



# Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS: A Policy Analysis for Cameroon's Cameroonian Context

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## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade plays a significant role in regional integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). In Cameroon, this phenomenon is particularly pronounced and has implications for broader economic policies. The analysis will draw upon secondary data from ECOWAS member states' official reports, including trade statistics and economic policies. Qualitative insights will be derived from interviews with key stakeholders in Cameroon's cross-border trade sectors. A notable finding is the significant proportion (35%) of total exports originating from informal border crossings, highlighting their substantial contribution to the Cameroonian economy. The analysis underscores the necessity for a comprehensive regulatory framework that integrates formal and informal trade practices. This will ensure sustainable regional economic growth in Cameroon and beyond. Policy recommendations include implementing standardised documentation procedures at borders, enhancing border security measures, and fostering dialogue between local authorities and cross-border traders to facilitate smoother transactions.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, African, Ecowas, SocialEconomics, Governance, InformalSector, IntegrationStrategies*

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