International Journal of Law and Jurisprudence
Volume 15 · Issue 2 · 2026 · Pages 2045–2056
e-ISSN 2255-1824 (Online) · revistaidj.com/IJLJ

Economic Crime in Weekly Markets in Algeria: A Reading of Patterns and the Legal Framework

HAOUAS Mohamed Amine*[1], BENFRIHA Rachid[2], HAOUAS Amine[3]

[1] University of Chlef, Algeria, Comparative Private Law Laboratory, Email: m.haouas@univ-chlef.dz

[2] University of Chlef, Algeria, Comparative Private Law Laboratory, Email: r.benfriha@univ-chlef.dz

[3] University of Tiaret, Algeria, Development of the Algerian Economic Laboratory, amine.haouas@univ-tiaret.dz

Received: 1 July 2026 | **Accepted:** 3 September 2026 | **Published:** 31 October 2026

Abstract

Economic crime is one of the most prominent pathological phenomena prevalent within the social fabric. Weekly markets are among the spaces most conducive to such crimes, owing to the favorable environment they provide for their commission. In response to this situation, the Algerian legislature has not overlooked the seriousness of this issue, but has incorporated it into its legislative and regulatory priorities by adopting a range of measures encompassing both preventive and deterrent dimensions. Collectively, these measures aim to eliminate sources of economic crime within these markets and curb the growth of unlawful activities. However, their effectiveness remains contingent upon overcoming the practical obstacles that hinder their implementation, particularly the lack of institutional coordination; weak mechanisms for subsequent inspection and the limited digitalization of licensing and monitoring systems. This calls for a comprehensive review of the protection framework applicable to this particular context.

Keywords: : Economic crime; weekly markets; preventive measures; deterrence.

Résumé :

La criminalité économique constitue l'un des phénomènes pathologiques les plus prévalents au sein du tissu social. Les marchés hebdomadaires figurent parmi les espaces les plus propices à ce type d'infractions, en raison de l'environnement favorable qu'ils offrent à leur commission. Face à cette situation, le législateur algérien n'a pas négligé la gravité de ce problème, l'intégrant au contraire dans ses priorités législatives et réglementaires à travers l'adoption d'un ensemble de mesures englobant à la fois des dimensions préventives et répressives. Collectivement, ces mesures visent à éliminer les sources de la criminalité économique au sein de ces marchés et à freiner la croissance des activités illicites. Toutefois, leur efficacité demeure subordonnée au dépassement des obstacles pratiques qui entravent leur mise en œuvre, notamment le manque de coordination institutionnelle, la faiblesse des mécanismes de contrôle a posteriori, ainsi que la numération limitée des systèmes d'octroi de licences et de surveillance. Cela appelle à une révision globale du cadre de protection applicable à ce contexte particulier.

Mots-clés : Criminalité économique ; marchés hebdomadaires ; mesures préventives ; dissuasion.

Introduction:

Weekly popular markets in Algeria are defined as periodic commercial spaces, either open-air or partially covered, held on a weekly basis in urban neighbourhoods or on the outskirts of cities. They bring together the sale of essential consumer goods and traditional local products, reflecting the intricate interplay between the economy, everyday life and a deeply rooted cultural heritage embedded in collective memory. These markets are not merely places of commercial exchange; they also serve as spaces for social interaction and the preservation of customs and traditions, where the voices of vendors mingle with everyday bargaining, while recipes and traditional handicrafts are shared and passed on as integral components of national identity.

For low-income households, these markets constitute an essential economic lifeline, offering basic commodities at competitive prices below those typically found in enclosed markets and large commercial centres. These markets therfore contributes to alleviating the burden of daily living costs and enables these groups to meet their consumer needs amid growing inflationary pressures. However, this vital socio-economic dynamic can also create favorable conditions for a range of economic offences, including illicit speculation, hoarding of goods, tax evasion and the expansion of informal activities that exploit weak regulatory oversight and inadequate regulatory structures.

The seriousness of this phenomenon is particularly evident in the Algerian context. According to data from the Bank of Algeria, the informal economy accounts for approximately 65% of trade in essential food commodities, such as fruit and vegetables and meat, with an estimated value of 8273 billion DZD, equivalent to 33.99% of the total money supply. These figures illustrate the extent to which unregulated activities have become deeply embedded in the fabric of traditional markets, thereby confronting the

State with a genuine dilemma that underpins the research problem adopted in this study: How can a balance be struck between preserving the social, economic and cultural functions of weekly markets as inclusive spaces for vulnerable groups and regulating illicit practices and curbing economic crimes within them?

To the best of our knowledge, this research paper constitutes the first legal study in Algeria to examine the fundamental challenge of reconciling the State's responsibility to safeguard citizens' purchasing power with the need to ensure the proper regulation of weekly markets, without undermining the spontaneous and traditional character of these markets, which form an integral part of the economic and social identity of Algerians.

Building on this complex research problem, we structured our methodology around three complementary levels. First, we examined the regulatory and legal frameworks governing weekly markets, identifying the underlying conditions that render them susceptible to economic crime. Second, we turned to the practical manifestations of such crimes, examining their various forms and the methods through which it is perpetrated. Finally, we sought to develop a conciliatory model that combines the rigour of legal sanctions with the flexibility of institutional empowerment, in persuit of a regulatory framework capable of curbing unlawful practices without undermining the economic vitality of these markets.

Section I: Weekly Markets as an Enabling Environement for Economic Crimes:

A- The legal Regulation of Weekly Markets:

Under Algerian legislation, and pursuant to the provisions of Executive Decree No.12-111, weekly markets are defined as a form of temporary and periodic commercial space in which retail trade is carried out, in accordance with Article 2 of the aforementioned Decree,[1] These markets are held on a weekly or twice-weekly basis and divided into three main categories: markets designated for the sale of fruit and vegetables, widely consumed food products and manufactured goods; markets designated for the sale of livestock and markets designated for the sale of second-hand vehicules.[2] In terms of their organisation and management, these markets are governed by a range of complementary legal instruments, the most notable of which is Law No. 04-08 on the conditions for the exercise of commercial activities,[3] in particular Article 20 thereof requires all commercial activities, including non-permanent activities, to be registered in the Commercial Register. In addition, Executive Decree No.13-140 lays down the conditions for the exercise of non-permanent commercial activities,[4] stipulating that such activities may be carried out by natural persons holding Commercial Register entries bearing the relevant activity codes, in the form of providing services or selling products displayed on shelves, in specially equipped vehicles, or on tables or stalls; at weekly or twice-weekly markets, neighbourhood markets, fairs, or any other space or location designated for this purpose.

These markets are also leased and their management is awarded by municipalities through competitive tendering, on the basis of municipal tender specifications, in accordance with Law No.23-12 laying down the general rules governing public procurement.[5] This forms part of the State's policy aimed at regulating commercial spaces, formalising non-permanent commercial activities, protecting the rights of consumers and traders, and establishing mechanisms for oversight and coordination among the various competent authorities, including the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities.

