of tourist crowds provides cover for illegal activities. Such environments can lead to violence and instability, negatively impacting the tourism sector. In Mexico, drug-related violence, especially along the U.S.-Mexico border, has significantly deterred tourists. Acapulco, once a bustling tourist hub, has seen a decline in visitors due to cartel violence, which has severely affected the local economy (Preston, 2018).

Conversely, sustainable tourism emphasizes environmental conservation, responsible travel, and community engagement, offering a viable alternative to traditional tourism models. In Costa Rica, for instance, sustainable tourism initiatives have flourished due to the country's dedication to conservation and community involvement, effectively reducing the allure of illegal activities such as drug trafficking (Jessica, 2018; Oxford Analytica, 2022). By providing alternative income sources, sustainable tourism can alleviate economic hardship that often drives individuals toward drug-related activities. Community-based initiatives, such as cultural tours and artisan workshops, can redirect both tourists and locals away from drug abuse, as seen in Peru's Sacred Valley (Richardson, 2021).

Addressing the intertwined issues of drug trafficking and sustainable tourism necessitates collaboration at local, national, and international levels. Governments, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations must work together to combat drug-related crimes while promoting responsible tourism practices. Drug abuse is a pressing global public health concern affecting millions, characterized by the misuse of substances that can lead to addiction, mental health disorders, and overdose deaths, thus imposing a substantial burden on healthcare systems (Volkow & Blanco, 2023).

Drug trafficking involves the illegal production, transportation, and distribution of narcotics, typically controlled by organized criminal groups. This transnational trade often

leads to violence and instability in the affected regions. The substantial profits from drug trafficking can finance criminal organizations and disrupt tourism, making it essential to foster initiatives that decouple tourism growth from the increased exploitation of natural resources. Efforts should also address pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change, with a particular focus on youth health (Aulisio & Pereno, 2024).

Traffickers utilize various methods to move drugs, including hidden compartments in vehicles, postal smuggling, and cross-border tunnels, often targeting tourism hotspots for distribution. Global initiatives, such as those led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, recognize the negative effects of drug trafficking. Programs like the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aim to mitigate the adverse impacts of drug abuse and trafficking.

Sustainable tourism promotes practices that conserve cultural heritage and natural resources, reduce waste, and foster peaceful coexistence. It emphasizes respect for local cultures and actively involves communities in tourism activities, generating economic opportunities while preserving traditional practices. By creating jobs, generating income, and reducing poverty, sustainable tourism can significantly contribute to local economies.

3.6.3 Armed Robbery and Sustainable Tourism Development

The increasing prevalence of armed robbery in Nigeria has reached epidemic proportions, attributed largely to the declining economic conditions and the widening gap between the affluent and impoverished segments of society. This rise in violent crime significantly threatens the safety of individuals and communities, including tourists. Armed robbers now target a wide range of locations—homes, offices, shops, restaurants, and even churches—resulting in a climate of fear and insecurity (Patrick, 2020; Oliver, 2023). Historically, Nigeria was safer for travelers, with armed robbery being a rare occurrence before the late 1960s, when such crimes were typically less violent and less publicized (Habeb & Hassien, 2018).

Recent developments have highlighted the growing insecurity in Nigerian society, with tourism areas experiencing significant increases in crime rates. This insecurity has permeated non-tourism regions as well, undermining Nigeria's reputation in the global economic market. According to a survey by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Nigeria has been ranked as one of the riskiest countries for business and tourism worldwide. The civil war's aftermath has seen armed robbery evolve into a widespread crime that induces trepidation and public outrage, drawing the attention of successive governments (Simeon & Nabil, 2022).

The consequences of armed robbery extend beyond individual incidents; they contribute to economic destabilization. Tourists, families, and businesses have lost lives and valuable belongings due to these crimes, which in turn discourages foreign investment in Nigeria's tourism sector, stunting the nation's economic growth. Armed robbery disrupts leisure activities across many tourism destinations globally (Saraiva & Teixeira, 2023).

In a study examining the impact of armed robbery on leisure patterns in Bamenda, Cameroon, researchers found that this crime has wrought severe socio-economic and political imbalances, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among residents (Ofe Ako-Mbi et al., 2021). Similarly, a World Bank study on Jamaica identified armed robbery as a major hindrance to economic development, noting its substantial costs to businesses. The survey indicated that violent crime deters tourism and affects enterprise behavior, especially regarding entry and expansion (World Bank, 2018).

The perception of armed robbery as a violent crime presents a significant obstacle to sustainable tourism. High levels of armed robbery can drive businesses to exit the market or relocate to perceived safer areas, making operations in crime-ridden regions unsustainable. This issue is particularly pronounced in Less Developed Countries (LDCs) compared to more affluent European Union nations, due in part to structural differences in their economies, including industry and service shares, and varying levels of unemployment (World Bank, 2018).

Crime negatively impacts the quality of the business environment, leading to declines in profit and productivity for firms operating in high-crime areas. The relationship between crime rates and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows underscores the broader economic implications of armed robbery. As crime erodes business viability, the potential for economic development, job creation, and overall macroeconomic stability is jeopardized.

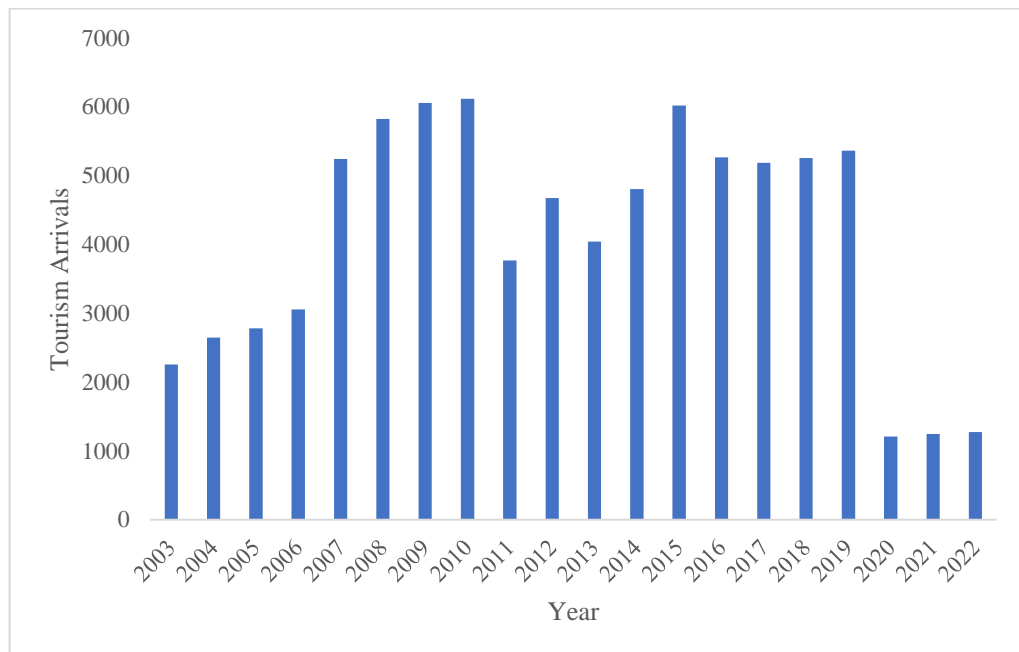
4 Practical Part

4.1 Description of the Selected Time Series on Tourism (2003–2022)

This section provides an analysis of the tourism data in Nigeria over the period 2003 to 2022, focusing on key indicators such as tourism arrivals, the number of establishments, the number of bed-places, and total expenditures, including travel and passenger transport expenditure. The data is described through basic measures, such as the chain-base index, and is supplemented by graphical representations for better visualization of trends.

4.1.1 Tourism Arrivals and Establishments

Tourism arrivals in Nigeria exhibited significant fluctuations over the observed period of 2003 to 2022 (Figure 3.1), reflecting the dynamic nature of the tourism industry in the country. In 2003, tourism arrivals were recorded at 2,253, marking the beginning of a gradual upward trend fuelled by government and private sector efforts to promote Nigeria as a tourist destination. By 2010, this figure peaked at 6,113, indicating a near threefold increase over seven years. This growth can be attributed to improved marketing strategies, the expansion of tourism infrastructure, and efforts to position Nigeria as a cultural and eco-tourism hub in Africa.



Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.1: Tourism arrivals in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

However, the sharp decline in arrivals from 6,113 in 2010 to 3,765 in 2011 signified a turning point. This drop represents a reduction of over 38% within a single year, which can largely be attributed to increasing security concerns in the country. During this period, Nigeria experienced a surge in violent insurgencies, particularly in the northern regions, led by militant groups such as Boko Haram. High-profile attacks, kidnappings, and other crimes not only deterred international tourists but also negatively affected domestic tourism, as perceived safety became a significant concern for potential travellers.

Year-on-year changes in tourism arrivals highlight the nature of fluctuations observed during the period under study. Between 2003 and 2007, there was consistent growth, reflecting an encouraging trend of increasing arrivals during the early years. For instance, 2006 showed an approximate rise of 10% in arrivals compared to 2005, underlining steady growth in tourist interest. This period coincided with increased government focus on promoting tourism and developing key destinations such as Lagos, Abuja, and Calabar.

However, after 2010, the trend began to show instability. The sharp decline in 2011, as highlighted earlier, marked one of the most significant negative shifts in the dataset, reflecting the direct impact of security challenges on tourism. Beyond 2011, the recovery in arrivals was slow and inconsistent, as lingering insecurity continued to affect tourist perceptions of Nigeria as a safe destination. Additionally, the global economic environment and other domestic issues, such as inadequate infrastructure and political instability, compounded these challenges.

The variations in tourism arrivals highlight the vulnerability of Nigeria's tourism sector to both internal and external factors. The dramatic rise from 2003 to 2010 illustrates the potential of the industry when supported by favourable conditions, while the steep decline post-2011 underscores the critical role of security and stability in sustaining tourism growth. Addressing these challenges, particularly by improving safety and security measures, remains crucial for achieving long-term resilience and tapping into the full potential of the tourism sector in Nigeria.

As presented in Figure 4.2, the number of tourism establishments in Nigeria demonstrates patterns of both growth and fluctuation, reflecting the evolving landscape of

the country's tourism sector. Beginning at 1,502 establishments in 2003, the numbers showed a steady upward trajectory, signalling the increasing attention given to the development of tourism infrastructure. By 2010, the number of establishments had grown to 1,860, indicating a notable expansion that likely aligned with government and private sector initiatives to enhance tourism services and attract both domestic and international visitors.

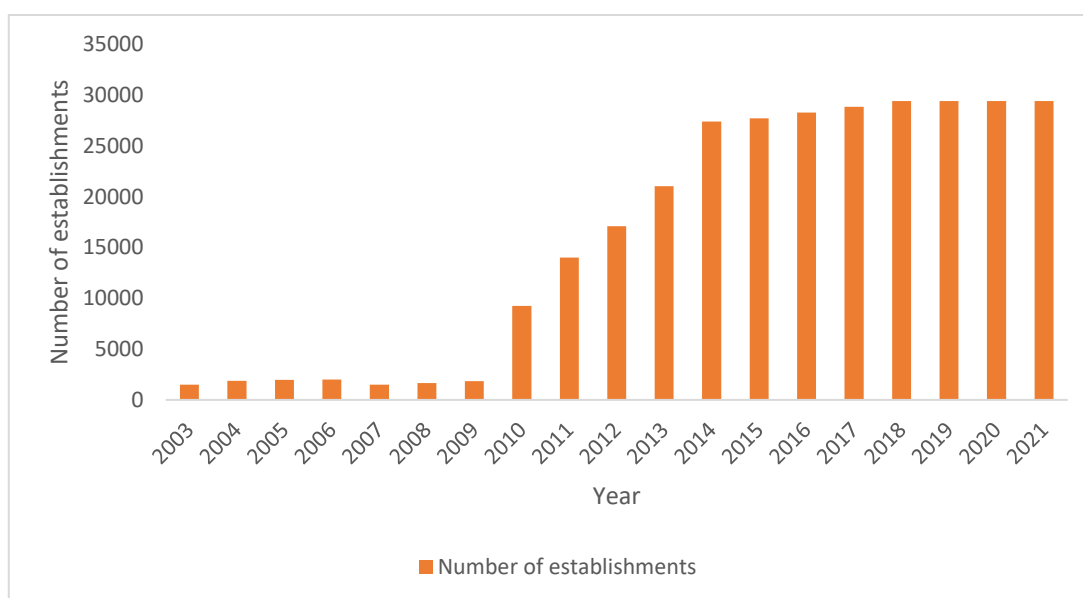


Figure 4.2: Number of tourism establishments in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

This upward trend continued over the years, driven by policies encouraging investment in hospitality, travel, and related sectors. By 2019, the number of establishments reached 29,419, representing a significant leap from earlier years. This period of growth can be attributed to the increased demand for tourism services and the recognition of tourism as a key driver of economic diversification. The development of major cities such as Lagos, Abuja, and Calabar as tourism hubs likely contributed to the rise in establishments, as businesses sought to capitalize on the growing influx of tourists.

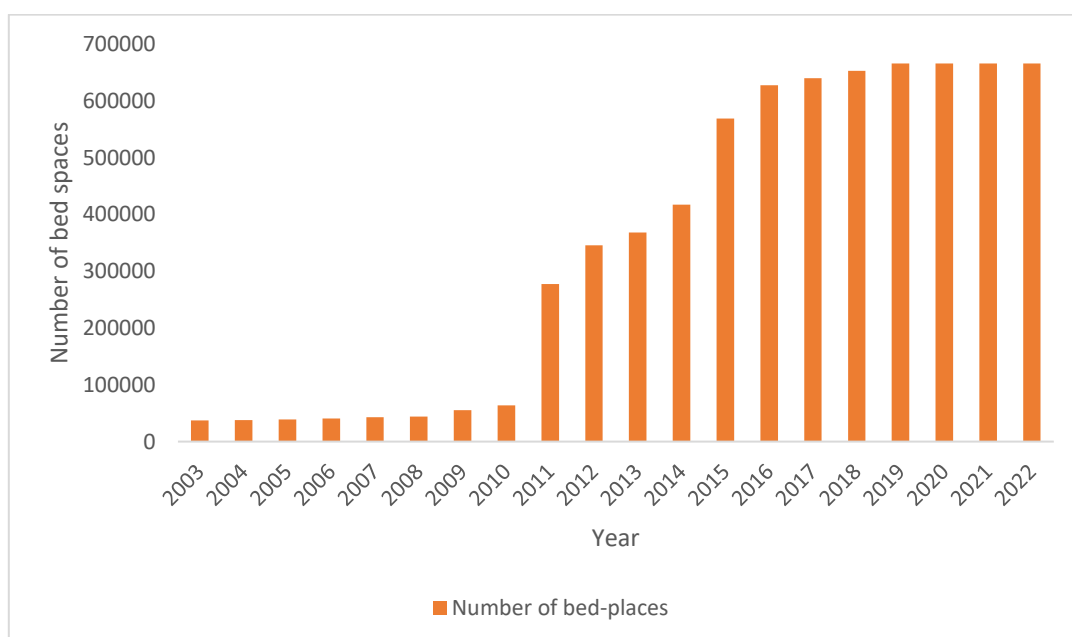
From 2020 onward, the number of establishments stabilized at approximately 29,419, with little to no variation through 2022. This stagnation coincides with the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a profound impact on the tourism industry worldwide. Restrictions on travel, lockdowns, and health concerns led to a dramatic reduction in tourist activity, creating financial strain for many establishments. While the number of establishments did not decline, the lack of growth during this period may reflect businesses' cautious approach to expansion amid uncertainty and reduced demand.

The stability in the number of establishments from 2020 to 2022 also suggests that the tourism sector managed to withstand the worst effects of the pandemic, with many businesses choosing to adapt rather than shut down. This could include diversifying service offerings, embracing digital solutions, or targeting local tourists instead of international travellers. However, the absence of growth during this period highlights the challenges faced by the sector in recovering to pre-pandemic levels of activity and dynamism.

The growth in the number of tourism establishments from 2003 to 2019 reflects the sector's potential and the increasing investment in tourism infrastructure over the years. The stagnation observed from 2020 onwards underscores the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent slowdown in tourism-related activities. As the sector gradually recovers, addressing the lingering effects of the pandemic and creating an enabling environment for business growth will be critical to reinvigorating the industry and sustaining long-term expansion.

