IJSES
Volume 6, Issue 1, pp. 70-75, 2022.
International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Science
ISSN (Online): 2456-7361

The Assessment of Trade Openness, Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth in the Non-West African Economic Monetary Union (Non-WAEMU)

Jirbo, Boniface Verr; Jonathan Danladi D. (Ph.D), Atayi Abraham Vincent (Ph.D)
Department of Economics, Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti, Nigeria.

Abstract— *Many countries' growth performance has been linked to the dynamic roles of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. This study evaluates the impact of trade openness and foreign direct investment on economic growth in non-West African Economic Monetary union using time series data from the period 1994 to 2019.The data for the study where sourced from World development index (WDI). Co-integration test was employed to determine the existence of co-integration among the variables and from the result the hypothesis of no cointegration was rejected as there is cointegration among the variables. The Auto regressive distributed lag (ARDL) technique was used to examine the short and long run effects of trade share and foreign direct investment on economic growth. And the result shows that FDI_GDP will increase GDP per capita by 0.1% in the long run while TS and CTS will reduce GDP per capita by 11.2% and 0.36% respectively. there exist a long run dynamic relationship between trade share and foreign direct investment on economic growth. From the estimation result the conclusion was drawn that foreign direct investment positively and significantly influences economic growth in the long run in non-WAEMU. And the study recommended that non-WAEMU countries should productively control trade openness through increased investment in local production of manufactured and agricultural goods so as to reduce importation.*

Keyword— *Trade Openness, Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Growth, NWAEMU, Composite Trade Share, GDP per capita.*
JEL: F15, F18, F43, O24

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the years, ECOWAS region has implemented various regimes of trade policies to strengthen her trade relations and these trade policies have witnessed tremendous swings from high protectionism within the first decade of independence to the current more liberal stance (Adenikinju 2005). The aim of trade policy is not only to increase export revenue and reduce the country's reliance on the oil sector, but also to discourage dumping, support import substitution, stem adverse movements in the balance of payment, conserve foreign exchange and generate government revenue (Bankole and Bankole 2004). In most countries significant growth rates are often associated with the embrace of ongoing globalisation and increasing openness to the international exchange of goods and services as well as ideas and technologies, It has been acknowledged that reaching the high level of economic development and high growth rates is one of the most important goals of developing economies like the ECOWAS region.

The role of the private sector is important in both contributions to quantity of gross domestic investment and its ability to allocate and employ resources efficiently. Private sector investment has been the engine of employment and income creation, provision of infrastructure and social services. Basically, investment refers to the purchase or acquisition of new capital equipment like machines, buildings and other purchased means of production that increase the productive capacity of the economy. One of the major economic problems of ECOWAS and developing economies at large is low gross domestic investment finance which leads to a decline in economic growth and development. The vicious cycle of low domestic investment finance resulting from low savings, has leads to low capital formation, and has become a major problem in the ECOWAS economy. Due to this factor, different administrations, in their quest to achieve rapid and sustained increase in growth, have, over the years, initiated policies and programmes aimed at improving the investment climate in the country.

In the Non-WAEMU countries, decline in the growth rate has been attributed to many factors In Nigeria, the contraction in growth has been linked to the harsh decline recorded in revenue from the petroleum sector, due to the sharp fall in commodity prices, predominantly oil, which declined by about 50% since 2014. As Africa's largest oil producer, the negative cumulative effects of the fall in oil prices in Nigeria are quite grave and they include a sudden fall in export revenues, and a sharp depreciation of the Naira, resulting in real GDP contraction. Ghana's economic growth was also affected by the fiscal deficit and debt risks in 2018-2020 as well as Gambia and Sierra Leone whose GDP fell by 2.4% and 2.7% respectively in 2020, after growing 6.2% and 5.4% in 2019. On the supply side, the trade and tourism sectors were the most affected, while on the demand side, downcast in domestic and external demand affects the economy.

Having discussed the connection between trade openness, FDI and economic growth, this study empirically examines the dynamic roles of trade openness and FDI on economic growth in non-WAEMU countries. The study is expected to provide regional information about the current development in relation to trade openness, investment and the implication for economic growth in the non-WAEMU countries in order to gain insight into the policy framework for effective decisions so as to compete with other countries or regions of the world.

