



# Informal Cross-Border Trade Dynamics within ECOWAS in Senegal: A Societal Nexus Analysis

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## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT) plays a significant role in regional integration within ECOWAS, particularly in Senegal where it contributes to economic diversification and poverty reduction. The research employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to analyse data from over 300 traders across Senegal's border regions. A notable proportion (45%) of surveyed traders reported increased revenue due to cross-border trade, highlighting its economic benefits for local economies. The findings underscore the importance of formalizing ICT in ECOWAS to enhance regional integration and socio-economic development. Policy recommendations include fostering a regulatory framework that supports sustainable growth while mitigating risks associated with informal trade practices.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Cross-Border Trade, Regional Integration, Informal Economy, Mercantile Networks, Societal Dynamics, Development Economics*

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