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# EMPIRICAL COMPARISON OF CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION OF NON-OPEC OIL INDUSTRY WITH OPEC OIL INDUSTRY IN THE 2011-2021

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**ABSTRACT----------**
*Petroleum oil has served as a catalyst for the industrial revolution of Europe and the entire Northern hemisphere. It also brought about enormous prosperity, and general development for oil producing countries of the world. At a point, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), dominated and exclusively dictated the marketing of crude petroleum oil worldwide. Unwinding global events made the Non-OPEC countries to re-strategized by stepping-up actions in crude petroleum oil production to meet up with their domestic consumption needs. The study is a qualitative one. Document studies were adopted and utilized in generating data from secondary sources. Documents scrutinized include: books, journals, bulletins, policy papers, newspapers and internet materials. The generated data were analyzed through discourse and explanatory methods; where numerical ones were analyzed through descriptive and explanatory methods. The implication of this soaring crude oil production of the Non-OPEC countries is that, the OPEC cartel with time will be faced with low oil prices and subsequently dwindling economies. The non-strategic utilization of the enormous oil wealth by OPEC members to step-up further crude oil production and diversify their oil industries, forms the main motivation for the study.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Empirical, Comparison, Crude Oil, Non-OPEC, OPEC, Petroleum, Production*.
***JEL Codes:*** *F5, F52, F59, R1*.----------

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is not in doubt that the organization of the petroleum exporting countries (OPEC) as a cartel has been dominant in giving the global oil industry direction in the past seven decades. However, the Non-OPEC oil producing countries of the world and particularly those of the Northern Hemisphere, were forced to brace up and re-strategize towards boosting the exploration and production of crude petroleum oil. The West in particular had to do this because of the sanction imposed on them by OPEC during the October 6-25, 1973 'Fourth-Arab-Israeli war'. Even the non-Western, Non-OPEC major oil producing countries of Russia and China learnt from it, and became wiser in stepping-up their crude oil production and maintaining huge strategic reserves of crude petroleum oil as safety valves against unforeseen circumstances (NNPC-AR, 2017/18; Petersen, 2020).

The Non-OPEC oil producing countries of the world did not stop at stepping -up of crude oil production, and maintenance of strategic reserves, but equally launched out in sourcing for and developing more alternative clean energy sources to compliments their increasingly growing oil industries and manufacturing outfits. With this surge in crude oil production, it will subsequently serve as a sucking economic vortex for third world oil producing countries that are still oblivious of this naked reality. The complacency of the OPEC members in not revamping their refining sectors to be fed with the crude oil produced, led to declining crude oil production. There is equally lack of deliberate efforts in plowing-back the oil wealth into indigenous manufacturing and industrialization with the associated value chain. A stepped-up crude oil production, coupled with deliberate local manufacturing, will generate more unemployment opportunities, economic empowerment for their citizens and general development in their individual domestic economies (Saleh, 2019; Fareed, et-al, 2019; World Bank Group, 2025).

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The theory of comparative administration has been reviewed, adopted as framework for the study.

**2.1 Comparative Administration Theory –**

Herbert Simon (1957) who came up with normative approach was the first to popularize the comparative administration and government theory. He also came up with empirical approach aimed at making comparative analysis of administrations towards establishing whether they are performing efficiently or not. If otherwise, the areas of convergence and divergence among them should be sorted out and appropriate strategies adopted towards making them perform more efficiently. Other exponents and advocates of comparative government and administration (politics) theory include Gabriel Almond (1988), Bertalanffy (1969) and Billy J. Dudley, (1973, 1982). These scholars placed emphasis on the political and administrative institutions, governance style and the rate of development. They uphold that the comparison could either be inter-state (i.e. comparing the governance style or system between one country or the other), or intra-state (i.e. the comparative study of one regime/administration and the other within the same country). The focus of this study is to analyze and compare Africa's crude oil production, with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The study is a qualitative one where document studies method was adopted and utilized in generating data from secondary sources. The research, which is "Empirical Comparison of Crude Oil Production of Non-OPEC Oil Industry with the OPEC Oil Industry, 2011-2012", is essentially descriptive and explanatory. Documents scrutinized include: policy papers, OPEC Annual Bulletin and World Bank Group Open Data on crude oil production. Other documents scrutinized include published materials such as textbooks, academic journals, scholarly papers, and internet materials. Numerical data are presented in tabular and graphical forms and analyzed through descriptive and explanatory methods and drawing inference from the data.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of both empirical and qualitative data generated for the study are as presented in tabular and graphical; and analyzed through critical discuss method where inferences are drawn appropriately in the succeeding paragraphs below:

**4.1 Comparison of Crude Oil Production of Non-OPEC Countries with OPEC, 2011-2021**

The summary of crude oil production of Non-OPEC countries for the period 2011 to 2021 compared with that of OPEC, put Non-OPEC cumulative at 404,158.3b/cyr representing 155% of OPEC's total of 260,509,3b/cyr. The Non-OPEC production performance represents 61% of the World total crude oil production, which stands at 664,667.6b/cyr. This shows that Non-OPEC oil production has overwhelmingly outperformed the OPEC's crude oil production for the same period. This also portrays the Non-OPEC oil producing countries as the effective controllers of the global oil market; where the big ones among them remotely tele-guide OPEC on global crude oil production quotas and prices. Russia leads the Non-OPEC countries and in fact the global leader, with total cumulative crude oil production of 100,982.8b/cyr representing 24% of the total world production for the period covered by the study (2011-2021). Russia's total oil production as a single Non-OPEC producing country represents 39% of OPEC's total production for the same period. The USA is placed second with cumulative total crude oil production of 82,016.0b/cyr representing 20% of the cumulative total of the Non-OPEC crude oil production for the same period. The big three countries of USA, China and Russia (B3) who are Non-OPEC countries, recorded total production of 224,432.8b/cyr for the period of the study representing 33% of the world total production for the same period. The B3 crude oil production represents 86% of OPEC total crude oil production for the period of the study. It is an indication that the B3 can hold OPEC to ransom because they are the major buyers of almost all the crude oil produced by the OPEC member countries. On the regional production of crude oil performance of Non-OPEC countries, Eastern Europe leads with 126,473.6b/cyr (31%); followed by North America with 96,155.2b/cyr (23%). Others are: Asia & Pacific with 73,431.65b/cyr (18%); Latin America with 69,550.4b/cyr (17%); Africa with 13,226.8b/cyr (3%) and Middle East with 12,007.2b/cyr representing 3% of the total world crude oil production (OPEC, 2017/2018; Petersen, 2020).

This is as presented in Table 1 and Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 below:

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**Table 1: Cumulative Crude Oil Production of Non-OPEC Oil Producing Countries Compared with OPEC, 2012-2021 (b/cyr & %)**

| S/N | Countries | Cumulative | ACA | CCA | CRA | WA | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Canada | 13,078.2 | 1,307.82 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 3% |
| 2. | United States of America | 82,016.0 | 8,201.6 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 20% |
| 3. | Argentina | 5,331.0 | 533.1 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 1% |
| 4. | Brazil | 22,574.2 | 2,257.42 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 9.6% |
| 5. | Chile | 57.2 | 5.72 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.01% |
| 6. | Colombia | 9,683.2 | 968.32 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2..4% |
| 7. | Ecuador | 5,357.4 | 535.74 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 1% |
| 8. | Mexico | 23,838.6 | 2,383.86 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 6% |
| 9. | Peru | 594.0 | 57.4 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.2% |
| 10. | Trinidad & Tobago | 788.4 | 78.84 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.2% |
| 11. | Azerbaijan | 7,963.0 | 796.3 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2% |
| 12. | Kazakhstan | 13,281.4 | 1,328.14 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 3% |
| 13. | Romania | 797.2 | 79.72 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.2% |
| 14. | Russia | 100,982.8 | 10,098.28 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 24% |
| 15 | Turkmenistan | 1,898.8 | 189.88 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.5% |
| 16. | Ukraine | 397.8 | 39.78 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.1% |
| 17. | Denmark | 1,677.8 | 167.78 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.4% |
| 18. | France | 161.6 | 16.16 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.04% |
| 19. | Germany | 490.8 | 49.08 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.1% |
| 20. | Italy | 960.6 | 96.06 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.2% |
| 21. | Netherlands | 235.2 | 23.52 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.05% |
| 22. | Norway | 15,382.2 | 1,538.22 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 4% |
| 23. | Turkey | 473.4 | 47.34 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.1% |
| 24. | United Kingdom | 8,470.4 | 847.04 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2% |
| 25. | Bahrain | 1,961.4 | 196.14 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.5% |
| 26. | Oman | 8,615.6 | 861.56 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2% |
| 27. | Syria | 511.0 | 51.1 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.1 |
| 28. | Yemen | 919.2 | 91.92 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.2% |
| 29. | Congo | 2,828.2 | 282.82 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.7% |
| 30. | Egypt | 5,677.2 | 567.72 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 1.4% |
| 31. | E/Guinea | 2,360.8 | 236.08 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.6% |
| 32. | Sudans | 2,360.6 | 236.06 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.6% |
| 33. | Australia | 2,410.0 | 241.0 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.6% |
| 34. | Brunei | 1,213.2 | 121.32 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.3% |
| 35. | China | 41,434.0 | 4,143.4 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 10% |
| 36. | India | 7,471.8 | 747.18 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2% |
| 37. | Indonesia | 7,236.0 | 723.6 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 2% |
| 38. | Malaysia | 6,254.0 | 625.4 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 1% |
| 39. | New Zealand | 384.0 | 38.4 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 0.1% |
| 40. | Others | 3666.1 | 366.61 | 10,103.96 | 57,736.9 | 66,466.76 | 1% |
| | Total Non-OPEC | 404,158.3 | 40,415.83 | 404,158.3 | 404,158.3 | 664,667.6 | 100% (61%) |
| | OPEC Total | 260,509.3 | 26,050.93 | 20,039.2 | 37,215.61 | 66,466.76 | 39% |
| | World Total | 664,667.6 | 66,466.76 | 12,540.89 | 94,952.5 | 66,466.76 | 100% |
| | B3 Total | 224,432.8 | 22,443.28 | 74,810.93 | 74,810.93 | 66,466.76 | 33% |
| | Non-OPEC-North America | 96,155.2 | 9,615.52 | 48,077.6 | 48,077.6 | 66,466.76 | 23% |