International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Science
Volume 6, Issue 1, pp. 70-75, 2022. ISSN (Online): 2456-7361

II. Literature Review

A. *Overview of Trade share and Foreign direct investment and Economic Growth*

The rate of exports in non WAEMU member countries have been so low except in Nigeria and partially in Ghana (figure 1). The poor performance of these countries (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) can be attributed to the world economy, political instability, low production of their local industries, poor prices of their major export products and the like. The reason why Nigeria exports were so huge was due to its crude oil which is very vital to the country's export economy and accounts for 75.3% of all its exports. The most popular export destinations for Nigerian petroleum were India, the United States, Spain, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. The same thing is applicable to Ghana in terms of crude oil, but at lower quantities compared to Nigeria.

Also, in terms of *Import of goods and services.* non-WAEMU member countries experienced very low imports with the exception of Nigeria and Ghana. Most of these countries experienced low imports because imposition taxes, tariff and subsidies on their local products in order to encourage local producers. This will, in turn, increase their production. The reverse is the case in Nigeria and Ghana; many companies in these countries choose to import goods in order to extend their profit margin. The low material costs in foreign countries can make it more useful to import products from there. Another reason why imports in these two African countries are very high is as a result of their total population which is more than the available local commodities. For instance, the population in Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were 543,767, 2.28million, 12.41million, 4.819million and 7.65million respectively compared with Nigeria and Ghana, 200milloin and 29.77million respectively. The trend of composite score (CTS) was steady from 1994 to 2004, then a steady rise that peaked at 1.94 in 2012, then a decline which is at 1.11 in 2019 (figure 2). Foreign direct investment (FDI) has been on steady increase from 1994 to 2011 where it peaked to 2.18 and declined gradually to 1.11 in 2019. Gross domestic product (GDP) has been on the rise over the years as seen increasing from 341 in 1994 to 26314 in 2019.

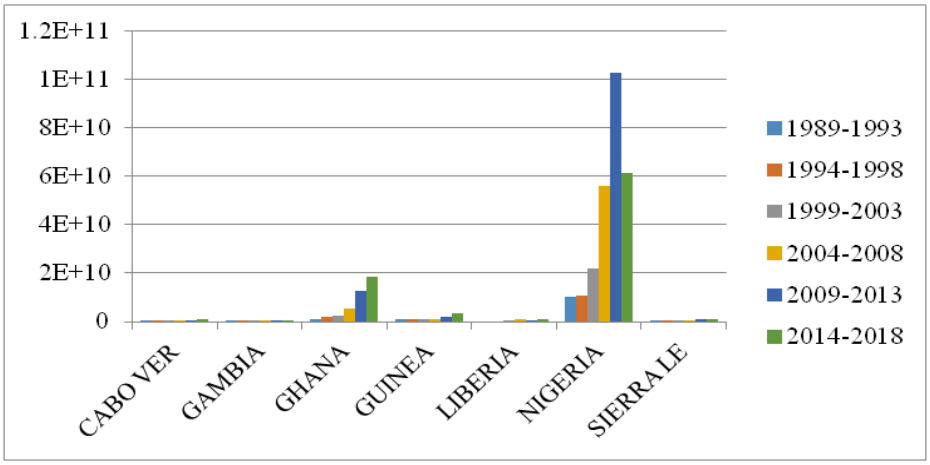

Fig. 1. Export of goods and services (current US$) for non-WAEMU countries.
Source: World Development Indicators (WDI).