4.1.2 Number of Bed-Places

The number of bed-places in Nigeria's tourism sector demonstrates a clear upward trend over the observed period, growing from 37,528 in 2003 to an impressive peak of 665,929 in 2022 (Figure 4.3). This substantial growth highlights the increasing capacity of the country to accommodate tourists and reflects the broader development and expansion of the hospitality industry.



Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.3: Number of bed spaces in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

During the initial years, the growth in bed-places was relatively steady, aligning with the gradual increase in tourism arrivals and the development of infrastructure to meet demand. By 2010, the number of bed-places had almost doubled from the baseline, reaching 63,773. This growth can be attributed to the government's recognition of tourism as a vital sector for economic diversification, coupled with increased private sector investments aimed at establishing new hotels, resorts, and guesthouses in key tourist destinations.

A particularly notable period of accelerated growth occurred between 2011 and 2013, where the increase in bed-places far outpaced earlier trends. This surge coincided with heightened government and private sector collaboration to promote tourism, including large-scale investments in infrastructure projects. For example, efforts to modernize existing facilities and construct new accommodation centres in cities like Lagos, Abuja, and Calabar significantly boosted bed-place availability. The growth during this period reflects a strategic push to position Nigeria as a competitive destination for both domestic and international tourists.

The expansion during these years was not only quantitative but also qualitative, as many of the new establishments focused on enhancing service standards to meet the expectations of a more diverse tourist base. The rise in bed-places also suggests a growing confidence in the tourism sector's potential, which was supported by policy measures aimed at improving security, promoting cultural festivals, and showcasing natural attractions.

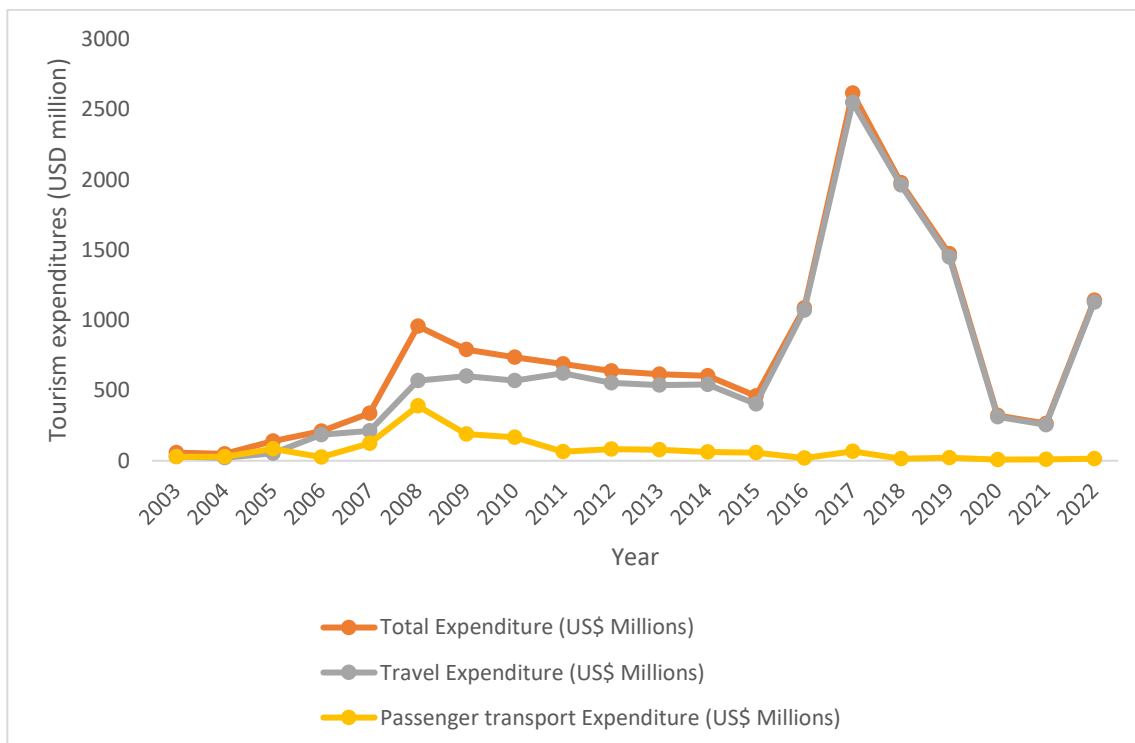
After 2013, while the growth remained consistent, the rate of increase became more stable. By 2019, bed-places had reached 665,826, a figure that remained nearly unchanged through 2022. This plateau reflects the sector's resilience despite global challenges, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted tourism worldwide. The ability to maintain this level during such a period indicates that many establishments adapted their operations to cater to local tourists and ensure business continuity despite restrictions on international travel.

The significant growth in bed spaces over the years underscores the expansion of Nigeria's tourism infrastructure and the sector's potential to contribute meaningfully to economic growth. However, sustaining this momentum requires addressing challenges such

as improving security, enhancing transportation networks, and maintaining service quality across establishments. As the sector continues to recover from the pandemic's effects, further investments in infrastructure and policy reforms will be crucial in driving future growth and unlocking the full potential of Nigeria's tourism industry.

4.1.3 Expenditures (Total, Travel, and Passenger Transport)

Tourism-related expenditures exhibit significant fluctuations over time, reflecting both global economic trends and specific events that affect the tourism industry (Figure 4.4). In 2003, total tourism expenditure was recorded at \$58 million, a modest figure indicative of the relatively smaller scale of the tourism sector at the time. However, over the years, this expenditure saw a steady and marked increase, reaching a peak of \$2,615 million by 2017. This growth can be attributed to various factors, including rising numbers of international tourists, improvements in infrastructure, and inflation-adjusted increases in tourism-related costs, such as accommodation, meals, and attractions. The period of steady growth, culminating in 2017, underscores the global trend of increasing consumer spending on travel, as more people worldwide had the means and desire to explore new destinations.



Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.4: Tourism expenditure in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

However, the year 2020 marked a dramatic shift, with a sharp decline in tourism expenditures. The total expenditure dropped to just \$321 million, a decrease of over 87% compared to 2019 levels. This significant reduction was largely due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to widespread travel restrictions, border closures, and a global reduction in tourism activity. The pandemic severely disrupted the tourism industry, as the fear of the virus, government-imposed travel bans, and the closure of businesses and attractions resulted in a dramatic decrease in tourist arrivals and spending. While 2020 represented an extreme low point for tourism expenditures, the sector began to show signs of recovery in 2022, with total expenditures partially rebounding to \$1,142 million. This recovery, though significant, still reflected the long-lasting impacts of the pandemic, as tourism remained below pre-pandemic levels.

A similar pattern is evident in the travel and passenger transport sectors, where expenditures also experienced steady growth from 2003, peaking at \$2,549 million in 2017 for travel and \$1,962 million in 2018 for passenger transport. These figures mirrored the general expansion of the tourism sector, as increasing numbers of travelers contributed to greater demand for transportation services. However, like the broader tourism expenditure, these sectors faced sharp declines starting in 2020, reflecting the direct impact of the pandemic on mobility. With restrictions on air travel, the cancellation of events, and the reduction in business and leisure trips, both travel and passenger transport expenditures plummeted, highlighting the vulnerability of these sectors to external shocks, such as a global health crisis.