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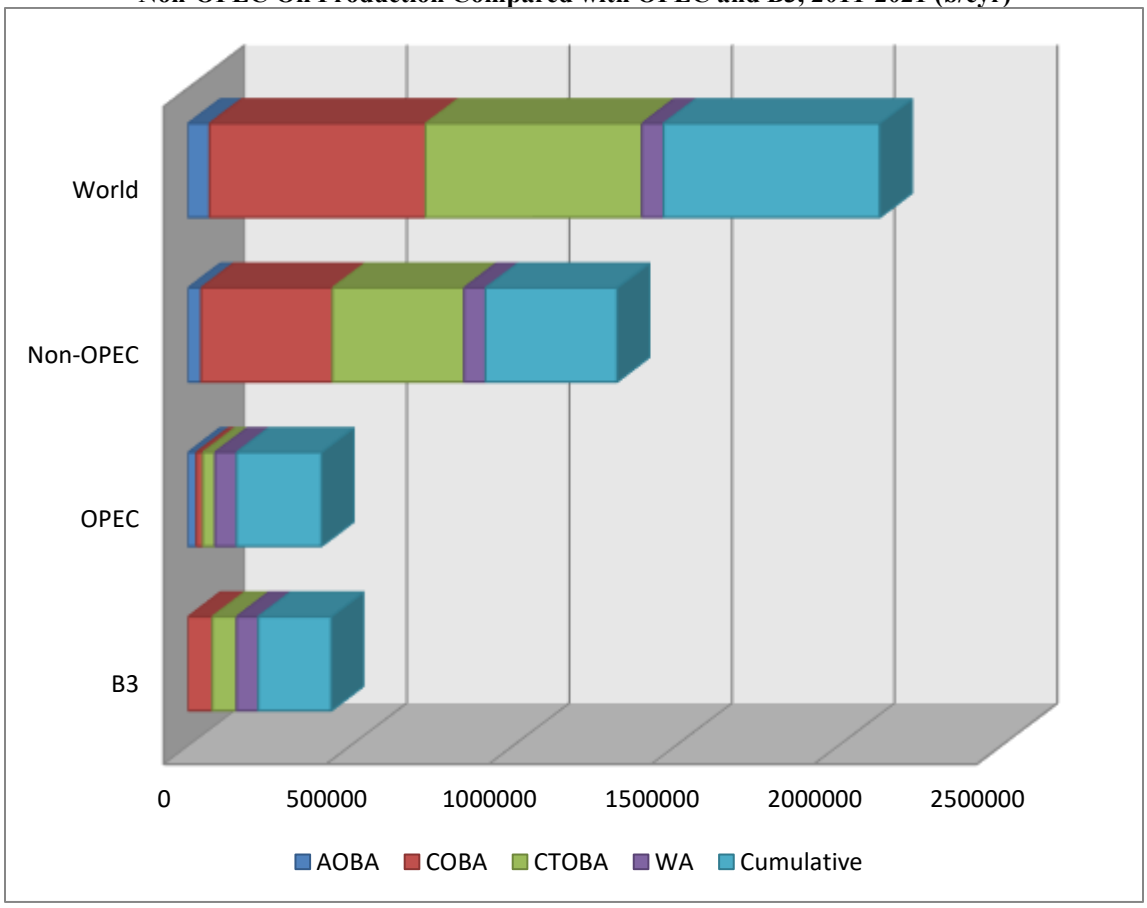
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Non-OPEC-Western Europe | 28,352.2 | 2,835.22 | 3,150.24 | 3,159.24 | 66,466.76 | 7% |
| | Non-OPEC-Eastern Europe | 126,473.6 | 12,647.36 | 14,052.62 | 14,052.62 | 66,466.76 | 31% |
| | Non-OPEC-Latin America | 69,550.4 | 6,955.04 | 8,693.8 | 8,693.8 | 66,466.76 | 17% |
| | Non-OPEC-Asia &Pacific | 73,431..65 | 7,343.17 | 8,159.07 | 8,159.07 | 66,466.76 | 18% |
| | Non-OPEC-Africa | 13,226.8 | 1,322.68 | 2,645.36 | 2,645.36 | 66,466,76 | 3% |
| | Non-OPEC-Middle East | 12,007.2 | 1,200.72 | 3,001.8 | 3,001.8 | 66,466.76 | 3% |

Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Annual Bulletin of 2017/2018
**Key:** B3 – Three Big Countries of USA, China and Russia

**Fig. 1:**
**Non-OPEC Oil Production Compared with OPEC and B3, 2011-2021 (b/cyr)**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-AB, 2017/2018

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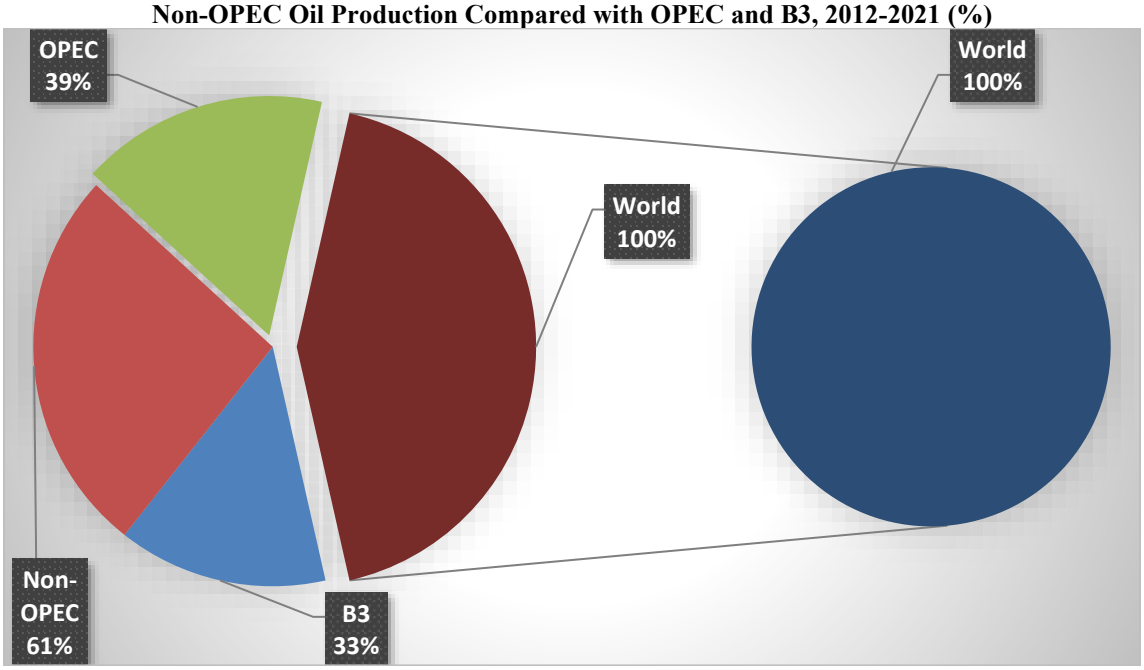
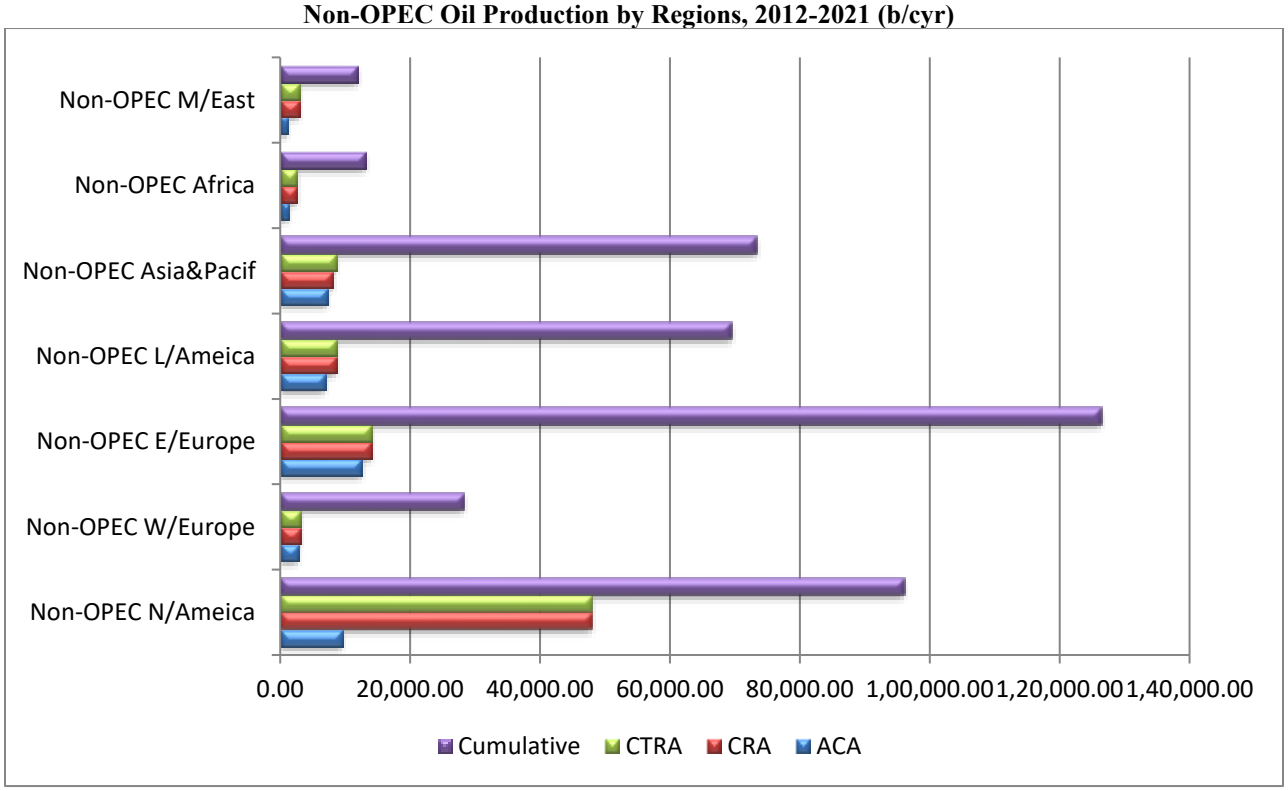
**Fig. 2:**
**Non-OPEC Oil Production Compared with OPEC and B3, 2012-2021 (%)**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-AB, 2017/2018