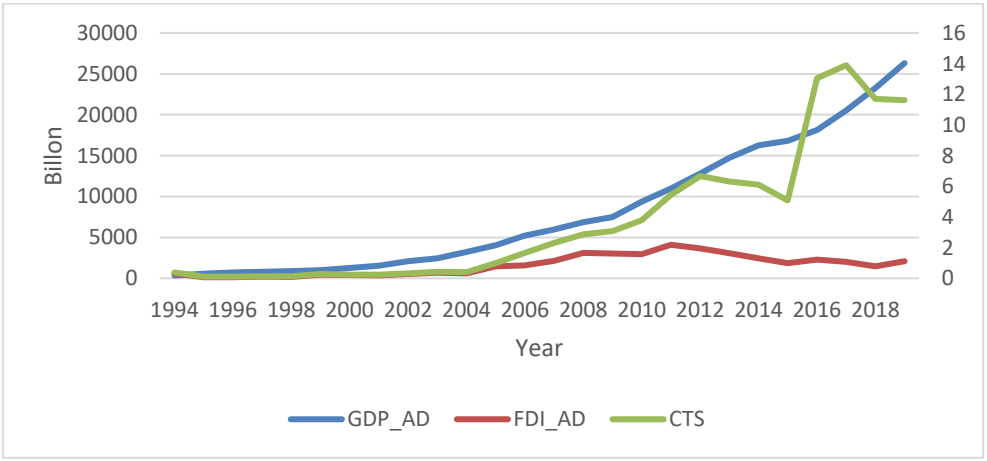

Fig. 2. Trend analysis of composite score and foreign direct investment and economic growth in non WAEMU countries

B. Theoretical Framework and Empirical Literature

The study adopted the solow growth model as used in the work of Iyoha and Okim, (2017). The Solow model is the basis for the modern theory of economic growth. The model is based on the following assumptions that the population grows at a constant rate g. Therefore, current population (represented by N) and future population (represented by N') are linked through the population growth equation N' = N (1+g). All consumers in the economy save a constant proportion's' of their incomes and consume the rest. Therefore, consumption are linked through the consumption equation C= (1+s)Y. All firms in the economy produce output using the same production technology that takes in capital and labour as inputs. Therefore, the level of output (represented by Y), the level of capital (represented by K), and the level of labour (represented by L) are all linked through the production function equation Y = aF(K,L).The Solow Growth Model assumes that the production function exhibits constant-returns-to-scale (CRS). Under such an assumption, if we double the level of capital stock and double the level of labour, then output will equally get increased. Present capital stock (represented by K), future capital stock (represented by K'), the rate of capital depreciation (represented by d), and level of capital investment (represented by I) are linked through the capital accumulation equation K'= K(1-d) + I. The Solow initiative highlights the element of savings and investment as an important factor responsible for immediate growth in the economy. Even while the above is considered as 'exogenous' to the economy in question, advancement and sophistication in technology are identified as core, according to long-term experience. To summarize, whereas the neoclassical growth paradigm favors labor and capital as indices of economic growth, other exogenous growth alternatives, such as increase in technology, have remained unexplored. Researchers have been forced to look for alternatives due to this omission, as well as inconsistent practical evidence. When regular and consistent returns to capital are stressed, the role of technological advancement as a vital stimulus to sustainable economic growth has been consistently adopted.

Osabuohien (2007) examined the impact of trade openness on economic performance of ECOWAS member countries with special emphasis on Ghana and Nigeria between the period 1975 through 2004, employing co-integration and Vector Error Correction techniques. He established a unique long-run relationship between economic performance, trade openness, real government expenditure, labour force and real capital stock for Ghana and Nigeria. Pandhi (2007) analysed the theories behind the role that exports play in growth in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Malawi and Nigeria from 1981 to 2003, using ordinary least square regression analysis. He found a positive relationship between exports and growth and mixed results for other independent variables like investment and population.

Benik and Yoonus (2012) examined whether the ECOWAS member countries have favourable economic characteristics to undertake deeper economic integration, which is moving towards an economic union status from the period of 1963 to 2005. They found that an increase in trade which results from deeper economic integration in the ECOWAS region can compensate for fall in trade between ECOWAS and the rest of the world. Furthermore, they ascertained that an increase in trade in the ECOWAS region generates resources to increase aggregate demand to meet the fiscal requirements of development expenditures. Yelwa and Diyoke (2013) examined the export-economic growth relationship amongst some selected ECOWAS countries. Their aim was to examine whether or not export-led growth is indeed potent enough to drive their economic growth as an alternative to foreign direct investment from 1980 through 2011, using panel the model analysis. They found a stable export-driven growth among these selected countries, and showed that export-led growth in the region is potentially able to drive growth, most especially aggregate net transfer and trade on exportable goods and services. SIDDIQI, ALI, and CHANI (2014) investigated the relationship among trade liberalization, economic development, and import demand for 1972 to 2009. They found the cointegration between the variables of the model, but they do not find the causal relationship between among variables. Adegboye, Matthew, Ejemeyovwi, Adesina and Osabohien (2020); Guei and Le Roux (2019) claim trade openness has a negative and insignificant effect on economic growth.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research seeks to examine the impact of trade openness and foreign direct investment on economic growth in non-WAEMU. The study covers the period of 27 years (1994 to 2020). This period was chosen because it was marked with a series of economic policies and interventions, relating to regional as well as international trade from various member governments. Besides, the period witnessed the onset of unprecedented global financial crisis, which had significant impact on trade and investment activities across the world. As a result of this, this present study was carried out on all the Non-WAEMU countries Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau and Cabo-Verde. The data were obtained from the World Bank WDI. The unit root and cointegration tests were conducted to determine the if the data series are stationary and to examine the existence of long run relationship among the variables. In analysing the equations (2 and 3), the panel Auto-regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) was employed. Following the specifications of Pesaran, Shin, and Smith (1999), this study presented the link between trade openness, foreign direct investment and economic growth in WAEMU countries as follows;

$$GPCR = f(CTS, FDI\_GDP, GFCF, LEB, POP, EXR, CPI,) \quad (1)$$

Long run Composite Trade Share (CTS) Model

$$\Delta GPCR_{i,t} = \psi_{0i} + \psi_{1i} FDI\_GDP + \psi_{2i} EXR_{i,t} + \psi_{3i} CTS_{i,t} + \psi_{4i} in\ GFCF_{i,t} + \psi_{5i} InPOP_{i,t} + \psi_{6i} LEB + \psi_{7i} lnCPI + \sum_{j=1}^{N1} \lambda_{1ij} \Delta GPCR_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N2} \lambda_{2ij} \Delta FDI\_GDP_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N3} \lambda_{3ij} \Delta EXR_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N5} \lambda_{4ij} \Delta CTS_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N6} \lambda_{5ij} \Delta lnGFCF_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N7} \lambda_{6ij} \Delta lNPOP_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N8} \lambda_{7ij} \Delta lnCPI_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N8} \lambda_{7ij} \Delta LEB_{i,t-j}\, \varphi_i + \eta_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Science
Volume 6, Issue 1, pp. 70-75, 2022. ISSN (Online): 2456-7361

Short Run Effects Model

The short-run estimates for the growth model equation (3) can be re-specified to take account of an error correction term as follows:

$$\Delta GPCR_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^{N1} \lambda_{1ij} \Delta lnGPCR_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N2} \lambda_{2ij} \Delta FDI\_GDP_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N3} \lambda_{3ij} \Delta EXR_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N5} \lambda_{4ij} \Delta CTS_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N6} \lambda_{5ij} \Delta lnGFCF_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N7} \lambda_{6ij} \Delta lNPOP_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{N8} \lambda_{7ij} \Delta LEB_{i,t-j} \varphi_i + \eta_{i,t} \quad (3)$$

Where

ψ_0 captures the intercept of the model; $\psi_i - \psi_6$ denotes the coefficients of the explanatory variables in determining the long-run effect; $\lambda_1 - \lambda_7$ captures the short-run dynamics in the model; φ_i is the country specific effect; $\eta_{i,t}$ denotes the error term, i is the sampled units; and t is the number of periods; $GPCR_{i,t}$ is the natural log of gross domestic product for each country i over a period of time t; $TS_{i,t}$ and $CTS_{i,t}$ represents the first and second measures of trade openness for each country i over a period of time t; $lnFDI\_GDP_{i,t}$ is the natural log of real gross domestic capital formation for each country i over a period of time t; $LEB_{i,t}$denotes life expectancy at birth, a proxy for human capital for each country i over a period of time t; $POP_{i,t}$ is the growth rate of population for each country i over a period of time t; $EXR_{i,t}$ is the nominal exchange rate for each country i over a period of time t; CPI denotes inflation rate for each country i over a period of time t.

IV. Results and Discussion of Findings

Table 1 present the unit root analysis of Fisher Phillip Perron, Fisher Augumented Dickey Fuller, Levin Lin Chu and Im Pesaran Shin unit root test for non-WAEMU countries. And from table 4.8 it is observed that all the unit root test, all other variables are stationary at levels I(0) except FDI_GDP and EXR are stationary at first difference I (1).