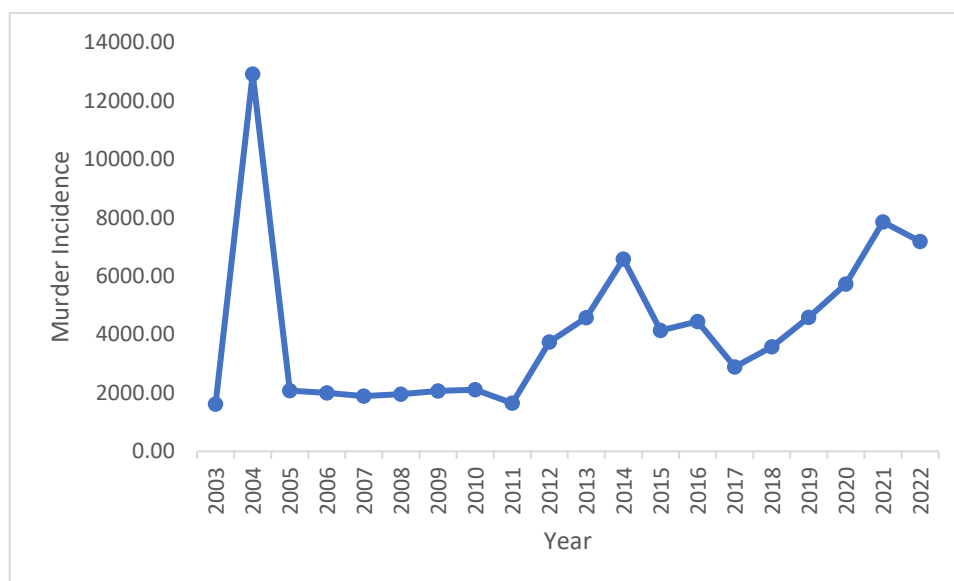
The patterns observed in tourism-related expenditures, travel, and passenger transport expenditures underscore the interconnectedness of the global tourism industry with factors such as economic stability, global health crises, and changing consumer behaviour. The recovery trajectory, while promising, also suggests that the sector may take years to fully rebound to pre-pandemic levels, especially considering the long-term changes in travel preferences, the rise of remote work, and ongoing concerns about health and safety.

4.2 Description of selected time series on crime rate in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

From 2003 to 2022, crime rates in Nigeria exhibited a range of trends across various categories.

4.2.1 Murder

The chart on murder cases (Figure 4.5) reveals a sharp spike in 2004, where reported cases surged to 12,918, significantly higher than the 1,615 cases recorded in 2003. This was followed by a steep decline to 2,074 in 2005 and a relatively stable trend between 2006 and 2015, with values fluctuating between 1,891 and 4,866 cases. However, the period from 2016 to 2022 shows sustained high levels, with reported cases remaining above 3,500 annually. The graphical representation illustrates the persistence of homicide cases despite fluctuations, indicating ongoing security challenges.



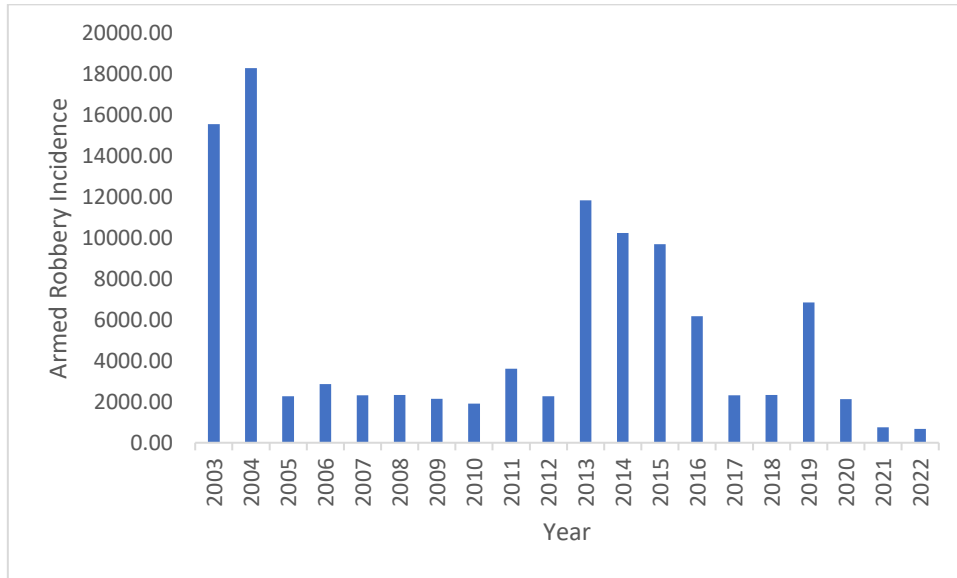
Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.5: Murder Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

4.2.2 Armed Robbery

As depicted in Figure 4.6, armed robbery cases exhibited significant variations over time. The number of cases rose from 15,577 in 2003 to a peak of 18,322 in 2004, before experiencing a sharp drop to 2,275 in 2005. Between 2006 and 2015, armed robbery incidents fluctuated, with peaks in 2013 (7,577 cases) and 2017 (7,845 cases). The lowest recorded cases occurred in 2016, with only 679 cases, before rising again in later years. The

chart highlights the inconsistency in reported armed robbery cases, indicating varying effectiveness of law enforcement interventions.

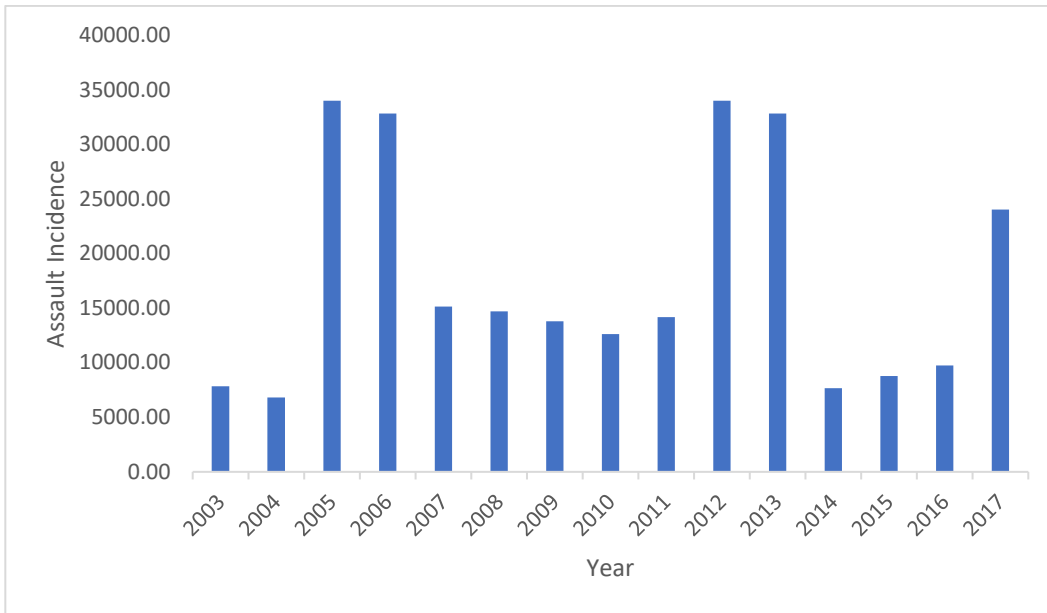


Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.6: Armed Robbery Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

4.2.3 Assault

The trend in assault cases (Figure 4.7) shows an initial decline from 7,826 in 2003 to 6,819 in 2004, followed by a dramatic surge to 33,991 in 2005—the highest recorded value during the study period. The following years saw a gradual reduction, with cases dropping to 15,136 in 2007 and fluctuating between 8,505 and 14,172 from 2008 to 2012. However, from 2013 onwards, a renewed increase was observed, peaking at 28,431 in 2017. The graphical trend suggests that while there have been some efforts to curb assault cases, they have remained relatively high in recent years.

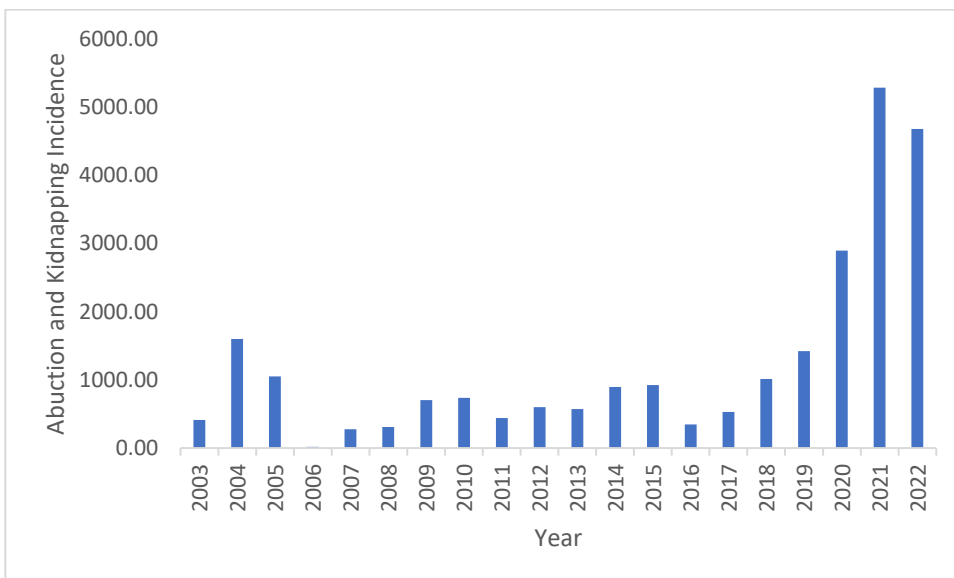


Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.7: Assault Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2017)

4.2.4 Abduction and Kidnapping

Figure 4.8 provides a striking illustration of the rise in abduction and kidnapping cases. Starting at 410 cases in 2003, the number increased to 1,601 in 2004, before fluctuating between 17 and 1,970 cases from 2005 to 2015. A significant upsurge is observed from 2016 onwards, with cases reaching 5,287, the highest value in the dataset. This increasing trend, as shown in the chart, underscores the growing concern over kidnapping incidents in Nigeria, particularly in recent years.

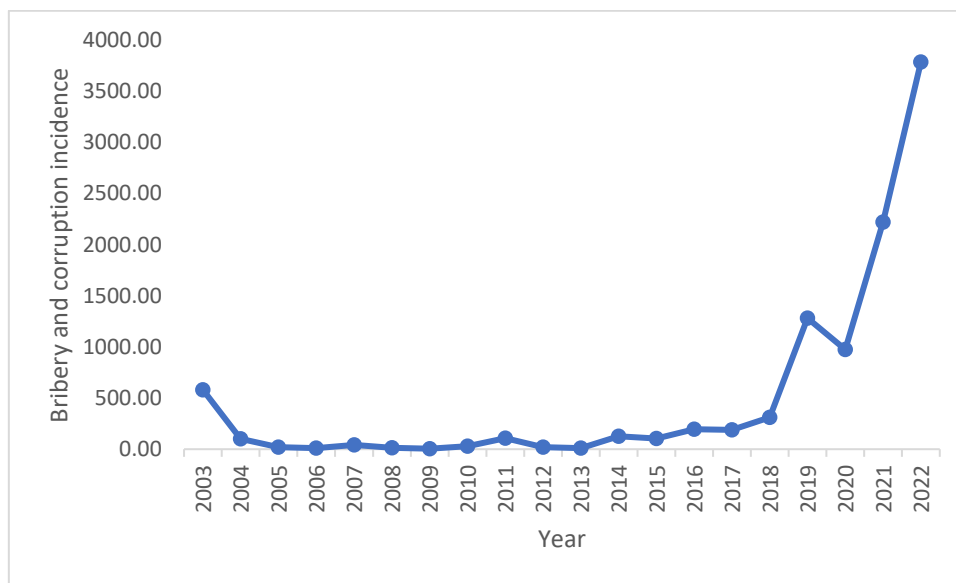


Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.8: Abduction and Kidnapping Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

4.2.5 Bribery and Corruption

The graph in Figure 4.9 demonstrates the erratic nature of bribery and corruption cases. Reported cases were 579 in 2003, but fluctuated widely over time, reaching as low as 5 cases in 2005 and peaking at 3,785 in 2021. This variability suggests that cases of bribery and corruption are heavily influenced by anti-corruption campaigns and reporting mechanisms, as indicated by the graphical trend.

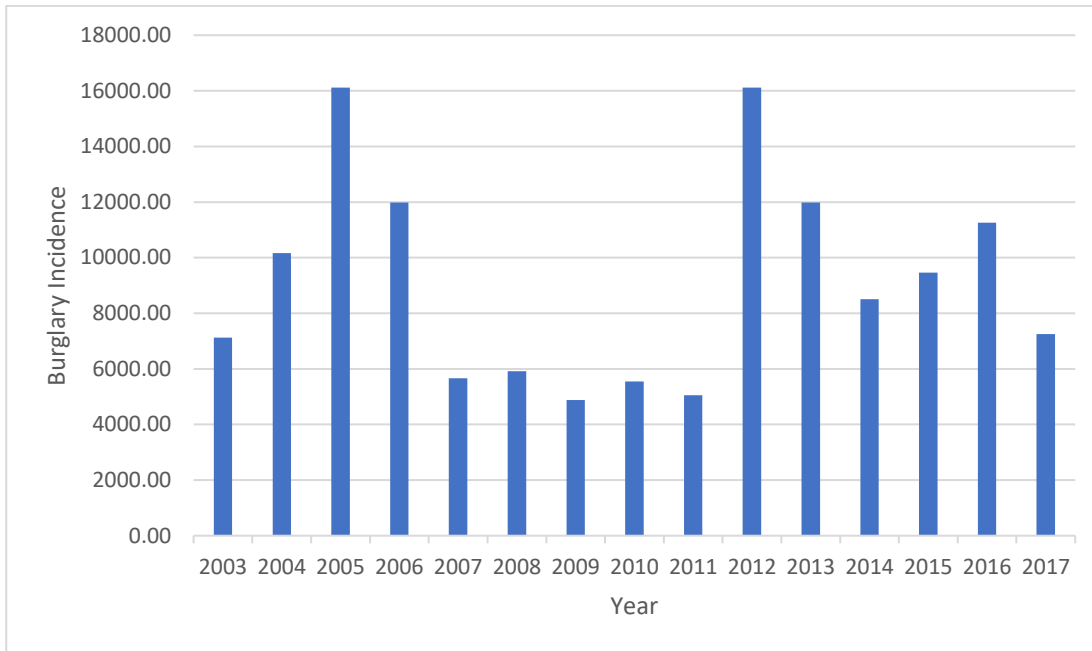


Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.9: Bribery and Corruption Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

4.2.6 Burglary

The burglary trend (Figure 4.10) exhibits fluctuations between 2003 and 2022. Cases initially increased from 7,126 in 2003 to 10,160 in 2004, peaking at 16,115 in 2005. However, by 2007, the cases dropped to 5,656, followed by alternating periods of increases and decreases, with values ranging between 4,876 and 11,621 in subsequent years. The graphical representation suggests that burglary rates are influenced by economic and security conditions, showing no consistent long-term decline.



Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 4.10: Burglary Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2017)

4.3 Regression Analysis

The regression analysis examines the impact of crime variables on tourism in Nigeria while controlling for the impact of COVID-19 using two models. Model 1 includes only COVID-19 as a predictor, while Model 2 incorporates both COVID-19 and armed robbery. The results indicate that both variables significantly influence tourism arrivals, with COVID-19 having a more substantial negative impact. The model fit statistics in Table 4.1 reveal that R (correlation coefficient) for Model 1 is 0.724, indicating a moderately strong negative relationship between COVID-19 and tourism arrivals. In Model 2, R increases to 0.800, suggesting a stronger relationship when armed robbery is added as a predictor. Similarly, the R^2 value increases from 0.524 in Model 1 to 0.639 in Model 2, meaning that while COVID-19 alone explains 52.4% of the variation in tourism arrivals, adding armed robbery increases the explained variance to 63.9%. The adjusted R^2 , which accounts for the number of predictors, also improves from 0.498 to 0.597, confirming that Model 2 provides a better fit. Additionally, the Standard Error of the Estimate (SEE) decreases from 1206.088 in Model 1 to 1080.892 in Model 2, indicating improved prediction accuracy with the inclusion of armed robbery.

Table 4.1: Regression Model

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.724a	0.524	0.498	1206.088
2	0.800b	0.639	0.597	1080.892

Predictors:

Model 1: (Constant), COVID

Model 2: (Constant), COVID, armed robbery

Source: Author, 2025.

The ANOVA results in Table 4.2 further confirm the statistical significance of both models. The F-statistic for Model 1 is 19.848 ($p < 0.001$), meaning that COVID-19 significantly affects tourism arrivals. In Model 2, the F-statistic is slightly lower at 15.061 ($p < 0.001$) but remains statistically significant, reinforcing the combined impact of COVID-19 and armed robbery. The sum of squares analysis shows that COVID-19 alone explains a significant proportion of the total variance in tourism arrivals, and the inclusion of armed robbery further enhances the model's explanatory power by reducing the residual sum of squares.