**Fig. 3:**
**Non-OPEC Oil Production by Regions, 2012-2021 (b/cyr)**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

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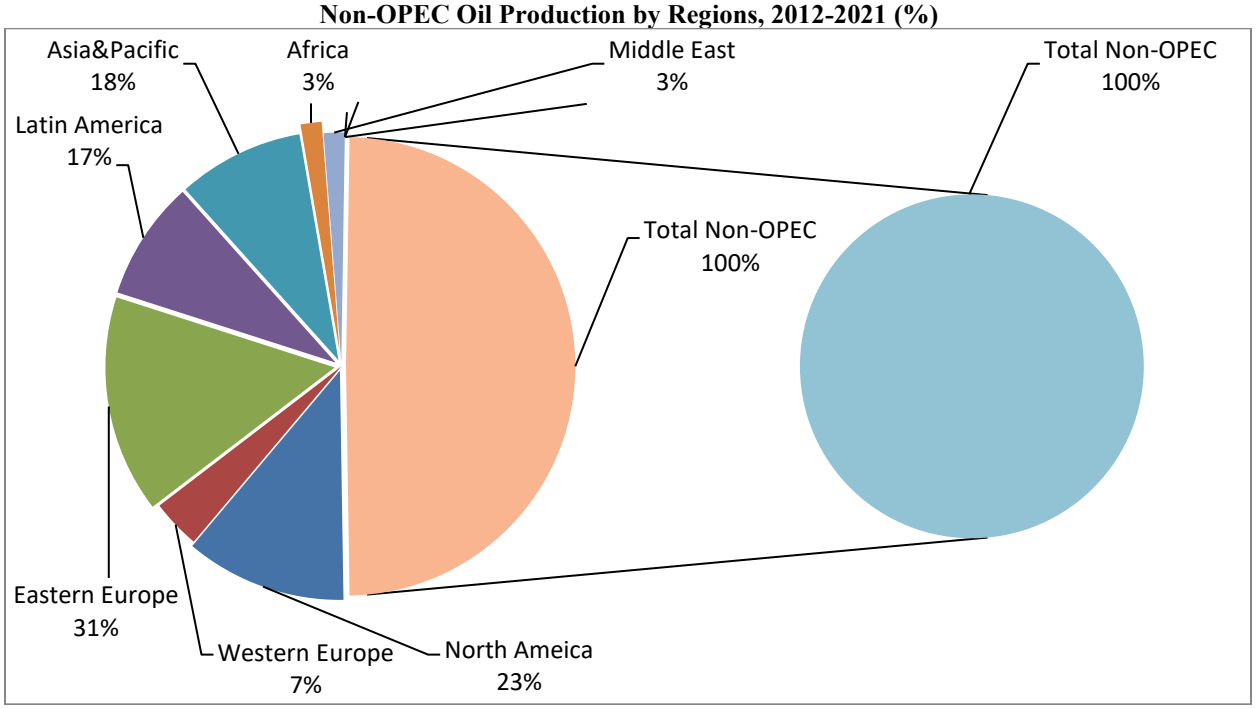
**Fig. 4:**
**Non-OPEC Oil Production by Regions, 2012-2021 (%)**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC Bulletin, 2017/2018

**4.2 Comparison of Non-OPEC Sweet Light Crude Oil Production with those of OPEC Members, 2011-2022**

The OPEC-Annual Statistical Bulletin of 2017/18 indicates that four countries of the world are the major producers of Sweet Light Crude Oil; which include USA, UAE, Nigeria and Brazil. The USA and Brazil as Non-OPEC light oil producing countries with cumulative total of 135.32mmbpd representing 67% of the World cumulative total; have outperformed OPEC whose cumulative total stands at 68.50mmbpd representing 33% of the World total. Hence, the OPEC cartel is a serious underperformer in almost all the vital sectors of the world oil industry. This calls for interrogation of the essence of the OPEC cartel in the nascent global oil industry (Carpenter, 2019; Denning, 2020; Ricardo & Rodrick, 2005; NNPC, 2014).