The objectives of regulating commercial spaces, as set out in Executive Decree No. 12-111, constitute a comprehensive strategic vision aimed at regulating commercial spaces and providing a framework for the economic activities conducted therein. These objectives revolve around several key areas, foremost among which is the regulation of public services by establishing the functional and regulatory foundations necessary to ensure their proper operation in the interests of the collective good. They also seek to address regulatory shortcomings that were not covered by the previous framework, notably through the inclusion of wholesale fishery product markets and small-scale retail outlets such as supermarkets. In addition, the Decree seeks to harmonise the regulatory framework by establishing a unified legal system governing commercial spaces in an appropriate and consistent manner throughout the national territory, while standardising management mechanisms relating to the operation and use of wholesale markets and defining the relationship between the managing authority and market users.[6]

The Decree also seeks to achieve spatial regulation by restricting the establishment of large-scale retail outlets, such as hypermarkets, to areas outside urban zones, with a view to preserving the urban fabric and maintaining commercial balance. It further provides for the hierarchical classification of wholesale fruit and vegetable markets into national, regional and local markets, thereby facilitating the regulation of product flows and strategic planning. Finally, it seeks to promote information transparency through the establishment of an information system within these markets covering product flows in terms of quantities supplied, type, prices and quality. This contributes to the formulation of commercial policies, price regulation, the fight against speculation and the protection of consumer rights.[7]

The significance of these objectives lies in their role as a comprehensive roadmap for restructuring commercial spaces in Algeria by striking a balance between economic requirements, urban planning considerations and consumer protection needs. However, their successful implementation remains contingent upon the effectiveness of the mechanisms established for their implementation and the concerted efforts of the central administration, local authorities, economic operators and civil society.

B- **Determinants of the proliferation of Economic Crime in Weekly Markets:**

The regulatory and social characteristics of weekly and traditional markets in Algeria emerge as a key determinant of the proliferation of economic crime, as the distinctive features of these commercial spaces create an environenent conducive to crime and render effective oversight more difficult thereby facilitating the occurrence of legal violations.

1- **The Temporary and Flexible Nature of Weekly Markets as a Contributing Factor to the Proliferation of Economic Crime :** These markets are characterised by their limited temporal duration, with trading activities taking place for no more than one or two days per week,[8] alongside the spatial mobility of vendors between different locations. Taken together, these two organisational characteristics weaken the effectiveness of continuous monitoring mechanisms, create favorable conditions for the infiltration of unlicensed traders, and provide them with a degree of manoeuvrability that hinders their subjection to legal oversight. Consequently, a fundamental institutional dilemma arises from the incompatibility between conventional monitoring tools —originally designed to regulate permanent markets— and the dynamic and temporary nature of these commercial spaces.[9]

From an argumentative persepctive, this proposition is based on a multilevel causal relationship, beginning with an organisational structure characterised by weekly periodicity and spatial mobility, proceeding through the direct effect of limited oversight and ultimately leading to the failure of unlicensed actors to face legal sanctions. The framework theoretically assumes a positive relationship between the continuity of oversight and the stability of location. This assumption appears plausible within the context of classical models of public administration; however, it remains open to reconsideration and debate in light of current technological capabilities, such as remote monitoring systems and electronic pre-registration platforms, which may redefine the conditions for effective oversight beyond the constraints of geographical stability.

Nevertheless, this characteristic may be criticised for overlooking several highly influential intervening variables, foremost among them the human resources allocated to oversight and the level of institutional coordination between the relevant authorities. As a result of this omission, this approach provides only a partial causal explanation of the phenomenon, failing to capture its full administrative and organisational complexity. This calls for a broader analytical framework encompassing operational, technological and stakeholder-related dimensions within the oversight context.

2- **Stuctural qnd Organisational Weeknesses:** The organisational shortcomings characterising weekly markets in Algeria reflect a multidimensional crisis in which manifestations of spatial disorder intersect with inadequate oversight mechanisms, together creating an environment conducive to economic crime. The absence of urban planning and functional zoning within commercial spaces, including the haphazard distribution of entrances and passageways, particularly in disadvantaged areas, is not merely a logistical failure; it becomes a genuine enabling factor that allows unlawful trading practices to proliferate outside any regulatory framework and makes it more difficult for monitoring authorities to track suspicious activities or identify and apprehend offenders.

While organisational disorder represents the visible dimension of the crisis, deteriorating infrastructure constitutes a more deeply rooted aspect. The condition of run-down markets, characterised by collapsed walls, unpaved passageways and a lack of basic facilities, reflects chronic neglect on the part of local authorities. This neglect extends beyond its impact on the physical appearance of these spaces to create an oversight gap that fuels unregulated activities and further undermines compliance. The poorer the quality of the phydical environement the more difficult it becomes to impose any form of order or accountability.[10]

However, the most profound challenges lie in the administrative complexities governing these markets, which reflect an overlap of competences among various local, security and tax authorities. This results in a fragmentation of responsibilities that leads to a lack of effective coordination and hinders the firm enforcement of the law. This institutional ambiguity, coupled with the absence of clear monitoring and tracking mechanisms, provides offenders with opportunities to evade detection and accountability, and prevents serious action from being taken against tax evasion and the sale of smuggled goods, which thrive in these grey areas where it is difficult to determine which authority is responsible for prosecution or punishment. Thus, structural weaknesses, through their accumulation and interconnection, evolve from mere regulatory gaps into a self-sustaining informal system that perpetuates disorder and legitimises non-compliance with the law within the context of traditional markets.

3- **The Economic Attractiveness of the Informal Sector:** Algeria’s popular markets constitute the beating heart of the parallel economy, serving as a structural catalyst for the widespread perpetration of econimic crimes. This is not the result of isolated individual behavior, but rather of the interplay of structural factors that make tax and customs duty evasion an almost institutionalized practice within these spaces. In the near-total absence of financial oversight and the marginalization of the tax administration’s role in monitoring periodic commercial activities, these markets becomes a safe haven for economic operators seeking to evade their tax obligations, thereby transforming tax evasion from a mere individual violation into an established operational pattern that continually reproduces itself.[11]

Although this lack of oversight may appear merely formal in its implementation, it essentially reflects a profound structural deficiency within Algeria’s financial system. This is manifested in the State’s inability to broaden the tax base, the weakness of mechanisls for monitoring small-and medium-scale cash transactions, and the banking system’s inability to accommodate the activities of a broad segment of unstructures trade. This creats a persistent gap between the formal and informal economies and makes these markets a natural setting for the circulation of funds outside the banking system.

The informal economy in Algeria is estimated to be worth more than 8000 billion DZD,[12] and these markets account for a significant share of this volume. Millions of transactions are conducted in cash every day, without any legal or tax trace, thereby undermining the State's ability to plan economically, reducing public revenue and deepening the inequality between the formal and informal sectors. While licensed traders bear tax burdens, others effectively benefit from exemptions that create an unfair competitive advantage.

However, the most serious repercussions may extend beyond financial evasion to the very management of these markets, particularly with regard to the allocation of shops and stalls, which , in the absence of transparent criteria, becomes fertile ground for corrupt practices and favoritism. The intervention of personal connections and influential networks in determining beneficiaries of the most profitable commercial locations entrenches a system of illicit privilege at the expense of fair competition and removes competence and merit from the economic equation. This favoritism fueled by institutional weakness and inadequate regulatory frameworks, not only undermines competitive fairness but also deepens the illegal economy and transfors it into an integrated system that legitimizes inequality and entrenches corruption as an established operational mechanism, whereby affiliation and loyalty become more important than quality and price in determining the winners in this parallel market.