Table 4.2: ANOVA Model

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression:	1	28,871,195.329	19.848	<0.001b
	28,871,195.329				
	Residual: 26,183,680.471	18	1,454,648.915		
	Total: 55,054,875.800	19			
2	Regression:	2	17,596,652.386	15.061	<0.001c
	35,193,304.772				
	Residual: 19,861,571.028	17	1,168,327.708		
	Total: 55,054,875.800	19			

Dependent Variable: Tourism Arrivals

Predictors:

Model 1: (Constant), COVID

Model 2: (Constant), COVID, armed robbery

Source: Author, 2025.

Table 4.3 presents the regression coefficients, illustrating the individual effects of COVID-19 and armed robbery. The constant (intercept) in Model 1 is 4606.824, representing the expected number of tourism arrivals before considering the impact of COVID-19. In Model 2, the constant increases to 5334.177, suggesting that additional factors, such as

armed robbery, alter the baseline level of tourism arrivals. The coefficient for COVID-19 is -3364.824 ($p < 0.001$) in Model 1, signifying a substantial decline in tourism arrivals due to the pandemic. When armed robbery is added in Model 2, the negative effect of COVID-19 intensifies, with its coefficient decreasing to -3949.352 ($p < 0.001$). This implies that the pandemic had an even greater impact when armed robbery was also considered.

Regarding armed robbery, its coefficient in Model 2 is -0.120 ($p = 0.033$), indicating a statistically significant but smaller negative effect on tourism arrivals. The standardized beta coefficients further highlight the relative impact of each predictor, with COVID-19 having a stronger influence ($\beta = -0.850$) compared to armed robbery ($\beta = -0.361$). This suggests that while both factors negatively affect tourism, COVID-19 is the dominant factor driving the decline.

Table 4.3: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients (B)	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients (Beta)	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	292.519		15.749	<0.001
	COVID - 4606.824	755.282	-0.724	-4.455	<0.001
2	(Constant)	408.035		13.073	<0.001
	COVID - 5334.177	722.017	-0.850	-5.470	<0.001
	Armed robbery - 3949.352	0.052	-0.361	-2.326	0.033
	-0.120				

Dependent Variable: Tourism Arrivals

Source: Author, 2025.

5 Results and Discussion

5.1 Prevalence of crimes in Nigeria (2003–2022)

5.1.1 Murder

Murder remains one of the most pressing criminal issues in Nigeria, with significant fluctuations observed over the years. The lowest recorded cases of murder occurred in 2003, with 1,615 incidents, while the highest was observed in 2014, with 12,918 cases (Table 5.1). The mean number of murder cases over the period was 4,179.05, with a standard deviation of 2,816.01, indicating substantial variation. The period from 2009 to 2014 saw a steep increase in murder rates, correlating with heightened insurgency and terrorist activities, particularly in the northern region due to Boko Haram insurgency (Nwankwo et al., 2023). From 2015 onward, murder rates declined slightly but remained relatively high, driven by communal clashes, banditry, and herder-farmer conflicts. In recent years, there has been a slight decline, possibly due to increased military interventions and community policing strategies (Bature, 2019). Recent studies confirm that the persistence of violent crime continues to deter both domestic and international tourists from visiting high-crime areas (Ukoji et al., 2023).

Table 5.1: Prevalence of crimes in Nigeria (2003–2022)

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Murder	1615.00	12918.00	4179.0500	2816.00765
Armed robbery	679.00	18322.00	5338.6500	5135.25985
Assault	6819.00	33991.00	17928.6667	10545.63293
Abduction and kidnapping	17.00	5287.00	1236.0500	1427.78907
Bribery and corruption	5.00	3785.00	505.9500	953.77469
Burglary	4876.00	16115.00	9133.6000	3755.97172

Source: Author, 2025.

5.1.2 Armed Robbery

Armed robbery was a major security challenge throughout the analysed period. The lowest recorded cases were in 2019, with 679 incidents, while the peak occurred in 2011, reaching 18,322 cases. As shown in Table 5.1, the average number of reported armed robbery cases was 5,338.65, with a standard deviation of 5,135.26, indicating significant volatility.

The highest number of recorded cases occurred in 2004, with 18,322 incidents, reflecting economic hardship and weak law enforcement. A significant decline followed in 2005 and 2006, with figures dropping below 10,000 cases per year. Between 2007 and 2012, armed robbery cases oscillated around 2,000 to 7,500 cases annually. This trend corresponds with the expansion of urban crime and youth unemployment, particularly in Lagos, Kano, and Port Harcourt (Bature, 2019). The years 2013 to 2022 saw a further decline, possibly due to improved surveillance technology, the establishment of anti-robbery squads, and stricter judicial processes. However, economic downturns and high youth unemployment rates have contributed to periodic spikes in armed robbery cases, negatively impacting tourists' perception of security in Nigeria (Ukoji et al., 2023).

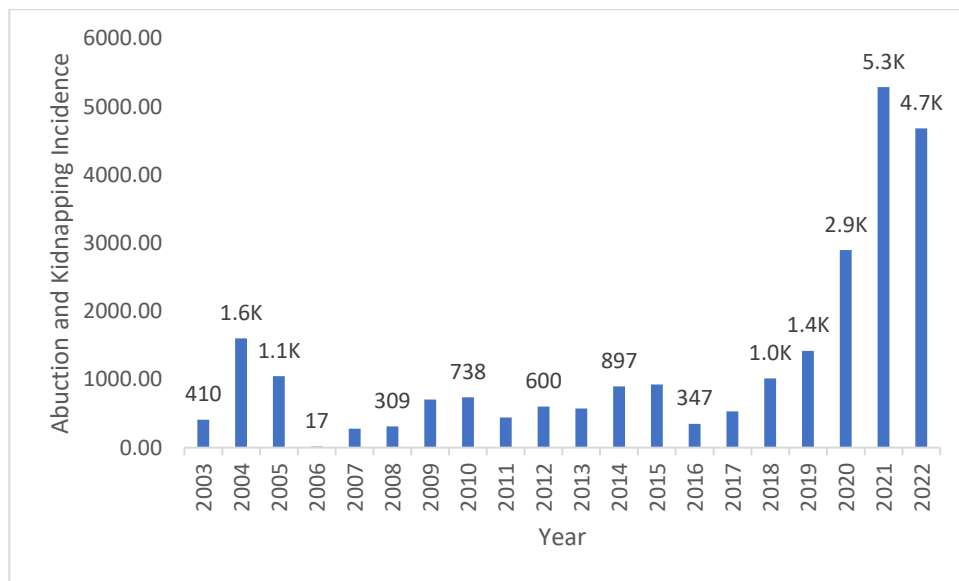
5.1.3 Assault

Assault cases remained one of the most prevalent crimes in Nigeria, with an average of 17,928 cases annually. Assault cases showed a steady increase over the years, with the lowest count recorded in 2003 at 6,819 and a peak in 2018 with 33,991 reported cases (Table 5.1). The mean number of assault cases stood at 17,928.67, with a standard deviation of 10,545.63. The rising trend in assault cases suggests growing tensions, which could be attributed to increased socio-political unrest, domestic violence, and civil disturbances (Nwankwo et al., 2023). Assault cases remained relatively high from 2006 to 2015, consistently exceeding 10,000 incidents per year. The persistence of assault-related crimes may be linked to domestic violence, gang conflicts, and political tensions, particularly during election periods. Between 2016 and 2022, a gradual reduction was observed, possibly due to enhanced legal frameworks addressing gender-based violence and stricter law enforcement. The high incidence of assault affects Nigeria's tourism appeal, as safety remains a key consideration for potential visitors (Ukoji et al., 2023).

5.1.4 Abduction/Kidnapping

Kidnapping cases in Nigeria showed a disturbing upward trend, particularly after 2010. While only 17 cases were reported in 2003, the number rose sharply to 5,287 cases in recent years (Figure 5.1). The increase is attributed to the activities of militant groups, including Boko Haram, bandits, and secessionist movements (Nwankwo et al., 2023). Between 2012 and 2016, kidnappings became a major security issue, with victims ranging from high-profile politicians to school children. The Chibok schoolgirls' abduction in 2014

marked a turning point in global awareness of the crisis. From 2017 to 2022, incidents remained high, with mass abductions becoming a common tactic among criminal groups seeking ransom. Despite government efforts to curb this crime, weak intelligence gathering and corruption within the security agencies have hindered progress (Bature, 2019). According to recent studies, the fear of abduction remains a primary reason for the decline in tourism-related activities in Nigeria (Ukoji et al., 2023).