The summary of the comparison of the sweet light crude oil production of Non-OPEC countries with OPEC is as presented in Table 2 and Figures 5, 6 & 7 below:

**Table 2: Comparison of Non-OPEC and OPEC Light Crude Oil Producing Countries, 2011-2022**

| | Brazil | | | UAE | | | USA | | | Nigeria | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | Cumul | Ave | Incre | Cumul | Ave | Incre | Cumul | Ave | Incre | Cumul | Ave | Incre |
| 2011 | 1.7 | 1.91 | 0.3 | 3.2 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 5.7 | 9.4 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 2.48 | 0.0 |
| 2012 | 2.0 | 1.91 | 0.3 | 3.3 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 6.5 | 9.4 | 0.8 | 2.43 | 2.48 | -0.04 |
| 2013 | 2.0 | 1.91 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 3.23 | 0.2 | 7.5 | 9.4 | 1.0 | 2.32 | 2.48 | -0.11 |
| 2014 | 2.3 | 1.91 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 8.5 | 9.4 | 1.0 | 2.38 | 2.48 | 0.06 |
| 2015 | 2.4 | 1.91 | 0.1 | 3.7 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 9.1 | 9.4 | 0.6 | 2.35 | 2.48 | -0.3 |
| 2016 | 1.3 | 1.91 | -1.1 | 3.7 | 3.23 | 0.0 | 10.2 | 9.4 | 1.1 | 2.41 | 2.48 | 0.06 |
| 2017 | 1.26 | 1.91 | -0.04 | 3.6 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 11.3 | 9.4 | 1.1 | 2.76 | 2.48 | 0.35 |
| 2018 | 1.4 | 1.91 | 0.14 | 3.2 | 3.23 | -0.4 | 12.1 | 9.4 | 1.2 | 2.77 | 2.48 | 0.01 |
| 2019 | 1.6 | 1.91 | 0.2 | 3.1 | 3.23 | -0.1 | 12.6 | 9.4 | 0.5 | 2.80 | 2.48 | 0.03 |
| 2020 | 1.2 | 1.91 | -0.4 | 2.0 | 3.23 | -1.1 | 8.9 | 9.4 | -3.7 | 1.90 | 2.48 | -0.90 |

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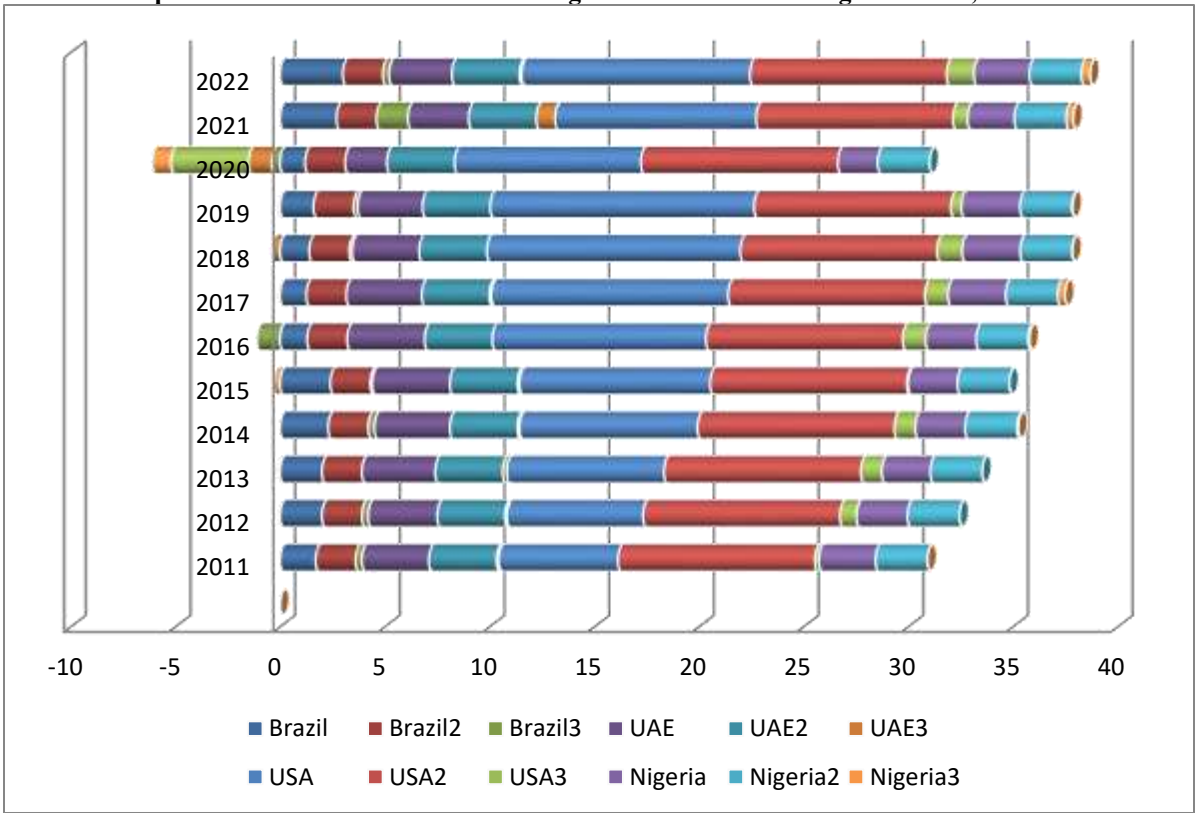
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 2.7 | 1.91 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 3.23 | 0.9 | 9.6 | 9.4 | 0.7 | 2.23 | 2.48 | 0.33 |
| 2022 | 3.0 | 1.91 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 3.23 | 0.1 | 10.9 | 9.4 | 1.3 | 2.65 | 2.48 | 0.42 |
| **Total** | **22.86** | **22.92** | **1.96** | **38.80** | **38.8** | **0.1** | **112.9** | **112.9** | **5.8** | **29.7** | **29.7** | **0.98** |

Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-ASB, 2017/18

**Fig. 5:**
**Comparison of Non-OPEC and OPEC Light Crude Oil Producing Countries, 2011-2022**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-ASB, 2021

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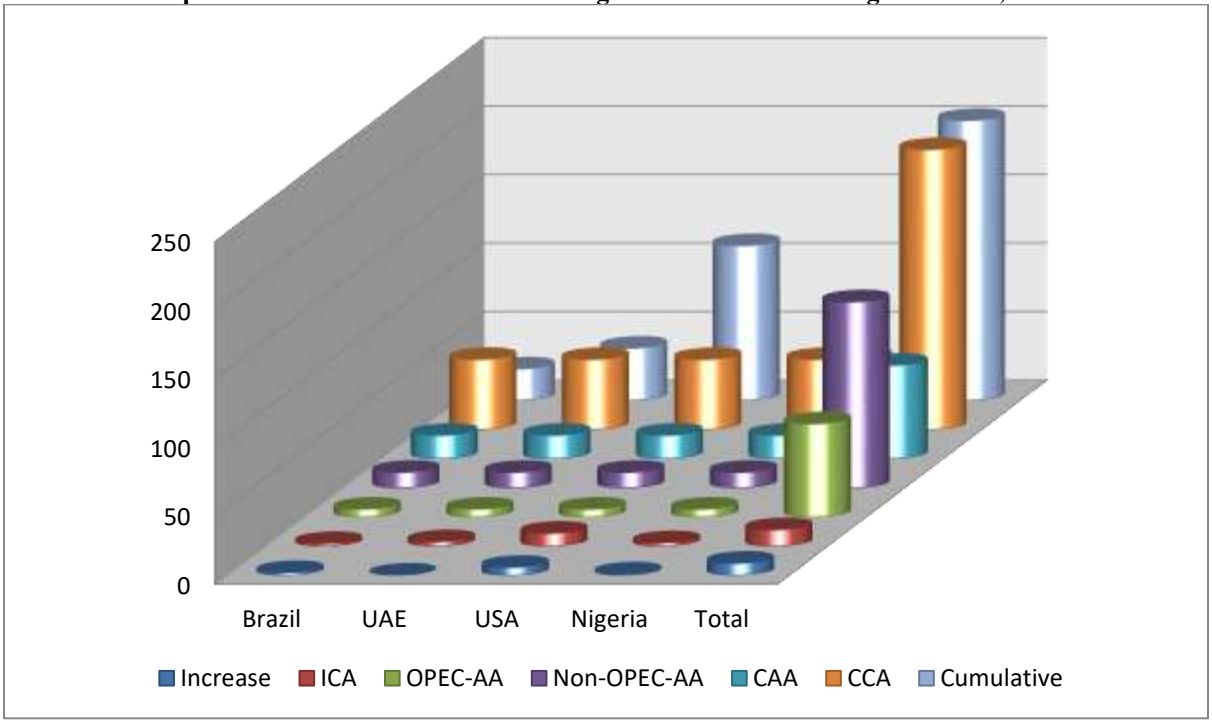
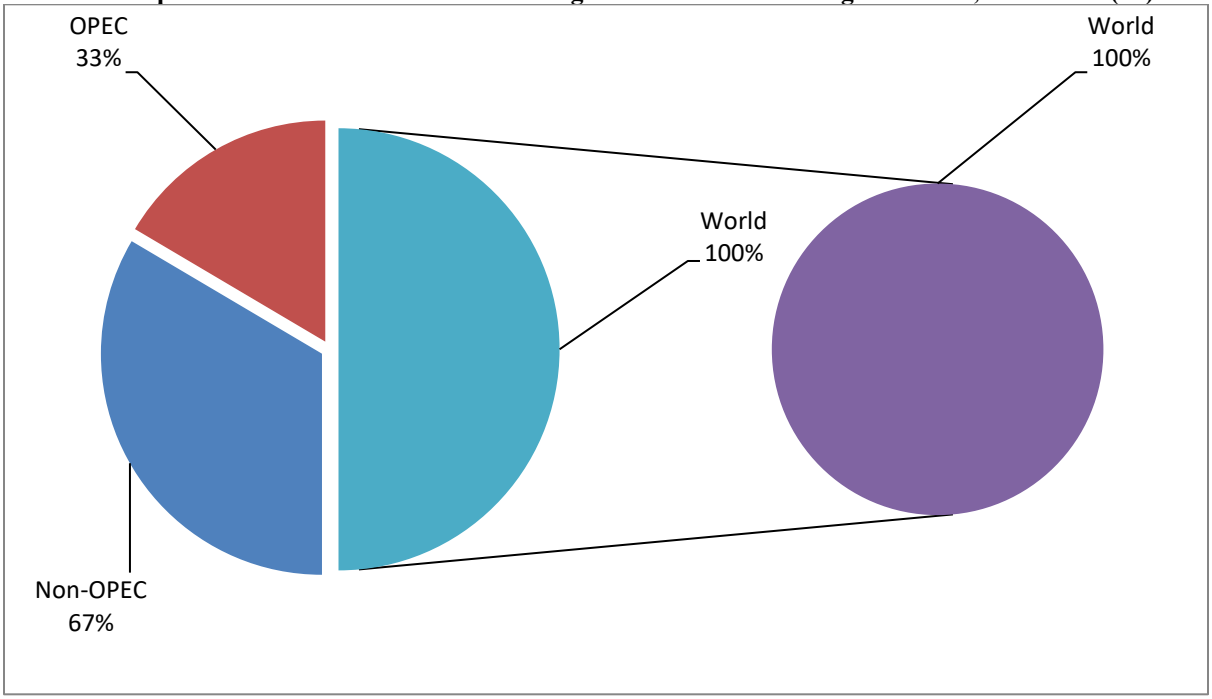
**Fig. 6:**
**Comparison of Non-OPEC and OPEC Light Crude Oil Producing Countries, 2011-2022**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-ASB, 2021; World Bank Group, 2025