TABLE 1. Unit Root Analysis for Non-WAEMU

Variable	Fisher PP	Fisher ADF	LLC (statistics)	IPS (statistics)	Remarks
GPCR	30.2710 (0.0041)	10.2710 (0.0041)	-4.584 (0.000)	-2.162 (0.0647)	I(0)
FDI_GDP	22.1041 (0.0765)	22.1041 (0.0765)	-4.376(0)	-1.262 (0.1034)	I(1)
LGFCF	98.2702 (0.0000)	98.2702 (0.0000)	-11.506(0)	-5.617(0)	I(0)
EXR	22.7482 (0.0645)	22.7482 (0.0645)	-0.182 (0.428)	0.82 (0.7937)	I(1)
LPOP	32.5275 (0.0034)	32.5275 (0.0034)	-2.623 (0.004)	3.724 (0.9999)	I(0)
TS	80.9863 (0.0000)	80.9863 (0.0000)	-90.219(0)	-36.48(0)	I(0)
LEB	82.2671 (0.0000)	82.2671 (0.0000)	-5.052(0)	-4.966(0)	I(0)
CTS	80.7803 (0.0000)	80.7803 (0.0000)	-89.74(0)	-35.711(0)	I(0)
CPI	33.9646 (0.0021)	33.9646 (0.0021)	-4.68)0)	-1.82(0.0344)	I(0)

Source: The researcher's computation based on the data sourced from the World Development Indicator (WDI) database

Table 2 present the long-run dynamics of the relationship between economic growth (GPCR) and the other explanatory variables such as foreign direct investment (FDI_GDP), trade share (TS), exchange rate (EXR), LGFCF, population (LPOP), consumer price index (CPI), life expectancy at birth (LEB) using composite share model. The result shows that a unit increase in FDI_GDP, LPOP, and LEB increases GPCR by 1.04%, 144% and 869% respectively at 1% level of significance. This means that foreign direct investment, population growth rate and life expectancy at birth positively and significantly increase GDP per capita growth. A unit increase in CPI and CTS will decrease GPCR by 2.9% and 355% respectively at 5 % and 1% level of significance. This means that inflation rate and composite trade share negatively and significantly decrease GDP per capita growth. Also using TS model, a unit increase in LPOP and LEB will increase 89.3% and 207.5% GPCR respectively. Also, a unit increase in FDI_GDP and EXR will increase GPCR by 1% and 10.2% respectively at 5% level of significance. This means that foreign direct investment, exchange rate, life expectancy at birth and population growth rate increases GDP per capita. However, a unit increase in TS, LGFCF and CPI will decrease GPCR by 11.12%, 5.6% and 0.6% correspondingly at 1% level of significance. This means that trade share, investment and inflation rate will decrease GDP per capita.

TABLE 2. Long Run Effect of Trade share and Composite trade share and Foreign Direct Investment on Economic Growth in non-WAEMU Countries

Variables	TS model	CTS model
FDI_GDP	0.001 (0.042)**	0.01 (0.007)***
EXR	0.102 (0.031)**	0.885 (0.00)***
TS	-0.112 (0.001)***	
CTS		-3.55 (0.000)***
LGFCF	-0.056 (0.038)**	0.007 (0.055)*
LPOP	0.893 (0.000)***	1.44 (0.000)***
CPI	-0.006 (0.001)***	-0.029 (0.012)**
LEB	2.075 (0.000) ***	8.697 (0.000)***

Source: The researcher's computation based on the data sourced from the World Development Indicator (WDI)

The short run analysis of the effect of trade share and foreign direct investment on economic growth in individual country is presented in Table 4.3. The results present the error correction term (ECT), which represents the speed of adjustment to equilibrium. The ECT values for all countries are negative and significant at 1 % level of significance based on

the Z-statistics which is high and above 2. The result of the analysis shows that on one hand, the TS model indicate that TS and FDI_GDP have negative and significant effects on GPCR in Guinea, Nigeria and Gambia while TS and FDI_GDP have positive and negative effects respectively on GPCR in Ghana and Sierre leone while reverse is the case in Cabo verde and Liberia. On the other hand, the composite trade share (CTS) model's results indicate that CTS and FDI_GDP have a positive effect on GPCR in Ghana while CTS and FDI_GDP have a negative effect on GPCR in Liberia. Also, CTS and FDI_GDP have a positive and negative effect respectively on GPCR in Guniea, Nigeria, Sierre leone and Gambia. While CTS and FDI_GDP have a negative and positive effect respectively on GPCR in Cabo verde.