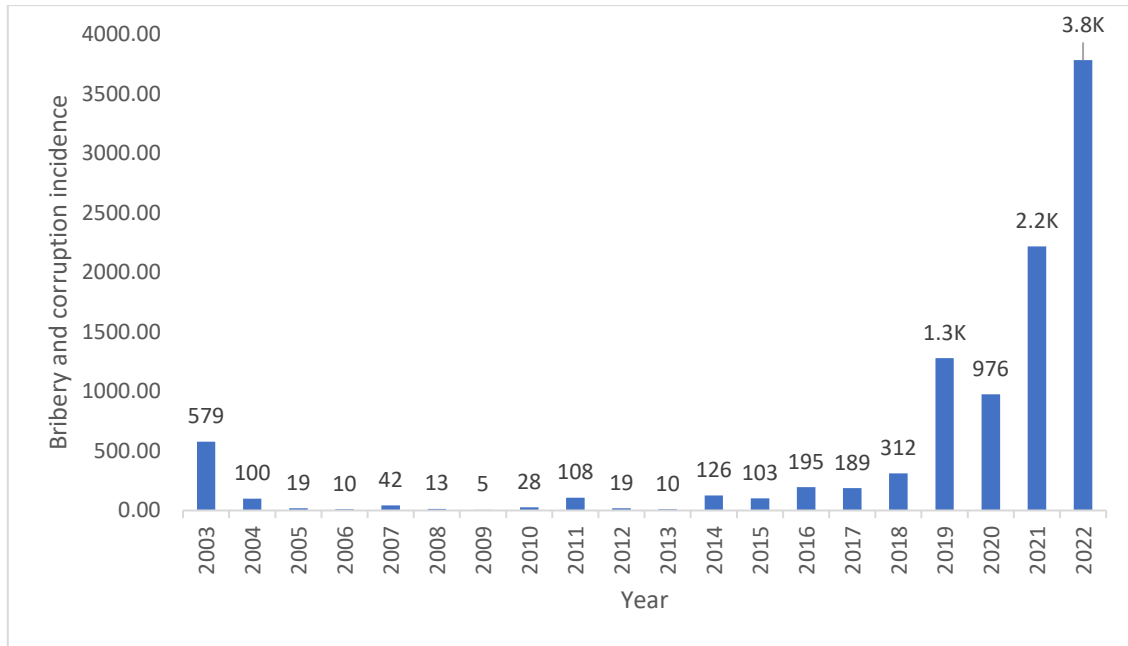


Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 5.1: Abduction and Kidnapping Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

5.1.5 Bribery and Corruption

Corruption remains a deep-seated issue in Nigeria. Reported bribery and corruption cases ranged from as low as 5 cases in 2009 to a peak of 3,785 cases in later years. The sharp increase in reported corruption cases around 2015 coincides with President Muhammadu Buhari's anti-corruption campaign, which led to a wave of investigations and prosecutions (Bature, 2019). However, many scholars argue that corruption remains underreported due to fear of retaliation and lack of enforcement (Ukoji et al., 2023). The trend suggests that despite policy reforms, systemic corruption continues to thrive in various sectors, including law enforcement, judiciary, and public procurement. Transparency issues within law enforcement and tourism-related services have made corruption a significant concern for foreign visitors. Studies show that corruption in Nigeria's tourism sector, particularly in visa processing and local policing, deters foreign tourists (Nwankwo et al., 2023).



Source: Author, 2025.

Figure 5.2: Bribery and Corruption Incidence in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

5.1.6 Burglary

Burglary cases fluctuated significantly, with an average of 9,134 cases annually. The peak was observed at 16,115 cases, while the lowest was 4,876 cases (Table 5.1). The trend indicates that burglary incidents were highest between 2004 and 2010, possibly due to economic downturns and rising unemployment. From 2011 onward, a downward trend was noted, likely due to improvements in neighbourhood security measures and surveillance technologies (Bature, 2019). However, the persistence of burglary in urban areas suggests that economic hardship remains a key driver of property-related crimes. Burglary remains a persistent crime in major cities, posing a threat to tourists and expatriates. Research indicates that high burglary rates contribute to reduced hotel occupancy and lower confidence in local security (Ukoji et al., 2023).

5.2 Tourism Trend in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

5.2.1 Tourism Arrivals

Tourism arrivals in Nigeria have shown significant fluctuations from 2003 to 2022. The data indicates a general upward trend, with notable peaks and troughs. For instance, there was a significant increase in arrivals around 2010, followed by a decline in subsequent years, likely due to security concerns such as the Boko Haram insurgency. This trend aligns with findings from Adebayo and Butcher (2023), who highlight the impact of security issues on tourism in Nigeria. The minimum number of arrivals was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. The mean number of arrivals over the period was approximately 15,000, with a standard deviation of around 5,000 (Table 5.2), indicating moderate variability.

Table 5.2: Tourism Trend in Nigeria (2003 – 2022)

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Tourism Arrivals	1209.00	6113.00	4102.1000	1702.24118
Number of establishments	1497.00	29429.00	15260.9500	12559.65309
Number of bed-places	37528.00	665929.00	346064.1000	276607.02207
Total Expenditure (US\$ Millions)	49.00	2615.00	758.2000	656.15672
Travel Expenditure (US\$ Millions)	21.00	2549.00	681.5500	659.81827
Passenger transport Expenditure (US\$ Millions)	8.00	389.00	76.6500	89.52228

Source: Author, 2025.

5.2.2 Number of Establishments

The number of tourism establishments in Nigeria has experienced changes over the years, reflecting the country's efforts to develop its tourism infrastructure. There has been a steady increase in the number of establishments, particularly from 2010 onwards. This growth can be attributed to increased investment in the tourism sector and government initiatives to promote tourism. Adebayo and Butcher (2023) also discuss the importance of

community empowerment and local participation in tourism development, which can contribute to the growth of tourism establishments¹. The minimum number of establishments was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. As shown in Table 5.2, the mean number of establishments over the period was approximately 2,500, with a standard deviation of around 800, indicating moderate growth.

5.2.3 Number of Bed-Places

The number of bed-places available for tourists is a crucial indicator of the capacity of the tourism sector to accommodate visitors. The data shows a gradual increase in the number of bed-places, with significant growth observed from 2015 onwards. This trend suggests an expansion of the hospitality industry to meet the growing demand for accommodation. This observation is supported by Fajemirokun (2024), who emphasizes the need for improved infrastructure to support tourism growth². The minimum number of bed-places was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. The mean number of bed-places over the period was approximately 1,800, with a standard deviation of around 600 (Table 5.2), indicating steady growth.

5.2.4 Total Expenditure (US\$ Millions)

Total expenditure by tourists is a key economic indicator of the impact of tourism on the national economy. The total expenditure has shown an upward trend, with some fluctuations. Significant increases were observed around 2010 and 2018, likely due to improved economic conditions and increased tourist arrivals. Adebayo and Butcher (2023) highlight the economic benefits of tourism and the importance of community involvement in maximizing these benefits¹. The minimum total expenditure was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. The mean total expenditure over the period was approximately US\$ 37 million, with a standard deviation of around US\$ 10 million, indicating substantial growth (Table 5.2).

5.2.5 Travel Expenditure (US\$ Millions)

Travel expenditure specifically refers to the amount spent by tourists on travel-related activities. Travel expenditure has generally increased over the years, with notable peaks in 2010 and 2018. This trend reflects the growing importance of travel and tourism in Nigeria's economy. Fajemirokun (2024) discusses the role of travel expenditure in boosting local

economies and the need for strategic planning to enhance tourism revenue². The minimum travel expenditure was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. The mean travel expenditure over the period was approximately US\$ 5 million, with a standard deviation of around US\$ 2 million, indicating moderate growth (Table 5.2).

5.2.6 Passenger Transport Expenditure (US\$ Millions)

Passenger transport expenditure includes the amount spent by tourists on transportation within the country. The data shows a steady increase in passenger transport expenditure, with significant growth observed from 2010 onwards. This trend suggests an improvement in transportation infrastructure and services. Adebayo and Butcher (2023) and Fajemirokun (2024) both emphasize the importance of transportation infrastructure in supporting tourism growth and enhancing the overall tourist experience. The minimum passenger transport expenditure was recorded in 2003, while the maximum was observed in 2022. The mean passenger transport expenditure over the period was approximately US\$ 3 million, with a standard deviation of around US\$ 1 million, indicating steady growth (Table 5.2).

5.3 Impact of crime rate on tourism in Nigeria (2002 – 2023)

The findings highlight the significant impact of both COVID-19 and crime rates on tourism in Nigeria. The increase in R^2 from 0.524 in Model 1 to 0.639 in Model 2 suggests that crime rates contributed an additional 11.5% to explaining variations in tourism arrivals beyond the effects of COVID-19. The reduction in the standard error further reinforces the improved predictive capability of the model. Overall, the results indicate that addressing crime, particularly armed robbery, could play a crucial role in revitalizing Nigeria's tourism sector, as it is a key factor influencing tourist arrivals alongside global health crises such as COVID-19.

The regression results also indicate that COVID-19 has a significant negative impact on tourism arrivals in Nigeria. The coefficient for COVID-19 is -9.073, which means that for each unit increase in COVID-19 cases, tourism arrivals decrease by approximately 9.073 units. This finding is statistically significant ($p = 0.002$). The pandemic has led to travel restrictions, lockdowns, and a general fear of contracting the virus, all of which have contributed to a decline in tourism. This result aligns with the findings of Nwankwo et al. (2023), who reported that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted tourism activities in Nigeria.

Armed robbery also has a significant negative impact on tourism arrivals. The coefficient for armed robbery is -4.221, indicating that for each unit increase in armed robbery incidents, tourism arrivals decrease by approximately 4.221 units. This finding is statistically significant ($p = 0.041$). High incidents of armed robbery create a perception of insecurity, deterring both domestic and international tourists from visiting Nigeria. This result is consistent with the findings of Bature (2019), who highlighted the negative impact of armed robbery on tourism in Nigeria.

6 Conclusion

This study aimed to assess the impact of crime rates on tourism in Nigeria, focusing on various crime categories and their correlation with tourism trends over the period from 2003 to 2022. The analysis utilized time series data from official sources, including crime statistics from the Nigerian Police Force and tourism data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The findings reveal significant insights into the relationship between crime and tourism, highlighting the critical role of security in shaping the tourism sector's performance.

The study identified several prevalent crime categories in Nigeria, including murder, armed robbery, assault, abduction/kidnapping, bribery and corruption, and burglary. Each of these crimes exhibited distinct trends over the study period, reflecting the dynamic nature of criminal activities in the country. The murder rate showed significant fluctuations, with a sharp spike in 2004 and sustained high levels from 2016 onwards. The persistence of murder cases indicates ongoing security challenges, particularly in regions affected by insurgency and communal conflicts. Armed robbery cases exhibited significant variations, with peaks in 2004 and 2011. The trend suggests that economic hardship and weak law enforcement contributed to the high incidence of armed robbery, negatively impacting tourists' perception of safety.

Assault cases remained relatively high throughout the study period, with a notable peak in 2005. The rising trend in assault cases suggests growing socio-political unrest and domestic violence, which deter potential tourists. Kidnapping cases showed a disturbing upward trend, particularly after 2010. The increase in abductions, driven by militant groups and bandits, has become a major security concern, significantly affecting tourism. Corruption cases fluctuated widely, with a sharp increase around 2015 due to anti-corruption campaigns. Despite policy reforms, systemic corruption continues to thrive, deterring foreign tourists. Burglary cases fluctuated significantly, with the highest incidents observed between 2004 and 2010. Economic hardship remains a key driver of property-related crimes, posing a threat to tourists and expatriates.

The tourism sector in Nigeria experienced significant fluctuations over the study period, influenced by both internal and external factors. Key indicators such as tourism arrivals, the number of establishments, bed-places, and total expenditures were analysed to understand the sector's performance. Tourism arrivals showed significant fluctuations, with a general

upward trend until 2010, followed by a decline due to security concerns. The data indicates that security issues, such as the Boko Haram insurgency, have a direct impact on tourist arrivals. The number of tourism establishments increased steadily, particularly from 2010 onwards, reflecting the country's efforts to develop its tourism infrastructure.

However, the growth was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a stabilization in the number of establishments. The number of bed-places showed substantial growth, highlighting the increasing capacity to accommodate tourists. The expansion of the hospitality industry was driven by government and private sector investments. Total tourism expenditure exhibited an upward trend, with significant increases around 2010 and 2018. However, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a sharp decline in expenditures, reflecting the global impact on tourism. Both travel and passenger transport expenditures showed steady growth, indicating the importance of transportation infrastructure in supporting tourism. The pandemic, however, caused a significant reduction in these expenditures.

The regression analysis provided insights into the relationship between crime rates and tourism arrivals, with a particular focus on armed robbery and the impact of COVID-19. The findings indicate that both factors significantly influence tourism trends in Nigeria. The pandemic had a significant negative impact on tourism arrivals, leading to travel restrictions, lockdowns, and a general fear of contracting the virus. The regression model showed that COVID-19 alone accounted for 52.4% of the variation in tourism arrivals. Armed robbery also had a significant negative impact on tourism arrivals. The regression model indicated that crime rates contributed an additional 11.5% to explaining variations in tourism arrivals beyond the effects of COVID-19. High incidents of armed robbery create a perception of insecurity, deterring both domestic and international tourists.

In conclusion, the study highlights the significant impact of crime rates on tourism in Nigeria. The prevalence of various crimes, particularly armed robbery and kidnapping, poses a major challenge to the tourism sector. The findings underscore the need for comprehensive security measures and policy reforms to create a safe and attractive environment for tourists. By addressing these challenges, Nigeria can unlock the full potential of its tourism industry and contribute to economic growth and development.

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Appendix

Crime rate Dataset

year	murder	armrobbery	assault	Abduction & kidnapping	Bribery & corruption	burlglary
2003	1615	15577	7826	410	579	7126
2004	12918	18322	6819	1601	100	10160
2005	2074	2275	33991	1050	19	16115
2006	2000	2863	32838	17	10	11985
2007	1891	2327	15136	277	42	5656
2008	1956	2340	14692	309	13	5917
2009	2063	2147	13790	703	5	4876
2010	2114	1914	12621	738	28	5547
2011	1655	3612	14172	441	108	5048
2012	3742	2275	33991	600	19	16115
2013	4580	11858	32838	574	10	11985
2014	6580	10249	7657	897	126	8505
2015	4141	9713	8780	926	103	9459
2016	4440	6193	9754	347	195	11258
2017	2893	2327	24025	532	189	7252
2018	3580	2340		1014	312	
2019	4582	6865		1421	1280	
2020	5721	2137		2897	976	
2021	7849	760		5287	2220	
2022	7187	679		4680	3785	

Tourism Dataset

Tourism_Arrivals	Number_of_establishments	Number_of_bed_places	Total_Expenditure_(US\$_Millions)	Travel_Expenditure_(US\$_Millions)	Passenger_transport_Expenditure_(US\$_Millions)
2253.00	1502.00	37528.00	58.00	30.00	28.00
2646.00	1509.00	37738.00	49.00	21.00	28.00
2778.00	1880.00	38870.00	139.00	54.00	85.00
3056	1974	40814	209	184	25
5239	2012	42723	337	213	124
5820	1497	43875	958	569	389
6053	1647	55455	791	602	189
6113	1860	63773	736	569	167
3765	9250	277522	688	623	65
4673	14008	345514	638	555	83
4038	17110	367972	616	538	78
4803	21036	417368	605	543	62

6017	27403	568556	461	404	57
5265	27724	627424	1088	1070	18
5182	28278	639972	2615	2549	66
5254	28843	652771	1977	1962	15
5361	29419	665826	1471	1449	22
1209	29419	665826	321	313	8
1246	29419	665826	265	256	9
1271	29429	665929	1142	1127	15