



# Informal Cross-Border Trade Dynamics within ECOWAS: A Comparative Study in Ghana

Yaw Gyamfi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

**Published:** 23 June 2007 | **Received:** 11 March 2007 | **Accepted:** 08 June 2007

**Correspondence:** [ygyamfi@aol.com](mailto:ygyamfi@aol.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18841903](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18841903)

## Author notes

*Yaw Gyamfi is affiliated with Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Informal cross-border trade (ICT) within Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a significant economic activity that contributes to regional integration and development in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Ghana. The research employs an exploratory qualitative approach, utilising semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gather data from key informants in various sectors involved in cross-border trade. The study also utilizes secondary data on trade volumes and patterns. Our findings reveal that ICT in Ghana has a substantial impact on the country's GDP and employment rates, with an estimated 30% of all exports being traded through informal channels. The research underscores the importance of formalizing cross-border trade to enhance efficiency and reduce illicit activities, suggesting policy recommendations for strengthening regulatory frameworks. Policy makers should implement measures to integrate ICT into a formalized system, including border clearance reforms, enforcement of anti-corruption laws, and improving infrastructure connectivity.

**Keywords:** *Ghana, ECOWAS, West Africa, Regionalism, Informal Trade, Geopolitics, Mercantile Geography, Development Economics, Cross-Cultural Studies*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge