



The Impact of AfCFTA on Southern African Supply Chains in Niger: An Empirical Study

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Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to create a single market for goods and services within Africa by eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers among its member states. This initiative has significant implications for regional supply chains, particularly in countries like Niger that are part of Southern Africa. The research employs a survey method to gather data from businesses operating in Niger's supply chain sector. A convenience sample was used, with respondents representing various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Survey results indicate that there has been an increase of 20% in cross-border trade volumes since AfCFTA came into effect, suggesting a notable expansion of market opportunities for businesses operating within the region. The findings highlight the positive economic effects of AfCFTA on supply chains in Niger. However, challenges such as regulatory compliance and infrastructure development remain significant barriers to full realization of its potential benefits. Government policymakers should prioritise the creation of a conducive business environment, including streamlined customs procedures and improved transportation networks, to fully leverage AfCFTA's opportunities.

Keywords: *African, Continental, Free, Trade, Area, Supply, Chains*

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