TABLE 3. Short Run Effect of Trade Share and Foreign Direct Investment on Economic Growth in non-WAEMU countries

Countries	ECT	D (FDI_GDP)	D (EXR)	D(TS)	D (LGFCF)	D (LPOP)	D(CPI)	D(LEB)
		TS model						
Cabo Verde	-0.09(-32.9)	0.001(449.41)	-0.101(-73.9)	-1.098(-3.012)	-0.004(-6.403)	-44.331(-0.731)	0.001(358.15)	0.187 (32.243)
Ghana	0.018-38.359	-0.002(-69.562)	0.024-3.052	0.948-8.62	-0.023(-17.371)	-0.431(-0.004)	0.002(776.46)	-8.776(-0.044)
Guinea	-0.029(-81.067)	-0.002(-3802.159)	-0.125(-102.145)	-0.065(515.584)	0.061(250.95)	6.875(-2.925)	0.001 (5565.6)	-1.703(-0.739)
Liberia	-0.015(-56.155)	0(474.656)	0.033(8.527)	-0.139(-27.487)	0.226(120.71)	-3.459(-0.369)	0.001 (3204.4)	0.374(7.321)
Nigeria	-0.008(-53.382)	-0.004(-126.45)	-0.056(-30.714)	-3.916(-0.031)	0.155(78.693)	-1.171(-0.036)	-0.003(-2134.125)	0.969 (20.765)
Sierra Leone	-0.097(-27.014)	-0.007(-1276.767)	-0.512(-4.157)	0.015 (823.118)	0.078(21.617)	7.026-0.175	0(-11.87)	4.419-0.112
The Gambia	-0.487(-17.042)	0.01(187.06)	0.235(22.225)	-14.824(-0.291)	0.102(34.861)	-33.432(-0.023)	-0.035(-119.019)	0.043 (33.722)
		CTS model						
	ECT	D(FDI_GDP)	D(EXR)	D(CTS)	D(LGFCF)	D(LPOP)	D(CPI)	D(LEB)
Cabo Verde	0.052(178.056)	0.002(1372.993)	-0.001(-2571.038)	-0.043(-66.483)	-0.025(-37.331)	-27.313(-0.786)	0.006(4297.174)	3.149(0.089)
Ghana	-0.072(-55.946)	0.005(293.315)	-0.038(-65.161)	0.076(15.819)	0(-0.288)	18.622(1.001)	0.001(798.668)	-43.548(-0.491)
Guinea	0.001(19.152)	-0.001(-887.816)	0(-361519.1)	0.138(257.375)	0.056(108.41)	2.561(4.072)	0.002(8535.298)	-1.825(-0.173)
Liberia	0.017(144.017)	0(-5848.61)	0.001(6368.376)	-0.253(-65.043)	0.23(129.224)	-1.578(-0.62)	0.001(6116.895)	6.943(0.439)
Nigeria	-0.382(-44.524)	-0.013(-836.108)	0.001(13279.87)	0.045(169.975)	0.184(336.819)	84.969(0.171)	-0.001(-1277.432)	-13.769(-0.286)
Sierra Leone	-0.075(-69.088)	-0.004(-1315.14)	0(-25122.09)	0.34(88.264)	0.056(24.063)	23.245(0.09)	0.004(70.11)	-1.153(-0.009)
The Gambia	-0.749(-26.653)	0.014(360.656)	0.019(1067.748)	-0.392(-42.835)	0(-0.193)	79.24(0.063)	-0.011(-325.468)	110.187(0.159)

Source: The researcher's computation based on the data sourced from the World Development Indicator (WDI) database

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study provided insight into the long and short run effects of foreign direct investment, trade share and composite trade share in non-WAEMU. It was concluded that foreign direct investment positively and significantly influences economic growth in the long run in non-WAEMU. Trade share, as a measure of trade openness, negatively and significantly influences economic growth. Also, composite trade share, as a measure, negatively and significantly influences economic growth in the long run. In the short run, foreign direct investment positively and significantly influences economic growth in Cabo Verde, Liberia and Gambia while in Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Trade openness positively and significantly influences economic growth in Ghana while in Cabo Verde and Liberia negatively and significantly influenced economic growth in the short run.

