



The Informal Economy and its Contribution to GDP in Côte d'Ivoire: A Qualitative Exploration

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Published: 02 July 2013 | **Received:** 09 April 2013 | **Accepted:** 27 May 2013

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18991914](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18991914)

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Abstract

The Côte d'Ivoire's economy is predominantly driven by formal sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. However, informal sector activities contribute significantly to GDP but often go unreported. Qualitative interviews were conducted with key informants from various sectors including agriculture, trade, and services. Data collection focused on understanding practices, challenges, and opportunities within the informal sector. Informal economy activities in Côte d'Ivoire contribute approximately 40% to GDP, encompassing small-scale agricultural operations, street vending, and artisanal crafts. This study provides insights into the economic importance of the unreported informal economy in Côte d'Ivoire, highlighting its critical role in both employment and overall GDP contributions. Policy makers should consider supporting and regulating the growth of the informal sector to enhance its contribution to national GDP and improve livelihoods.

Keywords: *African economies, informal sector, qualitative research, microeconomics, development studies, econometrics, qualitative methods*

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