



Informal Cross-Border Trade Networks in ECOWAS: A Survey Analysis in Senegal, 2004

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade has become a significant component of regional integration in West Africa's Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, empirical studies on this subject are limited, particularly focusing on Senegal. The research employs a survey method designed to gather data from traders who engage in informal cross-border transactions across Senegal's borders. A stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure representation across different regions and sectors. Data analysis revealed that approximately 45% of respondents reported engaging in at least one transaction per month with neighboring countries, highlighting the significant economic activity facilitated by these networks. This study underscores the importance of informal cross-border trade as a driver of regional integration and economic growth in Senegal. The findings suggest that targeted policy interventions could enhance this sector's contribution to national development. Future research should consider longitudinal studies to track changes over time, while policymakers are encouraged to develop strategies that support these networks without compromising border security or public health.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Africanization, Ethnicity, SocialCapital, CrossSectionalAnalysis*

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