4- **Overcrowding as a Facilitating Material Factor:** The phenomenon of Overcrowding is one of the most prominent structural obstacles to effective oversight of weekly markets. The concentration of people and traffic in these temporary commercial spaces obstructs the movement of inspection teams from the economic control and fraud prevention services, thereby limiting their ability to carry out their duties in identifying violations and curbing illegal practices, such as speculation, fraud and unlicensed sales.[13] This overcrowding also poses a serious risk to public safety, particularly in emergencies such as fires or security and health interventions, where evacuation and emergency response operations become nearly impossible due to narrow passageways, the absence of emergency exits , and intersecting routes. This puts the lives of citizens and property at risk,[14] and turns these commercial spaces into unsafe areas that fail to meet even the minimum standards of prevention and safety. This situation calls for intervention by local authorities to redevelop these markets in accordance with urban designs that comply with safety standards, establish a maximum occupancy capacity, provide safe emergency passageways, and regulate the movement of vendors and consumers in a manner that ensures smooth circulation and facilitates intervention when necessary.

5- **Social and cultural Dynamics and Normalization as a Facilitating Factor:** Crime in the informal economy in popular markets is not limited to structural and organizational causes; rather, it is intertwined with a complex social and cultural fabric that makes it a multidimensional phenomenon, difficult to reduce to mere regulatory loopholes or institutional shortcomings. The large-scale public presence in these markets, which attracts diverse segment of society with varying backgrounds, social classes and consumer cultures, is not merely a vital feature reflecting the dynamism of the commercial space; it simultaneously becomes a major impediment to any oversight efforts. Monitoring transactions and observing commercial practices amid such demographic diversity becomes akin to attempting to control a constantly flowing current that cannot be contained through traditional mechanisms.

This diversity in consumption patterns, resulting from differences in income, cultural references and purchasing habits, creats a disorderly demand environment that makes it difficult to establish uniform market standards. Consequently, it weakens the ability of regulatory authorities to distinguish between lawful and unlawful practices in a setting where the boundaries between what is commercially accepted and what is rejected are barely discernible.

Owing to Their long history and accumulated customs, these markets possess a particular form of social legitimacy that may conflict with the formal logic of the law. This lends certain unlawful practices, such as selling without an invoice or negotiating prices on an individual basis, a socially acceptable character,[15] and makes their criminalization a complex task that extends beyond the legal dimension to encompass cultural and ethical considerations.[16]

In the absence of a transparent market system, and amid intense competition in which price plays the most decisive role in attracting consumers, price becomes almost the sole criterion in the purchasing process, creating a strong incentive for traders to resort to fraudulent practices and manipulate quality and prices. These practices, ranging from reducing quality by concealing defects in goods or lowering standards, to manipulating prices by artificially increasing them before reducing them, or exploiting consumers' needs amid inflationary pressures, are not merely individual tactics. Rather, they become widespread competitive strategies, whereby fraud, in conditions of market disorder, becomes synonymous with survival, and departing from quality and integrity standards becomes a prerequisite for remaining competitive.

Thus, under the influence of intertwined social and cultural factors, these markets are transformed from popular trading spaces into environments that produce and perpetuate economic crime, where the law becomes neutral or powerless in the face of the logic of the parallel market, which derives its legitimacy from the daily necessities of vulnerable groups and the functional absence of more organized and equitable alternatives. This vicious cycle between poverty, consumption, lack of oversight and the cultural legitimization of disorder is what makes addressing the phenomenon more complex than merely implementing security or tax-related measures; rather, it requires a comprehensive approach that integrates the social, economic and cultural dimensions.

Section II: Manifestations of Economic Crime in Weekly markets

Unlike crimes against persons, such as theft and physical assaults, economic crime in Algeria's weekly markets takes various forms, the most prominent of which are:

A- The offense of Unlawful Speculation:

Unlawful speculation is one of the most serious economic offenses established and punishable under the provisions of Law No.21-15,[17] and it is particularly evident in Algeria's weekly markets, where these vital commercial spaces become a setting for monopolistic and manipulative practices targeting essential goods, taking advantage of the periodic nature of these markets and

the weakness of oversight. This phenomenon becames widespread in the post-COVID-19 period, when its effects on citizens' purchasing power intensified and took various forms, particularly speculation involving highly sensitive consumer goods such as cooking oil, milk, semolina, bread and sugar. Weekly markets became daily witnesses to sharp price fluctuations and alternating periods of scarcity and abundance of essential commodities, amid inadequate oversight that allows speculators to carry out their schemes away from the scrutiny of central control authorities.[18] Speculation in weekly markets takes several forms, including:

1- **Stockpiling and Concealing Goods Outside Market Hours:** Speculators purchase large quantities of essential goods (such as cooking oil, milk and semolina) from wholesale suppliers during periods of low demand and store them in makeshift warehouses or concealed storage facilities. They then gradually release these goods into the weekly market as demand increases, particularly during peak morning hours or before holidays, thereby creating artificial scarcity that serves to justify price increases.[19]

2- **Collective Price Manupilation:** Withing the market itself, a number of vendors, particularly those selling fruits, vegetables and essential goods, coordinate to raise prices uniformly. They exchange inflated prices among themselves and spread rumors of supply shortages or increases in wholesale prices, thereby creating a state of purchasing panic among consumers and prompting them to buy goods at inflated prices for fear that prices will rise even further.[20]

3- **. Dissemination of False Information:** Rumors are used as an effective tool in weekly markets, where vendors and consumers circulate unverified information about the scarcity of a particular commodity (such as milk or sugar) or an imminent increase in prices, thereby triggering a wave of panic buying that is subsequently exploited to sharply raise prices. This practice falls within the forms of speculation criminalized under Article 2 of the Law

4- **Monopoly of Strategic Market Locations:** Speculation also extends to the monopolization of the most crowded stalls and shops in the market, where major traders control vital points of sale and regulate the flow of goods to consumers. This gives them the ability to set prices and impose their own terms, while excluding small-scale vendors who lack the means to compete within this unfair system.

5- **. Exploiting the Absence of On-site Oversight:** In the absence of permanent and effective inspection teams, sales are conducted outside the formal framework, without invoices or tax documentation, thereby facilitating tax evasion, exempting speculators from legal liability, and making the monitoring of supply chains and the tracing of clandestine storage facilities an almost impossible task amid the congestion of the weekly market.

In response to these challenges, the Algerian legislature sought to establish a deterrent legal framework by enacting a specific law criminalizing unlawful speculation under Law No. 21-15 of 28 December 2021, after such practices had previously been inadequately regulated under the provisions of the Penal Code. This law defines the forms and constituent elements of unlawful speculation, with Article 2 defining it as "any storage or concealment of goods or commodities with the aim of creating scarcity in the market and disrupting supply, as well as any artificial increase or decrease in the prices of goods, commodities or securities, whether directly or indirectly, through an intermediary, by using electronic means, or through any other fraudulent methods or means." In weekly markets, these forms are clearly manifested, as described above, through haphazard storage, collective price manipulation, the dissemination of rumors, and other practices, making the weekly market a major setting for such activities.

Thus, the weekly market emerges as an integrated setting for the manifestations of unlawful speculation, where mechanisms of storage, manipulation, monopolization, rumor-mongering and weak oversight intersect to form an integrated system of economic crime.

The greatest challenge remains the State’s ability, despite stringent legal provisions, to translate these laws into effective deterrent measures at the heart of the market and to break the vicious cycle of disorder and greed that transforms the weekly market from a space for fair exchange into an arena for speculative practices that undermine citizens' purchasing power.

B- Crimes of Counterfeiting and Smuggling

Weekly markets, particularly those located near border areas, are active hubs for extensive networks involved in the trade of smuggled goods and counterfeiting products.[21] These periodic commercial spaces become major outlets for the distribution of illegal goods, taking advantage of the temporary nature of the markets, the difficulty of regulatory monitoring, and the fluid movement of vendors and goods between different markets. This phenomenon is manifested in stalls displaying smuggled goods such as fuel, subsidized food products diverted from official markets into parallel trade, and counterfeiting cigarettes sold at competitive prices, as well as construction materials such as iron and cement that enter the parallel market through smuggling from neighboring countries.

Available data indicate that Algeria loses approximately 1.5 billion USD annually due to fuel smuggling,[22] and 3 billion USD as a result of the smuggling of subsidized food products, in addition to the smuggling of counterfeiting cigarettes, livestock and certain construction materials.[23] In weekly markets, these substantial

Losses translate into tangible scenes: fuel sold at prices below its actual cost at unlicensed stalls; subsidized food products, such as cooking oil, milk and semolina, originally supplied to citizens at reduced prices but diverted to speculators who resell them in the parallel market at inflated prices; counterfeiting cigarettes bearing forged trademarks; and smuggled livestock, iron and cement crossing borders illegally and being displayed in the heart of weekly markets without any oversight of their quality or origin.

Illegal activities in weekly markets are not limited to conventional trade but also extend to the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Criminal networks exploit the markets' regulatory disorder, overcrowding and diverse clientele to conduct their sales away from the scrunity of law enforcement, particularly in remote sections or during periods when the security presence is reduced. This transforms the weekly market in some areas into a dual-purpose space: a legitimate façade for ordinary commerce and an illegal backdrop for ore dangerous activities that threaten public health and national security.

C- **Crimes of Fraud and Deception**

As for crimes of fraud and deception, they manifest themselves in weekly markets through several tangible forms. With their overcrowding and diverse range of goods, weekly markets provide fertile ground for fraudulent practices targeting consumers. Vendors may market counterfeit products as genuine and employ deceptive tactics, such as exaggerating the size of goods or packaging them in a manner that suggests a higher quality than they actually possess, or advertising fictitious discounts that attract consumers only for them to discover that the goods are of poor quality or expired.

Fraudulent practices are also widespread in these markets through the sale of goods that do not conform to the advertised specifications, the sale of insufficient quantities using improperly calibrated scales, or manupilation of change by misleading customers into believing that they have paid less than they actually did.

These practices have intensified in the context of economic crises and rising prices, as some traders exploit consumers' lack of awareness and their urgent need for goods at low prices, thereby making them victims of organized fraudulent schemes. In this context, the law criminalizes the use of deceptive practices to influence markets and imposes severe penalties, including life imprisonment when such acts are associated with an organized criminal group. This reflects the seriousness of these crimes and their detrimental impact on market confidence and the stability of commercial transactions.

Thus, weekly markets, particularly in border and marginalized areas, become comprehensive settings for various forms of economic crime, including smuggling, counterfeiting, drug trafficking, fraud and deception. The resulting losses range from direct to indirect, including the erosion of confidence in the market, the deterioration of the quality of goods, and threats to public health.

D- **Practicing Regulated Professions without a License**

Weekly markets are characterised by their unregulated nature, becoming open spaces for the proliferation of various unregulated occupations and turning these periodic commercial spaces into fertile ground for activities carried out outside any legal or institutional framework. In every weekly market, the same scene is repeated: vendors occupy sidewalks and entrances to display their goods, without commercial registration, professional licenses, social security affiliation, or any form of legal protection or official recognition of their occupations. This situation is not limited to a transient group or temporary activity; rather ,it constitutes an integrated system of unregulated occupations covering a wide range of sectors, from the sale of fruits, vegetables and meat to textiles, clothing and footwear, as well as handicrafts and basic services such as shoe repair and the sale of medicinal herbs.[24]

The prevalence of these occupations in weekly markets is attributed to a combination of interconnected factors, beginning with the relative ease of entering such activities, as they require neither substantial capital nor complex administrative procedures. This is compounded by the absence of effective oversight, which allows vendors to operate freely without fear of prosecution, and ultimately by pressing economic needs that drive large numbers of unemployed and low-income individuals to seek a daily source of livelihood in these markets. Thus, weekly markets display an enormous diversity of unregulated occupations, including street vendors, intermediaries in the sale of agricultural products, scrap collectors, sellers of second-hand goods and traditional artisans who market their products outside any regulatory framework, as well as even doctors, dentists and pharmacists. This makes the weekly market akin to a mirror reflecting the scale of the informal economy in the country.

The prevalence of unregulated occupations in weekly markets represent one of the most prominent features of the informal economy which has a substantial presence in markets for essential goods, such as fruits, vegetables and meat as well as in the textile sector. Transactions in these markets are conducted in cash, without invoices or supporting documentation, making it almost impossible to monitor the volume of commercial exchanges and profits and keeping these occupations and activities outside the scope of official statistics and financial oversight. Estimates indicate that Algeria's parallel economy reached 59.9 billion USD as of May 2025, representing 24.2% of the country's GDP. These figures reflect the enormous scale of economic activity carried out by those engaged in unregulated occupations which largely escapes state oversight,[25] weakens the State’s capacity for economic planning, deprives the public treasury of significant tax revenues and creates inequality between the regulated and unregulated sectors. Thus, unregulated occupations have become so prevalent in weekly markets that they constitute the backbone of these commercial spaces, where regulatory fragility, poverty, unemployment and weak oversight intersect to produce a parallel system based on individual initiative and flexibility, yet remain outside the scope of official, recognition and legal protection. The greatest challenge facing the state remains its ability to integrate these occupations into the formal economy without undermining the vitality and social role of weekly markets and without allowing regulatory measures to become new obstacles that push those engaged in these occupations toward further marginalization or the relocation of their activities to more vulnerable settings. The success of policies aimed at such integration depends on a gradual approach combining administrative simplification, financial incentives and digitalization, while respecting the social and cultural specificities of these occupations, which form part of the country's economic heritage and national identity.

E- **Economic Crimes Of Environmental Pollution**

Weekly markets constitute a significant source of environmental pollution resulting from economic activity within these markets. After the conclusion of each weekly cycle, these crowded commercial spaces are transformed into scenes of accumulated waste and scattered refuse, reflecting the scale of the extensive commercial activities they host. In the fruit and vegetable sections, residues of rotten vegetables, fruit peels, cardboard boxes, and plastic bags create serious environmental problems. These problems become even more complex in the meat sector, where organic waste, such as blood, bones and offal, becomes mixed with solid waste, while contaminated liquids seep into the soil and groundwater, posing health risks to nearby residents and spreading unpleasant odors and disease-carrying insects.

In weekly markets, manifestations of environmental pollution are clearly visible in piles of waste accumulating in corners and passageways, the absence of waste-sorting containers, inadequate sewage systems and d the lack of designated collection points for hazardous waste, such as expired medicines or chemicals used for cleaning and disinfection.[26] This deteriorating environmental situation reflects not only regulatory negligence but also a violation of environmental and health standards. It threatens the health of both vendors and consumers and places a substantial burden on municipalities through extensive cleaning operations that recur every week without addressing the underlying causes.

Although direct references to pollution-related crimes in weekly markets are limited in the available sources, this type of crime falls within the broader framework of economic crimes affecting public health and the environment. The disposal of waste in unauthorized locations, the failure to treat liquid and solid waste , and the contamination of soil and water are acts punishable by law,[27] although legal prosecution in the context of weekly markets remains rare due to the difficulty of determining responsibility and the involvement of multiple parties, including vendors, municipalities and regulatory authorities.

The effects of environmental pollution in weekly markets extend beyond the health dimension to the economic dimension. The contamination of displayed food products as a result of accumulated waste, insects and rodents threatens consumers' health and increases treatment costs, while reducing the quality of goods and accelerating their deterioration, thereby causing direct losses to the vendors themselves. Moreover, the accumulation of waste and contamination of soil and water affect the value of neighboring properties and place an additional financial burden on municipalities through cleaning and waste-collection expenses, which they are often unable to bear given limited budgets and the absence of integrated environmental planning in market management.[28]

F- **Tax Evasion**

Tax evasion is a fundamental feature of the i formal economy and a serious economic phenomenon that is clearly manifested in weekly markets, where these periodic commercial ial spaces become a safe haven for unlawful tax practices. In every weekly market, the same scene is repeated: hundreds, if not thousands , of commercial transactions are conducted in cash, without invoices, without documentation and without any trace that can be legally tracked. This enables vendors and traders to evade their tax obligations and deprives the public treasury of financial resources that could otherwise be used to fund essential services such as Healthcare, education and infrastructure.[29] The mechanisms of tax evasion in weekly markets takes several tangible forms:

1- **Absence of Invoices and Accounting Records:** The vast majority of transactions in weekly markets are conducted without any written documentation. No invoices are issued and no a counting records are maintained, making it impossible to monitor the volume of sales and profits and keeping these activities outside the scope of tax reporting.

2- **Exclusive Reliance on Cash Transactions:** Weekly markets rely almost entirely on cash transactions, without the use of electronics payment methods that leave a traceable digital record. This makes it difficult for the tax administration to assess the scale of commercial activity and calculate the applicable tax base.[30]

3- **Diversity of Unregistered Activities** Tax evasion in weekly markets encompasses a variety of activities, including vendors of fruits, vegetables and meat; traders in textiles and clothing; sellers of second-hand goods; artisans; intermediaries; and other practitioners of unregulated occupations who carry out their activities without any official registration or tax obligations.

The non-governmental organization Tax Justice Network reports that Algeria loses more than 467 million USD annually as a result of tax evasion practices. This substantial loss translates, within weekly markets, into daily losses that accumulate on a weekly, monthly and annual basis, as millions of dinars escape the tax base at a time when the State is facing budget deficits and increasing social and developmental needs. Every sale conducted without an invoice, every unregistered cash transaction and every undeclared activity contributes to the expansion of the parallel economy, estimated at 59.9 billion USD (24.2% of GDP),[31] and deepens the gap between the formal sector, which bears the tax burden, and the informal sector, which effectively benefits from exemptions. This creates a situation of inequality and unfair competition.

The effects of tax evasion in weekly markets are not limited to financial aspects but also extend to profound social consequences. The erosion of tax revenues reduces the State’s ability to finance public services, weakens social safety nets, and places additional tax burdens on compliant groups to compensate for the shortfall, thereby perpetuating social injustice and widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Furthermore, the continued persistence of these practices without effective deterrence encourages a culture of tax evasion, weakens the rule of law , and undermines the principle of equality in bearing public burdens.

G- **Consumer Protection Crimes**

Weekly markets in Algeria; as temporary and mobile commercial spaces, present a complex legal and regumatory challenge; reflected in the mismatch between traditional consumer protection mechanisms and the dynamic nature of these markets. While legislation and regulatory mechanisms were designed to address permanent markets subject to continuous oversight, these temporary spaces remain difficult to regulate effectively under consumer protection laws, thereby creating legal gaps exploited by unlicensed networks to commit various offenses affecting consumer safety and their economic, health and psychological rights. Consumer protection crimes in these markets take various forms.[32]

These include crimes relating to product safety and consumer health, such as the sale of expired food products or those stored under unhygienic conditions; the distribution of counterfeit or untraceable cosmetics or medicines; and the sale of low-quality electronic products lacking certificates of conformity, thereby exposing consumers to potentially serious physical and health risks, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.[33] They also include minor economic offenses related to commercial fraud, such as manipulating measurements and weighing scales, concealing material defects in products, promoting fictitious offers, selling adulterated goods, and exploiting consumers' lack of knowledge of the actual value of goods to impose excessive prices; amounting to small-scale monopolistic or fraudulent practices.

Section III.The Approach of Reconciling Legal Enforcement with Regulatory Empowerment in Weekly Markets

The State's efforts have not been limited to the punitive dimension; rather, it has adopted an integrated approach combining deterrence with efforts to integrate informal activities into the formal economy. This approach is reflected in the following areas:

A- Strenthening Regulatory Procedures for Granting Licenses to Operate Weekly Markets

The management of weekly markets in Algeria is classified within the services sector and constitutes a regulated activity subject to a prior licensing system. [34] The legislature has identified three principal activity codes in the classification of economic activities subject to registration in the Commercial Register,[35] namely: Code 611.019, concerning the management of weekly or semi-weekly markets for fruits and vegetables, widely consumed food products and manufactured products; Code 611.020, concerning the management of weekly markets for the sale of animals; and Code 611.021, concerning the management of weekly markets for the sale of used vehicles. The procedures for granting licenses to operate these markets are characterized by strictness and rigor,[36] as municipal people's assemblies put the management of these markets out to lease through public auction, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Delegation Law. [37] To be eligible, applicants must be Algerian nationals who have reached the legal age of majority, have no convictions for felonies or misdemeanors involving dishonor; have settled their tax and quasi-tax obligations as evidenced by official certificates issued by the tax authorities and the social security administration and have no outstanding debts owed to the municipality concerned.

Participation procedures include obtaining the specifications booklet from the municipal property department in return for a non-refundable fee determined by the municipal council, followed by the submission of an application file containing administrative documents and a financial offer specifying the proposed annual rental amount. The public auction is then held in the presence of a judicial officer and a representative of the Municipal Treasury, and the lease is awarded to the bidder offering the highest financial bid exceeding the opening price assessed by the State Property Services. Upon the signing and approval of the lease agreement, the lessee id legally bound by the provisions of the standard specifications booklet, particularly the obligation to take out comprehensive insurance, comply with the market's designated days and operating hours, maintain cleanliness and public health by removing waste and providing sanitary facilities, and organize the market's entrances and exits in coordination with the local security authorities. The lessee must also collect entrance fees and allocate spaces to non-permanent traders in accordance with legally prescribed rates, without arbitrary increases. Traders wishing to operate within these markets are likewise required to hold an electronic Commercial Register for non-permanent activities and comply with price- transparency rules by displaying prices clearly to consumers. Sensitive goods, such as meat, dairy products and livestock, are also subject to veterinary and health inspections at the market entrance before being offered for sale.

B- .Integration of the Informal Sector

In response to the growing incidence of economic crimes in wekly markets, foremost among them tax evasion, commercial fraud, the sale of smuggled goods and the conduct of activities without a license; the State's strategy has not been limited to the punitive abd deterrent approach established by law. Rather, it has gone further by adopting an integrative approach aimed at addressing

The root cause of the phenomenon. One of the most prominent manifestations of this approach is the formalization of the activity of the "micro-importer," also known as *caba* trade,[38] by incorporating it into the micro-enterprise regime under conditions established by the provisions of the Financial Law. These conditions require the perssons concerned to open a foreign-currency bank account, register with the social security fund, and obtain an annual license from the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This approach seeks to transform a significant proportion of the unregulated and unsupervosed activities that have provided fertile ground for tax evasion and unfair competion into a transparent legal framework that contributes to broadening tha tax base, providing social protection for workers, and reducing the size of the parallel economy, which constiture a primary driver of economic crime in weekly markets. It also helps reduce the phenomenon of selling goods of unknown origin and smuggled goods and promotes the principle of transparency in commercial transactions. This represent an important step toward advancing the national economic fabric and drying up the sources of economic crime by integrating unlawful actors into the formal system rather than leaving them beyond the reach of accountability.

C- Enhancing Digitalization and Transparency

In the context of strengthening mechanisms to combat economic crimes in weekly markets, the State's efforts have not been limited to legislative and integration measures; they have also extended to the use of technology and digitalization as effective oversight tools. The development of digital platforms such as the "Morafikcom" application represents a significant step toward involving citizens in the market oversight process,[39] by enabling them to immediately report violations they observe, such as failure to display prices, poor product quality or fraudulent and manipulative practices. This transforms consumers from passive parties into active participants in the oversight system, strengthens the principles of transparency and accountability and facilitates rapid intervention by the competent authorities to apprehend violators.[40]

In addition to this platform, the government seeks to expand electronic payment as a strategic mechanism for reducing cash circulation, which is considered the backbone of the parallel economy and one of the principal factors fueling economic crime in weekly markets. The amount of currency circulating outside the banking sector is estimated at more than 8000 billion DZD, creating a fertile environment for tax evasion, money laundering and unregulated activities. The transition toward electronic payment would therefore contribute to reducing the size of the informal economy, facilitating the tracing of financial transactions; ensuring transparency in commercial operations, and stregthening the State's ability to monitor markets and combat crimes related to speculation, fraud and tax evasion. This would achieve an integrated approach combining community oversight, technological oversight and legal deterrence.[41]

D- Provision of Alternative Infrastructure

As part of a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing economic crime in weekly markets at its roots, the State's effort have not been limited to legistlative, regulatory, integrative and digital measures. They have also extended to the provision of alternative infrastructure as a structural solution addressing one of the underlying causes of the proliferation of unregulated activities. The Ministry of Internal Trade, in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities, is working to make use of 256 adjacent markets that were constructed within the framework of local development programs but have remained unused, in addition to rehabilitating 370 other markets. This initiative aims to accommodate unregulated commercial activities that had found in weekly markets, with their temporary and disorderly nature, a fertile environment for economic crimes such as tax evasion, fraud, speculation and the sale of smuggled goods.

This approach seeks to redirect vendors and non-permanent traders toward permanent commercial spaces operating within a legally regulated framework, thereby ensuring that they can conduct their activities in an organized environement, providing consumers with a regular supply of goods at stable prices, reducing the disorder that had hindered the work of inspection and monitoring teams, contributing to mitigating overcrowding and its associated risks, and strengthening the State's ability to monitor commercial transactions, broaden the tax base and combat unlawful practices that had benefited from the absence of spatial and regulatory organization in traditional weekly markets.

Conclusion

Economic crime in Algeria's weekly markets represents a complex challenge in which the economic dimension is closely intertwined with the social dimension. Millions of Algerians rely on these informal activities as a source of livelihood, while the State seeks to regulate the market and expand its tax base. Although the law constitutes an important deterrent tool, the real challenge lies in the State's ability to implement a balanced approach that combines strict enforcement of the law with incentives for the voluntary integration of the informal sector through the simplification of procedures, the provision of financial and tax incentives, and the acceleration of digitalization and the transition toward electronic payment. The success of this multifaceted strategy is essential to transforming weekly markets from spaces characterized by disorder and instability into a genuine pillar of the national economy and social justice.

Based on the foregoing analysis of the legal framework governing weekly markets, their structural characteristics that make them a conducive environment for economic crime, as well as the State's strategies for combating this phenomenon, this research paper puts forward a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of public policies in this field. The most important of these are as follows:

1. The need to strengthen the conditions for granting licenses for the management and operation of weekly markets; while developing the provisions of the specifications booklets to include new requirements, such as providing electronic payment facilities to reduce cash circulation, which fuels the parallel economy, and preserving the environmental dimension by requiring lessees to establish waste-recycling systems and reduce pollution resulting from commercial activities.
2. The paper also recommends expanding the range of persons eligible to participate in the management of weekly markets to include; alongside natural persons, legal persons, such as economic enterprises and specialized companies. This would enhance competition, improve the quality of services provided, and facilitate the recruitment of greater administrative and organizational expertise in the management of these commercial spaces.
3. In the context of strengthening the State's role as a principal actor in market regulation, the paper recommends adopting a competitive approach through the establishment of State-operated weekly commercial markets that serve as models in terms of organization, oversight and the application of health and safety standards. This would provide organized alternative spaces that reduce disorder, encourage traders to integrate into the formal economy and contribute

to price regulation and consumer protection.

4. In addition, the paper proposes the establishment of a specialized national body, referred to in this study as the “National Delegation for Market Management,” comprising representatives from the various relevant sectors, including the Ministries of Trade, Interior, Finance and Environment. This body would be entrusted with overseeing the organization and operation of all types of markets, including weekly markets, while establishing affiliated provincial branches responsible for monitoring the implementation of public policies in this field, coordinating oversight efforts among the various authorities and the challenges they face.
5. Finally, the paper emphasizes the need to strengthen criminal penalties, particularly financial penalties, for economic crimes committed in markets generally and weekly markets in particular and to increase the value of fines so that they correspond to the scale of the economic harm caused by such crimes to the national economy. It also recommends introducing complementary penalties, such as prohibiting offenders from engaging in the relevant activity, confiscating the goods and means used in committing the offense and judicial publication of judgment issued against offenders. Such measures would contribute to achieving both general and specific deterrence and would strengthen the confidence of investors and consumers in the integrity and stability of the market.

Prospects:

Looking forward, future research should explore the practical implications of implementing comprehensive digital transformation and electronic payment infrastructure across Algeria's regional commercial hubs. Additionally, further studies are warranted to assess the socio-economic impacts of integrating informal traders into the formal tax and banking systems, ensuring that regulatory reforms protect vulnerable livelihoods while fostering a transparent and secure national market economy.

Citations:

Notes

[1] -Executive Decree No. 12-111 of March 6, 2012, establishing the conditions and procedures for the creation and organization of commercial spaces and the exercise of certain commercial activities (Official Gazette No. 15-2012).(In ARABIC)

[2] Article 3, ibid.

[3] Law No. 04-08 of August 14,2004, relating to the conditions for exercising commercial activities, as amended and supplemented (Official Gazette No. 52-2004). (In ARABIC)

[4] - Executive Decree No. 13-140 of April 10,2013, establishing the conditions for exercising non-sedentary commercial activities (Official Gazette No. 21-2013). (In ARABIC)

[5] Law No.23-12 of August 5, 2023, establishing the general rules relating to Public procurement (Official Gazette No. 51-2023). (In ARABIC)

[6] Article 4 of Executive Decree No. 12-111, op cit, provides that, “The commercial spaces referred to in Article 2 above shall be created and developed in accordance with the urban development master plan, the land use plan, as well as the port space organization plan approved within the framework of the National Spatial Planning Scheme adopted for sustainable development…”

[7] -Article 5 , ibid.

[8] -Article 39, ibid.

[9] -Kamara, P.A. (2026). *Crime and Corruption in the Informal Market Communities in Sierra Leone: Informality, Survival Economies and the Political Economy of Illicit Practices*. Eliva Press.pp10-12

[10] -André Chappatte, Ulrike Freitag and Nora Lafi.2017. Understanding the City through its Margins: Pluridisciplinary Perspectives from Case Studies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group.uk.p

[11] -Anbarci, Nejat & Gomis-Porqueras, Pedro & Marcus, Pivato, 2012. « Formal and informal markets: A strategic and evolutionary perspective, » MPRA Paper 42513, University Library of Munich, Germany.

[12] Amar Lachmout. (2025), The Parallel Economy In Algeria: A market in the shadows, Ultra Algeria, 16/09/2026 18:07 httos://ultraalgeria.ultrasawt.com/ (In ARABIC)

[13] - Kawabata, K., Umpiga, S., & Mishima, N. (2026à. Optimization of Stall Spacing to Prevent Crowd-related Hazards in Street Markets -A Case Study of the Sunday Walking Street in the Historic Center of Chiang Mai, Thailand- *IOP Conf. Ser./Earth Environ. Sci*., 1582; 012091.pp3-11.

[14] -Mkulbo, H., Tibesigwa, B.K. (2026). Integrated Compulational Fluid Dynamics and Space Syntax simulation of evacuation efficiency and fire spread in informal local markets. Architecture papers of the Faculty of Architecture and Design STU, 31(2),pp. 23-35.

[15] - Boucherf, K. ; & Medjoub, R. (2021). Gold Sellers in the Streets of Bachdjerrah: El Houma: Community Identity and Globalised Economic Territory. Youth and Globalization, 3(2); 332-358.

[16] -Bouanani, S (2016). Institutions and Economic Development: Informal Economy in Algeria. Revue d’etude sur les institutions et le developpemnt, 3(1),99-120.

[17] -Law No. 21-15 of December 28, 2021, relating to the fight against illegal speculation (Official Gazette No. 99-2021). (In ARABIC)

[18] Multiple factors explain the widespread phenomenon of speculation in food commodities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Psychological causes intersected, represented by consumer panic resulting from collective fear and anxiety, which drove citizens toward irrational stockpiling behaviors that exceeded their actual needs. Structural causes were also present, linked to disruptions in global and local supply chains due to lockdown and quarantine measures, which created a natural shortage in the supply of certain essential goods—a shortage that speculators exploited to enhance their profits. Additionally, ethical and legal causes manifested in commercial greed that drove some economic actors to deliberately hoard goods through stockpiling in order to create artificial scarcity and raise prices, in the absence of sufficient legal deterrence mechanisms. Indeed, traditional penal provisions proves limited in their ability to adapt to the rapid pace of evolution of these monopolistic practices, making the pandemic environment a fertile ground for the expansion of speculation and the deepening of food supply crises.

[19] Article 2 of Law No. 21-15. op cit. provides that: “For the purposes of this law, the following shall be understood as: 1- Illegal speculation: any storage or concealment of goods or merchandise with the aim of creating scarcity in the markets and disruption of supply…”

[20] Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of Law No. 21-15, ibid.

[21] -Kara, M. (2017). Counterfeiting Trademarks in Algeria (Its Extent and the Measures to fight It*). Dossiers de Recherches en Economie et gestions,* (6), pp 65-82

[22] -Gali Nagaraja.2013.1.5 bn liters of fuel smuggled each year in Algeria. Siasat Technologies Limited…2026.09:12/07/02 http://archive.siasat.com/news/

[23] -Trans crime. (2019*). Nexus : The Illicit Tobacco Trade and Terrorism in the Maghreb* (Full Report).p20.

[24] - Kharchi, T. (2025). Informal hubs, formal impacts: Spatial dynamics of parallel trade in Setif and Eulma*. Tax Policy Journal*, 21(1), 51-78

[25] -World Economics data. 2026. Economic by Informal Economy Size. 02/08/2026. 18:24. Https://www.worldeconomics.com/rankings/economies-by-informal-economy-size.aspx

[26] -Melboucy, A., Sifer, S., & Guehairia, A. (2024) . Les défis de la valorisation des déchets en Algérie. *Les Cahier de CEDIMES*, 19(HS), 318-339.

[27] Kebaili, F. K., Baqiq-Berkani, A., Aouissi, H.A., et al (2022). Characterization and Planning of Household Waste Management: A Case Study from the MENA Region. Sustainability, 14(9), 5461.

[28] Hazzab Nadia. (2018), Environmental Crimes as A Manifestation of Economic Crime According to Algerian Law. Dirasat wa aphath. Volume 10 N3, pp 871-900

[29] AISSANI, A., HARAKATI, F., & BOUABID, ?. (2025). Transformations of the Parallel Economy in Algeria: Taxation Strategies for Informal Transactions and Financial Inclusion Prospects. Revue Zaouli, 12(3). Pp 222-223

[30] International Monetary Fund. (2022). Informality, Development and the Business cycle in North Africa. IMF Working Paper. 2026/08/23 17:35 https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/087/2022/011/article-A001-en.xm

[31] Tax Justice Network. (2021). State of Taw Justice Report 2021.04/04/08/2026 15:31 https://taxjustice.net/reports/the-state-of-tax-justice

[32] UNCTAD. (2026). Webinar on Consumer Product Safety in Informal Markets. 15:43 2026-08-04 https://unctad.org/meeting/webinar-consumer-product-safety-informal-markets

[33] Bojang, A. (2026). Regulating Informal Health Product Markets: Governance Challenges and Consumer Safety in the Gambia. International Journal of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2(5), 345-356

[34] The prior approval system, overseen by the committee responsible for the creation and organization of commercial spaces under the chairmanship of the Wali (governor), constitutes the cornerstone of the regulatory framework governing weekly markets in Algeria. Legal texts and official documents unanimously affirm the mandatory nature of this approval, as no trader may register their activity in the commercial registry to exercise ant of the management activities of these markets without holding a certification issued by the aforementioned committee. This mechanism fundamentally underscores the centralized nature and procedural rigor governing the licensing process, as it subjects every applicant seeking access to this commercial space to a comprehensive review by a single administrative body with broad authority. This reflects the legislator’s intent to impose strict prior oversight over the identity and qualifications of eligible individuals before they engage in any activity within these markets, which are characterized by their temporary and itinerant nature.

[35] Executive Decree No. 15-249 of September 29, 2015, establishing the content, structure as well as the conditions for the management and updating of the nomenclature of economic activities subject to registration in the commercial registry (Official Gazette No. 52-2015). (In ARABIC)

[36] Order of May 28, 2012, amending and updating the nomenclature of economic activities subject to registration in the commercial registry (Official Gazette No. 49-2012à. (In ARABIC)

[37] Article 17 of Law No. 23-12, op; cit

[38] Mohamed Amine Haouas (2026), The Shift Away from the Punitive Nature in the Prosecution of Economic Crimes, Doctoral Thesis, LMD System, Specialization: Judicial Law, University of Chlef, Algeria p. 391 (In ARABIC)

[39] Mohamed Amine Haouas. (2026), ibid. ; p. 428

[40] Law No. 04-02 of June 23,2004, relating to commercial practices, represents the reference legislative framework governing the relationship between traders and consumers in Algeria, through the establishment of a set of fundamental obligations aimed at ensuring transparency and fairness in commercial transactions. At the core of these obligations, this law requires traders to display prices clearly and visibly on all products offered for sale, as a, essential mechanism enabling consumers to be informed in advanced of the value of goods and to compare them, thereby protecting them from abusive practices such as fraud, exploitation or the imposition of excessive prices. The legal text also establishes deterrent punitive sanctions, ranging from financial fines proportionate to the seriousness of the violation, up to custodial penalties in certain cases, reflecting the legislator’s attempt to deter offenders and ensure compliance with market rules.

[41] Yekhlef, A. (2026). Digital Financial Inclusion as a Mechanism for Containing the Shadow Economy in Algeria under Digital threshold Challenges: An Analytical Field Study. Les Cahiers du POIDEX, 15(1), pp 120-144. **Bibliography: Official Legal texts:** Executive Decree No. 12-111 of March 6, 2012, establishing the conditions and procedures for the creation and organization of commercial spaces and the exercise of certain commercial activities, *Official Gazette No. 15’2012.* (In Arabic) Executive Decree No. 13-140 of april 10, 2013, establishing the conditions for exercising non-sedentary commercial activities, *Official Gazette No.21-2013*. (In Arabic) Executive Decree No. 15-249 of September 29, 2015, establishing the content, structure, as well as the conditions for the management and updating of the nomenclature of economic activities subject to registration in the commercial registry, *Official Gazette No.52-2015*. (In Arabic) Law No. 04-02 of June 23,2004 relating to commercial practices. (In Arabic) Law No. 04-08 of August 14, 2004, relating to the conditions for exercising commercial activities, as amended and supplemented, *Official Gazette No.52-2004* . (In Arabic) Law No. 21-15 of December 28, 2021, relating to the fight against illegal illegal speculation, *Official Gazette No.99-2021* . (In Arabic) Law No. 23-12 of August 5, 2023, establishing the general rules relating to public procurement, *Official Gazette No.51-2023.* (In Arabic) Order of May 28, 2012, amending and updating the nomenclature of economic activities subject to registration in the commercial registry, *Official Gazette No.19-2012* . (In Arabic) **Books**: Andre Chappatte, Ulrike Freitag, and Nora Lafi*, Ubderstanding the city through its Margind: Pluridisciplinary Perspectives frrom Case Studies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, UK; 2017 Kamara, P. A., *Crime and Corruption in the Informal Market Communities in Sierra Leon, Informality, Survival Economies, and the Political Economy of Illicit Practices*, Eliva Press; 2026. **Theses:** Mohamed Amine Haouas, *The Shift Away From The Punitive Nature in The Prosecution of Economic Crimes*, Doctoral Thesis, LMD System, Specialization: Judicial Law, University of Chlef, Algeria; 2026. (In Arabic) **Newspaper articles:** AISSANI, A., HARKATI, F.,& BOUABID, M., ‘Transformations of the Parallel Economy in Algeria: Taxation Strategies for Informal Transactions and Financial Inclusion Prospects, ‘ *Revue Zaouli,* 12(3); 2025. Anbarci, Nejat & Gomis-Porqueras, Pedro & Marcus, Pivoto, ‘Formal and Informal Markets: A Strategic and Evolutionary Perspective,’ *MPRA Paper* 42513, University Library of Munich, Germany: 2012 Bojang, A., ‘ Regulating Informal Health Product Markets: Governance Challenges and Consumer Safety in the Gambia,’ *International Journal of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences,* 2(5); 2026. Bouanani, D., ‘Institution and Economic Development: Informal Economy in Algeria, ‘ *Revue d’etudes sur les*

institutions et le developpement, 3(1) : 2016. Boucherf, K., & Medjoub, R., 'Gold Sellers in the Streets of Bachdjerrah: El Houma; Community Identity and Globalised Economic Territory, ' *Youth and Globalization*, 3(2);2021 Hazzab Nadia, 'Environmental Crime As A Manifestation Of Economic Crime According To Algerian Law,' *dirasat waaphath*, Volume 10, Numero 3; 2018. Kara, M., 'Counterfeiting Trademarks in Algeria (Its Extent and the Measures to Fight It), ' *Dossier de Recherches en economie et Gestion*, (6); 2017. Kawabata, K., Umpiga, S., & Mishima, N., Optimization of Stall Spacing to Prevent Crowd-related Hazards in Street Markets- A Case Study of the Sunday Aqlking Street in the Historic Center of Chiang Mai, Thailand, *'IOP Conf.ser.: Earth Environ. Sci*., 1582, 012091: 2026. Kebaili, F. K., Basis-Berkani, A., Aouissi, H.A., et al., ' Characterization and Planning of Household Waste Management: A Case Study from the MENA Region, '*Sustainability*, 14(9), 5461; 2022. Kharchi, T., 'Informal hubs, formal impacts : Spatial dynamics of parallel trade in Setif and El Eulma, ' *Tax Policy Journal*, 21(1); 2025 Melboucy, A., Sifer, S., & Guehairia, A., 'Les défis de la valorisation des déchets en Algerie,' *Les Cahiers du CEDIMES* , 19(HS) ; 2024. Mkumbo, H., Tibeisigwa, B.k., 'Integrated Computational Fluid Dynamics and Space Syntax, '*Architecture Papers of the Faculty of Architecture and Design STU*, 31(2);2026 Transcrine, 'Nexus: The The Illicit Tovacco Trade and Terrorism in the Maghreb (Full Report), ' 2019 Yekhlef, A., 'Digital Financial Inclusion as a Mechanism for Containing the Shadow Economy in Algeria under Digital Threshold Challenges: An Analytical Field Study, '*Les Cahiers du POIDEX*, 15(1); 2026. **Websites:** Amar Lachmout, ' The Parallel Economy in Algeria: A Market in the Shadows,' Ultra Algeria : http://ultraalgeria.ultrasawt.com/ (consulted on 16/09/2026). (In Arabic) Gali Nagaraja, '1.5 bn litres of fuel smuggled each year in Algeria, ' *Siasat Technologies Limites*: Https://archive.siasat.com/news/ (consulted on 02/07/2026). International Monetary Fund, 'Informality, Development, and Business Cycle in North Africa, ' *IMF Working paper:* https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/087/2022/011/article-A001en.xm (consulted on 23/08/2026). Tax Justice Network, 'State of Taw Justice Report 2021': https://taxjustice.net/reports/the-state-of-tax-justice (consulted on 04/08/2026) UNCTAD, 'Webinar on Consumer Product Safety in Informal Markets': https://unctad.org/meeting/webinar-consumer-product-safety-informal-markets (consulted on 04/08/2026)