**Fig. 7:**
**Comparison of Non-OPEC and OPEC Light Crude Oil Producing Countries, 2011-2022 (%)**




Source: Generated by the Researcher in 2025 as adapted from OPEC-ASB, 2021; World Bank Group, 2035

Apart from the fact that the USA of the two Non-OPEC countries is the largest producer of crude oil throughout the world, it also possesses all types of crude oil found in the world. The USA with its Louisiana Light Sweet (LLS), also leads the world in the production of light crude oil with a total of 112.9mmbpd representing 55% of the World's total light crude oil production which stands at 204.32mmbpd for the period 2011 and 2022. As stated earlier, the Non-OPEC countries with a cumulative total of 135.32mmbpd representing 67% of the World cumulative total in this regard, have outperformed OPEC whose cumulative total stands at 68.50mmbpd representing 33% of the World total. This is a great threat to the two light crude oil producing members of OPEC such as Nigeria and the UAE whose national economies depend majorly on this highly valued crude oil with global price differential (Fareed, et-al, 2019; Rodrigue, 2004; Evans, 2010; Molla, 2020).

## 5. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis so far, conclusion can be drawn that Non-OPEC oil producing countries of the world have overwhelmingly outperformed OPEC in four critical sectors of the World petroleum oil industry; such as crude oil production, refining throughput, oil demand and crude oil imports. In crude oil production, Non-OPEC countries recorded a cumulative total of 404,158.3b/cyr (60% of world total) as against OPEC's cumulative total of 260,509.3b/cyr (40% of world total). In the area of the light crude oil production, the study has established that the Non-OPEC countries with a cumulative total light oil production of 135.32mmbpd representing 67% of the World's best oil (the sweet light oil) with cumulative total of 204.32mmbpd, have outperformed the OPEC cartel whose cumulative total light oil production stands at 68.50mmbpd representing 33% of the World total light oil production.

The implication of this sub-optimal performance of OPEC in terms of crude oil production is that, it will narrow-down employment opportunities and lower economic empowerment for their citizens; with ripple effects on economic growth and general development. This self-inflicted and unbalanced relationship portends great dangers for OPEC members since they have no single alternative to oil in the near future.

By way of recommendations, OPEC members who are mainly third world countries should as a matter of urgency embark on deliberate policy of stepping-up production of crude oil to be exclusive refined and processed locally their refineries. This will further generate more productive activities in their domestic economies thereby positively engaging the youths, economically empowering them keeping them sated. This will in turn stabilize their security architectures, and reduce the rate of illegal migration of their energetic youths to industrialized and industrializing countries of the world.

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