From the analysis of the Non-WAEMU countries, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone recorded negative and positive effects of foreign direct investment inflow and trade openness on economic growth in the short run. Nigeria exports mainly primary products and crude oil, whose prices are unstable and determined on the international market and inadequate FDI inflow. Thus, there is a need for Nigeria to modify its trade composition by switching from exports of primary products to semi-manufactured/manufactured to high value-added goods and promote policies that will increase FDI inflow into the country. Similarly, Guinea economy is partly driven by increased production of bauxite and gold as well as a resilient agricultural and industrial sector.

However, there is an urgent need to encourage foreign investors and promote FDI with these resources. Sierra Leone also needs to promote export-led growth as the economy suffers from weak export relative to import and embark on industrial development to promote FDI inflow, and support trade openness. In Gambia and Liberia, foreign direct investment inflow and trade openness have significant negative effects on economic growth in the short run, indicating that foreign direct investment and trade openness are prone to short-run external shocks and that trade comprises more of imports than exports. So, trade policy reform should be embarked on to improve export and enhance FDI in the short run. Lastly, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire experience positive and negative effects of foreign direct investment and trade openness on economic growth. This implies that these countries should productively control trade openness through increased investment in local production of manufactured and agricultural goods so as to reduce importation.

References

[1]. Adenikinju, Adeola F., (2005). African imperatives in the new world trade order: country case study of the manufacturing sector in Nigeria, in Ogunkola O, E. and Bankole A. (eds) Nigeria's Imperatives in the new trade order, Africa Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, Kenya) and the policy Research and Training Programme (Ibadan, Nigeria)

[2]. Adegboye, F. B., Matthew, O. A., Ejemeyovwi, J., Adesina, O. S., & Osabohien, R. (2020). Assessing the role of trade liberalization in facilitating trade flows and economic expansion: evidence from ECOWAS countries. In Fostering Trade in Africa (pp. 97-109). Springer, Cham.

[3]. Bankole, A. S. and Bankole, M.A., (2004). Industrial Trade and Export Promotion policies and Revealed Comparative Advantage in Nigeria's Manufactured Exports, In Garba, Abdul-Ganiyu et al (eds), Leading issues in Macroeconomics Management and Development, NES, Ibadan.

[4]. Benik, N., &Yoonus, C.A. (2012). Trade as answer to sustainable economic growth: The ECOWAS story.

[5]. Iyoha, M., &Okim, A. (2017). The impact of trade on economic growth in ECOWAS countries: Evidence from panel data. CBN Journal of Applied Statistics, 8(1), 23–49.

[6]. Osabuohien, E. S. C. (2007). Trade openness and economic performance of ECOWAS Members reflections from Ghana and Nigeria. African Journal of Business and Economic Research, 2(2), 57-73.
[7]. Pandhi, D. (2007). The relationship between exports and growth in selected African
[8]. Pesaran, M.H., Shin, Y. & Smith, R.P. (1999). Pooled mean group estimation of dynamic heterogenous panels', Journal of the American Statistical Association, 94(446),621–634.
[9]. Siddiqi, M. W., A. Aliand M. I. Chani (2014): Import Demand, Economic Development and Trade Liberalization in Pakistan: An Empirical Analysis, Bulletin of Business and Economics 3(2),131–141.
[10]. World Bank, 1993, The East Asian miracle: Economic growth and public policy, Oxford University Press, New York.
[11]. World Bank (2018). World development indicators.
[12]. Yelwa, M., &Diyoke, K. O. (2013). An empirical investigation of export led growth amongst some selected ECOWAS countries: an alternative to Foreign Domestic Investment? Economic Journal of Management Sciences and Economics, 1(1), 30 – 48.