



# Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration Dynamics in ECOWAS Countries, Focus on Niger 2003

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**Published:** 21 April 2003 | **Received:** 21 December 2002 | **Accepted:** 27 March 2003

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18776945](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18776945)

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## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade is a significant aspect of regional integration in ECOWAS countries, particularly within Niger's economy. This study employs a qualitative approach to examine existing literature and interviews conducted with local traders and government officials for insights into cross-border trade patterns and regional integration strategies. Trade between Niger and neighboring countries has shown a steady increase, particularly in agricultural products, despite regulatory challenges. Niger faces significant barriers to formalizing its cross-border trade due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of harmonized regulations across ECOWAS member states. Enhancing regional cooperation through streamlined customs procedures and strengthening institutional frameworks can facilitate more formal integration and boost economic growth in Niger.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Niger, Ecowas, Cross-Border, Institutionalism, Economic, Networks, Subsistence*

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